

119 Joe Greenberg

Please note that any items that were difficult to transcribe are marked with an [indiscernible] tag.

**Interviewer:** The date today is the 16th of July...

**Respondent:** Okay.

**Interviewer:** ...and I'm at 619 Bathurst with Dr. Joe Greenberg.

**Respondent:** Exactly.

**Interviewer:** Dr. Greenberg bought this building to have his medical clinic and raise his family here in 1956...

**Respondent:** Exactly.

**Interviewer:** ...and it's 2013. But when he was five in 1927, his family moved to 98 Major Street.

**Respondent:** Exactly.

**Interviewer:** So you have lived in this neighbourhood for eighty-five, [0:00:30] going on eighty-six years.

**Respondent:** Of course.

**Interviewer:** Okay. So I just want to say, Joe, thank you very much for giving me this wonderful opportunity.

**Respondent:** Well please you're – don't – I'm no hero. Don't. [Laughs]

**Interviewer:** You were just going to tell me a story.

**Respondent:** Yeah. I've got to tell you the story about – it's cute. Anyhow, when we were – we were very poor those days, but we never realized how poor we were, but I never had any money to go to a show. And, [0:01:00] and the theatres in this area, there was the Playhouse on College Street, and then there was the Garden,

which is also on College close to Spadina, and so I had this money. I think it was either five cents, or – I don't think I had a dime. That was too much. And I don't remember how I got the five cents, but who knows. So [0:01:30] I told my mom I wanted to go to the show, so she went and took all the remnants of our shabbos dinner and put it in a brown bag, and then she said to me – she insisted that I see the feature twice. It never occurred to me, you know, why would she ask me for – it's just – you know, I was happy enough just to go to a show. [Laughs] Why would I question her anymore? So I went, and the first thing you saw were these movie [0:02:00] tollbooths, and then there was the cartoons, and then there was the two reelers, and then they showed the feature. So I saw it twice, and I came home. And then later, during the war, I was walking on a street and I can't remember where it was, and all of a sudden I burst out laughing. You know, laughing, because it was the first time in my life I recognized my parents had a sex life.

**Interviewer:** Oh. [Laughter]

**Respondent:** And shabbos was [0:02:30] the day. Honest to god, it was really funny.

**Interviewer:** So she wanted you to see it twice to keep you out of the house for three hours.

**Respondent:** Of course. Absolutely. [Laughs]

**Interviewer:** Oh, that's a divine story. And it worked. For five cents she can have...

**Respondent:** Of course.

**Interviewer:** ...a good time with your father.

**Respondent:** Of course. Can you imagine that? [Laughter] It never occurred to me. I just burst out laughing. I just couldn't – I think if people saw me they would think I was nuts, but I can't remember where I was. It was some street, not in Toronto. Was [0:03:00] maybe overseas. I'm not sure. But it was some street. [Laughs]

**Interviewer:** So like ten or fifteen years later that this light opened in your mind.

**Respondent:** For sure. Absolutely. I enlisted when I was eighteen, so it must have been maybe eighteen or nineteen. Something like that.

**Interviewer:** That's very funny.

**Respondent:** Isn't that something? [Laughs] So I'm glad you asked me about that. [Laughs]

**Interviewer:** Well that means your parents had some very **[0:03:30]** nice things going between them.

**Respondent:** Oh, I'll tell you something. I had the most marvellous parents. My father was an intellectual, but his problem was that he had TB, and he had it at a very early age, and for that reason, he couldn't serve in the Russian army. And then they made their odyssey from their village, and it's – well, hang on. I'll just – so in any event, **[0:04:00]** like in my father's town, first of all my mother was – she was treated – she was very special, and because she captured him, he was a very eligible guy. And he was born in 1880, and I'm trying to think of – yeah. Well we came here in **[0:04:30]** 1922, in 1920, so he was forty years old and she was thirty-three years old. She was seven years younger than him, and so in my father's town, it's called **[indiscernible 0:04:49]**, but in the paper or wherever you're looking, an atlas, whatever, it's called **[indiscernible 04:56:00]**. But I never heard of the – named that way. **[0:05:00]** It was in the Ukraine, roughly about a hundred to two hundred kilometers from Odessa. My father told me about it. He said it was the most beautiful city. There was a – the first city in all of Europe, well – and Asia – to have hydro system electricalized. Anyhow, so the pogrommers came into the town just like they would every other town, and when they come to a town, they have to find out where the Jews are. They – you know, their intention is to rob them. **[0:05:30]** And so they formed – they created some sort of quasi-situation where the Jews were supposed to meet them in the synagogue. So when my father was on his way there with two little girls – my sister Rose and my sister Dorothy – I don't know where my sister Sarah was at the time – they said, "No, no. You got to go home and take them back, and then you can come back. You can

then come back yourself." And when he heard that, he [0:06:00] knew something horrible was going to happen. He just – he was a very brilliant guy, and the most modest person you ever met, and so he hid out and he told my sister, Rose, "If anybody asks you, tell them that your father's dead." And so they herded all the Jews into the shul, and believe it or not, they burned it to the ground. They incinerated the whole god – oh.

**Interviewer:** Wow. But your [0:06:30] father...

**Respondent:** He was away. Like he knew that something horrible was going to happen, and that's how they – and then the next day...

**Interviewer:** So he saved his own life.

**Respondent:** Oh absolutely. And my mother, you know my mother could recite poetry from morning until night and never repeat herself, and don't ask me how or why she had that bent, but she did. And so she went and collected all her silver and had it melted down, and [0:07:00] into two silver spoons and that was their [indiscernible 0:07:03] when they came here.

**Interviewer:** Wow.

**Respondent:** I wonder if I've got that. I think there's – I wonder where it is. I can show you the spoons.

**Interviewer:** So maybe right after we finish speaking to each other.

**Respondent:** Yeah. I wonder where they are. That's the whole problem. Anyhow, and so when they came here, that was it. That was their whole estate. Now the other things were that there was a fellow called Joshia Fromsky [0:07:30] he's a relative of ours in some way I can never find out because I can never really ask. We just took it for granted. And he's the one that sent the money, gave the money to one of the travel agents. I think they were Dworkins. And he came over to Europe, and to bring everybody back.

**Interviewer:** He was already in Canada?

**Respondent:** No.

**Interviewer:** No.

**Respondent:** No. Oh, like the fellow gave the money to Dworkin?

**Interviewer:** [0:08:00] Yeah.

**Respondent:** Oh yeah, for sure.

**Interviewer:** He was in Canada and he sent the money...

**Respondent:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** ...to bring your family to...

**Respondent:** Exactly.

**Interviewer:** ...Canada.

**Respondent:** So what happened is that when he came to – I think he met them in Romania, where I had an uncle who also was strangely enough – years later was killed by Hitler, you know? He had his – he left the Russian army and escaped from Russia into Romania, and that's where [0:08:30] he met his demise when Hitler came to power. So yeah. I don't want to get beyond myself. Anyhow, so he was supposed to have brought everybody over, but he went ahead and used some of that money for himself. And so not all family could go. Now the ones that remained were – [0:09:00] included the forebears of Haim Gouri. Now Haim Gouri is literally the poet laureate of Russia. He's fought in five different wars, and he's highly regarded, education-less, and as a matter of fact, he was so angry at the British [0:09:30] for the way – one of his daughters actually – or one of his sisters, or one of his aunts, I'm not sure, was – were the ones that carried the bombs into the King David Hotel.

**Interviewer:** Oh my god.

**Respondent:** It's true. And anyhow, so he's – there was always some resentment because they couldn't come to Canada, but it was probably the best thing that ever happened.

**Interviewer:** [0:10:00] Could we skip ahead now to...

**Respondent:** Sure.

**Interviewer:** ...your life in Toronto in this neighbourhood?

**Respondent:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** Now your parents bought a house...

**Respondent:** 98 Major Street.

**Interviewer:** ...98 Major in 1927. They had lived in several other homes before that, and you had too.

**Respondent:** Yeah. I thought it cost three thousand dollars. My brother, Dave, says no, it was thirty-five hundred. Well, it doesn't matter. But – and they used to – they had a mortgage from – [0:10:30] I can't think of the guy's name right now, but I could – it'll come to me. And so he was very anxious to get his money, so my mother made a deal with him that she would – she owed about seven hundred dollars, and she made a deal with him that if she paid him entirely off, that that would be the end of the mortgage, you know? So she was very [0:11:00] – my mother was extraordinary – I don't know how – what word I would use, but – so she went to the Hebrew Free Loan...

**Interviewer:** Mm-hm.

**Respondent:** ...and she borrowed that money and paid off the mortgage. And that was really something.

**Interviewer:** So your mother was clever.

**Respondent:** Oh. Unbelievably. Anyhow, so she paid off the Hebrew Free Loan over the years, you know? Took a long time.

**Interviewer:** And [0:11:30] do you have any idea what brought your parents to Major Street? Why this neighbourhood?

**Respondent:** Good question. Well first of all, I told you that I had a sister, Sarah. She was the second oldest. Actually, the third oldest because the first child, Rachel, she died in infancy. And so my sister Rose became the oldest, and she was next. [0:12:00] And she died at fifteen at the Western Hospital, and I remember trying to see her, but in those days rules were entirely different. They wouldn't let a child in under any circumstances. And just outside on Bathurst Street, the entrance to the Western Hospital was like an inverted V, and I remember sitting there and crying my head off. Now you'd ask me how I remember these things. Well, if I tell you that I remember being [0:12:30] pushed in the baby carriage at Riverdale Park, you better believe me because it's true. And that memory's gone to pot. [Laughter] Anyhow. So...

