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## Roger Roghair

Ann Lundberg

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**Roger Roghair: Interview**

**Ann Lundberg**

**February 18, 2020**

**Running time: 40:27**

AL: So, this is Ann Lundberg. It is February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and I am interviewing Roger Roghair. We are at the fire station today for this interview. So Roger, just for the sake of documentation, can you tell me when you were born?

RR: I was born on 7, 14, '37.

AL: Were you born in Orange City or some place else?

RR: Orange City.

AL: Okay. When did you join the Orange City Fire Department?

RR: I think it was 1964.

AL: And why did you join the Orange City Fire Department?

RR: Well, after I got out of the military, I, ah, we moved back to Orange City. And I had to make some decisions. We wanted to move back here because we were told that I had a job here. When I got here was no job. So, but anyway, ah...

AL: And where had you been living?

RR: In San Francisco.

AL: Okay.

RR: So, in answer your question there, it was, the reason why we moved to Orange City?

AL: Uh, huh. Why you joined the fire department?

RR: We moved back here because of a job offer, and then also we wanted to do that because the schooling was good here and I had lived here before I went into the military, and, and then I always was interested in doing some community work. I figured that would be good for me and for my family to do, contribute to the, ah, to Orange City because we'd be living here and we felt obligated to do something that necessary for us and for the community.

AL: So, did you have any friends or family who are on the fire department at that time? Did they recruit you?

RR: At the time, there was none of the family on.

AL: Okay.

RR: And, uh, I think they put a notice in the paper that they were looking for volunteers and so that was good and that's what I did then, I volunteered at that time.

AL: And who do you remember who was on the fire department in 1964?

RR: Oh goodness. Well, there was John Zeutenhorst, there was Don Scheuer, there was Hank Jonker, um, there was Rudy Grienke, there oh, goodness, we didn't have a lot on the department at that time. But, hmm, it is slipping my mind now as to what the other guys were. I could look back and look at my records, or pictures, and I could tell you who they all were.

AL: [Laughs.] Find out. And what kind of gear did they assign to you when you joined?

RR: Well, we just said regular gear, you know, the helmet, and the clothing, the jacket, the boots, and the pants that went with it. And at that time, um, we were given a call on the phone so we didn't have any pagers or anything like they do now.

AL: Was that the party line system?

RR: Hmm...mmm. Right.

AL: Okay. And you said just a little bit ago that your first call was to the Vogel paint fire. About how long after you joined the fire department was that?

RR: Oh, probably, ah, maybe 6 months, I suppose something like that, was shortly afterwards.

AL M-kay. Had you had any training before that fire?

RR: Not really, I mean they had some training, you know, like you do periodically, but it was no, not much training.

AL: And so do you remember anything about when you rolled up on scene? What truck you came on? First impressions?

RR: Actually, I didn't, ah, I didn't come with the truck because I had to drive-in at that time. So, I went from the business place to, right to the fire, which was only a few blocks away.

AL: Okay.

RR: And so at that time too, about the gear I'm not sure, we, we did not have to go to the station to get our gear. We carried our gear with us.

AL: In your vehicle. So, what did you do at that fire? Did you man a hose line? An engine?

RR: I was on a hose line. I was on with Hank Jonker.

AL: Okay.

RR: We laid up on top of one of the buildings and then there was a retaining wall in between the two and we had to keep that cool. So, that was our job, maintaining water on that face of that building.

AL: Okay.

RR: And then every once in a while you would hear this bang! And then a barrel would blow up in the air! And it was quite exciting, quite scary, quite exciting!

AL: I would think.

RR: And then they had big tanks there and you could see the level of the chemicals in there. And if that lid would have closed, then it would have been an explosion, because they kind of, they checked with different people what they should do in that case, if they should close 'em and, you know, snuff it out, or leave it open so it would burn it out completely and they decided to let it burn out.

AL: Okay, probably a good option since it didn't blow up!

RR: Yes. Right. Yep.

AL: Were there a lot of observers for that fire? A lot of community members?

