

**Interview with Mrs. Adelaine Banach
Mr. Richard & Mrs. Elaine Jaye
conducted by Marian J Krzyzowski
for
the Chene Street History Project
April 19, 2003**

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MK: This is Marian Krzyzowski and today is April the 19th 2003. And I'm in Sterling Heights at the home of Elaine and Richard Jaye. And with us is Elaine's mother, Adelaine Banach. And we're here to talk about Chene Street and the memories of Chene Street.

Break

MK: Before we start, though, I'd like to ask a little bit about your family. And their history. And I'd like to begin maybe by asking about their names, your parents' names, and where they were from.

AB: My dad and I came from Poland and then he went to Chicago and then he came to Michigan.

MK: What what was your dad's name?

AB: Peter Nowakowski.

MK: And what was your mother's name?

AB: Cecelia.

MK: Do you remember her maiden name?

AB: Paterkiewicz.

MK: Paterkiewicz?

AB: Yeah.

MK: And what part of Poland were they from. Do you know?

AB: Tuliszkow. Is that a little town, you know?

MK: Near where. Near what bigger town, do you know?

AB: Didn't know too much about Poland.

MK: Uh uh. And are they both from the same town?

AB: Yes, mm-hm.

MK: And, did they come separately to the United States or were they?

AB: They came together. [NOTE: SHIP MANIFEST SHOWS CECILIA
PATERKIEWICZ COMING TO U.S. IN 1913 AS A SINGLE GIRL OF 16]

MK: So they were married already before they came?

AB: Mm-hm.

MK: And they both came to Chicago?

AB: Yes.

MK: Do you know what year roughly they came to Chicago?

AB: It's so long ago. You know.

MK: Was it before WWI?

AB: No.

MK: After the war?

AB: Yeah. So.

MK: Okay. And from Chicago they came to Detroit?

AB: Mm-hm.

MK: And why did they come to Detroit?

AB: Well my dad was a bricklayer, you know, and he helped build St. Hyacinth's Church and he worked on that tunnel, you know, the tunnel to Canada.

MK: Mm-hm.

AB: And then he got like rheumatism, you know, that's hard work. And my mother died. So there were four of us.

MK: What year did she die?

AB: 1927.

MK: Mm-hm. And how many children, you said there were 4 children. Who were they? What were their names?

AB: My brother Henry. Aurelia, and myself, and my sister Helen.

MK: Okay, and what year were you born?

AB: 1921.

MK: Okay, and the youngest one was born when?

AB: He was born, there was 6 years difference.

MK: Okay, so. '27, just before your mother died.

AB: Yeah.

MK: And where did you live when you moved to Detroit. When did the family, where did they live?

AB: Well my Dad had a house on Chene and Theodore.

MK: Do you know the address of that house?

AB: No, I couldn't tell you.

MK: Was it on the corner?

AB: It was right on Chene. I think it was about the second, you know. And then he bought this house, you know, where the bar was? It was a house and then he built on the store, you know. So then this--

MK: Mm-hm, how old how old when he when he bought that bar?

AB: I was a young girl about 7, 6, you know.

MK: So it would've been like 1928. After your mother died he bought that house?

AB: Yeah, no, they uh, she died there, right there in the house.

MK: Okay, so they already had it by '27, they owned the bar.

AB: Yes, mm-hm.

MK: And was that the bar at 5408 was that Chene?

AB: Yes.

MK: And what led him to want to open up a bar?

AB: Well, in those days they called them saloons I guess 'cause they weren't selling liquor. They were selling just beer and wine you know. So, that was right after the war you know. And he, like I said, he couldn't be a bricklayer no more because he got rheumatism in his legs. And when my mother died he wanted to be closer home and because we were small kids, so. And then we had a young lady from Poland. And she came over to the bakery and the woman at the bakery said, "Well you need her, you know, to my dad, you need her more than I do." So she she came over and kind of took care of us.

MK: Which bakery was it?

AB: It was the one across the street from us. Modern Bakery.

MK: Mm-hm. And was that owned by the Niebrzydowskis at the time?

AB: Yes, mm-hm.

MK: And do you remember this woman's name? The woman who who--.

AB: Oh, no. I don't. I know them but I don't know her name you know.

MK: The one who came over to work to take care of you.

AB: Oh yeah--Wait, it'll come back to me.

MK: Okay, when it comes just interrupt and. So, can you describe.

AB: Stefka was her name.

MK: Stefka?

AB: Yeah, mm-hm.

MK: Okay. And can you describe the house, the building where the bar was and where you lived?

AB: Yeah, it was the wooden building you know. And then my father added on the bar, you know, addition, and then it was like a tailor shop was on one side and the saloon was on the other. And then when prohibition was lifted he got one of the first licenses you

know. So then the tailor shop moved out. So then he, you know, they made the place larger.

MK: And the tailor shop was leased to somebody, somebody else?

AB: Yeah.

MK: Do you know who that was?

AB: No.

MK: You don't?

AB: No.

MK: And where was the house at, where was the living quarters at?

AB: Behind.

MK: And on the same, was it a one-floor building?

AB: One level, yes, mm-hm.

MK: And can, when you, when you looked out, at the front of it. What did it look like? What did the place look like?

AB: We have, Elaine where's that picture of the bar?

EJ: Well he wants you to describe it.

MK: Yeah, I just want you to describe it as you remember it.

EJ: Well you can look at the picture and describe it.

MK: Yeah but, you know, but, if you can just, for the sake of the tape, describe what it looked like.

AB: The living quarters were in the back.

MK: Okay.

AB: And there were 5 rooms. You know.

MK: MM-hm.

AB: So, and, so when we were small we didn't go into the bar.

MK: So from the front of the building when you looked it, what would you see? How was, how did the bar look?

AB: It, it looked, it was a friendly neighborhood bar, you know.

MK: Mm-hm.

AB: And it was a nice clean little place.

MK: Did it have windows in the front or was it?

AB: Yeah, see, there's these big windows. And, later on we put in those blinds that, you know, and this is my dad's car. Well after my mother died he got rid of the car 'cause he wasn't driving.

MK: What was the name of the bar?

AB: It was Bristol Bar.

MK: And where did the name come from?

AB: My dad liked it because it was like an international name. You know, people used to have like Stanley's Bar. First it was Nowakowski's you know 'cause they. But he liked the name Bristol Bar because it was like an international name I guess. They had it in London, you know, Bristol.

MK: Mm-hm.

AB: So, he's the one that named it.

MK: So when you walked in the front door. How was the bar set up? What was it like?

AB: Well when you walked in the door the bar was on the right and the tables were on the left. And the restrooms were a little further back you know, so.

MK: And did he serve food?

AB: Uh, just sandwiches that, you know, they had like pretzels and chips and peanuts. And then I guess after a while it was against the law to give out free food, you know. So, but uh, later on he had a little kitchen and you know in the back of the, where the bar was.

MK: Mm-hm. And who, who worked in the bar?

AB: Well, my dad did and he had a bartender. And then when my brother got of age he was going to make him a partner but he got killed in an auto accident.

MK: What year did he did he die?

AB: That was in 1939.

MK: Mm-hm. And how old was it?

AB: He was already turned 21, you know. So that really broke my father's heart.

MK: Mm-hm.

AB: Because my dad died in '41. So, because all his friends used to come over and then, you know, every time he looked at them that, you know, made him think of my brother, so. But he was a good kid, and nice you know young man.

MK: Mm-hm. So who else worked in the besides, you know, was there any other family member that worked in that bar?

AB: Well, after my dad died my sister and I worked there.

MK: So you owned it?

AB: Yeah.

MK: And what, your sister's name, was this Helen or was this.

AB: No, Aurelia.

MK: Aurelia?

AB: Yeah. She's the one that married the baker later on across the street. And Niebrzydowski sold the bakery to him.

MK: I see. And what was his name?

AB: Anthony Witkowski

MK: Witkowski?

AB: Yeah. [END CD1 TRACK 1]

MK: So you guys ran the bar till what year? From 1941 till when?

AB: Well, till she got married and she left the bar.

MK: What year was that do you remember?

AB: Do you remember, Elaine?

Elaine: When Aurelia got married?

AB: Yeah.

Elaine: No

MK: Was it after the war or was it during the war?

AB: Well, it was probably, it was in the '50s, early '50s.

MK: So, you ran it for quite a while.

AB: Yeah, I was there about fifteen years

MK: Okay.

Elaine: No, more than that mother. I was sixteen when the bar was finally sold. So, it's quite a while.

AB: No, I figure about fifteen years. I was twenty when I had to work. You had to be 21, you know, so that was the law. But my sister was 22, so they didn't want to give us a license 'cause they were kind of strict. They didn't like women running, you know.

MK: So, then you the ran it probably until the mid fifties, 1956, '57

AB: Yeah, about then.

MK: And then what did you do with it, you sold it?

