

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Youngstown Fire Department Project

Firefighting Experiences

O.H. 50

MICHAEL JANKOVIC

Interviewed

by

Michael P. Kurilla

on

May 27, 1975

## MICHAEL JANKOVIC

Michael J. Jankovic, a 33 year veteran of the Youngstown Fire Department, was born on September 8, 1913, in Youngstown, Ohio, the son of Michael and Anna Pavlick Jankovic. He attended Sts. Cyril and Methodius grade school and East High School, graduating in 1931. He worked at the Youngstown Sheet and Tube Company from 1940 to 1942, then was appointed to the Fire Department on May 10, 1942.

Mr. Jankovic was first assigned as a rookie to Number Six fire station, now out of commission. He was later transferred to the station at Elm and Madison, where he was promoted to Engineer in 1952. After serving thirteen years as Engineer, he was again promoted, this time to captain and was reassigned to Number One station at Oak and Fruit streets. He retired in 1975 from the Fire Department, after having served as captain for ten years.

During his long career in the Fire Department, Mr. Jankovic was present at most of the large fires in the area, including fires at the Youngstown Club, the old Salvation Army building, and a house fire in which he fell and was injured.

Mr. Jankovic was a member of Local 312 of the International Association of Fire Fighters and the Slovak Sokol Group. He attended Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church.

Soon after his retirement Mr. Jankovic died following a long illness. He leaves his wife Rose Ann, and his two children, Mrs. Barbara Smith and Mrs. Judith Kachmar.

Mr, Janovic's long and distinguished career as a fire  
fighter is one example of dedicated service provided by the  
Youngstown Fire Department.

SILVIA PALLOTTA  
JULY 25, 1977

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INTERVIEWEE: MICHAEL JANKOVIC  
INTERVIEWER: Michael P. Kurilla  
SUBJECT: Firefighting Experiences  
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- K: This is an interview with Mr. Michael Jankovic for the Youngstown State University Oral History Program, the particular project being the Youngstown Fire Department Project, by Michael Kurilla, at the Jankovic residence, 1355 Douglas Avenue, on May 27, 1975, at 11:20 a.m.
- K: Mr. Jankovic, the first thing I would like to ask you is if you can provide some information on your family background and your education?
- J: I attended St. Cyril and Methodius grade school. I graduated from there in 1927. I attended Youngstown East, graduating in 1931. I was unemployed for a year or so, as everybody was during the Depression years, and I finally found a job at the Youngstown Sheet and Tube Company in 1940. I worked there until 1942, then applied for a position in the Youngstown Fire Department. I took a Civil Service examination, passed that, then took a physical and the board examination and passed those also. I was appointed to the Fire Department on May 10, 1942, under the Honorable Mayor William B. Spagnola. I married the former Rose Kochera from Canfield and we have two children. One daughter, Barbara Ann, is a clinical instructor at the Albany Clinic in Albany, New York. The other daughter, Judy, is married and lives in Austintown. We have two grandchildren.
- K: Why did you become a fireman?
- J: Well, I, like any other youngster, got excited when I saw a fire truck or heard a fire truck and it sort of stuck

on me and I was one of those who applied and was fortunate enough to get the job. A fireman, regardless of what anyone says, is just like anybody else. You know that there's a lot of responsibility and a lot of danger, but we all know that when we take the job. Being a fireman is not like being a truck driver who gets up in the morning and drives the same truck on Monday as he drives on Friday. A welder in the mill is another example; he'll do the same thing Monday through Friday. He'll do the same thing next week and possibly next year. That's how he exists; that's how he maintains a living. In the Fire Department it's different; it's exciting and challenging. In one respect, when you answer an alarm, you don't know what it is. There aren't two fires that I can say in my experience that were the same. They all have their differences. Well, we can see how they started, whether it is a house, building or automobile, yet they're all dangerous. Sometimes when you leave the station you may be gone for five minutes and then again, you may be gone for five hours. Many times you miss a meal, but you forget those things.

