



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

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

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

Mr. & Mrs. Adolph Silver

[0:00:00]

Interviewer: This is a recording of the oral history program of the University of Delaware. We're interviewing Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Silver of 2806 Market Street and the interviewer is Myron Lazarus.

What part of Europe did you come from?

Mr. Silver: Romania.

Interviewer: Romania?

Mr. Silver: Yeah.

Mrs. Silver: I come from Austria.

Interviewer: From Austria?

Mrs. Silver: Yeah.

Interviewer: Uh huh.

Mr. Silver: ***[inaudible] [0:00:21].***

Interviewer: How many – how many years did you spend in Romania before you...?

Mr. Silver: 21 years.

Interviewer: 21 years?

Mr. Silver: Yeah.

Interviewer: Uh huh.

Mr. Silver: I ***[inaudible] [0:00:33]*** the reason why I left Romania. You know in those days they had compulsory military service. And I didn't think Romania was entitled for me to spend three years to serve the army because there were brilliant to some medic ***[phonetic] [0:00:47].***

A June ***[phonetic] [0:00:49]*** no matter how educated you was if you entered the army, you didn't have no possibility, no right to become

[inaudible] [0:00:57]. Well, they're peasant. They have to teach you to know which is right – which right leg and left leg, he has no chance even to come Captain or the Lieutenant but they're Jew, they didn't have no right. A Jew didn't have no right in the Romania to be a porter at the railing station. You know last it is grant farmer **[phonetic] [0:01:22]** but disobeyed it in the war of the 1877 between the Romania and Turkey. Only those children have the right, otherwise they didn't have...

Interviewer: What occupation was family in Romania?

Mr. Silver: My father **[inaudible] [0:01:38]**.

Interviewer: I see, uh huh.

Mr. Silver: Carpenter, yeah.

Interviewer: What – yeah.

Mrs. Silver: Go ahead.

Interviewer: Did – you went to school in Romania?

Mr. Silver: Yeah.

Interviewer: What school did you go to? Did you to religious school or...?

Mr. Silver: Religious school.

Interviewer: Uh huh. You didn't go to the regular – any public school or private?

Mr. Silver: No, no, no.

Mrs. Silver: It wasn't for everybody the public school. These were the Nazi but not the Romanian.

Interviewer: Uh huh. Uh huh. You went to a heather **[phonetic] [0:02:02]** otherwise?

Mr. Silver: Yeah.

[Cross talk]

Interviewer: How about in Austria?

Mrs. Silver: The best like here in United States. **[0:02:10 [Inaudible]** it was very good and everybody had the same right no matter what he is and who he is. He is compulsory to go in school just like here **[inaudible] [0:02:20]**. And everybody has an ability he could graduate and do anything but he was.

Interviewer: What was your family doing in Austria?

Mrs. Silver: My father was a tailor.

Interviewer: How is the tailor?

Mrs. Silver: And me was tailor too. And, you know, so we go **[inaudible] [0:02:37]**...

Mr. Silver: I want to tell you something about the condition that the immigrant in 1910 lived through in New York.

[Cross talk]

Interviewer: Why did you decide to come over? You are married first?

Mr. Silver: Yeah. I was...

Mrs. Silver: he came to...

Interviewer: When did you meet your wife...

Mr. Silver: When I run away from Romania, I landed in **[inaudible] [0:02:59]** in Austria...

[Cross talk]

In her town, yeah.

[Cross talk]

Mrs. Silver: We meet each other and we got married.

Interviewer: Uh huh. Uh huh. And then why – I mean you talk about Austria as being rather nice.

Mrs. Silver: Wonderful.

Interviewer: Why did you leave Austria?

Mrs. Silver: *[inaudible] [0:03:14]* America is still dollar. So that – I had a brother here and aunts and old families so we went to here. And that was about six months later, I came here too. I could – we go together but that was silly, I couldn't go. So we went here.

We try the *[inaudible] [0:03:31]* in New York and there's too many people. So we try to go in the town *[inaudible] [0:03:37]*.

Mr. Silver: Well, you don't know what a cab means...

[Cross talk]

Mr. Silver: *[inaudible] [0:03:46]* there's too many *[inaudible] [0:03:51]*. So I went there *[inaudible] [0:03:54]* bound to be a cab tuna small town *[phonetic] [0:03:56]* I should – they should know...

Mrs. Silver: That's why I used to laugh *[inaudible] [0:03:59]*.

Interviewer: How did you find your way over here? Did you have...

Mr. Silver: But the most – the most difficult is while I was in Romania and Austria and Russia and they could expedite one person to the United States *[inaudible] [0:04:14]* my brother...

Interviewer: You mean – you mean family there?

Mr. Silver: Yeah.

Interviewer: You mean the government?

Mr. Silver: No.

[Cross talk]

...they even – you know what they did, they used to pawn their most valuable things in order to be able to get together the money for a ship ticket and expedite one. And this one came to the United States...

[Cross talk]

...the rest of you go where the rest of it.

Interviewer: How – what was your trip – where did you first in your trip? I mean, how – what was actually the course you took getting to the United States?

Mrs. Silver: I have an aunt here...

Interviewer: Oh, I see. Uh huh.

Mrs. Silver: ...and a brother. It seems that my aunt, he came to her – to them. Then gradually he go around here and there...

[0:05:02]

Interviewer: But when you came here, you had an aunt here, who helped you in United States?

Mrs. Silver: Yeah.

Interviewer: Was she in New

York... **[Cross talk]**

But where did you catch the boat?

Mr. Silver: In the Rotterdam.

Interviewer: Rotterdam?

Mr. Silver: Rotterdam, yeah. And I'm going to tell you...

Interviewer: You went across by railroad to Rotterdam?

Mr. Silver: Yeah. Sure.

Interviewer: Right, uh huh.

Mr. Silver: I want to tell you these **[inaudible] [0:05:27]** they're almost were mean people. I had to spend to wait for the boat in the **[inaudible] [0:05:38]** for 24 hours. And they watch me like I was being a thief. They didn't take off their eyes on me. They thought maybe I want **[inaudible] [0:05:48]**. That's the way they acted.

Interviewer: How was the boat itself, was it uncomfortable?

Mr. Silver: When in that time it was – I came with the most modern boat of Rotterdam. They took via some seven days. That was luxury. **[inaudible] [0:06:12]** it used to take weeks, weeks, yeah.

Interviewer: Well, how are your facilities there? Where they comfortable?

Mr. Silver: Yeah. Very nice, yeah.

Interviewer: Because immigrants had very bad...

Mr. Silver: Oh, yeah.

Mrs. Silver: He came *[inaudible] [0:06:23]*.

Interviewer: But you said you came – you came later?

Mr. Silver: Yeah.

Interviewer: Right. Did you...

Mrs. Silver: *[inaudible] [0:06:31]*.

Interviewer: Is that right? Uh huh.

Mrs. Silver: I was got off on the boat, I helped lots of people *[inaudible] [0:06:38]* from one side to the other and excuse me *[inaudible] [0:06:42]*. They couldn't eat, they couldn't do, some of them have children – some of them had children. So they gave me – I have a *[inaudible] [0:06:49]* I wasn't sick. I have my neck was full of jewelry and my closet but they got it fake *[phonetic] [0:06:56]*.

Then I used to take big parts of food – big part of...

Mr. Silver: Most of the immigrant were Russians and she spoke German very good.

Mrs. Silver: Yeah. Yeah.

Mr. Silver: And there was a German boat, a German ship...

Mrs. Silver: They used to give me in the kitchen cake and tea. And I used to take it on the deck and feed those kids *[inaudible] [0:07:13]* they took my name. But that day that was alright and I couldn't do it and I was *[inaudible] [0:07:20]* all my pleasure.

Interviewer: Your – the aunt that you meet here...

[Cross talk]

Interviewer: ...in New York?

[Cross talk]

That's a boat?

