

Marcus Lee Interview on Governor Vic Atiyeh

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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.

Marcus Lee 0:00

Yeah, in terms of, like, some kind of an association...

James Moore 0:00

In terms of an association, I mean, the Arab Americans, apparently there's -- I don't know if there still is, but there was a Syrian church, and so that was the center of the culture. But the Atiyehs were all Episcopalian, and did other stuff in other places. So fascinating. And I found out there's been a couple of academic articles about Vic's home village, and it turns out that more than 20 people from that village came to Portland.

Marcus Lee 0:31

About the same time, or...?

James Moore 0:33

About the same time. The very first was his uncle. Well, not... his uncle and his dad. His uncle was the first one to leave the village in the 1880s, and then went back and got his dad in like, 1900, 1903 and so they're mentioned in the article. But from talking to Vic's brother, there's no sense of "Wow. Everybody from Amar got together and had a party." So I just try to take that down.

Marcus Lee 0:59

Because, you know, almost all immigrant cultures have some kind of locale, you know, the Spanish-American, German-American, all those guys and and to help foster, you know, the longevity of their traditions and some of their lifestyles, perhaps, you know, and relationships, but that's interesting, that there isn't much going on there.

James Moore 1:32

Yeah, there's not much going on. And I need to find out, is there something that they were ignoring, or did the group just never come together? I mean, those kinds of things. In terms of your own immigrant experience, were your parents born in...?

Marcus Lee 1:45

No, my parents, well... let me backup for a minute. And you know, I've been doing family research history, mostly on Dad's side, for a number of years now, because Mom's side, I have cousins back in Iowa, et cetera, and they've done extensive research. So a lot of that is, is pretty much, pretty well developed. So there wasn't anything going on Dad's side. And that's, you know, it's really interesting, because being the product of a biracial relationship, especially at that time period, you know, I mean, has its own set of... I don't know what you want... you can call them issues if you want. So you know you you kind of identify, I

mean, both sides are important to me, but you tend to identify strongly with one or the other. And I think that for some reason, I identify more strongly with Dad's side. And to answer your question, my great grandfather came from the [Taishan?] area latter half of the 1800s, I haven't been able to track down an exact date yet. That's during the time of that initial migration out of southern China, during the Gold Rush, etc. So my great grandfather settled as a Chinese merchant in what we call old Chinatown, original part of Chinatown, which is specifically south of Burnside, along second, between Yamhill-ish, Morrison-ish, somewhere around there. But come to find out through some of the research we're doing now, is that it actually extended into the Northwest, where there's a large, and actually, you know, large, not only Japanese presence, but Jewish presence, as well as as a couple of other groups. Yeah. So he came over, and then he brought his eldest son over, shortly after that, to manage the store, the Chinese general merchandise store. And there were a number of partners, and that gets back into... when you talk about partners in these Chinese businesses that then hooks into the exclusion laws, it hooks into issues with paper sons, et cetera, et cetera. So with the history that, or the research I've been doing with Dad's family, you know, it's kind of my intention to put together, you know, his story, you know, publish that somehow, at some time.

James Moore 4:31

So your dad is third generation?

Marcus Lee 4:33

Well, it depends on how you look at it, because here's what happened. My great grandfather had five sons. Now, my grandfather was the youngest of the five, so he went back and forth. And I, I believe they all probably went back and forth, as most did, because as merchants, they could come and go.

James Moore 5:00

Right. The Atiyehs did the same thing. [Lee: yeah.] In fact, the uncle opened up a rug factory in Iran, because tastes in the United States were different than traditional oriental rugs. He wanted more color and stuff, and so he opened up a rug factory in Iran to cater to the US. So, what is our concept of oriental rugs? A lot of it is Uncle George.

