

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:07,950

2

00:00:07,950 --> 00:00:10,650

This is a continuation of  
the United States Holocaust

3

00:00:10,650 --> 00:00:12,630

Memorial Museum  
Volunteer Collection

4

00:00:12,630 --> 00:00:14,970

Interview with Erica Laufer.

5

00:00:14,970 --> 00:00:19,260

This is track number two,  
and you are still in Trinidad

6

00:00:19,260 --> 00:00:23,340

going to school and visiting  
your family on the weekend.

7

00:00:23,340 --> 00:00:26,310

You said going by tram yourself.

8

00:00:26,310 --> 00:00:29,060

9

00:00:29,060 --> 00:00:31,250

Did you hear me?

10

00:00:31,250 --> 00:00:33,605

You were talking  
about being in--

11

00:00:33,605 --> 00:00:35,970

Yeah, Trinidad, and  
going home on weekends.

12

00:00:35,970 --> 00:00:36,470

Trinidad.

13  
00:00:36,470 --> 00:00:37,160  
Yeah.

14  
00:00:37,160 --> 00:00:38,450  
Anything else about that time?

15  
00:00:38,450 --> 00:00:42,440  
Yeah, and as far as I  
know, they were only

16  
00:00:42,440 --> 00:00:45,290  
about five children,  
four or five children

17  
00:00:45,290 --> 00:00:47,420  
in the whole camp.

18  
00:00:47,420 --> 00:00:55,500  
And we would be together on  
the weekend when I got there.

19  
00:00:55,500 --> 00:00:58,860  
And this is so strange.

20  
00:00:58,860 --> 00:01:01,560  
They had an old piano outside.

21  
00:01:01,560 --> 00:01:05,310  
This is a tropics with  
tropical rains and all that.

22  
00:01:05,310 --> 00:01:13,920  
There was an old piano  
outside opposite the entrance

23  
00:01:13,920 --> 00:01:18,090  
to the Soul Christian.

24  
00:01:18,090 --> 00:01:21,600  
This man looked like,  
my recollection, he

25

00:01:21,600 --> 00:01:26,550

looked like the classical  
picture of a German spy,

26

00:01:26,550 --> 00:01:28,770

baldheaded, and whatever.

27

00:01:28,770 --> 00:01:31,600

Anyhow, he was the  
nicest man you ever met.

28

00:01:31,600 --> 00:01:33,690

He could play the piano.

29

00:01:33,690 --> 00:01:35,640

The parents just  
didn't approve of this,

30

00:01:35,640 --> 00:01:38,355

but he would come and play the  
piano, and we would sing along.

31

00:01:38,355 --> 00:01:45,700

32

00:01:45,700 --> 00:01:47,860

We were the only people  
who ever spoke to the man.

33

00:01:47,860 --> 00:01:49,990

He was all by himself in there.

34

00:01:49,990 --> 00:01:51,820

What kind of songs did you sing?

35

00:01:51,820 --> 00:01:53,380

I don't know.

36

00:01:53,380 --> 00:01:55,260

I guess German.

37

00:01:55,260 --> 00:01:59,260

I don't know, I have no idea.

38

00:01:59,260 --> 00:02:00,910

Were you a musical child?

39

00:02:00,910 --> 00:02:02,440

No.

40

00:02:02,440 --> 00:02:04,180

No.

41

00:02:04,180 --> 00:02:08,240

Painting, artist,  
whatnot, but not musical.

42

00:02:08,240 --> 00:02:14,440

My uncle, I understand,  
Richard, my mother's brother,

43

00:02:14,440 --> 00:02:17,860

I understand was an understudy  
at the Vienna Opera,

44

00:02:17,860 --> 00:02:20,890

but I don't know about that.

45

00:02:20,890 --> 00:02:22,360

OK.

46

00:02:22,360 --> 00:02:23,540

So I was told.

47

00:02:23,540 --> 00:02:24,040

Yeah.

48

00:02:24,040 --> 00:02:26,800

I can't always believe  
everything my mother said.

49

00:02:26,800 --> 00:02:29,860

Did you think of  
Klagenfurt when you were

50  
00:02:29,860 --> 00:02:32,680  
in Mrs. Lake's School at all.

51  
00:02:32,680 --> 00:02:37,510  
Did you think back  
to when you were--

52  
00:02:37,510 --> 00:02:38,725  
did you miss your hometown?

53  
00:02:38,725 --> 00:02:42,390

54  
00:02:42,390 --> 00:02:46,280  
Did you think about  
them, think about it?

55  
00:02:46,280 --> 00:02:46,990  
No.

56  
00:02:46,990 --> 00:02:47,540  
OK.

57  
00:02:47,540 --> 00:02:49,460  
Not that I know of.

58  
00:02:49,460 --> 00:02:50,590  
Hasn't occurred to me.

59  
00:02:50,590 --> 00:02:53,760

60  
00:02:53,760 --> 00:02:57,320  
So how would you describe,  
in general, those two years?

61  
00:02:57,320 --> 00:03:00,500  
You were in boarding  
school for two years?

62  
00:03:00,500 --> 00:03:04,940  
Was it mostly positive,  
mostly negative, part of each?

63  
00:03:04,940 --> 00:03:11,930

64  
00:03:11,930 --> 00:03:17,150  
Other than being hungry all  
night long and hating the food,

65  
00:03:17,150 --> 00:03:19,340  
having to learn a new  
language, and having

66  
00:03:19,340 --> 00:03:23,760  
to memorize all kinds of  
things, I was miserable.

67  
00:03:23,760 --> 00:03:24,605  
I had no friends.

68  
00:03:24,605 --> 00:03:28,020

69  
00:03:28,020 --> 00:03:32,520  
I didn't play the strange  
games they played.

70  
00:03:32,520 --> 00:03:40,540  
Eventually, they were knitting  
sweaters, khaki sweaters

71  
00:03:40,540 --> 00:03:45,670  
or socks or something,  
sweaters for the troops.

72  
00:03:45,670 --> 00:03:51,330  
And I found I could  
annoy the wits out

73

00:03:51,330 --> 00:03:57,130  
of people a certain way,  
get even, by reading.

74  
00:03:57,130 --> 00:04:04,880  
I would sit on the swing and  
read and knit at the same time.

75  
00:04:04,880 --> 00:04:08,450  
This wold annoy the living wits  
out of everybody around me,

76  
00:04:08,450 --> 00:04:12,440  
but I felt I got my  
revenge that way.

77  
00:04:12,440 --> 00:04:15,710  
How long did it take  
you to learn English?

78  
00:04:15,710 --> 00:04:16,399  
I don't know.

79  
00:04:16,399 --> 00:04:18,709  
I was desperate to  
learn because I thought

80  
00:04:18,709 --> 00:04:21,500  
that if I could speak  
English, I could explain

81  
00:04:21,500 --> 00:04:26,300  
that Valerie is doing this to me  
instead of me doing it to her.

82  
00:04:26,300 --> 00:04:29,640  
And then I discovered  
the great knowledge

83  
00:04:29,640 --> 00:04:32,510  
that one needs to have in life.

84  
00:04:32,510 --> 00:04:35,330

The truth does not set you free.

85

00:04:35,330 --> 00:04:39,680

That the fact that you can  
speak and say something, no one

86

00:04:39,680 --> 00:04:45,140

will believe you against  
the daughter of the owner.

87

00:04:45,140 --> 00:04:47,515

And so I learned so  
many things in Trinidad.

88

00:04:47,515 --> 00:04:51,260

89

00:04:51,260 --> 00:04:54,650

Were you aware, did people  
talk or your parents

90

00:04:54,650 --> 00:04:57,830

talk about when the war  
started, when Germany invaded

91

00:04:57,830 --> 00:04:59,900

Poland in September '39?

92

00:04:59,900 --> 00:05:02,240

No, I have no knowledge  
or recollection.

93

00:05:02,240 --> 00:05:04,100

My parents didn't  
speak about such things

94

00:05:04,100 --> 00:05:05,240

in front of children.

95

00:05:05,240 --> 00:05:11,800

Secondly, as far as  
I know, nobody ever



96

00:05:11,800 --> 00:05:15,340  
talked about anything again.

97

00:05:15,340 --> 00:05:16,060  
Period.

98

00:05:16,060 --> 00:05:20,080  
Tried to forget it  
like it never happened.

99

00:05:20,080 --> 00:05:23,260  
And go on with your  
life from here.

100

00:05:23,260 --> 00:05:26,960  
And never think as to  
what happened in the past.

101

00:05:26,960 --> 00:05:29,290  
It's only very  
recently, in my old age,

102

00:05:29,290 --> 00:05:33,700  
that I've been ruminating on it.

103

00:05:33,700 --> 00:05:35,770  
Everybody always--  
and now, I keep

104

00:05:35,770 --> 00:05:38,860  
wishing I had asked my mother  
or my father certain things

105

00:05:38,860 --> 00:05:43,660  
long before they died for which  
I will never have the answer.

106

00:05:43,660 --> 00:05:45,820  
But nobody ever  
spoke about it again.

107

00:05:45,820 --> 00:05:48,280

We never mentioned  
Austria or anything.

108  
00:05:48,280 --> 00:05:52,090  
My parents did go back to  
Austria once after the war.

109  
00:05:52,090 --> 00:05:56,290  
They were offered to come back.

110  
00:05:56,290 --> 00:05:59,020  
They were requested to come  
back, and they went back.

111  
00:05:59,020 --> 00:06:00,880  
But of course, you  
can't go back again.

112  
00:06:00,880 --> 00:06:03,880

113  
00:06:03,880 --> 00:06:05,860  
There were too many memories.

114  
00:06:05,860 --> 00:06:10,450  
My parents drew double  
social security.

115  
00:06:10,450 --> 00:06:13,180  
They drew social  
security from Austria

116  
00:06:13,180 --> 00:06:16,840  
as a result of having  
worked there as well

117  
00:06:16,840 --> 00:06:19,002  
as US social security.

118  
00:06:19,002 --> 00:06:19,502  
Yeah.

119

00:06:19,502 --> 00:06:22,720

120

00:06:22,720 --> 00:06:24,560

Were you, just to  
go back in time,

121

00:06:24,560 --> 00:06:26,690

were you aware of  
the book burnings?

122

00:06:26,690 --> 00:06:27,530

Was I what?

123

00:06:27,530 --> 00:06:28,322

To go back in time.

124

00:06:28,322 --> 00:06:29,238

Yeah, I got that part.

125

00:06:29,238 --> 00:06:30,080

Preceding Trinidad.

126

00:06:30,080 --> 00:06:31,130

Yeah.

127

00:06:31,130 --> 00:06:34,700

Were you aware of the burning  
of books, book burning?

128

00:06:34,700 --> 00:06:36,140

Have any memories of that?

129

00:06:36,140 --> 00:06:38,830

130

00:06:38,830 --> 00:06:39,890

Not in Trinidad.

131

00:06:39,890 --> 00:06:40,610

No, no, no.

132

00:06:40,610 --> 00:06:43,190

To go back before Trinidad.

133

00:06:43,190 --> 00:06:45,410

Klagenfurt, well, in the  
middle of the streets.

134

00:06:45,410 --> 00:06:46,210

Yeah.

135

00:06:46,210 --> 00:06:47,127

You actually see that?

136

00:06:47,127 --> 00:06:48,043

Yeah, in Vienna, yeah.

137

00:06:48,043 --> 00:06:49,820

Well, yeah, but they  
were so angry at me

138

00:06:49,820 --> 00:06:52,700

because I kept peeking  
out of the corner

139

00:06:52,700 --> 00:06:53,810

of the black curtains.

140

00:06:53,810 --> 00:06:54,380

Oh, I see.

141

00:06:54,380 --> 00:06:56,170

You saw it from your window.

142

00:06:56,170 --> 00:06:57,170

Yeah, from the upstairs.

143

00:06:57,170 --> 00:06:58,160

Oh, I see.

144

00:06:58,160 --> 00:07:01,550

They were so angry at

me because somebody

145  
00:07:01,550 --> 00:07:04,160  
might see that the black  
curtain was moving.

146  
00:07:04,160 --> 00:07:05,830  
Yeah.

147  
00:07:05,830 --> 00:07:07,870  
But, yes, you could  
see those things.

148  
00:07:07,870 --> 00:07:10,930  
Of course, you could  
smell the smoke.

149  
00:07:10,930 --> 00:07:14,140  
And that would be enough for you  
to look to see whether you all

150  
00:07:14,140 --> 00:07:15,894  
were going to burn any minute.

151  
00:07:15,894 --> 00:07:16,394  
Yeah.

152  
00:07:16,394 --> 00:07:19,110

153  
00:07:19,110 --> 00:07:23,030  
Did you ask your parents  
why are they burning books?

154  
00:07:23,030 --> 00:07:25,530  
I have no idea.

