

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:02,330

2
00:00:02,330 --> 00:00:05,630
This is the second half
of an interview being

3
00:00:05,630 --> 00:00:08,600
made on behalf of the United
States Holocaust Memorial

4
00:00:08,600 --> 00:00:10,310
Museum.

5
00:00:10,310 --> 00:00:14,120
It is the second half of an
interview with Frank Ephraim.

6
00:00:14,120 --> 00:00:19,580
The first half was made on
February the 28th, 1997.

7
00:00:19,580 --> 00:00:25,020
Today's date is
March the 20th, 1997.

8
00:00:25,020 --> 00:00:28,690
The interviewer is Nancy Alper.

9
00:00:28,690 --> 00:00:36,850
And this is tape
number three, side A.

10
00:00:36,850 --> 00:00:41,350
Frank, when we finished
doing the first half

11
00:00:41,350 --> 00:00:46,510
of the interview on
February the 28th, 1997,

12

00:00:46,510 --> 00:00:50,080
you were talking about
the friendly policies

13
00:00:50,080 --> 00:00:53,270
of the then governor
of the Philippines,

14
00:00:53,270 --> 00:00:55,720
then eventually president
of the Philippines,

15
00:00:55,720 --> 00:01:01,000
Quezon y Molina, toward the
Jews and Jewish immigration

16
00:01:01,000 --> 00:01:02,200
to the Philippines.

17
00:01:02,200 --> 00:01:05,290
And you mentioned
that he, together

18
00:01:05,290 --> 00:01:10,450
with the leader of the Jewish
community, Alex Frieder,

19
00:01:10,450 --> 00:01:14,530
were instrumental in
constructing a community

20
00:01:14,530 --> 00:01:17,590
home called
Mariquina Hall, which

21
00:01:17,590 --> 00:01:21,400
was planned to house young
Jewish immigrants who

22
00:01:21,400 --> 00:01:24,910
would be working the land
which had been donated

23

00:01:24,910 --> 00:01:26,500
by the government.

24
00:01:26,500 --> 00:01:32,490
And you mentioned that
this was around 1940.

25
00:01:32,490 --> 00:01:33,540
That's correct.

26
00:01:33,540 --> 00:01:39,280
The-- there were several other
plans going at the same time.

27
00:01:39,280 --> 00:01:41,440
Alex Frieder, who was
then the President

28
00:01:41,440 --> 00:01:45,130
of the Jewish Community,
also worked with Quezon

29
00:01:45,130 --> 00:01:50,590
to get as many as 10,000 Jews
from Europe to the Philippines,

30
00:01:50,590 --> 00:01:54,310
but they would be settled in a
large area of Mindanao, which

31
00:01:54,310 --> 00:01:58,310
is the southern most
island of the Philippines.

32
00:01:58,310 --> 00:02:00,400
This project was also
known, of course,

33
00:02:00,400 --> 00:02:03,040
by the State Department
of the United States,

34
00:02:03,040 --> 00:02:06,460

and they had a representative
whose name I momentary forgot,

35
00:02:06,460 --> 00:02:10,300
who also was working in
this particular area.

36
00:02:10,300 --> 00:02:13,390
There were several problems
involved in that, first

37
00:02:13,390 --> 00:02:15,550
of all, trying to find out--

38
00:02:15,550 --> 00:02:17,500
first, you would
have to clear land.

39
00:02:17,500 --> 00:02:23,200
You'd have to have some means
by which to produce income.

40
00:02:23,200 --> 00:02:26,140
You're dealing here with
people that are not necessarily

41
00:02:26,140 --> 00:02:29,590
farmers or are
agriculturally-oriented people,

42
00:02:29,590 --> 00:02:32,350
but people there are largely
from the business community

43
00:02:32,350 --> 00:02:35,230
of Europe or who were
in the retail sales,

44
00:02:35,230 --> 00:02:38,630
or who were possibly lawyers,
and things of that nature.

45
00:02:38,630 --> 00:02:43,030

So the-- you had to
sort of combine and look

46
00:02:43,030 --> 00:02:45,010
at the possibilities.

47
00:02:45,010 --> 00:02:50,020
However, this project, which
was vast in scope for those days

48
00:02:50,020 --> 00:02:52,180
and would have been,
of course, very helpful

49
00:02:52,180 --> 00:02:54,970
to these 10,000
Jews from Europe,

50
00:02:54,970 --> 00:02:59,020
did never came about because
of the war interrupted

51
00:02:59,020 --> 00:03:01,970
that, Hitler's invasion
of Poland September 1,

52
00:03:01,970 --> 00:03:04,370
1939, et cetera.

53
00:03:04,370 --> 00:03:08,190
So that never took place.

54
00:03:08,190 --> 00:03:10,970
Now, I'd like to maybe cover
a little bit about the--

55
00:03:10,970 --> 00:03:13,530
what I've been
referring to as Alex

56
00:03:13,530 --> 00:03:17,300
Frieder, the so-called
American portion

57

00:03:17,300 --> 00:03:18,710
of the Jewish community.

58

00:03:18,710 --> 00:03:22,430
That actually goes back to
very likely the 1920s, possibly

59

00:03:22,430 --> 00:03:25,130
the early 1920s.

60

00:03:25,130 --> 00:03:29,080
They arrived in the Philippines,
one, two, or three brothers--

61

00:03:29,080 --> 00:03:32,090
and I'm not sure-- out
of five from the City

62

00:03:32,090 --> 00:03:34,220
of Cincinnati, Ohio.

63

00:03:34,220 --> 00:03:39,890
They then established a business
in Manila, which was a tobacco

64

00:03:39,890 --> 00:03:44,630
factory basically manufacturing
cigars and cigarettes,

65

00:03:44,630 --> 00:03:46,460
the Frieder Concern.

66

00:03:46,460 --> 00:03:49,130
As I mentioned, there
were five brothers,

67

00:03:49,130 --> 00:03:52,340
but only three of them would
rotate through the Philippines.

68

00:03:52,340 --> 00:03:55,550

That was Philip, who was the
oldest, Alex was in the middle,

69
00:03:55,550 --> 00:03:59,060
and Herbert was one of the
youngest of those three.

70
00:03:59,060 --> 00:04:00,818
And they took turns
being president

71
00:04:00,818 --> 00:04:03,110
of the Jewish community
because there're very, very few

72
00:04:03,110 --> 00:04:04,850
Jews there to begin with.

73
00:04:04,850 --> 00:04:06,710
Later on, they were
joined by others.

74
00:04:06,710 --> 00:04:11,930
A family by the name of
Levine and Meadows, Konigsberg

75
00:04:11,930 --> 00:04:13,730
and a whole group of others.

76
00:04:13,730 --> 00:04:18,589
I would say probably about
200 to 250 people altogether.

77
00:04:18,589 --> 00:04:19,820
They established businesses.

78
00:04:19,820 --> 00:04:24,830
Konigsberg was in-- had one
or two good sized bookstores

79
00:04:24,830 --> 00:04:26,190
that he had established.

80

00:04:26,190 --> 00:04:29,480

One downtown, I think on the
mains and downtown street

81

00:04:29,480 --> 00:04:31,460

called Escolta.

82

00:04:31,460 --> 00:04:36,770

And there were others who were
in automobile businesses, cars

83

00:04:36,770 --> 00:04:38,240

that it would sell.

84

00:04:38,240 --> 00:04:40,340

And there was others
in transportation.

85

00:04:40,340 --> 00:04:42,410

Bachrach was another name.

86

00:04:42,410 --> 00:04:46,220

In fact, the temple that was
subsequently built in the early

87

00:04:46,220 --> 00:04:46,790

'30s--

88

00:04:46,790 --> 00:04:50,750

1936, I believe, was completed,
or '34, I'm not certain exactly

89

00:04:50,750 --> 00:04:53,810

about the date, was named
after this fellow Bachrach,

90

00:04:53,810 --> 00:04:54,800

first name was Emil.

91

00:04:54,800 --> 00:04:57,860

And thus, the temple
became Temple Emil.

92
00:04:57,860 --> 00:05:00,740
And he ran a small
transportation operation

93
00:05:00,740 --> 00:05:02,510
where he took sort
of little Jeep

94
00:05:02,510 --> 00:05:05,930
like vehicles, which could
carry four, six passengers,

95
00:05:05,930 --> 00:05:07,430
and they would
zip all over town.

96
00:05:07,430 --> 00:05:09,680
They have different
routes, and at that time,

97
00:05:09,680 --> 00:05:12,800
the price was five
centavos, which

98
00:05:12,800 --> 00:05:16,550
is about 2 and 1/2
American cents, for a ride.

99
00:05:16,550 --> 00:05:18,215
And everybody took
those vehicles

100
00:05:18,215 --> 00:05:19,340
because they're very handy.

101
00:05:19,340 --> 00:05:22,540
You can get anywhere
and go very fast.

102
00:05:22,540 --> 00:05:25,240
They would stop anywhere, pick
up, and discharge passengers.

103
00:05:25,240 --> 00:05:26,900
There were no stops--

104
00:05:26,900 --> 00:05:28,067
formal stops.

105
00:05:28,067 --> 00:05:30,650
In any event, these were people
who had built their businesses

106
00:05:30,650 --> 00:05:31,640
in the Philippines.

107
00:05:31,640 --> 00:05:34,340
And of course, as the
situation in Germany

108
00:05:34,340 --> 00:05:37,490
got very serious, and
subsequently in Austria,

109
00:05:37,490 --> 00:05:39,680
German Jews somehow
or other managed

110
00:05:39,680 --> 00:05:42,560
to get to the Philippines--
a few, at first.

111
00:05:42,560 --> 00:05:44,840
I believe the first
immigration probably

112
00:05:44,840 --> 00:05:48,710
was sometime around 1935 say.

113
00:05:48,710 --> 00:05:51,530
I believe the rabbi,
Rabbi Josef Schwartz,

114
00:05:51,530 --> 00:05:52,850

arrived at his young wife.

115
00:05:52,850 --> 00:05:54,710
He was in his early 30s--

116
00:05:54,710 --> 00:05:59,600
around about 1936, or '37.

117
00:05:59,600 --> 00:06:03,710
Before that, members of the
existing American Jewish

118
00:06:03,710 --> 00:06:06,310
community ran the
services, I believe,

119
00:06:06,310 --> 00:06:09,950
[INAUDIBLE] Konigsberg
and Levine were

120
00:06:09,950 --> 00:06:13,010
active in conducting services.

121
00:06:13,010 --> 00:06:15,890
The temple that they built,
it's a beautiful structure.

122
00:06:15,890 --> 00:06:19,460
It was yellow stucco, was
a sort of Moorish design,

123
00:06:19,460 --> 00:06:21,230
and with two towers.

124
00:06:21,230 --> 00:06:26,510
And the inside was old wood,
sort of a medium dark wood,

125
00:06:26,510 --> 00:06:30,220
possibly made of the Philippine
mahogany called narra.

126

00:06:30,220 --> 00:06:32,180

And it had a bema and
it had, of course,

127

00:06:32,180 --> 00:06:36,065

the eternal lamp, and
the Torah scrolls.

128

00:06:36,065 --> 00:06:38,510

There were about
three or four of them.

129

00:06:38,510 --> 00:06:42,268

And seating capacity was
a balcony level, as well.

130

00:06:42,268 --> 00:06:44,810

So seating capacity is probably
somewhere in the neighborhood

131

00:06:44,810 --> 00:06:47,850

of about 1,500 all told.

132

00:06:47,850 --> 00:06:52,340

Now, the-- they established
this sort of committee

133

00:06:52,340 --> 00:06:54,860

that is the Jewish share--
the American Jewish community

134

00:06:54,860 --> 00:06:58,460

established what one
might call the committee,

135

00:06:58,460 --> 00:07:01,880

which was really a sort
of administrative unit.

136

00:07:01,880 --> 00:07:06,530

And they put in charge a man by
the name of Morton I. Netzorg.

137

00:07:06,530 --> 00:07:10,010
And that was his main job
because now immigrants

138
00:07:10,010 --> 00:07:11,160
were coming in.

139
00:07:11,160 --> 00:07:14,360
They were trying to help them
to find jobs and find housing,

140
00:07:14,360 --> 00:07:16,160
to feed them, because
these were people

141
00:07:16,160 --> 00:07:18,650
who had escaped from
Europe, Germany mostly,

142
00:07:18,650 --> 00:07:22,090
and Austria, and possibly
some other areas.

143
00:07:22,090 --> 00:07:24,290
What can we do
with these people?

144
00:07:24,290 --> 00:07:26,480
Now, Frieder with
his tobacco factory

145
00:07:26,480 --> 00:07:30,230
did manage to employ
a number of people.

146
00:07:30,230 --> 00:07:32,990
One man in particular,
his name was Rosenblatt,

147
00:07:32,990 --> 00:07:36,360
and he indeed worked in the
cigar business in Germany.

148

00:07:36,360 --> 00:07:38,640
And he was able to
actually roll cigars.

149
00:07:38,640 --> 00:07:39,930
He knew how to do that.

150
00:07:39,930 --> 00:07:41,803
So he was a valued employee.

151
00:07:41,803 --> 00:07:43,970
But there were others who
did administrative things,

152
00:07:43,970 --> 00:07:46,880
or whatever he was
able to use them for.

153
00:07:46,880 --> 00:07:49,950
Now of course, he did not-- was
not able to employ everyone.

154
00:07:49,950 --> 00:07:52,430
But he did manage to employ
quite a number of people

155
00:07:52,430 --> 00:07:56,750
or other Jewish businesses.

156
00:07:56,750 --> 00:08:00,170
For example, my father
found a position with a man

157
00:08:00,170 --> 00:08:02,450
by the name of
[? Sherdit ?],, who

158
00:08:02,450 --> 00:08:04,710
ran a office machine supply--

159
00:08:04,710 --> 00:08:06,410
office machine business.

160

00:08:06,410 --> 00:08:08,520

And that was sort of
in my father's line.

161

00:08:08,520 --> 00:08:11,400

And he, of course, had to learn
to speak English at that time.

162

00:08:11,400 --> 00:08:13,920

But that was the type
of things that they

163

00:08:13,920 --> 00:08:16,260

would try to do for
the people that were

164

00:08:16,260 --> 00:08:18,970

coming into the Philippines.

165

00:08:18,970 --> 00:08:21,810

The-- of course, coming
there, as I mentioned,

166

00:08:21,810 --> 00:08:23,580

we arrived there
on March the 16th,

167

00:08:23,580 --> 00:08:28,290

1939, and were met by
this distant cousin

168

00:08:28,290 --> 00:08:32,280

of my mother's, including car
driver, wife, and small child,

169

00:08:32,280 --> 00:08:33,240

and governess.

170

00:08:33,240 --> 00:08:35,620

And we stayed at his house
for about three weeks.

171

00:08:35,620 --> 00:08:38,820
And one of the first
things that I did,

172
00:08:38,820 --> 00:08:40,150
I went along with a little--

173
00:08:40,150 --> 00:08:42,480
the little daughter of his
who was much younger than I,

174
00:08:42,480 --> 00:08:44,605
and the governess, and we
went to this famous place

175
00:08:44,605 --> 00:08:45,830
called the Boulevard.

176
00:08:45,830 --> 00:08:48,630
The Boulevard was a
grand meeting place.

177
00:08:48,630 --> 00:08:52,080
First of all, the Boulevard
ran alongside the shore

178
00:08:52,080 --> 00:08:53,220
of Manila Bay.

179
00:08:53,220 --> 00:08:56,760
Manila Bay is a huge bay
from Admiral Dewey's day,

180
00:08:56,760 --> 00:09:01,170
of course, and well-known,
facing west of the great Isle

181
00:09:01,170 --> 00:09:03,540
of Luzon facing west.

182
00:09:03,540 --> 00:09:05,970
So you could, first of all,
see beautiful sunsets there

183
00:09:05,970 --> 00:09:07,120
each night.

184
00:09:07,120 --> 00:09:09,990
But the Boulevard itself
was constructed like a sort

185
00:09:09,990 --> 00:09:13,200
of a scenic highway.

186
00:09:13,200 --> 00:09:16,020
It had-- first of all,
there were large rocks

187
00:09:16,020 --> 00:09:17,850
that fronted the bay.

188
00:09:17,850 --> 00:09:21,810
Right behind the rocks was a
concrete retaining wall about--

189
00:09:21,810 --> 00:09:24,870
from the shore side about two
feet high from the other side

190
00:09:24,870 --> 00:09:29,640
much higher, and about two
feet wide, which certain

191
00:09:29,640 --> 00:09:32,970
gaps that you could actually
go down to the rocks through.

192
00:09:32,970 --> 00:09:35,700
But people would
sit on this wall,

193
00:09:35,700 --> 00:09:37,230
but they would also
sit on benches.

194

00:09:37,230 --> 00:09:39,780

Benches were all
along the Boulevard.

195

00:09:39,780 --> 00:09:41,910

And there were these
beautiful palm trees

196

00:09:41,910 --> 00:09:44,310

on both sides of the roadway.

197

00:09:44,310 --> 00:09:49,440

And once you crossed the roadway
back away from the shore,

198

00:09:49,440 --> 00:09:54,300

there would be a space of about
100, 200 feet of grass area,

199

00:09:54,300 --> 00:09:56,550

or bush area, whatever.

200

00:09:56,550 --> 00:10:01,470

We used it as playing fields
later on for soccer and a game

201

00:10:01,470 --> 00:10:03,150

called capture the flag.

202

00:10:03,150 --> 00:10:08,250

But then those
days, the Boulevard

203

00:10:08,250 --> 00:10:11,130

was a place to go to play, to--

204

00:10:11,130 --> 00:10:13,170

and that's when
I would accompany

205

00:10:13,170 --> 00:10:15,210

the governess and
the little girl,

206
00:10:15,210 --> 00:10:18,870
and we'd hang out there and
do whatever, walk around, play

207
00:10:18,870 --> 00:10:21,450
in the sand, what have you.

208
00:10:21,450 --> 00:10:24,480
Of course, I also went to
school there fairly soon.

209
00:10:24,480 --> 00:10:26,220
As I may have
mentioned this before,

210
00:10:26,220 --> 00:10:29,638
this was a school called
Mrs. Hoyes' kindergarten

211
00:10:29,638 --> 00:10:31,680
where, of course, I had
to learn to speak English

212
00:10:31,680 --> 00:10:32,730
before I got started.

213
00:10:32,730 --> 00:10:36,590
But that worked out rather well.

