

**Temple Israel Archives**  
**Interview of Manny Ettingoff**

**January 17, 2005**

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MANNY ETTINGOFF (ME)

Date of Interview: January 17, 2005

Interviewer: Manny Ettingoff (ME)

Address:

Telephone:

Date of Birth:

Place of Birth

Sex: Male

Ethnic /Racial Heritage : White

Religious Affiliation: Baron Hirsch

Educational Background

Occupational History:

Special Interests:

Name of Spouse:

Name(s) of Children :

Father's Name:

Father's Occupation

Mother's Name :

Mother's Occupation:

Organizations, Boards , Offices:

HS: It's January 17, 2005, and this is Max Notowitz (MN) and Harriet Stern (HS) and we are interviewing Manny Ettingoff. Your full name is Manny Ettingoff?

ME: In English that's all I've got. I've got some stuff that says Manny N. Ettingoff but I don't know where that came from because in Hebrew it's Menachem Mendel.

HS: Your date of birth?

ME: The date of birth is September 23, 1926.

HS: And where were you born?

ME : I was born in Memphis , TN.

MN: Do you know where your ancestors came from?

ME: Chastnick, the Russian-Polish border, moved back and forth.

MN: Was it northern Poland, southern Poland?

ME: It was the border between Russia and Poland..

MN: Who of your ancestors came, your grandfather?

ME: Well my grandfather on my father's side came first. He was married. He had a number of children. Do you want me to try to name them.....

MN: Was he the one that had eight children?

ME: Something like that.

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HS: I don't think you have to name them but tell us something about him, about why he came? And where he went? Or where he lived?

ME: Where he stopped off on the way to Memphis, I don't know why he came to Memphis, I don't know, but he ended up in Memphis. He actually was actually a Talmud Chocham , knowledgeable in the Talmud. I don't know how old he was when he came here. He left here when he was 84 and went to what is now Israel but it was Palestine then. How long he was there by himself I'm not sure. He had three wives, one wife here and two wives after he got there.

HS: After the age of 84?

ME: After the age of 84.

HS: And he died in Israel?

ME: He died in Israel, Tel Aviv.

HS: Was he a teacher, a rabbi?

ME: I understand he was somewhat in the real estate business, but not an expert in it.

MN: His wife came with him and died here in Memphis.

ME: Yes, she was Sarah Bacherig.

HS: And this was your father's parent?

ME: Yes.

HS: Did he ever talk about him?

ME: Not a whole lot. I had a picture and I cannot find it, of my sister and I standing at his grave in Tel Aviv , and I cannot find it. I've turned this house upside down . I talked to my niece and she's going to see if she can find it, but so far no luck, and that's the ... in my mind , my grandfather's grave, my uncle Belz, standing beside him , and my sister and I standing behind the grave, and I just cannot find that picture.

HS: Well, it will probably turn up. Did you know his wife?

ME: No, in fact my sister is named for my grandfather's wife.

HS: Your father was born here ?

ME: No , he came here when was two years old. Now strangely, according to what I have been told, the two families , my mother's family and my father's family did not know each other in that little town of Chastnick, how that happened I do not know. It seems they should have known each other, but they did not and when my father needed a Jewish wife - he went to New York to find a Jewish wife - and met my mother there , and even though they came from the same small town , they did not know each other.

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HS: So he happened to go to a Polish group maybe?

ME: They had mutual relatives. I don't know if you know the Brooks family. The Summers? Doctor Brooks was my father's cousin , and Sam Brooks was my mother's cousin , and my mother had met them in New York and so my father went to them to find him a Jewish wife.

MN: My family did the same thing . My wife, Fanny's great-great grandfather went to New York, and brought a wife who lived in Arkansas , he was a farmer , and she moved in there , and he tied a boat up to his house , and she said look, the boat , when the tide came, the water did something and you may have to take the boat from the dock so they moved to Memphis.

ME: But my father came here he was two years old; my mother didn't come until she was twelve years old. And they did not know each other. She was living in New York; he was living in Memphis.

HS: When she came at twelve?

ME: Her father came before she did.

HS: And she was not planning to marry him at twelve, you said he went to New York and met her?

ME: He came to New York first to save some money to bring the family. He left her as a child in Russia. When she came over she was 12 years old, my mother.

HS: Where was your mother's family from?

ME: Same place, but they didn't know each other. I don't understand that , in a small town , but...

