

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

World War, 1939-1945

Personal Experience

O H. 1336

JAMES J MCNICHOLAS

Interviewed

by

Joseph Nuzzi

on

February 17, 1990

John McNicol was born in East Liverpool, Ohio, October 3, 1937. He graduated from high school there. He served in the United States Army from 1956-1959. In 1965 he went to work at Youngstown Sheet & Tube and was there until he was laid off on August 13, 1977. He has worked at the J & L Works in Aliquippa since January 8, 1981. He married his wife Lydia on July 25, 1976 and they are members of the Orthodox Nativity of Christ (Russian) faith. He enjoys carpentry and gardening.

B: This is an interview with John McNichol for the Youngstown State University Oral History Program, on Youngstown Sheet & Tube, by Philip Bracy, on April 27, 1981

Could you tell us about John McNichol? You know, where you grew up and where you went to school and so forth

M: Well, I was born in East Liverpool. I went to grade school at Saint Aloishis in East Liverpool. Went to high school in East Palestine, Ohio. My parents had the hotel there. After that, I went into the service. When I came out of the service, I worked at Quadra-Reefer for three and a half years or so. They shut that down. Seems like it follows me around. Then, I drove for Continental Baking Co. in Washington D C a year or so. I came back and was unemployed for quite some time. Then, I got a job at Ensel Company in East Palestine. I am not sure just how long I worked there. Then, in 1965, I went to Youngstown Sheet & Tube. I started out in the casing department, class four labor.

B: That would have been about what year?

M: 1965. In 1970, I went into the carpenter's shop as an apprentice carpenter. Then, August 13, 1977, they shut it down and I went out the door. I layed around for three and a half years. But somehow, we got along. I worked a few weeks at Kroger's. Then, I worked at Steel Door for about twenty weeks and now with J & L. So, that is right up to date.

B: Do you remember where you were and how you found out about the shutdown of the Youngstown Sheet & Tube?

M: Well, I had got married on July 25, 1976. My wife and I had gone to Canada, Montreal, to the Olympics. We came back and I had worked and had my vacation and went on working. Then, I took a five-week leave of absence, so we could go to North Bay. The fourth week of my five weeks, I came back. I thought, well, I will go in and take my physical. I will have that out of the way for the final week. Then, I will just go back on my regular schedule.

When I went in, one of the gentlemen that was there that had known me for awhile told me, "John, forget about your last week." I thought he was kidding, but he was not. So, I worked the last week of my fifth week of the leave of absence. It was the last week that I worked.

B: Okay, when you say it was the last week, was it that particular week, because I know some areas were shutdown immediately and others were immobilized?

M: Well, I remember I was done on the 13th day of August, 1977. That was the last working day. Now they shut them down. I do not know how many they kept; not too many. Now, I think there are only three or four carpenters left in the shop.

B. so, you were actually laid off before the larger shutdown took place, the September 19th shutdown?

M: Yes, I was

B. How did you find out about that? Was there any inkling?

M. No, up until coming off my leave of absence I did not know anything. You know, I went in, like I say, I wanted to take the physical the week earlier, so I would not lose going out on a Monday. Because, I would have had to go in Monday for my physical and would have probably gone to work Tuesday. So, I thought I would do that the week in advance being that I was already home, then I could just go to work the following week. Like I say, that is when the gentleman told me, "John, you better go to work this week, because it is going to be the last week you work."

B. What local were you a member of?

M: 1418, at the time

B. Immediately, you know, obviously you went on unemployment right after that. But, was your local doing anything during that process when these lay-offs and the announcement took place? Even prior to that instance your section was going out

M. I do not know because I was not that closely involved with the union. I do not think that they fully realized that it was going to be a complete shutdown even at that point. A friend of mine, DeWayne Erving, whom I mentioned earlier, but not on this when he realized it, we were already gone, the carpenters. The fellows in the carpenter shop. I do not know how many others it affected right then, but it did affect us in the carpenter shop. Well, DeWayne Erving and Jerald Dickey were the ones that basically got the church people involved and got the Coalition formed. They do not take much credit for it, but they are the ones who really went out and did the job.

B. Okay, could you kind of clarify that a little? What do you mean they got that formed?

M. They were the ones who went around to the ministers.

B: This would have been right after the shutdown?