155  
00:07:25,530 --> 00:07:27,890  
I don't think people  
spoke to children--

156  
00:07:27,890 --> 00:07:31,970

this was a generation  
where children were not

157  
00:07:31,970 --> 00:07:34,070  
meant to be heard.

158  
00:07:34,070 --> 00:07:37,340  
I mean, they were to be seen  
and not heard and not seen

159  
00:07:37,340 --> 00:07:38,270  
all that much, either.

160  
00:07:38,270 --> 00:07:40,700  
I mean, stay to yourself  
and don't bother us.

161  
00:07:40,700 --> 00:07:43,260

162  
00:07:43,260 --> 00:07:45,280  
Let's get back to Trinidad.

163  
00:07:45,280 --> 00:07:45,780  
Yeah.

164  
00:07:45,780 --> 00:07:47,910  
So you're in the  
school for two years.

165  
00:07:47,910 --> 00:07:49,180  
Yes.

166  
00:07:49,180 --> 00:07:51,280  
What did you do  
in the summertime?

167  
00:07:51,280 --> 00:07:53,950  
Did you stay?

168  
00:07:53,950 --> 00:07:54,992  
It was very, very strict.

169

00:07:54,992 --> 00:07:56,283

There was nothing you could do.

170

00:07:56,283 --> 00:07:58,158

I mean, you couldn't go  
back to your bedroom.

171

00:07:58,158 --> 00:07:59,950

You couldn't do this,  
you couldn't do that.

172

00:07:59,950 --> 00:08:01,810

You had to stay in  
this room and study.

173

00:08:01,810 --> 00:08:04,690

You had to go outside  
and play there.

174

00:08:04,690 --> 00:08:06,400

It was very, very strict.

175

00:08:06,400 --> 00:08:12,920

But in the summer, they have  
of a place on the water.

176

00:08:12,920 --> 00:08:17,830

And I went there with them  
for two weeks one summer.

177

00:08:17,830 --> 00:08:19,960

And there was no electricity.

178

00:08:19,960 --> 00:08:22,570

179

00:08:22,570 --> 00:08:26,740

THERE was no radio or anything,  
but there was a wind up

180

00:08:26,740 --> 00:08:31,330

Victrola where you could play  
records, ancient records.

181

00:08:31,330 --> 00:08:37,840  
And I learned how to swim and  
how to dive and how to jump in.

182

00:08:37,840 --> 00:08:40,720

183

00:08:40,720 --> 00:08:45,102  
Did you see other parts  
of the island besides Port

184

00:08:45,102 --> 00:08:46,060  
of Spain and the beach?

185

00:08:46,060 --> 00:08:47,920  
No, not that I know of.

186

00:08:47,920 --> 00:08:49,000  
No.

187

00:08:49,000 --> 00:08:51,130  
People didn't have  
cars in those days.

188

00:08:51,130 --> 00:08:52,870  
My parents were  
working all the time,

189

00:08:52,870 --> 00:08:55,900  
and their excuse for  
everything, the rest of the days

190

00:08:55,900 --> 00:08:58,070  
were they're working.

191

00:08:58,070 --> 00:09:01,270  
They never did anything.

192

00:09:01,270 --> 00:09:05,320



Well, let's move  
on then to the time

193  
00:09:05,320 --> 00:09:07,290  
that you're getting  
ready to leave.

194  
00:09:07,290 --> 00:09:08,200  
Yeah.

195  
00:09:08,200 --> 00:09:09,250  
What were the plans?

196  
00:09:09,250 --> 00:09:11,290  
What were your parents'  
plans and how did they

197  
00:09:11,290 --> 00:09:12,670  
make it come about?

198  
00:09:12,670 --> 00:09:14,200  
I have no idea.

199  
00:09:14,200 --> 00:09:17,570  
I haven't any idea at all.

200  
00:09:17,570 --> 00:09:19,480  
I have no idea.

201  
00:09:19,480 --> 00:09:22,870  
Recently, my family,  
my son or my daughter,

202  
00:09:22,870 --> 00:09:25,090  
pointed out that it  
says on the internet

203  
00:09:25,090 --> 00:09:33,420  
that we left from  
Argentina which

204  
00:09:33,420 --> 00:09:36,490

I have no recollection  
of ever having

205  
00:09:36,490 --> 00:09:40,000  
even dreamed of Argentina  
or seen Argentina

206  
00:09:40,000 --> 00:09:40,970  
or how we got here.

207  
00:09:40,970 --> 00:09:45,690  
The only thing I remember  
is that we came on ship

208  
00:09:45,690 --> 00:09:48,720  
and that we were very  
disappointed because it

209  
00:09:48,720 --> 00:09:52,990  
was very foggy, and we didn't  
see the Statue of Liberty.

210  
00:09:52,990 --> 00:09:55,920  
Well, now we're talking  
about December 1940?

211  
00:09:55,920 --> 00:09:57,750  
Yeah.

212  
00:09:57,750 --> 00:09:59,850  
So you were in  
Trinidad for two years.

213  
00:09:59,850 --> 00:10:01,550  
Yes.

214  
00:10:01,550 --> 00:10:04,850  
Were you sorry to  
leave Trinidad?

215  
00:10:04,850 --> 00:10:07,150  
I don't know.

216

00:10:07,150 --> 00:10:10,090

You're now 10 and 1/2.

217

00:10:10,090 --> 00:10:12,110

You're now 10 and

a 1/2 years old.

218

00:10:12,110 --> 00:10:12,610

Yes.

219

00:10:12,610 --> 00:10:13,750

10 and a 1/2 years old.

220

00:10:13,750 --> 00:10:17,320

I have a photograph

of myself where

221

00:10:17,320 --> 00:10:21,400

I'm sitting there hunched over

with the space between my teeth

222

00:10:21,400 --> 00:10:23,500

and the stupid white

bow on top of my hair.

223

00:10:23,500 --> 00:10:26,230

224

00:10:26,230 --> 00:10:30,040

What did the United States

mean to you as a 10-year-old?

225

00:10:30,040 --> 00:10:35,860

That it was very cold

compared to the tropics.

226

00:10:35,860 --> 00:10:38,440

We were at Macy's.

227

00:10:38,440 --> 00:10:46,540

And Aunt Irene, my

mother's distant cousin,

228  
00:10:46,540 --> 00:10:50,260  
somehow vouched for us.

229  
00:10:50,260 --> 00:10:53,050  
And in those days, you couldn't  
come to the United States

230  
00:10:53,050 --> 00:10:55,630  
unless you had  
somebody vouch for you

231  
00:10:55,630 --> 00:11:00,190  
that you would never need one  
penny from the United States

232  
00:11:00,190 --> 00:11:03,550  
or from any state  
or city or anything.

233  
00:11:03,550 --> 00:11:05,770  
Something for some reason  
they stopped doing.

234  
00:11:05,770 --> 00:11:08,470  
But anyhow, in those  
days, you needed that.

235  
00:11:08,470 --> 00:11:19,490  
And Aunt Irene, her husband,  
Uncle Alex, worked in New York.

236  
00:11:19,490 --> 00:11:28,970  
He checked music to see if  
that sound was copyrighted.

237  
00:11:28,970 --> 00:11:31,160  
And they sponsored us.

238  
00:11:31,160 --> 00:11:35,190  
And she had never worked.

239

00:11:35,190 --> 00:11:36,930  
And they sponsored us.

240  
00:11:36,930 --> 00:11:40,350  
And she said they  
could only sponsor

241  
00:11:40,350 --> 00:11:42,960  
a limited number of people  
depending on how much money

242  
00:11:42,960 --> 00:11:46,710  
they make, Alex made.

243  
00:11:46,710 --> 00:11:52,980  
And made my parents sign a  
contract that they would never

244  
00:11:52,980 --> 00:11:56,730  
ask for one penny from them  
regardless of what they

245  
00:11:56,730 --> 00:11:59,550  
promised the United States.

246  
00:11:59,550 --> 00:12:02,790  
I sort of never forgave  
Aunt Irene for that,

247  
00:12:02,790 --> 00:12:06,850  
but that's a different story.

248  
00:12:06,850 --> 00:12:12,350  
But they had gotten  
us one month rent

249  
00:12:12,350 --> 00:12:15,590  
in a brownstone in Manhattan.

250  
00:12:15,590 --> 00:12:19,670  
It was a huge efficiency.

251

00:12:19,670 --> 00:12:25,530

And my father pulled out the  
dictionary, encyclopedia,

252

00:12:25,530 --> 00:12:26,750

whatever it was.

253

00:12:26,750 --> 00:12:29,510

It was orange covered.

254

00:12:29,510 --> 00:12:33,230

And it showed the flags of  
all the different countries

255

00:12:33,230 --> 00:12:33,950

and whatnot.

256

00:12:33,950 --> 00:12:35,750

And he pulled up  
the United States,

257

00:12:35,750 --> 00:12:39,290

and he found out that  
Washington DC is the capital,

258

00:12:39,290 --> 00:12:41,400

and that's not too  
far from New York.

259

00:12:41,400 --> 00:12:45,800

And it didn't cost that much by  
Greyhound to go from New York

260

00:12:45,800 --> 00:12:47,330

to Washington.

261

00:12:47,330 --> 00:12:52,520

And there was a small town,  
and since it was a government,

262

00:12:52,520 --> 00:12:57,140

they all would be needing  
hats because the ladies would

263

00:12:57,140 --> 00:13:01,730

be attending functions and  
would need to wear a hat.

264

00:13:01,730 --> 00:13:05,900

And so it would be a good place  
for my mother to be a milliner.

265

00:13:05,900 --> 00:13:11,900

And they decided we would  
move at the end of the month

266

00:13:11,900 --> 00:13:15,380

to Washington DC.

267

00:13:15,380 --> 00:13:18,710

Did your parents speak  
English well by then?

268

00:13:18,710 --> 00:13:21,860

No, but they could make  
themselves understood.

269

00:13:21,860 --> 00:13:23,820

And your English  
was good by then?

270

00:13:23,820 --> 00:13:25,010

I don't know, I guess so.

271

00:13:25,010 --> 00:13:26,177

After two years in Trinidad.

272

00:13:26,177 --> 00:13:31,480

Yeah, oh, yes, so very  
British tipped English.

273

00:13:31,480 --> 00:13:31,980

Yes.

274

00:13:31,980 --> 00:13:33,170

Yeah.

275

00:13:33,170 --> 00:13:35,390

Very proper.

276

00:13:35,390 --> 00:13:38,300

What boat did you come on from  
Trinidad to United States?

277

00:13:38,300 --> 00:13:39,010

I don't know.

278

00:13:39,010 --> 00:13:40,260

You don't know.

279

00:13:40,260 --> 00:13:41,070

I don't know.

280

00:13:41,070 --> 00:13:41,890

I don't remember.

281

00:13:41,890 --> 00:13:46,370

282

00:13:46,370 --> 00:13:46,870

Yeah.

283

00:13:46,870 --> 00:13:49,680

284

00:13:49,680 --> 00:13:54,900

Yeah, they didn't need  
much English in Trinidad

285

00:13:54,900 --> 00:13:59,790

other than the store and  
whatnot, how much and,

286

00:13:59,790 --> 00:14:05,630

you know, and no and Yes  
and next week and things



287

00:14:05,630 --> 00:14:06,410  
of that nature.

288

00:14:06,410 --> 00:14:10,400

289

00:14:10,400 --> 00:14:12,890  
But before, what I  
asked before, before you

290

00:14:12,890 --> 00:14:17,190  
came to the United States,  
what did America mean to you?

291

00:14:17,190 --> 00:14:18,010  
Did it have any--

292

00:14:18,010 --> 00:14:19,430  
Nothing.

293

00:14:19,430 --> 00:14:20,600  
I don't think I heard of it.

294

00:14:20,600 --> 00:14:20,990  
It had no meaning for you.

295

00:14:20,990 --> 00:14:21,490  
Nothing.

296

00:14:21,490 --> 00:14:25,010

297

00:14:25,010 --> 00:14:27,590  
OK.

298

00:14:27,590 --> 00:14:30,170  
So now you're--

299

00:14:30,170 --> 00:14:32,360  
They discovered my family,  
my son and daughter,

300

00:14:32,360 --> 00:14:35,180

discovered that I came  
through Ellis Island.

301

00:14:35,180 --> 00:14:38,510

I swore up and down I never  
heard of Ellis Island,

302

00:14:38,510 --> 00:14:41,270

but they showed me  
where on the internet

303

00:14:41,270 --> 00:14:44,060

it shows that we  
came, got my name,

304

00:14:44,060 --> 00:14:45,500

came through Ellis Island.

305

00:14:45,500 --> 00:14:48,500

I don't know what Ellis  
Island is, I never saw it

306

00:14:48,500 --> 00:14:50,480

but they told me  
that's where we came.

307

00:14:50,480 --> 00:14:52,580

And then we came  
from Argentina which

308

00:14:52,580 --> 00:14:54,080

I don't understand  
either because we

309

00:14:54,080 --> 00:14:55,850

came from the Trinidad.

