

-TITLE- BERT BOCHOVE
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-NOTES-
-CONTENTS-

1:00 Gay Block, the interviewer for this video, introduces Bert and Betty Bochove, and speaks of children that will be coming along for the interview. After much arranging, we are ready to begin.

2:00 Talking to Bert about his brave rescue efforts during the war, ask Betty if she would do the same. She answers no, that it is not part of her nature. Yes, she would now, but she usually doesn't like risks, wouldn't have gone out of her way as a child, as Bert did, because she needs security.

3:00 She says that Bert jumps in where angels fear to tread, and that their children are like their father, they just jump right in. Marissa, the eldest of Bert's first marriage, always will approach anyone sitting alone and ask if anything is wrong.

4:00 She tells a story about Erik, Bert's son, who was driving along in his tiny MG when he came upon a woman lying unconscious in the street, and even though she weighed about 400 lbs., he stuffed her into his little car, drove her home, and then again with much difficulty, got her out of the car.

5:00 She tells another story about the elevator in their home, which broke down once, and, realizing only then that they had no repair contract, she called a lot of places looking for help. Then, this very morning, the elevator broke again, and in looking for that number, she realized she had written it down in four places. It is part of her nature to make sure, to be certain

6:00 Bert speaks of how he was aware of the risks, of the dangers involved in saving so many people in the Holocaust, but that his primary concern was for his family, and thus he had to help out these people He was pensive.

7:00 He tells a story about how a boy fell out of a rowboat into the canal. This was over 65 years ago he and some friends were playing along the side of the canal, and when he heard the commotion, he ran to the side and jumped in the canal. It didn't occur to him at the time, but only a year later, it struck him that no one else had jumped in besides him, for by the time he had

gotten back to the side of the canal, there were 35 people all standing and watching.

3:00 Betty talks again about her need to be sure, to have it in her hands. She mentions their first months in the U.S., when Bert was making \$50 a week and she \$30, and how she saved because she was so afraid of not having, having grown up during the war and being used to not having and needing to save. Later, the savings they had went for a car.

9:00 When Betty plunges, she says, it is because she has thought about it and knows she should plunge.

10:00 Bert says that he had noticed that difference between them. But he never worries about tomorrow. He tells a story about a time with his first wife when she was worried about not having any potatoes, and how he was rather nonchalant about it, how one day the boat with potatoes came in, and because he helped someone carry and load these potatoes, he got enough for his family and his friends who needed to eat.

11:00 Betty tells a story about how a 35-year old man, who is very dirty, came up to their door only recently and wanted some work. They didn't have any work, but Betty asked him if he had a meal. He said no, so Bert invited him in, and the guy ended up eating in front of the T.V., and asking for things like cheese to go on his spaghetti. Betty said that that was the difference between Bert and she, for she would have fed him outside on the porch.

14:00 Annemarie and her daughter are introduced. She was born in 1957, and is the oldest child of Bert and Betty's marriage her brother is two years younger, her sisters are 6 years younger, and she is 11 and 13 years younger than Erik and Marissa, respectively. She knows and gets along with her elder siblings well, she was 5 and 6 when they went away to school.

15:00 She was really young when she became aware of what her father had done. Her teacher in elementary school were really interested in it. She brought a book to school for Show and Tell, published on the black market, called the Holocaust Book it was done by an artist in the camps

16:00 Annemarie goes on to say that she was not ashamed of her immigrant parents or the accent they had. She thinks a lot of kids are, but where they live, everyone is the same, so she is proud of the accent that makes her and her family different. Betty says that everyone in town always asks for the jewelry shop of that man with the quaint accent", referring to Bert

17 00 Lidy, one of the twins, is introduced. She says that she was aware of what her father had done in elementary school. She remembers being in first grade and hearing people calling her father a hero. She didn't understand it then, because she still thought of hero as some sort of superstar She absorbed the idea of

it, but didn't sense what everyone meant.

18:00 Lidy and Annemarie both talk about what Bert was like as a father, given his greatness as a man Lidy says that both their parents were not judgmental and patient people, and that they are very lucky for both parents. She said she learned a lot from how they treated one another.

19:00 Annemarie says that he is quiet, and hides his feelings. You can't always be sure of what he is thinking. Lidy then says that he doesn't always say that he loves you, but that he shows it in how he works with his hands and what he does. They call him funny

20:00 Bert, listening to all of this, says that his brothers were not the hurting kind, and that his mother was also a very good-hearted woman. he says his children are experts at getting things out of him. Annemarie says that he just isn't verbally expressive.

21:00 Annemarie is 30, lives in Atiga, works part-time with her father and goes to school, as well as caring for her husband and two babies. She thinks her family is a little nicer and a little kinder than most, like they would be the first to stop in the case of somebody's flat tire. She isn't sure that she is looking today for things like Auschwitz, and she doesn't know that she could do what her father did however, after a little consideration time, she decides to answer yes, that she could do it if it came upon her, but that her Dad has a good self image, and that she is not as self-confident

22:00 Betty says that he has always had self confidence, that he doesn't think, he just does.

