

## Edward Atiyeh Interview on Governor Vic Atiyeh

Recorded in 2015 in Oregon

Interviewer: James Moore, Pacific University Professor

Note on the text: This transcript was made through AI in 2025 with some manual corrections. We recommend checking this text against the audio recording before quoting the speakers, as it may contain errors.

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James Moore 0:01

Yeah, that's great. I'm gonna get this a little closer to you. My voice carries. [Edward Atiyeh: Okay]. Yours is a little different. So I've got, kind of two types of questions for you today. Main ones are going to be family ones, because I, you know, discovered stuff about the family, and there's more to tease than you can shake a stick at, and so I need to figure out how they're related, you know, where they're not, or that kind of thing. And then some other ones thinking about your and your brother's relationship to Portland as you're growing up and as you were in business, several people have talked about and Vic brought it up the first time I interviewed him. Vic's relationship with the kind of standard Portland business community was often fraught. They wanted him to... when he became governor, they expected him to do things. And he said, "You know, I'm sorry, you have to go through what everybody else has to go through." And so several people, people who've worked with him in the governor's office, but also people who knew him as a business person, have talked about the idea that it may have been because he was Syrian. The hypothesis, I think might make more sense is, the central Portland business community was a bunch of WASPs. And so if you were Jewish or Syrian or Catholic, then you weren't part of that kind of central group. And so I want you to think about those kinds of perceptions at all.

Edward Atiyeh 1:39

I don't know, because my dad particularly was very unbiased. He treated everybody the same. And so it didn't, never even entered our thoughts. In fact, we went to school with Japanese students, African American students and stuff like that, never bothered us at all. We figured them, they're equal, and so we were never concerned about it. But there was a lot of Italians, but still, I mean, some people have opinions and biases, but my brothers, I never heard my brother ever talk about race or anything like that.

James Moore 2:31

Now, when you were running Atiyeh Brothers, did you encounter any issues along those lines?

Edward Atiyeh 2:37

No. [Moore interjects: Nothing?] Between everybody, we never tried to discriminate, or were concerned about certain types of people. Never bothered us.

James Moore 2:54

Yeah, and did you when, when you were in business, did you have any issues? For instance, if you wanted to join the Arlington Club, or, you know, any of those kinds of things, was that ever an issue?

Edward Atiyeh 2:54

No, because Vic belonged to the Arlington Club.

James Moore 2:59

But only after he left the governorship.

Edward Atiyeh 3:04

That's right, then he was in the University Club, and I was in the University Club. And then we were in Portland Golf Club, and Vic wanted to join Waverly [i.e Waverley Country Club]. He figured that he was more inclined with his upbringing up to... he was more comfortable with the Portland Golf Club showing that, but he actually joined the Oregon Country Club. He was there right when they started, invited him to join, and so he joined that. But there was never... the word prejudice never entered our minds at all.

James Moore 4:00

Okay, yeah, that's great. So, let's get to family stuff. [Atiyeh: Okay.] So when World War Two started, at some point, you guys all went down and Vic had a cast on. And the cast was because he had a cyst that had been removed. So there's some dispute. Was the cyst from a broken leg when he was in football, like a freshman? [Atiyeh: Yeah.] Or had he broken his leg when he was a little kid roller skating?

Edward Atiyeh 4:40

No, he had an injury playing football.

James Moore 4:45

It was the football injury, okay.

Edward Atiyeh 4:48

He was really upset because they wanted to take him in the service. He wanted to go in the same [unintelligible] right as soon as because... but they wouldn't take him. Because of osteoporosis. They had a name for it. I think it was in his foot, but he was [unintelligible] a football injury.

James Moore 5:18

Okay, so definitely football. That's good. Your father. In the picture book that you gave me, it says that during putting the book together, they found out your father had been married before he married your mother. I've traced it back. He's in the 1910 census, when he's 27 years old, is listed as a widower. Do you know any details about that at all?

Edward Atiyeh 5:46

No. In fact, we learned when we started looking up the history, yeah, that he was married previously, but I don't think it was a long... she died.

