

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY
ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Niles Project

Personal Experience

O H 1583

EDWARD KROK

Interviewed

by

Marcelle Wilson

on

October 21, 1994

EDWARD KROK

Edward William Krok was born on September 25, 1931 to Joseph and Theresa Panatz Krok. His parents met and married in Hungary and immigrated to the United States of America in the 1900's to join their family and friends and find work.

Mr Krok attended St Stephen's School and graduated in 1949 from Niles McKinley High School. He worked for a year at Mullin's Manufacturing in Niles before he entered the Navy in 1950. After his service in the Navy ended, he worked with his brother at Krok's Printing Service and also drove a school bus for St Stephen's School. In 1964, Mr Krok opened his own printing shop, Ed-Dee Printing, in Girard. He retired on July 4, 1993.

Edward Krok married Deloris Holmes on August 9, 1957. They have two sons, Scott, aged 27 and Todd, aged 26. Mr Krok enjoys his retirement. He likes to travel, meet with friends, and drive cars.

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YSU Niles Project

INTERVIEWEE EDWARD KROK
INTERVIEWER Marcelle Wilson
SUBJECT Life in Niles
DATE October 20, 1994

W This is an interview with Edward Krok for the Youngstown State University Oral History Program, on the Niles Project, by Marcelle Wilson, on October 20, 1994, at 825 Pinecrest, at 7 00

What was your childhood like in Niles?

K Do you want to know when I was born or from when I can remember?

W From when you can remember

K I can probably remember just a few things before grade school. We lived on the west side at 239 Emma Street. I was born on Emma Street in Niles. The first thing I can remember is my brother Lou. He was the one that was closest to me in age. I was the youngest of eight children. My parents had two daughters that died at birth and they had six boys left. They ranged from probably twenty years apart from the time that my oldest brother was born. So, I really didn't know him. He was an adult when I was born. My

nearest recollections would be of my brother Lou because he was still at home when I was growing up. My brother Dave was still at home. The other brothers had married and were gone by the time I was in grade school. Anyway, my brother Lou always stuck up for me. He babysat and always took care of me. He was the one that did all the things my mother would do. She would be doing housework and he'd take care of the other kids. Lou was the one that would babysit me. The neighbor lady took me for the first day of school.

W What school did you go to?

K I went to St. Stephen's for eight years. From there I went to McKinley High School for my last four years. I had lots of friends. The school was small. We had a lot of people that knew each other before we went to school. After we went to school we got pretty chummy. Some of the fellows I went to school with are still semi-friends. That is grade school. I see them occasionally. Most of my friends are gone. They've either moved out of the area or have died. Niles was real nice. It was kind of a small town. We lived on the west side and I got to know just about everybody on the west side. I delivered papers for the Youngstown Vindicator for probably four or five years. Grade school was really a great time when you look back. Grade school was a time when you had no problems. Everything was fine. We were poor. We didn't have too many things. Being the youngest of the family, it gave me the opportunity to get around town. Wherever we went, we were kind of known. From grade school I went through eight grades of school. I had a really nice childhood, I thought.

W How and when did the first members of your family come to Niles? What year was that, and who came here?

K I don't remember too much about that. One of my older brothers can tell you more about that. They did come from Hungary. At that time it was probably the early 1900's. The war was enveloping all the countries over there. My father and mother were caught up in the war. He was conscript. He was a brick mason and everybody was just sucked into the war. They needed man power. He knew his name was getting on the list so he ducked out and came to this country. He left my mother behind. He was over here for a while until he made enough money to send for her. My oldest brother was born over there. My mother and Joe made their way to the United States. Both my mother and my father had relatives over here already. They settled in New York. You probably remember the garment factories. Everybody worked there sewing and all that. My mother did that. She made piece work and goods. She did sewing. My father's brother came to work in Cleveland. His name was Krok, but I can't remember what his first name was. Anyway, he came to work in Cleveland. So my father came over and he got him a job out here. He worked in the Thomas Strip Mill to begin with. I don't know if they all came together or not. My father's brother, which would be my uncle, got him a job. That is how they settled on the east side of Niles, which at that time was where a lot

of immigrants came That was probably three or four blocks from the brick yard

W Do you mean the Niles Fire Brick yard?

K The Niles Fire Brick was where he eventually got a job and finished out his work there He worked there for years and years. It seemed to me he was always old When I grew up, he was old He worked there probably until he was 65

W What did he do at the fire brick?

K He was a common laborer and all they did was make fire brick They had large kilns in which they would load up the green brick and would fire the brick, a special silicone brick It was made to withstand high temperatures It was used in all areas where there was an intense heat from the blast furnaces and that type of thing Of course, this was a large steel making area There were a lot of blast furnaces that needed relined every so often There was quite a demand for the fire brick at that time

W What was your neighborhood like where you were growing up?

K I can remember when I was small there were only a few houses in the neighborhood We moved to the west side which was sparsely populated at that time I can remember there was a store on one corner about half a block away There was maybe two or three houses across the street My father had our house built It was built in an area that was kind of swampy at that time When they built the house there was very little excavation that had to be done They just built the foundation, the basement, and then from there the first and second floor The lot was low so we had truckloads of fill dirt brought At that time they had a lot of horse drawn companies who would bring loads and loads of clay pots These were made in a pottery That was close to our place The dishes were formed over molds When the molds cracked they were discarded and that is when they filled all the molds made out of clay They filled in the area and then got top soil so it was even with the street that way

W How many rooms were in your house?

K We had the basement, like every house at that time had We had three rooms upstairs There was a small pantry, a living room, dining room, and a large kitchen Upstairs we had three bedrooms and a bath It was a large house with a large attic When we were young we used to go up in the attic and play We even had a ping pong table up there My older brothers built a ping pong table up there and played ping pong At that time it was quite a large house Of course, we had a large family It seems like there was somebody always underfoot

W What type of heating did you have in your house?

K We started out with a coal furnace. It had to be coal fired and tended in the morning. You had to work the fires up from the night before. It was awful cold. In the upstairs there was only one register in the middle of the house, I believe. He would go up there and it would be pretty cool in the morning. We would all hurry to get downstairs in the big kitchen where it was warm. My mother was always cooking or baking or whatever. It was a coal furnace that was probably coal for years. We were of Hungarian decent. He would have what they would call a solona dish. He would take a chunk of bacon and spear it. He would take it and put it over the coals in the furnace. As it dripped, the bacon drippings would go on bread. This was called a solona dish. When we were kids it would be a treat for us. We did that every so often. It was coal fired until I was quite old. I would guess that when I was probably fifteen to eighteen years old we finally converted to a gas conversion furnace. It was like that when we left the house, I would guess, probably in the fifties and sixties. It was still gas converted.

