

Harry Rosenfeld

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Abstract

Harry Rosenfeld was born as Hirsch Moritz Rosenfeld on August 12, 1929 in Berlin, Germany. The family moved from the western part of the city to the central part in '36 after Jewish businesses were boycotted by the Nazis. He had a sister, Reisi, eight and one-half years older. His father was born in Poland and left with his wife and daughter to become a furrier in Germany. The family lived in a large apartment behind the business which was on the first floor of an apartment house. The father had a second store. Later they permitted strangers in transit to stay the night in their apartment. When Hitler became Chancellor in 1934, his parents applied to the US Embassy to emigrate which took until 1939 to get a quota number. Harry's father was distant to him but Harry respected him. The Jewish community opened an entertainment venue for Jews which the Germans encouraged. They were kicked out of public school in '37 which was later than for others as they were considered Polish and the restrictive laws were not as strict for foreign Jews. They immediately went to the annex of the Jewish Community Center where school was set up. The family took asylum at the Polish Embassy during Kristallnacht and were surprised to find their store untouched as they had closed the shutter over the glass which indicated they were Jewish. Harry tells of some anti-Semitism incidents such as being thrown out of a playroom that the Nazis opened nearby, seeing posters and seeing a man returning from a concentration camp who soon dies. He attended religious services on the High Holidays with his father but they kept a Christmas tree. His father was deported on October 28, 1938, a month before Kristallnacht. Harry's mother and the children family took asylum at the Polish Embassy during Kristallnacht and were surprised to find their store untouched as they had closed the shutter over the glass which indicated they were Jewish. His father was deported by train to Warsaw where he remained until the quota number came through for him. While awaiting their number, they used their money to buy items which they shipped to the US as could not take their money with them. When they obtained the number, they took a ship to England and stayed with relatives for about 5 weeks and in May '39 took the SS Aquitania to NY. They settled in the Bronx where his father opened a business and Harry graduated from high school with the help of his teachers. Harry graduated from Syracuse University and NYU, served in the Army during Korea and had a successful career at the Herald Tribune where he was promoted to Managing Editor. The boy who had been twinned with Harry's best friend at his Bar Mitzvah attended Harry's talk about his book,

Summary

00:00 Harry Rosenfeld was born August 12, 1929 in Berlin, Germany when they were living at Motz Strasse 23 in the western part of the city. The birth was not at home and was

assisted by a doctor, a midwife and friends. Later people came up to him and told him they had helped in the delivery. The family moved in '36 when Jewish businesses were boycotted by the Nazis. His father had two stores and had to retrench. They moved to 56 Ansbacher Strasse in Battenberg (?). Harry was born as Hirsch Moritz Rosenfeld but his father was told it was too long so registered him as Hirsch (Harry) Rosenfeld. He grew up as Harry and no one was shocked by it. Hirsch is on his documents but was not known as Hirsch. He has an older sister who was eight and one-half years older and recently passed away at age 94. She was born Rosa and known as Reisi and in America was called Ray as they thought Reisi was not American. She hated the name, "Ray" and in her mature years, took the name, "Rachel." Their mother was Esther Lasisi (?) Sherman who was born in Warsaw.

05:00 Rosenfeld is Rozenfeld in Polish. Their father was Szmala Rozenfeld who was also born in Warsaw and was known as Solomon. Later he was called Sollie and in America was called Sam. His tombstone indicates Sam Rosenfeld. Poland was not the land of opportunity for Jews and Harry's father came from an impoverished large family. He left school early, sometime between five and nine years old and became an apprentice to a tailor. He became a furrier and worked for his brother's furrier business but they did not get along. He thought Germany would be more of a land of opportunity for Jews. His friends, also 19 years old, were doing the same thing. When Germany occupied Warsaw, conditions improved as compared to when Russia was the occupier. His father put himself in a barrel to smuggle himself to Germany and rolled down a hill but it stopped and he had to return to his family. In 1917 he was a furrier in the Army and was recruited by a high fashion house in Berlin as a furrier. He accepted it and was successful and the next year returned to Warsaw and got married. In 1919 his wife's papers cleared and she joined him in Germany. He had his own business and was a good craftsman. He became certified as a Master Craftsman. His degree hangs in the den of Harry's older daughter. Harry's parents lived well and attended concerts. Even when the Nazis were in power, his father dressed in white tie and tails and went out with Harry's mother.

