

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:05,000

2  
00:00:05,000 --> 00:00:08,450  
This is a United States  
Holocaust Memorial Museum

3  
00:00:08,450 --> 00:00:15,020  
interview with Mrs. Barbara  
Firestone on February 7, 2019

4  
00:00:15,020 --> 00:00:17,430  
in Silver Spring, Maryland.

5  
00:00:17,430 --> 00:00:19,400  
Thank you, Mrs. Firestone--

6  
00:00:19,400 --> 00:00:20,360  
Thank you.

7  
00:00:20,360 --> 00:00:24,770  
--for coming and agreeing-- for  
allowing us to come and speak

8  
00:00:24,770 --> 00:00:27,050  
with you today.

9  
00:00:27,050 --> 00:00:29,540  
We just had an interview  
with your husband.

10  
00:00:29,540 --> 00:00:33,560  
And I will be asking very  
similar questions of you.

11  
00:00:33,560 --> 00:00:35,660  
We'll start from  
the very beginning,

12  
00:00:35,660 --> 00:00:38,600  
and then we'll go

from there, OK?

13  
00:00:38,600 --> 00:00:41,090  
So the very first  
question is, can you

14  
00:00:41,090 --> 00:00:43,190  
tell me the date of your birth?

15  
00:00:43,190 --> 00:00:47,510  
It was February 14, 1939.

16  
00:00:47,510 --> 00:00:49,160  
And where were you born?

17  
00:00:49,160 --> 00:00:51,440  
In Krakow, Poland.

18  
00:00:51,440 --> 00:00:54,340  
And what was your name at birth?

19  
00:00:54,340 --> 00:00:57,270  
[? Bronislava ?] Spielman.

20  
00:00:57,270 --> 00:00:59,500  
[? Bronislava ?] Spielman.

21  
00:00:59,500 --> 00:01:00,090  
OK.

22  
00:01:00,090 --> 00:01:02,120  
It's a little different than  
Barbara Firestone, isn't it?

23  
00:01:02,120 --> 00:01:02,580  
[LAUGHS]

24  
00:01:02,580 --> 00:01:03,080  
Yes.

25  
00:01:03,080 --> 00:01:04,920

[LAUGHS]

26  
00:01:04,920 --> 00:01:07,390  
Did you have  
brothers and sisters?

27  
00:01:07,390 --> 00:01:09,970  
I have one brother  
who's still with me.

28  
00:01:09,970 --> 00:01:12,390  
And I had a sister.

29  
00:01:12,390 --> 00:01:14,850  
My brother is 10  
years older than I.

30  
00:01:14,850 --> 00:01:17,970  
And my sister was eight  
years older than I.

31  
00:01:17,970 --> 00:01:24,990  
So he was born in 1929  
and she was born in 1931?

32  
00:01:24,990 --> 00:01:25,800  
Correct.

33  
00:01:25,800 --> 00:01:26,760  
OK.

34  
00:01:26,760 --> 00:01:28,410  
What is your brother's name?

35  
00:01:28,410 --> 00:01:29,400  
Arthur.

36  
00:01:29,400 --> 00:01:30,840  
And your sister's?

37  
00:01:30,840 --> 00:01:33,090  
[? Henia. ?] It was

[? Henia, ?] Helen.

38  
00:01:33,090 --> 00:01:33,780  
Helen.

39  
00:01:33,780 --> 00:01:34,800  
OK.

40  
00:01:34,800 --> 00:01:36,840  
So [? Henia ?] in  
Poland and Helen

41  
00:01:36,840 --> 00:01:39,230  
here in the United States?

42  
00:01:39,230 --> 00:01:39,730  
Yes.

43  
00:01:39,730 --> 00:01:41,070  
OK.

44  
00:01:41,070 --> 00:01:44,790  
And your mother's name  
and your father's names--

45  
00:01:44,790 --> 00:01:50,590  
my mother's name was Chana,  
Chana Steiel, her maiden name.

46  
00:01:50,590 --> 00:01:56,430  
And my father's name  
is [? Shimon, ?] Simon.

47  
00:01:56,430 --> 00:01:57,840  
Simon or--

48  
00:01:57,840 --> 00:01:58,650  
Spielman.

49  
00:01:58,650 --> 00:02:00,100  
Spielman.

50

00:02:00,100 --> 00:02:06,300

And were they from Krakow  
for many generations?

51

00:02:06,300 --> 00:02:08,610

Or had they moved there  
from someplace else?

52

00:02:08,610 --> 00:02:12,000

Well, my father is--

53

00:02:12,000 --> 00:02:14,160

was from Slovakia.

54

00:02:14,160 --> 00:02:16,260

I thought it was  
always Czechoslovakia.

55

00:02:16,260 --> 00:02:17,720

But it was Slovakia.

56

00:02:17,720 --> 00:02:18,450

OK.

57

00:02:18,450 --> 00:02:23,790

And the family-- we had some  
family in Germany and mostly

58

00:02:23,790 --> 00:02:25,080

in Krakow.

59

00:02:25,080 --> 00:02:25,890

OK.

60

00:02:25,890 --> 00:02:29,140

On his side of the  
family, on your father's.

61

00:02:29,140 --> 00:02:30,520

On both sides.

62

00:02:30,520 --> 00:02:31,660  
On both sides.

63  
00:02:31,660 --> 00:02:33,970  
And your mother, was  
she from Krakow, then?

64  
00:02:33,970 --> 00:02:34,760  
Yes.

65  
00:02:34,760 --> 00:02:35,260  
All right.

66  
00:02:35,260 --> 00:02:37,120  
And tell me her  
maiden name again.

67  
00:02:37,120 --> 00:02:42,060  
Steiel, S-T-E-I-E-L.

68  
00:02:42,060 --> 00:02:43,240  
OK.

69  
00:02:43,240 --> 00:02:46,915  
And did she come from  
a large family herself?

70  
00:02:46,915 --> 00:02:49,960

71  
00:02:49,960 --> 00:02:55,150  
That is so confusing because  
there was so many marriages

72  
00:02:55,150 --> 00:02:59,040  
with second marriages  
or third marriages.

73  
00:02:59,040 --> 00:03:06,330  
So there were many sisters  
and brothers that were--

74

00:03:06,330 --> 00:03:07,040  
Half?

75  
00:03:07,040 --> 00:03:08,160  
Half.

76  
00:03:08,160 --> 00:03:09,370  
OK.

77  
00:03:09,370 --> 00:03:09,870  
Yeah.

78  
00:03:09,870 --> 00:03:11,970  
Do you know, of your  
mother, whether she

79  
00:03:11,970 --> 00:03:15,120  
was the child of a first  
wife or a second wife?

80  
00:03:15,120 --> 00:03:18,560  
Or do you know?

81  
00:03:18,560 --> 00:03:20,440  
I'm not sure about that.

82  
00:03:20,440 --> 00:03:21,320  
OK.

83  
00:03:21,320 --> 00:03:24,140  
And what about your father?

84  
00:03:24,140 --> 00:03:25,400  
Regarding--

85  
00:03:25,400 --> 00:03:27,020  
His brothers and sisters.

86  
00:03:27,020 --> 00:03:29,070  
Oh, there was a large family.

87

00:03:29,070 --> 00:03:32,990  
I believe he had nine  
sisters and brothers.

88  
00:03:32,990 --> 00:03:33,980  
That's quite a lot.

89  
00:03:33,980 --> 00:03:35,450  
That was quite a lot.

90  
00:03:35,450 --> 00:03:38,880  
Some of them we've  
met in the states.

91  
00:03:38,880 --> 00:03:43,250  
They had come to the  
states early in the '30s.

92  
00:03:43,250 --> 00:03:50,360  
And most of the others  
perished during the Holocaust.

93  
00:03:50,360 --> 00:03:53,060  
And there were many  
extended cousins,

94  
00:03:53,060 --> 00:03:57,980  
and aunts, and uncles as  
well, lots of cousins.

95  
00:03:57,980 --> 00:03:59,600  
That you knew eventually?

96  
00:03:59,600 --> 00:04:01,070  
I did not know them.

97  
00:04:01,070 --> 00:04:01,570  
OK.

98  
00:04:01,570 --> 00:04:02,362  
But you knew that--

99



00:04:02,362 --> 00:04:05,300  
But I did know the  
aunts and uncles

100  
00:04:05,300 --> 00:04:07,560  
that were here in the States.

101  
00:04:07,560 --> 00:04:08,060  
OK.

102  
00:04:08,060 --> 00:04:11,780  
I got to meet them when  
we came to America.

103  
00:04:11,780 --> 00:04:16,880  
So the question-- I  
mean, your date of birth

104  
00:04:16,880 --> 00:04:26,490  
kind of gives me already  
a sense of what we

105  
00:04:26,490 --> 00:04:28,830  
can focus on in this interview.

106  
00:04:28,830 --> 00:04:33,330  
Because you were born  
in 1939 in February,

107  
00:04:33,330 --> 00:04:36,510  
just before the beginning  
of World War II.

108  
00:04:36,510 --> 00:04:37,320  
Correct.

109  
00:04:37,320 --> 00:04:41,670  
So you're an infant of half  
a year's old or just over

110  
00:04:41,670 --> 00:04:44,690  
on September 1, 1939.

111

00:04:44,690 --> 00:04:46,940

And the overwhelming  
question I've

112

00:04:46,940 --> 00:04:51,450

got for you is,  
how does a child,

113

00:04:51,450 --> 00:04:54,960

how does an infant  
survive that war?

114

00:04:54,960 --> 00:05:00,830

Because truly, you are  
the most vulnerable.

115

00:05:00,830 --> 00:05:04,460

You're in a situation that  
is the most vulnerable

116

00:05:04,460 --> 00:05:06,750

at any time when  
they would be a war.

117

00:05:06,750 --> 00:05:12,770

but particularly within that  
war, there is a war on Jews.

