

Temple Israel Archives

Interview of Jack Landman Goldsmith

April 20, 2003

Page 1

Jack Landman Goldsmith (JG)

Date of Interview:
Address: 601 Putting Green Lane, Sarasota, Florida
Telephone:
Date of Birth: 4/10/1910
Place of Birth: Memphis, TN
Sex: Male Male
Ethnic/Racial Heritage : White
Religious Affiliation: Jewish
Educational Background: Culver, Washington University,
Southern College of Law
Occupational History: Merchant, Goldsmith Stores
Special Interests: Philanthropy, Hunting, Fishing
Father's Name: Fred Goldsmith
Occupation: Merchant
Mother's Name: Aimee Landman
Occupation: Housewife
Name of Wife: Dorothy Metzger
Name of Children: Jack, Joan
Interviewer: Sidney Friedman (SF)

SF: First for the recording, will you give your full name, where we are recording from and your date of birth.

JG: This is Jack L. Goldsmith, we are at Long Boat Key, FL. The date of my birth is April 10, 1910. I just passed my 93rd birthday.

SF: Were you named after someone in your family?

JG: No, not particularly. My real name is Jack; not John, not Jacob, not Joseph. My Mother wouldn't allow anyone to call me anything but "Jack".

SF: Who were your ancestors that immigrated to this country? Where did they come from? Did your entire family come over and why did they settle in the South?

JG: The Goldsmith Family started with my grandfather Jacob Goldsmith whose father was Frederick Goldsmith and his Mother was Sophie Ottenheimer. Sophie Ottenheimer had somehow immigrated to the United States and was married to Louis Ottenheimer. They had a store "Ottenheimer and Schwartz" and they were in the wholesale business and would go through Arkansas and peddle and had a local jobbing store in Memphis. Mrs. Ottenheimer Goldsmith - Sophie Goldsmith was her name - my grandfather's mother was Sophie Goldsmith - his father was Frederick Goldsmith - so Mr. Ottenheimer married Sophie Goldsmith's daughter - Dora Goldsmith Ottenheimer. She suggested to her husband to bring over her nephews, which was Jacob Goldsmith, Elias Goldsmith and Lewis Goldsmith. My grandfather was working for his uncle Mr. Ottenheimer and he had his eye on his daughter, Dora Ottenheimer. Mr. Ottenheimer didn't like the idea of his nephew having an eye on his daughter. So to get rid of him, he suggested that he go down to South Memphis (he was in North Memphis) and open up a store. Well, that was like sending someone from Memphis to Nashville in those days because there was no transportation. There was no way to get from North Memphis to South Memphis, in 1870 that was. In addition he said, "If you go down there, I will get you \$500 worth of credit at

PAGE 2

the Rice-Stix Dry Goods Co. in St. Louis” and the Louisville Supply Company, which he did. In 1870 he moved to Beale St. to get away from Dora Ottenheimer and with his brother they opened up a store in 1870. He prospered and married Dora Ottenheimer anyway and they prospered and they had 7 children - all of them lived. He had an unusual life, my grandfather. He had 7 children, I don't know how many grandchildren and great grandchildren and he never saw death of anyone in his family. He never saw the death of my grandmother because she had Alzheimers and at the time she didn't know that he passed away - so neither one of them saw a child or anyone else in the family die, which was most unusual.

Anyway, he prospered. In 1878 there was a terrible Yellow Fever epidemic in the city of Memphis. It decimated the whole town. So my Grandfather didn't know what to do. He had a little girl 2 years old and a pregnant wife - so he knew that they couldn't live in Memphis. So he packed up my grandmother who was pregnant and the 2 year old girl and took a river packet up to St. Louis. I'm sure in my own mind that it was not like taking a cruise on the QE2 - I don't think the accommodations were too well. He had some relatives there and they stayed there and in 1878 my father was born in St. Louis. He was the only member of the Goldsmith family that was not born in Memphis - due to the Yellow Fever of course. In October of 1878 my grandfather got news that there was a very heavy frost in Memphis and he figured that killed all the germs and he would come back. He came back and took the boards down from the store on Beale St. That was the only time from 1870 to 2003 and that Goldsmiths was ever closed.

