

Alberta Labour History Institute (ALHI)

Oral History Interview

Interviewee: Peter Zotek

Interviewer: Don Bouzek

Dates: Fall 1998

Location: Edmonton

My name is Peter Zotek. At Burns I worked just about in every department. I started in the Sausage Kitchen. From there I went down to the Hide House. From the Hide House I got transferred to Variety Meats. From Variety Meats I got transferred to Pork Cuts, where I became a lead hand. But at the same token before I became a lead hand there, I put in a transfer to the loading dock, checker and receiver. But they had a little clause at the bottom of the posting, do other work as directed. I never seen any part of the checking, it was just humping beef. I'll tell you, at that time there was no hoist to lift the beef, it was all manual labour. The first day we loaded 5 trailers of beef and 5 root cars. The next day on Saturday morning, good thing it was a Friday, Saturday morning the wife had to roll me out of bed I was so stiff. Because I'd never done that type of work and you're carrying 250 to 350 pounds of quarters on your shoulder. When you're not used to it, it's tough. Yeah, to the trailers or the rail cars. Where the shirt is sewed together, even though I had shoulder pads, but they didn't amount to much, but it cut the skin right down that the nurse had to put women's Kotex pads to stop the blood flow, to keep me working. So I worked there for the summer and then it got slack, so being junior man, I was transferred back to Variety Meats. From Variety Meats I went back to Pork Cuts, where I became lead hand. Then from Pork Cuts I went for a transfer. There were two postings, so I put in for both. One was Block Ready Beef and one was Ham Boning. So I got both of them so I chose Ham Boning. So I went down there and I became lead hand also on the table. Some of my duties were to train other people, direct the work force, and so forth. At that time, 30 years ago or more, at that time it seemed that people in the packing plant with management, people were treated like people and they had a name. Now it's a

number really, it's a numbers game. They don't give a shit. What was so hard to take and frustrating when Burns shut down was that they had just spent \$25 million or over \$25 million rebuilding the plant, bringing in brand new equipment and all, and then one day we walk in and they give us a notice. Three months notice, we're shutting down. They kept an old apple box place in Calgary open. So that was very frustrating. In fact, the day that they came in from Calgary head office in the morning and told the plant manager that here's the notices, hand them out to the people, he told them to go to hell. Because it was just 9 months that he was with us, and they lured him from Canada Packers and didn't even have the guts to tell him beforehand to prepare him for this. But told him, here, hand them out. He told them, go to hell. And he quit. Then somebody else, the personnel manager, passed them out to the foremen, the foremen gave them out to the people on the floors. In fact, there was one girl in particular in Sliced Meats. She had just sponsored some of her family over from Italy here. She passed right out. Because she sponsored 4 or 5 of them. And when she got this, she passed right out on the floor. Nobody could have believed that you spend this kind of money on a packing plant, rebuilding it completely, bringing in new equipment, then 5 years later they're shutting her down. What it told me at that time, that they didn't give a shit about the people. It's profit, profit, profit. They made the profit, they made the money, and nothing was going back into preventive maintenance into the plant. There was none of that. The only difference between the Burns shutdown and this shutdown was that they allowed potential employers to come into the plant and make their pitch. If people wanted, they applied and were hired. In my case, I was hired. One day I was finished with Burns, the next day I was working again. And that was with fibreglass. But due to the fact that I perspire a lot, I was walking around like this. So I quit there. I went to CIL gas plant on the south side. I was there for 3 months. They were going to do away with their Purification Department, so 60 of us were getting laid off. I was number 10 from the bottom. So I quit there and came back to Swifts. I got hired. I was never laid off. I was hired on the kill. I got loaned out a few times. I was asked if I wanted to go to Pork Cuts because they needed qualified help. So I said sure. There again, we started with about 280 hogs an hour. When we finished, we were doing 580 hogs an hour, with maybe only 4 or 5 extra men on the line. It was just

speed the lines up a little bit at a time. The boys would get used to it and they'd speed it up a little more, little more. Finally it was 580 an hour.

