Jack Karrick (JK) Interview Transcript

INTERVIEWER: What made you decide to work for the Railway Mail Service?
JK: Well my father was also a Railway Postal Mail clerk.
INTERVIEWER: And it was a job he liked?
JK: And my brother, also.
INTERVIEWER: And they both liked it a lot?
JK: Oh yes.
INTERVIEWER: Can you tell me about your schedule on the trains?
JK: Well I had different schedules but most of the times I worked 6 days on, 8 off. I traveled to Knoxville, Tennessee, I’d go to work at about 6 in the morning, the train would leave at 8, and we get to Knoxville around 3 in the afternoon. Then I would be off down there in Knoxville and come back the next morning. Let’s see, I think it was around 11 o’clock. I’d get back in Cincinnati the next day around 9 at night, then I would do that three times for one week. And then I’d be off the following week for 8 days. So I worked 6 and 8 on that job. But I had other jobs when I was a sub, I worked, it was more of a local, I would work daily for 4 days of 9 or something. But during the time I was off I was always studying. For exams.
INTERVIEWER: Was it hard to get used to that kind of lifestyle.
JK: No… yes I guess so… no, too, I don’t know.
INTERVIEWER: What was your favorite part of it?
JK: Just being free, seeing things move around you and you know, I mean, it’s all a kind of a romance about it.
INTERVIEWER: Was there anything you didn’t like about it?
JK: No, not especially. Standing on the train I guess, but I got used to that.
INTERVIEWER: Did you ever run into any dangerous situations?
JK: Well, I’d be on a train where they would hit somebody on the bridge, or cars, something like that, the train did. One time a train wrecked around Falmouth, they rolled down a hill, but there was, no, we weren’t injured.