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Comm. 1010

Ms. Quintero

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Interview Assignment

I chose to interview my uncle, Mike Gubler. He is a R100 Licensed General Contractor, which means he can build residential and small commercial buildings or houses. The reasoning behind this choice is not because I want to be a contractor for the rest of my life, but I do want to work with my hands until I get where I want in Psychology and then continue with these skills as a hobby thereafter.

**Background and Education**

Mike currently has his own business called, Mike Gubler Construction Inc. “It was hard to find a catchy name that was not already taken.” He told me. The business has been up and running for around 30 years now, so the choice to interview him was easy to make. Plus, being my Uncle I have actually seen him at work (even assisted one time). He has built 4 of his own homes, almost single handedly for himself, wife and kids, all of which were spectacularly beautiful. Basically, he knows what he is doing.

When Mike began in the trade of construction there was no real emphasis on needing any sort of education. “Getting a job was relatively easy. You walked on a site and asked if they needed a hand.” Today, education is still not required to become a General Contractor, but it is recommended (at least a Bachelors in a trade school, construction technology or civil engineering), you do have to have at least 5 years of experience in the field to get a contractor’s license. Mike did go and get his Associates Degree in business management. Not required but, being the owner of a business, it might be a good idea to know a little about businesses.

**The Job**

More on the subject of Mike knowing his stuff, he also knows what he does not want to do and that is baking in the sun all day putting up framing or shingles on the roof. He has done these things, in fact, he has built about 25 building from start to finish with his company. Definitely not the meat of his work, that comes from the finishing work. All the pretty stuff like the trim, the floors, the hangers, that is where his money lies. Mike Gubler Construction Inc. finishes approximately 230 houses or buildings a year.

*Stresses*

In talking with Mike I came to find that the stress in construction is not necessarily in the job itself but, things outside the job. When finishing houses the schedule a contractor is on is much tighter than if he/she were starting from scratch. Starting from scratch, there is a 4-6 month period in which the job needs to be done. When doing only the finishing work there is about 1-2 days is all, so the pressure to finish is a lot higher.

Another stress Mike expressed to me is that, being a General Contractor you have a lot of clients, generally other contractors. At any given moment five of them could want you here right now. So, time in the construction world is a main stress factor.

I found that the most important stress is actually getting quality employees. Like any other trade or skill that is not in the field of Math or Literacy, construction is not a focus in school, “I think the school system does a disservice, because they focus so hard on being a doctor or a lawyer. So, trying to a lot of kids growing up do not want to be contractors.” Math and literacy are important, no doubt about that, but why not any other trade or skill?

**Interview Analysis**

The interview was extremely relaxed because it was with my Uncle. Even though it was over the phone, we were both able to keep attention and focus on the question, while at the same time not boring each other to death. Mike definitely gave me more information than I could even go over. Overall, the interview went very well mainly because Mike would take over and just start explaining everything, which was very helpful to me.