

## Al and Mary Cinger



Alter and Mania Cyngiser (later Al and Mary Cinger)  
in Germany, late 1940s  
Photo source: HSSJP Archive, courtesy of Barbara Roth)

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 Szydłowiec, not far from Skrzynno. Mary was staying with cousins in Skrzynno when the Germans occupied the village in 1939. The Cyngisers as well as Mania Gutman were forced into the ghetto in the nearby large city of Radom, . From the ghetto, they were deported on different transports to Auschwitz-Birkenau. At one point in Birkenau, Mary was “selected” for the gas chambers, but escaped through a small window, rejoining other inmates from her barrack who were being sent on a work detail. Near the end of the war, she was sent from Auschwitz to an underground munitions factory in Slovakia. Al was sent to the Dachau concentration camp near Munich. They were both liberated by American forces. 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 (DP) camp in American-occupied Germany. When Al learned Mary was there, he rode a motorcycle to Garmisch-Patenkirchen to join her, and they married in 1945. Al testified as a witness at the Dachau War Crimes Tribunal of Nazi camp officials conducted by the American military in 1945.

Mary and Al immigrated to the United States in 1949. Americanizing their surname to “Cinger.” After several months living with other Holocaust survivors in Brooklyn, they settled in Vineland, New Jersey, where they ran a poultry farm on Garrison Road until the mid-1950s. Al and Mary Cinger started small 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 on 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. With support from friends, they built the Circle Plaza Motel motel at the same site, which opened in 1971. 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 worked reception on the later shifts. Their children worked in the family business almost every day, including cleaning rooms and working the front desk. When they learned that their son, Samuel, a university student passed away suddenly in 1983, Al Cinger, age 67, suffered a heart attack and died. Mary and her daughter, Barbara, who had been working as a pharmacist in northern New Jersey, were left to manage

the motel. In 1985, Sam and Elizabeth Roth, other Vineland Holocaust survivors and owners of the Buena Vista Motel, purchased Circle Plaza Motel, and Mary retired. The Roths' son Henry and Mary's daughter Barbara met at the closing for the sale; Barbara Cinger and Henry Roth eventually married. Mary Cinger passed away in 1986.