



## **Citation for this collection:**

MSS 179 Robert H. Richards, Jr., Delaware oral history collection, Special Collections, University of Delaware Library, Newark, Delaware

## **Contact:**

Special Collections, University of Delaware Library  
181 South College Avenue  
Newark, DE 19717-5267  
302.831.2229 / 302.831.1046 (fax)  
<http://www.lib.udel.edu/ud/spec>  
[askspecref@winsor.lib.udel.edu](mailto:askspecref@winsor.lib.udel.edu)

## **Terms governing use and reproduction:**

Use of materials from this collection beyond the exceptions provided for in the Fair Use and Educational Use clauses of the U.S. Copyright Law may violate federal law.

Permission to publish or reproduce is required from the copyright holder. Please contact Special Collections, University of Delaware Library, for questions. [askspecref@winsor.lib.udel.edu](mailto:askspecref@winsor.lib.udel.edu)

## **A note about transcriptions:**

Of the original 252 audio-recordings in this collection, 212 of these tapes were transcribed around the time of the original recordings (between 1966 and 1978). In 2012, Cabbage Tree Solutions was contracted to create transcriptions for the remaining tapes. Corrections to and clarifications for all transcriptions are welcome, especially for names and places. Please contact Special Collections, University of Delaware Library, for questions. [askspecref@winsor.lib.udel.edu](mailto:askspecref@winsor.lib.udel.edu)

Interview with Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Kachelmus, German immigrants, in Wilmington, Delaware, November 15, 1973, by Steven Schoenherr. Mr. Kachelmus's answers are indicated by "A"; Mrs. Kachelmus's by "B."

Q You both immigrated?

B Yes. I came over to this country in 1926, but then I went back in 1930. My children got born here. Then I had to go back on account of the conditions were bad here at that time, and I had to work with my two babies, so I went back to Germany. Then I stayed over there during the whole war, in Berlin. Then I came back in 1947, after the war. My children they were citizens...I wasn't citizen then, see. So the children could come, but...finally in the end they let me go too with my children. Because I know this country is a great country and I know my children would have it better than over there. And then I met my husband and we got married...because my first husband he is dead. And I don't know what to say else.

A Sit down.

Q Can you tell me about your life in Germany? Where were you born?

B Well I was born in Landsberg on the Wertach, in Germany.

Q Can you spell that?

B Landsberg? Yes. That's L-a-n-d-b-e-r-g-s. Landsberg.

Q Where is that in Germany?

B That's in West Germany.

Q Northern part...southern part?

B Northern.

Q North West Germany?

B Uh huh. I was born there. We were a big family. And then we moved to Danzig. That's the free state of Danzig, you know, the state for himself.

Q What did your father do for a living?

B Well, my father was a landscaping--he did landscaping. But then my father died when I was twelve; my mother died when I was two, so I went to Berlin to my oldest brother. I lived there 'til I was 16. So then I came over here when I was 16, because you wasn't allowed to...travel... by yourself under 16, see, and I had my sisters here.

Q Whose rule was that that you couldn't travel--was that a German rule?

B That was a German rule, yeah. You had to be 16 to travel by yourself.

A Well, it was your sister, really...

B My sister let me come over here then, see. But I had to wait 'til I

was 16. So that was the first time that I came over.

Q Who was....some of your brothers and sisters were over here already?

B I have four sisters here.

Q Did they come over before you?

B Oh, yes. My oldest sister...

A You don't have four sisters here--you have four sisters.

B I have four sisters...

A Oh, yes, you have four, that's right.

B Well, my oldest sister died about eight years or nine years ago. And my older sister, the second one, come over. So my oldest sister was over 50 years over here.

Q Why did she come over?

B Well, my aunt and uncle was here first. That was the brother of my father. And he let my oldest sister come over. Well, she was young then, too. See there were 12 in the family. We were six boys and six girls. So my aunt and uncle let my oldest sister come over first. And then my oldest sister got my other sister over here. And then my other two came together.

Q Do you know why your aunt and uncle came over? That must have been a long time ago.

B Well, it was a long time, and they wanted to travel and see this country.

Q Were times bad in Germany at that time?

B I think so. It was before the first World War, because I know my brother...I was young then and my brother was in the first World War--two of my brothers. And one didn't come back, and one was captured...in the English prison, you know. And so we were four sisters here, but my brothers they died all young. So there's just one brother living in Hamburg--he's 83 years old. And all the sisters are here, except my one sister died. So we're here three--four. We still are three sisters now...four sisters. We have five sisters...we have five sisters. That's right. I forgot.

Q Why didn't your brothers...

B The brothers didn't want to, and then they all died young, see.

Q But you have one brother still living? Why didn't he want to come over?

B Well, he was here on a visit once. We let him come over. See, after

after the second World War...see, he was how do you call F.B.I. in Germany, you know. After the first war, he was in army in the first war...

A He was with the German Geheim ~~Politzoid~~<sup>Polizei</sup> (sp?). *Polizei*

B *Ja*, Geheim ~~Politzoid~~, but it's something like F.B.I., I think, in this country.

A Yeah, something like that.

B Well, when he came out from the first World War he went in the police force, you know, and from there he worked himself up and he was then in the F.B.I. Well, after the 2nd World War, when Hitler came on; you know...here the people they think all the Germans are Nazis. They don't even know what Nazi really means, I think, because the people really are good over there.

A There's a lot of good Germans over there.

B Why don't you tell something?

Q O.K. When did you come over?

A Well, I was a young man when I left Germany. I left Germany in 1923 after the war--after the 1st World War. Things got bad in Germany and I had a good trade. I was a machinist by trade, see, a toolmaker. And when things get so bad in Germany, my people couldn't afford to give me education further. I wanted to go further in life, see. But things got worse, so my father always said, "Wait another year and we can afford to send you to school." But I never made it. So in 1923 I had an opportunity to go to South America. I wanted to come here, first, but I didn't have a chance--nobody sponsored me in those days, see. You need somebody to sponsor you to come to this country. I think you know that well.

Q You didn't have any relatives here?

A I had relatives. When I wrote my aunt one time that I would love to come to this country if she could sponsor me, see, I never heard from her. So I said--I was a minor--you had to be 21 years to leave Germany without your father's permission, see. So I had an awful job getting my father's signature to leave....And I decided I go to South America and later come to this country. But it took me three years before I made it. I didn't get here 'til 1926...to Wilmington, Delaware.

Q Well, what did you do in South America?

A I worked at my trade. I made big money. The German mechanics they were wanted...oh, I never had to look for a job. They just came to me and begged me to work for them. And I had good jobs there, very good jobs. And I enjoyed the country also.

Q Which country did you live in?

A Argentina...Buenos Aires. And all at once I got a letter from my

aunt that she heard from my mother that I wanted to come to this country. And she sent me all the papers I needed. And so I decided I leave right away, as quick as I could, see, because I had it in my mind to come here. It was my ambition to come to this country. And so I had a lot of friends in Buenos Aires and also in Quilms (?) which is right outside of Buenos Aires, see. So I left the country. You're recording this, aren't you?

