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# Mr. Samuel Sachs

[0:00:00]

Interviewer: This is a recording of the oral history program of the University of Delaware. The interviewer is Myron Lazarus and we are interviewing Mr. Sachs.

Mr. Sachs: Samuel Sachs.

Interviewer: Samuel Sachs. Right. Mr. Sachs, when were you born now?

Mr. Sachs: The real date when I was born, I don't know. However, when I was born, my mother died.

Interviewer: Were you a member of a large family, by the way.

Mr. Sachs: Whether I was a member of a large family, I have to...

Interviewer: No brothers and sisters.

Mr. Sachs: I had two brothers and three sisters.

Interviewer: You see my father doesn't know when he was born either.

Mr. Sachs: Well, however I had.

Interviewer: He doesn't know much of his children because he didn't have any friends.

Mr. Sachs: I had three brothers – we're three brothers altogether, and three sisters.

Interviewer: I see.

Mr. Sachs: However, when my mother died, my sister, my older sister raised me.

Unidentified voice: I was in Europe.

Mr. Sachs: Until – that was in Europe.

Unidentified voice: We remain...

Interviewer: How old were you when your mother died.

Mr. Sachs: I was old. I was six months old. I did not know my mother. However, I was raised by a sister. When I was six years old, my sister and brother in law was so poor that they gave me a shoemaker at six years to learn a trade in order so I could get my food.

Interviewer: This was in Romania.

Mr. Sachs: This was in Romania. However...

Interviewer: What part of Romania by the way were you from.

Mr. Sachs: I was in Falticeni, Romania. That's the name of the city. That's near the capital. The capital is Bucharest. In fact, that I still got a couple of houses left to me in Romania. Of course that wasn't yesterday, that was over 60 years ago that I don't even know where they're at.

Interviewer: We just don't them. They're yours?

Mr. Sachs: I don't know.

**[Cross talk]**

Unidentified voice: He doesn't know. They're more than 60 years ago. Sure.

Mr. Sachs: However, I had...

Interviewer: Is your father alive?

Mr. Sachs: My father died when I was one year old.

Interviewer: What occupation were they by the way?

Mr. Sachs: What occupation? My father was a shoemaker. Then I have a brother which he came to this country on his honeymoon.

Interviewer: Older brother.

Mr. Sachs: My oldest brother, Rafael Sachs. When he was here a few years, by that time, I was eight or nine and he wrote to my sister that I should come to New York. However, when I was 10 years old, they put me up with another family by name Bernstein and I went to this capital city to meet this Bernstein.

Interviewer: This is in Bucharest?

Mr. Sachs: This is in Bucharest. I went to this capital city to meet this Bernstein and from there, we made arrangements to go to New York. However, this Mrs. Bernstein also had a boy by the – we went – now, we were going to New York. When we got to New York, to the Ellis Island, when they went to the examiners, Mrs. Bernstein also had a son of 10 years old and they stopped us right there, saying, “How come you got two sons at 10 years old?”

However, they twisted her up so bad that they kept me in a place until she told the truth that my name is Sachs and I have brother that lives in 1978 Orchid Street and I came to him. So finally, he came to Ellis Island in Staten, New York. So that was that.

So I stayed with my brother and my sister-in-law...

Interviewer: In New York?

Mr. Sachs: In New York.

Interviewer: Do you remember – going back to Romania again?

Unidentified voice: He never went back.

Interviewer: No. I’m going back.

Unidentified voice: Oh, yeah, yeah.

Interviewer: Do you have any experience? I know you were quite young when you left but do you remember what it was like?

Mr. Sachs: Do I remember what it’s like? Well, I was in Romania, I was a child, six years old – six or seven years old when I was working for this shoemaker, which he also had very little to eat. But why was I there? I was there to take care of his baby.

**[0:05:14]**

Unidentified voice: Instead of learning the trade.

Mr. Sachs: Instead of learning the trade.

Interviewer: You’re a baby sitter.

Mr. Sachs: However, the baby cried, the misses said that I was pinching her. And every time the baby cried, they gave me *[inaudible]* **[0:05:29]** and that was all my fault which is it's not fault. Many – two years I shed it – and that was my fault but being that I was...

Interviewer: Orphan.

Mr. Sachs: ...an orphan they're using, that's the way they treated me.

Unidentified voice: Then, he was hungry most of the time.

Mr. Sachs: You see...

Interviewer: Did you get any education at all there?

Mr. Sachs: I did not get any education. When I was six years old, they sent me to school Romanian – now, wait a minute. I stay, got some education about six months or a year. And in the morning, we have learned Romanian and then the afternoon, we have learned Jewish. In one hour, we got German. Well, I could have gotten in those few hours of course. Through the year I've been there, I didn't have no clothes, there was a certain society, some this Confucian committee, whatever you call it, came down and fitted us all kids up with new overcoats and with new boots. That's what I remember from the education that I got in Romania.

Interviewer: Well, you still remember quite a bit.

**[Cross talk]**

Mr. Sachs: Yes.

Interviewer: What else do you remember about life in Romania beside the school and the family?

Mr. Sachs: What I remember about life in Romania? There was no life. Everybody was scared of the other shadow, the other shadow at that time of the year – what war was that at 1904 – '05?

Unidentified voice: The Russian something war, I believe. There was **[0:07:31]** *[inaudible]*.

Mr. Sachs: You see I was born in 1892. No, wait.

Unidentified voice: No. 1894.

Mr. Sachs: I was born in 1894. And during that time that get here and sea and many times the neighbor next door which – she was a gentile, she hid me underneath the stove there that the certain groups passed the gentile where...

Unidentified voice: It was *[inaudible]* **[0:08:03]** or something.

Interviewer: This is in Romania?

Mr. Sachs: This was in Romania at that time.

Unidentified voice: Wherever there were Jews in Europe I believe.

Mr. Sachs: And they were really scared of some people. Now, if it wasn't the BCA gentile that loved my sisters and had pity for me – of course, I guess why I might be better off of, they shot me by the bridge.

**[Cross talk]**

So they have thought they had me and that's about all I remember.

Unidentified voice: You're still you're to remember.

Interviewer: Do you remember the trip coming over the boat?

Mr. Sachs: Yes.