On my Mother's side, I have records and trees of the Landmans that goes back to 1878. In 1878 the name was changed from Rafael, which was a French name, to Landman. It was a time when people were given the titles of the jobs they had - Goldsmith was a jeweler - so was Silverberg. In 1878 they changed their name to Landman and I have a tree going back to my Father and Mother which I would like for you to see. In 1931 I went to Germany and visited Shiffer, which is a suburb of Mannheim in Lucenheim and slept in a bed that my Grandfather Landman was born in.

He had several nephews and one came to Memphis and lived with my Grandmother Mrs. Landman and subsequently moved to Philadelphia, where he married and became very successful. The other son, Max Landman, before 1914 moved to Mexico City where he opened up a business and became the sole agency for the Oliver Plow Equipment and he was very prosperous. But he developed high blood pressure and had to move to a lower altitude, which was Guadalajara where he continued to do business and was quite successful. He would come through Memphis every year when he bought a new car in Detroit. He would stop at the house and visit with us. So I got to know Max Landman and he invited me to come to Mexico. In 1932 I went to Mexico and was with Max Landman. I drove down there with Herbert Leibman, a friend of mine. We met in Guadalajara and he gave me a bit of advice, which has served me very well throughout the years. I traveled all over Mexico, from north to south to east to west from small towns like Mexico City for almost 50 years and I've never had a bad experience. I could relate many good things that happened to me. I was just lucky. One thing he did tell me was that if you are polite and give respect to the Mexicans, you will get a return many many times. Well, that's true in life anyway. It's particularly true in Latin America and happened to be very very helpful to me on my trips to Mexico. My Mother married my Father in 1906. On their wedding trip they went to San Francisco. On April 10th or something they had that great earthquake and my mother and father were there in the earthquake. They were married and on their honeymoon. They had a drawing room, like a state room. They ordered their dinner back

PAGE 3

in the state room.. They ordered quite a dinner - duck etc. So when they brought the food in my Mother said to my Father, "Can you carve the duck?" My Father, said, "Oh yes" and he picked up the knife and a fork to carve the duck and it went on the floor.

That's the last time my Father ever picked up a knife to cut anything - even a piece of bread. Anyway, they survived - they were in the St. Francis Hotel in Union Square in 1906. They ran out because of the fire and my Mother broke away from my Father and she ran back into the hotel and yelled. "Fire". My Father was panicky and ran up to get her- he got up to the door and the police stopped him. He said "My wife is in there". They said "You can't go in, she'll never come out". But she did come out and she found my Father and he was very distraught and said "Aimee, for God's sake why did you go back and get your jewelry, it can be replaced, but your life is more important than the jewelry." She said "I didn't go back for my jewelry, I went back for those things that I put in my hair." She left all the jewelry in the fire.

They went to the Presidio Park - my Mother said it was very interesting - Enrico Caruso was there, the great tenor and he would come out and sing because he was concerned that he might have lost his voice in the earthquake, but he didn't. My Father wanted to get back to the family to let them know that they weren't dead, but he didn't know what to do. He said that after eating an orange, he saved the peelings of the orange thinking that would be the last food that my Mother and Father would ever eat together. So he said he had to get out and get some news to his family. So he went down to the Embarcadero, which is the wharf and he saw a fisherman who was crossing over to Oakland, which is across San Francisco Bay. He tore the cuff off his shirt and he wrote on it that he and my mother were well and they were trying to locate the family from Memphis that they thought they could find and stay with them. He gave the cuff with the message on it to the fisherman and he sent it to my Grandfather in Memphis, that we were all well and fine. My Grandfather had gotten my Mother's brother and his uncle to go down to pick up the bodies in San Francisco and bring them back if they were located because they knew they were dead. But when they got this telegram, they wired the 2 people that were going to pick up the bodies that they had found them in Fort Worth, Texas. The train stopped at Fort Worth and picked up the wireless which said, "Come back home, the y are well". So they came back and they eventually met a family called the Sampters, who were from Memphis, and they stayed with them until they could get transportation out of San Francisco. I never heard my Father or Mother ever say a word about the experience. My Father did say that the earthquake was bad but the fire was what caused most of the damage. But they successfully came back.

SF: That's quite a story It seems like it, but I may be wrong, were Ferdinand and Hazel Levy out there at the same time?

JG: I don't know, I think my Mother and Father were older than them.

SF: I may be wrong about that - I think they probably would be older. Were your parents involved in Jewish Institutions?

