

Arthur Sandman

Jan: Now we're recording and actually it would be good if you said what is your name and what is your birth date.

Sandman: My name is Arthur Sandman and my birth date is November 2, 1939.

Q. Where were you born and raised?

A. I was born in Asheville, lived in Asheville all my life until I went off to college at UNC.

Q. Where did you live in Asheville?

A. I lived with my grandparents and my parents at a house on 29 Lincoln Avenue. From the time I was born until the time I left to go to college, same house.

Q. Now, why did you live with your grandparents?

A. That's a great question. My parents never owned a house. At one point they bought a lot on Kimberly Avenue, were going to build, but my mother became ill, eventually passed away, they never got around to building a house. We were all together in a pretty good-sized house, but in the early years, first four or five years of my life, my great grandmother was living there also, so there was my great grandmother, my two grandparents on my mother's side, my mother and father, and myself, it made four different generations, and I really don't recommend that to anybody.

Q. Which great grandmother was this?

A. This was my grandmother's mother, Hanna's mother, to the best of my recollection, I believe. She was a Schoss. Why I say it was on her side.

Q. Who were your parents?

A. My parents were Dave Sandman or David Sandman and Madeline Sandman. My mother was the daughter of Hanna and S.I. Bloomberg.

Q. What did S.I. stand for?

A. Samuel Isaac.

Q. And do you remember your grandparents?

A. Sure, I remember my grandparents well, I lived with them 17, 18 years. They were both still alive when I went off to college. My grandmother died first. She died, I was in my second year of college when she died, about 1959, if I remember correctly, and then my grandfather died a couple years after that.

Q. What were they like? Your grandparents?

A. They were from the old school, if you will, from Europe, I'm not sure exactly where, I never learned a lot about the history. But they tried to keep a kosher home, did a pretty good job of it. And they were good to me, I had no problem with them. They were always very nice to me, very kind and loving, and I liked them.

Q. Did you have a pretty close relationship with them? Tell them stuff, confide in them?

A. Yes, but I would confide in my parents and all before I would confide in them, but we talked and conversed and so forth. My grandfather was a little hard of hearing in his later years, difficult to have an ongoing conversation with him.

Q. That's a Bloomberg trait, I'm afraid. So how did your parents meet each other?

A. I have absolutely no idea.

Q. Do you know if your father was working in Asheville before your mother was married, or –

A. He was from New York, his family was all in New York, where he was from, and I did not know – I do know this, did not know this until I was an adult, that my mother had been married before, and best of my knowledge I

have now I believe her first husband committed suicide during the stock market crash, that's what I think.

Q. How did you find that out?

A. I was in college, I went over to High Point, you may recall this, they used to have a Jewish debutante ball over in High Point. I don't know what it was called. I had aged out, I was in college. I had friends in it, went over my first or second year in college, happened to go over there. Some lady said I know who you are, you are so-and-so's son. My mother had passed away at that point. She said I remember her when she was married to so-and-so. I said you do? Oh, yeah, and I believe that the man she was married to, last name began with a P, I remember seeing things with a P engraved on them. Once she brought it up – it was interesting I found out.

Q. But you don't think she had any kids?

A. No, she did not. Absolutely did not have any children. I learned even subsequent to that that apparently there was a child that either died during the pregnancy or was stillborn. I assume that was with my father. I just learned that recently. And I don't know whether it's fact or fiction, to tell you the truth. Interesting, back in those days you didn't talk about things like that.

Q. Either one of those things.

A. No, you didn't discuss previous marriages or tell your children about your life's history, previous pregnancy where you may have lost a child, at least that's the way they chose to do it. But I think it was a sign of the times.

Q. So you grew up as an only child.

A. Oh, yes.

Q. I bet you were a little pampered because you were an only child.

A. I guess I was in my early years.

Q. I do have to ask you, because I remember being in that house. Do you remember the toilet upstairs? With the throne.

A. A big old wooden seat around the commode, what I remember. It was quite a house for its time. It was a fancy house, and still today it's known as the Bloomberg estate. Some of the members of the family have been up there and gone through the house, stopped, knocked, let them in to see it.

