

**Trudy Schwarzberg Packard**  
**July 24, 2005**

**Interviewed by Sharon Fahrner and Jan Schochet**

Sharon Fahrner: Okay, please start with your name and your birthdate and where you were born.

Gertrude Eugenia Schwarzberg: My given name is Gertrude Eugenia Schwarzberg, and I am now Trudy Packard. I have cut the Gertrude short. I live at 3512 Winbuck Drive, Charlotte, North Carolina. 28277.

Sharon: And where were you born?

Trudy: I was born in Asheville, North Carolina, November 27 - should have been Thanksgiving that day - 1920, at the Merriweather Hospital, which doesn't exist any more.

Sharon: Where was it – the Merriweather Hospital?

Trudy: The Merriweather Hospital I think was pretty far down on Patton Avenue. I am not sure of the location.

Sharon: Do you remember who the doctor was who delivered you, or anything like that?

Trudy: I don't. But I know he delivered my three older brothers. I think his name was Dr. Glenn. I am pretty sure that was his name.

Sharon: And how did your family come to Asheville? Where were they from?

Trudy: Well, my mother's family was from Lithuania. And her - all of her brothers, and her father, came to Asheville. I do not know how they ended up there; it's an enigma - we don't know. I guess that's where the train stopped, and they all got off. But at any rate, that's where my mother was from.

Jan Schochet: And who were they?

Trudy: They - their name was Michalove - S. H. Michalove, Isaac Michalove, Abraham Michalove, Louis Michalove, and Michalove Schwarzberg. And then I had two aunts who came – well they also started in Asheville. Then on my father's side-

Sharon: Wait. Do you – what were your Aunt's names? Do you remember?

Trudy: Yeah. Aunt Sarah.

Sharon: And was she a Michalove?

Trudy: She was a Michalove; Aunt Sarah and Aunt Ella. E-I-I-a. And they both married and moved away from Asheville. But my mother married Isaac William Schwarzberg, and she remained in Asheville.

Jan: You just said Michalove Schwarzberg - was there someone whose name was Michalove Schwarzberg?

Trudy: No. My mother was Ann Michalove. And she married Isaac Schwarzberg. Is that okay?

Sharon: Yeah. So your mother's family came from – and where did you say it was in Lithuania – you didn't say-?

Trudy: I think it was called Shavel. But I am not sure. Is that right?

Jan: Yeah.

Trudy: You just said it in the other room and I picked it up.

Sharon: So how old was your mother when she came to Asheville?

Trudy: Fourteen. And I still own the brass candlesticks that she brought over when she came. And I use them on Sabbaths, when I light the candles.

Sharon: Do you know—I assume she came by a ship?

Trudy: Yes, she came by a ship.

Sharon: Do you know where the ship went to? Did she come to New York or-?

Trudy: Oh, she came to New York. Oh - and a very interestingly enough, she saw someone - a woman giving her child a banana, and she was very intrigued with this peeling of it. And she was young, and she kept watching; and the lady offered her a banana. And that is a story that I grew up with - the story of "the banana." I don't know how, how they met her - she lived with Uncle S. H. Michalove, when she came. And they lived on Montford Avenue. I cant think of - I don't know the number, but it is not very far down, not as far as we live, probably.

Sharon: So did your mother and your grandmother live with their whole family and their relatives in the same house?

Trudy: My mother came from - her mother had passed away in Lithuania. My mother came alone. And she was the last one of the Michaelove's to be there. She stayed with her mother. And all the other brothers had settled in Asheville. And they sent for her, and that's where she settled.

Sharon: Okay, so she lived with her brother, or her father?

Trudy: No, no. Well, I really don't know at the beginning, but she did live with her brother S. H. Michalove. And she was married in his home; and she learned English when she came; and she worked in his store when she came, the IXL Store. Which has quite a history.

Sharon: But I have a question first. Did her father come to Asheville too?

Trudy: Her father was in Asheville too.

Sharon: What was his name?

Trudy: William - that's why there are so many - there are four William Michaelove's. William. I don't know the middle name. I really don't know the middle name.

Sharon: I guess what my question was - she was living with her brother and not her father?

Trudy: I think her father was living with Uncle S. H. too at the time. His wife, you know, was in Europe. And mother lived with him until she married.

Sharon: And now, your father's family. Where did they come from?

Trudy: I have to be perfectly honest with you. I am not sure, but probably the German-Polish border. I am not sure. Whatever I tell you, would have to be authenticated. But it is a German name—whenever I say I don't know, everybody says "Well, it's a German name." And it is. It means "black mountain," and my father use to say that it was named for us - Black Mountain. But I don't know; I can't give you a city or - but I think maybe the border.

Sharon: But now your father's family was also settled in Asheville?

Trudy: Yeah, and I don't know the year they settled, but I think it was before – I think before the Michaeloves.

Jan: Now do we know what year the Michaeloves came to Asheville?

Trudy: Uncle S.H. Michalove?

Jan: No, or, Bill, like his father, all the Michaloves.

Trudy: I know they are all related.

Jan: You don't know?

Trudy: But I just simply don't know all those dates. The Schwarzberg's might have been there first. I mean judging - using judgment I think - by the stones – the headstones, I would think they came earlier than the Michaelove's.

Jan: Actually, maybe you can- if you will, look at that information off the headstones.

Sharon: So you said that your friend went to the cemetery and researched?

Trudy: Well, Walter Kline, who is an historian, as a hobby - but he has been all over Europe, finding grave sites of his ancestors. He is so interested in genealogy. This one gravestone is a Schwarzberg.

Sharon: What's the first name?

Trudy: This was Moses.

Sharon: I am sorry. Say that one more time again.

Trudy: Moses. M-o-s-s-e-s. And he was born in 1855, and died in 1918. And then there is Hebrew under here.