214
00:10:36,590 --> 00:10:38,320
And so the first
years were pretty much

215
00:10:38,320 --> 00:10:40,780
getting accustomed
to everything that

216
00:10:40,780 --> 00:10:45,970
was so totally new from
what I had known in Germany.

217

00:10:45,970 --> 00:10:48,980

What do you remember, especially
when you arrived there

218

00:10:48,980 --> 00:10:53,170

in those early times that was
totally different from anything

219

00:10:53,170 --> 00:10:57,410

you've ever known before
that you had to deal with?

220

00:10:57,410 --> 00:10:59,570

Well, first of all, the climate.

221

00:10:59,570 --> 00:11:01,820

In the Philippines,
there's only one climate--

222

00:11:01,820 --> 00:11:02,720

hot.

223

00:11:02,720 --> 00:11:04,790

And it's divided
into two seasons--

224

00:11:04,790 --> 00:11:06,560

the rainy and the dry.

225

00:11:06,560 --> 00:11:09,110

I've forgotten exactly--
I think we had just

226

00:11:09,110 --> 00:11:11,490

emerged from the rainy
season when we got there.

227

00:11:11,490 --> 00:11:13,190

So it was the dry season.

228

00:11:13,190 --> 00:11:15,300

And the heat was horrendous.

229

00:11:15,300 --> 00:11:17,750

The other thing
was the mosquitoes.

230

00:11:17,750 --> 00:11:20,060

When one was bitten through
and through these fellows,

231

00:11:20,060 --> 00:11:23,510

they seemed to
thrive on our blood.

232

00:11:23,510 --> 00:11:28,100

And of course, you had to
sleep under mosquito nets.

233

00:11:28,100 --> 00:11:30,780

Although many of the
homes had screens,

234

00:11:30,780 --> 00:11:33,770

there were-- often had
holes in them more.

235

00:11:33,770 --> 00:11:35,480

Somehow the
mosquitoes did manage

236

00:11:35,480 --> 00:11:37,620

to get in when
you open the door.

237

00:11:37,620 --> 00:11:40,730

So these white mosquito nets
were a very important item when

238

00:11:40,730 --> 00:11:41,230

you're--

239

00:11:41,230 --> 00:11:42,290

over your bed.

240

00:11:42,290 --> 00:11:44,420
So everyone slept
under one of those.

241
00:11:44,420 --> 00:11:46,940
That was the other-- it was
sort of a strange way to sleep,

242
00:11:46,940 --> 00:11:50,190
because I'd not been used
to that, never known it.

243
00:11:50,190 --> 00:11:53,110
The other thing, of course, was
just the clothes and the food

244
00:11:53,110 --> 00:11:53,610
there.

245
00:11:53,610 --> 00:11:55,700
You're naturally in
a climate like that,

246
00:11:55,700 --> 00:11:58,670
you wore shorts or
just a simple shirt.

247
00:11:58,670 --> 00:12:01,360
You'd never had to
worry about being cold.

248
00:12:01,360 --> 00:12:02,630
It was hot.

249
00:12:02,630 --> 00:12:04,550
And of course, there
was no air conditioning

250
00:12:04,550 --> 00:12:06,560
as we know it today.

251
00:12:06,560 --> 00:12:09,130
The only places there was air

conditioning was in the movies.

252

00:12:09,130 --> 00:12:11,005

And so you were really
eager to go to a movie

253

00:12:11,005 --> 00:12:14,200

because that's where you could
cool off, but the only place.

254

00:12:14,200 --> 00:12:15,470

That was the other thing.

255

00:12:15,470 --> 00:12:19,250

And the food itself
was way different.

256

00:12:19,250 --> 00:12:21,800

Although, at that time, there
was beef and things like that

257

00:12:21,800 --> 00:12:24,890

available, which were
imported, or there's some,

258

00:12:24,890 --> 00:12:27,020

I guess, cattle in
the Philippines.

259

00:12:27,020 --> 00:12:29,040

But the vegetables
were very different.

260

00:12:29,040 --> 00:12:31,730

There was sort of-- they're
almost like today in the United

261

00:12:31,730 --> 00:12:35,400

States, you describe as Chinese
vegetables type of thing.

262

00:12:35,400 --> 00:12:36,540

The fruit were different.

263

00:12:36,540 --> 00:12:39,140

They had these huge papayas,
and they had bananas,

264

00:12:39,140 --> 00:12:41,930

and they had this
thing called pomelos,

265

00:12:41,930 --> 00:12:44,600

which is a citrus fruit
larger than a grapefruit

266

00:12:44,600 --> 00:12:47,850

but much drier.

267

00:12:47,850 --> 00:12:49,850

So they were these
different kinds of things.

268

00:12:49,850 --> 00:12:52,040

And of course, a lot of rice.

269

00:12:52,040 --> 00:12:54,290

Rice in all forms.

270

00:12:54,290 --> 00:12:55,520

And a lot of sugar.

271

00:12:55,520 --> 00:12:57,950

And there was-- first time I
saw this brown sugar, which

272

00:12:57,950 --> 00:13:02,150

sort of a wet type sugar,
but people ate that.

273

00:13:02,150 --> 00:13:04,310

And then the-- of
course, to us there

274

00:13:04,310 --> 00:13:07,090

was the newness of the
ice cream and candy.

275

00:13:07,090 --> 00:13:08,510

I was kind of
interested in that.

276

00:13:08,510 --> 00:13:13,085

The Boulevard featured these
people with these yellow carts.

277

00:13:13,085 --> 00:13:15,500

They were painted yellow,
and the word Magnolia

278

00:13:15,500 --> 00:13:18,170

was written on it in blue,
that they sold ice cream.

279

00:13:18,170 --> 00:13:21,530

It was a larger
company that did that.

280

00:13:21,530 --> 00:13:22,893

And you could get a popsicle.

281

00:13:22,893 --> 00:13:25,310

And then if you were lucky
when you finished your popsicle

282

00:13:25,310 --> 00:13:28,240

on a little wooden stick
would be the word free.

283

00:13:28,240 --> 00:13:31,470

That meant you could get
another one for nothing.

284

00:13:31,470 --> 00:13:34,760

I also vividly remembered this
one man, he was very poor.

285

00:13:34,760 --> 00:13:35,960

He was Filipino.

286
00:13:35,960 --> 00:13:40,040
And he would walk
along with something

287
00:13:40,040 --> 00:13:41,870
around his neck
sort of like a tray.

288
00:13:41,870 --> 00:13:44,090
And on it were candy,
all kinds of candy bars.

289
00:13:44,090 --> 00:13:46,790
And his shoes were just
sort of falling-- completely

290
00:13:46,790 --> 00:13:47,990
falling apart.

291
00:13:47,990 --> 00:13:49,550
And he sold candy bars.

292
00:13:49,550 --> 00:13:52,640
He'd walk up and down
selling candy bars.

293
00:13:52,640 --> 00:13:55,490
The other thing, when the juice
went-- well, in the evening,

294
00:13:55,490 --> 00:13:57,980
for example, people who also
streamed to the Boulevard.

295
00:13:57,980 --> 00:14:00,188
First of all, there's a
little bit of a breeze there.

296
00:14:00,188 --> 00:14:02,310
It was a beautiful sunset,
as I mentioned before.

297
00:14:02,310 --> 00:14:06,500
It was just like a postcard,
just tremendous sun going down

298
00:14:06,500 --> 00:14:07,680
in the west.

299
00:14:07,680 --> 00:14:10,670
And by the way,
from the Boulevard

300
00:14:10,670 --> 00:14:13,970
you could see in the distance on
the right-hand side the Bataan

301
00:14:13,970 --> 00:14:15,490
Peninsula.

302
00:14:15,490 --> 00:14:19,140
And on the left-hand side, you
could see a little jet out,

303
00:14:19,140 --> 00:14:21,260
and that area was called Cavite.

304
00:14:21,260 --> 00:14:24,320
Cavite is-- it was at that
time, and probably still

305
00:14:24,320 --> 00:14:25,940
is, a Naval repair base.

306
00:14:25,940 --> 00:14:27,800
It was used by
United States Army.

307
00:14:27,800 --> 00:14:30,170
And on a very clear
day between the two,

308
00:14:30,170 --> 00:14:33,170

you might detect the
Island of Corregidor which,

309
00:14:33,170 --> 00:14:35,900
of course, is quite famous.

310
00:14:35,900 --> 00:14:40,790
But going back to these Johnson
strolls along the Boulevard

311
00:14:40,790 --> 00:14:42,890
just before dusk,
there was, first

312
00:14:42,890 --> 00:14:44,835
of all, many of the
Jewish community

313
00:14:44,835 --> 00:14:46,460
would go out there,
sit on the benches,

314
00:14:46,460 --> 00:14:48,270
walk around, talk to each other.

315
00:14:48,270 --> 00:14:50,510
I mean, they were all
new, and they sort of

316
00:14:50,510 --> 00:14:53,540
had a good time, at least
resting after a day's work

317
00:14:53,540 --> 00:14:55,340
coming out to the Boulevard.

318
00:14:55,340 --> 00:14:57,080
Then there was the--
it was well known

319
00:14:57,080 --> 00:14:59,510
as the Spanish [? Curso ?].

320

00:14:59,510 --> 00:15:02,578

This was a tradition by
people of Spanish background.

321

00:15:02,578 --> 00:15:04,370

There were lots of them
in the Philippines.

322

00:15:04,370 --> 00:15:06,950

They would stroll
three or four blocks

323

00:15:06,950 --> 00:15:10,140

worth along the
Boulevard in sort of--

324

00:15:10,140 --> 00:15:14,130

in two directions so that
they would see one another.

325

00:15:14,130 --> 00:15:15,850

That's the way they would meet.

326

00:15:15,850 --> 00:15:18,290

It was sort of a
minor romantic thing.

327

00:15:18,290 --> 00:15:20,450

People would get to know
one another that way.

328

00:15:20,450 --> 00:15:22,800

It was a tradition, the
Spanish [? Curso ?]..

329

00:15:22,800 --> 00:15:24,800

And of course, the ice
cream vendors, as I said,

330

00:15:24,800 --> 00:15:26,960

there were both
these Magnolia, which

331

00:15:26,960 --> 00:15:30,925

was like a upscale type
of ice cream, I guess.

332

00:15:30,925 --> 00:15:33,050

And then there was sort of
local ice cream outfits.

333

00:15:33,050 --> 00:15:34,880

And they had all
different colorful carts,

334

00:15:34,880 --> 00:15:36,410

and they would sell ice cream.

335

00:15:36,410 --> 00:15:38,690

And they would-- you'd
get a lot more from them

336

00:15:38,690 --> 00:15:40,250

for less, usually.

337

00:15:40,250 --> 00:15:42,950

But it was-- some people
said not to eat that ice

338

00:15:42,950 --> 00:15:46,990

cream because they claimed that
the milk was from tubercular

339

00:15:46,990 --> 00:15:49,190

cows [INAUDIBLE].

340

00:15:49,190 --> 00:15:50,930

We didn't pay much
attention to that.

341

00:15:50,930 --> 00:15:53,030

The other item and
product that was sold

342

00:15:53,030 --> 00:15:55,130

was-- people walk around
with a little basket,

343
00:15:55,130 --> 00:15:57,170
and it was covered
with a bit of cloth.

344
00:15:57,170 --> 00:16:00,200
And they would call out
the name of this product.

345
00:16:00,200 --> 00:16:01,770
It was called balut.

346
00:16:01,770 --> 00:16:03,110
That's the Philippine delicacy.

347
00:16:03,110 --> 00:16:06,620
Those are duck eggs which
have been half hatched

348
00:16:06,620 --> 00:16:12,080
with an embryo in it and buried
in the soil for some time.

349
00:16:12,080 --> 00:16:14,390
And that was a
Philippine delicacy.

350
00:16:14,390 --> 00:16:16,430
They would unpeel the shell.

351
00:16:16,430 --> 00:16:19,040
The stench of that
stuff was so horrible

352
00:16:19,040 --> 00:16:23,630
that I don't think anyone
other than aficionados

353
00:16:23,630 --> 00:16:24,540
would touch it.

354

00:16:24,540 --> 00:16:27,330

I never-- that's the
only thing I never ate.

355

00:16:27,330 --> 00:16:29,930

And the other thing that you
would notice in the Philippines

356

00:16:29,930 --> 00:16:30,617

is the smells.

357

00:16:30,617 --> 00:16:32,450

I mean, they're quite
different from Europe.

358

00:16:32,450 --> 00:16:34,040

There was this fried--

359

00:16:34,040 --> 00:16:36,260

these little fish
that-- dried fish.

360

00:16:36,260 --> 00:16:38,120

They would dry them
and then fry them.

361

00:16:38,120 --> 00:16:41,600

The stench of that
would be city wide.

362

00:16:41,600 --> 00:16:43,160

They were not too bad.

363

00:16:43,160 --> 00:16:44,720

We ate them later
on during the war,

364

00:16:44,720 --> 00:16:51,090

but again, there was a smell
that was totally unusual.

365

00:16:51,090 --> 00:16:54,590

Why don't you give me the
name of the distant cousin

366
00:16:54,590 --> 00:16:56,240
before I forget.

367
00:16:56,240 --> 00:16:58,040
And also, I was
interested in what

368
00:16:58,040 --> 00:17:00,170
that family did
for a living there,

369
00:17:00,170 --> 00:17:02,450
how they had gotten there.

370
00:17:02,450 --> 00:17:07,520
And what your housing was
after you left their place.

371
00:17:07,520 --> 00:17:10,000
You said you were there
about three weeks.

372
00:17:10,000 --> 00:17:10,500
Yes.

373
00:17:10,500 --> 00:17:13,016
The name of the
cousin was Rudy First.

374
00:17:13,016 --> 00:17:14,599
Rudy First had an
interesting history.

375
00:17:14,599 --> 00:17:15,980
He was married then,
and as I mentioned,

376
00:17:15,980 --> 00:17:16,855
had a small daughter.

377

00:17:16,855 --> 00:17:18,829

Rudy First was born in Germany.

378

00:17:18,829 --> 00:17:23,119

He had to leave under
unknown circumstances.

379

00:17:23,119 --> 00:17:26,960

This is the gentleman who
went to Spain for a while?

380

00:17:26,960 --> 00:17:27,829

Exactly.

381

00:17:27,829 --> 00:17:29,300

I may have mentioned
this already

382

00:17:29,300 --> 00:17:31,100

that he had to leave Germany.

383

00:17:31,100 --> 00:17:35,490

He went to Spain, was
there until about 1936

384

00:17:35,490 --> 00:17:37,053

when the Spanish
Civil War broke out.

385

00:17:37,053 --> 00:17:39,470

And through connections, managed
to get to the Philippines

386

00:17:39,470 --> 00:17:42,710

because again, the Spanish
connection was a factor.

387

00:17:42,710 --> 00:17:46,800

And he was in business
working for a large concern.

388

00:17:46,800 --> 00:17:49,370

I forgot exactly
its name, but they

389
00:17:49,370 --> 00:17:52,610
were into all
kinds of businesses

390
00:17:52,610 --> 00:17:54,935
as was the tendency almost
in the Chinese style.

391
00:17:54,935 --> 00:17:58,490

392
00:17:58,490 --> 00:18:01,820
They were trades-- trade houses
that dealt in goods of all

393
00:18:01,820 --> 00:18:02,690
sorts--

394
00:18:02,690 --> 00:18:05,160
import, export, and so on.

395
00:18:05,160 --> 00:18:08,532
And he was a big wheel there
of some kind-- at least

396
00:18:08,532 --> 00:18:09,740
he thought he was, I believe.

397
00:18:09,740 --> 00:18:11,615
He had a car and a
chauffeur, as I mentioned.

398
00:18:11,615 --> 00:18:14,390
He had a very nice house
and he knew a lot of people,

399
00:18:14,390 --> 00:18:15,890
and he talked big.

400

00:18:15,890 --> 00:18:18,080
His name was Rudy First.

401
00:18:18,080 --> 00:18:20,780
And the name First is--

402
00:18:20,780 --> 00:18:25,200
in English it will be like Earl
or Lord or something like that.

403
00:18:25,200 --> 00:18:30,050
And he would deal with business.

404
00:18:30,050 --> 00:18:32,600
I don't-- again, I'm not
familiar with the exact

405
00:18:32,600 --> 00:18:33,377
details.

406
00:18:33,377 --> 00:18:35,210
But at any event, he
had established himself

407
00:18:35,210 --> 00:18:36,450
rather well.

408
00:18:36,450 --> 00:18:39,440
And the-- as I mentioned
before, we lived with him

409
00:18:39,440 --> 00:18:40,640
for up to three weeks.

410
00:18:40,640 --> 00:18:45,110
And then we managed to get
into-- in a small apartment.

411
00:18:45,110 --> 00:18:47,400
I forget exactly the
name of the street.

412

00:18:47,400 --> 00:18:49,580

It might have been the
M.H. Del Pilar, which

413

00:18:49,580 --> 00:18:51,140

was in the Ermita district.

414

00:18:51,140 --> 00:18:53,180

The Ermita district bordered--

415

00:18:53,180 --> 00:18:56,510

the Manila Bay was right behind
the Dewey Boulevard that I

416

00:18:56,510 --> 00:18:58,400

mentioned, sort
of in the north--

417

00:18:58,400 --> 00:19:01,910

slightly to the north
somewhere close--

418

00:19:01,910 --> 00:19:05,390

I would say about five miles,
six miles south of the Pasig

419

00:19:05,390 --> 00:19:08,900

River, roughly speaking,
and also about three

420

00:19:08,900 --> 00:19:13,700

or four miles south of the
Port area where we had arrived.

421

00:19:13,700 --> 00:19:18,440

The other thing we did, and
of course, I went to school.

422

00:19:18,440 --> 00:19:20,970

We had very little money.

423

00:19:20,970 --> 00:19:22,100

My father worked.

424
00:19:22,100 --> 00:19:22,820
This helped.

425
00:19:22,820 --> 00:19:25,910
And my mother tried to
do some work, as well.

426
00:19:25,910 --> 00:19:27,620
She tried to get into sales.

427
00:19:27,620 --> 00:19:31,280
I think there was one woman
who made artificial flowers

428
00:19:31,280 --> 00:19:33,980
and she was in to
try to sell those.

429
00:19:33,980 --> 00:19:37,410
But she also was a housewife
and did all that, of course.

430
00:19:37,410 --> 00:19:43,790
Then on weekends--
and we didn't have

431
00:19:43,790 --> 00:19:46,820
that much to do except
to visit or play around.

