**Kate:** Good afternoon, this is Kate Moore for the National Park service. Today is the 18th of July 1994. I’m in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania at the home of Anthony Kovalosky who came from Czechoslovakia to the United States in 1920 when he was 13 years old.

**Anthony:** Yeah. Yeah, yeah, it’s better.

**Kate:** Why don’t you begin by giving us your full name and date of birth please?

**Anthony:** My full name is Anthony. You could just say Anthony Kovalosky.

**Kate:** Can you spell Kovalosky?

**Anthony:** What?

**Kate:** Your last name. Can you spell it?

**Anthony:** That name Kovalosky?

**Kate:** Mm-hmm (affirmative).

**Anthony:** I tell you what, we’ll cut it. Maybe it sounds too much even. First, we go down my name. We started with Kova, with a K and it’s pronounced as Kova. That the other half, the Kovalosky, losky, think about a lost, lost key.

**Kate:** Where were you born?

**Anthony:** I was born in Czechoslovakia.

**Kate:** What was the town’s name?

**Anthony:** The town’s name? Skalica.

**Kate:** Skalica? Could you spell that?

**Anthony:** Yeah. S-K-A-L-I-K-I, Skalica.

**Kate:** That’s okay.

**Anthony:** Forgive me, do you have it?

**Kate:** Yeah, okay. What’s your birthday? Tell me your birthday. When were you born?

**Anthony:** Okay, here. Here is my city name.

**Kate:** You’re writing it out here, S-K-A-L-I.

**Anthony:** Skalica.

**Kate:** S-K-A-L-I-K-A.

**Anthony:** Yeah, Skalica yeah.

**Kate:** Okay good. Now, what’s your birthday then?

**Anthony:** My birthday, oops, pardon me. I was born May the 20 1907.

**Kate:** You said Skalica is the town. How big a town was Skalica?

**Anthony:** Now, it probably it has about, I don't know how many, I don't know exactly. Oops. No, wait a minute. It must have had maybe five, I don't know, about five million people or whatever.

**Kate:** What was the major industry in that town?

**Anthony:** There was I suppose a lot of agriculture.

**Kate:** Agriculture?

**Anthony:** Yeah. My mother she was working in a factory. She was making little boxes like for put something in. Anything that’s locked on your little boxes.

**Kate:** Now, what was your father’s name?

**Anthony:** Paul.

**Kate:** Paul?

**Anthony:** Paul Kovalosky.

**Kate:** All right. What was his occupation?

**Anthony:** He was just working. He was probably a laborer.

**Kate:** A laborer. What did your father look like?

**Anthony:** How would I?

**Kate:** How would you describe him to someone who hadn’t seen him? How tall was he about?

**Anthony:** He was about my size.

**Kate:** How tall are you again?

**Anthony:** I am about maybe 5’6” inches.

**Kate:** What color of hair did your dad have?

**Anthony:** Probably like me. I don't know.

**Kate:** What about his personality? How would you describe your father’s personality?

**Anthony:** My father’s personality, he likes to praise himself too much. Whereas me, I don’t care much about praising myself. He tells everybody how smart he is. It wasn’t good.

**Kate:** Is there a story about your father that you remember at all from your childhood?

**Anthony:** No, I don’t remember much about my father. I was born in 1907, he leaves earlier to America. I think the problem with Hungarians, they don’t give us no school and they want to make me somebody else when I am not. We don’t like it. Anyhow, when the First World War was over, I remember this. I happened to be, there was a river, Moravian River. It flows into the [inaudible 00:07:12].

I happened to be, there was a forest up. I hear noise till I see shooting. I say, “What’s going on up there?” It was really [inaudible 00:07:32]. It was from where I was. When I come to the place where they were shooting, what do I see? I see machine guns. They was my people. They come to liberalize us from the hunt. Sorry about it, [inaudible 00:08:07] hunt out, it was. When I was a boy, I go on with soldiers. They were liberating us from the hunt. They had smart machine guns. When I see that, given how they use them, they shoot them. They were not shooting right.

**Kate:** Let me back up a bit from the story you have about your childhood days because you were 13 when you came here. Tell me a little bit about your house that you lived in in the town. How big was that house that you lived in?

**Anthony:** It was a house.

**Kate:** Or an apartment. I don't know how did you live? What was the place that you lived in in your small town, in your town?

