A. That should be all right?

Q. That should be just about right, I think. What I'm going to do now is run a drop test to make sure it's in working order. Okay, this is Brian Mitchel interviewing Dr. J.D. Goldstein at his home on 3656 Monroe Avenue, on August 14th, 1976, in connection with the University of Rochester Oral History Project. I'd like to start off asking you a few general questions. First of all, when and where were you born?

A. On July 22nd, 1903, in New York City.

Q. In New York City, huh? Okay, where were your parents from?

A. My mother came from Austria, my father came from Russia.

Q. How did they meet?

A. I guess they met after they came to this country.

Q. I see. So they met in New York then?

A. That's right.

Q. Okay. About when did your parents come over? Do you have any idea?

A. I should say about eight years before I was born.

Q. So it would be in the middle 1890's then?

A. That's right.

Q. Did they ever give you reasons why they came to America?

A. No, I don't believe so, uh ... they were very ... they were the usual reasons. My father's family had a high index of Orthodox and for some reason that ... he wasn't interested in following their laws. My mother was, I think, the seventh or eighth child, the only daughter, and having served the family, she decided to come to this country. No more than that, I think.
Q. It raises an interesting question. First of all, how many children, your aunts and uncles, were there on each side, and did they all come to New York?
A. Well, none of my mother's did... one brother from my mother's family did, and we knew him closely. And, my father had two brothers and two sisters.
Q. And, did they all come over?
A. No, they're the ones who came.
Q. Oh, I see.
A. Now, I'm afraid I'm not clear as to how many others there are in the family. I think two more who didn't come.
Q. Both sets of grandparents stayed in Russia and Austria respectively?
A. That's correct.
Q. Okay. Did your father's brothers and sisters settle in New York?
A. No. One is (unintelligible) settled in (unknown) South Africa. He was here and then moved to that area and lived to a ripe mid-80's, I think. The other two were in the New York area. I think one was in Pittsburgh. I remember him very vaguely.
Q. How long did your parents live in New York?
A. Well, when I was about five, we moved to Pittsburgh. And lived there perhaps five or six years and then moved back to New York. And, then they spent the rest of their lives in the New York City area.
Q. What particular section of New York were you born? (Cannot transcribe)
A. I think... I'm quite sure that I was born in Manhattan. And, when we returned, we moved to... we returned to Brooklyn. And, my parents ended up in... their last years in... in Cue Gardens area. That's in Brooklyn, Long Island.
Q. What are your recollections of New York and Pittsburgh? Do you have any strong recollections, does anything stand out?

A. I think Pittsburgh was a high-point, as far as I was concerned, because we lived right next to a Catholic Church, and the rabbi of the synagogue we attended and the priest were very close friends. And, we had a little group of four or five youngsters all boys, and they would sit and talk religion, and primarily history and, it was a very real . . . I would say, interest towards wanting to learn. The a . . . actually I didn't state the age quite correctly but I know I was about six when I was exposed to that.

Q. Do you think conceivably that helped to broaden your outlook and (unintelligible) at an earlier age?

A. No. That's difficult to judge.

Q. I suppose so.

A. All I can recall is . . . was a very pleasant experience and one that I have resisted or caused me to resist leaving Pittsburgh. I gave my parents a time! (Laughter)

Q. (Laughter) Is that right? How did you find Brooklyn, did you adjust to it pretty well when you eventually settled there?

A. Well, Brooklyn was sort of a wide open space when we first moved there. And, that is, towards the Long Island area. But, other than that it was very little different from Manhattan. I . . . I have vivid memories of nothing very distinctive.

Q. What . . .

A. Like the school. I was fortunate in having . . .

Q. In Brooklyn?

A. In Brooklyn.

Q. (Unintelligible) important we're gonna come back to it a little bit later. But in general, you feel you got a good solid education in Brooklyn schools?
A. I think so. But, I . . . I think that all depends on the individual people. I think they . . . they stimulate someone to study, to learn. That's fine.

Q. Another question of interest: what was your father's occupation?

A. Well, when he came here, they . . . he was a bed spring manufacturer in a small, very small, scale. And he did just that and made beds and springs and a . . . good hard work.

Q. Did it provide a relatively comfortable living for you?

A. Yes, we were . . . we were comfortable. We never were very affluent. But we never . . . we a . . . we had a horse and buggy. And, a . . .