HS: And they lived in New York?

ME: My grandfather on my mother's side lived in New York and they found out there weren't any golden streets to pick up. My mother was 12 years old and that was old enough to go to work and he sent for her. Left the rest of the family still in that Russian Polish town, Chastnick ..

HS: Except for her?

ME: Because she was old enough to go to work.

HS: Where did she go to work?

ME: In a dress factory. Didn't know from nothing, couldn't even speak English..

HS: In New York?

ME: In New York.

HS: Did she finally learn English?

ME: Oh yes she learned English. I can't tell you why, but he became a citizen before she did. I really don't know. I remember when she became a citizen. Oh that was a big deal. Her studying to learn enough to answer the questions.

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HS: This was your mother?

ME: My mother.

HS: And she became a citizen here ?

ME: In Memphis.

HS: It was a very exciting day?

MN: How long was she here before she became a citizen?

ME: She came to the U.S. when she was 12 but she was married when she became a citizen.

HS: And you were born? You and your sister were both born by then? Did she work in Memphis?

ME: Did she work in Memphis? My father was in the real estate business and she was a housekeeper. Now the story I heard , I was a year and a half old when my father - I don't know if you know , you know Clark & Fay, I'm sure, before that it was Clark and Ettingoff, way back when, and Bill Clark was not married - he was younger than my father, a very nice man , and he and my father were partners. 1932 when everything hit the bottom , Bill Clark had a, not a wealthy father, but a well to do father , and he didn't do anything for a while , but my father had two children and my mother's family were all in the retail business so they put my father in a store on Macon and National, Highland Heights, known then as Stephen Heights, and he hated it, got out of the store every chance he got. By then Bill Clark was back in business and they remained friends and he used to say, come on Manny let 's get in the car and go for a ride. Bill Clark had an office out on Poplar 4400 or something like that, just go out there and talk. They remained friends for life.

HS: Did they keep the business , Clark and Ettingoff for many years ?

ME: No, not after that. Bill Clark got another partner, Gerald Fay, it became Clark and Fay, after the depression . Well it wasn't over, but it was better.

HS: But your father went back to work for him?

ME: No, my father was 59 when he died.

HS: So he was still working at his store?

ME: Yes. My father, when he came over on the ship at age two, he got the measles , and it affected his hearing and he learned to talk by yelling, literally by yelling at him , and I remember coming home from school one day and he had some kind of gadget sitting in front of him and I wasn't old enough to understand what it was, and of course I yelled. And he said "don't yell!" I wondered how was he going to hear me - I didn't know what that thing was. It was an Acousticon - that was the brand name. He said turn around and turn your back to me. Now talk normal. So I talked to him and he answered to me and I didn't know what was.

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HS: Was it a large thing ?

ME: It was about the size of a quarter and he got a bone conductor. He had excellent bone conduction and he wore it over his head and had a little piece behind his ear and he could talk normally and as I say he had excellent bone conduction, and he could take that thing from behind his ear and hold it between his thumb and finger and we could talk normally and he could hear it.

HS: That's amazing. I've never heard of that.

ME: It was battery operated. People that used to come in the store knew what his problem was and they would talk loud to him and he had to train them not to yell at him.

HS: Do you know very much about your mother's family? Were they very Jewish also?

ME: My father's family were more religious than my mother's family, but my mother was more religious than father.

HS: Did they practice - did you have an Orthodox home?

ME: Kosher kitchen , went to Baron Hirsch. Anshei Sphard first, and then came the depression and my father couldn't afford two schuls , and it was time for me to get some Jewish affiliation so he moved over to Baron Hirsch. And I grew up in Baron Hirsch.

HS: What was it like growing up in Baron Hirsch, you started before Bar Mitzvah?

ME: I had a teacher that came to my house. I don't know if you've heard of Mrs. Speck , but her husband was a Talmud Chocham Yid that I never knew , and she used to ride the #3 street car out to us on Macon Road and I used to sit in the back of the store and curious customers used to want to know what all that noise was back there because we were talking what they couldn't understand.

HS: And that's how you prepared for your Bar Mitzvah?

ME: With Mrs. Speck.

HS: After your Bar Mitzvah did you go on to Jewish youth groups?

ME: Yes , AZA and that kind of thing.

HS: What did AZA do in those days?

ME: It was supposed to be a fraternity, Aleph Zadick Aleph , using Hebrew instead of Greek letters. That's what I grew up with.

