

INTRODUCTION

PERSONAL DATA SHEET

TRANSCRIPT

INTERVIEW TAPE(S)

PICTURE OF INTERVIEWEE

Interview by: Sophia Kavoura  
Interview with: Julius Rinko, Sr.

Date: June 21, 1984

PERSONAL DATA

Julius Rinko, Sr.

Interviewed at Eisenhower Center  
263 Golden Hill St.

Born: Bridgeport, Ct.

Spouse:

Children:

Education: Congress Jr. High

Employment: Varied

Travel

Church: St. Stephen's

Organizations:

INTRODUCTION

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INTERVIEW TAPE (S)

PICTURE OF INTERVIEWEE

Sophia Kavoura: Today is June 21st 1984 and I am interviewing Mr. Julius Rinko, Sr. at the Eisenhower Center.

What is your name?

Julius Rinko: Julius Rinko, Sr.

SK: What is your age and date of birth?

JR: July 10, 1924

SK: How old are you?

JR: Be 80 in another month.

SK: Are you originally from Bridgeport?

JR: What's that?

SK: Are you originally from Bridgeport?

JR: Yes, maam. I was born here in Bridgeport on Hancock Avenue. Well, you don't want to know nothing *(what is it?)*

SK: Yeah, go say whatever you want...whatever you think.

JR: Hancock Avenue in the basement flat.

SK: OK. Can you describe yourself, your family?

JR: Oh yeah. We were three brothers and three sisters, mother and father. And from the basement flat we moved to a 12 family tenement house on Spruce St. which belonged to John Renchy [sp?] Sr. He was a saloon keeper and we lived there and there was twelve families, twelve Hungarian families. And in the twelve families there was just on each floor one toilet. No bathroom. Big porch on the back. No porch, just downstairs and there was forty-two children that lived in that twelve family house. Imagine that! Across from St. Stephens Church on Spruce St.

Rinko: Oh, next door was the Chinese laundry and then the butcher store. Across the street was another grocery store and us children we did not have any playground so we played in the yard. Our parents... there wasn't no automobiles around, just horse and wagon, but we kept to ourself. We listened to our parents but we had wonderful places to play baseball and swimming - Sandy Bar on the end of Bostwick Avenue which we called Sandy Bar. And across the way was Fayerweather's Island and Seaside Park. So we had our own beach. And we had a mixed immigrant family there with everyone had large families, many children. We had Jewish, Hungarian, Polish Croatians and Slovaks and we all got together. We all went to Longfellow School. That was the only school that was there.

Kavoura: How about your religion?

JR: My religion is Catholic. I belong to St. Stephens Church across from where we lived and these Jewish and other nationality boys. As we grew older we made friends and we went to one another's home and we were invited. They treated us like human beings you know and we went to their synagogue and Protestant church and they came to ours. I had Jewish boys: Kaufman and Mellitz and Englander and...

Kavoura: How about your parents' background? Were they immigrants?

JR: Yes, ma'am. They came to this country ... [ myfather]my was sponsored by his uncle which had a saloon and he came here...I was born 1904...I'd say about 1900, and they sponsored him in Bridgeport. And he stood here and he met my mother and she had the 6 children.

SK: What was it like growing up? Was it hard, would you say, or easy?

JR:No, it was wonderful!..There was not much money around and work was scarce for my father. He worked for [Amalda Lyon?] and Crane Co. But he always had enough you know. ...And we moved out of this tenement house. He had a brother that was a carpenter contractor and he built his own home and he invited us to live there. But the children were too many for two rooms and a kitchen. Didn't have no living room; they were bedrooms and a kitchen and there to the outside the toilet was and we took a bath Saturday night. They had to bring the big tub, the big zinc tub from the back porch what was hung on a hook.

SK: Were you ever employed?

JR: What

SK: Were you ever employed?

JR: Oh, yeah, but...

SK: What kind of a job did you hold?