W How many people were in your family at the time you lived in that house?

K We had six boys, and mother and father. Occasionally I remember my uncle [staying with us]. That would be my father's brother. He came to stay with us for a while. When we were young, it was just all of us boys. I can remember my father's brother from Cleveland coming down and staying with us. We had another gentleman that lived with us for a while. There was a woman who lived with us for a while. My mother was always taking in boarders. She thought that was the thing to do.

W What did you do for fun as you were growing up?

K I can remember that I loved to ride bicycles. I had a tricycle and I ran that around. I finally got my mother to get me a two wheel bike. I also played a lot of marbles for enjoyment. We had a marble league and a marble play-off. I can remember St. Stephen's school after school hours or recess. Everybody would have a sack of marbles. We had a ring in the dirt where we would try to knock each other's marbles out of the ring. If you hit somebody's marbles out of the ring it was yours. You would get a lot of marbles that way. Of course, if I lost my marbles, my older brother Lou would help. He was the marble champ of Niles. He would go out and win me a sack of marbles. So I always had marbles. I never had to worry about that.

Of course, we went to the nickel movies on Saturdays. Everybody looked forward to the nickel movies. They had a matinee with a string of cartoons, a little bit of news, and the movie. That was our Saturday afternoon. We had a playground down at the end of the street. The city of Niles itself had a series of playgrounds around the city. It was just down the street from our place. It opened at 10:00, I think. We had swings, sliding boards, and all that stuff when we were younger. As we got older we would have baseball teams that would play each other at each others playgrounds. Of course, in table tennis, my friend Pete--my dearest friend even now--was the ping-pong champion. He

was also the pitcher for our baseball team. They had a coloring contest and anything and everything to keep the kids occupied. I did that for years. That was a great summer.

In the winter, of course, we went sled riding around Hunter Street. On Hyde Street they had a big hill. Sometimes they would close it off when it got really icy. We would sled ride down the street. Other times we would go over there and a car would come only every half hour, so we had the streets to ourselves. You could do whatever you wanted. It was not like it is now.

W Who were some of the teachers you had in grade school? Who were some of your favorites?

K I wasn't too thrilled with school. I had nuns that taught me for my first eight years. Loid knows what their names are. If you probably recall, when you were young, nuns were mean. They made you tow the mark. I cannot remember any grade school teachers. I can remember Hugh Slogenhop in high school. He was an English teacher and I didn't like English.

W What high school did you go to?

K I went to Niles McKinley High School when it was over on the west side of town.

W What were some of your favorite subjects in school?

K I didn't like Math, English, Biology, or History, but I loved Printing. I took Printing as a subject for four years. It wasn't required but I took it as an extra subject all through high school. There was shop class, and naturally I always made things. There was recess. I enjoyed the manual type things. I really liked printing at that time. I don't now, but I did at that time. I really enjoyed shop class. I had an instructor whose last name was Strock. He was a laid back type of a guy. He took a liking to me. He made me his tool clerk that handed out all the tools during our class. Guys had to sign for them. I really enjoyed that. I made some projects. I used to like to make rings, and other little wooden things. I was always bringing wooden things home for my mother. I brought stools, hooks, plaques, things like that. I enjoyed radio and electricity with a year of draftsmanship. It was always done with my hands. I wasn't too thrilled with English. In high school we had a class play and I worked on the play. Two other guys and I made props. We made all the props they needed.

W When you were growing up did your family speak Hungarian? Did you have to learn English at school?

K My brother Joe came over and all he knew was Hungarian. He had a tough time. He had to learn English. All the rest of us spoke English. My mother and father both spoke Hungarian. My father never really did get to speak English too well. I can still speak

Hungarian I can make myself understood to the Hungarians I'm not very fluent in it I can hear and listen and understand it better than I can speak it Of course, I can't write it at all

W When you were in school did you go home for lunch or did you pack a lunch?

K All through school I went home for lunch, except during the war My mother was what they called a Blue Star Mother, I believe My brother Gay and my brother Dave were in the service

W Was this in World War II?

K Yes, World War II I was pretty young then It was in 1941 and ended in 1944 I can remember my mother--I believe it was on Wednesday--going to the basement of the post office to make bandages They took gauze and made bandages or whatever they were asked to do Generally, that was one of their projects They would make bandages She would be working that day so I wouldn't go home for lunch She would make me a sandwich I would go to Isley Dairy and get a milkshake That was my treat of the week I would get a milkshake and eat my sandwich at Isley Dairy I lived probably eight blocks from St Stephen's and probably eight blocks from the high school, too

W You walked to school?

K I walked home My mother would have my lunch ready Her wash day was Monday On wash day I would have a bowl of soup She would have soup made when I got home Of course, my father could not have a meal without soup He had to have soup first, so she would have soup I don't know which kind it was I can't remember There were different kinds It was usually a Hungarian type soup, like a creamy soup or something We had peanut butter sandwiches on some days, or whatever was around I went home for lunch every day In those days Daddy was master When he came home supper was ready and would be on the table for him The women really catered to the men in those days My parents and I had a really nice relationship My father liked to do his own things He didn't do too much with the kids My mother was the one that really raised us She taught us everything My father was a really hard working guy Those guys worked sun up to sun down We always had a big garden out back He'd be out working in the garden all summer long raising things My mother would can When I look back we were very poor I never knew it at the time When you're a kid, you are a kid

W All your needs were met

K I could have had a lot more, but you did with what you had You made your own good time.

W How many of your family members completed high school?

K That is a good question I know my brother Lou, next to me, didn't [complete high school] I am the baby of the family I am the youngest so my brother Lou would be next to me I know he didn't He was worse than I was He didn't like any subjects He liked to run around I would guess my brother Joe had a tough time. I think he is the oldest My brother Joe probably graduated My brother Dave was next I'm sure he graduated Gay, I know he graduated John, I'm not too sure about John because he left home and went to Buffalo I don't think he graduated There was Joe, Dave, Gay, John, Lou, and myself Out of the six boys probably four of us graduated

W Did any of you go to college?

K No

W Was that done back then?

K No, nobody went to college There was no service We had so many kids in the family that everybody worked My oldest brother Joe worked and he brought his paycheck home and gave it to my mother Dave was the same way He worked and brought his paycheck home Everybody that worked brought that money home We had to have that money to live on

W What did they do? What kind of jobs did they have?

