

Historical Collections, Bridgeport Public Library
Oral History Project: “Bridgeport Working: Voices from the 20th Century”
Interview with Samuel Liskov, by M. Witkowski, November 21, 1997.

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I: I can't believe that I finally got you here. How many years have I been talking about this?

SL: A couple of years, or more.

I: Hi, Sam. I've known you for a long time and I finally got you here. Can you say your name for me and the year you were born?

SL: My name is Samuel Liskov, but everyone calls me Sam and I was born in Bridgeport, Connecticut on March 18, 1908.

I: March 18, 1908 which would make you how old?

SL: Well, I'm pushing 90.

I: Oh that's wonderful. Well, we're going to start at the beginning. I'd like to know about your childhood and if you could tell us a little bit about your parents and immigration from Russia?

SL: Well, I was born in the city of Bridgeport. I've lived here all my life except for three or four years away at school. I've lived in the North End all my life.

I: Tell us a little bit about where your folks came from.

SL: My folks came from Russia. My mother came with my two brothers and my father had been in the Czar's army in the Russian-Japanese war, but after 20 months, he decided to take off, so without telling anybody, he took off and went over the hill.

I: Meaning deserted?

SL: He deserted and got to London and then sent for my mother and my two older brothers.

I: Oh, so they had been born in Russia?

SL: They had been born in Russia. That was Russia then.

I: What was your father's name?

SL: My father's name was Nathan. I have my mother's steerage papers on the ship she came in and her name is listed with my two brothers and they were going to come to America.

I: What year would that have been?

SL: 1907.

I: And what are the names of your mother and two brothers?

SL: My mother's name, God rest her, was Esther Liskovsky. I had it legally shortened after I was admitted to the Bar in 1939. But, my birth certificate says Liskovsky.

I: And your brothers' names were...

SL: My oldest brother was Kieve and my middle brother was Eliot. Elihu, was the Hebrew name.

I: So they came over from?

SL: They came over all together and landed at Ellis Island. Their names are on the Honor Wall. I had it placed there when they were rededicating Ellis Island as a port of entry. They came in in 1908. In 1907, rather.

I: In 1907? Into New York?

SL: They came into the port of New York at Ellis Island in June, 1907 and as my mother said, "You were born nine months after I got off the boat."

I: So you were born in New York City?

SL: No, I was born in Bridgeport.

I: Oh, you were born in Bridgeport. What made them come to Bridgeport?

SL: Because my father was here. He had come to Bridgeport to join his brother, my Uncle, Marx Stein, who was a tailor over on Wood Avenue for many years. He was also called up in the draft, but he had an agent who took him across with four other people in a group to Germany. They bribed the guards or something the day he was supposed to report at the induction center.

I: This was Max?

SL: *Marx*. His name really was Max, but being a Socialist, he changed it to Marx and he took the name of Stein which was his fiancée's maiden name, family name.

I: So your Uncle Marx was a Socialist?

SL: Well yes, he was quite an intellectual. He used to write for and send in articles to the Jewish newspapers in New York. I think it was the Journal and there were several Jewish newspapers that were published daily or weekly in New York City. He was a very well educated person.

I: Was he in the Socialist party in Bridgeport?

SL: Well, I don't know whether he was a member of the Socialist Party, but I think he was a voter for Jasper McLevy¹ when McLevy was, for many years, trying to become, for many years, mayor of the city of Bridgeport.

¹ Jasper McLevy was Mayor of Bridgeport from 1933-1957 and a member of the Socialist Party

I: So your father came over to work with Marx Stein?

SL: No, no, he didn't come to work here, but he wanted to settle in America and bring the rest of his family here so he sent for my mother and my two brothers. They came in, I think it was the end of June 1907. That's why I purchased one of Steiglitz's steerage pictures which I have here, an original.

I: From Ellis Island, that he took?

SL: No. He took the picture on a boat. I wanted a picture always because there's a figure in there that looks so much like my mother. It isn't she, but she could have been on that boat or the next boat.

I: I saw that photograph in your study. Beautiful. Now, so you were born nine months later after the day she arrived in Bridgeport?

SL: Yes. I was born the day after Saint Patrick's Day, as I tell all my Irish friends.

I: That's right, March 18.th isn't it Saint Joseph's Day?

SL: It's the day after Saint Patrick's Day. My mother, God rest her, didn't want to miss the parade, so she gave birth to me on the 18th instead of the 17th. They used to have a Saint Patrick's Day parade here.

I: Oh yes, well we still do. Where did your folks live in Bridgeport when they first came here?

SL: On the steerage papers it said she was coming to 66 Lexington Avenue to meet her husband Nathan Liskovsky. The boys were listed also on the steerage papers as passengers on this ship which docked in New York and they were coming to stay with their father. His name was again repeated. And my mother came with twelve rubles.

I: Amazing.

SL: They were free of all the longer list, --that laundry list of diseases so they were admitted and my father met them I presume and came to Bridgeport where my uncle had a residence. My uncle, Marx Stein.

I: So did they stay with your uncle for a while?

SL: And then, subsequently, I don't know when, I think they moved from Lexington Avenue, in the middle of the block between Washington Avenue and Harral Avenue which is sort of, it might be termed, as "safe house" where immigrants came. It was over Feinberg's grocery store, which was in the middle of the block. Sixty-six Lexington Avenue. It's now part of the Charles Green housing development.

I: Oh, it is. Okay. So they lived there for a short time?

SL: I don't know when. Then they moved to Wallace Street. Wallace Street is a little street running between Grand Street and North Avenue. It's opposite the county jail.

I: Oh, yes. I know where it is.

SL: It's a little short street. They lived in the flat on Wallace Street.

I: What did your father do for work when he--?

SL: My father was a peddler. He had a horse and wagon just as a great many other immigrants had and they peddled. In the summer time they would go down to Water Street where there was a big open air market and load up with whatever was available and peddle it around the streets of Bridgeport. That was in the summer. It was a seasonal business. The rest of the year I think that he picked up junk and sold it to the Jacob Brothers Scrap Yard or Handleman's. Maybe they were called rag pickers. I'm not sure. There was some term that was ascribed to these junk peddlers.

