

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:07,780

2
00:00:07,780 --> 00:00:10,420
This is a continuation of
the United States Holocaust

3
00:00:10,420 --> 00:00:12,520
Memorial Museum
volunteer collection

4
00:00:12,520 --> 00:00:16,690
interview with Regine Ginsberg.

5
00:00:16,690 --> 00:00:21,520
You had mentioned about your
last name being changed.

6
00:00:21,520 --> 00:00:28,040
Your birth name, your surname,
your final family name was--

7
00:00:28,040 --> 00:00:30,080
your family name?

8
00:00:30,080 --> 00:00:30,602
In Belgium?

9
00:00:30,602 --> 00:00:31,310
In Belgium, yeah.

10
00:00:31,310 --> 00:00:31,810
Zylberstejn.

11
00:00:31,810 --> 00:00:33,440
Zylberstejn, right.

12
00:00:33,440 --> 00:00:36,830
And then did it change when
you came to this country?

13

00:00:36,830 --> 00:00:39,850

Yes, my father
changed it to Silven--

14

00:00:39,850 --> 00:00:42,260

S-I-L-V-E-N.

15

00:00:42,260 --> 00:00:45,147

And when did he do that?

16

00:00:45,147 --> 00:00:45,980

When he first came--

17

00:00:45,980 --> 00:00:47,480

I think when he
went into business.

18

00:00:47,480 --> 00:00:48,170

In McKeesport.

19

00:00:48,170 --> 00:00:49,820

In McKeesport.

20

00:00:49,820 --> 00:00:52,120

Because it was the Silven's
Leather Goods Store.

21

00:00:52,120 --> 00:00:55,940

22

00:00:55,940 --> 00:00:59,000

You mean, that's the name
he gave to the store?

23

00:00:59,000 --> 00:01:00,110

Yes, uh-huh.

24

00:01:00,110 --> 00:01:03,020

And how he came
to Silven I really

25

00:01:03,020 --> 00:01:06,950
have no idea, because
his brother in Belgium

26
00:01:06,950 --> 00:01:10,080
kept the name Zylberstejn
until the day he died,

27
00:01:10,080 --> 00:01:11,790
which was just a few years ago.

28
00:01:11,790 --> 00:01:15,170
So did your name then
become Regine Silven?

29
00:01:15,170 --> 00:01:18,190
Silven, Regine Silven,
married Reuben Ginsberg.

30
00:01:18,190 --> 00:01:19,310
Oh, OK.

31
00:01:19,310 --> 00:01:21,560
So you-- how did
you feel about that?

32
00:01:21,560 --> 00:01:24,320
I had no feelings about
it one way or another.

33
00:01:24,320 --> 00:01:28,910
If I did, it wasn't
discussed with me.

34
00:01:28,910 --> 00:01:31,400
It really wasn't
something-- you know,

35
00:01:31,400 --> 00:01:35,188
you accepted the
facts as they came

36
00:01:35,188 --> 00:01:36,355

because you didn't question.

37
00:01:36,355 --> 00:01:38,090
Right.

38
00:01:38,090 --> 00:01:42,290
They didn't ask me
what my opinion was.

39
00:01:42,290 --> 00:01:45,000
And that's just the way it was.

40
00:01:45,000 --> 00:01:49,310
That's all there was to it.

41
00:01:49,310 --> 00:01:51,710
Did your parents--
well, first of all,

42
00:01:51,710 --> 00:01:53,810
the war was over in '45.

43
00:01:53,810 --> 00:01:55,910
Do you remember,
have any memories

44
00:01:55,910 --> 00:01:59,330
of hearing that
the war was over?

45
00:01:59,330 --> 00:02:02,690
I have memories of hearing
the war being over.

46
00:02:02,690 --> 00:02:04,850
There was is one thing
that I must tell you,

47
00:02:04,850 --> 00:02:12,170
that my brother enlisted in
the army when he was here.

48

00:02:12,170 --> 00:02:14,600
He became a captain.

49
00:02:14,600 --> 00:02:20,210
And he was sent back to Belgium
and lived in a home in Belgium

50
00:02:20,210 --> 00:02:24,380
as a captain of
the American army.

51
00:02:24,380 --> 00:02:26,650
And I thought that was
just absolutely wonderful.

52
00:02:26,650 --> 00:02:28,413
Now when was this?

53
00:02:28,413 --> 00:02:29,330
Do you know what year?

54
00:02:29,330 --> 00:02:30,190
During the war.

55
00:02:30,190 --> 00:02:30,890
During the war.

56
00:02:30,890 --> 00:02:31,730
During the war.

57
00:02:31,730 --> 00:02:34,830
Not after the war,
during the war.

58
00:02:34,830 --> 00:02:39,260
And I remember he's writing
us that he was in the house.

59
00:02:39,260 --> 00:02:43,190
And he was living in the
house with other officers.

60

00:02:43,190 --> 00:02:45,830
And I thought that was
absolutely wonderful.

61
00:02:45,830 --> 00:02:49,730

62
00:02:49,730 --> 00:02:51,170
What else do I remember?

63
00:02:51,170 --> 00:02:53,480
Was he being used
as an interpreter?

64
00:02:53,480 --> 00:02:54,830
Yes, actually he was--

65
00:02:54,830 --> 00:02:55,580
Intelligence work?

66
00:02:55,580 --> 00:02:55,970
--in intelligence.

67
00:02:55,970 --> 00:02:57,260
Intelligence, yeah, right.

68
00:02:57,260 --> 00:02:58,880
Yes, he was in intelligence.

69
00:02:58,880 --> 00:03:01,900
Because he had had
a college education.

70
00:03:01,900 --> 00:03:06,150
He was-- and his French
was absolutely superb.

71
00:03:06,150 --> 00:03:11,060
He sounded like Charles Boyer.

72
00:03:11,060 --> 00:03:12,790
And he had his charm.

73
00:03:12,790 --> 00:03:15,740
And he had the same charm.

74
00:03:15,740 --> 00:03:16,640
Oh, my.

75
00:03:16,640 --> 00:03:18,830
Did he bring back
anything from the house?

76
00:03:18,830 --> 00:03:21,140
Or did he say what condition?

77
00:03:21,140 --> 00:03:23,240
Actually, I had--
not from the house,

78
00:03:23,240 --> 00:03:26,030
because I think everything
was pretty well destroyed

79
00:03:26,030 --> 00:03:27,770
inside the house.

80
00:03:27,770 --> 00:03:30,230
But he brought me
back, and I still

81
00:03:30,230 --> 00:03:39,920
have it, a bracelet that has
all the communities in Belgium--

82
00:03:39,920 --> 00:03:43,160
Brabant, I remember,
and the East Coast,

83
00:03:43,160 --> 00:03:45,980
the names of the important--

84
00:03:45,980 --> 00:03:46,670
Provinces.

85
00:03:46,670 --> 00:03:47,400
Provinces.

86
00:03:47,400 --> 00:03:47,900
Provinces.

87
00:03:47,900 --> 00:03:48,800
Provinces.

88
00:03:48,800 --> 00:03:52,950
And that was a long time ago.

89
00:03:52,950 --> 00:03:58,070
He brought it back to
me in 1945, I guess.

90
00:03:58,070 --> 00:04:02,360
And just to repeat, when
you were settled here,

91
00:04:02,360 --> 00:04:05,120
again you did not
really talk about--

92
00:04:05,120 --> 00:04:07,640
or did you talk about,
to your parents,

93
00:04:07,640 --> 00:04:09,120
what you all had gone through?

94
00:04:09,120 --> 00:04:09,620
No.

95
00:04:09,620 --> 00:04:10,250
You just turned the--

96
00:04:10,250 --> 00:04:10,880
Never.

97

00:04:10,880 --> 00:04:11,840
--turned the page.

98
00:04:11,840 --> 00:04:13,070
And it was a new chapter.

99
00:04:13,070 --> 00:04:14,660
We turned it completely.

100
00:04:14,660 --> 00:04:18,410
Because mother
was never happy, I

101
00:04:18,410 --> 00:04:20,130
don't think, in
the United States.

102
00:04:20,130 --> 00:04:20,959
Really?

103
00:04:20,959 --> 00:04:24,590
She had a difficult
time adjusting.

104
00:04:24,590 --> 00:04:29,210
And my father had his
first heart attack at 50.

105
00:04:29,210 --> 00:04:34,580
And mother was so
afraid of losing him

106
00:04:34,580 --> 00:04:38,910
that she didn't allow
him out of her sight.

