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Interview with Joseph Nowaslawski, Interview 1
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Transcriber: Diane Roth
Begin Tape 1, Side 1

This is Pat Pilling. Today is July the 20th 1982. I'm talking with Mr. Joseph Nowaslawski of 23429 Curie in Warren Michigan. Mr. Nowaslawski is an oilman at Chevy Gear and Axle, and a member of Local 235.

PP: I wonder if you could tell me where you were born and when you were born?

Nowa: Where I born? Poland.

PP: Whereabouts in Poland?

Nowa: At around Vilna.

PP: Just outside Vilna?

Nowa: Outside Vilna. Between Vilna and Lida.

PP: How do you spell Lida?

Nowa: L-I-D-A.

PP: When were you born?

Nowa: April 11, 1920.

PP: Do you have any brothers or sisters?

Nowa: I got two sisters.

PP: Where are they?

Nowa: Presently in Poland.

PP: Are they living in the Vilna area?

Nowa: No, they live in what they took from Germany; territory Olsztn.

PP: How do you spell that?

Nowa: Olszt~~n~~stn? O-L-S-Z-T-N, Olsztn.

PP: Have you seen them at all?

Nowa: Yeah, I seen them, twice.

PP: You've been over?

Nowa: I've been over. My two sisters come in over here too, for six weeks. About three years ago.

PP: Is your mother Polish?

Nowa: My mother Polish, father Polish. Father die over there in Vilna. Mother die over there in Olsztn. When the Russians take over that territory, that's East Poland. Russia take it over. So, after war, 1956, my whole family move down to Olsztn.

PP: Did your parents ever come to the United States?

Nowa: No.

PP: So, you really are what one would consider a first generation immigrant.

Nowa: That's right.

PP: What area of Poland do you identify with? The Russian area, the Austrian area, German area?

Nowa: Russian area. I born over there. My family over there. That's why they took it over. Russia took it over after the war.

PP: Is your wife Polish or part Polish?

Nowa: Yes, she's Polish, too.

PP: What area is she from?

Nowa: She lived round Lvov. Russia take it over.

PP: How many children do you have?

Nowa: Two.

PP: We were talking about them before we had the tape on (Clock in the background) and you said one is a son ~~who~~ ^{Penn.} lives at Villanova and is a doctor.

Nowa: My daughter is a registered nurse.

PP: Is she married?

Nowa: She married.

PP: Now they both have careers, but if they were growing up today, would you possibly want them to work in an automobile plant?

Nowa: No. My son worked in the automobile industry too. For summer time. But he select a different career. He don't like it at all.

PP: Did you have any relatives that did work in the automobile plants?

Nowa: No. Actually, we don't have ^(no) any relatives around here, nobody.

PP: Because you do have two sisters in Poland, do you feel quite an identity with Poland? Are you interested in what's going on?

Nowa: No. Because Russia take me over to concentration camp; I was nineteen years old. That's 1939, before Christmas I already in jail. After that, they give me court. Take me for seven years slave labor camp; concentration camp.

PP: Where was that?

Nowa: (36) Close to Finland border.

Nowa: That's cold.

PP: What was the name of the camp?

Nowa: ^{Huta} Oochta. Is Russian.

PP: How do you spell that?

Nowa: H-U-T-A. That's a (39) Of the Russian Republic. That's far North.

PP: Are you an American citizen?

Nowa: Yeah.

PP: As you and your wife are both from Poland, did you teach your children Polish?

Nowa: Yeah, they understand and talk.

PP: And they do speak Polish?

Nowa: Yeah.

PP: Does your wife cook Polish dishes quite a bit?

Nowa: Yeah. She mostly cook more American, the new style. If your going to (43) , I like that. But probably you don't like meat. Sort of like that. (laughing)

PP: What about this interest ^{what's been recent} now in the Solidarity movement, the worker movement in Poland?

(Phone ringing - break in tape)

When the phone rang I was asking you how you felt about the Solidarity movement in Poland.