I was bunging. In plain language it's cutting the ass holes out and in between the hind legs with the knife, cutting through the bone. There's a gristle and you cut through the bone, then you pull the ass holes out for the guys that are gutting, taking the guts out. I remember at times it was so hot on that kill. Mondays wasn't bad, but you had the hog kill here, you had the beef kill here, all in one big room. It used to get so hot in there that it was almost like instant sweat. You walked in there on Tuesday morning and before you even started to work you were sweating. By evening, by 4 o'clock, the clothing on not only me but all the employees in that department were soaking wet. A lot of times there was people there that took the cold water hose and soaked themselves down to be able to finish the day off in that heat. It was that hot. It was 9-1/2 hours a day overtime, plus 8 hours on Saturday. There was no such thing as weekends off. And if you refused to work overtime, then they disciplined you.

This was when Peter Pocklington took over. I worked for Swifts Canadian 3 years, then Peter Pocklington Gainers bought Swifts out and he brought in this guy in '84, 85 I believe call Bolains from Mississippi. We called him bologna, and rightly so. Because he didn't really think of the people. All his thing was the god almighty dollar. The profit. Because he was working on a salary plus commission. The more we shipped out, the more money he made. And to him it didn't matter if the quality was there. It was quantity first, quality later if we have time. At 9-1/2 hours ever day plus 8 hrs. on Saturday. If you took a day off for sick or death and a stat holiday fell in that same week, you didn't get paid for the stat holiday because of the day you took off. They put the stat holiday in for that day, so you got shafted also there. That was go, go, go all the time. Then, thanks to our Alberta government, which really helped people out with WCB with that window of opportunity, people were injured on the job they were forced back to work for light duty. Some damn light duty. It was even harder than the job the guy got injured on. It was push, push. Management really didn't give a shit. The old management, the old foremen that were hired and came up through the ranks, they had some feelings for the people. But the office clerks that were pushing pencil and paper, all of a sudden he becomes a foreman and comes out. He comes out to the kill and he's trying to tell the boys, you're

not doing the job right. I told him. I said, fine, here's spare knife, come up over here and you show me how. I says, it's easy to yap with the mouth and put it on paper, but when it comes to the practical, you don't know if your ass is punched or bored. So how the hell can you tell me, after 15 years of doing the same job, tell me I'm not doing it right. One guy was a superintendent, assistant superintendent. He come up there beside me and he was gonna show me how. I looked at it, yeah he's showing me how. By the time it got to the inspectors, they stopped the line. Because every hog he had cut the ass holes open, there was shit all over. So they stopped the line and damn near condemned all the hogs. So he took off and he never did come back to me. Then they hired another new foreman and he come up. He walked up first to me, cuz I was the steward on the floor, and he says, Pete, tell me what I can do to get along with the boys. I says, first of all keep your mouth shut, watch how the line is running, then go to each job station. You won't be able in one day or 2 or 3 times to be able to keep up and do the job. But I says, at least try and learn the job that when you're asked a question about it or you're gonna tell the guy that he's not doing it right, you have an idea of what you're talking about.

Capital Packers and Gainers. There was 5 plants in the city. There was Canada Packers on Fort Rd., you could see it from Burns, then Burns, you could see Swifts, then Capital Packers was just down the road on Fort Rd.. Capital Packers is still there but all they are is a processing. They buy in bulk and they process it themselves. But they don't do no kill at all there anymore. Yeah, it was all within a matter of 20 blocks.

... I had a brother-in-law working at Canada Packers and a sister-in-law at Swifts. When I worked at Burns I had a brother-in-law working there. Then my wife and her sister worked at Swifts, plus there was quite a few people that I knew from back home, from Villeneuve, which is about 100 miles east of here, that were working in one of the plants close by. Neighbours' boys and that, coming off the farm. When I came in to Burns and I applied for work, I worked at Massey Fergusson for 3 years shipping and receiving. But as soon as harvest was over and stock taking was finished, I was laid off. That wasn't what I wanted. I wanted steady work. So I came in to Burns. There was 5 of us applying for work. At the table we were filling out applications. I glanced over the question on the application was, job preferred. So I looked and one guy put truck driver, and a couple guys put shipping and receiving, one guy put mechanic. I figured, winter's coming and I