Q. Was it (unintelligible) in making the springs and mattresses and so on, did he own his own shop?

A. It was a little shop.

Q. Okay, but he actually controlled it?

A. Yea, he worked there himself and his parents . . . his mother worked. He helped.

Q. That's my next question. It was sort of a family . . .

A. That's right.

Q. Did he have any outside employees?

A. Yes, he had at most two, and usually one.

Q. Did he pursue his career as he grew up, is it something he continued into retirement?

A. Well, he . . . he was . . . he had the bad luck of getting what we didn't know it, but you didn't understand then, not for a long time, but he had lead poison, and, so here his working career was cut short. I would say that I was about fifteen or seventeen when his earning potential was sharply curtailed.

Q. What affect did that have on your family? On you personally for that matter.
A. Oh, I don't ... I don't think it had any. I think maybe the chief recollection I have is when he became sick. My sister and I had to go to work. And, my mother, she saw that immediately. And we all ... we all did little jobs and kept going until he recovered some, but, we always a ... well, five children, we had a very strong family structure.

Q. That's really what I'd like to get into now. Since you were five children, where were you in the line up?

A. I was number two.

Q. Number two ... was the oldest a boy or a girl?

A. Girl.

Q. How many brothers did you have?

A. One brother, he was in the army.

Q. Did being the oldest boy make any difference in your family?

A. Oh, I don't think so. No, I don't think so. Those were the days when you didn't have both. You have a father and a mother and things were structured around them.

Q. What ... do you think there's any reason that your family was so strongly family oriented?

A. I think ... I think my father who ... who had really great interest in history ... he had ... not having (unintelligible) after he was sick to do outside things, he was a great reader, and he'd read to us. We'd sit around and doing whatever we were interested in doing and he would be reading. We did some work in the home and ... 

Q. Well, to pursue this point, then a little bit ... further, what kind of ... can you describe ... what did you like about your home life? For instance, to be a little bit more specific, you have to tell us about your father. Your father was a good man, how would you characterize him?
A. My father was meant to be a student, and not a bed spring riveter. And, my mother was the strength in terms of... the strength of the family in terms of holding it together and marshalling whatever strengths there were in the children. We'd get report cards and... we had a cookie and milk in the kitchen and the report cards were in front of us, and we had to explain what an "A" or a "B" or a "C" meant, so there weren't very many "C"s, in our family. (Laughter)

Q. I remember those days myself. (Laughter) What did... what religious background are your folks?

A. Well, they're both Jewish.

Q. Orthodox or...

A. No. No. My father was really quite well educated and trained both, I think they had some thought that he might go into the rabbinate of some... in some form. I don't know what it was. And, a... he... I think that was reflected all through. He was... he was always the one we turned to when we were in trouble. But, it was my mother who would see us through whatever problems we had and would organize the family and she was the strength, I think, of the family, and was a very, very bright woman. I think she... I think she was one person I can say got her education from her children. Not from her children, but from her children's courses. My mother would... she would pour over our books and she did very, very well, from that point of view. Not having gone to the school. When my father came, he went to night school. And my mother didn't. And that was very hard. The value being placed on education.

Q. She'd... coming across in this particular interview rather strongly is that you have that (unintelligible) for education. Do you think that's unique to your family? In other words, they placed... your mother and your father balanced each other rather nicely, in that respect.
A. I don't think it was unique to our family, I think it was unique to an era. People came over and a ... worked very hard to make ... to make some forward steps. I mean, they both were limited in their opportunities where they came from and so they took advantage of opportunities here. As I recall, most of the people that were raised to ... most of the people that we had anything to do with had that same push. Either their father or mother or both, ... get the kids educated.

Q. Since this is an interview on Jewish Oral History, do you think that's necessarily unique to the Jewish Community or a common immigrant thing?

A. Well, of course, then I was exposed primarily to the Jewish Community and I'd say it was a very common thing in the Jewish Community. But, I think, later I learned that the same thing existed elsewhere. I think there was a much more serious effort and a more persistent effort.

Q. Do you think that's changed over the years? Or do you think ...

A. Oh, I think ... I think it's changed now, yes.

Q. (unintelligible)

A. Well, I ... our whole world is changed. That's not for this interview.

(Laughter)

Q. (Laughter) Okay. That's a good answer. Okay. Getting back to your home life ... did you receive any formal Jewish education?

