

Al Jaffee

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Abstract

Al Jaffee was born March 13, 1921 in Savannah, Georgia to his father, Morris, who recently moved there to run a pawnshop and his mother, Mildred, who had come from Zarasy (?) Lithuania to marry him. Later they had three more sons: Harry, Bernard and David. Al tells the saga of his mother's desire to return to Lithuania several times which causes the father to lose his job. There was a great contrast of life in Savannah with life in a rural town in Lithuania. Al found life exciting in Savannah but he enjoyed the fishing, swimming and making items in Lithuania when they were not easily available in stores. The children ran around barefoot. Al did not like the cheder (Jewish school) as the teacher was a strict disciplinarian with a ruler. Then his mother got him a tutor who he liked. His father took the boys on trips to amusement parks where they obtained nonkosher food that they kept secret from the more observant mother. He taught the boys to draw cartoons and Al made it his profession later. Lithuania did not have the modern conveniences of electricity and indoor plumbing. His father sent money to the family when they lived in Lithuania but the mother gave some of it to the poor. There was an abundance of fruit on the trees to freely obtain in Lithuania when the mother forgot to feed the children. She read English books to the children when they were in Lithuania so they would not forget English. The first time they returned from Lithuania was in '26 or '27 when they lived in Rockaway Beach, NY for a year. They returned to Lithuania and in May 1933 his father was able to get the three oldest boys out of Lithuania and supported them by working for the Post Office. May 1933 was the last time Al saw his mother. Later his father managed to have a Polish man escort the youngest child, David, to America. Bernard was deaf and attended the NY School for the Deaf during the week and came home on weekends when he slept in the living room with the boys. The Red Cross did not have any documents regarding Al's mother but it was known that in Zarasy the Germans cut off the main road so the Jews were trapped with nowhere to go and they were rounded up and taken to the woods where they were killed. Al has a letter from his mother and her photo where she writes, "Don't forget me."

Summary

00:00 Al Jaffee was born March 13, 1921 in Savannah, Georgia as Abraham Jaffee. There was a pawnshop in Savannah owned by an elderly Jew who wanted someone to take over his business. He sent word that he would move a Jewish couple from New York and get them lodging if the husband would run the pawnshop. The man interviewed Al's father and found him qualified. Al's mother had recently come from Lithuania and married his father and moved to Savannah where she gave birth to Al and his three younger brothers. The pawnshop became a department store and Al's father became the manager. Life in

Savannah was interesting and exciting. He remembers incidents that he had as a young child that he cherishes. He outlived his three younger brothers. Two contracted illnesses in Lithuania from the severe winters there. One, Bernard, had spinal meningitis at two or three years old and recovered but lost his hearing.

05:00 The family was broken up due to the trips back and forth from Lithuania which caused his father to lose his job. There were no birthday parties as the family did not celebrate birthdays. Bernard worked and had a fairly successful life. The youngest brother, David, was spirited out of Lithuania when the Nazis invaded. Harry was the second oldest, then came Bernard and then David. Each was separated by one and one-half years. He suspects his mother took the children to Lithuania so she would not get pregnant again as his father remained in the US. His mother was Mildred in English or Michla in Yiddish. His father, Moishe, became Morris. Both were first generation immigrants to the US. They both came from the same town in Lithuania. It was at the father's urging that the mother's sister bring her over as a possible bride.

10:00 They might have had contact in the same town of Zarasy (?). Al's father came from a large family. His father was angry at his mother being pregnant all the time as he had a large number of siblings. It was ironic that Al's mother felt the same way as Al's father. It was common to have large families in those days. His father loved his mother who became sick with all the work involved in having so many children. Al's mother also had many siblings in her family. Some remained in Lithuania and two went to Russia and became doctors during the Soviet era. They feared being in the Tsarist military and fight in Japan so young Jews immigrated. It was all right where the grandparents came from. He heard rumors as a child that they escaped to Lithuania when they could. They were surrounded by lakes in Lithuania. His cousins said their parents spent their nights in the lakes breathing through straws to escape when the Soviets went looking for young men. Al heard these stories when he lived in Lithuania.