Sharon: And who do you think he was? Do you think he was your grandfather?

Trudy: Could have been. And John keeps - my nephew John keeps asking me questions. And my three brothers are gone, and I can't answer his questions. You know, I can say "I think." And it's terrible, it's terrible – but you know all your background, don't you?

Jan: A lot. Not all.

Trudy: You know a lot more than I. And then Hannah Schwarzberg, she was born in 19 -1854 and died in 1928.

Sharon: So she might have been his wife?

Trudy: I think so, yes. Yes, I think their markers are together. These were taken (photographs) and given to me. I did not see these.

Sharon: But we might be able to-

Trudy: I've never been to Riverside Cemetery.

Sharon: We might be able to look at a census, and find them.

Jan: Yeah, we can find all that information from city directories. If you just want to sit them down there, then they will be out of your way.

Sharon: So, do you know what business your grandparents were in?

Trudy: Menswear.

Sharon: Well, which ones. You'll have to tell us Michalove or Schwarzberg.

Trudy: Oh, this Schwarzberg.

Sharon: And which Schwarzberg.

Trudy: I'll talk about Schwarzberg now. My mother didn't work; so the Michaela's were in all different businesses. And I mean you know, they probably had shops. You know, apparel shops. Uncle S. H. - this is a very interesting story - you know, when they first came to Asheville, they didn't just have a store. I don't know that you know this or not: But they use to, like in that book, they use to peddle - they use to go on the road, and sell their wares to people on the farms and in the country. And when Uncle S.H. went out, he had a few cups and saucers and things, just odd things - this is authentic, I mean this is a story I've heard my whole - that he put on the wagon, and these ladies on the farm or wherever places where he visited, they went for all these dishes and all these things. And they didn't go for the apparel, because there were so many of them traveling with it, that he thought, you know, this would be a good field maybe. So he would get more and more - I don't know where he imported it from - probably Baltimore - like everything came from Baltimore at that time. And he would do that. And finally, he ended up opening up a little store in Asheville, and then a bigger store, and then a bigger store. And it became, really, really a showplace in Asheville. And then finally - I saw it in its final stages - it was a big store. And on the first floor, he had magnificent silver and china and crystal - the very finest there was. Meissan and you know, all the wonderful names. And on the second floor, he had hotel-ware. And his son, William Michalove, was in business with him, when he came of age. They had all sorts of restaurant supplies in that hotel area. And on the third floor, they had what they called

“the house of tomorrow.” Uncle S. H.’s oldest son, Dan Michalove, who was in the film industry - he was I think vice-president of Warner Brothers - do you know this?

Jan: But I know someone my age named Danny Michalove, and he is probably named after him.

Trudy: Really? Well, he became quite – when he came – he was about 14 years old when my mother – no he was just a little boy when my mother came, and my mother was married at 18, so he grew up a little bit - they were very close. But at any rate, he went to high school in Asheville; and then he became interested in the movie industry. I think he use to usher at the Imperial Theater, or a smaller theater than that. And he became very friendly with the manager, and then the district manager and so on; and finally, they asked him if he would go to Atlanta - I am giving you the Michalove part, which I don’t know if you want or not.

Sharon: That’s fine, keep going.

Trudy: And he went to Atlanta and he went up in the ranks, and finally he bought the – this is interesting - Atlanta baseball team. At one time, he owned the Atlanta baseball team; and he was a friend of Bobby Jones - the old golfer. He is renowned. Then he went to Hollywood, and he was with MGM. You will have to find out from his family which theater - movie he was with, ‘cause he was with a couple of them. And then he went to Australia, as an executive with one of the big movie companies. I can’t tell you whether it was Warner Brothers, MGM or what it is. Maybe you could authenticate that. And he had Dan – and he married a woman from Atlanta. And they had two children: Lela and their son Edwin. Edwin is still living. He lives in California – I don’t know - southern California – I haven’t seen - he came to our family reunion in Asheville about 12 or 13 years ago, and that is the last time I saw him. Lela married a boy from Charlotte, by the name of Paliare; and she passed away at an early age. Dan was a wonderful, wonderful human being, and very good to the family. And the second one down, I think was

Sophie – Sophie Paylie. Do you remember them?

Jan: Uh-hmm.

Trudy: Married a man in New York by the name Paylie(?); and he was an attorney, and she lived I think on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue or Park Avenue - one of the fancy avenues. And she was really a very ultra-swish lady; I always loved it when she came down. They had no children, and you are going to know the rest of the family: Bertha Roth. Did you know a Paul Roth - did you know the name Roth?

Jan: Uh-huh. Yeah.

Trudy: They lived in Asheville, and then William – Bill. It was his son who was - wasn't he city mayor? I think he was city-

Jan: Ken.

Sharon: Ken.

Jan: Ken Michalove. He was the mayor-

Trudy: City Manager.

Jan: -and then the city manager, he was both.

Trudy: And then I think they had – I can't remember if they had a daughter too.

Jan: O yeah, they actually had two sons and a daughter, and the daughter passed away.

Trudy: The daughter was killed...

Sharon: Maxine.

Trudy: Yes, Maxine - I didn't want to say that - at St. Genevieve's Camp.

Sharon: So, could we just take a step back. What were the names of those stores that your grandfather had?

Trudy: The Gem Store.



Jan: No, the, the... um-

Sharon: The Michalove family.

Trudy: Well, that's not my grandfather, that's my uncle.

Sharon: Okay, so the Michalove family.

Trudy: IXL.

Sharon: And what always had the same name?