Marcus Lee 5:26

You know, what's so funny... when you share a lot of this stuff, I mean, there's some parallels between Vic's background, Dad's background, not just personally, but, I mean, culturally, because, I mean the parallel there for Dad is Chinese food. You know, they come over here and, hey, it's not the right flavor. So they add a little more of this, or more of their take out some of this, to acclimate to, you know, an American palate. So, let's see. My family, on Dad's side, came from the village of [Lung Hing?] back in [Taishan?], and so in 1930 my grandfather went back. He had two wives. The first wife stayed in the village with some of the family members there, took care of the household, et cetera. His second wife, my grandmother, he brought along with Dad, who was born back in the village in 1925, see they're two years apart. I think Vic was born in '23. So he brought them over in December of 1930. They came over on the NYK line, Hikawa Maru, and a lot of that information I found up in the archives up in Seattle. So they lived down in Chinatown, and they lived under what was then the Rainier hotel, one of the storefronts now that was down where the bus station is right now, Greyhound bus station. And so the family lived in one of the storefronts, like many families in Chinatown... had a Chinese lottery to help support the family. And, let's see, grandpa passed away early. So Dad, being the eldest on that side of the family, he then had three younger siblings. He became the head of the family. Went to Lincoln High School for only the first term of the first year, because then he had to go into... he went into the Oregon Shipbuilding Corporation yards during World War Two, building the liberty ships. So he spent the duration of the war there and then raising...

James Moore 7:46

So your grandfather dies, before World War Two?

Marcus Lee 7:48
Before World War Two, yeah.

James Moore 7:50
So like, freshman year of high school.

Marcus Lee 7:53
Pretty much.

James Moore 7:56
Vic's dad dies early, but not quite that early as well.

Marcus Lee 7:59
Okay, see, so it's really pretty amazing. So after the war, then Dad went to work for similar sporting goods, and at that time, they were down on the corner of Third and Washington. And then sometime over the course of years, moved up to -- I'd have to do some research and do the directories and find out exactly when that was -- but then they moved to block up on Fourth and Washington, where the -- I forgot the name of the restaurant -- it was a Greek restaurant. Had the big octopus.

James Moore 7:59
Yeah, exactly the one...all the scaffolding just blew down.

Marcus Lee 8:18
Oh, is that right?

James Moore 8:20
Yeah, the big wind we had like 10 days ago, yeah, yeah. Took off the scaffolding off the side of the building.

Marcus Lee 8:26
Is that right? Wow. I'm glad I wasn't there.

James Moore 8:38
Exactly.

Marcus Lee 8:42
So... and then they closed in '66, and then Dad opened his shop down on Third, between Stark and Oak underneath Golden Dragon. You know, you have Cameron's bookstore on one corner, and then you have Portland Outdoor Store on the other corner. You have a Chinese art studio in the middle. So that's about when I was 10 or 11, and, you know, we all cut our teeth down there on Saturdays, after school, working and then they retired in 2002. But during [similar?] years is when Vic was coming into [similar?], that's where Dad and Vic got to know each other and naturally shared their love of firearms, history of firearms. In fact, Vic, you probably know this, he started up the Oregon antique firearms club.

James Moore 9:36
Yeah. It was basically a black powder group.

Marcus Lee 9:39

Right. So they shared that interest and, you know, when Vic had his office downtown, you know, when Dad moved down to Third, Vic was a regular visitor, would always stop by and visit with Mom and Dad. And as you know, Vic was an avid fisherman, too. Yeah, they, to my knowledge, they never went out together, you know, on any excursions or anything. But I think it was more of, you know, the friendship was more built around the business, and sharing, you know, the mutual interest in antique firearms and classic firearms. Now, Mom, her parents, my grandparents, on that side, are from Germany by way of Volga River region, Russia. So they immigrated into the East Coast. And then Mom was born in Minneapolis, on the way out here. And then that's where some of the cousins dropped off, in Iowa. He eventually settled over here. There's a little enclave of Volga Germans over by the northeast, not somewhere around there, in that neighborhood. And then they eventually, that family, the [Schiefelbein?] family, eventually moved up to Northwest 16th, not too far out of Chinatown, and one of their, a couple of their good neighbors, were Chinese gals of Dad's age who grew up with Dad, and Mom is the oldest of nine, and she's still here. Just turned 92 the other week, and so when they were looking for work during the war years, [Penny Lock? Loch?] was a friend of Dad's, and said, "Well, hey, you know, I know of a couple of openings down in Chinatown." So, Mom and Aunt Dolores worked as waitresses at Hung Far Low, you know, Bruce Wong. And Mom did a short stint at the Republic, the old Republic [i.e. the Republic Cafe and Ming Lounge] and that's where she met... she and Dad hooked up, because after he got out of the shipyards, that night, he and his buddies would come into like, The Bamboo and have something to eat. And she was working there for a little bit, and so that's how they got together.