It's dangerous, yes. I have had the similar experience of getting hurt just like any of the other men. Heart conditions are very, very hard on the firemen. Being awakened by that rude bell at the time when everyone else is sleeping is bad on the heart and we have to pay the price years later, as we all know. Of the firemen I know today I can think of five or six who either have had a heart attack or have had open heart surgery, due to the conditions to which a fireman is exposed, especially the smoke. Today it isn't like when I first got on in 1942. For example, then we didn't have different chemicals or different plastics that the average fireman today has to put up with. Each one is different and they're all hazardous. They all give off these toxic fumes and gases, which are hard on the firemen. Many a time, when we come back from these fires, we have to use portable oxygen tanks to get some fresh air in our lungs. Years ago we didn't have this problem. These toxic fumes are a menace to the firemen's health and welfare. Years ago, maybe we had a bedroom on fire, a pillow burned and the fireman wore what he had on into the house. We had maybe chicken feathers or duck feathers, but today we have foam rubber, which gives off very toxic fumes. The rugs today are chemical compounds and they give off terrific toxic gases and fumes.

K: You were appointed in 1942. What do you remember about your first years in the department?

J: My first years in the department were just like any other rookie's. I asked my superior officer, the captain or

the engineer how to go about it. They schooled me. They put me on my right foot. They taught me all the do's and don'ts and all the dangers. I want to say this: There isn't a fireman in the city of Youngstown who wouldn't help another rookie coming on. I went through that stage and I was taught correctly. They taught me how to handle hoses, how to put on cuff links, how to put on nozzles, how to load the wagons, and how to take care of the equipment.

K: What station did you serve at and when did you receive your promotion?

J: My first assignment was at Number Six fire station, which is as of now, out of commission. Then I was transferred to Number Seven, at Elm and Madison, and there I was promoted to Engineer in 1952. I drove the hook and ladder truck, the one hundred foot aerial. We answered all of downtown and most of the East and North Sides. I spent about thirteen years as an engineer, then I was promoted to a fire captain and there I was assigned to Number One station. After the Number One station, I was transferred to Number Two at Oak and Fruit, which was more or less my boyhood area, where I lived, where I was raised, where I attended school. I knew the people, I knew the sections and the territories. That's where I enjoyed most of my fire department career, which I think was one of the greatest.

K: What type of promotion system does the department have?

J: We have what they call a rank system, where a fireman must be on the job at least three years before he is allowed to take a promotion examination to be an engineer. By an engineer I mean the man who is in charge of all of the fire trucks, driving to the fire and back. He must know how to pump, how to draft, and he must know his pressures, vacuums and which kind of hose will stand the pressure. It's his duty to keep the truck in running condition at all times, whether it's morning, noon or night. He must keep the truck supplied with gas, oil, batteries and all other equipment. Those are his responsibilities. He must stay in the rank of engineer for one year and then he is permitted to take the examination for a fire captain. The way our system works, the highest grade on the list is appointed first and others are appointed lower, all the way down the line. There is no bickering and no bargaining. If a man receives one hundred percent on his examination he is placed high on the list. Then, after, if he wants to advance himself, he can take an examination for a battalion chief.

The battalion chief is the man responsible for all the stations on the south side of the River. His responsibilities include supervising the personnel, the fires and the equipment on the south side of the River. After a man is battalion chief for one year, he is eligible to take the position or test for an assistant chief. The assistant chief handles all the men all over the city of Youngstown. He is fully in charge and responsible to the fire chief; in this case it's fire chief Panno.

- K: You were a captain in the Fire Department. What are the official responsibilities of a captain?
- J: In being a fire captain, you are in charge of the house you are working in. You're in charge of all of the equipment. You're in charge of the men, the personnel, the cleaning of the house. You are responsible in making sure that all the equipment is in working condition at an instant's notice. When you answer an alarm, what we shall call a still alarm, it is your duty, when you arrive at the fire, to make decisions and they must be accurate. They are, most of the time, fast decisions, instant decisions. Whether it's an automobile or a house on fire, your decisions are yours and the men in your company must obey your orders.
- K: What is the organizational structure of the Youngstown Fire Department? What is the number of stations you have, the number of assistant chiefs and so on?
- J: As of now, I believe we have thirteen fire houses that are maintained in the City of Youngstown. The biggest one is the downtown section which answers all of downtown. They have what they call a pumper, which is capable of pumping one thousand gallons a minute. Then we have a squad, which is equipped with different tools and safety equipment. There is a snorkle or extension ladder, which can reach maybe to the seventh or eighth floors. Then we have the assistant chief that is stationed at Number One fire house. They answer most of downtown, all the hospitals, and schools. Most of the biggest equipment is stationed in the downtown house.
- K: You mentioned that you have thirteen stations presently. How many were there when you began in the Fire Department?
- J: We had about the same number. We had fourteen at that time. There was a building Number Thirteen and Number Fourteen was in the process of being built. We had no downtown fire station. Numbers Two, Three, and Five were answering the downtown section. Those stations were put in after my appointment.

