

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:07,390

2

00:00:07,390 --> 00:00:10,210

This is a continuation of  
the United States Holocaust

3

00:00:10,210 --> 00:00:12,160

Memorial Museum  
Volunteer Collection

4

00:00:12,160 --> 00:00:14,020

Interview with Erica Laufer.

5

00:00:14,020 --> 00:00:17,980

This is track number three.

6

00:00:17,980 --> 00:00:19,990

Let's talk about  
some of your thoughts

7

00:00:19,990 --> 00:00:25,180

and your feelings about  
what you went through.

8

00:00:25,180 --> 00:00:27,790

Do you think about your  
childhood often now

9

00:00:27,790 --> 00:00:32,680

and what you had to go  
through, leaving your home

10

00:00:32,680 --> 00:00:33,970

going to different places?

11

00:00:33,970 --> 00:00:38,250

12

00:00:38,250 --> 00:00:41,370

Do you think about it more

often as you've gotten older?

13

00:00:41,370 --> 00:00:45,390

Oh, yeah, because  
once you're retired,

14

00:00:45,390 --> 00:00:47,340

you don't have as much  
to do, so you have time

15

00:00:47,340 --> 00:00:48,520

to think about these things.

16

00:00:48,520 --> 00:00:50,880

Otherwise, one keeps  
oneself so busy

17

00:00:50,880 --> 00:00:53,460

one doesn't think  
about anything,

18

00:00:53,460 --> 00:00:57,875

leave alone anything  
that might be difficult.

19

00:00:57,875 --> 00:00:59,250

I've thought about  
it many times.

20

00:00:59,250 --> 00:01:01,950

My parents had a chance  
to go back to Austria,

21

00:01:01,950 --> 00:01:04,096

and then they did visit.

22

00:01:04,096 --> 00:01:07,170

I also was sent  
something or other,

23

00:01:07,170 --> 00:01:10,920

and unfortunately,  
any time I see

24  
00:01:10,920 --> 00:01:16,700  
something German or Austrian,  
I have mixed feelings.

25  
00:01:16,700 --> 00:01:19,470  
I don't want to give them  
a penny of my existence.

26  
00:01:19,470 --> 00:01:22,380  
Other than that, I don't  
think much of them.

27  
00:01:22,380 --> 00:01:27,730  
I'm grateful that I'm not living  
there, that they sent me away.

28  
00:01:27,730 --> 00:01:29,370  
They want to exterminate me.

29  
00:01:29,370 --> 00:01:33,420

30  
00:01:33,420 --> 00:01:37,890  
The thing that bothers  
me endlessly in my brain

31  
00:01:37,890 --> 00:01:42,600  
is something that is politically  
incorrect, and you can't ask.

32  
00:01:42,600 --> 00:01:47,670  
The Germans went through  
people's history,

33  
00:01:47,670 --> 00:01:53,360  
as to how many generations  
back they had Jewish blood,

34  
00:01:53,360 --> 00:01:56,380  
and if so, they were sent  
to concentration camps.

35

00:01:56,380 --> 00:01:59,400

36

00:01:59,400 --> 00:02:04,470

How are the Germans now that  
they have the pure Aryan blood?

37

00:02:04,470 --> 00:02:06,675

That has been  
bothering me terribly.

38

00:02:06,675 --> 00:02:12,680

39

00:02:12,680 --> 00:02:16,430

When the Moors and Jews  
were thrown out of Spain,

40

00:02:16,430 --> 00:02:17,810

we know what happened to Spain.

41

00:02:17,810 --> 00:02:18,602

They went downhill.

42

00:02:18,602 --> 00:02:21,710

43

00:02:21,710 --> 00:02:27,545

And why hasn't this  
happened to Germany yet?

44

00:02:27,545 --> 00:02:29,330

[CHUCKLES]

45

00:02:29,330 --> 00:02:31,910

All the intellectuals,  
all their money people,

46

00:02:31,910 --> 00:02:33,710

everybody who was  
anything was Jewish.

47

00:02:33,710 --> 00:02:36,800

48

00:02:36,800 --> 00:02:41,600

The men all tried to  
marry a blonde girl,

49

00:02:41,600 --> 00:02:44,650

as non-Jewish as possible,  
if they possibly could.

50

00:02:44,650 --> 00:02:49,420

51

00:02:49,420 --> 00:02:50,890

What's happened  
to those children?

52

00:02:50,890 --> 00:02:53,860

Were they all sent to  
concentration camps?

53

00:02:53,860 --> 00:02:59,675

Did they wind up in  
Argentina, New York, Israel?

54

00:02:59,675 --> 00:03:04,930

55

00:03:04,930 --> 00:03:10,360

My father's sister, Kara,  
and her daughter Vera,

56

00:03:10,360 --> 00:03:15,980

my favorite cousin, were  
in concentration camps.

57

00:03:15,980 --> 00:03:21,695

They apparently survived  
and was sent to Israel.

58

00:03:21,695 --> 00:03:24,310

59

00:03:24,310 --> 00:03:27,280

In the last days of  
concentration camp,

60

00:03:27,280 --> 00:03:32,800

Vera married a fellow from  
the concentration camp.

61

00:03:32,800 --> 00:03:38,350

However, she became  
pregnant in Israel,

62

00:03:38,350 --> 00:03:41,160

and he said he had  
never had a life.

63

00:03:41,160 --> 00:03:44,920

64

00:03:44,920 --> 00:03:46,340

He had no use.

65

00:03:46,340 --> 00:03:47,780

He had nothing.

66

00:03:47,780 --> 00:03:51,260

He didn't want to be burdened  
with a wife and children.

67

00:03:51,260 --> 00:03:53,920

And that was the last heard  
from him, I understand.

68

00:03:53,920 --> 00:03:57,850

She went insane finally,  
and she habitually

69

00:03:57,850 --> 00:04:02,110

would run through the  
streets stark naked.

70

00:04:02,110 --> 00:04:06,370

They would arrest her and  
put her in whatever it is.

71

00:04:06,370 --> 00:04:12,950

And my father would send money  
for some medicine that would

72

00:04:12,950 --> 00:04:16,392

temporarily make her sane.

73

00:04:16,392 --> 00:04:17,850

I don't know what  
happened to them.

74

00:04:17,850 --> 00:04:25,190

Eventually, somebody-- maybe it  
was her mother, grandmother--

75

00:04:25,190 --> 00:04:28,300

the son wanted to go  
to a technical school

76

00:04:28,300 --> 00:04:30,800

and they didn't have money, and  
my father sent money for him

77

00:04:30,800 --> 00:04:34,300

to go to technical school.

78

00:04:34,300 --> 00:04:38,440

After that, my  
father died in 1975.

79

00:04:38,440 --> 00:04:40,330

My mother, I think,  
tore up everything

80

00:04:40,330 --> 00:04:42,460

she could possibly  
find where there were

81

00:04:42,460 --> 00:04:45,100  
any knowledge of anybody else.

82  
00:04:45,100 --> 00:04:48,170

83  
00:04:48,170 --> 00:04:50,210  
She says all they want  
is money from you.

84  
00:04:50,210 --> 00:04:54,490

85  
00:04:54,490 --> 00:04:57,850  
So I have no way of  
knowing other relatives.

86  
00:04:57,850 --> 00:04:59,980  
Obviously, I have  
some in Israel.