M: right after they fully realized that,

B. Yes, when the announcement came that year. Now, do you know who

approached the ministers or the bishop Are you familiar with any of that?

M I do not know whether it was DeWayne or Jerald that actually went to Bishop Malone or not, or it was on the rest of the clergy for their own gold, the Rabbi and Bishop Bert from Cleveland But, they finally got it rolling It was almost like going out and trying to chop down an oak tree with a penknife, I guess. But, they tried.

B How did the Steelworkers United for Employment get started and when? Could you give us an approximate time?

M Well, the information that you have there we probably discussed it two weeks in advance

B That would have been about the middle of February you are talking about, because this is March.

M Right. I imagine it was more or less a brainstorm of the lawyers involved. They felt something had to be done. They could not get any information from the companies as far as who was laid off or why or where they were at.

B When you say attorneys, you mean for the local or for the Coalition, or for whom?

M Bob Clide and the ones who were associated with that. Well, there was myself and Len Ballick and, of course, DeWayne and Jerald and all the rest of the guys were all in the office area Then, we decided we should form something to try and get in tough with the people that were gone, were laid off

B Where did the early meetings take place, like in your home or somebody else's home, or was it at the church prior to the March 5, 1979 meeting that was in someone's home?

M Well, a lot of the meetings we did have were up at the church, Ed Wieshiemer's church Of course, most of us met unofficially down at the Coalition office We discussed things from time to time

B Your office in Federal Plaza?

M Then, DeWayne and some of the other fellows would come over here once in awhile We would sit around and knock things around But up to this point, when S U E was formed, the four basics that hurt us is what we were having problems with We could not locate anyone We could not get any names, addresses or telephone numbers from the company They would not give us this So, we had to figure some way of getting in touch with these people or

trying to get in touch with them.

So, by the time this got all around, a you can see by the date, most of the people were fairly well disgusted anyhow and very few answered. Oh, I would say not very few. We had, I do not have the information anymore, I have gotten rid of it since. But, we had quite a few names. Some from people that had moved all the way to Texas. Their families had sent them the information. They filled it out and sent it back to us. So, we are getting quite a bit of information.

The four primary goals that we had for S.U.E. was the identification, and the ultimate of inclusion to this association of the unemployed and underemployed an otherwise disaffected steelworkers formerly employed by the Youngstown Sheet & Tube. The second one was to provide assistance to the effort to secure approval for proposals seeking funding which would make Community Steel Incorporated a reality. Third, was to assist the analysis of cost effectiveness so as to insure the liability of Community Steel Incorporated venture. Fourth, was to establish a discussion process through which an understanding may be reached on each, such as hiring preferences.

This, I feel, is reasonable well self-explanatory. I felt that, and so did Len and the rest of us that were all there. We felt that this was to the point that the average individual could understand it without any problems at all.

B: Do you remember if there were any follow-up meetings? First of all, how many people attended this meeting that you are talking about?

M: The first meeting we had in March at Reverend Wieshiemer's church, I guess. There were roughly 80 to 100 people, I guess, for the first meeting.

B: That is all six locals that were affected or primarily the one in the union?

M: No, this was primarily just the Sheet & Tube area. Now, there were some from Brier Hill. At that time, Brier Hill was not fully affected yet. So, we were not getting a whole lot of feedback or flow through from them, although their President was quite involved with it, because he knew that the ax was following him. The other Jones just did not want to admit that they were going to get it. It was a difficult thing. I mean, suppose tomorrow the Superintendent or Columbus Youngstown State cannot make it anymore. It is a state school and we have got to shut it down. So, you would have some idea of how you would feel. You have got to be kidding me. They are not going to do that. But they do do it, and then what? What do you do from there?

Well, it is a little different for the person with a degree or an education and preference. Some of the individuals we had down there could not write their name, some that could not read. Now, they were in before it became mandatory for high school education, etc., to be hired. There were a lot of the ethnic groups who were in trouble. They were done. They had come up and gotten a job, mainly word of mouth or simply because the gentleman knew that they were going to be good workers or hard workers, so we hired them before it was a

mandatory on your education. Before you had to be able to write your name As long as you could put something there to identify yourself, you were in good standing.

B Do you recall how many meetings followed the March 5th meeting?