- K: What was the physical make up of the station you were in charge of as captain? By physical make up I mean what type of equipment did you have at your particular station and how many men did you have under your supervision?
- J: I had three men, four including myself. I was anxious to get into the house where I was stationed. By that I mean that it was a fast house. It was a place I wanted where there was more or less a lot of action. You always had two or three runs a day. It was exciting and it's like anything else, your time goes faster in a fast house instead of lying around. I think we still maintained that we had more runs at Number Two fire station than in any other house in the City of Youngstown.
- K: Who were some of the fire chiefs that you served under during your career?
- J: I was appointed under Chief Michael Mellillo in the year 1942, under William D. Spagnola as Mayor. Then Mr. C.B. Thomas, who was appointed the same day with me, was appointed a fire chief after serving eighteen months as a fireman. Then I served under Chief Holstead, Chief Lynch, Chief Bowser, Chief Flask, and now of course, Chief Panno. I will say that all of the ones I included were good firemen and good men to work under.
- K: How would you define the role of the fire chief? Is he mainly a supervisor or coordinator?
- J: More or less the fire chief supervises the whole operation of the fire department. It's his duty in case of any fire that's under suspicion, to dig into it and actually find out whether that fire was of suspicious origin. He orders all of the equipment, purchases the fire trucks, maintains the whole department, whether the trucks are in the shop or being repaired, and he purchases all the hoses. In fire trucks it's his duty to purchase that type of fire truck which is needed in the particular station where that truck is going to be used. In the outlying stations where there are a lot of grass fires, the truck must have a bigger capacity for what we call a booster tank. Then in the station where there's not a need for that type of equipment, like downtown, we have a squad that has its own pumping system, has its own lights, and what have you. That is needed downtown for emergency uses. Aerial trucks and all the equipment the fire department needs is in the hands of the acting chief.
- K: Does the fire department have some type of emergency squad in case something other than an ordinary fire occurs?
- J: The one I was referring to is downtown; that's what we

call the squad. It is equipped with blow torches, different kinds of tools, breathing apparatuses, welding torches, cutting torches, and different kinds of rope.

K: That is maintained through the main station and is on call in case of emergency?

J: Yes.

K: On your appointment in 1942, what type of training did you receive as a beginning fireman?

J: I had about two weeks of training by my fire captain, who was Bill Harrison. Everyday for about a month or so he would take me with his crew and show me the different equipment we have on the truck, he taught me how to raise the ladders, how to put the nozzle on, what different pressure gauges would show on the truck, and what they were. There were pump pressures, vacuum pressures, and hydrogen pressures. He taught me how to open and close a nozzle, how to raise a ladder, extend a ladder, how to position it. He showed me the different types of equipment and how to use them. Above all, he taught me never to get excited at a fire. That is the main thing, the most important thing for any firefighter. When he sees a house burning or any other emergency, he should be calm and not lose his senses.

K: Was there more of an emphasis on safety then in training from the experience of older veterans than from actual classroom training?

J: Well, in the fire department, you never really stop training. We have a policy that has been established about ten years ago that the captain in the house would conduct a one-hour a week training period. There were different things to learn such as how to raise ladders, how to pump, or how to use Scott Air Packs. It's a rule that every member of the house should know how to operate and drive the truck, in case the engineer is off. The captain must depend on another driver, which we call the first driver. There are times when maybe one man is on vacation and maybe one man is sick and you have to depend on another man. Therefore it's best to train all your men to handle and pump and drive a fire truck. Now going back to training, in my experience I've found that the best training is when we come back from a major fire. After the truck is serviced again by putting on a fresh hose and filling the tank with water and gasoline, we will sit down and have our coffee and have what we call a post mortem. We would discuss what happened and what we did at the fire. Perhaps, as captain, I would ask another man why we broke the window in the bathroom and didn't just open it. We'd discuss things of that nature.

I found that to be the best training that anyone could give to his crew. It was fresh in their minds and we could discuss it. Then we went over our mistakes and over the good parts. Certainly there were times when I thought perhaps we had made an error or used bad judgment. I would try to correct that and on the other hand, if I thought that we did a good job, I would tell them what a good job they did.