87  
00:04:59,980 --> 00:05:03,610  
I obviously have some in  
Sweden, unless they've all

88  
00:05:03,610 --> 00:05:04,990  
gone back to somewhere else.

89  
00:05:04,990 --> 00:05:07,570  
Who knows?

90  
00:05:07,570 --> 00:05:10,180  
Because I don't know  
where Freddie wound up.

91  
00:05:10,180 --> 00:05:12,250  
Men usually die  
earlier than women,

92  
00:05:12,250 --> 00:05:14,530  
but he may still be  
around somewhere.



93

00:05:14,530 --> 00:05:17,320

But I saw some photographs.

94

00:05:17,320 --> 00:05:20,800

I was doing a  
history of the family

95

00:05:20,800 --> 00:05:23,740

and I came across a  
picture of Freddie

96

00:05:23,740 --> 00:05:28,380

and his children and his wife.

97

00:05:28,380 --> 00:05:32,400

But that was  
somewhere in Germany.

98

00:05:32,400 --> 00:05:34,620

I don't know if they were  
just on vacation or what.

99

00:05:34,620 --> 00:05:36,120

I don't know where  
these people are.

100

00:05:36,120 --> 00:05:37,380

I don't have any relatives.

101

00:05:37,380 --> 00:05:38,380

I didn't really care.

102

00:05:38,380 --> 00:05:39,750

I never thought about them.

103

00:05:39,750 --> 00:05:42,612

I agreed with my mother,  
forget about them.

104

00:05:42,612 --> 00:05:45,070

But my children keep wanting  
to know, do we have relatives?

105  
00:05:45,070 --> 00:05:46,112  
Some of my grandchildren.

106  
00:05:46,112 --> 00:05:48,000  
Do we have relatives  
in some other country?

107  
00:05:48,000 --> 00:05:48,660  
Where are they?

108  
00:05:48,660 --> 00:05:50,040  
Who are they?

109  
00:05:50,040 --> 00:05:51,750  
I don't know.

110  
00:05:51,750 --> 00:05:53,690  
And I guess I could  
find out before I die.

111  
00:05:53,690 --> 00:05:54,410  
I'm already 82.

112  
00:05:54,410 --> 00:05:57,710

113  
00:05:57,710 --> 00:06:00,965  
Do you know how many  
relatives you definitely lost?

114  
00:06:00,965 --> 00:06:08,088

115  
00:06:08,088 --> 00:06:08,630  
I don't know.

116  
00:06:08,630 --> 00:06:09,900  
Well over 60, I guess.

117  
00:06:09,900 --> 00:06:12,720

I don't know if any of them  
rescued themselves or not.

118  
00:06:12,720 --> 00:06:14,306  
Never heard of them again.

119  
00:06:14,306 --> 00:06:19,460

120  
00:06:19,460 --> 00:06:26,030  
When your children were the age  
that you were when conditions

121  
00:06:26,030 --> 00:06:29,510  
got bad and you had to leave--

122  
00:06:29,510 --> 00:06:31,670  
Hitler got into power  
and you had to leave.

123  
00:06:31,670 --> 00:06:33,190  
Yeah.

124  
00:06:33,190 --> 00:06:35,720  
When your children  
were that age,

125  
00:06:35,720 --> 00:06:39,420  
does that make you think back  
on your childhood at that time?

126  
00:06:39,420 --> 00:06:39,920  
No.

127  
00:06:39,920 --> 00:06:40,850  
I never thought back.

128  
00:06:40,850 --> 00:06:44,070  
I never thought  
back until old age.

129  
00:06:44,070 --> 00:06:46,440

Never thought back.

130

00:06:46,440 --> 00:06:51,110

I did what everybody else does,  
just remove it from your brain.

131

00:06:51,110 --> 00:06:53,827

132

00:06:53,827 --> 00:06:56,160

Well, you've been talking  
about [this for years though.]

133

00:06:56,160 --> 00:06:58,000

Yeah, since I'm retired.

134

00:06:58,000 --> 00:07:00,270

Not before.

135

00:07:00,270 --> 00:07:02,480

Because I have time.

136

00:07:02,480 --> 00:07:05,990

And also with your parents,  
just to repeat what you said,

137

00:07:05,990 --> 00:07:10,700

you did not really discuss  
war years with them.

138

00:07:10,700 --> 00:07:15,350

My parents never mentioned it  
again, ever, no in my presence.

139

00:07:15,350 --> 00:07:17,010

Did you try to ask them?

140

00:07:17,010 --> 00:07:17,510

No.

141

00:07:17,510 --> 00:07:21,500

We all agreed on the same

thing, without discussing it.

142  
00:07:21,500 --> 00:07:22,520  
Forget it.

143  
00:07:22,520 --> 00:07:24,410  
Forget about it.

144  
00:07:24,410 --> 00:07:25,910  
It's gone.

145  
00:07:25,910 --> 00:07:27,380  
You can't bring it back.

146  
00:07:27,380 --> 00:07:29,060  
It was no good.

147  
00:07:29,060 --> 00:07:30,740  
Why waste your effort on it?

148  
00:07:30,740 --> 00:07:33,770  
Think of what you're doing now.

149  
00:07:33,770 --> 00:07:37,650  
Have you been back to Austria?

150  
00:07:37,650 --> 00:07:41,672  
I went back only once when  
the children were very small.

151  
00:07:41,672 --> 00:07:49,060  
They were still on baby  
bottles, but only because we

152  
00:07:49,060 --> 00:07:50,980  
were going to  
India, because Chris

153  
00:07:50,980 --> 00:07:54,760  
went to see his uncle  
who had raised him,

154

00:07:54,760 --> 00:07:56,840

who was sick and  
old or something.

155

00:07:56,840 --> 00:08:01,810

And we stopped off  
in London, where

156

00:08:01,810 --> 00:08:04,740

one of my mother's  
cousins lived there,

157

00:08:04,740 --> 00:08:08,920

always long before  
the war, and all that.

158

00:08:08,920 --> 00:08:11,670

Alice, she lived there.

159

00:08:11,670 --> 00:08:15,520

We stopped off to see  
her, and stopped off

160

00:08:15,520 --> 00:08:24,980

in Germany, Switzerland,  
and went to Vienna.

161

00:08:24,980 --> 00:08:28,880

I went to go to Klagenfurt,  
but it was snowing

162

00:08:28,880 --> 00:08:34,370

and it was six hours  
by train, and the train

163

00:08:34,370 --> 00:08:37,429

couldn't go because the  
tracks were full of snow.

164

00:08:37,429 --> 00:08:42,650

And no airplane could  
leave Vienna airport.

165

00:08:42,650 --> 00:08:47,870

There I had a little  
overactive son and a daughter

166

00:08:47,870 --> 00:08:52,360

at Vienna Airport,  
and we couldn't go.

167

00:08:52,360 --> 00:08:56,520

We were stuck there for  
days at the airport.

168

00:08:56,520 --> 00:09:03,570

And finally, I let him run  
loose, and he did what boys do.

169

00:09:03,570 --> 00:09:06,780

He ran up to the conveyor belt  
and played with the conveyor

170

00:09:06,780 --> 00:09:12,910

belt, and within minutes,  
somebody came and said, Madam,

171

00:09:12,910 --> 00:09:15,100

we do not let our  
children run loose.

172

00:09:15,100 --> 00:09:18,010

173

00:09:18,010 --> 00:09:21,450

Perhaps in America.

