```
00:00:00,000 \longrightarrow 00:01:00,230
2
00:01:00,230 --> 00:01:01,280
Good morning.
00:01:01,280 --> 00:01:02,032
Good morning
4
00:01:02,032 --> 00:01:03,490
It's very nice to
see you, Rosette.
00:01:03,490 --> 00:01:04,500
Thanks for coming.
6
00:01:04,500 --> 00:01:06,095
And I'm very pleased to be here.
00:01:06,095 --> 00:01:06,970
Thank you very much--
8
00:01:06,970 --> 00:01:07,803
You're very welcome.
00:01:07,803 \longrightarrow 00:01:08,710
-- for inviting me.
10
00:01:08,710 --> 00:01:11,210
Tell me what was
your name at birth?
11
00:01:11,210 --> 00:01:17,830
My name at birth was
[? Reizl Scheinbein ?]
00:01:17,830 \longrightarrow 00:01:21,130
And the Hebrew
```

name was Shoshana.

00:01:21,130 --> 00:01:23,950 And this is the name I went by when I was in Poland

14 00:01:23,950 --> 00:01:26,020 on all my report cards.

15 00:01:26,020 --> 00:01:30,670 They used the name of [? Reizl Scheinbein ?]..

16 00:01:30,670 --> 00:01:31,870 I see.

17 00:01:31,870 --> 00:01:34,980 And later as years went on, you'll

18 00:01:34,980 --> 00:01:37,780 see I had a lot of different versions of my name,

19 00:01:37,780 --> 00:01:40,060 depending which country I lived in.

20 00:01:40,060 --> 00:01:42,370 But [? Reizl ?] was the Jewish name.

21 00:01:42,370 --> 00:01:45,130 I was named after some grandma or something.

22 00:01:45,130 --> 00:01:47,500 And Shoshana, I don't know.

23 00:01:47,500 --> 00:01:49,870 I never used it, but they told me this would

24 00:01:49,870 --> 00:01:52,160 be the equivalent of Shoshana. 25 00:01:52,160 --> 00:01:53,800 And your name now?

26 00:01:53,800 --> 00:01:57,190 My name is now Rosette Konick.

27 00:01:57,190 --> 00:01:58,460 Want me to spell it for you?

28 00:01:58,460 --> 00:01:58,960 Yes.

29 00:01:58,960 --> 00:02:07,610 K-O-N-I-C-K, and my first name is R-O-S-E-T-T-E.

30 00:02:07,610 --> 00:02:09,300 And when were you born?

31 00:02:09,300 --> 00:02:16,400 I was born January 17, 1929, in Rovno, Poland,

32 00:02:16,400 --> 00:02:19,370 which is now the Ukraine.

33 00:02:19,370 --> 00:02:23,090 And we lived in Malyns'k.

34 00:02:23,090 --> 00:02:28,130 It's a small town, 60 kilometers from Rovno.

35 00:02:28,130 --> 00:02:31,000 And it's north of Rovno, is that right?

36 00:02:31,000 --> 00:02:33,380 It is north, yes. 00:02:33,380 --> 00:02:38,900 It's on a railroad track between Rovno and Sarny.

38 00:02:38,900 --> 00:02:41,090 And the reason why they have a station there,

39 00:02:41,090 --> 00:02:45,410 because they had a lumber mill, so they had the trains coming

40 00:02:45,410 --> 00:02:49,370 with nothing particular but Malyns'k--

41 00:02:49,370 --> 00:02:51,350 we didn't have electricity or anything.

42 00:02:51,350 --> 00:02:56,420 But because they cut down a lot of lumber and mill them,

43 00:02:56,420 --> 00:02:57,380 so it stopped.

44 00:02:57,380 --> 00:03:01,100 And as far as the Jewish population,

45 00:03:01,100 --> 00:03:04,010 we were only about maybe 10 families.

46 00:03:04,010 --> 00:03:04,760 In Malyns'k?

47 00:03:04,760 --> 00:03:05,600 In Malyns'k.

48 00:03:05,600 --> 00:03:10,625 They were essentially just for surviving the Jewish culture

49 00:03:10,625 --> 00:03:11,465 or something.

50 00:03:11,465 --> 00:03:12,340 There was the shohet.

51 00:03:12,340 --> 00:03:14,150 And then there was the--

52 00:03:14,150 --> 00:03:16,040 what you call it, a teacher--

53 00:03:16,040 --> 00:03:17,150 and all of this in here.

54 00:03:17,150 --> 00:03:20,240 And basically 10 families--

55 00:03:20,240 --> 00:03:29,160 about 10, 12-- and that's how it stayed until the war.

56 00:03:29,160 --> 00:03:29,990 Tell me something.

57 00:03:29,990 --> 00:03:32,710 Why were you born in Rovno, and then you were raised

58 00:03:32,710 --> 00:03:33,210 in Malyns'k?

59 00:03:33,210 --> 00:03:34,400 Do you know?

60 00:03:34,400 --> 00:03:36,800 Oh yes, I do know.

61 00:03:36,800 --> 00:03:41,960 Malyns'k had no doctors, had no hospital-- it was nothing.

62 00:03:41,960 --> 00:03:45,320 Rovno was a city with electricity and doctors.

63 00:03:45,320 --> 00:03:48,830 And whenever I would be sick or anyone need medical attention,

64 00:03:48,830 --> 00:03:50,570 we would go to Rovno.

65 00:03:50,570 --> 00:03:56,060 So my mother knew that I would go--

66 00:03:56,060 --> 00:03:58,490 this is where-- in fact, I had a little brother who

67 00:03:58,490 --> 00:03:59,420 died at birth.

68 00:03:59,420 --> 00:04:03,890 But Rovno is our center of culture, of family,

69 00:04:03,890 --> 00:04:06,410 and any other assistance we needed.

70 00:04:06,410 --> 00:04:08,090 We would go to Rovno.

71 00:04:08,090 --> 00:04:11,125 So your mother went to Rovno order to--

72 00:04:11,125 --> 00:04:12,500 did she have you in the hospital? 73 00:04:12,500 --> 00:04:13,292 Or she had you at--

74

00:04:13,292 --> 00:04:13,830 Yes, it--

75

00:04:13,830 --> 00:04:14,000 She did.

76

00:04:14,000 --> 00:04:14,870 --was a hospital.

