

Briana Ulrickson's
interview with Marvin Nadeau

me: I am Briana Ulrickson the date of the interview is Nov. 30th 1993. The interviewee is Marvin ~~Nadeau~~ Nadeau. The interview is at his house.

me: when and where were you born?

Mr. N. I was born in Negaunee on March 21st 1923
~~Negaunee~~

me: what are the names of your parents?

Mr. N.: My father was John. My mother is Mildred.

me: what did your parents do for a living?

Mr. N.: My father worked for the Cliff Power and light Company was a ~~power operator~~ before that he worked at the Moss Mine was a blacksmith. (plant operator)

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

Mr. N. I have 1 brother Perching.

me: are you currently married?

Mr. N. yes

me: what is her name?

Mr. N.: Evelyn

me: what are the names of your sons or daughters?

Mr. N.: Susan, Paul, Carol, Linda, Bob, Debra and Debra

me: How long did you work in the iron industry?

Mr. N.: 42 1/2 yrs.

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

Mr. W.: Wanted to stay in the area, the pay was good. It was a good ~~environment~~ security.

Please explain

~~Mr. W.:~~ some of the jobs you had ~~at the mine?~~

~~Mr. W.:~~ I did all kinds of repair work; mechanical, operated the electric shovel, was a hoisting engineer, plumbing, heating repair work also, was an electrician also did electrical repair work, and foreman *include*

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

Mr. W.: Republic mine, Ore Improvement, Humbolt, Mather A, Mather B, and The Tilden, and Empire. *include*

me: In as much detail as possible please describe the duties of your job.

~~Mr. W.:~~ As Foreman, was in charge of all maintenance, worked in the concentrator section of the mill, there were 7 crews with supervisors, schedule the work, inspect the work and see what needed repair, besides the regular repairs, to see if the repair parts were on hand for the workers, and schedule the crews. *include*

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

Mr. W.: It would have been nice to have more education but that always helps. But most of my knowledge I gained prior from the work at home w/ my father. I was really inquisitive about machinery. He helped me with some of that. Otherwise I learned everything at work, working on different projects *include + quote*

me: Please describe any machinery used on the job?

Mr. W.: Besides working on regular repair work and using the regular tools, I did quite a bit of installing of motors and equipment there I used dial indicators, and fuel injectors. *include*

~~Mr. W.~~

me: what was the most challenging or difficult part of your job?

Mr. W: Finishing a complete repair job for the first time. Everything had to be completed in a certain time, all the parts had to be on hand, arranged for parts to be repaired in the shops and back on time. We had to plan work that could be done ahead of time, so we could finish and schedule the shifts

include

me: Over the years what ~~have~~ ^{did} you enjoy over the years?

Mr. W: Well, as an hourly worker just the challenge of doing the best repair job ever and after getting it all done, seeing the equipment go back to work

include

me: What were the big responsibilities of your job?

Mr. W: As Foreman being ahead of all the repair work that stop the production, making inspections, pick up problems, making sure the project had the tools and equipment.

include

me: Please describe the most dangerous situation you have been in if it applies to you.

Mr. W: The most dangerous situation was at the Mather A. We were going up the shaft, all of a sudden ~~ask~~ a skip to take out a beam we had just put in to put rails in the shaft we used a radio for communication to the engineer. And we left the ground level and started to go up, but we did not know it until we got up to where the beam was and we hit the beam with the skip. And we tried to stop him but radio didn't work, we still don't know why it did not ~~work~~ work. So we had to scream and holler until somebody down below could pull the stopper to stop it. And we can thank the engineer for being a very cautious man because he could have pulled us up through the beam and could be injured or even killed us. but when he heard the beam hit the skip he stopped hoisting and waited for something to happen, because he knew there was something wrong.

include

me: Have you witnessed any accidents?

Mr. W: No not really I have been in the area but never witnessed.

me: Please describe the most unique or humorous situation you have seen or remember.

Mr. W: I think the most humorous one is at the Mather A, they kept the engine house very clean, they had nice rubber mats to walk on. He was cleaning one day and one of the employees walked clown and stepped on the nice clean floor and got it dirty and he threw the mop at him the water and the pail at him. (laughing)

include

me: Please describe the working conditions.

mr.w: The biggest problem as foreman was the noise. It was always very noisy at the Tilden, but otherwise the working conditions were as good as they could be. They tried to keep everything clean. It wasn't always that good but sometimes they were.

include

me: How have safety standards changed and what improvements have you seen?

mr.w: Yeah, safety standards have gotten much stricter. Then when I first started to work. But now they give you a lot of safety information that is available to you. They teach more classes on safety. But we all know it's up to the person the individual that has to take care of safety because he's the one who has to be looking for these different things. So he has to work safer.

include

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

mr.w: The biggest thing is that it is a lot more complicated than when I first started working at the Mather A & B and the so much increase of the equipment and the complex systems that they need to deliver the finished product. You must be aware of your area and the area that effects you and other areas.

me: Please describe what your co-workers were like.