118

00:05:12,770 --> 00:05:18,160

So all of my questions have to  
do with things that you may not

119

00:05:18,160 --> 00:05:22,890

directly remember but help  
answer that question of,

120

00:05:22,890 --> 00:05:26,330

how does a baby  
survive this war?

121

00:05:26,330 --> 00:05:29,750

So maybe you can tell  
me what was told to you.

122  
00:05:29,750 --> 00:05:30,950  
Mm-hmm.

123  
00:05:30,950 --> 00:05:32,930  
And as I asked  
your husband-- you

124  
00:05:32,930 --> 00:05:36,080  
see that I try to find  
as much information

125  
00:05:36,080 --> 00:05:38,910  
as I can about pre-war life.

126  
00:05:38,910 --> 00:05:42,140  
And since you don't have direct  
memories of pre-war life,

127  
00:05:42,140 --> 00:05:44,460  
whether you can  
fill that in for us.

128  
00:05:44,460 --> 00:05:44,960  
Well.

129  
00:05:44,960 --> 00:05:46,230  
I'll do my best.

130  
00:05:46,230 --> 00:05:48,020  
OK.

131  
00:05:48,020 --> 00:05:52,030  
I was an infant as  
the war broke out.

132  
00:05:52,030 --> 00:05:55,710  
And I was a good  
baby, I was told.

133  
00:05:55,710 --> 00:06:00,870  
[LAUGHS] So I was pretty

quiet and well-behaved.

134  
00:06:00,870 --> 00:06:05,040  
But it was luck and  
perseverance from my parents.

135  
00:06:05,040 --> 00:06:09,330  
My father had  
Slovakian papers, which

136  
00:06:09,330 --> 00:06:13,360  
made him a Slovakian citizen.

137  
00:06:13,360 --> 00:06:19,270  
And so they were not threatened  
as much in the beginning.

138  
00:06:19,270 --> 00:06:21,220  
They were the later ones.

139  
00:06:21,220 --> 00:06:27,100  
And so we were able  
to survive that way.

140  
00:06:27,100 --> 00:06:31,300  
When we were put in to Ghetto,  
we were the later ones,

141  
00:06:31,300 --> 00:06:36,310  
not in the beginning as  
the Jews were rounded up.

142  
00:06:36,310 --> 00:06:40,030  
And again, while we  
were in the ghetto,

143  
00:06:40,030 --> 00:06:43,810  
we were also the later ones  
that were being liquidated.

144  
00:06:43,810 --> 00:06:46,570  
And my father had word of that.

145

00:06:46,570 --> 00:06:52,570

And with luck and perseverances,  
again, we were lucky.

146

00:06:52,570 --> 00:06:55,960

That's the only way you  
can describe those years.

147

00:06:55,960 --> 00:06:58,090

You were lucky.

148

00:06:58,090 --> 00:07:03,910

Your father, how did he  
support the family beforehand?

149

00:07:03,910 --> 00:07:05,890

He was a shoemaker.

150

00:07:05,890 --> 00:07:06,940

OK.

151

00:07:06,940 --> 00:07:14,690

We had an apartment where  
his shop was at also.

152

00:07:14,690 --> 00:07:16,530

So you lived above the store.

153

00:07:16,530 --> 00:07:17,880

No, there was no store.

154

00:07:17,880 --> 00:07:20,820

The shoemaking business  
was in the apartment.

155

00:07:20,820 --> 00:07:22,260

Oh, OK.

156

00:07:22,260 --> 00:07:22,770

Yeah.

157

00:07:22,770 --> 00:07:24,660  
We were in a--

158  
00:07:24,660 --> 00:07:26,280  
and I had just  
recently found out

159  
00:07:26,280 --> 00:07:30,280  
we had a large apartment with  
three bedrooms and so on.

160  
00:07:30,280 --> 00:07:36,200  
And so there was space  
for him to do his--

161  
00:07:36,200 --> 00:07:36,860  
Workshop.

162  
00:07:36,860 --> 00:07:37,760  
Yeah.

163  
00:07:37,760 --> 00:07:40,100  
And he had several  
employees, or people

164  
00:07:40,100 --> 00:07:42,770  
that work for him or with him.

165  
00:07:42,770 --> 00:07:47,120  
And so that's how it was.

166  
00:07:47,120 --> 00:07:51,890  
Was your family well off  
before the war, or comfortable,

167  
00:07:51,890 --> 00:07:53,485  
or poorly?

168  
00:07:53,485 --> 00:07:54,110  
How would you--

169  
00:07:54,110 --> 00:07:58,870

I don't think we were poor,  
but we weren't really well off.

170  
00:07:58,870 --> 00:08:00,950  
I mean, we lived OK.

171  
00:08:00,950 --> 00:08:01,510  
OK.

172  
00:08:01,510 --> 00:08:05,530  
And I wouldn't say that  
we were well off, no.

173  
00:08:05,530 --> 00:08:09,280  
And how-- do you know why your  
father ended up in Krakow,

174  
00:08:09,280 --> 00:08:11,590  
having come from Slovakia?

175  
00:08:11,590 --> 00:08:14,890  
I think it was the time  
when he married my mother.

176  
00:08:14,890 --> 00:08:16,600  
Was it an arranged marriage or--

177  
00:08:16,600 --> 00:08:18,310  
I'm sure it was.

178  
00:08:18,310 --> 00:08:18,880  
OK.

179  
00:08:18,880 --> 00:08:21,030  
I'm sure it was arranged.

180  
00:08:21,030 --> 00:08:22,560  
OK.

181  
00:08:22,560 --> 00:08:24,435  
Now, you speak--

182  
00:08:24,435 --> 00:08:27,950  
It was an orthodox family, so--

183  
00:08:27,950 --> 00:08:29,460  
OK.

184  
00:08:29,460 --> 00:08:36,200  
And when you speak of having  
Slovakian or Slovak papers,

185  
00:08:36,200 --> 00:08:40,940  
documents as being something  
that kept the danger at bay

186  
00:08:40,940 --> 00:08:42,710  
at least temporarily--

187  
00:08:42,710 --> 00:08:43,820  
Yeah.

188  
00:08:43,820 --> 00:08:47,810  
--was that extended to your  
mother and your older siblings?

189  
00:08:47,810 --> 00:08:49,820  
Because she was born in Krakow.

190  
00:08:49,820 --> 00:08:52,520  
She is not from Slovakia.

191  
00:08:52,520 --> 00:08:53,030  
No.

192  
00:08:53,030 --> 00:08:55,760  
But I guess as a  
family unit, it was

193  
00:08:55,760 --> 00:08:59,330  
protected under those papers.

194  
00:08:59,330 --> 00:09:03,380



So you as an infant, you're  
taken into the ghetto.

195  
00:09:03,380 --> 00:09:04,250  
Yes.

196  
00:09:04,250 --> 00:09:06,380  
And this would be the  
ghetto from Krakow.

197  
00:09:06,380 --> 00:09:07,340  
Correct.

198  
00:09:07,340 --> 00:09:09,950  
I must have been about  
three at that time.

199  
00:09:09,950 --> 00:09:11,210  
OK.

200  
00:09:11,210 --> 00:09:17,390  
And so if you're born  
in 1939, you only

201  
00:09:17,390 --> 00:09:19,670  
enter the ghetto in 1942?

202  
00:09:19,670 --> 00:09:21,170  
I think so.

203  
00:09:21,170 --> 00:09:25,080  
I think it was '42 or  
maybe the end of '41.

204  
00:09:25,080 --> 00:09:26,930  
OK, so not immediately.

205  
00:09:26,930 --> 00:09:28,580  
Not immediately, no.

206  
00:09:28,580 --> 00:09:29,810  
OK.

207  
00:09:29,810 --> 00:09:34,040  
And from what people  
told you later,

208  
00:09:34,040 --> 00:09:35,840  
how long do you  
stay in the ghetto?

209  
00:09:35,840 --> 00:09:38,780

210  
00:09:38,780 --> 00:09:46,540  
I think I was maybe a year  
and a half or thereabouts.

211  
00:09:46,540 --> 00:09:49,950  
And then when they started  
liquidating the ghetto,

212  
00:09:49,950 --> 00:09:53,940  
my father was, really, very  
responsible for getting

213  
00:09:53,940 --> 00:09:56,100  
a lot of people out.

214  
00:09:56,100 --> 00:09:58,350  
Why and how?

215  
00:09:58,350 --> 00:10:03,660  
Because of his papers, again,  
he had contacts, I believe.

216  
00:10:03,660 --> 00:10:07,770  
And he was able to  
smuggle some people out,

217  
00:10:07,770 --> 00:10:17,490  
including some very prominent  
people, like the Bobover rebbe

218

00:10:17,490 --> 00:10:27,080  
And I think he's well-known  
in the Holocaust archives.

219  
00:10:27,080 --> 00:10:32,760  
And some of his family,  
including some cousins of ours.

220  
00:10:32,760 --> 00:10:37,710  
Can you tell me about the  
rebbe, what his last name was?

221  
00:10:37,710 --> 00:10:39,930  
Can I ask my husband  
what his name was?

222  
00:10:39,930 --> 00:10:41,843  
Of course We can  
cut for a second.

223  
00:10:41,843 --> 00:10:43,775  
[LAUGHS]

224  
00:10:43,775 --> 00:10:45,130

225  
00:10:45,130 --> 00:10:45,630  
OK.

226  
00:10:45,630 --> 00:10:49,280  
Your daughter looked  
up on the internet--

227  
00:10:49,280 --> 00:10:51,430  
as she says, Google  
is her friend--

228  
00:10:51,430 --> 00:10:57,690  
and found out that the  
rebbe was named who?

229  
00:10:57,690 --> 00:10:59,080  
Halberstein.

230  
00:10:59,080 --> 00:11:01,810  
Halbertstein or Halberstam?

231  
00:11:01,810 --> 00:11:02,570  
Halberstam.

232  
00:11:02,570 --> 00:11:03,890  
Halberstam.

233  
00:11:03,890 --> 00:11:04,880  
Oh, OK.

