

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:01,290

2

00:00:01,290 --> 00:00:04,950

This is a United States
Holocaust Memorial Museum

3

00:00:04,950 --> 00:00:09,690

Volunteer Collection interview
with Jill Pauly, conducted

4

00:00:09,690 --> 00:00:15,450

by Margaret Garrett
on February 27, 1998,

5

00:00:15,450 --> 00:00:17,820

in Silver Spring, Maryland.

6

00:00:17,820 --> 00:00:19,740

This is a follow-up
interview that

7

00:00:19,740 --> 00:00:24,510

will focus on Jill Pauly's
post-Holocaust experiences.

8

00:00:24,510 --> 00:00:27,180

In preparation for
this interview,

9

00:00:27,180 --> 00:00:33,510

I observed the video
interview that Jill Pauly

10

00:00:33,510 --> 00:00:36,300

conducted with the
Shoah Foundation

11

00:00:36,300 --> 00:00:41,070

on February 20, 1997.

12

00:00:41,070 --> 00:00:43,590

I will not ask you
to repeat everything

13

00:00:43,590 --> 00:00:45,590

you said in that interview.

14

00:00:45,590 --> 00:00:50,190

Instead, I will use this
interview as an opportunity

15

00:00:50,190 --> 00:00:53,520

to follow-up on that
interview and focus

16

00:00:53,520 --> 00:00:56,760

on your post-Holocaust
experiences.

17

00:00:56,760 --> 00:01:00,660

This is tape number 1, side A.

18

00:01:00,660 --> 00:01:03,480

What was your name at birth?

19

00:01:03,480 --> 00:01:05,370

Gisela Renate Berg.

20

00:01:05,370 --> 00:01:07,290

And your date of birth?

21

00:01:07,290 --> 00:01:09,120

May 1, 1933.

22

00:01:09,120 --> 00:01:10,950

And your place of birth?

23

00:01:10,950 --> 00:01:12,570

Cologne, Germany

24

00:01:12,570 --> 00:01:15,600

Suppose we start

this interview--

25

00:01:15,600 --> 00:01:18,150

this post-Holocaust interview--

26

00:01:18,150 --> 00:01:24,420

with an overview of your
experiences in Kenya,

27

00:01:24,420 --> 00:01:28,540

where you were during the war.

28

00:01:28,540 --> 00:01:29,970

Fine.

29

00:01:29,970 --> 00:01:37,380

We came to Kenya, we arrived
probably end of June, 1939,

30

00:01:37,380 --> 00:01:39,005

to the port city of Mombasa.

31

00:01:39,005 --> 00:01:44,280

32

00:01:44,280 --> 00:01:49,420

The family on the ship consisted
of about 10 family members,

33

00:01:49,420 --> 00:01:53,250

including my grandparents,
my sister, and my mother.

34

00:01:53,250 --> 00:01:57,090

My late father, his brother,
and his first cousin

35

00:01:57,090 --> 00:02:00,000

were already in Mombasa
and met us at the ship.

36

00:02:00,000 --> 00:02:01,920

They had been in
prison in Holland

37
00:02:01,920 --> 00:02:05,130
and were released to
go to Kenya, luckily,

38
00:02:05,130 --> 00:02:09,270
and it was a great reunion.

39
00:02:09,270 --> 00:02:13,920
I remember very vividly
how hot it was in Mombasa,

40
00:02:13,920 --> 00:02:15,630
but I was happy.

41
00:02:15,630 --> 00:02:20,710
And we stayed somewhere
in Mombasa overnight.

42
00:02:20,710 --> 00:02:22,060
I don't remember where.

43
00:02:22,060 --> 00:02:25,740
And we got on a train,
which is still riding today.

44
00:02:25,740 --> 00:02:29,700
The Mombasa-Nairobi train
is a very famous train.

45
00:02:29,700 --> 00:02:31,500
It goes through the Serengeti.

46
00:02:31,500 --> 00:02:39,210
And it's a wonderful, wonderful
trip, especially for children.

47
00:02:39,210 --> 00:02:41,130
Because the animals
are all wild,

48

00:02:41,130 --> 00:02:44,760

and you see them from
the train windows.

49

00:02:44,760 --> 00:02:48,900

In those days, in 1939, it was
an overnight trip for Mombasa--

50

00:02:48,900 --> 00:02:51,390

at least an overnight trip
from Mombasa to Nairobi.

51

00:02:51,390 --> 00:02:55,570

52

00:02:55,570 --> 00:02:59,260

In Nairobi, there must've
been some Jewish committees

53

00:02:59,260 --> 00:03:03,190

that my father had contacted
that helped us, that had helped

54

00:03:03,190 --> 00:03:06,190

my father rent a big house.

55

00:03:06,190 --> 00:03:09,550

How would you
characterize your family?

56

00:03:09,550 --> 00:03:17,590

My family-- my family were
German-Jewish country people

57

00:03:17,590 --> 00:03:19,970

for hundreds of years.

58

00:03:19,970 --> 00:03:22,540

That does not mean that they
had never been in a big city.

59

00:03:22,540 --> 00:03:28,480

They were very
acclimated to city life.

60
00:03:28,480 --> 00:03:33,170
They only lived 20 minutes
from Cologne and Krefeld,

61
00:03:33,170 --> 00:03:34,840
which was a big city.

62
00:03:34,840 --> 00:03:39,280
My grandmother on my father's
side was from Krefeld

63
00:03:39,280 --> 00:03:41,415
and had a huge, enormous family.

64
00:03:41,415 --> 00:03:45,430

65
00:03:45,430 --> 00:03:48,700
It's just that my
family, in general,

66
00:03:48,700 --> 00:03:54,520
were not intellectuals or
college-educated individuals.

67
00:03:54,520 --> 00:03:59,590
They all went-- some went to
whatever level of education,

68
00:03:59,590 --> 00:04:00,500
I don't know.

69
00:04:00,500 --> 00:04:04,030
But I know my father's
brother finished gymnasium.

70
00:04:04,030 --> 00:04:06,400
I think my father
went into high school.

71

00:04:06,400 --> 00:04:08,500

And then they went
into business.

72

00:04:08,500 --> 00:04:10,630

And were they
successful in business?

73

00:04:10,630 --> 00:04:12,850

Extremely, Extremely.

74

00:04:12,850 --> 00:04:15,430

They were very wealthy people.

75

00:04:15,430 --> 00:04:18,700

We did not really understand
how wealthy because it never

76

00:04:18,700 --> 00:04:24,520

really affected us after
we were small children.

77

00:04:24,520 --> 00:04:27,880

So your family lived
comfortably and you

78

00:04:27,880 --> 00:04:30,850

had all you needed and more.

79

00:04:30,850 --> 00:04:37,060

Oh, we had enough for our family
and supporting other families.

80

00:04:37,060 --> 00:04:39,190

And they were just very wealthy.

81

00:04:39,190 --> 00:04:40,960

I would say, by
today's standards,

82

00:04:40,960 --> 00:04:43,390

they were millionaires.

83
00:04:43,390 --> 00:04:45,728
But then there's millions
and there's millions.

84
00:04:45,728 --> 00:04:47,770
I wouldn't say they had
a hundred million dollars

85
00:04:47,770 --> 00:04:50,830
on today's level, but they were
millionaires on today's level.

86
00:04:50,830 --> 00:04:56,830
How did that affect your leaving
Germany, the family wealth?

87
00:04:56,830 --> 00:05:00,310
It really didn't affect
our leaving Germany.

88
00:05:00,310 --> 00:05:06,490
What it did was they were
very, very clever people.

89
00:05:06,490 --> 00:05:10,090
And what they had
decided to do--

90
00:05:10,090 --> 00:05:15,040
on the day I was born,
on the 1st of May, 1933--

91
00:05:15,040 --> 00:05:20,260
they smuggled a large amount
of their money out of Germany,

92
00:05:20,260 --> 00:05:22,510
into Holland.

93
00:05:22,510 --> 00:05:25,210
There were three
brothers and two brothers

94
00:05:25,210 --> 00:05:26,450
that were partners.

95
00:05:26,450 --> 00:05:29,260
So there were five men in the--

96
00:05:29,260 --> 00:05:31,900
four men in the business
plus my grandfather.

97
00:05:31,900 --> 00:05:34,240
There were five men
in the business.

98
00:05:34,240 --> 00:05:37,690
They pooled their money and
took a large block of it

99
00:05:37,690 --> 00:05:40,630
and had it smuggled out.

100
00:05:40,630 --> 00:05:43,180
That is probably the
money that saved us.

101
00:05:43,180 --> 00:05:46,390
Now that was in 1933.

102
00:05:46,390 --> 00:05:48,500
The 1st of May, 1933.

103
00:05:48,500 --> 00:05:53,780
So in 1933, they knew that it
would be good to have money--

104
00:05:53,780 --> 00:05:54,280
Yes.

105
00:05:54,280 --> 00:05:55,270
--out of Germany.

106

00:05:55,270 --> 00:05:58,000

Mm-hmm.

107

00:05:58,000 --> 00:06:01,060

I think I had a

brilliant grandmother.

108

00:06:01,060 --> 00:06:03,842

To say bright would

be an underestimate.

109

00:06:03,842 --> 00:06:05,050

This is your mother's mother?

110

00:06:05,050 --> 00:06:05,842

My father's mother.

111

00:06:05,842 --> 00:06:06,675

You father's mother.

112

00:06:06,675 --> 00:06:07,730

And what was her name?

113

00:06:07,730 --> 00:06:11,530

Her name was Klara Dawitz-Berg.

114

00:06:11,530 --> 00:06:15,760

She came from Krefeld.

115

00:06:15,760 --> 00:06:18,280

She was 12 years old

when her father died.

116

00:06:18,280 --> 00:06:24,100

She was a very poor child

and became a milkmaid.

117

00:06:24,100 --> 00:06:29,080

She was very industrious and

carried out milk at 4 o'clock

118

00:06:29,080 --> 00:06:33,400
in the morning before she
went to school, for years.

119
00:06:33,400 --> 00:06:40,780
And saved up a dowry so
that she could marry well.

120
00:06:40,780 --> 00:06:42,070
And she did marry well.

121
00:06:42,070 --> 00:06:44,320
She married my grandfather
who, by then, already

122
00:06:44,320 --> 00:06:46,570
was comfortable.

123
00:06:46,570 --> 00:06:50,890
So when your family
was in Kenya,

124
00:06:50,890 --> 00:06:54,140
was your family able
to retrieve the money?

125
00:06:54,140 --> 00:06:54,910
No.

126
00:06:54,910 --> 00:06:58,790
No, that wasn't-- no,
that wasn't an issue.

127
00:06:58,790 --> 00:07:01,000
The issue was that my
grandmother was so clever

128
00:07:01,000 --> 00:07:06,880
that she never put any of the
family's savings in a bank

129
00:07:06,880 --> 00:07:10,066
after 1930.

130
00:07:10,066 --> 00:07:11,440
1930?

131
00:07:11,440 --> 00:07:19,990
All the family money that
was taxed, they banked.

132
00:07:19,990 --> 00:07:24,700
Everything else, my
grandmother kept on her person.

133
00:07:24,700 --> 00:07:25,750
The money was hidden.

134
00:07:25,750 --> 00:07:28,960
And what happened to the
money that was smuggled out

135
00:07:28,960 --> 00:07:30,760
of the country in '33?

136
00:07:30,760 --> 00:07:31,570
It went to Holland.

137
00:07:31,570 --> 00:07:36,460

138
00:07:36,460 --> 00:07:42,220
My mother's brother and my
mother's sister's husband,

139
00:07:42,220 --> 00:07:47,140
they all left from Germany
to Holland in 1937.

140
00:07:47,140 --> 00:07:51,490
My mother's brother was
also a very clever fellow--

141
00:07:51,490 --> 00:07:56,300
very little education but

really a very savvy man.

142

00:07:56,300 --> 00:08:00,170

And he made all the
arrangements, from Holland,

143

00:08:00,170 --> 00:08:04,685

to get 17 people into
Kenya, with that money.

144

00:08:04,685 --> 00:08:06,230

And why Kenya?

145

00:08:06,230 --> 00:08:08,150

Why was Kenya the destination?

146

00:08:08,150 --> 00:08:10,970

147

00:08:10,970 --> 00:08:12,670

It was the only option.

148

00:08:12,670 --> 00:08:15,010

It was an out.

149

00:08:15,010 --> 00:08:17,920

They tried to get out
from Germany for years,

150

00:08:17,920 --> 00:08:19,750

and they had no place
they could get in.

151

00:08:19,750 --> 00:08:23,470

So Kenya would take you
and no other place would.

152

00:08:23,470 --> 00:08:26,230

At that time,
Kenya would take us

153

00:08:26,230 --> 00:08:31,420

because we had a
family contact there.

154
00:08:31,420 --> 00:08:35,110
He had studied law in England.

155
00:08:35,110 --> 00:08:37,450
And this man was sent by
the British government

156
00:08:37,450 --> 00:08:40,090
to practice law in Kenya.

157
00:08:40,090 --> 00:08:41,530
So he had a connection.

158
00:08:41,530 --> 00:08:43,690
Now, he was a Jew?

159
00:08:43,690 --> 00:08:45,130
He was a relative.

160
00:08:45,130 --> 00:08:49,510
His name was Hermann Strauss,
and he was a cousin of someone

161
00:08:49,510 --> 00:08:52,150
my cousin was married to--

162
00:08:52,150 --> 00:08:53,890
my mother's cousin
was married to.

163
00:08:53,890 --> 00:08:57,430
And he was able to
get the 17 passports.

164
00:08:57,430 --> 00:08:59,000
And he lived in Kenya?

165
00:08:59,000 --> 00:09:00,550
He was in Kenya.

166
00:09:00,550 --> 00:09:03,100
And he was able to
help you get to Kenya.

167
00:09:03,100 --> 00:09:03,650
Yes.

168
00:09:03,650 --> 00:09:04,150
OK.

169
00:09:04,150 --> 00:09:09,280
And what I read two years ago
at the United States Holocaust

170
00:09:09,280 --> 00:09:12,520
Museum, from a man who's
written his history, who

171
00:09:12,520 --> 00:09:17,910
went from Vienna to Kenya,
the British government

172
00:09:17,910 --> 00:09:24,150
required a 50 pound
stipend to be paid

173
00:09:24,150 --> 00:09:28,860
in Kenya for each immigrant.

174
00:09:28,860 --> 00:09:34,050
Well, that, the family
could handle 17 times 50.

175
00:09:34,050 --> 00:09:37,890
But when the war broke out and
the British government realized

176
00:09:37,890 --> 00:09:40,800
that so many people
wanted to come in,

177

00:09:40,800 --> 00:09:45,660
that's stipend went up
to 250 pounds a person.

178
00:09:45,660 --> 00:09:46,960
That was a fortune.

179
00:09:46,960 --> 00:09:50,100

180
00:09:50,100 --> 00:09:53,400
We all got in.

