

Tremont Oral History Project
Interview with Joseph and Gloria Hadbavny
Interviewer: David Brock
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North Olmsted, Ohio

David Brock: Today is March 24th, a Monday, and I'm interviewing here in North Olmsted, Ohio can I have you sir pronounce and spell your name.

Joe Hadbavny: Joseph A Hadbavny

DB: Mrs. Hadbavny.

Gloria Hadbavny: And I'm Gloria Hadbavny

DB: Sounds good. And you grew up in Tremont, Mrs. Hadbavny?

GH: Yes I did.

DB: Yes. And you moved to North Olmsted in 1972?

GH: Yes. Well prior to that, I mean before I was married my parents moved to Parma Heights?

DB: Moved out of the Tremont area?

GH: Yes.

DB: And when was that?

GH: 19

JH: 52, early

GH: Early.

DB: Ok. And what are some of your childhood memories?

GH: Well, I think some of them that kind of stick in my mind are probably holidays in the Tremont area with some of the different ethnic people that lived there. We had of course the Polish, and we had the Slovaks, and the Hungarians. No, we didn't have the Hungarians.

JH: Greeks

GH: Greeks.

JH: Ukrainians

GH: Ukrainians

JH: Russians

GH: Russians. And probably during the holidays the smells, the baking, the different foods, sharing and so forth. I think going to church. I think I always remember Christmas Eve and which was midnight mass. I think one of my fond memories.

JH: The pageants they used to have.

GH: We used to have a Christmas pageant on Christmas Eve.

DB: At what church?

GH: St. John Cantius.

DB: Right, right.

GH: I can always remember my brother dressed in this green satin suit with this red wig.

DB: Is that right?

GH: That he totally hated. Yes, I mean I can just see him sitting up there twitching his head. But, uh. It seemed like every time you came out of midnight mass the snow was falling. And it was just a great time. And, uh as I said there was a diversified group of people. We shared holidays because some of the different groups theirs may not have been December 25th, maybe theirs was a week or two after. So, we, everybody shared. We were very friendly.

DB: Like a big community almost?

GH: Yes. Yes. Very much so.

JH: Well your landlord was a.

GH: Well, we had Ukrainian. And we had Russian. And we had the Slovak, I mean right in our little group there. A number of people.

DB: Was there ever any noticeable tension amongst the different ethnicities?

GH: No, no. No, no. As I said everybody shared. We never had problems. We all got along very, very well.

DB: Right, right. To the point where you didn't even realize you were of different ethnicities?

GH: No, no.

DB: Didn't even enter your mind?

GH: No, the similarities I think are there, I mean if you go back with any of your ethnic backgrounds if you studied any of them or did any research they're all very, very similar.

DB: Yeah, absolutely.

JH: How many churches were there in the Tremont area because of all the other

GH: Well, the same thing. We have the Polish, St. John Cantius was there. St. Theodosius was there.

JH: Our Lady of Mercy.

GH: Our Lady of Mercy was there. The Greek church was there. I can't remember the names. Uh, there was, uh the Ukrainian church was there.

JH: At the north end of Lincoln Park. South end. South end of Lincoln Park.

GH: And of course, if you went a little beyond the Lincoln Park area you had, not Our Lady of Mercy, St. Augustine's was there.

JH: St. Augustine's was there.

GH: Pilgrim Church was there. St. Michael's was in the area. So you had again a diversified number of churches in that small area.

DB: Oh, yeah absolutely.

GH: And same thing, like I said grocery stores are practically on every corner. You went shopping every day. I remember my mom going to the store, we had a little grocery store. We lived on West 10th, and he was down around the corner. So, by time, I mean she could start around 10 o'clock in the morning. By the time she got down to the store it was 2, 3 o'clock in the afternoon. Because you would stop and talk to all your neighbors along the way there.

DB: Yeah, yeah. Do you have any particular memories of growing up in Tremont that were not always positive? Not necessarily personal, but do you have anything growing up in Tremont that wasn't positive or was it really?

GH: I really can't think of anything. Like I said we pretty much stayed within our area there. Like I said I grew up on W. 10th. I had friends on W. 7th, W. 5th.

JH: They had the movie house on 14th Street.

GH: West 14th Street.

JH: The Jennings, which was a beautiful theatre, and they could walk downtown.

GH: Yeah, so I mean we'd be out at night. We'd play games. You know, a bunch of kids get together.

JH: Catch frogs (Laughs).

GH: You know, you'd sit out. If you had a porch you'd be on the porches, but we'd be out 'till 9, 10, 11 o'clock at night, but never felt uncomfortable.

DB: Right. Never any need to be unsafe or anything like that?

GH: No.

DB: Okay. And uh, your grandfather owned a saloon?

GH: Yes

DB: And where where was that located?

GH: That was on W. 10th

JH: Corner of Thurmond Alley.

GH: Thurmond Alley, actually was uh, think the address was 2061 W. 10th.

DB: Okay.

GH: And he, uh

DB: What was the name of it?

GH: You know I really don't know the name of it.

JH: Haven't found it.

DB: Is that right?

JH: We don't have the name of it. We have all the paperwork.

GH: I have the deed and everything.

JH: Nobody bought it, and lost everything. But it had no name. I think it was just, and I guess it had been a tavern for many years. I think it only sold beer and wine.

DB: Right, probably.

JH: And, uh, just a neighborhood pub.

DB: And he bought it around 1901?

GH: Around 1901. And then unfortunately lost it about 25 years after that. And it was bought by one of the brewing companies. I think it was Wizey's.

JH: They may have had the mortgage on it in the beginning.

DB: Right. Now when Prohibition hit did he immediately have to close down or did he try to maintain?

GH: You know that again I don't know. My grandmother died at an early age.

JH: About 1921?

GH: Yeah. And, uh I think that might have been part of it. From what I understand, I think my grandmother was kind of the force behind him.

DB: Right.

GH: I mean she was more the businesswoman.

JH: Plus your great-grandmother was living there.

GH: Yeah

JH: She had died in 1916. Uh, her great-grandmother had come over with three children. Uh, about 1879.

DB: From Poland?

GH: Yes

JH: From Poland. And, uh hadn't found much about them. The only thing we found is that two of the children, two of the older ones, the younger one happened to be her, her grandmother. One drowned in the Cuyahoga River at about 18, and then they, the boy. Then the girl died a few years later of typhoid.

DB: Okay

JH: And they lived on the other side of the river. The street is still there, it's basically at the end of the Lorain-Carnegie Bridge, the Hope Memorial Bridge, whatever you want to call it. Right in the shadow of Jacobs Field. I guess they were in the tenement houses. I guess with, uh outdoor plumbing if you lived at the bottom of the hill, there was a very good chance of getting the typhoid.

DB: Sure, get typhoid. Exactly.

JH: But that was all we go, found out about that.

DB: So do you know if your grandfather's saloon, I mean you have images of saloons in the 20s and 30s, was it a social place?