432
00:19:46,820 --> 00:19:49,490
But my father always liked
the transportation things,

433
00:19:49,490 --> 00:19:52,700
like back in Berlin, he took
me to the railway station.

434
00:19:52,700 --> 00:19:55,790
This time we spent many
weekends at the port.

435

00:19:55,790 --> 00:19:59,330

We went to the large piers
and went along the piers

436

00:19:59,330 --> 00:20:00,615

and try to get aboard ships.

437

00:20:00,615 --> 00:20:02,990

Because in those days, there
was not the kind of security

438

00:20:02,990 --> 00:20:05,840

as there is today
in the '90s or '80s.

439

00:20:05,840 --> 00:20:08,510

And many times we just
let-- we would just

440

00:20:08,510 --> 00:20:10,400

wave to the person on
top of the gang plank.

441

00:20:10,400 --> 00:20:11,900

And they always
said, come on board.

442

00:20:11,900 --> 00:20:14,030

So we visited many, many ships.

443

00:20:14,030 --> 00:20:16,678

Amongst them was a Dutch
freighter where we first

444

00:20:16,678 --> 00:20:18,470

noticed it was a
completely air conditioned

445

00:20:18,470 --> 00:20:19,950

ship in the passenger quarters.

446

00:20:19,950 --> 00:20:23,780

It had these forced draft types
of air conditioning systems.

447
00:20:23,780 --> 00:20:24,740
Went aboard that one.

448
00:20:24,740 --> 00:20:27,020
We went aboard many of
the Empress line ships--

449
00:20:27,020 --> 00:20:28,940
the Empress of Japan,
the Empress of Canada,

450
00:20:28,940 --> 00:20:31,560
the Empress of Russia,
all passenger line

451
00:20:31,560 --> 00:20:32,578
there's a dock there.

452
00:20:32,578 --> 00:20:34,370
We went aboard some of
the American ships--

453
00:20:34,370 --> 00:20:37,790
the American President
Lines, President Hoover,

454
00:20:37,790 --> 00:20:40,400
President Fillmore, I believe,
President Taylor, some

455
00:20:40,400 --> 00:20:42,120
of these ships
that were docking.

456
00:20:42,120 --> 00:20:45,290
They are on their way to
other parts of the Orient.

457
00:20:45,290 --> 00:20:48,770
We were also aboard ships

of the Italian lines

458
00:20:48,770 --> 00:20:53,400
and some British ships
of various kinds.

459
00:20:53,400 --> 00:20:55,520
So we spent a lot of
time visiting ships,

460
00:20:55,520 --> 00:20:57,880
looking around, and so forth.

461
00:20:57,880 --> 00:21:00,580
Was your impression that
those ships were carrying

462
00:21:00,580 --> 00:21:02,320
a lot of Jewish immigrants?

463
00:21:02,320 --> 00:21:04,130
That's the first
part of my question.

464
00:21:04,130 --> 00:21:07,810
And the second is,
I'm assuming, perhaps

465
00:21:07,810 --> 00:21:10,540
incorrectly, that the
first wave of immigrants

466
00:21:10,540 --> 00:21:13,120
in that period of
time are from Germany.

467
00:21:13,120 --> 00:21:16,480
And then as time went on, they
came from other countries,

468
00:21:16,480 --> 00:21:18,470
is that correct?

469

00:21:18,470 --> 00:21:23,440

Well, the immigrants that came starting, say, in 1935, '36,

470

00:21:23,440 --> 00:21:27,940

were primarily from Germany, some from Austria.

471

00:21:27,940 --> 00:21:30,250

But very few from any other place.

472

00:21:30,250 --> 00:21:33,790

A few here and there from Czechoslovakia, perhaps just

473

00:21:33,790 --> 00:21:36,340

a handful somehow from Poland.

474

00:21:36,340 --> 00:21:39,640

But that was about it.

475

00:21:39,640 --> 00:21:41,610

And one thing I had forgotten to mention,

476

00:21:41,610 --> 00:21:44,250

I had mentioned the American Jewish community,

477

00:21:44,250 --> 00:21:46,830

there was also a fairly good sized Sephardic

478

00:21:46,830 --> 00:21:48,480

community in the Philippines.

479

00:21:48,480 --> 00:21:53,400

These Jews had been there, we assume, sometime going back

480

00:21:53,400 --> 00:21:56,045

from the Spanish Inquisition.

481
00:21:56,045 --> 00:21:58,170
[? Therefore, ?] it's a
family by the name of Godol

482
00:21:58,170 --> 00:22:00,810
who lived across the street
from us at one point.

483
00:22:00,810 --> 00:22:03,780
Large families,
usually, and kids.

484
00:22:03,780 --> 00:22:08,250
However, they all were members
of the same Temple Emil

485
00:22:08,250 --> 00:22:09,540
synagogue.

486
00:22:09,540 --> 00:22:12,280
So of course, we would
see them quite often,

487
00:22:12,280 --> 00:22:14,940
as most of the
Jews did go attend

488
00:22:14,940 --> 00:22:17,940
the synagogue Fridays,
and mostly Saturdays,

489
00:22:17,940 --> 00:22:19,860
as well as on the holidays.

490
00:22:19,860 --> 00:22:23,160
So this was an
interesting mix of Jews.

491
00:22:23,160 --> 00:22:26,280
We had people who were called
from the United States who

492
00:22:26,280 --> 00:22:29,520
might have been originally
from Russia, and Poland,

493
00:22:29,520 --> 00:22:31,680
and Germany, wherever.

494
00:22:31,680 --> 00:22:35,070
And then we had these German and
some Austrian Jews emigrating

495
00:22:35,070 --> 00:22:39,990
in the '30s, and perhaps
up to 1940, '41 maybe.

496
00:22:39,990 --> 00:22:43,620
And then we had these real
old timers, the Spanish Jews,

497
00:22:43,620 --> 00:22:46,100
or Sephardim, who spoke Ladino.

498
00:22:46,100 --> 00:22:48,030
And of course, also
spoke English, as well as

499
00:22:48,030 --> 00:22:51,190
the native language
Tagalog, many of them.

500
00:22:51,190 --> 00:22:53,010
And they were all in
business of some kind

501
00:22:53,010 --> 00:22:57,420
or another-- jewelry, textiles,
you name it, restaurants,

502
00:22:57,420 --> 00:22:59,470
and things of that nature.

503

00:22:59,470 --> 00:23:01,120
They were very helpful.

504
00:23:01,120 --> 00:23:03,960
As I say, there was families
but they were always

505
00:23:03,960 --> 00:23:06,780
very friendly and
helpful people, as far

506
00:23:06,780 --> 00:23:08,570
as I can remember.

507
00:23:08,570 --> 00:23:11,100
Why don't you tell me a little
bit about the kindergarten

508
00:23:11,100 --> 00:23:13,350
that you mentioned and
what it was like for you

509
00:23:13,350 --> 00:23:15,990
to have to learn English.

510
00:23:15,990 --> 00:23:17,220
It was very interesting.

511
00:23:17,220 --> 00:23:19,410
My mother took me
there one fine morning.

512
00:23:19,410 --> 00:23:22,560
And this was Mrs.
Hoyes, and she had

513
00:23:22,560 --> 00:23:26,310
like a little house which
divided up into classes.

514
00:23:26,310 --> 00:23:28,830
Many of the teachers
were Filipino

515
00:23:28,830 --> 00:23:33,060
and some were Americans
or other nationalities.

516
00:23:33,060 --> 00:23:35,360
And my first day in
class was-- well,

517
00:23:35,360 --> 00:23:39,585
they decided to put me
in, I guess, the America--

518
00:23:39,585 --> 00:23:42,600
what it was-- kindergarten
or first grade

519
00:23:42,600 --> 00:23:44,910
because I spoke no English.

520
00:23:44,910 --> 00:23:47,797
So the first day, these-- it
was a Filipino teacher or two,

521
00:23:47,797 --> 00:23:49,380
they tried to talk
to me a little bit.

522
00:23:49,380 --> 00:23:51,963
And I sat in the class and I was
listening and all this stuff.

523
00:23:51,963 --> 00:23:56,252
And naturally, very
little of it I understood.

524
00:23:56,252 --> 00:23:57,960
I could read some of
the things that they

525
00:23:57,960 --> 00:23:59,940
had written on the board.

526

00:23:59,940 --> 00:24:01,920

I could certainly look
at pictures and things

527

00:24:01,920 --> 00:24:03,190

of that sort.

528

00:24:03,190 --> 00:24:05,730

And so after a
while, I sat there

529

00:24:05,730 --> 00:24:10,110

and I would say, oh, within
about three or four weeks,

530

00:24:10,110 --> 00:24:13,250

I was able to begin
to communicate.

531

00:24:13,250 --> 00:24:18,990

And then it sort of
naturally you adjust to that.

532

00:24:18,990 --> 00:24:20,850

You begin to understand
the words they use.

533

00:24:20,850 --> 00:24:23,970

And of course, they try to make
it clear to me what they meant.

534

00:24:23,970 --> 00:24:27,030

So they pointed to things what
these were, and what that was,

535

00:24:27,030 --> 00:24:31,980

or what the word book was, the
word pencil was, and so on.

536

00:24:31,980 --> 00:24:34,590

And so that I could--
so pretty soon

537

00:24:34,590 --> 00:24:39,420

Speak enough at least to
understand and to write,

538

00:24:39,420 --> 00:24:42,850

and later on, to speak,
to respond, as well.

539

00:24:42,850 --> 00:24:48,890

So I would say within, oh,
certainly two or three months,

540

00:24:48,890 --> 00:24:49,950

it was not--

541

00:24:49,950 --> 00:24:53,760

I spoke the language
enough to attend school.

542

00:24:53,760 --> 00:24:55,830

Were there other Jewish
immigrant children

543

00:24:55,830 --> 00:24:59,160

in the school with you,
and also I'm assuming,

544

00:24:59,160 --> 00:25:02,850

this was a private
American school.

545

00:25:02,850 --> 00:25:04,890

Yes, it was a private
American school.

546

00:25:04,890 --> 00:25:10,710

And there were one or two
other immigrant children.

547

00:25:10,710 --> 00:25:13,350

Forgot-- in my class, there
wasn't any-- there was--

548

00:25:13,350 --> 00:25:16,170

one was a little older,
so they stuck him

549

00:25:16,170 --> 00:25:17,493

into a slightly older class.

550

00:25:17,493 --> 00:25:19,160

But he, of course,
had the same problem.

551

00:25:19,160 --> 00:25:21,150

So he had to learn the language.

552

00:25:21,150 --> 00:25:28,050

But there was at one
point another family there

553

00:25:28,050 --> 00:25:29,550

whose son was there.

554

00:25:29,550 --> 00:25:30,990

They were immigrants from Spain.

555

00:25:30,990 --> 00:25:32,880

They were the
so-called Republican--

556

00:25:32,880 --> 00:25:36,120

from Republican Spain, the ones
that were defeated by Franco

557

00:25:36,120 --> 00:25:39,390

and the nationalist forces.

558

00:25:39,390 --> 00:25:41,700

And they had fled
to the Philippines,

559

00:25:41,700 --> 00:25:43,270

and they were fairly well to do.

560

00:25:43,270 --> 00:25:45,570

They had a car and a
chauffeur and the whole bit.

561

00:25:45,570 --> 00:25:47,790

And he lived not far
from me, so I would--

562

00:25:47,790 --> 00:25:49,107

I got friendly with him.

563

00:25:49,107 --> 00:25:50,940

In fact, they would
pick him up with the car

564

00:25:50,940 --> 00:25:53,130

and they'd give me a ride.

565

00:25:53,130 --> 00:25:54,420

Very nice people.

566

00:25:54,420 --> 00:25:56,670

And of course, he--

567

00:25:56,670 --> 00:25:58,290

his English wasn't
that great, either,

568

00:25:58,290 --> 00:26:00,030

because he spoke Spanish.

569

00:26:00,030 --> 00:26:01,290

So he, too, had to learn.

570

00:26:01,290 --> 00:26:03,820

And that's how we got together.

571

00:26:03,820 --> 00:26:08,400

And so that was--

572

00:26:08,400 --> 00:26:10,650

the community was
a bit dispersed.

573
00:26:10,650 --> 00:26:13,950
We did not live in all--
in the same neighborhood.

574
00:26:13,950 --> 00:26:17,700
I mean, we were either
in Ermita, Malate, Pasay,

575
00:26:17,700 --> 00:26:19,720
and those three areas.

576
00:26:19,720 --> 00:26:24,060
However, when you
figure there were maybe

577
00:26:24,060 --> 00:26:29,370
800 to 1,000 immigrants
between 1935 and 1940,

578
00:26:29,370 --> 00:26:35,460
early '41, that were just
fairly well dispersed, I mean,

579
00:26:35,460 --> 00:26:38,010
that was an odd chance
only that one or two people

580
00:26:38,010 --> 00:26:39,490
lived next to one another.

581
00:26:39,490 --> 00:26:40,940
There were cases like that.

582
00:26:40,940 --> 00:26:43,870
We had neighbors once or twice
where the people next door

583
00:26:43,870 --> 00:26:49,630
were also as we were, refugees
from Germany or Austria.

584
00:26:49,630 --> 00:26:53,230
So there was a
great intermingling.

585
00:26:53,230 --> 00:26:58,630
I mean, people would deal with
others socially and otherwise.

586
00:26:58,630 --> 00:27:04,150
Is it your recollection that
when your parents needed help

587
00:27:04,150 --> 00:27:08,770
with finding out information,
or adjusting to life there,

588
00:27:08,770 --> 00:27:12,460
that they would turn to members
of the Jewish community?

589
00:27:12,460 --> 00:27:17,440
And if so, what do you
remember about that?

590
00:27:17,440 --> 00:27:18,430
Not a great deal.

591
00:27:18,430 --> 00:27:19,540
They would, of course--

592
00:27:19,540 --> 00:27:25,180
this committee, which Morton
Netzorg was in charge of,

593
00:27:25,180 --> 00:27:29,100
was usually available
for all kinds of things--

594
00:27:29,100 --> 00:27:33,020
jobs, advice, things
of that nature.

595

00:27:33,020 --> 00:27:34,950

But of course, there
was the temple.

596

00:27:34,950 --> 00:27:37,720

And I'd like to go back
a little bit to that.

597

00:27:37,720 --> 00:27:40,330

Just in addition to
being a religious center,

598

00:27:40,330 --> 00:27:42,460

it was also a sort
of social center.

599

00:27:42,460 --> 00:27:45,940

Because during that time,
I believe it was 1939,

600

00:27:45,940 --> 00:27:49,210

'40, in addition to
the temple itself, they

601

00:27:49,210 --> 00:27:52,540

built an addition
next to it, which

602

00:27:52,540 --> 00:27:56,980

was what became a huge hall,
and the classrooms downstairs.

603

00:27:56,980 --> 00:27:59,770

And upstairs they built a
rabbi's living quarters,

604

00:27:59,770 --> 00:28:01,030

a huge apartment.

605

00:28:01,030 --> 00:28:03,880

So the rabbi moved in
there, and the lower part

606

00:28:03,880 --> 00:28:07,780

was used for Sunday school,
and plays, and get-togethers,

607

00:28:07,780 --> 00:28:10,130

and social events.

608

00:28:10,130 --> 00:28:13,030

So there were
always get-togethers

609

00:28:13,030 --> 00:28:17,650

amongst the immigrant
Jewish people.

610

00:28:17,650 --> 00:28:21,610

Whatever there was, they may
not have been living next door,

611

00:28:21,610 --> 00:28:23,650

but they did not live far away.

612

00:28:23,650 --> 00:28:25,910

So very often we went to see--

613

00:28:25,910 --> 00:28:27,130

to other people's homes.

614

00:28:27,130 --> 00:28:28,990

They came to our house.

615

00:28:28,990 --> 00:28:30,970

We had a man there,
for example, who

616

00:28:30,970 --> 00:28:35,960

was an actor from Czechoslovakia
who spoke German, and so on.

617

00:28:35,960 --> 00:28:38,470

And he was expert
at mimicking people.

618
00:28:38,470 --> 00:28:40,570
So he could entertain
you all evening

619
00:28:40,570 --> 00:28:44,620
with his imitations of other
German and Austrian immigrants,

620
00:28:44,620 --> 00:28:47,080
and their struggle to
speak English properly,

621
00:28:47,080 --> 00:28:49,370
and the way they
loused up the language.

622
00:28:49,370 --> 00:28:50,860
And he was great at that.

623
00:28:50,860 --> 00:28:55,150
He actually had a job
selling airtime for KCRH,

624
00:28:55,150 --> 00:28:58,300
was the radio station in
the Philippines, in Manila.

625
00:28:58,300 --> 00:29:02,410
And he-- and he spoke English
fairly well, an educated man,

626
00:29:02,410 --> 00:29:05,140
and knew English before
he came, actually.

627
00:29:05,140 --> 00:29:08,080
So there were these
possibilities.

628
00:29:08,080 --> 00:29:09,520
You were never alone.

629

00:29:09,520 --> 00:29:11,390

There were always
people to ask that--

630

00:29:11,390 --> 00:29:16,730

there were Jewish physicians,
both old-timers, so to speak,

631

00:29:16,730 --> 00:29:20,020

as well as the people who had
emigrated fairly recently.

632

00:29:20,020 --> 00:29:21,700

There was, for
example, our physician

633

00:29:21,700 --> 00:29:27,640

was a Dr. [? Lota Listner ?]
and very unassuming man,

634

00:29:27,640 --> 00:29:31,580

but a very gifted man in
terms in the medical field.

635

00:29:31,580 --> 00:29:33,010

So he treated us.

636

00:29:33,010 --> 00:29:35,100

And there was also another
man by the name of Dr.

637

00:29:35,100 --> 00:29:37,650

[? Markelson, ?] who'd
been there for a while,

638

00:29:37,650 --> 00:29:40,120

and not as long as
Dr. Listner And he

639

00:29:40,120 --> 00:29:41,590

was ear, nose and throat.

640

00:29:41,590 --> 00:29:47,040
He actually yanked my tonsils
out some time in 1939, '40.

641
00:29:47,040 --> 00:29:48,950
Had a lot of trouble
with that part.

642
00:29:48,950 --> 00:29:51,670
And so he did the job.

643
00:29:51,670 --> 00:29:55,050
And I remember very
distinctly the day after.

644
00:29:55,050 --> 00:29:57,700
Again, I will mention that
we had very little money.

645
00:29:57,700 --> 00:29:59,920
And-- but my mother
did manage to get me,

646
00:29:59,920 --> 00:30:03,160
I think, for a nickel or
a dime, the newest version

647
00:30:03,160 --> 00:30:04,900
of the Superman Comic Book.