Interviewer: Where did you – where was the port that you have been to?

Mr. Sachs: I went – I came from Raymond – from Raymond, and then from Hamburg some place and a certain man took us over the border. We didn't have no passport. A certain man took us over the border that happened to be on a Saturday and a Saturday where religious people who goes that way. One day, we had a call on some places underneath a certain while to get...

Interviewer: And you went with this Bernstein family, right?

Mr. Sachs: I went with Bernstein family of course, they had this 10 year old boy, my size and then they had a larger boy – oh, maybe he was 15 and then there was a dog attached to that. So we crawled underneath that.

Interviewer: Why couldn't you get a regular passport?

Mr. Sachs: Why I couldn't get a regular passport?

Interviewer: You were too young. I mean, some people will...

Unidentified voice: Well, you see, they sort of like it's not allowed there because they have no parents and this woman – from the stories that I've heard, is she sort of undertook to claim him as her own her child. And the **[inaudible]** **[0:09:50]** if they're able to get to the brother through another family which a lot of people years ago did. It could mean recollections of stories that I've heard from them many year ago. That they come in say – but third, they told of other people. And that's really what used to be.

**[0:10:06]**

Interviewer: But they have no trouble getting in. I mean, the Bernstein – I mean, there is smuggling you.

Mr. Sachs: After a certain man took us over one at a time.

Interviewer: And he was paid.

Mr. Sachs: No doubt. He took us over one a time to the other side of the wire. The other side of the wire...

Interviewer: Oh, you were trying to get into Germany there from Austria.

**[Cross talk]**

Mr. Sachs: Yeah, from Romania. We're trying to get in to Germany or we're trying to get in to Austria. The next town, what is was there, I believe it was Austria. And then from Austria, went to Germany. We went to Rotterdam in Germany. And from there we caught the boat, you understand?

Interviewer: Do you remember the boat?

Mr. Sachs: The boat? Yes, I do remember. I think it wasn't a few minutes.

Interviewer: Well, the name in port, was it a regular passenger boat or was it...

Mr. Sachs: Yeah, regular passenger boat. Although, it was no Cadillac.

Interviewer: That's what I had in mind.

Mr. Sachs: No, no.

Unidentified voice: But they'll steer it, like they did years ago.

Mr. Sachs: No, no. No. They...

**[Cross talk]**

Interviewer: Because you hear some of the stories about the *[inaudible]* [0:11:16].

Mr. Sachs: I can't just remember. Before we're done, I'll remember that.

Interviewer: And then you were – landed in New York. Where did you first stay in New York?

Mr. Sachs: My first 178 Orchid Street.

Unidentified voice: That was the weak sea of New York.

Interviewer: But way uptown.

Unidentified voice: No, that's what...

Interviewer: One seventy-eight.

Unidentified voice: No, no, 178 Orchid Street. That's the number.

Mr. Sachs: Where did you...

Interviewer: Oh, I see, that's a number. That's not the street.

Unidentified voice: That's the number.

Mr. Sachs: 178...

**[Cross talk]**

Mr. Sachs: Yes, these *[inaudible]* [0:11:52] they come from New York, don't they?

Interviewer: I lived in New York for a while. I thought you meant 178 Street.

Unidentified voice: No, no. That's all we have to go on.

Mr. Sachs: No, no.



Interviewer: But that was a number of the...

Mr. Sachs: That's the number of the house.

Unidentified voice: That's the lower East Side where most people who came to New York...

Mr. Sachs: That's when I told if Mrs. Tanner lived 180 Orchid Street and we knew one another.

Unidentified voice: He knew Mrs. Tanner before Mrs. Tanner knows that we got married many years.

Interviewer: And what did you do when you first came here?

Mr. Sachs: When I first came here, they put me in school.

Interviewer: This is a public school?

Mr. Sachs: This is a public school – Public School 161 with *[inaudible]* **[0:12:28]** and love life.

Interviewer: Now your older brother was supporting you.

Mr. Sachs: The older brother was supporting me. The older brother was very *[inaudible]* **[0:12:40]**. He would support me. I went to public school 13 and public school 161. At first, they put me to agree that I couldn't talk anyway. After I learned how to talk eagerly, they took me out of school and advance me to another school, a little bit further on.

Interviewer: Did you speak Yiddish?

Mr. Sachs: Did I – yes, I spoke Yiddish.

Interviewer: And Romanian?

Mr. Sachs: Yes, I spoke Romanian at that time but I was only with the kid. And I went to those schools. However, when I was 12 years old, my brother went squire, swore an affidavit out that I was 14 and I got working papers. I went to work in New York.

Interviewer: And that was the end of school?

Mr. Sachs: That was the end of the school. I went up until the fifth – 5b – 5b or 6b, whatever you call it, 5b. That was then end of the school at that time.

However, I worked in a place in West Street. West Street is clear, well, we lived that, to West Street is clear on the other side of New York.

Interviewer: The other side in New York.

Unidentified voice: It's about three miles of *[inaudible]* **[0:14:13]** from where we lived. No, it was like a year ago. The Hudson River and places like that.

Mr. Sachs: And we went...

Interviewer: Well you started on the East Side and you went on the West side in the area?

Unidentified voice: He worked...

**[Cross talk]**

Mr. Sachs: I was down the East side.

Unidentified voice: No, no. West Street is a business street but it's clearly – if you go towards the docks and the river but it's also the lower east side. And still we call it the Lower East Side.

Mr. Sachs: I remember that I worked for a company for the New York metal production company. I got \$3 a week.

Interviewer: What did you do?

Mr. Sachs: However...

Interviewer: Of course, you're

Mr. Sachs: ...these \$3 a week I had, I bring home to my sister-in-law. She gave me 45 cents a week.

**[0:15:00]**

Out of that 45 cents a week, I had to buy a piece of bread, a piece of ham and the one penny I spent wise on a piece of cake.

Unidentified voice: Because her husband they have a baby.

Mr. Sachs: One pint of ice cream for candy and that's the way – of course, I was nothing but a child.

Unidentified voice: He also walked to and fro because he couldn't afford...

Interviewer: What did you do in this company?