15:00 They seemed to be brave people with big adventures as survival was their daily business. There was persecution and a shortage of food. His cousin Daniel was his age and bright and happy. Japan defeated the Tsarist troops. He would play a game with toy soldiers knocking over the Russian soldiers. The Tsarists were unpopular in his Jewish area. His father was Polish and lived in Zarasy (?). His parents frequently separated so he has little knowledge of them. Both had a sense of humor but did not display it all the time. His father distained the religious community and his mother embraced it. His father took him and his brothers on the weekend to an amusement park by trolley and bought them unkosher hot dogs. They were told not to tell the mother. When they visited Lithuania, he met his mother's friends and relatives who said she was a great entertainer. She was a mimic and could do skits about the Tsar and Tsarina. She was very creative and intelligent. She attended night school in the US upon her arrival to learn English and became proficient. She read books to the children before they went to bed. When they

were in Lithuania she told Al to write to the father to send them English books to keep up with English and correct grammar. She would tell him to refer to her as “your mother,” not “her or she” as she was a stickler for correctness. This served him well in his own writing and he learned to speak properly. When he returned from Lithuania, he was placed in school with younger children and soon skipped as he knew the material. In Savannah, he only spoke English. He did not speak Yiddish in Lithuania. He heard Yiddish spoken by his mother’s elderly aunt Frida who spoke to him in Yiddish but he knew little. After living in Lithuania awhile, he spoke fluent Yiddish.

20:00 He met people in Lithuania who remembered his father as the smartest at school and was a well-known calligrapher as he wrote a Spenserian hand. He wrote for people and read many newspapers and magazines. Al just read the funnies. He and his brother, Harry were crazy about cartoons as they both had art talent and copied cartoons from strips as their father taught them to draw Dick Tracy and Maggie and Jeeves and became professional artists. His father was very good at it. Unfortunately, his father was a beaten man which took a lot of fun out of him. He was frustrated as he could not keep his family in America as his mother was constantly taking them to Lithuania. The first time they went, his father left his job and it took months to get it back as it was eliminated with the '29 depression. He had Veterans Benefits from World War I so he was able to secure a position with the Post Office.

25:00 He had been captured by the Germans and suffered in World War I. Al was fascinated by veterans’ talk of World War I and asked his father what was his duties. His father responded that he shot lions and the rest were shooting each other. Later his Uncle Harry said his father was captured by the Germans and mistreated as he was American (not because he was Jewish). There was not enough food for the Germans so the prisoners starved as were given no food. In addition, after his father died his uncle said his father lived for months in hollows. His father never talked about the war but Al has photos of his father in uniform. He received some photos from his cousins who had inherited them from their mothers who were his father’s sisters. He looked snazzy in his Dough Boy uniform. His father distracted and entertained the family. He took him and Harry to interesting places. They saw the airport near Savannah where they saw the airplanes doing stunts. Al was overjoyed and his father told him not to tell his mother what he ate as it was not kosher. They went on a merry-go-round and a loop-de-loop. When he was fired, his father’s boss mentioned the children’s destructiveness as they broke toys in the toy department. His father had to pay for them. On Sundays, his father showed them how to draw cartoons and took them to parks. He bought them hot dogs, candy and candied apples.

30:00 He was a good father. Al liked going places with him. His parents seemed to get along. From a child’s point of view – his mother complained of chores and his father took charge and hired an African-American lady as a maid. They were friendly toward

African-American people. His favorite helper, James, was sent by bike to pick up the boys. He loved James. His mother was hysterical when the maid mixed milk dishes with meat dishes. His mother would not touch hamburger to a dairy dish. She was not religious, just followed custom and wanted the dish thrown out and his father thought it ridiculous to do so. His mother was very creative as a mimic, acted out poems and picked up notions on bathroom habits. She decided that children must go to the bathroom daily so served castor oil so the children would disappear. She built a witch in the closet which looked real so his mother would open the door and they saw the realistic witch and took the castor oil.

