

**Interview with Alice Ewald, Pat Bosch, and Melanie Dziordziejewicz  
conducted by Marian J Krzyzowski  
for  
the Chene Street History Project  
February 26, 2003**

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MK: This is Marian Krzyzowski and I'm at St. John's Hospital, the old Holy Cross Hospital in Detroit on Outer Drive. And today is February 26, 2003. I'm here with three individuals to talk about Chene Street and the memories of Chene Street neighborhood. I'm here with Alice Ewald, Pat Bosch, and Melanie Dziordziejewicz. Right? Very good, okay, and the way I like to begin with is first by talking a little bit about the family histories of each of you. And maybe I'll begin with Ms. Ewald first.

(break)

MK: Let's begin with Ms. Alice Ewald and what I like to do is first ask you about your parents. Their names, your dad and mother's, her maiden name, and where they were from.

AE: My father's name was Walenty Kozlowski. He came from Poland. Someplace around Gdansk.

MK: Mm-hm.

AE: My mother was Helena. She came from **Szanadonna** Poland.

MK: And what was her maiden name?

**AE: Bietek.**

**MK: Bietek?**

**AE: Bietek.**

MK: And do you know when they came to the United States.

AE: They were both teenagers that's all I know.

MK: Mm-hm. Do you know when they were born?

AE: The year?

MK: Yeah.

AE: 1892. My father. And my mother, 1903.

MK: So they both came here separately.

AE: Yes they did.

MK: And where did they come to the U.S. when they arrived you know?

AE: My father was in, from Buffalo. And my mother straight to Detroit.

MK: Mm-hm. And did they have relatives in Buffalo and Detroit?

AE: I don't know about my father.

MK: Mm-hm.

AE: But my mother had her sister. Her sister brought her here.

MK: And do you know where in Detroit your father came to?

AE: No.

MK: Mm-hm.

AE: He worked at Ford Motor Company.

MK: And how did your mother come to to Detroit?

AE: First my, her sister brought two of them, my mother and her sister.

MK: Mm-hm. And, where did they live when they came to Detroit?

AE: Chene Street

MK: Do you know the address on Chene Street, or in the neighborhood?

AE: Medbury that's all I know. She owned a corset shop.

MK: Oh, so they lived in in the building there?

AE: I think so.

MK: And it was where on, was it on the corner of Medbury and Chene?

AE: No, it was the middle of the block.

MK: Middle of the block okay. And what was the name of it?

AE: Elite Corset Shop.

MK: And they lived upstairs behind it?

AE: My aunt did, I know for sure. [Aunt is Josephine Golinski - MK]

MK: But your mother when she arrived she came there, right?

AE: Yes.

MK: And do you know what years those were?

AE: No.

MK: Mm-hm. She was born in 1902 [earlier she said 1903] so she was probably in her late teens, early 20's.

AE: She was a teenager, I don't know.

MK: She was a teenager, okay. So it was probably after WWI.

AE: I don't know.

MK: That puts her after the war. Do you know how your parents met?

AE: No. She never told us.

MK: That's okay. Your father worked at at Ford? Which Ford plant, do you know?

AE: Rouge Plant.

MK: Okay. And when they were married, do you know where?

AE: St. Stanislaus.

MK: And do you know what year they were married?

AE: No but I have their marriage certificate.

MK: Mm-hm. Maybe at another time you might be able to tell us. And when they married where were they living? Do you know where they lived?

AE: The first time, no I don't.

MK: Mm-hm. And what year were you born?

AE: 1933.

MK: Mm-hm. Do you have any brothers and sisters?

AE: Two sisters and a brother.

MK: And where are you in the order?

AE: I'm the oldest.

MK: So who are the ones who came after you?

AE: Loretta and Wanda. And then Walter.

MK: Mm-hm. And when you were born, where were you living? Where was your family living?

AE: Chene Street

MK: What, do you know what?

AE: Also between Ferry and Medbury.

MK: Between Ferry and Medbury. Uh, between Medbury. Where where?

AE: It was a big building, I don't remember what it was. I was 3 years old when they moved out. But we lived on the top floor. I think it was some kind of paper company at that time.

MK: Do you know what side of the street it was? Was it the east or west side of Chene?

AE: West side.

MK: The west side, so same side as the corset shop.

AE: Yes.

MK: Okay. And at 3 years old you moved?

AE: Mm-hm.

MK: And where did you move to?

AE: Grandy.

MK: What was the address on Grandy?

AE: 5217 Grandy. 5217 Grandy.

MK: That was between?

AE: Medbury, uh, Frederick and Farnsworth.

MK: Okay. And how long did your family live there?

AE: Until I was in high school.

MK: And was this a single family home? A two-family?

AE: Two-family.

MK: So can you describe it a little bit, you know, what it looked like.

AE: Big house. Second floor.

MK: Did you rent? Did you own it?

AE: No, my father bought it.

MK: Uh-huh. Did you, you lived upstairs? And I assume you rented out downstairs?

AE: Downstairs was rented.

MK: Mm-hm. And where did you go to school?

AE: I started with St. Hyacinth's 'til 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Then I went to St. Stanislaus.

MK: So what years would you would you have been at St. Hyacinth?

AE: '48. I don't know. I graduated in '48. So it would have been.

MK: 8 years. You were eight years at St. Hyacinth?

AE: 1939, '40.

MK: Yeah, okay. And then after St. Hyacinth you went to?

AE: St. Stanislaus.

MK: And you graduated in?

AE: '52.

MK: Okay. Did your family speak Polish at home?

AE: Only Polish.

MK: Only Polish.

AE: They wouldn't let us talk English.

MK: And do you speak Polish now?

AE: Yes I do.

MK: And did your father continue to working at Ford Rouge throughout this whole period of time?

AE: 'Til he retired.

MK: And did your mother work outside of the home or not?

AE: No.

MK: Okay. And when you were at St. Hyacinth, what do you remember of the school?

AE: I played in the band.

MK: What?

AE: I played the drums. (laugh)

MK: You played the drums.

AE: Funny.

MK: I have a photograph of the 1947 St. Hyacinth's band. You must be in it.

AE: Yes I am.

MK: You must be in it. Very good.

AE: We once went to the National Championships.

MK: Uh-huh. Yeah that was, it was well known.

AE: I have that picture.

MK: Yeah, it's a great photo. In front of the church.

AE: Yeah, I'm the one with the drum.

MK: Okay, I'll make a note of that. So tell me about the band, the band performances. What was it like?

AE: Father Kraus was the leader.

MK: How is, how is it spelled his name? Do you know how to spell his name?

AE: K-R-A-U-S I think.

MK: Mm-hm.

AE: He was strict. He was good. We once went to National Championships. We marched downtown. All the parades.

MK: Where did you win your championships, where was the event?

AE: Leamington, in Ontario.

MK: Mm-hm. I assume you enjoyed it?

AE: Yeah. We spent the night up there on a farm.

MK: Mm-hm. What else do you remember about St. Hyacinth's around that period?

AE: (pause) Just a good school.

MK: Did you have any nuns in particular that stick in your memory?

AE: Sr. Mary Desideria. She was my interpretor because I couldn't talk English.

MK: Mm-hm.

AE: So she was my interpretor.

MK: And how long did it take you to learn English?

AE: Wasn't until the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade I think. Because my father forbid us to talk English at home.

MK: And was she a friendly nun, was she helpful?

AE: She was very nice, very nice nun.

MK: Very nice. Any other of the nuns that you remember from that period?

AE: She was my favorite.

MK: Mm-hm. Were there any that were not favorites, I mean that were on the other end of the spectrum?

AE: No.

MK: And did you, were you involved in any other school activities besides the band?

AE: No.

MK: So you graduated in '48 from St. Hyacinth's and why did you choose to go to St. Stanislaus?

AE: I won a scholarship.

MK: And when you were at St. Stan's, what do you remember of again, same type of questions, you know first kind of other activities besides schools that you were involved in. other clubs or anything?

AE: Two years in band.

MK: Mm-hm.

AE: And that's it. Choir.

MK: Why did you only stay two years in the band?

AE: I was the only girl there in the band. And I didn't like that.

MK: And you were a drummer?

AE: Yes I was.

MK: Well that's uh.

AE: Oh and I played the piano. For all the performances at Stannies I was the one who played the piano for it. Every performance.

MK: So you were in the band, you were in the choir. Did you did you attend dances? Were there activities at St. Stan's that you were involved in?



AE: I used to teach the other kids how to dance for any performance.

MK: What kind of dances did you teach?

AE: Polka.

MK: Mm-hm. Do you still dance polkas now?

AE: Oh yeah.

MK: And do you remember the dances themselves. Were they held at St. Stan's?

AE: It was like school plays, yeah.

MK: Mm-hm. Okay. While you were at St. Stan's were there things you did outside of school with other students?

AE: No.

MK: What about hanging out? Did you go to a place? Did you go to a.

AE: No.

MK: So like you didn't go to Werners? Or Calabros or anything like that?

AE: Straight from school we had to be home.

MK: Mm-hm. And did you speak Polish at St. Stan's? Did you have to or not?

AE: I took it.

MK: Mm-hm. And what about the nuns at St. Stan's? Do you remember any of them?

AE: No one special.

MK: No one sticks in your mind.

AE: Not any special ones.

MK: Mm-hm. What about when you performed, was there anyone in music, in the music department there that you particularly, you know?

AE: The nuns?

MK: Yeah.

AE: The nun who, she was giving us piano lessons. And I forgot her name. It was something with a D.

MK: And were there lessons at at school?

AE: Yeah after school.

MK: After school. In the school building.

AE: Yes.

MK: Mm-hm. What about the drums? Where did you pick that up?

AE: I don't know. They just needed a drummer I guess and.

MK: So did you take lessons?

AE: Yes.

MK: From where?

AE: Fr. Kraus.

MK: Again in the school?

AE: Mm-hm.

MK: What about your parents. Did they go out at all? Did they go out to dances?

AE: Boblo.

MK: Dom Polski or stuff like.

AE: Dom Polski.

MK: And after graduation from high school where did you go?

AE: Uh, Bell Telephone.

MK: Did you work while you were at St. Stan's?

AE: No, uh, no not then, no.

MK: So you graduated from St. Stan's and you went to work for Bell Telephone.

AE: Bell Telephone.

MK: And you still lived on Grandy?

AE: Uh, McDougall.

MK: Oh, so when did you move from Grandy?

AE: When I graduated from uh, well the year I graduated would be '48, from Hyacinth's, we moved.

MK: To where?

AE: To McDougall?

MK: What was the address on McDougall?

AE: 5217. Yeah, 5721.

MK: So it was on the west side of McDougall. 5721.

AE: 5721.

MK: It was north of Palmer.

AE: Yeah, between Palmer and uh.

MK: Hendrie.

AE: Hendrie.

MK: And again, was this, what kind of a house was this?

AE: It was a two-family flat.

MK: Two-family flat. And again your parents rented one part, did you live upstairs or downstairs?

AE: Upstairs.

MK: Do you know why your parents moved from the other location?

AE: Because my mother was expecting a third baby.

MK: Oh, and you need more space.

AE: And we only had two bedrooms there.

MK: Mm-hm. And how long did you live on the McDougall house?

AE: 'Til I got married.

MK: Which was what year?

AE: Uh, let's see. I'm married 46 years.

MK: So let's see. 50 would make it 52, and add 4. So it's 56.

AE: '56, '56, '57, '56.

MK: Where, did your husband come from the neighborhood?

AE: Next door neighbor.

MK: Oh, and what was his name?

AE: Ronald.

MK: And how did you meet.

AE: Neighbors.

MK: Did he go to school also at St. Hyacinth's or St. Stan's?

AE: No, no, no.

MK: Where did he go to?

AE: Greusel.

MK: Is he still living?

AE: Yes he is.

