

**Interview with David Rosenberg**

**(Daughter is in the room but not on camera)**

**July 22, 2009**

**Berlin and Coos County Historical Society Moffett House Museum, Berlin, New  
Hampshire**

**Interviewer: Ken Turino**

**Crew: Josh Silveira**

Q: If you could say your name and spell your last name for us and then you can start your reading.

**0:28 – DR: OK. (Daughter: this is going to be on film Dad. They are making a whole documentary) OK. David Rosenberg and Rosenberg is R O S E N B E R G. Now in order for me to tell you the story of the Jewish people from the beginning I have to read this to you because it is knowledge that is probably a hundred and twenty years old and it is forty years prior to my birth. “So, now let’s go back to the year 1890 as it will tie into the building on Exchange Street, It was in this year that the first official Jewish services were held in the Hodgen block. Later the services were held at the home of Hyman Lewis while on high holidays the people worshiped in both the Buckley and Pickford halls on Mechanic Street.” Mechanic Street does not originate today. It is gone you know, done away with. “By the action of L.L. Friedman, Myer Edlestein, Moses Brown, R. B Lewis, Charles Brody, Nathan Abraham and others a charter was secured from the state and Beth Israel, thus the House of Israel came into existence on October 18, 1918. The Universalist Church operates from Exchange Street for over thirty years was purchased by the Jewish Faith for a synagogue. In a few years the congregation was able to pay the mortgage and the building became known as Beth Israel Congregation. It served the area for over sixty years. The first officers in Beth Israel were President L. L. Friedman and Secretary R. R. Lewis. Rabbis who served in the beginning years were H.L Green, David Arneson, Max Hoffman, Hyman Schrafman and Robert Bann, and Solomon Segal. Many other Rabbis came and went during the operation of the synagogue. By 1983 the Jewish Congregation was no longer operating in this structure and it was sold to the Baptist Church. Today as one drives by the square, people notice that a new sign now sits alongside this building which is over a hundred and twenty years old. It reads ‘Heritage Baptist Church.’”**

Q: Thank you. So that is the beginning?

**3:35 – DR: That is the beginning.**

Q: David, tell us were you born here in Berlin and when?

**3:45 – DR: I was born in Berlin in December 8<sup>th</sup>, 1929.**

Q: Where did you grow up?

**3:53 – DR: I grew up in Berlin New Hampshire until I graduated high school and I left for the service.**

Q: The area that you grew up in, which neighborhood was that?

**4:08 – DR: It was in Ward 1 of Berlin on Western Avenue. That is where I was born and spent the majority of my life and I reside there today.**

Q: When did your parents come to Berlin?

**4:26 – DR: I would say about seventy five years ago.**

Q: What business was your father in?

**4:47 – DR: My father when he was a young boy, he worked on the railroad as like a conductor you know, selling papers and stuff. He traveled as far as Groveton. That is where they first settled. Then later on they moved to Berlin because that job gave way and the railroad was changing hands and he went into selling clothes house to house. Him and my mother were selling stuff. My mother had to go to Portland(Maine) for different things to buy and while she was gone my father was loaning out more clothes and not getting paid for them and then the business started to go sour and finally he found employment in the pulp mill and he went to work there.**

Q: How long was he in the pulp mill?

**5:52 – DR: He was in the pulp mill probably for about I would say thirty years. He died at a young age at fifty seven and my mother was left alone with me and my other brother and most of the family were starting to go on their own.**

Q: What kind of work was your father doing at the pulp mill?

**6:18 – DR: He was working as a paper maker on paper machines.**

Q: At that time was that a major industry with a lot of work for people in pulp?

**6:29 – DR: Oh yes, it was a big major industry. It was starting to grow big in Berlin.**

Q: Now you said that you went to school here in Berlin?

**6:42 – DR: Yes.**

Q: Tell me a little bit, you told us a little bit about the history of the Jewish community, the early history. So, when you were growing up what was the Jewish community like?

