

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:02,290

2

00:00:02,290 --> 00:00:05,140

This is a continuation of
the United States Holocaust

3

00:00:05,140 --> 00:00:07,390

Memorial Museum
volunteer collection

4

00:00:07,390 --> 00:00:10,240

interview with Michel Margosis.

5

00:00:10,240 --> 00:00:18,040

This is tape number two, side A.
And I was asking your thoughts

6

00:00:18,040 --> 00:00:20,620

about the Civil Rights
movement, and whether, because

7

00:00:20,620 --> 00:00:23,020

of your experience
as a child, that

8

00:00:23,020 --> 00:00:25,640

made you more attuned to it.

9

00:00:25,640 --> 00:00:27,490

Anything else you
wanted to add to that?

10

00:00:27,490 --> 00:00:30,270

11

00:00:30,270 --> 00:00:32,759

There are so many
things that impinge

12

00:00:32,759 --> 00:00:41,010

upon the values about diversity
of people in this country that

13

00:00:41,010 --> 00:00:43,070
would be a little
difficult to try

14

00:00:43,070 --> 00:00:48,660
to recollect all the
experiences that we have here.

15

00:00:48,660 --> 00:00:52,500
Together with the experience in
the Holocaust, during the time

16

00:00:52,500 --> 00:00:56,740
and afterwards, the
attempted assassination

17

00:00:56,740 --> 00:01:03,440
of Truman by Puerto
Rican separatists.

18

00:01:03,440 --> 00:01:06,050
And of course, the
assassination of Martin

19

00:01:06,050 --> 00:01:09,830
Luther King and Robert Kennedy.

20

00:01:09,830 --> 00:01:11,630
It's hard to imagine
that these things can

21

00:01:11,630 --> 00:01:14,370
happen in this kind of country.

22

00:01:14,370 --> 00:01:17,690
So all these things
affect me, of course.

23

00:01:17,690 --> 00:01:20,710
And I guess in a negative way.

24
00:01:20,710 --> 00:01:24,333
Affect you more because of
your European background?

25
00:01:24,333 --> 00:01:31,100

26
00:01:31,100 --> 00:01:40,070
When you read in the
newspaper about what

27
00:01:40,070 --> 00:01:42,830
happened in the former
Yugoslavia or what's happening,

28
00:01:42,830 --> 00:01:46,670
let's say, in Rwanda, does
that bring up any thoughts

29
00:01:46,670 --> 00:01:49,040
in your mind, again,
about your background?

30
00:01:49,040 --> 00:01:51,740

31
00:01:51,740 --> 00:01:58,070
The museum makes more of a case
about it than I think I would,

32
00:01:58,070 --> 00:02:02,610
yet I can see a lot
of similarities.

33
00:02:02,610 --> 00:02:04,695
It does affect me.

34
00:02:04,695 --> 00:02:07,125
Well, I guess that's--

35
00:02:07,125 --> 00:02:08,750

but I don't relate
it to the Holocaust.

36
00:02:08,750 --> 00:02:11,540

37
00:02:11,540 --> 00:02:14,070
And it's a difference--
different values,

38
00:02:14,070 --> 00:02:14,780
different people.

39
00:02:14,780 --> 00:02:25,430
It's not-- the Holocaust is so
unique in its whole enterprise.

40
00:02:25,430 --> 00:02:29,220
The way the government--
the whole government,

41
00:02:29,220 --> 00:02:34,640
the German administration from
the highest to the lowest level

42
00:02:34,640 --> 00:02:42,440
were trying to achieve a
certain value, a certain thing

43
00:02:42,440 --> 00:02:43,640
to complete.

44
00:02:43,640 --> 00:02:46,370
They wanted to
eliminate the Jews.

45
00:02:46,370 --> 00:02:50,420
I don't know whether
the Kikuyus want

46
00:02:50,420 --> 00:02:55,940
to get rid of the white
man in the East Africa.

47
00:02:55,940 --> 00:02:58,580
The Mau Maus, whether
it was a single thing.

48
00:02:58,580 --> 00:03:06,050
Or the Tutsis and the
Watusis in Rwanda.

49
00:03:06,050 --> 00:03:15,760
Or do the Catholic want to
get rid of the Protestants

50
00:03:15,760 --> 00:03:17,800
in Ireland?

51
00:03:17,800 --> 00:03:20,170
Or vice versa?

52
00:03:20,170 --> 00:03:21,670
The values are not the same.

53
00:03:21,670 --> 00:03:24,920
The whole operation
is not the same.

54
00:03:24,920 --> 00:03:29,200
But racism will
always exist as long

55
00:03:29,200 --> 00:03:33,710
as more than two different
people coexist together.

56
00:03:33,710 --> 00:03:37,120
They will always
pick on each other.

57
00:03:37,120 --> 00:03:40,480
But it doesn't have to be
a complete system where

58

00:03:40,480 --> 00:03:45,820
the whole country is
geared only to that end.

59
00:03:45,820 --> 00:03:48,740
And that was the Holocaust.

60
00:03:48,740 --> 00:03:55,300
We were selected for complete
extinction because we're Jews.

61
00:03:55,300 --> 00:03:58,100

62
00:03:58,100 --> 00:04:04,370
And I don't know whether
the Spanish Inquisition

63
00:04:04,370 --> 00:04:06,390
was any worse.

64
00:04:06,390 --> 00:04:07,490
I don't think it was.

65
00:04:07,490 --> 00:04:10,400
And yet, I think they
had the same purpose.

66
00:04:10,400 --> 00:04:12,020
But the purpose
there was conversion.

67
00:04:12,020 --> 00:04:17,350
It was not the same
as total extinction.

68
00:04:17,350 --> 00:04:20,390
And then I think in most cases,
that's what they want to do.

69
00:04:20,390 --> 00:04:26,080
They want to convert other
people to their way of life.

70
00:04:26,080 --> 00:04:30,090
So that's why I don't
correlate one with the other.

71
00:04:30,090 --> 00:04:33,810
But when you see refugees having
to flee, you were a refugee

72
00:04:33,810 --> 00:04:35,700
and you had to leave.

73
00:04:35,700 --> 00:04:37,500
Do you resonate to that?

74
00:04:37,500 --> 00:04:40,600

75
00:04:40,600 --> 00:04:44,600
Even then, I don't relate.

76
00:04:44,600 --> 00:04:46,640
But then again, my
own experience so far

77
00:04:46,640 --> 00:04:53,390
back that, like I said before,
it seems like a different life.

78
00:04:53,390 --> 00:04:55,430
Let's now talk about
your experience

79
00:04:55,430 --> 00:05:00,740
at the United States
Holocaust Memorial Museum.

80
00:05:00,740 --> 00:05:04,940
What was your first
encounter with the museum

81
00:05:04,940 --> 00:05:08,390

before you began
work as a volunteer?

82
00:05:08,390 --> 00:05:11,210

83
00:05:11,210 --> 00:05:15,590
I got involved a little
bit when I worked--

84
00:05:15,590 --> 00:05:16,490
I was still working.

85
00:05:16,490 --> 00:05:24,350
I think it was 1986 they had the
reunion of the Jewish survivors

86
00:05:24,350 --> 00:05:27,930
of Benjamin Mead's group.

87
00:05:27,930 --> 00:05:30,150
Oh, the American
Gathering in '83.

88
00:05:30,150 --> 00:05:33,660
The American Gathering
in '83 in Washington.

89
00:05:33,660 --> 00:05:35,280
And it was just
outside my building.

90
00:05:35,280 --> 00:05:36,330
And I saw these people.

91
00:05:36,330 --> 00:05:43,130
And as I looked at them and
I talked to them, I said,

92
00:05:43,130 --> 00:05:43,820
that's me.

93

00:05:43,820 --> 00:05:47,380

94

00:05:47,380 --> 00:05:49,810

Then I found out that the
museum had been approved.

95

00:05:49,810 --> 00:05:54,070

And I immediately
tried to get in touch.

96

00:05:54,070 --> 00:05:57,073

And I went to the
offices on L Street.

97

00:05:57,073 --> 00:05:58,240

And I started working there.

98

00:05:58,240 --> 00:05:59,320

And I took the training.

99

00:05:59,320 --> 00:06:01,270

And I wanted to do
whatever I could,

100

00:06:01,270 --> 00:06:02,530

especially when I retired.

101

00:06:02,530 --> 00:06:08,220

That was my primary purpose
was to work with them.

102

00:06:08,220 --> 00:06:12,600

And I don't know what
I would experience

103

00:06:12,600 --> 00:06:14,320

being so close to that.

104

00:06:14,320 --> 00:06:19,260

But again, because I was
not a death camp survivor,

105

00:06:19,260 --> 00:06:23,220

I think I could tolerate a lot
more than these other people.

106

00:06:23,220 --> 00:06:24,330

These other people--

107

00:06:24,330 --> 00:06:26,580

I mean, the other survivors.

108

00:06:26,580 --> 00:06:28,080

What was it like
for you to go out--

109

00:06:28,080 --> 00:06:29,543

and you just used
the expression,

110

00:06:29,543 --> 00:06:30,960

you started talking
to the people.

111

00:06:30,960 --> 00:06:32,850

And you said, that's me.

112

00:06:32,850 --> 00:06:34,070

What was that like for you?

113

00:06:34,070 --> 00:06:38,970

114

00:06:38,970 --> 00:06:42,690

In the afternoon I would
go out and on the mall,

115

00:06:42,690 --> 00:06:45,420

and I would start looking
for the Belgian desk.

116

00:06:45,420 --> 00:06:46,860

Say, who do I know here?

117

00:06:46,860 --> 00:06:49,140

Maybe I know somebody.

118

00:06:49,140 --> 00:06:50,000

I had friends.

119

00:06:50,000 --> 00:06:51,000

We knew a lot of people.

120

00:06:51,000 --> 00:06:56,110

My father being one of two
Jewish newspapers in Belgium,

121

00:06:56,110 --> 00:06:58,110

my father was well-known.

122

00:06:58,110 --> 00:07:00,990

I wasn't, but my father was.

123

00:07:00,990 --> 00:07:03,680

And then when I talked
to people from Belgium,

124

00:07:03,680 --> 00:07:04,890

they said the [NON-ENGLISH].

125

00:07:04,890 --> 00:07:08,790

Oh, I remember my
father reading that.

126

00:07:08,790 --> 00:07:10,440

And yet, I never heard of them.

127

00:07:10,440 --> 00:07:15,840

But so I thought maybe
I could salvage the name

128

00:07:15,840 --> 00:07:17,100

that we knew from Belgium.

129

00:07:17,100 --> 00:07:19,090

But we haven't.

130
00:07:19,090 --> 00:07:21,730
So now I'm interested
in helping out

131
00:07:21,730 --> 00:07:25,840
people and the
re-establishing contact.

132
00:07:25,840 --> 00:07:28,600
The people in Belgium did not
suffer as much as the people

133
00:07:28,600 --> 00:07:29,740
from Poland, for instance.

134
00:07:29,740 --> 00:07:31,120
I don't think anybody ever did.

135
00:07:31,120 --> 00:07:34,210

136
00:07:34,210 --> 00:07:37,120
But we had the same fate.

