

September 11, 2001 - A Day to Remember

Interview with Pat Casey

Q: Why were you in New York on business during the September 11th crisis?

A: I was at the National Association for Business Economics annual meeting. I'm a member of NABE, which is an organization of economic forecasters for corporations and governments. I'm happy to have learned earlier this week that all of NABE's members who were in New York survived the attack.



Q: Where were you in relation to the World Trade Center Towers?

A: I was at the Marriott World Trade Center, which was right next to the South Tower. It was destroyed when the South Tower collapsed. Fortunately, I was on the first floor at a breakfast meeting. I'm sure glad I wasn't in my room sleeping.

Q: How did you learn exactly what had happened?

A: When the first plane hit, you could feel the jolt, and the chandeliers started to shake. It felt like an earthquake, but that didn't make sense in New York. People got up and out of the hotel pretty quickly. Even when we went outside, no one was sure what had happened – it could have been a fire, and explosion, a legitimate plane accident. Then we saw the second plane come in, and the sickening truth was quickly clear.

Q: Where did you go when you left the hotel?

A: I guess I'm lucky that my instincts were to get away from the buildings. I headed toward Battery Park, which is on the water, not too far from the World Trade Center. I saw the second plane come in from there, so there was even more urgency to get away from the

downtown area.

Q: Where were you when the Towers collapsed?

A: I kept walking north, and was near the Staten Island Ferry pier when the first building crumbled. The wind was carrying lots of dust and smoke in our direction. It was pretty heavy for about one-half hour. Once I got up to the Brooklyn Bridge, it started to clear up a little.

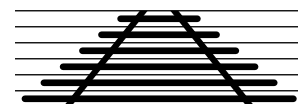
Q: How did you contact your wife?

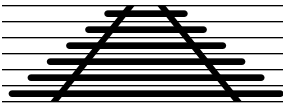
A: I was able to borrow a cell phone on the street almost right away to call home before Monica saw anything on TV. (One lesson learned – I'll never again leave my cell phone behind in my hotel room as I did that morning). However, it was a few hours before I got a chance to call again – during that time, the second plane hit and the buildings collapsed. I know everyone here was worried. I was able to call again around lunchtime from a pay phone. I'm so appreciative of the support Monica got from our neighbors and from TTX – Sandy Cerveney (Harold's wife) went to our house to stay with her, and Andy Reardon called several times to check on my family. That was a tremendous help.

Q: What did you do later that day and when did you return home?

A: The police were instructing everyone to get north, away from the financial district. I walked through Chinatown, then stopped in a little neighborhood pizza joint to get something to drink and watch the news on their TV. That's where I learned that both towers had

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collapsed and that the Pentagon had been attacked. From there, I went to a church that had opened its hall to those who escaped the attack - St. Mary's Church on the Lower East Side. I really appreciate that they took us in even as they were coping with thoughts of family and neighbors who worked in the Towers. At the church, I was able to call my wife again and start making plans for a place to stay and to get home. Luckily, we have friends who live in Manhattan near Central Park, and I was able to spend the night at their apartment.

The next day, I crossed the Hudson River on a ferry to Hoboken. John Spear from our FMO in Little Ferry, New Jersey met me, got me a

cell phone and took me to the airport in White Plains, north of New York, where I was able to rent a car. Thanks a million, John. I drove back to Chicago, getting home Thursday evening.

Q: How are you coping now?

A: I certainly feel blessed to have escaped in one piece. I'm doing well, and am happy to be back at home and work. Though I was closer to this than most, I know everyone shares the same shock and concern following this attack. While I'll always have the ugly memories of September 11, I will also remember many acts of kindness that day. There is certainly a deep sadness for those who were not so lucky as I. But I also have a determination to move ahead, do my job and play whatever part I can to meet the challenge our country faces.

Many other TTX employees were traveling on September 11th, here are a few stories of

The Trip back home....

Don Palmer and Frank Stec



Don Palmer and Frank Stec, TTX Engineering Department, were both in Laurel, MT to meet with the BNSF and MRL (Montana Rail Link). They learned about the first attack from Kevin

Haseman, Manager, FMO West, when getting into the car to drive to MRL offices. As the meeting progressed, BNSF personnel were relayed additional information about the incidents via their e-mail pagers. When Don and Frank learned that airlines would not fly until at least 12 noon on Wednesday, they first tried Amtrak only to find out that rail passenger service was also suspended. At that point, both decided to drive the 1200+ miles from Laurel, MT to Chicago since they were in possession of a rental car. They left at 1:00 PM Tuesday afternoon. They noticed the first of many flags at half mast around Miles City, MT. The first tank of gas was in Dickinson, ND and they found lines at all the gas stations. They later heard on the radio there were rumors the price of gas might get up to \$5 per gallon. One night was spent in Fargo, ND and they arrived in the Chicago

area around 5 PM on Wednesday. The trip was uneventful with very little traffic on the trip and it was almost lonely in North Dakota.

John Murray, Dick Dawson & Brad Taylor



John Murray and Dick Dawson of TTX New Car Engineering, along with Brad Taylor of Supply Management, were at the Hamburg shop in North Augusta, SC

on September 11. They were attending meetings regarding the 89' heavy-duty flat cars to be built there later this year. They had flown to Atlanta the previous day and driven from Atlanta to North Augusta. The plan was for Dick to return to Chicago on the afternoon of September 11, with John and Brad returning on September 13. Needless to say, that did not happen. All three left Hamburg in John's rental car during the afternoon of September 11. After stopping off at Chattanooga, TN overnight, they drove on to Chicago and arrived Wednesday evening.

... All TTX employees arrived home safely