310

00:14:55,850 --> 00:14:57,400

Children don't  
know these things.

311  
00:14:57,400 --> 00:14:59,120  
Yeah.

312  
00:14:59,120 --> 00:15:00,280  
So now, you're in New York.

313  
00:15:00,280 --> 00:15:01,898  
So now, we are in New York.

314  
00:15:01,898 --> 00:15:03,690  
And your father's  
talking about Washington.

315  
00:15:03,690 --> 00:15:06,710  
No, we're in New York, and  
we're at Macy's and seeing

316  
00:15:06,710 --> 00:15:10,520  
all these sites and it's snowing  
outside and it's bitter cold.

317  
00:15:10,520 --> 00:15:14,750  
And my aunt had gotten  
me, without knowing me,

318  
00:15:14,750 --> 00:15:17,510  
had gotten me a snowsuit.

319  
00:15:17,510 --> 00:15:19,580  
Here, I'm 10 and  
a 1/2 years old.

320  
00:15:19,580 --> 00:15:25,730  
A snowsuit, this  
dark maroon with snow

321  
00:15:25,730 --> 00:15:29,760  
drops in turquoise  
and a big hood,

322  
00:15:29,760 --> 00:15:30,975  
and I looked like a dwarf.

323  
00:15:30,975 --> 00:15:34,170

324  
00:15:34,170 --> 00:15:36,440  
That was because it  
was very, very cold.

325  
00:15:36,440 --> 00:15:38,850  
I don't know about shoes,  
I must have had boots.

326  
00:15:38,850 --> 00:15:39,840  
I don't know.

327  
00:15:39,840 --> 00:15:41,520  
But we walked through  
Macy's, and I'm

328  
00:15:41,520 --> 00:15:43,560  
dressed in this weird outfit.

329  
00:15:43,560 --> 00:15:47,970  
And I suddenly got whatever.

330  
00:15:47,970 --> 00:15:50,760  
And I started to howl.

331  
00:15:50,760 --> 00:15:52,440  
I cried and cried and cried.

332  
00:15:52,440 --> 00:15:53,880  
I wanted a doll.

333  
00:15:53,880 --> 00:15:58,470  
And my mother said you never  
liked dolls, you hate dolls,

334  
00:15:58,470 --> 00:15:59,880  
you're too old for a doll.

335

00:15:59,880 --> 00:16:02,640

What you want now  
was a baby doll.

336

00:16:02,640 --> 00:16:04,440

And they said didn't  
have much money,

337

00:16:04,440 --> 00:16:08,130

but eventually, they got me  
a doll just to shut me up,

338

00:16:08,130 --> 00:16:08,910

I guess.

339

00:16:08,910 --> 00:16:10,830

And of course, I never  
played with it again.

340

00:16:10,830 --> 00:16:14,040

But anyhow, that's a  
vivid recollection.

341

00:16:14,040 --> 00:16:16,740

342

00:16:16,740 --> 00:16:20,700

Somehow, we had one month.

343

00:16:20,700 --> 00:16:23,460

Every place we went  
to we had one month.

344

00:16:23,460 --> 00:16:27,810

When we got to Washington  
DC, we had one month.

345

00:16:27,810 --> 00:16:31,410

It must have been through the  
refugee committee, I guess.

346

00:16:31,410 --> 00:16:32,220

I don't know.

347  
00:16:32,220 --> 00:16:34,440  
We were staying with  
a rabbi and his family

348  
00:16:34,440 --> 00:16:39,900  
in Northeast Washington.

349  
00:16:39,900 --> 00:16:44,820  
And it was just so  
different again.

350  
00:16:44,820 --> 00:16:47,960  
So very confusing.

351  
00:16:47,960 --> 00:16:49,770  
So you were in New  
York only for a month?

352  
00:16:49,770 --> 00:16:50,270  
Yes.

353  
00:16:50,270 --> 00:16:51,230  
Oh, I see.

354  
00:16:51,230 --> 00:16:53,480  
But we couldn't afford the rent.

355  
00:16:53,480 --> 00:16:56,380

356  
00:16:56,380 --> 00:17:00,380  
My parents were anxious  
to get on with it

357  
00:17:00,380 --> 00:17:04,609  
and not have to be  
thankful or whatever

358  
00:17:04,609 --> 00:17:06,380  
and just get on with life.

359

00:17:06,380 --> 00:17:08,119

Yes, we were just  
there for a month.

360

00:17:08,119 --> 00:17:13,369

And then we had this one month,  
I think, in DC with the rabbi.

361

00:17:13,369 --> 00:17:17,240

And looked around and  
there was obviously,

362

00:17:17,240 --> 00:17:20,810

to my parents, not the right  
neighborhood in which people

363

00:17:20,810 --> 00:17:27,190

would be wanting to buy  
designer hats made to order.

364

00:17:27,190 --> 00:17:32,570

And discovered a place in  
Georgetown, which at that time

365

00:17:32,570 --> 00:17:43,210

was a slum, where they rented  
a building at 1330 Wisconsin

366

00:17:43,210 --> 00:17:44,005

Avenue NW.

367

00:17:44,005 --> 00:17:46,630

368

00:17:46,630 --> 00:17:49,420

That there was a  
store downstairs,

369

00:17:49,420 --> 00:17:52,850

and there was a little  
efficiency upstairs.

370

00:17:52,850 --> 00:17:55,010  
My parents stayed upstairs.

371  
00:17:55,010 --> 00:17:58,910  
And the store had, in  
the back of the store,

372  
00:17:58,910 --> 00:18:02,540  
there was a little room which  
was my mother's work room.

373  
00:18:02,540 --> 00:18:05,690  
And it had a cot, and that's  
where I would sleep at night

374  
00:18:05,690 --> 00:18:07,010  
time, that was my place.

375  
00:18:07,010 --> 00:18:08,810  
They were upstairs,  
I was downstairs.

376  
00:18:08,810 --> 00:18:11,330

377  
00:18:11,330 --> 00:18:14,180  
There was a small  
refrigerator, an ancient one.

378  
00:18:14,180 --> 00:18:18,260  
A gas refrigerator with  
a motor on top of it.

379  
00:18:18,260 --> 00:18:21,680  
And one day, apparently,  
the gas, my mother

380  
00:18:21,680 --> 00:18:23,248  
was always very--

381  
00:18:23,248 --> 00:18:24,290  
she couldn't do anything.



382

00:18:24,290 --> 00:18:26,360

Oh, her husband had  
to do everything.

383

00:18:26,360 --> 00:18:28,580

Everything was such a crisis.

384

00:18:28,580 --> 00:18:31,360

She couldn't do anything at all.

385

00:18:31,360 --> 00:18:33,930

And one day, the gas leaked.

386

00:18:33,930 --> 00:18:36,900

And this person who  
could never do anything

387

00:18:36,900 --> 00:18:41,310

somehow called the authorities,  
had them removed the thing,

388

00:18:41,310 --> 00:18:43,530

and got a new refrigerator.

389

00:18:43,530 --> 00:18:46,590

390

00:18:46,590 --> 00:18:49,830

By the time my father came  
home, we had a new refrigerator.

391

00:18:49,830 --> 00:18:52,435

392

00:18:52,435 --> 00:18:52,935

OK?

393

00:18:52,935 --> 00:18:56,610

394

00:18:56,610 --> 00:18:58,620

Where did you go to  
school in Georgetown?

395

00:18:58,620 --> 00:19:02,250

It was just-- there were three  
schools next to each other.

396

00:19:02,250 --> 00:19:05,340

It was just a block  
and a half away.

397

00:19:05,340 --> 00:19:08,400

Not on Wisconsin Avenue,  
but the side street.

398

00:19:08,400 --> 00:19:13,950

And it was Addison  
Curtis and Hyde.

399

00:19:13,950 --> 00:19:16,740

Two of them were elementary  
schools, and one of them

400

00:19:16,740 --> 00:19:22,470

was a school for bad girls.

401

00:19:22,470 --> 00:19:26,220

And we all shared  
the same playground.

402

00:19:26,220 --> 00:19:32,580

And the bad girls learned  
how to can and cook and iron.

403

00:19:32,580 --> 00:19:35,430

And I know we went  
over there, too.

404

00:19:35,430 --> 00:19:37,110

We learned how to--

405

00:19:37,110 --> 00:19:39,720

this was during World War II.

406

00:19:39,720 --> 00:19:45,090

And we were taught how to  
iron your husband's shirt

407

00:19:45,090 --> 00:19:49,170

and how to sew and  
how to darn socks

408

00:19:49,170 --> 00:19:57,210

and how to cook spam and  
string beans and potatoes

409

00:19:57,210 --> 00:20:01,080

and foods, very cheap  
foods, and so on so

410

00:20:01,080 --> 00:20:05,010

that we could manage on  
your husband's income.

411

00:20:05,010 --> 00:20:07,830

Do you remember  
December 7, 1941?

412

00:20:07,830 --> 00:20:09,540

Pearl Harbor?

413

00:20:09,540 --> 00:20:10,230

No.

414

00:20:10,230 --> 00:20:10,980

You do not?

415

00:20:10,980 --> 00:20:12,980

No.

416

00:20:12,980 --> 00:20:13,480

No.

417

00:20:13,480 --> 00:20:15,430

When the United States

entered the war.

418  
00:20:15,430 --> 00:20:17,100  
No.

419  
00:20:17,100 --> 00:20:18,180  
No.

420  
00:20:18,180 --> 00:20:22,170  
We had a lot of air raid  
drills at the school.

421  
00:20:22,170 --> 00:20:25,800  
And we would go  
into the basement

422  
00:20:25,800 --> 00:20:29,280  
and sing patriotic songs.

423  
00:20:29,280 --> 00:20:35,740  
And being me, I one day  
raised my hand and got

424  
00:20:35,740 --> 00:20:39,970  
called on and asked, why  
are we in the basement?

425  
00:20:39,970 --> 00:20:43,210  
If there really was an air  
raid and a bomb dropped on us,

426  
00:20:43,210 --> 00:20:44,860  
we'd be buried alive.

427  
00:20:44,860 --> 00:20:48,010  
And the teacher gave  
me the same reply

428  
00:20:48,010 --> 00:20:53,310  
that people always give to this  
kind of question, apparently.

429

00:20:53,310 --> 00:20:55,260

Just keep quiet  
and keep singing.

430

00:20:55,260 --> 00:20:59,410

431

00:20:59,410 --> 00:21:01,580

I heard this so  
often in my life.

432

00:21:01,580 --> 00:21:04,780

I would ask a question  
so basic and always get

433

00:21:04,780 --> 00:21:07,000

that type of response.

434

00:21:07,000 --> 00:21:10,570

435

00:21:10,570 --> 00:21:13,650

So all life has been  
a learning thing.

436

00:21:13,650 --> 00:21:15,510

I was picked on mercilessly.

437

00:21:15,510 --> 00:21:24,060

They called me the little  
Hitler because I was German.

438

00:21:24,060 --> 00:21:27,440

And, of course, the only one  
in the school and, of course,

439

00:21:27,440 --> 00:21:34,000

the only Jewish person within  
miles around as far as I know.

440

00:21:34,000 --> 00:21:36,630

And I was not ever  
going to tell anybody

441  
00:21:36,630 --> 00:21:40,360  
that I was Jewish again.

442  
00:21:40,360 --> 00:21:42,100  
I've had enough in  
Austria where it

443  
00:21:42,100 --> 00:21:46,420  
was out there when they were  
in a nice warm classroom

444  
00:21:46,420 --> 00:21:50,420  
and I had to be outside all by  
myself in the snow and whatnot.

445  
00:21:50,420 --> 00:21:55,000  
So I wouldn't have my brain  
filled up with Catholicism

446  
00:21:55,000 --> 00:21:55,540  
or whatever.

447  
00:21:55,540 --> 00:22:01,510

448  
00:22:01,510 --> 00:22:02,530  
So I said nothing.

449  
00:22:02,530 --> 00:22:04,230  
I was picked on mercilessly.

450  
00:22:04,230 --> 00:22:06,660  
They played games like  
dodge, and it finally

451  
00:22:06,660 --> 00:22:08,460  
occurred to me that  
they really wanted

452  
00:22:08,460 --> 00:22:10,780  
to hit me as hard as possible.

453  
00:22:10,780 --> 00:22:13,500  
So I would refuse to play.

454  
00:22:13,500 --> 00:22:16,320  
And remembered what I  
had done in Trinidad.

455  
00:22:16,320 --> 00:22:20,850  
And I would sit during recess,  
and I would sit and read.

456  
00:22:20,850 --> 00:22:23,850  
You won't believe this, at  
10 years old, 10 and a half,

457  
00:22:23,850 --> 00:22:28,260  
I would read Plato  
and all the classics.

458  
00:22:28,260 --> 00:22:29,700  
The others could barely read.

