

Zeitungsartikel über Harvey Goldblum vom 17. September 1980 in der Community Post, Port Arthur, Texas. Die Zeitungsausschnitte stammen aus dem Nachlass von Heinz Katzenstein, früher Gelsenkirchen. (Leo Baeck Institute, Center for Jewish History, New York, Heinz Katzenstein Family Collection, 1927-1993, AR 25109 / MF 904)

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Harvey H. Goldblum, M. D.

The Mark Of A Man

By Tim Knight



Isidor and Recha Goldblum owned and operated a clothing and shoe store in Gelsenkirchen, Westphalia in Germany's Ruhr Valley. Gelsenkirchen was a coal mining town similar to Pittsburg, Penn. Isidor Goldblum was prominent businessman and, in fact, owned several Goldblum department stores throughout western Germany. The Goldblum's had three children; the second child, a boy born in 1910, was named Helmut. At the age of two young Helmut Goldblum was stricken with infantile paralysis, and at this young age had to undergo several operations to correct the paralysis in his right leg.

During the period of the Weimar Republic, the period between the end of World War I and the beginning of the Nazi era under Adolf Hitler in 1933, the German medical profession underwent a rebirth in scientific advancement. The Goldblum's wanted their son to have the finest of medical care, and so Helmut Goldblum underwent several orthopedic operations which were revolutionary at the time. Spending a great deal of his childhood in hospitals, this young German lad began to observe the many doctors practicing their profession in their quite efficient and orderly manner. At a very young age Helmut Goldblum decided that he wanted to become a physician; he never deviated from this goal. His father had hopes that he would go into the clothing business with him, but Helmut Goldblum was true to his aspirations and diligently began preparing himself for the study of medicine.

It was the custom for German medical students to attend several universities; they could change schools every academic semester.

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Dr. Harvey H. Goldblum, shortly after his arrival in New York during the depression.

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leaving their business and life's savings to be confiscated by the Third Reich. Harvey Goldblum (he changed his name when he became an American citizen) went to Italy, learned the language, and attended the University of Naples. The Italian medical profession was not of the high caliber of the German counterpart, and Harvey Goldblum became dissatisfied and went to northwestern Switzerland to attend the University of Basel. In Switzerland, medical studies and professors were of the finest, and Harvey Goldblum, now more determined than ever, began to absorb all that he could. His keen mind was razor sharp when it came to the finer points of medical theory and practice.

Nazism had spread like a cancer over the face of Europe, and the mass arrest of Jews was becoming a routine occurrence. A relative of the Goldblum family who was living in New York began to prepare affidavits for two hundred of his relatives to come to the United States. So it was that Dr. Harvey Goldblum came to this country. He arrived in New York during the worst of the depression and became an out-patient physician in New York's Mount Siani Hospital. Doctors in those days had to make a living like everyone else, and in some cases a doctor would practice his profession during the day and drive a New York City Taxi Cab at night. There was much competition during those days, and doctors were hard pressed as were their patients in this nation's worst economic crisis. Dr. Goldblum did not like the long subway rides, nor did he care for the big city. It was not to his liking.

As was the case when he first came to this country, he was informed by a relative that there was an opening for a physician in Palestine, Texas's Missouri Pacific Hospital. To find a hospital was very difficult during the depression. Doctors who were already in a hospital would not let go, as they had a roof over their heads, and a warm meal. East Texas was very hard pressed during the 1930's. In most occasions, farmers had to subsist as best they could on government Pea Checks, money they would receive once a year for planting peas and plowing them under. The period Dr. Goldblum spent in

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For the past forty-two years, Dr. Goldblum has practiced medicine in Port Arthur. He is one of the most respected physicians in this area. Over the years, Dr. Goldblum has delivered thousands of babies, but in recent years he has not been in the field of pediatrics. The young German physician who never lost sight of his dream of practicing medicine, harbors no regrets or bitterness about having to flee his homeland. Dr. Goldblum feels that one of the great tragedies of the Hitlerian era was the loss of some of the best medical minds in Europe. Only now thirty-five years since the end of World War II, has German medicine made advances. Today German medicine is heavily socialized, leaving little in the way of incentive for aspiring young physicians.

Dr. Goldblum has left his mark on the medical profession. This area has been indeed fortunate that he chose Port Arthur to set up his practice over forty years ago. To literally hundreds of families, Dr. Goldblum's name is highly respected with almost reverence. The lives he has touched and the people he has assisted over the years, are a living tribute to this man who wanted nothing more than to be a physician and practice his profession to the very best of his ability, without fear of any type of political or religious reprisals. It is without a doubt that all the places Dr. Goldblum would have set up his practice, he would have been successful. There are hundreds of people alive and well today that can be thankful he chose Port Arthur. To be sure Harvey H. Goldblum M.D. is a credit to his profession, his family and his adopted hometown.



The Goldblum Family Department Store in Gelsenkirchen, Germany. The family made their living quarters on the second floor.

