

EmJ4 – Emmett Johnson, “Carpenter Steel Strike – 1980’s”

Transcript: pp. 23-24

Time-Line: Decade IX, Local and National Events, 1987, “Carpenter Steel Co., based in Reading, Pa...”

Yes, I was working and we had a strike. And all I know is I went to work and they were saying, "You can't go to work go into work when the company is on a strike." I had to obey to the union. I wanted to go because there was a time when I found out that we was only getting one hundred dollars a week...of strike benefits so you compare that with a thousand to seven hundred dollars a week pay...

I didn't quite get the--. I don't know whether it was talk or something they did. I don't know. I didn't even get into it...

The strike lasted about four or five months or something like that I think. I'm not quite sure but it was near there. Everybody had to walk the picket line in order to get the benefits...There wasn't any increase in pay. The only thing we got, we got free insurance. We got lifetime insurance. We got more incentive. I don't think it was exactly what they asked for...

The strike was in '86 and they shut down in '88 and after they shut down in '88. I went over to W. S. Rockwell and I got a job at Rockwell.