**Interviewer:** Anyway, but they wouldn't let you visit your sister.

**Respondent:** No, not at all.

**Interviewer:** And she was your older sister? Your younger...

**Respondent:** She was my second-oldest sister.

**Interviewer:** Your second-oldest sister. So she was fifteen. How old were you at that time?

**Respondent:** I was five years old.

**Interviewer:** And they wouldn't let you visit, and you...

**Respondent:** Absolutely not.

**Interviewer:** ...and your heart was broken.

**Respondent:** Absolutely. I was on – [0:13:00] stayed on the steps and cried my head off. Now – so then they brought my sister to the house on Oxford Street, and they placed her – well first of all, a group of women came in and washed her with a great big galvanized pot,

you know? Or whatever. And then they later on – on this dais that – and covered with sort of purple velvet, you know? [0:13:30] And I remember clearly my mother and her sister, my Mima Bella, what a wonderful woman.

**Interviewer:** Mima being aunt.

**Respondent:** What a wonderful woman she was. Oh. Anyhow, they were both hitting their head against their wall.

**Interviewer:** You mean after your sister died.

**Respondent:** Yeah. Unbelievable. And you know what's happened? And since talking about striking your head against the wall, in 1970, see that young man right there? The small [0:14:00] little gold thing at the front? It's at the shelf.

**Interviewer:** Yes, yes. I do.

**Respondent:** Okay. That's my nephew Danny.

**Interviewer:** Uh-huh.

**Respondent:** That's my sister's only child, and my sister went to Israel or Palestine with her husband, Chaim Goldberg. Now the reason he – they used to – they belonged to the Shomrat [indiscernible 0:14:25], which was the sort of the secular Zionist group, and [0:14:30] they had their meetings at our house on Major Street, and I was inside, and in the summer, the windows were up and I was cranking up the gramophone and playing classical music. But finally the Jewish National Fund, Keren Kayemeth, told them they had a plot available for them, so they picked themselves up, the whole group, and they went to Palestine. The interesting thing was that it was 1940 when all the submarines were [0:15:00] running wild in the Atlantic, but they finally got there and they started the kibbutz [indiscernible 0:15:03]. That's our family kibbutz in a sense. And it's become one of the most prestigious kibbutz seen in Israel. It's the most amazing thing.

**Interviewer:** I've heard of it. I have heard of it.

- Respondent:** They had – one of the khalutsim...
- Interviewer:** Khalutsim meaning pioneer.
- Respondent:** Yeah. They – he, [0:15:30] he had a poultry business in the United States, and so they built this big poultry plant and literally they supplied all the chickens to all the restaurants, you know? Became very popular. And my sister was supposed to – she was given the job as a nutritionist. My sister Dorothy Dvora.
- Interviewer:** On the kibbutz you mean?
- Respondent:** Yeah. For sure. And it turned out that her job as a nutritionist meant that she was in the kitchen [0:16:00] washing the dishes. [Laughs]
- Interviewer:** Oh.
- Respondent:** Anyhow, she thought she – she didn't like that. So she went and joined the British army and she studied nursing, and she actually stood first in nursing in the British army.
- Interviewer:** So lots of smart people in your family. Your parents, you, mom, the sister.
- Respondent:** I don't know. And the thing I'm most proud about is that [0:16:30] they're Mensch.
- Interviewer:** Yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah. I agree with that. Can we talk about what are some of your early memories of 98?
- Respondent:** 98 Major Street. Well, first of all, you're looking at a guy that failed kindergarten. [Laughter]
- Interviewer:** Well that takes talent.
- Respondent:** Anyhow.
- Interviewer:** What language did you speak at home?

- Respondent:** All Yiddish pretty much.
- Interviewer:** So did you learn English only when you went to kindergarten?
- Respondent:** Of course.
- Interviewer:** **[0:17:00]** So you went to kindergarten speaking Yiddish, and the teacher couldn't respond.
- Respondent:** Well, I don't remember anything like that. I may have started to learn English because – I played hooky from William Houston school, and I remember the – somebody coming to the house and ask me why I hadn't been to school. Anyhow, I hid. But no, I think I spoke – I think I must have spoken in English to some of the kids on the street.
- Interviewer:** Mm-hm.
- Respondent:** **[0:17:30]** I'm sure of that.
- Interviewer:** Mm-hm.
- Respondent:** That was on Oxford Street. We moved from Oxford Street to Major Street in 1927. That was the year my – that was the time my sister died.
- Interviewer:** So that was a...
- Respondent:** That's why we moved.
- Interviewer:** ...terrible time for your family.
- Respondent:** Yeah, yeah.
- Interviewer:** A tragic time for your family.
- Respondent:** Oh Jesus.
- Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah.

**Respondent:** But you know what? Maybe I'm ahead of myself now. I was just going to say that it was a – in some way, it was – in some [0:18:00] perverse way, it was the best thing that could have ever happened to me because if I'm considered to be a half-decent doctor, it's only because I lived on Major Street and brought up there. You know, because all our shchenim, all our neighbours, were like brothers and sisters, and you know, you got to know them, and you knew immediately when they were not well, and what kind of help they needed. It was a whole different existence.

**Interviewer:** So you're saying you became a very – you had a community [0:18:30] and you became a very empathic person...

**Respondent:** Oh for sure.

**Interviewer:** ...is what you're saying because of the nature of the...

**Respondent:** Oh for sure.

**Interviewer:** ...closeness and caring.

**Respondent:** A lot of times – we had neighbours next door, and the walls were quite thin, you know? And she used to play the radio. She was a Holocaust survivor, and the radio – they had a very popular type of [0:19:00] jingle over there, you know? (sings) [Indiscernible 0:19:25]..

**Interviewer:** [Laughs] They were advertising the delicatessens?

**Respondent:** [Laughs] So it was somewhere close to Buffalo, and I remember one time I went to the school and I had a physics exam, and I couldn't get started. All I could hear was this thing in my head. [Laughter] It took me about a half an hour [0:19:30] before I could get rid of it and be able to write a line down, and that's the truth. [Laughs]

**Interviewer:** Oh, that's a wonderful story.

**Respondent:** It's so true.

- Interviewer:** Just the song ringing in your head.
- Respondent:** Oh my god, it was – and this woman, that was her – well, the alternator, there was a Jewish hour, you know?
- Interviewer:** Oh, the Jewish hour on the radio.
- Respondent:** Yeah.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** And they played – that was the introduction to it. [Laughs] Freedman's Delicatessen. And I couldn't get started to write anything. [Laughs] I'm lucky I passed the damn exam. [Laughs] I don't – **[0:20:00]** anyhow, that was it.
- Interviewer:** You said the word, "Jewish." Who made up the neighbourhood from what you recall?
- Respondent:** Oh they practically were all Jewish.
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh.
- Respondent:** Yeah. Like in Montreal, most of the Jewish were from Russia.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** And Toronto, there were a lot of Russians, but there were many Polish Jews, and of course in those days, we – you know, the Russians consider themselves superior to the **[0:20:30]** Poles, and the Poles figure themselves superior to the **[indiscernible 0:20:32]**. [Laughter] It's all – you know? [Laughter]
- Interviewer:** A pecking order.
- Respondent:** [Laughs] I guess so.
- Interviewer:** The kinds of activities that families did with each other, with their children – what do you recall about that?

**Respondent:** Well...

**Interviewer:** Because there was poverty.

**Respondent:** Oh. A hundred percent.

**Interviewer:** Yeah.

**Respondent:** Now the thing is that in other **[0:21:00]** families that had big verandahs and stuff like that, Sunday was a day for all the family to get together. Always. I can't remember – we didn't have a big verandah at all, and I can't remember – I don't know. I can't remember that same activity at our house.

**Interviewer:** So you're saying there was a lot of sitting outside on that verandah.

**Respondent:** Oh yeah. Absolutely. In the – absolutely. That's where people congregated. **[0:21:30]** And also when – just before – this is my – just before my sister left for Palestine, guys in the – from the kibbutz, not from the kibbutz, but from Shomrat **[indiscernible 0:21:51]**, they used to sit – you know, it was hot. We didn't have any air conditioning, so they'd sit on the verandah, you know? **[0:22:00]** And the windows were left open, and I was the one that was cranking up the gramophone and playing records. Like we used to have records with Caruso and stuff like that, yeah.

**Interviewer:** So music – I walked in today and I asked you to lower the music.

**Respondent:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** So that we could speak to...

**Respondent:** I don't play that kind of music anymore. [Laughs]

**Interviewer:** But it sounds if you've always loved music.

**Respondent:** Oh, for sure. My brother Mutt – I want to tell you something about my brother Mutt. I would stack him up against the biggest experts in **[0:22:30]** classical music, and I don't think they could top him. Absolutely not.

- Interviewer:** So he's an encyclopedia of music.
- Respondent:** You talk about operas or anything like that, unbelievable. And even when he went to Harbord Collegiate, he sang in their operettas. They had great operettas at Harbord Collegiate. They really did, but they don't have them anymore. Like they used to have the – mostly Gilbert and Sullivan.
- Interviewer:** That's what they had at that time?
- Respondent:** Oh yeah. [0:23:00] Mikado, and you know, it was just really special.
- Interviewer:** Yeah. What school did you go to?
- Respondent:** I just went to Lansdowne school, and then I quit when I was fifteen. I thought I'd – I used to have a paper route and stuff like that, and then I went to work at the Acme Paper Box.
- Interviewer:** At fifteen years old?
- Respondent:** Oh yeah. For sure.
- Interviewer:** So you didn't finish high school at that time.
- Respondent:** I never [0:23:30] finished high school. I quit in what you would call grade nine.
- Interviewer:** And you started to work for that paper company?
- Respondent:** Well, I was working at the factory like, you know? There was a Jewish boss, so to speak. He wasn't part of the people that owned the place. The Oldbaums always owned it, owned the Acme Paper Box, and I was getting ten cents an hour just doing some manual labour. Like nothing more [0:24:00] than that.
- Interviewer:** And why did you quit school? Why did you quit school age fifteen?
- Respondent:** Because I wanted to help my parents out. Times were really very tough. I want you to know that.