Q. Getting back to your parents and grandparents, what did your grandfather do?

A. My recollection is that he had a store on Patton Avenue called the Leader that he ran with his son. He had a son, Bernard or Buster Bloomberg, as they called him. My recollection of the whole thing is they went into business together. But in the earlier years he was probably in the business by himself.

Eventually he got out of that, didn't go there anymore. My uncle Bernard ran the store. And my grandfather had a place down on Lexington Avenue called B&R, it was strictly a bar, no other word to describe it, played country music, smelled of nothing but beer. He sat in the back and slept most of the time, but he was there. That's where he would go every day. He ran it, but had people – wasn't hard to run, it was a beer joint. There's no other words to describe it.

It was past where Izzy Goldstein had his clothing store down there. I would tell you it's about three blocks north of where Patton and Lexington cross, that direction going downhill there, about three blocks down, before you got to that street that goes straight up on –before Walnut or Hiawassee. There was one major street before, Patton, College, Walnut –

Q. So between Walnut and Hiawassee; on the right or left?

A. Right side.

Q. That was not a very savory neighborhood was it?

A. Wasn't the best of neighborhoods.

Q. Were there other bars right around there?

A. I guess there were.

Q. Did he have pool tables in there too?

A. My recollection is that he did have a couple of pool tables in there.

Q. Did you go in there very much?

A. Yeah, I went in there to visit him.

Q. How old were you when he started this? Were you a little child?

A. I remember it from the time I was 10 to 12 years old until the time I left to go to college. That would put it around 1950. I think it was called the B&R, the B stood for Bloomberg, and he might have had a partner at one time, Reese.

Q. Wasn't Rosen?

A. No, wasn't Rosen. I don't know if my memory is good on that or not, but that's my recollection. I think I asked that question, what's B&R stand for.

Q. I love this because all kinds of interesting things you never knew, and this is important for posterity. So I am so shocked by this I can't even go on. So what did your father do?

A. My father ran a ladies' ready-to-wear store on Haywood Street called Worth's. He owned the store, did not own the real estate. He owned the store, and it was a medium-priced ladies' ready-to-wear right next to Woolworth's. If you were going up Haywood street, right-hand side to the north, on the left side of Woolworth's. That's how he advertised, always advertised 'next-door to Woolworth's'.

Q. Where did he get that name Worth's?

A. I don't know, I never asked that question. He had other stores over in Tennessee –

Q. At the same time?

A. Yes, back in the late 40s, early 50s he had a store in Kingsport, Tennessee. Over there it was called the Vogue. And in Elizabethton, Tennessee, it may have been called Worth's, too; either Sandman's or Worth's. Probably Worth's.

Q. Tell me how he got stores in east Tennessee.

A. I don't know how he got over there, to tell you the truth. I don't know whether the Vogue – he was very friendly with the Brands, Charlie and Ruben Brand, and they had the Vogue in Asheville. Whether it started there and he took it over, but it was the same name. In Kingsport. He had a manager over there, guy named Gabe Matles, something like that.

Q. He wasn't Jewish?

A. No, I don't think he was. My cousin Gilbert, served in the military, after the war he moved to Asheville, moved over to Elizabethton, ran the store a number of years before he moved back to Asheville.

Q. Was he married do you think?

A. Yes, I think he was married to –

Q. Kids might have been born over there. But Gilbert was from New York.

A. My father's oldest brother's child.

Q. What was Gilbert's father's name?

A. Al Sandman. His mother was Estelle, never forgot anybody's birthday. You had a birthday, you better believe you would get a card from Aunt Estelle. Passed away in 1995, lived a long time.

Q. Where did she live?

A. In New York, all her life.

Q. So your father's older brother Al lived in New York.

A. Yes, I think it was after the war, Gilbert was looking for a job, wanted to get out of New York, my father offered him a job, went over to Elizabethton, lived over there for a number of years.

Q. I wonder if there were other Jewish businesses in Elizabethton.

A. I doubt there was very much.

Q. Did you ever work in either your father or grandfather's stores?

A. I would help out in my father's store, cashiering work, wrapping or, as a young teenager. I went on trips with him, used to be plants, manufacturing plants, especially down in Greenville, South Carolina that manufactured medium-priced dresses he sold, and he picked the dresses right off the racks, loaded them in the car, came back with the trunk, back-seat full, couldn't see anything. He loaded up the merchandise.

