

Speaker 1:

00:00

Now, Mr. Ratner, would you give us your full name and tell us where you were born when you came to the valley?

Speaker 2:

00:09

My name is Maurice Ratner. I was born in Corsicana, Texas.

Speaker 2:

00:15

Came to the valley here in 19... actually it was 1914.

Speaker 2:

00:22

To Sun Valley.

Speaker 1:

00:24

Then you have really seen the valley grow.

Speaker 1:

00:30

Yes.

Speaker 1:

00:31

And you've lived here in Sun Valley the whole time, have you, since then?

Speaker 2:

00:35

Yes, we lived in 19, since 19, since 1915, and in Sun Valley in the last 20 years in

Speaker 2:

00:46

North Hollywood, although I've had business.

Speaker 2:

00:53

okay if you could turn this off and maybe that way it would help

Speaker 1:

01:00

okay now we had asked you where you were from and you told us and you came to the valley in 1915.

Speaker 1:

01:07

that was when world war one was on do you remember anything about that and its effect on the valley

Speaker 1:

01:14

Or were you two young men to remember?

Speaker 2:

01:16

No, no, it's...

Speaker 2:

01:19

Actually, the war didn't start at 15.

Speaker 2:

01:21

It started a little later, I think, 17 or 18.

Speaker 2:

01:24

Yes, how far did it get?

Speaker 2:

01:25

It started in 2014.

Speaker 2:

01:26

The 14th started in Europe, about three, four years,

Speaker 2:

01:29

three years before the war.

Speaker 2:

01:30

That's right, 1970.

Speaker 2:

01:33

That's when I started high school in Santa Anita High.

Speaker 2:

01:40

It was in 1980.

Speaker 2:

01:42

And I was there, she had a joint, somebody ROTC, you call it.

Speaker 2:

01:51

And then we were born and started school, and then I got a uniform, and I put tees, this is our...

Speaker 2:

01:59

I was promoted, I became a corporal, I think, a Sergeant Five, it's not a five, a group of five.

Speaker 2:

02:06

I wasn't a Sergeant, just a corporal.

Speaker 1:

02:10

Pardon?

Speaker 1:

02:11

No, I just said I was interested in knowing that.

Speaker 2:

02:14

Yeah, and in fact all boys had to join us, ROTC and so on.

Speaker 2:

02:21

That carried on later even in high school and college they had ROTC.

Speaker 2:

02:25

Yes, of course they had that now.

Speaker 2:

02:27

Yeah, see that was where it started that particular time.

Speaker 2:

02:33

As far as the war was concerned, all they knew was there was a war going on.

Speaker 2:

02:42

People arrested. In fact, at the school we had one boy who was only about 15 or something.

Speaker 2:

02:50

He said he was 17 or 18. At that particular time, also there was a flu epidemic.

Speaker 2:

02:57

and all that stuff. And a lot of...

Speaker 2:

03:00

And he came back and sort of...

Speaker 2:

03:03

That killed the appetite of all the other boys at the time.

Speaker 2:

03:07

And it took joy.

Speaker 2:

03:09

But there wasn't much going on during the first World War.

Speaker 1:

03:15

You weren't conscious of shortages of things and that sort of thing?

Speaker 2:

03:19

There was no shortages. There was no shortages during the first World War.

Speaker 2:

03:25

I mean, people had...

Speaker 2:

03:27

It didn't affect...

Speaker 2:

03:30

There was no factories out here.

Speaker 2:

03:32

There was nothing to...

Speaker 2:

03:35

The only thing is after the First World War,

Speaker 2:

03:38

after the First World War, then it started...

Speaker 2:

03:41

Then it was quiet and then it started to boom.

Speaker 2:

03:44

Always after the war.

Speaker 2:

03:45

The only thing that didn't come until later

Speaker 2:

03:50

when they wanted to put a hospital for the veterans.

Speaker 2:

03:59

And later on they advertised, I can't remember just what year it was,

Speaker 2:

04:03

but they advertised, oh, that was some years later,

Speaker 2:

04:08

they advertised to put in a veterans hospital in Southern California,

Speaker 2:

04:13

from Bakersfield to the border.

Speaker 2:

04:16

They had 101 requests to put in the hospital in each town because that meant they'd hire people,

Speaker 2:

04:24

nurses and so on and so forth.

Speaker 2:

04:32

They turned around and they sent a committee out from Washington and they checked and they found

Speaker 2:

04:38

different places. Number three was out by San Diego and so on. Number two was Monrovia.

Speaker 2:

04:46

you know, in Orange County, Monrovia, up to the foothills.

Speaker 1:

04:53

Now that's still in Los Angeles County.

Speaker 2:

04:54

Yeah, it's in Los Angeles, it's close to Orange County.

Speaker 2:

04:58

That was number two.

Speaker 2:

04:59

Number one, they found the healthiest place from Bakersfield to the border,

Speaker 2:

05:05

right here in San Fernando.

Speaker 2:

05:06

Because here was 1,400 feet, 1,500 feet, close to 2,000 feet high.

Speaker 2:

05:11

No smog, they didn't have smog and no fog and they felt that's how it happened to come.

Speaker 2:

05:19

They were happy to get it here because they hired all those people.

Speaker 2:

05:24

Outside of that, for First World War, I don't remember anything else that was special.

Speaker 3:

05:32

It didn't affect your parents' business at all?

Speaker 2:

05:36

Well it so happened it did it. My dad and folks, he came from New York City and he had a lot of

Speaker 2:

05:44

getting into the importing business and what he was importing is he came from

Speaker 2:

05:51

Scotland, Europe, and England, stopping at cooking. So when his business stopped in the meantime,

Speaker 2:

06:00

But he had the business out here too, with an uncle that came.

Speaker 2:

06:08

And that was the only thing.

Speaker 2:

06:10

It didn't affect people much.

Speaker 2:

06:15

It might have affected people more back east than what I was going to do in the first world war.

Speaker 1:

06:22

Would you say then that the Second World War was much more significant than the effects on people in the first world?

Speaker 2:

06:28

Second World War, it's already developed, the country, it all is altogether different.

Speaker 2:

06:38

You can feel it and realize it every day.

Speaker 2:

06:41

You're hurting over the news, you're hurting over everything.

Speaker 2:

06:44

And you bought the window shades, black window shades, and you turned out the lights, and all sorts of things.

Speaker 2:

06:53

The second one, you were conscious of it all the time.

Speaker 2:

06:57

Everybody was listed and naturally there was a shortage of everything.

Speaker 1:

07:01

Do you remember what became short first?

Speaker 1:

07:04

What were the principal shortages, as you remember?

Speaker 2:

07:08

Well, I would know too, because I remember I said I opened, I had a real estate office when I was 17 and so on,

Speaker 2:

07:17

but I finished high school, but still you go out to go on to school.

