

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:01,950

2
00:00:01,950 --> 00:00:06,360
This is a United States
Holocaust Memorial Museum

3
00:00:06,360 --> 00:00:15,570
interview with Mrs. Esther
Starobin on May 20, 2020,

4
00:00:15,570 --> 00:00:18,840
taking place in Silver
Spring, Maryland, where

5
00:00:18,840 --> 00:00:22,380
Mrs. Starobin is via telephone.

6
00:00:22,380 --> 00:00:27,270
And I am going to start
our interview with the most

7
00:00:27,270 --> 00:00:29,140
basic questions.

8
00:00:29,140 --> 00:00:31,900
And we'll take
things from there.

9
00:00:31,900 --> 00:00:34,890
So first of all, thank
you very much for agreeing

10
00:00:34,890 --> 00:00:37,110
to speak with us today.

11
00:00:37,110 --> 00:00:42,930
And I'm going to start out with
the basic of the basic, which

12
00:00:42,930 --> 00:00:45,480

is can you tell me the
date of your birth?

13
00:00:45,480 --> 00:00:49,440
April 3, 1937.

14
00:00:49,440 --> 00:00:51,400
And where were you born?

15
00:00:51,400 --> 00:00:53,970
I was born in
Adelsheim, Germany.

16
00:00:53,970 --> 00:00:59,002
And do I spell that A-
D- E- L- S- H-E-I-M?

17
00:00:59,002 --> 00:01:00,100
Adelsheim?

18
00:01:00,100 --> 00:01:00,600
You do.

19
00:01:00,600 --> 00:01:04,410

20
00:01:04,410 --> 00:01:06,570
And what was your name at birth?

21
00:01:06,570 --> 00:01:08,970
Esther Rosenfeld.

22
00:01:08,970 --> 00:01:14,650
And would have that been
E-S-T-H- E-R or E-S-T- E-R.

23
00:01:14,650 --> 00:01:17,610
I think it was E-S-T-
E- R when I was born.

24
00:01:17,610 --> 00:01:20,310
But now it's got an H.

25
00:01:20,310 --> 00:01:22,800
And did you have
brothers and sisters?

26
00:01:22,800 --> 00:01:23,620
I did.

27
00:01:23,620 --> 00:01:26,640
I was the youngest of five.

28
00:01:26,640 --> 00:01:30,390
Can you tell me their
names and approximately

29
00:01:30,390 --> 00:01:32,250
when they were born?

30
00:01:32,250 --> 00:01:33,390
Yes.

31
00:01:33,390 --> 00:01:39,040
My oldest sister, Bertl-- so she
was Bertha when she was born--

32
00:01:39,040 --> 00:01:43,720
was born in October 1925.

33
00:01:43,720 --> 00:01:47,670
My second sister
was Edith Beate--

34
00:01:47,670 --> 00:01:55,080
B-E-A-T-E-- was born
in February 1927.

35
00:01:55,080 --> 00:02:01,030
And my sister, Ruth,
was born August 1930.

36
00:02:01,030 --> 00:02:04,960
And my brother, Herman, was

born and that's with two--

37
00:02:04,960 --> 00:02:08,650
he was born with two Ns--

38
00:02:08,650 --> 00:02:11,039
April 1933.

39
00:02:11,039 --> 00:02:14,760
So that would have
been H-E-R- M- A- N-N--

40
00:02:14,760 --> 00:02:15,260
Yeah.

41
00:02:15,260 --> 00:02:18,520
--in the way that it would
be spelled in Germany.

42
00:02:18,520 --> 00:02:19,090
Yes.

43
00:02:19,090 --> 00:02:20,780
Did he later change his name?

44
00:02:20,780 --> 00:02:21,280
He did.

45
00:02:21,280 --> 00:02:24,700
He later changed to just one N.

46
00:02:24,700 --> 00:02:30,340
So there's about a 12-year
span between your oldest

47
00:02:30,340 --> 00:02:33,080
sister and yourself.

48
00:02:33,080 --> 00:02:34,360
Right.

49

00:02:34,360 --> 00:02:37,050
12, 11 1/2 years, and so on.

50
00:02:37,050 --> 00:02:41,800
And can you tell me about
your parents, then--

51
00:02:41,800 --> 00:02:45,580
your mother's maiden name
and her first name and then

52
00:02:45,580 --> 00:02:46,900
your father's?

53
00:02:46,900 --> 00:02:51,310
My mother was Katie
Limburger Rosenfeld.

54
00:02:51,310 --> 00:02:54,400
And she came from
Rexingen. And my--

55
00:02:54,400 --> 00:02:57,000
Was that a town close by?

56
00:02:57,000 --> 00:02:57,810
Was it a what?

57
00:02:57,810 --> 00:03:00,540
A town close by Adelsheim?

58
00:03:00,540 --> 00:03:05,610
It's not real far, but it's
not real close, either.

59
00:03:05,610 --> 00:03:09,330
And my father was Adolph.

60
00:03:09,330 --> 00:03:14,310
And he was born in Korb, which
is very close to Adelsheim.

61

00:03:14,310 --> 00:03:16,550
Would that be K-O-R-D?

62
00:03:16,550 --> 00:03:17,220
It would be.

63
00:03:17,220 --> 00:03:23,288

64
00:03:23,288 --> 00:03:30,070
If you were born in 1937, that's
already just over four years

65
00:03:30,070 --> 00:03:36,490
since Hitler comes to
power and, in other words,

66
00:03:36,490 --> 00:03:37,770
at a very troubling time.

67
00:03:37,770 --> 00:03:40,500

68
00:03:40,500 --> 00:03:43,590
Do you-- and I
assume that you don't

69
00:03:43,590 --> 00:03:47,790
have any memory of your early
years, your first couple

70
00:03:47,790 --> 00:03:50,520
of years at home.

71
00:03:50,520 --> 00:03:53,310
I don't, and I
left Adelsheim when

72
00:03:53,310 --> 00:03:55,800
I was two years
old and two months,

73

00:03:55,800 --> 00:03:58,080
and I don't remember it at all.

74
00:03:58,080 --> 00:04:05,230
When you say you left
Adelsheim, did you leave alone?

75
00:04:05,230 --> 00:04:08,020
I left on the
Kindertransport, and I

76
00:04:08,020 --> 00:04:15,310
did because my sisters had been
living in Aachen before that

77
00:04:15,310 --> 00:04:18,760
with my mother's sisters.

78
00:04:18,760 --> 00:04:20,890
And they had gone
on a Kindertransport

79
00:04:20,890 --> 00:04:25,350
in March of 1939.

80
00:04:25,350 --> 00:04:27,870
Just before your
second birthday.

81
00:04:27,870 --> 00:04:30,230
Right.

82
00:04:30,230 --> 00:04:34,490
So that would have been
Bertl, Edith, and Ruth.

83
00:04:34,490 --> 00:04:35,570
That's right.

84
00:04:35,570 --> 00:04:36,530
And what about Herman?

85

00:04:36,530 --> 00:04:38,720
Did he ever go on
a Kindertransport?

86
00:04:38,720 --> 00:04:41,450
No, and that's a big
mystery in our family.

87
00:04:41,450 --> 00:04:44,510
Why did they send me
and not my brother?

88
00:04:44,510 --> 00:04:47,630
And I got a couple of theories.

89
00:04:47,630 --> 00:04:49,865
One, boys were more
precious than girls.

90
00:04:49,865 --> 00:04:50,840
[LAUGHS]

91
00:04:50,840 --> 00:04:53,300
And they wanted to
keep them handy.

92
00:04:53,300 --> 00:04:57,050
At all when the opportunity
came for me to go,

93
00:04:57,050 --> 00:05:01,910
he had been sent to school
and wasn't in Adelsheim.

94
00:05:01,910 --> 00:05:03,500
He wasn't in Aachen.

95
00:05:03,500 --> 00:05:06,530
He was in Heilbronn, I think.

96
00:05:06,530 --> 00:05:10,070
I'm not exactly sure,
but maybe he wasn't home,

97

00:05:10,070 --> 00:05:13,190

or maybe it was
harder to send boys.

98

00:05:13,190 --> 00:05:17,640

But a six-year-old boy
isn't going to be a spy.

99

00:05:17,640 --> 00:05:18,140

No.

100

00:05:18,140 --> 00:05:20,780

So I really don't know.

101

00:05:20,780 --> 00:05:22,800

Did he survive the war?

102

00:05:22,800 --> 00:05:24,110

He did.

103

00:05:24,110 --> 00:05:26,720

And how did he survive the war?

104

00:05:26,720 --> 00:05:30,350

Well, my parents, as were
all the people in Baden

105

00:05:30,350 --> 00:05:35,930

were deported to France
October 28, 1940.

106

00:05:35,930 --> 00:05:40,310

And when he was in the
camps, the OSE organization

107

00:05:40,310 --> 00:05:41,990

took children out of the camp.

108

00:05:41,990 --> 00:05:44,270

They were Gurs to begin with.

109

00:05:44,270 --> 00:05:47,180

And they took the
children out of the camps.

110

00:05:47,180 --> 00:05:52,670

They had hostel places for them
and taught them to read and do

111

00:05:52,670 --> 00:05:53,640

all that stuff.

112

00:05:53,640 --> 00:05:57,920

And then in 1941, they managed
to bring 1,000 children

113

00:05:57,920 --> 00:06:00,110

to the United States.

114

00:06:00,110 --> 00:06:02,300

So that's how he got here.

115

00:06:02,300 --> 00:06:04,580

That's amazing, actually.

116

00:06:04,580 --> 00:06:08,210

So he was deported with your
parents to Gurs in France.

117

00:06:08,210 --> 00:06:09,050

He was.

118

00:06:09,050 --> 00:06:12,950

And I didn't catch the name
of the organization that--

119

00:06:12,950 --> 00:06:16,790

It's OSE It's a French name,
[SPEAKING FRENCH],, something,

120

00:06:16,790 --> 00:06:17,570

something that--

121

00:06:17,570 --> 00:06:20,448

I don't remember the
other two words for it.

122

00:06:20,448 --> 00:06:20,990

Do you know--

123

00:06:20,990 --> 00:06:23,600

But it was an
organization that was

124

00:06:23,600 --> 00:06:28,340

helping to take care of
the children in France.

125

00:06:28,340 --> 00:06:31,430

And they apparently had
a lot of these homes.

126

00:06:31,430 --> 00:06:37,820

And we knew, from some letters
that Bertl had from our mother

127

00:06:37,820 --> 00:06:40,340

and father when they were
in the camps, that Herman

128

00:06:40,340 --> 00:06:42,260

had gone to one of these.

129

00:06:42,260 --> 00:06:45,240

And they never
said where he was.

130

00:06:45,240 --> 00:06:47,420

They just said he was gone.

131

00:06:47,420 --> 00:06:51,890

And I am friends with a
young woman from Vienna

132

00:06:51,890 --> 00:06:56,270

who lives in Munich now
and has done research

133
00:06:56,270 --> 00:07:00,260
on somebody who was one
of these 1,000 children

134
00:07:00,260 --> 00:07:04,190
that came to the
United States in '41.

135
00:07:04,190 --> 00:07:09,140
And Herman and this man
either came on the same ship,

136
00:07:09,140 --> 00:07:12,590
and there was a list that--

137
00:07:12,590 --> 00:07:14,090
Ron, what the heck is his name--

138
00:07:14,090 --> 00:07:15,938
Ron at the museum--

139
00:07:15,938 --> 00:07:16,730
when he came into--

140
00:07:16,730 --> 00:07:17,605
Ron Coleman probably.

141
00:07:17,605 --> 00:07:19,790
Ron Coleman-- when
he was doing research

142
00:07:19,790 --> 00:07:22,130
for the exhibit on what
the Americans knew,

143
00:07:22,130 --> 00:07:26,390
he found a picture that includes
my brother looking, waiting

144

00:07:26,390 --> 00:07:29,030
to get on the ship in Lisbon.

145
00:07:29,030 --> 00:07:31,130
And there's a list
of who the kids are.

146
00:07:31,130 --> 00:07:32,700
And Arthur was on that list.

147
00:07:32,700 --> 00:07:37,417
So when Lilly, the
researcher, has done research

148
00:07:37,417 --> 00:07:39,000
because she wrote a
book about Arthur,

149
00:07:39,000 --> 00:07:40,770
she found out more
stuff about Herman,

150
00:07:40,770 --> 00:07:43,922
and that's actually how we
know quite a bit about Herman

151
00:07:43,922 --> 00:07:46,380
because he would never talk
about any of this [INAUDIBLE]..

152
00:07:46,380 --> 00:07:47,630
Oh, really?

153
00:07:47,630 --> 00:07:51,400
No, never, never ever.

154
00:07:51,400 --> 00:07:57,760
Well, I can understand that
because these things happened

155
00:07:57,760 --> 00:08:01,450
when he was a child.

156

00:08:01,450 --> 00:08:02,770

He saw the deportation.

157

00:08:02,770 --> 00:08:04,960

He was part of the deportation.

158

00:08:04,960 --> 00:08:14,530

And children-- it's harder
for them to incorporate that.

159

00:08:14,530 --> 00:08:19,000

He came to the United
States when he was eight.

160

00:08:19,000 --> 00:08:22,870

By the time he was eight,
his sisters had disappeared.

161

00:08:22,870 --> 00:08:25,070

He had been sent away to school.

162

00:08:25,070 --> 00:08:26,890

He had been deported to a camp.

163

00:08:26,890 --> 00:08:29,560

Then he was in this OSE hostel.

164

00:08:29,560 --> 00:08:32,679

When he got to New York,
they knew he had family here,

165

00:08:32,679 --> 00:08:34,480

but they didn't know where.

166

00:08:34,480 --> 00:08:38,049

So he was in a home
in New York until they

167

00:08:38,049 --> 00:08:40,659

found where his uncles were.

168

00:08:40,659 --> 00:08:42,190
And he was eight years old.

169
00:08:42,190 --> 00:08:43,870
Yeah, exactly, exactly.

170
00:08:43,870 --> 00:08:47,920
I mean, no wonder he
wouldn't remember.

171
00:08:47,920 --> 00:08:49,990
And so--

172
00:08:49,990 --> 00:08:51,340
And he also--

173
00:08:51,340 --> 00:08:53,990
--he was never interviewed?

174
00:08:53,990 --> 00:08:56,170
I don't think so.

175
00:08:56,170 --> 00:08:57,580
Is he still alive?

176
00:08:57,580 --> 00:09:00,050
No, he died when he was 57.

177
00:09:00,050 --> 00:09:00,550
Oh my.

178
00:09:00,550 --> 00:09:03,640
And I think if he had
lived to be older,

179
00:09:03,640 --> 00:09:07,570
I think when you
get older, sometimes

180
00:09:07,570 --> 00:09:08,780
you're ready to go back.

181
00:09:08,780 --> 00:09:10,600
And he, apparently--

182
00:09:10,600 --> 00:09:12,070
I think his wife
told me-- he had

183
00:09:12,070 --> 00:09:15,760
started talking to his
rabbi about it a little bit.

184
00:09:15,760 --> 00:09:17,260
But it's really interesting.

185
00:09:17,260 --> 00:09:22,330
Quite a lot of the cousins have
applied for German citizenship.

186
00:09:22,330 --> 00:09:25,660
And his children just think it's
terrible they're doing that,

187
00:09:25,660 --> 00:09:26,430
just--

188
00:09:26,430 --> 00:09:29,300
they don't understand it at all.

189
00:09:29,300 --> 00:09:33,830
And going on the
Kindertransport,

190
00:09:33,830 --> 00:09:38,620
I don't remember my parents,
but I didn't have an awful life.

191
00:09:38,620 --> 00:09:42,040
And his really was
until he came here.

192
00:09:42,040 --> 00:09:44,530
And then it was hard at

first when he was here,

193
00:09:44,530 --> 00:09:48,210
living with his aunt and uncle.

194
00:09:48,210 --> 00:09:52,850
I'm jumping ahead of our story,
but to come to the United

195
00:09:52,850 --> 00:09:55,250
States, to get to
the part where you're

196
00:09:55,250 --> 00:10:00,140
all in the United States,
which is several years later,

197
00:10:00,140 --> 00:10:01,430
there were five siblings.

198
00:10:01,430 --> 00:10:04,040
Did you ever live
together again?

199
00:10:04,040 --> 00:10:04,650
No.

200
00:10:04,650 --> 00:10:09,170
Herman stayed with his aunt
where he had been living.

201
00:10:09,170 --> 00:10:10,820
And he called them mom and dad.

202
00:10:10,820 --> 00:10:12,680
I mean, that was that.

203
00:10:12,680 --> 00:10:17,270
And my sisters and I lived
with a different aunt and uncle

204
00:10:17,270 --> 00:10:19,950

in a great big house on
North Capitol Street.

205
00:10:19,950 --> 00:10:22,610
There was another
refugee family there,

206
00:10:22,610 --> 00:10:24,450
and it was a really
bad experience.

207
00:10:24,450 --> 00:10:25,670
[LAUGHS]

208
00:10:25,670 --> 00:10:27,310
With the other family?

209
00:10:27,310 --> 00:10:29,090
No, just living in
that house with-- yeah.

210
00:10:29,090 --> 00:10:29,590
Oh.

211
00:10:29,590 --> 00:10:34,895

212
00:10:34,895 --> 00:10:39,580
Was it because of all of the
turmoil that had gone on,

213
00:10:39,580 --> 00:10:44,410
or was it for other reasons,
more personality maybe related?

214
00:10:44,410 --> 00:10:48,400
Well, for me I didn't
really know my sisters.

215
00:10:48,400 --> 00:10:50,478
I mean, they used
to visit in Norwich

216
00:10:50,478 --> 00:10:51,520
where I lived in England.

217
00:10:51,520 --> 00:10:53,410
But I didn't really know them.

218
00:10:53,410 --> 00:10:55,990
I certainly didn't
know my aunt and uncle.

219
00:10:55,990 --> 00:10:57,820
One of my cousins
was a big bully

220
00:10:57,820 --> 00:10:59,930
and was really nasty to me.

221
00:10:59,930 --> 00:11:02,650
And I didn't know
what to do about it.

222
00:11:02,650 --> 00:11:06,580
And if I had known, I
should have told my sisters.

223
00:11:06,580 --> 00:11:11,860
But I didn't know them enough
to know that was what to do.

224
00:11:11,860 --> 00:11:16,060
And I had a new
religion, new family.

225
00:11:16,060 --> 00:11:17,350
Everything was new.

