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Eric Korpi's  
interview with Paul Korpi

me: When and where ~~the~~ were you born

dad: I was born setep, 26 1952 in Ishpeming, Mich.

me: What are your parents names

dad: <sup>check spelling</sup> Melvin and Marion Korpi

me: What did your parents do for a living

dad: My dad work at the Mather A mine  
and my mother had odd jobs in her life

me: What are the names of your brothers  
and sisters

dad: I have two brother one older Alon and  
one younger Roland Korpi

me: Are you currently married

dad: yes

me: What is your spouses name

dad: Peggy Korpi

me: What are the names of your children

dad: I have three boys Shay, Cory, Eric  
Korpi

me: how long have you been working in the iron industry  
dad: I started in Oct. 1973 so that will be 21 years

me: Why did you choose to work in the Iron Industry  
dad: The main reason was that was [the most popular

work available in the area and the most Highing  
paid job] quite relatives

me: please name the relatives that have that have  
worked in the Iron Industry

dad: my brother my father quite a few <sup>include</sup> uncles grandparents

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

dad: The only two mines I ~~was~~ worked is the Empire and  
the <sup>Tilden</sup> Tilden mines

me: over the years what duties have you <sup>performed</sup> performed  
for C.C.T.

dad: when you first start working in the mine it wasn't  
like would think. it was lots of odd jobs to do just  
clean up as you got the years in you would be able  
to different jobs higher paying jobs. <sup>include</sup>

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

~~dad: my current job is A loader operator in the <sup>pit</sup> pit  
<sup>production</sup> production. And I guess the main duties of it is  
cleaning up the roads and ~~cleaning~~ the production trucks  
loaders and dozers can use the roads it is <sup>include</sup>  
had to explain most of it is moving chunks and  
<sup>debris</sup> debris so the <sup>vehicles</sup> vehicles can use the roads~~

me: does your job require any <sup>special</sup> special or higher <sup>education</sup> education  
2 <sup>special</sup>

dad: most of the training is on the job training and there was some schooling they would have you attend safety school training on how to use the equipment and so forth <sup>include</sup>

me: please describe any special machinery or equipment that you use on the job

dad: Right now the job that I am on is the loader and that's the only ~~ed~~ equipment I have to use now it is part of the job is just learning how to run the loader properly

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

dad: that's a tough question there is a lot of difficult part of the job one of them is ~~boredom~~ <sup>boredom</sup> because you are doing the same thing day and day ~~in~~ the next one is making sure you are doing your job right because a lot of people depend upon your job and ~~continually~~ <sup>continually</sup> improving your self

me: Over the years what do you enjoy most about your job

dad: The most I like I guess, the meeting of the men that are on your crew and getting to know everybody, and learning how to run the equipment is enjoyable too, over the years they really improved their equipment so you are using ~~modern~~ <sup>modern</sup> technology you can with your job.

m: If it ~~applies~~<sup>applies</sup> to you please describe the most dangerous situations you have to be in.

dad: [Everyday you are in dangerous situation. You just have to make sure you are using your head and thinking about the ~~different~~<sup>different</sup> aspects of your job] <sup>good quote</sup>  
I guess the most dangerous would be, a few years ago I was a dozer operator a tractor operator and ~~that's~~ you get into some dangerous situations making roads and dozing on top of ~~soil~~<sup>ore</sup> piles. you really got to use your head and you got to use the talent that you have accumulated over the years of running this equipment <sup>include</sup>

m: have you been involved or have you ever witness any accidents, if so please describe

dad: I my self been involved in a accident and I have witnessed some also The one that I was involved in was when a was operation operating a dozer we were on a waste dump and <sup>there</sup> was a truck <sup>120</sup> ~~100~~ for production truck commin into dump a lot of waste in the mean

