Tape three, side one:

MS: This is tape three, side one of a continuing interview with Mr. Werner Glass.

WG: And my father's first job then was for the Cranswell State Hospital for the Colored Insane, which was a segregated institution in Maryland. It was also the most northernly segregated insane asylum and as such had won an award from the NAACP as the best colored insane asylum in the country, probably helped by the fact that the staff was all European Jews who did not share quite as many of the prejudices that...

MS: The American doctors did.

WG: The American doctors possessed at that time at least. So, my father worked there for a few years and then he went on to another state hospital. He ended up working at the federal hospital. He got his federal license to practice medicine legally in federal territory. So he went to work for what was known as the Children's Center, which is really the Children's Hospital for the District of Columbia, a public hospital, a mental hospital, but for children, mentally disturbed children and low IQ adults, child IQ adults. It's like in Laurel, it is in Laurel, Maryland.

MS: Yeah, I know.

WG: It's called the District Training School officially, but it's a Children's Center. He worked there till they forced him to retire. When he was 70 they threw him out, much to his dismay, as he enjoyed his work tremendously. In fact, the one thing my father would never do is do anything except do his medicine. My mother used to be after him in Shanghai, "Take a day off! Take a day off!" And he finally said, "O.K. He'll take Sunday's off." Sunday's he'd go work at the polyclinic, where he wasn't getting paid. It was charity work, so it wasn't work.

MS: [Chuckling.]

WG: But, that was his life. He just didn't want to do anything except treat sick children. That was what he wanted to do and that's what he did. But, he enjoyed it, and he was good at it. He liked it. He did it all his life.

MS: Is he still...

WG: No, no, he passed away in '68.

MS: And your mother?

WG: She passed away in '76. Yeah, they, when they forced him to retire, they moved down to Florida like many people do. And then he spent the rest of his time in the hospital--because he was proud of the fact that from the time he left high school till the time they forced him to retire, he'd never spent a day in bed, he'd never run a fever. He had no time to get sick. He was busy. As soon as they retired him, he fell apart. As he said, "It's one way I can stay in a hospital." He spent a lot of time in the hospitals and eventually he passed away. But, he got to know the hospital in Hollywood real well.

MS: [chuckling]

WG: And sometimes he thought he was on the staff there rather than a patient I think. [both laugh] And, he--he was a very cheerful person and a very easygoing guy. My mother was not that way at all. She was not that easy to get along with and not very easy to deal with.

MS: I would imagine that experience had to have been...

WG: She, but she was hardheaded, and if it weren't for her, we would have been in Holland, and I would never be sitting here making tapes. Because she...

MS: She had a lot of foresight. She had tremendous foresight.

WG: If it hadn't been for her, my father would never have gotten his license here either. Because back when, during the cold war, when the U.S. was trying to line up Germany and push Germany ahead, one of the things that the federal government gave as a sop to the German government was recognition of medical, German medical degrees. Because it really rankled the German Federal Republic that someone who had an M.D. from the University of Berlin, or Heidelberg or what not, was not recognized as an M.D. in the U.S. So the federal government made a treaty that on all federal territory, a German M.D. was recognized. And when my father found out about this, he said, "Oh great." And he got a form from the District of Columbia to apply for this from the federal government. He filled out the form and he sent it in. And he said, "O.K. where's my degree?" You know, "Where's my license?" And they said, "Oh well, we haven't gotten around to it. We, you know, there are delays." And my mother said, who was much more practical, "Somebody wants to get paid off." He said, "How can you say a thing like this? This is America." Well, mother says, "A bureaucrat is a bureaucrat. Find out what you're supposed to do." So my father said, "Ah, I'm not gonna do that." So she did. She called up and says, "How can I expedite it?" And they said, "Well, we have found that people who used such and such a law firm, they handle it very well. Why don't you go there?" So, my parents went there and the fellow says, "Oh yes, yes, we've handled cases like that. It's $2,000." My father says, "What for? I filled out the form already." My mother says, "Be quiet, George. [laying his hand down on the table] It's $2,000." So, they said, "O.K., here's the $2,000. When do I get my license?" "Well, it'll take a week or so." Unfortunately, this was just before the election of '52, when the administration changed from the Democrat to Republican. The lawyer calls up and says they can't handle the case. Now there's a Republican administration. But, they recommend this other law firm who can handle the case. So my father says, "What about my $2,000?" They said, "Don't worry, we'll transfer the fee." They transferred the fee and in a few weeks my father had his license. So,...

