

Nuts and Bolts: Stories from New Britain Manufacturing
Connecticut Humanities CT at Work Project
CCSU Student Author: Courtney Grab
Interview Subject: David Honyotski
Company: Russwin and Corbin

“I’m from Waterbury, Sin City,” David Honyotski declared before reflecting on his upbringing. He always looked up to his dad. David’s father used to keep the molds from his work at Scovill in a jar that glistened from the top of their refrigerator. Pristine, black, Chanel lipstick cases to metal, long lasting, car parts were preserved within the glass. The location of this jar was so symbolic of its place in David and his father’s hearts.

“When I grow up I want to make metals for America,” he wrote in second grade. David was just seven years old yet so innocent and eager to be just like his dad. Twenty years later, after the long journey from elementary school to college, David followed his father’s footsteps into industrial America.

He was the first in his family to receive a master’s degree. This personal accomplishment gave David a lot of motivation throughout his career. His master’s degree set him on a path that resulted in a management position at Russwin and Corbin, one which was out of the union’s eye. As a superintendent, David found ways to ease the burden of the union for his staff through work parties. With food galore, homemade wine, and Polish women ready to hand off their daughters, “Don’t send my job to Georgia,” rang from the factories. David recalls one lesson clearly, “You only live for this set of time and you have to go where it’s good.”