

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY
ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM
Jewish Senior Citizens Project

Jewish Culture

O. H. 301

BESS JOSÉPH

Interviewed

by

Carrie Stanton

on

December 7, 1983

BESS JOSEPH

I met with Bess Joseph in early November. She is a petite, lovely lady of 85. She is very pleasant to talk to. She was born in Lithuania, Russia, the daughter of Abraham and Dina Wolken. She attended school for one and a half years in Pittsburgh; she doesn't remember what high school it was. She said that she always wanted to be a teacher but she had to leave school to go to work as a bookkeeper to help out her family. In 1921, she married Hyman Greenblatt, they had three children; Charles, age 43, Shirley, age 62, and Florence, age 57. She didn't work after she got married. In 1943, she married Nick Joseph. They reside on Fifth Avenue in Youngstown.

Bess is involved in many organizations: El Emeth Temple, Children of Israel, Jewish War Veterans Auxiliary, Hadassah, Sisterhood of El Emeth and Children of Israel, B'nai B'rith, and the Jewish Center program for older adults. Her hobbies are collecting greeting cards and coupons.

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INTERVIEWEE: BESS JOSEPH

INTERVIEWER: Carrie Stanton

SUBJECT: Immigration, Lithuania, Jews in Youngstown,
Israel

DATE: December 7, 1983

S: This is an interview with Bess Joseph for the Youngstown State University Jewish Senior Citizens Project by Carrie Stanton at the Jewish Community Center on Gypsy Lane in Youngstown, Ohio, on December 7, 1983, at approximately 1:00 p.m.

We usually ask your background, where you came from and your parents, and where you were born.

J: Will you ask me and then I'll start?

S: Okay, just talk away and tell me where you're from.

J: I am Bess Greenblatt Joseph. I live at 1310 Fifth Avenue, Park Five. I have three children, Shirley Kessler, Florence Mirkin, and Dr. Charles Greenblatt. I remarried after my first husband died. I was married to Hyman Greenblatt, who was State Commander of the Jewish War Veterans of Ohio. He was one of the first starters of the Jewish Center here when they were still on Bryson Street, when they were just beginning. Then I remarried after Hyman died; I remarried three years later and I married Nick Joseph and he has two daughters and a son. I have a beautiful family. Of course, they were all grown when I married Nick, so my children were much younger.

S: Where were your parents from?

J: I came from Lithuania when I was six years old.

S: Do you remember anything about Lithuania?

J: I remember we lived in a very little village. Of course, living there you lived almost in a one-room house. It's your bedroom, kitchen, dining room all in one. We had a brick oven where we did the baking, but then in the winter we all used to fight to go to sleep on there because that was the warmest spot in the house.

When I was in Europe I loved to go to my grandparents home in the next village. When my uncles would come to visit, I would hide in the wagon and go back with them.

S: That was your heat too?

J: Your heat and your baking. When you weren't baking or it wasn't too hot then you used it to sit on. As children we all enjoyed it. When we first came here though, my mother only had my older sister, who is 85 now. Then I was born, and I'll be 84 this month. Then she had my younger brother. We settled in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and then my mother and father had three more children, so there are six of us and we are still living and enjoying each other.

S: How did you come from the old country?

J: We came by boat.

S: Do you remember anything about it?

J: We were on the boat for two weeks.

S: Two weeks?

J: Yes, fourteen days.

S: Where did you start?

J: You usually start from a larger city in Europe, it's either Panevezhis, which was one of the larger cities . . . I really don't remember the exact place, I was so young. We stopped in Holland for a few days and then we went on to New York and from New York we came to Pittsburgh because my father had a brother in Pittsburgh. We settled in Pittsburgh; we lived in a little three-room apartment, the eight of us. There was no water, no toilet in the house. The water was in the yard. I don't know how we did it, how my mother did it in those days. I remember she used to hang the clothes out in the backyard. It would come in stiff because it was cold. It would have to dry out. I lived that way until I was 21 years old.

S: Did you?

