



City of Alexandria
Office of Historic Alexandria
Alexandria Legacies
Oral History Program



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Abstract: Ben Hayman was born in Alexandria to parents who had emigrated from Eastern Europe. His parents owned property and sold goods on King Street in downtown Alexandria. Ben Hayman, his wife Betsy, and his son Jimmy owned and/or operated several stores in different neighborhoods of Alexandria, including downtown, Del Ray, and Arlandria. Ben and Jimmy Hayman talk of the many different types of stores in Alexandria that attracted customers from as far away as Manassas when Alexandria was the major shopping destination for Northern Virginia. They describe the effects of Urban Renewal on the city, as well as the effects of the establishment of malls at Bailey's Crossroads and Landmark. The City of Alexandria took special note of the Hayman family's contributions to the city, including the annual fashion show benefiting Alexandria Hospital.

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Introductions	
Ben Hayman:	[Tape is running, but interview has not formally started.] In Alexandria. I went there about three or four years ago. You know, I have a hat there.
A.H.:	I saw it yesterday at the Lyceum.
Ben Hayman:	That hat was somebody bought in antique shop, someone was in the antique shop and he saw the hat and a round box of Hayman's of Alexandria on it and they bought it and they made a case and he put it inside of the case, he also put an ad for the hat in the Gazette and it had a little story about me and my father.
A.H.:	Oh yeah, I saw the ad there too, that's great.
Unidentified speaker:	Oh, that's nice.
A.H.:	Okay, so shall we start? And am I coming out good on there too?
Growing Up in Old Town	
Ben Hayman:	Way back when I was about five years old, my brother was seven, we lived right across the market, 118 North Royal Street. And, in the front part of the market, was the meat market and groceries and things of that type, behind there was bins where your farmers brought their produce and anyhow, but they were overrun with flies. And City Council decided that they were gonna have a contest, who can kill the most flies will have picture taken. So my brother and I both new lovely people in the market and they all said they would kill flies for me, so we had flies by the gallons.
A.H.:	Oh my gosh.
Ben Hayman:	So my brother and I won first prize and this is the first picture of the prize we won.
A.H.:	Oh my gosh.
Ben Hayman:	This is me, this is my brother.
A.H.:	And your brother's name is?
Ben Hayman:	Ruben.
A.H.:	Oh okay.
Ben Hayman:	He died.
A.H.:	Oh, was he older than you?
Ben Hayman:	Yeah, two years.

A.H.:	Oh, this is a great picture. Was this after that contest?
Ben Hayman:	Yeah, the week after, they used a photographer named Jamison. We went to him and he made the pictures up and charged the city for them.
A.H.:	We are gonna take picture of these, and are some of these things that we could take temporarily to scan into the computer?
Ben Hayman:	Yes, except one thing.
A.H.:	I can bring them back.
Ben Hayman:	Okay. When I was there, I had a book on Alexandria, History of Alexandria, and the author gave my son a book. What was his name, do you remember? You know what I am talking about?
Jimmy Hayman:	Huh?
Ben Hayman:	That book that had everything in Alexandria about it? You don't remember. Anyhow, I have looked all over that book and I asked all my friends that I loan them to, and I slightly remember saying, would you to like to borrow it. And I think they had one copy, but they said yes, and I'm not sure now, but I tried every friend I have and they don't have it. So would you ask if they have it when you go there?
Jimmy Hayman:	Certainly will.
A.H.:	Okay.
Ben Hayman:	It's called Alexandria. It's a wonderful book with pictures of everything.
A.H.:	Okay, was it from the Lyceum or—
Ben Hayman:	No, he.
Jimmy Hayman:	Somebody did, the history of the city with photographs. Pictures of everything there.
Jimmy Hayman:	I think, it was a white, if I remember correctly, it was a white-covered book.
A.H.:	We'll check on that then, okay.
Ben Hayman:	Later on, when I got a little older.
A.H.:	Yeah.
Ben Hayman:	We had another contest and we won again.
A.H.:	Oh did you? It was the same thing, the catching of the flies at Market Square?
Ben Hayman:	At Market Square.

A.H.:	Oh okay.
Ben Hayman:	We got [five bottles of millions?].
A.H.:	Look how handsome you both are. Such handsome guys, yeah, and was he your only sibling, Ruben or did—
Ben Hayman:	Ruben was my only brother, but I have got a son and a daughter and four grandchildren and I have three great-grandchildren. Most of them are up there except my daughter is in Florida and one of my granddaughters are in Florida. And her daughter, she only has one child, and she just graduated college, she is going to law school. She is a very smart girl. There is a story about my daughter, too, I mean about my granddaughter.
A.H.:	Okay.
Ben Hayman:	She, her husband decided he wanted a divorce, she helped put him through school, well I will get to that later. That's part of another story.
A.H.:	Oh, okay. All right, did you want to go through the pictures then now, or—
Ben Hayman:	I'll show you some pictures.
A.H.:	Okay.
Ben Hayman:	This is a picture of my wife.
A.H.:	On the right?
Ben Hayman:	Right.
A.H.:	Oh how pretty. Very pretty, and are you in this picture too?
Ben Hayman:	Yeah.
A.H.:	Oh, where, I'm not—
Ben Hayman:	Over there.
A.H.:	There you are.
Ben Hayman:	See this is my cousin.
A.H.:	Uh huh.
Brother Ruben and the University of Virginia	
Ben Hayman:	And this is my brother. And his wife.
A.H.:	Oh, okay, and was your brother in business?
Ben Hayman:	Yeah.
A.H.:	With you too?

Ben Hayman:	Yeah, but he really wasn't a merchant. He was a football player, he was a great football player. And when I got married my father made me leave school and go to GW [George Washington University] because he promised my father, GW promised my father that he would give my brother everything underneath the sun if he could play football there. And—
A.H.:	And it was GW?
Ben Hayman:	He didn't want to go for anything; he wanted to stay in Virginia. And so we all went, my son, myself, and my brother. He went to practice and dislocated his shoulder and never did play.
A.H.:	He was gonna play for a college? Is that it? GW?
Ben Hayman:	He played for the University of Virginia.
A.H.:	Oh, University of Virginia.
Ben Hayman:	He played under "Greasy" Neale. Y'all don't know Greasy Neale, but Greasy Neale was a great coach. And he left Virginia and went to Philadelphia and coach professional, you know, the Eagles for a number of years.

How Ben Met His Wife	
A.H.:	Where did you meet your wife?
Ben Hayman:	That's another story.
A.H.:	Oh is it?
Ben Hayman:	A group of fathers, Jeffrey, were you with us? No I don't think so. When I meet Betsy.
Jeffrey:	Hardly.
A.H.:	Oh you were there.
Ben Hayman:	My brother was with me and a couple of friends. In Washington is a place known as Hong Kong Lo. That was a Chinese restaurant on the second floor and it had the best Chinese food in the whole city of Washington, but it was a rough street, Ninth Street. And burlesque shows and every night was something on that street, so we went up the steps and at the top of the steps, sailors and soldiers were dancing and my brother says, "See that girl sitting there? I dated her once." So I says, "Go ask her for a dance." He goes. "Are you crazy? She is with a guy." I says, "So what?" I am called one of those smart-alecks, you know? "If you don't ask her I am going to ask her." He says, "You wouldn't dare." I said, "Hell I wouldn't." So when the music started, I walked over and said, "Would you like to dance?"

