```
1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:04,950
```

2 00:00:04,950 --> 00:00:07,710 This is the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

3 00:00:07,710 --> 00:00:10,770 interview with Susan Warsinger conducted

4 00:00:10,770 --> 00:00:16,770 by Gail Schwartz on August 12, 1996, in Chevy Chase, Maryland.

5 00:00:16,770 --> 00:00:22,050 This is tape number two, side A. We

6 00:00:22,050 --> 00:00:24,610 were talking about your experience in the children's

7 00:00:24,610 --> 00:00:25,110 home--

8 00:00:25,110 --> 00:00:25,650 Yeah.

9 00:00:25,650 --> 00:00:27,090 --in Vichy.

10 00:00:27,090 --> 00:00:30,140 Well, the thing is, I guess it wasn't so bad for us

11 00:00:30,140 --> 00:00:32,729 as it must have been for my parents,

12 00:00:32,729 --> 00:00:35,460 because we knew we were alive.

13 00:00:35,460 --> 00:00:40,050 And we were well, but they didn't know about us.

14 00:00:40,050 --> 00:00:46,350 And I thought many times about how my parents were feeling,

15 00:00:46,350 --> 00:00:48,450 and how they missed us, and how terrible they

16 00:00:48,450 --> 00:00:52,840 were feeling because they didn't know where we were.

17 00:00:52,840 --> 00:00:56,580 And now that I have my own children and grandchildren,

18 00:00:56,580 --> 00:00:58,860 it must have been a horror for them.

19 00:00:58,860 --> 00:01:02,090

20 00:01:02,090 --> 00:01:04,910 Were there any religious observances

21 00:01:04,910 --> 00:01:07,190 that were conducted at this children's home?

22 00:01:07,190 --> 00:01:08,270 Oh, yeah.

23 00:01:08,270 --> 00:01:10,490 I think it was very Orthodox. 24

00:01:10,490 --> 00:01:15,650 We kept Milchedik and Fleishedik and we had services.

25

00:01:15,650 --> 00:01:21,920 And on Saturday, on Shabbat, we rested

26

00:01:21,920 --> 00:01:24,900 and we didn't do any work.

27

00:01:24,900 --> 00:01:28,410 And we followed all the rules.

00:01:28,410 --> 00:01:31,070 The only thing is at that time in France,

29

00:01:31,070 --> 00:01:38,630 the kids go to school on every day except Thursday and Sunday.

30

 $00:01:38,630 \longrightarrow 00:01:42,500$ And since this was a public school,

31

00:01:42,500 --> 00:01:46,340 we had to go to school on Shabbos.

32

 $00:01:46,340 \longrightarrow 00:01:51,050$ So what happened is the teacher, our teacher was not Jewish.

33

00:01:51,050 --> 00:01:53,940 In case I forget this later on, our teacher,

34

00:01:53,940 --> 00:01:55,950 it turns out later on, I found out

00:01:55,950 --> 00:01:59,580 that he's the mayor of a nearby town now.

36 00:01:59,580 --> 00:02:06,030 Anyway, going back to school, on Thursdays and on Sundays,

37 00:02:06,030 --> 00:02:07,320 we were supposed to be off.

38 00:02:07,320 --> 00:02:12,210 And then on Saturday, we were supposed to go to school.

39 00:02:12,210 --> 00:02:14,730 And they said we had to go to school, because that

40 00:02:14,730 --> 00:02:15,810 was the law.

41 00:02:15,810 --> 00:02:20,040 So we walked to school, but the teacher didn't make us write.

42 00:02:20,040 --> 00:02:22,850 And so we just talked.

43 00:02:22,850 --> 00:02:27,990 So we kept the Shabbat and then we walked back

44 00:02:27,990 --> 00:02:32,130 to the children's home.

45 00:02:32,130 --> 00:02:35,310 So we didn't break any laws.

46 00:02:35,310 --> 00:02:41,610 And it was nice not to have to go to school on Thursdays. 47 00:02:41,610 --> 00:02:44,970 Now, this school in town was a general school

48 00:02:44,970 --> 00:02:46,750 for other children, also?

49 00:02:46,750 --> 00:02:47,430 No, no.

50 00:02:47,430 --> 00:02:50,390 No, as I told you, in Brout-Vernet,

51 00:02:50,390 --> 00:02:52,530 this little village, people didn't want

52 00:02:52,530 --> 00:02:54,900 us to go to school with them.

53 00:02:54,900 --> 00:02:59,310 And we were separated, except that the building that we

54 00:02:59,310 --> 00:03:06,250 were in, it was not anywhere near the regular public school.

55 00:03:06,250 --> 00:03:10,170 It was closer to the Chateau du Morelles where we were living.

56 00:03:10,170 --> 00:03:14,430 And it was in sort of a barn-like structure.

57 00:03:14,430 --> 00:03:20,040 And they had made a schoolroom out of the barn.

58 00:03:20,040 --> 00:03:22,050 I'm trying to remember the teacher's name,

59 00:03:22,050 --> 00:03:23,340 but I don't remember.

60 00:03:23,340 --> 00:03:25,500 I guess I could look in my diary.

61 00:03:25,500 --> 00:03:26,880 Anyway, we had to--

62 00:03:26,880 --> 00:03:31,590 I have my cahiers, where he made us write into books.

63 00:03:31,590 --> 00:03:34,380 And all of our lessons, and I still

64 00:03:34,380 --> 00:03:37,050 have them where he made all the corrections.

65 00:03:37,050 --> 00:03:39,690 And evidently, I was writing French pretty well

66 00:03:39,690 --> 00:03:41,370 by that time.

67 00:03:41,370 --> 00:03:43,260 Was your brother speaking French well?

68 00:03:43,260 --> 00:03:44,040 Oh, yeah.

69 00:03:44,040 --> 00:03:44,700 Yeah.

00:03:44,700 --> 00:03:45,490 We did.

71 00:03:45,490 --> 00:03:48,030 And I guess what we talked-- spoke most of all

72 00:03:48,030 --> 00:03:50,220 was in French at that time.

73 00:03:50,220 --> 00:03:52,740 Everybody spoke French to each other.

74 00:03:52,740 --> 00:03:54,210 We knew it pretty well.

75 00:03:54,210 --> 00:03:56,460 And what did-- did you talk in German to your brother?

76 00:03:56,460 --> 00:03:59,240 (WHISPERING) Oh, God.

77 00:03:59,240 --> 00:04:01,690 Oh, God, I don't remember.

78 00:04:01,690 --> 00:04:03,813 I don't remember.

79 00:04:03,813 --> 00:04:05,980 What was the relationship between the older children

80 00:04:05,980 --> 00:04:06,850 to the younger?

81 00:04:06,850 --> 00:04:09,070 Did they take care of them?

82 00:04:09,070 --> 00:04:11,240 Well, they really didn't have to take care of them.

83 00:04:11,240 --> 00:04:13,032 They were-- we were all good to each other,

84 00:04:13,032 --> 00:04:14,660 because we were in the same boat.

85 00:04:14,660 --> 00:04:16,805 But the younger children, they had counselors

86 00:04:16,805 --> 00:04:17,680 to take care of them.

87 00:04:17,680 --> 00:04:22,270 So we didn't have to be like mothers and fathers

88 00:04:22,270 --> 00:04:23,540 to the younger children.

89 00:04:23,540 --> 00:04:26,590 They had the counselors, and the counselors were good to them.

90 00:04:26,590 --> 00:04:32,000 So we didn't have to play fathers and mothers

91 00:04:32,000 --> 00:04:34,880 to the young kids.

92 00:04:34,880 --> 00:04:36,680 What about physical activity?

93 00:04:36,680 --> 00:04:37,250 Any sports?

94 00:04:37,250 --> 00:04:45,534 95 00:04:45,534 --> 00:04:47,540 No.

96 00:04:47,540 --> 00:04:53,720 Maybe the boys played kickball, but I don't remember

97 00:04:53,720 --> 00:04:55,280 the girls doing much sports.

98 00:04:55,280 --> 00:04:59,240 We didn't have any swimming pools and tennis courts.

99 00:04:59,240 --> 00:05:00,050 No.

100 00:05:00,050 --> 00:05:04,425 There was no organized teams or ball games type of things?

101 00:05:04,425 --> 00:05:06,500 No.

102 00:05:06,500 --> 00:05:09,740 Were there any unpleasant experiences

103 00:05:09,740 --> 00:05:12,862 when you came in contact on the streets?

104 00:05:12,862 --> 00:05:14,570 I know you said you had to go right back,

105 00:05:14,570 --> 00:05:18,140 but if you did see some of the townspeople,

00:05:18,140 --> 00:05:22,040 were there any unpleasant experiences that you recall?

107 00:05:22,040 --> 00:05:22,610 No.

108 00:05:22,610 --> 00:05:25,460 I don't think there were any unpleasant experiences.

109 00:05:25,460 --> 00:05:28,280 We just kept away from them.

110 00:05:28,280 --> 00:05:29,940 And they kept away from us.

111 00:05:29,940 --> 00:05:33,040 And that was it.

