

Lebanon Valley College®



Voices of Lebanon Valley College
150th Anniversary Oral History Project

Lebanon Valley College Archives—Vernon and Doris Bishop Library

Oral History of

Malcolm L. Lazin

Alumnus, Class of 1965
Board of Trustees *Emeritus*

Date: September 4, 2015

Interviewed by Art Ford

Professor *Emeritus* of English and Alumnus, Class of 1959

Transcribed by Stacie Allison

Vernon and Doris Bishop Library Technician

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Malcolm L. Lazin, Esq., '65, Board of Trustees *Emeritus* – Lazin is the founder and executive director of Equality Forum, a national and international LGBT civil rights organization. He is a former federal prosecutor, law firm partner, and commissioner of the Pennsylvania Crime Commission. In 2002, he established the Lazin Series in memory of his father, Dr. Norman Lazin '37, and in 2006, Lazin received the College's Distinguished Alumnus Award.

A: This is Art Ford. I am here in the Lebanon Valley College library. It's now September 4, 2015.

I'm here with Malcolm Lazin, graduate of the College, and also a member of the Board of Trustees for a period. And Malcolm, if it's ok with you, we'll probably...we might use some of this material in various ways. You don't have any objections to that, I suppose?

M: No. My consent.

A: Very good. Ok, well let's start then with information about your own background. What's your hometown?

M: Lebanon.

A: Ok. Your father and mother, what were their occupations?

M: My father was a physician, my mother was a homemaker.

A: Ok, and do you have any siblings?

M: Four siblings—three younger sisters and a younger brother.

A: And your high school? Lebanon?

M: Lebanon High School.

A: Lebanon High School. And when you were in high school, other than the academic side, were you involved in any extracurricular activities of various sorts?

M: Yeah, I was particularly involved in the ACA, which was a Jewish youth organization, so I had been president of that organization when I was a junior in high school, and then I became the president of the regional organization—Southeast Pennsylvania and Delaware—when I was a senior. So I would think of that as probably the most significant outside position.

A: And you, of course, went to Lebanon Valley College. Do you have any graduate degrees?

M: Yeah, I have a J.D. from Boston University School of Law.

A: Ok. How did you...you learned about Lebanon Valley College because you lived in Lebanon?

M: Well, not really. I learned about it because my father was an alumnus. And I think at some point he was—and I think actually, when I was in high school—he was the president of the Lebanon County LVC Alumni Association. And he always felt very close to Lebanon Valley because he was a first-generation American, grew up in the...during the Depression, so but for the fact that he could come here as a day student, he would not have been able to otherwise gotten a college education. That allowed him, obviously, to go on to medical school.

A: Did you think of going other places?

M: I think I applied to other places. I certainly knew that my father would be pleased if I went to Lebanon Valley College.

A: So you didn't really seriously look at any other schools?

M: I don't really...you know...today, you know, you hear about students going with their folks to a half-dozen colleges. I really don't remember having had that experience. Certainly Lebanon Valley. And I couldn't even tell you where else I applied.

A: Ok. So you got to Lebanon Valley. And we'll come back to your years at Lebanon Valley in a moment, but let's skip over Lebanon Valley. You said you got the J.D. degree. What did you do after graduation from...?

M: From law school...from law school. First job...well, I actually came back here to Lebanon County and clerked for Tom Gates, who was the president judge of Lebanon County, while I awaited the results of my Bar Exam. Actually, in between law school and taking the Bar Exam, I had had a student deferment, it was during the Vietnam War, so I ended up joining an Army Reserve unit. Happened to be quartered at Indiantown Gap. And so what I did, you know, basic