137
00:07:37,120 --> 00:07:39,680
Many people went over the
Pyrenees the way I did.

138
00:07:39,680 --> 00:07:41,750
And they were hiding in
Marseille the way we did.

139
00:07:41,750 --> 00:07:45,550
And the first thing I
did when I volunteered--

140
00:07:45,550 --> 00:07:47,890
I wanted to be in
contact with people.

141

00:07:47,890 --> 00:07:51,100

My life was working
as a research chemist.

142

00:07:51,100 --> 00:07:52,210

I was isolated.

143

00:07:52,210 --> 00:07:55,120

You know, the scientist
in the White Tower.

144

00:07:55,120 --> 00:07:58,030

I never-- the only time
I was able to go out

145

00:07:58,030 --> 00:08:01,630

was to do some research
and publish and present

146

00:08:01,630 --> 00:08:03,400

at meetings.

147

00:08:03,400 --> 00:08:06,430

That was my social
life at the time.

148

00:08:06,430 --> 00:08:07,930

But then when I
joined the museum,

149

00:08:07,930 --> 00:08:10,270

I wanted to work
with the visitors.

150

00:08:10,270 --> 00:08:13,352

And I put my red jacket
like everybody else

151

00:08:13,352 --> 00:08:14,560

and I worked with the people.

152

00:08:14,560 --> 00:08:17,320

And if they want to know

where the bathrooms are,

153

00:08:17,320 --> 00:08:21,050

the toilets, that's usually the
first question that comes up

154

00:08:21,050 --> 00:08:25,030

to people's lips,
that's not beneath me

155

00:08:25,030 --> 00:08:26,320

to tell them where it is.

156

00:08:26,320 --> 00:08:28,690

That's my job.

157

00:08:28,690 --> 00:08:32,020

And then I want to work with
the survivors with registry

158

00:08:32,020 --> 00:08:37,419

and encourage them to
sign up, tell their past.

159

00:08:37,419 --> 00:08:41,830

Encourage them to talk
to the oral history.

160

00:08:41,830 --> 00:08:44,350

And I want to join
myself, Joan Ringelheim,

161

00:08:44,350 --> 00:08:48,126

trying to help out survivors
who work in the museum.

162

00:08:48,126 --> 00:08:50,530

He said, we don't
have the money.

163

00:08:50,530 --> 00:08:52,120

I've never had the money.

164

00:08:52,120 --> 00:08:56,380

But I also encourage them
to go to the registry

165

00:08:56,380 --> 00:08:58,930

and register their whole family.

166

00:08:58,930 --> 00:09:04,780

Not just the survivors, but
the mishpacha, the spouse,

167

00:09:04,780 --> 00:09:08,080

the children, the
grandchildren, whatever.

168

00:09:08,080 --> 00:09:16,190

Because this is the only way
we can deny Hitler his victory,

169

00:09:16,190 --> 00:09:19,010

by showing him that the Jews
have survived and multiplied.

170

00:09:19,010 --> 00:09:24,600

171

00:09:24,600 --> 00:09:26,590

And I guess I just want
to be a part of it.

172

00:09:26,590 --> 00:09:29,520

173

00:09:29,520 --> 00:09:30,780

So now I work.

174

00:09:30,780 --> 00:09:34,050

Well, because of my
recent operation,

175

00:09:34,050 --> 00:09:37,800

haven't done [INAUDIBLE]

with the visitors.

176
00:09:37,800 --> 00:09:40,720
And I'll be the interpreter
there at the information booth.

177
00:09:40,720 --> 00:09:44,460
If they need somebody in
Spanish or French, I'm there.

178
00:09:44,460 --> 00:09:48,180
With my lousy kitchen
Russian, I'll be there.

179
00:09:48,180 --> 00:09:49,920
And I also work
with the registry.

180
00:09:49,920 --> 00:09:52,260
I translated the
deportation books

181
00:09:52,260 --> 00:09:53,610
from France and from Belgium.

182
00:09:53,610 --> 00:09:56,410
Not from France, from Belgium.

183
00:09:56,410 --> 00:09:57,940
That's quite a revelation to me.

184
00:09:57,940 --> 00:10:01,170
And also deportation
from Marseille,

185
00:10:01,170 --> 00:10:06,630
which is a separate book
by that French lawyer also.

186
00:10:06,630 --> 00:10:09,990
And I also participate
in the Speakers' Bureau

187

00:10:09,990 --> 00:10:13,280
with John Minnick.

188

00:10:13,280 --> 00:10:15,950
Talking to social
security people.

189

00:10:15,950 --> 00:10:19,340
In fact, the woman who put
me on the Social Security

190

00:10:19,340 --> 00:10:23,600
when I retired, I spoke to
her about the experience.

191

00:10:23,600 --> 00:10:27,110
And she said, oh, I know you.

192

00:10:27,110 --> 00:10:28,400
That was quite a surprise.

193

00:10:28,400 --> 00:10:31,850
And I talked to
the Madeira School.

194

00:10:31,850 --> 00:10:33,870
And more and more active.

195

00:10:33,870 --> 00:10:38,036
That's something that
people should know.

196

00:10:38,036 --> 00:10:40,340
It isn't that I want
to brag about my past.

197

00:10:40,340 --> 00:10:43,340
I don't think it's
anything to boast about.

198

00:10:43,340 --> 00:10:44,810
I don't think it's

any achievement

199

00:10:44,810 --> 00:10:48,650

to be an escapee from
a miserable life.

200

00:10:48,650 --> 00:10:51,800

201

00:10:51,800 --> 00:10:54,950

But people should know
what kind of things

202

00:10:54,950 --> 00:10:59,530

can be done to other people
because they're different.

203

00:10:59,530 --> 00:11:02,260

And in that respect,
I think the museum

204

00:11:02,260 --> 00:11:06,890

has achieved an immense
success, by showing people.

205

00:11:06,890 --> 00:11:09,070

And they've done it
in very good taste.

206

00:11:09,070 --> 00:11:11,320

And I may not always
agree with they

207

00:11:11,320 --> 00:11:14,110

way they do it, how they do it.

208

00:11:14,110 --> 00:11:15,610

But they do a very good job.

209

00:11:15,610 --> 00:11:19,240

And I know that
with survivor group

210

00:11:19,240 --> 00:11:26,740

at the museum that we have,
we do not agree on everything.

211

00:11:26,740 --> 00:11:28,360

We're different people.

212

00:11:28,360 --> 00:11:29,490

We think differently.

213

00:11:29,490 --> 00:11:31,420

We have different values.

214

00:11:31,420 --> 00:11:33,370

But I want to encourage anybody.

215

00:11:33,370 --> 00:11:36,860

216

00:11:36,860 --> 00:11:39,490

We're at the museum to
be able to do what they

217

00:11:39,490 --> 00:11:43,750

can to enhance that experience.

218

00:11:43,750 --> 00:11:46,900

And going through the--

219

00:11:46,900 --> 00:11:48,540

and in fact, I tell
all my doctors,

220

00:11:48,540 --> 00:11:50,030

you haven't been there yet?

221

00:11:50,030 --> 00:11:51,220

Said, I have the tickets.

222

00:11:51,220 --> 00:11:57,030

Just let me know when, and

I'll give you a special tour.

223

00:11:57,030 --> 00:12:03,240

So I'm still working on that,
but it's a special task.

224

00:12:03,240 --> 00:12:06,840

And facing my own
past is not as bad

225

00:12:06,840 --> 00:12:10,260

because mine was not really
as bad as it could have been.

226

00:12:10,260 --> 00:12:13,050

227

00:12:13,050 --> 00:12:13,740

I'm here.

228

00:12:13,740 --> 00:12:19,845

I'm in fairly good shape,
quite content with my life.

229

00:12:19,845 --> 00:12:22,850

230

00:12:22,850 --> 00:12:26,090

And just try to keep
on as much as possible.

231

00:12:26,090 --> 00:12:28,670

232

00:12:28,670 --> 00:12:31,610

You had said when you had
come out of your building

233

00:12:31,610 --> 00:12:36,390

and you saw this gathering
of survivors, before that,

234

00:12:36,390 --> 00:12:40,830

had you been friends
with other survivors?

235

00:12:40,830 --> 00:12:43,430

At one time I did try
to get in touch with--

236

00:12:43,430 --> 00:12:45,410

I had heard about
somebody from Belgium.

237

00:12:45,410 --> 00:12:47,150

And I got in touch.

238

00:12:47,150 --> 00:12:49,610

And that happened to be
Jack and Flora Singer.

239

00:12:49,610 --> 00:12:51,890

That was way before.

240

00:12:51,890 --> 00:12:56,960

And we met a little group
of just Belgian Jews.

241

00:12:56,960 --> 00:12:58,980

But nothing ever
ensued after that.

242

00:12:58,980 --> 00:13:02,300

And of course, everybody
was working at the time.

243

00:13:02,300 --> 00:13:06,440

I was more professionally
involved at that time

244

00:13:06,440 --> 00:13:10,010

than at practically
any time before that.

245

00:13:10,010 --> 00:13:17,070

Because as I got older, I got
more involved in more policy

246
00:13:17,070 --> 00:13:20,430
changes with the Food
and Drug Administration

247
00:13:20,430 --> 00:13:21,660
with different values.

248
00:13:21,660 --> 00:13:24,180
And I was more of
a senior scientist

249
00:13:24,180 --> 00:13:28,810
and I became more of
an expert in the field.

250
00:13:28,810 --> 00:13:33,670
So I was more in demand.

251
00:13:33,670 --> 00:13:36,430
So I did not work too
much with the Holocaust,

252
00:13:36,430 --> 00:13:39,040
and that was part of my past.

253
00:13:39,040 --> 00:13:41,290
And I still considered
myself a refugee

254
00:13:41,290 --> 00:13:45,220
until they redefined
the Holocaust survivor

255
00:13:45,220 --> 00:13:52,150
as anyone being affected by Nazi
policies between 1933 and 1945.

256
00:13:52,150 --> 00:13:54,150
Even though we just moved
from one to the other.

257
00:13:54,150 --> 00:13:59,350
But it's only when
I retired that I

258
00:13:59,350 --> 00:14:03,400
was able to devote the
time that I do now.

259
00:14:03,400 --> 00:14:06,280
Do you help out at
the permanent exhibit?

260
00:14:06,280 --> 00:14:09,760

261
00:14:09,760 --> 00:14:13,120
Not in the implementation of it
or the design of it in any way.

262
00:14:13,120 --> 00:14:17,410
I try to say, well, most of it--

263
00:14:17,410 --> 00:14:21,720
and no one there in Fry was
initially there when it opened.

264
00:14:21,720 --> 00:14:25,940
There was an exhibit
downstairs with Varian Fry.

265
00:14:25,940 --> 00:14:30,920
And as I walked in there I said
to myself, this is my home.

266
00:14:30,920 --> 00:14:31,550
I lived here.

267
00:14:31,550 --> 00:14:33,770
I was hiding in Marseille.

268
00:14:33,770 --> 00:14:36,680

I recognized Notre Dame.

269
00:14:36,680 --> 00:14:38,218
And I said, well
if I had known Fry

270
00:14:38,218 --> 00:14:39,510
I would have been here earlier.