107
00:04:38,910 --> 00:04:42,290
And I think that happened
quite a bit in those days,

108
00:04:42,290 --> 00:04:45,200
also, between husband and wife.

109

00:04:45,200 --> 00:04:48,740

So they were not--

110

00:04:48,740 --> 00:04:51,540

they never adjusted.

111

00:04:51,540 --> 00:04:55,310

I think it's very
difficult in later age

112

00:04:55,310 --> 00:04:58,700

to adjust to a
different country.

113

00:04:58,700 --> 00:04:59,960

They came in their 40s.

114

00:04:59,960 --> 00:05:02,180

They were in their 40s.

115

00:05:02,180 --> 00:05:05,240

Which shouldn't be
too bad, really.

116

00:05:05,240 --> 00:05:07,070

But they had a good life.

117

00:05:07,070 --> 00:05:09,530

They had a very good
life in Brussels.

118

00:05:09,530 --> 00:05:10,250

Yes.

119

00:05:10,250 --> 00:05:12,410

And from then on,
it was a struggle.

120

00:05:12,410 --> 00:05:13,280

Yes.

121

00:05:13,280 --> 00:05:17,220
From the day they left Brussels,
it was a struggle for them.

122
00:05:17,220 --> 00:05:20,760
And I do think, and I
hope they can hear me,

123
00:05:20,760 --> 00:05:23,390
that they showed such courage.

124
00:05:23,390 --> 00:05:24,260
Yes.

125
00:05:24,260 --> 00:05:29,782
Such courage, both of
them, really, of survival.

126
00:05:29,782 --> 00:05:30,610
Thank goodness.

127
00:05:30,610 --> 00:05:32,920
It's mind boggling sometimes.

128
00:05:32,920 --> 00:05:36,400
I mean, do we still
have that in us?

129
00:05:36,400 --> 00:05:38,260
And I hope we do.

130
00:05:38,260 --> 00:05:40,700
I really hope we do.

131
00:05:40,700 --> 00:05:45,850
Because I think when you're
faced with that kind of crisis,

132
00:05:45,850 --> 00:05:49,750
you really don't know how
you're going to react.

133

00:05:49,750 --> 00:05:55,870

But they just were
incredibly courageous.

134

00:05:55,870 --> 00:05:58,690

You graduated from high
school, worked with your father

135

00:05:58,690 --> 00:06:00,940

and then met your
future husband.

136

00:06:00,940 --> 00:06:03,670

And then--

137

00:06:03,670 --> 00:06:05,130

I graduated at 18.

138

00:06:05,130 --> 00:06:06,150

Yeah, I must have--

139

00:06:06,150 --> 00:06:07,530

I must have--

140

00:06:07,530 --> 00:06:09,370

I must have met
Reuben when I was 19.

141

00:06:09,370 --> 00:06:09,870

19.

142

00:06:09,870 --> 00:06:11,980

For the first time.

143

00:06:11,980 --> 00:06:15,840

And at that time, I was still
a very protected young woman.

144

00:06:15,840 --> 00:06:17,340

Had you thought of
going to college?

145

00:06:17,340 --> 00:06:18,880
Or was that not on the horizon?

146
00:06:18,880 --> 00:06:21,060
That was not on the horizon.

147
00:06:21,060 --> 00:06:22,463
It was not even discussed--

148
00:06:22,463 --> 00:06:23,130
Discussed, yeah.

149
00:06:23,130 --> 00:06:24,450
--at that time.

150
00:06:24,450 --> 00:06:26,100
Why, I'm not sure.

151
00:06:26,100 --> 00:06:27,693
Maybe mother and dad needed me.

152
00:06:27,693 --> 00:06:30,110
I was going to say, they may
have needed you in the store.

153
00:06:30,110 --> 00:06:31,920
I think they might've needed me.

154
00:06:31,920 --> 00:06:33,960
And then you got married.

155
00:06:33,960 --> 00:06:35,610
Yes.

156
00:06:35,610 --> 00:06:37,410
What year did you get married?

157
00:06:37,410 --> 00:06:39,030
1947.

158
00:06:39,030 --> 00:06:41,640

And Reuben was in law school.

159

00:06:41,640 --> 00:06:48,750

And we lived in a little
community in upstate New York.

160

00:06:48,750 --> 00:06:50,700

I think it was called Nyack.

161

00:06:50,700 --> 00:06:51,287

I'm not sure.

162

00:06:51,287 --> 00:06:51,870

Nyack, uh-huh.

163

00:06:51,870 --> 00:06:52,590

Nyack.

164

00:06:52,590 --> 00:06:55,740

And we lived in army barracks.

165

00:06:55,740 --> 00:06:59,680

And I must say that was the
happiest time of our lives.

166

00:06:59,680 --> 00:07:01,750

My mother came to visit me.

167

00:07:01,750 --> 00:07:06,270

And the first thing she
said was, oy vey iz mir.

168

00:07:06,270 --> 00:07:10,380

His mother came to visit me,
both of us, and she said,

169

00:07:10,380 --> 00:07:11,340

it's beautiful.

170

00:07:11,340 --> 00:07:14,430

I'll never forget that.

171

00:07:14,430 --> 00:07:15,540

But it was wonderful.

172

00:07:15,540 --> 00:07:18,600

I would drive in with Reuben.

173

00:07:18,600 --> 00:07:22,245

And I would take courses
at Columbia University.

174

00:07:22,245 --> 00:07:23,370

While he was at law school.

175

00:07:23,370 --> 00:07:24,495

While he was in law school.

176

00:07:24,495 --> 00:07:27,810

Wonderful, wonderful.

177

00:07:27,810 --> 00:07:32,430

And I adapted to marriage
very beautifully.

178

00:07:32,430 --> 00:07:37,980

Because he was a very kind, and
patient, and understanding man.

179

00:07:37,980 --> 00:07:41,020

And I think the security--

180

00:07:41,020 --> 00:07:43,660

and I don't mean financial
security, I mean--

181

00:07:43,660 --> 00:07:44,652

Emotional.

182

00:07:44,652 --> 00:07:47,140

Emotional security
that I have today

183

00:07:47,140 --> 00:07:48,795
is what really due to him.

184
00:07:48,795 --> 00:07:52,230
It really is due to him.

185
00:07:52,230 --> 00:07:57,180
Because I was a pretty
messed up 21 year.

186
00:07:57,180 --> 00:08:01,530
I was afraid of everything--
thunder, flying, you name it,

187
00:08:01,530 --> 00:08:04,470
going into a store
and buying something,

188
00:08:04,470 --> 00:08:07,770
everything scared me really.

189
00:08:07,770 --> 00:08:12,610
But over the years, it worked.

190
00:08:12,610 --> 00:08:14,145
Do you attribute
those fears when

191
00:08:14,145 --> 00:08:16,020
you were young to your
childhood experiences.

192
00:08:16,020 --> 00:08:19,590
Absolutely, absolutely.

193
00:08:19,590 --> 00:08:25,060
And I had them for a long
time in my married life.

194
00:08:25,060 --> 00:08:32,039
I could see-- because we have
actually two sets of children.

195

00:08:32,039 --> 00:08:35,340

Because there is 14 years
difference between my son

196

00:08:35,340 --> 00:08:37,919

and my youngest daughter.

197

00:08:37,919 --> 00:08:44,100

So that we have my son, and
Debbie, and then Jackie,

198

00:08:44,100 --> 00:08:45,840

and Lisa.

199

00:08:45,840 --> 00:08:51,413

And these two are not quite
as hyper as these two--

200

00:08:51,413 --> 00:08:52,080

The first, yeah.

201

00:08:52,080 --> 00:08:55,160

The first two.

202

00:08:55,160 --> 00:08:57,640

So your first child
was born when?

203

00:08:57,640 --> 00:09:00,100

My first child was born--

204

00:09:00,100 --> 00:09:01,360

I went home to mother.

205

00:09:01,360 --> 00:09:04,240

Because we were living--

206

00:09:04,240 --> 00:09:08,080

Camp Shanks, actually, was the
name of the place, Camp Shanks.

207

00:09:08,080 --> 00:09:12,130
And it was a military
camp at one time.

208
00:09:12,130 --> 00:09:15,550
But in my ninth
month, I went home--

209
00:09:15,550 --> 00:09:18,910
the beginning of my ninth
month, I went home to mother.

210
00:09:18,910 --> 00:09:22,855
And Reuben must have
had a feeling, because--

211
00:09:22,855 --> 00:09:23,980
Was he still in law school?