Have you any interest in what's going on at all?

Nowa: For a while, yeah. That's a nice thing. I support them, but not right time.

PP: What do you mean by that?

Nowa: Not right time because that's impossible if the Russians let them slip out. That's impossible. Because these are Russian ^{Communist?} companies dominate over East Europe. That's impossible to get out. Even United States if they could help, but they can't. They can't help because they have to declare the war. So, I see that unuseful, people to fight for it. Because, is not the right time. Even isn't slightest little chance to get out, be free. That's my point of view. I support it, yeah. But that's ridiculous. Because I know Russia very well. I spent in concentration camp. I know what is the tactics. I know what they do to the people. People slave over there.

PP: When you were a young boy living ^{near} a Vilna, you went to school. Were you living in a village nearby or a small town?

Nowa: A small town.

PP: What was your father doing at the time?

Nowa: Farmer.

PP: So, then you went to school locally. And then what happened to you?

Nowa: Meantime, 1939, September 17, Russia coming in to Poland. After that, all the Russians got all the young boys, just little things - you don't have to do nothing. Just pull them up, put ^{them} in jail, take you down to Russia, give you court. They didn't ask you any question. Fifty

Nowa: people pick. Put them all together, that's a court. They call your name, sign it! That's all. They don't ask you a question. That's the Russia ^{Communist} court system, like that.

PP: So, what did they do with you after that?

Nowa: After that, we get a court so many years.

Everyone would get a different: seven years, five years. No less than five years. For nothing! They take you down to concentration camp, slave court. But you have to work this way. If you don't make what they tell you to, how much they give to you; digging ditches, and push the wheelbarrow, you don't get any eggs. You get less and less to eat. So, I'm young, so, hopefully I'll make it. But a lot of people, 65%, left over there. They never come back. So, 1941 . . .

PP: This is in the place near Finland, you're talking about?

Nowa: Yeah. 1941, Hitler invaded Russia. So, Russia didn't have no choice to ask for United States, Polish government, English government ~~to~~ go join together to go fight against Hitler.

PP: But, Polish government, General ~~(75)~~ *Sislovski*. Do you remember him? He say okay, we go together, but, we have to make it free, all of the people we take off Eastern Poland. Two million

Nowa: people letting free. Stalin agree with that.

I was free 1941, September 17. I was get out the wires for the camp. So, they give you a little bit back; they give you nothing. Say that's a radio station, hit the road. We traveled for three months from (81?) ^(81?) ~~with~~ to the Middle East, around Iran. By train.

PP: How did you eat?

Nowa: We ^{what we get} (83) that's all! You travel on railroad train for animals. No passenger railroad cars.

PP: I mean where did you get food to eat?

Nowa: We stop, everybody steal. Something like that. That's what you eat. They say well we'll give you when we stop next station. Next station's (85) , they don't have any. Next station.

PP: How many of you were there on this train?

Nowa: I would say 10,000, ~~60~~,000. Sure!

PP: Men and women?

Nowa: Mostly men.

PP: Young men, too, I suppose.

Nowa: Young men, yeah.

PP: What happened when you got to Iran?

Nowa: We don't get to Iran yet. I say the border of Iran. In Russian territory. ^{Uzbekistan} ~~Uzbekistan~~. ^{Tashkent} ~~Pachkin~~. So, first we stop for a look to Polish Army organize. General Anders organize Polish Army. So we stop. We got too many. ^{Say no.} Go down the road, ^{no uniforms, nothing} go farther east. So, go

Nowa: farther east. After that (clapped hands)

(93) so sent us close to Turkey
border. We work about over there on the farm
a couple months. Late in March, we go back to
Army. (clap) Whole Army (96) organize
That's 1941.

PP: Where did you go back to from Turkey?

