

Interview with Ed Caine, Oct. 3, 1997

[Mike Maidenberg visited Ed, who was in an assisted living facility outside Philadelphia. He was articulate and forthright, but at times seemed confused.]

I was born in 1902. I think my father's name was Hirshel. He died in 1902.

David [Maidenberg] was Haika's favorite nephew. She visited him often in Indiana. I would take her to the train station at 30th and Market.

David was tall [actually of only medium height--his sons were tall], handsome, always stood up straight. He was well dressed, with pants creased. His shoes had to be shined.

When he walked into a room or down the street, people noticed. They would say, that's Haika's nephew.

He met a man and decided to go out west. He started a dry goods store, did well. He was an honest man, upright. You could trust his word.

Haika sold things on the installment plan. She sold shifskarten [tickets for travel by ship], later furniture and pianos.

She [knew about this because] she and Anna [her daughter] were approached by a woman who said, Do you have a piano for that little girl? I'm going to put a piano in your apartment. You can pay for it, \$1.00 a week.

Haika did this for furniture, everything. I was the collector. I would go out on Sunday morning.

Haika's father was a miller. He bought and sold wheat in Dzygivka. Haika was born in Dzygivka. She was the only one of her family to come over.

There was a corporation [Ed pronounced it, "kapperation"] that met on Monday night. There were 10 or 15 men who put in \$500 apiece, then loaned it out.

David would come back to Philadelphia, buy dry goods from Rosen's at 4th and Spruce. He would stay with Haika.

Haika was strictly kosher. So was I.

Haika and my father had two children, Anna and me. Later Haika remarried and had three children, the twins Ben and Kenzie, and Dorothy.

Haika would get letters from the old country, I don't know from whom. She would discuss them, share them with others.

[As Mike took his leave, Ed looked at him intently. "I see you and I see David."]