1 00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:03,339

2

00:00:03,339 --> 00:00:04,293 Camera roll.

3 00:00:04,293 --> 00:00:08,119

4 00:00:08,119 --> 00:00:11,510 This is a United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

5 00:00:11,510 --> 00:00:19,760 interview with Mrs. Natalie Kent Kempner on December 7th, 2018,

6

00:00:19,760 --> 00:00:22,010 in Woolwich, Maine.

7

00:00:22,010 --> 00:00:24,590 Thank you, Mrs. Kempner for agreeing

8

00:00:24,590 --> 00:00:28,130 to speak with us to share your experiences,

9

00:00:28,130 --> 00:00:31,250 to tell us a little bit about your life.

10

00:00:31,250 --> 00:00:34,490 I'm going to start with the most basic questions.

11

00:00:34,490 --> 00:00:38,480 And from there, we'll develop your story.

12 00:00:38,480 --> 00:00:42,380 Can you tell me, what is the date of your birth?

13 00:00:42,380 --> 00:00:46,220 January 18, 1924.

14 00:00:46,220 --> 00:00:48,080 And where were you born?

15 00:00:48,080 --> 00:00:49,940 In Philadelphia.

16 00:00:49,940 --> 00:00:54,380 And what was your name at birth?

17 00:00:54,380 --> 00:00:56,627 Natalie Faith Pierce.

18 00:00:56,627 --> 00:00:57,710 That was your maiden name?

19 00:00:57,710 --> 00:00:58,320 Mm-hmm.

20 00:00:58,320 --> 00:00:59,360 Pierce?

21 00:00:59,360 --> 00:01:00,800 Did you have brothers and sisters?

22 00:01:00,800 --> 00:01:01,670 None.

23 00:01:01,670 --> 00:01:02,780 You're an only child?

24 00:01:02,780 --> 00:01:03,280 Mm.

25 00:01:03,280 --> 00:01:04,280

011

26 00:01:04,280 --> 00:01:06,680 What was your mother's name?

27 00:01:06,680 --> 00:01:09,260 Gertrude Lindahl.

28 00:01:09,260 --> 00:01:10,880 Lindahl was her maiden name?

29 00:01:10,880 --> 00:01:11,810 Maiden name.

30 00:01:11,810 --> 00:01:12,800 OK.

31 00:01:12,800 --> 00:01:14,300 And your father's?

32 00:01:14,300 --> 00:01:16,280 George Pierce.

33

00:01:16,280 --> 00:01:19,880 Can you tell me the years that they were born?

34 00:01:19,880 --> 00:01:20,600

Yes.

35

00:01:20,600 --> 00:01:23,180 He was born in 1890.

36

00:01:23,180 --> 00:01:25,790 She was born in 1895.

37 00:01:25,790 --> 00:01:28,040 Are they both from Philadelphia?

38 00:01:28,040 --> 00:01:30,410 Oh, no.

39 00:01:30,410 --> 00:01:32,220

OK, where do they come from?

40

00:01:32,220 --> 00:01:35,250 He was from Iowa.

41

00:01:35,250 --> 00:01:37,190 She was from Illinois.

42

00:01:37,190 --> 00:01:40,760 She was from a Swedish immigrant family.

43

00:01:40,760 --> 00:01:41,930 And--

44

00:01:41,930 --> 00:01:44,000 Did she speak Swedish?

45

00:01:44,000 --> 00:01:45,530 As a child, yes.

46

00:01:45,530 --> 00:01:47,660 She went to Swedish school.

47

00:01:47,660 --> 00:01:50,070 They only spoke Swedish at home.

48

00:01:50,070 --> 00:01:52,880 But by the time I knew her, she'd

49

00:01:52,880 --> 00:01:55,370 forgotten her Swedish, more or less.

50

00:01:55,370 --> 00:01:58,960 Did you know your maternal grandparents? 00:01:58,960 --> 00:01:59,710 Did you know them?

52

00:01:59,710 --> 00:02:01,170 Did I know my pater--

53

00:02:01,170 --> 00:02:03,160 my ma-- no.

54

00:02:03,160 --> 00:02:04,210 No, I didn't.

55

00:02:04,210 --> 00:02:07,900 They-- he died when she was 17.

56

00:02:07,900 --> 00:02:10,300 Her mother died when she was seven.

57

00:02:10,300 --> 00:02:13,720 But she was the last of the children.

58

00:02:13,720 --> 00:02:15,820 She was the 14th child.

59

00:02:15,820 --> 00:02:16,605 Oh my goodness.

60

00:02:16,605 --> 00:02:17,350 Yeah.

61

00:02:17,350 --> 00:02:21,970 Some of them were born in Sweden before they came,

62

00:02:21,970 --> 00:02:25,360 and they went to a Swedish school.

63 00:02:25,360 --> 00:02:27,190 Did you know your

aunts and uncles from--

64

00:02:27,190 --> 00:02:27,700 Oh, yes.

65 00:02:27,700 --> 00:02:31,030 I knew some of them, not all 14.

66

00:02:31,030 --> 00:02:32,470 I knew seven of them.

67

00:02:32,470 --> 00:02:34,520 Did they live in the Philadelphia area?

68

00:02:34,520 --> 00:02:35,020 No.

69

00:02:35,020 --> 00:02:36,520 Nobody was in Philadelphia.

70

00:02:36,520 --> 00:02:37,870 They were all in Illinois.

71

00:02:37,870 --> 00:02:39,970 Ah, OK.

72

00:02:39,970 --> 00:02:41,650 And your father's side of the family,

73

00:02:41,650 --> 00:02:43,070 did he have brothers and sisters?

74

00:02:43,070 --> 00:02:44,800 He had one sister.

75

00:02:44,800 --> 00:02:53,420 OK, and were they from Iowa for several generations? 76 00:02:53,420 --> 00:02:54,380 How did they get there?

77 00:02:54,380 --> 00:02:54,880 Do you know?

78 00:02:54,880 --> 00:02:57,460

79 00:02:57,460 --> 00:03:05,030 They came-- his grandmother came in a covered wagon

80 00:03:05,030 --> 00:03:07,640 to Iowa from the East.

81 00:03:07,640 --> 00:03:08,870 I don't know where.

82 00:03:08,870 --> 00:03:17,120 And they were pretty thoroughly US people, American.

83 00:03:17,120 --> 00:03:20,090 So part of our history, part of the US history

84 00:03:20,090 --> 00:03:23,480 from the 19th century for sure onwards?

85 00:03:23,480 --> 00:03:24,140 Yeah.

86 00:03:24,140 --> 00:03:27,860 OK, were they a farming family in Iowa?

87 00:03:27,860 --> 00:03:28,820 Yeah.

89 00:03:29,960 --> 00:03:30,800 Yes.

90 00:03:30,800 --> 00:03:33,020 My mother's family, definitely.

91 00:03:33,020 --> 00:03:37,460 My father's family-- my grandfather, his father

92 00:03:37,460 --> 00:03:40,870 was a postman.

93

00:03:40,870 --> 00:03:46,090 He rode a horse and buggy and delivered mail.

94

00:03:46,090 --> 00:03:47,140 Did you know him?

95

00:03:47,140 --> 00:03:48,490 Oh, yes.

96

00:03:48,490 --> 00:03:50,840 He lived to be 96.

97

00:03:50,840 --> 00:03:51,670 And I--

98

00:03:51,670 --> 00:03:55,450 And your paternal grandmother, did you know her?

99 00:03:55,450 --> 00:03:56,170 Yes.

100 00:03:56,170 --> 00:03:58,990 She lived to be in her 70s. 101 00:03:58,990 --> 00:04:01,180 I knew them both.

102 00:04:01,180 --> 00:04:03,010 They lived in Iowa.

103 00:04:03,010 --> 00:04:06,100 And what was it that--

104 00:04:06,100 --> 00:04:09,220 why is it that you were born in Philadelphia?

105 00:04:09,220 --> 00:04:11,680 Oh, because my parents were living there.

106 00:04:11,680 --> 00:04:13,360 And what had brought them there?

107 00:04:13,360 --> 00:04:13,890 And what?

108 00:04:13,890 --> 00:04:17,040 What had brought them to Philadelphia?

109 00:04:17,040 --> 00:04:24,510 Oh, my mother, as a teenager, left Iowa with a friend.

110 00:04:24,510 --> 00:04:26,160 She'd gone to a kind of--

111 00:04:26,160 --> 00:04:28,620 she'd learn typing in shorthand.

112 00:04:28,620 --> 00:04:31,110 She had only gone through eighth grade. 00:04:31,110 --> 00:04:36,240 But she was-- somebody took interest in her

114

00:04:36,240 --> 00:04:39,990 and gave her this education in typing and shorthand,

115

00:04:39,990 --> 00:04:44,850 and she and her friend got on a train and went to New York,

116

00:04:44,850 --> 00:04:46,530 and they went to Brooklyn.

117

00:04:46,530 --> 00:04:50,940 And they found jobs with the Long Island Rail Road.

118

00:04:50,940 --> 00:04:54,100 And they loved it.

119 00:04:54,100 --> 00:04:55,020 They were there.

120 00:04:55,020 --> 00:05:00,300 The war began, and they had lots of boyfriends

121 00:05:00,300 --> 00:05:02,220 who were in the Army.

122 00:05:02,220 --> 00:05:05,940 And I think, though, that she met my father through one

123 00:05:05,940 --> 00:05:08,010 of her sisters in Iowa.

124 00:05:08,010 --> 00:05:10,260 But he was in the service.

00:05:10,260 --> 00:05:15,720 I mean, he was a GI but hadn't gone to war.

126

00:05:15,720 --> 00:05:17,640 He was just getting trained.

127

00:05:17,640 --> 00:05:18,750 And--

128

00:05:18,750 --> 00:05:20,010 This was World War I.

129

00:05:20,010 --> 00:05:22,770 This was World War I, yeah.

130

00:05:22,770 --> 00:05:23,820 Yeah.

131

00:05:23,820 --> 00:05:27,310 It was 1918 or so.

132

00:05:27,310 --> 00:05:31,490 We hadn't-- I think we were just entering the war.

133

00:05:31,490 --> 00:05:33,210 My father never got to Europe.

134 00:05:33,210 --> 00:05:37,210 He only got trained and got halfway across the ocean,

135

00:05:37,210 --> 00:05:38,620 and the war ended.

136 00:05:38,620 --> 00:05:40,510 So he came back.

137 00:05:40,510 --> 00:05:49,540 But she-- they were pretty steady, I think, all 138 00:05:49,540 --> 00:05:51,600 through that time.

139 00:05:51,600 --> 00:05:56,250 And they just ran off and got married one night.

140 00:05:56,250 --> 00:05:58,980

141 00:05:58,980 --> 00:06:04,140 And from Brooklyn to Philadelphia,

142 00:06:04,140 --> 00:06:05,530 what brought them there?

143 00:06:05,530 --> 00:06:06,030 Oh.

144 00:06:06,030 --> 00:06:08,860

145 00:06:08,860 --> 00:06:11,390 I suppose my father's job.

146 00:06:11,390 --> 00:06:13,610 He was working for--

147 00:06:13,610 --> 00:06:15,850 he sold farm equipment.

148 00:06:15,850 --> 00:06:19,930 He was a good person to teach farmers

149 00:06:19,930 --> 00:06:24,100 how to use the new equipment, the new plows and so on. 00:06:24,100 --> 00:06:29,300 And his company had a--

151 00:06:29,300 --> 00:06:32,750 their main office must have been in Philadelphia, I think.

152 00:06:32,750 --> 00:06:37,272 But I think that's the reason.

153 00:06:37,272 --> 00:06:38,800 I don't really know.

154 00:06:38,800 --> 00:06:40,780 Did you grow up in Philadelphia?

155 00:06:40,780 --> 00:06:41,590 No.

156 00:06:41,590 --> 00:06:44,060 We left there when I was three.

157 00:06:44,060 --> 00:06:48,190 But I was there very often.

158 00:06:48,190 --> 00:06:54,040 But then they moved to Upstate New York to Binghamton

159 00:06:54,040 --> 00:07:00,100 where he worked as a traveling salesman for John Deere.

160 00:07:00,100 --> 00:07:01,895 Oh, from John Deere equipment.

161 00:07:01,895 --> 00:07:02,490 Yeah.

162 00:07:02,490 --> 00:07:03,420 No kidding. 163 00:07:03,420 --> 00:07:07,110 John Deere, the inventor of the steel plow.

164 00:07:07,110 --> 00:07:08,990 Wow.

165 00:07:08,990 --> 00:07:14,570 And I didn't realize John Deere company was already

166 00:07:14,570 --> 00:07:16,970 in existence in the 1920s.

167 00:07:16,970 --> 00:07:17,480 Yeah.

168 00:07:17,480 --> 00:07:18,620 Oh, yes.

169 00:07:18,620 --> 00:07:22,730 It started in the 1800s, I think,

170 00:07:22,730 --> 00:07:24,425 when he invented the steel plow.

171 00:07:24,425 --> 00:07:27,710

172 00:07:27,710 --> 00:07:32,860 Tell me, you say you went back to Philadelphia a lot.

173 00:07:32,860 --> 00:07:34,430 What brought you back?

174 00:07:34,430 --> 00:07:37,100 Were there family there when you had left? 00:07:37,100 --> 00:07:40,760 Very close friends that I called them aunts and uncles.

176 00:07:40,760 --> 00:07:43,820 And I loved going to Philadelphia

177 00:07:43,820 --> 00:07:48,530 because there were escalators and automats--

178 00:07:48,530 --> 00:07:51,050 I loved going to the automat--

179 00:07:51,050 --> 00:07:59,280 and these wonderful adults in my life who made me

180 00:07:59,280 --> 00:08:02,070 feel very cared for.

181 00:08:02,070 --> 00:08:05,850 And my mother loved Philadelphia.

182 00:08:05,850 --> 00:08:09,580 And they came off and to visit us, too.

183 00:08:09,580 --> 00:08:12,370 And was it the same with visiting

184 00:08:12,370 --> 00:08:14,470 your mother's family and your father's

185 00:08:14,470 --> 00:08:18,010 that you would travel to Illinois and to Iowa

186 00:08:18,010 --> 00:08:19,850

187

00:08:19,850 --> 00:08:21,680 Or-- because it's really far away.

188 00:08:21,680 --> 00:08:23,180 Everything is very far away.

189 00:08:23,180 --> 00:08:24,620 Oh, very far away.

190 00:08:24,620 --> 00:08:26,050

Yeah, it took a long time.

191

00:08:26,050 --> 00:08:29,780 We had to sleep on a sleeper when we went on the train.

192

00:08:29,780 --> 00:08:37,440 But during the Depression, my father used to quit his job.

193

00:08:37,440 --> 00:08:42,179 I mean, they didn't need any salesmen,

194

00:08:42,179 --> 00:08:44,580 so he would go work on a farm.

195

00:08:44,580 --> 00:08:46,590 And my mother and I would get on a train

196

00:08:46,590 --> 00:08:50,670 and go to Illinois to one of her sisters or to Iowa

197 00:08:50,670 --> 00:08:55,740 and stay for the summer, which was nice. 00:08:55,740 --> 00:08:57,960 Does that mean that you no longer

199

00:08:57,960 --> 00:08:59,980 had a home in Binghamton of your own?

200 00:08:59,980 --> 00:09:00,480 Or--

201 00:09:00,480 --> 00:09:02,430 Well, we always rented.

202 00:09:02,430 --> 00:09:06,310 We had an apartment in Binghamton all the time.

203 00:09:06,310 --> 00:09:12,300 I did-- I went all the way through school in Binghamton.

204 00:09:12,300 --> 00:09:15,150 How did the Depression--

205 00:09:15,150 --> 00:09:17,480 [PHONE RINGS] OK, let's cut for a second.

206 00:09:17,480 --> 00:09:19,898

207 00:09:19,898 --> 00:09:20,440 How did the--

208 00:09:20,440 --> 00:09:22,040

209 00:09:22,040 --> 00:09:22,540 Fine?

210 00:09:22,540 --> 00:09:26,380

> This is a verbatim transcript of spoken word generated with 3Play Media. It is not the primary source, and it may contain errors in spelling or accuracy.

211 00:09:26,380 --> 00:09:29,095 How did the Depression affect your family?

212 00:09:29,095 --> 00:09:31,860

213 00:09:31,860 --> 00:09:37,340 Well, looking back, I know we were very poor.

214 00:09:37,340 --> 00:09:39,280 But it didn't affect me in the slightest.

215 00:09:39,280 --> 00:09:40,990 I felt cared for.

216 00:09:40,990 --> 00:09:42,440 I never felt--

217 00:09:42,440 --> 00:09:44,410 I mean, it didn't affect me in the way

218 00:09:44,410 --> 00:09:46,420 that I was hungry or anything.

219 00:09:46,420 --> 00:09:50,080 I just know how hard it was when I think about it.

220 00:09:50,080 --> 00:09:52,000 I didn't think about it then.

221 00:09:52,000 --> 00:10:03,230 And they-- my mother used to save postage stamps by walking

222 00:10:03,230 --> 00:10:06,110 to all the places where she had to pay bills,

223

00:10:06,110 --> 00:10:10,190 like the electric and the gas and the fish market,

224

00:10:10,190 --> 00:10:15,530 and we'd walk because she'd never learn to drive

225

00:10:15,530 --> 00:10:19,370 and she didn't want to buy stamps.

226

00:10:19,370 --> 00:10:20,300 What were stamps?

227

00:10:20,300 --> 00:10:22,850 Like, \$0.01, \$0.02.

228

00:10:22,850 --> 00:10:30,840 But she was very frugal and very good, very savvy

229

00:10:30,840 --> 00:10:33,160 about saving money.

230

00:10:33,160 --> 00:10:35,880 So that became part of me.

231

00:10:35,880 --> 00:10:41,670 I'm really-- frugality is part of me, and I--

232

00:10:41,670 --> 00:10:47,790 there were no such things as charge cards and plastic and--

233 00:10:47,790 --> 00:10:48,690 we paid.

00:10:48,690 --> 00:10:49,470 They never bought.

00:10:49,470 --> 00:10:53,010 That's why we didn't own a house until I was in college,

236

00:10:53,010 --> 00:10:55,080 because they never wanted a debt.

237

00:10:55,080 --> 00:10:56,850 So they waited till they had enough money

238 00:10:56,850 --> 00:10:59,400 to buy a house because-- and they never

239 00:10:59,400 --> 00:11:01,170 had a debt in anything.

240 00:11:01,170 --> 00:11:05,700 So I grew up sort of feeling very stingy.

241 00:11:05,700 --> 00:11:06,660 I mean--

242 00:11:06,660 --> 00:11:08,430 But that's also freedom.

243 00:11:08,430 --> 00:11:09,150 Hmm?

244 00:11:09,150 --> 00:11:10,690 That's also freedom that--

245 00:11:10,690 --> 00:11:11,190 Yeah.

246 00:11:11,190 --> 00:11:12,960 Oh, it was-- yeah.

247

00:11:12,960 --> 00:11:14,580 And it also--

248 00:11:14,580 --> 00:11:16,800 I never knew we were poor.

249

00:11:16,800 --> 00:11:22,450 I had many friends whose fathers were lawyers and doctors

250 00:11:22,450 --> 00:11:24,280 and they were better off.

251 00:11:24,280 --> 00:11:26,680 But they're worried about money all the time,

252

00:11:26,680 --> 00:11:30,670 and I never understood whether my father

253

00:11:30,670 --> 00:11:32,830 can't sleep at night because he's

254 00:11:32,830 --> 00:11:34,555 so worried about this and that.

255 00:11:34,555 --> 00:11:37,120 And I didn't know.

256 00:11:37,120 --> 00:11:39,010 They kept it all from me.

257 00:11:39,010 --> 00:11:40,700 Were they worried, do you think, though?

258 00:11:40,700 --> 00:11:41,200 Hmm? 259 00:11:41,200 --> 00:11:44,160 Were your parents worried, however?

260 00:11:44,160 --> 00:11:45,780 I don't know.

261 00:11:45,780 --> 00:11:48,600 My mother was confident.

262 00:11:48,600 --> 00:11:55,170 She was a very strong woman, and she liked good things.

263 00:11:55,170 --> 00:12:00,240 So she always bought quality things that lasted.

264 00:12:00,240 --> 00:12:07,950 She would have loved LL Bean where you can return things.

265 00:12:07,950 --> 00:12:11,100 But, no, she was--

266 00:12:11,100 --> 00:12:13,360 and my father went along with it.

267 00:12:13,360 --> 00:12:16,270 They were both frugal.

268 00:12:16,270 --> 00:12:18,790 And it was just part of us.

269 00:12:18,790 --> 00:12:20,540 So tell me--

270 00:12:20,540 --> 00:12:21,040 [COUGHS] 271 00:12:21,040 --> 00:12:21,790 I beg your pardon.

272 00:12:21,790 --> 00:12:22,820 That's OK.

273 00:12:22,820 --> 00:12:23,630 That's OK.

274 00:12:23,630 --> 00:12:24,490 We're fine.

275 00:12:24,490 --> 00:12:26,044 Don't keep it in.

276 00:12:26,044 --> 00:12:26,998 Thank you.

277 00:12:26,998 --> 00:12:30,340

278 00:12:30,340 --> 00:12:33,250 Your father, you said, ended up working on farms

279 00:12:33,250 --> 00:12:37,380 after he no longer had a job with John Deere.

280 00:12:37,380 --> 00:12:40,870 No, he had a job all the time, but they would lay him off

281 00:12:40,870 --> 00:12:42,310 for the summer.

282 00:12:42,310 --> 00:12:45,760 And so he would go work on a farm with one of the farmers

283 00:12:45,760 --> 00:12:48,430 Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

that he was trying to sell the tractor to.

284 00:12:48,430 --> 00:12:50,200 But he was a good farmer.

285 00:12:50,200 --> 00:12:55,420 So-- and then we were taken care of because my relatives were--

286 00:12:55,420 --> 00:12:57,830 they were much more poor than we were.

287 00:12:57,830 --> 00:13:00,910 They used to get my hand-me-down clothes.

288 00:13:00,910 --> 00:13:07,630 But they had pigs and cows and milk, and I loved it.

289 00:13:07,630 --> 00:13:09,780 I mean, it was a good life.

290 00:13:09,780 --> 00:13:10,430 Well, yeah.

291 00:13:10,430 --> 00:13:10,930 Yeah.

292 00:13:10,930 --> 00:13:12,460 Yeah, I mean, it--

293 00:13:12,460 --> 00:13:15,670 when times are tough and people are hungry,

294 00:13:15,670 --> 00:13:18,850 it is usually the city folk who are hungry but not so much 00:13:18,850 --> 00:13:19,870 the country folk.

296 00:13:19 87

00:13:19,870 --> 00:13:20,560 Exactly.

297

00:13:20,560 --> 00:13:22,450 Because the country feeds the city.

298

00:13:22,450 --> 00:13:28,300 And if you have somebody who has a cow or a pig

299

00:13:28,300 --> 00:13:34,630 or something like that or honey or bees, you're OK.

300

00:13:34,630 --> 00:13:35,380 Or you're better.

301

00:13:35,380 --> 00:13:36,140 You're better off.

302

00:13:36,140 --> 00:13:36,640 Yeah.

303

00:13:36,640 --> 00:13:41,410 And my mother was a good gardener, so she grew things.

304

00:13:41,410 --> 00:13:44,170 Did you have-- so the place that you rented, was it a house?

305 00:13:44,170 --> 00:13:45,460

Was it an apartment?

306 00:13:45,460 --> 00:13:49,160 It was like a two-family house.

307 00:13:49,160 --> 00:13:52,330 We had sometimes the first floor, sometimes

308 00:13:52,330 --> 00:13:53,560 the second floor.

309 00:13:53,560 --> 00:13:55,090 Different places in Binghamton?

310 00:13:55,090 --> 00:13:57,830 No, they were mostly on the same street.

311 00:13:57,830 --> 00:14:01,360 And sometimes we would move downstairs,

312 00:14:01,360 --> 00:14:03,040 and then we'd move up.

313 00:14:03,040 --> 00:14:09,630 And it was-- my mother was very keen to not interrupt

314 00:14:09,630 --> 00:14:10,500 my schooling.

315 00:14:10,500 --> 00:14:16,740 So she found what was supposed to be the best school,

316 00:14:16,740 --> 00:14:19,660 and that's where we lived.

317 00:14:19,660 --> 00:14:21,780 And whenever-- I used to kind of dream

318 00:14:21,780 --> 00:14:26,130 of moving to a big city like Philadelphia or Boston. 00:14:26,130 --> 00:14:28,800 And she said, you better stay here.

320 00:14:28,800 --> 00:14:29,760 You've got friends.

321 00:14:29,760 --> 00:14:31,680 You've got a community.

322 00:14:31,680 --> 00:14:32,820 And she was right.

323 00:14:32,820 --> 00:14:36,120 I mean, it was a very safe, wonderful

324 00:14:36,120 --> 00:14:39,510 growing up in the '30s, '20s and '30s.

325 00:14:39,510 --> 00:14:42,320

326

00:14:42,320 --> 00:14:44,940 What else did I want to ask about those times?

327

00:14:44,940 --> 00:14:48,380 Tell me a little bit about your parents' personalities.

328 00:14:48,380 --> 00:14:50,240 What kind of a person was your mother?

329 00:14:50,240 --> 00:14:52,460 You've given me some indication.

330 00:14:52,460 --> 00:14:54,982 What are the things that she liked to do?

331 00:14:54,982 --> 00:14:56,315 What were some of her interests?

332 00:14:56,315 --> 00:14:58,590 She loved to travel.

333 00:14:58,590 --> 00:15:00,980 She wanted to go everywhere, and she ended up

334 00:15:00,980 --> 00:15:03,290 doing quite a bit of it.

335 00:15:03,290 --> 00:15:05,390 And she loved adventure.

336 00:15:05,390 --> 00:15:08,080

337 00:15:08,080 --> 00:15:11,900 She had a great sense of fun.

338 00:15:11,900 --> 00:15:15,560 And she was a very hard worker.

339 00:15:15,560 --> 00:15:19,130 As soon as I grew up and--

340 00:15:19,130 --> 00:15:21,530 she got a job in a bank.

341 00:15:21,530 --> 00:15:26,090 And she was the only one of her friends

342 00:15:26,090 --> 00:15:29,180 who all played-- they spent their afternoons playing

343 00:15:29,180 --> 00:15:32,540 bridge, which she had Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

done, too, because she

344

00:15:32,540 --> 00:15:33,920 wanted to watch over me.

345

00:15:33,920 --> 00:15:38,210 But when I finally got off a bit,

346

00:15:38,210 --> 00:15:40,220 then she got this job, which she loved.

347

00:15:40,220 --> 00:15:41,750 She loved working.

348

00:15:41,750 --> 00:15:43,580 And she loved being in the business world.

349

00:15:43,580 --> 00:15:46,250 And she worked in a bank.

350

00:15:46,250 --> 00:15:48,800 She considered herself a banker.

351

00:15:48,800 --> 00:15:55,010 And she loved good clothes, quality clothes.

352

00:15:55,010 --> 00:15:59,550 And she would-she was a very sort

353

00:15:59,550 --> 00:16:04,430 of unusual, independent woman for her time, I think.

354

00:16:04,430 --> 00:16:10,070 She would have loved to have done more, only it wasn't done, 00:16:10,070 --> 00:16:10,850 you know?

356

00:16:10,850 --> 00:16:13,580 And my father, on the other hand,

357

00:16:13,580 --> 00:16:16,500 was just a kind of a laid-back guy.

358

00:16:16,500 --> 00:16:17,690 He didn't like to travel.

359 00:16:17,690 --> 00:16:19,940 He'd like to be at home.

360 00:16:19,940 --> 00:16:22,880 Well, you know, if you're a salesman, you travel a lot.

361

00:16:22,880 --> 00:16:26,720 And you want to be at home, then,

362

00:16:26,720 --> 00:16:28,460 because you're on the road so much.

363 00:16:28,460 --> 00:16:30,680 Yeah.

364 00:16:30,680 --> 00:16:32,448 But maybe that's not what was--

365 00:16:32,448 --> 00:16:33,240 No, say that again.

366 00:16:33,240 --> 00:16:35,250 I said, if you a traveling salesman-- 00:16:35,250 --> 00:16:35,750 Oh yeah.

368

00:16:35,750 --> 00:16:36,560 --you're on the road.

369

00:16:36,560 --> 00:16:37,070 Right.

370

00:16:37,070 --> 00:16:37,760 And so then--

371

00:16:37,760 --> 00:16:39,350 He was always glad to get home.

372

00:16:39,350 --> 00:16:41,810 Yeah, yeah.

373

00:16:41,810 --> 00:16:44,780 But you say he was more laid-back person.

374 00:16:44,780 --> 00:16:47,180 Yeah, well, he-- yeah.

375 00:16:47,180 --> 00:16:48,250 He was quiet.

376 00:16:48,250 --> 00:16:50,090 He loved music.

377 00:16:50,090 --> 00:16:52,990 He had a great singing voice.

378 00:16:52,990 --> 00:16:54,460 And--

379 00:16:54,460 --> 00:16:55,960 Did he sing songs to you?

380 00:16:55,960 --> 00:16:58,420 Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

Oh, yes, lots of times.

381 00:16:58,420 --> 00:17:00,400 We'd go and-- when I'd go traveling

382 00:17:00,400 --> 00:17:04,480 with him and his salesman job, he would sing songs.

383 00:17:04,480 --> 00:17:07,990 And I-- now, I sing those songs while I'm

384 00:17:07,990 --> 00:17:13,900 walking on my treadmill when nobody's in the house,

385 00:17:13,900 --> 00:17:15,940 'cause I can't carry a tune.

386 00:17:15,940 --> 00:17:21,890 That's-- in the second grade, I was picked out with one other

387

00:17:21,890 --> 00:17:23,474 boy in my class--

388

00:17:23,474 --> 00:17:25,760 no, in first grade.

389

00:17:25,760 --> 00:17:27,650 We were called the bad singers.

390 00:17:27,650 --> 00:17:28,502 Oh, that's cruel.

391 00:17:28,502 --> 00:17:29,210 Isn't that cruel?

392 00:17:29,210 --> 00:17:30,095 That's very cruel. 393 00:17:30,095 --> 00:17:30,860 I mean, awful.

394 00:17:30,860 --> 00:17:32,150 I love to sing.

395

00:17:32,150 --> 00:17:34,910 And Miss Allen was the music teacher.

396

00:17:34,910 --> 00:17:37,520 And she'd come into our classroom.

397

00:17:37,520 --> 00:17:41,100 And she'd say, bad singers forward.

398

00:17:41,100 --> 00:17:44,180 So Ben and I--

399 00:17:44,180 --> 00:17:46,550 Ben with a little boy--

400

00:17:46,550 --> 00:17:48,200 went forward.

401

00:17:48,200 --> 00:17:51,410 And she would pull Ben's short hair like this

402

00:17:51,410 --> 00:17:52,820 to get them to sing--

403

00:17:52,820 --> 00:17:55,065 we had to sing the scales up and down.

404

00:17:55,065 --> 00:17:57,190 So pulling the hair would help him sing the scales? 405 00:17:57,190 --> 00:18:01,070 So that helped Ben get up, but she didn't do that to me.

406 00:18:01,070 --> 00:18:03,620 But there we were in front of the class

407 00:18:03,620 --> 00:18:05,390 having to sing scales.

408 00:18:05,390 --> 00:18:09,110 And it really kind of put a damper on my feeling

409 00:18:09,110 --> 00:18:11,090 like singing in school.

410 00:18:11,090 --> 00:18:14,090 I was always called a second soprano, which

411 00:18:14,090 --> 00:18:17,030 was like nowhere, I guess.

412 00:18:17,030 --> 00:18:22,940 But, still, my dad didn't mind.

413 00:18:22,940 --> 00:18:27,910 And he taught me all these songs from the war and from--

414 00:18:27,910 --> 00:18:30,700 just hokey sort of songs that--

415 00:18:30,700 --> 00:18:35,500 and then I go in there and sit-- they all come back.

416 00:18:35,500 --> 00:18:36,460 It's amazing. 417 00:18:36,460 --> 00:18:39,970 I sing these songs about Young Johnny Steele

418 00:18:39,970 --> 00:18:46,560 and his old mother's Oldsmobile and beautiful Katie

419 00:18:46,560 --> 00:18:49,480 and two little girls and-- oh, they just

420 00:18:49,480 --> 00:18:51,220 go on and on in my head.

421 00:18:51,220 --> 00:18:54,040 And I look at the river, and I sing,

422 00:18:54,040 --> 00:18:58,000 hoping nobody's in the house.

423 00:18:58,000 --> 00:19:02,620 And the thing is, having been a bad singer, when

424 00:19:02,620 --> 00:19:08,620 I met my second husband after I was a widow-- that's,

425 00:19:08,620 --> 00:19:11,810 of course, later on.

426 00:19:11,810 --> 00:19:15,590 He had never been married.

427 00:19:15,590 --> 00:19:19,730 And he had always thought that he

428 00:19:19,730 --> 00:19:23,000 would marry someone who had a beautiful singing voice

429 00:19:23,000 --> 00:19:26,720 and spoke many languages because he spoke many languages.

430 00:19:26,720 --> 00:19:30,470 I spoke nothing but English, some bad French,

431 00:19:30,470 --> 00:19:32,390 some bad German, and so on.

432 00:19:32,390 --> 00:19:34,910 And of course, I couldn't sing a note.

433 00:19:34,910 --> 00:19:38,300 So he settled for me.

434 00:19:38,300 --> 00:19:40,970 So life is funny.

435 00:19:40,970 --> 00:19:43,280 Well, I'm sure your father didn't

436 00:19:43,280 --> 00:19:44,600 think you were a bad singer.

