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Stanley & Helena Sitewicz

[0:00:00]

Interviewer: This is May 5th, 1970, and I'm at the present time in Newport, Delaware. My name is Angela Turochi *[inaudible]* [0:00:09], and I live in New Castle, Delaware. I am going to interview Mr. Stanley Sitewicz. Mr. Sitewicz, why what is your name and your address?

Mr. Sitewicz: My name is Stanley Sitewicz. My address is Stone Hearts Garden in Newport and the building is 102 and apartment 102 -- 201.

Interviewer: How old are you now?

Mr. Sitewicz: 83.

Interviewer: When were you born?

Mr. Sitewicz: 1887.

Interviewer: And the month?

Mr. Sitewicz: May...

Interviewer: No, April.

Mr. Sitewicz: April 28.

Interviewer: 1887.

Mr. Sitewicz: 1887.

Interviewer: Where were you born?

Mr. Sitewicz: In Napoleon.

Interviewer: How old were you when you left Poland?

Mr. Sitewicz: About six years old.

Interviewer: Did you go -- leave Poland by yourself or with somebody else?

Mr. Sitewicz: I left with my uncle.

Interviewer: And who else accompanied you?

Mr. Sitewicz: My boy -- my brother.

Interviewer: How old was your brother, do you remember?

Mr. Sitewicz: He was about 9 years.

Interviewer: So he or you, your uncle and your brother left Poland. Where were you going? You were going to America, didn't you?

Mr. Sitewicz: Gone to America, yes.

Interviewer: To whom were you going?

Mr. Sitewicz: I was going to see my father and mother.

Interviewer: They were already here, were they?

Mr. Sitewicz: Yeah.

Interviewer: How long ago before you left? Did they leave Poland?

Mr. Sitewicz: Well, they left probably two years.

Interviewer: Did they live together or one by one?

Mr. Sitewicz: One by one.

Interviewer: First it was who?

Mr. Sitewicz: My father.

Interviewer: And what was his reason for leaving Poland?

Mr. Sitewicz: Well, he just want to make himself good.

Interviewer: I supposed the living conditions were not too good in Poland at that time.

Mr. Sitewicz: I guess not. No good out there because we didn't have much to eat.

Interviewer: And then your mother followed your father.

Mr. Sitewicz: Yes, my mother...

Interviewer: What was the reason that everybody didn't go with your mother at that time?

Mr. Sitewicz: We didn't have no money. We didn't have...

Interviewer: So in other words your father only earned enough money to bring your mother to this country?

Mr. Sitewicz: Yes, that's it.

Interviewer: And then the two of them together, I supposed work hard and they got...

Mr. Sitewicz: ***[inaudible] [0:02:31].***

Interviewer: And your uncle, you say, was he your father's brother or your mother's brother?

Mr. Sitewicz: Mother's brother.

Interviewer: All right. Mr. Sitewicz, what year was it when you left Poland?

Mr. Sitewicz: 1894.

Interviewer: How many years you are now in this country?

Mr. Sitewicz: 76.

Interviewer: Under what government control Poland was when you left it?

Mr. Sitewicz: Under Russia.

Interviewer: Russian. You left Poland into Germany, did you to get a ship?

Mr. Sitewicz: To get the ship.

Interviewer: What was the name of the city that you left from Germany?

Mr. Sitewicz: Brenton.

Interviewer: Do you remember at all what went on on the ship, that kind of conditions or were you too young to remember?

Mr. Sitewicz: I was too young to remember.

Interviewer: Where did you land in America?

Mr. Sitewicz: In the New York.

Interviewer: Was anybody waiting for you when you work -- New York? Were father and mother were already there or did you have to travel to where they were?

Mr. Sitewicz: They bought us to Delaware where my father and my mother was. They met

Mrs. Sitewicz: They met you down there.

Mr. Sitewicz: They met me down there.

Interviewer: In New York?

Mr. Sitewicz: In New York.

Interviewer: And they brought you to where?

Mr. Sitewicz: To Delaware.

Interviewer: To Delaware. Were they -- what city in Delaware?

Mr. Sitewicz: In Wilmington.

Interviewer: Give me the name of your father and mother if you can remember them.

Mr. Sitewicz: My father is Frank Sitewicz.

