

**Ruth Horowitz**

**Tape 1 Side A**

**June 30, 1997**

**RG-50.106\*0071.01.02**

### **Abstract**

Ruth Horowitz was born Ruth Sazerg on March 23, 1930 in Hamburg, Germany where she lived with her parents until November 1938. Her parents were born in Pabionice, Poland which her father left without serving in the military so could never return. Ruth visited her grandparents every summer with her mother and sister. She was not permitted to enter public school due to being Jewish so attended parochial school. As Ruth walked to school, the neighborhood children would make fun of her for being Jewish and the children in her courtyard did not want to play with her as she was Jewish. As life got more frightening due to posters, Hitler's speeches and new rules (Jews had to carry IDs), the family planned to leave February 1939. A friendly German policeman told them to leave immediately so they got new documents and changed their passage on the Queen Mary to November 7, 1938 and took a train to Cherbourg. Kristallnacht took place while they were in France. One uncle who had given them an affidavit of support and another uncle met them upon their arrival in New York. First they went to Detroit where the father went into business with an uncle but it did not work out so they went to New York. Ruth's parents found work and she entered school and soon learned English and felt like an American.

Ruth Horowitz discusses her transition to life in the US. After her father found a job in DC, he establishes himself and later the rest of the family leave New York to join him. She and her sister quickly learn English and are helped with gives them lessons, meetings and free Holiday tickets and summer camp from the Washington Hebrew Congregation. Ruth sees and hears anti-Semitism in speeches, on the radio, and from teachers and students. After the War, the family learns that some relatives were killed but are able to bring over two cousins from a DP camp. Her father suffers from hypertension, has a stroke and passes away at age 54. After high school, Ruth attended George Washington University for two years where she met her future husband. She got married in 1950 and has two children and five grandsons. The interview ends with her disgust from seeing Hamburg again as it is the same or even more beautiful but things will never be the same for the Jews. Ruth felt that the Nazis were inhumane and should not have been given a trial. She may take her children to Hamburg someday.

### **Summary**

00:00 Ruth Horowitz was born Ruth Szerg on March 23, 1930 in Hamburg, Germany and lived there with her parents and sister until November 1938. Her parents were born in Pabionice, Poland. Her father left his birthplace when he was 18 or 19 as he did not care to serve in the Polish or Russian military and established a business in Hamburg. Many

other Jewish boys left for the same reason. He met his future wife in Danzig where they later married. Since he did not serve in the military, Ruth's father could never return to Poland. His mother came to Danzig in 1924 for the wedding. Every summer Ruth with her mother and sister would visit Poland to see the mother's parents, her sister and the sister's daughter, Rita. Rita was liberated by the British from Auschwitz and lives here in DC. Ruth's father found her after the War. They were close as saw her every summer. Ruth's father went into the notions business. First he was a sales rep and later went into business for himself. His business was at 17 Noyava (?) Street and the building are still there as they recently saw it.

05:00 Max, her father's younger brother, also went to Hamburg and lived with them and was in business with Ruth's father. When she was born they lived in a nice apartment. When she was five or six, they moved to another building. Ruth remembers that at five or six she had a nanny or maid to care for her and her sister. They had lovely furniture and her mother played the piano. She had given piano lessons when she lived in Poland. Living in Hamburg gave them opportunity for the Arts—opera, theatre, movies. Ruth entered parochial school at age six as Jewish children were not allowed in public school. She attended the Jewish Girls Day School where she had wonderful teachers. They took gymnastics, were carefree and had friends living nearby. Many school friends belonged to the same synagogue, the Reform Oberstrasse Synagogue, which still stands. The building's Star of David remains but it is now a radio station. Hitler wanted to wipe out the people of Jewish faith but this beautiful, modern building still exists. In the US this synagogue would be considered Conservative as they wore yarmulkes and celebrated Rosh Hashanah for two days. When Ruth came to the US, she attended a Reform Synagogue and her father walked in with his hat on and the usher told him to remove it which shocked him.