437 00:19:44,600 --> 00:19:45,350 Oh, he didn't.

438 00:19:45,350 --> 00:19:47,450 He never complained.

439 00:19:47,450 --> 00:19:51,410 And I loved standing next to him in church

440 00:19:51,410 --> 00:19:54,410 because we would sing the thing that

441

00:19:54,410 --> 00:19:58,790 goes, "Praise God from whom all blessings flow."

442 00:19:58,790 --> 00:20:00,380 And he would sing the bass.

443

00:20:00,380 --> 00:20:03,890 And to me, it sounded like he was off tune a bit.

444

00:20:03,890 --> 00:20:06,410 But it was-- he had a beautiful voice.

445

00:20:06,410 --> 00:20:10,760 He had sung solos in church and so on and so--

446 00:20:10,760 --> 00:20:12,480 (SINGING) Praise Father.

447

00:20:12,480 --> 00:20:16,000 And it just-- it was wonderful.

448

00:20:16,000 --> 00:20:17,375 It also sounds like it was happy.

449

00:20:17,375 --> 00:20:20,750 And he was also a very fun kind of father.

450

00:20:20,750 --> 00:20:24,050 He loved to play games, card games,

451

00:20:24,050 --> 00:20:28,010 and he could do all kinds of magic tricks, 452 00:20:28,010 --> 00:20:31,070 like pull pennies out of his ear.

453 00:20:31,070 --> 00:20:33,770 He was a good father.

454

00:20:33,770 --> 00:20:37,700 My mother didn't have time for that kind of stuff.

455 00:20:37,700 --> 00:20:40,490 Well, it often happens that the fathers end up

456

00:20:40,490 --> 00:20:43,250 playing with their kids and mothers end up

457

00:20:43,250 --> 00:20:44,460 having to do all the work.

458

00:20:44,460 --> 00:20:45,300 All the work, yeah.

459

 $00:20:45,300 \rightarrow 00:20:48,110$ All the work, yeah, and being the disciplinarians.

460 00:20:48,110 --> 00:20:49,340 And she was a good cook.

461 00:20:49,340 --> 00:20:51,680 She loved to cook.

462 00:20:51,680 --> 00:20:54,570 Yeah, she often-- she was the only one that ever spanked me.

463 00:20:54,570 --> 00:20:55,070 Oh. 464 00:20:55,070 --> 00:20:58,910

465 00:20:58,910 --> 00:21:01,700 But were they strict parents.

466 00:21:01,700 --> 00:21:05,648 No, not at all.

467 00:21:05,648 --> 00:21:07,210 Not in the slightest.

468 00:21:07,210 --> 00:21:12,480

469 00:21:12,480 --> 00:21:14,640 You mentioned-- let's hold on a second

470 00:21:14,640 --> 00:21:16,110 while you can put the glass down.

471 00:21:16,110 --> 00:21:18,310 I know it's a little hard.

472 00:21:18,310 --> 00:21:18,950 There we go.

473 00:21:18,950 --> 00:21:21,930

474 00:21:21,930 --> 00:21:24,120 You mentioned church.

475 00:21:24,120 --> 00:21:26,160 Were your parents religious people?

476 00:21:26,160 --> 00:21:28,800 Not particularly, but they usually

477

00:21:28,800 --> 00:21:30,540 went to church on Sunday.

478 00:21:30,540 --> 00:21:33,090 They sent me to Sunday school.

479 00:21:33,090 --> 00:21:34,830 I loved Sunday--

480 00:21:34,830 --> 00:21:36,030 I loved school.

481 00:21:36,030 --> 00:21:39,360 So I loved Sunday school because these bright rooms

482 00:21:39,360 --> 00:21:43,410 and we sang these songs about Jesus loves me.

483 00:21:43,410 --> 00:21:45,000 I had no doubt he loved me.

484 00:21:45,000 --> 00:21:48,720 Just to me it was like another parent.

485 00:21:48,720 --> 00:21:52,050 He loved me the way my parents did, without judgment.

486 00:21:52,050 --> 00:21:54,650 And it was just a kind of happy religion.

487 00:21:54,650 --> 00:21:56,610 It was Methodist.

488 00:21:56,610 --> 00:22:00,570 They were not-- she was Swedish Lutheran.

489 00:22:00,570 --> 00:22:02,520 And he was--

490 00:22:02,520 --> 00:22:04,500 I don't know if he was much of anything

491 00:22:04,500 --> 00:22:06,560 when he was growing up.

492 00:22:06,560 --> 00:22:09,048 But the church that you were introduced to

493 00:22:09,048 --> 00:22:10,090 was the Methodist church.

494 00:22:10,090 --> 00:22:11,670 It was a Methodist church, yeah.

495 00:22:11,670 --> 00:22:12,930 OK.

496 00:22:12,930 --> 00:22:18,150 And you're saying they weren't particularly religious,

497 00:22:18,150 --> 00:22:19,800 but you did go every Sunday?

498 00:22:19,800 --> 00:22:22,110 Oh, I did, yeah.

499 00:22:22,110 --> 00:22:24,330 I liked rel-- I got kind of religious

500 00:22:24,330 --> 00:22:26,820 when I was a young teenager. 501 00:22:26,820 --> 00:22:29,520 I was interested in it.

502 00:22:29,520 --> 00:22:33,310 But then I began to feel that people

503 00:22:33,310 --> 00:22:37,600 were sort of hypocritical, that they dressed up for Easter

504 00:22:37,600 --> 00:22:42,130 and didn't sort of live their religion,

505 00:22:42,130 --> 00:22:44,060 but they showed it off.

506 00:22:44,060 --> 00:22:44,955 I don't know.

507 00:22:44,955 --> 00:22:45,580 It bothered me.

508 00:22:45,580 --> 00:22:46,790 Well, that's true.

509 00:22:46,790 --> 00:22:47,290 Hmm?

510 00:22:47,290 --> 00:22:48,130 It's true.

511 00:22:48,130 --> 00:22:54,610 It's been true through the ages that some people go to church,

512 00:22:54,610 --> 00:22:58,540 but they have no sense of spirituality in them. 513 00:22:58,540 --> 00:23:01,510 They go to church for reasons other than those

514 00:23:01,510 --> 00:23:02,765 that one thinks--

515

00:23:02,765 --> 00:23:03,640 It's the thing to do.

516 00:23:03,640 --> 00:23:04,140 Yeah.

517 00:23:04,140 --> 00:23:08,640

518 00:23:08,640 --> 00:23:12,830 What was regular school like?

519 00:23:12,830

00:23:12,830 --> 00:23:14,810 You said you liked going to school.

520

00:23:14,810 --> 00:23:18,260 I loved going to school except for Miss Allen.

521 00:23:18,260 --> 00:23:20,410 Well, I could understand why.

522 00:23:20,410 --> 00:23:22,490 And she was always there.

523 00:23:22,490 --> 00:23:26,540 And I had a little part in a play when

524 00:23:26,540 --> 00:23:28,440 I was in about fifth grade.

525 00:23:28,440 --> 00:23:30,830 Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

And I had to sing a solo.

526

00:23:30,830 --> 00:23:35,720 And she was quite amazed that I could sing this song.

527

00:23:35,720 --> 00:23:37,610 So maybe you weren't a bad singer?

528

00:23:37,610 --> 00:23:38,720 Maybe I wasn't.

529

00:23:38,720 --> 00:23:40,940 I mean, I don't know.

530

00:23:40,940 --> 00:23:45,440 Every now and then, I think, hey, I can carry a tune.

531

00:23:45,440 --> 00:23:47,690 But I never thought I could then.

532

00:23:47,690 --> 00:23:50,480 So it really killed my--

533

00:23:50,480 --> 00:23:53,990 and Ben, he was braver than I was.

534

00:23:53,990 --> 00:23:59,000 When he went to college, he went to Union College

535

00:23:59,000 --> 00:24:03,890 in Upstate New York, and he was in the choir and the boys

536 00:24:03,890 --> 00:24:04,460 chorus--

00:24:04,460 --> 00:24:06,140 the men's chorus.

538

00:24:06,140 --> 00:24:10,940 So he ended up having a good time singing.

539

00:24:10,940 --> 00:24:13,890 I didn't ever do that, but--

540

00:24:13,890 --> 00:24:17,190 But, you know, I'm saying it sort of

541

00:24:17,190 --> 00:24:20,430 like in a more lighthearted way.

542

00:24:20,430 --> 00:24:23,580 But seriously, when we think about it,

543

00:24:23,580 --> 00:24:26,387 to put such a label on a child--

544

00:24:26,387 --> 00:24:26,970 It's terrible.

545

00:24:26,970 --> 00:24:28,440 --at such an age.

546

00:24:28,440 --> 00:24:32,580 It's-- and to know that that's something that you still

547

00:24:32,580 --> 00:24:37,470 carried as a doubt for decades, it sounds like.

548

00:24:37,470 --> 00:24:40,890 That's exactly what I learned from that, 00:24:40,890 --> 00:24:43,620 because when I taught school and when I taught little kids,

550 00:24:43,620 --> 00:24:46,410 it would never occur to me to tell them

551 00:24:46,410 --> 00:24:49,440 they were bad at something, really bad.

552 00:24:49,440 --> 00:24:51,540 A bad singer-- oh!

553 00:24:51,540 --> 00:24:52,470 Yeah, yeah.

554 00:24:52,470 --> 00:24:53,790 It's sort of final.

555 00:24:53,790 --> 00:24:55,510 There's nothing you can do about it.

556 00:24:55,510 --> 00:24:56,550 Yeah, that's it.

557 00:24:56,550 --> 00:24:59,100 So you're set for life.

558 00:24:59,100 --> 00:25:03,600 And I remember being at an office Christmas party once

559 00:25:03,600 --> 00:25:09,430 in Ithaca, and we were singing Christmas songs.

560 00:25:09,430 --> 00:25:11,610 And one of the workers sitting next to me

561 00:25:11,610 --> 00:25:14,430 said, oh, she has a beautiful voice.

562 00:25:14,430 --> 00:25:15,510 Listen to her.

563 00:25:15,510 --> 00:25:17,700

I thought, oh, me?

564 00:25:17,700 --> 00:25:19,620 I mean, it was such a shock.

565 00:25:19,620 --> 00:25:21,780 Yeah, yeah.

566 00:25:21,780 --> 00:25:23,280 And I always loved to sing.

567 00:25:23,280 --> 00:25:26,850 I loved the peace songs and the war songs and--

568 00:25:26,850 --> 00:25:29,660

569 00:25:29,660 --> 00:25:32,750 Were there other subjects that you really liked in school?

570 00:25:32,750 --> 00:25:33,800 Social studies.

571 00:25:33,800 --> 00:25:34,900 You liked social studies?

572 00:25:34,900 --> 00:25:35,480 Yeah.

573 00:25:35,480 --> 00:25:39,470 What about social studies Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

was interesting for you?

574

00:25:39,470 --> 00:25:43,490 Oh, the maps, reading about the people

575

 $00:25:43,490 \rightarrow 00:25:45,920$ and the different places in the world.

576

00:25:45,920 --> 00:25:50,000 And we had some pretty good innovative teachers

577 00:25:50,000 --> 00:25:52,820 for the '30s.

578 00:25:52,820 --> 00:25:57,290 When we studied Arabia, we all wore sheets to school

579

00:25:57,290 --> 00:25:58,700 and ate dates.

580 00:25:58,700 --> 00:26:00,470

Oh, really?

581 00:26:00,470 --> 00:26:05,600 And when we studied Norway, we ate sardines out of cans.

582 00:26:05,600 --> 00:26:09,740 And we sort of really--

583 00:26:09,740 --> 00:26:12,260 and we made little dioramas.

584 00:26:12,260 --> 00:26:14,540 And I loved--

585 00:26:14,540 --> 00:26:18,260 I just loved hearing about

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other people in other countries.

586

00:26:18,260 --> 00:26:20,600 That was my favorite-reading, too.

587 00:26:20,600 --> 00:26:28,160 And my mother valued books so highly that she took me

588 00:26:28,160 --> 00:26:30,980 at least once a week to the library,

589 00:26:30,980 --> 00:26:33,200 and I'd get a stack of books.

590 00:26:33,200 --> 00:26:36,620 And she also joined me to something

591 00:26:36,620 --> 00:26:39,890 like a kind of literary club where

592 00:26:39,890 --> 00:26:41,920 I got a new book every month.

593 00:26:41,920 --> 00:26:43,100 It was so exciting.

594 00:26:43,100 --> 00:26:44,130 Well, that's huge.

595 00:26:44,130 --> 00:26:44,630 Hmm?

596 00:26:44,630 --> 00:26:45,710 That's huge for this--

597 00:26:45,710 --> 00:26:46,660 That's huge, yes. 598 00:26:46,660 --> 00:26:47,410 That's huge, yeah.

599 00:26:47,410 --> 00:26:52,220 Yes, I love-- you can tell I love books.

600 00:26:52,220 --> 00:26:53,540 They pile up.

601 00:26:53,540 --> 00:26:57,740 But-- and she didn't read much herself.

602 00:26:57,740 --> 00:27:01,190 But when she read, she read intensely.

603 00:27:01,190 --> 00:27:07,430 I remember her reading Gone With the Wind when that first

604 00:27:07,430 --> 00:27:10,700 came out, and she'd be reading late at night

605 00:27:10,700 --> 00:27:14,990 when I'd see her in the living room reading.

606

00:27:14,990 --> 00:27:19,160 And she didn't read a lot, but she read--

607

00:27:19,160 --> 00:27:21,600 she liked reading, and she wanted me to read.

608

00:27:21,600 --> 00:27:24,530 She thought that was the most important thing. 609 00:27:24,530 --> 00:27:26,210 Well, it opens up worlds.

610 00:27:26,210 --> 00:27:26,810 Yeah, it was--

611 00:27:26,810 --> 00:27:27,710 It opens up worlds.

612 00:27:27,710 --> 00:27:28,543 That's what it does.

613 00:27:28,543 --> 00:27:29,760 Yeah, it was great.

614 00:27:29,760 --> 00:27:30,680 I loved it.

615 00:27:30,680 --> 00:27:33,320 Well, it sounds also like you got a little bit of the travel

616 00:27:33,320 --> 00:27:35,520 bug from your mother.

617 00:27:35,520 --> 00:27:36,680 Oh, yes.

618 00:27:36,680 --> 00:27:38,360 Yeah.

619 00:27:38,360 --> 00:27:42,470 Social studies is the subject that most appeals to you

620 00:27:42,470 --> 00:27:46,370 and reading about those different people

621 00:27:46,370 --> 00:27:47,900 and different countries. 622 00:27:47,900 --> 00:27:49,970 And you're right.

623 00:27:49,970 --> 00:27:52,610 I mean, it's a proactive way for children

624 00:27:52,610 --> 00:27:56,540 to learn about other cultures is to not just have

625 00:27:56,540 --> 00:28:00,560 them read but have them feel something of what's involved.

626 00:28:00,560 --> 00:28:01,630 Eating a date.

627 00:28:01,630 --> 00:28:02,130 Yeah, yeah.

628 00:28:02,130 --> 00:28:03,422 Who would have thought of that?

629 00:28:03,422 --> 00:28:05,020 I mean, I never had a date at home.

630 00:28:05,020 --> 00:28:07,190 I never had a sardine.

631 00:28:07,190 --> 00:28:11,150 We had the most ordinary middle Western fare.

632 00:28:11,150 --> 00:28:13,250 But--

633 00:28:13,250 --> 00:28:15,890 Did you-- describe for us a little bit 634 00:28:15,890 --> 00:28:25,160 about home life in the '30s in a place like Binghamton.

635 00:28:25,160 --> 00:28:32,090 And I'm thinking more along the lines of modern facilities.

636 00:28:32,090 --> 00:28:34,600 I take it you had electricity.

637 00:28:34,600 --> 00:28:35,100 Yeah?

638 00:28:35,100 --> 00:28:36,067 Yes.

639 00:28:36,067 --> 00:28:36,650 Did you have--

640 00:28:36,650 --> 00:28:40,760 But my relatives didn't, the ones in Iowa.

641 00:28:40,760 --> 00:28:42,350 They still had kerosene lanterns.

642 00:28:42,350 --> 00:28:43,670 Lamps.

643 00:28:43,670 --> 00:28:45,770 Did your father own a car?

644 00:28:45,770 --> 00:28:46,520 Own a car?

645 00:28:46,520 --> 00:28:47,660 No, but his company-- 00:28:47,660 --> 00:28:48,590 he had a company car.

647 00:28:48,590 --> 00:28:50,240 --car that he could use.

648 00:28:50,240 --> 00:28:55,100 Well, then-- only when I was about 10,

649 00:28:55,100 --> 00:28:58,100 he got my mother a car because she wasn't supposed

650 00:28:58,100 --> 00:29:00,980 to learn to drive on his car.

651 00:29:00,980 --> 00:29:03,050 And she wanted to learn to drive.

652 00:29:03,050 --> 00:29:06,110 But she gave up after a few attempts.

653 00:29:06,110 --> 00:29:08,120 She did not like driving.

654 00:29:08,120 --> 00:29:11,570 So we had this just big old Nash,

655 00:29:11,570 --> 00:29:13,700 or it was a new Nash then.

656 00:29:13,700 --> 00:29:19,250 And it lasted until it just went dead one day.

657 00:29:19,250 --> 00:29:21,060 And how many years would that have been? 658 00:29:21,060 --> 00:29:21,560 Hmm?

659

00:29:21,560 --> 00:29:23,570 How many years would that have been?

660

00:29:23,570 --> 00:29:28,650 Oh, 10, 15, I don't know.

661

00:29:28,650 --> 00:29:29,240 OK, OK.

662

00:29:29,240 --> 00:29:31,020 It was--

663

00:29:31,020 --> 00:29:32,650 This is so crazy.

664

00:29:32,650 --> 00:29:36,450 But when you said "Nash," I am thinking of a Billy Wilder

665

00:29:36,450 --> 00:29:39,900 movie called One, Two, Three.

666

00:29:39,900 --> 00:29:43,140 And one of the characters, who plays a Soviet commissar,

667

00:29:43,140 --> 00:29:52,240 wants to trade a very nice car for a 19' something Nash.

668 00:29:52,240 --> 00:29:52,740 Oh!

669 00:29:52,740 --> 00:29:56,220 And that's the only other time that I have heard of that car. 00:29:56,220 --> 00:29:59,770 Well, I don't think anybody's heard of it anymore.

671 00:29:59,770 --> 00:30:01,800 Yeah, yeah.

672 00:30:01,800 --> 00:30:03,300 It must have-- it was one of those--

673 00:30:03,300 --> 00:30:05,160 But cars were very important.

674 00:30:05,160 --> 00:30:08,760 I mean, we knew the names of all the different kinds of cars.

675 00:30:08,760 --> 00:30:10,860 We could identify them.

676 00:30:10,860 --> 00:30:17,700 And my friends who were in families with four kids

677 00:30:17,700 --> 00:30:19,650 usually had a car with the seats that

678 00:30:19,650 --> 00:30:23,610 came back so that all the kids could sit down,

679 00:30:23,610 --> 00:30:25,470 but no seat belts.

680 00:30:25,470 --> 00:30:30,300 And-- oh, and our car was very fancy.

681 00:30:30,300 --> 00:30:32,340 It had window shades-- 682 00:30:32,340 --> 00:30:33,260 Oh, really?

683 00:30:33,260 --> 00:30:35,010 Yeah-- that you pulled down.

684 00:30:35,010 --> 00:30:35,760 So it was a great.

685 00:30:35,760 --> 00:30:38,295 When we'd go swimming and wanted to change our clothes,

686 00:30:38,295 --> 00:30:40,700 we'd pull the shades down.

687 00:30:40,700 --> 00:30:43,850

688 00:30:43,850 --> 00:30:45,110 Did you have many clothes?

689 00:30:45,110 --> 00:30:47,210 Did your mother make them or did you buy them?

690 00:30:47,210 --> 00:30:50,090 Oh, she never made-she hated sewing.

691 00:30:50,090 --> 00:30:57,840 And so do I. I had not so many but very--

692 00:30:57,840 --> 00:30:59,670 she got good clothes.

693 00:30:59,670 --> 00:31:01,920 She liked to shop--

694 00:31:01,920 --> 00:31:06,192

> This is a verbatim transcript of spoken word generated with 3Play Media. It is not the primary source, and it may contain errors in spelling or accuracy.

to go to New York on a shopping trip and take me to Best's.

695

00:31:06,192 --> 00:31:07,740 Do you now Best's?

696

00:31:07,740 --> 00:31:08,730 No.

697

00:31:08,730 --> 00:31:12,940 Best and Company was a very--

698

00:31:12,940 --> 00:31:16,720 but it was expensive, and she was

699

00:31:16,720 --> 00:31:20,860 very selective, but very nice-- she got good stuff,

700

00:31:20,860 --> 00:31:22,460 and it lasted.

701

00:31:22,460 --> 00:31:30,600 So it was part of her frugality was being kind of extravagant.

702

00:31:30,600 --> 00:31:32,550 Well, there is a saying in another language

703

00:31:32,550 --> 00:31:36,630 that I remember hearing, which is I'm not so poor that I

704

00:31:36,630 --> 00:31:40,070 can afford to buy cheap things.

705 00:31:40,070 --> 00:31:40,745 You know?

706 00:31:40,745 --> 00:31:41,730

707

00:31:41,730 --> 00:31:42,860 Exactly.

708 00:31:42,860 --> 00:31:47,250 I learned that when I taught kids in poor neighborhoods

709

00:31:47,250 --> 00:31:48,630 in Philadelphia.

710 00:31:48,630 --> 00:31:51,450 They had so much stuff, and it fell apart.

711

00:31:51,450 --> 00:31:55,290 I mean, their shoes were always breaking, and their--

712

00:31:55,290 --> 00:31:56,850 and that never happened.

713

00:31:56,850 --> 00:31:58,200 My stuff lasted forever.

714 00:31:58,200 --> 00:32:01,500

715 00:32:01,500 --> 00:32:06,720 In the 30s growing up, did you have a radio at home?

716 00:32:06,720 --> 00:32:08,550 When I was 10, we got a radio.

717 00:32:08,550 --> 00:32:10,620 That was most exciting.

718 00:32:10,620 --> 00:32:11,730 I can imagine. 719 00:32:11,730 --> 00:32:12,990 Oh.

720 00:32:12,990 --> 00:32:17,080 My-- we would--

721 00:32:17,080 --> 00:32:19,540 my mother and I would do exercises

722 00:32:19,540 --> 00:32:21,400 listening to the radio.

723 00:32:21,400 --> 00:32:27,120 And of course, then I listened to all the--

724 00:32:27,120 --> 00:32:33,040 the radio was this object that--

725 00:32:33,040 --> 00:32:36,070 well, I'll tell you, when I was working

726 00:32:36,070 --> 00:32:45,800 with kids in Philadelphia, we went to the Plaything Museum--

727 00:32:45,800 --> 00:32:47,180 a recreation.

728 00:32:47,180 --> 00:32:50,930 And it was a history of recreation in the States

729 00:32:50,930 --> 00:32:52,430 through the years.

730 00:32:52,430 --> 00:32:55,490 And we got into this room, and it was 731 00:32:55,490 --> 00:32:57,860 a room that was almost bare.

732 00:32:57,860 --> 00:33:01,370 There was a rug, and there was a Zenith radio, which

733 00:33:01,370 --> 00:33:04,010 was exactly the kind we had.

734 00:33:04,010 --> 00:33:05,600 And it was sitting on a rug.

735 00:33:05,600 --> 00:33:08,230

736 00:33:08,230 --> 00:33:12,430 And it was on, and The Shadow was on.

737 00:33:12,430 --> 00:33:15,850 And I just thought, oh wow.

738 00:33:15,850 --> 00:33:16,960 And my kids--

739 00:33:16,960 --> 00:33:19,420 I had a bunch of school kids with me.

740 00:33:19,420 --> 00:33:22,060 And they said, well, what goes on in this room?

741 00:33:22,060 --> 00:33:24,640 And I said, well, you have to sit down and listen

742 00:33:24,640 --> 00:33:26,890 to that program. 00:33:26,890 --> 00:33:27,880 No TV.

744

00:33:27,880 --> 00:33:28,930 Oh, no TV.

745

00:33:28,930 --> 00:33:32,470 How could you-- but we listened to those programs,

746

00:33:32,470 --> 00:33:35,830 and I swear we saw them.

747

00:33:35,830 --> 00:33:44,200 When the King of England abdicated and new king came in

748

00:33:44,200 --> 00:33:50,440 with his two little girls, we were in junior high school.

749

00:33:50,440 --> 00:33:57,100 And we were taken to the auditorium to listen to it.

750

00:33:57,100 --> 00:33:58,990 And I swear I saw it.

751

00:33:58,990 --> 00:34:04,580 I swear I saw the king and the queen and the children.

752

00:34:04,580 --> 00:34:06,560 All audio.

753

00:34:06,560 --> 00:34:09,290 Well, you know, that shares itself

754

00:34:09,290 --> 00:34:11,540 with books is you read a book and you 755 00:34:11,540 --> 00:34:13,580 picture something in your mind.

756 00:34:13,580 --> 00:34:17,120 You hear something and you have pictures in your mind.

757

00:34:17,120 --> 00:34:22,190 They're not created for you, which was the power of radio.

758

00:34:22,190 --> 00:34:22,730 You know?

759

00:34:22,730 --> 00:34:23,230 Yeah.

760

00:34:23,230 --> 00:34:28,429 And that you have this memory of these particular things--

761

00:34:28,429 --> 00:34:34,639 the abdication , the program The Shadow.

762

00:34:34,639 --> 00:34:37,100 What kind of a program was that, The Shadow?

763

00:34:37,100 --> 00:34:38,510 Tell me, because I've heard of it, but I don't know--

764 00:34:38,510 --> 00:34:39,593

You don't know The Shadow?

765

00:34:39,593 --> 00:34:40,530 I only heard of it.

766 00:34:40,530 --> 00:34:42,090 I don't know what it was.

767 00:34:42,090 --> 00:34:43,429 Ooh!

768 00:34:43,429 --> 00:34:46,870 Well, he was the Shadow.

769 00:34:46,870 --> 00:34:50,969 And he-- "ooh, the Shadow knows."

770 00:34:50,969 --> 00:34:52,620 I can hear him saying that.

771 00:34:52,620 --> 00:34:54,800 I don't know why he was saying it.

772 00:34:54,800 --> 00:34:56,010 "The Shadow knows."

773 00:34:56,010 --> 00:34:59,490 And he always had an adventure.

774 00:34:59,490 --> 00:35:05,040 And then there were things like Amos 'n' Andy,

775 00:35:05,040 --> 00:35:08,130 and everybody seemed to listen to that.

776 00:35:08,130 --> 00:35:11,550 And of course, that was two guys--

777 00:35:11,550 --> 00:35:14,580 African American.

778 00:35:14,580 --> 00:35:16,920 And they were white guys, and they 779 00:35:16,920 --> 00:35:18,940 did this Amos 'n' Andy thing.

780

00:35:18,940 --> 00:35:21,670 It was probably very racist.

781

00:35:21,670 --> 00:35:23,540 I don't remember any of the stories.

782

00:35:23,540 --> 00:35:25,750 But--

783

00:35:25,750 --> 00:35:27,850 But it was of the time.

784

00:35:27,850 --> 00:35:30,310 Well, at the time, I didn't like it

785

00:35:30,310 --> 00:35:33,670 as much as I liked things like stories, like--

786

00:35:33,670 --> 00:35:35,950 oh, there was The Lone Ranger.

787

00:35:35,950 --> 00:35:41,330

788 00:35:41,330 --> 00:35:43,220

Did you get news over the radio?

789

00:35:43,220 --> 00:35:44,860 Oh, yes.

790 00:35:44,860 --> 00:35:46,600 Yeah.

791 00:35:46,600 --> 00:35:53,030 Did you listen-- of the programs Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

that were on, in your family,

792

00:35:53,030 --> 00:35:56,470 did you listen more to news or more to the sort

793 00:35:56,470 --> 00:35:58,960 of entertainment programs?

794 00:35:58,960 --> 00:36:01,990 We didn't listen to a lot of news, no.

795 00:36:01,990 --> 00:36:10,710 And there were important things that we listened to.

796 00:36:10,710 --> 00:36:17,542

797 00:36:17,542 --> 00:36:18,810 I'm trying to remember.

798 00:36:18,810 --> 00:36:22,750

799 00:36:22,750 --> 00:36:28,760 Well, like-- I can't think of them.

800 00:36:28,760 --> 00:36:30,530 It's OK.

801 00:36:30,530 --> 00:36:31,880 What about newspapers?

802 00:36:31,880 --> 00:36:34,750 Did your parents read newspapers?

803 00:36:34,750 --> 00:36:39,460 They read the local paper and the important news.

804

00:36:39,460 --> 00:36:40,840 I read the comics.

805 00:36:40,840 --> 00:36:42,670 I loved the comics.

806 00:36:42,670 --> 00:36:44,950 And they had good comics in those days.

807 00:36:44,950 --> 00:36:47,320 Sunday comics were colored.

808 00:36:47,320 --> 00:36:56,100 And I felt-- we got a local paper on Sunday

809 00:36:56,100 --> 00:37:01,890 which had color comics.

810 00:37:01,890 --> 00:37:04,410 Some of my friends got The New York Times, which

811 00:37:04,410 --> 00:37:06,150 struck me as terribly boring.

812 00:37:06,150 --> 00:37:07,350 It was all--

813 00:37:07,350 --> 00:37:08,220 No comics.

814 00:37:08,220 --> 00:37:09,000 No comics.

815 00:37:09,000 --> 00:37:09,990 No comics. 00:37:09,990 --> 00:37:11,530 Why would you take that?

817 00:37:11,530 --> 00:37:12,060 Yeah.

818 00:37:12,060 --> 00:37:17,160 So they weren't big on news, not particularly.

819

00:37:17,160 --> 00:37:19,900

820 00:37:19,900 --> 00:37:23,440 There was-- I remember a few times,

821 00:37:23,440 --> 00:37:29,400 like when they did the story of--

822 00:37:29,400 --> 00:37:36,110 what was it-- the time that the world was invaded and--

823

00:37:36,110 --> 00:37:37,220 Orson Welles'--

824 00:37:37,220 --> 00:37:39,050 Orson Welles' thing, yeah.

825 00:37:39,050 --> 00:37:41,120 OK, and people believed it?

826 00:37:41,120 --> 00:37:41,690 Oh, yes.

827 00:37:41,690 --> 00:37:45,560 They believed it because it came on and it seemed real.

828 00:37:45,560 --> 00:37:47,990 And that was just kind of a scary night.

829 00:37:47,990 --> 00:37:54,080 But-- and I remember, also, very clearly when the Lindbergh--

830 00:37:54,080 --> 00:37:57,200 well, of course, I remember when Lindbergh

831 00:37:57,200 --> 00:37:59,270 flew across the Atlantic.

832 00:37:59,270 --> 00:38:03,560 And from then on, whenever a plane went by--

833 00:38:03,560 --> 00:38:06,890 and planes were open in those days--

834 00:38:06,890 --> 00:38:09,950 we'd run out in the yard and wave our hands

835 00:38:09,950 --> 00:38:12,350 and yell hi to Lindy.

836 00:38:12,350 --> 00:38:13,520 And--

837 00:38:13,520 --> 00:38:14,960 Every pilot was Lindy.

838 00:38:14,960 --> 00:38:16,850 Yeah, every pilot was Lindy.

839 00:38:16,850 --> 00:38:18,180 And there were air shows.

840 00:38:18,180 --> 00:38:20,570

This is a verbatim transcript of spoken word generated with 3Play Media. It is not the primary source, and it may contain errors in spelling or accuracy.

Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

Airplanes were big things.

841

00:38:20,570 --> 00:38:30,240 And he-- so then his child, his first baby, was kidnapped.

842 00:38:30,240 --> 00:38:32,540 That was a huge thing.

843

00:38:32,540 --> 00:38:35,540 And that meant that there was a final newspaper,

844

00:38:35,540 --> 00:38:37,630 that if there was a final--

845

00:38:37,630 --> 00:38:38,660 it was a peach.

846

00:38:38,660 --> 00:38:39,380 It was colored.

847

00:38:39,380 --> 00:38:43,190 Peach and you would hear the newsboys

848

00:38:43,190 --> 00:38:45,470 on the corner saying, "Peach final!

849

00:38:45,470 --> 00:38:47,060 Peach final!"

850 00:38:47,060 --> 00:38:49,610 And what does that mean if it's a final newspaper

851 00:38:49,610 --> 00:38:50,420 and it's peach?

852 00:38:50,420 --> 00:38:51,003 I mean, what--

853 00:38:51,003 --> 00:38:52,700 It's the final news of the night and--

854 00:38:52,700 --> 00:38:53,950 Oh, you mean the most recent--

855 00:38:53,950 --> 00:38:56,840 It's a big piece of news--

856 00:38:56,840 --> 00:39:02,060 if a war had started or when the Lindbergh baby was kidnapped.

857 00:39:02,060 --> 00:39:04,730 That was huge.

858 00:39:04,730 --> 00:39:08,040 And that scared us all.

859 00:39:08,040 --> 00:39:08,870 I mean, we went--

860 00:39:08,870 --> 00:39:15,650 I went-- I did not like to visit my friends who were much better

861 00:39:15,650 --> 00:39:16,790 off than I was.

862 00:39:16,790 --> 00:39:19,790 I was sure that some kidnapper would come and take

863 00:39:19,790 --> 00:39:21,350 me and think I lived there.

864 00:39:21,350 --> 00:39:25,170 So I was all ready to say, I'm not the one that lives here. 865 00:39:25,170 --> 00:39:28,400 I would not have been a good, loyal friend.

