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# Mr. Stanley Sobocinsky

[0:00:00]

Interviewer: This is *[phonetic]* [0:00:01] Angela Toruci. I live in New Castle, Delaware. I am going to interview Mr. Stanley Sobocinsky, one of the most beloved senior citizen of Polish descent in Wilmington, Delaware.

Mr. Sobocinsky, will you please tell me your name and where do you live?

Mr. Sobocinsky: My name is Stanley L. Sobocinsky. I live 3010 Harlan, City of Wilmington.

Interviewer: When were you born, Mr. Sobocinsky?

Mr. Sobocinsky: September 28, 1878.

Interviewer: Where were you born?

Mr. Sobocinsky: Village *[phonetic]* [0:00:48] Rogenitsa.

Interviewer: And *[inaudible]* [0:00:51].

Mr. Sobocinsky: State Lomza.

Interviewer: In Poland, was it?

Mr. Sobocinsky: In Poland.

Interviewer: Under what government control was Poland at that time? Was it Russia, Prussia or Austria?

Mr. Sobocinsky: Russia. Russia, Prussia and Austria.

Interviewer: How old were you when you left Poland?

Mr. Sobocinsky: Nineteen years and six months.

Interviewer: What was it like in Poland when you were there?

Mr. Sobocinsky: It was all right.

Interviewer: What were you doing over there?

Mr. Sobocinsky: Well, I was working with my father on a farm.

Interviewer: What is your father's name, Mr. Sobocinsky?

Mr. Sobocinsky: John Sobocinsky.

Interviewer: And your mother's name?

Mr. Sobocinsky: Josephine Sobocinsky.

Interviewer: Were they born in Poland also?

Mr. Sobocinsky: In Poland.

Interviewer: How much education did you get in Poland?

Mr. Sobocinsky: My education was limited. School was about 8 miles away. And the **[inaudible] [0:01:59]** to take the kid led to school and bring them back so they got the private teacher and they were teaching at each home. Our school house was each home.

Interviewer: How old were you when you begin studying?

Mr. Sobocinsky: I was about 70 years old.

Interviewer: What language did you study in? Was it Polish and...

Mr. Sobocinsky: Russia.

Interviewer: ...and Russian language.

Mr. Sobocinsky: I had a Russian language.

Interviewer: How about Polish? Did you...

Mr. Sobocinsky: And Polish but they have to hide the books, Polish books. That if Polish **[inaudible] [0:02:33]** we have to hide the Polish books and use only a Russian books.

Interviewer: You told me that it was a private school. How many years did you attend school that way? How many years of it?

Mr. Sobocinsky: Three years.

Interviewer: You said it was a private school. How many other students were there with you?

Mr. Sobocinsky: About 12. About 12.

Interviewer: When did you first hear about America?

Mr. Sobocinsky: April the 1st, 1898.

Interviewer: That's when you left Poland.

Mr. Sobocinsky: I came here.

Interviewer: Why did you leave Poland?

Mr. Sobocinsky: Why, I always was thinking to go to a little world for my future life.

Interviewer: How old were you when you left?

Mr. Sobocinsky: Nineteen and a half. Nineteen and a half years since I have been here.

Interviewer: Did you come alone or with somebody else from your...

Mr. Sobocinsky: Alone.

Interviewer: All along. You were single at that time?

Mr. Sobocinsky: Single.

Interviewer: What – how much of a family did you leave behind you?

Mr. Sobocinsky: Six.

Interviewer: Who were they?

Mr. Sobocinsky: Two brothers, two sisters and a mother and father.

Interviewer: Did you come to anybody in this country that was closed to you like close relations? Who did you come to?

Mr. Sobocinsky: To Adam Sobocinsky, my cousin.

Interviewer: He was your cousin. Any other relatives who were here besides Adam Sobocinsky?

Mr. Sobocinsky: Yes, his brother, Joseph.

Interviewer: Oh, there were two cousins here.

Mr. Sobocinsky: That's all.

Interviewer: When did you leave your village, Mr. Sobocinsky?

Mr. Sobocinsky: March 7.

Interviewer: And how did you travel from the village to deport in Germany?

Mr. Sobocinsky: By horse and wagon.

Interviewer: Horse and wagon.

Mr. Sobocinsky: Horse and wagon. Yeah.

Interviewer: And you got – what's the name of the port?

Mr. Sobocinsky: **[phonetic] [0:04:30]** Prusty.

