

Dear Mrs. Weiss:

Enclosed you will find
information as asked for by
Mrs Helen G Hayman.

Due to my husband's
serious illness she asked
that I send it to you directly-

Sincerely,
Frances K Kerty

Frances Kahn
Harty

October 19, '83

I. I lived in the Home six (6) years - I was eleven (11) years old when I entered & seventeen (17) years old when I left. Entered 1933 - left 1939.

It was during the Depression years & my father was having a difficult time finding work as a newspaper printer.

My two (2) brothers & I were living with our poor Grandparents in Baton Rouge & they could not afford to keep three (3) children; mother was dead.

Our father took us to the Home.

Yes, we were isolated awhile in the Infirmary at first. I remember being scared of the unknown. There was no way I felt homesick.

II. I honestly cannot recall the rules or the consequences when broken - I'm sure I broke rules, but certainly I would ~~not~~ remember anything drastic that happened, as a result of breaking rules. I had chores, as we all did, on a rotating basis.

So many "special friends" - Rose Levine, Nedra Burman, Jackie Behr, Dolly Fruchtgarten, Frances Kerner, Lucille Pierce, Marion Schwartz, Louise Levine, Rosa Summers - all of whom I've lost contact with over the years.

Staff members: Irma Simon, Ann Sugamon, Ray Lawer,
"Pappy" Emma Slaughter - I recall them
in retrospect, as being "easy", but we also
knew it was for real when told to do
or not to do something.

I do not recall bed, get up or meal times.
As for fun - I remember having a lot of fun - listening
to special programs on radio, going to the movies,
playing in the courtyard.

I remember Passover, Yom Kippur, Mardi Gras. on
Mardi Gras we would dress in white men's slacks
(sailors) get on a large truck & throw the newspaper
Confetti we had cut up.

Depending on where daddy was working - he came to see my
two (2) brothers & myself about once a month.

Camp: For the most part - I did not enjoy camp at
Bay St. Louis. I recall heat, sand, stinging jellyfish in
the water, having to walk in ankle deep water a long way
to get to water deep enough to swim - & then having to
walk back & swimming was mandatory & I was always
so glad to have a "period" & being excused from swimming.
Sleeping on the long porch was enjoyable when a

hurricane blew in & gave us a nice "breeze" to cool off.

I do not recall having a Big Sister.

III I attended Newman School for a few years. I realize now that it was an excellent school, but at the time I didn't have sense enough to take advantage of the education offered. I left Newman & went to Rabbin Trade School for girls - at that time I had to wait one (1) year before entering Soule's Business College.

IV. I know that being in the Home was the best possible thing that could have happened for me. God only knows what would have become of me had it not been for the Home.

Truthfully, it was a happy experience for me & there are times when I long to be back in those "good old days" of so long ago.

Frances Kahn Kerty

October 20, 1983

Mrs. Frances K. Herty
4024 Cherry Street
Zachary, La. 70791

Dear Mrs. Herty:

Thank you very much for sending in your most interesting memoirs of your days in the old Jewish Children's Home. It was particularly good of you to take the time in view of the grave illness of your husband.

Of the friends you mentioned, Louse Levine is no longer living, but we did hear from her brother who lives in Birmingham. We did hear from Lucille Pierce Gilberstadt. If you would like to write to her, her address is now 6938 Grand Ave., Minneapolis, Minnesota, 55423.

It was good to hear from you, and I send my best wishes for your husband's health as well as your own.

Sincerely yours,

(Mrs.) Viola W. Weiss
Executive Director

VWW/js