

101 eqw.  
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Eric Marcotte's  
interview with Louie Marcotte

me: This is Eric Marcotte, it is the 4<sup>th</sup> of December 1993, and I'm interviewing my grandpa Louie Marcotte, and the purpose of this interview is to see what my grandpa had to contribute to the Mining Industry and I'm at his house in Cooper Lake

me: Okay when and where were you born?

Mr. M.: I was born in Madison Wisconsin on June the fifth in 1929

me: Okay, what are the names of your parents?

Mr. M.: Harry and Agnes

me: And what did they do for a living?

Mr M. My Dad worked on the WPA he worked at a Lumber camp as a cook and he also worked at the Blueberry Mine

me: how about your mom?

Mr M. My mother home with the sick, taking care of the children she was cooking for fifteen

me: Okay, well what are the names of your brothers and sisters

Mr M.: The names of my brothers & sisters are ah-cha-ya, Charliz, roger alan, Robert bernard, Donald and Johnny

check the names + spellings

Mr. M. - And I have seven sisters their names  
is Jane, Armine, Ruthy, Maryian, May  
Barbara, Margaret *check these too*

Me: Okay, are you current ly married  
if so, what is your spouses  
name?

Mr. M: My wifes name is ~~Cathy~~ Gladys

Me: ah what are the names of  
your children

Mr. M: I have three children their  
names ~~are~~ is Danny,  
David, and Kori

Me: Okay, ah How long have  
you been working in the  
Mining Industry?

Mr. M. I worked a little over 35  
years

me: hum-and why did you choose  
to work in the Iron Industry?

Mr M. Because [it was the best paying  
~~and~~ for the area, and better  
benefits ] *include  
+ quote*

me: Okay - Please name those relatives  
that have worked in Iron Industry

Mr M. My father <sup>and</sup> my Brother Robert  
*stress this* and Bernard and Donald and  
at the present time I have  
two sons working at mine,  
Dan and Dave and I also have  
a Brother Jon and a nephew  
Ron Santora

me: Okay, what are the names of  
the various mines or buildings  
you have worked in?

Mr. M, ah the first mine I worked in  
was the Lake Angelina Pit, I  
worked in the mather A, ah the  
~~Pilot~~ <sup>Pellet</sup> plant in Eagle Mills I also  
worked in the Humbolt and I  
finished my time at the Empire  
Mine in Palmer

me: hum. thats a lot of mines, okay  
over the years what kinds  
of duties have you performed  
for CCI?

Mr M, well, when I first started  
for the company I drove truck  
at the Lake Angelina Pit, then  
I went underground to the  
Mather A and I was a brakeman  
on the motor, then I went,  
I worked at the ~~Pilot~~ <sup>Pellet</sup> plant  
sampling ore and I worked on  
maintenance - and my last duty was <sup>5</sup>  
as a maintenance foreman

me: wow okay, In as much detail as possible please describe the main duties of your current Job

Mr. M. ah, my Last duties as a maintenance Foreman was to <sup>include</sup> maintain the crusher, and the conveyor belts tailings pipeline and all the outside pumps & pump houses.

me: hmmm. Did this job require any special ~~education or spe~~ Education? <sup>training or higher</sup>

? Mr. M. yeh I went to ah, for may <sup>include</sup> to a supervisory, I went to a Supervisors school, and I also had some blue print reading

me: well ah- please describe any special machinery or equipment <sup>that</sup> you used on the job?

Mr. M.: One of the special equipment

I would say would say would be the big crusher, it took a 60" diameter chunk of ore and the mantle that was used for crushing the ore weighed 40 ton by itself

me: Wow. Okay what was the most challenging or difficult part of your job?

Mr. M. Ah, I would say one of the challenges, ~~one of the~~ most challenging things was preparation of repair on the crusher, especially the concave job *include*

ME: Okay over the years what have you enjoyed the most about your job?

Mr. M. [I enjoyed seeing the work getting done, and ~~the~~ the growth of the company] *good quote*

me: Okay: what were the biggest responsibilities of your job?

Mr. M. seeing that the work is being done and also in a safe manner

me: Um. if it applies to you please describe the most dangerous situations that you have been in.