Q Yeah. Why, does that make a difference? It shouldn't.

A It doesn't make any difference. I just try to tell you all the bad experiences I had down there, see.

Q You had bad experiences?

B That takes a long time.

Q Well, you know, this is what we're interested in, is your experiences-- good or bad.

B Well...tell your story from South America.

Q Did you have any trouble with the language in South America?

A Oh, no. I learned the language very quickly. See, I was young those days, and when you're young you pick it up very quickly, see. And those people were very very neighborly and friendly. I enjoyed it. As long as I was there I enjoyed it more and more so. But after I had those papers I decided to come to this country and make a new living. Well, unfortunately, I wrote my aunt that I come here. When I came here she died in the meantime. But my cousin and his wife and his family were still here. They had a delicatessen store which is Dautel's Delicatessen Store.

Q How do you spell that?

A D-a-u-t-e-l-s.

Q And where is that located?

B They started on Madison Street, his aunt and uncle, they had the store on Madison Street. And then your aunt was dead when you came from South America...

A She was dead, yes.

B And then your cousin...you took the store over, right?

A Well, he met me at the railroad station. I traveled on my own up to Wilmington, and he met me here, see. And they were very good to me, but things were bad those days in this country. It was hard to get a job.

Q This was 1926?

A 1926, yes. Before the Depression.

B That's when I came over.

A So I tried to get a job at my trade again, see, which I loved, my trade. But being as my aunt died, my cousin was left without any help, see. She was the main...she run the store, you know what I mean, my aunt. She was a businesswoman.

Q Was she the one that started this store?

A Yes. And that store still exists, too.

Q When did she start that store?

A In 1916 during the war...1916. Well, she was dead when I came here, and my cousin and I carried on. But he wasn't much of a businessman. When I came to the store I couldn't speak any English. So he gave me all the German customers to wait on, see. And in the meantime I picked the language up in no time, see. Then I tried to help him and put him on his feet. He himself wasn't a businessman, see what I mean? But I had experience from my home, because all my people were in business in Germany. So I set that business up again and started from scratch, you may say. He let the business go down after his mother died, you know what I mean. So I contacted all my German friends, you know, and I told them that I will take their orders, deliver to their homes, and I built that business up in about two years up to top. Well, then he got sick in 1940. Business was going very good then, see. We had a very fine business.

Q Even during the Depression, during the 1930's?

A Even during the Depression. I doubled, almost tripled that business what he had, see. So...well, in 1943 he took sick, see. So he asked me if I would carry on the business under the same conditions. I went in partnership with him those days, see. But he wasn't able to run it himself, see. So I said O.K. I'd take it over and carry on as a German delicatessen. We built a business up wonderful and we did a prosperous business. But then the situation turned out real bad. Colored people came into our neighborhood, see. And the Germans wouldn't come any more.

B Well, it was the last years that you...

A Right, it was the last years...

B And when your cousin went out of business, when you bought the store from him, you had a good business...

A I had a wonderful business.

B It was during the last years...

A But all at once they tore the East Side down in Wilmington, you know, if you recall. The whole East Side was torn down. And all the colored lived on the East Side, they came right in my neighborhood there. So naturally I didn't have no choice but leave the neighborhood, because

my German customers refused to come at nights to the store, and we do a lot of business at night, in the evenings.

B I mean, we don't have anything against the colored people.

A No, no no no no. But I could do no business there.

B But in the evening they were afraid to come on Madison Street, there, those years.

A That's right.

B And then we built a store in Elsmere...in Elsmere we built a store right in front of our house in Elsmere...

A I was married and I had two children, see. And my wife died on me right after I took the business over. So naturally I was handicapped. I had a business with two children to raise. But I made it. We did a very fine job. So I decided...I had a property in Elsmere...that I'm going to build a store in Elsmere...a German delicatessen again, see. So if you're acquainted, on Kirkwood Highway we're located, 930 Wilmington Avenue, Elsmere. So I built that store and I had a tremendous following, see. All my German friends came back again and patronized us, and we did a wonderful job. So we got married again, I got married again...when did we get married, hon? What year?

B 1920--I mean 1948.

A '48, that's right, when you came back from Germany.

B I came '47 and then in '48 we got married. We just had our 25th anniversary.

A Yeah. But I had to raise them two children by myself with a store going on, see. And it was very very hard...during the war. My wife died in '42. And we did a wonderful business. They started Dravo down there, you know, the builders for the government, they build those boats right down the street from me, and I had that delicatessen store there. And the people they came in our store. They waited in line to get our homemade good baked beans. We baked beans about six and seven times a day. One was in the oven, the other came out...all day long see.

B That was during the war, wasn't it?

A It was during the war.

B Well, I was over there.

A Yeah.

B Running to the shelter five, six times during the night, unfortunately.

A So...we served the people....My oldest daughter was in Germany in '39 just when the war broke out.

Q Which other store (sic)--that your family owned?

B That was his oldest daughter...

A My oldest daughter--I had two daughters...

B She went on a visit.

A She went to visit. I sent her on a visit as a child--she was nine years old...to Germany. And I just brought her back on the last boat--I think it was the Rex, if I'm not mistaken--the last Italian boat then there was no more traffic from Europe to here, see. Then my wife got sick; she got a stroke, and she died, very sudden. No, not really sudden, she was sick for two years and three months. She was paralyzed. And I had the store to run, with strange help. Nobody else in the family--the children were too small. So, we built our store in Elsmere later when we got married again. My wife and I we're married now 25 years. And we've really had a very prosperous business. I must say we did very very nicely. We could afford now to retire. We're retired now.

Q When did you retire?

A In '69.

Q You sold the store to someone else?

B No, my daughter took it over after we retired. And she had to sell it this year.

A We had a lot of...I had a lot of sickness.

B She had to give it up because she has three children, the youngest one goes to school now. So she had to give the store up. But we have the store rented again. There's some German people in there now.

A In the meantime I had a lot of sickness. In '53 I had a spine operation...they operated on me and I thought I would never walk again. When did I have my...I think the next operation was the spleen operation wasn't it? Yeah, I had a little fall, and I injured my spleen. And they almost let me die there...gave me five days in intensive care and never found out what ailed me. So I called my wife at 5:00 in the morning to call the doctor immediately. I said, "I'm dying by the inches." He was there at 6:00 in the morning...Dr. Hartenauer. He said, "What's the matter--we had you in intensive care and nothing shows wrong with you?" I said, "Doctor, I'm dying by the inch and I can feel..."--this was on New Year's Eve...sixty...

B Ya...they operated on you on New Year's Eve, in...

A '68. '68. That's right. I injured my spleen. They told me they have to remove my appendix...they have to open me up.

B After you couldn't breathe any more he called the surgeon and...