- J: When I was 21 my first husband and I were going together and we had \$300 saved up. We were going to get started on that. My brother had \$800 and we gave it all to the folks to buy the house on Locust Street in Pittsburgh. My single brother still lives there in the old house. I would be married almost 63 years, my daughter is 62 years old. We moved there in May and I was married in June.
- S: You all lived in the same house then, your parent's?
- J: Yes, when we were on Colivell Street in Pittsburgh, but then when the folks bought this bigger house they bought it in May and I was married in June. I didn't get to enjoy it too much, only when I came with the children.
- S: Who sponsored you to come over here, your parents also?
- J: My father came first, and he was here for about two years, I think, or maybe close to three years. He saved up enough money to send for us.
- S: That was the way it was done?
- J: That's the way it was done in those days. It was either a father came first or somebody of the family and they bought your ticket for you. That's how you got to the United States. I was very little, but I remember my mother saying, in Europe you think you're going to the Golden Land, that the streets are going to be laden with gold, and gold will be hanging from the trees. When we came it was cobble streets and horses and buggies, the same as it was in Europe.
- S: Is that why they came? There weren't any pogroms then?
- J: Oh yes, we went through a pogrom.
- S: Yes. They used to come marching, the Cossacks or the Russians came marching through the little village and we would hear them coming. They would be coming and singing and they would be loud. My mother would hide all of us. I remember she put me in a barrel. The other little ones, the other two older ones, she would hide them under something, in a cupboard somewhere, wherever there was space she could hide us until they would go through the little village. If they came in and found silver or young girls, they would take them. We were all young in those days. My older sister was seven and a half and I was six and my brother was five, so my mother would hide us in different spots of the big room.
- S: That was one of the reasons why they came over here?

- J: Yes. People wanted go get away. They wanted to go to a free country where they could live like they wanted to.
- S: Did your mother and father have a lot of friends and relatives that came over too for the same reason?
- J: On the boat you usually meet . . . I had an uncle that came with us and after he came he also sent for his wife. That's the way people did it in those days. The men would come first and start working and raise a little money, save up a little money, and send for the rest of the family. That's how most of the immigrants got to come to America.
- S: Did you go directly to Pittsburgh or did you stop in New York City?
- J: We stopped only long enough to know where because we knew we were going to Pittsburgh. We got there, I think it was July, and in September my older sister and I went to school and my brother did too. They kept us in what they called a green horn room, to teach us how to speak the English language. They kept me there for four years. I was especially lucky, we had a young neighbor whose father was a doctor, and this young fellow, he must have been four or five years older than I was, he used to come to the house, and he probably liked me because he would bring books and he would teach me English. I'll never forget the sentence that he taught me, and I would have to say it to him as soon as he came in, "I cannot understand the eloquence of your vocabulary." That took me a long time to learn how to say. He knew so much I felt he was just so brilliant. He knew how to read, he knew how to talk, and I would have to say that to him to let him know that I appreciated what he taught me. I used to teach the neighbors how to write their names and addresses so they could go down and apply for their citizenship papers. They used to call me the teacher of the neighborhood.
- S: How old were you then, when you were doing this?
- J: I must have been fifteen or sixteen. We all got a diploma. I found my diploma from public school; 1914 was when I had my eight years of school. By that time I was fourteen. Then I went to high school and I was only able to be there a year and a half because my parents needed help very badly. If I had gone another half year, I could have been teaching school in those days. I have always regretted that because I always wanted to teach. I didn't get to finish because my folks were paying \$12 a month rent and my dad wasn't making enough money, he was a peddler. If he came home with one or two dollars a day my mother was so happy.

That kept the eight of us until I started working when I was about fifteen and a half. I was really the breadwinner of the house.

S: What did you do?

J: I was partial bookkeeper. I would keep books with Frank and Seders for awhile in Pittsburgh, and then I was with the Fishels Company, in their office. I was there for about four years, until I was married. By that time I was earning enough and then the war started. When I quit there I was making \$25 a week, and in those days that was a lot of money. I remember when I came home and my first husband bought me an engagement ring and we were going to be married and all that. My mother said, "You're so young." I was 21 years old. "What are we going to do without you," she said. I was ten years older than my one sister and twelve years older than my younger sister, and my baby brother, I was eighteen years older than him. I was really the breadwinner of the family.

S: Was your first husband in World War I?

J: Yes.

S: Where was he stationed?

J: He didn't go overseas, he was still at school at Pitt University, I think, in Pittsburgh. He was only in a short time, but when he got out he was so enthused with being in the Army and helping the veterans that from then on you couldn't stop him; he devoted every minute of his time to veterans and veteran work. After we were married they appointed him State Commander of the Jewish War Veterans of Ohio. The Jewish veteran post is named the Hyman Greenblatt Post 59.

S: That's quite an honor.