459  
00:22:29,700 --> 00:22:33,330  
They were American students,  
and the education system

460  
00:22:33,330 --> 00:22:34,620  
was ridiculous.

461  
00:22:34,620 --> 00:22:37,710  
My parents, of course, were  
terrified of authorities,

462  
00:22:37,710 --> 00:22:40,350  
wouldn't dream of saying,  
no, that's not right.

463  
00:22:40,350 --> 00:22:43,200  
The teachers felt I needed  
to learn how to adjust

464

00:22:43,200 --> 00:22:45,840  
to learn American history.

465  
00:22:45,840 --> 00:22:49,380  
I could have learned it by  
reading a book in one weekend.

466  
00:22:49,380 --> 00:22:54,750  
But no, they insisted that I  
go in class according to my age

467  
00:22:54,750 --> 00:22:57,270  
instead of according  
to my knowledge which

468  
00:22:57,270 --> 00:23:00,540  
is far superior having  
gone to a boarding school.

469  
00:23:00,540 --> 00:23:02,580  
They were learning  
adding and subtracting,

470  
00:23:02,580 --> 00:23:11,040  
and I was doing algebra, doing  
math in my head and what not,

471  
00:23:11,040 --> 00:23:12,210  
doing compositions.

472  
00:23:12,210 --> 00:23:17,900  
Anyhow, I sat in the back  
of the room for two years.

473  
00:23:17,900 --> 00:23:21,440  
Teacher said I could join in any  
time I wanted to for whatever I

474  
00:23:21,440 --> 00:23:25,390  
wanted to do and spent  
my time painting pictures

475  
00:23:25,390 --> 00:23:26,780



the whole time, two years.

476

00:23:26,780 --> 00:23:29,726

477

00:23:29,726 --> 00:23:31,670

And yeah, and then  
what happened?

478

00:23:31,670 --> 00:23:35,480

479

00:23:35,480 --> 00:23:36,680

Did you leave that school?

480

00:23:36,680 --> 00:23:39,840

Oh, Georgetown was a  
slum in those days.

481

00:23:39,840 --> 00:23:44,330

And we would play hide  
and go seek in buildings,

482

00:23:44,330 --> 00:23:47,780

huge, huge, huge buildings.

483

00:23:47,780 --> 00:23:49,385

The floor, there  
were no windows,

484

00:23:49,385 --> 00:23:52,310

the doors were wide open.

485

00:23:52,310 --> 00:23:54,050

The floor would  
have holes in it.

486

00:23:54,050 --> 00:23:57,510

We would play ghost and whatnot.

487

00:23:57,510 --> 00:24:04,470

And I was on the swimming team,

having learned how to swim.

488

00:24:04,470 --> 00:24:07,810

I was on swimming  
team, and we had

489

00:24:07,810 --> 00:24:12,920

a swimming thing against  
whatever the major school is

490

00:24:12,920 --> 00:24:14,150

in Northeast.

491

00:24:14,150 --> 00:24:17,390

And they disabled me almost  
instantly by kicking me

492

00:24:17,390 --> 00:24:19,700

in the stomach  
after we dived in.

493

00:24:19,700 --> 00:24:24,680

But anyhow, I went  
to the playground.

494

00:24:24,680 --> 00:24:26,930

We never had anybody  
watching me after we

495

00:24:26,930 --> 00:24:28,850

came to the United States.

496

00:24:28,850 --> 00:24:30,870

I spent all my  
time after school,

497

00:24:30,870 --> 00:24:34,970

I would go to the library and  
read books every single day

498

00:24:34,970 --> 00:24:38,900

until it was time to  
come home and eat dinner.

499

00:24:38,900 --> 00:24:42,320

And in the summer, I would  
go to the playground.

500

00:24:42,320 --> 00:24:45,350

Georgetown playground is  
just a few blocks away.

501

00:24:45,350 --> 00:24:50,810

And the crafts and  
whatnot and fended off

502

00:24:50,810 --> 00:24:55,100

boys who kept saying  
annoying things to me.

503

00:24:55,100 --> 00:25:00,440

No longer picking on me,  
they were interested in me.

504

00:25:00,440 --> 00:25:03,470

How aware were you of  
World War II going on

505

00:25:03,470 --> 00:25:05,480

at the time besides  
the fact that--

506

00:25:05,480 --> 00:25:06,710

In Georgetown?

507

00:25:06,710 --> 00:25:07,400

Yeah.

508

00:25:07,400 --> 00:25:08,690

How aware were you?

509

00:25:08,690 --> 00:25:10,170

I know you had drills.

510

00:25:10,170 --> 00:25:12,750

We had air raid  
drills all the time.

511  
00:25:12,750 --> 00:25:15,620  
But of knowing  
what was happening.

512  
00:25:15,620 --> 00:25:21,590  
Well, there was rationing,  
and you couldn't get anything.

513  
00:25:21,590 --> 00:25:23,690  
There was rationing  
for everything.

514  
00:25:23,690 --> 00:25:26,540  
And there was a butcher  
across the street

515  
00:25:26,540 --> 00:25:28,610  
who had his eye on me.

516  
00:25:28,610 --> 00:25:32,810  
And my parents would send me  
there because if I went there,

517  
00:25:32,810 --> 00:25:36,470  
we would get butter and meat,  
whereas if they went there,

518  
00:25:36,470 --> 00:25:40,200  
they didn't get anything,  
even if they had ration cards.

519  
00:25:40,200 --> 00:25:45,470  
Did your parents have any  
contact with their family

520  
00:25:45,470 --> 00:25:48,290  
back in Europe?

521  
00:25:48,290 --> 00:25:51,740  
My mother had some kind

of a stomach condition.

522

00:25:51,740 --> 00:25:56,810

And her cousin, cousin?

523

00:25:56,810 --> 00:26:01,520

Yeah, Freddy's father,

[? Holtze, ?] one

524

00:26:01,520 --> 00:26:05,450

of the [? Holtze's, ?] Leo

[? Holtze, ?] had moved

525

00:26:05,450 --> 00:26:11,030

to Switzerland with my cousin

Freddy who was I think a year

526

00:26:11,030 --> 00:26:14,090

younger than me who

eventually became a physician,

527

00:26:14,090 --> 00:26:14,710

I understand.

528

00:26:14,710 --> 00:26:16,710

I don't know if he's still

alive or where he is.

529

00:26:16,710 --> 00:26:18,980

I think he left, they

all left Switzerland

530

00:26:18,980 --> 00:26:27,710

because Leo was in Czech

Republic when he died.

531

00:26:27,710 --> 00:26:31,595

Anyhow, where was I?

532

00:26:31,595 --> 00:26:32,880

I was asking if--

533

00:26:32,880 --> 00:26:34,350  
I'm looking at pictures of Leo.

534  
00:26:34,350 --> 00:26:34,850  
What?

535  
00:26:34,850 --> 00:26:37,425  
I was asking if your  
parents had any contact.

536  
00:26:37,425 --> 00:26:37,925  
Yeah.

537  
00:26:37,925 --> 00:26:40,700  
Since she had the stomach  
condition and needed medicine

538  
00:26:40,700 --> 00:26:43,580  
and kept ranting and raving  
at the American doctors

539  
00:26:43,580 --> 00:26:51,170  
are far behind, she would send  
to her relatives in Switzerland

540  
00:26:51,170 --> 00:26:58,080  
soap and perfumes and  
candies and whatnot.

541  
00:26:58,080 --> 00:27:05,270  
And they would, instead, send us  
to Austria or Germany or France

542  
00:27:05,270 --> 00:27:08,600  
or wherever they had relatives  
for [INAUDIBLE] which

543  
00:27:08,600 --> 00:27:13,170  
some kind of a stomach thing.

544  
00:27:13,170 --> 00:27:16,620  
I think she lacked sufficient  
stomach acid or something.

545  
00:27:16,620 --> 00:27:19,070  
And this would cure her.

546  
00:27:19,070 --> 00:27:21,582  
They had nothing comparable  
in the United States.

547  
00:27:21,582 --> 00:27:23,540  
I haven't been able to  
find it on the internet.

548  
00:27:23,540 --> 00:27:25,790  
It's long since gone,  
whatever it was.

549  
00:27:25,790 --> 00:27:32,930  
My mother's brother,  
meanwhile, when we were--

550  
00:27:32,930 --> 00:27:36,620  
I said I had never seen  
when we left Klagenfurt,

551  
00:27:36,620 --> 00:27:42,170  
I had never seen my very  
beloved grandparents again,

552  
00:27:42,170 --> 00:27:47,000  
my mother's parents,  
the Schwarz's.

553  
00:27:47,000 --> 00:27:53,580  
Apparently, Uncle Richard, my  
mother's brother, took them--

554  
00:27:53,580 --> 00:27:57,110  
I know he was in  
Italy and that way.

555  
00:27:57,110 --> 00:27:59,270  
I know that they were  
in several countries

556  
00:27:59,270 --> 00:28:00,770  
and, eventually,  
took him to France.

557  
00:28:00,770 --> 00:28:07,150

558  
00:28:07,150 --> 00:28:12,370  
From there, after  
World War ended,

559  
00:28:12,370 --> 00:28:14,990  
the Red Cross  
informed my parents

560  
00:28:14,990 --> 00:28:21,800  
that her parents had died in  
Buchenwald concentration camp.

561  
00:28:21,800 --> 00:28:28,040  
Apparently, the French sent them  
to their death in Buchenwald.

562  
00:28:28,040 --> 00:28:31,040  
My uncle somehow--  
remember, he was the one

563  
00:28:31,040 --> 00:28:33,940  
that the nuns had said when he  
was a kid that he would end up

564  
00:28:33,940 --> 00:28:34,565  
on the gallows.

565  
00:28:34,565 --> 00:28:39,410

566  
00:28:39,410 --> 00:28:41,930  
But because he always  
found some way out

567



00:28:41,930 --> 00:28:43,260  
that wasn't the standard one.

568  
00:28:43,260 --> 00:28:46,100  
Anyhow, he wound up in  
the French Foreign Legion

569  
00:28:46,100 --> 00:28:54,720  
and spent World War II in North  
Africa with the French Foreign

570  
00:28:54,720 --> 00:28:55,220  
Legion.

571  
00:28:55,220 --> 00:29:00,780

572  
00:29:00,780 --> 00:29:04,800  
He eventually went back  
to Austria after the war,

573  
00:29:04,800 --> 00:29:08,190  
and he eventually came  
to the United States.

574  
00:29:08,190 --> 00:29:10,060  
Let's move on.

575  
00:29:10,060 --> 00:29:15,490  
So you spent the war years going  
to school, and now it's 1945.

576  
00:29:15,490 --> 00:29:15,990  
Yeah.

577  
00:29:15,990 --> 00:29:18,450  
Oh, I was on the swim team.

578  
00:29:18,450 --> 00:29:22,700  
And I had a good friend  
by the name of Audrey.

579

00:29:22,700 --> 00:29:25,785  
Very, very pretty girl who was  
also very, very good swimmer.

580  
00:29:25,785 --> 00:29:28,400

581  
00:29:28,400 --> 00:29:30,530  
And I remember  
being shocked going

582  
00:29:30,530 --> 00:29:34,580  
to see her in their apartment  
as to how many people there

583  
00:29:34,580 --> 00:29:42,320  
were who slept all in one  
bed and how little they had.

584  
00:29:42,320 --> 00:29:45,830  
Anyhow, next thing you  
know, it was World War II

585  
00:29:45,830 --> 00:29:48,100  
and sailors would come  
home on the weekend

586  
00:29:48,100 --> 00:29:53,600  
and you couldn't go downtown  
to the movie houses without--

587  
00:29:53,600 --> 00:29:57,710  
the sailors and  
soldiers were lined up

588  
00:29:57,710 --> 00:30:02,180  
on the street, but four deep,  
trying to pick up any girl that

589  
00:30:02,180 --> 00:30:03,890  
walked by screaming after them.

590  
00:30:03,890 --> 00:30:08,190

Anyhow, next thing you know,  
little Audrey was pregnant.

591  
00:30:08,190 --> 00:30:10,750

592  
00:30:10,750 --> 00:30:14,570  
And she asked me whether I  
knew where babies came from.

593  
00:30:14,570 --> 00:30:16,490  
And I said, oh, of course.

594  
00:30:16,490 --> 00:30:18,790  
I had no idea.

595  
00:30:18,790 --> 00:30:20,470  
No idea whatsoever.

596  
00:30:20,470 --> 00:30:22,870  
I foolishly went home  
and asked my mother

597  
00:30:22,870 --> 00:30:25,720  
and she went, why  
do you want to know?

598  
00:30:25,720 --> 00:30:28,750  
And I said, well, Audrey says  
she's going to have a baby.

599  
00:30:28,750 --> 00:30:31,970  
I thought my mother was going  
to drop up on the floor.

600  
00:30:31,970 --> 00:30:34,500  
She was so shocked.