174

00:09:21,450 --> 00:09:23,460

And so I took the  
queue and said,

175

00:09:23,460 --> 00:09:25,510

Oh, I don't know what to do.

176

00:09:25,510 --> 00:09:26,070

I don't know.

177

00:09:26,070 --> 00:09:27,390

We've been here for so long.

178

00:09:27,390 --> 00:09:28,770

What can I possibly do?

179

00:09:28,770 --> 00:09:31,240

I can't control him.

180

00:09:31,240 --> 00:09:35,920

Within minutes, they found us a plane to get us out of Vienna.

181

00:09:35,920 --> 00:09:40,390

182

00:09:40,390 --> 00:09:46,330

I think it was to Egypt, and from there we

183

00:09:46,330 --> 00:09:47,440

would go to India.

184

00:09:47,440 --> 00:09:50,440

Unfortunately, there seemed to have

185

00:09:50,440 --> 00:09:55,870

been some problem on the plane because we all had to depart,

186

00:09:55,870 --> 00:09:58,060

stand in the middle of nowhere.

187

00:09:58,060 --> 00:09:59,858

They brought our luggage next to us

188

00:09:59,858 --> 00:10:01,525

and we had to stand



next to the luggage.

189  
00:10:01,525 --> 00:10:04,030

190  
00:10:04,030 --> 00:10:05,380  
Nothing seemed to happen.

191  
00:10:05,380 --> 00:10:08,320  
The luggage went back on.

192  
00:10:08,320 --> 00:10:10,390  
Everybody got back on  
the plane, and they

193  
00:10:10,390 --> 00:10:13,660  
said it would be, I don't  
know, four hours or something

194  
00:10:13,660 --> 00:10:15,760  
before we would  
leave, six hours.

195  
00:10:15,760 --> 00:10:18,250  
And so I left Chris  
with the children

196  
00:10:18,250 --> 00:10:20,980  
and decided to go to the  
airport and enjoy it.

197  
00:10:20,980 --> 00:10:23,680  
I thought I couldn't  
get back on the plane

198  
00:10:23,680 --> 00:10:25,720  
until it was departing.

199  
00:10:25,720 --> 00:10:30,540  
Hours and hours at the airport.

200  
00:10:30,540 --> 00:10:32,080

I couldn't leave outside.

201  
00:10:32,080 --> 00:10:35,110  
No permission to go  
outside the airport.

202  
00:10:35,110 --> 00:10:37,870  
But there I was.

203  
00:10:37,870 --> 00:10:43,000  
That was the only time  
we ever went back.

204  
00:10:43,000 --> 00:10:44,410  
What were your thoughts?

205  
00:10:44,410 --> 00:10:45,190  
Hmm?

206  
00:10:45,190 --> 00:10:47,560  
What were your thoughts  
of being in Vienna?

207  
00:10:47,560 --> 00:10:50,730

208  
00:10:50,730 --> 00:10:54,100  
Well, we went to see lectors.

209  
00:10:54,100 --> 00:10:57,010  
I had no recollection  
of any of it,

210  
00:10:57,010 --> 00:10:58,900  
because I never lived there.

211  
00:10:58,900 --> 00:11:04,550  
We didn't even go to the first  
section where we had fled to.

212  
00:11:04,550 --> 00:11:05,830  
We saw all the palaces.

213  
00:11:05,830 --> 00:11:07,640  
We saw the palaces.

214  
00:11:07,640 --> 00:11:11,980  
I remember one boy had  
to go to the bathroom.

215  
00:11:11,980 --> 00:11:15,220  
There were 200 rooms for the  
palace, magnificent palace.

216  
00:11:15,220 --> 00:11:16,360  
Where's the bathroom?

217  
00:11:16,360 --> 00:11:18,790  
And they said, there's  
only one in the tower.

218  
00:11:18,790 --> 00:11:20,410  
[CHUCKLES]

219  
00:11:20,410 --> 00:11:23,110  
Did you feel any sense  
of belonging in Austria?

220  
00:11:23,110 --> 00:11:23,990  
No.

221  
00:11:23,990 --> 00:11:24,490  
No.

222  
00:11:24,490 --> 00:11:29,740  
It was the same thing as if I  
had visited France or China.

223  
00:11:29,740 --> 00:11:30,980  
Do you feel Austrian?

224  
00:11:30,980 --> 00:11:31,480  
Hmm?

225

00:11:31,480 --> 00:11:34,860

Do you feel Austrian?

226

00:11:34,860 --> 00:11:39,580

Apparently, I had

lost my accent,

227

00:11:39,580 --> 00:11:43,690

because when we were

in German Switzerland,

228

00:11:43,690 --> 00:11:49,480

somebody in the taxi had stolen

a little case in which we

229

00:11:49,480 --> 00:11:50,620

had stuff.

230

00:11:50,620 --> 00:11:55,090

And I reported to the

front desk in German.

231

00:11:55,090 --> 00:11:56,590

We were in Germany.

232

00:11:56,590 --> 00:11:59,770

And the man didn't

want to do it.

233

00:11:59,770 --> 00:12:01,390

Unbelievable.

234

00:12:01,390 --> 00:12:04,510

I insisted he call

the gendarmes,

235

00:12:04,510 --> 00:12:07,150

and police finally came.

236

00:12:07,150 --> 00:12:11,320

And he said, Madam,

perhaps comes from Chicago.

237  
00:12:11,320 --> 00:12:14,050  
There is no crime  
in Switzerland.

238  
00:12:14,050 --> 00:12:14,550  
Huh.

239  
00:12:14,550 --> 00:12:15,466  
[CHUCKLES]

240  
00:12:15,466 --> 00:12:17,300

241  
00:12:17,300 --> 00:12:18,320  
Only financial.

242  
00:12:18,320 --> 00:12:21,150  
Yeah, right.

243  
00:12:21,150 --> 00:12:21,950  
OK.

244  
00:12:21,950 --> 00:12:23,360  
No, I had no desire.

245  
00:12:23,360 --> 00:12:24,860  
The Swiss food was delicious.

246  
00:12:24,860 --> 00:12:27,110  
I will say the  
German-Swiss food,

247  
00:12:27,110 --> 00:12:30,020  
we thought it was delicious.

248  
00:12:30,020 --> 00:12:33,710  
The English food was  
not good, I thought.

249  
00:12:33,710 --> 00:12:37,970

But no, I had no  
desire for any of it.

250  
00:12:37,970 --> 00:12:41,532  
Do you feel that because of  
your difficult childhood,

251  
00:12:41,532 --> 00:12:42,240  
that you really--

252  
00:12:42,240 --> 00:12:43,860  
I didn't have a  
difficult childhood.

253  
00:12:43,860 --> 00:12:45,693  
You don't consider it  
a difficult childhood?

254  
00:12:45,693 --> 00:12:46,770  
No.

255  
00:12:46,770 --> 00:12:49,380  
Even though you were uprooted.

256  
00:12:49,380 --> 00:12:52,020  
They did me a big  
favor, as I've been told

257  
00:12:52,020 --> 00:12:54,720  
many times from other people.

258  
00:12:54,720 --> 00:12:56,760  
If people had lived  
in Austria, they never

259  
00:12:56,760 --> 00:13:00,000  
would have had the  
opportunity that we

260  
00:13:00,000 --> 00:13:03,240  
have in the United States.