Speaker 2:

07:21

I went to USC for five years.

Speaker 2:

07:28

The first two years I took to the pharmacy, I'd take some time to trade.

Speaker 2:

07:32

Those days it was two years, now it takes six years to go.

Speaker 2:

07:36

I became a druggist, I was a druggist, got my license and so on.

Speaker 2:

07:40

I stayed with real estate.

Speaker 2:

07:43

I went on to law school.

Speaker 2:

07:45

But then when the Depression came, real estate was very slow, it all stopped during the 30s

Speaker 2:

07:53

after this, after the boom of the 20s, I had a drugstore in my eye for about a long time.

Speaker 2:

08:02

And actually I was coming to see the familiar ones that were short.

Speaker 2:

08:09

And the first things that were short, actually, was luxuries.

Speaker 2:

08:13

There was plenty of gas.

Speaker 2:

08:16

First thing that affected people, very important, was they had, what do you call them?

Speaker 2:

08:23

Not coupons, but gas, what do you call them?

Speaker 2:

08:27

Ration stamps.

Speaker 2:

08:29

Ration stamps.

Speaker 2:

08:30

That was the most important.

Speaker 2:

08:33

There was plenty of gas.

Speaker 2:

08:34

I mean, there wasn't a problem.

Speaker 2:

08:35

and actually had ration gas but there was enough there was enough

Speaker 2:

08:40

gas and besides people didn't travel much those days but tires was a very important thing

Speaker 2:

08:47

and now a tire will go like i said the life of the car and nothing but those days a car with a

Speaker 2:

08:55

tire even though would blow out very easy one of the most precious things was tires you had to watch

Speaker 2:

09:01

your tires and besides tires those days were made from what? That's right. Today they manufactured it

Speaker 2:

09:10

chemically but those days it was rubber and I couldn't bring no more rubber over so that was

Speaker 2:

09:15

the limit so you had to watch your tires and that was that. That was number one.

Speaker 2:

09:23

Second thing in the way of luxury was cigarettes you know and you'd line up to have to line up you

Speaker 2:

09:30

that so many days and it sells signals which is a big and another thing that was a short which

Speaker 2:

09:40

doing had to wear a nylon hose so that was a lot of something

Speaker 2:

09:46

when nylon hose was for sale there'd be a lineup

Speaker 2:

09:50

you get a pair of nylon hose and they watch the hose that's the height

Speaker 2:

09:55

I only wore a nylon hose when I went out to a party or something.

Speaker 2:

10:02

There was plenty of clothes.

Speaker 2:

10:08

Actually, there was no shortage of food, you know.

Speaker 2:

10:16

And there was no shortage of labor out there.

Speaker 2:

10:20

They all came from back to the west, they all started from out there.

Speaker 2:

10:24

They all came out here.

Speaker 2:

10:28

So that's the only thing that was a shortage of.

Speaker 1:

10:35

So you think that the valley went through both world wars without any real problems?

Speaker 2:

10:40

Yes, yes. There was no...

Speaker 2:

10:43

The problems were during the Depression, that's when things changed.

Speaker 1:

10:47

Could you tell us a little bit about the depression and the affective them about it?

Speaker 2:

10:51

Yeah, that's something that those who went through it, people don't forget.

Speaker 2:

11:00

You know, I'll diverge for a minute.

Speaker 2:

11:05

but the kids are small you know you go visit go to somebody's home you know that's what people

Speaker 2:

11:15

do because there's their relatives come from first thing on the down the desk on the table was uh

Speaker 2:

11:21

at the bible most of them had a bible and they had this big album you know pictures of their

Speaker 2:

11:28

family and everybody take family pictures and saw their pictures and their pictures then they'd have

Speaker 2:

11:33

and they'd have something to put into, what do you call those?

Speaker 2:

11:38

You hold it up and have two things.

Speaker 1:

11:40

Oh, really?

Speaker 1:

11:42

No.

Speaker 1:

11:43

Stereopticon, what's that?

Speaker 2:

11:46

So that's, they had that in chow that showed a picture.

Speaker 2:

11:51

So everybody was, everybody in those days was picture minded, you know,

Speaker 2:

11:57

especially kids and you buy a camera, 160 or 120 cameras, it costs a dollar, and you buy films,

Speaker 2:

12:07

you have things to give them, and this was, and you go, you take pictures, this was sort of just like today,

Speaker 2:

12:14

when you see Japanese people coming, you know, you always see them with cameras, you know,

Speaker 2:

12:18

that's the way it was those days, that people would have kids, not, not feeling so much going here,

Speaker 2:

12:24

children, everybody's taking pictures. So I used to take pictures of all sorts of things,

Speaker 2:

12:32

some of us do. And if you'd be interested, I'd even show you some.

Speaker 1:

12:36

Yes, those would be quite interesting.

Speaker 2:

12:38

So this is, but we were kids, we used to listen, you know, today adults listen to children,

Speaker 2:

12:48

they don't say anything, let's listen to children. Don't they, children used to listen in the

Speaker 2:

12:54

grown children, what they say.

Speaker 2:

12:57

And they would say these grown children,

Speaker 2:

13:00

grown children, say high school children.

Speaker 2:

13:04

So they'd say, oh yeah.

Speaker 2:

13:07

And these men, when people get to be 50,

Speaker 2:

13:11

you can tell, they start reminiscing,

Speaker 2:

13:13

start telling stories,

Speaker 2:
13:15
and you can tell they're getting senile,

Speaker 2:
13:17
they're normal and senile,

Speaker 2:
13:19
and they start repeating things.

Speaker 2:
13:22
So, as you grow up, if you think, "Well, sure enough, you keep repeating your toes."

Speaker 2:
13:30
That's an indication that you're getting senile and so on.

Speaker 2:
13:34
So, I would never discuss, I never talk, people would ask about when did water come here, or what was it like,

Speaker 2:
13:45
I never discuss anything. That's a good indication that if you're over 50 you'll get a senior.

Speaker 1:
13:52
Well you see, in the United States, we want that. Because we want to put it on record about all those things.

Speaker 1:
14:00
So, you're looking for senior people?

Speaker 1:
14:02
Well, I wouldn't put it that way.

Speaker 2:

14:05

No. Oh, why are you?

Speaker 2:

14:10

Anyway, so I never had a relation, but in the last couple years, you know, since young

Speaker 2:

14:16

people asked, you know, they're interested in various things about seeing specialists.

Speaker 2:

14:23

Roots made it popular that people are interested in what happened and so on.

Speaker 2:

14:28

As far as older people, what happened last year don't matter, it's what's going to happen

Speaker 2:

14:33

in the next year and ten years from now.

Speaker 2:

14:36

Actually, for children, they should know.

Speaker 2:

14:39

Maybe that's why they would appreciate what's happened.