JR: When I was... let's see...we used to study at home. Then we went through our eighth grade when we were twelve years old. There was only one high school in Bridgeport. That was up here where the police station is [on] Congress . And I walked with my graduating friends buddies from the West End down State St. and up Broad St., up the steps here to go to Congress High. And we had manual training and regular... whatever subjects you took up , you know. So, well. I didn't stay; I only stood till I graduated and then from there there was work around...no working papers. And you could get a job even if you were ten years old. You know what, so the first job I had we were going with six other friends of mine that lived in the area and we chummed together. We went to what we called the playground; used to call it the West Side. And as we were going by one noon hour, and by Raybestos Co. on Bostwick Ave, the foreman was sitting there. And he stopped us...if we would like to have a job . So we thought he was kidding, you know. So he says "no". ...Wait a little after lunch ... and we'll take you right in" So they hired the whole six of us. And they teached each one of us different things to do because they made army belts and



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muskets and different things that the soldiers needed for World War I. So my job was they had big spools of yarn which they hung on a hook and you had to get each yarn by itself; about twenty, thirty strands, strings, and you put it between nails and wires and then you had to load this onto another spool, and on this spool they took it and they put it in back of the weaving machine and then they weaved from that. They had the bobbins, you know.

SK: How much were you paid?

JR: You wouldn't believe it. Sixty-five dollars a week and I was only ten years old.

SK: Yeah?

JR: Cause I usually thought...in those days that was a million. So we worked all day Saturday. That Saturday we done the cleaning you know from the wool and the yarn this fuzz comes. You know, naturally [it] hits the nails you know as it spins around the spool. Then the weaving machines they do have this waste like, you know, from the wool. So we used to go around with a broom and hand brush and dustpan and a barrel and clean it up. That was extra.

Today is June 21st 1984 I am Sophia Kavoura and I am interviewing Mr. Julius Rinko, Sr. at the Eisenhower Center.

What is your name?

FDS Julius Rinko, Sr.

What is your age and date of birth?

July 10 1904

DFS How old are you?

Be 80 in another month

Are you originally from Bridgeport?

What's that?

Are you originally from Bridgeport?

Yes, ma'am I was born here in Bridgeport on Hancock Avenue

Well, you don't want to know nothing.

Yeah (go say whatever you want (this is dubious on the tape) whatever you think .

Hancock Avenue in the basement flat.

Ok, can you describe yourself, your family?

OH yeah, we were three brothers and three sisters, mother and father and from the basement flat we moved to a 12 family tenement house on Spruce St which belonged to F John Renchy (pl?) Sr. He was a saloon keeper and we lived there and there was 12 families, 12 Hungarian families and in the 12 families there was just on each floor was one toilet, no bathroom Big porch on the back, no porch, just downstairs and there was 42 children that lived in that 12 family house. Imagine that? Across from St. Stephens church on Spruce st. and we all. Oh, next door was the Chinese laundry and then the butcher store. Across the street was another grocery store and us children we did not have any playground so we played in the yard. Our parents... there wasn't no automobiles around, just horse and wagon but we kept to ourself. We listened to our parents and but we had wonderful places to play baseball and swimming - Sandy Bar on the end of Bostwick Avenue which we called Sandy Bar. And across the way was Fayerweathers Island and Seaside Park. So we had our own beach. And we had a mixed immigrant family there with everyone had large families many children and we had Jewish, Hungarian, Polish, Croations and Slovaks and we all got together. We all went to Longfellow School. That was the only school that was there.

How about your religion?

My religion is Catholic. I belong to St. Stephens Church across from where we lived and these Jewish and other nationalities boys as we grew older we made friends and we went to one another's home and we were invited and they treated us like human beings you know and we went to their synagogue and Protestant church and they came to ours. I had Jewish boys Kaufman and Mellitz and Englander and...

How about your parents' background. Were they immigrants?

Yes, ma'am. They came to this country and (inaudible) sponsored by his uncle which had a saloon and he came here... I was born 19... I'd say about 1900 and they sponsored him in Bridgeport.

Kavoura: I'm curious. What did you do with the money? Did you give some to your parents or did you...

JR: I gave it all. And my mother, she saved that for me. And she gave me \$2 a week...was a lot, big....Ice cream sundae was just a nickel. Well, today you pay a dollar in Friendly's. A big dish full with all the different kinds of nuts and fruits and whipped cream and everything you could think of, they put on. And besides, they gave you an extra little...they called it a cherry smash. It was a little syrup and they put the seltzer in it. You know, with the fuzz. Because they had three spigots on the fountain.

