

The 23rd?

23rd today.

OK. All right. So you rolling? OK. This is a United States Holocaust Memorial Museum interview with Mrs. Ruth Taub Feldman on July 3, 2015 in Commack, New York. Thank you very, very much, Mrs. Feldman, for agreeing to speak with us today.

It's my pleasure.

Thank you. We're going to start our interview in the very beginning-- at the very beginning. I'm going to want to get a sense of what life was like before the war, before all of the changes. So I'll ask you a lot about your parents, about your family, about your childhood, and so on, and I'll start with a basic question-- can you tell me your date of birth?

11/30/28.

So that means November 30, 1928. And where were you born?

Vienna, Austria.

And what was your name at birth?

Ruth Taub.

OK. Can you tell me your mother's name with her maiden name as well?

My mother's name is Dana Taub Feldman. Oh--

Excuse me, the-- that's all right. Oh, let's cut. OK, so your mother's name was what?

My--

Yeah.

My mother's name?

Mm-hmm.

My mother's name was Jeanette Taub.

And her maiden name?

Spiegel.

Spiegel? Like--

S-P-I-E-G-E-L.

Yeah. Like the word mirror? OK. And your father's name?

Marcus-- M-A-R-C-U-S-- Taub.

Were they from Vienna?

My mother and father were from Poland originally. They married in Vienna and stayed there.

Do you know what part of Poland they were from?

I think my father came from Monostyraska I don't even know how to pronounce it well. And my mother-- I think from Warsaw, Poland.

OK. Did you ever visit Poland where their families were as a child?

I came to Poland-- I think Warsaw, I'm not sure-- when my grandmother died.

Your mother's mother?

My mother's mother.

So you went for the funeral?

Right.

And how old would you have been at that time?

I think four.

OK. Do you have any memories of that time?

In Poland?

Mm-hmm. Of that visit?

Not-- well, I met my aunts and uncles that had been living in Poland, but I don't remember anything about them.

Yeah. That was what I wanted to kind of get a sense of, how much you knew as a child, the larger family. If they were in Poland, there's not that much opportunity.

No, there isn't.

OK.

I'm sorry.

That's OK. Did you ever visit your father's side of the family?

My-- I don't think I knew my father's father. I knew my mother-- my father's mother who-- I guess they had moved to Vienna.

I see.

And I saw her. You know, as you would see a grandma.

OK, so she was part of your life.

She was part of my life.

What was her name?

Her name was Sarah.

Sarah. OK. How is it that your parents, both of them from Poland, lived in Vienna, met in Vienna? How did that happen?

No, I don't think they met in Vienna, they met in Poland. My father wanted to move from Poland--

Before the war, even? Yeah.

Yes. And then my mother came and they married in Vienna. So they didn't really have family in Vienna.

OK.

Later on, my father's two brothers lived in Vienna.

So they came from Poland as well?

Yes.

OK. Did they ever say why they wanted to leave Poland?

I don't know. Maybe Vienna was more romantic to them?

It's a beautiful city.

It was a beautiful city, yes.

It's a lovely--

Yes.

--gorgeous architecture, and--

And maybe they felt that opportunities were better for them in Vienna than they were in Poland.

Well, here's a question-- I don't know if you'd have the answer, but I'm going to ask it. You see, Poland was divided-- from 1795 until 1918, Poland was dismembered. And some part of it went to the Russian Empire, some part of it went to the Prussians, the Germans, and some to Austro-Hungary. And Vienna was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Did your father come from that part of Poland that was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire?

I can't tell you that.

You wouldn't know?

--know.

OK, OK. What language did you speak at home?

I spoke German.

Not Yiddish?

No.

OK. So you were brought up--

I was born in Vienna.

OK.

And we were Viennese, so to speak.

And so German was the language spoken at home?

Yes.

Did your parents ever speak Yiddish to one another?

I'm not sure. Maybe. If they didn't want me to understand something.

Yeah. But not that you remember?

No.

Not that you remember. OK. How did your father make a living?

My father got into the fruit, vegetable, and grocery business. And he opened the store.

Mm-hmm.

And he did very well. And that's what was the livelihood. My mother did not work at first, but she did work in the store later on, and I had a maid at home.

OK.

I also was sent with the kindergarten to the country after school.

Oh, that's nice.

Yes. That's very nice. Yeah. So in the very real sense, your parents had a mom-and-pop shop, because both mom and pop--

Yes. Yes, definitely.

OK. Do you remember the address of the store?

You ask me about an address and a name comes to me. I can't say that I'm correct, but I remember 7 Sebastian Kneipp Gasse.

Sebastian Kneipp Gasse?

Yes.

OK.

I don't know if that was the address of the store. It could have been a home address.

OK. And your home was not-- you didn't live above the shop? You had a separate--

We didn't live above the shop.

OK. You had a separate--

--we lived on the same street, but not above the shop.

Do you have memories of what the store looked like?

Partial. The groceries were inside, and outside they had stands with fruits and vegetables.

Was it a large shop or was it a smaller sort of neighborhood shop?

It wasn't tiny and it wasn't a large. I'd say medium.

OK. Did your parents have-- did your father have any help in the store besides your mother? Or did they, too, more or less run it?

No. My parents also had-- I don't know at what point they had gotten him, but they had a employee.

Mm-hmm.

He was Austrian. His name was Franz-- F-R-A-N-Z.

And was he a younger person or an older person?

He was younger. He was very attached to my parents and they were to him. And when Hitler came, he was very unhappy about the situation. He couldn't work for them anymore. And eventually, I think, they drafted him.

Into the army, huh? Not a happy destiny.

No.

Yeah.

We had-- there was a synagogue. I believe it was on the same street. And the memory I have of that is the Nazis having thrown the prayer books in the street and burned them.

So that's after the time that Austria is united with--

--next to Germany.

Next to Germany. I want to talk a little bit about life before that happening, before these sort of political changes happen, about your childhood and about your parents. And so-- and your community. Did you belong to a synagogue? Did you-- were your parents religious?

My parents were half and half.

OK.

The synagogue would have been the synagogue on the same street that we live.

OK. And your father would have gone every week to it? Did he-- was he observant?

No-- not that observant.

OK. On certain holidays, but not every week.

OK. Would you say that your parents were assimilated into Austrian society?

I don't really think so, but--

OK.

I'm not very sure.

But were they more secular than religious people? Did they keep the Sabbath every single week?

No, they didn't keep the Sabbath every single week.

OK. Was the store--

--holy days and other holidays they observed.

Was the shop, for example, was it open on Saturdays? You don't remember?

I don't remember.

That's OK. That's OK. Tell me, did you have brothers and sisters?

No. I was an only child.

OK.

And as I said, I had a maid in the house who took care of me. And in the summer, I went with the kindergarten.

This was a state kindergarten? An Austrian kindergarten? Or did you go to a Jewish school?

Sorry, I can't help you.

That's OK. That's OK. I'm asking about your very early years. If you were to ask me the same question about my very early years, I don't know that I could answer either, you know? But what I'm trying to do is to paint a picture of what life was like when things were still normal. And so that's why I'm going after details. So don't feel bad if you don't remember. We'll find a way to paint that picture through other questions that I ask, OK?

My parents, I would say, even though not very religious, they had a religious feeling.

OK.

And as far as the kindergarten was concerned, it may have been a Jewish kindergarten.

OK.

But as I said, I'm not sure.

OK. Was your Maid Austrian as well? As Franz was Austrian? Or--

I don't remember her nationality.

Would you remember her name?

No.

OK. Were there many maids or just one in particular who took care of you?

It was one.

It was one. OK. Do you remember how you felt about her? Were you close to her?

I think I've felt close to her, yes.

Yeah. Did you feel close to your parents?

Yes.

Were you closer to one or the other in particular?

My father was my pet. There's a poem I wrote on the wall--

Oh really?

--back there, yes.

What does it say?

You have to read it.

OK.

It's too long to just say.

OK.

But it it's a tribute to him. I love my mother very much. I'm not an author, but I somehow felt that I wanted to write this tribute to him. And I have little poems that I would write from time to time about my mother also, but this was--

For him.

This was for him and it was--

When did you write these poems? Were you a adult already? Were you still a child?

No, I think I was grown. I don't know when I wrote it. But I was definitely grown up.

And what is the message of the poem.

That he was very special, very kind-- unusually kind. And he had a smile that made you feel good. And whoever he could help, he would help.

Can you give me some examples of his kindness? OK.

But I know he was. I just can't--

It's OK. It's OK. It's OK. But you answered one of the questions that I have, which is, tell me a little bit about your parents' personalities. So you told me a little bit about your father's personality. Tell me about your mother's personality. What kind of person was she?

She was a good person. The closeness was not as close as with my father, but she was a good person.

Was she stricter than he was?

Oh yes.

Mothers often have that unhappy duty. If fathers are easy on the kids, they're forced to be the disciplinarians, you know?

She was stricter.

OK.

But my father didn't let me get away with murder either.

[LAUGHTER]

It sounds that you were a close family.

We were.

Yeah?

We were. And I think the only reason that I consented to come to America with a group of children is because I was used to being with a maid going away with the kindergarten in the summertime where I wasn't always on top of my parents.

So you had had some experience of having some independence, some experiences that were independent of them?

Yeah, yeah. I was-- and it was a lucky thing because I had a girlfriend. We haven't found the picture-- today we were looking at. And this was a close girlfriend of mine.

Mm-hmm.

And her parents wanted to send her also and she wouldn't go, and I heard afterwards that they were annihilated.

They didn't make it?

They didn't make it.

OK.

So the people that took us here were. The people that sent us affidavits--

Mm-hmm. We'll talk about that.

Yeah.



But we'll talk about that a little bit further on. Right now we're still in the pre-war years. I'd like to get a sense of, do you remember the apartment or the home that you lived in and what it looked like?

All I remember is that it was a nice apartment. But--

Did it have many rooms?

It had a few rooms. I don't really remember, but it wasn't a tiny cramped apartment. It was a nice apartment.

Was it on a city block? I mean, can you describe what the neighborhood looked like? Whether they, you know.

I remember that there was a pharmacy on the corner. I had said before, I think that was the street the synagogue was on also. It was on the other side of this street, but it was where the synagogue was. And--

How high were the houses? How high were the buildings?

Well, our building we lived in I would say had about five floors if I remember correctly.

It was apartment house?

Apartment house, yes.

OK. Were you close to the city center or were you sort of in the outskirts of the city? Did you feel like you lived in a city or in a suburb residential area?

I don't know that I would have called it a residential area, but it wasn't the bustling kind of--

It was a quieter--

Street, yes.

Was there transportation going through it like trolleys and buses and cars?

Our street, as far as I remember, didn't have any buses or trolleys. The corner of the street we lived on right near the pharmacy that was directly on the corner was busiest street. I don't remember if there were trolleys or not.

OK, OK. I'm just trying to get a sense where in Vienna and what was--

I know. I'm sorry I can't help you.

That's OK, that's OK. We find-- we find out what we can, OK? Did you walk to school? Was school far away from home?

I don't remember that.

OK. OK. And was your neighborhood a mixed neighborhood or was it more or less a Jewish neighborhood?

I would say the neighborhood was more or less mixed.

OK. OK. Did your mother have help at home insofar as cooking and household tasks? Was that part of what the maid did? OK.

I would say she did some of the cooking. The maid.

And did you have friends in the neighborhood?

I had a friend that I referred to.

Mm-hmm.

I had other friends from school that I don't remember well.

Tell me of what your early memories are. I've been asking different questions, but maybe you have some early memories that don't fit with any of my questions.

[? Francis, ?] please call the front desk. [? Francis, ?] please call the front desk, thank you.

I think I had a pediatrician.

Mm-hmm. What do you remember about him or her?

Him.

Mm-hmm.

Nice. I think his name was Z-E-N-T-N-E-R. Zentner.

Mm-hmm.

Can't help you more.

It's OK. Did you have-- did you celebrate Jewish holidays? Yes. I don't know if the store was closed on all Jewish holidays, but we celebrated holidays, to a point anyway.

And-- OK. Do you remember the kinds of foods that were served at home or that your mother prepared or the maid prepared?

I think my mother baked nice coffee cake.

Mm-hmm.

I don't know about-- chocolate was my pet food.

Really?

It still is.

[LAUGHTER]

Your cuisine of choice, huh?

Yes.

OK.

I think she would make me a nice birthday cake, chocolate birthday cake. She made very good goulash.

Ooh.

Yes she did. Whatever she cooked, she cooked well. I just don't remember all the things.

Now, because your parents had a grocery store, did you go in and visit them and take whatever you wanted from the grocery store and could just say, mom, can I have this apple, or dad, could I have that piece of chocolate?

I imagine I did.

OK. Did you visit them much in the grocery store as they were working?

I don't think particularly much. I was busy with friends, I was busy with school. And I don't think I was in the store that much.

OK. Now you mentioned that you had been in kindergarten. Did you start elementary school as well?

I believe I did. I can't give you memories, but I believe I did.