261

00:13:03,240 --> 00:13:08,480  
We immigrants are the most  
patriotic Americans there are.

262  
00:13:08,480 --> 00:13:10,310  
So you consider  
yourself American?

263  
00:13:10,310 --> 00:13:11,180  
Oh, absolutely.

264  
00:13:11,180 --> 00:13:11,930  
Not Austrian?

265  
00:13:11,930 --> 00:13:13,310  
Oh, no.

266  
00:13:13,310 --> 00:13:13,850  
No.

267  
00:13:13,850 --> 00:13:16,160  
I become very angry at people  
who tell me that they're

268  
00:13:16,160 --> 00:13:19,100  
Irish or Czech or something.

269  
00:13:19,100 --> 00:13:19,880  
How can you be?

270  
00:13:19,880 --> 00:13:21,130  
You were born in this country.

271  
00:13:21,130 --> 00:13:24,600

272  
00:13:24,600 --> 00:13:27,160  
If you feel you're  
Irish or Italian--

273  
00:13:27,160 --> 00:13:30,550  
they were always telling me

they were Italian-- go back.

274

00:13:30,550 --> 00:13:31,550

What are you doing here?

275

00:13:31,550 --> 00:13:34,380

276

00:13:34,380 --> 00:13:37,190

No, I have no desire for it.

277

00:13:37,190 --> 00:13:42,250

If you meet a German today in public, what are your thoughts?

278

00:13:42,250 --> 00:13:46,580

That he's German and that he's a Nazi.

279

00:13:46,580 --> 00:13:48,230

You do feel that way?

280

00:13:48,230 --> 00:13:49,340

Yes.

281

00:13:49,340 --> 00:13:50,790

I will always feel that way.

282

00:13:50,790 --> 00:13:54,650

They keep talking about they couldn't

283

00:13:54,650 --> 00:13:56,900

do anything else about it.

284

00:13:56,900 --> 00:13:59,250

They were in that kind of a country.

285

00:13:59,250 --> 00:14:01,670

There was no whatever it is, this, that, and the other,



286  
00:14:01,670 --> 00:14:02,510  
and so on.

287  
00:14:02,510 --> 00:14:04,010  
No.

288  
00:14:04,010 --> 00:14:04,700  
No.

289  
00:14:04,700 --> 00:14:08,450  
The day after  
Austria was annexed,

290  
00:14:08,450 --> 00:14:13,890  
everybody knew the  
national anthem.

291  
00:14:13,890 --> 00:14:16,390  
No, they were all Nazis.

292  
00:14:16,390 --> 00:14:19,280  
They were Nazis before they  
became officially Nazis.

293  
00:14:19,280 --> 00:14:19,780  
No.

294  
00:14:19,780 --> 00:14:22,950  
Every last one of them.

295  
00:14:22,950 --> 00:14:24,060  
There's no such thing.

296  
00:14:24,060 --> 00:14:29,660

297  
00:14:29,660 --> 00:14:33,080  
Are you angry that you  
had an uprooted childhood,

298

00:14:33,080 --> 00:14:36,260  
whereas other children your age  
were very safe in the United

299  
00:14:36,260 --> 00:14:37,220  
States, let's say.

300  
00:14:37,220 --> 00:14:39,710  
No, I feel blessed.

301  
00:14:39,710 --> 00:14:42,770  
I've had so many interesting  
experiences instead of being

302  
00:14:42,770 --> 00:14:44,000  
one of those boring people.

303  
00:14:44,000 --> 00:14:47,530

304  
00:14:47,530 --> 00:14:51,610  
So you're not angry  
that your safety was--

305  
00:14:51,610 --> 00:14:52,200  
Not at all.

306  
00:14:52,200 --> 00:14:55,240  
I'm glad I'm not where  
they didn't want me.

307  
00:14:55,240 --> 00:14:59,920  
[CHUCKLES] I'm glad  
where I could contribute.

308  
00:14:59,920 --> 00:15:03,190  
I have a ton worked  
for the government.

309  
00:15:03,190 --> 00:15:07,750  
I did work that I think was  
very, very valuable, very

310

00:15:07,750 --> 00:15:09,115  
helpful to the public.

311

00:15:09,115 --> 00:15:13,900

312

00:15:13,900 --> 00:15:16,990  
Because of your family  
history, and again,

313

00:15:16,990 --> 00:15:20,620  
what you went through-- having  
to leave Austria and going

314

00:15:20,620 --> 00:15:23,565  
to Trinidad and then coming here  
and not speaking the language,

315

00:15:23,565 --> 00:15:24,910  
and so forth--

316

00:15:24,910 --> 00:15:28,650  
did that affect how you  
raised your children?

317

00:15:28,650 --> 00:15:32,580  
Well, I was raised in a  
very strict Prussian style.

318

00:15:32,580 --> 00:15:36,810  
Children were seen but  
not heard, and hopefully

319

00:15:36,810 --> 00:15:38,970  
not seen very often, either.

320

00:15:38,970 --> 00:15:41,250  
Raise yourself and shut up.

321

00:15:41,250 --> 00:15:42,310  
Don't get us in trouble.

322

00:15:42,310 --> 00:15:45,620

Don't do anything that  
raises any problem.

323

00:15:45,620 --> 00:15:46,700

We're not here for you.

324

00:15:46,700 --> 00:15:49,490

325

00:15:49,490 --> 00:15:50,140

Very simple.

326

00:15:50,140 --> 00:15:52,322

No.

327

00:15:52,322 --> 00:15:55,310

When I see how they  
raise their children, how

328

00:15:55,310 --> 00:15:56,810

my grandchildren  
are raised, they're

329

00:15:56,810 --> 00:15:59,330

just a bunch of spoiled brats.

330

00:15:59,330 --> 00:16:01,660

The parents spend  
all their time.

331

00:16:01,660 --> 00:16:04,070

The mother and father spend  
all their time on them,

332

00:16:04,070 --> 00:16:06,827

instead of telling them go  
outside and play and shut up.

333

00:16:06,827 --> 00:16:08,660

What do you mean you  
don't want to eat this?

334  
00:16:08,660 --> 00:16:11,180  
Eat this or you  
don't get anything.

335  
00:16:11,180 --> 00:16:14,060  
But my question was,  
did your background

336  
00:16:14,060 --> 00:16:17,810  
affect the way you raised your  
son and daughter, do you think?

337  
00:16:17,810 --> 00:16:20,460

338  
00:16:20,460 --> 00:16:22,800  
Because there were times when  
you had to be independent.

339  
00:16:22,800 --> 00:16:24,600  
You went to this  
boarding school.

340  
00:16:24,600 --> 00:16:27,000  
You went to this boarding  
school and you had to come

341  
00:16:27,000 --> 00:16:29,610  
home, go back to  
visit your parents.

342  
00:16:29,610 --> 00:16:30,570  
You were a child.

343  
00:16:30,570 --> 00:16:31,350  
Mm-hmm.

344  
00:16:31,350 --> 00:16:33,000  
You were very independent.

345  
00:16:33,000 --> 00:16:33,930

Yeah.

346  
00:16:33,930 --> 00:16:36,400  
Did that affect how you  
raised your children?

347  
00:16:36,400 --> 00:16:38,680  
Well, I expected them  
to be independent, too.

348  
00:16:38,680 --> 00:16:40,050  
Yeah.