181
00:09:53,400 --> 00:09:57,300
And whether the last group
that came from Holland

182
00:09:57,300 --> 00:10:00,720
that came in 1941--

183
00:10:00,720 --> 00:10:03,060
I doubt that they
paid 50 pounds.

184
00:10:03,060 --> 00:10:06,930
I'm sure they had
to pay the 250.

185
00:10:06,930 --> 00:10:10,140
So the relatives
from Holland joined

186
00:10:10,140 --> 00:10:13,500
the family who had come
from Germany, in Kenya.

187
00:10:13,500 --> 00:10:15,110
Yes.

188
00:10:15,110 --> 00:10:20,430
And by the time everyone got
there, there was very little--

189

00:10:20,430 --> 00:10:22,080

I mean, there was
some money left,

190

00:10:22,080 --> 00:10:24,660

but nothing to write home
to mother about, you know.

191

00:10:24,660 --> 00:10:28,170

So most of it went
just to get to Kenya.

192

00:10:28,170 --> 00:10:28,810

Right.

193

00:10:28,810 --> 00:10:29,310

OK.

194

00:10:29,310 --> 00:10:31,860

195

00:10:31,860 --> 00:10:38,400

Don't forget, all properties and
moneys that had been in banks

196

00:10:38,400 --> 00:10:42,270

or purchased or anything,
that was all left behind.

197

00:10:42,270 --> 00:10:47,710

And each Jew was allowed to
take 10 Mark out of Germany.

198

00:10:47,710 --> 00:10:53,670

So what our family had done was
buy enormous amounts of things,

199

00:10:53,670 --> 00:10:57,720

had them stored in lifts,
and shipped to Kenya.

200

00:10:57,720 --> 00:11:02,760

I mean enormous--
antiques and China and--

201
00:11:02,760 --> 00:11:08,490
So this was a way of using
the money, which you could not

202
00:11:08,490 --> 00:11:09,150
take out.

203
00:11:09,150 --> 00:11:11,040
You could to take
things, but not money.

204
00:11:11,040 --> 00:11:13,770
And they also left
quite a bit of money

205
00:11:13,770 --> 00:11:15,900
for the families
that stayed behind,

206
00:11:15,900 --> 00:11:17,220
that they were worried about.

207
00:11:17,220 --> 00:11:19,470
But they knew money wouldn't
help them that-- but they

208
00:11:19,470 --> 00:11:21,510
left them money.

209
00:11:21,510 --> 00:11:22,920
They had money of their own.

210
00:11:22,920 --> 00:11:25,260
It was just stolen from them.

211
00:11:25,260 --> 00:11:28,350
My great-uncles and aunts
were retired in Cologne

212

00:11:28,350 --> 00:11:36,180
and had a fortune, in 1938,
of 200,000 Mark saved up.

213
00:11:36,180 --> 00:11:39,250
That's a fortune.

214
00:11:39,250 --> 00:11:43,660
Went to the-- went somewhere,
we don't know where.

215
00:11:43,660 --> 00:11:48,130
So it's not that
they-- they had money.

216
00:11:48,130 --> 00:11:54,130
And if we had tried to get
out of Germany in '38, '39,

217
00:11:54,130 --> 00:11:56,680
'37, with money, you
couldn't get out,

218
00:11:56,680 --> 00:11:58,180
because nobody
would take you in.

219
00:11:58,180 --> 00:12:00,280
It wasn't a matter
of having money.

220
00:12:00,280 --> 00:12:03,040
It was a matter of being
able to get in somewhere.

221
00:12:03,040 --> 00:12:07,190
So having this relative
in Kenya saved your lives.

222
00:12:07,190 --> 00:12:07,690
Yes.

223
00:12:07,690 --> 00:12:10,840

Oh yes, oh yes.

224

00:12:10,840 --> 00:12:15,520

On the videotape that I
mentioned, from the Shoah

225

00:12:15,520 --> 00:12:19,030

Foundation, you
give a lot of detail

226

00:12:19,030 --> 00:12:21,550

about your life in Kenya.

227

00:12:21,550 --> 00:12:24,265

But could you sum up--

228

00:12:24,265 --> 00:12:25,570

I can, yes.

229

00:12:25,570 --> 00:12:28,120

--that experience?

230

00:12:28,120 --> 00:12:33,850

The Kenya experience was a very,
very high-level experience,

231

00:12:33,850 --> 00:12:37,570

really, for people
who came from Germany,

232

00:12:37,570 --> 00:12:41,680

from a different culture,
into a very strange land--

233

00:12:41,680 --> 00:12:43,820

who only spoke German--

234

00:12:43,820 --> 00:12:48,400

and the languages of the country
were English and Swahili--

235

00:12:48,400 --> 00:12:50,110

who had little
money left, who have

236
00:12:50,110 --> 00:12:54,790
to take a mortgage to start over
again and build up a business.

237
00:12:54,790 --> 00:12:56,450
Now how could you
get a mortgage,

238
00:12:56,450 --> 00:13:02,320
if you did not have
many assets of your own?

239
00:13:02,320 --> 00:13:03,170
Who knows.

240
00:13:03,170 --> 00:13:03,730
I don't know.

241
00:13:03,730 --> 00:13:06,520
They must have had
some money left.

242
00:13:06,520 --> 00:13:09,010
And they bought a big farm--

243
00:13:09,010 --> 00:13:14,620
a big farm, a 300-acre farm
with two big houses on them.

244
00:13:14,620 --> 00:13:16,180
And then they
bought another farm

245
00:13:16,180 --> 00:13:18,760
of 100 acres which had
to be farmed in order

246
00:13:18,760 --> 00:13:19,840
to make a living.

247

00:13:19,840 --> 00:13:22,870

There were five families
to support on one farm.

248

00:13:22,870 --> 00:13:28,390

So you, essentially, acquired a
business through the mortgage.

249

00:13:28,390 --> 00:13:29,530

Right.

250

00:13:29,530 --> 00:13:34,330

And my grandfather, being
80 years old at the time,

251

00:13:34,330 --> 00:13:37,690

was extremely concerned
that they would go bankrupt

252

00:13:37,690 --> 00:13:39,070

because they took
out a mortgage.

253

00:13:39,070 --> 00:13:42,220

He was used to paying cash
for things, by that time.

254

00:13:42,220 --> 00:13:43,000

But they had to.

255

00:13:43,000 --> 00:13:44,800

They had to make
a new beginning.

256

00:13:44,800 --> 00:13:51,170

And the first three months
in Kenya were tough.

257

00:13:51,170 --> 00:13:52,720

They didn't know the languages.

258

00:13:52,720 --> 00:13:55,810

They were trying to apply the
European methods of cattle

259
00:13:55,810 --> 00:14:04,240
raising and animal husbandry
and farming to Africa.

260
00:14:04,240 --> 00:14:06,160
It didn't work.

261
00:14:06,160 --> 00:14:07,780
The animals died.

262
00:14:07,780 --> 00:14:09,085
The prize bull died.

263
00:14:09,085 --> 00:14:12,430

264
00:14:12,430 --> 00:14:15,560
He had to be
immediately replaced.

265
00:14:15,560 --> 00:14:16,450
Which was expensive?

266
00:14:16,450 --> 00:14:20,767
Ach, he cost 1500 pounds.

267
00:14:20,767 --> 00:14:21,850
And he had to be imported.

268
00:14:21,850 --> 00:14:24,490

269
00:14:24,490 --> 00:14:29,380
And there was some very nice
Englishman, the Lord Napier,

270
00:14:29,380 --> 00:14:33,790
who worked with the men, and
explained to them that they

271
00:14:33,790 --> 00:14:37,720
have to make a very
quick adjustment

272
00:14:37,720 --> 00:14:41,290
or they would lose everything.

273
00:14:41,290 --> 00:14:44,650
So when you're up against
the wall, you change.

274
00:14:44,650 --> 00:14:45,970
And they did change.

275
00:14:45,970 --> 00:14:47,590
And they changed
their methodology.

276
00:14:47,590 --> 00:14:53,650
My father was an expert in
untrained veterinary medicine.

277
00:14:53,650 --> 00:14:57,930
Well, who helped them
learn the Kenyan methods?

278
00:14:57,930 --> 00:14:59,350
This Lord Napier.

279
00:14:59,350 --> 00:15:00,420
So he--

280
00:15:00,420 --> 00:15:01,415
He came over and just--

281
00:15:01,415 --> 00:15:02,290
--he hands-on helped.

282
00:15:02,290 --> 00:15:05,080
He didn't just tell
them you have to change.

283

00:15:05,080 --> 00:15:05,950

He helped them.

284

00:15:05,950 --> 00:15:08,890

No, he saw that they
were very competent.

285

00:15:08,890 --> 00:15:13,960

And that my father really was
an A-number 1 expert in animals.

286

00:15:13,960 --> 00:15:16,240

But he helped to teach them
what they needed to know.

287

00:15:16,240 --> 00:15:18,142

Yes, and he also
impressed on them

288

00:15:18,142 --> 00:15:19,600

that the first
thing they had to do

289

00:15:19,600 --> 00:15:21,190

was learn the
language so that they

290

00:15:21,190 --> 00:15:24,970

could deal with the black
people who ran the farms.

291

00:15:24,970 --> 00:15:27,010

It was a little
different than Europe.

292

00:15:27,010 --> 00:15:28,360

Was Lord Napier Jewish?

293

00:15:28,360 --> 00:15:34,646

No, no, no, And it worked.

294

00:15:34,646 --> 00:15:37,840
If God wants something
to work, it works.

295
00:15:37,840 --> 00:15:39,100
That's all I can tell you.

296
00:15:39,100 --> 00:15:39,600
It worked.

297
00:15:39,600 --> 00:15:41,800
So they learned,
and God helped and--

298
00:15:41,800 --> 00:15:46,540
They set up an orthodox
kibbutz on a farm

299
00:15:46,540 --> 00:15:49,630
high up in the highlands.

300
00:15:49,630 --> 00:15:53,680
The big problem for my
parents were our schooling,

301
00:15:53,680 --> 00:15:56,710
the cultural changes of
the demands of education

302
00:15:56,710 --> 00:15:58,780
and how it worked.

303
00:15:58,780 --> 00:16:03,490
But with much stress, as I
explained in the other film,

304
00:16:03,490 --> 00:16:04,630
it was worked out.

305
00:16:04,630 --> 00:16:05,740
It was worked out.

306

00:16:05,740 --> 00:16:09,280

307

00:16:09,280 --> 00:16:13,690

A big problem in Kenya
was medical changes,

308

00:16:13,690 --> 00:16:15,010

health changes--

309

00:16:15,010 --> 00:16:17,860

different climate,
different diseases,

310

00:16:17,860 --> 00:16:21,430

understanding them,
not being able to get

311

00:16:21,430 --> 00:16:24,730

the right physicians
to treat the diseases.

312

00:16:24,730 --> 00:16:27,370

You mean of the
cattle or of people?

313

00:16:27,370 --> 00:16:27,970

People.

314

00:16:27,970 --> 00:16:28,720

Of your family?

315

00:16:28,720 --> 00:16:29,260

Of family.

316

00:16:29,260 --> 00:16:31,450

Cattle was less of a problem.

317

00:16:31,450 --> 00:16:36,610

318

00:16:36,610 --> 00:16:39,340

But I would say the
first three months

319
00:16:39,340 --> 00:16:42,630
were extremely difficult. They
thought they would lose it all.

320
00:16:42,630 --> 00:16:44,880
But then it started
coming together, somehow,

321
00:16:44,880 --> 00:16:45,850
like a miracle.

322
00:16:45,850 --> 00:16:47,490
And it all worked.

323
00:16:47,490 --> 00:16:50,520
And it started to produce
and it started to make money.

324
00:16:50,520 --> 00:16:52,900
And they started to make
a fabulous living again.

325
00:16:52,900 --> 00:16:59,160
And they really, really
recouped and they didn't know

326
00:16:59,160 --> 00:17:02,220
what was going on in Europe.

327
00:17:02,220 --> 00:17:08,230
Their only contact with Europe
was a battery-operated radio,

328
00:17:08,230 --> 00:17:08,730
a high--

329
00:17:08,730 --> 00:17:11,774
7,200 feet up in the mountains--

330

00:17:11,774 --> 00:17:12,524
that's all we had.

331
00:17:12,524 --> 00:17:15,089
We had no electricity
for eight years.

332
00:17:15,089 --> 00:17:17,819
We had a generator
in one house, but we

333
00:17:17,819 --> 00:17:20,700
lived with Petromax
lamps in the other house.

334
00:17:20,700 --> 00:17:22,170
And which house did you live in?

335
00:17:22,170 --> 00:17:23,310
With the Petromax lamps.

336
00:17:23,310 --> 00:17:24,630
So you didn't have electricity.

337
00:17:24,630 --> 00:17:26,770
No, it was fine.

338
00:17:26,770 --> 00:17:27,780
Fine.

339
00:17:27,780 --> 00:17:29,880
You could see very
well with them.

340
00:17:29,880 --> 00:17:33,810
And my parents
had a lot of help.

341
00:17:33,810 --> 00:17:38,520
We had a tremendous
social life, absolutely

342

00:17:38,520 --> 00:17:40,920
tremendous social life.

343
00:17:40,920 --> 00:17:41,730
With who?

344
00:17:41,730 --> 00:17:46,020
Every Jewish person that came
to Nairobi landed up on our farm

345
00:17:46,020 --> 00:17:48,810
because my parents
were strictly kosher,

346
00:17:48,810 --> 00:17:53,970
and they were fabulous
cooks and loved people.

347
00:17:53,970 --> 00:17:57,750
And very few weekends went
by, the whole eight years,

348
00:17:57,750 --> 00:17:59,730
that we didn't have guests.

349
00:17:59,730 --> 00:18:01,230
And my mother and
father turned it

350
00:18:01,230 --> 00:18:05,890
into more or less of a
bed and breakfast, which

351
00:18:05,890 --> 00:18:08,620
paid for our private
school education.

352
00:18:08,620 --> 00:18:11,260
Because that had to be
earned outside of what

353
00:18:11,260 --> 00:18:13,000
my father was

earning on the farm.

354

00:18:13,000 --> 00:18:17,290

So your family was able
to create a new life.

355

00:18:17,290 --> 00:18:18,890

Tremendously well.

356

00:18:18,890 --> 00:18:26,560

So at the end of the war, why
did your family leave Kenya?

357

00:18:26,560 --> 00:18:29,590

Only for one reason.

358

00:18:29,590 --> 00:18:32,920

And that was because
they were orthodox Jews.

359

00:18:32,920 --> 00:18:36,290

They had no orthodox
communal life.

360

00:18:36,290 --> 00:18:38,830

They created it.

361

00:18:38,830 --> 00:18:44,500

And they wanted to go back
into a traditional orthodox

362

00:18:44,500 --> 00:18:45,550

community.

363

00:18:45,550 --> 00:18:48,700

And they wanted my
sister and I to be

364

00:18:48,700 --> 00:18:53,750

able to marry on the
same level as the family.