OK.

Because when I left for America, I was 10 and 1/2.

So-- but if we took--

--that time I was--

Yeah. You would think--

--regular school.

Yeah. At least four years, maybe even five. You know. But you don't remember anything from it, huh? OK. Did you belong to any organizations like sports clubs or scouts or any kind of youth groups or things like that? No. Now your parents, you were born in '28. And so you were growing up in the 1930s in Vienna.

And were you aware of any of these political things that were happening that Hitler came to power in 1933? You would only have been five, but did your parents speak about the Nazis when you were a little girl and speak about maybe sympathizers that might be in Austria? Did that kind of conversation ever occur at home?

Well, I knew that Hitler came into Germany. I knew that he annexed Austria I think in 1938. He came into Germany, became dictator, I don't know, in--

1933.

1933.

Correct. Do you remember-- do you remember when Austria was annexed? You would have been around 10 years old.

I remember before-- my father was taken to Buchenwald. Now I was not in Austria at that time anymore, but I had found out that he was. But before that, I remember-- I think there were a couple of days that he was taken to jail like overnight or something?

While you were still there?

While I was still there. I was going to say something and I forgot. Oh, I remember-- and this was afterwards-- I think if there was here already. Then I found out that they took-- made my mother leave her apartment and go into a larger

apartment with a lot of other women.

Mm-hmm.

I know that. But it was not there anymore.

OK. So you heard about these things at a distance?

Certain things, yeah. I also hadn't known about my father having been taken to Buchenwald. He may have even been in Dachau shortly.

Mm-hmm.

But I remember about Buchenwald, and the way I found out here was from some cousins who really did a lot of nice things for us, but they told me about him being in Buchenwald because they felt that it was my duty to know.

Do you agree with them?

I didn't know if I agreed with that.

OK, OK.

But--

Do you think it was--

--they helped in finding people that sent us affidavits.

We'll talk about that in a little bit. What I want to talk about right now is, when Hitler first annexed Austria, did your life change at that point? Just that the annexation. Did people start behaving differently than they had before? Had you noticed anything like that?

I can't-- I can't help you with that.

OK. Do you remember seeing either Hitler-Jugend or Nazi sympathizers in the streets?

I remember seeing boys dressed in Nazi uniforms or having the swastika band on--

Did anybody ever-- did you ever experience any kind of bullying or discrimination or anti-Semitism while you were there? Other than possibly being called Jew or something, I didn't receive any bullying other than that.

Do you remember such incidents? Do you distinctly remember--

Being called a Jew?

Yeah.

Yeah. That I remember. But--

Was it other kids who did that? Or was it grownups?

No, I think it was other children.

OK. Mm-hmm. What about your parents' grocery store? After the annexation to Germany, did their business change?

Did they close up shop? Did they have to give away the store? Did--

I think they had to give away the store, but I don't know at what point.

OK. But you still lived at home, huh? At that time. That you-- the apartment that you remember?

Yes.

OK. Were people-- at age 10, do you remember being frightened?

I must have been frightened. And I can't tell you further than that. I was happy to leave.

Were you?

Yes, I was.

So even though you were close to your parents, you felt a sense of relief in leaving?

I thought it was-- well, I thought it was the best thing. I thought it was good as far as I was concerned. I thought that it would be helpful to my parents.

In what way would it be helpful to your parents?

That they wouldn't have to worry about me. Something happening to me.

Mm-hmm.

Did they--

I knew that they-- they made me feel that way. And they told me that we'll see each other. That it won't be forever. And I believed it.

Can you tell me how this whole possibility came about? Do you remember meeting anybody who suggested to you or asked you, would you like to come to the United States?

My parents had found out about this, and they asked me how I would feel.

Mm-hmm.

And I know-- I remember saying to them, if they promise me that they will come in not too distant a future, I was dumb enough to believe it.

What can you expect from a child? How does a child know about the larger things going on? It's--

And like I said, because I was used to being with a maid and not being with them all the time, it made it easier.

Did you meet any of the people who were facilitating this transport of children?

In this book, which I'll show you later.

OK. Which book?

Mr. and Mrs. Kraus, Gilbert Kraus.

You met them?

They-- yes. They were-- they took us to America.

What are your first memories of them?

All of us liked them very much. They were very kind people. Very kind people. And we all called him Uncle Gilbert.

Really?

His first name. And she was Tanta Ellen

Did they speak German?

They didn't speak Jewish to us. They must have known enough German. Mr. And Mrs. Kraus, Gilbert Kraus belonged to a fraternal organization called B'rith Sholom.

Mm-hmm.

Now that's not B'nai B'rith.

Mm-hmm.

I thought for many years that the B'nai B'rith was in charge of this, but it wasn't. It was B'rith Sholom. Organization in Philadelphia.

Mm-hmm.

The grand master of B'rith Sholom was a friend of Mr. Kraus. They belonged to the same organization. And that was Louis Levine. Now he spoke to Mr. Kraus-- they were friendly-- and told them that-- told him that he would be very good if he went to Germany to gather 50 children and bring them to America. How would he feel about it?

Mr. Kraus immediately said he would like it, but he hadn't even told his wife yet. And when he broached the subject to his wife, she was like-- she was not for it. And the-- he sort of had to convince her. She kept a private diary, I understand, of things that were happening. They had two children of their own.

Did you ever meet them?

I don't think I met their children.

OK. Let's go back to you. When you were in Vienna and your parents have asked you about this idea and you agreed to it because they explained it will be easier for them and that it will be for a short time, do you remember saying goodbye to them?

The instance I don't remember.

Mm-hmm. Do you-- again, do you remember meeting Mr. And Mrs. Kraus in Vienna?

Yes, I think I did. I think we all did.

OK.

And she was able to get a lot of visas for the children. I believe we might have had a visa of our own because of the people that sent us affidavits.

Well, can you explain that to me a little bit? What did-- did you have to meet certain requirements in order to be one of the 50 children?

Well, we were interviewed.

OK.

We went through medical exam, I know that. And, you know, they probably wanted to know what the visa situation was.

Mm-hmm. Had your parents talked about leaving Austria before this possibility came up?

I don't remember the incident, but I'm sure they did.

OK.

They had no intention of being there. Hitler at that point was not out to kill Jews. He wanted the countries Germany and Austria to be Judenfrei, free of Jews. As long as you got out, you could go. And that's what made it easy for us to leave.

Do you remember how you traveled?

We-- I remember the trip on the boat.

How did you get to the boat?

I don't know.

Was it by car? Was it--

That's what I don't remember, exactly how I went to the boat. I remember the boat trip was terrible. Very, very nauseous. I couldn't eat all week.