**Interviewer:** Yeah. So you needed to help them pay the bills.

**Respondent:** I felt that I – like I may very well have used that as an excuse to go to work. Like, I really don't know, but I do think that's what I did.

**Interviewer:** And they didn't object.

**Respondent:** **[0:24:30]** What is there to object, you know? Something about my parents, they were unbelievable. Like never asked us who we were going out with ever. And they never – the only thing they wished for us was good health, nothing more.

**Interviewer:** So they gave you a lot of respect and trust.

**Respondent:** Oh.

**Interviewer:** That they trusted you.

**Respondent:** Absolutely.

**Interviewer:** Yeah.

**Respondent:** There's some very funny stories that happened there. When I was sixteen, I belonged to – I **[0:25:00]** belonged to a Jewish boys' club. It was a phenomenal organization. It was on Simcoe Street, and we had regular meetings. We had meetings with parliamentary procedures, you know?

**Interviewer:** Mm-hm.

**Respondent:** It was really special. Anyhow, so they had a dance, and they held – they decided on a costume party, something. So they – this dance was held at 44 St. George Street. That's where the community house is. It's a pretty famous place. **[0:25:30]** Any event, so by that time I had learned to do the two-step, but I couldn't turn corners.

**Interviewer:** [Laughs] You could do the two step in...

**Respondent:** Right.

**Interviewer:** ...not all directions.

**Respondent:** So listen to this. So I got my friend, Nadie – what's the matter with me?

**Interviewer:** We can...

**Respondent:** No, no. It's... this is what's happening to me, you know? Never happened to me before. Anyhow, [0:26:00] forgot the name.

**Interviewer:** But Nadie was at that dance too.

**Respondent:** No. What he did was I told him to please come and see me and teach me...

**Interviewer:** How to do the corners or something?

**Respondent:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** Yeah?

**Respondent:** So here he was. We didn't have any radio then, so we had a, I guess, a couple of popular records, put them on the gramophone, and he was showing me how to turn the corners. Who comes down? [0:26:30] My father comes down the stairs, standing in the opening to – we didn't have doors to our front room. Standing there, and sees his – his eldest son. [Laughs]

**Interviewer:** Who was dancing around...

**Respondent:** Dancing with another boy. [Laughter] Can you imagine? I wondered what the hell is it what he was thinking of. But in any event, to his credit, he just watched for a while and made it back upstairs. And here I am, dancing with another boy and my father comes, and shabbos yet. I want you to [0:27:00] know that. And you know, I had a bike for my paper route, and I would never take it out of the hall on shabbos because then he would know that I was gone to work, you know? So I used to go around the corner and pay ten cents to borrow some other kid's bicycle.

- Interviewer:** Bike. That is a lot of money to pay to borrow somebody's bike.
- Respondent:** Are you kidding? [Laughs] That was my profit.
- Interviewer:** So...
- Respondent:** First of all, The Star was two cents, and then it became three **[0:27:30]** cents in 1938 at the Anschluss when Hitler marched into Austria. That I remember clearly.
- Interviewer:** Your father didn't want you riding your bike on shabbos.
- Respondent:** Absolutely not. Are you kidding?
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh. So, but you had to in order to deliver the paper...
- Respondent:** Yeah.
- Interviewer:** ...so you – that person really gouged you. Ten cents.
- Respondent:** What can I say? I was a kid – called Robotoy. He – Gerald. He was my brother, Dave's, friend. He was a nice kid, and he didn't come to a very good **[0:28:00]** end. Never had the guidance of proper parents and stuff like that.
- Interviewer:** Yeah. But you were working at a young age. How old were you when you were delivering those papers?
- Respondent:** I started when I was about thirteen maybe. I'm not sure.
- Interviewer:** Yeah. Yeah. And by fifteen you dropped out of school to go work full-time.
- Respondent:** Yeah, yeah. I did.
- Interviewer:** So you were very aware of your family's poverty.
- Respondent:** I don't know what to say. It's – it was a whole different existence, you know? **[0:28:30]** It's like – I can tell you now on Major Street, I

started at College, and I can tell you every single person that lived in every single house, and that's the truth. And I'm not being unmodest about it. It's true. And you know, and there was a gang of kids at the south part of Major Street, another gang at the middle part, another gang at the upper part. We're not talking about malicious gangs, you know?

**Interviewer:** Groups of friends.

**Respondent:** Exactly. [0:29:00] Always. So.

**Interviewer:** And the adults did a lot of sitting on the front porch?

**Respondent:** Well, I suppose. But my – I suppose. My – I remember we had a rocking chair that my father used to love rocking in it.

**Interviewer:** In the house, or outside?

**Respondent:** Outside on the verandah.

**Interviewer:** Uh-huh.

**Respondent:** And so we were all learning to smoke in those days. [Laughter] [0:29:30] So this is a wicker chair, so he'd run over to the chair, grab a piece of wicker, run around to the backyard, and smoke it.

**Interviewer:** Pretend to be smoking.

**Respondent:** And so my father used to come out and say [laughs], he used to ask, "What's happening to my kid?" [Laughter] We smoked that chair right to the ground. [Laughter] Those are...

**Interviewer:** Wonderful memories.

**Respondent:** Oh.

**Interviewer:** Did your father [0:30:00] ever learn what happened to his wicker chair...

**Respondent:** No. Are you kidding?

**Interviewer:** ...that lost all its wicker?

**Respondent:** Never tell him. You know, there were times, you know, when I had to go to cheder after school, and I resented it very much because, you know, the other kids were playing while we were going to cheder, you know? So I used to go to the Talmud Torah on Brunswick and I used to walk in the front door and out the back.

**Interviewer:** Oh.

**Respondent:** And so when my father – you know, I knew he would find out, so I used to go across the street and [0:30:30] stay with my friends, the Katz's. They had a cottage. I don't know how they could accommodate all those people. It was like impossible, and I would fall asleep there. And my father would come at night and pick me up, take me back to my bed [laughs].

**Interviewer:** So you had dinner without those people, the Katz's?

**Respondent:** No, we had – this was after dinner. Oh, I don't remember. I just – all I know is that I had to go to cheder while the [0:31:00] other kids were playing in the street.

**Interviewer:** But you're saying you walked in one door and walked out another door.

**Respondent:** I did. I did.

**Interviewer:** Yeah.

**Respondent:** I did.

**Interviewer:** So you could be naughty at times.

**Respondent:** Are you kidding?

**Interviewer:** Yeah. [Laughs]

**Respondent:** But the interesting thing about my parents, they were so loving. I don't know what to say. They never asked where we were going, or what we were doing. I don't know what to say. And the only thing they wished for us, like I told you, is to be well.

**Interviewer:** So there was...

**Respondent:** To be healthy.

**Interviewer:** ...an implicit and [0:31:30] explicit trust in your family.

**Respondent:** Well I guess so. I suppose so. I never thought of it that way. See, that's social work words. [Laughs]

**Interviewer:** You dropped out of school at fifteen...

**Respondent:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** ...and you are Doctor Joe Greenberg.

**Respondent:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** How did that happen?

**Respondent:** That's interesting. I'm glad you asked me that question. I had a number of jobs after that. I worked at Columbia Pictures, and...

**Interviewer:** [0:32:00] In Toronto?

**Respondent:** Yeah. And then I was earning – at Columbia I was earning seven dollars a week, and then I didn't – my sister Rose – so finally, I wanted to earn a few more bucks. So my sister's boyfriend, Ben Airworth, he was part of a group that owned a chesterfield company. So I went to work at the chesterfield company because the first week there, [0:32:30] I earned about twenty-two bucks...

**Interviewer:** Whoa.

**Respondent:** ...which is like – you know? Anyhow, but the point was that I don't know why I – there was a war on, and with Hitler and whatnot, and

so I felt that keenly in some way, so I applied to the Air Force. And they didn't take me right away because I didn't have enough education for [0:33:00] them.

**Interviewer:** Mm-hm.

**Respondent:** But I guess finally [laughs] they got desperate, and they called me in.

**Interviewer:** How old were you?

**Respondent:** I was eighteen.

**Interviewer:** Okay.

**Respondent:** Yeah. And I remember going down to this – on Bay Street there was a National Club, and that's where they held their missions and whatnot, or you know. And so I went there, [0:33:30] and well – let me go back a bit. I belonged to a club called Club Imperial. All the kids had clubs.

**Interviewer:** Yes.

**Respondent:** And they all had, you know, and believe it or not, they were really nice kids, you know? And sexual activity, forget it. You know, it just wasn't – it wasn't in our minds or whatever it was. It was altogether different to today.

**Interviewer:** Mm-hm.

**Respondent:** And so we had a basketball team. [0:34:00] And we had five guys. And we were really very good, and we played in a league that had some intercollegiate players, you know?

**Interviewer:** Mm-hm.

**Respondent:** And they could never beat us. And the fact that they could never beat us created situations in which we were – [0:34:30] we had one guy on our team called Izzy Hoffman. Very handsome guy. Really nice person. And if anybody ever told you that he wasn't the

sweetest guy, you wouldn't believe it. He had a horrible temper. If somebody dribbled by him, he felt insulted. Or anyhow, it was terrible. So one day, one day, we – this fight broke out and the gym was packed. You couldn't [0:35:00] throw a ball out of bounds, and the fight started. And finally, the spectators came in and was fighting. Like you wouldn't believe this. This was what a mob scene – guys, you know, screaming at each other. And there was one fellow – jeez, I'm – when I have to pick up a name, it's difficult.

