

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:10,610

2

00:00:10,610 --> 00:00:13,190

This is a continuation of  
the United States Holocaust

3

00:00:13,190 --> 00:00:19,340

Memorial Museum interview  
with Mrs. Marlies Plotnik.

4

00:00:19,340 --> 00:00:21,800

One of the things  
that I remember,

5

00:00:21,800 --> 00:00:25,490

which I mentioned before  
now, this fear that people--

6

00:00:25,490 --> 00:00:30,860

that my parents would not  
return, which was so pervasive.

7

00:00:30,860 --> 00:00:32,840

And I remember one--

8

00:00:32,840 --> 00:00:38,470

well, in our dining room, we  
had a clock that had a pendulum

9

00:00:38,470 --> 00:00:41,660

and it tick tock, tick tocked.

10

00:00:41,660 --> 00:00:47,300

And I remember being  
there and it was maybe

11

00:00:47,300 --> 00:00:51,230

8 o'clock or something,  
and I had a visitor.

12

00:00:51,230 --> 00:00:58,490

And the visitor was the  
sister of Lisbet of the nanny.

13

00:00:58,490 --> 00:01:02,870

This is long after  
Lisbet was forced out.

14

00:01:02,870 --> 00:01:07,040

And she came and she wanted  
to bring my parents something.

15

00:01:07,040 --> 00:01:10,340

And when she found  
me there alone,

16

00:01:10,340 --> 00:01:12,280

she said, I fully under--

17

00:01:12,280 --> 00:01:14,190

and I looked frightened.

18

00:01:14,190 --> 00:01:15,440

And she said, how do you feel?

19

00:01:15,440 --> 00:01:16,620

What's going on here?

20

00:01:16,620 --> 00:01:18,830

And I said, well, I'm  
waiting for my parents--

21

00:01:18,830 --> 00:01:20,600

and that evidently  
blurted out-- and who

22

00:01:20,600 --> 00:01:23,270

knows whether they'll come?

23

00:01:23,270 --> 00:01:27,920

To which she said, you  
know, I fully understand

24

00:01:27,920 --> 00:01:32,480  
and she was a woman maybe in  
her late 20s, maybe early 30s.

25

00:01:32,480 --> 00:01:34,640  
She said, I would  
be frightened, too.

26

00:01:34,640 --> 00:01:37,970  
And sitting here  
with this clock,

27

00:01:37,970 --> 00:01:42,500  
waiting, waiting,  
and tick tocking,

28

00:01:42,500 --> 00:01:45,620  
and I was so grateful  
that somebody else

29

00:01:45,620 --> 00:01:49,580  
was willing to admit that I  
had the right to be frightened.

30

00:01:49,580 --> 00:01:55,280  
I also have to admit that I  
frequently, in this situation,

31

00:01:55,280 --> 00:02:00,470  
left the house and  
went to the corner

32

00:02:00,470 --> 00:02:03,500  
where the trolley  
cab would come.

33

00:02:03,500 --> 00:02:07,370  
Because my parents would  
come from the train

34

00:02:07,370 --> 00:02:12,046  
and take the trolley to come  
home because there was also--

35

00:02:12,046 --> 00:02:16,700

you didn't take taxis  
lightly after a certain time

36

00:02:16,700 --> 00:02:19,092

because you were turned down.

37

00:02:19,092 --> 00:02:21,050

I don't know how they  
knew that one was Jewish.

38

00:02:21,050 --> 00:02:24,260

Again, maybe because  
we were known.

39

00:02:24,260 --> 00:02:26,300

I don't know.

40

00:02:26,300 --> 00:02:31,160

So that's one thing that I  
remember very, very vividly,

41

00:02:31,160 --> 00:02:39,350

this fear that because  
people literally did get lost

42

00:02:39,350 --> 00:02:41,910

and were never seen again.

43

00:02:41,910 --> 00:02:48,200

I also remember, with tremendous  
horror, what I left out.

44

00:02:48,200 --> 00:02:51,620

Because my father  
was not arrested

45

00:02:51,620 --> 00:02:54,860

at the time of  
Kristallnacht, somehow people

46

00:02:54,860 --> 00:02:57,470  
found out that he was there.

47  
00:02:57,470 --> 00:03:03,650  
So we were visited constantly  
by women whose husbands

48  
00:03:03,650 --> 00:03:07,430  
had been taken to  
concentration camps who

49  
00:03:07,430 --> 00:03:09,200  
were hoping that  
father, as a lawyer,

50  
00:03:09,200 --> 00:03:13,990  
could somehow help  
and do something.

51  
00:03:13,990 --> 00:03:18,020  
And so my mother and I were--

52  
00:03:18,020 --> 00:03:19,080  
somehow we had coff--

53  
00:03:19,080 --> 00:03:21,260  
no, we didn't have  
real coffee anymore.

54  
00:03:21,260 --> 00:03:23,690  
But at any rate, we were  
trying to feed these people.

55  
00:03:23,690 --> 00:03:28,820  
And some of them came with black  
eyes and had been beaten up.

56  
00:03:28,820 --> 00:03:34,100  
And it was very, very  
upsetting to see these people.

57  
00:03:34,100 --> 00:03:38,360  
And especially since my

father was helpless--

58

00:03:38,360 --> 00:03:42,380  
which was something else that  
was very meaningful to me

59

00:03:42,380 --> 00:03:48,350  
to see my father reduced to some  
as somebody who couldn't help,

60

00:03:48,350 --> 00:03:51,860  
and my mother who was  
really a very wonderfully

61

00:03:51,860 --> 00:03:52,910  
stalwart woman.

62

00:03:52,910 --> 00:03:59,960  
But she was 4 foot 9 and she was  
very naive which was wonderful.

63

00:03:59,960 --> 00:04:04,280  
But she believed-- first of  
all, her belief in God I think

64

00:04:04,280 --> 00:04:05,470  
was helpful.

65

00:04:05,470 --> 00:04:10,130  
And her theory was  
que sera, sera.

66

00:04:10,130 --> 00:04:13,910  
And even though she was  
totally dependent on my father,

67

00:04:13,910 --> 00:04:16,130  
my father picked  
her clothes for her.

68

00:04:16,130 --> 00:04:18,649  
I remember going to--

69

00:04:18,649 --> 00:04:24,470

she had a lot of stuff made for  
her because she was so tiny.

70

00:04:24,470 --> 00:04:29,510

And he would go  
along and suggest

71

00:04:29,510 --> 00:04:32,360

the fabric of something.

72

00:04:32,360 --> 00:04:37,250

Later on, he and my sister  
and I shopped for my mother.

73

00:04:37,250 --> 00:04:42,320

But when you needed her, she  
was the Rock of Gibraltar,

74

00:04:42,320 --> 00:04:44,940

even though we had to take  
care of all her investments

75

00:04:44,940 --> 00:04:47,695

and do everything because  
she just she just-- she

76

00:04:47,695 --> 00:04:52,910

had never written a check and  
also didn't know how to cook.

77

00:04:52,910 --> 00:04:55,730

But that's-- do you want to  
hear about that kind of thing?

78

00:04:55,730 --> 00:04:57,170

All right.

79

00:04:57,170 --> 00:04:59,610

But that's what happened  
when we came here.

80

00:04:59,610 --> 00:05:01,160  
That's-- all right.

81  
00:05:01,160 --> 00:05:05,180  
In Germany, we  
had always a cook.

82  
00:05:05,180 --> 00:05:07,460  
And as a matter of fact,  
until the very last day,

83  
00:05:07,460 --> 00:05:10,600  
as I told you, that we  
had this woman who came

84  
00:05:10,600 --> 00:05:14,830  
in who prepared all the meals.

85  
00:05:14,830 --> 00:05:17,560  
When we came here--

86  
00:05:17,560 --> 00:05:20,710  
and I think it may have already  
been on the ship still--

87  
00:05:20,710 --> 00:05:24,910  
my father took us aside, the  
three children, and said,

88  
00:05:24,910 --> 00:05:26,800  
your mother doesn't  
know how to cook.

89  
00:05:26,800 --> 00:05:30,475  
You are going to accept whatever  
she puts in front of us.

90  
00:05:30,475 --> 00:05:32,600  
You're going to like it,  
you're going to praise it,

91  
00:05:32,600 --> 00:05:35,890  
you're not going



to criticize it.

92

00:05:35,890 --> 00:05:41,500

And indeed, my mother did not  
believe in reading cookbooks.

93

00:05:41,500 --> 00:05:49,977

And tongue had been a great,  
great delicacy in Germany.

94

00:05:49,977 --> 00:05:51,310

Here, they were throwing it out.

95

00:05:51,310 --> 00:05:54,760

Now you no longer eat it  
because it's so unhealthy.

96

00:05:54,760 --> 00:05:59,230

But they sold it here  
with its outer casing.

97

00:05:59,230 --> 00:06:02,890

My mother took that  
casing that was brined

98

00:06:02,890 --> 00:06:05,530

and thought it would make soup.

99

00:06:05,530 --> 00:06:10,510

My mother froze--  
we had refrigerators

100

00:06:10,510 --> 00:06:16,900

with a tiny thing that  
had two trays for ice,

101

00:06:16,900 --> 00:06:18,210

but not a freezer yet.

102

00:06:18,210 --> 00:06:22,450

But these two little ice  
trays, she put jello into that.

103

00:06:22,450 --> 00:06:25,150

Frozen jello is dreadful.

104

00:06:25,150 --> 00:06:29,320

But she was wonderful because  
she knew more about oratorios

105

00:06:29,320 --> 00:06:30,980

than anybody else.

106

00:06:30,980 --> 00:06:33,030

And I respected that.

107

00:06:33,030 --> 00:06:41,140

And she was she was marvelously  
helpful in many ways.

108

00:06:41,140 --> 00:06:44,980

Do you remember reuniting  
with your sister--

109

00:06:44,980 --> 00:06:45,480

Yes.

110

00:06:45,480 --> 00:06:46,300

--before you left?

111

00:06:46,300 --> 00:06:46,800

Yes.

112

00:06:46,800 --> 00:06:48,370

Did she come to  
back to Darmstadt?

113

00:06:48,370 --> 00:06:52,900

Yes, she had to come  
back to Darmstadt.

114

00:06:52,900 --> 00:06:57,490

We had to-- the American  
consulate it was in Stuttgart

115

00:06:57,490 --> 00:06:59,530  
and she had to join us.

116

00:06:59,530 --> 00:07:03,325  
That was also difficult  
because my father who

117

00:07:03,325 --> 00:07:05,260  
was never sick in his life--

118

00:07:05,260 --> 00:07:07,960  
except I remember he  
had a sty on an eye.

119

00:07:07,960 --> 00:07:10,840  
That was the only  
thing I ever saw--

120

00:07:10,840 --> 00:07:12,310  
had 102 fever.

121

00:07:12,310 --> 00:07:16,390  
And the day we were in Stuttgart  
there was a physical exam.

122

00:07:16,390 --> 00:07:19,300  
And we were terrified that  
they would do something.

123

00:07:19,300 --> 00:07:20,630  
No, it was fine.

124

00:07:20,630 --> 00:07:22,810  
But again, there was a  
man who had to be bribed.

125

00:07:22,810 --> 00:07:24,790  
Everybody knew about it.

126

00:07:24,790 --> 00:07:29,140  
And thank God, my  
parents had some money

127  
00:07:29,140 --> 00:07:32,330  
in the various caches.

128  
00:07:32,330 --> 00:07:36,580  
So everything like  
that was tense.

129  
00:07:36,580 --> 00:07:42,940  
I don't remember anything that  
had to do with an authoritarian

130  
00:07:42,940 --> 00:07:45,910  
bureaucracy that wasn't.

131  
00:07:45,910 --> 00:07:48,950  
So you got your exit visas--

132  
00:07:48,950 --> 00:07:49,450  
Yes.

133  
00:07:49,450 --> 00:07:51,700  
--or your visas for the  
United States in Stuttgart.

134  
00:07:51,700 --> 00:07:53,620  
Yes, and my sister came back.

135  
00:07:53,620 --> 00:07:57,430  
And she had a short  
haircut and also

136  
00:07:57,430 --> 00:08:01,380  
she didn't know that my father  
had to account for every dime--

137  
00:08:01,380 --> 00:08:05,020  
of every penny, not dime.

138  
00:08:05,020 --> 00:08:06,340  
And she was buying clothes.

139

00:08:06,340 --> 00:08:07,690

And she came in--

140

00:08:07,690 --> 00:08:09,320

I thought it was wonderful.

141

00:08:09,320 --> 00:08:12,790

She had a suit that had  
zippers all over the place.

142

00:08:12,790 --> 00:08:16,120

And here, the opposite.

143

00:08:16,120 --> 00:08:18,920

I had big two braids.

144

00:08:18,920 --> 00:08:22,030

And I will say this.

145

00:08:22,030 --> 00:08:29,080

Since I had no idea that we had  
any money in the United States,

146

00:08:29,080 --> 00:08:34,490

I remember that we  
bought some shoes for me.

147

00:08:34,490 --> 00:08:39,370

And since the only thing I  
knew to do was what a maid did,

148

00:08:39,370 --> 00:08:41,260

I said to myself,  
those are the shoes

149

00:08:41,260 --> 00:08:43,780

that I am going to be  
wearing for an interview

150

00:08:43,780 --> 00:08:46,840

when I become a maid.

151

00:08:46,840 --> 00:08:50,240

I thought since we were not  
going to have any money,

152

00:08:50,240 --> 00:08:52,450

I was going to have to  
do something like that.

153

00:08:52,450 --> 00:08:56,650

Of course, that  
didn't happen at all.

154

00:08:56,650 --> 00:08:59,560

Did you reunite with  
your brother in London?

155

00:08:59,560 --> 00:09:00,790

Yes.

156

00:09:00,790 --> 00:09:02,440

After Holland you  
went to London?

157

00:09:02,440 --> 00:09:02,940

Right, yes.

158

00:09:02,940 --> 00:09:04,960

And then you took the boat--

159

00:09:04,960 --> 00:09:07,588

From Southampton.

160

00:09:07,588 --> 00:09:10,510

161

00:09:10,510 --> 00:09:12,700

What was it like?

162

00:09:12,700 --> 00:09:15,600

Were there other German  
Jews on the boat?

163

00:09:15,600 --> 00:09:17,080

Yes, yes.

164

00:09:17,080 --> 00:09:20,950

Incidentally, after  
we were in Holland,

165

00:09:20,950 --> 00:09:27,790

we then boarded a small  
boat to cross the channel.

166

00:09:27,790 --> 00:09:32,200

And my sister and I shared  
a cabin and my parents

167

00:09:32,200 --> 00:09:33,340

were in a cabin.