Speaker 2:

14:43

So, anyways, coming back to the depression.

Speaker 1:

14:52

Was there much real suffering in the valley, would you say, or did we get through pretty well?

Speaker 2:

14:57

What happened was just exactly what happened.

Speaker 1:

15:04

It's running all right. So right ahead.

Speaker 2:

15:06

Yeah, exactly what happened during the Depression was this. You know, you can imagine the

Speaker 2:

15:19

20s, everybody working towards the end of the gut. So when a crash came from the stock market

Speaker 2:

15:25

and real estate wouldn't sell everything else. Everything stopped. There was no industry out

Speaker 2:

15:32

here in the valley to speak of and in Los Angeles we had the streetcar line you know cost a nickel

Speaker 2:

15:41

to go to work you know of course out here we had the red line that was a quarter and 35 cents to

Speaker 2:

15:47

get into town but whoever could go into town if they were renting they just move into uh town so

Speaker 2:

15:56

so they can get on a nickel street car

Speaker 2:

15:58

and be close to the market or close to a store or something.

Speaker 2:

16:02

So that, nobody was coming out.

Speaker 2:

16:08

And now we had, we had ourselves, we had,

Speaker 2:

16:16

six or seven houses, remember?

Speaker 2:

16:19

And they had, at that time they didn't, they called it,

Speaker 2:

16:25

It was the same as what we call welfare now, county welfare.

Speaker 2:

16:29

Had another name for it there.

Speaker 2:

16:31

And the top was \$12 a month for a house.

Speaker 2:

16:36

That's all they paid.

Speaker 2:

16:37

That's what we would get a month.

Speaker 2:

16:40

That wasn't much because actually it was worth \$25.

Speaker 2:

16:43

The \$30 a house was worth, the nice house was \$25.

Speaker 2:

16:48

But the \$12, rather to leave the house empty,

Speaker 2:

16:51

because if it stood empty for a week,

Speaker 2:

16:52

They'd tell me they'd rip out the plumbing and tear it apart.

Speaker 2:

16:55

So they'd pay \$12 a month,

Speaker 2:

16:57

what the county would pay on the house.

Speaker 2:

17:03

A lot of people left.

Speaker 2:

17:06

And as far as business, a lot of empty stores.

Speaker 2:

17:11

There were a lot of empty stores.

Speaker 2:

17:14

There was no, actually there was no industry out there.

Speaker 2:

17:19

The only thing, the studios, studios were working.

Speaker 2:

17:24

You know, Universal City there, Columbia, I don't see there.

Speaker 2:

17:28

Studios were there, rock crushes.

Speaker 2:

17:32

And naturally there were the farms, you know, and arranged farms and sell farms there.

Speaker 2:

17:41

Then it started, what do they call it, WPA?

Speaker 2:

17:49

WPA, yes.

Speaker 2:

17:50

That's what it was?

Speaker 2:

17:51

Yeah.

Speaker 2:

17:52

So you have a good memory.

Speaker 2:

17:55

I wish I'd have had that.

Speaker 1:

17:57

You see, I already made my wedding from memory.

Speaker 1:

18:01

So I practice mine all the time.

Speaker 2:

18:05

So we had WPA.

Speaker 2:

18:08

And then the government had projects.

Speaker 2:

18:10

The government had projects that they'd hire people.

Speaker 2:

18:15

And the city would try to hire some people.

Speaker 2:

18:18

And that's what's bad.

Speaker 2:

18:20

And each community,

Speaker 2:

18:23

each community,

Speaker 2:

18:26

they had a program like downtown,

Speaker 2:

18:30

in Los Angeles Street,

Speaker 2:

18:32

the government took warehouses.

Speaker 2:

18:34

And in Orange County or wherever it was,

Speaker 2:

18:37

Instead of dumping oranges, they'd bring them in, chuck those oranges.

Speaker 2:

18:44

And they'd get old-day-old bread and bring it in there.

Speaker 2:

18:48

And the packing houses, they'd bring in.

Speaker 2:

18:51

I'll never forget.

Speaker 2:

18:52

I don't know where they got it from.

Speaker 2:

18:53

That pork.

Speaker 2:

18:55

It's that pork.

Speaker 2:

18:57

And what do you call it?

Speaker 2:

19:00

Pork.

Speaker 2:

19:02

Salted pork.

Speaker 2:

19:03

Salt pork, they call it.

Speaker 2:

19:04

You see that?

Speaker 2:

19:05

Slabs of it like this.

Speaker 2:

19:06

that it was just a piece of meat about this week's restaurant and that's just fact you know stuff

Speaker 2:

19:13

and uh and all that and then each community would appoint somebody and they would go down

Speaker 2:

19:19

trucks and bring out whatever they uh they couldn't this is how this is what uh it was really uh

Speaker 2:

19:27

it was a pathetic uh thing and uh as far as uh what they would get from the county

Speaker 2:

19:36

the county they would get to the you know because the state of the county

Speaker 2:

19:40

pretty much they get from 30 the highest they got was 40 uh 40 a month

Speaker 2:

19:48

if they had i don't know how many children they got 40 most of them got 30 and this is how they

Speaker 2:

19:53

had to get along on this stuff in fact uh have you ever heard of townsend yeah the townsend plan

Speaker 2:

20:02

How much did he ask for? 200. 200 a month. Is that it? You know it's a strange thing. I don't

Speaker 2:

20:12

I don't you know must be volunteer like I've been asked to come and talk

Speaker 2:

20:21

but I do like to correct things because there's a lot of things come out and now somebody says this

Speaker 1:

20:28

you know and well I don't get any errors collected you move right ahead

Speaker 2:

20:34

say I say something I know personally else I have something in the picture

Speaker 2:

20:40

something written down around I don't say it's because people just third hand

Speaker 2:

20:46

when it comes down the third and it was \$70 \$70 a month and that was

Speaker 2:

20:57

considered radical imagine giving \$70 a month without working just because

Speaker 2:

21:01

they're all over something and then say that's \$70 a month is what was considered

Speaker 2:

21:07

that is how it started that year and then his proposal was that they spend the whole amount each month wasn't it

Speaker 1:

21:15

yeah there's a million back prosperity so they're giving money on condition to spend it

Speaker 2:

21:20

then the other the other group that came along during the thing now you can

Speaker 2:

21:25

imagine there were a lot of educated, intelligent, you know, men, technocrats, they called themselves.

Speaker 2:

21:35

Technocrats, they would meet in a little building store and sit around and they'd figure out what

Speaker 2:

21:39

they decided. Their idea too was an issue, an issue like script or something, this had to be

Speaker 2:

21:47

spent and so on. This thought carried on until Franklin Roosevelt came along.