Mr. Sachs: What I've done? I carried bundles. They send me in different parts of New York delivering bundles and then back. One time, I went as far as Brooklyn to another shipping company where they use to ship samples, samples packages. They have little packages of wine. Some of them weigh 25 to 35 to 50 pounds. And at that time, they gave me 5 cents coin to go Brooklyn and 5 cents coin for me to go back.

However, as the boss, he kind of like me says he had 5 cents on a sly – 5 cents but...

Interviewer: Spending money.

Mr. Sachs: Huh?

Interviewer: A little spending money.

Mr. Sachs: Spending money. You know what I'd done with the 5 cents, when I went to Woodcut *[phonetic]* [0:16:19] and got myself an apple that was 3 cents. I was *[inaudible]* [0:16:24] the 5 cents.

Unidentified voice: Years ago, they were constantly hungry of...

**[Cross talk]**

Mr. Sachs: So finally, I quit my job.

Interviewer: How long did you work in that job?

Mr. Sachs: That must have been for about six months.

Interviewer: Six months?

Mr. Sachs: From there, I went to fellow by the name Maiter *[phonetic]* [0:16:43] that makes clothing. This fellow, he collected clothing from the stores. He was the man that made the clothes but the store that sold the suit just cut it out and fold the cloths together. And I used to come with a really big bag and collect all these suits, every suit padding that have been maimed. And these people used to want you to make it.

Interviewer: Otherwise, they used to job out the cutting.

**[Cross talk]**

Interviewer: And then company you worked for put the suit together, is that right?

Mr. Sachs: They cut the job, they put together and when the suit got done, I carried it back. I also got \$3 a week off of him. But in them days, when you work for a Jew, today you work, you'd get eight hours a day or six hours a day. In them days, you went to work about 7 o'clock and when I'd got real good in the dark, imagine I was a young boy and I thought it's time to go **[inaudible] [0:18:00]**.

So naturally, we stayed and we stayed and when the pay would come on Friday or Saturday or Friday, we had to wait around for two or three hours. The boss went out collecting the money until he gave you your \$3. It was the best **[inaudible] [0:18:20]** would have done the same thing.

Interviewer: This was what year now that you worked for this clothing?

Mr. Sachs: Well, this must been in '07 – 1907, 1908, right around that neighborhood.

Unidentified voice: You worked further **[inaudible] [0:18:38]**.

**[Cross talk]**

Mr. Sachs: I came to work during the 1910. However...

Interviewer: **[inaudible] [0:18:48]** after he worked in this one? Oh, he went to other places before...

**[Cross talk]**

Mr. Sachs: My brother, he was a foreman and they clock – to a clocks, you know, clocks is what you made for the clothing for women.

Unidentified voice: Clothiers do, as such they...

**[Cross talk]**

Mr. Sachs: However, from a – worked a little while in New York. At that time was making \$15 a week with his family but the doctor told him to get out of New York. He was too weak of a man and he needs country life. So we had a friend there that advised him to go Lynn, Massachusetts.

So we all went to Lynn, Massachusetts. When we got to Lynn, Massachusetts, my brother fixed himself up a store and I went to work in a shoe factory. And then there was a lot of shoe factories. And over there, I got \$5 when I worked.

**[0:20:02]**

But I got a little bit bigger and I didn't like the way my sister-in-law treated me, you know, years ago. They knew all the cuss words in the bible.

Unidentified voice: Well, they were perverse. She had a big family *[inaudible]* **[0:20:21]**. She's really very nice.

Mr. Sachs: I didn't like it. So however, one day, I got up and I took a walk. I took a walk to New York. However, I didn't have a cent of money on my pocket. So how do I get to New York? I went from Lynn, Massachusetts to Boston which would cost 3 cents to get over there but I didn't have the 3 cents, so I snuck on the ferry and went over to East Boston.

From East Boston, it was during – when a time I start walking. And there was no trucks at that time but the further I got, I knocked the doors to some people who give me something to eat. Some people were very nice. And they gave me something to eat and I took time walking further. When you walk on these *[inaudible]* **[0:21:30]** on the railroads, you always get in touched with some hobos.

Interviewer: This is from Lynn to Boston?

Mr. Sachs: This is from Lynn to...

Unidentified voice: No, after Boston.

Mr. Sachs: After Boston, when I came...

Unidentified voice: So supposedly, he ought to go into New York.

Mr. Sachs: When I came here to New York – so, the reason I came to New York that I was on the odds with sister-in-law, I thought that New York, I was well known. And naturally, I thought I will get a job. But on the road coming over to New York, time was very bad. I went to the Salvation Army and asked also for something to eat.

So first of all, he said, "Before we give you something to eat, you got to go take a bath." So they put me in in that steaming bath there and the guards from the *[inaudible]* [0:22:35] space set the water, "Don't you dare to turn it." So I went there to take a shower, face the wall, they put some kind of a sap on your head to keep the lice out. So I went in to that shower and it was awful but thank god, that man said, "Hey, where are you going?" I said, "It's hot." And he said, "It's hot is it? Let me make it hot for you." And he made it hot and they helped me over there.

Finally, I got that over there. When we come done, they gave us a nightshirt and they gave us something to eat. And they had a church there and we had a sit down. The church and – then we went to sleep and then they give you breakfast in the morning to providing you work in the wood shed.

So we worked there one morning and they let us out. They let us out, I get to the bowery where there was hiring people to go cut ice in Cooper's Plant, New Jersey. When you got in there to the office, if you didn't have no shoes, they gave you shoes, boots but they took it off your wages when you got it. So they paid you \$1.75 a day. That was good money but you had to pay 75 a day for board. And during the following day, you had to pay for board anyhow, it made that and made you work two days for the quarter.

After I paid the – purchase your clothing from...

Interviewer: You're cutting ice?

Mr. Sachs: Cutting ice in Patterson, New Jersey.

Interviewer: But why – when it rained, couldn't you work? It was outside?

Mr. Sachs: But it's outside *[inaudible]* [0:24:41]. The ice was all frozen. And them days, they didn't have eyes the way they have here. They have a pond and the pond was a sweet water pond, the area was so cold that pond has froze to 24 inches.