J: After we were coming home from a meeting, that's when the accident was, and he was killed in an automobile accident. He was driving, sitting here and I was sitting next to him. He must have seen the trailer truck coming and it was a narrow road and he held me, and I think that's what kept me alive. He died instantly and the lady sitting in the back of him died. Myself, sitting next to him and the lady in back of me, we are both still here talking about it.

S: Isn't that something?

J: That was 43 years ago.

- S: What did he do besides . . .
- J: We were always in the grocery business.
- S: Oh, so am I. Did you know Morris Watson?
- J: Oh yes.
- S: We bought Morris Watson's store when he retired.
- J: We originally really came to the Rudick family, Ben Rudick, Mrs. Rudick, and Hyman were sister and brother. She was a Greenblatt. He was having ear trouble and he needed help. He was a builder then, way back, Ben Rudick & Sons. He was an excellent one too.
- S: That's when you came from Pittsburgh?
- J: Then Hyman's sister called, Mrs. Rudick, and she said, "Ben has to go to the hospital for surgery, would you come and help him? He needs somebody to be on the job." We came here, we must have come here when Shirley was only two years old, and she is 62 now.
- S: In 1920?
- J: Sixty years ago. He worked with Ben for not even two years, but he stopped at this little corner store, on the corner of Parmelee and Covington. He stopped to get a pair of gloves there and there was a really nice couple there. They have a little bit of everything; they have gloves and they have rubber boots, and all these things, blankets. It was an excellent little corner. They wanted to know from Hyman why he was there, what he was doing. He said, "Well, originally, I'm a grocer." They said, "Oh, we want to sell this corner and I think you would be ideal for this spot." He said, "I don't have any money, we just came here. I don't have any money to buy it." They said, "You don't need any money." It so happened that Ben really owed Hyman \$300 in back pay, a bonus. He bought this place for \$10,000. There was a corner store, a little apartment upstairs, a garage down the street, and a little house next door, all for \$10,000. All we needed was \$300 to buy it. He bought it while I was in Pittsburgh visiting my mother with Shirley. He called and he said, "Bess, I bought a whole corner and a grocery store. Come back as soon as you can, I need your signature." (Laughter) We were there for, I think, nineteen years. That's how long we were married, so we were there seventeen years on the corner.
- S: What kind of people lived in the neighborhood?

- J: It was a mixed neighborhood, quite a lot of black people and foreign people, and Catholic people. They adopted us. Hyman was so good with everything that when St. Ann's Church would have a dinner, being a grocer, he would get them potatoes, onions, vegetables, a case of peas, and hams. He would get them everything they needed for their dinner so they adopted us as members of St. Ann's Church. So were a mixed breed. (Laughter)
- S: You were the only Jews in the neighborhood?
- J: There were maybe one or two other families up the street, but we were the only ones at the corner. There were quite a lot of Catholic families that we were very close with.
- S: They choose you well then, you didn't run up against any anti-Semitism there?
- J: No, no. You couldn't help love my first husband. He was so good. At the end of the day if he would have vegetables and soupbones and something like that that he couldn't resell the next day, he would put them in a couple of baskets and take them down to the families that were big and needed help.
- S: Was this during the Depression?
- J: Yes.
- S: Things were pretty bad.
- J: He would take them food and if they came in and said, "I can't pay my bill this pay day", he said, "You see those two cans of beans or peas or whatever is on the shelf, you can have one." About two weeks before the accident he went to the bank and he doubled the payment on the corner. In the meantime, we had bought a beautiful house on Ford Avenue. Are you familiar with the north side?
- S: Not that much.
- J: Lombards had that big house on the corner of Ford and Redondo and we bought the little house next to it. It was the most beautiful corner on the whole north side. We loved that house. Hyman only enjoyed it about five years. He went to the bank and he made arrangements to double the payments on the corner and the house we bought. He came back and he said, "Bess, if all goes well, in five years we should have the corner paid for and the house paid for, if people are working and paying their bills like they're doing now." Of course, a couple of weeks later the accident happened.

S: Did you keep the store?

J: I made up my mind I was going to keep the store for five years, and my customers were great to me.

S: Were your children old enough to help?

J: My Shirley was almost eighteen then. She was seventeen and a half I think. She went into nurses' training before Hyman died, but when he died she wanted to be with me in the store because she felt I needed help. I had another little girl, Florence, and a boy; My Chuckie was only nine years old.