RR: There were a lot of observers! Yes! Right. There was. I don't know whether I should say this or not but one thing I remember which was kind of funny, at the time, in a way, but was serious, is that when they lay the line to get over to the fire, there is a telephone pole there.

AL: Ah.

RR: And they went around the pole, so they had to cut the pole off. I mean, to get the hose, you know, laying flat out there.

AL: Okay. Oops. In the moment of excitement, we sometimes make errors.

RR: Right.

AL: Yeah. Anything else? How long did that fire take?

RR: It was about three days that it took to burn down, burn out.

AL: So, was the department on scene for that entire time?

RR: Well, there were other departments that were there and so, they, you know, were fill-ins.

AL: M-kay. So do you remember which departments came?

RR: Oh, I think there was Alton, Sioux Center, I think Maurice was there at that time. Yeah, there was quite a few different ones there.

AL: Quite a crew! And that was before you had an aerial ladder truck.

RR: Hmm...mmm.

AL: So different job of work. And you were running off hydrant water?

RR: Yes, hmm...mmm.

AL: Did you drain...

RR: I think they did. They also had some, ah, it was mainly the hydrogen. That was the other thing they wondered, you know, about. If they had enough capacity...

AL: Sure.

RR: ...to take care of the job. I'm just trying to think of, I didn't, I don't recall any tanks, you know, tanks that we had there to dump water in to pump out of, but, there may have been.

AL: Right.

RR: It's a ways back.

AL: Right. And how about after you came home from that fire? Do you remember coming home?

RR: Yeah, I do, but I, that was one thing I guess I was always blessed with. That I could forget, I mean I could sleep and not think about it. You know?

AL: I bet you were exhausted!

RR: Yeah, yeah, I don't remember, you know, the shifts that we, you know, were required to work. We had time off, so in between there but, yeah, that really never, never bothered me.

AL: How do you think that fire affected the community?

RR: Oh, I think they were concerned about it, you know, there were quite a few employees and things like that. I don't know exactly how many, but yeah, I think, really, anything in that area I don't think was subject to burn very much. You know, there wasn't that part of it, but it was a big loss, it was a big loss at that time. Yeah.

AL: And they had to completely rebuild afterwards? Would that be true?

RR: Yeah. They moved afterwards.

AL: They moved further south down Albany at that point in time?

RR: Yep.

AL: Did anything change in the fire department after that fire?

RR: Oh, not that I can recall. I wouldn't say there was any major changes. No.

AL: Okay, I was just wondering because I know when the Hawkeye building burned downtown that that led to a push for a larger aerial.

RR: Sure.

AL: So, I was wondering if there was something similar.

RR: I am sure that led to some discussion about those particular things, but nothing, I don't recall anything transpiring from it.

AL: And did you say that you owned the drive-in at that point in time? So being your own employer you could leave work whenever you needed?

RR: I could leave work! Yes! Yeah!

AL: And where was the drive-in?

RR: It was on Highway 10.

AL: Okay.

RR: Where the Subway is now.

AL: Oh, okay. Oh, you were close!

RR: Hmm...mmm. I was the first one there! And ah, it was started by static electricity, is what it was. That what they said it was. So, I was waiting for them to get there, because I was ...whew, yes.

AL: Because you can't do anything by yourself without water anyway!

RR: No you couldn't! That's right.

AL: Waiting for the rest of them to show up! So, what other fires were particularly memorable while you were on, or accidents, because this I know we've always responded in some way to accidents.

RR: Yeah, um, well another, we had a trailer fire, where I live on Kansas. There's a trailer court behind there.

AL: Right.

RR: And there was this couple had been at the "Black Knight", was, you know...

AL Oh right, the local bar.

RR: The local bar, the only one that we had in town, at that time too. But anyway, they came home and it was late in the evening and then that trailer started on fire. And of course, I was close to that one also, but I had to help with that to take the bodies out of there. Two of them died in that fire.

AL: Oh, they both died.

RR: Both of them died. Yes. I didn't know but, when, when they are in a trailer like that, I was told that they always put their hand over their head. That's just they way they do it. And one was sitting in the corner and, in the corner of the trailer, and the other one was about three feet from the door, so he was very close to getting out.

AL: So they died trying to escape?