**Anthony:** It was not small. It was very big.

**Kate:** The town or the house?

**Anthony:** You mean you want to know about the house?

**Kate:** Mm-hmm (affirmative).

**Anthony:** The house what it looked like?

**Kate:** Mm-hmm (affirmative).

**Anthony:** We have one side, there was family and on the other side was family.

**Kate:** How many rooms were in your side of the family? How many rooms?

**Anthony:** Each one have just one room, one big room.

**Kate:** Did you have brothers and sisters?

**Anthony:** I just got a sister, a sister Margaret.

**Kate:** Is she older or younger?

**Anthony:** She’s younger.

**Kate:** Younger, okay. How much younger is she than you?

**Anthony:** Two years.

**Kate:** Now, back to identifying, now you have a sister. Your mother’s maiden name was what? Do you remember?

**Anthony:** My mother’s maiden name? I think it was Betty, Elizabeth.

**Kate:** Elizabeth was her first name. What was her name before she got married? Do you remember?

**Anthony:** I forgot.

**Kate:** That’s okay. That’s all right. All right. You didn’t describe your mother, what she looked like. What did your mother look like?

**Anthony:** You could look at her picture there.

**Kate:** Yeah, but for the tape, how could you say she looked? How tall was she? Her eye color, hair color?

**Anthony:** I’m making noise. I guess greenish, a little bit like you but …

**Kate:** She had bluish-green eyes, your mother?

**Anthony:** I really don’t know.

**Kate:** We can go on to a different question. What about the house, back to the house you lived with your sister and your mother in the duplex.

**Anthony:** Yeah.

**Kate:** How did you heat the house?

**Anthony:** How we keep it?

**Kate:** Heat.

**Anthony:** There was a one big, we got a big room. We sleep. There was only my grandmother and me and my sister. Then we have a kitchen.

**Kate:** Your mother lived with you too?

**Anthony:** No, my mother, she was already in America.

**Kate:** Your father and mother left for America?

**Anthony:** Yeah.

**Kate:** You lived with your grandmother?

**Anthony:** Yeah.

**Kate:** Whose mother was she? Which grandmother? Your mother’s mother or your father’s mother?

**Anthony:** No, wait a minute. She was our mother, my grandmother.

**Kate:** Became your mother, right? Okay.

**Anthony:** No, no, wait a minute. That was my grandmother.

**Kate:** Right. Whose mother was your grandmother? Was she your father’s mother or was she your mother’s mother?

**Anthony:** She was my mother’s mother.

**Kate:** Your mother’s mother? Okay. You stayed with her. Did she do the cooking?

**Anthony:** Yeah.

**Kate:** Did she do the cleaning?

**Anthony:** Yeah.

**Kate:** She took care of the whole household?

**Anthony:** Yeah.

**Kate:** What was your favorite food as a child?

**Anthony:** We just liked potatoes. Then we have, in the middle of the house, there was two doors like one side and another side. There was a little like this from this wall over there, part of that the hall. Anyhow, we have a mill. When we want to do anything, we grinded.

**Kate:** Who’s we?

**Anthony:** Us.

**Kate:** All three of you?

**Anthony:** Yes, members of my family.

**Kate:** Did you help your grandmother with cooking?

**Anthony:** No, I don’t. She do everything.

**Kate:** She did everything?

**Anthony:** She was pretty handy. She was very interesting.

**Kate:** How did you light the house? What type of lighting did you have?

**Anthony:** We have, it was at a time when we don’t have electricity so we had kerosene lamp.

**Kate:** What about water? Where did you get your water?

**Anthony:** I’m not sure you’ll understand. The place where I live, it was a main road. It goes back to a point.

**Kate:** I see.

**Anthony:** I only saw the main road.

**Kate:** Is that inside town or outside town?

**Anthony:** No, it was inside a city. They were always talking about that meal. It was just sticking out a little bit because that is how our, we have a door so that cold air don’t come in. We have that space for the mill to grind. It’s come pretty handy. We bring her stuff and my grandmother shake it up. Then she grinds and she just mill.