10:00 When Harry's father lived in a two-room hovel, he had suits made-to-order by a fine custom tailor as he had aspirations. A photo of the father as a young man shows him well-dressed. Harry's mother came from a bourgeois family as her father was in real estate. Neither Harry nor his sister knew how they met as the parents were tight-lipped about it. His father hardly spoke to him about anything. His mother told him stories about her father—some were less impressive than others. One story that was less impressive was about when he bought a decommissioned Roman Catholic Church, there was a great outcry that a Jew bought a church. He tried to get rid of it and converted the purchase into a charitable contribution to the community. He was so clever! Harry heard the story when he was about five or seven. His sister, being older, knew more as associated more with the Polish relatives that she visited on her own and, also, the mother

spoke more to her than to Harry. Harry's father left school at nine and his mother completed Gymnasium. A photo of the maternal grandmother shows her in high fashion whereas the paternal grandmother wore a sheitel, a black dress and a frown upon her face.

15:00 Rudel was the family name and they owned an inn in Praga, an eastern suburb of Warsaw. Now Harry realizes that he should have asked how his parents met but he was concerned with other matters. Praga was where the uprising was staged near the Russian border. At least once he visited his Polish relatives. His paternal grandmother had already died but he saw his paternal grandfather. His maternal grandparents had died in the 20s so he didn't know them. He recalls playing with his Polish cousin in a derelict junkyard and had a great time though he spoke German and the cousin spoke Polish. They probably communicated via Yiddish which is similar to German. When he was young, Harry visited his mother's sisters. German was spoken at home though the parents spoke Polish if they did not want him to understand or spoke Russian if they did not want his sister to understand. When Harry's wife Annie wanted to keep secrets from their daughters, they spoke German. The girls said they spoke the crucial words in English as they did not remember much German by then. Harry remembers when he lived in Motz Strasse and sat in a high chair next to an open window and threw things out the window. He had a canary, "Hansie," who died so is reluctant to have pets. When Harry was seven in 1936, they moved to Ansbacher Strasse. His sister took him out for the day during the move and then walked him to the new apartment.

20:00 It was in a high tone part of the town, near Vittenberger Platz and major streets intersected nearby. There was a famous hotel and the Tier garden nearby and on the left side was the Vallen Strasse Temple where he went to school and synagogue. Harry's father had a store on the street level, "Peltzhaus Rosenfeld (House of Rosenfeld's Furs)" and another store on Ansbacher Strasse. The store's sign indicated fur with a big display window and glass fronted door and salon. It was very elegant with crystal chandeliers, wall-to-wall mirrors, very tony. It was the downscale version of the opulent quarters his father gave up. They lived behind the salon. It was a big shop with four or five people working and an apartment behind it on the ground level. The house was built around a courtyard with windows on the courtyard. The entrance and the door had metal plate inside and was bolted. When Harry went to Belgrade, he saw a façade of a building similar to those in Berlin with concrete or cement in molded blocks one on top of the other. A physician had a practice and maybe living quarters there, too. On the block was a bier garden with an outdoor setting. His apartment building had five or six stories. Later the apartment building was in the center of West Berlin.

