

RG-50.091.0085 Sylvia Lovan

Sylvia Lovan (nee Leibovich), born in 1933 in the region of Bukovina, Romania, discusses living in Bukovina until 1940; describes 2000 elite people of the town being shot on a mountain in 1935; the Russians entering her town in 1939 taking belongings and nationalizing stores and factories; growing up as an only child whose mother (maiden name: Stanislavski) was working in millinery and father working in uniform making respectively, her town Czernowitz, Romania (now Chernivtsi, Ukraine) becoming a ghetto and twenty other members of her family, including her father's 2 brothers and their families, joining her family there; after a year there, being chased to the railroad station arriving first at Otaci, Russia and being searched; walking for a week before arriving to Murafa, Ukraine and renting a house there without a bathroom; her entire family getting Typhoid except her and her father; not receiving an education this entire time until age 11 and only attending school for 5 years thereafter; returning to her hometown in 1944 and remaining there for one year until 1945 when they went to Transylvania, Romania; her family emigrating to Netanya, Israel in 1950 right after their War of Independence and living in tents there; six of her mother's brothers dying in concentration camps and one brother returning from a concentration camp and one sister and one brother emigrating to the United States; one of her father's brothers dying in a concentration camp and one brother coming back emigrating to Chicago after the War; meeting her husband in Israel (originally from Bucharest) in 1952 whose parents were lost after they crossed the border to Hungary; her husband learning the plumbing trade in Bucharest before emigrating to Israel; coming to the United States in 1956 and changing their last name from Leibovich to make spelling and pronunciation easier; her parents still living with her at the time of the interview; having 3 children: the youngest daughter just graduating high school and headed to Ohio State, one son who graduated college and now works with computers and the oldest child, aged 27, a daughter, who works as a medical receptionist, with their first child due to arrive that August; her husband working as a painting contractor in the United States despite training to be a plumber as he could not get into the Union; learning to be a diamond polisher in Israel but there was no demand for the work in the United States; having no papers showing that she finished high school.