training and advanced individual training at Fort Leonard Wood. So that sort of took up six months. Then I took the Bar Exam. Then while I was waiting, I clerked for Judge Gates, who I'd actually clerked for between my second and third year of law school. And then, my first job was with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, their regional office in Philadelphia. I spent a year there as bond counsel for them, for their college housing program. Then was fortunate enough to get an opportunity to serve in the U.S. Attorney's Office, for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, where I got the opportunity to head up a couple of major federal grand jury investigations, which were very highly publicized by the Philadelphia Inquirer. And then left to go into private practice, you know, because of the notoriety and success of those investigations, had the opportunity to be the Republican candidate for district attorney in the city of Philadelphia, although I lost by three to two, although I registered four to one. It gave me a certain profile. I ended up then co-chairing Dick Thornburgh's citizens' committee when he ran for governor. Fortunately he won, and I served him in a number of capacities, one of which was the commissioner, and then the chair, of the Pennsylvania Crime Commission, which was the principal state agency at that time investigating organized crime. I was a litigation partner in a Philadelphia law firm. Ultimately because I'm sort of entrepreneurial by disposition, I left to be the president of a real estate development company that specialized in urban waterfront projects. We built the very first project on Philly's waterfront. Chair of the Philadelphia Waterfront Developers Council. We were responsible for—because the city wasn't really doing anything around this waterfront—essentially really doing all the infrastructure planning, which was considerable. And then ultimately, you know, after all that, I ended up

helping to found what is now called Equality Forum, which is a national-international LGBT civil rights organization.

A: Ok, and all of that started at Lebanon Valley College.

M: Well, certainly a lot of it started at Lebanon Valley College, in the sense that you could see my interest in organization at that moment in time, and I guess politics to some degree. So I was president of my freshman class from my freshman, junior, and senior year. I was president of the faculty-student council. I was vice-president of my fraternity, which was KALO. I think I started, believe it or not, the Lebanon Valley College Young Republicans. So those are some of the things that pop into my mind, but then I was involved with a lot of other, sort of, ancillary activities.

A: Well, let's go back to your days at Lebanon Valley College. You lived on campus.

M: Yes.

A: All four years?

M: Yes. My father was a day student. He insisted I live on campus. And not that I didn't want to live on campus, of course, I did. But that was important to him.

A: You were familiar with the campus then.

M: Oh yeah, I had come up here any number of times, certainly as a young high school student. I remember listening to WLBR and, you know, Howie Landa or Herb Finklestein, basketball team... We even had Herb and Howie over to our home for lox and bagels. I was very fond of [George] Rinso Marquette. My father introduced me to Rinso. I knew Dean [Clark] Carmean. So I knew a number of people here at Lebanon Valley before I matriculated here.

A: Did you start with a major?

M: Yeah, I originally started as a biology major and chemistry minor. Finished that way, because initially I had no idea what I wanted to do. I think I, apparently, understood my father would have been pleased if I had become a doctor. I think after my second year it was clear to me that this was not where my academic interests were. And so...but it was a little late in the game to change, and so...but I did take a lot of courses in terms of American history, history courses, and Alex Fehr in terms of political science, and so my interests really were clearly in that area, and that was where I found the most enjoyment.

A: So you mentioned Alex Fehr. I guess one of your favorite teachers, would you say?

M: Yeah, he was certainly one, and Dr. [George] Struble was another. Professor Lemon, who at that point taught history here, he was outstanding — James Lemon, I think, was his first name.

A: Yeah.

M: And he had a big influence on me, because he taught American history from the viewpoint of economic determinism, and so I had never been introduced to that before, and I think most people end up being taught kind of pabulum, and so it really helped to change my viewpoint. Certainly another course—it was one credit, but it had a big impact on me—was Dr. Struble's Word Study, which was Etiology, and...

A: And Time Magazine.

M: And Time Magazine, precisely. And somebody required us to read the New York Times, so sort of although my father, besides getting the Lebanon Daily News, would get the New York Times, so you know, it helped expand my universe. So those were certainly among the courses that had the biggest impact on me.

A: Well, during those times, what was it like on campus for you? Life in the dormitory, for instance?

