

me - This is Wendy Marcotte interviewing  
Bill Maki at my home  
on January 4, 1988 about his life,  
and job.

me - When + where were you born?

Bill - I was born in a oh when ah in  
1905 in Mumsing - (Pause)

me - oh okay.

me - um what is your full name?

Bill - William Conrad Maki

me - okay

me - what are your parents names?

Bill - ummm Mr. + Mrs. Albert  
Maki.

me - pretty typical.

me - ummm how many brothers  
& sisters did you have?

Bill - There was nine brothers + ten sisters  
me - so including you there was 20

Bill - yeah 20 all together

me - + which one were you?

Bill - I was second to the youngest brother  
Bill (cough)

me - like what is your family  
background?

Bill - my father + mother were born  
in Finland my mother came  
here when she was about 3. My  
Dad came here when he was  
8 + 9. They settled in an Deartu  
Michigan.

me - I didn't know there was such a  
place. (Laugh) where did you  
go to school?

Bill - In Deartum Grade School + then  
Munising High School.

me - has any thing happened like in school that you'll never forget?  
(Pause)

Bill - no. don't think so I can't remember that far back (laugh)

me - so did you grow up in Dearborn?

Bill - ahhh yes that's where I grew up in Dearborn Michigan. until I was 18 years old & then I went into the ahhh service & I came back & came here to Ishpeming

me - ohh. what types of jobs did you do at first?

Bill - ahh I was a woods worker as a young kid. I had to go out in the woods so I could make a few pennies to by a cycle (laughs) ~~and then~~ and then from there a woods worker & a miner & truck driver.

Bill - (continuing) + a miner + now  
I'm a mine inspector.

me - ohhh (pause) so you did work  
in the mines?

Bill - yes I did 12 years underground  
at a shaft + then I ah all  
total 31 years + 5 months ~~under~~  
underground + open pit.

me - okay so like what is your  
present job whatt do you do  
know?

Bill - I do ahk County Mine Inspector.

me - okay so that means that you  
just go and.

Bill - ye yeah I go inspect the mines  
that operating mines 2 a  
year tilden + empire then Ropes  
I go a little more often  
but a + then abandoned  
areas a the (takes a  
paper out of his pocket)  
yeah the Mine Inspector has  
the safety + well fair of the

me - like is this an elected position?

Bill - yes (pause)

me - um like how did you go about getting this job?

bill - to get this job? well just I had. well first I left CCI 878 & then I was a federal mine inspector that was 82 and then ~~83~~ I went right construction for 11 years when there was an opening for this job so I applied for this job I was appointed for this job a 8450 then I had to run for 85

me - ohhh! okay!! um so do you use any special equipment?

Bill - what

me - do you use any special equipment?

Bill - (ahhh) yeah well I got  
this ah dust gass fumes I take  
samples gass fumes from the mines.

me - (ohhh okay) I think that is special  
equiptment. I don't know. So you  
only have authority in Iron + Copper mines  
& then the Ropes Gold mine?

Bill - (ahhhhhh) yes Iron ore, copper &  
now I got new bill passed so  
now I have authority at the  
ropes now

me - (ooooo) (pause) so

Bill - and like that authority at the  
ropes the safety rabbits  
that will percent of them both working  
& non working areas ya  
know

me - okay - so like accidents have happened

Bill - yes

me - ~~ooooo~~

Bill - (ahhh) like, you know accidents happen  
well then we go up there and investig  
ate.

Bill - that accident and what caused it and which  
• could it have been avoided?

me - (okay) umm so have <sup>more</sup> any changes in the  
rules or regulations about

bill - (yes) well a year or 2 years ago me + pat  
michells she was assistant prosecuting attorney  
but she is a judge now well we updated  
the mining acts because back in the  
1930's updated the act well part of the  
act passed but maybe most of them  
will pass this year, ah because I didn't  
have authority at the time and then I wanted  
authority in case of accidents I go investigate  
the accident to find out what caused it  
you know.

me - (mummm) so where ~~is~~ who do you report to?  
when you finally figured out what caused it?

Bill - well I report to to the the mining  
companies ya know + then <sup>the</sup> prosec  
attorney in marquette.

me - (~~ooooo~~) okay, like ~~o~~ did you have to  
get special schooling for this job?

Bill - yeah well being the Federal inspector  
we had to go 13 weeks National  
mine health + safety academy  
in West Virginia

Pages

Bill - (ahh) 13 weeks straight then every year  
2 weeks every year to update on our schooling  
me - (okay) (umm) okay so you look for hazard-  
ous things?

Bill - yeah yeah ahhh unsafe working conditions  
and unsafe equipment & ahh so forth. and  
jerry places. so

me - (cwell) so like you hafta make kind of  
like an appointment to inspect a certain  
mine?

Bill - you mean make an appointment

me - yeah

Bill - no no I don't have to make an  
appointment I just go there ah ya  
know when ever I think I should  
go to the mines.

me - so there not in in daad expect-  
ing you?

