

This is a United States Holocaust Memorial Museum interview with Mrs. Susi Frank Annes on October 4, 2015 in Palm Beach, Florida. Thank you very, very much, Susi Annes, for agreeing to speak with us today. We much appreciate your willingness to share your story.

My pleasure.

OK, I'm going to start with the very simplest and most basic of questions. And from there, we'll develop, and we'll talk about what your life was. And I'll speak louder. All right, so tell me, what is the date of your birth?

The date of my birth is January 18, 1928.

And what was your name at birth?

Susi Marian Frank.

Susi Marian Frank. And where were you born?

In Cologne, Germany in a suburb called Ehrenfeld.

Ehrenfeld, OK. Do you have brothers and sisters?

I do. I have one sister. Her name was Rita Ina Frank.

OK. And was she younger or older than you?

She was three years my senior.

OK. So she had been born in 1925.

'24.

Oh, '24. OK. So you were two girls in the family?

Yes.

All right. Tell me a little bit about your parents. We'll start with their names. What was your mother's name?

My mother's name was Caroline Rosenstamm Frank. My father was Edgar Frank.

And were they from Cologne originally?

My mother was from the Cologne area. My father was from Hildesheim--

It's not so far.

--Germany, not Cologne, not anywhere near Cologne.

So tell me then, where is Hildesheim? Do you know?

Hildesheim is a small town near Hanover.

Oh, yeah. OK. And your parents come from families that were all originally from Germany?

Yes. Everybody was from Germany.

OK. And did you know about your grandparents, and your great grandparents, and what the families were? Do you have--

Unfortunately, my maternal grandfather passed away the year that I was born, just before I was born. I did not know my grandmother. She passed away a year and a half later, so I have no recollection.

However, my paternal grandfather had been deceased. But my grandmother was-- I was involved with her in my childhood. And later on in life, she came to the United States and lived with us.

So did your mother have any siblings, or was she the only child?

No, my mother had a brother. His name was Manfred Rosenstamm.

OK. And did you know them?

Oh, very well.

OK. So you had an extended family then-- maybe not a complete, but you had a--

Absolutely.

And from your father's side, did he have brothers and sisters?

He certainly did. He had two sisters. One was Greta Frank Spiegel. One was-- got to think a minute. He had a brother by the name-- oh, got to think-- Alfred Frank. And he had another sister by the name of-- oh, can't think of her first name. Got to think. Irma--

Irma.

--Frank Wolf.

OK. Did they all live in the Cologne area?

The two sisters lived in the Cologne area, yes. The brother lived in Hildesheim.

OK. And your grandmother on your father's side-- where did she live?

In Hildesheim.

All right. Did you have any relatives who lived abroad, any family members who had emigrated before the war or after World War I or before to either the United States or to other parts of the world?

Yes. My father's sister and brother-in-law immigrated first to Belgium in 1937 and then went on to South Africa where they had children. They had two boys. But they went to Mozambique, because they couldn't get in to Johannesburg.

I see.

Johannesburg quota was closed, so they went to Mozambique.

Oh, my goodness.

Eventually, they got into Johannesburg after the war.

OK. But nobody from the family movement, let's say prior to World War I-- some people had, for example, relatives in the United States who had emigrated for not political reasons, let's say there economic reasons, or they just wanted to leave Europe in the early part of the century. Did you have any relatives like that?

Yes. I found out lately going through my father's papers that the gentleman who sponsored us was a second cousin of my mother's who was born in Germany-- of German parents, obviously-- who decided to emigrate to the United States in the very late '80s. He was six years old. Must have been 1889, or something to that effect. Yes, those were the only people that she had or she knew.

OK. So otherwise, the family really is German for many generations.

They were.

Sorry, Ina. There's something-- your microphone keeps-- I think there was a scarf--

It's a scarf?

--rubbing against over there.

All right, so I'm taking it off. I'm taking the scarf off.

Should we cut, or do you--

You're not cutting?

No.

Oh, yes.

OK. Sorry about that. It's B.

Sorry about that. So do you have any earliest memories from Cologne from your childhood?

Oh, I certainly do.

So could you share some?

I had a wonderful childhood. I was raised-- my mother was a businesswoman, who had to take-- very unusual for a German so-called lady at the time. Her parents had, unfortunately, passed away and left a substantial business.

And she decided to take over because her brother, who was still very young, was not so inclined. And my father became involved in the business. And after she lost both parents, I have papers showing that he became the sole director of the business.

Really?

So the business was in my father's name.

OK.

But it continued under the original name of which I have the original papers--

Oh, my goodness.

--when-- it was just given to me in Germany--

OK.

--of when the business was created.

So tell me, what was this business, and what was it called?

Well, it's a very unusual name.

OK.

Would you like it in German or--

Yes. Both.

OK.

First German.

It's [GERMAN]. It's all one word.

Oh, my god.

And it has to do with anything pertaining to butchers, supplies, including major machinery such is coolers and major machinery to grind meat and make sausages, and major things.

So this would have been-- in those days, it's interesting to think. Butchers still-- you have in your mind that they are small neighborhood businesses. And what kind of machinery would they be ordering from someone?

Oh, they had-- I remember as a child overwhelming machines where they would grind meat. And they had saws to saw the bones and all kinds of major things. But a good part of the business was refrigeration, which was very new.

Yes.

And they would build walk-in major refrigerators for--

Refrigerators. Now, had your grandfather that is on your mother's side started the business?

Yes, he did.

Wow.

I have pictures of the day that the business was created.

Now, was there a physical plant? Or was it that he was a supplier from manufacturers of different equipment?

It was both. The physical store was good size-- I would say, oh, a quarter of a block. It was pretty large. And it had a showroom with major machineries, small article-- knives, and saws, and forks, and all kinds of things that butchers would use.

And then we had a warehouse in back of the store where they had the major machinery so that people could see what it was like. But they could buy the smaller items. But all the larger items had to be-- those were sample machineries.

So they had to be ordered. They had to be special ordered.

Oh, absolutely. And the butchers they dealt with were both small. But there were also major, major butchers.

Such as?

Downtown Cologne, that would have butchers, the meats on one side, and delicatessen on the other-- very, very upscale.

Oh, wow. Was there-- well, maybe this sounds a little bit ignorant, and it probably is. But were there large department stores in Cologne--

Oh, yes.

--that had, let's say, a huge food section?

No.

No.

They did not have a food section, no. But there were certainly major department stores.

Department stores. OK. I'm thinking in my mind of the one in Berlin called KaDeWe--

Right.

--that had, on its top floor--

And its lovely. I've been there.

Yeah. Yeah. And I don't know if that's a--

No.

I know there was a--

I do not believe we had--

Anything like that, yeah. So major butchers would have been-- major clients would have been the ones who would be from the center of town who'd own a large butcher shop.

It wasn't-- the clientele went far beyond Cologne. People would come in to find out new items or what they needed. So it wasn't just--

Cologne.

--limited to Cologne itself.

Now, in the name-- could you repeat it in German again? [GERMAN].

[GERMAN].

All right.

Butcher-Needed Supplies.

What about the family name? Was there any of-- was it Rosen?

The family name was Rosenstamm.

Yeah, Rosenstamm [GERMAN]?

[GERMAN].

So the family name came before.

Right.

OK.

I don't know whether my-- I don't think my father ever changed the name. That, have no way of-- I don't know. I'd have to go research that.

OK. Was your father involved in another kind of work, or business, or profession before he went and became involved in what your mother inherited?

He really wanted to become an engineer, but he never got that far. And they married very young. And I think he had worked for some kind of business prior to meeting my mother.

So does that mean he went to-- he had some higher education, but not complete higher education? Or had he finished college? Or--

No.

--do you not know?

At the time, there was-- what was it called? It wasn't college, but it's before college. What was it called?

Oh, dear.

It wasn't just grammar school. And it wasn't middle school.

Gymnasium.

Pardon?

There's gymnasium, which was--

Gymnasium.

OK.

[INAUDIBLE], yeah.

OK.

So he had finished gymnasium.

Yeah. All right. And do you know how your parents met?

I really don't recall. I think they met at a dance, but I'm not certain. They were introduced through a friend.

OK. Would you say then that, at least from your mother's side of the family, they were well-to-do because of this business?

They were-- I didn't--

Would you say that, from your mother's side of the family, her family was well-to-do because of this business?

I wouldn't use the word well-to-do. They were very comfortable.

OK. OK. And was there a family home? Since both grandparents were already gone when you were growing up, was there still a family home that she had grown up in that you knew of?

No. My mother grew-- I have no idea. But my father grew up in Hildesheim, small town, substantial home, and major business.

Oh, what was that?

And that was-- oh, I don't know how to say it. They dealt in cattle and some horses. But cattle was their major business.

So it was the trade in cattle?

Yes.

All right. And was it an import-export trade?

No. No. No. No.

No.

Just, I guess, local. I don't know.

OK.

But my grandmother had a substantial home.

OK. And what did it look like? Can you tell me? Do you--

I'm sorry.

What did it look like? Can you tell me? Can you think--

What did it look like?

Yeah.

It looked like a miniature three-story home.

Stone?

Yeah. I got pictures of it, stone.

19th century type of build?

Probably. Probably. I don't know whether they had built it or not. She must have had-- oh, I don't know. It was a very formal home. She had staff for help and, even though she was widowed, lived very, very nicely.

OK. So both sides of your family were comfortable economically.

Yeah, comfortable.

OK. OK. And as you were growing up, did you visit her often, your grandmother?

No, it was to-- yes, we were-- my nursemaid would take us. It was quite a ride, a train ride, to get there. And we would go once in a while.

But because it was such a formal lifestyle, as children, we were not too happy with visiting grandma. Everything had to be absolutely ultra perfect. You had to get dressed for lunch and dressed for dinner. And it was not our way of life.

Things at your home were less formal.