Nowa: Poland. Not Turkey, that's Russia. But
border Turkey. So, then we got Army uniform.
Standing up for Seventh division infantry.
Later on, Russia say, we got no equipment,
no food, no nothing. So, English government
ask Russia if they'll let Polish Army go to the
Middle East. That's when everybody go down
Iran, Iraq, Palestine, all over. Syria. That's
where the second corps organized, in the Middle
East.

PP: So, you went where, then?

Nowa: I went then, Iran. Iran, Bagdad, Teheran. So,
after that I join to the parachute. So, I join
the parachute and I try to go.

PP: This was still with the Polish Army?

Nowa: Polish, yeah! So, 1943, we sail into England.
Join the Brigade Parachute to England, Scotland.
That's when (100) Glasgow June 20, 1942.

PP: So, you finally got to England.

Nowa: Yeah. So, I with the First Brigade Parachutes
in Scotland. Later on, volunteered to go to

Nowa: Air Force. So, I go and join Air Force, 1943.

PP: So, you were in England for how long, then?

Nowa: Nine years. From 1942 to '51.

PP: So after the war. During this time did you know what had happened to your parents or your sisters?

Nowa: No. Meantime 1943, I get from Red Cross - because I send them some kind of package, you know, for food, some for sweets. And Red Cross give me answer that they receive that. During the war, 1943, that's what I hear. After war, I write and I get letters. But they can't send nothing. They don't allowed it.

PP: But at least you knew they were safe. Well, you decided then that you preferred ~~to not~~ go back to Poland.

Nowa: No way, 'cause I sign it. 1946 in England they ask individual, every one of them if ~~you~~ want to return to Poland. I sign declaration, I say no! I don't have no reason to go there 'cause Russia take it over. See what I mean? Ain't no reason to go.

PP: So then you decided to try and come to the United States?

Nowa: I discharged 1949 from Air Force. '49 I got a job down at Fountain Glass Work, ~~Yorkshire area.~~

PP: Doing what?

~~Yorkshire area.~~
Worcestershire?

Nowa: Labor, glass work. That's Fountain Glass Work,
the name. Between Harrisfield and ^{Leeds} Liess. (126)

PP: Yeah, in Yorkshire.

Nowa: So I stay. Later on, the United States Senate
allowed come in sixteen Polish soldiers. Can
immigrate to United States.

PP: How many?

Nowa: Sixteen thousand. Allowed it, that's a quota.
But I believe only use a quota of 11,000
immigrate. I mean, from all over. Not
necessarily from England. All different
countries.

PP: So, where did you come to?

Nowa: 1951, March 21st. Landing down in New York.
Shipping from Liverpool to United States.
Ships name is (13) ^{Sixie} ~~Sessia~~ . (clock in background)
So we shipping over there, we got a little
boy four years old.

PP: I see, you met your wife in England.

Nowa: In England in Air Force.

PP: Oh, she was also in the Air Force.

Nowa: Yeah. So, we married in 1945, October 1st.
In Lincoln.

PP: So then you came over and you came to New York.
And then what did you do?

Nowa: We bring our little boy four years old. He
can't even speak English. He speak Polish.
(140) learn. He still remember. I mean,

Nowa: he didn't talk very plain. But, still he understand. My girl understand.

PP: So then when you got to New York, what did you do then?

Nowa: She got a ^{relative} _A in Pennsylvania, around Pittsburgh.

So we stop over there. They give to me what I ask for, the gläss work. I meet in Employment Office, English lady. She's director of Employment Office. She say okay, give me a little glass ^{for England and I'll give you a} ~~for him to do~~ job. (laughing)

I say, well I'll try it if I got any. So she gave me job. That city ^{(140) (parade)} city.

So I get a job, work a little bit, off and on.

1943, the company sell to a bigger company.

So, I no seniority, I got no job.

PP: What glass works were you working in?

Nowa: McKee Glass.

PP: So then what did you do? Decide to come to Detroit?

