

Transcript of Interview with Audrey Recht Lazar
Small Town Jewish History Project
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Susan mentioned on page 8 is Susan Melnick, who was the archivist for the Rauh Jewish Archives.

Transcription:

Eric Lidji: This is the Small Towns Project. Today is June 18, 2015. I'm Eric Lidji, and I'm speaking to Audrey Lazar in, we're in the basement of Rodef Shalom in the archives of Rodef Shalom Congregation in Shadyside. And we're going to be talking today about Clairton. So why don't you tell me a little bit about your home, growing up. First of all, how did your family get to Clairton, let's start there.

Audrey Lazar: Alright.

EL: Okay.

AL: My dad had relatives. He was the youngest of his family and our names was Recht, R-E-C-H-T.

EL: What was his name?

AL: Joseph.

EL: And he was an immigrant?

AL: Yes.

EL: Where did he come from?

AL: He came from Galicia, and he always said he came from Austria. And most of his family was here. His mother died and he came over, he was the youngest. There is a history of our family that a cousin of mine, that I didn't know before, but my cousin wrote it. And I'm in contact with her, she's from Ohio. And my dad came here and went, he went to California, he opened a little store in California.

EL: California, Pennsylvania?

AL: No, California the state.

EL: The state.

AL: He went to his brother, who was, had a big position in Detroit. He wanted to drive a streetcar, and my uncle said no, you have to go to school. And he wouldn't do it. He ended up, he opened a store in Ohio. And then he ended up in Clairton. He married my mother, who was from Pittsburgh. And...

EL: How did they meet?

AL: I just saw a picture of them at a picnic and I'm not sure how they got together. My mother lived on Roberts Street. And she, when she came, she went to night school, she did finish Fifth Avenue High School. And I know that she worked as a wrapper, W-R-A-P-P-E-R, in Kaufmann's. And I'm not sure exactly how they met, but his family wanted him to marry a Recht, which was, which they did. There were a couple of them.

EL: Cousins.

AL: Married cousins and stuff. And my dad married her, they weren't very happy about that.

EL: The family wasn't.

AL: No.

EL: What was your mother's name?

AL: Goldie Faleder Recht. And they were married in 1929, and I was born in 1930. My, they rented a house after I was born in, I know it was on Halcomb Avenue, but I'm not sure when and how. My daddy had a store on Third Street.

EL: Which was nearby?

AL: Yes, down the hill. And my sister and brother were born, I'm pretty sure they were born when we still lived on Halcomb Avenue.

EL: Do you remember that house?

AL: Vaguely. I know we lived next door to a girl named Ann Gates, and she lived in a newish house, and we used to play in a field next to it. And I don't know whatever happened to her or anything. I was very young then. I do know that at one point, my dad was held up in his store. And the man had a gun. I am not sure if my dad was shot or not. But I know they ran up to the house to tell my mother.

EL: Do you remember that?

AL: I remember the policemen coming, but I don't, I don't know what happened after that. And we never questioned, I never questioned my father. And then we moved to Mitchell Avenue, to a bigger house. And my dad bought a lot from his brother-in-law, my uncle, who was married to his sister, my aunt, Brownna Recht. And his name was Sam. And he sold my dad a lot. And he sort of cheated him, it was like a triangular lot, and it was across the street from where he had a, a furniture store. And Daddy built an apartment above the store and we ended up moving into it. And then my uncle opened up a grocery and meat store across the street.

EL: That's what your father did, groceries?

AL: Yeah. Grocery and meat. And we didn't speak to their family for a long time. But the two daughters in particular, after my aunt and uncle died, became friends with my parents again. And they were nice. And the one was a teacher and I had her in tenth grade, ninth or tenth, no ninth grade, I think. And she taught history. And I got good grades so everybody said, oh, no wonder, her name's the same as yours, you know. And I said, no, we don't even speak. And we became friendly. She just died this past year; she was ninety-nine. I couldn't ask her. I couldn't bring myself to ask her certain questions. I really wanted to ask. But she was very straight, and I just figured, you know what, we have a good relationship and she's practically the only one left, and I didn't want to cause any problems between us.

EL: Do you remember your father's store?

AL: The one where we lived above it.

EL: What did, what did it look like?

AL: Two windows in the front.

EL: Were there merchandise in the windows?

AL: There must have been. And then we had, and then shelves up the sides. A meat block in the back. A, you know, a refrigerator for that. And I remember coming into Hays, in the back of his truck, he used to let us come sometimes, early in the morning, like four o'clock or something, and we'd eat kielbasa in the back.