648
00:30:04,900 --> 00:30:07,810
So I managed to read that
when I was recovering.

649
00:30:07,810 --> 00:30:11,410
[INAUDIBLE] to give you some
ice cream and for that time.

650
00:30:11,410 --> 00:30:13,600
So these were some of
the early memories.

651
00:30:13,600 --> 00:30:16,080

We-- the physicians
were available,

652
00:30:16,080 --> 00:30:19,450
and what's so good about
charging or not charging,

653
00:30:19,450 --> 00:30:21,850
rather, and if you
didn't have enough,

654
00:30:21,850 --> 00:30:24,580
they would just forget
about it, or whatever

655
00:30:24,580 --> 00:30:26,240
you were able to pay.

656
00:30:26,240 --> 00:30:27,640
So that was a very--

657
00:30:27,640 --> 00:30:30,320
obviously, a very useful
thing to have around.

658
00:30:30,320 --> 00:30:32,810
So there was mutual
help available.

659
00:30:32,810 --> 00:30:34,330
No one starved.

660
00:30:34,330 --> 00:30:35,920
That was a country
where it would

661
00:30:35,920 --> 00:30:38,300
be difficult to starve,
although later on,

662
00:30:38,300 --> 00:30:40,030
as I will come to
during the war, that

663
00:30:40,030 --> 00:30:41,500
was a different story.

664
00:30:41,500 --> 00:30:44,950
But this-- so there
was tremendous amount

665
00:30:44,950 --> 00:30:49,990
of mutual help among the Jewish
community, all of them, really.

666
00:30:49,990 --> 00:30:53,560
Tell me a little bit
about Jewish youth

667
00:30:53,560 --> 00:30:58,060
and the activities, both
religious and social,

668
00:30:58,060 --> 00:31:00,460
that I assume centered
around the temple

669
00:31:00,460 --> 00:31:02,620
that you were involved in.

670
00:31:02,620 --> 00:31:04,480
Yes, indeed it did
center around the temple,

671
00:31:04,480 --> 00:31:06,670
because we all went
to Sunday school.

672
00:31:06,670 --> 00:31:08,070
I had to be dragged
there myself,

673
00:31:08,070 --> 00:31:09,430
if I remember, but I'm not--

674

00:31:09,430 --> 00:31:10,690
was not that eager.

675
00:31:10,690 --> 00:31:12,610
However, we had several classes.

676
00:31:12,610 --> 00:31:14,800
One was given by the rabbi.

677
00:31:14,800 --> 00:31:18,460
He had this sort of older
children, the beyond the--

678
00:31:18,460 --> 00:31:24,220
almost bar mitzvah and beyond
age, mid to upper teens.

679
00:31:24,220 --> 00:31:27,400
Then there was the Cantor,
who I may have mentioned,

680
00:31:27,400 --> 00:31:30,070
came by ship and was
taken-- it was actually

681
00:31:30,070 --> 00:31:31,990
employed as a rabbi.

682
00:31:31,990 --> 00:31:34,480
I met him on board the
ship, Cantor Joseph

683
00:31:34,480 --> 00:31:38,120
Cysner, who came with his
mother, and he was from Poland.

684
00:31:38,120 --> 00:31:39,630
He had this problem
with struggling

685
00:31:39,630 --> 00:31:42,560
to get across the corridor
at that time, the Polish

686
00:31:42,560 --> 00:31:44,070
[INAUDIBLE], Polish quarter.

687
00:31:44,070 --> 00:31:46,470
Anyway, he was
very, very popular.

688
00:31:46,470 --> 00:31:47,940
He had a wonderful
singing voice.

689
00:31:47,940 --> 00:31:48,900
He taught music.

690
00:31:48,900 --> 00:31:50,100
He taught piano.

691
00:31:50,100 --> 00:31:53,580
But of course, he mainly
taught Sunday school.

692
00:31:53,580 --> 00:31:55,230
And I was in his class.

693
00:31:55,230 --> 00:31:56,520
And he was marvelous.

694
00:31:56,520 --> 00:31:59,280
He was a man that, of course,
had to learn English, as well,

695
00:31:59,280 --> 00:32:00,630
very quickly, which he did.

696
00:32:00,630 --> 00:32:02,100
He was very bright.

697
00:32:02,100 --> 00:32:03,840
And he taught Sunday school.

698

00:32:03,840 --> 00:32:07,230
And then there was another even
younger class that was also

699
00:32:07,230 --> 00:32:09,090
taught by, I believe, a lady.

700
00:32:09,090 --> 00:32:12,180
And then there were about
three classes altogether.

701
00:32:12,180 --> 00:32:13,560
That was sort of the core.

702
00:32:13,560 --> 00:32:16,703
Because from that, you got to
meet all the other Jewish kids.

703
00:32:16,703 --> 00:32:18,370
Although, you probably
knew them already

704
00:32:18,370 --> 00:32:20,520
because they were at
Friday night services.

705
00:32:20,520 --> 00:32:24,030
And so there were
several things going.

706
00:32:24,030 --> 00:32:26,310
For example, I
have a picture that

707
00:32:26,310 --> 00:32:29,280
was given to me not long
ago of a performance we

708
00:32:29,280 --> 00:32:32,670
put on of Mendelssohn's
the Midsummer Night's Dream

709
00:32:32,670 --> 00:32:35,330

where we all dressed up and
I was one of the clowns.

710
00:32:35,330 --> 00:32:41,940
And absolute performances that
were put on by the Jewish youth

711
00:32:41,940 --> 00:32:46,080
under the supervision of
the people of the temple.

712
00:32:46,080 --> 00:32:50,940
And there were other socials
for the various Jewish holidays.

713
00:32:50,940 --> 00:32:53,940
Purim was dress-up time.

714
00:32:53,940 --> 00:32:59,612
There was the holidays,
the Arbor Day, what is it?

715
00:32:59,612 --> 00:33:01,870
Whatever.

716
00:33:01,870 --> 00:33:05,360
Hanukkah, of course,
a large celebration.

717
00:33:05,360 --> 00:33:08,000
And the high all
the days when there

718
00:33:08,000 --> 00:33:09,500
was no celebration,
but you all-- we

719
00:33:09,500 --> 00:33:11,060
all attended the
synagogue, which

720
00:33:11,060 --> 00:33:14,630
was very interesting because

we had people that were

721

00:33:14,630 --> 00:33:16,910

both conservative and orthodox.

722

00:33:16,910 --> 00:33:19,470

We had no one there was reform
as a [? mishmash, ?] perhaps,

723

00:33:19,470 --> 00:33:19,970

before.

724

00:33:19,970 --> 00:33:22,850

Reform is an American practice.

725

00:33:22,850 --> 00:33:26,240

It may have been invented in
Germany but not known there.

726

00:33:26,240 --> 00:33:29,570

So it mostly conservative
and orthodox.

727

00:33:29,570 --> 00:33:30,680

But they were together.

728

00:33:30,680 --> 00:33:32,330

Now, the orthodox
would split up.

729

00:33:32,330 --> 00:33:35,357

Their wives would be
sitting up on the balcony.

730

00:33:35,357 --> 00:33:36,940

But the others would
all sit together.

731

00:33:36,940 --> 00:33:39,410

It was a mixed type of--

732

00:33:39,410 --> 00:33:41,740

however, the services were
always conducted in Hebrew.

733
00:33:41,740 --> 00:33:43,250
There's no English whatsoever.

734
00:33:43,250 --> 00:33:45,590
No responsive
reading, for example.

735
00:33:45,590 --> 00:33:47,780
And the only thing in
English was the sermon.

736
00:33:47,780 --> 00:33:51,940
And the poor rabbi with
his difficult English,

737
00:33:51,940 --> 00:33:52,520
shall we say.

738
00:33:52,520 --> 00:33:55,580
He was not a very outgoing
man to begin with, but have

739
00:33:55,580 --> 00:33:56,720
trouble--

740
00:33:56,720 --> 00:33:59,660
but he spoke well,
so well with content.

741
00:33:59,660 --> 00:34:01,910
However, some of the old
timers, the American Jews--

742
00:34:01,910 --> 00:34:03,560
some of them I say, not all--

743
00:34:03,560 --> 00:34:05,240
would walk out just
before he began

744

00:34:05,240 --> 00:34:07,490

speaking, which is
kind of an insult.

745

00:34:07,490 --> 00:34:10,730

But that was their nature.

746

00:34:10,730 --> 00:34:13,630

But nonetheless, he
was a very popular man.

747

00:34:13,630 --> 00:34:17,719

748

00:34:17,719 --> 00:34:20,000

Tell me a little bit
about the apartment

749

00:34:20,000 --> 00:34:24,110

and your mother's
adjustment to, I

750

00:34:24,110 --> 00:34:27,139

assume, running things
herself and adapting

751

00:34:27,139 --> 00:34:32,900

to the domestic chores that
were unique to the Philippines.

752

00:34:32,900 --> 00:34:35,550

And how long you were in
that apartment, as well.

753

00:34:35,550 --> 00:34:36,530

Yeah.

754

00:34:36,530 --> 00:34:40,010

Well, we were in an apartment
for a fairly short time.

755

00:34:40,010 --> 00:34:42,860

If I recall, during
the period March 16,

756
00:34:42,860 --> 00:34:48,650
1939 through, oh, the
beginning of the war.

757
00:34:48,650 --> 00:34:56,020
We must have lived in, oh,
five or six different places,

758
00:34:56,020 --> 00:34:58,990
at least, for various reasons.

759
00:34:58,990 --> 00:35:02,500
I remember we lived once
on one street where we--

760
00:35:02,500 --> 00:35:03,820
it was a larger house--

761
00:35:03,820 --> 00:35:04,960
we took in boarders.

762
00:35:04,960 --> 00:35:08,710
We had three different
men living in that place.

763
00:35:08,710 --> 00:35:12,370
One was-- one's
name was Hartman.

764
00:35:12,370 --> 00:35:15,465
And there was-- well, I'll
talk about my mother's--

765
00:35:15,465 --> 00:35:17,590
I don't want to talk about
this little story first.

766
00:35:17,590 --> 00:35:23,200
Hartman was married to a woman
who was not Jewish but still

767
00:35:23,200 --> 00:35:24,580
in Germany with their children.

768
00:35:24,580 --> 00:35:26,720
But she came over later.

769
00:35:26,720 --> 00:35:28,990
Hartman one night--
one morning came down,

770
00:35:28,990 --> 00:35:30,490
he says, I don't
know what happened,

771
00:35:30,490 --> 00:35:33,115
but if somebody's always calling
me in the middle of the night.

772
00:35:33,115 --> 00:35:35,157
He's calling, Hartman, Hartman.

773
00:35:35,157 --> 00:35:36,490
And I'm wondering what the heck.

774
00:35:36,490 --> 00:35:39,860
This guy must have
some sort of a problem.

775
00:35:39,860 --> 00:35:43,690
But as it turned out, it was
not somebody calling him Hartman

776
00:35:43,690 --> 00:35:45,100
in the middle of the night.

777
00:35:45,100 --> 00:35:48,550
There are such things as
geckos, those animals geckos,

778
00:35:48,550 --> 00:35:51,050
and the gecko was

going, go, gecko.

779

00:35:51,050 --> 00:35:54,490

He's somehow converted
that to Hartman.

780

00:35:54,490 --> 00:35:57,490

And he never experienced
the call of a gecko.

781

00:35:57,490 --> 00:36:01,180

So he was, again, one of those
unusual things that people

782

00:36:01,180 --> 00:36:03,415

confront when they
leave the Europe

783

00:36:03,415 --> 00:36:06,640

and go to the tropics
in the Far East.

784

00:36:06,640 --> 00:36:09,250

So anyway to get
back to my mother,

785

00:36:09,250 --> 00:36:12,490

shopping was always one of her
interests, whatever it was.

786

00:36:12,490 --> 00:36:15,910

And Philippines
had open markets.

787

00:36:15,910 --> 00:36:18,692

That was the main
source of food supply.

788

00:36:18,692 --> 00:36:20,650

They're quite interesting,
and they were always

789

00:36:20,650 --> 00:36:21,340

full of people.

790

00:36:21,340 --> 00:36:24,090

And they sold meat, and they
sold vegetables, and fruit,

791

00:36:24,090 --> 00:36:26,410

and rice, and all these things.

792

00:36:26,410 --> 00:36:29,440

And then she would go shopping
there and bring her food home

793

00:36:29,440 --> 00:36:30,580

and prepare it.

794

00:36:30,580 --> 00:36:32,980

Sometimes we had domestic help.

795

00:36:32,980 --> 00:36:34,440

They were extremely cheap.

796

00:36:34,440 --> 00:36:37,510

You could get a
person to help you

797

00:36:37,510 --> 00:36:40,510

for five pesos,
10 pesos a month.

798

00:36:40,510 --> 00:36:42,850

And they would, of course,
eat with us and everything.

799

00:36:42,850 --> 00:36:44,680

That will all be
free, and even live

800

00:36:44,680 --> 00:36:46,760

there [INAUDIBLE] have a space.

801

00:36:46,760 --> 00:36:49,870

So there was help like
that occasionally.

802
00:36:49,870 --> 00:36:51,460
And she would manage all that.

803
00:36:51,460 --> 00:36:54,190
She would bring the
food in, prepare it,

804
00:36:54,190 --> 00:37:01,110
and we'd have usually three
meals at home because of the--

805
00:37:01,110 --> 00:37:02,890
I wouldn't call it
siesta, exactly,

806
00:37:02,890 --> 00:37:04,360
but there was a
long lunch period

807
00:37:04,360 --> 00:37:07,570
in the Philippines because
of tremendous noon heat.

808
00:37:07,570 --> 00:37:10,160
And in fact, the heat all along.

809
00:37:10,160 --> 00:37:13,500
So in fact, she would
also feed the borders.

810
00:37:13,500 --> 00:37:15,850
They would be there full board.

811
00:37:15,850 --> 00:37:17,770
They'd be for
breakfast and dinner.

812
00:37:17,770 --> 00:37:19,720
And so she'd have a
big chore on her hands

813
00:37:19,720 --> 00:37:20,740
preparing all the food.

814
00:37:20,740 --> 00:37:22,450
Sometimes this help.

815
00:37:22,450 --> 00:37:26,350
But that also was a way we
managed to get some income.

816
00:37:26,350 --> 00:37:28,660
There was another
place we lived that was

817
00:37:28,660 --> 00:37:30,190
sort of like a bungalow.

818
00:37:30,190 --> 00:37:32,230
And we rented a
room out to a man

819
00:37:32,230 --> 00:37:34,570
who was aboard one of the
Navy ships in the harbor.

820
00:37:34,570 --> 00:37:38,100
It was one of these four stack
destroyers called the Perry.

821
00:37:38,100 --> 00:37:40,390
And he was a Chief
Petty Officer.

822
00:37:40,390 --> 00:37:43,780
And he stayed-- whenever he was
ashore, he stayed in his room

823
00:37:43,780 --> 00:37:45,070
that he rented.

824
00:37:45,070 --> 00:37:47,200

And that went on
for quite a while.

825
00:37:47,200 --> 00:37:49,260
But he did not eat with us.

826
00:37:49,260 --> 00:37:52,330
He would be eating out,
or wherever he went.

827
00:37:52,330 --> 00:37:54,130
So that was another
place we lived.

828
00:37:54,130 --> 00:37:56,347
I think that street
was A. Mabini.

829
00:37:56,347 --> 00:37:58,180
That was the name of
that particular street,

830
00:37:58,180 --> 00:37:59,395
all in the Ermita area.

831
00:37:59,395 --> 00:38:02,280

832
00:38:02,280 --> 00:38:05,720
We also, as I say, often
accompanied her shopping

833
00:38:05,720 --> 00:38:08,700
when I didn't have
to go to school.

834
00:38:08,700 --> 00:38:11,770
So we would hang out
near the markets.

835
00:38:11,770 --> 00:38:14,490
Philippines always also
had a lot of beggars.

836
00:38:14,490 --> 00:38:17,180
And that was one of the
things that was new,

837
00:38:17,180 --> 00:38:20,990
the number of them
on the streets.

838
00:38:20,990 --> 00:38:26,210
So these were things
were not pleasant to see.

839
00:38:26,210 --> 00:38:28,700
But they were there.

840
00:38:28,700 --> 00:38:32,180
Do you have any impressions,
child impressions,

841
00:38:32,180 --> 00:38:36,860
of how the Filipinos
regarded Jews?

842
00:38:36,860 --> 00:38:41,570
Well, the Filipinos, of course,
did not see that many Jews.

843
00:38:41,570 --> 00:38:44,030
They only saw white people.

844
00:38:44,030 --> 00:38:49,280
To them, whether you were a
Jew or whatever, was secondary.

845
00:38:49,280 --> 00:38:50,300
You were white.

846
00:38:50,300 --> 00:38:53,390
So that was-- they had
an expression that the--

847

00:38:53,390 --> 00:38:55,620
Tagalog expression
that they used.

848
00:38:55,620 --> 00:38:58,100
They would call you
a mestizo bangus.

849
00:38:58,100 --> 00:39:02,510
The word mestizo means
mixture, a racial mixture.

850
00:39:02,510 --> 00:39:05,510
Bangus is the name of
a fish that they have.

851
00:39:05,510 --> 00:39:07,250
It's one that's a
nice tasting fish,

852
00:39:07,250 --> 00:39:09,660
but has a lot of bones in it.

853
00:39:09,660 --> 00:39:11,030
That's what they would--

854
00:39:11,030 --> 00:39:12,270
so they would--

855
00:39:12,270 --> 00:39:19,130

856
00:39:19,130 --> 00:39:24,080
This is the second side,
Side B, of tape number three

857
00:39:24,080 --> 00:39:27,230
of an interview for the United
States Holocaust Memorial

858
00:39:27,230 --> 00:39:29,840
Museum with Frank Ephraim.

859

00:39:29,840 --> 00:39:31,520

My name is Nancy Alper.

860

00:39:31,520 --> 00:39:32,960

I'm the interviewer.

861

00:39:32,960 --> 00:39:39,900

And it is March the 20th, 1997.

862

00:39:39,900 --> 00:39:42,960

I'm just trying to

recall where we were at.

863

00:39:42,960 --> 00:39:45,480

We were, again, with

the Jewish community

864

00:39:45,480 --> 00:39:50,280

during the year 1939, '40.

865

00:39:50,280 --> 00:39:52,890

There were many events,

of course, that dealt

866

00:39:52,890 --> 00:39:54,570

where we were involved in.