need a job. I don't want to be on unemployment. So I put down anything. So when the personnel manager walked out and checked the applications he says, who's Peter Zotek and I say, I am. He said, well Peter we've got a job for you. As for the rest of you guys, for the jobs that you're looking for, we have no openings at the present. Oh we'll take the job. No no, he'll take anything, we need one man, he's the guy we're hiring. So the first day I had to unload a boxcar of salt. They gave me this power scoop shovel and it wasn't worth, I think Columbus must have brought it overseas with himself. So I threw that thing to the side and I grabbed the old farmer's scoop shovel. About quarter to 12 I was finished. I unloaded the boxcar. So I went into the plant looking for the foreman. One of the guys on the loading dock there says to me, who you looking for. He says, he might be in the cafeteria. I walked into the cafeteria and didn't see him. I was walking out and the foreman was coming in. He says, what are you doing here? I said, I'm looking for you. Why? I says, I'm finished. You can't be finished. Nobody's ever finished unloading a boxcar of salt in half a day. I says, well I'm finished. I don't believe it, c'mon. We walked out there, looked in the boxcar, it was empty. There was none on the ground either, it was all down the shoot. He says, I can't believe it. He says, you've got a job for as long as you want it here. So he says, on Monday you're gonna start in the Sausage Kitchen. So I worked a week in the Sausage Kitchen. The foreman there screwed up and told me on Friday I'm laid off. So Monday morning I'm sleeping, I've got time to go to the unemployment office cuz I'd quit Massey Fergusson already. They weren't too happy with me because there was nobody to take stock except the foreman and myself. I told them, you promised me for 3 years steady work. Every time a harvest is finished I get laid off. Now you can learn how to take stock. The personnel manager phoned me, Peter Hannik was the personnel manager at Burns at that time. He phoned and says, what are you doing? I says, I got laid off on Friday. No you didn't. I said, well Percy from the kitchen told me I'm laid off. He told me to come in, we used to get paid on Wednesdays, he told me to come in Wednesday and pick up my paycheque. He says, bull shit, you get your ass in here, you're going to work. So I came in. They put me into the Hide House. That was tough work there. The fresh beef hides would come down and you had to spread them out on a pile and salt them by hand. There was a fellow in there, he'd been there about 30 years. Your hands get wet from the blood and that, and the hides are wet. He literally had

no fingernails from the salt. The salt just ate the nails right off. So I wasn't gonna stay there, but it's winter so I'll put up with it. Then you had to shake hides. I didn't have to, they brought in guys from the unemployment office overflow. We called them 'rubbies', cuz all they were good for was get the first paycheque and get a bottle of wine, that's it. Next day they come in, they're half pissed. Salt flying all over behind your ears and all over, especially off the sheep. Oh god. ? salt on them cuz sheep hides are take the wool. You have to put enough salt in so they don't rot by the time they could ship them to the tanneries. So I worked there 3 months then from there I got transferred to Variety Meats. So I went into there, I forget how many years I worked there. Then like I say, one year I worked on the loading dock. Then I was in Pork Cuts for 10 years. The jobs how I became lead hand is I watched the others guys doing, and I tried doing the jobs myself and the guys showed me how, and I became a lead hand on there because I got good at doing the jobs and I took pride. At that time at Burns, I would say 99% of the people who worked there had pride in their jobs. Because the wages was good at that time compared to the standard of living right across the country. The wages was pretty good at that time. In fact I believe they ran a survey of Canada of wages, and in the packing plants we were one of the 10 highest paid employees. Then we started taking nickel and dime raises and we wound up so far down you had to pipe sunlight to us.

Yes because at that time you used to have chain bargaining right across the country. It wasn't each plant individually. All the plants met together with the unions, executive met in Toronto, and head office people were there and they negotiated a contract for everybody across the country. Plus there were little sub contracts for your individual plant. But wages wise, pensions and all that, money wise everything was settled all across the country. Most of the time it went by if Canada Packers was the biggest and Swifts, so whatever they settled for, then the others followed suit. Like Gainers. The only time they ever went to negotiations was when Pocklington bought Gainers and then he bought Swifts out. That's the only time they went to negotiations, because before that they just wait until all the big ones settled and then they got it accordingly.

Each plant had their own executive. Then when they went to the chain bargaining, the president and the chief steward usually went from each local, and they comprised of the negotiating committee. Plus the national office was involved then.