Q. Do you remember what any of the companies were?

A. No. I remember the way he sold the stuff, two for \$11.

Q. Did you ever wait on any of the people yourself?

A. No.

Q. Did you know any of the customers that came in?

A. From time to time. Back in the old days he had an alteration lady, they did lay-aways, had his own charge account. You didn't have MasterCard or Visa. What happened was -- and he had a buying office in New York, he went to New York quite often, would go through the buying office where he bought the bulk of his merchandise. He didn't drive, went on the train, catch the train right there in Asheville and go to New York.

On one of those trips he learned about a discount operation, the very first time somebody did a discount type thing. He fell in love with that idea. He comes back to Asheville, goes to Harry Bloomberg, had a big garage further up on Haywood Street before you got to the Vanderbilt Hotel, and rented that, converted it into a huge 10,000 square foot ladies ready-to-wear, on the side

street before the Vanderbilt. He was ahead of his time. It just didn't work. The location, those two blocks, about a two-block difference, those two blocks were really important.

Q. Do you know about what time that was?

A. I was a teenager by then, I think my mother had just passed away, she died October 3rd of '52. He was working on it when she passed away, so there was about '53 or '4 that he actually did it. It lasted about, maybe the better part of three years, and he eventually had to close it. I think it was called Worth's. He closed the other Worth's, moved the whole thing up the street two blocks, he just didn't succeed. He lost a lot of money there, doing that. He stayed in Asheville until I graduated high school, and then he drove me down to Chapel Hill, I didn't have a car at first, first few weeks, 1957, September of '57, I remember him driving me down there. Right from there he went to Florida. Moved to St. Petersburg, had a place on St. Petersburg Beach called Sandman's, small ladies ready-to-wear, where he lived until the end of his life.

Passed away in January of 74. Developed Alzheimer's pretty bad. The lady helping him run the store, looking after him, he had an apartment two blocks down from the store. He had a good life from '57 to '73, then the Alzheimer's got so bad, she said I can't handle the situation anymore. I went down, assessed, agreed you need to close the store down. Had a going-out-of-business sale. I brought him back to Raleigh and had an apartment set up for him near my home, checked him into a hospital a few days to get everything under control, realized during that short period of time how bad everything was, he couldn't live in that apartment either, by himself.

So he went to the Jewish home up in Plemmons. He had his good days, of course. When I took him up, as luck would have it, he realized where he was going. It was very sad. That was 1973. He was born in 1898, so he was 75 years old. He didn't last – that was right after Labor Day I took him up there in '73, and about six weeks after he was there he had a stroke, and he died in January. A sad ending, but nothing I could do. The bad part of it was the place was so far away it was difficult to get back and forth to see him very often.

Q. What year was your mother born?

A. She died in '52 when she was 47 years old, so, whatever it is.

Q. She was 47?

A. 1953 when she died.

Q. So 1905. Well, what do you remember – did you ever go very much into your grandfather's store?

A. The Leader, all the time.

Q. Is that where you bought the majority of your clothes?

A. I never remember buying clothes there. I went to visit, play around, liked to ride the elevator up and down. It was an interesting building. A bunch of floors, basement, main floor. In its heyday it was quite a place. As time went on they closed the upstairs, then eventually closed the basement. My uncle turned it mostly into a men's clothing store, low-end men's clothing. Back in the days my grandfather had it, it was ladies and men's, and I think it was a little higher quality.

Q. Do you remember what department on the third floor or –

A. No, I don't remember.

Q. Now where did your family go to synagogue?

A. We went to Temple – and my grandparents went to the conservative – we were split when it came to that, absolutely. I remember going to reformed temple for services, those were over on high holy days I went to the conservatives, they ran later.

