

We continue with our interview with Aba Prawar. Mr. Prawar, would you tell us about your experiences in Akron, Ohio?

- Yes, I will. After we left Little Rock, we arrived in Akron, Ohio. My family greet us at the station, and we moved in with my uncle for a few months. Mr. and Mrs. Jacobs, should rest in peace.

Meanwhile, I was looking for a job. Time being, I looked around, went at the street check with people, find out about the town. And the following Saturday, my uncle made a party and he invited the whole family, who were about 50 some people. Cousins and nephews, and nieces, and so on. Neighbors.

We had a good time. We learned a lot from this gathering, and I realized how nice life could be, and it will be. What I hope for it. And a week later, I got a job through my uncle in the laundry at the dry cleaning. It took me an hour to go by bus.

First time, my uncle took me a couple times, and he was an older man so I didn't expect he'll take me often. So I decided I'd find out which bus is going. He showed me where the bus stops, and I went on a daily basis. My first experience on the bus-- because I never rode a bus in Little Rock because it was always a walking distance-- I see everybody reads the paper. I said to myself, Oh, my God, those Americans, they're great people.

They're always so educated. Everybody, black and white, everybody has a paper. I have no paper because I couldn't read English. So what I did, people stepping out going out from the bus by stop sign, they left papers at the seat where I was sitting at the next one. So I picked up one paper and took with me the paper, as it was folded.

Came to my job. My boss says, oh, Aba, you're getting-- you're American. You know how-- you read the papers. I say, I don't know. I don't.

I try to read, I can't read. I don't know. I see only numbers, I don't know what it is. I don't know. I can't see-- I don't understand.

Meanwhile, he said, let me see the paper. Oh, that's a good paper. I think it was newer bacon paper, whatever. Something like this. And he says to me, oh, you stupid, Aba This is not the paper to read, this is numbers.

People playing numbers. Horses. And I said, what do you mean numbers? What do you mean horses? I don't know.

They were handicapping.

I don't know. So he explained to me in Yiddish. And he says, those are people betting money. And try to see if they'll pick up the right number to go win money. I said, oh, gambling.

It's all right. And I work for him a few months. He was a friend of my uncle. And what I told my uncle that my profession is a dry cleaning, in laundry and dying. So he gave me to this place.

And I worked in Little Rock too. He liked me very much. And they have one son. One son. But he didn't work over there.

Only himself and his wife, and help us. Afterwards, in a few months, we got friendly. And he lived at the same premises, only a yard divided between the factory and his home. A small little ranch for two people, older people. Well, I had the impression that he is going to treat me very good, very well.

Because my devotion, my honesty, and I'm there before even I'm supposed to be there, I took an early bus. Well, he didn't do any harm to me, but he gave me my wages what we'd arranged between my uncle, and himself, and me. And I did everything what he told me to do. But it came after so many months, I expect a raise, because he demanded more, and more, and more, and more. I didn't mind to do it more and more.

More I did, more I learn, more knowledge I became, and more I learned the American way. He promised me too much. If he wouldn't promised me, I didn't ask for it.

Right.

But he told me, if you do this and you do this, then stop into my house when I go away and look into it. He didn't give me no raise.

So the raise was your expectations.

I know. But he promised me a raise. And he told me when my uncle was at the prison. And he says, Aba, when you do a good job I give you something so you will enjoy it, and I give you a raise so you can make a living. But then he went away for vacation.

I don't remember where he went, to Chicago or to Israel, or somewhere. I think he went to Chicago to family. And he came back after 10 days or so. Almost two weeks. So I said, well, maybe now after I took care of this home-- you know, I took care of this house in the morning and during lunch time and at night before going home.

Watched the water, watched the stove, watched the gas and if everything isn't OK. The locks, the windows. He showed me what to do. It was new to me, but I do. I didn't mind. He asked me.

Why not? He paid me for my job, so what's the difference? I didn't expect anything for it, but I expect a raise. I forget their names. He never give me a penny raise, he never give me the hours what I came before, and all the hours to overlook at his house, and after work I spent.

And I got frustrated, and I said to myself, he is not a mensch. I thought he was going to bring me at least something. And then, maybe I get a raise. \$5 a week. Was only 12 and 1/2 cents a day-- an hour.

Eight hours. You know, whatever it is. 40 hours. So I left. My uncle was mad.

And I explained to him. I says, Uncle, he didn't treat me well. Didn't I deserve? I didn't come to learned something new, that's what he taught me. I just have to change my Umstellung.

You know, they change from place to place, from job to job. Every place works different in difference. He worked at the same place like in Little Rock, but he has only one machine. The other guy, he was a big machine, with 100 people working as more factory kind. But I expect more from him because personally.

It was one owner, no corporation, and you should appreciate it. I clean, and you name it, I did it.