Interviewer: And your mother?

Mr. Sitewicz: My mother is Josie Sitewicz.

Interviewer: Your father was already in Wilmington and he was working. What kind of job did he have?

Mr. Sitewicz: Well, he had -- yeah, he had *[inaudible]* [0:04:17].

Interviewer: And you said you were only six years old.

Mr. Sitewicz: Yeah.

Interviewer: Did you start school right away or not?

Mr. Sitewicz: Not right away.

Interviewer: Was it about a year later that you went to school?

Mr. Sitewicz: About that.

Interviewer: What school did you go to, your first school?

Mr. Sitewicz: Polish school.

Interviewer: In Wilmington?

Mr. Sitewicz: In Wilmington.

Interviewer: What's the name of the school?

Mr. Sitewicz: Saint Hendricks.

Interviewer: Saint Hendricks School. And after you came to this country, you and your brother and your uncle, did you have any more brothers and sisters born to your mother and father?

Mr. Sitewicz: Three.

Interviewer: Three more. Were they brothers or sisters or...?

Mr. Sitewicz: One -- two brothers and one sister.

Interviewer: When you learned -- started Saint Hendricks School, what language were you talking, Polish and English or both or just...?

Mr. Sitewicz: Polish and English.

[0:05:00]

Interviewer: Both. And you had English classes.

Mr. Sitewicz: Yeah.

Interviewer: Who was teaching you, were they teachers or sisters?

Mr. Sitewicz: Sisters.

Interviewer: You said that you went to Saint Hendricks School, how many years did you go to that school? How old were you?

Mr. Sitewicz: I was 12-year old.

Interviewer: And you have to quit school then, that early?

Mr. Sitewicz: I have to quit because we have to make some money to go to work.

Interviewer: And your brother, was already working?

Mr. Sitewicz: No, nobody working. I started it myself.

Interviewer: Where did you go to work when you were that young?

Mr. Sitewicz: I work in leather worker.

Interviewer: That Morocco shop?

Mr. Sitewicz: Morocco shop.

Interviewer: What was the name of that place, do you remember?

Mr. Sitewicz: LI Kid.

Interviewer: LI Kid. Blumenthal, I think they call it.

Mr. Sitewicz: They call it LI Kid.

Interviewer: What kind of work did you do?

Mr. Sitewicz: Well, I've done everything. Everything I get they told me to do it.

Interviewer: How much were they paying you?

Mr. Sitewicz: Well, on the start, when they were paying me, they pay me about \$4 a week.

Interviewer: Was your father working at the same place?

Mr. Sitewicz: No, my father was working on outside on the street *[inaudible]* [0:06:10].

Interviewer: How many hours a day did you work?

Mr. Sitewicz: I work 10 hours a day.

Interviewer: Oh my, that was long. How many days a week?

Mr. Sitewicz: Six days a week.

Interviewer: And what did you do on -- did you work Saturday, first of all?

Mr. Sitewicz: Yes, Saturday, we work Saturday.

Interviewer: Half a day or full day?

Mr. Sitewicz: Well, sometimes we work half *[inaudible]* **[0:06:31]**.

Interviewer: You could have much time for leisure, did you?

Mr. Sitewicz: No, I didn't.

Interviewer: What did you do with yourself on Sundays, for instance?

Mr. Sitewicz: Well, Sunday *[inaudible]* **[0:06:40]** with boys.

Interviewer: Did you have to go to church?

Mr. Sitewicz: Well, when I get a chance to go to church, I went to church.

Interviewer: And how long were you on that job? Do you remember how many years you were on that job in that Morocco shop?

Mr. Sitewicz: Oh, Morocco and then I work for about over a year.

Interviewer: Oh, you were about 13, 14 then.

Mr. Sitewicz: Yeah.

Interviewer: You changed jobs. Where did you go next?

Mr. Sitewicz: Well, next, I went -- oh, I went up a higher, a little higher.

Interviewer: Still in the same place?

Mr. Sitewicz: Same place.

Interviewer: And did you get more money?

Mr. Sitewicz: Oh yes, I got money. Every year, I got a little bit of raise.

Interviewer: Okay. And how long did you stay in that Morocco shop? How old were you when you finally change jobs again?