No, it's a different company. I was hired as a brand new man off the street. The only thing what I had going for me is I had experience, knife experience. So they hired me for the kill. No, I stayed on the kill. I wanted to go back to Pork Cuts right off the bat. But under Swift's contract, you had to work in the same department for 2 years before you can put in for a transfer to any other department. So the few times that I went on loan to Pork Cuts I looked around, 60% of the guys were older guys, senior guys that had transferred in from other departments for a little bit lighter work or change of work. All with 3, 4 weeks seniority. So when am I gonna get my holidays? February, March. Here I'm the 9th guy up from the top in seniority. I liked the foreman because he was pretty good to the men. He gave the boys, like when I became steward, and it was within the first year I became steward on the kill, we worked out an agreement between the foreman and myself. Look, okay, you're gonna give this guy discipline. Call him into the office. Let's talk about it. Most of the time it was over a guy's missing too much time. He would put it down on the discipline card in pencil. But we won't tell the guy that, let's just say between the two of us. Now once the guy improved, the foreman erased it and I didn't have to write out any grievances. It didn't even go down to there. But when it got too damn much, I would talk to the guy and all when it got too much, when he started writing it in ink, you knew you were in trouble. Big trouble. Cuz you were on your way out regardless of the grievances. We saved a few of the guys' bacon. But there was a few guys that did get canned for one thing or another. A lot of it had to do with alcohol. I referred him in to the union office to the chief steward and the president. I told them, look, this guy's got a drinking problem. This is why he's missing so much time. I says, the foreman is writing it down and they're giving him enough rope that sooner or later they're gonna can him. So you better talk to him and get him into a rehab center to help the guy out. Some guys got there but it didn't help, they didn't even change at all. So there was a few guys that got canned for that, but that was something of their own doing, their own stupidity.

On the kill. Some of the other departments, no it didn't work that way. And especially when the old foreman retired, then they started hiring these clerks from the office. They give them the blue hat, which was the foreman's hat, and they thought they were god almighty. It all went to their heads and nothing else. They thought that when they cracked the whip you're supposed to say, yes master, how high do I jump? The senior boys, we

decided, hey we're not gonna take this. I know particularly myself, I wouldn't take it. Unless he can come up and show me a better way of doing it and faster, then I'll do it. So there was a lot of problems. Because these guys that come up as clerks, all they were thinking of is promoting themselves and to hell with the men on the floor. And not knowing the proper way of doing the work, they were just go, go, go. Really it was quantity and no quality. They were on the people's case all the time. People did come in sick, and they won't give them a break or anything. They just harass them. Some of these young kids, foremen, went out of their way. When Bologna came in, it was production. The more we produce and get it out, the more I got in my pocket, to hell with you guys. That's when Pocklington, he tried to break the union. That was his main objective. I don't know how much truth there is, but Bolains told him after the 3rd or 4th week of that strike in '86, you better get back to the bargaining table cuz these guys aren't gonna roll over for you. So at that time there was rumours that Bolains and Pocklington had a falling out cuz right away Bolains took off back to Mississippi where he come from. And apparently he sued Pocklington for moneys owed or whatever. I didn't feel sorry for Pocklington one bit. But he tried to put all the blame on the people. Well it wasn't the people's fault. It was the management's fault, the big guys. Because they took the profits and diverted them elsewhere in buying other companies or wherever, and not putting anything back into the plants, preventive maintenance. Fixing the machines up, fixing the building structure walls and that. Unless it really broke or the wall fell out, then they would fix it. But otherwise, forget it. Oh well, we'll patch it up with the hay wires and it'll run for today. This is one reason why I think the plant shut down. They were saying it was too old. Well it was old. But I don't care how old a building is, if it's properly maintained it's gonna last for years. When McCain bought the plant, he had his own engineers in to check the place out. He was told, and this is a rumour that I heard and I believe it's true, because he was told that the place could run for another 5, 10 years and with a little bit maintenance it would run for another 15 to 25 years. So they can't tell me that it was that old that it was falling down around the ears. It's just that they didn't wanna put no more money in. You see what happened. We all went out on strike and he shot us down and brought the other guys down to their knees. They took big rollbacks. How some of these people are coping, I don't know. But I know a lot of ours here, some have