Right.

But he took advantage and did not appreciate it, so I left. And he wasn't mad, my uncle. I told him, he realized, he said, he didn't give it to you? No. And then I also told my uncle, I want to move.

I don't want to live with you no more. That's enough. Thank you for holding me so long. I want to look for apartment. I was there a few months.

I found an apartment near my cousin. We wrote to him through Israel that we found an uncle, and the aunts, and so on. Nieces, cousins, two blocks away. I went to work for American Seating. We made chairs for the government, for the ships. Aluminum kind.

I worked there with quite a few of my own kind. That means from Europe. Came in the survivors. And I enjoy work quite a while, and then was a layoff. Slowed down the business after the war. You know, ships wasn't built.

And I went to look for another job. And my wife was pregnant. For several weeks-- no, I went first to employment register. I didn't get no checks. Takes a few weeks or whatever it is then.

First time in my life. I never did collect. That's the first time I go register for collection. And I change clothes every day. I change my clothes and walk from door to door from place to place for a job.

I said, what's going on? I didn't know recession, inflation. I don't know these things.

Had you by this time applied for citizenship?

Yes. I already went to night school while I was in Akron and lived with my uncle. Twice a week. Wonderful. And my cousins teach me, and we spoke to ourselves, and our daughter picked up so fast.

And I listen to radio and I read books. And I learn reading by going to work in Akron, Ohio, by the advertising on the bus. And I read the way it's spelled. And I give you an example, like come. C-O-M-E.

To me C-O-M-E is come, with the e. That's the way it's in Europe. If you don't hear the syllable, the letter, you don't write it.

Yeah. Right.

And this may sound--

There are no silent syllables--

They're silent, but--

--in European.

--but it's harder for a newcomer for a non-American to learn. because the American child has the language from parents and family, and he looks at comics, he looks at books, and he reads the paper. So he can easily adapt, but a foreigner cannot. And I couldn't digest this, and I couldn't-- how? I'd been fighting with my teacher.

My wonderful German teacher. She was American, but the German descent, you know. And I can't understand. I said, why is it? Why is this?

And she explained to me, silent. Just like you're telling me this. I didn't accept it. And she picked me up. Even walking to school she helped me, just by this area, Kipling Avenue.

Not Kipling. Whatever name it was then. And very often she took me. She took other kids too. A very lovely lady.

And she put so much effort because I was anxious to her. Because I said now, I have to be somebody. I can't go like this. For a haircut for \$0.75 the guy took \$2 from me, you know. That's only once.

Once. Not the second time. I was, I have power. Push power. Be somebody.

Go. Do it. Get it. And this what guide me till now. Thank god I have no complaint.

I succeed from A to Z. There's only one problem with my daughter, that's when she was divorced. Otherwise, I enjoy my life from the first minute till today. With the exception how life is. But I always say, thank god.

You didn't let me down till now. Don't let me down now when I hit 65. Please, God. And it's the truth. I never been unemployed, I never collect any money from the unemployment.

That's where I tried in Akron, Ohio. I think I collect maybe two payments, that's all. Because I went from door to door for my job. And I didn't get it, and I got mad. Because if you have no job, and if you have no work, and if you have no money, and your wife is pregnant, and you're a newcomer, and the languages they're [? hiring at, ?] it's way down.

And nobody wants you. And I tried to dress a working man. A good looking man. With a tie, without a tie, with Levi's, with pressed pants.

Whatever worked.

It never worked. But I said to myself, this is my last day-- and this was on a Friday-- if I don't get a job today, and I said to myself, hell with it. I'm going to collect unemployment. But the one reason what held me back, I was afraid when I did it would bring me bad things to do it. I went in the bar, and I have a beer.

I was thirsty for walking hours. In summer it's hot, angry. And I want to-- my anger leaves-- my anger leaves somewhere with a glass of beer. And I didn't like it what I saw in a bar. I didn't know what-- I didn't know.

In Europe, in a bar you're going to have families, supper, a beer with friends. You dance.

It's a cafe. It's a different kind of--

So I didn't wait. So I said, oh, that's the wrong place. Matter of fact, I took my wife once. Because she walked with me, and she said, Aba don't like it. And I don't want you to go in.

And I said, I will not because I don't like it either. I want you to see what's going on here. Now we have to watch. And if you go in there, that's it. Here, you put a fin, whatever you call it today.

A ten or a fin, and you drink once. Then, if you would go with friends, everybody has a drink, then the bartender. I know to observe.

Everybody buys a round, there.

Round. Then the bartender treats you with a drink. I would do it with friends because I went to cash my check. And to me was everything Greek. Thank God I caught at fast.

Sharp and fast. I said, it's not the place for me. I bought a car, I learned driving, and I don't want to cash the check with the old again. I take home, I give my check to my wife. And to be a want a drink, I go in the place where I buy a case beer or a six pack, and I keep it at home.