AB: Yeah, we sold it to two young fellows.

Elaine: Mother, actually it was longer than that because I graduated from high school in '64 and you still had the bar up until about 1963. That's when you sold it, so it was quite a while.

MK: So, and you were living in the bar the whole time, behind the bar there?

AB: No, we moved. [To Elaine:] How old were you when we moved?

Elaine: 9 or 10.

AB: We moved on Outer Drive and Gratiot

MK: Okay, and what happened to the residence in the back there, who lived there?

AB: We rented it out, you know, to my husband's sister and her husband.

MK: So what year did you get married?

AB: In 1941.

MK: And who was your husband?

AB: Frank Banach, and his father and mother, they lived on Maxwell off Harper

MK: I know where that is.

AB: Yeah, and he was an engineer; he worked for American Standard.

MK: How did you meet him?

AB: Through my cousin. He came to my father's funeral, you know, and my dad had a big funeral. They had to get a police escort because he was well liked. So in those days they were laid out at home. So we had people coming day and night, you know, during the wake.

MK: Who took care of the funeral, which funeral home, do you remember?

AB: Jarzembowski's.

MK: Jarzembowski's?

AB: Yeah, he was from the West side. But his brother was the doctor, he had a office in Hamtramck, and Jarzembowski was on the west side.

MK: Was he involved at all in running the business too, or was it primarily you that ran the bar?

AB: He helped out you know so, you know a bar is a full time, no days off. And he helped out you know

MK: Let me go back a little ways now. Where did you go to school?

AB: I went to Ferry School, then I went to boarding school in Monroe called Divine Child.

MK: Was that associated with IHM's or not?

AB: Yeah.

MK: Okay

AB: From there I guess during the Depression things were kind of tough you know, and so then I went to Greusel and graduated from Northeastern.

MK: And what year did you graduate from Northeastern?

AB: It's so long ago

MK: In '39?

AB: Yeah '39, no I think '41, no '40

MK: '40?

AB: Yeah, I had to review it

Elaine: No, you were married in '41 right?

AB: Yeah, but

Elaine: So, then you would have graduated from high school a couple years before that

AB: I've got the yearbook at home I should have brought

MK: Do you have the yearbook?

AB: Yeah

MK: Oh, I'd love to photograph that. I'm photographing all the Northeastern yearbooks. Well, I'd like to literally digitally photograph the original. I've got a digital camera and I'm taking digital photos of everything, so maybe sometime I can arrange to come by again and it'd take me ten or fifteen minutes to photograph it. I've been photographing all the Northeastern yearbooks.

AB: In the meantime if I have anything else you need you can let us know.

MK: Okay, so who were your friends at Northeastern, do you remember who your school mates were that you were close to?

AB: Ruth Mankewicz, but she died.

MK: How is her last name spelled?

AB: M-O-N-K-E-N-D-I-C-H, and she had two brothers and a sister

MK: Did they live somewhere close to you?

AB: On Joseph Campau, and then Eleanor Golanski, you know she lived on Kirby. We have a picture of their house there, and she had a sister Donna.

MK: And what kind of things—

AB: And Joann Lipski. Her father was a dentist. He had a office on Chene in the middle of the block. He had a gas station, you know, in the middle of the block. It's hard to believe it though, but then Dr. Maczkiewicz bought that building. He's the eye doctor--

MK: And Lipski's, were they Polish, were they Jewish?

AB: No, they were Polish.

MK: They were Polish.

AB: Yeah. They owned that building where Jenny had that wallpaper store down the street there. and her brother was Arthur Popiel. He married Jaworski's daughter, you know from the sausage company.

MK: Hm. Mm-hm. So this is Lipskis?

AB: Yeah. His son.

MK: Son?

AB: Yeah, he took his grandmother's maiden name, Popiel.

MK: No kidding.

AB: Because they said if you had a -ski on the end of your name it was hard to get a job.

MK: Mm-hm.

AB: They were kind of prejudiced.

MK: So he took her name and he married Jaworski's daughter.

AB: Jaworski, mm-hm.

MK: Yeah, interesting. When you were in high school what kind of things did you do for fun? What, did you go to dances, did you go to parties, did you go to movies. What kind of things did you do?

AB: Well my brother was on the football team there and we didn't go to too many dances. They had dances you know. But, and then the girls we went, you know, they didn't go to the dances there.

MK: Did you date?

AB: No.

MK: Mm-hm.

AB: I mean I was asked out but I didn't go.

MK: Mm-hm.

AB: So it's a, some boy in my Latin class wanted to take me out, you know. But, my brother had a lot of friends. 'Cause he played basketball and football.

MK: Mm-hm.

AB: So.

MK: Did you ever go to the Dom Polski for example?

AB: Yeah, we went to a dance now and then. There was there, and then there was Lutnia. You know so.

MK: Did you, were you a member of the Lutnia?

AB: No.

MK: Or just the hall, did you go the hall?

AB: Just to the hall, you know. It was next door to Zarembaska.

MK: Right, upstairs. Okay, say then you were married in '41 and how many children did you have?

AB: Let's see.

EJ: Just me. (laugh)

MK: Just Elaine. And when and when were you born, Elaine?

EJ: '46.

MK: And you were living at the time behind the the bar there at 5408 Chene.

EJ: Yeah, right.

MK: And can you describe the residence, what it was like?

EJ: Oh yeah, to the best of my memory you had to go in the back because it was behind the bar.

MK: So was it connected to the bar?

EJ: It was connected to the bar but there was no entrance from the back going into the bar. You had to go outside. It was a long sidewalk alongside of the building and you walked to the back, to the backyard. Then you went in the backyard and there was a porch and then you went in that way and you went into the kitchen first. And then there was a bathroom on the right and then the kitchen. And then was the dining room and then the living room and then the bedrooms were on like each side of the living room. And so there was no way to get into the bar from the, let's say through the living room. It was through the kitchen.

MK: And so you were born in '46?

EJ: Mm-hm.

MK: And how long did you live in that residence?

EJ: 'Til I was about 10.

MK: So '56.

EJ: Yeah.

MK: So did you go to school for elementary school in the neighborhood then?

EJ: St. Hyacinth's.

MK: Okay, and did you finish at St. Hyacinth or did you?

EJ: No, then when we moved to Outer Drive I went to St. Joanne's.

MK: Okay. And do you remember much about St. Hyacinth's when you went to school there?

EJ: Oh yeah, I remember quite a bit. I remember I was taught by all the nuns and--.

MK: Do you remember any of the nuns? Particularly? Anyone that stands out in your mind?

EJ: I remember the principle. I think her name was Sr. Mary Simon.

MK: Right.

EJ: I remember her. I remember going to first grade, not going to kindergarten, and not realizing that you couldn't talk in school. I was always in trouble for talking. And the nuns were a lot stricter then and a lot of the nuns spoke Polish. And I didn't speak Polish.

MK: Speaking of that. Did you speak Polish?

AB: I understood it but I didn't speak too well, you know. [END CD1 TRACK 2]

MK: Did any of your brothers or sisters speak Polish?

AB: No, they were about the same like me, you know..

MK: Did you parents speak Polish to themselves?

AB: Yeah, we, my father spoke Polish, we talked to him in English.

MK: Mm-hm.

AB: You know, we said you're in America. You better, you know, speak English. And so that's—but we had no trouble conversing, you know.

MK: Did his customers, when his customers came in, were they Polish speaking or not?

AB: Yes. There were a lot of Polish people around.

MK: Mm-hm. Okay. So, getting back to, so you went to St. Hyacinth's until about '56, right?

EJ: Yeah, probably, yeah.

MK: And, uh, do you remember any of the kids or any of the friends you had while you were living down there.

EJ: I remember a few. There was one girl. In fact I have I still have her picture somewhere. Her name was Christine. But I couldn't remember her last name. She was probably my only friend. But you know, no one lived really close to where I lived.

There were a few girls on Kirby. Remember those two girls? What were their names? Um, remember, Marie, Bernadette and Marie. They lived in Kirby.

AB: Uh, Nowak was their last name.

E: No, it was a long Polish name. No, Bernadette and Marie. Maybe you remember their names? Osh, something with an O. If Mitchell was here, he remembers all of those people. And they were down towards the middle of the block. Across the street. And that was about the only ones I remember.

AB: How about you. Richard? Where where, what's your story? How do you fit into the Chene Street area?

RJ: We came here from the old country. It was about 1950.

MK: From where, where's the old country?

RJ: Uh, my parents were born in Poland. I was born in Germany, I guess they were working on some kind of farm in Germany at the time.

MK: Do you know what part of Poland they were from?

RJ: Uh, the name that keeps popping up a lot is **Bedlending**. I'm not sure, a lot of people don't recognize name or what it's close to. And we never got too much history detail or background from my parents.

MK: When were you born?

RJ: In '44.

MK: Mm-hm.

