

MK: This is Marian Krzyzowski and today is September the 15th, 2013. I'm at the home of Judge Bernard Friedman, joined by his brother Howard here, Karen Majewski from the University of Michigan, as well as Hannah Litow, and Shera Avi-Yonah. We are working on the project and I wanted to begin by asking you about your family—your parents, their names, grandparents, where they were from. So maybe let's begin with your parents. Who were your parents, their names?

HF: So our parents were David Friedman and Rae Garber Friedman. They were married in 1938.

MK: Okay. Where were they married?

HF: In Detroit.

MK: Do you know which...did they belong to a temple, a synagogue?

HF: They belonged to a synagogue, do you remember which one? We have movies, movies of their marriage.

MK: Was it in this area, or was it a synagogue far away?

HF: It was, I assume, in the Detroit area. My dad had most of his family, aunts and uncles, lived in the Linwood area, at that point. You know, they had moved uptown. So it was there, and we have a picture of the catering hall. They were walking out of the catering hall. It was someplace called Schweitzer's, or something. They married right in the area.

MK: And where were they born?

HF: My dad was born, uh both of them were born in Detroit.

MK: Can you tell me the years they were born?

HF: Yes. My dad was born in 1915, and my mother was born in 1916.

MK: Okay. And do you know how they met?

HF: Yes, Bernie can tell you. Can we switch off?

MK: Go ahead.

BF: They, uh, actually they met in high school. I think. My dad said...my dad went to Central. So, although, he lived in that area all his life...

HF: He went to Park Elementary, though. Which is in the Chene area.

BF: He went to Park. He went to Hutchinson, isn't that in that area?

MK: It was not, no.

BF: No?

MK: It would have been, uh, no.

HF: Dad went to Northwestern. Uncle Joe went to Central.

BF: No, no.

MK: Central, the old Central?

BF: I have the yearbook if you don't have it.

HF: On Old Main?

BF: No, no, the one on...

MK: Or after that?

BF: The one on Linwood.

MK: Oh, okay.

HF: The reason he went to Central...uh, I thought he went to Hutchinson...

BF: He did.

HF: He did go to Hutchinson. The reason he went to Central is because, I guess being Jewish, he wanted more...and all his cousins and aunts and uncles, everybody lived in that Linwood area. Linwood, between Grand Boulevard and Davison. Almost all his aunts and uncles lived there. And he had ten aunts and uncles. So what he did was, he...I shouldn't say it, but now he's passed away so I can say it, he gave the address of his aunt that lived on LaSalle, which was only walking distance from Central, and he went to Central.

MK: Where did he actually live? What was the address he actually lived at?

HF: 2429 East Milwaukee.

MK: Was that a house?

HF: It was a combination of, this is a picture, and Bernie has a picture. This is a good picture. So, this is what it was. This was my grandfather's shoe business. And this is me

sitting in the window. They had a house in the back, which was their residence. Then, upstairs there were two apartments?

BF: There were four. There were two units upstairs, and then in the back another two units. And they lived in one unit and rented out the other three. Cause Dad had his office up there. So, there were four units altogether, you can see them, though not really from this picture.

HF: So that's where he lived, in the back, and went to school. My grandfather had the shoe store.

MK: Your grandfather's name was...?

HF: Morris.

MK: Okay, and where was your grandfather born, and when?

HF: Russia.

MK: Do you know where? Specifically, what town?

HF: I used to know. We can get immigration papers for you. So he grew up there, he went to school there, my father. He went to Wayne Medical School. Then when he got out, as Bernie said, he took over the apartments upstairs...this one right here. He made his office. He practiced there, up until he closed that office. He relocated his office someplace else.

BF: For a long time...into the 80s.

MK: So he was a family doctor, or a general practitioner?

HF: Yes.

MK: So, he lived in the building where he practiced?

HF: No, when he practiced he got married.

BF: He lived there for a while.

HF: Did he? Okay, when he has married he lived there for a while. They married in '38, he finished his residency, his internship in '41, two days after I was born. Then they moved.

MK: So you were born when they were still actually living in that place?

HF: Yes.

MK: And, what about your siblings?

HF: Well, by the time, after I was born...

BF: Sorry, I have pictures of what the insides looked like.

MK: Great.

HF: Bernie was born a little over two years later, in September of '43, and my parents had already moved to a couple places. One was, I think around 12th street, and Euclid, in that area. Then eventually we moved to a street called Martindale, in Detroit. For a while, and Bernie was there. Then we have a sister, Susan, who was born in December of '49. By that time we had already moved to a street called Leslie.

MK: Can you tell me a little bit more about your grandfather? How he ended up on Chene Street, or on Milwaukee? Do you know about that? Did he come over before World War One? What was his story?

HF: He left Russia because they wanted to draft him. He came to some unusual country so he could get over here. He came over here, and he had relatives in New York, but he needed a job, so he worked for Ford. At Rouge. And he did some labor work, he worked a machine. They taught him how to work a machine. In the old country, they were shoemakers. So he knew shoemaking. He always told a story. They had this program, if you saved them money, they would pay you money. He called it his invention...he invented something, he said. He got a hunk of money, and opened a shoe store.

MK: So, he bought a building that existed already there?

HF: He said that he started his business in 1913. But he didn't buy this place until 1924, so he must have been somewhere else.

BF: Either that, or he could have rented.

HF: He might have rented. I found this piece of stationary that said he started in 1913.

MK: Okay, we should go back and take a look at the Polk's from 1913, 14, 15, and see if the shoe store appears there on Milwaukee. If not, we can find out where it did exist. So, was he married before he came?

HF: No. Well, he met his wife here in this country.

MK: Her name was...?

HF: Esther. Most of them spell it, Wolok. She was one of about ten kids. So, my grandfather met her, I don't know the circumstances but probably somebody introduced

them. We just assume, we never really heard the story. They married. Now it's interesting, her family was very religious, they were Orthodox essentially. Most of them are still Conservative. My grandfather was not, he was actually an Atheist. So, he married into this religious Jewish family, but he was an outsider. Which we think, that was why he moved where he did.

MK: Was he politically oriented, kind of Leftist?

HF: Socialist. All his brothers in law, and sisters in law, because most of his family was in New York. He was outnumbered; he was different than all the others. Like Bernie said, he was a very creative, innovative, kind of guy. I always thought that was why he move there to get away from the family.

MK: Did he speak Yiddish?

HF: Yes, only.

MK: Did he speak Russian, or Polish?

HF: His language preference was Yiddish.

BF: He spoke English.

HF: He spoke English, but he never learned to write English, nor did my grandma. My dad was proficient in Yiddish. He wrote, read Yiddish. So well that, when my grandparents went to Florida in the winter—he did well enough that they could go to Florida—they would write in Yiddish.

BF: He spoke to us in Yiddish, I knew Yiddish.

HF: And all his books, he was an avid reader, were Yiddish books. He had a whole collection, he would buy them used. He read the Forward, and Yiddish newspapers.

BF: Every day.

HF: So my dad had to help out in the business, as did his brother. He had a brother four years younger than him. They pretty much handled the business end, if there were any paper that had to be signed, or letters, my dad and his brother would have to do that.

MK: Can you describe that shoe repair business? What was it like? Both in terms of the actual business, but also physically what was the shop like?

HF: Well I remember it was a kind of narrow shop, sitting in the window. If I remember right, when you walked in, on the right side were all of his machines, for what he did. The pounding machines, for the shoes, and so forth. On the other side there were no machines, I don't actually know what was there.

BF: I don't remember the store.

HF: See, I think there was a counter. So you walked in, and all his machines were on the right-hand side of the store.

MK: Was the store the entire floor all the way back to the residential area?

HF: Yes, you could actually go to the back of the store, into the residential area.

MK: So there was a door?

HF: Yes, it was like this. There was like, a little thing. I don't remember the store, but I remember the configuration after. Here, just from the picture, it looks like there were two stores.

BF: No, there was one.

HF: I don't remember. By the time I remember...but there was a little sidewalk. Then you came out here, and there were another two units here, and two upstairs. And back here, Dad used to park. We would cut through here, and go upstairs to his office.

MK: So there was an alley?

HF: There was an alley.

BF: There was some parking, he had a yard?

HF: Well, there's no yard. Right here, he paved it for parking and there were a couple cars.

MK: They lived on the ground floor?

BF: Well, there's another little walkway, and then Liberty Bar was right there. Liberty had all this space for...

HF: Liberty was to the right of the building?

BF: Yeah, and that's how we parked there. Because, remember we stored all the barrels.

MK: And their residence, your grandparent's residence, was on the ground floor of the building. And they would rent the upstairs.

HF: Correct.

MK: And above the store, there were also apartments.

HF: And they would rent those.

MK: And they would rent those. Now when your dad moved in, he took up the upstairs of the store.

HF: Right.

MK: And that's where he set up his office. He would see patients. How would he get up?

HF: He walked.

BF: And was there a stairway.

HF: Yeah, right here.

MK: Oh, on the left side.

HF: It was not handicapped accessible. He could not treat people in wheelchairs or anything. Unless you carried them up, and he probably did. The literally had to take people up the stairs.

MK: Can you describe your grandfather and grandmother, I mean physically. What did they look like?

BF: I didn't know what you wanted, I could have gotten tons of pictures.

HF: Oh yeah, we have tons of pictures.

MK: We want them!

HF: My grandfather was about six feet tall. Muscular. He was a big guy. We always remembered him because he had a big indentation on his forehead.

MK: When was the injury?

HF: He had an injury before we were born, so when we all knew him he had this big indentation on his forehead. He was a deep-throated guy, he had a deep voice.

BF: His presence was known.

HF: Yeah. My grandmother was...here, look. He was kind of a stoic looking guy, kind of a formal...

MK: Is that the grandmother?

HF: Yeah, that's my grandmother. So this is her mother. This was the woman that had the ten kids. This was probably taken...no that was her mother, not her sister.

BF: He didn't say much, but he always listened.

HF: Oh, see this is me here, and this is one of my cousins. Okay, so my grandfather was kind of a stoic looking formal guy. He definitely was a Socialist, he always listened to the marginal...he went back to Russia...

MK: What was that story?

HF: He had some machinery. He changed over and bought some machinery. He went back to Russia, and everybody was concerned that he was going to stay there.

BF: But he had to go through another country to get a visa. We found his papers and his passport.

HF: Yeah, he went back, and the story I heard was that it wasn't what he thought it was going to be. He had this business, and this family, back in Detroit. So he came back, but I'm not exactly sure what his...

MK: So was he actually here, in organizations in the Detroit area? Political, or anything at all?

HF: There was an organization called Workman's Circle, that was kind of a Socialist, Jewish thing. He had friends on this lake; did you know there was a kind of Socialist, Jewish community here? Right on that side of the lake. It was started almost like a kibbutz.

MK: Did it have a name?

BF: The name I forgot, I have it downstairs.

HF: So they built, the Zionist, not the Zionist the Socialist group, they bought the land as communal property. You could build a house, and not own it. To this day, it's not owned. The land is still there, the homes have been redone, inherited by families, but nobody owns it.

BF: The community does, I guess.

HF: So my dad has memories of coming out here, in the summer, I guess, to this communal area. But he was never a leader; he was more of a thinker, an organizer...

BF: Well, he had nobody else to talk to about it because his other relatives...

HF: Yeah, he couldn't talk to his relatives! So that, and there was an organization in Detroit called Workman's Circle. We went there for a short while as kids. And they taught you Hebrew, and they taught you history...but we weren't greatly influenced by his...he didn't push it down our throats. I think he knew that his thinking was a lot different than his brothers-in-law's.

BF: He was also very hardworking.

MK: Did he have other employees, at the shoe store?

HF: It's interesting, you know, my dad in order to work his way through medical school...he and his brother...my dad was older, though. He had a shoe route, they would go out to Fort Custer. In Battle Creek. And Fort Wayne. And they would pick up shoes, and fix shoes for two dollars a sole.

BF: They had a trailer that they would attach to the car, we have pictures, I just can't find them. So they had a sign on their car. They built it, my grandfather...so they would go to Fort Custer, or Fort Wayne and pick up soldiers shoes, and put them in these cubbyholes. That's how they would keep track of them. So they would drive out there, and put them in the cubbyholes. So they could distribute them...

MK: So, they brought them back to East Milwaukee?

HF: Yeah, for a week. I don't think they did the shoes, I don't think my dad said that he actually worked there...

BF: But he knew how to sole shoes, and put heels on them.

MK: So he had people working for him?

HF: I don't think so; I don't remember anybody working there. Maybe there was one person, maybe. He did, probably, all the work himself. Long hours. So they would bring the shoes in...I mean, he would do local people too. But that was one of the ways my dad and uncle got through school.

MK: How long did he live in this house?

BF: My grandfather?

HF: I know, because he built the house on Leslie for himself. And my dad took it over. So he lived there until 1950 until we moved to Leslie.

BF: We were there when Susan was born in '49.

HF: Yeah, '49.

BF: So he might have lived there in '47, '48. So he built this house for himself and then my dad took it over. Then he moved to Pickford.

MK: So, he was there, presumably during the Depression years? He was there during the Father Coughlin years? I'm just curious, what was the interaction he had with locals, other residents and businesses, primarily Polish Catholics. Do you know what that was like; did he ever talk about that? Anything in the neighborhood? Did he talk about that?

HF: Not to me, and I talked to him a lot. I can tell you my dad's.

MK: Well, we'll get to that.

HF: I can tell you my dad's experience of Anti-Semitism.

BF: No, never heard anything about Father Coughlin.

HF: Growing up, we never heard about it either. We grew up in a Jewish neighborhood, and we never heard anything about it. Or experienced it, at least I didn't.

MK: What about Ford? He was at Ford when Ford was putting out his racist newsletters...did he talk at all about that?

HF: My dad talked to us about it when we were growing up, about Ford being Anti-Semitic.

MK: He moved out of there in the late 1940s, and then he moved to where?

HF: No, that's when we moved to that house, he moved to another place.

BF: On the West Side. He moved to a place on Oakland Boulevard.

MK: Where on the West Side?

HF: You know, where that, Focus: HOPE is... near there. The same house that he was building on Leslie that my dad took over, he built the same house.

MK: Near Linwood, or some place?

HF: Yes, yes. So he moved there. Then, they started going to Florida, in the winter. They went to Arizona, and we had a cottage out at Cass Lake. That's another story, though. So what happened was, even though my grandfather was kind of a Socialist, his brothers in law and sisters in law, were a little more prosperous, a little more industrious and entrepreneurial. And his father in law was a pushcart guy. He's a whole other story, Abraham Wolok. He started out as a scrap dealer, then one of his sons, several of them got into the scrap business, and built it up during the war. One was a multimillionaire, married his secretary 20 years younger, and had a country club, a limousine; you know

that kind of thing. The others went into the building business; there was a whole group of Wolok builders. So my grandfather also had kind of an entrepreneurial spirit. Eventually, he started building houses after the war. So, in the 40s, he started building a lot of houses, my dad even, because he was just getting in to practice, had some extra time, so they built a lot of houses for family members a prototypes.

BF: He watched what they did—he was very intuitive.

HF: So they made quite a bit of money after the war. Enough that he could retire at that point. So he could go to Arizona, and eventually Florida. But one of his brothers, a guy named Louis Rose, and another one, Adelman, Sol Adelman, bought cottages on Cass Lake. On Cass Lake Road. So, Louis bought a cottage and one of his brothers in law bought a cottage. I was 3, 4, 5 years old we would rent the cottage for a whole month from his uncle and liked it so much, that my dad bought a cottage two doors down. My grandfather bought a cottage; he bought the one right next door to my father. In the summer, he would be at the cottage. In the winter, he would usually go to Florida or Arizona and that's how he spent his retirement years.

MK: Do you know who he sold the building, or the business, to?

HF: I don't think he sold the business. I remember when he closed the business. He sent the equipment to Israel.

MK: Do you know roughly when that might have been? The closing. I guess, after '48.

BF: I know that Uncle Joe got the building.

HF: My dad rented it. For years.

BF: Oh, that's right. That was a big thing—my dad had his office there.

HF: He was the only one paying rent! There was no one else in the building, at the time.

BF: But my grandfather felt sorry for my uncle because he wasn't particularly successful. Anyhow that's a whole other story.

HF: At the time, he wasn't. So he gave the building to my uncle, and my dad was paying his brother rent. And actually, what happened after the war...is this the kind of thing you're interested in?

MK: Yeah, sure, sure.

HF: Okay. So my dad was in practice, and the reason I mentioned he went right into to practice is because he went into the service, but he was obese. He weighed over 300 pounds. When he died, he was under 200 pounds, but he had gained a huge amount of weight, and they wouldn't take him. So, he was one of the few doctors, when they

finished their training in the 40s, that was able to go into practice because they didn't have a uniform for him.

BF: They gave him papers that said, you enlisted but are 109 pounds overweight, so we can't take you.

HF: So they didn't take him, and he was here. Right after the war, he got into the building business. But, I was going to tell you...so my uncle, his brother, his name is Joe, he got out of the service and went to podiatry school in Cleveland, and my dad was so excited about it that he took one of the rooms and set it up for my uncle. He put a chair in there, and put all the stuff he needed. He put his name on the door. And my uncle never practiced podiatry because the building business was so good! They were doing so well, that he joined in the building business.

MK: So were there other siblings, besides...

HF: No, just the two.

MK: David was born in 1915, and when was Joe?

HF: He was born around 1919.

MK: So, how long did your dad have that practice up there?

HF: Well, so it's interesting because what he did is, he was on the staff of different hospitals, he was a GP, and eventually, he started his own hospital. Right from scratch—he had a couple of doctor friends, in the hospital business. It was a business at that point. So he bought a building on the corner of Virginia Park and 3rd, and it was like 26 beds, 30 beds...

BF: He started it; it was interesting why he started it, for two reasons. Number one was because he was a general practitioner, more sophisticated, and they wouldn't let him do surgery, or deliver babies. Also, because his practice was combined black and Polish, and they didn't want the black patients, they didn't particularly want the Polish patients, because they were poor and most of the time they didn't have the wherewithal to pay. He was essentially saying to himself, what am I doing? I'm not doing the things I like doing. That's what motivated him.

HF: So he opened up a hospital, bought one of those old big homes on Virginia Park, and he practice very successfully. In 10 years, it was about 1952; he filled the whole place up. It made it easier for him, and he hired a doctor to make rounds, and so forth. So that was like '52, '53, and he kept expanding the hospital, and by the 1970s it was 150 beds. He created this whole thing. And, by then he couldn't fill the hospital, but what he did was he had a clinic in that building, called the Friedman clinic.

BF: Before the DMC.

HF: Yeah, he had that name before the DMC. He was just like my grandfather, who was kind of an innovative guy. Quite the same way. So he'd built it up, and he transitioned, at one point. So he'd had the office in Milwaukee, but he'd stopped going there. He brought in another doctor, Hodge. What was his nationality?

BF: Greek.

HF: Greek. And he ran that practice, and in the hospital that he had stated into the 50s and 60s, he had another office. So he pretty much devoted himself to that office, and Dr. Hodge had the other office. And then, did he go to Ann Arbor?

BF: No, after.

HF: Okay, so Hodge, he ran the office probably through the 60s, and the reason I say that is because my dad, you know he grew up kind of poor, he always wanted to be a specialist. He liked being a practitioner, but it was getting harder, he cut back on his OB. So when he was 49 years old he did a residency. He went up to Ann Arbor; he commuted for two years, three days a week.

MK: He lived there.

HF: Yeah, he lived there and commuted I mean on the weekends. Financially, he was okay, with the people running the clinic and stuff. So, my last two years of medical school, '64 to '66, my father was a resident in the university medical school. I'd make rounds and look over and there was my dad doing a physical. All my friends, we'd go out and he'd always be good for a cup of coffee, which in those days was a dime or something.

BF: And they always knew he was there because he had the only Cadillac in the residents program. He also had a housekeeper that he hired to come in every day, to straighten up.

HF: But he lived in the residency, he used to come up on Monday, he'd stay Monday night go home Wednesday...my sister was still home...and come back Thursday, stay Thursday night and come home for the weekend.

MK: He must have been on call, some weekends.

HF: Yeah, sometimes he was on call. But he did that for two years. So, now, he did that for two years and came back and gave up general practice. That's my point, he got into physical medicine. But he never practiced that full time, that was never his intention. He did some of the thing he liked to do, he did EMGs for the state for a number of years before they laid him off. When he was laid off he was eighty years old. Cause the Department of Education closed his department, that he worked in for the rehabilitation. So, at his 80th birthday, I said, thank God, Dad you have a second job. A fallback, because here he was, you know, until he was 85 years old.

MK: So he passed away at 85?

HF: No, no. He was working at the DMC three days a week at 85, driving down there.

BF: He would drive down to Highland Park. One of the DMC offices on Woodward there. By the bridge in Highland Park, you know the bridge. That's where he used to go.

MK: And then he retired at that point, I assume.

HF: He retired because he had a little stroke.

MK: When did he pass away?

HF: Forty-five years ago, he was 93.

MK: So, it had been 208?

BF: Yeah, about 208.

HF: So, the answer to your question about the office. That office stayed open for a while because now this other doctor was there and he finished in '66.

BF: Dr. Hodge was there because then he retired and went back to Greece. In fact, I ended up going to law school with his son. He was there, until I'd say the mid-70s.

HF: Was he really? Mid-70s.

MK: And your Uncle Joe still owned the building at that point?

BF: Yeah. He owned it until they tore it down.

HF: My dad still paid the rent!

BF: It was a big family thing...

MK: So, you were in the building?

HF: Yeah, I was in the building.

MK: So, just looking at it from the outside, could you describe what this is color-wise? Is that a beige brick? Red brick? Siding? What is this?

BF: Pretty drab.

HF: You know what it was; I know exactly what it was. You know that fake brick, that asbestos stuff?

MK: Yeah.

HF: That's the stuff, that's exactly what that place was. It looks like brick there, but it was that fake brick cause I remember seeing it a hundred times and when my dad remodeled later on, I can't tell you what it was. Every single Saturday I'd go down with my dad to the office until I was about 6 and on, and I'd go on all the house calls with him. I remember, when he wanted to spruce up the building later on, he covered this all up and just fixed it up. Originally, it looked like brick.

MK: Do you know what color this awning was? Do you have any idea?

HF: I don't remember the awning, sorry.

MK: What about the neighbor? You said Liberty Bar, who were they?

HF: Liberty Bar was...I mean, I knew them because I went in there, and people were drinking, on my way to the drugstore. I would walk down...

BF: There was a drugstore around the corner.

HF: I would walk down...so, my dad would write a prescription, and I would walk down to the pharmacy to get ice cream and the prescription. But I always stopped at Liberty Bar, and I looked in and the guys were drinking. It looked like a cheap bar, and always smelled like a cheap bar. I didn't know in those days, but now I know what a cheap bar is like. In the back, I was always amazed because they had those big beer kegs. The metal beer kegs just stacked up and stacked up. They had a back door...cause as I walked out of the office I would come down to Milwaukee. And remember I told you this was like a little thing...

BF: A walkway.

HF: Yeah, a walkway. And they'd have all those things stacked up here, and they'd take them up here. They had a door that came in to the side of the bar. So I would never go in the front door...

BF: I don't know, either I think we weren't allowed to...

HF: Whatever it was.

MK: Do you know if it was Polish owners, or what? Who were they?

BF: You know, I was trying to think...who were they...I don't know who they were, I don't know who they were.

HF: My dad knew them.

BF: He knew them!

HF: Cause he knew everybody.

BF: Everybody in the neighborhood. But they always knew who I was—I just looked in, watched, you know, and they'd kind of wave.

MK: Did your mom work outside of the home at all?

HF: No...oh, she did work...

(Simultaneously) Before they got married...

HF: Before they got married and had kids she...she never...she graduated high school. Oh, that's how they met! I started to tell you. They met at Central, and he said that he was walking up or down...and she was walking the other way and he looked at her and they fell madly in love and that was it right then. And they started dating and probably a year later they got married.

BF: They never had a date other than each other.

HF: Yeah.

BF: So she worked...she never...she finished high school and she worked as a secretary.

HF: Bookkeeper.

BF: Bookkeeper. Bookkeeping, secretary, so on and so forth. And then when they got married she never worked.

MK: So, let's get to the two of you and your sister. You were born in '41, '43, '49—where did you go to school? Elementary, and...

HF: Well, basically at that point—even though I went a year at a place called McCullough (?), which was on Broad Street near Dexter—we essentially moved, when I started first grade, to Leslie and Dexter. We lived there, right off the corner. Are you familiar with that area?

BF: Yeah.

HF: So we lived the fourth house off the corner.

MK: And, the address was...?

HF: 3337. So, we lived there, all the way...so we moved...I can figure out the year, but we moved before I started...I went to Durfee half a year. And I think in '57 we moved. I went to Durfee...

MK: You didn't go to McCullough?

HF: I went to McCullough, and we moved to Dexter. So from McCullough and sixth grade, seventh, eighth, and part of the ninth grade I went to Durfee. Then we moved to the Livernois...we moved to a street called Strathcona, which is near Palmer Woods. And, I went to Mumford the rest of my time. And you were...did you go to Durfee?

BF: Yeah, just a couple of weeks and then I went to Hampton. And then I went to Mumford.

MK: You went to Mumford, too?

BF: Yeah.

MK: And how about your sister?

HF: One thing I'll tell you—my mother went to Durfee also, and we had the same teacher. There was a teacher, Mrs. Heimowitz that my mother had when she was at Durfee that I had when I was at Durfee.

(indistinct chatter)

HF: So, my sister, she went to Hampton, right?

BF: She went to Hampton and Liggett...

HF: So then what happened was the neighborhood changed drastically at that point and my parents didn't want to move—partially because my dad was still working in Detroit and he liked it, he'd just drive right down Woodward. We lived three houses off of Woodward. And, so she went to Liggett, in Grosse Pointe. There were a bunch of girls there in our area, the Palmer Woods area that commuted.

MK: Went to Liggett?

HF: Yeah.

MK: That's interesting; you know Grosse Pointe always has this reputation of not being open to non-WASP-ish...maybe more residents than students?

HF: There were three or four in her area, Jewish girls...

MK: That went to Liggett?

HF: That went to Liggett.

BF: She must have graduated in '67.

HF: She graduated in...

MK: I mean, those were the years Rocky Colavito was turned down for a house in Grosse Pointe.

HF: Yeah, it was unusual. She went there because my dad wanted her to go the best school.

BF: And you couldn't go to Mumford at that point, it was not a good and conducive school at that point.

MK: You mentioned earlier that your dad talked about Anti-Semitism, was that something he personally experienced, or was this more of a general...what was that like?

HF: I don't think he ever...except for getting into med school. He knew there was a quote, and he talked about the quota in med school. But other than that...he talked about Anti-Semitism so that we could learn about it, not because he...except for med school, because there was a quote. But he made the quota, so he wasn't complaining. But he talked about it as an educational thing, we learned about Father Coughlin, Henry Ford, you know, Zionism...but he never talked about being, he was...

BF: He was a supporter of Israel; he bought Israel bonds right from the get-go. He was a supporter of the United States—I have a United States savings bond, I didn't bring it, because I thought it was...you know, right across the street from him was the NBD, there was a National Bank of Detroit, that was his bank. Okay, so he used to bank there. So, when I was less than six months old... I have a US savings bond that was 25 dollars that was written out in hand. You know, and they must have just started savings bonds. I've never cashed it in. It's only worth 125 dollars, but... you know, it doesn't go up after 40 years. But he bought US savings bonds right from the get-go, for all of us, even for our grandchildren. And then, for Israel, he bought Israel bonds; we all had all kinds of Israel bonds.

MK: He ever go to Israel?

HF: He did, years ago.

MK: With your mom?

HF: Yeah.

BF: He was very Zionist, and taught us the same thing.

MK: So have you been to Israel?

BF: I've been there.

HF: Probably a dozen times. So going back to...just one thing I was going to say about the other thing... so he would talk about corporate...you know...

BF: Glass ceilings?

HF: Yeah, you know for Jews, and the whole Henry Ford thing...he brought us that whole historical piece and then, uh, yeah he told us about it.

BF: Educationally, I mean, we never experienced it.

HF: Fortunately, we never experienced it.

MK: So, outside of Liberty Bar, do you recall any other businesses? You mentioned the drugstore...any other businesses in that area that you either directly interacted with or indirectly your grandfather would talk about?

HF: Well, the drugstore in the corner, we spent a lot of time there. We'd walk through the bar, you know just because it was interesting, and it was dark and so on. But right next to it was the drugstore. So when we would go to the office, mostly my dad would take us together...so we would go down to the drugstore for lunch, that was always our typical, regular lunch thing. You know, sit at the counter; what was the name of the drugstore?

BF: Doctor's Pharmacy.

HF: Doctor's Pharmacy, you know, he was...he knew the people there. So we could, like, hang out there, if we wanted to. Then around the corner, there was a shoeshine place.

MK: Around the corner? Which corner?

HF: On Chene Street...yeah, right in this area.

BF: The other way.

HF: Yeah, so right here...the drugstore; right there there was an alley that came through. There was a shoeshine place.

BF: A little skinny store.

HF: Yeah, they didn't repair shoes, because my grandfather did that, but it was a shoeshine place. So every time we'd come we'd always get our shoes shined. We started

getting shoes shined when we were five years old. And then...there was a gas station on this corner here...

BF: St. Claire, I think...

HF: Right there. And that's where he would get...they washed his car, and fill it up. He'd often park it there. We used to park behind the building, he'd park here. So we used to walk down Chene Street, usually through the alley and back into his office. Then there was a movie theater...I was telling Bernie we went...I'm gonna say right here.

MK: Yeah, the Home Theater. On Chene.

HF: Yeah, so...and this was where the streetcars exchanged. And we went there a couple times, for example I remember once we went to see the movie Bambi. So it was 1947, it was released...you know, I was six and he was four, and we cried. His nurse came; you know he had a trusted nurse like all doctors. So she took us to the theater and got us seated, and she was going to come back and pick us up. And, I cried, and I think you must have too. (Mumbling) I remember it was very sad. We went to the usher and asked him to call her and come pick us up. So, we went there several times. Then there was a barbershop here. I don't...on that street.

MK: On Grand here?

HF: Yeah, I couldn't remember the name.

MK: Do you remember any other Jewish merchants in that neighborhood? That you knew were Jewish?

HF: No. There was a lunch place next to the shoeshine guy.

BF: Oh was there?

HF: Yeah, but I don't know if they were Jewish or not.

MK: There's also a lunch on Chene, across Milwaukee, called Radio Lunch.

HF: Yes!

MK: Do you remember that?

HF: I remember the name...

MK: I interviewed those people.

HF: Did you?

MK: Yeah.

HF: Cause the NBD; I would walk across the street to make deposits...

MK: What about the Iris Theater on the boulevard, do you remember the Iris at all? It was more of an upscale theater.

HF: No, no I don't remember that.

MK: So, the Cunningham's, there was a Cunningham's on the other side.

BF: That had the greatest floor, an old tile floor.

HF: I remember a friend of mine, whose father was Jewish and a doctor, had an office that was right there at the Cunningham's I think at the upstairs, or something...

MK: Who was it, do you remember?

HF: Gitlin.

BF: He invited him to come today, but he said he didn't want to come...

HF: I invited him, but he says he has no memory, there wasn't much.

MK: And there was also a Dr. Bloch, Abraham Bloch?

HF: Oh, yeah!

MK: Abraham Bloch, on Milwaukee.

HF: My dad knew him.

MK: There was another Jewish doctor, too, in that same intersection...I can't remember his name, I interviewed his daughter. I can't remember.

HL: I have the Polk open here, we found your dad and your...

BF: Oh, did you?

HL: Yeah, we're looking at it right now. Would it have been on Milwaukee?

MK: It probably would have been on the corner of Milwaukee...

HF: On Chene.

MK: Probably on Chene. It could have been a Chene address. Where was Gitlin—look under Gitlin?

HF: Right on top of the Cunningham's.

HL: Yes, and I think that this guy may have taken over Gitlin's place.

HF: Oh, it could have been. Bloch I remember.

BF: Because...

HF: Gitlin's father died young, I mean he was about my father's age but I never knew his dad.

MK: Bittker...did you guys know the Bittkers, the dentist and the doctor? They were in that same, right in that same intersection.

BF: Were they?

MK: But the dentist was there, like 30 or 40 years.

HF: See, I had my own little path.

BF: Yeah.

HF: See, that's why I wanted to show you what we were familiar with. There was a barbeque restaurant that we used to go to.

MK: Famous Barbeque.

HF: Oh, that's what it was. Where was that, we were trying to figure it out.

MK: It was on Chene, just before the boulevard. Just before the boulevard.

HF: Yup, and my dad knew those people, they were patients of his.

BF: Oh, yeah.

HF: And we used to go there on Sundays, and they had like a back room, and they would just keep bringing slabs of ribs. My mother never liked the idea that we were eating ribs because she still felt...she still kept kosher. So, the fact that my dad was taking us out for ribs.

BF: All of us! We all went.

HF: We all went, but she had to always go there in the back room, and he knew all the people, and they kept bringing ribs. It was famous. But we found...

HL: Julius Gitlin, we found a Julius Gitlin.

BF: Was that his first name?

HF: Yeah, yeah.

BF: I know Kenny.

MK: I'd be interested in any photos of his dad?

HF: You know, I'm going to see him next week.

MK: If he doesn't remember that, fine, but...we would love to get photos or something, I mean, he's listed on my list. Gitlin is.

HF: All right, I'm gonna see him this weekend, we're going to...

MK: Anybody heard of Abraham Bloch's daughter? Cause I got a lot of stuff on him. Cause he had, also, his own little hospital he opened up on the east side.

BF: They said maternity hospital, you guys just read it.

(Mumbling)

HF: None of them I knew were Jewish. I knew...I think Liberty Bar was Polish, my dad spoke a little Polish, his practice was Polish.

MK: Did he have any body else working with him upstairs, anybody in his practice. Did he have a receptionist or nurse...who were they? Do you know? What were their names?

BF: Olga?

HF: They were there for years. He had Mary, who was his head person...

MK: Do you remember her last name, by any chance?

HF: She's dead. Taylor. She died; my dad went to the funeral. They stayed in touch until she died.

MK: How did...were they from the neighborhood, or from the west side?

HF: She was Polish, because she spoke Polish. She was fluent. She married...her husband was Polish.

BF: Yeah, that's right, her husband was Polish. She grew up in the neighborhood. I don't know how he...they were together from the day he started.

MK: So there was Mary Taylor and who else?

HF: Olga something, who was also Polish, and was with him for years. And then he had another two, who would just come and go.

BF: Yeah, nurses.

HF: But he was the only doctor, until he wanted to cut back. You know, he just wanted to cut back.

MK: But he didn't do deliveries in the building?

BF: Oh, no, no, no.

HF: He did those at...he was on the staff at Highland Park. And he was on the staff at Brendt (?) Hospital.

BF: He did a lot of house calls. He used to go to them all the time.

HF: Yeah. And he had a lot of his patients, I remember when I asked you about Dodge Main, because half the people that would come in when we came in and would sit up in the front with Mary and just be there—obviously we didn't go in to see the patients—would work at Dodge Main. Mostly African Americans, a lot of Polish people.

MK: Yeah, 30, 000 people at one point worked at Dodge Main.

HF: He was always right when he delivered a baby on the gender. I mean, years later he told me this, after he had retired, he said if he saw the woman and was doing the examination he would always say, "you know, you're going to have a girl." And on the chart he would write boy, so when he delivered they would say, "you're so right!" or "you were wrong doc." And he would say, no, look at the chart; you must have heard me wrong. Yeah, but he did OB, like a lot of those doctors before.

MK: But what about yourselves now...

BF: I'll tell you one other very interesting story, it one of those...in my chambers, Keith was right next to me. I moved, he's still there. So, one day, his secretary comes over and says, "You know, I've seen you. It's been three years, I've been wanting to come over to talk to you." She said, "My oldest child's name is David," I told her that's my dad's name. She said, "I know, he delivered him." And this was his secretary until she retired. He hired her years ago. Isn't that just...she said for three years she had been wanting to tell me she'd known my dad...

HF: We used to get stories like that all the time.

MK: Tell me about your selves now. You went to medical school where?

HF: Michigan. I went to undergrad at Michigan. Graduated Mumford, went to undergrad a Michigan, went to medial school at Michigan. I did an internship in Denver for one year. In those days, now they combine it for four years, they used to break it up. So I came back to Detroit and then I went to the service for two years. Air Force. And I came back in '72 and I've been practicing since then.

MK: You're in southeastern Michigan.

HF: Yeah, yeah. Right here, in this area.

MK: So how about yourself? Where did you go to school after Mumford?

BF: Mine's a whole story, they did a whole history on it. I was a bad student; I don't mean to bore you with the whole thing. I couldn't get into a college; literally I could not get into a college. I drove all over the state, I begged, but I literally could not get into a college. And my dad, of course, was pushing me. So I went to Highland Park Junior College, it was called. I didn't do very well there, either, and I was working.

MK: Where were you working?

BF: I was working with my dad at the hospital. Doing labor. Because, he didn't want me to work there, he wanted me to get an education. So everyday, he would say, "You better start doing something." And, I was living at home because I wasn't getting paid very much. And, it's a whole long story so I was just kind of doing my thing and not doing much, and the army was on my back because I didn't have a student deferment. I wasn't going to get married, either. So, one day I'm walking by Detroit...DCL, Detroit College of Law. And I go in, just to look around, and I see inside, just sitting on the desk, there's an application. And it's a five by seven card. I mean, literally a five by seven card. And I look at it and I say to the lady, "Is this the application?" Cause I had filled out so many applications three and a half years before that to colleges that were page after page and essays.

MK: Where was this at? Where was the actual physical location of the DCL?

BF: It was where the Tigers stadium is now.

MK: Where Comerica is, yeah.

BF: Where Comerica Park is, on Elizabeth Street. And I forgot why it was down there.

HF: You actually went to school; you went to Highland Park, and then to DIT.

BF: Yeah, to DIT. But I never got even a class credit at DIT.

HF: Oh, I didn't know that. For three and a half years, you were doing something.

BF: I was doing something. Every day, being harassed by my dad. I know, I was down there, and the Red Cross was right across the street. I was just doing an errand for the hospital there, and saw the school. They wrote a whole history downtown about this whole thing. And so I walk, and I see this application and I'm talking to the lady. And I said, "That's the application?" and she said, "Yeah." And I said, "I don't have a degree or anything," and she said, "Do you have tuition?" and I said, "Yeah." She said, "Here's how we do it here, we'll take 200 or so new students, out of those 200, we'll whittle it down to the second year to about 20 or 25. And out of those, if you can pay full tuition, you can get in. It's like money wasted for you." And the army was on my back so I needed a student deferment. I had no choice. Any way, it was a whole big thing...

HF: In those days we got drafted. See, there was a draft, you didn't have a choice.

MK: So, you got your law degree from Detroit College of Law...

BF: Yeah, and then I ended up getting drafted anyhow. Which was, I mean it was a good time.

HF: But you did well! You know, he found himself.

BF: I did. You know, my first year I was like...I never could study. My dad always said you can do it, you can do it, you can do it...

MK: What years were these?

BF: This was in...I graduated in '68. So I graduated high school in '61, and I didn't do anything until I got into law school...to make a long story short, my dad always said you can do it, he'd send me for counseling, and I went to tutors more than anybody in this world had even seen a tutor, because every time I wasn't doing well they'd find a tutor. He'd find a tutor, and I would tune out and be thinking of things. I remember never listening to a tutor, never listening to class. I never learned...the reason is, I don't want to go into the whole thing, but the reason is I never learned to read phonetically. So I can't read phonetically, and it's very difficult. Now there's a diagnosis, but he sent me to, I'm telling you, everywhere. I went to Marygrove Reading Clinic, and they never picked it up! Nobody ever picked it up, but I couldn't read phonetically. Anyhow, so I got into law school, and I loved it! So I had my room here, cause I was still living in the house, but I took Howard's room over, I cleaned it out, and I did nothing seven days a week and 24 hours a day but study and go to school. And I did great, I was...I came in second.

MK: And then, after DCL, what happened?

BF: After DCL, I went to the army.

HF: Just for six weeks...

BF: It turned out to be nine months, and then I got out, but I had to commit for six years to the reserves. And I got out, and I went to law school really thinking I was going to go into real estate, into building. You know, during law school I got a builder's license, I got a broker's license, took the tests and all that stuff. So, then I got out of the army, and somebody said, we're going to Wayne County prosecutor's office, we're applying there. They'd already taken the bar, so I had to come back; anyhow, I got a job at the Wayne County prosecutor's office and loved it. And from there, I met two guys...Bob Harrison and Holden Roberson and we became the first... second integrated law firm. Holden was black, and Harrison was Armenian, there were all these stories and we left the prosecutor's office, and then...again, it's a whole story. The Anchor Bar case...you probably don't know anything about the Anchor Bar case. They indicted the federal government, lieutenants and sergeants of the Detroit Police Department, a whole slew of them for corruption, they were on the tape. But, how did they do it? They tapped the phone at the Anchor Bar, which is still there but it's in a different location. And they had all this wiretapped. So, one day the FBI's picking up all these lieutenants and sergeants. The three of us had just left the prosecutor's office; we were just starting or practice. And they needed representation. So, they called us, and we said yeah!

HF: An African American, Armenian, and a Jew!

BF: I'm telling you, these were our friends, they were all lieutenants and sergeants, and we had done cases with them every day in the Wayne County prosecutor's office! But they had no money, so we started...we got them out of jail, we started writing writs, we just went crazy. There was a guy named LJ Bower, though, he was the president of their fraternal organization. He said...he came to us and said, the only way we can pay you is if we become a union, just like the DPOA. Cause the DPOA had legal counsel, and they could do what they called a check-off, a legal fees check-off. He said, other than that, I don't know how these guys are going to pay you; we've got to become a union. I'd never...anyhow, to make a long story short; they'd put me on the task of becoming a union. I'd lucked out, because the city agreed to it. So we filed a petition, they became a union, they got a check-off, and we had all these clients and all the money. Because every lieutenant and sergeant was paying to this fund! And nobody ever got convicted. And that started our practice. And then Holden got appointed to the...then, oh, how I became a republican!

HF: Everybody always asks...

BF: How did I become a Republican? Knowing my dad, who is very, very liberal...

HL: You were a rebel?

BF: No, no. By no means. I didn't know anything about Republican! What did I know? I'm a democrat, I grew up in a family...I had no idea.

HF: When ever...

(Indistinct mumbling)

BF: My dad contributed to the Democratic Party! And so, my boss at the prosecutor's office was Jim Brickley. Just to give you a quick history, Jim Brickley was...his dad owned a big dairy called Brickley Dairy, and he was an FBI agent, and then he came back to Detroit and he ran for City Council.

HF: Moderate Republican.

BF: Very moderate Republican. He was the first Republican on the city council in decades. And then the Democratic prosecutor appointed him chief assistant. And so he was my boss at the prosecutor's office, and then when Milliken was running, Milliken selected him as his running mate for lieutenant governor. So he calls us up, and says Bernie, Holden, Bob, we need endorsements and we need money. And I said, we can help you with endorsements...but the union, the police unions, by that time we represented police unions and lieutenants and sergeants all over the state. I said, I don't think they'll ever endorse a republican. And I said, I'll do it the best I can. He said, but we also need money. To make a long story short, so we...I threw a couple of parties at my house, people I knew, and raised some money for them. And I got the unions, the police unions, for the first time to endorse Milliken and Brickley. And so that's how I became a republican.

HF: Well, then, Brickley, tell them...decided he wanted to become off counsel.

BF: Yeah, so then Brickley was lieutenant governor for two terms, but then...you know, lieutenant governor's the job of nothing. He'd call us every day, you know, where were we going to lunch. There was nothing to do, so he didn't want to do it again. So he came in as off counsel to us, and then he became...then he was appointed president of Eastern Michigan University, he had a great time up there all the time. And then what's his name got indicted, the lieutenant governor who took his place, so Milliken asked him to come back. And then we had to get him endorsements again. And then I never thought about it again! And then our practice was crazy, and I was gone all the time by that point. I was representing the unions, the police unions, but I also picked up cities. I represented Inkster, Southgate, a couple of other cities...I was the only person doing both sides of the fence, and I was gone every night. Council meeting, the union only meets at night, because they're working during the day. And my family was just...

HL: Yeah, that's got to be tough.

BF: It was crazy! So I said, my wife and I talked, and I said, I've got to get out of this...I can't do it, we made enough money for our kids, I can't do this anymore! This and everything that my kids do in school. So I started looking for a business, I said...which I don't know why, because business isn't any better. I'll tell you, that's a whole other story. And then the judge out here in the 48th, I saw in the paper, was...got appointed by Milliken to the circuit court. And there was an opening here in the 48th district court, so I

said, I'm going to apply. What do I have to lose, so I applied, I called Brickley. He said hey, so this is our last term, and Milliken now has a policy that the Bar Association recommends four names to him, and he'll pick one of those names. I had to make it through the Bar Association, anyway, so I was one of those four names, and then my partner called Brickley, and said if you don't go into Milliken's office this minute and tell him...because, I don't know if you know this, but Jim Brickley was a very laid-back guy, he never exerted himself, he never...he never went out of his way for someone. So, he went next door to Milliken's office and that's how I got appointed. And that's how I became a Republican. So that's how I got appointed to the federal bench!

MK: The federal bench...that's right.

HF: He was at the district...so thank god he got appointed to the federal because he had to run for office one time, he had to run with signs, we were driving around...

BF: The first election, I spent more money on advertising and handing out stuff than I made in two years before that. Just cause I loved the job, and I'm not going to leave.

HF: And my dad would go out, you know he was kind of somewhat retired, only working like three days a week, and he'd go out every single day to drugstores, and stand in front with signs. They thought he was running! They thought he was the judge.

BF: I mean, every time...

HF: This was years ago.

BF: The story would be, "I met your dad in front of Kroger," ... and my dad one time, you used to have those little cards when people would walk into the store, he said you've got to make them bigger! I said why? He said because people can't just throw them down. And he was right, so we made them...made cards like this. And he would hand them out, and people would have to fold them and put them in their pockets and take them home. At least they'd read them twice! I'm telling you, for...

HL: That's actually kind of clever!

BF: Yeah! I never thought of it, he's the one that thought of it, and...a day didn't go by when I was in the 48th that people didn't go, "I met your dad in front of Kroger" or "I met your dad in front of Sav-On."

MK: So you were appointed to federal back in...?

BF: By Reagan, by Ronald Reagan.

MK: How did...did the name get floated up to him by who?

BF: What happened was, is they had a committee again because there was no Republican Senator. You know, to make the appointment because usually the Republican Senator would make the appointment, who makes a recommendation to the White House. So, there was no Republican Senator, so I...they had committee. You know, a Blue Ribbon committee, I went before the committee. They picked eight names and it was right near the Reagan...you know, so they picked eight names, and I went to Washington and got interviewed. They picked first Larry Zatkoff, who was the Republican chairman of Macomb County, so I figured I was done. And then, another vacancy came up, and they said they were going to use the same list. So, I went back to Washington, go interview, they picked Barbara Hackey gets it, who again is a very gigantic Republican. So then I talked to the two of them, and they said did you see Steve Markman. Know who Steve is? He's on the Supreme Court here now. I said no, I didn't see Steve Markman. Steve was also, at the time the person in the Justice Department who was the gatekeeper, if he didn't say yes it didn't happen because he was...the guy.

MK: A Republican?

BF: Yeah, oh yeah. A Republican, very conservative. I said I didn't see him, they said you won't...then there was another opening! I went in there...(Mumbling). Pat Duggan, Mike's father, got appointed. Then nobody thought there was going to be an opening again. And one of the judges at the last minute decided to take senior status. And all that time, every time I kept going to Washington and going to Bill Broomfield who was our Congressman. And, every time I would talk to him, and Ed Levy, who knew him very, very well and all that stuff. And every time I sat with him in Birmingham—we used to have court in downtown Birmingham at the city hall, it was great, and he had an office downtown, I would go to his office—so there was an opening, and nobody knew there was going to be an opening. And I didn't either, and I get a call from Bill Broomfield, and he says we got to do this fast, Bob DiMassio has taken senior status today and we've got to get this filled because we're not going to get through the Senate. You probably won't make it. This was the Monday before Thanksgiving. And he said, could you be here Wednesday? And I said, yeah I'm on my way. He said, you're going to see Steve Markman and nobody else. At least I'm there, so I go see Steve Markman, blah, blah, blah...so then I couldn't get a Senate hearing! So, how do you get a hearing? So, Joe Biden was the committee chairman of the Judiciary Committee and Ed Levy, who was a big republican, calls David Hermelin and says, "this is a joint effort, we've got to get everybody together and put this thing through." So, Hermelin apparently threw a party, a fundraiser for Joe Biden when he was thinking of running for President. He was the first person in the country to support Biden...he threw this thing at his house, I don't know if you've ever been to Hermelin's house, he's got this unbelievable house. So he knew Biden very well, so he calls me and we're talking and I never knew him before. He says Ed Levy called, we're making this a whole effort of the Jewish community, you know, we've got to make this thing happen. And I would say two hours later a guy calls me from the Judiciary Committee, and says your hearing is...and gives me a hearing date! Which was maybe three weeks away. So then I get a call from somebody else on the committee, a general counsel, who said, "You'd better prepared," because I'd handled the affirmative action case against the city of Detroit. Because I represented lieutenants and

sergeants! And that was my case. And Judge Keith wrote a very, very scathing opinion of me, a horrible...because we filed a motion to disqualify him. And the reason was he was friendly, more than friendly...he had a continual relationship with Coleman Young! And therefore, Coleman Young was a defendant, the main defendant, and therefore he should be disqualified. And we had logs, because who provided security for Coleman Young: lieutenants and sergeants! So we knew, to the hour, to the day, exactly when he was meeting with Coleman Young. We knew that Coleman had gone to Damon's for Thanksgiving, we knew when Coleman Young was at Damon's office; we knew everything! And we filed this...and he wrote just a horrible opinion—he and I have made up since then, we've become very good friends—calling us racist, we wouldn't have filed such a motion if he were white, you know and so forth, and of course denied our motion. So I get this call, he says, you better be prepared to discuss this because it's going to come up. So, anyway, I had to get the file, the file was with somebody that used to work for us that's in Colorado. So I said to my parents, you can't come to this hearing; I'm going to be embarrassed...nobody came! I said, it's going to be horrible! And Markman and his people, we went over the file...I mean, what could I do, it is what it is. We weren't racists. So I get there that morning, and Carl Levin's there. My dad had called Carl. And he said...I'm getting choked up...he said, "I've supported you all these years," and Carl said, "I'll be there." And Carl brought Don Riegle. So Carl gave a speech, Don Riegle gave a spiel, never asked me a question. They were our two Democratic Senators...they both showed up, they both spoke. (Side chatter) And I was surprised; Rosie and I went like this...we couldn't believe they were there! They both had nice things to say...and they both asked Rosie her name, and what she did, and it was a really pleasant thing. And the next day we went before the Senate and I was unanimously approved.

MK: Congratulations.

BF: Anyhow, it's a whole story. I didn't mean to bore you.

MK: I was going to ask you about Carl, because at some point I would have thought he would have gotten involved.

BF: I never knew he was going to get involved, I mean I didn't personally know him, my dad...

HF: My dad knew him.

BF: My dad knew him because my dad supported him! And also, he worked for J. Leonard Hyman and my dad was his first client.

HF: When Carl went into law school, and went into practice, he went into practice with J. Leonard. I don't know if you...he passed away three or four years ago. He had a very important law practice, and so that was...Carl worked there. And Jay Leonard was my dad's attorney for the hospital... so they cut their teeth together. He was his attorney for the practice, and so Carl was one of his first clients...

BF: And I didn't personally know him, I had never talked to him...

MK: I was going to ask you, did you ever know Judge Stanczyk? Ben Stanczyk?

BF: I know who he was, I appeared before him...

MK: I had about twelve hours with him. He was one of these guys who like knew everything on the street. He got his law degree in '39; he was in practice, and a lot of stuff.

KM: Has an incredible memory.

MK: He's 97, I think, at this point. I was going to ask about you sister's story, so where's your sister?

HF: So she graduated Liggett, went to Eastern Michigan, got a teaching degree, then she married. Did she...she must have taught for a few years?

BF: I don't think she did.

HF: Anyway, she married a fella, who was in medical school at the time. A fella named Jeffrey Zaks. And they got married, moved into Farmington Hills area, they had three children, and they got divorced ten years ago...

BF: But he asked about...in terms of her career. What happened was, she was a camper for years at Tamarack, and then she became a counselor, and then she became a supervisor. And as she had her kids, every year she would go up there in the summer with her kids and literally move up there. And her husband would stay here and they'd kind of commute, because she always has a supervisory job at camp. So they gave her little living quarters with lots of other people, kind of communal living with the kids. And as the kids grew up, they would go to camp there and so she worked there, as a supervisor and she finally became the director. And she lived up there every summer until five years ago, and then things changed up there...

MK: You know Michael Madden?

BF: Yeah.

HF: Yeah.

MK: I knew him.

BF: We both knew him.

MK: I interviewed him; you know it's the Loewenberg's furniture store.

HF: He was their attorney?

MK: No, it's his grandparents. The Loewenbergs, they had a furniture store on Mt. Elliott.

BF: Oh, his grandfather.

HF: On his mother's side? Must have been his mother's side.

MK: So you mentioned Camp Tamarack, he's extremely active there.

HF: My sister was more of an employee, she worked there. Mickey's more of a fundraiser, past president, that kind of stuff.

BF: Do you have any other sort of recollections, or stories, or that kind of stuff? I've sort of gotten what I was hoping to get.

HF: Did you? I was going to say, I knew the neighborhood well, I went with my dad many a night on house calls, I went to a lot of those houses, both Polish and Black. They were pretty bad, but they were all warm. I remember going into them in the middle of winter and they had Christmas decorations up, but they were very poor. I remember going with him to a lot of those houses on a lot of those streets.

MK: Do you guys have any questions?

HL: Did we cover your mother's family at all? I remember you said she was born in 1916.

HF: Her name was Rae Garber, her actual name was Rachel but she always went but Rae. So she was born, they pretty much lived in the Linwood area, the Linwood and Davison area...she went to an elementary school that's still there, on the Lodge freeway by the Linwood, right near the Linwood entrance there's a elementary school. That's where she went to school, then she went to Durfee, then Central. Her father was a carpenter, a finish carpenter, so he did the interiors of some very important houses. He died when...he died in like 1949. He died young from lung cancer. So we have brief, very minimal memories of him but she was always very proud of him, they lived a very...

BF: He did a lot of houses in Palmer Woods. And when we moved there, I remember sitting there, as a kid, and he would do the finishing carpentry in that house.

HF: And her mother...didn't work outside of the house I think. They were both Russian...

BF: Polish? Russian?

HF: Russia or Poland, you know the borders.

BF: You know, again, we have immigration papers.

HF: You know, my dad's was **Vlademiritz**, it was a little town. You know, there were shtetls, like the Stolner shtetl.

MK: He must have had a Yiddish name too?

HF: Moyshe.

SAY: What did you do for fun in high school?

BF: Who?

SAY: The two of you.

BF: Oh...I was always having fun.

HF: He was always having fun.

BF: There wasn't a day I didn't have a good time, I'll tell you that! That's not true because I suffered many times, remember when you had group reading?

HF: Yeah.

BF: So I would have to get sick on that day, or whatever. Because I always did it alphabetically, but other than that I was always...those kinds of things, and also I was not a good student. But I was very active in student council and I was an officer, I was active in we kind of had a club...Howard played basketball.

HF: We had the cottage in the summer. And then I went to camp also. You tried it but...we had the cottage but then also friends of mine would go to various camps. So I used to do camping and then all through high school I was a counselor...Tamarack, Tamaqua! You probably know Tamaqua, I went to Tamaqua. And then during the year I played a lot of basketball. I didn't play for high school, but at the Jewish Community Center I was very involved, Bernie was very involved in it.

MK: Where was it?

HF: In those days it was a couple places, when I was just a little kid and we were first born it was on Woodward near Claremont I think. It's still there; the building is still there. Yeah, yeah. So then they moved to Davison, between Dexter and Livernois when we grew up there. Then they moved to the northwest area, they moved to Curtis and Meyers, and that's the northwest community center now off of Detroit and now they're off here. They're just a mile away. So we always lived close enough that I could walk,

take my bike, and eventually drive. I did a lot of playing basketball and clubs...we did a lot of things.

BF: I biked all the time; I biked to the cottage one time. From Leslie, no from...to the cottage.

HL: How far is that?

BF: It's a long way.

MK: So your mother's family...what synagogue were they associated with?

HF: They...I don't think they...

BF: No, they weren't. I remember my grandmother kept kosher, and she was very conservative. But she would always buy a ticket to high holidays. She wasn't a member because they never had the money. They were very poor. They never had the money; she never had the money. My dad basically supported her, but she was at our house, she cooked, she did a lot of stuff. But she was very religious and all that stuff.

HF: Kept kosher.

BF: Kept kosher.

HF: Early on, my dad himself and all his aunts and uncles were part of the Orthodox on Linwood, and I would...you know the history with all those synagogues and schuls. So his grandfather, my great-grandfather, was a member of a schul called the Stolner schul, which was probably the most...on Elmhurst and right off of Linwood. Actually a block away from Durfee and Central. So he was a leader, and he was a founder...I had my bar mitzvah at that schul even though we were not orthodox.

BF: I did too! Cause he insisted.

HF: He insisted. So my dad, until we moved and I was about fourteen, we moved to the Livernois and Seven area and joined Temple Israel...they switched because we were the only Reform Jews of my dad's aunts and uncles and cousins. Everybody else was Conservative, and pretty much still is. So anyway, when we were growing up, we would always go to the Orthodox synagogues, you know, on Yom Kippur. You know, we would pretty much try to fast during the day. And we would go to all the important services and so on. We didn't know what was going on and couldn't read it necessarily but that's what we did.

BF: I remember the first time was with my grandfather and we were in a cafeteria like and he ordered ham, and I almost fell over! I'd never seen a Jewish person eat ham before, you know? And then I looked at him and he said, "Oh, it's okay!" But that was the first time in my life I'd seen it, so you know. And from my grandfather!

HF: One more thing about him, since you know, the interest, he was mechanical—he loved to work with his hands; he was a shoemaker. And he was always improvising and inventing things! You know, if something...he would...now, if you needed something, he would do it himself, not go to Home Depot and buy it.

BF: He formed metal...

HF: He worked, he had a little shop, and he would just...that was his nature. And he got involved in walking, early on because he retired relatively early on, I guess. And at the cottage and when he went south, he was one of the first walkers.

BF: And transistor radio, he was the first person to own a transistor radio.

HF: He had a transistor radio so he could pick up all the stations in New York and around the world. And every now and then we'd go in and listen with him.

BF: And he had a portable one!

HF: Well, that's what I was going to say! You know, they didn't have portable radios then, the radios were these big things. So he improvised, and had one in the '50s. He had this big transistor, black transistor radio and he made a harness for it and so on...and he would walk in the morning. I'm talking 5:30, 6:00 in the morning with his radio and he would listen! I'm telling you he was one of the first walkers. And he exercised all the time.

BF: Made wine out of citrus fruits.

HF: He would...he made wine, he improvised.

BF: Anyhow, we got to let them go. One more thing and you're on your way.

