

Circle Plaza Motel

Al & Mary Cinger



Location

62 Delsea Drive
Vineland, NJ
(Delsea Drive & Landis Ave)
Cumberland County

Years Active

1971 - 1985
Al and Mary Cinger in front of the
Circle Plaza Motel in Vineland. In the
1970s

About Al & Mary Cinger

Albert Cinger was born Alter Cyngiser in 1915 in Skrzynno, Poland. His family sold dry goods. **Mary Cinger** was born Mania Gutman in 1927 in Szydlowiec Poland, a larger city not far from Skrzynno. Mary's family actually sent her to live with cousins in Skrzynno every summer to get out of the city, and she was in Skrzynno when the Germans occupied the

village in 1939. The approximately 120 Jewish families there faced immediate persecution. Most of the residents were rounded up in 1942 and deported to Treblinka, where they were murdered upon arrival. The Cingers evaded the deportation and drove to the Radom

Ghetto. Mary (Mania) also escaped and walked to the Radom Ghetto by herself. From the ghetto, the Cingers as well as Mary were deported on different transports to Auschwitz-Birkenau. At one point while at Birkenau, Mary was “selected” for the gas chambers, but while being held in a room in the barracks with others awaiting to be sent to the crematorium, she climbed over others and escaped through a small window, rejoining other inmates from her barrack who were being sent on a work detail. She had narrowly escaped death. Near the end of the war, Mary was sent from Auschwitz to an underground munitions factory in Czechoslovakia. Al was sent to the Dachau concentration camp near Munich. They were both liberated by American forces, Al at Dachau and Mary in Czechoslovakia.

Al and Mary were both the only members of their immediate families to survive the Holocaust. Mary ended up in the Garmisch-Partenkirchen displaced persons camp in American-occupied Germany. When Al learned Mary was there, he rode a motorcycle to Garmisch-Patenkirchen to join her. They married in the DP camp in 1945. Mary and Al immigrated to the United States in 1949. After several months living with other Holocaust Survivors in Brooklyn, they settled in Vineland, where they ran a poultry farm on Garrison Road until the mid-1950s.

Circle Plaza Motel

New immigrants in the Vineland area, Al and Mary Cinger were always industrious; they ran several businesses while also managing their poultry farm. In 1965 they opened Cinger Barbecue, a rotisserie chicken shop at the “Circle,” a large roundabout at the intersection of Delsea Drive and Landis Avenue that marks the western end of downtown Vineland. They later sold clothing, especially sweaters, at the same location, and changed the name to Cinger’s Sweaters. The Cingers had watched as other Holocaust Survivor families entered the hotel business, and decided to follow that model. With support from friends, they built a motel at the same site, called the Circle Plaza Motel.



Circle Plaza Post Card 1960's

The Circle Plaza opened for business in 1971. Located centrally in downtown Vineland, the Circle Plaza was

convenient for Vineland visitors and businesses, unlike other motels that catered largely to shore traffic. Al and Mary both worked at the motel; Al did maintenance and covered reception in the morning, while



Mary kept the books and manned the later shifts. Their children worked in this family business almost every day, including cleaning rooms and working the front desk.

Al Cinger passed away in 1983 at age 67. Management of the motel was then left to his wife



NEW HOSTEL FOR VINELAND — Before Mayor Henry A. Garton Jr. left for Europe on Friday he signed the register at the official opening of the new Circle Plaza Motel, owned by Mr. and Mrs. Al Cinger, shown above. Located just south of Landis ave. on Delsea dr., Circle Plaza Motel has

40 air conditioned, fully carpeted units for double or single occupancy, each with modern, colorful and comfortable furnishings. (Times Journal photo).

Mary and her daughter. In 1985 the Roth family, owners of the Buena Vista Motel, purchased Circle Plaza, and Mary retired from the hotel business. The Roth family's Tower Hospitality group, which managed several other hotels in the area, also assumed management of the Circle Plaza. Mary Cinger passed away in 1986 at age 59.

The Cingers Welcome Vineland Mayor Henry Garton to the Newly Opened Circle Plaza Hotel VJ 5/10/1971

Circle Plaza Motel under construction (Vineland *Times Journal* 2/26/1971)



Vineland *Times Journal* Advertisement for Cinger Sweaters and Cinger Barbecue Chicken 8/24/1962

Cumberland County Hotels owned by Holocaust Survivors

The Cinger Family was not the only Holocaust survivor family to own, operate and franchise hotels in Cumberland County. The Kezjman family also owned hotels in Vineland, such as the Ramada, or in Millville such as the Millville Motor Inn. In addition, the Bronkesh family owned and operated the Highway 77 Motel in Bridgeton, and

the Roth family owned several hotels and motels in Cumberland County.

Grand Opening

CIRCLE PLAZA MOTEL




CIRCLE PLAZA MOTEL
DELSEA DRIVE
AT THE TRAFFIC CIRCLE
VINELAND, N.J. — 691-6685
Open House Sunday, May 9, 1971

Modern, quiet, luxuriously furnished accommodations.

Mr. and Mrs. Al Cinger, the proprietors of The Circle Plaza Motel, will help make your visit pleasant.



You are invited to inspect the Circle Plaza Motel, the newest and most modern facility in South Jersey.

All rooms are luxuriously furnished and have wall to wall carpeting, phones, air conditioning and color t.v. to make our guests stay comfortable.

Please visit with us and get acquainted, Sunday May 9, 1971

Cordially,
MR. & MRS. AL CINGER

Our Congratulations Circle Plaza Motel

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RESIDENTIAL—COMMERCIAL—INDUSTRIAL
1889 South Spring Road—Vineland, New Jersey—Phone 691-1471

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For More Information See

South Jersey Holocaust Survivor Digital Archive, Sara and Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center at Stockton University.

Daily Journal, Vineland (Newspapers.com), 8/24/1962, 2/26/1971, & 5/8/1971.

Photos provided by the Roth family.

Profiles of South Jersey Holocaust Survivors by George D. Quinn (Project Lead), with contributions by Dr. Michael Hayse (Curator & Editor).