Interviewer: That's not port. That's just the latter town Bremen, isn't it?

Mr. Sobocinsky: **[inaudible] [0:04:35]** custom house.

Interviewer: Oh, a custom house was at **[phonetic] [0:04:38]** Prusty.

Mr. Sobocinsky: They'll be a lot of examiner there.

Interviewer: Mr. Sobocinsky, where is **[phonetic] [0:04:42]** Prusty for my information also? Is it in Poland?

Mr. Sobocinsky: Not very far, not very far from the boundary line?

Interviewer: Was it in Poland or in Germany?

Mr. Sobocinsky: In Germany.

Interviewer: In Germany, alrighty.

Mr. Sobocinsky: In Germany.

Interviewer: Tell me about the custom. What did they do? What questions they asked? Whether there was a doctor? You tell me in your words. What happened in *[phonetic]* **[0:04:59]** Prusty.

Mr. Sobocinsky: Well, they examine everybody. It is set as far as the *[inaudible]* **[0:05:03]**. They took a *[inaudible]* **[0:05:05]** and afterwards they examined every one of us. And when the – we pass the examination, they send us by plane to Bremen to the sea.

**[0:05:18]**

Interviewer: And when did you leave from Bremen and what date?

Mr. Sobocinsky: March 13.

Interviewer: What was the name of the ship that you traveled from Bremen to America?

Mr. Sobocinsky: Taormina.

Interviewer: How long did it take you to go across the ocean?

Mr. Sobocinsky: Eighteen days.

Interviewer: And where did you land? What city?

Mr. Sobocinsky: At New York.

Interviewer: Now you tell me about the life on the boat on the ship. How was it? Meals, sleeping...

Mr. Sobocinsky: It was not – no convenience on the boat, no beds, no chairs, no – we were sleeping on a floor with a belt tie to the floor. We have to tie ourselves just like a *[phonetic]* **[0:05:57]** bailout machine.

Interviewer: Why were you tied? I'm curious.

Mr. Sobocinsky: That the belt, it was directly leather belt.

Unidentified voice: But why tied?

Interviewer: But why?

Mr. Sobocinsky: Because the boat was gone just like a cradle.

Interviewer: Tell me about the meals.

Mr. Sobocinsky: Meal was very bad. They have to degree one's dish and we have to take care of those dishes ourselves and go to get our meal. And meal was bad.

Interviewer: And how many people slept with you? Was it one large room or was it a cabin?

Mr. Sobocinsky: It was about – I think it was about 50 people on that floor.

Interviewer: In one room?

Mr. Sobocinsky: On the floor.

Interviewer: And how about the clothes. Did you undressed to go to sleep at night, or slept on the same things.

Mr. Sobocinsky: We slept in our clothes, we have a blanket too. But we sleep our clothes and we take care of our clothes, too, wash it.

Interviewer: While you were on the ship, were there any friends of yours with your or your relatives, or were you alone from your village?

Mr. Sobocinsky: Yes, I have a friend of mine, Stanley Ostrowski, friend of mine.

Interviewer: Mr. Sobocinsky, tell me a little bit more of your life on the boat about the meals and everything. It's very interesting.

Mr. Sobocinsky: Well, the meal – **[inaudible] [0:07:22]** and we have to take our dishes and go and get our meal. But the Muslim boys are **[inaudible] [0:07:31]** every day.

Interviewer: You said that maybe the boat was not really intended for people in the first place, was it?

Mr. Sobocinsky: I don't think that boat was for the people because there was no beds, no table or no chair, nothing but the **[inaudible] [0:07:46]** on the floor, they screw it to the floor and the belt was attached to it. We have to tie the belt when we go to sleep.

Interviewer: What did you do for recreation on the boat? What did you do during the day?

Mr. Sobocinsky: We don't do – we couldn't – do nothing. Nothing. I think just go out for maybe one or two hours on the boat and they told us to go back. No recreation at all.

Interviewer: You mean the trip was so rough?

Mr. Sobocinsky: Rough. Yeah. Rough.

Interviewer: Very rough trip. Who paid for your trip across the ocean? Did you have money to pay for it?

Mr. Sobocinsky: Yes, I went to Germany in month of March and I stayed until September and I made \$50 and I have enough to come to the United States.

Interviewer: What language was spoken on the ship as you were talking?

Mr. Sobocinsky: German.