Oh. Oh.

And I remember Mr. And Mrs. Kraus being very kind to us, very understanding of everything. They left their two children in America with relatives to come and do this. And they were in camp where we-- we came from the boat to this camp in Collegetown, Pennsylvania. It was a beautiful camp. I forget what it was built for, but it wasn't built for that purpose. There was some purpose that they had that made them build that camp, or if it was built already and they wanted to have that camp for a certain group. And that's the camp we came to.

Can you tell me-- before we get to that camp, did you know any of the other children before you met them?

I didn't know the other children. I know there was one little girl that was a Jewish actress.

Really?

Yes. He was younger than us. Than us-- than me.

Yeah.

And I understand-- Dana was reading something today. The youngest child was going on five--

Very young.

--that was taken. Most of the children were older. But the youngest child was going on five.

Did you take anything with you that was special to you?

I don't remember that.

No toys, no books? A doll?

Unless I took a mezuzah, I don't remember.

OK. OK. So you had not met any of the children before, but you got to know them on the journey?

I'm not sure, but we might have met just before we went as a group. There were 25 boys and 25 girls.

And you all traveled together?

And we all traveled together.

Do you remember saying goodbye to your parents?

I don't remember the exact moment.

Did you go by train to get to the boat? Or you don't remember that either--

I don't remember.

OK. But on the boat, unfortunately, you were seasick.

Very, very, very seasick.

Oh. It had probably been the first time you were ever on such a boat.

I'm sure.

Yeah. Had you seen the sea before? Because Austria, being landlocked--

I don't know.

Mm-hmm. Do you remember what it was like to come into the US?

Well, we saw the Statue of Liberty--

You did?

--from the boat, yes. And when we got off the boat, I remember having something to eat there.

OK.

And it was frankfurters.

Frankfurters?

Yes. And that I loved.



And did it taste different than from Europe?

Well, what was different was that they served the frankfurters on frankfurter rolls. We didn't have frankfurter rolls. We'd eat frankfurters with bread on a plate, whatever.

That's right.

But that that was a real treat.

Mm-hmm. Did you have relatives in the United States? Did your family have any relatives here?

We had, as I said, these distant cousins that found the Grobstein family.

Who were the Grobsteins?

The one family that sent us affidavits.

And wasn't--

And took me to their home after I left camp.

So did you need that affidavit from this family in order to travel with the children?

Well, we needed the-- they had to know that we had visas or affidavits or whatever. We had to have papers like that.

Did Mr. And Mrs. Kraus help in obtaining such papers? Or is that something people had to do on their own?

No, I don't think they helped in obtaining papers. I think the children or their families all had necessary papers.

OK. OK. And you're saying that yours-- the family that provided those affidavits was someone named Grobstein?

Harry and Leah Grobstein. They had a soda factory, Society Club Beverages.

Oh really?

Yes. And they were comfortable.

OK. Where did they live?

They lived in Newark.

Oh, so not so far from New York City.

No.

OK.

And they came to visit me at camp. And they wanted to know how I felt about coming to their house. They're not going to adopt me, they're just going to adopt me temporarily.

Is that how they put it?

Well, in so many words.

Yeah.

And they had a boy. He should rest in peace. He was three or four years younger than I was.

Mm-hmm.

And they had a daughter that was about six, seven years older than I was, she should rest in peace. They didn't have much luck. They really-- they died very young. Very, very sad. We loved living together.

Mm-hmm.

And Joey, the boy, used to tease me. He used to say, Heil Hitler!

Oh my goodness.

[LAUGHTER]

He teased me all the time. But we got along well.

Mm-hmm. Did you become like their sister?

Yeah. Yeah. We were very close.

It sounds like they were very tactful with you when they came to visit you at this camp.

Yes.

Some grownups wouldn't ask a child at all, would you like to do this or would you like to do that?

Yeah. Well, they were OK. They're wonderful people.

So let's go to the camp a little bit. You say was a very nice place. It was a beautiful place.

Very nice place.

So describe to me, what are some of the things that you were doing in this camp? What are some of the activities?

Well, we had whatever sports there were, I don't remember.

Mm-hmm.

But we had English lessons. And that-- people ask me to this day, how come you you talk without any accent or whatever? And it was because of that. Because they had us learn English and speak English as much as we can.

OK. So it was sort of like a camp to get you used to the United States. Was that the purpose of it?

Well, and to find homes for the children.

OK.

To place them. They couldn't come, I guess, right away into a home.

Mm-hmm. So describe what the camp looked like. Did you-- where did you live? How were the children housed?

The camp, when you entered, had a nice hallway, and they had a large living room with President Roosevelt's picture hanging above the fireplace.

OK.

And then if you went, say, to the right, you had the boys'-- what do you call it?

Boys' bunks--

Dormitories.

Oh, dormitories. OK.

And on the left, the girls' dormitories. And they had activities for us.

Were they separate buildings?

No.

These dormitories, they were all part of one building?

It's all part of one building.

OK.

But beautiful camp.

What was beautiful about it? Was it the buildings?

Well, it wasn't like rough style living. It was really very well-- as far as the rooms, the way they were--

Did you have your own room?

I think I had a room with another girl. I don't think it was more.

Well that's-- yeah. It's not like living in--

We had nice-- no, it wasn't-- no.

OK.

No. It was very nice. I mean, I'm not sure to the [? two ?] or what, but it was very nicely-- call it decorated or whatever.

And was it in the countryside?

It was a town.

I see. So you weren't like in the-- you weren't like in a summer camp where there's forests around and lakes and a pool and things like that. You were in an urban kind of place.

I'm pretty sure they had a pool.

Mm-hmm.

I don't know. Maybe if you interviewed me 10 years earlier, I'd remember more, I don't know.

Oh.

I'm not a good one. I hear people talk about their childhood and things, and they don't have to be refugees or what, but they remember so many things and I don't, and it bothers me.

Oh, don't worry about it. Don't worry about it. It's fine. It's fine. It is that-- because I'm not there, I'm trying to see it through your eyes.

I know.

You know? And try to get a sense and a picture of what it was like. And you do remember things. It's just I'm asking a whole lot of questions.

You're nosy.

Yeah, yeah, I'm-- I am. Did you get to know any of the other kids?

While we were there, but I didn't get to have any contact with them after we left. A lot of the children moved to other states and whatnot, and I never really was in contact with them.

