

June 13, 1983, interview with Dr. Sam Hartman.

Dr. Hartman had asked to be telephoned at home for the interview. He and his identical twin brother entered the Home together in September, 1928, when they were between eleven and twelve years of age. They remained in the Home until June of 1934 when they were graduated from Newman School. Their mother was widowed and was a cripple, had only one leg. She was unable to care for the children and therefore placed them. Six months after the boys entered the Home their mother died and they were full orphans. The only relative he recollected was a maternal uncle who was a travelling salesman working out of Dallas. This uncle did come to visit them whenever he was in New Orleans and Dr. Hartman remembered with pleasure the Uncle would take them out to eat in various restaurants around town. Dr. Hartman remembered the Home as "very enjoyable" and thought that it had been an excellent learning experience for him both socially and academically. He said that the "social theories" that were part of the operations of the Home must have been revolutionary for their time. He could not be very specific about that, save that the boys and girls were permitted to engage in recreational activities together. He described Harry Ginsburg, the superintendent then as a very remarkable person, who though he had no education (Dr. Hartman believed that he did not complete high school) ~~he~~ was a self educated man with a very good understanding. Dr. Hartman described himself as having been ⁱⁿ "hot water" although he either did not remember or chose not to remember the reasons for his being in this status. The only recollection he ~~had~~ ^{mentioned} of getting into trouble was because he did not like to go to services on Saturday morning and would not arrive. As a result he got a number of demerits. Different numbers of demerits ~~are~~ warranted different kinds of punishments, mostly in regard to deprivation of special treats, such as the movies which ~~was~~ ^{were} sometimes held in the Home. If one had enough demerits he would not be permitted to go swimming. Dr. Hartman remembered walking to Audubon Park to swim in the pool there.

He also remembered with pleasure going to Bay St. Louis to the camp every summer. It was his impression that the camp had two sessions of six weeks each with half the

camp going to one and the other half going to the other.

He was with his brother a good deal although they did not share a bedroom. He commented that Mr. Ginsburg had changed the system from having all the children sleep in one big dormitory to single rooms and rooms of several children. Dr. Hartman remembers specifically the room up in the attic which he had shared with three other boys during his last years of high school. He did not remember much about any special celebrations in the Home. On Friday night he remembered they had egg twist and fish for dinner and that they[✓] were table cloths on the table, which was not true other evenings. On Mardi Gras they went to a special place where they could see the parade, but they were not permitted to mingle with the crowd. Dr. Hartman had several good friends while he was in the Home, one of whom, Maurice Garb of Baton Rouge, continue^s to be a good friend and they see each other frequently. He remembered also the Peters boy^s and Joe Samuels, but he apparently does not keep up with any of them.

Of the staff he remembered the housekeeper, Ms. Simone and her collie dog, Buddy, and her very good friend the dietitian, Ms. Josephson, who[✓] he described as being a large Swedish woman. He also remembered the nurse, Anna Kamin and Mrs. Sonia Berger Harry Ginsburg sister, whose function he defined as being "a big den mother." He also remembered Jack Margolin, who was a student at Tulane University and was the assistant director as well as remembering Bill Parker with special fondness. He said that all the boys liked Bill particularly and that the cabins at camp would vie with each other to see which one Bill would choose to sleep in when he came over to camp. He remembered then another student, a boy named I. J. Ewing, who was a great softball player and his sister, Sarah Mae Ewing. Dr. Hartman did have friends among the girls at the Home, but chose not to talk about them, saying that that was personal.

He spoke about the excellent education he had received at Newman School and also about his own activities there. He went out for all sports and was manager of several of the teams. He still seem^s proud of the letter he had received in sports at Newman School. When the boys finished Newman, they enrolled at LSU, Baton Rouge. They received

no help from the Home to get their college education and both had to do it on their own. He thought that he and his brother were probably the first graduates of the Home to become physicians. (Actually this was not accurate as there was another physician older than these two). Partly through the intervention of Jack Margolin, who took an interest in the boys, they had many people at LSU who were helping. He thought that perhaps the fact that they were identical twins made people more interested in them. He recalled that someone got them made "honorary citizens of Louisiana" so that they could go to school at the instate rate, which at that point was practically no tuition at all. When Dr. Hartman enrolled in LSU medical school, he came back to the Home to work as a counselor. He got free room and board in return for what he considered very light duty, mainly just supervising the study hall and making sure that the boys "didn't kill each other". Dr. Hartman met his wife through being a counselor at the Home. One summer he went to Bay St. Louis as counselor for the youngsters and his wife who was a nurse was substituting for Anna Kamin. They married shortly after meeting. Dr. Hartman's brother died in 1964. Concluding the interview, Dr. Hartman again spoke about what an excellent education he had received at Newman stating that it made LSU undergraduate school very easy for him.

He will be interested to get a copy of any publication which comes out of the collection of memoirs of former residents of the Jewish Children's Home.