168

00:09:33,340 --> 00:09:39,010

And they had a little box  
with a paper thing in it

169

00:09:39,010 --> 00:09:41,830

because everybody  
certainly threw out--

170

00:09:41,830 --> 00:09:47,560

the paper was fresh, but  
the box itself was not.

171

00:09:47,560 --> 00:09:49,360

That we survived that night--

172

00:09:49,360 --> 00:09:50,450

it was very stormy.

173

00:09:50,450 --> 00:09:55,690

It was February and the  
Atlantic was also very, very--

174

00:09:55,690 --> 00:09:57,970

even the Mary was

not big enough.

175

00:09:57,970 --> 00:10:00,910

I was seasick for two days.

176

00:10:00,910 --> 00:10:03,340

But then it was very enjoyable.

177

00:10:03,340 --> 00:10:05,560

We swam in the  
pool with my father

178

00:10:05,560 --> 00:10:11,500

and my brother and my sister,  
and was very luxurious.

179

00:10:11,500 --> 00:10:12,220

Very nice.

180

00:10:12,220 --> 00:10:15,670

Even though we  
were second class,

181

00:10:15,670 --> 00:10:19,720

there wasn't enough money  
to travel first class.

182

00:10:19,720 --> 00:10:23,650

But the sense of  
freedom was such

183

00:10:23,650 --> 00:10:27,610

that I thought I'd never  
be frightened again.

184

00:10:27,610 --> 00:10:32,338

But if you wanted to go  
back to German feelings--

185

00:10:32,338 --> 00:10:35,060

186



00:10:35,060 --> 00:10:40,360  
I knew then that I was never  
going to want to come back.

187  
00:10:40,360 --> 00:10:45,730  
We'd heard of real  
atrocities with--

188  
00:10:45,730 --> 00:10:48,820  
I told you, my father  
had several cases

189  
00:10:48,820 --> 00:10:54,250  
where he was still defending  
Jews and still could.

190  
00:10:54,250 --> 00:10:58,750  
And even one of the things that  
was the most horrifying, when

191  
00:10:58,750 --> 00:11:09,460  
people were arrested on  
Kristallnacht for the two

192  
00:11:09,460 --> 00:11:12,820  
weeks, some people  
did not come back.

193  
00:11:12,820 --> 00:11:19,330  
And instead, the wives were sent  
little boxes with their ashes

194  
00:11:19,330 --> 00:11:20,720  
in them.

195  
00:11:20,720 --> 00:11:22,420  
And we heard about this.

196  
00:11:22,420 --> 00:11:26,230  
And that kind of thing,  
when you were 11 years old,

197  
00:11:26,230 --> 00:11:34,120

makes a very deep  
impression because, well, we

198  
00:11:34,120 --> 00:11:36,910  
didn't know that they  
wouldn't repeat this

199  
00:11:36,910 --> 00:11:41,335  
and that my father would not,  
the next time, be involved.

200  
00:11:41,335 --> 00:11:45,040

201  
00:11:45,040 --> 00:11:50,350  
And so many people really  
were very, very frightened.

202  
00:11:50,350 --> 00:11:51,880  
Everybody was frightened.

203  
00:11:51,880 --> 00:11:53,575  
And this pervasive fear--

204  
00:11:53,575 --> 00:11:57,010

205  
00:11:57,010 --> 00:12:00,220  
Did your father practice  
law after Kristallnacht?

206  
00:12:00,220 --> 00:12:03,010  
Because his office  
was destroyed.

207  
00:12:03,010 --> 00:12:05,920  
Yes, he wasn't-- no.

208  
00:12:05,920 --> 00:12:09,970  
Well, Kristallnacht  
was November 10.

209

00:12:09,970 --> 00:12:13,295  
And he was disbarred--

210  
00:12:13,295 --> 00:12:15,580  
I'll give you the exact date--

211  
00:12:15,580 --> 00:12:17,240  
very shortly thereafter.

212  
00:12:17,240 --> 00:12:20,830  
So there was no question that he  
couldn't have practiced anyhow.

213  
00:12:20,830 --> 00:12:27,820  
But I do remember that when  
we went into the office,

214  
00:12:27,820 --> 00:12:33,010  
one of the things was in  
order to keep the briefs,

215  
00:12:33,010 --> 00:12:36,870  
they had to make three holes.

216  
00:12:36,870 --> 00:12:40,210  
Somehow there was confetti  
all over the place for these

217  
00:12:40,210 --> 00:12:45,160  
because they'd found  
the boxes that somehow--

218  
00:12:45,160 --> 00:12:48,760  
we, as children, were  
sometimes privileged

219  
00:12:48,760 --> 00:12:50,680  
to be given some  
of this confetti

220  
00:12:50,680 --> 00:12:52,030  
when we visited my father.

221

00:12:52,030 --> 00:12:55,310

222

00:12:55,310 --> 00:12:58,690

And there was one funny thing.

223

00:12:58,690 --> 00:13:02,530

My father smoked and my  
mother had bought him

224

00:13:02,530 --> 00:13:08,290

something that was supposed  
to take away the smoke.

225

00:13:08,290 --> 00:13:13,570

It was a figure and they planted  
that on top of something.

226

00:13:13,570 --> 00:13:18,370

On top of a whole pile they  
put this thing that was--

227

00:13:18,370 --> 00:13:23,530

I have to say, I loved  
the fact that he smoked.

228

00:13:23,530 --> 00:13:26,740

Somehow, it was  
the male business.

229

00:13:26,740 --> 00:13:27,940

My sister smoked.

230

00:13:27,940 --> 00:13:29,380

My mother never smoked.

231

00:13:29,380 --> 00:13:35,920

That made her somehow  
not courageous.

232

00:13:35,920 --> 00:13:40,250

Idiotic things when

you're that little.

233

00:13:40,250 --> 00:13:43,330

But I remember when one  
entered my father's office,

234

00:13:43,330 --> 00:13:48,610

there would be layers of  
blue smoke sitting there.

235

00:13:48,610 --> 00:13:58,810

Well, by and large, maybe I  
don't remember many things.

236

00:13:58,810 --> 00:14:02,590

Freud claimed, after all, that  
we remember the good things.

237

00:14:02,590 --> 00:14:05,330

238

00:14:05,330 --> 00:14:08,830

The really shocking things,  
of course one remembers.

239

00:14:08,830 --> 00:14:14,170

But there is something to it  
if it was just not so terribly

240

00:14:14,170 --> 00:14:18,300

important that maybe  
one doesn't remember.

241

00:14:18,300 --> 00:14:23,110

For instance, I can't remember  
when the cook had to leave us.

242

00:14:23,110 --> 00:14:27,530

243

00:14:27,530 --> 00:14:29,980

But that wasn't a  
tragedy because she

244  
00:14:29,980 --> 00:14:34,840  
wasn't the same thing.

245  
00:14:34,840 --> 00:14:40,870  
The life before had been  
very, very pleasant.

246  
00:14:40,870 --> 00:14:49,270  
And I have to say, the  
closeness of the family,

247  
00:14:49,270 --> 00:14:52,770  
I think that that's  
happened to a lot of people,

248  
00:14:52,770 --> 00:14:59,020  
that they became a very closely  
knit family here because of it.

249  
00:14:59,020 --> 00:15:03,010  
And my sister was  
absolutely my best friend

250  
00:15:03,010 --> 00:15:06,340  
and for years and years.

251  
00:15:06,340 --> 00:15:07,790  
We even lived together.

252  
00:15:07,790 --> 00:15:10,080  
We had the two  
families live together

253  
00:15:10,080 --> 00:15:14,100  
because when there was such  
a shortage of apartments

254  
00:15:14,100 --> 00:15:18,810  
in New York, we had a  
commune without knowing

255

00:15:18,810 --> 00:15:22,200  
that it was a commune.

256  
00:15:22,200 --> 00:15:24,160  
Do you remember arriving  
in New York City?

257  
00:15:24,160 --> 00:15:24,660  
Absolutely.

258  
00:15:24,660 --> 00:15:26,070  
Did you go to Ellis Island?

259  
00:15:26,070 --> 00:15:28,142  
No, no.

260  
00:15:28,142 --> 00:15:29,100  
That's the other thing.

261  
00:15:29,100 --> 00:15:31,140  
Luxury liners did not.

262  
00:15:31,140 --> 00:15:32,210  
If you came on--

263  
00:15:32,210 --> 00:15:34,878

264  
00:15:34,878 --> 00:15:35,760  
that's one thing.

265  
00:15:35,760 --> 00:15:39,360  
I start my memoir with the idea.

266  
00:15:39,360 --> 00:15:43,200  
The Queen Mary was important  
because you didn't talk about,

267  
00:15:43,200 --> 00:15:46,230  
with other people  
or kids, whether you

268

00:15:46,230 --> 00:15:48,450

were well off in Germany  
or anything about that.

269

00:15:48,450 --> 00:15:51,390

But you talked about how  
you came here and was

270

00:15:51,390 --> 00:15:54,330

allowed to brag about that.

271

00:15:54,330 --> 00:15:56,490

And I had lots of  
friends who came

272

00:15:56,490 --> 00:16:02,370

on ships that took  
three weeks to get here,

273

00:16:02,370 --> 00:16:03,880

certain ones two weeks.

274

00:16:03,880 --> 00:16:05,820

The Mary took 4 and 1/2 days.

275

00:16:05,820 --> 00:16:10,080

And pity because it  
was so, so pleasant.

276

00:16:10,080 --> 00:16:19,290

But I very vividly remember  
as we came in the harbor.

277

00:16:19,290 --> 00:16:21,630

And my parents, who  
had been here before,

278

00:16:21,630 --> 00:16:25,450

said, there is the  
Statue of Liberty.

279

00:16:25,450 --> 00:16:31,650



And to this day, I get a little  
bit of goose bumps when I--

280  
00:16:31,650 --> 00:16:35,050  
and we used to take the Staten  
Island Ferry constantly,

281  
00:16:35,050 --> 00:16:37,290  
so I saw it very often.

282  
00:16:37,290 --> 00:16:39,450  
And of course now  
we have visited

283  
00:16:39,450 --> 00:16:46,610  
and names are in the  
water line there.

284  
00:16:46,610 --> 00:16:49,320

285  
00:16:49,320 --> 00:16:50,510  
The Mary pulled up--

286  
00:16:50,510 --> 00:16:53,355

287  
00:16:53,355 --> 00:16:55,830  
in the time, there  
were peers all over

288  
00:16:55,830 --> 00:16:58,900  
because all the  
liners were there.

289  
00:16:58,900 --> 00:17:01,410  
The Mary laid next  
to the Normandy.

290  
00:17:01,410 --> 00:17:09,030  
The Normandy was the  
ship that was sunk there.

291

00:17:09,030 --> 00:17:15,869

But the Mary pulled in  
and the gangplanks were--

292

00:17:15,869 --> 00:17:19,859

293

00:17:19,859 --> 00:17:22,369

by the way, the  
colors were not--

294

00:17:22,369 --> 00:17:25,650

the Mary became a troop ship.

295

00:17:25,650 --> 00:17:28,260

And we saw her very  
gray, but in those days

296

00:17:28,260 --> 00:17:35,790

she was black and red, and  
she had the British flag

297

00:17:35,790 --> 00:17:36,850

which was very nice.

298

00:17:36,850 --> 00:17:40,500

And by the way, the reason  
we knew so much about her,

299

00:17:40,500 --> 00:17:45,750

they gave a tour of the ship,  
so we heard all the minor things

300

00:17:45,750 --> 00:17:49,080

and the major things about her.

301

00:17:49,080 --> 00:17:52,050

When we pulled in  
it was very cold.

302

00:17:52,050 --> 00:17:54,960

And the Hudson

looked very dirty.

303

00:17:54,960 --> 00:17:56,670

And I was very  
disappointed because I

304

00:17:56,670 --> 00:17:58,650

thought all the  
sky scrapers would

305

00:17:58,650 --> 00:18:00,200

be lined up on Riverside Drive.

306

00:18:00,200 --> 00:18:03,090

Instead, they were  
all over the place.

307

00:18:03,090 --> 00:18:08,910

And it took a long  
time for us to get off.

308

00:18:08,910 --> 00:18:13,160

But the sponsor's wife  
was waiting for us

309

00:18:13,160 --> 00:18:17,760

for hours in their Lincoln car.

310

00:18:17,760 --> 00:18:20,100

And we came off.

311

00:18:20,100 --> 00:18:25,650

And they took us to  
a hotel that had been

312

00:18:25,650 --> 00:18:29,430

booked for us on 74th Street.

313

00:18:29,430 --> 00:18:33,300

And it's no longer a hotel.

314

00:18:33,300 --> 00:18:35,970

It is now a co-op.

315

00:18:35,970 --> 00:18:39,330

But the bank that it  
faced is still exactly--

316

00:18:39,330 --> 00:18:40,680

it's no longer the same bank.

317

00:18:40,680 --> 00:18:43,530

It's changed hands many times.

318

00:18:43,530 --> 00:18:47,400

But I can tell you  
exactly what this

319

00:18:47,400 --> 00:18:49,530

felt like because I  
looked out of the window

320

00:18:49,530 --> 00:18:52,530

and I saw the huge sidewalk.

321

00:18:52,530 --> 00:18:54,690

And I said, oh, if  
I only had my roller

322

00:18:54,690 --> 00:19:00,990

skates which were in the lift.

323

00:19:00,990 --> 00:19:02,940

So they weren't with me there.

324

00:19:02,940 --> 00:19:07,361

325

00:19:07,361 --> 00:19:13,710

It was a very special  
thing because of the food

326

00:19:13,710 --> 00:19:15,600

that was on display.

327

00:19:15,600 --> 00:19:19,190

And I can tell you exactly  
what it cost at the time, too.

328

00:19:19,190 --> 00:19:22,590

A rye bread cost \$0.09.

329

00:19:22,590 --> 00:19:24,990

And one of these  
most striking things

330

00:19:24,990 --> 00:19:29,610

was that before they  
packaged butter in quarters,

331

00:19:29,610 --> 00:19:34,410

they had it in barrels  
and they cut out butter.

332

00:19:34,410 --> 00:19:39,910

We hadn't seen 1/4 quarter  
pound of butter a month.

333

00:19:39,910 --> 00:19:41,810

And here was this butter.

334

00:19:41,810 --> 00:19:45,690

You know, these were  
striking things.

335

00:19:45,690 --> 00:19:48,840

But that was fairly unimportant.

336

00:19:48,840 --> 00:19:52,920

Just the feeling of being  
here was very special.

337

00:19:52,920 --> 00:20:00,630

And we didn't know yet that a  
lot more could have been done.