77

00:04:14,870 --> 00:04:15,890 We had relatives.

78

00:04:15,890 --> 00:04:17,010 We had cousins.

79

00:04:17,010 --> 00:04:20,870 And then apparently, she went there earlier before the date,

80

00:04:20,870 --> 00:04:22,340 and she just waited there.

81

00:04:22,340 --> 00:04:25,060 And I don't remember much about my birth.

82

00:04:25,060 --> 00:04:25,810 I cannot tell you.

83

00:04:25,810 --> 00:04:26,750 [LAUGHTER]

84

00:04:26,750 --> 00:04:29,270 But I know when my little brother was born,

85

00:04:29,270 --> 00:04:34,040

and I was there with her, and this

86 00:04:34,040 --> 00:04:36,200 is where they'd use the hospital, definitely.

87 00:04:36,200 --> 00:04:40,130 When I used to get sick, she dragged me to Rovno.

88 00:04:40,130 --> 00:04:43,520 And how old were you when your little brother was born?

89 00:04:43,520 --> 00:04:44,810 Or do you remember?

90 00:04:44,810 --> 00:04:47,750 Yes, maybe just a few years.

91 00:04:47,750 --> 00:04:50,150 He died there because my mother complained

92 00:04:50,150 --> 00:04:51,830 the nurses neglected him.

93 00:04:51,830 --> 00:04:53,780 But I was maybe 3 years old.

94 00:04:53,780 --> 00:04:54,500 That's all.

95 00:04:54,500 --> 00:04:57,470 And then there were no other siblings.

96 00:04:57,470 --> 00:04:58,790 So you became the only child.

97 00:04:58,790 --> 00:05:00,050 I am the only child--

98

00:05:00,050 --> 00:05:01,550 very pampered.

99

00:05:01,550 --> 00:05:02,790 Yes, were you spoiled?

100

00:05:02,790 --> 00:05:05,300 Yes, very spoiled too.

101

00:05:05,300 --> 00:05:07,910 Were you in some way glad to be the only child?

102

00:05:07,910 --> 00:05:08,780 Miserable.

103

00:05:08,780 --> 00:05:09,770 You were miserable?

You were miserable

104

00:05:09,770 --> 00:05:10,430 Miserable.

105

00:05:10,430 --> 00:05:13,340 I used to cry and tell my parents,

106

00:05:13,340 --> 00:05:17,690 I would say, Mom, go ahead and eat a lot of food and get fat,

107

00:05:17,690 --> 00:05:20,420 so you will have me a brother or a sister.

108

00:05:20,420 --> 00:05:23,270 I assumed by being fat, this is how

109

00:05:23,270 --> 00:05:25,970 you give birth the children.

110 00:05:25,970 --> 00:05:29,060 And I used to go away from the house, run away way where there

111 00:05:29,060 --> 00:05:32,810 would be other children, and I envied my friends

112 00:05:32,810 --> 00:05:36,230 who would say, guess what, my sister does broke my this,

113 00:05:36,230 --> 00:05:38,150 or my sister did this to me.

114 00:05:38,150 --> 00:05:40,310 And I thought to myself, gee, I wish

115 00:05:40,310 --> 00:05:45,140 I could say I had a brother or a sister who

116 00:05:45,140 --> 00:05:46,820 I could share something with.

117 00:05:46,820 --> 00:05:49,180 But my cousins were very close to me.

118 00:05:49,180 --> 00:05:51,920 We lived almost in the same house,

119 00:05:51,920 --> 00:05:53,510 like my surrogate brother.

120 00:05:53,510 --> 00:05:56,180 But no, I did not like the idea.

121 00:05:56,180 --> 00:05:57,560 And what did your mother say?

122 00:05:57,560 --> 00:05:59,870 Did she say anything to you when you

123

00:05:59,870 --> 00:06:02,150 said you wanted to have a brother or sister?

124

00:06:02,150 --> 00:06:03,050 She couldn't.

125

00:06:03,050 --> 00:06:03,800 She just couldn't?

126

00:06:03,800 --> 00:06:08,000 She needed some kind of a special operations surgery.

127

00:06:08,000 --> 00:06:10,940 And I know a little bit of details.

128

00:06:10,940 --> 00:06:14,810 But anyhow she couldn't conceive unless she

129

00:06:14,810 --> 00:06:16,550 would have this procedure.

130

00:06:16,550 --> 00:06:20,870 And then the wars came, just one after another.

131

00:06:20,870 --> 00:06:24,420 They abandoned the idea.

132

00:06:24,420 --> 00:06:27,630 So is there a point at which you were not miserable? 00:06:27,630 --> 00:06:29,130 As far as being single?

134 00:06:29,130 --> 00:06:29,700 Yeah.

135 00:06:29,700 --> 00:06:33,930 No, from that point of view, I still carry now.

136 00:06:33,930 --> 00:06:37,950 Even when I tell my son who has only one little girl,

137 00:06:37,950 --> 00:06:41,280 and I said to him, I shouldn't be giving you advice,

138 00:06:41,280 --> 00:06:44,430 but you do a disservice to your child

139 00:06:44,430 --> 00:06:46,980 if you don't have a brother or sister.

140 00:06:46,980 --> 00:06:49,020 And that's where it stayed, of course.

141 00:06:49,020 --> 00:06:54,360 I think it's such a-- there's nothing can replace a sibling

142 00:06:54,360 --> 00:06:57,300 love, no matter how many good friends you have or something.

143 00:06:57,300 --> 00:07:00,780 The sitting around the table during the holiday, the sharing

144 00:07:00,780 --> 00:07:03,240 and leaning on them when you get older--

145 00:07:03,240 --> 00:07:06,730 I don't have to tell you all the benefits of the [INAUDIBLE]..

146 00:07:06,730 --> 00:07:09,720 So I'm all for family.

147 00:07:09,720 --> 00:07:11,190 So you miss it?

148 00:07:11,190 --> 00:07:12,670 Oh yes, I missed it.

149 00:07:12,670 --> 00:07:14,580 Yeah, I missed it.

150 00:07:14,580 --> 00:07:17,020 And tell me about your parents.

151 00:07:17,020 --> 00:07:19,600 Your father, what did he-- his name was Abraham?

152 00:07:19,600 --> 00:07:20,760 Abraham, yeah.

153 00:07:20,760 --> 00:07:23,550 And what does he do for a living?