GH: Yeah.

JH: It was a social place, because the original bar, according to her cousin, who lived there, and her dad fell down the stairs and died there, said that was the original, the bar was in the same location as it was then.

DB: Yeah.

JH: No the actual bar, the serving bar.

GH: Yeah

DB: Oh is that right?

JH: Yeah, same bar.

GH: I think what they did back then I mean the men used to come with their pails, and they'd get their beer. That, that type thing.

DB: That was how it worked?

GH: Yeah. And then, my mother would, her story was that he would go down to the basement and make, I guess whiskey.

JH: Probably bootlegging.

DB: Sure, some sort of okay.

GH: He'd be tasting all night, and then in the early in the morning you'd hear him doing a little singing.

DB: Yes, I'm sure.

JH: Well with 9 girls, 7 girls, a wife, and a mother-in-law, what would you do for fun.
(Laughs)

DB: Good point.

GH: But, with a few, as I said they had 10 children. Two died at an early, so they raised seven girls and one boy, who was pampered by his sisters. And, uh, as the girls were getting married, some of them still lived in that same facility, that same house.

JH: It's quite a large house. It's still standing as it is today. On, I don't know how many apartments or rooms, or things you could get up there, but quite a bit. One of the cousins, her father died at an early age, you know fell down the stairs, and the stairs are still there. But no, she lived there you know with her mother, uh she was an only child, her sister had died at an early age. And, uh I mean the whole thing about that is the first thing I checked was who's buried at the cemetery. At the Calvary. I guess one of the grandsons of her grandfather was hit by a truck. So he's buried in one grave. The great-grandmother is buried in the same grave, I believe it is. And then on the opposite side, this girl who died at an early age, and the grandmother. There's four people in two graves.

DB: Oh, is that right?

JH: Yeah, yeah. The Calvary.

DB: Was that common for the time?

JH: I guess expense wise.

DB: Yeah.

JH: No-money wise.

GH: So, my grandfather gave up his rights, so that these children could be buried along. So he's, he's by himself.

DB: Okay.

JH: No, times were tough in those days, no down there. With the idea about the beer, I remember my father used to go down and play cards, and, uh, they'd be sitting around playing pinochle, whatever that, or 66, whatever it was, they'd say, "Joe, go get the bucket and go get us some beer."

DB: Oh, all right.

JH: I was maybe 6 or 7 years old. I'd take the bucket and a dime and go walk through this alley, go to this little bar, not this particular bar. Six or seven years old the guy would go fill-up the bucket of beer and I'd go back with it.

DB: Okay.

JH: There was no question we were gonna drink it, you were gonna get drunk. You're gonna be... You know what I mean. It was just a different type of society back in those days.

DB: Yeah. And was that, some of that particular to Tremont probably?

JH: Yeah

DB: And some of that was just an overall American thing.

GH: Yeah, but you had everything there as you were growing up. The grocery stores were there.

DB: Right.

GH: There were the dime stores. There were the, like clothing...

JH: The furniture stores. You never had to leave your neighborhood.

GH: You had your bakeries.

DB: Everything was in Tremont?

GH: Everything was right there. Then of course you had the market. So, if you wanted you could walk.

JH: Cross the Abby Bridge and you were there.

GH: And you were there at the West Side Market.

DB: And do you remember having done that when you were younger?

GH: Yeah, oh yeah. I mean they'd go and get the chickens. The live chickens.

DB: Oh is that right?

GH: Oh, yeah. I mean I had one aunt, all my aunts were good cooks, but she was a very good cook, so she was the one that would take care of the cleaning and doing whatever you had to do to the chicken. But, uh, yeah.

DB: When you would leave Tremont, or outside of the West Side Market, what kind of places would you go?

GH: Uh, downtown. You know, we would go downtown to the movies.

DB: Right

GH: Of course, like I said I went to grade school at St. John Cantius, and I then also graduated from Lincoln High.

DB: Right, okay.

GH: You know, we went to baseball, not baseball games, but football games of all the various schools, and so forth. And, again there...

JH: Walked.

GH: No problems. We would walk. We would meet, pick-up your friend and walk to John Marshall or wherever our baseball, or football game was, and you had no problems. Coming home at night. My dad worked nights, so my mother would wait for me. My friend's dad would wait. So we all, never encountered any problems.

DB: Right, and how much time, Mr. Hadbavny did you spend in Tremont? 'Cause you grew up in Brooklyn?

JH: Well, my parents lived on...

GH: West 5th or 7th?

JH: The north end of uh, Lincoln Park. No, my parents, if you want to go a little further, my father had come over there and he worked at Otis Steel at the time. His whole family, sister lived on W. 5th, his brother owned a butcher shop, and then the meat market. So, my dad, certainly came from Cambridge, Ohio after he came from Europe. He came from Europe in 1921 after being in the military in the first World War.

DB: For whom?

JH: Austrian-Hungarian.

DB: Okay.

JH: And, he had sisters in the Cambridge, Ohio area, and there's a lot of our family is from down there. But, he came up here and had gotten married, but his wife passed away about nine months after he married that young lady who was from south Ohio, and his brother died a month or two later. Also who had been in the First World War with him. He had come over with my father. And, about 1920, my mother came over in 1926, she went to Pennsylvania, but then the times were good over there, so she came to the Tremont area at that time. 1927. And, tell a cute story, my mother arrived on a Wednesday, and she got a rooms with a girlfriend of hers on Thurmond Alley.

DB: Okay

JH: At the other end of where the bar is. Thursday she went down to Ferry Cap Screw down on Scranton. Got a job. Started on Friday. Worked on Friday. So, the Saturday her girlfriend says, "I know a man. You want to go on a date?" This is May. She says, "Yeah." Actually it may have been the weekend that Lindbergh flew to Paris.

DB: Okay.

JH: So, she had this blind date with this fellow. She had seen him prior to that in Europe. I guess he was in the service with her brother. So they went to Luan park. My father was a widower, and that evening he says, 'Would you like to get married?'

DB: Wow, just like that?

JH: So they got married in July. She saw him three times before they got married. And mom always said, jokingly, so keep that as such, that my father was far more handsomer than Ferry Cap Screw was. (Laughs). They were married for fifty-odd years before she passed away. So, then my sister was born there. We have the 1930 Census showing my father, my mother, my sister, and I don't have it here, I might have it here, the address, and they have my sister down as Marion, her name is Mary, as a son.

DB: Oh, is that right? Still, the Census said that in 1930, that she was...

JH: That she was a son. So, before I was born, I guess they moved out in 1931, in around January, up to 28th Street in Brooklyn, between Broadview and State off of Hood. Where I was born in March of that year.

DB: Would you still go to church in Tremont?