349  
00:16:40,050 --> 00:16:42,000  
This one here  
would go to school.

350  
00:16:42,000 --> 00:16:44,820  
She wanted to belong  
to Girl Scouts.

351  
00:16:44,820 --> 00:16:48,120  
I told her to call up a taxi  
and have a taxi pick her

352  
00:16:48,120 --> 00:16:49,710  
up and take her to the--

353  
00:16:49,710 --> 00:16:51,600  
in those days it wasn't  
dangerous to have

354  
00:16:51,600 --> 00:16:53,220  
your taxi pick you up.

355  
00:16:53,220 --> 00:16:54,360  
She neglected us.

356  
00:16:54,360 --> 00:16:56,320  
[LAUGHTER]

357  
00:16:56,320 --> 00:16:58,220

[INAUDIBLE] let it out.

358

00:16:58,220 --> 00:17:01,830

I'm saying, is it because  
you had to be independent

359

00:17:01,830 --> 00:17:03,400

when you were so young?

360

00:17:03,400 --> 00:17:03,900

Yeah.

361

00:17:03,900 --> 00:17:05,400

I thought that was normal.

362

00:17:05,400 --> 00:17:06,150

OK.

363

00:17:06,150 --> 00:17:09,510

I thought that was a normal  
way of raising people.

364

00:17:09,510 --> 00:17:12,329

Life came before  
[? hell. ?] You better

365

00:17:12,329 --> 00:17:15,970

be able to handle it,  
no matter what happens,

366

00:17:15,970 --> 00:17:18,240

and keep going and  
being happy about it

367

00:17:18,240 --> 00:17:20,160

instead of whining about it.

368

00:17:20,160 --> 00:17:22,740

We don't go to psychiatrists  
and psychologists.

369

00:17:22,740 --> 00:17:25,109

We don't have mental problems.

370

00:17:25,109 --> 00:17:27,420

We follow what my  
mother's mother.

371

00:17:27,420 --> 00:17:29,170

Did you got problems?

372

00:17:29,170 --> 00:17:31,485

Here's a small brush and a pail.

373

00:17:31,485 --> 00:17:33,810

Start in the upper  
left-hand corner

374

00:17:33,810 --> 00:17:36,150

and keep scrubbing the  
floor until you get

375

00:17:36,150 --> 00:17:37,590

to the lower right-hand corner.

376

00:17:37,590 --> 00:17:39,388

You will have  
guaranteed no problems

377

00:17:39,388 --> 00:17:40,555

by the time you're finished.

378

00:17:40,555 --> 00:17:43,200

379

00:17:43,200 --> 00:17:48,570

Are there any sights  
today or sounds or smells

380

00:17:48,570 --> 00:17:53,340

that bring back your  
childhood to you?

381

00:17:53,340 --> 00:17:54,730



It's been a long time.

382

00:17:54,730 --> 00:17:58,200

Anything that you hear  
or see or read about that

383

00:17:58,200 --> 00:18:01,950

brings back your childhood?

384

00:18:01,950 --> 00:18:05,340

I have successfully suppressed  
everything I possibly could.

385

00:18:05,340 --> 00:18:08,830

386

00:18:08,830 --> 00:18:12,150

I don't believe in Freud  
and racking it all up

387

00:18:12,150 --> 00:18:13,770

and bringing it out.

388

00:18:13,770 --> 00:18:14,730

No.

389

00:18:14,730 --> 00:18:16,740

Just hide it and go on.

390

00:18:16,740 --> 00:18:19,362

391

00:18:19,362 --> 00:18:22,170

You had said that your  
family, your parents

392

00:18:22,170 --> 00:18:27,680

got restitution and  
reparations from Germany?

393

00:18:27,680 --> 00:18:31,310

Oh I got \$25,000 from Austria.

394  
00:18:31,310 --> 00:18:32,930  
I got \$25,000.

395  
00:18:32,930 --> 00:18:34,385  
You yourself got it?

396  
00:18:34,385 --> 00:18:37,610  
Yeah, recently, within  
the last few years.

397  
00:18:37,610 --> 00:18:39,110  
You've gotten payment, yeah.

398  
00:18:39,110 --> 00:18:44,000  
\$25,000 for loss of all the  
relatives that I mentioned.

399  
00:18:44,000 --> 00:18:44,810  
I see.

400  
00:18:44,810 --> 00:18:46,760  
From the Austrian government.

401  
00:18:46,760 --> 00:18:49,820  
They had to divide it equally  
among the people who are still

402  
00:18:49,820 --> 00:18:50,570  
alive.

403  
00:18:50,570 --> 00:18:52,340  
And I wrote them  
several letters saying,

404  
00:18:52,340 --> 00:18:54,290  
you're waiting for all  
of us to drop dead.

405  
00:18:54,290 --> 00:18:59,030  
[CHUCKLES] I got \$25,000.

406

00:18:59,030 --> 00:19:02,060

I couldn't prove  
the name of the bank

407

00:19:02,060 --> 00:19:04,140

that my parents had money in.

408

00:19:04,140 --> 00:19:05,720

I don't know.

409

00:19:05,720 --> 00:19:07,340

I was a little kid.

410

00:19:07,340 --> 00:19:09,582

They wanted to know the  
bank account number.

411

00:19:09,582 --> 00:19:14,270

[LAUGHS] How should I know?

412

00:19:14,270 --> 00:19:16,290

But your parents  
did get reparations

413

00:19:16,290 --> 00:19:17,165

when they were alive?

414

00:19:17,165 --> 00:19:19,770

415

00:19:19,770 --> 00:19:20,957

They got Social Security.

416

00:19:20,957 --> 00:19:22,290

I don't know what else they got.

417

00:19:22,290 --> 00:19:23,640

I have no idea.

418

00:19:23,640 --> 00:19:25,690

They would not have

discussed it with me.

419

00:19:25,690 --> 00:19:27,030

From Germany you said?

420

00:19:27,030 --> 00:19:27,670

From Austria.

421

00:19:27,670 --> 00:19:28,680

Excuse me, from Austria.

422

00:19:28,680 --> 00:19:29,560

They would have discussed it.

423

00:19:29,560 --> 00:19:30,000

Huh?

424

00:19:30,000 --> 00:19:31,542

They would have  
discussed it with you

425

00:19:31,542 --> 00:19:33,240

when you were an adult.

426

00:19:33,240 --> 00:19:37,540

They never discussed any  
of those things with me.

427

00:19:37,540 --> 00:19:39,380

We didn't discuss these things.

428

00:19:39,380 --> 00:19:40,150

OK.

429

00:19:40,150 --> 00:19:44,290

Do you think your children  
were affected by the fact

430

00:19:44,290 --> 00:19:47,240

that you had such  
an uprooted child?

431  
00:19:47,240 --> 00:19:47,740  
Yes.

432  
00:19:47,740 --> 00:19:51,280  
They complained  
I neglected them.

433  
00:19:51,280 --> 00:19:53,260  
Because you wanted  
them to be independent?

434  
00:19:53,260 --> 00:19:58,120  
Yeah, I want them to be  
independent, be able to cope.

435  
00:19:58,120 --> 00:19:59,920  
I don't like to talk  
on the telephone.

436  
00:19:59,920 --> 00:20:01,330  
I'm very shy actually.

