

**Interview with Dr. Robert & Margaret Bloom
Ms. Susan Bloom Smith
Conducted by Marian Krzyzowski
For
The Chene Street History Project
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MK: This is Marian Krzyzowski and today is June 19, 2013. I'm in my office at the University of Michigan and with me in the office here are Karen Majewski from our staff, Hannah Litow, and Shera Avi-Yonah, two students working on our project this summer. And I'm speaking with Susan Bloom Smith, Bob Bloom, and Margret Bloom, in Florida about Chene Street. About Dr. Albert Bloom and his history of being in that neighborhood. I think what I'd like to do is begin by asking a little bit about Dr. Bloom. And, where he was born, when he was born. How'd he get into Detroit. Sort of the background to this. So, whoever would like to start, go ahead.

RB: I was born -

MB: Not you yet. My dad, my husband is also a Dr. Bloom.

MK: Oh, okay. I'm talking about Dr. Albert Bloom.

SBS: Right, right. He, they came from Russia. I think in 1903.

RB: 4.

SBS: Or 4

RB: 3 or 4 I'd say.

SBS: Um, they, he was an only child. I'm trying, I tried to find information on the internet about passage and how they got here, they must've come through Canada, is my belief. Because there's nothing, no records about them in, um

MB: Ellis Island.

SBS: Ellis Island.

MK: Do you know where in Russia he might have been born?

RB: The actual village? I'm not sure of.

SBS: No we're not sure.

MB: Wasn't it near the polish border? When Poland was part of Russia?

RB: Yes um, to some degree, yes.

MK: Did he speak Polish, Russian, Yiddish?

SBS: Well he spoke English, that I know.

MB: He was young when he came over.

SBS: Yeah. He was

MB: Like maybe 2 or 3

SBS: Right. So he picked up English. He knew Yiddish because his folks spoke Yiddish.

MK: What were his folks' names? Your grandparents, what were their names?

SBS: Isaac was his father, and Zelda was his mother.

MK: And, you don't happen to know her maiden name do you?

SBS: No.

RB: Not unless you get it off the thrift store.

MB: No, it didn't have it.

SBS: My grandfather told me, he was blind when, my first memory of him, and he also had one finger off. And he told me he cut it off so he wouldn't be, um

MB: Conscripted.

SBS: Conscripted into the Russian army.

MK: Okay.

SBS: They were very religious people.

MK: Okay. And, so you assume they came into Canada around 190 – what?

SBS: 3 or 4

MK: 3 or 4. And then they came to Detroit.

SBS: Yes.

MK: Do you have any idea what year they might have arrived in Detroit?

SBS: Not really.

MK: Okay. Do you know they would come to Detroit? Were there any relatives or friends in Detroit at that point?

RB: I think there was, but I'm not 100% sure.

SBS: There is some family but I don't know if they came before or after.

MK: Okay. Do you know where in Detroit they settled originally, when they moved in?

SBS: Well they lived on, we lived with them for a while, and that was on Calvert Street.

MK: Do you know the address on Calvert?

SBS: 3357 Calbert.

MK: 33, I'm sorry, that was 3357?

SBS: 3357 Calbert.

MK: Okay. And how long did they live there? They must've lived there quite a while?

SBS: They lived there until my grandmother died, and don't ask me what year. And then they, my grandfather, who was fine, they put him in an assisted living place.

MK: In Detroit itself?

SBS: Uh

RB: Yes.

SBS: Yes.

MK: Okay. What do you know about your dad's growing up? In other words, schooling and so on. What do you know about that?

RB: Well, he

MB: He graduated from Michigan as an engineer. And couldn't get a job in Detroit at that time. They were not hiring.

SBS: He worked for the gas company and he could see that being a Jewish engineer, he wasn't going very far. So he went back to school and became a doctor.

MK: And, do you know which high schools he went to in Detroit?

SBS: Nope. I have no information about that.

RB: That was not as um,

MB: Cass, or Mumford, or Central.

RB: That's where Mumford

MB & SBS: No no

SBS: No no, not Mumford. Mumford came later.

MK: It might've been Central I mean, if, a lot of the west side Jewish families sent kids to Central.

SBS: Right, but I don't know if they lived somewhere else before they moved to Calvert. And he might've gone to high school, and school, and other places in Detroit.

MK: Okay. So then he graduated from high school and went to University of Michigan, in Ann Arbor to become an engineer.

SBS: Right.

MK: Graduated, couldn't find a job in Detroit as an engineer.

SBS: Right.

MK: Worked for the city and then decided to go back to school to become a doctor. Where did he go to school?

MB & SBS: Michigan.

MB: He was a big Michigan fan.

MK: So he went back to the University of Michigan to get a medical degree?

SBS: Right.

MB: Was he an ophthalmologist?

SBS: I don't know, I never heard that.

MB: I don't remember.

SBS: I always remember him being in a general practice.

MK: Okay. Do you know when he may have graduated from Michigan?

SBS: Do you know?

MB: David would know.

RB: It was in the, the insignia, the diploma he had.

MB: David has his graduating picture.

RB: Right.

MB: Our oldest son lives in Michigan. He is a doctor at Beaumont hospital, Dr. David Bloom.

MK: Okay.

MB: He has my father in law's medical graduation picture. So he would have the date.

MK: Do you have a phone number for, uh

SBS: Yes, she's got it.

MK: That'd be great. Because we'd love to get a copy of both the diploma and the graduation picture. That'd be terrific.

SBS: My nephew, David, her son, was telling me, he was at Beaumont out on, in the suburbs and um, this woman stopped him, I don't know why

MB: He was examining her.

SBS: Oh he was examining her. He was an intern at Henry Ford hospital and he had to go out to their, the Henry Ford

MB: Satellite

SBS: Satellite hospital. And this elderly woman was the patient and she saw his name on his white coat that said David, Dr. David Bloom. And she said, I had the most wonderful doctor in my life and his name was Dr. Bloom. And David asked what his first name was. And she said Albert. And he said, that's my grandfather. And she just looked up to the sky and said, he's kvelling right now. So, that was a little side story.

MK: That's great, that's great.

MB: Let me give you David's phone number. I'll give you his cell number, but during the day he might be busy.

MK: Right.

MB: 1-248-821-8185.

MK: I'll read it back to you. 248-821-8185

MB: Right.

MK: Okay great. We'll give him a call some evening this week and see if we can get connect to him.

MB: Do you want his home phone number?

MK: Sure.

MB: 248-538-8185.

MK: Same last 4 digits? 8185?

MB: Yep.

MK: Okay good. So let's get back to Dr. Albert Bloom. Can you describe him? I mean physically? And his personality?

MB: Well he was not very tall, 5'8 maybe.

SBS: Yeah, 5'6, between 5'6 and 5'8. Um, he was just the gentlest, kindest man you would wanna meet. Um, he had time for everybody. He had such a wonderful reputation um, in the community where he worked. Um, I'm trying to think. He had blue eyes. That's where we all get our blue eyes. Let's see, what else would you say about him? He was not heavy. Um, anything you can think?

MB: He's just, a gentle soul.

SBS: Yes.

MK: Um hm. So at that point, when he graduated from med school at the University of Michigan, was he married, or not?

SBS: Yeah.

MK: So when did he marry and who did he marry?

SBS: Oh, Belle. My mother's name was Belle, B-E-L-L-E. Briskman, B-R-I-S-K-M-A-N.

MK: And how did they meet?

MB: Depression, that I know.

MK: How did they meet?

SBS: They used to go, a lot of young people used to go to the lakes. And I guess that's where she met my father. And you know,

MK: So she was, she was born in Detroit, do you know:

SB: No, she was born in Milwaukee.

MK: Okay.

SBS: And her family moved here, I don't know when. But they have a glove factory down by the river. Not a factory, but maybe a store.

MK: Do you happen to know the address or the street it was on?

SBS: No, no.

MK: But it was under the name of Briskman?

SBS: It should've been, yeah.

MK: Okay. And were her parents born in Europe, do you know?

SBS: Yes, Oscar and Fanny.

MB: And Fanny.

MK: Oscar and Fanny. And where were they born? Do you know where in Europe?

SBS: Do you know Bob?

RB: No.

SBS: I would say in the Russian, Russia area too.

MK: Okay, okay. So do you know when they were married? Do you know what year they got married?

SBS: Well you were born about '39.

MB: No, I was born in '39.

SBS: Yeah, we know. Oh, wait a minute. About '33.

MK: Okay.

SBS: '34 something. No, he was born in '36. Right, right. So I'd say yeah, around '33.

MB: '32, '33.

MK: Were they observant?

SBS: No.

RB: Yes.

SBS: No they weren't.

RB: Remember Hanukah.

MB: Oh no no. I mean. They did not keep kosher or, in that respect like your grandparents did.

SBS: No, no.

MB: They went to the Jewish holidays at the temple.

SBS: Right, right.

MK: Which temple were they associated with?

SBS: Uh.

MB: Shaarey Zedek.

SBS: Shaarey Zedek.

RB: That's the future

MK: Um hm.

MB: Or was it before?

RB: It was before.

MB: Where? Was it your grandparents?

RB: It was a temple on

SBS: Oh on, not on Calvert but what was that street, Davidson? No not Davidson.

RB: There was one over on Stetson

SBS: But that's where grandma and grandpa belonged, that's not where he belonged. As far as I remember they were members of Shaarey Zedek. for a long time.

MK: So can we list the children in order of birth?

SBS: My brother.

RB: Robert.

MB: . August 2, 1936.

MK: Ok.

SBS: And September 28, 1939.

MK: For who?

SBS: Susan.

MK: Ok. So, there were 2 children or are there.....

SBS: That's it.

MK: Ok. And do you know how, under what circumstances he ended up on Chene Street? We went back into the Polk Directories and I think I mentioned to you that he begins to show up at 6484 Chene in 1938, which is about 2 or 3 years after Dr. Irving Bittker left that office. Um, there was a dentist named Dr. David Bittker, who was Irving's brother who shared those, that office at that address. Irving Bittker moves out, and then for 2 or 3 years they're some, you know they're some other people in there, but then your father shows up in 1938 and stays there. Do you know how he landed there in that particular location?

RB: How he landed there?

MB: How did he get to Chene?

SBS: How does he get to Chene Street? I don't know.

RB: .

MK: Did....

SBS: What was his reason for going there?

MK: Did he know the Bittkers at all? Did he know Dr. David Bittker, the dentist who we shared an office with later on?

RB: Yes.

SBS: Yes. He also spoke about the Bittkers. I don't remember ever meeting them.

MK: Ok, um, so because he shared that office with Dr. David Bittker, the dentist, for many, many years.

RB: Yes.

MK: Um, in fact he, uh I think Dr. David Bittker passed away in the late 60's or early, or 1970 and he was in there all that time with him. So, I suspected that he may have known him prior to moving in.

RB: Yes, uh. My grandfather stayed....

MB: No, not your grandfather.

RB: My father.....stayed and shared the office because he.....I was born.....

SBS: Yeah, but that...he said in 19....he, my father also worked for the city. Um, uh, taking calls for the city, and he would go into all kinds of neighborhoods, uh, doing home visits.

RB: Yeah.

MK: When you say the city, do you mean he worked at a, at a municipal hospital? Or, how did that.....

RB: No, directly in the home, but.....

MB: He was a visiting physician for the city. If people got sick and didn't go to the hospital....

RB: Or couldn't afford...

MB: Or couldn't afford the hospital, the city had physicians that went to the homes.

MK: Ok.

SBS: It was a way of making extra money.

MK: Ok.....

SBS: He did that for many, many years. He also worked for a company, um, an aeronautical company.....

RB: It wasn't aeronautical, it was a.....

SBS: An engineering company?

RB: Or it was a manufacturing company.

SBS: And he worked in the mornings sometime for...as a doctor for the uh, what did you say auto engineering company, and I can't tell you the name of that either.

MK: Mhmm. Mhmm. What do you....I assume you actually visited his offices on Chene Street?

SBS: Yes.

RB: Yes.

MK: Would you describe the building and the office, and you know, whether there.....was it an upstairs office and how you got there and so on? Could you give me as much detail as you can recall?

RB: He had an office, which he shared with....

MB: Yeah....what floor?

RB: It was on the 2nd floor.

SBS: Yeah, it took about 20 rickety steps to go up.

RB: And uh, he didn't have a secretary that takes notes or be prepared to help him with uh, anything he may have had with uh, patients who can afford at least to come and sit and wait until he's finished examining them.

SBS: Patients would sit in this big waiting room, and nobody ever argued who was next. He just uh, he took note, I think in his mind, when he saw who was there and um, there was a big waiting room, and then, and when you walked into his office um, you walked a little bit. There was bingo, and next to the window was his desk. And then he had the backroom divided into two sections for examining rooms.

MK: Mhmm.

SBS: Um. I was going to say um, it was.....as time went on it wasn't a good neighborhood to be in. It was only robbed once.

MK: Mhmm.

SBS: And that was later in.....later on, and uh they held him up because they wanted drugs, but he didn't have any of those kind of drugs. And um, he, he kept me up a little bit.

RB: When I was in medical school serving up my time, uh, I used to do some of the work for him in the office, and I always remember there was a....you walk up the steps into the lean.....

MB: Waiting room?

