

ROCHESTER ORAL HISTORY PROJECT (Rochester Jewish community 1925-1975)

Interviewee Seymour Krieger (ALL INTERVIEW ON SIDE A)

Interviewer M. Friedrich

Date(s) of interview 14 June 1976

Setting (place of interview, people present, impressions)

Interview was in the small office of Krieger Waste Paper Co. with a constant influx of calls and business questions. Benjamin Krieger was unable to be interviewed for business reasons and was in the next room; his son was interviewed instead. S. Krieger was amiable and anxious to provide factual information, but terse about his own opinions on vague areas and questions (e.g. UN A-~~XXXX~~ 196-8). Neither he nor his father knew what the interview was for until the actual time, but knew that Rabbi Karp "wanted to know about the JY". Valuable particularly for his experience as a youth in the

Background of interviewee neighborhood before 1941.

Born Rochester 1927; except for WW II, has lived to date in or near. Grew up in the Joseph Ave. dist. where the business was started and remains, moving to Brighton to be near Jewish community and family (3 separate and apparently uncontradictory reasons for the move given); member of an orthodox congregation, spoke Yiddish as a child in grandmother's home, and has maintained close contact with Jewish friends, even from childhood; interview interrupted by a call from a friend ("J J Tire") who should be interviewed as an immigrant after WW II. A Veteran of WW II.

Interview abstract

Krieger Waste Paper is a two-generational family business employing several relatives, located near where the family grew up, giving intimate knowledge of Joseph Ave. S.K. used both Baden St. and the JY as a youth, and was a member of a Jewish club called the "Spartans". S.K. spoke about the integration of "new Americans" after 1945; considers that he goes to religious "extremes"; his own affiliations in the larger community are strictly for business purposes and uses JGG solely for athletic functions; S.K. and the family personally acquainted with Israel but not Zionist; S.K. has had no anti-sem. experience, although cites case of his father. Interview index (corresponding to tape numbers, sides of tape, and casset recorder numbers)

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Interview log

- a) corresponding to tape numbers, sides of tape, and casset recorder nos.
- b) including references to others in the Rochester community

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- 8 Move to Brighton; compare reasons for move with 431 and 252 for other s of the Joseph Ave. community
- 17-45 Speaks about the growth of the business from a wagon in 1905, and the problem with urban ~~RENEWAL~~ renewal
- 45 Redevelopment as a reason for the change in the community
- 52-60 Speaks of his father's problem during WW II in buying a home in Brighton, and his own ease of buying. States that he has no personal knowledge of anti-sem.
- 87-94 Speaks about civic affiliations for strictly business purposes.
- 95 Business closed on Jewish holidays, and relations with non-Jewish employees. (see 75 for non-union shop).
- 103-118 Active in UJA, and Israel Bonds, basis for assisting is very general.
- 122 No Zionist affiliation.
- 125-137 No anti-semitism today but cites restrictions in Brooklawn restrictions in the past.
- 139-149 Experiences of Baden St. House. A good perspective.
- 151-173 Immigration after WW II into Joseph Ave and then out to suburbs; general acceptance by the community; interrupted by a former immigrant ("JJ Tire") which shows their friendship.
- 174-191 Jewish education, use of "Jewish" as a language.
- 196-8 Prefers not to comment on his views of the UN.
- 217-257 1964 riots and the fact that the firm contributes to FIGHT at this time.
- 259 Education and then into his father's business.
- 266-276 Lived with grandmother, where "Jewish" and Hebrew were learned; his present use of Yiddish with friends.
- 278-286 No Jewish periodicals in his father's home contrasts with his wife's subscriptions at the present.
- 286-310 His view of his religious life ("extreme"); congregational affiliations of both himself and his father.
- 311-352 His use of the JY ("second home") as a youth; good perceptions.
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- 352-371 conversation about old JY resumed.

(OVER)

371-380 View of the future of Rochester Jewish community;
vague but sincere—unable to formulate any specifics.

380 His use of present JCC restricted to athletics;
B. Kreiger is not a member of JCC.

396-407 Opposition to intermarriage discussed.