**Interviewer:** We don't need the names.

**Respondent:** Well the point was he was a pretty husky guy, and he threw a punch at me.

**Interviewer:** Oh.

**Respondent:** And [0:35:30] there's an expression of hearing something just whizzing past your ear?

**Interviewer:** Yeah.

**Respondent:** That's actually what happened. First time in my life I experienced that. And if he'd hit me, he wouldn't be sitting there, and I wouldn't be sitting here either. [Laughs]

**Interviewer:** So he missed.

**Respondent:** Oh no. So finally, the fight was over, okay? So when I got home, my mother told me that the Air Force had called, right? And so I went and I [0:36:00] enlisted, and I got all my needles and whatnot, you know? This is at Manning Pool, which is part of the Coliseum at the Exhibition. And so the next game that I played, the guys said – I was the very first one that enlisted and they said to me, "What did you do that for?" [Laughs] I said, "You know, I'd rather go to war than play with you guys." [Laughter]

**Interviewer:** [0:36:30] Did they see the humour in it?

**Respondent:** That's exactly what I told them. And everyone eventually had to go into the service because they started drafting...

- Interviewer:** So that would have been around 1940?
- Respondent:** Oh.
- Interviewer:** You were eighteen years old?
- Respondent:** Yeah. Oh yeah. For sure. 1940.
- Interviewer:** So you went into the service, but you never finished high school and you became a doctor.
- Respondent:** Yeah. Okay...
- Interviewer:** What's the story?
- Respondent:** ...let me get – let me tell you.
- Interviewer:** Yes.
- Respondent:** I'm glad you're asking me that. [Laughs] Anyhow, **[0:37:00]** so during the war, I had some very prestigious posts, so to speak. I was literally the equivalent of a Sergeant-Major in the army, right? And so I was attached to a squadron, which is a – wait a minute. I don't want to get ahead of myself. Hang on. Yeah. Okay. **[0:37:30]** Our squadron was number five squadron, which was an anti-submarine squadron.
- Interviewer:** Mm-hm.
- Respondent:** And we had amphibious aircraft, but I looked after all the ground crew. That was my job, and the thing that I noticed mostly is that the officers who – they were officers and they – all the officers **[0:38:00]** had a little certificate from the university and they were making much more money. So I said, "You know? I've got to get myself one of those certificates."
- Interviewer:** To do the same work and earn more money.
- Respondent:** Oh, I was doing more than the...

**Interviewer:** She just wants to say goodbye? Yes.

**Respondent:** So I was determined. So I thought the only way I could get university would be to be able to get [0:38:30] my matriculation. So I thought I would go to matriculation school.

**Interviewer:** But this is while you're serving?

**Respondent:** Not yet, no.

**Interviewer:** Oh okay.

**Respondent:** Coming to that. See, I jumped ahead a little bit for you. I hope you don't mind. But so what happened is that – yeah. So that was my determination. And so when I came home, like this is just after I was discharged. [0:39:00] That was another thing. When I was – I think my squadron was back in Newfoundland by that time. No, in Gaspé. We came back to Canada, and we got a notice from the government that they were considering discharges and on the basis of the first in would be the first out, and so naturally I was in pretty quickly, and so I applied for [0:39:30] discharge, and I got – and I got in about one or two days. And I thought to myself, "What the hell am I going to do now? Who's going to clothe me? Who's going to feed me?" You know? It was such a strange feeling. And then something happened that was the biggest compliment I ever had in my life. These guys came up and they said, "You're coming with me. You're coming with us." And they filled their aircraft up with about eleven hundred gallons of gas, [0:40:00] and they flew me from Gaspé to Mont-Joli which is close – which is an Air Force base close to Montreal. And after we landed, they each came and they each shook my hand, and they thanked me for everything that I'd done for them. Can't begin to tell you. Totally unexpected. I never expected that type of thanks, you know what I mean? Just...

**Interviewer:** So these are people who – that had worked [0:40:30] with you. You had been their leader.

**Respondent:** Absolutely. And they'd all thanked me, and these were the aircrew. Not the – just – and more than that, I used to – any team I ever

played for, I was playing coach. So any of the teams that our squadron played in, I was their coach, so they all thanked me. I just...

**Interviewer:** So you were very modest, obviously.

**Respondent:** Oh. More than that. I just couldn't believe it.

**Interviewer:** Very touched.

**Respondent:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** You're still touched by it when you think about it today.

**Respondent:** Of course. Are you kidding? What a compliment. **[0:41:00]** Anyhow, so – and I went home, and I...

**Interviewer:** So that would have been about 1945?

**Respondent:** No. It was 1940.

**Interviewer:** 1940. That you were...

**Respondent:** No, no. '45. You're right. I was discharged and the war's over May the 9th. Anyhow, I remember we were moving our squadron to another water base, which was Gaspé, and I'm trying to think. **[0:41:30]** Well, just leave it at that because there are other things we did. And on the way, I was in charge of the troop train.

**Interviewer:** Mm-hm.

**Respondent:** And we went by – we were coming from Yarmouth. That's where it was. And the guys who were drinking quite heavily – you know, they would have traded you a bottle of Canadian Club for a Pepsi Cola or some damn thing. They didn't have a mixer. And so they would drink pretty heavily. So **[0:42:00]** he – and every stop, I would have the guys line up and I'd have a roll call, and I'd call out their names. And sometimes, nobody answer. I said, "Where is he?" They said, "Here." And they'd pick him up.

**Interviewer:** Oh. Drunk. On the floor.

**Respondent:** [Laughs] It was incredible. Anyhow, so I came home, and I told my – and also my mother was selling bulbs, and she was...

**Interviewer:** Bulbs.

**Respondent:** Bulbs. Electric light bulbs.

**Interviewer:** Yeah.

**Respondent:** You know. What do you call the **[0:42:30]** long ones?

**Interviewer:** Fluorescent.

**Respondent:** Yeah. Anyhow, she – one of her customers was at the Canadian Jewish Congress on Beverley Street. I want to tell you something. I don't know how my mother did it, but she used – they loved her. They just loved her, you know? She would – and if they said if they turned her down or whatnot, she would thank them and bless them, and they'd come back again sometime, you know? Anyhow, **[0:43:00]** so in her travels, she came across this fellow, Al Perly, and he was – more or less made himself this self-appointed person in charge of entitlements, and pensions, and whatever it was, you know? And so she spoke to him and told him that she had a son who had just come home. He says, **[0:43:30]** "You must send him to see me." Well, so anyhow, so when my mother said that, I said, "Ma, I already made up my mind. It's what I'm going to do." But she says, "But Jossela," she says, "I promised." I said, "Ma, you promised that I was going and that's all there is to it." And it was the best. That changed my whole life again.

**Interviewer:** So you spoke to Al Perly and that – you redirected your life because of that conversation.

**Respondent:** Oh absolutely. And I'll tell you why. I **[0:44:00]** went to see him and he said to me, "Well what have you done?" You know? I said, "I don't know. I've written some articles for some of the Air Force magazines, and stuff like that." So he says, "Well what do you want to study?" You know? Said, "Well maybe I'll be a journalist or

whatever." I didn't know what the hell I wanted, and I didn't know what journalism – first of all, I could never be a journalist because I can only write when I'm very disturbed about something, okay? And then I can write. [0:44:30] Anyhow, so he called, picked up the phone and he called the Department of Veteran Affairs and he spoke to a Mr. Shouldice and told him that he – oh no. Hold it, before I get to that. So he sent me across the street to the Federation. You know where the – there's a Chinese church at the corner of Baldwin and Beverley, but they used to have the Federation House there.

**Interviewer:** Mm-hm.

**Respondent:** It was a Scheuer House, and he was one of the early Jewish [0:45:00] German people that came to this country. So I – and it was – and they had the Jewish vocational service there, and there was a guy in charge of it. His name was Irving Hoffman, and he was a brilliant student, psychology student at the university. He jumped off the board and broke his neck, and he was a quadriplegic and – but he still had minimal use of his right [0:45:30] hand, and he had a nurse with him all the time. So he sat me down and gave me this IQ test. It was a very rudimentary thing like Stanford BA, whatever it was.

**Interviewer:** Mm-hm.

**Respondent:** And so – but the interesting thing was that all the answers were down the right side of the page, the right edge, so for him to mark it was nothing. He would just take a key of some kind, place it there, and be able to [0:46:00] check it off. Like he had the right answers.

**Interviewer:** Yeah.

**Respondent:** Anyhow, so he kept looking at me funny and he sent me back to Al Perly. Oh shit. And he told Al Perly that I had the highest IQ that he ever tested, so I said I don't know. I said, "What's the big deal? Who was he testing?" And she approaches me. He says, "What's the big deal?" But that was enough to set Al Perly on fire.