867

00:39:54,570 --> 00:39:57,000

The community itself

began to grow, of course.

868

00:39:57,000 --> 00:39:58,650

More people who are coming in.

869

00:39:58,650 --> 00:40:01,650

Almost every weekend,

or whenever possible,

870

00:40:01,650 --> 00:40:05,520

we went to the docks to see

the ships arriving from Europe.

871
00:40:05,520 --> 00:40:08,010
As I mentioned before,
they were primarily

872
00:40:08,010 --> 00:40:09,285
of the Lloyd Triestino Line.

873
00:40:09,285 --> 00:40:11,410
There were four different
ships that would arrive--

874
00:40:11,410 --> 00:40:14,832
The Conte Verde, Conte Rosso,
Conte Biancamano, the Victoria.

875
00:40:14,832 --> 00:40:17,290
There were also two German
ships that occasionally supplied

876
00:40:17,290 --> 00:40:22,470
this area and brought Jews out,
the Gneisenau and Scharnhorst.

877
00:40:22,470 --> 00:40:25,090
And there were other
ships, as well.

878
00:40:25,090 --> 00:40:28,000
And every time we
went to the dock,

879
00:40:28,000 --> 00:40:31,200
we'd get aboard the ships,
which they allowed you to do.

880
00:40:31,200 --> 00:40:33,750
And inevitably, my
father or mother

881
00:40:33,750 --> 00:40:37,770
would run into someone that
they had known in Germany.

882

00:40:37,770 --> 00:40:39,720

It was uncanny.

883

00:40:39,720 --> 00:40:42,240

These people were on
their way to Shanghai

884

00:40:42,240 --> 00:40:46,570

to join that ever-growing
large Jewish community there.

885

00:40:46,570 --> 00:40:48,650

A few would get off in
the Philippines that

886

00:40:48,650 --> 00:40:51,560

had been given visas and
so on, had affidavits,

887

00:40:51,560 --> 00:40:52,740

or whatever you needed.

888

00:40:52,740 --> 00:40:54,780

But these were very, very few.

889

00:40:54,780 --> 00:40:57,780

So-- but in any event, the
Jewish community did grow.

890

00:40:57,780 --> 00:41:00,510

And I would estimate in terms
of immigrants during those--

891

00:41:00,510 --> 00:41:03,750

that period of time were about
800 to 1,000, roughly speaking.

892

00:41:03,750 --> 00:41:05,890

I'm not certain of
the exact number.

893

00:41:05,890 --> 00:41:08,850

I may have also described
the arrival of one Herbert

894
00:41:08,850 --> 00:41:11,970
Zipper, that was one day.

895
00:41:11,970 --> 00:41:15,330
He became the conductor of
the Manila Symphony Orchestra.

896
00:41:15,330 --> 00:41:17,740
And that was another of my
mother's favorite things.

897
00:41:17,740 --> 00:41:19,860
She also was a singer.

898
00:41:19,860 --> 00:41:24,700
And she actually went and tried
out, auditioned, and got--

899
00:41:24,700 --> 00:41:29,600
was accepted into the chorus of
the Manila Symphony Orchestra.

900
00:41:29,600 --> 00:41:33,290
And she was in the performance
of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony

901
00:41:33,290 --> 00:41:35,710
in the contralto section.

902
00:41:35,710 --> 00:41:38,490
That was a fascinating affair,
because she would take me

903
00:41:38,490 --> 00:41:39,910
to the rehearsals.

904
00:41:39,910 --> 00:41:42,570
This is how I got to know
that symphony inside out.

905

00:41:42,570 --> 00:41:44,430

And the concertmaster
was a little

906

00:41:44,430 --> 00:41:48,150

fellow somewhat under five feet
tall by the name of Vallejo.

907

00:41:48,150 --> 00:41:49,890

He was a violinist,
first violinist.

908

00:41:49,890 --> 00:41:51,290

He was concertmaster.

909

00:41:51,290 --> 00:41:54,600

The orchestra was almost
100, or perhaps more.

910

00:41:54,600 --> 00:41:55,970

And made up of people--

911

00:41:55,970 --> 00:42:01,110

of Filipinos, mestizos mixtures,
people from Europe, China.

912

00:42:01,110 --> 00:42:03,720

I recall the Beethoven's
Ninth was performed

913

00:42:03,720 --> 00:42:06,390

with the fourth soloist,
one being-- the tenor

914

00:42:06,390 --> 00:42:12,690

being Chinese, the soprano
Filipino, the contralto

915

00:42:12,690 --> 00:42:16,470

European, and the bass
baritone was a man

916

00:42:16,470 --> 00:42:19,860
by the name of Desiderius
Ligeti who was from Hungary.

917
00:42:19,860 --> 00:42:23,010
And he later performed in San--
with the San Francisco opera.

918
00:42:23,010 --> 00:42:24,930
He changed his first
name from Desiderius

919
00:42:24,930 --> 00:42:27,990
to Desire to make
it a little easier.

920
00:42:27,990 --> 00:42:30,330
He was a very nice
looking man, nice family,

921
00:42:30,330 --> 00:42:33,000
and we used to meet him on the
Boulevard occasionally walking

922
00:42:33,000 --> 00:42:34,800
up and down, as we
met the soprano.

923
00:42:34,800 --> 00:42:37,360
She also took walks
there with her family.

924
00:42:37,360 --> 00:42:39,870
So we occasionally meet these
people along on that Boulevard

925
00:42:39,870 --> 00:42:42,090
that I talked about before.

926
00:42:42,090 --> 00:42:43,497
My mother really enjoyed this.

927
00:42:43,497 --> 00:42:45,330

And of course, one of
the interesting things

928
00:42:45,330 --> 00:42:48,240
about Beethoven's
Ninth as we, of course,

929
00:42:48,240 --> 00:42:51,960
know the words in the Ode
to Joy, the Fourth Movement.

930
00:42:51,960 --> 00:42:54,030
They decided because
of the situation

931
00:42:54,030 --> 00:42:57,150
that they would sing this in
English rather than in German.

932
00:42:57,150 --> 00:43:00,030
So there was my mother
practicing the English version

933
00:43:00,030 --> 00:43:03,430
of the Ode to Joy, which
sounded very strange in English,

934
00:43:03,430 --> 00:43:03,930
perhaps.

935
00:43:03,930 --> 00:43:06,660
But to me, was the
very first time

936
00:43:06,660 --> 00:43:09,030
I had ever heard the
symphony and so I grew up

937
00:43:09,030 --> 00:43:11,790
with it in English,
rather than in German.

938
00:43:11,790 --> 00:43:16,230

So that was a fascinating
part of my experience there.

939
00:43:16,230 --> 00:43:17,850
The heat was enormous.

940
00:43:17,850 --> 00:43:20,710
This conductor was a
very active conductor.

941
00:43:20,710 --> 00:43:24,000
He would be bathed in
sweat as he was conducting

942
00:43:24,000 --> 00:43:26,100
in his old Viennese style.

943
00:43:26,100 --> 00:43:28,350
But it worked beautifully.

944
00:43:28,350 --> 00:43:29,610
They played extremely well.

945
00:43:29,610 --> 00:43:31,240
It was a packed house.

946
00:43:31,240 --> 00:43:34,320
And they performed that,
an opera, of course,

947
00:43:34,320 --> 00:43:40,320
and ballet, up until the
beginning until Pearl Harbor.

948
00:43:40,320 --> 00:43:45,480
Other facets of the community
were, for example, people

949
00:43:45,480 --> 00:43:48,060
would go on outings
to see this little bit

950

00:43:48,060 --> 00:43:50,100
of the countryside,
which is certainly

951
00:43:50,100 --> 00:43:51,690
quite different from Europe.

952
00:43:51,690 --> 00:43:54,990
It was jungle like, hot.

953
00:43:54,990 --> 00:43:57,080
We went to a place
called Tagaytay,

954
00:43:57,080 --> 00:44:00,390
which there was a dead
volcano in the bay, the Laguna

955
00:44:00,390 --> 00:44:01,980
de Bay it was called.

956
00:44:01,980 --> 00:44:03,560
And on occasion, the earth--

957
00:44:03,560 --> 00:44:05,820
Manila also suffered
from earthquakes.

958
00:44:05,820 --> 00:44:09,550
And they usually were centered
in that particular area

959
00:44:09,550 --> 00:44:12,360
of Tagaytay.

960
00:44:12,360 --> 00:44:15,960
There also was, as I mentioned,
a Jewish community in Manila.

961
00:44:15,960 --> 00:44:19,050
There was Jews in other
parts of the Philippines

962
00:44:19,050 --> 00:44:20,880
for work reasons.

963
00:44:20,880 --> 00:44:24,030
They were in a place
called Iloilo, Cebu City,

964
00:44:24,030 --> 00:44:25,890
and in a place
called Baguio, which

965
00:44:25,890 --> 00:44:29,220
was a resort up in Luzon,
the northern part of Luzon

966
00:44:29,220 --> 00:44:30,600
in the mountains.

967
00:44:30,600 --> 00:44:32,520
We did visit there
during the war,

968
00:44:32,520 --> 00:44:34,780
and I'll talk about
that a little later.

969
00:44:34,780 --> 00:44:37,390
But there were Jews there
who were doing hotel work,

970
00:44:37,390 --> 00:44:42,000
were doing other businesses,
and they went to live in Baguio,

971
00:44:42,000 --> 00:44:42,915
or wherever else.

972
00:44:42,915 --> 00:44:50,660

973
00:44:50,660 --> 00:44:54,350
Frank, it sounds like

your family made,

974

00:44:54,350 --> 00:44:58,310

all things considered, a
pretty easy adjustment.

975

00:44:58,310 --> 00:45:01,040

And I wonder what
you would recall

976

00:45:01,040 --> 00:45:07,230

about what was not easy for
them to do, your two parents.

977

00:45:07,230 --> 00:45:10,650

Well, again, from my
standpoint, always of course,

978

00:45:10,650 --> 00:45:14,630

the most difficult
was, they did--

979

00:45:14,630 --> 00:45:16,660

my father did make a living.

980

00:45:16,660 --> 00:45:17,750

We ate.

981

00:45:17,750 --> 00:45:20,570

We had clothes.

982

00:45:20,570 --> 00:45:24,620

We moved around quite a bit,
and perhaps for various reasons.

983

00:45:24,620 --> 00:45:27,290

Either the location
was not right,

984

00:45:27,290 --> 00:45:30,980

the facility was lousy, the--

985

00:45:30,980 --> 00:45:31,750
whatever.

986
00:45:31,750 --> 00:45:34,610
The neighbors, there was
a problem with the noise,

987
00:45:34,610 --> 00:45:36,170
or whatever it was.

988
00:45:36,170 --> 00:45:39,570
And my mother always
wanted some improvement.

989
00:45:39,570 --> 00:45:43,460
So-- and of course, when you are
from that kind of background,

990
00:45:43,460 --> 00:45:45,170
you strive.

991
00:45:45,170 --> 00:45:47,750
And in the Philippines,
it was difficult to strive

992
00:45:47,750 --> 00:45:51,290
because there were difficulties,
first, with the language,

993
00:45:51,290 --> 00:45:53,420
secondly, with the culture.

994
00:45:53,420 --> 00:45:59,120
Here we were totally like
different type of folk

995
00:45:59,120 --> 00:46:03,300
in a country that was
inhabited by Filipinos.

996
00:46:03,300 --> 00:46:07,190
And the wealthy-- and
of course, Filipinos

997

00:46:07,190 --> 00:46:08,960

viewed everyone that
was white as wealthy.

998

00:46:08,960 --> 00:46:11,120

It was difficult for
them to accept that there

999

00:46:11,120 --> 00:46:13,305

were poor white people.

1000

00:46:13,305 --> 00:46:15,805

That's just-- unless there were
some-- there was one person,

1001

00:46:15,805 --> 00:46:17,513

I don't want to mention
his name exactly,

1002

00:46:17,513 --> 00:46:20,150

but he was mentally-- there
was something wrong with him.

1003

00:46:20,150 --> 00:46:22,400

He would roam the
streets in torn clothes.

1004

00:46:22,400 --> 00:46:23,420

He was white.

1005

00:46:23,420 --> 00:46:25,160

He actually was from
a well-to-do family,

1006

00:46:25,160 --> 00:46:27,110

highly educated family.

1007

00:46:27,110 --> 00:46:28,790

But there was really
nothing that--

1008

00:46:28,790 --> 00:46:30,830
and he would pop
into people's homes

1009
00:46:30,830 --> 00:46:33,470
to ask for food and whatever.

1010
00:46:33,470 --> 00:46:36,650
And they would come to our
house occasionally, drop by

1011
00:46:36,650 --> 00:46:38,870
or whatever, and
we would feed him.

1012
00:46:38,870 --> 00:46:39,890
But this was not--

1013
00:46:39,890 --> 00:46:43,130
this was a problem he
had that was existing.

1014
00:46:43,130 --> 00:46:45,970
But most of the
community strive.

1015
00:46:45,970 --> 00:46:47,770
They worked very hard.

1016
00:46:47,770 --> 00:46:52,340
And my father worked a lot,
and he worked hard, and so did

1017
00:46:52,340 --> 00:46:56,300
my mother whenever she was
actually doing a job, either as

1018
00:46:56,300 --> 00:46:59,150
a housekeeper with the
borders, and so on.

1019
00:46:59,150 --> 00:47:01,640
But we always managed.

1020
00:47:01,640 --> 00:47:03,680
There were difficulties
with money.

1021
00:47:03,680 --> 00:47:06,410
I recall one
particular instance.

1022
00:47:06,410 --> 00:47:09,980
We had managed to bring
with us in one of the crates

1023
00:47:09,980 --> 00:47:14,900
a German radio, a nice
large table model.

1024
00:47:14,900 --> 00:47:19,265
But it was a good sized
one, new one, I think.

1025
00:47:19,265 --> 00:47:21,260
I forgot its brand.

1026
00:47:21,260 --> 00:47:26,390
And we had just moved into a
little house on Taft Avenue,

1027
00:47:26,390 --> 00:47:29,870
not all that far-- you could
almost walk to the temple.

1028
00:47:29,870 --> 00:47:36,350
And we had three sets
of boarders at the time.

1029
00:47:36,350 --> 00:47:39,500
We had a man who was an
expert bridge player.

1030
00:47:39,500 --> 00:47:42,720
His name was Berkowitz,
or something like that.

1031
00:47:42,720 --> 00:47:44,840
And he used-- had to use a cane.

1032
00:47:44,840 --> 00:47:47,520
He was a young man, but he had
something wrong with his leg

1033
00:47:47,520 --> 00:47:48,490
and he used a cane.

1034
00:47:48,490 --> 00:47:49,610
He was in one room.

1035
00:47:49,610 --> 00:47:52,190
Another room was occupied
by a couple that had just

1036
00:47:52,190 --> 00:47:53,690
come to the
Philippines-- their name

1037
00:47:53,690 --> 00:47:55,970
was Hyman-- a childless couple.

1038
00:47:55,970 --> 00:47:59,512
And he became-- he opened
up a tailoring business

1039
00:47:59,512 --> 00:48:01,970
after a while with this fellow
Hartman that I had mentioned

1040
00:48:01,970 --> 00:48:04,140
before of the gecko story.

1041
00:48:04,140 --> 00:48:07,340
It was then known as Hartman
and Hyman, the tailors.

1042
00:48:07,340 --> 00:48:11,480
And if you may want to recall,

the man that was a comic,

1043

00:48:11,480 --> 00:48:14,125

he would do an imitation
of their business.

1044

00:48:14,125 --> 00:48:15,500

Their-- none of--
neither of them

1045

00:48:15,500 --> 00:48:17,270

had any experience in tailoring.

1046

00:48:17,270 --> 00:48:20,210

So he would always claim, well,
if the shirt-- if the sleeves

1047

00:48:20,210 --> 00:48:22,790

are too long, we just make the
pants legs a little longer,

1048

00:48:22,790 --> 00:48:24,080

or too short, whatever.

1049

00:48:24,080 --> 00:48:27,710

He did really take them
over the coal rack--

1050

00:48:27,710 --> 00:48:28,940

rack them over the coals.

1051

00:48:28,940 --> 00:48:31,030

But-- and then--

1052

00:48:31,030 --> 00:48:33,500

yes, so we had these
people as boarders.

1053

00:48:33,500 --> 00:48:35,960

But still apparently
there were problems,

1054

00:48:35,960 --> 00:48:38,100
because I think my father
had to change jobs.

1055
00:48:38,100 --> 00:48:39,320
That one job ran out.

1056
00:48:39,320 --> 00:48:41,630
The man went back to
the United States.

1057
00:48:41,630 --> 00:48:45,140
Things were getting--
this was already 1940.

1058
00:48:45,140 --> 00:48:47,300
Things were getting
a little tough.

1059
00:48:47,300 --> 00:48:52,940
And in fact, shortly before
that, I remember distinctly,

1060
00:48:52,940 --> 00:48:55,170
there were lots of people
over at our house, maybe

1061
00:48:55,170 --> 00:48:56,900
half a dozen or a dozen.

1062
00:48:56,900 --> 00:49:01,280
It was the night we got the news
that Hitler had invaded Poland

1063
00:49:01,280 --> 00:49:03,710
September 1, 1939.

1064
00:49:03,710 --> 00:49:06,440
And there was a lot of
crying and a lot of tears

1065
00:49:06,440 --> 00:49:09,950
because that was the signal

that no one else could come out

1066

00:49:09,950 --> 00:49:11,330
of Germany anymore.

1067

00:49:11,330 --> 00:49:14,480
And of course, all these people
had relatives, or parents,

1068

00:49:14,480 --> 00:49:17,540
or someone left there.

1069

00:49:17,540 --> 00:49:20,510
And of course, at that
moment, they all pretty much

1070

00:49:20,510 --> 00:49:25,220
knew they were no longer
able to leave unless they

1071

00:49:25,220 --> 00:49:26,970
escaped in some fashion.

1072

00:49:26,970 --> 00:49:29,860
But-- so that was a very trying
moment, the invasion of Poland.

1073

00:49:29,860 --> 00:49:31,402
And of course, there
were some people

1074

00:49:31,402 --> 00:49:34,830
who may have had relatives
in Poland itself.

1075

00:49:34,830 --> 00:49:38,840
And so there was a very tragic
day-- or evening for us.

1076

00:49:38,840 --> 00:49:41,720
But one day there was--

1077

00:49:41,720 --> 00:49:44,420
my father said, oh,
there were some people

1078
00:49:44,420 --> 00:49:46,430
coming to look at the radio.