James Moore 5:58

Yeah. I mean, he's listed as a widower at age 27. Can't have been a long marriage.

I think that was before he came to this country.

Okay. [Atiyeh interjects: No, no...] because he was about 17.

Edward Atiyeh 6:08

No, really?

James Moore 6:11

Yeah, well, it might have been he gone back and married.

Edward Atiyeh 6:18

No, because he married Mother in '21... not '21... [Moore: in '20.] in '20, he married Mother in '20.

James Moore 6:35

On her birthday, I discovered.

Edward Atiyeh 6:38

And he married her in '20. So it was some time before, I think it was when he was over in Syria, I don't know if he was gonna bring her here, or...

James Moore 6:52

Don't know any of the details at all, okay. Just one of those things you just kind of...

Edward Atiyeh 6:57

And it never came up [when he was alive?]. Because we never realized until later, [unintelligible] and he died.

James Moore 7:10

Absolutely, yeah. I discovered it because it's listed on the Census. [Atiyeh: Yeah.] And then I haven't found the actual documents of when he arrived in the United States, because that might say, if it says that he's single then, then it means he was married sometime in the, like, 1900 to 1910, sometime in there.

Edward Atiyeh 7:34

But it was before 1920, because dad was here, and then dad went back to Syria, back to Lebanon, and found Mother, and then married Mother. So as to the exact date he first came, we had a record. And up on coming into Ellis Island, my uncle particularly, and I think their dad did, too, came in through Ellis Island.

James Moore 8:07

Yeah, that would make sense.

Edward Atiyeh 8:09

So I don't know, we could probably find the date somewhere.

James Moore 8:14

Well, I've got a lot of good stuff as I'm looking around.

What I did find is, so your parents are married December 30, 1920, which is good, because you guys are born in October. So that works. [Both laugh.] I'm the same way. My parents were married in February of 1958 and I was born December 30, the same year, but it works. But I do have the record, because they went and traveled, and I do have the record of them arriving in the United States on the first of May, yeah. So, that's pretty neat.

Edward Atiyeh 8:55

Because we have, I think, in that book, family book they recorded in there.

James Moore 9:00

Yeah, it's got their wedding and things like that, which is really, really, really nice stuff. So, other Atiyehs. When I'm looking at Portland census records in the 1920s and '30s, there are other Atiyehs that come up, especially one named Kahlil, and his wife is Anise. And the reason I ask is because then Richard's...

Edward Atiyeh 9:31

Aniese [Moore: Aniese, okay.] Yeah, and in fact, she worked for us in a cleaning plant for a long time. Yeah, Aniese did.

James Moore 9:41

Are they related somehow?

Edward Atiyeh 9:43

They were cousins.

James Moore 9:43

Okay, they're cousins.

Edward Atiyeh 9:51

I don't know where the relationship came in. I think it came in through Aniese. Because I think she was the one that was related to... no, his name was Atiyeh too. [Moore: Yeah.] So maybe it must've come through him, then.

James Moore 10:10

Yeah, well... did you happen to know their children at all?

Edward Atiyeh 10:18

Oh, yeah, they had three daughters.

James Moore 10:20

Okay, so, I've got Anise, Linda Selena. Does that sound right, or is it...?

Edward Atiyeh 10:25

He had [Moore: Brady Isabella.] They had three daughters and a son, and the son's name was Anise, and he changed it to Ernie. And then he lives right now, he retired down in Las Vegas. And the other daughter, Mary, lived in Milwaukee, the Milwaukee area, and she died about a year ago. There were two other daughters. We were more closer with Mary but they had three daughters, I'm trying to remember the names.

James Moore 11:12

I have Linda and Selena from a census record, but...

Edward Atiyeh 11:19

They must have changed it, but they had three daughters.

James Moore 11:24

I see a lot of Azizs turn into other things like that, so.

Edward Atiyeh 11:29

I'm trying to think of the name of the other daughter too. I remember, we hear from them every year...Christmas time... you know, I can get it for you real quick. [Moore: Sure, sure, sure.] Let me get it for you. [Moore: Absolutely.] [A long pause.] One daughter who lives in Atlanta, Georgia, and I think the other one lives in [unintelligible]. I had, in my contact with her, lived in Vancouver, Washington, I think.