Absolutely.

OK.

And we didn't go with our-- the interesting thing was that we were sent with our nursemaid, who was really like my second mother.

What was her name?

Her name was Lisbeth Mueller.

Lisbeth Mueller. Did you--

I have beautiful letters of hers.

You do?

Yes, I do.

Well, that's unusual still to have letters from a nursemaid.

Yes. As a matter of fact, when I lost my husband years later, she had written me a note saying, I can't let you live alone, you need me to help you. However, she had survived the war. And she wasn't well herself. And she wanted to come with a friend. And the two would live with me and take care of me.

Ah.

But unfortunately, which I have really regretted, I wasn't in a position to have two people who had never been abroad, are--

You don't know who--

--very limited. However, I did see her after the war.

You did?

Oh, of course.

Well, that's also something special.

In 1955, my husband and I went to Israel. The only way I would consent going-- if we would stop in Holland and had her-- I wouldn't go to Germany. But she came to Holland as our guest for three days. And so I have lovely recollections.

So you had a reunion.

Yes.

Was your family very religious?

I wouldn't say very. We were traditional and observant, yes. My mother was religious, came from a religious family. My father was very reformed. However, he had to put up with-- yes, we had a kosher home.

That was one of my questions.

Yes. And interestingly enough-- and this is quite unusual-- because we were in the business, we had two refrigerators at the time, one for dairy, and one for meat.

Oh, my goodness.

And people who came to our house could not believe-- first of all, we had a very large kitchen, and we had help. But they could not-- they had never seen people have two refrigerators.

Refrigerators. Yes, and certainly for the time.

For the time.

In the end of the 1930s-- yeah.

The end of the '30s, to have a refrigerator--

A refrigerator.

--was a luxury.

Well, tell me about your home that you grew up in. Was it a house or an apartment?

No. My parents, I think-- I'm not sure whether it was '30. I was born '28, '31. I don't know the date. But there was a new building in this suburb that was very close to the slaughter house, which was giant-- blocks, and blocks, and blocks. And because of the slaughter house, it wasn't a fancy neighborhood. No.

Yeah, I wouldn't imagine that it could be.

And a building went up. And my father decided to move the original store to that new building and customize the first floor of the building.

You mean the ground floor, or the first floor as we're talking--

No, the first floor over the business.

OK.

And customized it into a four-bedroom apartment, which we had, with two and a half bath.

Oh my goodness.

So it was very modern and large. And I went to see it eight years ago, but the building has been completely remodeled.

But it still exists.

It does.

And the lady who has half of our apartment allowed us to come in.

And did it look very different?

Totally. Totally.

So it was a [NON-ENGLISH]. It was a new building then.

It was a brand-new building.

So it would have been--

It had three floors and an elevator.

Also unusual. For most people, when they described where they lived, if it was in the center of a town-- I'm talking about people from Germany-- often, it was these large 19th-century homes that had staircases and so on.

We did have a home. It was a home. It was.

Yes. Four bedrooms-- that's a lot. So there was one for you and your sister.

Four bedroom and two maids room. And they had their own bath. I didn't even count that.

OK. So large. It was.

And your mother and your father-- it was the shop. You lived above the shop.

Right.

OK.

And they didn't have to commute very far to go--

No.

--to work.

And beyond the warehouse-- front was the store. Then there was a warehouse. Then there was a huge yard, quite large-- I don't know how large-- which had a three-car garage, because we had a private car. We had a business car. And our apartment was built-- the building was like the front of the house.

But it had nothing where the courtyard in back was. So they built a walk-through and built a part on top of-- it's hard to explain-- on top of the-- those were the bedroom area. So there was the front of the house apartment. You had to walk through-- a lengthy walk, like this.

Like a corridor.

Like the little corridor. And then you went into a little garden room. When you got to the end of the corridor, it was just a settee with some chairs to sit down and rest or whatever. It was nothing. And then you had a guest bedroom, my mother's. Father had a suite there.

Wow.

They had a dressing room that was incredible with devils sinks, and all in marble--

Oh, my goodness.

--all in marble. And my mother had a dressing room. And their bathroom was behind all this. It was big, very large. And then we had our bedroom and another smaller bedroom. And then there was an-- very difficult to explain.

That's OK. But it's fascinating.

The maids rooms were very small. And they had a tiny bath.

But they had one that was for themself--

Oh, absolutely. Absolutely.

--just for the them.

Then we had a very substantial bathroom for my sister-in-law in the hall. My parents' bathroom was in their--

En suite.

--suite.

Yes. Now, did you spend a lot of your childhood then in the business because you could go visit your mother or your father?

No.

No, you didn't. It wasn't like you would stop and--

We would go down and say hello, but it wasn't a business that kids would be interested in.

OK.

Everything was difficult. Don't touch this. And the knives are sharp. So it wasn't a playground kind of thing. No. We didn't have to. We were too busy. We would just--

What were you doing? What was--

We went to school.

OK.

And we went to school to a German public school till I was in third grade through-- I'm not sure-- 1937. We were no longer allowed to go to public school.

We'll get to that part. I'd like to talk a little bit about-- before we go to school, I still want to talk about the family a little bit. Tell me a bit about your mother's personality and your father's personality. What kind of people were they?

Well, that's a very interesting question, because I had a most unique mother. She was very avant-garde--

Really?

--able to handle anything with a smile on her face. She was very attractive. And she had a dual personality. One was business, and people loved her. And then, over the weekend, she was a totally different lady.

Really?

She was not a businesswoman. But she was a very charming, very creative woman who had tons of friends.

She sounds like a very modern person.

She was modern, really, to begin with--

Oh, wow.

--and involved in all kinds of things. And my father was the direct opposite. He was straight 100% German. Plus plus perfect, the gentleman of distinction in his manner, in his dress. And everything he did was perfect.

There was no in-between. And it is interesting, because they were totally opposites. And I assume from what I saw that they had a lovely marriage.

Well, when you said that your grandmother had a strict home where you had to be dressed properly and the manners had to be right, it makes a lot of sense that he would also have--

He was plus plus perfect. We always teased him.

Well, when you're surrounded by women, you can be charmed by that, too.

Oh, my goodness. But my mother was free, and easy, and fun, and made everything work. And he was just-- every I had to be dotted. Everything had to be perfect.

Did you--

But he was a wonderful gentleman. He had a wonderful personality, but you had to get used to him. It was not easy.

So was there one parent that you were closer to than the other? Or did you confide in one more? Or was it your nurse--

No, my mother was too busy.

Too busy.

My mother was far too busy. We had wonderful times together, but she was involved. She had too many other things going.

And how long-- you mentioned before, Lisbeth Mueller was your nanny.

She was there until-- that's another unbelievable-- in 1937--

Well, before we get there, I'm going to interrupt for a second.

Yes.

Tell me how she came into your life. Let's start from the beginning.

She was a-- I also have her papers.

OK.

She was a registered children's nurse who wore a cap, as you saw. They had to wear a cap like a regular nurse. She was not a housekeeper. She had no duties other than looking after the two of us.

And as it happened, when she came into our household when I was born, my sister had her own nurse. And from what I heard, I don't think they got along too well. And my parents decided on Lisbeth, who we called [? Tedde. ?]

[? Tedde. ?]

That's a German name for [GERMAN].

And so you grew-- do you have any memories of her not being there?

Never. She was there until there was a law she could no longer live with us. If she were caught living with a Jewish family, she--

She'd get in trouble.

--that would be the end of her. So unbeknownst to anyone-- we could no longer have help in the house unless they were Jewish. And you could find very little Jewish help, but there were some. She decided to get her own apartment. Or my parents-- I don't know what the arrangements were. And she worked in the office of the business--

Oh, wow.

--cause was she decided she would not leave her family.

Wow. Wow. That must have meant something.

So I have a letter to the effect that, when my father tried to establish what had happened to the business, she wrote a major letter of her input with the family and what she had seen over the years. And--

That must have been crucial in helping establish what kind of assets there were and what had been lost.

Well, her family was practicing Catholics. Her brother was a priest. And she was very involved. And also unusual for a Jewish kosher home, my mother would have a Christmas tree for Christmas in-- we had two rooms, one daily living room, one special for company.

It's like a-- I'm sorry I'm entering, but it's like today's family room in American homes, and then the living room--

Exactly.

--when company comes.

Well, the family room was every day. We ate there. Everything that was going on in the family must be like a family room. But we called it a second dining room.

We had a formal dining room, and this. But my mother would have the small Christmas tree in the good living room for the help on Christmas Eve, which was unbelievable. And I followed suit later on, because that's what I learned, and had a lot of trouble with my rabbi about it.

Oh, dear. Well, that's also part of what was lost, is the people-- I mean, there were all kinds of attitudes. But each individual interpreted what their-- the, I guess, religion or the community that they were born in according to how their human relations worked.

Absolutely.

Well, it's interesting. I didn't understand it at the time. But after I was married and I had a Catholic nursemaid in my home, I realized how unusual it was for my mother. I didn't keep a kosher home. But for my mother to have a Christmas tree, that was really--

That's a lot.

That was a lot.

That's a lot. Yeah.

But I didn't understand it at the time. But my mother always felt, in order to have-- you have to observe everybody's preference. And as long as they were part of my family, that's what you do.

That's a lovely model.

So I gave her a lot of credit. Yeah, she was--

A lovely model, truly.

She was very unusual.

So I'm trying to think now of more questions about your parents. Your father was more reserved. Your mother was more extrovert. How did they split their duties in the business?

I have no idea.

You don't know. OK.

I have no idea. I would imagine that she didn't go on the road to different exhibitions. My father did that. And I--

Do you know about how many people worked in the business?

I have no idea. Three or four were in the office. I don't know.

Let's go to school then.

Ah?

School. Let's talk about your school. You said you went to a German public school.

Public school.

Public school. Do you remember the name of it?