Speaker 2:

21:57

And up until Franklin Roosevelt came along, the government was always created. They didn't know

Speaker 2:

22:06

anything, whatever taxes they spent that year. There was no deficit. The government wasn't in debt.

Speaker 2:

22:14

In other words, he came along, first year just to bring the country out, if he figured out,

Speaker 2:

22:20

so it's 30 or 33 billion dollars, he was going to put the country in debt.

Speaker 2:

22:27

A lot of people said he ought to be, you know, he's going to ruin the country.

Speaker 2:

22:32

See, that's what today it's more than 33 billion.

Speaker 1:

22:36

Oh yes, way, way more.

Speaker 2:

22:38

And this is, he's the one with the idea of passing out money and bringing back prosperity.

Speaker 2:

22:50

And then, let's see, during the Depression, it was just rough.

Speaker 2:

23:01

It was just people hand to mouth in Los Angeles.

Speaker 2:

23:07

Remember we mentioned people bought homes, they splurged during their 20s, everybody had a dream and everybody wanted a home.

Speaker 2:

23:18

They'd come out in the valley or they'd come out in Culver City or they'd go out towards Pasadena and so on, they'd buy a home.

Speaker 2:

23:26

those days two bedroom homes, two bedroom homes used to sell around \$3,000, you know,

Speaker 2:

23:32

\$3,500 or something, took whatever they had down, \$30, \$40, \$50 a month, you see.

Speaker 2:

23:40

And the loan companies carried it, just like the loan companies carry today,

Speaker 2:

23:43

but they couldn't make their payments, and they used to foreclose.

Speaker 2:

23:49

That was a sad part, they started foreclosing, and so on.

Speaker 2:

23:53

and on top of that, for example, you've worked. You worked a long time and you saved up enough to make a down payment on a house.

Speaker 2:

24:01

You know, you're paying a long \$35, \$40 a month and you know, you had an equity and you lost your job or something happened, couldn't pay.

Speaker 2:

24:10

So they take it, three months, notice a default, then they foreclose and then left your house and left your house was worth, let's say \$3,000, \$4,000.

Speaker 2:

24:22

dollars three thousand dollars and you owed a thousand dollars fifteen hundred

Speaker 2:

24:28

dollars they'd sell it if you owed two thousand they'd sell it for a thousand and you owed them

Speaker 2:

24:35

a thousand dollars besides they'd file that against you and anytime you went to work a

Speaker 2:

24:41

year later or five years later they make you pay that thousand dollars would interest so then that's

Speaker 2:

24:46

when the state came on the past the law they can't have a deficiency judgment on real estate

Speaker 2:

24:53

And that's the price today. Today if you buy a home, you buy a million dollar home and you only pay a hundred thousand dollars, go nine hundred dollars and move out or something. They can't concede you for the balance. That's one of the things that came about during the Depression.

Speaker 1:

25:12

Of course you could foreclose a mortgage in that case.

Speaker 2:

25:15

Well, the people that owned the trustees, I mean the property owner,

Speaker 2:

25:20

today that law doesn't apply to an automobile.

Speaker 2:

25:24

Now you go buy an automobile for \$5,000.

Speaker 2:

25:27

They say you can pay down, you hand them \$1,000.

Speaker 2:

25:30

Then you keep paying another \$1,000.

Speaker 2:

25:32

You owe them \$3,000 and it's a good automobile.

Speaker 2:

25:38

You can't pay no more.

Speaker 2:

25:40

You get a divorce, you get sick, you're in a hospital, whatever, you pay 10 a round,

Speaker 2:

25:45

the guy sells the car for \$1,500.

Speaker 2:

25:49

You still own \$1,500.

Speaker 2:

25:51

If he sells it for \$1,000, you own \$2,000.

Speaker 2:

25:55

That's the law today.

Speaker 2:

25:58

But for real estate, that was changed during the Depression.

Speaker 1:

26:03

Well, on this real estate then, there was practically no market for real estate during the Depression, was there?

Speaker 2:

26:09

No, there was no demand. There was no necessity. You could rent a nice house for \$25. So there was no logic to go out and find real estate.

Speaker 1:

26:30

Now how does that compare with the situation today in 1982? The real estate market is pretty depressed again now, is it not?

Speaker 2:

26:37

Well, right now, right now, it's in a myth. They don't call it, you see, in 1905, this country, you know, banks calls it, they called it a panic.

Speaker 2:

26:59

1930, they said, that sounds bad.

Speaker 2:

27:04

That scares you.

Speaker 2:

27:04

Panic means everybody is scared.

Speaker 2:

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27:06

No, it's called a recession, you know.

Speaker 2:

27:10

So, that was called recession.

Speaker 1:

27:11

Depression, then.

Speaker 2:

27:12

That was depression.

Speaker 2:

27:13

Yeah.

Speaker 2:

27:15

Depression, I guess.

Speaker 1:

27:16

You're depressed, but you're not a panic.

Speaker 2:

27:19

Now, they call it recession.

Speaker 1:

27:22

Yes, they don't want to use that word depression.

Speaker 2:

27:24

No, they haven't got a depression yet.

Speaker 2:

27:25

So, now, when you ask me what the real estate market is now,

Speaker 2:

27:29

I'd say we haven't got any depression, so...

Speaker 2:

27:32

You're just being a pastor, yeah.

Speaker 2:

27:33

So now we've got to figure out what happens in a recession.

Speaker 2:

27:38

And this is what the story is now.

Speaker 2:

27:40

In a recession, right now, I could show you.

Speaker 2:

27:50

The paper used to be the default, so it's just a half a page.

Speaker 2:

27:55

Now it's already four pages, see?

Speaker 2:

27:57

four times as many people that are three months behind in their uh and uh

Speaker 2:

28:06

the savings and loans are crying you know now the same thing happened what we call the

Speaker 2:

28:14

depression i gotta write i don't want to make too many mistakes oh you're not

Speaker 2:

28:19

with the depression uh the same thing happened then and that's when the government that state

Speaker 2:

28:25

said we have a moratorium, pay only the interest. Now that wouldn't affect the country much either

Speaker 2:

28:32

because you get 30 years to pay. In those days you had to pay it out in 12 years.