M: Well, I think we were still in the, essentially, Dwight Eisenhower era, so things were still semi-Victorian in here. It was, certainly, jacket and tie for dinner. Very strict rules in terms of any, you know, other than maybe once or twice a semester, within a very short couple of hours with all the doors open, you know, men could not be in the women's dormitories or vice-versa. So it was a fairly rigid social order, and there was required chapel, and there was required religion. There was a very dominant EUB influence in terms of the school. So it was, you know, the school itself has changed remarkably, but it was very much a post-World War II atmosphere here.

A: What did you think of that at the time?

M: Well, I think what happens is you end up accepting things, although I would say to you that I had three major experiences during my undergraduate career. One was, I happened to be in Washington in the summer of 1963, and so I literally attended the March on Washington, and heard Dr. King give his famous speech. And I had already been interested in, at that point, you know, Negro civil rights, although it was a subject that was not a particularly burning concern here on campus. I think we had, maybe, five African...or five "Negros," of which I think maybe two of them were from Sierra Leone, so we may have had three American "Negros," and so there was very little in the way of diversity. Outside of that diversity, I'm sure we had a couple of people of Hispanic background. I'm sure we had a couple people of Asian background. But they were like, you could count all of them on maximum both your hands, you know. So it was a very homogenous place at that moment in time. Now I'm not saying that is remarkably

different than a lot of places—I would think it probably was similar to most colleges and universities at that time. Certainly women that were here at that time were the minority, as opposed to today the majority. And at that moment of time, they were here for one of three degrees—either a nursing degree, a teaching degree, or an MRS. And so it was a fairly rare exception to find women in majors outside of traditional roles that women were allowed to play during that time. Now, there were some exceptions, but that was the norm. And so I think the second thing that occurred was the fall, November of 1963, I was in chemistry in the laboratory, and heard that Kennedy had been assassinated. So I was so upset that I put my hand through a glass stemware, in chemistry lab, and still there's a scar from it. But what was surprising to me was that most other people didn't seem to react to that news. It was shocking to me. I actually went down to Washington and witnessed his funeral procession. I remember seeing Haile Selassie, who was the Emperor of Ethiopia—for whatever reason, he was a fairly well known, prominent guy. I saw Charles de Gaulle. And then I remember seeing Mrs. Kennedy with her children. The third thing that I remember, which I think is indicative of that moment in time, was as president of the faculty-student council, the College was thinking about what its next building would be, and my recollection was faculty were inclined to want a science building. The students, because we had no college union building—and the closest thing we had to it was Hot Dog Frank's—we wanted a college union building. And the Board of Trustees, which was then almost entirely Evangelical United Brethren ministers, wanted a church, which for me was, you know, the last thing the College needed, because we were already using a church which was right on the corner of 422, and so it didn't seem with all the needs the College had that that was a compelling need. So the faculty-student council took a vote on it,

obviously. And so, I was, as president, tasked to go in to see Fritz [Frederic K.] Miller, who was president of the College. Up to that moment in time, I had a very good relationship with him. I had met him through my father before I started at Lebanon Valley College. I didn't know him well, but certainly every time I saw him, he was very friendly and welcoming. And so, in a very diplomatic way, I told him, you know, I had asked for a meeting. I had no problem in getting the meeting. I told him that I was there on behalf of the faculty-student council—essentially really the students, the student body—and that we were interested and wanted him to know—I believe it was unanimous, honestly—that we wanted a college union building. At which point, he shot up in his chair, and he said, “If I wanted your opinion, or the opinion of the students, I would have asked for it. Good bye.” So I was really, truly shocked by all that. And of course, the College built a chapel. It's named, obviously, after Fritz Miller. So what happened was, once that became known, I, wanting ultimately for there to be a college union building here, proposed that we increase the student fee by—and I'm forgetting at this point the exact amount—we'll call it 15 bucks a semester, you know, whatever that amount was. And it would go into a dedicated fund for the erection of a college union building. And you know, believing that after a period of time there would be so much money there, it would force the Board of Trustees to do the right thing, from our viewpoint. And that ended up...and everybody who was on the faculty-student council knew, at that point, that if you're a senior you're certainly never going to see this building. And even if you're a freshman, you're never going to see the building. It passed by one vote. And you know, we have a college union building today. Obviously it's a building that's gone through renovation, and expansion. But you know, I think that was helpful. So now fast forward 50 years, and I'm at my 50th reunion this past June, I guess it was, or

