

Case History # 6.

October 19<sup>th</sup> 1939.

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CASE HISTORY OF A 2nd GENERATION POLE.

I was born in Newark, July 24, 1911. The day I was born my father, who was repairing shoes at the time, the news reached him that it was a boy, he dropped the shoes and bought my sisters new shoes. Being the only boy born in the family, and the last. When very young I was always sick. But I turned out to be quite healthy today. When six years old, my mother passed away during the flu epidemic. Therefore, I was brought up by my father and 4 sisters. And I believe they done a good job.

Attended Morton Street grammar school from which I graduated. In my school days I was very active in all events. I was assistant chief on the police force. Belonged to the "Just For Boys Dramatic Club" organized by the Newark Evening News. I always managed to get one of the leading parts.

After finishing grammar school I went to Essex County Boys Vocational School. During that time the school organized a student council body similar to the Commissioners in Newark. Each department had a head, such as Police, etc. As assistant campaign manager for a school chum, who was elected on that body, I became by appointment, Deputy Commissioner of the Police force. We held court every afternoon. It was my job to penalize the various complaints, such as sweeping the school grounds, picking up papers and cash fines. After my second year at Vocational I was made shop foreman in the class and held that till the finish.

Finishing Vocational school, seeing my buddies having cash in their pockets, had an urge to go to work, which was my big mistake. Started to work as an errand boy for the A and P. I got a very small salary. Later, was made a clerk. Having worked for them three years, my salary still very small, I was given the opportunity to work for the Ferry Hat Co. in Newark. Starting at the bottom, learned practically all there is to know in hatting. After a few years Mr. Charles



Ferry, President, called me in his office and asked me if I would care to learn one of the most important branches in the hatting line, dying. Being thrilled at the chance, was sent to school in New York run by the National <sup>n</sup> Aaline & Dye Co. with my expenses paid plus a salary. Studied there for six months.

On my return was put in charge of the Dying Department with about 30 men under me. Having quite a difficult job, I had to work late hours including Sundays, to straighten out my formulas.

Things were running along fine.

Business dropped considerably, plant went into receivership and was closed down.

I was out of work for about 3 weeks. The plant was taken over under a new manager, hiring their own crew of foremen, had to go to work as a starter.

Having always made pretty good money, and growing into manhood, married a very charming girl, Mary -----, from Irvington, who came from an excellent family. I opened up my own apartment and was very happy. During these years, being always interested in some Polish organization, one in particular -

our  
- Sonax and Daughters Of Poland. Having a newspaper of my own, I was made business manager. This newspaper has received many compliments, not only from the Poles in U.S.A., but in Europe. It was put on display in Warsaw during the Polish Youth Congress there in 1931. Mr. A. Gorelski, who was the President, was sent to this Congress by the Republic of Poland.

This organization, having grown considerably, planned on expanding in Newark where it was organized. Mr. Gorelski, with many associates, including myself, spent many a night organizing other groups in New Jersey, such as Elizabeth, Hillside, Irvington and Nutley. I was transferred to the Irvington group, where I lived at the time. Was elected President after its second year in existence and held the office for two years.

During the two years, having been instrumental in putting out a little pamphlet



of our own known as " The Crystal " including all activities and reports of various members, good and bad - were put in. After some time I joined the Irvington Falcons, which is a nationally known organization. Was made treasurer and hold that job till this day.

Being very active in political circles and very popular with the women. In 1938 was asked to managed the Polish Falcons camp in Summerville, N.J., leaving the job I held at the time, accepted this position not realizing that it was a summer job.

After the season was over, I was out of work for three days. Was asked to work as custodian of the Polish Falcon Club - 280 New York Avenue, Newark, which I am now located.

In this building, we rent halls for various affairs, such as weddings, parties, meetings, etc. Having seen many different types of many different people, not only have to be a bartender. One must know how to treat different types of people. At times it is very boring and yet one must contend with this. I now live in E. Orange with my wife and sister and brother-in-law.

The Polish people today are more patriotic than happened in the years past. Always being very thrifty and good sports - it seems they have changed considerably due to the crisis of war. They do not blame the war on the German people, even though they fought with them many times. This blame is put on the heads of the German and Polish Government. I feel that the people have been sold-out. (Do not quote me on this.) They were always good warriors, and still are, and I believe Poland will rise again just as strong as she has been before. And if they do --- will prepare themselves more strongly for such events as these.