365

00:18:53,750 --> 00:18:55,183
That's what they wanted.

366
00:18:55,183 --> 00:18:56,350
That's what they envisioned.

367
00:18:56,350 --> 00:18:59,140

368
00:18:59,140 --> 00:19:01,450
Of course, things
didn't all work out

369
00:19:01,450 --> 00:19:04,390
the way they envisioned.

370
00:19:04,390 --> 00:19:07,660
They made a tremendous mistake.

371
00:19:07,660 --> 00:19:10,950
And that was due to the lack
of their formal education

372
00:19:10,950 --> 00:19:12,940
and worldliness.

373
00:19:12,940 --> 00:19:15,775
They made one
tremendous mistake.

374
00:19:15,775 --> 00:19:18,640

375
00:19:18,640 --> 00:19:21,460
Actually, you're going to
balance it out with the fact

376
00:19:21,460 --> 00:19:23,410
that they didn't make a
mistake, it turns out.

377
00:19:23,410 --> 00:19:26,320

But let's just say they
made a terrible mistake.

378
00:19:26,320 --> 00:19:30,520
Two of the men should have
come to the United States.

379
00:19:30,520 --> 00:19:33,490
And they should
have looked around

380
00:19:33,490 --> 00:19:37,150
to see where best we
would have fit in.

381
00:19:37,150 --> 00:19:39,430
And there were areas
in the United States

382
00:19:39,430 --> 00:19:41,650
where we would have
fit in beautifully

383
00:19:41,650 --> 00:19:48,100
and had less of
a stressful life.

384
00:19:48,100 --> 00:19:48,730
Like where?

385
00:19:48,730 --> 00:19:49,960
In the East.

386
00:19:49,960 --> 00:19:52,330
They would have fit in
beautifully in California

387
00:19:52,330 --> 00:19:54,220
because of the weather.

388
00:19:54,220 --> 00:19:55,780
Cattle farming was good.

389

00:19:55,780 --> 00:20:00,520

390

00:20:00,520 --> 00:20:02,410

Climatically, they
would have been happier.

391

00:20:02,410 --> 00:20:03,760

They were.

392

00:20:03,760 --> 00:20:08,350

But I am not sure whether
the orthodox community,

393

00:20:08,350 --> 00:20:11,530

at that point, would have
been satisfactory to them.

394

00:20:11,530 --> 00:20:13,870

My father did travel
after he came here

395

00:20:13,870 --> 00:20:16,810

to the Northeast-- to Vermont,
to New Hampshire, to Maine--

396

00:20:16,810 --> 00:20:18,490

because he loved the mountains.

397

00:20:18,490 --> 00:20:21,570

Kenya is very mountainous.

398

00:20:21,570 --> 00:20:24,700

Where you lived in Germany,
was it mountainous?

399

00:20:24,700 --> 00:20:27,100

It was beautiful, but not
as mountainous as Kenya.

400

00:20:27,100 --> 00:20:28,900

But he loved the

mountains and he wanted

401

00:20:28,900 --> 00:20:31,000
to resettle in the mountains.

402

00:20:31,000 --> 00:20:33,400
And he picked Vermont.

403

00:20:33,400 --> 00:20:35,170
We loved it.

404

00:20:35,170 --> 00:20:40,060
There was nothing, as far as
Jewish life, absolutely zilch,

405

00:20:40,060 --> 00:20:40,810
nothing, zero.

406

00:20:40,810 --> 00:20:42,010
Now, I don't understand.

407

00:20:42,010 --> 00:20:44,120
Did your whole family
come to America together,

408

00:20:44,120 --> 00:20:45,370
or did your father come first?

409

00:20:45,370 --> 00:20:47,860
They came within three months.

410

00:20:47,860 --> 00:20:49,540
Everybody came
within three months.

411

00:20:49,540 --> 00:20:50,290
So who came first?

412

00:20:50,290 --> 00:20:53,480

413

00:20:53,480 --> 00:20:54,590

I don't remember.

414

00:20:54,590 --> 00:20:59,090

One other family, but they only
were here a month when we came.

415

00:20:59,090 --> 00:21:02,290

So your family was
not the first family.

416

00:21:02,290 --> 00:21:04,040

No, we were in the middle.

417

00:21:04,040 --> 00:21:07,410

Actually, I'm ahead of myself.

418

00:21:07,410 --> 00:21:09,890

Why did you come to America?

419

00:21:09,890 --> 00:21:13,640

Oh, because of orthodoxy--

420

00:21:13,640 --> 00:21:16,320

as we say, Yiddishkeit.

421

00:21:16,320 --> 00:21:20,990

My family wanted a traditional
orthodox communal life

422

00:21:20,990 --> 00:21:24,410

that they had lived
before the war.

423

00:21:24,410 --> 00:21:27,632

And your family
thought they would be

424

00:21:27,632 --> 00:21:28,840

able to find that in America.

425

00:21:28,840 --> 00:21:30,740

Yes, with synagogues
in walking distance,

426
00:21:30,740 --> 00:21:36,380
with schools for the children,
with kosher food in the stores.

427
00:21:36,380 --> 00:21:38,240
They wanted a
Jewish environment.

428
00:21:38,240 --> 00:21:40,310
They wanted an
orthodox environment.

429
00:21:40,310 --> 00:21:43,430
And why America?

430
00:21:43,430 --> 00:21:44,243
The goldene land.

431
00:21:44,243 --> 00:21:45,410
There's gold in the streets.

432
00:21:45,410 --> 00:21:46,160
Haven't you heard?

433
00:21:46,160 --> 00:21:49,220

434
00:21:49,220 --> 00:21:52,730
My father-- there were
some psychological reasons.

435
00:21:52,730 --> 00:21:55,490
My father was a--

436
00:21:55,490 --> 00:21:59,540
the happiest eight years
of his life were in Kenya.

437
00:21:59,540 --> 00:22:02,750

He loved the black people.

438

00:22:02,750 --> 00:22:08,550

He thought they were the most
kind, wonderful human beings.

439

00:22:08,550 --> 00:22:10,760

He bonded with them.

440

00:22:10,760 --> 00:22:14,630

He saw that they were
being miserably mistreated,

441

00:22:14,630 --> 00:22:17,690

that they had no future
but killing each other

442

00:22:17,690 --> 00:22:20,660

and eating each other and
being destroyed, and being

443

00:22:20,660 --> 00:22:23,010

hit and enslaved.

444

00:22:23,010 --> 00:22:25,610

He hated that.

445

00:22:25,610 --> 00:22:30,620

And his choices were
Palestine-- there was no Israel.

446

00:22:30,620 --> 00:22:33,740

The state hadn't
been declared yet.

447

00:22:33,740 --> 00:22:38,600

South Africa, which was
great for many things.

448

00:22:38,600 --> 00:22:39,920

For a Jewish community?

449

00:22:39,920 --> 00:22:41,540
Yes.

450
00:22:41,540 --> 00:22:44,780
Or the United States.

451
00:22:44,780 --> 00:22:47,180
He did not pick Palestine
because his brother

452
00:22:47,180 --> 00:22:48,980
was so much against it.

453
00:22:48,980 --> 00:22:52,140
And why was his
brother against it?

454
00:22:52,140 --> 00:22:53,620
He says that he didn't want--

455
00:22:53,620 --> 00:22:54,680
I don't know.

456
00:22:54,680 --> 00:22:56,210
It was rocky.

457
00:22:56,210 --> 00:22:57,770
The state hadn't been declared.

458
00:22:57,770 --> 00:22:59,360
They didn't know--
they didn't want

459
00:22:59,360 --> 00:23:04,910
to go into another very
unsettled situation.

460
00:23:04,910 --> 00:23:08,330
It was before the war,
before the '48 war.

461
00:23:08,330 --> 00:23:11,600

462

00:23:11,600 --> 00:23:14,060

They should have-- most
of the Jews from Kenya

463

00:23:14,060 --> 00:23:19,110

did go to Palestine instead.

464

00:23:19,110 --> 00:23:23,130

South Africa-- my
father would not go.

465

00:23:23,130 --> 00:23:26,250

He said it's jumping from
the frying pan into the fire.

466

00:23:26,250 --> 00:23:29,100

Things are going to change
with these black people.

467

00:23:29,100 --> 00:23:31,810

They're not going to
be downtrodden forever.

468

00:23:31,810 --> 00:23:35,360

This is not a future
for my children.

469

00:23:35,360 --> 00:23:36,630

So he came to America.

470

00:23:36,630 --> 00:23:38,990

OK.

471

00:23:38,990 --> 00:23:42,800

Now, you said that
another family came first

472

00:23:42,800 --> 00:23:45,860

and then your family came
very shortly after that.

473

00:23:45,860 --> 00:23:46,700

We all came.

474

00:23:46,700 --> 00:23:49,590

And where did you
come to, in America?

475

00:23:49,590 --> 00:23:56,630

Unfortunately-- unfortunately--
here these Kenya people

476

00:23:56,630 --> 00:23:59,990

landed up in New York City.

477

00:23:59,990 --> 00:24:01,280

Why New York City?

478

00:24:01,280 --> 00:24:03,800

Because that's where
the relatives were that

479

00:24:03,800 --> 00:24:05,570

brought us over.

480

00:24:05,570 --> 00:24:07,820

And these were relatives--

481

00:24:07,820 --> 00:24:09,590

Cousins of my mother's.

482

00:24:09,590 --> 00:24:10,310

OK.

483

00:24:10,310 --> 00:24:14,630

Close-- my mother's uncle, who
survived, who was in the States

484

00:24:14,630 --> 00:24:16,970

with his two sons.

485

00:24:16,970 --> 00:24:19,520

They're the ones that
sent us all the visas.

486
00:24:19,520 --> 00:24:22,280
So they helped you
come to America.

487
00:24:22,280 --> 00:24:23,540
Helped us come to America--

488
00:24:23,540 --> 00:24:26,840
Did you have money
to come to America?

489
00:24:26,840 --> 00:24:28,612
Oh yes, by then they
had money again.

490
00:24:28,612 --> 00:24:29,320
So you had money.

491
00:24:29,320 --> 00:24:30,390
Everybody had money.

492
00:24:30,390 --> 00:24:32,840
But what you needed help
with the visas and getting

493
00:24:32,840 --> 00:24:33,870
established.

494
00:24:33,870 --> 00:24:34,820
Yes.

495
00:24:34,820 --> 00:24:37,160
They could help
us with the visas.

496
00:24:37,160 --> 00:24:40,490
Getting established
was beyond them.

497

00:24:40,490 --> 00:24:43,205
But they lived in New York,
so you came to New York.

498
00:24:43,205 --> 00:24:44,360
They lived in New York.

499
00:24:44,360 --> 00:24:46,880
The aunt and uncle
were old by then.

500
00:24:46,880 --> 00:24:50,370
They had a 1 bedroom apartment.

501
00:24:50,370 --> 00:24:53,150
And they were very generous
and gracious to everybody,

502
00:24:53,150 --> 00:24:55,550
but they couldn't
put anybody up.

503
00:24:55,550 --> 00:24:56,900
My aunt was still working.

504
00:24:56,900 --> 00:24:58,430
She was 62 years old.

505
00:24:58,430 --> 00:25:00,600
She was working full-time.

506
00:25:00,600 --> 00:25:03,350
My uncle was a very old man.

507
00:25:03,350 --> 00:25:06,486
His son had a
restaurant in Manhattan.

508
00:25:06,486 --> 00:25:10,430
He couldn't employ them
because they were all Sabbath

509

00:25:10,430 --> 00:25:12,740
observers, and he was
not, nor was his business.

510
00:25:12,740 --> 00:25:16,260

511
00:25:16,260 --> 00:25:21,650
And then the tremendous,
tremendous, unbelievable

512
00:25:21,650 --> 00:25:25,940
culture change for my family.

513
00:25:25,940 --> 00:25:27,440
They were German Jews.

514
00:25:27,440 --> 00:25:31,760
German Jews tended to be very
insular and very critical

515
00:25:31,760 --> 00:25:36,500
of Polish Jews and Russian
Jews and Czech Jews.

516
00:25:36,500 --> 00:25:40,520
For some reason, they could
not integrate with them well.

517
00:25:40,520 --> 00:25:46,970
They were very-- is
the word insular?

518
00:25:46,970 --> 00:25:49,710
Whatever you want to call it.

519
00:25:49,710 --> 00:25:53,780
And this was a tremendous
problem for them.

520
00:25:53,780 --> 00:25:57,170
Wherever they went, the
orthodox synagogues,

521
00:25:57,170 --> 00:26:00,350
if it wasn't a totally
German synagogue,

522
00:26:00,350 --> 00:26:02,870
they didn't feel comfortable.

523
00:26:02,870 --> 00:26:07,920
If the Jews prayed in
a different manner,

524
00:26:07,920 --> 00:26:09,720
they came from
different backgrounds,

525
00:26:09,720 --> 00:26:11,870
they felt they
weren't well-behaved.

526
00:26:11,870 --> 00:26:14,360
They felt they were weren't--
they had so many problems.

527
00:26:14,360 --> 00:26:20,510
They were so unadaptable
in this country.

528
00:26:20,510 --> 00:26:24,800
Whereas in Kenya, they
didn't have those problems.

529
00:26:24,800 --> 00:26:29,540
Were there German Jews in
Kenya who were orthodox?

530
00:26:29,540 --> 00:26:33,650
No, they integrated beautifully
with all of the Jews in Kenya.

531
00:26:33,650 --> 00:26:35,790
Yes, they realized they
were a little different,

532

00:26:35,790 --> 00:26:38,860

but they were happy together.

533

00:26:38,860 --> 00:26:45,170

Why do you think it was so much
harder for them in New York?

534

00:26:45,170 --> 00:26:47,360

Because they were
fish out of water.

535

00:26:47,360 --> 00:26:50,090

They couldn't do
anything in New York.

536

00:26:50,090 --> 00:26:51,170

They were country people.

537

00:26:51,170 --> 00:26:53,060

They were farmers.

538

00:26:53,060 --> 00:26:55,110

And my father was offered a job.

539

00:26:55,110 --> 00:26:57,920

The only job my father
could get in New York

540

00:26:57,920 --> 00:27:00,530

was flicking chickens.

541

00:27:00,530 --> 00:27:02,065

He was 52 years old.

542

00:27:02,065 --> 00:27:03,440

He didn't want to
flick chickens.

543

00:27:03,440 --> 00:27:06,680

And he was allergic to feathers.

544

00:27:06,680 --> 00:27:09,440
They couldn't get an apartment.

545

00:27:09,440 --> 00:27:11,900
There were no apartments
to be gotten unless you

546

00:27:11,900 --> 00:27:14,930
paid under the table.

547

00:27:14,930 --> 00:27:22,520
We had to live together in
two rooms, the four of us--

548

00:27:22,520 --> 00:27:24,860
rented rooms.

549

00:27:24,860 --> 00:27:26,570
Did you also not
have enough money

550

00:27:26,570 --> 00:27:28,670
to get a larger apartment or--

551

00:27:28,670 --> 00:27:31,970
Well, no, by then my father
became very, very insecure

552

00:27:31,970 --> 00:27:36,080
and frightened, and saw how
expensive everything was

553

00:27:36,080 --> 00:27:38,870
that he needed to
hold him and his money

554

00:27:38,870 --> 00:27:42,650
because he needed to
settle his family again.

555

00:27:42,650 --> 00:27:45,800
Multiply this times

seven families.

556

00:27:45,800 --> 00:27:50,060

And they all initially
lived in New York?

557

00:27:50,060 --> 00:27:52,430

Initially, we all
landed in New York.

558

00:27:52,430 --> 00:27:54,320

And lived there for a time.

559

00:27:54,320 --> 00:27:58,140

For a short-- some of us only
for six weeks or two months.

560

00:27:58,140 --> 00:28:02,140

Some of them as much as a year.

561

00:28:02,140 --> 00:28:05,260

Unfortunately, the ones
with the least money

562

00:28:05,260 --> 00:28:09,310

had to stay for a year
because they eventually would

563

00:28:09,310 --> 00:28:12,040

get an apartment somewhere.

564

00:28:12,040 --> 00:28:15,070

And my uncle got a
job in the restaurant

565

00:28:15,070 --> 00:28:16,930

and he couldn't
keep his Sabbath.

566

00:28:16,930 --> 00:28:20,540

My aunt was heartbroken.

567

00:28:20,540 --> 00:28:23,750
The other aunt and uncle
had a disastrous experience.

568
00:28:23,750 --> 00:28:27,745
They were the wealthiest ones
in Germany and also in Kenya.

569
00:28:27,745 --> 00:28:28,620
They had no children.

570
00:28:28,620 --> 00:28:30,790
They had a lot of money.

571
00:28:30,790 --> 00:28:33,620
My uncle came to
America feeling rich.

572
00:28:33,620 --> 00:28:38,920
Now, there's something very
destructive about being very

573
00:28:38,920 --> 00:28:41,650
well-to-do-- and a lot of
German Jews had this problem--

574
00:28:41,650 --> 00:28:44,470

575
00:28:44,470 --> 00:28:48,880
and not knowing how not
to be very well-to-do.

576
00:28:48,880 --> 00:28:53,080
It's a hard lesson
to learn at 57.

577
00:28:53,080 --> 00:29:00,940
Came to America at 57,
my aunt was 46, whatever.

578
00:29:00,940 --> 00:29:03,920
And he had money.

579

00:29:03,920 --> 00:29:09,040

When I say money, instead of
\$20,000, maybe he had \$30,000.

580

00:29:09,040 --> 00:29:12,550

That was a lot of money in 1947.

581

00:29:12,550 --> 00:29:14,320

I don't know what
it equates to now,

582

00:29:14,320 --> 00:29:16,060

but it was an
awful lot of money.

583

00:29:16,060 --> 00:29:18,840

584

00:29:18,840 --> 00:29:22,110

He decided to go into
business with a man

585

00:29:22,110 --> 00:29:24,370

that he knew from Germany.

586

00:29:24,370 --> 00:29:28,020

They were going to
go into warehousing.

587

00:29:28,020 --> 00:29:32,830

The man came with a
contract, took his \$10,000.

588

00:29:32,830 --> 00:29:34,440

They bought warehouses,
and they were

589

00:29:34,440 --> 00:29:38,790

going to start stacking
these warehouses.

590

00:29:38,790 --> 00:29:40,830

And for some reason,
one of the families

591

00:29:40,830 --> 00:29:44,580

said, let's go out to Bayonne
and look at your new warehouse.

592

00:29:44,580 --> 00:29:48,510

When they got there,
there was nothing.

593

00:29:48,510 --> 00:29:51,300

He was robbed.

594

00:29:51,300 --> 00:29:53,370

So he had a little
bit of money left.

595

00:29:53,370 --> 00:29:55,650

I don't know how much.

596

00:29:55,650 --> 00:29:57,960

They had to take an apartment.

597

00:29:57,960 --> 00:30:01,755

And my aunt, who was a very
fancy lady in Germany--

598

00:30:01,755 --> 00:30:04,700

599

00:30:04,700 --> 00:30:07,490

she wasn't fancy because
she wanted to be fancy.

600

00:30:07,490 --> 00:30:11,060

She was fancy because
he spoiled her.

601

00:30:11,060 --> 00:30:14,840

She went to work for a
jeweler in Manhattan.

602
00:30:14,840 --> 00:30:18,710
And today, I still do
business with his son.

603
00:30:18,710 --> 00:30:21,620
It's a tradition
of 50some years.

604
00:30:21,620 --> 00:30:23,000
She worked for him.

605
00:30:23,000 --> 00:30:27,410
She earned enough to
put bread on the table.

606
00:30:27,410 --> 00:30:28,910
They did that for a year.

607
00:30:28,910 --> 00:30:31,970
And then they borrowed
money from the family--

608
00:30:31,970 --> 00:30:34,280
my uncle and my
father, who had already

609
00:30:34,280 --> 00:30:38,930
bought a farm in
Vineland, New Jersey.

610
00:30:38,930 --> 00:30:41,711
And they bought a little farm.

611
00:30:41,711 --> 00:30:44,660
It never went well for them.

612
00:30:44,660 --> 00:30:47,533
Now, back to your
father, if you were

613
00:30:47,533 --> 00:30:49,700

living in a two-room
apartment, your family of four.

614
00:30:49,700 --> 00:30:50,900
2 rooms.

615
00:30:50,900 --> 00:30:52,670
Two rooms, a 2-room apartment.

616
00:30:52,670 --> 00:30:56,750
And after six weeks, one of my
uncles, when we first arrived,

617
00:30:56,750 --> 00:31:01,970
got a job as a farm manager
in Elmer, New Jersey.

618
00:31:01,970 --> 00:31:05,660
And he got a big house
for his wife and son

619
00:31:05,660 --> 00:31:07,790
while he managed the farm.

620
00:31:07,790 --> 00:31:10,970
And they asked the landlord
if he would permit us--

621
00:31:10,970 --> 00:31:15,170
my family-- to move in with
them until we've settled.

622
00:31:15,170 --> 00:31:16,800
So we went back to the country.

623
00:31:16,800 --> 00:31:18,200
We went to New Jersey.

624
00:31:18,200 --> 00:31:20,580
So you went to the house
in Elmer, New Jersey.

625

00:31:20,580 --> 00:31:21,320
Right.

626
00:31:21,320 --> 00:31:25,130
And we were sent to
New Jersey by the HIAS.

627
00:31:25,130 --> 00:31:28,100
That was an organization that
was helping people resettle.

628
00:31:28,100 --> 00:31:30,770
Now what do you mean, you
were sent to New Jersey?

629
00:31:30,770 --> 00:31:32,930
To look, by the HIAS.

630
00:31:32,930 --> 00:31:35,960
They said go into
poultry farming.

631
00:31:35,960 --> 00:31:39,410
But your uncle
already had the farm.

632
00:31:39,410 --> 00:31:41,298
No, he was a manager.

633
00:31:41,298 --> 00:31:41,840
He had a job.

634
00:31:41,840 --> 00:31:43,070
Oh, he was a manager.

635
00:31:43,070 --> 00:31:46,400
So it was after that the
HIAS sent your family?

636
00:31:46,400 --> 00:31:49,490
Suggested that they go
and look at poultry farms.

637

00:31:49,490 --> 00:31:55,520
So their role with your father
was as a counselor, an advisor?

638

00:31:55,520 --> 00:31:58,670
At the best.

639

00:31:58,670 --> 00:32:02,570
But my father, after six
weeks of being in New York,

640

00:32:02,570 --> 00:32:05,300
made a decision that
we had to get out.

641

00:32:05,300 --> 00:32:08,630
So he was in touch
with HIAS and they

642

00:32:08,630 --> 00:32:10,490
said, look at poultry farming.

643

00:32:10,490 --> 00:32:14,450
HIAS was in touch with all the
immigrants, tried to help them.

644

00:32:14,450 --> 00:32:16,940
And they considered
sending him on the chicken

645

00:32:16,940 --> 00:32:19,490
farms being helpful.

646

00:32:19,490 --> 00:32:22,920
Did they have specific farms
to send him to, or just said,

647

00:32:22,920 --> 00:32:24,680
go to this area and look around?

648

00:32:24,680 --> 00:32:25,347
Just go to area.

649

00:32:25,347 --> 00:32:28,460

Go to Lakewood, go to Vineland,
and see what you can find.

650

00:32:28,460 --> 00:32:30,380

Did they offer
financial help or--

651

00:32:30,380 --> 00:32:31,430

No.

652

00:32:31,430 --> 00:32:34,220

My family wouldn't have
considered financial help.

653

00:32:34,220 --> 00:32:38,660

So they were-- the idea was
that they were helping to direct

654

00:32:38,660 --> 00:32:41,450

your family and where they
thought they would be--

655

00:32:41,450 --> 00:32:44,600

They directed hundreds of
thousands of immigrants

656

00:32:44,600 --> 00:32:49,710

to these chicken farms,
which was not a good idea.

657

00:32:49,710 --> 00:32:53,378

So they advised your
father to go to that area

658

00:32:53,378 --> 00:32:54,920

to look at chicken
farms, and it just

659

00:32:54,920 --> 00:32:58,260

happened that your uncle was
already there managing a farm.

660
00:32:58,260 --> 00:32:58,760
Yes.

661
00:32:58,760 --> 00:32:59,780
And so you moved in?

662
00:32:59,780 --> 00:33:00,530
He took us in.

663
00:33:00,530 --> 00:33:02,630
With him, OK.

664
00:33:02,630 --> 00:33:08,210
And for me it was a
trauma, terrible trauma.

665
00:33:08,210 --> 00:33:10,340
To leave New York and go to--

666
00:33:10,340 --> 00:33:11,192
No, no, no.

667
00:33:11,192 --> 00:33:13,760
I enjoyed-- I didn't
like school in New York

668
00:33:13,760 --> 00:33:16,100
because I had a teacher
that didn't understand me,

669
00:33:16,100 --> 00:33:17,900
and I didn't understand
her, verbally.

670
00:33:17,900 --> 00:33:19,416
Now you were how old?

671
00:33:19,416 --> 00:33:21,110
13, going on 14.

672

00:33:21,110 --> 00:33:24,200
And you didn't understand
her English or--

673
00:33:24,200 --> 00:33:25,490
That's right.

674
00:33:25,490 --> 00:33:27,770
You might as well have
put me in a Chinese class.

675
00:33:27,770 --> 00:33:30,410
And in Kenya, what language
was your schooling?

676
00:33:30,410 --> 00:33:31,400
British English.

677
00:33:31,400 --> 00:33:32,330
British English?

678
00:33:32,330 --> 00:33:33,830
So this lady was from the South.

679
00:33:33,830 --> 00:33:36,065
So you couldn't understand
southern American English?

680
00:33:36,065 --> 00:33:37,820
No, not a word.

681
00:33:37,820 --> 00:33:40,340
But you-- even though you were
in New York for six weeks,

682
00:33:40,340 --> 00:33:41,660
you were in school.

683
00:33:41,660 --> 00:33:45,170
Every day, and I never
adapted to her language.

684

00:33:45,170 --> 00:33:46,610
Maybe she had a speech defect.

685
00:33:46,610 --> 00:33:48,900
What about the other children.

686
00:33:48,900 --> 00:33:50,420
How did you get along with them?

687
00:33:50,420 --> 00:33:53,870
I wasn't there long
enough to integrate.

688
00:33:53,870 --> 00:33:55,590
I found it a little strange.

689
00:33:55,590 --> 00:33:59,000
I came from a very
elite school system.

690
00:33:59,000 --> 00:34:01,880
The schools in Kenya
were topflight.

691
00:34:01,880 --> 00:34:07,340
Now, I don't remember from
the previous tape what

692
00:34:07,340 --> 00:34:09,950
your last school in Kenya was.

693
00:34:09,950 --> 00:34:11,929
Was it a private school?

694
00:34:11,929 --> 00:34:13,250
They were all private.

695
00:34:13,250 --> 00:34:15,514
Was it a private Jewish
school or private English--

696
00:34:15,514 --> 00:34:16,014

No, English.

697
00:34:16,014 --> 00:34:18,560
Private English school.

698
00:34:18,560 --> 00:34:20,780
My sister had matriculated.

699
00:34:20,780 --> 00:34:24,260
She had been accepted at
Oxford and at Cambridge.

700
00:34:24,260 --> 00:34:29,449
And I was just about to go
into high school when we left.

701
00:34:29,449 --> 00:34:31,850
OK, so now you're
in New York City.

702
00:34:31,850 --> 00:34:34,826
You're 14, and you
went into what grade?

703
00:34:34,826 --> 00:34:36,920
(LAUGHING) I don't remember.

704
00:34:36,920 --> 00:34:37,940
I think eighth.

705
00:34:37,940 --> 00:34:38,929
Eighth.

706
00:34:38,929 --> 00:34:41,730
So the other children
were probably younger.

707
00:34:41,730 --> 00:34:44,989
I don't remember those children.

708
00:34:44,989 --> 00:34:46,735
I don't remember

being unhappy there.

709

00:34:46,735 --> 00:34:48,860

Do you remember any
discrimination or antisemitism?

710

00:34:48,860 --> 00:34:50,659

No, nothing.

711

00:34:50,659 --> 00:34:53,160

No, not for those
six weeks, nothing.

712

00:34:53,160 --> 00:34:54,710

It was in Jackson Heights.

713

00:34:54,710 --> 00:35:00,050

It was just a very cold, very
uncomfortable environment.

714

00:35:00,050 --> 00:35:02,420

And I wasn't learning a thing.

715

00:35:02,420 --> 00:35:06,620

So it wasn't overtly
hostile to you.

716

00:35:06,620 --> 00:35:11,810

It just was not helpful and
was cold and not very caring.

717

00:35:11,810 --> 00:35:15,320

I wasn't adjusting well
in Jackson Heights.

718

00:35:15,320 --> 00:35:16,250

And then we came--

719

00:35:16,250 --> 00:35:18,150

We have to stop here
to turn over the tape.

720

00:35:18,150 --> 00:35:18,650
OK.

721
00:35:18,650 --> 00:35:26,990

722
00:35:26,990 --> 00:35:30,200
This is a continuation of
the United States Holocaust

723
00:35:30,200 --> 00:35:33,950
Memorial Museum Volunteer
collection interview with Jill

724
00:35:33,950 --> 00:35:38,900
Pauly, tape number 1,
side B. Mrs. Pauly,

725
00:35:38,900 --> 00:35:44,060
you were talking about living
in New York for six weeks,

726
00:35:44,060 --> 00:35:45,740
the difficulty of the school.

727
00:35:45,740 --> 00:35:49,850
And then you moved to Elmer,
which you had described.