JG: My Grandfather was the warden of the Temple for a while and held some other offices. He was interested in the operation of the Temple. I was the only member of the family - 4 boys, my father's two sons and uncle's two sons - I was the only one who was Bar Mitzvahed.

SF: That was unusual in those days.

JG: I was promised a beautiful watch and lots of presents, so that is what really got me to be Bar Mitzvahed. But it was the biggest disappointment of my life. I went thru it all and you should see the presents I got - I got 15 fountain pens, 6 pairs of cuff links, 2 tie clips. I got nothing that was worth the effort it took me to become Bar Mitzvahed.

PAGE 4

SF: Let me read this list and you can put them in any order you want:

What was Memphis like when you were a child?

Who were your siblings?

Who were your friends? Were they all Jews?

What schooling did you have?

Did your religion cause any difficulties in school or in the community?

What kind of Jewish education did you receive?

What did you do during the summers?

Start with what was Memphis like when you were a child?

JG: This is a story in itself. We lived with my Grandmother Landman. After the earthquake my father and mother came back from San Francisco. Before they left, they had decorated an apartment. It was a brand new apartment building about 3 houses from where my grandmother lived. They fixed it up and were going to come back and live there. So they get back to Memphis from San Francisco and the second night they spend in their new apartment, my mother said to my father "Fred, I'm homesick" and my father said "Aimee, you're three doors from your mother, how can you be homesick?" and she said "I'm homesick Fred, I want to go home". So my Father said "Whatever you want to do is fine". My Father gave in. So they spent two nights in the apartment and then moved in with my Grandmother. It's where I was born. My sister was born first, I was born, and then Fred was born. After Fred was born, I think they kicked us out. And we moved on Peabody Ave. It was the most fun household - it was like a three ring circus going on all the time.

Incidentally, this is a story not connected, but it might be interesting to you.

Manny Dreyfus, you know who that is??

SF: Sure. Ann's grandfather.

JG: Manny Dreyfus loved to call at my Grandmother Landman's and my mother and father because they always had a good time and there was sports and they gambled and played poker. So Manny was playing poker at my grandmother's and he said "You know my sister-in-law is coming up to Memphis and we'd like to introduce her to someone." He was speaking to my Mother. "Do you know anybody nice that we could introduce Bertha to?" "You know Elias is not very tall". My Mother said "I know just the person - my brother-in-law is not very tall. - I'll introduce them" So my Mother got a hold of Bertha and got all dressed up and fixed the deal and she introduced her to Elias That was one of the few good ones she made - all the others were horrible.

SF: Were most of your friends Jewish?

JG: It was a mixture - my business life was with mostly Christians and my personal life was mostly with Jews.

SF: Your religion, did it cause any difficulties in school or the community?

JG: Just the first day of school. I went to Bruce School and the first day a boy comes up to me and hits me in the face and says "You're a Christ killer". And I said "Who is Christ? - I've never even heard the name" So I came home and asked my Mother "Who is Christ? Someone told me that I killed him - I never killed anybody". She said, "Who told you that?" and I said "A boy". She said "You go back there and hit him as hard as you can". I said "No, I won't do that". His name was Conway Ford and he was 6 or 7 years old. Later on Conway Ford was a buyer at Phil A. Halle, a fine men's store, in the boy's department. I was also the boy's buyer at Goldsmith's and we became quite good friends. I never did remind him that he knocked the hell out of me the first day of school. That was my first introduction that there was a Christ.

PAGES

SF: What kind of Jewish education did you receive?

JG: I was Bar Mitzvahed and went to Sunday School. And that was: it.

SF: If you were Bar Mitzvahed, you were probably one of the very few from the Sunday School.

JG: My Grandfather was a warden of the Temple and my Father, I think out of respect for him. My Mother promised me a lot of presents.

SF: In the summers did you work or go to camp?

