

ANNE MICHELOVE KOLODKIN

Interviewed by David Schulman

I: We are at the home of Anne Michelove Kolodkin and we're doing some further discussions about the Michelove family which was prominent in Asheville and in Hendersonville. Right now before Anne tells you some things about the Michelove family, she's handed me a family tree and I'm just going to read a little bit of the family tree into this discussion. Isaac Michelove it shows as being born June 1858, died 1935 and was evidently married to a Sarah Malke July 1854, died 1944. One of their children was Hattie Michelove. Hattie Michelove was born July 1888 and died in 1964 and was married to Barney Pearlman of Asheville. Barney Pearlman's ages are listed 1889 to 1963. Now Hattie Michelove and Barney Pearlman had the following children: Fred Pearlman who married Anne Mankit, Ruth Pearlman who married Lewis Rifkin, David Pearlman who married Audrey Meden and Thelma Pearlman who married Maurice Rothman. And, of course, they had children also and that family tree grows and grows. I also see here, let me ask Anne, it says Isaac Michelove and Sarah, so was Rachel a Michelove. How was she related to Hattie?

AK: Cousins. See their fathers were brothers.

I: So as far as the Hendersonville connection, Rachel Michelove, who was born 1895 and died in 1963 was married to Sam Calin. Sam Calin and his brother Maurice Calin, prominent families in Hendersonville, and how is this Sidney Calin...

AK: That's their son, one of their sons.

I: So one of Sam's and Rachel's sons was Sidney Calin and also Edward Lazaruth Calin.

AK: Edward is really the oldest I think. And this is Barry, they call him Barry, Baron, I've always heard him called Barry, Baron Stanley Calin. And this is another one of the Michelove family, Philip Michelove, he was a brother to Ray Calin and a brother also to Dan Michelove.

I: And Dan Michelove was married to Sophie Shapiro and their son is Donald Michelove who was the mayor of Hendersonville for so many years, about 12 years. So I just wanted to read a little bit of that family tree connections into this discussion. And now I'm going to let Anne...

AK: There's more Michelove families there. Let's see now, this was Abe Michelove's children. Abe Michelove and he has a daughter named Gertrude Michelove and, let's see, Rebecca Michelove Bernstein, Theodore Bernstein, they now live in Asheville. Now Lewis Michelove, that was my father-in-law.

I: Okay, so Lewis Michelove, born 1869, died 1944 was the father of Sam Michelove...

AK: And Jack Michelove, my husband. And then he also had, well, these are some of their children. They had a daughter named Anne also. And another son who lives in Kentucky now.

I: Lewis' son, Jack...

AK: I was his second wife.

I: And your name was Anne Motsman.

AK: And then they also had a son, Sam Michelove.

I: And Anne and Gertrude Michelove.

AK: And she was married to Morris Schlesenger. And let's see, over here, they also had a son named William Michelove who lives in Kentucky and he has two children, June and Reece Michelove. And then, you know, grandchildren. And then over here is S.H. Michelove. He was married twice. His first wife died, then he was also married to Ethel Davis in January 1935 and he had Dan and then he had a daughter named Rebecca.

I: Rebecca Michelove married Leo Fabian. Here's William Michelove was married to Mildred Pollock. And Mildred Pollock was Lou Pollock's daughter?

AK: That's right. And she is Kenny Michelove's mother.

I: And tell me again the connection with S.H. Michelove. He was a brother to Hattie Pearlman?

AK: No. He was an uncle to her, her father's brother. And then there's another Michelove brother. His name was Abraham and he also had a son named William Michelove who doesn't live in North Carolina anymore. And he has a daughter Lillian who lives in New Orleans. And Fred Michelove, I think he lives in Charlotte now. And then a Gertrude Michelove, I think she lives in California now. They also a couple of sisters. Sarah Michelove, she lived in Baltimore and she was married to a Baker, William Baker, Dan Baker and Gertrude Baker were her three children.

I: And here's Annette or Annie Michelove.

AK: She was married to a Schwartzberg.

I: Was that the Schwartzberg from Asheville?

AK: They used to live in Asheville. Not any of her children live in Asheville anymore. One of her sons, Milton, used to have a men's shop in Asheville. Milton has passed away, but he moved in Atlanta. And then she has a daughter who lives, Trudy we call her, Gertrude, she's married to a Packard. She lives in Charlotte. And then she had two sons that lived in California. And then there was one other brother who settled in Sweden. I don't remember his first name. And that was all of that family. But the Micheloves, as I said, were one of the first Jewish families in Asheville and had very early roots there. They came in 1899 to the United States. One of the sisters and five of the brothers settled in Asheville.