Mr. Sitewicz: Well, about 16-year-old.

Interviewer: Where did you go then when you were about 16?

Mr. Sitewicz: Well, then, I went over anywhere that I could get a job. So, I've done everything.

Interviewer: What kind of work were you doing?

Mr. Sitewicz: Even when I went out the country, I help farmers to work, to make more money.

Interviewer: How much were they paying then?

Mr. Sitewicz: Well, I was paying *[inaudible]* **[0:07:53]** I was picking potatoes. I got seven baskets of potatoes.

Interviewer: Well, was it hard work or better than the shop or -- which was better?

Mr. Sitewicz: Well, I had more. It was better. It was fresh air out there.

Interviewer: And how did you get those jobs? Did you go with a gang or by yourself?

Mr. Sitewicz: When they come around looking for somebody that go with the work, I always like to get it.

Interviewer: Did you -- how did you get to that farm? Why did you travel?

Mr. Sitewicz: Well, he always come up pick me up and I stayed there for the whole week. And in weekend, I come home.

Interviewer: So you stayed away from home for the whole week.

Mr. Sitewicz: Yeah.

Interviewer: What kind of transportation did you have when you went on that farm? What was it, horse and wagon or did they have cars then?

Mr. Sitewicz: I had a horse and wagon and then I used to take the children to school, the girls to school.

Interviewer: When that farmer came to pick up that labor, were you the only or were there other fellas?

Mr. Sitewicz: There was more but they pick me *[inaudible]* [0:08:58].

Interviewer: When you were a young man you worked in the Morocco shop and you also went to work in the farm. You continue living with your parents all the time, did you?

Mr. Sitewicz: All the time.

Interviewer: And did they have a house?

Mr. Sitewicz: We had a house -- we had a house.

Interviewer: How big?

Mr. Sitewicz: About three rooms.

Interviewer: Just a small house like that.

Mr. Sitewicz: Small house.

Interviewer: Where was it located, at what street?

Mr. Sitewicz: It's located on *[inaudible]* [0:09:23].

Interviewer: And in those three rooms, how many of you live?

Mr. Sitewicz: Well, we were living -- two of us live in the -- three of us was in one room.

Interviewer: You mean -- did you have three rooms or three bedrooms?

Mr. Sitewicz: Three bedrooms.

Interviewer: Oh, three bedrooms. The house was bigger with three rooms.

Mr. Sitewicz: Yeah.

Interviewer: And did you have a bathroom?

Mr. Sitewicz: No bathroom.

Interviewer: Where was the toilet facility?

Mr. Sitewicz: Way outside.

Interviewer: Outside. Was it flush toiled or not?

Mr. Sitewicz: No.

Interviewer: No? How did you take your bath?

Mr. Sitewicz: In a sink -- in a tub.

[0:10:00]

Interviewer: Where did you take your bath, in the kitchen?

Mr. Sitewicz: Well, sometimes I have to go outside and take the bath outside **[inaudible] [0:10:08]**.

Interviewer: In summer time.

Mr. Sitewicz: Summer time.

Interviewer: You are a young man now, what is your social life at that time?

Mr. Sitewicz: Well, time just go around and look for a nice girl.

Interviewer: You did go around with girls, did you?

Mr. Sitewicz: Yeah, I did.

Interviewer: Quite a few I supposed.

Mr. Sitewicz: Yeah. Well, at each time **[inaudible] [0:10:32]**.

Interviewer: And finally, you met the most beautiful girl in the world, did you?

Mr. Sitewicz: Yeah, I met my wife now -- that's right.

Interviewer: She was beautiful.

Mr. Sitewicz: Beautiful.

Interviewer: What's her name?

Mr. Sitewicz: Helen.

Interviewer: What's her maiden name?

Mr. Sitewicz: Wilchizca *[phonetic]* [0:10:45].

Interviewer: Was she born in this country?

Mr. Sitewicz: No, she's born over to Europe?

Interviewer: What was she doing when you met her?

Mr. Sitewicz: Well, she -- she was home, she was a home girl.

Interviewer: Do you mean that there were no jobs available to young girls?

Mr. Sitewicz: No, nothing.

Interviewer: She lived with her parents?

Mr. Sitewicz: She lived with her parents.

Interviewer: So, how old were you when you met your wife?

Mr. Sitewicz: How old I was? Well, I was about 18 years.

Interviewer: You were quite young man when you met her.

Mr. Sitewicz: I was.

Interviewer: She was a young woman when I supposed.

Mr. Sitewicz: Yeah, she was young woman.

Interviewer: So, you got married.

Mr. Sitewicz: I got married.

Interviewer: What month did you marry and what year, can you remember that?

Mr. Sitewicz: Well, what year is...

Mrs. Sitewicz: In May.

Interviewer: In May, was it?

Mr. Sitewicz: In May, yes. In 8th of May.

Interviewer: How many years are you married? That would be easier. How many years are you married now?

Mr. Sitewicz: Sixty-three years.

Interviewer: Sixty-three years of marriage. Now, after you got married, where did you live, you and your wife?

Mr. Sitewicz: Well, where I live, I live with their people.

Interviewer: With her people?

Mr. Sitewicz: Yeah.

Interviewer: Did you have an apartment or was it customary to have an apartment or just a room?

Mr. Sitewicz: Just a room.

Interviewer: Just a bedroom.

Mr. Sitewicz: Bedroom.

Interviewer: And you live with them for a while.

Mr. Sitewicz: Yeah.

Interviewer: And when was your first child born after -- about a year later, I supposed?

Mr. Sitewicz: Two -- about two years, over two years.

Interviewer: Who was first, the boy or girl?

Mr. Sitewicz: Girl.

Interviewer: What's her name now?

Mr. Sitewicz: Hedrick.

Interviewer: And how many children altogether did you have?

Mr. Sitewicz: Three.

Interviewer: The first was a girl. Who was the second?

Mr. Sitewicz: Boy.

Interviewer: And his name?

Mr. Sitewicz: Ted.

Interviewer: And the third?

Mr. Sitewicz: Martha.

Interviewer: The last time you mentioned is that you live with your wife's father. And what was your next place that you live?

Mr. Sitewicz: Well, I live -- next place I live with the people -- some people's house. And then...

Interviewer: Did you have any children then by that time?

Mr. Sitewicz: No, no children.

Interviewer: Not yet?

Mr. Sitewicz: You still -- just two of you?

Interviewer: Just two of us.

Mr. Sitewicz: And then after we live there for a couple of years, we bought their own home.

Interviewer: Where did you buy your first home?

Mr. Sitewicz: Sycamore Street, on Sycamore Street.

Interviewer: Do you remember the address?

Mr. Sitewicz: Yeah, 12-12 Sycamore.

Interviewer: Was it -- what size? How many rooms did it have?

Mr. Sitewicz: There were five rooms.

Interviewer: Two bedrooms upstairs, I think?

Mr. Sitewicz: Two bedrooms.

Interviewer: Now, at that time, did you have a bathroom upstairs?

Mr. Sitewicz: No, no bathroom.

Interviewer: Not even then?

Mr. Sitewicz: No.

Interviewer: So, were the children born in that house? You mentioned you have three children. Where was your first child born, in that house on Sycamore Street?

Mr. Sitewicz: Yes, yes.

Interviewer: Did you have any more in that place? Anymore children?

Mr. Sitewicz: No.

Mrs. Sitewicz: No, we sold it *[inaudible] [0:13:37]*.

Interviewer: You bought a bigger house *[inaudible] [0:13:41]*.

Mr. Sitewicz: Bigger house, yeah.

Interviewer: Where is your bigger house?

Mr. Sitewicz: On Oak Street, Upper Oak.

Interviewer: Upper Oak Street. And then your other two children were born there? Were they on Oak Street?

Mrs. Sitewicz: The youngest...

Interviewer: Let Mrs. Sitewicz tell us. You tell us louder.

Mrs. Sitewicz: My son was born *[inaudible] [0:14:03]*.

Interviewer: Since you were born in Poland and you came here when you were six years of age, my question now is how did you ever become a citizen of this country?

Mr. Sitewicz: *[inaudible] [0:14:22]* because my daddy had citizen paper.

Interviewer: So, he got the citizenship papers before you were 21.

Mr. Sitewicz: Yeah.

Interviewer: Now, again, the last time we were talking about jobs you were working in the Morocco shop, tell me about the different jobs you had? You don't have to tell me how long or anything, but the different jobs.

Mr. Sitewicz: Well, I work at the *[inaudible]* **[0:14:44]** shipyard and I work at locomotive in Chester and I work in the Burlington, Philadelphia and I worked all around. I change job every time I got lower money and I went *[inaudible]* **[0:15:02]**.

[0:15:03]

Interviewer: What kind of trade did you have? What were you calling yourself?

Mr. Sitewicz: Well, they call me *[inaudible]* **[0:15:10]**.

Interviewer: Again, coming to the houses, you mentioned different houses in the city, streets in Sycamore, where was your next house? Still in the city or did you move away?

Mr. Sitewicz: No, we move away.

Interviewer: Where did you...?

Mr. Sitewicz: *[inaudible]* **[0:15:23]**

Interviewer: In Elmhurst.

Mr. Sitewicz: Elmhurst, yes.

Interviewer: Coming back to your children, you mentioned you had three children, two daughters and a son, tell me what education every one of them got.

Mr. Sitewicz: Well, education they got far is they went to school high school and that's...

Interviewer: Every one of them went through high school?

Mr. Sitewicz: Through high school.

Interviewer: What were they doing for a living after they grow up?

Mr. Sitewicz: Well, what they're doing for a living *[inaudible]* **[0:15:53]**.

Interviewer: Say the oldest girl first, what was she doing?

Mr. Sitewicz: Well, she started to work and they all started to work.

Interviewer: What was she doing? Was a hairdresser?

Mr. Sitewicz: Hairdresser.

Interviewer: Now, your son, what kind of job did he get?

Mr. Sitewicz: He's got -- he's got a job at *[inaudible]* **[0:16:08]** mechanic job.

Interviewer: What company?

Mr. Sitewicz: DuPont.

Interviewer: Now, your youngest daughter, what did she do?

Mr. Sitewicz: Well, she was house woman then.

Interviewer: When she was single?

Mr. Sitewicz: Oh, when she was single, hairdresser. She's been a hairdresser.

Interviewer: Mrs. Sitewicz is just sitting here alongside of us and she helped out with one or two questions. I think it would be interesting if we hear something from Mrs. Sitewicz. Mrs. Sitewicz, what is your name?

Mrs. Sitewicz: Helena Sitewicz.

Interviewer: And when did you come to this country? Do you remember? How old were you anyway?

Mrs. Sitewicz: I was 13.

Interviewer: You were 13 years old when you came to this country? And tell me a little bit about conditions in this country after your -- especially after your met your husband, after you got married, was it hard, and all that?

Mrs. Sitewicz: It was more -- it wasn't easy -- it wasn't easier than old country.

Interviewer: So you remember conditions in Poland.

Mrs. Sitewicz: Yeah, I remember some.

Interviewer: Well, how do you compare the life in Poland with life in here at that time, of course?

Mrs. Sitewicz: Just wonderful. This is wonderful country to live at, I tell you, even if it's *[inaudible]* [0:17:32] enough money.

Interviewer: And did people come to this country bringing any money when they came?

Mrs. Sitewicz: No, ma'am. Nobody brought any money.

Interviewer: They have to earn everything, did they?

Mrs. Sitewicz: Yeah, earn everything. Nobody was given nothing to nobody, even your relatives. No, welfares or nothing.

Interviewer: And I think that's what made people proud to think so.

Mrs. Sitewicz: Yeah. What we got, we...

Interviewer: You made yourself.

Mrs. Sitewicz: We earn, we make.

Interviewer: There was no welfare.

Mrs. Sitewicz: No welfare.

Interviewer: No unemployment.

Mrs. Sitewicz: No unemployment, no, ma'am.

Interviewer: You have to save your own money for the...

Mrs. Sitewicz: Save your own money.

Interviewer: Mrs. Sitewicz, how did you manage to buy your first home?

Mrs. Sitewicz: Oh, I just took care of the money. People didn't use to be extravagant like now. Nobody never gave me anything. It was just -- my husband's money, I save that much. So we bought a house.

Interviewer: Even before the children were born.

Mrs. Sitewicz: Before the children - before a child was born.