226
00:11:17,350 --> 00:11:21,850
And then I went to
school, and the teacher

227
00:11:21,850 --> 00:11:24,700
used to make fun of when I

used English words that are

228

00:11:24,700 --> 00:11:26,800
different than American words.

229

00:11:26,800 --> 00:11:29,920
And now, as an
adult, an old adult,

230

00:11:29,920 --> 00:11:33,250
I look back and realize it
probably wasn't personal.

231

00:11:33,250 --> 00:11:36,110
It was probably because she
wasn't happy with immigrants,

232

00:11:36,110 --> 00:11:38,410
especially living
today where you

233

00:11:38,410 --> 00:11:44,980
get this anti-immigrant
stuff and that I also

234

00:11:44,980 --> 00:11:48,700
had a lazy eye, which had not
been taken care of in England.

235

00:11:48,700 --> 00:11:50,590
And when I first came
here, they decided--

236

00:11:50,590 --> 00:11:52,040
I was 10 years old--

237

00:11:52,040 --> 00:11:53,470
I should wear a patch on my eye.

238

00:11:53,470 --> 00:11:55,300
Well, I was peculiar enough.

239

00:11:55,300 --> 00:11:58,090
I wasn't going to go to
school with a patch on my eye.

240
00:11:58,090 --> 00:11:59,570
So I used to take that off.

241
00:11:59,570 --> 00:12:02,920
[LAUGHS] Yeah, and school
in England at that time

242
00:12:02,920 --> 00:12:06,250
was much further advanced
than school here.

243
00:12:06,250 --> 00:12:11,290
I mean the only new thing was
learning to diagram sentences.

244
00:12:11,290 --> 00:12:13,030
And I couldn't see the point.

245
00:12:13,030 --> 00:12:15,515
If you didn't know the
grammar, you couldn't do it.

246
00:12:15,515 --> 00:12:16,360
[LAUGHS] This is
true, absolutely.

247
00:12:16,360 --> 00:12:18,280
And if you knew the grammar,
why did you need to?

248
00:12:18,280 --> 00:12:18,610
Need it-- [LAUGHS].

249
00:12:18,610 --> 00:12:20,320
And I didn't know the grammar.

250
00:12:20,320 --> 00:12:22,590
Grammar was not a big
thing in England [LAUGHS]

251
00:12:22,590 --> 00:12:24,430
in the schools.

252
00:12:24,430 --> 00:12:26,950
But then I went to junior high.

253
00:12:26,950 --> 00:12:29,860
And I had a great
junior high homeroom

254
00:12:29,860 --> 00:12:34,630
teacher and a Spanish teacher
who was really very special.

255
00:12:34,630 --> 00:12:36,730
So it's more these--

256
00:12:36,730 --> 00:12:39,340
when you come to
the United States,

257
00:12:39,340 --> 00:12:44,860
these people are all family,
but they're strangers.

258
00:12:44,860 --> 00:12:46,600
But they were strangers.

259
00:12:46,600 --> 00:12:48,520
I mean, my sisters
weren't strangers.

260
00:12:48,520 --> 00:12:51,340
I just didn't know them
the way you know people

261
00:12:51,340 --> 00:12:52,730
when you live with them.

262
00:12:52,730 --> 00:12:55,780
And my sister Edie

came a year after we

263
00:12:55,780 --> 00:12:57,550
did because she was
in the British Army,

264
00:12:57,550 --> 00:13:00,970
and she had to be demobilized.

265
00:13:00,970 --> 00:13:04,710
And my sister Ruth went
off-- she went to high school

266
00:13:04,710 --> 00:13:07,210
when we first got here, even
though she'd been out of school

267
00:13:07,210 --> 00:13:07,780
in England.

268
00:13:07,780 --> 00:13:11,320
And then she went to college
and lived at college.

269
00:13:11,320 --> 00:13:16,280
And my sister Bertl
was trying to make--

270
00:13:16,280 --> 00:13:19,510
she was a young woman trying
to make it in a new country

271
00:13:19,510 --> 00:13:20,635
without a lot of support.

272
00:13:20,635 --> 00:13:23,260

273
00:13:23,260 --> 00:13:25,450
And then she had
me to hang onto.

274

00:13:25,450 --> 00:13:29,210
Edie came a year later.

275
00:13:29,210 --> 00:13:32,800
She arrived the day that
Truman defeated Dewey.

276
00:13:32,800 --> 00:13:33,580
Really.

277
00:13:33,580 --> 00:13:34,080
[LAUGHS]

278
00:13:34,080 --> 00:13:37,230
[LAUGHS] She couldn't understand
why nobody was paying attention

279
00:13:37,230 --> 00:13:37,846
to her.

280
00:13:37,846 --> 00:13:38,346
[LAUGHS]

281
00:13:38,346 --> 00:13:45,940
[LAUGHS] Oh, how deflating,
how deflating that.

282
00:13:45,940 --> 00:13:49,690
Let's go back now because
we've jumped forward.

283
00:13:49,690 --> 00:13:51,840
I want to look back.

284
00:13:51,840 --> 00:13:57,800
When I look back to
Adelsheim, how did your father

285
00:13:57,800 --> 00:14:00,560
support five children?

286
00:14:00,560 --> 00:14:06,770

He sold grain to farmers and
arranged for cows or horses

287
00:14:06,770 --> 00:14:09,140
to be traded, that
kind of thing.

288
00:14:09,140 --> 00:14:13,130
And actually, I have found
out, again through something

289
00:14:13,130 --> 00:14:15,500
at the museum, that the
business was actually

290
00:14:15,500 --> 00:14:17,400
in my mother's name.

291
00:14:17,400 --> 00:14:20,420
My father had been in
the First World War

292
00:14:20,420 --> 00:14:23,540
and had a leg amputated.

293
00:14:23,540 --> 00:14:25,880
So originally, before
he was in the war,

294
00:14:25,880 --> 00:14:27,890
he had apprenticed
to be a baker.

295
00:14:27,890 --> 00:14:30,800
But you can't really be
a Baker on a wooden leg

296
00:14:30,800 --> 00:14:32,086
too usually easily.

297
00:14:32,086 --> 00:14:32,920
No, not easily, no.

298

00:14:32,920 --> 00:14:36,080

And I think my
mother's father had

299

00:14:36,080 --> 00:14:39,380

been in a similar
business in Rexingen. Now,

300

00:14:39,380 --> 00:14:43,650

that's probably why they went
into that kind of business.

301

00:14:43,650 --> 00:14:47,400

And it was hard for him to
get on and off the cart.

302

00:14:47,400 --> 00:14:49,040

So my mother often--

303

00:14:49,040 --> 00:14:51,380

this is what I've heard.

304

00:14:51,380 --> 00:14:53,560

All of this is hearsay.

305

00:14:53,560 --> 00:14:54,560

[LAUGHS]

306

00:14:54,560 --> 00:14:56,300

You're the youngest,
and you never

307

00:14:56,300 --> 00:14:58,100

had a chance to know them.

308

00:14:58,100 --> 00:14:58,850

Right.

309

00:14:58,850 --> 00:15:00,860

But I'm the keeper
of the family history

310

00:15:00,860 --> 00:15:02,750

because all my
siblings have died.

311

00:15:02,750 --> 00:15:04,310

And I was the only
one who really

312

00:15:04,310 --> 00:15:05,990

got involved with doing this.

313

00:15:05,990 --> 00:15:09,766

314

00:15:09,766 --> 00:15:10,731

What was I-- yeah.

315

00:15:10,731 --> 00:15:13,890

316

00:15:13,890 --> 00:15:16,620

It was how they made a
living, and the business

317

00:15:16,620 --> 00:15:17,480

was in her name.

318

00:15:17,480 --> 00:15:19,890

Yeah, yeah, that's
that's how he did that.

319

00:15:19,890 --> 00:15:27,780

And he lost the business the
February before I was born.

320

00:15:27,780 --> 00:15:33,280

Somebody took him to court,
said that he had arranged

321

00:15:33,280 --> 00:15:35,570

something with a bad cow.

322

00:15:35,570 --> 00:15:38,440

And he, of course,
lost the court case.

323

00:15:38,440 --> 00:15:39,580

And it's interesting.

324

00:15:39,580 --> 00:15:44,260

I've had it translated--
not exactly, but sort of--

325

00:15:44,260 --> 00:15:46,730

and the judge just
called him Jew Rosenfeld.

326

00:15:46,730 --> 00:15:48,520

He didn't even use his name.

327

00:15:48,520 --> 00:15:49,730

But he, of course, lost.

328

00:15:49,730 --> 00:15:52,250

There was no way he
was not going to lose.

329

00:15:52,250 --> 00:15:54,820

And he had to pay the court
costs, pay for the cow,

330

00:15:54,820 --> 00:15:56,170

and he lost his business.

331

00:15:56,170 --> 00:16:01,210

So I don't know how they
lived after that-- not well.

332

00:16:01,210 --> 00:16:03,880

Was there a family
home, originally,

333

00:16:03,880 --> 00:16:06,190

or did they live

in an apartment?

334
00:16:06,190 --> 00:16:07,550
Do you know anything?

335
00:16:07,550 --> 00:16:08,860
They had a house.

336
00:16:08,860 --> 00:16:10,960
And one floor of
the house, there

337
00:16:10,960 --> 00:16:13,500
were ladies living
on that floor.

338
00:16:13,500 --> 00:16:15,700
So I guess it was rented out.

339
00:16:15,700 --> 00:16:21,820
And there was a garage
shelter, a shed, or something

340
00:16:21,820 --> 00:16:24,970
on the side because my sister
Bertl said they had goats,

341
00:16:24,970 --> 00:16:28,000
and they had to drink goat milk,
and she didn't like goat milk.

342
00:16:28,000 --> 00:16:28,720
[LAUGHS]

343
00:16:28,720 --> 00:16:30,790
So it was at the backyard.

344
00:16:30,790 --> 00:16:39,690
And I think my father owed
money, from something I read,

345
00:16:39,690 --> 00:16:45,090

that he had a loan from
the bank, I think it was.

346
00:16:45,090 --> 00:16:49,890
But you see, the house they
had in Korb, which had also--

347
00:16:49,890 --> 00:16:51,713
Which was where
your father is from.

348
00:16:51,713 --> 00:16:53,130
Where I was born--
and my parents,

349
00:16:53,130 --> 00:16:55,530
when they were first
married, lived in Korb.

350
00:16:55,530 --> 00:17:01,650
And Edie, Bertl was born about
a year after they were married.

351
00:17:01,650 --> 00:17:06,990
And by that-- the synagogue had
actually been in that house.

352
00:17:06,990 --> 00:17:09,569
And by the time
Bertl was born, there

353
00:17:09,569 --> 00:17:12,119
weren't enough Jews
in Korb anymore

354
00:17:12,119 --> 00:17:15,750
to have a minyan, which is
why they moved to Adelsheim.

355
00:17:15,750 --> 00:17:18,340
Was there more of a
Jewish community there?

356

00:17:18,340 --> 00:17:21,240

Oh, I think there were
about 10 Jewish families.

357

00:17:21,240 --> 00:17:23,160

It wasn't a big
Jewish community.

358

00:17:23,160 --> 00:17:25,650

I mean, it was a little place.

359

00:17:25,650 --> 00:17:30,450

But when Bertl and
I went back in 1940,

360

00:17:30,450 --> 00:17:32,940

we got to go in
this house, which

361

00:17:32,940 --> 00:17:36,690

is no longer usable because
the ceilings were so low.

362

00:17:36,690 --> 00:17:38,090

People used to be shorter.

363

00:17:38,090 --> 00:17:39,340

[LAUGHS]

364

00:17:39,340 --> 00:17:40,050

So we--

365

00:17:40,050 --> 00:17:42,200

Are you talking about
the house in Korb?

366

00:17:42,200 --> 00:17:43,350

In Korb, yeah.

367

00:17:43,350 --> 00:17:45,240

And you said 1940.

368

00:17:45,240 --> 00:17:47,880
Did you mean another year
when Bertl and you had been--

369
00:17:47,880 --> 00:17:50,900
Oh, I meant when we went
back in 2000 for the--

370
00:17:50,900 --> 00:17:52,800
For that commemoration.

371
00:17:52,800 --> 00:17:54,600
That you mentioned
to me offline.

372
00:17:54,600 --> 00:17:57,690
We'll talk about
that in a little bit.

373
00:17:57,690 --> 00:18:02,580
So you went back in 2000 to the
original family home in Korb.

374
00:18:02,580 --> 00:18:03,800
Where we got to see it.

375
00:18:03,800 --> 00:18:04,300
Yeah.

376
00:18:04,300 --> 00:18:04,800
[LAUGHS]

377
00:18:04,800 --> 00:18:06,600
Was anybody living in there?

378
00:18:06,600 --> 00:18:07,260
No.

379
00:18:07,260 --> 00:18:08,970
It's not habitable.

380
00:18:08,970 --> 00:18:10,740

Somebody owns it.

381
00:18:10,740 --> 00:18:12,790
But they weren't living there.

382
00:18:12,790 --> 00:18:16,620
And I think now,
it's closed, I think.

383
00:18:16,620 --> 00:18:21,780
But in Adelsheim,
it's a nice house.

384
00:18:21,780 --> 00:18:25,580
When I first went back in
the '80s, I didn't go inside.

385
00:18:25,580 --> 00:18:28,205
But when we went back
in 2000, Reinhart,

386
00:18:28,205 --> 00:18:31,640
who had arranged for us to be
able to go inside the house,

387
00:18:31,640 --> 00:18:33,380
and of course, it
had been renovated.

388
00:18:33,380 --> 00:18:35,240
It was a beautiful house.

389
00:18:35,240 --> 00:18:36,920
But there was a
little boy living

390
00:18:36,920 --> 00:18:40,290
in the house who was the same
age as my oldest grandson--

391
00:18:40,290 --> 00:18:40,790
Oh.

392

00:18:40,790 --> 00:18:43,550

--that we got to go up in the
attic where he had his toys

393

00:18:43,550 --> 00:18:46,520

and basically, they're the
same toys my grandson had.

394

00:18:46,520 --> 00:18:49,260

But his were so neat and
stacked and put away.

395

00:18:49,260 --> 00:18:49,760

[LAUGHS]

396

00:18:49,760 --> 00:18:51,350

The Johns were never like that.

397

00:18:51,350 --> 00:18:51,890

[LAUGHS]

398

00:18:51,890 --> 00:18:55,100

Now, whether it was because we
were coming or it was always

399

00:18:55,100 --> 00:18:56,000

like that [LAUGHS]--

400

00:18:56,000 --> 00:18:56,990

Yeah, you don't know.

401

00:18:56,990 --> 00:18:57,650

[LAUGHS] You don't know.

402

00:18:57,650 --> 00:18:59,400

[LAUGHS] I don't know
if it was like that.

403

00:18:59,400 --> 00:19:02,720

Tell us, who is Reinhart?

404

00:19:02,720 --> 00:19:06,860
You mentioned that he brought
you opened your family home

405

00:19:06,860 --> 00:19:11,720
or brought you to the old
family home in Adelsheim.

406

00:19:11,720 --> 00:19:16,910
Reinhart is the man that
the Jewish family who

407

00:19:16,910 --> 00:19:20,190
had family in Adelsheim write
to to find out information,

408

00:19:20,190 --> 00:19:20,690
which--

409

00:19:20,690 --> 00:19:22,850
But he's not Jewish,
or is he Jewish?

410

00:19:22,850 --> 00:19:24,410
Oh no, no.

411

00:19:24,410 --> 00:19:25,340
He's not [MUTED].

412

00:19:25,340 --> 00:19:27,041
I don't know what he is.

413

00:19:27,041 --> 00:19:29,810
Why do people write to him?

414

00:19:29,810 --> 00:19:32,870
Well, originally, there was
a man called Mr. [INAUDIBLE]

415

00:19:32,870 --> 00:19:35,270
who knew all these people.

416

00:19:35,270 --> 00:19:37,910

But when he got too
old to be doing that,

417

00:19:37,910 --> 00:19:40,430

he bequeathed it
to Reinhart to do.

418

00:19:40,430 --> 00:19:43,160

Reinhart was a teacher
in the high school.

419

00:19:43,160 --> 00:19:47,090

And Reinhart established
an after-school club.

420

00:19:47,090 --> 00:19:49,640

And Reinhart and the
kids did research

421

00:19:49,640 --> 00:19:54,720

on various people that wrote to
find out about their families.

422

00:19:54,720 --> 00:20:00,000

So I have written
that many times.

423

00:20:00,000 --> 00:20:03,300

I mean, when I do first person--

424

00:20:03,300 --> 00:20:05,220

At the museum-- at
the Holocaust Museum.

425

00:20:05,220 --> 00:20:08,550

At the museum and when the
interview with Bill asks me

426

00:20:08,550 --> 00:20:13,650

questions, which I don't know
the answer to, I would email

427

00:20:13,650 --> 00:20:14,220
Reinhart .

428
00:20:14,220 --> 00:20:15,750
And he would find out for me.

429
00:20:15,750 --> 00:20:18,210
So I've learned a
lot about my family.

430
00:20:18,210 --> 00:20:19,480
But it's research.

431
00:20:19,480 --> 00:20:22,590
It isn't that I personally
know it and that.

432
00:20:22,590 --> 00:20:27,420
So excuse me for interrupting,
but is his research basically

433
00:20:27,420 --> 00:20:31,740
on Jewish life that
was in Adelsheim,

434
00:20:31,740 --> 00:20:36,880
or is he also like the town
historian in a certain way?

435
00:20:36,880 --> 00:20:39,900
I mean, sometimes, people do
that on a volunteer basis.

436
00:20:39,900 --> 00:20:42,180
I don't think he's
the town historian.

437
00:20:42,180 --> 00:20:45,330
I think he looks
into information

438
00:20:45,330 --> 00:20:49,440
about specific families

when people write to him.

439

00:20:49,440 --> 00:20:53,580

For instance, we
have a cousin, maybe

440

00:20:53,580 --> 00:20:55,170

four or five times removed--

441

00:20:55,170 --> 00:20:57,330

I never get that
stuff straight--

442

00:20:57,330 --> 00:21:01,560

who had written to him, trying
to find out who apparently

443

00:21:01,560 --> 00:21:02,700

this man's name.

444

00:21:02,700 --> 00:21:05,580

445

00:21:05,580 --> 00:21:08,700

Anyhow, when he had
written, it turns out

446

00:21:08,700 --> 00:21:15,920

that Peter's grandfather
and my great grandfather--

447

00:21:15,920 --> 00:21:17,390

maybe it's the other way around.

