

Transcript of Interview with Milton Poster
Small Towns
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Transcription:

Woman: This is April 13, 1998, and we are leaving the home of Steve, Debbie, Leah, and Judd Altman (?) and returning to Mt. Pleasant. --Altman. And these are jokes and retrospections from Milt and Viv along the way.

Milton Poster: We are on our way from Judd, Leah, Debbie, and Steve's home. We had a wonderful Passover seder, our guests were Barry and Diane DiMayo(?), Lauren and Margaret Bansley (?), and we had a wonderful time, we had fourteen people for the seder. Debbie is just a great cook and naturally Marsha helped and Vivian helped, we had a great time and we're leaving now. We left at 3:30 to go home, we're on the beltway now going east --- of Pittsburgh, the traffic is not bad, we're having a wonderful time. Marsha's a great driver, Vivian is sitting in the back, and we are expecting to be home by eight o'clock. Hopefully everything will be all right.

It's great to have great children and be fortunate enough to be healthy enough to make these travels. And one of these days I'm going to give you a complete talk of all the people that lived in Mt. Pleasant. I may even start doing that now. And I'm going to start now with the oldest family in Mt. Pleasant, the Baron family that came here in, Mr. Barron came here in 1901. And the reason he, there's not dates or anything, but when he came here he told me, when I spoke with him years ago, he said in Jewish "--- ---". But who the president was he does not know, and naturally McKinley was assassinated in Canton, Ohio, in 1901. The Baron family consisted of nine children, four were born in Europe, the girl, Sarah was the oldest, Mary, Louise, and Lena came to Mt. Pleasant in 1902. Then they had five more children while they lived in Mt. Pleasant. They were Dave Baron, William Baron, Rose Baron, Blanche Baron, and Morris Baron. Right now there are nobody living, the last person that passed away was Morris, passed away in 1997, it's two years, 1996, it'll be two years as of July. He was just a great friend of mine, he was just a wonderful man. All the Barons were just great, great people.

Now we're going back to the Abramson family, who came here around the turn of the century. They had a little butcher shop down in so-called Parfittown (?), which was in East Huntington Township, and they had Louis, Phil, and Henry. They moved from Parfittown to Main Street. They lived upstairs, had a one room downstairs, they had the butcher shop and a little grocery store in the front. And seven o'clock Saturday evening all hell broke loose, and all the people came up there to buy their kosher food for the week.

Now the next family that came to Mt. Pleasant at an early date was the Levinson family. Big Louis Levinson originally had a store, lived in Connellsville, opened up Levinson's Men's and Ladies' Shop in Mt. Pleasant, and the family consisted of Louis Levinson and what was her name, Viv? Ah, I can't think of her name, Big Louis Levinson's wife, and Jenny Levinson and the children, the offspring were Florence Levinson, Belle Levinson, Sam Levinson, Eli Levinson, Gertrude Levinson, Betty Levinson, and the youngest was Dr. William Levinson.

Vivian Poster: What about Eli?

MP: I mentioned Eli. The next family who came here years ago who moved out of Mt. Pleasant in 1925 were the Davits (?) family, and they consisted of six boys and one girl, and Mrs. Ravitz had to make a living because her husband was ill at the time. She had a little grocery store downstairs on the first floor of their home on Main Street, which was right next to the Church of God. They had another little store in Calumet, but she used to take the streetcar down to the little butcher shop. And Mrs. Ravitz could not write, and when Julius came there after school he used to ask her, or she'd mark down, but didn't know, she didn't know the name of the person, she couldn't write it down, she would say [in Yiddish describe the person and what the person spent] “--- ---“, and that's how they put things down. The Ravitz family consisted of Julius Ravitz, Ricky Ravitz, Harry Ravitz, Sam Ravitz, Morris Ravitz, Myer Ravitz, and Betty Ravitz. They left Mt. Pleasant, the families were very poor, and the Jewish community helped them to get started to leave Mt. Pleasant. They left here 1925 to go to Staten Island, New York.

The other families living in town years ago was Little Louis Levinson and his wife Ella, they had a little ladies and children's store on Main Street for many, many years. And when Mr. Levinson passed away, Leonard Levinson had the store completely, mostly children, but did a very great job with his merchandising, he was just a great guy and a great merchant.

Let me just think now of the other families that were in Mt. Pleasant that left during the Depression years. One of the first people in town to have a store next to the First National Bank at that time was Hymen Glick, who came here, his sister was Jenny Levinson, a brother-in-law of Big Louis Levinson. He had a store there for a while, moved down a couple doors to the National Hotel, and had a store there and he had a fellow working for him by the name of Jack Williams, and Jack Williams purchased the store when Hymen Glick left for Philadelphia.