154 00:07:23,550 --> 00:07:25,590 We lived on a farm.

155 00:07:25,590 --> 00:07:28,070 On that farm there were three families.

156 00:07:28,070 --> 00:07:31,740 There was my grandfather, who had still grown

157 00:07:31,740 --> 00:07:35,280 children who were not married.

158 00:07:35,280 --> 00:07:37,800 There was an uncle, my father's brother,

159 00:07:37,800 --> 00:07:40,420 who had three children.

160 00:07:40,420 --> 00:07:42,090 And then my father.

161 00:07:42,090 --> 00:07:44,400 The three of them, the father and two sons,

162 00:07:44,400 --> 00:07:46,290 owned the property.

163 00:07:46,290 --> 00:07:47,760 They owned the mill.

164 00:07:47,760 --> 00:07:51,360 They owned also the--

165 00:07:51,360 --> 00:07:55,630 what you could make from wool to make cloth.

166 00:07:55,630 --> 00:07:57,940 The peasants used to cut--

167 00:07:57,940 --> 00:08:03,520 they sheered their lambs or something and bring it to us,

168 00:08:03,520 --> 00:08:06,370 and then by the time they left, they had it all 169 00:08:06,370 --> 00:08:11,380 converted to material, so they can make coats or something.

170 00:08:11,380 --> 00:08:15,340 We also were involved in making some kind of a oil,

171 00:08:15,340 --> 00:08:17,690 I don't know-from press it down.

172 00:08:17,690 --> 00:08:19,960 So there was a lot of enterprises on our--

173 00:08:19,960 --> 00:08:23,890 plus we had our own cows and horses.

174 00:08:23,890 --> 00:08:28,720 And we grew our own vegetables and garden.

175 00:08:28,720 --> 00:08:32,380 And it was a big-people used to come to us

176 00:08:32,380 --> 00:08:34,780 and spend the whole summer because they

177 00:08:34,780 --> 00:08:40,700 had all the luxuries of fresh air and lots of food.

178 00:08:40,700 --> 00:08:43,840 And I don't know if you're familiar with Poland or Europe.

179 00:08:43,840 --> 00:08:49,750 In Poland your health was defined by how fat you were.

180 00:08:49,750 --> 00:08:54,982 So when somebody came to visit us and was going back to Rovno,

181 00:08:54,982 --> 00:08:56,690 they would go on the scale and say, well,

182 00:08:56,690 --> 00:08:58,210 how many pounds did you gain?

183 00:08:58,210 --> 00:09:00,835 This was the measure of the success.

184 00:09:00,835 --> 00:09:04,210

185 00:09:04,210 --> 00:09:11,860 But basically we were in the business of producing flour

186 00:09:11,860 --> 00:09:16,210 and producing cloth from wool, making oil,

187 00:09:16,210 --> 00:09:19,730 and I'm trying to think of other things.

188 00:09:19,730 --> 00:09:22,030 And we were really self supporting

189 00:09:22,030 --> 00:09:23,530 because we had the vegetables.

190 00:09:23,530 --> 00:09:24,940 We had all this in here. 00:09:24,940 --> 00:09:26,260 And--

192

00:09:26,260 --> 00:09:29,210 Where did people stay when people stayed for the summer?

193

00:09:29,210 --> 00:09:33,030 Was there little dormitories or something?

194

00:09:33,030 --> 00:09:34,130 No, nothing like this.

195

00:09:34,130 --> 00:09:36,700 You stretch your house.

196

00:09:36,700 --> 00:09:37,930 You stretch your house.

197

00:09:37,930 --> 00:09:41,000 You put two people in one bed.

198

00:09:41,000 --> 00:09:42,370 We had a sofa.

199

00:09:42,370 --> 00:09:45,760 And then we made--

200

00:09:45,760 --> 00:09:48,910 they would take me out of my bed and put me in my parents' bed.

201

00:09:48,910 --> 00:09:52,300 It never was any problem as far as space.

202

00:09:52,300 --> 00:09:54,190 It was never any problem.

203

00:09:54,190 --> 00:10:01,000 And we only had a room, bedroom, living room,

204

00:10:01,000 --> 00:10:03,030 and then the kitchen.

205

00:10:03,030 --> 00:10:06,820 There was supposed to be temporary quarters until they

206

00:10:06,820 --> 00:10:07,900 built something more.

207

00:10:07,900 --> 00:10:09,610 And of course the war came.

208

00:10:09,610 --> 00:10:13,930 But we had people coming and staying--

209

00:10:13,930 --> 00:10:14,875 they managed somehow.

210

00:10:14,875 --> 00:10:18,700 Also we had little couches they could put down--

211

00:10:18,700 --> 00:10:20,680 pillows and something to sleep.

212

00:10:20,680 --> 00:10:22,020 They had fun.

213

00:10:22,020 --> 00:10:22,780 And they had--

214

00:10:22,780 --> 00:10:23,620 Did you like it?

215

00:10:23,620 --> 00:10:24,740 I loved it.

i iovea ii

00:10:24,740 --> 00:10:25,960 I loved people.

217

00:10:25,960 --> 00:10:27,910 And I loved all my relatives.

218

00:10:27,910 --> 00:10:31,780 And we would go walking into the forest

219

00:10:31,780 --> 00:10:34,660 and collect berries and mushrooms.

220

00:10:34,660 --> 00:10:39,190 And all the gaiety, the singing--

221

00:10:39,190 --> 00:10:45,460 Saturday after eating the big meal, we would sing songs.

222

00:10:45,460 --> 00:10:49,090 And they brought with them the city flavor of Rovno,

223

00:10:49,090 --> 00:10:52,120 which we in Malyns'k didn't have.

224

00:10:52,120 --> 00:10:57,160 They had their [INAUDIBLE] and we were just country people

225

00:10:57,160 --> 00:10:59,350 there until we left Malyns'k.

226

00:10:59,350 --> 00:11:02,350 So it's a very nice contrast and very educational.

227

00:11:02,350 --> 00:11:03,670 I loved them.

00:11:03,670 --> 00:11:06,430 And what sort of songs did you sing?

229

00:11:06,430 --> 00:11:07,990 We used to sing--

230

00:11:07,990 --> 00:11:08,890 what you call it--

231

00:11:08,890 --> 00:11:13,570 Hebrew songs, Yiddish, and Polish, of course,

232

00:11:13,570 --> 00:11:16,120 but mostly Yiddish.

