

NEW JERSEY TWO

TRANSCRIPTION

The big Yankee fan in the family was Grandma. On Saturdays during baseball season -- several times during the season-- Grandma would take me to see the game. We would get up early, head in to Newark-- We would drive into Newark. We lived in Cranford. And get on the old Hudson tubes, which is now the PATH train. And we would get off, probably down by what is now the World Trade Center stop, and then we would get onto the A-train, going north (eh) all the way up into the Bronx, where we would get off plenty early, so that we could even stop for lunch. There was a wonderful old cafeteria, beautiful old cafeteria where we would go before the ball game, and Grandma would get me a corned beef sandwich and a celery tonic. So that would be...

Then we would get to the Yankee Stadium so early that they would still be setting up for batting practice, so we would be there probably two hours before the game began. And then, this is one of my favorite parts. After they finished all of the batting practice, they took the batting cage away, and then the maintenance crew would come out with the line machines. And they would put the new lines down from home plate to first base and third base, and then they'd bring out the-- a mold, that they would lay on the ground, a wood form that they would then put in alignment to create the batter's box. So everything would be just perfect. The ground crew would come and sweep the out-- the infield, so that the dirt was perfect. And the outfield, the grass would be perfect.

Actually, one of the greatest moments would be first getting to the stadium, walking into that baseball stadium up the ramps that would take us to our seats, we always had box seats on the-- on the first base side. And walking through the (uh) the entranceway that would take you from the ramps into the field-- that first glimpse of this perfect space that was indoors and outdoors at the same time, and we would sit down. The-- there were the old ushers that would come, with the mitts that they would put on their hand, and they would wipe the seat off, and Grandma would give them a tip. And we would sit down, watch the entire batting practice, wait for the game to begin. And then all of the excitement of sitting there, watching the game with my grandmother. And she was just the biggest fan. And it was just a treasure to be there with her.

(Uh) So that was one of the great treats. Grandma used to work in Newark. She worked for an upholsterer. (Uh) She-- (uh) I shouldn't say an upholsterer, (uh) a drapery maker. (Uh) The drapery maker would-- would create the designs, and she would fabricate the drapes. And I would go in with her on Saturday, when we didn't go to baseball games. And she worked in Newark, and it was a large interior-- It was a large space on the second floor of the upholstery and (uh, uh) drapery building. (Uh) And the drapes would be made and fabricated on these very long tables. They were probably... Well, they seemed to go on forever, but they were 20 or 25-foot long tables that they would lay the draperies out on.

(Uh) Grandma would give me some money to go downstairs to Woolworth to get a model airplane. And I would get a model airplane and some Duco cement, and I would sit next to her while she listened to the Metropolitan opera on Saturday, the Texaco Metropolitan Opera broadcast.

UNSCRIPTED SPEECH TRANSCRIBED BY JACQUELINE BAKER, ASSOCIATE EDITOR FOR TRANSCRIPTIONS, December 13, 2007