

JEROME REHR

Memory Booklet





My name is Jerome Rehr. I was born in Brooklyn, New York in 1925.
My father Herman is from Ukraine and and my mother Selma is from Poland.



My father was a very outgoing person. He was a salesman all his life, selling shirts for a shirt manufacturer named Yale Shirt Co. to clothing stores in Brooklyn and Manhattan. He continued this even when he went into his own business - sweater manufacturing. He never made so-called “big money.” He always had a car but could not afford to buy a new car, only someone’s much used auto. I recall the day we were riding together in his used Chevy when we heard a loud clunk and the car came to a stop. He opened the hood and we found the battery had fallen down to the street, the little shelf the battery had rested on had rusted through and broken off.



My mother was born in Ciechanov, a city in Poland. She came to the US with her mother when she was one year old. Her father had come before. Her sister and her brothers were all born here. My mother always told people she was born in what is today Harlem in New York City on 117 st and I think she really believed it, that her mother had never told her about her true place of birth. I found that out when I found a copy of the passenger list of the ship they came on from Europe.



Following graduation from Brooklyn College with a degree in Physics, I accepted a position as a Physics professor at Union College in Schenectady, New York. During my time there, I would go on to meet William Coolidge and Irving Langmuir - both of whom would win Nobel Prizes.



Throughout my life, I was a physicist, professor, real estate agent, insurance agent, and lawyer. One of my proudest moments in my life was helping create and design the VT Fuze, which was instrumental in helping the US during World War II.



In my life I have travelled all over the country, including an incredible cross country trip after graduating college. Following my return home, I began working with my Uncle Eddie. Uncle Eddie's friends were usually pretty notable, and his friend Sol Atlas was no exception. Atlas would go one to build the famous Miracle Mile in Coral Gables, Florida.

On July 4, 1950, I met my beloved wife Thelma on the shores of Brighton Beach in Coney Island. I asked her to marry me in March of 1951, and we were married shortly thereafter on April 29, 1951.

One of my favorite things about Thelma is her kindness.

My children are Michael, Lawrence, and Eric and my daughters-in-law Lori, Debbie, and Susie. I have also been blessed with five grandchildren and one great grandson.

December 1987

Jerry and his cousin sell off the business they had acquired from Uncle Eddie, which had been converted into a law office from the original real estate insurance business office. Jerry then moves to Boca Pointe in Florida with his wife, Thelma.



July 4, 1950

Jerry meets his beloved wife Thelma on the shores of Brighton Beach in Coney Island and asks her to marry him in March of 1951. They marry on April 29, 1951.

Finding Work

After his cross-country trip, Jerry returns home and begins working in his Uncle Eddie's real estate and insurance office while he continues to try and find work as a Physicist. Jerry tells us about one of Uncle Eddie's friends - Sol Atlas. Atlas would go on to build the famous Miracle Mile in Coral Gables, Florida.

Family

Jerry and Thelma have three sons: Michael, who is a lawyer and lives in Palmetto Bay with his wife, Lori. Lawrence, an airline captain for Delta who lives in Connecticut with his wife, Debbie. And Eric, an emergency room doctor who lives in New Jersey with his wife Susie. Jerry has five grandchildren who are all very successful, along with one great grandson.

January 1960

Uncle Eddie and his wife die in a plane crash on their way to Florida. Upon investigation, it appears that a New York lawyer by the name of Julian Frank had been in trouble with the authorities, so he put several sticks of dynamite under his seat and blew up the plane.

Career

Jerry acquires his real estate license and begins his career in that field in 1949 at Woodside. Shortly thereafter, he would graduate from Brooklyn Law School and become a lawyer!

1949

about one of Uncle Eddie's friends - Sol Atlas. Atlas would go on to build the famous Miracle Mile in Coral Gables, Florida.

1946

Jerry is offered a position as a Physics professor at Union College in Schenectady, New York by Vladimir Rojansky, which he accepts. During his time there, Jerry goes on to meet William Coolidge and Irving Langmuir - both of whom would win Nobel Prizes. He works there until June 1949.

1945

Jerry graduates from Brooklyn College with a degree in Physics. Two weeks after graduating college, Jerry moves to Silver Spring, MD to begin working in the applied Physics Laboratory at Johns Hopkins University, where he helps develop the VT Fuze, which was instrumental in defeating the Germans in World War III



1925

Jerry is born at Israel Zion Hospital in Brooklyn, New York to Herman, who is from Ukraine, and Selma, who is from Poland.

1949

Jerry begins a six week cross-country excursion to find employment. The two students he travels with are Stan Lambert and Howard Simons. Simons would go on to become the managing editor of the Washington Post and boss of Ben Bradley who also created the phrase "Deep Throat" in association with President Nixon's Watergate scandal.

August 1945

Jerry witnesses President Truman address the nation on the steps of the White House where he declared that the Japanese had surrendered and the war was over.

1942

Jerry graduates from New Utrecht High School with the highest GPA amongst his fellow male graduates!



1932

At age 7, Jerry moves into the old Baker Mansion in Bayside, Queens County.

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