6:58 – DR: When I was growing up I remember probably when I was in the, not the first grade I don't remember, I would say probably when I was going into the third and fourth grade in Berlin my mother used to say "Well, after school I want you to go down to the synagogue and go to Hebrew class." So when the school let out I would go down and the rabbi was there and he started to teach me the alphabet in Hebrew you know. As I was getting older my mother said "well, the day is coming when you are going to be confirmed in the Jewish religion." At the age of thirteen you become a bar mitzvah you know. My mother had a big party down stairs. She made the cooking and everything and I would say my mother was one of the best Jewish cooks in Berlin. Of course I came from a family of seven children and we had the bar mitzvah and it went along good. After my bar mitzvah I remember every Friday evening the Jewish people had stores on Main Street. They were open and they were in business and the synagogue needed what they call a minyan. You have to have ten men to hold a good service. So, I would get the call at the age after my bar mitzvah, "we need you, we need you." So, I would have to go there. Saturday morning I wanted to go out and play baseball with the other fellows and the phone would ring "would you come down? We need one or two more of you men down here." So, I went. That was part of my life there. Most of the Jewish people in Berlin owned stores. They were selling men's clothes. They had women's clothes and then we had a doctor here in Berlin who was Jewish. We had a butcher store. There were two butcher stores, the Rosenfields and there were other people were in different lines of business too. I left for the service in 1947 and the Jewish population was pretty large then. When I came back it was still doing good after five years and I settled back into the community. But I remember prior to when I was only six years old and seven my mother she was a Bullahbusta they called. She was hired to clean the synagogue you know because we were the largest family in Berlin. We were seven children. We were the largest and she put us on a sled in the morning and she would haul us down the synagogue because she had to wash the floors and clean. I would be next to the old phonograph they had on the stage downstairs and I would crank it up, crank it up and I would play them old hard disc records you know of Caruso and them while my mother was heating up the water to wash the floors and stuff you know. I remember them days and I remember the doctor, the Jewish doctor taking my mother there you know. I remember when you used to have a sale at the synagogue. They would call my mother and say "would you come down Mrs. Rosenberg? We need you to sell clothes you know how to sell, you know how to deal with most of the Gentile people." When they would sell clothes in the rummage sale the liked my mother because she would give them a good buy on the clothes you now. She knew how to deal with them because we knew them. When it came to cooking my mother got the call you know. "We are putting a party on, we need a cook" you know, so my mother done the cooking. They years went by and my mother grew older and my father died at the age of fifty-seven and then my mother passed away at the age of eighty-three. I think it was in, then it was 1983 I think the end came to Berlin. Most of the Jewish people

were closing their stores up on Main Street and they were moving out because most of their children when they left Berlin they never came back to settle. Some became FBI agents some moved on to new territory out west. When the last days came the families moved out, some went to California, some went to Arizona and some went to Massachusetts. Most of them all are dead now. They passed away. The only one that is surviving that left is my brother who lives in Andover, Massachusetts and he is close to ninety years old and he is in a state bad health. Today the only Jewish people that survive in Berlin are myself and my Brother who is two years younger than me. We are the last of the remains of people that are left for Berlin and the only people that are living here are me and him. We have two cemeteries. One cemetery is pretty well filled up and I hear them call it that cemetery the German Jew Cemetery (B’Nai Israel Cemetery) you know. Then we purchased a lot a little away from there and we have the Beth Israel Cemetery and that is where most of the people that I know in my era are buried there. That is just about the history of the Jewish people in Berlin.

Q: So when did the synagogue close? That was after the war. Was it in the Eighties?

**14:05 – DR: Yes it was closed in the Eighties yes.**

Q: Well, I am going to go back. You were talking about a lot of the Jewish business downtown and a lot of people have told us before the war and then right after the war downtown was really the place and a vibrant place. Can you tell us about your experiences downtown?

**14:32 – DR: Well, when I was going to school I worked for the Freedman people had a clothing store and asked me if I would come down after school and clean up and you know. They would go out for a smoke break and they would leave me in charge of the store. They were paying probably about twenty-five cents an hour. I would work probably work during the day three hours after school you know for them. There was quite a few people. There was you know the Winer’s, the Brody’s the Lewis’s the Nobosheks. The stores in Berlin were quite a few. Most of them were Jewish stores and after the big stores started to move in like the Wal-Marts and the big stores come in. The war ended, the boys came back from the service, they bought automobiles, and they began to travel to the cities and this cut down on the buying in Berlin. These big stores really drove them out and their children never came back here to stay. Today you know with the mill closed down and everything business is really gone.**

Q: So, when you came back from the war, what line of work were you in?