601  
00:30:34,500 --> 00:30:39,290  
Within, I think, a  
month or weeks, she

602

00:30:39,290 --> 00:30:44,930  
had found a house  
to buy in Petworth,

603  
00:30:44,930 --> 00:30:47,850  
a row house, all  
the way across town.

604  
00:30:47,850 --> 00:30:50,450

605  
00:30:50,450 --> 00:30:53,360  
I remember my father  
being stunned,

606  
00:30:53,360 --> 00:31:00,310  
how would we have money for  
down payment on the house?

607  
00:31:00,310 --> 00:31:03,280  
And she had done that.

608  
00:31:03,280 --> 00:31:05,510  
My father had never  
gone to a grocery store.

609  
00:31:05,510 --> 00:31:10,060  
And she worked, and she  
gave him all her money.

610  
00:31:10,060 --> 00:31:13,540  
And he would take care of it  
as well as the ancient method.

611  
00:31:13,540 --> 00:31:17,110  
And he would give  
her grocery money

612  
00:31:17,110 --> 00:31:20,860  
and she would skimp off the  
grocery money to such an extent

613  
00:31:20,860 --> 00:31:24,190

that she had enough for a  
down payment on the house.

614  
00:31:24,190 --> 00:31:26,920  
And he wanted to know,  
how would they pay

615  
00:31:26,920 --> 00:31:29,110  
for this every single month?

616  
00:31:29,110 --> 00:31:33,190  
And she said, they would  
rent out the apartment

617  
00:31:33,190 --> 00:31:35,280  
they were living in now.

618  
00:31:35,280 --> 00:31:41,760  
And she had her store and he  
had an income by now, too.

619  
00:31:41,760 --> 00:31:44,130  
And they would be  
able to do that.

620  
00:31:44,130 --> 00:31:47,730  
And they would rent one  
or two rooms in the house.

621  
00:31:47,730 --> 00:31:51,720  
I could sleep on the sofa,  
and they would rent enough

622  
00:31:51,720 --> 00:31:57,300  
and they would pay for the  
utilities and the mortgage.

623  
00:31:57,300 --> 00:32:00,960  
She had read a  
book that's called

624  
00:32:00,960 --> 00:32:05,220  
How to Make a Million Dollars in

Your Spare Time in Real Estate,

625

00:32:05,220 --> 00:32:08,190

and she took that as  
a recipe and followed

626

00:32:08,190 --> 00:32:09,570

every last word of it.

627

00:32:09,570 --> 00:32:11,130

Toward the end,  
they own six houses.

628

00:32:11,130 --> 00:32:15,620

629

00:32:15,620 --> 00:32:18,440

She could never get my father  
to do that because every penny

630

00:32:18,440 --> 00:32:21,080

he had, by that time,  
he had a uniform shop.

631

00:32:21,080 --> 00:32:27,600

And every penny he had, he  
stuck into the uniform shop.

632

00:32:27,600 --> 00:32:30,570

I would work there on Saturdays.

633

00:32:30,570 --> 00:32:33,180

He would go on shopping  
trips for his store

634

00:32:33,180 --> 00:32:37,380

to Philadelphia or New  
York, mostly Philadelphia,

635

00:32:37,380 --> 00:32:38,520

and would take me along.

636

00:32:38,520 --> 00:32:42,600  
And I would try on the uniforms  
and see which were comfortable

637  
00:32:42,600 --> 00:32:44,970  
and which ones didn't  
wrinkle and which

638  
00:32:44,970 --> 00:32:46,770  
ones look very stylish.

639  
00:32:46,770 --> 00:32:50,370  
And as a result, he had  
very stylish uniforms.

640  
00:32:50,370 --> 00:32:56,850  
And the wholesalers made a lot  
of money telling people which

641  
00:32:56,850 --> 00:33:00,900  
uniforms had been proven to  
be the most comfortable, most

642  
00:33:00,900 --> 00:33:01,650  
stylish.

643  
00:33:01,650 --> 00:33:03,810  
They were selling them  
all over the place.

644  
00:33:03,810 --> 00:33:05,500  
These are military uniforms?

645  
00:33:05,500 --> 00:33:06,000  
No, no.

646  
00:33:06,000 --> 00:33:09,712

647  
00:33:09,712 --> 00:33:12,830  
This was a day of  
segregation and white women--

648

00:33:12,830 --> 00:33:13,340

For waiters?

649

00:33:13,340 --> 00:33:16,310

Well, Black women couldn't  
be in a white neighborhood

650

00:33:16,310 --> 00:33:17,880

without being in a uniform.

651

00:33:17,880 --> 00:33:18,500

I see.

652

00:33:18,500 --> 00:33:20,570

And besides, which  
you wouldn't want

653

00:33:20,570 --> 00:33:24,290

to see the clothing  
they wore, it

654

00:33:24,290 --> 00:33:31,250

would be too risque or too  
dirty or too weird by our taste.

655

00:33:31,250 --> 00:33:34,492

And you wouldn't  
want to have one

656

00:33:34,492 --> 00:33:36,200

of them walking through  
your neighborhood

657

00:33:36,200 --> 00:33:42,080

because they would be in great  
danger probably, undoubtedly.

658

00:33:42,080 --> 00:33:46,190

And so they all had  
to have a uniform.

659

00:33:46,190 --> 00:33:50,030



So he had a shop in  
a Black neighborhood

660  
00:33:50,030 --> 00:34:01,010  
on Seventh Street which had  
uniforms, ladies uniforms.

661  
00:34:01,010 --> 00:34:07,040  
And then he also took in for  
pretty white fluffy blouses.

662  
00:34:07,040 --> 00:34:09,139  
And then he took  
in white stockings

663  
00:34:09,139 --> 00:34:14,850  
and then dressy stockings  
for holidays and so on.

664  
00:34:14,850 --> 00:34:17,870  
And I would go there on  
Saturday and help him.

665  
00:34:17,870 --> 00:34:22,440  
So now you're in high  
school I don't know.

666  
00:34:22,440 --> 00:34:24,252  
Probably junior high.

667  
00:34:24,252 --> 00:34:25,530  
OK.

668  
00:34:25,530 --> 00:34:32,230  
I would go there,  
and I was so shocked.

669  
00:34:32,230 --> 00:34:36,840  
Little Black girls came in, they  
looked like they were 10 or 11,

670  
00:34:36,840 --> 00:34:44,100  
with boyfriends who would

buy them fancy stockings.

671

00:34:44,100 --> 00:34:47,909

And the girls would act  
so thankful to the boys

672

00:34:47,909 --> 00:34:50,130

and the boys were so nonchalant.

673

00:34:50,130 --> 00:34:54,389

I became so disgusted  
with the whole thing.

674

00:34:54,389 --> 00:34:56,699

I hated it.

675

00:34:56,699 --> 00:35:00,510

The moment I was 15, I  
got an underage permit,

676

00:35:00,510 --> 00:35:07,770

and I was able to get a  
job at a department store

677

00:35:07,770 --> 00:35:09,990

as a sales lady for the summer.

678

00:35:09,990 --> 00:35:13,190

679

00:35:13,190 --> 00:35:18,440

I didn't tell them that I was  
going to go back to school.

680

00:35:18,440 --> 00:35:20,620

They just assumed I was  
one of the many girls who

681

00:35:20,620 --> 00:35:23,920

stopped going to  
school and was working.

682

00:35:23,920 --> 00:35:30,030  
And so I got a job in a  
very nice department store.

683  
00:35:30,030 --> 00:35:37,050  
And two months later, my  
parents insisted that they

684  
00:35:37,050 --> 00:35:38,490  
were going on vacation.

685  
00:35:38,490 --> 00:35:42,810  
A friend of theirs, a man who  
had a shop across the street,

686  
00:35:42,810 --> 00:35:45,420  
his brother had a  
place up in Accord,

687  
00:35:45,420 --> 00:35:49,440  
New York in the Poconos.

688  
00:35:49,440 --> 00:35:53,520  
And insisted I go  
with them for a week

689  
00:35:53,520 --> 00:35:56,850  
because a man had a son  
by the name of Harold

690  
00:35:56,850 --> 00:35:58,200  
that they wanted me to meet.

691  
00:35:58,200 --> 00:36:01,150

692  
00:36:01,150 --> 00:36:04,260  
And of course, I hated  
him at first sight.

693  
00:36:04,260 --> 00:36:07,030

694

00:36:07,030 --> 00:36:14,910

And when I came back after  
the week up in the mountains,

695

00:36:14,910 --> 00:36:19,100

Landsberg said it didn't need me  
anymore, that my job was gone.

696

00:36:19,100 --> 00:36:24,820

So I got a job in  
a 5 and 10 a block

697

00:36:24,820 --> 00:36:30,250

or so further down,  
[? Creskey's ?] 5 and 10.

698

00:36:30,250 --> 00:36:33,370

And I was in the  
basement and they put me

699

00:36:33,370 --> 00:36:38,350

to counting 100 marbles  
and putting them

700

00:36:38,350 --> 00:36:42,550

in the sack, 100 marbles  
to the bag, all day long.

701

00:36:42,550 --> 00:36:48,370

And there was a curtain there  
between this and the store.

702

00:36:48,370 --> 00:36:50,560

And I would sit as  
far in the curtain

703

00:36:50,560 --> 00:36:54,010

as I possibly could because  
there was a Black man who

704

00:36:54,010 --> 00:36:55,600

worked the stockroom.

705

00:36:55,600 --> 00:36:57,220

He was big.

706

00:36:57,220 --> 00:36:59,410

I was terrified of him.

707

00:36:59,410 --> 00:37:03,730

I had never been this close  
to a Black man before.

708

00:37:03,730 --> 00:37:04,690

I was terrified of him.

709

00:37:04,690 --> 00:37:06,010

Anyhow.

710

00:37:06,010 --> 00:37:07,790

Did you ever go  
back to high school?

711

00:37:07,790 --> 00:37:08,290

Huh?

712

00:37:08,290 --> 00:37:10,920

Did you go back to high school?

713

00:37:10,920 --> 00:37:12,240

Oh, yeah.

714

00:37:12,240 --> 00:37:15,000

I went through high school,  
college, and law school.

715

00:37:15,000 --> 00:37:16,830

Oh, all right.

716

00:37:16,830 --> 00:37:20,970

And secretarial school and  
halfway through a Master

717

00:37:20,970 --> 00:37:22,020

of Laws.

718

00:37:22,020 --> 00:37:22,700

Yes.

719

00:37:22,700 --> 00:37:25,020

No, I mean, you were talking  
about what you were doing.

720

00:37:25,020 --> 00:37:25,920

Oh, no.

721

00:37:25,920 --> 00:37:30,120

At this time, yeah,  
sure, I went back.

722

00:37:30,120 --> 00:37:31,390

It was sort of interesting.

723

00:37:31,390 --> 00:37:38,580

I was in the basement  
of the 5 and 10.

724

00:37:38,580 --> 00:37:43,420

And then they transferred  
me to selling goldfish.

725

00:37:43,420 --> 00:37:45,930

And I was opposite a  
lady, a very old lady,

726

00:37:45,930 --> 00:37:48,570

who painted Polaroid  
photographs,

727

00:37:48,570 --> 00:37:51,930

and I learned from her in my  
spare time, which is much,

728

00:37:51,930 --> 00:37:53,530

how to paint on photographs.

729

00:37:53,530 --> 00:37:56,370

A very good skill that came  
in handy many years later.

730

00:37:56,370 --> 00:37:58,530

Anyhow, from there,  
they transferred

731

00:37:58,530 --> 00:38:06,460

me upstairs next to the  
entrance selling wall paint.

732

00:38:06,460 --> 00:38:12,410

And one day a sailor  
came in, and I was

733

00:38:12,410 --> 00:38:13,790

very sheltered you understand.

734

00:38:13,790 --> 00:38:17,200

I had not ever gone  
out or anything.

735

00:38:17,200 --> 00:38:22,240

And he came over, and  
he wanted to meet me

736

00:38:22,240 --> 00:38:25,480

later as soon as I got off  
and proceeded to tell me

737

00:38:25,480 --> 00:38:27,750

what he wanted to do.

738

00:38:27,750 --> 00:38:31,230

And like an idiot,  
I opened up my purse

739

00:38:31,230 --> 00:38:36,360

and took out a day's worth of  
wages, \$5, handed him the \$5

740

00:38:36,360 --> 00:38:39,400

and said here go buy  
it on Ninth Street.

741  
00:38:39,400 --> 00:38:41,520  
That's just two blocks over.

742  
00:38:41,520 --> 00:38:44,040  
Ninth Street was a  
red light district.

743  
00:38:44,040 --> 00:38:47,250  
He took my \$5.

744  
00:38:47,250 --> 00:38:51,210  
A short while later, the  
lady who was a floor walker

745  
00:38:51,210 --> 00:38:53,640  
walked over and said  
I was fired for being

746  
00:38:53,640 --> 00:38:55,710  
uppity with the customers.