Interviewer: About how big was the ship? How many people were with you?

Mr. Sobocinsky: It was about 150 people.

Interviewer: How about what kind of baggage you had with you? Any suitcases...

Mr. Sobocinsky: I don't have anything. Nothing but the bag with the...

Interviewer: What did you have in that bag?

Mr. Sobocinsky: Well, I brought some clothes.

Interviewer: Did you have any money with you?

Mr. Sobocinsky: Fifty cents.

Interviewer: Where did you land? What city? New York, was it? You landed in New York.

Mr. Sobocinsky: Yeah, New York.

Interviewer: What the landing procedures, customs and all that. Did you have any trouble?

Mr. Sobocinsky: No, not at all.



Interviewer: We got as far as you're coming to New York now. How long did you stay in New York and what were the customs or any official procedure?

Mr. Sobocinsky: It's neither a one day, March 31st.

Interviewer: Did you have any medical examination again?

Mr. Sobocinsky: That was it.

Interviewer: And from New York where did you go to next?

Mr. Sobocinsky: I think it was City of Wilmington.

Interviewer: Did anybody meet you either in New York or in Wilmington from your friends or relatives here?

Mr. Sobocinsky: No.

Interviewer: How about in Wilmington. Did you arrive?

Mr. Sobocinsky: Some of the men from *[inaudible]* [0:09:57] station take us on Mainland Avenue because we don't have a lot of people there, Polish people, they took us to *[inaudible]* [0:10:08] Polish men there and they took us to all our relative.

**[0:10:15]**

Interviewer: How did you travel from New York to Wilmington?

Mr. Sobocinsky: By train.

Interviewer: By train. And when you found your relative in Wilmington, was that Adam Sobocinsky?

Mr. Sobocinsky: That's right.

Interviewer: And what time of the day did you arrive in Wilmington? Was it day time or evening?

Mr. Sobocinsky: Seven o'clock in the morning.

Interviewer: You found your relative, Adam Sobocinsky, your cousin. How long was it before you got a job? Did you get a job?

Mr. Sobocinsky: About two weeks.

Interviewer: What kind of job did you get?

Mr. Sobocinsky: A soak in the heights at a water. Soak them in a water, put them in a water.

Interviewer: How much were you paid?

Mr. Sobocinsky: Seven and a half cents an hour.

Interviewer: That was a big money, wasn't it? Even at that it's sounds very little money nowadays but how was the life in Wilmington compared to what it was in Poland?

Mr. Sobocinsky: Very good, I think.

Interviewer: Better than in Poland?

Mr. Sobocinsky: Yeah.

Interviewer: What shop did you work in?

Mr. Sobocinsky: **[phonetic] [0:11:19]** Maraka Shop.

Interviewer: **[phonetic] [0:11:19]** Maraka Shop. Do you remember who owned it at that time?

Mr. Sobocinsky: Yeah, **[phonetic] [0:11:23]** Richard Battersby. They got that **[inaudible] [0:11:26]**.

Interviewer: Okay. How about the food differences? You came here, I heard lots of people said that they found different fruit, how about where your first banana in this country. How did it taste?

Mr. Sobocinsky: Very good.

Interviewer: You liked it?

Mr. Sobocinsky: Food was very good.

Interviewer: Much better than it was in Poland?

Mr. Sobocinsky: Yeah.

Interviewer: Now when you came to Wilmington and you got your job, who did you live with?

Mr. Sobocinsky: I live with my cousin.

Interviewer: Was your cousin a married man or...?

Mr. Sobocinsky: Yeah, married.

Interviewer: And you were just one of the boarders?

Mr. Sobocinsky: That's right.

Interviewer: Were there many boarders in this house?

Mr. Sobocinsky: Six.

Interviewer: There were six boarders. And your cousin's wife took care of all of them.

Mr. Sobocinsky: That's right.

Interviewer: How many people slept in a room that you stated?

Mr. Sobocinsky: Four.

Interviewer: Four men to a room.

Mr. Sobocinsky: Yeah.

Interviewer: How many to a bed?

Mr. Sobocinsky: Two.

Interviewer: Two to a bed. You just mentioned that there were six boarders in that house. The lady who took care of you, was she a strong woman or a small woman?

Mr. Sobocinsky: Small, weighed about 90-pound.

Interviewer: This is remarkable how a woman that small could take care.

Mr. Sobocinsky: Yeah, that's right.