437  
00:20:01,330 --> 00:20:04,270

438  
00:20:04,270 --> 00:20:06,850  
I taught her from an early  
age to make all the phone

439  
00:20:06,850 --> 00:20:11,120  
calls for me, and she's a  
genius at it as a result.

440  
00:20:11,120 --> 00:20:16,990  
She became a financial advisor  
and got all her client sales

441  
00:20:16,990 --> 00:20:21,250  
by cold calling  
on the telephone.

442  
00:20:21,250 --> 00:20:22,630

I gave her her trade.

443  
00:20:22,630 --> 00:20:24,820  
[LAUGHS]

444  
00:20:24,820 --> 00:20:28,110  
Have you been to the Holocaust  
Museum in Washington?

445  
00:20:28,110 --> 00:20:29,530  
She dragged me there one time.

446  
00:20:29,530 --> 00:20:30,610  
And what was your --

447  
00:20:30,610 --> 00:20:32,680  
It was very, very  
crowded and very busy.

448  
00:20:32,680 --> 00:20:36,840

449  
00:20:36,840 --> 00:20:38,670  
Yuck.

450  
00:20:38,670 --> 00:20:40,710  
I don't want to be  
reminded, actually.

451  
00:20:40,710 --> 00:20:43,230  
I'm hoping, after  
I speak to you,

452  
00:20:43,230 --> 00:20:46,320  
I will go one more time  
to the Holocaust Museum

453  
00:20:46,320 --> 00:20:50,070  
and see about Trinidad,  
because when I look up

454  
00:20:50,070 --> 00:20:52,410

Trinidad on the  
internet, they don't

455  
00:20:52,410 --> 00:20:58,830  
mention the fact that  
they had refugees

456  
00:20:58,830 --> 00:21:03,430  
and put them in  
detention center.

457  
00:21:03,430 --> 00:21:09,550  
Wiki did say that it  
was full of Blacks

458  
00:21:09,550 --> 00:21:14,890  
who had been Muslims  
and slaves, and that

459  
00:21:14,890 --> 00:21:16,840  
may explain some of it.

460  
00:21:16,840 --> 00:21:18,790  
Have you been back to Trinidad?

461  
00:21:18,790 --> 00:21:19,330  
No.

462  
00:21:19,330 --> 00:21:24,350  
I wanted to go several  
times and the travel agent

463  
00:21:24,350 --> 00:21:26,120  
warned me not to go there.

464  
00:21:26,120 --> 00:21:28,880  
They seemed, at that  
point when I mentioned it

465  
00:21:28,880 --> 00:21:30,710  
several times, that  
they were having

466

00:21:30,710 --> 00:21:33,940  
a problem with White people.

467

00:21:33,940 --> 00:21:35,580  
It wouldn't be safe, you mean?

468

00:21:35,580 --> 00:21:36,080  
Hmm?

469

00:21:36,080 --> 00:21:37,410  
That it wouldn't be safe?

470

00:21:37,410 --> 00:21:38,390  
Exactly.

471

00:21:38,390 --> 00:21:39,980  
Have you been to Israel?

472

00:21:39,980 --> 00:21:41,300  
No, never have.

473

00:21:41,300 --> 00:21:45,890  
I sort of dropped every  
last bit of everything.

474

00:21:45,890 --> 00:21:49,100  
My father insisted  
I become batmitzvah,

475

00:21:49,100 --> 00:21:52,970  
which I did against my will.

476

00:21:52,970 --> 00:21:59,140  
After that, I went to a  
synagogue a couple of times,

477

00:21:59,140 --> 00:22:03,130  
mostly because we sat outside  
to see what boys we would meet.

478

00:22:03,130 --> 00:22:07,170



479  
00:22:07,170 --> 00:22:13,730  
I did go to reformed services.

480  
00:22:13,730 --> 00:22:17,360  
I was very active for a long  
time in the Jewish Community

481  
00:22:17,360 --> 00:22:20,630  
Center on 16th Street in DC.

482  
00:22:20,630 --> 00:22:26,520  
I used to go there for dances  
at night time on weekends,

483  
00:22:26,520 --> 00:22:28,548  
in hopes of finding somebody.

484  
00:22:28,548 --> 00:22:33,910

485  
00:22:33,910 --> 00:22:40,190  
I was in a Jewish  
sorority in college,

486  
00:22:40,190 --> 00:22:44,830  
but couldn't stand the--

487  
00:22:44,830 --> 00:22:48,040

488  
00:22:48,040 --> 00:22:52,180  
sounds like I'm talking  
like my mother--

489  
00:22:52,180 --> 00:22:57,630  
couldn't stand the  
personality of the people,

490  
00:22:57,630 --> 00:23:03,750  
the flamboyancy, showing

off, empty-headedness.

491

00:23:03,750 --> 00:23:07,720

492

00:23:07,720 --> 00:23:09,740

I just couldn't see it.

493

00:23:09,740 --> 00:23:14,820

And I gave it up  
and never went back.

494

00:23:14,820 --> 00:23:17,570

Oh, no, I did last  
year or a year before.

495

00:23:17,570 --> 00:23:29,160

I did go to a reformed  
synagogue here in Reston.

496

00:23:29,160 --> 00:23:32,190

My daughter kept trying to  
insist that I go to the one out

497

00:23:32,190 --> 00:23:35,500

in Ashburn, but I never went.

498

00:23:35,500 --> 00:23:38,070

I took them off my  
internet, my email,

499

00:23:38,070 --> 00:23:40,080

after a while never did go.

500

00:23:40,080 --> 00:23:41,520

How did you raise your children?

501

00:23:41,520 --> 00:23:43,780

Did you raise your  
children as Jews?

502

00:23:43,780 --> 00:23:44,880

No, no, no.

503

00:23:44,880 --> 00:23:46,920

I promised my mother.

504

00:23:46,920 --> 00:23:50,580

I gave a holy oath,  
with me, being chosen

505

00:23:50,580 --> 00:23:52,650

people would end forever.

506

00:23:52,650 --> 00:24:01,870

Never again would we be chosen  
for death, extermination,

507

00:24:01,870 --> 00:24:02,370

plunder.

508

00:24:02,370 --> 00:24:05,830

509

00:24:05,830 --> 00:24:09,100

No, never again.

510

00:24:09,100 --> 00:24:11,500

So you promised  
your mother what?

511

00:24:11,500 --> 00:24:13,270

I swore a holy oath.

512

00:24:13,270 --> 00:24:14,440

She made her promise.

513

00:24:14,440 --> 00:24:16,150

That what?

514

00:24:16,150 --> 00:24:20,470

That with me, any trace of  
being Jewish would terminate.

515

00:24:20,470 --> 00:24:21,280

[INAUDIBLE]

516

00:24:21,280 --> 00:24:23,350

And so you did not  
raise your children--

517

00:24:23,350 --> 00:24:24,460

Absolutely not.

518

00:24:24,460 --> 00:24:25,360

--in any way.

519

00:24:25,360 --> 00:24:26,710

Not even mention it.

520

00:24:26,710 --> 00:24:29,020

Yeah, as a matter of fact,  
this just came out recently.

521

00:24:29,020 --> 00:24:30,945

At my grandfather's  
funeral, a man

522

00:24:30,945 --> 00:24:32,570

walked up to my  
brother and I and said,

523

00:24:32,570 --> 00:24:34,000

you can't hide  
from being Jewish.

524

00:24:34,000 --> 00:24:37,600

One day you will  
admit it, because it

525

00:24:37,600 --> 00:24:39,410

had been hidden from us.

