

Move your chair right there. Right when you ask your last question.

Yes. All right.

OK.

Well, Inge, we're now on the part of the last tape. And you were telling us about your son having the measles.

Yes.

And you were staying with them on the shipboard.

Right.

And it was a fairly smooth--

Well--

--sailing or not too smooth.

Not that smooth really, but we made it.

I see. And who met you? Where did you land? And tell us about that.

We landed in New York. And my brother-in-law and sister-in-law were there already. Now my cousin lived here in Cleveland. So he did not wait for us--

In New York.

--in New York. But they-- either HIAS or Joint, one of the two, was at the port.

I see.

Do you say that, at the port?

Yes.

And took us over-- of course, we had to go through all the formalities there.

With your papers.

And--

And your son, the measles were improved--

He was still-- yes-- to the point where we didn't have to go to Ellis Island.

Well good.

Then we made--

Not quarantine.

No, we weren't in quarantine. And we could take him off the boat. But they let us stay because of him at a hotel-- They put us up, the HIAS. I think it was the HIAS-- off Broadway somewhere. And we stayed there for a week.

Now, my brother-in-law-- sister-in-law remained in New York because her family was from New Jersey.

Your--

Her family--

Your sister-in-law's--

My sister-in-law's family.

I see.

That had sent her the papers. So they remained in New York. They held it up to us later on that we should have. But they didn't-- they really pressured us, the HIAS--

HIAS?

--to go to Cleveland, where we really were supposed to go to because too many people wanted to stay in New York. And they were getting a little frightened that-- the city was-- is overpopulated anyway already. And to find jobs was a little harder than when you went more inland, further West.

Yes.

So finally-- and besides that, I also wanted to see my own family.

Sure.

Part of my family. So I was a little bit of the power behind it that pressured my husband into going because I think he would have rather stayed with--

With his

Brother.

--his brother. But I wanted to see my family. That was the only family I had left. So I was anxious to see them.

And I'm sure they were anxious to see--

To see us.

--to see you.

And so we stayed with them. They lived in Cleveland Heights. And of course, my husband looked for a job. And the Ratner family was very active here in the city. You know that. And they looked for quarters for us to live.

And we got an apartment after a while. And my husband got a job with hot steam heaters at the time.

With what?

Hot steam heaters.

Oh.

They made them hot water boiler.

Yes.

And just a job, that's all he looked for. And we got an apartment. I don't know which Mrs. Ratner got us the apartment. I think it was Harry's wife. He passed away.

Yes.

He also-- one of the Ratners got my husband into the carpenter union because he found out that they're making a good wage. Even so, he's never been-- at the time, he had no idea on how to be a carpenter. But he learned. And he got a job. And then later, he went into his own business.

Oh, well, isn't that wonderful. Did you have any contact with any of the Jewish local agencies-- in the Jewish Family Service--

In the beginning. But they gave us the first few pieces of furniture, like a bed. I mean the essentials, things that you must have the first night you move in. But after that, we didn't take any advantage any more.

Did you do any kind of work? Or you were busy raising--

No, I was then expecting soon after that the second one, yeah.

And did you have any contact with the Jewish Community Federation or Mount Sinai Hospital?

Well, that was later on, of course, Mount Sinai Hospital that I worked for.

But when you delivered--

--when my kids-- yeah, I delivered in Mount Sinai my second child.

Yes. Did you ultimately then get affiliated with a congregation or synagogue?

Yes.

Temple?

When my kids got a little older, when it came closer to bar mitzvah, when they had to have the training, the religious training.

The study.

First, they started in Cleveland Hebrew schools, the Sunday school, when they were 5. And then later on when they needed more of it, we joined-- at the time, it was the Gates of Hope.

Yes.

German congregation, right. I had some people that I knew. I had met meanwhile a girl that I had gone to Hebrew school with in Hanover. She lived in a neighborhood where I lived. Then later on, not off Sinclair anymore, we moved to the Harvard area--

Off of Lee road?

We bought-- yeah, off of Scottsdale there. We bought a house, our first house. And I met this girl. My husband worked somewhere, and they started-- there was another man from Europe. And they started talking. Where are you from? And he said, I'm from Poland. He says, where are you from? Germany.