**Kate:** Did you keep animals at all?

**Anthony:** No. When grandmother was a little younger, she was keeping pigs.

**Kate:** Pigs. Did you keep any other animals at all?

**Anthony:** No, we have the geese.

**Kate:** Geese too. What about plumbing in the house?

**Anthony:** Plumbing, there was toilet in the yard of the house.

**Kate:** Yard of the house?

**Anthony:** Yeah.

**Kate:** What about the water? Where did you get it? You were telling me it was on the main road.

**Anthony:** The water came from our streets. The streets and you would take a bucket or whatever you wanted. You get to pump it.

**Kate:** Who are you closest to in your family? What family member did you feel closest to?

**Anthony:** Closest I was, my grandmother’s family.

**Kate:** Your grandmother’s family, yeah.

**Anthony:** Because my grandmother raised me.

**Kate:** Now, what was religious life like back in Czechoslovakia?

**Anthony:** The people are mostly Catholics, the Roman Catholic.

**Kate:** Were you Catholic?

**Anthony:** Yes. I’m not for church too much.

**Kate:** Was your grandmother for church very much?

**Anthony:** She was yeah.

**Kate:** Did you go to church with your grandmother?

**Anthony:** I go myself. She always told me to go to church.

**Kate:** How close was the church to your house?

**Anthony:** No, it wasn’t very far.

**Kate:** What type of church was it? It was a Catholic church but how did it look? Was it a big church or a small one or?

**Anthony:** It was St. Francis Church. We have a village not far from our field, they don’t have no church. These people always come to church. Like I told you, they just walked, it wasn’t too far. We called them Moravians because these people there is a river Moravian. It was a borderline. They used to speak a little bit like a Czech. We are slower. It’s just a little different.

**Kate:** Now, did you say prayers at night before you went to bed?

**Anthony:** Yes. Sometimes we have to.

**Kate:** How about when you ate? Did you say grace?

**Anthony:** Yeah. My grandmother make us, she always think you have to say the grace before.

**Kate:** Now, did you suffer any persecution any religious persecution before you came to this country?

**Anthony:** No, because we were all Catholics. There was Lutherans. There was Lutherans. They had a church too.

**Kate:** What about holiday celebrations? What was your favorite holiday?

**Anthony:** Huh?

**Kate:** What was your favorite holiday?

**Anthony:** Favorite holiday? Christmas.

**Kate:** Why?

**Anthony:** Christmas is the main holiday for Christian people.

**Kate:** What did you do on Christmas that you liked?

**Anthony:** To celebrate, we had our grandmother she baked something good like she made, bake we call them [inaudible 00:20:48] cakes. The best, what kind of stove we have I have to say. The stove we have, it was like this. There was an oven on the back. Then there was two holes so that you could put, you start a fire. You put fire on there. About that, we couldn’t transport, that stove, we couldn’t transport.

**Kate:** Did you go to school in Czechoslovakia?

**Anthony:** When we have these gangsters Hungarians, they made us to speak our language. I hated it. I just hated.

**Kate:** All right, hold on. You didn’t have school?

**Anthony:** No, wait a minute. After they chased the Hungarians out then we start putting our language up. Then I have to learn, but it was not too much to put it in our language. I don't know. I was very much pleased that I could speak my mother’s language.

**Kate:** When was that? When did that happen? What year about?

**Anthony:** The year, when we have the First World War, when it happened I think it was 19, what was it? 1919? The First World War stopped about 1918. This is when we chased the Hungarians out. Then we get the teachers from the Czech. They come down because they have some language almost like we did.

**Kate:** Did you any English prior to coming to the United States?

**Anthony:** Did I know what?

**Kate:** English.

**Anthony:** What’s the? They come to the United States?

**Kate:** No. Did you know any English before you came here?

**Anthony:** No, I don't know.

**Kate:** Tell me how you came here. Your parents left in what year? How old were you when your parents left for the United States?

**Anthony:** Go and see, I don't understand. I don’t speak too good.

**Kate:** No, no. How big were you about? How old were you when your parents left?

**Anthony:** I was about five years old.

**Kate:** Five years old. Did you hear from them during the First World War? Did you?

**Anthony:** Yeah. You’re right. Sometimes, they send us money which we needed.

**Kate:** Did you experience hunger when you were a child? Were you ever hungry?

**Anthony:** No. We don’t have too much to eat but we were always, we always had potatoes, cabbages. Then we picked. Somehow we just picked a few pieces, what do we call this? Grind that you grind stuff, you know?

