

Pearl, we're continuing now. And I'd like to ask you how you met your husband.

When I was 12 years old, I had a friend in the same village from where he comes. The first time I met him that time. And my mother and his mother were first cousins, but we never knew each other. Then when I came back from concentration camp, I was once in that city from where he lived. He was already a big shot. He was in his business. He had already a car and motorcycle, but nobody else had. And I fell in love.

But nothing helped me, because I was very young. So he never even looked at the side where I was. When I was 18 years old, he started to invite me out, but never alone, with a chaperone. Never said a nice word, but I had my hopes. I said to myself, one day, he'll wake up. And he did, and we got married. And we are married 39 happy, happy years. And I have three beautiful children, and they give me lots of happiness.

Now, you were married where?

In Prague, in the Altneuschul when I was 19 years old.

And what did you do after that?

After that, we lived in Prague for about three months, four months, and we went to Israel for four years. He always tells me he took me for a long honeymoon. We were four years there.

What prompted you to go?

There was no other place to go to. You didn't want to live under communists. You had to go somewhere. His brothers were already, one of his brothers were here in the United States. And I was hoping my uncle would send me papers, but he didn't want to. He said, you got married. Worry about yourself. And his brother send us papers.

And we couldn't come to the United States. That time, the quotas were very strict. So we came to Canada. We lived in Canada for a year and a half. And in 1954, we came to the United States.

You were in Israel at just about the time that it was being born.

Yes.

What were your feelings there?

Oh, it was a beautiful feeling. And I still have that feeling. We just wanted to have family, so we came here because his brother was here. And then his younger brother came. So we wanted to be together as a family, and he's got the most wonderful family. We are very, very close. He's got a sister in Los Angeles and two brothers in Ohio. And we are a very close family.

And where were your sons born?

In the United States. All three of them were born in Cleveland, Ohio.

Tell us a little more about your travels, about your places where you lived.

Once I was married and he made a beautiful living, and I worked, so we always had a beautiful time together. It was hard times from the beginning, when you came to this country, but we both work. And we made it, thank God. We don't miss much.

You went right to Ohio?

We went to Ohio because his brothers were there, and we lived there for six years. And we have lost a business there. And in the same time, we knew that here was one for sale. So we bought here the store, and we worked in Newark for quite a while. And for 11 years, we are [? New ?] [? England ?] in our business.

And so you came from Ohio to New Jersey?

Yeah.

And you have three sons, and tell us a little about them.

My three sons, they are good boys. They never gave me any problems. They have a very good education, and they give me a lot of happiness. Two of them are married to very nice girls, and I have three grandchildren. And we are very happy. We are a very happy family, I hope.

Think so.

Yeah.

When the boys were growing up, had they ever asked you about what happened?

Yes, they did. My oldest one used to question me. So I always told him, there were some bad people, and they killed your grandparents in the war. I didn't want to bring them up hating. I don't believe in hatred. And I don't think that I could have talked about at that time. Because when my middle son, Jeffrey, was growing up, he came home one day and he said, mother, everybody's giving their life history, and where their grandparents are, and where the families and everything. How about telling us about your family?

And I sat with him on the bed. I remember like today. And I just started, and I burst into, I cry, and I could not talk about it. From then on, they didn't question me too much. Because even though for the holidays, he was home and he says, mother, I don't understand it. Everybody knows what went on with their families. We still don't know nothing. We are grown people already.

But just as I was sheltered, I thought I have to shelter my children, too. And I guess you carry with you things that is part of your upbringing, and you carry it with you for a lifetime. I tried to change, but in everything, you cannot.

So you really never sat down with the boys and [INAUDIBLE].

No, no. No.

No, I know that.

But today, I think I could already. I could have never believed that I can sit here and talk about it, not that I said everything. Because you cannot think, you cannot think back of every detail. But I would have never believed that, that I could sit down and talk to people about it. I used to cry, even when I was thinking just about it. So today, one day, I will sit down with them, and I will talk.

Maybe this tape will serve as an entry into that.

Yeah, maybe, maybe. They were always, always wanted to know their roots, you know? But how can you tell? Even if they come to me to ask history, who was, about what kind of an ailment, or what happened, who is there to tell me? How do I know? How do I know? I really don't know. They were healthy people. But they were young. Everybody's healthy when they are young. So I really don't know much.

Is there anything that you would like to say in conclusion to your tape?

I hope nobody should go through something like this. I hope the world will find out what it was, to lose parents in an early age like this, and for no good reason. They never harm nobody. They were good people. They were religious people. So I just hope that people will learn from that. And it's better and up to today. Till this day, you had things happening. It's very sad.

Things like what?

Things like in Russia, what happens to Jewish people. Even if you listen to the interviews from Poland, when they showed a picture, you know, about the Jews, till this day, they feel yet that we were wrong, that we had everything, that we had it easier than they did. But just like in this country, too, there are a lot of people that they didn't make it. But I feel there is opportunity for everybody. And if you really put your mind to it, and you're willing to work for it, you can always make it. So somebody has less \$1,000 or more, but you can always make it.

You worked very hard when you got here, with the--

I work to this day. I work very hard. But I feel I have the opportunity. Why not? In this country, whoever didn't make it was because they just don't want to do what I did. I wasn't ashamed to wash the floor in the store, from the beginning, and cook in the kitchen and do everything. I didn't feel that it's degrading. Because I felt as long as you do it the honest way.

I think that's a nice legacy to leave.

And my whole idea of life was for my children. I just wanted them to have an education, the opportunities I didn't have. I wanted them to have it. And thank god it worked out all right. So I'm very thankful to this country.

I'm very glad that you're here to tell us about this. Thank you very much.

Thank you very much.

Thank you, Pearl.

Thank you. I never thought I would make it.