233

00:11:16,120 --> 00:11:17,620 The ones would always--

234

00:11:17,620 --> 00:11:23,515 and the next year in Jerusalem, Hebrew themed--

235

00:11:23,515 --> 00:11:26,950 Was there a particular song you liked more than others?

236

00:11:26,950 --> 00:11:29,830 No, each of them had its own character.

237

00:11:29,830 --> 00:11:35,260 And its own-- my-- but we would start singing songs

238

00:11:35,260 --> 00:11:36,790 and get up and make a whole ring,

239

00:11:36,790 --> 00:11:41,710

clap your hands, [HUMMING] something like that.

240

00:11:41,710 --> 00:11:43,330 Everybody could sing.

241

00:11:43,330 --> 00:11:45,610 My mother was singing very well.

242

00:11:45,610 --> 00:11:49,030 And she would stand up like this after a meal in front

243

00:11:49,030 --> 00:11:54,220 of everybody and sing a song, which was her specialty,

244

00:11:54,220 --> 00:12:01,780 [SINGING IN YIDDISH] I don't know the words anymore.

245

00:12:01,780 --> 00:12:04,930 But the story told, in this Yiddish,

246

00:12:04,930 --> 00:12:09,310 how we were burned with fire, and all this in here.

247

00:12:09,310 --> 00:12:11,740 And everybody applauded her.

248

00:12:11,740 --> 00:12:14,680 Everybody who wanted got up and sang a song.

249

00:12:14,680 --> 00:12:20,610 It was a make your own entertainment.

250

00:12:20,610 --> 00:12:22,210

And you were a little kid, right?

00:12:22,210 --> 00:12:23,260 I was a little kid.

i was a iittie

252

00:12:23,260 --> 00:12:26,170 And people treated you well?

253

00:12:26,170 --> 00:12:28,130 My family-- of course,

I was pampered.

254

00:12:28,130 --> 00:12:30,070 As I said, I was an only child.

255

00:12:30,070 --> 00:12:33,700

And I had bad tonsils.

256

00:12:33,700 --> 00:12:38,260

And in Poland they didn't know what tonsils even are.

257

00:12:38,260 --> 00:12:42,340

I used to be sick a lot because I used to get tonsillitis.

258

00:12:42,340 --> 00:12:45,550

So my neck-- my

glands would swell.

259

00:12:45,550 --> 00:12:51,100

And my mother-- the only

medicine we had was--

260

00:12:51,100 --> 00:12:53,140

other medicine, we

would take a compress.

261

00:12:53,140 --> 00:12:54,820

And my mother had

her own remedy.

262

00:12:54,820 --> 00:12:58,815

She would take a towel and dip it in alcohol.

263

00:12:58,815 --> 00:13:01,060 Some would put garlic.

264

00:13:01,060 --> 00:13:04,810 I smelled with garlic a lot because this was the old cure

265

00:13:04,810 --> 00:13:06,880 to bring the temperature down.

266

00:13:06,880 --> 00:13:11,680 And I sometimes missed a month and a half of school

267

00:13:11,680 --> 00:13:13,990 because I used to be so sick.

268

00:13:13,990 --> 00:13:18,160 And finally she took me to a bigger city, Lvov.

269

00:13:18,160 --> 00:13:21,340 And went to see a doctor-ear, nose, and throat--

270

00:13:21,340 --> 00:13:25,420 and he said, you know your daughter has bad tonsils?

271

00:13:25,420 --> 00:13:27,640 They're all inflamed.

272

00:13:27,640 --> 00:13:28,660 They have to go.

273

00:13:28,660 --> 00:13:30,160 They're so bad.

274

00:13:30,160 --> 00:13:32,680

Take her home and fatten her--

275

00:13:32,680 --> 00:13:34,940 because she had to be fat to be healthy--

276

00:13:34,940 --> 00:13:36,490 and then bring her back to Lvov.

277

00:13:36,490 --> 00:13:39,250 And we're going to take her tonsils out.

278

00:13:39,250 --> 00:13:40,510 And that's what happened.

279

00:13:40,510 --> 00:13:44,440 I came home, about a week, nothing with eating,

280

00:13:44,440 --> 00:13:48,010 and then they brought me back to Lyov.

281

00:13:48,010 --> 00:13:50,230 And the doctor took out my tonsils.

282

00:13:50,230 --> 00:13:51,970 And they said they were very inflamed.

283

00:13:51,970 --> 00:13:54,310 Rovno, they didn't even know about tonsils.

284

00:13:54,310 --> 00:13:56,320 Tonsils was a modern disease.

285

00:13:56,320 --> 00:13:58,845 Everything the called in Polish, [POLISH]..

00:13:58,845 --> 00:14:02,420 It means-- I don't know how to translate.

287

00:14:02,420 --> 00:14:04,540 But the glands used to be smaller.

288

00:14:04,540 --> 00:14:07,420 And then it was an accepted thing

289

00:14:07,420 --> 00:14:09,190 that people had sore throats.

290

00:14:09,190 --> 00:14:13,570 And you just sweated it out.

291

00:14:13,570 --> 00:14:17,170 And one thing that was very common in Europe, and then

292

00:14:17,170 --> 00:14:21,040 later on we used that in the partisans, cupping.

293

00:14:21,040 --> 00:14:22,525 You know what that is?

294

00:14:22,525 --> 00:14:24,940 You put bankes they called it in Yiddish.

295

00:14:24,940 --> 00:14:27,160 It's those little glass cups.

296

00:14:27,160 --> 00:14:29,620 You lay down on your stomach.

297

00:14:29,620 --> 00:14:34,030 And on your back, they would take put it on your back.

298 00:14:34,030 --> 00:14:35,980 First they had to get rid of the air

299

00:14:35,980 --> 00:14:37,930 and then put them all over your back.

300

00:14:37,930 --> 00:14:40,420 And you lay for 10 minutes.

301

00:14:40,420 --> 00:14:46,440 And when they took them off, it left circles.

302

00:14:46,440 --> 00:14:48,750 And the dark of the circle, we used to say,

303

00:14:48,750 --> 00:14:51,420 that's where the disease was.

304

00:14:51,420 --> 00:14:54,840 But basically this was the old cure, bankes].

305

00:14:54,840 --> 00:14:58,630 Later on I learned how to do it when I was in the partisans.