James Moore 12:18

You got two famous immigrant rivers just going right there, [Lee: yeah, yeah.] that's great.

Marcus Lee 12:23

Yeah, yeah, all kinds of flowing over in this direction.

James Moore 12:26

Exactly. Wow.

Marcus Lee 12:28

So that's kind of it in a nutshell.

James Moore 12:34

So did you ever meet Vic when you were growing up?

Marcus Lee 12:38

Not in the early years.

I did not get to meet him in the store environment, unfortunately, but I met him in later years. Now, you know he has -- because of his deep involvement with the Chinese, as well as the Japanese -- he'd always be, you know, invited to a lot of the New Year's dinners, Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association dinners involved with the grand opening of the Chinatown gate, as well as -- oh, I brought these along. I thought.. no, you might have seen these, because I worked for a very short period a few years back, three, four years with Suzanne at A-Boy Supply for a little bit. And when I found out who she was at work, I gave her these prints to give to her dad, but this was back on the 25th anniversary of the Chinatown gate. Vic was invited as well as some of the Chinatown elders. And the elders are all those guys from my dad's generation who grew up together, but while I was, you know, helping Dad down the sidewalk, and I hear this, clap, clap,

clap. Behind me, I turn around, there's Vick! That's it, Governor Atiyeh! You know, so and and turned around, and that's the first time... so I've got a couple of shots of him. [Moore: That's great.] I don't know if you saw these.

James Moore 14:15
They're very familiar looking.

Marcus Lee 14:17
You might have if you've been over to the house or, you know, his office or something. They may be in there.

James Moore 14:23
Yeah, that's great.

Marcus Lee 14:26
And this was the event that they were invited to. Dad received that later in the mail. So that was a shot of it. [Moore: Anniversary.]. Yep, yep.

James Moore 14:36
That got glare issues. There we go.

Marcus Lee 14:42
Oh yeah, do you want me to hit the lights?

James Moore 14:43
No, no, we're fine. Just had to put the glare on the wood.

Marcus Lee 14:47
There you go.

James Moore 14:48
That's great.

Marcus Lee 14:49
But these are a couple of my favorite shots. Because, I mean, you know...

James Moore 14:52
These are just precious.

Marcus Lee 14:53
Yeah, they are, aren't they? I mean, you know, the look on their faces and, the joy out of seeing each other again, and, you know, the hand clasp and everything. So it's really kind of a...

James Moore 15:05

It's a real typical Vic.

Marcus Lee 15:06
Yeah, yeah, isn't it?

James Moore 15:11
Fantastic.

Marcus Lee 15:12
So that was really...

James Moore 15:18
Now, do you know when Vic first got involved with the Chinese community? What I'm trying to figure out is, was it something he was just doing? Was it a function of when he started traveling to Asia a lot for economic development?

Marcus Lee 15:36
I don't know if I can answer that. I know he was involved in the sister state, sister city, creations with, you know, Taiwan.

James Moore 15:47
Yeah, that's all when he's governing, funky diplomacy there, real funky diplomacy. But it worked.

Marcus Lee 15:54
Yeah, no kidding. There may have been other activities that he was involved in before that. I'd have to hook you up with somebody else, I think one of the elders, oh, you know, I bet Mary Leong, right here. She was pretty close to Vic, she might be able to give you some insight on that. So if you ever want to hook up with her, let me know.

James Moore 16:33
Yeah, as I get into I'm not sure how important this becomes, but it's really intriguing that he starts doing the international trade things, and he's not only working far away, he's working here with the communities, get them to buy into it and do things. And I don't know how important politically that is, but it's just a fascinating dynamic.

Marcus Lee 16:57
Yeah, well, it's an amazing chapter of that whole story. And, you know, the, the parallel, again, between, well, for instance, both these guys are a couple of immigrant guys coming over and doing good.

James Moore 17:17
Yeah, a little bit different. Vic is...his parents were born in Syria. He's born here, forbidden, basically, to speak Arabic. So didn't know anything when he went to Syria. He discovered the six words he knew were not working. [Both laugh.] The typical thing.

Marcus Lee 17:36
Yeah, that's me with German too.

James Moore 17:38

I actually have a copy of one of his business cards from after he was governor, and it's Arabic on one side, and I'm the first person who's actually read it. I read Arabic.