448

00:21:17,390 --> 00:21:21,240

Anyhow, we're brothers, so
it's a very loose relationship.

449

00:21:21,240 --> 00:21:24,560

I mean, now, Peter
and we're all family.

450

00:21:24,560 --> 00:21:26,372
But I think he--

451
00:21:26,372 --> 00:21:27,080
Through Reinhart?

452
00:21:27,080 --> 00:21:28,400
Did Reinhart put you together?

453
00:21:28,400 --> 00:21:29,670
He did.

454
00:21:29,670 --> 00:21:30,770
[LAUGHS] He did.

455
00:21:30,770 --> 00:21:33,680
My sister, Bertl, got a letter
from this Peter one day,

456
00:21:33,680 --> 00:21:35,900
saying, "I think
I'm your cousin.

457
00:21:35,900 --> 00:21:38,510
I found this out by writing."

458
00:21:38,510 --> 00:21:40,190
And Bertl wrote back--

459
00:21:40,190 --> 00:21:43,280
I mean, Bertl, who
remembered all the family

460
00:21:43,280 --> 00:21:47,150
that I never knew, was
excited about getting family.

461
00:21:47,150 --> 00:21:50,190
And she was good
about doing that.

462
00:21:50,190 --> 00:21:50,690

So--

463
00:21:50,690 --> 00:21:53,030
I have a question here that--

464
00:21:53,030 --> 00:21:55,580
did your sisters and brothers--

465
00:21:55,580 --> 00:22:01,130
and brother-- ever fill you in
because they knew your parents?

466
00:22:01,130 --> 00:22:02,270
You didn't.

467
00:22:02,270 --> 00:22:05,570
Did they tell you what
mom and dad were like?

468
00:22:05,570 --> 00:22:09,620
My brother never
talked about anything.

469
00:22:09,620 --> 00:22:14,170
Bertl would say, "Ask
me any questions,"

470
00:22:14,170 --> 00:22:15,860
especially when we
all had children,

471
00:22:15,860 --> 00:22:17,360
and they wanted to know.

472
00:22:17,360 --> 00:22:19,440
"Ask me any question,
and I'll answer you."

473
00:22:19,440 --> 00:22:21,170
Well, when you
don't know anything,

474

00:22:21,170 --> 00:22:23,360
it's hard to ask questions.

475
00:22:23,360 --> 00:22:28,220
And she had a couple of
standard stories she would tell.

476
00:22:28,220 --> 00:22:32,060
I mean, one was that my father
would stand and whistle,

477
00:22:32,060 --> 00:22:35,750
and they had to come running,
that he checked their nails

478
00:22:35,750 --> 00:22:39,470
to make sure they were clean.

479
00:22:39,470 --> 00:22:43,790
Edie talked about my
parents apparently

480
00:22:43,790 --> 00:22:45,290
had cookies they baked.

481
00:22:45,290 --> 00:22:48,080
And they kept it in the
front room where nobody went.

482
00:22:48,080 --> 00:22:51,080
But she ate them
all up one by one.

483
00:22:51,080 --> 00:22:51,950
[LAUGHS]

484
00:22:51,950 --> 00:22:55,430
And she also apparently took
her father's watch apart once.

485
00:22:55,430 --> 00:22:58,710
Got it all back together,
except there were pieces left.

486
00:22:58,710 --> 00:22:59,210
Oh, geez.

487
00:22:59,210 --> 00:23:01,500
I take it she was
the mischievous one.

488
00:23:01,500 --> 00:23:02,000
[LAUGHS]

489
00:23:02,000 --> 00:23:02,542
Because she--

490
00:23:02,542 --> 00:23:04,610
The curious one.

491
00:23:04,610 --> 00:23:07,500
[LAUGHS] Back then, you
had to take your challah

492
00:23:07,500 --> 00:23:11,150
to the community
oven to get baked.

493
00:23:11,150 --> 00:23:14,270
And she talked about dropping
the dough in the little brook

494
00:23:14,270 --> 00:23:15,890
somewhere.

495
00:23:15,890 --> 00:23:21,320
Bertl said I think an uncle
had given her a scooter.

496
00:23:21,320 --> 00:23:23,390
And my father broke it up.

497
00:23:23,390 --> 00:23:24,890
He didn't want her on it.

498

00:23:24,890 --> 00:23:26,960
He thought it was too dangerous.

499

00:23:26,960 --> 00:23:29,310
What I realized
after Bertl died,

500

00:23:29,310 --> 00:23:31,910
which was about a
year and a half ago,

501

00:23:31,910 --> 00:23:36,050
she never talked about
her mother at all--

502

00:23:36,050 --> 00:23:36,760
nothing.

503

00:23:36,760 --> 00:23:39,180
I realize that now.

504

00:23:39,180 --> 00:23:43,810
The few letters were
in the '80s when

505

00:23:43,810 --> 00:23:47,170
there started to be a lot
of information on television

506

00:23:47,170 --> 00:23:48,220
about the Holocaust.

507

00:23:48,220 --> 00:23:50,987
Bertl mentioned she had a
few letters from her mother

508

00:23:50,987 --> 00:23:52,570
and father when they
were in the camp.

509

00:23:52,570 --> 00:23:54,070
Well, my mother

wrote long letters.

510
00:23:54,070 --> 00:23:56,500
My father wrote two lines.

511
00:23:56,500 --> 00:23:58,340
And my husband had
them translated.

512
00:23:58,340 --> 00:24:01,750
So I know things about
my mother from that.

513
00:24:01,750 --> 00:24:04,360
But I wish I had
thought to ask her

514
00:24:04,360 --> 00:24:08,050
when she still had a right
mind and could have told me.

515
00:24:08,050 --> 00:24:11,170
Edie, I mean other
than those few stories,

516
00:24:11,170 --> 00:24:12,760
didn't talk about it much.

517
00:24:12,760 --> 00:24:16,450
And I never really talked
about it with my sister, Ruth,

518
00:24:16,450 --> 00:24:20,410
though her children feel it
affected her and made her

519
00:24:20,410 --> 00:24:22,870
the kind of person she was--

520
00:24:22,870 --> 00:24:23,750
very annoying.

521

00:24:23,750 --> 00:24:24,980
She knew everything.

522
00:24:24,980 --> 00:24:26,120
Oh [LAUGHS].

523
00:24:26,120 --> 00:24:26,620
[LAUGHS]

524
00:24:26,620 --> 00:24:30,250
Now, is it ironic, or
am I reading something

525
00:24:30,250 --> 00:24:34,816
into this, that all
of your siblings

526
00:24:34,816 --> 00:24:39,700
who were older than you knew
things but were not interested

527
00:24:39,700 --> 00:24:41,560
in exploring the history?

528
00:24:41,560 --> 00:24:44,890
And you who had
no direct memories

529
00:24:44,890 --> 00:24:50,050
have become the historian of
the family, in the family.

530
00:24:50,050 --> 00:24:52,300
That's because I
volunteer at the museum.

531
00:24:52,300 --> 00:24:55,440
And how can you not become
that way when you [LAUGHS]

532
00:24:55,440 --> 00:24:56,180
are down there.

533

00:24:56,180 --> 00:24:58,300

Well, this is an
interesting point.

534

00:24:58,300 --> 00:25:01,480

My question, then,
here is, were you

535

00:25:01,480 --> 00:25:06,020

interested before you
started at the museum?

536

00:25:06,020 --> 00:25:10,010

Well I did go back to Adelsheim
before I started at the museum

537

00:25:10,010 --> 00:25:14,750

because I needed to
know where I came from.

538

00:25:14,750 --> 00:25:18,740

My foster brother, Alan,
would come and visit.

539

00:25:18,740 --> 00:25:21,000

And I was a schoolteacher.

540

00:25:21,000 --> 00:25:22,610

I would take him to school.

541

00:25:22,610 --> 00:25:25,700

And I mostly talked
to the kids that I

542

00:25:25,700 --> 00:25:28,010

taught about how many
different homes I've

543

00:25:28,010 --> 00:25:30,470

lived in by the time I was 16.

544

00:25:30,470 --> 00:25:32,180

And then we did
this brother/sister

545
00:25:32,180 --> 00:25:35,510
routine about growing up
and the things we remembered

546
00:25:35,510 --> 00:25:38,840
and remembered differently.

547
00:25:38,840 --> 00:25:40,580
But it was more
that I was talking

548
00:25:40,580 --> 00:25:44,150
about being a foster child
because I taught in a school

549
00:25:44,150 --> 00:25:49,295
where we had many kids who
had unusual family lives.

550
00:25:49,295 --> 00:25:53,660

551
00:25:53,660 --> 00:25:57,620
The kids knew I had been in a--

552
00:25:57,620 --> 00:26:01,580
well, Kindertransport people
weren't really considered

553
00:26:01,580 --> 00:26:04,540
survivors till
the museum opened.

554
00:26:04,540 --> 00:26:06,040
It that so?

555
00:26:06,040 --> 00:26:06,650
It's so.

556

00:26:06,650 --> 00:26:10,030

557

00:26:10,030 --> 00:26:13,600

I mean, there was a gathering
before the museum opened.

558

00:26:13,600 --> 00:26:16,270

And Bertl went
down to volunteer.

559

00:26:16,270 --> 00:26:18,320

And they gave her a hard time.

560

00:26:18,320 --> 00:26:21,100

I don't think she did volunteer.

561

00:26:21,100 --> 00:26:26,350

And that-- and my sister, Ruth,
considered herself a survivor.

562

00:26:26,350 --> 00:26:29,560

I'm not sure Bertl really did.

563

00:26:29,560 --> 00:26:33,040

And Edie, yeah.

564

00:26:33,040 --> 00:26:36,850

Isn't that interesting
because I mean, to me,

565

00:26:36,850 --> 00:26:38,980

it seems so self-evident.

566

00:26:38,980 --> 00:26:45,430

Had they stayed, who knows
if they would have survived?

567

00:26:45,430 --> 00:26:46,180

I mean, I--

568

00:26:46,180 --> 00:26:49,000

And their lives were changed.

569
00:26:49,000 --> 00:26:50,530
Absolutely.

570
00:26:50,530 --> 00:26:56,080
But the world as a whole
didn't talk about it a lot.

571
00:26:56,080 --> 00:26:59,500
And people who had
been in the camps

572
00:26:59,500 --> 00:27:03,430
were the people who
were known as survivors.

573
00:27:03,430 --> 00:27:06,880
I mean, I don't feel the
museum treats me that way.

574
00:27:06,880 --> 00:27:08,440
But--

575
00:27:08,440 --> 00:27:11,600
So this comes from
other survivors

576
00:27:11,600 --> 00:27:16,290
who might have borne the
brunt of these policies.

577
00:27:16,290 --> 00:27:20,690
No, I think it was people
who were basically--

578
00:27:20,690 --> 00:27:22,760
it just wasn't
anything we talked

579
00:27:22,760 --> 00:27:24,860
about when I was growing up.

580

00:27:24,860 --> 00:27:29,960

I mean, Bertl and Edith
got an apartment when I--

581

00:27:29,960 --> 00:27:33,280

oh, I'm trying to
think, how old was I?

582

00:27:33,280 --> 00:27:36,830

Maybe 12, and I lived
with them, and then I

583

00:27:36,830 --> 00:27:39,200

graduated from high
school when I was 16.

584

00:27:39,200 --> 00:27:41,520

And Ruth, by that
time, was married,

585

00:27:41,520 --> 00:27:43,790

and her husband was
working on a doctorate

586

00:27:43,790 --> 00:27:45,260

at the University of Illinois.

587

00:27:45,260 --> 00:27:49,190

So I lived with them
through college.

588

00:27:49,190 --> 00:27:51,860

But there were so
many other things

589

00:27:51,860 --> 00:27:56,780

that were important that we
didn't really talk about that.

590

00:27:56,780 --> 00:27:59,900

I mean, I don't know
that I heard the word

591
00:27:59,900 --> 00:28:03,800
"Kindertransport" growing up.

592
00:28:03,800 --> 00:28:08,030
I knew I had been sent
from Germany to England

593
00:28:08,030 --> 00:28:10,100
and the Harrison, all that.

594
00:28:10,100 --> 00:28:12,950
I don't know if I
knew the actual word.

595
00:28:12,950 --> 00:28:15,620
I mean, I'm part of the
memoir writing group

596
00:28:15,620 --> 00:28:18,380
at the museum for
survivor volunteers.

597
00:28:18,380 --> 00:28:20,780
And I wrote something
about junior high

598
00:28:20,780 --> 00:28:22,160
and Kindertransport.

599
00:28:22,160 --> 00:28:25,190
And I sent it to my best
friend from junior high.

600
00:28:25,190 --> 00:28:25,940
And she wrote me.

601
00:28:25,940 --> 00:28:29,210
She said, "I never knew you
were on the Kindertransport."

602
00:28:29,210 --> 00:28:32,438
And I had spent every

weekend with her.

603

00:28:32,438 --> 00:28:33,980

Her parents had a
grocery store and I

604

00:28:33,980 --> 00:28:36,720

used to go stay over there.

605

00:28:36,720 --> 00:28:39,980

So it was just a different time.

606

00:28:39,980 --> 00:28:44,360

So if I'm understanding
this properly,

607

00:28:44,360 --> 00:28:49,100

is that until you came
and became more involved

608

00:28:49,100 --> 00:28:51,410

at the museum here
in Washington--

609

00:28:51,410 --> 00:28:54,350

the Holocaust Museum--

610

00:28:54,350 --> 00:29:01,100

it was not mostly part
of one's conversation.

611

00:29:01,100 --> 00:29:02,960

It's sort of like it's there.

612

00:29:02,960 --> 00:29:04,340

It's a part of your family.

613

00:29:04,340 --> 00:29:08,120

But it's not what
you're focusing on.

614

00:29:08,120 --> 00:29:10,290

The focus is on other things.

615
00:29:10,290 --> 00:29:10,790
Right.

616
00:29:10,790 --> 00:29:15,230
So in the-- I think it was
the early '90s, in England,

617
00:29:15,230 --> 00:29:19,160
somebody started a
Kindertransport Association.

618
00:29:19,160 --> 00:29:21,650
And then one got started here.

619
00:29:21,650 --> 00:29:25,460
And my brother lent
us his fancy, big car.

620
00:29:25,460 --> 00:29:27,380
And the rest of us went to this.

621
00:29:27,380 --> 00:29:28,940
And that was the
first time I had

622
00:29:28,940 --> 00:29:32,750
met other people who had
been on the Kindertransport.

623
00:29:32,750 --> 00:29:36,140
And had had similar kind of--

624
00:29:36,140 --> 00:29:40,070
I mean, it was very
exciting to do that.

625
00:29:40,070 --> 00:29:42,260
And the first--

626
00:29:42,260 --> 00:29:45,050

Excuse me, there is
some static on the line.

627
00:29:45,050 --> 00:29:48,970
There's some sort
of fuzzy sound--

628
00:29:48,970 --> 00:29:49,532
Oh, here.

629
00:29:49,532 --> 00:29:50,240
--coming through.

630
00:29:50,240 --> 00:29:51,920
Is it gone?

631
00:29:51,920 --> 00:29:53,660
Not quite.

632
00:29:53,660 --> 00:29:54,260
It will be.

633
00:29:54,260 --> 00:29:55,200
It's my teapot.

634
00:29:55,200 --> 00:29:55,700
Oh.

635
00:29:55,700 --> 00:29:57,710
[LAUGHS] OK.

636
00:29:57,710 --> 00:29:59,270
Well, I think--

637
00:29:59,270 --> 00:30:01,130
It's gone.

638
00:30:01,130 --> 00:30:03,530
Well, I hope that
the water is boiled.

639

00:30:03,530 --> 00:30:05,420

At least you could
have some tea.

640

00:30:05,420 --> 00:30:06,710

It's boiled.

641

00:30:06,710 --> 00:30:07,710

My tea is made.

642

00:30:07,710 --> 00:30:08,210

[LAUGHS]

643

00:30:08,210 --> 00:30:14,540

[LAUGHS]

644

00:30:14,540 --> 00:30:18,440

When I was married and
had young children,

645

00:30:18,440 --> 00:30:22,260

I stayed home for nine years.

646

00:30:22,260 --> 00:30:24,560

And then I went
back to teaching.

647

00:30:24,560 --> 00:30:27,740

And the first year I was back,
our oldest daughter got sick.

648

00:30:27,740 --> 00:30:30,740

So we were very
involved with her.

649

00:30:30,740 --> 00:30:34,580

And you're busy when you're
working, and you have children.

650

00:30:34,580 --> 00:30:37,850

And you think you don't
have time for this nonsense.

651
00:30:37,850 --> 00:30:39,240
[LAUGHS]

652
00:30:39,240 --> 00:30:40,790
I mean, not that it's nonsense.

653
00:30:40,790 --> 00:30:41,850
No, but of course.

654
00:30:41,850 --> 00:30:42,350
It's not--

655
00:30:42,350 --> 00:30:44,150
It's trying to live.

656
00:30:44,150 --> 00:30:47,390
It's something that you
have time for later--

657
00:30:47,390 --> 00:30:48,140
not for me.

658
00:30:48,140 --> 00:30:50,720
I mean, I know some
people have been involved.

659
00:30:50,720 --> 00:30:53,900
I mean, it's the same way the
Kindertransport Association

660
00:30:53,900 --> 00:30:58,670
here is basically
second-generation KTAs.

661
00:30:58,670 --> 00:31:02,150
My kids are not interested.

662
00:31:02,150 --> 00:31:05,210
And what I have found out
that most of the people who

663

00:31:05,210 --> 00:31:08,000
are involved, they
didn't know the parents

664
00:31:08,000 --> 00:31:10,190
were in the Kindertransport
till they were adults.

665
00:31:10,190 --> 00:31:12,980
Well, my kids always
knew because we always

666
00:31:12,980 --> 00:31:17,770
had my foster family where we
used to visit and all that.

667
00:31:17,770 --> 00:31:20,720
So it was always
part of our lives.

668
00:31:20,720 --> 00:31:25,130
Well, there are things that
can be part of one's life,

669
00:31:25,130 --> 00:31:26,750
but you don't delve into them.

670
00:31:26,750 --> 00:31:29,300
You don't explore
the various aspects.

671
00:31:29,300 --> 00:31:32,930
You just know the basic
contours, the basic facts.

672
00:31:32,930 --> 00:31:37,260
Like one of my questions
come from the very beginning.

673
00:31:37,260 --> 00:31:39,590
Your other siblings,
your sisters

674

00:31:39,590 --> 00:31:46,640
who go on a Kindertransport,
well, they all are of an age,

675

00:31:46,640 --> 00:31:52,790
if they're going in 1939 in
March, where they can remember

676

00:31:52,790 --> 00:31:54,870
what the transport was like.

677

00:31:54,870 --> 00:31:57,710
And if they went
together, then Ruth,

678

00:31:57,710 --> 00:32:03,020
who was the youngest and is
9 1/2 or 8 1/2 or something,

679

00:32:03,020 --> 00:32:06,290
and Bertl, who was the oldest,
who was, at that point,

680

00:32:06,290 --> 00:32:10,590
probably 14 or 15, they're
there for each other.

681

00:32:10,590 --> 00:32:12,900
That is, they're not alone.

682

00:32:12,900 --> 00:32:18,660
You are a toddler who
doesn't have memories.

683

00:32:18,660 --> 00:32:21,810
So somebody must have taken you.

684

00:32:21,810 --> 00:32:22,750
Who was that somebody?

685

00:32:22,750 --> 00:32:24,090
I do wonder who looked after me.

686

00:32:24,090 --> 00:32:26,160

[LAUGHS] I do wonder.

687

00:32:26,160 --> 00:32:30,310

I clearly didn't
look after myself.

688

00:32:30,310 --> 00:32:31,230

But I don't know.

689

00:32:31,230 --> 00:32:33,780

I mean, with all the
records, that isn't something

690

00:32:33,780 --> 00:32:37,860

that either I or Reinhart
have managed to find out,

691

00:32:37,860 --> 00:32:39,850

how that happened.

692

00:32:39,850 --> 00:32:43,020

I mean, there's probably-- if
I were more of a researcher,

693

00:32:43,020 --> 00:32:44,400

digger could find it out.

694

00:32:44,400 --> 00:32:45,870

But I haven't.

695

00:32:45,870 --> 00:32:54,000

I mean, my aunt that lived
in London worked as a maid.

696

00:32:54,000 --> 00:32:56,280

So she had met a lot of people.

697

00:32:56,280 --> 00:32:59,730

And she found them all
homes in the London area.

698

00:32:59,730 --> 00:33:02,400

I was placed by Quakers.

699

00:33:02,400 --> 00:33:07,890

So clearly, I went

with a different group.

700

00:33:07,890 --> 00:33:10,500

Originally, I was

supposed to go to Wales,

701

00:33:10,500 --> 00:33:11,680

and then that fell through.

702

00:33:11,680 --> 00:33:14,820

So I went to the

Harrisons in Norwich.

703

00:33:14,820 --> 00:33:17,010

And it--

704

00:33:17,010 --> 00:33:19,350

Norwich is where in

relation to London?

705

00:33:19,350 --> 00:33:21,090

What part of England is it?

706

00:33:21,090 --> 00:33:22,800

It's in East Anglia.

707

00:33:22,800 --> 00:33:31,200

It is east, probably

northeast from London.

708

00:33:31,200 --> 00:33:35,040

Just a little bit

of orientation--

709

00:33:35,040 --> 00:33:39,850

so that's where you-- and is

it a large town or a small city

710
00:33:39,850 --> 00:33:40,350
or--

711
00:33:40,350 --> 00:33:44,070
It is a cathedral city.

712
00:33:44,070 --> 00:33:46,260
And the Harrisons,
actually, at that time,

713
00:33:46,260 --> 00:33:50,380
lived out in Thorpe, which
was out in the country then.

714
00:33:50,380 --> 00:33:53,100
Now, it's just suburban
Norwich like every place

715
00:33:53,100 --> 00:33:55,500
else that's an urban sprawl.

716
00:33:55,500 --> 00:33:57,960
What was the name of the place?

717
00:33:57,960 --> 00:33:59,520
I didn't quite catch it.

718
00:33:59,520 --> 00:34:02,940
Thorpe-- T-H-O-R- P-E.

719
00:34:02,940 --> 00:34:04,680
OK, in Thorpe.

720
00:34:04,680 --> 00:34:07,300
And were they Quakers as well?

721
00:34:07,300 --> 00:34:07,800
Nope.

722
00:34:07,800 --> 00:34:10,440

They were very
fundamentalist Christians.

723
00:34:10,440 --> 00:34:14,219
They went to chapel, which was--

724
00:34:14,219 --> 00:34:15,989
there was a chapel movement.

725
00:34:15,989 --> 00:34:20,670
I guess it's a lot like
fundamentalist Christians now.

726
00:34:20,670 --> 00:34:24,360
But now, Alan goes
to Church of England.

727
00:34:24,360 --> 00:34:27,795
So he's now Anglican.

728
00:34:27,795 --> 00:34:30,909

729
00:34:30,909 --> 00:34:32,843
Church of England is Anglican.

730
00:34:32,843 --> 00:34:33,760
That's what I thought.

731
00:34:33,760 --> 00:34:34,790
That's what I thought.

732
00:34:34,790 --> 00:34:35,770
Yeah.

733
00:34:35,770 --> 00:34:36,270
Yeah.

734
00:34:36,270 --> 00:34:40,760

735

00:34:40,760 --> 00:34:45,290
So if your earliest memories
aren't from Germany,

736
00:34:45,290 --> 00:34:49,810
and there are none from
the Kindertransport, what

737
00:34:49,810 --> 00:34:51,670
are your earliest memories?

738
00:34:51,670 --> 00:34:57,250
Well, basically, of England, and
I'm not real good on memories.

739
00:34:57,250 --> 00:35:00,550
As my daughter said, "Mom you
never talked about things.

740
00:35:00,550 --> 00:35:04,130
We did things, and then we never
talked about them anymore."

741
00:35:04,130 --> 00:35:08,080
And I mean, there's some things
that Alan and I talk about

742
00:35:08,080 --> 00:35:13,360
that we remember differently,
like siblings tend to.

743
00:35:13,360 --> 00:35:14,750
I was very happy there.

744
00:35:14,750 --> 00:35:17,820
I mean, that was really the
happiest time of my childhood.

745
00:35:17,820 --> 00:35:21,070
I was very happy there.

746
00:35:21,070 --> 00:35:22,600
War was going on.

747
00:35:22,600 --> 00:35:24,070
Norwich was bombed.

748
00:35:24,070 --> 00:35:27,670
There was an American
Air Force base close by,

749
00:35:27,670 --> 00:35:30,010
so it was a busy place.

750
00:35:30,010 --> 00:35:31,590
And that-- it was the kind--

751
00:35:31,590 --> 00:35:35,490
What was the kind of home
that you grew up in, then?

752
00:35:35,490 --> 00:35:40,480

753
00:35:40,480 --> 00:35:44,300
How did this man, Mr.
Harrison, support his family?

754
00:35:44,300 --> 00:35:46,240
I'm being so
patriarchal here, saying

755
00:35:46,240 --> 00:35:48,160
it's always the men
supporting the families.

756
00:35:48,160 --> 00:35:49,470
Well, it was back then--

757
00:35:49,470 --> 00:35:50,518
Yeah, it was back then.

758
00:35:50,518 --> 00:35:51,101
[LAUGHS] Yeah.

759

00:35:51,101 --> 00:35:54,610

--although my mother really
worked with my father.

760

00:35:54,610 --> 00:35:58,030

He worked in the shoe
factory, and he cut out

761

00:35:58,030 --> 00:36:00,280

the leather parts for shoes.

762

00:36:00,280 --> 00:36:03,910

And he knew a lot
about fixing shoes.

763

00:36:03,910 --> 00:36:06,550

Auntie Dot was a good manager.

764

00:36:06,550 --> 00:36:08,860

Uncle Harry had gone off to--

765

00:36:08,860 --> 00:36:12,290

766

00:36:12,290 --> 00:36:14,480

oh, where had he gone--

767

00:36:14,480 --> 00:36:16,670

Australia when he
was a young man.

768

00:36:16,670 --> 00:36:19,100

He was gone eight, nine years.

769

00:36:19,100 --> 00:36:22,560

Auntie Dot worked in
a family business--

770

00:36:22,560 --> 00:36:26,330

a greengrocer's-- while he was
gone, and supported herself.

771

00:36:26,330 --> 00:36:28,790

And then they got married
when he came back.

772

00:36:28,790 --> 00:36:31,190

And they just had
the one son, Alan.

773

00:36:31,190 --> 00:36:33,080

That was my next question,
as to whether you

774

00:36:33,080 --> 00:36:36,140

had any other foster siblings.

775

00:36:36,140 --> 00:36:41,720

No, just Alan, who was
exactly the same age as Ruth.

776

00:36:41,720 --> 00:36:45,030

And their birthdays
were 10 days apart.

777

00:36:45,030 --> 00:36:53,390

And I mean, we had gas
masks, and there were bombs.

778

00:36:53,390 --> 00:36:54,650

We went into shelters.

779

00:36:54,650 --> 00:36:58,010

But I don't really
remember that so much.

780

00:36:58,010 --> 00:36:58,940

I just-- it was--

781

00:36:58,940 --> 00:37:01,200

Do you remember the
house you lived in?

782

00:37:01,200 --> 00:37:01,700

Oh yeah.

783

00:37:01,700 --> 00:37:04,310

It was a little house and
that it's still there.

784

00:37:04,310 --> 00:37:05,450

It's been modernized.

785

00:37:05,450 --> 00:37:08,400

786

00:37:08,400 --> 00:37:09,690

And I liked school.

787

00:37:09,690 --> 00:37:12,930

I was just ready to take
the eleven-plus exam

788

00:37:12,930 --> 00:37:18,300

that you had taken England to
see where you would go next.

789

00:37:18,300 --> 00:37:21,000

The chapel had lots of activity.

790

00:37:21,000 --> 00:37:24,900

It was very community-oriented
like churches and synagogues

791

00:37:24,900 --> 00:37:25,830

so now.

792

00:37:25,830 --> 00:37:28,380

It was very
family-oriented then.

793

00:37:28,380 --> 00:37:30,210

So you went with them.

794

00:37:30,210 --> 00:37:30,900

Of course.

795
00:37:30,900 --> 00:37:32,260
What else was I going to do?

796
00:37:32,260 --> 00:37:34,494
I didn't know from
being Jewish or--

797
00:37:34,494 --> 00:37:35,700
[LAUGHS]

798
00:37:35,700 --> 00:37:38,520
Now, the minister-- the man
who actually owned the chapel--

799
00:37:38,520 --> 00:37:41,520
Mr. Ramsey, he tried
to teach me Hebrew.

800
00:37:41,520 --> 00:37:44,587
But I'm really bad at
languages, so I didn't learn it.

801
00:37:44,587 --> 00:37:48,860
[LAUGHS] But what
it shows is that he

802
00:37:48,860 --> 00:37:53,310
wasn't on a proselytizing
mission to convert you.

803
00:37:53,310 --> 00:37:54,660
I don't think so.

804
00:37:54,660 --> 00:37:58,770
If any of them were,
I didn't get it.

805
00:37:58,770 --> 00:38:01,440
[LAUGHS] I mean, I left
there when I was 10.

806

00:38:01,440 --> 00:38:05,770
How much proselytizing were
they going to be doing?

807
00:38:05,770 --> 00:38:06,270
Now--

808
00:38:06,270 --> 00:38:11,370
So all the war years,
you're spending in Thorpe.

809
00:38:11,370 --> 00:38:12,390
Right.

810
00:38:12,390 --> 00:38:16,170
And do your sisters
show up at all?

811
00:38:16,170 --> 00:38:16,830
They do.

812
00:38:16,830 --> 00:38:18,420
Once they could
travel, they used

813
00:38:18,420 --> 00:38:20,820
to come and spend time there.

814
00:38:20,820 --> 00:38:23,850
And we went to London.

815
00:38:23,850 --> 00:38:26,070
At least once, I went
to a Seder, which

816
00:38:26,070 --> 00:38:28,350
I had no idea what it was.

817
00:38:28,350 --> 00:38:30,830
But we went to London every--

818
00:38:30,830 --> 00:38:32,880

well, I don't know
how often we went.

819
00:38:32,880 --> 00:38:33,690
I'm thinking.

820
00:38:33,690 --> 00:38:36,870
I know we went to London
once, and Alan and I

821
00:38:36,870 --> 00:38:39,855
rode up and down the escalators
because we didn't have them

822
00:38:39,855 --> 00:38:40,480
in Norwich--

823
00:38:40,480 --> 00:38:40,850
[LAUGHS]

824
00:38:40,850 --> 00:38:41,110
[LAUGHS]

825
00:38:41,110 --> 00:38:41,700
--or in Paris.

826
00:38:41,700 --> 00:38:42,200
And that--

827
00:38:42,200 --> 00:38:47,120
I think every kid who has never
seen an escalator does that.

828
00:38:47,120 --> 00:38:49,800
I mean, I've heard
it so many times.

829
00:38:49,800 --> 00:38:54,520
[LAUGHS]

830
00:38:54,520 --> 00:38:59,470
I think, actually, my Aunt

Hannah came to Norwich once.

831
00:38:59,470 --> 00:39:03,190
But there was a lot of tension
between my foster mother

832
00:39:03,190 --> 00:39:05,000
and her.

833
00:39:05,000 --> 00:39:05,500
Why?

834
00:39:05,500 --> 00:39:08,030

835
00:39:08,030 --> 00:39:09,040
Oh, who knows?

836
00:39:09,040 --> 00:39:13,330
My aunt was a difficult lady.

837
00:39:13,330 --> 00:39:15,845
This was a mother
sister or father sister?

838
00:39:15,845 --> 00:39:16,515
Mother sister.

839
00:39:16,515 --> 00:39:17,098
Mother sister.

840
00:39:17,098 --> 00:39:22,890
And she kept kosher, which was
very difficult in a very small

841
00:39:22,890 --> 00:39:25,200
apartment where they lived.

842
00:39:25,200 --> 00:39:30,690
Once Bertl was 16, she went back
to London and lived with her.

843

00:39:30,690 --> 00:39:33,000

And for years,
Bertl wouldn't date

844

00:39:33,000 --> 00:39:35,440

because whenever my aunt
was angry, she'd bake.

845

00:39:35,440 --> 00:39:35,940

[LAUGHS]

846

00:39:35,940 --> 00:39:36,570

[LAUGHS]

847

00:39:36,570 --> 00:39:38,070

Bertl.

848

00:39:38,070 --> 00:39:43,050

And yeah.

849

00:39:43,050 --> 00:39:45,330

So when we first
came to this country,

850

00:39:45,330 --> 00:39:48,000

my aunt would send us packages.

851

00:39:48,000 --> 00:39:50,160

And she would not
wrap them very well.

852

00:39:50,160 --> 00:39:53,310

And there'd be things like
woolen long underwear, which

853

00:39:53,310 --> 00:39:55,320

now, would be wonderful to have.

854

00:39:55,320 --> 00:39:56,970

But I was home.

855

00:39:56,970 --> 00:39:59,543
My sisters were working,
and I was a high school kid.

856
00:39:59,543 --> 00:40:01,710
And I had to go to the post
office and pick them up.

857
00:40:01,710 --> 00:40:04,290
[LAUGHS] I used to find
that so embarrassing.

858
00:40:04,290 --> 00:40:06,600
Mortifying.

859
00:40:06,600 --> 00:40:07,250
You've got it.

860
00:40:07,250 --> 00:40:07,750
[LAUGHS]

861
00:40:07,750 --> 00:40:08,550
[LAUGHS]

862
00:40:08,550 --> 00:40:11,340
But our aunt came once to visit.

863
00:40:11,340 --> 00:40:13,890
And I remember-- I
mean, my sisters and I

864
00:40:13,890 --> 00:40:16,290
didn't keep kosher,
but my aunt did.

865
00:40:16,290 --> 00:40:20,730
And I went to the
kosher butcher with her,

866
00:40:20,730 --> 00:40:23,595
and I couldn't believe
it, the haggling.

867

00:40:23,595 --> 00:40:24,600

Oh.

868

00:40:24,600 --> 00:40:26,800

Now, I know that's
just what you do.

869

00:40:26,800 --> 00:40:28,980

But oh, goodness.

870

00:40:28,980 --> 00:40:31,380

And I ran away--
my sister, Ruth,

871

00:40:31,380 --> 00:40:34,440

was married then and living in
the next door of the apartment

872

00:40:34,440 --> 00:40:37,560

we lived in, the next building.

873

00:40:37,560 --> 00:40:40,800

And I came home from school one
day when Aunt Hannah was there.

874

00:40:40,800 --> 00:40:43,290

And there was something sitting
in the refrigerator that

875

00:40:43,290 --> 00:40:45,870

looked good, so I took
some of it to eat.

876

00:40:45,870 --> 00:40:47,740

And then I found
out it was brains.

877

00:40:47,740 --> 00:40:48,630

Oh gosh.

878

00:40:48,630 --> 00:40:49,542

[LAUGHS] Oh gosh.

879

00:40:49,542 --> 00:40:53,220

[LAUGHS] I ran away to Ruth and David and lived in their closet

880

00:40:53,220 --> 00:40:53,990

for a few days.

881

00:40:53,990 --> 00:40:54,490

[LAUGHS]

882

00:40:54,490 --> 00:40:56,640

[LAUGHS] Oh gosh.

883

00:40:56,640 --> 00:40:59,130

And nobody explains anything.

884

00:40:59,130 --> 00:41:02,520

Nobody tells you anything about it beforehand.

885

00:41:02,520 --> 00:41:06,270

Well, they probably think-- because I think back then,

886

00:41:06,270 --> 00:41:09,840

that food was cheap, unlike now.

887

00:41:09,840 --> 00:41:11,680

It's probably very expensive--

888

00:41:11,680 --> 00:41:12,180

That's--

889

00:41:12,180 --> 00:41:13,810

--and called sweetbread, so--

890

00:41:13,810 --> 00:41:14,310

[LAUGHS]

891

00:41:14,310 --> 00:41:14,730

That's right.

892
00:41:14,730 --> 00:41:15,540
[LAUGHS] That's right.

893
00:41:15,540 --> 00:41:16,082
Now, I know--

894
00:41:16,082 --> 00:41:19,485
I mean, it's like I love
liver, and now, it's expensive.

895
00:41:19,485 --> 00:41:20,220
[LAUGHS]

896
00:41:20,220 --> 00:41:22,410
Yes, yes, that's true.