212
00:09:23,980 --> 00:09:26,590
He was still in law school.

213
00:09:26,590 --> 00:09:32,200
But he came flying home on the
evening that I went into labor.

214
00:09:32,200 --> 00:09:34,900
He just had a feeling.

215
00:09:34,900 --> 00:09:37,210
And Michael was born.

216
00:09:37,210 --> 00:09:42,250
He was such a Texan, my husband,
that he always wanted to--

217
00:09:42,250 --> 00:09:45,250
he was sorry he hadn't bought
a little dirt from Texas

218
00:09:45,250 --> 00:09:49,120
to put on the table.

219

00:09:49,120 --> 00:09:52,810

He was a devoted Texan.

220

00:09:52,810 --> 00:09:56,350

And Michael was born in
McKeesport, Pennsylvania.

221

00:09:56,350 --> 00:09:58,600

And what year was that?

222

00:09:58,600 --> 00:10:02,110

Michael is 61 years old.

223

00:10:02,110 --> 00:10:03,260

So that would be--

224

00:10:03,260 --> 00:10:03,760

'48--

225

00:10:03,760 --> 00:10:06,740

1948.

226

00:10:06,740 --> 00:10:08,960

I was so, so naive.

227

00:10:08,960 --> 00:10:13,070

I remember we had a
neighbor at Camp Shanks who

228

00:10:13,070 --> 00:10:15,710

explained to me at
what period of time

229

00:10:15,710 --> 00:10:17,840

I couldn't get pregnant.

230

00:10:17,840 --> 00:10:18,740

It didn't work.

231

00:10:18,740 --> 00:10:23,060

232
00:10:23,060 --> 00:10:28,112
Speaking about 1948, what
did Israel mean to you then?

233
00:10:28,112 --> 00:10:30,764

234
00:10:30,764 --> 00:10:33,550
A large part of your
awareness in that time?

235
00:10:33,550 --> 00:10:37,690
I don't think that I was broad--

236
00:10:37,690 --> 00:10:43,960
broadened enough really to think
about that part of the world.

237
00:10:43,960 --> 00:10:49,210
I didn't think about Israel
until my oldest daughter

238
00:10:49,210 --> 00:10:53,740
went over there when
she was in high school

239
00:10:53,740 --> 00:10:58,870
and got caught in
the Israeli war.

240
00:10:58,870 --> 00:11:06,610
And from then on, I think Israel
started having meaning for me.

241
00:11:06,610 --> 00:11:12,090
What was the reaction
of your parents?

242
00:11:12,090 --> 00:11:13,513
You were still young--

243

00:11:13,513 --> 00:11:16,500
well, not that young-- when
the war was over and the news

244
00:11:16,500 --> 00:11:21,660
came out about what had happened
to the six million Jews?

245
00:11:21,660 --> 00:11:25,940
I think they must
have known about it.

246
00:11:25,940 --> 00:11:28,780
Because why did they want to
run like that if they hadn't

247
00:11:28,780 --> 00:11:31,190
known what was happening?

248
00:11:31,190 --> 00:11:32,020
So whether--

249
00:11:32,020 --> 00:11:35,095
But I meant the full extent
of what had happened.

250
00:11:35,095 --> 00:11:37,010
Probably not the
full extent, but I

251
00:11:37,010 --> 00:11:40,430
think they must have known
about the extermination.

252
00:11:40,430 --> 00:11:42,695
Because it happened before--

253
00:11:42,695 --> 00:11:43,935
Right.

254
00:11:43,935 --> 00:11:44,435
--even.

255

00:11:44,435 --> 00:11:47,090

256

00:11:47,090 --> 00:11:52,100

I think rumors have a
way of coming around,

257

00:11:52,100 --> 00:11:54,890

like a newspaper.

258

00:11:54,890 --> 00:11:55,865

They must have heard.

259

00:11:55,865 --> 00:11:59,000

260

00:11:59,000 --> 00:12:01,880

Maybe what was
going on in Poland.

261

00:12:01,880 --> 00:12:07,340

I think that that was
going on before 1940.

262

00:12:07,340 --> 00:12:09,890

They must have heard
about the ghettos.

263

00:12:09,890 --> 00:12:11,420

Right.

264

00:12:11,420 --> 00:12:15,740

I don't think they heard the
full extent of it, of what

265

00:12:15,740 --> 00:12:21,410

I saw in the Museum,
for example, yesterday,

266

00:12:21,410 --> 00:12:26,660

the outrage of the Americans
and the British when they came

267
00:12:26,660 --> 00:12:28,310
and what they saw.

268
00:12:28,310 --> 00:12:32,220
I'm not sure that they saw--
they knew it to that extent.

269
00:12:32,220 --> 00:12:35,228
But they knew that they
had to save themselves

270
00:12:35,228 --> 00:12:36,020
and their children.

271
00:12:36,020 --> 00:12:37,310
Yeah, know that part, yeah.

272
00:12:37,310 --> 00:12:41,490
Why did they know
that, I don't know.

273
00:12:41,490 --> 00:12:45,180
Well, no, but my question
was, what were their reactions

274
00:12:45,180 --> 00:12:48,800
when the full extent came
out, after the war was over?

275
00:12:48,800 --> 00:12:50,000
And pictures were shown.

276
00:12:50,000 --> 00:12:53,780
It was, again, something that
was not discussed with me.

277
00:12:53,780 --> 00:12:55,380
OK.

278
00:12:55,380 --> 00:12:57,277
Which I find very interesting.

279

00:12:57,277 --> 00:12:58,235

Well, it's too painful.

280

00:12:58,235 --> 00:12:59,240

It's too painful.

281

00:12:59,240 --> 00:13:00,680

I guess.

282

00:13:00,680 --> 00:13:03,690

Because they lost so many
members of their family.

283

00:13:03,690 --> 00:13:05,480

Right.

284

00:13:05,480 --> 00:13:07,640

And that's the way
they lost them.

285

00:13:07,640 --> 00:13:08,540

Yeah.

286

00:13:08,540 --> 00:13:09,040

So.

287

00:13:09,040 --> 00:13:11,590

288

00:13:11,590 --> 00:13:13,300

So you had your first child.

289

00:13:13,300 --> 00:13:18,650

And then how long did
you stay in the East?

290

00:13:18,650 --> 00:13:20,410

Or your husband graduated
from law school?

291

00:13:20,410 --> 00:13:24,190
Well, Reuben graduated
from law school.

292
00:13:24,190 --> 00:13:28,210
And nobody would
hire him in Texas.

293
00:13:28,210 --> 00:13:29,990
They all told them to go West.

294
00:13:29,990 --> 00:13:32,830

295
00:13:32,830 --> 00:13:35,620
Why wouldn't they?

296
00:13:35,620 --> 00:13:39,170
He just couldn't find a job.

297
00:13:39,170 --> 00:13:44,450
But he had a sister
who lived in Tulsa.

298
00:13:44,450 --> 00:13:47,850
And she found him a job
with an attorney there.

299
00:13:47,850 --> 00:13:52,190
And we moved to
Tulsa with Michael.

300
00:13:52,190 --> 00:13:54,770
And we lived there
for about a year.

301
00:13:54,770 --> 00:13:58,550
But Reuben really
wanted to be in Texas.

302
00:13:58,550 --> 00:14:02,780
So we came back to Texas.

303

00:14:02,780 --> 00:14:07,640

And those were the
days that you really

304

00:14:07,640 --> 00:14:11,570

were living on a shoestring.

305

00:14:11,570 --> 00:14:16,850

Parents were always helpful,
his parents and my parents.

306

00:14:16,850 --> 00:14:23,390

And he finally found a
job in a lawyer's office,

307

00:14:23,390 --> 00:14:27,990

who gave him space for
typing for the lawyer.

308

00:14:27,990 --> 00:14:30,980

So he typed a lot
of his material

309

00:14:30,980 --> 00:14:33,470

and he didn't have to pay rent.

310

00:14:33,470 --> 00:14:37,940

And he grew very successful.

311

00:14:37,940 --> 00:14:40,610

What town-- what town
were you living in?

312

00:14:40,610 --> 00:14:41,783

What town-- Dallas.

313

00:14:41,783 --> 00:14:42,950

Oh, you were in Dallas then.

314

00:14:42,950 --> 00:14:44,340

We always lived in Dallas.

315
00:14:44,340 --> 00:14:44,840
Dallas.

316
00:14:44,840 --> 00:14:46,550
Yeah.