K Starting with the oldest, Joe, he worked in a steel mill He worked at Niles Steel Products By the way, he asked me at the dinner, "How come she doesn't want to know about the Niles Steel Products?" (laughter)

W I'm talking to him I'm talking to everybody from Niles

K I said, "She's doing a paper on the fire brick company " Anyway, he worked at Niles Steel Products My brother Dave worked at the Youngstown Steel Car that was over on our side of town Lord knows what he did there I believe he x-rayed steel He was the biggest B S there was He was a nice guy Gay was a printer John was great at art He could draw anything and everything He had exquisite penmanship, but he printed every letter When he wrote us a letter from Buffalo it would always be printed I would read those and would wonder how in the world he ever wrote a letter that long I got to know him later in life because I went up and stayed with him for a while I found out he was quite a guy

He ended up working in a company in Buffalo He was a draftsman He would also draw buildings He was a draftsman, but he worked at a place that made stainless steel things for the milking of cows He would draw up the plans and things to make this

stuff. Have you heard of the Love Canal in Buffalo? I can't remember the name of the company that did that. He worked with them and he was designing ways of trying to use up waste material instead of burying them. He was in the business of drawing the things they had, doing draft work. I guess they had so much waste material that they buried in the canal and poisoned everything. Lou worked at the Fire Brick for a while. He had a lot of jobs. He ended his career as a ladle crane operator at Youngstown Sheet and Tube, I believe. I was in printing when I got out of the service. I went to printing with my brother Gay. I ended up where I'm at now, retired. We all are.

W Did you have a business in Niles?

K Yes, my brother Gay had a business in Niles. It's still operating. His son is running it. I worked with him. When I got out of the service he asked me if I'd like to come and work for him. That was in 1954 or 1955. I worked with him probably for ten years. At the time that I worked for him for ten years I drove the St. Stephen's school bus for ten years. I used to do the morning run, pick up all the kids. Then I'd go over to work in the print shop. I worked pretty hard when I first got out of the service. I also worked at Mullin's Manufacturing. That is where I went into the service from.

W You went into the Navy?

K Yes, I went into the Navy from Mullin's Manufacturing. I was a paper boy. From the paper boy I went to work at the Five and Ten with my buddy Pete. We worked there a couple years. The guys didn't want to give us a raise, so from there I went to work at A&P because they paid fifteen more cents an hour. That was all during school years.

W How much were you making back then?

K We were making 65 cents an hour at the Five and Ten in Niles. I take that back. We were making 50 cents an hour. I asked for a raise. He didn't want to give Pete and I a raise. I found this job. A couple other of my buddies were working there and they were paying 75 cents an hour so I went and told this Mr. Smootz, my boss at the Five and Ten. I said, "I have to leave. I have to get more money." So he offered me 65 cents an hour. For that lousy dime I went to work at the other place. (laughter) This was all in high school. We were only working twenty, twenty five hours a week.

I had a car and I had to keep it. All the guys rode with me to work. We worked up in Warren. We ran up the back way to Warren. We worked a lot of hours. Then I graduated and got a job working at Mullin's Manufacturing through a friend. There they made kitchen sinks, Youngstown Kitchen Sinks. I drove a fork truck in the press room for probably a year before I went into the service. I went right after school. When the Korean War broke out, I enlisted. I shipped and made a lot of different kind of sinks. They were steel sinks. I should not say sinks. They were steel kitchens. They were manufactured kitchens. We made upper and lower cabinets. That was all from scratch.

The steel used to come in one end of the mill and go out as a finished product, a nice gleaming white sink and cabinet. Of course, later on we had to compete and made them in different colors. I don't know what question you asked me (laughter) Was it about where I worked? From Mullin's I went to the service. When I got out of the service I started with my brother. He needed somebody to help him out. I started with him and I liked printing because I took four years in high school. I went to work with him and I worked with him for quite a while. I met my wife Deloris, a girlfriend at the time. We married and somehow bought a house that had an extra room. I got into my own printing business. That took care of the rest of my life. I printed from then on. I'm not printing now and I really enjoy it (laughter)

W But you're still working

K I really like what I'm doing

W What kind of car did you have?

K My first car was a 1927 Essex. You are too young to remember that

W How much did you pay for a gallon of gas?

K It was a 1927, but it wasn't an Essex. I take that back. They didn't make the Essex then. What kind of a car was that? I think it was either a Dodge or a real piece of junk. I paid \$50.00 for it. I ran around town and a guy ran into me with a motor scooter. My first time with my mother we were going up Robbins Avenue and I made a left hand turn and he ran into the side of me. He couldn't stop his scooter. From there the service came along and they quit making cars. They were making tanks. I had to wait. I bought a 1941 during the service. It was a used car. It wasn't too good. It was really rusty. I can remember the whole trunk being rusted out. I bought that. I drove that for a while until I went to the service and came home.

My brother Lou went with me and we bought a Pontiac, a 1949 Pontiac. I bought a new 1950 Chevy. The day I bought it the guy ran into the door on that one. Isn't that something, a brand new car? We went out that night and a guy opened his door and busted up my door. I can't remember what the next one was that I got. I can remember when we got married. We bought a big Pontiac. Anyway, we went to Arizona in the Pontiac. We made two trips out there. The first trip we made out there was with my father-in-law's car. We weren't married. I had to sleep with him all the time which was bad news (laughter). The second trip was taken a couple years later after we were married and we took them. They came with us and we had this big old Pontiac. Anyway, we had this big Pontiac and made one more trip out with that one. We were married at the time. I think we got married in 1957.

W What did you do when you were in the service?