338

00:20:00,630 --> 00:20:03,360

But that there was  
such a quota system,

339

00:20:03,360 --> 00:20:05,520

that so few people, really--

340

00:20:05,520 --> 00:20:10,150

and in my memoir I have  
statistics of how many--

341

00:20:10,150 --> 00:20:15,700

the United States took many more  
people than any other nation.

342

00:20:15,700 --> 00:20:19,630

But when you see how  
few people were taken--

343

00:20:19,630 --> 00:20:24,820

and as you pointed out, nobody  
wanted any of the Jews--

344

00:20:24,820 --> 00:20:28,060

was a not very good feeling.

345

00:20:28,060 --> 00:20:33,550

But I didn't know yet  
how restricted it was.

346

00:20:33,550 --> 00:20:35,110

And so I felt--

347

00:20:35,110 --> 00:20:40,690

we were coming to Roosevelt,  
who was a marvelous thing

348

00:20:40,690 --> 00:20:45,640

to think of, that this  
was not a dictator.

349

00:20:45,640 --> 00:20:49,390

But I also have to tell you

that I had not heard the word

350

00:20:49,390 --> 00:20:52,720

dictator applied for Hitler.

351

00:20:52,720 --> 00:20:54,490

He was called the Fuhrer.

352

00:20:54,490 --> 00:20:59,500

And in my little head,  
that wasn't like Mussolini

353

00:20:59,500 --> 00:21:00,610

that I knew.

354

00:21:00,610 --> 00:21:06,340

He was a fascist and  
he was a dictator.

355

00:21:06,340 --> 00:21:11,860

But Hitler was a  
fuhrer in my head.

356

00:21:11,860 --> 00:21:13,960

By the way, I saw him once.

357

00:21:13,960 --> 00:21:17,050

And under the circumstances,  
he was coming through Darmstadt

358

00:21:17,050 --> 00:21:19,870

in one of those  
typical open cars

359

00:21:19,870 --> 00:21:24,910

with the hand raised and  
this idea that he did not

360

00:21:24,910 --> 00:21:30,370

do the salute the same way  
as the general populous did.

361

00:21:30,370 --> 00:21:34,870  
And I was standing there, and  
a man picked me up with my legs

362  
00:21:34,870 --> 00:21:38,200  
up and said, so you  
can see him better.

363  
00:21:38,200 --> 00:21:40,220  
That person did not  
know I was Jewish.

364  
00:21:40,220 --> 00:21:44,170

365  
00:21:44,170 --> 00:21:46,300  
By the way, dreadful.

366  
00:21:46,300 --> 00:21:48,790  
I mean, I knew  
that this was a man

367  
00:21:48,790 --> 00:21:54,130  
to be hated with every  
bone in your body,

368  
00:21:54,130 --> 00:21:58,490  
even though we didn't know yet  
how bad it was going to be.

369  
00:21:58,490 --> 00:22:01,360  
What happened to your  
parents' parents?

370  
00:22:01,360 --> 00:22:06,020

371  
00:22:06,020 --> 00:22:09,080  
My grandfather on  
my father's side

372  
00:22:09,080 --> 00:22:14,900  
had died during



World War I already.

373

00:22:14,900 --> 00:22:16,520

And there was a  
story about that,

374

00:22:16,520 --> 00:22:23,120

that my father was able to  
come back for the funeral which

375

00:22:23,120 --> 00:22:27,860

I knew all about because we  
made my father tell stories

376

00:22:27,860 --> 00:22:28,910

about the war.

377

00:22:28,910 --> 00:22:32,040

And what was so wonderful  
is they never changed.

378

00:22:32,040 --> 00:22:33,290

He did not exaggerate.

379

00:22:33,290 --> 00:22:34,580

He told the truth.

380

00:22:34,580 --> 00:22:39,800

381

00:22:39,800 --> 00:22:50,240

My father's mother had died  
in Germany in '37, I think.

382

00:22:50,240 --> 00:22:53,120

383

00:22:53,120 --> 00:22:55,460

On the other side, my  
grandfather had died

384

00:22:55,460 --> 00:23:01,600

in '33 with that story  
about his really--

385  
00:23:01,600 --> 00:23:05,540  
with a sign.

386  
00:23:05,540 --> 00:23:10,490  
My grandmother  
stayed in Germany.

387  
00:23:10,490 --> 00:23:15,110  
And she was in her late 70s.

388  
00:23:15,110 --> 00:23:21,470  
And when the war broke out and  
there were early air raids,

389  
00:23:21,470 --> 00:23:25,400  
they made her go down,  
when everybody else went

390  
00:23:25,400 --> 00:23:30,110  
into the settlers together, in  
this luxury apartment house.

391  
00:23:30,110 --> 00:23:32,960  
She lived a 12 room apartment.

392  
00:23:32,960 --> 00:23:34,790  
It was that luxurious  
because there were

393  
00:23:34,790 --> 00:23:36,920  
representatives of the firm.

394  
00:23:36,920 --> 00:23:39,800

395  
00:23:39,800 --> 00:23:43,520  
They made her sit in a  
cold cellar by herself.

396

00:23:43,520 --> 00:23:46,250

397

00:23:46,250 --> 00:23:50,210

But my father got out via  
Cuba and she died here

398

00:23:50,210 --> 00:23:51,155

at the age of 83.

399

00:23:51,155 --> 00:24:01,814

400

00:24:01,814 --> 00:24:07,000

My mother's sister  
was in Palestine

401

00:24:07,000 --> 00:24:08,980

and eventually came here, too.

402

00:24:08,980 --> 00:24:12,010

403

00:24:12,010 --> 00:24:14,080

And your father's mother?

404

00:24:14,080 --> 00:24:17,800

My father's mother  
died in Germany in '37.

405

00:24:17,800 --> 00:24:24,160

406

00:24:24,160 --> 00:24:25,510

And he had a brother, I think?

407

00:24:25,510 --> 00:24:31,210

He had a brother who had  
died of leukemia in 1922.

408

00:24:31,210 --> 00:24:33,040

He had a sister

who was a doctor.

409

00:24:33,040 --> 00:24:35,630

410

00:24:35,630 --> 00:24:38,080

I don't know why I  
haven't mentioned it.

411

00:24:38,080 --> 00:24:42,310

She stayed in Germany  
and she was gassed.

412

00:24:42,310 --> 00:24:48,850

She had the Iron Cross and a  
grateful nation gassed her.

413

00:24:48,850 --> 00:24:52,180

In my memoir, I  
have two people who

414

00:24:52,180 --> 00:24:57,130

were very special  
people in the family.

415

00:24:57,130 --> 00:25:01,420

One was also a doctor,  
Johanna Geissmar.

416

00:25:01,420 --> 00:25:03,340

And she is known.

417

00:25:03,340 --> 00:25:09,700

She's written up in many places  
because she was in Gurs first.

418

00:25:09,700 --> 00:25:14,980

And even though she was not  
supposed to go to Auschwitz,

419

00:25:14,980 --> 00:25:17,860

she decided a doctor was needed.

420

00:25:17,860 --> 00:25:21,850

And she went to Auschwitz  
and she was gassed there.

421

00:25:21,850 --> 00:25:26,440

And she's written up because--

422

00:25:26,440 --> 00:25:31,240

two people wrote  
whole books about her.

423

00:25:31,240 --> 00:25:35,830

And I will show you the books.

424

00:25:35,830 --> 00:25:39,430

425

00:25:39,430 --> 00:25:42,130

She was really very special.

426

00:25:42,130 --> 00:25:47,770

And then there was somebody  
else who was rather well known.

427

00:25:47,770 --> 00:25:53,600

Because she was Furtwangler's,  
the conductor's, right hand,

428

00:25:53,600 --> 00:25:54,100

she became--

429

00:25:54,100 --> 00:25:58,840

430

00:25:58,840 --> 00:26:02,500

I'm trying to say what  
her title was then.

431

00:26:02,500 --> 00:26:07,960

Well, she did all  
the booking for--

432

00:26:07,960 --> 00:26:12,490

she was the manager of  
the Berlin Philharmonic.

433

00:26:12,490 --> 00:26:15,750

And the Nazis wanted  
to use Furtwangler

434

00:26:15,750 --> 00:26:20,290

because he was a great  
Wagnerite and Goebbels wanted

435

00:26:20,290 --> 00:26:22,420

to get rid of her immediately.

436

00:26:22,420 --> 00:26:26,680

Goering protected her for  
a while with a famous--

437

00:26:26,680 --> 00:26:30,340

she was not raised as a Jew,  
so she was very surprised

438

00:26:30,340 --> 00:26:32,970

that she got into any trouble.

439

00:26:32,970 --> 00:26:36,220

Goering supposedly  
said, I'll decide

440

00:26:36,220 --> 00:26:40,540

who is a Jew, which he may have  
said for several other people.

441

00:26:40,540 --> 00:26:44,540

At any rate, they  
finally forced her out.

442

00:26:44,540 --> 00:26:50,770

She left with her father's  
Strat under her arm and went

443

00:26:50,770 --> 00:26:55,510  
to England and became Sir Thomas  
Beecham's right hand the same

444  
00:26:55,510 --> 00:26:58,960  
way that she had  
been Furtwangler's.

445  
00:26:58,960 --> 00:27:00,760  
And there are many  
stories because she

446  
00:27:00,760 --> 00:27:05,380  
wrote a book that describes the  
musical world between the wars.

447  
00:27:05,380 --> 00:27:09,370  
And she died in London.

448  
00:27:09,370 --> 00:27:15,340  
But we met Sir  
Thomas Beecham here

449  
00:27:15,340 --> 00:27:18,040  
when he was here during the war.

450  
00:27:18,040 --> 00:27:22,210  
Well, talk to him about  
her and stuff like that.

451  
00:27:22,210 --> 00:27:26,020  
When you arrived, did  
you know any English?

452  
00:27:26,020 --> 00:27:27,130  
That is a story.

453  
00:27:27,130 --> 00:27:28,600  
I knew a little.

454  
00:27:28,600 --> 00:27:32,860  
But I can tell  
you I am convinced

455  
00:27:32,860 --> 00:27:35,800  
that if you were a  
child, and I think

456  
00:27:35,800 --> 00:27:38,530  
anybody who tries,  
the first three

457  
00:27:38,530 --> 00:27:40,300  
months you learn everything.

458  
00:27:40,300 --> 00:27:44,320  
After that, it's only fill in.

459  
00:27:44,320 --> 00:27:46,840  
And we made every  
attempt, anytime

460  
00:27:46,840 --> 00:27:51,760  
we were outside of the  
house, to speak only English

461  
00:27:51,760 --> 00:27:56,020  
because we wanted to certainly  
not offend anybody here

462  
00:27:56,020 --> 00:27:57,640  
and also to become part of it.

463  
00:27:57,640 --> 00:28:00,550

464  
00:28:00,550 --> 00:28:03,550  
For my father, this  
was much more difficult

465  
00:28:03,550 --> 00:28:09,840  
because he was 59 years old  
and he didn't know English.

466  
00:28:09,840 --> 00:28:11,890



And he thought he had  
to speak English the way

467  
00:28:11,890 --> 00:28:14,680  
he spoke Hochdeutsch.

468  
00:28:14,680 --> 00:28:18,970  
By the way, he  
spoke two languages,

469  
00:28:18,970 --> 00:28:20,770  
as I did, in Germany.

470  
00:28:20,770 --> 00:28:22,990  
In Darmstadt,  
[GERMAN] was the word

471  
00:28:22,990 --> 00:28:26,620  
for the local speech  
and Hochdeutsch.

472  
00:28:26,620 --> 00:28:31,060  
And of course, father came  
from Rheinhessen, where they--

473  
00:28:31,060 --> 00:28:34,050  
I think the same kind of speech.

474  
00:28:34,050 --> 00:28:37,320  
He certainly used  
very high language.

475  
00:28:37,320 --> 00:28:39,590  
And he thought he had  
to do this in English.

476  
00:28:39,590 --> 00:28:41,740  
For my mother, it was wonderful.

477  
00:28:41,740 --> 00:28:44,110  
What was funny was  
when she came here

478

00:28:44,110 --> 00:28:46,960

she had a very decided  
British accent because she

479

00:28:46,960 --> 00:28:52,270

was in boarding school  
for over a year in London.

480

00:28:52,270 --> 00:28:57,370

We lived in a part of New York  
that had many German Jews.

481

00:28:57,370 --> 00:28:59,620

It was referred to  
as the Fourth Reich

482

00:28:59,620 --> 00:29:03,490

because so many German  
Jews lived there together.

483

00:29:03,490 --> 00:29:07,930

I think my mother developed  
a sort of German accent.

484

00:29:07,930 --> 00:29:09,100

German.

485

00:29:09,100 --> 00:29:12,550

For the first time there,  
it wasn't British anymore.

486

00:29:12,550 --> 00:29:17,550

She still said things like  
often and instead of often.

487

00:29:17,550 --> 00:29:23,810

But she was wonderful because  
she was able to see us through.

488

00:29:23,810 --> 00:29:25,730

She was quite  
talented in languages.

489

00:29:25,730 --> 00:29:29,510  
When we were in Italy, or  
anywhere, she used a Baedeker

490

00:29:29,510 --> 00:29:34,140  
and she talked to  
people very easily.

491

00:29:34,140 --> 00:29:38,240  
So that was very helpful.

492

00:29:38,240 --> 00:29:42,507  
So you first stayed in  
a hotel, and then how

493

00:29:42,507 --> 00:29:43,340  
did things work out?

494

00:29:43,340 --> 00:29:47,330  
Yes, my father was horrified  
because the hotel--

495

00:29:47,330 --> 00:29:51,200  
we were in one room and it cost  
\$95 which was a lot of money

496

00:29:51,200 --> 00:29:51,920  
then.

497

00:29:51,920 --> 00:29:54,350  
And he somehow  
knew somebody else

498

00:29:54,350 --> 00:29:58,400  
and we moved to a different  
hotel where, for \$95,

499

00:29:58,400 --> 00:30:04,040  
we had two rooms, and a  
kitchen, and a separate--

500

00:30:04,040 --> 00:30:08,420

no, we had three rooms  
for the same \$95.

501  
00:30:08,420 --> 00:30:13,610  
It was on Columbus Avenue,  
right opposite the Museum

502  
00:30:13,610 --> 00:30:15,110  
of Natural History.

503  
00:30:15,110 --> 00:30:20,810  
And there was a  
train still, elevator

504  
00:30:20,810 --> 00:30:24,380  
that went through there,  
which then was taken away.

505  
00:30:24,380 --> 00:30:28,550  
But we were in the  
museum constantly.

506  
00:30:28,550 --> 00:30:31,040  
We lived there for  
about three months

507  
00:30:31,040 --> 00:30:37,400  
and then moved to an  
apartment in the Fourth Reich

508  
00:30:37,400 --> 00:30:38,360  
on Riverside Drive.