[0:25:01]

And then they come along where they carve it and cut them into strips and you had to stay there and work just on the water and on the *[inaudible]* [0:25:12] to let the ice go on there. Then from there, they pile it in houses and during the summer time, they got of the houses and sell

it. Of course, today, they manufacture ice. Them days, you had to get the Lord to manufacture ice, you understand?

Interviewer: Hmm-mm.

Mr. Sachs: So from there, we went there for a little while and I've got – at that time, I got about \$2.40 some cents. So we went back to...

Interviewer: You were pretty much on your own here.

Mr. Sachs: Yes. They all know all the time I'm here.

Unidentified voice: You left Massachusetts; I think it was not quite 16. He was about 15 years, not quite 16 because he got here he was still not more than 16.

Mr. Sachs: However, from New York, I had a family there or a *[inaudible]* [0:26:06] there. So we went up to the Peter Luntzman's *[phonetic]* [0:26:10] house; hello, hello. So at that time, there was a fellow by the name Sam Goldstein. Probably, you know some Sam Goldstein from Wilmington. Sam is – old lawyer, what's his name?

Unidentified voice: Lewis Goldstein.

Mr. Sachs: Lewis Goldstein started. He says, "If I have more like you in Wilmington, I would give him a job and he would be okay." But he didn't say, "Here is *[inaudible]* [0:26:47] come from New York." He came to New York for a year in some kind of Bar Mitzvah, and I was there. So he says, "If I had a boy like you in Wilmington, I would do anything for him." Sure, I wasn't lazy. At that time, I was about 16, going on 17. I took the freight. There was no trucks and I got to Wilmington.

When I got to Wilmington, I woke up seconds late. Between the time that I got to Wilmington, when I went from New York, I went to Bordentown, New Jersey. It was dark. I didn't know how, didn't know where to go and went to the police station. I said, "I'd like to have a place where to sleep." As long as you behave yourself, as long as you didn't get in trouble, they gave me a place where to sleep. Good. And they put me in the cell until the morning.

Interviewer: In the cell?

Mr. Sachs: In the cell with another man. And you know when you're in the cell or what you're in for – one fellow was in there for stealing a horse. The other fellow was in for stealing. So they said, this fellow had a shirt. I was

kind of cold. He says, "Put this shirt on. When you get out tomorrow morning, you'll feel warm." So I put the shirt on.

However, his shirt was full of lice and I got so lousy that I'd rather go hungry than go lousy. So I went on this freight until I got down here to Edgemore *[phonetic]* [0:28:37]. I walked up across the whole world and at the tip of your tongue, you ask where is this, where is that and I got the address of Lewis Goldstein which he kept a milk store in 202 West 2nd Street.

Interviewer: Milk stand?

Mr. Sachs: Milk store and he delivered milk. So the first in the morning, when I got there, Mrs. – her name was Sadie, "Hello, hello, how are you? What are you doing?"

**[Cross talk]**

Mr. Sachs: "What are you doing here?" You know I was a little bashful when I said, "I was going to Baltimore and I thought I'd stop here." "Are you hungry?" I said, "Yes." And so she got one of them round little breads and chopped that up in small pieces and left it there. In the meantime, she went to serve a customer. But every time she served a customer, I kept at nibbling the bread, nibbling the bread. Unknown and first of all, the whole bread was gone. When she came in, she says, "Didn't I have a bread here?" I couldn't lie, I said, "Yes, I ate it all up." So she gave another bread.

**[0:30:02]**

And that night, the man said, "You're going to help me serve the milk?" "Sure. Anything to do a job." So in 202 2nd Street, there was a seller and there was a nice loft where they put the candy and milk there and at 1 o'clock in the morning, you get up, wash bottles and then put them on the table and fill every bottle up with the milk. Then fill the boxes up and put them on the wagon and then go ahead and serve.

So I used to get up 1 o'clock in the morning and I served the milk for him. I used to get down at 6 o'clock in the morning. So at 6 o'clock in the morning, I didn't have much to do. He says, "I tell you, I'll get you a job in a Morocco *[phonetic]* [0:31:03] at Leventon and Papua, which it stands now." So a certain man that we know gave us a job and I started in this particular Morocco Factory from 6:30 until 3:00 in the afternoon and I got \$2.47 a week.



So I used to take the \$2.47 and gave it to him to keep for me. My intention was to buy a horse and wagon and go out and do things. So I went that way for six months for every week. I gave him the \$2.47. In the morning, I served his milk. In the afternoon – and after I came with the milk, I went to work in the Morocco factory in the steam room and then 3 o'clock I went home and wash bottles.

He was sort of a man that got the rheumatism and the arthritis and so on. After six months, I said, "Sam," I said, "let's see how much money I've got." "Sure." So he got the six months envelopes. Of course, on the daughter Harry Donald was there. During the time I bought it all to him enough money to buy some underwear and when I came here when I was lousy, I stopped at 2nd and 4th on top of this buck master. And he says, "Boy," he says, "I'll give you shampoo but use, put it on you and you won't be lousy anymore." So I've got some money for him and paid back this man which was only was a 10-cent piece.

So I got this money *[inaudible]* **[0:33:13]**, he says, "Wait a minute," he says, "how much shall charge you for board?" I said, "But I worked all night for you and I wash bottles." He says, "That's enough." And he said, "You just done that." And he says, "I'll charge you \$2 for board." And I said, "How in the world am I going to pay you." "Well, you got over there, so altogether, I had about \$4, \$5, \$6 coming up to me anyhow."

Excuse me I'll get a drink.

Interviewer: Sure.

Mr. Sachs: I got very little money but at that time the war started. So the shipyard over here in Harlan *[inaudible]* **[0:33:56]** by the time, the ship that's on there off of West Street, way back there, there was a shipyard, a very big shipyard. So I heard me off of that, I started crying. I went in the front, there was a German woman, used to call them Blue Benza. This Blue Benza lived there and she said, "Samuel, why are you crying so bad?" So I told her the story. She says...

Interviewer: How old are you then?

Mr. Sachs: I'm going into 17 now. Going into 17. She says – no, wait a minute, I'm going into 18. She says, "Wait a minute, first of all, stop your crying." You move out of there. Upstairs, there's Mr. Belfin living there. That's the senior Belfin, the accountant. His father and mother lived next door. You know this Belfin, the accountant?