K When I first went there were 120 guys There were 60 in each company Eleven of us went to Washington, D C My trusty old buddy Pete enlisted with me and we went to Washington together He went to work for a civilian doing procuring He was a storekeeper in the service He worked under a civilian I went to the motorpool I think there were two or three of us at the motorpool Two or three of us went where Pete went, which was the store A couple guys went to be a ceremonial guard If somebody would die, or there was a celebration, the ceremonial guard would parade and do all that stuff You still see them in the service I went to the motorpool They started driving what they called a Sedan You went out and you had a truck license, and a small truck Then you went for a two and a half ton truck, or a five-ton truck From the five-ton truck you would either go drive a semi or a bus I ended up driving a bus for two years I was in for four years For the first two years they would transfer you You would spend two years on shore and two or more years at sea on a ship

They transferred us out and put us on a ship I went on the U.S.S. William R. Rush I don't know how, but I got to make steam on it I went from driving to making steam I was a boilermaker I worked two years on the Willie R. Rush We traveled all around They would have a cruise You would go for so long and come back to the states The first cruise was to Cuba We came back from there We were only home for a month and then we went to the Mediterranean We saw all the countries in the Mediterranean We saw Gibraltar, Spain, Sardinia, Greece, Cyprus, and the French Riviera, which was hard to take! [We saw] Italy, and all the countries that lied in the Northern Mediterranean We stayed out there and did maneuvers in the ocean We went back to the states and then we were sent on a goodwill cruise We went to Ireland and England

We were in Mobile, Alabama, for the Mardi Gras that year, which was nice We had open ship and all the people would come aboard You would show them around To me it was real interesting I enjoyed that kind of thing I didn't like the job I was doing I made steam for probably the first year and a half I was on The last six months they needed somebody to be on shore patrol So the last six months in the service I was on permanent shore patrol You would work one day, and you were off one day That was on shore I enjoyed everything I did and I still do If I do anything I try to get the enjoyment out of it that I can

W Tell me the story about the bricks that lined the furnace

K We were on the ship making steam When you make steam, of course, you have to have a fire and a boiler We tended boilers We had a casualty, which they would call an accident We had a casualty in a boiler, which was either high water, low water, or a leak We secured the boiler, shut it down and let it cool off a little bit That evening we took off the manhole covers There were four covers on the bottom of the boiler that you would take off They were just big enough for a man to crawl in We took one of the manhole covers, the easiest one that was accessible We crawled inside to check the

tubes that were in there. Low and behold while I was in there with my trusty emergency light I was looking at all these bricks to see if they had fallen in. What do I see, Niles Fire Brick, Niles Fire Brick, probably repeated a thousand times or more. All these bricks were made in Niles, then hauled to some Navy yard, and the boilers were lined with what they called this refractory type brick. These were super heated boilers. The regular temperature would go up around 600 degrees. Then we would have a super heater on the other side that would raise it to, I think, two thousand degrees. The super heat would make the ship supposedly go faster. That is very dangerous. If it ever let go, it would eat you up.

All those boilers were lined with Niles Fire Brick. Marcy picked out a good thing to make. That brick traveled all over. I can remember my father working. They would have big carloads. I don't mean carloads like a car. I mean a loaded railroad car. Carloads of material came in there and they had large dome kilns. When they were cool they would take all this green brick and stack it as high as you could reach. It was high. You would have to go up ladders and pile it. Of course, they couldn't touch each other. They had to have space between them for the heat to go. They all had to be hand placed in there. They had special guys [who did nothing but] stack this brick up. They would start a fire and the heat, but I don't know how it was worked.

They had a chimney type thing. The heat would go and end up through this kiln. This stuff would get red hot, cherry hot. You could see it. The bricks in there would be cherry hot. They had peep holes. The temperature would have to be at a certain degree for so long, so many days. Then they had to let it cool off at a certain rate. Whoever developed this system to make this brick was something. I would guess maybe every two weeks they would put the bricks in, build the fire, bring it up to a certain timed temperature for so long, then let it cool off so it wouldn't crack. There was a science to it. They were good at it. That's why these bricks were used. There was a special mixture of sand or whatever they used. It was all a specific process. Anyway, this brick was used all over the world. It was a real specialty type brick. Not everybody made it.

W Did your family ever live in company housing from the brick yard?

K I don't believe. With the little house they lived in, they lived behind another house. It was just a little house. I don't think that was company housing. They had some company housing, but it was right close to the fire brick.

W Where did your family go to church?

K St. Stephen's in Niles.

W Who was your minister?

K I can remember Father Roach. That is the only one I can remember.

W Where was St Stephen's located? Is it in the same place?

K It's still there It is on West Park and I would guess on Arlington

W How long did your family attend that church?

K From the time I was born In fact, my mother even supported that church when she was in Youngstown It was after my father had passed on

W Did they do things for the church, such as volunteer work?

K Oh yes There is another case My father couldn't do too much He worked all the time My mother belonged to the Rosary Society, the Ladies Society They used to be like mourners If anybody died, all these women would show up and cry at the funeral She worked in the cafeteria in later years My mother was a volunteer She liked to do all that volunteer stuff

W What were your favorite things to do when you were young?

K [My favorite activity was to] ride a bicycle

W Did you get in trouble much?

K I was in trouble once (laughter)

W I don't mean to embarrass you

K I didn't go to jail

W No (laughter) I mean did you do childish pranks, or steal tomatoes from people's gardens?

K Yes, you get my buddy Pete over here Yes, we used to steal the Strock's grapes We used to go and get tomatoes from the guys we didn't like We would go in somebody's garden It was normal kid's stuff I guess

W What kind of chores did you do while you were growing up?

K Chores? I used to have to sing for my mother (laughter) Every Saturday she made me sing She wanted me to learn Hungarian songs "Az a szep, az a szep, akinek a szeme kek (The person who's eyes are blue is beautiful, is beautiful) (laughter) Anyway, I used to have to sing songs for them She thought I was the greatest singer in the world, just like Mrs Krok This was just like Delores who thought that Scot was going to be the best

pianist in the world (laughter) Anyway, that was my chore I'd have to sing for her on Saturday mornings My job was dusting I used to have to dust Saturday was my day to run around the house dusting (laughter) After that five minutes was over (laughter) She was a stickler She knew I didn't like to do it She would yell, "Edward!" I would say, "Okay, Mom I have to go here " "Here is the rung " "There is the rag " "Here is the dust cloth " "Okay Mom," I would say She would be upstairs working (he snores) My mother and I had a very good relationship She made me do a lot of things I didn't want to do

W Did your family run or own a business besides your father's job at the brick yard?

K No My mother took in ironing It seemed like we never had any money I thought we were living pretty decently My mother would take in a boarder, and she would do ironing She was always ready to help anybody anywhere do anything

W How much did she charge a boarder?

K I have no idea, but I would guess maybe twenty dollars a week

W Did she do all his laundry?

K No

W Did she make him dinner or anything?