271
00:14:39,510 --> 00:14:44,790
Instead of waiting until 1943, I
could have come in 1940 or '41.

272
00:14:44,790 --> 00:14:50,960
So I would like the museum
to have a little more

273
00:14:50,960 --> 00:14:54,180
about the people who escaped.

274
00:14:54,180 --> 00:14:56,370
Particularly-- and there
were several thousand

275
00:14:56,370 --> 00:14:58,470
that went into Spain.

276
00:14:58,470 --> 00:15:02,010
And hardly any of
this is mentioned,

277
00:15:02,010 --> 00:15:04,320
except through Varian Fry.

278
00:15:04,320 --> 00:15:08,080
But he only helped
the intellectuals

279
00:15:08,080 --> 00:15:09,670
that he knew were intellectuals.

280
00:15:09,670 --> 00:15:11,260

There were a lot
of intellectuals

281
00:15:11,260 --> 00:15:12,130
that were not known.

282
00:15:12,130 --> 00:15:14,740

283
00:15:14,740 --> 00:15:18,540
So the volunteers
have, as far as I know,

284
00:15:18,540 --> 00:15:21,090
very little input
into the programs

285
00:15:21,090 --> 00:15:23,910
in the museum, at
least the programs

286
00:15:23,910 --> 00:15:27,990
in the permanent exhibits
or temporary exhibits.

287
00:15:27,990 --> 00:15:32,730
I don't know if anybody had
any input into the Olympics,

288
00:15:32,730 --> 00:15:34,750
for instance.

289
00:15:34,750 --> 00:15:37,050
I know that survivors
have quite a bit

290
00:15:37,050 --> 00:15:40,470
to do with the other programs.

291
00:15:40,470 --> 00:15:46,760
They're the deportation.

292

00:15:46,760 --> 00:15:48,740
Not deportation.

293
00:15:48,740 --> 00:15:58,320
The camps post-war from 1945
to 1957 where the refugees were

294
00:15:58,320 --> 00:16:01,890
being shifted from
camp to camp and not

295
00:16:01,890 --> 00:16:03,960
knowing where they
would be going,

296
00:16:03,960 --> 00:16:08,520
especially those that did not
return to their home country.

297
00:16:08,520 --> 00:16:11,820
When I say home, I use
the term very loosely.

298
00:16:11,820 --> 00:16:14,130
Do you work in the
visitors service

299
00:16:14,130 --> 00:16:16,020
in the permanent exhibit?

300
00:16:16,020 --> 00:16:19,310
I worked at the visitor center.

301
00:16:19,310 --> 00:16:23,190
And I asked the people
there not to send me

302
00:16:23,190 --> 00:16:25,440
at the exhibits themselves.

303
00:16:25,440 --> 00:16:27,990
I tried to stay downstairs
on the first floor.

304
00:16:27,990 --> 00:16:30,240
Why is that?

305
00:16:30,240 --> 00:16:33,110
Because I have a
hard time facing

306
00:16:33,110 --> 00:16:37,442
all these exhibits on the--

307
00:16:37,442 --> 00:16:39,380
the third floor is horrendous.

308
00:16:39,380 --> 00:16:43,070

309
00:16:43,070 --> 00:16:45,770
I'll take some special
visitors sometimes through.

310
00:16:45,770 --> 00:16:50,210
And I'll say I'll meet you
at the end of this exhibit.

311
00:16:50,210 --> 00:16:51,870
On the fourth
floor, for instance,

312
00:16:51,870 --> 00:16:53,990
if you are interested
in computers,

313
00:16:53,990 --> 00:16:57,140
take a look at
this little device

314
00:16:57,140 --> 00:16:59,840
that was built by
the IBM company

315
00:16:59,840 --> 00:17:02,120

in the '30s for Germany.

316

00:17:02,120 --> 00:17:05,210

They used that to
segregate people.

317

00:17:05,210 --> 00:17:08,420

And then you knew who was
a Jew and who was not.

318

00:17:08,420 --> 00:17:10,609

Also on the fourth
floor I think,

319

00:17:10,609 --> 00:17:13,280

take a look at
all the insignias.

320

00:17:13,280 --> 00:17:15,980

Using two triangles
to characterize

321

00:17:15,980 --> 00:17:17,510

each different group.

322

00:17:17,510 --> 00:17:24,260

The Jews, the homosexuals, each
one had different types of--

323

00:17:24,260 --> 00:17:27,760

and that's how they
had characterized

324

00:17:27,760 --> 00:17:30,650

each ethnic group.

325

00:17:30,650 --> 00:17:32,180

Take a look at that.

326

00:17:32,180 --> 00:17:34,780

Take a look also at
how they measured

327

00:17:34,780 --> 00:17:37,640

the physiognomy of the

[? nose. ?] Long nose,

328

00:17:37,640 --> 00:17:39,440

he must be a Jew.

329

00:17:39,440 --> 00:17:41,930

Pseudoscientific.

330

00:17:41,930 --> 00:17:45,200

And look at the source

of these theories.

331

00:17:45,200 --> 00:17:48,750

That came from

the United States.

332

00:17:48,750 --> 00:17:50,950

Take a look at this.

333

00:17:50,950 --> 00:17:57,430

We also have a section about the

policies of the United States

334

00:17:57,430 --> 00:18:03,565

in the '40s, before the war, in

the '30s, immigration policies.

335

00:18:03,565 --> 00:18:06,770

336

00:18:06,770 --> 00:18:07,850

Get acquainted with this.

337

00:18:07,850 --> 00:18:10,310

See what your own country--

338

00:18:10,310 --> 00:18:11,710

how your country

felt about that,

339

00:18:11,710 --> 00:18:15,580

whether that's talked about.

340

00:18:15,580 --> 00:18:19,295

I think 60% of the visitors
of the museum are non-Jews.

341

00:18:19,295 --> 00:18:22,140

342

00:18:22,140 --> 00:18:23,620

I also guide.

343

00:18:23,620 --> 00:18:29,560

I also, the people that
come in, the groups.

344

00:18:29,560 --> 00:18:31,320

I also talk to the groups.

345

00:18:31,320 --> 00:18:33,150

And if it's a French--

346

00:18:33,150 --> 00:18:35,550

I remember a group
from Canada coming in

347

00:18:35,550 --> 00:18:39,220

and I gave it to them in French.

348

00:18:39,220 --> 00:18:41,860

And I talk to the kids and
tell them what to expect.

349

00:18:41,860 --> 00:18:47,650

If they have special
interests, I can look at it.

350

00:18:47,650 --> 00:18:50,570

If it's an archaeologist, for
instance, who is interested,

351

00:18:50,570 --> 00:18:54,820

I say, take a look at that
milk jar, that milk container.

352

00:18:54,820 --> 00:18:58,330

That's a fascinating
bit of genealogy.

353

00:18:58,330 --> 00:19:00,310

Normally when you look
for that kind of things,

354

00:19:00,310 --> 00:19:04,250

you will not find
anything in it.

355

00:19:04,250 --> 00:19:06,910

So there's an awful
lot of history,

356

00:19:06,910 --> 00:19:11,050

of values, and things
that you can impart.

357

00:19:11,050 --> 00:19:16,270

And of course you impress some
of your own feeling into that.

358

00:19:16,270 --> 00:19:19,130

But as a survivor, I can tell
them what is of value to me.

359

00:19:19,130 --> 00:19:21,850

And of course, we
also had the ID cards.

360

00:19:21,850 --> 00:19:26,140

And I always say that
we had different plans

361

00:19:26,140 --> 00:19:27,550

when we first opened it.

362

00:19:27,550 --> 00:19:30,050

We had hoped that
on every floor,

363

00:19:30,050 --> 00:19:33,370

you'd be able to identify
each floor with that

364

00:19:33,370 --> 00:19:34,900

and then go accordingly.

365

00:19:34,900 --> 00:19:38,770

But each page is
a different floor.

366

00:19:38,770 --> 00:19:45,090

And the ID cards
reflect all the victims,

367

00:19:45,090 --> 00:19:47,670

different types of victims.

368

00:19:47,670 --> 00:19:50,940

And not all victims were killed.

369

00:19:50,940 --> 00:19:52,770

Some of them escaped.

370

00:19:52,770 --> 00:19:55,415

And some people who escaped
even came to this country.

371

00:19:55,415 --> 00:19:56,790

And some of these
people are even

372

00:19:56,790 --> 00:19:59,100

working here in this museum.

373

00:19:59,100 --> 00:20:01,200

So if you are interested
in talking to survivors,

374
00:20:01,200 --> 00:20:03,870
let me know and I'll
see what I can arrange.

375
00:20:03,870 --> 00:20:06,600
And sometimes somebody will
say, are you a survivor?

376
00:20:06,600 --> 00:20:08,520
I said, yes.

377
00:20:08,520 --> 00:20:11,280
Do you want to talk
about yourself?

378
00:20:11,280 --> 00:20:12,840
It depends how
much time we have.

379
00:20:12,840 --> 00:20:16,500
We're not supposed to take
too much time when we--

380
00:20:16,500 --> 00:20:21,660
the kids come in and groups,
and they have so much time.

381
00:20:21,660 --> 00:20:23,400
So that is of interest.

382
00:20:23,400 --> 00:20:26,880
As a visitor, it's important
to be able to reflect on this.

383
00:20:26,880 --> 00:20:28,800
And if it's a
survivor who comes in,

384
00:20:28,800 --> 00:20:32,930
you have to be particularly
mindful of that.

385

00:20:32,930 --> 00:20:37,140

Depending on where he came from,
if I had something in common

386

00:20:37,140 --> 00:20:38,400

with him, if it's language.

387

00:20:38,400 --> 00:20:43,560

I know they're mostly
Jews, but not necessarily.

388

00:20:43,560 --> 00:20:47,410

So I find it particularly--

389

00:20:47,410 --> 00:20:51,850

390

00:20:51,850 --> 00:20:53,140

what's the feeling?

391

00:20:53,140 --> 00:20:55,600

It's good to be
able to partake some

392

00:20:55,600 --> 00:21:03,370

of that experience and
an education in a way.

393

00:21:03,370 --> 00:21:07,060

I used to be able to teach a
little chemistry to some kids.

394

00:21:07,060 --> 00:21:09,430

If it's science, if
it's pseudoscience,

395

00:21:09,430 --> 00:21:13,150

then I can tell if it's
pseudoscience or not science.

396

00:21:13,150 --> 00:21:15,240

That's interesting.

397
00:21:15,240 --> 00:21:19,600
And the work I do with registry
too is also fascinating.

398
00:21:19,600 --> 00:21:21,340
Because there you know
what the story is.

399
00:21:21,340 --> 00:21:25,510
You look at the background
and say, oh, that person--

400
00:21:25,510 --> 00:21:29,390
some of my brother's best
friend was born in Warsaw,

401
00:21:29,390 --> 00:21:31,760
but he lived in Belgium.

402
00:21:31,760 --> 00:21:33,110
They became best friends.

403
00:21:33,110 --> 00:21:35,700
I never knew he
was born in Warsaw.

404
00:21:35,700 --> 00:21:37,120
He doesn't have a Polish accent.