- I: There were probably a lot of them back then. Must have been keen competition.
- SL: Well, there were because it was something they could do. I remember that my father had a horse and wagon and we kept it in the barn in back of the house where we lived. In fact, one of my earliest recollections was across the street on State Street, between John and State Streets, there was a big open horse auction lot and once a week they would have a horse auction and if one of the peddler's horses developed some disease or became lame or something like that, they would go to Hamilton's Brothers who had a stable there. There was a row of old houses on John Street with an entrance on John and perhaps on Broad Street. It might be where the western edge of the Chase Manhattan Bank property is now. Or maybe where the old Algonquin Club was.
- I: So your dad was lucky enough to actually be able to own his own horse.
- SL: Yes, he could look into the mouth of a horse and look over the teeth and kind of go over their legs to make sure that they were sound.
- I: So how long did he continue that work?
- SL: Well, I don't really know. When I was about seven years old, in 1915, my father had apparently been quite enterprising or whatever, and he was able to have a house built. It was a two family house on Taft Avenue in Bridgeport about half way down the street between Madison and Park Avenue. The rest of it was owned by James Beech who gave the Beechward Park and the site of Central High School, or sold to the city of Bridgeport later on. And Beech had his orchards

there. He had peach and apple orchards and then they cut through the rest of Taft Avenue.

I: Isn't that barn still there at the foot...

SL: It could be. It's maybe three or four hundred feet before you come to Lincoln Boulevard.

I: Yes, there's still, I think, something standing from that original farm.

SL: Yes, there are some two and three family houses there.

I: So, he actually bought a house.

SL: He had a house built by a firm of Ike Schine's father, Ike Schine who founded the City Lumber Company. Isaac E. Schine whom everybody called Ike Schine. His father was a carpenter and I think that the firm name was Goldman and Schine Carpenters and they build a two family house which is still standing at 144-146 Taft Avenue in Bridgeport. It's several hundred feet going west toward Park Avenue.

I: So, did you live in that house?

SL: We lived there for a while.

I: Upstairs or downstairs?

SL: We lived on the second floor. Yes, the middle floor and rented out the other two floors, the other two flats. The third floor didn't have a front and back porch, but it had all the other rooms. The house was designed by an architect whose name was Dixon. I don't remember his first name, whether it was Edward Dixon, but he was a well-known architect. Ike Schine's father and Mr. Goldman was a firm of carpenters and they built the house.

I: What year was that?

SL: That was in 1915.

I: So, how old were you? You were in--?

SL: I was about seven years old.

I: So you were just getting to school age.

SL: Well, I had been taken by a friend, not by my parents, to Shelton School on Wheeler Avenue, which is no longer an educational facility but has been converted into some kind of senior or housing project condominiums. It's down closer to Main Street -- Wheeler Avenue. It had a clock tower and the clock worked. The clock had been given by the Shelton family, which was a well-known local family. They had some business or industrial background and the school is named the Shelton School. Although there was a Wheeler family down at the corner of Main Street and Wheeler Avenue, where Wheeler Avenue begins and then had an old colonial house on the northwest corner of Main and Wheeler Avenue with a stand of quince trees in back of the house where we used to, when they were ripe enough, be able to come out of Shelton School and go down pick up quince out of Mrs. Wheeler's quince lot. And, hoped that she wouldn't appear to chase us away.

I started in Shelton School and then in some part of 1915 or early 1916, we moved to Easton because by then my father had become a cattle dealer and since he was well versed in animals because he lived in a rural city in Russia, he bought calves or cows that no longer produced milk and he wanted to be closer to his source of supply. He still had a horse and wagon because I remember coming to Bridgeport on the horse and wagon. It was an all day affair to come down from

Easton. We lived up on Aspetuck Road, which is called Westport Road now. It was just above the Aspetuck Dam. It was a hydraulic company, although no one ever used the term hydraulic company. They called it the Water Company. They owned the property. We had a good-sized farmhouse with three or four barns and maybe four or five hundred acres of land. It was the first farm above the dam that spans Westport Road as you come in from Black Rock Turnpike, almost opposite Old South Road. I went to a one-room schoolhouse in Easton. I must have been, maybe by that time, in second grade because we were there until 1919, until after the war, the First World War.

I: Your father didn't do anything in the war, did he?

SL: Well, we moved back to Bridgeport at the corner of Taft Avenue and Madison Avenue. He bought a three family house and we lived in the middle floor and I went back to Shelton Grammar School from which I graduated in 1922.

I: So during World War One you were actually living in...?

SL: We were living in Easton and I went to this one room schoolhouse. My brothers were older and the one room schoolhouse was down the road from Osborn's General Store, which later became Greizer's Store. The Greizer family bought it and ran it. It was a very intensive course of study. We would start at 8:30 in the morning and the teacher would start with the first grade for a half-hour and then every half-hour she'd go to the next grade until noontime and then we had lunch. We brought our own lunch. We had to go out to the outhouses. They were in back of the school. The school was just

down the hill from the corner of where Center Road crosses Westport Road in Easton. My brothers were older and they went to the Academy, which is a building at the corner of Center Road and Westport Road, across from the Congregational Church. I believe that at the time, the second floor of the building was called the Academy, the building was called the Academy, but the sixth, seventh, and eighth grades were in the Academy and the one room schoolhouse were the first five grades. There were no kindergartens in those days or pre-school.

I: So then, when you moved to Bridgeport, like around 1919, Taft and Madison?

SL: Yes, we moved back to Bridgeport. It was around early 1919.

I: And then you went to school?

SL: And went back to Shelton School because the neighborhood that served where we went to live.

I: What was your father doing then for work?

SL: My father became disabled. He lost his sight. In 1928, my older brother Kieve had become a journeyman electrician and we opened up a store across the street from where we lived at Taft and Madison. We opened up an electric and radio shop.

I: How did your father become blind? Did he just have --?

SL: He had a couple of accidents and it affected his eyesight. He was more than legally blind. He could see very little. I remember some state workers used to come from the state association for the blind to teach him how to weave baskets.

I: Oh, my. So did your mother work then?

SL: No, my mother was strictly a homemaker.

I: So how did you, through high school, how did your brothers have money or your family have money.

SL: Well, my brother worked various places, my older brother Kieve. Living was really was very cheap in the 20's.

I: So this was during the Depression, though.

SL: Well, the Depression, really. Then we opened the store. When I graduated from high school, which was 1926, I got a job in Read's Department Store in the house-furnishing department, down in the basement of the Read building at the corner of Broad and John. I worked there two years and then got laid off. Things got a little slow. That's when Read's was owned by some of the well-established families -- Fields, the Warners from Warner Brothers and --.

I: And it was still on Main Street?