897
00:41:22,410 --> 00:41:25,410
But it used to be that
stuff was inexpensive.

898
00:41:25,410 --> 00:41:28,410
I want to come back to
something you said earlier,

899
00:41:28,410 --> 00:41:34,380
and that is when you said that
when your foster brother, Alan,

900
00:41:34,380 --> 00:41:37,680
came to visit you when
you were a teacher,

901
00:41:37,680 --> 00:41:41,250
you would go to school, and
you would explain to kids

902
00:41:41,250 --> 00:41:45,480
that by the time you were 16,
you had lived in 10 homes?

903

00:41:45,480 --> 00:41:46,360
Not 10.

904
00:41:46,360 --> 00:41:46,860
Oh.

905
00:41:46,860 --> 00:41:49,140
No, but I had lived
with my parents.

906
00:41:49,140 --> 00:41:50,700
I'd lived with the Harrisons.

907
00:41:50,700 --> 00:41:52,680
I've lived with
my aunt and uncle.

908
00:41:52,680 --> 00:41:54,660
I had lived with my sisters.

909
00:41:54,660 --> 00:41:58,060
And then I lived with my
other sister and her brother.

910
00:41:58,060 --> 00:42:00,390
So it was a lot of
different places to live.

911
00:42:00,390 --> 00:42:03,880
Can we retrace that just a
little bit chronologically

912
00:42:03,880 --> 00:42:05,090
so I have it clearer?

913
00:42:05,090 --> 00:42:05,590
Mm-hmm.

914
00:42:05,590 --> 00:42:07,470
So in 1939--

915
00:42:07,470 --> 00:42:08,910

I mean, as much as--

916
00:42:08,910 --> 00:42:12,420
1937, I was born and
lived in Germany.

917
00:42:12,420 --> 00:42:15,870
Then 1939, you were
on a Kindertransport,

918
00:42:15,870 --> 00:42:19,020
and you end up at the
Harrisons in Thorpe.

919
00:42:19,020 --> 00:42:19,643
Yeah.

920
00:42:19,643 --> 00:42:20,310
And you stayed--

921
00:42:20,310 --> 00:42:21,090
And then we--

922
00:42:21,090 --> 00:42:21,630
Mm-hmm?

923
00:42:21,630 --> 00:42:25,440
And then in '47, we
came to Washington, DC.

924
00:42:25,440 --> 00:42:27,120
And I lived with
my aunt and uncle.

925
00:42:27,120 --> 00:42:28,080
What were their names?

926
00:42:28,080 --> 00:42:31,160

927
00:42:31,160 --> 00:42:34,790
Siegman and Regina Rosenfeld.

928
00:42:34,790 --> 00:42:37,040
So they're your father's--

929
00:42:37,040 --> 00:42:37,760
Yeah.

930
00:42:37,760 --> 00:42:40,130
--your father's
brother, probably.

931
00:42:40,130 --> 00:42:42,350
Right.

932
00:42:42,350 --> 00:42:45,690
Then I lived with
Bertl and Edith--

933
00:42:45,690 --> 00:42:46,190
So they--

934
00:42:46,190 --> 00:42:47,390
--in the apartment.

935
00:42:47,390 --> 00:42:48,800
In Washington, DC?

936
00:42:48,800 --> 00:42:50,900
In Washington, DC.

937
00:42:50,900 --> 00:42:54,080
For how long?

938
00:42:54,080 --> 00:42:55,940
Till I graduated
from high school,

939
00:42:55,940 --> 00:43:04,960
just till I went to college
in September of 1953.

940

00:43:04,960 --> 00:43:07,100
And then where did
you go to college?

941
00:43:07,100 --> 00:43:08,710
I went to the
University of Illinois,

942
00:43:08,710 --> 00:43:10,710
and I lived with Ruth and David.

943
00:43:10,710 --> 00:43:11,410
Ah.

944
00:43:11,410 --> 00:43:15,460
[INAUDIBLE]

945
00:43:15,460 --> 00:43:17,560
And--

946
00:43:17,560 --> 00:43:21,860
And then I graduated in '57.

947
00:43:21,860 --> 00:43:25,150
Then I came back to Washington.

948
00:43:25,150 --> 00:43:27,370
And that's what you
were telling the kids.

949
00:43:27,370 --> 00:43:28,500
That's what you were--

950
00:43:28,500 --> 00:43:29,900
Yeah.

951
00:43:29,900 --> 00:43:33,040
I was basically talking about
living in different homes

952
00:43:33,040 --> 00:43:34,840
and different people, whatever.

953

00:43:34,840 --> 00:43:37,870

Did you feel always
like a fifth wheel,

954

00:43:37,870 --> 00:43:42,490

or did you feel like this is my
home now, and I'm fine in it?

955

00:43:42,490 --> 00:43:44,830

I feel that way about
my house, which is

956

00:43:44,830 --> 00:43:46,890

why I haven't moved like most--

957

00:43:46,890 --> 00:43:47,390

[LAUGHS]

958

00:43:47,390 --> 00:43:48,100

[LAUGHS]

959

00:43:48,100 --> 00:43:50,380

And I am so glad I
haven't moved because I

960

00:43:50,380 --> 00:43:53,941

hear they have to stay in their
apartments, and they can't go--

961

00:43:53,941 --> 00:43:55,480

[LAUGHS] This is true.

962

00:43:55,480 --> 00:43:58,570

I often feel not so
much about the house

963

00:43:58,570 --> 00:44:02,230

as an outsider with groups.

964

00:44:02,230 --> 00:44:04,900

I do, like I'm other.

965
00:44:04,900 --> 00:44:08,080
I do feel that way
a lot, actually.

966
00:44:08,080 --> 00:44:10,660
And did you as you
were growing up

967
00:44:10,660 --> 00:44:15,280
because those years are the
years when one is particularly

968
00:44:15,280 --> 00:44:17,800
vulnerable because
you're mortified

969
00:44:17,800 --> 00:44:19,220
when you go to the post office.

970
00:44:19,220 --> 00:44:20,330
That's so typical--

971
00:44:20,330 --> 00:44:20,830
[LAUGHS]

972
00:44:20,830 --> 00:44:22,760
--for a kid.

973
00:44:22,760 --> 00:44:24,040
But it's very touching.

974
00:44:24,040 --> 00:44:26,740
And if it's not
negotiated properly,

975
00:44:26,740 --> 00:44:29,435
then those become
very painful memories.

976
00:44:29,435 --> 00:44:31,420
[LAUGHS]

977
00:44:31,420 --> 00:44:34,210
I mean, now, I look
back and laugh about it,

978
00:44:34,210 --> 00:44:36,330
but [LAUGHS] yeah.

979
00:44:36,330 --> 00:44:38,050
And I get it.

980
00:44:38,050 --> 00:44:41,200
I mean, I'm leading up to
another question is, is that--

981
00:44:41,200 --> 00:44:43,480
I figured you were.

982
00:44:43,480 --> 00:44:49,110
You never knew your parents.

983
00:44:49,110 --> 00:44:50,790
But did you miss them?

984
00:44:50,790 --> 00:44:52,380
Did you miss having parents?

985
00:44:52,380 --> 00:44:55,060

986
00:44:55,060 --> 00:44:57,380
No.

987
00:44:57,380 --> 00:45:00,020
That's huge.

988
00:45:00,020 --> 00:45:01,680
I didn't know from
missing parents.

989
00:45:01,680 --> 00:45:05,870

990
00:45:05,870 --> 00:45:07,790
But something happened to me.

991
00:45:07,790 --> 00:45:12,260
I did the principal internship,
which I flunked terribly.

992
00:45:12,260 --> 00:45:14,610
I was terrible at it.

993
00:45:14,610 --> 00:45:17,150
But at the school
where I was working,

994
00:45:17,150 --> 00:45:23,370
the PTA mothers all used
to get together for coffee

995
00:45:23,370 --> 00:45:24,630
during school hours.

996
00:45:24,630 --> 00:45:27,360
And I had to go
with the principal.

997
00:45:27,360 --> 00:45:31,200
And they were talking about what
awful cooks their mothers were

998
00:45:31,200 --> 00:45:34,170
and how awful some
of the recipes were.

999
00:45:34,170 --> 00:45:36,120
And I was so upset.

1000
00:45:36,120 --> 00:45:39,600
I thought, I would just love
to know what my mother cooked.

1001

00:45:39,600 --> 00:45:43,920
But probably, my father cooked
because most of my uncles

1002
00:45:43,920 --> 00:45:45,220
cooked, not their wives.

1003
00:45:45,220 --> 00:45:46,170
[LAUGHS]

1004
00:45:46,170 --> 00:45:49,380
But I think that really hit me.

1005
00:45:49,380 --> 00:45:50,440
I just couldn't.

1006
00:45:50,440 --> 00:45:53,520
I was so upset by
that conversation.

1007
00:45:53,520 --> 00:45:58,330
It just seemed so unreal to me.

1008
00:45:58,330 --> 00:45:58,830
Wow.

1009
00:45:58,830 --> 00:46:00,780
But actually, missing parents--

1010
00:46:00,780 --> 00:46:03,360

1011
00:46:03,360 --> 00:46:07,800
no, I didn't know from having
parents to know you miss them

1012
00:46:07,800 --> 00:46:09,780
when they're not there.

1013
00:46:09,780 --> 00:46:14,010
Did someone take
over those roles?

1014
00:46:14,010 --> 00:46:17,730
Interesting you should ask.

1015
00:46:17,730 --> 00:46:23,370
In the memoir writing
group, a couple of people

1016
00:46:23,370 --> 00:46:25,980
several sessions ago
had written about things

1017
00:46:25,980 --> 00:46:31,620
their mothers did to make
their childhood fun, pleasant.

1018
00:46:31,620 --> 00:46:34,290
And I am not a weeper,
and I don't cry.

1019
00:46:34,290 --> 00:46:37,860
But I really was upset by it.

1020
00:46:37,860 --> 00:46:40,410
And I did-- I came home
and I write a piece

1021
00:46:40,410 --> 00:46:44,760
about not having a mother, which
I sent to Maggie, who runs it.

1022
00:46:44,760 --> 00:46:47,910
And I said, "Don't you dare
share it with anybody."

1023
00:46:47,910 --> 00:46:55,320
But yeah, I mean, some of it
hits me more, more recently.

1024
00:46:55,320 --> 00:46:59,110
My sister, Bertl, took over
and that she was very bossy.

1025
00:46:59,110 --> 00:46:59,610
[LAUGHS]

1026
00:46:59,610 --> 00:47:04,380
[LAUGHS] But she made sure we
stayed together as a family

1027
00:47:04,380 --> 00:47:05,310
and became--

1028
00:47:05,310 --> 00:47:07,500
I mean, we have a
pretty close family.

1029
00:47:07,500 --> 00:47:10,710
And it was her doing that
my mother had told her

1030
00:47:10,710 --> 00:47:12,270
she should do.

1031
00:47:12,270 --> 00:47:14,940
And my sister, Bertl
was very dramatic.

1032
00:47:14,940 --> 00:47:18,940
Everything was black
and white in her life.

1033
00:47:18,940 --> 00:47:19,990
But she did it.

1034
00:47:19,990 --> 00:47:20,830
She then held it.

1035
00:47:20,830 --> 00:47:21,190
She did it.

1036
00:47:21,190 --> 00:47:21,690
She did it.

1037

00:47:21,690 --> 00:47:22,412
She did it.

1038
00:47:22,412 --> 00:47:22,912
Mm-hmm.

1039
00:47:22,912 --> 00:47:25,650

1040
00:47:25,650 --> 00:47:28,980
You mentioned also
that, though, you

1041
00:47:28,980 --> 00:47:31,890
remember the time
with the Harrisons

1042
00:47:31,890 --> 00:47:35,380
as being a very happy time.

1043
00:47:35,380 --> 00:47:37,478
That's because they spoiled me.

1044
00:47:37,478 --> 00:47:38,446
[LAUGHS]

1045
00:47:38,446 --> 00:47:39,900
[LAUGHS]

1046
00:47:39,900 --> 00:47:40,815
Well, that's nice.

1047
00:47:40,815 --> 00:47:43,440

1048
00:47:43,440 --> 00:47:46,340
Did you keep up contact
with them after?

1049
00:47:46,340 --> 00:47:47,112
Oh yeah.

1050

00:47:47,112 --> 00:47:49,320

Did you want to leave them--
if you were happy there?

1051

00:47:49,320 --> 00:47:50,220

Good God, no.

1052

00:47:50,220 --> 00:47:52,000

I had no choice in the matter.

1053

00:47:52,000 --> 00:47:53,080

I didn't want to leave.

1054

00:47:53,080 --> 00:47:56,610

I would have been
happy to stay with.

1055

00:47:56,610 --> 00:48:00,690

Who was the
decision-maker there?

1056

00:48:00,690 --> 00:48:04,560

My parents had said we should
stay together as a family

1057

00:48:04,560 --> 00:48:07,560

and come to the United
States where our brother was

1058

00:48:07,560 --> 00:48:10,130

and where our aunts
and uncles were.

1059

00:48:10,130 --> 00:48:13,400

Did they know that Herman had
gotten to the United States?

1060

00:48:13,400 --> 00:48:15,020

Yeah, they did.

1061

00:48:15,020 --> 00:48:19,340

My father had to sign

something to let him go.

1062
00:48:19,340 --> 00:48:21,200
Now, I just recently
read something

1063
00:48:21,200 --> 00:48:23,360
that those signatures
were often forged.

1064
00:48:23,360 --> 00:48:27,170
So I don't know if my
father actually signed it.

1065
00:48:27,170 --> 00:48:28,910
But I think he did.

1066
00:48:28,910 --> 00:48:34,050
He had to sign that
he would let him go.

1067
00:48:34,050 --> 00:48:36,570
And I didn't come
back to this before.

1068
00:48:36,570 --> 00:48:39,130
What happened with your parents?

1069
00:48:39,130 --> 00:48:40,470
My parents went to--

1070
00:48:40,470 --> 00:48:43,935
first, they went from
Gurs to Rivesaltes in--

1071
00:48:43,935 --> 00:48:48,460

1072
00:48:48,460 --> 00:48:49,840
I guess in '41.

1073
00:48:49,840 --> 00:48:51,430

I do have it somewhere.

1074

00:48:51,430 --> 00:48:57,340

And then they were deported to
Auschwitz in August of 1942.

1075

00:48:57,340 --> 00:49:02,740

And they were killed August
14, 1942, upon their arrival.

1076

00:49:02,740 --> 00:49:04,490

Upon arrival.

1077

00:49:04,490 --> 00:49:06,470

So documents show that, huh?

1078

00:49:06,470 --> 00:49:06,970

Yeah.

1079

00:49:06,970 --> 00:49:09,440

You found documents about that.

1080

00:49:09,440 --> 00:49:10,970

The book that the French--

1081

00:49:10,970 --> 00:49:13,790

God, why do I never
remember his name?

1082

00:49:13,790 --> 00:49:19,620

There's a book written that
there's all the deportations--

1083

00:49:19,620 --> 00:49:23,280

when they went, who was on
it, when they were born.

1084

00:49:23,280 --> 00:49:23,780

Yeah.

1085

00:49:23,780 --> 00:49:27,500

1086
00:49:27,500 --> 00:49:30,830
You said that this was
something that was always

1087
00:49:30,830 --> 00:49:33,620
known in your
family when you had

1088
00:49:33,620 --> 00:49:35,570
children yourself and so on.

1089
00:49:35,570 --> 00:49:38,590
But did your kids
ask you questions?

1090
00:49:38,590 --> 00:49:39,800
Not so much.

1091
00:49:39,800 --> 00:49:42,750
I mean, when we would
get together as a family,

1092
00:49:42,750 --> 00:49:44,480
sometimes they
would talk about it.

1093
00:49:44,480 --> 00:49:46,340
And they would ask.

1094
00:49:46,340 --> 00:49:51,250
And that's when we heard
these standard stories.

1095
00:49:51,250 --> 00:49:54,160
No, they really didn't.

1096
00:49:54,160 --> 00:49:55,750
It's interesting.

1097
00:49:55,750 --> 00:49:58,560

1098
00:49:58,560 --> 00:50:01,500
The neighborhood where I
live used to be very Jewish.

1099
00:50:01,500 --> 00:50:05,310
And the high school my kids
went to had a large number

1100
00:50:05,310 --> 00:50:07,740
of Jewish students.

1101
00:50:07,740 --> 00:50:12,330
And my oldest daughter,
Deborah, has said lately

1102
00:50:12,330 --> 00:50:15,270
she didn't realize how
many people's parents were

1103
00:50:15,270 --> 00:50:15,990
survivors.

1104
00:50:15,990 --> 00:50:19,110
I mean, she's gone to a
lot of funerals and things.

1105
00:50:19,110 --> 00:50:21,030
And she said, "I
never knew that."

1106
00:50:21,030 --> 00:50:27,210
It just wasn't relevant to
the kids, I don't think.

1107
00:50:27,210 --> 00:50:30,650
I mean it probably
was, but not enough

1108
00:50:30,650 --> 00:50:33,790
that they shared it around.

1109

00:50:33,790 --> 00:50:38,050

Another question-- you mentioned earlier that one of the things

1110

00:50:38,050 --> 00:50:42,730

that was jarring when you came, and you lived with your aunt

1111

00:50:42,730 --> 00:50:46,630

and your uncle, your father's brother in Washington on I

1112

00:50:46,630 --> 00:50:48,690

think Capitol Street did you say or Cathedral--

1113

00:50:48,690 --> 00:50:49,273

North Capitol.

1114

00:50:49,273 --> 00:50:54,520

--North Capitol-- was that you went from one religion

1115

00:50:54,520 --> 00:50:56,890

to a new religion.

1116

00:50:56,890 --> 00:51:03,970

Well, I've been going to chapel in England and then came here.

1117

00:51:03,970 --> 00:51:06,190

For a very short while, I was supposed

1118

00:51:06,190 --> 00:51:08,800

to be going to Sunday school at Washington Hebrew,

1119

00:51:08,800 --> 00:51:10,513

but I never went.

1120

00:51:10,513 --> 00:51:12,680

[LAUGHS] I didn't know what

they were talking about.

1121
00:51:12,680 --> 00:51:13,540
I just didn't go.

1122
00:51:13,540 --> 00:51:17,740
I left the house
and fiddled around.

1123
00:51:17,740 --> 00:51:20,280
You mean you pretended to go?

1124
00:51:20,280 --> 00:51:21,358
You've got it.