[Cross talk]

Mr. Silver: The uncle came to meet me at...

Interviewer: Oh, I see.

Mr. Silver: ...that's why I really kept on going. I kept on going.

Interviewer: Where did you first live when you came – where in New York and where in Brooklyn?

Mr. Silver: **[inaudible] [0:07:42]** I live in the Portside suite **[phonetic] [0:07:44]** in the Romanian get up so to speak. Portside **[phonetic] [0:07:48]** that was about three blocks where if you went there...

[Cross talk]

...you heard the Romanian language just like in Bucharest. We live on the 5th...

[Cross talk]

Mrs. Silver: On the sixth block. Oh, that's a lot of years to go over that **[inaudible] [0:08:01]**.

Interviewer: Is that right?

Mrs. Silver: And they're on that boat a bucket of beer they use to **[inaudible] [0:08:07]**...

[Cross talk]

But he was living there for awhile, then he didn't like New York. He didn't like it at New York.

Mr. Silver: I have some...

Mrs. Silver: He had a lump sum *[phonetic]* [0:08:18] here *[inaudible]* [0:08:20]...

Interviewer: Yeah. He followed you right? Yeah.

Mrs. Silver: Yeah. So he go to them and he came here *[inaudible]* [0:08:27].

Mr. Silver: I want to tell you about the circumstances with the immigrant live through in the New York. They were – that was cold but the relative that were here a few years before when I go and sit *[inaudible]* [0:08:43] there should get away *[inaudible]* [0:08:45].

But when they advertise Red Taylor, the Taylor *[phonetic]* [0:08:49]...

Mrs. Silver: They still didn't like...

Mr. Silver: ...there were 75 and a 100 people for the job.

Interviewer: A lot of talent.

Mr. Silver: Yeah. So I got – I have no chance. I have no chance at all. One manufacture advertised with tailor and we stayed in line maybe we're at the block and ahead. And then – in the pink of me I notice a boss of mine that I work in Bucharest he stayed in line there too.

So finally I wanted to go somewhere in a small place. So be at the Romanian café I was this – we used to sit when we have nothing to do, we used to sit there.

Interviewer: Coffee house in New York?

Mr. Silver: Yeah. Tea house is *[inaudible]* [0:09:35] I'm sorry, tea house. So I told a friend of mine that I would love to go – like to go and get away from New York. He says, well, I'll tell you, the *[inaudible]* [0:09:47] they joined me Jewish, recognized that there's too many immigrants in New York and they wanted to ship these immigrants to middle best, the best and so on and so far.

[0:10:03]

So they organized an organization, they call it "The Removal Office" in the 2nd Avenue, between the 11th and 12th there was a nice office especial for these immigrant. But this man told me if I go there they'll send me somewhere.

So I went to that office and I told them that I'm a tailor, I'm a skill mechanic and I can't get a work in here. So he told me that there is a job for me in Kent, Ohio. So I said, alright, I'm willing. And he said, are you married? I said, yes, *[inaudible]* **[0:10:44]** left him because in those days many young man they're just on their way and living their wives, you know.

Interviewer: Your wife is worried.

Mr. Silver: We used to have a especial picture with pictures of the *[inaudible]* **[0:10:56]** the – so I said...

Mrs. Silver: *[inaudible]* **[0:10:59]**.

Mr. Silver: So end up working *[inaudible]* **[0:11:01]** she was their head and I said, hey, listen *[inaudible]* **[0:11:03]** we are going to Kent in Ohio. So the *[inaudible]* **[0:11:07]** he wouldn't go. He said, well, if you want to stay with them, go ahead and stay with them. But if you want to go with me, we're going to Kent, Ohio. And that's why she went with me.

So we got her belongings which she didn't mind too much and they went over in the removal office. And they went out and brought two bags with food...

[Cross talk]

...give me the money, you know.

Mrs. Silver: It took us day and night to go there...

[Cross talk]

Mr. Silver: They took us on the bottom of the trolley car. They too us on Pennsylvania station and they bought two tickets and...

[Cross talk]

Yeah. The address *[inaudible]* **[0:11:49]**. And every city in the middle west, they hired a representatives, you see that belongs to this organization. And in Kent, Ohio, there was a join me Jews *[inaudible]* **[0:12:04]** he couldn't speak English, he had a mix store and he was one affiliated with these organization. Anybody came push to him and he took...

Interviewer: He help you settle?

Mr. Silver: Yeah. Yeah. So we get in the train. And so, it's alright, said, good bye **[inaudible] [0:12:23]** in the day. Now, I was about to – almost a year in the country.

Mrs. Silver: Not quite.

Mr. Silver: So what did I know about Kent and Ohio?

[Cross talk]

So after I travelled for about an hour or two that comes up to pass by, you know, in those days it took 24 hours to go to Kent, Ohio. So **[inaudible] [0:12:44]** Kent, Ohio, Kent, Ohio and he looked at me thought I was crazy or something.

[inaudible] [0:12:52] told me that it takes long to go to Kent, Ohio but I didn't understand that.

Mrs. Silver: He sit down and he said, sit down.

Mr. Silver: A couple of hours later I got angry. I said, where the heck is **[inaudible] [0:13:03]** take me. So he passes by again, he said, Mr. Kent, Ohio?

[Laughter]

So what the heck are they're going to do with me? I noticed that on the other side, I recognized the Jewish members sitting there **[inaudible] [0:13:19]** but he only told them, go home after that man and tell him that if he realize tomorrow morning **[inaudible] [0:13:27]** Kent, Ohio and that was the thing, that was 6:00 O'clock in the afternoon.

So he came **[inaudible] [0:13:33]** he says, take off your shoes, make yourself confident. We arrived at 8:00 O'clock in the morning **[inaudible] [0:13:40]**.

So finally, we arrived in Kent, Ohio. I have the address, much English, you could imagine I don't know. So I meet the management, they're very polite there. I show them the address. I was six months longer than them in the United States...

[Cross talk]

She thought I could – I know nothing. So I showed the man the address.

Mrs. Silver: I don't see *[inaudible]* **[0:14:04]**.

Mr. Silver: I showed the man the address. He's very nice. He try to describe, he said, walk up three blocks, turn the right and then two blocks. So she asked me in English, you know what they said? How should I know?

[Laughter]

Mrs. Silver: It was the nice thing...

[Cross talk]

Mr. Silver: So we kept on walking...

Mrs. Silver: At least I have...

Mr. Silver: So I saw a sign in store a Jewish name that said – it is the man I'm looking for. I go in he talk *[inaudible]* **[0:14:35]**, yeah, sure. And I show him the address and he came out and in English he explained to me exactly and I went. So finally I arrived to that store. It was a big store.

Mrs. Silver: He did not told me that.

Mr. Silver: The man, he only was sitting in the office, he notice when I came in, he recognized that we are not customers because he *[inaudible]* **[0:14:56]** that we are the way.

[0:15:00]

So he recognize these *[inaudible]* **[0:15:00]**. So he took us in the office. The man – the man that I was supposed to go to work was Silver Sign, he's name was Silver Sign *[phonetic]* **[0:15:09]**. My name...

Interviewer: What were you going to do? You're going to be a tailor?

[Cross talk]

Mrs. Silver: Yeah. He send him to a tailor...

Mr. Silver: My name was so *[inaudible]* **[0:15:16]** those days. And the tailor's name was Silver Sign *[phonetic]* **[0:15:19]** I didn't know it.

Mrs. Silver: ***[inaudible] [0:15:21].***

Mr. Silver: So the man buried alive, I couldn't speak English word. He said, sit down and I will call my sister ***[inaudible] [0:15:29].*** So I get up and said, no, my name is Silver Man ***[phonetic] [0:15:32] [inaudible] [0:15:33].***

I supposed he said, yes, I know that your name is Silver Man ***[phonetic] [0:15:38]*** but the tailor's name is Sober Stand ***[phonetic] [0:15:40].*** I said – and again, he called me...