35:00 In Lithuania, they would send him to an unlicensed woman with a private apothecary who made up a laxative potion from boiling leaves from a maple tree which turned into black sludge. His mother thought it a good laxative but the children would not take it. His mother was inventive and being inventive is important to him as his mother inbred this idea. His mother took them to specialists in Lithuania who made shoes, shirts and boots out of felt or Veltiney (?) (or Votikas ? in Yiddish). They wore the boots all winter and put regular boots over them. They did not smell good. His mother was very warm at times like when she read or told stories of her childhood in Zarasy (?). Holidays like Simchat Torah when you celebrate the Torah was joyous as you give each other gifts of bags of candy, the happiness of Torah. Passover was another holiday the children liked. He remembered celebrating these holidays in Zarasy.

40:00 His mother wanted to leave the US and visit her friends and relatives in Lithuania including her father, sister, Lifa married to Morsay and their son, Daniel. Al does not know the length of visit his mother requested but they left in 1926 and the time away got longer and longer. They left Savannah and took a train to New York. It was the first time he saw it. They stayed with relatives. It was exciting and terrifying as his mother took all four children. David was about six months old. They went on the subway and the doors opening and closing terrified him that he would get off and his mother would remain on the train and they would all get lost. They arrived at their aunt's place which was a tiny apartment in a poor neighborhood and they all squeezed into one big room. The experience was terrifying. They took the boat to Hamburg, Germany on the German Lloyd Line and had return tickets on the same line. His father came over on the line after a year. His grandpa yelled at Al's mother to return. His father had expected Al's mother to return after a month. They took a train from Hamburg to Lithuania to Kaunas and went home through Kaunas to Hamburg.

45:00 They thought going to Lithuania was like going to prehistory as the people were barefooted and surrounded by their barefooted children wearing ragged, patched clothing while they were dressed in Lord Fauntleroy suits which they hated as looked like clowns. They wore a tammy shanter which were not long or short but below the knee. In Zarasy they were surrounded by children yammering in a foreign language. One child said,

“You boxer” and then everyone said it. Their hero, Jack Sharkey, was a Lithuanian who boxed in America and became wealthy. They were Jewish children and lived in the Jewish section. They rented a house. He does not recall how long it took him to understand the language. His cousin Daniel was brought up in a house that spoke French and English but not Yiddish at home. Al could speak to Daniel who translated what the children said.

50:00 Daniel was bright and Al pickup up the language slowly. He learned Russian the same way. Lithuanian was not spoken within the family. He heard it at the Post Office and the Movie House. The Gentile area was the land around the town. There were Polish and Lithuanian landowners who had farms and orchards. His landlord had a big orchard and became a big brother. He took the test for inscription into the Lithuanian Army at 21. He took them spear fishing and monthly to the bath house, a sauna. They had a great time with him. He was like a big brother or father. He did not know Yiddish. Al knew enough Russian which was the lingua franca and he could communicate with Koromica and Ziga. His mother looked to rent a place and these landowners had a large house and a cottage nearby.

55:00 They rented the cottage so lived on the same grounds. His father sent them money regularly. His mother told them to write the father that they were desperate and had no food. His mother gave the money away. She believed in tzedkah (charity), giving money to the poor. She learned from the synagogue that someone was poor and gave them money. The family survived. His mother’s father was an avocet, an attorney, but did not have a formal lawyer’s education as he could not get into the Gymnasium, the high school. Higher education for impossible for the Jews there. Perhaps they could not pass the test. Many Jewish children attended cheder or Yeshiva, not public school. Al attended cheder which he hated and stopped attending as he was uninterested in religion. His mother hired tutors. He liked the religious part somewhat. There was lots of hitting a ruler on your hands and a lot of discipline. He did not understand what the discipline was for. It was frightening so he hated it. He liked his tutor, a bright young man, who went through the bible and made the stories interesting and also taught science and geography. He taught them about China, Japan and India.