747  
00:38:55,710 --> 00:38:57,930  
I found out later he was  
her son home on leave.

748  
00:38:57,930 --> 00:39:01,660

749  
00:39:01,660 --> 00:39:04,710  
I never mentioned  
anything about the \$5

750  
00:39:04,710 --> 00:39:09,150  
or what he had said because I  
knew I wouldn't be believed.

751  
00:39:09,150 --> 00:39:10,710  
I had learned this  
at Mrs. Lakes.



752  
00:39:10,710 --> 00:39:12,120  
Yeah.

753  
00:39:12,120 --> 00:39:14,670  
No use saying.

754  
00:39:14,670 --> 00:39:16,100  
Let's move on a little bit.

755  
00:39:16,100 --> 00:39:17,760  
So you finished high school?

756  
00:39:17,760 --> 00:39:18,270  
Yeah.

757  
00:39:18,270 --> 00:39:19,930  
Where did you go to high school?

758  
00:39:19,930 --> 00:39:22,260  
I went to, first, McFarland.

759  
00:39:22,260 --> 00:39:23,280  
It's in Petworth.

760  
00:39:23,280 --> 00:39:29,460  
Went to McFarland  
Junior High, and it

761  
00:39:29,460 --> 00:39:32,700  
next door to  
Rosewood High School.

762  
00:39:32,700 --> 00:39:34,200  
I was very popular.

763  
00:39:34,200 --> 00:39:37,530  
I was considered very  
good looking in my day.

764  
00:39:37,530 --> 00:39:44,310  
And I had many friends, and

I joined a Jewish sorority.

765

00:39:44,310 --> 00:39:46,470

They were outlawed,  
but we were in them.

766

00:39:46,470 --> 00:39:50,270

767

00:39:50,270 --> 00:39:51,740

Did you talk about  
your childhood

768

00:39:51,740 --> 00:39:52,730

with them, with people?

769

00:39:52,730 --> 00:39:53,390

No.

770

00:39:53,390 --> 00:39:54,180

No?

771

00:39:54,180 --> 00:39:54,680

No.

772

00:39:54,680 --> 00:39:55,180

OK.

773

00:39:55,180 --> 00:39:56,840

You don't want to  
show that you're

774

00:39:56,840 --> 00:39:58,700

different from other  
people, that you

775

00:39:58,700 --> 00:40:01,820

had different backgrounds  
from what other people have.

776

00:40:01,820 --> 00:40:03,050

No, never mentioned it.

777  
00:40:03,050 --> 00:40:04,040  
Never mentioned it.

778  
00:40:04,040 --> 00:40:05,030  
Nobody asked, either.

779  
00:40:05,030 --> 00:40:07,040  
Had you dropped  
your British accent?

780  
00:40:07,040 --> 00:40:08,030  
Oh, yeah.

781  
00:40:08,030 --> 00:40:11,060  
I lost it very rapidly  
in elementary school.

782  
00:40:11,060 --> 00:40:15,085  
Elementary school,  
I first got there,

783  
00:40:15,085 --> 00:40:16,460  
the teacher walked  
in the room, I

784  
00:40:16,460 --> 00:40:19,860  
stand up, and say good  
morning, Miss Jones.

785  
00:40:19,860 --> 00:40:23,090  
And she would call on  
you, yes, Miss Jones.

786  
00:40:23,090 --> 00:40:24,710  
Right away, Miss Jones.

787  
00:40:24,710 --> 00:40:27,740  
And the others, yes, you learned  
very rapidly to drop that.

788  
00:40:27,740 --> 00:40:30,320

789  
00:40:30,320 --> 00:40:31,850  
Then you go on to college.

790  
00:40:31,850 --> 00:40:34,460  
Did you start college  
right after high school?

791  
00:40:34,460 --> 00:40:35,520  
Oh, no.

792  
00:40:35,520 --> 00:40:36,020  
Oh, no.

793  
00:40:36,020 --> 00:40:39,050  
My father wanted me to  
open up a chain store,

794  
00:40:39,050 --> 00:40:42,290  
and I didn't want any part  
of that kind of business.

795  
00:40:42,290 --> 00:40:45,080  
By that time, he had  
moved up to 14th Street

796  
00:40:45,080 --> 00:40:49,130  
to a better neighborhood  
so-called for a while.

797  
00:40:49,130 --> 00:40:54,140  
And I wanted no part of selling.

798  
00:40:54,140 --> 00:40:59,840  
And I want to go to New York  
School of Fashion Designing.

799  
00:40:59,840 --> 00:41:01,970  
And my mother said  
over her dead body

800

00:41:01,970 --> 00:41:05,360  
would I leave the house  
until I was married.

801  
00:41:05,360 --> 00:41:11,160  
So my father said that he had  
been supporting his family

802  
00:41:11,160 --> 00:41:13,730  
at a much younger age  
and they saw no reason

803  
00:41:13,730 --> 00:41:15,680  
why they should support me.

804  
00:41:15,680 --> 00:41:18,200  
But anyhow, they finally  
decided they would give me

805  
00:41:18,200 --> 00:41:23,450  
one year of any education  
that would then make

806  
00:41:23,450 --> 00:41:25,550  
me financially independent.

807  
00:41:25,550 --> 00:41:31,130  
I could then do whatever it is  
I wanted to do with my whatever.

808  
00:41:31,130 --> 00:41:35,940  
One of the problems was in  
high school in those days,

809  
00:41:35,940 --> 00:41:37,100  
people were very insecure.

810  
00:41:37,100 --> 00:41:38,690  
We all were sure we  
were going to die

811  
00:41:38,690 --> 00:41:43,580  
as a result of an atomic

bomb from the Russians.

812  
00:41:43,580 --> 00:41:45,770  
And everybody got married.

813  
00:41:45,770 --> 00:41:47,750  
It seemed everybody was  
engaged, including me,

814  
00:41:47,750 --> 00:41:50,570  
in high school, ready  
to get married the day

815  
00:41:50,570 --> 00:41:51,820  
they got out of high school.

816  
00:41:51,820 --> 00:41:56,950

817  
00:41:56,950 --> 00:42:07,060  
And we decided on McLaughlin  
School for Medical and Legal

818  
00:42:07,060 --> 00:42:12,400  
Secretaries, one year of  
learning how shorthand, typing,

819  
00:42:12,400 --> 00:42:16,540  
blood tests,  
urinalysis, diathermies,

820  
00:42:16,540 --> 00:42:19,480  
all the systems of a  
human body, et cetera.

821  
00:42:19,480 --> 00:42:23,140  
Very, very intense for one year.

822  
00:42:23,140 --> 00:42:26,650  
Upstairs, two  
rooms, and I learned

823

00:42:26,650 --> 00:42:29,240  
how to take blood, give  
blood, all these things,

824  
00:42:29,240 --> 00:42:33,100  
look at microscopes, count how  
many blood cells there are,

825  
00:42:33,100 --> 00:42:34,390  
et cetera.

826  
00:42:34,390 --> 00:42:37,300  
And then after I  
graduated, I got a job.

827  
00:42:37,300 --> 00:42:44,820  
They gave me a job for the  
summer for some physician, Dr.

828  
00:42:44,820 --> 00:42:50,280  
Goldstein, while his nurse was  
in England on a three month

829  
00:42:50,280 --> 00:42:51,850  
honeymoon.

830  
00:42:51,850 --> 00:43:00,370  
And I worked there, and learned  
I would never again work

831  
00:43:00,370 --> 00:43:03,850  
for a physician  
in my entire life,

832  
00:43:03,850 --> 00:43:07,720  
that they're total  
phonies and whatnot.

833  
00:43:07,720 --> 00:43:18,470  
Anyhow, I then got a job  
with the American Trucking

834  
00:43:18,470 --> 00:43:22,190

Association which was a lobby  
for the trucking industry

835  
00:43:22,190 --> 00:43:24,440  
in the legal department.

836  
00:43:24,440 --> 00:43:29,120  
And the men would come in at  
10 o'clock with their hats

837  
00:43:29,120 --> 00:43:32,630  
on, sit down at the  
desk, smoke a cigarette,

838  
00:43:32,630 --> 00:43:36,470  
and read the paper, and  
send me out to get coffee

839  
00:43:36,470 --> 00:43:40,380  
and have me doing typing  
and shorthand and whatnot.

840  
00:43:40,380 --> 00:43:44,830  
And I soon realized that I  
could do what they were doing

841  
00:43:44,830 --> 00:43:47,800  
a lot better than I was doing.

842  
00:43:47,800 --> 00:43:51,530  
And saved my money.

843  
00:43:51,530 --> 00:43:54,290

844  
00:43:54,290 --> 00:43:57,800  
Needed all the money I could,  
I had to work for two years

845  
00:43:57,800 --> 00:43:59,560  
to pay for dental work.

846



00:43:59,560 --> 00:44:03,800  
I had never had dental work,  
shoes, feet, and whatnot.

847  
00:44:03,800 --> 00:44:05,690  
I had all kinds of disabilities.

848  
00:44:05,690 --> 00:44:07,730  
Nobody ever had money for.

849  
00:44:07,730 --> 00:44:13,880  
And after that, decided I didn't  
know I had the brains for it,

850  
00:44:13,880 --> 00:44:16,250  
but I decided to--

851  
00:44:16,250 --> 00:44:18,350  
I went to George  
Washington University

852  
00:44:18,350 --> 00:44:24,450  
and they said I didn't have the  
requirements to get to college.

853  
00:44:24,450 --> 00:44:28,790  
I had decided in high school  
to enjoy myself and not

854  
00:44:28,790 --> 00:44:30,590  
take geometry.

855  
00:44:30,590 --> 00:44:35,960  
I dropped geometry and algebra  
two and physics and whatnot

856  
00:44:35,960 --> 00:44:38,660  
and enjoyed myself  
in high school

857  
00:44:38,660 --> 00:44:41,380  
instead of studying  
because I thought

858  
00:44:41,380 --> 00:44:44,200  
I was going to marry Ralph  
as soon as I got out,

859  
00:44:44,200 --> 00:44:45,970  
but instead I broke up with him.

860  
00:44:45,970 --> 00:44:50,380  
But anyhow, as a result, I  
didn't have requirements.

861  
00:44:50,380 --> 00:44:53,500  
They told me I could go  
as a non-degree student.

862  
00:44:53,500 --> 00:44:56,290  
And if I got good  
grades when I was 21,

863  
00:44:56,290 --> 00:44:59,920  
I could petition that  
my grades be counted.

864  
00:44:59,920 --> 00:45:03,340  
And miraculously, I got all A's.

865  
00:45:03,340 --> 00:45:05,920  
I went all the way  
through college

866  
00:45:05,920 --> 00:45:11,620  
and got all A's and  
one D. The D was

867  
00:45:11,620 --> 00:45:17,020  
in sociology of the criminal.

868  
00:45:17,020 --> 00:45:18,940  
I just want to throw  
them all in jail

869

00:45:18,940 --> 00:45:21,800  
and throw the key away  
instead of mollycoddling them.

870  
00:45:21,800 --> 00:45:25,600  
But anyhow, all the  
rest of them I got A's.

871  
00:45:25,600 --> 00:45:30,250  
And I became Phi Beta Kappa,  
which was an honorary society.

872  
00:45:30,250 --> 00:45:34,120  
I requested a  
scholarship the last /

873  
00:45:34,120 --> 00:45:36,610  
I was working during the day  
and going to night school.

874  
00:45:36,610 --> 00:45:40,270  
Or other years when I had enough  
money going to day school,

875  
00:45:40,270 --> 00:45:44,470  
and I would go to school  
during the day or night

876  
00:45:44,470 --> 00:45:46,750  
depending on which  
I had money for.

877  
00:45:46,750 --> 00:45:52,460  
And one year, the last  
year, I won the scholarship,

878  
00:45:52,460 --> 00:45:55,450  
and they told me my  
father made enough money

879  
00:45:55,450 --> 00:45:57,310  
to send me through college.

880

00:45:57,310 --> 00:46:00,490

And I said, my father refuses  
to send me to college.

881

00:46:00,490 --> 00:46:03,190

He believes women have no  
business being in college.

882

00:46:03,190 --> 00:46:05,410

They should be married  
and having children.

883

00:46:05,410 --> 00:46:09,250

And that if I got  
an education, I

884

00:46:09,250 --> 00:46:14,050

would limit my  
choice for a husband.

885

00:46:14,050 --> 00:46:16,900

And he was adamantly  
opposed to it.

886

00:46:16,900 --> 00:46:18,470

And they didn't care about that.

887

00:46:18,470 --> 00:46:22,150

But the head of the  
political science department

888

00:46:22,150 --> 00:46:26,350

said if I were to switch my  
major to political science,

889

00:46:26,350 --> 00:46:28,400

they needed a secretary.

890

00:46:28,400 --> 00:46:31,180

I could work there  
three afternoons a week,

891

00:46:31,180 --> 00:46:37,390

and they gave me a scholarship  
of \$150 which, in those days,

892  
00:46:37,390 --> 00:46:40,120  
was something.