408-418 Coordination of Jewish holidays with other local scrap
dealers.

445-453 Israel bonds and his father's past participation

469-497 Attended Golda Meir speech but the family is not
affiliated with and political spectrum in Israel.

507 INTERVIEW TERMINATED Anticipate a second interview
with B. Kreiger in July.

Interview 1
Tape 1
Side A

- Q. Today's the fourteenth of June, I'm in Mr. Krieger's office talking with Seymour Krieger, Benjamin Krieger's son. Like, could you just state your name or something?
- A. Seymour Krieger.
- Q. Now I was just wondering for identification on the tape, where you were born and . . . ?
- A. Rochester, New York.
- Q. When?
- A. Five/sixteen/twenty-seven.
- Q. Five/sixteen/twenty-seven. And you've always lived here?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Have you always lived in the same neighborhood?
- A. No. We were in this. . . this area here then I moved over out into the Brighton area when I got married.
- Q. When was that?
- A. Twenty-eight years ago.
- Q. Oh, twenty-eight years. Much longer than I've been married. When you used to live in this neighborhood, what was it like?
- A. Fine neighborhood.
- Q. Prime. . .
- A. Right.
- Q. And there were several temples here?
- A. Several? There must have been ten or twelve.

Q. Ten or twelve, yes I . . . I've just heard of that.

A. Well this is the area of all the synagogues, this area here. Before the urban renewal came in to tear it all down.

Q. Was your father born here in Rochester, too?

A. Batavia, New York.

Q. Batavia. Do you know about when he came here?

A. Let me see. Probably 1905, 1906.

Q. Do you know why he came here?

A. Well the family moved here, start with the horse and wagon, then they finally operated their own business.

Q. The same business? I mean. . .

A. Yes, scrap business. Started in their backyard and eventually progressed into something bigger.

Q. It's a factory almost. Could you just tell me a little bit about what you remember about, you know, the whole economic life in the Joseph Avenue. . .?

A. It was one of the better. . . better sections of the city at that time. It was a thriving business, thriving section. Everybody communicated down to this area. I mean, most of us lived in this area until, you know, eventually they started slowly but surely moving to the suburbs.

Q. That seems to be a pattern everywhere. I remember moving to the suburbs. Your father's always been in this occupation?

A. Yes.

Q. Did your mother ever work?

A. My mother? No.

Q. You had brothers and sisters?

A. He had another brother. There's another brother in the back room still working, one has passed away. They were partners.

Q. Does your wife work?

A. No.

Q. I presume that you have children?

A. Yes, three.

Q. Are any of them married?

A. None.

Q. They're all below the age of marriage?

A. No. They're twenty-five, twenty-three, and fourteen.

Q. I see the fourteen. . . Do you the older ones live here in Rochester in your home?

A. My daughter lives here. My son's at the University of Colorado.

Q. These are some strange themes, but do they communicate with you frequently? Your son in Colorado?

A. Surely. Oh, yes. Two, three times a week.

Q. Now you've only moved once when you moved from this universe to. . .

A. To Brighton.

Q. Brighton.

A. You mean my home?

Q. Yes.

A. Yea.

Q. Does your father still live here? No, he lives in Brighton, too?

A. Yes.

Q. Is the. . . well, just. . . why did you move to Brighton instead of some other city?

A. At that time they were starting to tear down the area, and that was the place to move, to the suburbs, because we had little children.

Q. Yes.

A. You wanted a little bit of area, schooling.

Q. Yes, did you pick Brighton because other friends were there?

A. Yes, well all of your family is starting to move there. That was a Jewish community at that time. Everybody was moving to Brighton.

Q. Yes. Yes, it is. Brighton is a very, very large Jewish community right now. I presume you own your own home?

A. Yes.

Q. And your father does too?

A. Yes.

Q. When you moved to Brighton was there any . . . was there any problem in buying a house or anything?

A. No.

Q. No.

A. Not in the area where I moved. No.

Q. I understand like Meadowbrook used to have some sort of quota?

A. Right, certain areas. When my father first moved to Brighton he had a problem.

Q. He did?

A. Yea.

Q. Could you just describe it for me?

A. Well, I was in the Navy at that time and I know he tried to move off of. . . move on Monroe Avenue, I don't recall the road. The Jewish people wouldn't allow him to move in on that street. He just disregarded it and moved elsewhere.

Q. Was the during the Second World War?

A. Yea.

Q. You were obviously in the Navy.

A. Yea.

Q. Do you belong to any Veterans groups? Did you join any Veterans groups?

A. Veterans groups? No.

Q. Was your father in any military. . .?

A. No, he wasn't.

Q. And he has a son in the Second World War, he could have been in the First World War. You. . . you mentioned that the business used to be in your backyard.

A. That's where it originally started. Then they moved two blocks down the street and they opened up a little place there. Gradually when the urban renewal came in in 1962 or three we moved over to here. They started tearing everything down.

Q. I presume that's one of the reasons why you're the eldest child, went into your father's business?

A. Right.

Q. (Note: background static drowns out voices for next few seconds.) I presume that. . . business here. . . is it. . .?

A. No, no, no.

Q. You're obviously self-employed.

A. Right.

Q. If some of these questions seem a little strange, feel free to knock some of the things. . . I'd like to know sort of about the business, its volume and the . . . and the things that have happened in the past in this location. You moved here ten years ago?

A. Yes.

Q. Has it been. . . how has the business been?

A. Oh, it's been increased because we have more spaces. You know, it depends on the economy. If business is good, everything is good.

Q. In this type of business I guess obviously depends upon the . . .

A. Right.

Q. Do you remember what it was like during the Depression?

A. No, I wouldn't remember.

Q. No one's mentioned in the family or anything how. . .?

A. My father would know better than I would.

Q. Ask him about that. . .do either you or your father belong to any professional organizations? The Chamber of Commerce or . . .?

A. Well, we're members of that, right Don?

Don. Yea. We're members of the local Chamber and the United States Chamber.

Q. Like I presume one of the main reasons you belong is that you're in business here in Rochester?

A. Right.

Q. No social or. . . is there a social aspect to the Chamber of Commerce?

A. No.

Q. It's just. . .

A. Business.

Q. With a business such as this I don't imagine you're closed on Jewish holidays?

A. Oh, yes we are.

Q. You are closed?

A. Certain holidays we are closed, on the big ones, Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur we are closed.

Q. Are there Jewish employees here? Are they allowed to take off other holidays or. . .?

A. Well, it's mostly our relations.

Q. But you do close on the holidays?

A. Sure.

Q. Have you or your father. . . and your father belonged to any other civic organizations besides the JY?

A. We belonged to most of 'em in the city, anything that comes up we're members of.

Q. Have either you or your father been in any leadership position?

A. No. Well, he's very active in B'nai B'rith and the UJA funds, very active in that.

Q. Those are. . . those are organizations that are specifically Jewish?

A. Oh, yes. Especially the State of Israel Bonds, he's very active.

Q. Your family has always contributed funds? Have. . . have anybody in your family been to Israel?

A. My father has. He was invited because of the State of Israel Bonds, contributor and a good worker, he was there. I'll show you the thing later.

Q. OK. I hope I can talk to him either today or some other time about his experiences there.

A. Well, he was there right after the Six Day War. No. I think the Six Day War was. . . right after or before? I don't recall now.

Q. I. . . I presume that your family feels that the State of Israel is very important?

A. Oh, yes.

Q. Right. Could you explain some of the organizations and functions that you or your family, your father, have been supportive of Israel? Like you mentioned the Bonds.

A. The Bond drive and whatever contributions or whatever else has to be done we're there to help out. He's very active in that. Very.

Q. Have your father or you been in any Zionist organizations?

A. No.

Q. Like you mentioned the experience of your father having a problem buying a house in Brighton? Do you know about any people. . . I was thinking in the past, that have had anti-Semitic problems?

A. Well this goes back close to thirty years ago when we had these problems. But, not I guess it's pretty much wide open.