[Laughter]

Then she gets mad. She gets out and said, why should he call me Silver Man ***[phonetic] [0:15:49]?*** So he saw the circumstances, they can't do nothing with us, he said, sit down. He go into the telephone and called and found out that tailor is Silver Man ***[phonetic] [0:16:00].*** And I was around the corner in about 10 minutes the man comes in ***[inaudible] [0:16:06]*** my name is Silverstein ***[phonetic] [0:16:11].***

[Laughter]

Interviewer: So now you're – then you understand? How long did you – were you there? How long...

[Cross talk]

Mr. Silver: My luck, this tailor was maybe for 10 years in business all of the sudden he decided to give up the business. And so, I went from there to Cleveland which is near. I went to Cleveland. In Cleveland there was a club makers strike.

Mrs. Silver: Just happen to be a...

Mr. Silver: ***[inaudible] [0:16:37]*** clock maker strike. And these clock maker's strike is there...

Interviewer: What date was this now?

Mr. Silver: In 1911. This clock makers they couldn't get along with their families, with the benefit that they're have from the union. So they went and got jobs in men's tailoring, Hyman Men's Tailor. So it was our job to get there in Men's tailor.

So finally I saw an advertisement that the *[inaudible]* **[0:17:02]** tailor needs a – needs a man. So I went there but I notice that they are *[inaudible]* **[0:17:10]** and I knew already in those days that *[inaudible]* **[0:17:14]** is not very much in love with Jewish people.

So he asked me are you a good tailor? I said, I could make a coat very good – better than anybody. He said, okay, what is your name? I gave him a Romanian name, a Romanian name. So he write down the Romanian name and I work there. And I work about three or four days but somehow I can't understand why somebody send me a letter or maybe two weeks I work there. Somebody send me a letter, my real name on the address of the tailor.

Mrs. Silver: Oh, I don't know that.

Mr. Silver: So the – until then, these other workers were very friendly to me. We used to go out to lunch, no discrimination, the Romanians they are dog. But when this boss received that letter and he called me and then he said, "What is your name?" I told him I said, "No, what is this letter?" I said, "Well, yeah, this is my name, Silver Man's name." They turn to me *[inaudible]* **[0:18:15]** I have to quit, I couldn't stay any longer.

Interviewer: Then where did you go?

Mr. Silver: Then I went Chicago, to Chicago. *[inaudible]* **[0:18:28]**.

Interviewer: Okay. Okay.

Mr. Silver: I chopped there mugs about two years prior when I arrived in Chicago or a year before, they had a very bit of strike, terrible strike. The most leader of this strike was Jewish. They were their leaders.

Mrs. Silver: They usually...

Mr. Silver: So I found that Chicago a *[inaudible]* **[0:18:53]** man because I work with them in Bucharest, Romania.

Mrs. Silver: They were my candy.

Mr. Silver: No, if it wouldn't be for them I won't starve to death.

Interviewer: Uh huh.

Mr. Silver: Positively starve to death. *[inaudible]* [0:19:03] with my friends family in Chicago, in the middle of the city there was a creek, you know, I feel like jumping and be done with this business.

So he told me and advised me to go to our chapter marks *[phonetic]* [0:19:16] to try a job. And they *[inaudible]* [0:19:19] color maker want this, they didn't wanted this and this. So when you make a coat, you could do any part. So *[inaudible]* [0:19:27] was also big.

So when he came to me, next, he said, I see that you got a sign cover maker wanted. Alright, you're a tailor he said positively? So everything was *[inaudible]* [0:19:45] when I told him my name he recognized that I'm Jewish and what the heck is the *[inaudible]* [0:19:52]. It's a Jewish firm.

So I went back to my *[inaudible]* [0:19:56] man I told him our chapter *[inaudible]* [0:19:57] Jewish and I could swear that the reason why they didn't get a job is because I was Jewish. So that was the reason in order not to employ Jewish because they – because after that strike.

[0:20:11]

It doesn't that he is the leader when my son became a Rabi; he studied at Hebrew Union College. So they are the system in order for the students who make a few dollars, you know, while they study after two years, they would send them out in the *[inaudible]* [0:20:27] the Rabi in the temple where the Rabi going to...

Mrs. Silver: For the youngsters...

Mr. Silver: ...maybe. So my son was sent in Chicago, one of the richest temple in these years our chapter *[inaudible]* [0:20:39] were members there.

Interviewer: Ironically.

Mr. Silver: So after the services, one of the firms came to – they call him already a Rabi, you know. He had two or three years. They said, "Where are you going to stay?" He said, "I don't know." If much money you didn't have to stay in hotel. So he took...

Mrs. Silver: Because he's student there.

Mr. Silver: He took over there – he took him home.

Mrs. Silver: I saw only one basket.

Mr. Silver: And he told him about it, he told him the experience, my father had **[inaudible] [0:21:08]** company, he said, there was – there was not any more. But – so they meet in the morning, my son was a good sleeper, he always been a good sleeper. So she woke him up, Mr. Rabi, **[inaudible] [0:21:21]**...

[Laughter]

Mrs. Silver: Now, he – only that...

Interviewer: Where did you go from Chicago? How did you get to Wilmington?

Mr. Silver: When she got a little – she succeeded into making a few dollars to...

[Cross talk]

...she was left in Cleveland, yeah.

Interviewer: Oh, I see, uh huh.

Mr. Silver: In the Cleveland, we meet...

[Cross talk]

...no in Goren's, in Goren's **[phonetic] [0:21:45]**, if it wouldn't be for **[inaudible] [0:21:47]** the governor was the one who became the – they treated her like a daughter.

Mrs. Silver: They all really.

Mr. Silver: So when I came back to Cleveland, the man **[inaudible] [0:21:56]** the father of the family told me I want you to do something for me. So he went – he said, "Listen, I'm going to get you a push cart and you'll get up early in the morning and you'll go in the market and buy foods, you know..."

Mrs. Silver: He went there and then pay for it and...

Mr. Silver: Yeah, he pay for the push cart and pay for the different fruits and...

Mrs. Silver: **[inaudible] [0:22:19]**.

Mr. Silver: So I like *[inaudible]* [0:22:21].

[Laughter]

...push cart for a week and I came back, you know, and said to him, it's nothing...

Mrs. Silver: *[inaudible]* [0:22:29].

Mr. Silver: David Olbriteche...

[Cross talk]

Interviewer: That was when you started here, that was it, with the push cart?

Mr. Silver: Yeah. So finally we...

[Cross talk]

...the circumstances – I mean, she send me a ticket...

Mrs. Silver: To come to me...

Mr. Silver: ...a train ticket to come back where I left her there.

Mrs. Silver: They were very nice people.

Mr. Silver: So when I came back to Brooklyn again, I decided that I must get a job. So in those days the *[inaudible]* [0:23:03] they had mostly...

Interviewer: The what?

Mr. Silver: *[inaudible]* [0:23:09]...

Mrs. Silver: A monastery work *[phonetic]* [0:23:09].

Interviewer: Okay. Is that the paper?

[Cross talk]

Mr. Silver: ...anybody wanted a job; they have to look in that paper because that was the paper that has all the ads. So it was dark when I arrived in Deviancy Street where you could give these papers, you know, and I got all of the paper.

[Cross talk]

...I saw – I notice that they wanted tailor to apply in the Twining *[phonetic]* **[0:23:42]** Tailor Store, Tailor Twining *[phonetic]* **[0:23:42]** Store in Aldrich street.

So it was still dark. So I went there and stayed there with terrible cold. And those days the Solomon *[phonetic]* **[0:23:55]** had a big stove in that place. So I went there every once in awhile and warm up myself because they had assistant that – people who arrived there to – for the job, the first one that arrived had the privilege to be interviewed first, you see.

So when I came out from the Solomon *[phonetic]* **[0:24:17]** I found already two or three people. And I told them listen boys, I was here before I went there and they said, alright, alright, we stayed there till 9:00 O'clock because he had to arrive from right in New York *[inaudible]* **[0:24:30]**. The tailor that wanted...

