

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Greek Immigration to America

Personal Experience

O.H. 1209

ARIS N. MASTORIDES

Interviewed

by

Michael G. Passas

on

November 1, 1988

Aris N. Mastorides was born August 10, 1900 on the island of Syme, Greece. Aris married his wife, Frosso, on October 23, 1937. His father was a sponging merchant who was the first to introduce new equipment, used in this trade in England, to the Greeks. His mother, Fay, helped in the family business which provided them with a very good income. Aris' parents raised nine children, one of them being an adopted African girl.

Aris finished a high school education at about the time World War I began. During the war, his family managed to survive from money made by his father's business ventures. As a youth, he learned the jewelry trade. Economic opportunity restricted by the war led him to journey to America in 1916. He came to America by boat and landed on Ellis Island. After a miserable journey, his experience on Ellis Island was not much better. Lots of questions were asked, examinations were given, and there was much confusion. Aris' final destination was Tarpon Springs, Florida. Several years later, he left for Campbell, Ohio. After arriving in Campbell, Aris and his brother started a jewelry business. He earned a living this way for the past sixty-five years.

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INTERVIEWEE: ARIS N. MASTORIDES

INTERVIEWER: Michael G. Passas

SUBJECT: Greek Immigration to America, Ellis Island

DATE: November 1, 1988

P: This is an interview with Aris N. Mastorides for the Youngstown State University Oral History Program, on the Greek Immigration to America Project, with Michael G. Passas, at 501 Coittsville Road, Campbell, OH 44405, on November 1, 1988.

Can you tell me a little about your parents in Greece? First your father.

M: Yes. My father's name was Nicholas Mastorides. His profession was a Captain, with many people working for him. The whole profession was made in going fishing sponges, in Africa.

P: Sponges.

M: There was a lot of people because they had about. . . . Besides the big boat that they were using as a big supply boat, they had about six, seven other smaller boats with the divers.

P: The divers.

M: Well, at that time, they didn't have any automatic machines. The machine that they had was one man on the one side and another man on the other side, and they would keep running that machine. The air was going through the holes to the diver. Of course, it's a kind of thing when you're young. I'll tell you another thing, you know. It happens to be my father be first

one that brought the divers in our island.

P: Oh.

M: The course was old from Kalymnos over to the island, because it happens to be that my great grandfather was working for the English people when his boat was sunk many years ago, when they was going over there. Find that out if there was any trace there. So, when it came to time to go back home, they asked him to give him money. He said, "I don't want no money. I want to get me a set of divers and all the supplies. That's all I want." He got the dress in the hand. . . .

P: Right, in the hand.

M: . . . and all the supplies and brought it to our island. Well first, the other in the same line of business, they was using a different race of fishing sponges. Some, they was getting sponges, you know, make. They were using a stone about, let's say about 7, 8 inches long with a rope and a net. They had to tie it to . . . . They had to bring with empty stomach. They were not supposed to eat any food. Some of them was stayed down in the bottom of the ocean for about the most I could say about two and a half to three minutes. Then, the divers, I mean, they give them a signal because they want to pull them out. So, the two people, they was pull them out. The other way that they was fishing sponges was a different kind of material they use we call in Greek, kagowwa. We net and then pulled up; then they pulled that out from say about, let's say about a quarter of a mile. They pulled that out and some sponges. But, the divers was making a better job. At first, when my father brought this diver's dress and everything, everybody was scared to go down. So at first, they put a little cat.

P: A cat?

M: Yes. And, put him down and stay there for about five, ten minutes. They brought that out, and it was live.

P: Oh, I see.

M: Then my grandmother, Eujereia Mastorides, she went down, first one, to give courage to the other people. So, she went down, stayed there for about ten, fifteen minutes, then pull her out. Was alright, you know. This was after that. They . . . people, you know, they get used to not be afraid. That's how our father was doing business, and you'd be surprised when the people that they was working for them, the divers, the other people that they used for the give them the signals. They call the person that receives the signal kolaouz-

eri. It takes a lot of money to start it. So, of course, they have to borrow money from some rich people, you know, on our island. You'd be surprised that in them days, at that time, there was during the Turkey's occupation in our island. They was using a sack about that thick with a . . . let's say, a dollar coin but they call it mezitia. It's a Turkish coin in sterling silver. Every one of these was worth about a thousand gzosas, to carry on this over here. . . . I remember very well, because I was young. That's how I remember it.

And, another thing I'll tell you that's very interesting. One time, he brought to my mother a gift. You know what kind of a gift? Was a baby color girl!

