

Russ Burt
Interview with
"Fuzzy"

me: when & where were you born?

Fuzzy: born in Escambray, Michigan 1936

Me: ^{ok} What were your parents names?

Fuzzy: Rose & Herb Hegnalt.

Me: What were your brothers & Sisters names.

Fuzzy: ah, Levern, Katta, Betrus, & Mallean. My Brothers were.
Philip, Donald, & Myself.

Me: O.K. Where you Married.

Fuzzy: Novis.

Me: What Did your parents do for a living

Fuzzy: My father was a worked a timber cruiser for Birds eye veneir
Co. & my mother was a home maker.

Me: OK, Where did you go to school at

Fuzzy: Went to school at St. Jones started there in 1942.

Me: What kind of things did you do did you & your friends do
fo entertainment when you were teenagers

Fuzzy: Go play Baseball, hockey, Football, basketball,
Then I had a night job setting pins in a bowling
alley.

Me: O.K. Where did the kids like to hang out in
Town when you were a teenager?

Fuzzy: Oh, we used to hang around at the Ice rinks in the winter
time & club 314 which is now dismantled &
Tore down & Pool halls, Arcades, Restaurants, delicatessens,

Me: O.K. How old were you when you got your first
job & where did you work?

Fuzzy: My first job I was 8 years old, & I worked
over at the arcade/bowling alley 1944 starting
out as a pin setter.

Me: O.K. What kinds of duties did you perform
on this job?

Fuzzy: Setting pins.

Me: What stand out most in your mind about your
first job?

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Fuzzy: What?

Me: What stands out most in your mind about your first job?

Fuzzy: um, well it was something I never done before, & it seemed interesting at the time. Well it gave me a lot of experience for when I found another job years later.

Me: ~~you~~ ^{were} you ever in the military?

Fuzzy: yes, I was 4 years in the air force.

Me: um, can you describe your experiences there?

Fuzzy: Well, It was not too too exciting it was exciting when I first went in & then I went through basic training in Calif, & then I went got stationed went to electronic school down at Kalsor Air force base in bluesy Mississippi spent 19 months there & went to Alaska at Alanador Air force base I was up there for two years. Then I got discharged in

Fuzzy: December 21, of 1958.

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Me: How many total years did you work in your lifetime?

Fuzzy: how many years?

Me: How many total years?

Fuzzy: I'd say 48 years in my total lifetime I've worked.

Me: during your lifetime where were you employed the longest?

Fuzzy: I was employed as a locomotive engineer for The Chicago Northwestern from 1967 to 1981.

Me: how did you chose this career?

Fuzzy: This career was more exciting than the job I had been doing previously.

Me: In as much detail as possible please describe the main duties of this job?

Fuzzy: Operate the locomotive, Make up trains,

Me: ok. did this job require any special training?

Fuzzy: yes it did went to school, studied, and took an exam to pass the engineers exam before I was qualified to be an engineer.

Me: What special clothing or equipment did this job require?

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Fuzzy: Nothing special, just a watch that's railroad approved & your books All your books, & pamphlet, what ever you need.

Me: Did this job have any special rules or regulations to follow?

Fuzzy: you better believe it, lots of them.

Me: What were they?

Fuzzy: (chuckles) you got your special code of operating rules, your mechanical, your timetables you got to run by, but that was years ago now everything's in blocks the dispatcher gives you a block signal or a block & you can't go between one block & the other block until you cleared got permission to go into that certain block.

Me: OK. What was the most rewarding part of your career?

Fuzzy: oh boy, that's hard to describe. I enjoyed every minute that I worked, there was a lot of driving back & forth to & from jobs but uh over all I enjoyed it.

Me: What was the most challenging or difficult part of your job.

Fuzzy: operating a train in the fog.

Me: How did the duties of your job change over the years. ⑥

Fuzzy: over the years we used to have dispatchers that would give us instructions ^{on our train orders} ~~about our job~~, but today everything's out of a crew management center & the dispatchers are mostly all out of Chicago. right now there are no more dispatchers out of Escanaba or Green Bay. Where ever now. every thing is modernized today the engines are more up to date they are all computerized most are computerized, they can tell when you set the air how fast you are going & what you set the air at what speed you were using the dynamic brake at ~~it's~~ railroading's different ~~than~~ ^{the dynamic} then it was 10-15 years ago.

Me: Did your job put you in any dangerous situations?

Fuzzy: Sometimes.

Me: could you describe them?

Fuzzy: well say you are operating a train & you are supposed to meet up with this other train & you got the right of way & this train's supposed to take a siding & he's not got at that siding & there's you got to stop & clear the siding before this other man shows up. Sometimes the dispatcher screws up, if it was out for the radios we had they're

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would have been a lot more serious accidents than there were. but that's a railroading is communication once you don't have communications that's when problems occur.

Me: Describe what your co-workers were like?

Fuzzy: Well, some are very good easy to get along with.

Some are bull headed they want to run the job which they don't have no knowledge of and every thing is seniority & some times a seniority man knows less than the man below him, so overall its some good ones some bad ones it like any other job I imagine.

Me: At any time did you feel like changing jobs?

Fuzzy: Sometimes I wanted to but then I thought where else can I find a job like the one I got now I'm more or less my own boss ~~and~~ other than the conductor who was in charge of the job but I don't think I would change jobs I liked what I was doing. & I did it well.

Me: What were your biggest responsibilities on the job?

Fuzzy (chuckles) Keep the train on the track, stay out of trouble.

Me: Did you receive any special awards?

Fuzzy: Not really they ~~awards~~ a what you did but there's more criticism than there was good things?