I: So there were six Micheloves that came to Asheville. And would you say that was early 1900s.

AK: 1899, excuse me. No, it must have been 1889 because in 1899 the Michelove brothers took time from their work to help found the first synagogue in Asheville.

I: You want to maybe just read that whole article.

AK: The Micheloves first reunion, it was in September of 1982, which was 12 years ago. Fred Pearlman wrote this article, it was put in the paper. Fred Pearlman said the name Michelove, one of Asheville's prominent families, was probably the Americanization of the eastern Europe name. It was pronounced Michelove in Europe. The Micheloves, he said, were serfs or servants on estates of the rural family of Lithuania when they immigrated to the United States. It is likely the immigration officer could not spell Michelove and called it Michelove. Almost a century the Michelove family has been prominent in Asheville where it settled in 1889. It is no coincidence that the city administration roles of Asheville and Hendersonville carry the name Michelove. Ken Michelove, grandson of one of the original Michelove settlers here, is city manager of Asheville. And his cousin, Don Michelove, was mayor of Hendersonville for several years. From its early roots in Asheville, the Michelove family has scattered across the nation and this particular weekend when they had the reunion, there was a Shirley Michelove of Atlanta, wife of a grandson of the original Micheloves, Henry Michelove, the family held its first reunion. The origin of the family, said Fred Pearlman, whose grandfather was one of the Micheloves, it was in a small village in Lithuania. I know they called them Litbucks. In 1889 six brothers and three sisters left Lithuania. One of the brothers immigrated to Sweden. The other eight children came to the United States. At that time they could purchase steerage on a vessel from Hamburg, Germany for \$35, imagine that. Two of the girls settled in Baltimore and the other girl and her five brothers came to Asheville. One of the brothers, after a family dispute, disappeared into Virginia and has never been heard of. The four brothers who settled here were S.H. Michelove. He had a beautiful store, the finest china and silver, the IXL Store.

I: Do you know why it was called that?

AK: I don't know. And then Lewis, that was my father-in-law, and Abe, Abe passed away at an early age and his wife remarried and moved to New Orleans. Some already had families. His sister, Annie, married Ike Schwartzberg, a member of a good merchant family here. Asheville, then, was a town of about 10,000 people. The railroads crisscrossed here and the city was booming. The Battery Park Hotel was three years old. The town had a hook and ladder fire department, a hospital, courthouse, waterworks, artificial gas and electricity, an electric street railway, and was a year away from paving the streets leading to the square. The Michelove brothers rapidly turned to earning a living for their families by first peddling in the countryside on foot, on horseback, and from wagons. As their situations improved, the brothers established small stores and sold their wares from there rather than from horseback. The most famous of these was the IXL Store which became known as an Asheville institution for its fine china, glass and silver. In 1899 the Michelove brothers took the time from their work to help found the first synagogue in Asheville. They were friends and neighbors of the Wolfe family. My mother-in-law said she lived right across the street. My mother-in-law also had a boarding house there, a kosher boarding house and Mrs. Wolfe had a boarding house. Mrs. Wolfe would borrow groceries from her, but my mother-in-law wouldn't take them back because she said they weren't

kosher. When Thomas Wolfe was growing up, the Michelove kids were among his close friends. He wrote about the Micheloves in *Look Homeward, Angel*. The children of the Michelove families were educated in public schools of Asheville and rapidly made careers for themselves, though most of them became merchants. Some like, not the Dan Michelove that moved here, one went to California, he became vice president of Twentieth Century Fox Studios and also owned an Atlanta baseball club at one time. Another one, William who is a brother-in-law of mine, is president of a Kentucky department store chain. He's interested in race horse breeding in Lexington, Kentucky. He married a girl whose name was Snyder and her father had some stores and he became president of them. Then Snyder's stores, they were department stores in Louisville and Lexington, Kentucky. Others have gone into law, medicine, military and theater ownership, among other vocations. Ken Michelove's father, W.W. Michelove, a son of S.H. Michelove, was active in Asheville's fire department movement. He was also instrumental in exposing a notorious Nazi group known locally as the Silver Shirts by posing as a member and operating as an undercover agent for the Secret Service.

