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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

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Interview with Mr. Boleslaw Staniszewski, 1207 Elm Street, Wilmington, Delaware, July 1, 1970, by Francis Turochy. Mr. Staniszewski is a Polish immigrant.

Q My name is Francis Turochy and I'm going to interview Mr. Boleslaw Staniszewski. What is your full name, Mr. . . .

A Boleslaw Staniszewski.

Q What is your present address?

A 1207 Elm Street, Wilmington.

Q What is your birthdate?

A I was born in 1896, September 28.

Q Uh huh. How old are you now?

A I'll be 73 years old.

Q 73. What was your birthplace, the place where you were born, in other words, the town, county and so forth?

A Well, it was Galinki [sp], in Russian Poland, . . . Russian Poland, the domination of Russian government.

Q And what province was that . . . like a state in this country.

A Gobernewumna [sp] in the [inaudible, Polish] . . . . that was my address.

Q What was life like in Poland at that time?

A What was it?

Q What was life like in Poland at that time?

A Well, it was beautiful in them days. Of course, Polish culture, they would never destroy . . . the Russian government never did want to destroy the Polish culture. As far as the Polish people, used to be always happy and they had their own ways of doing things and to be happy and together. Only as far as the school's concerned . . . they were never allowed, the Polish people, to be educated in their native. What we have, they called underground schools. We'd have somebody that'd understand his education in Polish and also in Russian, he used to hold a class like eight or ten children together, and I was in a secret place. We had to meet together while he was educating us in the Polish language. But the Russian people would never allow that . . . he was always afraid he'd get caught, they'd probably send him to Siberia.

Q Um hmm. What was your education like after you got educated?

A From Poland? I was only a school child yet. I was only 10 years old when I came to this country.

Q Oh, I see. What was your father's and mother's name?

A My father was named [sounds like Voychek] Staniszewski and mother named Mariana Staniszewski.

Q Uh huh. And where were they born?

A They was born . . . Father was born in Calinki in Poland and Mother was born in Villanova [sp] in Poland.

Q That time . . . about what age did you start school?

A About over ten years old when I came to this country. That was back in 1906.

Q Uh huh. No, but I mean, how old were you when you began to learn a language there?

A Seven years old. Seven years old, yeah. In Polish when we'd go to that underground, what we called the school.

Q What languages were actually taught there?

A Polish language. They never taught Russian, only Polish at that time.

Q You say it was a private underground school.

A A private underground school, yeah. They were secret. Nobody should ever tell anyone we had somebody who teaches, because this man would be punished very severely by the Russian government.

Q In the government schools, they only taught what language?

A Russian. Only Russian language.

Q Did you have to go there any at all?

A Well, no, sir, because otherwise you would have to go miles away to the Russian schools to get an education from them.

Q About how many years were you in that case being educated in Poland, in the Polish language?

A Roughly about three years.

Q Um hmm. When did you first hear about the United States of America?

A In 1906. I was . . . about the month of January, it was during the winter-time, [inaudible] . . . .

Q What were your father and mother doing there? What kind of work were they doing?

A In Poland?

Q Yes, in Poland.

A In Poland, well, they was farming. Father was doing farming, yeah.

Q And you helped on the farm [inaudible] . . . ?

A That's right, as much as we could. Even as young as we were, we were trying to help as much as we could.

Q Uh huh. Why did you decide to come here to America?

A Because my father thought it was too hard work over there. And otherwise he would have to take his products from the farm a distance away to be sold, then he would never get the price for the time he put in, what his working hours on the stuff. So he decided to come to this country where he says they only work certain hours and he gets his pay every week and he'd be more free.

Q Um hmm. And how long was he in this country before he sent after you . . . his family.

A About two years.

Q About two years. And then he sent money and passage tickets for you and the rest of your family?

A Well, he went back again and he got all his family together and we pack up and start to move on, and come to this country, yeah.

Q I see. Then you all came back together after he came.

A That's right. And we landed in Jersey City, that was the first place that we landed at.

Q Uh huh. And your age was what at that time?

A 10 years old.

Q Ten. Did you leave many close relations behind over there?

A Yes, we did. I have cousins, first cousin especially, and we had uncles and aunts. And a good many are there yet. In fact, now it's about the fourth generation that's over there now, from our family, have some from Mother's side and Father's side, yeah.

