

9 pages



# Introduction

This is Rachel Sundblad, it is December 11<sup>th</sup>  
I am interviewing my dad Stephen Sundblad  
at our house in Ishpeming and it is  
mining.

Rachel Sundblad's  
interview with Stephen Sundblad

me: When and where were you born?

Mr. S: I was born in Ishpeming, Michigan at Belle Memorial Hospital on August 5 1954

me: What are the names of your parents?

Mr. S: Ray and Colleen Sundblad

me: What did your parents do for a living?

Mr. S: My father worked in the Peninsula bank for 30+ years and my mother held odd jobs but mainly was a housewife

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

Mr. S: I have three brothers, Raymond which is the oldest, David which is the second oldest, and a brother Charles which is the youngest

me: Are you currently married?

Mr. S: Yes I am

me: What's your spouse's name?

Mr. S: Lisa

me: What are the names of your children?

Mr. S: I have a daughter Rachel who is 13

me: How long have you been working in the iron industry?

Mr. S: 19 and a half years

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

Mr. S: At the time where I was working some friends of mine were working in the mine and they were making more money than I was and I just figured that was the place to go so I went there

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

Mr. S: I have an uncle Tia Kauppila who was some kind of a superintendent he ended up moving to Colorado I have an uncle Stuart who worked for the land department as far as I recall that's about it

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

Mr. S: excuse me now

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

Mr. S: I've only worked in the Tilden mine in a concentrator and the pellet plant on <sup>maintenance</sup> maintenance

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

Mr. S: I've been on maintenance for a few years now but I've worked on operating, running loaders, unloading railroad cars, working in the lab doing odd jobs

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

Mr. S: Right now I am in the maintenance department but for the last year I've been working on computers implementing a new way of organizing the work better and it's been a new job.

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

Mr. S: Not really higher education but they gave me some education on a computer before I was on my own

me: Please describe any special machinery or equipment that you use on your job

Mr. S: On the maintenance department you work with various tools, you work with welders, torches to repair things construct things which is kind of an interesting job. The job I'm doing right now we use a computer.

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

Mr. S: The most challenging is using your head and getting the job you on done right and it's also safety that's a big concern in the maintenance jobs around because sometimes there are pretty dangerous situations.

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

Mr. S: I think the most difficult or challenging job was unloading railroad cars because of the chemicals that were in some of those cars. The chemicals could cause a serious hazard and you have to be very careful.

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

Mr. S: I think I've enjoyed meeting lots of new people some who are a lot smarter than I am and maybe you can pick up something from them and just the cooperate between the gentlemen is pretty nice.

me: What are the biggest responsibilities of your job

Mr. S: The biggest responsibilities are to work safely and smart

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

Mr. S: Some of the most dangerous situations are sometimes you are working up high, you could be walking on beams 30 ft. in the air. Situations like that are pretty dangerous - difficult

Me: Have you been involved in or have you witnessed any accidents? If so please describe them. Also describe the ways in which any friends or relatives may have gotten hurt.

Mr. S: Back in the mid 80's when I was on maintenance we were working in the pellet plant and we were midnight shift and there was three of us working together we were up 17 ft. on a scaffolding and I was cutting a piece of steel and I heard my partner holler for help and as I proceeded to look what was going on. He had fallen off and he happened to hit his head on the cement floor below and he happened to die ~~two~~ two days later. That is something I will never forget it was a tough thing to handle at the time because you get to know these people pretty well and you get close to some of them and I've known him for a couple of years and its a sad thing you hate to see it happen and its dangerous out there

note sure y m p h c d s

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

Mr. S: I can't really there's been a lot of humorous situations I guess some of the jokes some of the guys play on each other and I don't know I can't really think of any off hand.

me: Please describe your working conditions

Mr. S: Working conditions in the mines its pretty dusty, theres a lot of noise, they give you protection to wear and if you don't you have a chance of loosing your hearing, dust isn't very good. Its not the best

include

me: How have safety standards changed and what improvements do you see are yet to be made

Mr. S: Every year they are updating <sup>their</sup> ~~these~~ safety standards because there's a mine safety health administration there that comes around and checks to make sure working conditions are good for the people that work there and over the years as accidents get reported they review them to see what could have been prevented or how it could have been prevented and what to do in the future so it doesn't happen again. They are constantly improving and always trying to make things safer out there and it's a big job because of the machinery you work around and the conditions you work in but they do a good job.

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

Mr. S: The duties of the job changed because <sup>good quote</sup> [machinery has become more advanced now it's a lot bigger and you always have to be updated on how to take care of it] or you constantly <sup>include</sup> being ~~sent~~ sent to some different seminars that they hold at the mine so it's important that the duties change

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

Mr. S: [my co-workers are a lot of nice people] <sup>good quote</sup> out there when you work with them you have a lot of different personalities but generally everybody is pretty friendly and has a good time there. Some co-workers are a little more serious but that's O.K. too.

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

Mr. S: as I said earlier the computers that I'm working on now is implementing a new program for the operations of maintenance department out at the mine and its called permac and its going to help watching cost and trying to make things easier and I think its going to work its kind of interesting (This is the newest technology!)

include

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

Mr. S: I have won safety awards but everybody was included in that but I haven't had any special recognition.

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

Mr. S: Oh sure. We get <sup>frustrated</sup> with our jobs like everyone. But it seems like after 30 yrs. you're still at the same place

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

Mr. S: Well I hope the future holds many more years because I have 19 1/2 years now hopefully it can get me through a few more years here to be able to retire from there because the older you get its harder to find jobs. I think the future holds well it should hold pretty good but with this iron industry its up + down, up + down. Its hard to say but I hope its here for many more years

good question

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

Mr. S: Well you have to try to reduce your cost so you can sell your product that you make and of course you have to reduce your cost so you can be competitive but you still have to make a profit

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

Mr. S: I think because they've been in the business so long. and they know how to work the business and they've been able to make a quality product. and its been due to the location, we have the Great Lakes here for shipping + I think there's a lot of things why they've been successful include

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

Mr. S: I'm sure they will be remembered as something that was good because it gave a lot of people work around here, it supported a lot of families like its supporting ours we've been pretty fortunate to have something like that to be able to keep the people here at work

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



Mr. S: Well you see more women being hired now which the women work just as hard as the men do out there when I started back at the mine there wasn't too many women working at the time a lot of them were in the offices but now women are working out in the plant like I said when I started I think there were only three or four women working there but it's really increased now

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

Mr. S: Well hopefully you end up going to college and getting some kind of engineering degree. If C.C.I. is still here and still working I really would encourage you to go to college and get a management degree or something because that's what to do.

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

Mr. S: Stay in school and get a good education, go to college and pay attention because you are going to need these skills as you get out of school and sometimes I wish I had gone to college but I didn't but you have to have a good education now to survive.

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

⑧ Mr. S: I like to hunt and fish in my spare time

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

Mr.S: What stands out most I guess is that they gave me a job which I appreciate them for it. ] good quote

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

Mr.S: Not really, as I said again I hope all you kids pay attention in school, have fun but go to college your opportunities are there ] excellent quote

me: O.K. Thank you

- 3.) Safety (witnessed any accidents) **orange**
- 1.) duties of your job (change) **blue**
- 5.) future of C.C.I. (success of) **green**
- 6.) education **pink**
- 2.) Working conditions **red**
- 4.) programs (new) **yellow**