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**Jewish Historical Society Oral Histories
Renee Sussman Glickman (7 July 1999)**

By Ellen Callahan
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Link to audio file:

<https://archive.org/details/JHS51SideA>

Summary Information

Tape Number: JHS 51
Length: 37:35
Interviewer: O. [Orvil "Ozzie"]¹ Zuckerman
Interviewee: Renee Sussman Glickman [spelled Gluckman in the meta-data but the Starr website confirms that Glickman is the correct spelling], Mitch Sussman [children of Gil Sussman]
Date of Interview: 7/7/1999
Place of Interview: Office of the Starr Bus Lines

In this interview, siblings Renee Sussman Glickman and Mitchell "Mitch" Sussman discuss their father Gilbert "Gil" Sussman, his purchase and expansion of Starr Bus Lines from a regional bus line to a charter bus company from 1948 to his death in 1969. They also discuss his role in moving the Jewish Community Center (JCC) from Trenton to Ewing and the building of the JCC Bath House [sic] and Day Camp. In addition, they discuss the various regional bus lines (Starr, Richmond and Blue Bus) and the bus routes that were run back in the 1950s.

Gil Sussman was born on 7/21/1916 in Trenton, son of Samuel, a tailor, and Ida Sussman. The elder Sussmans were both born in Russia in about 1896. In addition to Gil, the Sussmans had five other children: Leon (b. ca. 1918); Julius (b. ca. 1919); Rubin (b. ca. 1921); Esther (b. ca. 1924) and Edith who was born in 1930.

Gil was very athletic, playing basketball, tennis and ping-pong/table tennis. He played basketball on the Trenton High School team and his son Mitchell reports that he won a basketball scholarship to Rider College but was unable to take advantage of this opportunity because his family needed his support during the difficult economic times in the early 1930s. Orvil Zuckerman, the interviewer

who was a friend of Gil, contends that Gil’s athleticism both in high school and later as part of a nationally rated ping-pong doubles team gave him credibility and stature among his peers who had gone on to college.

Gil’s earliest job was as the business manager for the Richmond Bus line, a job he held from about 1934 until 1948. In 1941, Gil married Lillian Lemar. Unfortunately, Lillian died in 1945 leaving Gil a widower with a two year old daughter, Renee.

In 1948, Gil and Art Levy purchased the Starr bus line, a regional bus company based in Hightstown. The owner’s sister, Shirley Starr, stayed on as a secretary and she and Gil were married in 1951 and in about 1953, Mitchell was born.

Gil believed that the future of the bus line was in charter tours and initiated trips to New York City and the Latin Casino in Cherry Hill. Trips to the 1964 New York World’s Fair were a turning point in growing Starr as a charter bus company.

Gil and his wife were active in the Jewish Community Center, serving on many committees. Specifically, Gill was part of the committee which oversaw the building of the Trenton Jewish Community Center Bath House [sic] and Day Camp in the mid-1950s. Located at 999 Lower Ferry Road in Ewing, New Jersey, the Bath House was designed by renowned mid-century architect Louis Kahn, and was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1984. [In 2006, Mercer County and Ewing Township purchased the bath house from the Jewish Community Center. The complex is now the Ewing Senior and Community Center Pool.]

In 1969, Gilbert Sussman died from lymph sarcoma at 53. His son-in-law Alan Glickman took over management. Mitchell Sussman continued his schooling, and joined the company in 1975 after graduating from George Washington University. Starr continues to be owned and operated by the family and is one of the major charter bus and tour companies of the region.

¹ <https://njewishnews.timesofisrael.com/ozzie-zuckerman-chronicler-of-jewish-trenton>

Key Word, Concept, Person	Time Stamp
Jewish Community Center (JCC) - move from Trenton to Ewing	00:42
Sussman, Gilbert “Gil” – role in success of moving JCC from Trenton to Ewing	00:42
Jewish Community Center (JCC) - WWII - Postwar changes in interest in JCC because opportunities for different entertainment movies, TV, mobility with cars	01:16

WWII - Postwar changes in interest in JCC because opportunities for different entertainment movies, TV, mobility with cars	01:16
Sussman, Gilbert "Gil" - family background	01:30
Sussman, Samuel and Ida	02:08
Sussman, Gilbert "Gil" - (children of Samuel and Ida)	02:42
Sussman, Edith "Edy"	02:50; 2:58
Sussman, Esther	03:00
Sussman, Leon "Al"	03:08
Sussman, Julius "Yudie"	03:10
Sussman, Rubin "Ruby"	03:11
Sussman, Gilbert "Gil" - work "business" ethic	03:23
Sussman, Gilbert "Gil" - employment at Richmond Bus Lines	03:47; 07:19
Richmond Bus Lines	04:03
Richmond, Izzy	04:04
Sussman, Gilbert "Gil" - purchase of Starr Bus Lines in 1948	04:09
Levy, Art - business partner of Gil Sussman in purchase of Starr Bus Lines	04:11
Starr, Bernie - Starr Bus Lines owner	04:40
Starr, Jack - Starr Bus Lines owner	04:40