1125
00:51:21,358 --> 00:51:22,174
[LAUGHS]

1126
00:51:22,174 --> 00:51:28,720
[LAUGHS] But my sisters had
me join Young Judaea, which

1127
00:51:28,720 --> 00:51:31,240
was a youth group at the time.

1128
00:51:31,240 --> 00:51:34,120
And then in-- did
you grow up here?

1129
00:51:34,120 --> 00:51:37,510
No, I grew up in Boston.

1130
00:51:37,510 --> 00:51:42,790
In Washington, the high
schools had Jewish sororities

1131
00:51:42,790 --> 00:51:46,000
and fraternities and clubs.

1132
00:51:46,000 --> 00:51:47,830
In the public high schools.

1133
00:51:47,830 --> 00:51:48,760
Yeah.

1134
00:51:48,760 --> 00:51:50,740
I mean, people in
public school, and they

1135
00:51:50,740 --> 00:51:53,680
belong to a sorority or a club.

1136
00:51:53,680 --> 00:51:58,410
And I did belong to a club.

1137
00:51:58,410 --> 00:52:01,800
I don't know why I belonged to
that particular one, but I did.

1138
00:52:01,800 --> 00:52:05,220

1139
00:52:05,220 --> 00:52:11,090
And kids used to go roller
skating Friday nights.

1140
00:52:11,090 --> 00:52:14,370
I mean, religion wasn't
part of it, really.

1141
00:52:14,370 --> 00:52:18,390
And my sister, Bertl,
worked for a person

1142
00:52:18,390 --> 00:52:20,490
who was on the board
of Camp Louise, which

1143
00:52:20,490 --> 00:52:23,610
is Jewish girls camp.

1144
00:52:23,610 --> 00:52:28,890
And they used to get to send
me to camp for \$5.00 a week.

1145
00:52:28,890 --> 00:52:30,750
They got a bargain
rate to get rid of me.

1146
00:52:30,750 --> 00:52:31,250
[LAUGHS]

1147
00:52:31,250 --> 00:52:32,910
I went there.

1148
00:52:32,910 --> 00:52:37,320
And I didn't really know
that much about Judaism.

1149
00:52:37,320 --> 00:52:40,860
And then when I
was older, I went

1150
00:52:40,860 --> 00:52:43,380
to the Habonim Camp
on the weekends

1151
00:52:43,380 --> 00:52:48,770
because I was always
working because Ruth was

1152
00:52:48,770 --> 00:52:51,200
married to this David Ezekiel.

1153
00:52:51,200 --> 00:52:54,500
And all his siblings
went to Moishe

1154
00:52:54,500 --> 00:52:57,660
and were involved in Habonim.

1155
00:52:57,660 --> 00:53:01,160
But it wasn't a big part
of my life otherwise.

1156
00:53:01,160 --> 00:53:05,870

But once we had children,
and they were old enough

1157
00:53:05,870 --> 00:53:08,150
to go to religious--
because my husband wasn't

1158
00:53:08,150 --> 00:53:10,730
very knowledgeable, either--
he's had a bar mitzvah, though.

1159
00:53:10,730 --> 00:53:14,720

1160
00:53:14,720 --> 00:53:16,880
We sent them to
religious school.

1161
00:53:16,880 --> 00:53:21,080
And then eventually, we
joined a reform congregation.

1162
00:53:21,080 --> 00:53:25,750
And I still belong to
that reform congregation.

1163
00:53:25,750 --> 00:53:28,090
But you did say something
interesting earlier when

1164
00:53:28,090 --> 00:53:30,160
you said, "I feel--

1165
00:53:30,160 --> 00:53:31,580
I mean, I am Jewish.

1166
00:53:31,580 --> 00:53:32,680
This is how I feel."

1167
00:53:32,680 --> 00:53:34,060
But when we were talking--

1168

00:53:34,060 --> 00:53:36,790
I don't remember whether
it was online or recorded

1169
00:53:36,790 --> 00:53:41,830
or not-- but we were talking
about differences in religions.

1170
00:53:41,830 --> 00:53:47,030
And so I guess part
of my questions

1171
00:53:47,030 --> 00:53:52,190
are trying to trace that arc
from your earliest memories

1172
00:53:52,190 --> 00:53:55,880
are belonging to a a
foster family that are

1173
00:53:55,880 --> 00:53:58,490
from fundamentalist Christian.

1174
00:53:58,490 --> 00:54:00,480
And so one of the
questions I have--

1175
00:54:00,480 --> 00:54:04,160
is there anything that you
took from that, that is still

1176
00:54:04,160 --> 00:54:06,060
part of your life today?

1177
00:54:06,060 --> 00:54:08,810
So that was there something--

1178
00:54:08,810 --> 00:54:12,110
I'm going to say a lot
of questions at once.

1179
00:54:12,110 --> 00:54:14,420
Was there something

when you came

1180
00:54:14,420 --> 00:54:18,890
to Washington that still
resonated with you so

1181
00:54:18,890 --> 00:54:23,690
that being introduced
to your own religion

1182
00:54:23,690 --> 00:54:27,740
that you were born
into felt strange?

1183
00:54:27,740 --> 00:54:29,570
And then how do you
acclimate to that?

1184
00:54:29,570 --> 00:54:31,340
What brought you to Judaism?

1185
00:54:31,340 --> 00:54:37,820
How did it come that this arc
in the end says, "I am a Jew"?

1186
00:54:37,820 --> 00:54:40,760

1187
00:54:40,760 --> 00:54:44,270
I doubt if I had any of those
thoughts and concerns when

1188
00:54:44,270 --> 00:54:45,072
I first came here.

1189
00:54:45,072 --> 00:54:46,280
I was just trying to survive.

1190
00:54:46,280 --> 00:54:49,950

1191
00:54:49,950 --> 00:54:55,630

Also, my best friends in
junior high and high school,

1192
00:54:55,630 --> 00:54:58,830
I had one really close
friend who was Jewish.

1193
00:54:58,830 --> 00:55:01,380
Her family were also immigrants.

1194
00:55:01,380 --> 00:55:03,900
And I spent a lot
of time with them.

1195
00:55:03,900 --> 00:55:07,332
I don't think she ever did
any going to synagogue.

1196
00:55:07,332 --> 00:55:09,040
I don't think they
did that stuff either.

1197
00:55:09,040 --> 00:55:13,170

1198
00:55:13,170 --> 00:55:15,720
I think a couple of things.

1199
00:55:15,720 --> 00:55:19,530
I think what's moral
and right is the same

1200
00:55:19,530 --> 00:55:24,120
whether I'm with the
Harrisons or being Jewish.

1201
00:55:24,120 --> 00:55:27,180
The importance of a
religious community

1202
00:55:27,180 --> 00:55:29,770
came from the Harrisons--

1203
00:55:29,770 --> 00:55:30,670
really did.

1204
00:55:30,670 --> 00:55:34,810
I mean, it was such a big
part of their life then.

1205
00:55:34,810 --> 00:55:39,150

1206
00:55:39,150 --> 00:55:41,640
The spirituality of music--

1207
00:55:41,640 --> 00:55:43,590
now, whether it came
from them or not,

1208
00:55:43,590 --> 00:55:48,150
I know when I visit Alan, we
always go to the cathedral.

1209
00:55:48,150 --> 00:55:51,560
I love the music.

1210
00:55:51,560 --> 00:55:53,450
And it doesn't matter
to me whether I know

1211
00:55:53,450 --> 00:55:55,580
exactly what they're singing.

1212
00:55:55,580 --> 00:56:01,600
There's something about
music, choral music.

1213
00:56:01,600 --> 00:56:05,260

1214
00:56:05,260 --> 00:56:08,950
Alan's father-- turns out
his father was Jewish,

1215

00:56:08,950 --> 00:56:11,260
which Uncle Harry didn't know.

1216

00:56:11,260 --> 00:56:15,580
Alan found it out
after uncle Harry died.

1217

00:56:15,580 --> 00:56:18,380
Alan's grandfather
was Jewish or Harry--

1218

00:56:18,380 --> 00:56:18,880
Mm-hmm.

1219

00:56:18,880 --> 00:56:20,880
--himself didn't know?

1220

00:56:20,880 --> 00:56:22,680
Alan's grandfather was Jewish.

1221

00:56:22,680 --> 00:56:27,780
He had come to England and
married Alan's grandmother.

1222

00:56:27,780 --> 00:56:30,010
They had two children.

1223

00:56:30,010 --> 00:56:31,740
And then he left and went back.

1224

00:56:31,740 --> 00:56:35,190
He came from Poland or
Ukraine or someplace.

1225

00:56:35,190 --> 00:56:40,150
And he went back and left Alan's
grandmother with the two boys.

1226

00:56:40,150 --> 00:56:42,120
She landed up in the poorhouse.

1227

00:56:42,120 --> 00:56:45,880
And one of her children
was Alan's father.

1228
00:56:45,880 --> 00:56:46,580
And after--

1229
00:56:46,580 --> 00:56:48,270
Your foster father.

1230
00:56:48,270 --> 00:56:49,740
Yep.

1231
00:56:49,740 --> 00:56:54,570
And after my foster
father, uncle Harry, died,

1232
00:56:54,570 --> 00:56:58,260
Alan was talking to one of his
cousins who mentioned she had

1233
00:56:58,260 --> 00:57:02,220
done some research and found
out that the grandfather--

1234
00:57:02,220 --> 00:57:05,100
because it was her
grandfather, too--

1235
00:57:05,100 --> 00:57:06,210
was Jewish.

1236
00:57:06,210 --> 00:57:09,540
And as I've told
Alan, his grandfather

1237
00:57:09,540 --> 00:57:13,410
probably had a family in
wherever he came from.

1238
00:57:13,410 --> 00:57:15,155
That often happened, yeah.

1239

00:57:15,155 --> 00:57:15,655

Yep.

1240

00:57:15,655 --> 00:57:17,640

[LAUGHS] Alan's done
a little research

1241

00:57:17,640 --> 00:57:21,016

and found out some
things about him.

1242

00:57:21,016 --> 00:57:27,270

[LAUGHS] But I mean, the world
is so small in many ways.

1243

00:57:27,270 --> 00:57:30,770

But I mean, I have been--

1244

00:57:30,770 --> 00:57:33,620

after I retired, mostly--

1245

00:57:33,620 --> 00:57:35,840

I mean, I was involved
in some stuff at temple

1246

00:57:35,840 --> 00:57:37,610

while I was still working--

1247

00:57:37,610 --> 00:57:41,480

but I have been president of
my congregation, school board

1248

00:57:41,480 --> 00:57:45,540

chair, and religious practice
chair, all kinds of things.

1249

00:57:45,540 --> 00:57:49,410

Now, I just act like
I'm just a member.

1250

00:57:49,410 --> 00:57:52,215

I don't do anything much.

1251
00:57:52,215 --> 00:57:53,880
But you're involved.

1252
00:57:53,880 --> 00:57:54,380
You were--

1253
00:57:54,380 --> 00:57:59,350
Yeah, yeah, I mean, I actually
am enjoying the Zoom services

1254
00:57:59,350 --> 00:58:02,206
because I don't drive at
night if it's raining.

1255
00:58:02,206 --> 00:58:02,706
[LAUGHS]

1256
00:58:02,706 --> 00:58:04,560
[LAUGHS]

1257
00:58:04,560 --> 00:58:06,200
So I can enjoy the service.

1258
00:58:06,200 --> 00:58:09,370
The other good thing is all
these people whose names

1259
00:58:09,370 --> 00:58:10,930
I've heard in the
last few years--

1260
00:58:10,930 --> 00:58:13,060
because there are a lot
of young, new members--

1261
00:58:13,060 --> 00:58:15,010
when you're on Zoom,
it has their names.

1262
00:58:15,010 --> 00:58:16,388
You can find out who they are.

1263
00:58:16,388 --> 00:58:16,930
That's right.

1264
00:58:16,930 --> 00:58:19,450
You can attach name
to face, and you don't

1265
00:58:19,450 --> 00:58:20,680
have to ask, "Who is that?"

1266
00:58:20,680 --> 00:58:21,355
Who is that?"

1267
00:58:21,355 --> 00:58:21,855
[LAUGHS]

1268
00:58:21,855 --> 00:58:24,280
No, I mean, it's embarrassing
when you ask somebody

1269
00:58:24,280 --> 00:58:25,900
the fifth time, and
they say, "We've

1270
00:58:25,900 --> 00:58:27,255
met several times before."

1271
00:58:27,255 --> 00:58:29,710
[LAUGHS]

1272
00:58:29,710 --> 00:58:34,245
So I want to turn now,
then, to the museum.

1273
00:58:34,245 --> 00:58:37,250

1274
00:58:37,250 --> 00:58:39,980
I mean, we touched
upon this earlier

1275

00:58:39,980 --> 00:58:45,650

where you said that before it
opened, Bertl had gone down,

1276

00:58:45,650 --> 00:58:49,190

and there was
somebody who didn't

1277

00:58:49,190 --> 00:58:50,990

make her feel very
welcome because she

1278

00:58:50,990 --> 00:58:52,340

was in Kindertransport.

1279

00:58:52,340 --> 00:58:54,110

It was a program.

1280

00:58:54,110 --> 00:58:55,970

I don't think it was
a museum program.

1281

00:58:55,970 --> 00:58:58,910

There was a gathering
of survivors.

1282

00:58:58,910 --> 00:59:00,770

It was before the museum opened.

1283

00:59:00,770 --> 00:59:04,240

And Bertl did not feel welcome.

1284

00:59:04,240 --> 00:59:07,982

When did you first
visit the museum?

1285

00:59:07,982 --> 00:59:08,850

[LAUGHS]

1286

00:59:08,850 --> 00:59:11,040

And for people who
will be listening

1287
00:59:11,040 --> 00:59:14,040
to this in the future, I'm
talking about the US Holocaust

1288
00:59:14,040 --> 00:59:16,830
Memorial Museum
in Washington, DC.

1289
00:59:16,830 --> 00:59:18,090
I'm trying to remember.

1290
00:59:18,090 --> 00:59:19,620
What year did it open?

1291
00:59:19,620 --> 00:59:21,330
'93.

1292
00:59:21,330 --> 00:59:26,940
So I probably went--

1293
00:59:26,940 --> 00:59:30,390
I started volunteering
there in '96.

1294
00:59:30,390 --> 00:59:35,170
And I'm not sure I had
actually visited it beforehand.

1295
00:59:35,170 --> 00:59:38,500
And then what prompted
you to volunteer?

1296
00:59:38,500 --> 00:59:40,180
Well, I retired.

1297
00:59:40,180 --> 00:59:42,050
I had to do something, right?

1298
00:59:42,050 --> 00:59:42,550
Mm-hmm.

1299

00:59:42,550 --> 00:59:45,400

And my husband was volunteering
at the Smithsonian.

1300

00:59:45,400 --> 00:59:46,660

That didn't appeal to me.

1301

00:59:46,660 --> 00:59:48,280

It seems to be the
Holocaust Museum

1302

00:59:48,280 --> 00:59:50,680

was where I needed to be.

1303

00:59:50,680 --> 00:59:52,240

So I volunteered.

1304

00:59:52,240 --> 00:59:55,510

I first worked in
public programs,

1305

00:59:55,510 --> 00:59:58,840

and then that person
left the museum

1306

00:59:58,840 --> 01:00:02,230

and gave me to Suzy
Snyder, who I don't think

1307

01:00:02,230 --> 01:00:03,660

was Suzy Snyder back then.

1308

01:00:03,660 --> 01:00:04,160

[LAUGHS]

1309

01:00:04,160 --> 01:00:09,280

[LAUGHS] No, I think she
had another last name.

1310

01:00:09,280 --> 01:00:12,214

Right, I think it was before
she got married, actually.

1311
01:00:12,214 --> 01:00:16,630
[LAUGHS] And I have
worked for Suzy Snyder

1312
01:00:16,630 --> 01:00:19,360
on and off since then.

1313
01:00:19,360 --> 01:00:20,920
I took a break.

1314
01:00:20,920 --> 01:00:24,880
My husband had a
stroke at some point.

1315
01:00:24,880 --> 01:00:28,090
And he stopped going down.

1316
01:00:28,090 --> 01:00:30,710
So I stopped going
down and that.

1317
01:00:30,710 --> 01:00:34,510
So I worked for her
for a long time.

1318
01:00:34,510 --> 01:00:38,020
I type at home sometimes
when I can't get in.

1319
01:00:38,020 --> 01:00:40,420
I do some typing at home.

1320
01:00:40,420 --> 01:00:42,970
Tell me some of the
things that you do,

1321
01:00:42,970 --> 01:00:46,688
some of those activities
and/or tasks or assignments

1322
01:00:46,688 --> 01:00:47,230

or something.

1323

01:00:47,230 --> 01:00:49,270

Well, I only know English.

1324

01:00:49,270 --> 01:00:52,540

So I type what other
people translate,

1325

01:00:52,540 --> 01:00:56,380

or I do office work
if she has pictures

1326

01:00:56,380 --> 01:01:00,760

that need to be put in albums
or make copies and that.

1327

01:01:00,760 --> 01:01:03,880

But mostly, I type,
which is kind of funny.

1328

01:01:03,880 --> 01:01:05,743

I failed typing in high school.

1329

01:01:05,743 --> 01:01:07,285

But I'm pretty good
on the computer--

1330

01:01:07,285 --> 01:01:07,785

[LAUGHS]

1331

01:01:07,785 --> 01:01:09,040

--because it corrects for you.

1332

01:01:09,040 --> 01:01:09,220

[LAUGHS]

1333

01:01:09,220 --> 01:01:09,970

Of course it does.

1334

01:01:09,970 --> 01:01:11,590

It's a wonderful instrument.

1335
01:01:11,590 --> 01:01:14,200
[LAUGHS]

1336
01:01:14,200 --> 01:01:16,240
So that's mostly what I do.

1337
01:01:16,240 --> 01:01:21,850
And now, I am also working
at the donor desk one day--

1338
01:01:21,850 --> 01:01:23,830
when I was till it closed--

1339
01:01:23,830 --> 01:01:25,030
a week.

1340
01:01:25,030 --> 01:01:30,780
And I do talks through
the Speakers Bureau.

1341
01:01:30,780 --> 01:01:31,875
So you visit schools.

1342
01:01:31,875 --> 01:01:35,670

1343
01:01:35,670 --> 01:01:36,750
Not very much.

1344
01:01:36,750 --> 01:01:39,150
I have done some
traveling for the museum.