317
00:14:46,550 --> 00:14:51,140
That was in the '50s when
we moved back to Dallas.

318
00:14:51,140 --> 00:14:54,980
And then we had Debbie.

319
00:14:54,980 --> 00:15:00,080
And we lived in the
little house in Dallas.

320
00:15:00,080 --> 00:15:03,350
And I must say, those were the
happiest years of our lives,

321
00:15:03,350 --> 00:15:04,130
really.

322
00:15:04,130 --> 00:15:06,308
It was not complicated.

323
00:15:06,308 --> 00:15:08,060
Right.

324
00:15:08,060 --> 00:15:12,470
And then we moved
to our big home

325
00:15:12,470 --> 00:15:16,220
that I'm still in right now.

326
00:15:16,220 --> 00:15:20,000
I started getting busy myself.

327
00:15:20,000 --> 00:15:23,270

I had a career.

328

00:15:23,270 --> 00:15:25,280

I was an art dealer.

329

00:15:25,280 --> 00:15:31,040

And in the '70s, I

had a artist friend

330

00:15:31,040 --> 00:15:34,520

who came to me, who

wanted to open a gallery.

331

00:15:34,520 --> 00:15:38,090

And I was interested.

332

00:15:38,090 --> 00:15:39,710

We worked very hard.

333

00:15:39,710 --> 00:15:41,210

We were never in the red.

334

00:15:41,210 --> 00:15:43,760

335

00:15:43,760 --> 00:15:49,340

After about five years,

I sold out to her.

336

00:15:49,340 --> 00:15:52,490

And Reuben, who was

very wise at that time--

337

00:15:52,490 --> 00:15:56,030

this was in the early '80s--

338

00:15:56,030 --> 00:15:58,760

insisted that I go

back into business.

339

00:15:58,760 --> 00:16:02,900

And insisted on

setting me up again.

340
00:16:02,900 --> 00:16:05,400
But I worked out of my house.

341
00:16:05,400 --> 00:16:08,090
And at that time is
when I really made

342
00:16:08,090 --> 00:16:13,070
all the wonderful contacts that
I made and have a wonderful art

343
00:16:13,070 --> 00:16:14,470
collection.

344
00:16:14,470 --> 00:16:16,640
These are paintings,
or sculpture, or both?

345
00:16:16,640 --> 00:16:17,640
Both.

346
00:16:17,640 --> 00:16:18,740
Both.

347
00:16:18,740 --> 00:16:23,900
Truly a wonderful--
mostly contemporary art.

348
00:16:23,900 --> 00:16:26,630
And I'm delighted.

349
00:16:26,630 --> 00:16:29,235
Because I think I have quite
a legacy for my children.

350
00:16:29,235 --> 00:16:30,470
Children, wonderful.

351
00:16:30,470 --> 00:16:39,310
I also, when I

stopped doing that,

352

00:16:39,310 --> 00:16:44,060

I became interested
in Golden Acres,

353

00:16:44,060 --> 00:16:49,900

which is a Jewish
nursing home in Dallas.

354

00:16:49,900 --> 00:16:54,850

We formed an organization
called Friends of Golden Acres,

355

00:16:54,850 --> 00:16:57,940

for the renovation
that was very needed

356

00:16:57,940 --> 00:17:01,450

in the home at that time.

357

00:17:01,450 --> 00:17:05,290

Ethel Frankfurt and I,
who is now Ethel Zale--

358

00:17:05,290 --> 00:17:08,500

she married a Zale-- managed--

359

00:17:08,500 --> 00:17:12,250

we built such a
successful organization,

360

00:17:12,250 --> 00:17:14,349

we managed to raise
over the years

361

00:17:14,349 --> 00:17:17,470

that we were together
about a million and a half.

362

00:17:17,470 --> 00:17:22,210

And we renovated several
floors really in the home.

363
00:17:22,210 --> 00:17:23,589
And I was president.

364
00:17:23,589 --> 00:17:25,630
I really loved it at the time.

365
00:17:25,630 --> 00:17:28,119
I did that in honor of
my mother and father,

366
00:17:28,119 --> 00:17:31,720
who both were in the home.

367
00:17:31,720 --> 00:17:38,110
I also was bas mitzvahed
in 1992 in honor of my dad,

368
00:17:38,110 --> 00:17:39,520
because he had died.

369
00:17:39,520 --> 00:17:43,360
And I wanted to do that for him.

370
00:17:43,360 --> 00:17:49,430
So that even though I
didn't go to college,

371
00:17:49,430 --> 00:17:54,190
I managed to have two
wonderful careers, one

372
00:17:54,190 --> 00:17:55,600
that I'm still enjoying.

373
00:17:55,600 --> 00:17:59,710
Because I love the
art in my house.

374
00:17:59,710 --> 00:18:03,370
And I have some very good art.

375

00:18:03,370 --> 00:18:06,430

And that's one of the reasons
I'm not selling my house.

376

00:18:06,430 --> 00:18:12,100

Because I get up every morning
and it's so rejuvenating.

377

00:18:12,100 --> 00:18:14,440

It really is rejuvenating.

378

00:18:14,440 --> 00:18:17,170

And my family
loves to come over.

379

00:18:17,170 --> 00:18:19,780

And I'm still very close to--

380

00:18:19,780 --> 00:18:22,340

I have a wonderful family.

381

00:18:22,340 --> 00:18:30,320

Reuben passed away a
year and a half ago.

382

00:18:30,320 --> 00:18:32,800

And they have just--

383

00:18:32,800 --> 00:18:36,820

everyone should be as lucky
to have the kind of attention

384

00:18:36,820 --> 00:18:38,380

that I have had.

385

00:18:38,380 --> 00:18:41,560

Really, I'm blessed.

386

00:18:41,560 --> 00:18:43,870

I am truly blessed.

387

00:18:43,870 --> 00:18:48,650

And as I said, starting
in the late '70s,

388

00:18:48,650 --> 00:18:51,310

from the time I went
into the art business,

389

00:18:51,310 --> 00:18:55,570

and going on to what we
did for Golden Acres,

390

00:18:55,570 --> 00:18:59,110

it's been very rewarding,
very, very rewarding.

391

00:18:59,110 --> 00:19:03,070

And I'm just so
happy that I've had

392

00:19:03,070 --> 00:19:09,370

that time to have had two
wonderful experiences later

393

00:19:09,370 --> 00:19:12,220

in my life.

394

00:19:12,220 --> 00:19:15,370

Can we talk a little bit about
your thoughts and your feelings

395

00:19:15,370 --> 00:19:17,950

now about what you went through?

396

00:19:17,950 --> 00:19:23,110

When your children were the
age that you were when you had

397

00:19:23,110 --> 00:19:32,090

to leave quickly, in
France, in that 14, 15, 16,

398

00:19:32,090 --> 00:19:38,050

17-year-old age bracket, when
your children were that age,

399
00:19:38,050 --> 00:19:39,830
did you--

400
00:19:39,830 --> 00:19:41,650
did it bring back
memories for you?

401
00:19:41,650 --> 00:19:43,390
Did you relate?

402
00:19:43,390 --> 00:19:45,340
Gail, it did not.

403
00:19:45,340 --> 00:19:50,110
Because as I told
you when I started,

404
00:19:50,110 --> 00:19:53,440
this is truly the
first time that I

405
00:19:53,440 --> 00:19:59,890
have spent any amount of time
talking about my growing up.

406
00:19:59,890 --> 00:20:03,520

407
00:20:03,520 --> 00:20:05,620
It almost seems
as though my life

408
00:20:05,620 --> 00:20:11,874
didn't start for me until I
got married and moved to Texas.

409
00:20:11,874 --> 00:20:13,270
You had two parts to your life.

410

00:20:13,270 --> 00:20:15,400
Yes, two parts to my life.

411
00:20:15,400 --> 00:20:20,440
And my best memories
are from that time on.

412
00:20:20,440 --> 00:20:25,825
In fact, when I went back to
Belgium with two of my girls,

413
00:20:25,825 --> 00:20:29,500
I wanted to show them
the place where I lived.

414
00:20:29,500 --> 00:20:30,547
I couldn't believe it.

415
00:20:30,547 --> 00:20:31,255
It was condemned.

416
00:20:31,255 --> 00:20:33,280
Oh, really?

417
00:20:33,280 --> 00:20:35,170
For what reason, I don't know.

418
00:20:35,170 --> 00:20:38,597
So there were no memories there.