25:00 Before the war it was one of the centers. Charlottenburg was in the center. His father took him to the Tier garden zoo which was a couple of blocks away. After they left their high fashion home, his father went into business for himself. He opened one business

and when it flourished, he opened a second store. His mother helped out as a saleslady. The depression severely impacted the business and they almost went bankrupt. They slowly recovered with the help of Mrs. Isenberg whose husband was in musical circles and she had friends in upper scale society. She took a bundle of furs to friends and told them that Herr Rosenfeld is a great furrier and he was able to rebuild the business. He was able to pay all his bills so did not have to file for a formal bankruptcy. He moved to Alter Strasse and had a smaller business and hired employees and they were able to live a bourgeois life. Their furniture was made of mahogany and ebony. The bedroom, living room and dining room were extremely elegant. It was a big apartment with his own room, a room for the sister, a room for the parents, a room for the maid, a big kitchen where they cooked with coal briquettes and also used it to warm the rooms. The stove had concentric rings in diminished sizes which were used depending on the size of pot. There was also a tiled coal oven in the corner which went up to the ceiling. They shoveled in coal and got heat. The apartment had high ceilings. Later strangers who were in transit came, spent a night or two, and left. It was like an underground railroad.

30:00 The strangers slept on a couch. There was one incident with the clientele in the store when his father was deported to Poland and his mother was running the store. It was not opened after Kristallnacht and gentiles came in through the back door. It was hazardous to patronize a Jewish store. They had workers and did a good business. His mother bought furs from other furriers who had bad problems. Harry would accompany his mother on deliveries of fur coats. One day it was to a woman who wore a flimsy nightgown and he averted his eyes. She was the mistress of a high German general. The clientele were probably German at that time. His father designed coats and was a man of few words. He was a hard worker, skilled, upright and a well-dressed gentleman. His parents would take the waters in Carlsbad. There was a photo of them walking with a glass in their hands and his father had a cane and wore knickers. They led a good life. When Hitler came, his father wanted to go to America as he had a sister and brother there but his mother did not want to leave the good life in Berlin. Friends from Poland came to Berlin and went on to America and his father wanted to join them.

35:00 Instead, he bought a plot of land outside Berlin to build a summer home. Hitler became Chancellor and his parents applied to the US Embassy to emigrate in 1934. It took until 1939 to get a quota number. Harry's father was distant to him but he respected him and had warmth for him though there was little personal relationship. They did not play games together. His father took him to the circus once. They were hard times as his family was not permitted to patronize the movies. The Jewish community opened an entertainment venue for Jews by Jews. The actors, musicians and audience were all Jews. The Germans did not discourage it but encouraged it. The SS in black uniforms with a small dagger on their hip walked through and spoke friendly openly. When they were kicked out of public school in '37 which was later than for others. He was Polish

and the restrictive laws were not as strict for foreign Jews as for German Jews. He was born in Berlin but had Polish citizenship. The Germans did not give out citizenship to other people. Citizenship came from blood and land. Perhaps his parents were not discouraged as were not interested in obtaining German citizenship. His parents came to the US as Polish citizens.

- 40:00 His father took care of business. He got it done. He did not put it off. He took care of his clothes and his family. They learned from his as he was an example of his behavior. His mother had a different personality. She was outgoing, determined, short as under 5 feet but said, "five feet." She was a person of great faith, will power and fearless which he remembers vividly. On Kristallnacht they were returning from the Polish Embassy where they sought safety as were alerted by a friend and were on their way home. They were assured by the Polish authority that it was safe to return to the streets that were lit by destroyed Jewish businesses and homes and he realized what had occurred while they had asylum on the Embassy grounds. His mother said that she hoped all their belongings are smashed and that all her bourgeois attachments disappeared and they were living in a different world. Actually, neither their apartment nor their store was touched. He was close to his sister and she said to her dying day that he was her first baby. She was the mother of four and grandmother of 11 and had a great-grandson of 12 or 13. They were kindred spirits. When she got married soon after his Bar Mitzvah, his life with his sister changed. She left the house to go off on her own. He was happy for her and liked his brother-in-law. He cried because of the change and the change was forever in their lives.
- 45:00 As grownups, they talked about Poland. She took him to school and picked him up and after school took him to a restaurant to get a slice of cake. She raised him as his mother was busy in the store. They went to Folkshule which was within walking distance and they were not hassled. Anti-Semitism was part of the air. He knew vaguely what was going on. Nazis were part of the atmosphere. The citizens were programmed to overlook it. He adjusted to it and was not scarred by it. At his Folkshule, he was excused from religious instruction. Harry was the only Jewish child in the class. He did not attend Christian instruction. He went to school five and one-half days as they had one-half day on Saturday. Harry began writing on a tablet attached to the carrying case for books and papers. He wrote on it and wiped it off. His report card was pretty good. In 1937 he was kicked out of school and all of a sudden went to the annex of the Jewish Community Center where school was set up. It was one of many in Berlin. His grades went down and he does not know why. Perhaps it was due to the upsetting times. He had attentive teachers including Frau Hirsch. Many incidents happened on his block. The Nazis opened a playroom in an empty store. He went with his friends and a young lady told him to leave so he did as thought it was religious instruction. When he went back, the lady told him never to return.