893  
00:46:40,120 --> 00:46:44,200  
And between that and working  
for him in the school,

894  
00:46:44,200 --> 00:46:47,260  
I was able to pay for  
my last year of college.

895  
00:46:47,260 --> 00:46:52,810  
And then, I was working as  
a secretary, got good wages.

896  
00:46:52,810 --> 00:46:57,850  
I finished, and I got  
all A's and whatnot.

897  
00:46:57,850 --> 00:47:05,820  
I tried to get a job, and  
I couldn't find a job.

898  
00:47:05,820 --> 00:47:08,780  
The only job I could  
get was as a typist

899  
00:47:08,780 --> 00:47:14,580  
for the congressional record  
at a reduction of what

900  
00:47:14,580 --> 00:47:16,050  
I was making as a secretary.

901  
00:47:16,050 --> 00:47:19,170  
By that time, I was a  
crackerjack secretary

902  
00:47:19,170 --> 00:47:21,250  
and legal secretary.

903  
00:47:21,250 --> 00:47:26,280  
And I was so shocked  
that you could

904  
00:47:26,280 --> 00:47:31,620  
get all A's, show that you had  
the ambition to work your way,

905  
00:47:31,620 --> 00:47:35,190  
pay for it yourself,  
and nevertheless

906  
00:47:35,190 --> 00:47:38,420  
couldn't get a job.

907  
00:47:38,420 --> 00:47:44,330  
I walked across the  
campus to law school

908  
00:47:44,330 --> 00:47:47,900  
and said I would like to  
apply to become a lawyer.

909  
00:47:47,900 --> 00:47:51,590  
And the gal there said  
to fill out this form.

910  
00:47:51,590 --> 00:47:58,560  
And she saw my Phi  
Beta Kappa key,

911  
00:47:58,560 --> 00:48:02,550  
and she said it wouldn't be  
any problem admitting me,

912  
00:48:02,550 --> 00:48:05,800  
no test, no anything.

913  
00:48:05,800 --> 00:48:06,300  
OK?

914

00:48:06,300 --> 00:48:10,365  
So I went to law school  
and worked for lawyers.

915  
00:48:10,365 --> 00:48:13,140

916  
00:48:13,140 --> 00:48:17,520  
One year, I went to the  
most outstanding law firm

917  
00:48:17,520 --> 00:48:19,500  
in Washington.

918  
00:48:19,500 --> 00:48:21,930  
They had an ad for--

919  
00:48:21,930 --> 00:48:22,560  
two ads.

920  
00:48:22,560 --> 00:48:28,010  
One for a law clerk and  
one for a secretary.

921  
00:48:28,010 --> 00:48:33,840  
And I applied for secretary,  
and they gave me an IQ test

922  
00:48:33,840 --> 00:48:35,790  
and refused to hire  
me because they

923  
00:48:35,790 --> 00:48:40,290  
said my IQ was as high or  
higher than the lawyers.

924  
00:48:40,290 --> 00:48:43,260  
I said, so, that means  
I can really help them,

925  
00:48:43,260 --> 00:48:44,310  
and they said, no.

926

00:48:44,310 --> 00:48:45,840

This would be too confusing.

927

00:48:45,840 --> 00:48:49,140

928

00:48:49,140 --> 00:48:50,750

So I said, well,  
how about the job,

929

00:48:50,750 --> 00:48:52,310

you have a job as a law clerk?

930

00:48:52,310 --> 00:48:56,480

Oh, no, we don't  
hire girls for that.

931

00:48:56,480 --> 00:49:03,550

I said, well, if my IQ is so  
high, I'm going to law school.

932

00:49:03,550 --> 00:49:05,600

I said that would  
confuse everyone.

933

00:49:05,600 --> 00:49:08,540

They said absolutely not.

934

00:49:08,540 --> 00:49:15,390

So I became a women's  
lib very soon.

935

00:49:15,390 --> 00:49:19,150

And what did you do  
after law school?

936

00:49:19,150 --> 00:49:23,740

Well, my last job  
was with a law firm.

937

00:49:23,740 --> 00:49:24,740

It was fabulous.



938  
00:49:24,740 --> 00:49:27,220  
They were going to  
hire me as a lawyer,

939  
00:49:27,220 --> 00:49:30,250  
but I'd have to find my own  
clients because one of the men

940  
00:49:30,250 --> 00:49:31,900  
was pulling out.

941  
00:49:31,900 --> 00:49:35,800  
He was becoming a lawyer  
for the musicians union,

942  
00:49:35,800 --> 00:49:38,740  
and I could take his place.

943  
00:49:38,740 --> 00:49:43,960  
Unfortunately, I had to pass  
the bar within less than a month

944  
00:49:43,960 --> 00:49:46,830  
after school was out.

945  
00:49:46,830 --> 00:49:52,970  
And the DC bar, at that  
time, was three days' ordeal.

946  
00:49:52,970 --> 00:49:58,690  
Three solid days of  
writing without stopping.

947  
00:49:58,690 --> 00:50:00,400  
I thought I knew  
everything since I

948  
00:50:00,400 --> 00:50:03,880  
knew where the courthouses  
were, the judges, since I

949

00:50:03,880 --> 00:50:10,570  
had composed wills and contracts  
and I knew everything about it.

950  
00:50:10,570 --> 00:50:11,530  
I said, oh, well.

951  
00:50:11,530 --> 00:50:14,680  
I can whiz through  
it in no time.

952  
00:50:14,680 --> 00:50:18,820  
Unfortunately, I  
flunked the law exam

953  
00:50:18,820 --> 00:50:26,010  
on contract, a course in which  
I had gotten an A. I flunked it.

954  
00:50:26,010 --> 00:50:28,870  
I sat through this law exam.

955  
00:50:28,870 --> 00:50:30,730  
My mind was blank.

956  
00:50:30,730 --> 00:50:31,870  
I had writer's cramp.

957  
00:50:31,870 --> 00:50:34,150  
I couldn't even concentrate.

958  
00:50:34,150 --> 00:50:38,020  
Anyhow, within a week of  
having taken that exam,

959  
00:50:38,020 --> 00:50:42,900  
I also took the Federal Service  
Entrance Exam as backup.

960  
00:50:42,900 --> 00:50:47,310  
And I apparently  
passed that barely,

961

00:50:47,310 --> 00:50:51,420

within two points or  
something, but was picked up

962

00:50:51,420 --> 00:50:56,580

by the Veterans Administration  
not because my school was high,

963

00:50:56,580 --> 00:50:59,700

because everybody else had a  
higher score since they had

964

00:50:59,700 --> 00:51:04,560

studied for a year, but because  
I had worked for a doctor

965

00:51:04,560 --> 00:51:07,710

and gone to McLaughlin's  
Medical School.

966

00:51:07,710 --> 00:51:09,460

I knew one bone from the other.

967

00:51:09,460 --> 00:51:10,860

I knew the blood systems.

968

00:51:10,860 --> 00:51:13,470

I knew all the stuff  
backwards and forwards.

969

00:51:13,470 --> 00:51:15,240

And they were doing disability.

970

00:51:15,240 --> 00:51:20,070

They were rating disability of  
veterans and people on Social

971

00:51:20,070 --> 00:51:23,020

Security and old age and so on.

972

00:51:23,020 --> 00:51:24,060

So they hired me.

973  
00:51:24,060 --> 00:51:27,000

974  
00:51:27,000 --> 00:51:30,420  
And they couldn't  
promote me fast enough.

975  
00:51:30,420 --> 00:51:33,900  
They thought I was a genius.

976  
00:51:33,900 --> 00:51:38,210  
I got one promotion  
after the other,

977  
00:51:38,210 --> 00:51:44,600  
even taking off several  
weeks to have a baby.

978  
00:51:44,600 --> 00:51:46,550  
When did you get married?

979  
00:51:46,550 --> 00:51:53,110  
I got married in my  
last year of law school.

980  
00:51:53,110 --> 00:51:56,700  
At that point, I was working  
for the Teamsters Union.

981  
00:51:56,700 --> 00:51:58,470  
And I suddenly had the--

982  
00:51:58,470 --> 00:52:02,190

983  
00:52:02,190 --> 00:52:07,050  
Chris was at the  
Indian Embassy and he

984  
00:52:07,050 --> 00:52:12,780  
was studying, at that point,

he was studying on his--

985

00:52:12,780 --> 00:52:14,250

was he still on his master's?

986

00:52:14,250 --> 00:52:16,380

Yeah, at that point,

he was on his--

987

00:52:16,380 --> 00:52:19,550

no, he was on his PhD.

988

00:52:19,550 --> 00:52:22,070

He had gotten a

masters in PolySci,

989

00:52:22,070 --> 00:52:23,610

international relations.

990

00:52:23,610 --> 00:52:30,650

And he was working

on his PhD in this,

991

00:52:30,650 --> 00:52:35,690

peaceful uses on atomic

energy was his field.

992

00:52:35,690 --> 00:52:36,440

His name?

993

00:52:36,440 --> 00:52:37,350

Huh?

994

00:52:37,350 --> 00:52:38,660

His name is--

995

00:52:38,660 --> 00:52:40,220

Christian Mathur.

996

00:52:40,220 --> 00:52:41,540

M-A-T-H-U-R.

997  
00:52:41,540 --> 00:52:42,353  
OK.

998  
00:52:42,353 --> 00:52:43,520  
Christian [? Diel ?] Mathur.

999  
00:52:43,520 --> 00:52:49,200

1000  
00:52:49,200 --> 00:52:52,020  
Were typing his thesis.

1001  
00:52:52,020 --> 00:52:54,120  
We rented a typewriter.

1002  
00:52:54,120 --> 00:52:56,880  
My girlfriend Beatrice  
and I was sitting there

1003  
00:52:56,880 --> 00:52:58,500  
on a table just like this.

1004  
00:52:58,500 --> 00:53:01,590  
We had two typewriters, and  
he had written something

1005  
00:53:01,590 --> 00:53:03,120  
and his English was atrocious.

1006  
00:53:03,120 --> 00:53:05,937  
You couldn't make heads or  
tails of half of the stuff.

1007  
00:53:05,937 --> 00:53:07,770  
And what do you mean  
here, what do you mean?

1008  
00:53:07,770 --> 00:53:11,175  
And here I am within  
weeks of delivering,

1009

00:53:11,175 --> 00:53:14,790  
and I'm sitting there drinking  
gin and water and smoking,

1010  
00:53:14,790 --> 00:53:17,400  
chain smoking, the entire time.

1011  
00:53:17,400 --> 00:53:19,170  
Nobody ever told us  
you shouldn't drink

1012  
00:53:19,170 --> 00:53:20,250  
and shouldn't smoke.

1013  
00:53:20,250 --> 00:53:21,540  
You can see my daughter here.

1014  
00:53:21,540 --> 00:53:22,920  
She Is perfectly normal.

1015  
00:53:22,920 --> 00:53:27,570

1016  
00:53:27,570 --> 00:53:29,110  
Where was your husband from?

1017  
00:53:29,110 --> 00:53:29,610  
India.

1018  
00:53:29,610 --> 00:53:30,780  
From Hyderabad, India.

1019  
00:53:30,780 --> 00:53:32,100  
Oh, it was India?

1020  
00:53:32,100 --> 00:53:33,060  
Yeah.

1021  
00:53:33,060 --> 00:53:35,880  
She needs to go over why,  
well, you didn't marry

1022

00:53:35,880 --> 00:53:37,530  
the Jewish person because one--

1023

00:53:37,530 --> 00:53:39,110  
Oh, yeah.

1024

00:53:39,110 --> 00:53:43,380  
I couldn't find anybody.

1025

00:53:43,380 --> 00:53:47,160  
I would go out with--

1026

00:53:47,160 --> 00:53:49,230  
in those days,  
you were on dates.

1027

00:53:49,230 --> 00:53:50,100  
You took a date.

1028

00:53:50,100 --> 00:53:52,230  
And you would have  
them meet you at home.

1029

00:53:52,230 --> 00:53:54,370  
Your parents met your--

1030

00:53:54,370 --> 00:53:55,920  
you didn't just go out.

1031

00:53:55,920 --> 00:53:57,810  
Your parents had  
to meet with you.

1032

00:53:57,810 --> 00:54:03,237  
If I brought home a Jewish boy,  
my mother would have a fit.

1033

00:54:03,237 --> 00:54:05,820  
This is wrong with them, that's  
wrong with him, this is wrong.

1034



00:54:05,820 --> 00:54:07,320  
She'd carry on.

1035  
00:54:07,320 --> 00:54:11,340  
If I brought home a gentile boy,  
my father, I'm heart broken.

1036  
00:54:11,340 --> 00:54:12,450  
How could you do this?

1037  
00:54:12,450 --> 00:54:16,260

1038  
00:54:16,260 --> 00:54:20,520  
I couldn't satisfy them no  
matter who I went out with,

1039  
00:54:20,520 --> 00:54:22,830  
they disapproved totally.