Speaker 2:

28:41

In the 20s when you got a mortgage, you bought a home, you paid so much a month for three years

Speaker 2:

28:46

and then you had to renew it. Then maybe seven years was the top. Then after the depression

Speaker 2:

28:53

started out they raised it for seven years they made it 10 and 12 15 so he's up to 15 years

Speaker 2:

29:00

now they got up to 30 years okay so then what they're paying now is mostly interest see so

Speaker 2:

29:07

that wouldn't help them much now so now then and they took a moratorium that would break the

Speaker 2:

29:15

savings alone or something. The only thing is that today, people, relatives, if it's young people,

Speaker 2:

29:24

their parents come along and help and they borrow it from their relatives and they hang on to what they

Speaker 2:

29:32

can. And the other thing that changed the picture a lot was, the rents went up so, you know, so the

Speaker 2:

29:39

people that stayed in the that rented apartment for a hundred hours you say and they raised it up to

Speaker 2:

29:47

two hundred and two fifty so they turned around and said oh hell we're gonna pay another fifty

Speaker 2:

29:52

dollars we'll buy a house or whatever it is so that created massive buyers and so the pictures changed

Speaker 2:

30:02

now and the only problem is that there's no apartments to rent see apartments uh

Speaker 2:

30:10

but these condominiums there's not many houses uh because they sort of stopped building houses

Speaker 1:

30:31

You have children of your own, do you not?

Speaker 1:

30:33

Yes.

Speaker 1:

30:34

How do you compare your education with theirs?

Speaker 1:

30:37

Do you think that yours was more thorough or theirs is?

Speaker 2:

30:39

Or what comparison did you make?

Speaker 2:

30:41

Oh, yeah. Today, naturally, things are more thorough.

Speaker 2:

30:46

Even from childhood up, in grammar school, everything is more...

Speaker 2:

30:52

Technically, everything is more education, you know.

Speaker 2:

30:57

naturally. Even today, you're having computers put into schools that children grow up with.

Speaker 2:

31:06

But nevertheless, we had to learn how to read and we learned arithmetic. Besides,

Speaker 2:

31:16

you had to write and people could read your handwriting. You had to sign your name,

Speaker 2:

31:20

people could read your signature. Today, four out of five, you can't read what they write and so on.

Speaker 2:

31:25

we had to take what they call "pennership" into it. So that's only an advantage.

Speaker 1:

31:33

You're thinking those basic things they were more careful than today?

Speaker 2:

31:37

Yes, more depressed, besides they had respect for the teacher. That was the main thing.

Speaker 1:

31:45

Was there much disorder in school at that time? Did the kids behave or did they act up?

Speaker 2:

31:51

The old kids behave, the girls all behave.

Speaker 2:

31:55

The boys, oh yeah.

Speaker 2:

31:57

The boys, they get outside and they figure out something.

Speaker 2:

32:02

You think up the things.

Speaker 2:

32:03

This woman, you think up something to irritate the teacher.

Speaker 2:

32:10

The teacher always blamed me that I was a woman.

Speaker 2:

32:15

It's only one thing that I do remember, one of the things.

Speaker 2:

32:22

Kids used to come to school with a bicycle, you know.

Speaker 2:

32:26

You know what they used in the lamps those days? The light?

Speaker 3:

32:30

Terracine? Uh huh.

Speaker 3:

32:31

Was it terracine or oil?

Speaker 2:

32:33

No, that was taillights in cars.

Speaker 2:

32:35

Coilbite?

Speaker 2:

32:36

Yeah.

Speaker 2:

32:37

You drop that in water and it fuzzled, you know, and they'd get light and saw us and get that.

Speaker 2:

32:44

So I, and in every desk we had, we had a, those days, not a bottle of ink, an inkwell, you know,

Speaker 2:

32:51

the kids would come to school. So I'd tell them, "Now look, don't play around with those carbide."

Speaker 2:

32:56

Whatever you do, don't go into school, just drop that in ink because that'll make it bubble.

Speaker 2:

33:03

Don't do that. And I warned them not to do it, you know.

Speaker 2:

33:10

Naughty boys, they marched in there and they wrapped it and watched it and wrapped it.

Speaker 2:

33:17

One kid would never forget Johnny Goode and all that.

Speaker 2:
33:21
"Teen should take the ink so fire!"

Speaker 1:
33:23
See that was not all of a sudden gas.

Speaker 2:
33:27
It wasn't that they just, it wasn't that they explode or anything.

Speaker 2:
33:32
They'd get gas.

Speaker 2:
33:34
yeah somebody touched the mountain made things bubble yeah made things bubbles that was uh but

Speaker 2:
33:39
outside of that used to have even uh it was our school was right by the foothills we got

Speaker 2:
33:45
rattlesnakes come in yeah kids would kill a rattlesnake and leave it dead but they'd still

Speaker 3:
33:51
leave it around scared there are a lot of ankle dipping of women in the girls braids and things

Speaker 1:
34:00
i've heard a lot about that yeah that was one of the big activities in the elementary school

Speaker 3:
34:06
kids was kids i used to wear long braids and they think well you're going to get them dipped

Speaker 1:

34:15

what sort of social activities did you have when you were in high school grade school

Speaker 2:

34:24

Well, for the kids there, they weren't.

Speaker 2:

34:27

There weren't much, you know.

Speaker 2:

34:31

They would just play. I mean, there wasn't much.

Speaker 2:

34:39

Kids would just play. They were nothing special.

Speaker 1:

34:42

Well, in high school, did you have dancers and that sort of thing?

Speaker 2:

34:45

Well, in high school, they had.

Speaker 2:

34:47

I think San Fernando High, when I went there, that was already...

Speaker 2:

34:50

I was in the city of Los Angeles, that was a city high school.

Speaker 2:

34:54

when we went there from here there was seven of us from sun valley that brought it up to a hundred

Speaker 2:

35:00

children in the school those days in high schools there was san fernando high and then

Speaker 2:

35:09

there was burbank high

Speaker 2:

35:13

i don't i don't know i think i don't know if there's what year was van nuys started do you

Speaker 1:

35:17

happen to know i don't know i know it was going in 1925 but i don't know how much earlier it wasn't

Speaker 2:

35:22

I wasn't the first part of San Fernando High, because San Fernando was the whole world.

Speaker 2:

35:31

And kids from North Hollywood going to Hollywood High School.

Speaker 2:

35:39

But, I see your question was...

Speaker 1:

35:42

I was asking you about what you did for fun, social activities.

Speaker 2:

35:45

Well, they had dances, you know, and parties and different things.

Speaker 2:

35:50

We had football, you don't play.

Speaker 2:

35:52

But one thing that's interesting, in those days, each high school had to specialize in something.

Speaker 2:

35:58

In the city of Los Angeles, for example, manual arts was mechanics, had to be mechanics.

Speaker 2:
36:03
Boys had to be mechanics.

Speaker 2:
36:05
More or less, they catered to boys those days, what they had to take in the high school.

Speaker 2:
36:11
In polytechnic was mechanics and commercial, business and commercial.

Speaker 2:
36:18
In Hollywood, it was a really, of course, they had art, they would teach art, because

Speaker 2:
36:25
the studios were there, and the girls were there.

Speaker 2:
36:30
It was sort of academic-like.

Speaker 2:
36:33
But L.A. High is where they wanted to go to college.

Speaker 2:
36:36
That's where they went to L.A. High.