Trudy: IXL. And it was very interesting how that name came about. I always thought this was fun. He advertised for the best name, and he was giving away a set of dishes. He wanted a name for his store, when he finally went into business. And so this woman sent in the name I-X-L - those three letters, which means "excelling"; and he loved it. And she got her prize and he got the prize of the name. And the store - maybe if you speak to the grandson - maybe - he wouldn't remember though. He wouldn't remember that store.

Jan: Oh, yeah. I mean I remember the store. We have pictures of the store.

Trudy: But that was after Bill took it over. The original store was fantastic. This cousin Dan Michalove, who was with the movie industry, decided that on the top floor, he should have "the home of tomorrow," so he - your father would have remembered it. He had interior designers come down from New York - the only thing - and I got a job - I was about 15 or so, riding the elevators. And you know, Asheville didn't have a lot of interesting things going on at the time. And the people were thronging in there, you know, to see "the house of tomorrow;" and also it didn't hurt his business while they were there. They would pick up a pot or a pan or a set of dishes. But one thing that I remember is that they had all-black bathroom wear. I was so fascinated with the black sink and the black commode and the black tub. And later on they let me describe things as the people came in. I was a little young, but it was a fun summer.

Sharon: So it was only there temporarily?

Trudy: Yes, and I don't know that it lasted that long. Maybe a year or two years.

Jan: So sort of like a exhibit? It was an exhibit.

Trudy: It was really more of an exhibit, yeah. But it was a good - and then the warehouse was in the basement, where they stored their china. And I don't know where they kept the silver and the crystal. But I remember going down. So it was a big building. And that is why- That was Bill's store, that was further up. This was two doors from the S&W Cafeteria on Patton Avenue.

Jan: So where the bank is now.

Trudy: You wouldn't remember it at all.

Jan: No, because it was a bank by the time I grew up.

Trudy: Yeah. You ask. Maybe your mother would remember.

Sharon: So it faced Pritchard Park?

Jan: Yeah.

Sharon: It faced Pritchard Park? There was a park in the front of it.

Jan: Actually, that might have been the post office.

Trudy: I don't remember the park.

Sharon: No, they tore the post office down.

Trudy: My brother Milton had stores – my brother Milton had two stores in Asheville. One on Haywood Street, right next to Edward Girge shoe store, which is now a jewelry store, as you come off Patton Avenue around to Haywood Street.

Sharon: Uh-huh. What was the name of that?

Trudy: He had two stores. One was - he started out with Varsity Men's Shop. That was with Phyllis Gallenback's father. He was 19 years old, and that was on Broadway. Varsity Men's

Store. Then he called the other two - one on Patton Avenue and one on No. 5 Haywood Street - I think he called them Milton's. I think he did call them by his name. Or Varsity - either that, or Varsity Men's Shop.

Sharon: Were they all the same type of business? Men's clothing?

Trudy: All men's wear. He went ahead and got his law degree, and went back into the menswear business after he got his law degree.

Sharon: In Asheville?

Trudy: No, no, that's in Atlanta. He went to school in Atlanta. He went back to Embry and got the law degree. He practiced for a year, and you know, it was hard. And then he went into business, and he really, he really did well.

Jan: What was his business in Atlanta called?

Trudy: Menswear, its always menswear.

Jan: What was it called?

Trudy: Uh... In Atlanta. I guess Milton's. I'm not sure. It wasn't called Milton's. Now that escapes me, and that's just recent. But he designed - during the war, he was in England. And he was intrigued with the dike pants, so he designed - dax - they were called dax - you know, they hook on the side. Any gentleman - any clothier will know dax. And he was intrigued with them. They are very, very expensive in this country. So he had them designed in this country, and they called them dikes. And he was also sued by dax, for copying the pants.

Jan: But he was a lawyer, so he took care of that.

Trudy: That's right. But he was very, very successful, and he ended up with four stores in Atlanta, which is probably better than he would have done in the law field. But he passed away. He had one son.

Jan: Where his stores – did he have - was one of them like in Lennox Square? Or where were the stores?

Trudy: Well, see, this was right after the war. One of them was right across the street from the Charlotte – the Atlanta Journal. And a lot of the men would shop in there, and they would have coffee together. And then one was on Peachtree Street. Those streets downtown, you know, it has been-

Jan: Were they mostly all downtown?

Trudy: They were all downtown, and they were all men's stores. And he married Ruby, and they had this one son: Andrew.

Sharon: So can we go back again to the other side of the family? And your grandfather had a store, Schwarzberg had a store, in Asheville?

Trudy: Asheville? Oh yeah.

Sharon: What were his stores like?

Trudy: He had a store in Brookman and Brevard. What about his stores? They were men's stores.

Sharon: And what were they called?

Trudy: I think they were called the Gem Store. I don't know what's, I think-

Sharon: The picture that you showed us does say the Gem Store.

Trudy: I think that's probably what they were called, that's why-

Jan: So he had more than one.

Trudy: Well...

Jan: You just said he had one in Asheville and one in Brevard?

Trudy: Well, my father went into that. That was my father.

Jan: Oh, okay.

Trudy: I think that might have been my father's store, because I think somebody told me, when I was looking at the picture, that one of my brothers told me, that that was Jack Michalove. And I would love you to make a copy of that, to show it to Paul. That would be his father.

Jan: Okay. Paul...

Trudy: Paul Michalove, who is in Asheville.

Jan: His father is Jack? Okay.

Trudy: I think that was Jack when he was very, very young. And I think the other man's name was Millard, who was a necklier(?) of my mother's.

Sharon: So do you know when your grandfather might have started the store?

Trudy: Or my father? I don't.

Sharon: Well, your grandfather - your father was born in Asheville?

Trudy: Yes, I think that's right. And Aunt Sarah – Sarah Rosenfeld, was born in Asheville. I think so.

Jan: Who was Aunt Sarah? I mean who was she married to?