RB: Waiting room. And then you were called in by name. He had uh, kept records, and that's how it ran and how I got involved with it. And he was basically telling me to stay loose of these people. Most of them will attack you but some will stay with you as you are. And uh, he was very helpful. He was very.....

MB: Very loved by his people.

RB: . He was blind.

MB: That was your grandfather, not your father.

RB: Oh, not my father. You're right. I always picture the two together. Uh.....

MK: Can you tell me uh, the waiting room that uh, that you sat in for Dr. Bloom, was that also a waiting room shared by Dr. Bittker, the dentist, or was that a separate waiting room?

SBS: No, there was only one waiting room.

RB: Only one waiting room.

SBS: It was quite large.

MK: So, there was another door uh, that led to Dr. Bittker's office?

RB: Yes, yes.

MK: And did, uh....you said there was no secretary. Was there a nurse or someone else that worked with your father or not?

RB: No.

SBS: No. Never.

MK: And, the window that you mentioned behind his desk, did that open up on Chene?

SBS: Yes.

MK: Ok, so the view...it was open on Chene.

SBS: Right. And the store is, I told you before, is above a shoe store. I mean his office is above a shoe store.

MK: Ok and do you remember who ran that shoe store?

SBS: No.

RB: So, all I know.....remember is that there was a shoe store downstairs....

MB: And a drugstore kitty corner.

RB: There across.....

SBS: Yeah. There was a drugstore.

RB: The drugstore was.....

SBS: Kitty

RB: kitty cross the corner. That's where the unit sat, and uh, it seemed to be a pleasant area with you...

SBS: In the 40's and 50's.

RB: In the 40's and 50's yeah.

SBS: As time went on, it wasn't as uh, nice a neighborhood as you probably know.

MK: So, do you know roughly what kind of hours he kept when he showed up at the office and when he left for home?

RB: Yes. It was very hard to keep track of him because he didn't have regular phone contact with individuals....

SBS: Well, he didn't have cellphones then....

RB: No.

SBS: I think his office hours were 2-5 because he did the morning, he did calls for the city, and then he would get to his office from 2-5. And this was amazing to us because we lived off of uh, we lived in Sherwood Forest. You know where that is?

MK: Yeah, on the west side there yeah.

SBS: I, well he would drive home at 5 o'clock to have dinner with his family every day, and then returned to the office for uh, for whatever patients came from 7-8 or 8:30.

RB: Or he took calls from the city.....

SBS: On the way home.

RB: On the way home. Right.

SBS: Right, but he had dinner with us every day.

MK: Mhmm.

SBS: As a family.

MK: Mhmm.

SBS: And that was quite a, quite a ride.

MK: So he was in that office until, at least the Polk Directory says 1977.

MB: That's right.

SBS: Yeah.

MK: Uh, did he ever think or talk about moving his practice to some other part of the city, particularly in the years when it became pretty dangerous to be down there?

SBS: No because I think he was accepted, and they knew not to touch Dr. Bloom

MK: Mhmm.

MB: They, everyone knew he did not carry any drugs with him when he went to the bad neighborhoods to make house calls. So they always said hands off Dr. Bloom he was there to help them.

MK: Mhmm.

MB: If someone needed drugs they sent the ambulance.

MK: In terms of his patients at the Chene Street, uh practice, do you have any idea who they were. I think you know, uh maybe uh Bob can, since he was there, who were these people were they local residents, were they Polish, were they Black, were they Jewish, who were these patients?

RB: Uh, mainly Jewish appeared in his store, his office, and he had worked one summer, as I had mentioned before, auto manufacturer. It was a local.....I, I used to catch up to him as he, as they came in after 5 o'clock home, home and eat and eat and go.....to the office. He did minor work per say, I mean it was, not major.

MK: But, in terms of the patients, if most of them are Jewish, up until the probably, you know, early 50's there was still a significant number of Jewish families that owned stores and some lived in that neighborhood, but after that um, you know they were storeowners, but they certainly didn't leave, live in that neighborhood so people must have been coming in from out of the neighborhood is that what happened to go to his office?

RB: Especially for the holidays when you had to, I had to walk with my.....

MB: No. The holidays had nothing to do with the office.

SBS: Um, I....while I was there I saw people of different nationalities, but that, that must have been later in the 50's.

MK: Mhmm. Mhmm. He was general practitioner right? He wasn't obstetrician, he didn't deliver chil.....

MB: Oh, yes he did.

MK: He did deliver....

SBS: Yeah, he delivered.

MK: So, tell me a little bit about you know, how did people....who were his patients that he, you know, that he delivered children for?

SBS: Um.....

MB: Were they black people?

SBS: They were a combination of, of many nationalities.