10:00 Ruth was 9 and ½ at the time and had walked in with her parents and it was also shocking to her. The family ultimately joined a Conservative synagogue. Her family did not keep kosher. Her father came from an Orthodox background but did not observe the dietary laws as felt that if he could not keep them when outside, he did not feel that he should commit to them at home. Her mother came from a religious but liberal background. Ruth's mother's father was a well-respected dentist in Pabionice where he felt that following the Orthodox way was not appropriate. They did not keep kosher but lit candles, ate cholla and stayed at home on Friday night. Now, they do not eat pork but do not follow the kosher rituals. Chanukah was her favorite holiday as a child. It was festive with candles, a happy time but no exchange of presents. They played dreidle, had honey, cake, hazel nuts and Jaffa oranges. Friends and Uncle Max celebrated with them.

15:00 Max, his wife and children lived with them. They always had a big Chanukah celebration at school. There was a large Jewish community in Hamburg with Reform, Conservative and Orthodox synagogues. Hamburg is a port town with business from all

over the world. Jews were business-oriented. The German government allowed the Jews to enter in the 20s as they brought in business and their expertise. Until Hitler, there was no overt Anti-Semitism. The Germans did not express themselves with slurs against the Jews until then as they were not anti-Jewish. Ruth's family lived in a mixed neighborhood. It bothers her that they lived so nice, so well and so happy in Hamburg and all of it was taken away from them only because they were Jewish. Seeing what is there today bothers Ruth even more. She had some non-Jewish friends she played with in the courtyard but there were only Jewish children in her school. As Ruth went to and from school, neighborhood children would say, "Yuden Naza" (Jewish nose) or pointed to her as being Jewish. She was a little girl and could not understand this. It happened on a daily basis. The children in her courtyard did not want to play with her as she was Jewish. Ruth was frightened when she heard her parents saying they were scared so she became more scared. Her parents discussed Hitler and what they should do. Her father told her mother not to take the children to Poland as they will be detained. It happened that when others went east, they were detained.

20:00 When Ruth went to Poland the summer of '38 with her mother and sister, her father said they would never return. Poland was a smaller country than Germany and less developed. Hamburg was modern with an elevated subway. The family had an Opel car as Mercedes and Fords could not be sold to Jews. Ruth feels that Poland was a wonderful place for a child to visit. Her grandfather's dental office was in their huge apartment and an aunt from Detroit lived with them. They had a summer home in the country. Ruth's father's mother lived on the other side of the tracks in the Old City. Her life was less affluent but when they visited them, Ruth's mother's parents came along. It was more of a Jewish setting as the grandma baked her own cholla. The affluent Poles lived differently from the other Jews. The more affluent seemed more assimilated. In '38 Ruth's grandpa thought her parents were "off the wall" for wanting to leave Europe. Her father also wanted his parents to leave but they felt they and their belongings were not going to be touched.

25:00 About 10% of the grandfather's patients were Catholic. Ruth did not see any anti-Semitism in Poland as she was more insulated there. She was always with her grandparents, her aunt and their friends and only played with her sister and cousins. There were only Jews at the country home. Ruth never saw Hitler but she heard him on the radio. Her father got agitated when Hitler spoke. Even today Ruth cannot understand much of what Hitler said. She felt horror and was frightened as Hitler was so charismatic. Her parents and their friends discussed his speeches and what the newspapers reported. Ruth's father wanted to leave in '36 and an affidavit was required. His brother Abe left Poland in the early 20s for Detroit and was married with two sons and had a successful tie business. He never signed an affidavit for him and more recently when Abe's desk was cleaned out, her cousin sent them the unsigned affidavit.