P: A colored girl? Yes. From Africa?

M: Yes, from Africa. Well, she'd been born and was with the parents. They had an accident, and the girl was left. My father took her out and brought her to our island. My mother baptize her and gave her the name Maria. The only thing, the only language she could speak was Greek. She was a good worker and was very good religion woman. She was going to all monasteries out of town, to walk about a one hour or two hours, and stay with us till thirty years. They take care of her, you know.

P: This was the girl.

M: That's the girl Well, it happened, you know, the same age, we have another sister. My sister get married. There was somebody that he want to marry her.

P: Mary?

M: Yes, yes, Maria. Well at that time, they had to take the consent of father and mother, and my father he don't like that at all because he says, "I don't a want a new color generation to be on our island, and I get all the blames."

P: I see.

M: So, she didn't accept that. Well, in other words, she got mad, but she always call my mother "mother" and my father sorts of names. So, one day she says to my father, "I have to leave." He says, "Where you want to go Mary?" "I'm going to go to Egypt in Alexandria." So, my father pay her, and he gave her one home. She went to Alexandria, and she's got a job over there with a English family, very wealthy. She was good cook and take care of the family.

P: You missed her.

M: Yes. So, I was about seven, eight years old when my father died. My father died when he was about fifty-six, fifty-seven years old.

P: Do you know what he died from?

M: Yes. I believe he had a stroke. His color was very red, and he had high blood pressure. You know, that time they didn't examine it so good. My father was going to Europe and all over, and he built a beautiful home in our island with marble floors, one of the finest decorated. That house from Italy, today, is just as good as brand new.

P: Is that right?

M: Yes.

P: Someone else owns that now?

M: Well, it's a custom, you know. The first girl in the family inherit the house.

P: Dowry.

M: Yes. Dowry, dowry, yes. But, besides that sponging business, my father was a partnership with one pretty good size flour mill that was from the wheat and flour.

P: Okay. Millery work. I know what you mean.

M: Was fifty percent partner. When we were small, that's how we got living. We were getting so much a week. We sold the flour, there. We sold it to the other partner, and he would pay us. We don't want all the money at once. We take little by little so that we could take care of living and grow up a little bit.

P: How about your mother?

M: My mother . . . her father too had a big boat and was going from the one place to the other, like cargo.

P: Cargo. Cargo boat.

M: Yes. That is one boat that it happens to sink in one of the scenic port, and it still is there. You know, you could see it from there when it's nice weather.

P: Did she help your father with his work?

M: Yes, yes. Well, my mother was very nice lady. She likes to help people. Every time when we was home,

and we was ten of us in the family, always we have three, four visitors, and they eat with us.

P: Was she basically then a housewife, you know, to help around the house. . . ? Yes.

M: Well, we have to pay a lady to do the washing because at that time. They didn't have no washing machines or dryers, stuff like that. But, they use their own system which the cloth would come out clear, white, perfect, you know. Of course, it's a lot of work. You get the lady that time. You'd give them let's say about a half dollar, was good enough for her. Yes.

P: How many children did your father. . . ?

M: We had six brothers and two girls, plus Maria, plus my grandfather and my grandmother was living with us, my mother's mother.

P: What year did you come to America?

M: I came in 1916.

P: 1916. Were you in Greece when World War I was going on?

M: Yes.

P: Let me ask you this question, then. How did the war affect you and your family?

M: Well, during the time that I was still in Syme. The Italians came over in 1912. In 1912, when the Italians came, things change. I don't say to the best, I'd say to the worst! You know, what it is when you are controlled from Turks or Italians.

P: How did it bother your family, the war?

M: Well, the Italians was very strictly. If somebody was dressed like an old Greek custom, they catch him and put him in jail. Another thing, you know, every evening when they lay down the Italian flag, whatever you are and even in the boat, you have to stand up and salute.

P: Were they, then, trying to change everybody to Italians? Is that what they were doing, the customs and the language?

M: Well, we have when I was in the school during the time we were controlled by the Turkish. We have to take one lesson in Turk. Then, when the Italian came, the same thing again, you know.