1079
00:49:46,430 --> 00:49:52,070
And so, sure enough, a
Filipino or two men came.

1080
00:49:52,070 --> 00:49:53,750
And I didn't know
what this was about.

1081
00:49:53,750 --> 00:49:56,510
But he sold them the radio.

1082
00:49:56,510 --> 00:50:00,230
So here was a situation where
he had to get rid of the-- sell

1083
00:50:00,230 --> 00:50:03,600
the radio for money in
order to have money.

1084
00:50:03,600 --> 00:50:04,940
And so the radio was sold.

1085
00:50:04,940 --> 00:50:06,440
They walked out with it.

1086
00:50:06,440 --> 00:50:09,620
So that was kind of a sad
day because we no longer

1087
00:50:09,620 --> 00:50:10,970
had this radio.

1088
00:50:10,970 --> 00:50:12,710
And I think-- I don't
know what happened

1089

00:50:12,710 --> 00:50:15,770

when we got another
radio, but at some point.

1090

00:50:15,770 --> 00:50:17,930

However, of interest,
in that particular house

1091

00:50:17,930 --> 00:50:21,800

on Taft Avenue, it was a
bungalow type of house.

1092

00:50:21,800 --> 00:50:25,880

Next door, similar house,
was a man and his wife.

1093

00:50:25,880 --> 00:50:28,470

And they would ask-- but he
would ask my father over.

1094

00:50:28,470 --> 00:50:33,020

Well, this man had a ham radio
operation going in his house.

1095

00:50:33,020 --> 00:50:36,010

And my father, being
from the radio era,

1096

00:50:36,010 --> 00:50:39,530

and himself having had
work done, had patents,

1097

00:50:39,530 --> 00:50:42,223

and radio equipment, radio
parts, was very much into it.

1098

00:50:42,223 --> 00:50:44,390

He loved knobs and play
around with all these things

1099

00:50:44,390 --> 00:50:45,090

all the time.

1100

00:50:45,090 --> 00:50:47,560

So this guy would
tune up the ham radio,

1101

00:50:47,560 --> 00:50:49,910

and my father would
be there and all that.

1102

00:50:49,910 --> 00:50:51,820

Interestingly enough
as it turned out,

1103

00:50:51,820 --> 00:50:55,070

one night this man had some
sort of an attack, or seizure,

1104

00:50:55,070 --> 00:50:57,080

and they called my father over.

1105

00:50:57,080 --> 00:50:59,370

And my father rushed
him to-- got him

1106

00:50:59,370 --> 00:51:02,420

on one of these cab or
something to the hospital.

1107

00:51:02,420 --> 00:51:04,170

And this man was
always very thankful

1108

00:51:04,170 --> 00:51:06,030

thereafter because he
felt that my father

1109

00:51:06,030 --> 00:51:09,500

in that sense by rushing him
to the hospital saved his life.

1110

00:51:09,500 --> 00:51:11,700

This was an American man
by the name of Goodrich,

1111
00:51:11,700 --> 00:51:14,880
just like the tire, but he
had nothing to do with tires.

1112
00:51:14,880 --> 00:51:17,910
Strangely enough, this man
looked us up after they--

1113
00:51:17,910 --> 00:51:20,830
many years later after the
liberation of the Philippines.

1114
00:51:20,830 --> 00:51:24,030
He was in the United States
Army and he was the local--

1115
00:51:24,030 --> 00:51:25,260
was a major by that time.

1116
00:51:25,260 --> 00:51:27,180
He was the local
commander of the CIC,

1117
00:51:27,180 --> 00:51:28,800
the Counterintelligence Corps.

1118
00:51:28,800 --> 00:51:30,750
That background, of
course, in the Philippines

1119
00:51:30,750 --> 00:51:33,090
helped to get him into
that particular field.

1120
00:51:33,090 --> 00:51:36,390
And he looked us up
and came visiting.

1121
00:51:36,390 --> 00:51:38,180
That was in 1945.

1122
00:51:38,180 --> 00:51:40,900

But I-- that's
projecting forward.

1123
00:51:40,900 --> 00:51:43,880
So that was a person
that we met at the time.

1124
00:51:43,880 --> 00:51:47,220
It was interesting experience.

1125
00:51:47,220 --> 00:51:50,700
You talked about the
Filipinos differentiating

1126
00:51:50,700 --> 00:51:53,670
and characterizing you
simply because of the color

1127
00:51:53,670 --> 00:51:55,060
of your skin.

1128
00:51:55,060 --> 00:51:57,390
And I was wondering
if there were

1129
00:51:57,390 --> 00:52:01,110
any such differentiations made
because of your Jewishness.

1130
00:52:01,110 --> 00:52:03,180
It sounds like
there wasn't, but I

1131
00:52:03,180 --> 00:52:06,060
wonder if there were any
assumptions about your

1132
00:52:06,060 --> 00:52:10,050
having money because of that.

1133
00:52:10,050 --> 00:52:12,330
Not exactly.

1134
00:52:12,330 --> 00:52:13,440
I did not--

1135
00:52:13,440 --> 00:52:18,720
I personally do not recall any
such confrontation or hearing

1136
00:52:18,720 --> 00:52:21,890
anything of that kind.

1137
00:52:21,890 --> 00:52:24,510
Filipinos, as I mentioned
before, the country was 99,

1138
00:52:24,510 --> 00:52:27,480
or whatever, percent Catholic.

1139
00:52:27,480 --> 00:52:29,490
And it was very
strongly Catholic.

1140
00:52:29,490 --> 00:52:31,740
There were these
processions where

1141
00:52:31,740 --> 00:52:34,260
they would take
the body of Jesus

1142
00:52:34,260 --> 00:52:40,130
and parade, singing, a
very big ceremony at night

1143
00:52:40,130 --> 00:52:42,900
of candlelight down
the various streets.

1144
00:52:42,900 --> 00:52:45,433
These schools, of
course, particularly one

1145
00:52:45,433 --> 00:52:46,850

that I went to--
as I mentioned, I

1146
00:52:46,850 --> 00:52:49,410
started in this
kindergarten of Mrs. Hoyes.

1147
00:52:49,410 --> 00:52:52,260
But I subsequently went to
the De La Salle College,

1148
00:52:52,260 --> 00:52:56,820
which was run by Jesuits,
which was on Taft Avenue,

1149
00:52:56,820 --> 00:52:59,160
almost walking distance
from where we lived.

1150
00:52:59,160 --> 00:53:02,160
I remember from this
Taft Avenue house,

1151
00:53:02,160 --> 00:53:05,220
I would take one of these
little Jeep like things

1152
00:53:05,220 --> 00:53:08,422
and zip down there and negotiate
with the driver instead

1153
00:53:08,422 --> 00:53:10,130
of a nickel, I'd pay
him three centavos--

1154
00:53:10,130 --> 00:53:12,213
I mean, five centavos, I
was paying three centavos

1155
00:53:12,213 --> 00:53:13,600
and that was fine.

1156
00:53:13,600 --> 00:53:15,500

But-- so we went there.

1157
00:53:15,500 --> 00:53:19,290
Now, this school, the
brothers who were the Jesuits,

1158
00:53:19,290 --> 00:53:22,230
were in some cases quite strict.

1159
00:53:22,230 --> 00:53:25,710
I remember one sitting in a
class with Brother Victor.

1160
00:53:25,710 --> 00:53:29,340
And Brother Victor, sort
of a mean looking guy,

1161
00:53:29,340 --> 00:53:32,550
and he announced right off the
bat that anybody in this class

1162
00:53:32,550 --> 00:53:34,110
would be required
to take religion

1163
00:53:34,110 --> 00:53:37,380
as he was looking at me and
knowing full well that I was

1164
00:53:37,380 --> 00:53:39,270
not a Christian, a Catholic.

1165
00:53:39,270 --> 00:53:40,680
I was Jewish.

1166
00:53:40,680 --> 00:53:42,540
And I was the only
Jew in that class.

1167
00:53:42,540 --> 00:53:44,460
There were other
Jews in the college.

1168

00:53:44,460 --> 00:53:46,830

But one friend of mine,
Ralph Price, was a year older

1169

00:53:46,830 --> 00:53:49,440

and so he was in another class.

1170

00:53:49,440 --> 00:53:52,710

And one other fellow by the name
of Hans Heinz [? Herflin, ?]

1171

00:53:52,710 --> 00:53:54,995

who was really only
partially Jewish.

1172

00:53:54,995 --> 00:53:56,370

His father was a
marine engineer.

1173

00:53:56,370 --> 00:53:58,410

It was just-- but
his mother was not.

1174

00:53:58,410 --> 00:54:00,430

They did not attend the temple.

1175

00:54:00,430 --> 00:54:05,440

They did not really
practice Judaism.

1176

00:54:05,440 --> 00:54:08,100

These were three I
knew of in that school.

1177

00:54:08,100 --> 00:54:10,940

But I never did take catechism.

1178

00:54:10,940 --> 00:54:12,840

My simply that--
during that session,

1179

00:54:12,840 --> 00:54:16,580

I would just sit and do nothing, and that was that.

1180
00:54:16,580 --> 00:54:21,960
He didn't like that idea, but that was the way I did it.

1181
00:54:21,960 --> 00:54:24,330
Do you remember what year you started there,

1182
00:54:24,330 --> 00:54:28,660
and why your parents decided to send you to a Catholic school?

1183
00:54:28,660 --> 00:54:29,160
OK.

1184
00:54:29,160 --> 00:54:31,860
It was not a decision to send me to a Catholic school.

1185
00:54:31,860 --> 00:54:33,870
It was rather a--

1186
00:54:33,870 --> 00:54:37,260
the only thing available for the price.

1187
00:54:37,260 --> 00:54:39,690
There was a school which was a very good school.

1188
00:54:39,690 --> 00:54:43,020
It was-- I've forgotten its name.

1189
00:54:43,020 --> 00:54:46,320
It was extremely difficult to get into.

1190
00:54:46,320 --> 00:54:48,510
They were somewhat

discriminatory.

1191

00:54:48,510 --> 00:54:52,170

They did not want the
new refugees in there.

1192

00:54:52,170 --> 00:54:54,660

They were strictly
limiting it to Americans,

1193

00:54:54,660 --> 00:54:58,530

British, oh, I don't
know, other people.

1194

00:54:58,530 --> 00:55:03,510

So many attempts to enroll
in that school were futile.

1195

00:55:03,510 --> 00:55:06,870

So the choices
then were limited.

1196

00:55:06,870 --> 00:55:10,350

The initial school I went to was
largely every elementary school

1197

00:55:10,350 --> 00:55:11,760

for two grades or so.

1198

00:55:11,760 --> 00:55:17,970

And by that time, this
was now 1940 or so.

1199

00:55:17,970 --> 00:55:22,380

It was-- well, I was
in the second grade--

1200

00:55:22,380 --> 00:55:23,610

I forgot-- or third grade.

1201

00:55:23,610 --> 00:55:25,840

I don't remember exactly.

1202

00:55:25,840 --> 00:55:29,980

And my parents thought I had
to change schools in any event.

1203

00:55:29,980 --> 00:55:32,175

And so then there
was another school

1204

00:55:32,175 --> 00:55:33,300

called the American School.

1205

00:55:33,300 --> 00:55:34,500

That was very expensive.

1206

00:55:34,500 --> 00:55:36,480

And that was
something way out of--

1207

00:55:36,480 --> 00:55:37,860

we could not afford.

1208

00:55:37,860 --> 00:55:40,950

So there was this word
that, yes, the De La Salle

1209

00:55:40,950 --> 00:55:43,530

College would take Jews,
or it would take others,

1210

00:55:43,530 --> 00:55:46,900

and their fees were
relatively low.

1211

00:55:46,900 --> 00:55:51,000

And so a number of
Jewish boys went there.

1212

00:55:51,000 --> 00:55:52,500

And it was an excellent school.

1213

00:55:52,500 --> 00:55:54,840

The Jesuits are superb teachers.

1214
00:55:54,840 --> 00:55:57,210
I mean, there you
could really learn.

1215
00:55:57,210 --> 00:55:59,220
And there was a no
nonsense type of learning.

1216
00:55:59,220 --> 00:56:01,020
I mean, they'd throw
a erasers at you.

1217
00:56:01,020 --> 00:56:03,990
They'd cane you and there
was all this that was--

1218
00:56:03,990 --> 00:56:06,170
what do you call it--

1219
00:56:06,170 --> 00:56:09,180
about to say capital punishment.

1220
00:56:09,180 --> 00:56:12,030
There was that kind of
corporal punishment,

1221
00:56:12,030 --> 00:56:17,810
and that was practiced,
and without any question.

1222
00:56:17,810 --> 00:56:20,190
And there was prayer at
the beginning of the class,

1223
00:56:20,190 --> 00:56:22,170
at the end of the class--
a very quick prayer.

1224
00:56:22,170 --> 00:56:24,520
There were spelling
bees and so on.

1225

00:56:24,520 --> 00:56:27,120

And if you won those, you
got a rosary or candies.

1226

00:56:27,120 --> 00:56:29,280

They also had--
other than Jesuits,

1227

00:56:29,280 --> 00:56:31,273

they had some Filipino teachers.

1228

00:56:31,273 --> 00:56:32,190

And I had one of them.

1229

00:56:32,190 --> 00:56:34,320

And he was a very
nice man and never--

1230

00:56:34,320 --> 00:56:36,150

in his class,
there's no question,

1231

00:56:36,150 --> 00:56:39,060

I never had to
take any catechism.

1232

00:56:39,060 --> 00:56:41,520

I sat there and they
would just skip over me.

1233

00:56:41,520 --> 00:56:43,750

As the catechism was
practiced in those days

1234

00:56:43,750 --> 00:56:45,900

in a sort of singsong
fashion, the teacher

1235

00:56:45,900 --> 00:56:48,030

would sing song the question.

1236

00:56:48,030 --> 00:56:49,650

The student--
every other-- as he

1237
00:56:49,650 --> 00:56:52,710
went down the rows would
sing song the answer.

1238
00:56:52,710 --> 00:56:55,770
And the same kind of
sing song or rhythm

1239
00:56:55,770 --> 00:56:58,620
was used to recite the rosary.

1240
00:56:58,620 --> 00:57:00,630
This was more of a
method of learning

1241
00:57:00,630 --> 00:57:02,670
at that age for
children, I believe,

1242
00:57:02,670 --> 00:57:06,210
than a typical
Catholic practice.

1243
00:57:06,210 --> 00:57:09,110
In any event, every 25th of
the month, the whole class

1244
00:57:09,110 --> 00:57:12,720
is at the chapel, the
church in the college,

1245
00:57:12,720 --> 00:57:16,300
because that was a
celebration of Christmas,

1246
00:57:16,300 --> 00:57:17,920
the birth of Christ.

1247
00:57:17,920 --> 00:57:19,830
I did go along there

because that was just

1248
00:57:19,830 --> 00:57:21,480
a matter of visiting.

1249
00:57:21,480 --> 00:57:24,630
The others kneeled and
made a sign of the cross

1250
00:57:24,630 --> 00:57:26,590
with the Holy water.

1251
00:57:26,590 --> 00:57:27,550
I didn't do that.

1252
00:57:27,550 --> 00:57:29,650
I sat in the pew and
then listened and sat

1253
00:57:29,650 --> 00:57:30,550
there and observed.

1254
00:57:30,550 --> 00:57:32,230
That's it.

1255
00:57:32,230 --> 00:57:35,320
But as I say, some of these
brothers were kind of tough.

1256
00:57:35,320 --> 00:57:37,840
Others were kind of lenient.

1257
00:57:37,840 --> 00:57:39,040
It would depend.

1258
00:57:39,040 --> 00:57:42,760
There was a man by the name of
Brother Xavier, X-A-V-I-E-R,

1259
00:57:42,760 --> 00:57:43,870
who was the headmaster.

1260

00:57:43,870 --> 00:57:45,100

He was a very nice man.

1261

00:57:45,100 --> 00:57:48,520

He was of, I believe, English
or American background.

1262

00:57:48,520 --> 00:57:50,470

There was a Deputy--
a Dean whose name

1263

00:57:50,470 --> 00:57:53,860

is Brother [? Birthwin, ?] and
he was of German background.

1264

00:57:53,860 --> 00:57:58,090

Both of them were certainly not
requiring the Jewish students

1265

00:57:58,090 --> 00:58:00,400

to take catechism.

1266

00:58:00,400 --> 00:58:02,230

But as I say, there
were a couple who

1267

00:58:02,230 --> 00:58:04,810

were kind of nasty about it.

1268

00:58:04,810 --> 00:58:06,000

So that was my experience.

1269

00:58:06,000 --> 00:58:11,470

I went to that school up until
the beginning of the war.

1270

00:58:11,470 --> 00:58:15,520

However, by that
time, we had moved.

1271

00:58:15,520 --> 00:58:19,270

We moved to a place

called the Santa Monica

1272

00:58:19,270 --> 00:58:22,720

Courts, which were row houses.

1273

00:58:22,720 --> 00:58:25,720

And they-- I would estimate
about eight rows worth

1274

00:58:25,720 --> 00:58:28,090

of houses where the houses--

1275

00:58:28,090 --> 00:58:30,100

row houses were back to back.

1276

00:58:30,100 --> 00:58:35,673

Between the rows were about 15
foot wide concrete roadways.

1277

00:58:35,673 --> 00:58:37,090

You could run a
car through there,

1278

00:58:37,090 --> 00:58:38,680

but no cars were
basically allowed.

1279

00:58:38,680 --> 00:58:40,630

But you could walk
and everything.

1280

00:58:40,630 --> 00:58:44,230

They were built perpendicular
to the Dewey Boulevard.

1281

00:58:44,230 --> 00:58:46,960

And they were right on
the Dewey Boulevard.

1282

00:58:46,960 --> 00:58:48,910

And it was these--
in these houses

1283

00:58:48,910 --> 00:58:55,270

that we experienced the
actually Pearl Harbor.

1284

00:58:55,270 --> 00:59:02,080

Because what happened
was, first of all,

1285

00:59:02,080 --> 00:59:05,260

when Pearl Harbor
occurred, I was no longer

1286

00:59:05,260 --> 00:59:08,140

going to this De La Salle
College, for whatever reason,

1287

00:59:08,140 --> 00:59:09,280

I forgot.

1288

00:59:09,280 --> 00:59:13,660

I ended up in a place called the
Philippine Women's University,

1289

00:59:13,660 --> 00:59:17,800

which allowed boys up
until the fourth grade.