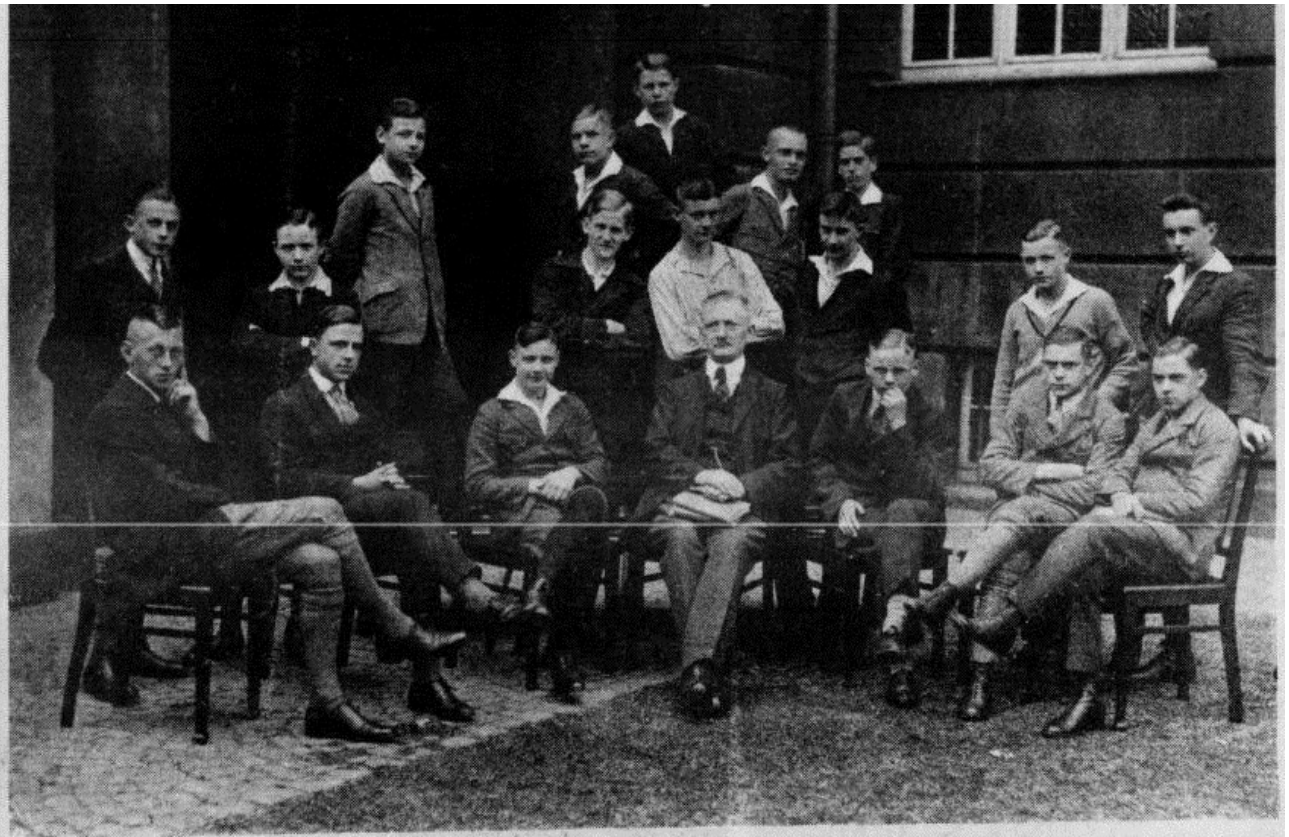
Palestine, Texas was very pleasant for him. His journey not yet completed, he moved to Crocket, Texas and into a virtual medical hornet's nest. There were two groups of doctors fighting each other, none really being united in their efforts. Dr. Goldblum was appaled at this situation, but there was nothing much that he could do about it. He did have the good fortune to meet another young physician by the name of Joseph M. Loewenstein. They were friends almost from the start and still are. There two men had much in common including the same birthday, May 15, 1910. Both Doctors Goldblum and Loewenstein decided to pool their small resources and seek another location in Texas which would be more suitable for the practice of medicine. Two cities were pinpointed, Corpus Christi and Port Arthur, and when the final decision was made, Port Arthur was their choice. They considered the ratio between doctors and patients very good, being in the doctor's favor. Both men knew that the profession was very competitive and

if a house call was needed, one or the other of them had better be there, or they might find one or two other doctors waiting at the patient's front door. Port Arthur with its oil based industry was certain to have two pay days each month, where as in east Texas the farmers only got paid once or twice per year, like wise the medical men would only be paid for their services in the same manner.

In October of 1938, Goldblum and Loewenstein came to Port Arthur. Dr. Goldblum had his entire savings of \$300 and went to the First National Bank to start his account and open his practice of medicine. Most of the doctors were located in the Adams Building (now World Trade Building). Dr. Goldblum decided to open his practice in a wooden frame, two-story building on Proctor Street next to Lions Park.

In 1939 Dr. Goldblum married Tina Jankelson, and the couple had four children. Mrs. Goldblum is deceased, and Dr. Goldblum is now the proud grandfather of

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Harvey H. Goldblum, seated third from left, with his high school class in Gelsenkirchen; the date was September, 1926.