JG: I went to camp in Maine - to a boys camp for 3 years and a girls camp for one year. The girls camp was an interesting experience. My sister was going to a camp in Maine too. A lady came by, as she did every year, to visit the mothers of the girls that went to the camp. She came by the house to see my mother asking if Dorothy was going back to camp. My mother said she didn't think so. I was in the back yard practicing on a bugle. I was going to take a Boy Scout test or something. The lady's name was Miss Henigan. She said to my mother "Who is that blowing the bugle?" My mother said "That's my son out back - he said he was going out there to take care of his horse - he has a horse out there that he rides - in the stable. She said "I'd like to talk to him". So my mother called me in. And this lady says to me "You can blow the bugle?" and I said "Yes", and you got a horse you ride?" I said "Yes". She said "How would you like to come up and be the assistant riding master at my camp in Maine? I'll build you a special little bungalow on the lake for yourself and your job will be to assist the riding master and also to blow the bugle and ring the bell and clean up in the morning and so forth." So I took the job.

There were some Memphis girls there - Louise Goodman, a beautiful girl - some more Jewish girls from Memphis. Julius Goodman's daughter was one. I think the Bensdorf girl was one - anyway, there were 2 Jewish girls from Memphis that I knew. So everything was fine and then something happened. My clock went off at 6:00 o'clock and I got up and rang the bell and blew the bugle and all the girls came out to go to breakfast. The mess hall was dark - there was nobody there. Somebody had slipped into my cabin and set my clock back an hour. I wasn't very popular after that. So they wait until Saturday and I could go into the little town with the counselors. So I'm all dressed up with my suit and my money and my watch and everything. I thought I was dressed pretty well and about 15 girls came and picked me up and took me out to the end of the dock and threw me into the lake - coldest water - I almost froze. So some years later I'm living on Longboat Key (this was 6 or 7 years ago) and a lady at the end of my canal said "Are you the Jack Goldsmith that blew the bugle that woke everybody up at the camp and was thrown in the lake?" I said "That was me," and she said "My name is Ellie Berger -- I live down the road from you." So she came down and we visited.

SF: How long ago was that?

JG: 80 years.

SF: That was a lot of years. Outside of your parents, who was the greatest influence in your life? Actually that may dovetail in some of these other things from your career. - your first job.

JG: My first job was receiving and marketing at Goldsmiths. I had worked in the summer time in different departments and different parts of the store. But the first real job that I worked 6 days a week was in the receiving department opening boxes and looking at merchandise. I stayed there one year.

PAGE 6

SF: Were you in service? I know you were.

JG: I was commissioned in the United States Army in 1931. I was 10 years in the Reserves. In 1941 when the war started I was sent to Philadelphia and then transferred to Washington where I stayed 3 ½ years in the Pentagon in the office of war plans and operation. I was honorably discharged in 1945.

SF: The Pentagon was brand new then, wasn't it?

JG: Yes and my grandson is there today. He's a well-known attorney and is a special assistant to Secretary Rumsfeld for international law. He has another job coming up - He is really a good law professor at the University of Chicago. He wanted to go back to Virginia because he's got a little baby on the way - Jack IV, another little boy coming. I don't know what he is going to do. He was offered a good job in Washington.

SF: When you were growing up can you tell us anything for the record about your social life. Did you date non-Jewish people? How did you meet your spouse or spouses?

JG: I don't think I have enough tapes to go into that!!! I was married 3 times - all wonderful and lovely girls and we parted with great affection and care for each other, but we had different interests. The last one I married had the same interests I had and we were very happily married for well over 30 some-odd years.

SF: That was a wonderful marriage.

JG: Yes, the others were very interesting.

SF: How did your grandparents practice Judaism? And how did your parents practice Judaism? Were there any significant differences in the observance of Shabbat? Do you observe any of these areas in the same way as your parents?

JG: To my knowledge they didn't celebrate anything and I've continued that tradition. I have gone to services--Passover. And I'm not proud of it because I'm not at all ashamed and I'm proud to be Jewish.

SF: The nature of the Jewish community in some of these areas you pretty well answered. What was the nature of the Jewish community in which you were raised? Were there any obstacles to observance? How large was the community? What sort of relations did your family have with Jews from other branches of Judaism? With gentiles and blacks?

JG: With blacks they had a very very good relationship.

It was absolutely intolerable in my house, in my Mother & Father's house, that we could ever be disrespectful to any black, and the "N" word was never to be used. If we used it, we'd have a front tooth gone because it was not tolerated. We had no particular problems. My Mother had a strange idea for good neighbors though. She thought that a high fence made for good neighbors. If you didn't bother them, they didn't bother you and you get along much better. So even though the children of the neighbors were very close and in and out of the houses all the time, my Mother never went in and out of the neighbor's houses even though they were friendly and spoke to each other.