1290

00:59:17,800 --> 00:59:19,540

And I was in the fourth grade.

1291

00:59:19,540 --> 00:59:21,100

And there I was
in the same grade

1292

00:59:21,100 --> 00:59:25,840

with the two women who were
cousins who attended our Manila

1293

00:59:25,840 --> 00:59:28,570

Reunion in 1996--

1294

00:59:28,570 --> 00:59:32,753

Lottie Cassel and Margot
Cassel, and a few others.

1295
00:59:32,753 --> 00:59:35,170
And there were a few other
boys there in the fourth grade.

1296
00:59:35,170 --> 00:59:36,490
It was still mixed.

1297
00:59:36,490 --> 00:59:39,550
Apparently, it was
either a bit cheaper,

1298
00:59:39,550 --> 00:59:41,740
or it was more
convenient, because now we

1299
00:59:41,740 --> 00:59:43,618
lived in another spot.

1300
00:59:43,618 --> 00:59:44,410
I was a little boy.

1301
00:59:44,410 --> 00:59:48,280
I remember the Santa Monica
Courts was much further away

1302
00:59:48,280 --> 00:59:49,060
from--

1303
00:59:49,060 --> 00:59:51,730
that was not in Ermita,
rather than Malate.

1304
00:59:51,730 --> 00:59:55,060
As a result, there was a
much, much longer way away

1305
00:59:55,060 --> 00:59:57,100
from the De La Salle College.

1306

00:59:57,100 --> 01:00:00,100
And the Philippine Women's
University was closer.

1307
01:00:00,100 --> 01:00:02,830
So that's the reason, I
believe, I went there.

1308
01:00:02,830 --> 01:00:04,450
I switched schools a lot.

1309
01:00:04,450 --> 01:00:08,110
But I adapted, because by
then I spoke the language

1310
01:00:08,110 --> 01:00:11,050
and picked up whatever I needed.

1311
01:00:11,050 --> 01:00:13,950
I was never the greatest
student in those days.

1312
01:00:13,950 --> 01:00:15,340
I was more of a wild kid.

1313
01:00:15,340 --> 01:00:17,950
And I've always
been adventurous.

1314
01:00:17,950 --> 01:00:20,510
And well, that's the way it was.

1315
01:00:20,510 --> 01:00:23,805
But anyway, one day
my father and I--

1316
01:00:23,805 --> 01:00:25,930
we were living in these
courts, and as I explained,

1317
01:00:25,930 --> 01:00:27,760
they were sort of double--

1318

01:00:27,760 --> 01:00:29,200

two stories.

1319

01:00:29,200 --> 01:00:32,680

Across from us on one side lived
a family by the name of boss,

1320

01:00:32,680 --> 01:00:36,790

B-O-S-S, a couple, no
children, and his mother.

1321

01:00:36,790 --> 01:00:38,930

And also from--

1322

01:00:38,930 --> 01:00:40,853

I believe, from Breslau, yes.

1323

01:00:40,853 --> 01:00:42,520

He was a veteran of
the First World War.

1324

01:00:42,520 --> 01:00:44,440

And in the heat,
he'd walk around

1325

01:00:44,440 --> 01:00:50,620

in this T-shirt, this sleeveless
like a tank top type of affair.

1326

01:00:50,620 --> 01:00:53,415

And there were these huge
bayonets scars in the back.

1327

01:00:53,415 --> 01:00:54,790

He had apparently
been bayoneted,

1328

01:00:54,790 --> 01:00:57,460

amongst other things,
in the First World War.

1329

01:00:57,460 --> 01:00:59,200

And right next to
them across the street

1330
01:00:59,200 --> 01:01:01,060
was a woman and a small child.

1331
01:01:01,060 --> 01:01:04,070
She was the wife
of a Navy man who

1332
01:01:04,070 --> 01:01:05,320
was in the United States Navy.

1333
01:01:05,320 --> 01:01:07,780
But she also was originally,
I believe, from somewhere

1334
01:01:07,780 --> 01:01:09,100
in Europe.

1335
01:01:09,100 --> 01:01:10,870
And then amongst us doing--

1336
01:01:10,870 --> 01:01:13,870
a number of German Austrian
Jewish refugee families

1337
01:01:13,870 --> 01:01:15,520
living in these courts.

1338
01:01:15,520 --> 01:01:17,510
Next door to us
was a young couple,

1339
01:01:17,510 --> 01:01:21,180
and he was a pilot in the United
States Air Force, flew a P40.

1340
01:01:21,180 --> 01:01:23,200
The [? Shallocks ?]
were their names.

1341

01:01:23,200 --> 01:01:26,710
He later was in the Death March,
and she was taken in-- taken

1342
01:01:26,710 --> 01:01:28,225
from Corregidor and--

1343
01:01:28,225 --> 01:01:30,100
where she had sort of
converted to be a nurse

1344
01:01:30,100 --> 01:01:32,440
and spent the war
years in Santa Tomas,

1345
01:01:32,440 --> 01:01:34,840
the civilian interment camp.

1346
01:01:34,840 --> 01:01:37,220
And then on the other side
were people who were Dutch.

1347
01:01:37,220 --> 01:01:39,940
And they had moved into
Manila from out of town.

1348
01:01:39,940 --> 01:01:42,540
And they lived there,
and they had a small boy.

1349
01:01:42,540 --> 01:01:45,870
So amongst that whole
series of courts,

1350
01:01:45,870 --> 01:01:48,190
I want to say eight
rows, there must

1351
01:01:48,190 --> 01:01:51,010
have been 1,000, 2,000
people living there.

1352
01:01:51,010 --> 01:01:55,780

Many Americans, British,
Dutch, German, Austrian Jews,

1353
01:01:55,780 --> 01:02:00,010
mixtures of people who
came from other countries.

1354
01:02:00,010 --> 01:02:02,470
Not too many Native Filipinos.

1355
01:02:02,470 --> 01:02:05,410
And this was perpendicular
to the Boulevard.

1356
01:02:05,410 --> 01:02:09,842
And it was very close to the
Hellman's huge operation,

1357
01:02:09,842 --> 01:02:11,050
which I had mentioned before.

1358
01:02:11,050 --> 01:02:13,240
And Sigi Hellman was an
ace football player--

1359
01:02:13,240 --> 01:02:15,100
soccer, that is, of course.

1360
01:02:15,100 --> 01:02:18,070
And we often played soccer
out there almost every day,

1361
01:02:18,070 --> 01:02:19,560
or capture the flag.

1362
01:02:19,560 --> 01:02:21,280
And once in a while,
this one fellow,

1363
01:02:21,280 --> 01:02:25,180
who was the expert football
player, would walk by

1364

01:02:25,180 --> 01:02:27,970

and he would honor us
occasionally playing with us.

1365

01:02:27,970 --> 01:02:30,070

But he was a bit older.

1366

01:02:30,070 --> 01:02:31,690

But he was very, very good.

1367

01:02:31,690 --> 01:02:33,580

So we enjoyed doing that.

1368

01:02:33,580 --> 01:02:36,280

But it was in that
particular period of time,

1369

01:02:36,280 --> 01:02:40,270

we're now dealing with the 1941.

1370

01:02:40,270 --> 01:02:45,370

And when-- one morning my father
and I were on the way walking

1371

01:02:45,370 --> 01:02:46,840

down this one street--

1372

01:02:46,840 --> 01:02:49,570

he walked me to the
Philippine Women's University

1373

01:02:49,570 --> 01:02:51,370

before he went to work--

1374

01:02:51,370 --> 01:02:54,250

picked up the newspaper,
and he was very shocked

1375

01:02:54,250 --> 01:02:56,860

because that was
the announcement

1376

01:02:56,860 --> 01:02:59,710
of the Japanese attack
on Pearl Harbor.

1377

01:02:59,710 --> 01:03:03,820
I continue to go to school,
but about an hour into classes,

1378

01:03:03,820 --> 01:03:07,520
they gathered us around
and began to send us home.

1379

01:03:07,520 --> 01:03:10,090
So I was put into one of
those caratellas, which

1380

01:03:10,090 --> 01:03:12,310
I had described before,
horse-drawn vehicle, which

1381

01:03:12,310 --> 01:03:15,280
was more for freight, as
opposed to a caramata, which

1382

01:03:15,280 --> 01:03:17,300
is more for passengers.

1383

01:03:17,300 --> 01:03:20,590
And I arrived, told my mother,
was looks all full of anxiety.

1384

01:03:20,590 --> 01:03:24,400
She tends to be a very,
very anxious person anyway.

1385

01:03:24,400 --> 01:03:28,750
And so I went home, and we
were listening to-- by then,

1386

01:03:28,750 --> 01:03:30,790
we had another radio, I guess.

1387

01:03:30,790 --> 01:03:33,880
We heard from other people,
and we didn't really

1388
01:03:33,880 --> 01:03:35,560
know very much.

1389
01:03:35,560 --> 01:03:38,935
The American troops-- there
were Americans officers,

1390
01:03:38,935 --> 01:03:40,810
and they were talking
about it very casually.

1391
01:03:40,810 --> 01:03:41,505
Oh, well.

1392
01:03:41,505 --> 01:03:42,880
And then there
were announcements

1393
01:03:42,880 --> 01:03:44,710
made on the radio,
all military people

1394
01:03:44,710 --> 01:03:46,260
should report back to the bases.

1395
01:03:46,260 --> 01:03:49,420
But the fellow next door,
the pilot, he says, oh, well,

1396
01:03:49,420 --> 01:03:50,220
no problem.

1397
01:03:50,220 --> 01:03:51,490
We don't have to rush it.

1398
01:03:51,490 --> 01:03:52,993
This is just--

1399

01:03:52,993 --> 01:03:54,410
I know I have to
be there tonight,

1400
01:03:54,410 --> 01:03:56,590
so I'm not going to bother
going now because that's

1401
01:03:56,590 --> 01:03:58,480
my duty time is tonight.

1402
01:03:58,480 --> 01:04:00,160
And he was a fighter pilot.

1403
01:04:00,160 --> 01:04:03,070
But there was this sort
of lackadaisical response

1404
01:04:03,070 --> 01:04:07,200
or reaction that I noticed
among the service people--

1405
01:04:07,200 --> 01:04:08,530
Navy, Army.

1406
01:04:08,530 --> 01:04:11,350
In those days, of course, the
Air Force was part of the Army.

1407
01:04:11,350 --> 01:04:16,870
So we saw more troops around
now with those flat helmets,

1408
01:04:16,870 --> 01:04:18,940
and the British style
helmets and more

1409
01:04:18,940 --> 01:04:21,070
in those days, and Jeeps.

1410
01:04:21,070 --> 01:04:23,380
A lot of people say the Jeep
was not really developed

1411
01:04:23,380 --> 01:04:24,010
during the war.

1412
01:04:24,010 --> 01:04:29,410
Actually, we did have Jeeps
in the Philippines in 1941.

1413
01:04:29,410 --> 01:04:33,140
Well, by afternoon,
everybody had come home.

1414
01:04:33,140 --> 01:04:34,092
My father come home.

1415
01:04:34,092 --> 01:04:35,800
Everybody was wondering
what's happening.

1416
01:04:35,800 --> 01:04:37,400
There was no noise.

1417
01:04:37,400 --> 01:04:38,920
It was just a lot of talk.

1418
01:04:38,920 --> 01:04:41,860
We walked the Boulevard,
which was close by.

1419
01:04:41,860 --> 01:04:45,880
We ran into people, talked to
them, and they said, well--

1420
01:04:45,880 --> 01:04:47,620
so we went back home.

1421
01:04:47,620 --> 01:04:50,350
And then they
announced that the air

1422
01:04:50,350 --> 01:04:54,560
raids alarm system would be

operated by the Philippine Boy

1423
01:04:54,560 --> 01:04:55,600
Scouts.

1424
01:04:55,600 --> 01:04:58,270
For some odd reason, that
was the way, at least

1425
01:04:58,270 --> 01:05:00,460
that's what they
said on the radio.

1426
01:05:00,460 --> 01:05:08,136
And so nothing happened until
approximately 10:00 at night,

1427
01:05:08,136 --> 01:05:11,710
oh, must have been
December the 7th,

1428
01:05:11,710 --> 01:05:14,860
whatever equivalent time, 1941.

1429
01:05:14,860 --> 01:05:17,380
The air raid sirens
rang, the alarm.

1430
01:05:17,380 --> 01:05:21,083
So everybody came from their
upstairs bedroom downstairs.

1431
01:05:21,083 --> 01:05:22,750
There's no basements
in the Philippines.

1432
01:05:22,750 --> 01:05:25,510
If you dig there for three
feet, you're in water.

1433
01:05:25,510 --> 01:05:29,050
So we sat on the stoop
and all the other peoples,

1434
01:05:29,050 --> 01:05:32,230
dark, had that blackouts
required, of course.

1435
01:05:32,230 --> 01:05:34,730
So-- and then about
10, 15 minutes later,

1436
01:05:34,730 --> 01:05:36,430
the all clear siren rang.

1437
01:05:36,430 --> 01:05:38,290
Said, oh, gee, system
works real well.

1438
01:05:38,290 --> 01:05:41,080
It must have been close by
and everything's all clear.

1439
01:05:41,080 --> 01:05:43,060
We went back upstairs
and went to sleep.

1440
01:05:43,060 --> 01:05:47,530
Well, the next thing I know
was a horrendous racket--

1441
01:05:47,530 --> 01:05:53,140
explosions, flashes of light,
whatever, airplanes overhead.

1442
01:05:53,140 --> 01:05:54,970
And sure enough, it
was a surprise attack

1443
01:05:54,970 --> 01:05:56,500
by the Japanese.

1444
01:05:56,500 --> 01:06:00,580
They went in and began
to fire at the ships

1445

01:06:00,580 --> 01:06:03,840
and bombed the ships in the
harbor, the Navy ships that

1446

01:06:03,840 --> 01:06:06,050
were there, or had still--

1447

01:06:06,050 --> 01:06:07,690
were left there.

1448

01:06:07,690 --> 01:06:11,650
And there, of course,
was no alarm whatsoever.

1449

01:06:11,650 --> 01:06:14,150
The system had broken down.

1450

01:06:14,150 --> 01:06:16,840
And so sure enough,
we went downstairs,

1451

01:06:16,840 --> 01:06:19,600
shot under the tables,
and stayed there

1452

01:06:19,600 --> 01:06:21,240
till whatever was over.

1453

01:06:21,240 --> 01:06:24,640
It was-- took about 10, 15, 20
minutes, half an hour, perhaps.

1454

01:06:24,640 --> 01:06:27,070
And then these planes and
the explosions subsided.

1455

01:06:27,070 --> 01:06:28,720
The planes apparently left.

1456

01:06:28,720 --> 01:06:31,870
And it was only then that
the air raid alarm went off.

1457
01:06:31,870 --> 01:06:34,690
So the thing didn't
work too well.

1458
01:06:34,690 --> 01:06:37,540
Was there any response
from the Americans?

1459
01:06:37,540 --> 01:06:39,400
The response-- we don't know.

1460
01:06:39,400 --> 01:06:40,390
There might have been.

1461
01:06:40,390 --> 01:06:42,190
There might not have been.

1462
01:06:42,190 --> 01:06:46,210
We heard later that they also
raided Nichols Field and Clark

1463
01:06:46,210 --> 01:06:49,450
Air bases, or airfields,
United States Army airfields

1464
01:06:49,450 --> 01:06:51,960
in the area, and did
manage to wipe out

1465
01:06:51,960 --> 01:06:54,940
a goodly number of planes
that were lined up wing

1466
01:06:54,940 --> 01:06:59,500
to wing, which was unfortunate
that unpreparedness

1467
01:06:59,500 --> 01:07:01,210
at that time.

1468
01:07:01,210 --> 01:07:03,700

There was a feeling that
the Japanese would not

1469
01:07:03,700 --> 01:07:06,610
attack at night because
they don't see too well.

1470
01:07:06,610 --> 01:07:09,220
And that was the
thought about it.

1471
01:07:09,220 --> 01:07:11,350
And that was a myth,
of course, but it was--

1472
01:07:11,350 --> 01:07:14,270
but it was accepted doctrine.

1473
01:07:14,270 --> 01:07:17,620
You're dealing in days where
lots of myths about Orientals

1474
01:07:17,620 --> 01:07:20,410
and these Asiatics were abound.

1475
01:07:20,410 --> 01:07:24,880
So then the pilot next door came
back and he's-- he was actually

1476
01:07:24,880 --> 01:07:27,880
on a mission at that time, was
in the middle of the night.

1477
01:07:27,880 --> 01:07:32,170
And he said he was lucky they
ran into that Japanese attack

1478
01:07:32,170 --> 01:07:33,630
force, and they had it--

1479
01:07:33,630 --> 01:07:35,560
took a couple of
bullets in the plane.

1480
01:07:35,560 --> 01:07:41,610
But he managed to land safely
and come back the next day.

1481
01:07:41,610 --> 01:07:44,970
But at that point, they
started posting troops

1482
01:07:44,970 --> 01:07:49,400
with sort of anti-aircraft
guns around the Boulevard

1483
01:07:49,400 --> 01:07:50,700
and in other areas.

1484
01:07:50,700 --> 01:07:53,760
And everybody walking
around with gas masks.

1485
01:07:53,760 --> 01:07:55,050
That was the big thing.

1486
01:07:55,050 --> 01:07:58,380
Everybody was concerned that
the Japanese would use gas.

1487
01:07:58,380 --> 01:08:01,410
So they taught us how to
protect against gas, mustard

1488
01:08:01,410 --> 01:08:05,600
gas, and other gases, with wet
handkerchiefs or [INAUDIBLE]

1489
01:08:05,600 --> 01:08:08,760
And all the military people
were wearing these big gas

1490
01:08:08,760 --> 01:08:14,280
mask kits and few civilians,
where Americans were given that

1491

01:08:14,280 --> 01:08:18,510
by their own country, them
being part of the country there.

1492

01:08:18,510 --> 01:08:20,399
When you say they,
I assume you're

1493

01:08:20,399 --> 01:08:22,410
talking about the
American Army, or was it

1494

01:08:22,410 --> 01:08:25,859
the Filipino government, or
the two of them in conjunction

1495

01:08:25,859 --> 01:08:28,560
that were helping you
prepare for whatever

1496

01:08:28,560 --> 01:08:30,470
was going to happen?

1497

01:08:30,470 --> 01:08:32,399
It was primarily American Army.

1498

01:08:32,399 --> 01:08:34,590
There was a Philippine
Army, of course.