EL: Was it the kind of store where you didn't grab things off the shelf yourself, somebody, you asked for things and they...?

AL: You could, no, they, they could get it from the shelves, or if you needed that, you know, there was a thing you could reach up with.

EL: A little grabber?

AL: Yeah, a grabber. And they would, they would help you. My mother worked with my dad. And for a time, they owned a little store in Elizabeth, too, which I don't remember ever going to. But my mother ran that. And I remember calling on the phone and I'd say, "I want to talk to my mother." And the operator knew me and would connect me with her. But I didn't realize I was going to be telling you all this.

EL: So was there a butcher or did he just buy...

AL: He was a butcher.

EL: He really, he was a butcher.

AL: Yeah, yeah.

EL: Was it a kosher butcher?

AL: No. No.

EL: Was it called Recht's? The name of the store?

AL: Recht's Supermarket. When we came to Pittsburgh, it was on Walnut Street, it was Village Supermarket.

EL: So he eventually moved into the city.

AL: We did, we did. When I was fifteen. And we lived on Wilkins Avenue, in a double duplex. My daddy owned the one part of it.

EL: So there were the three, there was the three kids and your parents in an apartment above the shop.

AL: Above the store, mhm. And that was on Third Street.

EL: Do you remember the other businesses on the street, the other Jewish businesses?

AL: Well my uncle across the street. And then I had an uncle down the block, a couple blocks down, Max Recht was his name. I didn't really know him very well. He had like three or four wives. I remember going to his funeral, and he was married to a woman from California at that point, and the woman behind me said, "Chana, do you know who I am?" And I said, "Oh, you're Mrs. so-and-so from, from Steubenville." She said, "No, I'm your Aunt Dinsha, from Ohio. I didn't know her. You know, they had big families, and I never, I didn't go to, I didn't go to Ohio with my parents. They did go, and they would take Ruth and Carrie with them, you know the people who hadn't spoken to them for a long time, they were friends at the end.

EL: What was Max's store?

AL: Grocery and meat.

EL: What were the other Jewish businesses in town?

AL: Ilkuvitz. Grocery and meat, I think Moskowitz, Maida Moskowitz's mother's father, but I don't know where his store was. It wasn't near ours, it may have been, it may have been down the hill. It may have been, it wasn't in Wilson. I'm not sure. You know my perspective is limited as far as where I would go.

EL: Yeah, you stayed close to home?

AL: Yeah, I think so, unless I went to, we went to Young Judaea meetings in Elizabeth and Clairton. And we went to BBG things in McKeesport. And that's how we got to meet some Jewish people. And when I was about six years old I went to Emma Kaufmann Camp, which I didn't like because they used to send me swimming after I had an eggnog because I was underweight, so I was always nauseous from it. And then we ended up going to Camp Louise, which was a Jewish camp and then Tri-City Camp, and that's how we met a lot of other Jewish people.

EL: Was your family observant?

AL: No. Not really. I really can't tell you. Well, no, my daddy wasn't really. We lived across the street though from an Orthodox family. And they always criticized my parents cause they, you know, but we didn't have to practice the piano on Saturdays. I just remembered that the other day when I was thinking about everything. But when I was, I guess I must have been about six or seven years, seven, maybe seven, I took dancing lessons and my sister took them at the American Legion. And my mother came home one day and said, "Audrey, I have a chance to buy a piano from these two old maids in Elizabeth, who bought this piano. They're not taking lessons and they want to sell it. But if we buy the piano and you take piano lessons, you can't take dancing lessons. We can't afford both." And I said, "I want the piano." So I took lessons from my cousin, a cousin who lived in Clairton. Her father was the oldest brother and he had a furniture store. And her name was Sara Recht Zwibel, she married. And I took lessons from her, she had studied at PMI, Pittsburgh Music Institute. And she's the first one that brought me into Pittsburgh to a concert.

EL: What concert?

AL: Sunday, it was a Sunday afternoon and it was Robert Casadesus, who played the piano, it was a pianist. And oh, I was so excited. And of course after that I realized I was never gonna be as good as he was. But we all studied piano, my brother, my sister, and I. And I remember, with the dancing lessons, I remember we had kermises in McKeesport. My sister had a little solo, and she wouldn't go on.

EL: She had stage fright?

AL: Yeah. But it was, it was alright growing up there, I guess. I learned a lot of things that I never would have learned here.

EL: Like what?

