

JANET LOEB (PFEIFER NOW) MEMORIES OF LIFE IN THE JEWISH CHILDREN'S HOME
(this is a lot of rambling)

I was admitted to the JCH on June 29, 1930, at the age of 11 years. Because of this fact (age) and also that I was an adopted child, it was difficult for my Father to complete arrangements. My adoptive Mother died in April of 1930, and my Dad had no job - he went to El Paso, Texas to live with his brother, Leo Loeb.....Leo Loeb was well-off financially, and I sometimes wonder why the authorities at the JCH failed to appeal to him re assistance for me and/or for the Home....he died many years ago, as did my Father when I was 13 years of age.

My memories of life in the JCH are so warm and tender! Of course, the first two weeks were spent in "isolation" in the Infirmary..... where I became very close to Miss Levine or "Veenie", as we called her, who later became Mrs. Sam Kamin...and how we loved him also.....Dora Margolin was also a nurse later on. I met Helen Gold at this timean HK...who helped out in the Infirmary. We became very good friends and now, 50 years later, still correspond and "talk on the phone". Helen and I often visited her father and I was very fond of him. I don't remember if I was ever homesick - as I was an only child, I felt it was just wonderful to have so many "brothers and sisters". I guess we all broke a few rules at one time or another, but our supervisors were understanding (of me, at least) and we got along very well. I particularly remember Rae Scharfstein and Irma(?) who were very kind to me. Jean Avegno, Mr. Ginsburg's secretary was a doll, and we kept in touch all through the years until she passed away several years ago. "Uncle Harry" was a dear man and we had a good relationship. Mrs. Edith Lashman, whose husband was Supt. at one time, was also very close to me. She came to Little Rock in 1938 for my wedding to Jimmy, and we, too, wrote to one another during the years. I remember that she was so proud when I was a member of the Board of the Home.....JCRC, that is. When she was 80, those former HK's who were on the Board, contributed \$80.00 each to honor her..... As far as chores were concerned.....rooms were to be kept spotless, help with dishwashing after tables were cleared; of course, the girls set the tables for all meals, prepared sandwiches for the students who didn't go to Newman (and there were many lunches to prepare at 5:00 in the morning, believe me! Chores also included "snack time" after school which consisted of milk and cookies served in the kitchen area. We cleaned the "latrines" and showers --- and I suppose the boys all had the same duties. We also kept the balconies and stairs "spotless".

I really had a lot of friends in the Home ---- Adele Karp Cahn, Lillian Hofstetter White, Helen Eldridge, and many more. We often exchanged clothesagainst rules, of course. I remember Irma or Rae would take some of the girls downstairs to the "clothes room"....it was located off the courtyard on the girls' side. Then, if there was nothing to fit one of us, we'd be taken to Krauss and Co., on Canal St. and was that a "fun time". I always had appropriate clothes to wear, but as I was a skinny child, nothing really looked nice on me! (or so I thought) I remember that we had "study supervisors" who were students at Tulane or Newcomb..... Rosetta Ginsburg was a "graduate" of the Home and she was a brilliant girl who gave us a lot of help....and was she strict!

....Purim and birthday gifts were highlights....also Friday night service before dinner...Volley ball games in the courtyard...dances in the Social Hall downstairs...all good memories.

Every Saturday we had to attend one of the Synagogues or Temple. I went to Touro; Rabbi Leipziger confirmed me. After Temple on Saturdays several of us often walked downtown and went to a movie or such - if we had any money! Often I visited relatives of some of the girls. My "Big Sister" was Mrs. Mike CahnAdele Karp later married one of her sons, Emile. She was not very attentive, but I did have lunch several times on Sunday with the family. Many times a Sunday School friend would invite me to be with her family.

The HK's had a wonderful time on Mardi Gras. We'd go all over town on a flat-bed truck, all dressed up in sailor suits.....usually it rained and we'd stay glued to the radio to hear the good news that the parade would be held. Great times were had in Bay St. Louis at the Federation camp, where we (boys and girls) would spend 6 weeks each summer. I recall one summer in particular when I got the mumps the week everyone was leaving and consequently had to stay in the Infirmary for quite sometime....it was so lonesome! While at camp, plans were always made to take groups in trucks....all decked out in "beach pajamas, as we called them.....to Biloxi or Gulfport, where we swam at a hotel, and had lunch. The long screened in porch at camp was a delight, particularly when it rained and the awnings were pulled up.....it was so cosy. We had a lot of chores at camp also, had a program of planned exercises daily, had to go in the awful water (crabs and sting-rays) twice a day, planned and performed in a variety of original shows....it was all a beautiful time in our lives!

I entered Isidore Newman Manual Training School as a freshman in High School and graduated in May, 1934.....we are having our 50th reunion May 4-5 of this year. I enjoyed these years at Newman, and could have had a scholarship to Newcomb, but decided that Soule Business School would be the best course for me to follow.....I really wanted to come back to Little Rock (why I certainly can't imagine, but suppose I was a bit homesick) Adele Cahn and I attended Soule after graduation for one year. I left the home in June, 1935 to return to Little Rock, where I lived with the Morris N. Ehrenberg family. I was not notified at the time that the Jewish Federation was paying for my board and was really mortified to accidentally find this out.....I remember that I received 6.00 weekly from my earnings as a stenographer at Rube and Scott Men's Store, and hastened to pledge \$2.00 weekly as my share! I eventually became office and credit manager and worked for them til I had Jim, Jr. in 1946. Prior to this time, married James B. Pfeifer ...and his wonderful family...and we've been together almost 46 years. I was the recipient of a dowry of \$100 from the JCH and was greatly appreciative.

The discipline, TLC, understanding and education that I received while in the JCH really shaped my future life....no doubt about it. I have no regrets, no shame about having lived there, and often share my experiences with my friends here in Little Rock. I feel that I acquired the necessary compassion and "know how" to cope with the trials of everyday life.....as a "professional volunteer", I can state this with all honesty.

HURRAH FOR THE JCH AND ALL THE KIDS IT GAVE
"Birth" TO!