- P: Did the war bother your father's business? Your home?
- M: Well, during the Turk, they didn't bother. We was getting along pretty good with Turk. Then, there was a lot of Turkish small boat. They come in because it's only a matter of fifteen, twenty miles through the Asia Minor to our island. They were bringing all kind of rigger boats and stuff like that, you know. That's what help us, you know, to. . . . Well, our island it happens to be. . . . If you want to see wild nature you go to see Syme and see. But, there was one time that the island of Syme. . . . It happens to be more high class people than any other island. That was good many years ago. It didn't affect our family business.
- P: How about when the Italians came?
- M: When the Italians came, my father was dead already. My oldest brother, my father sent him in Europe and educate him in business. He was speaking good English, French, and Greek. He took about three trips to Bombay, India. Well, the first couple of trips, he was going over there and sell merchandise like oil, olives, and sponges and many other things, you know. He was doing pretty good business but the last trip, the third trip, he got this, what they call yellow fever. My brother die, and it happens to be--he was alone--it happens to be a friend of his from Kalymnos he helped to bury him. He sent us all his belongings, whatever he had, sent us, and we left five brothers.
- P: In the war, would you say was your family average as far as income or were they poor? Did the war, you know. . . .
- M: I'll tell you, as far as that, we have enough for our family to live well because my father left a lot of real estate. As I told you, you were getting money every week from the business. My oldest brother went to do the same line of business as my father, with the help of my four uncles, but they didn't succeed.
- P: Let me ask you this. As you got a little older--oh, let's say you were a young man, maybe early teenage years or whatever. Well, let's say you were fifteen, sixteen years old--did you have any goals for yourself as a young man? Like for myself, now, I say as a young man, "Well, I want to teach so I'm teaching." Did you ever think when you were a young man, what you might want to do in the future, you know, like some people?
- M: Well, I'll tell you. I was about fourteen years old and my brother was making jewelry. He was making jewelry, and I had a man to get a box of jewelry. We went to island of Rhodes. That's a beautiful island.



At that time, there was no automobiles or anything. So, we have to walk from one village to the other village and go to the coffee house and try to sell jewelry. In the evening, I'll tell you, you won't believe it! This fellow, he knew each family accept visitors, and we was going in the evening to one of these villager's home. You'd be surprised, they was treating us very good! Me, they was let me in a separate room to sleep and had a nice dinner. Nothing, no charge!

P: No, charge.

M: No, charge. No charge. From one island, from one village to another. Then, one day we happened to be in one village that they have the Italian. . . . They had some kind of a military base over there, and they don't want any strangers. So, lot of these policemen they call Calabinary, they want us to get out and it was nighttime. I got scared, you know, I was a little boy. I got scared. I said, "Where shall we go? It's night." The fellow I had with me says, "Don't worry." I was. I says, "We better go." "Don't worry." "Where can we go? It's night. Where can we go?" So, we went down below, and there was a priest's house. We went over there. We told him what happened, and he gave us a nice room, you know . . . sleep. . . . And, he gave to us another place to sleep. Early in the morning, we had to get out from over there. At that time, I walk about . . . I'd say about fifteen to twenty miles. We made two trips. Then, I went back to Syme.

I was about fourteen years old. We had a lot of friends my age and some of them happen be over here in Akron. They talked about the old times, and my brother Sam decide to come to America. But, first my older brother came with another brother by the name Manuel.

P: Who was then responsible, when you decided to come to America, who was the one that brought you up?

M: Nobody.

P: Nobody?

M: See, at that time, immigration was free. What I mean . . .

P: No quota.

M: No. Even during the time that I was in Syme, the one French boat came and he wants laborer to take them in France without cost him anything. Ask the workers to go to France, and we go to work there. Quite many, they took the chance. They went over there.

P: What made you decide, then, to come to America?

M: Well, my oldest brother came first with my other brother. When my father died, you know, my mother decide to, everyone of us to have some kind of trade. So, one of my brother was tailor; another one was carpenter; another one was jeweler; and I was still going to school. Then, when the two brothers come, they want us to go there too. So, they sent us the money for the trip. I came with my brother, Bill, you know, the tailor. We was the last ones that came.

P: Did Greece give you any trouble at that time, to leave? You know, some people they decide to give trouble. Did you have any trouble leaving Greece?

M: When I left, it was still the Italian occupation. You got to be eighteen years old to let you go. I was sixteen, but I tell them that I was eighteen. Still, I got the passport! I got over here.

P: You lied to them.

M: Well, that's the only way to get away.

P: I understand, yes.

M: That's the only way to get away because there was some things that. . . . We didn't like it, to be controlled by the Italians. You know, they had to be forced to do this. First thing they do, they ask you if you have any ammunition, or guns, or to take them back to the headquarters. If you don't, they don't fool around, you know. If I ever have anything, you know, I have to take them back and thing like that, you know. No independence.

P: No independence.

M: That's one thing that it makes us live.

P: What were your feelings and your thoughts, you know, in your mind and in your heart that now you have to leave your home country and come here? What were you thinking about?

M: Well, I'll tell you. My feeling was we was living good in our island. Now, we thought that we could come in the United States for three, four years and come back again.

P: Return.

M: Yes. Return to our home. But, it didn't happen that way.

P: Did you leave anybody behind when you left?

M: Oh, yes. My mother. My mother. Then, I had two sisters. One sister would stay with my mother. My sister, you know. . . . When we come over here we working hard to make some money to marry our sister, to give her dowry, to marry a doctor. My youngest sister is three years younger than me and married to a doctor. He was a children's specialist. The only one that is still living is my sister in the island of Rhodes. I call her every couple weeks, or she call me every once in awhile. The main reason is to. . . . We left Syme with the intention to come back again.

When we left Syme was in World War I. It happens to be a blockade in the port of G. of Merabellou. They don't leave any boat to go in or out. So, when we was ready to leave, we was not able to get a boat to go to Greece. So, we rent one of these small boat, let's say about twenty or twenty-five feet long. It took us one week from the island of Syme to Greece. Well, we had a hard time, very, very hard time because we had a storm and there was no place to sleep in that small boat. One week! We go to Peiraias.

So, when we got in Peiraias, we got in one small restaurant and hotel upstairs, but very cheap looking, you know. I had an uncle in Athens, a doctor. His wife happens to be my mother's sister, and when he find that out, the next day, he came down where we were. He gave us hell, he says . . . he had a cane and he took it off the arm, he says "Don't you know you got your own home over here. Get your bags and. . . ." There was a taxi waiting outside to take us to his home in Athens. So, he took us in Athens, and we stayed there three months on account of, you know, the blockade was still on.

P: Right.

M: Then, after the blockade, we was free to go.

P: How did you come to America, then, by boat?

M: By boat.

P: Do you remember anything about the trip?

M: Oh, yes. I have remembered. I never forget that!

P: Good! That's what I want to hear.

M: Well, there is a boat by the name of Themistoklis, was the name of the boat. We start from Greece, and we have our suitcase and our shirts and stuff. We get in at the boat, all four of us, and when we get in at the

boat, they gave us one tin plate and spoon and knife. It was steel, iron, you know. He says, "You keep that, and you wash that out till we got to New York.

P: So, that's what you ate from, then?

M: Yes. So, we start, and we left Greece. But, that boat, that Themistoklis, was taking eight miles per hour, that's how fast it was going, eight miles an hour. Well, it took us a long time to . . . not only this, then a disease that got up in the boat, and we didn't know anything about. The only thing that we know is the blockade, the boat it was quarantined, and it wouldn't go. Then, we notice once in awhile, every three, four days the boat stop and threw a body in the ocean. And, this happen about four times.

Well, as I say, you know, where we was sleeping was one big room. Very big room with three beds, one above the other one and the other one above the other one. Well, they was giving us enough food to eat and bread. They'd cook fresh bread every day. But, as I say, we have the big table. We have to go in a line with our dish to put all the food in there, and the bread, and water the table, you know, and eat. Well, went on our way, now, after three, four days, subway, I mean, a submarine come up. A German submarine come up. We happen to be lucky that we have the Greek flag, and we were neutral. And, good thing they let us go!

After we went up to . . . They stopped, the boat stopped in one place in Spain, by the name of Malaga. They got grapes in a bottle, and they stay there about a day. Then, we start again. After a couple a days, another German submarine, they stop us again. They was ready to shoot, then, they see the Greek flag. We was lucky they left us again. Well, then another two, three days again, same thing happen again. We was lucky, you know, that they didn't bother us. But, the disease was keeping going, and we don't know if it worth the trouble.

P: You never know.

M: The only thing we know that it's got to be something bad because the boat stopping and threw the body. We saw that, you know. Then, they blockade the boat, you know. We was in the third class. I don't think that anybody from the third class die, you know, because you could see that. So, to make this story short, thirty days to come to New York.

P: Wow! Where did you land in New York? Ellis Island?

M: Well, I'll tell you. They took us to Ellis Island in

New York. Then, from New York, there was a small boat came and take us to Quaranteen Island.

P: Quaranteen Island? It wasn't Ellis Island?