MK: Where did he deliver the, the children? Did he deliver them at people's homes or not? Was he associated with a hospital that he delivered children at?

SBS: He was associated with um....

MB: Grace.

SBS: Grace, thank you.

MK: Ok. And so he would have his patients go there, and then deliver children at Grace?

SBS: Right.

MB: Right.

MK: Ok. Do you remember any of the other, either uh, physicians, dentists, or business people in that neighborhood that he talked about or spent any time with?

MB: You know, you're taxing our memories here.

MK: That's what I'm here for.

SBS: I can't think of um, any other doctors or dentists.

MK: There was a doctor uh, not far from him named Abraham Bloch on Grand Boulevard. Did he ever mention or talk about Dr. Bloch?

SBS: He could have but I don't remember. Do you remember Bob?

MB: Dr. Bloch?

RB: No, I don't remember a Dr. Bloch.

MB: During the war years, this was interesting, people bartered. If they could not pay him, they would bring him canned goods or butchered, broiled, and buffaloed steaks.

MK: That's pretty different.

MB: Yes.

SBS: And they were good. We finally, my mother was afraid to try them, but we finally did and they weren't bad.

MK: Mhmm. So, he stops appearing in the Polk Directory in 1977. What happened?

MB: He died.

SBS: He was, well he has sick. It was uh, he had uh, he was, had heart failure, and then eventually he passed away.

RB: Only thing I remember about.....Grandpa....

MB: We're not talking about Grandpa.

RB: I know but uh, he.....he had a coal burning stove, and I was the one who had to shovel coal.

MK: Was this on Calvert?

SBS: Yes.

RB: Yes.

MK: Mhmm. So where did you go to school?

MB: Where did you go to school?

RB: Where did I go?

MB: You were the first graduating class of Mumford.

RB: That part is true.

MK: Ok, and then from Mumford where did you go?

MB: Michigan for one year, and then transferred to....

SBS: Wayne State University.

MB: Wayne State.

SBS: Right. And graduated, then he went to medical school at Wayne State.

MK: I'm sorry I missed where he graduated from after he left Michigan....

MB: Wayne State.

MK: Oh, Wayne State ok.

MB: And then he went to Wayne State.....

MB & SBS: Medical School.

MK: Ok.

MB: And he, you interned in San Francisco at Mt. Zion Hospital, which is no more. And then did your residency at Mt. Sinai in New York.

MK: And then came back to Michigan....

MB & SBS: Nooooooo.

SBS: Then he met Margie.

MK: Ok.

SBS: And she's from New York.

MB: In San Francisco, and then we spent two years in the army at Fort Hood right at the time of the assassination. Our first son was born 3 days before the assassination.

MK: Mhmm.

MB: And 6 months before my husband was getting out of the army, the Vietnam War was escalating, and he did physicals. He was with the First Squad, First [REDACTED], First [REDACTED] division.

RB: Mhmm.

MB: He was the medical officer, captain for them. And then we went back to New York, and he had his practice in New York.

MK: In the city?

MB: No, out on Long Island. In Smithtown, NY.

SBS: It's a radiologist, so he visited Smithtown General.

MK: Ok.

MB: And had his own private practice.

MK: Ok.

MB: And we moved down here in '98.

MK: Ok. How about you Susan? What, where did you go to high school, and what, what happened after?

SBS: I went to Mumford. Uh, I graduated in '57. I um, went to Michigan for 1 or 2 years, then transferred back to Wayne State. Graduated with a degree in journalism um, and then my father, just then completed for me to go back to school and get my degree in education, which I did. Then I taught at Farmington High....uh Farmington Elementary um, I taught in Farmington. Um, was a 2nd grade teacher for 3 years. Then I started my family and my husband...and I got married. I got married and then started my family, and uh my husband said I didn't have to go back to work, so um, let's see, so I raised the children. I did odd and ends jobs. I now work with dyslexic children and adults, and um I, we moved down here in '95.

MK: Mhmm, mhmm. And Margaret you're from San Francisco or New York?

MB: No, I lived in San Francisco. I'm from New York.

MK: Ok, uh from the city or Long Island?

MB: I was born in The Bronx, grew up in Queens, and then....then moved once we were married, moved with my husband all over.

MK: So where in The Bronx? Near the Grand Concourse?

MB: No, I was born uh, right.....it's near the Whitestone Bridge. It's on the east side of The Bronx near Parkchester...Newbold Ave.

MK: Ok. Ok.

MB: And we moved when I was 8....

MK: Mhmm.