K I can remember this guy before I went to the service We didn't have a boarder and I went to the service and she took this guy in He took my room I didn't appreciate that, but hey He took my garage where I kept my car I wasn't home I was gone Now that I look back on it I thought that it was an imposition Anyway, he had his section of the refrigerator that he would keep his milk or whatever he needed He ate out most of the time I can't remember why he even lived with us He was a nice, quiet guy He never bothered anybody In the morning he was gone He was not the boarder type to sit with the family and eat with the family He never did that He just lived there and had a sleeping room I guess you could call it Mrs Quigly lived there after Delores and I got married She took in this older lady, Mrs Quigly Her son was a fireman in town I think that is how they got hooked up together She was a real nice lady She was a little weird, but a real nice lady She had the same room that he had

W Was this your room?

K Yes, my room (laughter) My brother Lou and I lived in that room until he left and I got the whole room to myself I shouldn't say a boarder He'd take food with him sometimes upstairs Most of the time he was either in his room or he was gone He didn't sit and

watch television with us or any of that. He just slept there.

W Did you listen to the radio a lot as you were growing up?

K Yes. I can remember my brother Joe bought a new radio, a table model radio. It was a Zenith Hypodermic and all that fancy stuff they had. It had a couple little buttons on top where you could make the sound different with bass and treble. They would play with that.

W Did you listen to mainly music or old time radio shows?

K Yes, old time radio shows. Innersanctum was my favorite show.

W I listen to them now. I get them.

K You get Innersanctum?

W I listen to the Green Hornet.

K Yes, they had Green Hornet. Sunday night was a big night for radio. We used to sit around the radio just like people sit around the television now. We would sit and listen to the radio. [There was] Amos and Andy and Jack Benny.

W There was also George Burns.

K George Burns, Gracie Allen. My favorites were the mystery shows. I enjoyed those. I love a mystery, and a couple others. They played the song that they played at the beginning, and we would turn the lights down. It was spooky. We had a brand new radio. I can remember bringing that in and we didn't even know where we were going to put it. I think it was my brother Lou who made a stand for it to put on. It had places on both sides where you could put newspapers and books. In the middle you could put albums and what not. Above that sat the radio.

W What year was it that you got the Zenith?

K I was little. I'll bet you I was probably somewhere around seven years old. You'll have to figure that out. I'm 63 now. Do your math over there and you'll figure out how long ago it was. It was a long time ago. I think it had to be in the late 1930's. It had to be late, 1936, 1937.

W When you were growing up were you conscious of the depression?

K No, I was not.

W Was it because you were so little?

K I was born in 1931 on September 25 That was like two years before the depression was over I didn't know about it My older brothers did Of course, nobody worked in our family Somehow they knew somebody This is a story that you'll get from my brother, probably. I'll tell it to you Maybe you could remind him of it They got in cahoots with a guy that had some property, who was a farmer They planted this whole field of onions The whole family worked, planting, cultivating, and raising the onions There was a percentage given to the guy that owned the field The rest of them we got to keep to sell and we kept the money When I was little my mother used to carry me around the field I don't remember That's what I was told That's got to be in 1931, 1932, 1933, maybe It was tough I know it hit our family

My father would go to work At that time you didn't have a job You went to a place and stood around in the morning in a work pool They had a pool of men If they needed ten to work that day they would take ten of these guys They would take you in to work and everybody else went home This is the way my father did it I can remember that he worked like that at the Fire Brick He would go out every morning If he didn't come home by 10 00 or 11 00 a m my mother would pack him a lunch and one of the kids would run the lunch down to him because you knew he was going to be working for the day He wouldn't bother taking a lunch with him until he knew It was tough I didn't have to do any of that stuff

W Did anyone in your family belong to a local social club or a fraternity like the Eagles or the Elks, Sons of Hungary?

K They had social clubs in that day, but they were segregated to a degree by nationalities They had a Hungarian Club, a Bagnoli Club, the Irish, the English Whoever they were they had their own group they would hang around They spoke the same language That is the way it should have been Ours was the same way They had a Hungarian Club We just kind of revolved around all the friends and people that worked there or were members of the organization Of course they had Knights of Columbus, the Catholics He [Gay] was pretty active in the Knights of Columbus and he still is to this day He's been in the legion, and he's been commander of the American Legion in Niles He's been in all those He's really an organizational type of guy He did all that stuff He always held an office Boy Scouts were big in his career My father was happy to go to work in the morning He made wine every fall He'd go to work and he'd have his shot and a beer on the way home, and a glass of wine when he got home He worked in the garden until dark, then he would go to bed, and go to work in the morning They worked ten to twelve hour days They didn't have much and they worked six days a week They didn't have much time to do anything else If you were a business man you belonged to all these organizations My father never did

W Did he work a full day on a Saturday?

K He worked full days on Saturdays. They worked 48 hours in those days. They had to work longer, too. Once they started firing up those kilns he would shovel coal for twelve hours and the next guy would shovel coal for twelve hours. They went around the clock. He was a little shrimp. He was just a little guy. How he did all this work, I'll never know. Those guys never had time to protest or demonstrate. They worked all the time.

W Did you ever take a family vacation?

K Do you mean all of us?

W Yes, or some of you.

K [We did not go on] a vacation. For a treat once a year, we would go to a family named Fox. He was a farmer and we'd go visit him a couple times a year. That was a farm. They had animals, horses, cows, pigs, and dogs. Being city folks, that was great. We did that a couple times a year. Then we would go up to Cleveland and see my father's relatives. My biggest thrill was going to New Jersey to see my aunt, my mother's sister. She had a chicken farm. To me, that was my place. When I got older she would put me on a train. I would beg and beg and beg. She would stick me on a train. I would go by myself to Port Jervis, New Jersey, and stay with my aunt for a month or so and help out up there. That was my thrill. As far as family goes I don't think we could get everybody together at the same time.

W What was your aunt's name?

K My aunt's name was Elizabeth Staudt. As I said before they were all in the garment factory together. She met this guy and married him. He was a farmer and they moved out and bought this place out in New Jersey, Port Jervis. It was a farm, and very poor as far as the ground goes. They had a mountain on one side and had a little piece of the ground going up the mountain. They were close to the top of the mountain. There wasn't much topsoil. You could hardly grow anything. They had a little garden. They ended up raising chickens. They raised the chickens for the eggs, not the meat. They had a poultry farm.

W They would sell them at a country stand?

K No, they would sell it to a co-op. The oldest son John would go in every Friday. They had what they called an egg route. He would go in to New Jersey which is about 50 miles down the road. He would go with a truck full of eggs and he would sell. He had a route and he would sell five dozen here, ten dozen there. Then he would go to a store and the store would buy cracked eggs. No, it was not a store. It was a restaurant because they

would get them for half price. They would be cracked, but they would be good. They were fresh. They were cracked so, "Do you want scrambled eggs?" "Sure." He had his route.