James Moore 13:01

Okay, so pretty close.

Edward Atiyeh 12:55

Let me see here if I could find it here... gotta find their last names here. Yeah, for Fred, one in Las Vegas, his wife's name is Juanita. And then, the one living... look at my wife's Christmas list. I gotta get it real quick. [Both laugh.]

James Moore 13:50

Well, it's okay if it comes to you, you can send me an email, or...

Edward Atiyeh 14:02

I think her name was Linda. You have Linda for one? [Moore: Yeah.] I think her name was Linda, and the third one too, that we don't correspond with her very much. I think her name is Linda, the one who lives in Atlanta with the oldest, and then Mary, the one that died about a year ago, the one who lived in Milwaukee was the youngest. And then they had a niece and another daughter.

James Moore 14:48

Okay, good, so I can put those together. So another family one, who is Sami Kahl?

Edward Atiyeh 14:56

Well, Sami Kahl...

James Moore 14:58

He's listed as cousin, half brother. He's, he's just kind of all over the place.

Edward Atiyeh 15:03

Well, there was a Sam Kahl that had an Oriental rug business okay, and he lived in the Dunthorpe area. And he was a half brother to Dad. And he was a half brother, dad, but he was a competitor of ours in the rug business. Other Sami Kahl, the one was a good friend of Vic's.

James Moore 15:31

That's the one who went with him to the Middle East and was an interpreter.

Edward Atiyeh 15:34

Yeah, but he's related, too, but indirectly. But I don't know exactly what the connection was with him, but he kind of, I say, a [unintelligible], but he was not a first cousin, or anything like that, because he was on the Kahl side, too. But Sam Kahl, the one that was Dad's half brother, he had three children, and there was one with Muriel Kahl, the daughter. They had Ed Kahl, was the youngest, and the oldest one was... he lived on the coast for a long time. He lived here in Portland... Ted Kahl! They were, even though they were competitive, we used to visit them. We had a very close relationship with them.

James Moore 16:50

Okay, so it's good. So there's two Sam Kahls. [Atiyeh: Yeah.] Good.

So the Sam Kahl half brother is not the Sam Kahl that...?

Right. Yeah, I was trying to put that together, and it's like he would have been pretty old at that point. But who knows.

Let's see here. Your mother's birthday is December 30.

Edward Atiyeh 17:20

My mother? No, no. Mother's birthday is in May... I can get it right.

James Moore 17:39

No, that's okay, the source... because often they don't get birthdays right. So it may have been that they based it on her marriage certificate, because her marriage was the 30... [Atiyeh: Her birthday is in May.] Okay, okay, good. So, college. You guys start in 1941, you go '41, '42. Do you complete '42, '43?

Edward Atiyeh 18:09

No, we had completed... we left in '43. We left the end of our sophomore year.

James Moore 18:20

Okay, so you guys go into the military, yeah, now in '43, in the fall, does Vic go back to school?

Edward Atiyeh 18:28

No, he didn't go back to school. Well, yes, he did. He went back to school for a while, but then, but then, when Dad died,

James Moore 18:40

Right, which is '44.

Edward Atiyeh 18:42

'44, when Vic dropped out. And I'm sure Vic went back to school then.

James Moore 18:50

Okay, the reason I'm asking is it's built up. There's a lot of news stories that talk about that Vic had only gone to two years of college, and I'm counting three.

Edward Atiyeh 19:01  
Well, he never completed.

James Moore 19:02  
He never completed the third year?

Edward Atiyeh 19:05  
Because when Dad died, he dropped out. I mean, he joined the business. I'm sure he was in school.

James Moore 19:14  
But straight up until then?

Edward Atiyeh 19:16  
Yeah.

