

-TITLE- IRENA NOSKOVICZ  
-I\_DATE- JUNE 30 1987  
-SOURCE-  
-RESTRICTIONS- FAIR  
-SOUND\_QUALITY- GOOD  
-IMAGE\_QUALITY-  
-DURATION-  
-LANGUAGES-  
-KEY\_SEGMENT-  
-GEOGRAPHIC\_NAME-  
-PERSONAL\_NAME-  
-CORPORATE\_NAME-  
-KEY\_WORDS-  
-NOTES-  
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01:00 Irena and Shimon Noskovicz live in Israel.

02:00 She was born in Lebung; it was the second largest city in the Ukraine.

03:00 Her father was a professor at a special high-technical institution.

04:00 Most of the professors there were Jewish, but he was not.

05:00 Anyone who studied there after the war got a degree, because the institution had no more intelligence and they needed the Jews. The institution was designed specifically for Jews.

06:00 Shimon was an only child and so was Irena.

07:00 Her family was well-to-do although her mother stayed home a lot.

08:00 She finished high school in the Underground in Poland. She was forced to study secretly because German officials were afraid of creating intelligence. She was forced to study secretly even though she was not Jewish.

09:00 Her family was Catholic but they did not go to church, although her grandfather did.

10:00 There was a strong need for professors and her father was friends with another Jewish professor at the institution - that is how he was able to work there, even though he was not Jewish.

11:00 Her father wanted to work there; he was glad he was able to.

12:00 They met each other after the war.

13:00 Later they found out they were going to Israel.

14:00 Her grandfather told them to respect the Jewish Holy Land.

15:00 The Germans were against the Jews. The soldiers forced people to stand in line while they counted them. The Jews were put in a ghetto while the Polish were not. There was a border between the two parts of town.

16:00 Her father lost his job then. The Germans closed down the schools all over Poland. Her father bought horses and a wagon so that he could be a sort of merchant - he had to feed his family.  
17:00 Her father had permission to bring merchandise into the ghetto. The other Jewish professor who was his friend became his partner.

18:00 There was nothing in the ghetto. He was selling food, but there was very little to eat.

19:00 When her grandmother died her mother wanted to move to Warsaw to be closer to other members of the family.

20:00 Her grandfather owned a farm. When her grandmother died he wanted to leave.

21:00 The farm was later taken by the Russians.

22:00 Her father continued to bring merchandise into the ghetto until the uprising that occurred in the ghetto.

23:00 It was at this point that she completed her studies in the Underground.

24:00 She got her diploma.

25:00 After the uprising her father's partner escaped with some other Jews and arrived at the doorstep of her parents' house.

26:00 Her parents were separated but they could not be divorced. It was her father's house that the refugees stayed at.

27:00 She was supposed to be living with her mother during this time but she wanted to live with her father instead, so she did. She does not talk about her mother much.

28:00 One day she found six Jews who were in hiding and helped them. Her father told her not to get involved and to stay away from the house when he was gone, because it was dangerous for her to help them. He would help them but he did not want her involved.

29:00 This was in 1943.

30:00 He was frightened then because someone who had been involved with Jews was hung.

31:00 She was anxious about her father.

32:00 Her father was sick; he had a lung disease.

33:00 Her grandfather also had a long disease.

34:00 Her mother's family was rich.

35:00 Later her mother's family had enough money for a farm. She worried about her father all the time - but not her mother.

36:00 Her father died at the age of 46.

37:00 Throughout the war Jews hid in her father's house. She brought them food from her mother's house when she could.

38:00 She never told her mother about the Jews because she had a "very big mouth".

39:00 They all thought it was better for her not to know anything because she would talk.

40:00 Once there was a search of the house. The Germans came to look for a Hungarian from the Underground?. He was actually living in the same building though not with them.

41:00 Twenty SS men came with a machine gun. They had built a special hiding place for the Jews in the attic. When the Germans came they hid there.

42:00 The hiding place was very small - it barely fit all seven of them.

43:00 Another reason they never found the Jews that were hiding was because they had rabbits for pets. When Irena went to get food she had to buy bread for seven extra people and often was asked about it. She always said that the bread was for the rabbits, when it was actually for the Jews. Also, the rabbits made the house smell bad and the Germans never stayed there long.

44:00 After she knew the Jews were in hiding that time the Germans came to search, Irena told the German SS men that "'they could shoot as much as [they] wanted to, and if there was anyone in the room they would die."

45:00 They were all hidden in their secret place. In one of the rooms that the Germans searched there were the rabbits.

46:00 The rabbits all jumped out at a soldier, who did not like their smell. The German soldiers left after that.

47:00 The smell was not pleasant. Her father was home when all this happened and he was very scared too. Irena saw him trembling.

48:00 He was very white. He was a sick man altogether. After that, the Germans never came to search them again.

49:00 Everyone was scared of the Germans all of the time. Irena had a friend who was in a flower shop in the middle of Warsaw and was shot by some soldiers that walked into the shop.

50:00 They were looking for political prisoners when this had happened. It was a terrible tragedy.

51:00 She did everything because of her father - she loved him.

52:00 It was not a pleasant situation that they were in.

53:00 The Jews that stayed at their house fought all day long.

54:00 She and her father had to try to make peace between them.

55:00 There were seven people - they had not known each other before this. They could have very easily gone crazy. There were many scandals among the group of Jews.

56:00 There were three men, two women and two children living with them. She wanted to be with her father because there was danger involved.

57:00 They stayed in Warsaw until the uprising.

58:00 The Jews had to leave Warsaw after the uprising.

59:00 After the war all seven that had lived with them were still alive.

1:00:00 They stayed with her father for three years.

1:01:00 She came back when the area was taken over by Russians - she had left Warsaw earlier. She saw three of the people that had stayed with them.

1:02:00 She stayed there only until the uprising - then everyone had to leave.

1:03:00 The people that stayed with her and her father do not want to meet with her.

1:04:00 Irena believes that these people are afraid they will have to give her something because they once helped these people.

1:05:00 These same people knew where her father lived after the war, because they had all come to visit him once when he became very sick. Only her father's partner came to his funeral.

1:05:00 The Jews did not really know how to show their gratitude.

1:06:00 A relative of one of these people came looking for her from Australia. He was supposed to give some sort of testimony.

1:07:00 He was told not to meet with her by someone else because he would be forced to pay her for her services to them during the war.

1:08:00 The entire matter was very complicated.

1:09:00 One person came to Israel and did not look for them but mentioned the story to their relatives. After this person died the relatives wrote to her and told her this. He was very grateful to them.

1:10:00 The Australian gave testimony about her father's business. He was related to her father's partner.

1:11:00 Irena is 57 years old .

1:12:00 She did not like the Polish government.

1:13:00 She has a picture of herself and her husband - they met in Warsaw in 1956 and got married later.

1:14:00 Shimon says he had a better life in Poland than he does now. Irena likes Israel. Shimon was drafted into Polish army.

1:15:00 She has a son who is circumcised but is not Jewish.

1:16:00 Shimon was later drafted into the Russian army.

1:17:00 After the war he only worked one day a week.

1:18:00 Shimon did not have a job because he worked for the army. He was not able to do anything else because it was a communist country and one had to have a certain background to hold any other job. He did not have this type of background so he could not get any other jobs .

1:19:00 Shimon is very bitter about his life.

1:20:00 He is very bitter about everything.

1:21:00 Irena wants children to know what the Poles did for the Jews during the war.

1:22:00 Her diploma for high school is from the Underground.  
.END.