whenever it was. And everybody sort of had an opportunity, if they wanted to get up and sort of give a recollection, and in passing I mentioned, “Oh, by the way, we’re in this, you may remember...” And one of my classmates, who was a ministerial student, and went on to become a minister, raised his hand, and he said... No no no, he saw me afterwards. He saw me afterwards, and he said, “I just want you to know, I voted against that.” Frankly, I couldn’t tell you who voted for it and who voted against it. And he said, “You were right, and I was wrong.” So anyway...

A: So all those years later...

M: All those years later, right, right.

A: It sounds like all those years later, it’s still a kind of topic. There’s a sort of rawness to it, even.

M: Yeah.

A: Yeah, it’s interesting.

M: But you know... But fast speed forward, when I joined the Board of Trustees... Now, I came in under...all of a sudden I’m forgetting his name...the president before Stephen MacDonald...

A: [John] Synodinos?

M: No, between Synodinos... [David] Pollick.

A: Oh, Pollick.

M: Pollick, right. But because of Synodinos, the board got restructured, so it was no longer ministers, and—now whether it was under Synodinos or it was under Pollick—we now had a faculty representative on the board, we now had student representatives on the board, and so

clearly a very different institution than the one that was governing this College, and certainly a different mindset in terms of the president of the College than what I had experienced.

A: Just going back to the campus at that time... You mentioned Civil Rights. Of course, the other burning issue at the time was Vietnam.

M: Yeah, although, it really wasn't. You know, when I graduated in 1965, while it was happening, there was not much in the way of any protest or any activity at that moment. It really...that started to heat up, actually, from certainly when I was in law school, which would have been '65 through '68. And I was in Boston, which in terms of the East Coast, you know, Boston...there was a professor at Boston University who was really one of the foremost leaders nationally. Certainly Boston, New York, and San Francisco, and that area who was certainly Berkeley in particular...were the leads in terms of the protest. But things...my first year in law school seemed to be pretty similar in terms of atmosphere. I remember hearing about marijuana when I was in Boston, in my first year in law school. Certainly not...had I heard of it? Yeah, probably had heard of it, but it wasn't something that people—at least that I was aware of—were using. In Boston in certainly '65-'66, people were starting to use marijuana fairly commonly. And then by '67 and '68, my second and third year in law school, Vietnam was front and center.

A: Before we leave your days at Lebanon Valley, anything else about those days that you would like to tell us about?

M: It really was a very different moment in time. If you wanted to have a beer, that was sort of a big deal. You know, people would sneak over to the athletic field to you know, share a quart of beer or whatever. Or some people had apartments off campus, but there was certainly a

rigidity about it. There were a couple of...there was one truly bizarre incident that happened—I think it was my junior year—where a freshman, I believe...yeah, I think he was a freshman...ended up dating a sophomore woman who was blind. And we used to then have finals not before Christmas, unfortunately (laughing)...they figured out a way to ruin Christmas for you. But if you came back, anyway, literally the evening when we came back, he...this young man...literally spooned out his eyes and severed his optic nerve, forever to be blind. And my freshman roommate Howie Jones, who went on to become a doctor, literally picked up his eyeballs, which were...he was a dorm proctor. So that was, you know, in terms of a jarring experience, that was obviously something that was very jarring. And then otherwise, I had a very happy experience here. It was...you knew everybody on campus, people were very friendly. Certainly, you...and I think the same holds true today...you had professors who genuinely were there because they cared about their students, and I think the College, in that sense, has remained consistent. And as I said from the start, it really reflected society at that moment in time. Perhaps slightly more conservative than you would have gotten if you were at Temple or Penn, but I'm not sure that it was that remarkably different.