	And the guy before she had a chance to say anything said, “She’s not dancing.” And she looked up at me and said, “I am not dancing this dance but I will dance the next one.” So we danced and that started a friendship. Then we dated for a while and we decided to get married. I am twenty and she is eighteen. We ran off to Baltimore and got married. I was going to continue school and she was going to continue working in the government.
Ben Hayman:	I came home the next day and Leroy Bendheim—I don’t know if you have ever heard of Leroy or not. You familiar with the city?
A.H.:	Oh, I, no.
Jimmy Hayman:	Leroy Bilton?
A.H.:	I have seen that name. Leroy Bill.
Jimmy Hayman:	His father.
Ben Hayman:	He was in Baltimore the next day and he saw it in the paper.
A.H.:	Oh, my gosh.
Ben Hayman:	He comes home and he tells his father. His father tells.
Jimmy Hayman:	No no no no, his father was in Baltimore.
Ben Hayman:	Huh?
Jimmy Hayman:	His father was in Baltimore.
Ben Hayman:	No, he was in Baltimore.
Jimmy Hayman:	All right.
Ben Hayman:	He tells his father, his father comes and tells my father. And my father looks at me and says, “Ben, are you married?” I couldn’t lie. I said, “Yes, sir.” He says, “You too damn young to be married, you are only twenty years old, but if you think you’re old enough to be married then you’re old enough to go into business. He took me out of college and took my brother out of college at the same time and opened up this little variety shop, carrying everything underneath the sun. And he owned a building that’s another story, he owned a building on the 500 block of King Street.
A.H.:	Your father owned the building?
Ben Hayman:	Yeah.
A.H.:	On 500 King?
Ben Hayman:	Yeah, Jimmy, is the pictures still there? Have to be.
Jimmy Hayman:	Not in this group.
Ben Hayman:	Well, I’ll show you the picture when I get a hold to it. I know it’s

	there. Do you see it? Well, I'll get to it in a minute.
A.H.:	And where did he, he bought a store for—
Ben's Father Comes to the United States	
Ben Hayman:	Let me tell you about my father. My father lived in a little town, Lafayette. He was one of the bulk exchange. His father was a very poor man. He had a horse and buggy and he lived in a village and they would—he would go during the winter time and get firewood and bring it in and sell it to the villagers. And in the summertime he went and bought smoked fish and sell it to the villagers. Well, he got to be eighteen years old and he had to go in service, so he didn't want this, so they were very negative to those people, so at nighttime some of his friends helped him sneak across the border. And he worked his way to England and he found a boat there, and I don't know if it was a freight or what kind of boat, but he got to the United States, and there he began to [unintelligible] and he could hardly speak English, he talked to them, but he knew he had an aunt in Alexandria by the name Hayman. His name was Hait.
A.H.:	Oh, H-Y, how?
Ben Hayman:	H-A-I-T. So he said, my name is Hayman. So that's how he got the name Hayman. And he went on to Georgetown where there was a butcher whose parents lived in [Latvia?], and they were friends of his father and they gave him a job in the butcher shop. He only gave him food and lodging. After four months, his clothes began to fall off him. So he went to him and said, "Nick, I need some clothes, I have to have a little money." He said, "Joe, I'm very fond of you, but we just don't have enough money for the family." So he left that shop and went to another butcher shop where they gave him little money, they gave him food and had a place for him to sleep. At this butcher shop I had a uncle used to deal there and he got to know my father and liked him so well that he went around the countryside buying up antiques and he had a shop in Alexandria and he said, "Joe, come work for me." And pop says, "Okay," so my father was working for him. My father was very handy, he could refinish furniture like new.
A.H.:	Wow.
Ben Hayman:	He also could build, somewhat. Anyhow to make a long story short, he liked my father so well, he invited his sister to come over and they meet and they got married in 1902 in Alexandria. And Jolson, you remember the singer?
A.H.:	Yeah.
Ben Hayman:	His father was a rabbi, and his father married them.
A.H.:	Oh, really, and they got married in Alexandria?

Ben Hayman:	They got married in Alexandria.
A.H.:	And what was your mother's name?
Ben Hayman:	Rose, Rose Snitzer.
A.H.:	S, S-N-I?
Ben Hayman:	S-N-I-T-Z-E-R. He said he liked my father so well that they should come over and they fell in love and they got married in Alexandria in 1902, and he gave them enough money to open up a shoe repair shop. What he would do, he would work with my uncle in the morning and day, and at nighttime he would repair shoes. My mother received the shoes and gave them out. Wasn't long before my father was selling very, very cheap shoes. Boston was the market for shoes, so he went to Boston and bought crates of shoes that high and he'd bring them back, send them back, and he would go to Washington and sell it to the small Jewish dealers. And he worked up a good business and doing very well. Then he cut out shoemaking and just went selling shoes. And war came, first war, First World War came along. Down at Fort Belvoir, the name of his camp (Humphreys), during that war they would bring, sort people in and give them two weeks training and ship them out. Each division had its own canteen. My father would get up at 6 o'clock in the morning and go to each one of the canteens and take orders, rush over to Baltimore to fill the orders, and by 5 o'clock he was back with all the orders. The other salesman would take orders, but they would bring them back three or four days later. So it wasn't for long before my father was getting all the business. He did a tremendous amount of business and he made a tremendous amount of money. He made enough money to buy this building.
A.H.:	At 500?
Ben Hayman:	At 500 block and it was three stories and it, let me show you the building.
A.H.:	There is a picture of it?
Jimmy Hayman:	Maybe in there, but it's not in here.
Ben Hayman:	Hang on.
Jimmy Hayman:	Well, you moved things over to, and you moved things and put them on this.
A.H.:	Oh, right in front of us, huh? Oh wonderful, and there is the sign. Jay Hayman. That's a—
Ben Hayman:	And that's me, the parade.
A.H.:	Oh, right there?

Ben Hayman:	Yeah, and I was standing on the ledge watching the parade.
A.H.:	Now did your family live above the store?
Ben Hayman:	Yes I did. At first, for a couple of months, I lived with my father and mother. And then when the apartment got ready, I mean fix up I mean. I moved to the third floors. He had three apartments on the third floor. And he had three apartments on the second floor, but they were rented, but the apartment on the second floor wasn't rented, so we moved up there.
A.H.:	Your whole family moved up there? Is that?
Ben Hayman:	No, my father had his own home, on Royal Street.
Jimmy Hayman:	The building on the 500 block, really a storage on first floor with apartments up on the third floor, that's the way they built buildings in those days.
A.H.:	And then?
Ben Hayman:	My father still had the building when he came on [12th?] Street. And he had a shoe store there.
A.H.:	Did you live there above that?
Early Years of Marriage	
Ben Hayman:	After the apartment was finished I moved up on the third floor. My wife and I lived there until we bought an apartment in Rosemont, but we will get to that too.
A.H.:	Okay, all right 526 --
Ben Hayman:	Eventually, what I did, when everything was going modern, I, like a [jackass?], tore that whole front out and put a metal thing about that big called [super?] cell and I had that [super?] cell throughout the whole building and knocked off that ledge and across the [unintelligible] of Alexandria. We lived there until urban renewal. I mean no, we moved.
Jimmy Hayman:	No, no.
Ben Hayman:	No, we moved to Del Ray to—
A.H.:	Rosemont?
Ben Hayman:	Rosemont. My father had built some houses with a fellow by the name of Segal, and he built two houses, sold it, and built a third house and didn't sell it, and he wanted to continue and my father said, "Nah, I ain't going to." My father had the money, he didn't have any money. He was a real builder. He said, "Well, if you don't build then I can't sit still. I've got to continue building. So there was a hardware store right next to where his father's shop was and he

	owned enough money to buy my father out. And I lived in that building until I was able buy myself, to rent an apartment, no I mean until I bought a home in Upton Place.
A.H.:	And when you were growing up, where did you live then when you were like a child and—
Ben Hayman:	Yeah, I lived up on 118 North Royal Street.
A.H.:	And was the store there?
Ben Hayman:	The store was underneath us.
A.H.:	And that's where you grew up?
Ben Hayman:	That's where I grew up. And for recreation, we used to play football when the streets were cobblestone, but the pavements were brick. And we used to play, in the evening, we would play football right across the street on the brick, and that's when my brother got to be good player.
A.H.:	Oh, right.
Jimmy Hayman:	When Gatsby's Tavern remodeled is, there was at that time an old hotel.
Ben Hayman:	[unintelligible] Hotel.
Jimmy Hayman:	And then next to the hotel was—
Ben Hayman:	Well, there was Tavern Square and then there was a small store which Rosenberg rented, very small, and then next to that little store was [unintelligible] Hotel, and next to that was a grocery store and next to that was a shoe store and—
Jimmy Hayman:	No, you're talking about King Street, I'm talking about Royal.
Ben Hayman:	No, I'm talking about Royal Street.
A.H.:	And that was all on was where?
Ben Hayman:	This was all on Royal Street, North Royal Street.
A.H.:	That would be the 100 block of?
Ben Hayman:	North Royal.
A.H.:	Right.
Ben Hayman:	And my father owned that building, 118 North Royal Street, 116 and 118. There we begin to prosper and my father decide to go out of business. So he went out and my brother and I ran the store and my mother and I did the [buying?]. My wife was still working with the government.