Tell me, during the time you were together on the boat, on the journey, and then at the camp, did any of the kids show signs of distress? Did you see any of them cry? Did you see any of them-- no? No. Did they behave more like kids? Like normal kids who would be jumping up and down and curious and running around and things like that? Was that how they behaved mostly? Or they were quieter, more reserved?

I think they enjoyed camp life.

Mm-hmm. Did you write to your parents while you were there? Did they write back?

I had-- I had mail from my parents, but I didn't know at what point.

Mm-hmm.

If I had mail at camp or I had mail at the Grobsteins' house.

Mm-hmm.

But I'm sure I heard from them. Well, I don't think I heard from my father afterwards in the concentration camp, but the before that.

Well, what did happen? Let's leave your first experiences in the United States to one side for a moment and return to Vienna. When you said goodbye to your parents, what happened to them?

Well, I don't know I told you. I know my-- well, I was still in Vienna when my father was taken to jail one or two times. And my mother had to leave her apartment and go into this apartment with a lot of people.

Was that after your father was taken to Buchenwald? Or was that--

That was after he was taken to concentration camp, yeah.

OK. And what were the circumstances of that? Did people come to the house and just take him away? Did he have to

report someplace? Did you ever find out those details?

I can't say exactly, but I would think that people came to take him.

OK. How long was he in Buchenwald for?

Months. I don't know how long. Months. It wasn't years because they came a little bit after a year that I came here.

OK.

I know that my mother did a lot of running around to try and get him out of camp and try to see different people. And she met one German official that was extremely sympathetic, very, very nice to her. And we always felt that he had a hand in my father's being released from camp. And then as soon as he came out of camp, I mean, my mother had all preparations ready of going to America. Whatever she needed, she was all ready to go.

So--

When my parents were on the boat in Italy, the boat had docked in Italy for a while, they had read-- and I don't know, they must have read a German paper because they didn't know Italian-- that there were 28 men released from Buchenwald this particular time and that it was an error. That they were not supposed to have been released. But there were 28 men that were released.

So in some ways, this promise that your parents had made to you that will come soon, they were not sure that they'd be able to keep that promise.

Oh no, of course.

Mm-hmm.

That was a lie. But it came true. Thank God. They had a nice life here.

We'll talk about that. We'll talk about that. I want to then turn to this moment where you didn't know that your father was in Buchenwald while you were with the Grobstein family.

Well, I learned from these cousins who thought I should know.

And then I asked, do you think that was a mistake to tell you?

I thought it was.

Did you think that at the time or do you think that as an adult?

I don't know what I thought at the time. But when I think of it now, I don't know if it was the right thing to do.

I can't imagine what you felt like. You're a little girl, and some-- your cousins whom you don't know very well come and tell you that your father is imprisoned.

They had no children, and maybe that's why they didn't know how to handle certain things. But they did us a lot of good.

Mm-hmm.

I mean, we wouldn't have known about the Grobsteins if it wasn't for them, because the Grobsteins weren't relatives of ours.

Mm-hmm.

But we knew them-- I don't when they came to America, but we knew them in Vienna.

Oh, did you?

Yes.

Were they your father's or your mother's relatives?

I think my father's.

Mm-hmm. So do you remember how you took the news that your father was imprisoned?

I can't imagine how I--

Yeah.

How it was to take other than to be unhappy.

Of course.

And cry.

Yeah. And how soon after that did you learn that he had been released?

I don't know.

Mm-hmm. OK, let's go back to the camp. We're rolling. So I want to go back to the camp a little bit. You said that you had to take English classes in the camp. What were some of the other activities that the kids participated in?

I thought we had a pool, but I'm not sure.

Did you have outings into the town or outside of the camp to get-- to see what American towns were like or things?

I don't remember at all.

Mm-hmm.

And as far as activities--

Did it feel like school?

No. No. I think we liked learning English.

Was the food good?

I don't remember any bad food.

It was-- aside from the frankfurter and the French fries, it's your first introduction to American food.

I don't remember anything bad about it.

OK. So tell me-- oh, and how long did it last? Was it a summer time? Was it like four weeks or--

No, that was the summer.

OK.

We arrived in June 1939, and by the end of August, everybody had been placed or left or whatever.

And you left then, too?

Yes.

All right. So the Grobsteins--

Before school started.

Right. So the Grobsteins came and brought you home to Newark to where they lived. What kind of a place did they live in? I think it was their own house. But I don't know if it was a one-family house or a two-family house.

Were they well-to-do?

Yes.

How large was it? The place, the house.

Not unusually large.

Did everyone have-- did you have your own bedroom?

I don't think I did.

You speak of-- uh huh, go ahead.

I think Joey, being a few years younger than me, may have been in a shared bedroom with me. Because I think Ruthie was quite a few years older, and I think they would have given her the private room.

OK. Did it have a yard?

--two Ruthies. I was Little Ruthie and she was Big Ruthie.

That's cute. That's nice. So is that how you were known? As Little Ruthie and Big Ruthie? Did they have a backyard?

I don't remember any special backyard.

OK. What was school like? You were enrolled now in an American school.

Which I don't remember at all. I don't remember having any problems, but I don't remember anything special.

OK. Then tell me a little bit about Mr. And Mrs. Grobstein. What made them special? What made you feel so close to them?

Well, first of all, what they did was not a usual thing to do. Not everybody would want to send papers to strangers. Not everybody would want to temporarily adopt the child and treat them like it was their own child. They were just very kind people.

Did you ever get to talk to them one on one-- that is, tell them about what your life in Austria was like or didn't talk much?

I don't remember the instances. I imagine I told them plenty of things, but I really don't remember the instances.

Do you remember how you learned that your parents were, in fact, coming over?

I don't know if it was through the Shneidmans.

And the Shneidmans where your cousins?

They were distant cousins. Or from mail from my parents. I really don't--

Where did they arrive? When your parents came, where did they arrive?

Well, I would think it was in New York.

Did you go meet them? Or did they come to the Grobsteins' house?

I would think it was to meet them, but we can't swear to it.

OK. All right. How long did you stay with the Grobsteins? How long did you live with them?

A little more than a year. A little more.

That's quite a while. That's quite a while. So you've finished one full school year, and then you stayed with them the following summer?

It was more than a year.

Uh huh.

Not more than a year, because my parents came. And when my parents came, I believe they-- I and they stayed with the Shneidmans temporarily.

OK. And then what happened?

And then I think my father-- I don't know if that was Brooklyn or what. Opened a pushcart before he got into a store.

And what was he selling on the pushcart?

Fruits and vegetables.

What he knew, in other words. What he knew. And where did you live? When you moved out of the Shneidmans', you had already left the Grobsteins, where did you live?