- A I said, "I don't care what you do, Doctor. Please give me relief. I'm gonna die by the inch, and I can feel it, I'm going down every minute, see." Well, so they opened me up. He said, "You must have had an appendix," see. When they opened me up, they cut my whole stomach up here, see. They found out that my whole intestines were full of blood. My left lung was completely closed up, I couldn't get any more air. So, after the operation they told me next day, on New Years Day, "If we wouldn't have operated last night on you, you wouldn't be here today." After I was five days in intensive care. So after I had that operation I recuperated wonderful. Never had any pains or aches or anything any more. Then in '69 I had a heart attack. And I thought it was almost enough in business. I recovered fairly well; I was twice in the hospital, and they took me in and let me go home again. And the next day they took me in again.
- B After a few days...you should have stayed in the hospital. The doctor didn't want to let you go home.
- A So, I recovered again and then we gave the business up, and our daughter took it over, and she did a very good job. Now since we're retired, she had to quit the job. She couldn't handle it any more. And I rented the store out. That's what I live on now, the rent what I get from there and the little bit of Social Security that I get.
- Q Do you ever wish that you had somehow gone back into your trade, the machinist trade, instead of working in the store?
- A No, see, after he wasn't well, somebody had to carry on. Somebody had to carry on, so I just stayed there. I told you he wasn't much of a businessman, and...
- B Well, anyway, you liked the store.
- A I liked it...I liked the people.
- B You like to be under people, and...
- A We had wonderful trade. I served all the lodges in this town, I was very active in the Delaware Saengerbund, which is a very fine singing society in Delaware, one of the finest--I mean, I think. And I'm still active somewhat there, but not so much any more on account of my age. And my trade, I couldn't go back any more then, see...it was too late, see.
- B Yeah. Sometimes I wish you would have.
- A In those days, a mechanic made 35¢ an hour--that's what DuPont offered me, 35¢ an hour, when I came here. I said, "I'll never work for 35¢." I made big money in South America. I made anywheres from \$1.20, \$1.30 pesos an hour. Every hour I worked overtime, double pay. Sick benefits for one month, full pay. So I wouldn't work for DuPonts those days. They didn't even interest me, for 35¢ an hour.

B That was years back...

A That was years back. Well, it was in '26.

B Yeah. Well, when Theresa <sup>(sister)</sup> came over she got paid \$1.00--what did she say--she worked for \$1.00 a week.

A Not a week.

B Yeah. Sure she worked for Judge Marks. See, those years...she is over sixty years over here.

A I got paid \$10.00 a week with room and board...only 35¢ an hour I was better off this way, see. And I could learn the language much quicker in the store. And I enjoyed the work later on. My family in Germany they were all good cooks you know, so we made a lot of homemade sauerkraut, potato salad, rice pudding, pickled tripe, pickled pigs feet. We had no groceries, only delicatessen in those days, in our store. But now we're sitting here, the two of us in Elsmere...I mean Brandywine Spring Manor...retired. Of course we've got Sigfried here, our dog. Is there any other question you'd like to ask us?

B Yes. Would you like to ask us something?

Q Can you tell me about life in the old country? You said you left in hard times?

A Yes, I left in very hard times.

Q Did you ever wish you could have gone back to Germany? After things improved, after the war, did you ever think of going back?

A No. In the meantime, see, I got married here, see, and I had two children...

B He just had a hard time when he got to South America because all his money he got from home...and the inflation was...the money was all gone. So he didn't have a penny.

A I couldn't even buy a package of cigarettes, with all my thousand marks I had in my wallet, when I came to Spain already.

B But you was allowed to sleep in the camp for a week?

A Yeah, immigration building.

Q Where was this now?

B In South America when he came over.

Q When he first came to South America?

A Yeah, they let you...

B And then finally you got a job.

A Ten days you can stay free there until you get a job or some connection there. Well, I had a job the third day I got there, but I didn't have any money. I didn't have no money to buy any breakfast or supper or dinner either, because the German money was absolutely no good, see. Well, I had a job the third day I got there, and I didn't get paid until two weeks...they pay every two weeks, see. So what I had for breakfast was a bun...not a bun, a roll, and a cup of coffee. And for lunch nothing and for supper we had a lunch...because the fellow I went with he had a few American dollars and he turned them into pesos, see, and this was our meals for two weeks. Then we rented a room...it was almost like a chicken coop. We did our own cooking. I was pretty good in cooking. And we managed until we had money to buy a bed. We had an empty room, you know. Then we bought a bed...just I slept a couple of weeks on the floor. And then I bought a bed and then we bought a mattress and that's how we built ourselves up. And jobs I had...good work, I had wonderful work down there, no kidding. They got me out of bed once at 11:00 at night. I could work a lathe or any kind of machine, see. And this lathe hand died, and he begged me on his knees, they were all broke down, to come and work for him. Well, at that time they had a strike. And where I worked...a seaman's strike in Europe...and they couldn't get any material from Germany, see. I was a tool-maker there, and we made fancy tableware, you know, trays and all kinds of stuff there--I made the dies for it, see. So I said to the man, "If you don't get any material from Germany it's just as well, I'd just as well come and help you out," see? And then he told me oh, how good they will pay me, and all those things that I...get overtime...but they had 48 hours those days, see. I worked Saturdays, Sundays, evenings, all the time, to get him started again, see. Because they were broke down and...it was a brewery...a German brewery in Quilms...we could drink all the free beer we wanted there...plenty beer...didn't cost us nothing. I enjoyed it down there. The people down there, they cried when I left. I maybe did too, I don't know.

Q Did you take a boat then to America?

A You know...yeah, oh yeah. Took me four weeks. I left February the 3rd, 1923, and I landed in Buenos March the 3rd, 1923...four weeks in the water.

B You mean from Germany to South America.

A Yeah. Four weeks. And the Dunsel Krefeld (sp) was the ship's name. It was wonderful there--I enjoyed it. You know, when you're young you don't have no worries, you don't worry about nothing.

Q But you still wanted to come to America, even though times were...

A Oh, yes, it was my ambition to come here. It took me three years to get here, but I got here.

Q You paid for your own passage?

A Oh, yes. Oh yes indeed. Well, when I left Germany I had a half

from my brother-in-law. He helped me foot the bill...for the fare. My last paycheck in Germany was about \$50,000 marks...something like that.

B Then there was the inflation...

A 50,000 marks.

B Sure. Maybe you got paid five million, and the next day you couldn't buy a loaf of bread with it.

A I told you when I came to Spain I couldn't even buy a package of cigarettes with our German marks...absolutely no good. I went hungry for a few days down there...yes, I did. I remember one German fellow he come in and he said--this was the place where the Germans usually commute, you know--said, "Boy, you look hungry to me--you got any money?" I said, "No, I don't have any money." So he bought me a piece of sausage about that big and gave me five pesos so I'd have a little money to buy food with. The first thing when I went to Germany in 1932, I visit his place and thanked him. I never forgot that man to this day...to this day...he died in the early '30's, not very long after I was in Germany, he died. But you never forget when somebody do you a favor when you're really down and out. You don't forget that. You remember that all your life.

Q Did anyone help you a lot or do you any great favors in America when you first came here?

A Here? Well, I didn't need any favors because my cousin took me right in. I had a room. The bed was made. And they gave me a dinner right away, you know what I mean. It wasn't like my first trip, see. But great favors I haven't got from anybody here. I couldn't say that. Nobody ever did me a big favor.

B You didn't need any. I mean, first of all you're too proud...

A Well, I didn't need any help from nobody, but I did really. I had <sup>two</sup> ~~too~~ friends that worked for DuPonts and they were laid off, in the Depression....I did buy them on Sundays food. They had no food in the house over Christmas. And I was in the delicatessen store. I had plenty of food. But they had nothing to eat. Hans ~~Strasse~~ (sp?) he builded those little doll houses and sold them from door to door. He was very handy, you know, making things...sold them from door to door to get a dollar so he could live. That's how bad the Depression was. You wasn't living then, were you?

Q No.

B He wasn't born then.

A It was bad times. But we went through it.

Q Did you ever have something unusual happen in the store?  
Anything unusual...different? During the years you ran the store...

any crime...were you ever robbed or burglarized?

B No, there just was once...well, you know...once when Bobby went after them boys.

A No, he didn't go after them...they was yellow.

B Well, he got dressed...they were all sleeping...but they heard something in the store...

A They had it, but they was afraid, see. They robbed the store, yes.

B They lived on top of the store on Madison Street. And they heard some noise, and so Bobby...the boy worked for us. He got up but when they heard him come down then they jumped out of the window and run. They didn't get it. That was the only time.

A The only time we was robbed.

B We never had trouble on Madison Street, and we didn't have any trouble in Elsmere either.

A No, no trouble. I still owned that store and I rented it out, see.

B Of course we worked hard. I was sometimes fourteen and fifteen hours on my feet. But I didn't mind it then.

A Well, we opened seven in the morning, every morning, and closed eleven at night...so you figure out how many hours I put in...plenty of them. But we had a good following and a good prosperous business there...and if my wife wouldn't get sick we would have been on top of the world, but...they took all my money then...everything...the hospital took everything. I had no insurance, 'cause insurance wasn't so popular, see. I owed the hospital \$5,000. I paid every penny of it...didn't owe them nothing.

Q Can you tell me anything about the Saengerbund?

A Oh, yes, I can tell you all about it.

Q I'm interested also in the history of that...

A Oh, yes indeedy. When we came over here, it was in May, 1926, we were about seven German fellows. There's not a one living today, is there?

B Yes. Alfred Gilgenast is living...

A No, he came later...but the ones I started with, they're all dead.

B Well, this German Hall at that time on Sixth Street...it was run down...and all the old people they were gone...and then we were just a few young ones.

A No, they were still there.

B Not too many...and the club was run down. So Ludwig Schoen he started

SCHIERL

this singing. He gave us singing lessons, and then we really started singing. I was there too. Ludwig Schoen was our instructor.

A I mean, we worked on shoe strings...we didn't have any money. I remember...

B I know...ladies would bake cake and bring the cake there, and we made coffee and cake--and they made sauerkraut dinners to make some money, you know. That's how we started.

A Yeah...I had a cousin, he was a butcher...he's dead too, Fritz...and we made blutwurst (sp?) and leberwurst and sauerkraut dinners and homemade baked beans and everything, see. And that's how we built our club up again, see. And Bernard Klase, he was a jeweler in this town, see...we gave the children a Christmas party. But none of us had any money, you know. So he was a jeweler. So I went to Bernard Klase and I said, "Mr. Klase we want to give the children a Christmas party. Could you do a little bit something for us?" He said to me, "Gene, how much money do you need for them children," see. I said, "Well, if we have about \$10.00 I guess we can buy little gifts for them, you know." He gave me \$20.00, said "You buy something for them and don't pay me back. It's on me."--which was very very nice, see. So them old-timers they died little by little. Our place was run down during the war. There was Prohibition...we didn't have no beer to sell, and a German club without beer is not so hot, you know that. Germans like beer. So we made coffee parties...and Freihoffer...Carl Marshall .... he was the foreman at Freihoffer's Bakery those days... he baked us them big German cakes, you know.

Q What was his name?

A Marshall...Carl Marshall. He's still living, though. Carl is still living. Joe died, but Carl is still living. So we got our club started again. We got little dances and this and the other thing, and so the beer came back, see. Then we had...

Q Did you ever make your own beer?

A No. Not me. Some people did. Not me. I didn't care for that home brewed beer anyhow. I could do without it. I'd rather drink near beer. So, with all the help from the ladies and the business people in town...they woke up and helped us out, you know, and made donations for us. Then we celebrated our hundredth anniversary and that's when they made me an honorary member...they're now...1853, that's when they started the Delaware Saengerbund in 1853.

Q Do you know anything about that early history?

B Not too much, not too much, because...they have a library in there, but they gave all the books to the university when they built the new club in Ogletown. They gave all their books to the University of Delaware.

A Yeah, all the books went to the university....We had a very good library those days. Very good library. A lot of people they enjoyed

it very much. I never had much time to read down there in that store but we had a good library. And now the Delaware Saengerbund are up again, under good leadership, honest people, and we bought a place in Ogletown....I worked forty-some years to get out of the town, see. We were on the East Side. And from the minute I went into that club I wanted to relocate some place else--any place but over there on East Sixth Street.

Q That was an old building, wasn't it?

A Oh yes.

B It was a big building, but it was old.

Q What was the neighborhood like?

B Well, that got bad too because they were beating up some lady there...

A That's what I told you. On the East Side most all the colored lived, see.

B ...from the club, so we had to get out of there.

A It was a holiday for me when we sold that thing...because I worked hard for that club to get out of the town, and I said any place but here, see. And when we went out there we had 75 members. Now all our members, those 75, got together, and we built a new club in Ogletown. It's a prize to look at it today...beautiful.

B They built it themselves, the men.

A All the members themselves, especially our son, Dick, Richard. He worked day and night on that club you might say. We got a building today we can be proud of...wonderful place. And every Wednesday there is rehearsal...then we give concerts...

B They have...what entertainments they have here...just see, they have...

A Yeah, if you want to know a little bit something about it...

B They have Oktoberfest...

A Let the gentleman read it. Read that through...it's interesting.

B They have all kinds of entertainment now for Christmas...

Q This is a newsletter that's put out every month, is that it?

A Yeah, once a month.

Q Yeah, it looks like you're very active. You have something going on...

B How many members do we have now...250 or more?

A Why, it's 600.