728
00:35:49,850 --> 00:35:51,320
We couldn't stay in Elmer.

729
00:35:51,320 --> 00:35:58,130
That was a temporary haven
for this uncle and his wife.

730
00:35:58,130 --> 00:36:01,320
This uncle, Ernest, couldn't
get a job in New York.

731
00:36:01,320 --> 00:36:03,620
He was a trained butcher.

732

00:36:03,620 --> 00:36:05,180

But we were Orthodox.

733

00:36:05,180 --> 00:36:09,050

And he could not get a
job where he could observe

734

00:36:09,050 --> 00:36:12,740

his Sabbath and his holidays.

735

00:36:12,740 --> 00:36:15,500

So he took a job
on a farm where he

736

00:36:15,500 --> 00:36:19,520

could be his own time manager.

737

00:36:19,520 --> 00:36:22,340

And on this farm,
there was a gentleman

738

00:36:22,340 --> 00:36:27,020

who had the job before
him, who hadn't left yet,

739

00:36:27,020 --> 00:36:30,640

who was supposed
to train my uncle.

740

00:36:30,640 --> 00:36:34,670

Unfortunately, he was a
very, very sick individual

741

00:36:34,670 --> 00:36:40,890

who had horrendous
epilepsy attacks.

742

00:36:40,890 --> 00:36:45,980

I was 14 and my cousin's
little boy was five.

743

00:36:45,980 --> 00:36:49,070

We were all living in one house.

744

00:36:49,070 --> 00:36:53,510

And when these epileptic
attacks took place,

745

00:36:53,510 --> 00:36:57,070

we children became so
absolutely mortified.

746

00:36:57,070 --> 00:36:59,630

747

00:36:59,630 --> 00:37:01,520

We didn't know what to do.

748

00:37:01,520 --> 00:37:03,650

Our mothers were as
mortified as we were.

749

00:37:03,650 --> 00:37:05,970

My father was wonderful.

750

00:37:05,970 --> 00:37:09,410

He would run in there
and help this man.

751

00:37:09,410 --> 00:37:15,660

And it was, for me, a very
traumatic terrible experience.

752

00:37:15,660 --> 00:37:17,820

I couldn't deal with it.

753

00:37:17,820 --> 00:37:19,820

I was so afraid of
him because I was

754

00:37:19,820 --> 00:37:22,120

afraid he was out
of control, and it

755

00:37:22,120 --> 00:37:23,870
would happen in front
of me and I wouldn't

756
00:37:23,870 --> 00:37:27,170
know what to do with him.

757
00:37:27,170 --> 00:37:30,530
Well it landed up my not
going to the bathroom

758
00:37:30,530 --> 00:37:32,480
alone without someone
standing in front

759
00:37:32,480 --> 00:37:34,290
of the door for six weeks.

760
00:37:34,290 --> 00:37:37,070
It was a difficult six weeks.

761
00:37:37,070 --> 00:37:40,610
But during that time, my
parents did make progress.

762
00:37:40,610 --> 00:37:44,240
They went to look for
a home and for farms.

763
00:37:44,240 --> 00:37:48,140
They decided to go
back to the land.

764
00:37:48,140 --> 00:37:51,980
The mistake was that they
went into chicken farming

765
00:37:51,980 --> 00:37:54,185
when their expertise
was cattle farming.

766
00:37:54,185 --> 00:37:57,880

767

00:37:57,880 --> 00:38:03,700

Everybody was being advised
to buy chicken farms.

768

00:38:03,700 --> 00:38:05,050

My father bought one.

769

00:38:05,050 --> 00:38:06,930

My mother got a very nice house.

770

00:38:06,930 --> 00:38:08,560

We moved in.

771

00:38:08,560 --> 00:38:11,200

It was a mile's walk
from the synagogue.

772

00:38:11,200 --> 00:38:13,750

773

00:38:13,750 --> 00:38:17,140

The social environment
was very poor

774

00:38:17,140 --> 00:38:20,390

because we were 12
miles out of town.

775

00:38:20,390 --> 00:38:22,150

We were rural.

776

00:38:22,150 --> 00:38:25,390

But there were other
refugee families there,

777

00:38:25,390 --> 00:38:28,840

and I found some girls.

778

00:38:28,840 --> 00:38:29,650

And--

779

00:38:29,650 --> 00:38:31,000

These were also--

780

00:38:31,000 --> 00:38:32,440

Refugees, immigrants.

781

00:38:32,440 --> 00:38:33,940

Were they German Jewish?

782

00:38:33,940 --> 00:38:34,810

Not all of them.

783

00:38:34,810 --> 00:38:36,350

Most of them.

784

00:38:36,350 --> 00:38:41,060

And after a while,
we became friends.

785

00:38:41,060 --> 00:38:44,770

I was demoted in
school for a year.

786

00:38:44,770 --> 00:38:46,570

To what grade?

787

00:38:46,570 --> 00:38:47,410

Eighth grade.

788

00:38:47,410 --> 00:38:48,577

I should have been in ninth.

789

00:38:48,577 --> 00:38:50,380

It was stupid.

790

00:38:50,380 --> 00:38:52,600

Of course, I was an honors
student for that year.

791

00:38:52,600 --> 00:38:53,800

That wasn't so bad.

792
00:38:53,800 --> 00:38:55,750
I went to this little
country school.

793
00:38:55,750 --> 00:38:57,200
Now, where were you living?

794
00:38:57,200 --> 00:38:58,330
What was the town?

795
00:38:58,330 --> 00:39:01,300
It was called
Vineland, New Jersey.

796
00:39:01,300 --> 00:39:05,170
We lived in the area
called Brotmanville.

797
00:39:05,170 --> 00:39:10,570
And I went to school, to the
Elmer's school, for one year.

798
00:39:10,570 --> 00:39:14,260
It was socially, for
my father, a nightmare

799
00:39:14,260 --> 00:39:19,540
to have girls from an
elite British school system

800
00:39:19,540 --> 00:39:22,870
go into an American
country school

801
00:39:22,870 --> 00:39:27,100
where things were
going on that did not

802
00:39:27,100 --> 00:39:28,660
go on in British schools.

803

00:39:28,660 --> 00:39:29,430
Like what?

804
00:39:29,430 --> 00:39:34,300

805
00:39:34,300 --> 00:39:36,820
Running around with boys
at a very young age.

806
00:39:36,820 --> 00:39:40,090

807
00:39:40,090 --> 00:39:44,470
The teacher taking girls
and boys out once a week

808
00:39:44,470 --> 00:39:47,690
for skating lessons.

809
00:39:47,690 --> 00:39:50,640
You mean, away from academic
studies for skating?

810
00:39:50,640 --> 00:39:54,090
There was very little
academics, a lot of social life,

811
00:39:54,090 --> 00:39:58,650
and into the sexual
behavior of young teenagers.

812
00:39:58,650 --> 00:40:03,840
And he was very, very,
very mortified that--

813
00:40:03,840 --> 00:40:06,090
not that I would go
astray, but that something

814
00:40:06,090 --> 00:40:08,100
would happen that I
wouldn't understand.

815
00:40:08,100 --> 00:40:10,410
And how was it for you?

816
00:40:10,410 --> 00:40:12,450
Strange.

817
00:40:12,450 --> 00:40:14,940
But it was freer.

818
00:40:14,940 --> 00:40:17,250
It was something
very nice for me

819
00:40:17,250 --> 00:40:20,880
about going to
school without having

820
00:40:20,880 --> 00:40:27,690
all these very difficult
teachers putting pressure

821
00:40:27,690 --> 00:40:28,920
on me.

822
00:40:28,920 --> 00:40:33,150
It was an opportunity for
me to blossom a little

823
00:40:33,150 --> 00:40:36,870
and develop my own
thoughts and feelings.

824
00:40:36,870 --> 00:40:39,540
And get into a curriculum
that was different,

825
00:40:39,540 --> 00:40:41,580
that I was enjoying.

826
00:40:41,580 --> 00:40:43,950
I might not have been

in an elitist school

827

00:40:43,950 --> 00:40:47,070
and I might not have been
getting top grades there,

828

00:40:47,070 --> 00:40:49,620
but I was really
enjoying the freedom

829

00:40:49,620 --> 00:40:53,940
of the way this teacher was
dealing with the classroom.

830

00:40:53,940 --> 00:40:57,870
I sat mixed with black kids,
which I had never done.

831

00:40:57,870 --> 00:41:00,510
And I liked them.

832

00:41:00,510 --> 00:41:02,398
There were Jewish
children in my class.

833

00:41:02,398 --> 00:41:03,690
There were non-Jewish children.

834

00:41:03,690 --> 00:41:08,190
There was one very bad
little anti-Semitic girl.

835

00:41:08,190 --> 00:41:09,850
But I handled her.

836

00:41:09,850 --> 00:41:11,340
I had no problem handling her.

837

00:41:11,340 --> 00:41:12,930
How did you handle her?

838

00:41:12,930 --> 00:41:17,190

I chased her.
(LAUGHING) I hit her.

839
00:41:17,190 --> 00:41:19,500
I took care of her.

840
00:41:19,500 --> 00:41:22,230

841
00:41:22,230 --> 00:41:25,230
It wasn't a problem in America.

842
00:41:25,230 --> 00:41:29,310
And did she stop
after you hit her?

843
00:41:29,310 --> 00:41:30,470
I chased her long enough.

844
00:41:30,470 --> 00:41:33,840
Yes, Tootsie stopped eventually
because she ran out of steam,

845
00:41:33,840 --> 00:41:35,640
you know, didn't go anywhere.

846
00:41:35,640 --> 00:41:39,420
She was told to
stop by the teacher.

847
00:41:39,420 --> 00:41:40,650
Tootsie was a bad girl.

848
00:41:40,650 --> 00:41:44,130
I had some really bad,
bad, bad kids in the class

849
00:41:44,130 --> 00:41:46,320
there, in this little
country school.

850
00:41:46,320 --> 00:41:49,890

And it was an education.

851
00:41:49,890 --> 00:41:51,810
I learned-- you
know, we didn't have

852
00:41:51,810 --> 00:41:54,480
to wear uniforms,
which was nice for me.

853
00:41:54,480 --> 00:41:56,430
I went to school by bus.

854
00:41:56,430 --> 00:41:59,850
I liked the
socialization on the bus.

855
00:41:59,850 --> 00:42:01,200
It was freer.

856
00:42:01,200 --> 00:42:03,540
It was-- I didn't mind it.

857
00:42:03,540 --> 00:42:07,590
Now, how was it
for you, enjoying

858
00:42:07,590 --> 00:42:13,110
this more relaxed social
atmosphere, and your father

859
00:42:13,110 --> 00:42:14,460
worried and disapproving?

860
00:42:14,460 --> 00:42:17,070
Oh, we had tremendous
difficulties at home.

861
00:42:17,070 --> 00:42:19,440
Like what?

862
00:42:19,440 --> 00:42:21,060

He wouldn't allow
me to participate

863
00:42:21,060 --> 00:42:22,860
in most of the things
that were going on.

864
00:42:22,860 --> 00:42:25,800
And he was absolutely
right not to let me.

865
00:42:25,800 --> 00:42:27,300
You mean in activities or--

866
00:42:27,300 --> 00:42:29,465
In activities,
social activities.

867
00:42:29,465 --> 00:42:30,840
He would not let
you participate.

868
00:42:30,840 --> 00:42:31,560
No, he would not.

869
00:42:31,560 --> 00:42:33,980
And so how did you take that?

870
00:42:33,980 --> 00:42:34,950
I didn't take it well.

871
00:42:34,950 --> 00:42:36,570
I fought with him

872
00:42:36,570 --> 00:42:39,240
But you think, looking back
on it, that he was right?

873
00:42:39,240 --> 00:42:40,690
Oh, he was absolutely right.

874
00:42:40,690 --> 00:42:43,780

And it was so foreign to him.

875

00:42:43,780 --> 00:42:45,150

He couldn't adapt to that.

876

00:42:45,150 --> 00:42:50,280

He felt that we had
been demoted, you know.

877

00:42:50,280 --> 00:42:54,450

And he was so concerned
of our educational level.

878

00:42:54,450 --> 00:42:55,980

He was so mixed up.

879

00:42:55,980 --> 00:42:59,460

He had so many
problems at that time.

880

00:42:59,460 --> 00:43:01,500

He was so confused.

881

00:43:01,500 --> 00:43:04,590

Did he think this was
discrimination against you?

882

00:43:04,590 --> 00:43:07,380

No, not at all.

883

00:43:07,380 --> 00:43:10,800

Discrimination wasn't the
problem at the time, no.

884

00:43:10,800 --> 00:43:15,750

Discrimination we had in Kenya
but not in the United States.

885

00:43:15,750 --> 00:43:18,555

Nothing that had any value.

886

00:43:18,555 --> 00:43:21,430

887
00:43:21,430 --> 00:43:26,970
It was just not academic enough.

888
00:43:26,970 --> 00:43:29,340
That year was bad, actually--

889
00:43:29,340 --> 00:43:32,370
academically bad-- for me.

890
00:43:32,370 --> 00:43:35,340
The school was not good
enough for what I had had

891
00:43:35,340 --> 00:43:37,390
and what they felt I needed.

892
00:43:37,390 --> 00:43:41,040
But in all honesty,
I had the opportunity

893
00:43:41,040 --> 00:43:42,780
to develop more as
a little person.

894
00:43:42,780 --> 00:43:44,130
And I enjoyed that.

895
00:43:44,130 --> 00:43:47,010
Even though you couldn't go
to a lot of the activities,

896
00:43:47,010 --> 00:43:48,030
you still feel that--

897
00:43:48,030 --> 00:43:51,720
We were always
restrained because we

898
00:43:51,720 --> 00:43:54,450
were Sabbath observant,

we were Orthodox,

899

00:43:54,450 --> 00:43:58,080

and they didn't want
certain exposures for us.

900

00:43:58,080 --> 00:43:59,480

Did you have lunch at school?

901

00:43:59,480 --> 00:44:00,660

I took my own lunch.

902

00:44:00,660 --> 00:44:01,890

Everybody did.

903

00:44:01,890 --> 00:44:03,300

So that wasn't a problem.

904

00:44:03,300 --> 00:44:03,870

Right.

905

00:44:03,870 --> 00:44:06,240

The integration problem began--

906

00:44:06,240 --> 00:44:08,520

really painful
integration problem

907

00:44:08,520 --> 00:44:10,980

began-- the following year
when I went to Vineland High

908

00:44:10,980 --> 00:44:14,050

School, where there were
lots of Jewish kids,

909

00:44:14,050 --> 00:44:17,280

and I felt very happy with that.

910

00:44:17,280 --> 00:44:19,230

And there were
Jewish organizations.

911
00:44:19,230 --> 00:44:20,850
And my uncles took me.

912
00:44:20,850 --> 00:44:22,960
They were very encouraging.

913
00:44:22,960 --> 00:44:27,210
The problems were that there
were no orthodox organizations.