112 00:05:33,040 --> 00:05:36,310 Did your teachers tell you what was happening outside

113 00:05:36,310 --> 00:05:37,450 in the rest of the world?

114 00:05:37,450 --> 00:05:41,080 Were you in any way aware of what was happening?

115 00:05:41,080 --> 00:05:43,150 That's just it, you know?

116 00:05:43,150 --> 00:05:48,100 Here we were in the middle of a World War

117 00:05:48,100 --> 00:05:52,090 and we learned the geography, you know, of France. 00:05:52,090 --> 00:05:55,720 And we learned the history of France.

119 00:05:55,720 --> 00:05:58,930 But the present time, they didn't talk about.

120 00:05:58,930 --> 00:06:01,300 It was like a taboo.

121 00:06:01,300 --> 00:06:03,580 This teacher never talked about it.

122 00:06:03,580 --> 00:06:07,930 We never talked about current affairs.

123 00:06:07,930 --> 00:06:13,480 All we knew is that the Germans had taken over France

124 00:06:13,480 --> 00:06:16,990 and we didn't know what was happening.

125 00:06:16,990 --> 00:06:20,980 And I guess by that time, they-about the concentration camps

126 00:06:20,980 --> 00:06:23,225 and the ghettos, we didn't know anything about it.

127 00:06:23,225 --> 00:06:23,725 No.

128 00:06:23,725 --> 00:06:27,260

129 00:06:27,260 --> 00:06:28,790 We didn't know about it. 130 00:06:28,790 --> 00:06:31,760 Did you see any indications on the streets

131 00:06:31,760 --> 00:06:33,290 or in the store windows?

132 00:06:33,290 --> 00:06:34,846 Anything to do with Jews?

133 00:06:34,846 --> 00:06:35,600 No.

134 00:06:35,600 --> 00:06:39,640 Well, they didn't have very many streets in this little village.

135 00:06:39,640 --> 00:06:42,470 And I don't remember stores.

136 00:06:42,470 --> 00:06:43,930 Maybe.

137 00:06:43,930 --> 00:06:46,010 It really was a tiny village.

138 00:06:46,010 --> 00:06:49,290 What town was it near?

139 00:06:49,290 --> 00:06:54,250 Well, the closest big town it was near was Vichy.

140 00:06:54,250 --> 00:06:59,080 And at that time, we didn't even know who was running Vichy.

141 00:06:59,080 --> 00:07:02,260 We didn't know that there was this puppet government, 142 00:07:02,260 --> 00:07:04,000 and that Petain was doing everything

143 00:07:04,000 --> 00:07:06,070 the Germans told him to do.

144 00:07:06,070 --> 00:07:07,090 And we didn't--

145 00:07:07,090 --> 00:07:09,820 I didn't learn until later on after I

146 00:07:09,820 --> 00:07:15,550 left that the Germans had asked the Vichy government to give

147 00:07:15,550 --> 00:07:18,220 all those kids to them.

148 00:07:18,220 --> 00:07:23,500 And later on, I found out that all those counselors and Miriam

149 00:07:23,500 --> 00:07:27,460 and all those kids, they were all sent to the concentration

150 00:07:27,460 --> 00:07:28,840 camps and they died.

151 00:07:28,840 --> 00:07:31,830 All of them.

152 00:07:31,830 --> 00:07:34,170 Anyway, so let me tell you how I got out.

153 00:07:34,170 --> 00:07:37,530 154

00:07:37,530 --> 00:07:39,900 We got a letter from my father.

155

00:07:39,900 --> 00:07:42,220 Somehow or other, they found us.

156

00:07:42,220 --> 00:07:44,610 It was this organization here in the United States.

157

00:07:44,610 --> 00:07:47,520 It was called HIAS.

158

00:07:47,520 --> 00:07:49,830 The Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society.

159

00:07:49,830 --> 00:07:50,370 Yeah.

160

00:07:50,370 --> 00:07:51,580 Well, I didn't know that.

161

00:07:51,580 --> 00:07:53,760 All I knew was HIAS.

162

00:07:53,760 --> 00:07:56,010 And they found us somehow.

163

00:07:56,010 --> 00:07:59,250 I don't know how they did it, but they found us.

164

00:07:59,250 --> 00:08:04,580 And in the meantime, my father had come to the United States.

165

00:08:04,580 --> 00:08:09,000 And he worked for a while.

166

00:08:09,000 --> 00:08:17,720

He was selling butter and eggs to people.

167

00:08:17,720 --> 00:08:22,760 He bought eggs and

butter from a farmer.

168

 $00:08:22,760 \longrightarrow 00:08:27,110$

And I guess that's

because he didn't

169

00:08:27,110 --> 00:08:28,580

know how to speak English.

170

00:08:28,580 --> 00:08:34,460

And he got enough money so

that he could get my brother--

171

00:08:34,460 --> 00:08:37,380

my baby brother-- and my mother

over here to the United States.

172

00:08:37,380 --> 00:08:40,190

So she was here, too.

173

 $00:08:40,190 \longrightarrow 00:08:42,769$

Do you know when your father

came to the United States?

174

00:08:42,769 --> 00:08:46,640

Well, it must have been in 1940.

175

00:08:46,640 --> 00:08:47,990

And where did he settle?

176

00:08:47,990 --> 00:08:50,360

In Washington, DC.

177

 $00:08:50,360 \longrightarrow 00:08:52,520$

The reason he settled

in Washington, DC?

00:08:52,520 --> 00:08:54,110 Because somehow or other-- and I don't

179 00:08:54,110 --> 00:08:56,240 know how this rabbi that I was telling you about,

180 00:08:56,240 --> 00:08:59,540 the one with the beard, he got out of Germany

181 00:08:59,540 --> 00:09:01,740 before my father did.

182 00:09:01,740 --> 00:09:04,850 And he took his whole family and he came to the United States.

183 00:09:04,850 --> 00:09:07,910 And he settled here in Washington, DC.

184 00:09:07,910 --> 00:09:13,770 So my guess, because we had so many experiences together,

185 00:09:13,770 --> 00:09:16,080 he decided to come to Washington,

186 00:09:16,080 --> 00:09:19,050 even though his relatives that had sent him

187 00:09:19,050 --> 00:09:24,270 the affidavits in the first place were living in New York.

188 00:09:24,270 --> 00:09:26,010 So anyway, my father came.

189 00:09:26,010 --> 00:09:28,860 And then my mother came here to Washington.

190 00:09:28,860 --> 00:09:31,050 And the people in the Jewish community, I guess,

191 00:09:31,050 --> 00:09:31,770 was good to him.

192 00:09:31,770 --> 00:09:34,230 They bought a lot of eggs and butter from him.

193 00:09:34,230 --> 00:09:35,970

194 00:09:35,970 --> 00:09:38,800 And then he got in touch with the HIAS and they found us.

195 00:09:38,800 --> 00:09:43,710 And so what happened, he said he bought plane tickets for us

196 00:09:43,710 --> 00:09:45,810 to get us out.

197 00:09:45,810 --> 00:09:50,020 And somehow or other, the plane tickets got lost.

198 00:09:50,020 --> 00:09:51,930 This is the story he told us.

199 00:09:51,930 --> 00:09:54,240 Somebody must have used them.

200 00:09:54,240 --> 00:09:56,960 So we didn't leave.

201 00:09:56,960 --> 00:10:03,910 And then, finally, in September of 1941--

202

00:10:03,910 --> 00:10:04,410 let's see.

203

00:10:04,410 --> 00:10:07,200 When did the war start here?

204

00:10:07,200 --> 00:10:08,010

December.

205

00:10:08,010 --> 00:10:11,050 December 7, 1941.

206

00:10:11,050 --> 00:10:11,970 Oh, that's right!

207

00:10:11,970 --> 00:10:12,670

OK.

208

00:10:12,670 --> 00:10:15,750 I just want to get my dates straightened out.

209

00:10:15,750 --> 00:10:23,420 So in September of 1941--

210

00:10:23,420 --> 00:10:25,820 Did you know before September that your parents

211

00:10:25,820 --> 00:10:29,450 were trying to reach you and get you out of France?

212

00:10:29,450 --> 00:10:31,640 I never doubted that they were trying to reach me.

213

00:10:31,640 --> 00:10:34,550 I mean, I knew that they

were trying to find us,

214

00:10:34,550 --> 00:10:38,180 and just that they

didn't succeed.

215

00:10:38,180 --> 00:10:41,825 And then, when we finally heard

from them, I was so happy.

216

00:10:41,825 --> 00:10:44,450

217

00:10:44,450 --> 00:10:45,620

How did you hear from them?

218

00:10:45,620 --> 00:10:46,430

Was it by letter?

219

00:10:46,430 --> 00:10:50,360

220

00:10:50,360 --> 00:10:51,410

Yeah, by a letter.

221

00:10:51,410 --> 00:10:54,560

And then, also, I guess

the counselors told us

222

00:10:54,560 --> 00:10:57,410

that the HIAS had

found my parents.

223

00:10:57,410 --> 00:11:00,530

And because I didn't know

where they were, you know?

224

00:11:00,530 --> 00:11:07,790

So finally, they sent

us some other tickets.

225

00:11:07,790 --> 00:11:12,400

And we went to Vichy, my brother and I.

226

00:11:12,400 --> 00:11:14,630 And I don't know who took us.

227

00:11:14,630 --> 00:11:15,870 I don't even know how we did.

228

00:11:15,870 --> 00:11:17,800 We must have just done it by ourselves.

229

00:11:17,800 --> 00:11:24,370 And we got on the train and we went to Marseilles.

230

00:11:24,370 --> 00:11:27,040 And then we got on another train and we

231

00:11:27,040 --> 00:11:29,200 went through the Pyrenees.

232

00:11:29,200 --> 00:11:33,460 And we went to Lisbon on the train.

233

00:11:33,460 --> 00:11:37,840 And then, after Lisbon, there was this boat

234

00:11:37,840 --> 00:11:40,630 called the Serpa Pinto.

235

00:11:40,630 --> 00:11:43,930 There must have been other children, because this boat--

236

00:11:43,930 --> 00:11:46,030 in the hull of the boat--

00:11:46,030 --> 00:11:47,320 there's this big room.

238

00:11:47,320 --> 00:11:50,050 And they had these triple-decker beds.

239

00:11:50,050 --> 00:11:53,640 And we weren't the only children--

240

00:11:53,640 --> 00:11:56,460 refugee children, lost children, whatever--

241

00:11:56,460 --> 00:11:58,860 that got onto this boat.

242

00:11:58,860 --> 00:12:02,940 And there must have been 70 of us,

243

00:12:02,940 --> 00:12:08,940 I think, all in that hull of that boat, of the Serpa Pinto.

244

00:12:08,940 --> 00:12:16,110 When you left the Chateau, you say you traveled alone.

245

00:12:16,110 --> 00:12:19,180 You were 12 and your brother was 11.

246

00:12:19,180 --> 00:12:19,680 No.

247

00:12:19,680 --> 00:12:20,180 No, no.

248

00:12:20,180 --> 00:12:21,422

I was 11.

249

00:12:21,422 --> 00:12:22,380 Because it's two years.

250

00:12:22,380 --> 00:12:25,170 I was nine years old, I was 11.

251

00:12:25,170 --> 00:12:27,640 But because--

252

00:12:27,640 --> 00:12:32,490 This is September 1941 and you were born in May of '29.

253

00:12:32,490 --> 00:12:34,250 So I was 12.

254

00:12:34,250 --> 00:12:38,810 Well, OK, I was 12.

255

00:12:38,810 --> 00:12:41,885 And so, I'm saying that an 11-year-old and a 12-year-old-

256

00:12:41,885 --> 00:12:45,170 All these years, I never did these mathematics.

257

00:12:45,170 --> 00:12:48,170 11 and 12-year-old children, traveled by yourself

258

00:12:48,170 --> 00:12:50,870 from the chateau down to Lisbon?

259

00:12:50,870 --> 00:12:52,460 That's the part I don't remember,

260

00:12:52,460 --> 00:12:54,200 how we got down there.

00:12:54,200 --> 00:12:58,177 But I know on the boat, we were with a lot of children.

262

00:12:58,177 --> 00:12:58,760 I'll have to--

263

00:12:58,760 --> 00:13:01,010 But you don't remember any counselors coming with you?

264

00:13:01,010 --> 00:13:02,600 Any adults, is what I'm asking.

265

00:13:02,600 --> 00:13:04,470 No, no counselors came with us.

266

00:13:04,470 --> 00:13:06,470 That would have been good, because at least they

267

00:13:06,470 --> 00:13:08,678 would have gotten out and they would have been saved.

268

00:13:08,678 --> 00:13:11,200

269

00:13:11,200 --> 00:13:13,480 No.

270

00:13:13,480 --> 00:13:19,330 And as I told you, the two-the three, four year children,

271

00:13:19,330 --> 00:13:24,250 their parents, the same thing happened with their parents.

272

00:13:24,250 --> 00:13:29,140 They came here and they got out of that and went.

273

00:13:29,140 --> 00:13:32,200 And the HIAS found them and they got out about a month

274

00:13:32,200 --> 00:13:33,100 before we did.

275

00:13:33,100 --> 00:13:36,520 So they were already safe in the United States.

276

00:13:36,520 --> 00:13:41,470 So those are the only kids that I know that were really safe.

277

00:13:41,470 --> 00:13:43,150 And-- let's see.

278

00:13:43,150 --> 00:13:47,860 So you think you were the second small group to leave.

279

00:13:47,860 --> 00:13:48,360 Yeah.

280

00:13:48,360 --> 00:13:51,670

281

00:13:51,670 --> 00:13:54,070 Now you're on the boat, you were saying.

282

00:13:54,070 --> 00:13:54,650 On the boat.

283

00:13:54,650 --> 00:13:56,780 And my brother was so sick.

284

00:13:56,780 --> 00:13:59,170

He was so seasick.

00:13:59,170 --> 00:14:00,650 And he was so nervous.

286

00:14:00,650 --> 00:14:02,860 And he was still urinating in his bed.

287

00:14:02,860 --> 00:14:05,660 And he was on a bunk on top of me.

288

00:14:05,660 --> 00:14:08,290 And I said, we have to change.

289

00:14:08,290 --> 00:14:13,030 Anyway, we had pineapple.

290

00:14:13,030 --> 00:14:17,320 Evidently, the boat had a surplus of canned pineapple.

291

00:14:17,320 --> 00:14:20,980 And we had pineapple for breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

292

00:14:20,980 --> 00:14:22,880 And he was forever throwing it up.

293

00:14:22,880 --> 00:14:25,990 And now he's an adult. You know, he's a cardiologist,

294

00:14:25,990 --> 00:14:28,360 a well-established man here in the United States.

295

00:14:28,360 --> 00:14:29,590 Very well known.

296

00:14:29,590 --> 00:14:34,400 But if he gets near any pineapple, he gets very upset. 297

00:14:34,400 --> 00:14:38,290 So I know if I bake something or if he comes over, never

298

00:14:38,290 --> 00:14:42,220 to put any pineapple in a dish.

299

00:14:42,220 --> 00:14:45,550 And then, when we got to--

300

00:14:45,550 --> 00:14:46,930 do you want to hear about this?

301

00:14:46,930 --> 00:14:48,970 When we got here?

302

00:14:48,970 --> 00:14:49,820 Yes, I do.

303

00:14:49,820 --> 00:14:54,220 But before we talk about that, how long a voyage was it?

304

00:14:54,220 --> 00:14:56,500 Oh, it took two weeks.

305

00:14:56,500 --> 00:14:59,020 That boat must have been a slow boat.

306

00:14:59,020 --> 00:15:01,870 Took a long time to get here.

307

00:15:01,870 --> 00:15:04,030 And there were other passengers.

308

00:15:04,030 --> 00:15:07,090 They were in second, first class.

00:15:07,090 --> 00:15:11,450 But we were like third class passengers.

310

00:15:11,450 --> 00:15:16,000 And I looked up the passenger list in the archives

311

00:15:16,000 --> 00:15:17,800 in Washington.

312

00:15:17,800 --> 00:15:22,180 And I found my name and I found my brother's name.

313

00:15:22,180 --> 00:15:25,150 And under my brother, you know, they said--

314

00:15:25,150 --> 00:15:26,770 in the records, you know, they have

315

00:15:26,770 --> 00:15:31,330 the name, when you were born, and what occupation.

316

00:15:31,330 --> 00:15:34,090 And next to my brother's name for occupation

317

00:15:34,090 --> 00:15:36,630 it said student, because he was a boy.

318

00:15:36,630 --> 00:15:41,290 But next to my name, it said immigrant.

319

00:15:41,290 --> 00:15:44,740 So I was really surprised at that.

00:15:44,740 --> 00:15:46,600 And I was the older one, you know.

321

00:15:46,600 --> 00:15:49,330

322

00:15:49,330 --> 00:15:51,760 What else did you do on the boat?

323

00:15:51,760 --> 00:15:54,400 Were sick most of the time.

324

00:15:54,400 --> 00:15:57,610 And in the hull of that boat, it was a horror.

325

00:15:57,610 --> 00:15:59,740 But we knew we were going to see our parents,

326

00:15:59,740 --> 00:16:04,150 so nothing made any difference, because we

327

00:16:04,150 --> 00:16:06,700 were going to see them.

328

00:16:06,700 --> 00:16:09,160 Did you mix with the upper class passengers?

329

00:16:09,160 --> 00:16:10,790 No, they wouldn't do that.

330

00:16:10,790 --> 00:16:14,230 We ate in a special dining room by ourselves.

331

00:16:14,230 --> 00:16:15,520

We didn't mix at all.

332

00:16:15,520 --> 00:16:17,360 But I know there were the passengers.

333

00:16:17,360 --> 00:16:22,450 And I saw their names on the list, on the passenger list.

334

00:16:22,450 --> 00:16:25,120 And some of them were business people.

335

00:16:25,120 --> 00:16:28,690 And some of them were traiteurs that

336

00:16:28,690 --> 00:16:30,280 were just traveling around.