Q. This was the old one off of Woodfin, on Spruce and Market – temple on Spruce; synagogue on Liberty.

A. That is right, I can go to it but I can't tell you the street name.

Q. You remember who the rabbi was?

A. The reformed rabbi was Sidney Unger??? – I had a bar mitzvah 11 months before my mother passed away. I was confirmed.

Q. What do you remember about – were you friendly with Rabbi Unger?

A. Yes, very friendly, very nice man. His wife's name was Betty?

Q. Evelyn.

A. Evelyn. They were nice people, very very nice people.

Q. Did you all go to Temple every Friday night?

A. No I went a lot of Saturdays, they used to have Saturday services, small service, weren't many people there, but he would have me participate in the service, do some of the reading, and –

Q. Do you remember anything else about – was there music, somebody in charge of music or were there other people?

A. I don't remember what who was in charge of music or anything. I remember the choir being up behind the ??? there, sort of hidden, you didn't –

Q. Right, that was in the new one. Moved into the new one in 1946, or '47.

A. I'm talking about that one, still there today. Before that I don't remember. Where was it before then? I don't even remember.

Q. It was on Spruce Street, which is like, just a couple houses down from Thomas Wolfe's house. The old synagogue was still there, before they built 240, and the synagogue was across the street from the Renaissance Hotel and next to the Sheraton, until the middle 60s, when they moved it over to Murdock.

A. I don't know where it is today, but I remember where it was back then.

Q. They built a more modern one in the middle 60s which, you were already gone. Do you remember some of the people who you went to Sunday school with or –

A. The ones I remember most, the Dr. Feldman there, Leon Feldman had two daughters, Rhonda and Barbara, Rhonda was my age. I saw Rhonda a couple years ago. She lives out in Oregon.

Q. Anybody else you were friendly with?

A. Fred Slosman, he went to the synagogue. We were big in DBYO??? And ??? back then, and we really did most of our socializing at the Jewish Community Center, we had one of the only community centers in the state, the only other one. That was the place where as a child, teenager, that's the place where everything happened. It didn't happen in the temple or in the synagogue. It happened at the Jewish Community Center. That was very convenient to where I lived, I walked, rode my bicycle. Freddie was my closest friend there, guy named Bernie Schulamson???, Jerry Sheer???. And Eddie Lurie???, those are the ones – two girls, two sisters, -- Solid, Lynn and June Solid, June was the older one, Lynn was my age I guess.

Q. She still lives in Asheville. Well, Lynn married a guy from Israel and lives in Asheville. So did you have friends who weren't Jewish?

A. Yeah, friends from school that weren't Jewish, but we had a pretty good group of Jewish people and I was active in the AZA, in fact I was president of the state of BBYO in high school.

Q. Do you remember other presidents?

A. A guy from Winston-Salem before me, a Neal – I want to say Horowitz. He's a doctor today, I never see him. Gerald Waiton???, from Fayetteville, Gerald's passed away, has a younger brother, a doctor. I got all over the state, met a lot of people through that organization.

Q. There were always conventions around.

A. A lot of conventions, and that's how I met my wife. She was -- the president of the state organization the year before me, lived in Winston-Salem, and I had gone there to get all the material he had, get briefed on a few things, and she was there visiting a friend of hers. Her grandparents lived in Winston-

Salem, but visiting a girlfriend that lived there, and that's how we got introduced.

Q. What was her maiden name?

A. Elden???, from New Bern.

Q. She's Jewish?

A. Oh, yeah, they have a little synagogue in New Bern. Very very small. Most of the people moved away. I would say there are probably 20 families down there, that's about it. They had – used the rabbi from Kinston. Their Friday night services were on Tuesday.

Q. Well, as long as you do it. What did her father do?

A. He was in the jewelry and pawn business. ??? Jewelers.

Q. How long did that stay open?

A. Stayed open as long as – he reached an elderly age. It was a going business when I first went there in 1956, and I would say it lasted into the 70s. Right next-door there was another Jewish merchant, Harry and Isabel Vatts???, they had a place called the Fashion Center, ladies store, very nice. Harry passed away, both my mother and father-in-law passed away. His wife Isabel is still living in Charlotte. They had two children, boy and girl, girl lives in Charlotte, used to live here. A number of years in Raleigh. Didn't want to bother her children, finally she was convinced to go where her daughter was, moved to Charlotte four or five years ago.

Q. So when you got to Chapel Hill you already knew a lot of people.

A. Yes, I did. Most of the people that were from North Carolina were Pi Lam???. Fraternities were big back then. They had three Jewish fraternities: pi Lam???, ??? and DVT???. It was pretty well decided in advance I would go to Pi lamb???

