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SUBMISSION # 34

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The Workers Compensation Act
Review Committee
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In regards to my personal experience with Workers Compensation Board, of not being treated fairly.

Had a number of work related accidents at the work place, such as back injury while lifting dragline drum laggings. Had severe back pain, reported injury at work place, but W.C.B. said there was no report on this injury.

Neck, shoulder and back injury while changing cable on overhead electric shop crane. Came in contact with 550 volts, was stuck on 550 volt connector until breaker blew. Bums to left hand blowing tips out of 3 fingers. Was unconscious falling off scaffold 20 some feet into a truck box. The WCB has compensated me for neck and shoulder injury, they told me the 550 volts had nothing to do with the back injury. This happened in 1975. Today there would be a big investigation. Back then there was nothing. I had my arm and fingers bandaged and went back to work. I have had pain ever since in the lower back, shoulder and neck. (Doctors said I had collapsed disks at that time). Now the doctors tell me it is arthritis in these areas

While changing cable on dragline, looped cable slipped out of drum, striking me in the face, knocking my 2 front teeth and chipped the bottom ones. After 6 months had asked our safety committee if he would contact WCB to get my teeth fixed, he informed me that WCB said I waited too long. Had to fix teeth at my own expense.

Hearing loss - went for number of hearing tests, last one was in 1996. Told I have permanent inner ear damage. I used to operate dragline, bulldozer and worked as a mechanic in a number of shops. These shops were very noisy with such tools as, air impacts, chip hammers, fans and lots of other noises.

Knee and elbow injury.

Went for examination at WCB for neck and back. That morning while at work, had banged my elbow on light bracket while getting off loader. Elbow swelled up, I asked the WCB doctor to check it for me. He told me he wasn't a doctor, yet I was there for him to check my neck and back for any changes.

Drum of fuel fell on foot, breaking big toe. Had a problem with it while wearing steel toed boots. Would flare up to where was unable to put boot on. When this happened, was off work for a month or more and received one cheque from WCB at that time. Have document from the work place, WCB said they have no record of it. Wonder what they do with these reports.

Had gone in front of the appeal board regarding some of these injuries, they questioned me as if I was a criminal.

Concerning my '75 accident, it could very well been fatal. There doesn't seem to be much support for the injured workers. WCB tell me they don't compensate for pain and agony. What else do you get with a back and neck injury, or any other injury.

Thanks for your attention to these matters.

Yours truly