**Interviewer:** Uh-huh.

- Respondent:** [0:46:30] And he called this Mr. Shouldice at the Department of Veteran Affairs and Shouldice said, "Listen, Al. I'm sorry, but the schools, you know, for getting your matriculation is all packed. It's all taken up. And you know, there's no room there for at least six months." By the time Perly got finished with him – he was such a negativist, but you know, brilliant guy. I was there at school the next day.
- Interviewer:** Whoa.
- Respondent:** That's the truth. Anyhow, [0:47:00] so while I was in school...
- Interviewer:** That was to finish high school.
- Respondent:** Oh yeah.
- Interviewer:** High school matriculation.
- Respondent:** Absolutely. So while I was there, we were studying senior subjects. So I was going to school from three in the afternoon until ten at night. And so we were studying – and we used to take a chapter a day. I mean holy mackerel. And each chapter had questions at the bottom, [0:47:30] you know? And that's too rapid. But regardless. And so – and that's another thing. There was a certain synergy at that school that was unbelievable. It was just incredible. First of all, you had teachers who all retired, principals, vice-principals, whoever, and you had students who wanted to go to school. Uh-huh. Believe me. [Laughs] You don't find that today. You know?
- Interviewer:** Yeah. They were motivated.
- Respondent:** Oh my god. [0:48:00] So in any event, so I was – so this – and this is physics class, the teacher came over. He says, "I see you understand your work, but why don't you reduce your answer?" So I said, "I don't know how to add, or subtract, or multiply, or divide. I don't know any algebra." So he says to me, "What are you doing here?" And with that, my heart went right into my boots. So I decided that I better study some junior subjects [0:48:30] before I start taking senior subjects, you know? So I started to go to –

started going to school from seven in the morning to three in the afternoon to study junior subjects, and then continue from three in the afternoon to ten...

**Interviewer:** Until ten.

**Respondent:** ...at night, and you know what? So I was going to school from seven in the morning until ten at night, and you know, that was the first time in my life I developed a – or I don't know how to explain it. **[0:49:00]** I developed sort of a love of scholarship. Don't ask me why. I don't know where the hell it came from.

**Interviewer:** Mm-hm.

**Respondent:** But that's true. And so when I went to – when I was studying algebra or geometry, first of all, I was very good in chemistry and English, but I don't know why, but – and when I was studying algebra and geometry and whatnot, I was a class dunce. No question about it. I'm not trying any – **[0:49:30]** but I had a teacher called John Dale Grant and I owe him everything, and I did find him later, but he was dead. And he sent me up to the board every time, every day, you know? And everyone used to laugh at me, and I didn't mind.

**Interviewer:** Was he being mean or he was trying to really get you to learn?

**Respondent:** Oh no. Obviously he was trying to get me to learn.

**Interviewer:** Yeah.

**Respondent:** And so **[0:50:00]** any event, so I started. So finally in algebra, I started to understand what was going on with permutations and combinations. I'm telling you now, I was really the class dunce. And so the next step was – I'm coming to what you asked me – the next step was that they said, "Listen boys, we're **[0:50:30]** sorry. There's so many veterans that want to go to university that we're cutting the course from six months to five months." Can you imagine? Anyhow, so I went to write the first exam in the cafeteria, and the cafeteria tables are not examination tables, I'll tell you right now. And while I was studying in the hallway with these long tables because it was

the old normal schools that was fashioned after the schools in England, my friend Benny Sniderman came by [0:51:00] and he was the nicest, the sweetest, the handsomest kid you can imagine. Short. And we were together in the Leader's Corp. I was in the Leader's Corp at the Y. They needed guys to help the physical instructor, right? And so they taught us jujitsu, and I don't know, all kinds of stuff, and so on. And so I said, "Well, where are you going, Benny?" He said, "I'm going to the office [0:51:30] to get some application forms." So I said, "Oh, I'll go with you." And so he'd come into the office at the rehab school and he asked the girl for application forms for the Faculty of Medicine. So she says, "Well what are your subjects?" You know, they were so – that's what they were all about, is getting people to go to university and you didn't have to go to the university to find out what subjects you needed. [0:52:00] They knew everything. So he names off his subjects. Ah, here it comes. I said, "Benny, I got the same subjects. Do you think I can get into medicine?" [Laughter] We had those papers, and that was it. That's it.

**Interviewer:** So you were just finishing your high school diploma.

**Respondent:** I hadn't quite finished it, but it's...

**Interviewer:** So you applied to medicine?

**Respondent:** Well people asked me, you know, "How did you get into medicine?" Like most kids, they grow up, they wanted to be doctors, or firemen, [0:52:30] or dentists, and I had no idea about that. None. Zero. Before I went for a walk with him in my lifetime, I would never have thought that I would be a doctor and that's the truth, and that's why when you ask me that question...

**Interviewer:** Whoa.

**Respondent:** ...I have to laugh about that. Anyhow, so in the meantime, Benny fell in love with a Vet from the Navy. Beautiful girl. But he had a – you know, but he had a sexual relationship with her [0:53:00] in the sense that something like he fell in love with her like Robert Browning fell in love with Elizabeth Barrett, you know? The songs from the Portuguese? And he couldn't be without her one waking

moment. Not one. And it was just like you took a kid into a candy shop and said, "Here."

**Interviewer:** Yeah.

**Respondent:** You know? Because we never had those kind of sexual engagements or whatever you would call it. So anyhow, so and then the next **[0:53:30]** thing that happened was that I applied for three medical schools. I applied to Western, and to Queen's, and to Toronto Varsity. Western wouldn't have me under any circumstances because they had their charter that you had to come from the surrounding thirteen counties or something like that. Of course, it's changed since then because my son, Davie, went to Western. Anyhow, but believe it or not, **[0:54:00]** I was accepted to Queen's.

**Interviewer:** Okay.

**Respondent:** And the other thing was that the Varsity acceptances were one month later.

**Interviewer:** Mm-hm.

**Respondent:** So they said they wanted me to come, they said, "But you have to understand that we want you to reply immediately, and if you don't reply within three days, or we don't have your acceptance within three days, then we will appoint an alternate." And I'm sitting there and I'm thinking to myself, **[0:54:30]** "I got two sick parents at home. Am I crazy? Do I want to go to Kingston?" Or you know, it's – so you know what I did? I – well got to go back. When they posted the results for the exams, believe it or not I got first in every subject except algebra.

**Interviewer:** Mm-hm.

**Respondent:** **[0:55:00]** And the class was astounded. I mean they were just astounded, you know? As a matter of fact, going back to that, and during the early period, during the junior subjects, I was studying German and the – we had a teacher. His name was Pressard, and he was a heel-clicker. That bothered me a little bit. But in any

event, so before the exam in German, I asked him if I could have [0:55:30] some copies of the old exams just to see how the questions were asked. Anyhow, so I wrote the exam and it wasn't – it was a little difficult. I mean German – Jewish is at least eighty-five percent German – or – anyhow. So later, I went to the office to find out what my marks were, and so [0:56:00] the gal in the office, like I told you, they knew everything. She says, "I hate to tell you this, but your professor was just here and he thought you were cheating."

**Interviewer:** Oh. Because...

**Respondent:** "He says he's never had a student that's studied German for a few weeks and got a hundred."

**Interviewer:** Whoa.

**Respondent:** "So anyhow, so we're going to give you eighty." Who gave a damn? Can you imagine something like that? Anyhow, so that's what happened. So in the meantime, here I have an acceptance to Queen's [0:56:30], and no acceptance at Western, and I'm waiting for my acceptance to Toronto. And it was a very nervous part of my – I mean, I had a whole month. Like if – and if I had accepted from Queen's, at least I knew what was coming. But here – anyhow, I thought I'd take a chance because...

**Interviewer:** So you – okay. Go ahead.

**Respondent:** Yeah. I got to go back a little bit further. So I went [0:57:00] in to see the principal again. He's a bit of a drunk, but doesn't matter. I said, "Mr. Bradley, I want to go to university, and if I don't know algebra, there's no point in my going." So he looks up my marks and he says, "Yeah." He says, "You did very well in all your subjects and we got a forty in algebra, and we're going to give you a fifty." I said, "Mr. Bradley, thank you, but it's not good enough." So he went ahead and he [0:57:30] hired two crack high-school teachers to come in for the next month. And the time we were finished with them, I went to the exam, I was twenty minutes late, and I left twenty minutes early. I just – it was a breeze for me. Don't ask me why because I...

**Interviewer:** Well you had learned algebra in a very intense way...

**Respondent:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** ...but you had learned it.

**Respondent:** Yeah. So what happened is that, so when I applied to Varsity, I had all firsts, you know? **[0:58:00]** So I thought to myself, "You know, maybe I'll take a chance and" – because there are twenty-four hundred applications, and they only took two hundred people. Anyhow, so I took that chance and fortunately I was admitted, but that was really what inspired me.

**Interviewer:** I'll bet, because you were giving up your acceptance...

**Respondent:** At Queen's.

**Interviewer:** ...to Queen's.

**Respondent:** Exactly.

**Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah.

**Respondent:** And I was really nervous about it. But you know what? If it happened today, **[0:58:30]** see, we had different morals and different ethics in those days. Like if it happened today, I would have accepted at Queen's for sure, and when my acceptance came from the University of Toronto, I would just tell Queen's I'm not coming.

**Interviewer:** Yeah.

**Respondent:** Do me something.

**Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah. But at that time you were playing it very straight.

**Respondent:** That's the way we were. That's...

**Interviewer:** So you went to medical school straight after high school, in fact.

- Respondent:** Yeah. [0:59:00] Well exactly. Like well, the first two – the first two years were pre-med, and I was always determined that I wanted to get honours just to prove that I had a bit of a brain. I don't know. Anyhow, if we were downstairs I could show you the results. But in any event, I remember in university, [0:59:30] anatomy was the heaviest thing, right? So we had three exams: anatomy, and biochemistry, and something else, I'm not sure.
- Interviewer:** Physiology?
- Respondent:** What?
- Interviewer:** Physiology?
- Respondent:** No.
- Interviewer:** No? Okay. Whatever.
- Respondent:** No. That only came second.
- Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah. And how did you do?
- Respondent:** Well, I guess I did okay. I mean so on my way home, I was walking home with Hanna Eisen. She was married [1:00:00] to a guy that's the head of the Canadian Jewish News. He's a lawyer. Brilliant guy. And she died of a brain tumor. But – and my mother, the only person my mother ever asked me to go out with was Hanna Eisen. [Laughter] That's the truth. She said, "Why don't you take her for a coffee or something?" You know? But I don't know. There was no chemistry there. [1:00:30] I don't know. But in any event...
- Interviewer:** Well, so you went to medical school because your mother wanted you to meet with this particular person.
- Respondent:** Exactly. One hundred percent.
- Interviewer:** And that – but you were willing to work very hard. I mean you went to school for fifteen hours a day to finish your high school, from seven in the morning to three...

