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Tim Palomaki's

Interview with Clifton Rogers

me: when and where were you born

Gpa: I was born on June the 6th 1919 in DeGaanee Mich.

me: what are the names of your parents

Gpa: My mother was Ruth Roberts was her maiden name Rogers, and my father was Henry Francis Rogers

Henry

me: what did your parents do for a living

Gpa: my mother was a homemaker but her father worked in the Mines my father immigrated from England and worked in the Mines for forty some odd years

me: are you currently married

Gpa: yes

me: if so what is your spouses name

Quayle?

Gpa: Ruth maiden name Quayle, Rogers

me: what are the names of your children

Gpa: Two children Terry living in Travers City and Barbara Palomaki living in Ishpeming

me: how long have you been working in the Iron Industry

Gpa: I worked for a subsidiary of Cleveland Cliffs, the Cliffs power and light for a number of years I worked at the Mather A when they were sinking shaft installing the electric equipment at the mine

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② G'pa: and installing electrical circuits as they sunk shaft, I also did some underground electrical work at the Negaunee Mine, Athens Mine, and the ^{Maas} Moth Mine but I actually retired from Upper Peninsula Power Co. after forty-three years of service

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

G'pa: Well my father had worked in the mines as had most of the family on both sides my mother as well as my father and it just seemed natural that I would get into the mining industry as much as I did althow I eventually changed into the electrical aspect of the buisness

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me: please name those relatives who have worked in the iron industry

G'pa: We can trace our ancestry back a long long way it goes back to great, great, great grand parents who immigrated from Cornwall to work in the copper mines first in the Calumet area and then travelling to Negaunee by way of Marquette taking a boat from the Copper Country to Marquette and then a dra horse drawn dra to Negaunee also the other side of the family immigrated from (on my wifes side) immigrated from the Isle of Mann to the Houghton area to open up mining there and then travelling on down to Ishpeming in 1870 to work in the iron mines in the Ish. area this means with these two decendants we had individuals in our family working in the mines from just a matter of 15 or 20 years after iron ore was discovered in this area we have also had immigrants from Norway to work in this area for the minning industry and of course my father immigrated from Bristol, England eventually work in the mines in this area

emphasize this

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Gpa:

he came by way of farm work in Canada a matter of interest is that when he was 21 he left his home in England to travel to Ottawa Canada to work on a farm and his total fair from Bristol, England to Ottawa, Canada was 7 dollars he worked in that area for a couple of years before coming on in to the Neguancee area in 1909 having heard that there was a lot of work in the newly developing mining industry in Neguancee.

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me:

What are the names of variously Mines or buildings you have worked in?

Gpa:

While I have mentioned that I worked for Cliffs Power and light for an number of years before going to upper peninsula power company our head quarters then was in the brownstone building area in Ishpeming and I mentioned that I have worked underground in certain special jobs in the Neguancee Mine, Athens Mine, Moss Mine, and I worked for quite some time as they were sinking shaft at the Mather ~~at~~ My father worked in the moss mine, and was transferred to take charge of the Spear Mine in Iron River ^{when} I was growing up

Me:

Over the years what kinds of duties have you performed for CCI?

Gpa:

While I mentioned most of it was the electric facation and wiring at the mines I also worked at the Hoist Dam when they were installing there third unit their doing some of the drilling and blasting and getting ready for the site, but most of the experiences or recollections I have of mining industry is my father who spent so many years working in the various aspects of the industry

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Gpa: I did tell you that he came to this area from Canada and he was able to couple years after arriving here to find work starting in 1912 as a motor man in the moss mine working underground and at ~~the same~~ ^{the same} time ~~and~~ he attended night school and took ICS ^{correspondance} courses after educating himself the mining company assigned him the duty of conducting ^{special} classes in Ishpeming, Negaunee, and Guinn for the workers who had ambitions of becoming bosses in the mine, he taught Mechanical drawing, Mathematics, Report preparation, as well as safety doing these instruction courses there are hundreds of workers in the iron range area who took advantage of this special training so they could prepare for better jobs in the mine in 1920 he was asked to go to Iron River to take charge of the Speas mine for the Cleveland Cliffs Iron Company and that's where I grew up and had most of my recollections of the life of living around a mining industry in 1934 he was transferred to Negaunee to be captain of the Athens mine and later he took charge of the original Tilden Pitt and also served as safety engineer teaching safety and first aid to all Cliffs properties as well as schools and municipal agencies so my life has been closely tied to the mining industry as I said a good deal of it was thru my close association in being raised in a family with mining wa there main and only source of income

me! In as much detail as possible describe the details of your job.