234  
00:11:04,880 --> 00:11:10,350  
And you said he was  
the Bobover rebbe?

235  
00:11:10,350 --> 00:11:11,880  
The Bobover rebbe.

236  
00:11:11,880 --> 00:11:13,530  
Tell me, what is  
the Bobover rebbe,

237  
00:11:13,530 --> 00:11:15,870  
for those of us who don't know.

238  
00:11:15,870 --> 00:11:20,700  
It's an area of Poland  
where that particular sect

239  
00:11:20,700 --> 00:11:23,850  
of orthodox Judaism,  
that's where

240  
00:11:23,850 --> 00:11:26,010  
he came from, from Bobowa.

241  
00:11:26,010 --> 00:11:26,790  
Oh, I see.

242

00:11:26,790 --> 00:11:27,540  
OK.

243  
00:11:27,540 --> 00:11:32,130  
And so your father was helpful  
in getting him to escape

244  
00:11:32,130 --> 00:11:33,840  
or helping him escape from--

245  
00:11:33,840 --> 00:11:37,470  
I don't know about him,  
per se, but the family.

246  
00:11:37,470 --> 00:11:42,340  
He helped a family  
across the border.

247  
00:11:42,340 --> 00:11:45,840  
And now that family's  
living in Israel.

248  
00:11:45,840 --> 00:11:47,790  
I see.

249  
00:11:47,790 --> 00:11:53,970  
Now, was it because your  
father had Slovak documents?

250  
00:11:53,970 --> 00:11:56,160  
Or was it because  
your father had access

251  
00:11:56,160 --> 00:11:59,600  
to people who forged documents?

252  
00:11:59,600 --> 00:12:01,770  
I don't think about forging.

253  
00:12:01,770 --> 00:12:09,720  
But-- he was pretty  
savvy and very clever.

254

00:12:09,720 --> 00:12:15,740

And he managed to get  
those people across.

255

00:12:15,740 --> 00:12:16,620

I don't know how.

256

00:12:16,620 --> 00:12:17,120

I really--

257

00:12:17,120 --> 00:12:17,820

You don't know how.

258

00:12:17,820 --> 00:12:18,110

That's OK.

259

00:12:18,110 --> 00:12:18,950

I don't know how.

260

00:12:18,950 --> 00:12:21,140

That's OK.

261

00:12:21,140 --> 00:12:28,080

What was told to you later  
about those years in the ghetto,

262

00:12:28,080 --> 00:12:32,550

that you were with your parents  
and siblings in the ghetto?

263

00:12:32,550 --> 00:12:34,860

What did they tell you  
about life for them?

264

00:12:34,860 --> 00:12:40,900

265

00:12:40,900 --> 00:12:43,410

I'm really not sure.

266

00:12:43,410 --> 00:12:47,010

Those years in the ghetto, the  
couple of years in the ghetto

267  
00:12:47,010 --> 00:12:49,230  
is a total blank to me.

268  
00:12:49,230 --> 00:12:50,490  
Of course they would be.

269  
00:12:50,490 --> 00:12:51,300  
Yeah.

270  
00:12:51,300 --> 00:12:53,115  
Because you were a child.

271  
00:12:53,115 --> 00:12:54,240  
I mean, you were an infant.

272  
00:12:54,240 --> 00:12:55,980  
You were a toddler.

273  
00:12:55,980 --> 00:13:00,630  
I regret many times that I  
cannot remember those years,

274  
00:13:00,630 --> 00:13:02,820  
whether I was too young or what.

275  
00:13:02,820 --> 00:13:08,050  
But I truly regret that I  
don't have the memory of it.

276  
00:13:08,050 --> 00:13:10,500  
Did your older  
siblings ever tell you

277  
00:13:10,500 --> 00:13:12,930  
stories about what  
was going on there?

278  
00:13:12,930 --> 00:13:16,620  
My sister did not

remember very much.

279

00:13:16,620 --> 00:13:18,900

Or she did not want  
to talk about it.

280

00:13:18,900 --> 00:13:22,230

But my brother, God  
bless him, he is amazing.

281

00:13:22,230 --> 00:13:26,880

He knows every detail of the  
Holocaust-- the survival,

282

00:13:26,880 --> 00:13:31,020

the ghetto, the homes,  
the streets we walked,

283

00:13:31,020 --> 00:13:32,040

and everything.

284

00:13:32,040 --> 00:13:34,200

He is just amazing.

285

00:13:34,200 --> 00:13:38,580

And did he tell you about  
what your family went through,

286

00:13:38,580 --> 00:13:42,300

what your parents went through,  
what kind of experiences

287

00:13:42,300 --> 00:13:44,140

they had?

288

00:13:44,140 --> 00:13:44,830

Not really.

289

00:13:44,830 --> 00:13:48,100

Because when we first came  
to America, very little of it

290



00:13:48,100 --> 00:13:49,360  
was spoken of.

291  
00:13:49,360 --> 00:13:52,300  
And I was about 10 years  
old when we came to America.

292  
00:13:52,300 --> 00:13:55,240  
So none of it was spoken of.

293  
00:13:55,240 --> 00:13:58,870  
And I'm sorry it wasn't.

294  
00:13:58,870 --> 00:14:01,600  
But later on, I  
got bits and pieces

295  
00:14:01,600 --> 00:14:06,860  
of what my family went through,  
but not a full, full story.

296  
00:14:06,860 --> 00:14:08,310  
What is it that you know?

297  
00:14:08,310 --> 00:14:12,530  
What are some of  
those bits and pieces?

298  
00:14:12,530 --> 00:14:14,120  
I remember when we left--

299  
00:14:14,120 --> 00:14:18,350  
not that I remember,  
but I recall

300  
00:14:18,350 --> 00:14:21,560  
being told the way we crossed  
the borders, the difficulty

301  
00:14:21,560 --> 00:14:26,000  
we had crossing the borders,  
and when my mother got sick,

302

00:14:26,000 --> 00:14:32,840  
and how she survived all those  
times crossing the border,

303

00:14:32,840 --> 00:14:34,410  
and I don't know.

304

00:14:34,410 --> 00:14:46,030  
I vaguely remember coming  
across some border guards.

305

00:14:46,030 --> 00:14:51,220  
And I must have  
been four years old.

306

00:14:51,220 --> 00:14:55,210  
And I remember telling them  
that my mother was Catholic,

307

00:14:55,210 --> 00:14:59,555  
my father was Catholic,  
but I'm Jewish.

308

00:14:59,555 --> 00:15:03,020  
[LAUGHS]

309

00:15:03,020 --> 00:15:06,370  
You told the border guards this?

310

00:15:06,370 --> 00:15:08,450  
I wanted to protect my parents.

311

00:15:08,450 --> 00:15:08,950  
[LAUGHS]

312

00:15:08,950 --> 00:15:10,660  
Oh, my goodness.

313

00:15:10,660 --> 00:15:12,370  
Oh, my goodness.

314

00:15:12,370 --> 00:15:14,560  
And do you remember what  
those border guards,

315  
00:15:14,560 --> 00:15:16,420  
how they reacted to this?

316  
00:15:16,420 --> 00:15:19,502  
Well, they must have had a  
chuckle because here we are.

317  
00:15:19,502 --> 00:15:20,002  
[LAUGHS]

318  
00:15:20,002 --> 00:15:21,850  
OK.

319  
00:15:21,850 --> 00:15:25,960  
So this means that your family  
escaped from the ghetto.

320  
00:15:25,960 --> 00:15:27,130  
Yes.

321  
00:15:27,130 --> 00:15:27,910  
OK.

322  
00:15:27,910 --> 00:15:29,380  
Where did they escape to?

323  
00:15:29,380 --> 00:15:32,180

324  
00:15:32,180 --> 00:15:35,090  
Well, we went through  
Czechoslovakia.

325  
00:15:35,090 --> 00:15:41,000  
And we wound up in Hungary  
in a town of Miskolc.

326  
00:15:41,000 --> 00:15:41,960

OK.

327

00:15:41,960 --> 00:15:45,640

And we lived as gentiles.

328

00:15:45,640 --> 00:15:47,210

We had a house.

329

00:15:47,210 --> 00:15:50,750

We even had a cross on the wall.

330

00:15:50,750 --> 00:15:54,820

And so we lived as Christians.

331

00:15:54,820 --> 00:15:56,950

And do you remember this house?

332

00:15:56,950 --> 00:15:59,740

And do you remember that cross?

333

00:15:59,740 --> 00:16:02,140

I vaguely remember the cross.

334

00:16:02,140 --> 00:16:06,490

But I do remember when the  
bombing started that our house

335

00:16:06,490 --> 00:16:08,680

was the only one standing.

336

00:16:08,680 --> 00:16:09,560

Really?

337

00:16:09,560 --> 00:16:11,110

Really, yeah.

338

00:16:11,110 --> 00:16:13,420

Was Miskolc a large town?

339

00:16:13,420 --> 00:16:14,800

I don't recall.

340  
00:16:14,800 --> 00:16:17,260  
OK.

341  
00:16:17,260 --> 00:16:20,020  
And do you remember  
hearing bombs?

342  
00:16:20,020 --> 00:16:23,110  
Yeah, we were in the  
basement of the house.

343  
00:16:23,110 --> 00:16:24,850  
We were all huddled together.

344  
00:16:24,850 --> 00:16:26,735  
I remember that, yeah.

345  
00:16:26,735 --> 00:16:27,550  
OK.

346  
00:16:27,550 --> 00:16:31,450  
And this would have been  
in 1943 or '44, or when?

347  
00:16:31,450 --> 00:16:35,140  
Well, what year would  
have been? '44, I believe,

348  
00:16:35,140 --> 00:16:39,530  
when the Russians-- we were  
also liberated by the Russians.

349  
00:16:39,530 --> 00:16:40,030  
OK.

350  
00:16:40,030 --> 00:16:44,110  
So this is as the Russians  
are moving westwards

351  
00:16:44,110 --> 00:16:48,130  
and they're liberating

Hungary from Nazi forces.