337

00:16:30,280 --> 00:16:32,950 And here they had all these 70 children

338

00:16:32,950 --> 00:16:35,150 in the hull of their boat.

339

00:16:35,150 --> 00:16:38,120 And I don't know how they felt towards us.

340

00:16:38,120 --> 00:16:47,350 I just felt like I was beneath them, that I was the refugee

341

00:16:47,350 --> 00:16:49,210 and they were the elegant tourists.

342

00:16:49,210 --> 00:16:55,860 That's how I felt.

343

00:16:55,860 --> 00:16:58,410

And the relationship between the children,

344

00:16:58,410 --> 00:16:59,820 was it a cohesive group?

345

00:16:59,820 --> 00:17:01,960 Did you get to meet a lot of new children?

346

00:17:01,960 --> 00:17:02,940 Yeah.

347

00:17:02,940 --> 00:17:04,300 But I don't remember them.

348

00:17:04,300 --> 00:17:08,280 I mean, it's been 55--

349

00:17:08,280 --> 00:17:09,720 something like that-- years.

350

00:17:09,720 --> 00:17:12,390 So I don't remember.

351

00:17:12,390 --> 00:17:15,310 And who were the leaders?

352

00:17:15,310 --> 00:17:16,589 The leaders on the boat?

353

00:17:16,589 --> 00:17:18,400 I don't remember any leaders.

354

00:17:18,400 --> 00:17:19,819 Do you mean that took care of us?

355

00:17:19,819 --> 00:17:22,550

00:17:22,550 --> 00:17:24,675 I don't remember.

357

00:17:24,675 --> 00:17:26,150 I don't know.

358

00:17:26,150 --> 00:17:29,860 Were there any religious ceremonies on the boat?

359

00:17:29,860 --> 00:17:34,590

360

00:17:34,590 --> 00:17:36,009

No.

361

00:17:36,009 --> 00:17:37,440

Mm-mm.

362

00:17:37,440 --> 00:17:40,510

No, there was-- it

was a Portuguese boat.

363

00:17:40,510 --> 00:17:45,280

And they didn't know anything about Judaism.

364

 $00:17:45,280 \longrightarrow 00:17:47,480$

Were you stopped at

all on the water?

365

00:17:47,480 --> 00:17:49,970

No.

366

00:17:49,970 --> 00:17:51,140

No.

367

 $00:17:51,140 \longrightarrow 00:17:54,410$

And once we got out

of Lisbon, the boat

368

00:17:54,410 --> 00:17:56,480

just sailed to America.

369 00:17:56,480 --> 00:17:58,400 And we passed in the morning-- you know,

370 00:17:58,400 --> 00:18:00,710 we learned about the Statue of Liberty

371 00:18:00,710 --> 00:18:03,980 from our teacher in the school in Brout-Vernet.

372 00:18:03,980 --> 00:18:07,130 Because he was really excited about geography.

373 00:18:07,130 --> 00:18:09,680 And we passed by the Statue of Liberty.

374 00:18:09,680 --> 00:18:12,680 And even though I was little, I knew

375 00:18:12,680 --> 00:18:17,620 that it was a very important moment in my life.

376 00:18:17,620 --> 00:18:21,510 And so we all woke up early and we got up on the deck.

377 00:18:21,510 --> 00:18:24,390 And we went past it.

378 00:18:24,390 --> 00:18:26,570 And so what happened then, when we got here,

379 00:18:26,570 --> 00:18:29,750 the doctors wouldn't let us off the boat.

380

 $00:18:29,750 \longrightarrow 00:18:31,730$

What happened was my brother had--

381

00:18:31,730 --> 00:18:33,200 and my father was standing--

382

00:18:33,200 --> 00:18:34,040

I could see him.

383

00:18:34,040 --> 00:18:38,360

He was standing and my mother wasn't there.

384

00:18:38,360 --> 00:18:41,750 And we were very upset that

my mother wasn't there.

385

00:18:41,750 --> 00:18:46,605 He was standing there, but they

wouldn't let us off the boat.

386

00:18:46,605 --> 00:18:48,230

And the reason they wouldn't let us off

387

00:18:48,230 --> 00:18:52,550

the boat was because my

brother had a rash on his tush,

388

00:18:52,550 --> 00:18:55,040

because he had wet has bed.

389

00:18:55,040 --> 00:18:59,160

So they said we had to go to Ellis Island.

390

00:18:59,160 --> 00:19:04,370

So we went to Ellis Island.

00:19:04,370 --> 00:19:06,260 And my father couldn't come, so we

392

00:19:06,260 --> 00:19:09,050 had to be separated from--even though we had seen him

393

00:19:09,050 --> 00:19:11,330 from the boat, but knew everything was OK

394

00:19:11,330 --> 00:19:12,800 because we had seen him.

395

00:19:12,800 --> 00:19:15,170 You went by boat to Ellis-you just stayed on the boat,

396

00:19:15,170 --> 00:19:15,650 and then it went to--

397

00:19:15,650 --> 00:19:15,980 Yes--

398

00:19:15,980 --> 00:19:16,605 --Ellis Island?

399

00:19:16,605 --> 00:19:18,740 --dropped us off at Ellis Island.

400

00:19:18,740 --> 00:19:23,640 And there we got the first American food.

401

00:19:23,640 --> 00:19:26,720 And I remember they gave us this Wonder bread.

402

00:19:26,720 --> 00:19:29,630

And I just had never seen anything like it.

403

00:19:29,630 --> 00:19:32,570 It was like the height of luxury that they had actually

404

00:19:32,570 --> 00:19:35,000 taken the hulls of the grains and thrown

405

00:19:35,000 --> 00:19:37,970 them away and just made this white bread.

406

00:19:37,970 --> 00:19:40,820 And we could eat as many slices as we want to.

407

00:19:40,820 --> 00:19:43,400 And this lady in this white dress was passing around,

408

00:19:43,400 --> 00:19:44,720 and we took one.

409

00:19:44,720 --> 00:19:46,640 And she walked by again, she says, oh, you

410

00:19:46,640 --> 00:19:47,810 can have another piece.

411

00:19:47,810 --> 00:19:51,020 And that was really something.

412

00:19:51,020 --> 00:19:54,750 Anyway, and we also found out that you could have this candy,

413

00:19:54,750 --> 00:19:57,920 and you could chew it in your mouth all day

00:19:57,920 --> 00:19:59,280 long if you wanted to.

415

00:19:59,280 --> 00:20:02,150 So that's where I learned about chewing gum.

416

00:20:02,150 --> 00:20:04,760 What date did you dock?

417

00:20:04,760 --> 00:20:06,370 Oh, I don't--

418

00:20:06,370 --> 00:20:08,900 I could look it up, but I don't remember.

419

00:20:08,900 --> 00:20:10,430 I could look it up.

420

00:20:10,430 --> 00:20:12,750 I don't remember.

421

00:20:12,750 --> 00:20:15,730 It was in September of '41.

422

00:20:15,730 --> 00:20:18,150 Oh.

423

00:20:18,150 --> 00:20:20,880 I think it was the 21st of September.

424

00:20:20,880 --> 00:20:22,710 But it could have been the 17th.

425

00:20:22,710 --> 00:20:24,550

One of those two.

426

00:20:24,550 --> 00:20:26,550

So now you're at Ellis

Island with your brother?

427 00:20:26,550 --> 00:20:29,280 Yeah, and we stayed there for a few days

428 00:20:29,280 --> 00:20:30,690 until the rash cleared up.

429 00:20:30,690 --> 00:20:32,430 They found out that it was just a rash,

430 00:20:32,430 --> 00:20:36,630 and that he didn't have some kind of a horrible disease.

431 00:20:36,630 --> 00:20:41,370 And actually tried to explain it to those guys,

432 00:20:41,370 --> 00:20:44,790 but I only knew how to speak German and French.

433 00:20:44,790 --> 00:20:47,070 And nobody there knew how to speak that.

434 00:20:47,070 --> 00:20:49,020 They knew how to speak Yiddish, and somebody

435 00:20:49,020 --> 00:20:51,100 understood what had happened.

436 00:20:51,100 --> 00:20:52,710 So after a couple of days--

437 00:20:52,710 --> 00:20:55,710 it wasn't all cleared up, but after a couple of days, 00:20:55,710 --> 00:20:56,670 they let us off.

439

00:20:56,670 --> 00:21:02,490 And how we got from Ellis Island back to the New York,

440

00:21:02,490 --> 00:21:03,870 I don't remember.

441

00:21:03,870 --> 00:21:05,460 But my father was there.

442

00:21:05,460 --> 00:21:07,620 So, and I don't know how he knew.

443

00:21:07,620 --> 00:21:09,150 Your father came to Ellis Island?

444

00:21:09,150 --> 00:21:11,370 No, they wouldn't let him go to Ellis Island.

445

00:21:11,370 --> 00:21:16,100 But my father was at the--

446

00:21:16,100 --> 00:21:16,600 Dock?

447

00:21:16,600 --> 00:21:17,650 Dock, yes.

448

00:21:17,650 --> 00:21:18,940 At the dock.

449

00:21:18,940 --> 00:21:22,790 And he was there.