No.

OK. And was it close to home in Ehrenfeld?

Yeah, we walked to school.

OK. Your sister went to the same one?

Yeah. However, she was three years-- she then went to a gymnasium. She was transferred. And she had to go to a Jewish school while I was still in public school, which was nowhere near as-- it was in that heart of Cologne.

And was this for political reasons that she wasn't able to continue?

Yes, absolutely.

OK.

And then, later on, I had to go-- that gymnasium had a lower school also.

OK.

And that's when I transferred there. And that was a good 35 minute by streetcar. But we had a driver from the business. And when he showed up early enough, we would be driven to school. But--

It didn't often happen.

--that was not an every-day occurrence.

So let's talk about if you have memories of this before all of the changes. What were your first years, grades one, two, three-- do you have any memories of those first year of school, what they were like?

Yeah, I had lovely memories. I had wonderful girlfriends who lived in the area, none of whom were Jewish. And I came home one day from school in tears, because everybody was wearing a little brown uniform, and I wanted a brown uniform. My mother tried to explain to me that I can't have it, that I'm Jewish.

Well, I didn't know why I couldn't have what they had-- like a Brownie uniform. But this was a Hitler Youth. And they were no longer allowed to talk to me.

So suddenly, I had no friends, no one to be with. That was a little difficult. However, then I immediately-- within months, I was forced to go into a Jewish school. And so I had all new friends.

So you were five years old when Hitler came to power.

Yeah.

Yeah. And did that-- I mean, you were very little at the time. But did you notice changes? Did changes happen--

Not really. My life didn't change. No.

OK. And your parents, in the business or anything, from five years-- from 1933, when he comes to power, was there

anything in those first years--

That didn't happen until 1936 when he really came into being.

OK.

And then the business declined greatly. I have papers attesting this. My father kept immaculate papers, being plus plus German. Everything is documented. And how the business had to be-- the business was forced to be sold when it was-- there were no more clients. They would not come to Jewish business people.

So they had a terrible time in '37 and '38. And later on, he had to show how the business dropped, and that. And the business was sold for nothing. I have all those papers, all the attorneys' papers.

Wow. Not many people have all of that--

I have everything.

--documentation.

I have it all.

And so was it sold before Kristallnacht?

It was sold after Kristallnacht. Nothing was sold before Kristallnacht. But it had been plundered. Is that the word?

Mm-hmm.

I think once, prior to Kristallnacht. We had these giant store windows. And several of them were broken and merchandise taken. But--

Merchandise was stolen.

--that was prior to Kristallnacht. But after Kristallnacht, that was a totally-- yes, it was a major change in my life. But prior to that, we had a major change also.

Tell me.

The year prior to-- we were to have left Germany in-- you needed a number. Are you familiar with that?

Tell me about it.

OK. You needed a number to immigrate, an immigration number.

From the German authorities, from the Nazis.

Absolutely.

OK.

And my mother had gotten a number-- very unusual. She had gone to Berlin-- well, this is difficult-- because Irving Berlin was entertaining in Berlin. And my mother, somehow or other, got to see him wanting to get an affidavit from Berlin, or from Irving Berlin, or perhaps help through someone. She had managed to get this, to no avail.

OK.

However, she had a number in 1937. It was quite early. My mother gave my father an ultimatum. I am leaving Germany. My father-- this is interesting-- had been an army officer in the First World War as a Jew. I have his army papers.

You have those still, too.

I do.

Oh, my goodness.

My mother went and got them. My father said, I'm not leaving Germany. Hitler will not touch me, because I was an officer. My mother said, whatever you want to do, I am leaving when my number comes up. The number came up. And unfortunately, my nursemaid had given my sister and I a Hanukkah present, a Christmas present, of a bicycle each.

Oh, my goodness.

And we went and tried out our bicycle when there was a little snow on the ground. My sister was a little heavy and clumsy and fell off her bike and broke her hip.

Oh, my gosh.

And at that time, you could not go to a doctor in your area unless it was Jewish. So I don't know how my mother did this, or how my father did this. She went to the nearest hospital where she wasn't supposed to be. They set her hip. And they put her in to-- oh, I don't know what that-- [NON-ENGLISH]. What's [NON-ENGLISH]?

Ah, into a cast.

Yeah.

A cast.

From here--

Plaster cast.

--down to her feet. And she--

She couldn't move.

--couldn't move. We had a hospital bed put into the fancy dining room, which looked outside. And she was there for three months in this cast. And during that time, our number came up. Well, my parents couldn't leave with a child in a cast. That doesn't work.

Right.

And when she got out of the cast, she couldn't walk. Her hip had to be re-broken--

[GASPS]

--by a Jewish orthopedic doctor. It was terrible. So we missed our chance of getting out of Germany, because Rita wasn't able to walk.

And do you know what the number was?

No. That, I don't know. Possibly, I might have that number. But I never [CROSS TALK]

And it was one of the requirements of the Nazi German authorities that everybody be in a healthy state to leave the--
Absolutely.

OK. And--

Then she had to reapply--

Apply.

--with a different number. And at that time, in '37, there were millions of people ahead of her. There was nothing you could do.

So in other words, she came to this conclusion fairly early on.

Absolutely.

Do you remember about when this would have been? '35, '36, or--

No. No. No, she applied-- the minute the numbers became available, my mother applied.

Oh.

So I don't know when that was, maybe early '37.

OK.

Because at that time, not a lot of people were interested in leaving. However, because of my sister's fall--

Right.

--we could not avail ourself.

You couldn't go. You couldn't go. Let's go back a little bit. I want to go back to your school where you say, all of a sudden, the children no longer play with you, no longer talk to you, and you're by yourself. How soon after that-- was that a period of months, or a year, or fairly quick-- that you no longer went to that school?

Oh, very quickly, within-- this was all going on when I was a little kid. I don't understand what's going on. I just--

Of course.

--want the uniform, like my girl friends.

Yeah.

And within a very short time--

You were not allowed to--

--I was transferred to the other school, because I wasn't comfortable going to that school. You weren't safe going to next school.

And that's when--

And because we were in this unusual new neighborhood, which was kind of-- it wasn't real residential.

Well, that's what I was going to-- I'm trying to get a picture of it. If there's a slaughterhouse there--

Yes.

--and it's large, then--

Oh, huge.

Yeah. So was it mostly warehouses and businesses that were in the neighborhood?

No. Yes, there were lots of businesses, smaller businesses, a lot of things pertaining to the meat industry.

Yeah.

So this was not a fancy neighborhood.

But it sounds like a lovely apartment.

Oh, we had a lovely home. But because of the business, it wasn't in the suburb.

Right.

Was there a smell from the slaughterhouse?

Yes, there was. There was, many times. Yes, absolutely. You knew when you were coming closer. Absolutely.

You could smell it. You could smell it. So you would have to then travel at least 35 minutes by some kind of vehicle, whether it's a trolley car, or whether it's the driver--

Usually a trolley car.

Yeah. Did you have any experiences on the trolley cars that were--

Never. We were fine until the 10th of November.

OK. In '38.

That was an experience.

Yes.

Well, tell me. What happened on the 10th of November?

We woke up in the morning, like every other morning.

OK.

And somehow or other, my mother or nursemaid-- I don't know who-- said, today, you're going to be driven to school. Well, it turns out our driver didn't get there. Street cars ran every 15 minutes. So we had to go by streetcar. We hopped

on the streetcar.

The ride took us through the main street of Cologne, which is called the Ring. And once we made the turn on to this major street-- my sister and I are sitting in the trolley. And we're saying, this must have been-- something terrible must have happened, people must be drunk.

We saw the entire street-- which, by the way, is documented in Germany. They have pictures of all of it. And interestingly enough, I met the Burgermeister of Cologne years later who, that same morning, was on a street car also. And we exchanged-- he's not Jewish, of course. So he said, you saw this? And I said, yeah. He said, I did, too.

So they had plundered all these shops. There was stuff all over the street-- clothes, bicycles. Whatever the shops sold was on this major street. And we couldn't-- how could this happen?

So we got to school. And the minute we got to our classroom, we were told to go to an assembly, which was outside in a courtyard. The two schools had two different buildings. And one of the buildings was on fire. And needless to say, there was a little confusion in the courtyard.

And the rector spoke on a microphone and said, you are to try to reach your parents by phone-- we didn't have cell phones, but there were telephones at school-- or find a way to get home immediately. So I hadn't seen my sister. There were hundreds of kids. I didn't know. I didn't know my way around. Or who knows, maybe I was scared. I don't know.

Well, you were 10 years old.

And the next thing I know, my sister suddenly was there, and she grabbed me. And she said, we have a ride home. So I went along.

It turned out-- our saving grace-- that a friend of hers whose mother was not Jewish, married to a Jewish attorney, she had heard what was going on. I don't know how. Chauffeur had come to school to pick up his little girl, and told the little girl, whoever she wants to take along, come home, hop into the limo. So there were six or seven of us.

So my sister grabbed me, and I was in the limo. I didn't know where I was going. So we went to a lovely home, had a lovely lunch. And from that moment on, it changed my whole life. Yes.

So Kristallnacht was the key. Things had been going incrementally. But that really-- let's go back a bit. Your sister, when she gets out of the cast, still can't walk. So her hip needs to be re-broken, and she's in another cast? Is that right?

And she suffered all her life.

From that bicycle fall.

Not only that. At childbirth, the first child she had, they had directions not to put her into stirrups. And they neglected it. And they damaged the hip, which had been broken twice.

Oh, my.

She suffered all her life. Yes.

Did it take a long time for it to heal properly? And when could she walk again?

It never healed properly, ever, until she had one of the first hip replacements. No, back up. No. She did not consent to a hip replacement, which is what they suggested. But at the time, it took a year of recovery. And the surgery was only done in England.

This is after the war.