RJ: And my sister was born in '46. We were both born in Germany. And then the 2 younger ones were born in Hamtramck here.

MK: So they came to the U.S. in what year?

RJ: Uh, 19, May of '50. And we first lived over on, in the St. Albertus neighborhood.

MK: Do you know the street and the address?

RJ: I think the name of the street was Hale.

MK: Mm-hm.

RJ: It was just a block or two south I guess of Canfield. And I know there was a big cement factory or outfit right across the street. We lived right across the street from there. That's what I remember from that neighborhood. I'm not even sure if I went to the 1st grade at Albertus or at Stannie's.

MK: Did you speak Polish or German?

RJ: Uh, I speak Polish.

MK: Mm-hm.

RJ: And from there we moved over to Kirby just west of St. Aubin and my dad used to work for Phoenix Wire Cloth which was right there at the railroad tracks.

MK: Do you remember the address on Kirby?

RJ: No, that one I don't either. So we lived there for not too long. And then we moved over to Dubois between Ferry and Kirby. And I remember that one. Can never forget that address. It's 5432. (laugh) I mean it was the easiest one there was. So we moved there and all this time having Stannies, walking from home to school.

MK: You went to St. Stan's elementary?

RJ: Yeah.

MK: And high school?

RJ: I went to Stannies from, through 9th grade. And then I got to that point where it just got a little bit too expensive with four of us. Two of us in high school and two were in grade school so it was kind of tough on the kind of occupation dad had at that time. It wasn't really bringing in a lot of money. So he was basically a laborer in a factory type situation. So he did what he could. But then I figured, well, I might have a better chance going elsewhere so I went off and went to Cass downtown. So, I took the bus over there. And then worked while I was going to school over at the Michigan Theater. Before they turned it into a huge parking lot. That was in the early '60s.

MK: So what year did you graduate from Cass?

RJ: In January of '64. Was supposed to graduate in June of '63 but coming from a parochial school they required certain credit hours I didn't really have that. And so I had to collect that one extra course and I was there for just the one semester but it was January of '64 when I graduated.

MK: And you were always living on Kirby during this time?

RJ: No, we were on St. Aubin, not St. Aubin—on Dubois.

MK: On Dubois, I'm sorry, between Kirby and Ferry, yeah. Okay. And then after you graduated from Cass what did you do?

RJ: I got a job working at some little shop for a while. And then also [to Elaine], was Chrysler before or after?

EJ: After the service.

RJ: But I figured it was, you know, time I, the Vietnam War and everything, and I know they were gonna, I was going to get drafted anyway regardless. So I decided, I'll just go in and choose the service I want to join. So I joined the air force and signed up in June of '64 and I was in the service for 4 years through '68. And stationed over at Selfridge for a couple of years. And then the last two years was I was up in Elmendorf in Anchorage, Alaska. And came home and got married that same year in November of '68.

MK: How did you guys meet?

RJ: Well, through some friends. We were just, you know, somebody said I'm going to meet so and so you want to come along you know, there might be somebody else there. And, sure enough, we met on the porch. They were going skating or something that night and that's how it all started.

EJ: Skating?

RJ: Uh, ice skating, roller skating.

EJ: I don't remember that.

RJ: It was one of those deals, you know. 'Cause uh, you know here, they used to live right around right down the street there, or around the corner from us. And I didn't meet her until they moved out to Outer Drive. It was kind of funny how that worked out. So, married in '68. We lived in the neighborhood right there behind Outer Drive for a while and then we moved to Warren. And then went to Sterling Heights here at this location since '81. So we've been here for about 22 years.

EJ: But you know Chene Street pretty well.

RJ: But uh, yeah, mainly because in those days we walked everywhere.

MK: Mm-hm.

RJ: We knew all the streets, uh, and serving as an altar boy there for like seven years. And Monsignor Borkowicz was there.

MK: Mm-hm.

RJ: Two or three of the other priests. The only other one that comes to mind is Fr. Ugolik, who was one of those good-looking, you know girls were always after him or vice versa, so. But I remember a lot of time spent there at Stannie's at the church and so on. That's where I, yeah, spent lots of time up and down Chene St.

[?]

AB: The market brought a lot of people.

MK: Let me, let me come back to your mom and I'll come back to you. Let's go back now to the neighborhood when you were younger. And just kind of, what are your memories of it, what are your most prominent memories?

AB: Well, we had club of girls, you know, and we'd have parties and you know Halloween parties and things like that.

MK: Where?

AB: Well, we had this, Joanne Lipski, they had this, the store was vacant so we had a party, a Halloween party in the store there, you know. And that Martha from the bookstore. You know, Zukowskis.

MK: Księgarnia Ludowa.

AB: Yeah, that bookstore, when they had, three daughters I think and two boys.

MK: Mm-hm.

AB: I think one's a professor in Chicago I heard?

MK: He's retired, he's in Dallas.

AB: Is he?

MK: Yeah.

AB: Yeah, so, but uh. Well John was still running the bookstore. When we left Chene Street we lost track of people.

MK: John is now in an assisted living home here in St. Clair Shores, yeah.

AB: Yeah, he'd be about my brother's age.

MK: Yeah, I interviewed him last year. So, what do you remember of the other stores? What do you remember besides this, Księgarnia Ludowa, what do you remember about Księgarnia Ludowa.

AB: Well they had a lot of books and magazines and stuff and we knew that the youngest girl, I guess Martha, she committed suicide.

MK: Right.

AB: You know. And then there was Royal Heating across the street.

MK: From where, from your, your bar?

AB: From the bookstore.

MK: From the bookstore?

AB: Yeah, they were on Chene, like, you know, and.

MK: What was that? Who ran that?

AB: We knew the, you know, the people that worked there because they came to the bar. And who owned it I don't know. And then there was Przybylskis on the corner. Well he's gone. And that was next door to the stamp store, you know. And then there was another little store. Then there was a house, you know, in the middle of the block? There was a little house there. And then they turned it into like a real estate office.

MK: Mm-hm.

AB: I think it was Shelky's or Shelby's Real Estate.

MK: Mm-hm. [END CD1 TRACK 3]

AB: Okay, I remember I got lost I ended up in the police department 'cause my brother took me to the store and he says here, take the package home. And he left me, you know. But I went the wrong way I went towards Canfield, that's where the police station was. My father had to come and get me.

MK: How old were you then?

AB: Oh, I was just a little thing. Maybe 9. You know, so.

MK: So, tell me a little bit about the bakery.

AB: They were very busy, you know.

MK: Who, first who owned it and what were their names and how many of them.

AB: Well, Niebrzydowskis owned it. And then there was Mr. Hoffman, you know, bought it and I don't know what happened to him. He's probably gone, you know. And then, Tony bought you know the one that married my sister, Witkowski. And.

MK: So what's his name?

AB: Tony, Anthony Witkowski.

MK: Wikowski.

EJ: Yeah, here's their wedding picture, my Uncle Tony and my aunt.

MK: And what year what year did he die, do you know?

AB: No.

EJ: I mean, what year were they married? It doesn't have a date on it.

MK: It doesn't have dates on these.

AB: No.

EJ: What year were they married mother? It was a couple years before they were married.

AB: Yeah, I know. Trying to move some, and he don't make notes here.

MK: Mm-hm.

EJ: Well, my aunt lived with us for a while, and then moved out when she married Tony. And I was probably, I don't know, maybe 6 when she, 6 or 7.

MK: So '52?

EJ: In there, yeah.

MK: 1952.

EJ: So he probably bought it around '50.

MK: And he bought it from who?

AB: From Mr. Hoffman. Not the studio, there's Hoffman Studio.

MK: Right, right, this is a different Hoffman.

AB: Yeah, so he had it and then he sold it to the, 'cause he worked in, Tony worked in Hamtramck. Martha Washington Bakery.

MK: Right.

AB: That's where he worked, you know.

MK: And then he bought the Modern Bakery, and how long did they run the Modern Bakery?

EJ: A long time.

AB: Yeah because.

EJ: 'Til they moved to Dearborn.

MK: So they ran it for all those years.

AB: Mm-hm.

EJ: Then they, yeah, and it was still called Chene Modern Bakery when they moved to Dearborn.

MK: Mm-hm.

EJ: Actually it was border line of Detroit.

AB: I think he still would have been there but they raised his rent so high he figured you know, he's working for the landlord.

MK: Mm-hm, is he still alive?

AB: No, Tony just died a couple years ago.

EJ: Everybody is gone except my mother. She's the only one left.

AB: Yeah.

EJ: Even her younger sister is gone.

AB: And her husband's gone too.

EJ: You didn't talk about Helen and George at the bar.

AB: Oh yeah.

EJ: When Helen came in and worked.

MK: Your sister?

AB: Yeah, the younger one. And George, he was Bulgarian.

MK: What was his last name?

EJ: That's George and that's Helen. So he used to work in the bar too.

