

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Metropolitan Savings & Loan Company

Employee Experience

O. H. 579

FRANK FEELEY

Interviewed

by

Evelyn Jones

on

December 3, 1982

FRANK FEELEY

Frank Feeley was born on March 15, 1928 in Youngstown, Ohio, the son of Leo and Sara Feeley. He attended South High School in Youngstown, and Youngstown State University for some specific classes. Mr. Feeley is a veteran of the U. S. Air Force.

Mr. Feeley began to work for the Metropolitan Savings & Loan Company in 1964 and has served the company in many capacities from loan officer to personnel officer. He is a member of the First Presbyterian Church, and is active in the Masonics.

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INTERVIEWEE: FRANK FEELEY

INTERVIEWER: Evelyn Jones

SUBJECT: Employment, Personnel Director, Changes seen in the Met.

DATE: December 3, 1982

J: This is an interview with Frank Feeley for the Youngstown State University Oral History Program on the Metropolitan Savings & Loan Company, by Evelyn Jones, on December 3, 1982.

Would you tell me something about when and where you grew up?

F: In Youngstown, Ohio on the south side. I was born March 15, 1928.

J: Did you go to school in Youngstown?

F: Yes. I graduated from South High School.

J: Did you have a specific career in mind when you were going to school?

F: Not really.

J: How did you get involved with the Metropolitan?

F: Most children today are geared for college; I was not geared for that. I graduated from high school and went out looking for a job. That was nineteen years ago.

J: What was your first job at the Metropolitan?

F: I joined Metropolitan in 1964. I started out in the appraising department.

J: That was when they were over on Phelps Street?

F: Yes.

J: What was a typical day like at Metropolitan Bank?

- F: I started out learning appraising under Don Seely, who is no longer with the company. I went out appraising homes most of the day; that pretty much took up the entire day.
- J: How big was the company then and what was it like to work then?
- F: I don't remember the assets at the time, but it has certainly grown since then. I do know it was a lot less people asset-wise. It runs in my mind there were somewhere around 35 people. Today there are 106 people, meaning employees. That has changed plus the business has changed.
- J: It was a different atmosphere.
- F: Yes.
- J: What were those early years at the Metropolitan like? What kind of changes did you see in your job and in the Metropolitan?
- F: I was new at the time. I've always enjoyed working for the Metropolitan. I was new with a newly added job and was in the learning stage, learning different phases of the business. I enjoyed it and I still do right now. It's a great company. It's a right move that I made back nineteen years ago.
- J: After you were appraising then you moved to . . .
- F: After appraising I was involved with loans and then became a loan officer. Then I was branch manager in Austintown for six or seven years and then I came downtown.
- J: What events stand out as significant or important to you now about your career with Metropolitan?
- F: I've always enjoyed working for the Metropolitan. Your dad is a great person and I've enjoyed working for him as an appraiser, a loan officer, a branch manger, and even more so now because I can see this personnel field developing within the company. I talked to your dad about it many years ago that if it was ever created and we felt a need for it that I would like to be considered for that position. Here I am in charge of personnel.
- J: What kind of future can you envision for the Metropolitan?
- F: I've seen a big change as I think most of us have with the Met in terms of when I started businesswise it was home loans and savings accounts. Now we are more and more getting to be like a commercial bank in terms of certificates of deposit, money markets, checking accounts, and many, many other things

that we weren't involved in before. I think it's a thing we've had to do for survival. We tried to avoid them back several years ago. I think we've all got to talk positive because there are so many negative things being said particularly about Youngstown now. I think we've got to tell ourselves that there are a lot of good things about Youngstown. There are still a lot of people working in Youngstown too. I think purchasing this building here and developing this hopefully to 100% occupancy in the not-to-distant future will prove beneficial not only for Metropolitan, but Youngstown itself. I think it is ideal; it's a good piece of real estate because we're number one in Federal Plaza and we're right down where the action is, I feel. Who knows what the future will bring if the company merges or whatever? I think the dollars we've put into it we will get back. I think in terms of real estate it's a good investment for us.

J: What do you think the success of the Metropolitan has been?

F: I think with any company it is the leadership throughout the company, not only at the top but throughout. It's your people that make your company--good ideas, thoughts. When I speak of people I'm also speaking of the board of directors.

J: As a personnel director you must feel good about the sense of loyalty about the employees of the company. It's a different atmosphere than working in other places.

F: I want to think that and I hope that that is instilled in the employees. I don't think there is any one job that is 100%; no matter where you work or go there are always some different things that you're not going to like or agree with. They always say it's greener on the other side until you get over there. I think by and large the employees appreciate working for the Metropolitan.

J: Is there anything else you wanted to add?

F: I just think Metropolitan is a great company to work for and I'm glad I'm a part of the Metropolitan. It's the best move I ever made.

J: Thank you.

END OF INTERVIEW