Trudy: Aunt Sarah was a Schwarzberg, she married a Rosenfeld and they moved to Richmond, Virginia.

Jan: She was a Schwarzberg?

Trudy: Uh-huh.

Jan: And there was your father, and what was his name?

Trudy: Isaac William.

Jan: And who else were his siblings?

Trudy: Did I give you Ann Schindbaum - Ann was the oldest sister, and she married somebody by the name of Abraham Schindbaum. They lived in Asheville for awhile, and then they moved to New York.

Sharon: He was the one in the liquor business? No.

Trudy: No, no. That's a completely different person. He manufactured children's coats. I just this minute thought about what he did. You know - you are stirring up a lot of memories. And I use to get a new coat every year. I remember - maybe not every year, but-

Jan: Probably.

Trudy: He manufactured children's coats, and I guess what didn't sell, he would send down.

Jan: Do you remember a brand name was? Was there a brand name? No.

Trudy: I wish I could tell you.

Jan: Who else was a sibling?

Trudy: You're talking about my father's family. There is one son - can't think of his name...Albert. One son of the Michalove family, who married out of the faith and moved away, to Roanoke. And they tried to find him many times, and they were never able to locate him. He probably changed his name. Then my father had a brother, who, for some reason, left Asheville. And he ended up in Tacoma, Washington. And I cannot tell you his name. They didn't talk about him too much.

Jan: So there were four of them - five of them.

Trudy: Five of them. Won't these all be registered in the Census?

Jan: They might. Maybe. It's hard to - It's hard to -

Trudy: Don't they keep censuses from all those years.

Sharon: We did lose some they burned-

Jan: 1890 burned. All across, in Washington. So nobody has the 1890 Census.

Trudy: I wished they would burn the year I was born; I could lie about my age.

Jan: So we know that your grandfather had a store, and we are not sure about which one it was.

But you think - you really think your father's store was called The Gem Store?

Trudy: I think so. I think I-

Jan: And he had stores in Asheville-

Trudy: and Brevard?

Jan: Anywhere else?

Trudy: I don't think - I mean - you know - I was so young. I was nine and-

Jan: And was that pretty much the only store that he had? Did have - did he do-

Trudy: Then he went into real estate.

Jan: Oh. Okay.

Trudy: Then he went into real estate with a man by the name of Thomas. It was called Thomas -

Thomas and Schwarzberg or Schwarzberg and Thomas. Whichever way. And then the

Depression came, and we - he lost everything. He had invested in property other than in

Asheville. He just lost everything. And we were able to stay in the house - the house was

mortgaged - and stayed in the house until, uh-

Jan: Where was that house?

Trudy: It was on Elms Street, which is no more. It was a big house on a great big hill. And there

were 27 steps to get up to the house.

Jan: Was it on College Hill, near David Millard?

Trudy: No.

Jan: Where was it?

Trudy: I will tell you where it was. It has been razed. I mean that whole area has been razed in there. It was before - did you ever know where North Liberty Street was?

Jan: Uh-huh.

Trudy: Well, it was off of North Liberty, and it is not there any more. It was on a big hill. And everybody could play. And when we first had coal – had to have coal delivered before they put furnaces in, and they use to come, if you can believe this, with a horse, with horses. And I remember this - and they could hardly get those horses up the driveway hill. And I don't think it was a paved road – I mean I don't think it was a paved driveway. And they could hardly get those horses up. Then they had a little opening there, they would put the coal through. The coal bin? I don't remember a lot of this. I mean you are stirring up some memories that I hadn't thought about – that really have been indexed for years.

Sharon: But you are doing fine.

Trudy: Really and truly.

Sharon: But you are doing really well.

Jan: When the Depression came, did you all ever have to move out of that house?

Trudy: They held on - it was highly – it was mortgaged. And they held on until I think I was about 15 - 14, 15, 16, and then we moved out. And we moved to Coleman Avenue, in a small house. You know where – is Colman avenue still there?

Jan: Yes it is. Do you know where-?

Sharon: Off of Merrimon. Near, uh-

Jan: Oh yes, I know exactly where.

Trudy: Between Merrimon and another – Murdock?

Jan: No, Montclair.



Sharon: Well, no. It is between – it goes on both sides of Merriman. So it goes from Merriman to Murdock.

Trudy: Murdock! That's – yeah. And it was a street off there, and we moved from that house. It was a big house too. And then we moved again. We moved to Merrimon Avenue, and to an apartment there. Because my - one brother, Dan, was not at home. My two brothers were - Bob was - Milton had business and so on. And Bob was working for Leo Finkelstein.

Sharon: What did he do for Leo Finkelstein?

Trudy: I guess he sold. I guess he was just a sales person for him. And we moved to 4 Apartment Building, and the Roccamora's lived under us. You know Leon and Bill?

Jan: Uh-huh.

Trudy: They were under us and we lived above them, and then my cousin, Lennie Michalove – did you? I think you don't remember. Leonard's family - Sam and Jean Michalove lived down below. And a family by the name of – G-d, I haven't thought about this in 100 years - Riesenbergs. Does that ring a bell to you?

Sharon: Yeah, Lenny Riesenbergs.

Jan: Yeah, Lenny Riesenbergs told us about that apartment. It's right by where the fire hydrant – uh, department, was.

Trudy: Fire! That's it! Well, we moved there. Isn't that something? And then I moved out. I went to California. I got out of high school, and I left town.

Jan: Well, before you left town, let's back up a little bit. Did we talk about what your Schwarzsbergs uncles did for business? Were there uncles on the Schwarzsberg side? Your brothers – your father's brothers?

Trudy: Father's brothers?

Jan: Did they have businesses?

Trudy: I know cousin Roy Schwarzberg had a business. That's about it...

Jan: Who is he related- who is he the son of?