James Moore 19:17  
When did your dad get ill? Was it a long thing, or did --

Edward Atiyeh 19:22  
A long deal. Number of years. We were still in high school, and he had heart trouble, and mother took him back to the Mayo Clinic. You know, in those days, he had circulation problems. One thing I remember, too, we had two tubs for him to soak his feet in, one with cold water and one with hot water. And you think to do that to get the circulation going, but then, he kind of became inactive when he started having heart problems. It started a number of years before he died, his heart condition.

James Moore 20:17  
This is a hard question to ask, and so I'll just leave it at that. It starts out with the cool thing, I've read the Fiji circular letters that you guys sent in World War Two. They're great. And for the book, they're really good because Vic took over running them after the first one he ran the next, however many, three or four more that there were. And one of the most personal parts of it, is he's writing the circular letter cover after you and Richard have been taken prisoner, and nobody has any idea what's happened to you, certainly. You're just gone. And so it's a it's a wonderful piece of writing, very personal. But in the Fiji letter after 1944, it suggests that Vic and Dolores lost a child.

Edward Atiyeh 21:20  
They lost their first one. And Dolores had the blood factor...

James Moore 21:33  
The RH. [Atiyeh: Yeah.] Blue baby.

Edward Atiyeh 21:40  
I think it was born dead. And then of course Tom was born, I think they had to put blood into him, to make sure he didn't have that same problem.

James Moore 21:55

I knew about Tom, because right after your brother said, "I want you to write the book." I was giving a talk at the Rose Villa Retirement Center over in Milwaukee, and said "Great thing! Vic Atiyeh has asked me to write a book." And lo and behold, one of Dolores' sorority sisters was there, and she vividly remembers Tom's birth because it was a new treatment for Tom, but they were all knitting booties and doing those kinds of things.

Edward Atiyeh 22:27

I know they had given Tom blood transfusions when he was born, but the first person was, and I think it was a boy, and he died.

James Moore 22:42

70 years old.

Edward Atiyeh 22:43

Yeah, oh yeah.

James Moore 22:45

Wow.

Edward Atiyeh 22:45

Because he was older than Tom.

James Moore 22:46

When was Tom born?

Edward Atiyeh 22:47

Tom is 60... I think it's 67 years.

James Moore 22:54

Okay, so he's born in 1948-ish, '50-ish, [Atiyeh: Yeah.] sometime in there. Okay. Now to things that became important to Vic. Where did he learn to love guns? I don't see gun collections in your house.

Edward Atiyeh 23:18

Well, I think it was in combination. He was fascinated studying the Civil War, and I think that's part of it. In fact, Vic went back a couple times to Gettysburg, those areas there, doing...Vic had a fascination with muzzle loading guns.

James Moore 23:42

So it's a love of history, that part of history.

Edward Atiyeh 23:44

I think it was because they kind of go together, the Civil War and guns. I think that's how Vic first got started, [unintelligible.] He became quite a collector, in fact, I don't know if I told you before or not, but he's a [unintelligible] too. We get as much correspondence on the run as you got on guns. [Both laugh.] From collectors, you know.

James Moore 24:11

That's great, yeah, because, you know, he was a lifelong NRA member, he had a gun collection, but he didn't hunt. [Atiyeh: No.] And it's not like he used them for protection. [Atiyeh: No.] It was, he just loved collecting.

Edward Atiyeh 24:23

In particular the older type of gun. In fact, he had a lot of little pistols too, and one of the banks, the same as loans in Portland, one time they used to have a display in their windows, and then they set up an exhibit of some of his old guns. And then finally, call him up one day and he says, "Vicki, we've got to come and take your guns out here." With the space of the people looking at their guns, [Both laugh.] and so they had to remove the gun display.

James Moore 25:00

When I was talking to your son, Ed, he was talking about driving for Vic in the 1978 election. [Atiyeh: Bob?] Bob, yeah, you're right? Lots of material. But he talks about driving along. And then every once in a while, Vic would say, you know, let's go up over here. And they'd go, and there'd be some guy who had guns, [Atiyeh: Oh yeah.] in the middle of nowhere.

Edward Atiyeh 25:26

Yeah, Vic was always stopping and looking for guns. And also, Vic collected clocks.

James Moore 25:34

Oh, clocks too?