405
00:21:37,120 --> 00:21:40,900

406
00:21:40,900 --> 00:21:46,240
And then working behind the
scenes, doing the translations

407
00:21:46,240 --> 00:21:52,420
and finding things that I
never knew about the Wannsee

408
00:21:52,420 --> 00:21:55,300

determination in '42.

409

00:21:55,300 --> 00:22:01,260

A lot of my knowledge is from
the museum that I acquired.

410

00:22:01,260 --> 00:22:03,640

People didn't know.

411

00:22:03,640 --> 00:22:05,620

And I think we have
done a good job.

412

00:22:05,620 --> 00:22:10,300

And I'm pretty proud
to be part of that.

413

00:22:10,300 --> 00:22:13,720

How has working at the
museum affected your wife?

414

00:22:13,720 --> 00:22:17,910

415

00:22:17,910 --> 00:22:24,570

That's-- my wife has had
a history of depression.

416

00:22:24,570 --> 00:22:27,420

I don't know if it would've
affected me if she had told me

417

00:22:27,420 --> 00:22:28,380

before I got married.

418

00:22:28,380 --> 00:22:32,690

But to date she's been
to the museum only once.

419

00:22:32,690 --> 00:22:37,812

And that was this past
year appreciation night.

420

00:22:37,812 --> 00:22:39,770

And she was willing to
go as long as she didn't

421

00:22:39,770 --> 00:22:42,560

have to go on the floors.

422

00:22:42,560 --> 00:22:47,860

And I never even suggested
that she does that.

423

00:22:47,860 --> 00:22:50,590

424

00:22:50,590 --> 00:22:54,010

It affects me going
through the floors,

425

00:22:54,010 --> 00:22:58,770

through the exhibit,
permanent exhibit,

426

00:22:58,770 --> 00:23:02,850

attending the movies
on the fourth floor,

427

00:23:02,850 --> 00:23:06,540

and then going through and
seeing all that has an effect.

428

00:23:06,540 --> 00:23:08,470

The first time I
went through it,

429

00:23:08,470 --> 00:23:12,250

it took at least four hours.

430

00:23:12,250 --> 00:23:14,590

A couple of weeks later, I
went back for a second time--

431

00:23:14,590 --> 00:23:17,550

another four hours.

432

00:23:17,550 --> 00:23:21,060

I wrote my autobiography because
my son asked me a question once

433

00:23:21,060 --> 00:23:24,270

about what did that
do to you in the war?

434

00:23:24,270 --> 00:23:25,800

And I said, you
really want to know?

435

00:23:25,800 --> 00:23:27,510

Said yes, so I started writing.

436

00:23:27,510 --> 00:23:30,560

437

00:23:30,560 --> 00:23:33,130

He was very much effected too.

438

00:23:33,130 --> 00:23:36,320

I think he stayed in the museum
for about six hours that time.

439

00:23:36,320 --> 00:23:39,230

He does want to go back.

440

00:23:39,230 --> 00:23:42,920

He does not want to join any
group related to the children.

441

00:23:42,920 --> 00:23:46,070

There was one group that I
was interested, possibly,

442

00:23:46,070 --> 00:23:49,040

in acquainting him with.

443

00:23:49,040 --> 00:23:52,730

And that was when the
children of survivors

444
00:23:52,730 --> 00:23:58,290
met children of
the executioners.

445
00:23:58,290 --> 00:24:02,760
That was an awesome experience.

446
00:24:02,760 --> 00:24:05,730
There was one woman whose
father was a camp commandant.

447
00:24:05,730 --> 00:24:09,890

448
00:24:09,890 --> 00:24:13,670
And I don't know to
this day what she is.

449
00:24:13,670 --> 00:24:15,412
She seemed that she was--

450
00:24:15,412 --> 00:24:17,245
whenever I saw her, she
seemed like her eyes

451
00:24:17,245 --> 00:24:22,000
were red from crying,
crying, crying.

452
00:24:22,000 --> 00:24:25,920
And there was no way that she
could make up for anything.

453
00:24:25,920 --> 00:24:28,140
But she was very
strong on wanting

454
00:24:28,140 --> 00:24:31,780
to be part of that group.

455

00:24:31,780 --> 00:24:34,690

My son was not
interested in any of it.

456

00:24:34,690 --> 00:24:36,160

He's got his own
life, of course.

457

00:24:36,160 --> 00:24:39,400

And he is working hard.

458

00:24:39,400 --> 00:24:41,980

My daughter went
back there too once.

459

00:24:41,980 --> 00:24:44,650

And then, they're not
that interested in--

460

00:24:44,650 --> 00:24:47,530

461

00:24:47,530 --> 00:24:48,910

I'm more active.

462

00:24:48,910 --> 00:24:52,960

I was thinking about
the hidden children.

463

00:24:52,960 --> 00:24:58,210

I never realized I
was hidden, but I was.

464

00:24:58,210 --> 00:25:03,050

But they don't meet too closely
here, so I haven't joined them.

465

00:25:03,050 --> 00:25:08,150

Do you think that you bring
special insights as a staff

466

00:25:08,150 --> 00:25:13,810

member because of
what you experienced?

467
00:25:13,810 --> 00:25:16,990
Is it for me to qualify that?

468
00:25:16,990 --> 00:25:18,790
I think the staff
should know better

469
00:25:18,790 --> 00:25:21,010
than I whether I contribute.

470
00:25:21,010 --> 00:25:24,060

471
00:25:24,060 --> 00:25:26,100
I don't think any
volunteer is ever

472
00:25:26,100 --> 00:25:31,490
rejected because volunteer
time is always appreciated,

473
00:25:31,490 --> 00:25:33,330
anybody who wants to volunteer.

474
00:25:33,330 --> 00:25:35,250
It's rare that it's rejected.

475
00:25:35,250 --> 00:25:36,870
And I've heard that it can be.

476
00:25:36,870 --> 00:25:39,650

477
00:25:39,650 --> 00:25:41,300
I don't know how
much I contribute.

478
00:25:41,300 --> 00:25:47,700
I think I'm contributing

quite a bit when I'm there.

479

00:25:47,700 --> 00:25:50,610

I've been looking to
translate-- to have

480

00:25:50,610 --> 00:25:55,770

the museum sponsor the
translation of the deportation.

481

00:25:55,770 --> 00:26:03,720

I asked the attorney there about
two years ago to help on that.

482

00:26:03,720 --> 00:26:08,175

And since Sara has been moved
to the Wexner Institute,

483

00:26:08,175 --> 00:26:09,800

she can't be too much
involved with it.

484

00:26:09,800 --> 00:26:12,440

But nothing has
been done with that.

485

00:26:12,440 --> 00:26:15,890

486

00:26:15,890 --> 00:26:18,260

I think I contribute,
and I think I can,

487

00:26:18,260 --> 00:26:21,180

and I think I will.

488

00:26:21,180 --> 00:26:26,560

First year I was eager to be
part of the advisory meeting,

489

00:26:26,560 --> 00:26:29,150

the VAB.

490

00:26:29,150 --> 00:26:31,670

They finally came with that name, that was adopted, VAB.

491

00:26:31,670 --> 00:26:35,310

That's the only thing that was adopted from that group.

492

00:26:35,310 --> 00:26:37,150

And I thought I could contribute to that.

493

00:26:37,150 --> 00:26:41,040

But then we have so many people who have so many different

494

00:26:41,040 --> 00:26:46,140

ideas that it's difficult. Especially since a volunteer

495

00:26:46,140 --> 00:26:53,940

has no real say in what goes on, since a volunteer doesn't bring

496

00:26:53,940 --> 00:27:01,240

any money, and you cannot be fired for causes.

497

00:27:01,240 --> 00:27:04,675

Even though I claim I've been promoted 25 times.

498

00:27:04,675 --> 00:27:08,550

499

00:27:08,550 --> 00:27:13,380

I think we contribute, each in a different way perhaps.

500

00:27:13,380 --> 00:27:15,390

But I'm not talking about volunteers in general.

501

00:27:15,390 --> 00:27:20,140

I'm talking about volunteers
who themselves are from Europe.

502

00:27:20,140 --> 00:27:25,030

I think we have more
of something to offer.

503

00:27:25,030 --> 00:27:30,490

That kind of experience
cannot be obtained in any way.

504

00:27:30,490 --> 00:27:31,270

And I don't know--

505

00:27:31,270 --> 00:27:33,790

506

00:27:33,790 --> 00:27:35,800

when I talk to
different volunteers,

507

00:27:35,800 --> 00:27:37,660

when I talk to
Flora, for instance,

508

00:27:37,660 --> 00:27:42,910

she talks mainly about the
father, Bruno, who saves her

509

00:27:42,910 --> 00:27:49,470

and several hundred
other Belgian kids.

510

00:27:49,470 --> 00:27:53,640

And she always
direct any visitor

511

00:27:53,640 --> 00:27:55,260

to go particularly
on the second floor

512

00:27:55,260 --> 00:27:57,780
and take a look at his picture.

513
00:27:57,780 --> 00:28:01,440
She then went back to Belgium
to commemorate the sister's

514
00:28:01,440 --> 00:28:06,260
50th year in the order.

515
00:28:06,260 --> 00:28:09,010
It's a very rich experience.

516
00:28:09,010 --> 00:28:12,380

517
00:28:12,380 --> 00:28:16,490
The priest that I met that
took care of us and in Spain

518
00:28:16,490 --> 00:28:17,450
is nothing like it.

519
00:28:17,450 --> 00:28:22,400
But I felt he was in the
same type of cloth material.

520
00:28:22,400 --> 00:28:27,050
And if he had been in France, he
would have done the same thing.

521
00:28:27,050 --> 00:28:32,140
So there is a value in
that that we can bring.

522
00:28:32,140 --> 00:28:34,450
The liberated cannot bring
that kind of feeling.

523
00:28:34,450 --> 00:28:37,870
And we have, I think, a couple
of people who have been--

524

00:28:37,870 --> 00:28:42,100

I know a general, he
used to be in our temple.

525

00:28:42,100 --> 00:28:43,690

He was promoted in the reserve.

526

00:28:43,690 --> 00:28:45,560

And he's the one that
accompanied Clinton

527

00:28:45,560 --> 00:28:48,370

at the Omaha Beach.

528

00:28:48,370 --> 00:28:51,970

[INAUDIBLE] is a
volunteer over there too.

529

00:28:51,970 --> 00:28:59,810

Even the liberated cannot bring
the same type of feeling that

530

00:28:59,810 --> 00:29:02,850

the survivor can.

531

00:29:02,850 --> 00:29:06,040

What type of feeling
does a survivor bring?

532

00:29:06,040 --> 00:29:09,950

That's the kind of
feeling I cannot express.

533

00:29:09,950 --> 00:29:10,970

We were part of it.

534

00:29:10,970 --> 00:29:14,170

We were part of the history.

535

00:29:14,170 --> 00:29:17,898

536

00:29:17,898 --> 00:29:18,940

They're talking about me.

537

00:29:18,940 --> 00:29:21,970

538

00:29:21,970 --> 00:29:27,620

And yet, I'm glad it
isn't, it wasn't me.

539

00:29:27,620 --> 00:29:31,210

I was one of the few lucky ones.