- 50:00 His German friend had a teenage friend who had a collection of pornography which he showed them. Later he was in the teenager's house and saw him and his mother packing quickly to flee the gestapo. The mother gave each of them 50 pfennigs and he never saw them again. He played with gentiles when he was little and they knew he was Jewish. His best friend in Hanchen (?) was Catholic who lived across the street and he was in their house many times. Another family in their apartment house was a Black-American physician and the wife was a white German so the children had mixed blood. The son was older, handsome and tall for his age and there was a younger sister. Harry was playing doctor with the janitor's two daughters and was caught by a lady who made an outcry. Later he played with one of them and the mother said, "Yiddisher streinery-Jeb filthoners" (that he was the Jewish instigator of filthy actions). It is hard for Harry to recall isolated anti-Semitic incidents.
- 55:00 His apartment was near the barracks which frequently had a small parade of soldiers with drum and fife which the people watched. A soldier in uniform who used to work for his father was with a lady friend and saw Harry and introduced him to the girl friend and they chattered. Arnold Finkler came past in a motorcade and Harry climbed a tree to see him. He came by fast in an open car. During the '36 Olympics Harry and his friends would collect autographs of foreign visitors and made a catalog of auto licenses. He did not attend the Olympics. Harry lived in the heart of the town and saw people on Vindenberg (?) Plotz and ask for their signatures. With his friends he would follow zeppelins by running for blocks to see them. His parents were not religious. His father came from a religious home. He attended services on the High Holidays and take Harry. They conducted Seders but did not keep the Sabbath. His father would put on his tallis and his Homburg and read in Hebrew. His sister giggled and his father was stern. They loved a Christmas tree. The gentile maid was in her middle 40s as otherwise would not be allowed to work for them. They got a tree for her so she could have one. You had to shine your shoes so St. Nick would visit, and, according to the shine would reciprocate. He has a photo of himself at the Millers Chanukah party whose children were Edith and Benji. Harry is shown in short pants and long hair. Edith was tall. A man entered the party with a Santa hat with toys for Chanukah. This shows how the Jews coped. They had a record collection. One titled in Yiddish was, "Ich Vill Nicht Gain to Chedar" (I refuse to go to Hebrew School). His parents did not have a car.
- 60:00 They may have had a radio. Harry does not recall seeing newspapers at home when he was young. He does not know how he learned about world news. His parents traveled to England and France and once went to Warsaw. He was a sickly child and was sent to camps in the Hartz (?) Mountains but that did not help. He was skinny and his parents were worried. His mother went to a Jewish Country Club in Berlin. One Sunday he was playing where boats were moored and he did not know how to swim and fell into the lake. He struggled and a man yanked him out. He saved his life and went to Harry's

father's store. He said that caused him medical bills and they paid him. Harry shook his hand and clicked his heels as Germans are expected to do. Afterwards his mother would disappear in the afternoon with a long narrow package. She went to a church to light candles as he nearly drowned. Germans killing Jews was never in his mind until an event with Gustav Steiner who boarded with a friend in Berlin.