Edward Atiyeh 25:35

Yeah, he collected old [gold?] clocks. And he had quite a collection of clocks, [Moore: That's great.] and watches. He loved to collect, right? Yeah, but Rich and I never did.

James Moore 25:45

Huh, that's fascinating. [Atiyeh: Vic really did.] One of the funny stories from when he was governor, a couple of people had told me occasionally, random guys would show up at the office, and he had an open door policy, would walk in, and they were rug salesmen, and they'd come in and to his inner office, he'd invite them in, and they'd roll out rugs, and they'd talk about thread count and sourcing and all these kinds of things. The rest of the office looking in there saying, "Huh, there's those rug guys again."

Edward Atiyeh 26:19

Vic loved to have people, [unintelligible], he always did, he always was that way.

James Moore 26:28

Fantastic. So, guns, we've got. Fishing. I mean, there's pictures, great pictures in the book of you as well. Vic is a kid with, you know, fishing. Was this something that all of you did? Did your dad do...?

Edward Atiyeh 26:44

We did a little. No, Dad never finished. But Vic loved to fish. In fact, we used to go up the mountain. We used to go up there. We always used to start with, we'd take hooks and put salmon berries on them, before you had salmon eggs. And we used to fish at the Zigzag River, up the mountain there. Vic always had a love

for fishing. Later on, he loved fly fishing.

James Moore 26:45

That becomes really important to him with the Deschutes River.

James Moore 27:11

He loved fishing on the Deschutes River.

Yeah, he tells a funny story about drinking. When he was a young legislator, he had a dream with Lynn Newbry, one of the people he served with, to fish in Canada. So they went up to a lake in Canada, and the fish weren't biting. So Lynn Newberry brought out a fifth of whiskey, and Vic got so sick he couldn't go out fishing for the next day and a half. And after that, he said he just never drank a lot ever again. [Moore laughs.]

Edward Atiyeh 27:55

No, he wasn't much of a drinker. I have another funny story. We have a cousin living from my uncle's daughter in New York. He had a daughter named Esther, and her husband's name was John Martin. He was a top lawyer in Philadelphia. I think he worked mostly with the dairy industry. But anyway, he loved to fish. And one time he invited Vic to his fishing lodge. And they had these exclusive fishing lodges back East, and it was a very rustic deal. And so they got there that night, the next morning, John said, we'll go down, have breakfast, and then after, we'll go fishing. So Vic had his fishing clothes on, and he went down for breakfast, and they wouldn't serve him breakfast. He had to have a coat and tie. [Both laugh.]

At a Fishing Lodge?

James Moore 28:00

At a Fishing Lodge!

God bless the East Coast!

Edward Atiyeh 28:11

That was really funny, but we kidded him about that too. But he had to go back, put a coat and tie on. Where is his floor partner? But he had to have a coat and tie on when he went for breakfast.

James Moore 29:11

That's wonderful. I used to live in the East Coast, and people would talk about going to their camps for the summer. I've been to camps. These are giant houses! They're just huge houses and oh, okay, you have a different definition of camp than we do. We would call this a house. That's great. That's wonderful. So, golf! Where does -- it seems like all of you guys were involved with golf.

Edward Atiyeh 29:41

Vic was kind of more of a natural athlete, and he was playing golf, he was on the golf team in Washington High School.

James Moore 29:49

Yeah, he said he was always number five and four.

Edward Atiyeh 29:52

He was always right in there, and I used to caddy for him periodically. To matches too, but that was at Washington High School.

James Moore 30:08

And just kept doing that.

Edward Atiyeh 30:10

Yeah, and he always loved golfing. Just before he died, he still loved to play golf. And he was the type who wouldn't practice very much, but he was a pretty good golfer. He was always better than Richard and I, he used to annoy us. We used to work on it, but we could never... he was always, he would be, well, better than we were.

James Moore 30:36

Yeah, that's great. One of the pieces that I've been working on, just because of who I've been talking to, I'm doing your brother in sports. And so it's got the Green Bay Packers in there, but all those kinds of things. But the golf, you know, it's an important thing, because then, when he travels to Asia, especially, there's a golf culture. And while he was governor, often he wouldn't play golf because he didn't want to have pictures taken of the governor playing golf. But when he became a consultant, he played golf all the time.