A: Ok, well, let's go to your second life at Lebanon Valley College then. Your years on the board. You said you started under Pollick. What year would that have been?

M: I'd have to go back...it was probably, whatever it is, like 10–15 years ago, I guess.

A: Yeah, easily 15.

M: Yeah, because I think I was on the board either for one or two years before he departed.

And then...so most of my time on the board was with Steven MacDonald as the president. And certainly I joined the board because it was pointed out to me that with all the changes that

Synodinos had made, in terms of the board governance, and then how much the College had changed in terms of keeping up with changing times and in terms of just about every issue, and I was an openly gay person, and it was very clear that they were very welcoming of that fact. So there were a number of different things that got me reengaged in the College.

A: And how long were you on the board?

M: Well, I'm still on the board, so I'm *emeritus*. Yeah, I'm emeritus though, which means I'm a non-voting member, and it means I'm sort of, you know, "old fart status" (laughing).

A: Sort of like faculty *emeritus*.

M: Right, faculty *emeritus*, exactly. But I was on the board for a significant period of time.

A: Let's talk about that period then. What changes to the place during that time do you recall that you think were important?

M: Well, so certainly one, from a personal viewpoint, the College put into place a discrimination—or anti-discrimination policy around LGBT and so that was obviously sending a very positive message. They then included civil union benefits and, as it turns out, that then became hugely important, because when they were looking for, most recently, an academic dean, we selected Michael Green. As a matter of fact, interestingly enough, I think they interviewed, like, 50 people...brought it down to three, of which, one was lesbian, one was a gay man, and one was heterosexual. And they thought that Green was the best of the three candidates, and he ultimately made the decision to come here because of civil unions. Because he was in a long-term relationship, and so it's sort of interesting how those things end up working to the best benefit of the institution. And then I certainly was interested in issues in having overall diversity, so I would like to think I was very supportive of not defining diversity

only as African-American, but in a much broader sense. Not only across ethnicities, but also international and, you know, wanting to broaden the horizons of students here. So I think it's at least something that I was interested in. I was very concerned about...you know, we were running a business. And so...there were a lot of headwinds that it was very clear that we were facing. And so I was very interested in our expanding academic programs that would position Lebanon Valley not only in terms of making sure that we would meet our enrollment numbers, but that we wouldn't need to dilute the quality of students. I was also very concerned about increasing the national diversity of students—that we were way too dependent on several counties in Pennsylvania and southern New Jersey. So that was something that I would periodically raise. I certainly was supportive of the...now, two programs that we're...one is going to happen, but honestly I've been advocating it for the last eight years...is speech pathology, mainly because it's a program where, one, it pays very well from the get-go. It has a master's component, so like the physical therapy program, you can get into a graduate program. And there's a huge need for the program. And it's not, from a comparative way, an expensive program to get started. And I was fairly familiar with that program, because I had a family member through marriage, but a family member I was very close with, who helped to start that program at La Salle University. So she was there from the get-go, and had achieved national—and in fact, international—reputation. So I knew a fair amount about that. I also was pushing a physician's assistant, because that's a huge major direction, and again, huge need. In Florida, for example, for every one application...for every 100 applications, only one person's being admitted. So there is a huge need, and just this past week, I brought to the president and the board chair's attention that in an article in Philadelphia Magazine, the number one program in

terms of need and growth is physician's assistants. By far, in terms of projection... And that that would feed into building a health sciences program here that would...you know, another relationship that I was concerned about and wanted to try to enhance was that with the Hershey Medical Center. So, you know, there were a lot of different benefits along that line. And then, of course, I started the Lazin Series in my father's memory, which brought people onto the campus.