In those days they wouldn't give Shirley a leave of absence, and she said she wouldn't go back because she said, "I want to be with my mother for at least six months." She lost the deposit and everything else and she got discouraged and never went back to nursing. She did take up doctor's assisting, I insisted a year later that she go back. She did, she went to Ohio State and took up nursing assistant and worked for Dr. Steinburg. She worked for him most of the time.

My younger daughter, Florence, also wanted to do that type of work so she too worked for a doctor. She was married when she was very young. Shirley got married, she waited for Morris Kessler to come home from the Army. He was in the Army for three and a half or four years. Chuckie was only nine years old when his father died so I did all I could; I took him to Boy Scout meetings and he became an Eagle Scout. Then he did very well in high school and he was accepted to Harvard. He is a Harvard Cum Laude graduate.

S: Very good.

J: He went in for medicine and went to one of the best medical schools in Philadelphia, one of the oldest. I think at that time he said the school was something like 350 years old. He was disappointed because he did want to go to Harvard, but there was a quota of some kind and they took most of them that were in that area. He didn't get in there, but he did get into a very fine medical school. Then he interned. When he was going through all that he would come home and he would say, "Bessie, I'll never be able to pay you what you're spending to send me through medical school." I said, "Well, Chuck, I'll never hold anything heavy over your head and I'll go out and sweep floors, but I do want to see you get your M.D. because I think so many more doors will be opened for you." Now he is on sabbatical leave. He got married and married a Bostonian girl. He met her when he went

to Harvard. They have four daughters, two are in Israel. Chuck has been in Israel fifteen years.

S: Have you been there?

J: I've been there four times.

S: Tell me about it.

J: You can't help but love that country and love the people for what they're doing, and their courage, and their spirit. They don't complain and they give back the biggest part of their pay, and they're happy with what they have. They live mostly on vegetables in season and their season is really most of the year, outside of a couple very hot months when they can't raise crops and things burn up.

S: Your granddaughter would be over there too?

J: I have two granddaughters.

S: Did they serve in the Army?

J: All but the oldest; the oldest girl wouldn't serve so she came back to the United States and settled first in Boston. She's an Oberlin graduate, so she has had a fine education too. She lived in Boston for a while and then she settled in California. Then another sister got married, she married an Israeli boy though, and also went to California. She hopes to go back to Israel.

S: When they go to Israel and live there for a long time, do they give up their United States citizenships?

J: No.

S: They have dual citizenship?

J: Yes, Chuck has dual citizenship. He is an American citizen as well as an Israeli citizen. They have three years to decide what they want to do.

S: I have a grandson, my older girl's son who went there. He liked it so well that he was in a kibbutz for more than a year, almost two years. He also married a nice Israeli girl and now he has two boys. The other day I got a call and picked up the phone and I heard a young man's voice. He said, "Basha, it's Howie." He always called me by my Jewish name, Basha. I said, "Where are you?" His voice was so clear. He said, "I'm in Israel, but I remembered that a long time ago you told me your birthday was the sixth candle, the Hannakah holiday, that

we lit just yesterday." He said, "I remember you always told us." I said, "Now my birthday is the 29th of December." He said, "Well, the dates change." He said, "Well, I remembered it was your birthday." Now here is a young man that is earning very little and spent about fifteen or eighteen dollars to make the call from Israel, and I was so thrilled.

S: That's very nice.

J: Another nice thing happened early this week; Wednesday we started our candle lighting. I decided the night before, I called all the Jewish folks in the building and I said, "At 4:30 I'm going to be down in the lobby and I will light the candle and say the prayer and I want you all to be down there." That's what they have been doing. The first night I made potato pancakes, the next night I made a double batch because I didn't have too many to pass out the first day. The first day I only gave them one apiece. I brought enough napkins, and the smell of potato pancakes was all over the place.

S: You should have invited me. (Laughter)

J: The next day I made a double batch so I had enough to give everybody two. The first couple of nights I had ten, twelve. Last night I didn't have too many, a couple of girls didn't feel good. Sunday I couldn't have it because I was invited out the whole day.

Sunday we had a drawing; we had a drawing at the Little Children of Israel Temple. We sold raffle tickets \$25 a book. I sold 38 books. At first I was going to send four books, I have a wealthy grandson in California. His mother-in-law, who is really Nick's daughter, she is really my stepdaughter, she said, "Don't send him four books, call him, because he sold his business and made quite a lot of money." I called him this late afternoon and I said, "Michael, this is your grandmother from Youngstown. We're trying to raise some money for our Little Temple, what can you do?" He said, "Who do you want me to make the check out to?" As quick as that, I didn't even give him a chance to make any explanation. I couldn't even use the sales pitch which I had all written out. He said, "Who shall I make the check out to?" I said, "The Children of Israel Congregation."