866 00:39:28,400 --> 00:39:29,990 But--

867 00:39:29,990 --> 00:39:31,730 But it scared people at the time.

868 00:39:31,730 --> 00:39:34,220 Oh, it scared us as children.

869 00:39:34,220 --> 00:39:36,740 You know, what was I, six years old?

870 00:39:36,740 --> 00:39:41,540 I mean, kidnapping, taking, stealing a baby

871 00:39:41,540 --> 00:39:43,670 and then finding it dead.

872 00:39:43,670 --> 00:39:44,634 We knew that.

873 00:39:44,634 --> 00:39:48,022

874 00:39:48,022 --> 00:39:58,810 Did you have people in your neighborhood in Binghamton

875 00:39:58,810 --> 00:40:02,410 who were of different backgrounds?

876 00:40:02,410 --> 00:40:04,720 That is, they were either immigrant background 877 00:40:04,720 --> 00:40:09,550 or they were African American or--

878 00:40:09,550 --> 00:40:14,710 Oh, there was one African American in our school,

879 00:40:14,710 --> 00:40:16,930 in our whole elementary school.

880 00:40:16,930 --> 00:40:25,060 And her father was a chauffeur of the only rich guy in town.

881 00:40:25,060 --> 00:40:37,990 And Jewish was totally separate.

882 00:40:37,990 --> 00:40:40,750 I mean, it was a very prejudiced time.

883 00:40:40,750 --> 00:40:42,093 It was horrible.

884 00:40:42,093 --> 00:40:42,860 Ooh.

885 00:40:42,860 --> 00:40:47,540 I can't imagine why--

886 00:40:47,540 --> 00:40:51,685 there was a Jewish girl in our class.

887 00:40:51,685 --> 00:40:55,450

888 00:40:55,450 --> 00:40:59,390 And she had lots of birthday parties 889 00:40:59,390 --> 00:41:01,400 and Valentine parties and things,

890 00:41:01,400 --> 00:41:04,850 and we'd all go in to her house, but none of us

891 00:41:04,850 --> 00:41:07,580 ever asked her to our birthday parties or--

892 00:41:07,580 --> 00:41:09,830 I don't know where our mothers were.

893 00:41:09,830 --> 00:41:12,380 I mean, it was just-it was a given.

894 00:41:12,380 --> 00:41:15,950 And they didn't even know her.

895 00:41:15,950 --> 00:41:19,010 I mean, she-- it was absolutely--

896 00:41:19,010 --> 00:41:24,050 all these things registered, I'm sure, on how unfair it was.

897 00:41:24,050 --> 00:41:27,020 It made me feel very uncomfortable.

898 00:41:27,020 --> 00:41:29,010 But still I was part of it.

899 00:41:29,010 --> 00:41:35,910 And I remember-- oh, there was one Black boy 900 00:41:35,910 --> 00:41:37,650 in our kindergarten class.

901 00:41:37,650 --> 00:41:40,110 His name was Eddie Brown.

902 00:41:40,110 --> 00:41:43,590 We all assumed he was named Brown because he was Brown.

903 00:41:43,590 --> 00:41:51,940 And he had a hard-- he struggled in school.

904 00:41:51,940 --> 00:41:55,120 His father worked for the same rich guy-- had horses

905 00:41:55,120 --> 00:41:57,160 and his father was a groom.

906 00:41:57,160 --> 00:42:03,160 And he used to-- he lived on the estate,

907 00:42:03,160 --> 00:42:05,770 and he passed by my house to go to school.

908 00:42:05,770 --> 00:42:08,800 So he used to stop for me, and I'd walk to school with him.

909 00:42:08,800 --> 00:42:10,930 And I never thought about color.

910 00:42:10,930 --> 00:42:13,210 But we soon learned.

911 00:42:13,210 --> 00:42:16,990 And he flunked kindergarten. 912 00:42:16,990 --> 00:42:21,290 And I don't know how you flunk kindergarten, but he did.

913 00:42:21,290 --> 00:42:24,010 And so he kept getting behind, and then he

914

00:42:24,010 --> 00:42:25,660 began to be bullied.

915

00:42:25,660 --> 00:42:28,540 I used to see him having fights on the way home

916

00:42:28,540 --> 00:42:31,360 from school with the bigger boys.

917

00:42:31,360 --> 00:42:34,240 There would always be a fight with Eddie.

918

00:42:34,240 --> 00:42:39,880 But interestingly, just recently, my granddaughter,

919

00:42:39,880 --> 00:42:48,990 Libby, was skiing, and she met a family, a Black family,

920

00:42:48,990 --> 00:42:51,050 who had an uncle Eddie.

921

00:42:51,050 --> 00:42:55,290 And it turned out to be my Eddie.

922 00:42:55,290 --> 00:42:58,530 And pieces sort of fit together.

923 00:42:58,530 --> 00:43:02,560 I can't remember the details, but I thought that was amazing.

924 00:43:02,560 --> 00:43:07,720 He actually overcame it and did something with his life.

925 00:43:07,720 --> 00:43:11,380 Oh, it was bad.

926 00:43:11,380 --> 00:43:14,340 So was there only the one Jewish girl in your class?

927 00:43:14,340 --> 00:43:17,650 Or were there other Jewish children?

928 00:43:17,650 --> 00:43:20,590 I think-- oh, oh, there was another.

929 00:43:20,590 --> 00:43:25,240 There was a boy whose father owned the movie theaters.

930 00:43:25,240 --> 00:43:27,515 But he wasn't part of our social group either.

931 00:43:27,515 --> 00:43:30,060

932 00:43:30,060 --> 00:43:34,110 And I know now that the reason our parents could tell they

933 00:43:34,110 --> 00:43:36,330 were Jewish was by their names.

934 00:43:36,330 --> 00:43:37,890 I had no idea. 935 00:43:37,890 --> 00:43:39,915 But, you know, Cohen and--

936 00:43:39,915 --> 00:43:42,950

937 00:43:42,950 --> 00:43:46,400 and I remember when I had my first boyfriend gave me

938 00:43:46,400 --> 00:43:52,910 a ball of tinfoil, and his name was Anthony Savaggio.

939 00:43:52,910 --> 00:43:55,580 Isn't that a beautiful name?

940 00:43:55,580 --> 00:44:00,080 My dad asked who gave it to me, and I said Anthony Savaggio.

941 00:44:00,080 --> 00:44:02,340 He said, hmm, little Italian.

942 00:44:02,340 --> 00:44:06,470 I thought, how the heck does he know that?

943 00:44:06,470 --> 00:44:09,860 And how old was Anthony when he gave you a ball of tinfoil?

944 00:44:09,860 --> 00:44:11,540 Oh, probably second grade.

945 00:44:11,540 --> 00:44:16,370

946 00:44:16,370 --> 00:44:18,560 Oh, poor kid, you know? 00:44:18,560 --> 00:44:21,995 But what does a boy give a girl when he likes her?

948

00:44:21,995 --> 00:44:24,188 Tin foil.

949

00:44:24,188 --> 00:44:24,780 Til foil?

950

00:44:24,780 --> 00:44:25,280 Eh.

951

00:44:25,280 --> 00:44:27,710 Tin foil, why not?

952

00:44:27,710 --> 00:44:31,820 Were there immigrant children from Europe,

953

00:44:31,820 --> 00:44:34,730 for example, of people who would have been,

954

00:44:34,730 --> 00:44:37,490 let's say, like your Swedish relatives

955

00:44:37,490 --> 00:44:41,573 but of a more recent immigration?

956

00:44:41,573 --> 00:44:43,490 Do you remember that in your growing-up years?

957

00:44:43,490 --> 00:44:43,990 No, no.

958

00:44:43,990 --> 00:44:46,250 I think-- no, not at all.

960 00:44:50,290 --> 00:44:51,610 I don't think any of them--

961 00:44:51,610 --> 00:44:56,680 I mean, nobody spoke a different language at home.

962 00:44:56,680 --> 00:45:00,400 Binghamton was sort of a divided town.

963 00:45:00,400 --> 00:45:06,460 The people who were from Slavic countries lived over there.

964 00:45:06,460 --> 00:45:08,180 And I didn't know that until later.

965 00:45:08,180 --> 00:45:14,925 But-- no, we were pretty white bread.

966 00:45:14,925 --> 00:45:20,810

967 00:45:20,810 --> 00:45:23,670 We had to figure it all out.

968 00:45:23,670 --> 00:45:25,230 The books we read--

969 00:45:25,230 --> 00:45:28,260 boy, I read some of those books, and they

970 00:45:28,260 --> 00:45:31,200 are so full of racist thoughts. 00:45:31,200 --> 00:45:36,050 And I mean, I couldn't read them to my children

972

00:45:36,050 --> 00:45:38,030 because they were so bad.

973

00:45:38,030 --> 00:45:39,530 But I didn't know it.

974

00:45:39,530 --> 00:45:42,200 And kids don't judge.

975

00:45:42,200 --> 00:45:44,100 But they pick up stuff.

976

00:45:44,100 --> 00:45:44,870 Yeah.

977

00:45:44,870 --> 00:45:45,380 Yeah.

978

00:45:45,380 --> 00:45:46,220 Yeah.

979

00:45:46,220 --> 00:45:48,900 I think--

980

00:45:48,900 --> 00:45:51,860 In the '30s--

981

00:45:51,860 --> 00:45:55,610 I mean, Hitler came to power in 1933.

982

00:45:55,610 --> 00:45:58,940 And that means you were nine years old at the time

983

00:45:58,940 --> 00:46:01,250 when he would have come to power. 984 00:46:01,250 --> 00:46:03,500 And one of my questions and one of the reasons

985 00:46:03,500 --> 00:46:08,060 I ask about newspapers and radios and things like that

986 00:46:08,060 --> 00:46:12,800 is to try and get a sense of how much did this news of the wider

987 00:46:12,800 --> 00:46:17,330 world and what's going on in the wider world be part--

988

00:46:17,330 --> 00:46:23,090 was part of the life that one knew at the time?

989 00:46:23,090 --> 00:46:28,520 And I don't get a sense that any of European kind of news

990

00:46:28,520 --> 00:46:32,570 permeated in Binghamton, New York, that--

991 00:46:32,570 --> 00:46:33,070 Nope, nope.

992 00:46:33,070 --> 00:46:34,430 --there was no talk of it.

993 00:46:34,430 --> 00:46:36,610 There was no--

994 00:46:36,610 --> 00:46:43,180 No, not at all, really, because later my second husband

995

00:46:43,180 --> 00:46:45,100 was part of the--

996

00:46:45,100 --> 00:46:51,410 I mean, he was Jewish, and he was very aware of that in 1933.

997

00:46:51,410 --> 00:46:55,540 He was a little older than I. And I mean,

998

00:46:55,540 --> 00:46:57,770 the war was very much a part of their life.

999

00:46:57,770 --> 00:46:59,320 And he lived in Berlin.

1000

00:46:59,320 --> 00:46:59,860 Oh, wow.

1001

00:46:59,860 --> 00:47:00,940 He was from Germany?

1002

00:47:00,940 --> 00:47:02,040 Oh, he was from Germany.

1003

00:47:02,040 --> 00:47:02,830 Yeah.

1004 00:47:02,830 --> 00:47:05,480 And--

1005 00:47:05,480 --> 00:47:06,660 He was at the center of it.

1006 00:47:06,660 --> 00:47:07,160 Hmm?

1007 00:47:07,160 --> 00:47:09,790 He was at the center of it. 1008 00:47:09,790 --> 00:47:12,360 He was at the center of it.

1009 00:47:12,360 --> 00:47:13,180 Oh yeah.

1010 00:47:13,180 --> 00:47:15,500 Because if he's Jewish in Berlin and that's where--

1011 00:47:15,500 --> 00:47:16,000 Yeah.

1012 00:47:16,000 --> 00:47:20,950 And he was a Mendelssohn, which was a very Jewish family.

1013 00:47:20,950 --> 00:47:25,660 And in fact, he's very much in the Holocaust Museum

1014 00:47:25,660 --> 00:47:28,550 and his family, the one in Berlin.

1015 00:47:28,550 --> 00:47:35,600 But that's why I know that he, at my age,

1016 00:47:35,600 --> 00:47:37,850 was so much more aware than I was.

1017 00:47:37,850 --> 00:47:40,700 His family was leaving Berlin.

1018 00:47:40,700 --> 00:47:45,920 They left for England and then emigrated here.

1019 00:47:45,920 --> 00:47:47,390 And I was oblivious. Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

1020 00:47:47,390 --> 00:47:51,050 I was a teenager during those early years of the war.

1021 00:47:51,050 --> 00:47:55,340 I really had no idea that there was a war going on.

1022 00:47:55,340 --> 00:47:58,970 Well, there is-- to be fair, there is a difference.

1023 00:47:58,970 --> 00:48:02,540 When you are first part of the targeted group

1024 00:48:02,540 --> 00:48:06,170 and you are in the center of where these policies are

1025 00:48:06,170 --> 00:48:10,680 formulated, you're going to feel it on your skin right away.

1026 00:48:10,680 --> 00:48:12,650 And if you're living in a country

1027 00:48:12,650 --> 00:48:16,490 where those policies aren't implemented--

1028 00:48:16,490 --> 00:48:21,920 it was an isolationist country, which for a long time

1029 00:48:21,920 --> 00:48:23,970 did not know, do we want to be involved?

1030 00:48:23,970 --> 00:48:25,910 Do we not want to be involved? 1031 00:48:25,910 --> 00:48:28,340 And you're not living in a major city.

1032 00:48:28,340 --> 00:48:30,590 You're living in a second-tier town.

1033 00:48:30,590 --> 00:48:32,270 Oh, very much.

1034 00:48:32,270 --> 00:48:35,120 That's one of the--

1035 00:48:35,120 --> 00:48:37,075 I do not want to put words in your mouth,

1036 00:48:37,075 --> 00:48:38,450 but these are the things that I'm

1037 00:48:38,450 --> 00:48:41,630 thinking when I'm thinking of Binghamton, New York,

1038 00:48:41,630 --> 00:48:43,820 and when I am--

1039 00:48:43,820 --> 00:48:46,880 when I'm thinking of how much did international news

1040 00:48:46,880 --> 00:48:50,720 and want to know how much of international world affairs

1041 00:48:50,720 --> 00:48:55,520 been part of the basic sort of assumed knowledge base

1042

00:48:55,520 --> 00:48:57,140 that people had.

1043

00:48:57,140 --> 00:49:01,820 And what I'm sensing is that not at all.

1044

00:49:01,820 --> 00:49:04,100 Not-- I don't think so.

1045

00:49:04,100 --> 00:49:06,310 I mean--

1046 00:49:06,310 --> 00:49:07,780 Or hardly at all.

1047 00:49:07,780 --> 00:49:09,370 Hardly at all.

1048 00:49:09,370 --> 00:49:14,070 I mean, it was just out there.

1049 00:49:14,070 --> 00:49:15,180 I was oblivious.

1050 00:49:15,180 --> 00:49:16,140 I know that.

1051 00:49:16,140 --> 00:49:18,000 You were also a kid.

1052 00:49:18,000 --> 00:49:19,720 Well, I was--

1053 00:49:19,720 --> 00:49:25,200 I became a teenager during the '30s, finished high school

1054 00:49:25,200 --> 00:49:30,480 in '41 just before the war, had no idea that we 1055 00:49:30,480 --> 00:49:33,150 were on the brink of war.

1056 00:49:33,150 --> 00:49:38,070 All I worried about was boyfriends and social life

1057 00:49:38,070 --> 00:49:41,400 and having fun learning to ski.

1058 00:49:41,400 --> 00:49:43,860 That's so unlike a typical teenager.

1059 00:49:43,860 --> 00:49:47,050 But, you know, I felt so--

1060 00:49:47,050 --> 00:49:50,380 Binghamton was a very safe environment.

1061 00:49:50,380 --> 00:49:54,250 I think all the people I know who grew up with me--

1062 00:49:54,250 --> 00:50:00,390 we all think we had a very safe, comfortable, protected kind

1063 00:50:00,390 --> 00:50:02,010 of life.

1064 00:50:02,010 --> 00:50:08,890 But, boy, were we out of it of what was really happening.

1065 00:50:08,890 --> 00:50:09,500 I mean--

1066 00:50:09,500 --> 00:50:12,890 Do you remember how you felt and how 1067 00:50:12,890 --> 00:50:15,720 you heard about Pearl Harbor?

1068 00:50:15,720 --> 00:50:18,300 Oh, I was-- in my first year of--

1069 00:50:18,300 --> 00:50:21,390 just gone to college.

1070 00:50:21,390 --> 00:50:26,270 And it was a--

1071 00:50:26,270 --> 00:50:29,570 we just had a--

1072 00:50:29,570 --> 00:50:33,420 well, today is the anniversary.

1073 00:50:33,420 --> 00:50:35,930 And it was December.

1074 00:50:35,930 --> 00:50:39,200 So it was my first year, and I'd been there about two months.

1075 00:50:39,200 --> 00:50:43,610 And we had the big winter dance that weekend.

1076 00:50:43,610 --> 00:50:46,220 And I had my boyfriend-one of my boyfriends

1077 00:50:46,220 --> 00:50:49,460 from high school was there for the dance.

1078 00:50:49,460 --> 00:50:51,290 And we came down on Sunday mor-- 1079 00:50:51,290 --> 00:50:53,540 I mean, on Sunday morning, we were

1080 00:50:53,540 --> 00:50:55,970 meeting in the living room of the dorm where

1081

00:50:55,970 --> 00:51:03,830 I lived when the news came about Pearl Harbor.

1082

00:51:03,830 --> 00:51:07,880 And we all sat there just stunned.

1083

00:51:07,880 --> 00:51:12,230 And within a year, every one of the guys

1084

00:51:12,230 --> 00:51:16,280 that were there being a date that weekend had been drafted.

1085

00:51:16,280 --> 00:51:17,580 It just happened like that.

1086 00:51:17,580 --> 00:51:20,700 And nobody expected it at all.

1087 00:51:20,700 --> 00:51:24,440 I mean-- I mean, they weren't prepared to go to war.

1088 00:51:24,440 --> 00:51:26,780 We had grown up--

1089 00:51:26,780 --> 00:51:33,020 and so they-- but within a year, they were most of them

1090 00:51:33,020 --> 00:51:39,470 off at boot camp or training or something.

1091 00:51:39,470 --> 00:51:43,580 But it didn't affect us much at that moment--

1092 00:51:43,580 --> 00:51:44,100 me.

1093 00:51:44,100 --> 00:51:47,420 I mean, I was in a girl's college.

1094 00:51:47,420 --> 00:51:48,830 What was the name of the college?

1095 00:51:48,830 --> 00:51:49,390 I'm going to have to--

1096 00:51:49,390 --> 00:51:50,060 It was Smith.

1097 00:51:50,060 --> 00:51:50,600 --switch slots here.

1098 00:51:50,600 --> 00:51:51,080 OK.

1099 00:51:51,080 --> 00:51:51,580 I'm sorry.

1100 00:51:51,580 --> 00:51:53,383 OK, we're going to cut, then, for--

1101 00:51:53,383 --> 00:51:56,378 All right, sounds good.

1102 00:51:56,378 --> 00:51:57,420 Oh, sorry about the door. 1103 00:51:57,420 --> 00:51:59,670 So you were in Smith College?

1104 00:51:59,670 --> 00:52:00,240 Mm-hmm.

1105 00:52:00,240 --> 00:52:01,950 And that's in Boston, isn't it?

1106 00:52:01,950 --> 00:52:05,770 No, it's in Northampton, Massachusetts.

1107 00:52:05,770 --> 00:52:06,308 Sorry.

1108 00:52:06,308 --> 00:52:06,850 You're right.

1109 00:52:06,850 --> 00:52:07,380 You're absolutely--

1110 00:52:07,380 --> 00:52:08,213 An hour from Boston.

1111 00:52:08,213 --> 00:52:09,690 An hour from Boston.

1112 00:52:09,690 --> 00:52:10,530 I should know that.

1113 00:52:10,530 --> 00:52:11,990 I was born and raised in Boston.

1114 00:52:11,990 --> 00:52:14,500

1115 00:52:14,500 --> 00:52:17,020 I had forgotten. 1116 00:52:17,020 --> 00:52:20,910 Why did you choose Smith College?

1117 00:52:20,910 --> 00:52:26,190 Well, my mother admired a woman in Binghamton

1118 00:52:26,190 --> 00:52:29,460 who was very bright and very--

1119 00:52:29,460 --> 00:52:30,930 she ran a lot of things.

1120 00:52:30,930 --> 00:52:33,360 She was somebody my mother admired.

1121 00:52:33,360 --> 00:52:35,050 And she'd gone to Smith College.

1122 00:52:35,050 --> 00:52:38,310 So that's where she dreamed of me going.

1123 00:52:38,310 --> 00:52:43,460 And she wanted me to go to a good college.

1124 00:52:43,460 --> 00:52:45,500 We didn't have the money.

1125 00:52:45,500 --> 00:52:52,170 And after my first year there, my father came up,

1126 00:52:52,170 --> 00:52:54,810 and we were riding in the car.

1127 00:52:54,810 --> 00:52:59,580 And he told me, you know, we just can't swing another year. 1128 00:52:59,580 --> 00:53:00,570 I'd had help.

1129 00:53:00,570 --> 00:53:07,620 I'd had some help from the col-it only cost \$1,100 for room,

1130 00:53:07,620 --> 00:53:09,780 board, and tuition.

1131 00:53:09,780 --> 00:53:14,250 Today, it would be like \$60,000 or something.

1132 00:53:14,250 --> 00:53:15,625 But that was more than we could--

1133 00:53:15,625 --> 00:53:17,042 That's a lot of money in the '30s.

1134 00:53:17,042 --> 00:53:18,030 That was-- oh.

1135 00:53:18,030 --> 00:53:20,520 Was it-- my mother kept a little book

1136 00:53:20,520 --> 00:53:25,320 about all the expenses, every stick of chewing gum

1137 00:53:25,320 --> 00:53:27,060 that-- when I went to college.

1138 00:53:27,060 --> 00:53:32,550 And she made it, but I said I didn't really care.

1139 00:53:32,550 --> 00:53:35,640 I mean, if I can't come back next year,

1140 00:53:35,640 --> 00:53:37,360 I've had one good year.

1141 00:53:37,360 --> 00:53:39,660 I have lots of new friends.

1142 00:53:39,660 --> 00:53:46,780 But my grandmother, my father's mother, came through--

1143 00:53:46,780 --> 00:53:49,500 I mean, she just-she said, I can donate

1144 00:53:49,500 --> 00:53:52,950 \$500, which was half of it.

1145 00:53:52,950 --> 00:53:57,970 And I got work scholarships and things to help me along.

1146 00:53:57,970 --> 00:53:59,820 So I got-- and then the war started,

1147 00:53:59,820 --> 00:54:02,310 and my mother went to work in the bank.

1148 00:54:02,310 --> 00:54:04,200 And that helped.

1149 00:54:04,200 --> 00:54:08,880 I mean, she had money to help pay.

1150 00:54:08,880 --> 00:54:11,170 But that was a hard--

1151

00:54:11,170 --> 00:54:15,560 I mean, I loved being in college.

1152 00:54:15,560 --> 00:54:20,100 I loved-- I always loved all that school stuff.

1153 00:54:20,100 --> 00:54:21,330 But--

1154 00:54:21,330 --> 00:54:23,200 But they had to patch it together.

1155 00:54:23,200 --> 00:54:23,700 Hmm?

1156 00:54:23,700 --> 00:54:25,210 They had to patch it together--

1157 00:54:25,210 --> 00:54:25,710 Yeah.

1158 00:54:25,710 --> 00:54:26,293 --your family.

1159 00:54:26,293 --> 00:54:27,660 And we did it.

1160 00:54:27,660 --> 00:54:29,160 We did it all.

1161 00:54:29,160 --> 00:54:34,680 My grandfather lived to see me graduate.

1162 00:54:34,680 --> 00:54:37,020 He came to the graduation.

1163 00:54:37,020 --> 00:54:39,795 And by then my Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

grandmother was dead.

1164 00:54:39,795 --> 00:54:43,590

1165 00:54:43,590 --> 00:54:44,920 That's quite a gift.

1166 00:54:44,920 --> 00:54:45,420 Hmm?

1167 00:54:45,420 --> 00:54:47,200 It's quite a gift.

1168 00:54:47,200 --> 00:54:49,140 It's a terrific gift.

1169 00:54:49,140 --> 00:54:52,080 They gave me many gifts-the gift of reading,

1170 00:54:52,080 --> 00:54:55,920 of loving books, music.

1171 00:54:55,920 --> 00:54:57,930 My father used to play the piano, too.

1172 00:54:57,930 --> 00:55:00,160 He played by ear, but he--

1173 00:55:00,160 --> 00:55:03,190

1174 00:55:03,190 --> 00:55:05,035 I still have some of his sheet music.

1175 00:55:05,035 --> 00:55:09,080 00:55:09,080 --> 00:55:14,770 So the US declares war in 1941.

1177 00:55:14,770 --> 00:55:15,670 I what?

1178 00:55:15,670 --> 00:55:21,030 The US declares war on Japan in 1941.

1179 00:55:21,030 --> 00:55:25,680 But the war in Europe had been going on since 1939.

1180 00:55:25,680 --> 00:55:26,540 Yeah.

1181 00:55:26,540 --> 00:55:28,940 Had you gotten news of that?

1182 00:55:28,940 --> 00:55:33,140 Was that something that was in people's consciousness

1183 00:55:33,140 --> 00:55:35,710 in Binghamton and in your circle of friends?

1184 00:55:35,710 --> 00:55:38,900 I can't speak for Binghamton, but certainly wasn't

1185 00:55:38,900 --> 00:55:40,610 much in mine.

1186 00:55:40,610 --> 00:55:44,240 I-- you know, the Japs were the bad guys,

1187 00:55:44,240 --> 00:55:46,930 and the Germans were the bad guys, 1188 00:55:46,930 --> 00:55:51,410 that sort of-- but it wasn't really in my--

1189 00:55:51,410 --> 00:55:54,170 Did your parents ever talk about these things?

1190 00:55:54,170 --> 00:55:56,660 No, not that I remember.

1191 00:55:56,660 --> 00:55:58,490 I don't think so.

1192 00:55:58,490 --> 00:56:03,020 My mother adored Roosevelt. My father was

1193 00:56:03,020 --> 00:56:05,510 more of a staunch Republican.

1194 00:56:05,510 --> 00:56:09,370 But-- and we used to listen--

1195 00:56:09,370 --> 00:56:14,350 we'd listen to his Sunday news program called The Fireside

1196 00:56:14,350 --> 00:56:16,000 Chat--

1197 00:56:16,000 --> 00:56:19,750 Fireside Chat.

1198 00:56:19,750 --> 00:56:23,890 And we-- they just liked some of the stuff

1199 00:56:23,890 --> 00:56:26,340 he did during the Depression. 00:56:26,340 --> 00:56:31,150 He had a lot of work corps and people

1201 00:56:31,150 --> 00:56:33,040 out working on the streets, and they always

1202 00:56:33,040 --> 00:56:35,410 felt these guys were goofing off.

1203 00:56:35,410 --> 00:56:38,170 I can remember them complaining about the guys leaning

1204 00:56:38,170 --> 00:56:40,240 on their shovels and so on.

1205 00:56:40,240 --> 00:56:44,650 But Roosevelt was doing some great stuff, getting us out

1206 00:56:44,650 --> 00:56:45,610 of the Depression.

1207 00:56:45,610 --> 00:56:49,330

1208 00:56:49,330 --> 00:56:55,300 So I was political enough to be interested in candidates,

1209 00:56:55,300 --> 00:56:56,260 but not very.

1210 00:56:56,260 --> 00:56:57,178 I wouldn't--

1211 00:56:57,178 --> 00:57:00,460 00:57:00,460 --> 00:57:06,960 When all of the young men were drafted,

1213

 $00:57:06,960 \rightarrow 00:57:10,620$ that meant that college life changed a lot.

1214

00:57:10,620 --> 00:57:11,200 It did.

1215 00:57:11,200 --> 00:57:14,250 Well, ours didn't because it was all girls.

1216 00:57:14,250 --> 00:57:20,350 But it meant there were no guys at the local nearby colleges.

1217 00:57:20,350 --> 00:57:24,360 But then they began using the colleges for training programs,

1218 00:57:24,360 --> 00:57:26,430 and there would be--

1219 00:57:26,430 --> 00:57:30,540 they could sort of go to college and be

1220 00:57:30,540 --> 00:57:36,060 trained to be in the Army or the Navy or something.

1221 00:57:36,060 --> 00:57:42,150 The women-- some women chose to go in the Navy.

1222 00:57:42,150 --> 00:57:44,130 They were called the WAVES.

1223 00:57:44,130 --> 00:57:46,950 And the WAVES were Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

housed at Smith.

1224 00:57:46,950 --> 00:57:50,100 So we had WAVES walking around the campus,

1225 00:57:50,100 --> 00:57:54,180 marching around, singing a song about WAVES of the Navy.

1226 00:57:54,180 --> 00:58:01,687 And-- my mouth is getting so dry.

1227 00:58:01,687 --> 00:58:02,520 Let's cut for a bit.

1228 00:58:02,520 --> 00:58:03,353 Let's cut for a bit.

1229 00:58:03,353 --> 00:58:04,350 Let's cut for a bit.

1230 00:58:04,350 --> 00:58:05,730 Any time.

1231 00:58:05,730 --> 00:58:08,360 Standby.

1232 00:58:08,360 --> 00:58:10,520 It's on speed.

1233 00:58:10,520 --> 00:58:14,960 OK, so-- ah, I know what I was asking

1234 00:58:14,960 --> 00:58:21,080 is that the war in Europe had started in 1939.

1235 00:58:21,080 --> 00:58:25,910 And was there news about what was going on in Europe

1236

00:58:25,910 --> 00:58:29,570 that you were hearing about or reading about

1237 00:58:29,570 --> 00:58:31,820 or people were talking about?

1238 00:58:31,820 --> 00:58:34,560 Not that I was much aware of.

1239 00:58:34,560 --> 00:58:37,980 It's interesting as I'd been aware

1240

00:58:37,980 --> 00:58:43,160 that there was some kind of trouble in Spain--

1241 00:58:43,160 --> 00:58:44,000 1936, yeah.

1242 00:58:44,000 --> 00:58:47,780 --in the '30s because we read these little weekly newspapers

1243 00:58:47,780 --> 00:58:50,190 in school--

1244 00:58:50,190 --> 00:58:52,140 weekly readers.

1245 00:58:52,140 --> 00:58:57,440 But I honestly can't say that I was terribly concerned

1246 00:58:57,440 --> 00:58:59,540 about the war in Europe.

1247 00:58:59,540 --> 00:59:01,515 It just wasn't on my radar. 1248 00:59:01,515 --> 00:59:04,490

1249 00:59:04,490 --> 00:59:09,050 Were-- what was your major at college?

1250 00:59:09,050 --> 00:59:09,762 Sociology.

1251 00:59:09,762 --> 00:59:12,470

1252 00:59:12,470 --> 00:59:13,910 OK.

1253 00:59:13,910 --> 00:59:20,580 And did you continue going to church?

1254 00:59:20,580 --> 00:59:22,550 Oh, well, no.

1255 00:59:22,550 --> 00:59:27,810 I decided when I went there that I would try out

1256 00:59:27,810 --> 00:59:29,050 all the different churches.

1257 00:59:29,050 --> 00:59:36,280 So I went to different churches to see what I thought.

1258 00:59:36,280 --> 00:59:38,920 And I quite liked the Catholic.

1259 00:59:38,920 --> 00:59:42,370 I thought that was kind of exciting with all the things 1260 00:59:42,370 --> 00:59:43,840 that go on.

1261 00:59:43,840 --> 00:59:50,500 But-- I babysat for a Quaker family.

1262 00:59:50,500 --> 00:59:53,770 I never heard-- I thought the Quakers were extinct.

1263 00:59:53,770 --> 00:59:57,790 But they were very active.

1264 00:59:57,790 --> 01:00:01,510 And I babysat for this family.

1265 01:00:01,510 --> 01:00:06,910 I loved the way they treated each other and their children.

1266 01:00:06,910 --> 01:00:08,830 And I just--

1267 01:00:08,830 --> 01:00:10,620 I thought, I'm going to find out.

1268 01:00:10,620 --> 01:00:13,960 And I went to the Quaker meeting,

1269 01:00:13,960 --> 01:00:16,270 Friends, Society of Friends.

1270 01:00:16,270 --> 01:00:24,700 And it was an unprogrammed meeting with no pastor.

1271 01:00:24,700 --> 01:00:27,640 And people just sat in silence, and they 1272 01:00:27,640 --> 01:00:35,090 spoke with the basic idea that everybody had a communication

1273 01:00:35,090 --> 01:00:36,530 with the spirit.

1274 01:00:36,530 --> 01:00:40,740 And if they had something to say, it was important.

1275 01:00:40,740 --> 01:00:42,570 They could say it.

1276 01:00:42,570 --> 01:00:45,090 Well, I liked this idea lot.

1277 01:00:45,090 --> 01:00:50,640 And they also-- it turned out that they were pacifist.

1278 01:00:50,640 --> 01:00:54,240 And so, as I became interested in Quakers,

1279 01:00:54,240 --> 01:00:56,610 I became interested in pacifism.

1280 01:00:56,610 --> 01:00:59,760 And I saw what was happening in the war.

1281 01:00:59,760 --> 01:01:02,070 And just about this time in my freshman

1282 01:01:02,070 --> 01:01:06,450 year, my high school boyfriend--

1283 01:01:06,450 --> 01:01:09,060 my junior high school boyfriend who'd stayed--

1284 01:01:09,060 --> 01:01:12,330 we'd been together when actually--

1285 01:01:12,330 --> 01:01:17,400 when they chose the most popular girl and the most handsome boy

1286 01:01:17,400 --> 01:01:22,590 and stuff, we were chosen as the ideal couple.