- 30:00 The uncle did not want to post bond for them. They needed a responsible sponsor for the family. He had given an affidavit to her Uncle Max and Aunt Alice who came to the US in '36. Her father wrote to an uncle in Patterson, New Jersey and he signed an affidavit for them. Ruth's father planned to come to the US in February '39 and booked passage. A friendly German policeman on their beat suggested they leave earlier. The German authorities knew what was going to happen. Ruth was in a backroom and she remembered her parents speaking heatedly to the policeman. Her father had already booked passage, and obtained visas and affidavits. Ruth and her sister were stateless as her parents were not German citizens. Her father's name was Isaac (Yitzchak) Sazerg, her mother was Rose Bushka (?) Kleinert Sazerg and her sister, Ita (?) Levy who now lives in Silver Spring. Ruth was six years old in 1936 and she remembers the Olympics logo of circles all over Hamburg and thought Black people were coming.
- 35:00 She had only seen Black people at the jazz club at the wharves where the doorman dressed as a jazz musician. When Ruth heard that the Olympics were coming, she was excited. She heard of the Joe Lewis and Max Baer (?) fight. **Tape 1, Side B.** Ruth does not recall anti-Semitism at the time of the Olympics. There were swastikas displayed everywhere in '36. The non-Jewish children in the neighborhood became aware of Hitler, Black people, and Americans and the harassment got worse and even her parents got scared. Jews had to carry IDs and, if stopped, and they did not have it they could be detained or taken to jail. When she was 7 or 8, her parents customarily took them on picnic day trips on Saturday or Sunday when the business was closed. They would have a picnic in the country not far from Hamburg. One day on a picnic, her father suddenly realized that he did not have his ID so he went home and did not take the family in case he was stopped. He left them in the park for about one and one-half hours and returned with his documents.
- 40:00 You always had to carry documents, especially a person like Ruth's father who was from Poland. Though her parents no longer felt comfortable to travel in some areas, they still attended the opera and the movies. Ruth does not recall seeing posters but her parents spoke of them. In preparation of leaving Germany, her parents thought that Ruth and her sister should learn to swim. They went for lessons at a place like a "Y" with a large Olympic-size pool. There was a Nazi banner on top and the place was surrounded by SS in their uniforms which were frightening. Her sister was more aware as at first she attended a regular public school but was pulled out when it was no longer permitted and she was admitted into a parochial school. Ruth was questioned when she entered which was scary and then they learned to swim. It felt that the time slowly passed until February 1939 when they had passage to leave Germany. It was frightening when the policeman recommended they leave earlier than planned. Her father was devastated as he had obtained the required documents and they made the US quota.

- 45:00 Ruth's father changed the tickets for November 7, 1938 on the Queen Mary. At the end of summer, her mother said good-bye to her parents. She felt that she could not suddenly leave as the curtains needed to be cleaned. It was hard to leave people and things that identify you. Her father went to the consulate in Hamburg to get a visa and it was denied so he felt threatened as he received information that he was going to be picked up. When Mr. Stern, who lived in their apartment building, was picked up, Ruth's father took her and her sister and her mother to the consulate to see Mr. Davies. Nearby was a circular imposing window and her father said that if he does not get his papers that day, he would jump out the window with his family, and he was given the papers. Ruth's mother got nervous. They did not get rid of their car or their furniture. They had shipped some items to the US, mostly inappropriate items upon the advice of the two uncles. They left the items they liked including the piano, car and furnishings. The family packed their suitcases, told the maid and someone drove them to the train. They shoved chochkas (little accessories) into a container. Then they were on their way to take the Queen Mary at Cherbourg.
- 50:00 At the border of Germany and Belgium, the train stopped and they were searched. Ruth's father was taken off the train and they did not know if they would ever see him again. After the train started to move, he got on. The maid had reported that they were leaving. Ruth's mother had given Ms. Krug, the maid, some nice things. Her father had paid off the police and was permitted to return to the train. They could not leave Germany freely as needed a visa and affidavit and if people knew what they were doing, they would be prevented from leaving. Everything was done in secret. Some people who left earlier told people and some left secretly. They left on the 7<sup>th</sup> and Kristallnacht was on the 9<sup>th</sup>. If they told non-Jews, Nazis would resent it and detain them. The maid was Czechoslovakian.
- 55:00 Ruth brought some clothes to the US. Some, including a dress and a coat, were made by a dressmaker who came to the house. Ruth had a very expensive pet toy Steifel monkey with arms and legs that moved but they only took important things. Ruth was eight and became hysterical because her mother said that she could not take it and threw it into an incinerator shoot. Ruth was upset and never forgot it and still looks for such a toy. FAO Schwartz said they no longer make them. They were made 20 years ago and suggested she look for it at an antique store. Recently they looked for it at a Hamburg antique store where they also looked for items belonging to her mother.
- 60:00 Ruth brought a doll, German coins, things she made in school, greeting cards that she had made, needlepoint embroidery and other handmade items. She also brought photos and negatives. They made duplicates for her Cousin Anita and her mother who had nothing. She brought her album, an autograph book from school, report cards and a toy sewing machine. She appreciates the pictures now. They have photos of her father's business, their apartment house and her grandparents' apartment house. Ruth was scared to get on

the train to leave Hamburg as she did not know what America was or who Uncle Abe was. She came with her parents and her sister but leaving everyone and everything including her grandparents was horrifying, knowing they were never to return. It was very traumatic for Ruth's father as he left his parents and sister without saying goodbye. On the way to Cherbourg, they spent several days with Uncle Roman, her mother's brother, who was born in Pabionice, went to school in Switzerland and France and during the War was with the Underground. Kristallnacht occurred while they were in France and her parents were happy that they were not in Hamburg. They talked about it constantly in France.

65:00 They heard that there was burning of books and other things and there was havoc during Kristallnacht including people were taken away, belongings were confiscated and people were forced to leave their place of business or residence. The family took a train to Cherbourg where the harbor was unlike New York's where the ships were anchored at the dock. The Queen Mary had three smokestacks. It was out in the water and they took a tender to get to it. It was a beautiful scene with the ship lit up. Her family got excited when they got close to the ship. Everything looked black, dark and scary as the ship hulk was black and they realized they were boarding an enormous vessel. It was very frightening to get on. They all became seasick. It was cold and they wore their new coats. Her parents wondered what was to come. The ship was fast and only took five days. It was packed. They arrived at the New York harbor and walked off the dock where Uncle Abe of Detroit and Uncle Isaac met them. Her father planned to go to Detroit and work with Abe and Max. Porters were there to carry their luggage. He thought it strange when Uncle Abe who was a few years older than him, asked him for small change. They had come through such awful conditions in Europe and were surprised to be asked for that. Ruth felt that people did not realize what was going on in Europe. The uncle was concerned about supporting a family with two children. They spent two or three weeks in Detroit and her father thought it was not a suitable place as the brothers did not get along.

70:00 Ruth attended school with her cousins who were her age. Students made fun of her as she was a refugee and looked weird in her apparel and talked strangely. The family decided to go to New York where Ruth's mother had cousins. They rented an apartment on 91<sup>st</sup> Street. Her father got a job as a salesperson and her mother sold ribbons door-to-door. Her father looked for a sales rep position but they wanted him to work in Washington, DC/Maryland/Virginia area. Ruth started 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and as a refugee was placed in a two-week special class to learn to speak English. She felt out of whack with her clothes, hair and shoes different from the others. She could not understand the children. Then in a few months, she was mainstreamed and became a "Yankee Doodle" kid.