Marcus Lee 17:48

Oh, that's cool, wow.

James Moore 17:49

I said, yeah, that's actually what it says. You know, it does say you're not governor, you're called the Rais, which is the leader. [Lee: That's neat.] But, you know, just fascinating. I just talked with somebody earlier this week who was talking about... Vic had a real -- in fact, that's another dynamic that may be playing here -- Vic had a real problematic relationship with the Portland Business Community. The Atiyeh brothers had been here for, you know, decades. [Lee: Forever, yeah.] But he was never accepted, kind of, in the middle of the big things there. And he expressed it to me is, how come there's a Naito Parkway, whereas my brothers did all these things, and there's no Atiyeh Parkway, right? And so I you know, is that a dynamic of, kind of with the outsider groups? Is it a dynamic of whatever... when he becomes governor, the business community comes and says, "Great, you're the you're our business guy. You do this, that and the other." And he basically said, "I'm doing what I'm going to do. Thanks for dropping by." Yeah, the dynamics are just fascinating.

Marcus Lee 17:49

Well, I'll tell you and and I know you're recording this, but this is kind of between you and me, but I mean, it's no wonder that these guys got along. Their views were so similar in terms of, well, for instance, you know, Second Amendment rights, etc. Dad was not, you know, I say he was an extremely successful man. He's extremely successful at raising a family under tough conditions. You know, basically no high school education, had to go to work. You know, once Chinese were able to own land, then they started migrating out into the suburbs. So once Dad started, you know, got married, started raising a family, and was able to acquire property outside of Chinatown, he brought grandma and his two younger siblings to live with us. And you know that Uncle and Auntie were, you know, with us while they were going to school and went on, you know, one became a PhD down at University of Southern California and Davis... is that something like that? She taught Chinese American history, and then uncle Benny became a physician in the US Army. So, you know, he helped to raise that family, and he was the kind of guy that...so, finances did not figure prominently with Dad, okay, there was always something [unintelligible]. So, in the Chinese culture, like, for instance, you know, in the association here, or other associations, you see large photographs of all these people, and a lot of them are, you know, rightly important individuals. But a lot of times it depends on how much you give financially. If you give \$1,000 you know, you can have this big of a picture, and he was... he kind of rubbed against the grain. He was always committed and involved in, you know, he'd be hit up regularly for, you know, donations for this, and always gave, and during the picnics every year, would order things through the shop, you know, kids for door prizes, things like that. But he always said he preferred to be the guy in the back, guy in the background. So you don't get, not necessarily shunned, but you know, you're not really a part of it, unless perhaps you know something, you become like in Vic's case, you acquire a position where you're able to help somebody out where somebody else can benefit from it. So now I think they had really, really similar views in that respect.

James Moore 18:55

Fascinating dynamics. So tell me about Vic's involvement with the cemetery.

Marcus Lee 20:55

Lone Fir. Well, that stems from his past experience with the Chinese community. And you probably know the history behind, you know, the Chinese cemetery up there at Lone Fir, so I won't go into that, but we thought

in developing the board, we also wanted an advisory board, and Barbara Roberts and Vic, they were both at the top of the list, and it was kind of funny, because Mary will probably tell you this story. We, three of us, went down to his office. We set up an appointment with him, go down, and he was familiar with the Chinese cemetery. And we talked to him for a while. Had a great visit, and asked him if he would honor us by joining our advisory board. And, you know, kind of, I think typical Vic. He said, "Well, can I think about it?" We said, "Well, sure." He said, "Okay, I'll do it." [Both laugh.] Just, you know that sense of humor. So, yeah, he just, he bought into it up front. And he was a fantastic spokesman for us at some of our events, and spoke of his relationship with the Chinese community quite a bit and helped give us a lot of direction in terms of, who we who we should be talking to, who we should maybe look at inviting So, yeah, it was great to have him on board.

James Moore 24:39

And how long was he on?

Marcus Lee 24:40

He, well...do I want to say two years? Maybe a couple years. Mary will be able to give you... here, I brought this. This was put together before Vic came on board, but that's a brochure, the first one we had printed up number of years ago, just for some background information. And again, that's before we brought Vic on.

James Moore 25:21

So, I mean, as you got him on the board, he was asked to be on so many boards.