	Now I'm a tell you a story. Don't you dare cut that machine off. I come home from work about 7 o'clock and my wife already home from the government.
A.H.:	And what did she do in the government?
Ben Hayman:	Secretary. Her mother and father had a little store on 14th Street. Little [drug?] store. He had terrible asthma and he didn't live very long. The mother didn't have time to cook, so she had the maid that did the cooking, so my wife never learned to cook. So I'm home sitting in a chair waiting for her to bring me my dinner and here she comes with hot dogs and baked beans. Now, I love hot dogs and baked beans, so, the next night I get home sitting down waiting, here she comes with hots and baked beans. And I still like hot dogs and baked beans. The third night she still makes hot dogs and baked beans. And I say, "Betsy don't tell me it's hot dogs and baked beans again." She said, "Why? Don't you like it?" I said, "No." She took the plate and she threw it at me, I caught the plate and I caught the beans. To this day she never cooked it again.
A.H.:	Oh, really?
Ben Hayman:	I did the cooking or we had a maid to do the dinner.
A.H.:	Oh, really?
Ben Hayman:	All right, so.
A.H.:	What else would you do? You said you would play football on the streets as a child. What other kind of things would you do as a child just for—
Ben Hayman:	[unintelligible], lot of bicycle riding and skating. I could skate on those cobblestones like you wouldn't believe. I could run on them with the roller skate.
A.H.:	Roller-skating? Oh, my gosh.
Ben Hayman:	I got pretty good.
A.H.:	You have to be.
Ben Hayman:	Now at the corner of Cameron and Royal streets there was a big fountain, high, the top part of the fountain was water for people to drink. The next part was for dogs and animals to drink. And that remained there for years until they knocked it down.
A.H.:	And did they move that fountain to next to Gatsby's Tavern? There is an old fountain there and I was wondering if it was the same one.
Ben Hayman:	Could be, I don't know it was there.
A.H.:	Yeah, it's kinda hidden behind. I just wondered if it was the same

	one.
Ben Hayman:	Could be.
Businesses Along the Alexandria Waterfront	
A.H.:	Yeah, and do you remember anything about the waterfront, what it looked like when you were growing up?
Ben Hayman:	Well, the business was on the waterfront, the second and third block was very busy. They did, see all the boats would come down the river and there was a big warehouse. I can't remember the name, but anyhow he carried all kinds of groceries and all kinds of dry goods. It was like a wholesale department store.
A.H.:	Was that your father? Or somebody else?
Ben Hayman:	No, somebody else had this, so that the folks came down the waterfront. Now that's where most of the business was. Now Royal Street was already out of the business section. However, there was some good stores on that section, but the big stores was down on the second and third block of Alexandria.
A.H.:	Oh ok, heading up from the river.
Ben Hayman:	Huh?
Unidentified speaker:	The Bryant family ended up in the fertilizer business and they had a big building down there.
A.H.:	And so you remember the boats coming up to deliver the goods?
Ben Hayman:	Oh yeah, we always had a boat going to Washington, the ferry boat. And then we had streetcars in that day. They also, when the streetcar, there is a place at Four Mile Run called Shoulder's Park and it was like, have you ever seen an [Echo?]?
A.H.:	No.
The Hayman Stores	
Ben Hayman:	That's a, yeah anyhow they had all kinds of rides and boats on the stream and docking where couple do a little loving. It was very popular in those days. Meanwhile, I told you my father bought the building.
A.H.:	Right.
Ben Hayman:	And we prospered and it used to be our getting in somebody else in the building. See it was two buildings—a small one and a big one. The small one [unintelligible], he made sugar, he made candy, and the other one was the insurance, well we got [cocky?] and then we got the insurance company on out. And I ran the big store, which was Lady's Shop. I went to my father and said, "Dad, we're not going

	anywhere. Our business in trouble. We've got trouble merchandise and we just not doing well." I said, "Why don't you give Ruben the shoe department because he always worked in the shoe department and give me the Lady's Shop?" He agreed to it, he gave me \$500 and my brother \$500—that's a lot of money in those days. I took, I had a tremendous going out of business sale, not going out of business but remodeling sale. And I wiped out all that junk and I bought nothing but brand names like Carol King and all those bundle brands, Vanity Fair underwear and Hanes hose, and we started prospering. Year after year we did like forty thousand more than the year before, fifty thousand. We're talking about lots of money in those days. Finally I got big enough so I decided to open up stores. So I, the first store I opened up was in Arlandria. And I opened up a pretty good size store there.
A.H.:	Arlandria?
Ben Hayman:	Yeah, and then it wasn't long before I bought a store in West [Obo?] and that was a small store. And it wasn't long before that I went to Manassas, Virginia, and that was a big store. And then I bought Bradley Shopping Center, a big store. And then one day Justin Pierce, who was the president of the bank at that time, called me in. "Ben, I want you take over this, want you to buy this children's shop." I said, "I don't know anything about children." He said, "Well, the girl that works there will continue working there, but she's not making any money and I wish you would take it over." So I took that over.
A.H.:	And where was that children's shop?
Ben Hayman:	North Washington Street, 100 block.
A.H.:	What was the name of that store? Do you remember?
Ben Hayman:	Hobby Horse.
A.H.:	Hobby Horse.
Ben Hayman:	My stores were doing pretty good. In those days you hire management \$25 and you get good.
A.H.:	\$25 a week?
Ben Hayman:	Yeah, and I had some good ones. So, anyhow, Woodward and Lothrop, the bank called me and said, "You know, you have four families in your business. I think you ought to open up another store." So, Jimmy went to Woodies and he happened to know the guy and Woodies said you ought to move out here it's a great place so we took a big store and that was a disaster.
A.H.:	Where was that again?

Ben Hayman:	In Columbia, Maryland. In Columbia, Maryland, the customers were stealing and the employees were stealing.
A.H.:	Oh, dear. And you were there. Oh, dear.
Ben Hayman:	The manager was stealing.
A.H.:	Oh, dear.
Jimmy Hayman:	But after Columbia opened and was doing very good but two miles away, three miles away there was another shopping center that was being built that had Sears in it. And when Sears opened up, all the business in Columbia went to Sears and all of the stores in Columbia went to hell in a hand basket. When Columbia was a very difficult center for a long time to come. It wasn't until years later that it had started to regain its popularity.
Ben Hayman:	They are some real good stores.
Jimmy Hayman:	Now it's a good mall. At that point in time, you know.
Ben Hayman:	Plus they had twenty-eight ladies shops and most of them were in Baltimore and people knew these shops, but never heard of Hayman's of Alexandria. So we did no business whatsoever and the store that was 100 feet wide, 50 feet wide by 100 feet deep and that was a big store for a shopping center. I said we did no business whatsoever. Then one day they stole four furnishings from me. A colored woman comes in with a white woman and the white woman goes to the furniture and the colored woman looks at the large-sized dresses. She was like the near sixties like that. Meanwhile this white woman was stealing my furniture and walked out with it.
A.H.:	Oh, dear. Now, you know I was wondering, how did business, how did you survive in business during the Depression?
Ben Hayman:	How did I start?
Surviving the Great Depression and Prosperity After World War II	
A.H.:	How did you survive in business during the Depression?
Ben Hayman:	What I did during the Depression is, we cut our salaries to nothing and we took a big cut in salary, we took very little. At that time we were still living up top of the store. I had to pay \$25 a month rent and I couldn't pay that, and we survived it by cutting all expenses and doing work ourselves and then when—
Jimmy Hayman:	Your father owned business during the Depression?
Ben Hayman:	Do what?
Jimmy Hayman:	Your father owned the store during the Depression?
Ben Hayman:	Yes.

Jimmy Hayman:	And they used to charge [unintelligible] families [unintelligible] bills you know you come in and buy [unintelligible] and they charge to the family.
A.H.:	Oh, just put on like a charge account kind of?
Jimmy Hayman:	Well, basically, they survived because of my grandfather's, his financials (wherewithal).
A.H.:	Oh, and they would keep on credit.
Jimmy Hayman:	Then after things began to turn around in the 1930s. my father, my grandfather, my father, my uncle had a family meeting and that's when they decided that they would, that my grandfather would retire. And my father got the general store and my uncle got the shoe store.
A.H.:	And then that was after the Depression?
Jimmy Hayman:	1936, 1937.
A.H.:	So after the Depression he was—
Jimmy Hayman:	He was [unintelligible] wrong about the management moneys, in the [19]30s hiring someone and paying them 10, 12, 13, 20, 25 dollars was a lot of money. And as his business prospered, came out the Depression, getting closer to the 1940s he was paying a couple of his employees in the 20s. But that soon changed, then salaries went, you know, with World War II, salaries went up.
A.H.:	And that was a prosperous time in Alexandria, too, after World War II? And what kind of merchandise would you carry than?
Ben Hayman:	Nothing but better goods, like Vanity Fair, Hanes hose.
Jimmy Hayman:	Alexandria was the hub of basically Northern Virginia in terms of business. So on Saturday or Friday night or Saturday you would see people from up to Vienna come in to go shopping.
A.H.:	So your clientele was from many—
Ben Hayman:	They came all the way from Fredericksburg, Bailey's Crossroads, Springfield, even from Manassas.
A.H.:	How would you describe what your customer was like? What kind of clientele?
Ben Hayman:	Locally most of them worked for government and they wanted the town not to grow, they wanted the town to be a sleepy little town for residential.
Jimmy Hayman:	That's a different question. We had a middle-class to better-class clientele.
Ben Hayman:	We didn't have the best but we had good merchandise.

