

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/>



Ed Mueller ([00:00](#)):

68th year

Ken Mueller ([00:02](#)):

Well, we're 70 years now. It's 70, 70 years.

Ed Mueller ([00:05](#)):

We are?

Ken Mueller ([00:06](#)):

Yeah. 1947 to 2017.

Ed Mueller ([00:09](#)):

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53 and 17. Yeah.

Ken Mueller ([00:11](#)):

70, we made it 70.

Ed Mueller ([00:12](#)):

That's 70.

Ken Mueller ([00:15](#)):

Hi, I'm Ken Mueller.

Ed Mueller ([00:16](#)):

I'm Ed Mueller and I'm Ken's father.

Ed Mueller ([00:18](#)):

Mueller's delicatessen. Our address is 7207 Harford road.

Ken Mueller ([00:22](#)):

This is like a specialty store.

Ed Mueller ([00:25](#)):

German Sausages are Bratwurst, Weisswurst, Baurenwurst, Knackwurst, Bierwurst, Schinkenwurst.

Ken Mueller ([00:31](#)):

That makes our beef and dumplings, which is like a real, a German thing people like.

Ed Mueller ([00:36](#)):

We're proud of that.

Ken Mueller ([00:36](#)):

We have four generations working here.

Ed Mueller ([00:38](#)):

My father was from [Seibel Estorf 00:00:40], Germany. Came over here in 1923 to get out of Germany with Hitler coming in and all that stuff. You've seen all that. So he came, he worked down in Bethlehem

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Steel, and then he opened the grocery store. And my mother worked in there and I was, well, I'll tell you, I was like five years old delivering stuff during the war.

Adam Droneburg ([01:01](#)):

When did you take over the deli from your father?

Ken Mueller ([01:04](#)):

I took it over in 1965.

Adam Droneburg ([01:07](#)):

And when did your father hand you over the deli?

Ken Mueller ([01:11](#)):

I started running it in 1990 by myself. And then ever since then, but then he would still help. Even though he was said he was retired, He would still come in and help us out. In fact, he's still 84 years old and still runs errands for me.

Ed Mueller ([01:25](#)):

I'm here a few times a week. He wants me to run the register. I can still run that thing, but he's doing a really good job. So I don't say anything anymore. I'll listen to what my son tells me.

Ken Mueller ([01:40](#)):

This is imported ham, probably one of our best sellers. And then the chipping, we just barely turn the knob on the slicer to turn it on. I can hear that go on in there.

Adam Droneburg ([01:54](#)):

I recently spoke to [Humberto 00:01:57]. I don't know if this is true or not. He says that you're selling this place?

Ken Mueller ([02:01](#)):

Yeah, we're for sale right now. Yep. None of my kids aren't interested in it and I've been doing it for 37 years. It's been long enough. I'm just tired of doing it. It's a lot of work. I work seven days a week, six days a week for 25 years. Just want to take a break and maybe get a part-time job somewhere.

Adam Droneburg ([02:24](#)):

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What are your thoughts? I mean, seeing this multi-generational place being handed off to somebody outside of the family.

Ken Mueller ([02:31](#)):

Well it's sad, but it has to happen sometime and yeah, just my kids aren't interested in it. So, it's tough to going to let it go but we'll have to see what happens. I felt down the line one of my kids would be interested in it or someone in the family, but everything has to change. So you got to do what you got to do.

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