MK: Where did he go to high school?

AE: Uh, Greusel.

MK: That was a middle school. Did he go to Northeastern?

AE: No, no, he went to Greusel. Greusel had a high school.

MK: Greusel was a middle school.

AE: And a middle school.

(ANOTHER VOICE): Yeah because I lived across the freeway from it.

MK: Yeah. So he would have gone to the local high school was Northeastern.

AE: I always took for granted, I didn't know that. He went to St. Elizabeth's for a while.

MK: School?

(AV): They had a high school there?

AE: They did. So that's so that's where he went.

MK: He wasn't Polish though, was he?

AE: No.

MK: And uh.

AE: Couldn't say a word in Polish.

MK: So you were married in '56, where?

AE: At St. Stan's.

MK: St. Stan's. And after you were married, where did you live?

AE: On McDougall for about a year or two and then we moved to Ferry where I live now.

MK: Mm-hm. And your husband worked someplace at the time? Where was he?

AE: He was at the, he was at steel treating

MK: Mm-hm.

AE: He's a truck driver now.

MK: Mm-hm. Okay great. Uh, I think I'll stop with that right there and then we'll move on. Uh, to uh.

(VOICES) At least we know what we're in for.

MK: Good you know what you're in for, right.

(VOICE): Yeah, but you're rattling off addresses and.

MK: Melanie. Uh, why don't we begin with the same questions, I want to ask you about your folks, their names, and where they came from.

MD: Okay, my mother—Let me start with my dad. My dad was Raymond Goike. And he was born here in Detroit. His parents came from Poland. My mother's maiden name was Maron.

MK: How's that spelled?

MD: M-A-R-O-N. And both my grandparents came from Poland also.

MK: Did she, where did she come from:

MD: My mother?

MK: Um-hm. Yeah. She was born—

MD: Born here.

MK: In Detroit. Do you know what part of Poland her parents were from?

MD: No, I don't.

MK: and do you remember the years your parents were born?

MD: Yeah. My mother was born in 1923. And my dad was born in 1922.

MK: and were they born in the area? On the east side? Or do you know where—

MD: Yeah, they were both born on the east side.

MK: Okay. And where did they meet? Do you know how they met?

MD: No, no I don't. I think it was at a dance, but I can't be certain.

MK: and do you know what year they were married?

MD: 1942. Yeah, 1942.

MK: and do you know where?

MD: Mm-hmm. At Immaculate Conception in Poletown.

MK: Okay. So they were living at that time in the neighborhood there. And do you know where they were living?

MD: On Kantor

MK: Do you know the address on Kantor

MD: No.

MK: Do you know between what and what block?

MD: Between Moran and what was that other street, closer to the Boulevard

MK: Elmwood?

MD: Elmwood.

MK: And what side of Kantor, north or south?

MD: I believe the north side.

MK: And what year were you born?

MD: '54

MK: did your parents speak Polish, or German, or Kaszub—I assume they were Kaszub.

MD: Yes, they spoke both. My mother just Polish. My father both Polish and Kaszub. Especially when they didn't want us to know what they were talking about. Because we as children did not speak the language.

MK: And how many siblings do you have?

MD: I have 2 brothers and 1 sister.

MK: So kind of give me the order and names.

MD: I have an older brother Larry, then my sister Monica, then myself, and a younger brother Greg.

MK: And what are the ages, kind of? The years of birth.

MD: No, I don't know that. Let's see, Larry is 55? 52, 49, and 46.

MK: So you were born again in what year?

MD: '54.

MK: When you were born, where were your parents living?

MD: On Edsel Ford.

MK: So they moved from the Kantor location

MD: They lived upstairs from my grandparents for a short time.

MK: and what was the address there?

MD: I—

MK: So it was Harper, is that what you're saying?

MD: On Edsel Ford?

MK: Yeah, the service drive.

MD: Oh yeah, I know that address. It was 3415 East Edsel Ford.

MK: East, 3415. So it was on the south side, or on the north—

MD: Across from Greusel.

MK: Okay, yeah, so it was on the—and how long did you live there?

MD: Probably 25 years.

MK: Oh. So that was a permanent kind of a place for you. And what did your dad do?

MD: He was a tool and die maker for Long Manufacturing

MK: Which was located where?

MD: It was in Hamtramck, then it relocated to Sterling Heights. And then it was bought out by Borg Warner.

MK: And did your mom work outside of the home?

MD: No.

MK: And where did you go to school?



MD: Grade school? Immaculate Conception. And then I went to high school at St. Stannie's. and I graduated.

MK: So you went all 8 grades in Immaculate Conception?

MD: Mm-hmm.

MK: Tell me about Immaculate Conception. What do you remember of it?

MD: Well, it was a nice school. I mean it was, everyone was friends, it was very close knit, our whole community went there, all the neighbors and everyone that I know. My husband, I found out years later that my husband even went there. Now, but he

MK: Yeah, I interviewed somebody from Immaculate Conception, Maleszyk. His name was Maleszyk. What about the nuns who taught there. Do you remember any of them particularly, one way or the other.

MD: Sister **Virgilin**, she was the principal. She was a very wonderful nun.

MK: Any other of the nuns?

MD: No, I only remember my third grade nun. Sister **Clothelde**, she was pretty mean.

MK: How's that spelled?

MD: I have no idea.

MK: **Clothelde**?

MD: **Clothelde**, yeah.

MK: they were Felicians?

MD: Oh yeah.

MK: And do you remember the pastor?

MD: Monsignor Cendrowski?

MK: Yeah. What was he like?

MD: Strict. Very strict. I mean if you even coughed in church he would stop everything and he'd look at you and give you glares.

MK: I meant to ask Alice—Bishop Woznicki was pastor at the time you were there. Do you remember him?

AE: Yes I do.

MK: What do you remember about him?

AE: He was strict. I can't think of anything else.

MK: One thing I'm trying to get at with questions about them is to what extent did they come to the school, did you see them in the school buildings, were they in the classes at all?

AE: Especially for report card time. He would read our marks and—

MK: the bishop came in?

AE: Oh yes. You'd have to stand up, kiss his ring. And then he would read our marks and say you did good, you did bad, whatever.

MK: In English or Polish?

AE: English.

MK: What about Monsignor Cendrowski?

MD: Oh yes, he always came in at report card marking. And he too would read us our grades and tell us whether or not we were good or bad or "try harder."

MK: So then, what about in school, were you involved in any extracurricular activities at Immaculate Conception?

MD: No. High school more.

MK: and you went to St. Stan's. What year did you graduate from St. Stan's?

MD: 1972.

MK: so that was one of the last classes.

MD: Last classes.

MK: It may have been the last—

MD: No. There were 3 other ones.

MK: Yeah. Okay.

MD: Or 2 other ones.

MK: So when you went to St. Stan's, what was the decision, did you want to go there, was that a pre-ordained—

MD: No, I wanted to go there.

MK: You wanted to go there.

MD: Yeah.

MK: And what do you remember of St. Stan's when you were there? You were there from '68 to '72.

MD: Gosh I remember the dances, basketball games, football games when we had them, before they were discontinued.

MK: When were they discontinued?

MD: I think the 2<sup>nd</sup> year that I was there, that would have been my sophomore year. But I mean, I liked it, I was a cheerleader and I went to all the games at that time.

MK: And what about any memorable nuns?

MD: Sister Ferdinand. She taught home ec.

MK: She's, I think, still alive.

MD: I think so.

MK: She's 98 years old, I think. She lives on Farnsworth.

MD: Another nun, I can't remember her name.

MK: Sister Ferdinand, right, I think she's at the motherhouse.

MD: Yeah, with my aunt, she is, I know.

MK: Okay, what about, so any other nuns you remember?

MD: No.

MK: So what did you do outside of school during high school?

MD: A little restaurant called Jo-Jo's. Dan and Vi's.

MK: Was that Jo-Ge's?

MD: Jo-Ge's, yeah.

MK: Can you tell me about Jo-Ge's, what you remember about Jo-Ge's?

MD: they had the best hamburgers and fries ever. It was just or place. We'd go there on lunch hour or after school and we enjoyed it.

MK: Can you describe it, what it looked like?

MD: Gosh, I can't even remember. Just the little stools around the counter.

MK: And was it the same people behind the counter, working?

MD: Yes.

MK: Do you remember their names?

MD: I don't' remember their names, no.

MK: And were there any other places you'd hang out in high school?

MD: Belle Isle. On the weekends.

MK: And what about your brothers and sisters? Did they, were they involved in anything? They all went to St. Stannie's, I assume.

MD: No

MK: Where did they go?

Md: My brother went to St. Joe's.

MK: The commercial school?

MD: Catholic school.

MK: Yeah. The one on Gratiot.

MD: Yeah. That's closed down now.

MK: Yeah. Right.

MD: And my sister went to St. Stannie's for only a couple of years. And my younger brother, no, we went to Osborne. Because by that time we had moved.

MK: So when were you moved?

MD: '71. The year before I graduated.

MK: So where'd you move to?

MD: 6 and Hoover.

MK: What street?

MD: Dresden.

MK: What's the address?

MD: 17184 Dresden.

MK: And you would commute to St. Stan's that last year? How'd you get there?

MD: I drove.

MK: All right. You had your own car?

MD: Mm-hmm.

MK: Where was parking there?

MD: In front of the school. Yeah, right on Medbury. And there was a parking lot. Right next to the school. By the alley.

MK: I want to get back to the Goike Snuff Shop at some point, but I just wanted to get the connection between your family and the Goike business.

MD: That was my grandfather.

MK: So it was your dad's—

MD: My dad's dad.

MK: What was his name?

MD: John.

MK: John Goike? So he's the one that actually started that business?

MD: No, not John. John was the son. I'm sorry. It was Augustus, or August.

MK: August Goike? And he was the one that came from Poland?

MD: Mm-hmm.

MK: Okay, great. So we'll get back to that.

MD: Okay.

MK: Pat are you ready to kind of follow suit here?

PB: I hope.

MK: Okay. I'd like to talk a little bit about your family and your folks, their names and where they were from and trace kind of how your family ended up in the neighborhood.

PB: Okay, my dad's name was Walter Krygel, K-R-Y-G-E-L. My mom was Estelle Drag [pronounced the Polish way, with diacritical a], D-R-A-G was her maiden name. My dad's nickname was really the name that people knew him by. Hardly any one ever—NO ONE called him Walter—his name was Mackie. They called him Mack. And my mom's family lived in Hamtramck. And her real name is Stella. She despises that name. So she goes by Estelle. When she was younger, at parties, she changed her name to Rochelle, cuz she thought it was much more with it as opposed to being so Polish. My parents met at a party, over some food. They were sharing food and struck up a conversation. I don't know the exact year that they were married. Nor do I really know the church they were married in. I presume it was St. Florian, because that would be my mom's home parish. But after they were married they lived with my dad's mother, my grandmother, at 5458 St. Aubin, right near Ferry. It was a 3-family home. My mom and dad lived upstairs with my grandmother. My dad's brother, who's his twin, lived downstairs in the other flat with his wife. And my grandma rented the third flat to some neighbors. They were family of neighbors. And it was a very closely-knit atmosphere on the block. I was born in 1941. And then during the war years, my dad was drafted. So I can remember maybe 3 or 4 years old and having a Christmas tree set up with his picture. He was in the Navy, and his picture was there in lieu of his actual presence. And I can remember my mom joining other Navy wives who, they met through boot camp, and taking the streetcar downtown, with me in hand, and the other lady would have her daughter in hand, and we'd sort of team up to watch the Thanksgiving Day parade down on Woodward. Or we'd go to Belle Isle. And then so we'd also like take pictures to send to our dads, wherever they were, in the Philippines or wherever. I think one of the most traumatic moments of my childhood was, my dad's ship was hit right before the war ended and all they got word of was that his ship was down, and, but we didn't know if he was alive or not. And that was pretty scary. [breaks down] My dad died when I was 19. So he died in 1960, I believe it was. He was born on September 13<sup>th</sup>, 1917. My mom was born October 15<sup>th</sup>, 1918. The reason I get a little emotional about my dad is because he died very unexpectedly. He was very young. He was only about 42. And he had high blood pressure. But no one understood the dangers that extreme high blood pressure posed, so it was pretty traumatic for my

whole family, and my mom was a very young widow. They were only like a year apart, so it was a tough time.