Here. Yes, later on in life. And so she had a-- I don't remember what they call it. She had a-- I don't know-- pin put in. She had several pins put in.

And this is at that time, in the '30s.

No. No. No, this is--

No, that was later.

--way--

Later.

--on, after her first child.

So going back, at that time, the three months that had passed-- was this in 1937 that she had this accident?

She didn't recover until '38.

OK.

She was in big trouble.

OK.

And then she was fine. But she couldn't do a lot of activities. She never really gained full motion.

Got it. Got it.

And we are speeding.

OK. So we talked about your sister, how it took a toll on her health, this fall.

Oh, it did. Yes, it did.

I want to go back and say, at what point-- did you ever notice your parents talking about what was going on in Germany before Kristallnacht?

Absolutely. It was topic of conversation all the time.

Really?

Absolutely. There, people were trying to figure out what possibility they had, if they wouldn't get their visas to the United States. My parents applied to China. They applied to Argentina. They applied to-- oh, a couple of other places.

In addition to the States?

Oh, absolutely.

OK.

You wanted to. But prior to this, I think it would be worth to tell you that my mother had two cousins in Holland-- and Jewish.

OK.

--married to Dutch people. And they came to-- my mother wanted to get my sister and myself out of Germany in 1938, the beginning at '38. And this young man in his early 20s came with his car. And we were told, we were going on a vacation. We had no idea. And at the-- what's the [NON-ENGLISH]?

At the border.

At the border.

OK.

At the border, my sister had high-heeled boots on. They took her heels off the boots, thinking she was hiding diamonds or something. And it turned out that we were not allowed to leave. They would not allow us into Holland, early 1938.

So this means that the German border guards did not let you--

German border guard would not allow us to leave. And it was a terrible experience. And we had it twice. We attempted twice to go-- months later, two months later.

Did you have to have paperwork in order to get from Germany to--

Yes, and we had all the work. But it didn't work.

It didn't work.

And your father-- did he, at some point, change his position, or just--

Oh, of course he did, certainly. All his friends were-- many, many people left to go to Belgium, or to France, wherever they could find--

A place.

Yeah. They just went.

What about aunts, and uncles, and people like that-- your father's siblings, your mother's siblings? What happened with them?

Well, that's very interesting. My uncle--

From father's side?

Left. My Uncle Manfred, who we called Fred, was single, very comfortable financially. He and three buddies decided to go to Holland on a vacation, but they never came back. They had means, and they stayed in Holland. And he was involved in this Kindertransport, which resulted finally to save our lives.

Got it.

So while he-- he was very involved in this movement. And I'd like to mention that he and the organizations that were involved were trying to raise funds, because the Dutch government, after he visited the queen, he-- there was a committee who was given an audience with the queen, Queen Juliana, in 1938. The queen felt, because they were already in--

Negotiation.

--communication with Hitler, that politically she could not allow any Jewish children to be rescued by the Dutch, by the Netherlands. And so the committee came up with a counter suggestion, which the queen found a possibility at the time. And that was that, if the children would pay for three years' upkeep in Holland so that the Dutch were not responsible, while they're negotiating with Hitler.

So that is what happened. My parents paid for three years' upkeep. So we were not-- there's a--

Funded by--

Right.

--or supported by the Netherlands.

By the Netherlands.

OK.

Correct.

So your uncle was part of this negotiation--

Yes.

--that went all the way up to the queen of the Netherlands. OK, so he left. What about other relatives, other aunts?

OK. My father's sister had gone to Belgium. They were quite well-off. I would say they were wealthy.

OK.

And their boys had gone to school in England. And one of them had gone to Palestine. The oldest one had gone to Palestine, which his sister and brother-in-law had visited Palestine in 1934 and decided it was not a place for them.

OK.

So they found refuge in Belgium, until that was no longer possible. His other sister went to Belgium after Kristallnacht illegally by being taken across the border by her 17-year-old daughter, who came back to get her-- very involved-- who just passed away last year at the age of 91.

Oh, my goodness.

So that was both sisters. His brother, who was a-- I don't know-- very comfortable, recognized citizen of this small town--

[? Edelstein? ?] No?

--decided nobody would ever touch him. He had all kinds of connection, never got out.

And so what happened to him?

What happened to everybody else.

And your grandmother?

And my grandmother, who were still-- she happened to be in Cologne the night of Kristallnacht. She was with us. And she then went home. And she got out in 1941, left Germany--

That late.

--to go to Mozambique. And she was on the way, different boats, for two and a half months, at the age of-- she was in her early 80s. But she made this trip to Mozambique, wherever she had to stay, until more papers came. Most unusual woman.

Most unusual.

Incredible.

Yes.

Finally, got to Mozambique, and finally ended up with her daughter and son-in-law, who were--

Waiting to go to South Africa.

Right. They would love to have her. They finally went to Johannesburg. But she could not manage to live with them. So my parents finally got her to come to the United States when she was '86 to live with us.

And on Kristallnacht, was there any activity that you heard that night that is-- you told me that you woke up the next morning, and you took the trolley, and you saw this sight.

OK.

OK.

What about in your own home, in your own block?

OK, well--

What happened?

We never get home. We were taken to this lady's home, like for a play date, had a beautiful lunch. And the next day, we got a telephone call saying that this lady's chauffeur would drive us to a designated area where my father would pick us up. And that was a night I will never forget in my life.

What happened?

We waited until dark to be met by my dad. And in the car was my grandmother, my mother, waiting for us. And where are we going?

My father said, we're going to some lovely people, friends of mine, who have a farm about three hours away. And we're just going to have a little picnic. My mother had packed a lunch. We're going to have a little picnic.

And little had we known what had gone on during the day in the business. We had no-- I had no idea. So we drove all night. And we finally came to this town where we were supposed to be with friends.

My father got of the car and went into a pub to call his friend and say, we're close by. And the friend said, don't come. The Nazis have just come into my town, and you will not be safe here. Just keep driving.

So we drove through the whole night. And when we had to relieve ourself, there-- couldn't go anywhere. You went-- you made do. [NON-ENGLISH].

Yeah.

And so we never got-- we were nowhere. And finally, early in the morning, we went back to our home. And that was the last time I saw my house, my home.

Really?

And my nursemaid was there. And we had dinner, or whatever. And then we rented an apartment somewhere. I don't know where. I have very little recollection of that time. That was November till January, because things were terrible. So I don't know whether I have blocked that out of my mind completely.

However, my father-- the next day that we got home, my father disappeared, totally disappeared. And for three days, we had no idea where, how, what. The Germans had taken him and thrown him into prison, which was-- every other man was taken off the street for whatever reason. No reason whatsoever-- just gone.

Fortunately enough, he had friends, an attorney who got him out of jail. That was the first time. And after that, things were terrible, because he had to go back to the business every day to try to finalize plans. Then they were forced to sell the business.

But what happened during that time, I can't tell you, except that my father was taken again-- oh, I think right in December, somewhere in December-- and never knew how my father got out of jail until my mother was on her deathbed. And she said, I think I ought to tell you something I have never revealed to anyone. So she told my sister and myself how she managed to get my father. And I don't think I ought to tell that story.

Oh, you've piqued my curiosity. Can you go around it a little bit? Is there any way?

She found a way using herself--

Oh, dear.

--to engage the head Nazi in an evening. And my mother didn't drink. But she spent the night with this person at a bar. And every time she didn't feel well, she would relieve herself, and start drinking all over again until he was-- it's just too involved.

OK.

However, he signed a paper. In his stupor, she said to him-- the best part about this story is that he invited her to go home. She was a very attractive woman. And she said, she'd love to. And it got very involved.

And she said, but the only way she would consent is if he would be so kind and give his signature so that her girlfriends, who were like herself-- probably figured she was a lady of the night. Her girlfriends would never believe that he invited her. So she took out a piece of paper, which was the consent to have my father removed from prison.

Oh, my gosh.

She had never told the story.

Did you think he knew, your father? I don't know if he already knew. I don't know. Just before she died, she told me. So I would say she was some lady.

Yes. Yes. And thank you for sharing that. Thank you.

It was pretty difficult.

Yes. It was part of what was the reality and what somebody had to do in order to survive and help a loved one get out.

I asked her. I said, how could you even think of doing this? And she said, when you're in need, you do whatever you have to do. That was my mother.

Amazing. Thanks. We're going to break for lunch now. Thank you.

OK, so Susi, before the break, we were talking about Kristallnacht and the days immediately following it. And you mentioned that, after you drove around that night in the car, your father was picked up yet again. And you shared with us how your mother got him out. And I wanted to explain a little bit why I wanted to know this detail-- simply because people should not have only a sanitized version of what others went through in order to survive, and that often you had to make a tough decision.

Now, your mother told you this only on her deathbed. Can you tell me what kind of thoughts ran through your mind, how you reacted to it? You had said before the break that it gave you something, it taught you something.

Well, I think that, by example, my mother enriched my life because, no matter how difficult times were for her, it was her personality that was positive. And no matter what challenges she had, she would go at it in a very positive manner. And not only that, she always found a little humor in everything. She would do things that we would say would be silly or crazy. And I'm sure that's the way she vented her difficulties.

By finding some kind of a--

I think so.

Yeah.

And it seemed that friends would gravitate to her, because she had this charm. It was so innate. It was her.

And she ended up being a savior.

Absolutely.

So when your father emerged from prison the second time, was it-- or maybe the third. I don't recall. What happened then? How did things progress then?

We left. My sister and I were told we're going on a vacation.

OK.

I had no clue. We each had a little suitcase. And my mother said, you can take one thing that you would like. And believe it or not, I took a doll, although I was not really involved with dolls. But there's a German doll called Kathe Kruse. And I took my doll, which I have.

You do? Wow, you still have her.

Yeah, it's downstairs in the locker room, but I have it. And the next thing we knew, we were taken to the train station.

By your parents?