60:00 Al liked going on a trip. It was enjoyable, not threatening. In school the children were unruly and the teacher walked around with a ruler and it was scary. He attended school in Savannah where he was bullied by the older children as his name was Abraham. The other children were anti-Semitic or Confederates and Abraham Lincoln was poison to them. His parents did not know the name, “Abraham” would have such an effect. Both the Old and the New Bible was revered but no one named their child in the South “Abraham.” George Washington was OK as he defeated King George. Savannah was not particularly anti-Semitic. People with the same interests segregated themselves. People of color lived by themselves. When they returned from Lithuania his father and

him rented a room in the Bronx and the children warned him not to go on the street where the Italians or the Irish lived. If he walked to school on the wrong street, he would get beaten up. He was chased and his friend, Hilton, said never go on that street or they will take your shoes.

65:00 The family stayed in a Jewish area in Lithuania. Some gentiles may have lived there as well as Jews. It was not threatening and they were not friendly but left each other alone. He knew all the areas in Zarasy had Jewish homes and no one would attack him as he would run to a Jewish home. He and Harry wandered all over town. No grownup would hurt a child in Lithuania but you had to watch out for children your own age. The strangest thing in Zarasy was the lack of automobiles as there were none. If one came from Kudno (?), all the children would run behind it. They would smell the gas from the exhaust which was an unusual smell. A second unusual thing was that you could find fruit on trees everywhere. If you saw an apple tree, you got a stick and hit it or get pears or cherries. There were current bushes hanging over fences. His grandfather's duties consisted of interceding on behalf of Jews who had to go to court if they received a notice of violation; perhaps they left a horse on the street. He never heard his grandfather speak Lithuanian. He was a refugee from Russia and spoke Russian fluently.

70:00 He might have learned enough Lithuanian to get by. His grandfather interceded on behalf of landowners. He owned a large house on a large square block filled with lumber that his uncle dealt with. They had poppy and fruit trees. Harry and the children would go and pick fruit. His grandfather was Chaim Gordon and his grandmother was Malka Gordon. The house was wooden but very elegant. It was not very wide but was very long with bedrooms on each side of the long hallway. It was about 50 feet wide and 100 feet long. There were many big rooms. There was a music room, a kitchen and a dining room where his grandfather entertained local big shots so got power in the courtroom. Probably Lithuanian big shots were fluent in Russian. Al was there in the 1920s and had recently become Russian. He took a bus from Kodno (?) to Zarasy that ran infrequently.

75:00 It was a fantastic experience in Lithuania in the winter. The Air Force was going to land on a nearby lake as it was frozen. They pulled out 6 foot slabs of ice in the winter and put it in the barn and covered it with straw to preserve butter until spring. Three airplanes landed on the ice and everyone ran on the ice which was six or eight feet thick so it did not break. Zarasy was the Siberia of Lithuania as it was so cold. It was a lovely town. There was a mountain in the middle of the lake. They would sled down the hill onto the ice as everyone had sleds. There was no indoor plumbing or electricity. They were heated by a fireplace and wood. His uncle had 2,000 logs out in the garden. Al does not remember seeing fires going in the fireplace. He slept there in the winter under thick quilts. It was freezing and they did not want to go outside to the outhouse. He missed his father when he was there.