PAGE 7

SF: Did they have any attitudes that were expressed pro or con on Zionism?

JG: Yes, they weren't extremely excited about Zionism. That was so far back in the 1920s when I was 10 years old and I didn't understand these things. There were very few Orthodox Jews in Memphis that we knew of. There wasn't much of a togetherness you might say - there were separate Temples, separate clubs and separate associations. I think it was pretty much like that until after World War I and then they began to assimilate.

SF: Jack, in this historical overview you mentioned a lot of significant historical events. In your life what was the most significant? Did you experience the depression personally?

JG: I think I'll have to describe the depression with a story that happened. As I told you I was running the boys department in 1931-32. This was in the heart of the depression and at Goldsmiths business was very very bad. The other 3 department stores in Memphis besides Goldsmiths - John Gerber Co., The Bry-Block Corp. and B. Lowensteins. B. Lowensteins went through a reorganization and Brys almost went out of business and John Gerber Co. struggled. The only way they could struggle and exist was to eliminate people. The common word today for firing people is "downgrading". There just wasn't enough business to satisfy keeping the help that we had. It was either survival or not. So one day when I was head of the boys department, I get a letter from the office which went out to all the people (all the buyers) that we had to get rid of 2 people in the boys department. The two people were two ladies - one's name was Ms. Baldrige and one was Ms. Foot - you know how many years this goes back and I still know these two ladies names. The message came down that I had to let them go. So I called Mrs. Baldrige back in my office and I talked to her. I knew I worked with her a couple years in the department - she had a sick husband and two little girls. The salary then was \$12.50 a week, which we felt pretty good paying our employees \$12.50 a week because Gerbers was paying theirs \$10.50 and we were paying above scale.

SF: In those days, that must have been a very good salary.

JG: So Mrs. Baldrige came back in my office and I said to her "You know I'm going to have to let you go and I explained all the reasons why---business wasn't there, for this that and another. She said "Oh Jack , I've got a sick husband and he can't work and 2 little girls and only making \$12.50 a week" She said "I can't exist" and she just starts crying and I start crying. I'm thinking this is terrible. This I can't do, I just can't do it. So I had the same experience with Miss Foot and it was the same thing and she was crying and all three of us were crying. So I said "Just wait a minute" and I went upstairs to my Father. I said "You know I've got to let these 2 ladies go and they're both very good people and I just can't do it and explained why they need the money. I said "Look, I'm making \$150 a month - I don't need the money - give it to them.. Keep them on the payroll. Nobody I know has any money, I'm living at home - Nobody I know has any money--- Everyone is doing fine-- I have my car, I get the gas at Goldsmiths I have no problem. I don't need any money. Give it to the ladies". So he said "That's very nice Jack, I don't think you'll have to do that. I can take care of it." So we kept Mrs. Baldrige and Miss Foot on the payroll. But it was a serious situation. It touched everybody. I remember those of you who lived in Memphis, I saw the line from Main St. to the YMCA - people waiting in line for soup. Mrs. L.K. Thompson did a very fine job taking care of that.

SF: Jack , did you spend any significant time out of the south?

JG: I went to military school for 4 years and I missed all the high school fun that the kids had there.

PAGES

SF: Where did you go?

JG: I went to Culver Military Academy with Ira Samelson and Lester Samelson, Alvin Hattendorf, William Goodman.

SF: You had a Memphis crowd there.

JG: Jimmy (?) Goodman, Charlie Goodman.

SF: That was your principal time outside of the south? Did you ever work outside?

JG: No, I didn't work outside. I took a trip, before I went to work in 1931, with Ira Samelson. We took a Grand Tour of Europe for about 4 months. I left New York and went to Iceland and then down through the North Cape and up to the Fjords in Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland. I went to Russia in 1931 and I saw Stalin in a car and I had a very interesting time. I ran out of money in Paris and was embarrassed and had my brother send me a few dollars to get home.

SF: Be glad he sent it to you or we wouldn't be having this interview - you'd still be over there. Outside of your work, what's the thing that you're proudest of, your most significant accomplishments?

JG: Well the work came first, but let me tell you the story about St. Jude. A good friend of mine was Ed Barry. Ed Barry was a young lawyer and in 1931 or '32 was my first work with some kind of charitable organization. I was asked by Mr. Lovett Miles to come on the board of the Travelers Aid Society. The Travelers Aid Society (there were no planes at that time, only trains) and there would be a desk in a railroad station and a lady or man would sit there and be of assistance to people who needed help some way or another - sort of like an information bureau. They handled all the transients. So I went on the board of the Travelers Aid Society with Mr. Lovett Miles, president, who was a very fine attorney and Ed Barry. This was a national organization. The term "transient" was defined as anyone who had been in the city of Memphis less than 30 days. Most of the problems in Memphis were people who would come into Memphis from Arkansas, Mississippi and Tennessee from the farms with no money, pregnant women, no money and didn't know what to do. So they all became the problem of the Travelers Aid, which was never intended to have this kind of a job. Well, anyway, we took care of that. Ed Barry and I became close friends working together. Ed never married and his chief occupation in life was raising money for charities. So I get a telephone call from Ed in my office one day and he said "Jack, I've got a fellow in my office that I want to come down to introduce you to". I said "I'll walk up to your office, I need the exercise." He said "No Jack, I'm coming to your office". So I said, "OK, come on down". So he walks in and I looked at this fellow and recognized him from some place, but I didn't know who he was - I knew he was familiar. Then he said "Jack, I want you to meet Danny Thomas". So I said "Hello Mr. Thomas" and I'm thinking "What the hell is he doing here?" So he sat down. Ed said "Jack I'll tell you why Danny Thomas is here - he wants to build a hospital and I said we don't need a children's hospital. Jack is familiar with raising money, working with hospital funds and as a matter of fact, he was secretary of the building committee at LeBonheur Children's Hospital and he helped build the LeBonheur Children's Hospital and he knows that we don't need any more hospitals." In my heart I knew that Ed Barry didn't want to cause anybody to go out and raise any more money for hospitals because he had been out so many times and he said he thought we had facilities. So then Danny Thomas explained what it is. He said "I want to open a living shrine, a children's hospital and nobody pays and they will do children's research etc." So Ed said "You told me you had \$750,000 that you wanted to apply if the city would meet \$500,000. Then he said, "You know you can't run a hospital to begin with a million dollars, you just can't get started - you have to have an

PAGE 9

operating capital. Ed was telling me he's trying to discourage this operation . He said "How much would it take Mr. Barry?" Ed said "At least a million and a half " and he said "If I can get \$750,000, can I get the city of Memphis to match with \$750,000 and Ed said, "If Jack takes chairman of the big gifts committee, I think we can do it." To digress a moment, 80% of all money raised by any given charity is given by 20% of the people – that's a well-known statistic . I said "That's ridiculous - if anybody in the world is an expert on raising money for hospitals, it's you - St. Joseph' s, the Methodist, the Baptist and anyone else who had a hospital - you' re the man for the job. He said "I'll take it if you'll be co-chairman. I said "OK, but let me ask a question - why did you select Memphis for this hospital, that puzzles me?" Danny Thomas said "It's very simple - I was dead broke during the depression - didn't have a dollar to buy my wife, Rosemarie, a Christmas present." Incidentally, Danny was a very devout Catholic, who was raised in a Jewish neighborhood and spoke Yiddish fluently. That I know because I have had him in my house - not that I spoke it. He said "I made a Novena to St Jude - do you know who is St Jude is?" and I said "No" . Danny said "He's the patron saint of the poor and destitute and I was both. If I was ever successful, I wanted to build a shrine to St. Jude. The next day my career took off and I went to the 606 Club in Chicago and I had \$500,000 to build a shrine. I didn't know what kind of shrine to build so I went to the cardinal in Chicago, who is Cardinal Stritch. So I told him that I said the Novena and I had the money and I wanted to build a hospital and where did he think the hospital should be built in Chicago. He said "Danny why do you want to build it in Chicago? " Danny said "Cardinal, do you have a better place you can suggest?" The Cardinal said "Yes, there is only one place to build this hospital" and Danny said "Where is that?" and he said "Memphis, TN" So Danny said to the Cardinal "Why Memphis TN?" and the Cardinal said "That' s my home" and that's why the hospital is in Memphis. Ed and I organized it - called a meeting at the Peabody of 100-some-odd top business people - most business were in the excess profits and they all had a lot of money and we raised the easiest amount of money I have ever seen raised for a cause.in my life . Before that they had a party and Danny called - it was held at the Central High School auditorium.. It was called "The Shower of Stars". Dinah Shore, Carmen Cavallaro, Jane Russell. Danny said we'll have a party afterwards at the hotel. I said " No, we'll have them all at the house. I had a place at the hotel. I've known the Grisantis - I remember when they were across from the old railroad station and you had to go down the steps to get to the place. I knew the Grisantis and they heard about this and they came to me and said "I understand that you've got the party after the show - can we do the party for you at your house. Just give us the facilities and we'll provide the food" . I said "Absolutely you can do that. So Miss Mary was the mother of the Grisanti boys, Frank and the rest of them and they got together and they brought all the pots and pans and food to my kitchen and we fed The Shower of Stars in my place. Carmen Cavallaro was a pianist. Mr. Crump had changed all the streets - those going east and west were streets and the ones going the other way were avenues. It happened that they changed Beale Street to Beale Avenue and there was a great deal of dislike of that idea in Memphis , but they weren' t going to change it. I had a baby grand piano in my apartment and Carmen Cavallaro wrote a song. "Please Mr. Crump don't start changing Beale Street to Beale Avenue." They started playing the music on the radio stations and Beale Avenue is the only one that's different from the rest of the city streets and avenues.