At the Tilden it was a complete change from what I did for many years, the size of the operation and the complexity that is hard to imagine. I did realize that my co-workers respected my problems, and helped me immensely. In fact I was only there one day and they gave me charge of the crew of course I had all the orders on what to do. The only problem was I did not know where to go, to do these jobs. I think the crew had a little joy from my predicament. But they quickly came to my rescue and I made it through the day.

include

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

mr.w: I think the special project that I recall right now is working at Ashast I had the job of building new cages. I built three cages, and it ment a great deal of accurate lay-out work with all the angles, and g-rates and channels. putting them together as a complete unit.

include

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

mr.w: I got an award for 42 1/2 years without a lost time accident

me: At anytime have you felt like ^{changing} jobs or careers

mr.w: no, because I was satisfied with the working conditions and wages and the ability to do the work for many years and since I had a variety of jobs it made my job more interesting. In the 42 1/2 years I have worked I have only refused one job that is when they asked me to go underground and install rails and a skip shaft

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

mr.w: I think they both have a good future if they continue to increase like they have in the past. They also depend on each employee and union to work together in an industry that is very competitive.

me: What does the future look like for mining in general?

mr.w: It seems very good but very, very competitive. I think ~~also~~ that after all be very careful in doing what they have to do to make a profit.

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

mr.w: Well they must continue to increase the productivity as they have been doing and in finding ways of doing things and cheaper ways of doing it faster ways to do it and to continue to do it. include

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

mr.w: C.C.I ~~is~~ has and will keep ahead because of their continual effort to stay ahead of the ~~other~~ competition. The leadership is using the underground ore and deacid that and pelletizing that. And their lab work to improve their pellets ~~and~~ in both mines.

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

mr.w: I look at C.C.I to be a leader and being remembered what they have done for the area beside just jobs I know first hand they ~~are~~ gave the cities of include shipping and they ~~gave~~ a lot of help in furnishing them with repair work, pumps, pipes, fittings, tuggers, steel cleaves, valves and many other items that has helped both cities and I have worked on the projects with the city. So I know that it has happened and I ~~for~~ one built a batting cage for the I Shpeming playgrounds while at the Matheson

me: How has the role of women in the changed the Iron Industry,
and what direction do you think it will take in the future.

mr. n. I think the industry has accepted women in all phases of work. I had
a woman on my crew and she kept up with all the work
and did an excellent job. I think the future is very good and
each year I think there will be a few more women hired.

include

me: What skills do young people of today need to develop if
they want to work for e.e. I someday?

mr. n. 1. To be able to think and plan, and to be inquisitive and
~~curious~~ don't be afraid to give a little extra
cause sometimes five or ten minutes will finish
a job and you can feel with your own feelings
that I did a good job and finish what I had to do.
[Don't be afraid to study and know your job.]

quite

me: In a related question what advice would you give
in general to the students of today.

mr. n. Get a good complete education including collage.
they can never take that knowledge away from
you, and it will help you anytime and in
any work you do. that knowledge will help you
wherever you apply because the people taking the
interview can realize that you have a collage education
and it's only gonna help you no matter what job
you gonna get.

include

me: What do you enjoy in your spare time?

mr. n. I like to do wood working, camping, I like to help other
people, I like to do work at the church that has to be done
~~by~~ bicycling, walking, helping our children and
photography.

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me: Is you had to ~~make the~~ do it all over again would you make the same career choice? ~~no~~

mr. w: I have thought a lot about this one and there's no doubt that I should have gotten an education but I didn't but I'd never be afraid to go back to the same job that I had because it gave me a good living security and they treated me very fairly

me: looking back over the years, what impression stands out most about your association with C.C.I.?

mr. w: Well I think they gave me a very good living and I was treated fairly they gave me advancement so I could go ahead and I was well satisfied with what I've done over the years.

me: Before we end this interview, is there any that comes to mind that you would like to add.

mr. w: I'd like to add that when I first started work and worked my first years at the ~~mine~~ Mather A and Mather B it was a bit different that working because you worked like a family and the way you did things that time I worked these things were not in a big hurry to be done. We did our work, we got our work done but there was always that friendly attitude and friendly working conditions and as we get into leaving the Mather B with the new equipment and the type of work they had to do everything was speeded up and it was a little harder to get used to going from the old type of work to the new it's not that it was bad just different.

include + quote

- 4) ~~Education~~ —
- 5) ~~Working conditions~~ —
- 6) ~~Job duties~~ —
- 7) ~~Changes~~ —
- 8) ~~Future of mines~~ —
- 9) ~~Machinery~~ —

education —