306

00:14:58,630 --> 00:15:01,020 But it's all we could do is the bankes

307

00:15:01,020 --> 00:15:07,660 and give the compresses and lots of tea and just sweat it out.

308

00:15:07,660 --> 00:15:09,810 And then when things were very bad,

00:15:09,810 --> 00:15:13,350 I could tell because my father would put in a tallis

310

00:15:13,350 --> 00:15:15,750 and stay by the window and start praying.

311

00:15:15,750 --> 00:15:22,840 Then I knew that probably my illness is going out of hand.

312

00:15:22,840 --> 00:15:24,960 But he always would go and start praying.

313

00:15:24,960 --> 00:15:27,180 When Daddy prayed, I knew I was very sick.

314

00:15:27,180 --> 00:15:29,070 [LAUGHTER]

315

00:15:29,070 --> 00:15:31,665 And your mother, her name was Fay?

316

00:15:31,665 --> 00:15:32,190 Fay.

317

00:15:32,190 --> 00:15:36,310 My mother was just very protective of me.

318

00:15:36,310 --> 00:15:38,670 And I remember-- it's a strange thing--

319

00:15:38,670 --> 00:15:43,230 in Poland you couldn't get fruit like oranges or anything,

00:15:43,230 --> 00:15:45,390 certainly not in Malyns'k.

321

00:15:45,390 --> 00:15:50,190 So she used to bring them in from Royno.

322

00:15:50,190 --> 00:15:51,330 They were very expensive.

323

00:15:51,330 --> 00:15:55,890 And she kept it for me in the cabinet.

324

00:15:55,890 --> 00:15:58,380 And she didn't want the other children

325

00:15:58,380 --> 00:16:01,260 to see because we didn't have enough

326

00:16:01,260 --> 00:16:03,930 and didn't want them to be jealous.

327

00:16:03,930 --> 00:16:07,000 But she pampered me.

328

00:16:07,000 --> 00:16:10,260 And [INAUDIBLE] with the clothes.

329

00:16:10,260 --> 00:16:12,960 And she did such a point that I didn't

330

00:16:12,960 --> 00:16:17,260 how to wash my hair long.

331

00:16:17,260 --> 00:16:20,310 She was overprotective.

 $00:16:20,310 \longrightarrow 00:16:22,800$ And of course I

was cream of the--

333

00:16:22,800 --> 00:16:23,430

best thing.

334

00:16:23,430 --> 00:16:25,380 She would say, my [? Reizele?].

335

00:16:25,380 --> 00:16:27,060

This is the Jewish word.

336

00:16:27,060 --> 00:16:30,300 And she would go to the

teachers and talk about me.

337

00:16:30,300 --> 00:16:34,980

And yes, I was very protected and--

338

00:16:34,980 --> 00:16:37,530

overprotective, let's

put it this way.

339

00:16:37,530 --> 00:16:40,050

You were close to both parents?

340

00:16:40,050 --> 00:16:43,540

Yeah, but in a different way.

341

00:16:43,540 --> 00:16:49,050

My mother, I found this

overwhelming, her constant

342

 $00:16:49,050 \longrightarrow 00:16:51,583$

worrying about my health

because she didn't know I

343

00:16:51,583 --> 00:16:52,250

had bad tonsils.

00:16:52,250 --> 00:16:54,360 But I used to get so sick.

345

00:16:54,360 --> 00:16:57,690 So she would insist I should eat and eat.

346

00:16:57,690 --> 00:17:00,817 And I found it overbearing.

347

00:17:00,817 --> 00:17:01,650 I just couldn't eat.

348

00:17:01,650 --> 00:17:02,880 I didn't like certain things.

349

00:17:02,880 --> 00:17:04,560 I would throw out the window something.

350

00:17:04,560 --> 00:17:06,869 In a different way-my father loved me,

351

00:17:06,869 --> 00:17:08,560 but it was in a different way.

352

00:17:08,560 --> 00:17:12,869 He wasn't so demonstrative, walking around.

353

00:17:12,869 --> 00:17:17,980 But he would also sing songs for me in a different way.

354

00:17:17,980 --> 00:17:19,470 He was more calm.

355

00:17:19,470 --> 00:17:23,760 Men are this way, probably, by nature.

00:17:23,760 --> 00:17:27,880 But they were in personality, very different.

357

00:17:27,880 --> 00:17:31,170 She was really too much.

358

00:17:31,170 --> 00:17:33,470 I was an only child.

359

00:17:33,470 --> 00:17:37,940 And she wanted me to be well and to live.

360

00:17:37,940 --> 00:17:40,340 But this was a burden for you?

361

00:17:40,340 --> 00:17:40,970 Very much.

362

00:17:40,970 --> 00:17:41,660 [BOTH TALKING]

363

00:17:41,660 --> 00:17:43,020 I used to run--

364

00:17:43,020 --> 00:17:44,690 I was telling my daughter the other day,

365

00:17:44,690 --> 00:17:46,820 I used to run away from home, not to run away--

366

00:17:46,820 --> 00:17:48,410 literally stay away--

367

00:17:48,410 --> 00:17:50,270 but if any opportunity I could, I'd

368

00:17:50,270 --> 00:17:52,670 leave and go to play with my cousins

369 00:17:52,670 --> 00:17:55,670 because over there, they had more children.

370 00:17:55,670 --> 00:18:00,680 My aunts were not so strict about they eat or not.

371 00:18:00,680 --> 00:18:03,650 But if I was at home, every minute my mother

372 00:18:03,650 --> 00:18:06,290 was to do this, eat that, eat, eat,

373 00:18:06,290 --> 00:18:09,120 eat-- that's the secret of good health.

374 00:18:09,120 --> 00:18:12,190 And don't forget to put your shoes on.

375 00:18:12,190 --> 00:18:14,360 Don't forget to put your handkerchief on.

376 00:18:14,360 --> 00:18:17,390 And she would dress me so heavy in the winter

377 00:18:17,390 --> 00:18:21,350 because we had to walk to school, so snow and all.

378 00:18:21,350 --> 00:18:24,620 And she would bundle me up with so many layers of clothes.

00:18:24,620 --> 00:18:28,400 By the time to school, I had to unwind everything in here.

380

00:18:28,400 --> 00:18:33,410 But everybody knew already that my mother was so protective

381

00:18:33,410 --> 00:18:36,815 of me and sympathized with her.