I: Now that's Ken Michelove's father.

AK: That's right. A daughter of Isaac Michelove became Mrs. Barney Pearlman, one of the founders of Pearlman Furniture Co. Barney's son, Fred, built the company into a furniture empire and it's now operated by Fred's son, Skip, a fourth generation descendent of the Micheloves. So the Micheloves, the Pearlmans, the Rifkins, and descendents of other names were gathered that weekend to remember the old days and perhaps to thank God that their forefathers had good sense to leave Lithuania and head for the land of opportunity.

I: Didn't you have some other material that you were going to...

AK: There wasn't enough of it. Now, in Asheville, actually there are only two Micheloves left. My son, Paul Michelove, and Kenny Michelove. And there were so many there at one time.

I: So Ken and Paul are first cousins?

AK: No, second cousins. But now when I lived in Asheville, one whole page of the telephone book was full of Micheloves. And our house used to be headquarters, we always had so much company.

I: What did your husband do in Asheville?

AK: Two things. He had a wholesale hosiery business and also a retail store.

I: And was he downtown?

AK: Yeah. When I first married him, we were on Biltmore Avenue. Then they were going to tear those buildings down, you know, so then we moved down on Broadway and we gave up the retail store and just ran the wholesale hosiery business. Then later, my father had died and my mother wasn't well, and so I came back here and took over the store that my parents had.

I: And what kind of store did your parents have here in Hendersonville?

AK: Just a general department store. We called it Jack's Bargain Center. And the retail store in Asheville on Biltmore Avenue was also called Jack's Bargain Center and we called our wholesale hosiery business Fashion Hosiery Co. And after Jack died, my husband, I went out of the wholesale business and just ran a retail store until I remarried. And then when I remarried it was interfering because I worked too many days and stayed open Saturday nights and everything. And I had been a social worker and decided I'd go back to that again.

I: And where was the hosiery company, as far as the buildings, do they still exist in Asheville, was it near that Chinese restaurant on Broadway?

AK: Across the street. There used to be a drug store on the corner just below it. There's a bicycle shop right next door from where we used to be, Hern's Bicycle Shop.

I: And so while you were in Asheville, you were saying there was lots of other Micheloves. And, of course, the Pearlmans were there and they're still there.

AK: So many of the Micheloves, well the older generation died, and so many of the others moved away. One of my brother-in-laws moved to Georgia and he has two sons that live in Atlanta. He's passed away. The younger people left and married and went other places.

I: Can you describe a little bit of the IXL Shop?

AK: It was on Haywood Street. It was a beautiful store. And if I wanted to give somebody a nice wedding gift or some kind of gift, I always went there to buy something because it was such beautiful china and beautiful silver. You couldn't make a mistake buying anything there. And Uncle S.H. was such a perfect gentleman. He wasn't a very tall man but he held himself so erect and was always such a perfect gentleman. And he seemed to be the leader of the Micheloves. And he took a very, very active part in the synagogue, in getting the synagogue organized and so forth.

I: And, again, his wife was who?

AK: I didn't know his first wife. The second wife was from Baltimore, her name was Ethel. We called her Aunt Ethel.

I: Can you remember Asheville business district and the Jewish merchants on Haywood Street and Broadway?

AK: There used to be the Bloombergs there had a place on Patton Avenue, The Leader. And then Bon Marchis, the Lepinsky family. And on Lexington Avenue, you know the shoe store, Mr. Resnikof had a shoe store there. And there were several other little shops on Lexington Avenue. I can't remember the names of the people. Now Milton Schwartzberg had a men's shop right on the corner where you turn from Patton Avenue to Haywood St. Then he sold it to Ruth Lowenberg and they had a nice men's shop and were quite successful. After they retired they moved to Florida. But now she's been back staying with her daughter Justine. She's had a few bad falls and she's not in very good shape right now.

I: Somebody was telling me the other day...

AK: Oh, the Shochets. There were some Goldsteins at one time had a shop there. Gene and Arlene Goldstein.

I: What about Faders, was that like a restaurant or a juice bar or something?

AK: More like a bar.

I: Were they related to any other families?

AK: Not that I know of. But there was more than one Bloomberg there. Harry Bloomberg, you know, had the car business. And then the other Bloomberg had The Leader.

I: Must have been a cousins maybe I guess?

AK: Yeah.