Marcus Lee 25:30

Oh, yeah, and he was.

James Moore 25:31

Just tons and tons and tons. By the early '90s, he's beginning to try to figure out ways to say no to people. I'm not sure if he was successful, because he's not very good at saying no at all.

Marcus Lee 25:45

Right, right, I can imagine that.

James Moore 25:47

But so you're saying when he was on, he was a real active member, engaging...

Marcus Lee 25:53

Yeah, we had several functions that we invited him to, and he'd always show up. I remember one of them, you know, I picked him up and took him back home afterwards. We had one function over, actually, in the cemetery in the evening, and another function up at the forestry center. And he was always open to that. And it's funny, because it went over at the cemetery. I was, you know, after he was through, he was with his talk, he was heading out, and the rest of the program was still going on, and I was going to walk him back to his car, but he'd hear nothing of that, you know? I mean, he was like Dad. He says, "I'm fine," you know, "I'm good, I'm good, you just go ahead." But yeah, he was active in that respect. And anytime we needed, you know, again, some direction, or whatever. He was always accessible. And Mary had a good working relationship with him. And so I hope you're able to hook up with her, and get, you know, get a little more background and detail.

James Moore 27:20

Yeah, that's fantastic. One of his closest staff members, one of her favorite pictures of him that kind of symbolizes for her, like his last five or 10 years, is because the walking back to the car thing. So he would never... you don't walk him back to the car. [Lee laughs.] He doesn't want to do that. There's a great picture of him walking. And he would always be quiet. He was always quiet. But he had his hands behind his back, and he had on his vest, and he's walking through a parking lot. She has a picture of that. [Lee: Oh, that's cool.] That's him in the, like, the last 10 years of his life. Because, by God, he was gonna drive. [Both laugh.]

Marcus Lee 27:58
That's right.

James Moore 28:00
And you know, there you go.

Marcus Lee 28:03
Yeah, I think he was, he was cutting down on, I mean, you know, when you describe that, you can just visualize him, you know, with his hands behind his back like that. That's, that's how he was at the functions, you know, he's, he's just standing there talking like this. It's just a very, very neutral, very open, you know, kind of gesture, and that's, that's the kind of guy he was.

James Moore 28:28
That's great. So anything else?

Marcus Lee 28:35
Not really.

James Moore 28:36
Okay, that's good.

Marcus Lee 28:37
I am afraid I can't give you much more, you know...

James Moore 28:41
No, this is good. It's given me a great insight into your dad, that immigrant experience, but also them and guns. I mean, it's funny with the guns, because, you know, he gave everything to Pacific, and Pacific, not so subtly and subtly, said, "We don't need the guns." Oh, really! I think we may end up with one, but I'm not even sure of that, and that's fine. Vic was fine with that, because he wanted them to go places where they're going to be appreciated. [Lee: That's right.] But the gun thing is just fascinating, because he was a gun person who wasn't a hunter. So for him, the Second Amendment is about the right to have these things, right, but I'm not really going to do anything with them except shoot at targets occasionally. And I just like them. Whereas with fishing, he was an avid fisherman. You know all these kinds of things, that and the other. But the guns are a real fascinating thing. And I'm not sure what it says about him, except that he liked to collect things. But it's a very different thing. And one thing, talking to him, he knows the NRA changed, but I was never able, ever to peg him down. I don't know if you remember, geez, early '90s, late '90s, former President Bush the elder actually stopped being an NRA member. Think about the time Charlton Heston held the thing and said pried out of my cold dead ends. He said, "This isn't what the NRA is about." And Vic never left the NRA. And I was never able to ask him...

Marcus Lee 30:29

He was a lifelong member.

James Moore 30:31

Yeah, he's a lifelong member. He was in ads in the 70s and 80s. "I'm a member. I'm the NRA." Yeah, exactly.

Marcus Lee 30:40

In '82, yeah. That's one of my favorite shots of him there, too. Isn't it great?

James Moore 30:47

So it's just a fascinating part of him.