509  
00:30:38,360 --> 00:30:38,970  
Very nice.

510  
00:30:38,970 --> 00:30:40,220  
Seven rooms.

511  
00:30:40,220 --> 00:30:42,020  
It cost \$72.

512

00:30:42,020 --> 00:30:43,970  
I have the first lease.

513  
00:30:43,970 --> 00:30:44,840  
A month?

514  
00:30:44,840 --> 00:30:45,370  
No.

515  
00:30:45,370 --> 00:30:45,990  
No, no, no.

516  
00:30:45,990 --> 00:30:46,490  
Yes.

517  
00:30:46,490 --> 00:30:46,990  
Pardon me.

518  
00:30:46,990 --> 00:30:47,990  
A month, yes.

519  
00:30:47,990 --> 00:30:49,730  
But it was seven rooms.

520  
00:30:49,730 --> 00:30:54,140  
And it had a long corridor,  
so all the paintings

521  
00:30:54,140 --> 00:30:55,190  
were lined up.

522  
00:30:55,190 --> 00:30:57,560  
And family paintings,  
when I think about it,

523  
00:30:57,560 --> 00:30:59,900  
we destroyed because we didn't--

524  
00:30:59,900 --> 00:31:02,120  
nobody wanted them after  
we moved my mother out

525

00:31:02,120 --> 00:31:03,800  
and after we were married.

526

00:31:03,800 --> 00:31:07,430  
We had paintings of the great,  
great grandfather, rabbi,

527

00:31:07,430 --> 00:31:09,500  
twice.

528

00:31:09,500 --> 00:31:11,610  
We didn't want them to  
fall into different hands.

529

00:31:11,610 --> 00:31:13,310  
When I think it, it's terrible.

530

00:31:13,310 --> 00:31:15,110  
We burnt them.

531

00:31:15,110 --> 00:31:17,210  
And we had paintings of--

532

00:31:17,210 --> 00:31:20,090  
this is me.

533

00:31:20,090 --> 00:31:22,970  
Of course there was one of Paul  
and there was one of Ellen.

534

00:31:22,970 --> 00:31:26,700  
We still have the one  
of-- yes, those exist.

535

00:31:26,700 --> 00:31:31,160  
But we had paintings  
of my father's brother,

536

00:31:31,160 --> 00:31:36,860  
of my grandmother,  
and unfortunately, we

537

00:31:36,860 --> 00:31:41,060

behaved very badly about  
this as young marrieds

538

00:31:41,060 --> 00:31:42,830

who had modern apartments.

539

00:31:42,830 --> 00:31:44,870

And-- terrible.

540

00:31:44,870 --> 00:31:50,060

But we have photographs  
of most of them.

541

00:31:50,060 --> 00:31:54,000

So you arrived in February, and  
did you go to a public school

542

00:31:54,000 --> 00:31:54,500

right away?

543

00:31:54,500 --> 00:31:55,040

Yes.

544

00:31:55,040 --> 00:32:00,050

Yes, and my parents, after  
we were here three days,

545

00:32:00,050 --> 00:32:02,100

decided we should go to school.

546

00:32:02,100 --> 00:32:05,660

So we asked where the  
nearest school was.

547

00:32:05,660 --> 00:32:10,580

And I was enrolled in one and my  
sister was enrolled in another.

548

00:32:10,580 --> 00:32:15,520

And luckily, a relative  
took over and just said,

549  
00:32:15,520 --> 00:32:18,150  
this won't do.

550  
00:32:18,150 --> 00:32:23,900  
And how she did it, she got  
my sister into Julia Richman.

551  
00:32:23,900 --> 00:32:27,110  
My sister spent her four  
years in Julia Richman.

552  
00:32:27,110 --> 00:32:32,510  
After we lived on 160th  
and Riverside Drive,

553  
00:32:32,510 --> 00:32:34,340  
she was certainly not  
entitled to go there,

554  
00:32:34,340 --> 00:32:36,680  
but she was able to stay there.

555  
00:32:36,680 --> 00:32:42,950  
And she got me into P.S. 9  
which was a very good school.

556  
00:32:42,950 --> 00:32:50,060  
And I was immediately assigned  
a girl, who had been here

557  
00:32:50,060 --> 00:32:52,760  
for a few months, as my guide.

558  
00:32:52,760 --> 00:32:56,390  
This was very  
helpful because she

559  
00:32:56,390 --> 00:33:01,010  
told me the rudimentary  
things, that we

560



00:33:01,010 --> 00:33:03,770  
had to wear a midi  
blouse on Wednesdays,

561  
00:33:03,770 --> 00:33:06,620  
and say the Pledge of Allegiance  
and things like that, which

562  
00:33:06,620 --> 00:33:09,470  
did not have the  
words "under God" yet,

563  
00:33:09,470 --> 00:33:11,446  
which came in under Eisenhower.

564  
00:33:11,446 --> 00:33:14,780

565  
00:33:14,780 --> 00:33:17,930  
And then when we  
moved to I was put

566  
00:33:17,930 --> 00:33:22,730  
in to the public school  
near where we lived.

567  
00:33:22,730 --> 00:33:26,450  
And they put me into  
the right age group

568  
00:33:26,450 --> 00:33:30,350  
for me instead of what I--

569  
00:33:30,350 --> 00:33:35,680  
of course I had been much  
more advanced because somehow,

570  
00:33:35,680 --> 00:33:39,710  
in Germany, you are advanced.

571  
00:33:39,710 --> 00:33:42,020  
So what happened,  
I became the best

572  
00:33:42,020 --> 00:33:45,920  
in the class within three  
months that I knew English.

573  
00:33:45,920 --> 00:33:51,490  
The first time around, the  
first term that I passed things,

574  
00:33:51,490 --> 00:33:54,320  
was incredible because  
I cheated like cra--

575  
00:33:54,320 --> 00:33:56,330  
because the kids helped me.

576  
00:33:56,330 --> 00:33:59,390  
Civics and American History,  
which I knew nothing about.

577  
00:33:59,390 --> 00:34:03,000

578  
00:34:03,000 --> 00:34:04,820  
And the school wasn't so dumb.

579  
00:34:04,820 --> 00:34:08,000  
They put me into 6B  
which was the slow class,

580  
00:34:08,000 --> 00:34:11,639  
and that's where I became  
absolutely the best.

581  
00:34:11,639 --> 00:34:15,830  
It was the easiest thing in  
the world except in sewing.

582  
00:34:15,830 --> 00:34:18,860  
And there goes-- do you want  
to hear a story like this?

583

00:34:18,860 --> 00:34:21,699  
Well, it was very funny.

584  
00:34:21,699 --> 00:34:24,320  
They prepared us.

585  
00:34:24,320 --> 00:34:27,409  
By the way, I then began  
to skip classes like crazy

586  
00:34:27,409 --> 00:34:31,400  
because they advanced  
me when it became plain

587  
00:34:31,400 --> 00:34:34,280  
that I had been advanced.

588  
00:34:34,280 --> 00:34:39,199  
At any rate, they were  
trying to get us ready

589  
00:34:39,199 --> 00:34:43,250  
for a home echo class that  
we were going to have.

590  
00:34:43,250 --> 00:34:47,420  
And we had to have an apron  
and a thing for our heads.

591  
00:34:47,420 --> 00:34:51,679  
And they gave us  
the cut out apron

592  
00:34:51,679 --> 00:34:56,940  
and we had to put an  
edging, a bias on.

593  
00:34:56,940 --> 00:35:00,320  
So I took it home and I did  
what I thought was right.

594  
00:35:00,320 --> 00:35:03,215  
And the teacher looked at it

and said, this is terrible.

595

00:35:03,215 --> 00:35:05,780

596

00:35:05,780 --> 00:35:10,160

Take out all the stitches and  
tell your mother to help you.

597

00:35:10,160 --> 00:35:13,490

So I realized that my  
mother had no idea what

598

00:35:13,490 --> 00:35:15,020

could be done about this.

599

00:35:15,020 --> 00:35:18,870

She could crochet  
but she couldn't sew.

600

00:35:18,870 --> 00:35:22,400

So I did very small stitches  
and everything was fine,

601

00:35:22,400 --> 00:35:24,860

and the teacher accepted it.

602

00:35:24,860 --> 00:35:29,480

And then we had to go  
home and starch the thing.

603

00:35:29,480 --> 00:35:32,300

So my mother and I looked at--

604

00:35:32,300 --> 00:35:34,200

by the way, we brought starch.

605

00:35:34,200 --> 00:35:36,440

Whatever we could, we brought.

606

00:35:36,440 --> 00:35:39,590

So we had detergent which

wasn't detergent yet.

607

00:35:39,590 --> 00:35:40,760

I guess it was soap.

608

00:35:40,760 --> 00:35:43,520

And we had starch.

609

00:35:43,520 --> 00:35:46,670

She and I read the thing

and we tried to starch it,

610

00:35:46,670 --> 00:35:49,800

and it came out in waves.

611

00:35:49,800 --> 00:35:53,570

So I brought it in and the

teacher said, this is terrible.

612

00:35:53,570 --> 00:35:57,770

You go tell your mother

to help you do it.

613

00:35:57,770 --> 00:36:00,030

So I took her to

a Chinese laundry

614

00:36:00,030 --> 00:36:04,670

and when I brought it back,

the teacher very wisely said,

615

00:36:04,670 --> 00:36:08,090

well, I knew your

mother would help you.

616

00:36:08,090 --> 00:36:13,640

And I must tell you I

was proud that my mother

617

00:36:13,640 --> 00:36:15,950

didn't know how to do it.

618

00:36:15,950 --> 00:36:19,910

Because as I said before, she  
knew more about oratorios.

619

00:36:19,910 --> 00:36:24,200

She was a lovely  
mother, so she didn't

620

00:36:24,200 --> 00:36:31,030

know how to do these things that  
she was never privy to learn.

621

00:36:31,030 --> 00:36:32,830

So you did well in school.

622

00:36:32,830 --> 00:36:34,600

And how did you get--

623

00:36:34,600 --> 00:36:37,360

how did you decide  
or how was it decided

624

00:36:37,360 --> 00:36:41,050

that you go to a high  
school of music and art?

625

00:36:41,050 --> 00:36:43,150

Well, I could draw.

626

00:36:43,150 --> 00:36:46,330

My father could draw, my mother  
could draw a little, too.

627

00:36:46,330 --> 00:36:51,130

628

00:36:51,130 --> 00:36:53,560

I was not a super talent.

629

00:36:53,560 --> 00:36:57,850

And incidentally, I  
was given art lessons,

630

00:36:57,850 --> 00:37:00,370

I think partially  
because my father

631

00:37:00,370 --> 00:37:06,670

wanted to give some money  
to the woman who taught me.

632

00:37:06,670 --> 00:37:13,216

And music and art was  
a goal because it was--

633

00:37:13,216 --> 00:37:17,410

as said, by that time I was 13.

634

00:37:17,410 --> 00:37:19,900

I was going to the  
galleries like crazy.

635

00:37:19,900 --> 00:37:23,020

636

00:37:23,020 --> 00:37:24,800

It was wonderful here.

637

00:37:24,800 --> 00:37:28,270

And so I took the  
test and I succeeded.

638

00:37:28,270 --> 00:37:28,940

I got in.

639

00:37:28,940 --> 00:37:31,480

And it was a very  
wonderful thing

640

00:37:31,480 --> 00:37:34,000

to be in because  
the teachers took us

641

00:37:34,000 --> 00:37:38,100

very seriously as little

artists, little musicians.

642

00:37:38,100 --> 00:37:40,990

The music students were  
exposed to a lot of art.

643

00:37:40,990 --> 00:37:43,030

We were exposed  
to a lot of music.

644

00:37:43,030 --> 00:37:47,710

And Stokowski came to  
conduct, Bernstein came,

645

00:37:47,710 --> 00:37:53,230

Laguardia, who built the  
school, came and conducted.

646

00:37:53,230 --> 00:37:55,870

But it was very, very special.

647

00:37:55,870 --> 00:37:57,730

And we hung out--

648

00:37:57,730 --> 00:37:59,250

I had a clique--

649

00:37:59,250 --> 00:38:01,750

and it was called the clique  
because this French girl called

650

00:38:01,750 --> 00:38:02,890

it that--

651

00:38:02,890 --> 00:38:05,950

and we went to the  
modern art all the time.

652

00:38:05,950 --> 00:38:08,080

We had artists pass us.

653

00:38:08,080 --> 00:38:09,160



We saw all the movies.

654  
00:38:09,160 --> 00:38:12,790  
In those days one could  
get in all the time.

655  
00:38:12,790 --> 00:38:16,270  
And as said, we  
went to galleries

656  
00:38:16,270 --> 00:38:18,700  
and I began to go to the Met.

657  
00:38:18,700 --> 00:38:21,250  
And then I supered at the Met.

658  
00:38:21,250 --> 00:38:27,970  
And then was the goal to  
get into a decent college.

659  
00:38:27,970 --> 00:38:32,200  
And Barnard was  
by far the choice.

660  
00:38:32,200 --> 00:38:35,700  
Were you-- no,  
I'll ask you later.

661  
00:38:35,700 --> 00:38:36,430  
Yeah.

662  
00:38:36,430 --> 00:38:37,870  
At any rate--

663  
00:38:37,870 --> 00:38:43,880  
Was there a tuition to  
pay to go to Barnard?

664  
00:38:43,880 --> 00:38:44,380  
Yes, yes.

665  
00:38:44,380 --> 00:38:46,630

Because you could have  
gone to a trade school.

666  
00:38:46,630 --> 00:38:49,810  
Yes, my sister went to Hunter.

667  
00:38:49,810 --> 00:38:54,900  
But frankly, while I  
was the better student--

668  
00:38:54,900 --> 00:38:57,100  
and there was also this--

669  
00:38:57,100 --> 00:39:03,010  
my father had a cousin who was  
a librarian in Washington who

670  
00:39:03,010 --> 00:39:07,390  
said, let her go to  
Barnard if she can get in

671  
00:39:07,390 --> 00:39:09,790  
and let her make contacts.

672  
00:39:09,790 --> 00:39:11,830  
It's important to make contacts.

673  
00:39:11,830 --> 00:39:14,710  
My sister, by the  
way, had gotten

674  
00:39:14,710 --> 00:39:19,000  
married to a young  
man who is exactly

675  
00:39:19,000 --> 00:39:22,120  
from the same background.

676  
00:39:22,120 --> 00:39:26,950  
And she left Hunter  
in the second year.

677

00:39:26,950 --> 00:39:29,630

678

00:39:29,630 --> 00:39:35,410

Well, at any rate, Barnard  
cost \$242 for one semester

679

00:39:35,410 --> 00:39:36,200

in the beginning.