RR: Right. They tried, but, and then I had to help, they asked a volunteer to help take them out and it's at time what I remember one of the firemen, his dad had burned, so he was in the back of the trailer where I was there and he said, "I can't do it." He said, "I couldn't, I couldn't go in."

AL: Right.

RR: And so a friend of mine that had the funeral, Gerb Van Gelder.

AL: Okay.

RR: Him and I, we grew up together. He says, "Can you help me Rog?" I had to go in, help bag them up, and take them out.

AL Difficult thing.

RR: Not a good one.

AL: Important work.

RR: But, I didn't have any problem with that either. I mean I could sleep. I don't know that I ever thought about it much.

AL: Right.

RR: Didn't keep me from sleeping.

AL: Yeah, how you are constituted. And you do the job. Did they ever figure out what started that fire?

RR: I think it was a cigarettes in there that did. If I recall. Yeah.

AL: Okay. Yeah. Were you on when the Hospers Bank building burned in 1991? Do you remember that at all?

RR: I don't recall that.

AL: Okay. How about the Vogel Paint explosion? 1993, I think that was?

RR: Yes, I was there and two of them died in that too. One was my neighbor. He died.

AL: Oh, I am sorry.

RR: And, yeah, that was really sad because I was out there at the time and I saw him walking down the catwalk on the backside of it. He walked, one walked out of there.

AL: Oh!

RR: And he was just charred. He was black.

AL: Poor man!

RR: Yeah. And then he, he went to the hospital and he died there. A couple days later, I think or something.

AL: Yeah, that's a hard death.

RR: Yes.

AL: That's a hard death to die.

RR: Yep.

AL: Did you respond to that as a fire fighter to that fire as well?

RR: Yes. You know, I was kind of on standby. Out by the, outside there by the catwalk.

AL: Where you working for Vogel Paint at that point in time?

RR: No. I wasn't.

AL: Okay! So you weren't on their response team...

RR: I never did work for them.

AL: Okay, I am just checking how much of the family history is...

RR: Yes.

AL:...entangled with Vogel Paint.

AL: Yes, so that was a bad call. You have quite a family record of serving in the fire service in Orange City. So, how about your sons and the fire service. I know that Dan<sup>1</sup> became a member and is now assistant chief. Did they come to the station with you at all? How did you involve them in what you did?

RR: Oh, I think they just became interested too.

AL: Okay.

RR: Yeah, you talk about that when you are together and stuff. So they, Dan became interested, and then of course, that was passed on down to his two sons, they joined too, and so at one time we had four of us there.

AL: Four, oh my goodness!

RR: Yeah.

AL: Wow! So did Dan used to show up at the fire station with you? Did they hang out there?

RR: No, not really, I don't think.

AL: M, kay.

RR: They were inquisitive, you know, when there was a fire, that's how you get interested, somewhat, you know by that and the whistle, that is always exciting for the guys.

AL: Right.

RR: Of course, you are a firefighter too, so.

AL: Yeah.

RR: I mean that is something, when the whistle blows, let's go, you know. It always seemed like when the whistle blew we were somewhere in the vicinity, or some place, I don't know, it was just a coincidence, so yeah, we just...

AL: Yeah.

RR: Maybe that had a little something to do with that. Maybe you should be a firefighter!

AL: Was Dirk<sup>2</sup> every interested?

RR: Um, he may have had an interest but not enough.

AL: Never went with it, never went with it. Um, how did Margaret respond to you being a fire fighter? Did she worry about you?

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<sup>1</sup> Roger's son.

<sup>2</sup> Another son of Roger.

RR: Um, well, I think she did but she think didn't show it or say anything. She didn't discourage me from not being on. I think she was in favor of it. No problem.

AL: No problem.

RR: No problem. Would say, oh, here is a fire, you got to go! Okay.

AL: And there you go! How about the building of the new station on Albany in the 1970s, were you involved with that at all?

RR: Um, no. Not really.

AL: You were involved in the remodeling and expansion of this current fire station that we're sitting in though. Can you tell me a little bit about how you lobbied for that?

RR: Well, you just volunteer.