Q Yes, well, when you left Poland, did you leave by passport, do you recall?

A Well, in them days we had to get a passport, then we had what they called a visa, and then we had what they call a ship, the ticket to the Bremen, that's where we got on the ship, at the Bremen, in Germany.

Q And how was your trip, then, across?

A Well, it was pretty rough going. Rough going I think it was about five or

seven days . . . I know it was plenty . . . you put up plenty of [inaudible] there on that ocean. A lot of people were sick on that boat, especially women and children.

Q Um hmm. It was a rough trip.

A Yeah, a rough trip.

Q How was the food on the trip . . . on the ship?

A Well, the food was very good. The German Line, that was German Line, but the food was wonderful. And my father spoke the German language and Russian language and Polish language, so all he had to do was go to the chef in the kitchen, and he says, "Look, I want some more extra food, the good one." And he give it to him without any reason whatsoever. He never asked him a question because . . .

Q But that wasn't the usual fare for most of the passengers.

A No . . . no. That's funny, it happened once in a great while. But he spoke a very good German language, that's why he had a pretty good friend over there in that kitchen.

Q Um hmm. How did you travel from your town to the port?

A To the port? Well, we traveled by train . . . by train.

Q You say you had a pretty rough trip. Did you have any other close relatives or friends traveling with you at the same time?

A No, we didn't know anyone. We didn't know anyone, just I know there was a good many Polish people was on that ship when we were coming over to the United States.

Q How long did it take you to cross the sea?

A Well, as I mentioned before, about five to seven days. That was a pretty long trip.

Q And you say your meals were pretty good. And the accomodations were good, too?

A Very good, yes.

Q And how were the evenings passed on the ship, and the days?

A Well, just kind of lonesome, but they had always some kind of a games so people could occupy their mind and they wasn't too lonesome because they met so many friends together on the ship when they were coming.

Q What class did you travel on the ship?

A I would say they used to call that second class. Second class. There were three classes, I think, first, second, and third, but we went on second class.

Q Did you sleep in a cabin, or was it a large room where many people were?

A Well, in a cabin, it's like bunk beds they had at that time . . . as I can recall.

Q And how many people, more or less, were in that same cabin?

A Well, it depends on the family, but I think it was only four of us coming over, so there was Father and Mother and my brother and me.

Q I see. In other words, other people were not in there, just the family.

A No, in that cabin we were only alone, just one family, but it was large enough to accomodate a family.

Q How about the other passengers on the ship? Were there many?

A Well, there was many people coming over . . . coming over plenty of them, not only from Poland but from different parts of the country.

Q Uh huh. Did you have much baggage with you at the time?

A Well, we had some, but we didn't have too much, because baggage is a problem to carry around, see. But my father said, "Well, we'll get to this country, we'll buy what we need."

Q Well, then, you weren't aware whether your dad had money with him or not--or did he have money?

A Well, he had some money, because he sold his farm, and he said, "Well, I got some money on hand," he said, "I don't have to worry too much 'til I get a job."

Q Where did you land when you arrived here?

A We landed in New York. New York.

Q Uh huh. Can you describe some of the landing procedures. In other words, what did you have to do?

A Well, when we landed in New York . . . there's a funny thing when you come to figure out the way the people . . . the system they had here and the people coming over from abroad. When they see the people coming off the ship, they all come with a big paper box. And they want to treat these people from foreign countries with this what they call a lunch box. It had pies and different lunches in it. So my father had to pay so much for each one of the family to get this lunch box. So that was the system, they used to sell it to everybody who was [inaudible] in the port, to taste the homemade pies and all that stuff. And then after we landed over there, then he says well we gonna go to Jersey City because he's got a friend in Jersey City on 10th Street, and he was living in an apartment on the 7th floor, and he says, "Well, we have an apartment empty there;" he say, "you could take this apartment over with your family, he said, "and stay here, see if you could get a position here, or a job, it's O.K. If it's not, you could just go back to your hometown in Wilmington, where you always like it better."

Q How about the customs, did you . . . were you detained there? Did they have to examine you? Did they keep you there?

A They always examine us. We had to go all through this custom agency and through the doctors and they see that the people was O.K. and had no sort of illness of anything like that before we could get a clear papers to come out of there, yes. They won't let . . . that's what they call the . . . well, I don't know what they call that building. It's the building where they always examine the people and then they go through there. So many hands they had to go through. Everyone has something to do with the passengers who are coming off the ships from abroad.