Speaker 2:
36:38
That's where they could teach for liberal arts, you could call it.

Speaker 2:
36:42
That's where they specialized in that.

Speaker 2:
36:45
They didn't have mechanics there. A machine shop or a business for kids to fly.

Speaker 2:

36:53

San Fernando High, a boy had to sign up, you had to take farm mechanics and that would coach.

Speaker 2:

37:00

First year, every boy had to take farm mechanics. First year, they learned how to shoe a horse.

Speaker 2:

37:09

You had to even go finish school. She passed it.

Speaker 1:

37:14

That was fairly important then.

Speaker 2:

37:16

Yeah, I mean because it's here in the agriculture area, so that they can get the children started, the boys to start it.

Speaker 2:

37:23

They had a shoe or horse, they learned how to drive a fortune tractor, you see, and they learned how to different things in the machine,

Speaker 2:

37:32

and the pound machine over the years. This was, they used to call it like woodworking or sloy, this was the first year.

Speaker 2:

37:41

Second year we had to have agriculture. So the school had plenty of ground. Then they had to plant each guy like a quarter of an acre, an acre.

Speaker 2:

37:50

They had to plant corn, plant things. Then they'd grade us.

Speaker 2:

38:01

You sure I had your memory? Maybe because I'm over 50.

Speaker 2:

38:12

So he would, he'd grade you on the corn, how high the corn was and how it was.

Speaker 2:

38:18

And June, school was out for June, he'd come out and measure how high and how good the corn, that's how you had a pass.

Speaker 2:

38:29

you had to pass you back again next year but that was agriculture

Speaker 1:

38:37

now you mentioned these high schools being specialized could you go to any high school

Speaker 1:

38:43

in the city then that had was teaching what you wanted well yeah they allowed you you know they

Speaker 2:

38:49

allow just for example somebody you say you wanted to go necessarily to college or you wanted to go

Speaker 2:

38:55

be a mechanic or something special, you had an uncle who was going to give you a job,

Speaker 2:

39:00

they would allow you to bring in the, to go, to go wherever you wanted to go.

Speaker 2:

39:05

So they didn't encourage you, but they would allow you. In other words, if you were no good

Speaker 2:

39:09

and didn't like the school here, and didn't like the teacher, that meant you couldn't go to Burbank.

Speaker 2:

39:14

They would kick you out and watch you to eat. And if you, for some reason, they would,

Speaker 2:

39:21

Now, in the meantime we had this store, we had this, I was going to get a business right there,

Speaker 2:

39:29

and I used to come and help in the store there too. So I was interested in business,

Speaker 2:

39:38

and they had no business in the school then. You know, typing, bookkeeping, everything else.

Speaker 2:

39:47

So I went into Los Angeles. I stayed at the Polytechnic. I stayed with a relative there and I went there for two years.

Speaker 2:

39:54

We took up shorthand, bookkeeping, typing and stuff. In fact, I was going to be a short court reporter.

Speaker 2:

40:05

So that was my... from then I finished at Polytechnic High School.

Speaker 2:

40:09

Those days I was in Los Angeles and today they then moved out here to Sun Valley.

Speaker 1:

40:16

Yes, we passed that on the way here, and I was telling Emily that they changed the name

Speaker 1:

40:20

and brought the records of the old school out here to the new one, Polytechnic.

Speaker 1:

40:25

So you went there for a while, did you, to Polytechnic?

Speaker 2:

40:28

In Los Angeles for two years. I graduated there.

Speaker 1:

40:31

I see. Now, when you went there, oh, you said you stayed with a relative.

Speaker 1:

40:37

Yes.

Speaker 1:

40:37

I was going to ask, when you went to a high school out in your area,

Speaker 1:

40:42

you would have to pay your transportation.

Speaker 1:

40:45

There wouldn't be any busing like that we've had now.

Speaker 2:

40:48

Yeah, now busing, we had a busing, we'd be busing then here in Sun Valley.

Speaker 2:

40:53

San Fernando, we'd pick up the kids, they had buses those days.

Speaker 2:

40:58

It was over a mile or something, two miles, whatever it was.

Speaker 2:

41:02

It was cool with busing.

Speaker 3:

41:03

What was, I heard, I think that you had some prayers and things in school.

Speaker 2:

41:09

Had what?

Speaker 3:

41:10

Prayers, when you went to school, is that part?

Speaker 2:

41:12

Prayers.

Speaker 3:

41:13

Did you just say prayers?

Speaker 3:

41:14

at school there was no religion part of school now

Speaker 1:

41:25

now that would have been in a religious school i imagine but in a public school

Speaker 2:

41:32

no there's nothing that uh nothing that didn't know any religion

Speaker 2:

41:39

It would be interesting when I went to high school in San Fernando, at the time the mission was,

Speaker 2:

41:44

there was a San Fernando mission. Of course it needed repair and so on.

Speaker 2:

41:52

But the interesting thing was there must have been about, I'd say about 20 or more

Speaker 2:

41:58

families there, Indian families, living around the mission.

Speaker 2:

42:03

They had their gardens and stuff. Later on when I think the Depression came, they combined it and they took data and went down there.

Speaker 2:

42:13

They had to strangle them.

Speaker 2:

42:15

Oh, they were down there.

Speaker 2:

42:17

They were called Mission Indians.

Speaker 2:

42:23

Oh yes.

Speaker 2:

42:26

I happen to know we had a house in Zan, a coin raise to rent a young woman on the one and her grandfather,

Speaker 2:

42:34

how she had to live there, her grandfather lived in the same block and she told me he was a Rishi Indian,

Speaker 2:

42:39

she told me that's what he came from, back to those days. So we'd go and see the Indians there and go to Zinfestity.

Speaker 1:

42:51

Now, Emily asked you about praying in school.

Speaker 1:

42:54

What sort of religious experiences did you have in the Valley?

Speaker 2:

42:58

Oh, as far as the religion, out here I mentioned this one church.

Speaker 2:

43:11

The publisher of the LA Times is who?

Speaker 3:

43:14

I think it was his first name.

Speaker 2:

43:17

Otis Chandler, that's right. Otis Chandler. Otis's father's name was Norman. His grandfather's name was Harry Chandler. The great-grandmother of Otis Chandler.

Speaker 2:

43:37

and I mentioned this page, Mr. Page, the number man, and his father, they built this first church in a community church.

Speaker 2:

43:48

And in those days, usually in the towns, we call it community church is what they had to encourage our prophets to come.

Speaker 2:

43:55

Of course, we were Jewish. We did business here, and to go to church, we'd like to see a church just out of my father

Speaker 2:

44:03

and get involved with the community.

Speaker 3:

44:08

Did your family celebrate life at Seder?

Speaker 3:

44:11

Did the family what?