540

00:29:31,210 --> 00:29:36,400

But we can bring a lot
of things that I think

541

00:29:36,400 --> 00:29:38,830

the visitor can appreciate.

542

00:29:38,830 --> 00:29:41,620

If you have friends
who are survivors,

543

00:29:41,620 --> 00:29:46,030

do you try to encourage them
to volunteer at the museum?

544

00:29:46,030 --> 00:29:49,000

Well, I have a friend
who's not Jewish.

545

00:29:49,000 --> 00:29:52,180

He retired as an attorney.

546

00:29:52,180 --> 00:29:53,580

I've known him for many years.

547

00:29:53,580 --> 00:29:59,290

Our boys have the same
age, maybe five days apart,

548

00:29:59,290 --> 00:30:03,730

who went camping,
had scouts together.

549

00:30:03,730 --> 00:30:04,960

He'd bring the martini.

550

00:30:04,960 --> 00:30:07,720

I'd bring the whatever.

551

00:30:07,720 --> 00:30:11,250

And he didn't know what he
was going to do with himself.

552

00:30:11,250 --> 00:30:14,045

And I provide him with tickets.

553

00:30:14,045 --> 00:30:15,420

I said, if you
want to volunteer,

554

00:30:15,420 --> 00:30:18,060

we have plenty of
things we can do here.

555

00:30:18,060 --> 00:30:18,990

He took the course.

556

00:30:18,990 --> 00:30:19,780

He's volunteering.

557

00:30:19,780 --> 00:30:21,940

He's now working at the museum.

558

00:30:21,940 --> 00:30:24,970

559

00:30:24,970 --> 00:30:26,140

But he's not a survivor.

560

00:30:26,140 --> 00:30:26,950

He's not Jewish.

561

00:30:26,950 --> 00:30:31,060

And so you don't have to
be Jewish to volunteer.

562

00:30:31,060 --> 00:30:34,150

Although, most of other
volunteers are Jewish.

563

00:30:34,150 --> 00:30:35,190

But the staff is not.

564

00:30:35,190 --> 00:30:39,125

But that's something else.

565

00:30:39,125 --> 00:30:40,880

I have another
friend from temple--

566

00:30:40,880 --> 00:30:43,210

When you meet
survivors, do you try

567

00:30:43,210 --> 00:30:45,280

to encourage them to
work at the museum?

568

00:30:45,280 --> 00:30:48,470

Well, I know so few
survivors at the temple.

569

00:30:48,470 --> 00:30:50,560

And one of them will have
nothing to do-- well,

570

00:30:50,560 --> 00:30:52,870

I shouldn't say nothing to do.

571

00:30:52,870 --> 00:30:54,980

She'll contribute.

572

00:30:54,980 --> 00:30:58,100
She'll give money.

573
00:30:58,100 --> 00:31:01,310
She doesn't want to go there.

574
00:31:01,310 --> 00:31:07,420
Most of them don't want to show
that affiliation with them.

575
00:31:07,420 --> 00:31:10,100

576
00:31:10,100 --> 00:31:11,630
The past is buried.

577
00:31:11,630 --> 00:31:12,600
Let's leave it there.

578
00:31:12,600 --> 00:31:14,880
I don't want to bring it back.

579
00:31:14,880 --> 00:31:19,560
And I know many survivors
that feel that way.

580
00:31:19,560 --> 00:31:22,410
What is your relationship with
the other volunteers who are

581
00:31:22,410 --> 00:31:28,380
the survivors at the museum.

582
00:31:28,380 --> 00:31:31,890
I feel pretty good about
working with everybody there.

583
00:31:31,890 --> 00:31:35,850
I have a good rapport with the
staff, with the administration,

584
00:31:35,850 --> 00:31:40,440

with Sara Bloomfield,
with everybody there.

585
00:31:40,440 --> 00:31:42,900
And I feel pretty good about it.

586
00:31:42,900 --> 00:31:46,310
But then, I'm not paid.

587
00:31:46,310 --> 00:31:51,300
What is your impression
of the museum's volunteers

588
00:31:51,300 --> 00:31:53,760
who are not survivors?

589
00:31:53,760 --> 00:31:57,690
And staff who are not survivors?

590
00:31:57,690 --> 00:31:59,850
Jewish or non-Jewish.

591
00:31:59,850 --> 00:32:02,760
Most of them do a very good job.

592
00:32:02,760 --> 00:32:07,180
Some of them are a
little too dictatorial.

593
00:32:07,180 --> 00:32:10,180
You know, you can't do
that, you cannot do that.

594
00:32:10,180 --> 00:32:11,463
But I'll do that.

595
00:32:11,463 --> 00:32:12,630
I'll say that too sometimes.

596
00:32:12,630 --> 00:32:13,505
You can't smoke here.

597

00:32:13,505 --> 00:32:14,495

You can't drink here.

598

00:32:14,495 --> 00:32:16,580

You know, we have to
abide by certain rules.

599

00:32:16,580 --> 00:32:19,900

600

00:32:19,900 --> 00:32:24,680

I think I've heard of
only one being fired,

601

00:32:24,680 --> 00:32:28,090

and that's for nonappearance.

602

00:32:28,090 --> 00:32:31,520

And when we volunteer, we
have to commit ourselves

603

00:32:31,520 --> 00:32:34,030

to a certain time.

604

00:32:34,030 --> 00:32:38,120

And I was told it was at
least four hours a week.

605

00:32:38,120 --> 00:32:43,790

If I want to give 40 hours
a week, that's my business.

606

00:32:43,790 --> 00:32:47,240

Most of them give a lot
more than four hours.

607

00:32:47,240 --> 00:32:50,000

And I feel good about it.

608

00:32:50,000 --> 00:32:53,820

And those people that
I know on my shift--

609
00:32:53,820 --> 00:32:56,960
and I come in
sometimes other days.

610
00:32:56,960 --> 00:33:00,990
Tuesday is my day at the visitor
center with the visitors.

611
00:33:00,990 --> 00:33:03,450
Thursday is my research day.

612
00:33:03,450 --> 00:33:05,940
And sometimes I'll come in on
weekends or during the week

613
00:33:05,940 --> 00:33:06,630
sometimes.

614
00:33:06,630 --> 00:33:09,390
And all the
volunteers are always

615
00:33:09,390 --> 00:33:13,590
gracious and helpful
and dedicated.

616
00:33:13,590 --> 00:33:15,570
And I think they're great.

617
00:33:15,570 --> 00:33:18,270
Can you describe any
memorable experience

618
00:33:18,270 --> 00:33:20,505
that you had while
working at the museum?

619
00:33:20,505 --> 00:33:23,200

620
00:33:23,200 --> 00:33:26,890

One time, I was in registry.

621

00:33:26,890 --> 00:33:31,860

And this young woman
comes up to the registry.

622

00:33:31,860 --> 00:33:34,440

And she was directed
that by somebody

623

00:33:34,440 --> 00:33:36,730

in the visitor's center.

624

00:33:36,730 --> 00:33:37,840

I have ID card.

625

00:33:37,840 --> 00:33:38,770

This is my cousin.

626

00:33:38,770 --> 00:33:41,450

627

00:33:41,450 --> 00:33:45,440

And even though we cannot
divulge where that person

628

00:33:45,440 --> 00:33:47,180

lives, it's confidential.

629

00:33:47,180 --> 00:33:49,880

So we get in touch
with that person

630

00:33:49,880 --> 00:33:52,370

and ask permission to reveal.

631

00:33:52,370 --> 00:33:55,900

And then when I tried to
get back in touch with her,

632

00:33:55,900 --> 00:34:00,110

she didn't give an

address to follow up.

633
00:34:00,110 --> 00:34:02,550
And we couldn't do any more.

634
00:34:02,550 --> 00:34:04,020
So I don't know whether--

635
00:34:04,020 --> 00:34:05,520
you know, we feel
good about being

636
00:34:05,520 --> 00:34:07,920
able to reconcile
people who hadn't seen

637
00:34:07,920 --> 00:34:10,469
each other for so many years.

638
00:34:10,469 --> 00:34:13,236
But then when it doesn't
work out, it's frustrating.

639
00:34:13,236 --> 00:34:16,320

640
00:34:16,320 --> 00:34:18,820
I've met many
people from Canada,

641
00:34:18,820 --> 00:34:22,790
from France who were
French-speaking,

642
00:34:22,790 --> 00:34:25,040
and some from my
own neighborhood.

643
00:34:25,040 --> 00:34:28,040
And when somebody's
from Belgium,

644

00:34:28,040 --> 00:34:29,449
I'll say, where in Belgium?

645
00:34:29,449 --> 00:34:31,340
Brussels.

646
00:34:31,340 --> 00:34:34,250
What part of Brussels?

647
00:34:34,250 --> 00:34:35,030
Saint Jean.

648
00:34:35,030 --> 00:34:35,900
Where in Saint Jean?

649
00:34:35,900 --> 00:34:37,250
What street?

650
00:34:37,250 --> 00:34:43,530
And it's almost like
coming home, you know?

651
00:34:43,530 --> 00:34:51,250
It's, and yet, a
strange feeling.

652
00:34:51,250 --> 00:34:56,550
The past is always with you,
and yet we have to look ahead.

653
00:34:56,550 --> 00:34:59,140
And I don't want to
live in the past,

654
00:34:59,140 --> 00:35:01,385
but I have to talk about it.

655
00:35:01,385 --> 00:35:02,760
Why do you have
to talk about it?

656
00:35:02,760 --> 00:35:05,650

657

00:35:05,650 --> 00:35:08,200

Because the past is
part of our future.

658

00:35:08,200 --> 00:35:11,500

If we do not know our past,
we cannot appreciate what

659

00:35:11,500 --> 00:35:13,980

the future will be.

660

00:35:13,980 --> 00:35:16,390

If the future is
anything like the past,

661

00:35:16,390 --> 00:35:19,380

it may not pay to have one.

662

00:35:19,380 --> 00:35:23,370

Depending upon-- I wouldn't
want to see another Inquisition,

663

00:35:23,370 --> 00:35:25,500

either.

664

00:35:25,500 --> 00:35:32,460

But the best way to avoid
any kind of incidents

665

00:35:32,460 --> 00:35:40,060

is to know what causes
these incidents to occur,

666

00:35:40,060 --> 00:35:41,860

or accidents.

667

00:35:41,860 --> 00:35:44,710

I think all accidents
can be prevented

668

00:35:44,710 --> 00:35:47,402
if you just find out
what the cause is

669
00:35:47,402 --> 00:35:48,360
how you can prevent it.

670
00:35:48,360 --> 00:35:55,090

671
00:35:55,090 --> 00:35:59,860
Are there any particular
parts of the museum

672
00:35:59,860 --> 00:36:04,230
exhibits that you identify with
that you haven't mentioned yet?

673
00:36:04,230 --> 00:36:08,600

674
00:36:08,600 --> 00:36:11,510
When the museum
first opened I was

675
00:36:11,510 --> 00:36:14,990
sitting in back of
a young lady and she

676
00:36:14,990 --> 00:36:17,250
kept her umbrella wide open.

677
00:36:17,250 --> 00:36:20,420
And it was a drizzly,
terrible day.

