The Peale, Baltimore

Out of the Blocks Storytelling Series
Recorded by Aaron Henkin; Photographs and Music by Wendel Patrick
Produced for the Out of the Blocks website, created by the Peale, https://ootb.thepeale.org/

Out of the Blocks is supported by PRX and produced with grant funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Cohen Opportunity Fund, The Hoffberger Foundation, Patricia and Mark Joseph, The Shelter Foundation, The Kenneth S Battye Charitable Trust, The Sana and Andy Brooks Family Fund, The Muse Web Foundation, and the William G. Baker, Jr. Memorial Fund, creator of the Baker Artist Portfolios



Marcel:

This is the barber shop. Back in the day, after you hone your razor, the way you smooth it out, and it would take the snags and stuff like that out of the blade. But nowadays, we use a disposable razor, so you don't have to use them.

Speaker 2:

And that was your grandfather's?

Marcel:

Yes. Yeah, I inherited that. I deserve that because I used to get it when I was a kid and I wasn't acting right in his barber shop. My Barber Shop, 221 West Saratoga Street.

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Speaker 2:

And your name?

Marcel:

Marcel. My grandfather was a barber and he started out at Pennsylvania Avenue, Pennsylvania, in [McKeen 00:00:48] Street. But he started out selling fish. He made enough to pay his way through barbering school, and he went on to be a barber for the next, I guess, 50 years. I guess I'm the one who carried on the legacy. My grandfather, he was very encouraging, very encouraging. In the beginning years, when I was running the street and acting crazy and doing things that I shouldn't have been doing to myself, I guess he was doing a whole lot of praying. And he just passed away last January, he was 99 years old. He cut hair until he was like 90 something years old, in his early nineties.

Speaker 2:

Do you hope to keep working as long as he did?

Marcel:

I hope to be living as long as he did. Yeah, of course.