Marcus Lee 30:50

Well, you know, his whole thing is like Dad's, you know, Dad always says, he says, "You know, it's my right to have these." He says, "I'm not out there harming anybody." You know, Dad. Dad enjoyed bird hunting, he and his buddies would go out pheasant hunting or pigeon hunting over the years. And he was an avid fisherman, too, but you know, and that's some of my favorite memories. I never became a hunter. If I had to, I could do it, but, you know, given the choice, I'd rather not. But I always enjoyed going with Dad. I mean, you know, part of it is him waking up early in the morning, it's still dark, and, you go down and it's colder than heck, and it's wet out there, but we had a great time. You know, he'd always make a thermos coffee for himself, thermos hot chocolate for us, and some great sandwiches, and we'd just go out there, have a good time. And part of the fun for me was watching him interact and visit with his buddies. He had a lot of... he never catered. He refused to cater to the Saturday Night Special crap. Okay, you always... high end collectible. Most of his clientele, you know Vic, doctors and lawyers. You know guys who were into the high end collectible shotguns, yeah, things like that, yeah. So every summer, you know, we'd go out to Maupin and just take along some tin cans or some targets and just plink away, yeah, you know, and that, that in later years became the extent of it. But you know, he felt the same thing, you know, we, I have a right to, you know, own this, and I'm not out there hurting anybody. And so, you know, their whole belief system kind of follows that path.

James Moore 32:45

Yeah, just as you're saying that, one thing, I'll be looking to see if there's research. So with these immigrant groups, does the NRA, you know, does gun ownership play a role? Fascinating to see, you know, is it embracing an American thing?

Marcus Lee 33:16

For these immigrant groups?

James Moore 33:19

Yeah, is it a, we watched a lot of movies and that represents America?

Marcus Lee 33:25

Yeah, I'd probably have to say, yeah.

James Moore 33:30

I have no idea if it's true, but there's, I sense, an interesting dynamic here.

Marcus Lee 33:34

Well, a lot of it... yes. To answer that question, you were throwing out some you know, could it be this? Could it be that? And also a love of history, [Moore: Yeah, absolutely.] My dad loved reading history, especially World War Two, very knowledgeable about that. Very knowledgeable about, I mean, just extremely knowledgeable about firearms history, etc, etc. But part of it comes through a love of history, and particularly the history of this country, the early years, the Wild West. Okay, Dad grew up during the time, as did Vic, when John Wayne, you know, Alan Ladd... loved all the Westerns. And we, as kids grew up, you know, cowboys and Indians... we all had that, and in fact, it's funny because I'm getting together with another friend of mine, a Japanese guy who lives in Southwest Portland, not too far from A-Boy, good customer of ours, come to find out he was working for a federal agency downtown when he was during his career, come to find out we were talking about, you know, family background and everything, he was a long time customer and Dad is an avid, you know, firearm collector. And he has the same thing I grew. Up during the same time period I did with then the TV shows that he grew up with, "Have Gun -- Will Travel," "The Rifleman," "The Virginian," and those guys you know, and how that plays into American history. So he wanted me to get together with him next week to show off his collection. So, yeah, you know, I'm sure a lot of it is a fascination with the early American West, and that whole, I guess, spirit, that firearms played a part of during that time, and also the Hollywood image of those times too.

James Moore 35:53

Yeah, the history, when you said that resonates. I just, coming back from California, I brought back...they're made out of metal, but they look like they're ivory scrimshaw. So they're tusks. And Vic bought them as ivory scrimshaw in Syria. And so they've got, there's an Abraham Lincoln, and an American flag looks like old, you know, 19th century stuff, and very proud... he had them in his office when he got back in Salem, and one of the people on the trip was, she was on part of the trip. And as she was flying back, she read in Time Magazine about the fake scrimshaw that sold all over Israel, in Syria, in [unintelligible]. That's what it was, really and so she's, you know, everybody's got to be honest with the boss. You go into the boss saying, "Governor!" And he kept them, but years later, they would meet for lunch all the time, and he presented them to her. And so she's had these now, and what she just gave them to me, so I'm gonna take them to the archive, but it's the love of history, is what, you know, look at this. Look at what this is done in the Americana on it, and all those things.