MK: What was his last name?

EJ & AB: Tatteff

MK: How is that spelled?

AB: T-A-T-T-E-F-F.

MK: Okay.

AB: So. Nice, tall, everybody took him for a policeman. Nice, tall, you know. He got a, he served in the army and my husband got 6 deferrals because they worked on government work. You know they built these big blowers for the ships.

MK: Mm-hm.

AB: And they even got an E from the government, like an award.

MK: Mm-hm.

AB: And Mrs. Kovitz says, oh how come your husband's not in the service? You know. 'Cause her Harry had to go.

MK: So tell me about the Kovitz store, what was the Kovitz store like?

AB: It was like lady's dresses and you know lingerie and first they lived above there but then they moved out.

MK: And what were their names?

AB: Uh, Mrs. Kovitz, I didn't know her name. Her husband's name was--.

MK: Was it Abraham?

AB: It could have been, I'm not sure.

MK: And they had kids?

AB: Yeah, they adopted Harry. I know Harry's name, you know. And but they drafted him so she thought everybody else should go, you know.

MK: And how old was Harry? Was he the same same age as--?

AB: He was close to my age. He was friends with Nunie, you know, the Blochs.

MK: Mm-hm. And what were the Kovitzs like, do you remember as, you know?

AB: Well, when prohibition was lifted Mr. Kovitz, he didn't drink. But for good luck he'd spend the first dollar. And my husband framed it, you know, he had it all those years. I had some painters last year and the dollar disappeared. I had it all those years, you know, breaks your heart.

MK: So Mr. Kovitz came into the bar?

AB: Yeah, and had a little glass of beer and a cigar. So.

MK: So did they get? Did the Kovitzs get along well with you, with you're your.

AB: Oh yeah, anytime Mrs. Kovitz needs some plumbers or wallpaper men and somebody she'd come and ask my dad 'cause he knew all the tradesmen, you know.

MK: And they were Jewish, right?

AB: Yeah.

MK: Was that an issue on the street? Did people?

AB: Oh no, they, you know, we had Three Brothers you know, they were Jewish. People got along with them.

EJ: Kovitz's was next door to the bar.

AB: Yeah.

EJ: That's where I used to go, I used to buy my mother a present on her birthday and I remember going there.

MK: So can you describe the store at all? What it looked like?

EJ: I just remember a lot of ladies' clothes. I don't really remember. I always used to buy my mother a blouse, and Mrs. Kovitz would help me pick it out. And it all, it never cost more than \$5, I remember that.

AB: Yeah they had like, counters, you know, where they had, you know, as you walked in, they had their display windows, they kind of went around you know. It wasn't straight across. It just went around and you walked in the store and there were these counters and the racks of dresses and whatever, and then she was always there. Well her husband died during the war, then she had her nephew bring her to the store. But she thought Harry would take over when he came from the service, but she said Harry's no business man. He was too easy going. Some woman give him a sob story you know and Harry would say, forget this, you know, tax or something. So, he was kind of easy going so, I can see she gave up on Harry taking over the store.

MK: So how long did she run the store?

AB: Well they were there a long time like we were. You know like the original owners, you know. Then they sold out to Mr. Stein, well later on he opened a store in Warren that, you know. He had sales girls there. You know.

EJ: You didn't talk about your father during the Depression, remember how he used to help people.

AB: Oh yeah the bricklayers only worked 3 months out of the year. Now they have these steam tents, they can work all year round. Well, a lot of them, they didn't have compensation like they have now, you know. So a lot of them were down and out so my father would cook soup and bread, they could live on that, you know. Then he'd fix the basement up where if somebody didn't have a place to sleep he kept them there you know. So when my dad died they were like godfathers to us, you know. 'Cause they knew he was a good person. So. Yeah, some woman came, she needed money for a communion dress. My father gave it to her. You know you never got it back, but he never expected it back. You know, that's the type of man he was, you know. Somebody needed help, he was there.

MK: What did, where did you go for first Holy Communion?

AB: Uh, I made my Communion in Monroe in boarding school.

MK: Oh, ok, so you didn't, so like your dress and things you didn't get on Chene St.

AB: No we had to buy 'em in the Fisher Building. We were all dressed in the same kind of dress. But they were at the Fisher Building you know. And the boys wore gray suits, you know, little suits.

EJ: We bought my dress on Chene Street

AB: Yeah, by Zarembka's.

MK: Mm-hm. What about the Blochs? What do you remember about the Blochs?

AB: Well I remember the father. You know, Sissy would come, that was the daughter, and she'd sit by the customers and the father didn't like that. He'd tell her, go back, you know. And the mother was a nice looking woman. But, I don't know if something was wrong with her not. Couldn't say.

MK: Mm-hm, mm-h.

AB: Eventually they had to get a housekeeper.

MK: Mm-hm.

AB: But Sissy, as she grew older, she'd walk in anybody's house, you know. And everybody knew Sissy so they, you know, but the two boys were very intelligent.

MK: And she was mentally retarded I think.

AB: Yeah, the two girls were, you know. Edith too. She, you know, was like Sissy. But I think they had to put Sissy away because she was getting dangerous like. She'd walk behind these old ladies, then hit a stick on the sidewalk and raise their skirt, you know. But people that didn't know her, they're, what is she up to? But she was a pretty little girl, it's just, you know. Everybody knew Sissy, she'd walk in the house, you know years back you didn't lock your doors. So anybody could walk in your house. So, but the father didn't want Sissy to hang around. But she'd come in there and try to talk to you, and the father would say, go back.

MK: What about the two boys? Do you remember Raymond and Erwin?

AB: Yeah, Erwin, he, he was a nice kid. I think he went around with Harry a little bit. But Harry didn't live in the neighborhood so, you know.

MK: So you said Erwin had a nickname.

AB: Yeah, Nunie, they called him. I don't know why, but. And everybody knew Nunie. [END CD1 TRACK 4] And he was quiet but Raymond I know he was in the service. He had a rank.

MK: Yeah he was killed in action.

AB: Yeah.

MK: And there's actually a Veteran's Post named after him.

AB: Oh, okay.

MK: Up there in Southfield.

AB: Yeah, sometimes you wonder what happened to the kids, you know, that you knew.

MK: So what about any of the other stores, what about the, you said the Lipskis, can you tell me about the Lipski family?

AB: Oh yeah, Arthur became a lawyer and--.

MK: He was the son?

AB: Yeah.

MK: Who were the parents' names?

AB: The mother was Stella and the father--I don't know we always called them Mr. Lipski, we didn't call people by their first names. You know you showed them respect.

MK: They owned which building?

AB: Where Jenny had her wallpaper store.

MK: Jenny Levinson?

AB: Yeah. They used to have, her sister and her, they ran a bridal shop next door. And then Dr. Lipski was upstairs. The dentist. And his brother was a lawyer. He had a office on the same floor. And Arthur used to sell Good Humors you know we didn't know they had a son Arthur because we never seen him he was away at college till he came for summer vacation. And Joanne, well, she's married, she lives somewhere in--.

MK: She was the daughter?

AB: Yeah. She went to Wayne, you know. But we didn't know when she, when we got married everybody went different ways.

MK: Do you remember Jenny Levenson at all?

AB: Yeah I remember she, yeah I guess it was a habit of Jewish people. They'd sit on that chair in front of their store, you know, and Jenny would sit there. She had red hair. And I saw her at Cass Theater but she acted like she didn't know me. You know, see she was all dressed up she was like a different person. I hate to say it on Chene Street she dressed up like a beggar. You know, but when she was at Cass Theater you had to look twice she was like you know a different person. But, you never got close to her.

MK: Mm-hm. What about some of the other, some of the other merchants on the street. Did you know any of the other families? You mentioned Zukowskis, but was there anybody else?

AB: Yeah, there was Kukowska's, she came later. Hoffman Studio, they had a daughter, Henrietta. She died, you know, she was overweight. They had trouble with her weight.

MK: Mm-hm, mm-hm.

AB: She went to boarding school same time we did but they sent her home 'cause she couldn't keep up with the kids. You know. She was so heavy that, and uh.

MK: The same boarding school as you went to?

AB: Yeah.

MK: In Monroe?

AB: Mm-hm. Because the nuns had to help her dress and all that stuff.

MK: Mm-hm.

AB: And, but she died just about 5-6 years ago I think. And her father, they had they had a lot of weddings come there. You know, taking pictures. Her father was kind of bossy. "I told you to stand up straight. Straighten your tie!" He was always, all kinds of directions 'cause we'd go by Joanne, we were friends with her and we could hear him. His studio was next door, you know, so. And Mrs., she was a nice lady, you know, polite, always. And there was David on the corner. He had a shoe store, but I don't know his last name.

MK: I think I can find that. He was a Jew--Rosenberg.

AB: Yeah, he was a Jewish guy,.

MK: Right, what do you remember about him?