Edward Atiyeh 31:08

Oh, yeah. I got a kick one time. He used to play golf with a lot of Japanese. And he was at one of their clubs, was in Japan somewhere too, and they were at a pro shop, and so they used to golf, and then they'd have lunch. And then Vic saw something down at the pro shop, but he didn't want to tell the other guy, because he knows that they wouldn't let him buy it. They would give it to him, but he didn't want that. So afterwards after lunch, he went back down to the golf shop to get it, and one of the one of those guys came in and he wouldn't let Vic buy it. [unintelligible] They all laughed. [unintelligible]

James Moore 32:06

Cultures and golf. What are we going to do? So this is a little bit out of order, but I found a really great academic article. So it's written by a professor who studies sociology about Amar, the village back in Syria. And it turns out from this guy studying, your uncle Aziz was really the first person to leave the village, but then a whole bunch of people left. You know, your father was kind of the second person, but that kind of broke the dam. So a lot of people end up in Pennsylvania, but it says that there were, at one point, 20 families from Amar in the Portland area. Did you guys ever run into them, or?

In the Portland area?

In the Portland area.

Edward Atiyeh 33:03

Well, we never had a real close relationship with the Syrian community in Portland. I mean, because most of them go down Foster Road in southeast Portland, and we lived on the West side, and Mother and Dad would visit with them periodically, but we never really had real close relationships. And Dad belonged to the Syrian American Lebanese Club, but he was never really too active.

James Moore 33:03

Okay. It was just amazing to read. And in this article, it's like, oh, there's your uncle. He was listed right there.

Edward Atiyeh 33:53

There's a lot, in fact, a lot of people now that work at the plant, particularly repair women. They're from Amar.

James Moore 34:02

Oh yeah?

Edward Atiyeh 34:06

From Amar and also from other areas around there.

James Moore 34:11

Yeah. That's amazing how that has worked out. It's interesting, in this article, people came to Pennsylvania. Portland is a smaller area, but Pennsylvania is a big chunk. A lot of them went to Argentina.

Edward Atiyeh 34:23

Yeah, that's right.

James Moore 34:24

And so there's a big bunch of Amar people there from Argentina.

Edward Atiyeh 34:38

The people from Amar, they were going in different areas, too, but also in Amar, they had that two [villages?]. They had a Muslim village and a Christian village, and dad's family was in the Christian village. They were separate. In those days, they were separate.

James Moore 35:05

Wow. Because, from what the research I've been able to do on Amar itself, Amar seems to be a village that was formed basically to be the supply and workforce for the Crusaders, up on the mountain. And so that's earliest Amar, and the Crusade, I mean, that's just a ruin now. But so it seems, from what I've been able to find, there's always been a Christian part from the very beginning there, just because of the Crusaders.

Edward Atiyeh 35:40

I don't know what the Muslim village was called, but Amar was Assyrian.

James Moore 35:44

Yeah, that I can just go and look into. Fascinating stuff. I wish I could go, but, you know, it's kind of not a good place to go right now.

Edward Atiyeh 35:59

In fact, one woman at the cleaning plant, most of her family is from [unintelligible], where they've had a lot of trouble, she's got all her brothers, finally came, [Moore: Yeah, just got out.] But it's kind of [energy?], all of them are here and they're all working, got jobs.

James Moore 36:19

Yeah, that's great. That's really good.

Do you know, in Amar, was there a rug industry there? [Atiyeh: No.] Aziz just figured this out, or?

Edward Atiyeh 36:32

I don't know, well, Uncle, he got involved with linen first. He was involved with linen, and then later, he started [unintelligible], if he were up for the [unintelligible] used to come around. But he started with linens.

James Moore 36:47

Okay, because he just seems like such a remarkable person, in just terms of figuring out business opportunities, how to make it work, innovations...