**Kate:** Mm-hmm (affirmative).

**Anthony:** Whatever you want to. Cabbages and mostly potatoes. Potatoes were pretty good. I used to be, the person I was happy. I was pretty happy but I miss my parents. I don’t like Hungarian.

**Kate:** How did you come to the United States? When did you come? How did you finally come? After the war obviously, 1920 you came. You waited until after the war was over?

**Anthony:** Yeah.

**Kate:** Now, who financed? How did you come here? Who paid for it?

**Anthony:** My father, my father was working in a coal mine. It was very cold here.

**Kate:** In Pittsburgh?

**Anthony:** Yeah.

**Kate:** He came to Pittsburgh, he was working in the coal mine?

**Anthony:** Yeah. Then he was working in the coal mine. Sometimes they shoot to break the coal. It was a big chunk of coal mines must have fallen and broke his rib. He got a little crippled. He gave us ship ticket.

**Kate:** Gave who? Your sister, you and your grandmother?

**Anthony:** No. My grandmother never came to America. The only, who was our escort was just that Rudolph.

**Kate:** Your cousin Rudolph?

**Anthony:** Yeah. The guy that’s over here.

**Kate:** Now, why didn’t your grandmother come?

**Anthony:** She was too old.

**Kate:** Did she want to come?

**Anthony:** I don't know. She don’t say.

**Kate:** You came and your cousin Rudolph. What was Rudolph doing for work?

**Anthony:** He was a barber.

**Kate:** He was a barber where?

**Anthony:** Over there. No, wait a minute, Rudolph, they used to live in Austria in Vienna. They seemed to be having a hard time. They come to my city thinking there was more food but there wasn’t a bit more food like I said. Almost everybody got a piece of land and they …

**Kate:** Now, do you remember packing to leave for the United States? Getting ready to go?

**Anthony:** Yeah.

**Kate:** What did you take with you?

**Anthony:** My mother says, she must have walnut. Sorry about that. I may have found a little bag up there. My grandmother gave us walnuts from Czechoslovakia to bring it over here.

**Kate:** Did they arrive here? Did you get them here?

**Anthony:** Yeah. They were good.

**Kate:** All right. You packed walnuts. What was your grandmother had raised you and you were close to your grandmother. What was her reaction?

**Anthony:** Who?

**Kate:** Your grandmother when you left? What was her reaction?

**Anthony:** I don't know, because I left. I don’t see her no more.

**Kate:** Did she want you to go?

**Anthony:** Eventually, we have to go to our parents.

**Kate:** How did she feel? Was she alone afterwards?

**Anthony:** Yeah. She was alone. She was a good grandmother. I love her.

**Kate:** What do you remember about leaving? How did you get to the port? What do you remember about leaving home then?

**Anthony:** I always longed for my parents. I was happy to see my parents.

**Kate:** Now, you left home and where did you go from home first on your way to the United States?

**Anthony:** First, then we went to a harbor. There was a rally I’m guessing the trains stopped over to my city. We go on the train. We went to, what do they call it? The city Antwerp.

**Kate:** You went to Belgium.

**Anthony:** Belgium yeah. We found a hotel apparently it was an American hotel. It does, I think $1 we have to pay them. We have, our …

**Kate:** Hold on just for a second. We’re going to take a break, switch the tape here. Hold on. I could throw in this tape.

**Anthony:** What are you doing? Now this Antwerp …

**Kate:** Wait, hold up. We’re talking about Antwerp now?

**Anthony:** Yeah. This is where we come down. Then they guide us through the American hotel. It was close to us. It was close to what they call the English general. I used to work. I look at the [inaudible 00:32:17] from the surveillance sites. I could see the port, how people operate.

**Kate:** You left from Antwerp, do you remember the name of the boat that you left on?

**Anthony:** No, I don’t. I forgot.

**Kate:** You stayed overnight in a hotel. Now, what month and year was this? Here you have written down it was August 1920.

**Anthony:** Something like that, yeah. Yeah, I guess it was getting colder or [inaudible 00:33:07].

**Kate:** It’s written here in your application you filled that in. Now, what type of accommodations did you have on the ship?

**Anthony:** I was being on the deck I remember. I could see the water just coming about the half of the, they have windows of the [inaudible 00:33:43]. I look and the waves were risen at the time. The accommodation, I think that one thing is we got plenty of foods.