Speaker 3:

44:12

Did you have the Pesach Seder and Kronika in your household? Did you practice the religion?

Speaker 2:

44:18

Ours?

Speaker 3:

44:19

When you were growing up there.

Speaker 2:

44:20

Oh, we went into Los Angeles. There was no Jewish...

Speaker 2:

44:23

Oh, so you did go into L.A. for synagogue?

Speaker 2:

44:27

In the valley. There was no synagogue in the valley.

Speaker 3:

44:30

I just couldn't say that my family is Jewish and I...

Speaker 3:

44:32

your family's Jewish? I was kind of curious on what kind of life. Where do you live now?

Speaker 2:

44:38

Van Nuys. Oh yeah, now we have, it's what I tell you again, like I say, it's written. I don't

Speaker 2:

44:50

we happen to be that it's written up where the oldest Jewish family in the valley.

Speaker 2:

44:57

that's what they write up in fact

Speaker 2:

45:02

i'll show you if i need to finish i'll show you um wasn't it supposed to be one of the jewish

Speaker 2:

45:08

family and that's uh yes yes yes father came the father came right after that while they went away

Speaker 2:

45:21

He came and the son, the son is still here. He's got the Sam's U-Drive.

Speaker 2:

45:25

Yes, we know him. He's a very delightful gentleman. I'm very fond of him.

Speaker 2:

45:31

Now he married, you know, and then she was Protestant, like the family went Protestant.

Speaker 2:

45:46

and his children and the rest of that day.

Speaker 2:

45:48

He's gone, that's gone.

Speaker 2:

45:49

We stayed with it and, like I said, we considered the oldest family staying with it.

Speaker 3:

46:01

I know you had a school.

Speaker 3:

46:03

What does that mean after you were there?

Speaker 2:

46:05

Well, no name after me when he sublighted here.

Speaker 2:

46:08

You know, we had this one school up in Latuna Canyon, which is still not the same school,

Speaker 2:

46:14

the average school up there but this was going around here now we're talking about uh we're

Speaker 2:

46:20

talking about the 20s talking about the 20s and then people start coming so i named schools so

Speaker 2:

46:28

my dad uh donated property from school and the city came out and put a mungo those days they used

Speaker 2:

46:36

to mow mungos it's another bongos and hot sun and for the hundred bucks and just so you can have 12

Speaker 2:

46:42

children, had 12 children, then they could get money from the state. And then they raised it up to 15 children or something.

Speaker 2:

46:53

That's 15 kids in one class, one room and one teacher. So this is how it started out.

Speaker 2:

47:03

things this is often off the subject but it's still about the school

Speaker 2:

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47:09

uh one time if things got there things got rough people moving the way or

Speaker 2:

47:15

something and it's a question of keeping up the

Speaker 2:

47:17

attendance because those days if a parent had

Speaker 2:

47:21

children and they needed them to take care of the farm or they don't want to go

Speaker 2:

47:25

for a trip for money there was no trade officers you know

Speaker 2:

47:29

so the tendons would go down or up or something so dad told uh his dr henson

Speaker 2:

47:38

a problem he says we'll take care of that he says so uh he used to hire people with the story that

Speaker 2:

47:49

tell you about it's dr henson hiring people he used to hire people so he would take care of that he

Speaker 2:

47:56

He used to advertise.

Speaker 2:

47:57

He advertised, I think it was in Salt Lake and around there.

Speaker 2:

48:03

And Mormon families, they wanted to pioneer and stuff.

Speaker 2:

48:07

So we got a couple families. One family was called,

Speaker 2:

48:11

and the other was called, I don't think of the name, a couple families.

Speaker 2:

48:18

That took care of the school, because one had eight children, and one had 11 children.

Speaker 2:

48:25

next thing you know the school was overcrowded so we had another problem we had to complain we had to

Speaker 2:

48:30

tell them not to bring any more children into the but anyways that's how we had the school but

Speaker 2:

48:37

that's how the city in and later on we gave a church so in the city when they come to name

Speaker 2:

48:43

streets that's the way they used to name those days mr mr witzard you know pioneered

Speaker 3:

48:53

right and they named it that the people that uh so it's one then it goes here and then it jumps

Speaker 1:

49:01

around in about a dozen other places that's the name i want to ask you about another pioneer jewish

Speaker 1:

49:13

family you know them did you know the banker a levy by any chance who no they were up in oxtar

Speaker 1:

49:20

he was up in knockstand i knew that his headquarters were up there but i just wondered if he would

Speaker 2:

49:25

ever come across no i didn't have no no he he uh again like i say he came up last night he started

Speaker 2:

49:33

up to then and they're married and then he went protestant to his family oh is that so i didn't

Speaker 1:

49:40

know that part of that you know he was very very highly thought of by everybody highly respected

Speaker 1:

49:49

and it still carries his name up yes i know the bike still has his name yes

Speaker 1:

49:57

then when was it that there were enough jewish people in the valley that the first temple could

Speaker 2:

50:02

be built out here so i uh and uh and uh remember i said in uh in the 20s the things were booming you

Speaker 2:

50:15

In other words, Jewish merchants come, they opened the Burbank down in North Hollywood,

Speaker 2:

50:20

San Fernando, Van Nuys and all the things.

Speaker 2:

50:24

So they turned around and got together and bought a lot of Van Nuys.

Speaker 2:

50:30

And they were going to build, now this was in the late 20s,

Speaker 2:

50:33

and they were going to build, Greenberg was on that committee,

Speaker 2:

50:40

and dad and the board and then came the depression.

Speaker 2:

50:45

The depression came by these merchants,

Speaker 2:

50:48

but the valley's gonna go downhill and stay there.

Speaker 2:

50:51

So they brought out, went into town,

Speaker 2:

50:55

and Greenberg stayed,

Speaker 2:

50:56

and they stayed for the rest of them.

Speaker 2:

51:03

So then they just later sold a lot and so on.

Speaker 2:

51:07

and there was no more until 1937-38.

Speaker 2:

51:14

Then they got together 15 families in North Hollywood.

Speaker 2:

51:20

Today it's about every other, they call it, right on the Wall Canyon and Burbank Boulevard.

Speaker 2:

51:31

So we started there. So where it is, there's actually about three charter families left.

Speaker 2:

51:42

And then the next one we started, we started one and then we started the next one until after the Second World War.

Speaker 2:

51:50

A lot of GIs. The GIs after the Second World War, they could buy a home.

Speaker 1:

52:04

Then this one was the oldest, the one you mentioned.

Speaker 2:

52:08

Yeah, it was called Valley and George Community Center.

Speaker 2:

52:13

Oh.

Speaker 2:

52:14

And then it was changed.

Speaker 2:

52:19

And then here in the second one, we came here in Sun Valley, because right after the Second

Speaker 2:

52:25

World War, a lot of GIs came and they got a state and so much of the government wanted to get a GI to buy a home.