By my parents. And they could not go to the train or get us on the train. We all met, the group of children. And we were

escorted in the train. And before I knew what was going on, I was in a train. I had no clue of-- really and truly, I thought I was going on a trip.

Did you know it was to Holland?

No.

Now, the previous times-- you mentioned two previous times you tried to go. Had that been by train or some other means?

No, that was by car. The cousin from Holland had come with a car.

I see. So this was the first train ride, the first train right to there, to try and get out of--

I don't remember being on a train ever before. But I might have been. I don't know.

And when you said goodbye to your parents, was it like, we'll see you after the vacation?

Yeah. I figured, well, I'll see you. I had no understanding of the situation.

And did you know any of the other kids? Did you recognize anybody?

They were from all over, not just from Cologne.

Tell me, what happened then?

Well, in the train, I guess I finally realized. Everybody was talking, and we were in a compartment with other children. And the next thing I knew, my sister tells me that I was a crybaby. I was very petite. And she was very grown, very mature, for her age.

And so I said to her, or whatever, something didn't please me. And I started to cry. And I cried, and cried, and cried. And she said, you better stop crying, because nothing's going to help you. There's no one here to help. We're just the two of us.

And I couldn't understand that. And I said, well, where's Mom and Dad? And she said, no, we're alone, we're going on a trip. She must have known. I'm sure she did.

OK.

But the next thing we knew, we get to the border. And the German government comes, army people come in. And they, at random, take a suitcase, open it up, and dump it on the floor to see what we have in it.

And just before he came in, I must've had a crying jag. And my sister took one look at me and said, if you continue to cry, they'll take you and throw you off the train, so you better make up your mind to stop crying. I think that's the last time I cried.

Ever?

No. But I was not a crybaby after that. But I was. I was spoiled. So then, next thing we knew, with all the stuff thrown all over the floor or whatever, we're trying to get-- but my sister was in charge.

I was in a corner, or whatever. I must have fallen asleep. And the next thing I knew, we are in Holland. And we are greeted with hot chocolate and a cheese sandwich by lovely, young nurses. But we didn't know they were nurses.

Do you know where this was? On the Holland border, or inside the--

In Amsterdam.

In Amsterdam.

OK.

In Amsterdam at the train station. Now, that leads me to something most unusual.

Tell me.

In 1982, after my husband passed away, I was invited to become a member of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, which I knew nothing about. And they had a trip to Israel. And I decided to join the trip.

I had never been on a tour before. And I go on this tour. And we're invited in Israel to a very, very top echelon luncheon, the Knesset. And we are at a table--

[PHONE RINGS]

We can cut.

We're at the Knesset.

Knesset.

And one of the ladies who had taken me under her roof was, like, 20 years my senior. And she is speaking to an Israeli. And suddenly, the Israeli lady turns to me. And she said, I'd like to introduce myself.

She says, you're not very friendly. So I looked at her. And I said, you were in conversation with my friend, and I thought, why should I introduce myself? That wouldn't have been very nice. And as she said those few words to me, I said, but now that we said hello, are you Dutch?

And she looks at me, and in perfect English she said, are you psychic? And she said, how would you know I'm Dutch? And I said, you had such guttural sounds, it reminded me of Holland. She said, what do you know about Holland? I proceeded to tell her.

She turned ashen. She was like-- I said, are you well? And she said, I'm just recalling something. And she looks up at me. And she said, did you come with the children transport in January? And I said, yes. And she said, from what city?

She questioned me. And I tell her. She said, I was at the train station with hot chocolate. I looked at her, and I said, you were? And she said, oh, yes. She proceeds to tell me she was a nurse in training. And in order to graduate, they had to perform a social--

Service.

--service. And she and two of her girlfriends decided to meet this train. And she said, we got extra credit, and we thought it would be wonderful. And I said, oh, really?

All of a sudden, she regained herself. And she said, but I have to tell you the truth. She said, the reason we went-- we were 19 years old, and we heard that one of the gentlemen who was responsible for or had a part in this was a very handsome German Jew who was-- and I said, really? She said, well, we heard he was eligible, and we wanted to meet him.

And I said, oh, really? And she said, I'm trying to think of his name. And I said, oh, that's interesting. I said, my uncle was involved in this group. She said, come to think of it, his name had something to do with a flower. And she mentions a couple of flowers.

And she said, no, I can't recall. And I said, could it have anything to do with a rose? She says, that's it. It's Rosenstamm, and his name was Fred.

Oh, my goodness.

It was my uncle.

Oh, my goodness.

So P.S.-- instant, we were instant. And she couldn't believe it. She put her arms around me. We couldn't believe it. To say the least, after she graduated, she had-- do you want to hear this story?

Yes. Yes, I do. I do.

She came from a very Orthodox Dutch-Jewish family. She had never been allowed on a date. She had never been away from home. And she told her mother she heard about skiing in Switzerland. She is going to go skiing. And her mother said--

No.

--you cannot do that. Well, she and a couple of friends decided-- they went anyway. And her second day on the--

Slopes.

--she falls down. And she can't get back on her skis. And a gentleman comes over to her, and helps her, and invites her for a cup of chocolate. And it turns out that, after two years of corresponding, he was not Jewish. He was a young-- oh, I want to say this correctly. I can't think of the word. Something to do with plants and--

Horticulturist or--

No, something like that. Anyway, he--

Botanist?

That's it, maybe. I don't recall events. An engineer in a certain field to do with-- he had just been invited to go to Israel. He was Swiss. And he was given an internship at the Hebrew University. And they correspond.

Now, he's not Jewish. And after two years, they decide to get married. And her parents say, out of the question. But she said, I'm in love with him. And she goes to Israel.

She becomes a nurse at the Hadassah Hospital in its infancy, rose to be the CEO of the Hadassah Hospital. And he was an engineer who became a professor who created the tomatoes that are grown under water.

Oh, my goodness.

That's his invention. So we became friends on that first trip. And we had a wonderful time.

In 1982.

1982.

So that's over four decades after you meet her.

Yeah.

But you don't know it at that time.

No, I did not know. And we corresponded all those years.

But isn't it interesting then, your own story brings you to the train station. And years later, you learn the story of how those young people who were there who brought you those sandwiches and the chocolate-- who they were, and what brought them to the station.

Exactly.

OK. So what happened after that?

And she was wonderful. I saw her again on a following trip to Israel. And then I lost track. And we were there two years ago-- three years ago. And we were at Hadassah Hospital. Of course, I asked for her. She had passed away the year before. I never knew.

Tell me about--

So that was kind of an interesting--

Yes, it is. Do you remember her name so that we'd have her name?

No, but I could look it up.

We'll do that later.

I do not know her name.

OK. So tell me, what happened after you had the hot chocolate?

So we had the chocolate. And we got to Amsterdam. And we were put on a bus. And you're going to a home. And here was this, I would say, extremely large country home-- not fancy. They had taken the second floor and made-- what do you call it, with lots of beds?

Bunk beds? A dormitory?

A dormitory. They had six dormitories on the second floor, half for girls and half for boys.

Do you know the town where you were?

Oh, sure.

What was it called?

Bergen aan Zee.

Bergen aan Zee. OK. Was this far from Amsterdam?

Yeah, about an hour and a half, two hours.

I wonder if it's the same place where we talked with somebody the other day who-- well, we talked with somebody who was--

There's several. And this Dr. Keesing has documented where I was.

OK.

And so we remained there. And we were treated beautifully. We had school every day. We were up at 6:30 in the morning. And we had to walk a mile on the sea in the cold winter. You froze to death. But then you had your hot--

Chocolate.

Yeah, hot chocolate, whatever.

Who was funding this? Under which agency--

My parents had paid for three years of--

I see.

So it was--

So they have funded your ability to be there. But under whose umbrella was this being organized?

Under this Jewish organization.

Got it. OK.

That's all documented.

OK. OK. Now, do you remember how long you stayed at this place?

Yes. I was there until September when my parents visa number finally came up. And they came to Holland in August and rented a little apartment, 'cause she had her cousin there, so that was all facilitated. And I was allowed to go and live with them. But my sister, who was 14-- had just had a birthday-- was not allowed to leave the camp, because she could have gone to work in Holland. So they did not allow anyone over 13 to be out of--

The camp, to keep them in school.

Mm-hmm.

OK. So you were there how many months, would you say?

So I was there seven, eight months, had a perfectly wonderful time.

Can you describe-- you described your home in--

It was just like being in boarding school. We had our regular routine. We had our lessons. We got up early in the morning.

The worst part about it was the first night there. First of all, I had never-- we walked into this dormitory of 12 iron beds, rusted, terrible, with a thin mattress, and one little blanket. Out of the home I came, I had no idea what this was all about. And in my usual fashion, I started to cry. And I didn't want to go to bed.

But I had no choice. I went to bed with my doll and continued to cry. And for every three dormitories, there was a lady sitting outside, watching us, 'cause we're all overcome with this total strange atmosphere.

Besides which, there was no hot water. We had to wash with cold water. Whoever heard of that in the middle of winter?

So I proceeded to continue to cry. And she came to my bed. And she said, you're going to have to take your blanket. You're going to have to come and sit with me outside, because you can't disturb the other people.

So that was my first night in Holland. And after a couple of nights of doing this, I got nowhere, as nobody else did either. And you've--

You're just--

I'm accustomed.

The building itself-- what did it look like? Do you remember? The building itself.

The building-- I was trying to tell you. I think I have a picture of it. It just was a huge, huge home. And they had taken all the rooms out and made one living room area. There were lots of kids there, about 80 or--

Do you know about how many?

Yeah, I have a picture of it.

Oh, I think you showed me that before.

Yes.

Yes, OK.

But we were in groups. So we ate at different times. And we waited a long table of maybe 24, and very nicely done, like camp. But everybody had a napkin and their napkin ring paper with their name on it.

