

**Interview Subject: Robert Hauser**

**Date Recorded: 5-5-12**

**Location: MDPL office, Art Deco Welcome Center**

**Date of Birth: 4-8-42**

Robert is the nephew of Henry Hohausser, one of the most prolific of the "Deco" period architects. Henry had no children so he was close to his nephew. Robert has one of Henry's architectural renderings.

Born and raised on Beach. He lived in an apartment building his family owned. He had jobs and chores helping clean up after short term rentals. His uncle was Henry Hohausser, the architect who built many of the Art Deco hotels and residential buildings.

He talks about childhood on the Beach, going to the movies. His father died when he was 5. He explains change of family surname.

Every summer he spent in North Shore Park and learned to play tennis, chess, ping pong, intramural tournaments with other parks. Kids identified with their local park like a club or camp. Miami Beach was a wonderful, simple community. No crime. Left doors unlocked. Hitchhiked.

Tells background on his Uncle Henry. Went to trade school and became certified as a plumber. Took night courses to study architecture, starting working for his uncle, William Hohausser, who was an architect. He developed his own clientele and moved down here because family was here, in 1935, and for his wife's health.

He came to visit and always brought a silver dollar. He never had kids. He took Robert under his wing and invited him to Friday night fights at the Miami Beach Auditorium and on a business trip to Key West.

He designed a home 90th and Harding Avenue, home for Sam Hohausser family. Still there.

He did a lot of investing with some of the well known families here.

He became disenchanted during the late 1950's and moved back to New York and became an investor.

He had a boat, docked in Key Biscayne. Avid golfer. His own house was around 43rd and La Gorce.

When he grew up on the Beach it was predominantly Jewish yet diverse because people were from different countries.

Beach High celebrity list. Education was stressed.

Cuban missile crisis, saw dozens of warships out behind the Fontainebleau.

In 1957 started working at the Fontainebleau, worked with the cabana boys, sweep, clean ashtrays, enclosed cabanas with sinks, lounge chairs. That was the premiere hotel. Got to see a lot of celebrities, saw a lot of filming.

Jimmy Durante, Frank Sinatra, Eddie Fisher, Rodney Dangerfield.

Acting as a pager, he called out the name and was taken into a private area and given a tip and told never to page out his name in public again. Shady character, like in Magic Miami.

Memories of discrimination against blacks.