**Kate:** Were you in third class, second class or first class?

**Anthony:** No. I guess we were probably third class because we didn’t have much money.

**Kate:** Now, you were traveling with your sister and your cousin. Where were they in relation to you and the accommodations? Where did they sleep? Were you together or were you separate?

**Anthony:** No, wait a minute. I want to give you a clear picture of this. This must be a troop ship because there was a lot of beds in there, because the war was just about to end. My little sister she got sick all the time. There was another time that the ship go up and down, up and down, rocking. I think she was vomiting all the time. She was always thirsty. I just had to bring her water all the time.

I was feeling very good. I ran around the ship and look around. The captain must have liked me. He always give me an apple, an orange or something. I was just like an American. I have pants, short pants and it stuck and [inaudible 00:35:46]. My father, he bought me shoes and the shoes were a little bit too small. Then comes a time that we have to move to America. The woman operator, she was examining us. They were very practical that United States don’t want to, they want to be sure that you’re not sick.

**Kate:** Did you have a medical examination before you got?

**Anthony:** Over there, yeah.

**Kate:** Over there you had one?

**Anthony:** On the ship.

**Kate:** Did you have one at Ellis Island?

**Anthony:** Yeah.

**Kate:** All right. You had an examination on the ship. What did they check?

**Anthony:** What?

**Kate:** What did they check?

**Anthony:** It was not too much of a thing. They just look over, see if you are sick a little bit. The people going on the road like there was a big group of people around. The doctors come and look.

**Kate:** You had the food on the boat you said. How was that?

**Anthony:** The food, it was not too bad but when I got to Castle Garden, they got this fish. I don’t like that fish.

**Kate:** Do you remember anything on the boat different at all before?

**Anthony:** No. Those boats, about 3 o’clock, most of the men they opened up the door and they serve liquor. Even if you didn’t want to. If you got the money. I was little. I don’t drink. One thing is about I learned how to eat herrings. The men they play cards. They were more on the front. They were mostly in the middle of that boat so it don’t rock too much. Then they exchanged money. If you had money, everybody have different kind of money.

**Kate:** Now, do you remember seeing land for the first time?

**Anthony:** Land?

**Kate:** The Statue of Liberty? Do you remember seeing the Statue of Liberty?

**Anthony:** Yeah. I see it. It was just where that the Castle Garden up.

**Kate:** In Ellis Island?

**Anthony:** Yeah.

**Kate:** Do you remember the reaction of the people on board? Was there any particular reaction? Did it mean anything to you? The Statue of Liberty, did it mean anything?

**Anthony:** No. To me, it was just an ordinary statue. Being understanding, it’s supposed to be liberty, you know?

**Kate:** Mm-hmm (affirmative).

**Anthony:** One thing about the Slavic language is …

**Kate:** What’s happening?

**Anthony:** Yeah.

**Kate:** Yes.

**Anthony:** Whatever, we don’t have no trouble with languages. It seems to understand, there was not Slavic people. Of course you got the Russian, Polish, Serbians or us. We always find somebody to speak our language [inaudible 00:40:50]. Nobody can speak any English.

**Kate:** When you got to Ellis Island, how did you get from the boat to Ellis Island? Do you remember?

**Anthony:** How did we get to the boat?

**Kate:** No, no. How did you get to Ellis Island from the boat?

**Anthony:** We got, there was a smaller boat that took us up there.

**Kate:** What were the conditions on that boat? How many people did they put on that boat at a time?

**Anthony:** I would say about maybe 20 or something.

**Kate:** Now, what do you remember about Ellis Island?

**Anthony:** Our people told us Castle Garden. When I learned what it was, the meaning of it, we come over here then I understand better, let’s probably a Castle Garden.

**Kate:** What happened on Castle Garden? What were your impressions? What did it look like?

**Anthony:** You got the, it was other people apparently. I found a lot of Slavic people up. I could speak with them a little bit. When they gave me a bed, it was a mesh. It was like the bedbugs like one of those, they call it, that you hang, a hammock. It was a mesh and there was nothing on. I had to sleep like on a hammock.

**Kate:** How long did you stay at Ellis Island?

**Anthony:** About five or six days or something.

**Kate:** What was the food like?

**Anthony:** The food, I don’t like it very much.

**Kate:** Why not? What was it like?

**Anthony:** It was fish. It was made, they must have used steam to cook it. The funny thing about it, it was like, at the next table, there was a row of Jews. I thought maybe they have something good but it was not any better than we had on the table. I finally sit with them but it was not any better.