419
00:20:38,597 --> 00:20:42,120
But it didn't-- my point
was it didn't trigger,

420
00:20:42,120 --> 00:20:43,495
when your children
were that age,

421
00:20:43,495 --> 00:20:46,180
it didn't trigger memories of
what you had to do go through.

422

00:20:46,180 --> 00:20:50,050
Only because I was
too young, really,

423
00:20:50,050 --> 00:20:55,600
to be able to import those
kind of memories at their age

424
00:20:55,600 --> 00:20:57,670
to them.

425
00:20:57,670 --> 00:21:01,450
And it was a time of my
life that, obviously, I

426
00:21:01,450 --> 00:21:02,650
didn't want to think about.

427
00:21:02,650 --> 00:21:03,733
You didn't want to, right.

428
00:21:03,733 --> 00:21:04,740
And I didn't.

429
00:21:04,740 --> 00:21:05,830
OK.

430
00:21:05,830 --> 00:21:12,550
It affected me emotionally
very badly, very badly.

431
00:21:12,550 --> 00:21:19,810
And I think because it affected
me emotionally so badly

432
00:21:19,810 --> 00:21:22,550
that I just closed it off.

433
00:21:22,550 --> 00:21:23,050
Right.

434
00:21:23,050 --> 00:21:26,930

Were your parents aware that
it affected you so much?

435
00:21:26,930 --> 00:21:29,780
I don't think that
psychologically--

436
00:21:29,780 --> 00:21:30,280
people--

437
00:21:30,280 --> 00:21:31,447
Didn't think in those terms.

438
00:21:31,447 --> 00:21:34,495
-- of that time thought
about those terms.

439
00:21:34,495 --> 00:21:35,320
Yeah, right.

440
00:21:35,320 --> 00:21:39,490
Because if they did, they would
have sent me for counseling.

441
00:21:39,490 --> 00:21:44,530
But that isn't anything that
occurred to them really.

442
00:21:44,530 --> 00:21:45,820
Life was simple.

443
00:21:45,820 --> 00:21:47,290
Yeah.

444
00:21:47,290 --> 00:21:50,680
Did your parents become more
religious when they came here

445
00:21:50,680 --> 00:21:52,360
or less religious?

446
00:21:52,360 --> 00:22:00,520

Actually, it was difficult to
keep kosher in Dallas, Texas.

447
00:22:00,520 --> 00:22:02,680
Mama didn't like
the kosher butcher.

448
00:22:02,680 --> 00:22:04,290
He was very mean.

449
00:22:04,290 --> 00:22:07,540
I remember that.

450
00:22:07,540 --> 00:22:11,590
The only time that
mama kept kosher, which

451
00:22:11,590 --> 00:22:14,560
really tickled me, holidays.

452
00:22:14,560 --> 00:22:18,490
Jewish holidays we
had to be kosher.

453
00:22:18,490 --> 00:22:22,660
And Passover we had to
change dishes the whole time

454
00:22:22,660 --> 00:22:24,310
that she lived in
the United States.

455
00:22:24,310 --> 00:22:25,750
Right.

456
00:22:25,750 --> 00:22:29,290
It was all right not to
the rest of the week.

457
00:22:29,290 --> 00:22:34,930
But my sweet memories of
Passover was that the day

458

00:22:34,930 --> 00:22:37,660

before you were
supposed to get--

459

00:22:37,660 --> 00:22:39,850

not the day, but the day
that you were supposed

460

00:22:39,850 --> 00:22:41,800

to get rid of the chametz.

461

00:22:41,800 --> 00:22:42,490

Right.

462

00:22:42,490 --> 00:22:48,400

Mother always had for
lunch liver and potatoes,

463

00:22:48,400 --> 00:22:49,510

boiled potatoes.

464

00:22:49,510 --> 00:22:51,250

And we had to come for lunch.

465

00:22:51,250 --> 00:22:52,750

And that was the
end of the chametz.

466

00:22:52,750 --> 00:22:53,500

Right.

467

00:22:53,500 --> 00:22:56,980

After that, we started Passover.

468

00:22:56,980 --> 00:22:57,490

Right.

469

00:22:57,490 --> 00:23:01,285

And I think it is so wonderful
to keep up those traditions.

470

00:23:01,285 --> 00:23:02,140
Yes.

471
00:23:02,140 --> 00:23:05,710
Because it stays in
the mind of children.

472
00:23:05,710 --> 00:23:06,910
Those are the things that--

473
00:23:06,910 --> 00:23:07,240
oh, absolutely--

474
00:23:07,240 --> 00:23:08,323
--really remain with them.

475
00:23:08,323 --> 00:23:09,490
Makes the impression, right.

476
00:23:09,490 --> 00:23:10,610
And how important it is.

477
00:23:10,610 --> 00:23:15,010
And I do think today that the
Jewish institutions are trying

478
00:23:15,010 --> 00:23:19,060
to go back to that I know
that our temple has changed

479
00:23:19,060 --> 00:23:25,060
tremendously in their
practices of Judaism.

480
00:23:25,060 --> 00:23:29,530
They are catering to
the younger people now.

481
00:23:29,530 --> 00:23:30,970
Because I think
they feel there's

482

00:23:30,970 --> 00:23:33,040
no hope with the older ones.

483
00:23:33,040 --> 00:23:35,136
We are set in our ways.

484
00:23:35,136 --> 00:23:38,840

485
00:23:38,840 --> 00:23:40,860
Do you remember the
Eichmann trial at all,

486
00:23:40,860 --> 00:23:43,120
when Adolf Eichmann was--

487
00:23:43,120 --> 00:23:45,610
Well, that was already
over when I was--

488
00:23:45,610 --> 00:23:48,310
Yeah, no, I was just saying, did
you have any special feelings?

489
00:23:48,310 --> 00:23:50,640
Yeah, I got emotionally
involved in that.

490
00:23:50,640 --> 00:23:51,640
I was going to ask you--

491
00:23:51,640 --> 00:23:54,200
Yes, I did get emotionally
involved in that.

492
00:23:54,200 --> 00:23:54,850
In what sense?

493
00:23:54,850 --> 00:23:58,150
And I remember I watched it.

494
00:23:58,150 --> 00:24:04,930

In the sense of what happened
to them, because of them.

495

00:24:04,930 --> 00:24:08,410

I have several friends
who are still living,

496

00:24:08,410 --> 00:24:10,420

who are survivors.

497

00:24:10,420 --> 00:24:13,960

They are the ones who
really went through Dachau

498

00:24:13,960 --> 00:24:17,440

and the horrors of
the concentration

499

00:24:17,440 --> 00:24:21,730

camps, the experiments,
the nakedness, the shaving

500

00:24:21,730 --> 00:24:26,290

of the hair, everything.

501

00:24:26,290 --> 00:24:29,020

But I told my children
today at lunch

502

00:24:29,020 --> 00:24:35,020

that I really feel as badly
emotionally it affected

503

00:24:35,020 --> 00:24:39,550

me, in life it made me strong.

504

00:24:39,550 --> 00:24:43,150

My experiences
during that period

505

00:24:43,150 --> 00:24:50,260

have given me a strength that I
don't even see in my children.

506
00:24:50,260 --> 00:24:56,670
I mean, I really feel
strong in crises.

507
00:24:56,670 --> 00:24:58,270
It's very interesting.

508
00:24:58,270 --> 00:25:04,090
I change completely in a crisis.

509
00:25:04,090 --> 00:25:05,110
I don't scream.

510
00:25:05,110 --> 00:25:07,150
I don't cry.

511
00:25:07,150 --> 00:25:10,180
I just internalize it.

512
00:25:10,180 --> 00:25:12,910
And I become strong.

513
00:25:12,910 --> 00:25:14,560
And I'm grateful for that.

514
00:25:14,560 --> 00:25:20,020
And I really think it's
because of my war experiences.

515
00:25:20,020 --> 00:25:22,930
Because I can't place it
anyplace else, really,

516
00:25:22,930 --> 00:25:24,460
that kind of strength.

517
00:25:24,460 --> 00:25:25,390
Having to cope.

518
00:25:25,390 --> 00:25:27,190

Yes.

519
00:25:27,190 --> 00:25:28,390
Yeah.

520
00:25:28,390 --> 00:25:31,570
Do you talk about your
wartime experience,

521
00:25:31,570 --> 00:25:33,460
or did you talk about
your wartime expense

522
00:25:33,460 --> 00:25:38,110
with your brother
later on as adults?