**[0:35:02]**

Interviewer: No, I don't.

Mr. Sachs: Well, anyhow, Mr. Belfin lived next door. He rented me a room. I think it was \$3 a month. She got me a job in the Harlan in Hollingsworth and I got about \$10 a week. Oh, I have a lot of money. In the meantime, her son committed suicide. He was about my age. She gave me all the clothes that he had.

In them days, if you made \$10 a week, and I was made foreman in Harlan and Harlan would over us to see the fine cement that you got in there. He was the first one that he worked for me. He was my best student preaching that I had.

Interviewer: Now, what kind of work do they do now?

Mr. Sachs: They drilled holes.

Interviewer: For what?

Mr. Sachs: They drilled holes in the boats.

Interviewer: For the rivets.

Mr. Sachs: Put the rivets in there. First, they had to keel and they had sheets of iron and they do – every sheet was bolted into one to another and...

Interviewer: You were in charge of a crew?

Mr. Sachs: I was in charge of 15 people.

Interviewer: They were putting a hole.

Mr. Sachs: That's right. Unless, he was fine smith, he worked for me which he draws \$7 a week at that time. However, he was the biggest too. Many a times, I remind him he was the biggest stoolpigeon I have. He used to tell me he couldn't talk English. He used come in Bababush, that man you overcharged so much and so much so but let it go. And that's the way it started and then I got married.

Unidentified voice: Is this German woman really like changed the *[inaudible]* **[0:37:00]** of everybody that *[inaudible]* **[0:37:02]**. She's the only one who really did him good. And this wasn't a Jewish woman.

Mr. Sachs: This was a German woman.

Unidentified voice: I mean, it's well to stress, especially the way things are these days that there were the good and bad element in everyone.

Interviewer: When did you meet your wife now?

Unidentified voice: Well, I'm his second wife

Mr. Sachs: This is my second wife. I had married a Sadie Whitless, also in here which we have...

Interviewer: From Wilmington?

Mr. Sachs: In Wilmington, which I had five children with her, which they live in town. And however, she got sick a little bit later. She had a stroke for four and half years. It cost an awful lot of money that time and she died. Then I married a second woman by the name Fanny Bailik *[inaudible]* **[0:38:01]** which I stayed with her for eight months. I divorced her and then I married 20 years ago.

Unidentified voice: We were married 20 years.

Mr. Sachs: We were married 20 years in September and god bless her, she helped me marry my children off. However, she also had a daughter. I adopted her daughter. In other words...

Unidentified voice: She's a doctor. He means it's all like one family.

Mr. Sachs: We don't make a bit of difference. You know some people says, she's my step daughter. I don't have no step daughter or she doesn't have no step daughters.

Unidentified voice: *[inaudible]* **[0:38:35]** or the grandchildren. We really...

Mr. Sachs: And from there, we had better days and worst days. I have been a rich man and a poor man and I'm still a poor man.

Unidentified voice: And he's still working.

Mr. Sachs: And I'm still working.

Unidentified voice: Well, I mean, this is only really just a part of his life. You can't go into every detail because *[inaudible]* **[0:38:51]** for him.

Interviewer: Now what – did you continue to work for Hollingsworth?

Mr. Sachs: I continued to work for Hollingsworth for a certain number of time. However, from that time, they were supposed to have a trade on my end.

Interviewer: A what?

Mr. Sachs: A trade.

Unidentified voice: *[inaudible]* **[0:39:11]** or something. Some trade of profession or something.

Mr. Sachs: So I went to the Pennsylvania Railroad company and I apply to learn the broiler making business. So I was an apprentice. I've got an awful lot of money that time. When I started with them, I started at \$17 cents per hour. Then a year later, I got 19 cents per hour and I got to be a mechanic. A mechanic, a got 22 *[inaudible]* **[0:39:49]**. Then the war came along went up at 78 cents.

**[0:40:00]**

And of course, I happen to be foreman over there, you see, in the boiler...

Interviewer: Now, you're a mechanic on the railroad.

**[Cross talk]**

Mr. Sachs: I'm a boiler maker by trade. But I stayed so long that I wanted to go for myself. So bought a milk club and was at my own *[inaudible]* **[0:40:20]** of business.

Unidentified voice: He always wanted a *[inaudible]* **[0:40:22]**.

**[Cross talk]**

Interviewer: But you're back in the milk business again.

Mr. Sachs: I'm back in the milk business.

Interviewer: How many years were you a mechanic for the railroad?

Mr. Sachs: How many years? I worked for the railroad – I've been here 15 years. In fact, I have a past so maybe a little bit longer. I had a system pass that my wife and I had passes that we go could go from here to Saint Louis and back in New York and any place we could go there.

Interviewer: Is it still good? Do you still have it?

Mr. Sachs: No, no. When you quit...

**[Cross talk]**

Unidentified voice: There was no pension or anything attached to it, you just quit.

Mr. Sachs: I quit in '22. There were those tracks in the railroad in '22. I quit in '22. And then I went in the grocery business and then some, then I started...

Interviewer: And then you went into the grocery business? It wasn't milk – it wasn't just...

Mr. Sachs: No. After I sold the milk business – that was too hard for me, for one person. My wife was too sick, she couldn't help me. And I had one man, I didn't have enough money to pay for the other man, so I got out of the milk business. And about 25, 30 years ago, I went to bad business and I'm bagging.

Unidentified voice: Popular *[inaudible]* **[0:41:41]** bags and jokes.

Mr. Sachs: I'm on the boiler, bag business. Still on that.

Unidentified voice: It's about 40 years, less than...

Mr. Sachs: Huh?

Unidentified voice: It's over 25 years already, so 30 years.

**[Cross talk]**

Mr. Sachs: I don't know. Sometimes, I got to pardon my father but I don't know what I have...

Interviewer: Now, just what do you do in regard to this business, this business you're in now? Exactly what is...

Mr. Sachs: Well, I get up at 5 o'clock in the morning, go down to the countries. I got to number the farmers which I buy off. I know a lot of farmers that I buy wholesale burlap bags and junks. If I had not today, I went out – I couldn't buy no bags. I brought a little bit of junk. And in fact, today, I didn't make no expenses. But that's the way it happens.