JH: Yeah, periodically we would go down there because my dad belonged to a lodge at Our Lady of Mercy. We're Slovak. She's the Polish-Lithuanian. So, my father would go down there about once a month, and we'd pay our thing. But, all the activities, Merrick House, my mother was in plays, at Merrick House. I think they tried to drag me into a play, but my English was not too good at that time, because where I grew up they were all Slovak. When I went to grade school I really spoke no English at all.

DB: Right. How about did you speak English Mrs. Hadbavny?

GH: Yeah.

DB: Did your parents speak English?

GH: Yeah, yeah. My mother was born here. So, we had, they spoke Polish. Things were changing, so I never really became very well versed in the language.

DB: In the Polish language?

GH: In the Polish language. I know a few words.

DB: Now in Tremont, was there a great many different foreign languages spoken?

JH: Every other house.

GH: Like I said you had Ukrainian, you had the Russian, you had the Greek.

JH: The Greeks were off of Fairfield.

GH: Fairfield and 14th.

JH: They had a little coffee shop, a thing over there. And a little newsstand.

GH: It's still there.

JH: Yeah, they were the Greeks, and then the Ukrainians had the Ukrainian home down there.

GH: Right.

JH: Coming up further you had Grace Hospital. I don't know if you were born at Grace Hospital?

GH: No, my sister was.

JH: Your sister was born at Grace Hospital. Then of course, the Slovaks were more in the West 11th area, okay? The Polish were more toward the Cantius area. The St. Theodosius, is that the one? St. Tecan at the end of St. Tecan Street, that was the Russian area. Then you went to the south end of Lincoln Park there was Ukrainian Home, the Ukrainian church, so that was more Ukrainian. So, you had all over.

DB: Right, but there was a lot of different languages spoken?

GH: Oh, yeah.

JH: OH, yeah.

DB: And how hard did people work to speak English? I mean, was there a lot of English too?

GH: Oh, yeah.

JH: Oh, yeah.

GH: They, again I think when they, a lot of them came to America, so they wanted to be Americans.

JH: Instantly.

GH: Yeah.

JH: My mother went to the movies to learn to speak English.

DB: Is that right?

JH: She'd sound like say Loretta Young, or Joan Crawford. But also they learned the table settings and the different foods from the movies. They learned a lot from the movies.

DB: Oh, is that rights?

JH: The style, the society. They learned from the movies.

DB: That would make perfect sense. Do you have any memories of Tremont during the Great Depression? I don't know if you guys might be too young. Any family stories or parents.

GH: I think I was too young, I really don't remember.

JH: I just remember my uncle with the grocery store 'cause he sold in '39. It had blown up, but the was on Castle there. And, it was tough because things were going on the book, and you got paid. You know my

dad when he worked at the steel mills, one day, two days a week. His take-home pay was about \$5 a week. Mom would buy a chicken and stretch from Sunday to Wednesday. That chicken got stretched out. The soup, and the meat, and the noodles, and made chicken soup every Sunday from the day they got married until the day she passed away. That was a tradition. But times were hard, times were hard. Her dad, he was a waiter, he started out at the Statler Hotel as a ice-carver, ice cream boy.

GH: Yeah.

JH: 1927. And her mother was there, I think that's probably where they met. At the Statler Hotel.

GH: Yeah, some of my family worked there. My mom was a pantry girl.

JH: Salad girl.

GH: Salad girl, I think.

DB: Before they got married they both lived in Tremont?

GH: No, my dad was from the east side. I'm Lithuanian on that side of the family. He came over, he crossed the bridge, and he came over to the west side. His family as I said was always on the east.

JH: He was always in the restaurant...He worked at the Great Lakes Exposition for Perchner. Herman Perchner, that owned the

GH: Alpine Village.

JH: Alpine Village on Euclid. Any prom, any big night, any anniversary you went to the Alpine.

DB: Is that right?

JH: Right. Her father's stories about taking care of Abbott & Costello, Bob Hope, and all the others. This is where they went to eat. So, he did work. I don't know how much he made.

GH: Not very much.

JH: No, not very much, because they didn't move out of Tremont until Gloria was 16. 16. And I met you when you were 17.

GH: I tell you, you really had enough though. You had enough food, we always were dressed well. My dad always had nice cars, and we didn't want for anything. We were very satisfied in the environment that we had at that time.

DB: And was that common or would you say that was uncommon in Tremont?

GH: I would say pretty common. Everybody, as far as I know, I think in certain areas, maybe if you went down more towards West 5th, I think the environment down there might have been a little better. I mean I'm not saying that we were upper-class or anything. You know from my background, I mean I had cousins lived in the area and that, I don't think we needed much. We had enough to survive at that time.

DB: And was there any sense that maybe times could have been easier? Or did you understand that times could have been harder? I mean you don't have any memories of the Depression?

GH: No

JH: They had no Social Security until 1937. They had no, I don't know if they called it welfare or whatever it was. So, really what you had to do, we as kids, I used to go down to my cousins in that area, and the guys played cards. Me and him would go get a bucket, or a box, or a burlap sack, and go along the railroad tracks and pick up coal.

DB: Oh yeah.

JH: Which you burned in your stove, okay? So, that was gee, we'd go down to the tracks and pick up coal. So, that was I guess the big game. No, money was tight.

DB: Was there a sense that you didn't spend what you didn't have? Was credit

JH: On the book.

DB: On the book.

GH: The grocery store, that was your credit. Because you take your book, you go down to, ours was Steve Mayer at the little grocery store. And then there was a Fisher's.

JH: Where my uncle worked.

GH: But my mom would take her book and you'd go down there and get whatever you needed, and he'd mark it.

JH: The pay date.

GH: And then you'd pay up once a week or whatever the case was.

DB: Is that right?

GH: Yeah, yeah. But at that time I would say that was the only credit, I think everything else was paid by cash.

JH: Not until they came out with the charge plates about 1940.

GH: Yeah, I think they came out a little later. No, I think everybody as far as I know worked. You know, our friends, our neighbors, everybody had a job.

JH: Got by.

GH: Yeah.

DB: Yeah.

GH: You know, it came the holidays, you didn't get what you get today. Like the kids today.

DB: Of course not.

GH: You got, girls in the family, you got maybe a doll or whatever. If you had a brother, whatever, you got a truck or something. They had these socks, these mesh socks.

JH: Put candy in them, toy.

GH: Or you got fruit.

JH: Fruit, hey. Nuts, tangerines in your sock you hung your sock. And then you got an orange in there. Which of course, you gotta think about the days before refrigeration like it is today, a delicacy in December was to get an orange, I mean a tangerine, maybe a quarter.

DB: Right.

JH: That was Christmas presents, but the big thing was the smells, the church. Everything revolved around the church.

DB: Right, I was going to get to the church. First of all, you mentioned Social Security. Do you think that after that passed, did you see a benefit in Tremont of Social Security helping those who were retired?

JH: No, no we never found anybody, her grandfather was old enough to receive it. Her other grandfather was old enough. We cannot find their Social Security cards if they ever had one, and they died like 1940.

GH: The 40s.

