**Herman Sims and the Lost Relatives**

This story begins back in 1918. My grandfather (Louis Newman, born 1866) moved from Great Falls, Montana, to Hollywood, California. Louis married Jennie Sinaberg (born 1876) and they had three children at the time: Edmund(1902), Bernice(1904),and Arthur(1911). Bernice and Arthur were deaf, and there were more opportunities for deaf children to get an education and jobs in the Los Angeles area. Herman Sims (1890) married Jennie’s youngest sister, Antoinette(1896). There were 8 siblings. He was a real estate agent in the Hollywood area. Louis brought some funds with him from his business ventures in Montana, and Herman showed him some available real estate around Fairfax and Wilshire and some buildings for sale. Louis, being from Montana, did not understand the value of real estate or buildings, and he decided to invest in the wholesale grocery business. The motto there is “sell it or smell it”. His choice was not a wise one and the family did not do well after that. As his son Arthur pointed out: “I was born with a silver spoon in my mouth; it was hocked; and I never got it back.” Louis passed in 1931, and his family was left with nothing. Jennie lived near (or sometimes with) her son Arthur (my dad) until 1981.

Herman continued successfully in the real estate business and had three children: Leona (1913-1989), Marjorie(1915-1991), and Milton[Mike](1926-?). Leona married “Big” Sandy Oster and they had a taller child “Little” Sandy (1931), who played professional baseball. “Little” Sandy married Barbara (1931) and they have been living in Woodland Hills for the last 55 years. I took Grandma Jennie there for a visit twice; the last time was probably around 1971. I remember there were a lot of holiday ornaments around. I attempted to visit while on a bicycle ride in the area and leave my information there around 1987. I saw their son, who was moving to Simi Valley, but there was no response after that. Leona Magidson (remarried) was quite active in the Howard Jarvis taxpayer movement, and became family isolated.

During the 1930’s, Herman and Antoinette would vacation at Catalina Island. Their daughter Marjorie went to UC Berkeley for college(A.B. 1937); she got married in 1936 to the Catalina lifeguard, Jack Welsch(1913-1990). Jack decided, now that he was married, he should get a real job, so he asked the Wrigleys (the owners of most of Catalina) for some help. He was hired as a salesman for Wrigleys Gum. His very successful sales career continued on to Scotts Fertilizer/Burpee in Marysville Ohio, Seagram/Schenley in New York (lived in Manhasset on Long Island), and Christian Brothers Wine in San Francisco. Subsequently, the Christian Brothers decided to get out of the wine business, so Jack became an independent wine importer/exporter. He lived at 1080 Chestnut St., #17B, on top of Russian Hill, in a high rise building with a view of the Golden Gate. This cooperative building had a guard, and each of the top 6 floors was split into only two large apartments.

Jack and Marjorie had two children, Toni(1945) and Jackie(1947). Toni got married, then divorced, and lived in Worthington, Ohio, in a fabulous architect designed house overlooking a small river and some large trees. We visited her there in 1981. She was very hospitable, but, unfortunately, we left a purse there and needed it to be shipped to us in Chicago. She had three children: a girl and two boys. The girl went to Mills College in Oakland. Jackie got married to somebody named Sorensen and moved to Denmark around 1970.

Mike Sims was a real estate developer in the Los Angeles area for a while. He was involved with Marina Del Rey when it was built after 1960. He then moved for a while to Costa Rica and had a daughter, named Michael. Many years later, I called him at his residence in an apartment in Reseda. He calmly explained that he had divorced the family years ago. He had no further interest in any contact or discussion.

Herman and Antoinette lived in 1940 at 137 S. Fuller, then an apartment near Beverly Hills. They moved to 2051 Outpost Drive in Hollywood in 1956. The house was a new custom home, designed and built by their son, Mike. It was quite spectacular with advanced design concepts and two master suites. The kitchen had everything since Antoinette was an excellent cook. Zillow says the current value is $1.7 million. They had a long-term full-time maid, Mary Veney. She gave me some old board games. I drove my Grandma Jennie there many times for a visit with her sister. Antoinette came to my Caltech graduation in 1966, but passed in 1968. Herman was quite involved with the Friars Club in Beverly Hills. The last real estate deal he mentioned was with Bond Clothing. He had friends in the real estate business that would buy the store locations, and rent them back to Bond. This would give Bond extra capital to expand the clothing business. I last saw Herman Sims in 1969 when he met me in Chicago while he was on a business trip. We had dinner at That Steak Joynt.

I have lost any contact with these relatives over the years: Louis Newman (818) 222-1878 (leave a message)