Jimmy Hayman:	Like Woodies, we talk about the type of clothing would be of the high-grade department store but not the exclusive.
A.H.:	Not like the Neiman Marcus.
Jimmy Hayman:	Yeah, a Neiman Marcus but a Woodies, a Hecht's, Macy's.
Ben Hayman:	I patterned my store after Garfinkel's in Washington. Garfinkel's was a large specialty shop, ladies. And when Garfinkel's had it, it was a very good store, once they sold it, Garfinkel's went down and finally they sold out.
Jimmy Hayman:	One of the stories that dad didn't tell you. But during, as we came down the recession and—
A.H.:	In the Depression or—
Jimmy Hayman:	The Depression, had he got the store, what he would do, what my mother and father did, they would buy cans of pretzels and they bought Coca-Colas.
Ben Hayman:	Oh, yeah. Well, let me tell you. You know why I bought it.
Jimmy Hayman:	Yeah.
Ben Hayman:	Right next store was PEPCO office.
Jimmy Hayman:	And across the street was telephone company.
Ben Hayman:	And the telephone company was close by. These girls would come in the store at lunchtime, and I would buy a big can of potato chips and a big can of pretzels. And they would, I would open them up for them and they would all come and get a handful and they came in everyday to get. But not only that, the funniest part of this story, I bought a jar from this company of hot peppers, you know the round ones the green ones, and I took one, and I was chewing it 'cause I could take it. One of the girls said can I have it and I said sure, she put her hand in there took one out, took one bite and she spit it out, burn her mouth for a long time. Then before I start putting better merchandise in, this is a funny story, we sold Halloween costumes and I -- we had a skeleton suit.
Jimmy Hayman:	I don't think so, don't let.
Ben Hayman:	It's funny so I'm going to tell it.
Jimmy Hayman:	I don't think this is an appropriate story, Daddy.
A.H.:	Oh, that's okay. Whatever you want to tell is fine.
Ben Hayman:	Skip that.
Shuman's Town Council and Urban Renewal	
A.H.:	Was there a place in Old Town downtown business district that

	everybody would meet for like—
Ben Hayman:	Yes, a place called Shuman's Town Council.
A.H.:	Oh, Shuman's Town Council?
Jimmy Hayman:	No, Shuman's Bakery.
Ben Hayman:	It was a Shuman's Bakery, but they called the place, they called this long table in the back Shuman's Town Council. And all, the Mayor of the city and the president of banks and people in the government would all meet there. Each of us had a certain time, like I'd get there about 12:30, and the table was always full with somebody leaving and somebody coming. And we discussed the business of the city at that time and really it lasted years, until urban renewal came along.
A.H.:	And that moved Shuman's Bakery?
Jimmy Hayman:	They moved down to—
A.H.:	What kind of issues would you talk about there?
Ben Hayman:	Well, we talked of the topics of the day, whatever was going on in the city. Mainly that's what we talked about.
A.H.:	Urban renewal, that was a major issue was it, a hot—
Ben Hayman:	Urban renewal came along and they were gonna buy my store, see what they did.
A.H.:	The city was going to?
Ben Hayman:	Yes. They bought all the 400 block the 300 block and some of the 200 block.
Jimmy Hayman:	300, 400, 500.
Ben Hayman:	Three, four.
Jimmy Hayman:	Three and four and five.
Ben Hayman:	Oh five, yeah, 'cause I was on five, you're right: 3, 4, 5. They didn't get to 600. And what they do they come in and buy these buildings for free, for almost nothing—they stole it—and they would sell them to the developers for very low prices of land, the developers would put property up, the right kind of property. Well they offered me nothing for mine and I spent a fortune fixing it up, beautiful store. And one of the guys on City Council went to Philadelphia and got me a real huge sum of money and then we went and tore the building down. I moved in 400 block across from the Ramada Inn.
Jimmy Hayman:	The Holiday Inn.
Ben Hayman:	The Holiday Inn, all right. And we took, at that time my son was involved, Simpson Brothers was building it, you know, the big one,

	and he was gonna build this property and he wanted Jimmy and I to go in with him and we would get 50% of it. I had the money, but now I got a store 16,500 feet, which requires tremendous amounts of fixtures and also requires a lot of money because everything was in departments—so much in coats and so much in suits. So we couldn't afford to give 50% and over, and the reason why we was going to mortgage out. Now in those days you can borrow enough money so you didn't have to put a nickel in of your money and you just pay interest, and we was going to a mortgage out and we couldn't, so we took 10% of it and Simpson took 90%. Here we finished our store and we [unintelligible] beautifully when my landlord, who became a very close friend of mine, Simpson said to me, "Ben, I don't want to be in the real estate business." He said, "I build." So he said, "I'm going to sell." So he sold to Bernstein and he sold that, and were talking about everything but Tavern Square on the four corners.
A.H.:	And that's at the 400 block?
Jimmy Hayman:	Yeah, 400.
A.H.:	Right. Everything but Tavern Square.
Ben Hayman:	Tavern Square was at the [unintelligible]. The hotel and everything was torn down, and when the building was finished, I moved in, and that's when I became president of the Tavern Square Business Association.
A.H.:	Oh, and did that encompass the businesses just in Tavern Square?
Ben Hayman:	In Tavern Square.
A.H.:	And what kind of things did you work on, in that association?
Ben Hayman:	Well, we had sales, and we had meetings regular, we promoted business, and we had some good stores in there.
A.H.:	What stores were there?
Ben Hayman:	Well there was -- What's the name of the men's shop, Jimmy?
Jimmy Hayman:	I don't know, Dad, I don't recall. Long before he was president of Tavern Square that was back in Alexandria Merchant Association.
A.H.:	So there was a downtown retail merchants association too? Uh-huh.
Ben Hayman:	And there was [Park?] and Shop and see I got picture of all the—
A.H.:	And in Retail Merchants Association what kind of things would you do? Issues would you work on?
Ben Hayman:	When we did storewide sales. One of the big things we did, I was chairman of the Alexandria. See I started Alexandria Days.
A.H.:	What was that? Alexandria—

Ben Hayman:	Alexandria Days.
A.H.:	Oh, Alexandria Days.
Ben Hayman:	All the merchants had a big sale at one time and it started George Washington's birthday.
Jimmy Hayman:	Like George Washington's birthday sales later. The merchants got together and they formed Alexandria Day sale, which was a summertime sale, and they blocked off King Street.
Ben Hayman:	I am gonna get to that, but first, look at this.
A.H.:	Presented by the Mayor and members of the City Council of the City of Alexandria, and it was on, this is was a meeting they had, a presentation of a resolution acknowledging the Haymans for their outstanding civic and economic contributions to the city. So you were given an award for—
Ben Hayman:	Inside there is a proclamation.
A.H.:	Oh, and there's even more. Great. So it talks about the history. Wow, this is wonderful. Do you think we could get a copy of this too and we'll -- I'll bring it back?
Ben Hayman:	Yeah, don't you lose that.
A.H.:	Oh no, no, no, no. How wonderful, and was there an event where you were honored? Can you explain?
Ben Hayman:	At a Council meeting he invited my whole family, including Jimmy and everybody in my family, and there they presented me with this.
A.H.:	What happened during that meeting
Ben Hayman:	It wasn't just for me, it was a regular City Council meeting. They had all kinds of different things.
Jimmy Hayman:	Are you talking about the Alexandria Merchants, Retail Merchants or—
A.H.:	Well, no, I was just talking about this event.
Ben Hayman:	This was a special proclamation at a regular City Council meeting. You know like any City Council meeting with a docket of sixty, seventy items, this was one item on the docket.
A.H.:	I guess going back a little bit. Can you explain the other things you were doing with the Downtown Retail Merchants Association? You said you started the Alexandria Days?
Ben Hayman:	Well, we had our regular meetings, and in those days most of the merchants were local merchants. As time went on, most of them became out-of-state ownership, so we change the store.