AB: Well my dad always used to buy us these Buster Brown shoes or like, you know, and he was real nice, you know. Then.

MK: Do you remember what he looked like?

AB: Yeah, he, kind of short, you know. Jewish-looking (laugh). So, and, well when we were away, we lost touch, you know, with him, too. But I remember on holidays my dad would, you know.

MK: Mm-hm. It says here too that there was a psychologist there named Salkowski. Do you remember that at all? In the same, because it says here, Stanley Lipski, Dentist, Joseph Popiel, lawyer.

AB: Yeah, that could be.

MK: And then Joseph Salkowski, psychologist. Of course that was across the street, though.

AB: Oh yeah, they had, we thought he was a fortune teller.

MK: Oh. (laugh).

AB: (laugh) He had all kind of books on, you know, I guess must have been psychology. But when you're a kid (laugh). And he was later on like lotta people. Down and out, they were lucky to hang on to their property, you know. But I remember him. He owed my dad some money so he couldn't pay him so he gave us some kind of books.

EJ: Psychology books?

AB: All kind of books, you know, about animals and stuff. So, all about Shakespeare. He had some books on Shakespeare.

MK: And there's also a guy named here Benjamin Grygiel, a photographer next, that's just before Rosenberg's shoe store.

AB: Oh that, yeah, I know there was a little store and then they went, and there was a hat store there. I don't know who owned that. But then Hoffman, we always went to Hoffman Studio.

EJ: Well everybody did.

AB: Yeah, well no they had one on Forest and Chene that was pretty well known.

MK: Central, Central Art. And there was also Genca on Medbury.

AB: Yeah, so.

MK: There were three big studios.

AB: And they had a big bridal shop where they used to give gifts, you know. Like silverware sets or something so if the whole bridal group went there, that's what they got the bride, you know. Then Rathnaw was on the corner. So that all kind of went together.

EJ: Who owned that Dairy Bar that everybody used to go to?

AB: Oh it was.

EJ: In the middle of the block.

AB: Oh, it was some Greek fellow. And then he sold it to Rose, the beauty operator. She went later on in Lipski's building, you know, she had that beauty parlor there. And there were two sisters, about two doors away, they had a beauty shop upstairs.

EJ: I remember the coffee in the bottles. Going and getting the--.

AB: Oh yeah.

EJ: You were always sending me for coffee over there and it would be like in little milk bottles.

AB: Well, Mr., the milk delivered our cream you know.

EJ: Mm-hm.

AB: So we had a milkman for years.

MK: Did you ever go out to any of the restaurants?

AB: Oh yeah, we went there on the corner was owned by a Greek then uh, it was Polish restaurant, and she moved to Hamtramck, she owned that restaurant upstairs.

MK: Zosia?

AB: Uh, no, Zosia was in Round Bar.

MK: Right.

AB: Uh, they owned that that Polish restaurant.

MK: Where was it?

AB: Zebrowska. She used to live in Cleveland.

MK: Where was the Polish restaurant, Zebrowska's?

AB: Right on the corner, right on the corner, next door to Spire Brothers.

MK: Okay, on the corner of Kirby and Chene. Ok, so what about Spire Brothers, did you shop at Spire Brothers?

AB: Yeah, we went to Ochylskis. There was a Krogers store in the middle of the block. Well then, the couple that owned it, they sold it to Krogers and to Ochylski's were on Chene St.. too.

EJ: Where where was the Jack's Store?

AB: Premium Dairy.

EJ: Yeah with the fish when you walked in.

AB: Yeah he sold uh, that's where Ochylski had that store, he got shot in the robbery.

EJ: Who did?

AB: Ochylski's brother. So. There was some scandal. He didn't like that Krogers moved there and the story I heard, I don't know how true, that he hired some gangsters to bomb Krogers but he didn't want to pay them off or something, you know. When you're a kid, you hear that. And so that's what happened, the gangsters killed him.

MK: I remember he was shot, he was killed.

AB: They tried to make him open the safe and I guess he didn't.

EJ: And who was this?

AB: Ochylski's brother.

MK: This was in the '30s probably, right?

AB: Yeah. There were a lot of bootleggers, too, you know, so.

MK: So what do you remember about bootlegging on Chene St.

AB: Well, not too much, so. But uh.

EJ: What about the Purple Gang?

AB: Yeah, well they were bootlegging you know, and uh.

MK: Do you remember a gang called the Jaworski brothers?

AB: No, no.

MK: They robbed banks on Chene St.

EJ: Really.

MK: Yeah.

AB: Yeah, there was a bank, we had a bank across the street from us on Chene and Kirby.

MK: What bank was it?

AB: It was right on the corner.

EJ: Next to the bakery?

AB: Yeah.

EJ: I didn't know that.

AB: Yeah, there was the bank there. I think they closed up during Depression.

EJ: You remember that? Well that's way back.

MK: Yeah it must have been a ways back.

AB: Yeah, because there was like Vanity Fair Store and then the tailor shop behind Vanity Fair. It was a big building.

MK: Mm-hm. Do you remember a florist shop. Marcuno's Florist?

AB: I know Kelly Florist.

MK: Between Frederick and Kirby? It would have been, it would have been on the opposite side from where your place was. 'Cause on the corner was Three Brothers on your, on the same side of the street as you. And then across the street, a couple doors down would have been, according to this, this florist shop.

EJ: What address was that?

MK: 5311. [END CD1 TRACK 5]

EJ: Oh the other way.

MK: Yeah.

AB: No, that would have been closer to Frederick.

MK: Right, to Frederick.

AB: Yeah, because we didn't go so much that way. We were more towards Harper and Chene.

MK: Yeah, what about the Wrobel Hardware Store?

AB: Oh, Wrobel? Yeah she, they had it there and then when she got married, you know, and, then I guess the parents died and then White Eagle moved there, the bar, from Harper and Chene. They moved in there. And the wife was killed later on. And Mrs. Wilcinski, yeah.

MK: When was she killed do you remember when that was?

AB: Uh, I don't know what year, I know I was about 21, 22.

MK: So you would have been, it would have been, so you were born in '26 right?

AB: '21.

MK: '21, so that would have been '43, '44. Okay.

AB: Yeah, one of our customers shot her.

EJ: One of your customers?

AB: Well, the, her customer, you know, customers came, they didn't put their money in the bank. Sometimes they'd ask you to hold it for them. And a lot of times you didn't want to, but I guess she, what I understand, she held his money and cheated him. Then he got angry and shot her.

MK: In the bar?

AB: Yeah, you know.

EJ: That's White Eagle Bar?

AB: Yeah. And everybody was wondering, well who got shot, they thought one of us got shot, you know. Then they, I saw them go by my window, you know, at the bar, I didn't think nothing of it 'til later on, you know, you found out that she was killed. So.

MK: What about other other crime on Chene Street? Do you remember much of it? I mean, did you ever get robbed at your bar?

AB: No, we were, we never had to call the police, either. If you called the police three times they'd say either you can't handle your bar. So, we never called the police. We tried to settle, you know, our own problems. If somebody got too much to drink, we'd tell him, you know, why don't you go home and you know. Well they'd say, well who

are you to tell me if I have enough, you know. I'd say, well nobody, but I said I won't serve you no more. Then you don't stand there and argue with 'em, you walk away and then they stand there [?]. So you got to use a little psychology I guess. You know. So.

MK: You mentioned earlier, asking me for a.

(End of Side A Tape 1 - Start of Side B Tape 1) [END CD1 TRACK 6]

MK: Okay, so now, let's--I'm going to ask you about the Chene Ferry Market. You mentioned it earlier. What do you remember about the Chene Ferry Market? I mean, what, why was it so important?

AB: Well, it's very busy. People came from all over, you know. And I remember the Jewish people, the first two stalls.

MK: Mm-hm.

AB: And I didn't know their name, but they were good business people.

MK: What kind of stalls were they?

AB: They had like produce. You know.

MK: Was this Blondie?

AB: I don't know. She, as soon as you walked in, she'd say hello, come here and sample this orange or something to get you to buy, you know.

MK: Did she have blonde hair?

AB: No, when I saw her she had like dark hair, maybe it was the mother. Then her sister had this stall next to her. Well later on he told me, when the neighborhood started changing, people start stealing his cash box, you know. They'd lean over and grab it. So he had to quit. His mother died so he tried to run that stand. I guess the market start dwindling. And I remembered Morris. The banana man.

MK: Tell me about.

AB: Yeah, he was always, you know, a good businessman.

MK: Where was he in the market?

AB: He was right in like in the middle. On the end there. So my dad always used to buy fruit from him. You know bananas.

MK: Morris was his first name?

AB: Yeah.

MK: Do you know his last name?

AB: Maybe that was his last name. Everybody called him Morris, you know. As a kid you don't pay attention. I think they had a hot dog stand close, right by him, you know. So. But yeah, all the stalls were taken, you know. And there were a lot of Jewish people.