So, when armistice was called we heard it in the shop and everything shut down just noon hour. ...the bells were ringing and everybody was screaming and parading around. We were all let out of our jobs.

SK SK: Why were you paid so much in the first place? Was it a hard job?

JR: Yeah. You know? You worked twelve, fourteen hours a day, you know what I mean? They shouldn't allow that for children. Six days, fourteen [hours], I almost put in a ninety hour, you know.

SK How were the working conditions?

JR: Very good. We had a wonderful foreman - Bill Craw. And he had one leg cut off, I don't know - in an accident or something like that. So, he never bothered us but if we wanted any information, he always was right

there to tell us and explain what the work was and, you know, not to make no damage. So, when that was over, we had so many different factories to go to. From there I went to the toy factory on Howland Avenue. And over there I was put in the shipping and packing department. But it was seasonal, you know. And you put them in cartons and put the cover on and seam them. Then I worked in a corset factory; ...just in the shipping room there, too. And I was going to learn as a material cutter for corsets with the big electric knife, you know. They put a form down and you cut the form out. It was a very good job and very good paying.

SK: How much was it?

JR: They only paid about a dollar an hour

SK: Were there any types of jobs there were only factory jobs and industrial

JR: That's all.

S K: Was there a lot of coastal jobs or civil service.

JR: There was, but not for us. We were too young. You know, there were so many factories, you know what I mean? From there I went to American Fabrics. Over there, too, I worked in the shipping room. We used to take the Barnum and State bus ... would stop just right at the factory on Connecticut Ave. And that, too was , I don't know. The orders

didn't come in and so they let us go. No, first they let one of my...they kept me and they let my friend go. And I says I wouldn't come to work here all alone I says. I want him to stay. "We can't keep two of you." So I say "Well, then I'll quit, you know." From there I went to Columbia Records on Hancock Avenue. I got a wonderful job as a carpenter's helper making boxes which they ship the records out in. See? And then they were teaching me on the big saw to cut splinters of wood that was put on the box to seal it, you know, on the side that ...the box would hold the records.

SK: What would you say was the major industries and factories that were the biggest - the biggest ones?

JR: Oh... AmaldavaLyon, Crane Co, Singer's, Columbia Records Bassick.

SK: How about the Brass company? Was the b<sup>rass</sup> company big?

JR: Oh, yeah. Brass and Bullard's. I even worked there when it was on Broad St. I was ...an apprentice learning to be a machinist. But then when I learned it you couldn't get a job for no money. There was too many machinists and the work wasn't there for machinists, you know what I mean. Then they start learning the screw machines. Yeah Then we had Maxam's; I worked there. No, I worked...when I worked in

in the Columbia Records on Hancock Avenue, I had a French boss...LeFe, Mr. LeFay. He says: "you don't want this job. He says, you go up in the shipping room. And up there I met Mr. Lincoln, and he showed me the different things - how to pack to ship out of the state and ship to the other factory on Barnum Ave. See, so the factory was getting to slow down. So then the carpenter boss took me in to learn as apprentice. Everybody was getting laid off; the whole shop. My friends used to come and say: "what are you staying for?" My boss wouldn't let me go. He was going to teach me the carpenter work and he made me even a tool box, you know . Finally the factory moved and I had to leave.

SK: What was it like about the Depression? How did it affect your family and other families in Bridgeport.

JR:During the Depression I worked for the Borden Company delivering milk. And when the Depression came I worked from '24 to '37, 1937, no, '40 and then I worked there ...we had a new bank open in the West End on State Street. We used to call it the West Side Bank and I saved... I was making good money then, too. I had a good route and I made commission plus a salary of \$37.50 a week plus 4% commission which they paid you once a month. So that...all you needed them days was about ten dollars a week and you could live like a king.

SK: ... Did it hit you hard so you were pretty...