A. Oh, yes. I think that was very characteristic of my father, in that I had to tow the line until I was thirteen. And I had my bar mitzvah and then my father had a talk with me and very, very nice (unintelligible) he said, "Now, you have to decide if you're ... if you're going to go ahead and follow this" ... the Orthodox thing ... he said, "you're gonna follow" ... he specifically said, "the use of the (unknown) and going to synagogue where you go, then you do it just with as thoroughly as you did your schooling up to now."
A. (Continued) And he made it . . . he made some sacrifice to get a good instructor and he knew enough so that he was after me. But he gave me the choice, and i elected not to do it. I said I wouldn't and that ended it. From then on, I would go to synagogue as I wanted to go on the High Holidays . . . the family would go. But, I think, scriptures of the Orthodox they weren't terribly important to him. For instance, if a child were sick, or not feeling well on Yom Kippur, he would take the child and feed them. He wouldn't eat, but he would feel that was the thing to do. And, a . . . that's not uniformly so.

Q. No. I guess not. You're not interested in things that seem to be (unintelligible) that your father had amost, well two things really; first, a mock liberal tendency and second, (unintelligible) independence came from schooling.

A. I think both those things are true. We weren't talking about liberals then. Yea, I think so. As he got older, he had a great respect for Norman Fallet. (Laughter) And, a . . . and, I think that's well put. He . . .

Q. Do you think that's also true of your mother?

A. No, I think my mother was a little more inclined towards rigidity. And one reason she had that rigidity was because my father had none. (Laughter) My father really did not. He was . . . he was too nice. He had very, very fine principles present. There was a time when his little business failed, and I can remember for as long as eight or ten years after the failure, he had a list in his desk, and he paid off every penny that was on that list over a long period of time.

Q. It took him that long to do it.

A. Yea, and as a matter of fact, the failure was due to the fact that they had some sort of "slugging"; a lot of material (unintelligible) metal and it rusted, and he couldn't see his way out of it, and it was about the time he
A. (Continued) got sick. It was a very interesting thing, that he followed that, that we knew he did, and I think that had an impact on his children.

Q. He's almost instilling a strong sense of (unintelligible) by example then?
A. Yea, I would say so.

Q. If we could focus just a little bit, you've said here that you're the second of five children, what happened to the five children? And, what are they doing now?

A. Well, my oldest sister, of course, is now 75, she had just one year of college. They're all... were all... the first three were good students. My youngest sister and my brother were so-so students. In fact, my brother when he got out of highschool, there was a man who was interested in our family and in him and offered to come up with the money for him to go to college and he said he didn't want to... He was the first born I ever heard say, "Well, I want to see what I can do outside first. I'm not ready to decide." (Laughter) That's just standard procedure now a days, and he was one of the first, that I can recall, saying that. Then he went out and he became a mechanic and he does... he made work. You know, floors and walls, and he had... he's retired now and that's all he ever did. And, a... my other three sisters married and a... The oldest one had, as I said, had a year of college and she was... she was very... a very good student, and always had successful... a successful career with each company that she was with. In fact, she was hired in one company and then took a part-time job which became full-time with the second, and then retired from that one and the last one. And, she did very well. She had some (unintelligible) problems and they'd actually bring her in from Long Island, put her up in a hotel for a couple of days to a week, and see what she could contribute... in business. She was a... sort of a credit manager for a (unknown) house.
Q. Did your family stay in Brooklyn in the New York Metropolitan area?
A. No, one sister moved to Pittsburgh and she married, and that's the younger sister. The youngest one, a brother, he stayed in the New York area and so did my second sister. And a... they actually moved... they moved around so that we had... in Pittsburg. One's in Florida now and, I think, Pittsburgh, New York and a... Maryland. But basically, they were city people.

Q. I see. Another question I have, getting back to what we were talking about originally, did your father who had this (unintelligible) for education, decide (unknown) Jewish (unintelligible) forward?
A. Well, I remember the forward, I remember reading it the (unintelligible).

Q. Do you think that they constantly tried to encourage, to impart a Jewish heritage in you?
A. I don't think so.

Q. No?
A. I don't think so.

Q. Another question...
A. I mean they lived... they lived it. They were part of the community. But from the point of view of a... I think that implied. I think it implied Orthodox. They had, I think they had... pride... they weren't anything but Jews. But, they didn't set out to make sure that I knew that I was a Jew. In fact, I can recall my father saying to me when I was perhaps in the twenties, saying to me, you're a good Jew whether you admit it or not, you're a good Jew. Because I didn't go to synagogue, I didn't have any Orthodox affiliation. I think he's right.