And now we're getting back to my uncle, Sam Levin, who came here in the early 1900s and came here from Sheboygan, Wisconsin.

[unidentified voice] How the hell did he get to Sheboygan Wisconsin?

MP: Well he was in Chicago visiting an aunt of his, and he left there to visit his uncle Alter Ginsberg, my grandmother's name was Ginsberg in Europe, and that's-

[voice interrupts] inaudible

MP: So let me see now, where am I at now? I'm on the beltway here and Marsha's driving about sixty miles per hour. It's a beautiful day, sixty degrees with the humidity of about thirty percent. It's beautiful, it's good to be alive. And later on when I feel a little better I will continue with the people living in Mt. Pleasant. My dad was Philip Poster, and Bessy Poster, my mother, came here because her uncle, Sam Levin, gave up the junk business and went in to the furniture business with a fellow by the name of Mike Simon, who was his partner for many years in the junk business. They separated and Sam Levin

became one of the largest furniture stores in Western Pennsylvania. And later on, later on they added another nine stores, so at this time in 1998, they have ten beautiful furniture stores. Robert Levin and Sally Levin are running these stores and are very, very successful.

[tape cuts out]

MP: Getting back. At one time Mt. Pleasant, at the turn of the century, had fifty-eight to sixty Jewish families who made a living either as peddlers and store keepers in Mt. Pleasant for many years. The families that I'm going to mention now, I'm just gonna give a rundown on some of the families who lived in Mt. Pleasant you may have never heard of.

We had a gentleman here by the name of Harry Rosenschein and his lovely wife had a little jewelry store where the jewelry store now next to, next to the chiropractor on Main Street where --- used to be. One time we also had a furniture store back in the mid-twenties named Brown and Bloomberg, who came here from Philadelphia for a short time. They could not make a living and they left Mt. Pleasant.

We also, now getting back to the Glick family, for many years Joe Glick was a forerunner who came to Mt. Pleasant in the early 1900s. He had his wife, Hannah, they had three sons, Daniel Glick, Robert Glick, Dave Glick, and one daughter, Lillian Glick. Started the, brought over his brothers Morris and Bill Glick, and they bought the slaughterhouse from Abe Margolin who lived here for quite some time, who was a brother-in-law of Sam Levin, and he had a sister by the name of Jessie Levin. Abe Margolin was a very prosperous man who was in the wholesale meat business for many, many years. And when he went to Europe early 1929, in the summer of '29, the crash of the stock market in October, the middle of October in '29, Abe Margolin was heavily indebted on margin, he bought quite a bit of stock. And when he came back to this country back in November, Abe Margolin had to sell his slaughterhouse to the Glick brothers. But he remained in Mt. Pleasant until 1933, when he left Mt. Pleasant and went to Danville, Illinois, through a cousin of his, Bill Smith, who was just a wonderful man who helped many, many Jewish families get situated. And Abe Margolin and his two sons, Eddie and Sam, he had the oldest daughter was Anne Margolin, Fannie Margolin, Thelma Margolin, Edward Margolin, Beatrice Margolin, and Sam Margolin were all born in Mt. Pleasant, they were just wonderful people. They moved to Danville where they now live. The only two living people of the Margolin family is Anne Steiger, Beatrice Camille, and Sivi (?) Margolin just lost her husband a few years back, his name was Dr. Greenfield, he was just a wonderful man. So that would be the end of the Margolin family other than two more people-

[voice interrupts] inaudible

MP: Yeah. Well just let me get my bearings, I have everything marked down. I'm on the highway driving with my lovely daughter, Marsha, who's just a wonderful person, I love her dearly. She now is the headmaster of an executive director on a PhD, that was

formerly Carnegie Mellon Childcare Center, now it's the Margaret Braddock Cyert Center for Early Education, that is the new name for Marsha's daycare, not daycare, I shouldn't use daycare, it's called what? It's called early childhood education. Thank you. Now we're having, through Marsha's efforts, they now have built a beautiful daycare center which is one of the nicest in the state of Pennsylvania, and I think one of the forerunners of day, of educational daycare centers to be built in the near future. They're having a grand opening of her center April, what is it, April 25th, 1998. It's just a beautiful place and-

[voice interrupts] It will be formally dedicated...

MP: Cyert 's going to be there, what's his first name? Richard Cyert, who is a former president of Carnegie Tech, Carnegie Mellon University, who is just a wonderful man, who's a very dear, dear friend of my daughter Marsha. They have contributed quite a bit of money for the center, we love them all, they're just great people.

Now getting back.

[break in the tape]

MP: We're getting back to Reservoir Street where there was five Jewish families, lived there for many, many years. The first house on the left coming down was the residence of Morris and Sarah Berger, they had four children, let me see now, Mildred Berger, Nettie Berger, Harry Berger, and our good and dear friend, Celia Berger. They were wonderful people, he made a living, he was on the road picking up scrap iron and selling produce door-to-door.

The next house below the Bergers was Mr. Mike Simon and Bessie Simon, they had six children. The first one was Samuel Simon, Peter Simon, Belle Simon, Bessie Simon, Margaret Simon, and one more son, Bennett Simon. That was the extent and they left Mt. Pleasant, the children did, Mr. Simon was in the junk business then he went out and bought cattle and he sold it to the Glicks down to the slaughterhouse.

Down below Max Simon, on the same street was Dave Epstein, a wonderful little man who was a custom peddler, before he got a truck, he used to go door-to-door with his packs, two packs that he carried on his back. Went by streetcar to all these little towns on the Oneida, Central, Mammoth, Trauger, Peanut, all these little villages where they had these coal miners and he spoke Slavish and Polish fluently.

Down below Mr. Epstein was Big Joe Abramowitz and his wife Yetta. He was in the food business and his children consisted of Harry Abramowitz, Ben Abramowitz, what's the, Ben Abramowitz, Donald Abramowitz, and no, I got Harry, there's two more that I just, Imogene(?) Abramowitz and what's the one in the home near, anyway, Minnie Abramowitz, God bless her, she's in a home now up in Laurelville, they were great people.

Now down below on the corner of Reservoir and Corey there was the Cohen family, Beryl (?) Cohen and his wife Mary Cohen, who came to this country in 1924, and they had quite a few children, I can name some. The oldest that I know of was Ralph Cohen, Mrs. Margolin was a Cohen, Mrs. Emus (?) was a Cohen, Abe Cohen, Harry Cohen, and another sister living in St. Louis.

Now we're all through with Reservoir Street, now we're going up to College Avenue, where Mr. Myer Posner and Celia Posner came here in the early 1900s, and they opened up a jewelry, not jewelry, jewelry store and they sold Victrolas up on Main Street where they old National Hotel used to be.

Down below was Mr. Bill Rakusin and his wife, they had four children. They had Beatrice, Rachel, Jack, and Thelma Rakusin were wonderful people. They're not here anymore, the children I believe are still living.

Now getting down to the original, getting back before my story, the original people who came to Mt. Pleasant around the turn of the century were the Kohlbacher (?) family. They had their first store up next to Little Louis Levinson, where they originally put up the Grant store that belonged to Phillip Poster that had a fire there in 1926 or '25, and Mr. Saymer (?) next door to Candyland, bought the building and put a Grant store in there. It was there for quite a many years.

Now let me just think a while I'm on the highway here, I'm just trying to think of some other families that were in Mt. Pleasant. When I get home I'm gonna get my book and I'm going to continue talking about the events that happened in Mt. Pleasant. It was a wonderful small town. Really get back, we did not have a synagogue here at the time, and we used to have our Saturday morning services above the journal office on Church Street, which burned down quite some time ago. We had in Mt. Pleasant four or five rabbis. and the first rabbi who was here was way back around the first world war was Rabbi Bailey (?), Rabbi Kreinus (?) from Uniontown, Rabbi Goldstein, and Rabbi Baer, who taught quite a few of the children getting ready for bar mitzvah. At that time they did not have any bat mitzvahs at all. It was a wonderful small community, a lot of the people were wonderful, treated everybody fine. Made a living, a hard living, during the thirties, when they had to leave Mt. Pleasant, quite a few. I will continue on with this lovely history of Mt. Pleasant, Pennsylvania and the Jewish community in another four hours. Thank you. Love you all, and here.

[tape cuts out]

MP: These little Jewish ditties that I still can remember. Israel Samuels was a great talker about the rabbis in Europe. And there's an old saying in Jewish, it's not off-color, you can listen to it. It's when the rabbi's having sex, in Jewish, and this is how it goes, [sung in Yiddish] “--- --- ---“, that saying is when the rabbi is having sex, very urgent sex, the walls of his bedroom are trembling so, that the children in the sanctuary are clapping their hands because the rabbi is having sex. Maybe I do a few more. There's another one. This little Jewish old maid, never had a man, never had sex. And she used

to get up early in the morning and she would go like this, it's Jewish, [sung in Yiddish] “-
-- ---- --”.