73:00

**Ruth Horowitz**

**Tape 2 Side A**

**June 30, 1997**

**RG-50.106\*0071.02.02**

### **Summary**

- 00:00 This tape starts with Ruth discussing her transition to life in the US. She learned English quickly, partly due from viewing movies. She would attend the movies with her sister all day in the summer for ten or twenty cents. It was a wonderful way to learn the language. Her public school was nice but the children made fun of her and she had a few friends. When her father got a position in DC, Ruth remained in New York with her mother, sister and aunt. The aunt decided to take in her sister and Ruth would live with a cousin until the family established themselves. Then her mother moved to a nicer apartment on West End Avenue which was owned by a physician who had a home in the country. For the summer of '39 the doctor went to the country and Ruth's family house sat. When her father got more established in DC, he rented a one bedroom apartment at 5301 New Hampshire Avenue and the family moved in. Ruth slept with her sister in the living room and sometimes they alternated with the bedroom for one or one and one-half years. Then they moved to Peabody Street to a two bedroom apartment. Her father was a salesman for men's furnishings such as belts and suspenders like the business he had in Europe. He also sold a line of costume jewelry and decided to go into business for himself. He went to New York to buy the jewelry and used his walk-in closet as his office. He died after 11 years in the US. He had hypertension in Europe and it became more severe when he got to the US.
- 05:00 Ruth's father was always sick. He had headaches from stress and other physical problems. At age 52 or 53 her father had a stroke and was paralyzed for one and one-half years and died at age 54. The family had no contact with their European relatives. Perhaps Ruth's parents wrote to the grandparents. Before the War, they wrote to Hamburg but there was no response. They did not know what happened to them until after the War. They thought they might be in a camp or escaped somewhere. In September '39 the family knew that Jews were rounded up and it was good that they got out. Aunt Flora remained with her daughter, Rita and the aunt's husband was picked up by authorities in Poland around the time the War started. He was an engineer and disappeared forever. They received no information and could not call Europe. No letter went through as all were returned. There was a note on Ruth's report card that she helped with sugar rationing and was good in English. She was not so good in arithmetic, reading and writing.

- 10:00 People were alarmed about the situation in Europe but did not know what was happening there. Ruth felt that their life started in the US when they moved to DC. They only had sufficient money for food and rent, nothing for extras or savings. Washington Hebrew Congregation was the only Jewish organization that helped newcomers. They had English lessons, lessons on life in America, tickets for the High Holidays and meetings with other newcomers. Many Jewish people did not want to be acquainted with them. Perhaps they felt threatened as would have to help them. Ruth attended camp under the auspicious of the Washington Hebrew Congregation and the Jewish Social Service. The family came to DC in 1940. They attended FDR's 4<sup>th</sup> inaugural. Her mother's New York cousins knew someone in Congress who gave them tickets. It was a wonderful experience and they felt patriotic. After Pearl Harbor, there was a full-fledged war. The family only knew the facts they read in the newspaper. In grade school there was anti-Semitism among the Christians who did not know why the family came here and did not know about Jews and Germans. The children were ignorant as their parents did not tell them about other people. In class she was subject to anti-Semitism. Rita felt it was as bad as when she played in the courtyard in Europe.
- 15:00 All through grade school and junior high, the children asked why they don't go back to Germany where they came from and get burned up with the rest of the Jews. This happened often. The children were cruel as they did not know better and were not taught differently. The Washington Hebrew Congregation caters to the socially elite so Ruth felt intimidated when they talked of her dress. She felt lost until she got used to it. Teachers in the upper grades gave tests on the High Holidays as they felt the Jews must conform to society as it is. One Friday night service during the War, Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt spoke and said they are all living in a Christian society so made her feel like a minority. It was President Roosevelt's last term. Ruth felt a distinction between people and felt singled out as a refugee. The family heard Father Coughlin speak on the radio that the Jews have a problem in Germany and the US should not get involved. She was six years old and heard her father talk about it. Once the War started, they felt there was nothing for them to do to contact their relatives in Europe.
- 20:00 There was no communication with relatives after Kristallnacht. At the end of the War, they learned about extermination camps. Until then, they only knew about concentration and detention camps. After the War, the press reported about the death camps when the allies liberated them. The family heard about it on the radio and in vivid movie reels. It was incomprehensible that such things could happen and they worried if it happened to their family. Though the Jews were very worried, Ruth felt they were less worried than they should have been. She thought that if they were more disturbed, it would not have happened. The US was not liberal in the 30s. At the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century they were liberal and permitted the Jews to enter. There were quotas and they only let certain people such as scientists enter. The doors were shut to the general population. Those from Northern Europe and scientists were permitted in. During the War, Ruth's father



tried to make a living and it was traumatic to have sufficient gasoline to drive to his customers. He was always worried to get sufficient coupons for the gas. Sometimes he could exchange coupons. His uncle did not use his gas coupons so would fill up the father's car with gas.