1499

01:08:34,590 --> 01:08:37,229
MacArthur had been
put into command,

1500

01:08:37,229 --> 01:08:39,882
and he was actually a Field
Marshal in the Philippine Army,

1501

01:08:39,882 --> 01:08:42,090
in addition to being a
commander of the United States

1502

01:08:42,090 --> 01:08:44,220
Army and all the armed forces.

1503
01:08:44,220 --> 01:08:47,479
But it was mainly
the American Army.

1504
01:08:47,479 --> 01:08:49,859
Also a mixture of the
Philippine government.

1505
01:08:49,859 --> 01:08:52,500
We must recall the Philippines
were a Commonwealth

1506
01:08:52,500 --> 01:08:53,710
of the United States.

1507
01:08:53,710 --> 01:08:57,069
So it was-- yes, there was
a Philippine flag, but also

1508
01:08:57,069 --> 01:08:58,500
an American flag.

1509
01:08:58,500 --> 01:09:00,990
And so it was sort
of a mixed command.

1510
01:09:00,990 --> 01:09:04,630
The Philippine Army is
very ill equipped unit.

1511
01:09:04,630 --> 01:09:08,729
They mobilized the
ROTC of the colleges.

1512
01:09:08,729 --> 01:09:10,740
They were these sort
of tropical helmets.

1513
01:09:10,740 --> 01:09:13,649
They had no weapons, and

they wore some uniforms.

1514

01:09:13,649 --> 01:09:16,020

But that was just raw manpower.

1515

01:09:16,020 --> 01:09:17,399

They were ill trained.

1516

01:09:17,399 --> 01:09:21,899

And as was the United States
Army, it was under equipped.

1517

01:09:21,899 --> 01:09:24,870

It was not well-trained.

1518

01:09:24,870 --> 01:09:29,130

It was really a peacetime
army, Garrison army.

1519

01:09:29,130 --> 01:09:33,000

And as a result,
tremendous difficulties.

1520

01:09:33,000 --> 01:09:36,040

But that was the first
night of the air raid,

1521

01:09:36,040 --> 01:09:38,939

the attacks, which
then of course,

1522

01:09:38,939 --> 01:09:40,529

no, there were no more schools.

1523

01:09:40,529 --> 01:09:41,970

They were closed.

1524

01:09:41,970 --> 01:09:44,939

So starting December
the 7th, 8th,

1525

01:09:44,939 --> 01:09:51,960

say, 1941, for about a year,
none of us went to school.

1526
01:09:51,960 --> 01:09:54,810
Do you remember also
hearing on the radio--

1527
01:09:54,810 --> 01:09:58,260
or how did you hear that
the United States and Great

1528
01:09:58,260 --> 01:10:02,200
Britain had declared
war on the Japanese?

1529
01:10:02,200 --> 01:10:02,700
Yes.

1530
01:10:02,700 --> 01:10:05,730
That came about in the next
few days, the word was out.

1531
01:10:05,730 --> 01:10:07,740
And then among
other things, they

1532
01:10:07,740 --> 01:10:10,140
began rounding up foreign--

1533
01:10:10,140 --> 01:10:14,490
or aliens that might have
been members of the axis,

1534
01:10:14,490 --> 01:10:16,140
including my father.

1535
01:10:16,140 --> 01:10:20,520
Because after all, we
were German Jews and not

1536
01:10:20,520 --> 01:10:21,850
citizens of any--

1537

01:10:21,850 --> 01:10:25,350

but-- so they rounded up in
the courts where we lived.

1538

01:10:25,350 --> 01:10:29,250

Oh, they came-- it was a
Filipino unit of the police,

1539

01:10:29,250 --> 01:10:30,460

very friendly.

1540

01:10:30,460 --> 01:10:31,950

They said, well,
we just-- we have

1541

01:10:31,950 --> 01:10:33,420

to take you in, only the men.

1542

01:10:33,420 --> 01:10:36,290

And so on-- and was, well, can--

1543

01:10:36,290 --> 01:10:39,070

we have-- this is-- we
were told to do that.

1544

01:10:39,070 --> 01:10:42,270

So they took in, oh, from
that area, about 50 or so,

1545

01:10:42,270 --> 01:10:45,280

and then they brought them all
to this great police station.

1546

01:10:45,280 --> 01:10:49,350

And they released them
about four hours later,

1547

01:10:49,350 --> 01:10:51,750

having identified
them as Jews and being

1548

01:10:51,750 --> 01:10:53,070

refugees from Germany.

1549

01:10:53,070 --> 01:10:56,700

And again, the America-- there
is where the American Jews came

1550

01:10:56,700 --> 01:11:00,210

in because this committee under
Morton Netzorg, they of course

1551

01:11:00,210 --> 01:11:03,437

would roll down to these
places in a hurry, and says,

1552

01:11:03,437 --> 01:11:04,520

these people are refugees.

1553

01:11:04,520 --> 01:11:05,530

What are you doing?

1554

01:11:05,530 --> 01:11:08,490

And they were Americans so they
had this kind of authority.

1555

01:11:08,490 --> 01:11:11,910

I mean, not authority, but a
certain status that they could

1556

01:11:11,910 --> 01:11:14,340

use to convince these
people, and they

1557

01:11:14,340 --> 01:11:17,190

weren't that eager to take
all these people in anyway.

1558

01:11:17,190 --> 01:11:23,190

So-- but it did take in Germans,
real Germans, and of course,

1559

01:11:23,190 --> 01:11:24,930

Japanese.

1560

01:11:24,930 --> 01:11:26,700

Lots of Japanese
in the Philippines

1561

01:11:26,700 --> 01:11:29,430

in business and in agriculture.

1562

01:11:29,430 --> 01:11:33,900

They were all taken in at
that time and arrested.

1563

01:11:33,900 --> 01:11:34,980

Usually, only the men.

1564

01:11:34,980 --> 01:11:37,110

They did not bother with
the women and children.

1565

01:11:37,110 --> 01:11:39,360

There was no internment as such.

1566

01:11:39,360 --> 01:11:42,300

But that was what they did.

1567

01:11:42,300 --> 01:11:46,080

Do you remember any
kind of expectation

1568

01:11:46,080 --> 01:11:49,290

that the American Army would
protect you from whatever

1569

01:11:49,290 --> 01:11:52,540

the Japanese were going to do?

1570

01:11:52,540 --> 01:11:54,780

Well, there was
certainly that hope.

1571

01:11:54,780 --> 01:11:56,910

After all, the United
States was always

1572
01:11:56,910 --> 01:11:58,870
regarded as a major power.

1573
01:11:58,870 --> 01:12:04,680
Certainly, it was, and was
there to defend the Philippines.

1574
01:12:04,680 --> 01:12:07,050
MacArthur made
speeches, and the others

1575
01:12:07,050 --> 01:12:12,670
talked about things that they
would do, they were able to do.

1576
01:12:12,670 --> 01:12:15,660
And again, there was
a view of the Japanese

1577
01:12:15,660 --> 01:12:19,560
as not having been well
equipped, well trained, very

1578
01:12:19,560 --> 01:12:20,790
effective.

1579
01:12:20,790 --> 01:12:23,730
Although, it's surprising
because they had been

1580
01:12:23,730 --> 01:12:27,990
victors in Malaya and China.

1581
01:12:27,990 --> 01:12:34,390
Tremendous combat experience
in those areas from the Korea

1582
01:12:34,390 --> 01:12:36,720
and Taiwan, wherever they were.

1583
01:12:36,720 --> 01:12:39,300

They had lots of experience.

1584

01:12:39,300 --> 01:12:43,380

And by that time, they were,
of course, in Formosa, Taiwan.

1585

01:12:43,380 --> 01:12:50,250

And so the next thing we knew,
there were more air raids.

1586

01:12:50,250 --> 01:12:54,750

Normally, be about 20 to
30 planes only coming over.

1587

01:12:54,750 --> 01:12:58,470

They targeted pretty
much the military areas

1588

01:12:58,470 --> 01:12:59,740

to a large degree.

1589

01:12:59,740 --> 01:13:01,770

There were a few
cases where there

1590

01:13:01,770 --> 01:13:03,900

were bombs that fell
into civilian areas

1591

01:13:03,900 --> 01:13:06,900

and there were casualties.

1592

01:13:06,900 --> 01:13:10,590

Was not a horrendous
amount, big bombardment.

1593

01:13:10,590 --> 01:13:14,610

The air-- antiaircraft was
fairly light also in the area.

1594

01:13:14,610 --> 01:13:17,700

So they came-- they
bombed us at will.

1595
01:13:17,700 --> 01:13:19,290
They did not fly that high.

1596
01:13:19,290 --> 01:13:23,730
You could see them coming
across, black airplanes,

1597
01:13:23,730 --> 01:13:24,683
bombers.

1598
01:13:24,683 --> 01:13:26,850
I'm not sure, I think they
were-- they were probably

1599
01:13:26,850 --> 01:13:29,880
stationed in Formosa.

1600
01:13:29,880 --> 01:13:32,450
Was this usually at night?

1601
01:13:32,450 --> 01:13:34,710
No, it was actually
usually during the daytime.

1602
01:13:34,710 --> 01:13:36,570
The first attack was at night.

1603
01:13:36,570 --> 01:13:38,400
There were some
attacks at night,

1604
01:13:38,400 --> 01:13:40,570
but most were daytime attacks.

1605
01:13:40,570 --> 01:13:44,640
In fact, usually in the morning,
some for a couple hours.

1606
01:13:44,640 --> 01:13:46,890
Everybody knew that this
would be the appropriate-- we

1607
01:13:46,890 --> 01:13:48,900
know full well the
sirens would go off,

1608
01:13:48,900 --> 01:13:50,700
and we could expect planes.

1609
01:13:50,700 --> 01:13:53,860
And we could expect something.

1610
01:13:53,860 --> 01:13:57,940
Do you recall during that
period, the last weeks

1611
01:13:57,940 --> 01:14:05,530
of December of '41, any
visible signs of evacuation

1612
01:14:05,530 --> 01:14:07,750
on the part of the
Americans, or was there

1613
01:14:07,750 --> 01:14:09,820
still the feeling
that the American

1614
01:14:09,820 --> 01:14:12,440
Army was going to stay there?

1615
01:14:12,440 --> 01:14:14,800
Well, that was the
expectation, that they

1616
01:14:14,800 --> 01:14:17,020
would be able to defend.

1617
01:14:17,020 --> 01:14:21,430
There had been that whole eight,
nine months prior to that time,

1618
01:14:21,430 --> 01:14:26,720

of course, there was a sense of danger of war for many reasons.

1619

01:14:26,720 --> 01:14:28,990

I mean, there was war in Europe.

1620

01:14:28,990 --> 01:14:37,450

The Japanese were making moves into places like Singapore,

1621

01:14:37,450 --> 01:14:41,450

or heading in those directions, in China, and so forth.

1622

01:14:41,450 --> 01:14:42,880

So there certainly were moved--

1623

01:14:42,880 --> 01:14:45,100

Pearl Harbor had occur--

1624

01:14:45,100 --> 01:14:46,740

they were preparing for that.

1625

01:14:46,740 --> 01:14:49,600

So there was a sense of this thing's happening.

1626

01:14:49,600 --> 01:14:53,770

This then resulted in a large number of Americans

1627

01:14:53,770 --> 01:14:56,720

leaving the Philippines, women and children primarily.

1628

01:14:56,720 --> 01:15:00,040

But also members of the Jewish community, American Jews.

1629

01:15:00,040 --> 01:15:03,010

The Frieders all had gone by then.

1630

01:15:03,010 --> 01:15:04,630

Oh, yeah, there was
no Frieder left.

1631

01:15:04,630 --> 01:15:09,200

And there was, I think,
Konigsberg was left,

1632

01:15:09,200 --> 01:15:10,480

he remained.

1633

01:15:10,480 --> 01:15:13,000

And Levine remained,
among other Americans.

1634

01:15:13,000 --> 01:15:15,970

They didn't all leave, but
a goodly number of this--

1635

01:15:15,970 --> 01:15:18,610

but certainly, the
Frieders had left.

1636

01:15:18,610 --> 01:15:21,850

Now, I assume they were able to
go back to the United States,

1637

01:15:21,850 --> 01:15:25,390

or to Ohio, wherever
you said they came from.

1638

01:15:25,390 --> 01:15:28,090

But I'm wondering what
the options would have

1639

01:15:28,090 --> 01:15:30,550

been for Jews like your family?

1640

01:15:30,550 --> 01:15:31,930

Where could you have gone?

1641

01:15:31,930 --> 01:15:33,190

Did you talk about it?

1642

01:15:33,190 --> 01:15:33,690

Yes.

1643

01:15:33,690 --> 01:15:36,760

That's a very good point,
because what happened was this.

1644

01:15:36,760 --> 01:15:40,780

As soon as Hitler invaded
Poland, as soon as the Second

1645

01:15:40,780 --> 01:15:43,930

World War began in
Europe, a new rule

1646

01:15:43,930 --> 01:15:47,620

was posted at the consulates,
American consulates.

1647

01:15:47,620 --> 01:15:49,680

Because many of the
Jews, if not all

1648

01:15:49,680 --> 01:15:52,810

the German and Austrian Jews
who came to the Philippines,

1649

01:15:52,810 --> 01:15:55,410

looked upon the Philippines
as a way station.

1650

01:15:55,410 --> 01:15:57,800

They were going to go
on to the United States.

1651

01:15:57,800 --> 01:15:58,300

We were.

1652

01:15:58,300 --> 01:16:00,280

We had family here, and so on.

1653

01:16:00,280 --> 01:16:02,890

They were unable to
give us affidavits

1654

01:16:02,890 --> 01:16:05,400

because they were not wealthy.

1655

01:16:05,400 --> 01:16:07,900

Although, parts-- other parts
of the family were wealthy but

1656

01:16:07,900 --> 01:16:09,110

they were slow.

1657

01:16:09,110 --> 01:16:10,720

They would correspond
with us by--

1658

01:16:10,720 --> 01:16:15,490

not by airmail, but by surface
mail, take a long time.

1659

01:16:15,490 --> 01:16:17,710

Anyway, not really--
they weren't--

1660

01:16:17,710 --> 01:16:21,490

they were not aware of the need
for hurry, and as a result,

1661

01:16:21,490 --> 01:16:22,990

we were stuck in Philippines.

1662

01:16:22,990 --> 01:16:26,870

But at the point when
Hitler invaded Poland,

1663

01:16:26,870 --> 01:16:31,460

the rule came out that no one
who had family left in Germany

1664

01:16:31,460 --> 01:16:33,140

could come into
the United States

1665
01:16:33,140 --> 01:16:36,080
would be given a visa to
enter the United States.

1666
01:16:36,080 --> 01:16:37,250
That was that.

1667
01:16:37,250 --> 01:16:39,890
So we were definitely
not able to

1668
01:16:39,890 --> 01:16:42,650
in any fashion into
the United States,

1669
01:16:42,650 --> 01:16:47,300
because my father had his mother
and brother left in Germany.

1670
01:16:47,300 --> 01:16:50,560
That-- and that was the word.

1671
01:16:50,560 --> 01:16:52,520
And this was it.

1672
01:16:52,520 --> 01:16:55,810
So we were unable in
any way, shape or form

1673
01:16:55,810 --> 01:16:57,130
to leave the Philippines.

1674
01:16:57,130 --> 01:17:00,880
There was no option but
to stay and to sit it out

1675
01:17:00,880 --> 01:17:07,070
for whatever occurred next,
which occurred, the war.

1676

01:17:07,070 --> 01:17:09,480

I-- maybe I'm missing
something and I don't

1677

01:17:09,480 --> 01:17:11,010

remember that particular rule.

1678

01:17:11,010 --> 01:17:13,770

What was the rationale
for that tying

1679

01:17:13,770 --> 01:17:18,090

the closing of the doors of
immigration to family members

1680

01:17:18,090 --> 01:17:19,530

remaining in Europe?

1681

01:17:19,530 --> 01:17:23,010

Because I assume that the
doors were closed in Europe

1682

01:17:23,010 --> 01:17:26,580

so the fear would not be that
you would arrive in the United

1683

01:17:26,580 --> 01:17:29,760

States and immediately start
hauling additional family

1684

01:17:29,760 --> 01:17:31,710

members in.

1685

01:17:31,710 --> 01:17:33,280

I'm not sure what
the rationale was.

1686

01:17:33,280 --> 01:17:35,210

There may not have been
any real rationale.

1687

01:17:35,210 --> 01:17:37,440

It may have simply
been a good reason

1688
01:17:37,440 --> 01:17:41,280
to close the doors further,
or tighter, or whatever.

1689
01:17:41,280 --> 01:17:47,880
And the remote reason might be
that that could be a security

1690
01:17:47,880 --> 01:17:51,210
problem in some fashion.

1691
01:17:51,210 --> 01:17:54,480
Because after all, there
was such a problem.

1692
01:17:54,480 --> 01:17:58,620
The Germans could easily
negotiate information

1693
01:17:58,620 --> 01:18:01,110
for a release.

1694
01:18:01,110 --> 01:18:04,920
That has crossed
their minds, I'm sure.

1695
01:18:04,920 --> 01:18:07,800
So that may have been
a possible reason.

1696
01:18:07,800 --> 01:18:09,270
I'm not certain.

1697
01:18:09,270 --> 01:18:12,000
But in any event, the
doors were closed.

1698
01:18:12,000 --> 01:18:13,300
That was that.

1699

01:18:13,300 --> 01:18:17,490

And of course, we knew
that the relatives were now

1700

01:18:17,490 --> 01:18:18,720

trapped in Europe.

1701

01:18:18,720 --> 01:18:23,090

That was the hard part of it.

1702

01:18:23,090 --> 01:18:26,060

You had mentioned earlier
that your father's job

1703

01:18:26,060 --> 01:18:28,760

with the office
machine company had

1704

01:18:28,760 --> 01:18:32,510

ended because that gentleman
had closed his business.

1705

01:18:32,510 --> 01:18:35,510

Now, I assume he then went
on to some other work.

1706

01:18:35,510 --> 01:18:38,750

And I'm wondering what
happened to his work right

1707

01:18:38,750 --> 01:18:42,530

about the time that
you're describing?

1708

01:18:42,530 --> 01:18:44,030

Well, whatever
happened at the time,

1709

01:18:44,030 --> 01:18:47,030

he was working for an office--
another office machine

1710

01:18:47,030 --> 01:18:51,640
company, which strange
enough was run by a German.

1711

01:18:51,640 --> 01:18:53,530
And that--