JH: Yeah, and we cannot find that they even had the Social Security cards.

DB: Is that right?

JH: Right, so we found the naturalization, the papers on her mother's side. But, never that they even applied for Social Security. 'Cause if you were going to go pay it in for 3, 4 years and you turned 65, well your grandfather would have been 65, he was 20 years old in 1890, so he would have been 65 in 1935. He would have been, in other words missed on the Social Security thing. No, I don't think it helped anything down there. It didn't help until much later.

DB: Yeah, yeah.

JH: Charity wasn't called welfare, it wasn't called welfare, it was called something when times were hard and they gave you dried beans or old potatoes or whatever it was. It was not good. The people would go out to the market house...

GH: Or they'd go down at the end of the day and pick up things.

JH: At the end of the day.

GH: Like I said we never...

JH: No we never experienced anything like that.

GH: We never experienced that.

JH: I don't think we had money, but I don't think we knew we were poor.

DB: Now we want to talk about the churches, especially and what role the church played in Tremont. The various churches. And your uncle founded

JH: Our Lady of Mercy.

DB: In what year?

JH: Uh, I've got it here someplace. Apparently, they wanted to have another Slovak church in the Tremont area, because the other one was St. Gwendolyn's on Columbus. Which is quite a piece away. You would have to walk across the Abby Bridge, over to Columbus and then down. So, had to be probably 1916, 1917, somewhere around there. Like I said, had I known you were coming I would have got the history of the Church out. But, uh, they went to the bishop and said, "We'd like to have a Slovak church on that said." And, of course, maybe the bishops at that time were not ethnic... they didn't want any more ethnics in the area, so they said no. So, you got one over there, you don't need another one, so he says, "fine." So, he gets a priest, a Slovak priest. Father (inaudible) and they form a church and all the Slovaks are going over there. I think it probably ran for 12 years, before the bishop said, "Gee, I'm losing all this money, what I better do is go and take you into the fold."

DB: All right.

JH: So, that's how it got started. It was outside of the bishop. But it was a Catholic church. Catholic priest, and everything, but outside the bishop. So, finally...

DB: Was that common?

JH: Oh yeah. If you ever read a book called The Immigrant Cocoon written by somebody from Muskingum College about south Ohio. How all the church was run.

DB: Was that common in Tremont that you know of?

JH: I don't know. All I know about that particular one. This was a little frame church. I mean a white church. The siding on the side of it. I remember it that way. Just a little church with a steeple, all wood. Didn't have a lot of money to build it in that time.

DB: Yeah.

JH: So, the other churches were stone, brick, everything. Cost a great deal of money to build these churches in the 1900's when guys were making what, \$3 a week to build these fantastic churches in that area, you know. So, yes the church was an important thing to these people.

DB: Oh, absolutely. Did you attend mass at Our Lady of Mercy, or no?

JH: Periodically. Mostly for the holidays. Certain holidays, which were common to that nationality.

DB: Right

JH: They had a social hall. We went there for dances. My godfather owned a bowling alley, and he was very big in that area. So, yeah we were very active in the social thing at Our Lady of Mercy, even though we lived in Brooklyn.

DB: Yeah, and the church in Tremont, was that the main social gathering place? Was that the social place? Was that where you socialized?

GH: Yeah, because as I say...

JH: Bingo, card parties

GH: Yeah, well later on with St. John Cantius they built a hall there. Then they would have dances. It would be Sunday night and you'd get your girlfriends, or whatever, and go to the dances there. So, there were a lot of different activities. You were involved, I think a lot, with the church at that time. You had...

JH: Good Friday you guys used to clean the church.

GH: Well, you know, we'd help the nuns do certain things, get the church ready for Easter Sunday. Of course, you did spend a lot of time in church at that time. Especially, around Easter time

JH: Good Friday doing the stations of the cross on your knees.

GH: Yeah, but in grade school you had certain times. This class would go from 1 to 2, or this class would go from certain. So, you had designated times you had to go for certain services, and prayers, and different things you had in the church. So, it was a main focal point.

DB: Right, and what do you remember about the dances?

GH: That's where I met my husband.

DB: That's where you met your husband. What age did you start going to the dances.

GH: Oh, probably in my late teens. "Cause I met him when I was 17.

JH: I was in the service

GH: So we were married like two years later. It was 19, I was 19, he was 23.

DB: But you would still go? You were living in Parma Heights at that time, and you would go back? Back to Tremont?

GH: Yes. I had, well my godmother, my mother's niece still lived in the Tremont area. So, I still had girlfriends who lived in the area, and I wanted to go. So, my dad would bring us down, and my mother would visit with her niece, and I'd go to the dances with my friends. Then go back to my cousin and my dad would pick us up there.

DB: Right. And, was it like clockwork, every Sunday the people of Tremont were at one of the churches?

GH: If they had something going, if there was a scheduled, say dance at whatever church. I think Cantius was the one that had the polka dances. I mean they had all these bands come in.

JH: From around the country. I mean these were not local bands. They came in from Connecticut and places like that. It was a big draw.

DB: Yeah.

GH: Yeah, but like Pilgrim Church would have like teen dances. So, when I went to high school they could have dances there. Maybe like Friday nights probably. So, they would have something there, and like I said, I think Cantius, St. John Cantius, was the only one who would have these polka dances.

DB: Right, and when you would go with your friends to these dances, you would just do the same type of things that girls do now? Go talk to boys and giggle? Was there punch there? Was there food there?

JH: There was a bar.

GH: There was a bar, yeah. And, they had chairs up against the wall.

JH: The wallflower chairs. The wallflower chairs.

GH: Yeah, we'd kind of sit there, and if no one asked you to dance you would dance with your girlfriend. That's what it was. I don't know if it was the intent to go and pick-up anybody.

DB: No, I know.

GH: I'm just kidding.

JH: This is going to be on the tape recorder. I had been home about 2 weeks, and I was going to, I had reenlisted. I was planning on going to Germany. This was in November. November the 16th, 1952. Remember the day very well. So, my pals in Brooklyn said, "Gee they got a dance." And they pronounced the name of this band, that I couldn't pronounce for years. They said, "You want to go down there?" So, twelve guys in six cars went down there. The only clothes I had that fit me were my uniform.

DB: Right, right.

JH: So, I had on my Class A's and I knew a few of the guys. It was kind of cold that day, so I walked in. My cousin, know Mike, he and I were very close. We grew up together. He grew up on the opposite side of the Abby Bridge on W. 19th Street. I go walking in, I walked up to the stage where the band was playing, and this is the honest to God's truth. I look down and to the left, and about seven, eight, nine girls down there was this girl in a red dress. I told my cousin there's the girl I'm gonna marry.

DB: Really, before you ever talked to her.

JH: Before I even talked to her.

DB: She was sitting there like a wallflower?