M Exactly, no I could not tell you now I have shut too much of this stuff out But, I do know that there were at least a half a dozen meetings that we held

B. Prior to the May 24th announcement that the government was not going to fund Coalitions?

M. Yes.

B Okay

M When that came about, that was sort of like taking a balloon and punching holes in it Well, everyone just gave up, you know, the heck with it. The Coalition wanted to continue, to a degree and we wanted to continue, to a degree. But, what do you do when you finally get the blunt that it brother forget it, you know, it is out the door

So, I suggested to a meeting that the Bishops had done all that they could do With even in a game of chess, Bishops were designed to move diagonal So, they had done what they could legally Why not let a bunch of us radicals get together and not really destroy or do anything, but to do a little more hell raising more so than a ministry could You know, it is rather difficult for a bishop or somebody to get up and really stomp down and scream and holler. It is not their nature

B Now do you confine radical strictly to, let's say, a more boisterous means than rage?

M I do not condone the destruction, burning or blowing something up or maiming somebody That is not what I meant But, I felt we should knock a little harder on the doors It is difficult to say I imagine most people are familiar with the way ministers are Most are reasonably soft spoken, easy going people who thank God have a lot more intelligence than us workers They are restricted to the way that they say things The average worker probably does not understand that they hit it But if you use a few four-letter words or five-letter words and jump up and down and beat on the desk and rattle some windows, that is what they understand

B You are talking basically negotiations, right?

M Right.

- B Okay, S U E.'s attorney, Bob Clide, Jr., was he an attorney for just district 26, or was he an attorney in town? Where did he come from?
- M Well, they were with legal aid downtown. Now with them was Staunton Lynd.
- B Okay, that is Northeast Ohio Legal Services?
- M. Right. Now, Staunton Lynd, as I am sure most everyone knows, put in quite a bit of time and effort. He was the lawyer for the local Brier Hill. They were involved primarily from the start. I mean we knew that sooner or later, if we were not careful, we would be stomping on somebody's toes and ending up in court. We were not truly wanting this type of workers. So, we could say things and do things that could get us in trouble without really realizing that that is what we had done. We knew that we needed some help. These gentlemen gave a ton of time and effort.
- B Were you involved in the, I believe right after the shutdown there was four bus loads of steelworkers who went to Washington around the 23rd, did you go on that particular first trip?
- M. On that first trip, no I did not go to Washington, not on the bus loads. I went down. I flew down with the two bishops and some of the attorneys.
- B. Okay, this would have been about what time?
- M Oh, that was when we had the meeting with Jack Watson at the old executive building in D C.
- B That would have been about September 27th. Was it still in September? Do you remember?
- M. I really do not remember.
- B. Okay, you say two bishops. Malone and who?
- M Bert.
- B. Bert. Could you tell me who attended that meeting and what the topic of conversation was?
- M Well, no. I am sure Staunton was there. Bob Clide was there. I was there. Len Ballick was there. Both bishops were there. Maybe there were attorneys from Cleveland who were there. Jack Watson and a couple of his gentlemen. When they first went in, they had a recorder. You know, he was going to sit there and record the meeting. Jack Watson dismissed him and said he would not need

- that. But, who knows what was truly recorded.
- B: Make some tape
- M: All those things are probable It does not mean you had to doubt it
- B: Do you remember what was discussed at that particular meeting?
- M: Verbatim, no I do not
- B: No, I mean, generally, what was?
- M: Well, we were still trying to secure the loans and we were trying to get our point across to them The only thing that I can recall that I did say and if it was taped, they would have them I told Jack Watson that I was amazed how a failing company would have to merge and come out owning controlling shares of stock and that one day, the good old boys down West Mantle would have a whole lot of questions to answer if they were not careful. I said, "Of course, you know Mr Watson." I said, "That is my opinion Not everybody has that opinion " He said, "You are right. That is your opinion " That was the end of it, what had taken on previous to that.
- B: Okay, the merger took place approximately in December of 1977. Approximately at the end of the year, I recall there was a, I do not know if it was exactly December It seems to be the 13th that sticks in my mind Somewhere around in there. Does that sound right?
- M: Once again, I will say that I do have a little difficulty
- B: Okay, yes, fine I am not trying to put stuff in your mouth.
- M: Well, the nervous reaction and the reality of it all started, for me, the following January, because I had recently married a younger woman with a better education. Together I thought we were going to have financially Everything would be fine I went through a nervous situation where I had seen two specialists here in town and they sent me to the Cleveland Clinic It was diagnosed as total
- B: What is it?
- M: Complete hair loss
- B: Because of your nerves?
- M: Yes, it was all through the nerves When I first started, I was getting cortisone