got jobs and some I hear, I know I talked to a couple guys and they said they had to put their houses up for sale or lose whatever they put into them. Which tells me that the company didn't give a shit about us. It hurt. It hurt the young kids that just bought homes and cars. It also hurt the older people like myself. I'm gonna be 59 in January, and you go looking for a job at 59 with no computer training or anything like that or specific welding training or any kind of a trade, it's pretty rough. The employer's gonna look, well hey, there's two guys applying for a job. This guy's 30, this guy's 59. I'm only gonna get 5, 6 years out of this horse. But I'm gonna get about 20 years or more out of this one. So who do you hire? The 30 year old guy is gonna get hired, not the 59. You're too young to retire, because Canada Pension our government is really gonna shack you then. Klein will have his fingers in there too. So that don't help. It's tough on these guys. Even myself. My wife is handicapped. She's been off work with a frozen shoulder since '87, and the amount of pension she's getting barely covers her medication now. Because she's wound up with other complications on top. It's tough. It's frustrating. I know at Burns, when Burns shut down, there was quite a few guys had heart attacks. One guy got a heart attack 2 days before they shut the plant down, walking from the cafeteria up to Pork Cuts back to work after lunch. Got a massive heart attack and died right there in the plant. Quite a few other guys had, you know.

Yeah, I was a steward, then I became an assistant chief steward. Well no, I was a steward first, then I became a guard, sergeant at arms, then I was political action chairman, then I became assistant chief steward. So I was active with the union right through. I believe now, when I do go out and apply for work, regardless where it is, whether it's a union place or non-union, and I leave my resume, when they phone down to Maple Leaf and ask what I did, what kind of a worker and all, and if I was active with the union, I think that's got a lot to do with it. Because Lillydale, they were looking for knife men, yet they won't hire me. Because the guy that's personnel manager there was personnel manager at Swifts, or Gainers. He quit Gainers to go there. So he knows me. There's no way I can tell them, look I wasn't active with the union. Because he knows. Because I handled a lot of grievances.

The political part of it is the government, when they took over the plant from Pocklington, they sold the plant to Burns. How did they sell it? They sold it for \$25

million. But then apparently they handed them back \$23 million. A lot of the equipment was brand new in there. So they just more or less gave Burns a gift. So Burns pockets the money and sells it to McCain. McCain gets qualified workers, gets the building, gets the equipment. Then he shuts it down and takes all the new equipment out to wherever plants he needed. So Burns profit and yet that's what gets my goat at the same time. Yet when the government was trying to sell the plant to Burns, we protested and had meetings with the government and public meetings of trying to buy. And we had the management people on our side to buy the plant from the government and have it employee owned. No, we're not gonna sell it to you. They sold it to Burns and then what happens? We're all out on the goddamn street. So it's our government and it's brother Klein, the asshole, that is to blame for it.

The first meeting we had there with the new Burns management and all, just to get to know each other who we were and all. I told them, I've got a grievance to put in. The guy that handled all the grievances, he was in Winnipeg. He'd fly in, grievances would pile up that high and then he'd come in and we'd have a marathon day sitting handling all these third step grievances. He said, oh we just got here, how can you have a grievance already? I says, I've got a grievance for lost seniority. What do you mean? I says, well I worked for you for 18-1/2 years, now you bought this place, I want my full seniority now. He says, good luck to you.

Yes I was involved in the '86 strike. Well there was an '84 strike which was a half hour last minute deal. Then '86 I was involved and I was strike commander on night shift, handling all the night shift pickets and all. With my wife. We were both on strike in '86 cuz she was still working there. So she handled the coffee room for me and looked after the coffee and the sandwiches for the people. I handled all the other problems that arose with the strike on the picket lines and all. It wasn't easy. The only thing we got out of the '86 strike really was that we got control of our own pension. Pocklington did not get what he claimed as surplus. Well that is a bunch of bullshit also, because at that time it was with a different outfit the pension plans. If a guy quit, that was it. It was company paid pension, so he didn't get nothing. Now that we got control of our own pension, after two years, you work three years, you still got a pension at age 60. It may not be much but there is still something there. Before there was nothing. So how could there have been a

surplus? I disagree with anybody, and I've had a few arguments, that it was company paid, which is bullshit. Because every time they went to negotiations, instead of us getting that 5, 10 cents an hour raise, this amount of money went into the pension fund. So it wasn't that the company was giving it out of the goodness of their heart, it was our own money that was really going into there. So I had many arguments over that issue. Oh no, it's company paid. I says, bullshit it's company paid. I says, this is what happened at negotiations. This is where the money come from. Instead of it coming into your pocket them taking it out, it went direct. That's why it didn't show on your pay check. Well I don't know. I says, well wake up and smell the coffee. I says, what the hell is this company giving you out of the goodness of their heart, if anything? Well. I says, a lot of sweat and run, run, run. A lot of people wound up with carpal tunnel. I had carpal tunnel done from this line speed and all. There was two of us on crotching and bunging. There was two of us up to 380 hogs an hour. Then they put a fourth one. But they speeded the line up to 480, then to 580, and there was still three of us only. Anybody walk in and look, well geez, they're not working hard. But you go on that job and try it, 580 an hour at 4,000 hogs in 8 hours, and you feel your hands at the end of the day. I don't care whether the guy's 21 or 60 years old.

