YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Youngstown Area Jewish Project

Personal Experience

O. H. 843

DR. MILTON GREENBERG

Interviewed

by

Irving Ozer

on

December 1, 1988

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INTERVIEWEE: DR. MILTON GREENBERG

INTERVIEWER: Irving Ozer

SUBJECT: Youngstown Jewish life, St. Louis experiences, Ohio State experiences, World War II

DATE: December 1, 1988

O: This is an interview with Dr. Milton Greenberg for the Youngstown State University Oral History Program, on the Youngstown Area Jewish Project, by Irving Ozer, at the Archives Department of the Jewish Federation, on December 1, 1988.

He is going to share with us some of his personal life and impressions about growing up and living in the Jewish community of Youngstown. Milt, thanks for being with us. We will start out with a simple question. Where were you born and when?

G: Born in Youngstown, January 8, 1919, on the lower east side, on Prospect Street. In a little house my mother and father told me had been kind of a converted stable, or barn. It was in the back of a grocery store that the Deichman family had on Prospect Street. We stayed there for a year or two after I was born, and moved then to what became the center of Jewish life for all of us, Kyle Street, on the lower south side just over the South Avenue bridge. Kyle Street was a small street that ran from South Avenue over to, I think it was, Erie Street, just before Market Street. In that one block, according to my dear, newly departed, wonderful lady, Goldie Cheloff. Jewish life in Youngstown it seems centered around Kyle Street. There were hundreds of people who lived there and Foster Street. There were Jewish families in and out of there.

O: Where did most of these people come from?

G: Well, these were mostly eastern European Jews. From what I remember there were two migrations in Youngstown. The first one came in about 1830, and those were mostly German Jews. They were the same group that came to Cleveland, and to Pittsburgh. They were a group of people who came in as business people. As I understand it from those that I have spoken with, they established the commercial stores in town: Hartzell's, Strouss-Hirshberg, Ritter and Meyer, Rosenbaum's, and so forth. They go back so many, many years. The Liebmans and various other people were in town at that time as well. One or two of them were physicians, and then of course there was the first of the reformed Jewish congregation, Rodef Sholom. As I understand it started on the second floor of a storeroom down in the downtown section. Then moved up on Lincoln Avenue. Then in about 1880 or so, or 1890, the eastern Europeans came and they settled in various other places. The reformed Jews, or the old deiche yehudim, moved to the north side of town. The eastern Europeans moved to the east side and to the south side. Even in those days the Mahoning River was kind of the dividing area. If you lived on the south side, you didn't come up to the north side. The north side never went to the south side. We had our own little groups. We would meet halfway between.

O: Where in particular did your parents come from?

G: My parents were kind of a mixed group. My father's family was Hungarian. They lived in Youngstown and in Farrell. That is why my father finally wound up here. He initially came to St. Louis, worked in St. Louis, met my mother in St. Louis, and came back to Youngstown because his family was here. My mother was a Russian. She came from a little town in Kiev area. I understand that it is a true town because I just met somebody from Russia just a couple of weeks ago. I told him where my mother was from, Zvenyhorodka. I can't spell it for you, and I can't even probably pronounce it again.

O: Can you elaborate it a little bit, for the tape recorder?

G: Well, it was in what they called Zvenyhorodka, it was near Kiev. It was a small stehtel, a small town. Her family, her father, and mother, had lived there. How long they had lived there, or how long my father's family had lived in what was Austria-Hungary, in a town called Klen, or Czechoslovakia I can't tell you. Because we never really asked those questions. We always assumed that they would be there the next day and we would ask. They left Europe very young and came to this country.

O: Why did they?

G: The reason for leaving Russia was obvious, they were persecuted. My mother was just a very young child in Russia, and lived in this small town. They had a small house with a dirt floor and a cold cellar where they kept the potatoes and so forth. Each time the Cossacks would decide to come through the town they would hide her in the little, cold cellar. She was a very pretty little woman and she was twelve, thirteen years old when her parents allowed her to go with another family to the United States. When she got here she joined her sisters in St. Louis, and immediately went to work.

O: What year?

G: I think it was somewhere around 1910. My father came earlier. I think he came in 1904. The dates were somehow passed around, but I think about 1910.

My father came when he was around fourteen years old, and came from a rather well-to-do family in Czechoslovakia. They were farmers and had a large farm and a mill. A mill where they milled flour not only for themselves, but for other people. He had gone to school there, TD Yeshiva. The big land owners were allowed to go to the state schools, Christian schools, in adition to going to Yeshiva. My mother, because they were not land owners and they lived in sort of a little ghetto community, had no education in Europe and almost none here in the United States.

He came to this country, I guess, because he thought that was where the chance and the opportunities were. Although he was perfectly happy at home, and they were well off enough that he was able to go to school, and tend the sheep, and so forth.

O: Is there something that triggered the decision to come here?

G: I don't know. That is one of those things that I don't think I'm able to tell you that. Well, you know it is funny because I'm at that point now where fact and fancy blend. At almost age seventy somebody asks you what happened fifty years ago. I used to get so upset because I said my father, "When did you come to the States? In the spring, in the summer?" And he couldn't remember. Now I understand because I can't remember last year what day my birthday came on. I know the date but not whether it was a Tuesday or Wednesday. So when I asked him things like that he said, "I don't remember whether it was a confusion, or just one of those things." He came to the USA because an uncle or an older cousin, or somebody had come before. It is

interesting because a number of people from that town settled right here in Youngstown.

O: Why did he go to St. Louis?

G: Well, he went to St. Louis because you had to be sponsored by somebody, and he had a cousin in St. Louis. He came with another family. When he got to New York the other family deserted him because they didn't want to have him move into their small apartment in New York anyway. There he was at fourteen not being able to speak the language, deserted in New York City, having to scrounge for food in garbage, and so forth. Until he could find somebody who could understand Hungarian, so he could speak to them. He then went to St. Louis, and in St. Louis he worked for a cousin who had a kosher butcher shop. As I understand it, he tells the story, my father delivered by horse and buggy, and learning to become a meat cutter, a butcher. The horse was blind, but knew all the stops along the way to make the deliveries.

My mother came to St. Louis to live with sisters. She was very young, and a very beautiful little woman. When she was fifteen or sixteen my father was delivering groceries to my aunt with whom my mother lived and they met each other. He was quite a dandy in those days and single. He and my mother fell in love, and she was sixteen when she married.

O: What brought them to Youngstown?

G: The fact that he had sisters here, and brothers and they were in business and my parents thought it would be an opportunity for them possibly to go into their own little business. The eastern Europeans who came to Youngstown went into business. At one time I think better than eighty percent of the Jews in Youngstown were their own business people, were their own bosses. Very few worked for anybody. Few of them worked in the steel mill, but mostly they set up little stores and little stands at the gates of the steel mills. Or they set up little grocery stores. Or little places where they could get a chance. And one, like the present Lebanese, one relative put the other one into business. So, my parents went to Sharon initially ... Farrell because that is where his brother-in-laws, his stepbrother Mr. Heizler lived in Farrell. Mr. Abraham, who was Gussy Applebaum's father, was in this area. He had a kosher meat market. He had come from my father's time and knew my father and my father's family.

They all came because they knew somebody from home who was in Youngstown. The eastern Europeans were mostly Slovak, Croation, and so forth, and they came to this

area because of the steel mills. Which were starting up in that time went to Europe, and brought people into the city. They went to eastern Europe and brought the Slovaks, Croations, and Russians, and so forth, here. The Jewish families that came here came from the same areas and could speak Slovak. They could be business people and work with the steel workers. So, my father came here and he went to work in a butcher shop in Youngstown for a man by the name of Max Schagrin. Down on the lower east side, lower Federal Street. Max Schagrin had a rather large butcher shop, supplied a number of the wealthy homes in town, and the restaurants, and hotels, and so forth. There was a black hotel upstairs of Max Schagrin's called Rideout's. Where musicians who used to travel through with bands and so forth would always stay. My father was a young man working in the store there. Lower Federal Street was where the action was for so many of these immigrants. They spoke yiddish to each other, they tried to learn English, but they were comfortable with people with whom they could relate their former lives. So he moved to Youngstown after a year or two.

My mother was married almost three years before I was born. They were worried that she might not have any children, that she might be infertile at nineteen. Almost two years later my sister was born and there were just the two of us. My sister and I.