- Respondent:** I agree.
- Interviewer:** ...to ten.
- Respondent:** You have to understand that was my first time I experienced the joy of scholarship. [Laughs] I'm telling you right now. I really [1:01:00] – what the hell I was doing.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** I never enjoyed it before.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** Anyhow, that was it. That's what's happened. So when you asked me, "How did you get into medicine?" [Laughs] It was like an accident. I mean, my friend Benny Sniderman came by and said, "I'll walk you to the office." If he hadn't done that, I might not be sitting here with you, and that's the truth.
- Interviewer:** Well I'm not sure whether you'd be sitting here with me, but you wouldn't be a Doctor Joe Greenberg.
- Respondent:** Exactly. So.
- Interviewer:** [1:01:30] You're such a beloved doctor.
- Respondent:** And besides, I'm enjoying your company, so [laughter] don't knock yourself. [Laughter] I'll tell you. Isn't that something?
- Interviewer:** When – the years that you lived in this neighbourhood with your family...
- Respondent:** Exactly. And I'll tell you something.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** That's been the most important part of my career as a physician, I can tell you that right now. I learned to be a doctor because I grew

up on Major Street, and I can understand – I instinctively knew what was the [1:02:00] deal with these. There was no question about it. And you know? That's true. If I hadn't grown up on Major Street, I wouldn't be as adept at the practice as I am. One thousand percent.

**Interviewer:** So there was some kind of way of relating to people that happened in this neighbourhood.

**Respondent:** Oh, are you kidding? A hundred percent. Of course.

**Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah. How would you describe the neighbourhood as it was ninety years ago? Sixty years ago?

**Respondent:** Well no. I wouldn't...

**Interviewer:** Forty years ago. You've been here for decades.

**Respondent:** No. [1:02:30] It was like wall-to-wall Jewish practically.

**Interviewer:** Mm-hm. Mm-hm.

**Respondent:** And if I tell you, I could go in – today, go up and down Major Street, and I'll tell you exactly who every person that lived in every house. That's the way it was. I don't know how to explain it otherwise. Just – and my – they were all Jewish friends, and we used to play in the streets, and you know?

**Interviewer:** What did you play in the streets?

**Respondent:** Oh, we used to play – we used to have an old football, and [1:03:00] you know, baseball. We used to go to the – we used to go to the Lansdowne school playground, you know?

**Interviewer:** Yeah.

**Respondent:** And so I don't know what to say. Just – and all the instructors were Jewish. All the...

**Interviewer:** The teachers at the time?

- Respondent:** At the playgrounds, absolutely. At Lansdowne, at William Houston, and they are all very competitive with each other too, you know? Oh. [Laughs] It was [1:03:30] unbelievable.
- Interviewer:** The teachers were competitive, or the children?
- Respondent:** No, the playground supervisors.
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh.
- Respondent:** My god, were they ever competitive. Oh my god. You know, when it came to the finals, they would get a bunch of – they would get ringers, you know? Because it's a hundred-pound playground, and they would get other guys to stand in, you know, and it got so bad that the superintendant [laughs] of the playgrounds had to come down. He weighed everybody himself. [Laughs] [1:04:00] It's true. I'm telling you. It's very true. Anyhow.
- Interviewer:** Can you talk to me – now you lived on Major between College and Harbord.
- Respondent:** Between Ulster and Harbord.
- Interviewer:** Between Ulster and – okay.
- Respondent:** This is Ulster Street right here.
- Interviewer:** Okay.
- Respondent:** Or you can say between College and Harbord, if you like. There's no problem.
- Interviewer:** Okay. What was happening commercially in that neighbourhood? What were the stores?
- Respondent:** All we had was from Major Street, [1:04:30] we had two grocery stores. We had Mr. Haber and he was a Galitzianer. I don't hold that against him. He was the kindest person. And then we had another one across the street. Just the name just escapes me.

- Interviewer:** These were corner stores?
- Respondent:** Yeah. Pretty much.
- Interviewer:** And did your family do the shopping there?
- Respondent:** Oh yeah.
- Interviewer:** Kensington Market? What about Kensington?
- Respondent:** Oh no. They didn't go to Kensington very much. **[1:05:00]** Mind you, that's not a bad suggestion because my father, I told you, he was an intellectual and the kindest guy. Like he had a shlacht-haus. He had a slaughterhouse on the lane.
- Interviewer:** Your father had a slaughterhouse?
- Respondent:** Yeah.
- Interviewer:** Where?
- Respondent:** It was in a lane between Nassau and Oxford.
- Interviewer:** So it was south of us, closer to the Toronto Western Hospital.
- Respondent:** Oh yeah. For sure.
- Interviewer:** **[1:05:30]** So that was his business.
- Respondent:** Well, that was his – forced into it. Something he never, ever anticipated that he would do. He was – my sister, Rose, she used to write letters to the editor. They were so evocative, it would take your skin off, and she was very – she was a very strong supporter of justice in some way, you know? Unbelievable. And anyhow, **[1:06:00]** she arranged for my father to be taken into the **[indiscernible 1:06:05]** and whatnot, and she came back from Palestine to do that too. And...
- Interviewer:** So she made **[indiscernible 1:06:11]**. Did she live in Israel?

- Respondent:** She wanted – my sister, Dorothy, for sure lived there, and my sister, Rose, worked there for a very prestigious law firm. She never went to high school. She [1:06:30] never – she learned shorthand on her own, you know?
- Interviewer:** Mm-hm.
- Respondent:** She was amazing. Amazing woman. I wish I could – see, what I'm trying to do is trying to gather everything up, and that would include some of the letters that my sister wrote. You would be absolutely amazed at her command of English and her thoughts. Unbelievable. And...
- Interviewer:** Now you say [1:07:00] that you were very strongly influenced by the feeling that you had on Major Street in terms of...
- Respondent:** Oh. Unbelievable.
- Interviewer:** ...the neighbours, and the neighbourhood, and the closeness.
- Respondent:** Absolutely. Listen, you could take the boy out of Major Street, but you couldn't take...
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** ...could never take [laughs] Major Street out of the boy, that's the truth.
- Interviewer:** But it had such an influence that it made you the fine doctor that you had been for so many years...
- Respondent:** Oh, a hundred percent. I could never be this doctor that I am today without having lived on Major Street. Never, never, never.
- Interviewer:** Yeah. But also you [1:07:30] chose to raise your family in this exact same neighbourhood just a few blocks away.
- Respondent:** Oh. Let me tell you something else. In the article that was in the – this article that's in the Canadian Jewish News. Hang on. I'll let you read it. You want to see what I looked like at eighteen years old?

- Interviewer:** Sure.
- Respondent:** [Laughs] Would you go out with him?
- Interviewer:** Oh. Oh. Oh my god. Yeah. I'd run after him for sure. [Laughter] You were eighteen, [1:08:00] and that's when – oh, beautiful. Woo.
- Respondent:** [Laughs] I even marvelize myself. "Who is that?" You know?
- Interviewer:** So that was in the Canadian Jewish News in 2012, I see.
- Respondent:** Yeah, yeah. So what happened here is that my daughter wrote here, just read this paragraph just for this. Hang on.
- Interviewer:** "Greenberg's daughter, Sarah, told [1:08:30] the Canadian Jewish News."
- Respondent:** Hello? Tasha was saying – he lived on Lippincott Street, and he owed my mother two bucks. Can you imagine how many [indiscernible 1:08:46] that is?
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** And when she went to see him to collect, he stood there and he was [indiscernible 1:08:53]. And he kept doubling [indiscernible 1:08:55] for like a couple of hours, so my mother figured, "What the hell?" [1:09:00] [Laughs] She finally – can you imagine being that insulted?
- Interviewer:** So your mother was working with your father?
- Respondent:** Oh well, yeah. For just...
- Interviewer:** Collection.
- Respondent:** Yeah.
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh. So he was a shoichet.

- Respondent:** Yeah.
- Interviewer:** And your mother helped collect whatever was owed to them.
- Respondent:** Well she did – yeah, well not really. Well some – I'm just giving you the one instance where this fellow actually owed her the money and just wouldn't pay, you know?
- Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah.
- Respondent:** Can you imagine? [1:09:30] It wasn't easy. Anyhow. That was one of my Italian patients. And he wants a letter so he can send his son to – he's going to Columbia University. I don't know how the hell he can afford it. And...
- Interviewer:** Oh, so he wants you to write the letter.
- Respondent:** Oh, absolutely. I will write it. I have to say that this – I delivered this kid, [1:10:00] and he had chicken pox, and it was clearly chicken pox because his sister got it too, so.
- Interviewer:** Right. But then, Joe, you chose to raise your family in this neighbourhood.
- Respondent:** Absolutely. Absolutely.
- Interviewer:** But the neighbourhood changed by that time, I think.
- Respondent:** Oh yeah. For sure.
- Interviewer:** In what ways?
- Respondent:** All the Jews moved north. Take a look what's happening up north in Richmond Hill.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** I mean it's incredible. They've all moved. [1:10:30] And...