Nowa: Well, I got three days work for week, two days a week. Later on, I decide look for a job. I go to pavement, couldn't get nothing. When I go to Cleveland, I get support. I tried Aircraft company. They don't hire me. The first, everything, I qualify and everything. They come and ask: Are you citizen? I say how can be citizen. I was just here ~~two~~ ^{three} years. Sorry. So am I. So I decided come to Detroit.

Nowa: I'm in Detroit by myself. We already have two children. I don't know if you remember Governor Williams. So, he declare all the companies don't hire people out of state. Because you want to (163) the job. A lot of people are out of work. So, what I do, I look in the newspaper. ^{(Built huts} (164) in Northland. So, I ^{go} get a dishwasher's job. I don't like kitchen. So, I work about three months. Later on, Chevrolet start hiring. (165)

. I went to see director of personnel at the office over there. He say, 'why you want to quit over there? You got a job.' I say, listen, how you like to live ^{for} \$50 a week? For two children, pay your rent. I don't think that too much. That's why I look for change job, better wages. So, he hired me.

PP: At Gear and Axle?

Nowa: Gear and Axle, March 17, 1955.

PP: What did you start out at Gear and Axle? What did you do?

Nowa: Production.

PP: What kind of work did you do.

Nowa: Punch presses. High speed presses, sort of thing like that. I was in maintenance about two years. When I laid off '56, I go to work Fischer Body. Fleetwood. I ^{was} laid off '57.

PP: Oh, you went to Fleetwood then?

Nowa: Yeah! For second time, I go to Fleetwood over there, just like that. So first time I get laid off, she say well, I'll have to look for a job. That's when she started for hospital, 1956.

PP: This is who?

Nowa: My wife. She still over there.

PP: Is she a nurse now?

Nowa: No, she working with the school nursing. She cleaning.

PP: She works in the nursing school, you mean?

Nowa: Nursing school cleaning. That's where she stayed, now and today. So later on they called me back. I'm stickⁱⁿ around with Chevrolet. I have no choice.

PP: So, you're still being at Gear and Axle. When did you get to be an oilman? You said you were an oilman? When did you start that kind of work?

Nowa: I started that kind 1965.

PP: And you stayed with that kind^{of work} ever since. Which plant do you work in?

Nowa: Every one of them. Because we travel.

PP: How many oilmen are there in Gear and Axle?

Nowa: Afternoon shift we got six.

PP: What about the morning shift?

Nowa: The day shift we got eleven. Because more production run in day shift, than afternoon.

- PP: What actually do you do? Can you describe your job?
- Nowa: Mostly hydraulic oil, hydraulic system, gear boxes, machine oil, where you put the grease for bearings. You go around to check what machine need oil. You just put it in. *This is* what kind of oil *I* use. That's all. Individual, everyone have their own department. That's it.
- PP: Did you ever consider changing jobs at any time? Or were you satisfied once you got into this?
- Nowa: Right now, I think nothing 'cause it's too late for consideration.
- PP: Well, now you have a number of years of seniority. You have how many years now?
- Nowa: Next year it's going to be twenty-eight years.
- PP: But, I mean, when you were around thirty-five or say, did you ever consider moving?
- Nowa: No.
- PP: Tell me, do you know any Polish workers who have moved from Michigan to another state?
- Nowa: From another state?
- PP: No, who have moved ^{from} Michigan to another state. Do you know any Polish workers who have moved? You don't know any Polish workers that have moved?
- Nowa: No. I mean every one of them would have come in here, when he got the job, to stay. Because

Nowa: he don't look for the luck. Actually Detroit and Michigan State has the ^{best} higher wages have pay in Union.

PP: If you did move to another state, what would you miss most of all, do you think? If you ever did move to another state. For instance, if you moved near one of your children, what would you miss most about Michigan?

Nowa: Friends, atmosphere, and the weather. It not bad. Because we been all over.

PP: Do you consider this as a Polish community? Where you live?

Nowa: Warren? Yeah. Warren got a lot of Polish people. Sterling Heights, a lot of them. And Warren, a lot of Polish people.