AL: Well, yeah!

RR: [Chuckles.] Well you try and do what you can, as much as you can, and that's just who I am. If I see it, I do it. If they need help, I am going to help.

AL: Pitch in!

RR: That's just kind of the way I was built.

AL: So, you went and talked to some of your friends in high places.

RR: Well, I think, I think it was just show up and they are going to let you know if they need help.

AL: Uh, huh.

RR: Yeah, so, I...

AL: So, what do you like about the new fire station? I know you've never worked out it.

RR: Sure. I think it is tremendous. It's just mind boggling to me.

AL: Me too!

RR: I mean, in the way it is set up. It's just wonderful. And, yeah, you wish you had something like that when you were on, but that's not the way it works. And, I don't think, well, everything is extravagant and a lot of money, but it's very useful.

AL: Right.

RR: And I think the way it's set up...I know Dan, anytime we'd go someplace, we had to stop at the fire station and check out this and that. That's when they were in the planning stages of doing something. And, so, yeah, always, always interesting. And then he had a pick up fireman's decal, you know.

AL: Oh yes! Did do that when you were a firefighter too?

RR: Not really!

AL: Not so much visiting around?

RR: No, not really. I mean I didn't have any trouble going to different departments, and if we had a fire with 'em and stuff like that. There was good cooperation in this area and that's really great that they get along. That's a real plus!

AL: Yeah, yeah it is. It is a blessing. Did you have any offices when you were in the fire department? Were you president, or captain, or...?

RR: Ah, no. I was the secretary/treasurer for five years. I relieved John Zeutenhorst.

AL: Oh, okay!

RR: He was there, he was a lifer, I think, and then he decided one day he wanted out. I was on with Hank Jonker.

AL: Okay!

RR: He was the president at that time. I don't know, you don't have to use this, but I felt, you know, you can have a job, as you look back at John when he was secretary. You know, just, you don't have to do that all your life. You can share that with somebody.

AL: Sure!

RR: So I had that for five years, and I thought, you know what? Get the other people involved, let them see that side of it.

AL: Yeah.

RR: And so when it came time for voting, I asked if I could have my name taken off the list.

AL: Removed!

RR: Because I had a medical problem, which I didn't!

AL: [Laughs.]

RR: [Chuckles.] So, after it was over, he says you dirty sucker! There is nothing wrong with you! And that's right, there wasn't! And to this day, when I see him, he asks, "Hey, how are you doing health-wise?" Good!

AL: Who was that who teased you about it?

RR: Hank Jonker.

AL: Oh, Hank.

RR: He was the president.

AL: Okay! And who became secretary after you?

RR: You know, I don't, I don't recall that.

AL: Okay.

RR: Who that was at this time.

AL: Someone stepped in.

RR: There was no problem.

AL: Someone stepped in.

RR: There was four or five on the list, you know.

AL: Hmm...mmm.

RR: And, ah, yeah, most of the time you end up you getting it again if you have done a decent job. I still have some records there, I think, of those you were on it. I should have looked at that. There was a list on there of all the firemen. It's in there someplace.

AL: I will scan it and add it to the records. Did you catch any flack while you were secretary? Did people complain or did you get along pretty well all together?

RR: I got along really well,

AL: Okay.

RR: If they would complain, I would say, well, here it is.

AL: Here's the job! Take it!

RR: You want it! I can get out of this anytime.

AL: That's a good strategy. That's a really good strategy.

RR: No I didn't, I had more compliments than I did, I can't recall.

AL: Good. So really supportive environment.

RR: Yeah. Yeah. Because I don't think anyone of them really wanted it.

AL: We still sometimes have trouble getting people to step up for secretary/treasurer.

RR: Right. Do you?

AL: Yep, we do.

RR: Well, there are people that it comes pretty natural to them. I mean they like to do that stuff. Okay, do it!

AL: Right, and you should have people who have some talent doing that.

RR: Right.

AL: Did you tease each other about anything or have any other...?

RR: Oh yes! That's all part of it.

AL: Okay! Do you remember who you teased about what?

RR: Yeah, we had a guy who we called "One Step," who was Bob Preston, his name was Bob but we called him Preston, Neiuwendorp.