Bill - ~~me~~ me well there not ahhh  
(raw) I can't think of that name

me - thats okay. umm so you don't  
what procedures do you go  
through when you find some-  
thing wrong



Bill - The procedures that I recommended are that I ahhhh <sup>suggest</sup> fixing and if ~~they~~ they don't get fixed well then a notice will be issued you know but ahhhh. I haven't been issuing too many lately. I mean issuing notices yet as of know that everything is taken care of you know so

me - okay so you only have to inspect the mines like a year

Bill - well that a well it says on the. actually act every 60 days whenever I feel like I should like in big mines, ahhhh a year. tilden & Empire By the Pops maybe 5, 6 times a year.

me - okay

Bill - Marquette County is a big county & I get a lot of traveling to do because abandoned areas mine areas checking for fencing make sure it's a delight for the general public & ahh animals. (pause)

me - (mm) so sure when ahh do accidents do happen you have to go & inspect there?

Bill - (yeah) I go & investigate that accident & then we have to report on it what caused it & how this could have been averted

me - (okay) (um) what do you do while you're not inspecting the mines.

me - (ohhhhh) okay when did mine inspecting start?

Bill - (ahhhhh) ah 84 I was appointed

me - (ohhhhh) where your first jobs required to get this job now.

Bill - well it was good to have the experience. was good to get some background. If you ever were a miner in life I was in experience - means alot on the job. you should have experience if you are inspecting underground. if you don't have the experience what are you looking for. you know what to look for. so you should have experience.

me - when you were working under ground did anything cause in?

Bill - no I can't remember.

Bill - except thumbbolt I was involved in a  
accident a rubber tire dozer as all  
now I'm okay

me - like did you get hurt?

Bill - (ahh) yeah my shoulder.  
(Pause)

me - how long did your term last?

Bill - 4 years

me - 4 years, & then can you run again

Bill - yes well yeah every 4 years run  
on it again if you want to fresh.

me - (ohh) so accidents have happened

Bill - yes (umm)

me - like which ones? Like in which  
mines.

Bill - ~~oo oo~~ (yeah) like at the Ropes  
mine there the fallup ground  
that's where #1 accidents happened  
when you ain't got the proper  
equipment that's why all

Bill - the accidents have involved  
and for not having the pro-  
per equipment for that type  
of job. like the other day that  
big cave in that occurred.  
but that occurred in a old  
abandoned mine area  
that was mined down in the  
late 1800's unless it just  
caved in & luckily nobody got  
hurt. and no vibrations but  
ahhhh didn't interfere with the  
new mine areas

me - didn't

Bill - nooo so we don't know yet  
what the damages are under-  
ground until we go & inspect  
that area

me - ooh me & my dad were shouting  
outside & my uncle stopped  
& my dad said yeah I don't  
think Bill will be coming  
today & I said no I don't ex-  
pect him to. Okay <sup>you</sup> do really  
have to check that?

Bill - oh yessah, so some of the  
times ah when you go invest-  
igate the accident something  
like that the mining company  
personnel are pretty friendly I  
mean ah what do you call that  
(laugh) your willing to work  
to gether you know they  
don't like to see these things  
happen eather. you know accid-  
ents & stuff like that

me - so like when accidents <sup>happen</sup>

(caugh)

me - every mine inspector has to go or just  
a certin one?

Bill - well no ah this like over there now well  
we had to go but most inspectors were  
there too. at the same time. so there  
called on the scene too. as I am

me - (pause) were you there? like at the  
ropes that day? when it happened

Bill - well I was there right after it  
happened maybe 20 minutes after

me - oh is this an exciting job?

Bill - well I don't know but I like the  
job your walking in the woods near  
the mine areas. you know I like  
the type of job it is. you meet all  
kinds of people & you probably  
make high feelings among  
some of them. but then you make  
new friends. & lose some but

Bill - I like the job its very interesting.  
me - well thats good that you like your job  
cuz if you didn't like your job  
it wouldn't really go for you.  
thats all the questions I have  
Do you have anything more to add?

Bill - no not right at this time, only one  
thing I would say anybody thats  
kids that an area is fenced  
& I wish the people & parents  
knew the kids would abide  
by the rules & regulations, not  
to let the kids go in the abandoned  
areas because someday they  
lose one or two thats why  
the fences are there, to protect  
the general public. Where it is  
unsafe, because kids cut the  
fence around National Mine  
Ish & Neg. lets the smaller kids  
in this area its very danger  
ous area



me- like okay say a little kid gets killed could the parents sue the company

Bill- that I can't answer I really don't know? But if the fence is repaired not I took pictures then that is evidence

me- Thank you

Bill- another thing. I wish the parents knew when they buy kids 3 wheels to tell them not to enter that abandoned mine areas. there are dangerous. & that's why the company has got the fence there to keep them away they know its dangerous & stuff. accidents do happen even though its away from the abandoned mine areas okay