I don't think it was in that apartment that I had told you about, but I don't remember where. It must have been a smaller place.

Was it in Brooklyn now?

I think it was in Brooklyn.



OK. So you went from Newark to your cousin's place, which was where? Also in Brooklyn? Or someplace else? Do you know where they lived?

No. It could have been in Brooklyn, but I'm not sure.

OK. So you went from Newark to where your cousins lived, and then your father got a pushcart, and you lived in Brooklyn. Was there a particular area that he had his pushcart in? Like was it Bay Ridge or was it Avenue U or was there a particular neighborhood?

I don't remember the neighborhood.

OK. Was it far from where you lived?

I don't think so.

OK. How long did it take him and your mother just to learn English?

Well, first of all, I refused to talk anything but English to them.

Really?

Yes, I did. I refused to talk anything but English to them. And I think while they had a chance still living in Austria, they-- feeling that they're going to wind up in America, they already took some lessons and studied English.

And why is it that you refused to speak German to them?

Because I wanted that-- nah, I refused to talk German to them because I wanted them to learn English.

OK.

And I felt that was the best way for them to learn English.

Did this lead to any misunderstandings?

No.

They understood what you were saying?

Oh yeah. I'm sure if they didn't understand that I would have tried to tell them in Jewish or whatever, you know. But it worked out well.

Did they pick up English fairly quickly?

Yeah.

OK. Did it become like yourself that they didn't speak with an accent?

I don't remember that.

OK.

I don't remember that.

And as time went on, did they still sometimes speak with one another in German? Or did they--

I think they only talked another language with each other if they didn't want me to know something.

OK. OK. So it must have been pretty hard for your father to start new, to start again, to have this pushcart.

After having been in concentration camp.

That's right. What did he look like? When you saw him again, could you recognize him?

I don't know if I recognized them or not, but he didn't look good, that's for sure.

No?

He lost a lot of weight, yeah.

Had he been fairly lean--

Stout?

Yeah. Was he stout to begin with?

He wasn't stout, but he wasn't thin. So he looked bad.

Did he recover his health?

Yes. I said they have a nice life here.

But it sounds like it was not an easy beginning.

No, it wasn't easy.

How long did he-- was he able to keep you fed and keep you clothed and housed from working the pushcart?

Yeah. I'm sure my Aunt Leah must have got us clothes-- got me clothes while I was living--

Yeah.

--there.

Did your mother go to work?

My mother only went to-- did she work for somebody? I don't remember. I was just thinking. I was wondering if she worked for a child-- somebody's house for a while. I'm not sure, I can't say. But then she went to work with him.

Like before.

Steady.

Mm-hmm. So how long did he have this pushcart for?

I don't think too long.

What happened then? Did he find some other business? Did he-- what happened--

--grocery fruit and vegetables.

He got another store?

He got a store.

And where was that located?

Brooklyn.

Do you remember where in Brooklyn?

No.

Mm-hmm. What happened to your parents' families who were left in Poland? What happened to them?

I think they were all extinguished. They were taken to concentration camps and so forth. My father's mother, as I said, came to Austria, which means that my father brought her to Austria. But she had a little apartment. And I'll tell you something funny. She was very religious. And of course, she kept a kosher home.

And my mother used to buy me ham. I was thin at one time. I went back and forth. I was thin at one time. So she knew, and we told her that she gave me ham because it was good for my health and I would gain some weight.

So my grandmother took me for a walk one day and we passed a non-Jewish butcher shop, and they had a picture of a pig in the window. And she says, you see this pig? If you're going to eat ham, that's what's going to become of you.

Oh my goodness.

I'll never forget that, never.

Did you ever--

--believe it. I didn't believe it, no. But I--

Did you stop eating ham?

Hmm?

Did you stop eating ham?

No.

Well, here's a question-- do you still eat ham sometimes?

Hmm? I don't eat ham. I used to eat bacon quite often, but somehow I don't like it that much anymore. But I didn't continue with the ham. Not because of her.

So what happened to her? What happened to your grandma?

She could-- my dad couldn't bring her here. That was the end of her there.

Oh dear.

He could not take her. Tried so hard to get whatever she needed so he could take her.

And no papers, no affidavits, nothing? Did he ever find out what happened to her?

Well, as far as I know-- all he knows is that they did away with her.

OK. But no details of when or how or whether it was in Vienna, whether she was taken away to Auschwitz or something? No?

Not that I know of.

Quite a burden. Quite a burden. Did you-- I'm going to jump forward a little bit.

It's almost--

Your father had told you--

That they were in Buchenwald together.

With his brothers?

With his brothers. And they shot the two of them in front of him.

Oh my goodness. Oh my goodness.

Nice people.

What a heartache for him. What a heartache for everybody.

Yeah. And people had it worse.

OK. So before the break, we were talking about what life was like in those very early months and years when you were together with your parents in Brooklyn, and your father had a pushcart. And you said that they learned English fairly quickly--

And started to even in Austria.

They started to even in Austria. And that you helped the process along because you only spoke English with them.

Right.

And then tell me, how did life progress? How did-- did you start going to school in Brooklyn? Tell me a little bit about that. Did you feel like you blended in right away or did you feel different from the other kids?

I can only tell you what I think. I must have felt a little bit strange. But I don't remember any problems.

Mm-hmm. And what about your parents? Did they ever find it difficult to adjust to this life? Did they talk about that? What kind of conversations did you have at home now when you all were here in the United States?

When I was here and they were there?

No. When you were all together again.

All together? I don't know.

Did they talk much? Yeah. Did they talk much about what was going on in Europe?

I don't think with me.

OK.

I don't know with other people, but they didn't with me.

What about your grandmother? You've said she was left behind no matter what efforts your father made to try to get her out. Did they talk about that? Did they know what had happened to her?

Well, according to what my father said, that she was annihilated.

OK.

I don't know if they took her to concentration camp and it happened there or otherwise, but I think they probably took her to concentration camp.

Do you think he knew the details?

Not really.

OK. Mm-hmm. Did your parents talk much about what their lives were like before in Austria or did they kind of turn that page and not go back there?

Well, I think they talked a little bit about camp. Not too much, I don't think. My mother was living with this group of other women. And how she thought that this official, German official saw to it that my father was let go. But other than that, no.

Did they follow the news of how the war was progressing? Was that--

I think my father would have followed the news.

Mm-hmm. Did you have a radio in Brooklyn at home?

I think so.

OK. And did they read the-- did they read, let's say, the Yiddish newspapers or the English language newspapers?

I don't know. They might have had both papers in the house, but I'm not sure.