HS: Was that a big part of your social life?

ME: Almost all of it. I was not a social bug. HS:

Were there dances and parties..

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ME: Yes, that's what they do now I think.

MN: They had parties and different programs...

ME: You know where the Menorah Institute was? That's where I went to Sunday School. And my father used to take me down there and wait for me.

HS: How long did you go to Sunday School, all your childhood, and your sister also?

ME: Yes.

HS: You have one sister? And what was her name ?

ME: It was supposed to be Sara Beth,. Sora Bashi.. But the stories I heard and this was before I was born. She was a year and a half older. I'm going off into another part of the family now. My uncle, Ben Ballin, had been left in Europe and lost. They left him with a man, and along came WWI and they didn't know where he was. They lost him. I don't know, they hired investigators and all that stuff, and they found him , and they did not tell my mother they had found him , and they brought him to New York because the rest of my mother's family was in New York , and they called Memphis and they told my mother that they had found him and she didn't know what to do. And the story I heard was my father said I'll tell you what to do. You take Sara Beth (cause she just had Sara Beth then) and you get on the train and you go to New York and you see him . So she got to New York and the relatives up there, the Brooks were still living in New York then , said she doesn't look like Sara Beth, she looks like Shirley and they started calling her Shirley. She was there for six months, a year and a half old and when she came back she thought she was Shirley. She didn't know her name was Sara Beth.. They just said she looked like Shirley.

HS: So everybody called her Shirley after that ?

ME: That's right. They brought her back to Memphis after six months and the story I heard during WWII, she applied for a job at the Army Depot across from the Anshei Sphard Cemetery and they said she had to have a birth certificate. She didn't have a birth certificate, so she had to get affidavits from friends who knew her from childhood, and relatives who knew her from childhood and you had to have a copy of her original birth certificate , so she went to get a copy of her original birth certificate and all it had on there was S. Ettingoff. on it , so you could put anything you want on there , so she put Shirley on it cause that's the name she had virtually all her life.

HS: So she was content to be

Shirley? ME: She didn't know the difference.

HS: Did you grow up in the store, above the store?

ME: We had an apartment around the corner, upstairs.

HS: Was it a dry goods store?

ME : It was a dry goods store., the shmati business.

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HS: What kind of a neighborhood was it at that time?

ME: Yokel, White. There were no blacks there in those days.

MN: I know the neighborhood because Nathan and Nasua , the three brothers , Manny , Benny and Gilbert, owned it later on. They owned that property and it wasn't until they died - before they died, they sold it and we carried the mortgage. After they died, the mortgage was paid off.

HS: You were involved in that?

MN: I was involved in that.

HS : That was the Delugaches ?

MN: They kept it in the family.

ME: See, Fanny Delugach was my father's sister.

MN: That's Fanny's grandmother. She thought her maiden name was Fanny Ettingoff but we found the birth certificate and it wasn't Ettingoff. It was Fanny Delugach

HS: And what was the name of the store?

ME : Ettingoffs.

HS: And did it become the Delugaches ?

ME: No. The Delugach family and Ettingoff family were not together. I mean they were friends..

HS: They just bought it after you. And you grew up over the store, but you didn't play with the neighborhood children.

ME: It was available. There were no Jewish children out there. The closest Jewish people were the Browns who lived on Summer Avenue which was one mile away and I don't know if there was anybody else anywhere around .

HS: Where did you go to school?

ME: For seven years I went to Treadwell and my parents were concerned about me growing up out there without any Jews and they took me on a street car in the 8th grade and I used to ride the #3 street car to Poplar and Crosstown , transfer to the #7 and ride over to Bellevue to Bellevue Jr. High School to 8th and 9th grades, and then 10th, 11th and 12th grade, went to Central..

HS: Did you?

ME: They still give that 8th grade letter and they call it Eagle. They still give a letter, an athletic letter?

MN: And did you graduate?

ME: Graduated from Central.

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MN: Where did you go then?

ME: Well , I went to Knoxville , U.T. for two quarters and then answered the call from my Uncle Sam and was in the Army for a little over two years.

HS: At what time? What war?