PP: Do you go down to Hamtramck at all? Do you go there?

Nowa: Hamtramck? Yeah. I used to live in Hamtramck nine years.

PP: Oh, you lived in Hamtramck.

Nowa: Yeah. I got property over there. Right on I-75.

PP: When you were growing up, did your parents in Poland own their farm?

Nowa: Yeah.

PP: So, when you came here to Detroit, you and your wife bought a house pretty soon? Or did you live in an apartment?

Nowa: When I come to Detroit, I rent an apartment.

PP: In Hamtramck?

Nowa: Hamtramck. Later on, I got scraped a little bit money. We put ^adown payment and we bought an older house. And I lived nine years in that older house.

PP: In Hamtramck.

Nowa: Hamtramck, yeah. Later on, they started buying the property for the highways, I-75.

PP: What street did you live on in Hamtramck?

Nowa: Nagel.

PP: How long have you lived in this house?

Nowa: Sixteen years. ^{It'll be seventeen} I bought the house 1966.

PP: Do you attend a Polish parish church?

Nowa: Yeah, San Mark.

PP: And that's mostly Polish.

Nowa: That's a Catholic church.

PP: Yeah, but is it mostly Polish?

Nowa: No. They're mixed up, all nationalities.

PP: Do you belong to any Polish organizations?

Nowa: Yeah.

PP: Which ones do you belong to?

Nowa: Polish Alliance.

PP: Which one?

Nowa: Polish Alliance.

PP: Are you quite active in that?

Nowa: No. Every time I come in. Not exactly am I really active, but I'm member. Polish Veterans.

Nowa: And the Polish wing in Detroit of the Air Force.

PP: I didn't know they had a Polish wing in Detroit, of the Air Force. How big is that? How many members in that?

Nowa: We have about forty. But the wing is social.

We didn't have too much left. About sixteen, seventeen of us. We make (249) a *Blue Ball* Maybe you heard about us. (250) . That's the last Saturday *after* ^{the} New Year. We got a lot of Canadians people from the Army. The higher rank officers come in. They still attend it every year because they love *Blue Ball* (254) . Every United State, *Comrades, came in* (255) coming.

PP: Where do they have it?

Nowa: Royalty House on Van Dyke and 13 Mile Road. Beautiful, I mean time, over there. All kind of nationality come in. People want to have a good time. (259) , like that. It not too expensive. Twenty-five dollars a person, we get ~~two~~ orchestras, ~~we~~ get lunch.

End Side 1, Begin Side 2

PP: Do you have a boat or a cottage or anything like that?

Nowa: No, we can't afford it before because I spent all the money for education. / My point, number 1, educated our children. /

PP: Well, you certainly have educated your children.

Future Ed

Nowa: That's right. For us, it's too late. Because we had no chance when we young. But we have a chance to give the kids the best knowledge. That's what we tried to do. So, I don't think about cottages, properties or something like that.

Future educ

PP: What kind of car do you have?

Nowa: A Riviera.

PP: What year?

Nowa: '79. That car my son bought me for Father's Day. We have a nice Buick, '77, beautiful, Century. Nice car. One Friday, two new Buicks driving on the sidedrive. Someone at the door. I open it, "What's your name?" There's your paper and the key, ^{and} a happy Father's Day. That's your baby right there. On the Friday before Father's Day, Sunday. That's the best number 1 car! So she drive to work. I put in an alarm system and everything. 'Cause once they try to steal them right in the parking lot over there in Chatham. She afraid to drive in the park, you know what I mean?

PP: Have you ever had a parent or parent-in-law living with you?

Nowa: No.

PP: Well, you said you didn't have any relatives living in area.

Nowa: I got four cousins over from Poland but they live in Cleveland now. Cousin's son.

PP: Does your wife work full-time or part-time?

Nowa: Full-time.

PP: Does she work days or afternoons?

Nowa: Days. That's the reason I workⁱⁿ afternoon, she worked for days. Because when we had small children, somebody have to be home with the children. That's how we split. My wife's father die in Russia. Mother die of heavy sickness in Teheran, Iran. She was left at fourteen years old, by her self. She cover blanket. In strange country, Arab country, where do you go? (281)

PP: What age do you plan to retire?

Nowa: I'd like to 63. I am 62 now. I'd like to 63 depend what situation going to be, what kind Social Security benefit, how much I can collect. Will depend what situation is.

PP: In other words you might get a little bit better pension when you're 65.

Nowa: Yeah, but I figure 63 . . .

PP: You'll have your thirty years in.

Nowa: No, it'll be twenty-eight.

PP: Wouldn't it be better if you had your thirty years in?

Nowa: Yeah, I know, better. But, I mean, it would depend on how I feel. That's the point. Aches like that, you don't know from one day to the other.

PP: What do you and your wife *hope* to do when you retire?

Nowa: Stay home-around, visit our kids. Maybe in the winter-time go to Tulsa. It's warm over there. Summertime I'll go to Philadelphia.

PP: (laughing) How many times all together have you been laid off?

Nowa: Twice. '56, '57.

PP: Both times you went to Fleetwood. What did you do at the Fleetwood plant?

Nowa: Spot welding. In '57 I was down there cleaning up the cushioning ^{+ carpets} (291) where the body come out from the paint.

PP: Did somebody have to train you for your job?

Nowa: No, nobody train me nothing. I learn myself how to do it.

PP: How many years of school did you have in Poland?

Nowa: Seven.

PP: So, when you came to England and you had to learn English, did they teach you how to read and write English at the same time?

Nowa: Yeah, I was in a class. I was in a training in Air Force.

PP: Do you find it fairly easy to read and write English now?

Nowa: Not exactly but I understand almost everything.

PP: Is it easier to read in Polish for you than English.

Nowa: No, about the same. I was training for about

Nowa: a year as radio operator on air crew. I fly ~~the~~ Lancaster. On the 300 Squadron fighting war.

PP: Have you ever thought while you were being an oilman, you might like to change to another job for variety?

Nowa: When I was in England, (301) . Two years an English fighter. Fighter (303) -i Ipswich
You try to get, when I go to India, an instructor or something like that. But they say (no) (303) .

PP: But what about here, at the Gear and Axle? Have you ever thought to maybe changing to a different job? Or had an interest in changing to something else for a variety?

Nowa: Before, yeah. When I young I tried. But, I didn't have enough to push. I tried apply for machine repair, hydraulic man. Over there, you need a push. Even interview like the (307) gives the people. And if you remember before, majority quota, Black people get first choice.

PP: You mean you needed someone to sponsor you to help you do that. Then you would have perhaps gone into machine repair or something like that.

Nowa: Oh yeah. I'd be good machine repair. I tell them. But what are you going to do?

(316) . In United States it doesn't

Nowa: matter what you know, but who you know. That's the main thing. It's a different system.

PP: Do you think that the job lay-offs that we've had, have anything to do with Affirmative Action? Or has it been strictly due to seniority?

Nowa: Strictly by seniority. But, my opinion, with my observation, we get too many supervisions. That push more for working people and ~~less pay~~ attention for supervision. You manage seven, eight people one supervision. You don't need that! They don't know nothing. Some supervisions can't even start the machines. What do they do? They mark pieces, that's all. What you call a pusher, that's all. Nothing else.

PP: Tell me, have you ever played an active role in the Union?

Nowa: No. I mean, I special 235 Local. Mostly *majority* all Black now.

PP: Do you vote?

Nowa: Yeah, I vote, yeah.

PP: But, I mean, you haven't really taken an active part. You haven't run for an office.

Nowa: 'Cause really I didn't have no chance. If I say anything or something, it don't count.

PP: Have you ever taken any education classes at the Local? I know they give classes.

Nowa: No, I didn't take any. I have no time for that.

PP: Have you taken any classes at all, locally?