Trudy: I don't know.

Jan: Okay. He was your father's cousin or your cousin? Your father's? He was your father's first cousin?

Trudy: I think so but I don't know. Do you know in those years, family feuds or not, but it's true. So I don't really uh - Elise was the daughter, and Buddy was the son - Roy Jr. was the son.

Jan: So you know you were related, but you all weren't close?

Trudy: Yeah. Elise and I were contemporary. She was a couple of years older than I. We were contemporary. She was a nice girl, a very nice person. We went to Sunday School together. And I don't know that we were confirmed together. I can't remember what her mother's name was.

Jan: Now who was, ummm. Was there a Bess or a B. Schwarzberg - a lady?

Trudy: Yeah.

Jan: Who was that?

Trudy: I don't know.

Jan: I think that was Roy's wife. Maybe that was Roy's wife?

Trudy: Yeah. Bessie.

Jan: Yeah. Was she the old - the older Roy's wife? Roy senior's wife?

Trudy: Yeas, I think so.

Jan: And did they have a store, that older Roy?

Trudy: He had a men's store also.

Jan: What was it called. Do you remember?

Trudy: Maybe called Roy's. I don't really remember though.

Jan: Okay.

Sharon: And you were mentioning you had a Sunday School teacher? Mrs. Lichtenfelds?

Trudy: Yes, she was my first Sunday School teacher. What a wonderful teacher - she was a very tall lady, or maybe I was so little that she seemed so tall. And she was just a wonderful lady. And she was tall, and I remember her husband. His name was Gustof I think. He was much shorter than she. They were just a great family.

Jan: Who was the Rabbi then?

Trudy: Moses P. Jacobsen. Moses P. Jacobsen was the Rabbi. The only Rabbi I really knew. And then after her left Asheville - he was there for almost my whole life. And then when he left, a wonderful Rabbi came. Wish I could think.

Jan: Was it Rabbi Unger?

Trudy: No, it was before him.

Jan: Rabbi Jacobs?

Trudy: Yes. Jacobs. I think so.

Jan: And what do you remember about Rabbi Jacobsen?

Trudy: What I remember about Rabbi Jacobsen and about the Temple, is the austerity. That and the Sunday School. Sunday schools were okay. I mean, you know it was leisurely. But I remember when you went to Temple, and you sat in one of those pews, you didn't talk and you didn't make any noise. And then the choir was - funny, how I remember the choir - her name was Blanch. I think they had two or three voices up there, up above - isn't that funny? I hadn't thought about that in years. The Temple was on Spruce Street. Spruce Street. No. 3, No. 9,

something Spruce Street. Isn't that interesting. And it was all pews. I don't think there were seats there. I think they were all in pews. Did you know – has anyone else told you that?

Jan: No, no one ever told us that. That's how it is now, in the newer one, but-

Trudy: I think there were pews then too. See, our Temple, we have seats. We have never had pews in Charlotte.

Jan: Well, it might have been a newer building because that was a pretty old building then. That Temple was in.

Sharon: Did you walk from your house to the Temple? I mean was it very close-?

Trudy: I did.

Sharon: It seems like it might have been close.

Trudy: It was close, and I did walk. I mean when I was little. And then for awhile the Temple - there was an interim time when the Temple was on Montford Avenue. Do you know that?

Jan: Was the Temple there or Sunday school?

Trudy: Sunday school was there. The Sunday school – that – you're right. But I remember going there for classes.

Sharon: But do you know where on Montford? Other people have told us that but no one seems to remember what was - where it was.

Trudy: Let me tell you – it was the Jewish Community Center. They tried to have –  
[cell phone rings]

Sharon: Just make it hang up.

Jan: So what were you – what was the question you just asked?

Sharon: Umm, if she remembers where on Montford Avenue, because so many people have told us-

Trudy: I will tell you what I think it was. In addition to being the Sunday school, I think it was like a Jewish Community Center. Did you hear that before too?

Sharon: Uh-huh. That was another - people said that that was on the corner of Chestnut and Cumberland Avenue. But they specifically mentioned something was on Montford; and then this other thing, which was a big stone house-

Trudy: I don't remember that.

Sharon: -which was on the corner of Chestnut and Cumberland.

Trudy: I don't remember that at all. That is probably after my time, or I just don't remember it. But I do remember the one over on Montford Avenue.

Sharon: So it was just a big house?

Trudy: Yeah. And they called it the Jewish Community Center too. And I think we had classrooms in there for Sunday school. I think. This is the best of my recollection.

Jan: Do you remember what the services were like at Temple? Were they anything like services now?

Trudy: Completely different. But completely different. If you want to know exactly what they were like, now that I remember. They were – it's not like our Temple is now. Our Temple is like almost conservative - not quite Orthodox, but almost. I mean with the songs, and they don't use the Union hymnal here any more. There was an austerity to the service there, and you didn't talk. If you were little, you didn't talk during service. I mean there was complete silence. And Rabbi was there - I don't remember whether he wore a miter or not. Did anyone tell you that he did?

Sharon: We don't have one-

Trudy: I don't remember that he did. But I know that he had the black robe, and white, and very – it's like out of a Dickens novel when I think about it. Really. And I was friendly with his granddaughter, Jane Whitman. Did anybody ever mention her name?

Jan: Uh-uh. Never heard-

Trudy: Jane? Oh really? Which they lived on Edwin Place. And when I lived on Coleman Avenue, all I had to do was go to cross Murdock, that how I went – Murdock, and go up Gertrude Place, not Gertrude Place another place before you get to Kimberley Avenue. They lived on Kimberley Avenue on the corner in a big white house. And Jane's father died suddenly, Jane Whitman. Leonard Whitman. His name was Leonard. And her mother was Rabbi Jacobsen's daughter. And he was very warm at home, but boy, when you walked into that Temple, you didn't say boo.