JH: No, she was just caught my eye. She was the prettiest girl there as far as I was concerned. I asked her to dance and we danced. I couldn't dance the Polish-style polka at all. I still can't do it. I asked her for her phone number, and we called her up. I didn't know she was that young. She was 17 years old.

DB: She was 17?

JH: Yeah, she told me she was a senior. I figure well she's like 21 years old. And I was 22, but she was still in high school. I knew that's the girl I was going to marry. I think I did actually go to Germany with me. I talked to my colonel, he let me out. Gave back my pension. I got out of the army on December 20, about December the 19th of 1952. Got home about December 23rd. Called her up on Christmas Day. I

think we went to one movie before I went back. Saw the movie *The Quiet Man*. I can remember all these things at the old Granada Show. Fifty years later you can still remember these important things.

DB: Of course.

JH: So then we began to date. I took her to her prom.

GH: And it's all history.

DB: Where were you married at?

JH: At Parma. St. Francis because my parents were living in Parma. So we got married at St. Francis.

DB: Okay. And when was the last time you were at your church in Tremont?

GH: Well, we'd go back periodically for the festival that they usually have in September on Labor Day weekend. So we usually go back for that. As I said, we're with the Polish genealogical group.

JH: Which was formed at Cantius.

GH: Which was formed at St. John Cantius. So we used to hold our meetings there, but we've had to change locations. So, as I said we do go back there periodically. We were at last, I think October...

GH: Yeah, going back to the churches, the blessing of the foods on Holy Saturday. So, all the women would get their Easter baskets ready. Everybody had a special basket that they had for the blessing of the foods, and you had maybe a special cover that you put on top. And again, in there you had your ham, and your kielbasa, and your bread, and your eggs, and your butter

JH: Your horseradish

GH: Horseradish, and your cheeses. So, they had a maybe, specific times again that they would bless foods. So, everybody, you know you'd bring your basket to the church and I mean it was just overwhelming.

JH: Yeah, the smells.

GH: The smells

JH: No, the ham. You used to boil their hams in those days. They're not as prepared as they were today, so when you bought a ham you either baked it or you boiled it. Okay?

GH: And I think later on the Easter baskets were becoming very prevalent. So, the kids would bring their Easter baskets and get their Easter baskets blessed.

JH: Of course, you know we were fasting for 40 days. In other words, you really didn't eat much meat. Easter holy week was very special, especially that night. Your appetites were whetting. Of course, you couldn't eat meat still until after you went to communion on Sunday.

DB: Right, exactly.

JH: Then that's when you attacked that basket.

GH: But, again in the area there was Dido bakery, Auburn bakery, there were all different little bakeries in the area. So, we'd go for our bread.

JH: They'd come around with their little trucks.

DB: Is that right?

JH: Yeah, the baker with..

DB: Almost like an ice cream truck?

JH: Almost like an ice cream truck, but it was a bakery truck. Ding-dong, ding-dong on this little thing. You'd come out to the street and he'd pull out little trays. You would have layer cakes. You had cheesecakes. The best cheesecakes in the world on this one. Then you had maybe pecan, or nut rolls, or something like that there. Of course your bread, it was unsliced. Paid him and you took it upstairs. He'd go up to the next house and people would go out to the truck. You did that with Auburn baker. Dido...

GH: I don't think they had a truck.

JH: No, Dido's didn't, because they sold more to the stores, but Auburn bakery had that.

GH: There was another one on Literary, but I can't remember the name of it. It was another little corner, right by the alley there, but I don't remember the name of it.

DB: How often would this truck come around?

JH: Maybe twice a week. Maybe twice a week. I know most definitely on a Saturday, and maybe like on a Tuesday.

DB: And is that how a lot of people go their bread?

JH: Yeah. We also had our neighborhood bakeries, but you had certain breads. Okay, that you wanted from these guys, certain cakes.

GH: They would come around too, you had someone who would sell produce. They would come around with

JH: Usually with a horse.

GH: Fresh vegetables, yeah.

JH: And fish

DB: Now were a lot of these stores or bakeries ethnically based? Did the Polish go to a certain store?

JH: Yeah, Stash had that meat market.

GH: Yeah, I would say there were certain ones that would carry specific food like the kielbasa and that. But, then you have like you have today, your Giant Eagle, they had the Fisher's they called it back then.

JH: Fisher Foods.

DB: Right.

GH: Fisher Foods which was your general grocery store.

DB: And everyone would

GH: Go there, but then a couple doors away from there, there was another small store. I had one aunt, as we were growing up this one aunt did not like to leave the house for whatever reason. So, as the nieces got to a certain age we would do her grocery shopping and different things. So, we would go up to this one food store, little grocery store, and buy your meat, and whatever, I mean they would grind everything fresh. You wanted steak or whatever,.

JH: A lot of people didn't have refrigerators in those days, still had ice boxes. And the ice truck would come around.

DB: And this is when you were growing up there and when you would go visit there? So this is 40s?

JH: 40s

GH: I would say 40s, yeah , yeah.

DB: When do you think that was phased out?

GH: Probably getting into the 50s.

JH: The 50s, the early part of the 50s. You still had Producer's milk. The milkman came around. During World War II they had a horse, would deliver milk. Because they couldn't get gasoline, and then right after the war they went to trucks. They had Dairymen's.

GH: Then you start getting, the more commercialized companies were coming in. But, we have to mention the Paper-Rex man.

DB: The Paper-Rex man?

GH: The Paper-Rex man.

JH: He was saying, "paper and rags."

GH: Paper and rags.

DB: Oh, I see.

JH: What would you call him, a trash?

GH: Yeah.

JH: Junk

GH: Junk hauler, or whatever, but he would scare the kids half to death. Because, he was just kind of grungy looking.

JH: Some grungy was in my neighborhood too.

GH: He had like a cart.

JH: Well, he had a horse, drawn with a little wagon, and he would say.

GH: "Paper and rags," but we used to call him Paper-Rex.

DB: Oh, I see.

JH: Actually. Somebody wrote a book about the Paper-Rex man. I have a copy of it.

DB: Is that right, from Tremont?

JH: No, from the Cleveland area.

DB: He would go all over?

JH: Called the Paper-Rex man.

GH: If you had old rags and paper.

JH: Metal

DB: And what would he do with them?

JH: Sell them for scrap, and he'd pay you a few cents, you know.

GH: Scared you half to death, because as I said he was just dirty.

JH: If you lacked for money to go to the movies that night you looked around in the garage for a couple of old horseshoes, and hey. Here comes a dime.

DB: Oh, wow, that's an interesting story.

JH: Well, the outdoor plumbing in that area, they were still there in

GH: In the 40s.

JH: In the 40's and even into the 50s still had outdoor plumbing.

DB: Is that right, well did houses, did your house have indoor plumbing?

GH: We had indoor. I had an aunt that did not have indoor plumbing.

JH: That was on

GH: On Literary.

JH: On Literary.

DB: All right, was that located, you said you lived on a different end of town, West 5th?

GH: We lived at West 10th. On West 10th.