I: What about the ones that had the Palais Royal Dept. Store and stuff, was that before you came?

AK: I don't remember that.

I: I don't remember the name of the owners. They had a big fire on Pack Square but that was probably before you came. Can you talk a little bit about what the Asheville community was like at that time, the Jewish community?

AK: At that time, you know, the Micheloves were members of the synagogue so I in addition joined the temple because of my children. When my children came along, I sent them to Sunday School there. I taught Sunday School for both the synagogue and the temple for awhile. But the funniest thing is, when my son moved back to Asheville, he did not join the temple. He joined the synagogue. He felt he had roots there.

I: Alot people tell me that people belonged to both at one time.

AK: I did, I belonged to both. And I belonged to both sisterhoods. I'll tell you the truth, I think when I first got married and moved to Asheville, it was a closer community than it is today. There were some Bloomberg women that had other names. One of them had married a Goldstein. I can see the other one's face but I can't think of her married name. But there were several Bloomborgs there.

I: I remember too, I think it was a Jewish merchant, that they were wholesalers down there near where Schandlers was, and there was like Dollanback or something. Do you remember that name, Dollanback? I remember as a kid going there and they had toys.

AK: I forgot. I'm almost about to forget, their sons are still in business there where they sell restaurant supplies. Van Rockemore was the one that started that business.

I: Are they connected to any other Jewish family?

AK: Not that I know of, we were just friends.

I: Do you remember any of the rabbis, the different rabbis?

AK: I remember Rabbi Unger.

I: What was he like?

AK: I thought he was very nice, I liked him alot. And you know when Paul was born, there was a single orthodox rabbi. We lived very close to the synagogue and he stayed with us. I cannot think of his name but he was just there a couple of years.

I: And he was the rabbi of the synagogue and he was single?

AK: Yes. And his father was a rabbi, not in the city of New York, but in the state of New York.

I: So you were mainly associated with Unger while you were there. And we talked about on the other tape that Hendersonville really only had one regular rabbi in the late 20s, William Mosky and then after that it was Morris Calen, Morris Caplan and _____.

AK: Except a few summers. Now right now there is this rabbi, you know, he has two doctors degrees. He's also a medical doctor, Rabbi Mitchell Gent. Jennifer just loves him and loves his services. I like his services.

I: He seems to be a unique guy.

AK: Yes he is. He's been here every weekend this month. He just built a home in a new development. It's approximately 10 miles out of town. He's been married twice. He has a son from his first marriage. And his son's here quite a bit. Then he has a new baby that's just about a year old. His second wife seems very nice. She's a chiropractor. I understand she still practices. I understand she teaches a class of aerobics too and plans to do that here sometime. But Morris Caplan still is in charge.

I: And he's been doing that 40 years.

AK: Pretty close to it. I'm just trying to think. They've been married I guess about 49 years now.

I: Morris Caplan married Anne Williams, that's Lou Williams' daughter. And then Lou Williams also had Sammy Williams and Jakey.

AK: Jakey never married, he passed away.

I: Was it Lou Williams' wife...

AK: She had a sister here too who was married to a Weisberg.

I: Morris Weisberg's wife was a sister to Louie Williams' wife. And that's how the Lessings were related, the Lessings were related to the Williams and so therefore they were related to the Weisbergs through marriage. What about the Levinsons?

AK: Mier Levinson, he died. Then his wife left here and went to California. She has passed away. They had one son and he teaches at the Univ. of Texas.

I: I think he was about my age.

AK: No, he was a little older than you cause he was older than Paul, about a year and a half older than Paul.

I: Was Mier Levinson a merchant in town too?

AK: Yeah, he had a little store on main street. It seemed to me about every store on main street years ago belonged to some Jewish person. During the holidays all of main street was almost closed. Maybe some of the non-Jewish merchants closed because there was no business, I don't know. Well, see, Belks was on Main Street and Penneys. And today, come to think of it, I don't know of one Jewish merchant on Main St. Yes I do, Morris Calen and the Shermans.

I: And my Uncle Jack Sherman was there. And he was in Brevard too wasn't he? Didn't he have a store in Brevard?

AK: He lived in Brevard before he came here.

I: That was after you were in Brevard though?

AK: Yeah, afterwards.

I: Weren't there some Jewish families in Brevard?