ME: The second World War. Well, the war was still going on, and I applied for OCS and the grades came out and they accepted me in OCS and then the war ended while I was in OCS at Ft. Benning and everybody resigned from OCS because you went to OCS to become an officer you had to stay in for a while, and I said I'll wait until next week. Next week was too late. They cut off resignations. You couldn't resign. So I said I'll fix that. I did everything wrong I could think of other than really get in trouble . My pack went straight on the bed and they looked at me and I left it that way. So I got a demerit, this went on and on for another fourteen weeks and finally I got to go before a Board and I fixed them good. I mean I got out. I was kicked out of OCS. And then you know at that time , they cut off enlistments in the military service and the only way you could enlist and be sure how long you would be in was they would give you a discharge so you could enlist. In fact I've got two discharges , one has my regular number on it and the other one has R.A. written on it. And I went to the regular army , and I had a leave to go to Berlin and Rome and Trieste and London and Paris. And then I came home and on my way from Ft. Pickett back to Memphis , I stopped off to see some friends I had made in Knoxville the two quarters I was there and spent a week there and then came home , and then went back to Knoxville to finish school. I started out in Engineering and changed over to business administration.

HS: You graduated around 1951?

ME: Yes. 1951 .

MN: Where did Jane come in?

ME: Did you know Howard Waller? Howard and I grew up together and Thelma , Howard's wife, was from Missouri, Missouri Bootheel , and Jane was from Manila , AR, which is right below the Bootheel and all the Jews there knew each other, and they went to the same temple in Blytheville , and I bummed around there and didn't do much as anything and Howard and Thelma decided Jane and I should meet and they went in a Starchi??? They got us together and we met and I was slow about that too. We went together for five years.

HS: She was still living in Manila?

ME: No, she came here and went to work for the Jewish Community Center. In fact her parents had moved here. Her father had retired and they lived on St. Albans in Hedgemoor.

HS: What was her maiden name ?

ME: Borowsky. You know Colman Borowsky. That's her first cousin. Colman's father and my father -in-law were brothers.

HS: You have a lot of connections , I know that.



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MN: You see, I didn't realize how many connections.

ME: All the Jews in Memphis are connected.

HS: Well I remember Jane. So you had a romance for five years and then you got married. When was that?

ME: 1956.

HS : And by that time you were working in real estate?

ME: No. I was working for the Corondelet Corporation.

HS: What was your position there?

ME: Trader.

HS: Did you enjoy the work?

ME: Yes, I liked it.

HS: Did Jane continue working at the JCC?

ME: No, she quit shortly after we got married because we were 30 years old - time to start having a family. She quit so we could have a family.

HS: How many children do you have?

ME: Two. I have Sam who was named after my father. My father was Sam Ettingoff, and of course in the Orthodox religion you don't name after a living person, and then Judy was born. And I don't really know for sure who she is named after. And Judy was three years younger than Sam. She lives in Pittsburgh. She's married and has two children.

MN: How did she end up in Pittsburgh?

ME: You know the Schneiders - David and Rita Schneider decided that Jane and I should meet. Howard called her and said you call her and made a date to go out together and we did. Like I said, I was slow - took five years.

HS: And you had a big hill to climb there.

ME: Oh yes

HS: So, the kids all grew up in Hedgemoor?

ME: No, we lived on McLean, between Jackson and Vollintine. We lived in an apartment on Graham, and then we moved to a house on Normandy, and then we moved out.

HS: I think you lived in the apartment on Graham when we did , or you had just moved out--that was 1957-1958.

ME: Lots of Jews there, Sterns , well I can't remember them all.

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HS: Did you continue to belong to Baron Hirsch?

ME: I belonged to Baron Hirsch ever since.

HN: Were you an officer?

ME: I was the treasurer at Baron Hirsch. I grew there. I went to Baron Hirsch when I was six years old when my father had to have me in a Jewish organization so he joined Baron Hirsch.

HS: And you continued ...and you were the treasurer for how long?

ME: I don't know, I got a mark by my name , ex officio member of the Board, I still get Board notices. And I still try to go to most of the Board meetings.

HS: Were you involved in any special developments at Baron Hirsch , any special things that went on when you were active?

ME: I don't know, when you're active, you're active. Like I say, I was the treasurer , and you had to do something or not do something. And I decided not to do something, so I discontinued. I stayed on the Board. Back in those days, once you're on the Board , you're on the Board. It's not that way any more. Now it's six years and you're off. After so long a time, they just kept leaving you on the Board.

HS: You raised your children in the practice similar to as you had when you grew up?

ME: Similar but I was not as observant as my parents.

HS: Did you keep a kosher home?

ME: A kosher home , yes. Still do.

HS: And did you observe the Sabbath and the holidays?

ME: You know, had kiddush on Friday night, go to shul on the holidays...

HS: Does your son live here?

ME: Yes he lives in Memphis. He works at National Bank of Commerce.

HS: You must have grandchildren.

ME: Yes, they come around. They like that swing out there.

HS: You have one grandchild?

ME: Two. The youngest one doesn't have one. They let me know. When Judy was two months pregnant, they called me.

MN: Didn't you work for Southern Leather ?

ME: Just for a little while .

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MN: Mildred worked there?

ME: Yes Mildred worked there way back before that.

MN: Mildred was a cousin?

ME: Mildred Ettingoff Fox. There were not a lot of people named Ettingoff. I had an Uncle Sol who was a gambler and he had two sons, and Nat, his oldest son, was married, but never had any children, and Irvin, his youngest son, I lost track of him way back when. Did you know the Malkins, Sam Malkin?

MN: [ just know about him.

ME: Annie, his wife was my father's sister, and Uncle Malkin - I had two uncles who went by their last name, Uncle Malkin and Uncle Lubin, and Uncle Malkin said there's no bad boys, send Irvin up there and I'll straighten him out. They lived in Jacksonville. They sent Irvin up there. He kept him two weeks and he sent him back - he couldn't take him. You mentioned Mildred. There were four sisters and one brother, Willie - he died young, never had any children - no Ettingoffs there. And I don't know what happened to the Ettingoffs in Jacksonville, I don't even know.

HS: The two Ettingoffs, one didn't have any children, and the other one?

ME: He was in the Army, and I never kept up with him.

HS: And those were the only Ettingoffs that were around?

ME: Well Uncle Ben (Beryl), who was Mildred and Rose's father, had four daughters and a son, and the son died young, so no Ettingoffs there. Uncle Ben left here and went to live with his father in Tel Aviv. According to the Orthodox tradition, you say Kaddish for 11 months...

..TAPE TWO...

ME: 11 months and one day, this uncle they lived with and died as soon as they finished saying Kaddish and they're buried side by side. And I'm trying to find that picture.

HS: And did you ever go to Israel?

ME: Twice

HS: And did you see them when you were there? Are they still living?

ME: No..

HS: You saw the graves while you were a child?

ME: No I didn't see the graves. I was grown then. I went over with Rabbi Grossman.

HS: Was the family very violent?

ME: Have to be in Israel..

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HS: After they moved there , actively violent?

ME: Yes.

HS: You must have known some of the family?

ME: I remember when Max came here.

MN: I remember a lot of the people better than others? Mildred Fox, her daughter and son. I sold them a house. I sold them my car. I have the pictures at my wedding

ME: Mildred worked for Southern Leather Company. I don't know if they still have a place in New Orleans or not. She moved to New Orleans {sic... Mildred} and met Henry Fox there - I don't know how they got back to Memphis - but they came back to Memphis. Henry Fox was not from Memphis. He died, when he was fairly young.

HS: You remember when Max came here?

ME: I remember when Max came here. You know it was unusual back in those day people coming here from Europe.

MN: You know when I got married my father-in-law wanted us to have a big wedding. He counted 45 first cousins - he said we had to have everybody at the wedding, and I had a week to plan it.

ME: Manny and I have the same Hebrew name but we're from different families. He's from the Ettingoff family and I'm from the Ballin Family.

HS: There's lots of Ballins. Are you related to all of the Ballins?

MN: Just about, as far as I know.

HS: Some members of the family have lived here as long as you have?

ME: Oh yes. Uncle Ben was here when I was born.

HS: He's the one they found?

ME: Yes.

HS: And these pictures of family reunion occasions that Max has a book for?

MN: In this picture, I don't know who fits together , but there is a lot of work.

HS: Who is Julius's son married to?

ME: She was a convert. She was not born Jewish.

MN: And he's a member of Temple.

ME: Yes he's a member of Temple Israel and they have two children.

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HS: And your daughter is married to someone in Pittsburgh?

ME: He wandered around. He's currently in Pittsburgh. He's at the University of Pittsburgh.

HS: What is his name ?

ME: Jack.

HS: Jack what?

ME: Yalowich.

HS: Sounds like you did a lot of work and a lot of activities for the congregation. Were you involved in any other Jewish fraternities after you grew up?