Very proper.

And I do. And the food, I'm sure, was edible. But I had been a very fussy eater. I ate nothing until they forced me to. And then I got a letter in Holland, obviously, that-- I never drank milk in my life, because I was allergic to it. I didn't know I was allergic to cheese. I loved it. So I would get these-- whatever.

Rashes.

I got rashes and things until they got a note from my mother at the time that I should not have milk or cheese. Well, that left very little bit eat. So you eat potatoes, and vegetable, and whatever else.

Yeah. Now, did you get letters then from your parents while you were there?

Yes, we did. Usually, to the cousins, and then the cousins would forward it. But not on a regular basis, because it was already being censored, or whatever.

So you were out now, you're in this-- you're in this camp area in a dormitory, going to school, getting adjusted, having a new routine. Your parents are left behind. And you don't really know all that's going on with them.

No idea.

Did they tell you later? Can you tell us--

They were struggling. They were not in the apartment. They rented an apartment.

And they weren't in their apartment because?

I don't know. Because I guess they didn't want to live there anymore. They were afraid.

Had it been looted at any time?

Oh, yes, several times, destroyed.

The apartment as well?

No. No. No.

But the store had been looted.

My mother, in her inevitable way, in 1938-- '38? Yes, beginning of '38-- decided to take our furniture and put it in-- they called it a lift. But here, you call it in a-- you know those great--

A storage facility?

--big containers.

OK.

So she had taken our furniture, put it in this giant container, and shipped it to Los Angeles. That's where we were headed for. So I think that's why they moved out of the apartment.

OK.

So they were able to get the furniture out of the country.

Absolutely.

Some people could. Others could not.

I know.

Were they able to get any other of their assets out?

Zero. However, my father had English lessons in '37 from an Englishman who had quite a scheme going. He had multiple people that he taught. And he also advised them that he could take major belongings-- silver, money, or whatever. And as everybody else trusted him, so my dad, and never saw any of it, not a penny's worth, never.

So it was a scam to take advantage--

Nothing.

--of the situation.

From later on, I heard he wasn't the only one. It was being done everywhere.

So when they left Germany--

They had zero-- they could take out, I don't know, 100 marks or--

Whatever the limit was, the official limit.

Oh, absolutely, nothing else.

So they end up in the Netherlands penniless, basically.

Because of the cousins, they had brought money into Holland. However, that's another strange happening. When this cousin used to come back and forth, he suggested to my folks that he take certain assets back.

They had a lovely home. They were young. They had two young children. And they had a home in Amstelveen. That was a very upscale suburb.

And he buried whatever my parents gave him in his back yard. And he had a map made of the actual spot of where this was hidden. However, during the German occupation of Amsterdam, his home was designated as a-- what do they call that, where soldiers go if they're hurt?

Oh, like a recovery--

Not a rest home, but a--

Almost a field hospital, nursing home.

No, it was recreation facilities to-- whatever.

So at any rate, there was no way of accessing.

So after the war-- the people who owned the home were fleeing themselves. Their children went to England. And one stayed in Holland and was killed the last day of the war.

Oh, dear.

So they had their own problems. But after the war, when they went back to their home, they could either reclaim their home, or find any other home. They went to another home. But nothing that was ever hidden was ever found-- zero.

So your parents heard a lot of bad luck in this way.

They never thought about-- yes, they felt it was bad luck, 'cause financially, we came to the United States. Each person was allowed \$5. That's all we had.

So tell me about that. You left to school. Your parents were in-- remind me again. Where were they staying? In Amstelveen, or--

No. I have their address, too.

But was it--

In Amsterdam--

In Amsterdam.

--in a furnished one-room apartment.

OK. And you hadn't seen them then for how many months?

Eight, nine months.

OK.

September, eight nice.

OK.

And what happened after that?

Well, I think I went to school in Holland, but I'm not sure about it.

OK.

I think I did go to school, because I was already speaking the language. I must have gone to school. But then, two months later in December-- it was September, October, November. Yes, the second of-- no, in November, we left. And we went to the United States. And my sister was allowed out two weeks before we left. And I have all of that documented.

So when you get to meet your parents, it's actually right at the beginning of World War II, because September 1, Germany invades Poland.

That's correct.

And soon, after they also march into the Netherlands.

While we were on the ship, on sea, Holland was negotiating. They did not go into war until January. So we were already-- but things were very bad in Holland at the time we were onboard ship.

OK. So it was by the skin of your teeth, basically, that you got out.

By the skin of our-- last boat to leave Holland. What was it--

The S.S. Rotterdam.

The S.S. Rotterdam. Now, before we started this interview, off camera it was mentioned to me that I should ask you about a 13-year-old boy.

This is at the propitious moment.

Oh, really? OK, so tell me about it.

The day we left out of Rotterdam, we were just outside of the boat area. I guess we were having lunch. And all of a sudden, my little friend, Danny Appel-- 13 years old, and I was 11-- comes with one rose to bid me goodbye. How he knew I was going, I have no idea. I have his picture I'll show to you.

Who is Danny Appel? Tell me.

Danny Appel was a little boy that I met in the group we were in Holland.

OK.

He had also been on a children transport.

OK.

But he was very short for his age, and I was very petite. So we were the two little kids, always. And he came to Rotterdam to wish me farewell. And he gave me a little photo with a little note in a bag saying, remember me, your friend, Danny.

OK.

So that happened the last day prior to getting on board ship. Now, about five years ago or four years ago, this Dr. Keesing gets my name through an organization here that's-- the Kindertransport has an organization. I went to one or two meetings, and find out about Dr. Keesing.

OK, so at this point, I'm going to interject and say that now jumping ahead to about 2010. And Dr. Keesing is-- tell us who she is and--

OK. This is all pertaining to Danny Appel.

Got it.

Dr. Keesing is a professor at a University in Holland--

Today.

--today who is documenting the 2,000, quote, "illegal children" that came into Holland.

OK.

And through this organization, I heard her name. I e-mailed her. And she e-mailed me back, all of which I have documented, wanting to know where I was, what happened to me. And she writes me all this information of the documents of my entry, the documents of my exit of Holland. She had already documented me. She knew all about me.

But she's trying to figure out how this all happened. So on our second or third email, I said, with all the work you're doing, I have been thinking about a young man by the name of Danny Appel. And I had no response. I can't figure it out, because previously, she'd e-mailed me back right away.

One evening, I am by myself right here, and the phone rings. And a gentleman's on the other line. And he said, he'd like to speak to me, and was I in Holland, blah, blah, blah. And I'm sure that this is a hoax.

So I said, I'm terribly sorry, but I don't know who you are, and I'm going to hang up the phone. And he said, no, no, no, no, no. He said, I forget to mention Dr. Keesing gave me your number. Well, with that, I knew whoever this person was-- it turned out to be Danny Appel--

Wow.

--who is no longer Danny Appel. He remained in Holland at the beginning of the war. But when he was-- the entrance into Holland, his German passport, he was Rudolf Appel. That was his name.

He changed it to Daniel, Danny for short. That's what he was known by. So when I'm asking for Danny, he is no longer Danny. He joined the French underground--

Oh, my goodness.

--and survived in France under Danny, only he finally gets a visa to come to the United States, and his passport is Rudolf. So he has to change his passport back Rudolf. And I said to him, I have your picture. And he said, I can't believe it.

So I went. I enlarged the picture, sent it to him. And my children said, Mom-- this was in February or so. My children said, get on a plane, and go to New York. I said, no, it's winter time, I'm not doing that. So that summer, I did just that.

Did you?

And we reunited after 70-some-odd years.

Oh, my goodness. I mean, the circles, as they're coming full circle.

And it turns out that he survived the war, and so did his mom, whom he did not know was alive. And he lives in New York. He married a lady by the name of Susie.

Oh.

[LAUGHTER]

And he has two daughters. And he was alive and well. However, we have been calling each other just to say, hello. I called him for the holidays. I have called him three times, and left a message, and I have not heard. So I make the assumption that I think something's not right there.

Well, what a gift, so many decades later, to find the boy who gave you the rose right before you leave.

And he is very involved with Dr. Keesing, because all his gentlemen, all his boyfriends who survived-- he was able to give Dr. Keesing the information what happened to them.

Wow.

So he's been involved.

So let's go on the Rotterdam as you're crossing the ocean. Do you have memories of that crossing?

Absolutely. It was lovely.

Yeah?

It was lovely, except for one unfortunate situation. A lady passed away on board ship. And my mother, being orthodox, offered her services and volunteered to take care of the deceased, which is a Jewish custom. And my sister and I, who had never heard of this, didn't know anything about it, both of us refused to have anything to do with my mother, because she'd been with--

A dead person.

So until we understood--

What that involved.

--what she had done, which-- we had no idea.

And was the lady buried at sea?

Yes.

But here, my mom-- I mean, [INAUDIBLE] how she had all these-- it was incredible.

Did you know you were going when you--

Oh, yes.

OK.

Yes, definitely. We landed in New York. We were met by a distant partisan-- young, young guy-- who had been sent to New York by Zeiss camera company as an intern from Germany and never went back. He's in his middle 20s. And he came to the ship to greet us to tell us that, unfortunately, we could no longer go to LA.

All our things went to LA. And some clothes went to LA. And we were not prepared for winter, except for what we had on our backs-- that the gentleman who had sponsored us, who was a Chicagoan, had a brother in LA. Apparently, he didn't want us in Chicago. So he suggested the climate would be better for whatever reason. However, unfortunately, the brother had a massive heart attack the week that we arrived and could no longer--

Help.

--help us. So we went from New York by Greyhound bus on \$20 that we had. And for two days of the trip, we each shared a half a sandwich every place we went, a half a cheese sandwich. But we got to Chicago.

And then what happened in Chicago?