AK: There was a Mr. Silverstein but he married a woman who was Episcopalian. He was very active in the Episcopal church and his children were not raised as Jewish. His youngest daughter is about two years older than me and they had a mansion. She invited me to their house a few times. They donated, it's called Silvermont now, their home to the town of Brevard and they use it for all kinds of entertainment and all kinds of programs now. He had a plant up in Rosman and one in Brevard. When I finished high school I was the only girl to get flowers on the stage. Mr. Silverstein sent them to me. And he sent me a check for \$10 which was alot of money in those days. They only had 11 grades when I went to high school and I skipped the second grade so I finished high school just before I was 16.

I: So you graduated high school in Brevard.

AK: Yeah, my family moved here the year I was a senior. But I stayed with two of Ed Patterson's aunts that were there, Sarah Morris and Anne Pushel. Now there was another Jewish man that had moved there that had been a partner in business with Mr. Pushel for a while. But when I came there he was already married. He had married a woman that was not Jewish so he didn't associate. Now, as far as I know, Alvin Patterson, he did not marry a Jewish woman. Now Benj Patteron married a girl from Asheville. She had been married before and had two or three daughters. I remember I used to take my mother-in-law to see her grandmother. Her father had a men's shop on the square. I can see her parents so well, I can't think of their names. Milton Lurey's wife's parents, her father first had a place during WWII where they

sold tires, used tires and things like that.

I: What was her maiden name, do you know?

AK: Wadepin.

I: So Herb Wadepin that passed away was her brother?

AK: Yeah.

I: I knew the Lurey-Wadepins were in business together.

AK: Yeah they had that manufacturing business.

I: Vanderbilt Shirt Co.

AK: But before that, now Milton Lurey grew up in Greenville, SC. He was just a poor boy. But see the Wadepins were successful in business and he got in to that business so he did well. I don't know if you remember my sister Jeannette. I remember he dated her a few times. Like I said, the Greenville-Spartanburg crowd used to come up here so much in the summer. You know, they'd come up Sundays, we'd go out with them alot.

I: So they'd just come up in groups?

AK: Yeah. I got my first car in 1934. Hardly anybody else had any cars. And there were no movies open here on Sundays, so a whole crowd would gather in my car and we'd go to Asheville. Morris Calen was single here then and maybe one or two others. And we'd all go over to Asheville, go out to eat and go to the movies.

I: So by 1934 there were several, like Ed Patterson was saying, there weren't many when he was growing up, but by 1934 there were several Jewish young single people in Hendersonville and Asheville.

AK: Yeah and I helped organize this Hanoka Club. We had alot of fun.

I: Tell me about that.

AK: Well, now Morris Calen's brother, Sam Calen, brought his sister down here, a niece and two nephews. Mier Levinson wasn't married yet then. He came here. We had a nice crowd. So we decided it would be fun to organize a club, which we did. And the schul was not all paid for. We thought we'd help raise some money. In fact I went out to Flatrock Playhouse and got them to let us sponsor a play. See I knew the fellow real well that started it. See I was in one of his first plays. You'd think I was studying drama when I was in college cause they had a writeup in the Asheville paper about me. I was the first freshman to make the dramatic club. I was in one of his plays just before I got married. And so he'd give me free passes all the time. And when I was president of haddasa here, every summer he let us sponsor a play. I'd go to the boarding houses and sell tickets and go around and pick the people up. And the women here, they would play bridge every Wednesday night at a different woman's home and I would go and help them serve refreshments. I played bridge with them a little bit but I didn't like the way they played bridge. We used to have a majong club when I lived in Asheville. I worked but I would take the time off cause we'd meet once a

week at a different person's home. We'd have lunch and then we'd put some money aside for the donor for haddasa. I have to laugh, I've been a member of haddasa 54 years. I've paid dues 53 years and I've never become a life member. I used to help raised money for it. And now it's \$250 and I'm 81 years old and God only knows how much longer I'll be around. See, I belong to some other organizations. So I thought, I'll just send them a check for \$25 every year. And I have to laugh, I'm not a life member. I've been a member alot longer than most of the life members.

I: This Hanoka Club interests me. You said you had like victrolas or what you call nickelodeons.

AK: Yeah, the machinery was already there so we'd put a nickel or a dime in and play a record and we'd have dances. I don't remember how much we'd charge to come to the dance, it wasn't a whole lot. Money was tight then you know. But then we would donate that to the schul and it was just fun. We had a crowd of young people.