Mrs. Silver: He was there.

Mr. Silver: The tailor that came to Wilmington for a tailor for a work at...

Mrs. Silver: To New York.

Mr. Silver: We came to New York from *[inaudible]* **[0:24:40]** to New York.

[Cross talk]

Manchester right in New York *[phonetic]* **[0:24:47]**, you know?

Interviewer: Yeah.

Mr. Silver: So he arrived from Rae to New York in 9:00 O'clock and he opens the door, he said, alright, who's the first one? So they pushed me.

[0:25:00]

So he said to me, "Listen" in English, you know, I don't live here, I lived maybe 50 miles from here and I needed a tailor, a good tailor. If you're not a good tailor you'll give trouble I'll have to come back again and – I said – and that time it happened that my – the coat that I wear I made myself, I said, "Look, this is my work." Are you sure that is – you made

that coat? I said, yes. Alright, come on let's go. All the rest of them **[inaudible] [0:25:30]**.

He has send – and took me in, in the restaurant and gave me a nice breakfast. So again, he took me to the train and we arrived in Ray, New York.

So in Ray in those days, the entire business section consisted of two blocks.

Mrs. Silver: That was it.

Mr. Silver: And very few Jewish lived there. So he provided for me a place to sleep in **[inaudible] [0:26:03]** Chester, which is not far from Ray, New York, some fortress in there.

Mrs. Silver: It's not far.

Mr. Silver: But at the end their children since I went away I didn't – in those days where the telephone...

Mrs. Silver: **[inaudible] [0:26:18]**.

Mr. Silver: Where's the telephone or to write them. They thought that I committed suicide.

Mrs. Silver: About two or three days, we didn't hear from him.

Mr. Silver: It's a week, a week.

Mrs. Silver: A week, oh my God.

Mr. Silver: Yeah. So...

[Cross talk]

...after I finish at work and I made \$15 and in those days it was a big money.

Interviewer: A lot of money.

Mr. Silver: I rented a train like an airplane **[inaudible] [0:26:42]** and I got into the train, I went to New York and then I came in to the end, everybody

followed me and begin to cry to joy, they thought – they thought should have I throw myself in the river.

So after I made a few dollars, I send the money and she came back to Brooklyn.

Interviewer: Uh huh.

Mrs. Silver: I was still...

Interviewer: Were you working during those times?

Mrs. Silver: No. In Cleveland I couldn't work.

Mr. Silver: But in New York...

Mrs. Silver: In New York as long *[inaudible] [0:27:11]* I was working and I became as a sooner *[phonetic] [0:27:15]* he left after phase off. The whole *[inaudible] [0:27:18]*. I used to work in laundry in the night *[phonetic] [0:27:22]*...

Interviewer: You weren't – you weren't doing any tailoring?

Mrs. Silver: No. I could tailor but I was...

[Cross talk]

...I was in laundry. So I was working, yeah, but this – he didn't want to be in New York. He didn't like New York which I don't believe.

Mr. Silver: So finally I remind myself that I had a lumps man *[phonetic] [0:27:42]* in Wilmington, Delaware that I work with him in Bucharest, a young boy, 15, 16 years of age...

Interviewer: Also a tailor?

Mr. Silver: Yeah.

Interviewer: Tailor.

Mr. Silver: So they *[inaudible] [0:27:52]* to live...

Interviewer: Who was it?

Mr. Silver: Silver Stein.

Mrs. Silver: He's name was Silver Stein.

Interviewer: Again?

Mr. Silver: Yeah. Yeah.

[Laughter]

So I can't believe that they emigrated from Bucharest...

Mrs. Silver: That is the sister – assisted her – Mrs. Silver Stein's sister Markovich **[phonetic] [0:28:08]**.

Mr. Silver: Yeah. They still live...

Mrs. Silver: They still – the Silver Stein not but they have here family, so...

Mr. Silver: So this family – this friend of mine that lumps man **[phonetic] [0:28:19]** of mine, when they were kids they knew each other with the family and their family was girl.

So they decided here in Wilmington to send a ship ticket to that Silver Stein to come here and he got married with that girl.

Interviewer: Uh huh.

Mr. Silver: So since I struggled, I still wanted to go although I came back with – I still wanted to go in a small place. I remind myself, yeah, I had to clean this door already and there are 96, 98 Forth Street **[phonetic] [0:28:45]**...

Mrs. Silver: Yeah, a younger boy...

Mr. Silver: Her uncle bought for me, I didn't have the money. And I struggle there, I couldn't make **[inaudible] [0:28:52]** and meat.

Mrs. Silver: There was a some store at the back...

[Cross talk]

Interviewer: And where is this now?

Mr. Silver: In New York. 96 – I remember 96, 98...

Mrs. Silver: **[inaudible] [0:29:00]...**

Mr. Silver: ...New York, yeah.

[Cross talk]

Interviewer: 96 and 1st street in New York?

Mrs. Silver: Yeah.

Mr. Silver: 1st Street New York. At the back we made...

Mrs. Silver: **[inaudible] [0:29:09].**

Mr. Silver: **[inaudible] [0:29:10]** and, you know, her uncle Bob is still for us. But after the week, after I paid the cleaner, paid the rent there was nothing left for me. So all of a sudden, a man comes in and says, I spoke a little English already, he says, can you have this suite finish this – in this day because I got to go to Wilmington, Delaware.

When he said, Wilmington, Delaware mindless so because this lumps man **[phonetic] [0:29:35]** of mine used to correspond – in the beginning he used to send me a letter...

Mrs. Silver: **[inaudible] [0:29:40]** Bucharest.

Mr. Silver: In Bucharest.

Interviewer: I see.

Mr. Silver: But later on, we forgot all about it. So when he mentioned that I said, oh, my in Wilmington, Delaware. So a couple of days later I decided to go to Wilmington but I didn't tell her, I didn't tell **[inaudible] [0:29:58]** because I was afraid that they would left me.

[0:30:02]

And when I got up in the morning and she was sleeping at the back and I took a note in Nerdish **[phonetic] [0:30:09]** and I wrote, I want you to know that I didn't run away from you. I'm going to Wilmington, Delaware to my lumps man **[phonetic] [0:30:17]** maybe there I'll be better off.

So when I close the door and I went to the Pennsylvania station. So in those days Wilmington, Delaware cost at two and a quarter one way.

Interviewer: From New York?

Mr. Silver: From New York. So when I come to the – oh, to the ticket office, I didn't remember the exact day but I said, give me a ticket to Delaware and I put down \$3.

So she says, Denver, you haven't got enough money for Denver. Denver cost – maybe you mean, Delaware. I said, yeah, yeah.

[Laughter]

Yeah. Yeah. So finally she gave me a ticket to Wilmington, Delaware. And I arrived at Wilmington, Delaware to *[inaudible]* **[0:31:08]** telegram office and I send them a telegram where I am, so she didn't worry.

Now, it's a job to find out that lumps man *[phonetic]* **[0:31:17]** of mine. To me his name was Yasil, Yasil Sliverstein *[phonetic]* **[0:31:24]** but he have an American...

Mrs. Silver: Joseph.

Mr. Silver: Joseph? So I go ahead and look for him. So I went – went around, went around 8th and King – you've been in Wilmington, yeah?

Interviewer: Yeah. Yeah.

Mr. Silver: You remember the favorite – the favorite *[inaudible]* **[0:31:40]** a clothing store in 8th and King Street tailor, you don't remember.

Interviewer: No, I don't. I meet a Favor *[phonetic]* **[0:31:46]** family...

[Cross talk]

Mrs. Silver: ...before he start.

Mr. Silver: Yeah. So I happen to go in that store, it was maybe...

Mrs. Silver: In 1911...