Starr, Shirley - secretary at Starr Bus and future wife of Gil Sussman	04:45; 11:00
Richmond Bus Line - discussion about how it became a part of Starr, through purchase or because of bankruptcy and questions of any animosity between owners of Richmond Bus Line and Gil	05:15; 09:15; 23:02
Sussman, Gilbert "Gil" - youth - ping pong, tennis, basketball	06:06; 07:11
Rider University - basketball scholarship to Gil	06:35
Sussman, Gilbert "Gil" - Rider University basketball scholarship	06:35
Great Depression (1929-1933) - Gil unable to attend college because of economic times	06:39
Starr Bus Lines - discussion of business (routes, etc.)	08:09
Bus Routes - Hightstown to Trenton	08:23
Bus Routes - Trenton to Yardley	08:27; 23:30
Bus Routes - Trenton to Lambertville and Morrisville	08:30
Sussman, Gilbert "Gil" - pioneer in charter bussing	08:39
Bus Tours - New York City for Broadway shows	08:56; 27:33
Bus Tours - Latin Casino, Cherry Hill	08:59; 28:03
Bus Route – McGuire Air Force Base	09:08
Bus Routes - Fort Dix	09:08

Fort Dix – Bus Route	09:08
McGuire Air Force Base - Bus Route	09:08
Lemar, Lillian - family background	10:30
Elitism – Conjecture that Gil’s athleticism made him accepted by peers who went to college and would normally have looked down on him.	11:59
Sussman, Gilbert “Gil” - Committee Work	12:35
Greenacres Country Club	13:35
Zeltmacher, Muriel (local championship golfer at Greenacres Country Club)	13:35
Silverglade, Ed (ping-pong champion and doubles partner to Gil)	14:00
Sussman, Gilbert “Gil” - ping-pong doubles team with Ed Silverglade ranked #2 in US	14:00
Young Men's Hebrew Association (YMHA)- ping-pong team Trenton City Champs in 1930	14:39
American Jewish Life - article on Gil Sussman’s role in the JCC written by Sam Jacobs	15:31
Sussman, Gilbert “Gil” – Family time	16:05
Sussman, Gilbert “Gil” - Discussion of Gil’s role in the committee that eventually had the Jewish Community Center built in Ewing and controversy regarding financing and what should be built first	17:23
Kahn, Louis [misidentified as Albert] famous mid-century modern architect who designed the JCC in Ewing including the Trenton Bath House at 999 Lower Ferry Road in Ewing.	18:12
Trenton Bath House – designed by Louis Kahn	18:12

Jewish Community Center (JCC) - Pool built in Ewing and membership declines	18:33
Trenton Bath House - National Register of Historic Places [1984]	18:54
Jewish Community Center (JCC) - Finances	19:39
Jewish Community Center (JCC) Membership declines	20:09
Assisted Living - attempt to build on grounds of new JCC in Ewing	20:35
Jewish Community Center (JCC) - owned or rented land on which	20:35
Sussman, Mitch – tennis, tennis scholarship to George Washington University	21:12
Sussman, Gilbert “Gil” - Death in 1969	21:28
Sussman, Gilbert “Gil” - emphasizing sport to his children	21:38
Levy, Edgar “Eggs” - local tennis star	22:55
Moylan, Ed - tennis coach	23:34
Blue Bus - purchase by Starr Bus Lines	24:42
Bus Routes – Trenton to Lambertville and Stockton	24:54
Bus Routes – Hightstown, to Trenton & Yardley	25:11
Bus regulations - as public utility	25:22
Public Utilities and Bus Regulations	25:23

Bus Routes – Fort Dix to Levittown	26:09
Bus Routes – Lambertville to New Hope & Philadelphia line	26:29
Bus regulations - charter authority vs. incidental authority and regulation of bus lines	26:41
Starr Bus News	27:46
Curry, John – owner Curry Ticket Agency [presumed to be John E. Curry]	28:14
Bus Tours - New York World's Fair of 1964	29:06
Trenton Times - collaboration with Starr on trips to New York World's Fair of 1964	29:06
New Jersey Jewish News [this interview for a piece to be published in that paper]	30:11
Starr Bus Lines - after Gil's death	31:52
Fitzpatrick, Jim - Starr Manager after Gil's death	32:26
Glickman, Alan – joining Starr business	32:52
Sussman, Mitch – joining Starr business	32:52
Princeton Airporter - Purchased by Starr	36:18
Starr Bus Lines - Employee relations	37:04
Teamsters Union	37:04

References

<https://communitynews.org/2007/08/01/starr-tours-celebrates-60-years-of-easy-travel/>
<https://www.starrtours.com/about-us/>
<https://kahntrentonbathhouse.org/gallery/pdf/files/TheArchitectureofInterpretation.pdf>