JR: I didn't lose any time; no work at all because I had to de-

liver the milk, the food. But as things went along after '29, money was tight. And we had to be very careful of where we gave credit on the route, on the books and the company. And many a times I put myself in a jam...I would go over to a home to collect for the weekly milk and then there was the children and we were supposed to...the company gave me orders; they stamped the book that I should shut them off because they had too much credit which they think they can't pay and they wouldn't be able to pay. So I felt bad and they told them to go on the city [welfare]. But as I used to come every week and collect she was very good and rest of the people...these four children they weren't even school age and they were crying; they want milk, milk, milk. And I continued to leave it out on my own money. So, I couldn't do it for too many...but I did it. I felt so sorry. But later on I got their money back from the people, you know.

SK: What kind of relief programs were offered?

JR: What?

SK: Relief programs

JR: Relief?

SK: Yeah. What kind were offered for them? Any programs to help them out?

JR: Well, I'll tell you the truth; us teenagers, we suffered.

Rinko: We didn't even have no...we only had one boys' club and that was on Middle Street and we lived in the West End and we didn't even have a shack. Only later on they put one on State Street where you could go. But the Bridgeport Public Library...kthat time it was on Main Street...was the most wonderfulest thing that the city gave for anybody that wanted to study and read.

SK: I meant the people who were sick or, you told us, the people ...who were crying and the families who got hurt by the Depression. Did the government do anything to help them?

JR: Oh, yeah. Then, pardon me, then the city or the state gave kthem money and they signed up and they went to the public school that was nearest to them which they belonged. And they received a box which had milk, beans, cereal, you know, all these things that you need and...vitamins. So as long as the work picked up, yeah.

SK: Was religion important to the family.

JR: Oh, yeah (laughter). Oh, that's the most important.

.Your mother would see...the first thing that she had the clothes ready and make sure you're dressed up and make sure you had nice clothes and your hair was clean and that you went every Sunday to your children or grown-up mass. And even a penny in the basket donation was large. You know what I mean?



Kavoura: What morals did the family hold?

JR: What?

SK: Morals or beliefs did the family hold about...like they think they should be stricter with children. They think that they should be lenient with their children...

JR: Oh,, yeah. Well, being...one thing in our family was our father never put a hand on us . But my mother with her voice, you know/, when she said something that we done wrong and we didn't correct it or we didn't listen to her, well she was the one that punished and my father never interfered. And every one of the families in the same thing in the West End; there was nobody that was arrested. We had one policeman and knew everybody in that district, what we called Honktown. You know?

SK: Was there a lot of segregation?

JR: What?

SK: Segregation. Was there a lot of immigrants. Were there a lot of blacks? Did you mix together?

JR: Never had a black.

SK: Never?

FJR: Never had a Puerto Rican. No. We had all...the churches gave dances and bazaars, uou know what I mean. And picnics and the church brought their own picnic ground out in the country where there would be some trees and bushes and flowers. You know, more country-like. And everything was...different nationalities got together - no fights or nothing.

Kavoura: How large was the average family? Like, how many kids did they have?

JR: Six was the smallest. We had eight, ten, twelve you know what I mean? And...same schools stood in that district.

SK: Did your family have a car or a radio or TV?

JR: (laughter) No, not till 1924 when I was working . Before I got married my dad bought...well, there was three boys and three girls, so the cars were coming out then, you know. Different people who could afford it would buy a car. So we bought a Studebaker touring car from H. L. Mills on Fairfield Avenue. He was the salesman...showroom. And we paid \$1300 for a 1940 Stude-

no, yeah - ...No. I got married in '26. Before that ...1924 Studebaker touring car. Oh, and we kept it like a gold piece. She built a garage for it and in the winter you had to take, inflate your tires, because you had tubes, and would get the creepers You know, they would dry out, like. And then you took your battery out and you brought it in the house and you added the water to it. Next spring you put it in, you know. We used to have the Post Road then. If you went for a ride and they had trap rock that sharp rock... And when I was...oh, yeah. I was the only one that was allowed to drive it, but my

Rinko: brothers learned from me . And they used to take it once in a while but my father didn't like the way they drove it, you know. So my father let me take it when I was engaged to my wife, and we took a ride just to go to South Norwalk. And I got twelve flat tires.