382

00:18:36,815 --> 00:18:39,380 They sympathized with her, not with you?

383

00:18:39,380 --> 00:18:43,370 They sympathized with her because she

384

00:18:43,370 --> 00:18:45,650 had to put up with a child who was sick so

385

00:18:45,650 --> 00:18:47,030 much, and an only child.

386

00:18:47,030 --> 00:18:47,570 With me?

387

00:18:47,570 --> 00:18:48,320 No.

388

00:18:48,320 --> 00:18:51,622 The better the mother is, the--

389

00:18:51,622 --> 00:18:52,520 The better--

390

00:18:52,520 --> 00:18:53,120

Yes.

391

00:18:53,120 --> 00:18:54,412 They didn't see anything wrong.

392

00:18:54,412 --> 00:18:56,480 But they're so protective.

393

00:18:56,480 --> 00:19:00,470 Even my teachers used to send me cards and say, remember,

394

00:19:00,470 --> 00:19:01,460 I am going on vacation.

395

00:19:01,460 --> 00:19:06,170 But when I come back, I wanted to see you a few pounds

396

00:19:06,170 --> 00:19:07,160 heavier.

397

00:19:07,160 --> 00:19:08,510 And that's from a teacher.

398

00:19:08,510 --> 00:19:11,000 That's the good wishes from a teacher.

399

00:19:11,000 --> 00:19:13,640 It's a different world.

400

00:19:13,640 --> 00:19:15,200 It was a different world.

401

00:19:15,200 --> 00:19:19,400 Did you have lunches together or dinners together with your--

402

00:19:19,400 --> 00:19:20,090 Lots.

403

00:19:20,090 --> 00:19:20,920

Lots?

00:19:20,920 --> 00:19:23,000 I mean, with the relatives?

405

00:19:23,000 --> 00:19:25,620 With your father and mother, or then with relatives?

406

00:19:25,620 --> 00:19:26,120 I mean--

407

00:19:26,120 --> 00:19:27,003 Yes.

408

00:19:27,003 --> 00:19:27,545 You did both?

409

00:19:27,545 --> 00:19:29,900 Yes, we did a lot.

410

00:19:29,900 --> 00:19:34,010 My father, because he worked right there on the property,

411

00:19:34,010 --> 00:19:35,450 he used to come for his meals.

412

00:19:35,450 --> 00:19:36,930 And my mother would--

413

00:19:36,930 --> 00:19:39,680 the table always was set with a tablecloth.

414

00:19:39,680 --> 00:19:42,980 And we always had the meals together.

415

00:19:42,980 --> 00:19:46,280

Or I would eat a long

lunch because he was busy.

00:19:46,280 --> 00:19:50,030 But Saturday was beautiful because nobody worked.

417

00:19:50,030 --> 00:19:52,640 And everybody was going to shul.

418

00:19:52,640 --> 00:19:55,040 And after they came back from shul,

419

00:19:55,040 --> 00:19:58,190 there was the samovar sitting the middle

420

00:19:58,190 --> 00:20:02,090 of the table prepared already.

421

00:20:02,090 --> 00:20:05,010 And my mother would ask somebody-- some gentle person

422

00:20:05,010 --> 00:20:09,170 to light the light under the samovar.

423

00:20:09,170 --> 00:20:11,990 And then everybody would sit around the table.

424

00:20:11,990 --> 00:20:15,260 And she baked a lot of cakes and goodies.

425

00:20:15,260 --> 00:20:17,815 And people from other Jewish families

426

00:20:17,815 --> 00:20:19,190 would come because they knew this

00:20:19,190 --> 00:20:22,220 is where we would have first our meal,

428

00:20:22,220 --> 00:20:28,320 but then sit and sing songs and that here, or take a walk.

429

00:20:28,320 --> 00:20:29,900 That's the place to go.

430

00:20:29,900 --> 00:20:33,800 And mom loved-- and she was a wonderful cook.

431

00:20:33,800 --> 00:20:35,860 No recipes, nothing, but a wonderful cook.

432

00:20:35,860 --> 00:20:36,360 Was she?

433

00:20:36,360 --> 00:20:37,340 Yes.

434

00:20:37,340 --> 00:20:39,300 [LAUGHTER]

435

00:20:39,300 --> 00:20:41,360 And so you enjoyed those dinners a lot?

436

00:20:41,360 --> 00:20:43,010 Oh yeah, I loved the people.

437

00:20:43,010 --> 00:20:45,950 I've always loved-- in fact, we used to be jealous as children.

438

00:20:45,950 --> 00:20:51,140 And we used to say, oh we had today two people for dinner.

439

00:20:51,140 --> 00:20:52,520 How many did you have?

440

00:20:52,520 --> 00:20:53,580

To have guests--

441

00:20:53,580 --> 00:20:54,080

Really?

442

00:20:54,080 --> 00:20:54,170

This was a big--

443

00:20:54,170 --> 00:20:55,070

--was an honor.

444

00:20:55,070 --> 00:20:55,580

Really?

445

00:20:55,580 --> 00:20:57,710

And everybody who

didn't know were--

446

00:20:57,710 --> 00:21:01,460

they would pass through Malyns'k on the way to somewhere else.

447

00:21:01,460 --> 00:21:03,150

They didn't know where to sleep.

448

00:21:03,150 --> 00:21:08,650

They would come to

us or to my uncle,

449

00:21:08,650 --> 00:21:11,890

till somebody would put them

up to sleep and feed them

450

00:21:11,890 --> 00:21:14,710

until they would

go on their house.

00:21:14,710 --> 00:21:18,460 My mother used to say, I have rubber pots and pans.

452 00:21:18,460 --> 00:21:21,700 They can stretch as

many people as they are.

453 00:21:21,700 --> 00:21:23,110 And it was no problem.

454 00:21:23,110 --> 00:21:24,190 We always had to guests.

455 00:21:24,190 --> 00:21:27,160 It was an honor to have a guest at your table.

456 00:21:27,160 --> 00:21:32,560 So did you feel poor or wealthy or neither?

457 00:21:32,560 --> 00:21:37,240 No, in comparison with the people in Malyns'k, we were

458 00:21:37,240 --> 00:21:39,430 considered well-to-do.

459 00:21:39,430 --> 00:21:42,520 It depends on whose standards because

460 00:21:42,520 --> 00:21:45,550 we were self supporting.