- K: Could you briefly give us a dry run of an actual fire experience, say from the sounding of the bell to the returning to the station? Can you describe your function and the function of the men?
- J: Let's say we're sitting down at two o'clock in the morning. The bell would hit at such and such an address on the East Side. We'd go to the address and as we arrived, we see the house engulfed with flames. I, the first company in, would lay a line from the plug to my truck and take the lines from my truck. Then I would radio to the operator and notify all companies that are answering the alarm that Number Two advises all companies answering the alarm to take lines from Number Two pump. By this I mean that we would only tie one fire plug, that would save the other companies coming in from looking for a plug. They would take their lines from our pump and we would proceed to put the fire out.

After the fire was put out, the chief and I would go in and check for possible damages, where and how the fire started. Maybe we would find a hot spot in the wall, tear it down, soak it and make sure the fire was out before we returned to quarters. After the fire was out my chief would order me to pick up my equipment and return to quarters. Then we would pick up our tools, axes, ladders, hoses, and everything we used for the fire. Upon returning to quarters, we would take the old hose we used and replace it with new dry hose. We would check our water tanks and gasoline supply. I would report to the operator what time we went out, what type of equipment we used, how long we were there, how many feet of hose we used, what type of hose we used and then possibly I would tell him what we thought was the cause of the alarm or fire. Then he would give me the number of the alarm, what time we went out, and how many hours we spent at that fire.

- K: Can you describe a typical day at the station?
- J: On a typical day we arrive and change turns at 8:00 a.m., or usually five or ten minutes before, to leave the outgoing crew a few minutes to get home. The first thing in any fire house is to put the coffee pot on. When the coffee pot is brewing, each fireman has a little say-so of what he has done the day before. Perhaps his son had

a tooth ache or he had to walk the baby. That was a hint to tell the captain that he didn't have any sleep last night and wanted permission to go to bed. Perhaps he had a sick wife and he had to stay up all night with her. He was begging to go to sleep.

After each man is assigned his duties, the engineer takes a look at his truck. His buddy before him will probably tell him what he used, but he must check the gasoline, battery and water, dust the truck and clean the wheels. If they were out the night before, he must clean the apparatus. Another fireman is assigned to the kitchen. It's his duty to clean the tables, the sink, the stove, and the refrigerator, and sweep and mop when necessary. The third man is assigned to the bedrooms and the bathroom. After all the beds are made, he sweeps the dormitory, cleans the sinks, bowls, mirrors, and bathroom floors when necessary. The captain more or less fills in. If one man is off, he usually fills in and does the work of the man that's off. The captain makes out a log of the men that report for duty. If a man is off, the office calls and he reports that the man is on sick leave or on vacation. Then after all the work is done, in the summer the grass has to be cut, the front of the station has to be hosed off, but all of this work must be done after the fire truck and equipment is checked. That is the primary and the first job of the turn coming on duty. Then, after the work is done, if we have class that day, the captain would possibly take out a scutter pike or show the men how to operate the pump, or how to drive the truck. Sometimes he may take the men out for driving practice with the truck, but he must maintain contact with the radio operator and notify the assistant chief that Number Two pump is going out for practice. Then we come back to quarters, have lunch and some more discussions. A man must be up all day long to answer the phone.

We have naps sometimes in the afternoons because contrary to people's beliefs, with the two or three hours that a fireman gets in the afternoon, he is a lot better at three or four o'clock in the morning. Supper time comes after that. In some stations the men all eat together; at others, each man brings his own food. We all take turns. Then the last man using the kitchen is responsible for the cleaning of all the dishes, silverware, and must make sure that the kitchen is clean and ready for the on-coming turn. Then comes the evening and again, we watch TV, discuss things or possibly have a little card game. Sometimes we watch football or baseball games. Then each man goes to bed at different intervals, hoping that the bell won't ring.

K: What type of shift do they use in the department?