1287 01:01:22,590 --> 01:01:24,930 That was Johnny.

1288 01:01:24,930 --> 01:01:30,150 And Johnny went off that first year of the draft.

1289 01:01:30,150 --> 01:01:33,360 And I mean, he went off, and he was at Yale

1290 01:01:33,360 --> 01:01:39,790 and got drafted and went to France.

1291 01:01:39,790 --> 01:01:44,220 And at the end of my junior year,

1292 01:01:44,220 --> 01:01:46,620 I think it was, I saw him a few times in college.

1293 01:01:46,620 --> 01:01:49,310

1294 01:01:49,310 --> 01:01:53,660 He died in France. 1295 01:01:53,660 --> 01:01:59,630 And that kind of settled it for me

1296 01:01:59,630 --> 01:02:04,970 that war was something I wanted not to be part of.

1297

01:02:04,970 --> 01:02:08,450 So I became a really ardent pacifist.

1298 01:02:08,450 --> 01:02:12,590 So I figured the two things that I got from growing up

1299 01:02:12,590 --> 01:02:17,120

were frugality from the Depression and commitment

1300

01:02:17,120 --> 01:02:21,140 to pacifism from the war experiences.

1301

01:02:21,140 --> 01:02:24,350 So many of just the boys--

1302

01:02:24,350 --> 01:02:25,280 they were boys.

1303

01:02:25,280 --> 01:02:27,530 We did call the men.

1304

01:02:27,530 --> 01:02:33,080 The boys who had gone to school with all those years

1305 01:02:33,080 --> 01:02:35,180 just were dying off.

1306 01:02:35,180 --> 01:02:38,320 And the thought that Johnny had died in the battlefield

1307 01:02:38,320 --> 01:02:40,910 was a bit much.

1308 01:02:40,910 --> 01:02:41,900 And I ended up--

1309 01:02:41,900 --> 01:02:47,810 Oakie, the guy that I married that was in Europe with me,

1310 01:02:47,810 --> 01:02:50,150 was Johnny's best friend.

1311 01:02:50,150 --> 01:02:52,460 He was wounded, but he wasn't--

1312 01:02:52,460 --> 01:02:53,840 he lived.

1313 01:02:53,840 --> 01:02:55,610 What is Oakie's full name?

1314 01:02:55,610 --> 01:02:57,230 Orlow, Orloff.

1315 01:02:57,230 --> 01:02:58,220 Orloff.

1316 01:02:58,220 --> 01:03:00,200 And his last name?

1317 01:03:00,200 --> 01:03:00,830 Kent.

1318 01:03:00,830 --> 01:03:01,550 Kent.

1319 01:03:01,550 --> 01:03:03,230 OK, Orloff Kent. 1320 01:03:03,230 --> 01:03:05,330 And his nickname was Oakie?

1321 01:03:05,330 --> 01:03:08,516 Well, we called him-his initials were OAK.

1322 01:03:08,516 --> 01:03:10,430 Ah, OK.

1323 01:03:10,430 --> 01:03:13,550 And was he drafted together with Johnny?

1324 01:03:13,550 --> 01:03:15,680 Yeah, they were both drafted.

1325 01:03:15,680 --> 01:03:20,930 But Oakie got into the ski troops, which he liked skiing.

1326 01:03:20,930 --> 01:03:23,210 That was good while it lasted.

1327 01:03:23,210 --> 01:03:26,330 But he got sent to Italy.

1328 01:03:26,330 --> 01:03:27,920 And he was in the--

1329 01:03:27,920 --> 01:03:31,470 he was just in the--

1330 01:03:31,470 --> 01:03:32,300 I don't know.

1331 01:03:32,300 --> 01:03:34,520 What do you call it?

1332 01:03:34,520 --> 01:03:40,490 The-- anyway, he was just a soldier.

1333 01:03:40,490 --> 01:03:42,882 He was not on the front lines?

1334 01:03:42,882 --> 01:03:44,090 Was Oakie on the front lines?

1335 01:03:44,090 --> 01:03:44,390 He was, yeah.

1336 01:03:44,390 --> 01:03:44,820 He was.

1337

01:03:44,820 --> 01:03:45,903 He was on the front lines?

1338

01:03:45,903 --> 01:03:46,780 OK.

1339 01:03:46,780 --> 01:03:47,780 Oakie was.

1340

01:03:47,780 --> 01:03:50,850 He was wounded in Italy.

1341 01:03:50,850 --> 01:03:52,170 He was in the mountains.

1342 01:03:52,170 --> 01:03:55,790 He had nothing to do with skiing once he got in the Army,

1343 01:03:55,790 --> 01:03:59,750 sort of like now when they train guys to do something

1344 01:03:59,750 --> 01:04:03,230 and then they send them to some place

1345 01:04:03,230 --> 01:04:06,020 and they have to do something else.

1346 01:04:06,020 --> 01:04:07,478 It's not to do with their training.

1347 01:04:07,478 --> 01:04:09,187 It has nothing to do with their training.

1348 01:04:09,187 --> 01:04:09,710 Yeah.

1349 01:04:09,710 --> 01:04:11,000 But--

1350 01:04:11,000 --> 01:04:13,970 Well, I'm going to ask you a controversial question.

1351 01:04:13,970 --> 01:04:14,870 A what?

1352 01:04:14,870 --> 01:04:17,600 I'm going to ask you a controversial question, what

1353 01:04:17,600 --> 01:04:20,220 I think could be a controversial question.

1354 01:04:20,220 --> 01:04:22,010 There are many people who would say,

1355 01:04:22,010 --> 01:04:25,310 yes, we would be pacifist except in this war,

1356 01:04:25,310 --> 01:04:28,280 except in World War II, except when

1357

01:04:28,280 --> 01:04:30,890 it comes to stopping a force like Hitler.

1358

01:04:30,890 --> 01:04:32,000 I know.

1359

01:04:32,000 --> 01:04:35,180 How did you address that?

1360

01:04:35,180 --> 01:04:37,160 Did you think about that?

1361

01:04:37,160 --> 01:04:40,370 Is that something that came up in your own

1362

01:04:40,370 --> 01:04:44,090 mulling over of becoming pacifist?

1363

01:04:44,090 --> 01:04:48,320 That's the crucial-that's the question

1364

01:04:48,320 --> 01:04:52,970 that my second husband kept getting asked

1365

01:04:52,970 --> 01:05:01,250 because he was a Quaker.

1366

01:05:01,250 --> 01:05:02,750 He became a Quaker, too.

1367 01:05:02,750 --> 01:05:06,680

1368 01:05:06,680 --> 01:05:08,240 But he didn't-- he was not--

1369

01:05:08,240 --> 01:05:10,950 he felt that war had to be fought.

1370 01:05:10,950 --> 01:05:14,270 And he lived there, so who am I to say?

1371 01:05:14,270 --> 01:05:19,370 But to me, it just seemed a silly thing to do,

1372 01:05:19,370 --> 01:05:20,900 that they should have talked.

1373

01:05:20,900 --> 01:05:22,820 They should have done something else.

1374 01:05:22,820 --> 01:05:24,920 But then I'm probably naive.

1375

01:05:24,920 --> 01:05:26,960 I mean, you know-- but I just--

1376 01:05:26,960 --> 01:05:30,650

the idea-- I know I would--

1377

01:05:30,650 --> 01:05:35,060 if I were drafted and given a gun, I couldn't shoot somebody.

1378 01:05:35,060 --> 01:05:38,870 I think I. Couldn't I mean--

1379 01:05:38,870 --> 01:05:40,670 but--

1380 01:05:40,670 --> 01:05:42,620 Did that become a Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

discussion between you

1381

01:05:42,620 --> 01:05:44,030 and your second husband?

1382 01:05:44,030 --> 01:05:45,740 Did you talk about this?

1383

01:05:45,740 --> 01:05:47,480 Oh, yes, a lot.

1384

 $01:05:47,480 \rightarrow 01:05:57,160$ He was-- oh, it was long before that I'd become a pacifist.

1385

01:05:57,160 --> 01:06:00,490 And he had a lot of exposure to Quakers

1386

01:06:00,490 --> 01:06:03,190 along the way before he met me.

1387 01:06:03,190 --> 01:06:06,400

1388 01:06:06,400 --> 01:06:09,140 Tell me a little bit about--

1389 01:06:09,140 --> 01:06:13,870 you say you liked how the family behaved with one another,

1390 01:06:13,870 --> 01:06:14,810 the people that you--

1391 01:06:14,810 --> 01:06:15,310 I what?

1392 01:06:15,310 --> 01:06:18,710 You liked how the family, the people that you babysat for-- 1393 01:06:18,710 --> 01:06:19,210 Oh yeah.

1394 01:06:19,210 --> 01:06:22,780 --how they behaved with one another.

1395 01:06:22,780 --> 01:06:24,850 Describe that a

little bit for me.

1396

01:06:24,850 --> 01:06:28,660 What was different from what you had been used to

1397

01:06:28,660 --> 01:06:29,470 and grown up with?

1398

01:06:29,470 --> 01:06:30,310 I don't know.

1399 01:06:30,310 --> 01:06:37,480

I mean-- and I think--

1400

01:06:37,480 --> 01:06:40,190

1401

01:06:40,190 --> 01:06:42,440 I mean, they had difficult kids.

1402

01:06:42,440 --> 01:06:45,150 I think they were adopted.

1403 01:06:45,1:

01:06:45,150 --> 01:06:50,280 And it was just a kind of gentleness.

1404 01:06:50,280 --> 01:06:53,745 But I wouldn't--

1405 01:06:53,745 --> 01:06:55,770 I like my parents, too.

1406

01:06:55,770 --> 01:06:57,150 But at that time--

1407 01:06:57,150 --> 01:07:00,090 you know, sometimes you're looking for other people that

1408

01:07:00,090 --> 01:07:02,250 would have been--

1409

01:07:02,250 --> 01:07:04,830 Yeah, you're exploring the world on your own.

1410

01:07:04,830 --> 01:07:05,330 Right.

1411 01:07:05,330 --> 01:07:08,100

And I loved going to their house.

1412

01:07:08,100 --> 01:07:16,260 It was a house full of books and soft voices

1413 01:07:16,260 --> 01:07:18,420 and no arguing about anything.

1414 01:07:18,420 --> 01:07:20,730 But then we didn't argue a lot either.

1415 01:07:20,730 --> 01:07:24,390 My mother and I did argue, yes, very much.

1416 01:07:24,390 --> 01:07:28,410

1417 01:07:28,410 --> 01:07:32,400 The first meetings you went to, were they all unstructured?

1418 01:07:32,400 --> 01:07:35,010 Are there ever times when

there are structured meetings?

1419 01:07:35,010 --> 01:07:35,670 Structured?

1420 01:07:35,670 --> 01:07:36,900 Yeah.

1421 01:07:36,900 --> 01:07:39,180 No, they were just always silent meetings.

1422 01:07:39,180 --> 01:07:40,860 They were always silent meetings?

1423 01:07:40,860 --> 01:07:41,568 Do you remember--

1424 01:07:41,568 --> 01:07:45,330 Well, silent until somebody said something.

1425 01:07:45,330 --> 01:07:48,420 But there are Quakers who have pastors.

1426 01:07:48,420 --> 01:07:51,720 There's two kinds.

1427 01:07:51,720 --> 01:07:54,655 Do you remember the first time you said something?

1428 01:07:54,655 --> 01:07:55,780 Do you remember the first--

01:07:55,780 --> 01:08:02,220 I don't think I said anything when I was in college, ever.

1430

01:08:02,220 --> 01:08:07,140 I thought a lot of things, but I don't think I spoke.

1431

01:08:07,140 --> 01:08:14,490 But later I became more vocal as I grew into it.

1432

01:08:14,490 --> 01:08:19,069 But, no, I didn't say anything.

1433

01:08:19,069 --> 01:08:23,220 They're very different when you think of the two religions

1434

01:08:23,220 --> 01:08:26,850 that you say you were attracted to, Catholicism on the one

1435

01:08:26,850 --> 01:08:33,149 hand with rituals and a sort of mystical kind of approach

1436

01:08:33,149 --> 01:08:35,819 and the Society of Friends.

1437 01:08:35,819 --> 01:08:37,830

They're very different.

1438

01:08:37,830 --> 01:08:39,149 There's what?

1439 01:08:39,149 --> 01:08:40,592 I said, they're very different.

1440 01:08:40,592 --> 01:08:41,550 They're very different.

01:08:41,550 --> 01:08:48,750 But there's a stream of mystical stuff that goes through both,

1442 01:08:48,750 --> 01:08:49,470 I think.

1443 01:08:49,470 --> 01:08:52,910 Yeah, yeah.

1444 01:08:52,910 --> 01:09:00,135 The Methodists can be pretty pacifist, too, during--

1445 01:09:00,135 --> 01:09:00,635 yeah.

1446 01:09:00,635 --> 01:09:03,290

1447 01:09:03,290 --> 01:09:05,494 So let's go back to--

1448 01:09:05,494 --> 01:09:08,870

1449 01:09:08,870 --> 01:09:10,640 you finished college.

1450 01:09:10,640 --> 01:09:11,927 And that was in what year?

1451 01:09:11,927 --> 01:09:13,010 What year did you finish--

1452 01:09:13,010 --> 01:09:13,910 '45.

1453 01:09:13,910 --> 01:09:16,590 Oh, so you finished in 1945.

01:09:16,590 --> 01:09:17,090 I see.

1455

01:09:17,090 --> 01:09:19,490 You started in '41?

1456

01:09:19,490 --> 01:09:20,240 That's right.

1457

01:09:20,240 --> 01:09:24,500 You started in '41 right before Pearl Harbor happens.

1458

01:09:24,500 --> 01:09:31,808 Yes, and the war ended in Europe the week I graduated.

1459

01:09:31,808 --> 01:09:32,350 That's right.

1460

 $01:09:32,350 \rightarrow 01:09:37,029$ So I was in the college during the war years.

1461

01:09:37,029 --> 01:09:39,790 That was a short war, if you think about it.

1462

01:09:39,790 --> 01:09:41,670 Short but effective, you know?

1463

01:09:41,670 --> 01:09:44,319 I know.

1464

01:09:44,319 --> 01:09:50,590 And they had good solutions, I mean, to some of the after.

1465 01:09:50,590 --> 01:09:52,210 We'll talk about those things.

1466 01:09:52,210 --> 01:09:53,600 We'll talk about that.

1467

01:09:53,600 --> 01:09:56,350 So when you're graduating, you graduate in a degree

1468 01:09:56,350 --> 01:09:59,470 with sociology.

1469 01:09:59,470 --> 01:10:03,550 And your family comes to-- your grandfather

1470 01:10:03,550 --> 01:10:05,620 comes to your graduation.

1471 01:10:05,620 --> 01:10:06,685 Your parents come?

1472 01:10:06,685 --> 01:10:07,360 Mm-hmm.

1473 01:10:07,360 --> 01:10:09,520 Any other relatives?

1474 01:10:09,520 --> 01:10:10,120 No.

1475 01:10:10,120 --> 01:10:11,200 OK.

1476 01:10:11,200 --> 01:10:13,960 And by that point, were you already

1477 01:10:13,960 --> 01:10:17,260 dating your first husband, Oakie?

1478 01:10:17,260 --> 01:10:18,430 Or not yet? 1479 01:10:18,430 --> 01:10:20,080 I wasn't dating him yet.

1480 01:10:20,080 --> 01:10:22,570 I mean, he wasn't my boyfriend.

1481 01:10:22,570 --> 01:10:28,950 And I wasn't really committed to anybody.

1482 01:10:28,950 --> 01:10:32,930 But that first week after college,

1483 01:10:32,930 --> 01:10:37,970 he got a leave from the Army.

1484 01:10:37,970 --> 01:10:40,670

1485 01:10:40,670 --> 01:10:46,320 He was on leave, and he came to Binghamton.

1486 01:10:46,320 --> 01:10:51,200 His mother-- his parents had split up,

1487 01:10:51,200 --> 01:10:55,970 and his mother lived in Schenectady.

1488 01:10:55,970 --> 01:11:01,760 And so he came to Binghamton, and he was looking for a date.

1489 01:11:01,760 --> 01:11:06,290 And nobody else was out of school

1490 01:11:06,290 --> 01:11:08,180 because it was Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

still a school year.

1491

01:11:08,180 --> 01:11:10,700 But Smith had finished, and I had finished.

1492

01:11:10,700 --> 01:11:16,070 And so I was sort of the available one.

1493

01:11:16,070 --> 01:11:21,440 And we had a really wonderful evening

1494

01:11:21,440 --> 01:11:24,230 together just walking around Binghamton

1495

01:11:24,230 --> 01:11:28,160 and doing things we had done in high school as a group.

1496

01:11:28,160 --> 01:11:32,876 And it was sort of instantaneous.

1497

01:11:32,876 --> 01:11:36,350 That kind of made us know that this was it.

1498

01:11:36,350 --> 01:11:38,600 I don't know how it happened so fast.

1499

01:11:38,600 --> 01:11:41,540 But I'd known him since kindergarten, so--

1500 01:11:41,540 --> 01:11:44,060 He wasn't a stranger.

1501 01:11:44,060 --> 01:11:49,940 It wasn't that difficult, except his family was very

1502

01:11:49,940 --> 01:11:53,990 dysfunctional compared to mine.

1503 01:11:53,990 --> 01:11:59,830 And-- oh--

1504 01:11:59,830 --> 01:12:02,020 Did he have brothers and sisters, as well?

1505 01:12:02,020 --> 01:12:03,370 He had two sisters.

1506

01:12:03,370 --> 01:12:05,890 He had two sisters.

1507

01:12:05,890 --> 01:12:09,760 Was he also a member of the Society of Friends?

1508 01:12:09,760 --> 01:12:11,590 Oh, no, not then.

1509 01:12:11,590 --> 01:12:13,750 He was still in the Army.

1510 01:12:13,750 --> 01:12:16,690

1511 01:12:16,690 --> 01:12:21,100 And he still expected he'd have to go to Japan because that war

1512 01:12:21,100 --> 01:12:22,820 was still going on.

1513 01:12:22,820 --> 01:12:23,320 But--

1515 01:12:28,800 --> 01:12:32,340 Did you have any idea what your future was going to be?

1516 01:12:32,340 --> 01:12:33,090 My future?

1517 01:12:33,090 --> 01:12:34,960 Yeah, after you finished college?

1518 01:12:34,960 --> 01:12:35,835 What were your plans?

1519 01:12:35,835 --> 01:12:39,430

1520 01:12:39,430 --> 01:12:45,370 My ideal plan was to do something to change the world.

1521

01:12:45,370 --> 01:12:48,170 I think we sort of dream of that.

1522

01:12:48,170 --> 01:12:54,551 And I wanted to make a difference.

1523 01:12:54,551 --> 01:12:57,260

1524 01:12:57,260 --> 01:12:59,810 But I didn't have any big plans.

1525 01:12:59,810 --> 01:13:02,345 I needed to think of something.

1526 01:13:02,345 --> 01:13:08,540 So I started out doing social work, which--

1527

01:13:08,540 --> 01:13:14,520 like home relief and child welfare.

1528

01:13:14,520 --> 01:13:16,200 In Binghamton?

1529

01:13:16,200 --> 01:13:17,070 Ithaca.

1530

01:13:17,070 --> 01:13:17,700 In Ithaca.

1531

01:13:17,700 --> 01:13:19,290 Why was I in Ithaca?

1532

01:13:19,290 --> 01:13:21,300 I don't know.

1533 01:13:21,300 --> 01:13:23,820 Oh, well, then I got--

1534 01:13:23,820 --> 01:13:25,440 I wanted to be a writer.

1535

01:13:25,440 --> 01:13:27,750 I was really going to be a writer.

1536 01:13:27,750 --> 01:13:30,270 And when I went to the local newspaper

1537 01:13:30,270 --> 01:13:32,650 to see if I could work for them--

1538 01:13:32,650 --> 01:13:35,130 I wanted to be a reporter-- 1539 01:13:35,130 --> 01:13:38,670 they said I could do the society page.

1540 01:13:38,670 --> 01:13:43,150 And I wasn't interested in that.

1541

01:13:43,150 --> 01:13:47,080 So I went back to look for something else

1542

01:13:47,080 --> 01:13:55,450 and got a job in Poughkeepsie up on the Hudson in the child

1543

01:13:55,450 --> 01:14:00,280 welfare department and worked there.

1544

01:14:00,280 --> 01:14:04,180 And during that time, Oakie had come back to Cornell

1545

01:14:04,180 --> 01:14:05,020 to finish--

1546

01:14:05,020 --> 01:14:08,620 he had two years left of college.

1547

01:14:08,620 --> 01:14:12,430 So while he was doing that at Cornell, I was going to work.

1548 01:14:12,430 --> 01:14:16,840 But we got married that summer and moved to Ithaca.

1549 01:14:16,840 --> 01:14:18,790 And that was the summer of what year?

1550 01:14:18,790 --> 01:14:21,160 That was the summer of '46.

1551 01:14:21,160 --> 01:14:25,210 We were married in June and moved to Ithaca.

1552 01:14:25,210 --> 01:14:27,080 That's why I was in Ithaca.

1553 01:14:27,080 --> 01:14:27,580 And--

1554 01:14:27,580 --> 01:14:30,370

1555 01:14:30,370 --> 01:14:32,710 And he continues with Cornell?

1556 01:14:32,710 --> 01:14:33,210 Hmm?

1557 01:14:33,210 --> 01:14:34,800 He continues with Cornell?

1558 01:14:34,800 --> 01:14:36,060 He does, yeah.

1559 01:14:36,060 --> 01:14:40,800 And I got a job in the Ithaca Welfare Department

1560 01:14:40,800 --> 01:14:45,480 with three other case workers who were also wives

1561 01:14:45,480 --> 01:14:48,960 of veterans who were studying.

1562 01:14:48,960 --> 01:14:55,400 And that was my first paying job.

1563

01:14:55,400 --> 01:15:01,860 And he had-- because he'd been wounded,

1564 01:15:01,860 --> 01:15:06,840 he had a bonus or some kind of stipend and also,

1565

01:15:06,840 --> 01:15:10,740 because if you were in that war, you got free tuition.

1566

01:15:10,740 --> 01:15:14,160 So he didn't have to pay for tuition.

1567

01:15:14,160 --> 01:15:18,360 And so my money earned our rent and our food.

1568 01:15:18,360 --> 01:15:22,545 And it was good.

1569 01:15:22,545 --> 01:15:26,850 Dut during that time, we

But during that time, we decided we wanted to travel.

1570 01:15:26,850 --> 01:15:35,770 And I knew that with the Friends Service Committee, which is--

1571 01:15:35,770 --> 01:15:39,060 well, the other thing I liked about the Quaker religion

1572

01:15:39,060 --> 01:15:43,200 was that they don't so much go by the Bible.

1573 01:15:43,200 --> 01:15:47,340 But they have what they Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

call faith and practice.

1574 01:15:47,340 --> 01:15:51,460 And the practice goes along with the faith.

1575 01:15:51,460 --> 01:15:53,610 I mean, you can't have just faith

1576 01:15:53,610 --> 01:15:56,490 without putting it to practice.

1577 01:15:56,490 --> 01:16:02,310 And so you find things to do that witness to your faith.

1578 01:16:02,310 --> 01:16:04,140 And so that's--

1579 01:16:04,140 --> 01:16:05,890 Are there specific programs?

1580 01:16:05,890 --> 01:16:06,390 Hmm?

1581 01:16:06,390 --> 01:16:07,598 Were there specific programs?

1582 01:16:07,598 --> 01:16:11,880 Well, so then they set up-- during World War I,

1583 01:16:11,880 --> 01:16:14,670 they set up the American Friends Service Committee,

1584 01:16:14,670 --> 01:16:15,720 which sends out--

1585 01:16:15,720 --> 01:16:18,260 1586 01:16:18,260 --> 01:16:26,300 it would send help to refugees, to people--

1587 01:16:26,300 --> 01:16:28,190 it never chose sides.

1588 01:16:28,190 --> 01:16:32,240 I mean, if it helped one side, they helped the others too.

1589 01:16:32,240 --> 01:16:38,010 They fed the German children, and then they

1590 01:16:38,010 --> 01:16:39,840 took care of the refugees.

1591 01:16:39,840 --> 01:16:42,270 Anyway, that's what we got very interested in,

1592 01:16:42,270 --> 01:16:50,960 the AFSC, the Friends Service Committee, and decided

1593 01:16:50,960 --> 01:16:54,330 maybe we could work for them.

1594 01:16:54,330 --> 01:16:56,860 And this is while you're in Ithaca?

1595 01:16:56,860 --> 01:16:59,890 Well, while we were in Ithaca, yeah.

1596 01:16:59,890 --> 01:17:08,380 And the family who had helped me wanted--

01:17:08,380 --> 01:17:13,240 the people that I babysat for, the Quaker family.

1598

01:17:13,240 --> 01:17:18,340 He had been in France helping with the AFSC, so he gave me

1599

01:17:18,340 --> 01:17:22,330 some advice about how to do it and who to get in touch with.

1600

01:17:22,330 --> 01:17:26,990 Anyway, we ended up with the Service Committee.

1601

01:17:26,990 --> 01:17:28,270 Let me ask a question.

1602

01:17:28,270 --> 01:17:31,180 When he was in France, that was in World War I?

1603 01:17:31,180 --> 01:17:32,350 Or World War II?

1604 01:17:32,350 --> 01:17:34,000 When he was, what?

1605 01:17:34,000 --> 01:17:36,610 The person who gave you advice--

1606 01:17:36,610 --> 01:17:40,480 and you said he was in World War I when it started or was that--

1607 01:17:40,480 --> 01:17:44,300 No, it was during World War II.

1608 01:17:44,300 --> 01:17:46,120 OK, OK.

01:17:46,120 --> 01:17:50,710 And do you remember the kind of advice he gave you?

1610 01:17:50,710 --> 01:17:53,860 No, but he just--

1611 01:17:53,860 --> 01:17:59,990 I just-- he was more of a model than a giver of advice.

1612 01:17:59,990 --> 01:18:00,940 I don't know.

1613 01:18:00,940 --> 01:18:01,885 But he had gone--

1614 01:18:01,885 --> 01:18:09,250

1615 01:18:09,250 --> 01:18:16,330 to the children in occupied--

1616 01:18:16,330 --> 01:18:20,230 I'm forgetting.

1617 01:18:20,230 --> 01:18:21,400 He had gone to--

1618 01:18:21,400 --> 01:18:23,650 France, during the war, was divided.

1619 01:18:23,650 --> 01:18:28,000 There was Vichy France under German occupation.

1620 01:18:28,000 --> 01:18:30,250 There was a free zone, I believe.

1621 01:18:30,250 --> 01:18:39,090 There was-- Le Chambon was the place that he'd worked.

1622

01:18:39,090 --> 01:18:45,850 And-- I just--

1623

01:18:45,850 --> 01:18:47,320 I'm at a loss.

1624

01:18:47,320 --> 01:18:47,980 That's OK.

1625

01:18:47,980 --> 01:18:48,820 That's OK.

1626

01:18:48,820 --> 01:18:51,100 I know that a lot of the questions that I ask

1627

01:18:51,100 --> 01:18:53,650 are so detailed and out from left field.

1628

01:18:53,650 --> 01:18:55,900 But I ask them just in case, just in case.

1629

01:18:55,900 --> 01:18:58,690 Well, it's something I love talking about.

1630

01:18:58,690 --> 01:19:01,030 I just can't think how it worked.

1631

01:19:01,030 --> 01:19:07,750 I mean, it was a village in France where they--

1632 01:19:07,750 --> 01:19:08,770 Le Chambon?

01:19:08,770 --> 01:19:09,590 Le Chambon, yeah.

1634 01:19:09,590 --> 01:19:10,130 I've heard of it.

1635 01:19:10,130 --> 01:19:10,790 Have you heard of it?

1636 01:19:10,790 --> 01:19:11,748 I've heard of it, yeah.

1637 01:19:11,748 --> 01:19:14,200 And there's been things written about it.

1638 01:19:14,200 --> 01:19:21,125 And refugees appeared from--

1639 01:19:21,125 --> 01:19:25,140

1640 01:19:25,140 --> 01:19:28,170 Germans-- no.

1641 01:19:28,170 --> 01:19:29,940 Oh.

1642 01:19:29,940 --> 01:19:30,690 That's OK.

1643 01:19:30,690 --> 01:19:31,440 That's OK.

1644 01:19:31,440 --> 01:19:35,040 But at any rate, the issue is that you

1645 01:19:35,040 --> 01:19:37,800 wanted to do something that made a difference. 1646 01:19:37,800 --> 01:19:43,110 You were attracted to the service part

1647 01:19:43,110 --> 01:19:46,170 of the Society of Friends through the American Friends

1648 01:19:46,170 --> 01:19:47,820 Service Committee.

1649 01:19:47,820 --> 01:19:51,660 You spoke to the gentleman for whose children

1650 01:19:51,660 --> 01:19:54,360 you had babysat who had had some experience.

1651 01:19:54,360 --> 01:19:56,790 Yeah, he was a professor at Smith.

1652 01:19:56,790 --> 01:19:57,730 What was his name?

1653 01:19:57,730 --> 01:19:58,605 Do you remember that?

1654 01:19:58,605 --> 01:19:59,610 Burns Chalmers.

1655 01:19:59,610 --> 01:20:00,660 Burns Chalmers?

1656 01:20:00,660 --> 01:20:01,830 Mm-hmm.

1657 01:20:01,830 --> 01:20:03,780 Oh, OK.

01:20:03,780 --> 01:20:05,430 OK.

1659 01:20:05,430 --> 01:20:10,030 And then what happened after that?

1660 01:20:10,030 --> 01:20:12,630 Did you have to go through some sort of training program

1661 01:20:12,630 --> 01:20:13,890 or something?

1662 01:20:13,890 --> 01:20:19,460 Well, when we were selected to go,

1663 01:20:19,460 --> 01:20:21,680 they decided that we should go to Poland.

1664 01:20:21,680 --> 01:20:24,210

1665 01:20:24,210 --> 01:20:30,650 So we went to-- they have a place called Pendle Hill, which

1666 01:20:30,650 --> 01:20:35,750 is a kind of retreat education center outside of Philadelphia.

1667 01:20:35,750 --> 01:20:37,790 And we went to Pendle Hill.

1668 01:20:37,790 --> 01:20:43,550 That was a summer after Oakie's graduation.

1669 01:20:43,550 --> 01:20:49,340 And we started studying Spanish all morning every day. 1670 01:20:49,340 --> 01:20:49,840 To go to--

1671 01:20:49,840 --> 01:20:51,180 I mean, Polish.

1672 01:20:51,180 --> 01:20:53,075 OK, I was going to say, to go to Poland?

1673 01:20:53,075 --> 01:20:56,390 I've studied so many languages, and I can't speak any of them.

1674 01:20:56,390 --> 01:20:59,630 But Polish was very intense.

1675 01:20:59,630 --> 01:21:02,240 Every morning-- it was a very hot summer in Philadelphia,

1676 01:21:02,240 --> 01:21:06,050 and every day we went to this mister somebody who was

1677 01:21:06,050 --> 01:21:09,410 a Polish man and did Polish.

1678 01:21:09,410 --> 01:21:13,970 And it was a terrible hard language.

1679 01:21:13,970 --> 01:21:18,770 I mean, it had six conjugations or something.

1680 01:21:18,770 --> 01:21:20,360 It was terrible.

1681 01:21:20,360 --> 01:21:23,090 But it was fun, sort of. 1682 01:21:23,090 --> 01:21:25,730 And it was a summer so hot that the newspaper

1683 01:21:25,730 --> 01:21:31,410 would show people actually frying eggs on the sidewalk.

1684 01:21:31,410 --> 01:21:34,110 And it was-- we would go into Philadelphia,

1685 01:21:34,110 --> 01:21:39,070 and then we would sort used clothing to be sent overseas

1686 01:21:39,070 --> 01:21:43,980 and worked all day after we studied our Polish.

1687 01:21:43,980 --> 01:21:47,400 And we got training about lots of things,

1688 01:21:47,400 --> 01:21:50,220 and we packed trunks.

1689 01:21:50,220 --> 01:21:54,270 But we became the test case because the Iron Curtain

1690 01:21:54,270 --> 01:21:56,990 was coming down.

1691 01:21:56,990 --> 01:22:00,900 And they were not sure that they could go to Poland.

1692 01:22:00,900 --> 01:22:03,330 This was in 1947?

01:22:03,330 --> 01:22:08,150 '47-- '47, yeah, '47.

1694 01:22:08,150 --> 01:22:13,550 And they didn't want to get another whole team of people

1695 01:22:13,550 --> 01:22:16,790 going to work in Poland if they couldn't go in.

1696 01:22:16,790 --> 01:22:20,990 So we became-- we waited four months in Pendle Hill,

1697 01:22:20,990 --> 01:22:25,350 going into Philadelphia every day and helping where we could.

1698 01:22:25,350 --> 01:22:29,960 And it was-- well, and then they decided

1699 01:22:29,960 --> 01:22:34,340 to send us to Paris to wait because we were this test case.

1700 01:22:34,340 --> 01:22:37,280 So that was really not a bad deal

1701 01:22:37,280 --> 01:22:40,670 because that's what we'd wanted to do.

1702 01:22:40,670 --> 01:22:44,870 And we went to Paris to the Friends center

1703 01:22:44,870 --> 01:22:48,560 there where we had a room on the top floor

01:22:48,560 --> 01:22:53,900 and then still studied Polish with a Polish woman.