AL: How to get along with people and be confronted with certain things that you didn't believe but you had to go along with.

EL: Because in Pittsburgh there was a community and everybody was self-contained?

AL: Well, they didn't have to confront anti-Semitism, which there was.

EL: Do you want to talk about it?

AL: Sure I can. On the way to grade school I used to, from Third Street, I would walk up Mitchell Avenue, we had lived there. And there was a girl who lived on the street who was in my class and would walk up the street and then across a field up to Miller Avenue grade school, which is where they still have their football games that they win all the time. And her name was Mary, and I don't remember her last name now, but we were walking to school one day, and she turned to me and she said, "You killed Jesus." And I said, "Mary, what are you talking about?" And she said, "Our priest told us yesterday in Catechism class." It was a Polish priest. I was really humiliated. I didn't, I mean I didn't know what to do. I went to school, and all I could think of was all those Catholic kids were in that room, and they had heard this yesterday, and they were looking at me like I killed, you know, Jesus. So I came home and told my mom and dad and they said, "Audrey, you just put up with it. There's nothing you can say." I mean, what are you going to do about it?

And so that's how I treated things. Now, in second grade we had a teacher named Miss Duke. And she made us sing "Jesus Loves Me" every morning. And she would read from the Bible, but of course they read from the New Testament. The girl who lived across the street from me was Orthodox, Flora Belle Korchak was her name. We called her Peggy. And she wouldn't sing it because she wouldn't say Jesus. And I remember saying to her all the time, "Peggy, God will forgive us, we've got to just say it, you don't have to believe it or anything, but if you don't they're gonna punish you for it." And they did, they were not nice to her. She wouldn't sing in the Christmas carols, I had lead alto in the Christmas carols a little, a few years later. I said, "You can't, you just have to bear with it, I said God will forgive us."

And then one day I came into Miss Duke's room, I was, I was in sixth grade, my brother was in fourth, my sister, my brother in second, my sister in fourth, we were two years apart. And I saw my brother lying on the floor between two rows. And I looked at him and Miss Duke said, "Audrey, do you see your brother?" And I said, "Yes." "He was talking, and I had to punish him so that's where he is." So as I was leaving my brother's going, "Audrey, don't tell mom and dad." And, of course, I went home and told my mother, which wasn't nice.

But there were interesting teachers too. There was a teacher who taught us geography. Do you mind me just talking? There was a teacher that taught us geography, her name was Miss Comer. She wore big hats. She was the phys. ed. teacher and the geography teacher and I had her in fourth, fifth, and sixth grades. And every day she would assign geography work for us to read. She had names of everything all over the boards. I remember that, lakes, I mean anything. And she would never call on another boy, Michael Pido, and me 'til the very end of the class. Well by that time everybody had, you know, had covered everything in the lesson. So Michael and I learned how to go to

the encyclopedias every day, every assignment, and we would go to the encyclopedia and learn more so that we could tell it.

EL: Why did she wait to ask you questions?

AL: Because then there was nothing to cover because everybody had covered the other material that we had to study. So she was so smart, that's how she got us, the two of us, because we were the smartest in the class.

EL: To learn.

AL: And she would, that's how she got us to do it. And it was very funny because the teacher, my cousin who was the teacher got married eventually and had two girls. And the one girl had to be at least ten years younger than I, and, excuse me, and her name was Harriet Unger, and one day she came home and said to her mother, "Mom, who is this, who is Audrey?" And Ruthie said, "Why?" And she said, "Miss Comer calls me Audrey all the time." It had to be because she was Jewish, because we didn't look alike, but she was light colored, we were similar in coloring. And so Ruthie said to her, "That's alright, if you're as smart as Audrey you'll be okay." But Harriet and I see each other occasionally, she lives in Ohio. But it was, but she identified her with me which was interesting.

EL: There was a strong sense of being a minority in that town.

AL: I was very friendly. People were all friendly with me. I was elected president of the Honors Society, Junior Honors Society. I was, I always won things, and I was always a good student. I was a teacher's pet. But I was never invited to boy-girl parties. And there were boys that were my friends. But I was never, now I lived there through tenth grade, but in tenth grade I went, I'll tell you about that, but I went to McKeesport for Sunday school and everything and was confirmed there. I gave the picture of the confirmation class to Susan. I had, there was one boy who liked me, and he became a page at the White House, and I don't, I think it had to be in tenth grade right before I moved, I'm not sure, but he wrote letters to me.

And when I left Clairton, when I was a senior at Allerdice, he either wrote to me or called me, I think he wrote to me which was, I mean it was different in those days, it was like '46, '48 when I graduated. But he invited me to go to the Clairton prom. My dad said no, my mother said yes, and so she talked him into it. She said, "Oh these are the kids she would have graduated with, that she went to school with all the time," and his father came in and picked me up in his car and we went. And it was in the high school auditorium. And I had heard he went with this darling girl, really cute, Phoebe Nicholas was her name, I remember. And she was sitting in the audience and here I was with him. But you didn't ask anybody, like why did you invite me instead of her. I never, I didn't have the nerve to ask him that, but I hated every minute of it and I felt sorry for her because she was, I thought that's the girl you should be with. I'm no longer in your milieu or anything.

But the most terrible thing that happened to me was in, and I don't remember if it was in ninth or tenth grade, my last year or ninth grade. The Daughters of the American Revolution gave an award to the most popular girl, the most popular boy, I don't know exactly what it was for, but everybody expected me to win it, I mean they would all vote for me, I knew that, and I didn't win it. And a girl named Margaret Buchina won it. She was a Catholic girl, and after school that day that they announced it the, well, the English teacher said to me, would you, I think she was the English teacher, would you come in after school? And I did because I used to help her correct papers, I did things like that. So I came into the room, and she closed the door, which was very strange, and she said, "Audrey I'd like you to sit down." And I thought, "What did I do wrong?" I sat down. And she said, "You know I'm a permanent substitute this year here, I need this job very badly, and what I'm going to tell you, if you let out that I told you, I could be dismissed and I could lose this job. So I'm telling you this because I can't live with myself and not tell you." She said, "You won that award and they wouldn't give it to you because you're Jewish."

So I came home and I told my parents, and they said, "Audrey, we're proud of you and we know that you probably won it. But we can't do anything about it." Because like four or five years ago, Evelyn Markowitz, who lived in Wilson, which was part of Clairton, won it. They didn't give it to her. But the Daughters of the American Revolution wouldn't give you, a Jewish person, at that time. So the parents, I don't know what they did, sued them, or tried to you know make it right, and they lost, the parents lost. So my mom and dad said, "We know, it's fine. You know." And so I never said a word. I never asked Ruth, my cousin Ruth, which I could have done but I didn't want to. But I don't think she would have done this, I don't think that teacher would have done this, I don't think that teacher would have done this. I don't think she would have told me if I didn't win it. But so, later on when I was at Allderdice, or my kids were at Allderdice, Jo Carol Recht, my cousin's daughter won the girls and Ricky Brostoff, and we were friends of the Brostoffs, Ricky won the male. And I said, that was like a reprieve to me, it just made me feel so good because finally they had won it. So that was that.

EL: It's still painful to think about.

AL: That part is. That really is. Not painful, you know what, I've had a lot of nice things happen to me in my life. And I had good parents, and I can't, I can't be upset about it. When I talk about it though I get bad feelings about it.

EL: There was...continue.

AL: You wanted to know other things, there was a cleaning people, people who owned a cleaning shop. I'm trying to think. Oh Jerry Aaron's father worked at the mill, he worked in the offices. I don't know what position he had. They lived in Wilson.

EL: Was that unusual, for Jews to work for the...?

AL: For U.S. Steel?

EL: Yeah.

AL: I'm not sure. I didn't know many more who did. I mean I knew that Jerry's father did. And we used to, my mother used to knit sweaters and knit coats, and they'd go from me to my sister and then we'd pass them down to Jerry's sister. to Davrian. And the teachers all loved, every time I'd wear something they'd say, "Your mother knitted that, didn't she?" I mean they really had a lot of respect for her work. I just learned how to manage differently than, when I came here they always talked about the hunkies, and I used to say to them, you know, you call them hunkies, it's like calling us kikes, you shouldn't do that. Well, they all did, the kids at Allderdice all did. And they used to have, I mean they had big fights with the Greenfield kids and everything because Bob was, my husband, was in that five years before me. They had a lot of fights. And when Orvy was in school, my brother, there were some fights. And when Jeffrey went to Allderdice he told me one day this big, black boy just stood in the doorway and was gonna fight him, and he said, "What are you doing? I'm your friend, you know I'm your friend." And he didn't do anything to him. But I don't know, it's no different now. But it was hard when I came to Allderdice because they had sororities. I came...

EL: High school sororities?

AL: Mhm. And I came in eleventh grade, and I didn't really have any friends here. So at the end of eleventh grade, I was asked to join a few of these sororities, but I didn't want to because I didn't know anybody, and I didn't want to tie myself down. And I had to practice the piano because we gave recitals here, we studied. My cousin moved to California, and I studied with Maria Caveney Coulahan, Richard knew her. She died I guess, I don't know what happened to her. But I had to practice the piano and I, I finally joined a sorority and a woman I'm very friendly with, Barbara Shore's sister, Jo Shames, she was my bridesmaid. We went to college together, we went to, and we were sorority there. But we joined this little sorority and the other person who pledged with us died that summer. Barbara Hart was her name, she had something they can cure now, some sort of..

EL: There was a synagogue in Clairton, right?

AL: There was a synagogue. And it had a middle, a round middle part, and then the rabbi stood in the front and the torahs were in the front. They brought in a rabbi every High Holiday.

EL: So it was a lay lead congregation during the year.

AL: I guess, 'cause I was never there for that. I mean, and I know that my one uncle, the piano teacher's husband, got very religious in his older age. Like if there were, if, if Succos came and it was Saturday and Sunday, I mean Thursday and Friday, he closed for

four days. He got very wealthy so he was able to do that, that's what my dad said. We had jewelry stores, too. Teper owned a jewelry store.

EL: Is that the same Teper at CMU?

AL: No.

EL: Okay.

AL: No, but they were wealthy. No, it was my uncle Abe's daughter's husband.

EL: Were men and women seated separately at the synagogue?

AL: Separately. Woman upstairs and men downstairs. And we used to have our Sunday school classes there. Two women, I can see them, I can see the one's face, came in from Pittsburgh every Sunday and taught us. There were different classes. We'd meet in the center of the thing, cheder, you know.

EL: Was this the Southwestern District?

AL: Yeah. Yup. And I loved Sunday school.

EL: Really?

AL: I'm probably the only person you're gonna meet that loved Sunday school because I learned about what everybody was saying about me, you know. I learned Judaism, and I really like it. And I guess it must have been in ninth grade, right before we, they stopped the Sunday school in tenth grade, which is when I went to B'nai Israel in McKeesport, we all did. I, what was I going to tell you? Oh, a Mr. Harry Cohen, from McKeesport, and I don't know if he owned a men's store, or he just worked in the store, but he came in and taught us Hebrew, to read Hebrew. I can still read Hebrew from that one year. Except not fast enough because I never, you know, really kept it up. And I never learned how to translate or do any of that. But I loved doing all of that.

EL: What was McKeesport like? What was B'nai Israel like?

AL: Oh I loved it. I loved it because it was big and there were, you know, lots of people who went there. And you could find a lot of people who could tell you what growing up in McKeesport was like. And different than growing up in Clairton or Elizabeth.

EL: I'm just curious if, you know, we think of McKeesport from a Pittsburgh prospective as a small town, but I'm curious if from a Clairton perspective it was a big town?

AL: It was big. It was big. Plus we were a third class city, Clairton, at that time. But that's because we had the mills, the mill was working. We had, we had lots of Slavic people. They had a place where they called hunkie town. It's past our store and up. And

the blacks started to move up the hill. And by the time we left Clairton, they were living across the street. But I had, there was one boy that used to carry my lyre, I played the glockenspiel in the band because the man who was the conductor of the bands and the orchestras was Italian and had a very heavy accent. I think that's where I learned to be able to understand a lot of people, too. And he said, I played the piano in the junior high orchestra, and he said, "You have to march in the band, you'll play the glockenspiel. Tell your parents to buy you a glockenspiel." And I did, and I learned how to play it and it was like, but it was fun. It was fun. And this Jimmy, his name was Jimmy Cooper, I'm pretty sure, he wanted to be a doctor. I don't know whatever happened to him. I don't know if he did become one or not, but he used to carry my lyre, because he used to walk past our store you know and he used to carry my bow it home.

EL: Why did your family move to the city?

AL: Because they wanted us to be with Jewish people. My dad was, he had made a good living in Clairton, and he opened a store on Craig Street, it was not very successful. And then he opened up on, in Shadyside, and he was very successful. It was charge business, the Hillmans dealt with him, they owed him money for like, you know, six months and then paid him and stuff. But he delivered, and my mother worked with him. But my mother was always, like when we lived in Clairton, she was president of Hadassah at one point, she, when we came here, she volunteered at the hospital. She was active in ORT.

EL: Was there NCJW out there?

AL: No. No.

EL: What do you remember of the war, in Clairton?

