

Sinch O'Har
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case history

CASE HISTORY OF A POLE.

I was born in Galicia, March 1, 1898. My father owned his own land. He was carpenter, cooper-man, jack of all trades. I was taught these things by my father, He wanted me to learn a trade early in my life.

The other side is different. When you are 9 or 10 years old you can't play hookey like here, You got to work and study. I went to school at the age of 8 from 8 in the morning till four in the afternoon. After school we had to watch cows and work on the farm.

When I was 13 I belonged to the volunteer fire department. At 18 I was a member of the Polish Falcons. The population of my town was 196. We had two schools but no theatres or dance halls. Parties were run in houses. We had to travel 3 miles to the theatre.

The Falcons was like the Boy Scouts. We hiked, organized sports and had the same fun as boys here do.

At the age of 16 I went to Germany to attend a gardners school. I was there 3 years. After those years I came to the U.S. in March 31, 1907. I liked farming but there was not enough for us all. My life on the farm was better than in Germany and when I first came to the U.S. At home I got plenty to eat and had clothes, but this could not last for long. On the other side we drank very little.

When I first came here it looked bad to me and I could not get a job. Teddy Roosevelt was President. I came to Newark and it was $2\frac{1}{2}$ months before I got a job. I've been in Newark ever since. My big problem was inability to speak English. I attended night school and in one year was able to get around.

My first job was in the Rivet works on Lafayette St. The

salary was \$4.50 a week. We worked 10 hours a day and six days a week. When I was young I seldom went out. I stayed home to learn things. I was also a member of the Polish Falcons, in 1908 I was gym teacher in Nest # 104, At that time it was Nest # 2. In 1910 I was in a Falcons school for four days. This was a drill school. In 1912 I was to Phila. to attend a drill school. One of the instructors came from the other side.. I was there 5 weeks. This was done to build our bodies. In 1914 I attended another drill school in Paasaic for 2 weeks. We marched, sang songs, learned rifle shooting and military drill. I was very interested in military books and spent much of my time studying these books. From 1910 to 1926 I worked hard to build the Falcon organization.

At the time the World War broke out many Poles from Newark went to fight for Poland. I collected cigarettes, money, etc, for the boys on the other side. I got married in 1911 so I was unable to go there.

In 1924 and 1925 I went to a Falcon school in Whippany, N.J. to teach children how to read and write Polish. In 1926 and 1927 I taught on South Market St, teaching children Polish.

To-day I can't get a job.

The gardner trade was bad in this country and never worked at it. If I had the brains I have today I'd stay on that job.

I had plenty of bad luck, but I never left home. (His Newark home.)

I became a citizen in 1927.

I am still active in Polish organizations but now I have cooled off. I am not so active as when I was younger. There are different people now. Before all kinds of Polish groups stuck together better than like now. To-day there are too many politicians and

and they don't ~~know~~ understand what they are doing.

I have four children. They all had something to eat. One is married and three stay with me. Only one boy works and he only makes \$10.00 a week. I look for a job in all my spare time.

All my life I spent in the Polish Falcons.

I have plenty of pictures and can show you about these early days of the Falcons.

I save all material on Poles - books, letters, papers. For 5 years I saved every issue of Sokol (Polish paper published in Pittsburg: Sinch) and they asked me for these copies because they did not have them.

This has been too much hurry-up and I can't remember everything. You will have to come some evening to my house and I could talk to you more.