- 80:00 His father wrote to them all the time in a roll of funny papers. He got a notice every month to pick up the roll. He and Harry read them. They maintained their reading of English by reading them and later translated them to friends. From Germany, they read, "Sigmund and Ignaz," mischievous children playing tricks on older people. These comics were hard to get. Traders brought them. He never spoke Yiddish with Daniel, only English, and Daniel's parents spoke French with him. English and French were considered high class. He saw many German language films in his uncle's theatre in Zarasy and in Kovno. His uncle survived the war and had a new family in Israel. He took the name, "Gordon" from his wife. He was adopted by the grandfather. He was a big handsome guy and he looked up to him. Al understood the German films from his knowledge of Yiddish, especially the everyday language about eating or going out.
- 85:00 Al can read the Forwards but only knows Yiddish of a 12-year-old so does not know intellectual or complicated Yiddish. There was the Bongo Theatre. He does not know if there were stores in Zarasy. Everything was made-to-order—shoes, tailor, stockings. You could buy bread and bagels at a store or from the lady walking down the street who called out in Russian. He was hungry as his mother did not pay attention to food. He would wait for her to come home and might just have grapes. Once he bought a pound of butter and a pound of cheese and whipped it together and spread it on bread. He looked forward to cholent.
- 90:00 It was cooked in a big solid iron pot about the size of a basketball with all types of stuff including carrots, chicken, honey, peas, potatoes and onions – a huge stew. It was about five pounds and he carried it to the communal oven on Friday before sundown and back Saturday night after sundown for five kilometers at age 10 or 11. He and Harry built a wagon and pulled the cholent on it. They got broken parts of yo-yo disks and made the wagon and other toys with them. The stew was piping hot as it was boiling when they picked it up and it was delicious. It was the best meal of the week. Otherwise, he ate herring which was easy to get as it came in a barrel. He ate it with bread but it was not filling. His mother was with her friends or at shul. She took care of old, sick people. Korochim, Anna and Sigmund grabbed hold of him and Harry and brought them home. They gave them something to eat but warned them not to tell their mother. Sometimes they got pork chops but they did not care.
- 95:00 They speared fish and got a large pike. It had little bones but was delicious. He loved going there. Sigmund taught himself to be a freelance tailor. Anna was a housekeeper. She took care of the animals and the garden. They had lots of vegetables and fruit. His orchard was so productive that he rented it out in the summer to entrepreneurs who sold the produce to stores. Al would pick gooseberries, etc. He had pet chickens. They slaughtered the chickens in the winter. He had a favorite chicken who was lost but one day she came out from under the outhouse with little chicks. He thought she was lost or eaten. Al felt like the Jewish Huckleberry Finn. He had a wonderful time. There was

some fear because of conflict. It was not institutional anti-Semitism but a conflict of religious belief, like North and South Ireland. There was tribalism, cliques. The Gentile kids hung out with the Gentiles and the Jewish kids with Jews and when they all met, there was conflict. There were rumors that the Jews drank the blood of Christians at Passover. In the US, Ford picked the Protocols of Zion as he favored Hitler's solution.

100:00 He was a major Anti-Semite. The same could be done to Black people or the Irish. You can take anything and enlarge it to a fairytale like talk of a "Christ Killer." The Nazis might have had doubts but people go along or become part of the group. Tribalism continues since time began and goes on. Try to learn a lesson and pass on the notion that people are not inherently bad. The Holocaust Museum exists to set the record straight on bigotry, oppression and discrimination, intolerance and victimization. Al would not torture Hitler but would separate him from others as he was human. Revenge gets you nothing. The best revenge is to educate so terrible things are not done again.

105:00 Around 1926 or '27 in Lithuania, his father came and took everyone back to the US. It was a great relief and a great surprise. He and Harry got a message to go to the grandfather's home. There they found their father who announced he came to take them home. He does not recall if his mother was present at the announcement or if his father went to her home. He was told to pack as they were going to the US. Perhaps his mother got mail warning her the father was arriving. It was the time of Prohibition and his father packed up a prized bottle of wine to celebrate with friends when they arrived home in NY. They were with relatives and found the wine bottle had broken in the suitcase. Perhaps his father gave his mother an ultimatum to return as she agreed. She did not want to return to Savannah so they rented a home in Rockaway. For a year they lived on the beach on the water and became beachcombers and the father was unemployed. His father had been threatened before he was fired.