My aunt and her husband started the farm. He died pretty young. We called her Aunt Betty. She had two sons and a daughter. They ran the farm together and they worked hard. I loved it there. That was next to heaven for me. We used to go out and work in the morning, and get our chores done. We would collect eggs twice a day, at 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 or 6:00 in the afternoon. We would work and our break time was around 3:00 in the afternoon. We would all go to the house. They had a big freezer in the basement. In the freezer they had ice cream. Their treat was ice cream. They didn't drink. They didn't do anything. Their treat was ice cream and soda water. They had those fizz bottles that you pushed the handle down. John went in to take the eggs, and he would always bring a case of soda water back with him. That was our treat. We would make sundaes with nuts. The strawberries would be fresh, and the blueberries would be fresh. What a treat that was. When I was a kid and we never got anything like that at home. They had a real nice farm there. I loved it there. My mother would let me go out just about every summer. I probably did that for five summers until I got older.

W: What was a typical meal like when you were at home growing up?

K: We had Soup. Are we talking about the dinner meal?

W: Yes.

K: At every supper the evening meal had to start with soup. My father would have his hot peppers, hot seeds or whatever. He would slice some of those Hungarian hot peppers, just a few slices in there. He started his soup. He would just bust out in a sweat. "This soup sure is good today." We had bean soup, green bean, or whatever was in the garden. We had chicken noodle, which you had every Sunday. My mother made the homemade noodles. She always made homemade soups. There would be real chicken and there would be some kind of Goulash. You would just throw it in the pot. Everything was cooked in the whole pot. "What a big pot. It needs some rhubarb. No, it needs some of that!" What do you call those big, gobby noodles?

W: I'm thinking of galuska.

K: No, something like that. I'll think of it. We had a lot of chicken, meat loaf, and roast beef. I never had roast beef until I went to a friend's house. He gave me a slice. It was cold roast beef. "What the hell is this? Man, is that good!" We have imitation food at our house all the time. (laughter) It was a typical meal. It would start with soup. She didn't make salad. We didn't have salad. She would have beans or corn on the side plus some goulash. When I was growing up I insisted that I would have something a little different. She would make hamburgers once in a while or those little chopped up cube steaks. We

had a lot of those

W Who was present when you had your meal? Was it everybody? Did everybody eat when your father came home?

K When I was young everybody at home would be there. My father, my mother, myself, and my brother Lou were the ones I would remember. On Sunday everybody had a big meal. Sunday was a must meal. Everybody was there. Even after my brothers got married they used to come. She would make a big chicken. Stuffed cabbage was one of the great meals that we had. Toted Cabusta, that is what it was called, or stuffed cabbage. Sunday was the big meal. During the week it was come and go, just like at our house. Sometimes you're here and sometimes you're not. You didn't go out to eat. Nobody had any money. You ate whatever was on the table.

W Were there many restaurants when you were growing up?

K No. There was no McDonald's. Our fast food was the Isley Dairy. You go in there and you wait a half hour for a hamburger. They didn't have too many restaurants like today. Of course, we couldn't afford it so I didn't know if there were any restaurants or not. There was no 422 at the Strip that had twenty motels and twenty restaurants and assortments of different kinds of food. A lot of people when they traveled stopped at a place. Motels were unheard of because there were no cars, or there were very few cars. You would have hotels. If you went to a town you would stay at a hotel and have your meals at a hotel. As far as traveling, the American public didn't get mobile until the fifties. I think that is when it started moving. There were no restaurants. They had corner dairies. If you remember the ice cream stores where they had the white tables and wire chairs, soda fountains and that type of thing. There were those kinds of places we had. They were not something where you could sit down and have a big meal.

W What did your family do to celebrate a birthday?

K I remember birthdays when we were small, in grade school. Your family would have some of the neighbor kids over and you would have cake and ice cream. I don't remember any birthdays when I grew older. I maybe went with my friends somewhere in my teenage years.

W What did you do for holidays like Christmas? Did you have certain traditions that your mother followed?

K Yes. Mom would make Bob-by-ka and we had it one time a year.

W What's that? (laughter) I don't have any clue.

K: I can't tell you (laughter) It was like a treat that was served at Christmas time There was one at Easter time At Easter time she used to make certain ethnic type foods that were associated with holidays Naturally, all the families would get together She would make Goulash Especially Toted Cabusta, or stuffed cabbage She would make gallons and gallons of that stuff There was a lot of roast chicken, stewed chicken, and chicken made in the soup My mother used to send me down for soup bones Every Saturday would be my chore to go down and mooch up some soup bones from some meat market somewhere just to make soup We would get the big knuckle or something out of a cow You used to just go ask for it

W: Would they just give it to you?

K: After a while they would start charging you a dime (laughter) "Go down and find some soup bones " "Okay " I'd run down and get some soup bones or some chicken necks and legs All that stuff went in soup It made that soup greasy and nice, and good We belonged to St Stephen's church and Christmas was a big occasion Easter was the big rise again service Holidays were celebrated with just special items you would make, little gift items you would get each other I can remember togetherness, and that our brothers would all be together I can remember one Christmas if you want to hear about it

W: I would like that

K: December 7, 1941 was the day that the Japanese dropped the bombs on Hawaii So my brother Dave was having his normal women trouble I think he was ready to drop one, get rid of one, or hide Anyway, I can remember he joined the Air Force He was to leave shortly after Christmas On December 7 he had joined between the fall of 1941 I can remember him on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day The closest I've ever been to my brother Dave was that night The tree was up, the presents were there and I got stuff for Christmas He was on the floor playing with me and we were coloring and playing games Now it seems like he was with me forever, like he spent hours with me I would see him coming in one door and going out the other He was a ladies man He had all these girls after him all the time He purposely took time to spend, it seemed like, hours with me The next day he went in the service I think he was kind of getting to know his brother that year or whatever That is one of my fondest memories of my childhood was when he went to the service, which would be in 1941 That made me ten years' old I was just at the age when I started reading

W: What type of transportation did you use as you were growing up? Was it mainly walking?

K: It was walking My brother Joe bought a car. When we would go somewhere, we would all pile with him He's the only one that ever had any money He's my oldest brother

He was the one that they made sure had a car, but he had to take care of the family. They made sure he did this. The oldest son's chore was always that.

W What happened when a family member died? Do you remember anyone dying?