Stores in Downtown Alexandria	
A.H.:	And what were the changes like in the type of stores that were down there?
Ben Hayman:	Most of them, lot of them, not very nice stores.
Jimmy Hayman:	But there were a lot of good stores, Dad. I mean, at times just the City of Alexandria when Landmark opened up had a major impact on downtown Alexandria. And so the—
Ben Hayman:	But that was later, Jimmy. They didn't open up until later.
Jimmy Hayman:	But until then you have Levingstons you had Coins, you had a whole group, you had Lady Louise, you had a group of fine men and ladies stores.
A.H.:	So what kind of stores were there like when you were first starting in 500 block? What kind of stores were out downtown?
Ben Hayman:	Well, on the corner was Lady Louise. Next store is—
Jimmy Hayman:	No, when you started out on 500 block, go back to 1930s, even before that go back.
Ben Hayman:	Before that I don't remember.
Jimmy Hayman:	You remember Bradshaws.
A.H.:	Well, just remember like.
Jimmy Hayman:	That's what she is saying. Go back and describe what was in—
Ben Hayman:	What I'm getting to just work from the corner down.
A.H.:	Okay.
Unidentified speaker:	Start in a period of time that goes back earlier than when you were a kid and working forward.
A.H.:	Well, let's just pick like around. I know, let's pick around -- like after World War II, when it was real prosperous, what kind of stores do you remember down there? Or whatever one.
Ben Hayman:	Well, I can remember [Aversons?] had a clothing store and he came there early because he was either the second Orthodox Jew. See, when I first came in, my father came down and he opened the store in 1902 and he was the first Orthodox Jew to open a business in city of Alexandria. In fact, I got a book that shows that, and, after that, either [Averson?] or [Letherson?] came in and shortly after that [Levit?], the other one came in. And then after that [in come?] the Jewish people and after that [Lowe?] came in. He was a photographer, and he later acted as a rabbi. When he got twelve people, ten people, they all meet together in each other's homes, and

	then they got more people, like fifteen or twenty, and they would and finally they moved and Rosenberg had a big store there. Clothing shop, which the lady moved across the way and it became a tobacco shop, over top that was a very fine restaurant, [unintelligible] home-type food, and next to that was [Bear's?] Men Shop and then there was a big alley and then [Benheims?] had a big department store there, which two of their buyers later went up on the ten hundred block and opened up a shop for themselves and did very well. They carried all better clothes and they, after [Benheims?] there was a whiskey, wholesale whiskey company, retail and wholesale whiskey company and it was [Jamieson?] studio above that who took pictures. Then there was Rosenberg's shoe store, but over top Rosenberg's ladies shop there was a big sector, how do you pronounce that word, Jimmy? Is it sector on top of Rosenberg's?
Jimmy Hayman:	There was a union hall, which Rosenberg, the corner or the one on the other block?
Ben Hayman:	The ladies shop.
Jimmy Hayman:	The ladies shop, that's the union shop was up there. On the second floor.
Orthodox and Reformed Synagogues in Alexandria	
Ben Hayman:	Well, before that, it was [Seperae?], something, they had a, they used that. Then Jewish people rented it and that was used for a long time on the top of that store.
Jimmy Hayman:	For a synagogue.
A.H.:	And then, they used that as a synagogue. And was that the first, the Orthodox congregation, the beginnings of it, and that was the, the congregation was—
Ben Hayman:	Now once we stop [renting?] small places we went to this place. We were there for a little while when half, not half, well almost half, of the congregation wanted to buy land on Wolfe Street. And they bought this building on the 400 block.
Jimmy Hayman:	400 or 500, 400.
Ben Hayman:	400, It was two buildings on the whole block. We bought one of them. The rest of the Orthodox Jews stayed where they were, but after a short time, they got together and they all moved into the new place.
A.H.:	And the name of that congregation was?
Ben. Hayman:	[Unintelligible].
A.H.:	Right, okay.

Ben Hayman:	They stood there for quite a long time, it become a lot of Jews came to Alexandria and they decided to buy a church up on Russell Road and they bought this church and remodeled it. And [unintelligible] after many, many years. Then later on, of course, they moved out of there, bought a piece of land, and built a beautiful place.
A.H.:	And your father then was one of the founders?
Ben Hayman:	He was one of the first ones, see there ten people moved in, so all ten were.
A.H.:	And then were they, what other countries were those individuals from?
Ben Hayman:	Most of them, see the Orthodox mostly came from [Latvia?] or one of the other three Baltic states, or Poland. See, Reformed Jews mainly came from, really, came from Germany.
A.H.:	And was there -- what kind of relationship was there between those congregations? Another one was Bethel, right?
Ben Hayman:	Well, the Reformed Jews were much better educated. Most of the Orthodox didn't have much schooling, and they looked down upon the Orthodox. They didn't have much to do with them in those days. That has changed completely.
Jimmy Hayman:	The German-Jewish settlement in Alexandria occurred almost at the very beginning of the City of Alexandria, so that was an established community in the City of Alexandria. There is no real migration of Jews in the late 1800s or early 1900s of German Jews. They were already here.
A.H.:	Right, and that's when the—
Jimmy Hayman:	They came in the mid, in the late 1700s the early 1800s.
A.H.:	So they were well established.
Jimmy Hayman:	So they were established. It wasn't that, as my father indicated, wasn't they were educated, they were established.
A.H.:	And how did, and so you say they look down a little bit on the Orthodox?
Ben Hayman:	They didn't have anything to do with the Orthodox.
A.H.:	Oh really, so the relationship wasn't so good at first? Or—
Ben Hayman:	It's just what's there and that's it.
A.H.:	Oh, that's it. What a—
Jimmy Hayman:	Well, I mean and, again, it is the same thing as saying if you live on a block and everybody on that block has lived there for twelve years,

	and somebody sells and a strange family comes in, you either do one of two things. Either the whole block welcomes them or they ignore them. Well, going back into his times, you know they were strangers. That was it.
A.H.:	Right, right, and where did the, did the Orthodox chose to live in a certain area in Alexandria?
Ben Hayman:	Most of them lived on top of their stores.
A.H.:	Oh did they?
Ben Hayman:	A few moved more in a certain area. At that time, I'm talking about a little earlier, Rosemont was nothing but empty fields. Very few buildings but farm buildings out there.
Jimmy Hayman:	Most of Alexandria was the Old Town area, and they moved west over the years, so Rosemont was a farm area.
A.H.:	Isn't that amazing to think of now?
Jimmy Hayman:	As a matter of fact, to use as an example. In 1940s at the corner of King Street and Janneys Lane, on the west side, going west, there was nothing but a large apple orchard. It went all the way up to Judge Bryant's home. And at then his home was the first home. So everything between Bryant's home and Janneys Lane was just a farm. From Judge Bryant's home going west there was absolutely nothing, no Baptist church, no school, you went all the way out and it was a dirt road all the way to Quaker Lane. Then from Quaker Lane to 95 was a two-lane dirt road, and that goes back to when I went to the University of Virginia in 1946.
A.H.:	Wow. So it's not that long ago really. Did, was there any special schooling that the Orthodox Jewish children dealt with, with the congregation?
Ben Hayman:	We had a teacher from Washington, and he taught my brother. He stood there for quite some time and finally he decided to leave, when I became 12 or 13. We got a guy from, remember we didn't have anyone. We got a guy from Washington; he came over and he spent one week, and after a week he said, "Goodbye."
A.H.:	And why was that?
Jimmy Hayman:	He wasn't about religious education.
Ben Hayman:	He wouldn't come back.
A.H.:	Oh, really. Did they get anyone after that?
Ben Hayman:	We didn't have a rabbi. Until the early part of...Old Man Lowe would conduct the services in English.
A.H.:	And why was that, that there wasn't a rabbi or—

Ben Hayman:	No rabbi was close by.
A.H.:	Oh okay, I see.
Ben Hayman:	Only in Washington. Or Maryland.
A.H.:	And did the, let me see, and how would the congregation celebrate some of the special Jewish holidays? Would they?
Ben Hayman:	Well, in those days, the other Orthodox Jews kept closed for more than two days.
Jimmy Hayman:	No, she is saying how do they celebrate. Did they?
A.H.:	Oh yeah, well that but that's, that would they close, I guess we can jump to that, that's fine, did you close the stores?
Ben Hayman:	My father closed his stores for two days and soon that stopped. The reason why two days, they didn't know which was the right day, so they celebrated both days.
A.H.:	Friday and Saturday? Was that it?
Ben Hayman:	Yeah, that it was on a Saturday, yeah it would be Friday and Saturday.
Jimmy Hayman:	It wouldn't be. There are certain holidays, formal holidays, not Friday and Saturday but regular holidays where the Orthodox Jews celebrate two days because they really weren't sure which day was the correct day to celebrate the holiday. And how they celebrated, the Jewish families in my dad's day would gather in the back of somebody's store until they were able to get together to rent space. And one of the spaces he referred to is the space up on the second floor in one of the buildings. You got to go back to the architecture of the city itself. The business community was comprised of first floor, second floor, third floor. So the second floor sometimes were offices, sometimes they were apartments, and you get pictures of Alexandria in the early 1900s and you understand exactly what I am saying. Eventually they bought a building down on [unintelligible] Street and there they conducted their holiday services. They conducted Friday night services, Saturday services, at that location.
A.H.:	How would your family celebrate the holidays?
Ben Hayman:	They believe in fasting the whole day and eat at the end and I still fast except I take my medicine.
A.H.:	Oh yeah, and that, is that, that would be different than the reformed Jews?
Jimmy Hayman:	No, no, no, no, they would celebrate their holidays just like you celebrate Thanksgiving, big family dinners, nothing different nothing strange, just a regular family celebration.