23:00 Lidy interjects to say that he does think but not whether or not he would be killed, but rather could I live with myself, could I sleep at night, if I didn't help these people. Annemarie says that he has more energy than she does, and he is 46 years older He can work all day and also makes dinner for everyone.

24:00 Lidy is a physical therapist getting her degree and working part-time in her field. She also teaches aerobics and loves it. She once helped Tracey Austin, the tennis star, with some sports injuries and it inspired her. She is 23 and studies at Cal State Long Beach.

25:00 Betty and Bert are asked how they would pass these values onto their children, just by telling them the stories about Bert or by teaching them general principles of what is good. Betty answers that when anyone needs help, her family say yes before even thinking about it- and sometimes they regret it. She does the same in the house. She worries a lot, though. When she came from Holland, she used to pay attention to what other people said of what she and her family did. After she had kids, she had to let go of this so that she could let her children think for themselves.

28:00 Betty learned English in order to understand what her kids were bringing home. She is very verbal, and learned that from her kids, as well. She tells a funny story about repeating a bad word that her son had used to her neighbor and others before finally someone got over their shock to tell her what she was saying.

29:00 They all talk about their mother's illness. Lidy says that it never got Betty down.

She had to raise her voice sometimes with the kids, but the fact that their mother was in too much pain to always take care and coddle them helped them to learn responsibility early on Annemarie says that it helps them in their relationships with others because they all had more work, they would sometimes get mad at each other for not doing this or that, and they learned not to feel so guilty about their mother and about being mad. And when they took Betty to a specialist, they met other families going through the same thing and it helps to deal with all that anger.

32:00 Lidy says that it makes you very self centered when someone in your family is ill. then, when Betty could no longer walk it made her realize that she didn't have 100% attention for her kids, she had to deal with her illness.

33:00 Betty talks about her biggest consolation being that even if she were well, she couldn't have tried harder. She tells a story about how she tucked one of her kids in one night and five minutes later he was out the window of his room going somewhere. Even if she were well there was nothing she could have done to stop him. Lidy says that all mothers seem to know everything

34:00 Annemarie's husband walks in. He's a machinist and they have been married for 6 years. His hobby is building motorcycles and alternate energy sources.

35:00 Bert feels that his family gives him a happy feeling. With so much going wrong in the world, he is glad that they are all wonderful. He hopes that they all find their way in life, and that it will be good.

36:00 Bert was brought up in a small narrow minded religious community. His mother and father were religious but not narrow minded, so they were different from the other people around In the summer they would spend summers sailing and such instead of going to church, and in the winter they would only go once in every fourteen days. Their minister came from far away and thus wasn't there all the time, but there were always women to listen to. His first wife was just the same way in terms of religion. She was from a small Alpine community, and they were married by the Catholic priest there. As a religion, they got more support from the Catholics than from their own faith.

39:00 Bert continues to say that after some years, he met Betty and

she was raised Catholic, too. They believe that even though they are Catholic, what other people believe is alright, too. "Why should we know better?"

40:00 Bert says that when they moved to America, they realized that people were just as narrow minded here as in the Old Country. The family speaks about one of the kids, who is nameless, that used to be very narrow minded about religion and who was right and wrong, but that child, to their relief, has since grown out of that phase

41:00 Lidy says that when she went to church, she thought that she would be damned to Hell if she didn't accept Jesus Christ into her heart physically.

42:00 Betty did take the children to church occasionally, but she stopped going. Annemarie began going to a fundamental church and it worked well for her. It was a very charismatic movement. The others were also involved in religion at one or another time.

43 00 Lidy says that religion did not emphasize the helping enough. There was the concept of love thy neighbor, but it didn't seem as important at church as it was at home. There was more stress on the do nots and the rules than on being a good person.

44:00 Betty says that she learned that the Bible was for her, not for him or someone else. She doesn't like the idea that the Christians make you get to God through Jesus Christ and priests. She says that the Jews don't have to go somewhere else, nor the Indians or the Moslems. She said that she was very excited because she heard a fundamental minister on the radio, and he said that everyone goes to heaven even the Jews.

45:00 The other twin, Jill, is introduced. She cuts hair at a salon, and is in School near El Camino for business and communications. She isn't staying at the salon, even though she likes it, she doesn't want to pursue it because it has no retirement plan and no stock option.

46 00 The family discusses the strengths passed on from their father and what they have learned from his actions. Jill replies that they don't let things go by, that they all go out of their way more. Annemarie and Lidy start discussing making patients that are in pain, like their Mom and Lidy's clients, more comfortable and quickly seen. Annemarie feels that these people should be taken care of first and helped as much as possible, and she becomes upset that other people, like her Mom's doctor, don't feel that way. She feels she is not doing anything so terrific that others can't do the same.

47:00 Lidy says that she is so flattered when people help her. She tells a story about how one day she saw a man trying to get into his car, and she stopped in the middle of the road to help. Three people lined up behind her and started honking their horns, even though they could have gone around her car. Annemarie speaks of how

rude people are on the road, especially about left hand turns.

48:00 Annemarie says that her father taught them to always keep on going, that things aren't as important as they seem.