MS: Interesting.

WG: Which allowed him to practice and get a job with the District Training Commission, which was at the District Training School, which was a much better job than the ones he had with the State of Maryland and the State of New York. And it was a, and it had some minor pension rights with it, and it had a legitimate, not a temporary

assignment. All the others in all the State hospitals were temporary assignments, so that you had no benefits, no nothing.

MS: That's right.

WG: But this was a legitimate job. And if it hadn't been for my mother, pushing, and saying, you know, being reasonable and practical, it would never have happened. But it happened. And at--I'm saying you know, if it hadn't been for her, although she was a difficult person, strong willed--as is my aunt, her sister--the two of them hated each other's guts. Would you believe they did not speak to each other from 1933 on?

MS: Her sister.

WG: Her own sister. Neither of them would speak to each other. And...

MS: Until what happened? What brought them together?

WG: Nothing. Noth--in fact, my sister, who lives down in Florida, sent a picture to my aunt of herself and her husband, taken in their home. And she wrote in the letter that if you notice the plate on the wall used to be my mother's. That was one of those plates with some German saying on it. My aunt sent the picture back, with the plate x'ed out, from Sweden, saying, "I don't…"--my mother had been dead since 1976, this happened about two years ago--"I don't want to have anything about Anna in my house." They hated each other's guts.

MS: How sad.

WG: You know? I don't know what, you know, I know why. They are very, very similar. My wife made the mistake when my aunt came over here once to visit, and she laughed at something or other, and my wife says, "You know, when you laugh you sound just like my mother-in-law did." Oh! Did my aunt blow up! "I am not at all like her!" She's exactly like her.

MS: [chuckling]

WG: They're both very hardheaded, very obnoxious, difficult to get along with people. But, survivors.

MS: Mmm hmm. Indeed.

WG: Great survivors. But, this isn't exactly a Holocaust, but like, my mother was one of the first Women's Libbers in the world. I'm convinced of it. When she was growing up, like all nice upper middle class German girls, Jewish girls, she was sent to Switzerland, to finishing school. So she got finished, and she came back, and she was not supposed to sit around and wait to get married. And she said she wanted to get a job. Her father said, "No daughter of mine is getting a job. Why don't you go out and meet people?" So she went out to meet people, and what she did was, she went to secretarial school. She learned shorthand and typing, then when she got her certificate said now she's gonna get a job. And my grandfather said, "No way!" And she, finally, after much urging, he said, "O.K., you can come work for me." He had an office, with people working. And so she worked. At the end of the first week everybody gets their pay envelopes. My mother says, "Where is my pay envelope?" "What do you mean? You're my daughter. I don't pay you." She says, "Oh

yes, you do. I'm working here. I want to get paid." "No, don't be silly. You're my daughter. I don't have to pay you." So she says, "O.K., I'll take the customer list and go to the competition."

MS: [both laugh]

WG: After that, "I'll pay you." So she got paid. But he was the same kind of person she was, obnoxious as they come. In due course my mother got to be 65 down in Florida. She realized she had worked for several years in Germany. She's entitled to German Social Security. Because they had Social Security back in those days. So she wrote to the German Consulate, gave details, her father's name and company name and address and dates and all that. The German government sent her a photostat of the records of the withholding tax, the Social Security tax, that my father-in-law, no, my grandfather, had sent in. Her name wasn't on it. He never sent, he never put her down on the rolls. He kept the tax. He withdrew it from her envelope, but he kept it. He wouldn't admit on paper that his daughter was working for him. So she--they said, "We have no records. You don't get it." So he was the same...

MS: [laughs] Strong-headed individual that she was.

WG: Oh! I tell you. I knew him. He was in, he came to Shanghai in '38, and he died in '44. So I knew him quite a few years. And he was a bullheaded man. And I remember him. He used to chain smoke cigars. And I mean literally, light one from the butt of the other. And in due course he developed larynx cancer. And he was in the ghetto, and they had no x-ray tr--the only treatment they had was x-ray treatment--and they did not have the x-ray. And my father tried to get him a pass to come out to the Settlement, out to the French Concession where they had adequate x-ray facilities, but he couldn't get it. They wouldn't give him a pass for a medical treatment.

MS: Oh my.

WG: Well he probably might have died of it anyway, but as a result he went very fast, because there was no treatment at all. Yeah, he died in '44. But, as I said, I wanted to go visit his grave, but it's gone. Maybe they, they'll find what happened, or where it was or whatever.