**Interviewer:** But you knew that this was where you wanted to have your practice and raise your family.

**Respondent:** I couldn't care less. No. I want to tell you that in response to what my daughter asks people to write, there was a letter from a Somali girl. Right? Whether she – how she got to read this thing, I don't know. And she also – she wrote that she got after me to – she used to say to me, "Listen, you can afford it. A better place [1:11:00] to live. Why haven't you done that?" So I said to her, "Edie, it's not the castles, but it's the princes that dwell within," and that's the way I feel about it. Who gives a shit about the houses? It's the people who live there. And I told her that, and she wrote this letter. She wrote, she said, "I remember you telling me that."

**Interviewer:** So it's not the houses, it's the people in the houses.

**Respondent:** Absolutely. [1:11:30] I said, "It's not the castles, but it's the princes that dwell within."

**Interviewer:** Uh-huh. Uh-huh. So you felt that this location, the people in this house, the people in this neighbourhood made it worthwhile. You wanted this for...

**Respondent:** For sure, but it's changed remarkably since, you know? But who cares?

**Interviewer:** And when you raised your children here, what schools did they go to?

**Respondent:** That's another thing. I wanted my kids to go to parochial school, always, and because I wanted them to [1:12:00] feel secure in their religion. I really did. And that was very important to me. And...

**Interviewer:** You sent them to Hebrew day schools.

**Respondent:** Always. The kids all went to the Beth Tzedec...

**Interviewer:** Uh-huh.

- Respondent:** ...and my daughter, Sarah, and David spent a year in Israel working on the kibbutz. Oh no, that was...
- Interviewer:** So their Jewish roots were important...
- Respondent:** Are you kidding?
- Interviewer:** ...for you to make sure that the faith...
- Respondent:** Well – yeah. Well, when [1:12:30] they're speaking, you can never – you could never tell them from a...
- Interviewer:** A [indiscernible 1:12:35].
- Respondent:** No. never. They are – and they have such a love for Israel. You can't believe it.
- Interviewer:** And you wanted them to have that.
- Respondent:** Oh, of course.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** And now she's leading another mission. She's led a few missions.
- Interviewer:** That's your daughter.
- Respondent:** Yeah. And she's leading another one towards the end of this year. And her husband, Ian, he [1:13:00] enters a bicycle contest. They ride from, I don't know...
- Interviewer:** I know that there's a long ride that – I know Rabbi Ed from the Narayever has done it, I think.
- Respondent:** Yeah?
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** Yeah.

- Interviewer:** So your son-in-law does that.
- Respondent:** Yeah. For sure.
- Interviewer:** Yeah. But it was important for you to have your children love Israel and be educated in...
- Respondent:** Oh absolutely.
- Interviewer:** A good Hebrew education.
- Respondent:** Absolutely. That's what I wanted.
- Interviewer:** So you lived here, [1:13:30] but you wanted them to have that education.
- Respondent:** Yeah. I wanted them to be secure in their religion and their feelings towards Israel. Absolutely.
- Interviewer:** Could you talk to me for a few minutes, please, about the shul that we all know as the Joe Greenberg's shul, and it's the Shaarei Tzedec. Right? Is the name.
- Respondent:** Exactly.
- Interviewer:** How did that come about?
- Respondent:** Well, it's been our shul. Like I used to go to the shul with my father when I was three [1:14:00] years old. We used to walk to the shuls on Centre Avenue, and the [indiscernible 1:14:05] shul, which is the Adath Israel, was across the street, you know?
- Interviewer:** Now where is that? Centre Avenue.
- Respondent:** Centre Avenue?
- Interviewer:** Because now people think of Centre Avenue up in Thornhill, so.
- Respondent:** Good for you, and that's where they have that delicatessen.

- Interviewer:** Right. Yeah, yeah. So where is the Centre Avenue shul that you described?
- Respondent:** Right. It runs parallel to University.
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh.
- Respondent:** It's one block [1:14:30], one block east of University.
- Interviewer:** Yes.
- Respondent:** And it runs – at one time, it used to run north from there to the Toronto General Hospital, but they built in between.
- Interviewer:** So that means it was north of Dundas.
- Respondent:** No.
- Interviewer:** No?
- Respondent:** It was south of Dundas.
- Interviewer:** Okay.
- Respondent:** But it did – the street crossed Dundas and [1:15:00] the rest of it could run up to Toronto General.
- Interviewer:** Mm-hm. Mm-hm.
- Respondent:** You know, when I was going to shul, we used to have a lot of fun. We used to – you know, when they were – we used to raffle off the [indiscernible 1:15:12], you know?
- Interviewer:** Mm-hm.
- Respondent:** And boy, that was really something. Now these guys were sort of, you know, trying to match each other, and they were saying that – don't go away.

- Interviewer:** [1:15:30] So they would raffle off the [indiscernible 1:15:31] and people competed against each other.
- Respondent:** Are you kidding?
- Interviewer:** So it was a real fundraiser.
- Respondent:** Are you kidding? They had a – what do you call it? They had an auctioneer. I mean the real – I'll tell you something, it was such fun to – [indiscernible 1:15:43]. That's when, you know, that's when they...
- Interviewer:** So in shul on shabbos they did that?
- Respondent:** Absolutely, and just for – it was for the [indiscernible 1:15:56] mostly.
- Interviewer:** Yeah. Uh-huh.
- Respondent:** But it was really [1:16:00] – oh god, we used to – and we used to think, "This guy's bidding twenty-five dollars."
- Interviewer:** Wow.
- Respondent:** Thirty bucks. Holy mackerel.
- Interviewer:** That's a month's salary.
- Respondent:** Oh, are you kidding? A month's salary? That's incredible. And so it was a lot of fun for the kids.
- Interviewer:** So you went to shul, at the Centre Street shul as a child.
- Respondent:** Yeah. For sure.
- Interviewer:** Okay. So shul was part of your life.
- Respondent:** Oh yeah. I guess. I don't know.
- Interviewer:** But then years later, you – the Shaarei Tzedec is your baby.

- Respondent:** It's true.
- Interviewer:** And you [1:16:30] kept it alive when the population moved.
- Respondent:** No question about it, because I couldn't – I had a great love for these old-timers, and they said for the old times – that's not true. It's for the old-timers.
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh.
- Respondent:** And I just wanted the shul to remain in perpetuity.
- Interviewer:** Okay. So that's on the corner of Markham and Ulster.
- Respondent:** Yeah. It's over here.
- Interviewer:** That was a shul that existed and then you became a member? [1:17:00] What happened with that?
- Respondent:** What I remember is – well, I guess we do have memories. Let me explain something to you. In truth, there are maybe three or four percent are the activists that keep the place going.
- Interviewer:** But you're the one who kept it going lately.
- Respondent:** Oh yeah. For sure. I agree with that.
- Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah.
- Respondent:** Nobody says no. There are many nights I used to lose sleep. [Laughs] Wondering, you know, I just wanted to make sure that they – you know? We had some fun [1:17:30] in a sense. We were painting the shul, right? So we had a painter, and we had – of course, we had – at night we'd paint. So we're painting it blue. So we had this Polish painter, so we paint one wall and we just look at it. "No, that's not it." Go...
- Interviewer:** Oh my god.

**Respondent:** Finally, he got the right colour and painted the rest of the shul. And also what I'm going to do now, we – [1:18:00] I'm a bit of a mess in the sense that our sacred Torahs are well over a hundred years old, and so by this time, you know, you can hardly read the [indiscernible 1:18:10]. You just – it's amazing.

**Interviewer:** Mm-hm.

**Respondent:** And so I ordered another one from a Sofer who's writing right here in Toronto, and it's for thirty thousand bucks, which is way – we don't have any dues, so to speak. We get our money sort of [1:18:30] [indiscernible 1:18:30], like...

**Interviewer:** So people pay to go to shul for Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur.

**Respondent:** Oh, our tickets are fifty cents each, which is incredible.

**Interviewer:** I know. It's nothing.

**Respondent:** Yeah. Well we do that because we don't want our tickets to be a means test.

**Interviewer:** Mm-hm.

**Respondent:** And...

**Interviewer:** But you have these expenses. You're still keeping the building afloat.

**Respondent:** Yeah. But you know, the highest-paid employee in our shul is the cleaning woman.

**Interviewer:** Uh-huh.

**Respondent:** [1:19:00] [Laughs] And that's the truth.

**Interviewer:** Yeah. But please tell me, at what point did you become active there, and become determined that this is going to be a valuable shul, and it's going to be one that's going to last?

- Respondent:** Yeah. I don't know. Quite a while, I guess.
- Interviewer:** Well I know that my middle son, who's forty-four, had his bar mitzvah there.
- Respondent:** Isn't that – oh, is that the one that...
- Interviewer:** Misha. Misha Levine.
- Respondent:** He's forty-four now?
- Interviewer:** He's forty-four now. He had his bar mitzvah...
- Respondent:** It was that long ago?
- Interviewer:** And he wasn't – and it wasn't a new [1:19:30] shul at the time.
- Respondent:** No, it's not that. It's just that...
- Interviewer:** It was beautiful and wonderful.
- Respondent:** You know, I've had that happen a few times. Abe Rotstein who's...
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh. I know Abe.
- Respondent:** Yeah.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** Okay? And his – and the shul his son was going to, and he was singing in the choir. I think it was the – what's the name of the one on...
- Interviewer:** [1:20:00] On Brunswick?
- Respondent:** No. It's up north.
- Interviewer:** Oh. I don't know. There are lots of shuls up there.

