

Brandon Dodge's
Interview with Ken Koski.

me December 5, 1993 Doing it on Iron
mining My Interviewer is Ken Koski
at his house In Ishpheming.

me: When and where were you born?

grampa: Born June 28, 1932 In Negaunee.

me: What are the names of your parents?

grampa: Elsie + Leonard

me: What did your parents do for a living?

grampa: mom was a house my dad worked
in the Iron Mines

me: What are the names of your ^{Brothers and Sisters?}
~~sisters?~~

grampa I got five sisters + four Brothers

Nancy, Sherly, Carol, Joyce, + Diane, Jerald,
Roland, Terry, Bruce.

me: are you currently married?

grampa: I'm widdowed my wife pasted away
here in april.

me: What are the names of your children

grampa: I got 3 children Mary, Kathy, + Michael

me: How long have you been working in the Iron Industry.

grampa: I retired last year. I worked for 42 years.

me: Why did you choose to work in the iron Industry -

grampa: Well I had worked 3 other ^{smaller} jobs but they had better wages.

me: Please name who had worked in the Iron Industry.

grampa: Well that goes way my grandfather Mike Numakoski he worked at the Blueberry Mine then at the the Mather A Frank Junior There was ~~what is~~ my dad worked in the mine my uncle Paul my uncle John Numakoski my daughter Mary worked in the mine for awhile, my brother ~~Ferry~~ Ferry, and uncle John, Uno + Uno, and Lori, uncle Laho, Marvin Kangas, I have a 3 brother in-laws that work there Melcum Nelson, Charlie Brown, Chip Carlson 2 son in laws Paul Hytinen, Bob Dodge, My neece ther husband work in the Tilden Mine.

me: What are the names of the various mines & buildings you have worked at. Q

grampa: That goes way Back I started
at the Mather A, Mather B, I went
to the Ohio Mine, Humboldt mine,
Republic Mine, Pioneer Mine, Ore Improvement
Empire, Tilden, Then at the Brownstone
When I retired. One more I worked at
Canada to In the Shermin mine for a
couple of weeks to start up.
me: Over the years what ~~some of~~ ^{kinds of duties} ~~of~~ ^{have you performed for} A.C.I.

grampa: When I was underground I started
break man then I was a ^{motor} ~~scrape~~ man, then
I was a scrape man, skip tender, I was a
minor for a while skimming, I was track
man I was selling track underground then
I was track supervisor.

me: In as much detail as possible, please describe
The main duties of your current job.


grampa: Well I was ^{Salary} ~~currently~~ ^{supervisor} ~~salary~~ at the
Brownstone when I retired at the well shop.
I would receive work orders from various
mines and plants and order materials steel
Etc.

grampa: I had cracker Jobs to Job Personal
follow up on Job ~~Personnel~~ ^{Progress} and make up
work schedules for men mostly day and
after shifts, order welding materials, machines
tools, safety equipment, check inventory on
steel and welding material, charge out
the steel that was being used. had a
whole business meeting once a week
main object was to keep plants operating
alot of rush Jobs.

me: Did this Job require any special training or
Higher education?

grampa: I had a lot of class room work, bits
and pieces throw out of the years a lot
of training to safety + working with the people
Some classes were in Madison, Wisconsin
college there to learn a little about
the automatic welders there functions
and maintenance

me Please describe any special machinery or
equipment that you use on the Job

grampa: at the shop we had a 500 ~~ton~~ Break
This is a machine that would bend steel at different
shape angles, and it could bend plates
2 1/2 inches thick if it wasn't that wide. we had 
a shear that would cut off 1 in. thick plates

grampa: we had a roles machine that could
role a plate 1/4 in. thick at different
widths. We had a iron worker that could
punch holes up to 1 in. quarter inch depends
on the metal if it wasn't that thick cut
knockes etc. we had a automatic welder that
would build up wheels, pulleys, humps, and
shafts. And in the blacksmith ~~shop~~ we had
couple guys that signed there that would
~~build~~ make pry bars and bolts etc. making
punches we had a tin shop were the
guys use to make duck worth pipes
and cabinets on

me: What is the most challenging or difficult
part of your **J**ob.

grampa: ~~meeting~~ ~~working~~ the dead lines that would
be the challenging but not all the rush jobs

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

grampa: ~~I had never read blueprints~~ Working
at the well shop I started there working
as a well shop foreman after there was
some layoffs I had never read blueprints
to find out how much steel to be needed
for the job

and to figure how much steel to order
and order it, then I had to charge it
out to steel never operated automatic
Welders before so we always had these
Wire beads left that were there and
I had to learn a underground Job
OK less that was going with them But I
Had good people that knew what was going on.
me: over the years, what have you enjoyed
the most about your Job.

grampa: There was a variety of Jobs I had it tell
from before but it was a challenge it
was a lot of fun, good men

me: What are the the biggest responsibilities of your
*Job.

grampa: I would say Job complements.
To keep the Jobs running and to get the rush
Jobs out and that would be the rights to get the
Job done.

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

grampa: I would say underground when I worked there scraper men in the stopes and blasting these big chunks that were hung up in the mills.

me: Have you been involved in or have you witnessed any accidents

grampa: I had few little accidents not so big never witnessed any accidents thank god for that

me: could you describe either the most unique or perhaps humorous situations you have seen over the years.

grampa: Well I would have to go back when I was a youngster riding the cage underground coming up we use to do tricks in there and we use to kick this one guy in the leg just kidding one day he says I'll catch you. one these guys that use to do it all the time took a boot him and no one was a were of it so he was kicking him and this guy took his boot and he was the first out of the cage and he said that he'll catch ~~them~~ and he has the last ~~one~~ ~~about~~ everyone else come out and ~~he~~ ~~was~~ with the three boots on and he came out holding one extra boot.

me: Please describe your working conditions.

grampa: Well the last job I was at the Brownstone and it was really noisy because of all the machines around.

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

grampa: Well they haven't changed lately but individuals are gonna have to stay alert and beware what's happening because accidents do happen when your not aware

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

grampa: Well it seemed like more layoffs were coming up and add more work for the individual more responsibilities.

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

grampa: Well they were all cooperative and friendly some of them we use to play a little trick on them also they would be working with a blueprint for example at the Brownstone they would put there hood down to weld and I would substitute a new print for the old print and I would set it on fire when they

me: During your career were you in any special projects or have you implemented any new projects

grampa: Getting Timagam, Canada sherwood ~~time~~ ^{mine}
Ready for production along with lot of other loading crew men.

me have you ever won any awards or have been recognized in any way for your job performance
grampa crew wise

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

grampa: I guess everyone does at one time or another

me, what do you think the future holds for the tilden and Empire

grampa: Sounds great

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

grampa: from reports - Good

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

grampa: make good product at low cost to make

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

grampa production at low cost

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

grampa Learn a trade - Electrical, mechanic, welder, plumber, computers

me please describe what you want to do in your spare time

grampa Follow grandchildren in their respective sports and hobbies 2 like baseball, basketball 16+14, 2 like horses 14+12 Show horses

Just riding around watching slow pitch

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

grampa: yes, I ended up okay I guess good wages

me Looking over the year: what impression

stand out most in your mind with C.C.I.
grampa: good provider, good co. to work for. (10)
and the working people