Did they start making a circle of friends in Brooklyn? Do you remember more people coming to the house to visit and so on?

In that the autograph book, there's a picture-- and I think he's got a little note in it of a painting that he did. And I know my parents and I used to visit them. Do you know what I'm referring to? Is that the one?

This one? I--

Wanna give it to me?

Well, OK, here's the book. Here's the autograph book. But those look like they're all from before you left Austria.

Yes. This is written the 14th of April, 1939.

Yeah.

And I left June 3. And I think he did this picture.

Who? Who did that picture?

Emile Farkas F-A-R-K-A-S. That's the husband of the couple and the--

Which couple?

The artist.

Uh huh. What he wishes me without any exceptions, that everything reaches me.

This is somebody who signed your autograph book before you left Austria?

Right. And they were friends of my parents.

OK. Did they leave Austria, too?

I don't know what happened to them.

OK. So my first question had been, when your parents are already in Brooklyn and your father is working on his pushcart and you start school, did your parents start making new friends in Brooklyn? Did their circle of people that they knew expand?

I don't think so. I think my father was too tired and weak to do anything much after he got through work.

OK.

And my mother I don't remember.

And was he still suffering from the after effects of Buchenwald?

Well, I think basically his health, so to speak, suffered. Not that he had any diseases god forbid or anything like that. But he just-- weak.

Was he a different-- did he seem a different person to you when you saw him again than how you remembered him when you left?

I didn't think so.

So are there friends of your parents who also succeeded in leaving Austria and coming to the United States?

Well, I think the Burdishes were friends of my parents that were there and then came to the United States.

Did they settle in Brooklyn as well?

Probably. Everybody settled in Brooklyn.

One of the things I'm trying to get a sense is, did you have company come over to your house? Did you have people come over and talk about world events or talk about what's going on in the war or talk about what their lives were like trying to start something new?

For the most part we didn't have company.

OK. OK. What was the atmosphere like, then, at home when you came? You said you were very close when you were in Austria, and I had the feeling that it was a very kind of warm environment. Did that continue here?

Yes.

OK. Did your parents seem content?

I think so. They appreciated being here. They were not the type of people that had to have everything.

Mm-hmm.

They-- I think they thanked God for having been saved.

Yeah. Did they become more religious?

I don't think they became more religious.

OK. Tell me a little bit about your school life. When the war started for the United States in 1941, you were already a 13-year-old girl, so you're entering your teenage years. And so your teenage years are spent during the war, but here in the United States. What were they like?

I was satisfied in school. I don't remember any special things. But I was happy.

Did you did you have a favorite subject?

Not that I know of.

Was there anything particular you wanted to study or be after high school?

Maybe a teacher, but I'm not sure.

OK. Did you--

After the high school, I wanted to get married and have a family. A nice one. Like Dana and my son Mark.

Mm-hmm. And did that happen?

Yes.

When did you meet your husband? How old were you?

How old was I? Probably about 16. But I'm not sure.

How did you meet? We might of-- he might have been a friend of my girlfriend's boyfriend.

Would have this been through school? A girlfriend that you knew through school or through some other way?

I don't think it was from-- through school, but I don't know what other way.

What was your future husband's name?

Murray.

Murray? And his last name?

Feldman.

And was he born in the United States?

Yes.

OK. How much-- when you met, was he older than you?

Yes, he was older than me, but not much if I remember correctly. Wasn't much older than me. He had one brother and two sisters.

And where was he from?

Brooklyn.

Brooklyn?

You don't even have to ask that question.

When you met him-- so if you were 16, he must have been also a teenager. Is that right? How long did you date before you got married?

We got married when I was going on 20.

OK. And so he was in his early 20s. Yeah. What did he do? What was his work?

He was a structural engineer.

So he had gone to college? OK. And where did you first live after getting married?

I think we lived with my parents at first. Yeah. We lived with my parents at first. When he graduated college, he got a job as a structural designer in Allentown, Pennsylvania. So we moved to Allentown, and that's where my son was born, Mark.

And Dana, you were born in Allentown? I don't remember. No, huh?

Mm-hmm. So how many children did you have?

Two.

Two? And your son is mark and your daughter is--

Dana.

Dana. All right. In these years, did you still keep in touch with the Krauses. Or with the Grobsteins or with Mr.--

I always was in touch with the Grobsteins.

OK.



I was in touch with the Krauses. I wouldn't say very long, but I was in touch with them. I have, what, one or two letters from Mr. Kraus that he sent me. Mr. Louis Levine I was not in touch with. it's all I can remember.

Did you talk to your husband about how you came to the United States? Under what circumstances?

Oh, yeah, he knew all that stuff.

And about your father and his incarceration? So after Allentown, where did you live? How did life go for you and your family?

After Allentown. I don't know. Did we move back to Brooklyn? I really don't know. Did--

We liked Allentown.

Mm-hmm.

But where we went after that I don't know. Did I what?

Did you spend most of your married life in Pennsylvania, then? Raising children there or somewhere else?

That's just what I was wondering myself. I think we went back to Brooklyn to-- what was it? Mill Basin. After that, I think we bought a house in Springfield Gardens, Queens.

Hang on, just-- let's cut. So your daughter just said that it was a little different. Where did you first move first and then second?

We moved first--

To?

You said--

Excuse me, cut again.

So tell me, after Allentown, where did you move?

Springfield Gardens.

In Queens? OK. And where was Dana born?

Springfield Gardens.

And then after that?

After that we moved to Mill Basin in Brooklyn, and that's where she spent her teen years, and my son.

OK. So you stayed in Mill Basin for a while?

Yes.

OK. And your husband was always working as an engineer? What about your parents? Did they stay in the same place that they first moved to when they came to Brooklyn?

I think so. I remember them visiting us in Mill Basin. I think they were living in Brooklyn.

And did you say your father eventually gave up the pushcart?

Oh yeah.

So what did he do? He bought another store?

He bought a store.

OK. A grocery store? Did it look very similar to the one that was in Vienna?

I don't--

You don't know? You don't know. Well, can you tell me what it looked like? Do you remember what it was called and where it was located?

I can't tell you anything definite about that.

OK, OK. Did they stay in Brooklyn for the rest of their lives, your parents? OK. And did they ever go back to Europe? And yourself? Never went back? Never went to Austria again? Was there any talk of doing so? Not even for a visit?

OK. Did you ever see the Krauses again?

I don't think so. I may have been in touch-- not close in touch, but--

Mm-hmm.

--far, but I never saw them again.

Mm-hmm. And the Grobsteins, how often did you have contact with them? Would it be a couple of times a year or something or more or less?