AL: I sat on our porch, and I knitted scarves and, scarves and gloves for the soldiers. We used to go, we used to come into Pittsburgh every Sunday to see my grandmother. We would go through Wilmerding because my aunt and cousin lived there. And I remember when Pearl Harbor was attacked we walk into, my uncle had a drugstore, it had the wall, the mahogany paneling, and stools and in the back there were chairs and tables. And there were people sitting in the back at the tables, and there was the old fashioned radio on, and we listened to how they attacked Pearl Harbor. My uncle worked in the store so he didn't come with us, but we would stop on our way home, we would stop and leave off my aunt and my cousin. And we probably, we usually would have some dinner there or something and would sit around the table. I always listened to what they had to say. Because I was fascinated because they talked about growing, they grew up in the Nasielsk, which was a little suburb of Warsaw. And so I heard stories about them growing up and what it was like living there. I don't care for the Polish very much. They said they would walk down the street, and they'd cut off the men's beards right on the street. But I, my grandfather, my mother's father, owned a tanning factory and it burnt down so he came to the United States and he became a peddler, and he came to Pittsburgh. Why? I'm not sure. But he was a peddler here and he, then my oldest uncle came in through Canada. And the other part of the family, my grandfather sent for and

they came. But when I was, I guess I was born in 1930, and I think my grandfather left in '31 or so. He wanted my grandmother to move to Israel, to Palestine with him. And it was an arranged marriage anyway, it wasn't such a healthy marriage I don't think. But he wanted her to go to Palestine and she said no, my kids are all here, I'm staying here. So he got a get. And so I could never understand what happened there, but he went to, he moved to Patikva and he, he remarried a person there. She wasn't allowed to have her kids live with them. And she was very nice, and my mother met her and my one aunt met here when they went to Israel. And they used to correspond. And my grandfather was a diabetic, and so my mother used to send insulin to him. Did you want to hear all of this?

EL: Yeah. Yeah, yeah. Are there other thing that you want to talk about?

AL: Let me see, I didn't really, I didn't really, I just thought you wanted to hear about Clairton. I didn't think you wanted to hear about anything else. I loved Sunday school. I always laughed about that because nobody... No, I'm trying to think if there's anything else in Clairton that you, do you have any other questions that you might want to ask me?

EL: No. The only other thing, it has nothing to do with Clairton, but since, since I've got you, if you could tell me the story of the Vincent Price photograph. Just for the record.

AL: Oh sure. When we left, when we left Clairton, we took a trip to California, my father and mother and the three kids. And we travelled by car. And my dad sat in the sun too long on July Fourth, and he was put into the hospital because he had sun poisoning. So we three kids used to run around with my cousin who was my piano teacher's stepson. We would get into the, we went into one of the movie studios, we got in there. And they were having this art exhibition and there was Vincent Price, so I went over to him and I said would you take a picture with me? And that's where that picture came from. Well, it was, they led a different life there though than I led, you know, in Clairton. But it wasn't bad in a lot of ways. It did teach me a lot of lessons. My kids, I mean they've never been interested in joining country clubs, and they've never been, they're all in the arts. I mean and that's what they're like and Bob never, Bob used to say to my son, "Jeffrey, whenever you want to come home you can take over the business." And he used to say, "Dad, if you can't sell it, give it away." So I always say to Jeff, "We gave it away." We went bankrupt in 2008. Bob had started it in 1950 and he had, he went downhill after that. But he was, he thought, did you see that he, he led a dance band and he was a bassoon. He always said that when he retired he was going to study with Nancy Goeres, who's a bassoonist and friend of my daughter's. And he always said, "Nancy, I'm going to study bassoon with you when I retire."

EL: Alright. Well, I can't think of anything else.

AL: I think, I'm trying to think if there's anything else you might be interested in Clairton, and I can't.

EL: Okay.

AL: I mean, I don't think. Let's see, there was the jewelry shop, there was the cleaning shop, and you know, I told you Hilda Diamond, now I don't know what her parents did or what Chottiners did over there. They were on the other side of Clairton and they were older than I so I never really connected with what they did. But Hilda could tell you. Get to her because she's not young. I don't, I think she's, I don't know if she's really with it or anything, but she was a, it was very eerie that she was a, she worked with my son-in-law, for my son-in-law. She was like secretary or something at CMU because he's a professor there.

EL: Alright, thank you very much.

AL: Are you okay?

EL: Yes. Thank you very much.

AL: Oh you're welcome. I hope I didn't talk too much.

EL: No, not at all.

END OF INTERVIEW