SF: Not everyone knows that - until now they will. That's interesting- fascinating. You have something to be of proud of as far as that hospital has gone.

JG: All I said was, "Ed, I think we have enough hospitals now we didn't need any more." Ed Barry was very prominent in Memphis and (we) were very close friends and he was a prominent Catholic. He called me up one day and he said "Jack, I want you to come on board of the Convent of the Good Shepherd" It was probably around from Poplar to Madison. It was a tremendous piece of property and it was where when girls got in trouble they were taken there and the Catholic sisters would take care of them. It was a tremendous piece of property.The history of it was that it was

very old because a Dr. Max Herman, the No. 1 Jewish doctor in Memphis, was on the board of

PAGE 10

this place, was *very* well thought of by all the sisters. So I was the second Jew that got on the board of the Convent of the Good Shepherd. So I would go out there once a month to a meeting and we would serve cookies and lemonade and that was our fee. So one day I get a call from Ed Barry and he says "Jack, you got to come out to the convent, we've got a big decision to make". I said "I'm busy" and he said "You got to make it". So I went out there at five o'clock. He said "We got an offer to buy this property."

SF: Where was the property?

JG: Do you know where Evergreen and Poplar is?

SF: Yes

JG: I think the Liberty Grocery store had half of it on Madison Ave. It went from Poplar to Madison. He said that they got an offer for half of the property on Poplar for \$500,000 - it was the Belz family. The sisters don't know what to do. I said "What time is it" and Ed said "5:15". I said "What time does the sun set?" He said "Why?" I said "Take the offer before the sun sets and then discuss what you've done". This was once in a lifetime - getting a half a million dollars for half of it - the facilities we have are old - I can't tell you how old it is - they could build a new place, a gorgeous place and with all modern facilities. "Don't let the sun go down, Ed." We sold the property and Ed Barry and I were very close. I have a handkerchief that the sisters gave me with my initial "G" on it that I prize very much. Then my friend said you have the job of getting the girls in and then getting them. I said "No, I don't get them in there."

SF: Jack, what advice would you give to the young generations?

JG: That's a tough one. First, is to be honest and honorable - that's your personal life. In your business life, try to select the best people and the best contacts you can make—it will help you.

SF: That advice your Mexican relatives gave you was pretty good too.

JG: It's just common sense - there is no simple formula. It's just doing the right thing. I can remember my Mother - I came in and told her that I did something real well and told her about it and I thought she was going to say "That's good Jack". She said "Why shouldn't you do that?" I wasn't going to get credit for doing the right thing - that was expected. I was taught when people do the right thing, it should be normal, you should do the right thing. I never heard my Father ever say anything against anybody. He always said if you can't say anything good, don't say anything. That pays off too. I don't always follow that - I sometimes lose my temper.

SF: I've never seen it, but I'm sure it's got to happen. This has been a wonderful morning and I may have to come back next year and get some more.

JG: Next year!! Someone told me not to buy green bananas at my age!