

FAVISH ALMOST COMES TO AMERICA

Favish: Harry visited us in 1927. In 1929, 2 years later, Dave came. He observed the way we do business, the way we were willing to work. He said: "You know, if you liquidate this business and you come to America ...in America you can get places."

I was considering, very much, (going to America.) I thought if I'll have a chance I'll do it.

Dave said we should go to Cuba and from Cuba they'll try to take us over to America. He says "You're young people. You're willing to work like this you'll reach places."

Which way do we want to start? We decided to liquidate and to go to Cuba. We called in a man. He rented the store for 3 years.

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That was the first time he was out of Torchin or (on) the train. When he sat on the train he held the bench.

And grandma (Chia Kaila) she didn't agree at first to let Manuel away from home. "Manuel away?" she said.

I said "Do you want him to go to the army for 2 years?" The Polish army at that time was very very bad. They discriminated (against) Jews. Very, very few (Jews) came back the way they went to the army. They came back with broken hands and legs and sick. That's why they tried to run away from the army.

"I said "Now's your chance." Danzig was a free state. He didn't need a foreign passport. So I took him over to Danzig. And over there he could go to Cuba.

Favish doesn't recall Manuel expressing a desire to leave Torchin. He doesn't remember Dave telling him to take Manuel along. Favish says it was his idea. He sold his store and had \$400-\$500 from the transaction. Grandma gave him a few hundred dollars. He had \$800 around his belt when he went to Danzig to buy the tickets. The money would pay the agency for the trip. After the tickets were purchased Favish planned to go back and pick up Surca and Cyril. Manuel was supposed to remain in Danzig until they returned. They would sail together.

So all of a sudden we walked into the office and the agent said "something terrible happened. Cuba closed every entrance to the country....immigration. You can leave Danzig for Cuba, but they don't guarantee that they'll let us in. They may send us

back, or you may have the choice, over there, (to go to) another area over there, before they ship you back."

I was astonished, very disappointed. And I had to go back to Torchin. I had liquidated all my business and everything else. I turned to Manuel and said "You're not going back, because in a month from now you'll be called to the army. I took off the belt with the \$800 and said, "I don't need no money. I can go to Torchin. I have a ticket for Torchin, and in Torchin I don't need money. Whatever I'll do I'll make a living."

Manuel was afraid. I said "Manuel you're a strong boy. Anything you do, you come anyplace in the world, an island...and you'll always make a piece of bread. And if not you have the address from your brothers. And you know you're going to be close to America. They can come visit you. They can do things for you: You're not going back to Poland.

He said "What'll I do in Cuba?"

I said "You can go all over North America or South America, wherever a boat goes, go. And wherever you come down and see what your brothers are going to do about it.

So he took a chance. And that's what happened.

A FEW YEARS LATER FAVISH VISITED THE U.S.

In 1932 I had an opportunity to do some international business. A friend offered me an agency for America. That was a way to take a trip to America and see what is going on. And I did.

I had a commission from the lord mayor of London. I was an agent from a Belgian company that gave out golden medals for superb products. And that was all over the world. My friend got me a recommendation. They investigated me and they found that I'm trust (worthy) to go to America and (to) open an office for this business.



Of course my purpose wasn't that. My purpose was to go to America and that was impossible for any money in the world. I got a round trip ticket for \$150-\$200. I came to America. I got off the boat in Ellis Island because I had to show that I had \$100 in my pocket. Without \$100 I couldn't go down (from the boat.) I wired to Dave in Collinsville and he sent it right away, by return mail, \$100.

So they called me in to the judge. I needed somebody (to translate). I couldn't speak English at the time. And I explained to him what my business is. And he took my documents.

He said "Do you think America's got Hassidim like you that they believe that they can get into America and do that kind of business when you can't speak English and you haven't got money? (For) \$100 you had to ask somebody."

I said "I've got plenty of money once I get into America." I says "I'll rent an office. Money would be no object.." So he let me down.

The first month I stayed in New York with a nephew, 'a college graduate, a doctor of philosophy. I explained to him the whole deal. I showed him the literature of my documents. So he took me to a paint company in New Jersey. They liked the medal and told me to come back in one month. (There was a) wine company and they signed a contract and paid C.O.D. on the medal \$300. That was the only deal.



Otherwise I went to Collinsville with the boys. I stayed a month. I looked around. I saw the way they do business. I didn't like it because they were too busy. We didn't work that hard in Torchin: In Torchin we were closed on the holidays. They worked late hours every day.

Anyhow I had to go back. They asked me (about it) when I came back home. I gave them the whole deal.

In the meantime I skipped one point. While I was here, (in the U.S.) Roosevelt took office and he closed the banks. And when that happened they closed every bank in Europe. And every bank was bankrupt. By the time I got to Torchin the Bank was closed already. And not only that bank, but also even the federal banks were closed. The government had a hard time to open up their own banks because nobody had the money to pay out the depositors. (People) didn't respond to their loans, and the banks were closed---including the central office that we made the loan from. They lost all the money.

But I was lucky. We gave one loan to a landlord. For collateral I took 15 acres. I was smart enough to write the loan in my name. I gave him the loan from my money. I took this collateral. When I came back from America I had no business. I had no money. Neil gave me \$300 to give to mother. I didn't expect money from the boys.

I didn't ask for money. When I came home I had one quarter in my pocket.

It was Tisha B' Av. Someone was walking in front of my house asking for me, Favish Krywat.

They said "Yes, he lives right here.

He came in and he said "Do you have a piece of land there and there that belongs to you?"

I said "Yes."

I had no right to sell it. It was collateral. But I asked the lawyer. He said if you sell it and you get the money, then the trouble is out of your hands and it's a legal sale.

We went to Lutsk, to a notary public and wrote it up. And he took out the money and he paid me the money. It was equivalent to \$1000-\$1200. So when I had money I went back and opened up a

retail store. Of course I had to wait until the people who took over my store (moved out.) In due time we were back in business.



Harry: Favish was in America for a visit. He visited us for a couple of weeks. We went to meet him in St. Louis. He wasn't on the trains. We waited around. And finally we went home. So when he came in he took a street car to Collinsville. It was midnight. The streetcar conductor knew where our store was and where we lived. When he came to Morrison Ave. he told him to get off here. You go this way, and when you see a brick house..

Our house was built on a low lot. Down below we had a warehouse. Above we had 2 apartments, one for Dave and one for me. A first and second floor for each one.

We had porches on each side. The conductor told him to look for a brick house. He understood a brück house (Brük means bridge in Yiddish) to mean that the house sits on a bridge with water below. He looked and he decided that's the house. He comes and he finds the mezuzza and he knocks on the door.

We expected him but we didn't know. How did you get here?

The conductor had gesukt that the house sits on a bridge. Anybody can see the house is on a bridge. In Torchin we had a couple of families that had a water problem and the houses were built on stilts. So he was sure that

I said" wait until the morning: You'll found the house doesn't sit on a bridge."

Franzi, Charles, 125 Black Jack, miner.
 Franzi, Paul, 125 Black Jack, miner Lum 2.
 Frederickson, Henry, bds 221 E. Church, miner Lum 2.
 Fredman Bros Furniture and Grocery, Clay and Center, Dave and Harry
 Fredman, Harry, 220 S. Morrison, prop Fredman Bros.
 Fredman, Dave (Goldie) 220 S. Morrison prop Fredman Bros, Avery, Lill
 wagon driver. Norman Jam
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