Mr. Silver: So I went in and said in Nerdish *[phonetic]* **[0:31:58]**, I'm looking for a man by the name Yasil Silverstein *[phonetic]* **[0:32:03]**. He said, "You mean Joe Silverstein?"

[Cross talk]

[Laughter]

Joe Silverstein. He said to the colored man, he said, "Take this young man down to 5th and Lambert Street *[phonetic]* [0:32:14], take him to Joe – this Joe Silverstein make coats for favor at 8th and Kings.

Mrs. Silver: Coincidence.

Mr. Silver: He made coats for them. So this colored fellow me walks down *[inaudible]* [0:32:28] this year. And this friend of mine was sitting near the window and he could see for couple of blocks. All of a sudden he noticed me and recognized and he run and hugs me and greeted me, you see.

Interviewer: Okay.

Mrs. Silver: That's our beginning to Wilmington, Delaware.

Mr. Silver: She came – came in and he put me to – he help let me...

Interviewer: Did you worked with him – for him?

Mr. Silver: Yeah. Yeah.

[Cross talk]

Mrs. Silver: *[inaudible]* [0:32:56] they were two partners.

[Cross talk]

Mr. Silver: ...Silverstein.

Interviewer: Uh huh.

Mr. Silver: So then I rented a house for myself and I begin to make coats for James T. Mullins *[phonetic]* [0:33:07] at 6th and Market Street, yeah.

Interviewer: You made coats for them?

Mr. Silver: Yeah.

Mrs. Silver: Oh, yeah, for a long time.

Interviewer: You didn't just shorten or repair them?

[Cross talk]

Mr. Silver: No, I made coats, yeah.

Mrs. Silver: **[inaudible] [0:33:16]** colors in the office. They still do it maybe, I don't know. When he used to make coats...

Mr. Silver: And finally I had took in a girl to help me. And then before reach I worked so hard, maybe eight – like union try to organize the tailors. And there is a fellow, an Italian fellow who couldn't speak very good English, he said, how many hours you work in a day? It's 25 hours.

[Laughter]

So the same with me, you know. So in those – the first week in my life, I made about \$28 or \$30 and I came home and I took that money **[inaudible] [0:33:53]** \$20...

Mrs. Silver: And he...

Interviewer: In one week time?

Mr. Silver: In one week.

[Cross talk]

Mrs. Silver: ...we got an apartment, he took me over. I was pregnant at that time with my big son...

Interviewer: Was that the first child, yeah?

Mrs. Silver: Yeah. And we had an apartment and...

Mr. Silver: And there he is, right there. You know him?

Interviewer: No, I don't think so. I don't think I know your son. Uh huh, uh huh.

Mr. Silver: **[inaudible] [0:34:19]**.

[Cross talk]

Mrs. Silver: Oh, his whole family comes together *[inaudible]* **[0:34:26]**.

Interviewer: Did you finally open up your own tailor shop?

Mrs. Silver: Yeah.

Interviewer: Yes.

Mr. Silver: Yes.

Mrs. Silver: Finally, yes, he rent a house with a store in the front.

Mr. Silver: In Wal-Mart Street, 1204, Wal-Mart Street *[phonetic]* **[0:34:40]**...

[Cross talk]

...and made coats and begin to make a lettering. But then I wasn't still satisfied. I wanted a store. So I attempt...

Interviewer: A store to sell on? Okay.

Mr. Silver: Yeah. A store.

Mrs. Silver: No, to cleaning...

Mr. Silver: To made suites.

Interviewer: Oh, I see.

[0:35:00]

Mr. Silver: So at 10 one and a half Lambert *[phonetic]* **[0:35:01]** Street, there was a little house and a little store and there was man there, stayed there for maybe for 10 years and he suddenly decided to go west. And this place was for rent.

And the man that I knew was in a real estate business. He's a Jewish man and he said, so what? Now, you have a chance to become a little businessman. There is a store if you rent the house.

Mrs. Silver: Yeah. I love that house.

Mr. Silver: So he took me and looks at it. And I thought this is the real thing...

Mrs. Silver: Then we really started in business, so.

Mr. Silver: So I move there...

Interviewer: This is on Lambert Street?

[Cross talk]

Mrs. Silver: Then we bought that house – the other *[inaudible]* [0:35:40] a bigger house.

Mr. Silver: *[inaudible]* [0:35:41] Lambert Street. But that house belong to – also to tailor by the name Morse Freeman which you would know. He live in Market Street in 14th to Market. This man was anxious to sell the house. And I begin to make a living there. And every once in awhile, he came with another customer to look over the house and I said, my God, if I buy that house that will put me up.

My money is enough I didn't have no chance to make the entire house cost \$1,700...

Mrs. Silver: *[inaudible]* [0:36:13].

Mr. Silver: ...a bigger store. But...

Interviewer: Including the store?

Mr. Silver: Yeah. Included, yeah.

[Cross talk]

But you have to have at least \$500 down payment. So I tell her you know what, I was afraid, maybe they'll – somebody will buy the house and make me move. So I tell her you go to Brooklyn to our relatives and see maybe you could get together...

Mrs. Silver: Yeah. I got my sister and my brother and...

Mr. Silver: Yeah, a couple of \$100.

Mrs. Silver: *[inaudible]* [0:36:40].

Mr. Silver: Yeah. No.

Mrs. Silver: No. My brother and my sister.

Mr. Silver: So she went – she went and come back...

[Cross talk]

Mr. Silver: ...came back with nothing.

Mrs. Silver: **[inaudible] [0:36:50].**

Mr. Silver: So in the meantime I accumulated almost \$200. 12th and Lambert Street, there was a grocery man **[phonetic] [0:37:01]** and those days the...

[Cross talk]

...make the living very nice.

So I went in there and told him I still – he says, look I'm a stranger, I haven't got no relatives in here when I move in here and I begin to make a living. And that Freeman is anxious to sell the house. If he sell the house he'll make me move.

So what do you want? What can I do? I want you to sign a note with me. Sign a note for you?

Mrs. Silver: **[inaudible] [0:37:27].**

Mr. Silver: I can't tell you his name. Please sign a note, how much? I said, it's \$300. He looks at me, he says in Nerdish **[phonetic] [0:37:37]**, he says, listen, I never sign a note for nobody but you look to be a nice busy young man, I'll sign a not for you.

So he signed a note for me for \$300 in the **[inaudible] [0:37:50]**. I had \$200; finally I went to that Freeman and told him that I am ready to buy the house. And I bought the house. I was more or less secured.

Mrs. Silver: And that means, later on we bought the next corner, bigger house **[inaudible] [0:38:10]** ticket.

Interviewer: Good. Have you been a tailor all your life?

Mr. Silver: Yeah. **[inaudible] [0:38:21]** tailor in Europe, yeah.

Mrs. Silver: I used to help him a lot. And then we had that big boy, a big boy. Then we had another boy...

Interviewer: Your first son who was born, where now?

Mrs. Silver: He – in Lambert Street.

Interviewer: In Lambert Street?

Mr. Silver: Yeah.

Mrs. Silver: No, in Wilmington.

Mr. Silver: In Lambert Street.

Mrs. Silver: Yeah. *[inaudible] [0:38:36]* Street.

Interviewer: Uh huh. And he went to school where?

[Cross talk]

Mr. Silver: He went to Wilmington School, in high school and then he got...

Interviewer: Wilmington High School?

Mr. Silver: Wilmington – he was very good in the debating.

Interviewer: Uh huh.

Mrs. Silver: Oh, he got a price when he graduate to...

Mr. Silver: He was very good in debating in the *[inaudible] [0:38:59]* I believe had a debating team in the – in Philadelphia.

[Cross talk]

...to take part in the debate. And I went with them and a lawyer Pyle *[phonetic] [0:39:13]*...

Interviewer: Oh, yes.

Mr. Silver: He was the sponsor. So *[inaudible] [0:39:16]*, me and my son we went to...