The Grobsteins I would see three, four times a year.

And I remember hearing that at some point, there was a reunion of the 50 children.

I don't remember that at all.

You don't remember that at all? No. Did you talk to your children when they were growing up about what your early life was like in Austria and how it is that you left?

I'm sure I must have told them.

Mm-hmm.

As far as living in Austria when Hitler came and coming to the United States, but I didn't carry on about it.

OK. And what about your grandchildren? Did they express interest in and curiosity about your history and your parents' history?

Ashley may have further back. We haven't talked about it recently.

Ashley is your granddaughter? And she is Dana's daughter or--

Dana's daughter.

Dana's daughter. OK. Have you always, then-- outside of Allentown, have you always lived in the New York area? OK. When did you start thinking or remembering more about your journey and this whole organization that resulted in bringing these 50 children here?

Well, it was always in the back of my mind, but what really got me going was the book. Reading the book, I couldn't put it down. It's funny, I knew so much about it, and yet I couldn't put the book down.

Was it the first time you were kind of reading something that said, this has to do with me, this is my life?

Oh, yeah, I knew.

Yeah.

Did you meet the author?

No, I never met the author.

OK. Have you been--

But he's the grandson through marriage of the Krauses.

That's right. That's right. Have you ever met any of the other 50 children again?

I don't remember ever meeting them again.

OK. OK. What would you want younger generations to understand about the kinds of experiences that your father had, that your mother had, and that you had?

I really want them all to be aware. I don't want it to be a closed issue. I think everybody needs to be aware. I think that there are a lot of Jewish people that don't know-- say, the book, 50 children that weren't aware of all this. And I think that children, especially in their teens, should be aware of their history whether they're Jewish or other.

Yeah. Did it shape you? Do you think this had an influence on the kind of person you became?

I don't know. I think mostly. It's genetic.

So not the experiences that you go through, but the sorts of-- the genetic. Yeah.

I think it's mostly genetic.

Yeah. Are there any final words you'd want to add to what we've talked about today?

Well, I would like to say that I appreciate what you do even if I don't remember a lot of things. I think it's very helpful in the world.

Well thank you.

And you, too, Gus. Thank you--

--do your share of the job.

Yes he does, yes he does. Well, in that case, then what I will do is I will say that this concludes the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum interview with Mrs. Ruth Taub Feldman on July 23, 2015 in Commack, New York.

Thank you very, very much.

Thank you.

OK.

You did a good job.

OK, so tell me, what is this?

--an autograph book. In German, it's called a [GERMAN].

Mm-hmm.

It has messages from loved ones wishing you a good life, mainly, and asking to be remembered.

And when did you get this book? Was this before your trip to the United States?

Yes.

OK. And do you have different people sign-- signed your book before you left? OK. I'd like you to read what your mother-- what your mother wrote to you, and you can read it in German.

You don't want to hear the thing my father wrote?

Oh, if he wrote something, yes, I'd like to hear that, too.

In German, it is [GERMAN]

Oh. Can you translate that for us?

Yes. It means that you should bloom on your parents' souls and grow [GERMAN]-- and grow--

Well.

Well successfully thereon. And angels from God should lead your life's train.

OK.

So for remembering on your [GERMAN]. Written on the 26th of June, 1938.

OK.

Now my mother. [GERMAN]

My dear good child, be honest and-- [GERMAN] is not to ask for too much.

Mm-hmm.

Then everyone will-- oh. [INAUDIBLE]. Then many people will be envious, [GERMAN], on you. From your always loving mother, Mutti Before the trip to USA, Vienna, May 21, 1939.

So how does that read in German? Did she write before the trip to the USA or--

Yeah, just before.

OK.

It's the month before. Actually, less than a month. 21st of May.

Uh huh. 1939. Yeah. Are there any other inscriptions that you'd like to share with us from that book?

Well, three angels should follow you on your [GERMAN] trip--

[GERMAN], how does it-- how do you read it-- read it in German?

[GERMAN]

Keep you company during your [GERMAN] time. And these three angels should-- I'm not sure, I think it means-- and these three angels [GERMAN] should--

Why don't we do--

--be called.

Mm-hmm.

Love, luck, and [GERMAN].

Satisfaction.

Right.

Could you read the whole thing in German without translating it into English?

[GERMAN]

From your loving friend, Hilda [? Stright. ?]

Is she the little girl--

--that didn't want to go on the trip.

Oh. Now here, this was written August 14, 1939. In other words, we're already at camp. Darling Ruth, to know you is to love you, may you always be a sweet. With all my love, Tanta Elizabeth.

Is--

It's Sholomville, Collegeville, Pennsylvania.

Is this Mrs. Grobstein?

No. This is Mrs. Kraus.

OK.

The wife of the man that got this going.

Let's read this again and then say, this is from Tanta Elizabeth, this is Mrs. Kraus without any interruption from me.

Darling Ruth, to know you is to love you. May you always be a sweet. With all my love, Tanta Elizabeth. This is the wife of Gilbert Kraus.

So Mrs. Kraus, who accompanied you all the way from Europe to the United States.

To camp.

To camp. That's very lovely. Thank you. Thank you very much.

You're welcome.

OK. So can you tell me what is this newspaper clip what does it show

It shows the little Viennese wanderers arriving in America. I am on this picture in a rose polka-dot coat with a maroon velvet collar.

I see. And are there others-- there are other children in there as well?

Yeah.

Mm-hmm. Where are you? If you could point with your finger. You're way back there.

Yeah.

OK. All right. OK. Can you flip it? And now we'll see-- OK, and tell me what is this--

This picture shows the children on the stoop of the camp in Collegeville, Pennsylvania.

Thank you.

Mm-hmm.

What is it mean again?

German empire.

Empire. Right.

[INAUDIBLE]

[INAUDIBLE].

Could you hold it like this? OK.

OK.

Are we ready?

I'm shooting.

You're shooting? OK. Could you tell me what this is?

This is the passport of the German empire.

So this is the Nazi passport, then?

The Nazi passport.

OK. From Nazi Germany at any rate. Can you show me the inside pages? With your photo?

--want this, too?

With your photo.

[INAUDIBLE]

[INAUDIBLE]. The page that has your photo on it is the one that we're thinking of.

Oh, you don't care what it says here?

Both of them. Both sides will be fine. Mm-hmm.

Can I see it

OK. So describe, then, what is that inside page?

The inside page says my profession is student.

OK.

And it gives the color of my eyes and my hair, et cetera.

And it also says that you are stateless--

Stateless, right.

OK. And that's you at age 10?

That's me at age 10 and 1/2.

OK. Thank you.