[tape cuts out and back in with talking in the background]

MP: We are now thirty miles from Breezewood. It's a hundred and twenty-five miles from Washington, Virginia to Breezewood. And it's eighty miles from Breezewood to Mt. Pleasant. Beautiful trip, gorgeous day, sixty degrees with a thirty degree humidity, just beautiful. And I am just thinking a little bit about Mt. Pleasant. I was born in Newark, New Jersey. I came here to Mt. Pleasant, I was two and a half years old, my sister was just a little over a year and half, and we settled in Mt. Pleasant. My dad had a horse and wagon, went out peddling junk.

VP: What did he do in Newark?

MP: Later on, later on we got some trucks, my dad bought an old building down the street where we had our auto wrecking scrap yard, and somebody talked my dad into tearing the place down and going into the damn gasoline business, which was very bad. But anyhow we survived and then Milt Poster and his brother went into the car business for thirty-five years, Chrysler Plymouth Dodge Imperial at American Motors. They survived, made a living, thank God everybody's well.

Now getting back to some of the other families in Mt. Pleasant. I think we mentioned all the Glicks, Joe Glick, Hymen Glick, Morris Glick, Abe Glick, Reuven Glick, they're all wonderful people, Dan Glick, Dave Glick, Robert Glick, Lillian Glick, were all Mt. Pleasant, born here in Mt. Pleasant. I think then we had, after the Kohlbachers we had a store on Main Street where the old West Penn building used to be, by the name of Kirby Miller, who had a men's store there. And I surely didn't forget about Israel Samuels, he opened up a store in the old Brown-- (?) building and he was there 'til 1943 when he was inducted into the service, and did not go, but he went and sold his business, which was a terrible mistake, but he went back into business on the old Lazier Glick store, and after he passed away his son Steve is running the business now.

I can't recall everything, I have everything marked down in my little golden book, all the residents of Mt. Pleasant, all the children were born here. It's very, very interesting, that's why I can recall in our little high school of 340 students, over a period of time, we had 145 graduate students of Mt. Pleasant there were all Jewish, and I thought that was a pretty good percentage. Because one time the freshmen, sophomore, junior, and senior classes, in the mid-twenties to the thirties, there were forty Jewish people, young children in that school, so that percentage out of 330 in the school, which was quite a percentage, most of the classes graduated, most of the Jewish students were number one, number two in their class. Which I take great pride in for the Jewish students of Mt. Pleasant.

I think I mentioned most of the names or I could be forgetting a few. When I get back to Mt. Pleasant I will check again and come up and give you all the names and all the children that were born and raised in Mt. Pleasant over a period of years. Thank you, this

is your old eight-five year old cocker Milt Poster, who has sex on his mind all the time. Even my daughter don't want to believe me, but just ask my lovely wife Vivian, and she will confirm everything I mention. Again I want to speak of my good friend, though he just left Washington, we saw Zelda Glick, who lives in a beautiful apartment called the Buchanan Apartments in Virginia. We had a very nice visit with her for over an hour and a half, and she may come back to Mt. Pleasant on Mother's Day. Sam Glick's a very good friend of mine, he was the son of Abe Glick. Zelda Glick and Francis Glick were all children of Abe and Rose Glick who were wonderful people, lived on Church Street. It was an open house, you could come in there any time and Rosie was there with something to eat. Again, the Gerechters were in the furniture business back around the turn of the century and Herb took over later on in years who passed away at a very young age, and Gert had two children, Linda and --- and Richard Gerechter were just two wonderful, wonderful children. Leonard Feldman was a great friend of mine. Every time he stops his car and he sees me, comes out, he says, "Milt, you look so beautiful today." I say, "I wanna thank you, Leonard, you look beautiful yourself." So I don't know what we have going here, but we love everybody, and we'll continue again in another two and a half hours.

Marsha Poster: Listen, I want to know about all the kunka-munka (?) that went on, everybody couldn't have all been perfect.

MP: My daughter wants to know if everybody is perfect. There's no such thing as a perfect human being, we all make mistakes, but the most important thing why the Jewish people are still God's chosen people, that we do help one another, we love everybody. And you know the funny thing about it? We even love Jesus. He was a Jew, he was a rabbi, he was a great man, but you know that maybe through Jesus we had all these religious problems, caused a lot of trouble in this world. And I do admire people who do believe in Christianity, that's their business. Thank you, turn it off.

[talking in the background]

MP: You know when we were growing up back in the mid-twenties, we had quite a few Jewish youngsters in Mt. Pleasant, and we had a club, we had a club that Mrs. Morris Gordon had us come down to her home on Friday. Mrs. Morris Gordon, and she had four children, Esther Gordon, Lena Gordon, Aaron Gordon, and Lena Gordon, they were all beautiful people and Mrs. Gordon named our club the phy-me-soci (?) Club. It's interpreted 'physical, mental, and social'. So we had dancing lessons and Morris Gordon's house every Saturday afternoon and this is how we learned to dance. We had a wonderful time, we had, we had, oh I have to think of another turn of events.