**Kate:** Did you have a medical examination at Ellis Island?

**Anthony:** Yeah. The doctors come and look at us.

**Kate:** Now, what language did they talk to you in?

**Anthony:** Who?

**Kate:** The doctors and the officials at Ellis Island?

**Anthony:** I couldn’t understand English. I don't know. They just looked at us. They might have told us a few words but you cannot understand.

**Kate:** Now, do you remember having to sit and wait?

**Anthony:** What?

**Kate:** Why were you detained? Why did you stay five or six days you said? Why did you stay that long at Ellis Island?

**Anthony:** I don't know why they keep us so long. We were anxious to go away.

**Kate:** You don’t know the reason why you were kept?

**Anthony:** No, I don't know why. Maybe they wanted some information from us. They do that with everybody.

**Kate:** Are there any stories about Ellis Island that you remember? Any story at all about that place?

**Anthony:** No, I don't remember.

**Kate:** Now, what happened after five or six days? How did you get out?

**Anthony:** We got on a boat. They take us on the shore. From there on, then we take a train.

**Kate:** Who escorted you to the train? Did you go by yourselves or your cousin or how did you get there?

**Anthony:** No. My cousin, he was our escort. We follow him.

**Kate:** Now, you went to Pittsburgh. Where did you go from Ellis Island? To where? To here?

**Anthony:** No. We lived in a different place not here.

**Kate:** Where did you live then?

**Anthony:** There’s a city they call it Benwood Avenue.

**Kate:** What’s it called?

**Anthony:** That street that we come to first, they call it Benwood Avenue.

**Kate:** Benwood Avenue?

**Anthony:** Yeah.

**Kate:** Here’s in Pittsburgh?

**Anthony:** No, McKees Rocks.

**Kate:** In McKees Rocks, sorry. Okay, McKees Rocks. You came to McKees Rocks then first?

**Anthony:** Yeah.

**Kate:** Benwood Avenue, what type of place was that? Who did it belong to?

**Anthony:** Part of it belongs to Stowe Township and part of it belongs to McKees Rocks.

**Kate:** Your mother and father had lived there while you were living in Czechoslovakia?

**Anthony:** No. They bought a house a little bit earlier before we come. This is not a big [inaudible 00:47:22]. We stay up, there’s nothing about my father. He wasn’t there. He was not the guy that handy guy. No, I could almost take anything for me. I guess everybody is different most times. Some boys or girls, they could learn faster than me. They learned slow.

**Kate:** How big was that how that your parents bought? How big of a house? How many rooms?

**Anthony:** Wait a minute, it was about five rooms or something like that.

**Kate:** Now, did your cousin come to live with you too?

**Anthony:** Yeah.

**Kate:** Rudolph came to live with you? In that house, you had your mother, your father, your sister, you and Rudolph? Now, what type of heating did the house have?

**Anthony:** What type of what?

**Kate:** Heating?

**Anthony:** Eating?

**Kate:** Heating, heat.

**Anthony:** Eat? Like any other Americans. You buy food in the store.

**Kate:** No, heat.

**Anthony:** Oh heat?

**Kate:** Yeah.

**Anthony:** At that time, when I come here people use coal because there was a lot of coal here. This house here when I bought that, there was right over here was a chimney here. I take it out. This house, this kitchen, it sink down. The chimney was built on wood and the wood was crashed and that Chimney on top of it. It was down and you couldn’t even close the door. People were living here. When I come over here, that’s the first things I do, the first thing I ever, I started with the cellar. Then I started little by little with this kitchen. I have to lift it up. That was it.

**Kate:** This house you mean?

**Anthony:** Yeah. I had to lift this up.

**Kate:** We need to go back to the other house yet. We don’t know much about your old house where your parents lived in. We’ll get back to this one in a little bit. Your father was working in the coal mine, right?