Q. What about the neighborhood you were from, was that a Jewish neighborhood?
A. Very few by the time they got to Cue Gardens and I was... now let's see, originally we lived in a Jewish neighborhood. When we came back, we lived in
(Continued) quite a mixed neighborhood. Quite a mix. I had to learn there to take care of myself physically.

Q. That's really one of the questions I'm interested in. Were there any large examples of anti-semitism that you came across growing up?

A. Well, that's another big question.

Q. I guess it is.

A. I think . . . I think anti-semitism exists practically everywhere a little bit. It all depends on what anti-semitism is . . . is it active participation in just pushing you away. I'll give you an example: we had eighteen in our medical . . . and uh . . . so we started with twenty-two students in our first year of medical class. And, I worked with four Jews, and we'd been working in groups of four. So, I worked with three . . . three men. One, I think, two became perhaps strong friends that I had and we demonstrated for each other, and really, a very close relationship. The other one who . . . who was a native Rochesterian, worked closely in our school work. I knew him very well. But, the first time I ever saw anything of this type, of anti-semitism here, was they had a party and he said to my . . . to the other two, we want . . . we want Goldy to come but he knows that he wouldn't be welcome . . . he wouldn't be welcome with the family and so on and, of course, I remember what a cold shower that was to them. Because it so happens that although I went to NYU and there were a great . . . the bulk of the people were Jewish, and I had a . . . we were in a little fraternity, just a sort of a fellowship fraternity, and most of the people there were . . . had scholarships of one sort or another at the school, and they were . . . Italians, Irish and everybody . . . I hadn't, I hadn't . . . I hadn't felt it strongly. And, a . . . but, but generally I would say no. That a . . . to your original question, your original question relating to: did I feel anti-semitism, I think everywhere there is some ele-
A. (Continued) A. (Continued) of it. And, yes, I think in the main... if you were clean and worked hard, and especially if you were productive, I'm talking about students in general, that... that wasn't a dominant practice. As soon as we got to the, sort of, social relationships, that I mentioned about did...

Q. It was something you could bypass then, could have gotten around it?

A. Oh, yes. I... I, course if you have to bypass it, it's unhappy.

Q. I should say so.

A. It's a... it can exist without... without the means to bypass it... you're a... (unintelligible).

Q. Do you think that that element that exists everywhere, exists in Rochester as well?

A. It exists all over. It exists all over. I mean, my example was such of that student was in a very small group and, a... we were intimately related. And, a... we had the usual student parties together, and student outings together, and shared many things; food, the transportation. And, yet, there was a... there was a line. And I think, no question about that that existed. And, really I was very fortunate in coming here because I had very fine non-Jewish people who were... to whom I was related in one way or another and... I was comfortable. And, I think, I was comfortable because they were the kind of people who anti-semitism wasn't important.

Q. Another question that (unintelligible) is the whole question of education. I'd like to start at the beginning. Do you think you got a relatively good education in the Brooklyn schools? What did you like to go through in Brooklyn, what are your recollections of it?

A. Well, I graduated from Eastern District High School which was down right in the Brooklyn area. It's the area close to the Brooklyn end of the Williamsburg bridge. Not quite, but... And, all I can recall about that school
A. (Continued) is a total feeling of warmth, because of certain certain teachers who were there. Seems to me there was a era in which the teachers competed for students. Now that's still so now with some teachers and with some students, and I'm sure that the same thing exists to them, but if you had a feeling and if you had the home environment which is conducive to your enjoying learning; it was a very good experience. I know that it was good enough so that the question of scholarships, colleges, came up. I wasn't in the position to take one. I actually had . . . I had . . . I visited Princeton through a certain person who (unintelligible) . . . the principal of the school was a Princeton . . . was a Princeton graduate. I went up to him for my alumni week, and, then I couldn't conceivably see myself managing that financially, in view of the fact that my father was sick and I had to keep contributing to the family all the time I was in school.

Q. This was just about when he was sick?
A. Oh, yea. Yea, he was in . . . that period. And, a . . . there was a question of a Colgate Scholarship. I went to NYU. And, a . . . because it was there and I could work.