continue

time A fuel truck came to give the tractor fuel so I got out of my dozer and the fuel man proceeded to fuel the dozer and I got out of my dozer and was going motion the truck where to dump the load part of the procedure was to the truck would not be able to dump it by itself he would need somebody show where to dump and as the truck was backing up the tire exploded it had a blow out and the tires on this equipment is so big that the force of the blow out blew all the rock that was under right tire up in my direction knocking my ~~safety~~ hard hat off breaking my safety <sup>glasses?</sup> and throwing rock up my front of my legs and my front chest I wasn't <sup>seriously</sup> ~~severely~~ hurt I could of been bad but the mine did send me to the <sup>hospital</sup> ~~hostile~~ for x-rays and broken bones, and the most the thing that did happen to me was rock was inbedded in front legs and that I just work it's way out after a while. And there was another incident I was involved in a quite a few years ago I happened to be on a shovel that is an electrical shovel which loads the 120 ton production trucks (5) And as I was digging into

A. bank with the bank must be 90-100 feet  
I was digging into the bank and a chunk came  
right down into the cab of the shovel the rock  
hit the glass and broke the glass I had glass up  
and down my arms and into my lap the rock did  
not hit me myself but ~~it~~ the only injury I  
had is from the glass going into my arms, it  
wasn't as bad as it looked once we got  
the glass out of the arm there was no scars  
so we did not have to go to the <sup>hospital</sup> ~~hospital~~  
but it was a dangerous situation also, and  
I have witnessed an accident I seen people who where  
truck drivers driving the big trucks backing up and dumping  
their loads on top of a dump and the dump would  
what we would see say let go that means it will settle  
down and the trucks would settle down with them  
I did not witness the accident that had happened but  
we did see a truck that was half way down the  
dump if it fell down the dump and the man did  
die because he jumped out of the truck it  
is some thing you have to be thinking of all of the

time. Make sure you emphasize the  
danger of his  
job. & all drivers

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me: Could you describe either the most <sup>unique</sup> ~~unique~~  
or <sup>perhaps</sup> ~~perhaps~~ most humorous that you have seen

dad: Well there is lots of situations that occur when  
you have been working with a crew in our crew of  
men there is probably 60 men on our crews so it's  
hard to pick out an humorous situation, there is probably  
lots of them one think that when I first started  
into the mine operations I thought humorous situations that  
I thought of the older men were were all young  
19 years old or so I just seemed humorous to  
see some of the older men that I thought were old  
they were in their 50 and their 60s, some of the  
fooling around just in their ways were humorous

me: Please describe your working conditions

dad: the working conditions in the <sup>pit</sup> ~~pit~~ are changing  
<sup>constantly</sup> ~~constantly~~ in the winter you have slippery roads the snow  
wet conditions in the summer time you have dust  
heat rain, so it is a mixture of weather that we are  
related to <sup>include</sup>

M: What safety standards have change and what improvements  
are yet ~~to~~ to be made

(7)

dad: The safty standards I don't think have  
changed the safty polycs have changed C.C.I has  
really ~~had~~ <sup>has</sup> good safty polycs they have more  
schooling in the past 10 years I would say and  
more school of safty and the improvements are  
just the company does constantly make improvements they  
are include

me: Have you seen the duties of your job change over the years

dad: The duties of my job they haven't changed the size of  
the equi pment has changed and the way you do  
it might change but the duties has baciially been the  
same over the years include  
+ quote

me: Please describe what your co-workers are like?  
do you know any specials storys.

dad: Yes, there is lots of storys but the co-worker like  
I said before there is 60 men ~~at~~ on the crew and  
usually you are staying with these guys for some  
guys you get to know for 20 years you have been  
working with these guys and woman there is some  
women working there the co-workers are a pretty tight ~~and~~ <sup>knit</sup>  
~~group~~ <sup>group</sup> they care about you. And they care safty about you  
most of the guys want to see you make sure you  
do your job right include



me: At Any time <sup>have</sup> you felt like changing your job ~~out~~  
~~your~~ ~~self~~ why or why not

dad! Yes lots of times I have lots of times after  
performing the same job you just get ended up getting  
~~boored~~ <sup>bored</sup> and you really have to use your mind to give  
yourself a little <sup>incentive</sup> ~~insititive~~ to do a good job any more  
and A lot of times the Iron Industry has troubles  
lay offs ~~stair~~ strikes Any time you have A layoff or  
A Strike thats what makes you think you should  
have been ceerer? <sup>career!</sup>