SL: No, it had just moved from Main and Fairfield where it had been for many years, over to Broad and John Street because the tendency of the business community was to go west and that's when Read's decided to build their five story building there at Broad and John.

I: But you did work during high school a little bit, didn't you?

SL: We sold papers downtown.

I: And you'd give the money to your family?

SL: Yes. It was sort of combined enterprise. My father was able to do some work. He had somebody who did the driving and he would handle the transaction with the farmers. Everybody knew Nate, my father. All the farmers knew him.

I: So he was still involved with cattle?

SL: Yes. In fact, when we were living in Easton, I remember my two brothers and a few farm hands would drive ten or twelve bologna cows, they called them because they no longer supplied milk, down the old Black Rock Turnpike from Redding or upper Easton or Redding or Bethel down the old Black Rock Turnpike all the way down to North Avenue and then along North Avenue over to Asylum Street to the slaughter house. Our job was to make sure that the cows stayed in the herd formation so they wouldn't stray off or wander off the road into some farmer's meadow or lot.

I: Quite a different life than now, huh?

SL: Yes. And by that time my father had acquired a truck, a Reo truck. They called them Reo Speed Wagons, a large delivery type of vehicle. I remember driving. My father would say, "Would you go up to so and so of Redding and pick up a couple of cows and take them to the slaughter house?"

I: And you would do that?

SL: Yes.

I: How old were you?

SL: I may have been about seventeen.

I: So you were busy between peddling papers and --?

SL: Well, that came later on. The papers started around 1919 after we moved back to Bridgeport when there were three daily papers. There was the "Post," the "Star," and the "Times." The "Star" was a newcomer in the field. The "Times" had been started back in the colonial times, I believe.

I: Yes, we have some early issues of it. They merged in 1926 or something. So which one did you sell?

SL: We sold all three on a daily basis. The "Star" sold for a penny. I think it used to cost us three quarters of a cent.

I: So you and both your brothers did that?

SL: Yes.

I: Was your father involved with this, uh politically at all, too?

SL: No.

I: Never, just your uncle?

SL: No, he stuck to his pressing and tailoring over on Wood Avenue, right opposite Wood Park near Benham Avenue and Grove Street.

I: Oh yes, that was a nice neighborhood then. Interesting. So, when you graduated from high school, you went to work at Read's?

SL: Yes, I got a job working in the basement at Read's in the house-furnishing department. I remember that first I was in the shipping room, which was in the basement. Then I was put in the house-furnishing department and we had the clothes wringers that you would mount on the soap stone washtubs and turn a handle and they would wring out the clothes.

I: Just the wrinkles you mean, in the clothes?

SL: No. They would wring out the water. They would be washed in washtubs. They were metal washtubs. Before the first washing machines came through.

I: The old wringer washing machines.

SL: And there was the luggage department there. The buyer, Mr. Taylor, was the buyer for the house-furnishing department. Each department had its own buyer.

I: Someone else I talked to had worked at Read's and she said women had their departments and men had their departments. Sports, you wouldn't have been in Sports. Or, you would have, men would have.

SL: Well, most of the men who worked there worked in furniture or the shoe department, which was on the first floor. Some friends of mine worked in lady's shoes and furniture. In those days, Read's had a very fancy restaurant up on the fifth floor called the Venetian Tea Room.

I: That was a fancy department store. It was brand new at that point.

SL: Yes, it was. They had the carriage trade. The people would come down from Greenfield Hill, from Southport, the people with money, the establishment people. Their Packards or Franklins or Pierce Arrows would line up and the chauffeurs would be waiting for the madam to come out of Read's. They had the carriage trade in 1926, '27, '28.

I: So how long did you work there?

SL: Just two years. We had to ring in by 8:15 in the morning because the store either opened up at 8:30 or 9 o'clock, something like that. And it would close at six except on Saturday nights it was open until nine.

I: So by that time you were --?

SL: I got eighteen dollars a week.

I: Okay. I was going to ask. And did you have any benefits or anything?

SL: No. Eighteen dollars a week which was very good money for a week's work for a high school student. In the early days all the society people would be customers of Read's. [dog bark]

I: Did you get to know many of the people?

SL: I got to know some of the help and some of the customers. I remember Mrs. Fields coming in one day.

I: Is that of the Warner family Fields?

SL: Yes. I think she had just married. She came from Long Island, I believe and married into the Warner family. She came in and I was down at the bottom of the stairwell and she had a long list. She was going to set up house over in Sasko Hill or somewhere there in Southport. We were able to get most of the things written up until she asked for a double boiler and I didn't know what a double boiler was. I took her over to the wash boilers and she wanted a double boiler that you cook cereal with. Pyrex was first coming out with their glassware. Pyrex is that made by Corning? And she said, "Oh no, I don't mean a wash boiler, I want a double boiler. One of those glass double boilers." So I went over to one of the older clerks, one of the women there, who used to be in the china department and I said, "Where are the double boilers?" and she took me to one of the islands there on the floor and said that this was a double boiler. I had no idea what a double boiler was.

I: Well, you were still living at home, right?

SL: Sure and my mother had never used a double boiler.

I: Did you speak Russian at home?

SL: No, we spoke mostly Yiddish. We spoke our native dialect.

I: How did you learn English?

SL: Well, in school and on the street.

I: And your father spoke English.

SL: Yes.

I: Did your mother speak English, too?

SL: Just sort of a broken English. She could understand what we wanted. She was quite orthodox, too. My father wasn't so --.

I: Where did you go to Temple?

SL: We went to a synagogue. I was bar mitzvahed on High street, which is no longer there. It was redeveloped. It's a couple of streets beyond the Majestic Theatre on that slope coming down from Washington Avenue to Main Street there was street called High Street. And then, that merged with a synagogue that had opened up many years before on Wallace Street, the street I was born on. Later on they bought the church building at the corner of Grand and Madison Avenue when the Slovak Lutheran Church moved out of that building and they built a church across the street. I think it's called Slovak Lutheran. It's not Trinity Lutheran which is a little further up on the corner of Catherine Street and Grand.

I: Well, back then, what would be the biggest immigrant groups that you remember when you were growing up in the neighborhood you were in? Were there a lot of Slovak population?

SL: There were ethnic groups all over town. There was a good-sized Jewish population, mostly on the East Side and then they started to come over into the north end. Then there was the German-Jewish group that belonged to the Park Avenue Temple which is now Bnai

Israel Synagogue on upper Park Avenue. They were down almost at Washington and Park where the original Park Avenue temple was, the Congregation Bnai Israel.

I: Do you remember a lot of Irish immigrants in the area at the time?

SL: No, I didn't really meet up with the Irish immigrants. There were a few. A couple on Wheeler Avenue. They would be here and there.

I: And you peddled papers in front of Saint Patrick's?

SL: And then in 1919, my brothers and I were peddling papers down town in Bridgeport and then we picked up route. We worked for somebody who had paperboys do certain street in the North End, the East End. There were maybe eight or ten route owners and they hired the kids to peddle the papers and they would do the collecting and so forth. I've forgotten the name of the fellow who had the one in the North End, but he suddenly decided that he's had it and gave it up. So, my older brother Kieve, he was quite enterprising. He said, "Let's go out and pick up a route."

I: So you started peddling papers at Oak Street and North Avenue?

SL: We started the route at the Oak Street School before they changed the name to Webster School. We went along North Avenue and picked up a few customers over as far as Park Avenue and all the side streets of Park Avenue. That was in 1922 before they had --.

I: So you got to know a lot of the houses and neighbors and things.

SL: Oh yes, and I still remember all the numbers on the route. We'll go along Park Avenue and I'll say that's 1875 Park at the corner of Merchant and Park Avenue.

I: The houses are still there.

SL: The houses are there. Or along North Avenue and all the side streets, like Lorraine Street, Herkimer, East Eaton, Chalmers, Bancroft. And that's where it ended. Beach lived on Park Avenue, just above Wade Street and it was all undeveloped. Then they cut through West Morgan Avenue and West Taft Avenue and McKinley Avenue. They still had Parrot's Pond, up there at the corner of Capital and Park Avenue, went down as far as Dixon Street. Old man Beach lived on Park Avenue, I think the number was 2019. It's sort of a Victorian type house. It's just above Wade Street and Dixon Street was just a little dirt road that wound up near Wade Terrace. There were three houses, three two family houses on Church Lane. Church Lane is now Calvin Street. Do you know where that is?

I: Yes.

SL: I think it's all built up. The Beach family owned those three two family houses and they had greenhouses between Park Avenue and Calvin Street when it was Church Lane. He had greenhouses there.

I: So your brother and you and your other brother, what was the other brother's name?

SL: Eliot.

I: So when did Kieve actually open up his electrical shop?

SL: When I got through with Read's in '28.

I: You both did it together?

SL: Yes. There was a vacant fish market across the street from where we lived at the corner of Madison Avenue and Wheeler Avenue. There were two stores there. One was Logan Brothers when they had these neighborhood stores. The other was a fish market and that became

vacant. My brother Kieve said, "Why don't we rent that store? We'll put in a few flashlight batteries and some bulbs and things like that. Some extension cords. You're not working and I'll go out on the jobs."

I: He had electrical training?

SL: Yes, he had taken the industrial course at Bridgeport High School where they went to the state trade school in the mornings. It was down on John Street, near Cortland Street, just before you get to Cortland Street. It was in, sort of, a three story red brick building there. Looked like a factory building, but it was a state trade school. He learned to be an electrician. In the afternoon he went to high school. An industrial course was a training course.

I: Well, it was a smart thing to do. So you helped with the shop and --?

SL: Yes, so I stayed in the store until my brother Eliot left his job. He was a cutter in the manufacturer of ladies' ware.

I: Where was that?

SL: On Crisson Avenue.

I: What was the name of the company, do you know?

SL: I don't know. It was run by some partnership. It was the other side of the Holmes and Edwards Silver Company. The factory was at the corner Seaview and Crisson Avenue. He went to work for the Leaf Textile, which was the forerunner of the Rug Barn on Third Avenue.

I: So how many years did you run the electrical store?

SL: Then we were in the store there and then I decided to go the Junior college of Connecticut. It opened up in 1929 and that's where I met my wife.

I: Were you going to be a teacher or did you already --?

SL: No, I was going to be an accountant originally because I took care of the books in the store. And we stayed in business whereas a lot of people went out during the Depression because we didn't discount -- we would sell something for one dollar or two dollars a week. It was sort of an advance layaway plan. We'd sell radios and washing machines --.

I: Oh, so they would take it but they'd pay you [unclear]--

SL: Yes. They would pay every week. They had a little book and we'd enter the payment because some of the bigger outfits would have them sign a note and they would discount the note and then, when the Depression came along, really set in 1930, '31, they would stop paying, they were out of work. People would be out of work and they couldn't make their payments.

I: You had made it so the payments were small.

SL: We held the paper and we went along with them until they paid up whereas the other retailers had discounted the notes with the bank, had gotten their cash at a discount, but when the people went bad there was a lot of repossessions.

I: So you sold radios and [unclear]?

SL: Yes and that's when, in 1929 and 1930, the first AC radios started to come out, the Philco and the Atwater Kent, [unclear], Crosley.

I: G.E.? Didn't General Electric start making radios?

SL: They licensed them. They had the license for a lot of the things. We serviced them. We learned how to fix them.

I: Great! I know who to bring my old radios to.

SL: I wouldn't know.

I: So meanwhile you were going to school?

SL: Then junior college opened up. I was [unclear] to be an accountant.

I: Which is the predecessor of the University of Bridgeport, right?

SL: Yes. It opened up a school around Fairfield Avenue in the old Lally residence which is just this side of that apartment house where the [unclear] Cadillac was, there were some old houses there between Norman Street and Yale Street on Fairfield Avenue and Dr. Cortwright, E. Everett Cortwright, had been a professor of education at NYU had got some industrial lists and a few bankers and people and had decided that Bridgeport ought to have a school of higher education. So he got some kind of a bill through the legislature to incorporate a school and become a junior college. I was out of school for a little over three years. I graduated in 1930. I went in in 1929, I believe it was and by the end of 1930 I'd completed a two year course. I was not an outstanding student, but I was average.

I: You met Helen there?

SL: Oh yes, I met Helen in 1929. She went on to NYU School of Education. She was in the first graduating class at junior college. I was in the second. She graduated in 1928.

I: And your running your little store by day somehow fitting it into the schedule?

SL: Somehow or other. You could hop on a jitney bus for a nickel and get downtown and walk over from Main and Fairfield, over to the school.

I: Were you involved in politics at that time at all?

SL: No.

I: Was Kieve?

SL: Kieve became involved with the Socialist Party because their headquarters used to be on Madison Avenue.

I: Oh, convenient.