In Chicago, we were met by a first cousin of my mother's whom she hardly knew who had been here four months with his wife. He got us a hotel room, one room for the four of us, and met him downtown Chicago in very nice south side of Chicago where most of the German people gravitated to.

What's it called, that section?

It was--

It was just called south side?

No. Hyde Park was the nice section.

Right.

This was on the lower side of Hyde Park, but nice.

OK.

It was the divided section.

OK.

On one side, there were mansions. And on the other side was [? nothing. ?]

OK.

So we were there. And I started school a week later. And I had a wonderful experience. I couldn't speak a word of English.

I was going to ask you. Yeah.

And I was put into kindergarten.

Oh, my.

And then I went to first grade. And then I went to second grade. And finally, I ended up in third grade.

At the end of-- during one school year?

Oh, yeah, during a few months.

Yeah.

And you pick up the language very simply. And one day, in December-- well, I'd been here maybe-- maybe it was January. I don't know. It was very cold, wintery December, and I wore the same thing all the time to school.

Of course, all my clothes were-- you didn't buy clothes in-- you bought clothes. But we had our clothes made. So I had a little suit on, and a little sweater that I wore every day, and a raincoat over it, and big boots. We all wore boots, which were not in fashion here at the time. And it was a very, very cold, snowy day.

And a limousine drove up to the school. The school was-- some of the more comfortable people were there, ordinary, middle class. And a limo pulled up in front of school. And a few of the kids-- a little kid who was in my class-- I don't even know his name. And he said, come on, come on.

And his mother was in the limo. And as I approached the limo, she spoke German to me. And she said, you're the new kid, come have lunch with us. And she was a lovely woman.

Oh, my--

Magnificent home. And she had us for lunch and then drove us back. And she said, why did you come in a limo? And I said, we had a chauffeur at home. That wasn't anything special. But as long as you were sitting there, I figured, why not? What do I have to lose? I mean, all of the other kids were going.

Yeah.

Turns out this lady had three sons. She never had a daughter. So a few days thereafter, she picks up the telephone. And we didn't even have a telephone. About a year later, she picks up the phone. And she calls my mother. And she said, I'm so crazy about you little girl. Could I adopt her?

Oh, my goodness.

And my mother said, are you crazy? However, this lady was someone I kept in touch with. We used to sit next to each other at the opera. We kept in touch with her for a long time.

What a lovely story. Now, you went to public school in Chicago?

Absolutely.

Was that a strange adjustment, or not so much?

You're in a strange country. First of all, you have to learn the language.

OK. Were there other refugee kids in that school? Or were you really the only one?

Not that I know of. In high school, they were.

OK.

In high school, there were several others, but not in that school that I know of.

Did your stuff ever arrive from Las Angeles?

No.

You never got it back.

It never got there.

The container?

Stayed in Chicago.

You stayed in Chicago. But the container items never got--

Oh, yes, they were there. And it took, like, three years. And my mother said to my dad, I must have that container. And, why do you need it? We can do without whatever.

We were in furnished apartments. And my mother said, all my photos, all are there. And no matter what, we were going to get the container. That's what we did.

And it happened. Eventually, it happened.

Again, my mother.

Yes. Yes.

My dad thought it was crazy.

How did your parents then start establishing themselves?

Oh.

What happened?

Terrible.

What happened?

The gentleman who sponsored us had a company that was a major American company, American Transportation Corporation.

OK.

They made railroad cars. And he invited us to meet him. This was a third cousin or second-- I have his birth certificate, too, because my mother needed all this to verify that he was a relative.

A relative.

He invited us to come downtown Chicago. We lived on the south side, 47 blocks from downtown. December 10, we walked from 47th Street to downtown through an area that was--

Rough.

--not for us to walk through, but we didn't know. How did we know? And we got to the office. He not only had his office there, he owned the entire building-- major, major, major building, 15 floors, a big building in Chicago on LaSalle Street. And we came.

And he didn't offer my mother a seat in his office. And my father was so infuriated that nobody-- and my mother kept saying, he saved our lives, it's nothing, don't worry about it. Well, he didn't offer my dad a job. Here, he has the whole-- whole building was not all of them, but he had 10 floors. Give him a job as a sweet or something.

Nothing.

Not so. But he said that in his factory, outside of Chicago, an hour and a half, they could use somebody. So that's where my dad started. And he was there for about four months. Then he said, I can't do this, it's not for me.

And so he had to find work on his own.

So he decided to find whatever job he could. And his first job in Chicago was as a dishwasher in a restaurant. And with his first paycheck-- this will show you who my father was-- the lady who hired him, he went and bought her six roses with his first paycheck to thank her for finding him a job.

That is class.

That's my father.

That, with so--

So with the little money he had--

Yes. Yes.

It all started.

And how did life develop then from there?

It just developed, and they went into another business, became representatives of ladies' fashion. But then he needed a car. It took time.

So did he--

The progression was slow.

It's ironic, but you ended up in a city that had a lot of slaughterhouses.

Yeah.

And was that ever a thought or a possibility that he'd use the expertise he had?

Oh, I was dying to get into the air conditioning field. That was really what he knew.

Yeah.

But--

No possibilities.

No, unfortunate.

And yourself-- you finished high school in Chicago. And how did your life go? Did you go to college?

Beautiful.

Yeah?

I was very busy.

OK.

I started working when I was 14 in one of the finest dress shops in Chicago-- very unusual shop, owned by Germans-- learned everything I knew through difficult times for \$0.25 an hour.

Oh, my goodness.

But that's OK. I was 14. I had to wear a black dress, and a white collar, and white cuffs-- was our uniform to work in the store.

What was the name of the store?

Feigenheimer.

Feigenheimer.

He had one of the finest shops in Berlin. He was known-- he only did copies of Paris fashion. He would go to Paris every three months, copy this.

And come back.

So I learned a lot. Terrible man, terrible, but he had a lovely daughter who didn't want any part of the store. She was Americanized already, and she did not want it. The store was by appointment only.

Oh, it was that kind of store?

Oh, yes.

A very nice store.

And you were served lunch, if you were there, or tea, and whatever.

And when you were 14, war was still going on in Europe. That was in the early '40s. And were you--

The war was just over.

Oh, it was just over.

Yeah.

Yeah?

No. No.

No, no?

The war was still going on.

Still going on. Were you hearing anything of what was going on in Europe? Did you know of what had happened to relatives? Had you had--

No.

--any news, or anything like that?

There was no news, other than what everyone was subject to. No.

When did you find out about what the fate was of people who didn't make it out?

Much later, when the news finally broke. You had no way of communicating with--

And no news reports, in other words.

Oh, yes, there were. Sure. But at the time, when they liberated Auschwitz and all that, that's when we first started to learn about it.

Through the US news reports.

And my husband was in Europe at the time. Of course, he wasn't my husband yet. But he was in France during the war. And my pediatrician was there when they liberated Auschwitz. So they-- finally, but this was years later.

Was your husband also from Europe?

Yes, he was. He was born in Poland.

OK. And he had come to the United States and then--

Yes, with his mother. And his father had come prior to that.

OK. He joined the US military?

Again?

He joined the US military and was--

Oh, absolutely.

OK.

He was an attorney, went to Washington, wanted to work for the government. As a Jew, he could not work for the government. So he enlisted in the Army, became a captain, spoke French fluently, went to declares as a-- not Paris-- went to France as an interpreter for the [NON-ENGLISH].

Oh, it's restoration.

Restoration, yes.

OK.

That was his field.

So let's go back. You said your nanny had kept all of the documents about your parents' business.

No, she documented. She didn't have documents.

She documented--

She documented the kind of family we were, that she--

When we talk about [NON-ENGLISH], which is restoring-- writing a wrong, basically. That's what it means. Did that ever happen in your parents' case as far as the business? Did they ever get any compensation for it?

The following happened. My mother suggested to my dad that, like many, many of their acquaintances-- went to Germany immediately, got lots of reparation, or considerations. Let's put it that way.

OK.

My father said, I will never step foot in that country again. They didn't do right by me, and they can keep their reparation. However, when he realized what he had missed because his friends were all being well taken care of, he decided to get in contact with the attorney who had handled the business deal, who was alive and well.

I have a ledger this big of every correspondence that went on for three years, or two years. I am not sure. I have it all. I just went through it the other day. It's amazing.

And so what was the end result?

So the attorney kept suggesting my father come, but without his acknowledging all this. And finally, about-- I would say, nine months before the end of the period where you could claim-- my father decided to go to Germany. And by the time all the papers were claimed, the date had expired.

The time for that particular law-- there were different laws of personal regarding business. And the German who fought the case, he fought the case. And so my father never got anything pertaining to business. However, they did get reparation-- not as much as anybody else did.

And I have stopped showing what they got. I think they-- I don't know. I'd have to look it up. I think they got something like \$500 a month, or \$300 a month. Maybe it was \$300. I could look that up. I don't know.

But they never got--

But very minimal, because had he followed up in the beginning--

OK. He wouldn't have come across all of these obstacles.

Under duress, he was never going to do them. So they did-- for the rest of their lives, did get reparations, yes. Minor.

But not--

They never got a major sum. Many people did, and then their monthly.

So they never get compensated for their business.

Not a penny. I don't know why this other man got involved.

The other man being the one who was fighting it? Or the--

Yes.

Yes.

Yes.

Yes. Well, maybe he wanted to keep the business. He probably just did--

I don't know. But he said he only bought it at this special price for whatever, but that wasn't the fact.

OK. When did you first go back to Germany?

In 1955. But I didn't go to Germany. No. When did I first go back to Germany? Interestingly enough, I went with my rabbi, who talked me into going. He said, I'll take care of you, don't worry. And that must have been in the '90s.

So decades later.

Yeah.

50 years later, actually. So in some ways, you had the same point of view.

Maybe. Yeah, I think it must have been either '89 or '90. I can look that up, too.