Q. What was your major at NYU?
A. I was interested in plants, so I had a Biology major and I . . . I was fortunate, I had a little period of being a lab assistant and a . . . physics. And then, mostly though, right in the second year I had the chance to work in the Biology Department. So, I worked in the library and the Biology Department. The opportunity was wonderful.

Q. You think you were pretty fortunate like that?
A. Uh-huh. (An affirmative response)

Q. What kind of an education did you get at NYU?
A. Well . . .
Q. (unintelligible) Okay, the question again was, what kind of an education . . .?

A. Yea, you see . . . I got to NYU first off, when I . . . the summer after getting out of high school, I was working, and I remember the candy shop, I got . . . I got a piece rust (unintelligible) in my hand and I got a very severe infection, there was some question about losing my hand, as a matter of fact, so I was out for almost three months. And, decided then that I'd keep working and . . . go to college the following year. I did that. I went to Washington Square College in NYU. Washington Square College now is a huge college, but at that time it was . . . it was on several floors and one office building. That's what it amounted to. In there one could see really a group of youngsters who were there for one purpose, and that's to learn. There were very few . . . there were very few non-performers. There were some who couldn't do well, but they all . . . almost all were working. Especially the men. I suppose that in every college, there's always a few who are there because pappa says go to work or go to school. And, a . . . some of them were just there. But a very small percentage. I, let's see, I graduated in 1926. We just had our 50th anniversary, and, I think, that they were really a very striking group of people in that . . . without numbers, it seems to me, doctors, lawyers, and judges, and excellent teachers, and a . . . and a . . . not in our class, George Wall was in physiology who now is a physiologist at Harvard, I guess he's a Nobel Prize winner. And, we had a group of youngsters who were there to work and . . . in some ways, in some ways perhaps because they were young and the school was young, they had young instructors that remained; and they were there, they worked with . . . they worked themselves up and worked with students and it was a tremendous, it was just a tremendous . . . to listen to people who would amaze you, came out of that group. It was from there, the end of three years there, I came up here to medical school.
Q. That's to the U of R?
A. The first class. In fact, there was... in that period, they were extraordinary with having students go to medical school after two years. And, our (unintelligible) was being considered. That's when I learned through a friend of the dean of the school there that this place was going to open the following year. So, I got a job as a student and... fellow, while I was going to college there. And, so it was from twenty-four to twenty-five I worked there. I came up here in '25. I graduated in '26. So that was actually...
Q. Oh, I see. I see.
A. So, but a... that was a... a tremendous learning period for (unintelligible).
Q. Sounds like (unintelligible) you enjoyed it as well.
A. Very much. Again, because of the people.
Q. What did you think of Rochester? And, the university when you came up here?
A. Well, again, the year before I came up here, I was up visiting... out in the country here, and I... slid into home plate and got myself an acute hernia, so I was operated on and I met a man by the name of Dr. Edward Mulligan. Mulligan happened to be here, the head of the General Hospital Surgical Department. And, his wife was a lovely lady who when I was there, and in those days you had two weeks of rest when you had a hernia, today you get it done in the morning and you're home at noon. But anyway, we exchanged books. I told her then that I was thinking about going to the medical school. So, she sent books and we exchanged letters, and when I came up here, she was very nice. Not only to me, but to several medical students...
Q. That makes all the dif...
A. Pardon?
Q. That makes all the difference.
A. Sure. Sure it did. And, it was a . . . and, of course, the school of music
was a great asset, especially for kids who come from a place like New York
where they're used to . . . heading up on Carnegie Hall or the Metropolitan,
the top balcony, to hear good music. See? And a . . . and a . . . so we,
we . . . we a . . . we had a . . . all the opportunities. But, they were in
a small group. When I said to you I never got around to getting much in-
volved with the Jewish Community, I was very thoroughly involved in the
studies, in a new group . . . a new group of young professors. They turned
out to be of international repute before they were finished. But, what ..
what they amounted to can be seen by what happened to the medical school.
They made tremendous progress . . . progress, and . . . they were our daily
teachers. It wasn't a matter of having the fourth fellow on the totem pole
speak to the students. The professors were there, that's what they had to
do. They had very few commitments outside. And, in the early years, it
was a . . . they thought education was learned . . . not by the city outside,
I suppose I shared some of that initial antagonism of the medical pro-
fession towards the medical school. You know, the giant is coming in to
take over. Well, the giant did take over, and the giant should have taken
over because of what the giant could offer. But . . . it was a . . . it
was a very interesting and stimulating experience.