1040  
00:54:22,830 --> 00:54:24,720  
And I don't know  
how, but anyhow,

1041  
00:54:24,720 --> 00:54:27,830  
I never found anybody who was--

1042  
00:54:27,830 --> 00:54:29,540  
I tried desperately.

1043  
00:54:29,540 --> 00:54:34,630  
I never found anybody  
who was intelligent.

1044  
00:54:34,630 --> 00:54:38,170  
They all seem shallow,  
thinking of drinking beer

1045  
00:54:38,170 --> 00:54:40,810  
and girls and whatnot.

1046  
00:54:40,810 --> 00:54:45,540

And Chris was different.

1047  
00:54:45,540 --> 00:54:48,300  
So you had your first child?

1048  
00:54:48,300 --> 00:54:48,900  
Yeah.

1049  
00:54:48,900 --> 00:54:50,340  
So I had a child.

1050  
00:54:50,340 --> 00:54:51,720  
Yes.

1051  
00:54:51,720 --> 00:54:53,760  
You can imagine how  
unique this was.

1052  
00:54:53,760 --> 00:54:56,130  
Well, first of all, there  
were only five people

1053  
00:54:56,130 --> 00:54:58,800  
in my law school  
graduating class out

1054  
00:54:58,800 --> 00:55:02,385  
of a couple of hundred.

1055  
00:55:02,385 --> 00:55:03,330  
Five women you mean?

1056  
00:55:03,330 --> 00:55:03,830  
Huh?

1057  
00:55:03,830 --> 00:55:05,180  
Five women?

1058  
00:55:05,180 --> 00:55:06,060  
Yeah.

1059

00:55:06,060 --> 00:55:06,560  
Yeah.

1060  
00:55:06,560 --> 00:55:07,430  
I thought there were two.

1061  
00:55:07,430 --> 00:55:08,090  
No?

1062  
00:55:08,090 --> 00:55:10,370  
No, there were five  
in the law school.

1063  
00:55:10,370 --> 00:55:11,930  
We would meet in  
the ladies room.

1064  
00:55:11,930 --> 00:55:15,510  
We would dash in the ladies  
room to hide from the guys.

1065  
00:55:15,510 --> 00:55:21,020  
The guys were so angry with us  
because we were in law school.

1066  
00:55:21,020 --> 00:55:22,550  
It wasn't unusual in those days.

1067  
00:55:22,550 --> 00:55:23,990  
It was so rare.

1068  
00:55:23,990 --> 00:55:26,560  
Did you have any other children?

1069  
00:55:26,560 --> 00:55:28,850  
Yeah, I had a son  
a few years later.

1070  
00:55:28,850 --> 00:55:35,370  
But I brought the  
baby in to the office

1071

00:55:35,370 --> 00:55:37,360  
because it give me a shower.

1072  
00:55:37,360 --> 00:55:45,020  
And the women were very  
angry at me for politicking.

1073  
00:55:45,020 --> 00:55:48,530  
I want to show them, see,  
this is a beautiful baby

1074  
00:55:48,530 --> 00:55:51,050  
I have as a result  
of the shower.

1075  
00:55:51,050 --> 00:55:55,790  
But anyhow, I came  
back to work very soon.

1076  
00:55:55,790 --> 00:55:58,520  
Chris got his PhD.

1077  
00:55:58,520 --> 00:56:02,420  
And I came back to  
work very, very soon.

1078  
00:56:02,420 --> 00:56:06,820  
And kept getting promoted.

1079  
00:56:06,820 --> 00:56:10,380  
And then, word came--

1080  
00:56:10,380 --> 00:56:12,840  
this is the Veterans  
Administration,

1081  
00:56:12,840 --> 00:56:16,470  
only veterans should  
have jobs as long

1082  
00:56:16,470 --> 00:56:18,780  
as there's a veteran available.

1083

00:56:18,780 --> 00:56:21,630

And so I was out of a job.

1084

00:56:21,630 --> 00:56:26,930

And I found a job  
at a central office

1085

00:56:26,930 --> 00:56:29,870

where they didn't have this  
requirement at that point.

1086

00:56:29,870 --> 00:56:35,340

I was drafting letters for the  
signature of the commissioner

1087

00:56:35,340 --> 00:56:39,510

of social security as  
to the final whatever

1088

00:56:39,510 --> 00:56:43,710

it is to Congressman,  
and I got promoted.

1089

00:56:43,710 --> 00:56:46,000

And then the word came--

1090

00:56:46,000 --> 00:56:47,972

I was section chief  
at that point,

1091

00:56:47,972 --> 00:56:51,970

I got promoted-- that there  
was a disabled veteran who

1092

00:56:51,970 --> 00:56:53,890

hadn't gone to college,  
but he was a veteran

1093

00:56:53,890 --> 00:57:02,440

and he would qualify with his  
15 points for the job I had.

1094

00:57:02,440 --> 00:57:07,240

And so, again, I  
lost a job and got

1095

00:57:07,240 --> 00:57:12,370

into a category of simply  
sitting there and writing

1096

00:57:12,370 --> 00:57:14,860

with 100 other people  
in the same category.

1097

00:57:14,860 --> 00:57:17,260

Instead of being  
the local genius,

1098

00:57:17,260 --> 00:57:22,420

I was the bottom of the pile.

1099

00:57:22,420 --> 00:57:24,310

OK?

1100

00:57:24,310 --> 00:57:25,660

Then I had another child.

1101

00:57:25,660 --> 00:57:28,150

I was pregnant.

1102

00:57:28,150 --> 00:57:35,330

And Roy, my son, and those  
are the only children I have.

1103

00:57:35,330 --> 00:57:38,890

I have seven grandchildren.

1104

00:57:38,890 --> 00:57:43,600

So you stayed in the  
Washington area from then on?

1105

00:57:43,600 --> 00:57:49,450

Well, after a while, my marriage  
to Chris sort of disintegrated.

1106

00:57:49,450 --> 00:57:52,420

It was my fault.

Somehow, eventually,

1107

00:57:52,420 --> 00:57:57,010

I could no longer

take the views as to--

1108

00:57:57,010 --> 00:58:00,460

he kept saying I didn't speak

to him the way a wife should,

1109

00:58:00,460 --> 00:58:01,510

et cetera.

1110

00:58:01,510 --> 00:58:06,420

And I kept saying--

1111

00:58:06,420 --> 00:58:12,380

anyhow, I was earning a lot

more than he was, whatever.

1112

00:58:12,380 --> 00:58:15,650

After a while, I could no

longer take the difference

1113

00:58:15,650 --> 00:58:19,740

in personality, in background.

1114

00:58:19,740 --> 00:58:24,660

He was a party guy, and we

would be working all day long,

1115

00:58:24,660 --> 00:58:26,730

and I would come

home and he would

1116

00:58:26,730 --> 00:58:33,660

have invited 40 people to come

over and cook and eat and drink

1117

00:58:33,660 --> 00:58:35,340

in our basement.

1118  
00:58:35,340 --> 00:58:38,040  
My parents would give me  
a down payment for a house

1119  
00:58:38,040 --> 00:58:43,050  
in Arlington off Lorcom Lane.

1120  
00:58:43,050 --> 00:58:49,930  
And we built out the basement,  
and had parties all the time.

1121  
00:58:49,930 --> 00:58:56,330  
And the weight of it  
all got too much to me

1122  
00:58:56,330 --> 00:59:00,530  
between the racial  
thing and the difference

1123  
00:59:00,530 --> 00:59:04,330  
in views and whatnot.

1124  
00:59:04,330 --> 00:59:06,360  
I could take it no longer.

1125  
00:59:06,360 --> 00:59:10,770  
And Medicare was enacted.

1126  
00:59:10,770 --> 00:59:16,120  
And I was, again, in  
one of those positions,

1127  
00:59:16,120 --> 00:59:17,830  
and I got transferred.

1128  
00:59:17,830 --> 00:59:20,950  
I applied for transfer  
to San Francisco where

1129  
00:59:20,950 --> 00:59:25,480



a friend of mine had moved and  
had inherited a huge mansion

1130  
00:59:25,480 --> 00:59:30,190  
or something, but they said the  
only vacancy was in Baltimore

1131  
00:59:30,190 --> 00:59:31,670  
that Medicare had started.

1132  
00:59:31,670 --> 00:59:36,850  
They needed a lawyer to  
interpret the Medicare law.

1133  
00:59:36,850 --> 00:59:45,400  
And so I moved to  
Baltimore and Catonsville.

1134  
00:59:45,400 --> 00:59:50,260  
And general counsel and  
me were not a good fit.

1135  
00:59:50,260 --> 00:59:52,840  
General counsel means  
that you spend your time

1136  
00:59:52,840 --> 00:59:56,020  
in the library looking at  
books and deciding things.

1137  
00:59:56,020 --> 00:59:59,680  
Instead, I like to  
handle cases and people

1138  
00:59:59,680 --> 01:00:03,700  
and work fast and whatnot, which  
is not anything I could do.

1139  
01:00:03,700 --> 01:00:14,650  
So I transferred over to  
Medicare in the programs

1140  
01:00:14,650 --> 01:00:19,660

and wound up  
promoted and whatnot.

1141  
01:00:19,660 --> 01:00:22,510  
And was president.

1142  
01:00:22,510 --> 01:00:27,920  
I married a well-known  
lawyer in Baltimore

1143  
01:00:27,920 --> 01:00:32,270  
who had a trial practice  
and spent all of my vacation

1144  
01:00:32,270 --> 01:00:36,560  
time handling  
court cases for him

1145  
01:00:36,560 --> 01:00:38,600  
since they were  
all in the morning

1146  
01:00:38,600 --> 01:00:42,350  
at the rate of three hours here,  
three hours there, and whatnot.

1147  
01:00:42,350 --> 01:00:45,320  
And had special  
dispensation to do that

1148  
01:00:45,320 --> 01:00:49,700  
and enjoyed my life for a while.

1149  
01:00:49,700 --> 01:00:55,100  
I was married to him for 13  
years until that disintegrated,

1150  
01:00:55,100 --> 01:00:58,190  
and here I am.

1151  
01:00:58,190 --> 01:01:00,650  
I was President of the  
Women's Bar Association

1152  
01:01:00,650 --> 01:01:04,310  
for two times, President  
of Catonsville Business

1153  
01:01:04,310 --> 01:01:08,870  
and Professional  
Women's Club, you name.

1154  
01:01:08,870 --> 01:01:10,670  
I was in the  
newspaper constantly.

1155  
01:01:10,670 --> 01:01:12,210  
NOW.

1156  
01:01:12,210 --> 01:01:14,330  
Were you in National  
Organization for Women?

1157  
01:01:14,330 --> 01:01:15,050  
Yeah.

1158  
01:01:15,050 --> 01:01:18,290  
Organization for  
women, you name it.

1159  
01:01:18,290 --> 01:01:19,760  
I was in all those things.

1160  
01:01:19,760 --> 01:01:27,210  
And I was being viewed for  
becoming a judge in Baltimore.

1161  
01:01:27,210 --> 01:01:32,960  
And Bill Gosnell, my husband,  
said over his dead body.

1162  
01:01:32,960 --> 01:01:35,240  
He practices law in the city.

1163  
01:01:35,240 --> 01:01:44,640

He can't possibly have  
a wife who is a judge.

1164  
01:01:44,640 --> 01:01:48,210  
And so that ended that ambition.

1165  
01:01:48,210 --> 01:01:51,050

1166  
01:01:51,050 --> 01:01:53,215  
And so then when did you  
come back to Virginia?

1167  
01:01:53,215 --> 01:01:54,465  
When did you come to Virginia?

1168  
01:01:54,465 --> 01:01:57,030

1169  
01:01:57,030 --> 01:02:02,330  
I got divorced and move  
to Ocean City, Maryland

1170  
01:02:02,330 --> 01:02:05,310  
and lived there 15 years.

1171  
01:02:05,310 --> 01:02:10,490  
I retired on early out  
during Reaganomics.

1172  
01:02:10,490 --> 01:02:16,240  
And I think on 1/3 of my salary.

1173  
01:02:16,240 --> 01:02:20,530  
I had been in the  
government as a grade 15,

1174  
01:02:20,530 --> 01:02:22,480  
I think, step three  
or four, as high

1175  
01:02:22,480 --> 01:02:25,960

as one can get without  
political appointment.

1176  
01:02:25,960 --> 01:02:29,440  
And I lived in Ocean  
City for 15 years.

1177  
01:02:29,440 --> 01:02:33,760  
And then, I sold  
my place and moved

1178  
01:02:33,760 --> 01:02:36,490  
to be close to my  
family, all of whom

1179  
01:02:36,490 --> 01:02:38,950  
are in Arlington or in Leesburg.

1180  
01:02:38,950 --> 01:02:40,500  
Yeah.