1345
01:01:39,150 --> 01:01:43,770
But I did some
before Fred got sick.

1346
01:01:43,770 --> 01:01:46,420
Back in the days when
Fred could go with me,

1347

01:01:46,420 --> 01:01:48,330
they didn't need to
send a museum person.

1348

01:01:48,330 --> 01:01:50,220
I did some of that.

1349

01:01:50,220 --> 01:01:52,293
And then I did for a long time--

1350

01:01:52,293 --> 01:01:53,460
Could you tell me Fred who--

1351

01:01:53,460 --> 01:01:54,330
Fred last name?

1352

01:01:54,330 --> 01:01:55,470
I don't know.

1353

01:01:55,470 --> 01:01:57,000
Starobin, my husband.

1354

01:01:57,000 --> 01:01:58,530
Oh, I'm so sorry.

1355

01:01:58,530 --> 01:02:01,040
I'm so sorry.

1356

01:02:01,040 --> 01:02:03,290
Yeah, and the last
couple of years,

1357

01:02:03,290 --> 01:02:06,170
I've done some trips and that.

1358

01:02:06,170 --> 01:02:10,610
But I talk mostly
to school groups.

1359

01:02:10,610 --> 01:02:12,230
That come to the museum.

1360
01:02:12,230 --> 01:02:14,180
Yeah.

1361
01:02:14,180 --> 01:02:19,250
And I've done a couple
online schools and--

1362
01:02:19,250 --> 01:02:22,850

1363
01:02:22,850 --> 01:02:25,190
And, of course, First Person.

1364
01:02:25,190 --> 01:02:26,090
First Person.

1365
01:02:26,090 --> 01:02:28,820

1366
01:02:28,820 --> 01:02:32,030
Do you know how many
First Person interviews

1367
01:02:32,030 --> 01:02:35,110
you've participated in?

1368
01:02:35,110 --> 01:02:35,830
No.

1369
01:02:35,830 --> 01:02:37,990
How long has it been around?

1370
01:02:37,990 --> 01:02:38,770
Quite a while.

1371
01:02:38,770 --> 01:02:39,580
Quite a while.

1372
01:02:39,580 --> 01:02:41,920
I've done quite a

lot, but I don't--

1373
01:02:41,920 --> 01:02:43,320
an interesting story.

1374
01:02:43,320 --> 01:02:46,900
The very first one I did, I
was talking about how awful it

1375
01:02:46,900 --> 01:02:48,940
was living in my uncle's house.

1376
01:02:48,940 --> 01:02:51,580
And somebody popped up
in the audience and said,

1377
01:02:51,580 --> 01:02:52,760
"I used to live there."

1378
01:02:52,760 --> 01:02:54,350
And she's telling the truth.

1379
01:02:54,350 --> 01:02:54,850
[LAUGHS]

1380
01:02:54,850 --> 01:02:58,480
[LAUGHS] That's funny.

1381
01:02:58,480 --> 01:03:00,160
It was so funny.

1382
01:03:00,160 --> 01:03:02,950
And then there was
somebody else who was there

1383
01:03:02,950 --> 01:03:05,740
from Israel who knew about
the Kindertransport who

1384
01:03:05,740 --> 01:03:07,450
also did something.

1385

01:03:07,450 --> 01:03:10,600

But now, they don't
like people doing that.

1386

01:03:10,600 --> 01:03:13,720

They don't like people
popping up and yeah, well,

1387

01:03:13,720 --> 01:03:15,160

you're speaking on First Person.

1388

01:03:15,160 --> 01:03:15,970

Yeah, right.

1389

01:03:15,970 --> 01:03:16,630

[LAUGHS]

1390

01:03:16,630 --> 01:03:18,580

And again, they're
going to be people

1391

01:03:18,580 --> 01:03:20,440

who will listen
to this interview

1392

01:03:20,440 --> 01:03:22,750

and won't know what
First Person is.

1393

01:03:22,750 --> 01:03:28,030

And I will just explain that
it is a program at the US

1394

01:03:28,030 --> 01:03:33,100

Holocaust Memorial Museum in
Washington, DC, where I believe

1395

01:03:33,100 --> 01:03:36,100

it's held once a week or so.

1396

01:03:36,100 --> 01:03:39,490

It's a couple times a

week in the summer months.

1397
01:03:39,490 --> 01:03:43,300
And it is an opportunity
for the public

1398
01:03:43,300 --> 01:03:46,480
to come to one of
the auditoriums

1399
01:03:46,480 --> 01:03:50,860
and hear a person give an
eyewitness testimony and--

1400
01:03:50,860 --> 01:03:53,470
a survivor, an
eyewitness testimony

1401
01:03:53,470 --> 01:03:56,920
of what their experiences were.

1402
01:03:56,920 --> 01:04:00,880
And usually, but
not always, it is

1403
01:04:00,880 --> 01:04:06,510
held by the interviewer-- is a
person named Mr. Bill Benson.

1404
01:04:06,510 --> 01:04:08,310
And it lasts for an hour.

1405
01:04:08,310 --> 01:04:09,540
Have I gotten that right?

1406
01:04:09,540 --> 01:04:10,650
Is that most of--

1407
01:04:10,650 --> 01:04:13,440
You got it perfectly right.

1408
01:04:13,440 --> 01:04:16,170

My daughter Deborah
almost always

1409
01:04:16,170 --> 01:04:20,640
comes and several of
my nieces, and nephew.

1410
01:04:20,640 --> 01:04:22,320
Once, my nephew came.

1411
01:04:22,320 --> 01:04:25,980
And my niece from Philly
usually comes in for it.

1412
01:04:25,980 --> 01:04:29,842
And what really
amazes me is Tamara,

1413
01:04:29,842 --> 01:04:31,800
who has written about
her mother's experience--

1414
01:04:31,800 --> 01:04:34,200
is the one from Philly--

1415
01:04:34,200 --> 01:04:37,150
well, says she always
learned something new.

1416
01:04:37,150 --> 01:04:39,480
And if you ask me, I say
the same thing every year,

1417
01:04:39,480 --> 01:04:41,430
but apparently not.

1418
01:04:41,430 --> 01:04:45,130
Well, it is true.

1419
01:04:45,130 --> 01:04:48,150
I've interviewed certain
people over and over again,

1420

01:04:48,150 --> 01:04:51,270

somebody that I might
know personally.

1421

01:04:51,270 --> 01:04:56,610

There is a Holocaust survivor
that I first met in 1980.

1422

01:04:56,610 --> 01:05:02,640

And she was very open and
very giving and generous

1423

01:05:02,640 --> 01:05:03,690

in many ways.

1424

01:05:03,690 --> 01:05:06,090

And I first learned
her story then.

1425

01:05:06,090 --> 01:05:08,190

And I know it pretty well.

1426

01:05:08,190 --> 01:05:11,160

But over the years, I've
listened to other interviews

1427

01:05:11,160 --> 01:05:12,330

with this lady.

1428

01:05:12,330 --> 01:05:14,880

And I've learned new
things from them,

1429

01:05:14,880 --> 01:05:19,110

some detail that
was brought up that,

1430

01:05:19,110 --> 01:05:21,120

oh, I hadn't realized that.

1431

01:05:21,120 --> 01:05:25,260

It is true that

several interviews

1432

01:05:25,260 --> 01:05:29,880

can reveal different things.

1433

01:05:29,880 --> 01:05:35,050

Well, they ask a question a little differently and that.

1434

01:05:35,050 --> 01:05:40,360

What has been your experience interacting with the public

1435

01:05:40,360 --> 01:05:43,000

during First Person?

1436

01:05:43,000 --> 01:05:44,680

It's been pretty positive.

1437

01:05:44,680 --> 01:05:46,630

I mean, people ask questions.

1438

01:05:46,630 --> 01:05:53,340

Usually, they ask about whether I'm still Jewish

1439

01:05:53,340 --> 01:05:58,790

and if I've kept contact with the Harrisons.

1440

01:05:58,790 --> 01:06:02,240

Those are the main kind of questions that get asked.

1441

01:06:02,240 --> 01:06:04,280

But it's been pretty positive.

1442

01:06:04,280 --> 01:06:07,910

I mean, when I sit at the donor desk, and people come up,

1443

01:06:07,910 --> 01:06:10,790

and they want to
hug me, it's fine.

1444
01:06:10,790 --> 01:06:13,790
I mean, it was fine
till the spring.

1445
01:06:13,790 --> 01:06:15,950
I don't quite understand it.

1446
01:06:15,950 --> 01:06:22,900
But I mean, I feel I had
no control over anything

1447
01:06:22,900 --> 01:06:24,800
that happened to me.

1448
01:06:24,800 --> 01:06:29,520
So I don't think I did
something to be alive.

1449
01:06:29,520 --> 01:06:37,410
It's what other
people did so I think

1450
01:06:37,410 --> 01:06:39,710
everybody has things
in their lives,

1451
01:06:39,710 --> 01:06:45,210
hopefully not as traumatic
as having to leave your home.

1452
01:06:45,210 --> 01:06:47,880
But everybody has things
that have happened to them

1453
01:06:47,880 --> 01:06:49,490
that have shaped who they are.

1454
01:06:49,490 --> 01:06:52,050

1455

01:06:52,050 --> 01:06:56,680

Sometimes, I find it
hard to understand.

1456

01:06:56,680 --> 01:06:58,960

I mean I understand
being God blessed.

1457

01:06:58,960 --> 01:06:59,680

That's fine.

1458

01:06:59,680 --> 01:07:03,430

I might say that to someone
who's had a hard time.

1459

01:07:03,430 --> 01:07:06,160

But I don't feel
that I, personally,

1460

01:07:06,160 --> 01:07:10,970

have done anything that has
made me this wonderful survivor.

1461

01:07:10,970 --> 01:07:13,780

1462

01:07:13,780 --> 01:07:17,390

I want to turn the question,
though, to a different aspect.

1463

01:07:17,390 --> 01:07:23,990

And that is, you said that when
you retired, and you wanted

1464

01:07:23,990 --> 01:07:28,010

to do something, you felt that
the museum was the right place

1465

01:07:28,010 --> 01:07:28,620

to do it.

1466

01:07:28,620 --> 01:07:33,990

So something at the museum
is relevant for you.

1467
01:07:33,990 --> 01:07:34,490
Yes.

1468
01:07:34,490 --> 01:07:38,400
Something-- and what is that?

1469
01:07:38,400 --> 01:07:45,260
Well, I think it's given
me not my family here.

1470
01:07:45,260 --> 01:07:46,760
I know them.

1471
01:07:46,760 --> 01:07:51,800
It's given me my history
and some understanding

1472
01:07:51,800 --> 01:07:55,210
of what was happening, I think.

1473
01:07:55,210 --> 01:07:57,520
I mean, it isn't that
I hadn't taken things

1474
01:07:57,520 --> 01:08:00,940
about the Holocaust
before and hadn't read,

1475
01:08:00,940 --> 01:08:03,220
though I don't read
endlessly about it.

1476
01:08:03,220 --> 01:08:07,730
I really don't,
but a perspective

1477
01:08:07,730 --> 01:08:11,880
that I didn't have
before that, I think,

1478

01:08:11,880 --> 01:08:19,500

and also, the need to really
tell people not so much

1479

01:08:19,500 --> 01:08:25,890

about my specific experiences,
about the fact that people

1480

01:08:25,890 --> 01:08:31,060

can change people's
lives by doing--

1481

01:08:31,060 --> 01:08:33,970

I was doing goodness.

1482

01:08:33,970 --> 01:08:42,399

I mean, I was very
lucky that I had parents

1483

01:08:42,399 --> 01:08:46,060

who were willing to let us go.

1484

01:08:46,060 --> 01:08:48,910

And I think a lot
of parents were not.

1485

01:08:48,910 --> 01:08:51,609

And I don't know
how they managed it.

1486

01:08:51,609 --> 01:08:53,710

I mean, they weren't wealthy.

1487

01:08:53,710 --> 01:08:55,689

They weren't highly educated.

1488

01:08:55,689 --> 01:08:57,399

They weren't living
in a big city.

1489

01:08:57,399 --> 01:08:59,529

How did they do that?

1490
01:08:59,529 --> 01:09:02,029
And their faith--

1491
01:09:02,029 --> 01:09:05,180
I mean they really believe
God would take care of us--

1492
01:09:05,180 --> 01:09:06,010
God and people.

1493
01:09:06,010 --> 01:09:08,390
They had such faith.

1494
01:09:08,390 --> 01:09:10,990
I mean, they kept
the faith in God,

1495
01:09:10,990 --> 01:09:13,390
but they also had
such faith in family

1496
01:09:13,390 --> 01:09:17,470
and the importance of
family and other people.

1497
01:09:17,470 --> 01:09:23,750
And I think I didn't
know that always.

1498
01:09:23,750 --> 01:09:26,930
And I think it's
an important thing

1499
01:09:26,930 --> 01:09:30,740
that whatever as
an individual we

1500
01:09:30,740 --> 01:09:34,460
can do to help
someone however small.

1501

01:09:34,460 --> 01:09:36,800
I mean, when I talk to kids--

1502
01:09:36,800 --> 01:09:38,295
having worked in
a middle school,

1503
01:09:38,295 --> 01:09:39,920
I know this-- there
are always kids who

1504
01:09:39,920 --> 01:09:42,330
have no one to eat lunch with.

1505
01:09:42,330 --> 01:09:44,000
Ask them to eat lunch with you.

1506
01:09:44,000 --> 01:09:48,479
It doesn't have to be
a big thing you do.

1507
01:09:48,479 --> 01:09:50,060
It can be little
things that help

1508
01:09:50,060 --> 01:09:54,320
people, that change their
lives in ways you don't know.

1509
01:09:54,320 --> 01:10:01,380
And I think if I certainly
could tell people my story.

1510
01:10:01,380 --> 01:10:05,250
But if I can get someone
to be able to look outside

1511
01:10:05,250 --> 01:10:09,390
of themselves and
see what they could

1512
01:10:09,390 --> 01:10:15,550
do that might help someone

else, it's very important.

1513
01:10:15,550 --> 01:10:17,225
It's quite profound.

1514
01:10:17,225 --> 01:10:17,900
I mean--

1515
01:10:17,900 --> 01:10:19,320
It's my preachy.

1516
01:10:19,320 --> 01:10:25,350
No, no, no, when I think of
what you're saying in relation,

1517
01:10:25,350 --> 01:10:32,220
I mean, to all of it,
particularly to your parents,

1518
01:10:32,220 --> 01:10:35,610
what would you
want to tell them?

1519
01:10:35,610 --> 01:10:38,160
If you had a chance to
speak to them today--

1520
01:10:38,160 --> 01:10:41,220
these people you never knew--

1521
01:10:41,220 --> 01:10:45,260
would you want to tell them
that their faith paid off?

1522
01:10:45,260 --> 01:10:46,430
Oh, yes.

1523
01:10:46,430 --> 01:10:52,440
I would want to thank them for
being able to make a sacrifice.

1524
01:10:52,440 --> 01:10:54,710

I mean, I'm pretty
sure when they sent us,

1525
01:10:54,710 --> 01:10:58,070
they thought they were
going to be able to get out.

1526
01:10:58,070 --> 01:11:04,220
But I think I pretty
much trust people.

1527
01:11:04,220 --> 01:11:06,150
And that came from them.

1528
01:11:06,150 --> 01:11:10,340
It came from reading the letters
from them, from my mother.

1529
01:11:10,340 --> 01:11:16,250
And I don't think I'm bitter.

1530
01:11:16,250 --> 01:11:19,300
And I think it came from them.

1531
01:11:19,300 --> 01:11:21,790
And, of course, I didn't have
terrible things happen to me.

1532
01:11:21,790 --> 01:11:28,580
[LAUGHS] But I don't
feel angry about it.

1533
01:11:28,580 --> 01:11:31,360
I mean, I certainly went
through a spell as a teenager

1534
01:11:31,360 --> 01:11:35,070
when I wouldn't buy
or anything German.

1535
01:11:35,070 --> 01:11:37,800
When I first started teaching
at the middle school,

1536
01:11:37,800 --> 01:11:42,390
I wouldn't talk to the German
teacher, but I got over that.

1537
01:11:42,390 --> 01:11:49,000
But I think a
trusting nature came

1538
01:11:49,000 --> 01:11:58,980
from them, and then family,
which is so important to me.

1539
01:11:58,980 --> 01:12:02,680
I mean, I know
people who would have

1540
01:12:02,680 --> 01:12:05,740
disowned their children for
marrying someone non-Jewish.

1541
01:12:05,740 --> 01:12:07,930
I don't get that.

1542
01:12:07,930 --> 01:12:10,690
And maybe they were that way.

1543
01:12:10,690 --> 01:12:12,140
But I think they weren't.

1544
01:12:12,140 --> 01:12:12,790
[LAUGHS]

1545
01:12:12,790 --> 01:12:15,205
I had this picture
since I don't know

1546
01:12:15,205 --> 01:12:16,330
what they were really like.

1547
01:12:16,330 --> 01:12:21,300
I'm made a picture in my mind.

1548
01:12:21,300 --> 01:12:23,220
But I think--

1549
01:12:23,220 --> 01:12:24,750
Well, that's huge.

1550
01:12:24,750 --> 01:12:28,770
I mean, you've hit
upon a couple of things

1551
01:12:28,770 --> 01:12:41,350
that are so deep and so hard
to, I want to say, get rid of.

1552
01:12:41,350 --> 01:12:44,240
And one of them is bitterness.

1553
01:12:44,240 --> 01:12:45,957
And the other one of them is--

1554
01:12:45,957 --> 01:12:46,790
One of them is what?

1555
01:12:46,790 --> 01:12:47,900
Bitterness.

1556
01:12:47,900 --> 01:12:49,040
Oh, yeah.

1557
01:12:49,040 --> 01:12:52,610
Somebody who has
experienced so much.

1558
01:12:52,610 --> 01:12:57,980
I mean, it's not only
what one has experienced.

1559
01:12:57,980 --> 01:13:00,510
But of course, as
you were saying that,

1560

01:13:00,510 --> 01:13:02,720

I was wondering what
your brother, Herman,

1561

01:13:02,720 --> 01:13:07,070

felt because he tasted
some of those policies.

1562

01:13:07,070 --> 01:13:10,740

He had it on his back.

1563

01:13:10,740 --> 01:13:18,580

But the, how shall I say, the
imprint that it often leaves

1564

01:13:18,580 --> 01:13:23,290

is bitterness or the
inability to trust.

