

MAY 29 1984

Houston, Texas. January 13, 1984.

Miss Ruby Simon,
224 South Scott Street, Apt. 1,
New Orleans, Louisiana. 70119.

Dear Ruby:

This is a letter from an old school mate of yours, who hasn't seen you in over seventy years.

We were in the 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th grades at the same time from 1910 to 1914, when we were in the Jewish Orphans Home.

I was invited to attend the annual meeting of the Jewish Children's Regional Service of Jewish Children's Home held on Wednesday, January 11, in the Jewish Children's Center, which included a panel of JCH Alumni to discuss their experiences as residents of the Home. I notified Mrs. Viola Weiss that I was not able to attend, but would like to know the names of some of the people who were still living who were in the home at the time I was there, and she gave me your name and address and suggested that I drop you a line, which is why I am writing this letter.

I doubt if you remember me, but I remember you as a pretty little girl with light blue eyes and golden hair. I also remember your brother, Mortimer; in fact, I remember he had to wear a special shoe on one foot. I hope he is still living.

Anyway, I just want to say that I hope you had a happy and successful life, and that you continue to enjoy good health and happiness.

Isidore Mondshine

M.I. Mondshine,
2521 Maconda
Houston, Texas. 77027

1 My dear Ruby:

2 I certainly enjoyed your interesting letter;
3 and since you took the time to write such a nice letter,
4 I am going to reciprocate by writing you a long letter,
5 as with this cold and rainy weather we are having
6 I don't have much to do, so here goes.
7 Some of the things I write may be interesting to you
8 and some not.

9 First of all, as to those living in
10 Houston, Minnie is still living and I will tell you
11 a little about her next, but Bessie died of cancer
12 several years ago. She was married to a physicist, who
13 is still living. Ida Gordon (Cohen) died several
14 years ago, but her brother, Ben Gordon, is still
15 living. He is very wealthy, and is married and has
16 a couple of grown children, etc. There's a friend of
17 Minnie's, who was in the home, named Goldie, but I
18 don't know her maiden name, but her husband died many
19 years ago. They are the only ones I know of here
20 besides myself.

21 I'll give you a little history or background
22 about myself. I have been married for 58 years.
23 I have six children, all college graduates, and all
24 doing fine. One is a pediatrician, one an electrical
25 engineer, and one a chemical engineer, the latter two
with large companies. Those are the three boys; the
girls: One is married and lives in California, and has
four sons, and three grandchildren (my great grand
children) Her husband has a good job, but she has
a business (telephone answering instruments) and is
quite wealthy; my next oldest daughter was married
but now divorced; she has two children, one a son
in A & M and a daughter about 16. My youngest daughter
is married and has two sons, one 5, the other 3.
Her husband works for Texas Instrument, and she is
a registered nurse, but just works two days a week now.

26 I left New Orleans January 1, 1923, and first
27 worked for the S.P. Railroad for about 8 years
28 (I wonder if Gladys worked there at a time when I was
29 still there (1923 to 1930) Then I became a Court
30 Reporter, and when I retired in 1965, I had my own
31 business taking depositions and reporting conventions
32 and things like that, which was quite remunerative.
33 I retired in 1976 at the age of 75, but only worked
34 in the mornings the last ten years, playing golf in
35 the afternoons, letting my employees do the afternoon
jobs. I still play golf every day now, but with the
cold weather we have had the past two months, I haven't
been able to play any.

Two of my sons are twins, one has 5 children, the other
4; the other son has 2.
I have 6 children, 19 grand children, and 3 great
grand children.

OFFICE OF M. I. MONDSHINE

SHORTHAND REPORTING
HOUSTON, TEXAS

FA 3-9992

1 Somehow I can well remember my days in
2 the Home, and in school, but many things during the
more recent years I can't remember.

3 I remember our teachers in the 3rd, fourth,
4 fifth and sixth grades, i.c. Mrs. Lewis in the 3rd,
Miss Gulatt in the 4th, Mrs. Lewis again in the 5th
5 and Mrs. Cohen in the 6th, and that's when I left
the home, and went to a public school in the 7th and
6 8th grades.

7 Incidentally, I was called "Monk", and
liked the name so much that I added it to my name
8 when I came here, and used "M.I. Mondshine" thereafter.

9 Some of the boys in our room were:
10 David Silverblatt, Leon Rosner, Max Tobias , Isidore
11 Cohn, Max Mendelsohn, Harry Schlager and his brother
and Joe Moscovitz and his brother, Aaron . Those
12 are the boys I remember, and the only girl I remember
13 besides you was Millie Seelman. Some others, not
residents of the home, were two or three Newmans,
14 Ariel, Randolph and one other.

15 I went to a big meeting or something of
16 the Jewish Federation twenty or thirty years ago
and I remember Max Tobias was there, but he didn't
17 remember me, which kind of upset me. I understand
he was pretty wealthy.

18 You mentioned Joe Wolf, who died many years ago.
19 He used to visit me when I was a court reporter,
and we would talk over old times in the Home. His
20 wife has had an exclusive ladies dress shop for many
years, but I don't know if she is still living.

21 I remember a few other people, but can't remem-
22 ber their names.

23 If you know of any other former inmates
of the Home at the time we were there, kindly let me
24 know who they are.

25 I guess I have written enough for the time
being. I am glad to know you are in good health.
I am in good health, but Minnie is having lots of physical
trouble. & Minnie re-married about four or five years
ago. As you may know, even in her eighties she can
make herself beautiful. & Her new husband is a pretty
nice fellow, several years younger than she.

 At my age I generally stay home all the time -
afraid to drive much and never at night, so have lots
of spare time on my hands.

 Again wishing you a Happy and Healthy 1984
and beyond, I am,

Sincerely

January 23, 1984.

Monk

ALUMNI PROJECT
JEWISH CHILDREN'S REGIONAL SERVICE
JEWISH CHILDREN'S HOME

NOV 15 1983

_____ I shall be glad to participate in the project to gather the recollections of alumni of the Jewish Children's Home.

_____ I am willing to be interviewed.

_____ I am willing to interview other alumni.

_____ I plan to write to you about my recollections.

_____ I have old photographs and/or memorabilia that I will lend to be copied and returned.

_____ I prefer not to have my name used in any publication of the memoirs.

_____ I do not wish to participate in the project.

COMMENT: I was in the Jewish Orphans Home for
four years (from September of 1910 to the Summer of 1914)
I look back to those four years as the happiest and
most productive years of my life. The education I
received at Isidore Newman Manual Training School these
four years plus the religious training I received in
the Home have been the foundation of a happy and successful
life. I remember the friendships of the many fellow residents,
the sports we engaged in and the entertainments we
enjoyed together.

M. J. Mondshine
(Name)

2201 Madison
(Address)

Houston Texas 77027
(Telephone)