TRAEGER

- B Yeah, the club is not big enough now, any more...we've got so many members.
- Q How did you find that place in Ogletown--did you buy it from someone?
- A Yeah. Paul Heinemann, he found it and then he almost made a big mistake, see. This club was very much in my heart, see, because I liked German singing and German culture, see. So he found that place, but we didn't get enough money for our old place. Also...we had \$30,000 when we started there, see.
- Q When was this?
- A When did we start there...it's four years, isn't it?
- Q '69?
- B It's going on fifth year over there. It was sixty...we still had the store...'68, yes. I think they started to build in '68.
- A '68, yeah. Around '68. And we have a wonderful following. We just had a...
- B Yeah, Mr. Heinemann, he found the place, but they didn't have enough money, and then they wanted to sell the front, you know...there's a house on it, a nice house. And people are living in there, and he wanted to sell the front...but it wouldn't do us any good. Then our club would be way in the back...
- A Well, see, in our meeting each member has to be notified when there is something special, see. And I didn't get no letter, I wasn't notified...but we paid \$40,000 I think for that piece of ground.
- B Yeah, it was not much at that time. Now you would pay a lot more.
- A And those people didn't know where to get any money to build--they had no business authorities...they couldn't see ahead, see, you know what I mean? So they wanted to sell a piece of that land, on the whole front, and we would have a side and then on the back they would build a clubhouse, which wouldn't be any good...we were right on Salem Church Road, which you see there now...silly to build there. So I went to the meeting and they had it all thrashed out the meeting before, I couldn't make it...and they wanted to sell that piece of property, see. They wanted to sell the house with the property. And somebody wanted to buy it, you know. So the Saengerbund was so much in my heart...
- B Well, somebody told you and then you talked to Heinemann.
- A I went to the meeting, and when that came up in the meeting I stopped them from selling that piece of property...I contested the meeting, see. Well, I was called all kinds of names later on from the one who wanted to buy it, see. I said, "I'd buy the house and I'd buy the land with it," see, "and when you're ready to come to your senses, I'll sell it to you back for what I paid for it." So after we come



to a road, there was two people that came to me. They didn't know what they were doing...no business ability, see...I mean, no sense... they couldn't see the future. I said, "You've got something. I've been working for over 45 years, and you want to give it away?...We get the money...if you won't accept my offer, we get it some place else," see. So we kept that piece of property, and we built a wonderful clubhouse down there now. I mean, it's beautiful. No two ways about it. And we have a wonderful following. We always donate some money to the University of Delaware, you know. We have a sort of grant...so much goes to the university...I forget what they're paying now, see...every year.

Q The Saengerbund pays this?

A Yeah. Um hmm.

Q What is this donated for? Any special reason?

A For the German classes down there. They teach German down there, you know. I don't know how we stand now on it because I don't attend those meetings regularly any more. I don't know...haven't heard how much they donate now. But every year they donate, you know, we donate so much. No...it was a beautiful place and now it's getting too small. We'll have to build again. When we had those bands over from Germany...three of them we had over here...all the members they gave them free lodging and food, you know, the ones we brought over here...because they didn't have any money either. So they enjoyed it. We had a...where is that thing there? From Germany?

B Well, the first ones came from Zaugau (sp). And then the second ones we had this year they came from Hechingen. And the prince from Hohensolen (sp?) was with them, with this band, you know?

A ~~Hechingen~~ <sup>Hofen</sup> - this is right where the Hohensolen is in Germany. You ever see the pictures of Germany? <sup>Zollern</sup>

Q I've never seen a picture of that.

A It's beautiful...a beautiful old castle, see. It belonged to the kaiser's family, see. It's really not Wurttemberg; it's still Prussian, see. So...we had wonderful times...they brought their bugles and....As a matter of fact, not the last affair, the one before...we had the German Kaiser's--was it grandson or great grandson--he came over here with them. I had quite a nice conversation. He knew my little aunt very well. And they had a good time, too. We showed all the hospitalities and treated them wonderful.

Q Did they like America? Did they like Delaware?

A Oh, yes. Oh, yes. They loved it here. I mean, they couldn't help like it. We treat 'em royal.

Q Can you think of any outstanding members of the Saengerbund's history?

B This is the book <sup>Castle</sup> Hohensolen... <sup>Zollern</sup>

Q Oh, yeah. Oh top of a hill?

B Yeah. Way on top of the hill. It's beautiful.

A Isn't that beautiful?

Q It certainly is.

A I've been down at the bottom. I never was up in the castle. I never had the time...when I went to Tübingen. Outstanding members from the Saengerbund, I wouldn't know who to name. We have good people there...good citizens.

B This castle is from the king of Neuss Vanstein (sp)--that's his castle. *Neuschwanstein?*

A You ought to drive through Germany sometime and see that.

B After that...after the band was here from Hohensolen, then we had a band from Schwarzberg. They come from here from this section.

A Yeah, that was the next one we had.

Q This is the band that came over?

B Yes, uh huh.

A Oh, it was beautiful. Now, if you would be interested, we have a Christmas affair, Christmas party, sort of, this coming Saturday... festival...Saturday, November the 17th...the annual Christmas festival.

B They will have these uniforms and they dance the schuplatla (sp?) dances. This is my son with his wife and his...they adopt this little boy, and this is the daughter. And you should see him dancing, I'll tell you. *Schuplatla*

A Man, people throw money to him. He gets a dollar....

B He gets the most applause when he dances...

A ...so little you know.

B I think he started when he was six years old.

A Yeah. Go down there on Saturday and see for yourself. Do that.

B Yeah, you would enjoy yourself.

A ...you would enjoy it. It's a very, very spotless organization... never been in politics, never did anything...

Q Strictly social? For the German people?

A Well, and their friends. I mean we have just as many Americans as Germans...more Americans today than Germans.

B We have a lot of Americans, in our club. And then they have trips to

Germany...your flights, you know, cheaper flights going over to Germany through our club.

A Yeah, I've been twice to the Saengefest (sp?) in Hessen....

B Everybody enjoys themselves....

A ...and the one in Stuttgart...I went to two of them. Did you...turn it over...you didn't see it here...what goes on. See here--it tells you. Here--"The latest Christmas festival continued," it says here, see. "In addition, two clowns will entertain during the day...and Santa Claus will make a brief visit. The Endsein (sp?)--which is the name from our tanzgrube (sp?)...Volks tanzgrube--will perform from 1:30, 3:30, 6:00." *Ape* *He* *ENZIAN*

B That's where they dance.

A ..."The singers of the Delaware Saengerbund will perform at 8:00"--that's when the singing society sings. "Then the Laudebach (sp?) band will begin at 9:00"--see they have an affair all day Saturday. "At 10:00 p.m. all the minors must leave the premises so the adults may enjoy the dancing and bar and the deutsche holly (?) until 1:00 a.m." *helle?*

B All the teenagers, they have to leave.

A So, if you feel like it, having a good time with your family...you have a family?

Q Just a wife.

A Just a wife? Well, you and your wife...you dance?

Q Not too much.