AL: Okay.

RR: And we called him "One Step." You know, when you walked by him and touched him, boy, he would just jump, poof, you know! And, I remember we had a fire downtown and they, we were, Bob and I, we were traffic control, and so he gets all excited. That was his really his job because he wouldn't get on the ladder more than one step. That's where we got...

AL: Oh, okay!

RR: ...the name see. So, we were on main street, that is where the fire was, it really wasn't a bad fire, but anyway, there were cars coming by and we had to stop 'em and keep things in order.

AL: Good.

RR: Well, this lady backed out and she backed over his foot!

AL: Ow!

RR: [Chuckles.] He was hopping around there. Oh, that lady backed over my foot! And then she took off, so, that was a...

AL: A hit and run!

RR: That was one thing I remember. He was a fun guy, nice guy.

AL: Oh yeah, uh, huh.

RR: We liked having him around, I think mainly to tease him, because he just really didn't want to do a whole lot besides traffic control. But, that's one thing I remember. Yeah, there was always the joshing around. That was kind of the funniest thing I thought!

AL: Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah.

RR: But.

AL: Did you ever get hurt yourself on a fire call?

RR: No, I don't think so!

AL: Good job! Good job!

RR: No, no. Maybe slipped on the ice, and stuff like that once, but ...

AL: Yeah, not the same as getting hurt.

RR: No! Didn't really have any accidents or get burnt or anything like that.

AL: Let's see. What about socials, fire department socials. What do you remember about the picnic, or annual, was it still a chicken supper?

RR: Yep. I don't remember how it all went way back then, ah, we did have a supper, you know, we got together. But, yeah, I don't remember if we did some of the cooking ourselves or what, I don't think so.

AL: Yeah, Hank and Don say their wives used to do the cooking.

RR: Yeah, I think that was maybe it, before.

AL: But I'm not sure how long that lasted. How long the women were patient with that!

RR: [Laughter.] I know. Yeah.

AL: About innovations in equipment and apparatus. Were there any new trucks or new tools?

RR: Yeah, there were new tools.

AL: Okay.

RR: Oh yeah, I have that in there. Fawzy Simon, he was at the college, he was a cook there. And him and his wife were involved in a bad accident in Kansas City.

AL: Oh.

RR: And they had to have the jaws of life to get 'em out. And Louise was our neighbor, where we live now. And we get along really good with them. So, one day after the accident had happened and they had the jaws of life, we were outside, and she was out there, and she came over and she said, "Rog, is there anything that you know you would need on the fire department that you can think of?" And at that time, I think we were thinking about the jaws of life, or there was discussion or something about that. Um, and I said, yeah there is one thing, and so I brought that up. And she said, that, that, I would really like to buy that for you and ah, she said because that was used to get Fawzy out of the car. She remembered that when they were in Kansas City. And I said, well that would be nice, but I said that's kind of expensive.

AL: Hmm...mmm.

RR: She said, you let me know how much it is and then I will make a decision whether to do it or not or contribute towards it.

AL: Uh huh.

RR: And she ended up buying the whole thing. I think it was \$5,800, or something like that.

AL: Wow, that was generous.

RR: Well, it was a very nice gift.

AL: And an important tool. Yeah. Any accidents that you used those on?

RR: Not that I recall. No. I mean, I know they did.

AL: They got used.

RR: I think Al Hancock was in a bad accident. He ran underneath a truck at Carnes.

AL: Hmm...

RR: On the blacktop, going further South across, by the tracks there. He hit a train.

AL: Ooo...

RR: No, he ran underneath, there was a semi that had gone up the hill and was turning around, and was crossways in the road, and he had just stopped in at the drive-in. I know that because I helped him at that drive-in. They were going to go to Le Mars and eat. And he hit that, he went underneath there. Hit the duels or something. They were in bad shape.

AL: Yeah.

RR: They both lived, but they were pretty mangled.

AL: Were you on the call for the train wreck in 2000?

RR: Not the train wreck. That was in Alton.

AL: Oh, there was a train did go off the rails in Carnes in 2000.