I save money, I save tsouris and I enjoy it different way. But going back to the job. I couldn't find a job. I said, if I don't find, this is my last place. This was far away.

Miles away. I have to take a bus to go to work. I went there, and we don't need no job. I said, please, please give me a job. My wife is pregnant, I am without work for several weeks.

I clean the toilet, I'll clean up the floors. I do anything. He said, mister, we leaving. We're closing the shop. We move from here to the South.

Sinclair Collins and Valve Company is the name of the company. Sinclair Collins and Valve. They made valves also for ships. For big steamers or compressors, you know. And they work for the government, and the war is over.

And it's inflation. No jobs for no one. So they tried to concentrate--

Was this after Korea already? After the Korean War?

I think this was during Korea because there was bad times. Bad. No jobs. There was the one. A lot of companies closing.

I think was 19-- I tell you when it was because I came to Little Rock in 1951, October '51. I was there for a year or so, and I live in Akron, Ohio from '52 to about '56. April of '56 or March of '56. When I came to Newark, New Jersey.

Right. So the war was still on for about two more years, I think.

Yeah, something like that. Because it is 1954. I know because I went first, and my wife and kids were there. Then I wrote a letter, I found my boss-- what I will tell you in a few minutes-- in Akron, Ohio. From Akron to Newark.

So she said, nothing I can do for you. I said, give me the boss, please. I want to talk to a manager. To a boss. I need money.

I'm going out of my way, I don't want it. We were moving in a-- I said, give me a few weeks. Give me a week job. Give me a week's work. She called in the manager, the president from the company.

Who are you? Aba Prawar. It sound Jewish already right away. Aba Prawar. Aba you're Jewish?

Yes. German accent. I says, I come from Germany. You know, you're Jewish. Yes.

Well, you speak German. I come from Munich. How long you been in Munich? This guy was German. A German, American German.

He says, Mr. Prawar, you're the first Jew come to work to me. What's the matter? How come? You Jewish, and you work. I know Jewish people.

My friends. They're bankers. They have money in this business. I said, listen, sir. I am Jewish, and I guarantee you that you have many Jews working, but they are afraid to say they're Jewish because they might don't get the job.

And plus, you have non-Jewish people officially, because you got Russians, Germans, Turkish, Polish. There's some Jews, I'm sure. I said, don't look for nationality, please. I am in trouble. My wife is pregnant.

You speak German to me. I speak German. Fluent German. Give me a job. He says, Mr. Prawar, we only be a few weeks, maybe two months.

I said, I accept two months. I accept a week. I accept a week. I've been walking for several weeks. I'm tired.

This is my last job. What I said to God, this is my last job. If I don't get here, I'm going to employment, and I hate to collect money and not to earn. But what do they get you? That's already two weeks, I didn't no check yet.

Please. So somehow he liked me. I spoke the truth to him about Jewish. I spoke to him about honesty. And I'm afraid.

I said, a Jew can do anything. You see what the Jews did in Israel. If they have to, they do. If they have to kill, they kill. They will kill to defend themselves.

They wouldn't kill for bread, they may rob something for bread, like other nationalities. So am I. You don't step at my foot, I don't step on nobody's foot. I'm honest, devoted. Give me the job, and I prove to you what a Jew can do.

That's the words I told him, and he like it. He says, you got the job. He called in the secretary, fill out the application, I help him out. Can you come tomorrow? He says no, tomorrow is Sabbath.

True, it's Sabbath. When can you start? Start Monday. But I said to him, I will work Saturday too. Not the first Sabbath.

I can start Monday. If you need six days, I'll work. It's a fight for survival. I spoke with my rabbi. He told me, if you can't fight them, join them.

And I didn't know what this mean. He explained to me. And you know what this mean.

Yes. She said, Mr. Prawar, our come to work. I start Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday. Friday I was watching a drill machine through a press, and a chip from a drill press behind me, it wasn't aligned. Hit my back.

It fell off and it flew to my back. So I thought a guy called me wants to tell me something. When I turn around, my finger went through the drill.

Oh, god.

It opened up here, my nail, and cut me. I got either three stitches or two stitches, I remember that now. I worked at night shift, from three to 12. Here I start a job, and here I'm already in trouble. I went to the bathroom-- excuse me, I went took a pee, that's when I saw in Europe that we did, and rip off a piece of my shirt, and I tighten my finger not to bleed it, and now I'm back to work. I got home 12:30-- I paid a guy to take me home. I found out who was working during the week, and I paid him not to take the bus to work. He took me home. It was a Friday, Saturday morning I went to Dr. Rosenbaum. I told him what-- no. Yes. I went there Saturday, and he put in a few stitches for me. And I asked him what had happened, how it happened. I told him, I just turned around, he called me while they grabbed the other grill from the other guy, the drill of my drill, and I turned around them. It wasn't too bad. And I remember exactly what it was, because it was a Sukkos. What year could it be? Like, October?