A.H.:	Oh no, right right, and were you -- did you maintain the Orthodox practices?
Ben Hayman:	I did until my children joined the Reformed. When Jimmy and Elaine joined the Reformed, that's when I, I got angry with [unintelligible].
A.H.:	Oh, did you? And why was that?
Ben Hayman:	Because I had the [unintelligible] on the first day of every year and I used to get a \$100 for it, and that was a lot of money, and Joe Lowe became the [smarmiest?], that's the guy that fixes, who get open the door through the [unintelligible], and he gave it to somebody else. He wanted me to take a difference and I wouldn't take it. So I just didn't take any of it and then my kids joined the Reformed and I joined. This is a picture of my father and mother and my brother.
A.H.:	Oh how nice. What a nice picture. Now when your parents were married, you said they were married in Alexandria, let me put this down in a good place for you. They were married by a rabbi, but were they married in a synagogue?
Ben Hayman:	They were married for, no there were no synagogues. They were married behind the Alexandria National Bank, which is on the corner of Royal and King Street. Half a block down was a hotel. I can't remember that hotel. But they got married in that hotel.
A.H.:	And did you find -- oh go ahead, let's see what you have.
Ben Hayman:	I got a cousin who was principal of a high school and she decided to get a family tree. Now if you look at the pages on down it tells you what page to turn to.
A.H.:	That's great. Now you mentioned, here put this down there too, you mentioned that you had an aunt that lived in Alexandria, and what was her name?
Ben Hayman:	Yeah, she lived on, beg your pardon, she had a shoemaker shop. And on the corner was Katz shoe store and right next, that was on King and Royal, and right next store she had a little store there and it was a shoemaker shop.
A.H.:	Now she came before your father did then?
Ben Hayman:	Yeah, long before, we didn't have much to do with her.
A.H.:	And then was the uncle in Georgetown, oh no, the uncle.
Ben Hayman:	He was in Baltimore and he—
A.H.:	And he came before your father too?
Ben Hayman:	Oh, long before.

A.H.:	So that was your family then that lived in that area.
Ben Hayman:	Here is a recorder and look at pages.
A.H.:	Page 27, 28. Oh, the certificate of marriage of your parents, wow, and there is your father. Oh, this is wonderful. Was the Jewish community—you know I noticed that there was, well let me back up—was the Jewish community involved in the politics in Alexandria very much?
Ben Hayman:	Well, there was a fellow by the name of Bernie [Felguson?] that was involved and Leroy Bendheim, but they were, but [Felguson?] was an Orthodox Jew. Leroy was Reformed, and he was mayor for many times [1955-1961].
Jimmy Hayman:	My grandfather was very active in the Democratic Party as a worker and enjoyed the support of congressman Smith, Howard Smith, very close buddy of his. Granddad on election day would go around and see various people vote.
A.H.:	Oh that's great. What do you have?
Ben Hayman:	This is when my father became a Mason.
A.H.:	Oh, wow.
Ben Hayman:	What is that—1924?
A.H.:	Let's see. 1918. 1918, wow, you have got a lot of great records don't you?
Ben Hayman:	Yes.
A.H.:	That's amazing and what's this, did you get that, or shall I, okay.
Ben's Father Becomes a U.S. Citizen	
Ben Hayman:	[Looking at photograph] This is when he became a citizen.
A.H.:	1904, your father became a citizen, and your grandmother was born in the United States, was she?
Ben Hayman:	No, they were brought over way after, see my father was the first one, and he helped bring the brother over, there were four brothers and two sisters and they came and after they were all over they brought their mother and father.
Jimmy Hayman:	That's his great-grandparents.
A.H.:	Wow, so they brought them over, so your father brought over how many siblings?
Ben Hayman:	He didn't bring them all, he helped bring them over.
A.H.:	How many of them?

Ben Hayman:	There was two sisters and four brothers. Now this is another part of the recorder, let me show you what page to look on.
A.H.:	This is great, the history, there is your father then. Boy, that's very well documented, that's great. You know I just wanted to go back, I know I am jumping around here, but there are so many things.
Ben Hayman:	That's my father.
A.H.:	Was this at a special event or anything?
Ben Hayman:	No, I don't remember.
More About the Hayman Stores	
A.H.:	And, now you mentioned your wife worked in the store and she was a buyer?
Ben Hayman:	Yeah, she began to buy, she practically bought every, she had the most gorgeous taste of a woman. She was a great, great buyer. And she, I did the underwear, I bought the underwear and millinery and the accessories, handbags and all. The big thing that I did was Hanes hose. I did tremendous amount of business with Hanes hose. Do you know that women wouldn't let anyone else wait on them but me for Hanes hose. See we would have a sale twice a year and I would have about a thousand names and I would call all of them and took orders in advance. I started maybe two months earlier so that I got everybody's orders and then when the sale came along I called them and told them to come and get their hose and I sold thousands of dozens that way. I became, I was one of the largest users of Hanes hose in the Metropolitan area except department stores.
A.H.:	Would you get a lot of clientele during the business day too from people that work downtown?
Ben Hayman:	Oh yeah, we were busy, we did very well, we were busy. See, we had a very large store and attracted a lot of business. JC Penney was bigger than me but in those days Penneys was nothing—overalls, cheap stuff.
A.H.:	Were they located in Old Town too?
Ben Hayman:	They were located on 400, they took Benheims, when Benheim went out of business. And they were there for quite some time and then they moved when they tore the buildings down, they moved to Washington Street.
Jimmy Hayman:	No, they moved to where McDonald's is right now.
Ben Hayman:	What, Jimmy?
Jimmy Hayman:	The 600 block at King Street, they moved to the middle of the 600 block. Next to [Aire?] Nights, South of [Aire?] Nights. You know

	where [Inge Mare?], the [Inge Mare?] Theater was?
Ben Hayman:	Jimmy, I don't remember that.
Jimmy Hayman:	Dad, they were in the 600 block of King Street and then they moved from the 600 block.
Ben Hayman:	Well you say you remember it. I don't.
Jimmy Hayman:	I do.
A.H.:	Did a—
Jimmy Hayman:	They were on 600 block, you had [Aire?] Night and Sons that was a hardware store. [unintelligible] City Council and then, what was on the corner across the street, we had three department stores. The two oldest were Kresges and Woolworth. Then Murphy's came to town and next to Murphy's at the corner, eventually Lerner came to town. There was a Safeway where Lerner is. No maybe Safeway was where Murphy's was, no I think it was where Lerner's was. Well then Safeway closed. Safeway was there when Roosevelt ran against Alfred Landon. That was 1936, and I remember that like it was yesterday.
Ben Hayman:	So when they moved to Washington Street—
Jimmy Hayman:	That's a new store, they moved there so—
Ben Hayman:	It was there for years.
Jimmy Hayman:	No, no that's a new store, it moved there in the [19]60s.
Ben Hayman:	Jimmy, they were there for years.
Jimmy Hayman:	Dad, that's a new building. You go there and look at the building you can tell that it wasn't an old building, so they, JC Penneys was.
A.H.:	I want to go back to the Urban Renewal issue, the Urban Renewal, when it was proposed, how did you feel about that?
Ben Hayman:	I was on the committee that selected location.
Jimmy Hayman:	Here is something.
The Urban Renewal Advisory Committee	
A.H.:	Oh great, all these, oh excellent, Urban Renewal Advisory Committee. You were on the committee for the city.
Ben Hayman:	Yes, and we selected the streets that we thought would be torn down. And we did a pretty good job. And we got a lot of awards for it. I will show you those.
A.H.:	Did you when you were on that committee – well, I did a little research and I understand that there was a consultant that wanted to tear down 20 blocks of Old Town?