shots in the head where my hair loss was. Then, it became so great, they could not give me the cortisone shots anymore. So, they put me on cortisone pills. Then to kind of react that, I went on to the Valium. From then on, I started sort of closing things up. When they got to the point they bothered me, I just shut the door on them and that was the end of it.

B: Was there any official structure of S U E ? Like officers, you know. In the union you have the president and vice president or secretary and all that. Were there any?

M: Well, Len and I were co-chairmen and that was primarily the size. I mean, we did have the legal assistance of the lawyers who, through their intelligence, set up most of what we wanted to do. Because, as I said before, we were workers and had never gone through this before. We knew that something had to be done. We were trying our best to reach these people. We felt that S U.E would have been the best means to do it. The company would give us nothing as far as names and telephone numbers and where they were if they were or anything of that nature.

B: did the meetings that you mentioned, I think you said there were approximately a dozen between March of 1979

M: A half a dozen, something like that

B: Oh, okay. Did more and more people start showing up? Did you get a good response, as far as turn out?

M: Yes, we had media cover. Oh, I think all these stations were there at a couple of the meetings. Then, I think there were a couple of stations that covered some of the other meetings. I am not sure whether all three were there for every meeting or not. But, I do know that, on occasion, the three of them were there.

As it became more evident that there was very little we could do, being in the position we were in, the point that we could not get across to the people it was not so much what we were trying to do it was, you know, to save their job, but it was trying to get in touch with all of them so we knew whether they had a job. When the state unemployment gave out their statistics, they did not cover the gentlemen who were already off the records that had finished receiving all their funds. So, that was our primary interest, getting all these people together.

B: Was the Ecumenical Coalition responsible for helping you organize?

M: Very much so, yes

B: Okay, were any particular individuals that stand out in your mind as being helpful, let us say more so than others? Was there a contact man or some other

person?

M: We were so close with all of them. You might say it was even an offspring from them, because their hand to a degree, they were tied. They could not get the information that they needed either. We were with a lot of them, continuously. Most all the ministers were always around, with the exception of the bishops. They could not make all of the meetings. They could not be there all of the time. They had many other things to take care of.

B: I know I am asking you to generalize, but to the best of your knowledge do you think there was hope among the steelworkers in the beginning and possibly even up until the end that the mill could be reopened? Or do you think that was just they recognized in their mind maybe it would, but realistically, maybe it will not? Was there a hesitation do you think?

M: Yes, there was quite a hesitation with a lot of them. I am sorry to say that, but it is a fact. A lot of them just threw a dance, you know, the hell with it. You are not going to be able to do anything. There is no sense in us wasting our time. With a few of us diehards, we pretty much, up until the end, thought we could do something if the government would come across. It was not like we were asking the government to buy this and give it to us.

B: Right

M: As is on record since then, why the government did extend loans to several other outfits to open these up. But, we were the forerunners. Our group sort of was the hellraiser, I guess. As moderately as possible. I think what we had done up to that point was helpful, but it was more hinderant to us the way we had gone about it. I feel, that is my personal feeling that by having the Coalition, most people thought that the churches were going to be the ones that wanted that. But, that was not what the Coalition was all about. It seems when you mention clergy, right away people feel that they are, you know, that is fine on Sundays. It is a difficult thing. It is hard to get into, really get into. I feel, strange as it may seem, as long as the money people, and there are just a few in this country, but run this country, and as long as they run things their way, it is going to be that way. If you check through your government and your government officials, you will find that most of them are pretty well ruled by money, also. See, those are the kinds of statements that get people in trouble. That is the reason why we needed lawyers, because if I would have said some of the names that I truly wanted to say, I would have been libel and in trouble.