Marcus Lee 37:08

And not only that. I mean, you know, whether they're authentic or not, it's a part of the history that they played in his life. So, there's a story there. I mean, they're all kind of like, you know, props, to the story of this individual, yeah, just as things Dad has handed down to us, you know, they might be significant to others, or so you know, or you know somebody else. It's, it's, what do you want to hang on to that for? But it's the part that it plays in telling a particular chapter of this story, see. One of my favorite stories that Dad always shared with us was when we were kids, my grandmother, my grandparents on Mom's side, had a farm down in McMinnville. So a lot of times on the weekends, we go down there to visit, or during summer vacation, you know, we got this stay on it for maybe a week or something, Dad would come down on the weekend. So his favorite thing was, one of his favorite possessions was his George Lawrence holster, okay? Because when he opened the store for a lot of years, George Lawrence was still in business, or the marine supply was in business, and that's where we got to know a lot of those folks. We'd be running errands back and forth there, yeah, and I actually worked for a summer vacation at Oregon Marine Supply when they were down there. But he had his George Lawrence holster, and he had his Colt Single Action Army 45 and so he took that out one time and, he's trying to practice quick draw, because he knew a good friend and customer of his was [Arvo Yalla?], who was... yeah, okay. And so he had shown him a few things. So he was going to try, you know, once again I get out there to, you know, grandma might go out in the backfield there. I'll practice this quick draw. Well, he pulled it a couple of times, and one time his thumb slipped off the hammer and let go around that, hit right in front of his toe. He said, "Wow, after that, I just kind of put it away and didn't do that again." [Lee laughs.]

James Moore 39:28

Yeah, I grew up in Southern Oregon, and at one point, the police chief of little Jacksonville, Oregon shot

himself in the foot. And he was kind of a jerk. Anyway, it's like, [Both laugh] "Ah, good. He deserved that."

Marcus Lee 39:47

Okay, good, what goes around comes around, right?

James Moore 39:50

Exactly. Great, no, this is wonderful, and it gives me... I'm going to talk to Vic's older brother Ed next week. I have already talked to him, but I have more questions, and so following up on some of this will be really fun. Are the other Atiyeh brothers, were they also into guns, or was it just Vic, you know? How did that...? Just to try to chase it down.

Marcus Lee 40:14

Sure, sure. And how about his son? Was it Tom? [Moore: Tom, yeah.] Yeah, because it sounds like Tom was... I never got to meet Tom, and I wasn't able to hook up with him at the memorial to introduce myself, but it sounded like he was into fishing too.

James Moore 40:31

Yeah. He's definitely the fisherman. Something that would be right up your alley... he married a woman, she's an American, Anglo, but she speaks Chinese.

Marcus Lee 40:41

Oh, is that right? Wow.

James Moore 40:42

So, his business, he's not with Atiyeh Brothers. He's got his own business, which is Chinese carpets.

Marcus Lee 40:48

Oh, wow, that's great.

James Moore 40:49

So it's the Atiyeh-ish stuff, [Lee interjects: But different flavor.] different flavor. And he married someone who speaks Chinese, and off they go.

Marcus Lee 40:57

Oh, that's fantastic.

James Moore 40:59

Yeah. So it's really, really neat to see that come together.

Marcus Lee 41:03

Yeah, well, and it kind of echoes a relationship here, too. I mean, you know, there's, you know, there's a traditional Chinese story of the red thread of fate, which says that, basically, we're all connected by this red thread, you know, we may think that we're just out there, each man is an island kind of thing, but we're actually all connected in some way, and, you know, that's really interesting, that that was a path that he followed. I hope to hook up with him sometime and at least introduce myself. But what did happen to, eventually, Vic's gun collection? Did it go to a museum, or?

James Moore 41:48

No, it was basically other collectors.

Marcus Lee 41:51

Oh, okay.

James Moore 41:54

And I don't know, I mean, he had, by the time he was talking to us, he only had like, five or six.

Marcus Lee 42:00

Oh, did he okay? So he must have...

James Moore 42:01

He had hundreds.

Marcus Lee 42:02

Yeah, that's right, so he must have...

James Moore 42:04

So he was finding collectors.

Marcus Lee 42:08

Okay, that's cool. I was kind of hoping there might be some, you know, depository somewhere, where they could be viewed as a collection or something like that. But at least they went to good homes where they're appreciated.

James Moore 42:22

Absolutely. So they're scattered about, and part of their provenance you can read, "Oh, look, the governor of Oregon had this one."

Marcus Lee 42:34

That's right.

James Moore 42:34

Well, great. This is wonderful. Thank you very much!

Marcus Lee 42:36

Yeah, you're welcome.

James Moore 42:37

This is all eventually going to go in the archives.