

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Niles Police Department

Police Officer

O. H. 669

EDWARD KUROWSKI

Interviewed

by

Stephen Papalas

on

September 7, 1982

EDWARD A. KUROWSKI

Edward A. Kurowski was born on April 17, 1942 in Youngstown, Ohio to Anna and Anthony Kurowski. He graduated in 1961 from Valley Forge Military Academy in Pennsylvania. Rather than pursue a military career, Kurowski attended Youngstown College from 1961 to 1963. In 1966, he became a full-time patrolman on the Niles Police Department.

During the early morning hours of November 27, 1967, Kurowski and six other officers became involved in a shoot-out at the Holiday Inn in Niles on Route 422. The gunmen who opened fire on them were heavily armed with carbines and machine guns. Kurowski was one of four officers^s that night who were wounded and he was forced to retire in 1980 as a result of those wounds. Because of his actions during the gun battle, which was the most serious incident in the history of the Niles Police Department, Kurowski received several awards for meritorious action in the line of duty.

Kurowski resides on Vienna Avenue with his wife, the former Antoinette Roberts. They have two children, Antionette Marie, age 19 and Edward, Jr., age 18.

Kurowski, a former member of the Niles Board of Education, is a member of the Mount Carmel Church. He is also active with the Niles Frontliners, Knights of Columbus, Niles Youth League and the Valley Forge Alumni Association.

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INTERVIEWEE: EDWARD KUROWSKI
INTERVIEWER: Stephen Papalas
SUBJECT: Valley Forge Military Academy, Holiday Inn,
police equipment, Homerun Inn
DATE: September 7, 1982

P: This is an interview with Edward Kurowski for the Youngstown State University Oral History Program. The interview deals with the Niles Police Department and is given by Stephen G. Papalas at Ed Kurowski's home on Vienna Avenue. The time is 10:24 p.m. The date is September 7, 1982.

Ed, could you tell me a little bit about your parents, where they came from, and what you know about their background?

K: My father originally came from Poland. My mother is from Pennsylvania originally. They moved to Ohio around 1930 or 1935.

P: What year were you born?

K: I was born in 1942.

P: Where?

K: I was from Niles. I was born at Northside Hospital in Youngstown.

P: Why did your parents move to Ohio?

K: Work conditions. My dad worked in a coal mine in Pennsylvania. They moved to Ohio so he could get a job in the steel mill.

P: Could you tell me a little bit about your own background as far as your earliest recollections of Niles?

K: I attended Washington Elementary School from kindergarten through sixth grade. I attended junior high school at Washington Junior High School. From there during my sophomore, junior, and senior year, I went to Valley Forge Military Academy in Wayne, Pennsylvania where I graduated in 1960.

P: Why did you want to go to the military academy to attend school?

K: I had read an article in one of the books and I had a lot of interest in the military. At that time, I thought that I would pursue it. I thought that I would get into one of the service academies.

P: Did you have a chance to?

K: I had appointments to all three of the academies. Once I graduated, I changed my mind to something different. I decided not to pursue that. I returned to Niles and attended Youngstown State University for two and a half years. From there I went to Reactive Metals. I got a job there in the office as a metallurgical assistant. I worked mostly in the photography lab and the micro lab before I got on the Niles Police Department.

P: Why did you want to get on the police department?

K: Ever since I could remember, I had looked up to the police. I had a lot of interest in it. Since I was a small kid, I thought that was what I wanted to do.

P: You took the civil service test and so on and so forth?

K: Right.

P: How did you place on that, do you remember?

K: The first test I took I placed third. The next time I took the test, I was the top man on the list.

P: What year was that that you were appointed?

K: I got the appointment on January 1, 1966.

P: Was anyone else appointed to the department the same time you were?

K: Yes, Charles Place came on the same time I did.

P: Who was the chief, Ross?

K: Yes, John Ross was the chief at that time, and I think DeChristafaro was the mayor.

P: Who were some of the police officers that you were closest with, as a friend, when you were on there?

K: My closest friend was Kenny Pollock. We worked a lot of years together since I had come on until the time I retired. He and I are still real close.

P: What about some of the experiences you may have had before 1967, the night you were at the Holiday Inn? Did anything interesting occur before that period of time or anything that you remember?

K: Nothing really big. It was just normal police work. There were a lot of accidents and family calls. There is nothing that I can recall right now. There was nothing of major importance.