Well, we lived here in Youngstown until I was about five, five and a half years old. Then my mother longed for her sisters. My mother was not a well woman in those days. She had gallbladder problems and so forth. Young woman. She felt more comfortable with her family because she was Russian, my father's family was Hungarian. In this community there were the levels of society among the Jewish people, as there must have been among the non-Jews as well. The Irish, the Italians, and so forth. If you were italian and married into an Irish family that would probably cause problems and so forth. The Hungarians were next to the Germans in the structure of Jewish respect. The Germans were a group of their own. The Germans went their own way. They were embarrassed somewhat by the eastern Europeans, and so they started the Council of Jewish Women in order to teach the eastern Eurpoeans English so that they would help Americanize them as soon as possible.

I have just been told that I am wrong about the council of Jewish women by my interviewer. But in reading the history of Cleveland it states that the Jewish Women in Cleveland started because they wanted to Americanize European Jews, eastern European, as quickly as possible. So that they would get rid of their Yiddish accents, and all the other European traits. They

taught them, they educated them, they taught them English, they did all these things for those coming in. For whatever the reason they helped each other. Anyway, as I said, the German Jewish people went their own way and the eastern Europeans tried to make a place for themselves. So they lived in their own little areas around their own little shuls and temples, and so forth.

O: Like a transport?

G: A little ghetto of things. The groups were such that the Hungarians were educated and they felt higher in this stratum of Jewish life. Then the Russians, who had not had a chance at education. Then the Romanians, the Lithuanians, the galitzianers, and the others. Today marrying out of the religion is one problem. In those days it was even worse if a Hungarian married a Russian. My grandmother, my father's mother, when she heard about my parents marriage went into mourning for a year. My father forbade his family to talk any Hungarian in the house. Because he didn't want my mother to feel like they were saying something that she shouldn't know, or talking about her. They were wonderful people and she was just lonesome for her family. She was only nineteen years old, and left her father and mother, as I said, when she was thirteen. So we moved back to St. Louis. I started school in St. Louis, and went to Emerson School. I was in St. Louis this past summer and they had a reunion of my class.

O: Did you attend?

G: Well, I hadn't known about it in time to make arrangements. I went to Emerson School, in St. Louis, for the first through the sixth grade. Then at the end of the sixth grade my father became ill in St. Louis. He worked in butcher shops in south St. Louis where there were a number of German people living. They ate a lot of rabbit and rabbit stews and so forth. My father, in cleaning the rabbits, would scratch his hands quite a bit during fall season, hunting season. He contracted tularemia, rabbit fever. From a buckshot shooting, if the rabbits didn't die quickly, why they sometimes developed this poison of the tissues.

He was the first one in St. Louis to survive, but it was not a very pleasant thing. It left him with some problems for the rest of his life. At this time of the year, the fall hunting season, he would get swelling of the glands and so forth. The doctors did a number of rather experimental things, which unfortunately today doctors would probably be wary of and think they would be sued. His life was spared and workman's compensation had just come in. He was afraid that in the event

that he went back to work, after thirty days or so his boss would be allowed to dismiss him because he might not be able to do his job as well as he did before.

The Depression was coming on, 1929, 1930 and so my father's family, the Moskowitz's (Sam Moskowitz and Esther Moskowitz) asked him to come back to Youngstown to be with family. So he came back and went to work for Sam Moskowitz. He worked through the Depression years for him. We moved back to the northside of Youngstown this time.

O: Was this Moskowitz. . .

G: He had a grocery store on the west side. He was a large, independent grocer, one of the largest in Youngstown. He started with a small corner store. Sam had worked for Arcie Krauss' father, when he first came to town from Austria-Hungary, which later became Czechoslovakia . . . He came to town and he lived with Arkie Krauss family on Steel Street. Arkie Krauss' father had a general store, as I understand, and many of the Hungarians came to town and started out working there, then went out on their own. My uncle started a small grocery store and worked it up into a rather large sized store on the west side. On the west side again because there were a lot of Slovaks, non-Jewish Hungarians with whom he could communicate. So he became one of the neighborhood grocers. . . As did Finesilver, and Silver and Parsons, and Goldberg, and so forth, a number of other grocers in the area.

We moved back to Youngstown, we lived on Benita Avenue. It must have been 1930 because I went to Hayes Junior High. At Hayes I went to seventh and eighth grades. I was in a class with Dick Friedman, and Walter Spiegle, who years later became my brother-in-law. A number of boys Dan Ungar, and Chuck Rose, and so many others who lived here at that time. We were a class who went through junior high together ... Sid Kline, and into high school. We spent the next four years at Rayen School. Then I graduated. My sister went to Harding School when we first moved back. I didn't have the opportunity to go. I was already to old for that. I graduated from Rayen in 1936. We lived on Benita Avenue those years, 149 Benita.

O: During your years in school did you encounter any anti semitism?

G: Well, I don't know ... The usual things happened. I was, to my knowledge, never called Kike or Sheeney or anything like that. I was fairly active in school, in clubs and so forth. I knew that we had our own Jewish groups ... I was barmitzved at Temple of Emanuel.

Although I took religious training from Mr. Morris Haines in his Talmud Toran on Florencedale and Thorton, with Sam Small, Harold Millstone, and there were several others in class. Morris Haines was his son, but the father was the teacher. We knew that we traveled mostly with Jewish children. Actual anti-semitism I wasn't aware of much. I was in the choir, the acappella, at Rayen. I played in the band with under Mr. Grover Yavs.

I was one of the first students at YSU in the new building, Jones Hall at present campus. Although I was still in high school. I took piano lessons. I used to take them from fellow a by the name of Bill Felger, who had his studio in the Keith building above the Palace Theater. Shaffer Music was across the hall from that studio and Mr. Felger had a large studio room there. When they built the university at that time the Dana School was still in Warren. Youngstown College, which was a YMCA college, wanted to start a bit of a music program. So they asked Bill Felger, my teacher, to move up to Youngstown College. He had his studio in one of the little turrets up in the front of the building. So I went up there. I used to come in there and take lessons at 7:00 in the morning because he would give me an hours lesson for the same price as a half hour later on in the day. He lived on the south side and he would walk down Market Street. In those days it was safe. He would walk, at 6:00 in the morning, down Market Street, and across the bridge to the college. He would put his little coffee pot on and I would take a lesson from 7:00 until 8:00 after which I went to school. I played piano for the boy's octette, played a little bit with the acappella choir. I used to associate with the kids in the chorus when we went out to do our concerts. I knew, for instance, that we had our fraternities. The Black Friars and the others were non-Jewish fraternities and we just didn't go into those. As far as dating was concerned I didn't openly date gentile girls. I didn't date period. I was kind of the young one in the group. The Jewish kids were already pretty grown, the other kids that I got to know. I had lived a different life in St. Louis, no parties, et cetera. So it was a little while before ...

We did minstrel shows and so forth at Rayen High. We went to the Saxon Club with this octette, which was a German club here in town. There was never anything that I lost out because I was Jewish. In fact, we used to go out Christmas caroling. We went and sang in the churches. At that time nobody ever said, "Hey, you are Jewish and you shouldn't be here." We did it and we knew we were Jewish and they knew we were Jewish. I think we knew why we were Jewish and I don't remember

any problem.

O: There wasn't any thought at that time ...

G: No, not at that time. There was nothing that I wanted that I didn't get within reason. I wanted things within my own community. The things that I wanted I think were probably more materialistic than anything else. I wished that my father would get a car, we didn't however.

O: How did you date then?

G: Not much. You went and sat on somebody's porch. Louise Cohn, Eddie Cohn's sister was in our class. I used to go over and visit their home and sit on the front porch. They had swings and front porches in those days.

O: No wheels.

G: I didn't have wheels. Well, I didn't date. First of all I didn't have any money. Secondly, I didn't know about dating. We used to have parties. We didn't go out on single dates, we had parties with spin the bottle and various games. I never really, up until the time I graduated, had a suit where the pants and coat matched. I wore knickers until I was about fifteen, or sixteen. That wasn't the point, I think that ...

O: Did you ever go out to Idora Park?

G: You went with family. Our family was a very strong unit. My aunt and uncle ... Mr. Moskowitz had a large car. He had an old Packard. Herman Klein was another of my uncles. Herman worked at Sheet and Tube and then owned a little grocery store. They had a car. But they never went alone. Anytime they went anywhere on a picnic, or if they went to Pittsburgh to see a relative, or something, the car was always packed. We would go. They always included us in whatever it was. We went together.