65:00 The Jewish friend lived with a Jewish family and they played in the house. One day the lady of the house said to be quiet as the patient was being returned from a concentration camp. He stayed with Gustav at the end of the long hallway and they saw an old man bent over and pale being carried by two men. He died soon after. The Germans were releasing Jews from concentration camps either because they were dying or they had a visa to emigrate as Germany wanted to get rid of its Jews. Harry would walk with his sister and her friend past the barracks and the young men would whistle at the girls. They were hanging out the windows and it scared Harry but the girls were happy. There were many occasions when he was young and scared by the Germans. He does not remember being exposed to a radio or a newspaper. He was exposed to stereotyping as he knew that he was inferior but had to show that he was not inferior as he did not have rights. He had a loving family and saw what was happening outside – the billboards, the Anschluss. When he was ill, a man said he was like a Czech and he understood what was happening in Czechoslovakia. Harry does not know how he knew about things but they were all over Berlin so it was no mystery. His father was deported on October 28, 1938, a month before Kristallnacht. It happened in the middle of the night with a knock on the door and two plain-closed Gestapo came to arrest his father. They were polite but could not tell them why. His father dressed with long underwear and Harry was in his pajamas.

70:00 They did not know if it was due to disgruntled customers. Jews were being arrested in Germany all the time. His father was taken to the station and Harry and his sister were hysterical with fear. His mother said to the sister, "Go to the police station and see what you can find out." His sister was 16 or 17 and could not find her father and asked the policeman and he replied that he could not tell him but she should pack him a suitcase with a change of clothes. They put in his favorite slippers and a friend suggested they pack a loaf of bread. The sister raced back to the police station and saw her father in the back of a truck with many unfamiliar men. She handed the valise to him. (Harry is crying.). For three days they had no idea what happened to him. On the third day, the father called from Warsaw from the mother's oldest sister's apartment that he was safe. Polish people were permitted to cross the frontier. The trains were full of Polish citizens. Trainloads of Jews later, the poles did not accept their own citizens and discharged them on no-man's-land on the border and they suffered. His father looked for his slippers when he was cramped in the car. He saw the belt of a German soldier emblazoned with "Gott mit uss" (G-d is with us). He thought his shoes were hurting so opened the valise and saw the bread and fed himself and others for the three-day journey as given no food.

- 75:00 He remained in Warsaw until the quota number came through for him and the German authorities permitted him to return to accompany his family to the US as they wanted to get rid of the Jews. The papers indicated that his father was a decent citizen, with no criminal record and paid his taxes. Harry's mother sold the store and the furniture. A young German couple looked at the furniture which they normally could not afford. From '34 to '39 when the family traveled abroad, his mother and sister would take extra fur garments to sell and deposited the money in English banks. When they went to America, the father had sufficient money to buy a business. They had thousands of dollars which the American relatives after the Depression did not have. They got their quota number in March '39 and left the next month. His sister remembers when they closed the store and rented a room in an apartment building across the street. They could view people from the neighborhood try to pick things over but they only left old hangers. Their landlady went to Australia in '56. His father returned from Poland feeling depressed. He would sit silent at the window.
- 80:00 The landlady was a widow and had a 20-year-old son, a musician and wanted him to marry Harry's sister so he could go to America. He could not get the paper work quick enough so it was impossible. After Harry's father was deported, they constantly went to the Embassy so see where they stood. His sister usually went as she learned English in Gymnasium where she was forced to leave. She also spoke French. Before they closed the apartment, they shipped a duffle bag of possessions including feather beds, Dresden China and a bathrobe as they could not take money. His sister had to go to the railroad and deal with the SS to ship it to the uncle in the US. Everything arrived. When his mother unpacked, the US relatives were amazed to see the crystal so she gave it to them as they little. Reisi did the heavy lifting. The family owned the store and apartment and shut down the business. The German customers came to the back door from the time of Kristallnacht until they left. It was the only business in the neighborhood that was not vandalized.
- 85:00 His sister thought it might have been because the neighbors liked them. They had shutters that came down at night. Jewish stores had to have the proprietor's name in white on the front of the store so Germans could see they were Jewish and not patronize it. Their shutter covered it up. Goebbels said to leave foreign Jews alone but a Polish Jew was the first to be killed. They never raised the shutters after Kristallnacht. After they sold the store and apartment, they rented rooms. His sister thought the neighbors were trying to scavage the store and apartment but there was nothing left to take. Harry does not remember seeing physical changes in his father but he was moody as just sat and did nothing during the short time before sailing. They went to the American Embassy to get papers and he was upset as his cheeks looked swollen like a toothache or after a tooth pulling but there was no problem.