In that time the Post Road from Bridgeport or even New Haven all the ways to Stamford and New York was lined with gas stations. And they fixed your flats free, even if you bought any gasoline or not. And gasoline was selling then twelve gallons for a dollar, and if you had your regular gas station like here the mirrored gas station on Main Street.

Street - it was a corporation, you know, like Mobil and them. If you bought the gasoline there they gave you a card and they punched it and they they change your oil or change your tires free, you know. And they gave you a change of oil in the car.

SK: How were women discriminated against?

JR: What?

SK: How were women discriminated against? ...Were they?

JR: No, no, no no. Some time they'd be a friction, like before they came here, see, they had a sweetheart in the old country like Hungary, so naturally the man sweetheart, he came here to America to, you know, make something of

Rinko: himself because there was nothing doing in Hungary. It was just , you know, you worked for the rich people over there, you know, like the dukes and the lords and all them. And all they gave you was enough to eat, you know, corn and wheat and vegetables and maybe you had a suit of clothes which you wore to a funeral in the church...

SK: Yeah, but were women...were they ever discriminated against? Like women were supposed to be in the house, and not supposed to have a career...how did they

JR: Oh, no, none of that. Maybe not a woman - it would be an older girl.

SK: ...couldn't get a job because you were a woman?

JR: No, no. You could have got all the jobs you want. And the best part is then that they gave you an hour lunch at noon hour; you could go home. Your home was near, and if you had to change yourself or anything, you know. And it was in the summer hot like now...a change of clothes or your underwear, you know. And go back and at the same time you would meet your friends on the corner and make dates which house you're going and then go into the factories.

SK: What kinds of ghettos did Bridgeport have?

JR: No ghettos.

SK: Oh, yeah? What kinds of jobs were offered to immigrants? Did they get the same jobs...

JR: They all had hard labor work, you know what I mean? We had

Mallible Iron here and Crane Company. And my dad worked at the furnace, you know, where they poured out the brass and the copper to make valves which the Crane Company was noted for, you know, water valves and gas valves. The other one was the same thing, Mallible Iron. Well, the immigrants all had a job, but bad times were coming, too, you know. Like when McKinley that was president for about six months, it was bad, bad, very bad. You had to cut down on the food, you know. ...We used to go when March 20 came, we couldn't wear our shoes; only on Sunday. We went barefoot. And the climate was way different then, you know what I mean? You never caught cold...the only thing, when September came, to go to school, you sure wouldn't fit, because your feet flattened out. And for a while a it would pinch. My father used to tap our own shoes; he used to repair them himself. Every other night he'd be down in the cellar; take this one, take the others, you know. We didn't scuff it around or hit it against anything to do any damage to our shoes like today ... you buy them any time you want Them days you couldn't

SK: In Bridgeport, what was the family view on marriage... like did they...

JR: What?

SK: Views on marriage. How did they hold marriage?

JR: Very good Never had no divorce. Nobody interfered in

Rinko: other peoples' family.

SK: The children...well, did you have a lot of children?

JR: We were loaded with children. When I was growing up a teenager, I went...there was so many girls that their mothers were glad to...they were noted, the Hungarian people, to make nice cakes, delicacy and, you know. And we had ginger - you know, they made their own soda then, you know., and nice cakes and then they would invite it, and whoever could afford would have a player piano. You know, one of them with the rolls. And we'd go over and we'd start Friday night and all Sunday, kyou know, and the girls...my wife, too, used to belong to the church choir. And they used to have practice for the choir and then us boys would meet them near the church. And the parents were very strict. When you took your...

SK:Were they strict on dating?

JR: Very strict.

SK: Like, would they let the girls go dating and boys go...

JR: No. They wanted to know...they knew what they wanted to know the boy, you know what I mean. They heard if he was a little rough or a little loud-mouthed. Well, then they were very careful. And the parents were very strict and you had to be home the time the parents told you. If you didn't, your girlfriend would get her hair pulled or anice slap in the face.

SK: How old were they when they were dating or started going out?

Rinko: About 15, 16. It was ...then...

SK: Chaperone?

JR: Huh?

SK: Chaperone. Chaperones in those...

