

Union Depot Stationmaster to Retire After 52 Years

Columbus Dispatch (October 29, 1947) – Station master at Union Station since November 1, 1939, and an employee at the station for 52 years and 2 months, George F. Neymeyer, 3156 Indianola Av, will bid farewell to his job Friday. He will retire at 4 p.m. that day.

A life-long Columbus resident, Neymeyer started working at the station as a youth of 16 in 1895. His first job was in the baggage department where he worked in every type of job – clerk, checkman, cashier and assistant baggage agent – until 1917 when he became baggage agent. He remained in that position until his appointment to his present post.

As station manager, Neymeyer is in full charge of the busy depot building. Close to 200 employees, including telegraphers, switch tenders, power house workers, janitors, red caps and gatemen are under his supervision.

He's responsible for arranging the track arrival and departures of approximately 115 trains which enter and leave the station each 24 hours and must see that "101 things" run on a clock-like schedule.

"There's something different all the time. I love the work," remarked the veteran whose career embraces four wartime periods – the Spanish-American War, Mexican War and both World War I and World War II.

During wars, civilians are noticeably different than in peace time, he observed. This was true especially during the last war. The average traveler seemed more excited, on more of a tension than at any time before. This he believes may be because of the scope of the latest war.

Many improvements in railroad service have occurred since Neymeyer started at the station. Transportation is speedier, he observed, but the biggest improvement has been in accommodations and comfort. Air conditioning, sleeping facilities, dining facilities, all have been inaugurated in his span of work time.

Bidding Neymeyer good wishes when he leaves his office will be many co-workers. They are planning a little surprise ceremony. And what will he do in retirement? Travel?

"No, just take things easy. There's just my wife and I. I'll take care of the garden and flowers and just loaf."