526

00:24:39,410 --> 00:24:42,460

And I hope you're going to do  
anything in the future, right?

527  
00:24:42,460 --> 00:24:44,740  
I used to have a  
lot of problems.

528  
00:24:44,740 --> 00:24:47,140  
People would look  
at me and say--

529  
00:24:47,140 --> 00:24:48,580  
it was endless questions.

530  
00:24:48,580 --> 00:24:53,530  
Every single solitary person I  
ever met, whether I knew them

531  
00:24:53,530 --> 00:24:57,450  
or not or whether I ever  
would see them again,

532  
00:24:57,450 --> 00:25:00,870  
are you Italian,  
Greek, or Jewish?

533  
00:25:00,870 --> 00:25:03,210  
There was always  
that accent on it.

534  
00:25:03,210 --> 00:25:06,720  
And finally, one day I decided  
to bleach my hair platinum

535  
00:25:06,720 --> 00:25:10,780  
blonde, and no one has  
ever asked me that again.

536  
00:25:10,780 --> 00:25:15,600  
[CHUCKLES] Because I also  
bleached my eyebrows.

537  
00:25:15,600 --> 00:25:18,900  
That was the secret to it.

538

00:25:18,900 --> 00:25:22,080

What was your reaction  
during the Eichmann trial?

539

00:25:22,080 --> 00:25:24,130

Did you follow that,  
the Eichmann trial?

540

00:25:24,130 --> 00:25:24,630

No.

541

00:25:24,630 --> 00:25:25,620

You did not follow it?

542

00:25:25,620 --> 00:25:27,610

I did not follow it.

543

00:25:27,610 --> 00:25:30,970

I just hoped that he would  
be hung by his thumbs

544

00:25:30,970 --> 00:25:33,940

and whipped to death.

545

00:25:33,940 --> 00:25:37,700

But other than that,  
no, I didn't follow it.

546

00:25:37,700 --> 00:25:41,870

There is no punishment adequate.

547

00:25:41,870 --> 00:25:44,300

But as I say, with me ends.

548

00:25:44,300 --> 00:25:47,600

Were you active in the  
Civil rights Movement,

549

00:25:47,600 --> 00:25:49,820

let's say in the '60s and '70s?

550

00:25:49,820 --> 00:25:50,420  
No.

551  
00:25:50,420 --> 00:25:51,100  
Are you kidding?

552  
00:25:51,100 --> 00:25:53,720

553  
00:25:53,720 --> 00:25:56,340  
First they stole  
my mother's money.

554  
00:25:56,340 --> 00:25:58,820  
Then we were in a  
detention center

555  
00:25:58,820 --> 00:26:08,435  
with armed guards and  
bayonets guarding us.

556  
00:26:08,435 --> 00:26:11,920  
[LAUGHS] And you want  
me to be in favor?

557  
00:26:11,920 --> 00:26:12,510  
No.

558  
00:26:12,510 --> 00:26:14,010  
Well, I meant--

559  
00:26:14,010 --> 00:26:15,600  
I handle my own things.

560  
00:26:15,600 --> 00:26:17,050  
Let them handle theirs.

561  
00:26:17,050 --> 00:26:18,540  
There's lots more  
of them than me.

562  
00:26:18,540 --> 00:26:20,160

They don't need me, OK?

563

00:26:20,160 --> 00:26:23,310

I was active in women's lib.

564

00:26:23,310 --> 00:26:26,420

I meant because your  
parents' civil rights

565

00:26:26,420 --> 00:26:30,915

and your civil rights  
were taken away.

566

00:26:30,915 --> 00:26:33,460

567

00:26:33,460 --> 00:26:35,090

[INAUDIBLE]

568

00:26:35,090 --> 00:26:35,590

We left.

569

00:26:35,590 --> 00:26:36,670

You left.

570

00:26:36,670 --> 00:26:37,570

We left.

571

00:26:37,570 --> 00:26:38,260

Yeah.

572

00:26:38,260 --> 00:26:44,710

Those who didn't leave died  
in concentration camps.

573

00:26:44,710 --> 00:26:47,640

How do you think your parents  
were affected emotionally

574

00:26:47,640 --> 00:26:52,510

by the loss of all  
their relatives?



575  
00:26:52,510 --> 00:26:54,250  
You said they didn't  
talk about it.

576  
00:26:54,250 --> 00:26:55,655  
Nobody ever talked about it.

577  
00:26:55,655 --> 00:26:57,280  
No, but what are  
their thoughts to you?

578  
00:26:57,280 --> 00:26:58,240  
I have no idea.

579  
00:26:58,240 --> 00:27:00,310  
I can't psychoanalyze  
dead parents.

580  
00:27:00,310 --> 00:27:03,520

581  
00:27:03,520 --> 00:27:04,877  
They didn't talk about it.

582  
00:27:04,877 --> 00:27:06,210  
We didn't want to talk about it.

583  
00:27:06,210 --> 00:27:09,490

584  
00:27:09,490 --> 00:27:13,050  
I never met anybody else,  
as a matter of fact.

585  
00:27:13,050 --> 00:27:21,380  
Never did I meet any other  
person who had gone through it.

586  
00:27:21,380 --> 00:27:23,200  
I did briefly.

587

00:27:23,200 --> 00:27:25,370

At the Community Center,  
Jewish Community Center,

588

00:27:25,370 --> 00:27:30,660

I did meet one guy  
who his mother was

589

00:27:30,660 --> 00:27:32,320

in some place in Holland.

590

00:27:32,320 --> 00:27:35,590

I did meet him.

591

00:27:35,590 --> 00:27:38,590

They had been refugees.

592

00:27:38,590 --> 00:27:43,370

And other than that,  
that's the only one.

593

00:27:43,370 --> 00:27:48,280

And I only went out with him  
briefly, maybe a few months.

594

00:27:48,280 --> 00:27:54,750

Other than that, I never met  
anybody else who was a refugee.

595

00:27:54,750 --> 00:27:56,040

Never.

596

00:27:56,040 --> 00:28:01,310

All those years in community  
centers, in synagogues, no.

597

00:28:01,310 --> 00:28:03,830

Never, never.

598

00:28:03,830 --> 00:28:07,640

But now in today's world, if you  
meet someone who is a refugee,

599

00:28:07,640 --> 00:28:09,470

do you feel more comfortable?

600

00:28:09,470 --> 00:28:11,070

I've never met people.

601

00:28:11,070 --> 00:28:12,860

You mean even now

you haven't met?

602

00:28:12,860 --> 00:28:14,010

I haven't met anybody.

603

00:28:14,010 --> 00:28:14,510

Up till now.

604

00:28:14,510 --> 00:28:15,010

No.

605

00:28:15,010 --> 00:28:16,640

I introduced you to

Dora that one time.

606

00:28:16,640 --> 00:28:19,550

Oh, well, it just left me blank.

607

00:28:19,550 --> 00:28:21,020

Did I discuss it with Dora?

608

00:28:21,020 --> 00:28:24,350

Yeah, we had lunch with her.

609

00:28:24,350 --> 00:28:29,320

I was just making talk then

because I don't even remember.

610

00:28:29,320 --> 00:28:33,640

Is there any message you'd like  
to leave to your grandchildren?

611

00:28:33,640 --> 00:28:35,200

Any message to  
your grandchildren?