B: Was your group involved in either S U E ? There seemed to be on the surface of it, there seemed to be the Ecumenical coalition and there was what, in the beginning, was called the Head Hawk Youngstown Area Task Force, which became the Mahoning Valley Ecumenical Committee. Were you, or let's say

your union president, or was anybody in the union invited by Congressman Carney or anybody in the political group for input or just to?

M: We did go down and talk to one congressman. It was not Carney. We had association with Mr. Meshel down at the state capital. In fact, we had several meetings down there with them. One of our biggest problems was one of our international would not listen to us, primarily because we had voted in this area for the other man. And so by the time that they thought it was a good time stop our mistakes, they sort of ignored us clear up until the end.

B: I think, was it Mr. Smith that did not actually begin taking part for about eight months after the shutdown?

M: I imagine Mr. Smith did not take part until right up until the end and when he knew it was evident that it was not going to go. He thought, "Well, we will stick our neck out and say, 'We will do this and we will do that' because it is not going to do any good anyhow. We can give out and then we still will not look so bad." I still am upset with our international, and I am upset with our government. Of course, what, who am I?

B: One of the voting public. Were you involved in the steelworkers rally that was held in Federal Plaza?

M: Yes, I was.

B: Okay. Was S.U.E. in existence then and were members there contacted, or did you participate as a separate individual?

M: We were still in the infant form at that particular time. The turn out that we were at was not that great. I was upset and I felt bad that more people did not show. But, by then, people had given it the hell with it attitude, you know. The whole thing probably should have been handled differently. How, I am not sure. I feel that the people that did what they did gave one hundred percent. But I do not think it got the mass like it should have. I do not know why. I do not know whether it was because it was the Coalition with the religious aspect. It was just to the point where what are you going to do against a company as large as it is.

B: What were your own personal feelings about community-worker buy-out? Did you understand the concept? How did it work the way you understood? Maybe I should but it that way.

M: The way I understood it to be, myself, was the workers would have a, well here again I will get in trouble. It would be more, this is a bad word to use, and this probably scares a lot of people, it would be more of a socialistic-type of company. Not truly, but in the sense itself that the owners would be the workers.

to a degree, through shares and being able to sit in on the board meetings
Individuals picked for that job Naturally, you would not want someone with a
little bit of education then I have You would pick someone who understood the
business. You just would not grab someone like me and stick him in and say,
"Listen to this board meeting."

I felt the whole thing itself was good to the point where it was the
individual who was being protected by the individual, not by someone we did not
know or someone from another state or someone because he happened to have
the last name Well, like a good name, Kennedy or Rockefeller or something like
that Mellon, something that people understood and associated with money, who
sat on boards This would have been Jim Smith down the street or Bob Fuller,
who lived across the way These gentlemen would have been able to sit in,
make their opinions, say what the workers wanted them to say and have
somewhat of a control of your own destiny.

In fact, I do not feel that, had it been community owned, would have it
been as blunt and as quick as it was Some people say, "Well, it took a period of
months to do it" It did not When the ax fell on the 13th day of August, that was
the beginning of the end A lot of people would not realize that and they did not
want to face that It is difficult to know that you are not going to have a job next
week

- B. What more do you think, well the opinion of yourself as well as others perhaps,
could the locals or internationals done, you know, here in Youngstown or on a
national level? What could they have done to help soften the blow?
- M. Nothing, I do not think Like I said earlier, I feel that when the conglomerates,
the money people, decide to do something, they are going to do it You and I as
individuals cannot very well stop a train
- B. Some people had suggested that, perhaps one thing that they might have been
able to do was, when they were talking about the merger of LTV and Lykes, they
could have pushed the anti-trust department together.
- M. I do not think the merger should have gone through. I mean, after all, the
company had just merged previously to that in a short period of time. It seems to
me, in our laws, there is a designated time between mergers and between
company mergers When you say Jones and Laughlin, most people feel that
that is the company itself Well, Jones and Laughlin are a part of the company
It is not the company
- B. Right.
- M. As Lykes was a part, so was Jones and Laughlin, so was Sheet and Tube. It is
difficult for the average individual to grasp that, to understand it You give a
name to something and they feel as though, well, for years Youngstown Sheet &

Tube was Youngstown-owned. Then they gradually got out of it and the merger came about.

B. So, I guess there was nothing that the international union could have done as far as going to the anti-trust division of the justice department and said, "You know, we think you should look at this." Do you think it would have had an impact?