Q. Was it Pi Lambda Phi –

A. Pi Lambda Phi.

Q. Is that still at Chapel Hill?

A. Yes. They left, the thing went down the tubes, they lost their house and went off campus, for a number of years they were gone. Now they've revived it, they're back, of course it's no longer a Jewish fraternity; it's an open situation. We had a couple members even then that were not –

Q. What's the difference in the three fraternities, who belonged to them?

A. Again, Pi Lam was the more liberal, as I say, we had a couple of non-Jewish members. Most of the North Carolina people migrated towards that one. It was in fraternity court. 107 Fraternity Court. The ZBT's and the Zeps???'s, and the out-of-state people were in those two. We had plenty of out-of-state ones too, but all the North Carolina sort of migrated – it was a good experience. I wouldn't want do it again, but it was a good experience.

Q. We have to go back a few years. Where did you go to school in Asheville?

A. I started out at the Plonk School of Creative Arts. I could walk from my house to the Plonk school very easily, on the corner of Charlotte and whatever that street is –

Q. Sunset?

A. Might be Sunset. I went three years there. Then I went to public school after that.

Q. What school?

A. Grace, got on the bus, went all the out Kimberly Avenue, there three years. Then I went three years to David Miller Junior High School, and the last three I went to Lee Edwards.

Q. Was Lee Edwards, the man, was he the principal?

A. Oh, no, I don't recall that he was.

Q. Did you ever experience any kind of childhood school-yard anti-Semitism?

A. Oh, yes, especially at Grace, people that didn't like Jewish children, didn't like Jewish people.

Q. Other kids or teachers?

A. Other kids. I tried to stay away from them. Didn't go look for trouble.

Q. Did they taunt you?

A. They would try to bully you ??? I just – that's – my recollection is that's the only time I experienced a little bit – I did not experience it at the Plonk School the first three years, and I don't recall experiencing it after that. But definitely at the Grace School. It was more or less in the county back then and kids were coming from all kinds of various backgrounds. But it was a good experience. In retrospect, I am a firm believer in public schools. I am not happy that some of my children have put their children in private schools completely. It's their choice, just like it was my parents choice to put me where they put me.

Q. If something like that happened did you talk to your parents about it?

A. I think we probably had some conversations. It's been so long ago I just don't recall. I have a memory of it. It was back when –

Q. How about at Chapel Hill or Raleigh –

A. I didn't experience any of that.

Q. Some people have said that people from the north experienced quite a lot of anti-Semitism, do you have any experience on how it compares?

A. No, I don't. I'm sure it's there. I've been fortunate in that I haven't had to put up with much of it.

Q. Did you ever remember anything in Asheville, like some older people remember when there were a couple of times there were Klan marches.

A. No, I remember during the war they took over the Grove Park Inn. The government took over the Grove Park Inn, they brought, I believe Asian Americans there to stay, to keep them out of harm's way. That's what I believe. I am not positive of that. But I remember seeing bus loads of them going up – I believe they were Asian Americans.

Q. I always heard there were German POWs there.

A. I don't think they were POWs, but the government took over the hotel – I believe they were Asian Americans. Probably not safe on the West Coast, wherever they lived, because of Japanese involvement, trying to protect them. What I think; I could be wrong.

Q. I am going to totally change subject. Do you remember family gatherings?

A. Yeah, we had family gatherings. My family, you had my mother and uncle Bernard, married to Helen Bloomberg, had two daughters, Susan and Dale, and my cousins, that's who I was really closest with – we had a family get together it was usually them. I remember something happened with the Schoss family way back before I knew what it was all about, some animosity there, some falling out, if you will, ill feelings, so we didn't socialize with them very much.

Q. That was your grandmother, Hanna's –

A. Yeah, I don't know what happened.

Q. Now, I remember that Helen and Buster and his two daughters lived on Kimberly, did they live somewhere else before that?

A. No, they had two different houses on Kimberly. One you turned off of Charlotte, onto Kimberly, half a mile on left-hand side a very steep back yard, you walked out the back of the house to get to the ground you had to go down a whole bunch of steps. They were there a number of years in that house. Then they moved further out Kimberly, in a house that backed up to the golf course really, the right-hand side, two houses, that's all I remember.