We all went to the cheder up above the journal office, our rabbi at that time was Rabbi Goldstein, who stayed at the Abramson house, and he was a very strict disciplinarian, but he could have been a pain, too. So we decided one day that we were gonna throw mudballs at the rabbi. So we send Aaron Gordon back in the adjoining room, and every time we had to get water out of the faucet it made one hell of a hissing noise, so he kept

this up, Rabbi Goldstein got a little angry, walked out of the classroom, walked to the back of the building and started giving Aaron Gordon hell.

In the meantime everybody had a mudball to take out of their pocket, it was a rainy day, and we start throwing mudballs at one another, and who walks in? Somebody threw a mudball and it hit Rabbi Goldstein on his silk striped shirt, and he gave out a yell, "You all are a bunch of B-A-S... I will report you to my friend Abe Margolin, who's the president of the shul and you're gonna be disciplined, you're gonna stay in shul ten hours!" In the meantime we hit him again, with two more balls! Then who walks into the shul, --- Levine, that's Florence Glick's dad, he used to be the sexton, he cleaned up, he put the books away. And Rabbi Goldstein informed him about how bad we were. He says, "I have to see Abe Margolin, he's gonna see every one of the children's fathers, and he's gonna make them pay for the damage they did to the wallpaper with the mudballs."

So don't ask what went on. So anyway, we used to have to line up, when we left the shul, the cheder, to go down the steps, there's about twenty-five steep steps going up to the second floor we had to line up like you do in a concentration camp and stamp your feet "One, two, three, four, I'm not gonna throw any mudballs anymore." So we all went downstairs and Harry Abramowitz was going cheder ---, we were ten, eleven years old, and Harry Abramowitz says to Sam Simon going upstairs, "You go up and tell Rabbi Goldstein that I told you to tell him to go to hell!" And Sam Simon went up and said, "You know Harry Abramowitz, fatty (?), he told me to tell you to go to hell." "Now you're going to stay another five hours!" But anyhow we all had a good time. And getting back to Leftie Volkin (?), he was a great athlete but he could have been a pain in the ass, he gets angry all the time, and he had a scrap, a fight with Hank Abramson, they called him Hank, but we all got together, we had a great time. Played ball in town.

Marsha Poster: But what was this fight with Hank Abramson?

MP: They disagreed about the team. Oh yeah, the trips to Atlantic City was another escapade for two Jewish people who lived in Mt. Pleasant and went to Atlantic City. We went to Atlantic City, we stayed on Atlantic Avenue, I can't remember, no that was later, I can't recall the name of the hotel, this was back in 1935, '36. Four in a room, twenty-one dollars a week for three meals a day. And we ate gotlike there was no tomorrow. So we were having dates, we were talking about women, and Sam Simon got an erection, well we didn't know he had an erection, he went to the drawer to pull out his underwear and he had to get straight up to the drawer, and he took his underwear out, and what did he do? He caught his penis in the drawer. And he gave out a yell, we thought he was dying. In Jewish, "--- ---, save me my putz got caught in the drawer!" So I go, I get some powder with a cold rag and I put in on there and I said hold it for fifteen minutes, it'll go down. So anyways that's one story with Sam Simon. We went to Atlantic City one day, and we were sitting on the beach, and Leonard Levinson was there, and you know how you get prickly heat from the sand and the water, so Little Leonard says we ought to have a little fun when Sam comes down. So we were sitting there talking, he said, "You know Sam, there's a bad thing going around Atlantic City called a Galloping Sip (?). See my hand, everybody's going to get it. Boy, look at your arms, you're going

to get the Galloping Sip.” So what does Sam do? He got very nervous, he said I have to go up to the apartment to get something and he leaves. He did this was eleven o’clock in the morning, he didn’t come back until four thirty in the afternoon, he went to one of the hospitals in Atlantic City and he showed them his arms, he says I was told by a Harvard graduate, Leonard Levinson, said that there’s the Galloping Sip going around Atlantic City, he is that possible? Said, never heard of anything like that. But anyhow he told us the whole story, we had more fun than ---. Give me a little more time and I’ll give you four little ditties about Sam Simon.

[tape cuts out]

[background talking]

MP: ...a junior, Lord Chesterfield.

Marsha Poster: Why

MP: I was to go to high school?

MP: Junior and senior.

Marsha Poster: Did the others wear suits?

MP: Eighty percent of them wore suits. You couldn’t get in any other way. Or a nice button-down sweater.

VP: Tell how you tried to date a teacher.

MP: Yeah, I tried to date a teacher. I decided to take typing in the fifth year for an hour in the morning, from 9 to 10. Boy, she was a beautiful teacher. I asked her out.

Marsha Poster: Could you type?

MP: Yeah, I could type. I’d like to type on her beautiful ass. She was sitting there. I was, let’s see, 16.

Marsha Poster; What was her name?

MP: Mrs. Roy.

MP: Well we’re back again talking about our deceased friend Sam Simon, we all loved him. He was the brunt of all the jokes, and he just laughed along with all the fellows there. Years ago, years ago, we had a great basketball team in town. All the Jewish fellows in town here and we played all the churches, they had a church league here. They had the Presbyterian, the Methodist, the Catholic Church, the transfiguration, the Slavish church, the Polpis (?), and I’m not going to brag, there’s only two people living now that

remember, that's myself and Leonard Volkin, who was a great athlete in his day, and we could take on any of those people and beat 'em. So we decided one time, at Henry Abramson's house on the porch on Main Street that we're going to play a joke on Sam Simon. We told Sam that some of us was going to drive into Pittsburgh to play a Jewish team at the 'Y' there, it was one of the best Jewish teams in the city of Pittsburgh. And we said, we have to leave very early, we're going to have to leave at five o'clock in the morning, and you better be there.

So what does Sam Simon do? He gets his little pechele together and he comes up to Abramson's. So he keeps pounding on the door and for about fifteen minutes Mr. Abramson had to walk down the steps, in those days, you know he opened the door and there's Sam Simon, he said, "You better get Henry up, we're gonna be picked up Milt Poster in about fifteen minutes, we're all going into Pittsburgh to play a basketball game in the afternoon." Well Mr. Abramson didn't know what was going on, he goes up and he says, -----[in Yiddish "get up, Sam Simon is here to go to the basketball game."] So Henry comes downstairs, "Oh geeze Sam, I'm terribly sorry, I got a call late last night, I didn't want to bother you, but I didn't think you were gonna be here at five o'clock in the morning, they canceled the game. We're not gonna play the game." And Sam started laughing, and he went back home like nothing happened. That's a Sam Simon story with a basketball game going to Pittsburgh.

Well we got all kinds of stories about Sam, we had some great people in town, we loved them all. Everybody, all the Jewish boys, and the funny thing about all this, we Jews had a lot of Gentile friends, the only time that we played with them was when we played football with them, basketball with them, softball with them. We had one of the best softball teams in town. We played everybody. We played the championship game, and they rounded up about ten or eleven blacks from Scottsdale in Connellsville and Leinsenring (?) to come down to the park on a Saturday afternoon to play the Jews like they called them. And we got to play with about four hundred people watching, and would you believe it, in those days, that they start raising, "Hey, all you guys, let's beat these damn Jews". So that goes to show you that anti-Semitism was rampant in those days and it's still rampant now. To make a long story short, we beat them three to one, and we won the championship of the church league at that time. God bless you all, let me get home and read all the names of all the Jewish people that I can recall who lived in Mt. Pleasant. If I'm not gonna be around, I want my daughter to play this back to some of the few people who would remember, I don't know if there's anybody who was there that would remember, and Lefty Volkin would be the only one, maybe Sam Epstein. Thank you, God bless you, and happy Passover, it's good, ----- [in Yiddish "Its good to be a Jew, I thank God I'm a Jew."] Thank you.

[tape cuts out]

MP: ...a number of Jews who lived in Scottsdale starting with the --- Goldenson and the Millers, Ben and Sol, then ---. Just wanted to say a few words about our synagogue in Mt. Pleasant, we bought the synagogue in Mt. Pleasant in 1936, it was a Presbyterian church at that time, and all the wealthy people in Mt. Pleasant supported the church. And

we bought this church in 1936 for seven thousand dollars with a beautiful home for the preacher next door. So getting back to the long story, we were in that synagogue up until 1996, was out last service there. And we donated the synagogue with the ground adjoining to the Borough of Mt. Pleasant, who in turn donated the downstairs for a fireman hall, and the upstairs, hopefully with a grant that they may receive in the near future, to make it a town hall. We gave our torahs and all the, and all the things that we had, some people got it in Pittsburgh, but the Markowitz family got our three torahs and they all went to Baltimore, which I think is a great cause.