Interviewer: Is that – which Pyle is that now? Sam Pyle, Luke Pyle *[phonetic]* **[0:39:20]**?

Mr. Silver: No, Dave.

Interviewer: Dave Pyle? Uh huh.

Mr. Silver: Yes. *[inaudible]* **[0:39:24]** and my son participated in debate.

Interviewer: Your up – older son went to Wilmington High School?

Mr. Silver: Yeah.

Interviewer: And then he went to the University of Delaware?

Mr. Silver: Yeah.

Interviewer: Uh huh. Was there any problem getting him to the university, I mean, financially?

Mr. Silver: Financially...

[Cross talk]

No, in those days – in those days very, very reasonable, it didn't cost very much.

Mrs. Silver: Since he's at there *[phonetic]* **[0:39:45]**. I think the first year he had to pay and then when he is good at – he don't have to pay anymore, six years he went there.

Mr. Silver: Wait a minute, wait a minute.

Interviewer: No, no, you're talking about...

[Cross talk]

But he went four years to Delaware?

Mrs. Silver: Oh, yeah, yeah.

Mr. Silver: Right here in college he got a...

[0:40:00]

Mrs. Silver: A price.

Mr. Silver: A price. There was a probation...

Mrs. Silver: The dean – the dean from the Delaware College recommend at the office and he said, you made some essay and give it to me.

Mr. Silver: A reference of probation.

Interviewer: On probation.

[Cross talk]

Did he majored history? He was – probably your son like he was a history student.

Mr. Silver: Yeah.

Mrs. Silver: He made that essay and that dean send it the state of Delaware. And he came...

Mr. Silver: Then they send it New York.

Mrs. Silver: Then he said, I – he didn't have notation for Delaware College. And then he said, you tell your father don't worry about tuition I got it already. Can I send you essay somewhere else? He said, you can send it any place you want. He send it in certain places. And he said, don't worry for tuition. He was *[inaudible] [0:40:49]*. He – the first...

Mr. Silver: *[inaudible] [0:40:51]*...

[Cross talk]

Mrs. Silver: And he run *[inaudible] [0:40:54]* without tuition.

Interviewer: You don't know what award that was that he won with the essay?

Mrs. Silver: No, I do not know.

[Cross talk]

Mr. Silver: ...probation.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Mr. Silver: But...

Interviewer: And he went to the university four years?

Mr. Silver: Four years, yeah.

Interviewer: And then he went to *[inaudible] [0:41:10]* school?

Mr. Silver: Yes.

[Cross talk]

Interviewer: For how long?

Mrs. Silver: Six years.

Mr. Silver: Six years he went. Six years, yeah.

Mrs. Silver: *[inaudible] [0:41:17]* also.

Interviewer: And now he is a Rabi where?

Mr. Silver: Stanford Connecticut.

[Cross talk]

Interviewer: How long is he been a Rabi in Stanford, Connecticut?

Mrs. Silver: He was there about three years.

Mr. Silver: But more than that...

Mrs. Silver: No.

Mr. Silver: Yes. More – in Stanford it's more than three years. He has been there about five years. Five years, yeah.

Interviewer: And then your child was another boy?

Mr. Silver: *[inaudible] [0:41:43]*, yeah.

Interviewer: Bob Silver.

Mr. Silver: Very active. He was the president of the *[inaudible]* [0:41:48], very active. And then my...

Mrs. Silver: He is the accountant there in...

[Cross talk]

He was there for a long time.

Mr. Silver: And then my daughter Aster is very active. She's...

[Cross talk]

Mrs. Silver: Her husband works in *[inaudible]* [0:42:04] glass. Mrs. Kaufman *[phonetic]* [0:42:09] his brother – a sister.

[Laughter]

Interviewer: Oh, okay.

Mrs. Silver: And he works there since his a young kid. But they're making a nice living and he married our daughter.

[Cross talk]

Mr. Silver: Joseph Silver...

Interviewer: He works to...

[Cross talk]

Mrs. Silver: ...he went to high school; he said to the kid I don't want to go nothing. I want to learn my trade. I want to learn that trade.

Interviewer: This is your youngest son?

Mrs. Silver: The youngest. I want to be a – he is not too educated not like the others. I want *[inaudible]* [0:42:41].

Mr. Silver: He want to be a mechanic.

Mrs. Silver: A mechanic, he used to say a mechanic. So he went to high school and he learned that. As soon as he came out from high school, he was a little

help to him in the business *[inaudible]* **[0:42:54]** it wasn't different. So they called him up and he works there for really years and years in there. He's married about six – 15 or 16 years.

Mr. Silver: Yeah. More than that.

Mrs. Silver: And he works there.

Interviewer: Your other children, did they go into college?

Mrs. Silver: Bob...

Mr. Silver: Bob went to college for two years. It has also to do with the economic condition that I couldn't maintain. And he had to quit and he...

[Cross talk]

Interviewer: When was this by the way that he was going to college? You remember those date?

Mr. Silver: Bob *[inaudible]* **[0:43:31]**...

Interviewer: Yeah.

Mr. Silver: It must have been about...

Interviewer: But it was more difficult to get him to school and...

Mr. Silver: Yeah. Yeah, during the depression.

Interviewer: Right. Okay.

Mr. Silver: During the depression.

[Cross talk]

Interviewer: This is in the '30s?

[Cross talk]

Mrs. Silver: ...from Philadelphia – I don't know how you – he wasn't *[inaudible]* **[0:43:54]** made the lessons and...

[Cross talk]

Interviewer: Accountant?

Mrs. Silver: ...accountant **[inaudible]** **[0:44:02]** he couldn't let him go for nothing...

Mr. Silver: He thought – in the beginning, he thought the stenotype **[phonetic]** **[0:44:10]**. That little machine that – he told them to sell that. He bought the machine and used to work it.

Mrs. Silver: Yeah. He made – he's a self made man there. Bob I always think that he...

Interviewer: Yeah. Okay. Okay.

Mrs. Silver: And...

Interviewer: What organizations do you belong to now?

Mr. Silver: I've been a member of the Workman Circle.

Interviewer: The Workman Circle?

Mr. Silver: The Workman was one of the largest Jewish organizations in the world.

Interviewer: Is it a labor organization?

Mrs. Silver: Yes.

Mr. Silver: Yeah.

Interviewer: Uh huh.

Mr. Silver: I've been a member...

Interviewer: Is it large in Delaware?

Mr. Silver: It was years ago. When I joined, we had a 175 members.

[Cross talk]

...decreasing in the...

Interviewer: What was the purpose of the organization? Social or...

Mr. Silver: Social and...

Mrs. Silver: For workers, help workers.

[0:45:00]

Interviewer: But you were self-employed, you had your own business?

Mr. Silver: Yeah.

Interviewer: It's not a union, no?

Mr. Silver: It's not a union, no. But in this organization, we had – we have a lot of business people that are members in the organization.

Interviewer: They mainly immigrant?

Mr. Silver: Mostly, yeah.

Mrs. Silver: It's all over United States.

Mr. Silver: They beg around this organization **[phonetic] [0:45:19]** was socialism.

Interviewer: I see, uh huh.

Mr. Silver: Socialism.

Mrs. Silver: No communist.

Mr. Silver: No.

Mr. Silver: We wouldn't take no communist. If you came in and your communist you try to get the...

Interviewer: Uh huh. Okay. And they're – it's not very large organization now you say, it's pretty well-known?

[Cross talk]

Mr. Silver: It's still have throughout the United States and Canada. We still have about 60,000 members.

Mrs. Silver: Members, yeah.

Mr. Silver: We branches almost in every city in the state of the...

Mrs. Silver: *[inaudible] [0:45:50]* they have three or four other branches and *[inaudible] [0:45:52]* they're going to have a convention next month in the *[inaudible] [0:45:57]*...

[Cross talk]

Mr. Silver: The *[inaudible] [0:45:59]*, yeah, we're going to have the...

Mrs. Silver: Convention.