461 00:21:45,550 --> 00:21:48,160 We had food and all this--

462 00:21:48,160 --> 00:21:51,780 and never were hungry.

00:21:51,780 --> 00:21:56,420 But we were not on the--

464

00:21:56,420 --> 00:21:58,430 like in America we say, wealthy.

465

00:21:58,430 --> 00:22:02,630

466

00:22:02,630 --> 00:22:04,190 If you had your own--

467

00:22:04,190 --> 00:22:06,870 we had our own horses, and we could ride around

468

00:22:06,870 --> 00:22:08,930 in the-- and cows and all this.

469

00:22:08,930 --> 00:22:10,220 We're self-sufficient.

470

00:22:10,220 --> 00:22:14,030 So we were considered, yes, well-to-do.

471

00:22:14,030 --> 00:22:15,030

Within that context?

472

00:22:15,030 --> 00:22:18,110 Within that context, yes, because the others were--

473

00:22:18,110 --> 00:22:21,290 either they were-- one was a seamstress,

474

00:22:21,290 --> 00:22:22,355 and this was a shnayder.

475

00:22:22,355 --> 00:22:25,220

And this was a shoemaker--

they were more working

476 00:22:25,220 --> 00:22:27,800 according to their specialty.

477 00:22:27,800 --> 00:22:29,900 But they didn't own that property

478 00:22:29,900 --> 00:22:32,750 and live on such a scale.

479 00:22:32,750 --> 00:22:34,970 Did you work at the farm at all?

480 00:22:34,970 --> 00:22:37,220 Did you help with the animals or help

481 00:22:37,220 --> 00:22:39,500 in some of these businesses?

482 00:22:39,500 --> 00:22:42,560 My mother would give me sometimes crumbs,

483 00:22:42,560 --> 00:22:44,780 and she says, don't to go and spread it

484 00:22:44,780 --> 00:22:48,800 in front of the house for the chicken.

485 00:22:48,800 --> 00:22:54,410 And I like to help in the garden.

486 00:22:54,410 --> 00:22:56,960 We grew our own strawberries and our corn.

00:22:56,960 --> 00:22:58,640 And my mother would say, you want

488 00:22:58,640 --> 00:23:02,450 to go ahead and pick some and bring it back?

489 00:23:02,450 --> 00:23:06,140 I didn't have so-called chores.

490 00:23:06,140 --> 00:23:11,180 But I would go there and tend to the yard.

491 00:23:11,180 --> 00:23:15,350 Just do things if Mom ask me something to do.

492 00:23:15,350 --> 00:23:17,420 And that's about it.

493 00:23:17,420 --> 00:23:20,890 I didn't go near the cows or anything, just around the--

494 00:23:20,890 --> 00:23:22,390 Did you like the animals?

495 00:23:22,390 --> 00:23:24,320 Yeah, I loved them.

496 00:23:24,320 --> 00:23:25,970 I used to observe them.

497 00:23:25,970 --> 00:23:33,200 We had animals in the house, like dogs and cats.

498 00:23:33,200 --> 00:23:40,903 But yes, I-- observing them, so certain personalities. 499 00:23:40,903 --> 00:23:42,320 I would see one, and I knew if I'm

500

00:23:42,320 --> 00:23:44,737 going to bring them some food, that chicken or the rooster

501 00:23:44,737 --> 00:23:47,510 is going to chase everybody away.

502 00:23:47,510 --> 00:23:49,563 And he's going to take the food from them.

503 00:23:49,563 --> 00:23:51,730 Then I used to get a kick out of those things, yeah.

504 00:23:51,730 --> 00:23:52,662 [LAUGHS]

505 00:23:52,662 --> 00:23:55,870 It was fun.

506 00:23:55,870 --> 00:23:59,170 You were part of a religious household, I gather?

507 00:23:59,170 --> 00:24:00,010 Oh, yes.

508 00:24:00,010 --> 00:24:01,540 It was orthodox.

509 00:24:01,540 --> 00:24:02,500 It was orthodox?

510 00:24:02,500 --> 00:24:03,010 Oh, yeah. 511

00:24:03,010 --> 00:24:05,290 Not just traditional, but real--

512

00:24:05,290 --> 00:24:05,895 Real orthodox.

513

00:24:05,895 --> 00:24:08,200 I remember we had a mezuzah on the door.

514

00:24:08,200 --> 00:24:10,260 And we observed all the holidays.

515

00:24:10,260 --> 00:24:14,330 And my mother kept kashrut.

516

00:24:14,330 --> 00:24:17,350 And if she wanted to have a chicken,

517

00:24:17,350 --> 00:24:18,910 we had to go to the shochet.

518

00:24:18,910 --> 00:24:20,680 You know what it is, right?

519

00:24:20,680 --> 00:24:22,570 It's the--

520

00:24:22,570 --> 00:24:23,290

Person who--

521

00:24:23,290 --> 00:24:24,760 --who cuts, yeah.

522

00:24:24,760 --> 00:24:28,890 It kills the chicken according to the Jewish law.

523

00:24:28,890 --> 00:24:32,410

But yes, we definitely had separate dishes and all.

524

00:24:32,410 --> 00:24:36,850 And my mother was

very strict about--

525

00:24:36,850 --> 00:24:41,080 in fact she wanted to

engrain this into us--

526

 $00:24:41,080 \longrightarrow 00:24:42,850$

into me when I came

to this country

527

00:24:42,850 --> 00:24:45,310

and I was married, to carry on.

528

00:24:45,310 --> 00:24:46,693

But this is America.

529

00:24:46,693 --> 00:24:48,110

Now things a little

bit different.

530

00:24:48,110 --> 00:24:55,750

But yes, she was very law

abiding in the religious way.

531

00:24:55,750 --> 00:24:57,280

Did you go to school regularly?

532

 $00:24:57,280 \longrightarrow 00:24:58,420$

Yeah.

533

00:24:58,420 --> 00:25:00,370

Did you go every week?

534

00:25:00,370 --> 00:25:05,080

I went to what you would

call here elementary school.

00:25:05,080 --> 00:25:09,460 And we started school in Poland at the age of 7.

536 00:25:09,460 --> 00:25:11,830 And then I had--

537 00:25:11,830 --> 00:25:15,940 all the Jewish children were getting instruction in Hebrew

538 00:25:15,940 --> 00:25:18,460 and in Jewish history.

539 00:25:18,460 --> 00:25:22,300 We had a teacher who used to come after classes when

540 00:25:22,300 --> 00:25:25,270 we came home, he would come to the house

541 00:25:25,270 --> 00:25:30,040 and teach us Hebrew, which we resented--

542 00:25:30,040 --> 00:25:32,650 the Jewish children resented because why do I

543 00:25:32,650 --> 00:25:34,060 have to sit home?

544 00:25:34,060 --> 00:25:35,910 And all the other kids are playing.

545 00:25:35,910 --> 00:25:37,600 We just came from school and all.

546 00:25:37,600 --> 00:25:42,220 But nevertheless this was part of our Jewish education

547 00:25:42,220 --> 00:25:44,860 and Hebrew too.

548 00:25:44,860 --> 00:25:47,710 And otherwise we played--

549 00:25:47,710 --> 00:25:51,560

550 00:25:51,560 --> 00:25:55,610 Jewish children tended to be together.

551 00:25:55,610 --> 00:25:57,510 Although I had a very good friend,

552 00:25:57,510 --> 00:26:02,870 Catholic, and she would come over and play with me too.

553 00:26:02,870 --> 00:26:05,390 But there was never a lack of fun.

554 00:26:05,390 --> 00:26:07,850 There was always something to do.

555 00:26:07,850 --> 00:26:10,310 And people coming passing through,

556 00:26:10,310 --> 00:26:14,570 happened to be in the neighborhood or something.

557 00:26:14,570 --> 00:26:17,780 And as I said, I had cousins my age. 558

00:26:17,780 --> 00:26:22,580 My cousin is still alive, and he lives in Israel in Tel Aviv.

559

00:26:22,580 --> 00:26:26,960 He was my surrogate brother, my protector.

560

00:26:26,960 --> 00:26:30,200 And sometimes mischievous, but anyhow, this is

561

00:26:30,200 --> 00:26:34,170 my only I could call brother--

562

00:26:34,170 --> 00:26:35,630 so-called.

563

00:26:35,630 --> 00:26:39,620 Were there particular games that you liked, that you played?

564

00:26:39,620 --> 00:26:40,240 That I played?

565

00:26:40,240 --> 00:26:40,740 Yeah.

566

00:26:40,740 --> 00:26:43,650 Yeah, we had something-the rope, jumping.

567

00:26:43,650 --> 00:26:45,090 Everybody did the rope.

568

00:26:45,090 --> 00:26:48,430 And then we hit something on the ground, like squares.

569

00:26:48,430 --> 00:26:49,350

Hopscotch?

570 00:26:49,350 --> 00:26:51,020 Maybe this is called hopscotch here.

571 00:26:51,020 --> 00:26:52,470 We would jump around.

572 00:26:52,470 --> 00:26:56,840 And hide-and-seek, of course.

573 00:26:56,840 --> 00:26:59,810 And what else did we do?

574 00:26:59,810 --> 00:27:04,390 These are the most common ones, hide-and-seek and the--

575 00:27:04,390 --> 00:27:08,780 So most of your friends were Jewish?

576 00:27:08,780 --> 00:27:10,230 So it was a mixture.

577 00:27:10,230 --> 00:27:13,640 But the closest ones were Jewish.

578 00:27:13,640 --> 00:27:19,330 I don't know, not by choice, but we have

579 00:27:19,330 --> 00:27:22,350 something that we could share.

580 00:27:22,350 --> 00:27:25,890 We also could compare experiences.

581 00:27:25,890 --> 00:27:28,320 If somebody beat you up on the way to school, 582 00:27:28,320 --> 00:27:29,820 and did somebody call you Żyd?

583 00:27:29,820 --> 00:27:31,950 Żyd means Jew.

584 00:27:31,950 --> 00:27:35,800 So we had experiences that we could share,

585 00:27:35,800 --> 00:27:41,130 and saying so-and-so wasn't nice to this--

586 00:27:41,130 --> 00:27:45,770 anti-Semitism was heavy in Poland.

587 00:27:45,770 --> 00:27:48,710 Poland was a very anti-Semitic country.

588 00:27:48,710 --> 00:27:51,560 And we as children sensed it too.

589 00:27:51,560 --> 00:27:54,650 So this was one reason why also the Jewish children

590 00:27:54,650 --> 00:27:57,140 tended to be together.

591 00:27:57,140 --> 00:28:01,070 But I did have Gentile friends too.

592 00:28:01,070 --> 00:28:02,330 And they lived by.

593 00:28:02,330 --> 00:28:08,580 And they would come to us--

594

00:28:08,580 --> 00:28:09,630 sometimes the parents.

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00:28:09,630 --> 00:28:14,110 And we played-- all kinds of children and things.

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00:28:14,110 --> 00:28:17,050 But the really closeness was with the Jewish children

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00:28:17,050 --> 00:28:20,440 because we shared the same anxiety.

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00:28:20,440 --> 00:28:22,330 We knew we were Jewish.

599

00:28:22,330 --> 00:28:26,005 We knew that we were singled out as Jews.

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00:28:26,005 --> 00:28:27,490 They called us Żyd.

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00:28:27,490 --> 00:28:35,710 And I know that Sundays used to be very--

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00:28:35,710 --> 00:28:40,600 we used to be very apprehensive because the local people would

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00:28:40,600 --> 00:28:41,410 get--

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00:28:41,410 --> 00:28:43,670 they would get the money by Sunday, get paid,

00:28:43,670 --> 00:28:45,580 so they would get drunk.

606

00:28:45,580 --> 00:28:47,320 And they would go in the street.

607 $00:28:47,320 \longrightarrow 00:28:50,050$ They would see a Jew, especially the one

608 00:28:50,050 --> 00:28:51,880 with ear locks, the very Orthodox.

609 $00:28:51,880 \longrightarrow 00:28:54,730$ They beat them up, cut the things.

610 00:28:54,730 --> 00:29:01,630 So fear of such things kept us Jewish children closer

611 00:29:01,630 --> 00:29:04,900 and warning, this and this.

612 00:29:04,900 --> 00:29:07,140 But we did have other [INAUDIBLE]..

613 00:29:07,140 --> 00:29:09,780 We're going to stop the tape.

614 00:29:09,780 --> 00:31:13,000