Yes.

Sukkot. Monday I went for the doctor should take off the bandage to see how it looks, and I went early to him like, 12:00 or so, 1:00. I was finished at 1:30. And I go down from my doctor's office and I wait for the bus. Because I couldn't go to work with my bus because on account the appointment with the doctor.

So I cancel my man shouldn't wait for me, so I took my bus there. Who passes by? The president of the company, or the chairman who hired me. Mr. Prawar, what are you doing over there? What are you doing over there?

Why you're waiting for the bus, you should come with, let's say, Tommy. I forgot the name. So I said, OK, hop in. I take you. I'm going to work there.

I take you there. And I went with him. And he asked me what happened. I said did you fill out the paper that you had hurt? And I says, no, why?

I says, how could I do this? I just started working a few days ago. You hired me at the job temporarily because you don't need me. I see you don't need me because the job is only for finishing up the jobs. I have no heart to do this.

I am not the guy to go sue to make a case of it. And I tell him how it happened. It felt a chip on my back, so I thought I was tapped in the back and called me. So meanwhile, I cut a little bit on my, I got three stitches or two stitches. It's nothing.

So he liked me even better. After we came, he called me into the office. He showed me my check, and pay me what I got. He says, one thing is something suspicious about you. What I don't like it, and I'm honest with you.

I said, what's wrong? He says, how come you're making more money than my men with work over here after a week's time? We checked the records. How much you made the first day, the same thing. You make so much, and when you make more, you make bonus.

You know, drilling holes. I said, that's the way I am. That's the way I am. And I told you, I'm going to prove it to you. If

anybody could do, I could do the same.

And if I want, I can do better. That's my answer. Plus, I don't smoke, I don't go to the toilet like other people do-- I'm not tattle-telling he, he, he here does it-- I don't drink coffee much, once the coffee when it's break time, and I don't sit in the toilets. I kept pushing because I need to make a buck. I have to raise a family.

This is what I told you about the Jew. If he has to do it, he prove it to you. You deal with maybe one kind of Jew, but you don't deal with Jewish. You deal with different kind people. With bankers and money people.

I am a plain man. And he liked my statement. He says, you're the first Jew in my company. He says, is Mr. Prawar, you're the first one what I realize the Jewish people how they are. Because you explained to me what it is, and now, I see by you.

I never go through with no one what I went through with you. You made it more, you said you're going to do more, you're going to try, and you did. This was suspicious. The people that make out the payroll came to me says, how come this guy is probably stealing parts, and he puts it in his box with his--

They were ready to suspect the worst.

Yeah.

So then when and checked, before he'd made the statement. They went out and check with the other guys to the quantity, and there was nothing missing. You know, so much goes in, in a pen. In a steel pen, you know, and the height was-- the height and width the same. It was the same.

They checked the quality. Not only did it teach me-- they sent me to school to teach-- in an night school-- to teach me about machinery. It taught me how to chop. To drill because if I push so much, it'll get dull. Sharpen yourself.

You got a grinder or rigs, it's two grinders for one people. Sharpen your drill. And he taught me, just like this. I says, my foreman show it to me, and that's how I'm doing it. I use oil, and I keep pushing, and I sharp drills.

I don't have to take a coffees 10 times a day. Once break time. And it was a good company. Cost only a nickel a cup of coffee. But people donated this.

Like the company paid the rest of it. Whatever you drink, you pay for your own packet. They would give everything, he taught me. But nothing if the habit people was showing a waste of time with drinking coffee. It's not the nickel, it's not to waste-- we need production.

And I was there almost a week before they closed the place. And they sent only for two weeks to school. There's not much to learn. But he asked me. They want to help me.

He's a German guy. German American. Good people. And I learned, and I made money, but it didn't last long. Before Thanksgiving, I got the pink slip.

Is it right comes out like more or less between Sukkos in Thanksgiving?

Yes.

More or less. See, this I remember now exactly. Because I heard complaining from American people.

Just before Christmas.

This was just before the holidays, I got a pink slip.

That's right.

They expect them because they knew it. I expect because they told--

Everybody got it.

No. They got it in the seniority and gradually.

Last hired, first fired.

Yeah. Something like this. It was only a matter of days to leave. Because they'd tell them move out of it. This was one job.

And after this, I went back to my cousin-- no. After this-- Yeah. Because it was by chance they moved out, then I went there, then I went working to my cousin Summit Equipment and Supply Company, and junk and the parts. Machines, and tools, everything. That's what I want-- this why I laughed so much.

