

this is Rena Yelle interviewing Mrs Laine at her home in National Mine Michigan.

Hello Mrs Laine my name is Rena Yelle and I am a student from the National Mine School our school is putting out a publication about our industries in the area and I would like you to share some experiences with me.

1. What do you feel is the Prime industry in the area?

I feel the prime industry in the area is the Iron ore industry because the Iron ore industry provides us with more jobs and income than any other industry here.

2. What are some more industries that you know of?

I believe places second in order and civil services place high as well as construction industry during normal seasons times.

3. Which one of the mines do you work at and what are your wages?

I have worked at the Empira mine in Palmer Michigan and I have approx 5 years seniority there.

4. How did you ever get started in mining?

Well my father worked as a miner for 26 years before his death and I felt that if it wasn't for the mines offering employment which resulted in our family putting food on our table and clothes on our back we would of had a lot worse times to survive while growing up. I filed a work application at CCI office in Ishpeming when I became aware of the possibility of women who were able to obtain jobs after my father's death then I contacted as many as his friends and bosses that knew him as an excellent worker they in turn helped me to get into the mine. And I in turn worked very hard to repay them for their faith in me as my father's daughter.

5. When you were younger did you ever think about what you wanted to be?

Yes - I always dreamed of going into the navy some day I also thought a lot about becoming a beautician but none of that never planned out for me.

6. Think you could ever make it as a beautician? Yes - I believe I would but it wouldn't be something that I would be interested in as a productive in the field as I am when

I do a great job when I'm in a mans world and I get a possitive reward/comments and alot of friends or just the confedence in myself of a Job well Done even though I am a woman
 Do you ever think about what kind of would you would Be doing right now if there wasnt any mines? Yes- I shuttered to think about it But I would more than certainly Be involed in the restrant ~~besa~~ ~~business~~ Possibly AS a waitress or a short order cook
 (sounds like fun)(um)

when was the first woman ever hired to work for cci?
 I Believe it was approx ~~in~~ 1972 At the Humbolt mine in chapion mine

Isn't mining a Hard Job for women to do? Yes; it is and expecially if you take pride in doing an a-one Job ~~not~~ ^{quite good} mostly Because of the Physical Labor that's involved and a woman must ~~learn~~ learn How to compensate for Her lack of physical strength compared to that of Her male coworkers and By compensating I mean AS an example I use ~~using~~ a ten Pound slog Hammer instead of a 16 Pound which the men use because I Know I can't handle A 16 Pound And A 10 Pound I can And I can do just as an affishunt Job with a ten Pound.

are you treated any differently than the men that you work with. sometimes but you must have an open mind to some of bias thinking that's Been Handled down for many generations about women belonging in the kitchen a friendly attitude A lot of wit plus a sense of Humor is very acentur!

Do you ever feel that there is Any sex thoughts around you when your with all those men?

Yes again quit often but again a good sense of humor a lot a wit and some good old common sense take care of the problem, this brings to mind though the misunderstanding that exists among the wives and husbands of the men and the women miners that work together, for some reason the fact that we are not only adults working together but also a lot of us are christians as well is greatly overlooked

(is it true that the men work harder than the women) no I dont believe that to be true, I believe that there is an equal percent on each side of hard working people and people who just laze around, and have an attitude of the world owing them a living

(What kinds of work do you do and what are your wages) I have done almost every job discrip associated with the mill concentrate section from shovling rock, shovling pallets, scraping gratings, unplugging drains, hosing floors with two inch fire hose um to keeping the belt systems which feed the rocks into the big grinding mills to be crushed, I have also worked in filter Bay where the moister is saperated from the dirt and sent by belt to the pellet plant to be made into pellets, I have also worked in the concentrate section where we mix the chemicals with the concentrate of water and dirt so the pellets will harden as they formed in the pellet plant I have also worked um in grinding which is where we crush the rock we are responsible for unplugging shoots going into um the big grinding mills which are approximately ten to twelve feet high and we have to um unplug shoots so that the um ~~shoot~~ from the belt into the mill to be crushed when it ->

Jams and there for with Big Bars we some time Have to
loosen approximately 18 inch Bolders that Have Jammed in there
and get the mills running again um wright alot of work orders
for repairs check alot of oils and um we Have to clean
Pumps if they become claged and clean AC screens which
are under the big grinding mills and its a there a lot
of involvement there a lot to each job discription that
we do but it depends on you if you again take pride
in doing a good job your always busy
(and what are your wages) my wages Have veried ~~from~~
from approximately \$5.56 An hour round about there um
when I first started in the mine to as High as
\$11.79 an hour when I worked as a grinding
attendant before the last layoff

(I got to thinking on the question before that um
when you metioned something about the pellets
what are the pellets for and where do they go?)
ahh what are they for? excuses me would you
ask that one again

(When you metioned that about the pellets
what are they for and where do they go?)

well ~~the~~ pellets are made for the steel industry
cause steel is made from Iron ahh they go to many
different points of destination um as they leave
the mine to what ever company has signed a
contract and purshased pellets for um a specific
reason in making specific products you have ahh
your ahh your bulldozers or heavy equipment or
steel bridges or anything that made from steel if
you didnt have Iron ore to begin with
(How do you feel about the layoffs at the
mines)
um I'm quit upset about it about being out of work

the more terrible feeling of being non productive 5
I think ~~um~~ I am very angry with our political leaders
and whoever alases responsible for the massive dumping
of forian ore in the united states causing us to lose
our jobs.

(who do you think is responsible for it?) I couldn't specify
~~um~~ any specific names but I do know its
political

(what do you mean by dumping ore in the forian states?)
~~um~~ its somehow it has come about that for ~~um~~ one ~~ahh~~
japan is able to produce and ship ore into the
united states and sell it cheaper than we can produce
it here at home to use at home because their govern-
ment has a program set up to subsidize them for
the lower prices that they would charge to produce
it for us

seniority
(Do you ever think that you will ever get called back
to work?) Yes I believe I will ~~um~~ I know that I
have an excellent work record and its only a matter
of time till the country gets back to on its feet
again this is something that has happened in the past
more than once different generations in the past
50's I believe when the matter closed my father was
laid off for a period of 4 years before he was called
back to work so this has happened through out
history in the past but work has resumed again
people have ~~gone~~ gone back to work again you have
your good time and your bad times ~~aka~~ I think personally
I feel that hard times are one of the best assets
that we have in nature to teach man to
appreciate the ~~bad~~ good times when they have
them.

the end