Now I'm going to get back to a little village, a little town of Scottsdale, Pennsylvania, who had at one time, I can't recall exactly, fifteen or eighteen Jewish families there around the turn of the century. And the one prominent family there were the Miller brothers, Max, Saul, and Ben Miller, who had Millers' Department Store. And they all had children and a wonderful. Saul Miller was a great cantor, and they built a beautiful synagogue adjoining Max Miller's home on Arthur Avenue in Scottsdale, where it's still standing today. It was built in 1910, and they have, it was called the Beth Shalom and the stained glass windows are still in it. It was used by the Knights of Columbus for many, many years.

The Jewish families that lived in Scottsdale were the Marks family, the Goldenson family, and Leonard Goldenson, who was president of ABC and president of Paramount Pictures, was born in Scottsdale, went to Scottsdale High School, played football there, worked in the summer for West Penn Power, went to Harvard, married into the Rosick (?) family's department store who had quite a bit of stock during the Depression. And Leonard Goldenson worked his way up to president of American Broadcasting Company, and he's still living as far as I know, I think he ought to be about 93 years old now.

It was a great town, they had the Miller families, the Goldensons, Marks and Goldenson Store, they had the Morris family, I believe (?) was one of the oldest families there. They had a beautiful men's store, they had, I can't remember the name, but there was two sons, three sons, the oldest son was an attorney, and the other two sons worked in the store. They had the Finks, who had a store there. And the most prominent, great Jewish man that lived there was the name, Julie Alpert was his son. I don't recall the father's name, but during the First World War pool rooms were prevalent in all the small towns, and this Alpert had a beautiful pool room right on Pittsburgh Street there where most of the people hung out, they played poker there, they shot pool, they talked about politics. It was just a great place to live in Scottsdale. They had quite a few big factories there, they had some beautiful homes on --- Avenue, Mulberry, Archer Avenue. There's still some great homes there. Beautiful small town.

Connellsville I can recall had quite a few nice Jewish families. But the most prominent Jewish man, Jewish person, in Connellsville was my good, dear friend Abe Daniels. There's no superlatives or words to even mention the goodness of this man. He was the mayor of Connellsville for eighteen years. All the gentile people loved this man. He was a man that gave things from his heart. During the Depression when I used to bring a load of scrap down there, 1933 and '34, this man would stand out early in the morning with

fifty cent pieces in his pocket and just pass out maybe fifty or a hundred dollars worth of fifty cent pieces to people who didn't have enough to buy a loaf of bread. So Abe Daniels, in my estimation, being as I've known the man for many, many years was the, as a Jew, they didn't come any better than Abe Daniels. He was admired by all his gentile friends and the community of Connellsville. He was just a great guy, I loved him. He had two sons, Jay and Charlie, who passed away at a very early age. Thank you, we'll get back to you again. Love you all!

[background talking]

MP: ... what I said about Abe Daniels could not be any truer. He was the greatest, I loved him just like I loved my own father. That's the kind of guy he was. He gave, if I told you what that man did for people. Never turned anybody down. You need ten dollars to buy, here's ten dollars, five dollars, this is during the Depression! That's just going to a man now and asking for five hundred dollars.

VP: A creator of good will.

MP: Yes, yes with a big smile on his face, with an Irish nose. Always dressed up with Hickey Freeman suits, he never got his hands dirty.

VP: You'd never think he was Jewish.

MP: And on the wall, Marsha, in his little office, To all persons known; Abe. I. Daniels, graduate of the Greensburg Business School, 1907. He had that diploma there. He had a handwriting that was just like a ---computer, I admired that man's handwriting.

Now to talk about the Abe Daniels family, let me think about it. There was two sisters, one was Mrs. Friedlander, and the other sister Duquesne (?). They had Abe Daniels, they had Sumke Daniels, they had Jake Daniels, they had Harry Daniels. And, hell, what's her name?

Marsha or Vivian Poster: We're going to have to take a break, we're in Breezewood now.

[tape cuts out]

END OF TAPE ONE, SIDE ONE

TAPE ONE, SIDE TWO

MP: We're going down now, we're in New Stanton, we're going to visit Levin warehouse in Fitzhenry, PA, which is right off of Route 70. Now just happened to mention that Robert is such a wonderful boy, a man, there are very few people with the character nature that Robert has, he's a great man, everybody loves him. Now I just mentioned to Marsha that I think he does take after his grandfather, Hyman Marshall, who was just a wonderful, wonderful man. He has the same height, looks the same way,

and he got a heart of gold. We're coming down to visit you now, Robert, we love you, and we wish you all the happiness in the world in your venture, stay well, we'll see you in about fifteen minutes, love you.

[background voices]

MP: These are the Jewish families that lived in Mt. Pleasant, Pennsylvania, from 1893 to 1997.

Marsha Poster: Okay stop. Okay.

