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The main business when immigrants came was peddling. With a pack on their back. You're aware of that entrepreneurship. Where they'd just go and they'd buy stuff at the wholesale, and then they'd go up throughout the countryside with their wares. They might carry in a pack, shirts, shoes, ties, jewellery, underwear. But my mother's father, he had a big dry goods store at Whitney Pier. Now this was at the height of the construction of the steel plant, when everything was booming. They were still asking people to come from overseas to work at the steel plant. And he had a store right at the top of what was formerly the subway. But, before the subway, he was there. And when they put the subway in, that just destroyed a lot of the businesses that were in Whitney Pier. Whitney Pier was the prime--was a prime business district of Sydney--equal to Sydney. And that destroyed his business. In fact, my grandfather--that's my mother's father--he sued the, I guess. Dominion Iron and Steel, for damages--whoever put the subway in. But you know the unique thing about that is, he is one of the first persons to have taken a case all the way to the Supreme Court in England--High Court of England. My father worked (awhile) in the steel plant. And my wife's father, well, he worked all his life in the steel plant....

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My father educated himself when he got here. He went to night school. He got himself a certificate--mechanical drawing-- and he was a master mechanic. And he taught himself to read. And he taught himself to read French and speak French, and read English and write English. And my father was an adventurous person, let's say. My father was--his prime occupation was a barber. But my father had a brilliant mind. He invented a motor that would run on steam. And a motor that was big enough, and small enough, to be used to operate a motor vehicle--a car. In fact, I think it was around 1928--there was a write-up in the Sydney Record or the Sydney Post at the time--"Sydney Man Invents Motor to Run on Water." Steam-generated motor. That went up to enough revolutions to run a car. He invented that motor. My father also had some businesses. He had a dry goods business and a small grocery store, like a corner grocery store. My father was one of the first people to sell automobiles in Sydney. And one of the first people to have a gas station in Sydney. My father was the original dealer for Willys Overland. But it was unfortunate for him that he didn't really have the resources to maintain the car dealership. Because in the early '30s, when the Depression came, he just couldn't hang on. It was unfortunate for him--he had a large family. We were 12 in his family--7 boys and 5 girls. And in the '30s, when the Depression came. Well, he was just another casualty of the Depression. He just couldn't hang on. Be- 'Enjoy super dining in a relaxing & (unique) atmosphere SPECIALIZING IN CHINESE



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