

WELLA SCHIFFMAN Phoenix ',7i ~

I came from Prozen in Poland, my father died when I was five years old. My mother died just before the Germans came in. My family name was Sheretz. My father was in the eggs, butter, cheese business. Non Jews brought the food in and we sold it. There was a lot of anti-Semitism in the town. We were called Yid and other derogatory things.

I went to a public school and in the afternoons to a Jewish school. The Poles used to stand outside of Jewish stores and tell non Jews to buy from non Jewish stores. I belonged to a Zionist organization. We did what we could. There were fights between Jewish and non Jewish children.

When the Germans marched in we thought the Polish would get them out. I was in Ducklin visiting my brother when the Germans marched in. I went home by foot it took me three days to return home. After six weeks we left by night and my brother and I went to Russia. We were separated and I couldn't find my brother.

I was married in Russia in 1940 in the Ukraine. Very soon I was pregnant. My sister and I were tailoring and sold to Jews. After the baby was born I didn't work. The Polish were worse to the Jews than the Germans. In Russia we did not see the Germans. I lived near the Caspian Sea. We were evacuated to Mahatchela. Conditions never were good, we lived in one room, 10 people, no washroom, no water. It was necessary to steal to live in Russia. We lived there 6 years from 1940-46

Two sisters went to Israel. One sister joined her husband in Uruguay. One sister is still alive and there are four children.

Polish and Ukrainians were worse to us than the Germans. From Russia we went to Breslau and to Austria and Germany. After the war pogroms killed Jews. I spent 3 1/2 years in DP camps run by UNRRA. From Germany I went to Israel on a ship which took two weeks in a freighter. I had two children there. I spent 9 years in Israel. Then my mother in law wanted us to come to the US so we could be with the family and we went to Chicago where I worked in a store and a factory. My husband was a mechanic and also worked in factories. We have been in Phoenix 8 years. My older daughter who is a college graduate works as a bookkeeper, my younger daughter is a secretary. I have 5 grandchildren. I wonder how I survived. I cannot tell everything.