49:00 Bert talks about the past in a very low and incomprehensible manner. He says that the way it started was from a situation with a woman who was a girlfriend of his first wife, and a Jew. It was the first thing to do.

He talks about a brother who was a sales manager who used to come into his father's store and sell him things, who had a family with three kids. He speaks about hiding them in a house with windows for outside light, that were covered with blankets during the day.

50:00 He talks about the small yard behind the house, and how with the one family, the kids were so unhappy. They were very afraid and never went outside. He says that they didn't have a nice memory of this time.

51:00 Jill says that the philosophy carries out, that things just have to be done and everyone just has to understand. She tells how Bert and Betty are planning a trip to Holland, and Mom got sicker, near paralysis, so the kids covered for their father in every aspect while he took care of planning for the trip.

52:00 Betty says generosity is different with family and friends than with strangers

53:00 The family discusses the upcoming trip to Europe casually Betty says that she is also excited about her new grandson in Texas

54:00 Betty tells about the two foster children she's had over the years in addition to her own. At one point, she had three daughters the same age. and all her young children were between 9 and 18.

55:00 None of the kids resented the foster children, but they talk about how the girl seemed to drive Betty crazy sometimes. Betty says that the girls father and mother were divorced, the father remarried, and the mother tried to commit suicide. The two daughters thought that the suicide attempt was their fault.

56:00 One of the girls, Lori, was in Jill's class, and her friend. She had foster parents, but he had lost his job and they were moving to San Francisco. Jill didn't want Lori to leave, so she came to live with them.

57:00 Lidy talks about how the girl would cry herself to sleep at night and how she was a new set of problems. The mother didn't want kids because she didn't have a husband, and when she did remarried the new man didn't want kids either. But the kid turned out well, had a good self opinion.

58:00 For the Bochoves, nothing is as important as having someone

else feel right. Betty says that the foster daughter came by recently to say. "Don't feel bad, because you made a mensch out of me."

59:00 The other boy was really bad, Betty says, but Lidy, says he took them to all 21 missions in California. Bert says that while he was still in High school his father shot himself, and he was a neighbor.

60:00 Bert and Betty always make joint decisions on taking others in. Everyone in the family does the cooking, and the children all say that these are very good parents who did a good job raising them. Jill says that when she graduated high school, she was surprised to discover how many people had abusive or alcoholic parents.

61:00 Betty discusses their dating. When Marissa was 7 and Erik was 4, Bert asked Betty to marry him. She says he was enamored of her because she treated the kids well. When he asked her to marry him, he had his hand on Marissa's head, and she took a chance because she saw how gentle he was, how much love was in his hands.

62:00 Lidy says that Bert has fatherly hands. Jill says that they always fended for themselves, but when they were sick, Dad always came through, checking up every five minutes. Even when he was sick, he took care of all the medication for everyone else. Bert says that if you show it (love) they don't forget it.

64:00 Betty says that Marissa was the guinea pig. Lidy and Annemarie discuss their brother. Erik was always very caring, like his father, but also very different. He was constantly thinking, and used to take his younger siblings on educational trips and buy them learning toys. Annemarie says that he spent a lot of money on the rest of the kids, even though it wasn't his duty. Like his Dad, he cared and showed it, but not verbally. He is now 43.

67:00 Bert says that he began his family in the middle of the war. His house was overcrowded with people, Jewish people who had lost everything. Quite some things weren't normal. His first wife was not very strong in body but had a very strong mind.

69:00 But the Holocaust still influenced his kids. Marissa wasn't born until two months after freedom came, but she was covered in a rash. Betty says she looked like a leper. They took her to a doctor and he said her skin would never be the same.

71:00 Betty says that her kids are basically happy people. The trick to raising children is to observe as much as possible, find their individual specialty and then help them to develop and appreciate it within themselves. They never believed in any religion, so people should be judged by what they are, and go the way they want to go. Parents have a tendency to pressure their kids, but they have to avoid that.

74:00 Their son Paul and his family are introduced. He says that he does not remember when he began hearing about his father's great deeds. He just feels that he has grown up with it. He told all his friends and teachers in high school about it, and at work now, but he did not have the elementary school interest that his sisters did. He says that it is not a topic of conversation, but he is proud to death to talk about it when the opportunity arises.

76:00 Paul says that the reaction he normally gets from people is disbelief. People have a tendency to believe other peoples shortcomings rather than their strengths, especially with the consequences of those particular actions.

78:00 Paul isn't sure whether or not he could have done what his father did, but he realizes that most people would like to think that they could. He sees the only real test is to be faced with such a crisis. He likes to think he could, though.

79:00 Paul most identifies with his mother. He says his father is very stoic, and that since his mother needs so much time and attention, he just spent more time with he.r But when he was small, he used to work with his father in his shop.

80 00 Lidy says she used to have more influence from her Mom, but now it is mutual. She says she almost wants to bring up with strangers the strength of her parents, her father with his rescues and her Mom coping with the pain of her illness. Paul says that Bert has always been quiet.

81:00 Paul says that since he has been married, and more so now that he has kids, he talks more with his dad. He loves the way he works with clients and encounters people on the street. He says that Bert helps people do everything.
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