- J: We have a twenty-four hour shift. A man comes out to work at eight o'clock in the morning and he is relieved the following morning at eight o'clock. He works one day and is off two consecutive days. This law was adopted and given to the Fire Department by the voters of the City of Youngstown.
- K: Do you remember your first fire?
- J: Yes, I do. I remember my first fire. It was in my buddy's home and he was a fireman, only he was off duty that day. It was a strange thing. It was up in the attic and when we got there we found him putting the fire out. We couldn't believe it.
- K: What do you remember about some of the larger fires that are probably more vivid in your memory, say the Youngstown Club fire or the Salvation Army fire?
- J: Yes, I was at the Youngstown Club fire. You could have seen it since we left the station. It was a tragedy; it could have been avoided. From what I understand, it was set by an employee who couldn't get along very well with the employer. Then in the Salvation Army fire we were the first company in at that one. We thought we'd be there for five minutes, but we ended up being there for seven or eight hours. That was a three-alarm fire. Then the St. Columba Cathedral fire was another one that I attended. It seemed that in my career we got them all in our territory.
- K: What changes in the Fire Department did you notice in your thirty-two years of service?
- J: Well, as I said previously, Mike, when I got on we didn't have the hazards that the Fire Department is having today. For example, take furnaces. I would say fifty percent of our fires in winter were more or less on account of people overheating or throwing three or four extra shovels of coal on the furnace instead of putting three or four more blankets on their beds. Where the rafters of the furnace would come to a point, they would ignite. Now we get very few fires caused by overheated furnaces, due to the fact that people are using gas furnaces, which decreases the potential dangers of fire. People today are more thoughtful and cautious. We don't have the runs like we had when a housewife would leave her electric iron on her board and go to the telephone, causing a fire in the kitchen. Then again, today we have these chemicals, these plastics that the oncoming firemen and fire departments across the country have to contend with. They have to come up with different ways of approaching them. These rugs throw off toxic fumes and gases and it's better for the

men to approach these fires with masks on, on account of those fumes that these different carpets or plastics give off. It is injurious to the hearts and lungs of the firemen. This type of injury has greatly increased.

K: Do you feel that the station is staffed with the proper number of men?

J: No, I can't go along with that. I would rather have five or six men at a fire station and have the authorities, the Fire Chief or the Mayor, give me more territory. A house with four men in it is an exceptionally staffed house. Really, you have four men in a house about two weeks out of the year. Usually you have vacations or sickness, a man will report in sick or one will be on vacation. Now, when we have an alarm, the driver of that truck pulls in to where the fire is. You have one man to take the plug and one man to pull it. Then we have to drag that hose; two men have to do it because one cannot do it. You have a man at the plug and you have a man pulling the hose off. The engineer has to maintain the truck. It is hard for one man to go into a burning building alone, whereas if he had two men, it would be easier to drag that hose through the yard or fence. After the hose is dragged to the house, the fireman is already tired just from pulling that hose. Fortunately he can always get help from the companies coming in, but I still say each station should have at least four or five men in order to be more effective than they are now.

K: How much of a risk do you believe is involved with firefighting?

J: I believe the fire companies today will say that the highest risk job is the firefighter's. When answering an alarm or going to a fire in a house or in a building, you don't know whether the fire has burned the floors. I have had the experience of going into a vacant house which was set on fire by vagrants. We thought we had the fire out the first time, but about five hours later, it reignited in the walls. Then I stepped onto a step covered with debris, and it proved to be a false step. Now, inside of a fire, anything can come down on you. You can get hurt. You can inhale smoke and harmful gases, especially these arson fires that are happening in Youngstown now. We had a very bad accident here two or three months ago, where the men thought that the fire went out and then a bag of explosives exploded and six firemen got hurt. Any fire a man goes to, whether it's a car on fire, or any kind of fire, he doesn't know what he's getting into until he gets there. Then he must proceed to do his work. The smoke that he encounters is not an indication of where the fire is; he doesn't know where the fire started originally. He's got to crawl and look for it.