612

00:28:35,200 --> 00:28:36,980

I see them all the time.

613

00:28:36,980 --> 00:28:39,225

They don't want my message.

614

00:28:39,225 --> 00:28:41,170

They don't even want  
their parents' message,

615

00:28:41,170 --> 00:28:42,430

are you kidding?

616

00:28:42,430 --> 00:28:45,160

People are born  
knowing everything.

617

00:28:45,160 --> 00:28:47,320

All old people are a  
bunch of old fogies.

618

00:28:47,320 --> 00:28:50,250

What are they going to say?

619

00:28:50,250 --> 00:28:51,980

That's not how they  
treat you, Mom.

620

00:28:51,980 --> 00:28:53,910

No.

621

00:28:53,910 --> 00:29:00,730

They're very nice, very  
sweet, every last one of them.

622

00:29:00,730 --> 00:29:05,050

Leah's going to paint my  
bathroom on Monday and Tuesday,

623

00:29:05,050 --> 00:29:07,330  
powder room.

624

00:29:07,330 --> 00:29:09,220  
How do you feel about  
the Holocaust Museum

625

00:29:09,220 --> 00:29:10,870  
being in Washington?

626

00:29:10,870 --> 00:29:12,160  
Well, that's where it belongs.

627

00:29:12,160 --> 00:29:13,420  
Why?

628

00:29:13,420 --> 00:29:15,590  
Because it's the  
nation's capital.

629

00:29:15,590 --> 00:29:17,610  
[LAUGHS] [INAUDIBLE].

630

00:29:17,610 --> 00:29:23,690

631

00:29:23,690 --> 00:29:25,580  
No, just because of  
that doesn't mean

632

00:29:25,580 --> 00:29:28,580  
that I feel better about  
people discriminating

633

00:29:28,580 --> 00:29:30,230  
about Muslims or Blacks.

634

00:29:30,230 --> 00:29:31,580  
No.

635

00:29:31,580 --> 00:29:33,470

That's a separate  
story altogether.

636  
00:29:33,470 --> 00:29:37,310  
They have their  
thing, I have mine.

637  
00:29:37,310 --> 00:29:38,900  
I'm not responsible for them.

638  
00:29:38,900 --> 00:29:41,070  
They sure as hell didn't  
do anything for me.

639  
00:29:41,070 --> 00:29:44,210

640  
00:29:44,210 --> 00:29:45,210  
That's true.

641  
00:29:45,210 --> 00:29:45,710  
Hmm?

642  
00:29:45,710 --> 00:29:46,370  
That's true.

643  
00:29:46,370 --> 00:29:48,470  
Everybody expects so  
much charity nowadays,

644  
00:29:48,470 --> 00:29:50,180  
when you look at them.

645  
00:29:50,180 --> 00:29:54,260  
Actually, I thought your parents  
owned 10 houses at one point.

646  
00:29:54,260 --> 00:29:56,882  
They became like  
millionaires, just out

647  
00:29:56,882 --> 00:29:57,840

of their own hard work.

648

00:29:57,840 --> 00:30:00,140

No welfare, no  
handouts, nothing.

649

00:30:00,140 --> 00:30:03,470

I just can't believe how much  
charity people [INAUDIBLE]..

650

00:30:03,470 --> 00:30:06,590

Well, our clothing  
came from Goodwill.

651

00:30:06,590 --> 00:30:09,560

My father had  
training from Goodwill

652

00:30:09,560 --> 00:30:12,200

to become an upholsterer.

653

00:30:12,200 --> 00:30:15,230

He couldn't handle it  
because of his nose.

654

00:30:15,230 --> 00:30:21,140

But he learned how to use  
hammers, and whatnot and so on,

655

00:30:21,140 --> 00:30:23,060

and got good jobs  
with hardware stores.

656

00:30:23,060 --> 00:30:26,570

And from then  
opened up that which

657

00:30:26,570 --> 00:30:31,070

is simplest for a Jewish  
refugee, opened up a shop.

658

00:30:31,070 --> 00:30:32,150

It comes natural.

659

00:30:32,150 --> 00:30:34,200

Do you feel that  
you, in a sense,

660

00:30:34,200 --> 00:30:36,860

are two different people,  
somebody on the outside

661

00:30:36,860 --> 00:30:38,780

different from the  
person on the inside,

662

00:30:38,780 --> 00:30:41,450

because of your experiences?

663

00:30:41,450 --> 00:30:42,410

Are you the same?

664

00:30:42,410 --> 00:30:43,820

No, I think I'm all one person.

665

00:30:43,820 --> 00:30:46,630

I'm not psychotic.

666

00:30:46,630 --> 00:30:49,220

I know, I didn't mean psychotic.

667

00:30:49,220 --> 00:30:51,930

I know people who have  
several personalities.

668

00:30:51,930 --> 00:30:56,148

[LAUGHS] You're comparing  
it to the wrong person.

669

00:30:56,148 --> 00:30:57,440

I didn't mean it in that sense.

670

00:30:57,440 --> 00:30:59,090

I just meant because  
of what you--



671  
00:30:59,090 --> 00:31:00,560  
No, no, no.

672  
00:31:00,560 --> 00:31:04,110  
I'm all one solid person.

673  
00:31:04,110 --> 00:31:05,030  
No.

674  
00:31:05,030 --> 00:31:08,420  
I don't have any psychological  
scars as a result

675  
00:31:08,420 --> 00:31:09,200  
that I know of.

676  
00:31:09,200 --> 00:31:12,740

677  
00:31:12,740 --> 00:31:14,420  
I don't believe  
in all that stuff.

678  
00:31:14,420 --> 00:31:17,780  
Like I said, like my grandmother  
said, you take a brush

679  
00:31:17,780 --> 00:31:21,920  
and do some physical labor,  
and that's the end of that.

680  
00:31:21,920 --> 00:31:26,920  
You won't be moaning  
and groaning anymore.

681  
00:31:26,920 --> 00:31:29,850  
[INAUDIBLE]

682  
00:31:29,850 --> 00:31:33,820  
Well, that's, I guess,  
a good note to end on.

683  
00:31:33,820 --> 00:31:35,233  
[LAUGHS]

684  
00:31:35,233 --> 00:31:36,650

685  
00:31:36,650 --> 00:31:39,830  
I'm glad you got  
grapes, I mean cherries.

686  
00:31:39,830 --> 00:31:43,430  
It's one of the few  
things I can eat.

687  
00:31:43,430 --> 00:31:45,440  
Is there anything else  
you wanted to add?

688  
00:31:45,440 --> 00:31:47,560  
No, I've already added too much.

689  
00:31:47,560 --> 00:31:49,997  
OK.

690  
00:31:49,997 --> 00:31:51,830  
You want to find your  
relatives, that's all.

691  
00:31:51,830 --> 00:31:53,360  
Yeah, I would.

692  
00:31:53,360 --> 00:31:54,350  
Well, you all would.

693  
00:31:54,350 --> 00:31:57,770  
We desperately wanted to.

694  
00:31:57,770 --> 00:31:59,930  
You want to find more, yes.

695

00:31:59,930 --> 00:32:01,630

Yes.

696

00:32:01,630 --> 00:32:04,690

This concludes the United  
States Holocaust Memorial Museum

697

00:32:04,690 --> 00:32:08,130

interview with Erica Laufer.

698

00:32:08,130 --> 00:32:09,000