352  
00:16:48,130 --> 00:16:48,670  
Correct.

353  
00:16:48,670 --> 00:16:49,850  
This is at that time.

354  
00:16:49,850 --> 00:16:51,620  
That's when the  
bombing is happening.

355  
00:16:51,620 --> 00:16:52,120  
Mm-hmm.

356  
00:16:52,120 --> 00:16:54,490  
So to bring it back  
a little bit, when

357  
00:16:54,490 --> 00:16:58,780  
you escaped from the ghetto,  
did your parents ever tell you

358  
00:16:58,780 --> 00:17:01,060  
what year you had  
escaped from the ghetto,

359  
00:17:01,060 --> 00:17:02,610  
whether it was '43 or '44?

360  
00:17:02,610 --> 00:17:03,110  
No.

361  
00:17:03,110 --> 00:17:04,300  
No, OK.

362  
00:17:04,300 --> 00:17:08,710  
My mother never spoke of it.

363  
00:17:08,710 --> 00:17:09,210  
No?

364

00:17:09,210 --> 00:17:12,089

Never, ever spoke of it.

365

00:17:12,089 --> 00:17:19,750

And so I know very little of  
the family, the past family,

366

00:17:19,750 --> 00:17:25,599

and her experiences,  
her fears, her anxiety.

367

00:17:25,599 --> 00:17:27,310

I never knew it.

368

00:17:27,310 --> 00:17:28,150

OK.

369

00:17:28,150 --> 00:17:30,970

And your father, did  
he ever speak of this?

370

00:17:30,970 --> 00:17:35,530

Not till later on when  
people started talking

371

00:17:35,530 --> 00:17:39,040

and the stories were coming out.

372

00:17:39,040 --> 00:17:41,540

What do you remember  
him telling you?

373

00:17:41,540 --> 00:17:45,790

374

00:17:45,790 --> 00:17:48,350

It's hard to tell.

375

00:17:48,350 --> 00:17:50,920

It's hard to tell.

376

00:17:50,920 --> 00:17:51,670  
You said earlier--

377  
00:17:51,670 --> 00:17:53,690  
It all amazed me.

378  
00:17:53,690 --> 00:18:00,520  
I think my-- we--

379  
00:18:00,520 --> 00:18:08,030  
a number of years ago, we  
attended the Holocaust reunion

380  
00:18:08,030 --> 00:18:10,550  
program here in Washington DC.

381  
00:18:10,550 --> 00:18:13,870  
I believe it was in the '80s.

382  
00:18:13,870 --> 00:18:16,060  
And I had gone to a seminar.

383  
00:18:16,060 --> 00:18:17,920  
And I found out then.

384  
00:18:17,920 --> 00:18:22,060  
I never realized it  
before, but I found then,

385  
00:18:22,060 --> 00:18:27,100  
attending the seminar,  
that we, as a family unit--

386  
00:18:27,100 --> 00:18:30,430  
meaning my mother, and  
father, sister, and brother,

387  
00:18:30,430 --> 00:18:31,810  
and myself--

388  
00:18:31,810 --> 00:18:37,870  
were very unique, extremely



unique because we all survived,

389

00:18:37,870 --> 00:18:42,550  
especially me being a baby,  
which you mentioned before.

390

00:18:42,550 --> 00:18:48,380  
So I held onto that forever.

391

00:18:48,380 --> 00:18:54,070  
And it was a big lesson.

392

00:18:54,070 --> 00:18:56,350  
What do you put that down to?

393

00:18:56,350 --> 00:18:59,250  
Besides luck, which  
you mentioned,

394

00:18:59,250 --> 00:19:02,085  
what forces did you put  
that down to, that survival?

395

00:19:02,085 --> 00:19:06,960

396

00:19:06,960 --> 00:19:12,320  
I think it was most  
of my father's doing.

397

00:19:12,320 --> 00:19:15,350  
You say he was a  
very clever person.

398

00:19:15,350 --> 00:19:22,520  
When it came to save  
his family, yeah.

399

00:19:22,520 --> 00:19:27,190  
Is that something of his  
personality that you knew of,

400

00:19:27,190 --> 00:19:30,460  
that was part of him as you were  
growing up when the family was

401  
00:19:30,460 --> 00:19:31,360  
already safe?

402  
00:19:31,360 --> 00:19:33,775  
Or is that something that  
you know from stories?

403  
00:19:33,775 --> 00:19:38,850

404  
00:19:38,850 --> 00:19:45,430  
As I knew him, being a young  
woman, in his later years,

405  
00:19:45,430 --> 00:19:48,210  
he was a gentle, sweet man--

406  
00:19:48,210 --> 00:19:55,690  
soft-spoken, very gentle,  
very caring, loved his family.

407  
00:19:55,690 --> 00:19:59,200  
I don't know what he was  
like as a younger man.

408  
00:19:59,200 --> 00:20:07,610  
I was never told the stories  
of his younger years.

409  
00:20:07,610 --> 00:20:09,820  
But he must have been amazing.

410  
00:20:09,820 --> 00:20:12,170  
OK.

411  
00:20:12,170 --> 00:20:16,490  
Because what you suggest  
is that he probably

412

00:20:16,490 --> 00:20:18,310  
had a lot of street smarts--

413

00:20:18,310 --> 00:20:19,070  
It could be.

414

00:20:19,070 --> 00:20:20,450  
--and was savvy.

415

00:20:20,450 --> 00:20:25,640  
And he was able to tell which  
way the wind might be blowing.

416

00:20:25,640 --> 00:20:28,310  
You're absolutely right.

417

00:20:28,310 --> 00:20:31,580  
He was savvy, he really was.

418

00:20:31,580 --> 00:20:33,395  
He knew how to--

419

00:20:33,395 --> 00:20:37,620

420

00:20:37,620 --> 00:20:39,510  
whatever it was.

421

00:20:39,510 --> 00:20:40,710  
OK.

422

00:20:40,710 --> 00:20:43,020  
Let's go back to Miskolc.

423

00:20:43,020 --> 00:20:45,990  
And you remember  
hearing the bombs fall?

424

00:20:45,990 --> 00:20:49,180

425

00:20:49,180 --> 00:20:51,040

What happened after that?

426

00:20:51,040 --> 00:20:53,770

Were you liberated by the  
Russians soon afterwards?

427

00:20:53,770 --> 00:20:54,700

Yeah, we came up.

428

00:20:54,700 --> 00:20:58,060

And it was all in rubbles.

429

00:20:58,060 --> 00:20:59,420

Yeah.

430

00:20:59,420 --> 00:21:05,810

And as I said, the  
Russians liberated us.

431

00:21:05,810 --> 00:21:12,620

Soon after that, my father  
was arrested by the Russians

432

00:21:12,620 --> 00:21:16,730

because he was selling  
bootleg whiskey.

433

00:21:16,730 --> 00:21:19,010

[LAUGHS]

434

00:21:19,010 --> 00:21:23,090

This sweet, gentle man was  
selling bootleg whiskey.

435

00:21:23,090 --> 00:21:24,290

He was sweet.

436

00:21:24,290 --> 00:21:27,360

Maybe he knew what he was doing  
because all the Russians got

437  
00:21:27,360 --> 00:21:27,860  
sick.

438  
00:21:27,860 --> 00:21:32,630  
[LAUGHS] That is,  
they arrested him,

439  
00:21:32,630 --> 00:21:34,130  
but they drank the whiskey.

440  
00:21:34,130 --> 00:21:35,660  
They drank whiskey.

441  
00:21:35,660 --> 00:21:39,840  
And so they knew where  
this liquor came from.

442  
00:21:39,840 --> 00:21:41,150  
So he was arrested.

443  
00:21:41,150 --> 00:21:42,050  
I see.

444  
00:21:42,050 --> 00:21:44,390  
OK.

445  
00:21:44,390 --> 00:21:46,258  
And what happened?

446  
00:21:46,258 --> 00:21:48,050  
He must have been, at  
some point, released?

447  
00:21:48,050 --> 00:21:51,620  
Well, I don't know how long  
he was in prison or jail.

448  
00:21:51,620 --> 00:21:54,860  
But he was out soon.

449  
00:21:54,860 --> 00:21:59,580

Because that must have been '45.

450

00:21:59,580 --> 00:22:08,700

And there was also a time when  
we were still in the ghetto,

451

00:22:08,700 --> 00:22:09,920

if I may go back.

452

00:22:09,920 --> 00:22:13,170

Absolutely, anywhere.

453

00:22:13,170 --> 00:22:16,740

My father sent out my  
brother and sister,

454

00:22:16,740 --> 00:22:20,010

maybe at different  
times of each other.

455

00:22:20,010 --> 00:22:24,670

And he sent my sister  
to an orphanage.

456

00:22:24,670 --> 00:22:25,660

I'm not sure where.

457

00:22:25,660 --> 00:22:28,200

It might have been Hungary.

458

00:22:28,200 --> 00:22:36,330

And my brother as well, and  
they met up at that orphanage.

459

00:22:36,330 --> 00:22:42,960

I also had a cousin, Miriam,  
who was also sent there

460

00:22:42,960 --> 00:22:49,620

by my father, knowing well that  
he would never see them again.

461

00:22:49,620 --> 00:22:50,360  
Yeah.

462  
00:22:50,360 --> 00:22:52,110  
But they couldn't  
stay in the ghetto.

463  
00:22:52,110 --> 00:22:54,170  
He had to get them  
out of the ghetto.

464  
00:22:54,170 --> 00:22:55,220  
I was too young.

465  
00:22:55,220 --> 00:22:58,470

466  
00:22:58,470 --> 00:23:04,760  
When we got to  
Hungary, my father

467  
00:23:04,760 --> 00:23:07,700  
told somebody to go  
get those children.

468  
00:23:07,700 --> 00:23:09,890  
He was a guide.

469  
00:23:09,890 --> 00:23:13,700  
And luckily, we still  
had some money left over

470  
00:23:13,700 --> 00:23:16,600  
to drive a lot of people.

471  
00:23:16,600 --> 00:23:19,680

472  
00:23:19,680 --> 00:23:21,860  
And this guide went  
to the orphanage.

473

00:23:21,860 --> 00:23:26,940  
And he took my sister, he took  
my brother, and my cousin.

474  
00:23:26,940 --> 00:23:31,960  
And he walked out with  
them very, very carefully.

475  
00:23:31,960 --> 00:23:36,440  
Right after that, the Germans  
came into that orphanage

476  
00:23:36,440 --> 00:23:38,810  
and took all the children.

477  
00:23:38,810 --> 00:23:40,550  
Oh, my goodness.

478  
00:23:40,550 --> 00:23:46,190  
And so somehow, we met up  
with my brother, and sister,

479  
00:23:46,190 --> 00:23:47,090  
and my cousin.

480  
00:23:47,090 --> 00:23:50,970  
I don't know where, but we did.

481  
00:23:50,970 --> 00:23:58,550  
And yeah, that was  
absolutely amazing to me.

482  
00:23:58,550 --> 00:24:01,010  
Did your brother have  
memories of that orphanage?

483  
00:24:01,010 --> 00:24:01,880  
Oh, yeah.

484  
00:24:01,880 --> 00:24:03,816  
He remembers everything.

485



00:24:03,816 --> 00:24:05,680  
OK.

486  
00:24:05,680 --> 00:24:08,590  
And your sister, too?

487  
00:24:08,590 --> 00:24:11,770  
My sister had a vague memory.

488  
00:24:11,770 --> 00:24:12,400  
I had none.

489  
00:24:12,400 --> 00:24:13,650  
And my brother had everything.

490  
00:24:13,650 --> 00:24:15,640  
[LAUGHS]

491  
00:24:15,640 --> 00:24:16,140  
OK.

492  
00:24:16,140 --> 00:24:24,140

493  
00:24:24,140 --> 00:24:28,190  
Did you meet up with any  
of the other relatives

494  
00:24:28,190 --> 00:24:32,090  
from your family from Krakow?

495  
00:24:32,090 --> 00:24:34,240  
Did they survive?

496  
00:24:34,240 --> 00:24:43,490  
We met up with another cousin  
from my mother's family.

497  
00:24:43,490 --> 00:24:48,930  
Her name is Selena,  
Selena Steiel.

498

00:24:48,930 --> 00:24:52,700

And she's now in Israel.

499

00:24:52,700 --> 00:25:02,070

She went on the first  
leg of the orphans

500

00:25:02,070 --> 00:25:03,970

when they all went to Israel.

501

00:25:03,970 --> 00:25:08,340

This was very early  
on, soon after the war.

502

00:25:08,340 --> 00:25:12,660

And she's been living in  
Israel all of these years.

503

00:25:12,660 --> 00:25:13,920

She's still alive.

504

00:25:13,920 --> 00:25:16,410

OK.

505

00:25:16,410 --> 00:25:20,730

When you were liberated  
by Russians in Hungary,

506

00:25:20,730 --> 00:25:24,990

and after your  
father was released,

507

00:25:24,990 --> 00:25:29,400

did you stay in Miskolc,  
or did you move around?

508

00:25:29,400 --> 00:25:32,640

Well, we stayed in Budapest.

509

00:25:32,640 --> 00:25:33,340

OK.

510

00:25:33,340 --> 00:25:35,160

We were in Budapest.

511

00:25:35,160 --> 00:25:41,720

And my father and brother  
went back to Krakow

512

00:25:41,720 --> 00:25:47,540

to see what was left of our  
belongings, our home, whatever,

513

00:25:47,540 --> 00:25:50,180

to see what was left.

514

00:25:50,180 --> 00:25:55,000

And one of the most typical  
things that was said to him

515

00:25:55,000 --> 00:25:59,270

was, I thought you were dead.

516

00:25:59,270 --> 00:26:04,250

And so he knew that there was  
nothing left there for us.

517

00:26:04,250 --> 00:26:07,630

And that's when--

518

00:26:07,630 --> 00:26:08,770

OK, let's cut.

519

00:26:08,770 --> 00:26:10,840

I'm sorry.

520

00:26:10,840 --> 00:26:15,940

And they realized  
that there was nothing

521

00:26:15,940 --> 00:26:17,690

left for them in Krakow.

522

00:26:17,690 --> 00:26:18,190  
Yeah.

523  
00:26:18,190 --> 00:26:23,210  
That was in 1946, when the  
programs started in Europe,

524  
00:26:23,210 --> 00:26:25,560  
especially in Poland.

525  
00:26:25,560 --> 00:26:27,370  
I know someone--

526  
00:26:27,370 --> 00:26:31,290  
I think some Jewish  
boy killed somebody.

527  
00:26:31,290 --> 00:26:33,990  
And a whole big pogrom started.

528  
00:26:33,990 --> 00:26:36,300  
Or there was a rumor of that.

529  
00:26:36,300 --> 00:26:38,200  
I don't know what the truth was.

530  
00:26:38,200 --> 00:26:40,140  
Yeah, right.

531  
00:26:40,140 --> 00:26:44,010  
And so at that time, it was  
even more dangerous in Poland

532  
00:26:44,010 --> 00:26:46,680  
than in earlier times.

533  
00:26:46,680 --> 00:26:49,926  
And so there was nothing there.

534  
00:26:49,926 --> 00:26:52,050  
So they came back to Budapest?

535

00:26:52,050 --> 00:26:53,340

Yeah, they came back.

536

00:26:53,340 --> 00:26:56,505

And we applied for a visa.

537

00:26:56,505 --> 00:26:59,200

538

00:26:59,200 --> 00:27:02,620

It took about three years  
for us to get papers.

539

00:27:02,620 --> 00:27:05,320

We had family here, but it  
took three years for them

540

00:27:05,320 --> 00:27:09,010

to process all that information.

541

00:27:09,010 --> 00:27:12,850

And from Budapest,  
we went to a DP camp.

542

00:27:12,850 --> 00:27:14,920

We didn't know where to go.

543

00:27:14,920 --> 00:27:17,560

And we went to a DP camp--

544

00:27:17,560 --> 00:27:18,720

PD--

545

00:27:18,720 --> 00:27:19,380

DP camp.

546

00:27:19,380 --> 00:27:20,052

D-- thank you.

547

00:27:20,052 --> 00:27:20,552

[LAUGHS]

548  
00:27:20,552 --> 00:27:21,052  
It's OK.

549  
00:27:21,052 --> 00:27:23,920

550  
00:27:23,920 --> 00:27:26,920  
A DP camp in Gabersee, Germany.

551  
00:27:26,920 --> 00:27:28,470  
Gabersee, Germany.

552  
00:27:28,470 --> 00:27:29,920  
Have you heard of that camp?

553  
00:27:29,920 --> 00:27:30,670  
No, I haven't.

554  
00:27:30,670 --> 00:27:31,180  
Oh.

555  
00:27:31,180 --> 00:27:31,960  
OK.

556  
00:27:31,960 --> 00:27:35,200  
And do you have  
memories of that camp?

557  
00:27:35,200 --> 00:27:36,685  
Well, I was about--

558  
00:27:36,685 --> 00:27:39,510

559  
00:27:39,510 --> 00:27:41,380  
when we got there,  
I was about seven,

560  
00:27:41,380 --> 00:27:43,530  
eight years old, nine years old.

561  
00:27:43,530 --> 00:27:44,970  
And I made friends.

562  
00:27:44,970 --> 00:27:47,730  
And I played as a child.

563  
00:27:47,730 --> 00:27:51,660  
And I don't know if I  
appreciated my freedom,

564  
00:27:51,660 --> 00:27:54,970  
or being able to  
run around, or--

565  
00:27:54,970 --> 00:27:55,470  
yeah.

566  
00:27:55,470 --> 00:27:58,140  
Well, kids aren't supposed  
to think about other thing.

567  
00:27:58,140 --> 00:28:00,070  
They're supposed to do  
those thing, you know?

568  
00:28:00,070 --> 00:28:00,570  
Yeah.

569  
00:28:00,570 --> 00:28:02,850  
And I think that's what I did.

570  
00:28:02,850 --> 00:28:10,010  
Do you-- was it  
from this DP camp

571  
00:28:10,010 --> 00:28:12,260  
that you came to  
the United States?

572  
00:28:12,260 --> 00:28:15,590  
We came to the States in 1949.

573  
00:28:15,590 --> 00:28:16,790  
OK.

574  
00:28:16,790 --> 00:28:20,030  
And were their relatives  
who had sponsored you?

575  
00:28:20,030 --> 00:28:21,320  
Yes.

576  
00:28:21,320 --> 00:28:25,220  
So you didn't-- did you go  
through a quota system or not?

577  
00:28:25,220 --> 00:28:27,710  
You know, I don't  
know about that.

578  
00:28:27,710 --> 00:28:29,750  
There must have been  
a quota at that time.

579  
00:28:29,750 --> 00:28:32,540  
I know we didn't go  
through Ellis Island.

580  
00:28:32,540 --> 00:28:35,750  
We came directly to  
the Port of New York.

581  
00:28:35,750 --> 00:28:37,370  
And--

582  
00:28:37,370 --> 00:28:38,720  
Did you go by ship?

583  
00:28:38,720 --> 00:28:41,340  
Yeah, a marine ship.

584  
00:28:41,340 --> 00:28:42,630  
Do you remember the name?



585  
00:28:42,630 --> 00:28:43,710  
No.

586  
00:28:43,710 --> 00:28:45,630  
Do you remember  
crossing the ocean?

587  
00:28:45,630 --> 00:28:46,815  
Oh, we were all sick.

588  
00:28:46,815 --> 00:28:52,110  
[LAUGHS] Yeah, I  
remember the crossing.