Q. How long were you there?
A. The medical school?
Q. Uh-huh. (An affirmative response)
A. Well, let's see. I'd been at the medical school . . . I came in '25. I took
one year at Yale, my second year . . . my first year of residency in Yale.
And then I was invited back here to the (unintelligible) So, I came back
(unintelligible) in medicine. And I stayed here until the war period. I was
A. (Continued) in U.S. service about three and a half years. Then I came back here.

Q. Okay. We'll back-tract a bit, briefly. Um, one of the things, I guess, I should ask you as you're coming into the period when the U. of R. for better or for worst had a well, quota system, of sorts. Did you feel any effects from that even though (unintelligible) position you were in?

A. Well, the thing is, we had twenty-two students. There were three Jewish boys in the class. One ... one other than myself, there was one who was a very bright and capable boy, without too much real interest. The other one, today, would never get into medical schools. The other one was dropped after three years, they had enough courage to drop him. And a ... and a ... they dropped another one after three years. We ... I never ... I never had a feeling about being in ... an anti-semitic ... As ... as the years went on, only five or six years in between, I think it became ... noise, rumors ... I think it was sort of an understanding amongst the younger people, the younger staff members that they had to have some sort of limitations because of the great numbers of Jewish boys (unintelligible). And a ... and a ... but, so far as that, I, myself, never was concerned. I didn't feel it till, again, one of the younger people said, you oughta get out because you're gonna go only so far because you're Jewish. Of course, even at that time it became evident through the country that there didn't have to be (unknown). And, I don't ... I really don't have any feeling about that amongst the senior people. No one could have been nicer to me or to anyone than Dr. Whipple, this fellow right here.

Q. That in no way influenced your decision to take your residency at Yale, then? Yale was simply a good place to go.

A. No. No. I ... I was a ... I felt that I wanted to get away from here,
A. (Continued) because I'd been there, it was after five years here, I thought I'd get a look at the other part . . . some other parts of the medical world. I did. When I was there, they invited me back here, at which time I had an application in and I think had an appointment, it was with an assistant, at Rochester Institute. But a . . . but a . . . that's a very difficult question.

Q. I suppose it is.

A. For instance, I know that the boy that was kicked out, there was strong feeling amongst the students about that Jew. Well, you know, I think he deserved it, not because he was a Jew, but because he was who he was. You see? And . . . and a . . . (unintelligible) there's no question about it, it existed, but again, as we talked earlier, it exists . . . it exists to some extent all over. That's a very difficult question.

END OF TAPE 1, SIDE A, INTERVIEW 1
Q. This is the opening of side two. After... after your residency at the... (unintelligible) at the U of R, did you set up a private practice in Rochester?

A. No. I stayed on full-time for several years. And then I went out into practice. And it was from... from practicing, I went on to practice, and was part-time, a part-time instructor at the medical school. And then went into service. Went into service from, let's see, that was '43. '43. And we were away about three and a half years, and when I came back, I went into practice, for about two years.

Q. Okay. Now, we'll stop again because it raises three questions. First of all, in the original practice, was it difficult to set up that practice?

A. No.

Q. No, not at all?

A. Not at all.

Q. Okay. Second question: when you went into the service, did you check into the possibilities of (unintelligible) community? Did the U of R have one?

A. The U of R didn't have one, but the Rochester General Hospital did, and they invited me to be their laboratory chief. I took that job, and a... did what medical consulting was in my field, and ran the laboratory.