Unidentified voice: Because this is the business now. At one time, we were bigger than now. We had just...

**[Cross talk]**

Interviewer: What do you do with the bags? You sell them to someone else?

Unidentified voice: Yes, he does.

Mr. Sachs: The bags? I tie them up and sell them to a processor in Philadelphia. And when you get a good bag, it kind goes through my hand and the other fellows hand and never gets torn and thrown away. They clean and sterilize it and al that.

Unidentified voice: They got the...

Interviewer: Then use it again.

Unidentified voice: Yeah. They have their market so there are these purposes, yeah.

Interviewer: What other things? What do mean by other junk? You mean metal?

Mr. Sachs: That's right. I buy metal, batteries, copper, brass.

Interviewer: Used metal isn't doing so well now, is it?

Mr. Sachs: Used metal?

Interviewer: Junk.

Mr. Sachs: Junk itself is very cheap. Copper, brass and aluminum and stuff of that kind, he's got a big market on it. But where do you get so much copper? Today, if you have copper, you get 45 cents a pound. Years ago, we used to get 7 cents a pound. Today, you get for 10 or 9, 20 cents, which doesn't even pay at all.

Interviewer: That's why they change their little cars. People won't buy automobiles for...

Mr. Sachs: Well, because today, you know, last week, *[inaudible]* **[0:43:54]** made cars for nothing.

Interviewer: For nothing?

Mr. Sachs: That's right. But however, if you get those cars and cut them up, the octagon, they torch that you cut the cars up that you *[inaudible]* **[0:44:09]** cars from, it doesn't pay.

Unidentified voice: There are certain places that can only handle inserting machine and we're just now just one man operation. It's not like we would have...

Interviewer: Or even dealer and car junk are not doing well. They can buy...

Mr. Sachs: Well, a man died...

Interviewer: ...the regular or...

Mr. Sachs: A man was buried yesterday, the diamond... **[Cross talk]**

Unidentified voice: He has a diamond state junkyard, one of the biggest here. He had rather...

Mr. Sachs: He had greater success. However, he had plenty of money to put into the junk.

Interviewer: For equipment?

Mr. Sachs: No.  
**[Cross talk]**

Unidentified voice: Have money to hold off for a better market. That's where a lot...  
**[Cross talk]**

Unidentified voice: We small people, we have to buy some because we need the money to live on.

**[0:45:04]**

Interviewer: So he uses it as an investment?

Unidentified voice: Oh yeah. He's got one of the biggest yards.

Mr. Sachs: Seven times. Sometimes, he borrows money and pays interest which he pays off upon the end. Now he who has saved copper for a number of years, today, it went up between 7 cents and 50 cents a pound. So some of them does that. I don't know what he's done and I know I can't do.

Unidentified voice: There are people that are *[inaudible]* **[0:45:35]**, they won't even bother selling their junk because they're rich farmers or they're rich so they don't care if it stays. They're waiting for the money to get higher. Why should they sell for the price? So we need the output but they don't.

Mr. Sachs: I go down Delaware.

Interviewer: Down state?

Mr. Sachs: Down the state where they – the potato farmers is the season today. And they become millionaires. But if you look at them, you might think they haven't got a dime. And when they come to sell you something, "Oh, I haven't got no time to bother with you Sam. You could stop around some other time." Of course, I buy it eventually, but just when you want it, they don't want to sell.

Interviewer: That's the bags you're talking about.

Unidentified voice: Yeah.

Interviewer: What organizations have you been associated with? Are you associated with the temple?

Mr. Sachs: I want to give you a little *[inaudible]* **[0:46:31]**. In 1930, seven people including me, we originated an Hebrew Free Loan, where this year, Hebrew Free Loan, we loan money to any Jew in the city of Wilmington without any interest paid. Now where do we get the money to plan? You know, years ago, we had a ladies auxiliary and we made money and the...

Interviewer: How did they make money?

Mr. Sachs: By making a ball. They...



**[Cross talk]**

Mr. Sachs: However, [0:47:30] [inaudible], he has been a good friend of mine, he told us a good proposition. He gave us every year \$100.

Unidentified voice: And donations – they used to get donations too.

Mr. Sachs: This money went into the bank. Of course, we helped a lot, a lot people. We also charged some people \$3 a year dues.

Unidentified voice: He didn't charge – wait a minute, he didn't charge. They had a membership at \$3 a year, whoever want it, we send it. In fact, I still send out the bills to them [inaudible] [0:48:08] wants to pay. But they're all people. I think that something of course, that fairly will send us \$10. Now, we don't have the big money then. There is [inaudible] [0:48:17] but through this – because that pays for the rent, through the wire and...

**[Cross talk]**

Interviewer: Why they'd want business charity?

Unidentified voice: It just like you would get for any charity because this was poor Jews so didn't have to pay at least the interest.

Interviewer: What is it called again?

Mr. Sachs: The Hebrew Free Loan.

Unidentified voice: Free Loan Society.

Interviewer: The Hebrew Free Loan.

Mr. Sachs: However...

Interviewer: Was that connected with the Temple or anything or it's just independent.

Unidentified voice: No. Just independent. It was made because people were...

**[Cross talk]**

Mr. Sachs: However, about four months ago...

Unidentified voice: In February, I believe.

Mr. Sachs: Four months ago, I kept, you know – we have a large membership. But the people, they don't need money. You know, years ago they used to come and borrow money and pay it back and so on. But temporary, we accumulated about \$7,500.

Unidentified voice: Through the years, they have that much money in the bank.

**[Cross talk]**

Mr. Sachs: I said to – I happen to be treasury. My wife is secretary and there was a fellow by the name Albert which is president. So finally, we accumulated \$7,500. So I didn't see why in the devil we should keep in our hands. If he had half of the amount, we get along very good.

So, we got together. You know Bruce *[inaudible]* **[0:49:42]**?

Interviewer: I don't think so.

Mr. Sachs: Well, I call Bluestone to a meeting and seven little lawyers and I said, "I would like to give away some money?" So I went back and forth. Some people said, I couldn't give away big money.

**[0:50:00]**

Mr. Sachs: However, Heman Cone...

Unidentified voice: You know him? He's an attorney.