If we went on a vacation ... I remember I wanted very badly to go to Boy Scout camp at Stambaugh. It was $14, I think, for a week or for two weeks. I had managed to save up a little money because I was working in those days delivering handbills, an advertising sales item, from the grocery stores on Thursday on each of the doorsteps in the neighborhood. We would get $.50 or $.75 for our work. I managed to save the money and I wanted to go to Boy Scout camp one summer, just desperately wanted to go to camp. My mother was a very practical woman said, "Look, we will put another $14 to

your $14 and then you, your sister, and I will go down a visit St. Louis. We will go visit Aunt Annie." In those days there were two bus lines. There was a Greyhound Bus Line, which was like going first class in jets, and then there was an Indian Bus Line which used to have the headquarters on the Square. The busses that they had were the rejects, the old ones that Greyhound had gotten rid of. They were much less money to travel to St. Louis. They weren't air conditioned. Difficult, it was something like thirty hours, or something, to get to St. Louis. You would stop along the way at those road stops and get a sandwich or something. We were kosher at the time and I can remember going there, and later on during the Chicago Worlds Fair in 1933, the problems I made for my sister and my mother because I wouldn't eat non-kosher meats. We had cheese sandwiches for days.

O: What about the train?

G: Couldn't afford it. Traveling on a train ... One of the first times on a train was when I went off to college. That was in 1936.

O: Where?

G: To St. Louis. Another story, but with the high school and all, as I said, I don't recall ever once any anti-semitism. You know we were as insensitive then of other people as probably a number of people are today. When I said to somebody, years ago, who lived in Poland, Ohio, that I tried to start a practice in Poland, I was told not to go out there. Because they wouldn't accept me, and that was in 1946. We did minstrel shows at Rayen School and I remember doing "Black Face." All the end men were "Black Face." I even went so far as to sing a song with a Yiddish accent while I was in "Black Face" because ... What is his name?

O: Al Jolsen.

G: Had done the part. We weren't conscious of the fact that we might have been making fun of black people. Because there was the lazy, laconic sort of man, and so forth. There were other people that we were possibly injuring. I myself, didn't feel any sort of difference other than we were embarrassed of ourselves. Passover, for instance, we went to Hayes School and we took our own little matzo pancakes, gefilte fish, or whatever it might be, a sandwich with matzo. We would have to eat them in the cafeteria, and we were uncomfortable because we thought people might make fun of us.

O: Did they?

G: I don't know that they did. I don't think they did. I just thought they might. I felt different at that time. We didn't wear yarmulkas, I wasn't that religious. I didn't wear the tzitzes, or anything, although I did as a youngster, two and three years old, when I lived on Kyle Street. That was in the "ghettos," so everybody was the same. Irv Manson's grandmother lived in that apartment house on Kyle Street and we lived in that house, and I used to go up and say my prayers to her when I was three, four years old. She would give me a penny each morning to say the prayers, and I would wear my little tzitzes.

O: Which grandmother was this?

G: It was ... I don't know whether it was Ozersky, or Mendelsohn. Harry Burdman lived there, Joe Richstone, and the Pincus' lived in the same apartment. Mr. Pincus taught me how to candle eggs back in the garage. He had a wholesale egg business. I don't ever recall being uncomfortable in those situations because I think we were not trying to be anything more than we were. The matzo things ... While at junior high and high school we started running home for lunch and then running back in thirty minutes time. I think the most uncomfortable times I had was when I felt so embarrassed for myself. I used to have to take the chickens down on East Federal Street on Thursday afternoon to have them kosher slaughtered.

O: On the bus?

G: On the bus. There I was a kid, you know, fourteen, fifteen, afraid that my friends would see me because I had a chicken in the basket on the way downtown. I would have died. I did later on in a situation when I was older and borrowing clothing when I was off to college in St. Louis. I was invited to a formal dance. I didn't have a tux but my brother-in-law Walt Spiegle, who wasn't my brother-in-law at the time, but my friend, had a tux. I wrote and borrowed his tux and he sent his shoes also. His shoes were larger than mine. I put paper in the bottom so they would fit. Here I had this borrowed tux and I had borrowed a top coat in St. Louis from a merchant. My new coat had been stolen. I bought a top coat when I went to school, to college. My uncle had given me $25 as a gift to go to college, my uncle Herman Klein. The first day of school somebody stole it out of the closet area. So I didn't have a coat to go to this formal, and it was at the Chase Hotel. A cousin of mine in St. Louis had a friend who worked in the Will Call Department, the layaway department, at this men's shop. We went in and tried on a coat, it was kind of a wrap around coat with a belt. The price and everything was on the belt and

so I tucked it in so no one will see it. I went to the dance. A lovely girl from St. Louis had invited me, a sorority dance. It was at the Chase Hotel. I came out of the Chase into the lobby and Babby Young's mother was there and there I was with a borrowed suit that fit fairly well and the coat with the labels on it. I said, "Oh, my God. Something is going to happen. She will see me." Anyway, she didn't even remember me, which was not too bad. We took the coat back and in the presence of the boss of the store said, "My mother didn't like the coat so we brought it back." I had to be so careful that nothing spilled on that coat.

O: Okay, we got you through high school.

G: Yes, Rayen School, 1936. I made honor roll. My mother was insistent that we have music lessons. We came to Youngstown in the height of the Depression. My uncle was on the board of Anshe-Emeth Temple. We were at that point not terribly affluent. We never had charity or anything. We lived and went our own way. My mother, of course she was very close to her sisters, and whatever her sister's children did we were supposed to do the same thing. They had gone to the reformed congregation in St. Louis, Temple Israel there. So when we came here my mother wanted us to continue with our education at Rodef Sholem. So, we went over and Harry Levinson was president at the time. They waived requirements for memberships and so forth, and made it possible for my sister and myself to go to Sunday school. I was confirmed there.

Rabbi Philo in some ways was influential to my life. I remember so vividly Confirmation class. He called us in individually and asked us... He sat down and said, "Do you know what life is; and what life is about?" I didn't want to appear so innocent. I didn't know what he was talking about. Talking about sex and giving us this sex lecture. So he was, I think, strongly influential. In times when you are young you are not aware of much of life. You are not pals with the Rabbis or the other people, and you admire a great deal the people who are in these positions. I am sure he was an extremely fine gentleman. He affected me.

Joe Rosenfeld was our physician. Joe was as kind as they came. We played doctor, when he would make a house call to our house. In those days every family wanted to have a doctor in the family. I had never been, or rarely been, to a dentist. So, I really wasn't influenced by dentistry to go to dental school. The only reason I went into dental school was simply because I spent two and a half, or three years in predent and in pre-med preparatory work. I mean there were difficulties in those days in getting into medi-

cine and I thought ...

O: Why?

G: There were unwritten restrictions then. We haven't gotten to the college level but at the high school level, at that point, I felt nothing. But in the college level there were unwritten quotas and it was difficult to get in, and I felt that I could not load my parents, or my aunt with whom I was living in St. Louis for a number of years with financial burdens. Dental school required less school time, and I didn't realize anything about the cost of instruments and so forth. So, but I made applications to dental school. As I say not because I had been influenced by a great friend who was a dentist. I was the first one in my family to go to college. The whole family made the effort to get me to college. In fact, I worked one summer in the steel mill after I graduated from high school, right after the strike in 1937. I was making $25 a week, and my father was making $14 a week. I wanted to stay and not to go back to college because I thought I had it made financially. The men in the steel mill pushed me out and made me go back to school.

O: Did you have any difficulty going into a dental school?

G: No, I made applications to Ohio University because it was a state school. At that time I think it was $25 a quarter to go to school in Ohio, plus lab expenses and so forth. But there were living expenses and I could not get a job. I was going to room with a kid named Sidney Moldowsky who lived in Youngstown. His father was a produce buyer for A & P. He went down there and eventually wound up at the medical school outside of Boston, which is now the Brandeis campus. They had what they called a class B medical school there and they could only practice in Massachusetts. He went there, Irv Levitz also went there. I had another offer. I made application to Washington University in St. Louis. My aunt from St. Louis, who is my mother's sister, said I could stay with her and go to school. So, I was given a NYA job. The Roosevelt Administration was in in 1936 and they were giving jobs to students to go to school. So, I made application and there were jobs. My job was to spend a certain number of hours at what was then the Community Chest, and sort cards for which I received $.625 an hour, a total of $15 a month. My aunt took that as my room and board and then worked Saturday afternoon at Edison Brothers, a Baker Shoe Store. I made $2.50 to $3 a Saturday afternoon.