And he said, where is your wife from? He says, from Hanover. He says, oh, I know somebody here from Hanover. And he mentioned the name. And I called her. And of course, she was married at that time already. I would never have recognized her. But he knew her maiden name, this man.

So I got a hold of her. We were living five minutes apart. And we were very close friends now. So she belonged to this temple. And I think because of that, and then I met some other people through her, we joined that one. And we still belong to the Hillcrest Mayfield. Mayfield Hillcrest, sorry.

When you meet people or know of somebody from your hometown, what kind of a feeling do you get?

Well, when I met her, of course, we were going to school together. So that was like a childhood friend. Even so, we weren't that-- I mean buddies. But still, it was from my hometown. And we knew each other. We grew up together. We went to the same synagogue. It was nice. And we still--

The same bond, isn't there?

Oh, yes. Oh, yes. I think that can never--

A Landsmann.

Even-- yeah, right, right. And we're the same age. And she was here too already. But about, you said, other people from Hanover, they aren't really too many that I've met.

Your English certainly is lovely. You speak--

Thank you.

--beautiful English. And where did you--

Well, I had-- because knowing that we were going to emigrate, my father had taken a private tutor.

So you started studying English in Germany?

In Germany. But then, of course, I completely forgot about that because of the war. Years and I learned Polish meanwhile. When I came here, I understood enough, but I didn't want to speak it because I don't like to make mistakes, which is foolish. My husband didn't understand any English.

He came here with no--

He just came blank. And when he had to go somewhere on the bus, he would take a piece of paper and write. And people would write down for him where he had to get off. And he would shout to the bus driver. And they were very helpful that way. So he managed. And he did all right with the little English he knew in the beginning. Now, he already-- my English is a little better. But he can converse. Yeah.

I'm sure if he's been in business--

I'm sure if I hear myself on tape, I'll probably die.

Oh, no.

That accent is I think even-- it's a little-- on tape you sound differently.

Well, possibly. But it's soft. There are some accents perhaps that are a little--

German accent is usually a very harsh accent they say.

It's lovely.

I try to get away from it.

Was there anything else you'd like to tell us about your first years here in the community in Cleveland?

I was very happy to be here because freedom.

You could start having a somewhat normal--

Very normal. Even so, money wise, financially, we struggled a little. But that didn't bother us anymore. We were happy to be here because it was free. We were free.

You're not living in fear--

--and family and-- no, of course not, not at all. And America was very good to us. No complaints. Thank God.

That's good. And your health and your--

Health, thank God, excellent-- yeah, our health, thank God, knock on wood, is good.

That's wonderful.

My nerves aren't too good. And as I said before, my stomach is a little bit-- but I think that's all now coming out as age progresses and with all the things we went through it shows now. I think it does show now a little more.

And perhaps right now at this time when there's this anxiety in the community to have these tapes that we're doing and to have the records.

Right.

Perhaps going back and thinking--

I was a little bit hesitant. I said, is it a good idea at this point, at this time to do it? I was thinking about it. I said, maybe I'm forcing myself into a situation that I cannot handle at this time. But I said, it has to be done. So I might as well. And I'm glad I did.

Well, we're certainly glad too. And as you mentioned before, I believe off camera, you said something about there hasn't been too much occasion to speak with your family, with your sons--

No.

--about your experiences.

No. I think that's a little bit our fault. I think we wanted to forget. Then later on, we thought about it. And we brought things out that they should know about, I'm sure, that not only they should know about, the whole world should know about.

And there's still some people that say it didn't exist. It didn't happen. How people can say that, it's beyond me.

Well, that's the main reason, of course--

I mean, we are proof.

That's right, that we're involved in this project.

I mean I'm sure I missed yet an awful lot that I could have told you that happened to us. My husband has lost a wife and child. He was married before. He's quite a few years older than I. I mean there are a lot of things that I couldn't have possibly-- you can't remember everything in that--

Do you feel that your experience and the amount that you have talked with your sons about it, do you think it affects the boys somehow?

I don't know if it affected them that much. I have really no way of knowing. They say that our children are-- there is a difference in their behavior, in their-- there's a book written about it, right? Children of the Holocaust survivors.

