

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Jewish Senior Citizens Project

Jewish Culture

O. H. 295

ANNE ROTH

Interviewed

by

Karlyn Bennehoof

on

February 13, 1984

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Jewish Senior Citizens Project

INTERVIEWEE: ANNE ROTH
INTERVIEWER: Karlyn Bennehoof
SUBJECT: Jewish culture
DATE: February 13, 1984

B: This is an interview with Anne Roth for the Youngstown State University Oral History Project Heritage Manor. This interview is being conducted at Heritage Manor on February 13, 1984 at approximately 1:30 p.m.

When and where were you born, Mrs. Roth?

R: Mansfield, Ohio.

B: In what year?

R: 1906.

B: Did you have brothers and sisters?

R: No.

B: Were your parents born in this country?

R: Yes.

B: Also in Ohio?

R: It so happens, yes.

B: When did you come to Youngstown?

R: 1956.

B: What was your first impression of Youngstown?

R: I thought it was a big city.

B: Compared to Mansfield. Had you ever been to . . .

R: I left Mansfield when I was an infant.

B: Where did you go then?

R: To a small town in Pennsylvania, Greenville.

B: Is that where you grew up?

R: Yes.

B: Was that a steel town?

R: Yes.

B: Had you ever been to the larger cities like Pittsburgh or Cleveland?

R: Yes.

B: And Youngstown still seemed like a big city?

R: I went twenty some years ago.

B: What was Youngstown like then as to the way it is now?

R: Well it was thriving.

B: With all the industry here?

R: Yes. Stores were filled and people were shopping.

B: There were a lot of businesses downtown at that time. Did you marry?

R: Yes.

B: What year did you get married?

R: 1957.

B: Was he from Youngstown?

R: Yes.

B: That's why you came here then?

R: Yes.

B: What was his name?

R: Morris C. Roth.

B: Did you have children?

R: No.

B: What kinds of changes, other than the industry, have been going on in Youngstown in the past thirty years? Have there been any changes in the Jewish community since then?

R: I don't know.

B: I heard that a couple of synagogues combined. The Anshe-Emeth combined with something else to form the El-Emeth. Did that happen before you came?

R: No, that happened after I came. I remember Rodef Sholom.

B: Is Rodef Sholom a conservative?

R: No, let's see . . .

B: Reform maybe?

R: Yes.

B: Did you belong to any organizations in Youngstown?

R: I belong to the sisterhood, a chapel. That's about it, I guess.

B: Did you belong to Hadassah or B'nai B'rith?

R: No.

B: Did you work in Greenville, Pennsylvania?

R: I worked in a ladies dress shop.

B: Did you design clothing or sew?

R: No, I sold.

B: Did you do the same kind of work here in Youngstown?

ROTH

4

R: Yes.

B: What store did you work at?

R: Betty Goodman.

B: Was that downtown?

R: Yes.

B: Is there anything that you would like to add, maybe some stories you could think of from your childhood or something?

R: I had a happy life in Greenville. Everyone was very friendly. It was also a college town. Thiel College is located there.

B: Did you attend the University?

R: Yes.

B: What subject were you in?

R: I only had history.

B: That's what I'm in! History is interesting. Did you like Youngstown when you got here?

R: Yes.

B: Anything else?

R: I can't think of anything.

B: Thank you very much for the interview, Mrs. Roth. I appreciate you talking to me.

END OF INTERVIEW