K The first one I could really remember dying was my brother John, probably. I think my father died first. It was traumatic. That was another one of my experiences, too. He had sugar diabetes. He was pretty sick toward the end of his life. He would have been in his seventies. I had a real nice talk with him two days before he died. We lived across the street and I was over at the house. It seemed like we talked for hours. Then, of course, two days later they took him to the hospital. That time he died. He was in the hospital two or three times.

W As you were growing up, did you have friends whose funerals were in a home?

K Yes, I can remember those. I went to a lot of those. There was none in our house. We had two sisters that died. They were probably in the house. I wasn't around. I can remember that you would have a living room and they would take all the furniture out of that room or push it up against the wall or something. They put the casket on the one side. The person would be in it. You could not keep it very long. You couldn't keep it for more than three days. A couple days, I think, was the most you could keep it. They didn't have the embalming stuff. They had them in the house. They would bring the casket in.

I don't know, but I would guess the person was taken to the funeral home, embalmed and put in the box, and brought back. By the time they would come back your living room would be ready for a place to set it. The mourners would come in and the ladies would all cry and the guys would all drink. They would have a good time. Children were present, but they were shunned, and pushed aside. That wasn't a fun time. We would be out playing instead. That and a lot of old things. They had street cars. I rode street cars.

W How much was it to ride a street car?

K It was very little, maybe a few pennies. They had those buses that were just like street cars. They had electric wires overhead and the bus was on wheels. The guy could drive anywhere he wanted as long as he was under that wire. The thing would touch the wire. They had milkmen. There was a horse drawn milk wagon, the Sanitary Dairy in Warren. A guy would come along. The horse new the route. A guy would jump off at our house, run in, dump the milk on the front porch or wherever he put it, pick up the empty bottles, run back and jump in. The horse would be plodding along. He would be going to the next house. The guy would catch him. He could holler at him, "Whoa!," if he had to stay. The horse would stop. He would run back out and away they would go. We didn't have refrigerators. A guy used to bring ice. You had a little card you used to hang in the

window There was four sections on the card I think there was like ten pounds, 25 pounds, 50 pounds, whatever You would have ice you needed that day You turned that up If you wanted ten pounds he brought in a ten-pound chunk He would come right in the house and put it in your box and close the door You paid your nickel or dime for it and away he went Your rag man used to come on a little horse cart

W What is a rag man?

K He used to take rags They would recycle rags

W Would you just give them to him? Did he pay you, or did you pay him?

K You would get five cents If you had a room this big you got a nickel for it He used to take rags I can't remember if they took cans He used to pick up junk

W My mom remembered a rag and a bone man during the war or the depression

K He recycled at that time You think recycling is new (laughter) We used to recycle all that stuff All the metal was taken back We didn't have aluminum or anything like that That was an exotic type of thing You had steel Everything was made out of steel They used to recycle all that stuff He would come down the road singing, "Hey, raglan, hey!" Then a Tony Matash up here used to come around selling fruit His father had a cart This guy had a truck This guy would come around selling fruit He would come down and on a certain day he would be there You knew he was coming You bought your fruit from him You did not have to go in town Once a year we would buy half a pig We would go out to a farm and kill a pig Sometimes we would get a full one Most of the time we got half I would come home from school and there would be a pig down the cellar (laughter) They would take it out on the farm, shoot it and then gut it They would take the fur or fetters off of it out there and bring it in to him

Two of them would go out and buy a pig between them He would get those knives and sharpen them all up He would come home from work and trim that sucker all up He would just cut it all to pieces I don't think he knew what he was doing, but he got at it A couple glasses of wine in him and he and his buddy would go at it, chop it and cut it all up We had no refrigeration so it had to be made into sausage, smoked or salted They smoked everything They had this smoke house you put together and built a fire in there The smoke would go up through there It was my job to keep that smoking during the day while he was working One day I got a big old fire going in there and I cooked it (laughter) I didn't smoke it, I cooked it (laughter) Boy, he was mad at me "Hey dad, we can eat it "

W That would preserve it for the year?

K For the winter That would be our meat supply for the winter

W Would you keep it in the basement because it was cold down there?

K We had a cold cellar. If it was smoked you could keep it anywhere. We would usually hang it in the garage or somewhere where the animals could not get at it. I remember the hams and the sausage, and I can remember drying sausage. We had a sausage stuffer. My mother could do anything. She would clean the casings and she would make the sausage. That would last most of the winter. We would buy it from this guy named Fox. We used to get it from him. He got to the point where he couldn't farm anymore.

W What did things cost when you were growing up, like a cup of coffee?

K Pepsi-Cola hits the spot (singing) Twelve full ounces, that's a lot (singing) There is a nickel in there somewhere. I can't remember where it is (laughter) It was a nickel for the bottle of Pepsi. Twice as much for a nickel, too (singing) Pepsi-Cola is the drink for you (singing) That was a nickel a bottle. They had coke machines. I can remember my mother sent me to the store for a loaf of bread and a jug of milk. I was cutting through the back yards and I lost a dime. I looked for an hour for that dime. I came home and said, "Mom, I can't buy the bread and milk. I lost the money." We all went out looking for it. There were big old weeds. I said, "Mom, you'll never find it. I was running through these weeds and it slipped out of my hand." That was a nickel. She gave me a dime for a loaf of bread and a thing of milk. That was a hard dime to lose. You only made two or three dollars a week. I think my brother Lou worked at the brick yard for ten dollars a week. I don't know how many days he worked. He will tell you.

I worked at Mullen's for a buck and a quarter an hour making those sinks when I first started there. That was a step up from my 75-cent job. They kept going up. I went to the service and I came back from the service. They were making pretty good money then. I went back and worked there. I worked the afternoon turn there. I served my printing apprenticeship in the morning with my brother. I worked from 8:00 in the morning until 3:00 in the afternoon. At 4:00 p.m. I started at Mullin's and worked until 11:00 or 11:30 at night. I did that for about a year, I guess. There was not too much night life for me when I got out. It was just on the weekends.

W How much was a gallon of gasoline?

K We used to get \$2.00 worth. You could fill a tank on \$2.00. They wanted you to buy \$2.00 worth because you got a free glass. We used to go from Niles and drive to Warren to this little gas station. You would buy \$2.00 of gas and they would give you a glass. I used to buy enough gas to get my mother enough glasses to serve a family. They were always premiums. We used to get stamps for so much gas or so much oil. You would save your stamps.

I think this was kind of a special during the World War II. You had stamps to buy gas, and you had stamps to buy food like butter. They would have stamps for butter.