ME: I was in a Jewish fraternity in Knoxville, ZBT, and Hillel of course.

HS: And after you came back to Memphis were involved in any Jewish organizations other than Baron Hirsch, were you active at the Center?

ME: I've been on the Board at the Center, I've been on the Board of just about everything.

HS: Which ones did you like best? Which one did you enjoy the most?

ME: Well, my relationship was really with Baron Hirsch, so that's... in fact, I've got cuts for so many years.

HS: That's very nice. You've got it on your mantel. When I take your picture, I'll take it with... Have you been active in any non-Jewish things?

ME: You know I was a member of the Tennessee Society of CPA's, but that was what a CPA was expected to be.

HS: When you were growing up, were there good relations between Jews and non-Jews?

ME: In Highland Heights, you had to have good relations or you were dead.

HS: Did you play ball in the neighborhood or that kind of thing?

ME: Well some.

HS: And tell me about interaction with - you said there were no blacks in the neighborhood

ME: There were no blacks.

HS: Were there Jewish stores like South Memphis?

ME: No they were not.

HS: Looking back over the history, the wars, the depression, which one do you think had the most impact?

ME: Well, the accounting profession. That's what I went into.

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MN: This was your livelihood ?

ME: Yes, that was my livelihood.

HS: And what company were you with as an accountant?

ME: It was a small company - Charles Richman Albritton & Co. I was the "& Co.".

HS: Who was Mr. Albritton?

ME: It was a huge family.

HS: Were you his partner?

ME: I became a partner.

HS: But there were other accountants in the firm?

ME: Just a couple of others.

HS: Were you involved in any really interesting cases?

ME: No. The Corondolet Corporation was my main involvement.

HS: You did accounting work for them?

ME: More or less. I was a treasurer.

HS: Were you a treasurer for Corondolet while you were an accountant with this other firm?

ME: No, two different jobs.

ME: In fact... C. R. Albritton & Co. became the accountants for Corondolet Corporation ..

HS: Were you still with them?

ME: No I left Albritton and I was Corondolet.

MN: And what happened to Corondolet?

ME: It folded. Howard was the driving force and when Howard died it just fell apart. Did you know Vic Shainberg? You know Howard and Vic were brothers-in-law. And did you know Dorothy Shainberg ?

HS: Sort of.

ME: Dorothy and I were first cousins. Her mother was an Ettingoff. But like I say the Ettingoff name...

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HS: But the Ettingoff is because of a sister, right?

ME: Yes. Like I say, Uncle Beryl had moved to Tel Aviv, had four daughters and one son, son died young, Uncle Sol who was a gambler, had two sons, one had no children and the other one, I don't know, I lost track of him.

HS: There might be some Ettingoffs running around somewhere ...

ME: I found an Ettingoff--one time called me - I don't know where he got my name - St. Louis, and we talked on the phone, I don't know how many times, and never could find any relationship. And by the way it was Ettinghoff, it had an "H" in it. And during World War I, the way I understand the story, it was in Germany, they spelled it with an "h", Ettinghoff.

HS: Did civil rights groups have any in your group?

ME: No.

HS: Who was the person who had the greatest influence on your life?

ME: I guess indirectly you would say Howard Waller because Howard introduced me and Thelma - introduced Jane. If you want to go back...

MN: What did you think when you finally got married?

ME: Like what are you waiting for?

HS: Was that another "slow"...

ME: Jane's parents lived in Hedgemoor and Jane lived with them, and one Saturday night, we decided this is foolish. Why don't we go on and get married and I went home and told my mother, and the next day, Sunday, that house at 151 St. Albans was full of Ballins. If you want to get into that Ballin family tree.

HS: How many people did you have for a Seder service?

ME: Oh, we started out with one Seder, but we ended up with about four because there were too many to have.

HS: So you went to four different Seders?

ME: No, everyone had their own Seder, but we get together periodically. I remember, this was later on, we were over at the Scheinbergs on McLemore and I don't know - we used to get together on the weekends, families got together, and Uncle Ben came and knocked on the door, he had his family with him...

HS: This was when you lived on McLean, or before?

ME: No, in Highland Heights.

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HS: You say, he knocked on the door and brought the whole family?

ME: He brought his family.

HS: Did your folks come on Saturday?

ME: No.

HS: On Sunday?