**16:12 – DR: When I came back from the war I got a job in the pulp mill, paper mill and I finally got a job on maintenance work. I worked in maintenance and I became a supervisor for years and I stayed there until I retired, over forty-six years. I retired there and I stayed here and most of the Jewish people just started to evaporate and they**

**moved out and they passed away. The older people passed on and younger people didn't stay. Today I am one of the last survivors of the Jewish people in Berlin.**

Q: Did you meet your wife in Berlin?

**17:01 – DR: She was a Berlin girl. I married her and we have an inter-faith marriage and we have no problems with it because I see no problems in any religion you know. You have to give and you have to take.**

Q: That is a good attitude. So, you raised your children in Berlin?

**17:23 – DR: I raised my children in Berlin and my daughter that is behind you she is a school teacher in the Chicago area. My other daughter lives out in Vermont and my other daughter lives in Berlin. She works for Wal-Mart.**

Q: What was the name of the pulp mill that you worked for?

**17:45 – DR: When I first worked it was called Brown Company. Then Brown Company later on they sold out to James River. Then James River came in and they liquidated a lot of the forest land that they bought you know. It was all a money deal. Then they sold out to Crown Vantage, but I retired under James River. Then Crown Advantage wasn't making a go of it and within a few ten years later the mill folded up and were torn down and liquidated.**

Q: What kind of change did you see in the town when the mills closed down?

**18:34 – DR: Oh, it was quite a big change. The jobs were lost and lots of people started to sell their house and move out because they had to find work elsewhere. Main Street became very small. The stores were closing up and they are closed up today. Part of it is pretty well gone as far as the stores clothing stores, grocery stores. Big chain outfits moved in and took over.**

Q: You worked for the mills and we have been talking to a lot of people and we were asking them about the importance of the river to the town. Did the river have a special resonance for you? What did the river mean to Berlin? What did it mean to you?

**19:28: From the beginning it meant, from the beginning of the mills it meant a big asset. It was the river, because they could drive their logs from the lumber camps that were up in Maine. They would cut all winter long and then in the spring of the year the wood was piled up you know. Then they would drive it down the river and then it would come into the pulp mills. From there it would go onto conveyors and then through big barker drums and the wood would be chipped up and cooked and then they made it into pulp and then into paper. One time during World War I we were making the only chloroform there was for the Army here in Berlin, one of the biggest.**

Q: I did not know that. I like to ask if you have any special stories that you would like to tell us about either your work in Berlin or growing up in Berlin? You told us some good stories about growing up Jewish but are there some other stories that you would like to tell us? Do you have a favorite one you tell your kids or your grandkids? (long pause) That is OK we are not trying to put you on the spot.

**21:11 – DR: I am trying to think back you know? I am trying to refresh my memory.**

Q: Well, we might ask your daughter that if her father had any special stories so, I am giving you a prep! (daughter: Thank you) (laughs)

Q (Josh): I have a question. Could you tell us what was life like working in the mill? What was the day to day routine? Do you remember any specific story working in the mill? Perhaps when you heard that the mill was going to be closing?

**21:41 – DR: Of course working in the mill you know there weren't many Jewish people working in the mill. Most of the Jewish people were business people you know. When I went into the mill most of the younger people knew me you know. I started at a young age so I was dealing with the older age people and they always regretted seeing a younger person coming in. Being of the Jewish faith they knew me and of course once in a while we would get a little heavy language back to each other which it didn't bother me because if they could throw it I could throw the ball back. That is the way it worked. As soon as they found out what kind of ground I would stand on they would leave me alone and they came to honor me more. I got involved in working and I got involved within the unions you know and with the International. Then I went onto the negotiating committees for the union for contracts. So, everything seemed to work its way out you know. As the older generation were dying off and the newer generation came in they began to be more familiar with the different religions you know. They knew I was Jewish and it didn't bother them and I knew they were Catholic and I honored them. So, we knew each other you know? That is the way it went.**

Q: Were you saying that the older generation you said when you were younger, was it because you were Jewish?