Edward Atiyeh 37:00

And after there for a while... this came up before, too, but they did determine there was opportunities in the West Coast, because a lot of the people from the East Coast were migrating to the West Coast. And so they heard about this area. So Uncle Aziz came out here, and he liked the area, I guess less than a year, I don't know how long, but Dad stayed back, and then Dad came and joined him.

James Moore 37:36

One of the things that I'm doing is I'm going through the Oregonian and just counting the Atiyeh ads, and the first ones are 1903-ish, 1904-ish. But just you know how many there are... it's interesting because in 1944, there aren't any. [Atiyeh: No.] War's on. [Atiyeh: That's right.] 1945 all of a sudden they begin to appear again. That's also when Vic steps into the company, too. So the ads are very different. You know, Vic had his artistic eye and things like that, and so I don't know if there are records at the company or not, but I'd love to see if Vic said, you know, we have different ads, but it's just fascinating. So during the war, no ads...

Edward Atiyeh 38:29

Because they couldn't get rugs. And in fact, Uncle in New York, he had a couple of shipments, and they were coming in New York from Persia or Iran and the ship got sunk.

James Moore 38:43

Oh my gosh. So just no supply.

Edward Atiyeh 38:46

No they didn't have supplies. In those days, most of it was coming from Iran.

James Moore 38:52

Yeah, exactly which had also chosen the wrong side in World War Two. When you were in, running the company, were there issues with international trade, or did you guys, I'm thinking, because currencies go up and down during the time you're running the company, you know, the dollar is strong. Then in the late '60s, the dollar changes to a floating currency. Did that ever have a big impact on the company?

Edward Atiyeh 39:16

Never did on us, because our uncle in New York and his son ran the import business.

James Moore 39:33  
Okay, so that was their issue.

Edward Atiyeh 39:34  
And that was their issue. We always bought from the importers. Okay, so we never got involved with direct shipments from Persia or Iran. We've always bought from importers.

James Moore 39:52  
Did you buy from other importers besides...?

Edward Atiyeh 39:55  
Yeah, we bought from others, besides, they had their own brand, you know, Kerman Deluxe. And that was of course, our main rug there too. But we had rugs from all other parts of that area, from semi-antiques to modern, everything. So we had a very diversified stock. They weren't just one type of Oriental rug.

James Moore 40:24  
Okay, good. That makes things a lot more clear for me. A rug story: in 1974, Vic loses to Bob Straub. There's a newspaper article that talks about a Straub person, and an Atiyeh person. Made a bet, and the bet was \$50 versus an Atiyeh brothers rug. And Vic lost the election, and so the guy says that he came and talked to you for about a \$50 rug. You said, "We don't have \$50 rugs," but you went up somewhere and you got a small piece. Do you remember that at all? [Atiyeh: No.] Okay, it's one of those funny newspaper articles that's just kind of over here. And so, well, I could have been but... yeah, it doesn't stick in your mind.

Edward Atiyeh 41:21  
We usually get a lot of time, [alternate?] type of requests. [He laughs.] In fact, one time, we had a request. A guy came in and he wanted a runner. It had to be a foot or a foot and a half wide, and about six or eight feet long. And he wanted for his boat, for a row boat or something, he wanted us to make him a rug. We never did it, of course.

James Moore 41:58  
Tell him he can buy a rug and do that himself. Vic and Dolores' wedding date. I have the Oregonian story of their wedding. Top of the page, the big picture is of her. This is a big thing. It says their wedding, though, was on the first of July, 1944 and everything says the fifth of July. [Atiyeh: The fifth.] Okay, so that's just an error.

Edward Atiyeh 42:27  
Their wedding anniversary was the fifth of July.

James Moore 42:30  
Yeah, absolutely. But it's got you as the best man and Richard's an usher...

Edward Atiyeh 42:30  
No, Richard was the best man.

James Moore 42:30

Oh, is it the other way around? [Atiyeh: Yeah.] Okay, okay. [Atiyeh: Richard was the best man.] Okay, that's great. And then one last thing, you mentioned it when I was here before, but I wasn't, you know, this is, as you get into these things... do you have Donna Campbell's contact information?