678
00:36:20,420 --> 00:36:22,220
And I kept asking
to please close it,

679
00:36:22,220 --> 00:36:24,290
I couldn't see anything.

680

00:36:24,290 --> 00:36:26,930

That young lady happened
to be a young woman

681

00:36:26,930 --> 00:36:31,910

by the name of Anna
Rosmus, who her movie was

682

00:36:31,910 --> 00:36:34,220

made about The Nasty Girl.

683

00:36:34,220 --> 00:36:35,810

And we've been
friends ever since.

684

00:36:35,810 --> 00:36:38,940

685

00:36:38,940 --> 00:36:43,580

It brings that kind
of people together.

686

00:36:43,580 --> 00:36:49,810

Now she's [? trembling. ?] She
was trying to dig up the facts.

687

00:36:49,810 --> 00:36:52,673

And I think, again, I
forgot the question,

688

00:36:52,673 --> 00:36:53,590

the original question.

689

00:36:53,590 --> 00:36:55,780

I keep digressing.

690

00:36:55,780 --> 00:37:04,410

691

00:37:04,410 --> 00:37:06,990

This is a continuation of
the United States Holocaust

692
00:37:06,990 --> 00:37:09,000
Memorial Museum
volunteer collection

693
00:37:09,000 --> 00:37:11,190
interview with Michel Margosis.

694
00:37:11,190 --> 00:37:16,103
This is tape number two,
side B. And I have asked you

695
00:37:16,103 --> 00:37:17,520
if there were any
particular parts

696
00:37:17,520 --> 00:37:22,800
of the museum or the exhibits
with which you identify.

697
00:37:22,800 --> 00:37:26,790
And you talked about meeting
this young German woman who

698
00:37:26,790 --> 00:37:28,452
wrote The Nasty Girl.

699
00:37:28,452 --> 00:37:31,170

700
00:37:31,170 --> 00:37:33,180
So when I went through
the museum and I

701
00:37:33,180 --> 00:37:36,275
see the name Passau, the town.

702
00:37:36,275 --> 00:37:41,370
It brings me back to some
people, decent people,

703
00:37:41,370 --> 00:37:46,120

who tried to dig into the
past and tried to correct it.

704
00:37:46,120 --> 00:37:50,010
And that is good.

705
00:37:50,010 --> 00:37:58,170
Being a scientist also, when I
walk by that IBM thing, that's

706
00:37:58,170 --> 00:38:05,300
a strange feeling, that science,
of course, was instrumental--

707
00:38:05,300 --> 00:38:06,110
is that a pun?

708
00:38:06,110 --> 00:38:09,500
--instrumental in the
destruction of the Jews.

709
00:38:09,500 --> 00:38:16,740
They always use advances in
science to achieve nasty ends.

710
00:38:16,740 --> 00:38:21,540
The gunpowder, the
botulism, whatever--

711
00:38:21,540 --> 00:38:23,250
toxins, nerve gases.

712
00:38:23,250 --> 00:38:27,350

713
00:38:27,350 --> 00:38:29,795
Sometimes I feel
sorry I am a chemist.

714
00:38:29,795 --> 00:38:32,755

715

00:38:32,755 --> 00:38:34,630

Maybe that's why I felt
so good about working

716

00:38:34,630 --> 00:38:35,380

for Food and Drug.

717

00:38:35,380 --> 00:38:37,030

We always worked for
drugs rather than

718

00:38:37,030 --> 00:38:39,500

for the other end of it.

719

00:38:39,500 --> 00:38:42,630

720

00:38:42,630 --> 00:38:46,230

We had some
experiences where when

721

00:38:46,230 --> 00:38:53,140

we were able to make people feel
better about where there were,

722

00:38:53,140 --> 00:38:54,360

what they did.

723

00:38:54,360 --> 00:38:59,850

I also met some other
survivors from other towns.

724

00:38:59,850 --> 00:39:03,580

One who came from Belgium
that I've been in touch with.

725

00:39:03,580 --> 00:39:05,790

And there's a picture of
her on the second floor

726

00:39:05,790 --> 00:39:09,450

as she was a hidden child.

727

00:39:09,450 --> 00:39:13,140

And when I talked to
her I say, Simone,

728

00:39:13,140 --> 00:39:16,230

I see your picture all the time.

729

00:39:16,230 --> 00:39:19,650

And it's a good
feeling when I see

730

00:39:19,650 --> 00:39:21,000

listen to Nesse all the time.

731

00:39:21,000 --> 00:39:23,660

She's a fabulous speaker.

732

00:39:23,660 --> 00:39:26,910

And Regina, we work together.

733

00:39:26,910 --> 00:39:27,680

We get along.

734

00:39:27,680 --> 00:39:29,840

We are fond of each other.

735

00:39:29,840 --> 00:39:31,670

We've become friends.

736

00:39:31,670 --> 00:39:36,110

More than friends, it's
a special relationship.

737

00:39:36,110 --> 00:39:39,270

I feel very good about
this kind of work.

738

00:39:39,270 --> 00:39:43,600

But then, I feel good about the
other volunteer work I do, too,

739

00:39:43,600 --> 00:39:47,760
also in a positive way.

740
00:39:47,760 --> 00:39:50,480
What other kind of
volunteer work do you do?

741
00:39:50,480 --> 00:39:53,270
Well, with my wife was
being a parkinsonian,

742
00:39:53,270 --> 00:39:59,810
I'm very active in the
National Parkinson Foundation,

743
00:39:59,810 --> 00:40:07,060
raising funds, participating,
being optimistic, and being--

744
00:40:07,060 --> 00:40:12,490
I collect a lot of humor
and try to send it to many

745
00:40:12,490 --> 00:40:15,700
of my parkinsonian friends.

746
00:40:15,700 --> 00:40:17,830
I'm active in that
and trying to keep up

747
00:40:17,830 --> 00:40:22,090
with the advances in the field.

748
00:40:22,090 --> 00:40:28,420
And I also work with WETA,
public radio and television.

749
00:40:28,420 --> 00:40:34,350
Without Beethoven,
Mozart, Bach, my life

750
00:40:34,350 --> 00:40:37,500
would not be as rich as it is.

751
00:40:37,500 --> 00:40:41,540
And I'd like WETA to continue
with that kind of thing.

752
00:40:41,540 --> 00:40:43,700
And if I can help--

753
00:40:43,700 --> 00:40:45,950
since I cannot afford to
give them what I thought they

754
00:40:45,950 --> 00:40:49,010
deserve, I'll give my time.

755
00:40:49,010 --> 00:40:55,380
I'll got to the studio, answer
the phone, little things.

756
00:40:55,380 --> 00:40:58,350
When you walk into
the Holocaust museum,

757
00:40:58,350 --> 00:41:00,510
when you come to
volunteer, do you

758
00:41:00,510 --> 00:41:04,350
have any kind of
emotional reaction

759
00:41:04,350 --> 00:41:07,140
when you step
inside the building?

760
00:41:07,140 --> 00:41:12,590
Well, sometimes the rent-a-cop
gives me a hard time.

761
00:41:12,590 --> 00:41:15,010
Especially after
the operation, I

762

00:41:15,010 --> 00:41:16,510
couldn't open the door to well.

763

00:41:16,510 --> 00:41:18,250
It was a little too heavy.

764

00:41:18,250 --> 00:41:19,930
So use the handicap button.

765

00:41:19,930 --> 00:41:22,570
And he said, that's not
for people like you.

766

00:41:22,570 --> 00:41:24,370
I said, you don't know me.

767

00:41:24,370 --> 00:41:26,440
Yes, we know you.

768

00:41:26,440 --> 00:41:32,920
At any rate, Jeff said I'll
open it for me if I ask him to.

769

00:41:32,920 --> 00:41:39,070
But when I go there, I'll park
the car, and I'll approach it,

770

00:41:39,070 --> 00:41:40,000
and I'll see the flag.

771

00:41:40,000 --> 00:41:42,940
And I said, that's my building.

772

00:41:42,940 --> 00:41:45,820
I walk in, that's my building.

773

00:41:45,820 --> 00:41:48,090
I feel at home.

774

00:41:48,090 --> 00:41:51,730
I know where I am.

775
00:41:51,730 --> 00:41:55,620
I am with friends
and with family.

776
00:41:55,620 --> 00:41:57,420
And I know exactly--

777
00:41:57,420 --> 00:41:59,400
it makes me feel good.

778
00:41:59,400 --> 00:42:02,850
And I see somebody
who seems to be lost,

779
00:42:02,850 --> 00:42:05,170
the first thing--
can I help you?

780
00:42:05,170 --> 00:42:07,970
That's part of my ingrained--

781
00:42:07,970 --> 00:42:08,890
even the streets.

782
00:42:08,890 --> 00:42:12,460
You know, I'll see somebody out
on Constitution Avenue looking

783
00:42:12,460 --> 00:42:12,960
at a map.

784
00:42:12,960 --> 00:42:15,080
Can I help you?

785
00:42:15,080 --> 00:42:17,840
I think it's part of
what it's all about,

786
00:42:17,840 --> 00:42:20,270
being a volunteer--
being helpful,

787
00:42:20,270 --> 00:42:23,210
and wanting to see
a better world.

788
00:42:23,210 --> 00:42:28,280

789
00:42:28,280 --> 00:42:29,900
Do you receive reparations?

790
00:42:29,900 --> 00:42:32,530

791
00:42:32,530 --> 00:42:33,460
I have a claim.

792
00:42:33,460 --> 00:42:39,380

793
00:42:39,380 --> 00:42:43,560
Let's put it this way, my mother
sued the German government

794
00:42:43,560 --> 00:42:46,680
in the early '60s.

795
00:42:46,680 --> 00:42:49,710
They said that she
applied too late.

796
00:42:49,710 --> 00:42:52,500
The lawyer we had
in Germany died.

797
00:42:52,500 --> 00:42:57,450
And his replacement said that
we shouldn't even bother.

798
00:42:57,450 --> 00:43:06,390
Then, when the Swiss problem
came up and even before that,

799

00:43:06,390 --> 00:43:09,030

we were told that people
who had no claim before

800

00:43:09,030 --> 00:43:11,040

could then resubmit claims.

801

00:43:11,040 --> 00:43:13,560

I resubmitted one.

802

00:43:13,560 --> 00:43:18,660

And then thinking, well, my
father was in Geneva 1939.

803

00:43:18,660 --> 00:43:23,050

He was not covering the
convention 26 hours a day.

804

00:43:23,050 --> 00:43:25,170

I'm sure he did other things.

805

00:43:25,170 --> 00:43:30,170

And I thought maybe he did stop
by the bank, just per chance.

806

00:43:30,170 --> 00:43:35,760

He knew-- he was pretty
well aware since 1933,

807

00:43:35,760 --> 00:43:37,430

Hitler won the election.

808

00:43:37,430 --> 00:43:39,380

God, the election.

809

00:43:39,380 --> 00:43:42,470

It sounds so ridiculous.

810

00:43:42,470 --> 00:43:44,300

But I thought that maybe he did.

811

00:43:44,300 --> 00:43:46,610

We were not wealthy,
but he might

812

00:43:46,610 --> 00:43:50,420

have had some money to put in.

813

00:43:50,420 --> 00:43:52,450

So I did see the list.

814

00:43:52,450 --> 00:43:54,700

My name was not on it.

815

00:43:54,700 --> 00:43:57,160

If he used his name-- if
he used it, number one.

816

00:43:57,160 --> 00:43:58,690

If he used his name, number two.

817

00:43:58,690 --> 00:44:01,330

818

00:44:01,330 --> 00:44:04,460

I don't expect to see
anything from that.

819

00:44:04,460 --> 00:44:07,780

In fact, as we're downsizing
for the move over here,

820

00:44:07,780 --> 00:44:10,870

my wife says, why don't
you throw that stuff away?

821

00:44:10,870 --> 00:44:16,073

I have big files on the museum
that I can't throw away.

822

00:44:16,073 --> 00:44:18,240

She says, you have to get
rid of a lot of the stuff.

823
00:44:18,240 --> 00:44:22,490
Well, I got rid of practically
all my chemistry stuff,

824
00:44:22,490 --> 00:44:24,770
except my own publications.

825
00:44:24,770 --> 00:44:28,570
And there's just so
much I can't toss out.

826
00:44:28,570 --> 00:44:32,720
Why can't you toss out
the museum information?

827
00:44:32,720 --> 00:44:36,020
Because it's part of
me, or I'm part of them.

828
00:44:36,020 --> 00:44:37,840
I don't know.

829
00:44:37,840 --> 00:44:41,060
That's more than I
want to get rid of.

830
00:44:41,060 --> 00:44:44,340
You know, we keep moving.

831
00:44:44,340 --> 00:44:48,630
And we have to break with
the past to some extent.

832
00:44:48,630 --> 00:44:53,940
And downsizing after collecting
35 or 41 years of marriage,

833
00:44:53,940 --> 00:44:58,710
and then to a small place,
it's difficult, especially

834

00:44:58,710 --> 00:45:02,670
since I had an active
professional life.

835
00:45:02,670 --> 00:45:06,800

836
00:45:06,800 --> 00:45:10,070
And all of these other
things, that's just so much.

837
00:45:10,070 --> 00:45:13,820
I have Triumphant Spirit is
sitting on top of that table

838
00:45:13,820 --> 00:45:14,760
there.

839
00:45:14,760 --> 00:45:20,510
How did the author of
Triumphant Spirit get to you?

840
00:45:20,510 --> 00:45:22,380
Nick was visiting the museum.

841
00:45:22,380 --> 00:45:25,850
And he was on the fifth
floor in the registry.

842
00:45:25,850 --> 00:45:28,830

843
00:45:28,830 --> 00:45:33,130
And I saw-- my hobby
used to be photography.

844
00:45:33,130 --> 00:45:34,930
I asked what kind of
camera he was using?

845
00:45:34,930 --> 00:45:37,092
The stand and everything.

846

00:45:37,092 --> 00:45:38,800

And then he asked me,
are you a survivor?

847

00:45:38,800 --> 00:45:39,550

I said, yeah.

848

00:45:39,550 --> 00:45:41,350

He said, you seem interesting.

849

00:45:41,350 --> 00:45:43,460

Can I interview you?

850

00:45:43,460 --> 00:45:44,120

So he did.

851

00:45:44,120 --> 00:45:50,080

And one of the pictures he
took was the three cameras,

852

00:45:50,080 --> 00:45:54,040

the three monitors in the
registry with my picture

853

00:45:54,040 --> 00:45:56,120

and me sitting in front of it.

854

00:45:56,120 --> 00:45:57,970

And I have that picture.

855

00:45:57,970 --> 00:45:59,890

And that was one of the
few that he selected.

856

00:45:59,890 --> 00:46:03,600

He also interviewed Flora
and I think possibly Regina.

857

00:46:03,600 --> 00:46:07,000

And I gave him a
few names, including

858

00:46:07,000 --> 00:46:13,880

that French actor from
Hogan's Heroes in California.

859

00:46:13,880 --> 00:46:18,860

So I helped him with the exhibit
when he came to the capitol

860

00:46:18,860 --> 00:46:20,870

over here.

861

00:46:20,870 --> 00:46:23,870

And when he needs information
about how to spell camp

862

00:46:23,870 --> 00:46:26,653

and where they are,
I'm his contact

863

00:46:26,653 --> 00:46:27,945

to some extent with the museum.

864

00:46:27,945 --> 00:46:30,720

865

00:46:30,720 --> 00:46:33,630

He was affected by
visiting Germany and going

866

00:46:33,630 --> 00:46:34,690

to one of the camps.

867

00:46:34,690 --> 00:46:38,010

And that changed his life.

868

00:46:38,010 --> 00:46:41,760

And it's quite an experience.

869

00:46:41,760 --> 00:46:43,316

That's quite an achievement.

870

00:46:43,316 --> 00:46:46,510

871

00:46:46,510 --> 00:46:50,105

Do you ever dream about the
years you were a refugee?

872

00:46:50,105 --> 00:46:53,510

873

00:46:53,510 --> 00:46:55,370

I don't remember
most of my dreams.

874

00:46:55,370 --> 00:46:59,010

875

00:46:59,010 --> 00:47:01,730

I think I do at times.

876

00:47:01,730 --> 00:47:06,240

But I had some good
times over there too.

877

00:47:06,240 --> 00:47:10,940

You know, being free in southern
France living on the farm,

878

00:47:10,940 --> 00:47:16,550

no school, learning how to be
friends with cows and horses.

879

00:47:16,550 --> 00:47:20,520

And I had never
driven a horse before.

880

00:47:20,520 --> 00:47:23,690

I had never been
that close to cows.

881

00:47:23,690 --> 00:47:27,650

And then being able to milk
them and drinking warm milk

882
00:47:27,650 --> 00:47:29,980
without heating it.

883
00:47:29,980 --> 00:47:33,910
Being able to climb trees to
get fruit directly from there.

884
00:47:33,910 --> 00:47:37,610

885
00:47:37,610 --> 00:47:43,310
It was a sense of freedom
that is seldom ever achieved.

886
00:47:43,310 --> 00:47:46,720
But I had that experience.

887
00:47:46,720 --> 00:47:49,840
And I felt good.

888
00:47:49,840 --> 00:47:54,490
I didn't have any feeling
of doing anything evil

889
00:47:54,490 --> 00:47:59,840
when I climb on the
truck full of watermelons

890
00:47:59,840 --> 00:48:04,020
just because I
wanted to have one.

891
00:48:04,020 --> 00:48:07,710
Getting food, as I probably
explained on my previous thing,

892
00:48:07,710 --> 00:48:09,300
was very difficult back then.

893
00:48:09,300 --> 00:48:15,040
Everything was difficult to get.

894
00:48:15,040 --> 00:48:17,470
In fact, about a
month ago, I wanted

895
00:48:17,470 --> 00:48:22,730
to put a vegetable in the
soup and I didn't have the--

896
00:48:22,730 --> 00:48:23,510
what do you call?

897
00:48:23,510 --> 00:48:25,060
The [NON-ENGLISH].

898
00:48:25,060 --> 00:48:28,580
Not the horseradish,
but some kind of radish

899
00:48:28,580 --> 00:48:31,010
put in this chicken soup.

900
00:48:31,010 --> 00:48:33,140
They had nothing but rutabaga.

901
00:48:33,140 --> 00:48:36,880
And against my better
judgment, I bought one.

902
00:48:36,880 --> 00:48:40,050
And that gave me nightmares.

903
00:48:40,050 --> 00:48:41,550
Thinking about rutabagas.

904
00:48:41,550 --> 00:48:46,860
That was practically the only
food available in Marseille.

905
00:48:46,860 --> 00:48:52,060
I don't think we even had to
stand in line for rutabagas.

906
00:48:52,060 --> 00:48:55,720
And somehow, the thought
of having another one

907
00:48:55,720 --> 00:48:57,340
just sickens me.

908
00:48:57,340 --> 00:49:00,520

909
00:49:00,520 --> 00:49:04,190
Any other foods that
trigger memories?

910
00:49:04,190 --> 00:49:07,100
Beans in Spain.

911
00:49:07,100 --> 00:49:12,920
One time there was practically
nothing in Spain except beans.

912
00:49:12,920 --> 00:49:15,780
Baked beans, I guess.

913
00:49:15,780 --> 00:49:24,670
And 1942 was not too
long after the Civil War.

914
00:49:24,670 --> 00:49:28,180
And I they still had
food shortages in Spain.

915
00:49:28,180 --> 00:49:32,600
I did not see white bread
until I came to this country.

916
00:49:32,600 --> 00:49:37,240
Then I said to myself, why
the heck do bleach bread?

917
00:49:37,240 --> 00:49:40,870

But there were a few
things, like the rutabaga

918
00:49:40,870 --> 00:49:41,770
was one of the worst.

919
00:49:41,770 --> 00:49:46,190

920
00:49:46,190 --> 00:49:49,820
You had said that you were
part of a survivor discussion

921
00:49:49,820 --> 00:49:52,490
group at the museum and
that some people have

922
00:49:52,490 --> 00:49:54,530
different feelings
about certain areas.

923
00:49:54,530 --> 00:49:59,103
What is-- the different
feelings about which areas?

924
00:49:59,103 --> 00:50:00,770
I don't know if it's
a discussion group.

925
00:50:00,770 --> 00:50:05,450
It's a meeting of
survivor volunteers.

926
00:50:05,450 --> 00:50:07,820
And we have quite
a few volunteers

927
00:50:07,820 --> 00:50:13,430
who feel certain things.

928
00:50:13,430 --> 00:50:15,500
Some of them feel other's
not Jewish enough.

929
00:50:15,500 --> 00:50:18,550

930
00:50:18,550 --> 00:50:20,530
With my background
being in government,

931
00:50:20,530 --> 00:50:22,450
I said, this is not
a Jewish Museum.

932
00:50:22,450 --> 00:50:27,140
It's an American Museum.

933
00:50:27,140 --> 00:50:30,410
And it should be
open to the public.

934
00:50:30,410 --> 00:50:32,300
And it is not a Jewish Museum.

935
00:50:32,300 --> 00:50:37,190
It's a museum of the Holocaust.

936
00:50:37,190 --> 00:50:39,830
And it gives the history
of the Holocaust.

937
00:50:39,830 --> 00:50:42,950
It's an educational institution.

938
00:50:42,950 --> 00:50:45,800
It's also a museum.

939
00:50:45,800 --> 00:50:48,320
And that should be for
the American public,

940
00:50:48,320 --> 00:50:51,100
not for the Jews.

941

00:50:51,100 --> 00:50:55,720

Even though the Jew was the
main target of the experience,

942

00:50:55,720 --> 00:51:00,070

that should not be
run by Jews, for Jews.

943

00:51:00,070 --> 00:51:03,460

Because many other people
have suffered just as much.

944

00:51:03,460 --> 00:51:07,590

Maybe not to the
same extent, but even

945

00:51:07,590 --> 00:51:15,610

if one person suffered, it
should not be tolerated.

946

00:51:15,610 --> 00:51:18,040

So we have different
people who said

947

00:51:18,040 --> 00:51:20,780

it is still not Jewish enough.