Interviewer: And you said there were six boarders. They slept, where, upstairs?

Mr. Sobocinsky: Upstairs.

Interviewer: How many bedrooms did the house have?

Mr. Sobocinsky: Two at each room, bed.

Interviewer: Two beds in each room you mean?

Mr. Sobocinsky: Two beds in each room, yeah.

Interviewer: And where did your cousin and his wife. Where did they sleep?

Mr. Sobocinsky: They sleep in their living room.

Interviewer: They're in the living room downstairs.

Mr. Sobocinsky: First floor.

Interviewer: Did they have any children when you came?

Mr. Sobocinsky: No.

Interviewer: They were just the couple.

Mr. Sobocinsky: They just got better about three months ago.

Interviewer: What were the living conditions in the house? Were there any bathrooms?

Mr. Sobocinsky: No.

Interviewer: No bathrooms. How did you take your baths, Mr. Sobocinsky?

Mr. Sobocinsky: We don't take our bath. We washed ourselves – one of – one of each – I've asked one man *[inaudible]* **[0:13:11]** maybe once a month.

Interviewer: Where did you do your washing and what room?

Mr. Sobocinsky: In the kitchen.

Interviewer: In the kitchen.

Mr. Sobocinsky: In the back, in the backroom.

Interviewer: In the backroom. And you use the tub, I suppose.

Mr. Sobocinsky: That's right.

Interviewer: Scrubbing each other's back.

Mr. Sobocinsky: That's right.

Interviewer: Were you able to save money after your first job?

Mr. Sobocinsky: Yes.

Interviewer: How much board did you pay?

Mr. Sobocinsky: From \$1.35 to \$1 – not over \$1.50 week.

Interviewer: When you saved your money, were you able to send some to Poland to your relatives?

Mr. Sobocinsky: I did.

Interviewer: Did you write letters to them often?

Mr. Sobocinsky: Yes, I did.

Interviewer: Did you help anybody else come down from Europe.

Mr. Sobocinsky: No.

Interviewer: What did you do with your leisure time when you were living as a boarder with your cousin? What did you do in the evenings, for instance, what did you do?

Mr. Sobocinsky: Well, we stay home.

Interviewer: Stayed home.

Mr. Sobocinsky: Because they have to *[inaudible]* **[0:14:00]** decide at seven to work in a morning.

Interviewer: How many hours did you put in?

Mr. Sobocinsky: Ten hours a day.

Interviewer: Ten hours a day. Did you have to work on Saturdays?

Mr. Sobocinsky: Yeah. Saturday, all day. Sixty hours a day, I mean, week.

Interviewer: So the only time that you had to yourself was Sunday. How did you spend your Sundays?

Mr. Sobocinsky: We go to church twice. In the morning and afternoon.

Interviewer: Mr. Sobocinsky, you were saying that you worked in the *[phonetic]* **[0:14:32]** Maraka Shop then you bettered yourself. What kind of job did you get to better yourself?

Mr. Sobocinsky: I went to the *[phonetic]* **[0:14:37]** Agustila Paper Company around *[phonetic]* **[0:14:42]** Branden Line.

Interviewer: Were they paying better?

Mr. Sobocinsky: No, they're paying only half but I've been getting better in *[phonetic]* **[0:14:48]** Maraka but it's a bad end, a clean job.

Interviewer: It was a cleaner job. Did you stay very long on this job?

Mr. Sobocinsky: One year.

Interviewer: One year. Did you save any money while you were there?

Mr. Sobocinsky: Well, I almost put in a few dollars.

Interviewer: Yes. And then did you wanted to better yourself? So what did you do next?

**[0:15:04]**

Mr. Sobocinsky: Well, I quit. And I *[inaudible]* **[0:15:07]** milk delivery.

Interviewer: Milk delivery business.

Mr. Sobocinsky: Yeah, and I met *[phonetic]* **[0:15:16]** Mr. Mario Frank Pernyetsky, Polish businessman and ask him if he can help me to buy horse and wagon.

Interviewer: All right. You tell us how – what did he say.

Mr. Sobocinsky: Then he said that he needs help for a few days. Can you go with me and help me? I said yeah. I went there and he wanted me to stay there all the time. And I stayed there. I stayed there two years and I married his daughter.

Interviewer: You said that **[phonetic] [0:15:42]** Mr. Pernyetsky was a businessman. What sort of a businessman?