Q. Do you know of any other incidents? Friends or anything that had problems like getting loans or. . . ?

A. No. I know of just ourselves. There have been others, but I wouldn't know offhand who they are.

Q. And you just had that one problem moving to Brighton once thirty years ago?

A. Yea.

Q. Other than that there have been no. . . ?

A. Oh, there have been problems. Like I say, I don't know which. . .

Q. Could you mention a few of them?

A. I wouldn't have any idea. I know at the Brooklawn section you couldn't get in at one time.

Q. I'm not sure where that is.

A. That's off Elmwood Avenue. We knew we couldn't get in there so we didn't bother to look, you know, our people.

Q. You grew up like in the Joseph Avenue. . . ?

A. Yea, on Baden Street which is only two minutes away from here.

Q. Do you remember anything about the Baden Street Settlement, the house?

A. Yes, we used to go there as kids. We used to go there every Saturday night. We used to meet there. It was a meeting place for the younger kids, twelve, thirteen years old. That was our spot for Saturday night.

Q. What sort of activities did they have there?

A. We had a few dances, we had. . . we used to make things there like an art craft place. It was very good place to go.

Q. From what I've read about it. . . it, you know, it had relationships with immigrants and . . .

A. Right. It was wide open to everyone. It was like a meeting place for the younger generation.

Q. Now since your family is basically Rochester family, basically your family. . . do you recall any of the experiences or reactions of when different groups of European Jews came to Rochester? Such as those that came in the 1930's?

A. I wouldn't recall.

Q. Those that came after the war?

A. Well, after the war they all settled in the Joseph Avenue section. And by that time we were already in Brighton, so . . .

(Note: someone enters and Mr. Krieger has a brief business conversation.)

Q. Well, just like other groups of immigrants, they moved originally to . . .?

A. Where we moved out they moved into. Now they've accumulated enough capital they, themselves, are moving out to the suburbs themselves.

Q. Do you remember how the community reacted to that?

A. They accepted them as our people.

Q. Yes.

A. So, we accepted them. I mean, we did what we could for 'em.

Q. I mean Jewish organizations supported. . .?

A. Oh, yes. Yes.

Q. Opportunities to practice their skills?

A. Right.

Q. I see. Are some of those people your friends now?

A. Yes, I have a very dear friend of mine who has been. . . who was in Auschwitz

A. (Continued) four years. We're the closest friends that I can have. And he. . . well, we probably gave him his start when he came here to America by helping him out with tire situations. Today he's one of the biggest tire guys in the city. Seriously.

Q. Could you. . . I. . . I don't know who you're referring to.

A. J. J. Tire.

Q. J. J. Tire? Did you send your children. . . did you have a Jewish education?

A. Did I did?

Q. Yes, a Hebrew school education?

A. I guess I did. My uncle is a rabbi. Nine years of it. My children started at four years old at Hillel School and graduated into Hebrew school, confirmation. So they had enough religious education.

Q. Now what congregation is your family?

A. Orthodox.

Q. You mentioned that you send your children have gone to Hebrew school and you, yourself, on Baden Street. What sort of reaction did you have to Jewish education? The way it was set up or how. . .?

A. As children we had to go. We were forced to learn. And I think it was great for us. Today I . . . I can speak Jewish. My kids wish. . . they can't understand too much. To me it's a great, you know, something that I've learned that I can carry on the rest of my life with. I enjoy it.

Q. Do you know of any occupations or business areas that Jews were restricted in here in Rochester?

A. None, not that I know of.

Q. Just some questions on your family. Is . . . well, you support the State of Israel quite a bit, what are your feelings about the United Nations? From 1948 on?

A. Well, can we skip that?

Q. Do you want to? OK. About that. . . You mentioned about the survivors they were. . . it seemed like they were fairly rapidly integrated into the community. Do you think the same thing is true of the . . . the Jews that are coming from Russia to the United States? Are they being integrated the same way?

A. Yea, they're being accepted. I know my father-in-law has brought in his last remaining relative here.

Q. When. . . when did they come?

A. Maybe thirteen, fourteen years ago.

Q. That was before it became easier.

A. Well, it was real tough then. When he brought them here. . . you know, it took him years to bring 'em here, four, five years. And today she's in the Pathology Lab at Strong. He's a No. 1 accountant in a big firm. He couldn't speak a word of English. They studied hard at the No. 9 School where they have the learning, you know, of the newcomers coming in. The new Americans which they call 'em. And so they progressed into the No. 1 accountant with this firm.

Q. It seems like a lot of people had night school training at No. 9 School?

A. Yea, 'cause they all settled in this area. And this was one of the areas that had this training for them at night.

Q. Since your business was here and is here, you know, what about the 1964 riots or whatever you want to call it?

A. They hit us.

Q. They did?

A. Yea.

Q. I don't know what it was like.

A. Well we were the first in the country to be hit, Rochester, New York. In fact I heard about it. . . I was up in camp with my children and the word got over the radio and that's where we heard that there was riots in Rochester.

Q. But you continued to be more or less in the same. . .?

A. Oh, yes. Same area, same place.

Q. Was the business here?

A. Yes.

Q. And it was. . . the windows were broken or anything?

A. Well, they started a small place on fire.

Q. That must have been an experience. With. . . with. . . with that background and being in the neighborhood how. . . how do you and your family feel about that FIGHT organization? Sol Alinsky?

A. Well, it licked it. They're trying to help. We're trying to help them. They come in for donations, we don't refuse 'em. We want to be with 'em not against 'em. 'Cause I have quite a few of the colored help workin' for us here. We do our best to survive.

Q. Are your children bussed or anything?

A. No.

Q. There have been. . .

A. They were close enough to the schools where they can walk.

Q. They. . . and they. . . I think that you live in a predominately Jewish neighborhood?

A. Yes. (Note: Answers telephone.) He had a party last night and I was invited, all the new Americans he had over to his house. Bein' close to him he invited me but I couldn't make it, that's why he called to see where I was.

- Q. Could you just describe a little bit about what it was like when you were growing up? What went on in the neighborhood?
- A. Well, it was a neighborhood where we weren't afraid to walk and, you know, stay out to two, three o'clock in the morning, just sit on Joseph Avenue doin' nothing. We were. . . it was our community. We . . . it was all our people and we could have stayed out all night, nobody bothered you. But, eventually it became so rough that we couldn't stay out. That's one of the reasons that we eventually moved over to the suburbs.
- Q. About when did it start changing?
- A. Well we all started to move around right after the war, '45, '46 right around through there.
- Q. Becoming more of a black neighborhood. . . (Note; brief business discussion with someone in the office.) Just a question about what formal education did you. . .?
- A. Well, I just had the high school then I went right into the Navy, and out of the Navy I came right into work. And I've been here ever since.
- Q. And the business has been growing?
- A. Yes, yes.
- Q. Was Yiddish or Hebrew or German spoken in your home? Did your father and mother speak it?
- A. I lived most of the. . . until I went into the service with my grandparents, that's where I learned most of my Hebrew and Yiddish. To me it was rewarding.
- Q. They spoke that as their daily language?
- A. Oh, yes.
- Q. I presume that you think and speak in English most of the time?
- A. Well if I'm out with our own gang I'll speak a lot of Jewish to make them, you know, try to interpret a little or understand, you know, get a good laugh

- A. (Continued) from 'em. There's a lot of expressions you can't say in English which you can in Jewish to give you that. . .
- Q. Yes, that's true. That's true. What Jewish periodicals or periodical, magazines, newspapers do you recall were in the family when you were growing up? Or were there any?
- A. I don't there were any. I mean now we get the Hadassah papers, the Carry. My wife belongs to most of those organizations where we get all these papers comin' in, at least monthly get our magazines anyway.
- Q. And your children have read them?
- A. Oh, yes. Yes.
- Q. Do you feel that you're as religious as your parents were?
- A. I go to certain extremes. I mean I've never eaten a piece of ham, bacon or anything like that or mixed meat with dairy. But yet I'll go out and eat a steak or something like that. I go to certain extremes.
- Q. Is your father religious.
- A. Probably the same as I am.
- Q. How. . .
- A. It's a different age and it's a different. . .
- Q. How often do you. . . do you attend services at the temple?
- A. I go as much as I can, especially the holidays. And then when I have time available I like to stop in and sometimes on Sunday morning when I have the time we go there for morning services.
- Q. I guess you had to change congregations when you moved from this neighborhood to Brighton?
- A. Yes. Yes.
- Q. I mean I know that some people still maintain. . .
- A. Well, we. . . my father still maintains a . . . one of his old ones on Joseph

A. (Continued) Avenue.

Q. Interesting to know more about that. Get to him for most of this stuff.

I presume the reason why you switched congregations is because you moved?

A. Yes.

Q. Not just. . .

A. It was closer to us and on the high holidays like Yom Kippur I don't ride at all, I either walk or sleep at his home which is close by.

Q. Do you remember the founding and the development of the JY? But you were as a kid using the Baden Street Settlement. . .?

A. That. . . well, that was our second home, the JY.

Q. JY.

A. Yes.

Q. Why. . . why do you think it was built, funded?

A. Well, because the other one was outdated, too old, and I think they built it around 1936, that's when most of us were growing up. And that was the place for us to go. At that time most of us were all . . . the Jewish community was mostly basketball players, that's where we got our foundation. Playin' ball.

Q. In the JY?

A. Yes. Some of your better swimmers came out of there.

Q. Oh, sure. Did. . . did that sort of replace the Baden Street as a social. . .?

A. Yes. As we got older it did. We were at the age of high school basketball, most of us were playin' for high school teams. That's where we got our beginning. I know when I played on our team alone we had ten Jews, one colored, and one Gentile.

Q. That was a high school team?

A. High school. (Note: interrupted by business matters.)

Q. Has your family been associated with the Welfare Federation, Rochester

Q. (Continued) Welfare, Jewish Welfare Federation?

A. No.

Q. Not at all?

A. Not myself. My father might have.

Q. You . . . you mentioned that you thought that the JY was built because . . .

A. Well, it was needed. It was needed.

Q. Do you feel it was successful?

A. Oh, yes definitely.

Q. What kind of programs did they have besides . . . that you participated in besides the athletic?

A. Well, it was a place for us . . . all . . . all the organizations to have their meetings. There was meeting rooms. There was dances every Sunday night. Fifteen cents, we couldn't go wrong for that, could we?

Q. What kind of organizations met there?

A. All fraternal organizations. All had our meetings up there.

Q. What . . . you were in a fraternal . . .?

A. Yes.

Q. Could I just ask what it was?

A. Well we had our own group of fellows which we called the Spartans.

Q. Spartans?

A. Yes. There was . . . I think we met . . . we had a leader, we met there for around four, five years. Till the fellows started leavin' for service. Then we disbanded. But we keep in touch with most of 'em, you know, till today.

Q. What was the purpose of that? I mean, you know, social or educational?

A. Both. We had social functions and we put on plays. There was a group . . . it was a clique that always stood together.

Q. And they were predominately Jewish?

A. Oh, yes.

Q. Were any non-Jews affiliated with the JY?

A. Oh, yes. Oh, yes. We had a certain percentage of non. . . Gentiles there because that was the place where everyone could play basketball. And we had some outstanding leagues and outstanding players. Some of 'em eventually played with Rochester Royals, which today would be the Cincinnati Royals, which now has changed to the Kansas City Royals.

Q. I didn't know they were originally from Rochester.

A. Oh, sure.

Q. How strongly do you feel right now about the organized Jewish community in Rochester?

A. It's well-established 'cause you have these younger. . . younger generation who's doing an outstanding job. They're doin' a terrific job.

Q. So you feel positive towards the future?

A. Yes.

Q. How do you think it will develop?

A. Well the way these kids are workin' they're doin' an outstanding job, I think it will develop well. 'Cause these kids are go-getters. They're out pushin' all the time.

Q. Yea. Like there's been some discussion about that there was a . . . the building of the new center was a problem because of the debt and then location. Is the location inconvenient for you?