SL: It was right across the street from where we lived. They had a little three-step walk-up to a little storefront.

I: So you knew everybody who probably walked in there?

SL: Yes, we knew Jasper and Schwarzkopf and [unclear].

I: Did you know Vita [unclear]?

SL: I didn't know Vita. They were married secretly.

I: That's what they say.

SL: She had a farm or something upstate.

I: Washington, Connecticut. So your brother used to attend all the meetings at the --?

SL: Yes.

I: Did he go out and campaign for Jasper McLevy.

SL: Oh sure, he campaigned. He put a high-powered loud speaker system in the old Model A Ford that we used for the store and he'd go up and down Main Street and around town campaigning for Jasper.

I: That was probably the first time that had ever been done.

SL: We have a picture, I think. In fact, one of the Democratic candidates, I think '31, I think a fellow by the name of Doug, wanted to have him arrested for not having a license. He was disturbing the peace with his loud speaker. Of course, he used to play those Souza marches -- the Washington Post March and all that.

I: So why was Kieve interested in --?

SL: He used to do a lot of reading and was a more of a philosophic nature than anything active although they brought him up on charges and kicked him out of the Socialist Party because he joined a protest march with the Young Communist League. The Communist Party was a legal party.

I: What year would that have been?

SL: I think around 1935-36.

I: The Young Communist League?

SL: Yes. Mike Russo was running for senator or governor. He had a big show [unclear] and moved to Boston years later. He had a show in the Federal Reserve Building in Boston.

I: A show?

SL: An exhibit of his paintings.

I: Oh yes, he was an artist. That's right.

SL: He married Pearl Cosby and Pearl had chained herself to a telegraph pole.

I: What year was that?

SL: I think 1935-36 because --.

I: Mid thirties. In Bridgeport?

SL: Yes, in Bridgeport.

I: This was at the same rally that Kieve got into trouble.

SL: Yes, he joined the march to protest McLevy, who was the mayor, honoring the captain of a Nazi ship.

I: Oh, not when the Hindenberg went over?

SL: No. That was earlier.

I: That was '37 actually.

SL: Thirty-seven? Maybe it was around '36.

I: Because 1936 would have been the centennial of the city. So there were a lot of different things going on.

SL: And in the old casino on State Street, which later became the lodge for the [unclear] I believe. The Masonic Order, the high Masonic Order. There was to be a reception for --.

I: For this Nazi--?

SL: Yes, for this captain who had a swastika on this ship flying this swastika. And so Kieve joined the march, from Main Street or somewhere from the north end of Main Street and they brought him up on charges and said it was consorting with the Communists.

I: Was he the only one at that time that was --? There must have been others in the march.

SL: Well, it was the Communist League. They had a regular organization.

I: But this was just before the war really broke out and there probably --

.

SL: And the papers played it--us, the Smith Act and Martin Dyes and his un-American Activities Committee was active so it was quite a thing.

I: So where were you during all this?

SL: I had just gotten out of law school. See I didn't go to law school until '33.

I: And you went in New York. You went to New York University also?

SL: Yes, they were good enough to take me with two years of pre-law. In those days you didn't need a degree to get into law school. Now you have to have a degree. Either a BS or a BA or something like that.

As I was telling someone the other day, they had a vacancy number 123 in the B division in the morning. They wanted to get the \$360.00 tuition. Now it's \$20,000.00.

I: So you would just take the train into New York?

SL: Yes, I would commute. I commuted for the first three or four months and then I lived in the Village. That's where I got educated. With all the Bohemians down there.

I: So after that rally, that's kind of interesting, that rally where everybody was protesting McLevy. That was an unusual thing at that time. Was he pretty popular with the --?

SL: He had a good core of fellow -- they weren't radicals, like the Socialist Party.

I: They were radicals?

SL: No, they weren't. They were followers of Norman Thomas who ran for president on the Socialist ticket.

I: Who had come to Bridgeport many times.

SL: Yes, he was a personal friend of McLevy's and he used to come here and give him support. Norman Thomas was a good speaker.

I: Did you meet him?

SL: I think I did meet him once, yes.

I: And Kieve was swept away by all of them?

SL: I think they kind of persuaded him to join up with the protest march.

I: Oh, you mean against the Nazis? They must have been very concerned at that time already. Things weren't quite --.

SL: I think it was before war had been declared. Must have been around '36.

I: Well, the centennial of the city was in 1936 and the Hindenberg flew over the city and signaled to Mayor McLevy a hello. They radioed to him and he spoke back to them to wish them good luck in that. But I think in 1937 is when it actually blew up. So it's the 60th anniversary this year.

SL: I think you have, in your archives, a picture that Freddie Schultz took of the Hindenberg over the city of Bridgeport.

I: Do you remember that at all?

SL: I remember the Hindenberg passing over but it blew up when it got down to New Jersey.

I: So you came back from going to school in New York and set up office. When did you quit the radio store?

SL: It was at least a year or two I continued in the store.

I: What did Kieve do after the --?

SL: He continued on with the electrical contracting.

I: He didn't get involved in politics anymore?

SL: Not too much.

I: He didn't become a Communist?

SL: No. Well, he never joined the party. As Jack Goldring once said to me, who was a member of the Communist Party and was indicted under the Smith Act and was later thrown out, somebody said to me, "Kieve was too erratic. They couldn't trust him." [laughs]

I: Where was Jack Bergen through all this?

SL: Jack Bergen was with Jasper. He went in the legislature.

I: Was Jack a friend of Kieve's, too?

SL: Oh sure, we all knew each other. I did a lot of things.

When we were kids, all the kids worked. Either they delivered telegrams for Western Union or they carried bags up at the old railroad station for people or they delivered orders for the mom and pop grocery stores that used to be on every corner.

I: You all helped out the family?

SL: Yes. It was nothing special about being a breadwinner or anything like that. It was expected that by the time eight or nine years old, you did something to earn something. You earned your keep.

I: Amazing. Nowadays --

SL: There was no such thing as --. You know, we'd get a dime on Saturday morning after we came home from the synagogue. My mother wouldn't handle my money because that was taboo. It would be on the bureau, or on the bed or someplace under a pillow. We'd get a dime to go to the movies, which only cost a nickel on Saturday afternoon. The other nickel went to buy a bag peanuts at the old Mohegan grocery. Mohegan had a big store on the first floor of the Newfield Building. The entrance was on Middle Street or at Golden Hill. You know where the Newfield Building is. It's 1188 Main.