**23:42 – DR: Oh yes. When you were younger in them years it was bad. They would call you different names you know? They didn't mean it, Maybe it came from their parents. You know their parents came from Canada and all over you know and they were very religious people and you know with the Catholic religion and some of the Protestants it is quite a difference in believing you know. They didn't think what ours was right. They were right and we were wrong. After they died off the younger people got more broad-minded. Then the war came and the soldiers went off to war. They got into the cities, they met people and then they came back and said "oh, you know my parents lied to me. They didn't tell me everything. It isn't that bad." So, that is how it was.**

Q: I am really curious, we haven't talked to many people about the unions and you said you were very involved. Could you tell us a little bit more about the unions? Were there also strikes that went on? Was there division?

**24:58 – DR: Oh, yes. When I first got in the union we had one of the big strikes you know. Prior to that strike they had big, they had a big strike up here where the company brought in some strike barriers you know and they were trying to break up the local unions. They had to call in the National Guard to break it up but it worked out after a while. I was on negotiating committees and bargaining. We had strikes that would probably last a week or two weeks at the most but it all got settled down. I never knew of destroying any company property or nothing to that you know. There were striker words and stuff like that and everything got settled down. We went back to work and that is how it was.**

Q: Where were the union offices located? Do you remember?

**26:03 – DR: They were over on Main Street.**

Q: Were there a number of different unions or was there mainly one for the mills?

**26:13 – DR: There was one for the mill.**

Q (Josh): You know when you said first it was the Brown Company then the James River Company and Crown Vantage, and then it started to slow down and lay people off. Could the company have avoided closing? What caused this incredible giant of a company to close?

**26:45 – DR: Well, you know after the war you remember Europe was in a turmoil you know and then they were in the business of rebuilding. When they were rebuilding they were making pulp, they were making paper, they were making writing paper, toilet paper you know and everything else commodity. They were putting in new modern machinery you know. Our machines were small. They put in one machine that would take care of four or five of ours and would hire less people and they were competing on the market. We weren't investing in Berlin. We had old machines. We weren't investing no money. Then when they sold out, when James River came they saw timber land here, vest timber land regions you know and they bought into the company and they became known as James River. After three or four years they started to sell off the timber land you see. They made money there. Then they withdrew the towel division and they took it with them. They made a big chunk of money there and then they turned it over to Crown Vantage. Then Crown Vantage got it and then they turned it over to this Jewish family. They came from Iran and they manipulated the mill here. They would make the pulp and paper but when you got your paycheck and you went to the bank the banks wouldn't cash it. They had a big problem there. So, then the mills closed down for a year or more until that thing was settled and then it started back up.**

An outfit in Canada bought all the hydro plants and they bought the rest of the mill here and they called it Fraser. All of the river dams that produced electricity was known as the Brookfield. See, they bought it for I don't know, six or seven million dollars. They got a steal on it you know today with the power that is generated with the electricity. Then they sold off, they had a salvage company come in and sell off all the Burgess Plant off and tear it down and liquidate it. Today there is only two paper machines that is operating at the Cascade. So, there is not many jobs in Berlin, you know. Prior to the mill they had a Converse Tennis up here. One of the first and they hired lots of women, hundreds of women. Everybody's wife was working there. Everybody had two incomes coming in. Everybody was driving cars and had camps. They were really thriving. Then one day they struck, they went on strike. It lasted a couple of weeks and then Converse gave in, but a month later there was big trucks rolling in and undoing the machinery and taking them out and that was the end of Converse. Hundreds and hundreds of jobs were lost.

Q (Ken): And when was that?