Interviewer: Mortgage right away? Or did you have some mortgage?

Mrs. Sitewicz: We had mortgage. Yeah.

Interviewer: But you had enough money to...

Mrs. Sitewicz: Enough money to put down.

Interviewer: Make a good downy payment.

Mrs. Sitewicz: Down payment. There was no welfare, nothing in years.

Interviewer: You say you had a house before your first child was born, tell me something about social life, organizations, clubs, were you interested, your church work, and so on.

Mrs. Sitewicz: I didn't -- I went to church but that was all. I couldn't belong to clubs or where I would have to spend money because I couldn't. I have to have enough to pay my interest on a house and buy a food and clothes, and so on. I was just careful. That's why I was able to save up.

Interviewer: Well, how did you save up? For instance about clothes, did you buy them ready-made or...?

Mrs. Sitewicz: No, ma'am, I used to make them. I'm still making my own clothes.

Interviewer: You still do even...?

Mrs. Sitewicz: Still.

Interviewer: At your age now you still make your clothes? So, that's why how many of you were able to save up money? How other ways did you save up? Where did you cut corners and how?

Mrs. Sitewicz: Well, how did I what?

Interviewer: Cut corners, how did you make it so the money came up, so it came out on top?

Mrs. Sitewicz: Oh, I just count my pennies before I spent them. I didn't -- if I didn't know I will have to spend it, I just didn't spend it. That's all.

[0:20:02]

Interviewer: You know, I just remember this last couple of minutes ago, I asked Mr. Sitewicz where was the last house that they lived in they moved out of town. And that was in Elmhurst. Did you have a garden? I'm curious. Did you have a garden?

Mrs. Sitewicz: I had a nice garden.

Interviewer: Vegetable garden?

Mrs. Sitewicz: Vegetable garden. I'm still missing my garden.

Interviewer: Did you use it to grow vegetables?

Mrs. Sitewicz: Oh, all kinds of vegetables. One time, my grandson count, 15 different varieties of vegetables.

Interviewer: I remember I used to be your neighbor, not very close neighbor down the street, but I remember I used to do a lot of canning, did you?

Mrs. Sitewicz: A lot of canning. I used to can tomatoes *[inaudible]* [0:20:40] and I used to love it.

Interviewer: So, that's how you were able to save money by doing this.

Mrs. Sitewicz: Yes.

Interviewer: You don't have to go out and buy.

Mrs. Sitewicz: Yes, buy.

Interviewer: Did your daughter help you with this too?

Mrs. Sitewicz: With work?

Interviewer: At home or with canning?

Mrs. Sitewicz: No, no I didn't want nobody to help me. I asked him to help me eat it.

Interviewer: You are a wonderful, if I remember too.

Mrs. Sitewicz: I used to love to cook. Oh.

Interviewer: Baking?

Mrs. Sitewicz: Baking. I just stopped baking bread just before -- when did I got sick, about six weeks ago. I used to bake bread, whole wheat bread, I used to bake.

Interviewer: After you live in Elmhurst, how long did you live over there? About how many years did you spend in Elmhurst?

Mrs. Sitewicz: About 40 years.

Interviewer: In one place?

Mrs. Sitewicz: One place.

Interviewer: What was the reason you sold the house? What happened? Why did you...?

Mrs. Sitewicz: Because I'm not able to do hardly any work. I got terrible case of arthritis. I can hardly move around. I have to wear, like, heavy cane. So, we sold the house. My husband -- we had the big garden, big yard 100 by 100 and big house. It was a nine-room house. So, we sold it and then we live in an apartment now.

Interviewer: It makes it easier for you, I supposed.

Mrs. Sitewicz: Easier only, it's not easy on the pocket.

Interviewer: When was your -- when did you buy your first car?

Mrs. Sitewicz: 1919.

Interviewer: What kind of car was it?

Mrs. Sitewicz: It was Maxwell *[inaudible]* [0:22:21].

Interviewer: You changed cars. After that, can you remember what sort of cars you went graduated from one to the other?

Mrs. Sitewicz: No. We got rid of that one and we never bought with cars.

Interviewer: Only that one car?

Mrs. Sitewicz: Just one car.