RR: Okay, not that one, but I was involved in the one in Alton.

AL: Okay. Tell me about that one.

RR: Yeah, well, that was, I mean it was at night.

AL: Oh.

RR: And I remember, yeah, there was a lot of things there. Um, let's see. One got killed there, I think, at that time. And not sure if that, I think it was a guy, that they have relief people that they bring.

AL: Oh, right.

RR: I think that he was close.

AL: That's the Carnes wreck.

RR: Yes.

AL: That's actually Carnes.

RR: Was that Carnes?

AL: Yeah, they rolled over the van that he was in.

RR: Hmm...mmm.

AL: Yeah, okay, that was the one I mean.

RR: There was, on the highway there, there was all, pigs feet. They made pickled pigs feet out of that stuff. Ah, yeah. That was, when they flipped, it just splattered on top the road. I remember that it was really, I think, I almost think there was snow or rain, it was bad weather. I mean, it was cold.

AL: Okay.

RR: And, it was dark, I mean, you would be walking. They, they only had regular lights. Not no...

AL: Towers, light towers like we have now.

RR: And so,

AL: That hard. That's hard to work without lights!

RR: It was! And everybody was slipping around there because all of those pigs feet. And then, the guys had a really tough time down by the engines over there because it was dark, and it was those spills. You know, it really was a mess, I think they had to throw away quite a bit of gear, at that time that I remember, because it was damaged, you know, with all the....

AL: Yeah, Yeah.

RR: Yeah, I know they did it. Because Alton was involved, we were, and then we had to put a package together how much equipment and stuff was ruined and then we got paid out some for that. But, that was bad. That's when I got on. When I saw that. Oh yes. We did have one light. Sioux Center was there. And they did have one light. That was beautiful, because you could see around there. That's what we need to do!

AL: Yeah.

RR: We had a discussion about it. We had a few that were against it. They just didn't want it. Well, I said I will do it myself. So, I went out and solicited and got enough money. I hit Vogels, I hit the big ones.

AL: That's what I remember about you. Being a lobbyist for the fire department!

RR: Well, anyway, I would say I got most of it. I mean, enough, that, okay, we'll go ahead and do it.

AL: Right.

RR: And that's kind of how we started with the light.

AL: With the light tower. Right.

RR: You bet. I mean when you go out in the country like that and stuff like that.

AL: It's terrible.

RR: I mean, you can get hurt! One accident! Yeah, I always looked at it from the defensive side. One accident, that's all it takes. A light! You are going to argue about a light!

AL: About having good lighting.

RR: It took a long time for us to get that through.

AL: Yeah.

RR: I mean, a long time, a few months.

AL: Right, I think that was just after I got on the fire department because I wasn't on at the time of the Carnes wreck. But, I was living in Orange City and um, yeah, that most have been one of the earliest conversations, running conversations that we had.

RR: Yeah, I was real frustrated with that. That's, I mean, that's disgusting, you know. Let me, I'll go out and get it. I mean I was that just dead set against it. Other people were, you know, have ideas of what you would like to do and if you can't do it, well, you better figure out a way or drop the whole thing. To me, that was very important for the fire department to have that, because of a, accident.

AL: Yeah, liability. You don't want your people getting hurt.

RR: No! No! I just, I just couldn't understand why you wouldn't do something like that, you know.

AL: Hmm...mmm.

RR: Really.

AL: Did you have a favorite apparatus? Did you like to drive one or ride on one?

RR: You know, I really didn't. I just, wherever I was needed...

AL: That's where you went.

RR: Yeah, that was where I went. I didn't really have, I didn't really have a desire to be one, an officer or something like that. So,

AL: Everyone serves a purpose.

RR: I was content. I was content. If I got to clean, I will clean. If I got to do this, I will do that. I call it a grunt, you know.

AL: Sure. No, the world needs them.

RR: So, it didn't bother me. I wasn't there to make an impression. I was there to help.

AL: Yep, yep, yep. Did you do anything for Tulip Festival while you were on the fire department?

RR: Ah, I think I helped out a few things, a few times, you know, uptown.

AL: So hanging out with the truck, like we do.