MS: Yeah, there is that...

WG: The Sino-Judaic...

MS: … chance yeah, that...

WG: Institute is there, which they have established in Shanghai now, is trying--I get their newsletter--and they are trying to find out what exactly happened, who did what to whom.

MS: There were...

WG: Lots of things in Shanghai.

MS: Mr. Glass, this was a most unusual, interesting, informative interview. I appreciate it tremendously that you...

WG: I enjoy it.

MS: That you took the time...

WG: My wife would enjoy it.

MS: That you took the time to come...

WG: Yeah.

MS: And give us all this really tremendous insight into life in Shanghai.

WG: Yeah, it's a very small fraction of the Jewish community in Shanghai, or the European Jewish experience, but it, it's real. It was there. I, and nothing gets me as mad as that dumb film, *Empire of the Sun*, which was all wrong. And why they did that, I don't know. Because they could have made it real and it would have been just as good a movie. But...

MS: And more factually honest and...

WG: More factual, yeah.

MS: Correct, yes.

WG: Yeah. Yeah, so, we never had Japanese tanks come crashing through with hordes of people running away. Come on. Kids separated from their parents and all that nonsense.

MS: It just didn't happen. [chuckles]

WG: It just didn't happen. It just didn't happen.

MS: Well...

WG: We had other things that happened that weren't too nice, but that didn't happen. You, one more thing, you asked me about Zionist stuff, and I never did get into it.

MS: Oh yeah, that's right. Yeah.

WG: There were quite a few Zionist organizations within the ghetto area. In the Russian Jewish community there was a group of *Betar*. And *B'rith* Trumpeldor.

MS: What was that again?

WG: *B'rith* Trumpeldor. The--Assembly of, named in honor of Trumpeldor, who was the founder of *Betar*.[1]

MS: O.K.

WG: They were reasonably active, but not overwhelm, most people did not belong to it. In fact, there was considerable opposition to them, because they ran around in brown uniforms. You know, they had the Trumpeldor uniforms. And people referred to them in those times, they are just like fascists. Well, they obviously weren't just like fascists, but the concept of these guys, running around being tough...

MS: Yes.

WG: Was something [he says "quote"] "un-Jewish", if you will. That was not the case of the Jewish Company. There was a company of Jewish volunteers, as part of the

[1]Trumpeldor (1880-1920) helped establish a Jewish Legion among Russian Jews in England, later helped establish the *HeHalutz* movement in Russia. *Betar* [abbreviated from *B'rith* Trumpeldor] was established in 1923, fusing Trumpeldor's and Jabotinsky's ideas.

Shanghai Volunteer Corps. It was probably the only outfit in the world, officially under a Jewish flag, after World War I and before World War II. During World War I there was the Jewish Zion Mule Corps in Palestine that General Allenby had [unclear], but, that was disbanded after World War I. And then the *Haganah*, of course, was illegal. But the Shanghai Volunteer Corps had a Jewish Company that marched under the *Magen David*. They never did anything except have parades, just like there was the Russian Regiment, which the Japanese then used for crowd control and light police duties. There was the American Machine Gun Company, the Americans had machine guns. These were not army people. These were not U.S. forces. They are, they were Shanghai residents.

MS: Civilian groups.

WG: Civilian groups who played soldier. [chuckles] As far as I know, all they did is have parades.

MS: What else was there to do? What else? [chuckling]

WG: What else were they gonna do, you know? I mean, there were real soldiers there. There were real U.S. Marines. There were real Welsh Fusiliers. There were real Savoy Grenadiers. But the Shanghai Volunteer Corps, the SVC, they had parades. And one of the units was the Jewish Company. They had a Jewish Company. Actually I think it was Italian. I think it was three companies. I think it was the Jewish Battalion. It was the Russian Regiment and it was the Jewish Battalion. I was too young. Of course, the Japanese disbanded all of, everything except the Russian Regiment. The rest of the Shanghai Volunteer Corps disappeared into the night very quickly when the Japanese took over after Pearl Harbor. I was only 14, but I was looking forward to the day when I would join the SVC.

MS: [chuckles]

WG: That was a big deal, you know, run around with a uniform, playing with a rifle and all this sort of stuff. A young boy, well, they just think that's heaven. But, I never made it. And it was not resurrected after World War II, when I would have been old enough. But 14-year-olds were not in demand.

MS: [laughs]

WG: But, we looked up to these guys, you know. I was just in the Boy Scouts. But these guys were real hot shots.

MS: [chuckles]

WG: Jewish, yeah, it was the Jewish Battalion. I think they had two companies.

MS: But no war to fight.

WG: Who they gonna fight?

MS: [both laugh]

WG: They weren't gonna take on the Japanese army. And they certainly weren't gonna take on, you know--but they were there. And they had parades. Yes, the big parade was always on May 24th, which was Empire Day. The Boy Scouts got to march too. We got to march. It was fun. A good start off, we'd go to the Anglican Cathedral for a worship

service. And the Jewish Troop would go. The Catholic Troop would not go. There was a Catholic Troop and they would not go into an Anglican Cathedral. The Jewish Troop would go. Eh, why not? You know, what are they gonna do to us? But the Catholic Troop would not go. And, after the service, we'd march up and down the street, you know, on the parade ground, from the, we'd march from the church to the parade ground, the race track. Shanghai was probably the only town in the world, major city in the world, that had a race track downtown. The town had simply grown up around it. And it had a horse racing track downtown. And inside the track, they had cricket grounds, they had a baseball diamond, polo ground, tennis courts. Of course no Chinese admitted.

MS: Mmm.

WG: Except as servants. And this last time we were, when we returned to Shanghai in '81, it turned out it is now The People's Park.

MS: Isn't that interesting.

WG: No more baseball diamond. No more polo ground. No more cricket oval.

MS: Could you, did you visit you former home location?

WG: Oh yeah. Yes, but I couldn't get into the Metost [phonetic] Apartment, which was the nice apartment house where the Japanese Vice Admiral kicked us out, because it is now a military communications headquarters. Big radar things all over the roof, aerials. The Chinese can't get in either. They have guards all over the place. The Beverly Houses, the fancy brothel, actually, I shouldn't call it a brothel, because it didn't have a madam or anything. They were independent girls. Each room had a girl and she would pick up what she could pick up. And people would move in or out or sometimes by the hour, sometimes by the month, sometimes by the year.

MS: Yeah.

WG: We went back to that to look at it, and it's very crowded now, of course. Because...

MS: It's still an apartment?

WG: There's still people living in it.

MS: Yes, mmm hmm.

WG: They've added an additional floor on top, which is just cinder block. And in the--it had a nice front yard, which was sort of a green space--they built a bamboo shack with more people living in it. Tons of people living in it. Yeah, we went in, and I showed my wife the room, room 26. I won't forget that. And they changed the name of the street. It used to be *Route Gustav du Bois Sasson*. I don't, I forget what it's called now.

MS: I won't even ask you to spell it. [chuckles]

WG: I can't. Even Thomas Pincope didn't ask me to spell it. He knew how to spell *Gustav du Bois Sasson.* It was in the French part of town, so it had a nice French name. I think it's *Pu-shing-lu, Pu-shing-lu* West. It was a, I'm trying to remember it. Because I saw it when I got there, that they've changed, you know, all these foreign devil names of course are gone, and they've got good Chinese names now. So it's *Pu-shing-lu*, instead of *Route*

Gustav du Bois Sasson. But they, yeah, that, well, that's still there. And we went back to the synagogue where I was Bar Mitzvah. And my wife checked. The women's toilet is still where it was.

MS: [chuckles]

WG: She managed to find it. I showed her where it was. The women's gallery is now full of books, and the main, the sanctuary itself is like a rabbit warren of little offices. It is now the book deposit--eh, it's a book depository and text book agency for the school district.

MS: Oh I see.

WG: But, and they've taken off all the *Magen Davids* and...

MS: I'm sure there's no need for synagogues.

WG: No, there's no need, and they've removed all signs that unless you knew it was a synagogue...

MS: You...

WG: You wouldn't know. And, in fact, I went to several other places. I went to the Russian Orthodox Basilica. And they've removed the Russian Orthodox crosses off the top. You know, it has a nice onion dome on top of it like. The crosses are gone. Inside, it's now a medical laboratory. And, it had mosaics all the way around of saints and Cyrillic inscriptions. They whitewashed the pictures of the saints. But they left the Cyrillic inscriptions because I guess nobody can read them anyway, or they don't care. But all the saints pictures of, so you weren't, you know, you can still tell that it was a Russian Orthodox cathedral, because it looks like one. I mean it's still, as opposed to the synagogue which, you have to know it was a synagogue. It was a very nice one. It was donated by one man in the Sephardic community. You know, they didn't bond building funds and stuff like that. The Ohel Rachel Synagogue, in honor of his mother, someone donated it. Mr. Abraham in fact, donated it in honor of his mother, built the synagogue. They had a lot of money. A lot of the Sephardim...

MS: That was a...

WG: Sephardim.

MS: Sephardim. What, Russian?

WG: No, Sephardic.

MS: No, just...

WG: No, it was a Sephardic synagogue and it was Sephardic style. And, a lot of the Sephardim, not a lot, some of them, had an awful lot of money. Some of them had nothing, like Rachel Manasseh and her sisters and a lot of others. But a lot of them were very, very well-to-do, like the Hardoons and Sassoons, the Abrahams. These were all big names. They owned the water company. They owned the power company, the telephone company, half the real estate in town. In fact, the Shanghai stock exchange would close on Jewish holidays because something like 80% of the brokers were Sephardic Jews. And they were all very Orthodox. All right, so they...

MS: What happened to these families after the Communists came?

WG: Well, they left, of course. And--around the world. A lot of them, quite a few went to Hong Kong. In fact, Hong Kong Power and Light is still owned by the Kadoories. Half-owned. Half owned by the Kadoories and half owned by Exxon. They bought into it. A lot went to Australia, came to the States, went to England. They dispersed. I don't know if any of them went back to Baghdad or Basra. I doubt it very much. [chuckles]

MS: I doubt it. [chuckles]

WG: They had more sense than to do that. But, they, no, some of them came to this country, and, in other diaspora. They had been very well-established and originally they had been brought in by the British to handle the opium trade. Because after the opium war in the 1840s, when the British forced the Chinese to admit opium, they needed someone to handle the trade. And, the Iraqi Jews started out handling it for the British. And then they branched out and settled there, because the British traders would come and they would go. You know, they'd, most of them did not, very few of them ever decided to make it their home, whereas these Iraqis, and some from Lebanon--the Kadoories were from Lebanon--they stayed. They stayed till the Communists came in. And that was that. They left for wherever. Some here, some there.

MS: Did you have contact perhaps with any of the people that you lived with, the family knew, in Shanghai, once they came to the United States?

WG: Some of them.

MS: Yeah.

WG: Not, yeah, some. We had a reunion in Philadelphia recently.

MS: Right.

WG: And a lot of, that's where everything was set up.

MS: Right.

WG: And, of course, my cousin, one of my cousins, my father's cousins, moved to New York, and I see them. And I do stay in touch occasionally with Tavi Levenspiel. We went to high school together. Not only Aurora but high school as well. I mean when the [coughs] yeah, that's--well, he said he didn't know his father was a Communist spy. Everybody knew Mr. Levenspiel, who was an architect, was a Communist spy. Whether he really was or not, I don't know. But it was just sort of, things one knew. Oh yes, Mr. Levenspiel, the Communist spy, I mean, he couldn't have been very effective if everybody knew it. But when the Japanese came in, they too knew he was a Communist spy, and they arrested him. But then they let him out after a short time. Yeah, Tavi had, I don't know if you taped Tavi or not.

MS: Yes, we did.

WG: Yeah, yeah. He had an interesting life anyways. His mother, Marian Greenhaus, lived in Hawaii. His parents were divorced. She had a store in Shanghai, one in Honolulu, and he would commute during vacation time and got caught in the Philippines and all that stuff.

MS: Yeah.

WG: Yeah, Tavi had a time of it. But, when he got to the States, he eventually got himself a Fulbright fellowship to go to Australia. His father had gone to Australia, but he had trouble getting a passport because somewhere in the States--this was during the McCarthy era--somewhere in the files was the fact that his father was a Communist spy.

MS: My.

WG: So, he had to wait till that McCarthy nonsense blew over before he could go visit his father in Australia. But, he couldn't get a passport. He had a fellowship. A Fulbright fellowship to go. Eh, it's a crazy world sometimes. He convinced the Japanese that Poland was an ally of Japan. That's how he got out of the Philippines. Because, what did they know? [both laugh] And I know Tavi very well. In fact I'll probably see him this July. We're gonna meet in Vancouver, along with some other people--not Jewish--Russian Orthodox who had moved to Australia, the Osipovs. They're gonna be there. Have another get together.

MS: That sounds very interesting. Well let me thank you once again...

WG: O.K. Thank you.

MS: For...

WG: It's a...

MS: Just a marvelous interview.

WG: Yeah, O.K. Well, I enjoyed it.

MS: All right.