MK: Did you go there a lot, you yourself?

AB: Well, I used to go with my dad, you know, tag along. And then when we lived on Chene we went, but after we moved not too much.

MK: Mm-hm.

AB: 'Cause they said, after a while we went there a couple times and the man said to us, do you see my car? He says, I just parked my car and it was gone. They start stealing cars and the neighborhood was changing. So, I guess there were a few people hung on as long as Dodge and Packards were there you know. They still had people coming. So. You know, the people liked to live close to work, so when Dodge was there or Packards, you could walk to work. So. But the market was very busy. You know, open twice a week, Wednesday and Saturday. Then that, there was, on the corner was a meat market. And next door was a little bar, Deluxe Bar. And then there was a drug store. And then there was a cleaners. And I'm trying to think what was next to the cleaners.

MK: Well that bar originally that bar was the Mazurka Bar, right?

AB: Yeah, that was, no, they came later after, they were next to the meat market.

MK: Mazurka?

AB: Yeah, they had dancing there, it was like a little night club.

MK: Did you ever go there?

AB: Yeah, once in a while. But not too much you know. Then sometimes we'd go to Warsaw Bar because they had dancing too. The Czopeks, they had Warsaw Bar, they were pretty busy.

MK: What was that like, can you tell me about the Warsaw Bar?

AB: Well, you know when the fellows start coming from the service, they start going where they could meet girls, you know, dancing and, so. Not that they drank so much, but you know, they went there to for the music. And then Warsaw Bar served food. You know, they had good food there. You could smell that cooking, so. But he controlled his

business there was no trouble, you know, he was a hands-on boss, like in other words, he knew what was happening.

MK: His name was Czopek?

AB: Yeah. So he lived on Maxwell, you know. My husband lived on Maxwell, so. Then there was another bar across the street but they weren't there too long. I think it was Astoria something. But I never went there. It was near, near the park, you know. You know at the park they used to have a bandstand.

MK: At Perrien Park you mean?

AB: Yeah. So.

MK: Is that the Crosstown Bar?

AB: No, Crosstown was further up near Forest. So, it was, Astoria Bar, they had like dancing or something. It was next to Kelly's Florist. You know, then there was a real estate office.

MK: Mm-hm. What about the Ivanhoe Café, did you ever go there?

AB: Oh, I was there once, but a lot of people call that the Polish Yacht Club.

MK: Right.

AB: A lot of lawyers and politicians went there. So.

EJ: Still open isn't it?

MK: Yeah. Still open.

EJ: People still go there.

AB: They got short hours though, don't they?

MK: Yeah, just lunches, and then Fridays they're open for dinners.

AB: I think the daughter runs it and her husband.

AB: It's not, the lawyer across the street from me he goes there but he says it isn't safe now. They have no parking there, you got to park on the street.

MK: But they have a security guard out there.

AB: Yeah, but, it was getting bad, you know, so. His wife went one time with a friend of hers because he was out of town. And she was really scared you know. So. He said they were glad to get in their car and take off. And Martin's Bar, they had good food. They were busy. And New Elk, they had good food. You know but they were a little further down.

MK: Mm-hm.

AB: But uh. There's other places you know, but.

EJ: I remember going to Martin's. We used to go every week. Every Sunday.

AB: You liked that duck soup, and we told her it was chocolate soup. Before she knew, she ate it. (laugh)

MK: Describe Martin's Bar, what was it like?

EJ: It was plain. I mean.

AB: All those places were plain.

EJ: Yeah.

AB: But they had a good kitchen. People liked their food, you know. And they, they had like 3, 4 waitresses so you know they were busy. And it's as you walked in the tables were on one side and the other side was the bar, you know. Mr. Martin was a nice man. He's dead now, you know, so.

EJ: Did you go to Martin's too?

RJ: I don't think I ever went to any of the restaurants on Chene St.

EJ: 'Cause your mother was always cooking.

RJ: Oh yeah. I was at home. I don't think we ever went to get anything in the restaurants.

MK: So, what, what are your memories then of the street?

RJ: Well, mostly, I think the one place we used to hang out a lot, once we got towards high school age or in that area was the dairy bar, whatever.

AB: Oh yeah, on Chene and Hendrie there?

RJ: Yeah, just south of Hendrie.

MK: JoGee's or?

AB: No, JoGee's was across the street.

MK: Werners?

EJ: Werners.

RJ: Yeah Werners.

AB: Yeah Werners was it.

RJ: We were in there all the time. It was like happy days, you know, like the show. Same thing. Just go in and everybody just sit down and.

AB: Yeah, you know you knew everybody.

RJ: After a while the owner, "ordering anything else, or if not, get out." (laugh) Because we were just kind of loitering you know after a while.

AB: Taking up space (laugh).

RJ: Or once we left there had a couple of malts or whatever and stand on the corner and just watch the traffic go by you know. That sort of thing. Or, but that was the meeting place for a lot of the people, you know. At that time you had to walk everywhere so you really couldn't go far. We didn't drive or anything so that was the hangout. Before you were old enough. I think there was a pool hall that opened up across the street.

MK: Mm-hm.

RJ: Right across the street from there. But we didn't go in there 'til we were older also because we couldn't come in there. You had to be 16.

MK: Palmer Rec.

RJ: Or 18.

EJ: We used to hang out at Miller's Funeral Home.

RJ: But uh, yeah, we spent quite a bit of time there.

MK: How about bowling. You guys go bowling at Garfield or Chene-Trombly?

AB: Chene-Trombly.

RJ: I went over there a couple of times but we didn't really bowl. We weren't into that, didn't know how to keep score or anything like that.

EJ: Not back then, no.

RJ: Or have the shoes or you know the ball whatever the case now. Not at all. In fact I didn't even pick up bowling until I was in the service. I joined a league up there at, in Alaska.

MK: Mm-hm.

RJ: That's where I got started. But before then, no.

AB: Well, you remember my brother and they were into sports a lot, you know. Maybe if one fellow had a car they all piled in the car, you know. It's not like everybody now has a car. They all were like in a group. So.

RJ: Back then if somebody had a bat, the other guy had a ball, and you had a glove. You know, you could start a game.

AB: Yeah, they used to.

RJ: Play in the alley or somebody had a football during that season and just, that's all we did. [END CD1 TRACK 7] Just find a field and play. We used to play quite a bit at uh, at the Ferry Market. Especially the big parking lot on the Palmer side, 'cause you could bat from there. Anything you hit on the roof at the market was a home run, you know.

AB: Come in, Mark, say hello.

MK: Hi.

RJ: Yeah, that's how it was back then. In the wintertime if you had a hockey stick and a barrel we'd make that a goal.

AB: He might say something.

RJ: But as far as businesses I don't remember too many of them except for like Hoffman, 'cause we had our communion pictures taken there.

MK: Mm-hm.

RJ: And I think the cross street, or closer to Hendrie there was the big Palmer Hendrie, was the clothing store. That's where we went.

MK: Zarembski's?

RJ: Shoes, yeah, shoes...suits for Communion, you know for graduation.

AB: Yeah they had boy's clothes.

RJ: That's where I got all my clothes and my shirts. Whenever. Which wasn't very often. But that was the place. And, I do remember that the Jack's.

AB: Jack's Store.

EJ: Everybody remembers Jack's.

RJ: Because where we lived, it was the middle of the block. And alleys back then used to run north and south, if you had one. There was like a T, it was like a big H probably if you saw it from above, but he was, from our window upstairs I could see the back of his store. So I knew, that was.

MK: This is Premier Dairy? Premier Dairy?

RJ: No, the Jack's Store. This is called Jack's Store.

EJ: It was called Jack's, wasn't it?

AB: No, Premier Dairy.

MK: It was Premier Dairy.

EJ: Oh, okay, I just knew it by Jack's.

RJ: And it was like an old country store.

EJ: Yeah, with the wooden floors, I remember those barrels.

RJ: Wood floors, the barrels, you could smell the fish when you walked in. And I think, oh towards, just before I went in the service I think uh.

AB: Well, yeah, they used to make that, uh.

RJ: The place called The Fire, there was a big fire back there.

AB: A homemade you know, prunes.

RJ: Yeah yeah everything was, you could pick up your own.

AB: And the different cheeses and Jack Epstein.

MK: Jack Epstein, right.

AB: Yeah.

RJ: I remember that.

MK: Do you remember him at all?

AB: Oh yeah.

MK: Jack, what was he like?

AB: He was quiet, nice.

EJ: I kind of remember him, he was kind of a nice looking man. Dark hair.

AB: But his un.

RJ: Dark hair, mustache, as I recall.

AB: Yeah.

EJ: Yeah.

AB: His wife was a red head, they had two boys.

MK: They lived in there?