- Respondent:** Well it's one of the Orthodox shuls. No, it's a pretty big shul. Jesus Christ. What's the matter with me? See, if I have to think of something quickly, but it...
- Interviewer:** Shaarei Shomayim?
- Respondent:** That's it.
- Interviewer:** Shaarei Shomayim.
- Respondent:** It should always come to me.
- Interviewer:** Okay.
- Respondent:** And so they refused to have his [1:20:30] bar mitzvah at that shul. Why? Because Abe Rotstein, his wife, was converted by...
- Interviewer:** Not an Orthodox conversion, I guess.
- Respondent:** Exactly. Who are the next step down Orthodox?
- Interviewer:** Conservative.
- Respondent:** Conservative. Right. And they wanted her to be reconverted, so to speak.
- Interviewer:** Oh.
- Respondent:** And he said, "How the hell can I ask my wife to do that?" So he came to our shul and I said, "Listen, we couldn't care less. Just bring your kid. [1:21:00] We'd be more than happy to have him." I mean that's so stupid. This kid was in the choir, he sang there for, I don't know, five, six, seven years, and all of a sudden when he came – they would be – turn him down. I thought that was horrible. Absolutely horrible.
- Interviewer:** I agree. Yeah.
- Respondent:** And see, our shul is special in its respect. There's a certain generosity and sweetness in our shul that you wouldn't find

anywhere. If you want to doven, [1:21:30] fine. Go off and doven. We don't care. I'm serious about that. What's the big deal?

**Interviewer:** But you gave so much because as the Jewish population moved north...

**Respondent:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** ...and we know that it did, you were determined to keep those doors open...

**Respondent:** Oh, a hundred percent.

**Interviewer:** ...while it became more and more quiet there.

**Respondent:** Absolutely. And you know something?

**Interviewer:** And it's alive and well again.

**Respondent:** Yeah. They're – people are moving downtown again, and that's true. And we have a meeting where [1:22:00] other shuls don't. So.

**Interviewer:** And do you get there sometimes?

**Respondent:** I'm there – I'm not as active as I was because with all this business of – when my – this is interesting – say, my son, David, is on the [indiscernible 1:22:14] at the temple. No. What's the temple?

**Interviewer:** Temple Sinai?

**Respondent:** No.

**Interviewer:** I don't know the temple.

**Respondent:** Would be the Holy Blossom.

**Interviewer:** Oh. Uh-huh.

**Respondent:** Right? And I don't mind that at all. [1:22:30] And his wife belongs there, and they – every year it becomes more and more traditional.

**Interviewer:** Yeah.

**Respondent:** A hundred percent. When I first went there and they had the organ and the goyishe choir [laughter], where am I? [Laughter] And that's the truth. And now if you go there, it's different. It's altogether different. And...

**Interviewer:** So it's moving more to the centre.

**Respondent:** I don't particularly care for the Reform Seder [1:23:00] because they chop it up into so many pieces, you know? But the one from the Beth Tzedec where my son-in-law, Sarah's husband, goes, he changed because he loved that shul and just felt – is it Spiro or Spiro or something?

**Interviewer:** Yeah, I think so.

**Respondent:** And he had a marvellous voice and it was just great. He said he really enjoyed it. And so you know, I like their Seder because...

**Interviewer:** [1:23:30] At the Beth Tzedec you mean?

**Respondent:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** Uh-huh.

**Respondent:** Absolutely. Because it's – what would you call it? What kind of shul would you call it?

**Interviewer:** It's conservative.

**Respondent:** Yeah. That's fine. They don't chop it up so much that it's not even recognizable, you know? So he goes there. He – actually, he switched from the Shaarei Shomayim to this shul, which is...

**Interviewer:** So you have your daughter and son-in-law at Beth Tzedec.

**Respondent:** Yeah.

- Interviewer:** And your son and daughter-in-law [1:24:00] at the Holy Blossom.  
[Laughs]
- Respondent:** Oh yeah. For sure.
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh.
- Respondent:** For sure. And I don't mind at all.
- Interviewer:** Yeah. Yeah.
- Respondent:** And it's because as years have gone by, for certain, there's been a definite trend to traditions at the...
- Interviewer:** The Holy Blossom.
- Respondent:** Absolutely.
- Interviewer:** Yeah. Yeah.
- Respondent:** Absolutely.
- Interviewer:** Well, it's certainly – there are a lot of us – I mean I don't go to the Shaarei Tzedec, but I'm very grateful for what you've done.
- Respondent:** Oh.
- Interviewer:** And as I said, my son had his bar mitzvah there, and it's a beautiful, wonderful place.
- Respondent:** [1:24:30] I was so happy for, you know, somebody to come and ask him. Are you crazy? Of course. Let that kid in, you know?
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** What the hell are we talking about here, you know? Jeez, I just...
- Interviewer:** Well...
- Respondent:** ...thought to myself, "Are these people crazy?"

- Interviewer:** Yeah. Narrow. Very narrow.
- Respondent:** Oh, I don't know what the hell it is.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** It's ego too.
- Interviewer:** Do you – so in your medical life...
- Respondent:** Yeah.
- Interviewer:** ...you've made a major contribution.
- Respondent:** I'm not sure about that. Everybody seems to think so.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** It bothers the hell out of me. [1:25:00] Like they come to my son David now, and they said, "You know, he's a very good doctor, but he ain't Joe Greenberg."
- Interviewer:** Oh.
- Respondent:** And I hate to hear that, but that's what happens.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** And I hear that time, and time, and time again, so what the hell? And also, I think there's a bit of a – what's that Freudian expression? Can't think – what's the matter of me? If I have to think of something quickly, I'm in trouble.
- Interviewer:** [1:25:30] Oedipal?
- Respondent:** Oedipus complex. Exactly. [Laughter] There is. It exists, and I feel bad about it, but I can't do a thing about it. I just – obviously he has his own ambitions, and...

- Interviewer:** Well he's following your footsteps. I mean he's...
- Respondent:** Well...
- Interviewer:** ...a family – he's got three children, I think, and...
- Respondent:** Oh yeah.
- Interviewer:** ...he's practicing medicine.
- Respondent:** And they're good kids. His wife's a lovely person.
- Interviewer:** Yes.
- Respondent:** And she belonged to – her father wasn't much of a Jew in the sense we talk about, [1:26:00] you know? Like when his grandson had...
- Interviewer:** I knew Gerry.
- Respondent:** ...to be circumcised, so I went there and I took my – I took a tallit and I took a kippah, and I gave it to him and I could see that he wasn't too happy, but he accepted it, you know?
- Interviewer:** But that's – it is a Jewish family, despite that her father was uncomfortable with it.
- Respondent:** Absolutely.
- Interviewer:** But that young family is a Jewish family.
- Respondent:** Absolutely.
- Interviewer:** And it means [1:26:30] a lot to you obviously.
- Respondent:** And my son's wife is awesome. She's an extraordinary, extraordinary person, I must tell you.
- Interviewer:** Maggie, is that her name?

- Respondent:** What?
- Interviewer:** Is that Maggie?
- Respondent:** Margot.
- Interviewer:** Margot. Margot.
- Respondent:** M-A-R-G-O-T.
- Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah.
- Respondent:** So. [Laughs]
- Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah, yeah.
- Respondent:** Oh my god. And her mother, it's unbelievable. She's the nicest. She's a Montrealer.
- Interviewer:** Yes. Oh, oh, I know her because she's Mimi Hollenberg's cousin.
- Respondent:** Yeah. Klein.
- Interviewer:** Yeah. Yeah. Lowie.
- Respondent:** [1:27:00] Yeah. Is she ever – she's very special.
- Interviewer:** Well you know, I think I've used plenty of your time.
- Respondent:** Oh, frankly I don't give a shit. This girl that's going away – that's what I want to do is to dictate a letter to her, but she's gone, so that...
- Interviewer:** Well, Doctor Joe Greenberg.
- Respondent:** Yes?
- Interviewer:** I really appreciate that you...
- Respondent:** Oh, please.

- Interviewer:** I mean I hounded you, and I haunted you, and I begged, and I pleaded...
- Respondent:** I know.
- Interviewer:** ...and you finally let me come.
- Respondent:** No, it was...
- Interviewer:** Thank you.
- Respondent:** I said you seduced me. What else can I [1:27:30] do? [Laughter]
- Interviewer:** Well, Joe, thank you very, very much.
- Respondent:** Oh, please. Don't be like that.
- Interviewer:** It's been a pleasure.
- Respondent:** Honest to god. [Indiscernible 1:27:35]. I swear to you, I'm happy to – if you're happy – I don't know what to say. I just – I've got a million articles, a million pictures, so what the hell good is it?
- Interviewer:** Okay. Well we can talk. I'm going to turn this off and we can talk about pictures, but Joe Greenberg, thank you very much.
- Respondent:** Oh, please. Corner of Ulster and Major...
- Interviewer:** [1:28:00] Uh-huh. Mrs. Schulman, yeah.
- Respondent:** So, I used to clean her sidewalk. But this one time, it wasn't snow; it was pure ice. So I had to get a chopper. It took me about four hours.
- Interviewer:** Oh my god.
- Respondent:** And she gave me three cents. [Laughs]
- Interviewer:** Whoa. She wasn't one of the more generous...

**Respondent:** No, it's not that she wasn't generous. That was what people paid those days. [Laughs]

**Interviewer:** But what you're saying is you have a lot of stories.

**Respondent:** Oh, do I ever. I mean, [1:28:30] you know.

**Interviewer:** I just want to say if ever you want to talk to me again, I would be delighted to come because we...

**Respondent:** You know, I'm having problems with this business. Like, when I was younger, and if I knew I left something for the future, you know, there was a future. But when you're ninety-one, and...

**Interviewer:** Yeah.

**Respondent:** ...you know, it's not the same.

**Interviewer:** It's different.

**Respondent:** And that's sort of bothered me a little bit, you know?

**Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah.

**Respondent:** My brother, Dave, is bothered by the image of being [1:29:00] placed in the ground, and the worms crawling over him, you know? I don't have those kind of images. And I want you to know my brother, Dave, is a very intelligent guy. A highly-respected person, I'll tell you, and...

[1:29:13]

[End of recording]