A Not too much? Would you enjoy to see that dancing once?

Q Well, I would be interested in coming, yes.

A Where do you live, anywhere near?

Q We live in Newark.

A Oh, you're right alongside of it. You take 72 and you get...

B Why don't you stop there? I guess your wife would enjoy it, too.

A It's in Salem Church Road, 49 Salem Church Road.

Q Well, I've heard a lot about it, and I certainly would like to at least stop in for a little bit and see what it's like.

A It doesn't cost you nothing...you can come 1:30 is the first performance from the dancing group...and they always serve you good food, besides. Not only sauerkraut...they're having something else.

Q Have they got good German cooks...like yourself, huh?

B Well, I don't know....

A Yeah, they have good cooks there. Yes, they serve you a wonderful dinner...inexpensive, too.

B Yeah, I think you would enjoy it.

A You would enjoy that, yeah. I advise you to go there...if you live in Newark...

Q Yeah, I'll certainly try to come.

A On Saturday...

Q On Saturday...that's a week from Saturday, right?

A No, this Saturday's the 17th.

Q Day after tomorrow?...yeah, that is the 17th.

A That's right.

B I thought they have the bazaar this Saturday.

A No, the bazaar is later...I don't think it's announced there, is it?

B The bazaar is this Saturday, because here they have to bake a cake, too.

A Oh yeah? Well, it could be. Maybe they have the bazaar with the Christmas party.

Q Do you celebrate, either in your family here, or in the club, any German holidays?

A What holidays?

Q I don't know. Any traditional holidays from the old country that you may have celebrated back there.

A No, we don't.

B We celebrate like in Germany. We in Germany we celebrate Christmas Eve...we celebrate really Christmas Eve instead of Christmas morning, like over here, with the children. Christmas Eve we go to church in Germany and then we have a good Christmas dinner, and then after the dinner then the children can come in the room where the Christmas tree is with their presents. That's how we celebrate in Germany.

A We have a wonderful celebration, too, down at the club, for the children.

B Yeah, the children have a Christmas party here.

A We have Santa Claus there for them, and we have a lot of young people there...a lot of young people.

B This is similar to here, except in this country you have Christmas

morning with the children, you know...the children get their presents on Christmas morning. We get them Christmas Eve in the evening, after dinner.

Q What about Thanksgiving...do you celebrate that here?

B And Thanksgiving we celebrate, too...and Easter. But we have more holidays over there than here...like we have Christmas...we have Christmas Eve, then we have Christmas, and we have another holiday...we have three holidays, really, over there. And Easter the same. We have Easter Sunday and then we have Monday...and New Year...

A Now, there's fresh cider...maybe you'd enjoy it.

Q Fresh cider? I'll try it, sure.

B Maybe you'd like a beer, or a glass of wine?

Q No, that's fine, thanks. What do you like most about America?

B Well, I like everything in this country. I know when we came over I was here before and I know how good it is.

A We were very very poor when we came to this country. Nobody had anything. We had to start all from scratch. There was no relatives or anybody left with any fortune here.

B I mean, everybody had to work to get ahead. And then I think this is with everybody...if you want to get ahead, you have to work. There are lots of people in this country, they want everything...they don't know how good they have it in this country. If they would work, and do things on their own, they could get ahead, too. But there are a lot of people in this country, they want everything for nothing. That's what I think...because this is a big country, and you can get ahead if you really want to.

A See, in Germany, I had to go to work...I wasn't even 14 years old...to learn my trade. Because we had seven years public schooling...that's all you get in Germany, those days, see. Any higher schooling you had to pay for.

B Like here, too, where you go to college you have to pay to...

A I know...but they give you twelve years here.

Q So you have to pay for the equivalent of a high school education.

B Yeah. And the books and everything.

A I had to learn four years my trade. I didn't get no wages...nothing. But I had to work very hard. Just almost...when you are in the third year you work just the same as a big paying man, you know. You know your trade already then, see.

B But in Germany you go eight years to school. Now if you want to go to

high school, they don't take everybody...just the bright ones who can make the grade, they take those children. But not everybody can...if you're not bright, they won't take you. Now here in this country everybody can go to high school, right?

- A I started to work as apprentice boy, 6:00 in the morning...from six to six. I had to walk to work almost a half an hour and had to walk back home again after that, see. I was gone twelve hours a day, plus my walking time, see. And after I had my apprenticeship served, see, then I left the place where I learned my trade and I took tool making up, see. Now there I got paid for. And I was very proud of my trade and I loved it. I loved it. I sure did. It was really a shame that I gave it up.
- B Most children over there when they get out of grade school, they learn a trade. Just like my son, when he came out of school then he couldn't get a job, but his grandparents they had a plumbing business and he started to learn his trade there. And he had two and a half years, I think, before he came over here. And then when we came over here, at the beginning he stayed with my oldest sister in Philadelphia, and I came over here to Wilmington with my daughter. And I worked with one of my sisters...she used to work for Judge Morris for over forty years. And so I got a job there...I worked for Judge Morris, too, and my daughter went to Mrs. Kutt--she took care of her children. And then my son...he enlisted--he want so bad to go in the Navy...and his English was not so good, so he couldn't make out what it meant, and he couldn't make his application out right. So then he was so disappointed and he went right straight and he went in the Army. So he was in Korea in the Korean War and he just was 17, 18 I think.
- A Okinawa first, and then he went to Korea.
- B Yes, first he went to Okinawa and then he came back on furlough and then he went to the state of Washington and from there they sent him to Korea. And he was there over a year...year and a half I think, in Korea, and then he came home and then in the meantime we got married. And so my husband knew a plumber, a friend of his, and he gave him a job as a plumber. But he worked in the day and he went in the evening to school. So he went five more years to school to learn his trade. See, he had two and a half years in Germany but he had to go five years...of course he made his Master...so he can make...if he wanted to...but he works for what's his name now?
- A Charlie Reskovitz.
- B Well, he used to work for Charlie Reskovitz, but now he works for years already with this Mr....what's his name? I can't think...
- A McDonald.
- B McDonald...as a plumber.
- A Yeah, he handles big jobs now. He's the boss. They made him vice president because he didn't want to join the union...he didn't join the union. His boss begged him. He said, "I'm not gonna join the

union, I'm gonna leave you." He said, "Well, from now on you're the vice president of the firm. You stay with me." And he's still there...very successful.

Q Now, his name is Traeger? And that's your maiden name--or your first husband's name?

B My first husband's name, um hmm.

Q Did you have anyone help you with the store?

B Yes, we had help...we had help.

A I had lots of help...if I wouldn't have had all that help--had to have help, see--we would have money today. We had one helper, see...I was in Germany at the time...and he held on with my wife, see. So one time somebody called for a pound of coffee, and she gave him the order to get the groceries...so she couldn't find no coffee. And she wondered why--it was on the slip and everything else, it was on the bill, was charged for...he stole nine cases of merchandise out of one order...nine cases of merchandise he stole out of one order. That's how they did me...