Speaker 2:

52:37

They could buy a two bedroom, a three bedroom home and it happened \$50 to \$100 for closing costs.

Speaker 2:

52:46

Then it would run around \$35, \$40 a month.

Speaker 2:

52:51

and so they, they're closer, actually they couldn't go into, Studio City was already built up and Glendale was already built up.

Speaker 2:

53:03

Closest place was right out here, Burbank, outskirts of North Hollywood, that was the closest.

Speaker 2:

53:11

So then we started, so we got together.

Speaker 2:

53:15

We started the synagogue.

Speaker 2:

53:21

After the Second World War, we started the synagogue, the Salvation Army.

Speaker 2:

53:28

After the war, the government had camps all over.

Speaker 2:

53:33

They had these buildings, you know, buildings and things.

Speaker 2:

53:38

so they would sell them to these religious organizations for one dollar is that right yeah

Speaker 2:

53:45

so the salvation army had this one building they had no uh out here they had no uh they had no uh

Speaker 2:

53:55

salvation army out here the man that was in charge the man was in charge of the salvation

Speaker 1:

54:08

No, we never miss getting some information for lack of tape.

Speaker 2:

54:18

This man, he was in Glendale.

Speaker 2:

54:25

He started out in the dairy business.

Speaker 2:

54:27

He was a dairy there and he was in Britain and had the dairy out in the Valley Park.

Speaker 2:

54:34

He was the mayor for a number of years in Glendale.

Speaker 2:

54:39

Then he became the supervisor in Los Angeles for about 12 years, 15 years.

Speaker 2:

54:44

In fact, he was going to run for governor. His name was Roger Jessup.

Speaker 1:

54:48

Oh yes, I've heard the name.

Speaker 2:

54:50

Yeah. So we were very good friends. We stopped him and we were very well. So then he was in charge of the Salvation Army in Glendale. That was his project. So he came out and

he said he's got this building and he wants to put it out here but he's got to have some place to put it on.

Speaker 2:

55:15

We were all looking for a lot, you know.

Speaker 2:

55:18

So we gave him a lot.

Speaker 2:

55:21

So we moved it on.

Speaker 2:

55:23

But then it so happens, that was right after the war.

Speaker 2:

55:25

So we used that for the synagogue.

Speaker 2:

55:28

That was our first synagogue.

Speaker 2:

55:31

And we all grew that.

Speaker 2:

55:33

We have a park.

Speaker 2:

55:36

So we got a piece of land there.

Speaker 2:

55:39

and we had our uncle, another family, my uncle,

Speaker 2:

55:46

and so two of us we bought, got an acre and a half and started,

Speaker 2:

55:51

built there, and it was there and then they outgrew it and then they went and built,

Speaker 2:

55:56

it's now on Roscoe Boulevard, it's called Beth Israel, right there,

Speaker 2:

56:03

Right near past Coldwater, past the other big church.

Speaker 2:

56:09

So that was the second one.

Speaker 2:

56:13

Since then, Burbank built the synagogue, another got two synagogues.

Speaker 2:

56:17

Since then, there's been about 12, 12-15 more synagogues.

Speaker 2:

56:23

In fact, we did have the, we had the, it's an honor in a way, it's for somebody that's Jewish.

Speaker 2:

56:29

So we had only given the first two taurus in the valley,

Speaker 2:

56:34

right there in North Hollywood.

Speaker 1:

56:38

Do you remember the name of the first rabbi of the first temple?

Speaker 1:

56:43

We'd like to get that in our records.

Speaker 2:

56:45

Oh, okay.

Speaker 2:

56:51

Well, the first, actually the first, yeah, he was a rabbi.

Speaker 2:

56:54

The other one wasn't a rabbi.

Speaker 2:

56:57

But the first paid rabbi we had, Don Ariel of Valley Jewish Community Center, Sidney Goldstein is his name.

Speaker 2:

57:08

He was a full-time rabbi, paid rabbi.

Speaker 3:

57:12

What did you have before that? You mentioned there was another gentleman.

Speaker 3:

57:16

What was his position before that?

Speaker 2:

57:18

Well, before he wasn't actually a full-fledged rabbi, so we can't count that.

Speaker 2:

57:25

insurance. See, amongst Judaism, it's like in the Mormon's church, like in the Seventh-day

Speaker 2:

57:39

Adminis, a layman could be the minister. A layman could be, he can get out and conduct

Speaker 1:

57:46

services. I see. So you could have a regular service without having a full reply.

Speaker 2:

57:50

As long as you have 10 men, you gotta have 10 men.

Speaker 2:

57:54

Even in some places you have women, you gotta attend, but it's 10 men you're supposed to have service.

Speaker 2:

58:01

But a full-fledged rabbi, his name was Sidney Goldstein, and he was there, he had him until the Second World War came along.

Speaker 2:

58:10

He became a chaplain in the army. The army picked up young rabbis and young ministers in the service.

Speaker 2:

58:17

and took him along and then when he came back when he came back it means he was single when

Speaker 2:

58:23

he came back just married and he married a young woman and now we thought we'd have a

Speaker 2:

58:32

Jewish they call it a Rebison as a rabbi's wife

Speaker 2:

58:36

we thought now we're gonna have two for the same but it turned out that she's thinking this is out

Speaker 2:

58:42

in the country and isolated, and the valley is no place for a smart man like my husband to be.

Speaker 2:

58:50

We had a problem there, so we knew the contract and then we interviewed different ones with

Speaker 2:

58:57

quite a few. Rabbi Aaron Weiss, that's in 1930, and he was a rabbi here for 40 years, over 40 years.

Speaker 2:

59:09

he just retired and today he's uh the university of judaism

Speaker 1:

59:17

that's the story about thank you now is the original building still in existence

Speaker 2:

59:25

for your very first synagogue no the original uh original building well

Speaker 2:

59:35

You mean from the first synagogue?

Speaker 1:

59:37

Yes.

Speaker 2:

59:39

I've got to go back here.

Speaker 2:

59:42

I've got to go back further.

Speaker 2:

59:43

Okay, go ahead.

Speaker 2:
59:48
And in the '20s,

Speaker 2:
59:58
that long story doesn't mean,

Speaker 2:
01:00:00
but there was a building there between on Chandler Boulevard right near Whitson

Speaker 2:
01:00:06
that's between North Hollywood and Van Nuys and it was for sale and it wasn't now
Chandler's paved

Speaker 2:
01:00:16
on both sides of the street the streetcar used to run right there this was on the other side
was kind

Speaker 2:
01:00:21
of low it's kind of low over there and so on and here was this house it's a big house and a
big cellar

Speaker 2:
01:00:30
in a place and that place was for sale.

Speaker 2:
01:02:29
To be continued...