I: When did you actually starting doing lawyer--? While you were at [unclear]?

SL: Then I decided, in '33 -- my father died in 1932.

I: You were still living at home?

SL: Yes, we were still on Madison Avenue.

I: All the boys were still at home?

SL: Yes. I was kind of influenced by my cousin, Louis Stein, Marx's son who went to Yale and Yale Law School. He got out in '33 and he

worked for --with some law publishing --. He didn't open an office right away. It was during the Depression and so he worked for one of these local -- I forgot the name of it.

I: So what did you do? Did you just--?

SL: So, I decided that maybe I'd like to be a lawyer.

I: Well, you had already gone to school in New York to be a lawyer, right, by this time?

SL: No. I was out for over three years after I got out of junior college. I just stayed in the store.

I: Oh, I see. But then you did go to NYU to law school. But when you returned --?

SL: When I returned, when I took the bar in 1936. I was admitted in '36 or January, 1937. I went into the store.

I: Yes, that's what you said before. But when did you actually start practicing law?

SL: I had a couple of friends or customers in the store who gave me a couple of bills to collect. In those days, once in awhile you'd have a chance to search a title and you got twenty bucks for it, twenty five dollars.

I: So you did it on the side and eventually--?

SL: Yes. As I used to tell my clients, I traded in my toolbox for a brief case.

I: That's what McLevy did. He turned his roofing job for his job as mayor, right? So Kieve was never given a job at the city hall, huh? All of McLevy's other cronies got jobs, didn't they?

SL: No, Kieve was elected a selectman in McLevy's first term and I think they got \$100.00 a year or something like that.

I: So he only served the first term and didn't want to continue or--?

SL: I don't know. I think he got kicked out a year or two later. I don't know what it was, a two year term--.

I: Yes. Well it's an interesting time. There are very few people who can talk about that period of time when McLevy first became mayor. How did you see the city change? Did you think it was a good thing at the time or --?

SL: I think that the city continued pretty much the same. McLevy really - they didn't have to worry about whether or not grass would grow in between the trolley tracks in 1933, '34 and '35 as had been predicted by the Republicans and Democrats when McLevy--. He came in on a protest wave because the president of the board of education went to jail for taking coal without paying for it. It was supposed to go to a school and it went to his cellar instead.

I: Nice.

SL: Harry Husted. There was a general resentment on the populace. I remember when on Saturday night McLevy would set up his little three foot ladder and soapbox at the corner of Cannon Street and Main. The Salvation Army Band would be up at Golden Hill and Main on Saturday night, having a sort of little revival with their five or six piece instruments.

I: This was before he became mayor?

SL: On Saturday, Kieve and I, maybe Eliot, too would walk from our house on Madison and Taft Avenue downtown. The library used to be open to nine o'clock and we would go up to the reading room.

I: Which is where I am now, right? No.

SL: No, it was the old building.

I: Oh, the old building on Main and John.

SL: Yes, Main and John Street.

I: Well, that 1927 then.

SL: That's right. That was demolished in 1927. That's when the city moved over to Broad Street, I think. The library.

I: So, what did you do, just prior to World War II?

SL: In '37, we were still at the store and one day I was going in to make a deposit in the old North End bank building which was at the corner of North Avenue and Main Street and the treasurer of the bank said, "Congratulations. I see you passed the bar. Are you going to open an office?" I said, "No, I have no clients." He said, "Well, we have two rooms upstairs that are vacant." Dr. Sidney Mooney had been there and a dentist had been in there and they went downtown to the old T. L. Watson Building at the corner of Main and John. There was a private bank called the T. L. Watson Bank and they had little offices upstairs. They moved there. He said, "We have two offices and you can have them for fifteen dollars a month."

I: Couldn't pass that up.

SL: So I said, "I'm not ready to open an office yet. I'm still working up at the store, but I'll think about it." And then we got married in August. In May or June of '37 I got hold of the manager of the bank --. Oh,

there was a real estate office that had to move off of the corner opposite Wheeler Avenue and Main Street. John and Jim Ryburn, James Ryburn, real estate and insurance office. They were in a little shack there. I think there's a pool parlor there now. It's diagonally across from Walgreen's, next to a gas station or something. There's a building in there. And, there were a couple of vacant lots there. I went down to see Ryburn and introduced myself to James Ryburn and said, "I'm thinking of opening up a law office." I still have my old shingle.

I: From when you first opened up your law office? That's wonderful.

SL: The gold leaf is still on.

I: So you finally left the radio store?

SL: No, I didn't leave. I opened the office, had some stationary printed up with a union label -- a union print shop and the label was on there. I was going through some old files the other day and my name was still Liskovsky then. I didn't change that until maybe '39 or so when one of my clients complained that he had to get up early to practice how to pronounce my name. We had a hearing before E. T. Buckingham who later became workmen's compensation commissioner. So this client said, "I had to get up at seven o'clock this morning to practice how to say your name so I wouldn't be embarrassed or you wouldn't be embarrassed."

I: Did you have a lot of clients who were involved with labor and that who had trouble --?

SL: No, I just had an ordinary Tom, Dick and Harry personal relationships with people. I represented no corporations, no retainers or anything like that.

I: How long did you stay in those offices there?

SL: I was in the bank building there for eighteen years, until '55 when they merged with City Trust. The old North End bank building merged, was absorbed by City Trust.

I: So then you moved further north?

SL: No. The rent, by that time, had gone up to twenty five dollars a month or something like that and Ryburn had his insurance office there and real estate office. And then he retired and then he sold out to Horace Loukes. Not Horace. Horace's father, I think. It's now called Loukes, Josephson and Fitzpatrick out in Fairfield, in Southport. I didn't have a secretary.

I: You did everything yourself?

SL: Yes, and if someone happened to come upstairs --. It was on the second floor of the building. There used to be a bank building on the corner of Main and North Avenue. The bank was down on the first floor on the corner and then there was the [unclear] market. It was a meat market and a grocery store and a printing company. And then there were eight or nine or ten apartments. It was a yellow brick building. I have a picture of that. So, if someone came in, Emma Wakely, who was the secretary, bookkeeper, typist, whatever, for Jim Ryburn, would call me up at the store. So I'd wash my hands, grab an empty briefcase and go down into the office.

And, in '37 we got married, in August. We lived in the [unclear] apartments which is now called, I think, the Cambridge apartments.

I: This was just before World War II?

SL: This was '37. Helen went to school.