O: Which one?

G: I worked here. You talk about people influencing my life. Abe Brody, for whom I worked, is probably responsible for more Jewish doctors, lawyers, professional people in the city than anybody else. Dick Froedman and I worked ... I mention Dick because Lois is sitting here, his sister. Lois's father, Dick's father, had a candy store, not a confectionery. It was a tea room, just off the lobby of the Palace Theater. It was a lovely place. Dick and I worked for Brody's, and other people worked there as well. We used to always fight to go to lunch with Dick. Because we went over to Friedman's and her father picked up the check for us. So we had an extra $.25. Once in a while you went underground from the Reality building where Brody's was located to the Stambaugh building to avoid bad weather going to Friedman's. I didn't do that too often. We just ran across the street to Friedman's. All the lovely women, and the older women I saw there as customers ... It was a very, very gentile lunch room. We would rush in and sit at the back. Her father was just so great to us, very gentle with us.

O: Was that before school?

G: No, that was during my high school years. I went to work about 1933 in the shoe stores on Saturdays. The store was near the Square. We worked Monday night for $.35. We worked from 6:00 until 9:00 running stock and so forth. Mr. Brody would always buy us dinner. By that time I was not kosher anymore, although I never did eat ham. Later, Washington University offered me this job and so I went there to college. When I got the card to come to the interview it was the second day of Rosh Hashana. The train left before sundown, which meant I was breaking the Jewish law if I took the train. But I had to be in St. Louis the next morning. So I went to the rabbi and asked for permission to take the train. He said it was all right.

O: Which rabbi?

G: It was the rabbi of Anshe-Emeth Temple, I don't remember his name. In the old days when they first came to Youngstown there was a bad feeling between Hungarian Jews, Russian Jews, and so forth. Each one of them had their own Shul, their own Synagogue. Temple Emanuel was the Russian Shul, only the Russian Jews prayed there. Children of Israel, which is over on Summit Avenue was only for Hungarians. Then came World War I and then they became more Americanized and they were intermarrying, Hungarians and Russians. So, they wanted to becomed a little more conservative than the orthodoxy and they formed Anshe-Emeth Temple, which was a conservative congregation. So, we had now moved up town a little. In my younger days I used to walk down

to the Children of Israel with my father on the holidays and walk back. When it got to the point when we were a little older, he wasn't able to walk that far. If you recall in those days we didn't want to appear too reformed so we drove but we parked over on Illinois Avenue, or parked on the side streets. We drove to temple. So I asked the rabbi there for permission. I went off to school.

I lived with my aunt in St. Louis who lived in a two bedroom apartment in University City, a place they called "Jew City." Because mostly Jewish families lived in this area of St. Louis county. Very few Jews lived in Clayton, the county adjacent to the University City. With a two bedroom apartment, she and her husband, my grandmother (my mother's mother) and I ... My aunt's husband never really could make a living. He was always between jobs. Hard worker but just always the wrong place. He was a cutter of clothing for a factory that his brother owned that sold women's clothes. So, in order to make ends meet there were two cutters that came from New York City and roomed with us also.

These two cutters came from New York City. They cut the cloth for the coats and dresses of the factory that my uncle worked in. Their families were back in New York City and they just came in to work. My aunt rented them a bedroom. So it meant that there were ... My aunt, and uncle, my grandmother, and myself, and the two cutters living in this two-bedroom apartment in University City. They took one of the bedrooms, my aunt and uncle obviously took the other bedroom, and my grandmother slept on the couch in the dining room, and I slept somewhere. Either on the living room couch, or someplace. I used to study at night in the kitchen and then because I didn't want to keep them awake I would go in the bathroom and sit in the bathtub and study. My grandmother would make me wonderful cookies, and Mandel bread that would sustain me. I was the first one to go to college and they all worked to get me through. I even had an uncle in St. Louis who had a small grocery store, and I used to stop in to see him on Saturday after work. Didn't date much in college, I couldn't date. I couldn't afford it. My uncle had a small grocery, little neighborhood grocery deli. I used to stop in and see him on the way home on Saturday night. I worked Saturday selling shoes in a store downtown in St. Louis. He would always have a sandwich for me and $.50 in my pocket. I paid for my laundry and saved money to make a trip home at Christmastime and so forth.

That went on until 1938 when my father had an opportunity to go into business. He felt that at this point

he should be his own boss.

O: Where did he work?

G: He worked on the lower east side of Youngstown down on Federal Street for Louis Cohn, among the other Romanians. It was time. My aunts and uncles financed him into a little store on Madison and Elm which had been a small neighborhood A&P. A&P at that point was going into supermarkets, which today would almost be corner stores but they were larger than little corner stores in those days.

O: Ma and Pa stores.

G: Ma and Pa stores. It was a Ma and Pa store. My mother, my father, my sister, and I worked in the store and they asked if I ... I had a couple of hundred dollars that I had been saving up along the way from the $2.50 that I would make on a Saturday afternoon selling shoes. So that I could have some tuition for the following year. They asked that I loan them the money so they could buy grocery stock and so forth for this small grocery store. If it succeeded I would be able to go to school and feel a little easier. If it didn't succeed I wouldn't have been able to go to school anyway. So, we started into this business. We bought a car. It was the first car we owned, 1938. It was an old Pontiac with wire wheels on it and it wasn't the one piece body. It had the vinyl ... Not vinyl it was a kind of... What do they call it? Oil cloth, on the top of it. It leaked because it was like a 1930 car, it really wasn't a 1938 model. We paid $100 for it. I used to take my mother for a ride, because my father had had one experience years before driving a car and had run it into a lamp post on Ford Avenue. He would never drive again. So I would drive the car and my mother would sit there with an umbrella over her head, if it rained. But for the first time in my life I wasn't dependent on anybody else if I had a date. That was independence. I stayed out of school ... I had been accepted to dental school at Washington University at St. Louis for the fall of 1938. I had to delay, however.

On a dare from Jerry Brody, a friend in Youngstown who had gone to high school with us ... Incidentally had worked in the islam dairy store on the corner of ... Neimark's, on the corner of Bissell and Elm Street. He had been accepted to dental school and we were talking about requirements, and so forth. I didn't have one or two of the requirements, prerequisites, for dental school at Ohio State. He said, "you couldn't get in," and so forth. I wrote to Ohio State and my grades were good enough for me get in and so they accepted me.

They waived the deficiencies in lieu of other credits. I went down in 1939 and took a couple of courses in one spring quarter to make up for the credits. I then started in dental school at Ohio State in 1940. I felt it would be easier for all concerned. I wouldn't tie my aunt down to any need to take care of me for four years. My aunt and uncle, they had enough trouble taking care of themselves. They certainly didn't make any money on the $15 a month I was giving them.

So, I went to Ohio State, and went to dental school. I worked down there in a restaurant called Lindy's, at 11th High Street. All the Jewish boys, including Senator Metzenbaum, used to come in there and eat. We were all working and all doing a number of things to get through school. I worked Saturdays at a shoe store and then Saturday night went out to work at a night club called Valley Dale. It was owned by Frank Dailey who owned the Meadowbrook on the famous Pompton Turnpike out in New Jersey. I worked as a bartender and as a waiter with Bernie Bloch, and Bernie's brother, Harvey. Everybody worked a little bit in those days. We didn't know anybody who was married in school. It was tough enough making your own way. I think in those days those who married while husbands were in dental school, or medical school, all divorced afterwards. I think because they had worked together and the wives always let them know that they had put them through school. They wanted to get rid of that feeling and they divorced. It was a funny syndrome, but I think that is what happened.

In 1941 came the draft, the wars came later. We were drafted into the service but allowed to stay in school. For the first time in my life I had $1 in my pocket. The government gave me clothes that fit me and it was so wonderful I even went out and bought officer's shirts in the soft silky type of material with epaulets on them. We weren't allowed to wear them but we would wear them under our private first class jacket because it just felt good against the skin. They paid us to go to school, paid our tuition, and allowed us to live in our fraternity house, Alpha Omega fraternity house.