MK: Were you living still on St. Aubin at that time?

PB: No. We lived on St. Aubin with my grandmother until my parents bought a home at 19394 Stotter, just across Van Dyke from the hospital here. And my parents bought that home in about 1949. But they rented it out for a short time before we actually moved there in I think it was 1950. I had attended St. Stanislaus grade school up until the 5<sup>th</sup> grade. And when we moved to Stotter, I transferred to Our Lady Queen of Heaven school, and that's where I graduated in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. I believe the year was 1954. But I graduated from St. Stanislaus in 1958.

MK: So you went back to St. Stannie's for high school. Why'd you go back to St. Stannie's for high school?

PB: My dad wanted me to go to Dominican because he felt that I would be prepared for college better by going to Dominican. But I just felt like I wanted to go back there. A lot of my friends were there. I still kept in touch with even my best girlfriend. Her name was Christine Wisniewski. And she lived at the corner of Dubois and Ferry. And we were the best of friends. So I wanted to go back there. And it was a good school, I felt.

MK: How'd you get there?

PB: Three busses.

MK: What busses did you end up taking?

PB: Took the Van Dyke to Harper. The Harper, which in those days, yeah, it went to like Milwaukee, I believe it was. And then at Milwaukee we transferred to the Chene bus. And what was interesting is that I had made friends at Our Lady Queen of Heaven school, and 2 of my girlfriends didn't know where to go to school. Back then, people were going to St. Anthony's or Dominican or St. Cyril or St. Thomas. And none of those schools appealed to me, cuz I felt I wanted to go back to St. Stanislaus. So the 2 of my friends, Wanda Felcyn and Carol Krysiak or [Cry-sack] as she was known, joined me. So the 3 of us, we were good company, because we'd all meet at the bus stop and then take the 3 busses daily to the high school. And in high school I played basketball, so that meant coming home, changing clothes, and running to evening practice, and then coming home on the bus, by myself, as late as ten o'clock. But I never was afraid. And I can remember standing at the corner of Milwaukee and Chene, it was pitch dark. I mean, it was really dark, and I never, ever had any cause to be alarmed, nor did my parents. It was just a different world back then. So as I got to be a senior, yeah, about a senior, one of our friends had a car, one of our high school friends had a car, so I'd get rides. Because she lived out in Eastpointe, what is now Eastpointe. yeah, East Detroit. So, you know, it was just a different way of living. And being that I went to St. Stanislaus grade school, I was really like very, you might say, indoctrinated in all the activities. I can remember my

kindergarten teacher, it was Sister Audrey, I was there for like 2 days, my birthday being in March—I was born March 1<sup>st</sup>, 1941—my mother felt that I was too old to be in the kindergarten class of that time frame, when they were accepting children, so she talked to the principal, whose name I can't remember right now, but she said to the principal, she felt I didn't belong in kindergarten cuz I would be a year behind if I went with the class I was supposed to be in. So they said, well let's go to the first grade and talk to the sister then, who was Sister Horessima, and what they did is they made me read a chart on the wall, and there were like monkeys on it and I had to count the monkeys and count the balls and I could do all that. And I could speak Polish as well as English, cuz being we lived with my grandmother, she only spoke Polish. And so I knew that as a second, I was bilingual. And, you know, in the first grade there you sat 2 by 2, because you shared your seat with someone. And then in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade you shared your seat with your angel, who had to sit next to you, right?

MK: I remember that now.

PB: And the ink wells, the seats had all the ink wells. And you had to sit very, very straight and you'd have to put your hands behind your back so that your hands would not get you in trouble. I had a really mean sister in the second grade, and I cannot remember her name offhand. Something with a B. Third grade I had Sister Sanctia, that was a very important year because that was when you made your First Holy Communion. Which was a very big deal back then.

MK: Sanctia would be spelt how?

PB: Excuse me, I think Sister Sanctia was 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Sister Bertrand, B-E-R-T-R-A-N-D, was my 3<sup>rd</sup> grade sister, who prepared us for the Holy Communion. And that was a very big deal, you know, because it was in the big church and it was pomp and circumstance. But close to that moment of First Holy Communion was also the processions that took place, right, I'm sure everyone remembers when it was the month of May, we had outdoor processions. It started in the school and then we walked around, that would be Medbury? And there were houses across from the school and we always thought the people that lived there were so lucky cuz they could be right there with the procession on their doorstep. And then we'd process from the school around to where Stannie's Bar used to be and then back into the church. And that was a very special moment to a little child because you could dress up in a gown. I remember, I think it was St. Stanislaus, one of their anniversaries, whether it was the Golden Jubilee I believe it was, and our class was chosen to wear these gold gowns.

MK: '48 was the Golden Jubilee.

PB: Was that the Golden? That's about right. And I remember that my girlfriend Christine and I were very excited because everyone wanted to be in that procession, but they were charging for the gowns, and they wanted everyone to look alike, I think it was. Or else you had a pattern. Something, there was some uniformity. And Christine's family was very, you might say, hurt, they weren't very wealthy. And I remember the trauma of



us thinking that I would be in it but she wouldn't be in the procession because she couldn't afford the gown. And finally her godmother came across with the money and both of us were partners, because we're both very short, and we were both together in that procession. We carried these gladiolas, which I'd never seen a gladiola, you know. For a little kid it was a big flower. And then I remember for Easter Sunday —

MK: Getting back to that, do you remember if there was a picture taken? Because I have a book.

PB: I do remember taking some pictures but I don't believe I would have it.

MK: But have you seen the book, the anniversary book?

PB: No, I haven't.

MK: It's huge, 250 pages.

PB: Oh my gosh, so we must have been in there.

MK: So I'm sure, there's just hundreds of photographs. It's really a nice—I photographed it, I have a copy of it.

PB: That was a very big deal.

MK: It was.

PB: I do remember that. The other big deal was when it was Easter Sunday, remember you fasted the whole 40 days of Lent, no meat kind of thing, so everything culminated with that early 5 am procession, with the sunrise service. At least I remember that we'd get up really early, and you'd have to dress in white. And it was a big deal for a little girl because your mom would take you to the hairdresser so you'd have your hair done up really pretty and all that kind of stuff. But we carried lilies, and it was a very holy of holy times, you know? Plus there was a whole religious, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, Good Friday where you'd go for the services between 12 and 3 and you couldn't speak at home, it was very somber, you couldn't play music, couldn't do any of that sort of stuff. You just went to church. And my grandma always seemed it say, it rains on Good Friday, and invariably it did, it seemed to rain most Good Fridays. Then on Holy Saturday you took your basket for blessing, Swieconka is that? And you'd have all the symbolic foods in that basket—horseradish and kielbasa and my grandma would make this homemade bread, which is coffeecake, and it was really, back then, they didn't have like furnaces so the dough had to rise and you would put it under the pierzyna. And as a kid you'd go in there and take a taste of it, steal a little taste, and grandma would say, who was in there, cuz how could she tell? Well because as a kid you didn't realize that it rises, by stealing some it, it falls down. But that was always such a weird thing as a child to see that this bread is rising under the covers. And I remember like in the kitchen there was the wood burning stove. There was no central heat, so the kitchen was heated by the

PB: The dining room had no heat at first. When I was a little girl, all we had was the old pot bellied stove in the bedroom. I think that was with coal. And at night you know you could see the glowing embers in that big stove. And after the war years I remember we got an oil heater, and that was always smelly and then a lot of times it would go out and it was traumatic about lighting it and stuff like that. But the other thing that was kind of fun living on St. Aubin, it was a busy street.

MK: Were the tracks across the street from you?

PB: No.

MK: The tracks were behind the next row of houses?

PB: Right. Our house was closer to the, Ferry, closer to Ferry. And I can remember when we were playing out in front of the house, there was an African American funeral coming down the street. And everybody was dressed so beautifully. They all had on gloves. And they were almost marching in precision order. I never found out who it was that died, but as a kid we were really impressed with this magnificent funeral. Because we hadn't seen anything like it. On a daily occurrence, you know, the milk man would come with blocks of ice on his truck, and it was always fun to get a few chips of that ice and suck on it cuz that was really fun.

MK: Which company was it, do you remember which—

PB: I wouldn't remember, no.

MK: Rosebud, or—

PB: couldn't remember. But we used to have one of those old fashioned refrigerators that functioned on ice. It was an ice box. It was not a refrigerator. And it was really tiny. So that meant we'd have to go to the butcher shop practically every day. And my grandma and I would go down, about a block down, to Parguski, I think was the name of the store. It was at St. Aubin and it must have been Kirby, because that would be the next cross street I think.

MK: Going south.

PB: Going towards St. Albertus. [interruption] Anyway, I'd better stop reminiscing. My uncle owned a gas station, Dixie's Gas Station, at the corner of St. Aubin and Ferry.

MK: What was his name?

PB: His real name is Adam. He and my dad were twins. But like the old days, everybody had a nickname. So his name was Dixie. And it was a gathering spot for a lot of the

gentlemen in the neighborhood. There was a pipe that connected something. But the guys would sit on this pipe. And they'd just sort of hang out there.

MK: Which corner was it on?

PB: It was on the corner—let me think—it would be, north or south, it would be south, south east? If I've got my directions right?

MK: So,--

PB: It was right at the corner of St. Aubin and Ferry. There used to be Bill's ice cream shop across the street, and a bar whose name I can't remember kiddy-corner from the gas station, and I cannot remember what was on the other corner.

MK: So this was the southeast corner.

PB: Probably the southeast—

MK: What sort of gas station?

PB: Gulf. And he had a repair shop too, he repaired cars too. And right next door to him was the neighborhood butcher shop.

MK: On St. Aubin?

PB: Mm-hmm. Janiszewski I think was the owner's name. And they were very prosperous, because they were one of the few people to own a car. A Buick. They kept it really nice and spotless in their garage. Of course another reason that that became important was when my brother was 2 years old—I have one brother, who was born in '46—his name is Robert—he has changed his name from Krygier to Cole, C-O-L-E. But when he was roughly 18 months, he was playing in the yard on St. Aubin with my cousin who lived downstairs, and my, somebody gave him a sucker, one of those Dum-Dum suckers? And my brother tripped and the sucker lodged in his throat. So this would probably be around '48. And back then no one knew about the Heimlich Maneuver. And it was, my brother was choking to death. There were some African American people that moved next door, and yet, there was a disparity between White and Black at that time, there was this sensitivity, you might say, that, oh the Black people are moving in, the neighborhood's going downhill. So there wasn't a lot of neighborly conversation going on between Whites and Blacks in those days. But when the neighbor lady saw my brother choking, she hopped over the fence and she tried, she came very close to getting that sucker out, but she couldn't. And so my mom ran over to the butcher shop. My dad was working. He worked at Dodge Main, and he took a bus to work. The butcher was one of the few people that was there with a car. So he kept his apron on, just jumped in the car and they took my brother to, I think the closest hospital was on the Boulevard. And they got the sucker out. But in the car he was turning blue. My mother was so petrified. So he made it through that. But I remember the conversation that if it wasn't for my brother, if

it wasn't for that neighbor lady jumping the fence to help, it sort of made a more friendly, trusting relationship between neighbors at that point. And that was really rare for that occurrence at that point in time. But then there was another incident that wasn't so friendly. My dad was washing his car in the alley, and if you recall that old neighborhood, there were some homes in the alley. I don't know if that was called Lucky Place or what the name of that back end was. But something happened. I wasn't there to know precisely and parents don't tell their kids everything when you're about 8 or 9 years old. But my dad got into a fight with one of the Black men. There was this feeling of being threatened, because the white population was starting to feel that the Blacks were moving in, and it was a very traumatic time cuz people weren't trusting each other.