I: She was teaching by this point?

SL: Oh, sure. She'd been teaching already, five or six years and she was making eleven or twelve hundred dollars a year. Sure.

I: And you stayed? You didn't go off to war or anything in World War II.

SL: No, I was called up. I went to Hartford and I was found 1A, but by that time I was 38 years old with two kids. The law was changed or something. They didn't take 38 year old males.

I: Which was fine.

SL: But I went to work in a defense factory.

I: Oh, you did? During World War II? Which factory?

SL: Hardware Specialties Company in Stratford. The Zimmer family owned it. Had to be in at six o'clock at night. We worked two or three hours and I worked on a little drilling machine.

I: So you did that while you were still doing your law practice?

SL: Yes. So I would be coming in late at night from the factory job. I was an air warden. I still have my tin hat?

I: During World War II?

SL: Yes, I was an air raid warden. We lived up [unclear] Avenue then in a flat we rented and I used to have quite a job telling the manager of the Merritt Theatre to put the lights off.

I: So when you worked for that defense plant. How many years did you work there? I didn't know that.

SL: I worked there about a year, at night, and the foreman asked, "Why are you coming in late all the time?" I said, "Well, I had an appointment with somebody in the office." He said, "Well, you know, you're losing money."

I: Was it piece work?

SL: No, we got forty cents an hour, I think. He says, "I've got to dock you for a half hour or an hour because you came in late." I said, "Well, I got ten or fifteen dollars from a client at this appointment." You could see he says, "Oh, forty cents against ten or fifteen. I don't blame you."

I: So you only lasted there about a year would you say?

SL: Yes, then they lost the sub contract or something. I don't know. There were a group of us. A couple of insurance salesmen, an accountant, another lawyer.

I: So you didn't try to work anyplace else during the war?

SL: No, I went to the blood bank and did a lot of other things.

I: What was it like being in Bridgeport at that period? Was it a busy town?

SL: Well, it was, I don't know, I was busy with my family. By that time Judy was born, she was already -- she was born in 1940. Andy was born in '44. I don't remember too much of that.

I: You were so busy, that's why. You were busy with your kids.

SL: I was busy trying to satisfy some clients in the office.

I: So the 1950's. You went into the state legislature--?

SL: In 1966.

I: Oh, it was. It was much later.

SL: Oh, yes. I was active in the party.

I: In the Democratic Party?

SL: Yes. I wanted to get into some kind of political track.

I: You didn't want to be a Socialist, like your brother?

SL: No, no.

I: Well, Kieve was no longer involved with the Socialist Party. What did he continue to do?

SL: Doing electrical work.

I: Oh, he did? And your other brother -- what was he doing?

SL: He was in the store. When I went into the office, pretty much full time, so my brother quit his job at the fabric place, I believe textile, and stayed in the store. He was busy with one thing or another. Eliot was married with a couple of kids and he was active with the Kennedy Center. He and his wife, his little son was somewhat slow and they were one of the original six couples who had a special situation. And he used to take the kids to Yankee Stadium and he'd go to all the affairs that they had and so forth. He was with Evelyn Kennedy and the other several parents. We were talking about that last night. Somebody was there from the Kennedy Center at a meeting up at Center [unclear]. You see, the Kennedy Center, those six parents were the forerunners of the State Department of Mental Retardation. They didn't have anything like that in Connecticut before.

I: What year would that have been around? Well, it would have been sixties. Was that around 1960, '62, or something? Later?

SL: I think it was even before then. I think it may have been in the '50's.

I: And they just named it the Kennedy Center later?

SL: Later on, yes. It was called originally something else.

I: I know we have some files on your brother. I do remember.

SL: They started a workshop over on Crisson Avenue. A fellow by name of Norton, Wesley Norton, I think his name was.

I: So you, meanwhile, went into the state legislature.

SL: Yes, then I became interested in public affairs of some kind or another and--

I: Well, I guess we'll just sort of finish off with the 1960's and when you were in the state legislature.

SL: Prior to going into the legislature, I saw some of these so called political people getting jobs here and there, so one day I went into the old city hall and Sam Tedesco was mayor and Lieutenant Governor and I said, "Sam, you're in Hartford, you're in Bridgeport, you're here in the mayor's office and I've been enrolling a lot of people in the Democratic Party, registering them as Democrats when they come down to be made voters and I think I'd like to do something in Hartford. You being the lieutenant governor, I'm sure that you have some influence." He said, "Yes, you're right." A couple of weeks later he called me up and said, "They're appointing two clerks to the Judiciary Committee." The Legislature was in session. It used to meet every two years then. He continued, "One will be a Democrat and one will be a Republican. Are you interested?" I said, "Yes." He

said, "You'll only have to go up two or three days a week to Hartford and you'll be a clerk to the Judiciary Committee and you'll get twenty five hundred dollars for the session." I said, "Oh, that's great." So I was appointed as a clerk to the Judiciary Committee in 1962 and Ben Silver, God rest him, who has passed on, was the Republican. He was being promoted or sponsored through Ed Sandula who was the Republican town chairman at that time.

I: Oh, yes, Mr. Sandula.

SL: So either I would drive up, so we went and became clerks on the Judiciary Committee. We did some perfunctory work, wasn't too important. We did some research work, looked up some law. More of a messenger boy thing than anything else. It was a political job and that lasted for the '62 election session and in '64 there was no election because they had just passed the one man, one vote proportional representation act to give the towns and cities, instead of having two legislators or one, depending upon the size of the town, the population, it was to be proportional representation. Bridgeport had ten representatives in the '66 election so there was a hold over legislature in '64 in Hartford. There was no election to the State House. Because Bridgeport had a population of about 168,000 in those days. Now I think the number is around seven. They figure around 17,000 for each district. So I was nominated for the seat in the 135th district which is this district.

I: So how long were you in there?

SL: I was there five times. I was there for five terms until 1978.

I: Oh, my goodness, you had quite a long time.

SL: Yes. After I was elected five times, my ego was almost satisfied so I quit.

I: Well, actually, coming to mind while you were talking is something that will back up a little bit that maybe we could finish with this. You were there for the entire time that McLevy was mayor. Well, I mean you lived in Bridgeport and you were around when he left office in the early fifties.

SL: He left in fifty eight, I believe.

I: Fifty seven, fifty eight. How do you think people were viewing him by that point? Was he a good mayor, or --?

