

Peggy Gerasimos and Margaret Zakos

Interviewees: Peggy Geracimos and Margaret Zakos, Duration: 13:42			
Interviewed by: George Katinas; Translation and summary: Athina Peidou			
min:sec	File:	KGHP_17_ZAKOS_M_20171012B_KINGSTON_GKATINAS_AUDIO.MP3	
Interview Time	Chronology	Place	Description
0:12			One night, the police came in and checked the narcotic records. The pharmacist explained that the physician would come next morning to sign the prescriptions that they had given out the night before, but the police decided to close the drug store.
1:48			Every single pharmacy in town did the same practice. It was a common way to accommodate the physicians and their late hours. That is how James's pharmacy re-opened and all the charges were dropped, after he spoke to the police chief. He argued that he was being singled out, so he requested an audit on <i>all</i> pharmacies, and the police agreed that all pharmacies were doing the same.
2:23			The drug store was the first self-service drug store in Ontario. James had travelled to Chicago so he had seen that there were self service drug shops, and he adopted this method for his business.
3:45			There was a restaurant next to the drug store, which was patterned after Walgreens in Chicago. It was all one connected area. The restaurant area existed before the Zakos family bought it. (Warren Hamilton's?)
4:08			Nonprescription medication, perfumes, and other things were offered through the pharmacy's self-service.
5:25			They existed for 25 years. In 1954 they employed 9 graduated pharmacists. They provided service to the clients. They wanted to extend the hours from 9 to 11, but the city did not allow it.
6:01			They posted an open letter to the Kingston residents explaining the situation and in the end the city allowed them to stay open until 11.
6:49			Another innovation was that the customer could pay post office and utilities at the front desk. It was the first store providing this, and the store was innovative at the time.
8:03			Peggy and Margaret do not remember when the family bought the Collins store.
8:35			Collins was a successful business family. It was bought as a grocery shop. They had vegetables and meat.
10:14			In world war 2, by the time Mussolini invaded Greece, people were marching on Princess Street. They saw the Zakos Bothers, and they thought that they were Italian so they attacked the store. "Anxieties were high" around the war situation.
11:10			There was an Italian person and the Zakos family protected him by hiding him in the basement. Margaret's aunt was also there.
11:55			The next day, the management from the military base apologized and fixed all the damages. That was the only incident Margaret and Peggy remember.

12:35			During the Great Depression, Margaret's landlord liked James and let him pay rent on a weekly basis and not monthly. This way, James managed the cash-flow. He was respected for the way he managed his business.
-------	--	--	---