589  
00:28:52,110 --> 00:28:57,870  
And then when we started  
arriving into New York,

590  
00:28:57,870 --> 00:28:59,220  
I was in awe.

591  
00:28:59,220 --> 00:28:59,850  
Really?

592  
00:28:59,850 --> 00:29:00,870  
Oh, my goodness.

593  
00:29:00,870 --> 00:29:02,260  
I couldn't believe it.

594  
00:29:02,260 --> 00:29:02,760  
Yeah.

595  
00:29:02,760 --> 00:29:04,000  
It was amazing.

596  
00:29:04,000 --> 00:29:07,440  
It was like a dream.

597  
00:29:07,440 --> 00:29:10,440

598

00:29:10,440 --> 00:29:14,190

What language did you speak  
at home with your parents?

599

00:29:14,190 --> 00:29:16,740

Well, I spoke  
Polish and Yiddish.

600

00:29:16,740 --> 00:29:18,030

OK.

601

00:29:18,030 --> 00:29:20,173

That's also when  
you were in Hungary,

602

00:29:20,173 --> 00:29:22,590

that's the language that you  
would speak with one another?

603

00:29:22,590 --> 00:29:26,700

Yeah, but I never really  
learned Hungarian.

604

00:29:26,700 --> 00:29:29,670

I don't believe I did.

605

00:29:29,670 --> 00:29:30,690

But my brother did.

606

00:29:30,690 --> 00:29:33,732

He picked up everything  
wherever we were.

607

00:29:33,732 --> 00:29:34,232

OK.

608

00:29:34,232 --> 00:29:37,450

609

00:29:37,450 --> 00:29:39,490

Were your siblings  
ever sent to, let's

610  
00:29:39,490 --> 00:29:43,300  
say, a Catholic convent  
to hide or somewhere

611  
00:29:43,300 --> 00:29:44,320  
in the countryside?

612  
00:29:44,320 --> 00:29:47,530  
Or was it just this  
Hungarian orphanage?

613  
00:29:47,530 --> 00:29:51,460  
Just that orphanage for a  
while because my father thought

614  
00:29:51,460 --> 00:29:52,810  
he would find them there.

615  
00:29:52,810 --> 00:29:58,540  
But he didn't think it a  
possibility, but he did.

616  
00:29:58,540 --> 00:30:01,390  
So in other words, when  
he said goodbye to them

617  
00:30:01,390 --> 00:30:04,330  
from the ghetto, he was  
not thinking that he

618  
00:30:04,330 --> 00:30:05,710  
will see his children again.

619  
00:30:05,710 --> 00:30:06,640  
Correct.

620  
00:30:06,640 --> 00:30:10,000  
And it was it was by a huge--

621

00:30:10,000 --> 00:30:12,910  
or, let's say, a  
very slim margin--

622  
00:30:12,910 --> 00:30:15,220  
that it actually happened.

623  
00:30:15,220 --> 00:30:15,990  
Correct.

624  
00:30:15,990 --> 00:30:16,490  
Yeah.

625  
00:30:16,490 --> 00:30:18,670  
So it would have  
been a huge miracle.

626  
00:30:18,670 --> 00:30:19,720  
Absolutely, yeah.

627  
00:30:19,720 --> 00:30:22,780

628  
00:30:22,780 --> 00:30:25,660  
God must have been  
watching over us because--

629  
00:30:25,660 --> 00:30:28,760  
one miracle after another.

630  
00:30:28,760 --> 00:30:31,580  
Was your family religious  
as you were growing up?

631  
00:30:31,580 --> 00:30:34,370  
Yes, very religious.

632  
00:30:34,370 --> 00:30:37,850  
Where did you end up settling  
when you came to the States?

633  
00:30:37,850 --> 00:30:38,600

I'm sorry?

634  
00:30:38,600 --> 00:30:40,610  
Where did you end up  
settling when you came--

635  
00:30:40,610 --> 00:30:42,020  
In New York, Brooklyn.

636  
00:30:42,020 --> 00:30:42,710  
OK.

637  
00:30:42,710 --> 00:30:43,790  
What part of Brooklyn?

638  
00:30:43,790 --> 00:30:44,870  
Bensonhurst.

639  
00:30:44,870 --> 00:30:45,910  
OK.

640  
00:30:45,910 --> 00:30:46,690  
You know of it?

641  
00:30:46,690 --> 00:30:49,780  
Yes, of course, I  
do, Bensonhurst.

642  
00:30:49,780 --> 00:30:55,010  
And were you part,  
then, of a community,

643  
00:30:55,010 --> 00:30:59,060  
a new community of other  
survivors from Poland, or--

644  
00:30:59,060 --> 00:30:59,660  
Oh, sure.

645  
00:30:59,660 --> 00:31:02,310  
My family-- my parents were.

646

00:31:02,310 --> 00:31:03,980

They were in touch with--

647

00:31:03,980 --> 00:31:09,640

but it was mostly  
family gatherings.

648

00:31:09,640 --> 00:31:13,180

649

00:31:13,180 --> 00:31:13,680

Yeah.

650

00:31:13,680 --> 00:31:17,370

But they knew people  
from their synagogue.

651

00:31:17,370 --> 00:31:19,620

My father belonged  
to a little shtiebel.

652

00:31:19,620 --> 00:31:22,050

I heard my husband  
mention that to you.

653

00:31:22,050 --> 00:31:26,165

So there were a  
great many survivors.

654

00:31:26,165 --> 00:31:28,290

What is a shtiebel, for  
those of us who don't know?

655

00:31:28,290 --> 00:31:34,140

A shtiebel is a little house of  
worship where many Jews come.

656

00:31:34,140 --> 00:31:39,450

And they have a rebbe that  
is the leader of that group.

657

00:31:39,450 --> 00:31:40,300

OK.

658  
00:31:40,300 --> 00:31:42,150  
And was this a  
shtiebel in Brooklyn?

659  
00:31:42,150 --> 00:31:44,730  
Or was this a shtiebel  
from back in Krakow

660  
00:31:44,730 --> 00:31:45,850  
that he was a member of?

661  
00:31:45,850 --> 00:31:47,910  
No, this was a  
shtiebel in Brooklyn.

662  
00:31:47,910 --> 00:31:50,850  
But many-- most of  
them were European.

663  
00:31:50,850 --> 00:31:52,280  
OK.

664  
00:31:52,280 --> 00:31:58,720  
And the talk around the dinner  
table in your home in Brooklyn,

665  
00:31:58,720 --> 00:32:01,390  
did it often reference the war?

666  
00:32:01,390 --> 00:32:02,990  
No.

667  
00:32:02,990 --> 00:32:03,650  
It didn't.

668  
00:32:03,650 --> 00:32:09,470  
I regret that very much as I got  
older and had my own children

669  
00:32:09,470 --> 00:32:13,870

because they were always  
interested in our history.

670  
00:32:13,870 --> 00:32:21,920  
And so growing up as a teenager,  
there was no talk about it.

671  
00:32:21,920 --> 00:32:25,443  
Was there ever talk of relatives  
who didn't live anymore,

672  
00:32:25,443 --> 00:32:26,360  
relatives who had to--

673  
00:32:26,360 --> 00:32:28,450  
If there was, it  
wasn't in front of me.

674  
00:32:28,450 --> 00:32:31,490

675  
00:32:31,490 --> 00:32:32,600  
OK.

676  
00:32:32,600 --> 00:32:35,870  
And what do you  
put that down to?

677  
00:32:35,870 --> 00:32:41,720  
They didn't want me to know  
the horrors of life, I guess.

678  
00:32:41,720 --> 00:32:44,490  
If somebody would get  
sick-- very, very sick--

679  
00:32:44,490 --> 00:32:47,050  
it was never told.

680  
00:32:47,050 --> 00:32:51,438  
It was like keeping bad  
things away from you.



681  
00:32:51,438 --> 00:32:52,330  
OK.

682  
00:32:52,330 --> 00:32:54,900  
Did it work?

683  
00:32:54,900 --> 00:32:57,880  
I have many regrets now.

684  
00:32:57,880 --> 00:32:59,160  
I don't think it works.

685  
00:32:59,160 --> 00:33:00,285  
I think you should be told.

686  
00:33:00,285 --> 00:33:05,240

687  
00:33:05,240 --> 00:33:07,010  
Was it difficult  
for your parents

688  
00:33:07,010 --> 00:33:11,210  
to adjust to the United  
States or relatively easy?

689  
00:33:11,210 --> 00:33:13,130  
It had to be.

690  
00:33:13,130 --> 00:33:14,900  
My mother had more comforts.

691  
00:33:14,900 --> 00:33:19,370  
But it had to be difficult.  
The language, number

692  
00:33:19,370 --> 00:33:23,060  
one, and keeping their faith--

693  
00:33:23,060 --> 00:33:25,880  
which they did without

any problem, of course.

694  
00:33:25,880 --> 00:33:33,780  
But just the difficulty  
of living the life

695  
00:33:33,780 --> 00:33:38,610  
that they had so many years  
ago, and the memories they

696  
00:33:38,610 --> 00:33:40,720  
must have had.

697  
00:33:40,720 --> 00:33:42,940  
And your father, did he--

698  
00:33:42,940 --> 00:33:45,970  
what kind of work did he find?

699  
00:33:45,970 --> 00:33:49,300  
We arrived on a  
Saturday morning.

700  
00:33:49,300 --> 00:33:52,000  
And my father had  
a job on Monday.

701  
00:33:52,000 --> 00:33:53,870  
That's amazing.

702  
00:33:53,870 --> 00:33:55,780  
That's amazing.

703  
00:33:55,780 --> 00:34:00,340  
We came to America knowing that  
there were no handouts for us,

704  
00:34:00,340 --> 00:34:03,430  
that we had to take  
care of ourselves.

705  
00:34:03,430 --> 00:34:06,850

And my father provided for us.

706  
00:34:06,850 --> 00:34:07,920  
OK.

707  
00:34:07,920 --> 00:34:09,389  
What was his job?