Gasoline was a real commodity, and so were tires. You were only allowed to buy so much. Stamps controlled it. Of course, with saving stamps you could buy savings bonds to pay for the war. They broke it down so the school kids could buy a stamp for a dime, I think. You saved up so many stamps you could trade it in for a U S Savings Bond. After that they started having green stamps. No matter where you bought something they gave you green stamps. You would get ten stamps for every buck you spent. You pasted them in a book. When you got done each book was worth three bucks.

W: Would you get three dollars or would you get the credit?

K: You would get merchandise from the green stamp company. They were S & H Green Stamps. You probably don't remember those.

W: No.

K: There was S & H Green Stamps, and of course they had a competitor come out with a different stamp. Every book that you had was worth three bucks. You saved that three bucks and you could buy premiums from a catalog. At a couple places they had stores in the area, but I think the nearest was New Castle, where you could go and pick out stuff.

W: When you went to the local store did they give you credit? Did neighborhood people buy things on credit?

K: They would give you credit, but we never bought on credit. There were some people in the neighborhood that were on credit. There were no large stores like nowadays. There were no supermarkets. There were just neighborhood stores everywhere because transportation was a premium. You couldn't go further than you could walk. Every neighborhood had two or three stores. We had Young's store, and Davis' store. Young's store was a block away and Davis' store was two blocks away. We had a store, Miller's I believe, and that was four blocks down. Well hell, that was too far to get anything! We used to go to Young's. You would go there and meet your friends.

Then they had the penny candy counter. You would buy a jug of milk for nine cents. You had a penny left over, or whatever it was. You always had that penny and they had penny candy. We would buy candy. You would see all your friends there, too. "Hey mom, give me a penny. Give me two cents. Got a nickel? Sure I'll do that favor for you. I get the change." It was fun. It was a neighborhood type thing. Neighbors were all friendly then. They just all seemed to get along.

The neighborhood stores offered the credit as we were growing up. The larger stores started proliferating around the area. People started patronizing the local little guy when they didn't have money. They would go here to get a credit. When they had money they would go to the A & P grocery store because there you had to pay cash. So these little guys had so much money on the books. They would go out and ask people for their money. They knew well in the area when payday was. They would go out and get

money, but a lot of them went out of business because of credit. That was the only way they could sell anything.

W Why would people go to the bigger stores?

K It was cheaper, [and there was a better] quality and selection. You would go to the meat counter. You had 30 hams in there. You would go to the local store and they had two hams. You either took that one or this one. If that guy bought this one there was only one left. They were very limited in supply, although there were little stores that had butcher shops and specialty items. You didn't have the F D A and all those inspections. We had a guy named Trucomi, from Trucomi's Meat Market. Everybody bought their meat there. He was Italian. All Italians would go there to buy meat. He used to go out on the farm and shoot the cow or whatever and bring it up and stick it in the meat market and carve it up in there. He had a big old black stogie cigar hanging out. Ashes used to fall all over the place. There was sawdust on the floor, and it was dirty. Nowadays they would close that guy up in a minute if they knew what he was into. In fact, they were after him toward the end. Finally they gave up. He had the meats and he had the prices. They really would buy meat from him. Hey, I'm still alive. I guess it was all right.

W What happened when somebody would get sick in your family? Did you go to the doctor or did the doctor come to you?

K You had to be dying before you went to the doctor. In the old days my mother and all the old people felt when you went to the hospital you were dying. You weren't coming back. That is the way it was. They had to live through the depression, this, that, and the other thing. They nursed their own wounds and did most of that stuff themselves if they could. You had midwives because you had the kids at home. You only went to the hospital when you could not breathe anymore, and then they would take you to the hospital. Naturally you didn't come home. They didn't know what cancer was. When you died, you died. If you had a heart attack you might as well cash in because there was nothing they could do for you. Penicillin and those miracle drugs were only developed during World War II. Prior to that they had nothing. There was nothing they could do for you--if you got sick or had a cold, "Hey, adios"--unless you had an appendicitis. Even then, if you ruptured you were dead. There was no other way because they had no way of fighting infection other than maybe alcohol. They had no miracle things they could use. That was tragic in those days.

W Did you ever go to the dentist?

K Yes, I went when I was young. My first trip was probably when I was six years old. It was coinciding about the time when school started. You went when your tooth hurt. There was no preventative type of stuff. I'm sure they did not have oral surgery. Nothing was developed in the way it is developed now. They could not put you out. They did not

have the gas they have now Did they use ether?

W I think, yes

K To kill the pain, that is all they had. A few drops of that in you, and you were a grinning bear You didn't feel anything For fillings and stuff [the doctor would say], "Oh, that tooth looks bad " (makes a pulling sound) "Okay, that looks better now It is gone " "Which one hurts? Oh, that one Okay "

W What music or groups did your family listen to as you were growing up?

K We listened to Hungarian when we were young They had dances every Sunday night

W Where were the dances at?

K K of C Hall, I remember Every Sunday night the guys and girls would get together My dad got so drunk a couple of times He was going to fight a ten foot giant He was only four feet tall (laughter) My brothers protected him They took him home Those were more like mixers The guys and girls would get together Fathers and mothers would come too, but it was for the young people "There is Sally over there I know her father real well You and Sally go dance We have you promised to each other Go dance " (laughter)

W Was there match making back then, and arranged mariages?

K Yes, they were arranged, but you would say, "Marcie, you have a daughter Susan She's my son's age Would you mind if we were in-laws?" Where else would they shop? You did not go to Cleveland, downtown, or across town They wanted you to keep those Hungarians pure Those Italians were not supposed to marry those Irish ladies. They were bad for you (laughter) They tried That slowly disappeared

W Did your family get involved with politics or unions at all?

K My father did not belong to a union They did not have unions I'm sure my brothers were We could take a union or leave it We were not as militant as they are now There were, however, some strikes My brother Dave worked at Youngstown Steel Car They had a lock in or lock out I don't know what you want to call it They closed the gates and would not let the guys in or out The pickets were all thrown up along the fence so guys were going to get them when they came out It got to the point where they were in there for a long time

I can remember a plane flying over and dropping them supplies It was a little plane I do not know whether it was food or what it was I do not know what happened or how it was ever resolved One of my other brothers could probably tell you about that

It was a bitter strike The steel mills were the same way They had bitter strikes As far as being active in them I do not think anyone in my family was over active to the point where they were violent or anything They just went along with the trends of the times They were not instrumental in starting anything I believe

W That's about it unless you could think of anything else Thank you very much

K You are very welcome

END OF INTERVIEW