AB: No, they'd come, you know. Well she was kind of, you couldn't get close to her like him, you know. He was quiet and talked to you and. Business man. They made their own butter at that time. Everybody was going for it. When he first opened the store was messy, you know. But later on, I guess, things changed. Wasn't kept up too good.

MK: Mm-hm, mm-hm.

AB: So.

RJ: And so there was that area and anything kind of south of Kirby, really you go down that way too often.

AB: Well like Martin's, people would go to the market and then they had the back door open you could go and eat by Martin. And then there was a little bakery on that same side. And Max's Jewelry Store. You know. So. Mr Golanski used to advertise Max Jewelry and Ochylski's and some of the others.

MK: Who is Mr. Golanski?

AB: He was on the radio. WEXL. So.

EJ: They lived above Kovitz's store.

AB: Well, there's, their house when they first lived on Kirby. And then.

MK: What was his name, first name, do you remember?

AB: Walter.

MK: Walter?

AB: Yeah.

MK: And what did he do on EXL.

AB: He was a Polish announcer. And Mrs. Grabowska lived behind. There were two flights like. And Grabowska, Mary, she was on the radio too. I forgot, they had a name for her.

MK: What was his name on the radio?

AB: Uh. Antek Cwaniek.

MK: Antek Cwaniek?

AB: Yes. I guess in Hamtramck everybody knew him. You know, they'd listen to the Polish hour and before he used to be in that theater on the stage plays at Fredro.

MK: Mm-hm.

AB: You know, they would chase the kids out. (laugh) from the daytime show, you're trying to hide to stay for the night program. But the lights would go on you know, they'd make room for the theater, you know, the plays.

MK: So they lived above the Kovitz's Store?

AB: Yeah, after a while they moved.

MK: Mm-hm.

AB: So. And they rented out you know, he had to put his mother in a nursing home and that took a lot of money then, you know. So.

EJ: Those flats were really nice. There was like the one across the street where my aunt lived above the bakery. It was really a beautiful flat. And now the bakery is gone. But,

they had leaded glass doors between the dining room and the living room. They had a beautiful fire place. It was like an all tile, it was like a pewabic tile and uh very roomy very big.

MK: Mm-hm.

EJ: And then you could go through the, through the back door across the roof and then there was like a shed in the back or something on the roof and it would go down into the bakery. There were all like three different ways to get into the bakery and when you were a kid that was real fascinating you know.

AB: They had a lot of money and Zarembka's, they had a lot of money, you know. And who else. There was some people had money, you know. And, I guess in Poland it was the style to live above a store or something. And, that's how they built those homes, you know, when people came. And most of the people lived above their businesses. 'Til later on, like the Lipskis, Dr. Lipski, he lived you know behind his office.

MK: Mm-hm.

AB: So, but then, I think after they, WWII and then when they put that expressway that split the neighborhood. That caused a big change.

MK: Mm-hm, mm-hm.

AB: Because I went to school with a Harriet Bernstein and they owned a dry goods store on Chene you know further down, I think near Home Theater.

MK: Right.

AB: Yeah. So.

MK: Did you go to school with her at Northeastern?

AB: Yeah.

MK: Did you ever go to the Bernstein Dry Good's Store.

AB: No, it was a little out of the way.

MK: Too far.

AB: You know.

MK: What was she like, what was Harriet like?

AB: She was friendly, intelligent girl, you know.

MK: Do you know what happened to her or to her family?

AB: No, like I say [END CD1 TRACK 8] you lose track, you know, so. Like some friends we had we'd see them after school or something but, they didn't associate with us.

MK: So she graduated the same year you did?

AB: Yeah, she was in my gym class. She'd always save me a locker, you know, so. We had swimming together, you know, so. I didn't, maybe she went to college. We had one girl, Elaine Max, she was all A student, but they couldn't afford to send her to college you know. Very intelligent.

MK: Do you remember the 1943 race riots?

AB: Yeah.

MK: What do you remember from those you know when you were living there?

AB: We had a cottage where we were off the lake. Then we came home and we heard there was a riot and we saw this street car go by and who's behind the conductor is my cousin. 'Cause he wasn't.

MK: What was his name?

AB: Uh Frank Nowakowski. And we looked and we said, there's Junior. 'Cause his father's name was Frank. They had that Famous Bar on Chene and they had the union hall upstairs.

MK: Further up north there by the boulevard?

AB: Yeah, they were next to [Metropolitan].

MK: Right.

AB: Right in that vicinity. Well they had, when the union had a meeting, all the, you know they were very busy then. But the Jewish people owned the building. Well they saw my uncle had all this business, you know. 5 bartenders, stocked, so they kept raising his rent. So my uncle figured, well a thousand dollars was a lot of money at that time, you know. So he moved on Gratiot and oh let's see, and Outer Drive. So he moved out of there. Well the Jews wanted to run it but they're not for bar business. But the bartender that worked there he said, you shouldn't serve that fellow he's falling off the barstool. He said, oh he can have one more drink it won't hurt him. So the bartender quit, he got tired of it, you know. And if somebody wanted to buy him a drink he said they'd drink tea which is against the law. Don't, if you don't drink, don't take a drink, right. But

that's how they, so that business went downhill. So the beer driver said to me, you know, after New Year's, he said, how was your New Year's? I said, well we had a nice crowd. You know, everybody come over. But he said, you should see your uncle's bar, there's blood all over. He says, they must have had a terrific fight there. He said, I never seen a place like that. You know (laugh). So the Jewish fellow I guess finally sold out.

MK: Do you know their names?

AB: No, no. My uncle, when he moved out of there, then he built a motel with Jankowski on Gratiot in Roseville there, Royal Motel. So.

MK: So back to the riot, so you said you saw the street car. Was it on Chene St.?

AB: Yeah, well, they were pulling people off the street car on Forest and Chene, beating them up.

MK: Who was pulling who off?

AB: So.

MK: Was it, who was pulling who off?

AB: I guess the white people were.

MK: Were pulling black people off?

AB: Yeah. There weren't that many. But they were pulling them off. You know. So, but, they were, you know, and the riots, you were afraid to step out, that, you know, cause you might get shot. I guess the nurses that worked on the women's hospital had to have a police escort.

MK: Mm-hm.

AB: And we, we had to close the bar, you know, because of the riot, because they couldn't deliver things. And uh, by the, it's it's kind of simmered down but the first few days were really bad, you know.

MK: Okay.

AB: You know how they said it started, some were drinking in a blind pig on 12th Street or something.

MK: That was for '67.

AB: Yeah.

MK: But I'm thinking of the '43 riots.

AB: Oh, well I don't know why the riots started. We had blacks in school, we got along with them. They'd even invite us to their house, you know. But we wouldn't go on Forest or Garfield, you know, so. But uh, we had 'em in school, we got along.

MK: Mm-hm.

AB: We had this Beulah, she was like a dancer, every time we had some doings, carnival at Northeastern they had, you know. [To Marian] Help yourself, haven't you got a napkin or something? Well anyway, they, the riot was mostly on Forest and Chene. You know, that's where it seemed to. Maybe it was, it had, is that the one that started at?

MK: Belle Isle, yeah.

AB: Belle Isle. There was a rumor that somebody had a fight and threw some kid in the water.

MK: Right, right.

AB: Yeah. But we didn't know about it 'til we came back, you know.

MK: Were there any black people in the neighborhood at all back then? [END CD2
TRACK 1]

AB: The blacks start coming I think like in that Italian neighborhood, like along that area.

MK: Right, right.

AB: And then we had some in school. Like I say, they said, they'd invite us to their house, you know, and we got along. A lot of them were on the team, you know, no problem. So. I think that people that riot really where people start kind of dividing one another, you know, that second riot. They thought, from what I read, they thought it was going to break out like in Chicago or Florida. They were shocked when it broke out in Detroit. You know. 'Cause people seemed to get along. People kind of worked and minded their own business.

MK: Mm-hm. What about any other memories you have and any any particular characters or people or customers or things that stick in your mind from.

AB: Well, Saturdays we had a lot of transient trade, you know people came to the market or to Ochylski's or to the bakery. They didn't live in the neighborhood, they just came. So some would drop into the bar, you know. And so you know, they're nice people, you got along with everybody. But during the week there was mostly neighborhood. You knew everybody by name and then when the fellows came from the service, you know,

they start coming, they were like, in the gang. And they'd come and you know, either play cards or shuffle board. Like I say, too many fellows didn't have cars, so.

MK: Mm-hm.

EJ: Don't you remember anyone in particular mother?

AB: Well, like I said, they, some fellows, if I mentioned their name I don't think you'd know them. They had nicknames, you wouldn't know their last name or you know. So. I think the Serbians had a reunion up to three four years ago. But somebody started some kind of rumor, you know, so they disbanded, they didn't have the reunions anymore. And people had clubs they belonged to. I think on Russell some clubs.

MK: Mm-hm.