708  
00:34:09,389 --> 00:34:10,679  
Shoemaking.

709  
00:34:10,679 --> 00:34:12,358  
So it was same?

710  
00:34:12,358 --> 00:34:12,900  
He continued.

711  
00:34:12,900 --> 00:34:13,858  
He continued with his--

712  
00:34:13,858 --> 00:34:16,909

713  
00:34:16,909 --> 00:34:18,170  
With making shoes.

714  
00:34:18,170 --> 00:34:19,280  
Yeah.

715  
00:34:19,280 --> 00:34:23,540  
So while that doesn't sound  
so unusual in Europe, here,

716  
00:34:23,540 --> 00:34:27,620  
it sounds very unusual that  
you would have a person making

717  
00:34:27,620 --> 00:34:29,900  
custom shoes, you know?

718  
00:34:29,900 --> 00:34:31,280

Well, I don't know.

719

00:34:31,280 --> 00:34:33,080

They must have  
been custom shoes.

720

00:34:33,080 --> 00:34:38,239

But when he started working  
as a shoemaker in the states,

721

00:34:38,239 --> 00:34:41,210

he did piecework,  
meaning that he

722

00:34:41,210 --> 00:34:45,209

worked on a certain part of  
a shoe, not a whole shoe.

723

00:34:45,209 --> 00:34:47,690

Ah, OK.

724

00:34:47,690 --> 00:34:49,850

There were different  
people working

725

00:34:49,850 --> 00:34:53,210

different-- like the  
sole or whatever.

726

00:34:53,210 --> 00:34:56,120

What year is it that you  
came to the United States?

727

00:34:56,120 --> 00:34:57,320

What year?

728

00:34:57,320 --> 00:34:59,450

'49, 1949.

729

00:34:59,450 --> 00:35:01,290

And you were then 10 years old.

730

00:35:01,290 --> 00:35:03,040  
10 years old.

731  
00:35:03,040 --> 00:35:04,670  
Wow, what a first 10 years.

732  
00:35:04,670 --> 00:35:05,170  
Yeah.

733  
00:35:05,170 --> 00:35:06,590  
What a first 10 years it was.

734  
00:35:06,590 --> 00:35:07,090  
Yeah.

735  
00:35:07,090 --> 00:35:11,000

736  
00:35:11,000 --> 00:35:15,290  
When did-- did you know  
of the term Holocaust

737  
00:35:15,290 --> 00:35:16,970  
as you were growing up?

738  
00:35:16,970 --> 00:35:23,870  
Not really, not till later years  
when it became well-known--

739  
00:35:23,870 --> 00:35:27,770  
or, let's say, when the  
Holocaust Museum first

740  
00:35:27,770 --> 00:35:29,510  
started to become active.

741  
00:35:29,510 --> 00:35:32,750  
Before it was built, there  
was a lot of publicity.

742  
00:35:32,750 --> 00:35:37,130  
And so people started talking,

maybe even before then.

743

00:35:37,130 --> 00:35:41,780

So it was never brought up, or--

744

00:35:41,780 --> 00:35:43,430

Did you ever feel like it was--

745

00:35:43,430 --> 00:35:46,750

you were connected

to it in any way?

746

00:35:46,750 --> 00:35:47,680

I realized.

747

00:35:47,680 --> 00:35:54,780

As my years came up, as I was growing up, I realized that.

748

00:35:54,780 --> 00:35:59,010

I felt myself very

unique in certain ways--

749

00:35:59,010 --> 00:36:00,750

not happily, of course.

750

00:36:00,750 --> 00:36:03,480

Yeah.

751

00:36:03,480 --> 00:36:06,711

Do you think it

transmitted to you?

752

00:36:06,711 --> 00:36:10,140

It would had to

have some effect.

753

00:36:10,140 --> 00:36:12,810

But do you have a feeling--

do you have an idea of how?

754

00:36:12,810 --> 00:36:15,970

755  
00:36:15,970 --> 00:36:19,900  
I deeply, deeply  
regret that I don't

756  
00:36:19,900 --> 00:36:22,990  
have the memory that  
I would like to have

757  
00:36:22,990 --> 00:36:25,210  
about the Holocaust years.

758  
00:36:25,210 --> 00:36:26,450  
For your family.

759  
00:36:26,450 --> 00:36:28,322  
For my family.

760  
00:36:28,322 --> 00:36:30,010  
OK.

761  
00:36:30,010 --> 00:36:31,995  
You'd like to know  
what they went through.

762  
00:36:31,995 --> 00:36:32,495  
Yes.

763  
00:36:32,495 --> 00:36:35,150

764  
00:36:35,150 --> 00:36:40,990  
I can hear what my husband had  
said and what he went through.

765  
00:36:40,990 --> 00:36:45,080  
We're going to be  
married 60 years.

766  
00:36:45,080 --> 00:36:51,640  
And even though he told

you his whole life story,

767

00:36:51,640 --> 00:36:57,250

he never fully came  
out with very much.

768

00:36:57,250 --> 00:36:59,770

So I accepted him as he was.

769

00:36:59,770 --> 00:37:05,870

770

00:37:05,870 --> 00:37:07,980

And the same with my family.

771

00:37:07,980 --> 00:37:08,480

My--

772

00:37:08,480 --> 00:37:10,580

You said he didn't--

773

00:37:10,580 --> 00:37:12,780

Yeah.

774

00:37:12,780 --> 00:37:15,990

--that you didn't hear their  
life story in that way.

775

00:37:15,990 --> 00:37:21,840

Not really, not one-to-one,  
sitting across the table.

776

00:37:21,840 --> 00:37:24,180

No, my mother never spoke of it.

777

00:37:24,180 --> 00:37:26,105

My brother is very informative.

778

00:37:26,105 --> 00:37:30,900

He's really amazing.

779



00:37:30,900 --> 00:37:34,910  
But it's not something  
we talk about every day.

780  
00:37:34,910 --> 00:37:39,362  
And-- well, maybe now I  
can ask him more questions.

781  
00:37:39,362 --> 00:37:41,230  
Yeah.

782  
00:37:41,230 --> 00:37:44,080  
Has he ever had his story told?

783  
00:37:44,080 --> 00:37:46,230  
Yes, to the Shoah Foundation.

784  
00:37:46,230 --> 00:37:48,100  
OK.

785  
00:37:48,100 --> 00:37:51,610  
I don't think he has one  
with the Holocaust Museum.

786  
00:37:51,610 --> 00:37:52,600  
OK.

787  
00:37:52,600 --> 00:37:53,830  
But he has it there.

788  
00:37:53,830 --> 00:37:55,080  
That's the most [INAUDIBLE]

789  
00:37:55,080 --> 00:37:57,340  
Yeah, with the Shoah Foundation.

790  
00:37:57,340 --> 00:37:57,940  
OK.

791  
00:37:57,940 --> 00:37:58,440  
Yeah.

792  
00:37:58,440 --> 00:38:00,860

793  
00:38:00,860 --> 00:38:03,590  
When did questions  
first arise for you,

794  
00:38:03,590 --> 00:38:07,110  
when you had your own  
children or before then?

795  
00:38:07,110 --> 00:38:12,960  
I think when I started  
having children, I was--

796  
00:38:12,960 --> 00:38:17,430  
I became more alert  
to what had happened.

797  
00:38:17,430 --> 00:38:20,130  
And as they grew up, they  
were asking questions.

798  
00:38:20,130 --> 00:38:22,990  
They started asking questions.

799  
00:38:22,990 --> 00:38:27,630  
And again, my husband,  
in his old-fashioned way,

800  
00:38:27,630 --> 00:38:30,900  
would not talk about it.

801  
00:38:30,900 --> 00:38:33,000  
And I urged him for many years.

802  
00:38:33,000 --> 00:38:35,055  
I couldn't because I didn't--

803  
00:38:35,055 --> 00:38:39,720  
I wanted to remember on my own,  
not from what somebody told me.

804  
00:38:39,720 --> 00:38:41,310  
So I couldn't.

805  
00:38:41,310 --> 00:38:43,290  
Yeah.

806  
00:38:43,290 --> 00:38:44,220  
Yeah.

807  
00:38:44,220 --> 00:38:46,270  
That sounds so frustrating.

808  
00:38:46,270 --> 00:38:48,280  
It was very frustrating.

809  
00:38:48,280 --> 00:38:51,027  
I have to admit, he  
was very frustrating.

810  
00:38:51,027 --> 00:38:52,610  
Oh, you're talking  
about your husband.

811  
00:38:52,610 --> 00:38:53,110  
[LAUGHS]

812  
00:38:53,110 --> 00:38:53,903  
Yep.

813  
00:38:53,903 --> 00:38:54,570  
I was thinking--

814  
00:38:54,570 --> 00:38:56,580  
No, it's for my--

815  
00:38:56,580 --> 00:38:59,520  
I have deep frustration,  
needless to say, yeah.

816  
00:38:59,520 --> 00:39:04,530

817  
00:39:04,530 --> 00:39:07,200  
Can we cut the camera  
for just a second?

818  
00:39:07,200 --> 00:39:08,190  
OK.

819  
00:39:08,190 --> 00:39:11,100  
So your daughter just  
said that you had

820  
00:39:11,100 --> 00:39:14,700  
some experiences in a convent.

821  
00:39:14,700 --> 00:39:16,710  
Tell me about the circumstances.

822  
00:39:16,710 --> 00:39:18,240  
And what were those experiences?

823  
00:39:18,240 --> 00:39:21,310  
Well, I was a baby.

824  
00:39:21,310 --> 00:39:26,720  
And I was placed in a convent  
for a short period of time.

825  
00:39:26,720 --> 00:39:27,760  
And--

826  
00:39:27,760 --> 00:39:29,770  
This is after  
escaping the ghetto?

827  
00:39:29,770 --> 00:39:30,500  
Yes.

828  
00:39:30,500 --> 00:39:31,000  
OK.

829

00:39:31,000 --> 00:39:34,960

And it was not a  
good experience.