PP: Have you any interests, hobbies?

Nowa: No. I work. When you work six days, seven days, a lot of work around the house.

PP: Have you taken any classes in wood-working, or carpentry or anything?

Nowa: If I need it around the house, I can do it.

PP: If you knew a few years ago what you know now about the economic conditions of today, would you have tried, perhaps, a different kind of work?

Nowa: Yeah, that's what I say. I try machine repair.

PP: How do you feel about Japanese and other foreign cars? How do you feel about those?

Nowa: My personal opinion, actually, I don't like it.

All right, maybe somebody. But I figure.

For Cars
foreign^{ers} cars is foreigners cars. We live here, we have to support our products. If anybody buy a foreign cars, let them collect their check from there. You work here, you support here.

PP: Would you feel differently if the cars were assembled in the United States?

Nowa: Yeah, I feel better, naturally. If our people the employer. They collect the money, spend the money in your own country. Many people don't realize, if they work in the automobile industry or don't, but they're still, not directly, underdirectly involved *for* that.

Nowa: If the industry car go down, naturally, all over, industry go down too. Because they relate to each other.

PP: With all the lay-offs and everything, what do you think about young people being trained for more than one job?

Nowa: I think young people, anybody have no skill, no education, doesn't have ^{even} a chance. Because technology go up. And now in automobile industry, complete reverse, ^{all together} they don't need a sweeper. They need the brains now. All the robots installed, all the automation. They have smart people operating it.)

Future Educ

PP: So, if you were younger, would you go into that kind of work?

Nowa: Oh yeah.

PP: What do you feel about the Quality of Work Life circles? Are you part of these? These circles that they have where management and workers get together.

Nowa: My opinion, you have to observe. We don't have enough trained people, educated people, ^{as ?} special supervision. They don't have no education ever.

PP: Say this again.

Nowa: They have no education. Supervision ^{they have no} common sense. You might have seen 2 or 3%, some supervision use brains, common sense. The rest

Nowa: of them, scrap! They need to educate them, retrain them, show them. How they expect me, try to learn the job as foreman. They should know they show the working people what you do, how you do it. But you ask him, he don't know nothing. They send you to job ^(350?) circle. What the hell we need supervision for?! Spend the money for it. The pusher, whether they need the pusher.

PP: What does a pusher do?

Nowa: Push the people to work. That's what I call a pusher. They don't know nothing. They know how you drink, how to use ^(353?) a door. No indication of effort. You can't operate a business that way. They don't make a profit. I mean, how can people work a machine, on the line, any place. They have to have the people to show them how to do it. The supervision don't know nothing. They don't use common sense. We try to tell them: "oh yeah, yeah". That's it. That's what they give as answer.

PP: Do you think the Union should have more classes 'cause they train people in things?

Nowa: Yeah, sure. Union should more educate people. Show them what the situation. More inform the people what's going on. How are we standing? What do we intend to do? What should we prevent to do?

PP: You mean the Union should have more classes on

PP: the type of work that people are supposed to do?

Nowa: That's right. More explain it.

PP: How do you look at the importance of a man's job to himself as a person; his self-image? Do you think that's very important?

Nowa: I think every employed individual, you have to look at his job and how he do the job. What he's supposed to do. Not just bye-bye and forget about it. They most/y do that. Do it because that's your future. That's your bread. If you don't make the check, you can get away a thousand times. A thousand and one, you say company knows, the honeymoon's over. No more money.)

Future job

PP: What about the man who gets laid off quite a bit because he doesn't have too much seniority. And suddenly he doesn't have a job. And maybe his wife is working and bringing in money. And his children, perhaps. How do you think it affects that man?

Nowa: *sufficiently* affecting.

PP: Do you know any Polish men that are in that position now?

Nowa: Yeah, a lot of them.

PP: What happened to them.