It was so strange because all the previous time we lived in rooming houses. When we lived in the fraternity house, I was house mother to the fraternity boys. Took care of all the responsibilities. My senior year several of us wanted to live one year in an apartment, in a non-supervised apartment, where we might have girls in the apartment, you know. We had a car in the fraternity that was sold each year to seniors. It was a little coupe. Sold it to any one in the senior class for $100. It went from class to class. We got to the senior year and about four of us got together, managed

to get the $100, and wanted to buy the car. The car broke down and we had to put it up on blocks in the backyard of the fraternity house because the guys enjoyed necking in the car. We weren't allowed to have any girls in the fraternity house in those days. The apartment went down the drain because there were six of us who wanted to live in the apartment house, and the woman who owned the apartment building felt there might be problems because there were girls working in Curtis Wright Airplane Factory, in Columbus, in the same apartment. We would have had to use the same bathroom. She thought there might be too much difficulty. So, those days never came. The car didn't come, the apartment didn't come, but the Army let us go to school and graduate.

O: You graduated when?

G: December 1943. They speeded it up. We went all summer for twelve months a year. Got my degree, took off my gown, and had my officer's uniform underneath. I came home for thirty days and then went off to the wars.

You mentioned earlier about anti-semitism. I didn't feel it in the undergrad days in the courses that I took at Washington University. Washington University was an unusual school. It was a private city commuter school in those days. Although it had been a Lutheran school initially, it was started by the Lutheran church, it became a private city commuter school. Most of the kids there were from St. Louis. Today it is called the Harvard of the Midwest. It is a fabulous campus and I was fortunate enough to have one of my children go there. It had a very high academic level. A number of Jewish students from St. Louis went into the professions. Classmates of mine graduated as practicing medicine, dentistry, law, accounting, and stayed in St. Louis. We didn't feel anything there of anti-semitism, it was strictly academic. If you had the grades, you succeeded there. I did not try to get any kind of a teaching position, or anything like that. I don't know what that would have been like. I mixed mostly with other Jewish children.

At Ohio State, in dental school, things surfaced quite rapidly. I belonged to a Jewish dental fraternity, which was probably one of the best things in my life. I don't mean to keep going back to poverty situations but people influenced my life and people affected it. There was a $25 initiation fee, which I didn't have. One of the members, Art Edelman, of the fraternity was a fellow who scarcely knew me. A fellow from New Jersey, who died very, very young, forwarded the $25 for me. I became a pledge of the fraternity. I paid him back from whatever tips I managed to get Sundays at

Lindy's when parent's would come. The girls would bring the parents into the restaurant because the boys would be there and it was a friendly campus restaurant. They would leave a tip. So, I managed to get a couple of dollars on the weekend. I paid back the pledge money. The fraternity was started originally by Dave Bender, from Youngstown. Dave was part of the large Bender, Hodes family here in town. The Benders were a big family. David had a brother, Harold, who practiced dentistry in Warren. Dave was an anatomy instructor at Ohio State, in addition to going to dental school. The Dean called Dave in and said, "I know the Jewish boys are having problems. I can't find out which of the professors are doing the anti-semitism to our kids at dental school, but I want you to know that I am opposed to it. I want you to form a chapter, there is a Jewish fraternity Alpha Omega, I want it here on campus and I want you to start it." And so Dave was responsible for starting the Alpha Omega chapter in about 1936. Dave finished school, came back to Youngstown, and carried on in his new profession. He was a fellow I admired so much professionally. He became ill very young in his life, he had heart conditions, and so forth. Very sweet man, very kind man, good friend. His wife was responsible for sending me a number of patients when I started to practice. I am indebted to them all my life. His wife was one of the first dentists in the area. The first woman dentist rather. She and Connie Weiss were the early women dentists. Connie went back to Ohio State and became the first dean of the College of Dental Hygiene at Ohio State. Connie practiced with Dr. Harry Zeve, I think, on Lincoln Avenue. She married a fellow who worked for Robin's Furniture years ago. An old story!

O: Where did you serve in the Army?

G: I served in the Army in the transportation corps as a dentist. Let me go back to the dental school for a moment if I may. Just for a moment because ...

O: I want to save time for Youngstown.

G: Well, all right.

O: Go ahead.

G: Well, anyway in dental school being Jewish meant that there were only so many good grades that could be handed around. We were told that openly my first two years of our schooling. Not in the classes of anatomy, physiology, pathology, and so forth. There it was honest exams and honest grades. But where they couldn't do this, where the exams were not that important, where you were doing technique work, dental courses. It

was different. We had an entire non-Jewish faculty, and some of them were terribly anti-semitic, and you knew that you might get a "B" this quarter and a "D" the next quarter. So making the honor roll was impossible. Making the honors of OKU honorary was impossible. When they selected the OKU's, they always ended up one short of the Jewish boy who was out there.

O: What is OKU?

G: That is the honorary. That would be like Phi Beta Kappa, a dental honorary. We survived, and then we had the Army on our back. The fellow who was in charge of our Army group was a Sargent who hated the fact that we were going to be doctors, and that we were in college. He was a high school guy who had been in the Army before the war, and so forth. He made our lives miserable. Everyday was, "If you don't do this we'll send you off to camp, Ft. Hayes in Columbus, and you will be washing dishes," and so forth. You worked with those on your back. Once we got into the clinic and we were graded on our clinical work, that wasn't too bad. But we knew that if you applied for graduate training in either oral surgery or orthodontics, those were the only two graduate areas at that point in Ohio State, you had no chance of being accepted. They just didn't accept any Jewish students. Our main goal was to get out of school, graduate. We felt that once we got out of school there would be no stopping us, then we were on our own. Maybe that was true a little bit but not totally, because when I came back out of the service I wanted to go out and start an office. There was an office available in Poland, Ohio, and people said, "Don't go there." They said of Canfield at the time, "Don't go there, you won't be accepted." "Well, all right, then I will start in Youngstown, and then maybe when I get to a point where I'm good enough people will have to travel from Canfield, and Poland, to downtown." That is the way that went.

I graduated in 1943, went into the service, and I served for three years. About fourteen or sixteen months of that was overseas in the Pacific. Our troop transports were where we located the dental clinic. I went to New Guinea for about six months, and the Philippines for several months. I brought back patients who had been injured in the war. We brought them back to San Francisco from various overseas hospitals. In New Guinea I worked with the Fifty-fourth General Hospital which was the University of Pennsylvania Hospital, and I was the youngest dentist there. I worked with the dental staff, and we developed the technique for taking impressions of eye sockets for those soldiers who had lost their eyes. We were using plastics for the first time. They had just been in-

vented. I had two banks of ribbons and three battle stars on the ribbons. I never was in actual combat although I was in the Philippines while jungle fighting was going on around us. I served a psychiatrist for six months in New Guinea because we had to learn something about bringing patients back to the States who were psychotics. Finally I was discharged from the service. I was a captain. They asked me to stay in for a few more months to bring some war brides back from New Zealand, and I would have gotten my majority had I stayed. I wasn't trusting anybody, I wanted out. So I came home in 1946. I came back to Youngstown.

I had an opportunity to stay out on the west coast. I had been asked to stay; practice and teach. They were starting a dental school up in Seattle, Washington and I had been stationed in Seattle for awhile, and they asked me to stay on in the pediatric department. I met a young lady out there, was dating out there. Then I was transferred back to the San Francisco area, and had an opportunity to practice in Oakland. Again met a young lady there in the Jewish USO where Sam Zlotnick and I used to meet. He was stationed in Oakland. I just felt that I had to come back home because of my parents. I thought they needed me. My sister had stayed with them while I was gone. My parents were fairly dependent on us. My mother unfortunately was fairly illiterate. We were her eyes. My father was not well. I came back to Youngstown and was going to go back to graduate school but it was the wrong time of the year. Couldn't get into any school program at that point. So I came back and while I was making up my mind what to do, I went to work for Dave Farkas.

David and Sam Farkes had an office in the Dollar Bank Building next door to Dr. Sam Sedwitz. Dave Brody was working at Sam Sedwitz's office. Pinky Ehrlic was the nurse in the Sedwitz office, on the eighth floor of the Dollar Bank Building which later became the Naddler offices. Prior to our being there it was the Youngstown Club. Sam Sedwitz's office was in the men's room of what had been the Youngstown Club. That is why it had tile on the floor. I stayed. Sam Farkes left for California... He got married and moved to California. I went to work in ... Not really to work. I came in, I hung up my hat, took good care of David's patients, he would do something else. He gave me $10 once in awhile, or $20, and let me use the office at night. I had patients of my own at night, but he locked the cabinets that had all the filling material, and stuff, so I wouldn't use it. I stayed with him for a short while.