Mr. Sachs: Herman Cone and Maurice Cone. They have got the two brothers. They're Italians and they used to work for us. So they said that you could give away the money. So we got a \$1,000 and we gave it to the Jewish Federation for the Israel Fund. We got \$1,000 and we gave it to the Y...

Unidentified voice: To the new Jewish Community Center building fund.

Mr. Sachs: We also got \$1,000 and we gave it to Kutcher's Home. We also gave \$500 to the *[inaudible]* **[0:50:45]** Wish. In other words, we bought bonds for the Bernaise Bridge *[phonetic]* **[0:50:52]** to use it after it accumulates, the Israel bonds, you understand?

Interviewer: Yes, sir. Did you have *[inaudible]* **[0:50:59]**.

Unidentified voice: No. That was – no, the only one is the Jewish Federation of Delaware through the Israel drive, you know, that is the bonds. That was that. And the Bernaise Bridge is using the money to bonds as well

Mr. Sachs: The Bernaise Bridge, there is Doctor Mark, which he was the chairman at the Israel drive to buy bonds. So he says instead of giving the outright, the same as I did to the rest of them to the Bernaise Bridge, to buys bonds and give them the bonds. Do you understand?

Interviewer: Hmm-mm.

Mr. Sachs: And so that's 35 and \$100 that we gave to the Deborah Hospital.

Interviewer: That's very nice.

**[Cross talk]**

Mr. Sachs: I also originated years ago a Mosika Hadash *[phonetic]* **[0:51:57]** that's a synagogue.

**[Cross talk]**

Mr. Sachs: So we kept that for long for a little while.

Interviewer: It was a what? What's the address for that?

Mr. Sachs: A orthodox...

Unidentified voice: Where was the address?

Interviewer: Washington Street, is it?

Mr. Sachs: 602 Washington.

Unidentified voice: Yeah. We used to have the Associated Hebrew School connected with the...

**[Cross talk]**

Mr. Sachs: After that, Harry Cone came along and he says that he would like to build a Hebrew School there. So Harry Cone spent about \$50,000 and made a Hebrew school out of all – not only for the orthodox...

Unidentified voice: It was an associated school. Instead of each synagogue having, it was all in one.

Mr. Sachs: It's associated Hebrew school. And I'm also the instigator of this, starting this thing. However...

Interviewer: What was the name of that temple again that you originated?

**[Cross talk]**

Mr. Sachs: Mazikui...

Unidentified voice: M-A-Z-I-K-U-I, I think it is. Hadas, H-A-D-A-S.

Mr. Sachs: You want more of these candies?

Unidentified voice: Leave him alone. How about you?

Mr. Sachs: You want one of these candies? Sure.

Unidentified voice: **[inaudible] [0:53:12].**

Mr. Sachs: And from there, I joined the Yiddish Kowlish **[phonetic] [0:53:24]**. We chairman the Yiddish Kowlish now by 25 years. I was also chairman or what do you call that, over the Jewish community cemetery which I'm glad that I cannot – superintendent...

Unidentified voice: Superintendent of this for over 20 years of the Jewish community cemetery. Until last year. Well, we got out of that.

Mr. Sachs: I was one of the boards doing quota time at the federation. I got a letter of thanks for serving 20 years on the welfare board.

Interviewer: In Wilmington?

Unidentified voice: Yeah.

Mr. Sachs: In Wilmington. You see, after you serve 20 years, they send me – in fact, I still got that letter some place.

Unidentified voice: Like an honorary member in the...

Mr. Sachs: Huh?

Unidentified voice: Like an honorary membership.

Interviewer: Were you very active on the welfare before?

Unidentified voice: We're active in everything you could think of. HE can't even remember half the thing.

**[Cross talk]**

Mr. Sachs: And think everybody who knows me to be active.

Unidentified voice: We used to go out on drugs so the *[inaudible]* [0:54:31]. Is my husband *[inaudible]* [0:54:32] as much as he can do with it. We also belong to Bernaise Bridge for many years. He wasn't *[inaudible]* [0:54:42]. He doesn't belong there now but he was a member for many years.

Mr. Sachs: For many years. I got to bowl and watch. So being champion with a bowler with the bowling ball and pins on that.

**[0:55:00]**

Interviewer: On the welfare board, what are your views on welfare? How they – how it's changed over the years? You say you were there for 20 years.

Unidentified voice: Yes. And he's...

**[Cross talk]**

Mr. Sachs: On the welfare board, Mr. So and So came along and applied for help. John Does...

Interviewer: This wasn't the Delaware – this estate. This was Wilmington.

Unidentified voice: Wilmington. It's Wilmington, yeah.

Mr. Sachs: This is the Wilmington Jewish...

Interviewer: Oh, I'm sorry. Go ahead.

Mr. Sachs: This is Jewish Welfare Board.

Interviewer: I see.

Mr. Sachs: Not in the state. This area welfare board helps out a lot of Jewish people, in fact all of them. Years ago, we knew when a young girl, Ms. So and So got in trouble, got pregnant and she has a baby to give away. It was all of course – there was all silence, which...

Unidentified voice: You will not believe it. I never asked him and I never knew the name of the...

**[Cross talk]**

Mr. Sachs: Which girls get in trouble that way.

**[Cross talk]**

Mr. Sachs: And there is lots of things...

Unidentified voice: And how about the refugee families that they bring down from the other side of...

**[Cross talk]**

Unidentified voice: Certain committees would help set them up here in the housekeeping and all that.

Mr. Sachs: There was a fellow by the name Cowder, which he died.

Unidentified voice: Ben Cowder. That was – well, you were much younger but the other...

**[Cross talk]**

Mr. Sachs: Ben Cowder, he was the administer of the federation.

Unidentified voice: At that time, yes.

Mr. Sachs: Your father had known him and your uncle knows him very well because he gave – donated a lot of money. He got me to work for him in the **[inaudible] [0:56:52]** refugee came in here. He didn't have no job. I found him a house and I found him a job and found him a place where they work. The same refugee today, which I have found him the job and they're doing very well.

When they see me in town, **[inaudible] [0:57:16]** they don't know anymore. As well, I have a son that teach **[inaudible] [0:57:25]** on 720, King Street. I don't know whether you know him or not. I see one of

these people that I've done a lot of good for. He doesn't want to look at me. His name happens to be...