450

00:21:22,790 --> 00:21:27,070

What was it like to

be with your father?

451

00:21:27,070 --> 00:21:30,250

Ah, it was very good.

452

00:21:30,250 --> 00:21:33,160

And it was really very good, and we cried,

453

00:21:33,160 --> 00:21:36,920

and we hugged, and we touched.

454

00:21:36,920 --> 00:21:40,630

And it was good.

455

00:21:40,630 --> 00:21:44,680

Anyway, so then he took

us to these relatives

456

00:21:44,680 --> 00:21:47,300

that had sent the affidavits.

457

00:21:47,300 --> 00:21:49,300

And the first thing they did, they looked at me,

458

00:21:49,300 --> 00:21:53,470

and they said, oh my, we have to buy some clothes for her.

459

 $00:21:53,470 \longrightarrow 00:21:56,200$

So she took me, and she

bought me my first bra.

460

00:21:56,200 --> 00:21:58,840

She said, you have to wear a bra in the United States.

461

00:21:58,840 --> 00:22:01,450

And at that time I

was big, and so she--

462

00:22:01,450 --> 00:22:03,710 and I really wasn't ready for all this.

463 00:22:03,710 --> 00:22:08,200 And she bought me this fancy dress-up dress.

464 00:22:08,200 --> 00:22:13,660 And then it was time to go to Washington, because I

465 00:22:13,660 --> 00:22:15,820 wanted to see my mother.

466 00:22:15,820 --> 00:22:19,690 And I wanted to see my baby brother, who

467 00:22:19,690 --> 00:22:25,710 was not a baby anymore because it was two years later.

468 00:22:25,710 --> 00:22:27,270 And we drove.

469 00:22:27,270 --> 00:22:30,480 My father had an old car.

470 00:22:30,480 --> 00:22:32,550 He had bought himself a car because he

471 00:22:32,550 --> 00:22:37,660 needed a car to deliver those eggs and that butter.

472 00:22:37,660 --> 00:22:39,630 And--

473 00:22:39,630 --> 00:22:41,880 What were your first impressions of the United States? 474 00:22:41,880 --> 00:22:45,500

475 00:22:45,500 --> 00:22:49,100 Well, the bread, and the chewing gum, and the dresses,

476 00:22:49,100 --> 00:22:53,240 and the clothes, and you could have whatever you wanted.

477 00:22:53,240 --> 00:22:56,540 And there were no--

478 00:22:56,540 --> 00:22:57,410 there was no war.

479 00:22:57,410 --> 00:23:00,420

480 00:23:00,420 --> 00:23:04,110 And so then we came to Washington.

481 00:23:04,110 --> 00:23:05,170 It was in the middle--

482 00:23:05,170 --> 00:23:08,280 it was in late at night we got here,

483 00:23:08,280 --> 00:23:10,770 because my father had a flat tire on the road.

484 00:23:10,770 --> 00:23:11,670 And he had to fix it.

485 00:23:11,670 --> 00:23:13,500 He didn't know how to fix it. 486

00:23:13,500 --> 00:23:14,580 Finally, he got it fixed.

487

00:23:14,580 --> 00:23:16,710 So we got home.

488

00:23:16,710 --> 00:23:18,480 We started out early in the morning.

489

00:23:18,480 --> 00:23:22,780 We didn't get home for 13 hours or something.

490

00:23:22,780 --> 00:23:24,090 And my mother was in bed.

491

00:23:24,090 --> 00:23:25,573 And she acted very strange.

492

00:23:25,573 --> 00:23:28,140

493

00:23:28,140 --> 00:23:35,070 That's when I found out that she was really sick.

494

00:23:35,070 --> 00:23:44,760 And she was happy to see us, but not enough happy to see us.

495

00:23:44,760 --> 00:23:46,815 And we wanted to see our brother.

496

00:23:46,815 --> 00:23:48,440 We wanted to wake him up, and she said,

497

00:23:48,440 --> 00:23:51,080 no, no, don't wake him up.

498

00:23:51,080 --> 00:23:52,640 And so we went to sleep.

499

00:23:52,640 --> 00:23:58,670 And the next day, we saw our brother, and it was good.

500

00:23:58,670 --> 00:24:01,190 But my mother was never the same.

501

00:24:01,190 --> 00:24:06,440 I mean, it felt like she didn't know how to love me

502

00:24:06,440 --> 00:24:10,010 as much as she used to before.

503

00:24:10,010 --> 00:24:11,900 And we found out that she had had

504

00:24:11,900 --> 00:24:14,240 very big bouts of depression.

505

00:24:14,240 --> 00:24:17,600 And she was in and out of the hospital.

506

00:24:17,600 --> 00:24:22,880 And then when we grew up here, she was in and out

507

00:24:22,880 --> 00:24:26,730 of the hospital all the time.

508

00:24:26,730 --> 00:24:29,060 And I was sad for me.

509

00:24:29,060 --> 00:24:32,240

I was very sad for me, because I had 510 00:24:32,240 --> 00:24:35,180 missed so much being with her.

511 00:24:35,180 --> 00:24:42,930 And then I was not with her now.

512 00:24:42,930 --> 00:24:45,480 Anyway, I just said, if I ever going to have my children,

513 00:24:45,480 --> 00:24:46,870 it's not going to be like that.

514 00:24:46,870 --> 00:24:48,420 And it wasn't.

515 00:24:48,420 --> 00:24:52,530 So let's see, that just about takes us up to--

516 00:24:52,530 --> 00:24:53,870 So you stayed in Washington.

517 00:24:53,870 --> 00:24:55,320 Yes.

518 00:24:55,320 --> 00:24:58,530 And what about your schooling, and how long did

519 00:24:58,530 --> 00:25:00,490 it take you to learn English?

520 00:25:00,490 --> 00:25:04,650 Yeah, my brother and I went to the Americanization school

521 00:25:04,650 --> 00:25:05,730 in Washington. 00:25:05,730 --> 00:25:08,220 And we went there for two months.

523 00:25:08,220 --> 00:25:10,350 And we learned how to speak English.

524 00:25:10,350 --> 00:25:18,160 And then they enrolled us in junior high school.

525 00:25:18,160 --> 00:25:19,840 My brother went to elementary school,

526 00:25:19,840 --> 00:25:21,940 and I went to junior high school.

527 00:25:21,940 --> 00:25:23,620 And they didn't know how old I was.

528 00:25:23,620 --> 00:25:26,770 They looked at my body, and my body was very developed.

529 00:25:26,770 --> 00:25:29,500 So they put me in a grade, which was maybe

530 00:25:29,500 --> 00:25:31,660 a year higher than I was supposed to be,

531 00:25:31,660 --> 00:25:34,610 because I ended up graduating from high school at 16,

532 00:25:34,610 --> 00:25:38,170 not because I was so smart, but because somebody had put me 533

00:25:38,170 --> 00:25:39,550 in a higher grade.

534

00:25:39,550 --> 00:25:44,110 Anyway, what they did is they had the track system here.

535

00:25:44,110 --> 00:25:48,310 And I had always been this sweet, good child.

536

00:25:48,310 --> 00:25:53,980 And what happened was they knew that I

537

00:25:53,980 --> 00:25:57,370 didn't know how to speak English, so they put me in 7A,

538

00:25:57,370 --> 00:25:59,380 and that's where all the bad kids were,

539

00:25:59,380 --> 00:26:01,275 all those bad, bad boys.

540

00:26:01,275 --> 00:26:02,650 And they didn't know how to read,

541

00:26:02,650 --> 00:26:04,067 and they didn't know how to spell,

542

00:26:04,067 --> 00:26:06,110 they didn't know how to behave themselves.

543

00:26:06,110 --> 00:26:09,850 I couldn't believe that the schools in the United States

00:26:09,850 --> 00:26:12,460 had such terrible children.

545

00:26:12,460 --> 00:26:14,110 But anyway, after a--

546

00:26:14,110 --> 00:26:16,720 and here, I sat in the back of the room.

547

00:26:16,720 --> 00:26:18,370 But I did learn English.

548

00:26:18,370 --> 00:26:20,800 And then after a while, they took me out of that class

549

00:26:20,800 --> 00:26:26,170 and put me with 7C or whatever.

550

00:26:26,170 --> 00:26:29,110 So and then I just went to high school

551

00:26:29,110 --> 00:26:33,130 here at Central High School in Washington.

552

00:26:33,130 --> 00:26:35,200 And then I graduated from there.

553

00:26:35,200 --> 00:26:37,360 And I went to the University of Maryland.

554

00:26:37,360 --> 00:26:39,640 And I met my husband.

555

00:26:39,640 --> 00:26:44,510 And after two years, we got married.

556

00:26:44,510 --> 00:26:49,810 And then he continued going on to school.

557 00:26:49,810 --> 00:26:53,170 And then I had my three children,

558 00:26:53,170 --> 00:26:56,810 who were the most wonderful girls in the whole wide world.

559 00:26:56,810 --> 00:26:58,600 I need to tell you a little bit more

560 00:26:58,600 --> 00:27:04,360 in then, while I was raising them, I went back to school

561 00:27:04,360 --> 00:27:05,680 and I got my bachelor's degree.