MK: This was, what years was this?

PB: Approximately '48, '49. And my dad had a pretty short temper in his day. He was known for just kind of being very friendly and sociable but he was also a person that didn't like to take anything from people. So this Black guy and he got into a fight. What my dad didn't know is that this man was a professional fighter. And he took my dad's t-shirt, and he pulled it over his head, and he had him boxed in, so to speak. He couldn't move his arms. He beat my dad up so bad. His face was all, I remember him laying on the couch all bloody and he had this ice pack on his face. And everybody, all the neighbors, white neighbors, would come over and you know, say, this should never have happened to you, blah, blah, blah, you know. But it was a very traumatic thing because how often do you get beat up in your own back yard kind of thing. But it was like right after that that I think my parents decided to leave grandma's house and move to this neighborhood. And it was a decision like, it was time to move up in the world. And this was like the Polish Grosse Pointe area back in the early '50s.

MK: By this you mean—

PB: the Van Dyke, Outer Drive, 7 Mile area. And it was becoming the most desirable place to live. For Polish Americans who were starting to see that it was time to leave the old neighborhood. My uncle and—let's see, who was the first to buy here—my aunt, my dad's sister, had bought a lot on Suzanne, right across from Lipke Park, right before the war. But that, it was all farmland, and the land stayed fallow until they built their home in the early '50s, and then we followed on Stotter, and as I said I went to Our Lady Queen of Heaven school. Outside of that—

MK: I wanted to ask you something that we didn't touch on. Where in Poland were your families from?

PB: I may have it written down where my dad's family came from. I don't know off hand. I do know this, that my grandmother---my dad's mother—is Josephine Baranowski, and his father is Walter Krygier, K-R-Y-G-I-E-R. The story is that back in Poland, where they lived, there was either—I don't know the Polish history well enough to know—but all the Polish men were being forced to fight a war, whether it was the Russians, the Prussians, or who it was, but as Polish people they didn't feel it was their war and they

did not want to fight in it. So it's interesting that both my dad's father and my mother's father left Poland for the same reason. And when they left they were in a sense like deserters. So they were very fearful that someone would come after them. So my grandfather changed his name several times. It was first Kryglewski, so he Anglicized, he more more or less put an L instead of the I-E-R. And my dad's oldest brother and his sister were both born under the Kryglewski name. But my dad and his twin were born in the U.S. Now they may have been born on the east coast, I believe the families first, they did not know each other when they came. The grandparents, my grandparents met somewhere on the east coast, I think it was in Massachusetts or, no, it was Pennsylvania. And then they moved to Detroit, but I don't have the years or anything like that. And in a sense there's no one to ask. Cuz they're all dead.

MK: Great. Well thank you.

MK: So let's go back now uh to Ms. Ewald and I want to ask you about, to begin with maybe the corset business. Can you tell me more about it, who, who owned it, who ran it, what years do you remember it was there?

AE: I always remember it there. Her name was Josephine Golinski.

MK: How was that spelled?

AE: G-O-L-I-N-S-K-I.

MK: Okay.

AE: Josephine was the first name. And sometimes after school I'd go there and help her decorate the window, the windows.

MK: Mm-hm. And Ms. Ewald can you describe the building. Let's say I'm standing in front of the business. What did it look like?

AE: It had two big windows. They were like, how do you say, like rounded.

MK: Mm-hm.

AE: And the door was in the middle. She slept upstairs. We always ate in the kitchen in the back room. That's all I can remember.

MK: When you walked in, when you walked into it from the street, what was it, how was it set up?

AE: It had show cases on both sides. And she had all this real fancy lingerie. That's all I remember.

MK: Where was the cash register?

AE: Towards the back on the left, right hand side.

MK: And what what was displayed in the windows?

AE: The latest lingerie. Fancy nightgowns and.

MK: So it was wide-range of lingerie.

AE: Yes.

MK: Okay. And who worked in the store.

AE: Just her. She had another girl but she was part-timer. I never really met her.

MK: And was there an entrance to the upstairs from Chene Street? Or not?

AE: Yes there was. There was a gate. But we always used the main door or else the alley.

MK: So if you went. So where was the entrance from the store to the uptairs?

AE: We used to, we always used, through the kitchen and upstairs.

MK: So in the back of the kitchen. You go through the store.

AE: Yeah well there was a, first was the store, then there was a stock room which she called because it was all filled with boxes and everything. Then was her kitchen. And then the bedrooms went from the kitchen upstairs.

MK: Okay. And was the building brick, was it wood, was it combination?

AE: I didn't know.

MK: Mm-hm. Do you know what colors it was from the outside on Chene Street?

AE: No I don't. I never paid attention to it.

MK: Was there a sign that that identified the name of the store?

AE: Elite Corsets, yes.

MK: Elite Corsets.

AE: I think I have some pictures of it. I think I'm not sure.

MK: Mm-hm, mm-hm. And how long was she in business there, do you know?

AE: Well ever since she came from Poland I guess she opened the place up.

MK: Do you know when she came from Poland.

AE: No, before my mother. I don't know.

MK: Mm-hm, mm-hm.

AE: That's all I remember.

MK: And how long did it stay open?

AE: She retired. I was in high school when she retired. So I must have been in about the 11<sup>th</sup> grade at that time.

MK: So it was in the '40s.

AE: It would have been about '50s probably.

MK: I'm trying to think because I have a list here of business that were on Chene Street.

AE: She owned a few shops. She had one in Hamtramck and one someplace else. But she didn't make good in it so she closed it down and had the one on Chene Street open.

MK: And so that was between Palmer and Medbury?

AE: Yes.

MK: Okay. And I'm trying to look here. It was in the middle of the block you're saying?

AE: Yes.

MK: Okay.

AE: I have an address and I have her cards that she had.

MK: That would be great if I if I could make use of those for the study.

AE: I'll have to find them.

MK: And you mentioned other businesses that your family was, or members of your family were associated with.

AE: Well my sister worked at Dane's Donuts. My other sister worked at Werners. And my brother worked at Księgarnia Ludowa.

MK: Oh. Let's begin with Księgarnia Ludowa, okay. Your brother worked there. Do you know what years he worked there when he was in school or after?

AE: He was I think a senior and maybe a year after.

MK: And so what years would that have been?

AE: Well.

MK: He was, he was younger in years so.

AE: He was 7 years younger than I am.

MK: So if he was a senior and you were a senior in '52, it would have been '59.

AE: Something like that.

MK: And, what did he do at Księgarnia Ludowa?

AE: Stock and once in a while help out in sale.

MK: And what was his name again?

AE: Walter.

MK: Walter? And do you remember Księgarnia Ludowa?

AE: Very well.

MK: Can you describe it for us?

AE: Used to always go there everyday for the *Dziennik Polski*.

MK: Okay, so tell me about Księgarnia Ludowa.

AE: *Gwiazda Ludowa* was the paper.

MK: *Polarna*.

AE: *Gwiazda Polarna*? Oh whatever.

MK: So tell me about the store? Describe it.



AE: Uh well you walked in the right side was, I believe his name was Zukewicz?

MK: Zukowski.

AE: Zukowski and           . And he had his register up there, and on the left hand side was all the racks with papers and books and whatever, cookbooks, all kind of books.

MK: And you went in there every day?

AE: For the paper.

MK: Mm-hm.

AE: It was my job.

MK: Mm-hm. And what time of day would you go there to pick up your paper?

AE: 4:00, something like that. It was after school all day after we ate.

MK: Do you remember Mr. Zukowski at all?

AE: Very well.

MK: What did he look like?

AE: I thought he was a mean old man. (laugh) He always yelled at my brother. He was always like, get to work, do this, do that.

MK: Do you remember anybody else in the store besides Mr. Zukowski?

AE: Not really.

MK: Okay. And did he ever yell at you?

AE: No, I was a customer.

MK: Mm-hm. And how long did you do that? I mean you went down to that store?

AE: I think until we started getting the paper boy or somebody started bring the paper to the house.

MK: Mm-hm. What about Dane Donuts and Werners? What do you remember about them?

AE: My sister worked at Dane's Donuts. My youngest sister. She used to bring a lot of leftovers because if they didn't sell it at the end of the day they would give them away. So she would always bring 2, 3 dozen donuts, all different kinds. It was nice.

MK: Were they good?

AE: Oh yes, very good. They were so fresh. And my other sister worked at Werners, and she used to make all the ice cream cones and the ice creams and sodas.

MK: What years did they work in these places?

AE: Also when they were seniors.

MK: So they were, so it must have been in the '50s, mid-'50s.

AE: Two years younger.

MK: And uh, do you remember any of the owners or other people associated with either Werners or Dane's?

AE: George Werner I knew.

MK: You remember, so tell me about George Werner.

AE: He was nice man. Very friendly, very talkative.

MK: Did he speak Polish or not?

AE: Yes he did.

MK: So when you went there did you speak Polish to him or or not or English?

AE: No no English.

MK: What about his mother, do you remember his mother?

AE: I forgot her name.

MK: Irene or Ewa.

AE: Irene, yes. I used to know her. She was quiet, she was a very nice lady.

MK: How about Dane's Donuts?

AE: I didn't know any of the people working there except my sister.

MK: Mm-hm. How about other businesses, other places that you particularly remember.

AE: We used to go to Ferry Market a lot.

MK: So tell me about the Ferry Market.

AE: Oh every Saturday morning my mother would

MK: Tell me about the Chene Ferry Market again.

AE: Well we used to buy all our chickens live over there, from Lucky's mostly.

MK: Where was Lucky's in the market?

AE: Uh, one street behind Ferry, whatever that street was, Dubois I think it was?

MK: Dubois, the one that is behind Chene in the next?

AE: Yes, yes.

MK: Okay.

AE: We used to buy mostly all our chickens there.

MK: Inside, was it inside?

AE: Uh, no, they had their little own place.

MK: And it was, so it was on the corner of Ferry and Dubois, or not?

AE: Yes, yes it was.

MK: Okay. On the market side though?

AE: Yes, facing the market. Also in the market we used to go buy all our fruits and vegetables from Blondie. She was really famous.

MK: Tell me again, I've heard about Blondie, tell me about Blondie.

AE: Blondie was a very friendly lady. She provided all our fruits and vegetables for our wedding.

MK: And where was she at in the?

AE: She was in the middle of the market. She was on the right hand side as you walked in.

MK: So if you if you walked in, let's say you walk in from Ferry into that section, okay. And you come to the end where the T is, okay?

AE: Yeah, there was a scale up there.

MK: Where was she?

AE: There's a scale up there.

MK: There's a scale.

AE: Okay about two stalls on the right-hand side from the side door.

MK: So toward Chene Street?

AE: Yeah.

MK: Okay, and do you remember Blondie's name? Real name?

AE: She was always Blondie.

MK: Mm-hm.

AE: That's the only way we used to know her.

MK: Mm-hm.

AE: Did you ever know her?

(VOIEC): Mm-hm, mm-hm.

MK: Was she Jewish?

AE: I think she was Polish.

(VOICE 2i think): A lot of the vendors were Jewish.

MK:           .

(V2): But I'm not sure that.

AE: Wasn't it Jewish on one side and Polish on the other side.

(V): Yeah.

AE: She was always on the Polish side.

(V): I got the feeling she might have been a mixed.

MK: Mm-hm.

(V): Person.

AE: She was Polish.

MK: Oh yeah.

PB: She was more, more Polish than Jewish I would think yeah.

MK: And I'm trying, I tried to find her, I can't, I don't know if she's still alive or not. But I've heard so many people talk about Blondie, you know.

PB: Well you know Melanie's relatives owned the Goike's fruit stand that's now on 10 Mile just west.

MK: Oh.

PB: Of Ryan. Now it's possible that she may have some connections, but we'll have to ask, when she returns. She went to the rest room.

MK: Okay, what about, tell me more about Blondie and you know you said, she provided--

AE: She always had the freshest fruits and vegetables. She was always, she always gave it to you. She picked it out for you. You didn't pick for it. Because she knew what you wanted.

MK: And you said she provided fruit and vegetables to—

AE: For our wedding.

MK: Mm-hm.

AE: Mm-hm. We shopped at all of them. I know my sister used to go on the Jewish side again, her favorite was pickles. So she'd always get a pickle like on a popsickle stick. I think they were a nickel at that time. My mother always bought her one. That's all I remember about that.

MK: So what do you remember about the distinction between the Jewish and the Polish part of the market.

AE: Well, we always shopped at the Polish side.

MK: Mm-hm.

AE: The Jewish usually sold flowers and bags of stuff usually. The bigger stuff.

MK: And what about the, besides the one Lucky's, were there other live chicken dealers?

AE: Oh yes. Yes. But I don't remember their names. Kutworski or something like that. Yeah there was two or three of them on the other side.

PB: Yeah, I know my grandmother had a very favorite one because they'd give her the blood for the duck soup, you know the czarnina?

MK: Right.

PB: But I can't remember, my mother might remember. I'll be seeing my mom Saturday.

MK: There was one named Esther Silverman. She had a big, but she was closer up to Chene St. Because I know, I talked to people who worked for Esther. She had a big poultry operation and I recall that they were telling me they also had ritual slaughter for she was Jewish. She wanted kosher chicken. They had a guy in the corner back there on Ferry I think and, no, maybe on Palmer, and, anyways, towards Dubois who would ritually slaughter their chickens. If you wanted them slaughtered that way.

PB: Well you could just about buy anything your heart desired there.

AE: One of the girls that graduated from Lucky's, her mother owned that place. Sylvia Sawicki.

MK: How's that spelled?

AE: S-A-W-I-C-K-I. I guess. Sawicki. She's in my book.

MK: Oh.

AE: Well she, she used to work at that town, Lucky's.

MK: Mm-hm.

PB: Do you remember the vendors at Ferry Market. One somebody named Blondie that sold fruits and vegetables? They're not related to your Goike people that owned the Goike Fruit Shop, Vegetable place on 10?

MD: No.

PB: Okay, just wondering.

MD: No, not Goike.

PB: Okay.

MK: Any other businesses or places along the street or the neighborhood for that matter that you particularly recall.

AE: Well we never had a car so we went to, from one end to the other, Modern Bakery and Kresge's [Woolworth's – MK] Dime Store, Lendzon's, we used to do all our shopping there.

MK: Which which of the butcher shops did you go to?

AE: I don't know their names, Ochylski?

MK: Mm-hm.

AE: Ochylski was one. I don't remember the other ones. Once a week we'd go to Goike Kaszub Snuff for my father's 10 cents bottle of snuff.

MK: Mm-hm. Any other any other businesses?

AE: All of them, we went to all the stores

MK: You were going to tell me about the Warsaw Bar.

AE: Warsaw Bar. My aunt owned it.

MK: What was her name?

AE: Szulczewski

MK: Szulczewski? And whose relative was she?

AE: She's on my husband's side. But Marlina's the daughter and there's another boy, Jerry. And they're still alive so they could tell you a lot more about the Warsaw Bar.

MK: So tell me what you remember of the Warsaw Bar.

AE: Not much, once I started going out with my husband. He's the one that introduced me to the bar. I didn't go too much to bars.

MK: Mm-hm. And was there live music there when he took you there?

AE: Yes there was.

MK: Polka music or?

AE: Yes.

MK: Mm-hm. And dancing I assume.

AE: I think there was dancing up there.

MK: Mm-hm. Did you enjoy going there?

AE: I didn't go there very often.

MK: Mm-hm.

AE: Just a few times.

MK: Do you remember how it was set up at all?

AE: It was always dark. The bar was on the left hand side. A lot of smoke. Just something I didn't go for.

MK: Did they did the waitresses wear Polish costumes?

AE: I don't think so, no. They would have been my cousins. No they didn't.

MK: Yeah, I'd appreciate it if you would give me those names, that'd be great if they'd be willing to talk.

AE: She would love to talk about the business.

MK: Good. I'd love to hear her stories 'cause that's.

AE: The building's still standing up there but it's all boarded up now.

MK: It was a very famous bar on the street for 40, 50 years. Okay, how about let's begin with Goike's and let's tackle, you know tell me what you know about Goike's and your grandfather and whatever.

MD: First I have to correct myself his name was Joseph Goike.

MK: Joseph Goike, okay.

MD: My grandmother married twice.



MK: I see.

MD: And her first husband died and she had 10 children. And a couple of years later she met my grandfather, Joseph Goike and his wife died and he had like eight or nine children. They married and the result was 3 children only 1 survived, my dad. So, what can I tell you. Not much.

MK: Well tell me where the business was?

MD: It was on Canfield.

MK: Do you know where on Canfield?

MD: Chene and Canfield I think.

AE: Wasn't it on Grandy?

MD: Grandy.

AE: Grandy.

MD: Oh I'm horrible. The houses I can remember on Grandy. And all I really know is that my grandfather started out of there and in the back of the house he would put the leaves together and make the snuff from that and grind them down.

MK: And where was the sales at? How how was it set up?

MD: I don't know. I mean I really don't. It was before I was even born.

MK: Do you remember?

PB: Yeah.

MD: You tell me!

AE: I used to always go there for my father's **chew**.

MK: So tell me about the Goike snuff shop.

AE: Well when you walked in, there was a high counter. I could never see over the top because I was too small so the guy would always look over you know. He always knew, 10 cents worth of snuff. Little bottle. And uh, very small place. You could just walk and and then you had to turn around to walk out.

MK: Was it downstairs? Did you have to walk downstairs?

AE: No, no.

MK: It was straight off the street.

AE: You just walked right off. It might have been a couple steps. I don't remember.

MK: Were the counters in there, were there shelves?

AE: No, no, I don't remember any shelves. Just a big counter. It was always taller than I was.

MK: Mm-hm, mm-hm. And who was, was it always the same person behind the counter?

AE: I didn't pay attention. They they must have been because they knew who I was. They says, Oh, for Walenty? I says, Yeah. So I guess it's the same one that was always. Could have been your grandfather.

MD: Could have been my grandfather, I don't know. I mean I have pictures of him in the house.

MK: You do?

MD: Yeah.

MK: Do you have pictures from the outside of the house?

MD: Yeah.

MK: When it was still, you know, in business?

MD: Yeah.

MK: How about any business cards or things like that.

MD: No.

MK: I've seen a lot of ads. They had a lot of ads for Goike's. He used to advertise in the St. Hyacinth's paper all the time in the '30s and '40s, there were lots of ads for Goike's snuff shop. How about other businesses that you recall in the neighborhood. As you were growing up and as you were in high school.

MD: Just Jo-Ge's and Dan and Vi's.

MK: Tell me about about Dan and Vi's.

MD: Dan and Vi's Pizza. We used to order pizza from them. And you'd either have it delivered or picked up. They had very good fish and chips too. We would get those occasionally.

MK: And where was it located at?

MD: On Chene Street.

AE: Harper.

MD: Yeah.

MK: What side of the street?

MD: I don't know. Across from Jo-Ge's.

AE: Harpers would have been on the left hand side.

AE: It's still open. We go there.

MK: My recollection was that they were actually on the east side and then they moved to the west side across, where they're at now.

MD: I don't know, I haven't been down there in years so I have no clue.

AE: Oh it's still open. We still get pizza from there.

PB: Oh my God.

AE: He got shot I know, at the place. Well Vi is still there.

MK: So what do you remember of Dan and Vi?

AE: Used to go there for pizza. It was the best pizzas in the world. I mean, just takeouts they had. Now it's just a carryout place. They have a lot of sandwiches, good submarine sandwiches and everything.

MK: So, was it, but do you remember it being located where it is now? Or do you remember it when it was still across the street?

AE: I only remembered one one place.

MK: Mm-hm. Any other restaurants at all that you used to go to? Any bars?

MD: No, no, no no. I was a teenager.

MK: Didn't stop some people.

MD: Yeah I know. No. I can't remember any other places other than we used to get communion dresses at Zarembski's.

MK: So tell me about Zarembski's.

MD: That's the only place you went for a very nice dress or a communion dress.

MK: Do you remember your first Holy Communion?

MD: Oh yes, I remember that.

MK: Where were your photos taken?

MD: Umm, gosh, well, no, Hoffman's.

PB: I had mine at Ogdans at Harper and Van Dyke.

MK: Oh yeah. And yours were at Hoffman's?

AE: Hoffman's. So was my weddings.

MK: The other place was Genca right on the corner there. On the corner of Medbury and Chene . Genca Photo.

AE: That was a small little place.

MK: Do you remember your pictures being taken at Hoffman's?

AE: Mm-hm, all of them.

MK: Can you describe Hoffman's studios at all?

MD: Not me.

AE: I know he had a daughter.

MK: Mm-hm.

AE: She was exceptionally huge. She was 3- 400 pounds or something wrong with her.

MK: Right.

AE: Gland trouble. So she would always be sitting around. She could hardly ever walk. And Mr. Hoffman was very nice. But Mrs. Hoffman I don't remember. Used to take pictures upstairs.

MK: So you walked into the studio, what was on the main floor?

AE: Just pictures along the floors. Big place, but it was always upstairs that we went.

MK: And your wedding pictures?

AE: Wedding pictures, yes.

MK: Were also Hoffman's?

AE: At Hoffman's. Communion pictures.

MK: So how about you Pat, what do you remember of the stores, of the businesses?

PB: I think one of my favorite places was the King Theater, and you'd go there for a matinee and we could see Buck Rodgers or Flash Gordon you know the serials, where you would continue every week or you'd go there and get a dish with your, when you buy your ticket on certain nights.

AE: Only Fridays.

PB: Is that what it was? I couldn't remember but but we always, as kids we went to the King Theater and saw 3 features. I remember that for like a quarter or something very small. And then parents would take you to other theaters. I think there was the Iris Theater which was my favorite on the Boulevard off of Chene Street. Then there were a couple grocery stores where they still they sold everything in bins. The store was on Chene Street, it was if it wasn't right near the Chene and Ferry Market it was between Ferry and Kirby. But then there was the Jaworski's Sausage Company. My mom would take me to her hairdresser which was called Dorothy's and they used to have this machine it was really bizarre looking. It was shaped like a hair dryer but it had these metals things that they put onto your hair. It was I was glad I never had to have one of those because it was scary looking.

MK: Where was Dorothy's?

PB: It was above a photo studio right near a millinery shop, so you had to go up some stairs.

MK: Which side of the street?

PB: It would be on the north, I call it the north side.

MK: East side you mean.

PB: Yeah, it'd be the far side.

MK: The east side of Chene.

PB: Not of where the Chene and Ferry Market is.

MK: Right so east side. It would have been the east side of the Chene.

PB: Okay so the east is on the what I, the farther side.

MK: And it was above, was it above the Dobiesz Millinery?

PB: Yes I believe it was. And I remember the millinery. There was also a toy store right near the millinery.

MK: Mm-hm.

PB: And right near Christmas it was a favorite place to go because we could walk, we walked there. You see people didn't use their cars like they do now. And that was always fun because people didn't buy crazy presents like they do then. It was very small things but very meaningful things. And Raymond Kaczmariski who lived in the third flat had these wonderful metal soldiers and metal trucks and things and we'd play with with those kinds of toys that we'd buy right there on Chene Street.

MK: I interviewed that toy store.

PB: Did you?

MK: Yeah.

PB: That's great.

MK: Maternicki was the name.

PB: Was their name. See I don't--

MK: I interviewed Alice, the daughter.

PB: Okay. Then another store that was my favorite was a religious article store. It was located in the block between Ferry and—that next street. Right where Ferry Market was.

MK: Palmer?

AE: Palmer.

PB: Palmer. Okay. And they'd have, I still have it in fact, it was our Lady of Fatima statue.

MK: Where was it at? I don't remember that?

PB: If I recall correctly there was some kind of a meat market. Maybe that's where Jaworski's was. Then was a bar, then I think was the little tiny religious store.

MK: On the, again, what side of the street was it on?

PB: It would be on the west side.

MK: Okay, so on the corner there was the Palmer Bakery. The Palmer and Chene was the Palmer Bakery.

PB: Okay, going this way.

MK: And going north?

PB: Yes going toward Ferry.

AE: Wouldn't that be Ksiegarnia Ludowa?

PB: Maybe it was, see I don't remember?

MK: No. Oh towards, you mean south.

PB: Um, okay. Palmer is where there was, there were two bakeries. There was.

MK: The Van Dyke Bakery.

PB: The Van Dyke Bakery. So it wouldn't be. If I'm remembering correctly it was in the block where the Van Dyke Bakery was.

MK: So there was the dime store was in the block, Max's Jewelry was in that block.

PB: Yes. And a drug store.

MK: And Sleders was was there.

PB: Sleders, that's the name of it. So it seems it was close to Sleders. I'm pretty sure.

MK: I don't remember that.

PB: Well maybe I've got, I.

MK: The next block over was the Księgarnia Ludowa which sold religious, sold religious statues and.

PB: There were two. There was one, which was the bigger one. I think that's the one you're talking about. And this one was a real tiny little thing next to a bar. But I still have that Our Lady of Fatima statue because that was very big. I loved to go in that store.

MK: Mm-hm. Mm-hm.

PB: They had holy cards. Every time you were good in school you'd get a holy card. Still have some of those that the nuns gave us. But there's also a meat market, right where the furniture store. Margolis was it?

MK: It was Margolis, Maliszewski, and Central, all in the same block.

PB: Okay this meat store was between the two furniture stores and my sister-in-law's family owned that store. So if you need to talk to someone.

MK: Was it Mr. Przykora's?

PB: I don't think so, there is another name. I don't know her maiden name. Her married name is Isabelle Hashis. And uh--

MK: I'd be very much interested in that.

PB: I, she still, she's very sharp for about 84. And she remembers working in the store with her father. I didn't like that store because he was always a mean guy.

MK: You know there were two Ochylskis, I wonder if this, if this was an Ochylski store.

PB: Maybe that's what it was.

MK: There was there was Marcell Ochylski which I think was on the other side.

PB: Okay.

MK: And then I think this was Kazimierz Ochylski or something like that.

PB: I'll track her down, my mom I'll be seeing her Saturday and I'll ask. Of, of course, there was another store with saw dust on the floor and sold everything in the bins where you could buy cookies and beans and you know you weighed it by the pound. It wasn't pre-packaged.

MK: Where was it?



PB: It was, if it wasn't between Palmer and Ferry, then it was between Ferry and Kirby.

AE: Did they sell fish in the barrels?

PB: Yes.

AE: And pickles in barrels?

PB: Yes.

MK: Premier, Premier Dairy.

AE: I never know, we used to call them Grek.

PB: I, but I, I'm very.

AE: My mother always says, idziemy do Greka.

PB: Okay, I, as a kid I can't remember the name, I just remember the sights and smells and atmosphere.

AE: Yeah we could buy the herrings from a barrel.

PB: Yes. Everything was in barrels and things. And I remember that I went there with my grandmother and I had one of those, I went in there and I took a sugar cookie and I remember when I went for my first confession I confessed that I took one of those cookies because I felt like I had stolen it. But uh--

AE: 10 Hail Mary's.

PB: Yeah, 10 Hail Mary's. 10 Our Father's and 10 Hail Mary's. But Werner Drug Store [Werner's was a soda shop – MK]. Everybody went to Werners for after school for all kinds of things and there were, before the expressway though I can remember walking with two of my nuns. They had me go to some florist with the me and it's gone because it was it was near the Boulevard somewhere.

MK: Wayne County Florist?

PB: See I just can't remember.

MK: On which side of the street?

PB: It was on, not on the Ferry Market side, but on the other side.

MK: East side.

PB: East side.

MK: The Wayne County Florist.

PB: Yeah it was a really fancy thing and I felt very privileged walking with those two nuns because we were ordering flowers for one of the big processions. And then the Butzel Library.

MK: Butzel Branch.

PB: Butzel Branch that was a fantastic library and that's where I first learned about reading books, it's a gorgeous building. I, I had heard they were going to try and save it but I'm not sure.

MK: It's gone.

AE: It's gone there's nothing there now.

PB: Oh, it was such a beautiful place.

MK: It was an Albert Kahn-designed building.

PB: Oh, it was something else. I mean it was just fantastic and my girlfriend Christine's dad would take us in his Graham car, but as we got older we walked all the way from St. Aubin and Ferry to the Butzel and it was like a big excursion for us.

AE: Oh I spent a lot of time in that library.

PB: Wasn't that a wonderful place.

AE: Beautiful place.

MK: Tell me about you know, you guys tell me about the library.

PB: You tell.

PB: Go ahead tell.

AE: About the Butzel branch library?

MK: Yeah.

AE: Well we walked up the stairs, it was very huge. On the right-hand side was a children's room. Then on the left I wasn't allowed to go there because I was only for, unless I got a note from a teacher that it was references. It was only adult books. There

was a big, how do I say, a desk in the middle. It was two or three girls always there. They'd always walk and say what do you want and then you'd tell him what you wanted. I spent a lot of time over there.

MK: How about your memories?

MD: My memories area basically the same just that I can remember looking up on the little index cards. The little boxes, wooden boxes looking up the title or the author's name of the book and going to look for it. And they were always very helpful. Gosh that building was huge.

MK: Do you remember going to other things besides getting books. In other words there were movies they used to show sometimes there, there were--

MD: No I never went to that.

MK: There were like girl scout meetings that they had in the basement.

MD: Nope.

AE: Mm-mm.

MK: What about dentists and doctors? Did you guys go to dentists and doctors on the street in the neighborhood?

AE: Mm-hm.

MK: Who did you go to?

AE: Dr. Pawlowski

MK: Where was.

AE: A little ways from the library.

MK: And.

AE: That was our family doctor.

MK: It was a doctor. Do you remember his first name?

AE: Dr. Pawlowski, that's all.

MK: What about dentist, did you go to a dentist?

AE: They were on Chene Street someplace. I don't remember where.

MK: Do you remember the name?

AE: Someplace around Hoffman's, someplace along there, I don't remember the name.

MK: How about you, did you go?

PB: I did go to the dentist somewhere on Chene Street above near Werners, Werners, I think, somewhere up there. And you could smell that ether smell when you go up there because they didn't have all the fancy techniques they have now and my most traumatic, I always had a lot of cavities because next door to our home was the butcher shop that sold penny candy so I was always having plenty of candy to eat. No one brushed their teeth like they do now.

MK: There was no fluoride.

PB: Or floss, right? And when I went to the dentist, he said, oh my goodness, you have this huge cavity. So he took a chisel, I'll never forget it, he had a, a stone and a chisel and he pounded like this and my, it was like, I was petrified because he actually whittled my tooth down or whatever he did to it. And of course I was having teeth pulled usually. But it seemed like when you go up some stairs there was a tile floor and a couple of rooms up there but it was the smell that ether like.

MK: You don't remember the name of the dentist?

PB: No, I can't.

MK: Was it Ossowski?

PB: I really wouldn't remember. But I, my ear, I had a lot of colds and sore throats when I was a kid and I had a mastoid. And I was very very ill and my uncle, my aunt who lived downstairs from us said don't take her to the doctors around here you have to take her to Dr. Jeckll. And Dr. Jeckll, I think it was pronounced "Jayco." J-E-C-K-L-L. Uh, he was on the Boulevard and he took one look at me. He came to the house a lot too, made the house calls. And they put me in the hospital, I was in Providence Hospital. The old Providence, I think it might have been on the Boulevard I'm not sure, but I had this mastoid in this ear, and this perforated ear drum. But it was Dr. Jeckll's. He was considered a really good doctor. But he wasn't Polish, that was, that was the thing, you know, I think he might have been Jewish. But the family swore by him because he was a good, good doctor. Other than that, I think you captured it very well.

MK: How about you, any doctors, dentists you remember?

MD: Uh, Dr. Pegor, Pegorski?

AE: Pawlowski was for mine.

MD: Pawlowski, that, that names sounds very familiar. I think we had him and for dentist I only remember the name Dr. Connolly.

MK: Mm-hm.

MD: Where he was, I have no idea.

MK: Mm-hm.

MD: And then after that we switched over to Dr. Deresz who as right in the neighborhood over here.

MK: Yeah, Dr. Deresz was my doctor.

MD: He delivered me.

PB: Down on Chene Street going farther toward the King Theater there was a restaurant there, they were, it was not a Polish restaurant. I don't know if they were Greek;

MK: The Greenwich.

PB: That was it, I couldn't remember that if you had paid me. But I remember, it wasn't like the real popular place to go but it was unique because it was really big and they had these ribs that were rotating, baking, right in the window and when we were in high school back in '58, a lot of us seniors would go there a lot. It's kind of a fun thing to walk down and do. But there was also, my girlfriend as I said lived at the corner of Dubois and Ferry and her parents owned the house which had a flat upstairs but behind the house was a little shoemaker and that was always a fun place to go because he kept these nails in his mouth and he could just spit them out and we used to like to watch him you know pound the nails into the shoes and he wore this big red, a black kind of like leather apron.

MK: Was he Polish?

PB: Yes, I don't remember his name.

MK: So this house was on the corner?

PB: Of Dubois and Ferry.

MK Which corner?

PB: It would be kitty corner from the market, so it would be.

MK: Southwest?

PB: Southwest, yes. And I remember at the corner of Kirby and what's the cross street. Dubois, that would be, that would be Dubois because Ferry is running this way. Dubois ran this way. At the corner of Kirby and Dubois we were fascinated because there was little storefront that was what we call now like a boarded-up storefront it was had the windows were taken out and was all wood and gypsies lived in there. And we were fascinated by them because they wore all these fancy clothes with bracelets.

MK: What years was this?

PB: I was only in about the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade so that would be probably about '46, '7, '8 in through there. And then as you walked down Kirby toward Chene there was a cleaners and the man was all hunch-backed. First time I've ever, now consciously know what a scoliosis person would look like. He wore these big suspenders and he had very hunched back He had these big steam presses. But the cleaner shop would have these beautiful wooden, I, glass windows and he had a lot of plants in the windows 'cause all that steam it probably was a great growing medium for those.

MK: was it on Chene or was it on Kirby?

PB: No it was on Kirby.

MK: What side of the street.

PB: It would, if I were walking from St. Aubin, made a left on Kirby, it would be on my left-hand side. Just before Chene. And it seems there was a bakery up there too but I'm not, I wouldn't want to swear to that. Then there was what, Perrien Park. I didn't go down that far 'cause it was beyond my walking distance. But it was a beautiful-looking place with a little band shell I think it had.

AE: It had a swimming pool there at one time in the middle.

MK: Mm-hm.

AE: Every Monday if you brought your own dish you got a dip of ice cream.

PB: Really? How did they keep it cool.

AE: I don't know.

PB: Wow.

AE: All the kids in the neighborhood would come there and get a, we'd bring our own dish and our own spoon, they'd give you a different ice cream. We'd go on the swings up there.

PB: That's a, now my girlfriend's dad who had the Graham car, he once a week would go to a milk depot on the Boulevard right near St. Joe's hospital. Johnson Milk Depot was the name of it. And I thought that was odd because, see, we had milk delivered to our house. They went and bought their milk because it was cheaper that way.

MK: Mm-hm.

PB: But I remember the milk would come in these big glass gallon like jugs and cardboard caps and my girlfriend Christine, like this, to be the one to take off the cap and lick the cream because it collected on the top and see that was just something I never, we never did at our house. It was one of those things that she did. But it was also a fun time because people visited. My grandma's house where we lived had a huge kitchen and a huge dining room and every week like clockwork my aunt would come and visit and it was, families were very much more together socially in that context. But remember there's no television. All we had was radio, I think when the TV first came out we were one of the first to get one. It was a 10-inch screen and you could only get channels at certain times.

AE: A Muntz TV?

PB: No we had an RCA. But that, but my girlfriend Christine's family had a Muntz TV which they bought right there on Chene Street, I think. Yeah that was a big name.

MK: The neighborhood was very-heavily Polish but there were also Jewish merchants and vendors. There were some African Americans moving into the neighborhood.

PB: Right.

MK: There were also actually some others, I mean, there were some Syrian businesses, **Sfire** Brothers, Harps and so on on the street. I'm curious, what was your sense of kind of ethnic identities. Were there, you know, were there conflicts, did people, you know, did people, were people conscious of the fact that someone was a Jewish merchant as opposed to a Polish merchant? What was that like?

AE: We shopped at the Polish.

PB: We shopped Polish. We knew there were Jewish merchants but the story was you had to really watch those Jewish merchants because they would either put in some bad fruit or bad vegetables on you and they were also out just to make money. It, you only trusted Polish people. They were, it's like that's how you did business. You went to the Jewish people when you had like no other way to go. But the sheenie men, the alleys were paved for the most part where we were and I think they were Jewish.

MK: They were black.

PB: Some were, first they were white. They were Jewish white.

AE: Jewish.

PB: Yeah. And they had that horn that they would blow, when they were coming and I remember during the war years, Raymond who I played with who lived downstairs and I would collect wrappers from Lucky Strikes or Camels because my uncle smoked. And you would peel off the, the metal, the tin foil that the cigarettes came in. And we would make big balls of it. And then you'd also gather the string that the baked goods would come in, be wrapped in. And you made these balls of string and then you could sell it to the sheenie man. If he gave you a nickel or whatever he'd, we'd, the more, the more larger the ball was the better price you'd get of course.

MK: Were were these sheenie men, did they come in with horse, horse drawn.

PB: Yeah, they were horse drawn.

MK: Wagons?

PB: Wagons. And they had all kinds of junk on them and when, it didn't happen to me but my cousins who grew up in Hamtramck when the sheenie man would come there, the, my Busia, who also lived above my aunt's flat, would say, if you're going to be bad you're going to, I'm going to give you away to the sheenie man. That was like a threat. That seemed to be the scariest thing in the world at that time.

MK: What about the Jewish stores on the street? Like Max's, or Three Brother's, or Kovitz or, did people, some of the dry goods stores, you know.

MD: I bought my living room treatments from Three Brother's when we first got married.

MK: So what was Three Brother's store like? What do you remember about it?

MD: Lots and lots of material. My mother-in-law dealt with him, because she knew how to handle him she said. And she did. So she just took over, she just told him what she wanted and that's what he made.

PB: We we bought some stuff but that, my dad started to have a car and we started to shop at Sears or wherever, Montgomery Wards, Monkey Wards as they used to call it, that seemed to be. Or we'd go to other places like Pioneer Furniture was a fabulous store on the Boulevard. Yeah, it was gorgeous. A one-of-a-kind kind of store.

MK: Tell me about the Pioneer, it was right around it was right around the corner there it was on.

PB: No, it's sort of middle of the block.



MK: East, but yeah but it was east, I mean, it is east of Chene.

PB: McDougall.

MK: East of McDougall, yeah.

PB: Yeah. And it was, it'd be something like the Art, the really fancy Art Van store of its day. It was huge, it was like two stories high?

AE: Cement, or whatever, it was all one.

PB: Yeah it had a beautiful, most of the stores on Chene St. were brick where this had that like cement façade with ornate.

AE: Something down windows.

PB: This big. Yeah, almost like a cathedral like atmosphere. And the furniture was very very pretty.

AE: Expensive.

PB: And a lot of glass inside and very few stores were two story and that's what I remember about Pioneer. I don't know how you got up to the second story if it was steps or what but--.

AE: I've never gone there but I've passed by.

MK: What, what about jewelry stores? Did you guys get your wedding bands or engagement rings or anything on Chene Street?

AE: The only thing I know about Max's is whenever a child was born in the neighborhood he would give a silver spoon with the name of the child engraved in back. So we had, my mother always collected them. It was the only time we ever went to Max's.

MK But there was Cohen's, Svoboda's, uh, Tyszka's Jewelers, Paige's Jewelers. There were about 6 or 7 jewelry stores on the street.

AE: We shopped never shopped there.

PB: Never shopped there.

MD: No.

AE: We were too poor.

PB: I think that was it, you know. People watched their money.

AE: It was the war days when we grew up. We never went any of those places.

PB: No.

MK: Any other memories of?

PB: Trudie's Flowers. Do you remember Trudie's Flowers? When we were in high school it was where the guys always went to get the girls' corsages. See it was a different atmosphere. For school dances everybody dressed up really pretty and if you were going out on a date it was customary to bring the girl a corsage. And so that's where they'd go to Trudie's flowers.

MK: I almost interviewed her. She's, she got ill. She's 90 years old.

PB: Wow.

MK: I was supposed to interview her last Friday.

PB: Oh that's sad.

MK: So I don't know if I'll get a chance to. **Sumaracki**, she married Adam **Sumaracki**.

PB: That's a very popular name.

MK: It is, there were a lot, there were some politicians in that family.

PB: That's what it is okay.

MK: His sister, his sister was Miss Detroit Polonia.

PB: Oh, that's where I've heard that then probably. Come to think of it on, let me just think, what street would that be, that would be Dubois where the church rectory was and I'm sure you all remember, the rectory was like on higher ground and they had this fencing up there and at Christmas they would erect this huge stable with all the figures and that was really part of the Christmas tradition besides going to church to see the stable out there on the corner and kitty corner from there, which would be Dubois and Palmer was a little bakery shop. Now they weren't Polish but they made these long bread sticks and they'd come, we'd come out of school and we'd go buy one because they were hot and they were delicious.

MK: That's Torrino's Bakery.

PB: Is that Torrino?

MK: And that's still there.

PB: Okay.

MK: They actually, they.

PB: They actually.

MK: Bake out of there and they deliver. It's Italian. Tiny bakery. They deliver it all over the city.

PB: Is that right?

MK: They just painted it about a month or two ago.

PB: It was the best place and then going back to the school activities. Maybe when you, there was a tradition on every Friday you'd go, they had movies down in the part of St. Stanislaus under the church, where the church hall used to be and they'd have you know like cowboy movies or something, you didn't have that? You had to pay a price for it. It wasn't free. But you could bring your own candy. And I remember, it was right after WWII when people were still conscious of the atom bomb and being bombed. Well part of the movie, like they'd have the regular movie but they'd also have this like you might call it a commercial of how to protect yourself in an atom bomb attack. And they'd show that when a bomb would come you'd have to hide under the desk. Or you would crouch down in a position with putting your hands over your head and they'd have a picture of dust coming in the window. And they'd say well that you have to hide under the desk to protect yourself from that. They showed a few people building shelters but, that in an attack, this is what you have to do. Go under something heavy. Something like what they tell us now if a tornado is coming. But now--

MK: Duct tape against terrorists.

PB: That's right.

MD: It's about the equivalent.

PB: And so I laughed when I saw that duct tape and plastic. I thought that reminds me of the days how, but in our innocence with bliss we thought that that would solve our problem, you know. But everybody looked forward to those Friday movies. That was fantastic.

MK: Well I remember those at the Butzel, the Butzel Branch had movies, I mean you'd go in, they'd have, I remember seeing all the John Wayne movies back then as a kid.

PB: Yeah.

MK: That's where we'd see them in the basement of the Butzel Branch.

PB: We saw Three Stooges I think, but there is something else I want to tell you about the Butzel. Oh do you remember at Milwaukee and Chene there was a dress store there, a bank, a, all of that sort of disappeared when they built Poletown. Oh and the Chene and Trombly Bowling Alley.

MD: Bowling Alley.

AE: 10 pins.

PB: 10 pins?

AE: 10 pins.

PB: Yeah those were like.

AE: They had the world's best fish. Fish dinners.

MK: Did you bowl?

PB: We did when we were in high school. We had a bowling league.

MK: That was the biggest bowling alley in the city, I mean the best.

PB: The best.

MK: Eddie Lubanski.

PB: Yes.

MK: Was there

PB: Wasn't there like a Better Made shop right across from there?

MK: Better Made was on McDougall.

AE: McDougall and Palmer.

MK: On Palmer yeah, on the corner, the building is still there.

PB: There was something.

MD: A pie company or something?

MK: Well Acme Pie was on Milwaukee between Milwaukee and Lyman, between Chene and Dubois. Acme Pie was there. Liberty Dairy was on Milwaukee I believe. They used to sell ice cream out the back of that place.

PB: All the stores you know had those wooden floor boards and some had the saw dust. A lot of the butcher shops had the saw dust on the floor, glass show cases, and you got personalized service. That was what the way people lived. It was a wonderful place to grow up in. I mean we just had the greatest times there. Although my memories, you know, of the Van Dyke, 7 Mile area are good too. I think it was just a much more carefree innocent kind of wholesome activity and families were very much together because moms did not work and people didn't really have cars so they amused themselves with crocheting clubs, embroidery clubs.

MK: And they walked, they walked by each other all the times.

MD: Oh yeah.

MK: All the homes they'd stop and, it was just, it was much more cohesive in that way.

PB: Right, and of course being that it was an ethnic neighborhood, I mean, the same is duplicated in other ethnic neighborhoods but the Polish part was the good part. I mean it was like you, it was part of your world and you didn't need another, another part of the world beyond that. You were all self-contained. Everything you wanted was practically right there. One of our, our more fun things when we were kids is, there were like an abandoned store front and these holy roller people came in there. So they were some kind of a Baptist-style group. But we called them holy rollers because they'd shout and scream and they'd they had their door open so we were hearing.

MK: Where were they?

PB: It was on Ferry, right near my uncle's gas station so it was between St. Aubin and Dubois on that side of the street. Right off in the alley. And remember those alleys all had homes in them. So people lived right through there but we loved to watch because it was so foreign to us it was so different from the Catholicism that we were brought up in and to see people stand and shout and sing and move their arms it was, it was like a Pentecostal. That was like an entertainment for us. But you know, what it did was it ex, it gave you a small snap shot of what the rest of the world could be like because were were all very parochial in our approach to living. But, all that's changed. You've talked about Stannie's Bar too, haven't you? That was right across from the church.

MK: Right, tell me, do you remember it? Did you go in there?

PB: Yeah we went there a lot. And, the thing about any of the neighborhood bars was I usually went there with my dad or my uncle and you'd know everybody. I mean, they would know everybody and consequently they knew you as the kid, you know. And you'd shoot darts on the wall that was always fun as a kid. Or they had pool tables. Now

at Stannie's I think they had a pool table but I don't think they had the darts. The darts were at the bar, which name I cannot remember. But it was on St. Aubin and Ferry right kitty-corner from my uncle's gas station. That was a much older bar, and smelled like real beer, like a beergarden. And that's what they were mostly called. Stannie's Bar was a upper-class kind of bar, with real fancy kind of stools and a big long wooden bar, as you'd walk in. Seemed like the floor might have been a ceramic tile, little tiny squares of it. And then there were some tables along the wall where the windows were. But it was a great hangout bar, there was a lot of people in the neighborhood.