523
00:25:38,110 --> 00:25:44,200
No, because unfortunately,
there was not

524
00:25:44,200 --> 00:25:46,300
a good situation
between his wife

525
00:25:46,300 --> 00:25:49,390
and my mother, who lived
around the corner, which

526
00:25:49,390 --> 00:25:51,880
affected our relationship.

527
00:25:51,880 --> 00:25:54,850
The good old Jewish story.

528
00:25:54,850 --> 00:25:59,380
So that we didn't have
much time together to talk.

529
00:25:59,380 --> 00:26:03,580
And I regret that
very much really.

530

00:26:03,580 --> 00:26:09,550

And I'm very serious
that today my friends who

531

00:26:09,550 --> 00:26:13,450

still have husbands, who
still have a brother, I'm

532

00:26:13,450 --> 00:26:14,570

like a preacher.

533

00:26:14,570 --> 00:26:16,060

I really am, Gail.

534

00:26:16,060 --> 00:26:21,640

I tell them, appreciate
what you have,

535

00:26:21,640 --> 00:26:24,670

the time that you have together.

536

00:26:24,670 --> 00:26:31,300

Don't stop and pick
nit the little things

537

00:26:31,300 --> 00:26:35,140

that are not important.

538

00:26:35,140 --> 00:26:36,730

Discuss your childhood.

539

00:26:36,730 --> 00:26:38,350

Discuss things
that have happened

540

00:26:38,350 --> 00:26:41,050

between the two of you.

541

00:26:41,050 --> 00:26:43,060

And they do.

542

00:26:43,060 --> 00:26:45,718
Do you feel you were
overprotective in raising

543
00:26:45,718 --> 00:26:47,510
your children or did
you raise them to be--

544
00:26:47,510 --> 00:26:49,210
Very much so.

545
00:26:49,210 --> 00:26:50,200
Very much so.

546
00:26:50,200 --> 00:26:50,985
Because of the--

547
00:26:50,985 --> 00:26:53,200
Thank God I had a balance.

548
00:26:53,200 --> 00:26:57,700
I had a husband that
didn't feel that way.

549
00:26:57,700 --> 00:26:59,168
Very overprotective.

550
00:26:59,168 --> 00:27:00,710
Because of what you
had gone through?

551
00:27:00,710 --> 00:27:02,800
Exactly.

552
00:27:02,800 --> 00:27:06,730
Don't do this, and don't do
that, you're going to get hurt.

553
00:27:06,730 --> 00:27:14,560
Really, really, to the point I
think where they resented it.

554

00:27:14,560 --> 00:27:21,340
And I think my
youngest child probably

555
00:27:21,340 --> 00:27:23,110
didn't go through all that.

556
00:27:23,110 --> 00:27:30,520
And she's the one that has
the most even temperament

557
00:27:30,520 --> 00:27:33,460
of the four children.

558
00:27:33,460 --> 00:27:37,420
No, it's true,
terribly protective,

559
00:27:37,420 --> 00:27:40,410
terribly protective.

560
00:27:40,410 --> 00:27:46,380
Were you active them in any way
when the Civil Rights movement

561
00:27:46,380 --> 00:27:47,400
began.

562
00:27:47,400 --> 00:27:52,260
Here, Jews were deprived of
their civil rights in Europe.

563
00:27:52,260 --> 00:27:54,070
I couldn't understand it.

564
00:27:54,070 --> 00:27:57,660
That was one of the things when
I came to the United States

565
00:27:57,660 --> 00:28:02,370
that I had never seen
before, where Blacks were not

566

00:28:02,370 --> 00:28:05,670

allowed to drink from
the same fountain

567

00:28:05,670 --> 00:28:07,470

or use the same bathroom.

568

00:28:07,470 --> 00:28:09,930

I really was
incensed about that.

569

00:28:09,930 --> 00:28:11,010

I remember that.

570

00:28:11,010 --> 00:28:15,240

Because I had never
seen anything like that.

571

00:28:15,240 --> 00:28:18,420

572

00:28:18,420 --> 00:28:23,370

I wasn't there when the
Jews were deprived also

573

00:28:23,370 --> 00:28:27,490

of doing that, because
we had left already.

574

00:28:27,490 --> 00:28:30,510

So I had never seen that before.

575

00:28:30,510 --> 00:28:34,440

And I remember telling Reuben,
how can you accept anything

576

00:28:34,440 --> 00:28:35,310

like that?

577

00:28:35,310 --> 00:28:40,170

I don't-- I really remember
having some very violent

578
00:28:40,170 --> 00:28:41,550
reactions to that.

579
00:28:41,550 --> 00:28:44,820

580
00:28:44,820 --> 00:28:47,355
Is that due to what because
of what happened to the Jews

581
00:28:47,355 --> 00:28:48,225
in Europe?

582
00:28:48,225 --> 00:28:49,920
Perhaps, perhaps.

583
00:28:49,920 --> 00:28:53,110
It was terribly unfair.

584
00:28:53,110 --> 00:28:54,530
A mensch is a mensch.

585
00:28:54,530 --> 00:28:55,030
Right.

586
00:28:55,030 --> 00:28:57,610

587
00:28:57,610 --> 00:28:59,820
It didn't make sense to me.

588
00:28:59,820 --> 00:29:02,820
What was your reaction going
through the Holocaust Museum

589
00:29:02,820 --> 00:29:07,410
yesterday, as you went
through the exhibits?

590
00:29:07,410 --> 00:29:11,340

I felt at one time that I
wanted to get out of here.

591
00:29:11,340 --> 00:29:12,190
And then I--

592
00:29:12,190 --> 00:29:13,300
It was too close to home?

593
00:29:13,300 --> 00:29:15,240
Too close to--

594
00:29:15,240 --> 00:29:19,960
It-- I don't know.

595
00:29:19,960 --> 00:29:29,170
And then I told myself don't
give in to your weakness.

596
00:29:29,170 --> 00:29:33,220
This did not happen to you.

597
00:29:33,220 --> 00:29:39,410
And although it happened
to several members

598
00:29:39,410 --> 00:29:42,800
of my family, whom I
didn't know that well,

599
00:29:42,800 --> 00:29:44,990
if I had been very
close to them,

600
00:29:44,990 --> 00:29:47,730
it probably would affect
me more than it has.

601
00:29:47,730 --> 00:29:48,710
Yeah.

602
00:29:48,710 --> 00:29:50,090

It didn't happen to my mother.

603

00:29:50,090 --> 00:29:51,360

It didn't happen to my father.

604

00:29:51,360 --> 00:29:54,420

It didn't happen to my brother.

605

00:29:54,420 --> 00:29:57,260

But it did happen to some
very close friends of mine,

606

00:29:57,260 --> 00:30:00,320

who have not talked about it.

607

00:30:00,320 --> 00:30:05,690

But Jesse was gracious
enough, a very close friend,

608

00:30:05,690 --> 00:30:07,850

to let me listen
to her yesterday.

609

00:30:07,850 --> 00:30:11,050

610

00:30:11,050 --> 00:30:12,770

[? Irma Freudenreich ?].

611

00:30:12,770 --> 00:30:14,620

To listen to her--

612

00:30:14,620 --> 00:30:15,610

When she gave--

613

00:30:15,610 --> 00:30:16,860

To listen to her interview.

614

00:30:16,860 --> 00:30:17,360

--interview.

615

00:30:17,360 --> 00:30:18,490
Oh, I see.

616
00:30:18,490 --> 00:30:19,810
Yes.

617
00:30:19,810 --> 00:30:22,750
And she never had told
me some of the things

618
00:30:22,750 --> 00:30:29,920
that she went through,
which is very interesting.

619
00:30:29,920 --> 00:30:33,400
That's what I'm
trying to explain.

620
00:30:33,400 --> 00:30:35,980
You really don't want
to talk about it.

621
00:30:35,980 --> 00:30:39,880
Do you have a hard time
people talking about it, Gail,

622
00:30:39,880 --> 00:30:42,850
when you interview them?

623
00:30:42,850 --> 00:30:47,755
Are you more comfortable
around people from Europe

624
00:30:47,755 --> 00:30:50,130
who went-- the Jews, let's
say, who went through the war,

625
00:30:50,130 --> 00:30:53,200
are you more comfortable than
someone who was born here?

626
00:30:53,200 --> 00:30:55,050
No.

627
00:30:55,050 --> 00:30:56,520
No.

628
00:30:56,520 --> 00:30:59,580
As a matter of fact,
today, I have more--

629
00:30:59,580 --> 00:31:02,280
for a long time, more
feeling for people--

630
00:31:02,280 --> 00:31:03,318
this is my country.