Very difficult getting office space in those days. Downtown was unbelievable. I got an office. Victor

Balmenti was in practice in the Central Tower Building. He was related to Eddie DeBartolo. Vic wasn't making enough downtown and he wanted to get into some of the bigger dealings, so he could travel with DeBartolo, who was starting up at that time. He took over an old office in Lowellville. I took over his office in the Central Tower Building. Which was the choice building in those days. We had one room of equipment, old equipment. In fact the X-ray unit, I think, was one of the first that was ever made, with exposed wires and so forth. The desk in the secretary's area, I didn't have a secretary, had a piece of linoleum on top. They took the roll top off and put linoleum on it. I started. I learned the techniques of scheduling the patients together so that one could see the other ... One coming in would see one leave and think, "My goodness he's busy." My mother used to call three or four times a day so I wouldn't get lonesome. My father used to stop in. He would go downtown to the bank, take the bus down. He was going to Seymour Shagrin, who was a podiatrist in town, as you know. He had his office in downtown in Lustig's. My father would go visit Seymour, he would stop in the office, and he would, when he thought I wasn't looking, pick up some appointment cards. Our appointment cards were in holders in the waiting room. He would pick up a few and take them to the store. Now in the area where the store was were a number of, what they used to call, light housekeeping apartments. They were small apartments and people had a little stove and kitchen in them. In Youngstown at that time there were a number of people who came up from West Virginia and Kentucky to work in the steel mills. As soon as hunting season started they would go home. In the summertime they would go home. So they would come into the store and they all ran "books." They were credit customers until payday from payday to payday. They didn't have any doctors, or anything like that, when they came here. So if they asked my father for the name of a dentist he would give them my card. He would also have to loan them the money so they wouldn't stick me for it. I didn't find out about that until years later. He supplied a number of my patients with money.

I started out in practice and gradually added new equipment. Changed the equipment, added equipment. Abe Malkoff started practicing the same month. He had gotten out at a time when they were just starting a new orthodontic school in Kansas City. It was a fourteen month course I think. He went to school, came back, and started on North Phelps Street. Lou Bloomberg started the same time also, same month that I did. Lou had been out in California. We were all single. Lou started on the fifth floor of the Central Tower Building. He was an opthamologist. He shared an

office with a dentist, an old advertising dentist. Lou just had a small room. In fact you need, I think, about ten or fourteen feet for refraction of eyes. His room was seven feet with a mirror.

O: For the record this is as an optometrist?

G: No, he is an opthamologist.

O: Opthamologist I mean.

G: But he was doing refractions for eye glass corrections. You had to have a ten foot room, from the chair where you sat to the chart where they tested the various eye strengths. So, he had a room that was about half the size with a mirror. He read the reflection off the mirror, and that made it ten feet. You couldn't get any office space, as I said, in the downtown area and downtown was choice area.

We didn't have any patients, so Lou used to come up to my office and sit with me for a half hour. There was a whole philosophy of practicing in those days. If you had two or three patients you bunched them together. Sid Davidow in those days was out in North Jackson. He hadn't decided yet to go into pediatrics and go back to school. He used to do general medicine in North Jackson. Lou knew him, Lou is a year or two older than I. Anyway, we started and he would come up to my office. We used to arrange to go to lunch together, Kibbitz, and grow up together in practice. You didn't go out of your office and sit down at the soda fountain down in the drug store downstairs during the day. God forbid anybody should see that you didn't have a patient! If you left the office you were always on your way to someplace, you were going to the hospital. I never went to the hospital in the twenty years I was in the area. But every time I left I was on my way to the hospital. He would come up to my office to make a phone call. There was a charge, you know so much a call and he was sharing his office. The other doctor limited Lou's calls. He didn't want to add any more calls to the one downstairs and I wasn't making enough calls to exceed my quota. We gradually got going.

O: Good. Now you have mentioned a few words there about dating and that sort of thing. At this stage and at this time where did you go, what did you do, and with whom?

G: With whom? With every out-of-town guest that ever came into the city. We were a single group and there seemed to be an unlimited number of unwed nieces and friends. Cousins. Lois had a lovely cousin from Cleveland and I took her out one New Year's Eve and dated her in

Youngstown. I think that one of the things that happened was that I was just uncomfortable ... I still haven't gotten over the fact that they were well off and I felt I wasn't really in that group yet. For a long time I had a little bit of an inferiority complex and I think that made it very uncomfortable. She, Louis' cousin, was a lovely girl and I see her occasionally now when we go up to Corning, New York, where she lives. Anyway, we dated the guests and it was interesting ... Abe Malkoff, Julius Zlotnik, Lou Bloomburg, myself. There were other bachelors in town, but we were newly starting professional people and we were the so called "catches."

O: Where did you go?

G: It all depended. If you were the one who got the Friday night date then you went to the Ritz Bar on Wilson Avenue, which was owned by Bill Cafaro who now owns all the malls. If it was Saturday night, you maybe went out to the Bluebird on Mahoning Avenue. It was owned by Stanley Engel's brother. Stanley Engel, you know, was the one who was our executive director at the Jewish Center for years. His brother owned the Bluebird out on Meridian and Mahoning Avenue. Or we went over to Greenville, over to Shuster's, where there was dancing.

O: Gambling?

G: No, no we weren't gamblers. We were just starting. The only gambling we did, we used to play Hearts at Lou Bloomberg's. Lou was single, living with his sister and brother-in-law ... Julius Jacobs. Julius Jacobs' wife was Lou's sister. We used to go out there and play Hearts, or we would play penny ante at poker during the week nights. I know my mother when she would see lipstick on my handkerchief she would say, "Thank God, I thought you were playing cards again." So they wanted us to get married very badly, my mother, Abe Malkoff's mother, everybody.

There was a place out on South Avenue which is now called The Fireplace. It is a bar. Where we went depended on things and I don't want to sound ... From the male side it sounds very chauvinistic. But a number of the guests were not attractive and so that determined pretty much where you were going. Afterwards we would stop at the Twentieth Century which was owned by Harry Malkoff, on Belmont Avenue, and that was where everyone went after movies, bowling, et cetera. I think you stopped in there for several reasons. First of all to show them that you were normal, that you had a date. Because they saw us all together, just fellas, it might have started gossip.

In those days you didn't talk about homosexuality. But they only saw us together so people started wondering. So when we had a date we would always show up at the Twentieth Century. People whom we knew would look to see who we were with. Sunday night was usually a movie. Not so much because it was blue laws, but usually by Sunday night the girl who had been there for the weekend ... If she had been out on Friday and Saturday she heard all the jokes because we loved to tell jokes and stories. She knew what the hell was going on in Youngstown, she knew everything, so there really was nothing to talk about. So you went to the movies.

I had the Sunday night date with Fran, my wife. She was here for a week visiting, and was visiting a roommate in Sharon ... They thought to be good hosts they should arrange dates for her every night. So they fixed her up on dates with friends; Abe Malkoff, Harry Wagman, and so forth. I got Sunday night because my cousin Marilyn Stein called and said, "I know this lovely girl, and I would like you to meet her." So I took my wife out. There was no place to go in Pennsylvania, it was blue laws, and this was in 1954. We came over to Youngstown and went to the Ritz Bar, which was open on Sunday nights in those days. Nicky Barile led the band there. Nick and I looked like twins, we were often mistaken for each other. He had a band. I knew him from high school. I knew the bartender out there and so they served us drinks from under the bar on Sunday night. We came into town for the evening and that was how I met my wife. We fellas were afraid of refusing to take anybody out because we were starting a practice and some of these people who asked us we hoped would be potential patients. We didn't want to offend anybody. I know I bought an awful lot of insurance in those days from friends who I thought would become patients. They were patients once, they sold me the policy, and didn't come back again. That was the way they made a living. Those were the places we went to.

O: When were you married?

G: 1955.

O: Where?