**Anthony:** Yeah.

**Kate:** Was your mother working?

**Anthony:** No.

**Kate:** No?

**Anthony:** She says, “You take care of the kids.”

**Kate:** Did you have more brothers and sisters here? Did your mother and father have more children?

**Anthony:** Yes. We have two born in Europe and two in America.

**Kate:** All right. Who were born here?

**Anthony:** We have, over here was my brother Frank. The other one was Margaret.

**Kate:** Now, did you go to school when you came here?

**Anthony:** Yeah.

**Kate:** Where did you go to school?

**Anthony:** Up by the [inaudible 00:52:01].

**Kate:** How did you find school? Was it difficult not knowing English?

**Anthony:** It was very tough for me until I catch it little by a little.

**Kate:** What grade did you go into?

**Anthony:** I guess, I was a little bit already big but they gave me first grade so I could and learn the words. Then I stayed a little bit. Then they put me to higher grades.

**Kate:** Did you ever suffer any bigotry or persecution for being Czechoslovakian here in this country?

**Anthony:** No.

**Kate:** Did they make fun of you for being poor?

**Anthony:** No.

**Kate:** Let’s go back to that house because we only have a little sketchy impression of it. The house you lived in, how was the plumbing? Did you have indoor toilets or outdoors?

**Anthony:** Where? In here?

**Kate:** In the house, yeah in McKees Rocks when you came here?

**Anthony:** The toilet was outside.

**Kate:** Where did you get your water?

**Anthony:** We had a pump.

**Kate:** You had a pump. Where was that?

**Anthony:** Right in the front of our house. The water was a little bit hard. It must be cold in here.

**Kate:** Yeah. Did you have electricity or was it?

**Anthony:** No, we don’t have, they have a gas. Later on they have a gas light.

**Kate:** How did your father get to work everybody? What means of transport did he use?

**Anthony:** He wasn’t working because he was crippled.

**Kate:** I see. He was out of work then?

**Anthony:** Yeah.

**Kate:** Because of the accident?

**Anthony:** Yeah.

**Kate:** How much schooling did you go through then? Did you finish high school?

**Anthony:** We don’t have no high school at that time. Now, later they build the high school.

**Kate:** How long did you go to school?

**Anthony:** I would say about fourth grade or so. I catch up because I like to read.

**Kate:** Tell me a little bit about your life then after school, what was the first job you got?

**Anthony:** I make basket. It was very [inaudible 00:54:58] an event was happening. Her son was pretty educated. She come down for me. She was like, “No need. We’re going to get you a job.” All right. She was took me over there and gave me another job. Show me just how to make this basket.

**Kate:** What was your main occupation during your lifetime? Was basket making your main occupation?

**Anthony:** Basket making, it was my first job.

**Kate:** What happened after that then?

**Anthony:** I had many kinds of jobs. After that, there was a, in McKees Rocks, there was a factory. They were making pots, pots and pans. I got a job offer. I was helping. They have what they call [inaudible 00:56:32]. They get a sheet and I was putting it in water. The other guy, he was putting it into the press and push it down.

**Kate:** Is that your main job then later in life?

**Anthony:** No. I have other jobs but this was my first job. There’s a lot of people who got their fingers smashed. They don’t think as fast enough and [inaudible 00:57:29] goes down and my God, if you don’t hurry and you leave your fingers there, it will smash you.

**Kate:** Tell me, how did you meet your wife? You mentioned that you had three children and a wife. How did you meet them? I’m not going to make this …

**Anthony:** I used to like to dance. I met her at a dance. This used to be happy times. She loved to dance too.

**Kate:** You met. Was she Czechoslovakian?

**Anthony:** No. She was Polish.

**Kate:** Polish? Right. You had three daughters?

**Anthony:** Yeah.

**Kate:** What did your daughters do for professions? What did they grow up to be?

**Anthony:** Where they grow up? They grew up over here in my house.

**Kate:** Did your wife work?

**Anthony:** No.

**Kate:** When you look back on your life, how do you feel about coming to the United States? Do you think that was a good move?

**Anthony:** We really don’t have no choice too much. Of course, we regret that we could go back. It was not for us very good down there.

**Kate:** Do you view yourself as an American now?

**Anthony:** What?

**Kate:** Do you think of yourself as an American?

**Anthony:** What about that? I’m American. See, my father was a citizen so I become a citizen too.

**Kate:** I’d like to thank you on behalf of Ellis Island for this interview and for helping us and for giving us the opportunity to speak with you. This is Kate Moore, McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania, July 18th 1994 signing off for the Ellis Island Oral History Project.