Jimmy Hayman:	Well, Frank Mann was mayor, and he wanted to do an Urban Renewal project up at the—
Ben Hayman:	Upper King Street, Henry Street.
Jimmy Hayman:	Daddy, Henry Street, Duke Street area going west towards Union Station. And there was a number of battles about that location using Urban Renewal location. Eventually that idea was dropped and they then talked about going on to Old Town.
Ben Hayman:	Well, the committee was the one who made it drop.
A.H.:	And the committee, and that's what I was wondering. So the committee, you got it down to just the three blocks? The three, four, and five hundred blocks?
Ben Hayman:	Five, four, and three hundred right.
Jimmy Hayman:	More than—
A.H.:	So the committee—
Jimmy Hayman:	There was a huge public meeting at George Washington High School. At that point in time there was a public hearing, and at the end of the public hearing Council voted on whether they were going to do an Urban Renewal project on the area West of Henry Street and it got turned down. But the idea of Urban Renewal was not turned down up and by itself. And the city said, "Where, if we're not going to go up there, where will we do our Urban Renewal?" And that's when they located here.
A.H.:	And so, you were in general in supportive of it?
Ben Hayman:	Oh yeah.
A.H.:	Okay, great, and this is, so tell me a little about your civic activities. Now here is the—
Ben Hayman:	Well, I'm going to show it to you.
A.H.:	Here is the certificate of, improving community health in the fight against tuberculosis and respiratory diseases. So you very involved in—
Ben Hayman:	Was I involved in, I'll let you see for yourself.
A.H.:	And did you organize these efforts locally?
Ben Hayman:	No, I volunteered.
A.H.:	Oh okay, this is. And are there any other stories about as we look at these about the Urban? Are there any other stories about the changes in the downtown area during Urban Renewal that you have? While we look at these?

Ben Hayman:	Once the buildings were built, most of the local owners went out and change come in. And most of them was downtown.
A.H.:	Oh, thank you. Benjamin Hayman to head group.
Jimmy Hayman:	Well, look at the headlines.
A.H.:	The top headlines?
Jimmy Hayman:	Yeah, the top tell more about it.
A.H.:	Tavern Square Tenants Form Organization, Benjamin Hayman to Head Group.
Jimmy Hayman:	Inside there you will see actual layout of the Tavern Square.
A.H.:	I'm gonna be real careful here.
Ben Hayman:	I think that's all that was there.
Jimmy Hayman:	No it's right there, Dad.
A.H.:	Maybe I will look at that in a little bit.
Ben Hayman:	When the bank built a new building, they had me to come up there. Well, they came from our store.
A.H.:	I see, to do the opening. Oh great. But you were starting to tell a story on the Urban Renewal. You said that when the new buildings were built—
Ben Hayman:	A lot of the old stores never came back in business. Some of them did, but lot of them didn't. A lot of new chains come in, chain outfits or some outfits from out of town. Like Hun, Hun—what's the name of that men's? Hun, start with an H.
Jimmy Hayman:	Where?
Ben Hayman:	It was on the corner.
Jimmy Hayman:	You talking about the men's store?
Ben Hayman:	Yeah.
Jimmy Hayman:	Here is a Washington store that opened up on the corner of Pitt, King, and Royal. The stores that came in through Urban Renewal, with the exception of our store, basically were out-of-town stores. They had bath and linen or linen store was there. They had a men's store there, they had a shoe store there. What was the name of—
Ben Hayman:	Shoe store where?
Jimmy Hayman:	No the ladies', the very popular, Villager. The Villager opened up in the middle of the mall. They had a jewelry store that opened up. It was, you know, it was like mall except there were—

Ben Hayman:	At first it was very successful, but—
Downtown Alexandria Losing Customers and Closing Stores	
Jimmy Hayman:	There were two things really had a major impact. Martin Luther King's assassination really had a major impact on the retail business in Alexandria.
A.H.:	Oh how did that?
Jimmy Hayman:	Well, because the night business, no one would come out.
A.H.:	Were you open at nights? Every night would you be open?
Jimmy Hayman:	Yes.
Ben Hayman:	9 o'clock.
Jimmy Hayman:	And as Dad indicated earlier. Landmark had a really a major adverse impact on it.
A.H.:	And that opened in what year.
Ben Hayman:	I gave a speech there, and both at different times, different years.
Jimmy Hayman:	As the years went by all the stores that were in Alexandria slowly but surely went out of business. There were a number of men's stores that disappeared. One by one they closed.
A.H.:	And that was after again the Landmark.
Jimmy Hayman:	Your retail trades shifted from downtown Alexandria. I mean Seven Corners had an impact on Alexandria. Then all of a sudden.
A.H.:	Was that about the same time as Landmark too?
Jimmy Hayman:	Well, Seven Corners was before Landmark, but when Seven Corners opened up you lost all the traffic that the Vienna, the Oakton, that type of traffic that would come into Alexandria went to Seven Corners. Slowly but surely all the stores—Alexandria had stores all the way up through 1100 block at King Street that were valuable and did good business. Then over time, they just one by one disappeared. We had Mickelbacks and Hopkins. Hopkins is still around. But Mickelbacks was a huge successful furniture store. We mentioned back on the 500 block there was [Benheims?] which was a big, big shoe store, that eventually became the name [Bradshaw?], and they were around for years.
A.H.:	And did a—
Jimmy Hayman:	Like impact of retail today, where Alex like meet with Washington where we have Hecht's, Woodies, Lansburgh's, Ken's.
Ben Hayman:	Ken's.

Jimmy Hayman:	They slowly but surely disappeared. The only one you have left is Hecht's, and Hecht's is not the same Hecht's that is was. You had major lady shops; [Jellups?] and Phillips [Four?] and stores like that and they are all gone. Time changes.
Hayman Stores Remain Open Through the 1990s	
A.H.:	Well, yeah, but you maintained your business throughout all those, when a lot of people were moving out it seems like. Because you closed in the [19]90s, is that it? You closed your business in the [19]90s? But you maintained your business through seeing many stores leave.
Ben Hayman:	Yeah, we did all right.
A.H.:	And how, what do you attribute that to?
Ben Hayman:	Type of merchandise we sold. The type of clerks we had. We had fabulous clerks.
A.H.:	What were they like? How would they help people?
Ben Hayman:	Well there were so many years, like one clerk was fifty years, another was thirty five years, and then I had my own window trimmer and he made backdrops for the store. At first he came on a part-time basis and then when I got all these stores he worked for me alone. And he was fabulous, he could paint different things scenes like you wouldn't believe.
A.H.:	And he would paint scenes?
Ben Hayman:	Our windows were, everybody would stop by and look at our windows.
A.H.:	Can you remember an example of one of them?
Ben Hayman:	Well, when it was bathing suit season, he had, that remind me of one of the stores. Well he had a backdrop of a beach and these girls in their bathing suits, mannequin and stuff. In fact he had two live mannequins and this is the funniest story. Drunk came up from down the street and he looked at this mannequin and she blinked and he went down the street.
A.H.:	And what about who were your clerks that were?
Ben Hayman:	Well I had five clerks, my window trimmers were with me for 35-40 years. There was the Sampsons, two sisters, and they ran my booking department. And there was, what was her name, Jimmy, our coat buyer?
Jimmy Hayman:	Nancy Pitt.
Ben Hayman:	Nancy Pitt was with me for years and before Nancy Pitt.

Jimmy Hayman:	Ray Crabtree and Ellen Crabtree.
Ben Hayman:	We had the Crabtrees.
Jimmy Hayman:	There was [Delrody?].
Ben Hayman:	This girl became our coat buyer and she would go to New York.
Jimmy Hayman:	That was Ellen.
Ben Hayman:	Huh.
Jimmy Hayman:	Ellen Crabtree, I don't know what Ellen was.
Ben Hayman:	Her sister's name was different
Jimmy Hayman:	Her sister's was [unintelligible].
A.H.:	And they both worked?
Ben Hayman:	No I am talking about—
Jimmy Hayman:	You are talking about Julia Mac, no Ellen was your coat buyer that went to New York, Daddy.
A.H.:	And when they would go buying, where would they buy, I mean where would they go?
Ben Hayman:	Well, we had a buying office up in New York, a big buying office, and this office was about, a buyer for every department. Some departments had three buyers. Bella, Ellen, and Louann. And when we go to New York, we go to that office and there we buy coats and dresses. We would go and see the dress buyer and coat buyer. And they would take us around to the companies, anything that had the outstanding clothes. And then we would either buy or turn it down. My wife didn't like it she wouldn't buy it.
Jimmy Hayman:	Most of the manufacturers were located in New York and had their showrooms in New York. We would go to New York, to the showroom, see their line, place your order. And then the factories there, where they could be anywhere in the United States, would ship the goods out of there. I was just gonna say, when you talk about buying, New York was the hub, the location of the vast majority of showrooms. There were some in Baltimore, some down in Atlanta, some in Miami.
Ben Hayman:	California.
A.H.:	And you would go to those different areas too?
Jimmy Hayman:	California.
Ben Hayman:	We would not go to California.
A.H.:	You would not go to California?