G: Youngstown ... No, married in Philadelphia. Fran was from Lancaster, Pennsylvania. She was working in New York City. I was going back to school a great deal when I started practice. I was going back to school for short courses, two weeks at a time, one week at a time ... University of Michigan up at Ann Arbor. Harold Libby was dating Marcie, his wife. Marcie was going to the University of Michigan, and they fixed me

up on a date. That weekend I took Harold up to Ann Arbor for Marcie. Brought him home that weekend, I was coming back home. I went up to Boston to college at Boston University. Carol Sacherman had arranged a date for me with me with a girl who was going to Simmons. The date never did come off. I was a big man already. I had a grey flannel suit, and the black knit tie, and the white oxford cloth shirt. Which was the uniform of the preps and the young professionals. I had a car in Boston. I had a date with this college girl who came out in a camel's hair coat, and brown and white saddle oxfords, and she had to be in at 10:00 because she was "campused" for smoking in the room. I thought this is enough for me, this is getting too young already.

So I did go back to school a number of times. I was going to Columbia University on weekends. Taking some work in temporo mandibular pain problem, after I met Fran. It was my trips to New York at which time Fran and I dated and became friendly. A year later we were married. I was on my way to school when we became engaged. I was going up to Boston to take a course and it was Yom Kippur night. Again I left ... The rabbi cut the service short so I could catch a plane to get to New York to have a date with Fran. It was her birthday. I had bought her a birthday present, a string of pearls, but because I didn't want my mother and sister to feel uncomfortable I bought three sets of pearls. One for my mother, not as good quality, and one for my sister. In fact my daughter now has the one I gave my sister. She willed it to her when she died. I gave her the birthday present and she was so overwhelmed by it because it was the only thing I had given her she could wear. Earlier in our friendship I had given her a glockenspiel.

O: I am going to have to interrupt you here because we are going to run out of time and I want to get in how you and Fran got involved in community work, general community, and the Jewish community.

G: That is a whole story, that is a whole life. I had been in Playhouse in my single days. I was very active in Playhouse. I got involved with the Playhouse and was very active in plays. Not a very good actor but I enjoyed it, made a lot of friends out there. It was part of my social life. It was my non-Jewish social life.

O: At that time where was it located?

G: It was at that time on Market street. I would go there. I was working a couple of evenings a week in office hours downtown. I would go there for rehears-

als. In fact, I became president of the Playhouse during the years that they were raising funds to move into the new building. They had two presidents. Dr. Fred Essic was one president. He was the superintendent of schools. He became the chairman of the committee to raise the funds for the new building. He didn't want anything to do with the running of the plays, and the selection of the directors, and so forth. So I was the president for that. I stayed on with the board and the activities moving into the new building. I did my last show out there. It was "Gypsy," some twentyfour years or so ago with Jerry Bloomberg. Jerry was an extremely talented person. She had been a singer in night-clubs in New York City. Lovely, lovely person and good friend. After I was married and the children were born I did "Gypsy," played the part of Herbie. My children came to see me on stage. I thought that is enough already. They mimicked the strip dancers in "Gypsy." "Meet around the corner at half past nine with a box and a grind." Subsequent to that it just took too much time and I wanted to be with Fran and the children. I worked long, hard hours at the office, and I was going back to school after that as well. I wanted to watch them grow so I curtailed my activities.

Fran had worked for RCA Victor before we were married. The record division in New York City. She was much more involved in music than I. I had always enjoyed jazz and was involved with jazz musicians here in town. I knew most of them. When I was a kid I used to stand in front of the bands and listen. They used to sell sheet music in the Five and Dime Store. Freddie Kiefer was the pianist. You asked him to play the number and then you might buy the sheet music. He played piano and organs at some of the nightclubs and the restaurants in town. I used to hang around Shaeffer's Music Store where the musicians and the jazz musicians gathered. That stayed with me even though I was in college. When I worked at Valley Dale Stan Kenton was a patient of mine. He had just come from the west coast, and Glenn Grey, and some of the others, the Dorseys. I got to know them when I was working at the Valley Dale. So, my interest was in jazz, not as much as in classical music. Her background with RCA was with classical music. When she came to Youngstown, she pretty much carved a life for herself with the symphony and with a struggling group of musical people.

Max Krauss was very active in those days with symphony. Max lived in town, had a wholesale electrical company, he and Fred Weily. He was very influential in getting her to the symphony. She worked with symphony when they were holding their concerts in Rayen School, reorganized and went to Stambaugh auditorium, and then to the symphony center. She was very influential in

getting in there and also helping to get them established there. They used our home for meetings until they were established. We loaned the new conductor, Franz Bibo, furniture and things like that. She worked with the symphony for a number of hours a day giving them expertise in public relations. We did number of things together. I would go with her.

I was doing an amount of commedy things for various dinners, et cetera. Maybe not well, but worked cheap, so they asked me to emcee some of the annual meetings. I was doing that sort of thing for the Playhouse. I would accompany her, as her consort to the symphony until recently, when I established an identity of my own, the ticket taker. I love Jack Hynes, who had been the manager of the symphony when it moved to the Power's Auditorium. We became very active ... She is still active in the symphony and I, in my own way, am too. We have gotten to meet a number of the artists. We usually wound up taking the guest artist to dinner on rehearsel Friday night, and the parties, following concerts. We also became associated with Blossom summer home of the cleveland orchestra and so forth.

Then Fran became active with the Butler. She and Judge George Jones, Bo Jones, and Glo Jones were good friends. They were involved with the Butler and the symphony. Fran and she campaigned for the symphony. Then she got over to the Butler Art Museum. Butler at the time ... I don't know whether it was not very Jewish because the Jewish women couldn't get anywhere with the activities there, or whether it was just that we felt we couldn't. It was pretty much a Youngstown Country Club, Youngstown Club, Poland, kind of organization. I think that may have been mostly because ... Well, Joe Butler was still there. We got to meet Dr. Lou Zona there, Dr. Zona became director at the Butler, and through him a whole new world opened up for me as far as knowing art, and recognizing art. Fran and I had the opportunity to travel a little bit to New York, and later on to Washington, going to the art shows. I became very much interested in it. Fran always did have the interest. When she was in New York she would visit them frequently. Spend what extra money she had on art books and things. She has been responsible for the major portion of our activities. Very interesting expansion in our lives into those particular areas.

We built our home, it was a joint effort. We lived in a little "cardboard" house off of Gypsy Lane when we were first married, where all the newlyweds lived for a little while. Howard Solomon built those homes. Then we built our own home on Bath Drive, and began getting interested in gardening, working in the home, and entertaining in our home, having people over. Through

music, we met the artists who came here. Became friendly with some of them. We were invited to visit with them. Henrik Czering, and so forth. My little mother was alive at the time and when we got involved with the symphony. We used to invite her to our little after concert parties. She met Mr. Czering who recently died. She wanted to know why a nice Jewish boy like him wasn't married. That life and music came about through Fran. It just kind of grew. When I was at Rodef Sholem going to Sunday school, I was the only one in the class, or even the Sunday school I think, who had been barmitzvahed. Because I had a kind of a double life, my parents being of an Orthodox background. I wound up helping Rabbi Philo on Friday and Saturday with the service reading some of the Torah prayers, and some of the prayers of the sabbath in Hebrew. In those days the reform congregation, well even before that, the reform congregation was really reformed. There was very little Hebrew in the services. He introduced a bit of it but not a great deal. So I would help him with the Torah.

When I came back from school, even during the war years, I was the Jewish officer aboard ship during Rosh Hashana, and the High Holidays. I was the one who was supposed to arrange the service, and so forth, for the servicemen. Not that I was supposed to by law or anything. For a while the chaplain on the ship that I was stationed on was a Youngstown minister, Reverend Walter Swearingen. A wonderful man. Kindest most wonderful man. He was the director of music in a Youngstown church before the war. Went into the service and we wound up on the same ship. I introduced him to San Francisco. Interestingly enough the chaplain in the Army at Camp Stoneman, where I was stationed outside of San Francisco ... A Jewish chaplain, and I became quite friendly. We used to go into Oakland together to the Jewish USO. Coincidentally he was Fran's cousin. When I met Fran and she said she was from Lancaster, Pennsylvania. I said, "Oh, I know a rabbi there." She said, "My cousin." She went back and told him. To be a rabbi and a young man there was no social life being single. So he would take off his army insignia, and put on my dental insignia and we would go into Oakland together, so that he could at least dance with somebody at a social and she wouldn't feel uncomfortable.