JH: Her grandfather's old bar was across the street and they lived about, 3, or 4, or 5 houses down on 10th Street. Your godmother lived on the corner house.

GH: Almost across the street.

JH: By Sokalosky's tavern

GH: Right, close to that.

DB: And did your end live on a different end?

GH: She was on Literary.

JH: About a block, two blocks away.

GH: I mean it wasn't that far, but I think when you were a kid, everything seemed big, and different. A few years back we went down there, and I think it was during the time of the festival, and we just walked around the neighborhood, and everything just seemed different.

JH: Smaller.

GH: Smaller. I went to see were I used to live, and certain things were still there.

DB: Now clarify, the name of the festival.

JH: The, St. John Cantius

GH: Their Polish festival that they have.

JH: We had some matches from there.

GH: They usually have it Labor Day weekend.

DB: Okay

GH: We toured around. The one time we hooked up with , we ran into my cousin. We went down 5th, we went down 7th.

JH: That's when she got into

GH: Just to see where different things were, and a lot of houses were gone already.

DB: Now, was this festival a big event when you lived there?

GH: NO

DB: When did it start?

GH: I'm going to say about maybe 20 years ago. I maybe wrong.

DB: But nothing they had when you used to live there.

JH: No, they used to have, at times they would bring in the carnivals with the rides and everything.

GH: Yeah, when I was going to school, when I was in grade school, they would have, like a festival. But they would bring in the ferris wheel and different things of that nature. Probably went on for many years, but this other one they have is totally different. I mean the don't have rides or anything like that.

DB: Right

JH: Going back, I'd say further, my mother always said, you didn't have a bathroom besides the washtub on the kitchen floor, you know which you heated the water on the kitchen stove. So, they used to go to the Lincoln Bath Houses.

DB: Right.

JH: For their baths and their showers.

DB: When you grew up were they still there?

GH: They were still there, but like I said we had indoor plumbing. The bathtub and everything. My aunt did not.

DB: Would she go to the Lincoln Bath House?

GH: Well...

JH: There was a wasthtub on the floor.

GH: They had one of those galvanized tubs and if you stayed there, this is what you took a bath in.

DB: Right. Did you know a lot of people who would go to the baths?

GH: I think there were a lot of people that went within the neighborhood, if they didn't have

JH: That one section south of, where does Frank live?

GH: Starkweather

JH: Starkweather, there's another area down there, even when I was in the insurance business in the 60s they still had outdoor plumbing. They still had, I think the city of Cleveland still had an Outhouse Inspector that would come around and inspect these things. I think those people really didn't have the indoor plumbing, so they probably used the bathhouses maybe up until the 60s.

GH: Probably, because when did they turn them into condos?

JH: Just a few years ago.

GH: Ten years ago.

DB: Now was there ever a sense of embarrassment for those that did have to go to the public bath.

GH: No I don't think so.

JH: They did have a swimming, wading pool in Lincoln Park.

GH: So, probably a lot of people went to Lincoln Park. They had the pool there and the park. So, I don't think so.

JH: I don't think so.

DB: So, essentially you're saying all the ethnicities and all the social classes, or wealthy or unwealthy, as it may have been, there wasn't much of a dividing line.

JH: Well, on 14th Street, where my parents' attorney lived on the corner, right across from Holy Ghost Church, is that what that one is?

GH: I think so.

JH: He had a gorgeous house there right on the corner in the 30s. And, I remember this man being able to speak Slovak, Polish, Ukrainian, I mean this guy could speak all the languages. He had a gorgeous home. They had some fantastic homes on 14th Street. There's still a lot there. So, no, he was wealthy and he probably, he went to church at Our Lady of Mercy.

DB: Right.

JH: The term the melting pot, it was. There was no because the Poles went to their bar, and guys went to their bar. A lot of these guys they worked together also at J&L Steel or at Republic Steel, so there was no animosity. No jealousy. I don't think so.

GH: No, 'cause I had friend who lived on 5th and 7th and those areas. And, I think again later on things were starting to change, so maybe things were getting a little different.

JH: Maybe toward the late 50s, early 60s it began to change.

DB: Right

GH: But I think, West 5th might have been a little

JH: Rougher

GH: Rougher area, even back then

JH: Look at the CMHA, the projects.

GH: The projects down there, 'cause I don't think I knew anybody who lived in the projects.

JH: No, well Jackie did when she was a girl.

GH: But, I mean we'd walk down that way, as I said I had friends who lived down that way.

DB: But you were never scared or nervous?

JH: No

GH: No, no.

DB: Now, the steel mills did they dominate the area, were they a major part of Tremont as well?

JH: I think so. Because the guys were able to walk to work.

DB: Would you say you knew a lot of people who worked at the steel mills?

JH: Yep, everybody. Families, her nephews were Teamsters they drove beer trucks.

GH: No, my cousins they worked for the breweries. Of course my dad didn't.

JH: He was a waiter.

GH: He was a waiter. He worked downtown. Marion's husband worked at Ferry Cap Screw. A lot of people worked at that Ferry Cap Screw.

DB: Right

GH: That was another big place. And I think primarily, probably the mills.

DB: How do you spell Ferry Cap Screw?

JH F-e-r-r-y

DB: Cap Screw

JH: Cap Screw. I think it's, the signs are still down there.

DB: Yeah, I don't know.

JH: Where Train Ave. comes into Scranton.

DB: Yeah, it might still be down there.

GH: I think, as I said, several of my cousins drove trucks for the

JH: Breweries. In another words there wasn't a lot of college education.

DB: Was there a lot of high school education?

JH: I think among the girls perhaps yes. Among the boys very few. 'Cause these guys were growing up in the Depression, so when you had five, or six, or seven in the family, sixteen years old you got out of school, you got yourself a job.

DB: Right, right.

JH: Money was tight.

DB: Now, did a lot of people who worked at the mills, would you say that a majority of the people who worked at the mill were from Tremont? Or were there outsiders? I mean there had to have been outsiders.

JH: That east side, west side, yeah there were a lot. 'Cause J& L used to employ when, one summer my dad says, "You want a job down there?" "And I say not really." So he got me a job down there. They probably had 8,000 guys at J& L Steel which was on the south side of the Clark Bridge. On the opposite side was Republic Steel. They had a lot of people making far less steel than they do with a crew of maybe 500, I mean today. Just with the technology that has come to make steel. So, yes you had, yeah because a lot of guys could walk to work. A lot of guys caught the Clark Avenue bus down to J & L and to Republic.

DB: And when did the steel mills start declining? Was it the 60s? I mean it was after you moved out right?

GH: They were still pretty big.

JH: No, my dad retired from J & L in '67 and he was what in his late

GH: 70s

JH: He was close to 70 and they didn't want him to leave. No, just the technology required less people.

DB: Exactly, right.

JH: You know, that's all that it was. There was a lot of people who made great careers over there. You know, good pensions, good money. So, you may have got a job there in the 20s and by 19, the 60s you were living in Parma, but still went to work there.

