

Foivos Menikefs

Interviewee: Foivos Menikefs, Kingston, Duration: 18:43			
Interviewed by: George Katinas; Translation and summary: Athina Peidou			
min:sec	File:	KGHP_17_MENIKEFS_P_20170527A_KINGSTON_GKATINAS_AUDIO.MP3	
Interview Time	Chronology	Place	Description
0:35			Fill (Foivos) came to Canada in 1951.
0:50			In 1948 Fill's brother (Leukos) came to Kingston as a student at Queen's. He was accepted for Engineering studies. Fill was also accepted at Queen's.
1:52			Fill's father was a high commissioner of the British government in Cyprus. He was governor of the district of Pafos. When Leukos finished high school his father wanted to send him abroad for undergraduate studies. He had a millionaire British friend who suggested Queen's University.
3:42			August 1948 Leukos moved to Kingston. The first year he stayed at the residence. Later he stayed with Zakos family. They treated him very nice.
4:44			Fill was admitted to Queen's but he never attended. He preferred to go to work. He got a job at Dominion store, it was a grocery store.
5:30			Later Fill got a job at CIL. Leukos was working there as engineer and Fill was working in construction. He worked there for 20 years. At that time not many Greeks were working in the industry. He found it to be a very good job.
6:28			He was a work leader in one of the production lines.
6:49			At that time it was only CIL, Dupont and Al Canady who were the leading industries.
7:25			He got married in 1966. In one of his visits to Cyprus he was introduced to Maria, his wife. She was working as a secretary at a hospital. He was introduced to her by his family, as she was one of the girls that was 'chosen for him'.
7:58			He asked his wife to follow him to Canada. He didn't want to get married in Cyprus. He just wanted to show his future wife Canada, and see if she liked it.
8:35			Maria arrived in Montreal airport. The immigration officers told her that she has 1 month to get married or she should leave the country. So it was a quick decision.
9:39			They arranged to get married within a month. But Fill was hospitalized as he was suffering from pneumonia. He was asking them to let him go out as he was getting married this Sunday. They let him attend the ceremony and then he spent his first married night in the hospital. Afterwards they went on a honeymoon to Niagara falls.
11:25			The early years of their marriage were very good. They matched very easily: right up to today.. Maria liked Kingston. It worked out very nice. Maria got a job at Stacy's until she got pregnant.

12:20			As soon as they got married CIL went on strike, and they struggled financially as they had bought a house.
12:55			Maria put her savings from Cyprus for the down payment in 1967.
13:21			In 1968 they had their first child Peter on January. Directly after Peter, Maria got pregnant with Dennis who was born on December of 1968.
14:00			Dennis went to school at Queen's and Peter at Yale University in the US. After Yale Peter got into McGill for medical studies, and he did his residency at University of Toronto.
14:30			Dennis went out West to work as an engineer and get his engineering license and then he attended McGill for MBA
15:10			Peter got married to a doctor and they both work in Saint Joseph hospital.
15:40			Dennis is working as business administrator
15:52			Peter has 2 children and Dennis 1.
16:22			When Fill arrived to Kingston for the first time the Greeks living in Kingston were the ones who had arrived before the war. There were 3-4 big families, like the Zakos family with more than 10 people.
17:12			Dimitris and Helen Zakos had 8 children, 5 boys and 3 girls.
17:46			Margaret is the daughter of Tom Zakos. Tom had Maria, Margaret, and Jim. Tom's father was Dimitris and Helen.