30:29 – DR: That was back in the early sixties I think it was. Sixty-seven right around there. Converse was non-union then they became unionized and then the company said "alright we can deal with them." Then came the question of you wanted more money and the company just said no you know. That was it. Like I told you, Europe was coming into the market big. They were building up and were getting over the war and they were competing. These manufacturers they were going overseas. They were getting tax breaks and everything else and that is where the work was. You know you could see it all over the country. The steel mills went down you know and the ship yards went down and the aircraft factories weren't producing so much. So, instead of becoming producers in this country we became a service country you know. That is how it is. In Berlin today we are less than ten thousand people. At one time we had I think a population of thirty thousand or more. After the spring drives, after the rivers were full of logs and the lumber men came down from their camps you know they hit every bar in Berlin. Every other place was a bar in Berlin to drink. Then you know they had two theatres there. I remember growing up and my mother gave me a dime she said, 1938 I think it was, she said "go to the Albert Theatre. Shirley Temple they are showing" you know. A big line waiting outside to wait to get in. Saturday afternoon she would give me ten cents and five cents for candy and off you would go to the theatre and you would watch the cowboys; Charles Starr, Bud Jones, Tom Mix, and that was part of the life growing up.

Q (Josh): Besides the movies, what else did you do for fun? Did you go in the woods? Did you play games with the neighborhood children? Hide and go Seek?

32:58 – DR: We played games with the neighborhood children and we went down to the old swimming pool with no life guard or anything. Just the reservoir and that is where we

played you know. In the winter months we had a pair of old skis with elastics to hold our feet in and we would ski on the slopes and we would slide on the hills because in 1938, '39, '40 I don't remember plowing the snow on the roads. We would slide on the hills and stuff like that.

Q: You were talking about, you keep mentioning 1939, what was the Depression like in Berlin. Was the town really affected?

Q: Well, during the Depression you know I was just a young boy at the time you know. I remember the people they had where the old Notre Dame School was they used to call the Burgess School. The government was giving out food you know. People who were low income people would take their sleds or their carts and they would go up there and they would get food you know to carry them over. The government subsidized programs to get it. Until the 1939, I remember 1939 when there was no work and the era of Franklin Delano Roosevelt came into power and he formed the NYA then he formed the CCC's. When the CCC's started two of my brothers joined up and they went off to the CCC. One ended up in Denver, Colorado and the other ended up here in Gale River down here in New Hampshire outside of Bethlehem. They stayed there for a couple of years until 1941 when the Germany war broke out with Japan and Germany and both of my brothers got drafted. My oldest brother when he graduated school you know my father wasn't making too much money and my mother had three or four children then. So, when he graduated school I heard my mother tell him she says "we can't buy you any shoes." So, he said "we will put a piece of cardboard on the bottom and cover up the holes and you have to graduate that way." So after graduation he joined the service and he stayed there for thirty years. He never got out. After thirty years he had to get out and he came back to Berlin and he lived here the remainder of his life and then he passed away. My other two brothers they were drafted and went off to the service. One of my brothers happened to liberate one of the German prison camps Buchenwald, you probably heard of Buchenwald. He was there liberated that. He came back and he got a job here with public service and he worked for them until he retired. My other brother was a cook. He was I called him the Chef of the Benyon. He went to New York and he settled down in New York City and cooked there for the remainder of his life. Then I grew up and graduated and I went in the service and my other brother, so most of us were military people you know. I had two sisters. One lived in Buffalo. She worked for General Motors for years. She is up close to being ninety.

Q (Ken speaking to daughter): Is there anything from your perspective I should ask him about? Daughter: My perspective? I don't know that is tough.

Q (Josh): Do you want to conduct part of the interview? Daughter: What about you and the brawls you had with Lenny Davis?

**38:05 – DR: Oh growing up we always had a little brawl with people you know?**

Q (Ken): Oh yeah? What was it about?

**38:10 – DR: It wasn't about nothing. We happened to be in school on a wood project you know and he would mouth off and we started a little fight, but it was never nothing there you know because I remember coming back from Grenier Air Force Base. I was driving up through the mountains and I see this fella' hitchhiking along the road you know. I passed him by then I said to myself "Jeez that is Lenny Davis." I backed up and said "Come on get in the car I'll give you a ride home." I took him home to his mother. It was nothing serious. I was just a child.**

Q (Polly): Dad, you talked about the military remember about Danny? Aunt Betty's son?