GH: It's probably the same today as people working at Ford. You have a lot of people coming to the one on Brookpark, going out to Lorain, going out to the one in

JH: Walton Hills.

GH: Walton Hills.

JH: No, the mills were a prominent employer at that time.

DB: Right, how many people would you say lived in Tremont, I mean you had a Census from 1930. Do you have any idea what that was? And what would you say the percentage of men who worked at the mills was?

JH: Oh, at that period of time?

DB: Yeah.

JH: Oh, gosh. Maybe 40-50% of the men worked at the mills. Because you couldn't get gas. So, if you had a job, you couldn't get gas. I think we have some A coupons over there, I think you got 3 gallons a week.

DB: Oh, okay.

JH: Okay, so if you had a Buick you bought before the war, you sure wouldn't go driving. I mean you take the family out for a drive on Sunday. Otherwise you took the streetcars or you the buses. And so, being able to take the public transportation, or being able to walk to work was very important. Yes, so I would say a very large percentage worked at the mills.

DB: And they would be, how long was the workday? 10 hours?

JH: 8 hours.

GH: 8 hours.

JH: You had 3 shifts at J & L, 7 to 3, 3 to 11, 11 to 7.

DB: Right. People preferred the first shift, or it didn't matter? It was work?

JH: Well, I worked there, and the first week you had 7 to 3. From Monday to Friday, and then on Sunday you got 3 to 11, okay? Then you got off at 11 o'clock on maybe Friday night, then Sunday morning you went in, or the Saturday night you went in at 11 o'clock at night until 7 o'clock in the morning. Then the fourth week was crazy week, okay?

DB: Right.

JH: A couple of days on days, a couple of days on afternoon, and a couple of days on nights. Then you got off, probably for 5 days before you started it all over again. And crazy week you didn't have any idea if it was Monday or Friday, because you were...

DB: And that's how it was for everyone?

JH: Most of the Republic Steel had that system, and J & L, you know started it later, I think in the 40s.

DB: So your father did that?

JH: No, my dad was a crane operator. He worked straight nights from probably the time I was born until I was in high school.

DB: Right, right.

JH: He worked straight nights from 11 to 7. Yeah, he was lucky, he stayed on the same shift.

DB: Now do you have any memories of World War II, living in Tremont? Do you remember Pearl Harbor?

JH: I do. She doesn't.

GH: Well, yes and no. I mean, you hear certain things as a kid. As I said I was kind of young at that time, if anybody was in the service they had the flags in the windows.

DB: In Tremont?

JH: Blue Stars.

GH: Blue Stars. My cousin's husband was in the service and a couple of my other cousins were in the service. My dad, for whatever reasons, didn't go.

JH: But the times with the large families, they had 3 and 4, maybe 5 Blue Stars. So, they had a lot of sons, and then the Gold Stars were if they got killed.

GH: But you'd have the air raids. I think we had dark shades, you know you had to put things in the dark. Same thing in school, they had certain things you would have to do, you know in case anything, if there was a bombing or things like that. I mean I vaguely remember.

JH: Rationing.

GH: Rationing, yes rationing. You made butter, you got this white cube of

JH: You made margarine.

GH: You made margarine. You got this white cube of lard, or whatever it was, and you had coloring, orange coloring.

DB: Is that right?

GH: Yeah. So, you mixed it up and that was your margarine.

JH: You had points. You could get so much meat. You had

GH: You had tokens.

JH: No, but that was your change. If you bought a pound of bologna and you had a coupon for ten points and the bologna was only four points they gave you little cardboard, sort of like a paper thing, and it showed a 5 and a 1, and that was your change. So, you had change in your points, okay?

GH: Sometimes people would change off, trade off. Somebody wanted, they needed this and you didn't need it so you would give them.

JH: And you saved up your points for the Easter ham, and the Easter kielbasa. You saved them up.

DB: Is that right?

JH: Yeah, you sacrificed.

GH: There would be so much of that.

JH: And some of the meats were not rationed.

DB: Right, not everything was. Do you remember Gold Stars hanging in Tremont. Do you remember when someone in the neighborhood was killed during the war?

GH: Not really.

DB: Specifically related to Tremont, no?

GH: I mean, as I said, my relatives all came back. The ones that were in.

DB: And, how many relatives were in?

GH: Oh, my two cousins. Marion's husband, I can't think.

JH: There was a lot of guys in the service down there. Because all the churches had these honor rolls. The churches of the guys that were, in other words, in. And they were quite large. Some of these parishes, I don't know how many people were at Cantius during World War II. Probably a 2000 family.

GH: It was large.

JH: A 2000 family, that's a lot of people from the Tremont area. They had an honor roll. Our Lady of Mercy had an honor roll. Probably all the other churches had guys who were in the service. If they died they got a Gold Star. I do remember that.

GH: I forgot about that. Yeah, you did.

DB: Well you don't remember Pearl Harbor, but do you remember later on in the War? Do you remember victory?

GH: Yeah, I kind of remember all of a sudden everyone was real happy. They said the war was over, that type thing.

DB: Was there any kind of special, maybe not a formal celebration, was there any kind of informal celebration.

JH: Just blowing horns. Everybody was on the porch.

GH: The yelling and the war's over, but no special kind of celebration that I knew of.

DB: Now whatever, to talk about a national or maybe citywide or statewide, what other major events during your time in Tremont, or actually anytime in Tremont stick out. The assassination of President Kennedy? We want to talk politically, would you say Tremont had a specific political bend? Was there do you know, was there a lot of Democrats?

GH: I wouldn't know, because as I said we were gone already 10 years. You know we'd go back periodically.

DB: If you moved out in 1952, and you were a teenager right?

GH: Right.

DB: But you don't remember how, was there a big push for an Eisenhower in '52? Was Tremont just didn't know.

JH: Mostly Democratic.

GH: I would say Democratic, yeah.

JH: Mostly Democratic. Our best man still lives in the area. He was born there. He still lives there. He's pretty active with everybody down there.

DB: Right.

JH: So, he would be the guy I would ask about the politics in that area.

GH: Yeah, but I would say more Democratic than anything else.

DB: And do you remember any Cleveland city mayors? Did they come through Tremont and campaign hard or come back once they were mayor?

GH: No, no.

JH: It was more or less a forgotten thing. Especially when they built 71. That really chopped up that area.

DB: Yeah.

JH: I mean it was an island.

DB: Yeah, overnight almost.

JH: It was an island.

GH: No, I don't remember them. I mean they may have come through and campaigned, but nothing like you have today.

JH: I think we stopped going down there a lot more maybe in the mid-60s, because you know Cleveland was changing. The big department stores were closing, because we used to do all of our shopping downtown. So, she worked downtown until the 70s, 80s? So, really we just stopped going down there because the people we knew down there had moved out.

