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Jake Rangitsch named "Truck Driver Emeritus" by the University today

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Missoula, March 31 --- Jake Rangitsch, a man whose laugh-wrinkled face and perpetual cigar are known to thousands of Montana State University students, was named "Truck Driver Emeritus" by the University today. After nearly 30 years of service, Rangitsch today climbed down from the cab of an MSU truck for the last time and retired from University service.

The document attesting to Jake's activity as a gear jammer at MSU cites his many years of faithful service to the University, names him "Truck Driver Emeritus," and endows him with the "Rights, privileges and duties appertaining thereto." The parchment was signed for the University by President H. K. Newburn and by Frederick Krieger, superintendent of buildings and grounds.

Rangitsch first worked at the University in 1933 as a hod carrier on the construction of the Student Union (now Fine Arts) building. When the building was finished, he stayed on as custodian for four years before transferring to the outside physical plant crew. Most of his service since 1939 has been as a campus truck driver, and in rolling up an average of 80 miles a week, he has become a familiar figure to MSU students.

Commenting on his retirement from University service, Jake said, "I'll miss the students and I'm grateful to them for their friendship and cooperation over the years."

Rangitsch was one of 45 survivors of the "lost battalion" in the World War I Battle of the Argonne Forest. He emerged alive from a five-day siege under German fire by masquerading as one of the dead.

Rangitsch resides with his wife at 1753 S. 14th St. W. They are the parents of three sons and four daughters. Their son Robert attended MSU.

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