

Jeremy Roberts' Interview with Earl Roberts

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Me: My Name is Jeremy Roberts. The date is December 12th 1993. I interviewed my grandpa, Earl Roberts in Ishpeming. This interview is for Red Dust Iron Mining.

Me: When and where were you born?

grandpa: I was born at National Mine in 1913

Me: What are the Names of your parents?

grandpa: Samuel and Bessie Roberts both deceased

Me: What did your parents do for a living?

grandpa: Dad worked in the mines all his life, besides that he did some farming, we had cows, horses, chickens, turkeys, and so forth. We also had a good garden every year.

Me: What were the names of your brothers and sisters?

grandpa: I had a brother, Leslie and 2 sisters, Ruth and ^{check sp.} Leddie. All deceased.

Me: Are you currently married?

grandpa: I lost my wife thirteen years ago.

Me: What are the names of your children?

grandpa: The oldest was Dale who is deceased. Also Lance Kevin and Mary Rundman.

Me: How long have you been working in the Iron Industry?

Grandpa: I worked for the ~~mining~~ Mining Industry for 36 years.

Me: Why did you choose to work in the Iron Industry? 2

grandpa: because the wages were real good.

Me: Please name those relative who have worked in the Iron Industry?

grandpa: Grandfather, cousins, uncles, and 2 sons.

include + stress

Me: What are the names of the various mines or buildings you have worked in?

grandpa: The Brownstone Shoppes, The Cliff Shaft Mine, and a Republic Mine.

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

grandpa: The first two years I worked for C.C.I, I was hired as a painter. After that I went to the Cliff Shaft Mine and I worked on the motels? and became a miner and after several years I was made a ~~Cliff~~^{Shift} Supervisor.

Me: In as much detail as possible, please describe the main duties of the job you held.

grandpa: I had charge of ~~my~~ mining contracts and moter crews, timbermen, and laborers.

Me: Please describe any special machinery or equipment you used on the job.

grandpa: We used underground moters for hauling the ore, we had drilling machines, and so forth.

Me: Thinking back over the years, what was the most challenging or difficult duties you had to perform.

grandpa: to see that all the operations in my area worked well and at the same time stressing safety.

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

grandpa: [the fellowship we had when we all worked underground.] *good quote*

me: Describe the most dangerous situations you have been in.

grandpa: While ~~mixing~~ mining, several tons of ore, fell of a pillar, and fell about fifteen feet from me.

me: Have you been involved in or witnessed any accidents? If so please describe them.

grandpa: While barring on a ~~X~~ chute to get ore, a chunk of ore come down and hit the bar causing one end to come up and hit me in the lip and jaw. It fractured my teeth and jaw. *include*

a great uncle of mine by the name of Sam Roberts was a captain at a Republic mine, went down with the shift boss and the Superintendant to check things and on the way down the brakes let go and all of them lost their lives.

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(4)

His son William was killed at the Mitchell Mine
At National Mine in a cave in. My dad's brother
lost his life at Lake Shaft Mine and a Brother-
in-law was killed at the Morris Mine in North Lake.

include stress early danger

Me: How have safety standards changed?

Grandpa: The company safety every day of the operations of the mines.

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

Grandpa: The duties are still pretty much the same they've been over the years.

Me: Please describe what your co-workers were like. Do you remember any special stories that stand out about them?

Grandpa: Co-workers were wonderful people to work with. We had lots of fun working underground and on surface. A lot of tricks were played and all were in good fun. include

Me: During your career, have you been involved in any projects or have you implemented and programs? If so, please describe them.

Grandpa: I was an instructor in a program that was put on by the company. It was called H.O.B.S.O. (How our business system operates.) I enjoyed this very much.
(Try to get more details about this)

Me: At any time, have you felt like changing your job or career? why or why not.

Grandpa: Never, I felt the job was secure and I was satisfied with the wages

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

Grandpa: There will always be a demand for iron ore and the companies will continue to produce as long as they can make a profit.

Me: Looking far into the future, how do you think the ~~trans~~ people will remember the iron industry and its workers?

Grandpa: [The Cleveland cliffs and other companies have been the basis for the economy of the whole area for a hundred years or more.] *good quote*

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

Grandpa: I enjoy music, I enjoy hunting, fishing, and I do spend a lot of my ~~summers~~ time at my cottage on Big Perch Lake.

Me: Thanks a lot Grandpa


Grandpa: O.K.


Safety -  6,

Jobs & Duties -  2,

Mining -  3,

Accidents -  4,

Co-workers -  5,

About yourself -  1,