1705

01:22:53,900 --> 01:23:00,800 And-- the only way we could be helpful was--

1706

01:23:00,800 --> 01:23:04,880 this was a center through which people

1707

01:23:04,880 --> 01:23:10,380 came who were on their way to their assignments--

1708

01:23:10,380 --> 01:23:13,380 or on their way home or on their way back.

1709

01:23:13,380 --> 01:23:15,810 So they'd stop in the Paris center.

1710

01:23:15,810 --> 01:23:21,840 And they loved to do things like go to the opera or to a play.

1711

01:23:21,840 --> 01:23:24,930 So we spent our days going out and buying tickets for them

1712

01:23:24,930 --> 01:23:27,040 so they could go do that.

1713

01:23:27,040 --> 01:23:28,980 And we got to know Paris inside out.

1714 01:23:28,980 --> 01:23:32,580 It was such a learning experience.

01:23:32,580 --> 01:23:37,050 And we were part of this life of people coming and going

1716 01:23:37,050 --> 01:23:38,390 from all different countries.

1717 01:23:38,390 --> 01:23:40,980

1718 01:23:40,980 --> 01:23:45,340 I wonder what Paris was like in those first post-war years.

1719 01:23:45,340 --> 01:23:47,250 Was there still rationing?

1720 01:23:47,250 --> 01:23:50,940 Was there-- was it a city that you could

1721 01:23:50,940 --> 01:23:52,560 see the war had been there?

1722 01:23:52,560 --> 01:23:53,940 Oh, yes.

1723 01:23:53,940 --> 01:24:00,030 And the food-- the quality of the food--

1724 01:24:00,030 --> 01:24:05,240 what they lamented so much was their lovely French bread.

1725 01:24:05,240 --> 01:24:07,600 It couldn't be white anymore.

1726 01:24:07,600 --> 01:24:08,890 It was sort of brown.

1727 01:24:08,890 --> 01:24:10,210 We thought it was terrific.

1728

01:24:10,210 --> 01:24:11,830 It was really good.

1729

01:24:11,830 --> 01:24:13,930 But it was not white.

1730

01:24:13,930 --> 01:24:15,400 It was soft.

1731 01:24:15,400 --> 01:24:19,200 And yes, there was rationing.

1732 01:24:19,200 --> 01:24:20,700 I mean, there just wasn't much food.

1733 01:24:20,700 --> 01:24:23,670

1734 01:24:23,670 --> 01:24:25,980 But we had-- one thing we had was

1735 01:24:25,980 --> 01:24:28,900 peanut butter, which came from Philadelphia,

1736 01:24:28,900 --> 01:24:30,750 which kept us going.

1737 01:24:30,750 --> 01:24:35,460 And of course, Europeans had no use for peanut butter.

1738 01:24:35,460 --> 01:24:36,060 [CHUCKLES]

1739 01:24:36,060 --> 01:24:37,820 And-- 1740 01:24:37,820 --> 01:24:38,320 Yeah.

1741 01:24:38,320 --> 01:24:41,170

1742 01:24:41,170 --> 01:24:43,060 But it's kept quite a bit, you know.

1743 01:24:43,060 --> 01:24:45,810 It has its positive properties, peanut butter.

1744 01:24:45,810 --> 01:24:46,310 Hmm?

1745 01:24:46,310 --> 01:24:49,540 It has its positive properties, peanut butter does.

1746 01:24:49,540 --> 01:24:50,210 Oh, yes.

1747 01:24:50,210 --> 01:24:50,960 You know, protein?

1748 01:24:50,960 --> 01:24:51,640 Good protein.

1749 01:24:51,640 --> 01:24:56,320 Yeah, yeah, so how long--

1750 01:24:56,320 --> 01:25:01,630 when you were in Paris, you were still learning Polish.

1751 01:25:01,630 --> 01:25:05,935 You were buying tickets for people to-- 01:25:05,935 --> 01:25:08,380 who are coming through to be able to enjoy

1753

01:25:08,380 --> 01:25:10,120 something of the city.

1754 01:25:10,120 --> 01:25:14,440 Were you involved in any other kinds of activities?

1755

01:25:14,440 --> 01:25:17,290 Well, whatever went on, whatever--

1756 01:25:17,290 --> 01:25:22,120 and Eleanor Roosevelt was the representative at the UN,

1757

01:25:22,120 --> 01:25:23,980 and she came for tea.

1758 01:25:23,980 --> 01:25:27,400 And we talked with her, and I mean there were--

1759

01:25:27,400 --> 01:25:28,630 That's quite special.

1760 01:25:28,630 --> 01:25:30,340 Yeah, that was very special.

1761 01:25:30,340 --> 01:25:33,970 She was somebody I had admired since junior high school.

1762 01:25:33,970 --> 01:25:35,440 I really liked Eleanor.

1763 01:25:35,440 --> 01:25:41,870 [CHUCKLES] And we would spend a lot of time 1764 01:25:41,870 --> 01:25:45,500 visiting the United Nations, their sessions,

1765 01:25:45,500 --> 01:25:48,240 and finding out what was going on.

1766 01:25:48,240 --> 01:25:51,330

1767 01:25:51,330 --> 01:25:54,470 And we just spent a lot of time getting to know Paris.

1768 01:25:54,470 --> 01:25:56,090 We went to the opera a lot.

1769 01:25:56,090 --> 01:25:58,790 I'd never been to an opera in Binghamton.

1770 01:25:58,790 --> 01:26:05,460 And we didn't-- our French was never very good.

1771 01:26:05,460 --> 01:26:09,240 I had three years in high school in college,

1772 01:26:09,240 --> 01:26:13,290 but Oakie was better.

1773 01:26:13,290 --> 01:26:18,120 But going to a play was difficult.

1774 01:26:18,120 --> 01:26:19,300 Did you write home much?

1775 01:26:19,300 --> 01:26:19,800 Hmm? 1776 01:26:19,800 --> 01:26:21,750 Did you did you write home much?

1777 01:26:21,750 --> 01:26:24,600 Oh, endlessly.

1778 01:26:24,600 --> 01:26:25,100 Endlessly.

1779 01:26:25,100 --> 01:26:29,360 I have boxes of letters, copies.

1780 01:26:29,360 --> 01:26:34,130 You know, I did carbon copies of every letter

1781 01:26:34,130 --> 01:26:36,470 so that I would have my record.

1782 01:26:36,470 --> 01:26:38,780 And I wrote to my mother.

1783 01:26:38,780 --> 01:26:41,360 I mean, I just can't believe how much I write--

1784 01:26:41,360 --> 01:26:45,740 five, 10, 15 pages, two or three times a week.

1785 01:26:45,740 --> 01:26:47,050 How, I don't know.

1786 01:26:47,050 --> 01:26:48,050 There's a writer in you.

1787 01:26:48,050 --> 01:26:51,200 Last night, I found a box of them in the basement.

1788

01:26:51,200 --> 01:26:53,685 And I sat down to read them, and I just got fascinated.

1789

01:26:53,685 --> 01:26:58,790 [LAUGHS] Oh my gosh, I did all that?

1790

01:26:58,790 --> 01:27:02,630 Nobody would do that now, just--

1791

01:27:02,630 --> 01:27:05,000 So you had a little portable typewriter with you?

1792

01:27:05,000 --> 01:27:11,510 Oh yeah, a nice little Corona, and it

1793

01:27:11,510 --> 01:27:14,405 was not even so little, but yes.

1794 01:27:14,405 --> 01:27:16,960

1795

01:27:16,960 --> 01:27:20,350 And the letters that you read yesterday,

1796

01:27:20,350 --> 01:27:23,110 were they from this time period when you were in Paris?

1797

01:27:23,110 --> 01:27:26,170 Some of them-- yeah, but I was reading the ones

1798

01:27:26,170 --> 01:27:29,680 from Bad Aibling times because I wanted to think

1799 01:27:29,680 --> 01:27:31,900 about it a little bit more. 1800 01:27:31,900 --> 01:27:35,386 And I wrote endlessly then.

1801 01:27:35,386 --> 01:27:41,220 [SIGHS] I didn't realize I had so many.

1802

01:27:41,220 --> 01:27:47,190 So tell me, how long did you stay in Paris?

1803

01:27:47,190 --> 01:27:48,450 Four months, again.

1804

01:27:48,450 --> 01:27:49,170 Four months.

1805

01:27:49,170 --> 01:27:49,830 Four months.

1806 01:27:49,830 --> 01:27:53,040 So four months in Philadel-four months in Pendle Hill,

1807 01:27:53,040 --> 01:27:54,390 and then four months in Paris?

1808 01:27:54,390 --> 01:27:55,350 Mm-hmm.

1809 01:27:55,350 --> 01:27:57,540 So it's eight months after you kind of

1810 01:27:57,540 --> 01:28:00,060 enter the program, all right.

1811 01:28:00,060 --> 01:28:04,080 And that brings us up to, let's say, winter 1948? 1812 01:28:04,080 --> 01:28:05,670 Is that so?

1813 01:28:05,670 --> 01:28:09,150 Yeah, it was '48 when we got there, I think.

1814 01:28:09,150 --> 01:28:16,340

1815 01:28:16,340 --> 01:28:19,415 Had you seen many refugees when you were in Paris?

1816 01:28:19,415 --> 01:28:23,940

1817 01:28:23,940 --> 01:28:26,880 Not that I remember.

1818 01:28:26,880 --> 01:28:28,860 There must have been some, but they

1819 01:28:28,860 --> 01:28:32,430 didn't come through the Quaker Center there.

1820 01:28:32,430 --> 01:28:38,310

1821 01:28:38,310 --> 01:28:44,600 But when the Iron Curtain came down, they suddenly did.

1822 01:28:44,600 --> 01:28:49,580 It was just at the time when they needed staff

1823 01:28:49,580 --> 01:28:53,180 for the children's village, or for the children 1824 01:28:53,180 --> 01:29:00,360 that they were gathering up in Germany after the war.

1825 01:29:00,360 --> 01:29:04,170 And they were all different nationalities.

1826 01:29:04,170 --> 01:29:07,860 It was a perfect job for us because we loved kids

1827 01:29:07,860 --> 01:29:12,670 and because they were from all different countries.

1828 01:29:12,670 --> 01:29:19,530 We had a smattering of Polish and a smattering of some Czech,

1829 01:29:19,530 --> 01:29:23,880 and so that was a help, and--

1830 01:29:23,880 --> 01:29:26,310 So in other words, if I understand this right,

1831 01:29:26,310 --> 01:29:30,870 you're in Paris and all of a sudden, the plans for Poland

1832 01:29:30,870 --> 01:29:33,150 get aborted.

1833 01:29:33,150 --> 01:29:34,460 You don't go to Poland.

1834 01:29:34,460 --> 01:29:38,910 No, we couldn't go to Poland because--

1835

01:29:38,910 --> 01:29:41,490 Was this, then, probably after--

1836

01:29:41,490 --> 01:29:43,770 well, Churchill gives that famous speech

1837

01:29:43,770 --> 01:29:46,690 at some point about the Iron Curtain coming down.

1838

01:29:46,690 --> 01:29:47,190 Yeah.

1839

01:29:47,190 --> 01:29:49,140 I don't remember what year it was.

1840

01:29:49,140 --> 01:29:49,680 I don't--

1841 01:29:49,680 --> 01:29:52,420 But at any rate, it's at this time.

1842

01:29:52,420 --> 01:29:56,980 And the government then probably doesn't allow you to go in

1843 01:29:56,980 --> 01:29:57,480 or do--

1844 01:29:57,480 --> 01:29:59,040 No, they wouldn't.

1845 01:29:59,040 --> 01:30:05,310 In fact, we went after we got to Bad Aibling, we went to visit,

1846 01:30:05,310 --> 01:30:08,220 and we had a hard time getting in. 1847 01:30:08,220 --> 01:30:13,870 They didn't want people that represented religions,

1848 01:30:13,870 --> 01:30:16,720 so we said we worked for the International Refugee

1849 01:30:16,720 --> 01:30:18,310 Organization.

1850 01:30:18,310 --> 01:30:21,070 But they were doubtful about that too.

1851 01:30:21,070 --> 01:30:26,740 They finally let us go, but boy, did we feel watched.

1852 01:30:26,740 --> 01:30:28,660 I mean, they were very careful.

1853 01:30:28,660 --> 01:30:29,710 You went to Poland?

1854 01:30:29,710 --> 01:30:31,570 We went to Poland to visit.

1855 01:30:31,570 --> 01:30:36,190 And some of the boys wanted us to look up their parents,

1856 01:30:36,190 --> 01:30:39,850 and we tried.

1857 01:30:39,850 --> 01:30:41,950 So let me understand this.

1858 01:30:41,950 --> 01:30:46,600 This was like a personal visit, not one that was sponsored 1859 01:30:46,600 --> 01:30:48,170 through the organizations.

1860 01:30:48,170 --> 01:30:48,670 No.

1861 01:30:48,670 --> 01:30:52,580 OK, and where did you go in Poland?

1862 01:30:52,580 --> 01:30:58,880 Where we were only allowed to go in the center of the city.

1863 01:30:58,880 --> 01:30:59,780 So Warsaw?

1864 01:30:59,780 --> 01:31:04,580 Warsaw, yeah, I think it was Warsaw.

1865 01:31:04,580 --> 01:31:07,925 And we went on the train.

1866 01:31:07,925 --> 01:31:16,760

1867 01:31:16,760 --> 01:31:19,110 But we did find a few parents.

1868 01:31:19,110 --> 01:31:22,280 But when we'd go to talk to them in their apartments,

1869 01:31:22,280 --> 01:31:23,720 they would turn off--

1870 01:31:23,720 --> 01:31:28,760 they would turn up the radio, and pull down the shades,

1871

01:31:28,760 --> 01:31:31,370 and talk in whispers because they

1872

01:31:31,370 --> 01:31:35,480 felt they were being listened to and watched all the time.

1873

 $01:31:35,480 \rightarrow 01:31:39,500$ So we didn't think it was very helpful for us to be there.

1874

01:31:39,500 --> 01:31:42,620 But the boys wanted messages to go through

1875

01:31:42,620 --> 01:31:46,040 because the boys had run away, and their parents

1876

01:31:46,040 --> 01:31:49,790 didn't know that they were still around, so that--

1877

01:31:49,790 --> 01:31:50,900 yeah.

1878

01:31:50,900 --> 01:31:52,820 Well, that was important for those families

1879

01:31:52,820 --> 01:31:54,400 to know their children are alive.

1880

01:31:54,400 --> 01:31:57,410 Yes, that really was and they were very relieved,

1881 01:31:57,410 --> 01:31:59,300 the ones that we got to.

1882 01:31:59,300 --> 01:32:01,760 So you would go visiting on your own

1883

01:32:01,760 --> 01:32:06,020 to these, with an address or something when

1884

01:32:06,020 --> 01:32:07,850 you were in Warsaw?

1885

01:32:07,850 --> 01:32:08,675 And--

1886 01:32:08,675 --> 01:32:09,550

Yeah, I don't think--

1887

01:32:09,550 --> 01:32:11,420 Or you don't think it was Warsaw?

1888

01:32:11,420 --> 01:32:13,790 I'm thinking maybe it was KrakÃ³w.

1889

01:32:13,790 --> 01:32:18,380 OK, was it very bombed out?

1890

01:32:18,380 --> 01:32:20,630 Yes.

1891

01:32:20,630 --> 01:32:21,290 Warsaw was--

1892

01:32:21,290 --> 01:32:23,690 But Berlin was very bombed out too.

1893

01:32:23,690 --> 01:32:27,410 Yeah, but Warsaw was really leveled.

1894 01:32:27,410 --> 01:32:28,130

KrakÃ³w--

1895 01:32:28,130 --> 01:32:29,840 I don't think we were in Warsaw.

1896 01:32:29,840 --> 01:32:30,530 OK.

1897 01:32:30,530 --> 01:32:32,120 I just don't know where we went.

1898 01:32:32,120 --> 01:32:36,260 We must-- because several of the boys lived there.

1899 01:32:36,260 --> 01:32:39,630 KrakÃ³w, I just really don't know.

1900 01:32:39,630 --> 01:32:40,190 OK.

1901 01:32:40,190 --> 01:32:43,070 I'll have to find the letters from then.

1902 01:32:43,070 --> 01:32:43,970 That's OK.

1903 01:32:43,970 --> 01:32:44,490 That's OK.

1904 01:32:44,490 --> 01:32:49,040 But for me, it's interesting, and of course, connected

1905 01:32:49,040 --> 01:32:54,170 to the Bad Aibling story, that you actually do go to the East

1906 01:32:54,170 --> 01:32:58,860 and you do see something Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

of what's going on there,

1907

01:32:58,860 --> 01:33:02,000 and that the parents are pulling down the shades

1908

01:33:02,000 --> 01:33:05,630 and turning up the radio because that

1909

01:33:05,630 --> 01:33:09,620 speaks to the question of repatriation

1910

01:33:09,620 --> 01:33:13,340 because there was the effort to repatriate people

1911

01:33:13,340 --> 01:33:15,680 who had come from the East and were

1912 01:33:15,680 --> 01:33:18,440 in the West to go back there.

1913

01:33:18,440 --> 01:33:23,960 Was that something that was part of the questions that

1914

01:33:23,960 --> 01:33:26,540 were in Bad Aibling about the children

1915

01:33:26,540 --> 01:33:29,910 that you were taking care of there?

1916

01:33:29,910 --> 01:33:31,140 Was what part of the--

1917 01:33:31,140 --> 01:33:32,970 Repatriation to Poland.

1918 01:33:32,970 --> 01:33:35,295 Yes, I mean that was one of the aims.

1919 01:33:35,295 --> 01:33:38,010

1920 01:33:38,010 --> 01:33:41,550 One of the first aims of the refugee organization

1921 01:33:41,550 --> 01:33:44,880 was resettlement if they could find their family.

1922 01:33:44,880 --> 01:33:46,770 That seemed the best thing.

1923 01:33:46,770 --> 01:33:50,450 But then, sometimes kids didn't want to go back.

1924 01:33:50,450 --> 01:33:53,550 They tried to account for everything.

1925 01:33:53,550 --> 01:33:58,460 It was a-- it was such a strange set up because here we

1926 01:33:58,460 --> 01:34:02,930 were in this children's village with a couple of hundred

1927 01:34:02,930 --> 01:34:05,090 kids at a time.

1928 01:34:05,090 --> 01:34:08,810 And they were coming through and we

1929 01:34:08,810 --> 01:34:13,390 Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

had social workers who tried to get them to where they

1930 01:34:13,390 --> 01:34:15,850 could emigrate or resettle.

1931 01:34:15,850 --> 01:34:17,590 Go back home.

1932 01:34:17,590 --> 01:34:22,060 And the aim was to get everybody out,

1933 01:34:22,060 --> 01:34:24,850 and it was such a strange feeling

1934 01:34:24,850 --> 01:34:29,530 to know that if our job got done, there'd be nothing left.

1935 01:34:29,530 --> 01:34:32,230 And how strange to go--

1936 01:34:32,230 --> 01:34:37,180 that's why Christian, the young man who

1937 01:34:37,180 --> 01:34:40,990 did his thesis on Bad Aibling, he grew up in Bad Aibling.

1938 01:34:40,990 --> 01:34:42,160 He'd never heard of it.

1939 01:34:42,160 --> 01:34:44,410 He didn't have any idea.

1940 01:34:44,410 --> 01:34:47,590 And I said, well, that was our point.

1941

01:34:47,590 --> 01:34:49,870 And yet, I tried--

1942 01:34:49,870 --> 01:34:52,250 I've been back a couple of times,

1943 01:34:52,250 --> 01:34:57,190 and it's always been a US Army base or something else,

1944 01:34:57,190 --> 01:35:00,920 but there's no trace of the children.

1945 01:35:00,920 --> 01:35:06,350 Because in a way to think that our job was done when

1946 01:35:06,350 --> 01:35:09,140 there was nothing left to show, so really,

1947 01:35:09,140 --> 01:35:11,855 only when it finally--

1948 01:35:11,855 --> 01:35:14,440

1949 01:35:14,440 --> 01:35:19,410 when it shut down, there were just what

1950 01:35:19,410 --> 01:35:24,480 they called the hardcore, a few people who hadn't

1951 01:35:24,480 --> 01:35:27,270 been able to pass immigration.

1952 01:35:27,270 --> 01:35:30,180 I think we'll stop here and take a break. 1953 01:35:30,180 --> 01:35:31,080 Take a lunch break.

1954 01:35:31,080 --> 01:35:31,913 I think that's good.

1955

01:35:31,913 --> 01:35:34,080 Yeah, and we'll come back to talk more

1956

01:35:34,080 --> 01:35:37,710 about Bad Aibling in full after lunch.

1957 01:35:37,710 --> 01:35:40,383 Yeah, I feel funny talk--

1958 01:35:40,383 --> 01:35:42,270 Rolling.

1959 01:35:42,270 --> 01:35:48,000 OK, before our break, we started to talk about Bad Aibling.

1960 01:35:48,000 --> 01:35:52,890 And I want to get a sense of your travels

1961 01:35:52,890 --> 01:35:58,170 from Paris to Germany and how you then end up in Bad Aibling.

1962 01:35:58,170 --> 01:36:03,040 Did you go straight there, or did you go other places first?

1963 01:36:03,040 --> 01:36:04,290 You mean when we left--

1964 01:36:04,290 --> 01:36:05,340 Paris. 1965 01:36:05,340 --> 01:36:09,240 When we left Paris when we knew we couldn't go to Poland?

1966 01:36:09,240 --> 01:36:10,500 Right.

1967

01:36:10,500 --> 01:36:13,570 Well, we rode in the back of a big truck.

1968 01:36:13,570 --> 01:36:18,510 And it was a long, long trip.

1969 01:36:18,510 --> 01:36:22,295 I mean, you didn't fly or--

1970

01:36:22,295 --> 01:36:25,103 Do you remember what you saw of the landscape or the towns

1971 01:36:25,103 --> 01:36:26,020 that you were passing?

1972 01:36:26,020 --> 01:36:28,050 Oh, everything was very drab.

1973 01:36:28,050 --> 01:36:30,420 We stopped in little villages.

1974 01:36:30,420 --> 01:36:32,100 People were very kind to us.

1975 01:36:32,100 --> 01:36:36,870 They'd take us in and give us food.

1976 01:36:36,870 --> 01:36:39,900 And there was a--

1977

01:36:39,900 --> 01:36:44,010 it was an AFSC transport, this truck,

1978

01:36:44,010 --> 01:36:48,870 and the drivers were Americans who were over there working.

1979

01:36:48,870 --> 01:36:56,170 And they drove us to Munich.

1980

01:36:56,170 --> 01:37:02,240 And in Munich, we met people who took us out

1981

01:37:02,240 --> 01:37:04,220 to the children's village.

1982

01:37:04,220 --> 01:37:09,100 I don't have any clear memories of arriving.

1983

01:37:09,100 --> 01:37:12,190 Do you have memories of what it looked like when you got there?

1984

01:37:12,190 --> 01:37:13,000 If what?

1985

01:37:13,000 --> 01:37:15,940 Do you have memories of what it looked like when you got there?

1986 01:37:15,940 --> 01:37:18,040 Of what it looked like, the village?

1987 01:37:18,040 --> 01:37:18,610 Yeah.

1988 01:37:18,610 --> 01:37:22,030 It was all painted camouflage green.

1989 01:37:22,030 --> 01:37:23,660 It was barracks.

1990 01:37:23,660 --> 01:37:28,600 It had been a Luftwaffe camp, and so there

1991

01:37:28,600 --> 01:37:31,630 were the officers' quarters, which were pretty nice.

1992

01:37:31,630 --> 01:37:37,930 And that's where we housed the babies and the preschoolers.

1993

01:37:37,930 --> 01:37:42,490 There were about 150 of them, I think.

1994

01:37:42,490 --> 01:37:48,710 And then, there were these other barracks where

1995

01:37:48,710 --> 01:37:52,390 the older kids were housed.

1996

01:37:52,390 --> 01:37:56,730 There were six Quakers, and we were divided

1997

01:37:56,730 --> 01:38:00,670 among the various age groups.

1998

01:38:00,670 --> 01:38:04,990 We had one in the kindergarten with the little children.

1999

01:38:04,990 --> 01:38:09,110 And then, there was a reception house.

2000

01:38:09,110 --> 01:38:11,540 When children came, they had to stay

2001

01:38:11,540 --> 01:38:13,860 in quarantine for a couple of--

2002

01:38:13,860 --> 01:38:15,800 for a month, I think.

2003

01:38:15,800 --> 01:38:16,860 I don't know.

2004

01:38:16,860 --> 01:38:21,920 And then, they would stay there until they

2005

01:38:21,920 --> 01:38:25,370 were cleared for getting out.

2006

01:38:25,370 --> 01:38:27,440 And then they could come to us.

2007

01:38:27,440 --> 01:38:29,240 And then, so there was--

2008

01:38:29,240 --> 01:38:33,660 and one was assigned to the 6 to 10-year-olds,

2009

01:38:33,660 --> 01:38:39,200 and one to the older girls, the teenagers, and Oakie

2010 01:38:39,200 --> 01:38:41,870 and I to the teenage boys.

2011 01:38:41,870 --> 01:38:45,425 And we had about 150 teenage boys.

2012 01:38:45,425 --> 01:38:48,020

2013 01:38:48,020 --> 01:38:51,050 They were boys as old as 18.

2014 01:38:51,050 --> 01:38:55,610 And they were pretty grown up, but in a way,

2015 01:38:55,610 --> 01:38:57,350 they were surprisingly young.

2016 01:38:57,350 --> 01:39:00,080 They were very naive and in a sort of a way.

2017 01:39:00,080 --> 01:39:05,000 But they they'd seen the war and they'd wandered around Europe.

2018 01:39:05,000 --> 01:39:07,550 They were a very strange combination

2019 01:39:07,550 --> 01:39:13,310 of naive and experienced beyond their years.

2020 01:39:13,310 --> 01:39:16,370 They had-- most of them hadn't finished any schooling.

2021 01:39:16,370 --> 01:39:19,240

2022 01:39:19,240 --> 01:39:21,130 Who ran the place?

2023 01:39:21,130 --> 01:39:21,690 Who ran--

2024 01:39:21,690 --> 01:39:24,640 The International Refugee Organization.

2025

01:39:24,640 --> 01:39:27,070 We called it IRO.

2026

01:39:27,070 --> 01:39:30,196 And that was--

2027

01:39:30,196 --> 01:39:31,720 Was it part of UNRRA?

2028

01:39:31,720 --> 01:39:32,350 Hmm?

2029

01:39:32,350 --> 01:39:37,060 Was IRO part of UNRRA, or was it part of the Red Cross?

2030

01:39:37,060 --> 01:39:38,368 What was it affiliated with?

2031

01:39:38,368 --> 01:39:39,910 Oh no, it was part of UNRRA, I think.

2032

01:39:39,910 --> 01:39:40,840 It was part of UNRRA.

2033 01:39:40,840 --> 01:39:42,385 Yeah, and--

2034 01:39:42,385 --> 01:39:45,050

2035

01:39:45,050 --> 01:39:49,400 When you came, was the camp already established and running

2036 01:39:49,400 --> 01:39:51,310 for a while, or was it new? 2037 01:39:51,310 --> 01:39:56,750 Not that camp-- the children had been wandering around Europe,

2038 01:39:56,750 --> 01:39:58,160 and some of them had--

2039

01:39:58,160 --> 01:40:02,540 they been in various little villages.

2040

01:40:02,540 --> 01:40:09,310 A few Quakers had been working there at one of the villages.

2041

01:40:09,310 --> 01:40:12,250 They just decided it would be more

2042

01:40:12,250 --> 01:40:16,360 efficient to put all the children together and either

2043

01:40:16,360 --> 01:40:22,780 resettle them, or get them a chance to emigrate,

2044

01:40:22,780 --> 01:40:23,980 fill out their papers.

2045

01:40:23,980 --> 01:40:28,490 And so they had a staff of social workers.

2046 01:40:28,490 --> 01:40:32,920 We were very short-staffed, but--

2047 01:40:32,920 --> 01:40:35,200 Was this the only village of its kind?

2048

01:40:35,200 --> 01:40:37,400 Was this the only sort of, like, center of its kind?

2049

01:40:37,400 --> 01:40:41,830 It was the only place where so many were gathered together.

2050

01:40:41,830 --> 01:40:43,720 And this was the main--

2051

01:40:43,720 --> 01:40:48,190 this was going to be the place where they all came through.

2052

01:40:48,190 --> 01:40:50,440 And they came, and they left.

2053

01:40:50,440 --> 01:40:53,740 I mean, it was a constant flow at first.

2054

01:40:53,740 --> 01:40:57,580 Another question-- were they all orphan children?

2055

01:40:57,580 --> 01:40:58,960 No, they weren't all orphaned.

2056 01:40:58,960 --> 01:41:02,380 They were called unaccompanied, and unaccompanied

2057 01:41:02,380 --> 01:41:08,500 meant you had no family with you or no known person

2058 01:41:08,500 --> 01:41:10,120 to take care of you.

2059 01:41:10,120 --> 01:41:12,280 So in some ways, it could be that you

2060 01:41:12,280 --> 01:41:13,435 have a mother or a father.

2061 01:41:13,435 --> 01:41:14,140 Oh yes.

2062

01:41:14,140 --> 01:41:15,580 But you don't know where they are.

2063

01:41:15,580 --> 01:41:21,670 Exactly, or they might be sort of sick.

2064

01:41:21,670 --> 01:41:27,150 The Boyko boys, two boys from the Ukraine,

2065

01:41:27,150 --> 01:41:28,560 had a surviving mother.

2066

 $01:41:28,560 \rightarrow 01:41:31,950$ They had left the Ukraine with both parents.

2067

01:41:31,950 --> 01:41:36,000 The father died, and the mother was not well,

2068 01:41:36,000 --> 01:41:38,220 so-- but they still had a mother.

2069 01:41:38,220 --> 01:41:45,670 And a lot of them wanted to be with their parent,

2070 01:41:45,670 --> 01:41:47,650 but it wasn't feasible.

2071 01:41:47,650 --> 01:41:51,823 And some of them decided they'd rather move on,

2072

01:41:51,823 --> 01:41:53,615 but they mostly wanted to go to the States.

2073 01:41:53,615 --> 01:41:57,250

2074 01:41:57,250 --> 01:42:00,520 And when you say that you and your husband

2075 01:42:00,520 --> 01:42:02,440 were assigned to the older boys, what

2076

01:42:02,440 --> 01:42:05,170 were your particular responsibilities?

2077

01:42:05,170 --> 01:42:11,370 Well, we were assigned the very nice job called home life.

2078

01:42:11,370 --> 01:42:16,030 And this was a very drab, inhumane sort of place,

2079

01:42:16,030 --> 01:42:23,380 like all the DP camps, and we were to make it more homelike.

2080

01:42:23,380 --> 01:42:25,150 So we did things--

2081

01:42:25,150 --> 01:42:26,440 we thought up things.

2082

01:42:26,440 --> 01:42:29,750 We played games with-- at that point, 2083 01:42:29,750 --> 01:42:32,890 there was no very functional school,

2084 01:42:32,890 --> 01:42:38,710 so we sometimes taught classes.

2085 01:42:38,710 --> 01:42:42,480 But mostly, we tried to make life pleasant.

2086 01:42:42,480 --> 01:42:49,110 We tried to set up what we call a Wohnzimmer, a living

2087 01:42:49,110 --> 01:42:52,230 room, in each barracks.

2088 01:42:52,230 --> 01:42:54,400 And we make it as pretty as--

2089 01:42:54,400 --> 01:42:58,050 I mean, the kids would decorate it and try to make it nice.

2090 01:42:58,050 --> 01:43:01,030 And it would be a place they could hang out.

2091 01:43:01,030 --> 01:43:02,670 One of the first things we got was

2092 01:43:02,670 --> 01:43:06,500 a radio for each Wohnzimmer.

2093 01:43:06,500 --> 01:43:07,280 Each living room.

2094 01:43:07,280 --> 01:43:08,810 That was popular. 2095 01:43:08,810 --> 01:43:11,300 The kids loved listening to the radio.

2096 01:43:11,300 --> 01:43:12,440 They loved music.

2097 01:43:12,440 --> 01:43:14,390 They loved dancing.

2098 01:43:14,390 --> 01:43:17,100 We had lots of singing.

2099 01:43:17,100 --> 01:43:22,520 Oh, they loved to sing their songs, and--

2100 01:43:22,520 --> 01:43:24,230 How did they speak with one another?

2101 01:43:24,230 --> 01:43:26,630 I can imagine it was a Tower of Babel.

2102 01:43:26,630 --> 01:43:27,920 It was.

2103 01:43:27,920 --> 01:43:29,750 We spoke DP Sprache.

2104 01:43:29,750 --> 01:43:31,160 DP Sprache?

2105 01:43:31,160 --> 01:43:32,240 [LAUGHS]

2106 01:43:32,240 --> 01:43:35,370 And it was a language all its own. 2107 01:43:35,370 --> 01:43:40,355 If something was stolen, you'd say it's comme si'd, comme

2108 01:43:40,355 --> 01:43:41,390 ca'd.

2109 01:43:41,390 --> 01:43:43,100 Comme si'd, comme ca'd.

2110 01:43:43,100 --> 01:43:43,600 OK.

2111 01:43:43,600 --> 01:43:50,040 French, but just a mash of languages.

2112 01:43:50,040 --> 01:43:52,220 Some of the kids spoke five languages,

2113 01:43:52,220 --> 01:43:56,630 but they probably didn't speak any of them very grammatically.

2114 01:43:56,630 --> 01:43:58,340 But they were very--

2115 01:43:58,340 --> 01:44:00,980 they were very savvy kids in some ways.

2116 01:44:00,980 --> 01:44:04,510 They knew how to do stuff on the black market.

2117 01:44:04,510 --> 01:44:05,350 Did they teach you?

