

[You Can't Figure]

Belief's & Customs - Folk Stuff

FOLKLORE

NEW YORK 18 300 Wods Forms to be Filled out for Each Interview

FORM A Circumstances of Interview

STATE

NAME OF WORKER Herman Partnow

ADDRESS 557 W. 144th St.

DATE May 9, 1939

SUBJECT Unemployed fringe

1. Date and time of interview

April 10, 1939

2. Place of interview

Automat, 14th St. and Fourth Ave.

3. Name and address of informant

Anonymous

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4. Name and address of person, if any, who put you in touch with informant.

5. Name and address of person, if any, accompanying you

6. Description of room, house, surroundings, etc.

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NEW YORK

FORM C Text of Interview (Unedited)

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NAME OF WORKER Herman Partnow

ADDRESS 557 W. 144th St.

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YOU CAN'T FIGURE ON A LIFETIME

My boss, that nosey thing, he was always sittin on me with them over-developed muscles until I got sick and tired. Where I got the incentive that day I don't know. Maybe it was because I was wearing white. I like white, I wear everything with a white collar, it makes me feel good.

It was springtime. The boss was in the front with a big customer. I was sitting there and typing like my heart would break. I was hankering for life. Rose, I said to myself, in this

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day and age you can't figure on a lifetime. Marriage is getting pushed further and further in the background, if you're single it's no stigma. I got up from my desk, I opened the boss's door and I yelled: Look, Mr. Sternberg, you can wait a hundred years and you'll never get a typist like me. Look at my hair, my white blouse, my nails.

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I never look unruly, I'm never idle a minute, and I got artistic ability besides. Next payday I want twelve dollars.

It's a Jewish trait. In front of a customer a goy would think but say something? Never. But he got up right away and opened up his big mouth and pushed out his muscles and he yelled: Miss Rosenthal, see me in the back. The most terrible thing, you understand, see me in the back. I don't know, I wasn't even scared. I was in the mood of makin money, nothing bothered me. Listen, don't you think they know if you're worth it to them? They got big mouths but they know if you're worth it, don't worry. You think he fired me?

I'm telling you from that day until he lost his business he was so nice to me - like my office boy, he used to bring me up milk shakes. He was at my beck and call.

Before he was sitting on me, in the future everything was in reverse, I was sitting on him.