- 90:00 They saw the American Consul at his desk with a long line of people waiting to see him. He looked arrogant with his feet on his desk but all went smoothly. When Harry's father was deported, his mother went to the American authorities and thought she and the children should go to Warsaw and await the papers there. The Consul said that would be too dangerous and his mother listened and agreed to remain which saved their lives. They took a train to the port and stayed at a hotel. They purchased delicatessen and ate in on a park bench near the boat to England. A German official checking Harry asked him if he was glad to leave and his father would not let him respond. He felt like saying, "Can't wait to leave" but his father shushed him. They were all seasick except for him as they crossed the North Sea. There were about 10 or 20 passengers on their small boat. They arrived in Hull (?), England where they saw the mother's aunt and family. They remained four or five weeks in England. They heard Hitler's famous speech on the radio where he said, "If there is a war, the Jews will be wiped out." That made his sister desire to change departure and leave earlier for the US. They left early May '39.
- 95:00 The night before they left, they were assigned to a hotel near the ship. It had rough sheets and Harry broke out with a rash all over. They were worried that he would not be allowed to emigrate and they decided his mother would remain with him. In the morning the rash disappeared and they sailed on the SS Aquitania. They had second class cabins and ate in the Kosher Dining Room although they were not kosher at home. There were many Jews on board. In school, they had talked about where each family was going. The teacher said that Siam was giving out visas. His wife said that earlier relatives from Poland went to Portugal, others to Palestine, those from Berlin went to Paris and barely escaped with their lives and some went to China on their way to the US. Harry does not recall saying good-bye to anyone as most of his friends were gone. He probably said good-bye to Gustave but Harry's sister did not remember him. Harry forgot about him and in Albany in 2005 he got a call asking if he knew Gustave Lowenstein. The man had a letter from Harry to Gustave's parents saying he went with his parents to New York and has no one left to play with. Gustave lived with his father. Harry remembered the friend but not his name but after he was described as apple-cheek boy, he realized it was his friend.
- 100:00 Both Gustave and his friend died and Harry was grief-stricken. The relative sent Harry a picture of Gustave and a copy of his last Reich pass   with the "J" stamped on it. He was deported to Estonia and killed. His two aunts from Germany were deported to death camps in Poland. This was a horrible wound to Harry. He vowed that he would never forget his friend's name again. He says it every Yom Kippur during Yiskor. This story with the Reich pass   went on the front page of the Sunday Times and got a response from the Roman Catholic Bishop of the Albany Diocese. He sent copies to the relative who shared it with Harry. Later, Harry got another call from Gustave's uncle whose son, Simon, was to be Bar Mitzvah in Tulsa, Oklahoma at a Conservative Synagogue as a

twinning event. Simon and Gustave were cousins. The Bar Mitzvah was to be twinned with Gustave as he was killed in the Holocaust and could not have been Bar Mitzvah.