This is why I miss Little Rock, Mr. Tenenbaums junk yard. I don't want to say I would be a millionaire, but I would be, there. Because I am a hard working man, I'm a alcohol-- what do you call it? Workaholic.

Workaholic.

I cannot stay empty. And I love it. And the speciality would be mine. I do for everyone. They call me crazy.

The boss he says, what are you doing? Why are you doing this? I said, but who should I work with? People are sick at night of so many people. I got to do because I have to give you a report every day, every week, every month, production.

And John, what comes in, goes out. How could I-- I mean, it's part of my job. So he says-- so he walks away. That's the way I am. Then I work with my cousin, and I travel.

I worked at [INAUDIBLE], but he says, Aba you got to go and travel. So I took travel. I says, well, I'm going to go travel. I have one kid, [? Marcy's ?] is pregnant. He says, try.

So I took me-- the first job was Troy, New York. I drove with him, and we have tractor trailers coming. It was a convoy. That's what you say? Convoy?

Yes.

And he showed us the place. And those people been traveling all the time. To me was the first time. He says, Aba you're going to be in charge. I don't know from right to left.

Pay the man? I don't even know so much about this. So what he did, he give me a book, and he give me a break down to deduct these taxes, give the guy so much. And if he has four kids, and it tells you. It's simple.

It was simple. And we went to take apart a brewery. Kroger brewery in Troy, New York. I did the best I could. It was tough, but I did.

I had a fight with one guy. He just came out from prison, and we hired to him in employment. And we hired more then. We have our gang, like tow bars, and hoists to lift and that. And we have to take apart the water tank what's on the top the roof.

On the top. Maybe the fifth floor. And from experience from the other guys, I know we have to buy rope what people are using on ships. Heavy rope. And we have to let down five floors, beams, what is eight inches width. You know, H

beams.

It's big, heavy, maybe 20 feet long. So we wrapped around the rope from the legs from the hold the tanks and let it down. Because this is the business. To cut the iron where we can save, salvage and put it away in trailers. And there were trailers.

So we have people working a little, slowly moving, loading down-- letting down. The lead went down. So this guy says, you don't need to go around. We're strong men. He was about just-- I could judge now, I don't know about the footage before.

But it was I bet you 6'5, 6'6, at least. Big, husky. And I said, we cannot do this. We go around with a rope, like we did with the other guys. Like I'm doing it before, and then in other places, and at home, and with other guys before you came.

If somebody gets sick, we hire people. But he was a strongman from jail, and he had nothing to worry about. He picked me up like this, and I were-- like a baby. And I'm going throw you down right there in the trailer. I said, listen, if you going to throw me down-- I grab him right there, by his shirt-- if I go down, you go-- a little admission you know already-- you go with me down.

We both go down. And that was the same language which he used to me. I learned this first. So he let me down. Throw me down, like this.

I says, now you come down to the office. There was no office. The office was the brewery. And I says, here, I'm going to pay you whatever work you did, and I you don't want no more. And this guy explained to him because my boss left money with the auctioneer, in the part of an office from the owners.

And we paid him. He didn't want to go, he threatened me, but he went down. He quit. And I paid every week my men. And we need money, we sold some junk to the junkyard.

I'd call up a junk yard. The representative speak in Yiddish. How much you pay for a ton? And you got to scale, weigh it up. And this way, I have money to pay the workers, and for myself.

How long did you stay doing this?

Not long. I can't do it because my wife didn't let me do it. Because I quit job, and I got-- we'd finish the job, we went to another job. And this is too much. I didn't mind because I learned I learned to be rough and tough.

But I got a wife and kid at home. So my wife start-- I made good money. Good money. Overtime, hotel. And I could eat non kosher food, so I'd eat everything I'd make.

Because I have no choice. When I'm going in a strange town, where I'm going to look for kosher, there was no kosher, but it was kosher style. So I ordered by numbers. I don't know what it was, so I ate. Then I came back from this job, we went to another job, to other places like Baltimore, Maryland.

And I learned cutting with a torch. Was a challenge to me. Then I didn't go by myself, I had a cousin with me what they lived in Ohio. He worked with him. He was a professional.

But over there in Troy, New York I was alone. It was a small job. And the people who worked with him, with my cousin, had experience. So it's nothing what to worry. They took care of me.

And the other place was a bigger job with chemicals, danger. So he went there, and when I finished my job, I went to Baltimore and join him. Then I went to Kalamazoo, Michigan. Cold like hell. One in the morning, the snow was two feet high, but we made it.

But a lot of fun, a lot of excitement, a lot of things what I don't want to talk to the television. Things what I don't like it, but I went through this. I didn't do nothing wrong, but I saw what's going on. Sleep in hotels. It wasn't something new to me.

And I told all those stories to my wife, anyway. And then winter came. I have a stove coal. Have to shovel coal in my oven. I have a good landlord.