RR: Stand by, yeah.

AL: M, kay.

RR: Yeah, it wasn't, there wasn't much, I didn't do much of that. The fire department, or guys on the fire department, policed in the evening, and watched if anyone needed help.

AL: Right.

RR: Or anything like that. The golf course would give us some golf carts.

AL: To run around.

RR: For a little security.

AL: Keep the order.

RR: Yeah, keep order. We never really had any problems with people doing any vandalism, or people getting drunk, or anything like that, that I recall. I always went with Gary Jeltema.

AL: Oh, you did.

RR: Yeah, we were a pair.

AL: So, he was your friend on the fire department.

RR: Yeah.

AL: Did you have your gear lockers next to each other too?

RR: No, I don't think so.

AL: Okay.

RR: Not that I recall. I don't know what happened with my zipper here.

AL: It was probably talking about the train wreck and got derailed!

RR: Something.

AL: That did it. So, why did you decide to retire from the fire department? What led to that decision?

RR: Well, I think you have to use your own good judgment. If you get on ladders and you don't feel comfortable with it anymore, I think it was the age, you know, that – I'll get that later – you just have to use your own judgment. When you feel you need to get off, then you get off. Nobody told me I had to, they didn't have an age limit, which I think it wouldn't be a bad idea.

AL: Yeah. I think there is some definite validity...

RR: It's good for the department both,

AL: Hmm...mmm.

RR: You got to look at both. So, that was...

AL: Yeah.

RR: And I think my wife said, that's enough too! [Chuckles.]

AL: [Laughs.]

RR: There was a little bit of that too. Not a big percentage.

AL: But they know us, our spouses do, and you know, they can help us with those decisions.

RR: Sure, hmm...mmm.

AL: Anything else you would like to tell me about your time on the fire department or the fire service as you saw it grow and change?

RR: Yeah, um, I am just happy to see that they have these new facilities. I think it is good for the city. I think the city is growing all the time, and they have to grow with it. I think they've got good talent on there now. You have younger ones.

AL: Yes, which is really important.

RR: It is important.

AL: Hmm...mmm.

RR: At the same time you need some older ones to keep them calm, cool, and collected.

AL: Hmm...mmm.

RR: They get a little excited, the adrenaline, and it's natural, it's not unnatural, but they could hurt somebody or kill somebody.

AL: Rush in.

RR: Whatever. You have to have some rules. I think one time we had the, they put a few on probation because of speeding and things like that.

AL: Hmm...mmm.

RR: And some other incidents. Which is good because, there again, life...

AL: We got a reminder at our last meeting to please do not speed. Perennial problem.

RR: Yeah. I think in the bylaws and the constitution that we could go 35 miles an hour in town, that would be the maximum. Well, I think we found out from a lawyer that you have to obey the stop signs, you have to obey just whatever is there. You cannot speed because you are going to be liable.

AL: Yep.

RR: So, we cut that out. Now it is the speed limit. Yeah, there's, people get excited. And I think I have before too, I am not saying that I never did. But I try to watch it. I mean, Denny even had that accident up here.

AL: Oh dear.

RR: Yeah, uptown.

AL: Oops.

RR: Yeah, and I think it was his fault. He ran a stop sign there or something.

AL: [Laughs.]

RR: He never brought that up?

AL: Um, I don't remember it being brought up!

RR: Yeah, it would have been when you were on there.

AL: Yep, we all make mistakes. Yeah, we all make errors in judgment.

RR: We do. We have to protect each other, and to me that's protective when you say, this is the rules, you got to abide by them, and if you don't, there is some consequences!

AL: Yep, yep.

RR: It may not be what you like, but.

AL: That's they way you run a tight ship.

RR: Yep. You have too.

AL: It is.

RR: Yeah.

AL: Well, I think that's it from my long list of questions. We've done a pretty good job of getting through them. And so, if there is nothing else you want to add today, if you think of something later, you can always give me a call and let me know.

RR: No, I think this is good. Refresh my mind on a few things. A few things there I don't remember! Which is normal.

AL: Tis true for all of us! Thank you!

RR: You are welcome.