Jan: Did they live together?

Trudy: After Mr. Whitman died, she lived with him.

Sharon: Where was the Rabbi's house?

Trudy: It was on the corner of Edwin Place and - I think it is still there.

Jan: Evelyn? Evelyn? Gertrude? Lawrence?

Trudy: It was on a corner, but it faced Edwin Place. I don't know what...

Jan: Oh, I know what house it probably is.

Trudy: It should be a white house. A two-story white house.

Jan: Did they live in a different house when her father was still alive?

Trudy: They moved from I think Macon, Georgia. And I think he was ill; and I was young, and I didn't know exactly what the situation was there. But I know he died when he was in Asheville; and then I remember Jane living with - we graduated together. They lived with her grandparents.

Jan: So what else was Sunday school like? And do you remember any other people who were in your Sunday school class with you?

Trudy: Isn't that funny. I do. Let's see. I think Elaine Lipinski. I am not sure, but I think Elaine Lipinski. They changed their name to Lees. The Lipinskis did not change their name; but his name was Whitlock. Whitlock. and then there was Whitlock Jr. and Helene and Roselyn. And Edith. I think Edith was the youngest, or there was one younger than she. Umm. What did you ask me?

Jan: Who else was in your Sunday school class?

Trudy: Helene was, I am pretty sure. Maybe Jane. I don't know. Maybe Jane Whitman. Whitman. I really don't...

Jan: Was Doris Zageir in your Sunday school class?

Trudy: Doris Zageir. I think so.

Jan: 'Cause she's about the same age.

Trudy: I think so.

Jan: Was Phyllis Gallumbeck in your Sunday school class?

Trudy: Yes, I think so. Phyllis and I graduated together. And then - I can't remember who else was in that Sunday school class. Just talking about confirmation, or Sunday school?

Jan: Either. Both. The same.

Trudy: I have my confirmation picture somewhere.

Jan: You took - now that would be good to see.

Trudy: I look like an old woman. My hair - you know how they wore their hair in waves going down. My mother probably had just took me to the beauty parlor and took me right up to the photographer.

Jan: We probably still have that picture in the Archives. Okay. So.

Sharon: Tell us where you went to school when you grew up in Asheville.

Trudy: The first school I went to was called Orange Street School. It was the closest to my house. And then from there I went to David Junior...

Sharon: Millard.

Trudy: David - Millard Junior High School; and then to Lee Edwards High School, which later became Asheville High School. Or maybe it was Asheville, Lee Edwards, and then Asheville again. And then St. Genevieve's.

Jan: SO you went to the teachers – you went to the secretarial school at Saint Genevieve's?

Trudy: Yes, I did.

Jan: Okay. So you didn't go to the grade school at St. Genevieve's or high school?

Trudy: No. I did not. I was there and then from there I went to - you see, you graduated at 16 in Asheville. Anywhere then. We only had 11 grades. And my birthday was in November, so I went to school the previous September, so I was 16, now that's pretty young. And so then I went to ST. Genevieve's, and then to California.

Jan: And where did you go to school in California?

Trudy: I went to CAL, to the university there; and then the war came. And my mother came out there, and I came back to Atlanta with my mother; and got a job. I had studied advertising. So I got a job at an advertising agency, which I loved. I got a chance to write, and do some things I wanted to do.

Jan: Now why did your Mom move to Atlanta? Were the sons not there anymore?

Trudy: Well, they were all the in the ser – Well, Dan, my oldest brother, didn't go in the service. But my two brothers - Bob joined December the umm-



Jan: 8<sup>th</sup>.

Trudy: yeah. I think Bob was friendly with your Uncle Gene. I am pretty sure of that. Gene Schochet. Oh, that name is - the day after Pearl Harbor, Bob went down and joined the Navy; and everybody thought he was so brave to do that. And he said "Gee, I knew I didn't want to be in the Army." That's why he joined the Navy. And then Nelson was in the Navy. So my mother and I were and my brother in California. And then he has one son, John. The one Betty Pollack is-

Jan: Now the brother who lives in California is - what's his name?

Trudy: Dan.

Jan: Dan. Now the other two brothers were?

Trudy: Milton and Robert - Bob.

Jan: And after the war, did they come back to Asheville?

Trudy: No.

Jan: Okay.

Sharon: So did you-

Trudy: We grew up during a difficult period in Asheville. I mean, first of all, without our father, and you know with the Depression and all it was uh-

Jan: How old were you when your father passed away?

Trudy: Nine.

Jan: Oh, okay. Now how did your mother live? Did your mother live because your brothers worked?

Trudy: That's how, and you know, I often wondered - this is off the record - I often wondered about that. I think, you know, in those years it just wasn't - Jewish women just didn't go out and

find a job and go to work. No, my brothers and my brother Dan supported her. My brother Dan always seemed to have done well. And I didn't work. In today's situation, I would have gone right out to get a job if I had, you know.

Sharon: Well, you were only 9.

Trudy: Yeah, no, no, I said if the situation had occurred-

Sharon: Oh, and you were the mother.

Trudy: -and my husband passed away, and I had children, I would have. They just didn't do it then. It just was - and what would her friends think? Really and truly there was a- I guess a stigma. But everything has changed so much, you know, we can't pass judgment on those years.

Sharon: How much older were your brothers than yourself?

Trudy: A lot. My brother Bob was 10 years older than I. So I don't think they planned me, for sure.

Jan: And how much older were the other two brothers?

Trudy: Milton and Dan were about 18 months apart and Bob was about two or three years younger.

Sharon: So your oldest brother was 14 years older than you?