AB: I know my uncle used to make home brew, you know, and you know, when they had these blind pigs, like Russell Hotel, you'd make this beer, well, we kids would be washing the bottles (laugh).

MK: Which uncle?

AB: Uh, the one that had Famous Bar.

MK: Mm-hm.

AB: He was a salesman, he worked for Grinnell, and then for Schlitz Brewery. But, they had the Bowery, you know, big account, but nobody wanted to take their checks. You had to get them certified or something. Because those were hard times, you know. But yeah, he'd say, well he's got a big order, 25 cases, you know, so.

MK: What about numbers, did people run numbers?

AB: Oh yeah, the iceman used to take numbers.

MK: Was he a white guy or a black guy?

AB: Yeah white.

MK: Do you remember his name?

AB: No. And Mrs. Chojnacki would play the numbers so she'd play the numbers so she'd wait for him to give him her selection, you know. And then we knew a couple of numbers men. So. I saw some in the bank, that National Bank, you know. The police too knew who the numbers guys were.

MK: Yeah.

AB: They were protecting them. You know.

MK: Well there was a, I saw an advertisement in one of the St. Stan's yearbooks, from the Polish Bank.

AB: Mm-hm.

MK: Which was the umbrella group for the numbers--

AB: Yeah.

MK: Operation. They were very brazen. Congratulations from the Polish Bank.

AB: Well you know, the Brinskis.

MK: Yeah, Brinskis, right.

AB: He was a big numbers man, and then they had a little grocery store on Grandy, and Kirby. His brother Stanley, then they were at the Polish Century Club here.

MK: And they had that bar, too, Na Zdrowie Panie Bar?

AB: Yeah, they bought that after the owner died, but, it didn't go too good. I guess Joe had it, I guess his name was.

MK: Mm-hm. But that was, I think that was just a front.

AB: Yeah, well naturally. So. There was a candy store before Woolworth's came and they used to have numbers, sell whisky back there. But as a kid all you go is for candy.

MK: What was the name of that? What was the name of that?

AB: I could not, I can picture it but I can't remember it. All we were interested is for the candy, you know, it's 2 for a penny or something.

MK: At the dime store.

AB: And Mary Janes, yeah, first the half of it built, you know, and then there was that candy store and a barber shop, but they didn't want to sell out right away. Then they bought them out later then they put the other half with the owners.

RJ: Uh, the one dime store I remember on the opposite side of this club. There were Lendzons.

AB: Yeah, Lendzons was near Ferry.

MK: Right.

AB: Yeah, so.

MK: They were a little bit more upscale.

RJ: Yeah.

AB: Yeah, Lendzons sold like material and costumes, you know. So.

MK: Glasses and.

AB: Yeah the guy that was manager there he went to exhibit display, they set up these card shows, you know. Well he was coming in our bar for a while, so.

MK: So were you a member of any of the Chene St. business associations.

AB: No. I tell you. We were young, we had a lot to learn. My cousin would say, where did you go to college? I said, Bristol. 'Cause you learned a lot as a kid. You're a green horn and you know, some people are nice some are mean, but you have to take it. And we were so tired after we worked, that, you know, we didn't go out too much. They had the liquor commission, uh, the beverage something news, they had, you could join the association. Well, we'd go to a few meetings to see what's going on.

MK: Mm-hm. Did you advertise much, did you ever advertise in the church bulletins or the *Dziennik Polski* or anything.

AB: No, at Home Theater, one time.

MK: You did?

AB: Yeah, so. But uh, you didn't depend on business like that. 'Cause it was mostly neighborhood, you know.

MK: I wonder if you could just tell me a little bit about these photographs now. Who they are and what what what is this? Uh, like this photo.

AB: Well this is my sister Aurelia and that's me.

MK: And this is inside the bar?

AB: Yeah.

MK: And what year would this be?

EJ: In the '50s. Because remember you had that article about you in the paper.

AB: Oh yeah. Mm-hm.

EJ: That was in the '50s

MK: Okay, and then these pictures. Who are in these photos?

AB: Oh that's Mr. Golanski's home, his mother owned that.

MK: Which is where?

AB: On Kirby and Chene. They were, the alley was right next to them and this is Emily Rosinski, they had the cleaners.

MK: Where was the cleaners?

AB: Right between that drug store on Chene and Ferry.

MK: Sleders?

AB: Yeah, Sleders, and there was a little cleaners there.

MK: Okay.

AB: And this is Mr. Golanski here.

EJ: Here mother, move over.

MK: Okay, is this in front of the cleaner's or what?

AB: No this is the bar here and this is Kovitz's.

MK: Oh this is Kovitz's.

AB: And Mr. Golanski here.

MK: And this is?

AB: And this is his daughter **Leanore**.

MK: Okay, and this is?

AB: Emily, they had the cleaners.

MK: Okay, Rosin--.

AB: Rosinski

MK: Rosinski, okay.

AB: And this is me. Then this is where the restaurant is.

MK: Right right on Kirby. Okay, and then let's take a look at this and this, so.

AB: This is the picture of the building.

MK: Okay, so that's the bar.

AB: Yeah.

MK: And that's the Kovitz store, right?

AB: Right, and then Three Brothers.

MK: And then Three Brothers, right.

AB: There used to be a little house there but then that, it was an empty lot after a while. And then Three Brothers built on it. And they had a gas station in here somewhere. So.

MK: This is from 1940.

AB: You can see the streetcar tracks.

MK: Yeah, and this is even earlier. This looks.

AB: Yeah, that's when, you know.

MK: So this was called Nowakowski's Café?

AB: Yeah, that was you know, my dad's name. But he changed it to Bristol Bar.

MK: Okay, but he owned it when it was still called Nowakowski's?

AB: Yeah.

MK: So before they.

AB: He really.

MK: Prohibition.

AB: Yeah, he moved there, 1925 or '26. And there was a, this was a empty lot. And the house wasn't behind. [END CD2 TRACK 2]

MK: Okay. And then let's see, some of those other ones. That, it's a, so where is this picture taken?

AB: Well that's inside the bar, we had a Halloween party. That's George, and my sister Helen. I'm in there, my other sister.

EJ: Yeah that didn't come out too good.

AB: And Peter and, that was his wife Darlene. He worked for us as a bartender. And that was the customers. So.

EJ: Yeah, here's some that you can look at. I don't think there's any copies of all of those.

MK: So let's see. So that's, we saw that one. Where's this?

AB: That's in the bar.

MK: So these are all in the bar?

AB: Yeah.

MK: That's you?

EJ: The bakery.

MK: That's the bakery. Modern Bakery?

EJ: Yeah.

MK: Okay.

AB: That's the bar too, they had News Year's Eve party, you can see their hats.

MK: And that's that picture of you. That's the Golanski house. Okay. There's that, that's in a bar, too, I see.

AB: Yeah.

MK: Okay.

AB: And that's of the St. Hyacinth's Church.

MK: Yeah, St. Hyacinth's, right.

EJ: Yeah, where's the ones with the. Yeah that's just my aunt, waiting at the bar.

AB: And he baked that cake.

MK: And that's Witkowski?

AB: Witkowski. And that's my husband and me, I stood up to the wedding.

MK: Okay, so they're the ones that bought the Modern Bakery. And who's that?

AB: Customer.

MK: That's in the bar?

AB: Yeah.

MK: Okay.

AB: I don't know why they took his picture.

MK: So the reception was at the bar.

AB: Well, no, he had a cake for the customers, and then we went to a night club. And we had steak dinners. And I remember it 'cause my sister Helen ate two steaks. And, you know, and they were pretty big.

MK: This is in the bar?

AB: Yeah.

MK: And do you know who this is?

AB: This is George and that's his wife, Helen. This is a customer, he was a baker, he worked for Niebrzydowski's.

MK: Mm-hm.

AB: And he worked in Hamtramck bakery, Oaza.

EJ: Here's the copy.

(break)

MK: Can you tell me again your family name originally?

RJ: My father's name was Boleslaw Jedrzejczyk.

MK: Jedrzejczyk?

RJ: Mm-hm. And my mother's name was Stanislaw, and her maiden name was Kolodziejczyk.

MK: Kolodziejczyk. And do you remember what part of Poland they were from?

RJ: No, not really, like I said, the only thing I can remember is just, mention Bendligen a lot.

MK: Right.

RJ: I'm not even sure if it's in Poland or.

MK: I don't think in Germany.

RJ: Really can't tell.

MK: And uh, neither of them are alive?

RJ: Uh, my mother is still alive. My dad passed away in '88. But uh, yeah, mother's still here. But not sure exactly how much she would remember now. Kind of getting difficult sometimes just from day to day her remembering things now.

EJ: Well you were born in Ehrshausen

RJ: I was born in Ehrshausen Germany, yeah. Tried to track that down, I asked people when I was working who came from Europe if they'd heard that name. Didn't seem to, it must have been a very small village or small town.

[END]