2118 01:44:05,350 --> 01:44:08,420 [GIGGLES] They tried. 2119 01:44:08,420 --> 01:44:08,920 Yeah?

2120 01:44:08,920 --> 01:44:11,500 We were very honest and pure.

2121 01:44:11,500 --> 01:44:12,550 [GIGGLES]

2122 01:44:12,550 --> 01:44:16,720 Well, I'm sure that kids needed that as a model.

2123 01:44:16,720 --> 01:44:21,610 But the reason I ask that is that it's a level of trust,

2124 01:44:21,610 --> 01:44:25,150 that they'd only tell you about it if they trusted you.

2125 01:44:25,150 --> 01:44:26,850 Well, they trusted us, I think.

2126 01:44:26,850 --> 01:44:27,350 OK.

2127 01:44:27,350 --> 01:44:33,190

2128 01:44:33,190 --> 01:44:36,250 So what are some of the items that they would exchange

2129 01:44:36,250 --> 01:44:38,470 or sell on the black market?

2130 01:44:38,470 --> 01:44:39,790 What did they have to sell?

2131 01:44:39,790 --> 01:44:44,680 2132 01:44:44,680 --> 01:44:46,910 Sheets, not money--

2133 01:44:46,910 --> 01:44:52,630 I mean, I can't imagine they get much for sheets.

2134 01:44:52,630 --> 01:44:58,750 Cigarettes-- it's amazing reading my letters

2135 01:44:58,750 --> 01:45:03,670 to see how many cigarettes we offered these teenagers.

2136 01:45:03,670 --> 01:45:07,540 What a dreadful thing to do, but we don't know yet.

2137 01:45:07,540 --> 01:45:09,160 Well, it was also currency.

2138 01:45:09,160 --> 01:45:10,477 Cigarettes were more currency.

2139 01:45:10,477 --> 01:45:11,560 Oh, it was great currency.

2140 01:45:11,560 --> 01:45:12,560 Yeah.

2141 01:45:12,560 --> 01:45:18,700 We could get cigarettes for \$0.05 a pack in the [PX]

2142 01:45:18,700 --> 01:45:23,290 We could go to a restaurant and if we left a pack for a tip,

2143 01:45:23,290 --> 01:45:25,510 they would tell us that's outrageous.

2144 01:45:25,510 --> 01:45:27,110 Leave two cigarettes.

2145 01:45:27,110 --> 01:45:28,500 That's enough.

2146 01:45:28,500 --> 01:45:30,400 I mean, that's how--

2147 01:45:30,400 --> 01:45:35,330 and coffee was very greatly wanted on the black market.

2148 01:45:35,330 --> 01:45:38,230

2149 01:45:38,230 --> 01:45:40,420 But they went-- they used to go walking

2150 01:45:40,420 --> 01:45:44,100 on the highway near the camp, they told us.

2151 01:45:44,100 --> 01:45:47,310 And they'd pick up cigarette butts.

2152 01:45:47,310 --> 01:45:52,620 They'd open them up, rerolled the tobacco,

2153 01:45:52,620 --> 01:45:55,590 and sell the cigarettes.

2154 01:45:55,590 --> 01:46:00,810 I mean, they were very savvy.

2155 01:46:00,810 --> 01:46:02,860 Resourceful, resourceful.

2156 01:46:02,860 --> 01:46:03,360 Mm-hmm.

2157 01:46:03,360 --> 01:46:06,090

2158 01:46:06,090 --> 01:46:09,000 Did you get to know them so that you

2159 01:46:09,000 --> 01:46:12,434 learned something of their stories of who they were?

2160

01:46:12,434 --> 01:46:15,450 Oh yeah, they loved to talk about their stories.

2161

01:46:15,450 --> 01:46:16,410 So tell me.

2162

01:46:16,410 --> 01:46:18,030 What are some of those that stayed

2163

01:46:18,030 --> 01:46:21,330 with you, some of the experiences

2164

01:46:21,330 --> 01:46:25,320 that you saw these children had gone through?

2165 01:46:25,320 --> 01:46:28,500

2166 01:46:28,500 --> 01:46:32,925 Well, that's-- I can't quite just grab one. 01:46:32,925 --> 01:46:33,425 OK.

2168 01:46:33,425 --> 01:46:37,400

2169 01:46:37,400 --> 01:46:38,385 Many of them did.

2170 01:46:38,385 --> 01:46:42,170

2171 01:46:42,170 --> 01:46:43,310 But I can't--

2172 01:46:43,310 --> 01:46:46,400 Do you know of any who had been in forced labor?

2173 01:46:46,400 --> 01:46:46,970 Do I what?

2174 01:46:46,970 --> 01:46:51,230 Were any of them in forced labor camps?

2175 01:46:51,230 --> 01:46:54,530 Well, you never knew whether they--

2176 01:46:54,530 --> 01:46:57,600 the ones who said they were, whether they really were

2177 01:46:57,600 --> 01:46:59,030 or not.

2178 01:46:59,030 --> 01:47:02,450 I mean, their stories sometimes changed.

2179 01:47:02,450 --> 01:47:06,890 But certainly, some of them were in places

2180 01:47:06,890 --> 01:47:08,450 where they had to do forced labor.

2181 01:47:08,450 --> 01:47:11,240

2182 01:47:11,240 --> 01:47:17,820 There was one boy who came to us about 12 or 14.

2183 01:47:17,820 --> 01:47:20,170 He hadn't ever been to school.

2184 01:47:20,170 --> 01:47:22,480 He was totally illiterate.

2185 01:47:22,480 --> 01:47:23,920 His name was Mitka.

2186 01:47:23,920 --> 01:47:26,380 Has that name come across your radar?

2187 01:47:26,380 --> 01:47:28,600 Mm-hmm.

2188 01:47:28,600 --> 01:47:31,780 But his story changed so often that I'm not

2189 01:47:31,780 --> 01:47:34,180 sure what's the real story.

2190 01:47:34,180 --> 01:47:38,530 But he had a very sad story about being injured

2191 01:47:38,530 --> 01:47:42,610 in the massacre at Babi Yar, or whatever that was,

2192 01:47:42,610 --> 01:47:49,000

and that he was in forced labor with the Poles.

2193

01:47:49,000 --> 01:47:51,910 I don't know what was really true.

2194 01:47:51,910 --> 01:47:56,680

But the Boyko brothers were--

2195 01:47:56,680 --> 01:47:58,600 their story was very clear.

2196

01:47:58,600 --> 01:48:00,760 They had little photographs of themselves

2197

01:48:00,760 --> 01:48:02,980 with their mother and father.

2198

01:48:02,980 --> 01:48:11,950 And there were a couple of boys who were mascots, GI mascots.

2199

01:48:11,950 --> 01:48:16,450 And the Army, the US Army coming through,

2200

01:48:16,450 --> 01:48:22,790 as they were cleaning up, would go and they'd pick up some kid.

2201

01:48:22,790 --> 01:48:25,130 And he'd join up with them.

2202 01:48:25,130 --> 01:48:28,640 They'd give him cigarettes, and they treat him really nicely.

2203 01:48:28,640 --> 01:48:31,640 But they picked up the lingo and they

2204 01:48:31,640 --> 01:48:34,250 were like little Americans, so they

2205 01:48:34,250 --> 01:48:38,030 wanted to go to the States.

2206 01:48:38,030 --> 01:48:43,670 They all thought America was the land of dreams,

2207 01:48:43,670 --> 01:48:46,230 and they all wanted to go to Texas.

2208 01:48:46,230 --> 01:48:46,790 Really?

2209 01:48:46,790 --> 01:48:47,990 [LAUGHS]

2210 01:48:47,990 --> 01:48:50,570 They thought Texas was the place to be.

2211 01:48:50,570 --> 01:48:58,210 I remember a boy named Harry who wore cowboy boots,

2212 01:48:58,210 --> 01:49:02,890 acted like a Texan, and was really planning

2213 01:49:02,890 --> 01:49:03,860 to emigrate there.

2214 01:49:03,860 --> 01:49:06,820 I do not know if he Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

ended up or not, but--

2215 01:49:06,820 --> 01:49:12,145

2216 01:49:12,145 --> 01:49:15,610 What were some of the nationalities of the children

2217 01:49:15,610 --> 01:49:17,410 who were at Bad Aibling?

2218 01:49:17,410 --> 01:49:24,000 Oh, the biggest number was Polish.

2219 01:49:24,000 --> 01:49:28,585 And then, I think probably Ukraine.

2220 01:49:28,585 --> 01:49:37,420

2221 01:49:37,420 --> 01:49:41,680 Czech-- there were quite a lot of Czechs, but many of them

2222 01:49:41,680 --> 01:49:43,120 were latecomers.

2223 01:49:43,120 --> 01:49:44,800 They weren't from the war so much

2224 01:49:44,800 --> 01:49:49,420 as escaping now the communists when they were afraid

2225 01:49:49,420 --> 01:49:51,370 were going to take over.

2226 01:49:51,370 --> 01:49:55,270

> This is a verbatim transcript of spoken word generated with 3Play Media. It is not the primary source, and it may contain errors in spelling or accuracy.

There were Latvians and Lithuanians-- not so many--

2227 01:49:55,270 --> 01:49:59,080 and Estonians, and--

2228 01:49:59,080 --> 01:50:00,850 Were there any Russian children?

2229 01:50:00,850 --> 01:50:02,830 Yes, there were a few Russians.

2230 01:50:02,830 --> 01:50:08,085 Oh, there's a woodcut done by a Russian boy who

2231 01:50:08,085 --> 01:50:17,220 it says on the back, made by Russian boy, Amir Hamidullin.

2232 01:50:17,220 --> 01:50:18,810 That was his name--

2233 01:50:18,810 --> 01:50:22,860 at Bad Aibling children's village.

2234 01:50:22,860 --> 01:50:27,660 But he-- his mother drove a streetcar in Stalingrad,

2235 01:50:27,660 --> 01:50:30,900 and he had escaped.

2236 01:50:30,900 --> 01:50:34,660 But he wanted to go back.

2237 01:50:34,660 --> 01:50:37,600 When he left, I was pregnant.

2238 01:50:37,600 --> 01:50:41,590 And I told him I liked his Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

name, and if I had a boy,

2239

01:50:41,590 --> 01:50:43,390 I might name him Amir.

2240

01:50:43,390 --> 01:50:46,180 He said, well, it would make a nice girl's name, too.

2241

01:50:46,180 --> 01:50:48,870 [LAUGHS]

2242

01:50:48,870 --> 01:50:51,610 Where there are many--

2243

01:50:51,610 --> 01:50:55,870 were there efforts at repatriation in Bad Aibling?

2244

01:50:55,870 --> 01:50:59,320 That is, to have children go back to where they came from?

2245

01:50:59,320 --> 01:51:05,440 Oh yes, quite often, but most of the Czech boys,

2246

01:51:05,440 --> 01:51:09,010 the handiest place to go is Australia.

2247

01:51:09,010 --> 01:51:12,450 And if they could find their parents,

2248

 $01:51:12,450 \rightarrow 01:51:18,690$ they wanted to send them home, so that was happening.

2249 01:51:18,690 --> 01:51:20,520 There were two great kids. 01:51:20,520 --> 01:51:26,870 There were-- There was a sweet--

2251

01:51:26,870 --> 01:51:28,886 there was a French one--

2252

01:51:28,886 --> 01:51:31,760 one or two, at least--

2253

01:51:31,760 --> 01:51:35,310 one Italian, I think.

2254

01:51:35,310 --> 01:51:38,070 Have you ever heard of the Kalmyks?

2255

01:51:38,070 --> 01:51:38,610 Yes.

2256

01:51:38,610 --> 01:51:39,480 Yeah, well--

2257

01:51:39,480 --> 01:51:42,480 So from the Soviet Union, the Kalmyks?

2258

01:51:42,480 --> 01:51:47,040 They were the descendants of Genghis Khan.

2259 01:51:47,040 --> 01:51:48,270 They were Asian.

2260 01:51:48,270 --> 01:51:49,830 Right.

2261 01:51:49,830 --> 01:51:52,110 And they were kept.

2262 01:51:52,110 --> 01:51:55,140 They were excluded from the United States because 2263 01:51:55,140 --> 01:52:00,330 of the Oriental Exclusion Act, and Canada wanted nothing

2264 01:52:00,330 --> 01:52:01,480 to do with them.

2265

01:52:01,480 --> 01:52:04,290 Australia said they didn't want them,

2266 01:52:04,290 --> 01:52:07,800 so these-- we only had four of them, I think, in the camp.

2267

01:52:07,800 --> 01:52:11,040 Two of them were boys in our group,

2268

01:52:11,040 --> 01:52:13,680 and they were the smartest kids we had.

2269

01:52:13,680 --> 01:52:16,170 And they'd been there a while.

2270

01:52:16,170 --> 01:52:19,230 They saw other people come and go.

2271

01:52:19,230 --> 01:52:26,020 And there was this big outgoing group going to Australia.

2272 01:52:26,020 --> 01:52:27,790 The Czech boys who were coming in

2273 01:52:27,790 --> 01:52:29,770 were very much wanted in Australia 2274 01:52:29,770 --> 01:52:31,840 because they could do the work.

2275 01:52:31,840 --> 01:52:37,230 The US was the only place that we heard about it where

2276

01:52:37,230 --> 01:52:40,350 they took children into families,

2277

01:52:40,350 --> 01:52:43,170 and the other places had reasons.

2278

01:52:43,170 --> 01:52:45,370 Canada wanted workers.

2279 01:52:45,370 --> 01:52:47,010 Australia wanted workers.

2280 01:52:47,010 --> 01:52:51,990 They wanted-- they didn't just want nice little kids to adopt.

2281 01:52:51,990 --> 01:52:57,420 And so it made a huge difference with these older kids,

2282 01:52:57,420 --> 01:53:03,060 but I know I remember the Kalmyk boys were so sure that they

2283 01:53:03,060 --> 01:53:04,980 would go to Australia.

2284 01:53:04,980 --> 01:53:07,110 You know, it's just too heartbreaking

2285 01:53:07,110 --> 01:53:10,410 to tell them that they

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were excluded there too.

2286

01:53:10,410 --> 01:53:11,970 They didn't get it.

2287 01:53:11,970 --> 01:53:13,800 They were people of color.

2288

01:53:13,800 --> 01:53:16,560 They were Oriental.

2289

01:53:16,560 --> 01:53:19,860 There were many reasons that they were kept out.

2290 01:53:19,860 --> 01:53:22,820

2291

01:53:22,820 --> 01:53:27,350 Actually, do you want another story?

2292 01:53:27,350 --> 01:53:28,430 Sure, yes.

2293 01:53:28,430 --> 01:53:34,540 When I was teaching in the '70s in Philadelphia,

2294 01:53:34,540 --> 01:53:37,280 there was a cleaning lady in the school.

2295 01:53:37,280 --> 01:53:39,460 And she and I were usually the last people

2296 01:53:39,460 --> 01:53:43,330 in the school at night because I was always working in my room.

2297 01:53:43,330 --> 01:53:47,200 And she was cleaning it, and we would talk.

2298 01:53:47,200 --> 01:53:50,950 Turns out she was a Russian DP, and she

2299 01:53:50,950 --> 01:53:54,610 had been in forced labor with the Russians

2300 01:53:54,610 --> 01:53:58,000 and then had gone to a displaced persons camp

2301 01:53:58,000 --> 01:54:02,710 after the war where she met her husband, who was a Kalmyk.

2302 01:54:02,710 --> 01:54:08,340 And he looked like a Buddha.

2303 01:54:08,340 --> 01:54:11,940 They lived in North Philly, and they were part of the-- oh,

2304 01:54:11,940 --> 01:54:13,620 well, they all were Buddhists too.

2305 01:54:13,620 --> 01:54:14,880 That was the other thing.

2306 01:54:14,880 --> 01:54:18,660 Their Buddhism made them ineligible.

2307 01:54:18,660 --> 01:54:21,810 And they were--

2308 01:54:21,810 --> 01:54:29,130 2309 01:54:29,130 --> 01:54:37,965 [CHUCKLES] I--

2310 01:54:37,965 --> 01:54:48,880

2311 01:54:48,880 --> 01:54:52,990 So she used to tell me stories about her husband, who

2312 01:54:52,990 --> 01:54:56,210 would come home drunk every Friday night and so on.

2313 01:54:56,210 --> 01:54:59,440 And then, she talked about the Buddhist community

2314 01:54:59,440 --> 01:55:02,410 and invited me for a Buddhist ceremony

2315 01:55:02,410 --> 01:55:05,335 at her house, which was in the neighborhood.

2316 01:55:05,335 --> 01:55:10,710

2317 01:55:10,710 --> 01:55:13,110 When I met her husband and he looks so much

2318 01:55:13,110 --> 01:55:16,770 like the kids I knew, I asked her

2319 01:55:16,770 --> 01:55:23,230 if Goropov was a common Kalmyk name.

2320 01:55:23,230 --> 01:55:26,035 And she said, oh, you don't mean Alex and Nicky.

2321 01:55:26,035 --> 01:55:29,460 I said, yeah, that's who I mean.

2322 01:55:29,460 --> 01:55:32,520 And they were part of the Philadelphia Buddhist group,

2323 01:55:32,520 --> 01:55:33,570 and they'd grown up.

2324 01:55:33,570 --> 01:55:35,730 They've been sent there.

2325 01:55:35,730 --> 01:55:36,690 So they made it?

2326 01:55:36,690 --> 01:55:39,840 They made it, and

what had happened

2327

01:55:39,840 --> 01:55:44,520 was that, well, they were very endearing kids, especially

2328 01:55:44,520 --> 01:55:45,420 Alex.

2329 01:55:45,420 --> 01:55:50,400 He was bright, and a Quaker man named

2330 01:55:50,400 --> 01:55:57,110 Francis Bosworth took an interest in him, helped

2331 01:55:57,110 --> 01:56:02,150 him emigrate, came to Philly, and his brother too. 01:56:02,150 --> 01:56:03,590 But he was the one that--

2333 01:56:03,590 --> 01:56:06,500 the brother ended up being alcoholic

2334 01:56:06,500 --> 01:56:08,960 and dying rather young.

2335 01:56:08,960 --> 01:56:15,900 But Alex, Francis helped him grow up,

2336 01:56:15,900 --> 01:56:18,780 got him a scholarship to Middlebury,

2337 01:56:18,780 --> 01:56:22,170 and he had a good education.

2338 01:56:22,170 --> 01:56:25,780 And he married a Kalmyk woman.

2339 01:56:25,780 --> 01:56:31,410 And so we met him finally, and that

2340 01:56:31,410 --> 01:56:33,630 was one of the happy stories.

2341 01:56:33,630 --> 01:56:34,440 How amazing.

2342 01:56:34,440 --> 01:56:35,820 Yes, it is a happy story.

2343 01:56:35,820 --> 01:56:36,360 Hmm?

2344 01:56:36,360 --> 01:56:40,320 It is a happy story from that unknowability, that sort

2345

01:56:40,320 --> 01:56:41,740 of hanging in the air--

2346

01:56:41,740 --> 01:56:42,277 Yeah.

2347

01:56:42,277 --> 01:56:43,110 --to know that the--

2348

01:56:43,110 --> 01:56:43,770 It's amazing.

2349

01:56:43,770 --> 01:56:44,690 Yeah.

2350

01:56:44,690 --> 01:56:49,860 That was a very, very nice ending to things.

2351 01:56:49,860 --> 01:56:54,420 He had four or five children.

2352

01:56:54,420 --> 01:56:56,730 All looked just like little Buddhas.

2353

01:56:56,730 --> 01:56:59,850 They all looked like those dolls, those nesting dolls.

2354

01:56:59,850 --> 01:57:01,380 Yeah.

2355

01:57:01,380 --> 01:57:05,460 Were there stories of children who never got placed,

2356 01:57:05,460 --> 01:57:08,070 who never were able to leave?

2357 01:57:08,070 --> 01:57:12,000 Well, I heard that when they finally closed--

2358 01:57:12,000 --> 01:57:16,990 I left about a month before they closed the camp.

2359 01:57:16,990 --> 01:57:19,930 I heard there were a few left.

2360 01:57:19,930 --> 01:57:25,870 They were called the hardcore, and I don't

2361 01:57:25,870 --> 01:57:27,790 know what happened to them.

2362 01:57:27,790 --> 01:57:32,620 There was probably a Kalmyk or two,

2363 01:57:32,620 --> 01:57:35,140 maybe some Jewish children.

2364 01:57:35,140 --> 01:57:37,858 That's another whole story.

2365 01:57:37,858 --> 01:57:38,650 Tell me about that.

2366 01:57:38,650 --> 01:57:41,410 The Jewish children often got placed quickly

2367 01:57:41,410 --> 01:57:47,080 because the Jewish organizations, the humane

2368 01:57:47,080 --> 01:57:52,150 or the international organizations, had good funds 2369 01:57:52,150 --> 01:57:55,240 and were taking care of Jewish kids.

2370 01:57:55,240 --> 01:57:58,510 But it also made for hard feelings

2371 01:57:58,510 --> 01:58:01,750 because they often got better food, better rations.

2372 01:58:01,750 --> 01:58:04,270 They had kosher food, but they also

2373 01:58:04,270 --> 01:58:06,740 had more butter, more eggs.

2374 01:58:06,740 --> 01:58:08,890 So they occasionally had cake.

2375 01:58:08,890 --> 01:58:14,530 And this was not nice for the other kids to see.

2376 01:58:14,530 --> 01:58:19,800 And then also, they couldn't do any work at all--

2377 01:58:19,800 --> 01:58:22,050 they couldn't even turn a light switch--

2378 01:58:22,050 --> 01:58:25,470 on the Sabbath, which was Saturday, which

2379 01:58:25,470 --> 01:58:27,360 was the work day in the camps.

2380

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01:58:27,360 --> 01:58:30,330 So the kids that were--

2381

01:58:30,330 --> 01:58:34,498 they were housed all the Jewish kids in one dorm.

2382

01:58:34,498 --> 01:58:36,540 So they weren't intermingled with the other kids?

2383

01:58:36,540 --> 01:58:38,340 They weren't mingled much.

2384 01:58:38,340 --> 01:58:42,810 And well, that's another story.

2385

01:58:42,810 --> 01:58:46,800 I was one night sitting here in my kitchen.

2386 01:58:46,800 --> 01:58:52,190 A friend from Philadelphia, Kate, wanted to come through.

2387

01:58:52,190 --> 01:58:56,960 She worked for the AFSC, and she brought a friend with her.

2388

01:58:56,960 --> 01:58:59,660 And we were sitting around eating supper and talking,

2389

01:58:59,660 --> 01:59:04,400 and they asked me about my work with AFSC.

2390

01:59:04,400 --> 01:59:08,300 And I was talking about DP camps and so on.

2391 01:59:08,300 --> 01:59:12,080 And the visiting woman,

Gabriela, she said,

2392

01:59:12,080 --> 01:59:15,020 oh, my father and his brothers and sisters

2393

01:59:15,020 --> 01:59:17,900 were all in a DP camp.

2394

01:59:17,900 --> 01:59:21,140 In fact, she said he used to talk

2395

01:59:21,140 --> 01:59:23,780 about it with great affection.

2396

01:59:23,780 --> 01:59:27,110 And when I asked what it was, she didn't know,

2397

01:59:27,110 --> 01:59:29,990 but she said it was a children's village.

2398

01:59:29,990 --> 01:59:34,620 And I said, well, I suspect it could be.

2399

01:59:34,620 --> 01:59:35,880 So she called him up.

2400

01:59:35,880 --> 01:59:38,580 He was a dentist now in New Jersey.

2401

01:59:38,580 --> 01:59:40,470 She called him up.

2402

01:59:40,470 --> 01:59:42,960 And I could tell she was talking on the phone.

2403

01:59:42,960 --> 01:59:45,780 She said-- I'm sitting here-- and she said,

2404

01:59:45,780 --> 01:59:49,290 and I'm with somebody who remembers those days.

2405

01:59:49,290 --> 01:59:51,800 And she said, what were the names?

2406

01:59:51,800 --> 01:59:55,176 And he said, Kent, Again, he said Kent.

2407

01:59:55,176 --> 01:59:57,310 I was just-- oh.

2408

01:59:57,310 --> 01:59:59,400 She was-- she began to cry.

2409

01:59:59,400 --> 02:00:02,760 She was just sort of overwhelmed.

2410

02:00:02,760 --> 02:00:07,260 And his name-- he changed his name to Silver.

2411 02:00:07,260 --> 02:00:09,900 It had been Silverman, I think.

2412 02:00:09,900 --> 02:00:13,530 And I didn't remember them particularly,

2413 02:00:13,530 --> 02:00:17,010 but he remembered us because we were in the same dorm.

2414 02:00:17,010 --> 02:00:25,360 And he and his sisters and brothers,

2415

02:00:25,360 --> 02:00:27,820 they think they had relatives here

2416 02:00:27,820 --> 02:00:29,660 and they all came together.

2417 02:00:29,660 --> 02:00:34,600 But then, finally, she got him and her stepmother.

2418 02:00:34,600 --> 02:00:42,020 They came to visit later, and they were very kosher.

2419

02:00:42,020 --> 02:00:44,180 They brought their own eating utensils

2420 02:00:44,180 --> 02:00:48,050 and cooked their own food.

2421

02:00:48,050 --> 02:00:50,090 Was it-- when you were in the camp, though,

2422

02:00:50,090 --> 02:00:53,570 were you also houseparents to the Jewish children

2423

02:00:53,570 --> 02:00:54,890 or were there different people?

2424 02:00:54,890 --> 02:01:01,290 [AUDIO OUT]

2425 02:01:01,290 --> 02:01:03,150 And I am now rolling.

2426 02:01:03,150 --> 02:01:05,700 OK, so I want to understand.

2427

02:01:05,700 --> 02:01:09,300 Were the Jewish kids in the same dorm as the other kids?

2428 02:01:09,300 --> 02:01:13,950 Yep, but they were in one room, I think, most of them.

2429

02:01:13,950 --> 02:01:15,300 I mean, the boys--

2430 02:01:15,300 --> 02:01:19,140 the girls were in a different building.

2431

02:01:19,140 --> 02:01:21,960 Were you houseparents to these children as well?

2432 02:01:21,960 --> 02:01:23,850 We were never houseparents.

2433 02:01:23,850 --> 02:01:25,270 We were just home life.

2434 02:01:25,270 --> 02:01:25,770 OK.

2435 02:01:25,770 --> 02:01:29,940 But no, they had the same houseparents as the other kids.

2436 02:01:29,940 --> 02:01:33,930 I don't know just how that worked, and I don't know--

2437 02:01:33,930 --> 02:01:40,310 I don't really remember a lot about the Jewish children

2438

02:01:40,310 --> 02:01:42,980 because they ate in a separate dining room,

2439

02:01:42,980 --> 02:01:48,855 and they had their own Jewish holidays.

2440 02:01:48,855 --> 02:01:54,130

2441 02:01:54,130 --> 02:01:56,210 So I have a number of questions.

2442 02:01:56,210 --> 02:01:59,230 What's the difference between home life and houseparents?

2443 02:01:59,230 --> 02:02:04,440 Oh, houseparents were mostly DP people--

2444 02:02:04,440 --> 02:02:08,380 I mean, displaced persons themselves.

2445 02:02:08,380 --> 02:02:13,580 One of the ones that we first knew was Papa.

2446 02:02:13,580 --> 02:02:15,680 They were called Papa and Mama--

2447 02:02:15,680 --> 02:02:18,755 Mama Helena and Papa Wladimir.

2448 02:02:18,755 --> 02:02:21,660

2449 02:02:21,660 --> 02:02:22,860 They were Polish. 02:02:22,860 --> 02:02:26,370 He was a University professor in Warsaw,

2451

02:02:26,370 --> 02:02:29,400 and now he was going to emigrate to the States

2452

02:02:29,400 --> 02:02:35,100 where he'd gotten a secure job as a janitor in an apartment

2453

02:02:35,100 --> 02:02:35,910 building.

2454

02:02:35,910 --> 02:02:38,790 And he brought us-- he showed us what he was going to do.

2455

02:02:38,790 --> 02:02:42,180 And we just thought, oh man, some big apartment

2456 02:02:42,180 --> 02:02:43,830 in New York City.

2457 02:02:43,830 --> 02:02:46,890 But he was very delighted he was going to get to go there.

2458 02:02:46,890 --> 02:02:49,800 But these were often very intellectual people

2459

02:02:49,800 --> 02:02:55,520 who spoke several languages, and a lot of the house parents

2460 02:02:55,520 --> 02:02:56,810 were like that.

2461 02:02:56,810 --> 02:03:00,170 But they were basically very kind to the children,

2462

02:03:00,170 --> 02:03:00,860 most of them.

2463 02:03:00.860

02:03:00,860 --> 02:03:03,980 Some of them had strict ideas of discipline,

2464

02:03:03,980 --> 02:03:06,920 which were not ours.

2465

02:03:06,920 --> 02:03:15,780 And they didn't-- they wanted to hold a tighter control over

2466

02:03:15,780 --> 02:03:16,840 them.

2467

02:03:16,840 --> 02:03:20,010 But no, houseparents were hired from among

2468

02:03:20,010 --> 02:03:22,810 the displaced persons camps.

2469

02:03:22,810 --> 02:03:25,020 It was a much better place to live

2470 02:03:25,020 --> 02:03:26,940 than the camps, which were--

2471 02:03:26,940 --> 02:03:31,440 And what was their role that was different from yours?

2472 02:03:31,440 --> 02:03:34,470 Oh, they had to be sure the kids brush their teeth,

2473 02:03:34,470 --> 02:03:40,770 and just being there to help them in their housing.

2474

02:03:40,770 --> 02:03:43,320 We were there to make life more fun.

2475

02:03:43,320 --> 02:03:46,420 And what could you have as a better assignment, huh?

2476

02:03:46,420 --> 02:03:46,920 Yeah.

2477 02:03:46,920 --> 02:03:50,310 And they got very good at it.

2478 02:03:50,310 --> 02:03:51,050 They painted.

2479 02:03:51,050 --> 02:03:56,490 If we got a little can of paint, they would paint furniture.

2480

02:03:56,490 --> 02:04:01,410 These great, big teenage boys would cut up strips of paper

2481 02:04:01 41

02:04:01,410 --> 02:04:04,440 and decorate the Wohnzimmer.

2482 02:04:04,440 --> 02:04:09,000 And even sometimes with toilet paper, if they could get that.

2483 02:04:09,000 --> 02:04:17,410 And we began to write to every group,

2484

02:04:17,410 --> 02:04:20,920 everybody we knew in the States, telling them 2485 02:04:20,920 --> 02:04:21,940 what they could do.

2486 02:04:21,940 --> 02:04:25,390 They could send a box with all the materials for a birthday

2487

02:04:25,390 --> 02:04:28,780 party because once a month, we had a birthday party

2488

02:04:28,780 --> 02:04:33,430 in the Wohnzimmer for the boys whose birthday was that month.

2489

02:04:33,430 --> 02:04:37,360 And we just were overwhelmed with stuff people

2490

02:04:37,360 --> 02:04:38,690 sent us so much.

2491

02:04:38,690 --> 02:04:42,820 People were feeling so generous and so helpless.

2492

02:04:42,820 --> 02:04:44,300 They were really grateful.

2493 02:04:44,300 --> 02:04:47,530 And I spent a good part of my working days

2494 02:04:47,530 --> 02:04:51,110 responding, thanking

people for these boxes.

2495

02:04:51,110 --> 02:04:53,890 But it was-- they sent great stuff.

2496 02:04:53,890 --> 02:04:58,555

They sent a lot of jello, which we had no way to--

2497 02:04:58,555 --> 02:05:00,280 To make jello?

2498 02:05:00,280 --> 02:05:02,830 We had no way to make it gel.

2499 02:05:02,830 --> 02:05:05,890 But we found you could mix it with water,

2500 02:05:05,890 --> 02:05:09,250 and it made a drink sort of like Kool-Aid later.

2501 02:05:09,250 --> 02:05:11,740 And they loved that sweet drink.

2502 02:05:11,740 --> 02:05:13,240 They loved sweets.

2503 02:05:13,240 --> 02:05:16,150 And they sent marshmallows so they could toast-- they'd never

2504 02:05:16,150 --> 02:05:19,750 heard of a marshmallow.

2505 02:05:19,750 --> 02:05:22,750 One of them asked me what kind of a tree it grew on.

2506 02:05:22,750 --> 02:05:25,546 And you know, how do you explain a marshmallow?

2507 02:05:25,546 --> 02:05:26,210 [CHUCKLES]

2508 02:05:26,210 --> 02:05:26,710 2509 02:05:26,710 --> 02:05:31,800

2510 02:05:31,800 --> 02:05:34,890 The birthday parties were very popular.

2511 02:05:34,890 --> 02:05:37,950 And as time went on, our Wohzimmers

2512 02:05:37,950 --> 02:05:39,730 got better and better.

2513 02:05:39,730 --> 02:05:41,850 They got really quite comfortable.

2514 02:05:41,850 --> 02:05:44,940 We'd have a cot with a blanket or something,

2515 02:05:44,940 --> 02:05:48,240 and they could come and sit and chat.

2516 02:05:48,240 --> 02:05:50,220 You mean before, they would decorate it,

2517 02:05:50,220 --> 02:05:52,500 but there'd be no furniture in it?

2518 02:05:52,500 --> 02:05:58,320 There was no furniture at first, but we went around

2519 02:05:58,320 --> 02:06:04,410 in the warehouses and scrounged things, comme si'd, comme ca'd. 2520 02:06:04,410 --> 02:06:06,090 You comme si'd, comme ca'd things.

2521 02:06:06,090 --> 02:06:08,590 Yeah.