Gpa: I think I've covered that quite well as I mentioned my mining experience really switched in to the electrical and to the Upper Peninsula Power Company after I left Cleveland Cliffs and worked solo^{ly} for the Upper Peninsula Power Company that was the job that took me thru to my retirement but I did start upon completion of my engineering schooling at Mich. state

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Gpa: I did spend several years getting some good valuable experience and wonderful association while I worked at the various properties thru the subsidiary of Cliffs Power and light portion of the iron company

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

Gpa: I mentioned that I did take electrical engineering and that certainly got me started that was the main reason I ~~got~~ was able to move on like I did I also mentioned to you the special training that my father conducted having educated himself thru ^{to} school and correspondence schools and he carried it to a point that he was used to train others and teach them the skills and knowledge that they needed in order to become bosses, and supervisors, and captains of mining operations so I think this is a good indication of the importance of the education and the special training

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me: Did your job require working with any special machinery on the job?

Gpa: I find it hard to remember any special machinery or anything on the job, I did some surveying and that required the use of transits and surveying compasses and so forth operated jack hammers and compressors they were some special equipment but there is nothing unique about them and I've run survey lines with compasses and so forth a lot of the work I did in the mine required work with the ammeter and the voltmeter and various electrical equipment

me: What is the most challenging or diff. part of your job?

Gpa: I don't know Tim I think just keeping up with all of the things there are to learn and to take your work seriously and to try to stay ahead it doesn't mean you can learn enough on the job many of the times I found it necessary to take work home and study it especially during the time period that we were installing all of the new innovative machinery at the Mather & mine a lot of it we knew very little about and taking pamphlets and books home and reading and studying and learning about them so the next day we knew if we were

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Part of the work was to be working

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⑥ Gpa: that we were doing things correctly

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

Gpa: I have a little trouble there because of course so many of the recent years that I worked in fact some 20, 25, 30 years the most recent were spent in the electric utility industry so it's a little hard for me to relate back personally to the most challenging duties I again I mentioned I have to rely on a ~~whole~~ lot because as I think about these I'm always coming back to these experiences from my father as I was growing up and I can think about those there's one of them that comes to

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mind that I think about his years of working the way it was when we were living in Iron River at the Spear location this was a group of about twelve homes located about approximately a mile or less from the mine and about 3 miles from Iron River and also 2 miles from the school and the early days those that were fortunate enough to have an automobile always put them in storage in the winter months it was then necessary to walk or find a horse drawn cutter to get to town but as we were growing up we walked to school during all of my years of schooling up to the 7th grade but the thing that I was getting to was that the ore at the Spear mine is located in a very high sulfur bearing rock and it wasn't uncommon for the sulfur in those waist piles to start to burn do to spontaneous combustion when this occurred the entire location that we lived in would sometimes be engulfed in sulfur fumes and our eyes, nose, mouth, and lungs would burn for 24 hours a day and the vegetation would turn brown and withered they couldn't put water on these spurring sulfur because that would only turn into sulfuric acid but all they could do was to spread out the area of the pile containing the most sulfur so that the air would cool it enough for the sulfur to stop burning and I distinctly remember what a ~~work~~ this was for my father and during the times that this waist pile caught fire I also another experience that I think I should mention Tim is that in 1920 when the Barnes Hecker mine disaster occurred my father was called to Ishpeming to help out but having worked in the ~~under~~ ground all of his working years in the Mesquac area he never said much on what he experienced while helping in the disaster

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small printing is difficult to read

⑦ Gpa: you may recall that there were 55 lives lost at that disaster

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

Gpa: I think like most jobs you enjoy most the association of the people you work with and we found through the years, we threw my association and I know my father before me thought very highly of the individual who worked for the mines, the ones he worked with, the ones who worked for him, and the ones he worked for and I think this is really the best memories that you have of your working years

me: What are the biggest responsibilities of your job?