Q. Whereabouts in... you served in Europe, I presume?

A. Yea, we were... we were in England and France.

Q. Okay. After (unintelligible) you set up your practice...?

A. We came back here. We were overseas about two years or better, and came back here and opened an office.

Q. For about two years?

A. For about two years, let's see, that's right.
Q. Were they primarily your old patients? In other words, were you able to pick up your old practice?
A. Yea, I had no problem with that at all.
Q. Okay. After the two years, what happened?
A. Well, they invited me to a . . . to a . . . consider running the laboratory again at General Hospital. I took that. And I stayed there five years. And a . . . and a . . . it was a very, very stimulating and interesting part of my medical life.
Q. Do you enjoy research?
A. Yes, but I enjoy mostly clinical work. I did some research. Research is never a . . . a strong part of my career. Oh, I guess I had a dozen papers published when I was at medical school but in the main, I was relieved on between bacteriology and infectious diseases. I was an instructor and then went up to assist . . . assistant (unintelligible) bacteriology as well as medicine at the medical school. I've always had an interest in infectious diseases. And, a . . . that's primarily what I did in Genesee Hospital in addition to developing this laboratory. Had an opportunity to work with a large number of doctors . . . in that particular area. And, after five years there, I went back into practice.
Q. And you stayed in that practice until now?
A. No. No. I stayed in that practice for, I would say, from '50 to '55 and then I was invited to go down to New York, Downstate Medical Center. And, I was a (unintelligible) there, now head of the department. I went because of . . . an opportunity to make an affiliation with the medical school there for the Brooklyn Jewish Hospital, which was a very large, old institution. And, I was anxious to get a medical school affiliate. And, Dr. Turn Lawn was the chief,
A. (Continued) of the department, head of the department, in Downstate Medical School. I'd known of his work. Someone suggested my name, and we got together, so I went down there. I was there from '55 to '60 to the best of my . . .

Q. Oh. Alright. I'm glad we pushed this chronologically. What happened after 1960?

A. Well, 1960 . . . oh, some personal things, primarily the fact that Mrs. Goldstein developed a (unintelligible) and our . . . one of our sons graduated from college, and went into service. And, then came up here to go to work. He's an accountant. And, a . . . they were gonna have a baby. So, we came back up here. Mrs. Goldstein wanted to come back, her roots were here, so we came back here. And, a . . . I stayed with them, I stayed in practice, again, in practice. I got a good part of my old patients back, but Rochester doesn't have, seems to me, they always had room for interns. We talk about having too many internists now, but you still have to wait weeks, a couple three months, to see any particular person. But, almost any internist could do. And, a . . . then, in '65 . . . no, when I was 65 that's '68, Kenneth Woodworth, Dr. Woodworth, who was a black, excuse me . . . And, he . . . he's a pediatrician in this town, one of our graduates, I've known him as a student, then I knew him as a patient, and he asked me about whether I'd go down to the inner city and work in, what was then the Bayden Street Dispensary, because they clearly had very little in the way of facilities. In fact, when I was in the Genesee Hospital, there . . . oh, we did certain things to help them. We ran their laboratory work and a . . . and a . . . I knew of the need that was down there.

Q. What was the purpose you had there, at the Bayden Street Dispensary?
A. Just to take care of... of people who didn't have doctors. You see, there were very few doctors there. Very few doctors there, and it's a very sizable, crowded population. Ghetto, near ghetto. And, so I thought at first, I'd go for an afternoon, then he talked to me about a second afternoon; finally Dr. Young asked me to go back full-time to the school. So I did. I went back full-time (unintelligible) and spent full-time down there. By full-time, oh... I'd have something like a... maybe eight sessions. A session is an afternoon or a morning. And, a... The rest of the time I was at the school... teaching... (unintelligible) private patients there. And, I think that was about as worthwhile as anything I've ever done.

Q. (Unintelligible)

A. We... we really were the first unit... you know this, we now have this RHN system, well, Bayden Street in the cellars of Hanover Houses, that was the first unit. And, a... and, a... I stayed there... oh, full-time. It was a difficult kind of job, I had to take a few months off there. But I did it ever since, over the last couple of years, part-time.

Q. Do you enjoy it as much as you did originally?

A. I do, except for one thing which is no one's fault, and that's economics. When we first came there and were in the cellar, it was funded by the government. You could do anything you needed to do. And, I think we were careful; first off, there was strict accountability and, a... but we could get things for patients. Everyone was new and everyone was trying, and the relationship between other agencies was being developed. It was easier to do. And, a... Medicaid wasn't in as much trouble that it is now. It hadn't been abused and it has been, there's no question about that. And, it was... you didn't have the heartbreak of having people you know are in trouble and need some help, but your hands are tied. There are special grants that you can get,
A. (Continued) you can work it out, but it's a . . . it's a . . . it's all so difficult. And, to me, it's mostly the nicest people. Someone who is maybe earning a couple of hundred, maybe two, three hundred dollars over, or even a hundred dollars over the medicaid level, you see?

Q. Sure.

A. And, they may have . . . need medications that cost a lot. There are ways, as I say, to get around it for some, but some people are too proud. And, what they do is just don't get the money. But, down in the cellar there, we could get it for them. But, I think it's an extremely difficult thing.

Q. It's a pragmatic approach to the whole thing, then?

A. Yea. It's just a very, I think, it does a great deal to the people who are there. I think there have been abuses on both sides, by the patient, by the provider. But, all together, I'm sure it's worthwhile.

Q. (unintelligible) ... in Rochester, it's gonna continue?

A. Well, I think it's gonna have to have a firm footing all over the country, not just in Rochester, because the same thing exists in other places. They have the same problems and a . . . and a . . . I think that some of the pulling on the reigns that's been done has been necessary. But . . . someone always gets hurt when you do that. You can't help it, I guess. But all together, that's a very, very important contribution to the care of people.

Q. One question: are you still associated with the university?

A. (Unintelligible) And, he too became full-time late in his career, as you know. I started, you know, as I said before, I started full-time and became part-time.

Q. (Unintelligible) How did you meet Mrs. Goldstein; is she from Rochester?

A. She's a nurse at the school.

Q. Oh, my wife's a nurse.
A. Yea. At Strong?

Q. (Unintelligible) When were you married? What year?

A. In '32.

Q. In '32. How many children do you have?

A. Two.

Q. Two. Are they in Rochester?

A. Yea, there both in Rochester. One is David Goldstein, he's an associate professor of biophysics, biomathematics, computer . . . he started in computer programming at the (unintelligible) school. The other is Robert Goldstein. David is an M.D. Robert, he runs the Hill Haven Nursing Home up on Empire Boulevard. And, a . . . so they both have a relationship to medical.

Q. Did . . . can . . . couple general questions and we won't spend too long on this: first of all, did you impress upon them any . . . any Jewish training, any Jewish religious training and so on? How would you describe their educational background?

A. You mean religious or . . .

Q. Well, religious or otherwise. I would like to broaden it.

A. Well, I think . . . they're both reasonably well-rounded people. David graduated from the Eastman, wanted . . . you know, won that certificate sort of thing. He was very much interested in music. I think he has a . . . a general interest in education and in the arts which was fostered at Harvard. He graduated from Harvard. Robert is . . . he's more modern. He's younger and his taste in music is more modern. He's more the athlete. As far as religious education is concerned, I . . . my comment to them always was the same as, almost a reflection of what my father told me. I said that, I went to B'rith Kodesh, you know where I mean? B'rith Kodesh Temple when they were down in the city and I talked to Rabbi Bernstein, for whom I have affection
A. (Continued) and respect, and he sent me to his assis ... assistant whose name happened to be Goldstein, Benjamin Goldstein. And, he gave me some, he really did give me some... his library, into his (unintelligible) I... I... we did and they never elect... we joined that B'rith Kodesh Temple after awhile, but they never elected to and I never pushed it in any way.

Q. With all your interest in medicine, (unintelligible)

A. No.

Q. Right. Okay.

A. I had patients I knew quite well, and from time to time I'd go to synagogue with them particularly on the High Holidays, particularly on a Holiday where you'd pay respect to your parents. And a... and a... we never did... you see, Mrs. Goldstein was Episcopalian. And a... Robert married a Lutheran, and David married a Catholic. I might say we're a well-rounded family.

Q. (Laughter) I guess so.

A. So, we just... I think they were taught what my father taught me: you respect the other fellow's religion and beliefs, his beliefs, and... My own feeling is that there can't be so many gods in one. How men break it down, that's another matter.

Q. (Unintelligible) Let me ask you one last question. Do you keep in close contact with your kids?

A. With my children? Oh, yea.

Q. That's it.

A. Mrs. Goldstein's dead, you know?

Q. (Unintelligible)

A. So, we remained... family... of course, children have their own interests.
A. (Continued) My sixteen year old granddaughter . . . for, I don't know how many years . . . four or five years, she saw the Catholic in me all the time. Well, what it'll amount to now that she's more interested, very possibly, in her own age group, and I didn't win her over, they told me, she's still . . . more interested in what her father's doing . . . musical instruments. But, we . . .

Q. Well, maybe the foundation is there.

A. Pardon?

Q. Maybe the foundation is there.

A. I have a feeling it'll come back.

Q. I wouldn't be surprised. Okay, that should just about do it. Thank you.

END OF TAPE 11, INTERVIEW 11, SIDE B.