B So, I mean, I asked him, "Where...are the nine cases?" He said...well, he started to unpack right away...the next morning. See he just brought it in, and then home. And next morning he started to unpack. But in the meantime I counted those boxes, you know, and there were nine boxes missing. So when he started to unpack, I said, "Bobby, " I said, "You better go back first and get those nine boxes. There are nine boxes missing." He said, "There's nothing missing." I said, "Come on, we count it together." And then he said, "Well, I see there's nine boxes missing." I said, "Where are they? You must have left them there in the warehouse." I said, "I'm going to call up Paul." And he said, "You don't have to call 'em up. He don't want to talk to you." I said, "What do you mean he don't want to talk to me?" I said, "I paid for all this stuff and I want to know where it went to." So then that night he went home early and didn't come back. So he didn't come back and I had a big order...I had a picnic with 250 people...to cook and serve. So my daughter came and helped me serve the food in the evening. And he didn't show up. And then on Monday he came back. I said, "I don't need you." I said, "You know we had this big party and you didn't show up, so I don't want you." So I didn't let him come back. I said, "If my husband comes back from Germany and he wants you he can take you, but I don't want you." You know where he went...he had a girlfriend, I think...he was a nice boy, but through this girl, she ruled him...

A Um hmm...this thing is on, see, don't...

Q Why? That doesn't make any difference...you didn't mention his name, did you? You don't have to mention his name.

- B ...so instead of delivering orders, he took it to his girlfriend, and people calling us where was their order.
- A Yeah, a number of times...
- B That was the only time...
- A ...where we caught him, yeah...
- B Yeah, and he was such a good boy. I mean, we had him from small on... I think he was...when did he start...I think he was 13 years old, wasn't he, or twelve...
- A Thirteen or fourteen.
- B He helped us unpacking and stuff like that when he was a boy...
- A Just did little errands, and shelving, and....
- B And he was such a good boy 'til he met, when he got older, he met this woman, and she really ruined this boy.
- A She ruined him.
- B Of course he's married now.
- Q To that woman?
- A No...
- B Yeah, he married that woman...this Polish woman. He did marry her. See, he was married before. Then they separated...he had two children...and then he got in with this Polish girl involved, and that's when it happened. But he married her....
- A I wonder if they're still together.
- B I don't know. I never heard of him anymore. But we both worked together from morning to night, and then we had in the morning one more help, and in the afternoon we had help. Otherwise we couldn't make it ourselves.
- Q And you sold to mostly German customers?
- B No, lots of American customers we had, too...because once they tasted our German lunch meat they all came back. When they came in, the Americans, I gave them a taste. I said, "You should taste this." We had American lunch meat too, you know, for American people. But then I said, "Try this...you ought to try this." And then they liked it...then they bought our stuff...German stuff, too. And I did all the cooking for the store. I made potato salad, cole slaw, baked beans, rice pudding, and all kinds of stuff...rolls...baked hams...and everything.



Q Is there anyplace now in Wilmington that has that kind of food?

B Well, our store is still there, but these...our daughter used to make that too...I mean...

A The one who runs the deli, she said to me, "You'll have to show me how you used to make your baked beans...people still speak about your baked beans...they say you had the best baked beans in Wilmington."

B She doesn't have enough help, see, and it's kind of hard on her.

A It is very hard for her.

B Right before Christmas, I think, I'm gonna help her.

A Well, today she was very happy. I went down this morning, and she had a turkey...a 25-pound turkey...for a senior citizen affair in some kind of church next to Almart, see...I forgot what the church's name was. She was handicapped...she was very busy in the store, she had two helps there. So I said, "Come on and wait on your customers...I'm gonna cut up your turkey for you..." see. So I cut the whole turkey up for her and delivered it...had to be there at a quarter to twelve...she could never make it, if I wouldn't give her a hand.

B You made the gravy, too.

A The gravy too...and I put the seasonings to it, too...she was very light on the seasoning. It's a wonderful store...have you ever been in it?

Q No, I haven't.

A You know where it's located? You know Wilmington, don't you?

Q Well, you told me...

B Well, you know Elsmere. When you go towards Wilmington...you know, Kirkwood Highway, down in Elsmere. You know where the firehouse is in Elsmere?

Q Yeah.

B Well, you go one block towards town, one block after the firehouse. It's right on the corner...Birch Avenue and Wilmington Avenue. You know, Kirkwood Highway...it's right on the corner...says Dautel's Delicatessen.

A You can get anything you want from here or Germany.

B It's just, oh, about sixty years old...I mean, the Dautel's...they started that store...

A In 1916, that's when my aunt started that store, in 1916...during the first World War.

B And the store was still under Dautels...see, that's the name of it.

- A Well, it used to be F. H. Dautel, see, but when we got in partnership that time, then we made it Dautels, and it still goes under that name. Anybody knows...oh, the people all knows...I can walk anyplace..."Mr. Dautel"...my name isn't Dautel, you know.
- B They all call him Dautel.
- A Everybody calls me Mr. Dautel. I went to Senior Citizen today, at Camby Park, "Mr. Dautel, I haven't seen you in ages." See what I mean? "I used to be your bread man...Huber's bread man..." Yeah, we had quite a...we were very popular in town. I had the Masonic Clubs I served, I served the Oddfellows, you know Schechinger used to give us all the business there...I served their church dinners...I used to make all the sauerkraut at Zion Lutheran Church, you know...then we had the Elks...oh, I served almost everybody. I had a lot of parties for duPonts, too.
- B Oh, yes, we served a lot of weddings. I did all the cooking and we served a lot of weddings, too. So we were quite busy. And now I'm glad I can stay home and do nothing.
- Q Well, that's about all the questions I have. You've been very helpful.
- B Well, I hope so.
- A Well, I told you, I left Germany over 50 years ago, but Germany's still a pretty country.
- B Oh, yes. I was over there in 1960--'69, the last time.
- Q Some people say it's become more like America now...the cars, you know, and the factories...and people are becoming wealthy, now...
- B Oh yes, yes. And then they don't have...
- A The buying is getting very much Americanized.
- B Everything is very very expensive over there now, too. And they have so many cars, and they don't have those big streets like we have over here, you know....and with all the cars, I would be scared to drive a car over there.
- A That's what happened to me in '68 when I was over there.
- B But Germany is beautiful...I mean everything is so clean, you know, and the streets are so clean, and the scenery...everybody I hear...I mean lots of American people they go over there and they really liked it.
- A Yeah. I remember one time I ate an apple, see, in Stuttgart. And you know the core, I just throwed it on the street. My brother-in-law bent down and picked it up and carried it to the next corner where was a basket...I never forget--I shamed myself, see...
- B But you forgot, see. Over there they arrest...they have on each

corner a box where you can put your whatever you eat, or paper you put it in there. You're not allowed to put anything on the street.