Q Did that take very long?

A I would say about two, three hours. About two or three hours, yes.

Q In other words, you were not detained there?

A No, no. Unless somebody would be a criminal or something like that, they would be detained, because they know they done something in Europe that they have to hold him there, yes.

Q So then you arrived in Jersey City . . .

A Jersey City, we're living there on the 7th floor on 10th Street apartment for a while, because my father got a position as a chief fireman on a Bremen American Line because he understood that work, beside his cabinet work what he used to do as a carpenter, finishing. So he knows three languages and he got a job very easily by this German line and he was traveling abroad several times. But he says, "The trip is very lonesome and I have to leave my family and wait about twelve days or more before I could see 'em again." So when he made several trips to Jersey City, so he says, "I'm quitting my Bremen (Hamburg Bremen Line, they called it)," he said, "Now I'm gonna get my family together," he said. "We're gonna move to Wilmington. I think I'm gonna be better off and probably get a job over there and settle down." He did.

Q Um hmm. So then you arrived in Wilmington and what happened there? Did he . . . where did he get a job?

A When we arrived in Wilmington, we went to some of the relatives of ours, the people by name Skrotsky. They came from same part of the country we did, from Poland. And we lived there for a while with him, with his family, then my father rented a house on Lower Oak Street in Wilmington, where we lived alone there for a while, for a short period of time, maybe two or three months. Then we rented a house, my father rented a house, at 106 Stroud Street. So we lived there for quite a few years. And he was working for the contractor, I would say, in finishing the homes inside, like stairway, fireplaces, all fine work he was doing, for a fellow named Conley, Baxter Conley, he used to be a great contractor in Wilmington, used to build a lot of buildings here in Wilmington.

Q About how old were you when you arrived in Wilmington then?

A Ten years old.

Q You were ten years old?

A Ten years old, yeah.

Q Uh huh. And you went to . . .

A St. Hedwig's School, and I only passed the grammar school. And on my own, my parents never pushed me to go to school because my father was in ill health and I never had any chance to study any higher in college or high school because they couldn't afford to send me, because they want my help and also my brother's help, because my father was ill and he spent more money on doctors than what he could make through the week. So I went through the grammar school, and what I learned, I learned myself a good bit by studying it like in evening schools, and myself, reading and things like that. But I went to Hollingsworth and I learned a trade. And I learned a trade and I was working there four years to learn my trade. I started off with working $5.00 a week, the following year $6.00 and the third year $7.00, and so on. So I learned my machiner's job . . . when I learn my machiner's job, then I went to work to a Baker Machine Company. After a while . . . well, I . . . of course I was already married at that time with my wife. So I worked for the Baker Machine Company for 18 years. No, I'm sorry. When I learned my trade at [inaudible] . . . well, I have to figure this out. Then my father says well, "I heard in Detroit, Michigan they making good money, practically all the mechanics in Detroit making good money, regardless what trade they have, skilled men." So he send my brother out first. He studied as a machinist, and he went there first to Detroit, Michigan. Then he went to Detroit, Michigan, he said, "Pop and Mom," he said, "you'd better come down here. I think you'll like it, because they pay more money and everybody is well off here than they are in Wilmington, because they're making more money." So my father went to work and started to pack up his furniture and things like that in a boxcar, you could get a boxcar, rent one, and the Pennsylvania Railroad would switch this car to another one and so on, and it come directly to Detroit. But it took about a month before they got their furniture. So when we got to Detroit, first thing when I went to work over there was for Henry Ford. And I liked it very much. I liked it very much because it was a production line, practically, and every department has different things to do about cars. Some put . . . bores the cylinders, others put valves in, the others maybe would assemble and put the [inaudible] together and things like that. And I liked it very much. There was 17,000 people working under one roof. I had to walk 15 minutes under the roof to my department, that's how big the place was.

Q What year was that in when you went to Detroit?

A 1913. 1913. So I liked it very much, and my father was getting quite a good . . . very good positions over there, because he was very good on cabinet making and he was working with people, they build like good homes and mansions and things like that, and he was getting good money, and so he liked it very much. But he took sick, the winters are severe over there, they're not like in Delaware. But we had a winter over there, it's about like 5 below zero, and you had it practically every second day through the

winter months.

Q How old were you then, when you got the job in Detroit?

A After I had the job in Detroit? Well, I was already about 17. Yeah, 17, going on 18.

Q Um hmm. How long did you work there, then?

A Well, we worked about a year and a half, altogether. About a year and a half. But we would be there much longer, but my father was ailing with his asthma, he took sick and the poor fellow, he died, that was during the winter months, that was in February, in the wintertime. That was a very severe winter at that time. So my mother, she didn't want to stay there in Detroit. She said, "Well, they gonna take Pop's body to (my father) Wilmington to bury him, I'm gonna go along and we're all gonna go along, and I don't think we're ever gonna come back to Detroit again." And we've been here ever since.

Q I see.

A Of course in my life, since I've been married, I've been . . . even worked in West Reading for Textile Machine Works. And then I worked for the Du-Pont Company and I worked for the Bancroft Machine Shop, and General Steel, I worked for them in Lester, Pennsylvania.

Q Well, did you correspond with anybody in Poland while you were here?

A Well, for a while we did. But I just about remember my closest friends, like cousins. But they been writing to me and I been writing to them, but they're so far, I never correspond with them too much, because it seems to me that when the years pass by and it's so many years after you grow up, they forget about you.

Q Yes. Well, now, who arranged the job here for you in Wilmington? Did your father come here to Wilmington having a job by somebody, or did he look for one here?

A Well, things were very blooming at that time when we came here. They were blooming. In Wilmington was plenty of factories . . . cigar factories and the shipyards, two shipyards, and the tanneries, and there were a lot of factories at that time when we came here. So the factory what I went into or the Hollin Hollingsworth Company, they employ about for the shipyard and machine shop boiler truck and they also built steel cars, all under one company's name. They employed at that time about 1500 people or more than that probably, I would say 2000.

Q How much did you make then in that Hollins place?

A Well, when I learned in my trade, I was only getting $5.00 a week. I had to work 10 hours a day and half a day--five hours on Saturday. So the following year I was getting $6.00. I had a one dollar raise. Then every year I got a dollar, dollar and a half raise, so that was big pay at that time.

Q How many hours did you work per day there?

A Ten hours a day and five hours on Saturday. That's 55 hours a week.

Q Um hmm. How did you travel back and forth to work?

A I was walking, because the only distance from my home would be about 20 minutes, 15-20 minutes.

Q So these people manufactured ships, did they?

A Ships, yeah. They also built the Wilson Line's boats. Practically all the Wilson Line's boats were built in Hollin Hollingsworth. They used to travel between Philadelphia and Wilmington and Chester.

Q Did you advance there at all?

A Well, I had a good job and the boss told me to stay, but I told him, well, I says, "I'm going over to Detroit because my brother went there and my family's moving, so I want to go there, too, because," I said, "I got to stick with my family because I'm still young yet." So that's how I went over there.

Q Were you able to save any money when you were working there?

A In Detroit? Yes, sir. Yeah. You could save money there, because it seems to me the living was much cheaper than it was in Delaware.

Q Approximately how much did you earn a week over there?

A Well, over there, compared to the Wilmington way is a man gets $20.00 a week would make easily $30-$35.00 in Detroit, because it was a big difference, yeah.

Q Did you join a church when you came here to Wilmington?

A Yes, sir, St. Hedwig's Church. I belonged to the St. Hedwig Parrish already since 1906. If I can recall, the cornerstone has got a year on it, 1906, so the year, I guess, the church was finished, why we came here. The church was already finished.

Q I see. What did you do in your spare time?

A In Wilmington? Well, at the present time . . .

Q No, before, when you were working here for Hollins and so forth.

A Well, just together, we were young people and traveling like in certain parts, like on Sunday, weekends. But then the weekdays, of course, we had to do the work then, had to help the parents out during the weekdays and around the house.

Q You had relatives back in Poland? Did you help them to come . . . any of them to come here, or . . .

A No, we never commute, not much with them, because after all, they wouldn't

know me and I wouldn't know them if I see 'em, unless I would tell 'em who I am, because when I left the country I was very young. So they couldn't remember me unless I tell 'em who I am.

Q As much as you can remember, were there much differences between living in Poland and here?

