

Interviewee: Israel Novodvorsky

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Interviewer: Estela Elbert

This is a story about Israel Novodvorsky's activism in the Labor Union of the needle workers (tailors, cutters, ironers, etc.) since his arrival in Argentina on October 18, 1923.

Israel was born in 1905 in Poland, in the town of Yeti (?), (Diatlovo (?) in Russian.) His father was a shoemaker. Israel was the oldest of 9 children and, by the time he was to be recruited for his military service, he had been working in Vilnius for a year and a half, learning the tailoring of military uniforms. He wanted to immigrate to the US but the wait was too long. He managed to borrow money for passage to Argentina, where he started working in his profession immediately. He married in 1928 and had one daughter, but separated from his wife in 1932.

Two days after his arrival in Buenos Aires, Israel went to the labor union to become a member. At the time of the interview, at the age of 81, he was still active in the union after 63 years, albeit without an official appointment. He, in his role of secretary, organized the famous strike of 1933, in which every branch of the needle workers participated. They managed to extend the strike to a large area in the great Buenos Aires. The strike lasted 6 weeks, and the union managed to feed the unemployed workers for all that time. Some of the Jews active in the strike were: Adolfo Jitler, Wasserman- the poet, Simon Salomon, Rosenfarb, Moishele Ieger, Rogovich, Matrajt, Ribak, Lewintal, Julio Liberman. The strikers' demands had to do with implementing the items promised by contract and never implemented: paid vacations, job security, and better pay.

The development of the workshops into large factories that supplied big department stores.

After 22 years of living alone, Israel met a woman with whom he still lives.

In 1946, Israel opened his own business in which he worked until the end of 1978, for 33 years.

Dabbling as a "journalist" by describing a public meeting of the Anarchists.