

Notes on the Sopkins from Mel Torme's book " It @Wasn't all Velvet"

Page 1 ... "my mother played the piano passably... (Betty Sopkin)

Page 2... "She was remembering the first time she danced with my dad. It was in the summer of 1923...."The young man, blessed with a keen eye for pretty girls saw Betty Sopkin... Their first dance led to many dates and those dates culminated in Marriage in January 1924. (Chicago?)

My mother was born in America...

Page 3. "Whenever the clans met for dinner, the Sopkins and Tormes invariably punctuated the occasion with a rousing singing session. Old Hebrew songs, current tunes of the day, nostalgic musical memoirs of the past , all were fodder for these family get-togethers. My Uncle Al played the ukulele...

Page 7. My Grandpa Sopkin and his brothers opened a dress factory on Wentworth Avenue and my dad went to work for them as a cutter. The Sopkins and the Tormes were as different as chalk and cheese. The Sopkins ranged from semi-affluent to downright well off. Grandpa's brother, Ben, was a rich man and took on the mien of patriarch. He dispensed largesse to all branches of the family with dogged frugality, but he was a kind and good man nonetheless.

Page 8. My grandfather Harry [Sopkin] had a great sense of humor and, during my life, came to my rescue financially on several occasions.. He used to say he wasn't interested in leaving his money to his children and grandchildren when he died; he wanted to see them enjoy it while he lived. His wife Dora, was completely devoted to her children. I always thought she felt Mom had married beneath her...

Page 8. Mom, she was named Sabina at birth, but changed her name to Betty early in her teens, was the strength of my family.

Page 17. The Sopkins were no less loving, albeit less demonstrative. My maternal grandparents, particularly Grandpa Sopkin, were supportive beyond belief. The Sopkins were proud of me, but they took it all in stride. Why shouldn't Melvin be musically talented? Isn't his second cousin George Sopkin, a great cellist who played with the world famous Fine Arts String Quartet since its inception? Isn't his other second cousin Henry Sopkin, a great conductor who founded the Atlanta Symphony and conducted that organization from the mid-1950's until he retired in 1965?

Note: Torme's Grandfather was Harry Sopkin and his Grandmother was Dora Sopkin. His uncle was Ben Sopkin

Transcribed by J. Gary Fox

More information on Sopkins at www.foxcooper.org

Most current updates on Ancestry.com in the Podorolski Schwartz Sopkin Family Tree 2014

Link to that tree: <http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/70953056/family>