948

00:51:20,780 --> 00:51:22,420

We need more people
who have to be

949

00:51:22,420 --> 00:51:28,170

able to read Jewish,
Polish documents that

950

00:51:28,170 --> 00:51:30,330

come to the museum.

951

00:51:30,330 --> 00:51:32,970

Yes, we do need these people.

952

00:51:32,970 --> 00:51:37,180

Fewer and fewer people
speak and read Yiddish.

953
00:51:37,180 --> 00:51:41,350
But to have somebody
who can speak and read

954
00:51:41,350 --> 00:51:43,240
Yiddish at all
times at the museum

955
00:51:43,240 --> 00:51:46,030
may be more than
what they can afford.

956
00:51:46,030 --> 00:51:48,750
And not all survivors
know Yiddish.

957
00:51:48,750 --> 00:51:51,820

958
00:51:51,820 --> 00:51:54,340
So we have the
kind of discussion.

959
00:51:54,340 --> 00:51:58,300
And some other
things that survivors

960
00:51:58,300 --> 00:51:59,710
may value more than others.

961
00:51:59,710 --> 00:52:03,345
I think that it's
important for somebody

962
00:52:03,345 --> 00:52:05,470
who works with the public
to be able to communicate

963
00:52:05,470 --> 00:52:06,730
with the public.

964
00:52:06,730 --> 00:52:10,690
The public is not
always American.

965
00:52:10,690 --> 00:52:12,940
I'm not going to
learn Japanese just

966
00:52:12,940 --> 00:52:14,710
because a Japanese comes over.

967
00:52:14,710 --> 00:52:17,930
But I did provide a guide.

968
00:52:17,930 --> 00:52:19,840
Translate the guide
that we had in English

969
00:52:19,840 --> 00:52:22,090
and translated into French.

970
00:52:22,090 --> 00:52:28,120
And a friend that I know
that I used to exercise with,

971
00:52:28,120 --> 00:52:31,600
who used to work at the Library
of Congress was Japanese.

972
00:52:31,600 --> 00:52:34,120
I don't have the feeling
against the Japanese

973
00:52:34,120 --> 00:52:36,280
that I had against the
Germans because I was not

974
00:52:36,280 --> 00:52:38,760
part of that war.

975
00:52:38,760 --> 00:52:43,210

And he was very willing to
write a guide in Japanese.

976
00:52:43,210 --> 00:52:47,110
So anybody who's willing
to help the museum

977
00:52:47,110 --> 00:52:48,730
is there for anybody
who gets there.

978
00:52:48,730 --> 00:52:51,040
And if he can get the
help in the language

979
00:52:51,040 --> 00:52:56,530
that he's more familiar with,
and if he can make it easier

980
00:52:56,530 --> 00:53:00,170
for him to understand what
went on, that would be better.

981
00:53:00,170 --> 00:53:03,640
So I would like
each volunteer to be

982
00:53:03,640 --> 00:53:08,780
able to be identified with the
language that he can speak--

983
00:53:08,780 --> 00:53:10,280
French, Spanish.

984
00:53:10,280 --> 00:53:14,830
So that when somebody comes,
we need a Russian interpreter,

985
00:53:14,830 --> 00:53:17,650
he can come over and help.

986
00:53:17,650 --> 00:53:20,490
That's one of the things

I would like to see.

987

00:53:20,490 --> 00:53:22,570

There are other things there.

988

00:53:22,570 --> 00:53:27,280

And different people have
different ideas, suggestions.

989

00:53:27,280 --> 00:53:30,490

And Marty is in the position
to be able to help out

990

00:53:30,490 --> 00:53:31,240

in that respect.

991

00:53:31,240 --> 00:53:36,070

I think he's been there long
enough so he knows access.

992

00:53:36,070 --> 00:53:39,430

What other areas do you
have suggestions for?

993

00:53:39,430 --> 00:53:42,820

994

00:53:42,820 --> 00:53:46,570

Well, I would like the lawyer
to be able to come to a decision

995

00:53:46,570 --> 00:53:49,360

whether we need permission
from [? Klaus Fell ?]

996

00:53:49,360 --> 00:53:52,720

to be able to
publish in English.

997

00:53:52,720 --> 00:53:57,010

We can use it in-house, but we
cannot publish it as it is now.

998

00:53:57,010 --> 00:54:00,590

We need permission.

999

00:54:00,590 --> 00:54:02,470

I would like the
museum to sponsor that.

1000

00:54:02,470 --> 00:54:08,480

1001

00:54:08,480 --> 00:54:09,920

there were quite a few things.

1002

00:54:09,920 --> 00:54:14,390

I would like exhibits to
reflect some of the other things

1003

00:54:14,390 --> 00:54:17,060

besides death houses.

1004

00:54:17,060 --> 00:54:19,110

Many refugees went to England.

1005

00:54:19,110 --> 00:54:23,660

Many refugees went to
Switzerland, as we learn now.

1006

00:54:23,660 --> 00:54:27,620

1007

00:54:27,620 --> 00:54:29,750

There should be an
exhibit about escapes.

1008

00:54:29,750 --> 00:54:32,330

1009

00:54:32,330 --> 00:54:35,570

My brother-in-law
escaped through Spain.

1010

00:54:35,570 --> 00:54:39,770

As soon as he was
able to leave Spain,

1011

00:54:39,770 --> 00:54:41,330

and he went to Palestine.

1012

00:54:41,330 --> 00:54:45,500

And he immediately enlisted
in the Jewish Brigade.

1013

00:54:45,500 --> 00:54:49,040

Does anybody know about
the Jewish Brigade?

1014

00:54:49,040 --> 00:54:51,330

The Wexner Center has
very little on that.

1015

00:54:51,330 --> 00:54:54,410

The Wexner Center doesn't
have much about the Pyrenees.

1016

00:54:54,410 --> 00:54:59,440

And I'll get back to Sarah
Ogilvie on that, because she's

1017

00:54:59,440 --> 00:55:02,500

now in charge of it.

1018

00:55:02,500 --> 00:55:04,670

A few things that should be.

1019

00:55:04,670 --> 00:55:07,840

But you know, Rome
wasn't built in a week.

1020

00:55:07,840 --> 00:55:11,440

But then, I'm not
trying to build Rome.

1021

00:55:11,440 --> 00:55:16,780

But slowly, I hope

I'll be able to help.

1022
00:55:16,780 --> 00:55:20,350
Now, I'm going to be
70 in about 12 days,

1023
00:55:20,350 --> 00:55:23,330
just a couple of weeks.

1024
00:55:23,330 --> 00:55:25,640
And I don't feel 70.

1025
00:55:25,640 --> 00:55:28,730

1026
00:55:28,730 --> 00:55:32,840
But I like to be able to
do things while I can.

1027
00:55:32,840 --> 00:55:36,530
And that is the
problem with survivors.

1028
00:55:36,530 --> 00:55:39,360
They're getting
fewer in numbers.

1029
00:55:39,360 --> 00:55:42,400
And many of them still
want to do a lot.

1030
00:55:42,400 --> 00:55:44,080
I'd like to be able
to do what I can.

1031
00:55:44,080 --> 00:55:47,750

1032
00:55:47,750 --> 00:55:50,030
Is there anything we haven't
talked about that you

1033

00:55:50,030 --> 00:55:53,630
would like to speak to?

1034
00:55:53,630 --> 00:55:54,980
I'm trying to think about it.

1035
00:55:54,980 --> 00:55:59,688
But as you probably
get to reach my age,

1036
00:55:59,688 --> 00:56:01,730
you'll realize that the
second thing that happens

1037
00:56:01,730 --> 00:56:02,870
is the memory goes.

1038
00:56:02,870 --> 00:56:05,390

1039
00:56:05,390 --> 00:56:09,600
I'm sure there are a lot of
things that we could touch on.

1040
00:56:09,600 --> 00:56:12,218
I'm proud to be an American.

1041
00:56:12,218 --> 00:56:14,010
I don't know if I'm
proud to be a survivor,

1042
00:56:14,010 --> 00:56:18,210
but I'm proud to
be able to help out

1043
00:56:18,210 --> 00:56:19,950
and to be a part of that museum.

1044
00:56:19,950 --> 00:56:23,120

1045
00:56:23,120 --> 00:56:29,470

And I was extremely content
with my life as a chemist.

1046
00:56:29,470 --> 00:56:33,190
And being able to
go to a drugstore

1047
00:56:33,190 --> 00:56:36,310
and see my methods in
the official compendium.

1048
00:56:36,310 --> 00:56:38,350
I think that was
very gratifying,

1049
00:56:38,350 --> 00:56:41,480
I was able to contribute.

1050
00:56:41,480 --> 00:56:43,465
And if I don't get
paid for it, I'll

1051
00:56:43,465 --> 00:56:48,460
get paid in a lot more ways than
I could ever get from money.

1052
00:56:48,460 --> 00:56:49,900
And I want to continue that.

1053
00:56:49,900 --> 00:56:52,450

1054
00:56:52,450 --> 00:56:53,740
What else can I say to that?

1055
00:56:53,740 --> 00:56:59,300

1056
00:56:59,300 --> 00:57:02,670
I'm not active so much
in the temple anymore.

1057

00:57:02,670 --> 00:57:04,250

But I'm in touch
with the rabbis.

1058

00:57:04,250 --> 00:57:07,790

And they keep hearing from
me because I send them

1059

00:57:07,790 --> 00:57:09,230

jokes practically every day.

1060

00:57:09,230 --> 00:57:12,590

And they appreciate my jokes.

1061

00:57:12,590 --> 00:57:14,600

I want to be active
in that respect--

1062

00:57:14,600 --> 00:57:20,410

make people feel better
about themselves, about where

1063

00:57:20,410 --> 00:57:23,820

they are and what they do.

1064

00:57:23,820 --> 00:57:25,820

And even with the
worst impairments,

1065

00:57:25,820 --> 00:57:32,530

people can still achieve a
certain degree of being happy.

1066

00:57:32,530 --> 00:57:37,010

My motto has become carpe
diem, seize the day.

1067

00:57:37,010 --> 00:57:39,538

Do whatever you
can while you can

1068

00:57:39,538 --> 00:57:40,705

and enjoy it to the fullest.

1069
00:57:40,705 --> 00:57:45,450

1070
00:57:45,450 --> 00:57:49,140
Thank you for being here.

1071
00:57:49,140 --> 00:57:52,680

1072
00:57:52,680 --> 00:57:55,200
I may see you, Gail, in
maybe a couple of years

1073
00:57:55,200 --> 00:57:56,130
and update this one.

1074
00:57:56,130 --> 00:57:56,998
[LAUGHTER]

1075
00:57:56,998 --> 00:57:57,540
Right, right.

1076
00:57:57,540 --> 00:58:00,210
I hope so.

1077
00:58:00,210 --> 00:58:02,940
Well, thank you very
much for taking the time

1078
00:58:02,940 --> 00:58:05,950
to do the interview.

1079
00:58:05,950 --> 00:58:09,220
This concludes the United
States Holocaust Memorial Museum

1080
00:58:09,220 --> 00:58:12,870
interview with Michel Margosis.

1081
00:58:12,870 --> 00:58:15,000

Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection