

## HENRIETTA NOWAKOWSKA INTERVIEW

MK: This is Marian Krzyzowski and I'm at the home of Henrietta Nowakowski, maiden name Zapytowska, here in Dearborn

HN: Dearborn Heights.

MK: Dearborn Heights, excuse me. Dearborn Heights. And today is January the 15<sup>th</sup>, 2004. And we're here to talk about Ms. Nowakowska's memories of growing up in the Chene Street neighborhood. And to begin with I'd like to ask you some questions about your family. Why don't we begin with your parents, their names, when they were born, and where they were from.

HN: Okay. My father is Ignacy Zapytowski. He was born February 20<sup>th</sup>, 1882, in Nowy Jaryczow—

MK: Nowy Jaryczow?

HN: Which was then part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, not far from Lwow. I think it's 15 miles from Lwow. My mother was born in 1887. Her name was Aniela Jasionowicz, her maiden name.

MK: Jasionowicz?

HN: Jasionowicz. She was born in the same geographic area, born in Zolkiew, which is where Sobieski's family is from.

MK: Zolkiew?

HN: Zolkiew, Z-O-L-K-I-E-W. Zolkiew. They met here, actually, not there.

MK: When did they come to the United States?

HN: My father served in the Austrian army from the age of 21 to 25, I think it was. He came here right after that in 1907.

MK: So 1907. And did he come to Detroit?

HN: You know I'm not really sure. I have been doing some genealogy, and have traced where I found his ship's manifest and there it states that he came to a friend in Detroit. Although he made two trips, because he joined the Haller's Army and so I have two. And I don't really remember which one [unintelligible]. But he also came to somebody in Newark, New Jersey. I'm really, I'm very hazy on that. They rarely talked about it and as a naïve young person I never asked. I mean it was just of no interest to me, as a child.

MK: What about your mom? When did she come over?

HN: She came in 1913.

MK: And do you know if she came to Detroit?

HN: No. She came to Philadelphia to visit her sister. It was supposed to be a visit. She and her older sister came to see the youngest in Philadelphia. Who left home because of a stepmother. The mother died when my mother was--my mother's mother died when she was probably 9 or so. And this younger sister who left the family early, and the two older sisters came to visit her in 1913. The war broke out, and then they never went back. Or at least that's the story as it was always told.

MK: So when did your mom eventually come to Detroit, do you know?

HN: You know, I really don't know. It had to be, I really don't know.

MK: Do you know why she came to Detroit?

HN: No.

MK: Okay. And your dad, do you know why he would come to Detroit?

HN: You know that's an interesting question and I should ask my brothers that, my older brothers. Maybe they know. It never—I always had aunts in Philadelphia and that's all I know. Why they came to Detroit, I don't know.

MK: Do you know how they met?

HN: No.

MK: Did they meet in Detroit?

HN: I don't know that either. There's a lot I don't know!

MK: What about their marriage, where were they married?

HN: In Detroit.

MK: At which parish?

HN: St. Hyacinth's.

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

HN: Yes, 1924.

MK: So that's when the church opened. And do you know where they were living when they married?

HN: I understand that I was born in a house on the corner of Jos. Campau and Farnsworth. I know that, I remember two homes—I don't remember that home but I remember two homes as a child. Until about 4 or 5 we lived on Hancock, east of McDougall, between McDougall and Elmwood. And I don't remember the address but I remember the house.

MK: Do you remember what side of the street it was on?

HN: Yes, it was on the north side.

MK: North side of the street. Do you know, was it closer to McDougall or Elmwood?

HN: It was in the middle. I would say it was in the middle of the block.

MK: Was it a two—was it a multiple family—

HN: Yes, it was probably two or three.

MK: And you lived upstairs?

HN: We lived in the front lower--

MK: Lower

HN: In the front lower. And I remember that very well. And I think I must have been 4 or 5 when we moved from there.

MK: When were you born?

HN: '29.

MK: And other siblings?

HN: Yes, I have two brothers and a sister.

MK: What are their ages, and where are they in the order—

HN: My sister died in 1999.

MK: What was her name?

HN: Helene, or Helena. Helene. And her married name was Greniewicki.

MK: Greniewicki.

HN: She also graduated from Felician Academy, by the way. In 1932. So she was born in 19—what is it, '14, '24—1914? '24—'32. Yeah, that would be right. 1914. My brother—she was obviously a half sister, as you can see. My brother was born in 1924, my brother Joseph Zapytowski. And my brother John was born in 1926.

MK: Okay, so you were born in '29. That would make you the youngest.

HN: Yes.

MK: So when you were born you were actually living on Campau and Farnsworth.

HN: Apparently.

MK: Was that a corner house?

HN: Yes.

MK: do you know which corner it might have been?

HN: Well it seems to me it was the, now my older brothers would have known, would have remembered. I think—I'm not really sure—that it was the southwest corner.

MK: Because I can check on my records, what that address is.

HN: We would have been renters.

MK: Right. But I know the number, if I know it's the corner house, I know what the address for that house--

HN: But I'm really not—

MK: Right, I understand.

HN: --one hundred percent sure of that.

MK: Right. And when you were 4 or 5 you were on, you remember being on Hancock.

HN: Yes.

MK: Between McDougall and Elmwood.

HN: Yes. In fact I have a picture of me on a horse, taken in front of that house. That used to be a very popular thing. These photographers would have a little pony and go around and knock on doors and take kids' pictures, for a price of course.

MK: That would have been '33, the depth of the Depression.

HN: Yeah.

MK: And how long did you live at that Hancock house? How old were you when you moved?

HN: Well, I know I went to kindergarten from Mitchell. So whether, and it seems to me, and I went to school on target, you know I graduated when I was 18. So I'm assuming that I was 5 when I went to kindergarten from the Mitchell address. So, let's say that--

MK: What is the Mitchell address?

HN: 5216

MK: 5216. So that's between Farnsworth and Frederick.

HN: It's in the same block as the church. Except one block west.

MK: Right. So 5, so by 1934 you were at Mitchell, and in 1933 more likely you were on Hancock.

HN: Right. And I don't know how many years. But that's the only house I remember.

MK: All right. And can you describe the Mitchell home?

HN: Yes. It was unusual for the neighborhood, which consisted mostly of two-family homes, you know, an upper and a lower. This was like a, what you would call today a townhouse: three houses attached with a lower and upper level for each family.

MK: And where were you?

HN: We were the end. We were the end unit, the north unit.

MK: And you had the whole—

HN: Upstairs and downstairs.

MK: The whole upstairs and downstairs.

HN: Yeah. There were three bedrooms upstairs and three, it was six, it was a big house but we rented it and then my parents eventually bought it. Our portion.

MK: Bought that portion?

HN: Yes.

MK: So can you describe from the outside, was it brick?

HN: Red brick.

MK: Red brick?

HN: And I think it was built in 1918. Somehow, I just remember that. Because I asked somebody and he said that was the era. In fact, in the basement—and I'm sorry now that we didn't take them when we sold the house—there were gas lights. The basement had these little, very elaborate—what do I want to call them—brackets that would pull down from the wall, and that you could open up, very ornate. And we lit it and had a gas light in the basement. We never used them, but they were there.

MK: right. So the outside, what was the entrance like? Was there a porch?

HN: There was a porch. With—

MK: A wooden porch?

HN: Well it had brick sides, built—I probably have a picture of it here somewhere. It had brick sides and I think the steps were wooden. Yeah, I'm really not sure. Yes, I think the steps and the porch were wooden, because the sides were, and it had a cover—

MK: Awning?

HN: No, it had a construction, like a, you know, like a canopy—all I know is my bedroom window looked out on it—

MK: So when you walked in the front door, what did you walk into?

HN: Into a vestibule, or foyer. There were steps going up on the right. And on the left was the living room. And beyond that was the dining room. And in front of you was the kitchen. And the steps going to the basement were—

MK: You mean the kitchen was behind the dining room?

HN: No. The kitchen was behind the foyer.

MK: Oh.

HN: You entered into the foyer, and continued on you'd end up in the kitchen. And then you'd end up in the back yard.

MK: Okay. And when you went upstairs to the right, you went upstairs, where'd you end up at, when you came up the stairs?

HN: It was one complete line. It was a complete landing, and then you turned left and there was another step there, I believe. Isn't it funny—that part is getting vague. I think you went up a flight of stairs. There was a landing. You turned left. I think there was one more step there. And then there were the bedrooms. The bathroom was on the right. Two bedrooms were in the front. And another bedroom in the back. At the end of the hall.

MK: So the two bedrooms in the front faced on to Mitchell Street.

HN: Correct.

MK: And which, was one of those yours?

HN: Yes. Mine was the one, the most, southernmost bedroom. The south bedroom.

MK: And there was a bathroom on the right. Was there anything else behind the bedroom? Or the bathroom?

HN: No.

MK: Okay. Was there a balcony in the back?

HN: No.

MK: Was there an entrance at all from the outside to the upstairs, without going to the--

HN: No. No.

MK: Okay. So how long did you live at this 52—

HN: Till I was married, in 1954.

MK: Okay.

HN: For a long time.

MK: So 20 years.

HN: Yeah. Most of my formative years.

MK: At home, did your parents speak Polish or English?

HN: Yes.

MK: They spoke Polish.

HN: And they insisted on it.

MK: And did you, the children, speak Polish to them?

HN: Yes. They insisted on it. We would not dare speak English to them.

MK: Okay. And what did your father do?

HN: My father was trained in Poland as a cabinet maker. And he had a word for what this training was called.

MK: Slusarz?

HN: No. Slusarz has to do with metal.

MK: Carpentry.

HN: Carpentry's wood, finished carpentry. Cabinetmaker. Wood. Woodworker.

MK: Right.

HN: [unintelligible]? No, that's the wrong word. Na terminie. It was the Polish equivalent of an apprentice. He was an apprentice to a [unintelligible] na terminie. This was in Jaryczow Nowy.

MK: And so did he work at a company that was owned, worked here?

HN: What I remember of his job is that he worked for the Briggs Manufacturing Company, which built body parts for auto—

MK: Which Briggs?

HN: There was one on Mack and one on Vernor, and I think he worked in both. Because I think Vernor, usually, then Chrysler took it over. So what he was doing there is what would be called in the auto industry, a patternmaker. He would form out of wood whatever parts had to eventually be in the body of a car. It was Briggs Body, I think--

MK: Right, because they were body suppliers to Chrysler. Or Dodge.

HN: Yes. And then Chrysler bought them eventually. And that's what he did. And the sad part of that job is that it was very cyclical. And he was always laid off in the summer. Excuse me, he was always laid off in the winter. When the new model came out, there was no more need for his work. And I remember our Christmases were very bleak. And in the summer he worked, because they were getting ready for the new job.

MK: Right. Did your mom work outside of the home.

HN: No. Only charitab—you know, only social, only “spoleczny” as they say.

MK: Spoleczny, okay. When did you start school and where?

HN: Well I went to kindergarten apparently for just a half year at the school, what was it called, Campau School?

MK: Ferry?

HN: No, no.

MK: So there was a Campau school on Jos. Campau and Warren.

HN: Okay. And it had this huge, what do you call it, a fire escape that was like a tube—I just remember that, going down that thing. Yeah, Campau School. That's where I went to kindergarten.

MK: You're the first person I've talked to, other than a teacher, who ever mentioned that school, and it was right in the neighborhood. I'm surprised.

HN: Well, you know what? Kindergarten was not mandatory at the time. And so many children did not go to kindergarten. In fact I just went to kindergarten for a half year because I was sick or something, I don't know.

MK: So you went to Campau for kindergarten.

HN: And then to St. Hyacinth's for eight years.

MK: Okay. And then from St. Hyacinth where did you go?

HN: Felician Academy.

MK: And when did you graduate?



HN: And I started there, so I had no, well my parents insisted I go there. And I'm not sorry I did. '47.

MK: 1947. Okay. Let's go back to Campau. Besides the fire escape, do you remember anything else about Campau School?

HN: It was a two-story school. It was also red brick. And I remember nothing about the inside of the school at all, except this tube that was a fire escape.

MK: What about your teacher. Do you remember your teacher at all?

HN: Not at all. I don't think I went a full year.

MK: Okay.

HN: And I may have gone a half a year.

MK: What about St. Hyacinth? Then let's talk about that. What do you remember about St. Hyacinth's School?

HN: Second grade had a very mean teacher! [laughs]

MK: What was her name?

HN: I think it was Luciana but I'm not sure.

MK: What about other nuns? Do you remember any other nuns?

HN: In grade school?

MK: Yeah. Do you remember your first grade nun by any chance?

HN: No.

MK: Do you remember any of the priests?

HN: The names, yeah. I think Father Baweja was the first pastor that I remember. And then who took over after him? You would probably remember.

MK: Woznicki?

HN: Woznicki. And I received First Communion from him. And he was a Bishop. And I know we had to kiss his ring before we accepted the communion. At the rail, which was unique, because that was—

MK: How'd you feel about that?

HN: Nothing. Quite honored, actually. I thought that was unique.

MK: Did—

HN: Or cool as they would say today.

MK: Did the pastor, in this case Bishop Woznicki, did he ever come to the classrooms at the school building?

HN: Yes. I remember—

MK: Can you tell me about that?

HN: I remember in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade—this is kind of funny, and I never thought of this since then, but in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade he came to class and told us to go home and ask our mothers about sex education. He did not use that word. I don't know what word he used. But he was implying we should go home and have a good talk with our parents. [laughs]

MK: Were the classes in English, primarily, or also some Polish?

HN: When I started out, actually about midway, about 5<sup>th</sup> grade, maybe 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> grade, mothers who were apparently maybe second generation, or maybe not, removed from the, you know, immigrant experience, were up in arms over the fact that their children had to take Polish. And that's when it became voluntary. You could if you wanted to but you did not have to take Polish as one of the required classes. But up until then, I think we had Polish as a language, we had Polish history in Polish. I think we had religion in Polish. I don't remember about math. And of course we had English in English and we had geography in English, we had—well of course Polish history in Polish, I said that. But I would say, a lot of the—maybe half of the classes were in Polish, and half of the classes were in English. Until that breaking point, where everything was in English except there was a special hour for Polish which you could or you did not have to attend.

MK: Did you attend?

HN: Oh yes. Oh, absolutely.

MK: When you look back on those eight years, at your experience, how would you characterize it?

HN: The eight years at St. Hyacinth? Oh my gosh, I think the, in today's world the outstanding thing would be the discipline that the nuns could maintain in a class of 50, 50 or 60 kids. Did we get the best education? I don't know. I think I, I think I did. But could the slow learners get a good education? Maybe not. I don't know. I certainly didn't suffer. Because of the size of the classes. The discipline was extraordinary. And I don't know how much class size has to do with it.

MK: Did you get involved in any other kinds of activities around school, beyond the academic?

HN: As part of the school day?

MK: Yeah. Either as, you know, band, or whatever. I'm not sure what was going on back then.

HN: Well, I think band started after I left. Or maybe just towards the end of my years. In the school there really was not much else going on. I was involved in other community things.

MK: During that period of time?

HN: Oh yes.

MK: So why don't you tell me a little bit about that.

HN: Well my mother especially was very involved in the Polish Falcons. In fact, she was very involved in the recruitment of the Haller's Army in Pittsburgh. And now, now in retrospect—in fact, maybe you should turn this off because I'm not sure about this—

MK: That's okay.

HN: It doesn't matter?

MK: No.

HN: I think that's maybe where my parents met because my father joined in Pittsburgh, for whatever reason, and my mother lived in Pittsburgh and was one of the recruiting team.

MK: She was—

HN: Why am I saying this? Oh, why she, and she became very involved in the Polish Falcons because the Falcons were the recruiters and the trainers, if you know anything about that period. And so my mother continued to be, that continued to be her first love, the Polish Falcons. And she organized a nest, which is what they called their lodges [unintelligible] in Placowka Siodma, over on Kirby. Which my father was one of the organizers, the founders of Placowka Siodma. And I practically grew up there. In fact, my brothers remember living above the Placowka. There were living quarters upstairs, and my father was the manager of that building for a while. Now that I only know because I'm told that, I don't remember that at all. So there were weekly meetings, and it involved gymnastics—

MK: At Placowka Siodma?

HN: Yes. Well, gymnastics in a very modified way because they didn't have the apparatus there. But it was physical, you know, exercises and singing and dancing, and that kind of stuff. With emphasis on the physical end.

MK: What connection was that with the Falcons activity at Dom Polski?

HN: That was Nest 31 and that was mainly, that was originally, well originally the Falcons was all men. And that stems from the fact that in Poland it was a paramilitary organization. When it came here it continued to be that, and especially during the '14, 1918 era. And it, I don't know at what, and then they had separate, and so their nests were men's nests only. They started having women's nests, I don't know when, maybe in the after the war, maybe before the war, I'm not sure. I could find that out for you but I don't know. So there was a Nest 31, which was the original nest in Detroit, then Nest 268, which was the female counterpart, so you can see by the numbers how long it took for the women—

MK: And was 268 based out of Dom Polski also?

HN: Yes, because it was like the female branch of Nest 31.

MK: Okay.

HN: And so then my mother formed Nest 823, whose headquarters was in Placowka Siodma. And it was all women.

MK: And was there a male nest also at Placowka Siodma?

HN: No. No.

MK: So let me back up a little bit. So your dad when he came in 1907 to the U.S., in 1918 he returned to Poland as part of Haller's Army?

HN: He returned to Poland?

MK: Yes. With Haller's Army?

HN: Yes. Because the war was then transferred to the Bolshevik War of 1919-1920. My father came back in 1920, before the end of that, and I don't know why, I just found that out. He came back in April and yet they fought through August, in Warsaw and so on. But he came back in 1920—

MK: But he went with Haller to Europe?

HN: Yes.

MK: Okay.

HN: In fact somewhere I have his diary or journal, not really a diary because I don't think he made daily entries, but a journal of the crossing from the U.S. to Europe.

MK: Your mother, when she organized the nest, what year was this? Do you remember?

HN: I would say, '25?

MK: And do you know any other women that were active in that particular nest?

HN: Oh, I know them all!

MK: Would you say their names, for the record?

HN: Oh my gosh! I don't know where to start! Gertruda Wachtel. Do you know anything about the radio program that she ran?

MK: I know of Stanislaw Wachtel--

HN: Yeah, well his wife, Gertruda, was a member of Nest 823. She was the recording secretary for years and in fact I just have those books here and I have to, I have to, not dispose of them, I have to give them

to Pittsburgh. Our nest finally gave up the ghost in 1990—I want to say '3 or '4. And joined Nest 31. Because it was no longer a neighborhood—

MK: Right.

HN: group. Everyone was scattered all over. There was Ignatowicz, who lived on Palmer. There was Kutna who lived on McDougall. There were—

MK: Do you know their first names?

HN: I can get them for you, because I have the records sitting on my bed, because I've got to do something with these records. Do you want them all?

MK: What are the records like?

HN: Well they're probably on, because I was the financial secretary for many years, until it folded, I've got all these records. All these members.

MK: What are these things—I didn't mention to you and it's in the written piece here. Anything that's given to me, including the tape that this is being recorded on, are all going to the Bentley Historical Library. They've agreed—

HN: Where—

MK: The Bentley.

HN: Oh, Bentley in Michigan.

MK: Michigan, Ann Arbor. So the Bentley will take any paper artifacts, of any kind. They're not going to take, you know, museum things, but they're going to take any documents, and so if you were to give them to me, that's who I would give them to, and they would be filed under, at the Bentley.

HN: Well I don't know if I'm ready to give them to you because I don't know in my mind, number 1, where they should go; and number 2, if I need to keep something for myself, like a supplementary record.

MK: Right.

HN: So that's—

MK: Right. I'm not asking you to give them to me. I'm just saying that if you do—

HN: If I decided—

MK: That's what would happen to them. What I'd like to do today though maybe is take a few photos of just a few of the pages, just to show it.

HN: Okay. I have so much—you have no idea what I have in this house. My mother never threw anything out. My brothers didn't want anything so I took everything. And I have things I don't even know I have, if you know what I'm saying. I've got [unintelligible] in my basement that need to be [unintelligible]

MK: Can you describe that building? The--

HN: Placowka Siodma?

MK: Placowka Siodma building?

HN: Oh, very well. It was—

MK: The outside, and the inside.

HN: It's not what—now what year did you come to the U.S.?

MK: '51.

HN: to that neighborhood, '51.

MK: Well that neighborhood, '53.

HN: Well I don't remember when they did the, yes I do remember, it was, well, I'm not sure. I'm not sure what year they did the renovation. Originally the building had, as you walked in the front door, which was different than it is today—

MK: Off of McDougall?

HN: Yes. You walked in the front door, and in that corner, where the door is now, you walked into what they called the biblioteka, or the library. And it was a rather large room. Larger than this room. More square than this room. And it was literally a library. Placowka Siodma had an extensive collection of books, and they were all bound—in fact I have a couple here—they were all bound in navy blue, and it was their effort to culturally improve the lives of their members, I think. You know, there was no TV. I remember getting my first radio on Hancock, you know. That was a biggie then, in the early '30s. So the library was for recreation and for whatever other reason. And they had volumes and volumes; they had walls filled with books. That, and then the hall was in the back.

MK: Was there an entrance to the hall separate from the—

HN: Well there could be. There were doors on the side—

MK: What street was that?

HN: Kirby.

MK: Kirby. So was there an entrance off of Kirby?

HN: Yes. But it was more of an emergency exit than an entrance. Although there was a door, and there was a little [unintelligible] there, so they may have used that door if they had some kind of a band or something so people did not have to go in through the library, they could go in through that door. And then upstairs, they had their bar, or their club room. And at one time as I said that was living quarters.

MK: How would you get upstairs?

HN: There was a stairway in the same place they are now. Have you ever been in that building?

MK: No.

HN: Well. On McDougall, as you're facing the building, the main entrance is on the corner. And it still is today. And to the right on the right end of the building I don't know if you know there was a door also. And if you opened that door there were stairs going upstairs.

MK: And, so upstairs there was a bar?

HN: Yes.

MK: Was that a counter kind of bar with stairs and—

HN: I guess, yeah, just a small bar. And then a meeting room or two. A meeting room. Two meeting rooms. And then this bar room which is probably, I don't know, the size of this room.

MK: And was that at the back or the front?

HN: No, at the front.

MK: The front.

HN: Because at the back, the hall was two story.

MK: Oh, two story.

HN: so it was just the front portion of the building. Now, in some year, now do you remember the front of that building as it is now, forever?

MK: Yes.

HN: So it has to be before you moved to the neighborhood, so maybe it was in the '40s, they changed the whole format of the building. They got rid of the library. And that's when my dad brought a whole slew of those books home. And that's why I have a few. They took the bar down—isn't this awful, how this evolved? They got rid of this nice cultural advantage and put the bar down there. They made the hall a little larger so that the—the dining, that's what I, when I was a kid, there was a little window up there so that the men that were up there and socializing could open this door and peek at what was going on downstairs. It was a little, you know, like a shutter thing. So that used to be flush with the wall

and now it was sort of like a cantilevered part up there, and then the hall was actually expanded a little into the former library.

MK: did the building stretch from McDougall to the alley, or—

HN: To the alley, yes. And it still does. They sold it about two years ago to a Back—

MK: Church.

HN: Church and then into a night club, I think, or something.

MK: What did you do at the building?

HN: Well, I was one of the participants in the gym classes.

MK: And these were girls?

HN: Yes.

MK: And who was the instructor?

HN: For a long time, the one I remember most, her name was Celinia, or Cecylia, Prusik. And she, her married name was Shanoski. She married—

MK: Chrzanowski?

HN: Well, he changed it to S-H-A-N-O—

MK: Oh, Shanowski.

HN: And I don't know if there was a W, if he kept the W, S-H-A-N-O-S-K-I, or O-W-S-K-I. I guess without the W.

MK: But probably before his name was Szanowski?

HN: I would say that it was, yeah, there's no S-H in a Polish—

MK: Right. Right. So what years was she teaching? What years were you there during the gymnastics? What years are we talking about?

HN: '30—first grade would have been 35-'36? '35-36? Up till, and then I became the instructor, till I got married, and then a little time after that. So for a long time.

MK: And your mom's formal position besides being a founder of the Nest, what was she? Was she an officer?

HN: Well she might have been a president at the beginning. But she was the financial secretary for many, many years. And then I took over from her.



MK: And your parents lived at the Mitchell address until when?

HN: Until 19—I want to say, '78? My father died in '71. My mother died in 1980. I would say till 1978. I would say 1978.

MK: Was your mother involved in any other social activities, cultural activities?

HN: You name it, she was involved.

MK: What other stuff comes to mind?

HN: Okay, her first love was the Falcons. And she was very dedicated, and I'm talking about the kind of dedication you don't see today. It was, in fact, when I look back at my parents' generation, and I look at Polonia today, there's no comparison as far as, you know, altruism and all this other high idealistic stuff, I don't see it. I really don't see it. Anyway, you wanted to know what else, okay. So that was her first dedication. Her second, and my father's first, was the Polish Veterans. Meaning Placowka Siodma or whatever. My mother and father were very involved in the recruitment during World War II. I'm sure you're familiar about what went on then, how the Polish Army was recruiting before the U.S. became involved in World War II?

MK: Tell me about it.

HN: Oh, okay. It's, it was not a very extensive period--well, first of all, there was a group of Polish officers who came, got permission from Canada, to form a Polish army during World War II. Of course Canada, being part of the British Commonwealth, was involved in the war since 1939, whereas the U.S. didn't start till '41. So the United States allowed U.S. citizens to join that army, since there was no conscription here yet, at that time. And of course all that stopped in early 1942 after the U.S. became involved. But Windsor was the rallying point. And somewhere in this house I have their weekly. It was called Odsiecz, and it was, I think looking at it now, it was primarily designed to encourage young men to join this Polish Army that was forming in Windsor. Trained in Owen Sound—I don't know how familiar you are—

MK: I know where Owen Sound is.

HN: Yeah, well that's where their training was. They also had a temporary living and training in Windsor, and I remember going there as a kid. So how old was I? 10? 11? I remember going with my parents. I remember there was this Kapitan Drzewiecki, who was very—

MK: Zywiecki?

HN: D-R-Z like drzewo.

MK: Oh, Drzewiecki.

HN: Who was, I think, in charge of this whole thing in Windsor. And you know, I could go on and on. I don't know how--

MK: But your parents, what did your dad and mom do? What was their kind of role in all of this?

HN: Well the one thing I remember my father doing, in fact it's mentioned in, I've got some books here that were written in England. My father was, how involved he was I don't know. All I know is that every Sunday he would be selling these newspapers in front of churches. And they would, you know, they'd be all over the Polish churches selling, I don't know if they were a nickel or a dime. And I have a volume of these somewhere. He was very involved, just very involved, and now that's what I physically remember.

MK: So the Placowka Siodma was a place where people might come to contact him about this, or how—

HN: That could be. There was a Jan Glowacki who was from that group in Windsor. He was stationed here as sort of a liaison. And then he just stayed in the U.S., in Detroit, and was a member of Placowka Siodma. I remember him very well. I know he'd be at our house often. You know as a kid you don't pay attention to details. But there, then, this, there was a group called, that was formed because of this effort, it was called Centrum Przyjaciol Zolnierza Polskiego. My mother and dad were very involved in that. They, I would guess in 1942, they also would have drives, you know, they'd stand with a canister in front of churches, collect money, and then buy, this would not fly today. Actually they got donations from some cigarette companies, send cartons and boxes of cigarettes to England, to the Polish soldiers. Then another holiday, whether it was Christmas or Easter, I don't remember, they would send a little toiletry kit, plus food, and they would—I remember our basement steps being lined with these packages. It was sort of the place where everybody came and packed. And there was, I remember, the first time I ever saw Stan. And I remember these little, my mother called them neceserki, there was a mirror and comb and blah, blah, blah.

MK: Right.

HN: And these packages were sent to England, and it was like a continuation of helping them when they were in Windsor in Canada. And whether it was the same people or not, I have no idea. See, that I have no idea. That would take some research. But then it kind of, it continued during the war. It seems to me three times a year? For Christmas, Easter, and Dzień Zolnierza, which is, Swieta Zolnierza, August 15<sup>th</sup> I think is Swieta Zolnierza. Because that's the day the World War, or Cud nad Wisla, happened. Okay. So then it no longer became packages, then it became just like a ten dollar check, after the war to invalids especially in hospitals in Germany. I mean, it was an ongoing effort for years and years and years and years. And then my mother became president of that group and then Mr. Myslakowski—

MK: Myslakowski?

HN: Myslakowski, he was also the Commander of Placowka Siodma, then he was president. If you want to know about the activism that was going on in Polonia, just ask me. I was not maybe participating, but I was the observer of all this stuff that was going on. It was quite an era, when I think back now.

MK: Placowka Siodma was also a hall, as you said.

HN: Yes, for rent. For weddings. I went to many weddings there.

MK: So what kind of, I remember reading in Dziennik Polski there would be balls, you know, there would be, you know, New Year's Eve or those kind of things—

HN: Yes. Yes.

MK: Do you remember any of those?

HN: Well I was too young to go to them when—

MK: How about in the '50s?

HN: I remember going to Nest 31 for New Year's Eve several times. My brothers were members. And they had moved from Dom Polski. And the history of that place is interesting. I don't know if you've delved into that.

MK: A little bit, yeah.

HN: Where, actually Nest 31 was instrumental in building it.

MK: Right.

HN: You're aware of that.

MK: Yes.

HN: And then somehow they lost it, and PNA took over. And I don't know—I would like to know that story—you probably could tell me that.

MK: I don't know but I've got a lot of that documentation.

HN: There's something that happened there. Actually, when Dom Polski was built, there was a separate Sokolnia built in back. Are you aware of that?

MK: right. Right. Gym and everything.

HN: Yeah! With beautiful high ceilings so that you could be doing vaults and everything you could imagine. Then somehow they lost that. Was it because—and I don't know the story. And I don't know if anyone's left here that knows the story. So then they bought a building on Harper and Lyman. Is there such a place? Just east of Chene?

MK: No, it would have been—

HN: Before the expressway went in, of course.

MK: No. It would have been—

HN: East of Chene.

MK: On Harper?

HN: On Harper.

MK: Well it was either Dubois or—

HN: No, no. East of Chene.

MK: Oh, east of Chene. Then it would have been Mitchell—

HN: No, no, no!

MK Then Grandy—

HN: No, no! Before Grandy. A little side street and there was like a field, a public field across the street from it.

MK: Well, Vernor Field was across the street. But you mean on the north side of Harper?

HN: Yes.

MK: It came in from the north side of Harper. Okay. Okay.

HN: I thought it was Lyman. But Lyman was—

MK: No, Lyman runs east-west.

HN: It was just a little street. It didn't go, you know, it didn't go beyond that park. Or that playground.

MK: Right.

HN: Vernor Playground?

