

KJ Helmstetter  
Transcript

Sample BE

1) BE: You know, they use a lot of things like you'ins and that stuff. it depends on where you went to school, what area because w-, I mean we never had anything like that. Well I well I went to to uh first of all roseaville school which is no longer here which (it) was in squirrel hill. Then I went to linden and alderdisse and you didn't say you'ins or any of that stuff. I - I - that was - I don't know where that ever came from. And I hate when I (pause) have people associate Pittsburghese with that kind of stuff.

2) BE: Although I - I lived other places before that.

3) BJ:           Where wh-

4) BE: Well, I lived in Morgantown. ((clears throat)) That's where my husband went to school. So I was in Morgantown. And then – oh, and before that I lived in New York for about a year and a half - Brighton and Manhattan.

5) BE: In fifty I was in West Virginia and came up about (takes breath) I think it was 50 - about '52 I guess. And I was living out in North Hills at the time. And we lived in North hills until nineteen sixty. And nineteen sixty's when I uh moved to uh Forest Hills.

6) BE: And I got married in uh the forti-. I got married in 1949.

7) BE: I took some uh uh some night courses. I took some uh about six week course at Carnegie Mellon and um in harmony and so forth because I'm a - I'm a musician so I, you know. And I took some art classes at Pitt. Night school art classes

8) BE: Ah it was uh just a little jazz band. I mean I go back – the only music I cared - or that we always cared about was the um the older music uh from the forties uh and the thirties the uh, the jazz and the uh, you know that type of Dixie land. And uh, so and just continued. I don't play much anymore. I just. I don't know why. I just don't ever sit down and do it and you lose – lose your dexterity, of course, if you don't.

7) BE: Well, he was um uh he worked at Westing House. He was an electronic technician at Westing House and a musician at night. Yeah he played all over Pittsburgh. He was pretty well known.

8) BJ:           Oh! What was his first name?

9) BE: Eugene

10) BJ:          Eugene=

11) BE: =Eugene.

12) BE: Yeah, he played uh quite a few instruments but his main one uh, when he was playing everywhere in Pittsburgh was piano and he it's amazing 'cause he he was a born musician. And you know never – he played piano and never took any lessons or anything like that but could just play anything. In fact when uh when uh out of town talent would come into town to pl- to perform at different places uh sometimes big name st-stars why they – they wouldn't even have to rehearse. They just tell him what they wanted and he'd play it. They'd go right along. It's just amazing.

13) BJ: Wow. Wow.

14) BE: It was just fantastic

15) BE: He was. He died in 1976. Yeah, so it's, let's see, it's about twenty seven years? I guess – is that twenty seven years?

16) BE: Ah, well, they um. Lemme see how can I say uh they had um years ago during World War II. They were always in business. And different types of business. But in the forties they were they were in the beer business up in Mt. Washington. And they would s=

17) BJ: =the beer business?

18) BE: Yeah they would uh t- sell uh you know sell cases of beer [to uh]

19) BJ: [yeah], a distributor.=

20) BE: =uh yeah a distributor. And um that's what they had until in the, let's see, when they finally sold that they got an Auto - a Birks Auto store down on North Side on east of Heinz street. And that's where they were in business for a good while until um Allegheny mall came in and (laugh) drove out a lot of businesses. And that's that's what happened to that.

21) BE: They lived in Squirrel Hill for a while, but not for long. They lived in different parts 'cause I was uh the depression was really bad and my older brother and myself stayed with my grandparents and we stayed in squirrel hill and my parents and I had twin brothers. And they lived in different different areas where you know my my mother. They just wouldn't accept any kinda help. And they always wanted to do anything everything on their own so ummm. As I said I never did stay with her after you know a certain uh.

22) BE: They were Russian immigrants. Yeah, they came over originally oh god knows how long...I even have his citizenship papers – my grandfather's. And uh he started out like most immigrants you know. They start and then they bring n thier family over and uh he. ((pause)) I forgot I think his his brother uh arranged for him to come over.

And then he would uh he had he was like a pushcart peddler to and go push carts to mining towns selling you know shoelaces and different kinds of household items. And then after that he started in business. Then he then he owned stores and everything And then he bought property and he became, you know, they just worked themselves up, it was absolutely amazing. And uh, he sent for my uh grandmother and uh and my mother who was three years old when she came over here.