

[BIRDS CHIRPING]

[MUSIC PLAYING]

I started here in 1977, 06/13/77. I've been here the longest out of anybody. I fell in love with the place, and best job I ever had. This is all I know. So I don't know what I'm going to do when I retire.

[MELODIC MUSIC]

Right when I got out of high school, my uncle called me. He was a clerk up here. And he asked me if I wanted a job. And I said, doing what? He says, a kitchen helper.

I said, what's that? He says, you help the cook. You do the dishes and everything. I really didn't want to be a cook, but it was a start. So I started the next day. Hey, look at there. Yeah, that's working, dude. [LAUGHS]

This is just me when I first hired on, when we were doing water samples. This is back at the cabin. There's the cabin right there that we stayed at. This is when I went and did the snow survey, and then I used to bring the mail every day. I did that for a couple of years.

A lot of people don't want to live here. There's no stores, there's not much to do, and you can't go get any fast food or anything. Yeah. I couldn't imagine going anywhere else. I didn't go to the city now, and I just saw the people and stuff. And I have to wait everywhere you go, and traffic, and I'm spoiled.

We were working a mile underground is what it is, 7/10 of a mile down. When I first got here, it was sort of tough when you haven't worked underground or anything. But then after a while, you just get used to it.

This is all I know. Now, I'm going to go do something different. I'm a janitor at this place. Been for a while. Whatever they need, I do. Portal Robert.

[UPBEAT MUSIC]

You hear an earthquake down there. And it's just like a rumble comes through there. It sounds like a freight train. [MIMICKING TRAIN]

I've always smiled. Yes.

Where does that positivity come from?

I don't know. Just my heart. [LAUGHS]

This is, I think, the most beautiful place in the world to me. I should have brought the fishing poles. We could have caught lunch. This is nice, man. I mean, how could you not enjoy this, huh?

Yeah, I've been stressing out, going through all this. I got 47 years with the company, but I don't even want to retire. But it's time. Operators house. Mechanics house. Electrical machinist. Electrician. My house.

They're like family to me. We've grown up and seen a lot come and go, and I just want them to remember me, and I want to remember them. A lot of good people up here. Best wood around, dude.

Well, when I first started here, I had a lot go and everything. And I'd be always doing stuff, going hiking, going fishing, and running around. Now, I'm starting to slow down quite a bit.

I've taught a lot of people a lot of things down there. So they all know I know. And they always come ask me, hey, how do you do this? How do you do that? And these young kids too, they always like going with me because I'll tell them how to do something.

And then, kids, I keep telling my self, I'm twice your age. I said, you wait 20 years crawling through that unit and see how you feel. They take care of me now. Hey, old man, get aside. We'll do this. Just tell us what to do.

There is a dark hair.

I've done my time, and it's time to just take it easy and enjoy life while I still can.

We are done. Everybody up here pretty much loves me, man. I mean, they all every time something, they're always Rob, Rob, Rob, Rob. And then I try to make everybody in a good mood. [LAUGHS]

[COUNTRY MUSIC]

On the road

I've been away for far too long

But now, I'm on my way back home

I hear the West winds calling

Just another boring night with all my friends that never come over. And they finally came over, man. Yeah, thank you guys.

Home, I'm there before the setting sun

For you to fall into my arms

The place I call my home.

I was looking to the road when I found my home

Always be my home

Yeah, Rob. Yeah.

It's pretty hard to beat 40 years, but Rob's got it.

[ALL LAUGHING]

Rob's done every job, right. Either coach, helper, all the way through. I think his hands have been in everything that's been done at this plant. When the team was asked about Rob, they said they cannot put into words how much we love and respect this man.

Yes.

Yes, Rob.

Yes.

Yeah, Rob.

[CHEERS AND APPLAUSE]

[MUSIC PLAYING]