Mr. Silver: I'll be – I'll be the...

[Cross talk]

Interviewer: The resort you mean, concord?

[Cross talk]

Mr. Silver: It will be the 60...

Mrs. Silver: They have ladies branches in *[inaudible] [0:46:12]*.

Mr. Silver: 68 annual convention *[inaudible] [0:46:16]*.

Interviewer: But you say – do they do anything in terms of publicizing their ideas or bringing...

Mr. Silver: Literature.

Interviewer: Literature.

Mr. Silver: We were – just a minute, we were the police one, the police organization in the city of Wilmington about 50, 55 years ago. Then we brought most prominent lectures to the city or Wilmington...

[Cross talk]

Mrs. Silver: They had a school too to learn the...

Mr. Silver: And we had – we had the school and I was the secretary...

[Cross talk]

...English school, we were interested that our children to understand our language, to be able to speak...

Mrs. Silver: Summarize the...

[Cross talk]

...rise in the east just like I do or him. The others didn't have the chance because we couldn't *[inaudible]* **[0:47:01]** so that they didn't want to go anymore, we couldn't keep it up. But he writes – he talks Danish *[phonetic]* **[0:47:08]**. They call him *[inaudible]* **[0:47:10]**...

[Cross talk]

Mr. Silver: ...as a – to write an article in the Jewish poster and spread it together, media spread this magazine...

[Cross talk]

Mrs. Silver: No but these are English.

Mr. Silver: One of the finest, he writes – he -- if he come in, in his office, you find all the...

Mrs. Silver: All the Jewish paper.

Mr. Silver: ...all the Jewish papers. He takes out – where is this pictures? He takes out all the most interested Jewish article and they call it the Jewish Digest in the *[inaudible]* **[0:47:43]** in the Jewish poster...

Interviewer: This is a color *[phonetic]* **[0:47:46]**?

[Cross talk]

Mrs. Silver: That's why he got to post. I don't have to pay. He is – he doesn't get any pay and he send to us and he...

Mr. Silver: Here it is, here it is.

Interviewer: Uh huh. Oh, yes, uh huh.

Mr. Silver: That's him.

Interviewer: Okay, uh huh.

Mrs. Silver: He writes *[inaudible]* [0:48:07] just like...

Mr. Silver: He's one among the hundreds reformed Rabi that...

Interviewer: Oh, he's a reform Rabi?

[Cross talk]

The very few who speaks Danish *[phonetic]* [0:48:14].

[Laughter]

Mr. Silver: The Rabi is to help *[inaudible]* [0:48:16]...

Interviewer: Is that – is that him?

[Cross talk]

Are you a reformed too?

[Laughter]

[Cross talk]

Mr. Silver: When my son became...

Interviewer: A reformed Rabi.

Mr. Silver: Ordained, ordained...

Interviewer: Yeah. You became reformed too?

[Laughter]

Mr. Silver: No. Not voluntarily. He send me the check *[phonetic]* [0:48:36] 26 years ago...

Interviewer: For you?

Mr. Silver: ...to the temple and made me...

Interviewer: A member?

Mrs. Silver: A member.

Mr. Silver: But since then I *[inaudible]* **[0:48:42]** services. I always go every Friday night...

Interviewer: A reform services?

[Cross talk]

Were you ordained before he went to...

Mr. Silver: *[inaudible]* **[0:48:50]**.

Mrs. Silver: He go sometimes there...

[Cross talk]

Mr. Silver: When you talk about reformed Jewish and whether I'm a reformed or not, when I came to Wilmington in 1912, my lumps man *[phonetic]* **[0:49:12]** told me – he says, you know Adolph, we are the senior here that the people go around without us, I said, you are crazy. How is that possible?

I didn't want to be – he says, if you don't believe me, you think I'm lying? I said, you're not only lying but you are a big liar. What do you mean people *[inaudible]* **[0:49:30]** without us? He said, I'll tell you what you do. Go down in the temple in 8th and 9th and Washington and convinced yourself.

So I wanted to know. So she didn't know Friday night I go in there. And then those days the reform *[phonetic]* **[0:49:48]** are very strict. Now, you could come in and set with the army kid or sit where *[phonetic]* **[0:49:52]** they wouldn't. But in those days...

Interviewer: They wouldn't allow you with the hat?

Mr. Silver: Yeah. Yeah.

[Cross talk]

...they don't bother.

[0:50:00]

But in those days there were strict. So yeah, in Friday at the temple and sit with the – with the hat. So the Layman – they call him the **[inaudible] [0:50:11]** or layman. The Layman comes onto me, he says, young man – that was 50 years ago, you left or remove your hat. I was like whatever.

[Laughter]

So he walked away – he walked away. And in the meantime, it came **[inaudible] [0:50:30]** is what they call him the Hebrew where do take out the safer toilet **[phonetic] [0:50:33]**.

Mrs. Silver: **[inaudible] [0:50:35]**.

Mr. Silver: So when I noticed that the Rabi goes to the alter and takes out **[inaudible] [0:50:40]** without the hat, this I couldn't stand anymore. And in the meantime that Layman comes back again to me to tell me again to take of the hat. So before he had the chance to get next to me, he said to me – he said, you could...

[Laughter]

Mrs. Silver: No, you – we go to the temple we can see some people just the kind of families **[phonetic] [0:51:04]** about mistress or something they **[inaudible] [0:51:06]**, of course I've had...

Mr. Silver: They don't bother them.

Mrs. Silver: They don't bothered by anybody. It's up to them. But that time they want to have it just so...

Interviewer: They want to make everybody reformed?

Mr. Silver: Yeah. Yeah.

Interviewer: Okay. What organizations do you belong to?

Mrs. Silver: I belong to the Workman Circle also and to the temple also.

Interviewer: Uh huh. Okay. Are you retired now, sir?

Mr. Silver: Yeah.

Interviewer: Okay.

Mrs. Silver: I used to go *[inaudible] [0:51:29]* but I don't like the Rabi that this and that, I couldn't get along with others. Workman Circle is enough for me. I was the president for years and years for the ladies branch. But now I gave it up.

Interviewer: How do you – how do you think Wilmington has changed over these years?

Mrs. Silver: Oh, a lot.

Mr. Silver: Consider – consider...

Mrs. Silver: I'll tell you why...

Interviewer: What was Wilmington like 50 years ago?

Mr. Silver: Wilmington, 50 years ago?

Mrs. Silver: I think the...

Mr. Silver: Well, I'll tell you. I sometimes, you know, *[inaudible] [0:52:01]*?

Interviewer: Yes.

Mr. Silver: I wrote many, many articles in the paper. Years ago, I wrote an article like this. I said, when I came in Wilmington in 1912, every hours I came in I heard the Danish *[phonetic] [0:52:21]* language prevail.

Now, it says wherever I come in, I found Jewish that not only they don't talk Jewish but they don't understand Danish *[phonetic] [0:52:33]*.

Mrs. Silver: Some of them though.

Mr. Silver: These are the change in the 50 years that took place, you know, in the city of Wilmington. And I was very interested at 2nd Street in those days...

[Cross talk]

Mrs. Silver: ...Friday, Saturday played game *[inaudible] [0:52:50]* everything is English except that this *[inaudible] [0:52:57]*...

Mr. Silver: *[inaudible] [0:52:59]* how much he's talking about.

Interviewer: Yes. That's alright.

Mrs. Silver: **[inaudible] [0:53:03]** shop it's nothing – there's nothing. In the bakeries and everything, you know, that's entirely different.

Interviewer: Yeah, but the Jews are out there – not less Jews in Wilmington?

[Cross talk]

...they're more?

[Cross talk]

...the rest of the community?

[Cross talk]

Mrs. Silver: Yes. The Danish **[phonetic] [0:53:21] [inaudible] [0:53:22]** who would go there **[inaudible] [0:53:28]** oh my gosh. The goat and then the meat and I know my children they are – I wouldn't go far. They don't go in the Danish **[phonetic] [0:53:37]** butcher shop.

