

Interviewee: Flora Rojchin

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Interviewer: Jaime Monllor

Flora Rojchin was born in October 30, 1936, in Buenos Aires. She was married to Jose Rojchin, born on November 21, 1928 (who passed away in 2009.) Jose was an optometrist. Flora has two daughters who live in the US, where she herself lives now.

Flora and Jose Rojchin had an optical store and office in the suburbs of Buenos Aires. Jose spoke German very well, and was very appreciated by his German clientele because of that. The store also carried a large section of photographic equipment and medical accessories. The store opened in 1953, and was located in the suburbs, in Vicente Lopez-Olivos. It was a few blocks from the weekend presidential home. They had 2 employees. The store was closed between 12-2 and reopened 2-6. The majority of his clients were non-Jewish Germans who came into the country, very easily, in Peron's times. Most of the stores there catered to this population. In 1959-60, when the husband was in the office, a group of men identified themselves as representatives of either the Wiesenthal Center or the Mossad, she is not sure. He checked their identification with the local Jewish Agency or the AMIA, and was told to give them all the documents and information they were asking for.

Daily life then. There was anti-Semitism in Argentina, and the Jews had to be on alert always (hiding the Jewish Star pendants from the school children, for instance.) The Jews in Argentina were not religious but

very Zionist. Everyone belonged to Zionist organizations and clubs, as the Rojchins did.

One of the clients of the Rojchins, and amateur photographer was one Ricardo Clement. A very quiet person who spoke Spanish with a heavy German accent. He worked for Mercedes Benz. Every day he would take the bus at the stop in the corner of the store, and return there too. On Mondays he would bring a film to be developed and on Friday he would pick it up, and would purchase a fresh one. The Rojchins possessed his fingerprints, negatives and prints, his signature and his lenses' prescriptions, which they gave to the investigators. They also found out later that all the other stores catering to him had cooperated in the same manner. All together, the group of investigators came a couple of times. It was understood tacitly, that the Rojchins did not talk about it. After about a year, one morning they saw in the newspaper, on the first page, a picture of Ricardo Clement with the caption "Adolph Eichmann in Israel". He had been the Rojchins' client for about 6 years...

About 3 months after Eichmann's capture, when Jose Rojchins was coming back home from a meeting, late on a winter's night, someone was standing behind him when he was opening the door, and threatened him. The next day he contacted the Jewish Agency, which practically ordered him to leave Argentina. Eichmann's children were the organizers of the Neo-Nazi movement after the father's capture. The Jewish Agency advised them to go to Israel, the safest place. Jose moved to Israel in 1964, while Flora stayed behind with the girls, to liquidate everything. They left for Israel as well in 1965. Jose found a job in Tel Aviv. In 1967, after the war, the family moved to the US.

Only many years later, when the family was living in New Jersey, and Jose had been re-elected the president of B'nai Brith, he was introduced to a large audience, among whom were the wife and daughters of Jose Rojchin. The emcee mentioned the events that led to Eichmann's capture, and it was only then that the daughters understood why they had left Argentina, where they had had a good life. It was only in Jose's last years of life that he was interested in sharing the story. It was the rabbi of the synagogue that the Rojchins founded in Fort Lauderdale that encouraged Flora to leave testimony of their story in the Holocaust Museum.

Rehashing Eichmann's capture, and the role Dr. Herscovici, a close family friend of the Rojchins, played.