Yes.

I don't know what the title is. I don't think it's--

I don't know the exact--

--exactly the title. I read part of it. But I don't quite believe in it. I think mine are pretty well adjusted. I would say so.

But I'm sure they're always interested.

They know, they always aware of it--

The facts.

Probably, we pressured them a little more than maybe the average parent to do good and to do-- we try to do for them more maybe than the average family that hadn't gone through-- hasn't gone through all this because we wanted them to have what we did not. And I think there was a little more pressure on them. That's possible.

That could well be.

That's possible.

Do you feel that your personal relationship with your religion and being part of the Jewish people, today as you look back and you look to the future, would you care to make any comments about how you feel toward being Jewish in today's world after what you've--

I always very strongly about it. I'm proud to be Jew. People were killed because they were Jewish. They didn't do anything wrong really, nothing. They just wanted to live normally, like anybody else.

And I'm just afraid that it shouldn't happen again because there are always some people around that, I don't know, have a warped mind because only somebody with a warped mind can do things like Hitler did. Normal person couldn't possibly do this because these were innocent people. These were innocent babies that were killed just because they were Jewish.

No, I'm proud to be Jew. Nothing can-- nothing-- nothing-- I will never-- if somebody asked me where are you from, I

will always say I'm from Germany, but Jewish. That will always be-- that's always my answer. Not that I feel I am better than anybody else, but I'm at least-- I'm as good as anybody else. Right?

That's right. And they know which side of the story you were on--

Right, exactly.

--too. I think that's very--

I never will hide the fact. Sometimes my husband will say, you're in business. You shouldn't maybe wear a little mezuzah or any kind of Jewish religious-- I said, people don't like to deal with me because of that, that's their mistake or their loss. Because I am not prejudiced to anybody else, so why should they feel prejudice towards me because I'm Jewish?

Is there any other special message that you feel that you have to tell the world at large about--

I wish I could leave a message that would impress the world. I'm not strong enough for that I guess. But we just hope that things are not never-- I mean things like this never will happen again. But where was I when we talked about it? Oh, yeah, we were the Jewish-- I told you the National Council of Christian--

Jews.

We just-- they took us out for lunch because of the tapes we made for them. So there was a priest speaking there and also talking about the Nazi party here on the West Side, spreading all kinds of things, that all the money is in the Jewish hands and all the bankers are the Jews.

Well, haven't you called once the telephone number? The number has a certain number you can call. I called it once. I hung up, of course. I couldn't stand hearing it.

But they are spreading all kinds of things about the Jews. Everything-- anything that is going on in the country is Jews are to blame for. And the same thing like Hitler, the same identical thing.

So we really have to--

It's here. I just hope they're not going to become strong enough. That's all.

That's the whole thing. Is there any way, Inge, that you think would be the proper way to commemorate the memory of those that were lost in the Holocaust? The community is thinking in terms of doing something. Do you have any suggestions of what you think would be the appropriate way?

There is a memorial already. It's the Mount-- not Mount Zion-- Zion Cemetery. We have for the 6 million Jews, there is a--

Statue?

Not a statue. There's a monument for the 6 million Jews. But I don't know what can be done. It would be nice to in memory of all-- I mean like they did in Israel, they have the Yad Vashem.

Yes.

It would be nice if we could have something like this here in this country. But I don't know.

Well, there is going to be a Holocaust center in Washington.

Yeah, I heard. Yes.

But they're hoping to have something here in--

In Cleveland.

Local, in Cleveland.

Yeah, I heard they were talking about that.

And it's under discussion. It's in the planning stage.

I know. It's a Jewish Federation.

Yes, and they don't just exactly--

Where and what.

Which direction it will be taking.

Right.

Before we close, Inge, is there anything else that you would like to tell us. We certainly appreciate--

Not really.

--getting--

I'm glad I could share my story.

--your time and your story. And we want to close on a happy note.

Yeah.

Wishing you and yours the very best.

Yes.

Always.

Happy, healthy year.

It's getting close to the new year. Wish you a happy new year too.

Yeah.

Think that's all for now. Thank--