M. It seems to me we did try that. It seems to me the justice department told us we were completely out of line and this had to take place or both companies would go down the drain and thousands of people would be without a job. Consequently, thousands of people were without a job, even though it did take place.

One thing that aggravates me even to today, that sticks in my mind, was an individual said one time that, I would imagine speaking of myself and maybe Len and some of the other guys that were closely associated. We were doomsday boys, because we made the statement that there would be no steel made in Youngstown, buy it. I was the one who said by 1982. Well, I missed it by a few years. I have a little postcard I keep up there that says, "Welcome to Youngstown, Ohio--Steel City, USA." I find it amusing. There is no steel made in Youngstown. There is some iron made down in the blast furnaces, but other than that, no.

B. What were your feelings about the National Steel Research Center? Do you think at that point people were just grasping at straws? You know, the idea that they should take steel technology and update it through the outdated plants. You know, grade them and use them for research as far as the steel industry.

M. The way I feel about it, Youngstown Sheet & Tube survived a long time because they managed to put some money back into their company, they did their research. They put a lot of money into air pollution on their open hearths. First as having a monster sit down in there that is dirty and gray and filthy and have a dream sitting up around Erie and Conneaut. It seems rather ridiculous to me that you have one that is functioning and showing profits shutdown. And, one who is on the brink of falling apart suddenly be the survivor. Then, later on, well, Brier Hill was an older mill, they closed it also, most of it. They took the equipment from there down to J & L. Some of their cranes down there make me nervous that I work under now, but I work under them.

B: You are talking about the Aliquippa plant?

M: Right. There were people down there until the merger they did not know whether they were going to work next week or not. It was an on-again, off-again thing with them.

B. Is there anything that I probably should have asked you that I inadvertently have

not asked you that you think is important to understand about the events that took place in that time period?

M Oh, I think we have pretty well covered it I just once again want to say, one of the statements that upsets me is Buy American That is why I buy American As long as you show me what it is One of the foremen down there was wearing a watch the other day He got it broken and he was extremely upset. He said, "I paid \$200 00 for this watch " I said, "Yes, it is a Seiko It is American, is it not?"

They ride me pretty hard because I bought a Toyota I bought Toyota because we do not make an automobile in this country that can compete with Toyota. Toyota is the best four wheels ever made It is a shame, but it is a fact Now, you would think with all our technology, we would be able to build one little automobile that would run the way it is supposed to

But, once again, the money people do not want it that way When they say we have a sixteen percent loss in the last quarter in the big oil companies, they do not mention that they had a three hundred percent profit. That is a sixteen percent loss on a three hundred percent profit, which is not what I would consider being a loss I feel sorry for the little people in this country because they do not understand the technical talk that bigger people use

B Are you talking about how they also do not know how to utilize the power?

M Well, the little people do not feel that they have any power, but as a group they do. It is one voice. If S U E could have gotten to all of the people and they would have been behind them, then we would have had more clout than what we had. Like I say, we were still in the infant stage I know I had over three hundred names and addresses of people that had not come back here But, that was just a minor number of the people that were gone.

The people did not have any faith in us because we were so small. But what they did not realize, had we all been together, we would not have been so small When you take five thousand people and make one voice of it, you have got a pretty good baseball bat I feel bad that the small people always feel they are going to be small When I started at Youngstown Sheet & Tube, I made \$2 42 an hour

I said that to one of the gentlemen down at J & L who has got a whole five years with the company down there. Now, he is a foreman One particular thing that phased him a little bit without him, because the two people that were there previously retired with thirty-five and forty some odd years He was a Mexican man, so he feels that if anything happens, he is the only one who knows anything about this machine Well, I did not want to disillusion the poor gentleman I told him, "Hey All I have to do is go up and get the blue prints They can throw you out on your rear and they can have fifteen people down here and have that machine running in the same length of time." But, he had convinced himself Which is what a lot of the small people do They convince themselves that this thing is not going to operate without me I have to be there.

Some of the guys down here do not miss a days work I mean, they work seven days a week, seven days a week

I drive 104 miles round-trip I am from the time I leave the house until the time I get home, eleven and a half hours, or eleven hours and forty-five minutes That is just going and coming and doing my work. I have to be in the parking lot an hour early or I do not get a place to park. I mean, I can go ahead and play it and get close and maybe be late a few minutes and get docked But, if I am going to drive that distance, I would rather have a parking space So, I leave a little earlier. It is not that I have a great love for J & L, but I like to be there an hour earlier

But I sat down and figured it out. I am making \$9.62 an hour on my job class, but I am working six days a week That is without bonus, \$9.62 Now, if they tack a bonus on there and a cost of living on there, I am making a pretty good pay But when I sat down and figured out my time from my house to there into my net, because I live on my net, not my gross I mean, everyone else has got what they want out of there Then, I am making \$ 6.03 an hour So, is it truly worth it?

One gentleman told me down there, when we slow down, you will be begging to work a double. I said, "Sir, I am forty-four years old. If you give me class 2, a broom and steady daylight four days a week, I will marry this place The rest of it you can have " Because I am to the point now where never again am I going to let someone have me under their palm where I have to do it I will never be in debt again far enough where I have to work everyday

Hopefully, I will be healthy enough where I want to have to do it everyday If I feel like going fishing, I am going fishing That place will be there when I am done It was there before I came Maybe not that specific little area, but steel will be there So, I am not going to kid myself That place will run if I am there or not, but a lot of these people do not feel that way.

A lot of people, especially down there are getting themselves into bad situations and you cannot tell them this because they are becoming dependent of six days a week. Working at sheet & Tube, I finally got enough intelligence to lean on a four-day-week is what I based my life Anything other than that was money in the bank or money to go fishing with or golfing with or bowling or whatever, you know, vacation

I was on the Dan Ryan show and he tore me a new back side, so to speak. I was there primarily to talk about S.U.E and he got me talking about being laid off What the point that I could never get back across because Dan is slick and he did his job well I have no ill feelings toward him for this. But, he never let me stress the point that the average steelworker probably had a three-month, two-month lay-off a year, almost. That the average steelworker down there maybe worked five days a week, maybe, at Youngstown Sheet & Tube

So, there was a lot of time in there when you had the time off, and you enjoyed it. You did what you wanted to. You went golfing You did your bowling and you did your fishing So when he said to me on the show, "How do you feel about the lay-off, the shut-down, the money you are receiving?" Well, I think I

probably received from TRA and unemployment, quite a sum of money, probably \$18,000, for sitting here watching trees bloom and snow fall and the rain come down. But that was a pacifier. It makes a man sit, because you are delving more money in than the average Joe in the area would pay you for working. You are getting it by sitting there on your duff. Then, when you finally get intelligent enough to realize that, hey, you are being sucked into this thing, what are you going to do? When it comes time to look for a job, because you are going to have five thousand other people looking for one.

Then you wake up and say, "Hey, do I need this money? Maybe I had better get a job." Well, unfortunately, before a lot of people by the time they realize this, there were no jobs left to be had. I mean, you could pick up a \$2.00 an hour job pumping gas, but you might as well sit back and draw your unemployment and your sub and your TRA until it runs completely out before you went and did something like that. Because, what you were doing was throwing away money for nothing at all, you know, just for the fact of having a job. A lot of people need a job. I am the type of person, I think, that I love my time off, but I need a job. I need something to occupy my time. I feel a lot better since I am working. I never say that.

B: One final question I want to ask. Before there was the Steelworkers United for Employment, there was the group that organized the steelworkers rally on Federal Plaza. Were you a member of that particular group?

M: Not as a member, no. I was associated through Gerald Dickey and DeWayne Irving and me and different presidents of the locals. I knew most of what was happening. I knew primarily why it was happening. I knew what they had in mind. I feel the major thing that most of us did was we waited too long. But then again, we did not have forewarning, so to speak, to really get the ground work laid six months in advance. If we had six months notice, maybe we could have convinced more people. We did not have it.

B: Are you going to have to continue to commute like this, or are you eventually going to move?

M: I will not say I am not going to move. I do not want to move. Linda and I have talked it over. Of course, I am fortunate enough to have a wife that has a good job and she likes her job. If things go well, my health stays in fact, we will talk it over. It is not official. When my car quits. Of course, I just bought a brand new one, so four years, maybe five.

B: Thank you

End of Interview