631
00:31:03,318 --> 00:31:05,610
I was going to-- that was
going to be my next question.

632
00:31:05,610 --> 00:31:06,360
Are you Belgian--

633
00:31:06,360 --> 00:31:07,020
This is my country.

634
00:31:07,020 --> 00:31:08,437
Are you Belgian,
are you American?

635
00:31:08,437 --> 00:31:09,890
I'm American.

636
00:31:09,890 --> 00:31:12,000
I always remember
a friend of mine

637
00:31:12,000 --> 00:31:15,150
who said also, a
refugee, who said

638
00:31:15,150 --> 00:31:16,740
when she comes

back from the trip,

639

00:31:16,740 --> 00:31:18,075

she wants to kiss the ground--

640

00:31:18,075 --> 00:31:18,825

The ground, right.

641

00:31:18,825 --> 00:31:20,680

--when she gets
out of the plane.

642

00:31:20,680 --> 00:31:25,500

No, I am really 100% American.

643

00:31:25,500 --> 00:31:28,380

Do you feel that the world
has learned a lesson, learned

644

00:31:28,380 --> 00:31:30,660

the lessons of the Holocaust?

645

00:31:30,660 --> 00:31:34,380

Has the world ever
learned a lesson, Gail?

646

00:31:34,380 --> 00:31:43,770

As you look back into the
centuries, I don't know.

647

00:31:43,770 --> 00:31:45,200

I hope so.

648

00:31:45,200 --> 00:31:47,810

All we can do is hope.

649

00:31:47,810 --> 00:31:53,600

But what you're doing, it's
marvelous, recording it.

650

00:31:53,600 --> 00:31:58,400

I listened to a lecture by

the director of the Holocaust

651
00:31:58,400 --> 00:32:00,230
Museum in Dallas.

652
00:32:00,230 --> 00:32:03,510
He died recently
of a heart attack.

653
00:32:03,510 --> 00:32:05,480
And he was talking
about the fact

654
00:32:05,480 --> 00:32:09,230
that even though the
war was over in '45,

655
00:32:09,230 --> 00:32:12,590
the Holocaust
didn't come, really,

656
00:32:12,590 --> 00:32:20,140
to be talked about, to the
surface, until what, 1979.

657
00:32:20,140 --> 00:32:21,980
Yeah, it took a long, long time.

658
00:32:21,980 --> 00:32:23,361
Took a long time.

659
00:32:23,361 --> 00:32:25,950
Right, right.

660
00:32:25,950 --> 00:32:32,850
Are there any sites today,
or sounds, or smells today

661
00:32:32,850 --> 00:32:37,440
that remind you of that--

662
00:32:37,440 --> 00:32:38,190

Of what?

663
00:32:38,190 --> 00:32:42,570
Running to the train, and
leaving, and hearing the bombs?

664
00:32:42,570 --> 00:32:43,890
No.

665
00:32:43,890 --> 00:32:45,590
Being-- living in
the South of France.

666
00:32:45,590 --> 00:32:47,340
There's nothing
that triggers it?

667
00:32:47,340 --> 00:32:48,720
No.

668
00:32:48,720 --> 00:32:49,710
No.

669
00:32:49,710 --> 00:32:51,270
And never did.

670
00:32:51,270 --> 00:32:55,350
Never did, from the moment
I came to the United States.

671
00:32:55,350 --> 00:32:58,440
I used to have nightmares
at night, I remember.

672
00:32:58,440 --> 00:32:59,190
About what?

673
00:32:59,190 --> 00:33:00,900
The Nazis chasing me.

674
00:33:00,900 --> 00:33:01,440
Really?

675

00:33:01,440 --> 00:33:06,510

Yeah, for months, or maybe
for even years, really.

676

00:33:06,510 --> 00:33:10,053

I remember the nightmares.

677

00:33:10,053 --> 00:33:11,470

Did you tell your
folks about that

678

00:33:11,470 --> 00:33:13,080

or you kept it to yourself?

679

00:33:13,080 --> 00:33:15,930

I kept it to myself, yeah.

680

00:33:15,930 --> 00:33:18,795

My mom would say it's nothing.

681

00:33:18,795 --> 00:33:20,730

Right, right.

682

00:33:20,730 --> 00:33:25,560

I think that there's such a
difference in parenting today.

683

00:33:25,560 --> 00:33:27,745

That's for sure.

684

00:33:27,745 --> 00:33:28,620

That's, yeah.

685

00:33:28,620 --> 00:33:31,200

As you've gotten
older, do you think you

686

00:33:31,200 --> 00:33:33,600

think about what happened more?

687

00:33:33,600 --> 00:33:35,401
Or do you not think about it?

688
00:33:35,401 --> 00:33:38,230

689
00:33:38,230 --> 00:33:40,810
As I told you when
I started this,

690
00:33:40,810 --> 00:33:45,610
and when Jesse asked me if
I would do this, is the time

691
00:33:45,610 --> 00:33:47,230
I started thinking about it.

692
00:33:47,230 --> 00:33:50,350

693
00:33:50,350 --> 00:33:53,170
I don't think about it.

694
00:33:53,170 --> 00:34:02,220
My best memories of
my life started in--

695
00:34:02,220 --> 00:34:06,930
maybe not right away in
1947, but from the time

696
00:34:06,930 --> 00:34:08,190
I got married.

697
00:34:08,190 --> 00:34:12,150
And I'm not just saying that.

698
00:34:12,150 --> 00:34:18,449
That's when I really
started growing, living,

699
00:34:18,449 --> 00:34:23,639

understanding life, and learning
about life a little bit.

700
00:34:23,639 --> 00:34:27,540
Because I didn't know
much about life before.

701
00:34:27,540 --> 00:34:30,090
How soon did you tell
your future husband

702
00:34:30,090 --> 00:34:32,590
about what you had went through?

703
00:34:32,590 --> 00:34:35,840
Right in the beginning?

704
00:34:35,840 --> 00:34:37,010
What I was going through?

705
00:34:37,010 --> 00:34:40,350
No, what you had gone through
as a child, having to leave,

706
00:34:40,350 --> 00:34:43,580
when did you tell him?

707
00:34:43,580 --> 00:34:44,873
We didn't talk about it a lot.

708
00:34:44,873 --> 00:34:46,040
Even when you first met him?

709
00:34:46,040 --> 00:34:47,030
But he did know.

710
00:34:47,030 --> 00:34:53,060
Because I remember him repeating
several times when we were out

711
00:34:53,060 --> 00:34:59,390
that we were the last boat

out of France of refugees

712
00:34:59,390 --> 00:35:05,280
before the Nazis took over all
of France and everybody died.

713
00:35:05,280 --> 00:35:08,170

714
00:35:08,170 --> 00:35:11,000
And that was in June.

715
00:35:11,000 --> 00:35:14,690
And for some reason,
that was a paragraph

716
00:35:14,690 --> 00:35:17,145
that he kept repeating, and
repeating, and repeating.

717
00:35:17,145 --> 00:35:18,270
He would tell other people.

718
00:35:18,270 --> 00:35:18,980
Yes.

719
00:35:18,980 --> 00:35:19,563
He would tell.

720
00:35:19,563 --> 00:35:23,150
That we were the last boat
out of France, the four of us.

721
00:35:23,150 --> 00:35:25,670
And we were.

722
00:35:25,670 --> 00:35:26,643
It was miraculous.

723
00:35:26,643 --> 00:35:29,060
And he was born in the United--
your husband was born in--

724
00:35:29,060 --> 00:35:30,460
He was born in Texas.

725
00:35:30,460 --> 00:35:31,550
Texas, oh, OK.

726
00:35:31,550 --> 00:35:34,080

727
00:35:34,080 --> 00:35:34,580
OK.

728
00:35:34,580 --> 00:35:35,696
A real Texan.

729
00:35:35,696 --> 00:35:37,090
A real Texan, yeah.

730
00:35:37,090 --> 00:35:42,380

731
00:35:42,380 --> 00:35:44,510
Well, is there
anything, any message

732
00:35:44,510 --> 00:35:48,980
you wanted to leave for your
children or your grandchildren

733
00:35:48,980 --> 00:35:50,270
that you haven't said?

734
00:35:50,270 --> 00:35:52,400
Any thoughts that
you have because

735
00:35:52,400 --> 00:35:54,338
of what you went through?