Q. So did you have – now I remember as a little child going to some kind of family events at your grandparents' house. I don't know if that was because someone came to town or it was high holidays or Passover – do you remember? What was your Passover like?

A. What I remember mostly was we had to change the dishes – insisted we had to pass over the regular dishes, pass over the – dishes, and went through a big to-do for changing the dishes –

Q. But the Seder was at your grandmother's house –

A. That's my recollection. At later years it may have been at my uncle's house, Buster's. But it was always with them.

Q. Do you remember getting together with – your grandfather had four other brothers and sisters, the oldest would have been my grandmother Jenny who had three children, Eugene, Lillian and Sidney.

A. I remember there was a Jenny, but if you showed me a picture, I couldn't remember much about – but your father, Lillian and Eugene, I remember exactly where he lived near the junior high school. I know where Lillian lived in that little street off Charlotte Street.

Q. Then there was Uncle Joe, do you remember Uncle Joe? Sometimes he worked in the Leader.

A. I remember a little bit about him but not much.

Q. And there was Helen, and she had really bad arthritis or rheumatism, she was Howard's mother – do you remember – Howard and Stanley were her children.

A. Where did she live?

Q. Actually lived back behind the Jewish Community Center. She was actually bed-ridden.

A. What was her name again?

Q. I don't know why I can't remember that family's last name. Helen and somebody – and Howard just died, lived in Washington forever, Leonard kind of took care of him. I will get back with you on that name. Then there was Jack.

A. Talking about my grandfather now?

Q. Your grandfather's siblings.

A. Well Dora Rappaport. I remember Dora well. She had the hat shop on Haywood Street for years. And Dora I used to see all the time.

Q. She was kind of close to your mother.

A. She was close to the entire family.

Q. Maybe she came over for Passover or family things?

A. Probably did. I remember her vividly. Leonard, Hilda, Mitch, the two children – my father, to Tennessee to the stores in Elizabethton and -- they lived in Johnson City, always used to go by and visit, see them pretty often. They used to come to Asheville.

Q. What about Uncle Jack?

A. Pretty close to Jack, Jack was there, kept up with Jack.

Q. I guess by the time you were growing up he had, what business he had –

A. I don't remember what it was Jack was doing. What did he do?

Q. Well, okay, his first business actually burned in 1923, called the Emporium. Then his wife left him with their children and went back to Buffalo where she was from. And his life was kind of over at that point. My father told me he had a little soda shop, across from where my uncle had the Star store, first block of Patton, but all I remember was by the 50s he had a mill-end store on College Street, called the Mill End.

A. I remember that, I don't remember much about it.

Q. It was bolts of mill-end cloth and blankets -- and he married -- was very hard of hearing, and in the 50s he married a lady named Mae, who sort of saved him. We had big Passovers with them, my uncle Jean and -- their children, Lois and -- and we would have really big Passovers.

A. Lois, BC and Jules -- they left and went back to Buffalo with their mother.

Q. They were tiny, but Jules was in the Air Force and Lois came to Asheville when she was 17 to live with her father in Kenilworth. You might remember her living there, she did live there for about maybe 8 or 10 years. She's very pretty.

So actually there were a lot of the original businesses in Asheville kind of started on Biltmore, so I wonder if you remember any of these people I am going to mention. Do you remember Morris Myers, a store called Palais Royal?
A. No.

Q. Do you remember the Pollock Shoe Stores?

A. I remember the name, but I don't remember much about them.

Q. Fields Clothing?

A. Adler?

Q. No, Fields was Cooper. Adler had the Army/Navy --

A. I remember Finkelsteins being there on the square, and Argenthaler's???

Q. And now Izzy Goldstein for a while had a store on Biltmore. Must have moved from Biltmore to Lexington, my dad tells a story about my uncle used to be on Biltmore, in the 20s or 30s. And the Man's Store?

A. Absolutely, and right next to it, between the Man's Store and the Imperial Theater was a little tiny newsstand. I want to say the man's name was Goldstein.

Q. Goldberg.

A. E. C. Goldberg. I remember him.

Q. He was always there. Always there. Now, do you remember the other Bloomingbergs which would have been Harry and his siblings?