A: Well, explain that just a bit, for those 200 years from now that are listening to this.

M: So, it was a fairly simple concept, which is funding every year, bringing in...whether they're alumni or whatever, people who had distinguished themselves, and that would be good for the College in a holistic way for a number of reasons. So if that person had, hypothetically, distinguished themselves in chemistry, that person then could go in to—with the permission, obviously, of the professors—and they would teach a course or observe a course or co-teach a course, could be available to students who had that as their major for individual sessions or group sessions, could be also useful in terms of just speaking with chemistry faculty, et cetera, could be useful to the College in terms of bringing to the College people who they were interested in bringing them onto the Board of Trustees, or people that they were interested in in terms of from a development perspective. So there were a lot of different benefits. I think this past year was...I think it was the 15th annual Lazin Series. And probably at least a third of the board are people who served in the Lazin Series. So it turned out to be a very useful program for the College.

A: Before we leave that aspect of your life, anything else come to mind about your years there, or your contribution, or what you have observed with the Board of Trustees?

M: Well, I think what became useful was that by virtue of being here for the Lazin Series, it put me on campus. And so I would use that as an opportunity to sit in not only on classes I was just personally interested in, but a variety of different classes, just for me to get a sense of what was happening in the classroom. One of the things the Board of Trustees don't have the opportunity to do is to be a part of the true college experience. And then also to talk informally to professors and students about Lebanon Valley. And then that was very useful, because I could start to deliver messages that perhaps they didn't hear—the board didn't hear, or maybe the president didn't hear. And so I think that was meaningful. Or pass it on to the respective committee chair—"Oh by the way, this is something you might want to look at." And so I think that turned out to be a benefit that I ended up bringing to the board.

A: So you're happy with your experiences on the board, then, in general?

M: Yes, I mean, I wish I would have had more time to devote to it, and of course, being at a distance, it made my participation not as readily available. Because during most of that period of time I was very involved in Philadelphia, but I certainly tried to be as responsible in my commitment as I could be.

A: Yeah. A hypothetical question related to all of that. If someone gave you, say, two-three million dollars to give to Lebanon Valley College, and use it any way you want to, what would you say? How would you use a couple million dollars? What do you think Lebanon Valley needs the most at this point?

M: Wow.

A: Other than faculty salaries, of course (laughing).

M: Right (laughing), right. I think there are probably a number of different areas... Certainly more scholarship dollars for diverse students, I think, is helpful all the way around. Obviously, it helps the annual bottom line, but it also helps to make the College a much more diverse experience. That certainly would be one area. Certainly having a well-funded program for international travel, so that you help to offset at least some cost for students, because I do think that international travel helps to expand their perspectives. So I think that our students learn both in a formal way, in terms of the classroom—and I do think they are getting a quality education here. But I do think that they also learn from one another, so the more homogeneous the place is, the less that they're well-prepared to go into a very heterogeneous world. This is a very different world today than 50 years ago when I was here. Our model worked at that moment in time because it was a model that was set up for, essentially, white males and people pretty much dressing and thinking in the same way. You know, that just doesn't work today anymore. Recognizing that a lot of our students do still come from the central Pennsylvania area, part of our responsibility is to give them that diverse experience.

A: Well, as we wrap this up, let me ask a question I've asked everybody. And we've talked about what you did for Lebanon Valley and so on, but what is the importance of Lebanon Valley to you? What has been the importance of Lebanon Valley over the years? Starting as a student.