914
00:44:27,210 --> 00:44:34,980
Everything was done on
Friday nights and Saturdays.

915
00:44:34,980 --> 00:44:39,330
The general was that the
kids got jobs on weekends

916
00:44:39,330 --> 00:44:40,020
in high school.

917
00:44:40,020 --> 00:44:41,670
All the kids worked.

918
00:44:41,670 --> 00:44:45,190
I couldn't work because I
couldn't work on Saturdays.

919
00:44:45,190 --> 00:44:49,250
So the only thing I
could do was babysit.

920
00:44:49,250 --> 00:44:55,350
But I had a few orthodox friends
who were in the same position.

921
00:44:55,350 --> 00:44:56,910
It wasn't a bad experience.

922
00:44:56,910 --> 00:44:58,910
My experience

wasn't so terrible,

923

00:44:58,910 --> 00:45:02,180

but my family's
experience was a disaster.

924

00:45:02,180 --> 00:45:05,300

They could not make a go
of those chicken farms.

925

00:45:05,300 --> 00:45:06,470

They couldn't make a living.

926

00:45:06,470 --> 00:45:09,860

They had a hard
time getting the \$20

927

00:45:09,860 --> 00:45:12,350

to buy the food for the week.

928

00:45:12,350 --> 00:45:14,360

They were poor in Vineland.

929

00:45:14,360 --> 00:45:17,550

And what was the problem
with the chicken farms?

930

00:45:17,550 --> 00:45:19,700

It was hard for them to
learn chicken farming

931

00:45:19,700 --> 00:45:21,860

or the industry was
just in trouble?

932

00:45:21,860 --> 00:45:24,950

The industry was
in trouble, always.

933

00:45:24,950 --> 00:45:27,410

There was an overproduction
of chicken farms.

934

00:45:27,410 --> 00:45:30,530

935

00:45:30,530 --> 00:45:34,250

One season the chickens
would grow beautifully

936

00:45:34,250 --> 00:45:36,620

and they'd lay eggs like crazy.

937

00:45:36,620 --> 00:45:39,260

But then the prices were low.

938

00:45:39,260 --> 00:45:44,040

The following season the
chickens didn't lay eggs.

939

00:45:44,040 --> 00:45:45,620

It wasn't a good crop.

940

00:45:45,620 --> 00:45:47,090

The prices were high.

941

00:45:47,090 --> 00:45:49,310

So it wasn't just
your father it was--

942

00:45:49,310 --> 00:45:50,330

Everybody.

943

00:45:50,330 --> 00:45:53,570

People on chicken farms really--

944

00:45:53,570 --> 00:45:57,480

let's put it from small
to medium chicken farms--

945

00:45:57,480 --> 00:46:00,690

they could hardly get food on
the table and pay their bills.

946

00:46:00,690 --> 00:46:03,800
A lot of them had debts.

947
00:46:03,800 --> 00:46:06,260
But my family, being
as conservative as they

948
00:46:06,260 --> 00:46:08,600
were, because they
were always well-to-do,

949
00:46:08,600 --> 00:46:11,810
debts was not something
that one lived with.

950
00:46:11,810 --> 00:46:13,640
So one had nothing--

951
00:46:13,640 --> 00:46:18,200
paid all the debts
and had nothing.

952
00:46:18,200 --> 00:46:22,220
And I virtually grew up, those
four years in high school,

953
00:46:22,220 --> 00:46:24,110
with nothing.

954
00:46:24,110 --> 00:46:27,230
If I had two skirts to see
me through the school year,

955
00:46:27,230 --> 00:46:30,690
and a pair of
shoes, I was lucky.

956
00:46:30,690 --> 00:46:34,190
How did you take that?

957
00:46:34,190 --> 00:46:36,110
I was a kid.

958

00:46:36,110 --> 00:46:39,560

Did you want more, like
some of the other girls had?

959

00:46:39,560 --> 00:46:44,694

I was very-- no.

960

00:46:44,694 --> 00:46:48,050

I always managed-- my
parents tried hard.

961

00:46:48,050 --> 00:46:50,030

If I needed-- if they
allowed me to go--

962

00:46:50,030 --> 00:46:52,490

I'm talking about a couple of
years later, when I was 17.

963

00:46:52,490 --> 00:46:54,950

If they allowed me
to go to a dance--

964

00:46:54,950 --> 00:46:57,680

they'd allow me to go to
B'nai B'rith girls' dances

965

00:46:57,680 --> 00:47:01,110

or whatever-- and I needed
a dress, I got the dress.

966

00:47:01,110 --> 00:47:02,870

It was a hardship, but I got it.

967

00:47:02,870 --> 00:47:05,780

And then they'd buy
me a pretty one.

968

00:47:05,780 --> 00:47:13,010

What I was very envious about,
and I had real problems with,

969

00:47:13,010 --> 00:47:18,740
was that I was such a
very serious-minded girl.

970
00:47:18,740 --> 00:47:22,790
And I understood so much
of what was going on

971
00:47:22,790 --> 00:47:27,980
in my parents' lives that it
had an emotional effect on me

972
00:47:27,980 --> 00:47:34,040
that I really did not do as
well in high school as I should.

973
00:47:34,040 --> 00:47:36,600
The emotional
problems of the family

974
00:47:36,600 --> 00:47:39,020
had a very bad effect on me.

975
00:47:39,020 --> 00:47:44,150
And I was so envious of all
the other Jewish kids that

976
00:47:44,150 --> 00:47:46,850
had been born and bred in
the United States, rich

977
00:47:46,850 --> 00:47:49,140
poor or indifferent.

978
00:47:49,140 --> 00:47:50,960
They didn't have those problems.

979
00:47:50,960 --> 00:47:53,490
They were happy.

980
00:47:53,490 --> 00:47:57,540
Their whole lives were made
up of doing good school work

981
00:47:57,540 --> 00:48:00,130
and having a good time.

982
00:48:00,130 --> 00:48:00,850
And that was it.

983
00:48:00,850 --> 00:48:02,670
They had no responsibilities.

984
00:48:02,670 --> 00:48:04,110
They didn't have
to keep Shabbos.

985
00:48:04,110 --> 00:48:07,410
They didn't have
to keep Kashrut.

986
00:48:07,410 --> 00:48:08,820
They didn't have those problems.

987
00:48:08,820 --> 00:48:11,280
They didn't have to stay
out on Jewish holidays.

988
00:48:11,280 --> 00:48:13,890
And we would always have
to make it up or flunk.

989
00:48:13,890 --> 00:48:16,890
You know, we had pressures.

990
00:48:16,890 --> 00:48:21,660
The American kids were so lucky
to have that freedom of not

991
00:48:21,660 --> 00:48:24,780
having had that
background we had,

992
00:48:24,780 --> 00:48:28,520
of growing up at

five-and-a-half.

993

00:48:28,520 --> 00:48:29,600

I was never a kid.

994

00:48:29,600 --> 00:48:32,240

995

00:48:32,240 --> 00:48:34,130

And you just have
to multiply that.

996

00:48:34,130 --> 00:48:39,230

I mean all the immigrant kids
that I grew up with in Vineland

997

00:48:39,230 --> 00:48:41,190

were all alike.

998

00:48:41,190 --> 00:48:42,710

Some were better students.

999

00:48:42,710 --> 00:48:44,390

Some were able to
hold it together,

1000

00:48:44,390 --> 00:48:47,150

like my husband, who
was able to focus

1001

00:48:47,150 --> 00:48:50,090

and do very well in school.

1002

00:48:50,090 --> 00:48:50,900

Others were not.

1003

00:48:50,900 --> 00:48:53,630

Others were like me.

1004

00:48:53,630 --> 00:48:55,340

And then there was
always the emphasis,

1005
00:48:55,340 --> 00:48:59,340
where my father's
confusion came in,

1006
00:48:59,340 --> 00:49:03,800
which I think hurt my
sister and I both very much.

1007
00:49:03,800 --> 00:49:10,150
He was confused as
to our role in life.

1008
00:49:10,150 --> 00:49:13,360

1009
00:49:13,360 --> 00:49:17,290
He said, you don't
have to go to college.

1010
00:49:17,290 --> 00:49:18,100
It's ridiculous.

1011
00:49:18,100 --> 00:49:19,267
You're going to get married.

1012
00:49:19,267 --> 00:49:21,610

1013
00:49:21,610 --> 00:49:24,250
And I would be in this
confusing situation

1014
00:49:24,250 --> 00:49:26,680
of seeing my friends taking--

1015
00:49:26,680 --> 00:49:29,380
they all took college
preparatory courses.

1016
00:49:29,380 --> 00:49:30,910
Nobody pressured me into doing--

1017
00:49:30,910 --> 00:49:33,970
I took whatever I wanted.

1018
00:49:33,970 --> 00:49:35,920
Because they were
going to go to college.

1019
00:49:35,920 --> 00:49:38,350
They had to go to college.

1020
00:49:38,350 --> 00:49:44,000
And my father was saying,
we can't afford it.

1021
00:49:44,000 --> 00:49:47,778
And then my reaction was,
well, why should I do it?

1022
00:49:47,778 --> 00:49:49,570
What am I going to take
college preparatory

1023
00:49:49,570 --> 00:49:54,700
courses for when I'm going to
end up in a secretarial school?

1024
00:49:54,700 --> 00:49:58,180
Or what am I going to become?

1025
00:49:58,180 --> 00:50:00,730
Where am I going to go?

1026
00:50:00,730 --> 00:50:03,010
He did the same thing
with both of us.

1027
00:50:03,010 --> 00:50:05,140
He made an enormous mistake.

1028
00:50:05,140 --> 00:50:08,410
Both parents realized they

made an enormous mistake.

1029

00:50:08,410 --> 00:50:13,120

Now your sister is older
than you by 4 years.

1030

00:50:13,120 --> 00:50:17,620

And what was happening
with her that was

1031

00:50:17,620 --> 00:50:18,950

the mistake of your parents?

1032

00:50:18,950 --> 00:50:23,950

She had even-- her
misguidance was dreadful.

1033

00:50:23,950 --> 00:50:27,040

My sister was ready
to go to Columbia

1034

00:50:27,040 --> 00:50:28,413

when she got off the boat.

1035

00:50:28,413 --> 00:50:30,580

When you say ready to go,
you mean she was prepared.

1036

00:50:30,580 --> 00:50:32,140

She had matriculated--

1037

00:50:32,140 --> 00:50:34,120

Oh, she had matriculated
at Columbia.

1038

00:50:34,120 --> 00:50:36,790

--at Oxford and Cambridge.

1039

00:50:36,790 --> 00:50:39,280

All she would have
had to do was apply

1040

00:50:39,280 --> 00:50:42,580
and she would have
gotten a scholarship.

1041
00:50:42,580 --> 00:50:45,200
But no, he couldn't afford it.

1042
00:50:45,200 --> 00:50:51,500
She had to go out work
and earn her \$20 a week.

1043
00:50:51,500 --> 00:50:54,015
So he didn't understand
how it worked.

1044
00:50:54,015 --> 00:50:58,140

1045
00:50:58,140 --> 00:51:06,980
He was too troubled and
worried, and didn't realize

1046
00:51:06,980 --> 00:51:10,700
the damage he was causing.

1047
00:51:10,700 --> 00:51:14,300
Later on, he did,
before he died.

1048
00:51:14,300 --> 00:51:16,430
So what was your sister's path?

1049
00:51:16,430 --> 00:51:17,120
What did she do?

1050
00:51:17,120 --> 00:51:18,380
It was much worse than mine.

1051
00:51:18,380 --> 00:51:21,470
It was much more
difficult. She didn't

1052

00:51:21,470 --> 00:51:23,570
go to Vineland with
us, to the farm.

1053
00:51:23,570 --> 00:51:25,250
She had to stay
in New York and go

1054
00:51:25,250 --> 00:51:26,780
to business school for a year.

1055
00:51:26,780 --> 00:51:29,840
Had to-- you mean your
father said she had to?

1056
00:51:29,840 --> 00:51:35,270
And she became a secretary.

1057
00:51:35,270 --> 00:51:36,020
In New York?

1058
00:51:36,020 --> 00:51:36,620
In New York.

1059
00:51:36,620 --> 00:51:38,840
She lived with my
aunt and uncle.

1060
00:51:38,840 --> 00:51:42,020
My parents paid her a little
bit, whatever they had,

1061
00:51:42,020 --> 00:51:43,270
to my aunt.

1062
00:51:43,270 --> 00:51:45,410
But she had to work.

1063
00:51:45,410 --> 00:51:47,810
How is that for your
family to be separated,

1064

00:51:47,810 --> 00:51:51,497
to have your sister in New York
and you all were in Vineland?

1065
00:51:51,497 --> 00:51:52,580
Oh, that wasn't a problem.

1066
00:51:52,580 --> 00:51:54,944
She was 17 by then.

1067
00:51:54,944 --> 00:51:55,900
That wasn't a problem.

1068
00:51:55,900 --> 00:51:58,135
But after all you
had been through--

1069
00:51:58,135 --> 00:52:01,370
No, that didn't-- but
nothing bothered them.

1070
00:52:01,370 --> 00:52:05,180
They were so confused, they
didn't know what bothered them.

1071
00:52:05,180 --> 00:52:12,150
They were just so troubled
trying to make it.

1072
00:52:12,150 --> 00:52:13,870
You've talked about your father.

1073
00:52:13,870 --> 00:52:17,150
What was your
mother experiencing?

1074
00:52:17,150 --> 00:52:22,350
My mother, bless her, she
was wonderful, very sanguine.

1075
00:52:22,350 --> 00:52:24,560
She's still living,
in the Rockville home.

1076
00:52:24,560 --> 00:52:27,020
This is she.

1077
00:52:27,020 --> 00:52:29,108
You have a picture album
here that we're going

1078
00:52:29,108 --> 00:52:30,275
talking to talk about later.

1079
00:52:30,275 --> 00:52:30,775
Yes.

1080
00:52:30,775 --> 00:52:35,270
My mother was a lovely,
sanguine homemaker.

1081
00:52:35,270 --> 00:52:42,590
And don't forget, in those days,
everything was done by hand,

1082
00:52:42,590 --> 00:52:45,560
everything was manual.

1083
00:52:45,560 --> 00:52:51,200
My mother had difficulties
with my father.

1084
00:52:51,200 --> 00:52:52,925
She wasn't as tough as I was.

1085
00:52:52,925 --> 00:52:54,865
She was different.

1086
00:52:54,865 --> 00:52:56,990
What should have happened
was that my mother should

1087
00:52:56,990 --> 00:52:59,570
have gone out to get a job--

1088

00:52:59,570 --> 00:53:02,480

I don't know what--

1089

00:53:02,480 --> 00:53:06,410

and paid someone
to clean her house.

1090

00:53:06,410 --> 00:53:10,380

And the family would have gotten
established much more quickly.

1091

00:53:10,380 --> 00:53:14,600

Do you think that occurred to
your mother or your father,

1092

00:53:14,600 --> 00:53:16,340

that your mother would do that?

1093

00:53:16,340 --> 00:53:20,140

They felt so inconstant.

1094

00:53:20,140 --> 00:53:24,160

This is a woman that the
only thing she had ever done

1095

00:53:24,160 --> 00:53:25,570

was housework.

1096

00:53:25,570 --> 00:53:28,240

And it would have
meant becoming a cook

1097

00:53:28,240 --> 00:53:30,520

or a homemaker for someone.

1098

00:53:30,520 --> 00:53:35,230

And that was something
my father absolutely

1099

00:53:35,230 --> 00:53:37,270

was heartbroken about.

1100

00:53:37,270 --> 00:53:40,330

He didn't want
that for my mother.

1101

00:53:40,330 --> 00:53:44,800

So he would have felt it
as demeaning for his wife

1102

00:53:44,800 --> 00:53:47,520

to have to work.

1103

00:53:47,520 --> 00:53:51,660

Not really demeaning, but--

1104

00:53:51,660 --> 00:53:54,330

Reflection on him is a provider?

1105

00:53:54,330 --> 00:53:56,310

No.

1106

00:53:56,310 --> 00:54:00,300

He felt it would have been
terrible for my mother

1107

00:54:00,300 --> 00:54:01,950

to have to do that.

1108

00:54:01,950 --> 00:54:03,150

Not for himself.

1109

00:54:03,150 --> 00:54:08,400

My father was not
a macho kind of--

1110

00:54:08,400 --> 00:54:11,220

not too much of a
macho kind of a person.

1111

00:54:11,220 --> 00:54:12,810

He was very encouraging.

1112

00:54:12,810 --> 00:54:15,120
And he helped in the
house and he cooked

1113
00:54:15,120 --> 00:54:20,920
and he wasn't that
kind of a person.

1114
00:54:20,920 --> 00:54:23,520
He just didn't-- he loved my
mother very much and he knew

1115
00:54:23,520 --> 00:54:25,800
she loved to be home.

1116
00:54:25,800 --> 00:54:29,970
And he felt it was too much
for her to go out and get a job

1117
00:54:29,970 --> 00:54:33,540
and come home and do her own.

1118
00:54:33,540 --> 00:54:36,330
He always felt richer
than that, (CHUCKLING)

1119
00:54:36,330 --> 00:54:39,370
which was a mistake.

1120
00:54:39,370 --> 00:54:43,140
You know, feeling
rich and comfortable

1121
00:54:43,140 --> 00:54:47,350
doesn't always have
to do with money.

1122
00:54:47,350 --> 00:54:49,230
It's a mindset.

1123
00:54:49,230 --> 00:54:53,880
But I think their mindset
was confused and construed.

1124
00:54:53,880 --> 00:54:59,190
I think the people who came from
Europe straightaway and didn't

1125
00:54:59,190 --> 00:55:00,780
have those eight
years somewhere else

1126
00:55:00,780 --> 00:55:05,340
where it was softer
and economically easy,

1127
00:55:05,340 --> 00:55:07,980
had an easier time
adapting to America.

1128
00:55:07,980 --> 00:55:10,560

1129
00:55:10,560 --> 00:55:15,030
And the age-- the ages they
were when they came here.

1130
00:55:15,030 --> 00:55:16,740
Your father was how old?

1131
00:55:16,740 --> 00:55:19,380
He was 50.

1132
00:55:19,380 --> 00:55:20,880
And your mother?

1133
00:55:20,880 --> 00:55:22,980
42 It was hard.

1134
00:55:22,980 --> 00:55:26,790
It wasn't "young," quote
unquote, for America,

1135
00:55:26,790 --> 00:55:30,120
to start over.

1136
00:55:30,120 --> 00:55:32,580
It wasn't only the
first start over.

1137
00:55:32,580 --> 00:55:35,160
It was two starting overs.

1138
00:55:35,160 --> 00:55:36,540
And it was devastating.

1139
00:55:36,540 --> 00:55:39,180

1140
00:55:39,180 --> 00:55:43,830
My parents really
didn't recuperate

1141
00:55:43,830 --> 00:55:49,830
until, believe it or not,
a hurricane came in 1952.

1142
00:55:49,830 --> 00:55:52,920
We came in 1947.

1143
00:55:52,920 --> 00:55:55,260
In 1952, a hurricane came.

1144
00:55:55,260 --> 00:55:56,490
That's five years later.

1145
00:55:56,490 --> 00:55:59,250
Yeah, Hazel.

1146
00:55:59,250 --> 00:56:02,820
Blew away the chickens
and the chicken coop.

1147
00:56:02,820 --> 00:56:04,230
And they were insured.

1148

00:56:04,230 --> 00:56:06,930
Well, everybody was.

1149
00:56:06,930 --> 00:56:08,850
And they all they
had left was a house.

1150
00:56:08,850 --> 00:56:10,275
You said they were or were not?

1151
00:56:10,275 --> 00:56:11,210
They were.

1152
00:56:11,210 --> 00:56:12,112
They were insured.

1153
00:56:12,112 --> 00:56:13,350
Mm-hmm.

1154
00:56:13,350 --> 00:56:17,940
And my father told his brother,
who he was in business with,

1155
00:56:17,940 --> 00:56:20,550
were not going to go back into
the chicken business were not

1156
00:56:20,550 --> 00:56:22,110
buying another single chicken.

1157
00:56:22,110 --> 00:56:24,670

1158
00:56:24,670 --> 00:56:27,760
And he bought a cow.

1159
00:56:27,760 --> 00:56:31,690
And he went back into trading.

1160
00:56:31,690 --> 00:56:38,920
And from 1952 until
1964, my father and uncle

1161
00:56:38,920 --> 00:56:42,280
built up a big cattle
business again.

1162
00:56:42,280 --> 00:56:43,900
On the same property.

1163
00:56:43,900 --> 00:56:45,860
They had two properties
next to each other.

1164
00:56:45,860 --> 00:56:48,790

1165
00:56:48,790 --> 00:56:54,400
They hired help and they
established a big cattle

1166
00:56:54,400 --> 00:56:54,910
business.

1167
00:56:54,910 --> 00:56:58,570
By the time he sold
out, he must have

1168
00:56:58,570 --> 00:57:00,040
had over 100 head of cattle.

1169
00:57:00,040 --> 00:57:02,550

1170
00:57:02,550 --> 00:57:06,900
He traded, he milked, and he
turned the two chicken farms

1171
00:57:06,900 --> 00:57:09,120
into a cattle business.

1172
00:57:09,120 --> 00:57:10,880
He made a living.

1173

00:57:10,880 --> 00:57:15,920

It wasn't-- you couldn't retire
on it, but at least they had--

1174

00:57:15,920 --> 00:57:20,510

you know, those first five
years were overcome by that.

1175

00:57:20,510 --> 00:57:23,930

It was hard work.

1176

00:57:23,930 --> 00:57:30,740

And then my father got sick.

1177

00:57:30,740 --> 00:57:32,060

And--

1178

00:57:32,060 --> 00:57:33,710

While he was still farming?

1179

00:57:33,710 --> 00:57:34,220

Yes.

1180

00:57:34,220 --> 00:57:37,795

How old was he when he got sick?

1181

00:57:37,795 --> 00:57:38,295

62.

1182

00:57:38,295 --> 00:57:41,280

1183

00:57:41,280 --> 00:57:43,865

And then later on--

1184

00:57:43,865 --> 00:57:46,800

three years later, I believe--

1185

00:57:46,800 --> 00:57:47,910

he got his pension.

1186

00:57:47,910 --> 00:57:50,760

They got money from Germany.

1187

00:57:50,760 --> 00:57:54,960

The whole family got restitution
for their properties.

1188

00:57:54,960 --> 00:57:56,380

They were cheated like hell.

1189

00:57:56,380 --> 00:57:58,320

But then, who wasn't?

1190

00:57:58,320 --> 00:58:05,550

But at least it was money
to live on and back pay.

1191

00:58:05,550 --> 00:58:08,520

And that gave them
a very, very--

1192

00:58:08,520 --> 00:58:11,310

would have given them a very
nice retirement They sold

1193

00:58:11,310 --> 00:58:17,130

the farms in 1965 and they
bought a house in town,

1194

00:58:17,130 --> 00:58:19,480

in Vineland.

1195

00:58:19,480 --> 00:58:22,060

And my father died
from the house.

1196

00:58:22,060 --> 00:58:25,860

He had leukemia and he
passed away a year and a half

1197

00:58:25,860 --> 00:58:28,700

after he got his pension.

1198
00:58:28,700 --> 00:58:32,060
But those first-- my goodness,
those first whatever years

1199
00:58:32,060 --> 00:58:33,600
in America were a nightmare.

1200
00:58:33,600 --> 00:58:38,570
So backing up, after the
cattle business got underway,

1201
00:58:38,570 --> 00:58:40,680
did his state of mind improve?

1202
00:58:40,680 --> 00:58:45,440
And did his adjustment
otherwise improve?

1203
00:58:45,440 --> 00:58:48,470
Yes, somewhat.

1204
00:58:48,470 --> 00:58:48,970
Yes.

1205
00:58:48,970 --> 00:58:53,038

1206
00:58:53,038 --> 00:58:55,350
Let me think about that.

1207
00:58:55,350 --> 00:58:57,660
He became much happier.

1208
00:58:57,660 --> 00:58:59,400
First of all, both
of us got married.

1209
00:58:59,400 --> 00:59:02,070

1210

00:59:02,070 --> 00:59:03,350
How did he feel about that?

1211
00:59:03,350 --> 00:59:07,970
Wonderful, because is he
adored his son-in-laws.

1212
00:59:07,970 --> 00:59:13,420
And he had grandchildren.

1213
00:59:13,420 --> 00:59:15,700
Some of them were on-- my
brother-in-law and sister

1214
00:59:15,700 --> 00:59:18,220
lived across the
street from my parents.

1215
00:59:18,220 --> 00:59:22,420
Made a lot of mistakes with
my sister and brother-in-law.

1216
00:59:22,420 --> 00:59:23,800
You know, they were older.

1217
00:59:23,800 --> 00:59:26,807
You know, my sister's turn
to get married and all this,

1218
00:59:26,807 --> 00:59:28,265
he was still very
much an immigrant

1219
00:59:28,265 --> 00:59:31,810
and doing things the European
way because that's the only way

1220
00:59:31,810 --> 00:59:33,460
they know how.

1221
00:59:33,460 --> 00:59:36,130
And they were not
adaptable to this country.

1222

00:59:36,130 --> 00:59:41,020

Now, did they find a synagogue
that they felt comfortable in?

1223

00:59:41,020 --> 00:59:45,580

No, but they found a synagogue
they could walk to, to pray in.

1224

00:59:45,580 --> 00:59:50,560

And my father's brother, George,
had a magnificent singing

1225

00:59:50,560 --> 00:59:53,890

voice, magnificent voice.

1226

00:59:53,890 --> 00:59:59,050

And he re-established the
little country synagogue

1227

00:59:59,050 --> 01:00:03,220

near the house where we lived,
so that for about 15 years

1228

01:00:03,220 --> 01:00:05,110

they had big services.

1229

01:00:05,110 --> 01:00:08,980

People came from far
and wide to hear him.

1230

01:00:08,980 --> 01:00:14,350

And so, that was
better for him to have

1231

01:00:14,350 --> 01:00:18,240

that synagogue than where
he had previously attended?

1232

01:00:18,240 --> 01:00:21,160

No, once they bought the
farm, they were always

1233

01:00:21,160 --> 01:00:22,450
in the same synagogue.

1234

01:00:22,450 --> 01:00:23,230
Oh, I thought--

1235

01:00:23,230 --> 01:00:24,100
It was a country synagogue.

1236

01:00:24,100 --> 01:00:25,475
Oh, I see, that
was the same one.

1237

01:00:25,475 --> 01:00:26,560
It wasn't a different one.

1238

01:00:26,560 --> 01:00:27,490
Yeah.

1239

01:00:27,490 --> 01:00:29,800
It wasn't ideal.

1240

01:00:29,800 --> 01:00:31,540
My sister and I
didn't have the kind

1241

01:00:31,540 --> 01:00:33,862
of-- obviously-- the
kind of Jewish education

1242

01:00:33,862 --> 01:00:34,945
that we gave our children.

1243

01:00:34,945 --> 01:00:37,690

1244

01:00:37,690 --> 01:00:39,370
Our children went
to Jewish schools.

1245

01:00:39,370 --> 01:00:41,230

Our children learned Hebrew.

1246

01:00:41,230 --> 01:00:44,933

Our children got
what we didn't get.

1247

01:00:44,933 --> 01:00:46,600

They haven't-- and
they're not putting--

1248

01:00:46,600 --> 01:00:49,120

some of them are not putting
it to use, but they have it.

1249

01:00:49,120 --> 01:00:51,580

So what religious
training did you have?

1250

01:00:51,580 --> 01:00:53,380

Very little, very little.

1251

01:00:53,380 --> 01:00:54,835

My religious training is--

1252

01:00:54,835 --> 01:00:57,880

1253

01:00:57,880 --> 01:01:01,210

in Kenya, I had a few
teachers who couldn't even

1254

01:01:01,210 --> 01:01:04,450

teach me the Alefbet.

1255

01:01:04,450 --> 01:01:05,350

And what is that?

1256

01:01:05,350 --> 01:01:07,290

The alphabet.

1257

01:01:07,290 --> 01:01:09,160

I couldn't even do that.

1258
01:01:09,160 --> 01:01:11,500
I had got most of my
religious training

1259
01:01:11,500 --> 01:01:18,610
at home, on the farm,
living Judaism from A to Z.

1260
01:01:18,610 --> 01:01:20,290
And then when I
came to Vineland,

1261
01:01:20,290 --> 01:01:25,070
I did go for religious
training for a few years.

1262
01:01:25,070 --> 01:01:26,210
But that--

1263
01:01:26,210 --> 01:01:28,565
Where did you go for the
religious training in Vineland?

1264
01:01:28,565 --> 01:01:33,400

1265
01:01:33,400 --> 01:01:35,560
There was a school in
Norma, New Jersey, which

1266
01:01:35,560 --> 01:01:37,867
is the next little hamlet over.

1267
01:01:37,867 --> 01:01:38,950
There was a teacher there.

1268
01:01:38,950 --> 01:01:42,630
I went there for a few years.

1269
01:01:42,630 --> 01:01:44,742
And I suppose I took

some lessons in Vineland

1270

01:01:44,742 --> 01:01:45,450
in the synagogue.

1271

01:01:45,450 --> 01:01:48,040
I don't remember.

1272

01:01:48,040 --> 01:01:48,990
But it was limited.

1273

01:01:48,990 --> 01:01:50,970
Did you say in
Norman, New Jersey?

1274

01:01:50,970 --> 01:01:51,790
Norma.

1275

01:01:51,790 --> 01:01:52,290
Norma.