P: Try and think back to the point before October in 1967 . . .

K: November 27, 1967.

P: Let's say that we are in the beginning of November of 1967. What do you remember about the equipment that you used?

K: At that time, the equipment was very poor. The cruisers were always breaking down. The only guns that we carried were the .38 revolvers that we had that were outdated. We didn't have any shotguns or carbines or tear gas or anything in the cars.

P: In other words, the only thing that you had was your .38?

K: Right, our service revolvers.

P: Did you get to practice with those? Was there any sort of a ruling in the city ordinance that stated you had to practice target practice?

K: No, not at that time.

P: What were the qualifications for being a police officer?

K: You took the civil service test.

P: You were appointed and that was it?

K: That was it.

P: You didn't go to a formal academy?

- K: We had to take 240 hours of police training at the time. Patrolman Place and I were the first ones to go through that. They came up with that that year. We were the first two to ever go through it in Niles.
- P: What about the police officers that were with you that November night at the Holiday Inn? Had they gone to school yet? Did they have the type of training that you had?
- K: I believe everybody at the Holiday Inn had come on before me with the exception of Joe Williams. He would have had to go through that.
- P: Everybody else had been on it then too?
- K: Everybody had been on before I was.
- P: They had gone through it?
- K: No, they wouldn't have. Joe Williams was the only one who had come on after me. We were the first ones, so he would have had to take the 240 hours too.
- P: How many policemen were on the police department?
- K: I believe eighteen at the time.
- P: Can you remember how many officers were on duty per shift?
- K: The night of the shooting?
- P: Okay, the night of the shooting. How many were on?
- K: We had one dispatcher. Rockey Regal was on the desk. Sergeant Mahoney was in charge of the turn and the patrolmen working were Kenny Pollock, Donny Marino, Joe Williams, and myself. There were five.
- P: Was it normal to have five men on a shift then?
- K: That was a full shift then. That was the most that any shift had. I believe some of them had less than that at that time.
- P: I want to go back to an earlier question I had asked about the equipment. Do you know as a police officer if there was a movement under way or an order in for extra cruisers to take the place of the dilapidated ones that you had.
- K: Not that I knew of, no.
- P: In other words, you were driving cruisers that were

inadequate at that time?

K: Right. The night of the shooting we had a plain car. It was a newer Plymouth. That night the other cruiser that we had broke down. We had to borrow a plain car that was used in the light department.

P: Was that normal practice?

K: At that time, yes. We borrowed that car when one of the cruisers broke down.

P: You would patrol the city in that?

K: Right.

P: The radio in that car was hooked up to the city band which the light department, our department used, and it had no police band in it at that time. In case there was an emergency, as there was on that November 27, other police departments wouldn't be able to pick up your messages directly, is that right?

K: From that car, no way. The only way it could be picked up is through our dispatcher who had a radio that could copy the city car.

P: Had you been in a police car that night and you got on the mike, could departments have heard you?

K: Yes.

P: How long had this practice been going on?

K: Of using the car?

P: Of dilapidated cruisers and so forth.

K: I was going on two years then and we never really had any modern equipment. They would buy new cars, but they just wouldn't hold up and they wouldn't replace them at that time.

P: You had city fathers who felt that the time justified that Niles was a quiet little town and what occurred on November 27 would never occur.

K: Or hoped that it would never occur.

P: Ed, tell me in detail what happened at the shoot out at the Holiday Inn.

K: That night it was approximately 2:20 in the morning. We were sitting at the corner of Route 46 and Route 422. We were talking with the other cruiser. At that time in the one plain car, Sergeant Mahoney and Ken Pollock were in the car. In the other plain car was myself, Donny Marino and Joe Williams. We were sitting there. Howland got a call that somebody had broke into the pop machines at the Holiday Inn which was just up the strip from where we were sitting. Knowing that Howland only had one or two men working at the time, we decided to cover them on the call in case something did happen.

We went up to the Holiday Inn. We pulled in the back of the Holiday Inn. Patrolman Pollock and Sergeant Mahoney got out of the cruiser. John Marus pulled up in a Howland cruiser. He got out of the cruiser and I believe he talked to the manager of the Holiday Inn at the time. I don't know his name. There was somebody staying at the Holiday Inn that had seen a couple of guys break into the pop machine and take some pop out of the machine and go into a room on the second floor.

With that, Marus, Mahoney, and Pollock went up to the second floor to the room that these guys were supposed to have gone into. They knocked on the door. We stayed down in our car. We were watching from below. They knocked on the door and somebody yelled, "What do you want?" They said that they would like to talk to them. They told them to go to hell and they weren't going to talk to them. They addressed that they were police. They still wouldn't talk to them. At that time they backed off and were going to go to the manager's office to get a key to get into the room. Patrolman Marus from Howland went back to his cruiser to radio in what he had. Sergeant Mahoney and Kenny Pollock went down the side corridor to get the key.

At that time I shined a spotlight from our car up into the room where these subjects were supposed to be staying. As I shined a spotlight on the window, the drapes opened and they shot through the window. I found out later that it was a .45. At that time, we bailed out of the car on the passenger side, the three of us, and got behind the car. I believe I got behind the front of the car by the motor front wheel. Behind me by the door was Patrolman Marino. Behind him by the rear wheel was Patrolman Williams. We heard a lot of noise at that time up in the room. We heard some crashing and breaking of wood and that. Later we found out that they had broke down a door that was adjacent to the room. It was between their room and the room adjacent to theirs. They had entered through there. A guy was in bed and they took him hostage.

P: Who was he?

K: He was a salesman, I believe, from England who worked for Ajax in Warren or a company in England that was dealing with Ajax in Warren.

P: He had a lot to tell the family back home, didn't he?

K: Right.

P: What happened after they took the Englishman hostage?

K: It was a wait-and-see ordeal. We waited behind the car. They waited up in the room. We yelled for them to come out. They yelled back. I couldn't hear what they were yelling. They were just yelling through the door. The next thing we knew the door opened and the guy came out yelling, "Don't shoot! Don't shoot!" They yelled, "We have him hostage!" The English guy had his hands above his head. They had an automatic rifle to the back of his head. They had another gun to his back and they marched out of the room.

As they marched out of the room, they started spraying down at the cruiser. They were situated below our cruiser knocking out the windows and spraying the car with fire. As they worked their way towards us, we couldn't return the fire because of the hostage. He was directly in their way. They stayed behind him all of the time. We didn't want to hit the hostage. They worked their way down the corridor. Patrolman Pollock and Mahoney were there. They fired down the corridor wildly. Mahoney and Pollock ducked for cover. Sergeant Mahoney got knicked in the ear from some bricks. They both backed off. I believe Mahoney went down the steps and Pollock jumped off of the second floor to the ground. They worked their way down the steps to the first floor still maintaining a gun to the hostage's head. They worked their way out to the parking lot where we were sitting.

In the meantime, Patrolman Marus from Howland was behind his cruiser behind the rear wheel. We were directly behind him. They kept spraying the car and ground around us. We couldn't return fire because of the hostage. Every time we would look up, they would spray the car. They had already shattered all of the windows and blown all of the windows out. As we sat beside the car, you could see the holes coming through where I was sitting, through the hood and out through the fender. You could see the holes forming through and the sparks coming from the metal.

P: It was just going right through the car?

K: Right, it just cut right through it. They worked their way toward the Howland cruiser probably thinking that nobody was there. Marus was down behind the rear wheel. He didn't see them coming. I yelled at him. He tried to duck for cover under his car. The one Joyce brother got on top of him with the automatic weapon and fired, hitting him in the thigh.

P: I want to clarify something here for the tape. When you say, "The Joyce brother got on top of Marus," do you mean he was on the car or he was on the pavement?

K: He was on the pavement. He was overlooking Patrolman Marus.

P: At point blank range?

K: At point blank range, right over top of him. He just opened fire spraying the ground over Marus and hit him one time in the thigh. At that, I jumped up and aimed my revolver at the Joyce brother. He turned his gun towards me as I was firing. I hit him. The bullet went through the chest and into his spine. He fell down on his back at the same time screaming to his brother that he was hit and that he couldn't move; he was crying and screaming.

P: Again for clarification, how many times did you fire at him?

K: Five times.

P: Your weapon was almost empty by then?

K: Yes, I tried to reload. I got down behind the motor again to reload. At that time the other brother heard his brother screaming. We tried to work our way back to the back of the cruiser. At that time, Patrolman Marino and Williams worked their way up towards the hill to get a better view of the situation. I worked my way to the back to the cruiser, trying to reload my gun. As I worked behind the cruiser, the one Joyce brother came toward the side of the cruisers, spraying the gun. At that time, he hit me in the right knee. It spun me around. I fell down in the parking lot in a puddle. I believe I started to go into shock.

As that happened, I heard a squealing of tires behind me. I glanced at the back and saw a cruiser pulling through. I didn't know who it was. I later found out that it was Dick Bullen from the Austintown Police Department. As soon as I saw the cruiser, he pulled

his fire from me and started firing at the Austintown cruiser. Patrolman Bullen stopped the cruiser, rolled out of the cruiser and took aim and shot the one Joyce brother in the head. He died instantly.

P: Who was the Joyce brother that was shot in the head? What was his first name?

K: The brother that was shot by Bullen was William Joyce. They were both from Boardman or Youngstown. The one that I had shot and that laid on the pavement by the Howland cruiser was John Joyce. The third subject involved who at that time was still holding the hostage was Aubury Roberts. He was also from Youngstown.

P: What happened to Roberts all of this time? What was going on with him?

K: He just stayed with the hostage. At that time he had got into the back seat, with the hostage, of the cruiser. He was sitting in the backseat of the cruiser. After the shooting, he got out and tried to run up the hill. The Warren Police had then arrived. They went around the back and intercepted him along with Patrolman Marino. At that time they handcuffed him and placed him under arrest.

P: At that point, did they take you to the hospital?

K: Right. Rossi Ambulance pulled in the back. I went to the hospital in the ambulance. I have no idea how the others got there. I know there were quite a few ambulances. When we pulled around front, I would say there were 100 policemen and cruisers in the front of the Holiday Inn. We were very well covered, but they didn't know what was going on in the rear.

P: That's why they weren't back there?

K: Right.

P: What did they think? Did they think the shooting was in the front or what? Couldn't they hear the shots?

K: Evidently, the dispatchers didn't get the call straight and didn't actually know what was happening or the magnitude of what was happening back there. They had no idea at that time that anybody was wounded. They only knew that the shooting was going on.

P: If it wasn't for Bullen, you would probably be gone.

- K: Definitely. He saved my life and there is no doubt about that.
- P: What is Bullen doing today?
- K: He is still on the Austintown Police Department as far as I know.
- P: What about the other officers that were with you? What became of them?
- K: Sergeant Mahoney is still in the department. Kenny Pollock is still in the department. Joe Williams had retired from injuries. I have retired from injuries. Donny Marino quit the department I believe two or three years after that and is now working in Akron on security. Marus from Howland, I believe, is with the Howland Fire Department, with their ambulance service, as far as I know. That last I heard that is what he was doing.
- P: How long were you laid up from this?
- K: Sergeant Mahoney was released that night. Joe Williams and I had surgery the next day. We were in the hospital approximately three weeks after that. After that, I was on crutches approximately four months. I didn't return to work for six months. Joe returned in about four months.
- P: You said that Pollock jumped from the balcony. He was a pretty big guy then, wasn't he?
- K: Yes. He hurt his ankles when he jumped. They were real sore the next day. I remember him coming to the hospital and telling me that he had really hurt his ankles; they swelled up. He is really lucky that he didn't break them.
- P: That was a pretty good jump.
- K: It was the only way that he could go. He had no other way to go. He couldn't get down the stairs. There was no other exit. He had to jump from there. Some way they had to get to a phone to be able to get to our dispatcher. We had no radio and we had no walkie-talkies as they do now.
- P: Where did the Joyce brothers and the other character get their automatic weapons?
- K: They had a hard time finding out. They claimed that they had left X amount of money. I don't remember. It is someplace in these papers. They had left the money on a car seat in Youngstown. Somebody had left

the guns for them wrapped up. This is the story that they gave us. They were fully automatic 30-30 weapons. They had .45's. They had bandolieros on both shoulders. They had .38's. They were really loaded for action.

P: Each of the three men had this material?

K: Right.

P: What were they going to do?

K: We never really found out. We surmise that they were going to go down the strip and hit all the restaurants, just work their way down the strip starting at Alberini's, 422, Living Room, El Rio and make a clean sweep and rob them all.

P: What became of the two men that survived the shooting?

K: The one Joyce Brother, William Joyce, I didn't realize that he was dead. When I got to the hospital, they wheeled m into emergency. In the one room, he was in there with me. Some Warren policeman showed me that he was shot right between the eyes and had blown the back of his head out. The other one that I had shot, I didn't know how seriously he was hurt until the next day. I knew that he was paralyzed, but I didn't know to what extent until the next day when they operated on him. As far as I know, from there he went to Hillside Hospital. From there he got involved in something and overdosed on drugs in a motel in Austintown. It was approximately two or three years later. He never went to the pen. Roberts went to the pen. I don't know the exact amount of years that he had. He was in there for quite a long time. He was released and sent back up for a pro-violation of selling drugs.

P: He is still there today?

K: As far as I know.

P: You mentioned that the surviving Joyce brother never went to the pen before he died of the overdose. Why?

K: They figured that he had suffered enough and to send him to the pen would cost too much to take care of him. He was paralyzed from the neck down. There was nothing that they could do for him.

P: What was the weather that night?

K: It was cold and wet. I believed it rained during the day and some of that night before we had come out on

midnight turn. It was real chilly. I remember wearing our real heavy coats and gloves and all of that. It was quite cold that night.

P: Ed, did you have any experiences in the hospital that were memorable? Was there anything to do with the members of the shootout that you can recall?

K: Thinking back now while I was in the hospital after the initial shooting, laying in there, I was actually scared laying in the hospital. I was thinking what might happen. After awhile we had found out that the Warren police had stopped the two wives, Audrey Roberts and one of the Joyce wives, coming to the hospital. They found a .25 automatic and a book of Bonnie & Clyde in their purses

P: Each of them had a .25?

K: No, just the one .25 and a book. They weren't going to say what they were going to do. Nobody knows. It is enough to worry you.

P: You said you were afraid of what might or could happen. What did you mean by that?

K: Who their friends were. You don't know what they were involved in. You don't know whether they were tied in with drugs. You don't know if they had close friends or relatives or what that might want to get back at you.

P: What emotional feelings did you have about the experience that night? Did it affect you in any way?

K: I was scared. It took a few months to get over it. After I was released from the hospital, I had a hard time sleeping. It worked on my mind for awhile. It gradually wore off.

P: Was it an experience of unwinding from the incident?

K: Yes. I think more than anything once the adrenalin gets flowing your nerves get up so tight. Being injured and going through surgery like I did took me a long time to get over it.

P: How many operations did you have?

K: To date, I have had seven on my leg.

P: The leg will never be right?

K: No, the leg will never be right. The bullet went into

the knees. It shattered the kneecap and just about destroyed the joint. They removed part of the kneecap and on my seventh operation they took out all of my kneecap. Prior to that, they would remove a little more of the kneecap and a little more of the joint. They can go in and cement some of the joint and try to keep it from arthritis setting in. It was just so badly damaged. There is nothing they can do for it.

P: Arthritis is setting in?

K: Oh, yes. I have arthritis real bad in it. I have talked to the doctors about replacing the knee. They are afraid to go in. If it fails, I will lose the leg. Probably, eventually, I will lose it anyway. I would rather keep it as long as I can before I try anything like that. It might fail. They give me maybe a 40:60 chance. I don't like those odds.

P: What was the reaction in the community?

K: They were stunned, surprised. They were unaware that anything could happen in Niles like that. Nobody ever thought that something would happen in Niles like that. After it wore off, there were a lot of letters in the paper. I received a lot of mail from people congratulating us. It was on Walter Cronkite on CBS. It was in the Stars & Stripes paper. It was in every major newspaper in the country. A lot of people sent me clippings from Hawaii, California, Germany, and all over. It just hit the country. Every major newspaper carried it. It was on TV that day.

After we got out of the hospital and back on our feet, or back on crutches, the Chamber of Commerce had a dinner for us and honored us there. We received a lot of letters from congressmen and state representatives and senators congratulating and thanking us for what we did.

P: Where was this Chamber dinner at?

K: It was at the Presbyterian church by the Edison School.

P: The Lutheran Church?

K: No, the other one by the library.

P: Christian?

K: Christian Church. It was in the cellar there. There were probably a couple hundred people there. They presented us with a plaque honoring us for the shooting

and for what we did. We received a weekend at the Holiday Inn paid for. The FOPA gave us a monetary tribute. That was about all. One thing that I do remember I got was a letter from a lady in California. She sent me two hundred prayers and asked me to say these prayers; that I should repent for shooting the one Joyce brother. "Nobody should shoot anybody else," she said. I thought that was quite unique. It kind of disturbed me really and made me mad.

P: Totally bizarre.

K: Yes. She had to be a little sick herself.

P: I agree. After you came on duty again, did you ever have any more harrowing experiences before you finally had to retire because of your leg injury in 1980?

K: It wasn't too long after I came back and we had an armed robbery call at the Home Run Inn on Walnut Street. Two guys had walked in with hunting rifles to rob the place. We weren't that far away. We pulled up on Walnut Street. We ran up to the side of the building. As we ran up to the side of the building, the two guys ran out of the building. They jumped into a car which was running in front of the Home Run Inn. They shot at us and took off. At that time, we had our automatic carbines which we got after the Holiday Inn shooting. We sprayed the car knocking out the back window putting holes in the trunk. The one bullet we found in the seat of the driver. It went right into a metal support. It would have shot him right in the back if it would have gone through. The metal stopped it or we would have had him. The one guy bailed out of the car. We captured him. He went down Walnut Street into McDonald from McDonald to Girard. He ran into a house. We went down in there and captured him. We surrounded the house and captured him.

P: Are there any others?

K: I don't know how long after that that Joe Williams and I were working plain clothes on afternoon turn. We worked steady afternoons. It was quitting time and I was taking Joe home down Route 46. Coming up Vienna Avenue and Vienna Road we noticed two black subjects walking into Convenient pulling ski masks down over their faces and pulling guns out of their belts. We didn't know how many people were in Convenient at the time. We didn't want to risk going into Convenient and causing an innocent bystander to get hurt. We placed the car in the front of Convenient on the one side and got behind it waiting for the subjects to come out. As we were waiting, we heard a shot go off. We found out that the owner shot

his .357 through the ceiling trying to stop the guys. They ran out. We told them to halt and we were the police. They turned. They fired on us. We returned the fire, missing them. They ran down behind Convenient into the woods. We called for assistance prior to that. Just as they had come out, more assistance arrived and chased them down into the woods. They finally caught them at the corner of West and Federal Streets where they surrendered.

P: You mentioned that you had carbines in the Home Run Inn incident. Is this part of the result of the shootout at the Holiday Inn?

K: Right. Right after that, they got the carbines almost exactly like the ones that we got shot up with. They were sawed off small carbine automatics. They were really nice. We never had them before. We carried them on the front seat with us. If we would have had them that night at the Holiday Inn, we wouldn't have had any trouble. It would have been a lot easier. I don't think anybody would have been injured, but we didn't have them.

P: What other equipment did the police department get as a result of the shootout, you know, an improvement in the quality in other words?

K: Probably all of the equipment from the Holiday Inn one had a lot to do with that. The cruisers improved. We got more cruisers. It seems like more men were added. Right after we had the carbines, we had shotguns and cars with locks. Each man would carry walkie-talkies. Lately, I understand each man has been given a shotgun to have on their own that they personally take care of. Any of that equipment would have been a big help when we were at the Holiday Inn. Probably nobody would have been injured at the time if we had it.

P: You also have tear gas there now?

K: Right.

P: Did you have it before?

K: We didn't. We had it at the station. We didn't have it in the cruisers.

P: What about 9 millimeters?

K: No, we didn't have those either. All we had was our .38 service revolver.

P: You believe that . . .

K: Right after that we got the 9 millimeters too, the automatics.

P: What was the mayor's reaction? Did he ever approach you after this occurred or any of the city fathers?

K: They had come up to me. A lot of the councilmen and the mayor, and the safety director were really good after that. They came up to the hospital. They stayed in contact with us making sure that if there was anything that we needed that they would take care of it. We had no problems. They treated us real good.

P: How old were your children at this time, just tots probably?

K: They were probably three and four years old.

P: Your wife was probably really upset about it?

K: Yes. She took it very hard. They didn't call her until probably five in the morning after I had been in emergency and X-rayed. Then she came to the hospital from there. She was very upset. It was very upsetting for her as it would be for anybody. It was for the other guys' wives too.

P: If there was anything that you would like to see improved in the police department, and I'm sure this is a loaded question, today what would it be? You are out of it. You are away from the police department and you are just an average citizen looking back. Do you feel in other words that some of the improvements made after the shootout at the Holiday Inn were adequate? Do you feel that more should be made?

K: There is always more that you can do. I believe that after the shootout everything that they did helped. The improvement of the weapons, the cruisers, and the radios were all a result of the Holiday Inn. It helped tremendously. The training of personnel seemed to pick up after that. There seemed to be more training and more shooting of the guns and learning how to use the tear gas. Stuff like that just seemed to pick up after the Holiday Inn, after the fact, which is the case of most anything, not only police work but anything else. You always wait until something happens before you do it.

I haven't been down there for two years, but I imagine it is still the same. There can always be an improvement on equipment and more men. I am strictly against one-man cruisers. I always have been. I have been on a lot of calls myself,

family calls especially, that you may get. You go in by yourself and it is really a risky thing. It is probably one of the worst calls that you go in on. If you have to go in by yourself, it is dangerous. Where you have two guys, the guy will think twice before he does anything. If you have one guy in the car, it is hard to drive and see anything. You have to watch how you drive. If you have two men, you have one watching and one driving. You protect each other. I would say more men and the most modern equipment you can get . . . Since the Holiday Inn, they put in a computer system that helped immensely. They can run license checks and stolen car checks and everything. This is super. It really helped. Other than that, I wouldn't know. Moneywise, the more money you pay the better people you get. It is mostly the equipment and the training of the personnel that you have that they never had before.

P: Did you meet any police officers when you first came on that you wanted to exemplify or model yourself after? Was there anybody that you really admired?

K: No, not that I can think of. The only one that I can think of was when I was small; Sergeant Scott used to ride the motorcycle. I used to see him and kind of like that. They did away with motorcycles before I came on. Once I came on, I met a lot of nice guys. I can't think of anybody that I didn't like in our department or didn't get along with. They were super guys.

P: This is a loaded question which you might want to avoid answering and I can understand it. I would feel uncomfortable if it was asked to me. Do you think that there is or has been too much politics involved with the police department? From the day it was conceived in 1900, I have found in newspaper articles, records, ordinances, and personal interviews that the police department has simply been a creature of city politics. Did you ever see that or feel it?

K: I understood before I came on and it was probably quite a bit before I came on that there was a lot of that. I can't really say that at the time that I was on that there were that much politics. There will always be politics in police work. You will always have mayor, councilmen or safety directors who want something done right away. It can't possibly be done. Cruise this street, watch this house, when you have the whole strip of things to watch, that is not going to happen. Special favors, that I had never seen. I had nothing to do with it. Whether it went on or not I don't know that I could prove it. I won't even comment on that.

- P: There is one other question that I forgot to ask you earlier about your family. It seems unimportant in view of all the things that we discussed. How big was your family? Did you have brothers and sisters?
- K: I had just one older sister.
- P: Where is she today?
- K: She lives in Niles.
- P: What is her name?
- K: Claire. She lives on Frederick Street.
- P: Were your parents alive at the time of the shooting?
- K: They are still living.
- P: What was their reaction to this?
- K: They were shocked. They wanted me to get off of the police department which is what any parent would do to protect theirs. After I talked to them, they understood and everything was okay. They were scared. They were scared for me.
- P: Do you think that anyone involved in that shootout left their police department because of the shooting?
- K: No, not that I know of. You mean directly involved because of the shooting?
- P: Right.
- K: Not that I know of. Everybody had their own reasons and I don't know. Only a couple of them left. Donny Marino left for more money. He went to Packard. That was a good move for him. Joe Williams had to leave because he had back surgery. He was in bad shape.
- P: What was that from, line of duty?
- K: Yes. He and I were working on February 9, I think. I can't remember the year. It was about two or three years prior to when I retired. We were working plain clothes afternoon turn. We were walking out to the cruiser. He slipped on the ice and fell under the cruiser. He hurt his back. They rushed him to the hospital and he had surgery the next day on his back. He has probably had three or four surgeries on his back since then. He is in bad shape.

P: Sorry to hear that.

Ed, I appreciate the interview. Is there anything that you would like to add in lieu of all the other things that you have given me.

K: I can't think of anything else of any importance. I just hope the interview will help you and anyone else who can maybe improve the department or make people aware of the things that went on. They look like they are getting better.

P: Thank you.

END OF INTERVIEW