M: No. We stayed over there, but I'll tell you. When we got over there on that island, before we get to New York, the weather was bad. I can't stand the bad weather, you know, I get sea sick. And, I didn't eat in the boat on account bad weather, you know. Then, we come out and when they show that New York statue, the building, I went out to see. I was so cold! I never feel cold like this in my life! I went back again.

So, when we got in New York boat, then another boat came and took to Quaranteen Island, and we stayed about two weeks. That was Quaranteen Island. They didn't give us anything to eat the first day. The second day, I never feel hungry this in my life! The second day, they brought us one boiled egg and couple slice bread, slice. I says to myself, "I don't care if they bring me more slice bread. . . ."

P: Anything.

M: So, we thought and was quite sure people, you know, was few people from our island, too. The next day, they bring some more. Well, they check us over there two weeks. Then, they give us a shot. After two weeks, they took us to Ellis Island.

P: Tell me what you know about Ellis Island. What happened there?

M: Well, Ellis Island we heard bad stories from Greece that they asking you some different kind of questions. One fellow was telling me, he says, they asked him, "If you see a body chopped up in four pieces, is this body kill himself or does somebody else kill him?" And, many other questions. Well, when the time came, you know, to take my examination, the main thing they was checking up was the eye. I heard one, from my island, one fellow. He said his eyes not so good, you know, and he was suspicious they may send him back. So, I saw him dressed up just like he was going hunting with the back-, backpack and dress up like he was going. . . . I says, "Why you do that?" He says, "I do that to keep the examiner attention to what I wear."

P: Smart. The way he's dressed rather than. . . . That's great!

M: Well, my line came to ask me. One fellow got my back like this, and he ask me to read question. Six and five, six and zero, six and seven, no American, in

Greek. . . . and seven, you know, and I thought he ask me if I had money. I thought he asked me if had. . . . He says, "Clear. . . ." I told him, "thirteen." Then, he asked me some other questions, and I passed. When I passed, they open a big gage.

P: Cage? Oh, a gate.

M: Gate with screen, a heavy screen, on the door. About ten, fifteen people in there, you know. They divide people regardless which way they want to go. You understand? My destination. . . .

P: Your destination was what?

M: My destination was Tarpon Springs, Florida. Well, they give us a number. So, we carry a ticket, you know, and out there you know they got through from the Ellis Island. They took us in New York, and they took us in one Greek hotel. When I come out in New York, when I left Greece, I had one of these straw hats. You know, I kept it. Then, we slept in hotel that night. Then, I came to see what it's all about, you know. When I came out, I don't want to go farther from the door I left, you know. I don't want to get lost. So, there was a Greek fellow. He had a clothing store, and he showed me about hats. He took me there, and I bought another hat because it was cold, you know.

P: You had the wrong clothes.

M: So the next day, one of the hotel men, they have to take us to the port or to another island also to the station, a train station. So, it was no fees. He took us to a port, a boat, but this fellow, you know, it was, I didn't like that they was directing us. We happen to met a lady with two children. Me and my brother, we feel sorry for the lady because she have a suitcase to carry and two children, so I took care for the one children and my brother take care of the other children and we was going. And, you know, New York was big crowd. This fellow that was the director, he never looked back if we were coming or not. So, we have to run like . . . to follow him, because we don't want to get lost over there.

So finally, we went to the . . . , and they took us to another boat. We don't know where we was going. And, when we got in the boat, we don't know where they was taking us. So, we found out that we went to Norfolk.

P: Oh, Norfolk. Yes.

M: When we come out, then they took us to the train station. We was there, and there was a fellow clean up

the place over there, you know, with a broom. He happen to be a Greek, and we ask him. I says, "What place is over here?" He says, "Norfolk." He says, "It's not far from there." So, we took the train from over there. But, while we were over there in the station, this fellow who was cleaning up the place over there, he told another lady, and the other Greek lady came to us with sandwich and fruits and everything, you know. It was nice of her, you know. We get in the train, and we stopping in the other place at night about eleven.

Well, when they come out, we ask if this Tarpon Springs. He says, "No!" So, that was a policeman and he says, "You wait here." There's a Greek fellow, I standing right across the street. We brought him over, and he explained to us. "Is this Tarpon Springs?" He says, "No. This is Tampa."

P: Tampa you're in now.

M: Yes. "When shall we go to the Tarpon Springs." He says, "The train won't come till tomorrow, one or two in the afternoon. But, if you want a lift tonight, you could rent a taxi for five people, you know, pay so much." I says, "Yes. Alright. We take a taxi," you know. And, they took us to Tarpon Springs. In Tarpon Springs the way that I was living in our island, the way we was living over there was just like a barracks, you know.