2522 02:06:08,590 --> 02:06:11,200 A number of questions--

2523 02:06:11,200 --> 02:06:12,195 One of them is--

2524 02:06:12,195 --> 02:06:15,060

2525 02:06:15,060 --> 02:06:18,966 let me ask the simpler one in my mind, simpler one first.

2526 02:06:18,966 --> 02:06:23,970 1948 is already pretty late after the war

2527 02:06:23,970 --> 02:06:28,840 to start taking care of children because the war ends in 1945.

2528 02:06:28,840 --> 02:06:29,520 I know.

2529 02:06:29,520 --> 02:06:32,490 And what was going on with them until that camp

2530 02:06:32,490 --> 02:06:36,570 was organized, until the children's village was

2531 02:06:36,570 --> 02:06:37,890 organized? 2532 02:06:37,890 --> 02:06:40,210 Who was taking care of them?

2533 02:06:40,210 --> 02:06:44,920 Well, I guess there were holding places,

2534 02:06:44,920 --> 02:06:48,520 or they might be with some adults in adult camp.

2535 02:06:48,520 --> 02:06:50,750 I don't really know.

2536 02:06:50,750 --> 02:06:51,250 OK.

2537 02:06:51,250 --> 02:06:56,750

2538 02:06:56,750 --> 02:07:04,880 And were there people like psychologists or counselors

2539 02:07:04,880 --> 02:07:05,630 in the camps?

2540 02:07:05,630 --> 02:07:08,390 I mean, did any of the kids have the kind

2541 02:07:08,390 --> 02:07:11,900 of traumatic experiences that you could tell,

2542 02:07:11,900 --> 02:07:13,470 this is a troubled child.

2543 02:07:13,470 --> 02:07:14,720 They've been through too much. 2544 02:07:14,720 --> 02:07:17,330 They need some extra kind of help.

2545 02:07:17,330 --> 02:07:20,210 Yes, I'm sure there were children like that.

2546

02:07:20,210 --> 02:07:25,020 I wasn't very much aware of any one individual.

2547 02:07:25,020 --> 02:07:28,980 I remember one little boy who climbed into every car that

2548 02:07:28,980 --> 02:07:31,620 left the gate, hoping that he'd be

2549 02:07:31,620 --> 02:07:33,960 taken to somewhere to a home.

2550 02:07:33,960 --> 02:07:36,550

2551 02:07:36,550 --> 02:07:42,070 They had their worries, but talking to some of them

2552 02:07:42,070 --> 02:07:47,140 in later years, they said you know,

2553 02:07:47,140 --> 02:07:50,070 that was not a really bad place.

2554 02:07:50,070 --> 02:07:55,410 We had our own culture, our own rules.

2555 02:07:55,410 --> 02:07:57,010 We got along with each other.

2556

02:07:57,010 --> 02:07:58,740 We took care of each other.

2557

02:07:58,740 --> 02:08:00,750 The older brothers and the sisters

2558

02:08:00,750 --> 02:08:03,930 really took care of their little brothers and sisters.

2559

02:08:03,930 --> 02:08:08,680 And it was very civilized, in many ways.

2560

02:08:08,680 --> 02:08:13,140 And there was not the bickering that goes on in a family.

2561

02:08:13,140 --> 02:08:16,170 So that was-- you anticipated one of my other questions.

2562

02:08:16,170 --> 02:08:18,810 The kids from different nationalities--

2563

02:08:18,810 --> 02:08:23,370 the Poles, the Czechs, the Ukrainians, the Jews--

2564

02:08:23,370 --> 02:08:26,730 was there any friction between national groups?

2565

02:08:26,730 --> 02:08:30,150 Definitely the people were antisemitic.

2566 02:08:30,150 --> 02:08:37,600 And also, most people did

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not like the Hungarians.

2567

02:08:37,600 --> 02:08:40,650 They called them Tartars, and they just didn't like them.

2568 02:08:40,650 --> 02:08:44,580 And they have the friction-there was friction

2569 02:08:44,580 --> 02:08:46,620 between the nationalities.

2570 02:08:46,620 --> 02:08:51,050 You got it, yeah.

2571

02:08:51,050 --> 02:08:56,970 But as a community, they worked out their own rules.

2572

02:08:56,970 --> 02:09:00,020 They began having their own sort of government

2573

02:09:00,020 --> 02:09:08,830 and even their own kind of money, little paper money

2574

02:09:08,830 --> 02:09:12,780 that they could use at a store.

2575

02:09:12,780 --> 02:09:14,580 Tell me.

2576

02:09:14,580 --> 02:09:19,037 When you mention antisemitism, what kind of form did it take?

2577 02:09:19,037 --> 02:09:19,620 What kind of--

2578 02:09:19,620 --> 02:09:20,910 Form did it take?

2579 02:09:20,910 --> 02:09:23,160 That is, what were the incidents that

2580 02:09:23,160 --> 02:09:24,660 would tell you this, that would say,

2581 02:09:24,660 --> 02:09:26,760 yeah, I see this happening.

2582 02:09:26,760 --> 02:09:27,540 I'm sorry.

2583 02:09:27,540 --> 02:09:29,040 What were the incidents what?

2584 02:09:29,040 --> 02:09:31,180 When you mentioned antisemitism--

2585 02:09:31,180 --> 02:09:31,680 Oh yeah.

2586 02:09:31,680 --> 02:09:33,600 How did that manifest itself?

2587 02:09:33,600 --> 02:09:37,360 I think I already mentioned that one time,

2588 02:09:37,360 --> 02:09:41,040 they found needles baked into the cake.

2589 02:09:41,040 --> 02:09:44,760 Somebody had sprinkled needles into the cake.

2590 02:09:44,760 --> 02:09:46,170 That was for Jewish children?

2591

02:09:46,170 --> 02:09:48,240 Yeah, it was only-- it was from the Jewish--

2592 02:09:48,240 --> 02:09:50,520 from the kosher kitchen.

2593 02:09:50,520 --> 02:09:52,780 As I said, they had butter and eggs,

2594 02:09:52,780 --> 02:09:55,450 so they could make cake where the other kids couldn't.

2595 02:09:55,450 --> 02:09:57,180 Well, that's very cruel.

2596 02:09:57,180 --> 02:09:58,090 That's terrible.

2597 02:09:58,090 --> 02:09:58,590 Yeah.

2598

02:09:58,590 --> 02:09:59,173 It's terrible.

2599

02:09:59,173 --> 02:10:01,470 I don't know who did it, or I don't

2600

02:10:01,470 --> 02:10:05,143 know if they ever did anything to try to solve it.

2601 02:10:05,143 --> 02:10:07,643 But there was that incident, and you remember that incident?

2602 02:10:07,643 --> 02:10:08,143 2603 02:10:08,143 --> 02:10:19,490

2604 02:10:19,490 --> 02:10:22,610 But when we-- there was real unrest when

2605 02:10:22,610 --> 02:10:28,930 we went into the village, and we asked every door

2606 02:10:28,930 --> 02:10:31,210 to name themselves.

2607 02:10:31,210 --> 02:10:36,940 In our dorm, they put all the most troubled boys together

2608 02:10:36,940 --> 02:10:39,370 in the dorm where we slept.

2609 02:10:39,370 --> 02:10:44,320 And they named themselves the gangster house, [LAUGHS]

2610 02:10:44,320 --> 02:10:46,030 which didn't augur well.

2611 02:10:46,030 --> 02:10:49,560 No, were they gangsters?

2612 02:10:49,560 --> 02:10:51,120 Well, they wanted to be.

2613 02:10:51,120 --> 02:10:54,730 Were they gangsters in the making, in other words?

2614 02:10:54,730 --> 02:10:57,120 They thought they Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

were pretty big, but--

2615 02:10:57,120 --> 02:11:03,220

2616 02:11:03,220 --> 02:11:04,960 Were these the kids that you thought

2617 02:11:04,960 --> 02:11:08,185 were hardcore, that in the end couldn't get placed?

2618 02:11:08,185 --> 02:11:10,220 No, not these.

2619 02:11:10,220 --> 02:11:13,670 A lot of the boys went to Australia.

2620 02:11:13,670 --> 02:11:17,110 Some of them went to the US.

2621 02:11:17,110 --> 02:11:19,190 Harry went to Texas.

2622 02:11:19,190 --> 02:11:24,730 The Boykos went to Pennsylvania.

2623 02:11:24,730 --> 02:11:27,100 No, the hardcore came two years later

2624 02:11:27,100 --> 02:11:28,900 when they were ready to close.

2625 02:11:28,900 --> 02:11:32,170 We were just opening at this point.

2626 02:11:32,170 --> 02:11:35,140 Then, what constituted being hardcore?

2627 02:11:35,140 --> 02:11:36,970 Was it behavior, or was it that--

2628 02:11:36,970 --> 02:11:38,540 No, it was just being left.

2629 02:11:38,540 --> 02:11:39,280 I see.

2630 02:11:39,280 --> 02:11:43,500 Just not being-- being Kalmyk.

2631 02:11:43,500 --> 02:11:44,970 So it was nothing they could do.

2632 02:11:44,970 --> 02:11:46,470 It was just they weren't wanted.

2633 02:11:46,470 --> 02:11:47,130 Right.

2634 02:11:47,130 --> 02:11:52,170 They were-- and they didn't know why sometimes.

2635 02:11:52,170 --> 02:11:54,210 I mean, the Kalmyk kids didn't know

2636 02:11:54,210 --> 02:11:57,900 that they were dark-skinned and slanty-eyed.

2637 02:11:57,900 --> 02:11:59,850 I mean, they were the popular--

2638 02:11:59,850 --> 02:12:01,920 ["Shurka" [Rus. diminutive of "Alexandr"] Alex, 2639 02:12:01,920 --> 02:12:05,820 was the most popular little boy of his age.

2640 02:12:05,820 --> 02:12:12,110 And after a little while, after the older boys

2641 02:12:12,110 --> 02:12:17,860 were getting sent, there's one of our workers,

2642 02:12:17,860 --> 02:12:22,810 our Quaker workers was disappeared from us.

2643 02:12:22,810 --> 02:12:24,070 They took her away.

2644 02:12:24,070 --> 02:12:25,960 We never knew what happened.

2645 02:12:25,960 --> 02:12:32,590 Turns out that she had had lesbian experiences, which

2646 02:12:32,590 --> 02:12:36,840 at that time were definitely out.

2647 02:12:36,840 --> 02:12:39,810 And we didn't--

2648 02:12:39,810 --> 02:12:41,890 I mean, she was a wonderful worker.

2649 02:12:41,890 --> 02:12:44,640 She worked with the 6 to 10-year-olds.

2650

02:12:44,640 --> 02:12:48,990 And no one told any of us of the Quaker team

2651 02:12:48,990 --> 02:12:50,130 what happened to her.

2652 02:12:50,130 --> 02:12:51,210 They took her off.

2653 02:12:51,210 --> 02:12:54,630 She thought she was getting a new job.

2654 02:12:54,630 --> 02:12:57,570 And the Quakers didn't want to do this.

2655 02:12:57,570 --> 02:12:58,590 It was IRO.

2656 02:12:58,590 --> 02:13:01,560 It was the international people who

2657 02:13:01,560 --> 02:13:04,680 didn't think it was a good influence on the children.

2658 02:13:04,680 --> 02:13:09,120 I didn't learn about it until I read Christian Hoschler's book

2659 02:13:09,120 --> 02:13:11,340 about Bad Aibling.

2660 02:13:11,340 --> 02:13:13,290 So that's only a few years ago.

2661 02:13:13,290 --> 02:13:14,160 Yes!

2662

02:13:14,160 --> 02:13:15,090 It's only now.

2663 02:13:15,090 --> 02:13:17,070 I never knew why it happened.

2664 02:13:17,070 --> 02:13:23,010 The two Quakers who knew who were sort of above us in Munich

2665 02:13:23,010 --> 02:13:23,880 never told us.

2666 02:13:23,880 --> 02:13:27,000 One was one of my best friends, but she never told.

2667 02:13:27,000 --> 02:13:31,080 And Elaine the woman, never told us.

2668 02:13:31,080 --> 02:13:33,240 We wrote-- I mean, we were always writing to her,

2669 02:13:33,240 --> 02:13:34,950 and she went on and lived.

2670 02:13:34,950 --> 02:13:40,650 And she became a very active women's rights person,

2671 02:13:40,650 --> 02:13:44,130 but what a horrible experience it was for her.

2672 02:13:44,130 --> 02:13:47,040 She said she'll never forget.

2673 02:13:47,040 --> 02:13:51,210 They put her on a plane, sent her to the US, 2674 02:13:51,210 --> 02:13:53,880 and she said she just cried all the way home.

2675 02:13:53,880 --> 02:13:56,190 I mean, she-- and the kids loved her.

2676 02:13:56,190 --> 02:13:57,750 She just vanished.

2677 02:13:57,750 --> 02:14:03,170 And so right about then, they asked, Oakie and me

2678 02:14:03,170 --> 02:14:05,380 to go and work in that with those kids

2679 02:14:05,380 --> 02:14:10,300 because they become so traumatized by this loss.

2680 02:14:10,300 --> 02:14:12,910 So that was a very--

2681 02:14:12,910 --> 02:14:16,000 there were only about 10 little girls.

2682 02:14:16,000 --> 02:14:17,890 They were the children who were-- didn't

2683 02:14:17,890 --> 02:14:21,550 get born because of the war, and they were

2684 02:14:21,550 --> 02:14:23,990 the smallest group of children.

2685 02:14:23,990 --> 02:14:26,390 And they would, if they'd been born,

2686

02:14:26,390 --> 02:14:30,280 they would have been born within the last 10 years.

2687

02:14:30,280 --> 02:14:33,100 And nobody was going around having babies

2688

02:14:33,100 --> 02:14:38,770 if they could help it, so there were only a few.

2689

02:14:38,770 --> 02:14:44,100 But we-- those little girls were so--

2690

02:14:44,100 --> 02:14:47,190 you asked about kids who were showing problems.

2691 02:14:47,190 --> 02:14:48,660 They really did.

2692 02:14:48,660 --> 02:14:50,640 They were so needy.

2693 02:14:50,640 --> 02:14:54,330 They were so-- they would just cling to us, climb on us.

2694 02:14:54,330 --> 02:14:56,220 We couldn't walk by without--

2695 02:14:56,220 --> 02:15:00,450 they'd leap on Oakie's back and hug him and sometimes even

2696 02:15:00,450 --> 02:15:03,960 bite, just because they were just so-- Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

2697 02:15:03,960 --> 02:15:07,560 it took a long time to let them know that we were there,

2698 02:15:07,560 --> 02:15:09,630 and we weren't going to go away yet.

2699 02:15:09,630 --> 02:15:15,490 And they were very troubled, especially the little girls.

2700 02:15:15,490 --> 02:15:20,570 And you say that they were from a generation that wasn't born.

2701 02:15:20,570 --> 02:15:22,400 In other words, they were the exception.

2702 02:15:22,400 --> 02:15:24,160 They had been born during the war.

2703 02:15:24,160 --> 02:15:28,880 They'd been born during the war, when it wasn't

2704 02:15:28,880 --> 02:15:33,380 easy to have a baby, and when--

2705 02:15:33,380 --> 02:15:34,970 Do you know some of their stories

2706 02:15:34,970 --> 02:15:36,980 of how the circumstances--

2707 02:15:36,980 --> 02:15:37,670 How they--

2708

02:15:37,670 --> 02:15:40,910 And who their mothers were, who their fathers were?

2709 02:15:40,910 --> 02:15:43,910 No, not of those children--

2710 02:15:43,910 --> 02:15:50,340 I never knew any of the parents that survived them.

2711 02:15:50,340 --> 02:15:51,950 The little girls were just there.

2712 02:15:51,950 --> 02:15:55,610 The little boys, they were-oh, it was a lovely age.

2713 02:15:55,610 --> 02:16:02,680 And they were such beautiful children.

2714 02:16:02,680 --> 02:16:03,280 Tell me.

2715 02:16:03,280 --> 02:16:06,670 What was the relations with the village of Bad Aibling?

2716 02:16:06,670 --> 02:16:09,130 Was there any contact between the villagers

2717 02:16:09,130 --> 02:16:10,960 and the children's village?

2718 02:16:10,960 --> 02:16:14,140 That's a good question.

2719 02:16:14,140 --> 02:16:16,990 No, not really.

2720 02:16:16,990 --> 02:16:21,910 We had a house mother, Mama Steinbeck, very good German.

2721

02:16:21,910 --> 02:16:26,170 She lived in the village, and through, her I

2722

02:16:26,170 --> 02:16:33,340 got to know part of the village, but no.

2723

02:16:33,340 --> 02:16:35,680 The local people, I don't think they

2724

02:16:35,680 --> 02:16:41,049 thought much about this village, what it was doing there.

2725

02:16:41,049 --> 02:16:44,690 It sounds more like just a barracks rather than a village.

2726

02:16:44,690 --> 02:16:49,150 It was fenced in, and it had guards standing at the gate.

2727

02:16:49,150 --> 02:16:51,430 Did that mean the children couldn't go out?

2728

02:16:51,430 --> 02:16:54,549 Oh, they couldn't go out without permission.

2729

02:16:54,549 --> 02:16:58,090 They could go to town if they were older,

2730 02:16:58,090 --> 02:16:59,959 but they had to have permission.

2731 02:16:59,959 --> 02:17:00,459 OK.

2732 02:17:00,459 --> 02:17:04,209

2733 02:17:04,209 --> 02:17:08,020 Bad Aibling was a town known for mud baths.

2734 02:17:08,020 --> 02:17:13,420 [LAUGHS] People came there to get a Moorbad.

2735 02:17:13,420 --> 02:17:14,830 So it was like a spa town?

2736 02:17:14,830 --> 02:17:15,370 Hmm?

2737 02:17:15,370 --> 02:17:16,570 It was a spa town.

2738 02:17:16,570 --> 02:17:20,620 It was a spa town, probably a rather nice.

2739 02:17:20,620 --> 02:17:25,150 It's a very beautiful setting, so--

2740 02:17:25,150 --> 02:17:28,990 And then, OK, I'll ask my question while you take a sip.

2741 02:17:28,990 --> 02:17:32,080

2742 02:17:32,080 --> 02:17:36,370 In your opinion, how was it run as a management? 2743 02:17:36,370 --> 02:17:38,740 As a place, was it run well?

2744

02:17:38,740 --> 02:17:40,540 Was there problems with the running

2745

02:17:40,540 --> 02:17:44,170 of Bad Aibling, the administration, and things

2746

02:17:44,170 --> 02:17:46,129 like that?

2747

02:17:46,129 --> 02:17:48,440 Well, I think they did the best they could.

2748 02:17:48,440 --> 02:17:51,540 I think people complained a lot.

2749 02:17:51,540 --> 02:17:54,740 If you read Christian's book, he has

2750

02:17:54,740 --> 02:18:00,540 a lot about the administration and changing.

2751 02:18:00,540 --> 02:18:03,860 The first director when we were there was a Czech--

2752 02:18:03,860 --> 02:18:06,290 a former Czech, a lawyer--

2753 02:18:06,290 --> 02:18:11,990 who was named Otto [? Bayer. ?]

2754 02:18:11,990 --> 02:18:16,070 And he just did the best he could, but he wasn't very--

2755 02:18:16,070 --> 02:18:19,040 he wasn't trained to work with children.

2756 02:18:19,040 --> 02:18:24,950 And the unrest grew and grew, and the children

2757 02:18:24,950 --> 02:18:29,600 complained about the bad food, the excess of bread

2758 02:18:29,600 --> 02:18:31,940 and potatoes and macaroni.

2759 02:18:31,940 --> 02:18:35,360 And then, there began to be a sense

2760 02:18:35,360 --> 02:18:38,930 that they were being cheated out of stuff, which may

2761 02:18:38,930 --> 02:18:42,110 have been true in some ways.

2762 02:18:42,110 --> 02:18:48,559 So finally, it came to a point where they had a strike.

2763 02:18:48,559 --> 02:18:52,230 And they spelled it S-T-R-A-J-K.

2764 02:18:52,230 --> 02:18:52,850 [LAUGHS]

2765 02:18:52,850 --> 02:18:56,930 And they went all around, throwing little pieces

2766 02:18:56,930 --> 02:18:58,910 Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

of paper saying, strike!

2767

02:18:58,910 --> 02:19:07,730 And we were living in our dorm, and this happened

2768 02:19:07,730 --> 02:19:09,209 and they came and told us.

2769 02:19:09,209 --> 02:19:10,322 They said, you be careful.

2770 02:19:10,322 --> 02:19:11,239 You stay in your room.

2771 02:19:11,239 --> 02:19:13,549 [CHUCKLES] We won't hurt you.

2772 02:19:13,549 --> 02:19:22,219 And Mr. Bayer was on vacation, but he came back.

2773 02:19:22,219 --> 02:19:28,100 And as I remember it, he called the military police

2774 02:19:28,100 --> 02:19:30,770 because he couldn't think of-- he felt helpless,

2775 02:19:30,770 --> 02:19:33,230 and he felt it might get out of control.

2776 02:19:33,230 --> 02:19:35,570 And the military police came roaring in

2777 02:19:35,570 --> 02:19:38,299 and running through the dorms.

2778 02:19:38,299 --> 02:19:42,799 And we were in our bedroom.

2779

02:19:42,799 --> 02:19:46,910 We had put the kids to bed, but the boys were up--

2780 02:19:46,910 --> 02:19:49,485 Striking, S-T-R-A-J-K-ing.

2781 02:19:49,485 --> 02:19:53,360 --and barricading things, and so on.

2782 02:19:53,360 --> 02:20:00,140 And these policemen came into our room and one of them

2783 02:20:00,140 --> 02:20:03,675 grabbed Oakie and took him out in the hall and said,

2784 02:20:03,675 --> 02:20:07,214 ah, I found this one and he has a woman in his room!

2785 02:20:07,214 --> 02:20:10,130 [LAUGHS]

2786 02:20:10,130 --> 02:20:12,050 Not the brightest light bulbs, huh?

2787 02:20:12,050 --> 02:20:12,830 Huh?

2788 02:20:12,830 --> 02:20:14,615 Not the brightest light bulbs.

2789 02:20:14,615 --> 02:20:15,115 No!

2790 02:20:15,115 --> 02:20:20,640

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[LAUGHS] I mean, Mr. Bayer came running up, saying, oh, no, no,

2791 02:20:20,640 --> 02:20:23,420 no, no, that's Mr. Kent of the American Friends Service

2792 02:20:23,420 --> 02:20:25,800 Committee, and it was just--

2793 02:20:25,800 --> 02:20:27,200 it was very funny.

2794 02:20:27,200 --> 02:20:30,530

2795 02:20:30,530 --> 02:20:32,700 What was the outcome of this, then?

2796 02:20:32,700 --> 02:20:33,575 What was the outcome?

2797 02:20:33,575 --> 02:20:34,075 Of that?

2798 02:20:34,075 --> 02:20:36,800 They did negotiate.

2799 02:20:36,800 --> 02:20:41,420 oh, we had a wonderful nutritionist come.

2800 02:20:41,420 --> 02:20:42,680 Her name was Miss--

2801 02:20:42,680 --> 02:20:47,510 was Frances [? Flor. ?] And she wrote good reports

2802 02:20:47,510 --> 02:20:48,920 about the place. 2803 02:20:48,920 --> 02:20:53,780 She told about how, yes, they could say the kids got 3,000--

2804 02:20:53,780 --> 02:20:55,130 I mean, 300, whatever--

2805 02:20:55,130 --> 02:20:57,830 3,000 calories a day.

2806 02:20:57,830 --> 02:21:00,200 But it was all starch.

2807 02:21:00,200 --> 02:21:05,840 Yeah, and it was all inappropriate.

2808 02:21:05,840 --> 02:21:11,780 One time, we got a huge shipment of chocolate sauce,

2809 02:21:11,780 --> 02:21:16,430 and they served the chocolate sauce on dark bread.

2810 02:21:16,430 --> 02:21:21,200 So I mean, pretty disgusting.

2811 02:21:21,200 --> 02:21:24,920 But Miss [? Flor ?] put down rules.

2812 02:21:24,920 --> 02:21:29,090 And the first thing she did, it was Easter time.

2813 02:21:29,090 --> 02:21:32,540 She provided for an egg for every child.

2814 02:21:32,540 --> 02:21:35,210 Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

That was such a luxury, an egg.

2815 02:21:35,210 --> 02:21:37,850

2816 02:21:37,850 --> 02:21:41,420 And then, she began thinking of other things.

2817 02:21:41,420 --> 02:21:45,200 She stayed quite a while, and she was very good.

2818 02:21:45,200 --> 02:21:48,020 So that was a good result of this strike.

2819 02:21:48,020 --> 02:21:50,180 They got one of their things.

2820 02:21:50,180 --> 02:21:55,460 And they got better teachers.

2821 02:21:55,460 --> 02:22:00,020 And we got more social workers, which we'd wanted.

2822 02:22:00,020 --> 02:22:05,900 They were paid for by IRO, but wanted by us

2823 02:22:05,900 --> 02:22:08,150 because that was the only way the kids could move.

2824 02:22:08,150 --> 02:22:11,762

2825 02:22:11,762 --> 02:22:16,190 Were there other organizations in addition to the Friends 02:22:16,190 --> 02:22:19,520 Contact reference@ush

who were involved in some way with the camp?

2827 02:22:19,520 --> 02:22:26,840 The YMCA, which was called IMKA, after YMCA, IMKA.

2828 02:22:26,840 --> 02:22:30,500 And they did-- they were in charge of recreation.

2829 02:22:30,500 --> 02:22:31,460 They were very good.

2830 02:22:31,460 --> 02:22:37,700 They had good programs, and there was a man full-time.

2831 02:22:37,700 --> 02:22:40,010 There were priests from different religions.

2832 02:22:40,010 --> 02:22:44,000

2833 02:22:44,000 --> 02:22:45,605 What other organizations?

2834 02:22:45,605 --> 02:22:46,355 There were others.

2835 02:22:46,355 --> 02:22:48,920

2836 02:22:48,920 --> 02:22:51,710 You said there were some Jewish organizations too?

2837 02:22:51,710 --> 02:22:54,560 Yeah, I've forgotten the names of them. 2838 02:22:54,560 --> 02:22:56,430 OK.

2839 02:22:56,430 --> 02:23:00,770 But there were lots of US Jewish organizations

2840 02:23:00,770 --> 02:23:04,820 interested in their own children and getting them out

2841 02:23:04,820 --> 02:23:07,640 of there, out of Europe.

2842 02:23:07,640 --> 02:23:10,160

2843 02:23:10,160 --> 02:23:13,460 And they worked faster, I guess, because they

2844 02:23:13,460 --> 02:23:17,150 could find-- if they found a home that was good,

2845 02:23:17,150 --> 02:23:19,030 kids could go there.

2846 02:23:19,030 --> 02:23:24,680 Now, what was the process, then, for--

2847 02:23:24,680 --> 02:23:27,260 OK, so there was one route this way.

2848 02:23:27,260 --> 02:23:34,130 If you were a Jewish child and one of those organizations

2849 02:23:34,130 --> 02:23:37,220 was involved and they found a foster family

2850

02:23:37,220 --> 02:23:41,030 for this child, or maybe the child's relatives in the United

2851 02:23:41,030 --> 02:23:47,420 States, what about the children who didn't have that route?

2852

02:23:47,420 --> 02:23:49,880 How was their path, let's say, to go

2853 02:23:49,880 --> 02:23:53,090 to Australia or to the US?

2854 02:23:53,090 --> 02:23:57,500 What were the actual bureaucratic agencies

2855 02:23:57,500 --> 02:24:01,130 that needed to be involved in order to get that child there?

2856 02:24:01,130 --> 02:24:04,770

2857 02:24:04,770 --> 02:24:06,300 I don't know.

2858 02:24:06,300 --> 02:24:07,500 OK.

2859 02:24:07,500 --> 02:24:08,820 OK, I know.

2860 02:24:08,820 --> 02:24:13,020 I mean, it's-- I know I'm asking a question that's about 60

2861 02:24:13,020 --> 02:24:14,530 years ago, 70 years ago.

2862

02:24:14,530 --> 02:24:16,290 It's an interesting question.

2863 02:24:16,290 --> 02:24:20,120 If I thought about it, I might come up with an answer.

2864 02:24:20,120 --> 02:24:21,120 But I don't really know.

2865 02:24:21,120 --> 02:24:24,450

2866 02:24:24,450 --> 02:24:26,010 Was there much contact--

2867 02:24:26,010 --> 02:24:29,340 I mean, I already asked about the village of Bad Aibling,

2868 02:24:29,340 --> 02:24:31,770 but what about Germany in general?

2869 02:24:31,770 --> 02:24:34,560 Did the children learn any German

2870 02:24:34,560 --> 02:24:37,530 while they were there because they're in Germany?

2871 02:24:37,530 --> 02:24:38,080 No.

2872 02:24:38,080 --> 02:24:38,940 No.

2873 02:24:38,940 --> 02:24:40,530 No, some of them knew some. 2874 02:24:40,530 --> 02:24:43,868 But no, they didn't learn much about Germany.

2875 02:24:43,868 --> 02:24:46,410 I don't think they quite knew where they were, a lot of them.

2876 02:24:46,410 --> 02:24:50,190

2877 02:24:50,190 --> 02:24:54,870 Was there much contact aside from Mrs. Steinbeck, I think,

2878 02:24:54,870 --> 02:24:56,835 who-- local Germans, who--

2879 02:24:56,835 --> 02:24:58,980 No, I didn't know any.

2880 02:24:58,980 --> 02:25:00,030 I mean, there were--

2881 02:25:00,030 --> 02:25:02,490 occasionally, one of our houseparents

2882 02:25:02,490 --> 02:25:04,920 would get married in the local hotel,

2883 02:25:04,920 --> 02:25:07,500 and we'd go and be there.

2884 02:25:07,500 --> 02:25:13,650 But we weren't supposed to go and do any kind of business

2885 02:25:13,650 --> 02:25:16,260 with German-- 2886 02:25:16,260 --> 02:25:17,380 With the local economy.

2887 02:25:17,380 --> 02:25:19,530 With the local economy, right.

2888 02:25:19,530 --> 02:25:23,760 And one of the things we did that was--

2889 02:25:23,760 --> 02:25:28,290 that the kids really loved is we found a good lake to swim in.

2890 02:25:28,290 --> 02:25:30,600 And we could load up a truck.

2891 02:25:30,600 --> 02:25:35,010 We could get people in the motor pool to loan us a truck,

2892 02:25:35,010 --> 02:25:39,750 and we could go over to this lake they called the Simssee.

2893 02:25:39,750 --> 02:25:42,420 And the kids, they just thought that was heaven.

2894 02:25:42,420 --> 02:25:44,220 They wanted to go every day in summer.

2895 02:25:44,220 --> 02:25:47,430

2896 02:25:47,430 --> 02:25:49,740 They still talk about that when I see them.

2897 02:25:49,740 --> 02:25:51,210

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Really?

2898 02:25:51,210 --> 02:25:53,610 We looked it up on a map to see where it was,

2899 02:25:53,610 --> 02:26:00,030 and some of these kids have been back to check it out.

2900 02:26:00,030 --> 02:26:05,040 You said earlier-- oh, one other question--

2901 02:26:05,040 --> 02:26:10,575 DP camps-- did you ever visit any of the adult DP camps?

2902 02:26:10,575 --> 02:26:11,880 Yes.

2903 02:26:11,880 --> 02:26:13,120 Which ones?

2904 02:26:13,120 --> 02:26:14,700 Oh, Funkkaserne.

2905 02:26:14,700 --> 02:26:17,220

2906 02:26:17,220 --> 02:26:18,930 I forget the names of most of them,

2907 02:26:18,930 --> 02:26:21,990 but we visited parents and people

2908 02:26:21,990 --> 02:26:25,680 that we knew who ended up there.

2909 02:26:25,680 --> 02:26:29,700

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They were very, very wretched places, really.

2910 02:26:29,700 --> 02:26:32,100 Their beds were separated by blankets.

2911 02:26:32,100 --> 02:26:33,600 I mean, that was their only privacy.

2912 02:26:33,600 --> 02:26:36,510

2913 02:26:36,510 --> 02:26:41,010 And the food was minimum.

2914 02:26:41,010 --> 02:26:45,840 OK, so in comparison, was the children's village

2915 02:26:45,840 --> 02:26:47,550 a better place to live?

2916 02:26:47,550 --> 02:26:50,190 Oh, much better, that's why the houseparents

2917 02:26:50,190 --> 02:26:51,750 like getting a job there.

2918 02:26:51,750 --> 02:26:56,160

2919 02:26:56,160 --> 02:26:57,178 They had perks.

2920 02:26:57,178 --> 02:26:59,220 I mean, there were good things about being there.

2921 02:26:59,220 --> 02:27:01,665 They had a room of their own, and--

2922 02:27:01,665 --> 02:27:09,440

2923 02:27:09,440 --> 02:27:10,925 The incidents of the war--

2924 02:27:10,925 --> 02:27:13,970

2925 02:27:13,970 --> 02:27:16,580 I remember reading that in the first years

2926 02:27:16,580 --> 02:27:21,500 after the war, the whole notion that this

2927 02:27:21,500 --> 02:27:25,175 had been a Holocaust was not really coined.

2928 02:27:25,175 --> 02:27:28,250

2929 02:27:28,250 --> 02:27:31,190 Did you learn of some of these things

2930 02:27:31,190 --> 02:27:33,200 when you were in the children's village?

2931 02:27:33,200 --> 02:27:36,290 Did you learn of what had gone on, even

2932 02:27:36,290 --> 02:27:39,590 if it wasn't called Holocaust? 02:27:39,590 --> 02:27:40,883 You mean about the--

2934 02:27:40,883 --> 02:27:44,827

2935 02:27:44,827 --> 02:27:49,310 The workcamps, the labor camps, the mass murders, the gas

2936 02:27:49,310 --> 02:27:51,170 chambers, things like that--

2937 02:27:51,170 --> 02:27:53,180 I mean, you weren't far from Dachau.