110:00 The son of the man who owned the department store had a bank in one of the Carolinas and offered Al's father the opportunity to operate a refreshment stand in the bank serving coca cola and sandwiches. His father hired someone to help him with the stand and paid for the house in Rockaway. A year later his mother hysterically told his father that he was in the hospital after being hit by a car. It was Christmas time and Al was on the street across from Santa Claus when he was eight and ran across without looking. His father came and the stand was taken away as the helper had stolen everything. The family survived the Holocaust because the father cared. Hitler became Chancellor in 1933 and wanted to clean the world of Jews or "Judenheim." His father applied to the Post Office for a job and was a veteran of World War I so got extra points and was selected as a Substitute Postal Carrier. He only got a salary when on assignment which was 59 cents an assignment. His father's father died and left him some money so he was able to go to Europe and bring out the family from Lithuania after four years. They lived in a suburb of Kovno in Slobodka, a poor Jewish enclave with Yeshivas and a

Synagogue. It became a ghetto when the Germans came. They got a message from their relatives, the Simons who lived in Kovno proper to visit them. They were also nicely fed so looked forward to it.

115:00 The mother's relatives including cousins were there. He and Harry were taken into another room and were shocked to see their father who they had not seen in three and one-half years. It was agreed that their father took the three eldest sons and leave the youngest with the mother who would join them later. It was May 1933 and Al never saw his mother again. The four returned to the US and the three boys were placed in school. David, the youngest, was left behind. Al's father could not take care of the three children in America. Al lived with his father in a furnished room. Harry lived with a relative and Bernard attended the New York School for the Deaf. He did not know sign language so it was hard for him.

120:00 Every Friday, they picked up Bernard and the three slept in one bed and Sunday night they took Bernard back. His father checked on Harry and in the summer Al went to South Fallsburg in the Catskill Mountains in New York. It was nice, like Lithuania with rivers, lakes, fishing. Cousins were there and they did activities together. War started in '39 and Al's father arranged for a young Polish man immigrating to the US (perhaps through HIAS) would stop at Zarasy on his way to America. He would tell David that he had a ticket for him to get to America. David was 14 and was afraid his mother would not let him go so in secret took the train to Holland. They went to a hotel to await the boat that was leaving from Antwerp. The hotel said, "No Jews." The 5th Column Germans had invaded the low countries of Holland and Belgium and they could not find a place to stay. The train was filled with German soldiers and his brother spoke Yiddish to them and they shared their lunch as the Germans thought David was speaking a German dialect. They had tickets on the German Lloyd Line but could not use them so must have gone to England. In '33 Al's tickets had been switched from the German line to the Swedish Gripsholm Line. The brother and the Pole arrived on the Rotterdam. His brother had Rheumatic fever which had started in Zarasy.

125:00 His father took the test to become a regular postman and got a regular salary. He was able to rent a one-bedroom apartment and used the living room as a bedroom where Al slept. On the weekend Bernard slept with him and when David arrived, he slept there. His father stayed with David in the hospital while he was ill as he was devoted. Al attended the High School of Music and Art and his art class was required to visit an art museum. He picked up Bernard instead so got reprimanded by the Dean's office who called his father that he cut class.

130:00 His father gave him a note to give to the Dean, "You see him more than I do, how do I know where he is." He told the Dean that he has a deaf brother who is waiting for him. His father took care of the boys with all his means, borrowing when necessary. He wish

his father was alive to tell him that he follows his principles. Al identified with Maggie in the comics, “Maggie & Jiggs” when she throws a rolling pin at Jiggs. His father created in them a desire to be someone, follow your creative impulse. His father had to subdue his own impulses as he did not want to let the boys down. Sometimes Al argued with his father like when he requested a sweater and his father told him to get a job. Most people would not raise four boys by themselves. He pulled them out of the Holocaust as he predicted the future.

135:00 It wasn't until '36 when things got really difficult. He left Lithuania in '33 so it was the last time he saw his mother. He received a warm letter from her not to forget her. She never explained why she did not come to the US. His father's loyalty and dedication to raise his children was in contrast to his mother who seemed not to care. She could have requested to get her out and that she wanted to see her children. Perhaps there was a mental breakdown as she let her husband remove the three children and she lost the fourth. They tried through the Red Cross to trace his mother in Lithuania as the Germans kept meticulous records but the Lithuanians did not. They did not ask the Holocaust Museum and wonder if they have knowledge of what happened in Zarasy. He will look into that.

