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Interview with Mr. Peter Moynihan, Irish immigrant, at his home on Ford Street in Wilmington, Delaware, April 7, 1972, by Michael Fahey.

- Q I'm Michael Fahey interviewing Mr. Peter Moynihan, April 7, 1972 for the University of Delaware. Peter, can I ask you, where did you come from in Ireland and when did you leave?
- A I come from the County Cork and I left there on April 14, 1929.
- Q Can you remember the conditions that were there when you left, what the conditions were like?
- A The conditions were good. It was just after the war of the independence, see, and everything was settled down. It was quiet.
- Q Yeah. That's political. Economic--was it hard to get a job?
- A No, because I worked on a farm and there was plenty of farm work. But I wanted to travel, and I come to the United States for to see it. Had intended to go to California, but I landed in New York and stayed there.
- Q All right. Now let me ask you this. What education did your parents have, if you can remember, and what education did you receive in Ireland before you left?
- A Oh, my parents were probably with some grammar school, and I went to 9th grade in the national school.
- Q What city in Cork were you in? Or was it just Cork?
- A Mearoom.
- Q Oh. O.K., fine.
- A A town about 25 miles west of Cork.
- Q How big a town was that?
- A Maybe about 4,000.
- Q How did you come over and where did you land?
- A Oh, I come over on a Cunard liner and landed in New York.
- Q Do you remember how much that cost?
- A It cost about 21 pound. That was about \$100.
- Q Were the conditions on the boat fine?
- A Yes. Had a lot of fun on the boat.

Q All right, so you landed in New York and from there what did you do?

A Went to work the next day.

Q Where?

A In building construction work--building homes.

Q That was quick. Did you have a job lined up?

A Yeah.

Q Oh, I see. So you left Ireland because why?

A I wanted to travel. I didn't intend to stay. Just I wanted to travel three or four years, then go back.

Q All right, so you landed in 1929, and when did you arrive in Wilmington?

A I arrived in Wilmington in 1930.

Q About what month?

A About March.

Q Uh huh. And what brought you here, what was the . . .

A I come to--my uncle had a farm in Mt. Cuba and I come to visit him for a weekend and I stayed.

Q Ever since. Was he the only person you knew in the country?

A Oh no. I had another uncle in Avondale, Pa. He was a farmer, too.

Q What did they raise, do you know?

A They raised--well, dairy farms. Raised corn, wheat, milk.

Q So did you stay in that line of work for how long?

A No, I didn't stay in that line of work. I went to work for the New Castle County. . .

Q Oh, immediately, you didn't farm at all? O.K. New Castle County and how long did you stay with them?

A Highway Department of New Castle County and worked there for three years.

Q O.K. And that brings us up to 1933 and the Depression.

A And then I started to work at National Vulcanized Fibre Company on Yorklyn and stayed there until I retired three years ago.

Q Do you remember Wilmington at all when you came here in 1930?

A Oh yeah.

Q What were your impressions--can you remember what it was like?

A Oh, I thought it was a very nice town then. A lot more complicated today than it was back then.

Q Yeah. O.K. And when did you move into Wilmington here?

A 1934.

Q And when did you meet your wife?

A About 1932, I guess.

Q Where was that?

A At a party.

Q In Wilmington?

A Yeah.

Q And you got married in?

A 1934.

Q And you've lived here ever since. Can you think of any other good ones--any hard ones? What do you think of the space shots?

A Well, I think they're wonderful.

Q Oh, good. Where did your wife come from in Ireland?

A She come from County Donegal.

Q Oh. And when did she get over here?

A Oh, about the same time as I did, I guess, maybe a year ahead of me, was it?

[Mrs. Moynihan's comments will be denoted by the letter "B"]

B Yes, I think it was.

Q Why did your wife leave?

A Why did she leave? She come to visit her sister, and stayed.

Q But it was just to be a visit, I mean as far as she knew, she didn't plan on staying?

A Well, I don't know. She didn't tell me.

Q Let me ask her. Did you come to stay or just to visit?

B Just to visit, and if I liked it, then I liked it and I stayed.

Q Oh. How much money did you bring, do you remember?

B Oh, I don't remember.

Q Then were you equipped to stay a long time or just a short while.

B Three months.

Q All right, I wanted to ask you, what had you heard about California, do you remember, that made you want to go there--anything big? And what part of California did you want to go to?

A San Francisco. A lot of my school pals were there. I wanted to visit them. And I had some cousins out there, American cousins, [inaudible].

Q There were a lot of Irish in San Francisco--probably still are. C.K. That does it. Thank you.

[END OF INTERVIEW]