A. I remember Harry well.

Q. Here were Harry's siblings: Freda, Edna, and Sigmund and Nat.

A. I remember them well.

Q. Do you remember anything about them specifically?

A. Remember Sigmund was the memory expert who never could remember anything. That was definite. He was a memory expert. How he tried to make a living, teaching people about memory or something, and the poor guy couldn't remember anything. Of course Harry was the successful one with his car dealership. Freda, I remember Freda just being there with her red hair, and Edmund was in Washington. Nat came back and worked some for Harry in later years. He was sort of a character.

Q. He was a rake.

A. What's that?

Q. Sort of a dapper – dandy.

A. He fancied himself up a little bit.

Q. Do you remember specifically any of the other stores or did you stop by downtown coming home from school or –

A. Well, my normal day when you get up – when I was in high school, you get up in the morning, get on the bus, city bus, right there at the corner of Macon and Charlotte Street, they had tickets you buy for the week, 50 cents; rode for a nickel each way, get a transfer, bus would take you downtown to Pritchard Park, take another bus to take you to high school, down McDowell street.

Same thing coming back. In the afternoons I would usually stop and go visit my father, the store, grandfather, uncle, whatever. I spent a lot of time downtown that way. I used to love to go to Woolworth's, they had the lunch counter. I would get a BLT club, bunch of potato chips, big Pepsi-cola, and a piece of the most delicious yellow cake with chocolate icing. I loved that cake. Ate many of them. It was either a BLT or turkey club. Club sandwich, potato chips, big Pepsi and yellow cake with chocolate icing, that was my meal, I loved it.

Q. Did you run into other school mates downtown?

A. I don't remember any school mates downtown.

Q. They must have had parents with businesses downtown.

A. Probably did, but I don't remember. A couple of other names that come to mind, Ronnie Goldstein, I guess Ronnie still lives there. Also a Bard family, B-a-r-d. I don't think they are around anymore.

Q. Actually Audrey is.

A. Audrey is in Asheville? Audrey was a pretty girl, as I remember, I don't know what she looks like today, a little bit older. Her brother Ronnie. A Paula Lakman, a little bit older too.

Q. Her family had a jewelry store.

A. Right.

Q. You remember the S&W?

A. Oh, yes, every Thursday night. That was the night we had a black lady at the house cooking and cleaning. Thursday was always her day off, and Thursday night we would go to the S&W cafeteria for dinner. I grew up eating cafeteria food and I like cafeteria food today. That was an event.

Q. Did you meet other people you knew there?

A. Oh, yeah, you would always see somebody.

Q. What about – okay, did you want to go – were you expected to go into any of the family businesses in Asheville, do you think?

A. No, I don't think so. There was really no business for me to go to. Once my father had that setback, when he moved the store -- by the time I finished college he was gone, in Florida. My uncle was still there operating the Leader, but it was a cut down version of what it used to be. And there was no business for me to go back to. I never wanted to be in the retail business.

Q. Now you mentioned yesterday that you didn't want to go back to Asheville at a certain point because there were too many relatives.

A. Yeah, I was making a decision in 1966, actually probably the latter part of '65 or '66, and I was married, had three children at that point. We had a lot of relatives up there then, still a lot of people living. It would have been a little tough on my wife to have gotten in with all that, all the relatives.

Q. Well, all the relatives lived there, you're a relative, I don't quite understand.

A. She wasn't a blood relative.

Q. So she felt a little uncomfortable, you think.

A. I think so. And there wasn't enough growth, opportunity. I didn't see the growth potential I saw elsewhere. We sort of discarded that idea pretty quickly, to move back to Asheville.

Q. Well, those are most of my questions, I have about two minutes left if there are other things you want to talk about Asheville.

A. No, I loved Asheville. I still like it today. I wish I could take the mountains and move it down to the middle of the state and ???, but I have no regrets for what I did with my life, where I lived. It's been good for me, my family. A lot of opportunity here. I told you yesterday, going back to Asheville, the shopping center, apartments, hotel, business mart, we have done some things in Asheville ??? I get back to Asheville every now and then. That's about it.

Q. That was a pretty good reminiscence, wasn't it? We're going to run out of tape.