A Oh, my God no. You never find a piece of paper on the street in Germany.

B Well, they're growing up, the children, from small on, that they're not allowed to do that. And the streets...they wash the streets every weekend, with a machine, you know...the streets are clean over there.

A Oh, Stuttgart is a beautiful town.

B But I like it over here...but once in a while I like to go back and see all my friends.

A You get homesick, Zola.

B But I never would like to stay over there.

A But now it's been so far back, see what I mean, that you have to think, see. We had a little river there. Oh, my God, how many fish did I catch in that river, see. I could tell every stone in that water, see, where there was fish standing. I loved to fish. I did, too, a lot, here in this country...very much. Gunning and fishing, that's my sport.

Q Where'd you go fishing--in Delaware, here?

A Oh, I went fishing every place. I go fresh water fishing up in Northern Ponds in Delaware. I went an awful lot...I recall about twenty years straight, every Wednesday we went fishing...in the season...only in the season. I fished a lot in Delaware. Years ago we had good fishing and all at once the fish disappeared...they polluted all the water here. But it came back again...this year... five years or six years...we have good fishing here in Delaware again...Delaware Bay. I'm in heaven here. And then I had a farm which I rented about 18 years for gunning...we shot geese, ducks, pheasants,...

B Yes, that's where you hurt your spleen...that's where you almost died on it.

A That was a lot of fun. Then last year the boys didn't want to take me out anymore, and now they sold the farm-I lost the farm now.

B Well, they were afraid to take you out, because....

A They told me I'm getting too old.

Q You don't think you're too old though, do you?

B No, he likes to go on the people...he goes to the store, looks what's going on there, and then he visits his friends...he don't like to sit home.

A I have a lot of friends come in, you know. And last week I went bowling, and I haven't bowled in about 18 years, and I got so sore

I couldn't hardly walk anymore. And I told Mr. Diskau <sup>to</sup> (sp?) today, too, that I was so sore...he laughed. He said, "Keep it up."

B Sure...you hadn't been bowling for such a long time...

A "...Meet me there tomorrow morning." I said, "O.K., I try."

B Instead of throwing the ball you hit the ball against your leg. He had a big blue spot.

A Yeah...I was black and blue. I got such a heavy ball--weighs 16 pounds. He said to me, "You can't handle that anymore. It was all right 20 years ago. You should get a light ball now, around 10 pounds, 12 pounds at the most." So tomorrow I try a light ball.

B Well you better...not that something happens again. Oh, and then we had...I always took boys in. The first time my nephew came over... he was 18. Then we got him a job over here. And then I had Bernard over here--I had two boys in the house. Besides the...working in the store, I took care of the two boys. Then I had Carl...he asked my son...his aunt brought him over here, and he didn't like it...so he asked my son (they were friends)... "You think your mother can take me in?" And Richard said to him, "Ask her. I'm sure she's gonna take you in." So Sunday we were out, and when we came back there was a suitcase in front of our house. We weren't home, so he left his suitcase there, and then later on he came. He said, "I talked to Richard...did he talk to you?" I said, "Yes, he told me." I said, "Well, you can come and stay--I still have some room for you."

A "...until you find a place..."

B "...until you find your place." But he stayed that long 'til he got married.

A Three years later he got married--that's when he found a place. You couldn't get rid of him.

Q How do they like America?

B Oh, they like it.

A He's still like a son to me...anything he can do for me, he does it.

B He's a plumber now, too. And he's in business himself...and they always liked it. I mean, he got married from our house. And Bernard, he's an automobile mechanic...auto mechanic. He's on his own now... specially on foreign cars...he learned his trade over there.

A And he's good. He start his own business now in Ogletown, too.

Q Where is he working?

A He start his own business in Ogletown, for himself.

Q Yeah...what is it called?

- A It's on 4 and 72.
- B His station--he has a station...
- A An ARCO station...it's all in foreign cars, see.
- B And he makes out very good.
- A Always in foreign cars, see. But he can work on any car. As a matter of fact, he took care of our cars all the time.
- B He used to work for Mr. Stein, all these years, and now he's...
- Q What is his name again?
- B Bernard Reichert. His mother was here on a visit...cause they got a little baby and so his mother came over for the christening...she wanted to see the baby...because she's all by herself in Germany.
- Q Did you talk to her while she was here?
- B Oh, yes, she was more here than over there.
- A More here than there, see, because his wife's American and they couldn't understand each other, see.
- Q She didn't speak German?
- B No, his wife don't speak German, and his mother can't speak English, so she couldn't get along so good.
- A She loved it here, all the time.
- B So we took her out, and she had a good time.
- A Yeah, we entertained her good.
- Q What did she think about America?
- B Oh, she liked it, too.
- A Oh, she's been here now three times, isn't it?
- B Yeah, three times. She came for his wedding, and then she was once more before that she was over here, too, when he wasn't married yet... she was three times over here. So she likes it. Of course she's getting older, too, and I said, "Why don't you sell your house over there and come over here?" But she has all her friends there and she's not so young anymore, and she said, "I don't think I will."
- A She couldn't get along here with her daughter-in-law, because they don't understand each other, and she wouldn't learn the language anymore. She's 65 years old, now. It was my first wife's sister... and my wife at present, they get along like two sisters.

B Well, she's a lot of fun...she's a lot of fun.

A And when they were over there she showed them a lot of hospitality, too. They was three sisters, went over there together, see, and a niece...and they stayed with her for a little while, didn't you?

B We were five on the boat...we went on a <sup>the</sup> ~~Hans~~<sup>e</sup> ~~atic~~ <sup>atic</sup> (sp?) the last time, on the boat, you know, ~~Hans~~<sup>e</sup> ~~atic~~...and we were five. And then we stayed at Emma...at Bernard's mother's place. She had a whole apartment there for us. The people moved out before that, and so I called her up from Hamburg...I said, "Try to get us a room in a hotel." And then she wrote back...she said, "I want you to stay with me...I have enough room, if it's all right with you." So naturally we stayed there, and we had a good time...and I stayed there four weeks, I think, with Emma. Of course we travelled around, you know. And then last time I was there, too. I was to Berlin...that's my home town...that's where I stay always the longest. And then I went to Stuttgart to see Emma, and then one week we went to Garmisch...that was nice, too--it was a nice vacation.

A I have a sister living in Stuttgart, see. She lost her husband in the first World War...raised all her own children. And her son and her daughter, they both were here to visit us. And Hettie was a school teacher very much in mind to stay here...but she would have to study more about...I don't know what the requirements were...she wasn't quite up...so she went back again and teaches over there. And her son, he's a doctor of economics...economics, see...he's advisor to some big firms...

B He was here once on business...

A He was here two days...

B Yeah, with us.

A He was in California...his firm sent him over to California. So... we have a lot of history in back of us, see.

Q Well, I don't want to take up anymore of your time.

B Yeah, I could tell a lot of things....

END OF INTERVIEW