JR: No, you'd have a girlfriend would come...a girl who was a friend of the girl you took out, you know. And she was the chaperone, you know what I mean? And one time I married her...I was going with my wife and we went (chuckle) on Main Street to the burlesque show. And her parents neve<sup>o</sup> allowed that, so we stood a little late. The show didn't end till 11 o'clock, and by the time we took the trolley home on Main and State, and it stopped by Harvey Hubbell Then, too ,we had to walk about five blocks to the house. It was after midnight and her father was waiting already, in the hall, you know. I didn't even get a chance to escort her in the hallway because then the hallway... And she told me the next day she got a nice slap in the face, and her mother pulled her hair. But she survived;

SK: Was housing in your community adequate? Did you have good housing or...

JR: Cold water flats, you know what I mean?

SK: No, I don't think so

JR: With no furnace. But you had coal brought up by the coal

JR: man. We used to have big coal bins on the back porch and he used to put a ton of coal in there and then you had two, three pails. And us boyis had kto make sure that we brought the coal in the kitchen, you know. And then they...everything; fruit, vegetables, meat, everything came in wooden cartons, not like the cardboard today, you know. And then you'd go around;...the storekeeper would put it out or you'd go and (shop) there. They would give you a box, you know, or a barrel that the apples and oranges came in. And you'd bring it home and you'd chop it up. Anfd then there was woo- ded areas there where you went down and you could chop (a) tree down, dry it out; that would last longer, like a log is today, you know. And the people used to have goose down quilts, you know what I mean? And only when there was zero weather or very cold did they have the stove fire on; other- wisei it was always shut off. And then your dad went to work; five o'clock he'd get up and the gro- ceries and butcher stores were open. There was no ice box or refrigerators around; you had to depend upon your storekeeper and butcher to have your meats and vegetables over there, you know,



JR: chilled. They had ice boxes. And then he went down and he got whatever...them days for fifty cents you went down, you bought a dozen eggs, a pound of bacon, a pound of butter, two three dozen rolls. And even got change back. And he used to eat a piece of steak before he went to work.

SK: If you a [choice] to live in the past in which you grew up or now, which would you take? Would you like to live now or grow up here in the present or where you grew up?

FR: When I grew up?

SK: Yeah, you would like to be there...O.K., tell us why.

JR: Well, I'll tell you why. It was much clean living, you know what I mean? People weren't out to go against you. Whatever you made...and if you wanted to be something, you went out to learn and...but a working man, an immigrant, had a very slim chance of ever getting into Yale or Harvard or anywhere. Being a lawyer or doctor or anything like that. It was mostly the Jewish people that sacrificed and seen that the children...and they pushed them and they made sure that they went to school and prep school, then to college. We had one Jewish

boy there, Judge Mellitz that lived in the West End - the parents were immigrant Jewish boys, and he made a career out of him today. I know him. He saved our bank, the West Side, because during the Depression, the banks were closing up. I remember I had two thousand dollars saved and they told me that it would be lost. But he seen that it wasn't lost, and they gave us shares, you know, they reorganized. And then as business picked up after the Depression, the bank [] their money. And you could have cashed in your bonds or stocks and get your money back, which he done wonderful, you know. Today, I guess, he's retired and he got a big honor from the state and the country for what he done. And the living was altogether better. More clean...you had more fun, you know what I mean? You didn't have to be afraid. On a Sunday you'd walk down to State Street, and you had the trolley cars - the open trolley cars with the running board, the steps, on the side. And for a nickel you rode all the ways to Milford, to Walnut Beach. What more do you want? And then, for... if you had a quarter or a dime you could spend a whole afternoon. Because a hamburger was...two hamburgers for a nickel. And you could...the soda was one penny. And you could have drank all the chocolate and malted milk you wanted faor two cents, you know what I

Rinko mean. [ripped it up] And nobody bothered you;  
nobody robbed you. You know, you could [set] your  
pants down, even on Seaside Park. Before, you had  
the bathing house; nobody touched anything; it  
was clean living. Today it's bad.

SK: Well, we're coming to as close...I thank you for  
your...

JR: You're welcome.