562 00:27:05,680 --> 00:27:07,310 And then I got my master's degree.

563 00:27:07,310 --> 00:27:11,080 And then I worked on my PhD, which I still haven't gotten.

564 00:27:11,080 --> 00:27:14,810 And my children got married, in the meantime.

565 00:27:14,810 --> 00:27:17,890 They have wonderful husbands.

566 00:27:17,890 --> 00:27:21,130 And they're all doing well.

567 00:27:21,130 --> 00:27:24,670 And I have nine grandchildren. 568 00:27:24,670 --> 00:27:27,850 Now, I would like to talk about my children more,

569 00:27:27,850 --> 00:27:29,860 but do I have time to talk about them?

570 00:27:29,860 --> 00:27:31,960 Or are you not interested?

571 00:27:31,960 --> 00:27:33,980 I wanted to just ask you a few more questions.

572 00:27:33,980 --> 00:27:34,480 OK.

573 00:27:34,480 --> 00:27:36,710 When your children were growing up,

574 00:27:36,710 --> 00:27:38,710 did you talk about your experiences

575 00:27:38,710 --> 00:27:41,740 as a young child with them?

576 00:27:41,740 --> 00:27:44,860 Yeah, really should talk to you about that.

577 00:27:44,860 --> 00:27:49,570 When I first came here, and I was going to the school,

578 00:27:49,570 --> 00:27:51,710 I never told anybody about it.

579 00:27:51,710 --> 00:27:55,780 I just put it in the back of my mind.

580 00:27:55,780 --> 00:28:00,670 And then I just thought I was different from all

581 00:28:00,670 --> 00:28:01,810 the other children.

582 00:28:01,810 --> 00:28:06,010 It was very difficult going to a junior high school here.

583 00:28:06,010 --> 00:28:10,570 I just felt that I wasn't an American,

584 00:28:10,570 --> 00:28:13,810 and I was intruding on their society,

585 00:28:13,810 --> 00:28:17,590 and that I was just the lowest person on the totem pole.

586 00:28:17,590 --> 00:28:20,290 And what really happened when I was in that classroom,

587 00:28:20,290 --> 00:28:26,290 I felt like I really wasn't an important person.

588 00:28:26,290 --> 00:28:30,160 And then when I was little, I really

589 00:28:30,160 --> 00:28:33,310 didn't talk about anything that was going on.

590 00:28:33,310 --> 00:28:35,650 I just kept it quiet and never talked.

591 00:28:35,650 --> 00:28:37,420 And most of the people, later on, I

592 00:28:37,420 --> 00:28:40,270 found out, did the same thing.

593 00:28:40,270 --> 00:28:42,550 And I don't know why we did it.

594 00:28:42,550 --> 00:28:44,410 And later on, when I found out what

595 00:28:44,410 --> 00:28:47,020 was going on in the concentration camps

596 00:28:47,020 --> 00:28:51,890 and in the ghettos and then the concentration camps,

597 00:28:51,890 --> 00:28:56,530 I felt guilty because I was the one that was saved,

598 00:28:56,530 --> 00:28:58,870 and all those other people got killed.

599 00:28:58,870 --> 00:29:01,990 And I didn't know why I was saved,

600 00:29:01,990 --> 00:29:07,720 and all the other people died.

601 00:29:07,720 --> 00:29:10,870 Now, my aunts, all those aunts I was telling you about, 602 00:29:10,870 --> 00:29:13,460 they were all sent to the concentration camps.

603 00:29:13,460 --> 00:29:17,140 I looked them up in the book, in the Holocaust Museum.

604 00:29:17,140 --> 00:29:17,640 Anyway--

605 00:29:17,640 --> 00:29:23,520

606 00:29:23,520 --> 00:29:25,600 What about your father when you were growing up?

607 00:29:25,600 --> 00:29:31,060 Did you talk about this with him when you first got here?

608 00:29:31,060 --> 00:29:31,770 No.

609 00:29:31,770 --> 00:29:35,460 No, not so much, because we were so busy

610 00:29:35,460 --> 00:29:37,980 trying to become Americans.

611 00:29:37,980 --> 00:29:43,670 And he was so busy trying to make a living for us,

612 00:29:43,670 --> 00:29:46,250 because he had been well off in Germany.

613 00:29:46,250 --> 00:29:48,830 I told you he had this store.

614

00:29:48,830 --> 00:29:51,710 And after a while, he didn't have the store anymore.

615

00:29:51,710 --> 00:29:54,170 And I didn't remember why.

616

00:29:54,170 --> 00:29:58,430 And he had to go and sell strawberries and berries, just

617

00:29:58,430 --> 00:30:01,670 like he was selling eggs and butter here

618

00:30:01,670 --> 00:30:04,730 in the United States, because that's the only thing that he

619

00:30:04,730 --> 00:30:06,480 could do.

620

00:30:06,480 --> 00:30:11,510 And so he was so busy trying to establish himself here

621

00:30:11,510 --> 00:30:13,590 that we didn't talk about it.

622

00:30:13,590 --> 00:30:16,240 But I do remember we had a recreation

623

00:30:16,240 --> 00:30:19,040 room, like a basement in our house here in the United

624

00:30:19,040 --> 00:30:20,360

States.

625

00:30:20,360 --> 00:30:25,820 And people from all over, Jewish people

626 00:30:25,820 --> 00:30:28,700 came, and we brought clothes and made packages

627 00:30:28,700 --> 00:30:32,330 to send over to the people in Germany.

628 00:30:32,330 --> 00:30:34,610 I don't know if they ever got all these packages.

629 00:30:34,610 --> 00:30:36,140 But it was a big thing.

630 00:30:36,140 --> 00:30:38,840 Everybody came to our house.

631 00:30:38,840 --> 00:30:44,690 And everybody donated clothes, and we sent them to Germany.

632 00:30:44,690 --> 00:30:57,510

633 00:30:57,510 --> 00:31:00,780 This is tape two, side B. And you

634 00:31:00,780 --> 00:31:04,125 were talking about living here in the United States.

635 00:31:04,125 --> 00:31:06,960

636 00:31:06,960 --> 00:31:10,170 Do you have a special relationship with your brother 637 00:31:10,170 --> 00:31:13,440 because of what you two went through together?

638 00:31:13,440 --> 00:31:15,420 Well, we talk about it sometimes.

639 00:31:15,420 --> 00:31:19,080 And he sometimes remembers more than I do.

640 00:31:19,080 --> 00:31:21,930 And then sometimes I remember more than he does.

641 00:31:21,930 --> 00:31:25,800 And he lives in New York, but we keep in touch.

642 00:31:25,800 --> 00:31:28,020 I feel very close to him, yes.

643 00:31:28,020 --> 00:31:31,170 And I'm sure he feels close to me too.

644 00:31:31,170 --> 00:31:35,470 When you first came here, did you talk about, again,

645 00:31:35,470 --> 00:31:39,420 what you went through with him in the first months?

646 00:31:39,420 --> 00:31:40,800 Well, maybe we did.

647 00:31:40,800 --> 00:31:42,750 Maybe we talked about it, but I think 648 00:31:42,750 --> 00:31:46,350 what we wanted to do was to go on with our lives

649 00:31:46,350 --> 00:31:48,900 and to become Americans.

650 00:31:48,900 --> 00:31:54,210 That was my biggest objective is to be an American

651 00:31:54,210 --> 00:31:57,630 and to forget about all those horrible things that

652 00:31:57,630 --> 00:31:59,040 had happened to us.

653 00:31:59,040 --> 00:32:02,950

654 00:32:02,950 --> 00:32:06,462 What do you think kept you going during those two years

655 00:32:06,462 --> 00:32:07,920 that you were without your parents?

656 00:32:07,920 --> 00:32:10,610

657 00:32:10,610 --> 00:32:20,640 Well, my brother, and knowing that we were eventually

658 00:32:20,640 --> 00:32:22,875 going to get back together with our parents.

659 00:32:22,875 --> 00:32:25,660 660 00:32:25,660 --> 00:32:28,970 I just knew that we were going to see them again.

661 00:32:28,970 --> 00:32:33,190

662 00:32:33,190 --> 00:32:38,140 And then children are wonderful survivors.

663 00:32:38,140 --> 00:32:42,880 They can take a lot.

664 00:32:42,880 --> 00:32:49,340 And they can adjust to many different kinds of situations.

665 00:32:49,340 --> 00:32:50,320 And so we did.

666 00:32:50,320 --> 00:32:55,830

667 00:32:55,830 --> 00:32:57,640 Because of what you went through when

668 00:32:57,640 --> 00:33:00,630 you were at such a vulnerable age, being so young,

669 00:33:00,630 --> 00:33:05,670 does this still affect you now?

670 00:33:05,670 --> 00:33:07,650 No.

671 00:33:07,650 --> 00:33:10,050 What I sometimes think about it, and I just 672 00:33:10,050 --> 00:33:13,590 want to make sure that my children have

673 00:33:13,590 --> 00:33:15,675 a normal, happy life.