MP: The Jewish families are as follows: Jerome Kohlbacher, Myer Posner and Celia, Nathan Abramson and Mollie, Big Louis Levinson and Jennie, Little Louis Levinson and Ella, Little Louis Koosen (?), Julius Pross, Myer Baron and Bessie, Abe Margolin, Alex Levin and Esther, Joe Levine ---, Sam Levine and Jessie, Abe Berger and Sarah, Richard Gerechter, Mike Simon and Mollie, Dave Epstein, Joe Abramowitz and family, Darryl Cohen, Abe Cohen, Ralph Cohen, Morris Levine, Morris Penn, Harry Penn... continuing, Hymen Glick, Joe Glick and Hannah, Morris Glick and Mildred, Bill Glick and Ruth, Reuben Glick and Hennie, Abe Glick and Rose, Sam Glick and Bonnie, Daniel Glick and Sonya, Dave Glick and Sylvia, Rose Baron-Glick, Joe Posner, Ben Levin and Esther, Jake Marshall, Louis Glick... Hyman Glick, Meyer Gordon, Morris Gordon, Harry Berger, William Prager, Fisher Abramowitz, Milt Cohen, Dr. Abe Papernick, Hyman Marshall and Janet, Leonard Levinson and Sally – Leonard Levine and Sally, Milt Gespasa (?) and Norma, I.B. Abramson, Ben Abramowitz, Harry Abramowitz, Earl Stern, Isadore Levinson, Myer Ravitz and family, B. Weinberg and family, Harry Rosenshine, Louis Galpern, Hyman Hirsch and Mary, Harold Cohen and Libby, William Lebowitz, Leonard Levinson and Bessie, I. D. Emus and Sarah, Leonard Rotkin (?), Dan Emus, Abe Emus...

Now these were people who had their businesses in Mt. Pleasant from 1895 to 1997: Kohlbacher Department Store, Hymen Glick Men's Store, Louis Levinson Men's Store, Little Louis Levinson's Ladies and Children, Abe Margolin wholesale slaughterhouse, Myer Posner Jewelers, William Rakusin Ladies' ... Charlie Pross Ladies Store, Morris Gordon Men's, I.B. Abramson, Hyman Silverblatt General Store, Ben and Esther Levin Ladies' Store, Louis Baron Men's Store, the Cohen Brothers, Esther's Brothers, Harry Rosenshine Jewelers, Nathan Abramson Meats and Groceries, Myer Ravitz Groceries, Louis Glick Men's Store, Sam Levinson Men's Store, Sam Levin Furniture, Richard Gerechter Furniture, Mike Simon Furniture, Herbert Furniture, Abe Chinn Drugstore, Vern's Drug, Bernard Stern... Harry and Morris Penn Fruits and Vegetables, Joe Abramowitz and Harry fruits and vegetables, Sarah and Abe Berger fruits and vegetables, Meyer Baron scrapyard, Phillip Poster scrap and gasoline, parts, new cars, Poster Auto Sales, Leonard and Milton Poster, Baron's used cars, Morris Baron on ---, he was an entrepreneur, homes and other businesses, Jake Rogoff of Boston (?) Store downtown, Abe Cohen, a bazaar store, Ralph Cohen General Store, Morris Volkin tailor, Glick Brothers slaughterhouse, Israel Samuels Hub Store, Steve Samuel's Hub, Henry Abramson attorney at law, Nat Abramson attorney at law, William Levinson, M.D.,

Lawrence Fry Jewelers, I.D. Emus Fruit Store, Brimburger Brown (?) Furniture Store, Henry Abramson attorney at law, --- Pharmacy, Main Street, Sidney Katz Pharmacy, hard for me to see... there'll be quite a few more, I just don't have the time to check them all out.

Mt. Pleasant, the village and small town of Mt. Pleasant of 5,000 people with a surrounding area of over 30,000, was a great business town in Mt. Pleasant. A lot of Jewish families made their livings here for quite a number of years up until 1934 and '35 when we lost quite a few Jewish families. It's a great place to live, we had a wonderful synagogue here, we had beautiful nice rabbis, and to me it was a great privilege to live in this town, to have all the friends that I have. I want to say, in memory of quite a few of my friends, Morris Baron (?), one of my best friends, Sam Simon, my good friend, Harry Berger was a pillar of the community for the synagogue, and quite a few more that I just don't, can't recall, God bless you all. I hope someday that these tapes will sort of energize and relate to the people that lived in this great town, I love you all. God bless you, stay well, have a happy Passover. This is 1998 Passover season, God bless you all, we love you. Milt Poster. Thank you.

[tape remains recording background noise and a few voices for remainder of tape]

END OF INTERVIEW