- K: What injuries did you incur during your thirty-two years? Did you have any serious injuries?
- J: Yes, I received an injury in 1969. In the fire I was referring to, the house was vacant and was condemned by the City of Youngstown, on the east side of where I worked. We had an alarm and three companies answered it. We put the fire out and went back to quarters at one thirty in the morning. At about five thirty we get a telephone call, the operator said he got it from the people living close by, that the house was on fire again. The houses, being so close together, I couldn't reach the fire on either side. In the back was a deep ravine, so my only entrance was through the bathroom window and the fire was in the walls. We went upstairs with my men and we had to dig the window out with an axe and then tear the window out and throw it away. We poured water into the walls. I thought the fire was out and I handed the axe to one of the men and he took it downstairs, and to the other man I handed a one-inch booster line and he went down the stairs and I followed him and I fell through the second story to the cellar. I injured my back and neck and I still feel the pain today.
- K: What goes through a fireman's mind when he hears that bell? Is there always that anxiety?
- J: When a fireman hears that bell, he knows that he has got to act and he's got to act fast. An old chief made a statement one time that you are never at ease, never relaxed when you enter the fire station for work and I believe that those are the truest words I have ever heard from a superior officer. You are tense, you are nervous, always assuming, always waiting for the bell. That bell might come when you're sleeping, when you're relaxed watching television, a ball game or your program, when you're ready to sit down for your meal to eat. Many a cold meal had been eaten by the firemen throughout the area. When that bell rings everybody runs, puts their clothing on, and proceeds to the alarm. One thing I will say about the firemen in the City of Youngstown: they are not afraid of fear. A fireman doesn't know what the fear is until after he's in there and realizes the situation, but afterwards it's all forgotten. He'll go into a burning house, especially if there are children or even animals in there. We lose that fear; we don't know what fear is. That's what makes the fire department here as good as it is today. They are wonderful men, good firemen, and they do their work.
- K: You referred to arson fires earlier in the interview. On TV we see that in the 1970s, in this "recession period" that the incidence of arson fires has increased greatly. Was there a prevalence of arson fires in the 1940s and 1950s?

- J: No, I wouldn't know what an arson fire was then because we never had one. Now there is a rash of fires, especially in the last four or five years. I've had my share of arson fires, but then again, it has just erupted in the last five years to a point where today we have about seventy that have occurred, from what I understand from the news media. Arson is not only dangerous to the people that are living alongside of the burning building, but it's really dangerous for the firemen to put that fire out. They could turn around and find a bag of combustible fluid that could explode at anytime. I only hope that this stops, not only for the welfare of the people around it, but for the welfare of the firemen who fight it, because they're out there to protect property. They don't know what they've got until they enter the building. They find either an empty gas can or a bag full of fluid.
- K: Does the fire department or the firemen engage in social activities and community activities when they're not involved with firefighting?
- J: Oh, yes. We used to have a baseball team, and some of them manage a little league baseball team. They go down to the Y and exercise and play and we have activities every year with the fire department itself. We used to have shows sponsored by the Youngstown Fire Department and the proceeds would go to the Firemen's Death Benefit Fund, which I think is a good thing. That originated when I got on the Fire Department. We would bring in actors from New York or Hollywood to entertain the people and we had very good results from them. Everybody knew that the money would go to the fireman's widow and children. Now we're having dances.
- K: Mr. Jankovic, when and why did you retire?
- J: I retired on January 1, 1975. The Fire Department is for the younger men. When a man reaches 62, sure he's there, but I don't feel that I could give the City of Youngstown as much help as I did in my younger days. My health was failing me and the injury I sustained in 1969 still bothered me. I knew I couldn't handle it. Like I said, the Fire Department is for the younger men. They can do more work than the older fellows.
- K: Do you feel the pay that the fireman receives is enough for the risk involved?
- J: No, I definitely do not agree. The amount of money that a fireman gets for the risk that he takes every time he leaves the station is just not enough. Many a fireman left home and ended up in the hospital or crippled, so therefore I can't go along with or understand the pay scale that the firemen are getting today, for the risks that they are taking on themselves and their families.

K: Do you have any suggestions or any observations that you would like to make from the thirty-two years of experience you have had in the Youngstown Fire Department?

J: Well, again I want to make a stress on the different chemicals that these companies are producing now. You take a driver that is driving a chemical truck, whether it's gasoline, oil, or liquid oxygen. Now if that trailer gets into trouble, the driver of the truck knows what kinds of chemicals are in the tank. He knows the dangers and the cautions and he warns the fire department about them. But then sometimes these same chemical corporations will ship a car tank full of gases and liquids that are not marked on the car and in the event that it springs a leak or the valves explode, nobody knows what was in the tank or what precautions the chief should take to put the fire out. It's a ticklish question and I wonder if these chemical corporations would take a little more time and say that they are shipping a tank full of such and such throughout the Youngstown area, alert the chief and tell him what could go wrong. Then if something did go wrong he could pass it along to his subordinates and advise the men of the dangers that might be involved. I will surely look forward to the day when that will be a reality.

K: Do you have any closing comments or observations?

J: I'd just like my pension, that's all.

K: Well, thank you very much for an interesting interview.

END OF INTERVIEW