So that means it's half a century after you leave. So you also had a point of view, like your dad was, I don't want to go. I'm not going to see--

Absolutely. There was no reason why I should go. I really didn't want to go.

And when you did that first time with your rabbi, did it change anything?

It was an interesting trip, because I was the interpreter of a lot of unpleasantness that I overheard, because he was wearing a yarmulke all the time. And people would make--

Comments.

--very unfavorable remarks. Not all of the time, but if we were sitting in a restaurant, there were people discussing unfavorable things.

In the '90s.

Oh, in German. And I am listening to what they're saying.

Did you go to Cologne?

No, not the first time. No, I went to Cologne as a guest. That was the first time.

The first time you went to Cologne was as a guest?

Yes.

And that would have been fairly--

Right.

--recently.

Yes.

And that was in 2005, or '06, or something like that-- eight, nine years ago?

I don't know. I have it all here. I looked it up in a minute. When did I go? Let's see. Eight years ago would have been-- I think it was about eight years ago.

So that's 2007.

So '15.

Yeah.

Yeah.

2007 is the first time you're back in Cologne.

Right, with my children.

With your children.

And what kind of experience was that?

It was just lovely. I was treated most cordially. The mayors secretary, who had been with him for-- she had been in that position over 25 years through different men. She was a love. And we just hit it off. And we still correspond.

So what kind of a program had they set up for you?

We were not the only people. They had 30-- I think we were 28 people from all over the world, one of whom was born in Cologne.

OK.

There were people from Israel, people from England, people from Australia. It was lovely.

And was it a formal program?

We had a total program for seven days-- very strenuous. Every day, we had an unusual experience, including-- and this lady was interesting-- a woman who is now the head of-- oh, my goodness, I don't know all these terms. She is in charge

of all the documents in the Rhine area of anything that happened to the Jewish population.

I see.

And she works in an office that had been the head of the police where the basement was a jail. And she took me aside. And she said, I don't want to go down there.

Do you think it's where your father was held?

Yes. I don't know. No, that I don't know.

But she was the one-- they have a library of everything that happened from 1932 on. And she gave me the picture-- she gave me my parents' engagement announcement in the newspaper. And she gave me my grandfather's-- I have it there-- opening of the store.

Oh, my goodness.

So she took me into her library. It was unbelievable. You know how the Germans keep the ledgers?

Yes. Yes.

She had done all the work before I came, 'cause she had everybody's name, who were all from Germany. But she did--

OK, so she brought you in, and she showed you items that pertain to your family.

I would have never known this. She had investigated the name. And she said, yes, they're originally a--

OK. So we were talking about--

What maybe I was referring to is quite well-respected in her field. She has written a book about the Jews in Cologne. And I own the book. She gave it to me.

She's so unusual. She's a very quiet, laid back intellectual with knowledge that-- I always look at her. And I said, where do you store all this? She's amazing.

So when I took my grandchildren, they were fascinated with this woman. They couldn't get enough of her. We invited her for dinner. And she said, no, I can't do that, but I'll have coffee with you. And we had coffee one afternoon.

There was so much personal things that she told the children about. And they're all now really interested. I don't know whether it will continue, but they had a wonderful background with whatever this woman created. It was wonderful.

Did it--

She is still--

Yeah. Did it change your feeling about Germany?

Yes and no. I must say yes, because the people I met were cordial, lovely, young. I spoke at two different schools. They were interested.

However, way down deep, I had this feeling. One little child in one of the schools said, oh, my grandpa told me something about the terrible Jews. It's this little kid in school that I was addressing. So my feeling were my peers-- I'm not sure.

But I just recently read an article, I think last week or so, last 10 days, that the Germans are saying they've had enough about-- they had to be educated on the Holocaust. They no longer want this to be part of the school curriculum. I don't know whether that's a fact.

OK. It sounds like very much a mixed bag, a mixed bag of reactions, and impressions, and feelings about-- would that be accurate?

Well, I don't think I met the average person. So I would not be able to qualify that, because the type of people I met had all been involved with people like myself. They were educated. And I don't think that's the case. However, I did have another interesting experience I'd like to share with you in Israel.

Sure, please.

I was on a trip to Israel-- not with George, on another trip to Israel. And I went to the Holocaust museum, of course.

Yad Vashem.

Right. And by myself, I went into the gift shop. And I'm walking through the gift shop. And I see four women, young, in their early 20s. And they're speaking in German. So I'm fascinated.

I went over, introduced myself in German. And I said, forgive me, but I'm curious. What are you doing in Israel?

And this one lady turned to me. And she said, I know so little about the Holocaust. She said, I am doing my masters in education, and we all came here to be educated.

She looked at me. And she said, and what are you doing in Israel? Of course, I answered her. And she said, you lived through Hitler's time?

She was like-- she couldn't believe it. She said, when were you born? And she started-- it was some engagement that I had with them. It was very interesting. But had I not approached them--

You wouldn't have had it. You wouldn't have had it.

No. And here, they're educated people coming to Israel to study, learn? So one never knows.

I wanted to-- on this question-- and we're still talking about post-war and your feeling and your relation to Germany. We jumped ahead to more recent times. But the first time you saw your nanny after the war, tell me about that. Tell me how you got to see her again.

It was glorious.

What were the circumstances?

Well, we had her come as our guest to the hotel we were staying at.

And where was this? What country?

In Amsterdam.

So you were in Amsterdam.

We just talked till all hours of the night. And we recalled so many wonderful happenings that we had shared throughout the years. And she had corresponded after the war with my mother all the time.

But I had young kids. I wasn't interested. I think I sent Christmas cards or something, but nothing on a very personal basis. So it was a glorious two days. My poor husband was, I'm sure, bored to tears because we spoke German all the time. And it was--

How did you--

--beyond my expectation.

Did she fill you in on what her life had been like from the time you said goodbye to her?

I think she did, but I don't recall very much. She had an injury during-- I think, during the war she fell, if I can remember correctly. And she worked in some office position, but couldn't walk very well. So I don't think her life was too wonderful.

We're coming to the end of the interview. Is there anything else you would like to share with us that you'd want other people to know about about your experience? And this can be either episodes, or some of the thoughts that have gone through your mind that you've wondered about, some of the ways you've interpreted what you went through, what you saw, and so on.

Well, my temple has asked me to speak several times. And I always feel that perhaps I was too young to realize what was really going on. I didn't have the burden of all the hardship. I was well taken care of until Kristallnacht. And I felt my childhood was absolutely glorious, lovely. I had as lovely a childhood as I wanted my children to have.

But we definitely had values in our family. We had religion in our family. And I have felt very grateful that we talk about it a lot, especially when the holidays come about, because most of my friends are not so inclined. And I love to go to services. I enjoy it. It's something very personal that I get out of it.

And I think my children are involved, but not to the extent that I am. I always feel they do things because they know it means a lot to me. They do go to services, but not on a regular basis, but that's fine. They have their value system, I have mine.

So I have always said, I'm so grateful that I had the kind of parents I had, because I was given values that have served me well. And I learned very early on in life. I was very independent. And I'm very particular about friends I choose. I've always been. I didn't have a lot of girlfriends. But if I had one--

Quality.

This lady just-- that called, we're friends 55 years.

Wow.

And I have another one in Chicago that's 56 years. So I think I have been so grateful. I've had a lovely life. I believe that every person-- up to an extent, I realize that-- but we have the ability to create a lifestyle, no matter what milieu we're in. But the style we create is something that I think I really inherited from my mom.

What a great tribute to her.

And I learned a great deal from both of them.

Yeah. All right, Susi, thank you very much. Thank you for sharing your story. Thank you for painting such wonderful pictures with your descriptions of the various parts, the various episodes, the impressions that you had.

I am very grateful. And this has enriched our knowledge of this huge, huge monumental event that still reverberates today. And with that, I'd like to say this concludes the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum interview with Mrs.

Susi Frank Annes on October 4, 2015 in Palm Beach, Florida. Thank you.

My pleasure. It's been a lovely experience.

Thank you.

Thank you.

An eisschranke. [LAUGHS]

Yeah.

That's a funny word.

Ice cabinet.

Yeah, an eisschranke.

[INAUDIBLE]

OK. So Susi, tell me, what is this that we see here?

It's an eisschranke.

OK. But the whole item-- it says, J. Rosenstamm Koln-Schlachthof.

Schlachthof.

So is this an advertisement of some kind?

It is.

And what is--

This was an ad in the newspaper. This is an advertisement that they have refrigerated cabinets for the use of butcher stores.

And this would have been one of the items, one of the products--

Yes.

--that your mother and father's business had.

OK, but this was 1927.

So that would have been before they took it over.

Correct.

And we stop. We can--

OK.

The most important part is that we get all of the top.

Mm-hmm.

See the top?

Yes.

OK.

So Susi, what is this about? What is this?

This is my maternal grandfather, who started this business of butcher supply needs.

OK. And he's the one--

In Cologne.

Mm-hmm.

And this is where the business was when I was born, Liebigstrasse 167.

Got it. Thank you. OK, Susi, what's this?

This is my passport, or my pass.

You mean to leave Germany?

To leave Germany.

I see. And it does have all of the--

Yeah. This says Rotterdam, August, 1939. But we didn't leave 1939. But apparently, this was a new passport that I had to do in Holland.

OK. You left--

You can see-- Excuse me.

Yeah. I think you said you left in November '39.

Correct.

OK. Thank you.

And this is the document telling my parents where to take their children who are going on the Kindertransport on the 4th of January, 1939.

Oh.

OK, this is a document that tells my parents-- it's to my mother-- that the children who are going on this children transport, where to drop them off at the main train station, and the time. And be sure that they have a special number on the suitcase. And they also need their birth certificates and-- what's that called?

Inoculation.

What?

Inoculation.

Inoculation in a separate envelope-- be sure that they have the inoculation and the birth certificate in a special envelope.