ME: On Sunday. My mother wouldn't write out a ticket.

HS: She wouldn't write a ticket on Saturday.

ME: She would bring a customer over to one of us and we would....

HS: She was too Orthodox to do that , but if it had to be done?

ME: Yes.

HS: Was your mother a special influence, a strong influence on your Dad?

ME: Oh, yes. Father died early. I lived with my mother.

HS: My recollection of Sara was that she was very attractive and very peppy.

MN: She was a nice person. I don't think anybody disliked her.

HS: If you were giving young people advice today, what would you say?...

ME: My son runs his own life, and my daughter is in Pittsburgh and she comes here two or three times a year. She has two children.

MN: How old?

ME: Sara is nine, and Aaron is seven, Biblical names.

HS: Do they know Rita and David's son in Pittsburgh?

ME: Oh yeah, they go to the same school. They go to Beth Sholom. Beth Sholom up there like it is here.

HS: Tell us a little bit about the Ballin family

ME: Well, my father - by the way, its Balin - not Ballin - I don't know where the other "l" came in - but they had six children, my mother was the youngest. Uncle Al - you know Buddy - Uncle Al was Buddy's father - Fanny Scheinberg, my cousin Manny's mother and Uncle Ben - he's Ben J. in English but Yosef Baer in Hebrew and Rose Richberger - I don't know if you ever knew her - Rose and Uncle I.V. (Isadore) - had a store on Semmes, you know where the country club is on Southern, right up the street there on Semmes. they had a store. And Aunt Lil Jablin - you know Miriam Danzig - Bernard's wife is Aunt Lil's daughter. And she has another daughter Minette that lives in Florida. - you want to go down the line on the descendants?



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HS: How many descendants are in Memphis?

ME: A lot in Memphis. My sister passed away. She was married to Ben Switzer. Of course, I'm Manny and I had two children. Then the next was Uncle Al, Alfred Aaron Ballin. I am sure you know some of the Weinmans. Carolyn was their daughter, and Melvin J. "Buddy" Ballin, was their son. (When Buddy graduated from Memphis State, my mother in law was reading the names, and she said look there's a Ballin, Melvin J. Ballin, could that be a relation? I said, yes mother, that's Buddy? And then there's Aunt Fanny Scheinberg, she had three children, Libby Smolensky, I don't know if you ever knew any Smolenskys, Phil was from up East somewhere. And Manny, of course, has the same name I do and Karl Jean. He died not too long ago. He was married to Betty Semmes. And then there was Uncle Ben, Ben J. Ballin, he had three children, Marvin Earl Ballin, and Jerry - he's Jerald, but I don't know if anybody would know him by Jerald - and Eileen Ballin Goldstein lives out in California -

MN: I thought she was out in St. Louis

ME: Oh she's been out of St. Louis, but she goes back and visits in St. Louis. And then there's Rose Richberger, she had a son Marshall, who was adopted. Had a problem as a child, couldn't have any children. So they adopted Marshall. Aunt Lil had two children, Miriam Sue Jablin and she was married to Bernard and Minette - can't think of the name...

HS: You've must know a good many relatives--you're related to everybody. I think what we need to do is to take some of these things that you've gotten together and copy them, can you do that?

ME: I'd be happy to do that.

HS: If you have things like your mother's naturalization, anything like that, we'd be happy to have that.

(Tape was turned over...)

ME: My mother was married to Sam and she had a daughter Shirley who was married to Ben Switzer and Lee was married to Cindy and Shirley and Ben had two children - Susan Meryl Reinhardt and Sammy J. Switzer. Susan Meryl married Walter Reinhardt and they had a son, David Michael Reinhardt.

MN: Did they all live in Memphis?

ME: No. Sammy J. married Linda Cerf.....

Long gap in tape

ME: .... two children - Sammy J. Switzer and Judy Lynn Ettingoff Yalowich, Sammy J. married Cindy Cohen, and Judy Lynn married Jack Yalowich. And Judy Lynn and Jack Yalowich had two children Sarah Elizabeth Yalowich and Aaron Michael Yalowich. Alfred Aaron Ballin married Rose Edelson - not like the rabbi - ....Carolyn married Ralph Weinman, born to Carolyn and Ralph were Marilyn Weinman, Larry Weinman and Andy Weinman (Andy was a female). Larry was married, but I don't know who...

HS: Well you've done so much recording, so I just say thank you for this interview.