MK: Any other last thoughts here?

AE: How about the riots? Anybody remember the riots?

PB: I was out of the neighborhood when they happened.

MK: Which riots? The '43 or the '67?

AE: The '43.

MK: So do you remember the '43 riots?

AE: I remember that. Yeah.

MK: Tell me about the '43 riots. Where were you during the '43 riots?

AE: We lived on Grandy at the time.

MK: Mm-hm.

AE: There was a street car passing right in front of our house.

MK: The Baker.

AE: The Baker.

MK: The Baker Line.

AE: The Baker Streetcar. I don't know how my mother and father found out about it but they told us to go and hide underneath the house. I didn't want to stay there because there was cob webs. So I snuck out of there and I went, got mixed up with the people in front so I seen it all. And they tipped the streetcar over and they pulled a black guy out and he had a package. And they said, he's got a bomb. So my next door neighbor took a baseball bat and he killed him. Killed a black guy.

PB: He did?

AE: Yeah.

PB: Wow.

AE: They took a pail of water, they put that package in there, it turned out to be his lunch.

PB: Oh my.

AE: I hated that man, the neighbor, from that time on.

MK: Who was that? Who was that?

AE: Who was the man?

MK: The neighbor, yeah.

AE: Their names?

MK: Mm-hm.

AE: Mr. Connick.

MK: And so, this was right on Grandy?

AE: It was right on Grandy, right in front of our house it happened. There was, like a cigar factory on the corner.

MK: Right, that was the Mazer.

AE: I don't remember the name of it but it was a cigar factory. That's where they had that bucket of water they put his, and I snuck in because I was small. So I got in between. My father was, got awfully mad when he found out I was there and saw it, but when they put that lunch thing in there, it turned out to be his lunch.

PB: Mm.

MK: So what did people do then?

AE: But I, I don't remember. I guess I got pulled out of there, or I don't remember what happened after that. But I saw a man get killed with a baseball bat.

MD: For nothing. The guy that did it he never went to jail or anything?

AE: No, no, he was a hero. Because he killed a black man.

MD: Oh.

PB: Yeah. People always talked about the riots in, uh, was it '41?

MK: '43.

PB: '43. There was where people had pitchforks and things I didn't know about it because I was only born in '41 but that's where there were these seeds of racial mistrust that seemed to stem from those incidents and especially Polish people felt threatened by the black culture, people. I think it was because they saw that, our view at that time seemed to say the blacks are moving in, they're not going to maintain their houses and they're going to, the property values, they didn't call it property values, they just, the neighborhood's going to go to hell because they don't take care of their homes and they don't live in family units. They just, were something bad and I think that still permeates the Van Dyke 7 Mile community because when that whole cycle was repeating itself only we were older then and we could see that same, oh here comes the black family on the block. The first black in this Van Dyke 7 Mile community didn't really move into until the early '60s. And Josephine Jackson, who is a member of our We Care about Van Dyke 7 Mile Community group says she was the first Black on Brentwood which means almost the first black in the neighborhood and she says people wouldn't even talk to her at first. She's still there today so she's lived now for what 40 some years here. But that same perspective followed as the whole east side emptied out it seemed to follow us and it's something that we fight all the time. Consciously, we formed our We Care about Van Dyke 7 Mile Community organization back in 1981 to welcome and make sure that all the people that lived in our that were coming to our neighborhood would be part of it and would want to feel like there was a togetherness so up to that point people were just moving out. Black family, let's move out, you know, that whole psyche is still was very much in play even in the '60s. So it's, I think people have gotten better about it and I'm not saying that it's cured or it's stopped it's just that I think that people are more appreciative of cultures and are more tolerant, but whether they are willing to stay like Melanie, Alice and I. We all live here in this Van Dyke 7 Mile community and consciously in our lives we've made a decision to be part of a mixed neighborhood. But relatively speaking I think there's a very small white population that still lives here.

MK: Mm-hm. Do any of you remember the black dentist on Chene Street, Dr. Smith? On the corner of Ferry and Chene.

PB: What year would that be?

MK: Probably late '50s on.

PB: See we already left.

MK: Yeah. Any other thoughts about.

PB: Oh I know, Ferry Market, this is fun. Because it was a cultural, like it was an anchor point for the community, a gathering place, it was also one of the first places that we ever



saw a carnival come to our neighborhood and in the parking lot that's still there now, they put up big Ferris wheels and--.

AE: I don't remember that.

PB: You don't remember that? I remember it well because I won, the first time I ever had a game of chance where they had one of those spinning wheels and you put your.

AE: What year was that?

PB: Oh it had to be before we moved and so it had to be before 1950. So that means it would be somewhere around '48 or 1950. And I won my, my girlfriend Christine and I went there and with her dad I believe it was and I put my token down on the number one and I won this little Kewpie doll and so I always considered number 1 my lucky number. But that was all at the Chene and Ferry Market and we went on the tilt-a-whirl for the very first time we thought we were like growing up because we were on a big ride like that by ourselves. But see, you have to remember, you could only go on carnival rides at Jefferson Beach or Eastwood Park which were far far away in the--

MK: Up at Edgewater.

AE: Edgewater Park.

PB: Edgewater that was on the west side we never went there. My dad always favored Jefferson Beach but you'd have to take your car to go there and this was already a different, it was a big event because maybe it only happened one time maybe it didn't happen after that because I remember moving away and that.

MK: It happened more times because I know other people who told me that they were.

PB: They went there.

MK: On on rides at the Chene Ferry Market.

PB: Yeah.

MK: Also it was the same year, could have been the same year.

PB: Maybe it was the same year. Maybe they never did it again because whatever experience it it maybe it wasn't a good thing. But that was a fun, fun thing. Yeah as a kid that's really exciting. But, it seemed like people really cared for their properties there. I mean it was a Polish, the Polish were noted for extreme dedication to their little plot of land and they'd nurture it with flowers and their houses were immaculate.

AE: My father always says, you know a Polish lives in it if they have curtains made of lace and flowers in front of the house.

PB: Mm-hm.

AE: In the Polish house.

PB: Yes, it was, they were just noted for that and they treasured it, you know, and I think that's why they felt so threatened. They saw that other cultures didn't treasure that, they didn't like, revere their properties to that extent and they felt like if they moved in that the properties was gonna go down hill and they saw it coming from other parts of the lower east side because most of the Polish people started like around Sweetest Heart of Mary or St. Albertus and just started to fan out you know.

MK: Mm-hm.

PB: St. Stanislaus I don't think historically had the same history that St. Albertus did. It was later in time that it was built. But I remember too that my grandmother always felt this, you might say sentimental, tie to her homeland. She always spoke very fondly of Poland and it was, because it was her homeland but it was more than that it was a love of that country and an appreciation for its own history. But yet they all left their parents there and their families. You have to admire their adventurous spirit, but remember this too on Sunday Fr. Justyn was my grandmother's favorite radio station.

AE: Use to (soft).

PB: Remember it?

AE: Yeah.

MD: Oh gosh.

AE: Fr. Justyn [Yoo-styn]

PB: Justyn [Yoo-styn], is that how it's pronounced? And I remember that I just thought oh I don't want to listen to that, but everything was in Polish and they would faithfully tune in it was like 3-4 o'clock.

AE: We had to listen to that every Sunday.

PB: The church was just part of your, part of that Polish culture almost. It was, went hand in hand.

MK: What, what did Fr. Justyn talk about?

AE: The latest things that were happening in churches and priests and stuff like that.

MK: What years were these?

AE: Oh it was early on kind of though.

PB: It was.

MK: '40s?

PB: Late '40s?

AE: I would, that's what I would say, yeah. 'Cause we had to sit on the couch and listen to him.

PB: Yeah, yeah, it was a very, he was screaming like almost.

AE: We would always look out the window and everything else.

PB: The other thing is that you have to remember that living there though you didn't have hot running water either. I mean we wouldn't take baths like you shower every day. My grandmother's upper flat was the only one that had a tub. So on Saturdays the people that lived downstairs would come up for their Saturday bath and you had to go down to the basement to heat the boiler, that's what they called it, to heat that water up to get that Saturday bath and it was like a big deal, you know what I mean. I remember it well because my uncle would always fall asleep in the tub and then he'd be snoring and no one could get in there to take your turn or whatever it was. But those are the things that you take for granted today and yet look that wasn't that long ago, and so resources, natural resources, I think were more, you might say we rationed them off, right now it seems to me like we're just wasting and abusing them where before we were much more frugal and probably that's why it was easier to save money back then. Things were cheaper but also you didn't like use things the way you consume now.

MK: Great. Well thank you.

PB: It was fun.

MK: It was terrific.

AE: That was fun wasn't it.

PB: But see I'm glad we did it together because everybody has a different remembrance but yet we all remember the same thing but we needed each other to trigger it off you know what I mean.

(break)

MK: Another vendor at the Chene Ferry Market?

PB: Right, in the section of the outside the Ferry Market where they sold the chickens I can sort of remember a wooden stall, 'cause in the alley it was almost like a bazaar type atmosphere and they sold fabrics, the ladies were darker skinned and they wore a lot of bracelets. I never knew what nationality they would, they were, but they sold fine silks and brocades and more elaborate materials, not the kind of cotton bolts that you would see like at Lendzons or somewhere like that. But Alice remembers.

AE: My mother just called them cyganie.

MK: Gypsies.

AE: Gypsies. That's what she used to call them.

PB: And that's what they looked like 'cause they had, as kids we were.

AE: And I remember she used to go look for dishes up there always. They had beautiful dishes, plates and everything.

PB: All set.

AE: I don't, we never bought any material.

PB: Yeah, it was probably that you just remember different things, you know what I mean. But that was part of the adventure of going to Ferry Market, it was a it was a fun thing to do on a Saturday. I always went with my grandmother who pulled her cart.

AE: Yeah, that was my job. Pulling the cart.

PB: You'd come home with a full cart of stuff, you know, all your food. The other thing that was fun was during the war years my grandmother was cooking for someone's wedding. Because people had their receptions at home a lot. And because there was a ration of products she was making what we called butter but it wasn't butter it was margarine and it started with white, what was that?

AE: You added something to it.

PB: Powder.

AE: You mixed it up and it became yellow.

PB: Yes, it was like a paprika powder, that'd be the closest analogy I could give it. And I was fascinated because when she would mix it white would change first to orangey and then kind of this real pretty yellow color.

AE: I remember that.

PB: You remember that? That was fun. I don't think I would want to eat it today though. (laugh) But even foods, we don't make things that I ate when I was a kid. My favorite thing when my grandma would cook would be, I called them, **sparki** But that was probably, they were like potato dumplings. No, what was that to you?

AE: **Sparki** to us was salt pork that was fried and then you'd put it, uh how you way, potatoes.

PB: See that's what you put, I called, with **sparki** but what I really wanted was those dumplings that would be mixed with those, with that grease probably.

MK: **Sparki?**

PB: **Sparki** yeah.

AE: So they were, sometimes you'd put it into kapusta.

PB: Okay, so it's a salt pork, probably.

AE: Yeah.

PB: And my grandma must have taken those.

AE: I can remember what you're talking about.

PB: Okay, it was just something she might have made for me.

AE: Different families, different recipes.

PB: Yeah.

**NOTE:**

Alice Ewald [nee Kozlowski], aunt Josephine Golinski owned Elite Corset, 5911 and 5921 Chene

Pat Bosch

Melanie Dziordziewicz