2938 02:27:53,180 --> 02:27:56,270 Dachau was not so-- is also in the area of Munich.

2939 02:27:56,270 --> 02:27:57,800 Yeah, it was.

2940 02:27:57,800 --> 02:28:00,170 I don't remember that that was much

2941 02:28:00,170 --> 02:28:04,910 that we had in our consciousness.

2942 02:28:04,910 --> 02:28:09,890 I mean, I'm sure we knew about it, but it was beyond our--

2943 02:28:09,890 --> 02:28:12,020 beyond me, anyway.

2944 02:28:12,020 --> 02:28:15,420 I wonder if the others--

2945

02:28:15,420 --> 02:28:16,190 I would like--

2946

02:28:16,190 --> 02:28:20,260 I wish we could all be here and talk about what we remember.

2947 02:28:20,260 --> 02:28:20,760 Yeah.

2948 02:28:20,760 --> 02:28:28,180 I don't-- I don't remember.

2949 02:28:28,180 --> 02:28:31,540 I don't remember the word "Holocaust."

2950 02:28:31,540 --> 02:28:33,370 But then, maybe it was there.

2951 02:28:33,370 --> 02:28:34,572 I don't think so.

2952 02:28:34,572 --> 02:28:35,530 I mean, I wasn't there.

2953 02:28:35,530 --> 02:28:39,190 But from what I've read, that the scope of what

2954 02:28:39,190 --> 02:28:43,870 had happened really only started to become known,

2955 02:28:43,870 --> 02:28:45,610 but it wasn't fully named.

2956 02:28:45,610 --> 02:28:46,420 It wasn't fully--

2957 02:28:46,420 --> 02:28:47,500 Exactly. 2958 02:28:47,500 --> 02:28:49,550 --until a while after that.

2959 02:28:49,550 --> 02:28:50,050 Yeah.

2960 02:28:50,050 --> 02:28:53,200

2961 02:28:53,200 --> 02:28:57,250 But you said earlier on in the beginning of our discussion

2962 02:28:57,250 --> 02:29:05,860 that this experience changed you when you went to Bad Aibling,

2963 02:29:05,860 --> 02:29:10,630 that you had wanted to do something meaningful.

2964 02:29:10,630 --> 02:29:12,520 You wanted to make a difference in the world

2965 02:29:12,520 --> 02:29:15,340 when you finished college.

2966 02:29:15,340 --> 02:29:16,930 I wanted to ask, how?

2967 02:29:16,930 --> 02:29:19,510

2968 02:29:19,510 --> 02:29:22,042 In what way did you feel like this experience changed you?

2969 02:29:22,042 --> 02:29:22,750 What did it show? Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

2970 02:29:22,750 --> 02:29:26,350 It changed me more than it changed anything in the world.

2971 02:29:26,350 --> 02:29:28,140 It just made me--

2972 02:29:28,140 --> 02:29:31,900 you know, I just got a whole new perspective

2973 02:29:31,900 --> 02:29:36,940 on how life could be for people and how oblivious some of us

2974 02:29:36,940 --> 02:29:43,570 can be, how unaware I was.

2975 02:29:43,570 --> 02:29:48,610 So you know, it was just a whole new dimension to somebody

2976 02:29:48,610 --> 02:29:54,460 who had grown up in a very sheltered, naive way.

2977 02:29:54,460 --> 02:29:55,870 Also one that was safe.

2978 02:29:55,870 --> 02:29:56,680 There was no war.

2979 02:29:56,680 --> 02:29:57,513 There were no bombs.

2980 02:29:57,513 --> 02:29:58,540 Hmm?

2981 02:29:58,540 --> 02:29:59,410 There was no war. 02:29:59,410 --> 02:30:01,030 There were no bombs.

2983

02:30:01,030 --> 02:30:03,370 That was something that was part of your world,

2984

02:30:03,370 --> 02:30:05,760 that it was stable.

2985

02:30:05,760 --> 02:30:06,370 Yeah.

2986 02:30:06,370 --> 02:30:09,460

And you end up in a place that had been chaos.

2987

02:30:09,460 --> 02:30:10,940 Yeah, it was chaos.

2988

02:30:10,940 --> 02:30:11,440 Yeah.

2989

02:30:11,440 --> 02:30:13,870 It was.

2990

02:30:13,870 --> 02:30:16,180 But the children-children are resilient,

2991

02:30:16,180 --> 02:30:19,750 if they're allowed to be.

2992

02:30:19,750 --> 02:30:23,740 And boy, they were strong, some of them.

2993 02:30:23,740 --> 02:30:25,240 And some of the adults too.

2994 02:30:25,240 --> 02:30:29,800 Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

2995 02:30:29,800 --> 02:30:34,570 How many children were in the camp at the beginning?

2996 02:30:34,570 --> 02:30:38,110 Oh, I think it started out with about 500.

2997 02:30:38,110 --> 02:30:39,850 I mean, when they brought them all,

2998 02:30:39,850 --> 02:30:42,730 and then they would send off bits.

2999 02:30:42,730 --> 02:30:45,520 But it kept coming in for a while.

3000 02:30:45,520 --> 02:30:50,170 There were nearly always 500, 400,

3001 02:30:50,170 --> 02:30:54,340 but it got smaller and smaller.

3002 02:30:54,340 --> 02:30:58,150 Did your activities change much over the time

3003 02:30:58,150 --> 02:31:01,180 you were there, that is, making places--

3004 02:31:01,180 --> 02:31:04,850 We had more material things, which was nice.

3005 02:31:04,850 --> 02:31:09,880 We had more games, more recreation, more teachers. 3006 02:31:09,880 --> 02:31:11,170 The kids loved school.

3007 02:31:11,170 --> 02:31:13,870 They loved learning to make things.

3008 02:31:13,870 --> 02:31:23,590 And we had wonderful music, and we

3009 02:31:23,590 --> 02:31:26,335 loved-- the kids loved movies, so we had a lot of movies.

3010 02:31:26,335 --> 02:31:36,570

3011 02:31:36,570 --> 02:31:39,720 How long were you there for in total?

3012 02:31:39,720 --> 02:31:44,280 Oh, a little over-- not two years because of the baby.

3013 02:31:44,280 --> 02:31:45,030 Ahh.

3014 02:31:45,030 --> 02:31:49,710 You know, I had a baby, and our time was up.

3015 02:31:49,710 --> 02:31:55,900 We spent a lot of time waiting in Paris and Munich and places.

3016 02:31:55,900 --> 02:32:00,690 So our time was up, and because of the baby,

3017

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02:32:00,690 --> 02:32:02,250 I couldn't really renew it.

3018 02:32:02,250 --> 02:32:04,530 They wouldn't particularly want me.

3019 02:32:04,530 --> 02:32:10,950 But anyway, it was time to close, so we all closed down.

3020 02:32:10,950 --> 02:32:14,640 I want to-- before we go there, after Mr. Bayer who

3021 02:32:14,640 --> 02:32:15,990 came in to be head?

3022 02:32:15,990 --> 02:32:22,390 Oh then, they got a man named Douglas Deane who

3023 02:32:22,390 --> 02:32:26,490 was Australian and had a long experience working

3024 02:32:26,490 --> 02:32:35,070 with children in Switzerland and in Europe.

3025 02:32:35,070 --> 02:32:43,170 And he was more he was more fit for the job, more experience.

3026 02:32:43,170 --> 02:32:47,010

3027 02:32:47,010 --> 02:32:48,840 He fit it better.

3028 02:32:48,840 --> 02:32:58,290 And he came and he lived in the village and entered our games. 3029 02:32:58,290 --> 02:33:01,890 And he was much--

3030 02:33:01,890 --> 02:33:04,290 he was a much more suitable person

3031 02:33:04,290 --> 02:33:05,805 to be head of a children's village.

3032 02:33:05,805 --> 02:33:09,090

3033 02:33:09,090 --> 02:33:12,740 And did things change after he started out?

3034 02:33:12,740 --> 02:33:16,560 Well, there were more orderly ways of doing things.

3035 02:33:16,560 --> 02:33:18,090 OK, OK.

3036 02:33:18,090 --> 02:33:21,060 I think nobody would say it wasn't better.

3037 02:33:21,060 --> 02:33:22,680 I mean, it was better.

3038 02:33:22,680 --> 02:33:25,860 And I think probably Mr. Bayer would have thought so too.

3039 02:33:25,860 --> 02:33:30,480 He felt totally burned out and wasted by it.

3040 02:33:30,480 --> 02:33:33,990 It was a hard experience for a man who

3041 02:33:33,990 --> 02:33:35,860 had not had much experience.

3042 02:33:35,860 --> 02:33:39,990 I mean, he didn't have children of his own, so--

3043 02:33:39,990 --> 02:33:43,120 Were other people burnt out by it who came to work there?

3044 02:33:43,120 --> 02:33:45,090 Oh yes, some of the Quaker workers

3045 02:33:45,090 --> 02:33:47,940 that were there before me, working

3046 02:33:47,940 --> 02:33:50,640 with the children in the little villages

3047 02:33:50,640 --> 02:33:55,290 before they unified them, were totally burned out.

3048 02:33:55,290 --> 02:33:59,460 One named Marge [? Heyer, ?] she was just--

3049 02:33:59,460 --> 02:34:02,850 and there were a couple of others.

3050 02:34:02,850 --> 02:34:06,390 And what was it that--

3051 02:34:06,390 --> 02:34:06,990 why? 3052 02:34:06,990 --> 02:34:08,190 Why were they burnt out?

3053 02:34:08,190 --> 02:34:11,160 Was it that they were doing too many jobs, or was it--

3054 02:34:11,160 --> 02:34:13,560 It just seemed so hopeless, I think.

3055 02:34:13,560 --> 02:34:16,800 I think it was just, there was so much to be done

3056 02:34:16,800 --> 02:34:19,230 and it seems so impossible.

3057 02:34:19,230 --> 02:34:21,720 But I don't know, I think.

3058 02:34:21,720 --> 02:34:28,620 OK, did you keep in touch with any of those boys afterwards?

3059 02:34:28,620 --> 02:34:32,280 Oh yes, all that I could.

3060 02:34:32,280 --> 02:34:38,205 And so did Cathy Reagan, and we had reunions.

3061 02:34:38,205 --> 02:34:44,430

3062 02:34:44,430 --> 02:34:47,640 Several of them have been here to Maine

3063 02:34:47,640 --> 02:34:51,100 and spent time with us. 3064 02:34:51,100 --> 02:34:55,080 And I visited them and their--

3065 02:34:55,080 --> 02:35:02,190 one, the artist, the Ukrainian guy, Paliychuk Vasyl.

3066 02:35:02,190 --> 02:35:03,480 I've seen a lot of him.

3067 02:35:03,480 --> 02:35:06,510

3068 02:35:06,510 --> 02:35:09,570 And you know, he still calls me once

3069 02:35:09,570 --> 02:35:12,990 a month or so and just talks.

3070 02:35:12,990 --> 02:35:26,430 And the Boykos, and Alex Goropov, the Kalmyk, but I've

3071 02:35:26,430 --> 02:35:28,260 lost track with him.

3072 02:35:28,260 --> 02:35:31,020 He went back to Russia at some point,

3073 02:35:31,020 --> 02:35:34,830 and I helped him raise money to go back.

3074 02:35:34,830 --> 02:35:40,260 And I think it was a huge disappointment when

3075 02:35:40,260 --> 02:35:43,410 he went back, and he never really

3076

02:35:43,410 --> 02:35:45,600 could articulate it after that.

3077

02:35:45,600 --> 02:35:48,510 So I never much got in touch with him.

3078

02:35:48,510 --> 02:35:51,000 I think he's seeing his relatives.

3079

02:35:51,000 --> 02:35:57,090 They weren't so absolutely happy to see this well-off guy that

3080

02:35:57,090 --> 02:36:00,900 had a good education, and I think-- but I never-- he

3081 02:36:00,900 --> 02:36:05,940 never would come and talk about it, so I don't know.

3082

02:36:05,940 --> 02:36:11,100 And I don't even know if he's still around.

3083

02:36:11,100 --> 02:36:15,540 And again, repatriation--I come back to that.

3084

02:36:15,540 --> 02:36:19,440 In many of the DP camps, in the very beginning,

3085

02:36:19,440 --> 02:36:23,070 there were efforts to repatriate people back

3086 02:36:23,070 --> 02:36:25,650 behind the Iron Curtain.

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3087 02:36:25,650 --> 02:36:29,430 That was coming-- starting while we were there, yeah.

3088 02:36:29,430 --> 02:36:33,510 Yeah, and did that happen too that there were situations

3089 02:36:33,510 --> 02:36:36,210 where someone would come and say,

3090 02:36:36,210 --> 02:36:39,550 we want to take this child home, and the child said,

3091 02:36:39,550 --> 02:36:40,950 I don't want to go.

3092 02:36:40,950 --> 02:36:43,070 Yeah, that happened.

3093 02:36:43,070 --> 02:36:44,390 And what would happen then?

3094 02:36:44,390 --> 02:36:46,580 Would they take the child anyway?

3095 02:36:46,580 --> 02:36:49,420 Sometimes yes, sometimes no--

3096 02:36:49,420 --> 02:36:58,010 they tried to evaluate the child's real concern.

3097 02:36:58,010 --> 02:37:01,720 The Czech boys were mostly runaway teenagers,

3098 02:37:01,720 --> 02:37:04,310

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who were usually--

3099

02:37:04,310 --> 02:37:05,150 it was hard.

3100 02:37:05,150 --> 02:37:07,550 What they tried to figure out is if they were using it

3101

02:37:07,550 --> 02:37:11,820 as an excuse to get out of the Czech Republic,

3102 02:37:11,820 --> 02:37:13,660 or it was called Czechoslovakia.

3103 02:37:13,660 --> 02:37:17,040

3104 02:37:17,040 --> 02:37:21,360 Or I mean, maybe they just wanted to come to the States.

3105 02:37:21,360 --> 02:37:24,720 But they ended-- they could go to Australia,

3106 02:37:24,720 --> 02:37:29,280 and quite a few of them chose to go back to the Czech--

3107 02:37:29,280 --> 02:37:30,960 Czechoslovakia.

3108 02:37:30,960 --> 02:37:40,120 But a few Polish kids decided to go home, but some of them some

3109 02:37:40,120 --> 02:37:45,280 of them had become very attached to foster parents

3110

02:37:45,280 --> 02:37:48,040 and they would rather stay with them, which

3111 02:37:48,040 --> 02:37:50,560 is understandable in a way.

3112 02:37:50,560 --> 02:37:54,480 They felt abandoned by their own parents.

3113 02:37:54,480 --> 02:37:55,690 I don't know.

3114 02:37:55,690 --> 02:37:57,110 I wonder what happened to them.

3115 02:37:57,110 --> 02:38:00,320

3116 02:38:00,320 --> 02:38:02,720 So what year did you leave Bad Aibling?

3117 02:38:02,720 --> 02:38:03,290 Hmm?

3118 02:38:03,290 --> 02:38:05,790 When did you leave Bad Aibling?

3119 02:38:05,790 --> 02:38:12,910 In the summer of '50, yeah.

3120 02:38:12,910 --> 02:38:14,700 Had you already given birth?

3121 02:38:14,700 --> 02:38:20,840 Oh yeah, Michael was about three or four months old.

3122 02:38:20,840 --> 02:38:23,300 I have his passport picture of this little baby.

3123 02:38:23,300 --> 02:38:26,040 [CHUCKLES]

3124 02:38:26,040 --> 02:38:28,800 And did you come back to the States after that?

3125 02:38:28,800 --> 02:38:31,170 Yeah, we came back to the States.

3126 02:38:31,170 --> 02:38:38,030 And we ran a children's home in Ithaca, New York.

3127 02:38:38,030 --> 02:38:43,620 And that's why it changed my life too

3128 02:38:43,620 --> 02:38:45,690 because I knew I wanted to work with children.

3129 02:38:45,690 --> 02:38:51,330 We both did, so we ran that children's home.

3130 02:38:51,330 --> 02:38:52,260 Oakie finished.

3131 02:38:52,260 --> 02:38:55,770 He got a Master's degree in social work

3132 02:38:55,770 --> 02:38:57,600 and switched from English.

3133 02:38:57,600 --> 02:39:01,200 02:39:01,200 --> 02:39:06,540 We had, rather quickly, four more kids.

3135 02:39:06,540 --> 02:39:10,200

3136 02:39:10,200 --> 02:39:12,960 And did you go abroad again?

3137 02:39:12,960 --> 02:39:22,430 Oh yes, [LAUGHS] in 1960--

3138 02:39:22,430 --> 02:39:33,340 '64, we went to Tanzania and worked with the AFSC in a--

3139 02:39:33,340 --> 02:39:36,210

3140 02:39:36,210 --> 02:39:39,570 our work was community development

3141 02:39:39,570 --> 02:39:43,980 with families and teaching children,

3142 02:39:43,980 --> 02:39:48,110 teaching sewing, teaching.

3143 02:39:48,110 --> 02:39:50,840 We had a team of-and it was a program

3144 02:39:50,840 --> 02:39:55,760 for conscientious objectors who are objecting

3145 02:39:55,760 --> 02:39:58,880 to going to the Vietnam War. 02:39:58,880 --> 02:40:01,850 So they could work in this program for two years

3147 02:40:01,850 --> 02:40:05,270 and be exempt from the war.

3148 02:40:05,270 --> 02:40:07,400 So that, we did that for--

3149 02:40:07,400 --> 02:40:10,970 but then this time, Oakie was killed in an automobile

3150 02:40:10,970 --> 02:40:15,380 accident in Tanzania.

3151 02:40:15,380 --> 02:40:20,090 And so again, I had to come home earlier than I had expected.

3152 02:40:20,090 --> 02:40:21,920 We were going to stay a couple more years.

3153 02:40:21,920 --> 02:40:24,800

3154 02:40:24,800 --> 02:40:27,680 That was another whole thing.

3155 02:40:27,680 --> 02:40:29,510 Of course, you had children.

3156 02:40:29,510 --> 02:40:35,040 You were-- I can't imagine how that was with--

3157 02:40:35,040 --> 02:40:38,150 It's been a wonderful, wonderful, exciting,

02:40:38,150 --> 02:40:41,540 surprising, sometimes disappointing life,

3159 02:40:41,540 --> 02:40:43,160 and it's been very long.

3160 02:40:43,160 --> 02:40:46,460 [CHUCKLES] I'm tired.

3161 02:40:46,460 --> 02:40:52,070 [LAUGHS] Well, I thank you for sharing it with us,

3162 02:40:52,070 --> 02:40:57,410 sharing at least some of your long and very interesting

3163 02:40:57,410 --> 02:41:00,540 life and these episodes from it.

3164 02:41:00,540 --> 02:41:01,040 Yeah.

3165 02:41:01,040 --> 02:41:03,680 Is there something I haven't asked you

3166 02:41:03,680 --> 02:41:09,440 that you think that is important about Bad Aibling,

3167 02:41:09,440 --> 02:41:16,450 about the Friends, about what you experienced there?

3168 02:41:16,450 --> 02:41:18,860 Not off the top of my head.

3169 02:41:18,860 --> 02:41:19,360 OK.

3170

02:41:19,360 --> 02:41:21,430 I'll probably think of lots of things

3171 02:41:21,430 --> 02:41:23,350 when I go to bed tonight.

3172 02:41:23,350 --> 02:41:27,250 This is one of those things with interviews is that we can never

3173 02:41:27,250 --> 02:41:28,920 capture everything.

3174 02:41:28,920 --> 02:41:31,930 Oh no, your job must be hard.

3175 02:41:31,930 --> 02:41:33,190 Oh, it's a wonderful job.

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3176
02:41:33,190 --> 02:41:34,130
I love it.
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3177 02:41:34,130 --> 02:41:34,660 I love it.

3178 02:41:34,660 --> 02:41:35,368 See, that's good.

3179 02:41:35,368 --> 02:41:36,520 That's what matters.

3180 02:41:36,520 --> 02:41:40,210 If you have work that you want, people that you love,

3181 02:41:40,210 --> 02:41:41,690 that's important.

3182 02:41:41,690 --> 02:41:43,050 Yeah. 3183 02:41:43,050 --> 02:41:44,840 I've always loved my jobs.

3184 02:41:44,840 --> 02:41:46,360 I love teaching.

3185 02:41:46,360 --> 02:41:49,930 After Oakie died, I mean, yeah, that's when

3186 02:41:49,930 --> 02:41:53,930 I went back and got a teaching degree so I could teach.

3187 02:41:53,930 --> 02:41:55,420 I love teaching.

3188 02:41:55,420 --> 02:41:58,570 Elementary school and environmental education,

3189 02:41:58,570 --> 02:42:00,730 that became my passion.

3190 02:42:00,730 --> 02:42:03,640 And I started a project in North Philadelphia

3191 02:42:03,640 --> 02:42:05,690 that's now 40 years old.

3192 02:42:05,690 --> 02:42:07,870 I can't believe I've lived so long.

3193 02:42:07,870 --> 02:42:13,450 I mean-- [LAUGHS] They had a celebration of 40 years.

3194 02:42:13,450 --> 02:42:16,675 Wow, it runs like this, doesn't it? 3195 02:42:16,675 --> 02:42:17,300 [SNAPS FINGERS]

3196 02:42:17,300 --> 02:42:21,790 Yeah, I've seen so many children grow up.

3197 02:42:21,790 --> 02:42:24,820 Kids that I taught when they were eight and nine years old

3198 02:42:24,820 --> 02:42:26,410 are 50.

3199 02:42:26,410 --> 02:42:28,060 And kids that I--

3200 02:42:28,060 --> 02:42:35,750 when I talked to Vasyl the other night, I said something about,

3201 02:42:35,750 --> 02:42:37,980 I'm too old to think about that.

3202 02:42:37,980 --> 02:42:42,270 And he said, I'm 84, and I couldn't believe it--

3203 02:42:42,270 --> 02:42:43,910 I mean, this kid.

3204 02:42:43,910 --> 02:42:46,220 But you see, we weren't very far apart.

3205 02:42:46,220 --> 02:42:49,490 I was probably 24, and he was 14.

3206 02:42:49,490 --> 02:42:50,360 But there's a huge-- 3207 02:42:50,360 --> 02:42:51,402 That would be just right.

3208 02:42:51,402 --> 02:42:52,460 Yeah, but there it is.

3209 02:42:52,460 --> 02:42:55,160 You're already a young adult, and he's not.

3210 02:42:55,160 --> 02:42:56,360 He's still a kid.

3211 02:42:56,360 --> 02:42:57,900 He's still a kid to me.

3212 02:42:57,900 --> 02:42:58,580 Yeah.

3213 02:42:58,580 --> 02:43:00,710 Yeah.

3214 02:43:00,710 --> 02:43:02,735 Well, thank you very much.

3215 02:43:02,735 --> 02:43:04,655 Well, thank you.

3216 02:43:04,655 --> 02:43:07,040 I have a lot to think about.

3217 02:43:07,040 --> 02:43:08,680 And you've given us an awful lot.

3218 02:43:08,680 --> 02:43:10,350 I thank you for your patience.

3219 02:43:10,350 --> 02:43:11,120 Oh, it's-- 3220 02:43:11,120 --> 02:43:14,810 I feel like I rattle on and on and on and on.

3221 02:43:14,810 --> 02:43:18,590 No, no, your answers were very much to the point

3222 02:43:18,590 --> 02:43:19,580 of the questions.

3223 02:43:19,580 --> 02:43:23,500 You painted a picture for us, which is exactly what I wanted.

3224 02:43:23,500 --> 02:43:25,070 And we're very grateful for it.

3225 02:43:25,070 --> 02:43:28,290 Well, I'm grateful to have to think about it for a while.

3226 02:43:28,290 --> 02:43:28,790 OK.

3227 02:43:28,790 --> 02:43:33,740 I mean, if that's one of my experiences in an older life--

3228 02:43:33,740 --> 02:43:38,000 I mean, I feel like I've had several since.

3229 02:43:38,000 --> 02:43:42,710 So but anyway, I enjoyed the day.

3230 02:43:42,710 --> 02:43:43,580 Thank you.

3231 02:43:43,580 --> 02:43:47,540 And I'll say, then, with this that this concludes the United

3232 02:43:47,540 --> 02:43:52,550 States Holocaust Memorial Museum interview with Mrs. Natalie

3233 02:43:52,550 --> 02:43:58,820 Kent Kempner on December 7, Pearl Harbor

3234 02:43:58,820 --> 02:44:05,040 Day, 2018 in Woolwich, Maine.

3235 02:44:05,040 --> 02:44:05,540 Right.

3236 02:44:05,540 --> 02:44:07,430 Thanks again.

3237 02:44:07,430 --> 02:44:09,590 And now, we cut for a second.

3238 02:44:09,590 --> 02:44:19,200

3239 02:44:19,200 --> 02:44:20,960 I can't read the date.

3240 02:44:20,960 --> 02:44:21,970 Let me see.

3241 02:44:21,970 --> 02:44:23,970 Maybe I can help.

3242 02:44:23,970 --> 02:44:26,800 That's his name.

3243 02:44:26,800 --> 02:44:28,010 Is that a date? 02:44:28,010 --> 02:44:28,790 Let's take a look.

3245

02:44:28,790 --> 02:44:29,220 Take a look.

3246

02:44:29,220 --> 02:44:29,720 Sure.

3247

02:44:29,720 --> 02:44:33,210

3248 02:44:33,210 --> 02:44:40,420 Oh geez, well, I see it says 25.

3249 02:44:40,420 --> 02:44:45,800 OK, I'm going to say, yeah, 25, 4, so April 25.

3250 02:44:45,800 --> 02:44:47,396 It should have been about 1948.

3251 02:44:47,396 --> 02:44:49,202 And then, it looks like-- yeah.

3252 02:44:49,202 --> 02:44:51,980

3253 02:44:51,980 --> 02:44:55,920 You can almost make out that it's a 4 and a something.

3254 02:44:55,920 --> 02:44:56,640 OK.

3255 02:44:56,640 --> 02:44:58,320 Now, hold it up high.

3256 02:44:58,320 --> 02:45:00,276 Like this.

3257

02:45:00,276 --> 02:45:03,250 No, I was going to say hold it up by your side.

3258 02:45:03,250 --> 02:45:05,210 [INAUDIBLE]

3259 02:45:05,210 --> 02:45:07,538 OK.

3260 02:45:07,538 --> 02:45:10,520 [CHUCKLES]

3261 02:45:10,520 --> 02:45:13,270 Can you focus in just on the photo, on just on the picture?

3262 02:45:13,270 --> 02:45:17,270

3263 02:45:17,270 --> 02:45:19,770 Yeah, that's fine.

3264 02:45:19,770 --> 02:45:32,270

3265 02:45:32,270 --> 02:45:34,110 Are you running?

3266 02:45:34,110 --> 02:45:34,700 OK.

3267 02:45:34,700 --> 02:45:35,510 Natalie, tell me.

3268 02:45:35,510 --> 02:45:36,140 Who is this?

3269 02:45:36,140 --> 02:45:39,740 What is this picture, and who made it for you? 3270 02:45:39,740 --> 02:45:44,900 A Ukrainian refugee named Vasyl Paliychuk.

3271 02:45:44,900 --> 02:45:45,680 Paliychuk.

3272 02:45:45,680 --> 02:45:50,570 Yeah, and he lives outside of Baltimore.

3273 02:45:50,570 --> 02:45:54,540 And he taught at a college in Baltimore.

3274 02:45:54,540 --> 02:45:55,940 He taught art.

3275 02:45:55,940 --> 02:45:58,538 I see, and he was one of the kids that you looked after?

3276 02:45:58,538 --> 02:45:59,330 He was of the kids.

3277 02:45:59,330 --> 02:46:01,010 He was 14.

3278 02:46:01,010 --> 02:46:06,800 And the first time I met him, he was in the hospital

3279 02:46:06,800 --> 02:46:09,590 in the village near our camp.

3280 02:46:09,590 --> 02:46:11,630 And I went there to visit one of the kids

3281 02:46:11,630 --> 02:46:14,930 in the village who'd had appendicitis. 3282 02:46:14,930 --> 02:46:17,510 And this boy was in the next bed,

3283 02:46:17,510 --> 02:46:20,300 and he said he'd been in and out of hospitals

3284 02:46:20,300 --> 02:46:22,670 since his father had been sick.

3285 02:46:22,670 --> 02:46:25,400 And he was sort of lost.

3286 02:46:25,400 --> 02:46:31,790 And he'd heard from my kid, Dmitri,

3287 02:46:31,790 --> 02:46:35,000 about the children's village, and he wanted to come there.

3288 02:46:35,000 --> 02:46:37,820 So we found a way to get him there,

3289 02:46:37,820 --> 02:46:40,100 even though his father was still around.

3290 02:46:40,100 --> 02:46:43,520 His father came to the States, but he came to the States

3291 02:46:43,520 --> 02:46:44,900 with the children.

3292 02:46:44,900 --> 02:46:49,610 And this is one of his first paintings.

3293

02:46:49,610 --> 02:46:53,990 And he-- while I was visiting, he

3294

02:46:53,990 --> 02:46:59,030 gave me a cardboard picture of he did with watercolors.

3295

02:46:59,030 --> 02:47:02,750 And he went camping with us when he came to the village,

3296

02:47:02,750 --> 02:47:05,930 and he was a Boy Scout.

3297

02:47:05,930 --> 02:47:07,310 And he was always--

3298

02:47:07,310 --> 02:47:09,140 he always had his paintbox.

3299

02:47:09,140 --> 02:47:12,110 And he was always painting, painting, painting.

3300

02:47:12,110 --> 02:47:17,140 And was this of a local scene in Bad Aibling?

3301

02:47:17,140 --> 02:47:18,310 Was it what?

3302 02:47:18,310 --> 02:47:19,730 What is the picture of?

3303 02:47:19,730 --> 02:47:23,540 Oh, it's the church in Bad Aibling,

3304 02:47:23,540 --> 02:47:25,220 or in Rosenheim, I guess.

02:47:25,220 --> 02:47:27,380 Rosenheim is the next village over.

3306 02:47:27,380 --> 02:47:28,040 OK.

3307 02:47:28,040 --> 02:47:29,240 And I love it.

3308 02:47:29,240 --> 02:47:32,750 It's a watercolor, and you look closely, and the trees.

3309 02:47:32,750 --> 02:47:35,660 Everything is quite lovely.

3310 02:47:35,660 --> 02:47:38,960 He sent it to me this last Christmas

3311 02:47:38,960 --> 02:47:42,350 when he was cleaning out his--

3312 02:47:42,350 --> 02:47:44,630 he also sent me a recent painting

3313 02:47:44,630 --> 02:47:48,890 of the things that make up borscht.

3314 02:47:48,890 --> 02:47:49,960 I mean, the--

3315 02:47:49,960 --> 02:47:50,800 Can you hold it up?

3316 02:47:50,800 --> 02:47:51,740 Let's stop and do this part.

3317 02:47:51,740 --> 02:47:52,310

> This is a verbatim transcript of spoken word generated with 3Play Media. It is not the primary source, and it may contain errors in spelling or accuracy.

3318 02:47:52,310 --> 02:47:53,060 That's OK.

3319 02:47:53,060 --> 02:47:53,630 That's fine.

3320 02:47:53,630 --> 02:47:54,740 Is it tiring for you?

3321 02:47:54,740 --> 02:47:55,580 I'm tiring.

3322 02:47:55,580 --> 02:47:56,210 Yeah.

3323 02:47:56,210 --> 02:47:56,960 This is going to be the last thing.

3324 02:47:56,960 --> 02:47:58,140 Let's do this, then.

3325 02:47:58,140 --> 02:47:58,640 OK.

3326 02:47:58,640 --> 02:47:59,550 Put it in your lap.

3327 02:47:59,550 --> 02:48:00,218 Sit in your lap.

3328 02:48:00,218 --> 02:48:01,010 Yeah, there you go.

3329 02:48:01,010 --> 02:48:01,190 That's perfect.

3330 02:48:01,190 --> 02:48:02,982 And you can lift your hand up, if you like.

3331 02:48:02,982 --> 02:48:04,340 Is that better? 3332 02:48:04,340 --> 02:48:05,000 There you go. 3333 02:48:05,000 --> 02:48:05,910 Yeah, that's perfect. 3334 02:48:05,910 --> 02:48:06,870 OK, good. 3335 02:48:06,870 --> 02:48:07,740 Thank you. 3336 02:48:07,740 --> 02:48:08,510 You running? 3337 02:48:08,510 --> 02:48:09,560 Thank you, Rob. 3338 02:48:09,560 --> 02:48:10,160 Yes, I am. 3339 02:48:10,160 --> 02:48:14,750 OK, so from what I saw, he sent this to you last Christmas, 3340 02:48:14,750 --> 02:48:16,210 but it's dated--3341 02:48:16,210 --> 02:48:16,910 Oh, yes. 3342 02:48:16,910 --> 02:48:20,780 --the 25th of April 1949. 3343 02:48:20,780 --> 02:48:25,580 He was working on it the day I

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was in the hospital visiting.

3344

02:48:25,580 --> 02:48:27,440 And he just kept it.

3345 02:48:27,440 --> 02:48:28,850 It was just a piece of paper.

3346 02:48:28,850 --> 02:48:31,220 I framed it.

3347 02:48:31,220 --> 02:48:33,710 How nice, how nice--

3348 02:48:33,710 --> 02:48:34,220 thank you.

3349 02:48:34,220 --> 02:48:34,700 You're welcome.

3350 02:48:34,700 --> 02:48:35,660 Thank you very much.

3351 02:48:35,660 --> 02:48:38,110 OK, we're fine.