Sophia

Sofia Kavoura/ Edith Rabineau

Be careful of "OK's". Interesting information about barges and oystering. You have good listening skills. Be very careful not to repeat questions you have already asked. When someone is hard of hearing, speak slowly. Good, long interview.

Sofia/Connie Bardinelli

Pretty good interview. Mrs. Bardinelli's information was not particularly interesting except for her work experiences.

Sofia/ Julius Rinko

A good interview. Did you ask him about his work with labor unions? That would have been interesting.

Sofia/ Mrs. Hammarberg

You seemed very comfortable during the interview; it was nice and informal. You have good lead-ins to questions. Mrs. H. was not too interesting - you handled her wanderings very well!

Sophia/ Mary Divicky

Good, free-flowing interview. Be sure to ask your questions clearly. Her memories covered a lot a subjects. You show good interest.

Be careful of your interviewee's name -k it's not Mrs. Divincy. Try to make your questions smoother - not "OK your religion?"

In the case of this interview, get a feel if they don't have lots of information (what kinds of jobs were offered? - I don't know.

Many senior citizens don't understand "kids" Use word "children" instead.

See  
cont'd \*

Sophia/Pjura tape

Sophia: if he pauses, prod him along - like "what did you do then?"

Mr. Pjura didn't volunteer much information, but you helped him along.

You have very good interaction with the people you interview!

You made up your own questions, and did very well without the usual setup.

"What kind of music did you listen to?" was good.

Be careful about rattling paper near the mike!

Sophia/Rinko, cont's

See transcript Maybe you can have another interview with him and ask him about his work with labor unions. I've written him a letter.

"\$65 a week and I was only ten years old. We worked Saturdays."

Julius Rinko page 2

and he stood here and he met my mother and she had the 6 children  
What was it like growing up. Was it hard, would you say or easy  
kNo it was wonderful. It was up to the he was we had there was not  
much money around and work was scarce for my father. DFSHe worked  
for Amalda Lyon (Scan't gety) and Crane Cko. but he always had  
enokugh yoku kjow and to as we  
moved out of this tenement house he had a brother that was a car  
kpenter contractor and he built his own home and he invited us to  
live there butthe children kyoku were too many for a two room anda  
jkitchen. Didn't have no living room they were bedrooms and a  
kitchen and there to the outside the to9ilet was and we took a  
bath Saturday night they had to bring the big tuba from the  
big zinc tub from the back pporch hung on a hook.  
were you ever employeadD?

What

Were you ever employeadS?

OSh yeah, but

What kind of a job did you holdDS?D

When I was let's see ...we used to study at home that when we went  
thrsough our eiaghtth grade when we were 12 yrs. old from there the  
thesre was only one high school. in kBpt. That was ukp here wher  
the police station is kCKongress High and I walkeda with my gra-  
duating friends buddies from the West End down State St. and up  
Broad St. ukp the steps here to go to Congress High. And we had  
kjmanual training and regular whatever subjects you took up you  
kknow. So, well. I didn't stay I only stoked till I graduated and  
jkthen from there there was work around if you were no working  
papers and you could

get a job even if you were ten years old. You klnow what, so  
the first job I had we were going with six other friends of mine  
that lived in the area and we chummed together. We went to what  
we called the playground used to call it the West Side and as we  
were going by one noon hour and by Raybestos Co. on Bostwick  
Ave. the foreman was sitting there and he stopped us uh if we  
would like to have a job so we thought he was kidding you know  
so he says 'no' he says. want kto wait a little after lunch (hard  
jto understand) and we'll take you right in. So they hired the  
whole sixc of us. And they teached each one of us different things  
to do because they made army belts and muskets and different  
kthings that the soldiers needed for WWI. So my job was they had  
big spools of yarn which they hung on a hook and you had to get  
each yarn by itself about 20, 309 strands strings and you put it  
jkin between nails anad wires and then you had to load this onto  
another spool and on this spool they took it  
and they put it in back of the weaving machine and  
then they weaved from that. They had the bobbins you know.

Hoaw much were you paid?

You wouldn't believe it. Sixty-five dollars a week and I was  
only ten years old.

Yeah?

Cause I usually thought in those days