A In a way, yes, because people in Poland, they have to depend on a small farm or a truck farm someone have, a little piece of ground, and this makes it tough for the people to live there. But in this country, if you get the wages, you can balance your budget by buying this, buying that, and so much money goes on the side, in the savings and things like that, but over there people are working from sunrise to sunset and there's no end to it.

Q Um hmm. Did you notice any difference in the food line, for instance, in your food that you ate in Poland and here?

A Well, food in Poland is very delicious. And in fact I heard from older people that the food they raised in Poland was about the best, tastiest food that they ever tasted in any country. At that time . . . I don't know how it is now, because they probably may use chemicals, too, like they have in this country. But the food was wonderful regardless if it was a pork or beef, it was tasty. But here, it's not as tasty as it is at that time in Poland.

Q Well, did you stay with your family the whole time that you were in Wilmington until the time you were married?

A Well, my father died in Detroit and we shipped his body here to Wilmington, and the whole family came back, and we stayed here ever since. So I find a good girl here from a good family and I got married and I'm glad I did, because she was a very good wife, a good mother and a good companion.

Q Now, how old were you then and what year did you get married in and tell me your wife's name.

A My wife's maiden name was Mary [sounds like Chudcofska], but now of course my name, she's Mary Stanisnowski. And we got married, it was 1915 . . . 1915, that was I remember April 20th. That was a cold spring at that time, it was very cool in that spring.

Q Well, you were rather young, then.

A Oh, yeah, going on 20. Going on 20. So my mother remarried again because when my father died, my mother remarried again, and I had a stepfather, so I didn't want to be in their way. I says, "Well, if I'm not working, maybe he probably would think he has to keep me." So otherwise, I says, "Well, it's the best way if I get out of the way. I think it would be . . . never exchange words with him that he would have to keep me." So I said, "They'll be peaceful and I'll be peaceful, because I find a girl that I like.

Q Yeah, well what did you do, did you buy a house right away, or did you have to [inaudible] for a while? How soon did you buy your house?

A Then I got married with my wife, I'd been moving around, I'd been living with my wife's father for some time, because her mother died young, and she had to take care of his family to raise it. So she had plenty of work, hard work. No automatically . . . she didn't have no electric iron at that time. She had to get up at 3:00 in the morning to do the washing, what they call it on the washboard. And to do her washing and the family's washing. So it was pretty tough going. Then after her father got married--she lost her mother, then we moved to another home, renting it. Then after we rent that home we went with someone else, with friends of ours, we lived there. Then from there, Porter Street, we came to 1207 Elm Street and we've been living here ever since, that's over 50 years, about 51 years now. I raised my family here, two sons and one daughter, which I'm proud of. And they're all around and one is in business and the other fellow's in the business, and that daughter married an American fellow, he's a very good husband to her and a very good son-in-law to me and my wife.

Q Tell me, how did you meet your wife?

A Well, I met her through girlfriends who were going with her and the fellows, you know, together, so I met her at the Delaware Park one Sunday afternoon. So we got acquainted and I started to go to her home, that was on 206 8th Avenue in Wilmington. So we got acquainted, and we got to like each other and we married.

Q Uh hmm. Did your wife do any work or have to work after you were married?

A She had been working for some time. She was trying to get a little money together with me so we could buy ourselves a little home. This is what we're living in it now. It took a long time.

Q How long did it take you to buy your own home?

A Well, I would say about 12 years, maybe 15 years. About 12 years, before we paid the home out. Because we had a mortgage. We had to mortgage the home then you pay so much down and the rest was on mortgage. So we paid the mortgage off after she helped me out on it, so now we have it clear. Not too big of a home, but it's good enough for two people.

Q How many children did you raise?

A I had two sons and one daughter. And I got four granddaughters and one grandson and one great-great granddaughter.

Q What are your sons doing now?

A One son is in the business, he's a barber, he's a baker by trade and a barber. And he's also a banjo player and he's a musician. Everything comes under "b"--baker, banjo player and a barber. So he run a business for twelve years in a bakery, pastry shop in Richardson Park. He had a place . . . I bought it for him and started him off in the business. But the work was too hard-going. 80 hours a week, he couldn't stand it after he came from World War II. He put in four years and ten months in the service, and that was pretty rough going. All around the world when he come back. So he told me it'd be easy, but he found out it wasn't easy.