I wasn't a member of the temple but I went with my parents to Anshe-Emeth. Little by little somebody said to me, "Can you help us with a drive, a federation drive? Cards?" We became involved with ... Abe, and I, and Mike Jaffe. Mike had emceed at 250 dinners, barmitzvahs, and stags. I tried once to organize a dinner for him and I realized that half of Mike's life

is with a sports group in town. But I don't know one person of that group and I was afraid that I would offend them if I didn't invite them so it never came off. This city owes Mike a weekend, not one night. A very funny man, and the three of us began doing some "schtick."

O: He is an actor too isn't he?

G: Yes, at Playhouse. We did "Stalag Seventeen," together. We did some shows at the Jewish Center, musicals and then we later worked doing original musicals with Paul Herman, Helen Moyer. We got Ed Friedlob interested in theater through that, and his daughter went on into professional theater. We, Abe, Mike, and myself, kind of fell into the group because we used to write the little playlets they used at the annual meetings for the Federation. We are the ones who wrote the play that finally got the community moving to break ground for the Jewish Center. Hank Greenberg was our guest that year and we did some jokes about Hank being there. We wrote little jokes which were awful jokes like, "We were going to build on Wick Avenue but you had get the hole out of there." Instead of the hell out of there. Some very, very bad jokes but we used to perform for the organizations.

O: Someone resurrected the script.

G: Yes, I have one. We also did a record. We did a pro gram of Jewish humor for the Jewish Center. We told jokes in various categories. Abe, Bert Harrison, Mike Jaffe, myself, and Jerry Knight, who was discjockey at NBBN. He now is Vice President of Blue Cross in Indiana. He is Mike Jaffe's nephew. Jerry Knight was his stage name, which he kept. Then we did a program out at Squaw Creek of the jokes we couldn't tell at the Center. At the Center Ted Schapiro, who was married to a Fran Dusi. Dusi Music had recording equipment. It wasn't a booth. It was just a tape recorder or something. No, it wasn't tape. Tape wasn't born yet, but they took a disk and "cut the disk." So we made a record, both sides of a record, of our jokes. It is a collectors item today. There are three copies. We have the three copies. That makes it a collectors item. Nobody wants it. Funny because ...

O: The archives will take it.

G: The archives will take an album. I'll make a tape for you. That was the time Sam Levinson, Myron Cohn, a number of Jewish comics did records. Ours would have sold beautifully, but it is like Mike Jaffe's story to me. Because Mike had the misfortune of being in jobs that were always a little out of season. He went to

work selling ... He was the number one salesman for a company he worked for which sold ...

O: Television?

G: No, this is before. He was selling refrigerators and so forth for a group of people here on Wick Avenue. Anyway he was the number one salesman. Then he went to work for Doc's Appliances on the Market Street. They were going to make him one of the partners and that is when the big white discount age came in. I am talking white mainly because that was the way they referred to refrigerators, washing machines, and so forth. Two Jewish boys from Cleveland came down here and took over a store on Belmont Avenue which had been a Century Market. They really promoted the business, as you recall. Poor Mike went into business when this came. He was working for a legitimate operation. Then he went to work for somebody else, for Moyer's Pants. He was the last salesmen they had hired, and when they were bought out he was let go. Harold Heyman went back from being sales manager to being one of the salesmen. Mike's professional life was like "urinating against the wind." He just couldn't get ahead anywhere. To this day ... I was so fortunate two weeks ago to have a testimonial dinner here and Mike was invited to be the emcee. It was just such warmth between us. We just had a great, great feeling. I began helping with the Jewish Federation fund raising campaigns. Stanley Engel got me involved. It was difficult at first because they always gave me the Jewish doctors who were not giving. There were certain things about it which made it worth while.

O: Did you get involved in education?

G: I became very much involved with education years ago at Anshe Emeth. I was the chairman of the education committee. I was on the board of the Temple. I became chairman of the school committee. Although I love the buildings I never got frozen to structures. I was more concerned with the fact that children need proper education. I could see we were to have education problems. Our community was shrinking. A number of our young people were not coming back to Youngstown. We were not getting the young couples with children. Number of teachers and quality was diminishing and I thought, "This is foolish to keep this kind of separatism between our synagogues." So I worked for consolidation of the various congregation in Youngstown.

Shortly after that I became active in consolidation with Larry Haber and two others in consolidation of El Emeth and the Temple Emanuel. We got hung up there on some things that would be enough to drive you crazy,

like which windows would we use in the consolidated building. We finally realized that it was just impossible to maintain separate structures. I one day envision that this community would be such that there would be one good, strong congregation. The strength now is that we have one community school. At that point I worked very hard. And actually worked alone toward the consolidation of the schools. Including Rodef Sholem, because my concern was that we were now getting into a situation where we were have thirty-five to forty percent intermarriages. The rabbis were worried about it and the community was worried about it. My feeling was if the children had been properly educated there might have been a different respect for their Jewish background, or Jewish faith. Not that they become terribly religious, but that there would be some feeling for Judaism. Part of the problem there ... I argued quite at length with Rabbi Berkowitz, because Rabbi Berkowitz, I felt, was more interested in adults than he was in children. I may have been wrong and I have great respect for Rabbi Berkowitz. We were good friends, and remain good friends. He and my mother, and family, are so close.

I keep mentioning my mother only because my father died a number of years before. He had been a person who looked tired. I was closer to my mother simply because she was there. Although my father and I have become closer since he died, and not a day goes by that I don't talk to him. I think that happens to all of us. Time doesn't make it easier, it makes it much more difficult.

Marvin Peskin was there with me and we fought for several years to get a community school started. It was a battle with Rodef Sholem because they kept complaining that they couldn't afford it. I couldn't understand how they couldn't make ends meet because they had Cantor Ehrlich as their educational director. So they had one man filling two jobs. We had an educational director at El Emeth and we had a Cantor and we had everybody. We managed to keep things going but Rabbi Berkowitz stonewalled me constantly because he wanted to have it such that he would allow any of his congregation that wanted to send their children but let them pay the tuition. I kept arguing that you couldn't have it that way because there would be no place to go to, no teachers, if he didn't support the structure. You had to have the school to make it possible for somebody to go when he wanted to go. So after seven years a vote was taken by the joint committee of all three congregations which we had managed to put together at that point. It was voted that Abe Harshman be the chairman, and Abe Harshman being a member of the congregation at Rodef Sholem, and a very good arbitra-

tor. I was not a good arbitrator. I was much too ... No, I wasn't vindictive. I was determined that this thing go but that it involve all the congregations to an equal degree. Within a years time Abe Harshman was able to get it under way. I felt pretty much like Moses who got to the mountain and never got to the land. I am so thrilled to have been a part of it, but I would have loved to have been the one to lead it to fruition.

O: You just recently retired right?

G: Yes. I am on a medical disability. I had heart surgery just a year ago. I have been having no problems. I practiced happily. I enjoyed my work immensely for forty-five years. It has been very good to me. It was necessary for me to have heart surgery a year ago. I was working part time after that. This year I had to go on full disability because I am going to be seventy and the insurance companies won't pay any disability insurance if you work. So I am teaching now. I am teaching at Youngstown Hospital. Teaching the dental interns, for which I get no salary. That is how it should be.

I just read the Hippocratic Oath last night to a group ... I was chairman of a seminar last evening on Ethics. And I had never read the Hippocratic Oath. I went to the encyclopedia last night before I went out to the meeting, and read the oath. Hippocrates said, "We pledge to teach the children of the people who taught us at no pay." Interestingly enough he said he would not give medicine that would kill somebody if they requested it. He would not perform an abortion. That is part of the Hippocratic Oath. No, I don't perform abortions, although I almost had to deliver a patient on a train during the war when I was coming home. I was the only doctor on the train coming back from my sister's wedding. There was a young bride on the train and she was about five months pregnant and she started to abort. They asked me to take care of her. I didn't know anything more than I had seen on the movies. Get a lot of hot water and towels. I gave her my berth. The upper berth that the Army had assigned to me. Incidentally, she didn't abort. Yes, so now I am on a long disability until next year when I announce my retirement.

O: We will keep it confidential until then. Note on behalf of Lois and myself and the archives and Jewish Federation and the whole damn community we thank you very much for sharing your memories and your time with us.

END OF INTERVIEW