**39:07 – DR: My nephew Danny Albert he was going to school and he was one of the head drummers in the state. He could really beat them drums you know. So, the Vietnam War was going on and he had the notion he wanted to join the Army. I said "don't go in Danny. Don't go in it is dangerous you know." He was determined he wanted to go. Well he went and he came home on leave and I talked to him and when he left he went back to Vietnam and he got killed. He was blown up by a grenade and he came back and he was the first Rosenberg casualty in Berlin, Rosenberg you know. Then my brother's daughter's son he just got married and he wanted to go in the service so I said "if you are going to go in the service go in the Air Force. Don't go in the Army. Go in the Air Force or go in the Coast Guard you know. He went in the Army and he went over to Iran and within six months he got killed, a bomb blast. He was one of the Rosenberg's that was first in Berlin. The only casualty in that war. Then my daughter put twenty years in the service. She was over in the Gulf War.**

Q (Ken): We will ask her about that. So, with Vietnam for example that is really a sad story. What was the feeling in Berlin about the war, about the Vietnam War?

**41:03 – DR: Oh people were strong against it, everybody against it. I couldn't see being a military man how we could win it, way so far, and I can remember Lyndon Johnson, McNamara you know, it really aggravated them. I think that's when Lyndon Johnson never ran again for President you know, because of all these casualties. They just didn't know how to get out of it until Nixon came in and ended the war.**

Q (Ken): And that is another whole story.

**41:46 – DR: Yes. (laughs)**

Q (Ken): Now how did you feel when your, obviously your family has a strong background with the military. How did you feel about your daughter going into the military and going to Iraq?

**(Daughter) I went to Saudi Arabia.**

**42:05 – DR: I felt going into the military at the time, she wanted to, she didn't go to college, was a good...if you are going to go in make a career you know. When she went in after the first enlistment she was making good and after the second she was doing very good. Going to Iraq was a little worrying because sometimes she would call me in the morning and when she called from Iraq it would be three in the morning. Her concern over in Iraq was the SCUD missiles. She said when they come over she never knew where they were going to land. It seemed to bother her and it worried us until the war ended.**

Q: One of the questions that we ask people about, you have lived here basically your whole life and we like to ask people what there is in Berlin that needs to be preserved? What do you want to see preserved for future generations?

**43:21 – DR: Well, you would have to preserve the wood lands. Without the wood lands there would be no Berlin. Without clean water, the river taken care of there still wouldn't be no Berlin. SO, you have to see that that is taken care of, and the quality of air here with the mills gone is really a big plus. So, now we live in a good healthy region and it is quiet up here. I don't see a crime wave that is as great as a city is. I think people are more, they are grown up. They are more mature. We see inter-mixed marriages and people begin to understand each faith and there is no barrier in it. I haven't heard any name calling in years up around here you know. So, it is a pretty healthy place up here to live. I wouldn't want to live in the city. I lived in Manchester when I was in the service at Grenier Air Force Base. It was a nice city, quiet, you could walk around. Today you have to lock your doors and crime waves. I would rather live up here where it is quiet.**

Q (Josh to Polly) Do you have any other questions that you thought of?

Q (Polly) Dad What about you were in Boy Scouts?

Q (Ken) Boy Scouts? You are smiling you must have a good story!

Q (Polly) I didn't know this until about ten years ago. You were an Eagle Scout he was in honors society.

Q: Those are good stories! You are smiling here. I would love to hear about the Boy Scouts. No one else has told us about that.

**45 :26 – DR: Well, I grew up and I was going to school and I always wanted to be a Boy Scout. What troop am I going to join? There wasn't too many. So I remember I joined Troop 201, the American Legion. We grew there. We had scout leaders, we worked for merit badges. You become a Tenderfoot then you become a First Class and a Star Scout. Then you work for a merit badge and you become an Eagle Scout. We all worked our way up there and we would go on Camporees and sometimes where the old CCC Camps were down on Moose Brook. I would tell my mother "well I am going**

there for overnight” about four or five of us. So, she would pack up a lunch and give me a couple of canned goods and a knapsack and I think a sleeping bag and we would go down there. We would take the trolley in them days down to Gorham and then hike up into the old CCC camps and stay there. That was until I graduated school that was mostly time in the Boy Scouts. I used to go over, we used to have state camporees.