MB: Right after the war to um, Queens. And I grew up there...went to public school, high school, went to uh, Leslie College for 1 year in Massachusetts, and transferred to Queens College, and graduated with a BA in ed.

MK: Mhmm.

MB: And I taught on the island for 3 years, met my husband out in San Francisco. I was on vacation, and we were married 4 months later.

MK: What about children? How many, how many kids do all of you have and kind of.....I don't need to know their names, but kind of what they, what they do.

MB: We, we had 3 sons. One is a pediatric radiologist, one is, um, financial executive down here for a big corporation, uh, and the other is an architect in Massachusetts.

MK: Mhmm. How about you Susan?

SBS: I have 2 children. I have a daughter who went to the University of Michigan Business School, but now she works for Whole Foods. She lives out in Colorado, and she's lived there for about 20 years and she will not move anywhere else. She loves Colorado. I have a son, who uh, is a CPA. He um, is in, lives in Springfield, Virginia, and I have only one grandchild.

MK: Mhmm. Well that's, that's still pretty good. I only have one too so.....

MB: We have 7.

SBS: Look, I'm not talking to her today.

MB: How old is your 1?

MK: My, she just turned 3 in April, so she's a little over 3.

SBS: Um, well mine's 9 ½ so.....

MK: Ok.

SBS: I get to watch him play baseball, which is fun.

MK: That's great. That's great.

MB: Ours are from 23, almost 23, down to almost 10.

MK: Mhmm.

RB: What?

MB: Leah's going to be 10.

SBS: Yeah.

MB: It's not.....

SBS: And we're all Michigan people, except for my son who went to Michigan State.

MK: Hmm. Well I have one son who went to Michigan State too. I have one that went to Michigan, and one that went to Michigan State so.....

SBS: **That's so in spite**. In fact, they bought me a rug that has "Michigan, Michigan State – A house divided."

MK: Right, right. I've seen those.

SBS: Yep.

MK: So are you, are you or your families observant. Are you, do you belong to a temple or synagogue?

MB: No. Not at this point, but we do go for services.

MK: Mhmm. Mhmm. How about your children? Do they uh.....

MB: My oldest son is.....is.....I'm trying to see. It's in West Bloomfield. It's a reformed temple....

SBS: Temple Israel? Temple Beth El? Temple.....

MK: Temple Israel?

MB: It's the one going towards Judy. What's the.....the street she's on?

SBS: Uhhh, um Maple.

MB: It's near Maple. It's parallel to Maple. I can't think of the name of the street. It's across from the big golf course. I feel.....

SBS: Oh. I, yeah....

MB: I can't remember the name.

SBS: I can't remember the name either. It's been a while.

MB: And our children down here are affiliated with Beth El, and my son up in Michigan is affiliated to one in Newton....

SBS: Yeah, the one in Boston.

MB: In Boston. In Newton, Massachusetts.

SBS: My children are not affiliated anywhere.

MK: Ok.

SBS: It upsets me, but what can I do.

MK: Mhmm. Ok let me go back to your dad. I'm curious if he ever talked about any experiences he had. Anti-Semitic, uh, you know harassment or name calling, or anything at all of that nature. Did he, did he ever mention anything like that? Either in that neighborhood or elsewhere in the city?

RB: There was an incident, well several, several incidents. The one I remember most was there was a paint plastered swastika on the _____

MB: No, no. On his old office or anything? No, against Dad. Was there any....

SBS: Do you remember anything that dad shared with you about um, Anti-Semitism?

RB: I wouldn't have anything with me right now.

SBS: Ok. I, I, he never shared anything with me.

MB: No, Mom never said anything to me.

SBS: He was well respected and loved even though he was Jewish. I don't know if they knew he was Jewish or not, but uh, they um, they treated him special.

MK: Mhmm. Mhmm. I assume he drove a car down to the office every day and back.

SBS: Yep.

MK: Did uh, what kind of car did he drive?

SBS: Oldsmobile.

MK: What color were they?

SBS: It was two-toned I think.

MB: What was it, every other year he changed?

SBS: Right. Well, you know what, in fact I think I have a picture of him by his um, Oldsmobile car, which I can uh, send to you.

MK: That'd be great. Do you know where he parked when he went to his office? Did he just park on the street near the office? How was, how did that work?

SBS: I think it was free parking.

MK: Ok.

SBS: And uh, he parked, just parked on the street.

MK: What did he, you know, you said he started at 2 and came home for dinner, so I assume he didn't eat anywhere down there in that neighborhood, in other words he didn't go for lunch or any of the restaurants to eat. Am I right?

SBS: His favorite thing for lunch was a Clark.....was it Clark?

RB: Clark Bar?

SBS: Clark candy bar. And every, well, he rarely ate lunch.

MK: Mhmm. Mhmm.

SBS: That, I think that , It was a, well I.....

MB: Lifesavers I know he became addicted to when he stopped smoking.

SBS: Yeah, he was a smoker too. Right, I forgot.

MB: And then he stopped, and he became addicted to Lifesavers.

SBS: It helped him.

MB: Yes.

MK: Did he ever talk about Dr. Bittker, his partner during that office, or any, uh any of the Bittker family?

SBS: He talked about them in, in nice regards. Um, actually I don't remember him sharing the office to tell you the truth, and I can't see how they would have shared that office.

MK: Well, uh, what I know is that Dr. Bittker was, David Bittker was at that same address. So, when I say shared the office I'm not quite sure. We're going to be interviewing this Saturday, uh the Bittker family, Dr. David Bittker, the dentist, family. So I'll get more detail from them.

SBS: Ok.

MK: Um, I do know that Dr. Irving Bittker did share an office up there with him. The two brothers were up there together. One was a dentist, the other was a physician. Um, and then the physician, you know, left, and your, you know, your dad shows up, at that same address, so that's why I was asking.

SBS: Right.

MK: So, so Bob you don't remember meeting Dr. Bittker when you were there?

RB: No, I was there a short spurt.

MK: Ok.

MB: He never met Dr. Bittker.

SBS: Oh, and that was when Bob said he was in uh, uh medical school, and that was in the 50's.

RB: Right.

MK: Because Bittker was there until 1970.....or '69.

SBS: Or maybe.....

MB: Was his, was his office on the second floor?

MK: I don't know that, all I know it's the same address, so I'm assuming. I'll find out this Saturday from the family where exactly that office was in that building, but the same address. 6484.

MB: May have been on a different floor.

SBS: There wasn't any other floors.

RB: There wasn't any floors. The floor was.....

MB: On the first floor with the shoe store.

SBS: Yep. There could have been something next to the shoe store on the other side.....

RB: Yeah.

MB: But it may have been another.....

SBS: Maybe his name was still on the lease or something. I don't know.

MK: No. David Bittker was there for sure because I talked on the phone to some of the relatives and they said, yeah he was there for a long time.

MB: Ok.

MK: So uh.....

RB: I.....

MK: And I spoke, actually interviewed Dr. Irving Bittker 's son, the youngest son, uh, and he told me that his father was up there in that same office with, with his brother David, so if your dad took over Irving Bittker 's slot or place up there, he would have been on the same floor as the dentist.

SBS: It had to be.

RB: Yes.

SBS: There's nothing else there.

MK: Mhmm.

RB: That was, it was.....this is a uh, doctor's office.

SBS: Medical office.

RB: Medical office.

MK: Can you describe the building itself, uh from the outside. If you were to stand across the street what would you see? Was it brick, you know, two-story? How, how, what color was it? So on and so on.....

RB: It was.....I don't remember. Was it brick or concrete?

SBS: No, it was brick. I picture brick. Reddish, deep-reddish brick.

RB: I somehow remember something else.

SBS: Ok.

MK: Was there a name either on the door, or on the window upstairs that identified it as Dr. Bloom's office?

SBS: I think so.

RB: I.....ooo.....memory.

MK: It's a long time ago. I admit I, you know, I.....

RB: Yeah.

MK: I'm pressing you I realize it.

SBS: Yeah, we didn't notice a lot of these details.

RB: To go back and dig into details.

SBS: Right.

MK: So, of the photos that you have uh, I assume of course you have photos of your dad, do you have any photos of him at all in or around that office?

SBS: I don't think so. You know what, I'm sorry I forgot to look through my pictures.

MB: None of the pictures we have up there in the office.

SBS: No.

RB: Go back.....

MB: Yeah, mostly with the grandchildren.

RB: Have to go back and look at the pictures again.

MK: Yeah we'd be very, very interested in any photos from the time he was, you know he was there or you know, even if it wasn't in the neighborhood uh, anything that would be.....because we don't have any photos of him, and we'd like to have them. Um, so I don't, not quite sure what the best way of obtaining them from you would be uh, but uh, we'd very much be interested in getting some copies.

SBS: Scanning helps? Or are they clear enough?

MK: Pardon?

SBS: Scanning, if you scan the picture....

MK: Yes. Scanning would be great. If you could, especially if you could do a high resolution scan.

SBS: I'm not sure how to do that but uh....

MK: What....

SBS: How do you do a high resolution scan?

MK: Well it's something that has to be at least 300 dots per inch or higher.

SBS: Oh ok.

MK: 300 DPI they call it.

MB: [REDACTED]

MK: So 300 or, or higher DPI would be great because that gives us enough resolution. We can, you know, blow it up. I just made a couple presentations and, using PowerPoint, and you know, it'd be great to have some really, pretty good uh resolutions that I could flash it up on the screen and be blow it up, and, you know, wouldn't lose uh sharpness.

SBS: Ok.

RB: Ok.

MB: Uh, we have his Bar Mitzvah picture with his parents.

MK: That's great. That is awesome. That would be absolutely great.

MB: I know where it is.

RB: You know where it is?

MB: I know where it is.

SBS: Mine's on the wall.

MB: [REDACTED] We have, you know plenty of them, and we have pictures of my in-laws together.

.....

MK: Uh, Karen, guys, you guys have any questions?

KM: Yeah, I just had one question. I wonder um, if your dad ever was naturalized as a citizen?

MB: He was a citizen.

SBS: I don't remember.

MB: He must, he was, during what was it, the Korean War, he was drafted, and he had to go down for his physical. I'm sure he became a citizen.

SBS: I don't know.....

MB: But, we don't know. But he was drafted, and he was made 4F. He had.....

SBS: A problem with his eye. It kept tearing.....

MB: And uh, he was close to the age....They were taking doctors up to the age of 50, and he was getting close to that. He was 4F.

MK: Yeah they, I know a number of doctors that actually, who are over...I know someone who is over 50 that they drafted into the uh, Korean War. Uh, so it's, they uh, they took them.

MB: Yeah, but he had this eye problem and he was lucky he didn't have to go.

MK: Ok.

MB: And that's when he started doing deliveries and everything. I remember Mom said because there weren't too many doctors left in Detroit.

MK: Mhmm. Mhmm.

MB: He became an all-around. He took care of children. He took care of adults.....

MK: Mhmm.

MB: So, uh he was an all-around general practitioner.

MK: Mhmm.

HL: Uh, did he prefer to work on children or adults, or were there any kind of particular kind of patient subsets that he liked to work with in particular?

MB: We couldn't get that clearly.

MK: Did, did he have any particular patient subset that he preferred working with? In other words, did he like working with children vs. adults? Did he like you know uh older, older uh, patients? Who did he like, did he really enjoy working with the most?

SBS: Yeah, it was all the same to him. It stayed um.....

MB: But he, he had such a great rapport with people that if he delivered the mother, when the daughter was old enough for marriage, she came and wanted him to deliver her children.

MK: Ok.

MB: So, that's the way.....

SBS: He was an old-time family doctor that we don't see anymore.

MK: Mhmm, mhmm. Where is he buried?

MB: Um.....

SBS: Cloverhill.

MB: Cloverhill.

MK: Ok.

KM: Cloverhill?

MK: Cloverhill. Yeah. That's associated with Shaarey Zedek isn't it?

SBS: Yes.

MB: Yes.

MK: Yeah.

MB: In fact, there's a road between uh their grave, my in-law grave, in-laws' grave and Rabbi Morris Adler.

MK: Oh my.

MB: So, that's where he is there. In Cloverlee....

SBS: Cloverhill.

MB: Cloverhill.

MK: Cloverhill yeah. When did your dad die? Did he die in 1977?

MB & SBS: No.

SBS: I think it was either '77 or '78.

MB: Somewhere around there.

SBS: I have it written down at home.

MK: Ok. Ok. Very good. Uh, any other questions at this end? Good, so I think uh, we're very grateful to you for taking this time, and uh, we'll be following up I said with the informed consent forms. I'm looking forward to uh, to getting some of the images you talked about, and uh if you do send anything to us we'll certainly get it back to you in the originals, uh but uh, I you know, if anything else comes to mind uh, Susan I think has my phone number and email address, so feel free to call anytime, and uh I'd be happy to hear from you.

MB: Very good.

SBS: Thank you. This has been very interesting.

MK: Good, and also you know, I don't know if you're interested or your kids are interested, but I'd be happy to at some point make this uh, interview available to them. This is a digital file, so they can play it on uh iTunes or on any, any audio software on a computer. Uh.....

MB: I'm sure if you, when you speak with my son, he would be very interested in having it.

MK: Ok then. We'll get it to him.

MB: Ok.

MK: Thanks very much.

SBS: Thank you.

MB: Thank you.

MK: Bye-bye.

SBS: Bye.

MB: Bye-bye.