

*Out of the Blocks* Storytelling Series | 400 E. Patapsco Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland  
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/>



Pat Wills (00:07): I'm Pat Wills, owner of Wills Printing Company, 417 E. Patapsco Avenue, Brooklyn Maryland. We're what you call an old time printer.

Sean McClymond (00:18): Sean McClymond, and I've been here about 17 years now.

Ms. Jamie Gaines (00:22): My name is Jamie Gaines, and I've been here about eight years.

Pat Wills (00:25): We would be nothing without these two employees. Wills Printing Company wouldn't be here.

Ms. Jamie Gaines (00:29): This is an AB Deck, and it runs two colors.

Sean McClymond (00:33): This is a Heidelberg windmill machine.

Ms. Jamie Gaines (00:36): This is a thermography machine.

Sean McClymond (00:39): This is an industrial paper cutter.

Ms. Jamie Gaines (00:42): This is a folder, and it does exactly what it's called it folds paper.

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Pat Wills (00:48): And we print letterheads, envelopes, a lot of tickets, labels, and we've had a lot of the same customers for 40, 45 years. Mr. Wills is still alive, but he's 82 and he's really not physically capable to come in the last 12 years. We met at a local restaurant called the 4100 Club, which was about three blocks from here. And I was a year out of High School. He was an older man. He was 32. I was 19. I know that sounds shocking now, but we got married about six months later. And when we first married, which was 48 and a half years ago, he decided to go into his own business.

Andrea Mayer (01:27): They want to know if there's any other besides the white gloss? There's two different sets they want. So if you can call up Xpedx and find out if they have like an ivory, I didn't think so. [crosstalk 00:01:38] They said that regular stock will be fine. My name is Andrea Mayer and Pat Wills is my mother.

Speaker 5 (01:44): And also, I guess, officially you're the boss as well, right?

Andrea Mayer (01:48): Yes.

Speaker 5 (01:49): What's it like to have a mom as a boss?

Andrea Mayer (01:53): Interesting. That's a loaded question.

Pat Wills (01:59): Well, in High School I wanted to go to college and I tried out for University of Baltimore to become a teacher. And I'll have to say this, I hate to say it, but my mother was discouraging. Because she was like, why go and waste your money on college when you'll probably just get married anyway.

Speaker 5 (02:22): So you ended up getting married right out of High School, but now you're also running your husband's business. Probably didn't imagine that would be happening.

Pat Wills (02:30): Probably not.

Andrea Mayer (02:31): I didn't get married till I was 37 or 38. I don't want to say I feel sorry for that generation. But I think having the ability to take care of yourself is really important. And that's something that I've had the benefit of. And I think a lot of women my mother's age, that wasn't an option for them. I'm sure once I take over the business in about 50 years, there's certain things I'll definitely change. Hopefully it will make more money. But yeah, we've kept it running for a long time and you saw the updated equipment we had out there.

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