Ben Hayman:	No.
Jimmy Hayman:	We had a buying office out in California that would represent us.
A.H.:	Oh that's great. You told me a story on the phone about the airline uniforms.
Ben Hayman:	I will get to that.
A.H.:	I wanted to get that done too. 'Cause that was a pretty big part of your business too, am I correct?
Ben Hayman:	[unintelligible]
A.H.:	Oh, so you were involved. Can you tell me a little bit about the fashion show you did to benefit the Alexandria Hospital?
Ben Hayman:	We did fashion shows every year for the Alexandria Hospital. They drew tremendous crowds. We would have professional models, we'd have nurses. My sister-in-law had an agent modeling agency and I would get a lot of girls from there and they were good. Then we only did it for the hospital, but the hospital was a big one. We made a lot of money for them. We would have a crowd of like 5,000 people.
A.H.:	Wow, that's great.
Ben Hayman:	And you will read about that.
A.H.:	And here is the article about Hayman's [Fense?] stewardesses.
Ben Hayman:	I think you will enjoy that one.
A.H.:	Let's get it done so she can, so can you tell me about that part of your business?
Ben Hayman:	Well, Jimmy was involved in that, he can tell you more. When they had a change of uniforms, they would be a tremendous change. Jimmy, well if you read that it would tell you how many. We did it not only in Alexandria. He is the one who handled this so go ahead.
Jimmy Hayman:	The airlines got their uniforms from various amounts of factories, and the amount of factories needed someplace to have the uniforms fitted and altered, and then distributed to the men and women who were getting uniforms. American Airlines, the people of American came to dad and asked if they would do the uniforms for American Airlines at Washington National. And he agreed to do that and then slowly but surely all the airlines that were located in National came to him. Then Dulles came in, they came to him. So we were doing it out of the store all of the uniform distribution.
Ben Hayman:	Tell her how many, Jimmy.
Jimmy Hayman:	I can't tell you how many, maybe three or four thousand, whatever it tells you.

Ben Hayman:	It tells you here.
Jimmy Hayman:	That was up in New York. That's a different story. Anyhow we built a reputation from handling it in a very smooth and efficient manner.
Ben Hayman:	I think it was something like 30,000 uniforms.
Jimmy Hayman:	And then we were asked to go up to New York and give TWA advice and guidance on how to do a particular uniform change over for a specific year. As a result of that, they asked us if we would be kind enough to open up, do that work for them up in New York. We agreed to. So we had an operation with TWA's hangar.
A.H.:	In New York.
Jimmy Hayman:	In New York and then we built a little store in their hangar that serves all of the people in the hangar—the flight attendants, the gate operators, ticket attendants, whatever. Anybody that had to come into TWA's hanger could get to the store. And one thing led to another and all of a sudden we were, we had nothing but operations in New York.
A.H.:	Wow, that's a—
Ben Hayman:	He didn't tell you the main thing.
Jimmy Hayman:	Huh?
Ben Hayman:	Jimmy was traveling all the time. And his wife one day told him, if you don't give up the uniform business I am going to leave you. So she left him—he wouldn't give it up, and she left him. After about 2 months, he gave up the uniform business. He rushed down there and got her and brought her back home.
A.H.:	Oh dear, it sounds like it was a major, was it a big, it was a huge part of the business.
Jimmy Hayman:	It was, we had a big operation and that was going along very nicely until fuel problems came in. It's easy to open up things; it's more just to close them down. All of a sudden we are sitting there with places and a location in Newark.
Disastrous Flood	
Ben Hayman:	There was a flood. It was Four Mile Run. I let him use my store and I ran it. Wasn't nothing to do but merchants, and what they would do, small business administration would loan the money to these. Would tell you to go to your bank and we would guarantee loan. In other words, if a store needed \$50,000 they would guarantee that \$50,000. And I would go around to different merchants and tell them how to go into the office and sign the affidavits and how to get the money.
A.H.:	For disaster relief from the flood.

Ben Hayman:	See what they send me, this is a fax. And here is another one big shock, from the same thing. And the City of Alexandria send me one too.
A.H.:	So were a lot of stores, they had a lot of damage?
Ben Hayman:	I had twelve, I had about eight feet of water in my stores.
Jimmy Hayman:	Yep.
A.H.:	Oh my gosh, in 1963?
Ben Hayman:	No insurance whatsoever.
A.H.:	No one had insurance at that time?
Ben Hayman:	No, you couldn't get it.
A.H.:	Oh, did that area have a lot of floods?
Jimmy Hayman:	Yes, repeatedly.
A.H.:	Did it? I remember reading about that.
Ben Hayman:	We sued the city because they had appropriated the money to fix it so it wouldn't flood. Instead of using it to stop the flood they used it on something else. And we won the case, but the judge overruled the jury's decision. And we went to Richmond and then Richmond went along with the judge, and we lost it still.
A.H.:	You lost it still, wow.
Ben Hayman:	Another big shock.
Looking at Pictures and Awards	
A.H.:	For the fashion show.
Ben Hayman:	This one I like. That's from the city.
A.H.:	Citizen's Advisory Committee for Community Improvement. What was your involvement with that?
Ben Hayman:	We had 10 people on the committee. And I was one of the 10.
A.H.:	And what kind of projects would you work on, this talks about.
Mr. Hayman:	Mainly it was Urban Renewal.
A.H.:	Was that a hard, how was that to— I should ask was that part, part of your duties on that committee to get people to support Urban Renewal?
Ben Hayman:	Not as much because people supported it. No problems with that, its location. Let's see there was a group that wanted it to be uptown and group they tried to force it up there and we had to fight it. This is a—

A.H.:	How did you choose those blocks during Urban Renewal? What was the—
Ben Hayman:	All the big merchants were downtown, one of these blocks, and I felt that they would want to be there, they don't want to be out of the business section. So and I talked to the other fellows into going to this particular section. We got it through. Now this is, that's the Army. Now this one, this fellow rented, his wife rented my store, Hannelore. You know any Hannah?
A.H.:	Yeah, Hannelore.
Ben Hayman:	She ran my store and here is when he wrote about me.
A.H.:	Oh, that's very nice.
Ben Hayman:	I am very proud of that. You can put it here.
A.H.:	Yeah, that is a very nice letter. Did, do you know, you know again jumping around. Going back in time. Do you have any memories of the original Market Square, I know you talked about catching flies there, what did it look like?
Ben Hayman:	Well, if you look in this book, it has a picture.
A.H.:	Oh, does it? Here we got a few things don't we? But what about any of your—
Ben Hayman:	I told you in the market itself were grocery stores and meat markets and a lot of— On the outside these farmers would come on the weekends with all their groceries all their products and the place was jammed.
A.H.:	Was it in the section in front of where city hall is now?
Ben Hayman:	No, it was behind city hall. See, it was a big open space back there. City hall was here, here, and here, and in the big open space in the middle and that was where all these farmers had bins and would go.
Jimmy Hayman:	In front of Royal Street were a number of stores. The Alexandria National Bank was on the corner. Well, on King Street you had the <i>Gazette</i> and [Colefishes?] had a hardware store. But behind those stores and in the middle of the block, with city hall being up on Cameron and Royal. The corner was this open area where the farmers came and sold their produce.
A.H.:	And it would be on weekends when they would come?
Ben Hayman:	On weekends, but the market itself was open during the week.
A.H.:	And it would be open all day long, is that the case?
Ben Hayman:	Yes.

A.H.:	It was open until the [19]60s—is that correct? Up until Urban Renewal? I think I read about that. Was it always busy or could you—
Ben Hayman:	Oh, busy, a lot of people did their shopping there.
A.H.:	What other kinds of things would they sell?
Jimmy Hayman:	When you get into that period of time, after the [19]30s, it was a Saturday business and maybe some Sunday's business but it was not a type of thing like a little earlier. As times moved on and grocery stores played the major role on where you bought your groceries. The open-air markets kinda died away. There was a meat market, if I remember correctly, in a store on Royal Street.
A.H.:	And where would the farmers come from?
Ben Hayman:	From south of Alexandria, there was plenty of farms out there. See everything was farms; there wasn't rows of houses nothing like that, it was all empty.
A.H.:	Let's see here. [End]