He switched from coal to gas. Because you are very good at build up his house. I painted, I fixed it, and he never had such a tenant like I was. He never raised me rent, even he switched to I gas. He was happy with me.

I got a lot that was [INAUDIBLE]. Like a owner. Big lot, big house, I got the next door neighbor. One house, a next door neighbor. Duplex.

With a little door open, we'd talk to each other. When I was away, keep my wife company. And my wife said one day, Aba you have to quit the job. And you get a job with Benny. My cousin wants to give you a job in Akron.

It's good. No trouble for me. I have the baby, have to go down in the basement every time put coal in. And I'm also frightened that things changed. I didn't know about neighborhoods in this time.

To me, black and white is the same because we love each other. I could understand about hatred. But I learned, and my wife explained to me. I long to be home. Here drunks also in the streets, and I noticed the neighborhood start changing.

So I said, OK, we have to quit. I told my boss, I'll quit my job. Except he gives me a job at the place in yard. So he did. And I learned about metals.

I learned quick. Because my money, the money what I made for him, this what I learned. Thanks to me, he gained money. Because he don't have a man like I was, because I pick up very first, the metals. You know why?

Whenever he delivered metals, I went with him. I said, I want to go with you. I want to see what's going on where ever they sold the metals. Copper, red copper, real copper, aluminum, stainless steel, redbreast, yellow breast, platinum from valves by the sinks at home. I never learned this by him.

He has no time to teach me. But every time he took me when he sold a truckload of metals, I looked down on me. I said, hey, bins. How come he has bins, we have drums? He said, we're small.

He is a wholesaler. He has bins with the antennas from cars, cost more money. You know why? It's the platinum. And it's a yellow breast.

So I learn all. So I made money for my boss, he liked me. And about kosher, his uncle took me, his father, my uncle, his father, took him. Took me with them. And he says, you're going over here.

He ate eggs. Boiled eggs. Because he ate kosher. Enough to put in the plate, and let the spoon. I work physically hard, I cannot live on eggs.

I have to have meat. I have to eat normal. So I uncle, I can't-- I said-- [INAUDIBLE] has to cut me a piece of salami. I went into a delicatessen, ham, and salami, and turkey are in the same slicer. I said, give me everything. Give me, give me, give me, what you want it.

So a slice on the slicer, what i got choice. I had no choice. Anyway, this was my life in Akron, Ohio. My uncle what lived in New York, what he gave me the information about cousins from my wife, they have family in Akron, Ohio. Oh, in Akron, Ohio I organized all the newcomers, and I made a club.

Because I did this before I joined the traveling on the road. And my house was a meeting, and so much money was contributed, and then we made parties. The party was in the Jewish community. Like, the Jewish center. I remember my

first suit my uncle made me. He was a tailor.

He has a tailoring shop with about 10 people working for him, with machines. Like a little factory for military-- for the police, and fire department, and for several people. He made me the first baby blue suit. It was the color I choose. He made it for me because I was the president for the club.

And I invite my family, and we made money, and we sent the money to Israel. It was made on this supper. We were talking about we went through our life in concentration camps. And I get to move here, and we liked to see Jewish community growing, and we wanted to help Israel the money what was made through this banquet. We cooked homemade food.

We didn't bought and toast it, with the exception of like, chopped liver or whatever it is. [INAUDIBLE] kraut in the package, and the cabbage. And challah, we baked everything, and the people love it. We made so much money. This money was donated to Israel. Then I got the job with traveling.

That's when the club dissolved.

Dissolved. Yeah.

There was no body to organize. Because I made good money. Those people didn't make enough. I was working overtime in my job when I was working at the chairs. When I made aluminum chairs.

And we like people. So we like them, we cook, and we got together. And I said, why don't we join, and make a club, and go and make money for Israel? Well, this was our goal.

Israel. But when I traveled, when I came back home, I may have painstaking room for doing it with dark under my eyes. Because people didn't come to each other, some people passed away, they married not their own kind, and then we moved away to New York. Yeah. To New York or to Cleveland, two places.

Some of them the wife passed away, they have no children. Or if they have relatives in Cleveland where it's a bigger town, they move to Cleveland. If not, they had friends or family in New York. And I couldn't put this together no more, and I lost mine go, from Akron. Because people are dying, and less and less.

But I still went every year to Ohio. Traveled by car with my family. With my whole family my three children, my wife. We--

For what purpose? To see--

Just to see the friends and keep them together. And then [INAUDIBLE] was like my own home, like a family.

So there was still a few left? There was still a few.

Every time I came was less left. But there was children what with my kids grew up with them at school. That's why. And a matter of fact, two years ago I was there.

So did you then go to New York, or did you--

No. I had a job in Newark, New Jersey while I lived in Newark. And I met my ex-girlfriend before I met my wife. We communicate, but then we stopped. But we were in Germany, we were-- we-- I met her in Luntzberg.

Oh, this was somebody you knew in Luntzberg?

In Luntzberg. We met through my uncle. But when I met, we were just friends. But I found out she lives in Newark, so when I had a job in Newark, I stopped in there. And my uncle-- no.

My uncle wrote me from New York and give me the address, and we called him up from hotel. I think Rubber Treat Hotel was there in Newark, if I remember correctly. Rubber Treat, or something.

Right.

Yeah.

Yeah. There's a famous hotel. Still there.

And I called up, and I make arrangements. I know they lived in this-- it was a goyish neighborhood. Very few Jewish people were there in the neighborhood. Near a park. 23rd Street somewhere.

And I made arrangements to come there for Friday night, for Shabbat. Because I walk Shabbat, so I walked, I'd drive there. And at this time I wasn't so particular because I knew [INAUDIBLE]. And we had a good time, then I ordered a cab and went back. But they convinced me to come to Newark or to New York.

Because my uncle worked With a doll company. And eventually, I decided to move to Newark. Because my uncle moved from New York to Newark because his company moved to Newark. And Summit Avenue in Bloomfield-- somewhere in Bloomfield, there near Prospect Street, the company bought the building. And they moved from New York to him.

He helped build up this company. He started picking up on the street, wood, paper, wrapping. Newspaper, from garbage, with a few guys, and they made wood-- broadwood, and on drums, and this was tables. The name of the company was, Tap A Toy. It's a very famous name.

Tap A Toy. Though my boss, he didn't own the company. He was working as a citizen with the company. But he paid off the owner with his uncle, and they bought up the company, I think. Or the uncle bought up, and he was a salesman, and he expanded rapidly.

Not only in toys, stuffed dolls. But you in like hurricane lamp, dishes, the watches from Japan, the irons. You name it. Silverware, flatware, plated silver things. You name it.

Like [? Lehrhoff. ?] Because I bought some goods by [? Lehrhoff ?] through the company. Luggage. That's why I told you the story about Newark. So we came to Newark.

My wife was in Akron, and I came too, by myself for a few weeks to check out my boss. He talked to my boss. And he was my friend because I played soccer with him. Plus, this girlfriend what I came to see, her sister married my boss. At the present time when I played soccer, he was no boss, he was just a college boy.

And I got married and went to New York-- to Munich. This was time from 1946. 45/46. This this is where I know him. And he offered me a job in 1956.

He offered me \$75 a week. Wasn't too much because I made much, much more. And this time when I traveled, in Akron. When I traveled. Because the overtime in hotel.

I made money in hotel. But my boss gave me \$5 allowance per day in hotel, I rent the room in the Y, cost me only \$9 a week, right? 1956/ 57. So I'm right on that. I remember correctly, I think.

Sure. So I guessed perfectly.

So I made money. Saturday I got overtime, Sunday I got double time, if I cannot go home. So I make a bundle. I make way over \$200 a week, it was a lot of money. So I enjoyed whatever I did. When he offered me 75, I wasn't too happy. Because the transportation cost me money. Moving. And then, as a friend, I thought he was going to treat me better. But

business is business, friend is friend. He didn't own the business by himself. I start there as a checker, checking out goods. But that's a good start. A lot of overtime. This \$75 was without overtime. I made a lot of overtime. But I built up myself. I made, in 1956, 57, and up, I made a lot of money with the overtime. At this time, was \$12,000/\$13,000 a year. Was a lot of money.

Was quite a bit.

You know why I know so exactly?

And why's that?

Because when we ask for a raise, he gave us low rate. But we got a lot of overtime. He says, boys, how could I give you a raise? My engineers don't make as much money. I said, but we're working seven days a week in the hours.

But he was fair was good. He treat us good. Mr. Hornstein. Henry Hornstein was his name. Is still his name.

He's now still in some business, but in research and development. R&D. Somewhere in union, I think. I worked with him for a while, then I was promoted to a foreman. I was in charge in the building department.

I got a nice bonus from this company. Until I was elevated from checker to a foreman. Because I'd been in charge in the building department. The operation-- not ingenuity from-- you've got to be engineer to be modern, but the shipping, receiving, organizing, storage, warehousing, shipping the goods from building to building, we had 7,000 people during the season. 7,000 people.

And we have trains going from building to building. The dollies-- the flats with the [INAUDIBLE] pulling it, it was one of the greatest success my boss made. And we succeed with him. I can't complain. I couldn't do it better or I'd be in business. But as a worker working for him, he was fair to us. I appreciate it, maybe some didn't. And if you didn't made enough, he'd give you a Saturday and Sunday. Stay. Come over here and stay.