Mr. Sobocinsky: Liquor – wholesale liquor store.

Interviewer: Wholesale liquor store. And then you worked for him for couple years.

Mr. Sobocinsky: Yeah.

Interviewer: And you married his daughter.

Mr. Sobocinsky: That's right.

Interviewer: What was her name?

Mr. Sobocinsky: **[phonetic] [0:16:02]** Mary Barbara Pernyetsky.

Interviewer: **[phonetic] [0:16:02]** Pernyetsky. When did you get married? What date?

Mr. Sobocinsky: November 15, 1904.

Interviewer: So in effect, Mr. Sobocinsky, you married the boss's daughter which is being done nowadays too. After you married **[phonetic] [0:16:19]** Mary Pernyetsky where did you live at that time?

Mr. Sobocinsky: We live **[inaudible] [0:16:21] [phonetic] [0:16:22]** West 4th Street.

Interviewer: **[phonetic] [0:16:23]** West 4th Street. Did you continue working for your father-in-law or did you buy the business or go partners?

Mr. Sobocinsky: Three months after the wedding, I bought the business from my father-in-law.

Interviewer: Then how many children did you have out of this marriage?

Mr. Sobocinsky: Three boys and three daughters.

Interviewer: Did your wife have to work after she married, or did she just stay home?

Mr. Sobocinsky: She stayed home. I took care of the business.

Interviewer: When did you first buy your home to live in? Did you live in your own home or did you rented when you were married?

Mr. Sobocinsky: I rented.

Interviewer: You rented it.

Mr. Sobocinsky: Yeah.

Interviewer: Did you ever buy a home – how long was it before you were able to buy your home?

Mr. Sobocinsky: The first home I bought was 1911.

Interviewer: Where was it, Mr. Sobocinsky?

Mr. Sobocinsky: 618 South *[inaudible]* **[0:17:12]**.

Interviewer: How big of a house was it?

Mr. Sobocinsky: Six rooms?

Interviewer: Did you have your family already then?

Mr. Sobocinsky: Yeah.

Interviewer: How many children did you have then?

Mr. Sobocinsky: Six.

Interviewer: You already have six children when you bought your home?

Mr. Sobocinsky: That's right.

Interviewer: When did you become a citizen of this country?

Mr. Sobocinsky: 1904.

Interviewer: How about your wife, Mrs. Sobocinsky, was she a citizen? Was she born here?



Mr. Sobocinsky: She was a citizen.

Interviewer: She was already a citizen.

Mr. Sobocinsky: Yeah.

Interviewer: Was she born here or did...

Mr. Sobocinsky: No, she was one year old.

Interviewer: One year old when she was *[inaudible]* **[0:17:43]**.

**[Cross talk]**

Interviewer: You said that you became citizen of this country, you must have known English to have gotten your citizenship papers. How did you learn English? Who taught you?

Mr. Sobocinsky: Well, I was talking a little bit. I talk six people to *[inaudible]* **[0:18:02]** to the post office. And then – take them – I give them their name and addresses and *[inaudible]* **[0:18:11]** and where they live. And that give us a piece of paper and tell us to go to their court house, all court house and we went there and they got the citizen paper.

Six, I went to the different shops *[inaudible]* **[0:18:24]** Wilmington to pick up the six people and made a deal. I talked a little bit and God helped me.

Interviewer: Well, I am very interested, how did you learn English? Did you – I have to help you.

Mr. Sobocinsky: I was in – I was *[inaudible]* **[0:18:44]** with one lady, German woman, German family and she had a children. And I learn from their children in the house at night time or Sunday. I hold *[phonetic]* **[0:19:01]** older lower lot.

Interviewer: Mr. Sobocinsky, you said that you bought the business that your father-in-law had. Did you have that business very long?

Mr. Sobocinsky: I was at – from – I bought that business January 21st, 1905, and I was at there 1909. 1909 I moved to another location and I was in that same – that *[inaudible]* **[0:19:29]** new location it was at 1914. At 1914, I saw in a building's business.

Interviewer: I'm coming back to that business that you bought from your father. You continued with that liquor business.

Mr. Sobocinsky: Continue with it.

Interviewer: And you went into building.

Mr. Sobocinsky: And I sold it in 1914.

Interviewer: And then you begin building houses?

Mr. Sobocinsky: Then I rented in the building business.

Interviewer: Did you buy – build houses one at a time? Where did you build them and what kind of houses?

Mr. Sobocinsky: Six room house, I bought the land, there's six room house.

**[0:20:02]**

Interviewer: And where were – where was it?

Mr. Sobocinsky: One on the *[inaudible]* **[0:20:06]**.

Interviewer: And you continued living on *[phonetic]* **[0:20:11]** Vimburim Street at that time?

Mr. Sobocinsky: On *[phonetic]* **[0:20:12]** Vimburim Street. And I sold the houses for \$2,250 with heat electrical gas.

Interviewer: I understand that Mrs. Sobocinsky, your wife, came to this country when she was one year of age. So I am very sure that she knew English very well having lived in this country practically all her life. Did she teach you English?

Mr. Sobocinsky: Yes, she did.

Interviewer: Did she teach any others?

Mr. Sobocinsky: Not as far as I know of.

Interviewer: In the school. Didn't she have a little school where she taught people English?

Mr. Sobocinsky: Yeah, that was before she got married.

Interviewer: She was teaching English.

Mr. Sobocinsky: Teaching English.

Interviewer: Now tell me some to get about your wife, about her home life. I think that would be very interesting for posterity. Tell me about her. Tell me where she came from, where she lived and as a child, something, I heard something your family talking about Johnstown Flood. Tell me something about in your own words, Mr. Sobocinsky?

Mr. Sobocinsky: Well...

Interviewer: All about her.

Mr. Sobocinsky: Her father was working for a **[inaudible] [0:21:23]** company and they were sent it to Johnstown – to that city there. And December 18th I take it to the paper the flood comes. In 1889 she was three years old and she was on the second floor and somebody **[inaudible] [0:21:50]** both to the second floor window and open the window and take my wife and her mother or both. And she always talking that when she go to the window she was stepping – her mother stepping on a carpet they were swimming on the water. And then she went to the window and a man took both of them on the boat and get them out of there in 1889.

Interviewer: This is very interesting about Mrs. Sobocinsky. As far as I know, I can personally say that Mrs. Sobocinsky was a highly respected lady in the City of Wilmington and she was greatly beloved by most everybody of Polish descent.

Mr. Sobocinsky, let's go back to your building business. You were building houses you said on **[phonetic] [0:22:49]** Cedar Street and you were selling them for how much?

Mr. Sobocinsky: On **[phonetic] [0:22:53]** Cedar Street, I was selling for \$3,250 that was during the war 1916.

Interviewer: Did you have difficulty building getting materials and...

Mr. Sobocinsky: No. No. Though I...

Interviewer: But that was during the war, you know?

Mr. Sobocinsky: During the war but I had a very nice help. I don't have another problem.

Interviewer: Did you employ many people in your business?

Mr. Sobocinsky: Yes, well, I had carpenters, *[phonetic] [0:23:20]* bricklers, my own painters and all.

Interviewer: In fact that may say...

Mr. Sobocinsky: About 10, 12 people.

Interviewer: I may say something here that my own father worked for you, Mr. Sobocinsky. My father's name was *[phonetic] [0:23:32]* Yulian...

**[Cross talk]**

Mr. Sobocinsky: And your uncle.

Interviewer: Yes.

Mr. Sobocinsky: Your uncle *[inaudible] [0:23:35]* carpentry.

Interviewer: My uncle *[phonetic] [0:23:39]* Andre Linkevny and my father *[phonetic] [0:23:40]* Yulian Linkevny. They both worked...

**[Cross talk]**

Mr. Sobocinsky: Yeah, *[phonetic] [0:23:42]* Yulian built right on Franklin Street.

Interviewer: Yes, that's a very interesting. I remember my dad telling that.

Mr. Sobocinsky: Yeah.

Interviewer: Now, how long did you continue in that business? Did you change? Did you sell it?

Mr. Sobocinsky: Well, I continue with that business to 1918 until the first war won where there was hard to get there material unless you get the priority.

Interviewer: so you couldn't continue building.

Mr. Sobocinsky: So it was so hard and as I build the furniture still, I started furniture business.

Interviewer: Where was that furniture store?

Mr. Sobocinsky: At 220 – it's at *[phonetic]* **[0:24:17]** 236 Mainland Avenue.

Interviewer: Was it a big building?

Mr. Sobocinsky: 53 by 100.

Interviewer: How many floors?

Mr. Sobocinsky: Two floors.

Interviewer: Two floors. It was a large building. And you were selling furniture at that time?