I: 50 people?

AK: Yeah, on Sunday nights. But not that many young people lived in Hendersonville all the time. But I remember there was a Soloman family used to come up from Charleston and they'd stay here all summer, you know, the children too. And some of them would come and go.

I: Would they stay in these boarding houses?

AK: No, they'd rent a home. They used to rent houses here alot, rent furnished houses. There were several Jewish families that would come up in the summer and rent houses. We always had someone to go out with.

I: This Hanoka Club, you didn't really operate in the wintertime much?

AK: Not much. We did, we got together. I don't remember if we got together once a week or once a month. We still got together.

I: But then what really made the large crowds was when Spartanburg came and Greenville.

AK: And then there would be people here from Charleston. They'd come too. Charleston used to be a real close community with us here. They came here alot.

I: I noticed in some of the things Morris Caplan gave me, when you were forming the synagogue bylaws, it was modeled after the Charleston synagogue or whatever.

AK: I wasn't here then. See, my father stayed with Pattersons and Ed's father sent my father to Cincinnati to learn to clean and press and he worked at that hotel in the summertime. And then the Freds were over in Brevard too, so he worked with them. Then when he was about 17 or 18 years old he decided to go into business for himself which he did. And he stayed with a family that had a boarding house on Main St. I remember when I was in high school I'd stop by there on my way home from school and would always make these great big pies. And they were afraid he was going to marry one of those girls, so they talked him into going up to Pittsburgh. My

father got married when he was 20 years old. I was 21 when he was born. And he had two uncles who were very successful, his father's brothers. So he met my mother there. But we moved to Brevard when I was about 12 years old. This is really funny. I'm going to tell you the truth. I don't have too many Jewish friends here. Most of my friends are not Jewish. I grew up that way. One of my best friends here, well, most of my friends are about 20 years younger than me. I don't associate much with people my age. It seems I have more fun with people a little bit younger. The older people have too many aches and ailments. But one of my best friends is 62. She's from Silva. She remembers going to your parents' store to shop. Her name is Jessie Kagel. She works at Carolina Village. She's coming here at 4 o'clock to help me. I don't remember her maiden name. She came here to work for the telephone company and married a fellow from here. I don't remember what her maiden name was. But she was from a big family. She was one of the youngest ones. She has several sisters and brothers that live up around Silva. But she spoke very highly of your parents store.

I: Dad's been there since 1933 I guess. My father was just 82. He was born in 1912.

AK: My daughter says, mother, don't tell people how old you are. You don't look it and you don't act it.

I: My father's the same way. People think maybe he's 70.

AK: As far as staying home, I don't like to stay home. I do what I have to do and I go, I belong to the Opportunity House here. Not many local people belong to it. I got real sick this winter and so I had dropped out of some things. But I go to line dancing class on Thursdays. I went to a cookout on a Sunday night and my head got very cold. And then I danced on Monday afternoon and I got awful hot and I came home and I went to pick up the receiver, I always put it to my right ear. And I could hear a voice, it was Anne Caplan calling me. I thought it was something with the telephone. I didn't think to put it to my left ear. And I called the telephone company and he said, did you put it to your left ear? I said, no. And that's why I had that test last week, they wanted to be sure I didn't have any growths in my head. I'll probably have to end up getting a little hearing aid.

I: Looking back on Asheville and Hendersonville, any particular event...

AK: When I lived in Asheville, we had a group of young married couples, when I first got married. We used to get together every Sunday night and do things. And I remember having good times here and Asheville both.

I: Of course, in my generation they write about it alot. They say we're cocooning, you're sort of pulling back. But I've noticed even in the last 10 or 12 years, I don't think that many couples get together just for no reason anymore. There has to be a reason.

AK: I have to laugh. Paul was born in February and I remember we had a dance. I'm trying to think of the name of the place. It was up on a mountain. He was born on February 23. It was a New Year's Eve dance. I went to the dance. I remember when Lois was born. I worked to the minute I went to the hospital. I drove myself to the hospital. I remember when Lois

was born. She was born December 29 and it was a pretty nice day. And I told the maid to bring her up in the carriage. And at the hosiery business we had on Broadway, I'd keep her in front of there. And the barber shop across the street, there was a black guy who used to come and do things for me. He came over and he said, Ms. Michelove, who's baby? I said, mine. And he looked at me and he said, when you had time to have a baby? I'm hyper, I don't mind telling you. I'm not the kind of person to sit still very long. My daughter has been coming home. I usually have first _____ here. Paul has to go to a meeting in Greensboro that Saturday. He's going to go Friday night and the meeting's over at 4 o'clock and he probably wouldn't get back to Asheville till about 8:30 or so. So I'm going to the public _____ and then I'll have them over here Sunday. And my daughter and her husband usually come up from Atlanta too, but I don't think they will this year. But my daughter says I make her husband nervous because I can't sit still. I worked till I was 77. And I've still been offered jobs.