736
00:35:54,338 --> 00:35:55,130

Anything that you--

737

00:35:55,130 --> 00:35:58,720

Appreciate this country.

738

00:35:58,720 --> 00:36:02,480

Appreciate what
you're allowed to do

739

00:36:02,480 --> 00:36:07,280

in this country, the freedoms
that you are allowed.

740

00:36:07,280 --> 00:36:12,380

The fact that you don't have
to carry an identity card that

741

00:36:12,380 --> 00:36:14,570

says that you're Jewish.

742

00:36:14,570 --> 00:36:17,750

The fact that you don't
have to be recognized

743

00:36:17,750 --> 00:36:21,440

as a Jew or any religion.

744

00:36:21,440 --> 00:36:25,238

That you can practice any
religion that you want to.

745

00:36:25,238 --> 00:36:28,670

That you are accepted.

746

00:36:28,670 --> 00:36:32,150

This is something that
you should treasure.

747

00:36:32,150 --> 00:36:39,260

Because as a child, growing
up, I really never knew that.

748

00:36:39,260 --> 00:36:43,670

And if you could just
remember how lucky

749

00:36:43,670 --> 00:36:46,910

you are to live in this country.

750

00:36:46,910 --> 00:36:50,350

There is no other
country in the world--

751

00:36:50,350 --> 00:36:53,130

no other country
in the world where

752

00:36:53,130 --> 00:36:57,060

you can live and allowed
to live the way you

753

00:36:57,060 --> 00:36:59,620

live in this country.

754

00:36:59,620 --> 00:37:02,410

And I mean that from
the bottom of my heart.

755

00:37:02,410 --> 00:37:05,440

I've always appreciated
that from the moment

756

00:37:05,440 --> 00:37:09,250

I set foot in this country.

757

00:37:09,250 --> 00:37:12,400

Because I've had a
wonderful life here.

758

00:37:12,400 --> 00:37:17,650

I've lived in a part
of the country that

759

00:37:17,650 --> 00:37:21,190

has been hospitable.

760
00:37:21,190 --> 00:37:24,850
It was just a joy.

761
00:37:24,850 --> 00:37:30,580
And when I hear some of the
things that are going on now,

762
00:37:30,580 --> 00:37:35,130
I just can't understand it.

763
00:37:35,130 --> 00:37:40,600
But to my children, and to my
grandchildren, and to people

764
00:37:40,600 --> 00:37:44,860
in general, cherish it.

765
00:37:44,860 --> 00:37:48,310
What are your thoughts
about Germany?

766
00:37:48,310 --> 00:37:49,670
Have you been to Germany?

767
00:37:49,670 --> 00:37:50,740
No, I haven't.

768
00:37:50,740 --> 00:37:53,030
And my husband
bought a German car.

769
00:37:53,030 --> 00:37:55,618
I never would drive it.

770
00:37:55,618 --> 00:37:59,020
He had a Mercedes.

771
00:37:59,020 --> 00:38:04,960
Actually, there's a whole new
generation of Germans now.

772
00:38:04,960 --> 00:38:09,580
And I don't think you can
blame that generation for what

773
00:38:09,580 --> 00:38:11,170
happened.

774
00:38:11,170 --> 00:38:15,660
But they should be aware
that it never happens again.

775
00:38:15,660 --> 00:38:20,230

776
00:38:20,230 --> 00:38:22,680
But I don't blame
the new generation

777
00:38:22,680 --> 00:38:28,050
at this point for what their
ancestors have completely

778
00:38:28,050 --> 00:38:28,650
ignored.

779
00:38:28,650 --> 00:38:30,720
And they were not the only ones.

780
00:38:30,720 --> 00:38:33,000
It was ignored all
over the world, what

781
00:38:33,000 --> 00:38:37,680
was happening in the
camps and during the war,

782
00:38:37,680 --> 00:38:40,410
or the soldiers wouldn't
have acted so amazed

783
00:38:40,410 --> 00:38:43,680
when they opened the doors.

784
00:38:43,680 --> 00:38:45,390
They didn't know.

785
00:38:45,390 --> 00:38:52,140
And it was interesting yesterday
to read Eisenhower's comment.

786
00:38:52,140 --> 00:38:57,780
Really, this is-- and I
was so delighted to see so

787
00:38:57,780 --> 00:39:00,420
many children standing in line.

788
00:39:00,420 --> 00:39:03,690
And there was a
heartfelt thought

789
00:39:03,690 --> 00:39:08,250
to see a couple of young
kids crying, actually

790
00:39:08,250 --> 00:39:10,230
crying yesterday.

791
00:39:10,230 --> 00:39:11,740
And this is good.

792
00:39:11,740 --> 00:39:12,600
This is good.

793
00:39:12,600 --> 00:39:17,700
And I didn't know that you
had such an attendance.

794
00:39:17,700 --> 00:39:20,770
I mean it's constant.

795
00:39:20,770 --> 00:39:24,270
And I think that's
great, I really do.

796
00:39:24,270 --> 00:39:26,010
In fact, I think
I'm going to become

797
00:39:26,010 --> 00:39:29,550
a member of this one too.

798
00:39:29,550 --> 00:39:33,810
You could sell thousands
of memberships.

799
00:39:33,810 --> 00:39:36,890
Have you been back to the
South of France, to where you--

800
00:39:36,890 --> 00:39:38,520
No, never been back.

801
00:39:38,520 --> 00:39:40,020
Do you have any
desire to go see--

802
00:39:40,020 --> 00:39:40,850
Not really.

803
00:39:40,850 --> 00:39:41,892
--to see where you lived?

804
00:39:41,892 --> 00:39:42,420
Not really.

805
00:39:42,420 --> 00:39:45,390
It doesn't bring
back good memories.

806
00:39:45,390 --> 00:39:48,630
Why go back to a place
where you were miserable.

807
00:39:48,630 --> 00:39:50,055
Go back to happy place.

808
00:39:50,055 --> 00:39:52,320
Go back to happy places.

809
00:39:52,320 --> 00:39:54,970
Yeah.

810
00:39:54,970 --> 00:39:56,350
Well, is there
anything you would

811
00:39:56,350 --> 00:39:58,630
like to add before we finish?

812
00:39:58,630 --> 00:40:00,310
No, I think I have--

813
00:40:00,310 --> 00:40:01,690
And we haven't talked about?

814
00:40:01,690 --> 00:40:05,020
Anything you wanted to
say before we close?

815
00:40:05,020 --> 00:40:07,570
Well, I thank you
for the privilege

816
00:40:07,570 --> 00:40:12,310
of being able to remember some
of the things of my childhood.

817
00:40:12,310 --> 00:40:15,200
Though, I must
tell you that right

818
00:40:15,200 --> 00:40:21,850
now is a good time in my life
also, because of my family,

819
00:40:21,850 --> 00:40:26,650
my children, my grandchildren,

my art that I still enjoy.

820
00:40:26,650 --> 00:40:27,400
That's wonderful.

821
00:40:27,400 --> 00:40:31,990
And it's wonderful at
84 to be able to have

822
00:40:31,990 --> 00:40:34,420
the kind of feelings I have.

823
00:40:34,420 --> 00:40:37,030
I'm very grateful for that.

824
00:40:37,030 --> 00:40:42,010
We all have our moments, but
I think that the good moments

825
00:40:42,010 --> 00:40:45,820
overshadow anything else.

826
00:40:45,820 --> 00:40:47,005
And I thank you, Gail.

827
00:40:47,005 --> 00:40:49,090
Well, that's a nice
note to end on,

828
00:40:49,090 --> 00:40:52,480
that you say that you're at
a good time in your life.

829
00:40:52,480 --> 00:40:58,540
Yes, whatever time I have
left, I want to enjoy it.

830
00:40:58,540 --> 00:40:59,790
Wonderful.

831
00:40:59,790 --> 00:41:01,630
I really do.

832

00:41:01,630 --> 00:41:04,800

And that's what my husband would
have wanted me to say and feel.

833

00:41:04,800 --> 00:41:07,190

Yes, yes.

834

00:41:07,190 --> 00:41:09,390

Well, thank you for
doing the interview.

835

00:41:09,390 --> 00:41:10,400

Thank you, Gail.

836

00:41:10,400 --> 00:41:12,150

Thank you very much.

837

00:41:12,150 --> 00:41:15,200

This concludes the United
States Holocaust Memorial Museum

838

00:41:15,200 --> 00:41:19,270

interview with Regine Ginsberg.

839

00:41:19,270 --> 00:41:21,000