MK: right. There was another name for it, but that's what it was called later.

HN: Okay.

MK: I can check on that, though.

HN: But that's where Nest 31 moved to.

MK: What year?

HN: Oh, '50s? Maybe early '50s. Early '50s.

MK: I spoke to Mr. Bortkowski. You know Norm Bortkowski?

HN: Yeah.

MK: And he may have told me, actually, in his interview and I just don't remember it now.

HN: Now he's in Warren. He was president of, or vice president, of what, Liberty State Bank? Or what bank?

MK: I can't remember now, but—

HN: One of the banks. On Jos. Campau.

MK: I did, a year ago I did an interview with him. I've got it. I haven't transcribed it.

HN: Well, okay. Well he was, he was not one of the pioneers of the nest.

MK: Yeah, he said he was—

HN: He was a latecomer. Much later than I, my involvement. But I remember leading gym classes on Harper and—I want to say Lyman but I know that's not right. It was just a little side street. Just east of Chene, and across from that playground. Anyway, they were there. And from there they went to Mound Road, because the expressway came through.

MK: Right. Right.

HN: It was on Mound and near Seven Mile Road, I think.

MK: right. Do you remember any of the, in terms of bands, you know I remember reading an article in the early '50s, for example there was a Rozmaitosci Teatr, there was--

HN: Teatr Rozmaitosci.

MK: A group, group. That included Mr. Olejarczyk, Odrzywolska, and they had—

HN: Teatr Rozmaitosci? Okay, that--

MK: Not the theater itself, not the one on Chene Street. But there was a company that did plays. And I remember seeing advertisements for plays at Placowka Siodma, that they did their plays there.

HN: Well that was a post-World War II—

MK: '52.

HN: Immigrants, formed by DPs, if you want to use that expression, yeah.

MK: and they did it at Placowka Siodma.

HN: Could have been. Could have been. Yeah.

MK: After St. Hyacinth's, where did you go?

HN: Felician Academy.

MK: and why did you go there?

HN: Well, I won a scholarship to go there. And my mother insisted that I go there. I think it's because my sister went there. I wanted to go to Dominican because my friends were going there. But I ended up at Felician, and I don't regret it.

MK: And St. Stan's was not an option?

HN: No. My mother, my older brother, Joseph, went to St. Stan's for one year, and then went to Northeastern. Was he astute enough to realize that it was not academically a red hot school? I don't know. He could have. But I think that maybe it was not accredited at the time. I don't know. I don't know. Do you know anything about that high school?

MK: No. Other than that I know people who went there. But I don't know much about the academic standards.

HN: You know, how, I don't know. But I know he went there one year and then switched to Northeastern.

MK: Did he graduate from Northeastern?

HN: Yes.

MK: and did your other brother also go to Northeastern?

HN: Yes. He went to Greusel Middle School for the 9<sup>th</sup> grade. You know, eight years at Hyacinth, one year at Greusel, and then three years at Northeastern.

MK: right. And your older sister, Helene—

HN: Helene, H-E-L-E-N-E is how she wrote it.

MK: Helene. Where did she go to school?

HN: She went to Felician Academy, except for one year she went to Northeastern. I don't know whether it was the second or third year. Because the Depression, it was the absolute pits, and my parents could not afford it. But she did end up graduating. She went back there after one year at Northeastern.

MK: So she was at the Academy in 1932, you said she graduated.

HN: Graduated in '32, right.

MK: So when you went to the Academy, you were still living on Mitchell obviously.

HN: Yes.

MK: How did you get, what was your day like, commuting to and from school?

HN: We walked of course. It was—

MK: What street did you walk down?

HN: Every street possible. I had a friend who lived on Mitchell and Farnsworth, on the southwest corner. Her name was Regina Lewandowska. Her father had a bar, a corner bar, and they lived upstairs. And we walked to school together. More like we ran to school together, because she was always late, always late. I would knock on their door, wait inside the door for her to come, and then rush like crazy. And I would, to this day, I wonder, why did I do that? And it just made me late for school, through no fault of my own.

MK: It was on Farnsworth and—

HN: Mitchell.

MK: Mitchell. So did you go down Mitchell or did you go down Chene?

HN: Well, we'd go down any street. It didn't matter, because they were all at right angles. So you, there were no shortcuts.

MK: You didn't take the streetcar?

HN: Sometimes if we were, if we were really late we would. But then you'd have to catch it and then you'd go for two or three stops and get off, so it really didn't pay. Plus it was expensive, even the ten cents or whatever. This was still during the war, 1943 when we started.

MK: Right. So tell me a little about the Felician Academy, your memories of it.

HN: well, I'm very glad I went there. It was an all girls' school, which is what I needed. I think I really blossomed there. Which I would not have—

MK: Why do you say you felt you needed it?

HN: Because I was very introverted up till that point. And then I blossomed at Felician Academy. Maybe it's because it was time to do that, or because it was an all girls' school, I don't know.

MK: And what do you remember of the nuns who taught there?

HN: There was one outstanding nun, who was an English teacher. Sister Claver.

MK: K-L-A—

HN: Sister Mary Claver, like C-L-A-V-E-R. Sister Mary Claver. She was an excellent English teacher. She never stopped encouraging me to write. And I just did not want to think of it, and I just never really pursued it, but she was really very, a very good teacher. There was Sister Marcelline, who taught Business classes, Business classes. I took typing, so she stands out in my mind.

MK: Marcelline M-A-R-C-E-L-I-N-E

HN: I think double L, probably. Double L-I-N-E. Oh and the science teacher probably who had the biggest influence on me was Sister—Oh my gosh—she was a tough cookie. What was her name?! I'd have to look in the yearbook—

MK: Do you have your yearbook handy?

HN: Yes, I do.

MK: Why don't we get it, I'd like to get it—[pause] so we were checking on the name of the nun who you, the science teacher.

HN: It was the Science-math teacher, Sister Olympia. I had her for every year.

MK: Was she an older, younger nun?

HN: Yes, I would say she was one of the older sisters. She was a no-nonsense teacher, tough, taught all the science and math classes at the Academy.

MK: What about the principal? Who was principal at the time?

HN: Liliose. L-I-L-I-O-S-E.

MK: What was she like?

HN: She was tough too! [laughs] they all must have been very tough. That's my impression. No nonsense, really.

MK: Was there a distinction made between the girls, the students who were coming in every day and lived outside of the Felician Academy, and then the ones that were actually residential?

HN: Well they, they had their own activities separate and apart from us after hours, of course, after we were gone. They had their own choir, probably. They, I'm trying to remember if they had a different uniform than we did—no they didn't, they had the same uniform. Although on special occasions I think they had a dress uniform that was a little different that you can see in that book. It was a lace collar on a black dress. No, they were pretty much an integral part of our classes. Except that they lived in the building.

MK: Did you have to wear a uniform to school?

HN: Yes.

MK: Can you describe the uniform?

HN: It was a jumper. In fact, my mother made my jumpers. It was a, well you can see in the pictures. And every year, every class had a different colored blouse. It was either beige, or light blue, and I don't remember the other colors. Pink?

MK: You mean, there was like a color associated with the freshman class, sophomore—



HN: Yes.

MK: class, and junior, and then when the new freshmen came in they took the color again?

HN: Yes.

MK: Okay.

HN: Or you had a new blouse, or you kept it. I don't really remember. Did we keep the same color through all four years? But I know there were different color blouses. I remember a beige blouse, and I remember a powder blue blouse. So we must have changed blouses with the year, but I don't swear on that.

MK: Were there any social activities held within sort of the umbrella or the patronage of the Academy. Like, say, dances and things like that?

HN: Yes. In fact we had one dance at Dom Polski

MK: When was that?

HN: I don't really remember, but if I looked in the book I could tell you. I don't really remember. But I think we were either juniors or seniors.

MK: and was there a band there?

HN: Yes. Yeah. And I think the purpose was to have fun and to make money.

MK: And who would come to the dance, was it just girls or were there also boys?

HN: Oh no, we'd invite everybody on earth to come. You know, it was a public dance.

MK: It was a fundraiser.

HN: Yeah. It was a public dance. Yeah.

MK: Do you remember the orchestras at all, the bands?

HN: No. But there was the usual slough of, you know, whoever was around at the time.

MK: Besides the dance or the one that was organized by the Felician Academy, were there other activities that were done outside of—

HN: I remember a play, well, it was more of a pageant, an historical pageant that we produced as a student body, and then went to St. Stanislaus and presented to their student body. That stands out. And then we had plays for our own students and parents that we performed on the premises. We had a small auditorium there. Our classes were small as you can see. I think ours was one of the largest: I think we had forty. But most of them were in the twenties or thirties.

MK: So who were your best friends from your year.

HN: My best friend in high school probably was Celine Lesinski, who went on to be a nun.

MK: Where was she from?

HN: She was from Dearborn.

MK: Okay.

HN: In fact, that was one of the disadvantages, that there were girls from all over the metro area, Delray and west side, so that didn't do too much after school because we were too far away. Although there was quite a contingent from St. Hyacinth because it was within walking distance.

MK: So what did you do after school?

HN: You mean, school related or—

MK: Just in general. What did you do after school?

HN: Well I had piano lessons.

MK: with who?

HN: Mary Baynert.

MK: How's that spelled?

HN: **Dobrzelewski** was her maiden name and then she married Baynert. B-A-Y-N-E-R-T. But she was out of your strip.

MK Okay.

HN: She was in the Harper-Van Dyke area. She was on Harper east of Van Dyke. Went to gym classes at the Falcons, was in a dance class at Lira on Harper and Jos. Campau. if you're familiar with that building, before it got torn down for the expressway. That was about it. Occasionally, although I was not, although, you know, does the name Zofia Habrowska mean anything to you? She was a Polish szkolka, Saturday school—

MK: H-A-R?

HN: B-R-O, Habrowska. Anyway, she was also a member of Nest 823. My mother recruited just about anybody and everybody. Not anybody. Just about everybody. She Mrs. Habrowska would recruit me occasionally to take part in their, they would have Saturday programs on the radio, where you went to the studio and put on a little kid's show, you know, reciting poems, singing, and so on.

MK: Where was her school located?

HN: It was at various places. Sometimes at St. Hyacinth's, wherever she could find a locale, Placowka Siodma, wherever. Wherever.

MK: When you graduated from Felician Academy, what did you do?

HN: I went on to Wayne, it was then Wayne University, and got a degree in pharmacy.

MK: And so you graduated in pharmacy, what '40—

HN: '51.

MK: '51. And then what did you do?

HN: Then I worked.

MK: Where did you work?

HN: A hospital, and retail.

MK: Which retail location did you work at?

HN: West side, really, and that was after we moved here. Until, we moved here in '59, '58. I worked at St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital.

MK: You did?

HN: At the Boulevard and Milwaukee.

MK: What years were you there?

HN: Well I was there as a student. As a student, I would say '49, '50, '51. Then when I graduated I went to work at Wayne Apothecaries which was in the Chalmers-Jefferson area. It was a professional store. And then I came back to St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital in '50—I want to say '53, and worked there till we moved here in '58.

MK: so can you tell me a little bit about St. Joe's, the hospital, where was the pharmacy, what did the place look like?

HN: the first pharmacy was on the second floor. This was before they expanded it. And I guess that has to be while I was a student. A very small room, actually, no, probably no larger than this living room. We made a lot of stuff of our own. We made a lot of our own preparations. Then the hospital was expanded and we moved to—

MK: What year was that?

HN: No I don't. Was it when I was a student or after? I really don't remember.

MK: It was early '50s—

HN: It was early '50s or, yeah. They expanded it, then we went up to the seventh floor, and were next to—each time they made sure we were next to the operating room, because I guess the administration thought that we really needed to be close to them in case they needed something. So we were on the seventh floor in a much larger room. And I have a picture of that here somewhere, if you want it.

MK: Sure.

HN: And that was it. And I worked there till we moved here.

MK: and your husband, where did you meet him? Was he from the neighborhood?

HN: No. He was born in Poland. He served in the—

MK: What was his first name?

HN: Stanley. Stanislaw Nowakowski. He escaped from the eastern part of Poland. He was from the Tarnopol region. Ran away from the Soviets through Hungary. He was in the Air Force, he'd just finished his training as a mechanic in the Polish Air Force in the summer of 1939, and was stationed at Okecie when it was bombed on September 1<sup>st</sup>. And I have his story somewhere, but in brief. Then he ran away, escaped, through Hungary, ended up in France, was in the Air Force there, and then was in the first wave of airmen that went to England in 1940. I think it was in March of 1940. Or in the spring, I'm not sure.

MK: Right. In the spring, March or April.

HN: of 1940, and so and was there during the Battle of Britain, and ended up, came to Detroit, and we met here, at a wedding.

MK: And he came here after the war?

HN: Oh yes. Well he came to Canada first. He was in Canada until, came here in '49. I think he was a year or so in Canada, and I've got that down somewhere, I don't really remember exactly.

MK: And where'd you meet?

HN: At a wedding. At a friend's wedding.

MK: Where?

HN: In Detroit?

MK: In the neighborhood there?

HN: Well, where was the hall? I don't remember. I don't know. I think it was in Hamtramck.

MK: and what did he do for a living?

HN: He was a, he worked at Ford's as an automotive designer, body designer.

MK: So almost in the vein of patternmaker.

HN: Well, except that his was on paper. My dad was on wood.

MK: Right. And do you have any children?

HN: We have one daughter.

MK: Does she live in the area?

HN: She lives in Plymouth.

MK: And what does she do?

HN: She went to the University of Michigan, got a degree, a degree, what do they call it, a double degree—

MK: Dual

HN: Dual. In Communications and Psychology.

MK: Are those her—

HN: Yes, those are my two grandchildren.

MK: I was wondering when they were in maize and blue—

HN: You wondered about those colors, huh? [laughs]

MK: Okay, great. Now what about, let's switch gears a little bit.

HN: I was going to say my brother graduated from there too.

MK: Oh he did? Which brother?

HN: My older brother. [unintelligible] in 1964.

MK: In what?

HN: Education. I think.

MK: And is he still, are they living, your brothers are both living?

HN: Yes.

MK: And where are they living?

HN: Well, my older brother—

MK: Joseph.

HN: Is now willing to be a permanent resident of Florida, although they just sold their home in Spring Lake, Michigan. He was superintendent of schools in Grand Haven, on Lake Michigan. And they sold their home and bought a condo in Florida for the summer and will be moving their permanently. And he could probably tell you a lot more about the neighborhood, because he was four and a half years older than I am.

MK: and your younger brother?

HN: He finished at U of D.

MK: What in?

HN: He had a rare degree, Bachelor of Philosophy, which you don't find very often.

MK: right.

HN: He thought he would be in social work, but did not stay in that very long. And worked as a sales rep for a, the Kafarski's, are you familiar with them at all?

MK: Yes, I know [unintelligible]

HN: I can't remember the, which brother, well the two brothers had chemical processing plants in the old Packard plant, and he worked as a sales rep for them, for years and years and years.

MK: Okay. Why don't we switch gears now, and let's talk a bit about Chene Street, the businesses. And I'm just curious to begin with, since you are a pharmacist, whether you had any knowledge or connection with either Przybylskis or Sleders.

HN: No. Although I remember having a conversation with Przybylski once, while I was a still a student, maybe in my last year. And Lutnia, which I'm sure you are familiar with that singing organization, they moved from place to place.

MK: Right. I interviewed Marie Genca.

HN: Now she—oh really? She was a good friend of my sister's.

MK: Yeah. She's 89 and she was very active in Lutnia. Very active.

HN: But I don't think Lutnia exists anymore, does it?

MK: No, but she was active when they were first in Nowak Hall, above the Palmer, on Palmer, and then they moved—

HN: Palmer where?

MK: Right on the corner of Palmer and Chene, they had the upstairs, in the '40s—

HN: what years?

MK: Early '40s

HN: Okay, and then what happened?

MK: Then they moved to Moran and the Boulevard.

HN: No, before that, before that they were not on a corner building. I thought it was more like Hendrie. And it was the ground floor, because—

MK: It might have been in between, but I know that by 1950—early '50s, they were already—

HN: On the Boulevard

MK: Boulevard

HN: Yes.

MK: And in the '40s, early '40s, at least through '43, '44, they were above Nowak Hall.

HN: Okay, well after that, then, because I was already a pharmacy student so it had to be before '51, they were in a ground floor of a store, not a, but a larger, a rather large storefront on the, on a side street just east of Chene, and I thought it could have been Medbury—Palmer, Hendrie, Medbury, one of those. And I was at a, some sort of a party, dance, or something, at Lutnia's, and I was talking to Przybylski, or whoever owned it at the time, I think it was somebody else, I'm not sure what his name was. And he was telling me that if I came to work for him I'd get two dollars an hour. And I thought to myself, "Wow! A hundred bucks, you know, fifty hours, I'd get a hundred bucks." And I remember that. A silly little thing, but you, it just stuck in my mind. So that's why I know that they were there in those years. And I know that that was my only contact with Przybylski's, the store.

MK: So tell me about the stores that you remember.

HN: Well my good friend, who went to Dominican, where I wanted to go, was Marie Therese Kaminski, who lived across the street from the church. And as I look back now, there probably were two people who influenced my career choice. That was the Zukowski daughter, they had the bookstore on Chene?

MK: Sure.

HN: Julia, or Jeri. Jeri Pishalski was her married name. But Julia, or Jeri, Zukowska, was a pharmacist who graduated probably in the '30s. And also Marie Theresa's father, and I often would be in the store in the back room and watch him and—

MK: So tell me about—

HN: So therefore, in retrospect, I didn't know it at the time, but those two people probably influenced my choice.

MK: So tell me about the Kaminski—

HN: Drugstore?

MK: Drugstore.

HN: It was a very clean, professional, neighborhood store. Where you went for anything in the medication line. You went there for your film, to get your film developed. You went there to buy a greeting card. You went there to buy a box of [unintelligible] chocolates. And so on.

MK: Was there any homeotherapy kinds of things that they carried?

HN: No, I don't think so.

MK: Because Przybylski's did. And Sleder's.

HN: In what year?

MK: At least, I'm sure in the '50s.

HN: Really? Because I don't remember that at all.

MK: Yeah. Okay.

HN: In fact, it was sort of an oddity when I was in school. I mean it was mentioned, it was explained, but it was nothing—

MK: My mother remembers at Przybylski's—

HN: Really!

MK: AND at Sleder's, but more at Przybylski's.

HN: Well she was into it, obviously.

MK: Well she wasn't so much into it but she, you know, they had the stuff right there, she says you couldn't miss it.

HN: I'll be darned. See, I don't know about—

MK: It was popular among other people in the neighborhood.

HN: Have that before it dries up!

MK: Okay.

HN: Unless you maybe don't care for it. Anyway. And there was that store and then next to it was—what was he called—the candy store, where we went for our candy. And it was in Ziemba's building, it was in the building that was just adjacent to them. Oh [unintelligible] and I want to say [unintelligible] but that's not it, they were our landlords.



MK: What year are we talking about?

HN: I'm talking '40s.

[interruption]

MK: But he lived, Louis Kulma lived on McDougall.

HN: Oh really?

MK: In that block, yeah.

HN: Oh, I didn't know that.

MK: He lived at 5243. I interviewed him.

HN: Well, I didn't know that.

MK: But, no, the confectioner's isn't here in '34.

HN: So it had to be after the Kroger's.

MK: Yeah, so it'd have to be after the Kroger's. I don't have the '41 McDougall with me.

HN: Do you have a '50?

MK: No. It's the only McDougall I brought with me, unfortunately.

HN: I'm trying to think of what we would say, "We're going to somebody's for, you know, walnut or whatever"—depending on how much money we had, or an ice cream cone.

MK: Yeah. No, I don't have it here with me. I have it back in the office. Okay. Anything else you remember from down there?

HN: Well, I remember, probably where the **Dabrowskis** had their law offices, that would be the only other store on that block. But, what's his name, Chamski, Barney S. Chamski, had his law office there. Probably after the **Dabrowskis**.

MK: Do you remember Mr. Chamski?

HN: Yes.

MK: What do you remember about him?

HN: He had very bushy hair. [laughs] And his daughter lived next door to us in the middle part of that--

MK: What was his daughter's name?

HN: I don't remember. I can see her but I can't remember her name..

MK: What'd she look like?

HN: She was small, petite, dark-haired, or brunette, or brown hair. I can't remember, even remember her married name.

MK: Did you have any interaction with Mr. Chamski at any point?

HN: Professionally, you mean?

MK: Professionally, or he was very active in the neighborhood--

HN: Yes. He was a very, a kind of blustery guy who was--yeah, but he was very involved in civic things, yes, that's true. And my parents were, too, so--

MK: Right. Anybody else in that area right there that you remember?

HN: Well there were a lot of--

MK: What about the potato chip factory?

HN: Oh yeah. On Ferry and McDougall? Better Made.

MK: What do you remember about them?

HN: That we'd go there to get some. [laughs] And then there was one on Grandy and Nichols, the FritoLay, and now a very big enterprise, started out on Grandy and—

MK: Hendrie.

HN: Hendrie, okay. And then there was a Deluxe Potatoes--Potato Chips. Where was that? Also on Grandy--

MK: Yeah.

HN: But closer or further? I can't remember. But it was much smaller.

MK: Yeah. There were actually five of them.

HN: Okay. I remember the three.

MK: Yeah, there were two others and I don't know their names, I'll think of them, but two others in the neighborhood.

HN: Really.

MK: They were smaller, each kind of gradually smaller--

HN: Well the two that have survived are Better Made and FritoLay, which was Nicolay, Nicolay Dancy I think was the name at the time. Or Nicolay something.

MK: You mentioned Jeri Zukowski, or Jeri Pishalski. What do you remember about that store and family? The Zukowski store?

HN: Well, that it was a repository of everything to do with books and newspapers and paper goods. Greeting cards. She--Mrs. Zukowska--what was her name--Eugenia Zukowska was a member of Nest 823. As were all of her daughters. In fact I have pictures of that gym class from the '20s with at least two of the Zukowska daughters in it. There was Martha and Julia--

MK: And Anna was the other--

HN: And she was the oldest. So members of 823. The brothers, and there were two of them?

MK: John and Walter.

HN: Were members of Nest 31. So Nest 31 was, you know, a big, had a big prominence in the neighborhood.

MK: You said that she, Jeri, Pishalski, was a big influence on you. What kind of interactions did you have with her? Did you hang out with--what--

HN: No, she was much older.

MK: Much older, right.

HN: No, it's just, I think, and as I said, at the time I probably would not have realized that, but in retrospect, here was a woman, in a man's field, and apparently I saw that that was possible. Maybe because I did lean toward the sciences. My mother wanted me to be a dentist but I did not have the dedication for that. I just did not have the--it was just too much. It would be too many years. So this was a--in fact, probably the first time I thought that that's what I wanted to do with my life is when, in the 9th grade, we had a class called General Science, which was a little bit of everything. And Sister **Walensia** proposed to the class, "What do you want to do? You know, what kind of a career are you going to choose for yourself?" So when it came to me out of the blue I said, "Pharmacy," because that's the only--without a thought. And I did not think about it before that. But since that point, that was it, I guess.

MK: Did you, besides knowing that Ms. Zukowska, Eugenia, the mom, was a member of the nest, did you have any interaction with her? What was she like? Do you remember?

HN: The mother?

MK: Yeah.

HN: Very quiet. A very quiet woman. Just a very quiet woman.

MK: Do you remember Mr. Zukowski? Do you--

HN: He was the opposite. He was more, I don't want to say boisterous, but a very emphatic presence. Just the opposite of his wife.

MK: And of the other of the kids besides Julia, did you know any of the other ones?

HN: All of them. I knew all of the girls well, even though they were all older than I was, because they were involved in the Nest activities and we would see each other, you know, several times a year.

MK: And did you shop at the store?

HN: For some things, yes. Not on a regular basis but whenever we needed a Polish greeting card or, you know, it was, I mean, you know.

MK: I wanted to, I'll mention to you-- [interruption]

HN: --put that on tape--

MK: I know. [unintelligible] knew Mr. Zukowski very well.

HN: I don't want to, yeah, he was definitely a socialist. Very much so. In fact, IN FACT, when Anne got married, they were not what you would call religious people. They did not go to church. But when Anne got married, she got married in church. On a Sunday, and my mother went to this wedding, and I don't think any of her family was there. You know, this is, I don't even know if this should be on tape.

MK: This is all—

HN: This is personal.

MK: Yeah, there's nothing new here, though--

HN: Because this is personal. Can you do that?

MK: I knew they were very irreligious.

HN: Anyway, they got married in church on a Sunday, and my mother went to this, to this ceremony, and there were very few people there. I know Julia professionally, and I knew her for years, because we were in the same pharmacy sorority, and she was a very nice person. Now what were her religious--and probably not religious.

MK: No, none of them were religious.

HN: Now the mother was buried in the church. I went to the mother's funeral. I remember going to that funeral. Now the father I don't, he died when I was not, you know, at the point in my life where I was going to funerals, but the mother died, probably, in the early '90s, I'd say. '80s. Or late '80s.

MK: I interviewed Mr. Zukowski, John.

HN: His son.

MK: Way back.

HN: Oh, he was a character.

MK: And then I also interviewed Martin Piszczalski, Anna's son.

HN: Really?!

MK: Yeah.

HN: Well he's in Ann Arbor, or used to be in Ann Arbor.

MK: He went to Cass Tech, the same year I did.

HN: Oh, really?!

MK: Because I knew him. So I know--

HN: Okay.

MK: I've interviewed him in Ann Arbor.

HN: Then you know his sister?

MK: Do I know his sister? Yeah. Teodora.

HN: My daughter stood up to Tedi's wedding.

MK: Yeah, she's--

HN: In Virginia somewhere.

MK: Norfolk or, Norfolk or ROANOKE.

HN: Really. Do you keep in touch with them at all?

MK: I saw them over the holiday. They were here. No, I had dinner with them over at his house.

HN: I'll be darned.

MK: I interviewed him by phone shortly after that, I did an interview with him.

HN: Tedi was a cute girl. I've not seen her in a long, long time. The last time I saw her was at my husband's wake. About six years ago. So they must have moved when? Within the last few years?

MK: In the last couple of years. Not so long ago.

.....

MK: So let's go back to, we talked about Ksiegarnia Ludowa. Any other of the businesses on Chene Street that you recall?

HN: Well next to Ksiegarnia Ludowa, or maybe two doors away, but in that block, on Chene, between Kirby and Frederick, there was a Jewish what today would be a deli, but it didn't make sandwiches, it just sold sledzie, and groceries, and mielony mak. I mean, there were things that you went to that store for. And he was a very good friend of my sister's husband, my brother-in-law. And his name was Jack, and we were trying to think of his--

MK: Epstein.

HN: Epstein. Jack Epstein. He was there for a long time. And it was called--what was the place called?

MK: Premier Dairy.

HN: Premier Dairy, there you go. Okay.

MK: Tell me about Jack and Premier Dairy.

HN: He and my brother Ed--brother-in-law Ed--were very good friends. Because my brother-in-law's parents were in the grocery/butcher business, and think there was that relationship. And they were just good friends. That's all I remember.

MK: What was your brother-in-laws's last name?

HN: Greniewicki

MK: Ogren--

HN: Greniewicki

MK: How many--okay, -and did he live in the neighborhood?

HN: Well, I don't know where they lived, to tell you the truth. Now I was what, 8 or 9 years old when they married. And so, I know they met through somebody. Somebody introduced them--

MK: What do you remember about Premier Dairy and Jack Epstein. Do you remember them at all?

HN: I remember he was a good looking man. With, you know, dark hair and a nice looking man. And that he was fairly successful in that little business.

MK: So what was in the store? Why don't you tell me a little bit about what was in the store?

HN: Well, sledzie in a barrel. Poppy seed that was ground. My mother would send me there for those odd--she didn't do her regular shopping there, but the unusual things that you needed were, that's where you went. Although he had a line of groceries, you know, the mayonnaise and all the other shelf things. Did he have meat there? That I don't remember. I rather, I don't know. I really don't know. It was a typical store. Shelves full of stuff. You know, wooden floor. Not really messy but not really neat. Just, groceries--

MK: Was there sawdust on the floor?

HN: I don't know, but butchers would have the sawdust. I don't know if his did. I rather don't think so. I don't think he had meat. I don't think he had meat.

MK: You mentioned he was Jewish. Was there a consciousness on the street or people in the neighborhood about who was Jewish, who was not, whether they were Polish Jews or not Polish Jews. What were the kind of dynamics around ethnicity and religion.

HN: I think, I think the Jewish businesses in the neighborhood were probably all Polish Jewish. Because how would they provide in a Polish neighborhood, if they didn't speak Polish? I remember going to the bakery and asking for bread in Polish.

MK: Which bakery?

HN: On, it was on, the one closest to home was on the corner of Frederick and McDougall, across from the bank. It was, what was his name, Wojcikowski? Do you know which one I'm talking about?

MK: I know what you're talking about. I don't know the name of the bakery.

HN: It was Wojcikowski or something like that. For years. You know, I'd go, and ask for bread in Polish. My mother'd send] me for a loaf of bread bread and I'd say--you know, what did I say? razowy or--

MK: Kwasny--

HN: Kwasny, or whatever Polish.

MK: So but what about the Jewish aspect of it?

HN: Ah, going back to that. We know that many stores on Chene--not many, some stores on Chene--were Jewish. I don't remember any interaction with the children, or the children being part of the community life. I don't think there were that many of them. My guess is they just didn't participate in the community life of the neighborhood.

MK: Let me ask you about a couple specifically because I think they may have been around either in the age of your brothers and you, actually, who did live there. One was the Bloch family. Leo Bloch shoes.

HN: Where was this store?

MK: The store was between Ferry and Kirby on the same side of the street as the Hoffman Studio. Where the Hoffman Studio was, it was closer to Kirby than Ferry. And the reason I ask you is because Mr. Bloch had a son--

HN: Okay, yes--

MK: two sons, Ray and Erwin. And I interviewed Erwin Bloch. And Erwin was a friend of Epstein. That's why I know who Jack Epstein is. Erwin Bloch lived in the neighborhood, he went to Northeastern High School. His brother Ray also did and was killed in the war. Ray was older and killed in the war. But Erwin has a lot of memories of that and all the stores in that neighborhood. So I was wondering, did you come across that name, or remember them at all?

HN: Now maybe my brothers would. Because they went to Northeastern.

MK: He would have been 1927, so that would have been a year older than John--younger than John.

HN: Yeah. My brother was born in June of '26.

MK: So he was born in '27.

HN: August of '26. So they were like a year apart. I really don't remember any interaction with the Jewish population except the stores. We always bought shoes at Jaglowicz, We got two pairs a year. One for the beginning of school--

MK: Which Jaglowicz store? There were two stores.

HN: There was one on Chene near Theodore, or Warren.

MK: Right. Right.

HN: Where was the other one?

MK: The other one was way down towards, past Medbury.

HN: Really?

MK: Yeah. Ed Jaglowicz had a store down there.

HN: I just don't know.

MK: George.

HN: We went to the one on Chene near Warren. I would say Theodore.

MK: Right.

HN: And we got two pairs of shoes a year. We got a pair for Easter that was white. And those were your good shoes. Until you got your school pair. And then those became your play shoes and your good



shoes were your school shoes. Until next Easter. And that was it. We went there every year for our shoes. My parents were really very patriotic and they believed in supporting the Polish businesses. And so they were not, not that they were against the Jewish--

MK: Right.

HN: businesses. But they, "popierac swoje." So they went to Jack's. And they went because of friendship with the son-in-law. They were very good friends, Jack and my brother-in-law. And my brother-in-law was not Jewish. But they--and my mother didn't do much clothing shopping on Chene or in Hamtramck.

MK: What about things like dry goods, you know, curtains, housewares, did they ever--

HN: Everybody went downtown for that. My mother went downtown for most of clothing shopping. Chene, we went to Zukowskis for the odd card or magazine or whatever. We went to the Chene Ferry Market.

MK: Tell me about the Chene Ferry Market. What do you remember about the Chene Ferry Market?

HN: Well, that it was a bustling place on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

MK: Did you enjoy going there?

HN: Oh yeah. It was really active until well into the '50s or maybe later. You probably know when it stopped.

MK: Well it actually stopped in the '70s but it was still--

HN: '70s.

MK: But it was by then it was really in trouble.

HN: Just gearing down, yeah. That's where, you know, we went for potatoes and everything. All the produce sort of thing. For years and years. And there was this Blondie, did you run across that name? Other people, she was like the--

MK: Tobin

HN: Star of the, the star of the market. She was a very vivacious Jewish lady.

MK: Tobin.

HN: Okay. Is she still around?

MK: Actually she is. She's in Florida. I've been trying to get a hold of her. I have her son's phone number. He lives in West Bloomfield, so.

HN: Well that's going to be interesting.

MK: There was another.

HN: Now I have to ask you a question, the reverse. What did the Jewish boys think of the neighborhood? Did they feel any kind of, I hate to use the word, ostracism? But, you know, are we leading up to that? You were asking--

MK: It was mixed. No, it was mixed. I mean, it wasn't a uniform, I think, feeling about it. Many of the Jews, I did meet a lot of Jewish storeowners. I interviewed around twenty, twenty-five of the Jewish storeowners along the street. I've interviewed probably a half a dozen or so of the Jewish merchants from the market. So I've interviewed probably thirty or so people who either lived or spent a lot of time on Chene Street who were Jews. And I would say the majority of them felt very comfortable. And most of the folks told me that they felt comfortable enough to do business, but when their children became old enough to go to high school, they wanted them to date and marry—

HN: Their own.

MK: Jews. So they moved out of the neighborhood. They didn't stay. You know, they moved to the west side. There were a number of instances that people told me of anti-Semitic kinds of activities, behaviors, both physical attacks, but more likely, you know, "Jew boy," and those kinds of epithets. You know, I don't think it was characteristic, but there certainly were those, I mean, from people's testimony, there were those kinds of experiences. And but with the exception of maybe one or two people, all the people who I interviewed, Jewish merchants and store owners, had very kind of, very positive—of course there's always nostalgia looking back, but very positive memories of being on the street.

HN: That's good to hear.

MK: Very positive memories of the street.

HN: That's good. That's cool.

MK: And so it was, you know, but again, there were instances. There were probably three or four people who told me of personal experiences that were not very nice. So, you know, the other piece of this that I'm trying to get at is kind of the Black/Jewish interaction. And there was some. Even though there weren't many African American residents, there were some, there were people at the markets. There was also a Black Baptist church on St. Aubin and Adele in the '40s. It was actually firebombed in the riots. I was going to ask you, do you remember the '43 riots at all?

HN: I remember sitting on the porch on Mitchell, and looking south, and seeing on Warren a string of tanks rolling by. And that's all I remember of those riots. '43. I remember--what was the month?

MK: July. July of '43. June, I think June, something like, it was June or July, the middle of summer.

HN: Was it June?

MK: Yes, I think it was June. It was the end of June, probably.

HN: Because somehow I remember having to go for a piano recital or a rehearsal for the piano recital at the Downtown Y, and that there was some question, and that's why the dates—

MK: It was actually, it probably was probably June. Because I know people were still at Northeastern High School.

HN: School was still in session.

MK: School was still in session.

HN: Okay, and the recitals were usually after school ended.

MK: So it must have been mid-June.

HN: And so I don't remember, I think I went, but there was that little bit of anxiety about going downtown to the Y—I want to say the YW. And that's all I remember of the riots of '43. I remember this string of tanks rolling down Warren Avenue here, you could see, that was just two blocks away.

MK: Yeah.

HN: And I think they were stationed at Perrien Park. Weren't they?

MK: Yeah. They were.

HN: I think the population of Northeastern High School was probably 25% black? At the time?

MK: It was. There were still some Jewish students there too, although less, at that point. But there were black students then. What about things like your First Holy Communion dress, your photographs for your First Communion, where did that take place?

HN: Hoffman Studio. Of course.

MK: Did you know the Hoffmans? Did you know Mr. and Mrs. Hoffman?

HN: Yes. My mother and dad, my mother especially knew them. And I knew them to recognize them. Did they know me? I don't know.

MK: And your First Holy Communion dress? Where did you get that?

HN: At Kukawski, on the corner. Next to Hoffman's. Or two doors away, maybe. I told you about that dress.

MK Tell me.

HN: For the 300<sup>th</sup> of the City of Detroit there was this big Historical Museum exhibit. And so Karen Majewski, who I'm sure you know, was the go-fer, gatherer of things. And there were several meetings of a group of us. And at one of them she asked for a communion dress so I dug mine up and brought it, and it was on display at the museum.

MK: I remember it, yeah.

HN: And it was one of the two items the museum asked me to donate to them. So I did. So they kept it.

MK: Do you remember Mrs. Kukawski at all?

HN: Yes.

MK: What do you remember about her?

HN: That she was heavysset, and very vivacious. And her husband was a rather slight-built person. I just, I hate to say anything negative, but I didn't have a good impression of him. I mean, he wasn't somebody that I would cling to as a child. And they had several—two daughters. In fact my brother, who lives in Grosse Pointe Woods, ran into one of the daughters out his way, which was kind of interesting.

MK: What was her maiden name?

HN: Well, Kukawski. Or you wanted her married name?

MK: Yeah.

HN: I don't know. I don't know. My brother might know.

.....

MK: You mentioned Kukawski's were a major enterprise?

HN: A dress shop. Yeah. She did a lot of sewing.

MK: Did she do the sewing behind the shop?

HN: Behind the shop? I don't know. I know she had a room in the back, a workshop.

MK: What was the store like, when you walked in, what did it look like?

HN: Just full of dresses. For children and women.

MK: Were they on hangers, were they on counters—

HN: On hangers, I think. I don't really remember. I don't think we ever bought anything there. But that dress we did. Now my sister's wedding dress, was it made there? I don't know. I really don't know. Because I was [unintelligible] 8 years old, 9 years old? I was young. My sister was married in '38, so I was 9 years old.

MK: What about movie theaters?

HN: Oh, there were a lot of them.

MK: Did you go to any of them?

HN: Oh yes.

MK: Which ones did you go to?

HN: Well the closest one was the King, which used to be the Fredro, on the corner of Frederick, not on the corner, but just north of the corner of Frederick on Chene. I guess a Mr. King owned it, is that why they changed the name?

MK: Krol.

HN: From Fredro to King.

MK: Mr. Krol.

HN: Okay.

MK: Mr. Henry Krol.

HN: Okay, because we used to walk to the Your Theater, which out of your—

MK: No, it's in there; it's on Forest.

HN: Located on Forest and Moran.

MK: Tell me about the Your, tell me what it looked like.

HN: It was just—it was on Warren.

MK: Which side of Warren was it on?

HN: It was on the south side of Warren before Moran. You had to pass the Borden Dairy company when you went to it. And that's all I remember. And sometimes we would go on New Year's Eve, when we were, you know, old enough to stay up, and watch four movies. Two before midnight and two after midnight. We'd get out at two o'clock. [laughs] We went from 9 to 2.

MK: Did you ever go to Perrien?

HN: Yes, although that wasn't around forever. I think it closed rather early, you know, once they started closing. And, I don't know where it, it was south of the King, near Warren or near Forest?

MK: Yeah, between--

HN: Yeah. We went to the Perrien Of course Perrien Park was right there.

MK: what about the Home and the Iris? Do you remember those?

HN: Yes. Iris was on the Boulevard on Chene, or Jos. Campau, Jos. Campau at that point. The Iris. And the other one--

MK: Home

HN: Home was on Chene near Medbury—

MK: Lyman.

HN: Lyman.

MK: The one by Medbury was the Ritz.

HN: Okay. Oh my gosh!

MK: Actually, that was called the Rozmaitosci in the '20s.

HN: Really.

MK: Yeah. It was like the Fredro. It was actually initially a stage theater.

HN: Stage theater. Yes.

MK: Where Polish troupes of actors would come.

HN: Well Stasia Wachtel, of course now she's in the Washington, D.C. area.

MK: Estelle.

HN: Estelle. Have you talked to her?

MK: I talked to her but I haven't interviewed her. I talked to her.

HN: Okay.

MK: I interviewed Mrs. Chrypinska--

HN: Okay.

MK: Who knows—

HN: Hania.

MK: Who's a close friend of Wachtel's. So I also know that the Rozmaitosci was a stage theater. Ben Stanczyk told me about it. Several people did.

HN: That was before my time.

MK: You know the New Elk Bar?

HN: On Chene and—

MK: Yeah. Well right there, it was right there next to the Ritz.

HN: Where was the Ritz?

MK: the Ritz was between Palmer and Ferry.

HN: they were all on that west side of the street.

MK: Right.

HN: And then the Home was—

MK: Up Lyman.

HN: Closer to—

MK: Between Lyman and—

HN: So it was the Iris, the Home, the Ritz, the King, the Perrien.

MK: And Your was over there. The Russell was on Russell. And then there was the Zella

HN: [unintelligible]

MK: That was on Moran.

HN: Frederick.

MK: No, the Zella was closer, near Palmer and—

HN: I remember that! Oh my gosh! It was called the Zella?

MK: The Zella Theater.