Edward Atiyeh 42:56

Yeah, I can get it to you.

James Moore 42:57

Yeah, I would love to talk to her.

Edward Atiyeh 42:59

Oh, yeah. Good. Good. She doesn't live very far from here. [Moore: Oh, good!] She lived in the courtyard, about five miles. Yeah, I'll be glad to get that to you.

James Moore 43:09

Yeah, yeah, that'd be wonderful, because she's the... Tom, Jim, Vic, she's the only one that's really left to talk.

Edward Atiyeh 43:22

Doris has got dementia.

James Moore 43:26

Yeah, so she's... [Atiyeh: Alzheimer's...] Yeah, yeah. How is she doing now?

Edward Atiyeh 43:33

They moved her. She was at the Hearthstone. They finally moved her to a place by St. Vincent's hospital, and I talked to her son a while back, and she's doing real well. She likes it there, very much. So she's doing well. And we go visit Dolores about every week or so, and she's real close by here. She's off of [unintelligible], real close, but she's getting more forgetful. But it's amazing how her long term memory is still good, but her short term memory, she's very bad. But she seemed to be content there.

James Moore 44:17

That's good. Knowing that, I think I might send a note to Tom, because if Dolores has long term memories, it would be wonderful to have her...

Edward Atiyeh 44:29

Well, you know, you might pass out through Tom.

James Moore 44:31

Yeah, I'll talk to Tom, and it's with this book, and the way people are. I'm talking to lots of daughters and sons about parents, you know, is this doable or not, kind of thing.

Edward Atiyeh 44:45

But they would... because, like, I say, we will talk about things on how far back Dolores can go, you know, with her memory. But if she can remember... in fact, she can't remember who [fitted] her yesterday. Things

like that.

James Moore 45:08

Exactly. And how is your nephew, George?

Edward Atiyeh 45:12

Well, he's making progress. They've rented a house in North Portland, because they're doing a therapy at the Emmanuel hospital... and he's still there. And now his wife has been able to take him periodically home. They live in Lyons, Oregon, and in fact, they were there a couple of weeks ago. I haven't talked to him since, but they were there a couple of weeks ago, but it's still going to be [Moore: Still a very long...] long, long process. And I don't know if he'll ever be quite the same. He's still getting a lot of therapy.

James Moore 45:51

Yeah. Because, [see/say] for the book, he's crucial, because he was so involved with Opal Creek.

Edward Atiyeh 45:57

That's right.

James Moore 45:59

Which, I just love that story, because it's Vic's in-laws. And then his nephews. [Moore laughs.] It all mixes together.

Edward Atiyeh 46:09

George was the one that got Hatfield to make it a national park. He really worked hard on that, George, to develop that. And he went back to Washington, DC, so much too that, when Hatfield, just before he retired, they got a set of the national...

James Moore 46:35

Wilderness preserved area.

Edward Atiyeh 46:37

Wilderness preserved area, yeah. So he was more involved with that than Tom was. Because Dolores, you know, they live quite a while up there at the mine, for their family, to where Father had, because they had to do so much to keep their mine, they had to do so much work up there, to keep it as a working mine.

James Moore 47:05

Yeah. My understanding was they had a lot of claims, [Atiyeh: Yeah.] and so you have to work all of them, X amount a year. I have a friend who disappears for two weeks every summer, because he goes back to wherever his claim is, and he works the claim, so that he can still, you know, continue to have it.

Edward Atiyeh 47:30

It's amazing how those laws work.

James Moore 47:34

Yeah, absolutely.

Edward Atiyeh 47:39

Okay. Did you have any more...?

James Moore 47:42

No no, that's it. That's it. This is good stuff.

Edward Atiyeh 47:44

I'll get you Donna's phone number and address.

James Moore 47:50

That'd be great.

Edward Atiyeh 47:50

And then also, I think Karen got her list. Chris is listening in [unintelligible], but I'm trying to get a name, the other daughter, Glenda... because she's the one in charge, as he's the owner, let me go get that for you.

James Moore 48:09

Okay, fantastic.