

Sinch O'Shar  
Oct. 11, 1939.

# 3.

CASE HISTORY OF A POLE.

I came here as a boy 5 years, 7 months old. I was born in 1873 - Dec. 18. I went to St. Peters school on Belmont Ave. for three years. From there I went to the Morton St. school two year s. At eleven, I worked at Johnson and Murphy Shoe Factory on Market St.

I was born in Frizstak, Galicia. It was a little city. It had markets and everything. We lived alongside a school. My father was a tailor. His name was Albert, my mother, Amelia.

I remember a monument of St. Florence which was near the school. We used to play around this monument.

I got a job at Fritz Tailor Shop on Richmond St. It was the time of the big blizzard March 12, --. I worked there for four years. At night time at eight ~~we~~ started to snow. We got up in the morning and we could not leave the house to go work. Nobody could get to work. We had sleds, pulled by horses to get out. When we had to go uphill another team of horses had to be used.

I worked at Seitz's Hat factory on Blum St. for 20 years. At this time I took an interest in undertaking business. While working, I ran the undertaking business.

When I was a boy about 16 I was the first Altar Boy when the Polish people organized their church. They had the first mass on William St., called St. Mary's church. It was held in a hall. From there we moved to St. Peter's church on Livingston St. There we had masses every day. And then we bought a Baptist Church on Belmont Ave., ( Today : St. Stanislaw Parish ). Next to that was a tailor shop next door. The parish bought the tailor shop and made that the first school for Polish children and on top of

1873

that was where the priest lived.

And then I mixed up in politics.

In 1889 we built the St. Stanislaw's Church. It still stands today.

I belonged to the Republican Party on Jones St. There was no Democratic Party. I was one of the representatives and I was treasurer. I was one of the organizers of the Pulaski Fife and Drum Corps.

We put up a slate. I put up for the clubhouse and upkeep. I paid for the instructor.

I was one of the organizers of the Polish Calvineers. And I belonged to different organizations. My funeral parlor was on Livingston St.

At that time I was an office boy in a funeral home carrying ice to bodies. We did not embalm them in those days. I had to help myself out. My father died when I was five.

I'm married now 46 years. I met my wife on Lincoln St. I have six boys and a girl.

I started in politics at the time of Grover Cleveland. Those were hard times. We had to go out and get soup in pails and one loaf of bread a day.

I am a Democrat since the time of Roosevelt. Conditions were caused by lack of production. There was not enough of food to go around. Today we can do the same thing with 5 men that we did with a thousand men at that time. Inventions, that's what makes it.

We used to go around with young fellows. We went Christmas calling and to parties. I used to take interest in Polish shows. We used to run them in Krueger's. All the young fellows used to

go out every day to different places for enjoyment.

When I joined the Democrats I have always been active in politics. They selected me to serve on the election for the Assembly and I was Legislator in 1932. When they ran us a second time we all got beat.

I was a delegate to the 18th Amendment Repeal. I was a delegate to the National Convention in Phila. Democratic Convention.

I was one of the electors in this state in 1936.

I ran for Sheriff in 1938. I was defeated. There was a recount. I take part in all Democratic organizations and do hard work. You try to do the right thing for them and they don't recognize them. I won't mention anything about money. I belong to all the Polish organizations around here. I work in church services <sup>in</sup>, Polish Church and American church.

I belong to these organizations:-

Polish Calvineers.

Pulaski Fife and Drum Corps.

St. Casimirs.

Polish National Building and Loan Ass'n.

St. Stanislaw's Benefit Society.

White Eagles.

Polish Falcons ( President )

John Sobeiski Soc.

Kosciuszko Soc.

St. Martins Soc.

Wolnosz Benefit Ass'n.

Holy Name Soc.

Polish American Democratic Club.

1940  
45  
1895

Elks.

Young Men and Ladies Eucki Ass'n.

I am the owner of the property of the Young Men and Ladies ~~Ass'n.~~ Ass'n. I bought a Russian church and turned it into a clubhouse.

I met my wife when I was 20 years old. Together we used to go to different parties. That is how we met.

I am in the undertaking business 45 years.

In the old days we put the bodies in the ice box the day before the funeral and then put the body in the casket the next morning. I went to embalming school in New York. After I got through schooling and see my way I retired from the factory where I was working and set up my own establishment.

" What made you go into politics? "

Oh, for my pastime. I took an interest in it.

" What did you do when you were a Legislator? "

Well, I passed laws, what do you think! I worked for the Bill appropriating money for the Pulaski Skyway. I helped to pass law for Sons of Poland to organize outside of State.

I ran for Freeholder in 1934. Had no chance.

"Do the Polish people always vote for you?"

90% of Polish people are Democrats. They have given me all their support. I have always been loyal to them.

" Tell me more about politics. "

In politics, we darsn't say anything out of school.

I can't think now, to busy.

Proper way would be to do this from childhood up.

I know I'M the oldest Polish resident in Newark.

~~REMARKS~~

On Case # 3.

He entered the Renouard Embalming School in New York.

# 3 became the first Polish undertaker and embalmer in Newark or its vicinity.

Always active in political circles, # 3 served in 1932 as a member of the New Jersey Legislature, is a member of the Democratic advisory board, was elected as a Democratic elector in 1936, and at present is the Polish Democratic leader in Essex County.