Interviewer: Did you have a car when you live in Elmhurst?

Mrs. Sitewicz: No.

Interviewer: Never had a car.

Mrs. Sitewicz: ***[inaudible] [0:22:37].***

Interviewer: Well, how did you move about without having a car?

Mrs. Sitewicz: The girls had a car. The girls had a car and son had a car.

Interviewer: Did you have to use public transportation? Did you have to go buses?

Mrs. Sitewicz: Oh, buses.

Interviewer: Did you have to walk far to the bus line?

Mrs. Sitewicz: Oh yeah, two blocks, two blocks.

Interviewer: And how much was bus fare at that time?

Mrs. Sitewicz: That was -- I used -- it used to cost me -- I think about 6 cents.

Interviewer: And you're able to ride several miles for that, I supposed.

Mrs. Sitewicz: Oh yeah, from ***[inaudible] [0:23:10].*** I used to go in town twice a day, Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Interviewer: Twice a week, you mean.

Mrs. Sitewicz: Twice a week, yeah.

Interviewer: Why did you go, like, a marketing or something?

Mrs. Sitewicz: Marketing. Oh, I know all the farmers. I know what they...

Interviewer: Tell me about the farmers market in Wilmington. It's interesting and...

Mrs. Sitewicz: It used to be good. I used to like it. But after I raise my vegetables, I quit buying from farmers because mine was even better. It didn't cost me any.

Interviewer: And fresher.

Mrs. Sitewicz: Fresher. I used to love to go at the farmer's market.

Interviewer: Mrs. Sitewicz, did you ever have desire to go back to Poland?

Mrs. Sitewicz: No, ma'am. I never did. I never did.

Interviewer: You think the conditions are not as good?

Mrs. Sitewicz: The conditions, not as good. There were -- I haven't been there since I came here. But I read the newspaper, Polish newspapers and I got friends who will go there and visit and they tell me the conditions, and I wouldn't want to go there.

Interviewer: They have to work over there, did they?

Mrs. Sitewicz: Everybody got to work. If they wouldn't work, they won't eat.

Interviewer: But how do they know whether they work or not?

Mrs. Sitewicz: They -- if you go in the morning, you get through working in the evening, they give you ticket. And the next day, you can come to work. But if you want to buy food, if you didn't go to work, you don't get no ticket. Nobody is going to sell you no food, which I wouldn't like. I don't mind working. I like to do some work, but if I want to buy food, I want to buy it, but not down there. Everybody got to work; poor or rich got to work.

[0:25:07]

Interviewer: If you ever had a chance to live your life over again being that you were in Poland, would you rather have stayed there or you're glad that you came?

Mrs. Sitewicz: I'm thankful that I'm here. I would never go back there and live, I tell you that.

Interviewer: In other words, this is the best country?

Mrs. Sitewicz: This is the best place, this is the best place you -- if you're not lazy, you can work what -- if you're lazy *[inaudible]* **[0:25:34]** you get welfare or this and that. But I like to work and never depend on nobody to give me anything. Never -- nobody never give me any.

Interviewer: So you're not sorry that you are in this country?

Mrs. Sitewicz: I'm not sorry that I'm here.

Interviewer: I'm going to ask you Mr. Sitewicz the same question.

Mr. Sitewicz: Okay.

Interviewer: Are you glad that you are in this country?

Mr. Sitewicz: I do certainly glad I'm here in this country because I swear I *[inaudible]* **[0:26:09]** and I will stay here as long as I could -- as long as I live. And I would never go back to old country because I don't know anything about it.

Interviewer: What sort of freedom there was in Poland in the old days? Maybe what your father told you stories.

Mrs. Sitewicz: There was no freedom. My father was *[inaudible]* **[0:26:32]** Polish paper. They found the newspaper in his pocket, and you're not supposed to. You could only read the Russian paper, but if you're Polish, if you're Pollack, you can just do what you can read your own paper, Russian paper.

Interviewer: I do share the same views with Mr. and Mrs. Sitewicz, and I am sure that when they say that this is the best country in the world. I agree with them 100 percent. This is the best country. And we are very glad that we're all here.

I want to thank Mr. and Mrs. Sitewicz very much for this interview, and this concludes it.

[0:27:20] **End of Audio**