DB: Right, now why were people moving out? Because of things like 71? Maybe crime was getting worse? Maybe just culture? Well you moved out in '52. Why did your parents move out.

JH: To get off of rent.

DB: To buy a house?

JH: To buy a house.

GH: You know three children. Two girls and a boy. We needed more room. I think probably to better themselves.

DB: Okay. And that was common, once you could do that you would move out?

JH: Yeah.

GH: Yeah. I mean, I had, my aunts, I mean they I think even before we moved. I mean my aunt lived in Fairview Park. My other aunt live in Brooklyn.

JH: Parma.

GH: Parma.

JH: When you could afford it you did it. You still liked the area, you still had ties down there, but you wanted...

DB: Something better?

JH: Something better.

GH: Yeah.

DB: The American Dream.

JH: I mean a whole lot of these people had nothing when they came here, and they bettered themselves. So, you moved.

DB: And a lot of, as heavily ethnic as Tremont was, would a lot of people would they still move. Like the Ukrainians would they move to say a Parma, which is also, of course and ethnic place? I mean you moved to Parma Heights?

GH: Parma Heights.

DB: Was there a reason for Parma Heights?

GH: That's where my dad picked.

JH: There was no ethnic in Parma Heights at that period of time. Parma in the 50s, Parma was Polish, Slovak.

GH: Ukrainian.

JH: Ukrainians. Very big in the 50s, and these were people that moved out.

DB: And a lot of the houses in Tremont were rented?

GH: Yes

DB: There wasn't a lot of home-ownership?

JH: Not that I'm aware of.

GH: There was probably some.

JH: Well the landlord owned the house. The landlord he may have owned 5 houses.

DB: Is that right? They may have owned multiple houses.

GH: Well, like where we lived, the landlord was next door. Okay? We lived in a two-suiter. Up front was a six. No four

JH: Two in the back. The house is still standing.

DB: Oh, is that right?

GH: He had six suites.

DB: Now, the house you grew-up in in Tremont. Describe the house when you walked in. Was it a common house?

JH: It was a double.

GH: It was a double. Two porches. We lived upstairs. You know basic. Couple bedrooms, living room, and a kitchen.

DB: Common. And that was a common house in Tremont?

GH: Yeah.

JH: The heating. What did you use the heat with?

GH: Coal, for a long time.

JH: In the center of the living room.

DB: Oh, is that right. In the middle of the living room?

GH: Well, ours was off to the side. I think the vent...

JH: Off to the side of the living room. That was the central heat.

GH: And then later on , you went to, you got those gas heaters.

JH: And laundry, your mom did laundry in the basement.

GH: Yeah, we had a basement and an attic where you dried you clothes. I mean, summertime clothes were hung outside. Winter, everything went in the attic. Stiff. No heat. You know you got coal.

JH: Coal heat was a lot. Common through the 30s and the 40s was coal heat.

GH: But, I mean the property or facility was upkept. They had a nice lawn and everything. Next door, my dad had to rent a garage.

DB: Oh, is that right.

GH: The lady next door, well they were Ukrainian, so she had like three or four garages.

JH: There weren't many. There were no driveways off the street. The houses were next to each other. There was no place to park your car in your driveway. 'Cause they were all lawns, and they had alleys which they called them. I guess in the old days that's where you parked your horse and your wagon.

DB: How old was the house that you lived in?

GH: Oh, I have no idea.

JH: The style of it would be about 1910, 1908, 1909.

GH: My parents moved, they got married in '31, so they moved in there shortly after that.

JH: Probably the 1910-style of house. There were an awful lot of houses over there with no basement, just a crawl space probably from the 1880s, 1890s. So, there's was newer.

GH: But there were some homes in there that I would say were very, maybe wealthy lived in .

JH: Well there were mansions in there. One on the corner.

GH: 'Cause there was one on the corner that had a big wraparound porch that looked very fancy. And then where my aunt lived on Literary, now they rented also, the house next door was very, more exclusive. You kind of had a mix of some houses in the area.

DB: Right. Well I'll tell you what we're almost done. If we want to sum up, you know in a few words, or sentences or whatever, your experience in Tremont. The things you most remember. Your husband has said he remembers the smells. Would that be common?

JH: Christmas. Christmas time. We had the special meals which they called (inaudible). You had certain foods. Thirteen different foods was that what it was? And straw underneath the table and they would put coins in there to, I'm talking about the Polish, and the kids would go for the coins. And the smells. The bakers, the meats.

DB: The mills?

JH: The mills, the mills had a sort of a burning coal sort of smell.

DB: Right, but not as pervasive as the bakery?

JH: I think the wind blew more toward Broadway.

DB: Okay ,yeah.

JH: Okay, so this was not as that was. Where everything was coated with the dioxide.

GH: But I think just in general, the friendliness of the people.

JH: Scrubbing the sidewalks.

GH: Yeah, people, you know, were friendly. If you had a problem they would try and help you. It was a melting pot. I have no regrets growing up in the area.

JH: People got dressed up for Easter. Everybody had new clothes.

DB: Everybody had new clothes for Easter?

JH: And corsages. You know what a corsage is?

DB: Oh, sure.

JH: They used to come from here, the shoulder down to about the waist.

GH: They were huge.

JH: And you stayed dressed on a Sunday. What you wore to the church you wore all day long. You didn't go change into your jeans and cut the grass or wash the car. You didn't work on Sunday.

GH: You didn't work on Sunday. Stores closed, the stores closed half a day on Wednesday. Your grocery stores or drug stores or whatever. Anything else.

JH: Saturdays at about noon.

GH: No, six on Saturdays.

JH: Six o'clock.

GH: Six o'clock on Saturdays. And I mean that goes for all the stores, even downtown Cleveland. But your locals, they would close half a day on Wednesday.

JH: Never open on a Sunday.

GH: You know, everybody survived.

DB: Sure, through good times, bad times, everything.

GH: Exactly.

JH: There were no restaurants at that time in the Tremont area that I remember.

GH: No, I mean if you went to a dance or something, they may have had something there.

JH: Kielbasa sandwiches.

GH: Or whatever.

DB: You ate dinner at home with your family.

GH: Yeah.

JH: Yeah, you better be there at 6 o'clock and eat dinner with your family. Otherwise, you didn't eat the next day.

GH: Or you waited. As I said my dad worked nights, as I said he was in the restaurant business, so you know maybe, 'cause they used to have a 2 o'clock Mass downtown. He'd go to church then he'd come home and go to bed. And, you know we'd go to church and that, and you waited until he was ready. That was it. You didn't eat without him. You know, we all survived. Like I said...

JH: It was a great place to grow up.

GH: Yeah, we had the nuns.

JH: Her fifth grade nun is still alive.

DB: Is that right?

GH: Yeah. She's gotta be 90-something years old. But, and they taught you a lot. You had respect.

JH: You respected other people's property.

GH: Like I said it was a great are to grow up in. I have no regrets.

DB: Right. Well, very good.