P: Well, how did you end up in Campbell?

M: Well, we stay there. My brother was there, the one that was my partner was there, and he opened a jewelry store. We got there, and I was helping my brother, in the jewelry stores. My other brother, that's tailor, he's got a place with another fellow over there and cleaning. You know, for my brother to make a new suit. So, my other brother was going fishing sponges. I didn't like that place over there. I like to go fishing. I went fishing one time, and the mosquitoes not to bite you but to eat you, they so many! So, I threw everything away and I went home. I stayed there, then, my brother. . . . While we was in Tarpon Springs, me and my brother, we bought a home, five room home. We pay a thousand dollars. [It] was a nice home, you know, a five room home, a thousand dollars. So, we stayed for a little while, and all my brothers, they left to come over here and north. They live north. I was there alone because we have a--we rent a store, and we have a lease to stay for a certain time. This I don't care for, but you have pay the rent every month. So, I stay there till I find somebody to transfer the lease to his name, you know. Then, I got somebody sign

and less than a year, I come back over here from Campbell, Ohio.

P: There are only two questions left, okay. First, what was your first impression of America? You know, you just got off the boat. What did you think of America?

M: Well, the first impression when I come to Tarpon Springs was a small town, smaller than where I came from, and there was nothing, no excitement out there, nothing. We have to go at five o'clock to the train station to see the new passengers coming out from the train. There was nothing else. We go to his house and see the boat and the divers and where they were selling the sponges. I mean, disappointed. Yes.

So, that's why we came to Campbell, you know. That time, they thought Campbell was one of the small busy place that any other small town in United States. So, we come to Campbell. Then again, of course, we was going down town to see something different. It was not so bad then. But, live in quarters that we leave to go. . . . But I mean, home to the toilet, we had to go 200 feet away to go there. No, convenience, you know. We had to eat in restaurant. Over here was lot of Greek restaurant, you know. So, already you know my brother, we had a hard time to find a place to rent for the jewelry store. Everything was filled up. Everything was filled up! So, we found one place that was a barber shop, and we paid for the barber for the whole thing to take that place. Was down here on Wilson Avenue next to the police station. So, we stay there. We go out and we move a little farther to the, where was, like a rich place. But then, we move to Robinson Road. We bought a building on Robinson Road.

P: The last question here. Did your life in America, did America fulfill your dreams? You know, you came to America. You didn't know what you were going find. Did it fulfill what you expected you were going to find here?

M: Well, the only thing, we were going to town, you know, that time when I came the name of Campbell was Youngstown. Well, we was going to Youngstown. We was going to Idora Park, and we had a lot of things, you know to do. Then, was nice shows in Youngstown. You could go and many other shows which, you know, at that time was no TVs. . . . Not even radio yet. Then, we keep them going, like one time we went to Idora Park with my brother, Bill. We saw a big line buying tickets, and we thought it was a nice show. He says to Michael, "What do you say, let's go." So we stayed in the line, and we bought the ticket at that time for \$1.50. When we get into the place where we thought we'd see a show,



was a football! I was so much disappointed! I say, "You have to pay to see people playing ball?"

P: Do you think, then, that your life was better was here in America? If you would have stayed there. . . .

M: Oh, yes. You know, the longer that we stay and we have more convenience, and everything. And, we bought a nice home on Jefferson Street, a nice home. Started, now that we have, well that at time we was. . . . My brother was a good jeweler. Everything he was making, he was making by hand. Everything! Chains, bracelets, rings. We had our own system, how to melt gold and thing like that. We didn't buy anything, you know, that was already. . . . Of course, we didn't know any better than to go out to another city and find that out. We was getting, little by little, better and better.

In the mill, people was working twelve hours a day. Night, leaving in the morning was dark and coming back to home six in the evening, dark! Now, it was quite lot of people from our island that didn't even have time to go to the bank and send money to their family. So, they was come in to us, and I had the book like a bank, you know. They was giving us their money to keep. If they want to send the money home they ask me, "Go tomorrow and get me a check for a twenty." It was English pound check, because they didn't have no time to. So, I had that book, you know, that I had the name and receipt and expense. That's the way that I was doing till the time when during the Ford, he was the one that the, eight o'clock, eight hours a day because he says, "If the people working twelve hours a day, they don't have no time to buy an automobile and go right." So, he was the one that started the eight hours a day.

P: Okay. Did you want to add anything else?

M: No. I think that's it.

END OF INTERVIEW