Unidentified voice: No. Don't mention that.

Mr. Sachs: Well, anyhow...

Unidentified voice: Don't mention it.

Mr. Sachs: Hey, I sent them tea...

Unidentified voice: I don't want to remember the past...

**[Cross talk]**

Mr. Sachs: I say, "Don't you remember?" "Oh yeah, good morning, Mr. Sachs." I said, "I don't want a thanks what I do is..." "Oh, thank you, Mr. Sachs." Of course, I don't want to be able to remind me but the way they look...

Unidentified voice: They just don't want to be reminded of the past. But this board that he served with who – some of them are still – they have really worked hard. They still do. Yes, he was active. In fact, I very seldom used to see my husband home. Yeah. He was active in a lot of things though.

Interviewer: After living in Delaware, you know, all these years and being part of these organization and working here, how do you think Delaware has changed – Wilmington, and the Jewish community and so on?

Mr. Sachs: As far as the Jewish community concerns, years ago, 2nd Street, 3rd Street, used to be that 2nd Street on a Saturday night which is all the Kosher butcher used to be there. And you used to go around there to pay your bills and it was like a Broadway. Everybody was brotherly love and it was nice. When you meet somebody, you met a friend.

Today, the Jewish community, they moved away. Some of them has forgotten that they were poor ones, they're a little bad rich. In fact, some of them, a whole lot of rich, they don't want to look at you. Not only me but all the rest of them, the rich people. That's not like it used to be. Of course, some of the Jews has got more money than they ever had. And it's just one of those things. The warmth that I had made money, they don't want to know you anymore.

As of today, we have a bunch of young people. In fact, we have a lot of chemises From Dupont, which they don't stay long.

Unidentified voice: They're not original from Wilmington.

**[Cross talk]**

**[1:00:00]**

Mr. Sachs: They stay around here for a year or two. They buy a house. Again, the situation **[1:00:10] [inaudible]**.

Interviewer: But it's a much bigger community.

Unidentified voice: Well, let's say it's much bigger and it's much more attraction than before.

**[Cross talk]**

Interviewer: In one area, they have a lot in common.

Unidentified voice: Well done. Your Jewish population has increased here too where you didn't have that many Jewish...

**[Cross talk]**

Unidentified voice: I knew it because I had relatives there.

Mr. Sachs: When I came here – did Harry and I told you?

Unidentified voice: That's right. That's the difference.

Mr. Sachs: They had a handful of your good account. You could come every year with you and – it was 150, as you come up to 150, you have to admit every **[inaudible] [1:00:55]** family encounter but today, you got a nice Jewish community. There was no patamish **[1:01:01]** [Phonetic], there was no Bajon **[1:01:04]** [Phonetic], there was no Batel **[1:01:06]** [Phonetic], there was only a hychish anamis **[1:01:11]** [Phonetic] and then now the scoldish **[1:01:13]** [Phonetic]. That's all that was. And...

Unidentified voice: It wasn't required anymore.

Mr. Sachs: Then the rich people drifted away to the beth shalom. The richer people drifted away to the Beth Amish. They think they're better.

Unidentified voice: This is all over the trend **[inaudible] [1:01:30]**. No. The younger generation got – you don't know they don't know but it certainly hasn't



**[inaudible] [1:01:37].** It's more of the small – what you call it? Like a small metropolis in Wilmington. You know, it's really not a big town but you would call a lot of **[inaudible] [1:01:45]** because I remember...

Interviewer: How about outside the Jewish community? How do you see changes there?

Mr. Sachs: Where you find a match?

**[Cross talk]**

Interviewer: No, what are the changes that you have observed over the years?

Unidentified voice: You know, I'd say your business. The changes where you used to have farmers now you have everything **[inaudible] [1:02:01]** changing.

Mr. Sachs: Well, the Jewish community – let's say, it's changed all around and in fact, one thing has changed. When I mentioned the 2nd Street, there was a lot of Jews. We used to eat Kosher, Kosher meat, dietary laws. Today – and they used to meet all at once together, say, for instance on 2nd Street, on 3rd Street. Today, they don't eat no Kosher meat. They don't eat together. When you talk about – not that 100 percent Kosher. Now don't forget we are not but today, when you talk about Kosherness, they laugh at you.

However, there is a younger married people, comes here from New York, from Baltimore, from different parts, they are more Kosher today – the youngsters than the elderly people or what is left there. That's right.

Interviewer: How about outside the Jewish community. Not the Jewish community but...

Unidentified voice: You mean the changes in general?

Interviewer: The other changes in Wilmington?

Mr. Sachs: Well, the other changes in Wilmington, for instance, say – however the people, they used to walk up Market Street, Jews or gentile. They walked like brotherly love. You know in Wilmington, little some **[inaudible] [1:03:45]** you got them humorous at that time. They are more – but today...

Unidentified voice: They're afraid of walking up the street.

Mr. Sachs: But today, you are scared of walking up. Now the colored people, some of them – I don't say that the colored people shouldn't be around. I think that there should be but they should – they're just as human as anybody else, but they should behave themselves. Now we've got next 2 am. We got a family with six children. These six years children, there's 3 elder ones and two small ones. The elder people themselves, they're not bad. I don't have no trouble with them but I do have trouble from the smaller children.

However, they used to go down this way. There's about five or six families.

**[Cross talk]**

Unidentified voice: They're not bad because you tell them they shake their heads *[inaudible]* **[1:04:49]** and nothing is ever done.

Mr. Sachs: Over here, we got six...

**[Cross talk]**

Mr. Sachs: We're not the kind of people that will say, say that you don't – they're swatches or they're colored people, you don't. I say...

**[1:05:04]**

Unidentified voice: Exactly **[1:05:06]** *[inaudible]* but it's like that. People we know, we respect highly. The changes in Wilmington really are that well – you run...

**[Cross talk]**

Mr. Sachs: It's the same thing.

Unidentified voice: And you weren't afraid of walking until 10 or 11 o' clock at night. You are afraid now.

Mr. Sachs: It's the same thing all over the country.

Unidentified voice: Yeah. Whereas the changes like the national...

**[1:05:26]** **End of Audio**