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

dad! The Tilden and the Empire both seem to be strong  
I ~~mining~~ <sup>oring</sup> mines because they stayed producing while other  
mines shut down so it seems to me their on the  
right track As far as the Steel industry so I  
think ~~the~~ Tilden and Empire will be their As  
long as they need the ore

me: What do you think the future holds for the Iron  
Industry

dad! It seems to me like <sup>the</sup> 9 companies that are

the one who get the most modern equipment and  
the ones who are going to and treat their workers  
best are the ones that are going to be successful  
business

include + quote

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

competitive

Dad: Exactly what I said to keep up with the  
~~more~~ modernization mines and and treating the  
workers fairly they will be competitive as long there is  
a need for Iron Ore

me: What do you think has ~~been~~ the key to success  
for C.C.I where other companies had failed

Dad: I think the main success is the work force  
it self the men care about the area they live in and  
they know that C.C.I, is a big part of it and they  
have done all they can do to make this company  
go

include + quote

me: Looking far in to the future how do you  
think history will remember ~~C.C.I~~ C.C.I and the workers

dad: I defentily will say C.C.I. I one of the most  
Strongest Iron Ore Companies in the world And also with it's  
workers competiveness and worker that are able to see-face  
and yet get compasation for their and that how history  
will rember them

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

dad: It all depends on the area a person want to work  
in As is anything computer nowadays seem to be anything  
that morden is going to computerization if a person is  
in to computers or math definitely help for a job

Me: In related question what advise in General could  
you give to the students of today

dad: Just what we were talking about going with  
computers and C.C.I. seems to keep morden as it  
can so there is going to be a lot of computers  
you will still have your manual labor so if a  
perco person likes manual labor he is just going  
to have to take the related courses like welding or  
mechanical or computers and are going to help in any way you  
want to go

me: Are you know or have you ever been a part of  
A steel workers union

dad: yes I have been a steel worker ever since  
I started in the mine 21 years

me: have you ever experience being on strike if so how  
many times

dad: I have been on strike 3 times

me: How does a strike actual begin

dad: It's a very weird situation most of the going  
to work and you do not know there is a strike  
you have to go anyway because you contract  
calls for you to do that you go to work on the night  
of a strike you could work 1 hour if the contract  
is not signed you go home you start the strike their  
their is no work.

me: how many workers does a strike actual involve

dad: it involves every steel worker union so that would  
600 to 700 men

me: What is the purpose of a pickit line

dad: pickit lines are mostly workers just reinforcing their beliefs about the strike most of it is these years people going to the line not like, years ago where there would be me crossing the pickit line to get to work in imagin that why there was pickit lines

me: do you know of any interesting story and innocent on a pickit line

dad: none that I know of. no

me: In general what is the most unguie story about the pickit line

dad: I can't remember any right now

me: What takes at a union meeting or rally

dad: A union meeting is like any other meeting you go through your rules or order new business old business make decisions majority rules A rally is just a show of force

me: In your opinion why is the steel workers union so important to the workers

dad: I guess it is just a show that the men are together and one you have that many people together

it shows any company that you work for that they will be doing good work for you but they will be sticking together to get fair compensation for that work include <sup>possible</sup> quote

me: Please describe what you enjoying in your spare time

dad: right now in this stage in my life I enjoy doing for the past 15 years making sure that my children that are involved activities and that includes myself being their making sure to their doing things that keep them busy I coach baseball during the summer in the winter time I have been coaching hockey and right now I am just running back and forth more less taxi for these guys to make sure their on time for there games and practices And that what A really enjoy doing

m: If you had ~~the same~~ do it all over again would you make the same choice

dad: NO I don't think I would <sup>definitely</sup> go to college

get into a different line of work

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

dad: I don't really know what you mean so I will pass me: before we end the interview is there any thing else that comes to mind

dad: No I thought this is a very good interview there is a lot of things you could say but it would take for ever

m: Thank you very much

dad: Your welcome you did a fine job

Good details on the job of a driver & the danger! This can be an excellent story, end

Safety

accident

steel workers

the duties of the job

EO - workers