Gpa: Whole my responsibilities came after I left Cleveland Cliffs My fathers responsibilities as a captain or a safety engineer for the Cleveland Cliffs and those are responsibilities he was captain at both the Specs and the Athens mine as well as working at the original Tilden Pitt

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

in the cage & guys
Gpa: I as to myself I always found it real disconcerting to go down while they were sinking shaft at the Mather A and ~~to~~ use a temporary hoist and just a platform it wasn't really a cage that you would go down the shaft and as you got near the bottom where they would be doing the blasting there was no guide or tracks for the cage to ride on so once you got down there your just hanging in the air in this dark shaft you could see nothing except where your light would shine and it was always frightening to me so I thinking back that seems to be the most prominent in my memory

me: Have you been in or witnessed any accidents?

Gpa: I can't recall any right now, Tim no I can't

⑦ me: Could you describe the most unique or perhaps most humorous situations you have seen over the years?

⑧ Gpa: You asked about accidents and this came to me its something I haven't thought of for years I when I first started with Cliffs Power & light I did see lot of my workers get tangled up with a high voltage transmission line and he didn't die but he was severely burnt and he never came back to work and these are unfortunate experiences that you kind of wipe from your mind but it's its true, you asked about some amusing or unique or humorous circumstances I think again I'll go back to experience living in iron river and this goes back to about 1930's in the highth of the great depression and the Speas Mine shut down temporarily and all the employees were laid off except for the mine clerk the pump man who is to keep the mine from flooding and my father who was captain of the mine it was my fathers duty to operate the hoist to get the pump man down and up from the under ground pumps and also to just tend to the general care and policing of the mine property and the emergence situation had to be looked into but also one of his duties was to keep the steam and hot water boiler operating it was a hand fired boiler and the coal had to be wheeled by hand from the coal piles out in the coal yard to the boiler and as a child and I was then in my probably 4^{or} 5 grade I used to go down and help my father wheel this coal from the coal into the boiler house to help out at least I thought I was a lot of help I hope he did

me! Please describe your working conditions?

Gpa: They have been generally comfortable, mine the areas I've worked in were around the browstoun with the mining company and that area was very meager modest but comfortable there was always some shower facilities to clean up, better space

me! How have safty standards changed and what improvements do you see are yet to be made?

Gpa: All my experience and my fathers before me mostly was underground work and of course the situation there is drastically different than the situation of the mining Industry today and the surface mining but there has been a lot of changes in safty ventilation, has become vitally important air circulation as well as the safty equipment and I am sure not having any direct contact with the mines for a number of years with the mines I am sure there is still room for improvement but I wouldnt feel qualified to specify what these might be

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

Ans: Well my own experience was the changes of duties changed largely because I changed jobs as I went from a electrical industry associated with mines to electrical industry associated with serving customers and holl industries as a whole those changes came about largely because of my changes in jobs and duties

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

Ans: I mentioned a little earlier Tim about the good association of the people that you work with and over the years sure I have a litte stories, experience I would say that I that comes to mind is a fellow who I worked with his name was Erwin Tonkin we called him Budd Tonkin but I remember distinctly when we were first starting out at the Mother A mine and we had to pulling all of the heavy cables to get the power from the transformer into the engine house and we hooked up some bulldozers and tractors to pull out the heavy cables and at that time one of the fellows working with me mentioned he said "what in the world did they do before they had bulldozers" and I remembered distinctly Budd Tonkin saying "They did a lot more bulling and a lot less dozing in those days" and I thing he was refering to our generation at that time witch was much younger than his but even the equipment that we had back 50 years ago was far surpist the itery that we had earlier

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

Ans: Ia special projects of course I mentioned several times the equipment that we installed at the mother A mine and the wiring and getting those things to operate and the hoists and the controls and so forth to work properly I did work at a number of the generating plants and hydroplants and some at the old Ishpeming steam plant I work at some when they were first starting the Presque Isle station course at that time I was in charge of it

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

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(get details about recognition)

Gipsi
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I don't know Tim I have been recognized yes by Northern Michigan and the Soumi Collage awards and Michigan State chamber of commerce and those and electrical instituts and National electrical defense orgination but those aren't directly tied to the mining industry

me: At any time have you felt like changing jobs or your career?

Gipsi: Well as I've mentioned I did change when I went from the Mining industry aspect of the electrical field to the utility field so I did make that change

me: What do you the future will hold for the Tilden and the Empire?

Gipsi
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I have no inside knolage of what it would be I certainly hope that their would be a future as long as the costs of the product can be kept down so that they can compet and sell their product on the open market and I think it's vitally important for this entire area that they continue to find ways to upgrade and improve their product and to be able to produce a quality ore at a marketable price

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

Gipsi:

Again that depends on the world market and if we can keep the costs down and ~~the~~ quality up and I think that there is a future plastics are coming in and there are other changes the automobile industry is going more into a lighter car and therefore using lighter products and less steel it changes but it all depends on the National and the World economy

me: What do you feel must be done in the future for CCI to remain competitive?