SL: Well, he was a good mayor in that there was no graft, so to speak, but I think that they wanted to see more progress come in to the city, and McLevy, as honest a Scotman as he was, felt that at the behest of his main advisors who were connected with the Brass Company, General Electric, the Manufacturer's Association pretty much supported him because he kept the tax rate low. That meant that they didn't have to pay out so much money on inventories, or whatever was taxable or properties. He was in favor with them. The big wheels. They didn't have CEO's in those days. They had work superintendents or president of a company.

I: And they had more people that were involved with the community at the time.

SL: Oh, yes.

I: What I was wondering about was a lot of people say that the Wheeler Mansion -- the tearing down of the Wheeler Mansion was one of the things that made McLevy finally lose.

SL: Well, that might have been a factor.

I: He was going to build a new city hall.

SL: That's right. They were talking about a city hall at that spot. I think that there was resistance to the fact that the Wheeler Mansion, which had been such a wonderful gift to the city by Archie Wheeler and the Wheeler family, that it turned enough votes against him to have him thrown out of office. But he did have the business and industrial community with him. They supported McLevy because he kept the tax -- . He was honest and he didn't raise any taxes. He kept the rate down which was agreeable to their philosophy. But he also was caught up in the development process. Bill Lee, in New Haven, was one of the first to take advantage of the development funding. It was funding from Washington in those days.

I: So, McLevy was caught up in that?

SL: Bridgeport kind of lagged behind and I think that the fact that the Democrats produced jobs and talked about redeveloping, they built Father Panik Village and created new housing and the Green Homes and the public housing --.

I: This was during when Tedesco took over as mayor?

SL: Yes, and I think that Tedesco was smart enough to embrace these new concepts for federal funding for redevelopment and things like that that might have taken care of McLevy's political career.

I: One other question I have for you, too, because you're also one of the few people that can remember when the circus winter headquarters were still in town. Do you actually remember that?

SL: Not too much because the circus --. We were Northenders and it was quite distance from the West End.

I: So you didn't get down there? You didn't go to the circus?

SL: No, in fact, one of our customers, lived on Chalmers Avenue, was one of the managers of the circus with Barnum and Bailey. I think his name was Skinner.

I: You're right. There was a Skinner who was involved with the circus.

SL: Oh. He lived on 46 Chalmers Avenue. I still remember all the numbers. You might check that.

I: Did you get to go to the circus or was that just a luxury --?

SL: So, my brother collected that day for the papers and he got the pass and he got the pass and he went to the circus and I didn't and I'll always remember that.

I: Which brother?

SL: I think Kieve collected. We used to collect once a month. We had 750 customers on Sunday.

I: Oh, so you did pretty well with that.

SL: We were making more than married men with jobs in factories.

I: So you don't -- that was something. The other thing I do remember you telling me once was something about a locomobile. Didn't a locomobile almost run you over once?

SL: Oh, I got hit by a --. I got thrown off my bicycle on Fairfield Avenue by somebody with --. It was an electric car.

I: Oh, a Riker, maybe?

SL: Yes, one of the Rikers, was going down Fairfield Avenue near where the [unclear] Memorial is now and they were on [unclear] Avenue

and long before I knew anything about suing anybody. Maybe I was eleven, twelve, somewhere around there.

I: Yes, because they were around the early part of the [unclear].

SL: Yes, around 1919, I guess, or 1920.

I: Well, you've seen a lot of changes in Bridgeport. Do you have any words of wisdom to tell.

SL: I think Bridgeport still has a great potential for making it a viable community. As the level of education and hopefully, the level of culture, the arts, whether they're visual, or performing, or literary art, will come back to give us something to cherish our existence here, while we're here. It will turn around. I think the downtown potential is there to make it a community that will satisfy --need to have the ordinary person, not just the select few that enjoyed so much of the benefits previously, but for the general population without regard to ethnic background so that Bridgeport will turn around. It will take time, but hopefully it will work out. It may take another generation.

I: Do you think that work has made a big difference and the change of work in the years in the way Bridgeport has developed.

SL: Yes, I think that the days of the industrial capital of Connecticut that Bridgeport enjoyed being referred to --.

I: WICC -- that's the call letters.

SL: Yes, that's right.

I: Those days are gone?

SL: I think, yes. You see, what has happened, as far as I'm concerned, the way I see it and this is just my own personal point of view, is that the solid base of industry in Bridgeport is passé. You won't have four

and five story buildings as factories anymore. They've gone out into where they're all on one level, the ground level, and with a beautiful environment and decorative motifs to greet any customers or other groups that may be in the same industry for a conference or whatever. The old line factories with the smoke stacks and all are gone. They're passé. And the old industrialists who had an interest in the culture and education of the inhabitants of Bridgeport are no longer here.

I: [the Carlson Family...]

SL: Or the companies have been absorbed by some foreign that may be 100 or 1000 or 10,000 miles away.

I: The whole idea of the Barnum Festival is based on a lot of the industries being here in the city. When that started it was the ringmaster who was always the captain of industry and that's changed.

SL: Yes, and companies like --. There was a Gerard Bryant, living down here in Bridgeport, down on Park Avenue and Atlantic Street. There was a Harvey Hubbell. There was a Dwight Wheeler --.

I: There was a Warner.

SL: There was a Warner. Dr. DeVer Warner and all those people, but they're no longer here and the families have become wanderers. They're either in southern France or Osaka, Japan, or Tokyo or Berlin, London, L.A., San Diego. The Warner Brothers have become -- Bryant Electric into Westinghouse. They've become a file in some conglomerate's portfolio.

I: And even though cheap labor moved here, they could still find cheaper elsewhere.

SL: Yes. When you know that there's a cheaper producing base in some emerging country or south of the border or over in the oriental nations, they're emerging. They want to get ahead and they may not have the same rules of management that we aspire to here.

I: Well, I guess we can end it with that. It sounds like a little negative note, but it's the truth.

SL: Well, you can't stop it except by legislation, I suppose, or good intentions on the part of industrialists. But somebody is doing well. There are more millionaires and billionaires in this country than ever before so somebody is making out very well.

I: Alright. I won't keep you any longer. Thank you for time well spent.

SL: Well, I hope I put something in the soup that --.

I: Yes, you did. Thank so very much.

SL: You're very welcome. It's my privilege to be here at this stage to talk about some of the history of Bridgeport as I've seen it and I've been fortunate enough to have been exposed to a great many experiences that perhaps remain with me and I wanted to talk about some of the things that were there.

I: You finally did it. Thank you.

End of Interview