Robert Hammond

I was also in a fire one time, by the way. A mail car burn up in Gainesville, Georgia. We were going north out of Atlanta, and we had had a three hour advance time sitting in the station where we worked our mail from Atlanta, and from south end connections. The railroad came in with blow torches because it was extremely cold, it was maybe in the teens, and they were trying to thaw out the pipes underneath our car, so that we could get some heat. And they did thaw them out alright, but they also started a smoldering fire and it broke through the floor at, I’m trying to think of the name, at Chickapee, Chickapee, Georgia right south of Gainesville, and the entire car burn up. We managed to stop the train and get out, and we got out, we salvaged 17 pouches of New York City mail from one end of the car, other than that everything burned up, including literally thousands and thousands of dollars of coin that was going to banks in north Georgia.