Q (Ken) Was Boy Scouts a big thing here in Berlin? Were there a lot?

**46:49 – DR:** Oh yes, at the time yes. There was quite a few troops, probably I would say four that I know of. Then they had the Girl Scouts and then later on most of my fellow men, the guys, joined the Knights of Columbus. Knights of Columbus was big in Berlin. Knights of Columbus were mostly Catholic boys that joined you know. I had the opportunity when I was working. A fellow approached me and says “Dave, would you join the Masonic Lodge?” I said “can I get in?” He said “well, you can apply and if you are blackballed you won’t get in.” So many balls get into the vote. SO, I joined and I was accepted and I got into the Masonic Lodge and I worked my way up and became a 32<sup>nd</sup> degree Mason and now I am affiliated with the Gorham Lodge and I am affiliated with the Lancaster Lodge and I am affiliated with the Littleton Lodge and that consists three of New Hampshire’s you know. They are a nice bunch of men. I would go to Lancaster, I don’t go no more because I don’t drive that far, have supper you know and different things. I met lots of prominent people. I really up in...people that I never knew were Masons really carry a lot of weight.

Q (Ken): Was the Masons a big group here?

**48:29 – DR:** Oh yes. In Berlin it was oh yes. It was a big group and most of the people that were in the Masonic Lodge were the lots of Norwegian and Swedish people and there were some Danish people you know. They were in the Lodge.

Q (Ken): Where was the lodge?

**48:47 – DR:** In Berlin? It was up on I think right off of Washington Street up around there. But, the Lodge got smaller and they had the Gorham Lodge was getting...so we affiliated and now we have the Gorham Lodge. Then my daughters they belong to that girls group in the Masonic Lodge, I forget the name (Polly: Rainbow Girls) Rainbow Girls.

Q (Polly): Ask him about Friday night downtown when I was a kid.

Q (Ken): Your daughter said to ask you about when she went down on Friday nights to downtown. You would go down too?

**49:42 – DR:** Oh yes because Main Street was open. All the stores was open, business was blooming. Everybody in Berlin seemed to be going on Main Street on Friday night. The stores were open, they were doing their shopping, you meet people, you stop in the five-and-ten, you have a soda or you have a hamburger, whatever you want on it. You

would talk about the good times you know. It was a good era at the time. You had Newberry's, remember the Woolworth's, Grants all the big stores were there in them times. When they died out, when Grant's left, when Newberry's left Woolworth's closed and the Jewish stores went out Berlin Main Street went poof. That is how it went. The good times were gone. Not everybody owned a car and that is where we went.

Q: This has been good. This has been helpful. You gave us some good stories.

50:57 – DR: I remember when my brother Carl was younger you know and he was going to high school and stuff Artie Shaw used to come up here, Benny Goodman, Glen Miller Band they were all down in Shelburne. They would go all to the dances down there. There were big times then. Then they came to Old Orchard in Maine. They were there too. That was the time of the Rag Time Music, all that music. They were really good bands. Today music is all different; new generation new music.

Q: Did you ever hear of the Short Twins?

51:41 – DR: Yes. The Labnon twins, I went to school when they were going. I remember them on TV. I think they were on Ed Sullivan's Show one time. You clapped. Whoever made the most noise on the Ed Sullivan Show won and I remember them coming on and we used to say "I hope lots of Berlin people are going." But they were out clapped and somebody else won. I remember watching them on that. It was quite a thing the two brothers. In high school I used to go to assemblies and at the assemblies they used to sing you know. They were good boys.

Q (Ken): We actually interviewed one of them right before you.

52:38 – DR: Is that right?

Q (Ken): Yes, he just left before you came.

52:42 – DR: His sister and my sister Emily, well that was his aunt probably, they were great friends, the Labnon's were great friends. They had a store on Main Street too, the Lebanese people. Very nice people.