A. No, for us. . . well, for Brightonians it's no problem at all.

Q. Do you make use of the facilities?

A. Yes, I do.

Q. And your father does too?

A. No, he is not a member.

Q. You joined because. . .?

A. Because of myself and my family.

Q. Children went to camps?

A. Yea.

Q. So for you the . . .

A. I use mostly the facilities of the Health Club and paddleball and basketball court.

Q. You make use of the membership then? It's just not. . .

A. Yes.

Q. . . . token? And for your own convenience it's perfectly located?

A. Yes, about eight minutes away from my home.

Q. How do. . .how do you feel about intermarriage? Problem in the Jewish community today? For your own children?

A. For my own children I'm against it. 'Cause I was brought to marry a Jewish girl, that's the way I want my children, a Jewish boy or a Jewish girl. I've told 'em I'm against it.

Q. And they agree with you?

A. Yes, they do. 'Course there's always problems that are. . . arise.

Q. Yes, particularly with someone born here. Since your business does close on at least the high holidays have there been any conflicts with other businesses because of closing?

A. No. No conflicts at all. All the scrap dealers get together and we close. They know it's our holiday, the people that come in, and they give 'em notice. Therefore they don't come in, the few that do come come back the next day.

Q. And with the non-Jewish employees, they just take the holiday, too?

A. Yes.

- Q. Since you were up in the country with the children when the riots broke out, and your building was attacked, do you think there was a . . . well, why did the riots occur? Was there . . . were they anti-Semitic, do you think or. . . ?
- A. I don't think so. No. I don't think so at all. Just one of these things that went wild that's all. Started here and then followed throughout the country.
- Q. And this was several years before. . .
- A. Yea, we were the first.
- Q. Dubious honor. Do. . . do you think that that hastened the Jews that still lived here to move out?
- A. I don't think so.
- Q. The people moved like in '65 would probably already have been thinking about. . . ?
- A. Contemplating the moving, sure.
- Q. And have most of the immigrants like from the Second World War, they originally came here and now they, too, have moved?
- A. They have spread out towards the better communities.
- Q. I'm not familiar with this. . . I got lost here driving a couple of times, and I don't know actually the extent of the neighborhood. I presume that you . . . you have investments like in Israeli Bonds?
- A. Oh, yes. Yes.
- Q. A major form of contribution then?
- A. Every year.
- Q. Your father is one of the major. . . ?
- A. Yes. One year he was voted the out. . . the man of the year as a Bond man, and they honored him.
- Q. Must have sold. . . sold quite a few?
- A. Well, he bought and he sold.

Q. Were there any unique experiences with like Jewish War Veterans or anything? You mentioned the Spartans that you grew up with. . . they went off to the military and when they came back did they run into any problems like American Legion or . . .?

A. No, most of 'em right from service went into their. . . you know, went into college. And we've spread throughout the country, you know.

Q. But you still maintain. . .?

A. Oh, yes.

Q. . . . contact and. . .?

A. Oh, sure.

Q. You mentioned about intermarriage and the fact that you do observe some dietary practices. . .Did you hear Golda Meir?

A. Yes, I did. An outstanding speaker, outstanding woman, my father met her in Israel. Had the great pleasure of talking with her. An outstanding woman.

Q. She is. Is your family associated with any political group in Israel?

A. No. No, but we contribute to whatever functions there are out there.

Q. But you're not affiliated with any actual political group?

A. No, no. None at all.

Q. I see.

What. . . what do you think about the political divisions within Israel?

A. Well, tough decision to make. Too much going on. My daughter was there, she. . . she liked it. She worked in a kibbutz, and she really enjoyed it. . . her stay there.

Q. When was that?

A. About two. . . about three years ago. She was there for about six weeks.

Q. And she enjoyed it?

A. She really enjoyed it.

Q. Where was that kibbutz?

A. Offhand I don't recall. She visited nine countries, but most of her stay was in Israel.

Q. Is there any more recollections that you might have about growing up on Joseph Avenue? OK. Well, I can just stop the tape now and. . .perhaps after going over the tape I can ask your father some specific questions.

A. All right. Thank you.

END OF TAPE 1, SIDE A (Interview 1)