Trudy: Yes. Dan. Yes. And very, very paternal. A wonderful human being. Really they were wonderful boys. They were all good to me.

Jan: Where did Dan work when he worked in Asheville?

Trudy: Dan didn't work in Asheville.

Jan: How did he support your family?

Trudy: He was working in Atlanta. He had gotten a good job in Atlanta. He left, when Poppa died - I mean you know, he had to get a job. And Asheville - salaries in Asheville were probably minimal.

Jan: What kind of work did he do?

Trudy: He was going to study law too, but he never got a chance to. He went back and got a degree, which was wonderful. He went into Sears-Roebuck and worked at Sears-Roebuck, and then people saw him and met him. And then he went to Memphis. He got a terrific job in Memphis with a chain there, I mean, a smaller chain. A man owned three stores - credit stores, and he became manager of that little group.

Sharon: What was that called?

Trudy: The name of the store was Saters. S-a-t-e-r-s. I mean it's not a well-known name by any means. But it is interesting how everything worked out in those years. Families stuck together.

Sharon: Did your brothers work in your father's business?

Trudy: They were too young. They were too young. Bob was, Bob left High School and Dan – I don't – maybe Dan did a year or two. He didn't go to college right away when he graduated from high school. He played football for Asheville High School in which there had been - I think he said before him, there was only one other Jewish man that had ever played football on the Asheville High School team. Morris Lipinski. I thought that was kind of interesting. Things have changed so much since - you can't appreciate those years, because you grew up in such a different – you and my children grew up in such a different atmosphere and different days.

Sharon: So who else were some of the Jewish families that you remember in Asheville?

Trudy: I remember them all. I remember them all. I mean, want me to name families?

Sharon: And businesses, if you remember what stores they had.

Trudy: Stores...

Jan: In other words, like-

Trudy: Oh, yes. I remember probably a relative of yours – Madeline... was Madeline Blumberg a relative of yours?

Jan: Uh-huh.

Trudy: I remember she married a Sand... is that the name? G-d! I thought, uh – I don't think I have, uh... The memories lost that I thought I had. They opened a dress shop there when I was a teen-ager, just getting ready to want to dress up and looking at the boys, you know? And... what was the name of the store? I forget.

Sharon: Worth.

Trudy: Huh?

Sharon: Worth.

Trudy: Worth. Right, that's it. And Madeline worked in the store. She was so darling. And he was the sweetest man. And they didn't have any children at that particular time. And I would go in there and I would try on some clothes. And I know it was hard for my mother and hard for my brother, but I was just "Oh, I must have it." They had cute clothing. Yeah, I remember them very well. And I remember Madeline's mother. She was such a pretty woman. She was a heavy-set.

Hannah - was her name Hannah?

Jan: Uh-huh.

Trudy: She was a heavy-set lady. And she had the most beautiful skin and pretty face. Am I right?

Jan: Yeah, everybody always commented on her skin.

Trudy: She was a pretty lady. What else do I remember? I remember (?) and I remember - I remember their son, Buster. I think he was a contemporary of one of my brothers. I will tell you a funny story, but don't record it. Don't record it.

Jan: Do you want me to turn it off?

Trudy: Yeah, since it is not a nice story.

OFF.

Jan: Well, we are back on.

Trudy: Hmmm, we're back on. Well, I'd be careful with that.

Jan: Well, what do you remember about downtown Asheville?

Trudy: Oh I remember very well. Very often I would walk - we called it "uptown". We never went downtown, we always went uptown, because that was on the hill, and rightfully so. We'd walked down North Liberty Street, up South Liberty Street to Brevard? Not Brevard.

Jan: Woodfin.

Trudy: Huh.

Jan: To Woodfin?

Trudy: To Woodfin, past Woodfin up to North Liberty-

Jan: College.

Trudy: Yeah, and up to College. And that's how we would get to town. And then you would go to the Square; and the you would make the right turn and go down Patton Avenue. And that was exciting. And then you got to Haywood Street, and that was really - that was wonderful. That's where all the pretty stores were around there. And I remember that we would very often - when I was in high school I would meet the boys and I - some of the boys and girls would take a bus up to, or even walk, from Lee Edwards High School, to Eckerd's, to get an ice cream soda. I think it

was ten cents, and that was a lot of money. And it had two scoops of ice cream in it and whipped cream on top and a cherry. I think it was ten or fifteen cents. And that was - we would save lunch money to do that. So that we could skip lunch and have that. You don't remember, but they had little stools in Eckerd's.

Jan: I remember that.

Trudy: You remember that?

Jan: Well, was that Eckerd's on Patton Avenue?

Trudy: Patton Avenue, yeah. Absolutely And it was a long walk from Lee Edwards to - and St. Genevieve's, as I recall, was on down on Biltmore Avenue, down Biltmore Avenue, then you make - then you go up the hill and turn in right.

Jan: On Victoria Road.

Trudy: On Victoria Road. Right

Jan: You remember a lot.

Trudy: Yeah, maybe some things that I should forget.

Jan: I was going to ask you something about downtown – uptown, whatever you call it? Oh, actually what I was going to ask - did you have friends - really good friends who weren't Jewish?

Trudy: Best friends, that weren't Jewish.

Jan: Who were some of your friends?

Trudy: A girl by the name of Dorothy Ward, who lived on Edwin Place. And I was friendly with Mildred Goldstein was a friend of mine. Phyllis and I knew each other. I think we were in some of the same Sunday school classes, but I was - we weren't really close friends. Honestly, most of my friends weren't. Just trying to think of who my best friends were. I guess Mildred would be

uh- and I knew - Margie Cooper was a little - was older than I am. She passed away didn't she. She was beautiful. She had the blackest hair and the blackest eyes. I mean they just sparkled. She was a beautiful girl. I remember Margie. And Phyllis, of course, I knew Phyllis very well. And Phyllis' sister, Allison. I liked her sister so much.