1276

01:01:52,290 --> 01:01:57,090
Norma was a very vibrant
little country town

1277

01:01:57,090 --> 01:01:59,550
and had a lot of Judaism.

1278

01:01:59,550 --> 01:02:02,060
And so did you go
regularly for lessons?

1279

01:02:02,060 --> 01:02:02,820
Yes, I did.

1280

01:02:02,820 --> 01:02:03,810
Like once a week?

1281

01:02:03,810 --> 01:02:05,100
More than once a week.

1282

01:02:05,100 --> 01:02:08,170

I went for a few years,
several times a week.

1283

01:02:08,170 --> 01:02:09,570

I just wasn't very motivated.

1284

01:02:09,570 --> 01:02:12,660

I didn't like the teachers and
they didn't bring it across

1285

01:02:12,660 --> 01:02:13,202

very well.

1286

01:02:13,202 --> 01:02:14,910

But, here and there,
I would take courses

1287

01:02:14,910 --> 01:02:16,200

that I would enjoy.

1288

01:02:16,200 --> 01:02:17,970

And I read a lot.

1289

01:02:17,970 --> 01:02:20,070

And what about in your home?

1290

01:02:20,070 --> 01:02:24,180

Oh, my home was Orthodox.

1291

01:02:24,180 --> 01:02:27,540

Keep strictly kosher
home, and I know it--

1292

01:02:27,540 --> 01:02:30,640

when you live a living Judaism,
like we did, from the roots

1293

01:02:30,640 --> 01:02:31,140

up--

1294

01:02:31,140 --> 01:02:34,140

I mean, in Kenya my parents--

1295

01:02:34,140 --> 01:02:39,660
my uncles were the ritual
slaughterers, the shochtim.

1296

01:02:39,660 --> 01:02:41,260
They were trained.

1297

01:02:41,260 --> 01:02:42,750
So we always had kosher meat.

1298

01:02:42,750 --> 01:02:45,450

1299

01:02:45,450 --> 01:02:48,010
My family knew how to
do everything else,

1300

01:02:48,010 --> 01:02:52,270
including growing their own
food, making their own food.

1301

01:02:52,270 --> 01:02:55,170
They were country people.

1302

01:02:55,170 --> 01:02:57,300
Sometimes I think of them when--

1303

01:02:57,300 --> 01:02:59,670
there was a wonderful
movie out a few years ago.

1304

01:02:59,670 --> 01:03:04,020
It was called From Water
To Chocolate or from bread?

1305

01:03:04,020 --> 01:03:05,190
Did you see it?

1306

01:03:05,190 --> 01:03:09,840
Where everything centered

around the kitchen.

1307

01:03:09,840 --> 01:03:12,510

That's how it is in

Jewish homes as well.

1308

01:03:12,510 --> 01:03:15,690

The whole spiritual life--

1309

01:03:15,690 --> 01:03:19,230

every holiday,

every observance--

1310

01:03:19,230 --> 01:03:22,620

is from the kitchen.

1311

01:03:22,620 --> 01:03:25,860

And that's how we grew

up in Kenya, really.

1312

01:03:25,860 --> 01:03:26,980

We had Sukkot.

1313

01:03:26,980 --> 01:03:30,390

We had Passover.

1314

01:03:30,390 --> 01:03:33,000

We never needed anything

for the whole eight years,

1315

01:03:33,000 --> 01:03:37,800

except matzahs, which

came from South Africa.

1316

01:03:37,800 --> 01:03:39,990

Thank God, every

year, they did arrive.

1317

01:03:39,990 --> 01:03:42,630

Or maybe some oil.

1318

01:03:42,630 --> 01:03:47,040

But other than that,
everything was self-made--

1319
01:03:47,040 --> 01:03:48,460
cheeses, everything.

1320
01:03:48,460 --> 01:03:50,100
And in Vineland?

1321
01:03:50,100 --> 01:03:51,540
Same thing.

1322
01:03:51,540 --> 01:03:52,980
But in Vineland, it was easier.

1323
01:03:52,980 --> 01:03:54,690
You could buy things
from New York.

1324
01:03:54,690 --> 01:03:57,600

1325
01:03:57,600 --> 01:04:00,680
Philadelphia didn't have
such an orthodox community

1326
01:04:00,680 --> 01:04:02,450
many years ago.

1327
01:04:02,450 --> 01:04:03,550
But it did have some.

1328
01:04:03,550 --> 01:04:06,020
You see, my father
could have also--

1329
01:04:06,020 --> 01:04:07,950
they were very sorry later on.

1330
01:04:07,950 --> 01:04:13,670
But the economic problems
and the emotional problems

1331
01:04:13,670 --> 01:04:18,440
they had, they could
have very easily sent me

1332
01:04:18,440 --> 01:04:22,088
to a Jewish school
in Philadelphia.

1333
01:04:22,088 --> 01:04:23,630
There were other
children in Vineland

1334
01:04:23,630 --> 01:04:25,210
who commuted for years.

1335
01:04:25,210 --> 01:04:26,540
Oh, you mean day school.

1336
01:04:26,540 --> 01:04:28,280
Yes.

1337
01:04:28,280 --> 01:04:31,460
I have no idea why they
chose not to do that.

1338
01:04:31,460 --> 01:04:34,340
Because-- I think I do know.

1339
01:04:34,340 --> 01:04:39,290
Because of their background
of girls' education

1340
01:04:39,290 --> 01:04:40,490
being secondary.

1341
01:04:40,490 --> 01:04:43,880

1342
01:04:43,880 --> 01:04:46,010
So there were these
confusions there, these--

1343
01:04:46,010 --> 01:04:48,530
But in Kenya they
went to great lengths

1344
01:04:48,530 --> 01:04:53,724
to have their girls
well educated.

1345
01:04:53,724 --> 01:04:56,680
It wasn't such a problem there.

1346
01:04:56,680 --> 01:04:59,230
Things worked.

1347
01:04:59,230 --> 01:05:01,360
Things didn't
interfere to stop them.

1348
01:05:01,360 --> 01:05:05,690
But so to send you to a
Hebrew school in Philadelphia,

1349
01:05:05,690 --> 01:05:08,320
it would have been
more complicated.

1350
01:05:08,320 --> 01:05:10,930
It would have been
more expensive.

1351
01:05:10,930 --> 01:05:13,110
He didn't have the money.

1352
01:05:13,110 --> 01:05:15,610
And wouldn't have thought of
asking for a scholarship, which

1353
01:05:15,610 --> 01:05:16,240
was foolish.

1354
01:05:16,240 --> 01:05:19,010

1355
01:05:19,010 --> 01:05:21,810
Do you regret that you
didn't have that opportunity?

1356
01:05:21,810 --> 01:05:24,890
Oh, and how I regret it.

1357
01:05:24,890 --> 01:05:26,960
More than that, I
regret that I could have

1358
01:05:26,960 --> 01:05:30,820
gone to University for nothing.

1359
01:05:30,820 --> 01:05:33,820
If only I wouldn't have
had this constant pressure

1360
01:05:33,820 --> 01:05:42,580
of having to get out and
produce \$20 a week to live on.

1361
01:05:42,580 --> 01:05:46,790
I did get him to send
me to business school.

1362
01:05:46,790 --> 01:05:50,650
And I engineered that.

1363
01:05:50,650 --> 01:05:55,700
I refused to take business
courses in high school.

1364
01:05:55,700 --> 01:06:01,720
I told him I would not
sacrifice my liberal education

1365
01:06:01,720 --> 01:06:03,890
to learn steno and typing.

1366

01:06:03,890 --> 01:06:06,610

Now, why was that
important to you?

1367

01:06:06,610 --> 01:06:08,890

Because I wanted a
liberal education.

1368

01:06:08,890 --> 01:06:12,250

And where did that
idea come from?

1369

01:06:12,250 --> 01:06:13,910

Because I felt it was necessary.

1370

01:06:13,910 --> 01:06:18,375

I guess my good background
in education did that for me.

1371

01:06:18,375 --> 01:06:19,750

Do you think that
was a carryover

1372

01:06:19,750 --> 01:06:22,000

from your school in Kenya?

1373

01:06:22,000 --> 01:06:23,770

Yes, definitely, definitely.

1374

01:06:23,770 --> 01:06:25,330

I said, absolutely not.

1375

01:06:25,330 --> 01:06:29,860

I will not spend half
a day, for four years,

1376

01:06:29,860 --> 01:06:33,220

sitting there learning
how to type a typewriter

1377

01:06:33,220 --> 01:06:36,760

and learn steno when I
could be learning a language

1378
01:06:36,760 --> 01:06:40,840
or at least trying crafts.

1379
01:06:40,840 --> 01:06:44,740
I was very good
in home economics.

1380
01:06:44,740 --> 01:06:45,940
I loved it.

1381
01:06:45,940 --> 01:06:48,010
I sew well.

1382
01:06:48,010 --> 01:06:49,780
But I will not.

1383
01:06:49,780 --> 01:06:51,250
I will not sacrifice.

1384
01:06:51,250 --> 01:06:52,720
I wouldn't do it.

1385
01:06:52,720 --> 01:06:54,730
So you persisted.

1386
01:06:54,730 --> 01:06:56,020
I persisted.

1387
01:06:56,020 --> 01:06:57,160
It was four years later.

1388
01:06:57,160 --> 01:06:58,720
It was four years
after my sister.

1389
01:06:58,720 --> 01:07:01,060
And I had a different
personality.

1390
01:07:01,060 --> 01:07:03,430

And I said, OK,
buddy, now, if you

1391
01:07:03,430 --> 01:07:06,937
want me to go out and
make my \$20 a week,

1392
01:07:06,937 --> 01:07:08,770
you're going to have
to send me to a school.

1393
01:07:08,770 --> 01:07:17,500
Did your mother have any
part in these decisions

1394
01:07:17,500 --> 01:07:20,530
or did she express
opinions about what

1395
01:07:20,530 --> 01:07:23,200
she wanted, what
she thought should

1396
01:07:23,200 --> 01:07:26,715
be done about your education?

1397
01:07:26,715 --> 01:07:28,590
Or was it mostly between
you and your father.

1398
01:07:28,590 --> 01:07:31,980
She was not-- she was very
insistent that we both

1399
01:07:31,980 --> 01:07:34,290
graduate from high school,
I can tell you that.

1400
01:07:34,290 --> 01:07:37,330

1401
01:07:37,330 --> 01:07:40,690
She was not persistent enough

about higher education, no.

1402
01:07:40,690 --> 01:07:43,510
My mother was at
fault. My mother

1403
01:07:43,510 --> 01:07:47,140
was at fault. I could have gone
to Glassboro State Teachers

1404
01:07:47,140 --> 01:07:51,610
College with my eyes
closed, for free.

1405
01:07:51,610 --> 01:07:54,460
My problem was-- and in
those days, that was not only

1406
01:07:54,460 --> 01:07:56,290
my problem.

1407
01:07:56,290 --> 01:07:58,300
That was lots of girls problems.

1408
01:07:58,300 --> 01:08:01,360
That was nothing to do
with being an immigrant.

1409
01:08:01,360 --> 01:08:04,750
The choices were, you
became a secretary, a nurse,

1410
01:08:04,750 --> 01:08:06,185
or a teacher.

1411
01:08:06,185 --> 01:08:07,810
Well, I wasn't going
to become a nurse.

1412
01:08:07,810 --> 01:08:11,220

1413

01:08:11,220 --> 01:08:14,910
Teaching wasn't the field
I wanted to go into.

1414
01:08:14,910 --> 01:08:17,640
But what I didn't know and
I didn't have any guidance,

1415
01:08:17,640 --> 01:08:23,910
and I needed, was, take
the four years of Glassboro

1416
01:08:23,910 --> 01:08:25,250
and do something else with it.

1417
01:08:25,250 --> 01:08:27,939

1418
01:08:27,939 --> 01:08:30,399
That creative, I
wasn't at 17, 18.

1419
01:08:30,399 --> 01:08:33,580
And there was no teacher
in the school who--

1420
01:08:33,580 --> 01:08:35,700
nobody to steer you
in that direction.

1421
01:08:35,700 --> 01:08:46,170
No, they were only interested
in the honor students.

1422
01:08:46,170 --> 01:08:48,930
They were very good in
helping the honor students

1423
01:08:48,930 --> 01:08:50,580
and directing them.

1424
01:08:50,580 --> 01:08:54,120
Now, there may have been

some religious problems

1425

01:08:54,120 --> 01:08:55,500
with going to Glassboro.

1426

01:08:55,500 --> 01:08:56,279
I don't know.

1427

01:08:56,279 --> 01:08:59,100
Like what would the
religious problems be?

1428

01:08:59,100 --> 01:09:01,859
Holidays, Friday
afternoons early-- that

1429

01:09:01,859 --> 01:09:02,790
might have existed.

1430

01:09:02,790 --> 01:09:03,779
I don't know.

1431

01:09:03,779 --> 01:09:06,029
So are you saying that
if you had actually gone

1432

01:09:06,029 --> 01:09:08,564
there might have been problems,
or that your father was not

1433

01:09:08,564 --> 01:09:09,689
for it because of problems?

1434

01:09:09,689 --> 01:09:13,140
No, I myself was observant.

1435

01:09:13,140 --> 01:09:15,450
I was very firm about that.

1436

01:09:15,450 --> 01:09:16,710
I would not want to have--

1437

01:09:16,710 --> 01:09:18,960

I mean it just didn't-- it
wouldn't have been possible

1438

01:09:18,960 --> 01:09:21,660

for me to go to a school where
I had to stay and couldn't get

1439

01:09:21,660 --> 01:09:23,279

home on time for Sabbath.

1440

01:09:23,279 --> 01:09:25,700

I wouldn't-- you know,
that didn't exist.

1441

01:09:25,700 --> 01:09:27,479

Still doesn't.

1442

01:09:27,479 --> 01:09:31,680

But things weren't as
flexible then as they are now.

1443

01:09:31,680 --> 01:09:34,109

But I don't think that's why
I didn't go to Glassboro.

1444

01:09:34,109 --> 01:09:38,819

I think I didn't go because
I had this pressure of having

1445

01:09:38,819 --> 01:09:41,819

to get out and work.

1446

01:09:41,819 --> 01:09:44,790

To help the family with income?

1447

01:09:44,790 --> 01:09:49,140

To help the family
take care of myself.

1448

01:09:49,140 --> 01:09:51,870

So I could take care of myself.

1449
01:09:51,870 --> 01:09:54,870
And the pressure was
coming from your father

1450
01:09:54,870 --> 01:09:57,700
and from inside you, also.

1451
01:09:57,700 --> 01:09:59,520
No, the pressure
was coming from--

1452
01:09:59,520 --> 01:10:03,390

1453
01:10:03,390 --> 01:10:07,320
by then, the pressure inside
me had been distorted.

1454
01:10:07,320 --> 01:10:09,860
I think it was coming
from my father.

1455
01:10:09,860 --> 01:10:13,850
OK, we have to stop
and turn the tape.

1456
01:10:13,850 --> 01:10:18,000