

NOV 30 1983

Dear Viola,

I finally met briefly with Ann Pilska: she had been ill; she had been away and was preparing to leave again. She has an unlisted 'phone number so that I was unable to reach her.

She gave me a photo album containing pictures made at the Home.

A few of the pictures are labeled, but most are not. I am sending them on to you.

I told her that she would receive a copy of the interview but she replied that one was not necessary, that whatever I wrote would be OK.

I had only a few minutes with her. I hope that what I was able to learn will of some value.

Sincerely,

Dolly Sabasky

I'm sorry
my typing is
no better

Anne Schneider Pilsch (Mrs. Abe Pilsch), now a 77 year old widow, finds it difficult, after the passage of so many years, to assess her feelings about her life in The Home. She harbored such bitter resentment against her father for sending her and her brother, two years older, away from home after the death of their mother that only in recent years has she been able to talk about it. She and her brother were sent, unaccompanied, by train to New Orleans. (An older sister, then 13, remained in Nashville). She lived in the Home about ten years, until her graduation from high school in 1924. During that entire time, her father visited her only once.

She felt privileged, she said, to be able to attend the Newman school, a private school, where many well-to-do townspeople sent their children. She had many friends among her classmates--she was invited to their homes and included in their social activities. There were no distinctions made between the orphans and the local children.

She was a good athlete and enjoyed the sports and other activities at the Bay St. Louis camp which she attended several times.

Anne, apparently, was popular with staff and peers. She was, she said, a "pet" of many at the Home. One bachelor board member from Texas became her pen-pal. They corresponded for many years, and he came to meet Anne's fiance when he learned of her engagement.

One of her close friends was Louise Volmer, the daughter of the superintendant. He encouraged the friendship and Ann often visited in their apartment. Among her friends were Murdock Mendelsohn and his sister and that friendship continued in Nashville where Murdock also later settled.

Although never subjected to it, she had seen others paddled, but, in retrospect, she feels that the paddling was, undoubtedly, justified.

She recalls that services for Jewish holidays were held in a chapel in the Home and that, frequently, board members joined the children for these services.

Were her years at the Home good? She was not able to say because her recollections are colored by the pervasive feeling she had that she had been abandoned by her father and deprived of a normal family life.

She heartily approved the Home's closing, feeling that children should not be institutionalized but allowed to live where they can feel part of a family.



Jewish Children's Regional Service

OF JEWISH CHILDREN'S HOME

Established
1855

5342 ST. CHARLES AVE.

POST OFFICE BOX 15225

NEW ORLEANS, LA. 70175

899-1595 Area Code 504

July 27, 1983

Mrs. Viola W. Weiss
A.C.S.W.
Executive Director

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Mrs. Abe Pilsk
3415 West End
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

Dear Mrs. Pilsk:

Thank you for agreeing to participate in our Alumni Project. Mrs. David Slabosky, who is a member of our Board of Directors, will be available to interview you at a time that will be convenient for you.

Mrs. Slabosky will be in touch with you some time soon in order to arrange a suitable time to talk with you.

I shall be glad to send you a copy of the notes of that interview, if that is what you would like to have happen. That would also give you an opportunity to edit the material and to add anything which might later occur to you to be important.

If you have any other questions, please feel free to be in touch with me or with Mrs. Slabosky, whose telephone number is 292-5610.

Sincerely yours,

Viola W. Weiss

(Mrs.) Viola W. Weiss
Executive Director

VWW/kwg

Dear Mrs Weiss -
Yes I would appreciate notes
of Interview etc -
Is there any other Nashville
members of the Board of
Directors - If possible would
(over)

Appreciate name on
Names—

Will Be Happy To
Cooperate Any way
I can—

Yours Truly—

Ann Polak

7-29-83

Ann PiIsk
3415 West End
Nashville, TN 37203



Mrs Viola W. Weiss

JEWISH CHILDREN'S REGIONAL SERVICE

P. O. BOX 15225

NEW ORLEANS, LA. 70175

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUIRED