

[That Was a Man]

Beliefs and Customs - Folk Stuff

FOLKLORE

NEW YORK Forms to be Filled Out for Each Interview

FORM A Circumstances of Interview 15

STATE New York

NAME OF WORKER Terry Roth ————— Sam Schwartz

ADDRESS 47 W. 69th Street, N.Y.C. 152 W. 13th Street, N.Y.C.

DATE March 22, 1939

SUBJECT That Was A Man

1. Date and time of interview March 15th - Noon
2. Place of interview Operator's Shop of Louis Wiesen & Son, Dresses 463 Seventh Avenue New York City
3. Name and address of informant

Mr. Gold

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

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

Sam Schwartz

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

FOLKLORE

NEW YORK

FORM C Text of Interview (Unedited)

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ADDRESS 47 W. 69th Street, N.Y.C. 152 W. 13th Street, N.Y.C.

DATE March 22, 1939

SUBJECT That Was A Man THAT WAS A MAN

“You went through life bitterly. There was plenty mean people. After you are working thirty years you see all kinds. I remember I was working for Max in Walker Street. In 1907 Was before the general strike. That was a verra big place. Used to be the biggest place in New York. So he had on one floor his father-in-law. A foreman. And that was a man — I don't know. If he used to look on an operator, the cotton would tear off. Bad eyes, he had. And in his pocket he carried a gun. I see it with my own eyes. There was many fights in that shop. Was a girl working. About the third machine from me. I remember her like today. A nice looking girl, I remember. She couldn't eat breakfast. In the morning was by her a

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sick stomach always. But while she as working, she always had a bagle. Why a bagle? Maybe because it was easy to bite. So that foreman, he's still alive, he didn't like the idea why she's sitting and chewing on a bagle. So one time while she was eating, he stands in front of her and gives a cough. This way. Cchhh. Cchhh. And she looked up. He's standing there in front of her picking his nose and pulling, you should excuse me, snot from his nose. She sees that and 2 she begins to vomit. And after, that girl fainted. You ought to see those people. It was something terrible. Siegel got so mad he grabbed a chair and wanted to throw it in his head. The foreman let that fellow work about a half an hour. Then he took away his two spools of cotton and sent him away. This here fellow and that girl, because it happened that way, that it took maybe two months. They got married.”