830

00:39:34,960 --> 00:39:37,740

It was, really, a  
dreadful experience.

831

00:39:37,740 --> 00:39:43,090

I was sick, and they  
were, really, very mean.

832

00:39:43,090 --> 00:39:43,930

And I was sick.

833

00:39:43,930 --> 00:39:46,330

And I was throwing  
up, whatever I had.

834

00:39:46,330 --> 00:39:48,680

And they kept feeding  
it back to me.

835

00:39:48,680 --> 00:39:50,640

Oh.

836

00:39:50,640 --> 00:39:51,350

Oh, how cruel.

837

00:39:51,350 --> 00:39:51,850

Mm-hmm.

838

00:39:51,850 --> 00:39:54,700

And you have memories of this?

839

00:39:54,700 --> 00:39:55,750

Yeah.

840

00:39:55,750 --> 00:39:58,780

That, I have a memory of--

841

00:39:58,780 --> 00:40:03,280  
just bits and pieces of  
it, not a full thing.

842  
00:40:03,280 --> 00:40:05,830  
But I do remember that.

843  
00:40:05,830 --> 00:40:11,670  
Because I remember crying and--

844  
00:40:11,670 --> 00:40:12,760  
yeah.

845  
00:40:12,760 --> 00:40:15,660  
Was this convent in  
Poland or in Hungary?

846  
00:40:15,660 --> 00:40:17,550  
I believe it was in Hungary.

847  
00:40:17,550 --> 00:40:19,770  
It wasn't in Poland.

848  
00:40:19,770 --> 00:40:23,040  
It must have been after  
we left the ghetto.

849  
00:40:23,040 --> 00:40:25,260  
So it could be that  
somewhere along the way,

850  
00:40:25,260 --> 00:40:29,181  
your parents left you  
there for some safekeeping.

851  
00:40:29,181 --> 00:40:30,000  
Mm-hmm.

852  
00:40:30,000 --> 00:40:32,220  
Correct, yeah.

853  
00:40:32,220 --> 00:40:39,090

And then was there an uncle who helped get some relatives back

854

00:40:39,090 --> 00:40:43,110  
from someplace, an Uncle Arthur?

855

00:40:43,110 --> 00:40:43,860  
That's my brother.

856

00:40:43,860 --> 00:40:44,860  
Oh, that's your brother.

857

00:40:44,860 --> 00:40:46,300  
That's my brother, her uncle.

858

00:40:46,300 --> 00:40:46,800  
[LAUGHS]

859

00:40:46,800 --> 00:40:48,880  
Her uncle, your daughter's uncle.

860

00:40:48,880 --> 00:40:49,800  
OK.

861

00:40:49,800 --> 00:40:53,800  
And what was his role about getting these relatives back?

862

00:40:53,800 --> 00:40:57,120  
Oh, this was when we were still in Krakow.

863

00:40:57,120 --> 00:40:59,130  
That is, when you were still a baby.

864

00:40:59,130 --> 00:40:59,830  
Yes.

865

00:40:59,830 --> 00:41:00,330  
All right.

866  
00:41:00,330 --> 00:41:02,220  
This was in Krakow.

867  
00:41:02,220 --> 00:41:06,090  
And about 10 miles  
away from Krakow,

868  
00:41:06,090 --> 00:41:08,160  
there's a town of Wieliczka.

869  
00:41:08,160 --> 00:41:09,960  
Wieliczka, OK.

870  
00:41:09,960 --> 00:41:14,140  
And we had family there.

871  
00:41:14,140 --> 00:41:22,200  
And my father sent my brother  
to take out some of our cousins,

872  
00:41:22,200 --> 00:41:28,080  
to bring this cousin back, this  
cousin Miriam I've mentioned.

873  
00:41:28,080 --> 00:41:36,090  
And so he trekked 10 miles to  
Wieliczka and 10 miles back,

874  
00:41:36,090 --> 00:41:39,010  
bringing her to us.

875  
00:41:39,010 --> 00:41:42,640  
And then the next day, or  
maybe a day or so later,

876  
00:41:42,640 --> 00:41:47,590  
my father sent him out again  
to bring a baby and somebody

877  
00:41:47,590 --> 00:41:50,000  
else back to Krakow.



878  
00:41:50,000 --> 00:41:52,000  
At that point, they  
were already gone.

879  
00:41:52,000 --> 00:41:54,190  
Oh.

880  
00:41:54,190 --> 00:41:59,210  
So Miriam survived because  
of my father, my brother.

881  
00:41:59,210 --> 00:42:00,160  
Yeah.

882  
00:42:00,160 --> 00:42:01,240  
Wow.

883  
00:42:01,240 --> 00:42:03,740  
Wow.

884  
00:42:03,740 --> 00:42:08,690  
They're fragments, but they're  
very poignant fragments

885  
00:42:08,690 --> 00:42:09,750  
that you've got.

886  
00:42:09,750 --> 00:42:10,940  
Yeah.

887  
00:42:10,940 --> 00:42:12,450  
That's a good way of putting it.

888  
00:42:12,450 --> 00:42:14,465  
I never thought about  
using that word.

889  
00:42:14,465 --> 00:42:14,965  
Yeah.

890

00:42:14,965 --> 00:42:16,910  
But they are.

891  
00:42:16,910 --> 00:42:20,120  
They're quite meaningful.

892  
00:42:20,120 --> 00:42:21,890  
Have you been back to Krakow?

893  
00:42:21,890 --> 00:42:23,270  
Yes.

894  
00:42:23,270 --> 00:42:26,580  
We were back twice,  
as a matter of fact.

895  
00:42:26,580 --> 00:42:29,840  
The first time-- excuse me.

896  
00:42:29,840 --> 00:42:34,480  
The first time, we were  
in Russia for a while.

897  
00:42:34,480 --> 00:42:36,670  
And we were-- oh,  
we were in Belarus.

898  
00:42:36,670 --> 00:42:38,780  
And we took a trip to Krakow.

899  
00:42:38,780 --> 00:42:41,050  
And we spent a week there.

900  
00:42:41,050 --> 00:42:42,190  
It was amazing.

901  
00:42:42,190 --> 00:42:44,950  
It was absolutely amazing.

902  
00:42:44,950 --> 00:42:48,430  
And then we took the  
whole family with us

903  
00:42:48,430 --> 00:42:50,860  
about three years ago  
or four years ago.

904  
00:42:50,860 --> 00:42:53,800  
When you say the first time,  
that was with your husband.

905  
00:42:53,800 --> 00:42:55,070  
Just my husband, yeah.

906  
00:42:55,070 --> 00:42:55,570  
OK.

907  
00:42:55,570 --> 00:42:58,510  
And since you don't  
have memories of Krakow,

908  
00:42:58,510 --> 00:43:00,350  
did you know where you lived?

909  
00:43:00,350 --> 00:43:00,850  
OK.

910  
00:43:00,850 --> 00:43:01,750  
Can we cut for a second.

911  
00:43:01,750 --> 00:43:02,350  
Oh, I'm sorry.

912  
00:43:02,350 --> 00:43:06,240

913  
00:43:06,240 --> 00:43:09,078  
So you weren't able to  
really recognize any place

914  
00:43:09,078 --> 00:43:11,120  
that you would have lived  
in or your family would

915  
00:43:11,120 --> 00:43:11,703  
have lived in.

916  
00:43:11,703 --> 00:43:14,430  
We went to visit the house  
we lived in with-- the house

917  
00:43:14,430 --> 00:43:16,000  
where I was born.

918  
00:43:16,000 --> 00:43:18,510  
I was born in the apartment.

919  
00:43:18,510 --> 00:43:20,400  
But they would not let us in.

920  
00:43:20,400 --> 00:43:21,810  
Oh.

921  
00:43:21,810 --> 00:43:28,370  
And what it looks  
like now, it's lovely.

922  
00:43:28,370 --> 00:43:31,760  
And the area looked  
very, very nice.

923  
00:43:31,760 --> 00:43:34,500  
And the city of  
Krakow is beautiful.

924  
00:43:34,500 --> 00:43:35,830  
Yes, it is.

925  
00:43:35,830 --> 00:43:39,580  
And it was an experience  
going back, especially

926  
00:43:39,580 --> 00:43:44,530  
for my children, seeing  
the place where I was born.

927

00:43:44,530 --> 00:43:47,230

It was wonderful  
having them with me.

928

00:43:47,230 --> 00:43:49,310

I can believe that.

929

00:43:49,310 --> 00:43:50,870

Is there anything  
else you'd like

930

00:43:50,870 --> 00:43:54,170

to add to what we've  
talked about right now?

931

00:43:54,170 --> 00:43:57,200

Nothing specifically  
that I can think of.

932

00:43:57,200 --> 00:43:59,380

But I think you're wonderful  
with your questions.

933

00:43:59,380 --> 00:43:59,880

Oh, good.

934

00:43:59,880 --> 00:44:00,380

[LAUGHS]

935

00:44:00,380 --> 00:44:05,750

And thank you for letting  
me speak my few words.

936

00:44:05,750 --> 00:44:07,280

Oh, well, thank you.

937

00:44:07,280 --> 00:44:10,340

As I said with your husband,  
it's an honor, it really is.

938

00:44:10,340 --> 00:44:11,600

Thank you so much.

939  
00:44:11,600 --> 00:44:12,590  
OK.

940  
00:44:12,590 --> 00:44:17,000  
So I will say this concludes  
the United States Holocaust

941  
00:44:17,000 --> 00:44:23,030  
Memorial Museum interview with  
Mrs. Barbara Firestone nee

942  
00:44:23,030 --> 00:44:31,000  
[? Bronislava ?] Spielman  
on February 7, 2019

943  
00:44:31,000 --> 00:44:32,770  
in Silver Spring, Maryland.

944  
00:44:32,770 --> 00:44:34,270  
[APPLAUSE]

945  
00:44:34,270 --> 00:44:35,820  
[LAUGHS]