I: When I still had my business, the people that had worked all their lives were the best employees because they were used to working. And sometimes the younger generation sort of poops out pretty quick.

AK: I majored in sociology and minored in psychology and I started working here as a social worker in 1934 and they gave me the roughest, toughest part of the county. There's places I went to that people who have been born and raised here didn't even know exists. One place I used to have to go to in Polk County and Greenville County, all they did was bootleg there, but when they found out what I was doing, they were nice to me. But then I used to go to Pattersons and work there on Saturday.

(END OF SIDE 1)

AK: ...Brevard for 3 years and then we moved to Hendersonville in January of 1929. I was the oldest. Then I have a brother, Edward Motsman, who now lives in Charlotte. He was in WWII and then he came back. He worked with Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. He's retired but he's very active. And then I have a sister Jeannette who passed away a little over a year ago. She married a fellow from New York but then they moved here. He used to travel. And then I did have another sister whose name was Bertha who passed away before she was 6 years old. Then I have a brother, Joe, who is a dentist now. He went to Northwestern Dental School and he married a girl from Pittsburgh, so he settled up there. And then I have a sister named Yetta. She worked for Rabbi Epstein in Atlanta, Georgia for several years. She married a fellow from Savannah. Warrenstein is her last name. So she has settled there. And then my youngest brother, Richard, he went to Chapel Hill. He majored in journalism and he traveled for a number of years for Revlon and Helena Rubenstein and he also married a northern girl, so he has settled up north. And at the end, you know, I lived in Asheville for 13 years, then came back here. And in the end, my sister Jeannette and I were the only two here and she passed away a little over a year ago. And when we were young girls, Jeannette and another girl danced and sang here. They were known as the Personality Twins and we were very active in the community. And we all took music. My piano is in Jeannette's house was bought for my 5th birthday. We all took piano lessons. Music was very important. My mother had a beautiful voice and she loved music. Music was a very important part of our lives.

I: And your mother's maiden name was...

AK: Lipschitz.

I: It was not the Lipschitz from the boarding house?

AK: No. Now some of our family changed their name to Levy.

I: And the Motsman's store, was it Motsman's?

AK: Yeah. My father first was in dry cleaning and tailoring business here. And he had to work very hard in the summertime to make a living. They always had street dances on Monday night here. I remember always going to those street dances. And then I could see my father pressing clothes. After I got married, my husband and I helped him get out of that dry cleaning business. He opened up a general department store on Main Street. McFarlan's Bakery is there today. That was his building. Most of the young people here left here, that's the trouble.

I: You were saying something about your brother Eddie.

AK: Eddie worked with Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. but he was commander of the VFW Post 5206 here. And he hasn't lived here now in about 30 years and people will still see me on the street or somewhere, oh you're Eddie Motsman's sister aren't you?

I: So Hendersonville still had that small town feel and there's still lots of people that know you?

AK: Oh yes. I used to go to the mall and walk three times every morning. I haven't been doing that lately. And still people will call me, hi, Anne Motsman.

I: By your maiden name.

AK: And I got married for the first time over 54 years ago. But we were popular here. We were well liked. We mixed with the community good.

I: That's one of the things I think small towns offer too. The Jewish people and the Christian people really did mix well.

AK: Even though now we have so many Jewish people here now, so many newcomers, my best friends still are not Jewish.

I: Well, I think we'll end there. It's March 22, 1994, and again I've been at the home of Anne Motsman Michelove Kolodkin.

AK: You know my second husband was from Lenoir. He'd been in business in Lenoir for a number of years. He had a nice home in Columbus, Georgia and in Lenoir and I wouldn't go to either one of those places. I was a widow for just about 4 years. Six months after my first husband died, he came to see me but I turned him out. But I could have lived in a nice home in Lenoir or Columbus, Georgia, but I said, I'm not uprooting my children.