Nowa: They look tired, here and there. You know *what* I mean. Tried to help. How much? I was going that way too. I (374) too. I seen

Nowa: a lot ^{of} laid off. In Pennsylvania for three years, '51 to '54, I was out of work. Many times. Small children, have to pay rent, something like that. Every generations have to go the same way.

PP: But now, with things so bad as they are, some people are working overtime. At Gear and Axle, for example. They're working, not only Saturday but Sundays as well. But how do you think other people feel when they see one man working, or ten men working overtime and they don't have a job?

Nowa: Yeah, I know. I feel bad. Because they should split that job for everybody. If they work for forty hours, everybody make a living. That ^{company} ~~way~~ figured ^{it} out, they could save the money if they give your overtime and hire another man. Because the pay benefit and everything, they ^{keeper} keep away. It don't should be like that. Every company, businessman looking for himself.

PP: You said that if you were a younger man, because of the new robots and things coming in, that you would, perhaps, go into that kind of work. Instead of being the age you are now, say you were twenty-five or thirty years old, what would you try to do?

Nowa: I would try to educate myself. Get ^{training} .

Nowa: Get skilled trades on my hands.

PP: But still, you were how old when you came to Gear and Axle?

Nowa: I came here in 1951. I was 31.

PP: And yet, you didn't try and go into skilled trades.

Nowa: I didn't have a chance. I had to take ^{of a}care₁ family.

I had to work, right? Yeah, I'm married, two kids. If I single, yeah.

PP: I see, because they don't give you much money when you're learning skilled trades, in the apprentice program.

Nowa: Unemployment you get \$30 a week. Two children. How far can you go on \$30 a week?

PP: So, basically, then, that was the reason that you didn't go into skilled trades. Was because you had no chance because of your money situation.

Nowa: That's right.

PP: And of course, your wife couldn't work because she had two small children.

Nowa: Too small, have to take care children. We leave children one way or the other, I wonder what they be like today. You have to keep house like (390) . You have to watch every step they do. Where they go, what they do, who you go. That's more important, especially this country.

PP: Do you think a lot of people in production

PP: got in that sort of problem because they, perhaps, wanted to go into ^{the} skilled trades but couldn't afford to do it? (clock in background)

Nowa: Not too many. Mostly immigration people that have a problem. First, language. And financial situation another thing. (Where I sit, too many young people really waste time. Because United States, young people, they have a better chance any place else to educate themselves, if they want to. They got better chance. They got all kind institutions. All kind, you can borrow money, they got scholarhsip of all kind. If you want education, really want it. But, young people these days, they don't want to do nothing. All they think about is have a good time.)

Future Educ

PP: I suppose when you were in Poland, your father was a farmer and he worked very hard. I suppose he helped you to realize the importance of work.

Nowa: I see my life, what you mean, poor. (You fight for your life. You fight for your piece of bread. That's the way I understand the situation.)

imp'd. to man

PP: So, in actual fact, when you look back on your life, you don't know what you would have been in Poland if the war had not come. You would have been a farmer maybe.

Nowa: Maybe so, maybe yes. Maybe I not be alive, even.

PP: But, on the other hand, ^{now} you have a nice home.
You have two children who are (416) .

Nowa: Thank God for that. But you have to work.
Have to suffer.

PP: But, on the other hand, you have achieved a
great deal. You must feel a great deal of
satisfaction, both you and your wife. Don't
you?

Nowa: Oh yeah. But still, a lot of people don't think
about children. They want to have a good time.
Go here, (420) , go there (420-21) . They
go where they can afford it. If they don't,
that's that. All kind of cottages, all kind of
cars, everything. They don't care about children.
(423) .

PP: What do you think are the most important values
that a person should hold as they're going
through life?

Nowa: Mostly, ^{be} proud of yourself. And secondly, they
have to have ambition for that. It's not an
easy way. But, what they say they're going to
do, they got to do it. It doesn't matter what.
At least you try it, right. Not all the time
you do it, I mean make it. But at least you
try it.)

PP: Well, I think that's a very good place to stop.

End of Interview.