105:00. Harry told the uncle all he remembered about Gustave and wished him well. Another relative said they have a problem as Gustave's mother was not Jewish so he was not Jewish so he could not be twinned with Simon. The Germans considered Gustave Jewish as he lived as a Jew and died as a Jew and he had the Bar Mitzvah in Tulsa. Years later, Harry wrote his book and the University of Tennessee asked him to speak to 60 people at a book signing. The first person was Simon Lowenstein who had moved to Nashville, Tennessee. Simon had read about the book and came with his mother. He said that he was moved to be twinned with his cousin and he wanted to meet Harry. Harry said his father wanted to go to the US but his mother did not, even during Nazi era. His parents would dress up and go out and enjoy life. Harry's Uncle Felix Rosenfeld and his family remained in Poland though some immigrated on their own.

110:00 His mother's side was Kirschenbaum and Brownvella was the father's younger sister who did not survive. His father got one or two postcards during the war with simple messages from Germany with swastikas. Felix' daughter died in the Warsaw Ghetto uprising when they held out for one month. He never heard from them so presumed they did not get out alive. Harry enjoyed crossing the Atlantic as he ran all over the ship. Everyone had a good time except his father who was seasick and lay miserable on a chaise. They came into the New York harbor and everyone stood up to see the Statue of Liberty as they knew what it stood for. There was no Ellis Island by then. At dockside, the immigration official came aboard and issued identity cards and they pulled up to the Cunard Pier and looked down to see Uncle Willy and Frieda. They got into taxis to Uncle Willy's apartment in the Bronx. They stayed there a week or two and Harry's father went out on his own and rented an apartment two or three blocks east on 189th Street and lived there until they moved. They lived on Kingsbury Road in a walkup on the second floor with three bedrooms in a shabby building. His father tried to work.

115:00 Uncle Willy worked downtown in wholesale which Harry's father disliked. He used his capital to open a store west of the Grand Concourse on the same block as Alexander's Department Store. The father's store was small and they made a living as it paid for their living expenses, Harry's college tuition, his sister's wedding and lived in sufficient economic dignity. His father did not know English but all the customers were Jewish. His father did not like Germans. He was an East European Jew and spoke Yiddish but Harry spoke English. The parents spoke a form of English. His sister knew English and helped in the store. Harry came to the US at age nine so had no accent but his sister always had an accent. His sister walked him to school. Harry was 10 and started school in September and had acquired English in the streets by then. He lined up with his class, 2B and was the tallest which never happened again. He was the only refugee in P.S. 115, Elizabeth Barrett Browning which was one block from home. He wasn't just left at

school but was watched. The teachers were not Jewish but they were caring and advanced him as his fluency increased. He was about a year older than his peers when he graduated high school. He caught up at the end because of the quality and integrity of his teachers as there was no special curriculum for immigrants. He became a member of the Safety Patrol. The school was so large that it took up an entire city block. It was at Valentine and Ryer Avenues with patrols on each side. He wore a plastic brown belt and prevented children from crossing the street. He was the Commander of the Valentine Squad—America was the land of opportunity.

120:00 Harry's father came out of his mood when they reached England. His father purchased something and he could not remember what it was. His father regained his former self once he left Germany. Harry's parents never returned to Germany. Harry decided never to return but his sister decided to return. When Harry was in the foreign news business, he visited Germany twice on business. Once was in '64 and once after the '67 war. He was a foreign editor. Both times he visited different areas in Germany and Berlin. When Anne went with him, they spent time in Bonn, the capital, and went to the wall and East Berlin where they saw the Soviet Cemetery and where the wall ended. They met Adenauer and Gerhard Schroeder, the Foreign Minister and Don Cook in Berlin. They stayed at the Hotel Kapinsky. The Temple across the street was the Jewish Community Center. A bit of wall remained. They looked for their house at 56 Ansbacher but there was just a hole in the ground so it might have been bombed. His sister disagreed.

125:00 All the counterparts are aware of his story. They acknowledged it and did not discuss it. One night when he was in Berlin was Annie, they did not want dinner and asked the taxi to take them to a simple place. He took them to a Bierstube (Beer Restaurant) and had German dele which they enjoyed. In back of the room was a bunch of men singing which reminded them of Nazi singing so they got up and left. When Harry thinks of Germany and Germans he is sensible and does not hold people accountable who are not accountable. He did not partake of the German programs which bring back Jews and show them hospitality. It is not for him but his sister accepted it and saw friends from her Gymnasium. Harry did not think of Goebbels's propaganda and Der Stamma newspaper affects when he was a child or when he was building his career. When he retired, he wrote his memoirs and looked back at how things were and his situation. It is hard for him to put himself back but things became clear. The quality of his childhood affected the person he became. He did not read newspapers nor was aware of the radio but was aware of being Jewish from the environment that he grew up. In America, a Jew-hating environment was absent as the government did not push it. There were just some Irish kids who called you names. Earlier there was anti-Semitism but you could fight to overcome it if you do not become "professional Jews" who are always feeling affected.

130:00 Looking back gave him the idea to become a Journalist to live a meaningful life. He decided upon this occupation before fully understanding what the Germans did. He

decided what is important in journalism and what is not. The function of the press in America is to validate the government structure. Without a free press, we cannot have a flourishing Democracy. He wanted to be a Journalist with validity and creditability. He would find out what was going on before he wrote about it. He would give accurate information and the public could take the next steps to result in political action or remedy. He does not expect the average person to buy stock after reading a story but can evaluate the report and take action. People make changes from the information provided by the media. He needs to be independent.

135:00 The German press was licensed and controlled by the government. Egypt could not have a Democracy until it got a free press. Harry attended Stuyvesant High School in Manhattan which was a premier high school in the US at the time. They would have a newspaper delivered to their homeroom every day. Most requested the New York Times but he asked for the Herald-Tribune. He graduated high school in January 1948 and looked for a job as he would not start college until September 1948. He knew how to get to the Herald Tribune office by bus and applied for a job as a copy boy. There were no vacancies so he took a clerk position in the syndicate section and learned about the newspaper and made friends. After six or eight months, he left for Syracuse University. He had gone to the Bainbridge Library and looked through the Compendium of Colleges and chose between Syracuse and Northeastern which had a five-year study-work and program and picked Syracuse. He invited a boyhood friend to attend and be his roommate. Harry did not like the quality of the journalism instructors so changed to American Studies which combined literature and political science. He worked the summer at the Herald Tribune and delivered the newspaper on the campus to compete with the New York Times.

140:00 After graduation, the Korean War broke out. He was covering a conference in '48 which predicted the war would break out two years later and it did. Annie came to his graduation. Then Harry worked for the Editorial Service at the Herald Tribune. The Army sent him a draft notice and he married Annie who he had known for five years. Five weeks after the wedding, Harry was shipped to Korea. He attended Clerk-Typist school and passed the test. He had been shipped out of Ft. Dix. Harry was placed in the military history section. He was annoyed with typing but he worked for Haskell who had been at West Point and encouraged him and permitted him to write reports. He became a full military history reporter and sent to the Pentagon. The war was over and he received an early discharge to attend graduate school. He was discharged three months early and attended NYU. He was discharged as a Corporal and received a battle star for being in a war zone and a commendation medal for doing a good job. He attended NYU to fulfill his obligation to the Army and worked for the Herald Tribune cutting stencils.

145:00 Harry volunteered for other duties and was permitted to edit copy for the London Observer. The Observer had a terrific foreign staff including spies. He Americanized

their English and removed tautologies. As a volunteer, he was exposed to editing. There was an opening on the New Service Desk to prepare copy for teletypers. It was the lowest job as a temporary hirer for 18 months but he was a skilled editor and got promoted. He wanted to leave due to a disagreeable boss but he did not get a better offer so remained. A new boss was hired and Harry became Managing Editor of the Herald Tribune News Service. It did not compete with others but covered everything. It did feature articles, investigative articles and other different type articles. He had to convert it into a news service and they became known for their value.

148:00