Jan: What was her sister's name? I don't know her sister.

Trudy: Yes, her sister. One minute. She lives down in Florida. She lives down in Florida now. No, it isn't.

Jan: It was Norman's sister? Mary-

Trudy: Oh yeah, was she Jane? I use to see Jane here. That was a tragedy.

Jan: Did she live here? In Charlotte?

Trudy: Yes, she Jane lived here. Jane lived two streets over, out here.

Jan: Oh, yeah.

Trudy: On her second marriage. She married a boy named Nelson, last name was Nelson. Oh yeah, I saw Jane. She was a beautiful girl, a lovely person. Tragic. Tragic. I am trying - I cant - So many people, you know, in all these years. I have close friends in California, and Atlanta, and now here.

Sharon: It gets confusing.

Trudy: Going back, it's like you can't go home again.

Sharon: What about your family? Did you spend holidays together? You had all these cousins and everything.

Trudy: Oh we did, oh we did. We did. We had holidays were together. Wonderful. And we went to - I think we use to go over to Hendersonville. Like that was the big thing to do on a Sunday -

to go over to Hendersonville and visit the Carol's and get an ice cream cone. This was growing up-

Jan: Now, did you drive or go on the train?

Trudy: Oh, no, we drove over. I drove when I was 16. And Uncle S. H. Michalove and my mother - I would drive them to Chimney Rock. And there were no seatbelts, and I was 16 years old; and when I got a little bit older, I went "Oh my god - I could have killed all of them."

Jan: That was a wild road. Was your - did you family, what was your family's, your immediate family's Jewish observance? Did you go to Temple every Friday night?

Trudy: When my father died, my mother and I use to go pretty regularly. We really did. I don't know whether it was an outlet for my mother, or a religious feeling, or something - I mean, you know. We went a lot.

Jan: Did you keep Kosher?

Trudy: No. Let me put it to you this way: my mom wouldn't - we wouldn't have ham in the house. Semi-Kosher. Bu we never - but I think certain branches. Now Ann-Hannah Michalove, or the one - Louis Michalove's wife, I know she kept Kosher, absolutely, to the T. But my mother did, sort of, you know, conveniently.

Sharon: And you said your mother played cards?

Trudy: Oh yes. She was a great bridge player. She LOVED to play bridge. I will tell you who else that lived here, and she passed away this year, was Rosa Lee Star. She had been Rosa Lee Feldman.

Jan: Uh-huh.

Trudy: Do you know that name?

Jan: Was she Dr. Lee Feldman's - no?



Trudy: They lived over near the baseball park off Biltmore Avenue. Well, yes. You should know this name - he is on the Police force. Not Stanley Feldman - Sidney Feldman.

Jan: Oh, yes, right. Those Feldmans. Sidney Feldman.

Trudy: Uh-huh. Rosa Lee lived in Charlotte.

Jan: That's his sister?

Trudy: She passed away last year. Yeah. She was a contemporary. I forgot about her.

Sharon: So do you still have family that live in Asheville?

Trudy: Yes, I have the Perlman's. I have Skip and Marylou Perlman. Do you know them? Now he's friendly and nice, isn't he?

Jan: Yes, he is very nice. And-

Trudy: And what about his brother, is he-

Jan: Lowell. He's there.

Trudy: Sally?

Jan: Uh-huh.

Trudy: You see them?

Jan: Sometimes. Now exactly how are you related to them? Explain that to the camera?

Trudy: Explain that to the camera. They are my second cousins.

Sharon: So, they're-

Trudy: Wait a minute. Second cousins once removed. I mean, it do you the Southern style.

Jan: So-

Trudy: I guess they are like my third cousins. One was my cousin. They're my third cousins.

Jan: So, whose your grand - one of your grand-relatives was related to one of their grand-relatives?

Trudy: Yeah.

Sharon: Like were your grandmother's sisters, or something.

Trudy: Yeah.

Jan: Okay. Um, on your father's side or on your mother's side?

Trudy: Mother's. They are part of the Michalove family. See, Perlman - Hattie Perlman - was a Michalove.

Jan: Okay. And who was Hattie married to?

Trudy: Hattie was married to Barney Perlman. And Barney is, um-

Jan: Skip's grandfather.

Trudy: Skip's grandfather. Does he mix a lot with the Jewish – uh, a lot in the Jewish community? Skip?

Jan: Skip?

Trudy: And Paul, you say Paul is – are we on?

Jan: We're off. Uh – you want me – we're on.

Trudy: I married the most wonderful man in the world.

Jan: How did you meet him?

Trudy: I met him at a USO dance during WWII.

Jan: Where?

Trudy: In Atlanta. I was a hostess, and I use to go visit the hospital there, in Watson General Hospital; and then I use to be a hostess for the Jewish Welfare Board. It was the USO JWB. And we were at a dance, and he was wearing heavy boots; and I tried to get him to dance with someone. And he said "Would you dance with me?" And so I did. And so I said "I do," when he came back from the War. He was away almost four years. We got married late.

Jan: And how did you end up in Charlotte? Is that where you spent all your married life, pretty much?

Trudy: All my married life. He was with a textile mill. He went to NYU and got his degree in Advertising. Couldn't get a job. So he had a friend in textiles, and he became interested – became interested: had to get a job - and so then he was transferred down here. And they were bought out by Springs Mills. So he was in the textile field for his whole career. Enjoyed it. Did nicely. And did a couple of advertising - the only advertising he did was for them.

Jan: You say that – I don't know if we have any time. What was this company called?

Trudy: M. Lowenstein & Sons. And they had Rockhill Printing and Finishing. And they were bought out by Springs.

*End of tape.*