

The work of Granddaddy

Ronnie Bennie Hector was born on December 31, 1948 to the late Mr. and Mrs. Adel Hector and Willie Hector. My granddaddy's parents had ten children. Their names were as follows, Montine, Willie Junior, Essie Mae, Sharon, Darlene, Patty, Sandy Jean, Ernest, Billie, and Ronnie Bennie Hector. My grandfather was a twin but sadden to say his twin brother Lonnie died as a toddler. It shocked him but it did not kill his wonderful spirit that he has.

His dad was a cement worker and mom a homemaker. When his dad had become ill, my granddaddy decided to go out and apply for a job. So he decided to go to K-Mart and fill out an application and he was later hired. He became a reserved driver. A reserved driver is a person who puts crates in a KICS system and when someone needs you to put food crates on the shelves they alert you on your screen. The job was not difficult but rather moderate. He had to contact one hundred seventy five people (175) in his station that he worked in each and every day.

His job paid very well. He brought home one hundred eighteen dollars (\$118.00) a week. When he first started at K-Mart it only took him his first four months working there to buy his first car which was a blue Dodge car. His job used to be by hand but now it is performed using a activ slot. They used to use a hook to latch products on but now they use a belt. The job usually required four people but now it only requires for one person to do the job. If he was ever sick they would take him to the doctor and if he was very ill and couldn't work they would pay him whatever he usually made and plus him a sick paycheck for being sick. If he was to retire now, he

would make \$2,200 a month, but if he retired back then when he first started working now, he would have earned \$1,000 a month. The reason for the price differences is because they have a freeze on retirement because of Social Security.

If the employees could not afford to pay for there uniforms which included a navy blue shirt, brown slacks, and black or white overshoes the boss would take the money for the eleven uniforms and deduct from your weekly salary. The weekly rate was eleven dollars a week. Women worked in the facility as well. It was about thirty five percent women. They had the same work as men. They mostly drove forklifters. The women had and still today get treated just like the men.

Events at K-Mart include ping pong, checker, bingo, horseshoe, volleyball, football, basketball, and chess. They also have a softball team where they go and compete with other companies such as JCPenney. The softball teams contain men and women on one team. My granddaddy use to be on the softball team but now he is to old to compete in the competitions now. My granddady enjoyed competing with other companies during games. Some of the games do not exist any longer, but the softball team still does. The company also sponsors evants at Stone Mountain, Six-Flags, and etc.

He has been working there for the past thirty eight years. It has not changed much over the past fifty years except for the equipment has become more advanced and the work conditions have become more safer to work in. The job transferred him from Forest Park to Newton. The job put his daughters through school and college. It also helped him to be able to afford wonderful things.