Yeah. Well you had your union parties. When Burns was having a union party I'd phone my family if they wanted to come and get them tickets. If Swifts was having, they would do the same. Canada Packers. So we went around. Plus there was some cousins working at Capital Packers. But Capital Packers were never union, so sometimes they had to pull some strings to get into those. But we kinda worked it around that we all got in and we kind of all associated. The first ones that got there, they would reserve a table for the family. It wasn't only my family that way, pretty well a lot of the people that had family or friends working in different plants would get tickets for them. Because a lot of people, the Asian people, didn't wanna come. So there was a lot of tickets there. First of all the tickets would go on sale for union personnel first. Then there's surplus and we always put in and said, look, if there's empty tickets I want so many. Then the next guy the same thing. Most of the time it was people from other plants. So when I came in to Swifts from Burns, I wasn't a stranger. Because I knew a lot of people there. It helped in working relationship. Another thing what helped is I had knife experience that nobody really had

to show me how to do the job. There might have been a little slightly different way of doing it, but the experience was there. Within a day I was up to speed with the rest of the boys.

At times, yes. There was Vietnamese, there was Korean, well there was North and South Vietnamese, there was some from the north also, or so they claimed, I don't know. There was some Chinese and then there was Polish, Ukrainians, Czech, Yugoslavian. When things didn't go right, right away you seen the friction. The Vietnamese, they don't like the Chinese, and vice versa. And these groups, they don't like the Koreans either. Yet if you look at them, they all look the same. Then there was people in there from South American, from Chile, Panama. There was friction between those. Then there was the Canadian boys. But as a rule, people did get along very good. And 1986 proved it, that with so many different nationalities working in one place, we had a 98% strike vote and 98% of the people all stayed on the line. Nobody crossed the picket line. A lot of it also depends on your union executive. Here the president, John Ewasiw, he could talk Ukrainian and understand Polish. I could talk Ukrainian and understand Polish and Yugoslavian and Czech as long as they would talk slowly. I could understand them and explain stuff to them. John also. Then we had a Chinese boy that understood Vietnamese and Chinese and Korean language and that helped. Cuz we used him a lot. He was a steward in the Pickle Cellar. So we used him a lot with the Asian population. So it depends on your union executive who's in there and how you handle these racial problems.

Like at Burns one time there was an open shoot there. I seen the foreman standing under there. I was in Variety Meats and this is from the kill. I says to the guy, you do my job here, I'll be back in a couple of minutes. So I went out one door and ran up to the kill, got a 5 gallon pail of ice cold water and I looked, he's still there. ...Down. I seen he turn through that door, but there was a fire exit. So I come down there and I was exactly right on my job. So I come in through that door, working away, and he's looking around trying to find out who dumped the water on him. A lot of stuff like that went on. Especially on the kill. We had hoses to wash hands. You washed the blood off your hands, you're working away, and the next guy's not paying attention... Then you continue working. Even the foreman used to get wet that way. Our foreman, Herb, there was times he'd be

washing the floor and somehow you would get wet. Guys to for coffee and come back and find grease on the handles of their knives or the steel. You grab hold of it, oops. Who's the so and so that did this. So tempers used to go up, but it was all in good fun. Especially on the kill when it was hot in the summertime, June, July, August, September, the 4 hot months, nobody really minded too much getting wet. Some of us used to get a little uptight because the cigarettes would get wet, but then we wound up buying plastic covers and putting the cigarettes in there to make sure they don't get wet. But really there wasn't that much horse play that people got injured. People made sure. There was one incident that the guy really got mad and he kept throwing meat at this guy into his back. The guy really got mad and turned around and threw a knife at the guy. He got fired for that. But that was the only incident I can remember on the kill. There were a few other incidences in other departments, but the other chief steward handled it so I didn't pay much attention to it. I just told our guys, look, if a guy did get hurt because of horse play, look, this is how it happened, nobody seen a thing. It got covered up.