1565

01:13:23,290 --> 01:13:25,960

I think that that is huge.

1566

01:13:25,960 --> 01:13:34,210

And to have that ability and
to feel that is likewise huge.

1567

01:13:34,210 --> 01:13:36,430

It's the benefit of
living to old age

1568

01:13:36,430 --> 01:13:38,730

and being able to think
about things, too.

1569

01:13:38,730 --> 01:13:39,230

[LAUGHS]

1570

01:13:39,230 --> 01:13:40,660

Yeah, yeah.

1571

01:13:40,660 --> 01:13:42,880

Not everybody's had that chance.

1572
01:13:42,880 --> 01:13:44,930
That's really true.

1573
01:13:44,930 --> 01:13:47,470
I mean, I read about--

1574
01:13:47,470 --> 01:13:50,590
not so much now--
the people who are

1575
01:13:50,590 --> 01:13:55,510
in [INAUDIBLE],, but the people
originally, who a lot of them

1576
01:13:55,510 --> 01:14:00,120
were in camps, and hearing
things that happened to them.

1577
01:14:00,120 --> 01:14:02,430
And it's hard to think you
could live through that

1578
01:14:02,430 --> 01:14:08,040
and then be a functioning
wife, mother, father, whatever.

1579
01:14:08,040 --> 01:14:09,420
And I appreciate that.

1580
01:14:09,420 --> 01:14:13,830
I mean, I appreciate
the fact that I really

1581
01:14:13,830 --> 01:14:17,730
didn't have horrible,
horrible things happen,

1582
01:14:17,730 --> 01:14:19,800
other than the basic
thing, being taken away

1583

01:14:19,800 --> 01:14:21,240
from your parents.

1584
01:14:21,240 --> 01:14:24,840
But lots of other
people have stepped

1585
01:14:24,840 --> 01:14:29,540
into that role of mothering.

1586
01:14:29,540 --> 01:14:30,810
For you.

1587
01:14:30,810 --> 01:14:31,310
For me.

1588
01:14:31,310 --> 01:14:34,130

1589
01:14:34,130 --> 01:14:40,850
I mean, all of this area that
I'm asking questions about now,

1590
01:14:40,850 --> 01:14:45,860
and I'm exploring, has to do
with the role of the museum.

1591
01:14:45,860 --> 01:14:51,200
So we've touched a bit
on what that has been

1592
01:14:51,200 --> 01:14:53,120
for you, what it has given you.

1593
01:14:53,120 --> 01:14:56,310

1594
01:14:56,310 --> 01:15:00,390
What do you think you have
brought to the museum?

1595
01:15:00,390 --> 01:15:03,390

And what do you
think the museum--

1596
01:15:03,390 --> 01:15:08,070
what is its value for
those for whom this is not

1597
01:15:08,070 --> 01:15:08,910
part of their story?

1598
01:15:08,910 --> 01:15:12,870

1599
01:15:12,870 --> 01:15:15,920
Well, the museum, as
I said, has given me

1600
01:15:15,920 --> 01:15:19,560
some history, some
understanding,

1601
01:15:19,560 --> 01:15:26,310
some way to put my experience
into the larger picture.

1602
01:15:26,310 --> 01:15:28,140
What do I bring to the museum?

1603
01:15:28,140 --> 01:15:30,610
I'm not really sure
that I bring anything.

1604
01:15:30,610 --> 01:15:31,110
[LAUGHS]

1605
01:15:31,110 --> 01:15:32,205
Oh, I'm sure you do.

1606
01:15:32,205 --> 01:15:33,520
[LAUGHS] But I--

1607
01:15:33,520 --> 01:15:34,470

Isn't it 24 years?

1608
01:15:34,470 --> 01:15:37,830
We're talking 1996 to 2020?

1609
01:15:37,830 --> 01:15:38,770
[LAUGHS]

1610
01:15:38,770 --> 01:15:39,270
Yeah.

1611
01:15:39,270 --> 01:15:41,390
Well, my great typing ability.

1612
01:15:41,390 --> 01:15:41,890
[LAUGHS]

1613
01:15:41,890 --> 01:15:42,390
[LAUGHS]

1614
01:15:42,390 --> 01:15:45,600
No, but I do think I helped
to broaden the picture

1615
01:15:45,600 --> 01:15:50,310
of what people experienced.

1616
01:15:50,310 --> 01:15:56,430
I mean telling and writing, I
think it broadens the picture,

1617
01:15:56,430 --> 01:15:58,680
and it expands
people's knowledge

1618
01:15:58,680 --> 01:16:07,080
so that they don't just think
of the Holocaust as Auschwitz.

1619
01:16:07,080 --> 01:16:14,670
And I think I also bring the
fact that people did help,

1620
01:16:14,670 --> 01:16:20,900
that there were people
who were helpful in ways

1621
01:16:20,900 --> 01:16:23,810
that we don't think
of as being helpful.

1622
01:16:23,810 --> 01:16:27,610
And I mainly, when
I write, write

1623
01:16:27,610 --> 01:16:32,890
about how it affects me now.

1624
01:16:32,890 --> 01:16:38,130
And I think what I bring is
a understanding that this

1625
01:16:38,130 --> 01:16:40,710
is something that
happened to me as a kid.

1626
01:16:40,710 --> 01:16:44,820
But it impacts many
aspects of my life

1627
01:16:44,820 --> 01:16:49,170
and continues to do that,
not necessarily negative.

1628
01:16:49,170 --> 01:16:53,790
It's just more
factual than anything.

1629
01:16:53,790 --> 01:16:57,720
I think I do bring
that to the museum

1630
01:16:57,720 --> 01:17:01,350
because I don't write
a lot about Germany,

1631
01:17:01,350 --> 01:17:04,740
and that mainly because
I've written a lot about it,

1632
01:17:04,740 --> 01:17:12,210
and it isn't what I
think about so much.

1633
01:17:12,210 --> 01:17:15,090
There's a movie, Into
the Arms of Strangers,

1634
01:17:15,090 --> 01:17:17,670
about the Kindertransport.

1635
01:17:17,670 --> 01:17:22,530
And I was friends at synagogue
with a man whose mother had

1636
01:17:22,530 --> 01:17:26,430
gotten out of Ukraine,
I think, because she

1637
01:17:26,430 --> 01:17:31,560
worked as a nurse on a train
bringing kids to England.

1638
01:17:31,560 --> 01:17:35,190
So he was born after
she got to England.

1639
01:17:35,190 --> 01:17:37,620
But they showed this movie--

1640
01:17:37,620 --> 01:17:39,690
or there's a shortened version.

1641
01:17:39,690 --> 01:17:42,750
They showed it to the high
school kids at our synagogue,

1642

01:17:42,750 --> 01:17:44,220
and John and I spoke.

1643
01:17:44,220 --> 01:17:47,880
And we decided to speak
about the losses that

1644
01:17:47,880 --> 01:17:51,960
are involved when you come
from a family like this.

1645
01:17:51,960 --> 01:17:54,960
And I do talk about that.

1646
01:17:54,960 --> 01:17:56,820
I mean, some of them
are silly things,

1647
01:17:56,820 --> 01:18:00,240
like not knowing
your parents' recipes

1648
01:18:00,240 --> 01:18:02,460
or what they did for holidays.

1649
01:18:02,460 --> 01:18:04,080
But some of them
are more serious.

1650
01:18:04,080 --> 01:18:06,420
You don't know medical history.

1651
01:18:06,420 --> 01:18:08,950
You don't know--

1652
01:18:08,950 --> 01:18:10,530
I mean, if it
wasn't for Reinhart,

1653
01:18:10,530 --> 01:18:12,280
I wouldn't know about
all these relatives.

1654

01:18:12,280 --> 01:18:14,390

You don't know
that kind of stuff.

1655

01:18:14,390 --> 01:18:16,690

You don't know stories.

1656

01:18:16,690 --> 01:18:20,410

I mean, I know
basically what happened

1657

01:18:20,410 --> 01:18:22,540

to all of my aunts and uncles.

1658

01:18:22,540 --> 01:18:24,650

But I've never heard
any stories about them,

1659

01:18:24,650 --> 01:18:27,340

so that doesn't
mean a lot to me.

1660

01:18:27,340 --> 01:18:31,380

You don't have that,
even though as kids, I

1661

01:18:31,380 --> 01:18:34,110

know kids often don't
want to hear that stuff

1662

01:18:34,110 --> 01:18:35,490

and listen to it.

1663

01:18:35,490 --> 01:18:38,250

But the things you are missing--

1664

01:18:38,250 --> 01:18:44,010

you don't know
what your parents--

1665

01:18:44,010 --> 01:18:46,560

well, John, of course, knew

because his mother was alive--

1666
01:18:46,560 --> 01:18:49,080

1667
01:18:49,080 --> 01:18:50,460
wanted for you.

1668
01:18:50,460 --> 01:18:54,510
You don't know what
traits in your life

1669
01:18:54,510 --> 01:18:56,880
that came from your parents.

1670
01:18:56,880 --> 01:18:59,340
And even though I
left when I was two,

1671
01:18:59,340 --> 01:19:02,460
I am sure there are things
about me that are probably

1672
01:19:02,460 --> 01:19:04,800
similar to one of my parents.

1673
01:19:04,800 --> 01:19:06,080
But I don't know them.

1674
01:19:06,080 --> 01:19:07,960
[LAUGHS]

1675
01:19:07,960 --> 01:19:13,320
So I think sometimes
the kind of losses

1676
01:19:13,320 --> 01:19:16,740
maybe are not that important
in the broad sense.

1677
01:19:16,740 --> 01:19:18,638

1678
01:19:18,638 --> 01:19:20,180
But there's something
to think about.

1679
01:19:20,180 --> 01:19:21,722
Well, I think they're
very important.

1680
01:19:21,722 --> 01:19:31,770
I mean, I don't say that
to magnify artificially

1681
01:19:31,770 --> 01:19:32,760
what you are saying.

1682
01:19:32,760 --> 01:19:38,640
I'm saying that because
all that you talk about

1683
01:19:38,640 --> 01:19:45,330
is what people would normally
inherit that is not tangible.

1684
01:19:45,330 --> 01:19:47,370
It's an intangible.

1685
01:19:47,370 --> 01:19:48,180
Definitely.

1686
01:19:48,180 --> 01:19:51,810
But it is something
that you are given.

1687
01:19:51,810 --> 01:19:54,120
It is part of a legacy.

1688
01:19:54,120 --> 01:19:57,330
And those parts are missing.

1689
01:19:57,330 --> 01:19:57,900
True.

1690
01:19:57,900 --> 01:20:00,690
And you don't know
whether or not

1691
01:20:00,690 --> 01:20:03,510
it would have been
always good stuff.

1692
01:20:03,510 --> 01:20:05,430
It might not have been.

1693
01:20:05,430 --> 01:20:10,560
But its part that you
didn't have a choice

1694
01:20:10,560 --> 01:20:14,400
to explore, to find out about.

1695
01:20:14,400 --> 01:20:19,860
I'm talking not about
the very concrete things,

1696
01:20:19,860 --> 01:20:25,410
like medical conditions,
but traits, or to find out

1697
01:20:25,410 --> 01:20:28,200
about an uncle who you
may not have liked,

1698
01:20:28,200 --> 01:20:30,450
but you would have wanted
to know him to know that you

1699
01:20:30,450 --> 01:20:31,880
might not have liked him.

1700
01:20:31,880 --> 01:20:34,440
Do you know what
I'm trying to say?

1701

01:20:34,440 --> 01:20:36,480
Yeah, and some of
it is stuff you just

1702
01:20:36,480 --> 01:20:39,410
absorb without actually
knowing you're absorbing it--

1703
01:20:39,410 --> 01:20:39,910
Exactly.

1704
01:20:39,910 --> 01:20:40,702
--like you know it.

1705
01:20:40,702 --> 01:20:42,480
Exactly.

1706
01:20:42,480 --> 01:20:44,190
I mean, that's one
of the other things

1707
01:20:44,190 --> 01:20:45,960
I tell when I talk to kids.

1708
01:20:45,960 --> 01:20:49,120
Ask your parents about
how they grew up.

1709
01:20:49,120 --> 01:20:52,240
Ask these questions
before it's too late.

1710
01:20:52,240 --> 01:20:55,500
I mean, even with my
sister, when I said about--

1711
01:20:55,500 --> 01:20:57,540
I wish I'd asked
them, why didn't they

1712
01:20:57,540 --> 01:20:58,500
talk about my mother?

1713
01:20:58,500 --> 01:21:01,140

1714
01:21:01,140 --> 01:21:03,270
I mean, I know they
lived in a time

1715
01:21:03,270 --> 01:21:10,470
when the father was the head
of the household, but still.

1716
01:21:10,470 --> 01:21:13,320
Well, what kind of a picture do
you have in your mind of her?

1717
01:21:13,320 --> 01:21:17,390

1718
01:21:17,390 --> 01:21:21,560
I have a picture of a very busy
lady taking care of five kids.

1719
01:21:21,560 --> 01:21:27,360
[LAUGHS] I don't have that
much of a picture of her.

1720
01:21:27,360 --> 01:21:30,340
I mean, I know what
she looked like.

1721
01:21:30,340 --> 01:21:32,440
I think she was caring.

1722
01:21:32,440 --> 01:21:34,660
I mean, the letters she told--

1723
01:21:34,660 --> 01:21:39,130
I love this one letter she had
written to Bertl, who was maybe

1724
01:21:39,130 --> 01:21:41,770
15, and we were all

in different places,

1725
01:21:41,770 --> 01:21:44,770
telling Bertl to make sure we
all thank the people taking

1726
01:21:44,770 --> 01:21:50,020
care of us, we studied hard,
we wash behind our ears, none

1727
01:21:50,020 --> 01:21:53,500
of which she could actually do.

1728
01:21:53,500 --> 01:21:55,600
But it was important
to my mother.

1729
01:21:55,600 --> 01:21:59,650
In fact, my younger grandson
was taking a Holocaust course

1730
01:21:59,650 --> 01:22:00,610
in college.

1731
01:22:00,610 --> 01:22:02,860
And he wrote using the letters--

1732
01:22:02,860 --> 01:22:05,365
how our mother
mothered from the camp.

1733
01:22:05,365 --> 01:22:07,090
It was interesting--

1734
01:22:07,090 --> 01:22:08,530
That's beautiful.

1735
01:22:08,530 --> 01:22:12,070
--to see what he
thought and that.

1736
01:22:12,070 --> 01:22:17,190

Yeah, it's very interesting.

1737

01:22:17,190 --> 01:22:22,130

Esther, I think I
have more questions.

1738

01:22:22,130 --> 01:22:24,130

But I'm wondering
is there something

1739

01:22:24,130 --> 01:22:30,040

that you think I haven't asked
that you would want to say,

1740

01:22:30,040 --> 01:22:39,220

and either about your story or
the museum and the significance

1741

01:22:39,220 --> 01:22:43,340

of what the museum
is for you and what

1742

01:22:43,340 --> 01:22:49,410

you think the museum is
for others, any of it?

1743

01:22:49,410 --> 01:22:50,700

Any final thoughts?

1744

01:22:50,700 --> 01:22:54,490

Well, I think, and
I will tell people,

1745

01:22:54,490 --> 01:22:57,760

my family is my most
important thing in my life

1746

01:22:57,760 --> 01:23:00,450

and my synagogue
and then the museum.

1747

01:23:00,450 --> 01:23:06,980

They are the three

important pillars.

1748

01:23:06,980 --> 01:23:08,900

That sounds kind of Muslim.

1749

01:23:08,900 --> 01:23:09,400

[LAUGHS]

1750

01:23:09,400 --> 01:23:12,843

[LAUGHS] But that's my life.

1751

01:23:12,843 --> 01:23:14,510

I mean, I have friends

that have nothing

1752

01:23:14,510 --> 01:23:18,140

to do with any of these things.

1753

01:23:18,140 --> 01:23:20,930

But I think there

were parts of my life

1754

01:23:20,930 --> 01:23:25,870

that take my time and

thought and caring.

1755

01:23:25,870 --> 01:23:30,970

And I think the museum has

been so important, both to me

1756

01:23:30,970 --> 01:23:34,780

and my family, even though I'm

the only person really actually

1757

01:23:34,780 --> 01:23:37,300

involved with the museum.

1758

01:23:37,300 --> 01:23:41,080

But it's become very important.

1759

01:23:41,080 --> 01:23:48,600

And I find that I think people

go out of their way to be

1760
01:23:48,600 --> 01:23:54,350
inclusive, to make
it not a family,

1761
01:23:54,350 --> 01:23:57,420
because that's a silly
thing-- it's not a family--

1762
01:23:57,420 --> 01:24:03,470
but to make me feel part of it
and somewhat necessary to it

1763
01:24:03,470 --> 01:24:06,052
as it is necessary to me.

1764
01:24:06,052 --> 01:24:08,600
You mean like a community,
that it's a community.

1765
01:24:08,600 --> 01:24:09,560
It is a community.

1766
01:24:09,560 --> 01:24:10,060
Yeah.

1767
01:24:10,060 --> 01:24:16,060

1768
01:24:16,060 --> 01:24:18,090
Thank you.

1769
01:24:18,090 --> 01:24:20,340
Thank you very, very much.

1770
01:24:20,340 --> 01:24:23,640
Well, I am here if you think
you need to talk to me again.

1771
01:24:23,640 --> 01:24:25,190
I'm not going anywhere.

1772
01:24:25,190 --> 01:24:26,610
[LAUGHS]

1773
01:24:26,610 --> 01:24:29,730
I will say that
formally, there could

1774
01:24:29,730 --> 01:24:33,630
be more questions that come up.

1775
01:24:33,630 --> 01:24:36,060
And so then I will
call you again.

1776
01:24:36,060 --> 01:24:38,820
But for right now,
what I will say

1777
01:24:38,820 --> 01:24:42,240
is I will formally
end the interview.

1778
01:24:42,240 --> 01:24:47,160
And that is that this concludes
the United States Holocaust

1779
01:24:47,160 --> 01:24:52,590
Memorial Museum interview
with Mrs. Esther Starobin nee

1780
01:24:52,590 --> 01:25:00,090
Rosenfeld on May 28,
2020, in Washington--

1781
01:25:00,090 --> 01:25:03,490
no, excuse me, Silver
Spring, Maryland.

1782
01:25:03,490 --> 01:25:05,500
Thank you again.

1783

01:25:05,500 --> 01:25:06,000