S: Is that a new congregation?

J: No, they're the oldest congregation in Youngstown. They're one of the first ones.

S: Is it Orthodox?

- J: Very Orthodox. With my first marriage we were very conservative. We were at the Anshe Emeth in the beginning. Then, of course, they merged with the Temple Immanuel and the other temple. Now they call it El-Emeth.
- S: They built the new one up on Logan?
- J: Yes, on Logan Way. Last year we were asked to join them because we were on the corner of Fifth Avenue and Alameda and the neighborhood was getting bad. That's why I had to sell my house, because I lived right on Ford Avenue and I was attacked and robbed and my girls wouldn't let me live there alone anymore because Nick died. I did live alone for about a year and a half. They worried about me daily. Of course, when that happened they wouldn't let me live there anymore.

Then we joined El-Emeth and we paid them \$100,000. We haven't paid all of it yet, so they're trying to raise some money to pay off the rest of the mortgage. My grandson said, "I'll send you a check." I didn't ask him how much, I thought he would send \$100 or \$200. He called his wife and he said, "What do you think, your grandma from Youngstown called and she's plugging for the Little Temple?" He said, "What do you think I should send them?" She said, "Oh, send them \$500." Sure enough, about a week later, I got a check for \$500. That entitled them to twenty books. This last Sunday we raffled off all the books. I, myself, sold about 38 books. They were entitled to twenty books so I put their names on them. My step-daughter couldn't even take time to help me write out all the stubs. I had to have their names, their address, their telephone number, so I had 60 tickets to write up. I spent a whole evening writing out all these tickets.

Sure enough, Sunday we had the Hannukah party at the Children of Israel and at first we had music and then after the music it was about 4:30 and they started mixing up all the tickets. The first prize was \$1000, the second prize was a \$250 Israel bond, the third prize was a 19" color TV. They called those first. Then he called a little boy to dig in and pick out the number. Sure enough that little boy picked out a number and held it up. Sid Taub read the stub and said, "Michael Minson." I screamed and I yelled because that was the ticket I filled out. He won the \$1000. I couldn't wait until I called him at night. I had to wait until nine o'clock because I called Sylvia, who is his mother-in-law, and I said, "When do you think I should call Michael and tell him?" Launa is his wife. She is with a TV producer, at at very high job in California. She said, "You better

wait until nine o'clock, it will be six o'clock there, because they're having a Hannukah dinner and they're having a lot of people there." Sure enough, I called at nine o'clock and Launa answered, "What's wrong, what's wrong?" I had called them in the morning and wished them a happy anniversary; it was their eleventh or twelfth anniversary. I had just called them in the morning. She said, "What's wrong, what happened? Is anybody sick?" I said, "No, Michael won the \$1000." She said, "Michael, Michael come to the phone." Michael got on and I said, "Michael, you won the \$1000, what do you want to do with it? He said, "I want to give it back to the temple in memory of my grandfather, Nick Joseph." He gave it all back, which meant that the temple was \$1500 ahead.

S: Good.

J: The five hundred dollars that he originally sent me and the one thousand dollars that they would have had to give him.

S: Do you always follow the Jewish customs?

J: I do. My first husband was very liberal, but when I remarried, Nick Joseph was very Orthodox and I had to change my way of living entirely.

S: Was it difficult for you to change then?

J: At first it was, because my first husband was much younger.

S: What would be the differences?

J: We were younger, and we danced, and we did different things. Nick was quite a bit older.

S: Of the Orthodox?

J: Of the Orthodox and I couldn't get him to do the things that I was doing when I was younger. He was a very fine man, very easy to live with, but I made up my mind I was going to follow his way of living. Then I joined the Orthodox Temple so I'm a member of both temples. When my time comes, when my time is up, I'll be buried next to my first husband at the Anshé-Emeth Cemetery.

S: Did you cook kosher for your husband?