Gipsi:

to continue to upgrade their quality of their product and also to be a part of the marketing of the ores in a world competitive market

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11 me: What do you think has been the key to success of CCI where other companies have failed?

Gpa: I think the work done by the ore research and the transfer of the need of underground ore market to a pelletized or improved market is much an indication of what CCI has been able to do to keep themselves in the mining industry because without this I don't think we would have any of the mines operating in this area

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

Gpa: They have been a significant part in the mining industry and I think history will certainly prove that they were significant from the time short after Bert discovered iron ore in this area. The old Cliffs or Cleveland operation started and they've been very prominent in this area for almost now 150 years and I think history would have to prove that they have been very significant in the mining industry for this entire nation

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

Gpa: Course woman use to be only secretarial and office work and that's very significantly changed now with them doing practically any job in the mining industry and I think that they have proven that they can work and perform the duties that if they're inclined to work in that field they've demonstrated that they can hold those jobs I think in the future they will not think anything differently of whether a job is done by a woman or a man just how the work is done and how clearly they accomplish their work but they certainly execute the same skills whether their female or a male

② me: What skills do the young people of today need to develop if they plan to work for CCI someday?

Gpa: Well I think ~~of~~ the things is to always learn more ~~and~~ about your job to try to realize not only what you're doing if your tasks that's before you but to understand more how this work relates to the finished product who takes over you get through who are the people are going to ~~be~~ are you responsible to for performing your job right so that they can in turn do their jobs to realize that any of us who have a job it's only 1 part of a big package and it's necessary for us to understand better the full picture so that when we do our work we are doing it in a way that others can benefit from it also to continue to study and learn and take an interest in your work so that you not only enjoy the work more because you realize ~~how~~ ^{why} you're doing it and what you're doing it for but also the consequences of the type of work that you do.

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guide

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

Gpa: Never stop learning I think back to my father and I've mentioned this several times. ~~Tim my father was self educated he didn't have the advantage of going to school beyond 8th grade at the most but yet he took night school after he was here he took correspondence courses and he was an avid reader and even though he was self educated he never stopped learning to the day he died and to this day I think of him as 1 of the most knowledgeable individuals on current events that I've ever known and I hold him up as an example for any young person to read, read, read and learn all you can cause someday you will be able to make use of all that you learned~~

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guide

excellent advice!

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

Gpa: Well I've enjoyed carpentry work, have done some painting, and of course I guess the most enjoyable part is spending time with my grandchildren such as Timmy Jenni and their 2 cousins

me: If you had to do it all over again, would you make the same career choice?

Gpa: I think so I've no regrets for the going away to collage and taking electrical ~~engineering~~ engineering and I've no regrets for staying in that field and I've no regrets for coming back to the Upper Peninsula and making my career life and my family life here in the Upper Peninsula

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

Gpa: Once again I go back to my association would be thru my father's work years in contact with the Cleveland Cliffs and I have to look at it thru his mind and his impressions and he was always impressed and enjoyed the association and felt that the mining company treated him fairly and I know he was always fair to them and gave them 110% of his work ability with each day that he worked

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

Gpa: I talked to you several times Timmy and again I think back to my father and I think its a matter of interest and its maybe some of his association or his basic interest in learning when he was in youth growing up in England he belonged to the Boy Scouts and he was inspected and met Sir Baden Powell ^{Chief of} this was 2 years before Baden Powell founded the Boy Scouts but I know that my father was always very interested in and during the time I was growing up and even after I was a young adult my father was always interested in the youth and in the scouts program I think this goes back partially to the fact that he had this brief ^{work} association with Baden Powell the founder of Boy Scouts even before the scouts ^{were} founded

14 me: are you now or have ever been a member of the steel workers union?

GPA: no, I haven't

me: Thanks for your time

GPA: your welcome Tim

Excellent information, Tim
Please put your best
effort into making
this the terrific
story it
can be

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(14) WFC: are you born or have ever been a member of the steelworkers union?

WFC: I want to know for your time
WFC: your welcome Tim

orange
purple
yellow
blue

working conditions

~~time/schedule~~

job duties

~~Ancestors & future recognition~~ accidents