Mr. Sobocinsky: Yeah.

Interviewer: You told me that you were in a furniture business and you started it during World War I because you couldn't continue working, you couldn't get the materials because everything was tight during the war. How long did you stay in business and what happened to your business, furniture business?

Mr. Sobocinsky: I started 1918 and I extended to 1932. And the depression, I think there, I lost everything. And I went back in a building business.

Interviewer: Back again into building business after that.

Mr. Sobocinsky: That's right.

**[0:25:03]**

Interviewer: And now I'd like to know, were you tied up with any organizations while you were in this country and how rarely you join and what organizations, you say in your words.

Mr. Sobocinsky: Well, as long as *[inaudible]* **[0:25:16]** and several other organization but I quit.

Interviewer: How early did you join? How long ago was it that you join? What – about what year was it?

Mr. Sobocinsky: 1906, 1907, yeah.

Interviewer: Are you still a member of any of these organizations?

Mr. Sobocinsky: Yes. Yes, ma'am.

Interviewer: I know for a fact that you are a Polish National Alliance. What about the other organizations? Are you still with them?

Mr. Sobocinsky: Well, that Polish Alliance I...

Interviewer: How about Falcons?

Mr. Sobocinsky: Falcons? Yeah, *[phonetic]* **[0:25:53]** Polowski.

Interviewer: And I know that you are honored by the Falcons about a year ago.

Mr. Sobocinsky: Yeah.

Interviewer: Was it at one time that the Falcons and the Polish National Alliance was at one group, one lied in Wilmington?

Mr. Sobocinsky: Yeah.

Interviewer: They work together at Wilmington and after a while they separate.

Mr. Sobocinsky: They joined July 12, 1902.

Interviewer: Mr. Sobocinsky, all the time that you were in this country up until now, did you correspond, did you send letters to people in Poland to your relations?

Mr. Sobocinsky: Yes, I did.

Interviewer: Have been writing letters all along?

Mr. Sobocinsky: Yeah.

Interviewer: And were you able to write letters during World War I or World War II?

Mr. Sobocinsky: No.

Interviewer: No, the letters did not go through at that time.

Mr. Sobocinsky: No.

Interviewer: Tell me about your children and their education? All your boys and – sons and daughters. The oldest one and how he's doing.

Mr. Sobocinsky: As far as I know some have a high school education and one or two don't have any.

Interviewer: When did you buy your first car? That's a very interesting question.

Mr. Sobocinsky: 1912.

Interviewer: 1912. What sort of a car was it?

Mr. Sobocinsky: Maxwell.

Interviewer: Maxwell. And I suppose you change cars many times since then?

Mr. Sobocinsky: I certainly did.

Interviewer: You went into building business for the second time. And how long did you stay in that building business? Until what year?

Mr. Sobocinsky: From 1932 to 1954.

Interviewer: You are now retired.

Mr. Sobocinsky: I'm now retired.

Interviewer: Is your wife still living?

Mr. Sobocinsky: No, she died July 22nd, 1954.

Interviewer: When you were younger, of course, would you ever had gone back to Poland, or did you like staying here?

Mr. Sobocinsky: I like to stay here.

Interviewer: Is it better in this country?

Mr. Sobocinsky: Yeah.

Interviewer: Tell me, well, how does it compare? How much better, in what way?

Mr. Sobocinsky: Well, 100 percent.

Interviewer: Mr. Sobocinsky, you build very many homes, I know that, and you sold them to all kinds of people but I'm very curious and others would be what manner did they pay for their homes? What did they use? Checks, cash, or what?

Mr. Sobocinsky: Well, one lady she brought \$2,250 in gold and put it on a lawyer table and the lawyer said that these *[inaudible]* **[0:28:48]** so many years but they never sell \$2,250 in gold. And, well, you keep it. She says that my father and mother told me always keep gold in case of war.

Interviewer: The other sales, how did they pay for them? Do they pay cash or in by checks?

Mr. Sobocinsky: They paid cash.

Interviewer: Everybody paid cash at those days.

Mr. Sobocinsky: Yeah, the borrowed from their friends.

Interviewer: And checking accounts were not very well-known at that time.

Mr. Sobocinsky: No.

Interviewer: This will now conclude the interview with you, Mr. Sobocinsky. I want to thank you very much and God bless you.

Mr. Sobocinsky: I thank you.

**[0:29:27]** **End of Audio**