So after he told me that he was tired of it, because 12 years and he's not feeling too good to keep on to go a good many more years ahead. So he sold the business and went back to barbering, which he always had his license renewed. He never let his barber's license go, so he would renew it and have it on hand when he needs it.

Q Uh hmm. What's your other son's name and how old is he and what is he doing?

A The other son's name is Walter and he's a commercial artist. And he's in a business of his own. They live in the Rochester area and he's got a family, a good wife and two daughters, and he's getting along fine, and God bless him.

Q Is that the only children he has . . .

A And a daughter, and the daughter's married with an American fellow named Clarence Shurr, and he's a very good man to her and to his wife and a family, and they got a nice home in Heritage Park. And he's very pleasant and a very good son-in-law, and I'm proud of him.

Q When did you become a citizen of this country?

A I became a citizen when I was 23 years old, about 23 years old.

Q Uh huh, well, that's wonderful, a young age. How about your wife? When did she become citizen? Or was she born here?

A Well, automatically . . . she was already citizen at that time, when she married me, because she never lost her citizenship. But the law been changed so often, that if she would marry me so many years after that, she would automatically would have to go to school and start all over like I did, even if she was a citizen.

Q Yeah, well, how did she become citizen, through her father taking papers, or her?

A Through mine. You mean me?

Q No, no, I mean your wife.

A Well, through mine, because when I got to be a citizenship, got the citizenship, well, she was actually a citizen already. At that time, she never lost her citizenship. So I went to what they call the evening school, naturalization school where we used to go to the post office when they years ago they had it on 5th Street between Orange and Shipley. It was an old stone building.

Q Uh hmm. Did you have to go to school and all to learn anything about citizenship?

A Yeah, I did. We had to learn the Constitution all the way through, from the start to the beginning, I mean to the last. Because that's the words you would know the question . . . and when you get your naturalized citizen, when they get their paper, you don't know what question they're gonna ask

you, so you got to be ready for 'em when they ask you. So could have been any word between the two or three hundred that I learned, could be any word they ask me, I had to get the answer for him. In fact, I helped a good many out in that school. They liked me so much that they told me that I could be like head of that school, to help these people out. And I tried to help a lot of Polish people out over there, and I used to learn 'em and give 'em the questions and answers and I'd try to get them to understand my point and so they would get their citizen's papers soon and so they wouldn't have to wait too long. And I used to help a great deal out for them.

Q Um hmm. During the First World War, where were you and what were you doing then?

A I was working for the Baker Machine Company . . . Baker Machine Company andthey used to build the tannery machinery and sewing machine to sewing the burlap bags, like, and also an oyster cracker machine, to press the oyster crackers out.

A Um hmm. Did you serve in the United States Army at all?

Q No, because I was married already and at that time I guess they were . . . pitied people, I guess, when they got married, and a young man, when he got child, well, they put him in the 5th class, so they won't call him 'til probably when they need him too bad.

Q Were there plentiful . . . jobs plentiful during the First World War?

A At that time there was plenty of work.

Q How about your earnings, were they good then?

A Well, the earnings weren't as good yet, because the wages didn't go up that high yet. The wages didn't go up that high.

Q When did you buy your first car?

A I never had one. I learned how to drive one and I always renewed my driver's license, but I never had an urge to drive one, because I figure there's too many cars on the road, sometime bumper to bumper, and I said, well, there is a problem on the highways and there's more cars on the highways to ride on, I might as well give up my license and forget about it, which I did. I just tore up my driver's license, threw it in the wastebasket, and I said I'm not gonna drive the car anymore. If I want any service, my children will help me out.

Q How about that. After working here for ten or fifteen years, did you get any better position of any kind?