J: Hyman's father lived with us for ten years, he did the cooking. My husband, Nick Joseph, was a cook; we had a restaurant, a very fine, little restaurant. We served

most men, and almost on a kosher style, like mushroom barley soup the Hungarian way; he was Hungarian. He was an excellent cook. This is what he did in the First World War. He started this little restaurant, really, not through the American Legion, but the Shrine Club. They wanted a place for a meeting hall and they wanted a place where they could eat. We had the upstairs and plenty of room. They had their meetings in one room and we had our restaurant in the other. Then we had one or two little rooms. The union men used to meet and most of the attorneys, the judges, and the doctors, and the lawyers. Most men came because they liked the food. We were there for 22 years.

S: Where was that?

J: Upstairs on Phelps Street, North Phelps Street. It was really South Phelps Street.

S: What was the name of it?

J: Joseph's Restaurant.

S: Yes, I remember that.

J: It was the Commercial Club at one time, also the Progress Club.

S: It's not there anymore is it?

J: No, the place burned down. We sold it to a Chinese family. They were only there a short time and then the place got sold. I think I read in the paper not too long ago they were throwing down the whole building.

S: So I've had an interesting life.

S: Yes. Do you remember when Zionism started really coming into being many years ago about 1900?

J: We belonged to everything that was in the community, the B'nai B'rith, the Jewish War Veterans, and both temples and sisterhoods. We belonged everywhere, the Jewish Center, Hadassah.

S: Did you have, somebody was talking about little, blue boxes?

J: Yes.

S: Pushka?

J: A pushka is a charity box. Yes, mine is full. If I

don't light my candles on Friday night like I should, I'll put in eighteen cents, that way it gathers. .

S: Then what do you do with it?

J: We turn it in, there is a United Fund. They send all this money to Israel to buy trees. They plant millions of trees with that money.

S: I didn't know that is what they did with it. It doesn't go towards any of the universities over there?

J: No.

S: Does Hadassah sponser some . . .

J: The Hadassah sponsors, the Hadassah Medical Center, that's where my Chuck has his lab there. Now they built a new section there, a whole floor of I don't know how many rooms. Chuck is in charge of about 35 or 40 doctors and scientists and nurses. He's in charge of that whole floor. He has quite an important position up there. Hadassah really sent him there. He has been there fifteen years now. He loves it; he loves the people and he loves what he is doing. He has made some beautiful friends.

When I got there in December I celebrated my 83rd birthday there. I went with my older girl, Shirley, and her husband and their fourteen year old boy. We were only there about twelve days because Josh had to go back to school. I was there and Chuck introduced me to a couple of the doctors and a couple of the secretaries. They make you feel ten feet tall. They said, "Oh, what an honor to meet the doctor's mother." I felt like I was just so elated.

S: That's nice.

J: That's my life. Now I stay busy with everything. I have one more candle to light tonight and if I get back early enough maybe I'll make some potato pancakes.

S: Anything else you would like to add?

J: I'm president of the ladies' auxiliary of the Jewish War Veterans. I've been president of that for twenty years or more.

S: Is that a large group?

J: Not any more. I used to have quite a group, but every year it seems I lose a few members because we're all getting older. I've been doing this for twenty years

or more. This is really one of my main projects. I hold a party with my members. We started off with 40 retarded children, then 50, it went up to 60, it went up to 80. Then when I had 120 I thought I had an awful lot. It was up to 150, 180. This last year when I called the lady I said, "How much money will you need?" She said, "Well, I have about \$200 coming in. I gathered \$100 and I sent her that and I called the Pepsi-Cola people and they donated six cases of small assorted pop. Up until a couple of years, my daughters and their husbands and I, we used to go out to these parties and we used to help serve all of these children. We would dance with them and entertain them. We had it in Austintown somewhere, but lately they moved to a bigger hall because they've been getting so many children. This is what I do every year.

S: So you keep busy?

J: I keep busy raising money, spending money. (Laughter) Raising money for organizations. I'm secretary of the Children of Isreal. I stay busy with a lot of projects. I really don't have too much time to get lonesome. I gather store coupons and give them to charitable organizations. When I cook and bake I share it with my older neighbors. I am invited every friday night for Sabbath dinner at either of my daughters' houses, and always bring some potatoe pancakes or pot kugel and kichel, that's a cookie.

I am also a volunteer at the Heritage Manor home for older people. Also, at our Passover week I make about twelve packages of little jars of kosher wine, some matzos, and passover rolls that I make myself; I only give these to my Gentile friends.

S: Good.

J: Did I tell you enough?

S: You answered a lot. Nothing else you want to add? It was good.

END OF INTERVIEW