

### **Summary of Interview With Carla Chotzen (HHP)**

I was born in Weimar, Germany in 1924. My Maternal Grandfather was a Rabbi, and he lived in Berlin. I used to visit him until I was 8. I used to dance on the Persian rugs there.

My father had a knitting mill. He had no formal education in religion. In '32 he tried to establish a business in England but he had to pay 1/3 taxes to Germany if he had a business elsewhere. He had 1000 employees.

He went back to Berlin. I was stopped from going to school when I was eight because I was Jewish. I went to a Jewish school after that and then went to Switzerland. My father had read Mein Kampf, and knew that we would have to leave. I didn't feel discrimination in Weimar. My brothers took care of the mill there.

I went to England and learned English in six months. In 1935, I moved back to Berlin. I went to school in Berlin and got kicked out soon.

We had a non-jewish maid, and she reported my brother for burying a statue of Hitler. The Gestapo. When we were 11 and 12, my father took us aside and told us to become Christian for our own good. This is the time when we went to the Jewish school and then went to Switzerland and learned French.

My father left us in Switzerland and escaped to Czechoslovakia (sp?). He did not keep his appointment with the Gestapo. He met my mother in Prague. I was 11 when I came to America. I came on a Dutch boat and stayed with my grandparents in Buffalo. My parents stayed in England.

I had three thousand dollars when I came to America. I used it to buy a gas station which I lost. Then, my parents started a photo studio in Buffalo.

I went to University of Rochester on a scholarship when I was 18. I worked at a photo studio in D.C., was a teacher for a while, and worked for the American Jewish Committee in New York. { As a translator for newspaper articles.

I have eight children, 5 daughters and three sons.

My cousin lost her family in gas chambers. Another cousin was hidden by a Catholic family.

My family never spoke much about what was going on in Germany.

We didn't know much about concentration camps until liberation

During a parade in Germany Hitler spoke. My grandfather took me to the zoo. Hitler had a lot of support from the people. My grandfather pulled me away. I was aware of being kicked out of school for being jewish.

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**End of notes confusing: Word for word**

Feels she is an international cosmic being. Went back to Germany to visit cousin. Host to Danish people. Not proud or proud of being Jewish. Lives in Seattle for three years. Active in C.O.R.E.---Cut off when [Hoagy Carr]?? said no more whiteys.. Felt she had bond with many blacks. Always worked for peace. Her children went to an Indian reservation--want to uplift fellow men. Feels things are an adventure and not a tragedy. She's a photographer-- Hopes to do a book. Loves her work.