Mr. M. I recall one dangerous situation when we were working in the shaft at the Mother A. We had a radio to, that signals the engineer, and lot of times the radio would fail, and if that happened if he had to, if the skip got hung up and we couldn't stop the engineer the rope would be coming down on us

me: ok ah have you ever been involved or have you witnessed any accidents or if so please describe them



Mr. M. Ah, I Recall one bad deal?

up at the blumboldt-lying on the  
Rod mill Repair-The Night shift had  
started the ~~job~~ Repair-and we come  
on day shift and we assumed that  
the mill was locked out-so I went inside  
of the mill-to start scraping the small  
pieces-and two of my fellow workers  
went up on the top of the Mill-and they  
were ~~burning~~ burning off the liner bolts-and  
um - I come out for ~~at~~ a drink of  
water-and just when I got out in  
front of the mill someone had told  
the operator to start up ~~the~~ mill -  
and by mistake he started up number  
ten-which was the mill we were  
working on-which we thought was  
locked out-Ah. Evidently IT wasn't  
locked out-so the two guys on top  
of the mill-when the mill started up-  
was rolled right off of the mill and  
luckily-they didn't go in between the  
guard-and the mill otherwise they  
would've got killed

include

me: hum, could you describe either  
the most unique or perhaps  
numorous situations you have  
seen over the years

*include*  
Mr. M. Let me see here- there's one  
I could tell you about- one of my  
men on my crew we had a bad  
snow storm he lived behind Palmer  
and a- he was snowed in so rather  
than miss a days work he came to  
work on horseback- and the company  
was good enough to tie up the company,  
tied up his a horse in the garage- and  
thats what I would call dedication

me: yeh-ah please describe your  
working conditions

*include  
- quote*  
Mr. M, well there was some pretty poor  
conditions at times- we had a lot  
of noise- when you're in the Concentrator  
out in the Pellet Plant we get a lot  
of dust- and outside we get  
lots of cold weather in the winter  
and its also- can be a lot of danger

Me: mm. how have safety standards changed - and what improvements do you see are yet to be made?

Mr. M. well there has been a lot of changes since - when the time - when the first started - you got a better lockout device now and when I first started you didn't have to wear your safety glasses at all times - but now the men have to wear the safety glasses at all times - and there not aloud to wear wedding bonds or rings of any kind - and then they provide special leather clothing for the welders - and also the foreman have to have safety meetings once a month

Me: Ok, how have you seen the duties of your job change over the years

Mr. M. ah, work orders are now being put out by computers - this saves a lot of time for the men, for men making out a list

Me: Okay, at any time have you felt like changing jobs or your career why or why not

Mr. M. ah. not really because I enjoyed my job as a foreman seeing the work get done - and I also wanted to work towards my retirement with my company

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

Mr. M. the company's going to have to continue to work on making a better grade pellet at the lowest possible cost - and I think the employees should give a fair day of work for the pay they receive

1116 lady & good

me: hum okay - how has the role of women changed in the Iron Industry?

Mr. M. well at one time the women just worked in the office - now they're out into the plants out into the pits they're even driving those 180 tonne yokes

Euclios include

me: hoot. what skills do ~~the~~ you, do the young people of today need to develop if they plan to work for C.C.I.

Mr. M. well if they want to work for the  
company they will, they'll have to take  
some mechanical schooling, welding,  
there's electrical they need, and also  
the computer training they're using  
a lot of computers now <sup>mechanical</sup>

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

Mr. M. I think the students of today  
should continue their education  
and try to get a career that they  
would be interested in

me: yeah. please describe what you enjoy  
doing in your spare time

Mr. M. Well in ~~the~~ the summer I have  
a camp on the Little Dead, I like  
to go out there, I do some fishing  
I do boating, I like to do some  
biking and even pick a few blueberries  
and the winter times, winter time  
I have a cottage in Arizona and  
we go there and enjoy the sunshine <sup>13</sup>

me. yeah- If you had to do it all over again would you make the same career choice why or why not?

Mr. M. well looking back over the, I think I would look for a little better job with a better working conditions

me hmmm. and ah - before we end the interview is there anything else that comes to mind that you would like to add >

Mr. M. well I have two sons working for the company and I hope they could ah continue their career at until they reach their retirement *include*

me okay thanks for a letting me interview you

Mr. M. your<sup>!</sup> welcome Eric  
me - okay

Working conditions - blue

Job duties - green

Safety - yellow

~~So~~ Future - orange

Dangerous situation - purple