Interviewer: Yeah, uh huh.

Mrs. Silver: There was **[inaudible] [0:53:40]** I got that butcher there at 28th and Market Street, he is such a father, he thinks that the – everything is – without him nothing would happen. But the **[inaudible] [0:53:51]** but not many.

Interviewer: Do you think Jews are less religious than they used to be?

Mrs. Silver: A lot.

Interviewer: It's true they don't – uh huh.

Mrs. Silver: Absolutely.

Mr. Silver: Yeah.

Interviewer: How about the **[inaudible] [0:54:01]** like you children, they're many second generation Jews that were not religious at all?

[Cross talk]

Then let's say their children and so forth became more religious?

[Cross talk]

Mrs. Silver: ...there are Hebrew schools...

Mr. Silver: Well, I'll tell you in general in the United States when my son was in one of the largest temple in the country, *[inaudible]* **[0:54:25]** avenue temple...

[Cross talk]

Interviewer: Yeah.

Mr. Silver: He was assistant to Rabi Brick *[phonetic]* **[0:54:30]** and I suppose he were about the famous Rabi Brick *[phonetic]* **[0:54:32]**, yeah. And naturally we used to go to visit him very often.

Mrs. Silver: Since they are – is that they *[inaudible]* **[0:54:38]**...

[Cross talk]

...that maybe is...

[Cross talk]

Mr. Silver: So he was six years in *[inaudible]* **[0:54:43]** avenue, they had 3,000 members. And when I looked around and I observed these members from the second the third or the fourth generation was some of them was so assimilated that these *[inaudible]* **[0:55:03]** reform temple to a certain extent was two Jewish with them already because...

[0:55:09]

Interviewer: The reform temple?

Mr. Silver: Yeah. I remember...

Mrs. Silver: But still it was crowded.

Mr. Silver: Yeah. I remember that before Hitler, before Hitler, some of the assimilated Jewish in the United States, those second, third generation, the reform temple was two Jewish with them and they joined the Humanitarian church in the different denomination. But after Hitler...

[Cross talk]

...brought them back.

Interviewer: I see.

Mr. Silver: Yeah.

Interviewer: Do you see any changes outside the Jewish community that you observed? Outside the Jewish community, not the Jews, I mean, let's say in terms of other people in the town and so forth; of course it's grown and changed...

[Cross talk]

I see. I see, uh huh.

Mrs. Silver: The bakeries and – they hadn't gotten the Jewish bakeries and butcher shop *[inaudible]* **[0:56:08]**. But they still go. They still buy. They still observe...

[Cross talk]

Who would have brought fine breads in my house? *[inaudible]* **[0:56:22]**.

Mr. Silver: We have – we had a lecturer less who's – two weeks ago. And I put some a very interested question and reference who reform Jewish into United States. They seek the famous orthodox Rabi in New York city and they did not declared the Jewish daily forward that the reform temples are a church with other cross in the leap their membership to conversion.

Interviewer: To Jewish, you mean, yeah?

Mr. Silver: No. The conversion to Christianity. The – it said that the temples...

[Cross talk]

Interviewer: You don't agree with that?

Mr. Silver: No. The reform temple he says are a church without a cross. And leads their Jewish membership to conversion to Christianity that what is says.

Interviewer: This is another Jewish who saying that?

Mr. Silver: A Rabi.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Mrs. Silver: An Orthodox Rabi.

Interviewer: He didn't – alright, yeah.

Mr. Silver: Then in reference to the ecumenically *[phonetic]* **[0:57:27]** conference is the public *[inaudible]* **[0:57:29]** three years ago and this dialogs and *[inaudible]* **[0:57:31]**, the other Rabi he wrote four weeks ago an article in the Jewish daily forwards that as of the Jewish in the United States will retain the still heavy but they'll continue to be active in these dialogs, he predicts within 50 years we wouldn't have Jewish in the United States.

Interviewer: Do you agree with that?

Mr. Silver: No.

Interviewer: Okay.

Mr. Silver: So to a certain extent they did not fire away. Then I thought this is a fanatic, an extreme Orthodox Rabi and all and I didn't take him serious. But *[inaudible]* **[0:58:06]** the former president of *[inaudible]* **[0:58:10]** and former Ambassador to United Nations, a modern – a modern man, he had an article in the Jewish post almost the same thinking. He says that the Jewish in the United States will follow up these dialogs and these ecumenical *[phonetic]* **[0:58:32]** conferences and these so on and so forth, it believe the Jewish people to conversion to Christianity.

And in fact I have the papers somewhere; they are now in Brooklyn it might necessary to take 300 Jewish children to a mass overseas in the Catholic Church.

Interviewer: Just to see at them – to see the mass?

Mrs. Silver: Yeah.

Mr. Silver: Yeah. But this...

Mrs. Silver: ...brothers they needed for.

Mr. Silver: This I've done much so enthusiastic about...

[Cross talk]

Interviewer: ...live in New Arch and we invite children from different religions...

[Cross talk]

Mr. Silver: *[inaudible] [0:59:14]*.

Interviewer: That's right, yes. But it's very common for us to invite...

Mrs. Silver: He *[inaudible] [0:59:19]* times children from...

[Cross talk]

And few weeks ago, they had over 300 *[inaudible] [0:59:28]* they call it.

Interviewer: Is that right?

[Cross talk]

Mrs. Silver: ...they hide in temple, they made the ceremony *[inaudible] [0:59:35]* tables and everything and they came and they *[inaudible] [0:59:39]*...

Mr. Silver: There was a demonstration at the center table...

[Cross talk]

...just came to look at the...

Interviewer: This is good actually.

Mr. Silver: Yeah.

Mrs. Silver: *[inaudible] [0:59:53]* several times when I did *[inaudible] [0:59:55]* you see bunch of circles...

Interviewer: They're not being converted to Jewish, isn't it?

[1:00:00]

Mrs. Silver: No, no they didn't.

Interviewer: And if a Jewish student want to see a mass that doesn't mean they're going to be – they're going to be Catholic?

[Cross talk]

Mrs. Silver: *[inaudible] [1:00:09]* but let them not to be sold of all the difference from the other separated. *[inaudible] [1:00:14]* the thing. This was my figure; of course probably they are the things so true. But he's against it. There's an old fashion.

Interviewer: Well, when Christians get to see a Jewish ceremony, then they understand a little bit. I mean, it's not a myth as to what goes on inside of a temple, you know, from Europe all the...

[Cross talk]

...Christians had about what the Jewish religion actually was.

Mrs. Silver: They make him a little less to submit it.

Interviewer: Right.

[Cross talk]

Mrs. Silver: You know when they have bunch of *[inaudible] [1:00:49]* you've mentioned if in changes. So then *[inaudible] [1:00:53]* ceremony, don't you remember Rabi...

[Cross talk]

...and now – and now you said here after the depression – you sit here and I'll explain to you and show you everything.

[Cross talk]

That doesn't mean that they're much to submit it. I think it's more friendly, more...

Mr. Silver: I hope so anyway, yeah.

Interviewer: Do you think there's a less anti-stigmatism that out and there was when you first came in this country? I mean, you showed that there is quite a bit of anti-stigmatism when you came in Chicago and Cleveland, New York. What do you think? You don't know?

[Cross talk]

Mr. Silver: I don't – I don't know.

Mrs. Silver: Sometimes more, we haven't got much contact by them. But I do think it's not that much. I had to submit these individual.

Mr. Silver: Listen – when you listen to our *[inaudible] [1:01:40]* around and all these people...

[Cross talk]

Mrs. Silver: *[inaudible] [1:01:48]*. This I think is something different. And as our *[inaudible] [1:01:54]* it's terrible. But even Jewish live to this funeral and...

Mr. Silver: Jewish people, I'm sure they were.

Mrs. Silver: But that's the way...

[1:02:07] End of Audio