25:00 People had plenty to eat despite rationing. There was hoarding. If they had a coupon, they felt they had to buy something. It was hard to make a decent and honest living. Some people made a living but it was not honest. In '47 it was a big thing that they became citizens. After the War, Rita's father went to HIAS (Hebrew International Assistance Service) to find out about the cousins. They found Rita and her mother Flora had survived and were living in a DP camp in Sweden. They found out her address and went to Macke Western Union and sent her \$50 with a message. They started communicating and tried to bring them over. Rita's mother and Aunt Flora had affluent cousins in New York. There were six brothers and a sister who were artists and in the advertising business. Ruth's parents could not send an affidavit as they were not citizens and the cousins refused to do it. Ruth's father went to their Aunt Dora Allman, an immigrant from the early 1900s and she signed the affidavit. The cousins arrived and lived with Ruth's family a short time. They found out that Ruth's mother's parents and her father's mother were in Auschwitz.

30:00 Her mother's sister was killed and they did not know where Uncle Roman was. Later he was found in France. Ruth felt it was unfortunate that Goring killed himself and those that should have been hung were sent to jail. She thought the Nuremberg trials were interesting but since the Nazis were not humane, they did not need a trial. A neighbor was a lawyer at the trial and married a German woman from Stuttgart and brought her over and she worked for Ruth's husband. Ruth could not understand her position but perhaps it was her brother's or her father's fault, not hers. Ruth was disappointed that Hitler was not around to be punished. She felt the Nazis sat at the trial and gloated and that killing them was an easy way out. They were in the military and expected to get killed. Ruth was happy when Israel became a State. She got married in 1950. Her father was sick and her mother, her sister and Ruth helped him with his business. Ruth attended George Washington University for two years and met her husband there. Her father adored him. She was 20 and her husband was 22 when they married. They had a nice life but it was not easy. Her parents and in-laws were not affluent but her father made a nice living. Ruth's mother was always conservative and level-headed when she ran the household. She knew little of business and writing checks. Her father loved the good things in life so moved from Poland to Germany.

35:00 He loved the arts and culture and dressed nicely. Her father enjoyed what he had and did not deny himself. He had a tough life. He left home, made a new life in Germany and came here where he had a tough time and got sick. After her father became paralyzed and died, her mother was devastated. She went to work in the office. Her mother had to

write a check and run the business which was a complete turnabout for her. She was a hausfrau and had to become a worldly person. **Tape 2, Side B.** Ruth's husband graduated in 1953 and soon her father passed away. They were living in Philadelphia where he attended school. They stayed with the mother for seven years until they moved to Meadow Hill Road. Her mother was a helpmate. She did everything that the father had done. She suddenly had to make the mortgage and write the other bills herself. Her mother, sister and brother-in-law maintained the jewelry business until then. Then her mother worked for a jewelry store in Silver Spring and lived with them for 13 or 14 years until she moved to Florida. Ruth worked at Walter Reed until she and her husband opened an office and she worked for him.

40:00 Ruth still works there 2 and ½ days per week. They have two children: Marcia, who is married and has four boys, and Edward who is 42 and has one son, Max, now 1 and ½, born after 12 years, and named after her father. Ross is 7, Henry, 6, Andrew, 5 and Fletcher is 3. Ruth is sorry that her father worked so hard to get them out and did not live to see his great-grandchildren. Ruth and her sister are thankful that they missed being killed in Europe. They feel sure that if they had remained, their father would have been killed as he was ill. Ruth feels that she was young and would not have survived unless she was in hiding. Now people get educated about the Holocaust. Twenty and thirty years ago they did not know enough. She feels regret that she never spoke of it to her children. Ruth belongs to a survivors group in DC and to the Holocaust Museum. She plans to volunteer at the Museum as a greeter. Ruth returned to Germany in August 1995 when she was 65 and they celebrated their 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary on the airplane. It was a trip of a lifetime. She and her sister still talk about it. They never got reparations and did not want to give money to the German economy. They took the trip when solicited to come for a week with expenses paid by Lufthansa. Her sister and her husband went first due to their schedule. Ruth's flight was upgraded to first class.

45:00 They were met at the airport. Nothing during the seven days offended her. There was just the stupidity of a young girl who did not understand the time frame of their leaving and people looking at her suspiciously. Returning opened up a can of worms. She could not understand how the Germans got away with the Holocaust as they are still there, even those who took part in it. They visited a synagogue which was inhabited by Russian immigrants. It was blocked on both sides by police cars. She felt such security must be due to anti-Semitism. It had a buzzer system like the B'nai B'rith Building here. She learned that Hamburg had its own concentration camp before the War. On the last day they asked the lady historian who interviewed them to take them to Bergen-Belsen which was west of Hamburg. It was just 35 or 40 miles away, a beautiful ride that was not an autobahn. The road had beautiful birch trees on both sides of the road and lovely houses and mansions, and inns where you can stay overnight. The concentration camp was enormous with plaques indicating pits where 5 to 10,000 bodies were burned. She could not understand how the residents did not see the inmates being transported there.

- 50:00 Those prisoners who were moved from East to West and the Russian POW died from starvation. People must have gotten to Bergen-Belsen by truck but no one knew so it might have been by night. Ruth resents their lack of knowledge. Both the area near her apartment and the downtown area were beautiful. They were bombed out so how did the areas get to be so beautiful now? Everything is new including the Rathaus. Ruth was served on gold dishes by white-gloved waiters. Ruth questions why everything is beautiful in Hamburg now but not for the Jews. She walked up the steps of her apartment building and saw mirrors in the hall, a winding staircase, elevators and a beautiful marble floor. A woman walked out of the elevator and asked what she wanted and Ruth replied that she used to live here in '38 and wanted to see it. The lady opened her door and shut it in their faces. Ruth thought the lady might have something that belonged to her family. She remembered where all the stores were – the dairy that had a green Formica top now sells Italian ice cream. Everything seems the same or better for the Germans but the Jews are gone and life for the survivors changed forever.
- 55:00 The possessions they left were taken over. The country was built by slave laborers. Ruth felt so discouraged and felt bad that she returned. Her school was still there. Some places were not bombed and other places were built up with American dollars. Now Hamburg is a beautiful city, like Venice. The houses owned by Jews are lived in by non-Jews. Ruth wonders where is her mother's furniture, her grandpa's office and antiques and her grandmother's jewelry. Being in Hamburg was horrendous for Ruth, worse than seeing anything on TV, a photograph or a movie. Remembrances can't be put on celluloid. Where are the torahs? Ruth knows that though you remember your belongings that you should not dwell on them. She wrote thank-yous to all the people who were nice and tried hard. She realizes that her feelings might not be the same as others. Other Jews who returned to Hamburg also toured other places. Ruth may return with her children. It is hard to go home again, especially if it is built on something horrible
- 60:00 Ruth knows that the US has relations with Germany. She can't stand Mercedes as Jews were not permitted to own them but now they do own them. Ruth believes that you need a few more generations to dilute her feelings. One should remember and talk about it. Even though she was not in a concentration camp, she feels that her experiences are not of lesser value. Ruth thinks that all Jewish children age 10 or older should learn what Holocaust means. She thinks that if you don't take care of your own people, no one else will. You should take photographs as this is your record.

61:00