A Well, I did, because during my marriage life . . . of course when I hit the Depression, the Depression was very bad. I know the Depression was very hard on everybody. I was out of work a short time. I wasn't out of work a very long time, but I had to look for work out of town. So one fellow told me, "You better go to West Reading, they call it Textile

Machine Works, you will get a job over there. They need a machinest bad." They had to employ about 18,000 people in that plant. They have about five or six different plants, all in one group. So I left the town and I took my tools with me, took the tool box, and I went directly to that plant in West Reading, they call it the Textile Machine Works, and I went to the main office, and that's a German concern in that Textime Machine Works, and practically a lot of people you work among them is all Germans. Even some of them, only two or three weeks coming from Germany, they were working there, mechanics, machinists. So I went in the office and a fellow by the name Nasky, a German, he was a personnel department, and he says to me, "Look," he says, "if you want a job, we'll give it to you, because we need a man bad," he says, "a machinist." And he told me, "Look," he says, "you don't have to carry that box around with you with the tools," 'cause he says, "I have a closet here, you put that tool box in my closet and I'll lock it for you, and if you have a room to stay . . . ." I says, "No, I don't." "Well," he says, "I'm gonna call the personnel, Mrs. (I forgot her name)," he says, "and she has a beautiful room that you can rent it for $5.00 a week." I said, "That'd be O.K., Mister, if you'd do that for me." So he called this lady up and he sent me there. He said, "You get over there. Take your suitcase," he says, "you can stay in that room," he says, "she got a nice room for you." I like it very much. $5.00 a week, I had five windows and that big room, you could have had a piano in it and easy chairs and all.

Q Didn't need an air conditioner. Well, tell me something now--excuse me, did you have any more?

A Well, so I worked there for a while and things got slack. When I worked there for a while, things got so slack, so my man that I got acquainted with, used to work for the DuPont Company here in Wilmington. They were laid off for nearly two or three years, and DuPont Company went slack very bad at that time. So they started coming back again to the Wilmington--to be rehired on their old job, because they had already seniority here. So I said, "Well, I'm the only one left in West Reading now from Delaware." So I didn't know what to do with myself. So one week, there was a holiday comes like on a weekend, like for instance like we have coming 4th of July now, they're gonna celebrate it on Friday instead of Saturday, 'cause Saturday is the 4th of July, but Friday a lot of these people, they get the day off because they ought to get Friday off on account of the holiday comes on Saturday. So I came here and I went to the office of the DuPont Company and I met Mr. I forget his name now.

Q Sayres?

A Mr. Sayres, yeah, and Mr. Sayres . . . and I spoke to him about it. I said, "I know you know my brother very well." He said, "Yeah, I know your brother very well, Stanley, because I worked with him together." And I told him that the boys come back here and they were already working and I'm the only one in Reading now and I'd like to be back here and get the job from you. Well, he says, "Yes, I have an opening and I'll give you the job." So I got the job, he start me off at a pretty good pay, and he says, "As far as work is concerned and the length of time," he says, "I don't guarantee it." He says, "You might work here a year, you might work here two." But thank

God, I worked for 23 years and seven months until I was pensioned off at the age of 65.

Q Wonderful. How about your children's education, how much education did they receive?

A Well, my children's education, the younger boy, he never had much chance--I mean, older boy, he never had much chance, because the older boy, he was sickly. I spent a lot of money on doctors on him. Then when he got better, the Army took him and they hold him for four years and ten months during World War II. He only had a grammar school and that's about all he had.

Q Did you ever visit Poland between this time?

A No, never did . . . never did.

Q And the son, that younger son, Walter, he got a better education. He got a grammar school, he got a high school, and he attended classes of the college for a while, then he went to Pennsylvania Museum School of Industrial Arts which he got a scholarship, he done so good. Then from there he went to [inaudible] Little Aviation School in Miami, Florida. That's the school, not only they teach them aviation instrument work, but it also teaches the production illustrating. So he took up production illustrating in art. Every part of a plane that's in an engine or on the plane of the engine, it has to be sketched on a print just like it actually comes, in that size and style. So that was a very interesting job. So he got graduated in that school, he had a diploma from them. And now he come back. After the war he worked for Balanca people, took charge of a blueprint department over there in that production illustrating, you know, work that he learned to do about. Then he went to an advertising company, worked for them for a while, then he went now on his own, he works in his own business. And our daughter, she got married, she didn't finish the high school, but she got married and she's a good housekeeper and got a son and a daughter and a husband, and working and getting along pretty good. Everybody is.

Q Um hmm. You have a happy family, then.

A That's right, happy family, that's right.

Q Well, Mr. Stanisszewski, I want to thank you very much for the privilege of having interviewed you, and I just want to wish you success in the balance and the rest of your life here, good health for you and your family, and may God bless you.

A You're welcome sir. I'm glad of the interview, Mr. Turochy, that you come here and visit me.

[END OF INTERVIEW]