674 00:33:15,675 --> 00:33:18,540

675 00:33:18,540 --> 00:33:21,040 And I wanted, when I had my own children,

676 00:33:21,040 --> 00:33:24,810 I wanted to make sure that I was always there for them

677 00:33:24,810 --> 00:33:27,360 and that I was a good mother--

678 00:33:27,360 --> 00:33:30,306 and they assured me that i am--

679 00:33:30,306 --> 00:33:39,230 and That I want to do the best so that nothing will happen

680 00:33:39,230 --> 00:33:42,950 to them, and their children, and the children all

681 00:33:42,950 --> 00:33:43,670 over the world.

682 00:33:43,670 --> 00:33:47,070

683 00:33:47,070 --> 00:33:50,010 Has your experience affected the way 684 00:33:50,010 --> 00:33:51,330 you feel about being Jewish?

685 00:33:51,330 --> 00:33:54,980

686 00:33:54,980 --> 00:33:57,320 I don't understand your question.

687 00:33:57,320 --> 00:34:00,522 Did it make you more religious, less religious?

688 00:34:00,522 --> 00:34:02,105 This happened because you were Jewish.

689 00:34:02,105 --> 00:34:04,860

690 00:34:04,860 --> 00:34:06,980 No, it didn't make me more religious.

691 00:34:06,980 --> 00:34:11,090 I think it had nothing to do with my religion.

692 00:34:11,090 --> 00:34:15,679 I am not religious anymore, mostly because of my husband,

693 00:34:15,679 --> 00:34:18,929 because he was not even conservative.

694 00:34:18,929 --> 00:34:20,139 He was reformed.

695 00:34:20,139 --> 00:34:25,639 And I loved him a lot, and so I just became reformed too.

696 00:34:25,639 --> 00:34:28,219 Maybe it made me less religious, but not

697 00:34:28,219 --> 00:34:32,120 until after I came here.

698 00:34:32,120 --> 00:34:35,491 But more religious, no.

699 00:34:35,491 --> 00:34:36,449 What about your father?

700 00:34:36,449 --> 00:34:38,960 Did he keep up his observance?

701 00:34:38,960 --> 00:34:41,790 Yeah, my father kept up his observances.

702 00:34:41,790 --> 00:34:43,250 Yeah.

703 00:34:43,250 --> 00:34:45,949 He made us go to--

704 00:34:45,949 --> 00:34:47,870 we went-- oh, and top of the thing,

705 00:34:47,870 --> 00:34:50,389 neat thing about it in Washington,

706 00:34:50,389 --> 00:34:52,810 is the Rabbi Jacobs, the one I told you,

707 00:34:52,810 --> 00:34:54,560 the story with the beard.

708 00:34:54,560 --> 00:34:58,470 He lived about two blocks away from our house.

709 00:34:58,470 --> 00:35:02,180 And so every Saturday, we went and learned with him.

710 00:35:02,180 --> 00:35:05,550 And then we went and studied with him, I think, three times

711 00:35:05,550 --> 00:35:06,050 a week.

712 00:35:06,050 --> 00:35:08,360 We translated the Chumash.

713 00:35:08,360 --> 00:35:15,050 And we had a very good Jewish education.

714 00:35:15,050 --> 00:35:18,210 And we kept the traditions in our house.

715 00:35:18,210 --> 00:35:20,120 It's just that after I got married,

716 00:35:20,120 --> 00:35:22,280 I didn't keep them anymore.

717 00:35:22,280 --> 00:35:26,420 But now with my children, they keep the traditions.

718 00:35:26,420 --> 00:35:30,140 They want to teach their children the Jewish traditions. 719 00:35:30,140 --> 00:35:33,950 And I'm very glad that they are doing it.

720 00:35:33,950 --> 00:35:36,270 Do you receive reparations?

721 00:35:36,270 --> 00:35:41,180 No, I don't want to have anything to do with Germany.

722 00:35:41,180 --> 00:35:43,650 My husband keeps telling me I should.

723 00:35:43,650 --> 00:35:47,570 There's this lawyer who had written up in the paper.

724 00:35:47,570 --> 00:35:51,320 I think my father once did because my mother had

725 00:35:51,320 --> 00:35:53,570 to be institutionalized.

726 00:35:53,570 --> 00:35:57,120 But I don't think he got a lot of money.

727 00:35:57,120 --> 00:36:00,530 And I also understand that some people are going back

728 00:36:00,530 --> 00:36:06,860 to Germany, and they're getting to be the guests

729 00:36:06,860 --> 00:36:08,210 of the German government.

730 00:36:08,210 --> 00:36:10,680 And I haven't looked into that either.

731

00:36:10,680 --> 00:36:14,240 I just don't want to have anything to do with it.

732

00:36:14,240 --> 00:36:16,940 I took my husband and my three children,

733

00:36:16,940 --> 00:36:21,440 before my daughter went to Harvard, we went on a trip,

734

00:36:21,440 --> 00:36:23,570 on a vacation.

735

00:36:23,570 --> 00:36:25,320 All five of us went together.

736

00:36:25,320 --> 00:36:27,770 And I wanted to show them Bad Kreuznach,

737

00:36:27,770 --> 00:36:29,090 the town I was born in.

738

00:36:29,090 --> 00:36:37,040 And we made a reservation in a hotel in Bad Kreuznach.

739

00:36:37,040 --> 00:36:40,250 I thought we would stay there for a week just

740

00:36:40,250 --> 00:36:42,950 for me to show them around.

741

00:36:42,950 --> 00:36:46,650 And we stayed two days.

742

00:36:46,650 --> 00:36:49,640 And then I was very uncomfortable,

743

00:36:49,640 --> 00:36:52,680 and we went to Paris and had a good time.

744

00:36:52,680 --> 00:36:57,320 But what was interesting, in that town, there was a lady,

745

00:36:57,320 --> 00:36:59,870 her name was Betty Hager.

746

00:36:59,870 --> 00:37:01,610 And she had been--

747

00:37:01,610 --> 00:37:08,360 my mother had a brother, and his name was Adolf [? Drimmer. ?]

748

00:37:08,360 --> 00:37:11,690 And he had a lover.

749

00:37:11,690 --> 00:37:15,650 And the reason she was his lover because he didn't want to marry

750

00:37:15,650 --> 00:37:17,450 her, because she wasn't Jewish.

751

00:37:17,450 --> 00:37:19,040 And he figured if he--

752

00:37:19,040 --> 00:37:22,190 she wanted to marry him, but he didn't want to marry her,

753

00:37:22,190 --> 00:37:26,450 because if he married her, then she would be considered Jewish,

754 00:37:26,450 --> 00:37:29,100 and she'd end up in a concentration camp.

755 00:37:29,100 --> 00:37:33,440 So, anyway, that lady was still in Bad Kreuznach.

756 00:37:33,440 --> 00:37:35,750 So we looked her up.

757 00:37:35,750 --> 00:37:38,620 She was very happy to see us.

758 00:37:38,620 --> 00:37:43,200 And so that was the best part about being there.

759 00:37:43,200 --> 00:37:47,100 But she was living with a guy who was a German soldier.

760 00:37:47,100 --> 00:37:49,650 So it was awkward.

761 00:37:49,650 --> 00:37:55,650 But it was way after the war, and they were very good to us.

762 00:37:55,650 --> 00:37:58,590 But, still, the whole thing was very uncomfortable.

763 00:37:58,590 --> 00:38:02,280 I knew the town knew that I was the girl that

764 00:38:02,280 --> 00:38:05,040 had been living in the town because I could see when we

765 00:38:05,040 --> 00:38:08,620 were driving with our car that we had rented through the town,

766 00:38:08,620 --> 00:38:11,400 the ladies were looking through their lace curtains.

767 00:38:11,400 --> 00:38:15,330 And they were looking on these Americans.

768 00:38:15,330 --> 00:38:18,120 So it was uncomfortable, and I don't want to have anything

769 00:38:18,120 --> 00:38:20,460 to do with them.

770 00:38:20,460 --> 00:38:23,930

771 00:38:23,930 --> 00:38:25,930 Is there anything else you wanted to talk about?

772 00:38:25,930 --> 00:38:30,130 Well, if I have time, I'd like to talk about my children.

773 00:38:30,130 --> 00:38:31,510 You can tell me about them.

774 00:38:31,510 --> 00:38:33,490 OK.

775 00:38:33,490 --> 00:38:35,240 Well, I had one girl.

776 00:38:35,240 --> 00:38:37,120 Her name is Lisa.

777 00:38:37,120 --> 00:38:41,000

And she's wonderful.

778 00:38:41,000 --> 00:38:44,380 She's very intelligent, and she grew up

779 00:38:44,380 --> 00:38:46,330 to be a beautiful woman.

780 00:38:46,330 --> 00:38:50,470 She went to Harvard, and she married a nice guy.

781 00:38:50,470 --> 00:38:53,170 His name is Neil Martin.

782 00:38:53,170 --> 00:38:55,210 And one of them is--

783 00:38:55,210 --> 00:38:58,180 my daughter is a cardiologist.

784 00:38:58,180 --> 00:38:59,890 Lisa's a cardiologist.

785 00:38:59,890 --> 00:39:02,020 And Neil is an ophthalmologist.

786 00:39:02,020 --> 00:39:03,730 And they live in a house in Potomac,

787 00:39:03,730 --> 00:39:06,940 and they have three wonderful children.

788 00:39:06,940 --> 00:39:10,420 And she was a wonderful daughter.

789 00:39:10,420 --> 00:39:13,330 She still is a wonderful daughter.

790

00:39:13,330 --> 00:39:17,620 And she has twins, and a little girl, and they're very happy.

791

00:39:17,620 --> 00:39:19,420 And then I have another daughter,

792

00:39:19,420 --> 00:39:21,550 and her name is Meryl.

793

00:39:21,550 --> 00:39:23,530 I had her two years afterwards.

794

00:39:23,530 --> 00:39:25,110 And she's a dancer.

795

00:39:25,110 --> 00:39:28,840 And she teaches dancing, and she's a wonderful dancer.

796

00:39:28,840 --> 00:39:30,130 And she's in her 40s.

797

00:39:30,130 --> 00:39:34,780 And she has the most beautiful figure you can think of.

798

00:39:34,780 --> 00:39:37,480 She married Alan Shapiro.

799

00:39:37,480 --> 00:39:40,390 And he's a director on television.

800

00:39:40,390 --> 00:39:46,090 And he directs the David Brinkley show and Ted Koppel

801

00:39:46,090 --> 00:39:46,840

show.

802

00:39:46,840 --> 00:39:49,390 And they have three children.

803

00:39:49,390 --> 00:39:53,680 And the one of them name is Sabrina.

804

00:39:53,680 --> 00:40:00,130 and she's a wonderful girl, and Julianne, and Lila, the baby.

805

00:40:00,130 --> 00:40:02,080 And then I have another daughter,

806

00:40:02,080 --> 00:40:04,420 and her name is Therese.

807

00:40:04,420 --> 00:40:06,760 Her last name is Robinson now.

808

00:40:06,760 --> 00:40:12,760 And she's a dietitian, and she's married to Howard Robinson, who

809

00:40:12,760 --> 00:40:14,350 is a dermatologist.

810

00:40:14,350 --> 00:40:19,510 And they have three wonderful children, Matthew Robinson,

811

00:40:19,510 --> 00:40:27,590 Brian Robinson, and Erica Robinson.

812

00:40:27,590 --> 00:40:30,760 And they're all very bright, very smart,

813

00:40:30,760 --> 00:40:34,420 and they have wonderful parents.

814

00:40:34,420 --> 00:40:37,210 And I'm very happy.

815

00:40:37,210 --> 00:40:41,650 Are there any sights or smells today that remind you

816

00:40:41,650 --> 00:40:43,870 of that time in your life?

817

00:40:43,870 --> 00:40:44,860 Yeah.

818

00:40:44,860 --> 00:40:45,910 Lots of times.

819

00:40:45,910 --> 00:40:48,310 But don't ask me what it is.

820

00:40:48,310 --> 00:40:52,100 Smells-- like my husband, Irving, I've not mentioned him.

821

00:40:52,100 --> 00:40:53,590 He's a very good husband.

822

00:40:53,590 --> 00:40:58,040 I've been married to him for 48 years.

823

00:40:58,040 --> 00:41:03,940 And he accuses me of having too keen a nose.

824

00:41:03,940 --> 00:41:07,210 But I do have certain smells, and they remind me

825

00:41:07,210 --> 00:41:08,920

of Bad Kreuznach.

826

00:41:08,920 --> 00:41:12,520 But right now I can't

describe the smell.

827

00:41:12,520 --> 00:41:14,650

But they do.

828

00:41:14,650 --> 00:41:15,700

Sights?

829

 $00:41:15,700 \longrightarrow 00:41:17,800$

No.

830

00:41:17,800 --> 00:41:18,300

No.

831

 $00:41:18,300 \longrightarrow 00:41:25,800$

832

00:41:25,800 --> 00:41:28,700

Does this still affect

you, what you went through?

833

00:41:28,700 --> 00:41:29,640

Do you think it is--

834

00:41:29,640 --> 00:41:30,190

No.

835

 $00:41:30,190 \longrightarrow 00:41:30,690$

No.

836

00:41:30,690 --> 00:41:34,200

But I do--

837

00:41:34,200 --> 00:41:36,780

I have been a teacher.

838

00:41:36,780 --> 00:41:39,360

I was a teacher for 27 years, besides being

839

00:41:39,360 --> 00:41:40,590 a mother, and teacher.

840

00:41:40,590 --> 00:41:45,000 And I retired three years ago from teaching.

841

00:41:45,000 --> 00:41:50,820 And I decided I wasn't just going to stay home.

842

00:41:50,820 --> 00:41:54,140 So I got myself in a lot of athletic activities.

843

00:41:54,140 --> 00:41:57,260 And now you should ask me about all my athletic activities,

844

00:41:57,260 --> 00:41:59,180 because I swim, and I play tennis,

845

00:41:59,180 --> 00:42:01,940 and I ride my bike 100 miles a day,

846

00:42:01,940 --> 00:42:05,930 and I do all kinds of athletic things in my old age.

847

00:42:05,930 --> 00:42:07,910 But the big thing that I'm doing now

848

00:42:07,910 --> 00:42:11,570 is working for the Holocaust Museum, the United States

849

00:42:11,570 --> 00:42:14,210

Holocaust Memorial Museum.

850 00:42:14,210 --> 00:42:16,640 And I work in the education department.

851

00:42:16,640 --> 00:42:22,490 And what I do is I take children from the District of Columbia,

852

00:42:22,490 --> 00:42:25,730 and from Baltimore, from the inner city schools,

853

00:42:25,730 --> 00:42:28,130 and I take them through the museum.

854

00:42:28,130 --> 00:42:30,130 And I teach them about the Holocaust.

855

00:42:30,130 --> 00:42:34,480

856

00:42:34,480 --> 00:42:35,200 Let's see--

857

00:42:35,200 --> 00:42:39,260 Do you tell them about your own story?

858

00:42:39,260 --> 00:42:40,460 Sometimes.

859

00:42:40,460 --> 00:42:43,805 Sometimes I tell them, and sometimes I don't.

860

 $00:42:43,805 \longrightarrow 00:42:47,030$

00:42:47,030 --> 00:42:49,580 Sometimes I tell them about the Kristallnacht.

862 00:42:49,580 --> 00:42:52,640 Sometimes when a child, when I feel

863 00:42:52,640 --> 00:42:55,610 that they are not paying attention,

864 00:42:55,610 --> 00:42:57,560 or I'm losing my audience, I always

865 00:42:57,560 --> 00:42:59,930 find that if I tell them that I was involved

866 00:42:59,930 --> 00:43:04,040 and I tell them about my experience in Kristallnacht,

867 00:43:04,040 --> 00:43:06,050 then I get them back.

868 00:43:06,050 --> 00:43:11,000 And they seem to understand the story of the Holocaust

869 00:43:11,000 --> 00:43:12,330 a little bit better.

870 00:43:12,330 --> 00:43:13,620 So sometimes I do.

871 00:43:13,620 --> 00:43:14,840 And sometimes I don't.

872 00:43:14,840 --> 00:43:18,020 It all depends on the group of children that I'm with. 873 00:43:18,020 --> 00:43:23,480 But I try not to have them feel for me or sorry for me.

874 00:43:23,480 --> 00:43:29,540 I just want them to know about the story of the Holocaust.

875 00:43:29,540 --> 00:43:32,720 Let's see, how did we get on to this?

876 00:43:32,720 --> 00:43:33,980 Oh, about what I'm doing.

877 00:43:33,980 --> 00:43:36,980 Well, and I'm also the president of Hadassah.

878 00:43:36,980 --> 00:43:41,240 And I do a lot of things for Israel and for the women

879 00:43:41,240 --> 00:43:43,250 in the United States.

880 00:43:43,250 --> 00:43:46,010 So I'm very happy.

881 00:43:46,010 --> 00:43:50,710 I turned out to be a normal person.

882 00:43:50,710 --> 00:43:53,740 Anything you want to add before we finish?

883 00:43:53,740 --> 00:43:57,610 Well, what is it that you want to know?

884

00:43:57,610 --> 00:43:59,380 Just any final thoughts that you had.

885 00:43:59,380 --> 00:44:01,960 I'm just-- I just turned out.

886 00:44:01,960 --> 00:44:03,880 Everything turned out fine for me.

887 00:44:03,880 --> 00:44:04,990 And I'm very happy.

888 00:44:04,990 --> 00:44:06,910 And I'm glad to be here.

889 00:44:06,910 --> 00:44:16,260 And I'm glad to be in the United States and to be here.

890 00:44:16,260 --> 00:44:18,780 Well, thank you very much for doing the interview.

891 00:44:18,780 --> 00:44:20,176 It's fine.

892 00:44:20,176 --> 00:44:22,690 OK, you're welcome.

893 00:44:22,690 --> 00:44:27,630 This concludes the interview of Susan Warsinger.

894 00:44:27,630 --> 00:44:32,000