M: Yeah...first of all, one, I was a big fish in a small pond. It gave me the extracurricular experience that I had. So I've done a lot with that experience. I mean, I just gave you a little smattering, in terms of things that I did. But essentially, my contribution, whatever it might be, to society, is really where I have been able to come up with the notion that others generally have never thought about, and then being able to implement that. So Lebanon Valley gave me

a lot of good opportunity to be a community leader, and become a little bit more skilled in terms of organizationally, et cetera, and so I think while there was a demonstration of that while I was in high school, this certainly helped to expand all of that. Two, I think I got a quality education here, so I'm very grateful for that. Certainly in terms of Alex Fehr, I think we were supposed to be reading Time Magazine there also. So between George Struble and Alex Fehr, we were actually living in the broader world. So I think that certainly was very valuable to me, particularly at that moment in time where things were so insular. Certainly...you know, it's interesting, I was walking across campus, to come over for this meeting. And you know, a young man, passing, and you know, our eyes met. And I don't mean to say in a romantic sense (laughing). But we both said hello to one another. Now by the way, in Philadelphia you would never do that. And what it reminded me was, that's total protocol here. You know, a good reflection on Lebanon Valley. So, you know, you knew everybody, everybody said hello to you in the morning, you said hello back. There was, I would say, pretty much a genuine response. And so it was just nice to see that reaffirmed. And the other thing too that I think was a real reflection on the board, in a very positive way, was that I do think it was always about the student, what was best for them, what was in their best interest as we could best define it. So that it wasn't, you know, about a lot of other stuff. It was "Hey, here's who we are. Here's who we're here to serve." So, yeah, I always thought that was important.

A: I think that's a nice note to end on. And I thank you very much.

M: Oh, absolutely.

[Addendum Below]

Transcribed by Stacie Allison

Library Technician, Bishop Library

September 24, 2015

Addendum

A: Ok, we have a slight addendum that Malcolm would like here.

M: Yeah, so, my father was a day student here. He was here from 1933 to 1937. You know, and as I previously mentioned, first generation, and was here during the aftermath of the Great Depression, or I guess it was still going on at that point in time. Anyway, his dream was to be a physician, and so he was a day student, and he bicycled up here or would take the bus up here if he had a nickel. Anyway, when he got to his senior year, he applied to medical school. And he was rejected by all four of the medical schools in Philadelphia because he was a Jew. And at that moment in time, there was one Jew admitted to all of the medical schools in Philadelphia. Not even one per school—it was one for all of them, because there was a lot of anti-Semitism prior to World War II. He had as one of his good buddies in his Lebanon Valley College class, a fellow that had gone to Lebanon Catholic whose name was Pat Frank. And Pat was also rejected by the four medical schools because the assumption was, you know, like Anne Frank, that Frank was a Jewish name. And so whoever the chair of the pre-med program was literally wrote a letter to the University of Pennsylvania Medical School saying Pat Frank was not a Jew; he was a Catholic. His admission was reconsidered. He was accepted, went on to be a surgeon in Lebanon County. Fortunately for my father, the one branch of medicine that would accept Jews was osteopathy. So my father was accepted at Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine [PCOM]. And my dad told me that he lied on his application to PCOM, because the last question was, “Do you have enough money to pay for your first year?” and he knew that (laughing) the answer was “Oh yes, of course I have enough money to pay for my first year,” which of course he didn’t have at all. And so what my father did was he took his acceptance, and he wrote a

letter to the president—which by the way, I think I now have in his file—but he wrote—in fact, I’m sure I do—he wrote a letter to the president of Bethlehem Steel in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, and you know, at that point, Bethlehem Steel was the big employer here, both having a steel foundry here in Cornwall or mines, and saying that he wanted a job with Bethlehem Steel, because that was the best-paying job here at that moment in time, and he got a letter back, a copy of which was to the general manager for Lebanon County of Bethlehem Steel, suggesting that he hire my dad. My dad then went to work in the Cornwall ore mines, because that was the best-paying job, and that’s how he was able to fund his first year. What my father also did was he took some of that money that he earned that summer, and he invested it in what was then a new-fangled device called a vending machine, and he got permission from PCOM to place a couple of those vending machines in the lobby, and so every day he would go and replace the, you know, nickel candy, and that’s what then also helped to fund his education. Just sort of an interesting aside in terms of 1937.

A: That’s an interesting story, yeah. That is.