680

00:39:36,200 --> 00:39:40,960

By the time I left  
it had doubled.

681

00:39:40,960 --> 00:39:43,330

But I had a scholarship  
by that time anyway.

682

00:39:43,330 --> 00:39:50,620

But \$242 sounds like absolutely  
nothing and it wasn't.

683

00:39:50,620 --> 00:39:56,710

But a top secretary  
made 1,250 a week.

684

00:39:56,710 --> 00:40:00,370

And as I said, rye  
bread cost \$0.09.

685

00:40:00,370 --> 00:40:04,060

So I have to say, I  
worked every summer

686

00:40:04,060 --> 00:40:08,513

to buy my own  
wardrobe and books.

687

00:40:08,513 --> 00:40:10,180

Were you living at  
home or in dormitory?

688

00:40:10,180 --> 00:40:10,680

Yes.

689

00:40:10,680 --> 00:40:15,520

No, I lived-- that was  
absolutely understood,

690

00:40:15,520 --> 00:40:20,230

that I would not put  
my parents in a--

691

00:40:20,230 --> 00:40:23,080

I never for one  
minute thought that I

692

00:40:23,080 --> 00:40:27,940

would go to an out of town  
school because of the cost.

693

00:40:27,940 --> 00:40:30,640

But there was also something  
else I have to admit.

694

00:40:30,640 --> 00:40:33,190

I think the family  
was so tightly knit

695

00:40:33,190 --> 00:40:38,770

that the idea of putting  
myself out of the nest

696

00:40:38,770 --> 00:40:43,120

would have been very difficult.  
I remember saying to myself,

697

00:40:43,120 --> 00:40:46,440

my father is now  
advanced in years.

698

00:40:46,440 --> 00:40:48,110

My mother was much younger.

699

00:40:48,110 --> 00:40:50,710

She was 17 years younger

than my father, which

700  
00:40:50,710 --> 00:40:55,630  
was because of World War  
I. And besides, in Europe,

701  
00:40:55,630 --> 00:40:58,850  
the husband is established  
before he marries.

702  
00:40:58,850 --> 00:41:01,730  
But 17 years is a  
vast difference.

703  
00:41:01,730 --> 00:41:03,590  
That's why there  
was this business.

704  
00:41:03,590 --> 00:41:05,930  
She was sort of  
one of the children

705  
00:41:05,930 --> 00:41:10,390  
and was even thought of--

706  
00:41:10,390 --> 00:41:11,410  
that was so funny.

707  
00:41:11,410 --> 00:41:18,340  
When we bought tickets once in  
a while at a railway station,

708  
00:41:18,340 --> 00:41:21,610  
the man would say, one  
adult and three children

709  
00:41:21,610 --> 00:41:24,370  
because my mother was so  
little and looked so young.

710  
00:41:24,370 --> 00:41:30,740

711

00:41:30,740 --> 00:41:32,460

I'm sorry, I forgot  
my train of thought.

712

00:41:32,460 --> 00:41:33,960

We were talking  
about Barnard, but I

713

00:41:33,960 --> 00:41:35,750

wanted to ask you a little--

714

00:41:35,750 --> 00:41:38,840

I wanted to backtrack  
a little and ask you

715

00:41:38,840 --> 00:41:43,190

how your father made a  
living because he had a plan

716

00:41:43,190 --> 00:41:44,330

to do something in Texas--

717

00:41:44,330 --> 00:41:45,092

Yes, yes.

718

00:41:45,092 --> 00:41:46,550

--and apparently  
that fell through?

719

00:41:46,550 --> 00:41:47,090

Yes.

720

00:41:47,090 --> 00:41:48,840

So what did he do?

721

00:41:48,840 --> 00:41:52,310

Well, he couldn't be  
a lawyer because you

722

00:41:52,310 --> 00:41:55,310

had to go through  
law school completely

723  
00:41:55,310 --> 00:41:58,730  
and he felt he was  
much too old for that.

724  
00:41:58,730 --> 00:42:01,100  
But he had some money.

725  
00:42:01,100 --> 00:42:05,270  
And a friend of his who had  
come from outside, which

726  
00:42:05,270 --> 00:42:10,850  
was the town that my  
father was born in,

727  
00:42:10,850 --> 00:42:14,280  
this man had come here  
much, much earlier.

728  
00:42:14,280 --> 00:42:16,580  
And he was in the  
jewelry business.

729  
00:42:16,580 --> 00:42:17,660  
They became partners.

730  
00:42:17,660 --> 00:42:20,860  
My father was the money bags.

731  
00:42:20,860 --> 00:42:24,620  
And that's how he made money.

732  
00:42:24,620 --> 00:42:28,670  
And the other thing is,  
as said, the relative

733  
00:42:28,670 --> 00:42:36,530  
had had him invested here, so  
my father was in the market

734  
00:42:36,530 --> 00:42:39,200

which was very different  
from the German market.

735  
00:42:39,200 --> 00:42:42,830  
And I remember he got a  
phone call from his broker

736  
00:42:42,830 --> 00:42:46,130  
every morning around 11 o'clock.

737  
00:42:46,130 --> 00:42:49,280  
And we used to joke about  
this because my father would

738  
00:42:49,280 --> 00:42:50,935  
say, how is the market?

739  
00:42:50,935 --> 00:42:52,060  
And the answer was, "veak."

740  
00:42:52,060 --> 00:42:55,340

741  
00:42:55,340 --> 00:43:04,390  
But he parlayed this money  
to support a family of five

742  
00:43:04,390 --> 00:43:05,390  
until--

743  
00:43:05,390 --> 00:43:08,630  
my brother was drafted,  
so a family of four.

744  
00:43:08,630 --> 00:43:12,680  
But a family of five again when  
my grandmother was brought in.

745  
00:43:12,680 --> 00:43:18,860  
And he sent money to this Doctor  
Geissmar, Johanna Geissmar,

746



00:43:18,860 --> 00:43:20,240  
for instance.

747  
00:43:20,240 --> 00:43:23,480  
And we were sending  
care packages to Germany

748  
00:43:23,480 --> 00:43:28,370  
all the time,  
including to my nanny.

749  
00:43:28,370 --> 00:43:34,550  
He supported my  
sister's husband who

750  
00:43:34,550 --> 00:43:38,870  
also was drafted immediately.

751  
00:43:38,870 --> 00:43:42,560  
His father came to  
the United States.

752  
00:43:42,560 --> 00:43:46,280  
My father supported him.

753  
00:43:46,280 --> 00:43:50,270  
My aunt who came from  
Palestine, until she got

754  
00:43:50,270 --> 00:43:53,090  
settled and was able to work.

755  
00:43:53,090 --> 00:43:55,100  
He was supporting  
people right and left

756  
00:43:55,100 --> 00:43:57,770  
and it was incredible  
that he was

757  
00:43:57,770 --> 00:43:59,930  
able to do this  
because we didn't

758  
00:43:59,930 --> 00:44:02,760  
have a huge amount of money.

759  
00:44:02,760 --> 00:44:05,450  
Was your apartment a  
kind of meeting place

760  
00:44:05,450 --> 00:44:08,790  
for other German refugees  
on the Upper West Side?

761  
00:44:08,790 --> 00:44:09,650  
Absolutely.

762  
00:44:09,650 --> 00:44:10,910  
And as a matter of fact--

763  
00:44:10,910 --> 00:44:12,680  
boy, you hit on something.

764  
00:44:12,680 --> 00:44:18,230  
Every Friday night-- and this is  
how my sister met her husband.

765  
00:44:18,230 --> 00:44:22,650  
We belonged to this  
congregation I mentioned.

766  
00:44:22,650 --> 00:44:27,990  
And there was a very,  
very exciting rabbi.

767  
00:44:27,990 --> 00:44:32,600  
He was an Israeli and he  
formed a youth group there.

768  
00:44:32,600 --> 00:44:34,490  
And the youth group met.

769  
00:44:34,490 --> 00:44:37,280  
And that youth

group, several kids--

770

00:44:37,280 --> 00:44:39,280

kids they were.

771

00:44:39,280 --> 00:44:41,790

They were 19 years old.

772

00:44:41,790 --> 00:44:45,560

My sister was 17, no, 19.

773

00:44:45,560 --> 00:44:50,510

Well, at any rate, they  
would come to our house.

774

00:44:50,510 --> 00:44:55,190

My parents always had coffee at  
11:00 o'clock at night anyhow.

775

00:44:55,190 --> 00:44:58,640

But they came after a meeting.

776

00:44:58,640 --> 00:45:02,120

They'd be at our house by 9  
o'clock every Friday night.

777

00:45:02,120 --> 00:45:09,260

And a musical record  
playing took place.

778

00:45:09,260 --> 00:45:15,050

And I remember we had a Zenith  
that dropped the records.

779

00:45:15,050 --> 00:45:20,510

And they would establish a  
very well chosen concert.

780

00:45:20,510 --> 00:45:22,580

It was carefully picked.

781

00:45:22,580 --> 00:45:26,130

And of course, coffee was served  
to all of these young people.

782  
00:45:26,130 --> 00:45:33,380  
The result was that my sister  
had three offers of marriage

783  
00:45:33,380 --> 00:45:34,970  
in one week.

784  
00:45:34,970 --> 00:45:36,800  
She picked the wrong  
guy because they

785  
00:45:36,800 --> 00:45:39,110  
were divorced by the time--

786  
00:45:39,110 --> 00:45:43,880  
look, I think she was 17.

787  
00:45:43,880 --> 00:45:45,420  
No, she was 19.

788  
00:45:45,420 --> 00:45:46,700  
He was 21.

789  
00:45:46,700 --> 00:45:48,350  
They were separated  
for four years

790  
00:45:48,350 --> 00:45:52,070  
and they were growing  
up differently.

791  
00:45:52,070 --> 00:45:55,790  
Her second marriage was  
much more successful.

792  
00:45:55,790 --> 00:46:03,620  
But I was lucky because  
I met Gene after the war.

793

00:46:03,620 --> 00:46:12,860  
And in my sister's age group,  
there were many, many divorces.

794  
00:46:12,860 --> 00:46:16,790  
In my age group, it  
was far, far better.

795  
00:46:16,790 --> 00:46:19,130  
When did you become  
an American citizen?

796  
00:46:19,130 --> 00:46:20,450  
With my father.

797  
00:46:20,450 --> 00:46:21,290  
When was that?

798  
00:46:21,290 --> 00:46:23,810  
In 1944.

799  
00:46:23,810 --> 00:46:25,070  
We came in '39.

800  
00:46:25,070 --> 00:46:26,630  
It took five years.

801  
00:46:26,630 --> 00:46:29,030  
And that's interesting also.

802  
00:46:29,030 --> 00:46:36,800  
I found my ID card and  
it said country, none.

803  
00:46:36,800 --> 00:46:39,440  
And we were not allowed--  
we were enemy aliens,

804  
00:46:39,440 --> 00:46:41,300  
even though we were Jewish.

805  
00:46:41,300 --> 00:46:44,060

We were not allowed to  
travel out of New York

806  
00:46:44,060 --> 00:46:47,810  
further than 75 miles.

807  
00:46:47,810 --> 00:46:52,730  
Japanese were, after  
all, put into camps.

808  
00:46:52,730 --> 00:46:55,430  
That did not happen  
to German Jews.

809  
00:46:55,430 --> 00:46:58,380  
But there were  
these restrictions.

810  
00:46:58,380 --> 00:47:01,760  
But life here during the war  
was really not challenging.

811  
00:47:01,760 --> 00:47:05,990  
Well, you're too young  
to know, but we never--

812  
00:47:05,990 --> 00:47:06,920  
we were restricted.

813  
00:47:06,920 --> 00:47:09,440  
We didn't have so  
much sugar and we

814  
00:47:09,440 --> 00:47:11,390  
were restricted in how  
many pairs of shoes

815  
00:47:11,390 --> 00:47:12,810  
you were able to buy.

816  
00:47:12,810 --> 00:47:16,580  
And if you had a car,  
which we didn't, your gas

817  
00:47:16,580 --> 00:47:19,140  
was restricted, and  
stuff like that.

818  
00:47:19,140 --> 00:47:21,800  
But nobody ever went hungry.

819  
00:47:21,800 --> 00:47:25,160  
And nobody-- and luckily, of  
course, nothing happened here.

820  
00:47:25,160 --> 00:47:27,720

821  
00:47:27,720 --> 00:47:31,887  
Do you remember when Germany  
declared war on Poland?

822  
00:47:31,887 --> 00:47:32,595  
Do you remember--

823  
00:47:32,595 --> 00:47:33,600  
Yes, I remember the--

824  
00:47:33,600 --> 00:47:35,340  
--September, '39?

825  
00:47:35,340 --> 00:47:37,140  
And it was very frightening.

826  
00:47:37,140 --> 00:47:40,470  
Because we really-- and  
my father was a pessimist

827  
00:47:40,470 --> 00:47:42,630  
and my mother was  
silent about this--

828  
00:47:42,630 --> 00:47:45,620

829

00:47:45,620 --> 00:47:47,970  
were saying, there, there.

830

00:47:47,970 --> 00:47:50,850  
Well, in the beginning, it  
looked as though Hitler--

831

00:47:50,850 --> 00:47:53,340  
that the Nazis and  
the Japanese were

832

00:47:53,340 --> 00:47:57,210  
going to take over the world,  
that they were going to win.

833

00:47:57,210 --> 00:47:59,010  
And it was so remarkable.

834

00:47:59,010 --> 00:48:02,790  
And my father then talked  
about this with such respect

835

00:48:02,790 --> 00:48:09,330  
that we sort of overnight  
became a nation that

836

00:48:09,330 --> 00:48:13,950  
was able to switch from building  
cars to building airplanes.

837

00:48:13,950 --> 00:48:23,760  
And he also respected the  
law here very, very much.

838

00:48:23,760 --> 00:48:30,510  
Harvard asked him to  
send his reminiscences

839

00:48:30,510 --> 00:48:36,000  
about the law in Germany which  
was put under lock and key

840



00:48:36,000 --> 00:48:39,450  
because we still had  
relatives in Germany,

841  
00:48:39,450 --> 00:48:44,580  
so he didn't want Harvard  
to publish anything.

842  
00:48:44,580 --> 00:48:56,520  
But he did contribute to the  
legal changes that were made.

843  
00:48:56,520 --> 00:49:00,960  
Incidentally, his brother  
had written a text

844  
00:49:00,960 --> 00:49:03,410  
that was still used after.

845  
00:49:03,410 --> 00:49:06,270  
There are only  
three law texts that

846  
00:49:06,270 --> 00:49:09,640  
was a fairly definitive text.

847  
00:49:09,640 --> 00:49:11,340  
I don't know when  
they stopped using it,

848  
00:49:11,340 --> 00:49:17,805  
but it made its way  
past the Jewish problem.

849  
00:49:17,805 --> 00:49:23,070

850  
00:49:23,070 --> 00:49:24,020  
What else?

851  
00:49:24,020 --> 00:49:26,090  
You are asking good,  
good questions.

852  
00:49:26,090 --> 00:49:27,320  
You should prod me on.

853  
00:49:27,320 --> 00:49:30,560

854  
00:49:30,560 --> 00:49:33,110  
Well, these gatherings in the--

855  
00:49:33,110 --> 00:49:34,640  
Yes.

856  
00:49:34,640 --> 00:49:38,780  
--Upper West Side, did you  
speak German or English?

857  
00:49:38,780 --> 00:49:40,510  
I think only English.

858  
00:49:40,510 --> 00:49:44,420  
Though, look, I  
speak German still,

859  
00:49:44,420 --> 00:49:47,210  
but it's the German  
of an 11-year-old.

860  
00:49:47,210 --> 00:49:50,580  
My sister could write  
much better than I could.

861  
00:49:50,580 --> 00:49:56,360  
And she did the Wiedergutmachung  
after my father died.

862  
00:49:56,360 --> 00:49:59,530  
And she was able to  
still write much better

863  
00:49:59,530 --> 00:50:00,980  
and know where to put commas.

864  
00:50:00,980 --> 00:50:02,960  
I didn't know where  
to put commas.

865  
00:50:02,960 --> 00:50:05,390  
And to this day  
when I write German

866  
00:50:05,390 --> 00:50:09,300  
I have to think very, very hard.

867  
00:50:09,300 --> 00:50:13,070  
But I can guess German  
now has changed also.

868  
00:50:13,070 --> 00:50:21,568  
And to read ads, they  
make no sense to me

869  
00:50:21,568 --> 00:50:23,360  
very often because  
there are words in there

870  
00:50:23,360 --> 00:50:28,370  
that I have never heard  
that I think were created

871  
00:50:28,370 --> 00:50:31,070  
the way Kant created words.

872  
00:50:31,070 --> 00:50:43,040  
By the way, I have  
to say in Barnard,

873  
00:50:43,040 --> 00:50:49,070  
you had to take a language exit  
before you got your degree.

874  
00:50:49,070 --> 00:50:50,240  
And they were idiotic.

875

00:50:50,240 --> 00:50:54,180  
They decided that English  
was my second language.

876  
00:50:54,180 --> 00:50:56,690  
So I was allowed to  
take it in English

877  
00:50:56,690 --> 00:51:00,830  
which was a riot because  
I had decided not to take

878  
00:51:00,830 --> 00:51:04,280  
any language in Barnard.

879  
00:51:04,280 --> 00:51:06,680  
I didn't want to waste  
my points on languages.

880  
00:51:06,680 --> 00:51:11,990  
I had taken four years of  
French at Music and Art

881  
00:51:11,990 --> 00:51:14,540  
with my mother helping  
with the homework

882  
00:51:14,540 --> 00:51:16,340  
not only for me  
but all my friends.

883  
00:51:16,340 --> 00:51:19,430

884  
00:51:19,430 --> 00:51:23,180  
And what did you  
major in, in Barnard?

885  
00:51:23,180 --> 00:51:25,700  
Philosophy.

886  
00:51:25,700 --> 00:51:27,210  
And what was your goal?

887  
00:51:27,210 --> 00:51:29,390  
Did you want to  
teach afterwards?

888  
00:51:29,390 --> 00:51:31,420  
No.

889  
00:51:31,420 --> 00:51:38,870  
The relative who decided  
that I should go to Barnard,

890  
00:51:38,870 --> 00:51:41,810  
said, whatever you do,  
don't major in English.

891  
00:51:41,810 --> 00:51:43,850  
Everybody majors in English.

892  
00:51:43,850 --> 00:51:48,530  
So we had a very wonderful  
department in those days.

893  
00:51:48,530 --> 00:51:51,980  
25 majors in my class  
were philosophy.

894  
00:51:51,980 --> 00:51:55,760  
Now if they get  
three it's very good.

895  
00:51:55,760 --> 00:52:00,950  
I minored in psychology  
and music, of course.

896  
00:52:00,950 --> 00:52:04,760  
But because I doubled up,  
I took a lot of stuff.

897  
00:52:04,760 --> 00:52:09,520

898

00:52:09,520 --> 00:52:12,440  
And I met my husband,  
and he went to Columbia,

899  
00:52:12,440 --> 00:52:14,480  
and we saw each  
other a great deal.

900  
00:52:14,480 --> 00:52:16,460  
We didn't meet  
because of the school.

901  
00:52:16,460 --> 00:52:18,450  
That's a whole other story.

902  
00:52:18,450 --> 00:52:22,260  
But New York was  
quite, quite wonderful.

903  
00:52:22,260 --> 00:52:25,490  
But in the midst of  
my being at Barnard

904  
00:52:25,490 --> 00:52:30,980  
came the Iron Curtain and  
the fear that it was all

905  
00:52:30,980 --> 00:52:35,480  
going to start again, and  
the fear that World War

906  
00:52:35,480 --> 00:52:38,330  
III was a tremendous threat.

907  
00:52:38,330 --> 00:52:40,850

908  
00:52:40,850 --> 00:52:43,160  
I remember we had  
nine newspapers

909  
00:52:43,160 --> 00:52:45,440  
in those days in New York.

910  
00:52:45,440 --> 00:52:50,780  
And I remember the Journal  
American had a front page where

911  
00:52:50,780 --> 00:52:55,300  
they said if the bomb  
hits on 34th Street,

912  
00:52:55,300 --> 00:52:57,170  
and they had circles,  
these people are

913  
00:52:57,170 --> 00:52:58,910  
going to die immediately.

914  
00:52:58,910 --> 00:53:01,040  
These people are going  
to die in two days.

915  
00:53:01,040 --> 00:53:05,490  
These people are going  
to die in three months.

916  
00:53:05,490 --> 00:53:07,020  
It was totally  
taken for granted.

917  
00:53:07,020 --> 00:53:13,280  
And I remember-- by the way,  
I made my living as a writer.

918  
00:53:13,280 --> 00:53:17,960  
I spent my four years at  
Barnard reviewing movies,

919  
00:53:17,960 --> 00:53:24,005  
and opera, and  
theater, so I thought

920  
00:53:24,005 --> 00:53:25,880  
I was going to do this  
for the New York Times

921  
00:53:25,880 --> 00:53:27,770  
but they weren't waiting for me.

922  
00:53:27,770 --> 00:53:34,190  
So the job I could  
get was in writing.

923  
00:53:34,190 --> 00:53:36,860  
Frankly, I'd won a  
lot of prizes and this

924  
00:53:36,860 --> 00:53:41,930  
was because I realized that at  
Music and Art, all these kids

925  
00:53:41,930 --> 00:53:44,990  
who could draw far  
better than I could,

926  
00:53:44,990 --> 00:53:49,340  
I majored there in sculpture.

927  
00:53:49,340 --> 00:53:53,870  
I wasn't bad, but I wasn't  
like these real talents.

928  
00:53:53,870 --> 00:53:56,330  
But I learned early  
on that I could write.

929  
00:53:56,330 --> 00:53:59,870  
And I won scholastic awards  
and all kinds of nonsense

930  
00:53:59,870 --> 00:54:00,890  
like that.

931  
00:54:00,890 --> 00:54:04,250  
So I knew that I wasn't  
going to use philosophy

932



00:54:04,250 --> 00:54:09,200  
for becoming a librarian which  
he thought I should become.

933  
00:54:09,200 --> 00:54:11,960  
And I knew I was going  
to go into writing.

934  
00:54:11,960 --> 00:54:15,350  
And I went into advertising.

935  
00:54:15,350 --> 00:54:17,930  
But later on, I had  
a syndicated column

936  
00:54:17,930 --> 00:54:21,930  
and had a business  
that Gene thought up.

937  
00:54:21,930 --> 00:54:24,900  
When we had children,  
with his help

938  
00:54:24,900 --> 00:54:29,490  
I formed a thing called the copy  
pool, a freelance copy group.

939  
00:54:29,490 --> 00:54:31,470  
I still wrote what  
I wanted to and I

940  
00:54:31,470 --> 00:54:35,620  
had people whom I sent out.

941  
00:54:35,620 --> 00:54:38,700  
And it didn't become  
a huge business,

942  
00:54:38,700 --> 00:54:46,290  
but it was able to pay college  
and vacations, and it helped.

943  
00:54:46,290 --> 00:54:51,090

I want to backtrack a little to  
the war in the United States.

944  
00:54:51,090 --> 00:54:52,950  
Yes.

945  
00:54:52,950 --> 00:54:55,800  
Your brother became  
a citizen too?

946  
00:54:55,800 --> 00:54:56,520  
Yes.

947  
00:54:56,520 --> 00:54:58,065  
At the same time that you did?

948  
00:54:58,065 --> 00:54:59,055  
No.

949  
00:54:59,055 --> 00:55:07,080  
I think they made the soldiers  
citizens automatically.

950  
00:55:07,080 --> 00:55:14,070  
What we didn't know and what  
only came out much, much later,

951  
00:55:14,070 --> 00:55:17,920  
on the dog tag would  
be an H for Hebrew.

952  
00:55:17,920 --> 00:55:19,740  
A terrible mistake.

953  
00:55:19,740 --> 00:55:22,650  
Because when the  
Germans caught anybody

954  
00:55:22,650 --> 00:55:28,230  
who had dog tags with an  
H, they didn't put them

955

00:55:28,230 --> 00:55:33,180  
into camps the way they  
would take other people.

956  
00:55:33,180 --> 00:55:35,880  
They put them into-- and  
you must know about this--

957  
00:55:35,880 --> 00:55:39,550  
work camps where they  
worked them to death.

958  
00:55:39,550 --> 00:55:41,220  
We didn't know that here.

959  
00:55:41,220 --> 00:55:43,590  
We would have worried even more.

960  
00:55:43,590 --> 00:55:47,760

961  
00:55:47,760 --> 00:55:52,140  
I knew one friend who went  
to the Aleutians and they

962  
00:55:52,140 --> 00:55:56,790  
didn't make the people  
who went into that area--

963  
00:55:56,790 --> 00:55:58,860  
he wasn't a citizen.

964  
00:55:58,860 --> 00:56:03,750  
But I think the soldiers  
who were sent into Europe

965  
00:56:03,750 --> 00:56:05,640  
were made citizens.

966  
00:56:05,640 --> 00:56:07,860  
My sister became a  
citizen by herself

967

00:56:07,860 --> 00:56:11,190

but, as said, because I  
was a minor I became it

968

00:56:11,190 --> 00:56:13,800

with my father.

969

00:56:13,800 --> 00:56:16,150

Do you remember when your  
brother was drafted and what--

970

00:56:16,150 --> 00:56:16,410

Yes.

971

00:56:16,410 --> 00:56:17,940

--the reaction of  
the family was?

972

00:56:17,940 --> 00:56:18,450

Yes.

973

00:56:18,450 --> 00:56:21,240

And can you talk  
about that a bit?

974

00:56:21,240 --> 00:56:24,660

Yes, he was Camp  
Upton for a while.

975

00:56:24,660 --> 00:56:27,780

That was nearby so  
he would come home

976

00:56:27,780 --> 00:56:30,210

and he brought buddies home.

977

00:56:30,210 --> 00:56:33,870

978

00:56:33,870 --> 00:56:38,500

He was in the United  
States for a while.

979  
00:56:38,500 --> 00:56:44,160  
But as said, he was  
in the second wave

980  
00:56:44,160 --> 00:56:47,130  
on June 6, the invasion.

981  
00:56:47,130 --> 00:56:51,730  
And he went through  
a great deal.

982  
00:56:51,730 --> 00:56:58,740  
And he went into Germany and  
he visited our governors.

983  
00:56:58,740 --> 00:57:03,420  
And he saw the destruction  
of the house where we lived.

984  
00:57:03,420 --> 00:57:06,690  
He took photographs,  
which I haven't located.

985  
00:57:06,690 --> 00:57:08,050  
I don't know where they are.

986  
00:57:08,050 --> 00:57:09,000  
Maybe Ellen had them.

987  
00:57:09,000 --> 00:57:09,570  
I don't know.

988  
00:57:09,570 --> 00:57:13,830

989  
00:57:13,830 --> 00:57:22,550  
His leaving was-- well,  
it wasn't so terribly sad

990  
00:57:22,550 --> 00:57:33,200  
because he was stationed

in England for a while

991

00:57:33,200 --> 00:57:39,980  
and we were beginning to feel  
that we were going to win.

992

00:57:39,980 --> 00:57:41,330  
When was he drafted?

993

00:57:41,330 --> 00:57:43,580  
You mentioned the age of 17?

994

00:57:43,580 --> 00:57:47,520  
Yeah, when we came  
here he was 17.

995

00:57:47,520 --> 00:57:49,820  
He wasn't drafted immediately.

996

00:57:49,820 --> 00:57:51,020  
We came in '39.

997

00:57:51,020 --> 00:57:53,630  
He wasn't drafted until '41.

998

00:57:53,630 --> 00:57:55,910  
So he was 19.

999

00:57:55,910 --> 00:57:58,430  
Was he enthusiastic?

1000

00:57:58,430 --> 00:58:00,920  
Were your parents enthusiastic  
or were they reluctant

1001

00:58:00,920 --> 00:58:02,345  
to have him drafted?

1002

00:58:02,345 --> 00:58:06,360

1003

00:58:06,360 --> 00:58:10,350

Well, I think maybe a  
little mixture of both.

1004

00:58:10,350 --> 00:58:13,440

Simply reluctant  
because of the danger.

1005

00:58:13,440 --> 00:58:18,400

But certainly very patriotic.

1006

00:58:18,400 --> 00:58:22,560

And as said, my father had  
this tremendous respect

1007

00:58:22,560 --> 00:58:24,120

that all of a  
sudden this country

1008

00:58:24,120 --> 00:58:26,160

could pull itself together.

1009

00:58:26,160 --> 00:58:27,840

And there was this.

1010

00:58:27,840 --> 00:58:30,000

Everybody thought the same way.

1011

00:58:30,000 --> 00:58:34,920

It was very good  
because everything

1012

00:58:34,920 --> 00:58:37,830

was for the duration,  
and everything

1013

00:58:37,830 --> 00:58:40,230

was for the war effort.

1014

00:58:40,230 --> 00:58:42,690

And we all bought war bonds.

1015

00:58:42,690 --> 00:58:47,670  
And I became a member of  
the AWVS Junior group.

1016  
00:58:47,670 --> 00:58:49,590  
I was not allowed  
to wear the uniform

1017  
00:58:49,590 --> 00:58:53,970  
because I was an enemy alien  
and that hurt my feelings a bit.

1018  
00:58:53,970 --> 00:59:00,810  
But we rolled bandages and  
we did all kinds of things

1019  
00:59:00,810 --> 00:59:01,480  
like that.

1020  
00:59:01,480 --> 00:59:11,400  
And I remember that we were  
there also to escort the USO,

1021  
00:59:11,400 --> 00:59:18,250  
to help visiting  
Army and Navy people.

1022  
00:59:18,250 --> 00:59:25,110  
But as said, yes, once in  
a while we thought that--

1023  
00:59:25,110 --> 00:59:27,330  
I think my father became  
an air raid warden.

1024  
00:59:27,330 --> 00:59:30,810  
It was thought that there  
would be bombing here

1025  
00:59:30,810 --> 00:59:32,530  
but it didn't happen.

1026  
00:59:32,530 --> 00:59:33,840



Did you have blackout at night?

1027

00:59:33,840 --> 00:59:36,190

Yes, yes.

1028

00:59:36,190 --> 00:59:37,680

Absolutely, yes.

1029

00:59:37,680 --> 00:59:39,900

Did you have to paint  
the window panes?

1030

00:59:39,900 --> 00:59:40,650

No.

1031

00:59:40,650 --> 00:59:44,550

No, but we drew curtains.

1032

00:59:44,550 --> 00:59:45,630

It wasn't as strict.

1033

00:59:45,630 --> 00:59:49,830

1034

00:59:49,830 --> 00:59:53,640

It certainly wasn't what  
England went through at all.

1035

00:59:53,640 --> 00:59:57,420

But we were listening to  
tomorrow's broadcasts.

1036

00:59:57,420 --> 01:00:00,430

1037

01:00:00,430 --> 01:00:02,730

The Times was read  
in the morning

1038

01:00:02,730 --> 01:00:06,180

and the World Telegram  
was read in the afternoon.

1039  
01:00:06,180 --> 01:00:08,340  
We were fully informed.

1040  
01:00:08,340 --> 01:00:10,620  
One listened to the  
radio a great deal.

1041  
01:00:10,620 --> 01:00:13,230

1042  
01:00:13,230 --> 01:00:16,890  
But somehow I felt--

1043  
01:00:16,890 --> 01:00:19,030  
well, in the beginning  
I didn't feel safe here.

1044  
01:00:19,030 --> 01:00:22,350  
I must say, when we were  
in the second hotel,

1045  
01:00:22,350 --> 01:00:27,870  
I remember this very  
clearly, that I kept a coat

1046  
01:00:27,870 --> 01:00:34,950  
on a chair near my bed  
because one would constantly

1047  
01:00:34,950 --> 01:00:44,940  
hear the wobble of the police  
or the fire department.

1048  
01:00:44,940 --> 01:00:48,870  
And that always reminded  
me of the German situation.

1049  
01:00:48,870 --> 01:00:53,700  
And it took me a long  
time to get over that.

1050

01:00:53,700 --> 01:00:58,140  
Well, I'm sorry, by the time  
we were in the apartment I

1051  
01:00:58,140 --> 01:01:01,110  
was no longer doing that.

1052  
01:01:01,110 --> 01:01:14,580  
But this is where I feel we did  
not go unscathed because there

1053  
01:01:14,580 --> 01:01:16,410  
were things like that.

1054  
01:01:16,410 --> 01:01:18,900  
And my father and my parents--

1055  
01:01:18,900 --> 01:01:20,290  
maybe not so much my mother.

1056  
01:01:20,290 --> 01:01:25,620  
As I said, she was a  
more optimistic person,

1057  
01:01:25,620 --> 01:01:28,950  
but my father had  
us feeling that we

1058  
01:01:28,950 --> 01:01:31,800  
could lose the war early on.

1059  
01:01:31,800 --> 01:01:34,080  
It took a while before  
America entered the war.

1060  
01:01:34,080 --> 01:01:36,990  
Yes, yes.

1061  
01:01:36,990 --> 01:01:39,360  
Do you remember  
meeting any part--

1062

01:01:39,360 --> 01:01:41,490  
you mentioned Sir  
Thomas Beecham.

1063  
01:01:41,490 --> 01:01:47,700  
Do you remember meeting any  
of the expatriate artists

1064  
01:01:47,700 --> 01:01:49,870  
or people who had--

1065  
01:01:49,870 --> 01:01:50,370  
Yes.

1066  
01:01:50,370 --> 01:01:51,060  
--escaped your--

1067  
01:01:51,060 --> 01:01:52,140  
Yes.

1068  
01:01:52,140 --> 01:01:54,090  
Could you talk about  
that a bit, please?

1069  
01:01:54,090 --> 01:01:56,350  
For instance, does  
the name Claudio Arrau

1070  
01:01:56,350 --> 01:01:58,170  
mean anything to you?

1071  
01:01:58,170 --> 01:02:03,450  
OK, well, my mother  
had piano lessons

1072  
01:02:03,450 --> 01:02:05,610  
by the same person in  
Berlin, but that's not

1073  
01:02:05,610 --> 01:02:08,340  
how we got to the Arraus.

1074

01:02:08,340 --> 01:02:10,930  
One of my sister's friends--

1075  
01:02:10,930 --> 01:02:15,500  
lovely, and she's still alive,  
who went to Julia Richman--

1076  
01:02:15,500 --> 01:02:17,530  
they became very friendly.

1077  
01:02:17,530 --> 01:02:21,900  
She was the stepdaughter  
of Hugo Kolberg.

1078  
01:02:21,900 --> 01:02:24,240  
I don't know if that  
means anything to you.

1079  
01:02:24,240 --> 01:02:27,900  
He was the first violin  
under Furtwangler for a bit.

1080  
01:02:27,900 --> 01:02:29,350  
And he came here.

1081  
01:02:29,350 --> 01:02:31,140  
He was very lucky.

1082  
01:02:31,140 --> 01:02:34,800  
He was married to her  
mother who was Jewish.

1083  
01:02:34,800 --> 01:02:38,520  
And they left Germany  
when she was not

1084  
01:02:38,520 --> 01:02:43,170  
allowed to go into her box  
in Germany as you might know.

1085  
01:02:43,170 --> 01:02:48,430  
Very often, the first  
violin would be the soloist.

1086  
01:02:48,430 --> 01:02:51,480  
Hugo was going to play  
something and Hitler

1087  
01:02:51,480 --> 01:02:53,580  
was going to be in the  
audience, and she was not

1088  
01:02:53,580 --> 01:02:56,400  
allowed to go into the her box.

1089  
01:02:56,400 --> 01:02:58,590  
And they decided then  
and there that they

1090  
01:02:58,590 --> 01:03:00,700  
should get out of there.

1091  
01:03:00,700 --> 01:03:07,280  
So Hugo Kolberg came here  
and, as said, was not Jewish.

1092  
01:03:07,280 --> 01:03:13,070  
But he was spared the  
whole horror of the war.

1093  
01:03:13,070 --> 01:03:18,460  
Well, the daughter  
and Ellen became

1094  
01:03:18,460 --> 01:03:20,500  
these great, great friends.

1095  
01:03:20,500 --> 01:03:28,330  
And through her, we became  
introduced to the NBC Symphony.

1096  
01:03:28,330 --> 01:03:34,090  
And they were close friends  
of the Arraus, the family.

1097

01:03:34,090 --> 01:03:40,900  
And so I spent a part of a  
summer at the Arrau house.

1098  
01:03:40,900 --> 01:03:46,780  
Ellen worked, at one  
point, with Ruth Arrau,

1099  
01:03:46,780 --> 01:03:48,790  
who was a photographer.

1100  
01:03:48,790 --> 01:03:53,050  
And when you say  
meeting expatriates,

1101  
01:03:53,050 --> 01:03:58,420  
at the Arrau house,  
I met Andr   Breton.

1102  
01:03:58,420 --> 01:04:03,790  
And his wife became  
his wife, Elisa--

1103  
01:04:03,790 --> 01:04:07,240  
well, I knew all  
kinds of people.

1104  
01:04:07,240 --> 01:04:10,780  
I knew Bernstein's wife  
because of that and, of course,

1105  
01:04:10,780 --> 01:04:13,810  
because I supered,  
I got to know--

1106  
01:04:13,810 --> 01:04:18,580  
I was [? Londgren's ?]  
page, so I was onstage

1107  
01:04:18,580 --> 01:04:20,710  
with Melchior and Traubel.

1108  
01:04:20,710 --> 01:04:23,140

Not that I knew them, but  
they were very friendly.

1109  
01:04:23,140 --> 01:04:24,280  
They were lovely.

1110  
01:04:24,280 --> 01:04:28,060  
And we were all in  
love with Ezio Pinza

1111  
01:04:28,060 --> 01:04:31,180  
and I supered with  
him all the time.

1112  
01:04:31,180 --> 01:04:35,770  
But the expatriates I  
met at the Arrau house

1113  
01:04:35,770 --> 01:04:37,090  
were very impressive.

1114  
01:04:37,090 --> 01:04:40,630  
Because Varian Fry helped  
bring many of those people

1115  
01:04:40,630 --> 01:04:42,850  
over from France.

1116  
01:04:42,850 --> 01:04:43,850  
Who did, pardon?

1117  
01:04:43,850 --> 01:04:48,670  
There was an American who  
was the first righteous

1118  
01:04:48,670 --> 01:04:51,550  
gentile named by Yad Vashem.

1119  
01:04:51,550 --> 01:04:53,200  
His name was Varian Fry.

1120  
01:04:53,200 --> 01:04:58,600



And he was sent over  
to help artists,

1121  
01:04:58,600 --> 01:05:02,620  
and labor leaders,  
and composers,

1122  
01:05:02,620 --> 01:05:06,850  
and people who are in  
danger to leave Europe.

1123  
01:05:06,850 --> 01:05:08,910  
This was before America  
entered the war.

1124  
01:05:08,910 --> 01:05:11,240  
It was 1940.

1125  
01:05:11,240 --> 01:05:20,140  
And Andr  Breton, and A%luard,  
and Masson, and Man Ray people.

1126  
01:05:20,140 --> 01:05:21,820  
Yes, yes.

1127  
01:05:21,820 --> 01:05:24,820  
Well, I met Breton.

1128  
01:05:24,820 --> 01:05:29,950  
And it was unfortunate because  
my French wasn't good enough.

1129  
01:05:29,950 --> 01:05:33,080  
But I also met people  
like Grete Sultan.

1130  
01:05:33,080 --> 01:05:37,400  
I don't know if that  
means anything to you.

1131  
01:05:37,400 --> 01:05:43,000  
And I also met, through  
my Barnard connection,

1132  
01:05:43,000 --> 01:05:46,840  
Paul Tillich, for instance.

1133  
01:05:46,840 --> 01:05:48,880  
Well, I have a  
great friend still

1134  
01:05:48,880 --> 01:05:51,880  
from Barnard who married Pauck.

1135  
01:05:51,880 --> 01:05:54,280  
Does that mean anything to you?

1136  
01:05:54,280 --> 01:05:56,570  
He was here already.

1137  
01:05:56,570 --> 01:05:57,760  
He came in '22.

1138  
01:05:57,760 --> 01:06:04,450  
But he was very instrumental  
in Tillich's coming.

1139  
01:06:04,450 --> 01:06:06,590  
And that was impressive.

1140  
01:06:06,590 --> 01:06:12,000  
Tillich was a big  
deal for me to meet.

1141  
01:06:12,000 --> 01:06:13,690  
And you majoring in philosophy.

1142  
01:06:13,690 --> 01:06:14,620  
Yes.

1143  
01:06:14,620 --> 01:06:16,880  
Did you go to any classes  
at the New School?

1144

01:06:16,880 --> 01:06:17,380  
No.

1145  
01:06:17,380 --> 01:06:19,930  
Because there were  
many Europeans

1146  
01:06:19,930 --> 01:06:21,940  
who were teaching there, too.

1147  
01:06:21,940 --> 01:06:25,000  
Well, I'll tell you why I was  
connected to that a great deal.

1148  
01:06:25,000 --> 01:06:28,510  
I said I reviewed for the  
Barnard Bulletin which

1149  
01:06:28,510 --> 01:06:31,300  
came out twice a week.

1150  
01:06:31,300 --> 01:06:34,540  
I was not the Barnard  
bulletin editor.

1151  
01:06:34,540 --> 01:06:38,020  
I didn't want that because  
I wanted the About Town

1152  
01:06:38,020 --> 01:06:40,840  
which was the review thing.

1153  
01:06:40,840 --> 01:06:45,910  
Every time Piscator was here--

1154  
01:06:45,910 --> 01:06:48,760  
I reviewed a lot of  
the plays he did.

1155  
01:06:48,760 --> 01:06:51,070  
And I was able to take  
Gene and other friends

1156

01:06:51,070 --> 01:06:54,640  
because there was two tickets.

1157

01:06:54,640 --> 01:07:02,170  
So my connection to the New  
School was only that end of it.

1158

01:07:02,170 --> 01:07:04,810  
But I knew about  
many, many people.

1159

01:07:04,810 --> 01:07:08,790  
And Piscator was doing  
fabulous stuff here.

1160

01:07:08,790 --> 01:07:15,250  
And he introduced Sartre's  
work and marvelous things.

1161

01:07:15,250 --> 01:07:22,300  
I said New York was just a  
treasure trove of culture.

1162

01:07:22,300 --> 01:07:25,990  
And I wished that  
my French had been

1163

01:07:25,990 --> 01:07:29,530  
better because I didn't  
get everything that was

1164

01:07:29,530 --> 01:07:33,520  
said at the table with Breton.

1165

01:07:33,520 --> 01:07:35,520  
Where did Arrau have his house?

1166

01:07:35,520 --> 01:07:38,200

1167

01:07:38,200 --> 01:07:42,400  
First in Queens and then

they lived in Douglaston.

1168

01:07:42,400 --> 01:07:45,190

And of course he was  
on tour a great deal.

1169

01:07:45,190 --> 01:07:50,770

But he was quite a charming man.

1170

01:07:50,770 --> 01:07:53,140

How come that you know all this?

1171

01:07:53,140 --> 01:07:53,890

You're too young.

1172

01:07:53,890 --> 01:07:57,180

1173

01:07:57,180 --> 01:08:00,960

I wanted to ask you about  
how you met your husband.

1174

01:08:00,960 --> 01:08:03,010

Was he from a  
similar background?

1175

01:08:03,010 --> 01:08:04,210

No.

1176

01:08:04,210 --> 01:08:05,900

He was born in Brooklyn.

1177

01:08:05,900 --> 01:08:08,720

1178

01:08:08,720 --> 01:08:10,265

On both sides, huge families.

1179

01:08:10,265 --> 01:08:15,560

1180

01:08:15,560 --> 01:08:22,790  
We met because the Old Vic was  
in New York for the first time.

1181  
01:08:22,790 --> 01:08:28,189  
And it was the first  
time Shakespeare

1182  
01:08:28,189 --> 01:08:31,970  
played the way it should be  
played, and it was fabulous.

1183  
01:08:31,970 --> 01:08:35,990  
Well, the last night, I had  
gone to interview Olivier

1184  
01:08:35,990 --> 01:08:39,810  
and I have a whole thing  
that I can show you.

1185  
01:08:39,810 --> 01:08:44,060  
The last night was Oedipus  
Rex and The Critic.

1186  
01:08:44,060 --> 01:08:47,420  
And Oedipus Rex is the best  
performance of anything

1187  
01:08:47,420 --> 01:08:48,290  
that I've ever seen.

1188  
01:08:48,290 --> 01:08:50,930

1189  
01:08:50,930 --> 01:08:54,229  
I was on line because  
there were no tickets.

1190  
01:08:54,229 --> 01:08:57,550  
I was on line to go  
standing room that night.

1191  
01:08:57,550 --> 01:09:03,350

And Gene went on that  
line and couldn't get in

1192  
01:09:03,350 --> 01:09:05,180  
because only 30 people got in.

1193  
01:09:05,180 --> 01:09:08,660

1194  
01:09:08,660 --> 01:09:12,020  
And he had other tickets.

1195  
01:09:12,020 --> 01:09:13,880  
He wanted to go to  
the matinee anyway.

1196  
01:09:13,880 --> 01:09:17,180  
Well, at any rate, he  
saw me on that line.

1197  
01:09:17,180 --> 01:09:19,550  
He had just come  
out of the air car.

1198  
01:09:19,550 --> 01:09:24,500

1199  
01:09:24,500 --> 01:09:26,240  
He was out two weeks only.

1200  
01:09:26,240 --> 01:09:28,790

1201  
01:09:28,790 --> 01:09:31,790  
And somebody was  
on the line with me

1202  
01:09:31,790 --> 01:09:33,890  
who was a great friend of his.

1203  
01:09:33,890 --> 01:09:38,960  
When Gene went to

Columbia later,

1204

01:09:38,960 --> 01:09:40,819  
this friend thought  
that he must certainly

1205

01:09:40,819 --> 01:09:43,620  
know me because  
I went to Barnard

1206

01:09:43,620 --> 01:09:45,859  
and he thought every  
Columbia man knows--

1207

01:09:45,859 --> 01:09:46,970  
which was nonsense.

1208

01:09:46,970 --> 01:09:54,330  
But Gene wrote to me and I  
picked it up in student mail.

1209

01:09:54,330 --> 01:09:56,240  
I still have the letter.

1210

01:09:56,240 --> 01:09:59,010  
And the letter  
ended up by saying

1211

01:09:59,010 --> 01:10:03,830  
if you are a child afraid of  
strangers, don't answer this.

1212

01:10:03,830 --> 01:10:05,850  
But if you are a woman--

1213

01:10:05,850 --> 01:10:07,670  
so that I couldn't resist.

1214

01:10:07,670 --> 01:10:09,780  
So I called him in the dorms.

1215

01:10:09,780 --> 01:10:11,420



He lived in the dorms.

1216  
01:10:11,420 --> 01:10:16,220  
And we met and the rest  
was family history.

1217  
01:10:16,220 --> 01:10:21,290

1218  
01:10:21,290 --> 01:10:23,570  
The greatest thing  
about Gene was

1219  
01:10:23,570 --> 01:10:25,760  
that he had a fabulous memory.

1220  
01:10:25,760 --> 01:10:30,110  
Bergson says, mind is memory.

1221  
01:10:30,110 --> 01:10:33,260  
Gene was a fabulous student.

1222  
01:10:33,260 --> 01:10:35,150  
I had to take copious notes.

1223  
01:10:35,150 --> 01:10:36,290  
He didn't.

1224  
01:10:36,290 --> 01:10:38,600  
I carried huge books.

1225  
01:10:38,600 --> 01:10:40,220  
He had a little  
notebook with him.

1226  
01:10:40,220 --> 01:10:43,310

1227  
01:10:43,310 --> 01:10:49,920  
He made our very nice  
living as a writer.

1228

01:10:49,920 --> 01:10:54,380

And I think he was  
pretty darn good at it.

1229

01:10:54,380 --> 01:10:55,570

What was his specialty?

1230

01:10:55,570 --> 01:10:58,520

1231

01:10:58,520 --> 01:11:00,680

He was a business writer.

1232

01:11:00,680 --> 01:11:06,770

But by the way, one  
book is published.

1233

01:11:06,770 --> 01:11:09,170

He wrote a book  
about his childhood

1234

01:11:09,170 --> 01:11:12,770

in Brooklyn which didn't  
make it because it

1235

01:11:12,770 --> 01:11:16,850

fell between-- it wasn't a  
novel and it wasn't a history.

1236

01:11:16,850 --> 01:11:18,110

Nobody seemed to want it.

1237

01:11:18,110 --> 01:11:20,660

1238

01:11:20,660 --> 01:11:27,530

He was a very lovely man  
and it's a tremendous loss.

1239

01:11:27,530 --> 01:11:30,200

I lost him two years ago.

1240

01:11:30,200 --> 01:11:35,840

We had 58 very good years,  
but it wasn't enough.

1241

01:11:35,840 --> 01:11:42,260

His background was not a  
truly educated one at all,

1242

01:11:42,260 --> 01:11:45,850

but he was extremely  
educated because he read.

1243

01:11:45,850 --> 01:11:52,480

He read, and read, and  
his memory was there.

1244

01:11:52,480 --> 01:11:54,720

So when did you get married?

1245

01:11:54,720 --> 01:11:56,660

In 1950.

1246

01:11:56,660 --> 01:11:58,730

Oh, he wanted to get  
married early, of course,

1247

01:11:58,730 --> 01:12:01,860

but I had to work for a while.

1248

01:12:01,860 --> 01:12:05,000

I decided that I had to  
prove to myself that I

1249

01:12:05,000 --> 01:12:10,774

could make a living, so  
we got married in 1950.

1250

01:12:10,774 --> 01:12:12,010

And?

1251

01:12:12,010 --> 01:12:16,940

And we waited a long

time to have children.

1252

01:12:16,940 --> 01:12:23,180

Ned was born in '56 and  
Will was born in '60.

1253

01:12:23,180 --> 01:12:29,450

And we are very lucky  
because they live nearby.

1254

01:12:29,450 --> 01:12:33,890

That wasn't always  
the case when--

1255

01:12:33,890 --> 01:12:37,130

first of all, when  
Ned was in Princeton,

1256

01:12:37,130 --> 01:12:38,820

Will was still with us.

1257

01:12:38,820 --> 01:12:40,490

We lived in Scarsdale.

1258

01:12:40,490 --> 01:12:44,030

We lived in New York where  
there were no apartments.

1259

01:12:44,030 --> 01:12:47,390

And I mentioned this before.

1260

01:12:47,390 --> 01:12:51,800

My sister and her second  
husband had a baby

1261

01:12:51,800 --> 01:12:53,850

and they were looking  
for an apartment.

1262

01:12:53,850 --> 01:12:59,870

We were looking for a better  
apartment than we had.

1263

01:12:59,870 --> 01:13:04,700

And Gene was working  
as a newspaper

1264

01:13:04,700 --> 01:13:10,970

man at that point and his  
paper went to bed late at night

1265

01:13:10,970 --> 01:13:11,780

on Fridays.

1266

01:13:11,780 --> 01:13:15,440

So my brother-in-law and I  
went looking for apartments

1267

01:13:15,440 --> 01:13:16,550

together.

1268

01:13:16,550 --> 01:13:18,890

And in those days, there  
were no apartments.

1269

01:13:18,890 --> 01:13:22,100

But when an apartment opened  
on the side of a building

1270

01:13:22,100 --> 01:13:24,830

would be a mention of it.

1271

01:13:24,830 --> 01:13:28,220

And we were on Riverside  
Drive in the '80s

1272

01:13:28,220 --> 01:13:29,990

and it was very cold.

1273

01:13:29,990 --> 01:13:32,440

And we saw a sign.

1274

01:13:32,440 --> 01:13:34,190

And the doorman said  
you wouldn't want it.

1275  
01:13:34,190 --> 01:13:36,140  
It's 12 rooms and my  
brother-in-law said,

1276  
01:13:36,140 --> 01:13:37,310  
we want to see it.

1277  
01:13:37,310 --> 01:13:41,510  
And we went upstairs and the  
superintendent showed up.

1278  
01:13:41,510 --> 01:13:45,410  
And my brother-in-law said, this  
is big enough for two families.

1279  
01:13:45,410 --> 01:13:49,160  
And the super said,  
would you be interested?

1280  
01:13:49,160 --> 01:13:51,200  
And that's how  
the idea was born.

1281  
01:13:51,200 --> 01:13:53,750  
In those days, they'd  
had not broken up

1282  
01:13:53,750 --> 01:13:55,430  
the large apartments yet.

1283  
01:13:55,430 --> 01:13:57,950  
There were no co-ops yet.

1284  
01:13:57,950 --> 01:14:02,540  
So then when the idea  
was born, we looked at,

1285  
01:14:02,540 --> 01:14:05,180  
must have been 50  
apartments, until we

1286

01:14:05,180 --> 01:14:09,500  
found one that could be divided  
evenly, where there were enough

1287  
01:14:09,500 --> 01:14:12,140  
rooms, enough bathrooms,  
enough everything.

1288  
01:14:12,140 --> 01:14:16,280  
And we found one on Central  
Park West, a luxury apartment

1289  
01:14:16,280 --> 01:14:18,240  
that was incredible.

1290  
01:14:18,240 --> 01:14:19,890  
It really had everything.

1291  
01:14:19,890 --> 01:14:23,390  
We had two maid's rooms  
that was on the outside

1292  
01:14:23,390 --> 01:14:24,770  
so they could be used as rooms.

1293  
01:14:24,770 --> 01:14:28,040  
One became a darkroom  
and one became a dinette.

1294  
01:14:28,040 --> 01:14:32,090  
And there were  
three major bedrooms

1295  
01:14:32,090 --> 01:14:35,480  
and one became the nursery.

1296  
01:14:35,480 --> 01:14:38,390  
And our bedroom had  
its private bath

1297  
01:14:38,390 --> 01:14:42,830  
and the Wolfson's had  
their private bath.

1298  
01:14:42,830 --> 01:14:48,480  
And then as Ned was  
born, we lost the dinette

1299  
01:14:48,480 --> 01:14:52,940  
but it was all right because the  
kitchen was an eat-in kitchen.

1300  
01:14:52,940 --> 01:14:56,270  
And we had enough space.

1301  
01:14:56,270 --> 01:14:57,290  
It was fabulous.

1302  
01:14:57,290 --> 01:15:03,920  
We had a foyer large enough so  
that we could have four card

1303  
01:15:03,920 --> 01:15:07,800  
table sizes, so that we could  
have 16 people for dinner,

1304  
01:15:07,800 --> 01:15:11,930  
which we did very often which  
was easy because it's very

1305  
01:15:11,930 --> 01:15:14,480  
easy when two families cook.

1306  
01:15:14,480 --> 01:15:20,080  
And then when Will was  
born we lost the darkroom.

1307  
01:15:20,080 --> 01:15:22,760  
And we lived this  
way for nine years.

1308  
01:15:22,760 --> 01:15:25,460  
And we were going  
to get six room

1309



01:15:25,460 --> 01:15:29,720  
apartments in the same building  
and the Wolfson's came through.

1310  
01:15:29,720 --> 01:15:30,920  
Ours didn't.

1311  
01:15:30,920 --> 01:15:33,350  
We stayed in the large  
apartment for a while

1312  
01:15:33,350 --> 01:15:35,940  
but it was going to  
be de-controlled.

1313  
01:15:35,940 --> 01:15:38,610  
So we moved two blocks away.

1314  
01:15:38,610 --> 01:15:44,540  
But we still-- the children were  
raised in the same playgrounds.

1315  
01:15:44,540 --> 01:15:46,460  
The families are  
very closely knit

1316  
01:15:46,460 --> 01:15:52,580  
because they grew up sort of  
as siblings instead of cousins.

1317  
01:15:52,580 --> 01:15:55,050  
And then we lived  
apart for 10 years.

1318  
01:15:55,050 --> 01:15:59,540  
And then we didn't  
want to buy one house.

1319  
01:15:59,540 --> 01:16:02,780  
We were going, again,  
to look for two houses,

1320  
01:16:02,780 --> 01:16:04,820

and then we realized  
that we could

1321  
01:16:04,820 --> 01:16:09,260  
afford a much better house and  
a much better part of Scarsdale

1322  
01:16:09,260 --> 01:16:12,590  
where the school was  
very important to us.

1323  
01:16:12,590 --> 01:16:19,080  
That was really because Ned  
was off to Princeton already.

1324  
01:16:19,080 --> 01:16:25,640  
Will still had to go through  
several years of middle school

1325  
01:16:25,640 --> 01:16:27,080  
and high school.

1326  
01:16:27,080 --> 01:16:34,430  
And my sister and her  
husband had a brand new child

1327  
01:16:34,430 --> 01:16:38,120  
that was going to go to  
private school all the way up.

1328  
01:16:38,120 --> 01:16:40,190  
In New York, of  
course, all the kids

1329  
01:16:40,190 --> 01:16:46,160  
were in private school which was  
terribly expensive, actually.

1330  
01:16:46,160 --> 01:16:50,540  
So we took a large  
house together

1331  
01:16:50,540 --> 01:16:56,130

in a good section of  
Scarsdale and lived that way.

1332  
01:16:56,130 --> 01:17:02,360  
And Will went off  
to Emory which was

1333  
01:17:02,360 --> 01:17:06,050  
in Atlanta, which was far away.

1334  
01:17:06,050 --> 01:17:12,650  
But as you know, he has  
his MBA from Wharton.

1335  
01:17:12,650 --> 01:17:18,080  
And he met his wife  
in the first bank

1336  
01:17:18,080 --> 01:17:21,320  
that they both worked in  
after they got out of college.

1337  
01:17:21,320 --> 01:17:24,710  
She went to Wharton and  
he went to Wharton later.

1338  
01:17:24,710 --> 01:17:29,120  
And then Ned met his  
wife at Princeton.

1339  
01:17:29,120 --> 01:17:32,720  
She was a year under him.

1340  
01:17:32,720 --> 01:17:36,130  
And they both have two  
children, as you know.