HN: That was its last name?

MK: Yeah, it used to be the Moran Theater at one time, then it was the Zella.

HN: When was it changed?

MK: I don't remember but I know it was called the Zella at the end.

HN: I remember that. Oh my gosh, I forgot about that one. And then of course if you want to go beyond, you went past the Your Theater, turn right, and went to Gratiot. And on Gratiot was the Rialto on Gratiot and Moran or Mt. Elliott. I'm not sure—

HN: No Moran. We used to go there. We used to walk there. Or sometimes drive there.

MK: And further down Chene in the Black Bottom you also had the Savoy and the Catherine theaters, they were right down there, too.

HN: [unintelligible] Oh my gosh. The Zella. I forgot all about that one.

MK: what about doctors and dentists? Did you go to any doctors in the neighborhood?

HN: Yes. I went to a dentist on Chene. He was above—he was on a corner. What was on the corner next to Zukowski's?

MK: A restaurant. It was Spire Brothers for a while—

HN: What was that?

MK: And then the corner--it was like a Middle Eastern food store.

HN: Oh.

MK: And then next to it at the corner was a restaurant. There was a series of restaurants on that corner.

HN: On the corner itself.

MK: Right.

HN: Well above that was this dentist. And what was his name? Lytinski?

MK: Was it Guzowski?

HN: Or Guzowski. I think Guzowski is right. I went to him. And my mother took very, made sure we took very good care of our teeth because I remember the school nurse was very impressed with our mouths.

MK: Guzinski.

HN: Guzinski?

MK: Alphonse Guzinski was a dentist in 1941 up there.

HN: That was at, that would have to be—

MK: 5359.

HN: Yeah.

MK: and then Howard Gaba was a physician that also had an office up there.

HN: Guzinski. I know a Gruzinski. As I said, the nurse, the school nurse, was very impressed with our mouths, with my mouth. Because it was in good repair. [unintelligible] at that time. And doctor? We never had to go to the doctor. Doctors made house calls when I was a kid. I remember having the chicken pox and the doctor came in and who it was, I don't know. But there were--Knobloch?



MK: Knobloch, uh-hmm.

HN: and who else? Who was on the corner of Harper and Chene? Wasn't there a doctor there somewhere?

MK: Well there was a dentist in that area, Jablonski.

HN: [unintelligible]

MK: Well there were a number of doctors further down. Bittker was a doctor.

HN: I don't remember him. I remember [unintelligible]

MK: He was on [unintelligible] '30s and '40s, I don't know of any doctors on Harper.

HN: Well my mother went to a doctor [unintelligible] but he was on the Boulevard and, I don't know if he would be on—

MK: There were a number of doctors on the Boulevard and Milwaukee. Within three or four blocks of Chene Street.

HN: Yeah. There were a couple of doctors [unintelligible] across the street from the hospital. There was that corner store, corner drugstore—

MK: Right.

HN: I can't think of the name. Across from the hospital, on Milwaukee and Chene—Chene—I mean, East Grand Boulevard and Milwaukee. And there was a doctor in there. I can't think of his name.

MK: There was a, you know, a dentist named Lipski, but he was above, you know where Kovitz Department Store was? It was on, between Ferry and Kirby? In that block, upstairs?

HN: On the east side?

MK: On the east side. He was there for like thirty or forty years.

HN: No. No. We went to the one above, next to Zukowski, on the corner, upstairs.

MK: Which reminds me, next to Bloch's shoe store in that Kirby-Ferry block, was a wallpaper and paint store.

HN: Yeah. And you went there for your window shades.

MK: No, window shades were on the corner.

HN: Oh okay.

MK: On the corner, the corner store Eastern Shade on the corner, which was Hojnacki--

HN: Okay.

.....

MK: When you tend to look underneath a little bit, there are a lot of stories. Any other anecdotes or stories that you can sort of interpret as characteristic for you of being in that neighborhood?

HN: Well, very vague, as I said, we would walk to all these shows. I remember in early high school going to a group called Mlody Teatr, in Hamtramck, further back it was—

MK: Yeah, Zukowskis were in it.

HN: It was a, yes, it was an offshoot of the Polish artists group, Towarzystwo Artystow Polskich they were called, the actors. And they formed this sort of junior group, and Jarozinski taught dancing and **Dr. Lewicz**, does that name ring a bell? He taught us singing and so on and so on. And I would take the Baker streetcar to Hamtramck to, it was either Copernicus High School or it was above the PLAV on Jos. Campau, which—

MK: [unintelligible]

HN: And coming home at ten o'clock, I would be a little frightened walking down Frederick and Chene to my house. Only because it was scary, it was dark and scary. So sometimes I'd take, I'd go over to, get off at Forest and then take the crosstown and then walk down McDougall, which was a well lit street. But that was the only time I felt any kind of fear at night, by myself. But, you know, at six, seven, eight o'clock because there was no problem walking the streets, in the winter. First of all because there were people on the street, and I think that's what made the difference. But once it got dark, I mean once it got deserted, then you felt a little creepy, I'd, I really walked fast past alleys and stuff, but other than that, and I wouldn't dream of doing that today.

MK: After you graduated and became a working pharmacist, did you ever go to any restaurants?

HN: Well, yes. When we first were married we lived on Dubois and Kirby [interruption]

MK: You lived on Dubois and what?

HN: When we were first married we lived on Dubois, 5433 Dubois, which was between Ferry and Kirby. And we both worked, of course, and we would often go to Martin's Restaurant, which was between Ferry and Palmer. And we were just, you know, half a block away. Yes, we went there often.

MK: Tell me about it.

HN: It was, they had good food. Good prices. It was always good to eat.

MK: And was it, you know, was it a Polish—

HN: Very Polish. The menu was very Polish. Of course. What other restaurants? In the neighborhood? On a regular basis? None that I can think of. We would go to Hamtramck occasionally.

MK: Did you ever go to Zosia's?

HN: Oh yes. Yes.

MK: Did you enjoy it?

HN: But Zosia's was—

MK: In the '60s.

HN: Yeah. See, we had already moved from the neighborhood in the '60s. We moved here in '58. Christmas of '58. So that's 45 years we're here. No, Zosia's wasn't around. I went there after we moved, occasionally. But while we lived there we went to Martin's.

MK: Did you ever go to the Warsaw Bar?

HN: Occasionally. Which was—

MK: One block down, yeah. From--

HN: But when we were dating we went to the Mazurka.

MK: Tell me about the Mazurka.

HN: It was the hopping place. It was always full of people. And it was, it had a live orchestra or band. And it was kind of a neighborhood, I wouldn't say hangout but it, a place you went to.

MK: So what years was that?

HN: Pardon?

MK: Early '50s?

HN: Yeah. '52, '53.

MK: And where was it located exactly?

HN: Well there was the Sandomierski grocery store. When we lived there, now was Mazurka gone by then? Or not? I don't remember. But it seemed, I know it had a front door entrance and it had a side door entrance. So was it on Chene? Or was Sandomierski's grocery store, did they then take over part of Mazurka's? I don't re—I'm not sure.

MK: Okay. But it was in that building--

HN: In that corner building.

MK: right. Yeah.

HN: And I don't know if the actual corner was where Sandomierski's was, when we were first married. And that's where I did my grocery shopping. Or whether, whether Mazurka was still around when Sandomierski took over. I'm not sure. I really don't remember.

MK: I'm not sure. I don't think it was, but I'm not sure.

HN: But the Mazurka was large. It had a side entrance off of Ferry, towards the back, toward the alley. And then the front entrance, which makes me think that it WAS an L shape—

MK: Yeah—

HN: Establishment.

MK: So that Sandomierski grocery was on the corner—

HN: On the Ferry corner—

MK: And that went around.

HN: I kind of think so. And I don't know what happened, when Mazurka's stopped there, you know, when it closed. I'm not sure.

MK: What about the Ivanhoe?

HN: OK, the Polish Yacht Club.

MK: Close to your house, yeah.

HN: Yes, I knew Lucille and—

MK: John.

HN: No.

MK: Sobczak.

HN: I'm thinking of her sister. Lucille and--Now what was her name? She was a year behind me. And Lucille was a year ahead of me. And she was a year behind me. Lucille and her sister. Oh my gosh. I can't think of her name.

MK: I interviewed her. But I can't remember. I interviewed her almost two years ago.

HN: Yeah, well anyway, yeah. They—

MK: Did you go there? Ever go there?

HN: As a family? No. No. In fact, not at all. I went there as a married woman but not in the neighborhood.

MK: Right.

HN: Although I remember the [unintelligible] pick up fish from there, on Fridays.

MK: There used to be a bakery across the street, too.

HN: Yeah.

MK: Did you go there—

HN: Bogacki, yes, went there. In fact, probably after Wojcikowski, and I think that was his name, sold the bakery by the church there,

MK: This is Marian Krzyzowski again, and I'm here with Henrietta Nowakowski again at her home in Dearborn Heights, Michigan. This is tape 2, and today is January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2004. And we're talking about the Bogacki Bakery on--

HN: Jos. Campau and—

MK: Frederick

HN: Frederick. On the northwest corner. Yes, went there after this Wojcikowski on McDougall changed owners. Then we'd go there.

MK: Any other of the bakeries you remember?

HN: Well, there's some on Chene Street that—

MK: Did you go to any—

HN: That we'd go to. We would—after we moved here we would often go and do our shopping at Ferry Market and at bakeries and then I would go to visit my mother and so ties to the neighborhood continued.

MK: Which bakeries?

HN: Well there were—whichever. There was one on the corner of Palmer and Chene.

MK: Palmer Bakery.

HN: And then there was one further in, further north. And then there was one south of Frederick. There were several bakeries. There were at least three or four on Chene that I remember. Three I remember very well. And then Bogacki, and then Wojcikowski. There were at least five bakeries that I remember well.

MK: There used to also be for a while, maybe before you were in Hyacinth's, a bakery, the Singer bakery, right across the street from St. Hyacinth's? On Elmwood and Frederick? Or Elmwood and Farnsworth? It was right—

HN: Frederick or Farnsworth?

MK: I'm not sure which it was, but it was right across the street—

HN: Across—

MK: From the church. From the church area.

HN: It was—

MK: It was on Elmwood

HN: East of Elmwood. Was it? East of Elmwood?

MK: It may have—

HN: On Farnsworth?

MK: It may have been.

HN: There was some, I think there was a bakery east of Elmwood on Farnsworth. I very vaguely remember something like that. Never went there, though.