140:00 He only received one letter from his mother but a cousin in the Catskills got a package and it included a photo of his parents, a photo of his father in uniform and one of his mother with writing, “Don't forget me.” His mother might have written to her sister or his father. After she lost her youngest son, you would think that she would have written. Al thinks about it as it is unfinished life story. To survive, you cannot dwell on the past but move on which is his defense. His father did not have that attitude. He heard that all the countries of Europe (Spain, Belgium, Hungary, Romania) had local Nazi sympathizers.

145:00 He heard that once the Germans came, the locals joined them and carried out their orders. In Zarasy they cut off the main road so the Jews were trapped with nowhere to go and were rounded up and taken to the woods (where he picked strawberries) and were killed. It happened in Poland, Romania, Yugoslavia, everywhere – opportunism by currying favor. You don't expect human beings to behave in an inhumane way but they do. Self-preservation was probably a consuming motivation. Certain people who are scared of everything felt if you don't join them, then you are the victim. He can't picture a large group of Jews having sport with Gypsies or Blacks or even entertaining such a notion as it is so preposterous. That is how gangs recruit people—by threatening them. Maybe it is easy to threaten non-educated farmers in Lithuania by saying, “I'll burn your farm if you don't do it.”

150:00 Shadden fruden (?) “Thank G-d it's not me they are after.” It takes courage to say that if you do something to others, do it to me. He appreciates the Holocaust Museum's effort as

it is not so much remembering the fallen as to hold a mirror to humanity. "Do you want to be like these people?" You can pick a victim but we are all part of the same race as are human being and need to treat people that way. He is not ashamed if he repeats himself as we are all brothers trying to preserve thing for our posterity. By doing something, talking and showing that bad things should not be repeated and perhaps some day people won't hate each other. The world is more crowded because of climate change and food resources becoming less abundant, we must get along together or perish together. Some believe we are not living long enough to see the horrors of global warning but our great-grandchildren will be effected. He wants his and other people's children and great-grandchildren to have a good life.

155:00 Then Al's legacy from America and Zarasy was discussed. The children in Zarasy never saw a train or a plane and maybe one or two cars by age 6 or 7. He regaled them with stories of subway trains running every five minutes with 2,000 people and their mouths would hang open. They asked him how fast they went and if they were above or below the ground. The kids would ask him how many trains and he replied they were continuous, every 10 or 15 minutes. He told them of trips he took in buses and cars with his father and airplanes he saw take off and land. He also learned from them. He did not know how to swim so made a float to practice swimming. He learned how to make many things –toys, wagons, sleds. In Zarasy, you did not have a Woolworth to buy a device so needed to make it or do without. To make something, you consulted others. His friend taught him a lot. To go fishing, it was interesting as you needed a fishing pole. You went to the local woods and cut down a sapling. Then you needed a fishing line so you pulled out a few strands from the long tails of white horses. They were two or three feet long and you braided 6 or 7 for the fishing line.

160:00 The barber gave you a goose quill and cork and you put a hole in the cork. You have to buy a fish hook as you could not make it. Then you caught the fish, fried it and ate it. He had a wonderful time. He and Harry played with wood and made their own sled but you could buy them. If he had a few pennies, he could buy one. He made his own ice skates with a leather strap and a piece of wood and a toolmaker put it together. He learned to swim, ice skate, fish. In winter, he got a heavy pole and put on a spear and fish through a hole in the ice. Neighbors helped. There were no street lights. If he visited a friend and it got dark, he would have to walk two kilometers in the pitch darkness and imagine wolves around. He and Harry made lanterns out of wood and had a glazier cut a rectangle of glass and fit it in and then walked home with a lantern.

165:00 He captured fruit from trees as he used something like a fishing pole to snare an apple. He did not go hungry as there were apple, pear and plum trees in town and you could get something to eat. You would be creative and make things instead of buying them which helped him for the rest of his life. He would first determine if you can make it before buying an item. He made toys for his children. He learned a lot in Zarasy. If he feels

blue, he thinks back to his wonderful life in Lithuania where he enjoyed the country life living like Tom Sawyer or Huckleberry Finn.

170:00