So the opportunity was there.

Yeah. And so I did the work physically. Saturday and Sunday we worked 12 hours a day. I took books to read. OK.

I make rounds watching the building. But I wasn't educated in which to be a businessman or be an engineer, so I was happy what I did. And I made good money. Compared today, much more than I make today. And I make good today.

But in the years, what \$300 was a week, not compared what you make today. Twice as much, isn't it?

Isn't as much. Isn't 1/2 as much.

Definitely. But even this work so many hours, I get my children education, I bought me a car-- new car. I bought me a house, a two family house. My wife never worked. She took care of the family, what I didn't want to do.

Of course, I mean now, she wasn't a healthy woman. To raising kids, and raise them the right way, and have a kosher home, and be human, and help people in Israel, and friends, and poor people, I was very good off. And I appreciated it. That's why I did those good things. What you personally hear about me, my family, and you may know, if you wanted to know.

If you're interested. This is personal things, but if if you want to know. And you know my daughter and Shelly. So I'm proud that I came to United not to Australia. I am proud with my knowledge.

Not educated with college, I went night school. But this didn't give me much what I wanted to be. If I had a regular school, I would be more than I am now. But I'm happy what I do. I am satisfied.

I accomplished my goal. I raised a family. My son is an architect. Thank God, he is only 30, and he's a businessman. He owns Ruble Interior with a partner, he's married, he has his own house.

Beautiful house in Springfield. I have a daughter. She owns her house. Toby Shire. She is a teacher.

Title I teacher-- I don't know what this mean too much-- and she's been there with 10, 12 years. She's successful good fine daughter. Fine child, with heart, with humane movements, helping people emotionally, and physically, and financially. Just like my wife and myself. What I'm proud to say, because they do it.

My daughter Shelly, my middle daughter-- Toby's the oldest one-- she's with IBM. A successful person, successful girl, beloved. She had the highest honor two years ago, what she accomplished in her job in just a short time. What other people couldn't do it. And she was honored-- she was told by the president from bank where my son is vice president-- Shelley's husband, would honor.

She is happy. She just came from the job, and this was a surprise to her. It was her birthday. And he told her what a honor she got. What she had by IBM. And he said, this takes years somebody should get honor.

So I'm proud of my kids. This is the teaching from my wife.

And I'm sure they're proud of you, and I'm sure they're proud of your wife.

I hope so and I think so. And this is the teaching of ours, and especially, to my lovely wife.

I think when people--

We should be in a happy and healthy, and continue this.

Yes. I will. I can only say that you have not only survived, which is enough of a challenge--

I am a success. And I have success, and I fight for it.

--but you've also transcended in a way that you have become, out of your experiences, a very good person.

My boss, even before we went with Tap A Toy, all of a sudden got a phone call to my vice president, Tony Francis. I have to be transferred from here to there. This is something what-- I was speechless. Was something wrong I did? He said, sit down, calm down, calm down, Aba.

We open up a new warehouse, you are assigned to it. You and Tommy. It was a colored guy, a very nice kid. I says, I am not a supervisor. I am just a-- he says, Aba go.

We know you, we know you can do it. And we did it. And I saved so much what I'm proud of it. And I got the same compliments from my boss Art Pollock, when Tap A Toy went bankruptcy. And they took over the whole shipping department, Aurora Toys.

Nathan Katz and myself took over Aurora shipping department, transferred with it \$100,000. Night time we worked. One week night time, one week day time. Because we alternate. And I learned [? Toyota ?] driving, and we are only two people, and one [? Toyota ?] driver helped us, that's it.

And I am proud what I did because I enjoyed doing what I did. And I was paid for it. And that's why I'm grateful to this country and to be able to tell American people that I succeed what I wanted it to succeed.

When you said last time that in a sense you owe your survival to the goodness of the American people, in this moment, in these two hours, I think you've more than proven that.

Because people think about the Americans from a different point of view, and there's no criticizing. And if somebody tells me, my father has a store of shoe, and he was a shoemaker. I said, then, why don't you go back there? Father has a clothing store, and he was hardly making a living from-- making a tearing. So why lie?

Do what you want, this is what I am. I don't want it-- I wouldn't accomplish more to you to lie, and I wouldn't gain nothing by lying. So why not tell the truth?

Yeah. I want to thank you for sharing your life with us.

I enjoy it, and I'm happy. And I think you have enriched us all by your experience.

Well, I share because I did accomplish my goal. And I hope that God will let me continue didn't let me fail till now, and continue my retirement. Well, I didn't retire yet. I still tell my boss I still want to work a little longer, and he OKed it for me. Because otherwise, you don't need me.

He could have four people in my place.

Right. I hope so too. Thank you very much, Mr. Prowar.

Thank you. And also I would.

[MUSIC PLAYING]