

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:02,830

2

00:00:02,830 --> 00:00:04,510

OK, we're back, Susan.

3

00:00:04,510 --> 00:00:09,850

And you were telling me
about growing up in your home

4

00:00:09,850 --> 00:00:10,870

with your brother.

5

00:00:10,870 --> 00:00:13,900

You said that you
were very close

6

00:00:13,900 --> 00:00:17,710

and that your mother
was singing a lot,

7

00:00:17,710 --> 00:00:20,320

that you had a very
tight-knit family.

8

00:00:20,320 --> 00:00:21,670

Yes.

9

00:00:21,670 --> 00:00:24,355

Tell me a little bit about
your daily life as a child.

10

00:00:24,355 --> 00:00:27,470

11

00:00:27,470 --> 00:00:30,040

How early do you want to start?

12

00:00:30,040 --> 00:00:32,770

As early as you can remember.

13

00:00:32,770 --> 00:00:35,290

Well, I remember when

I was three years old.

14

00:00:35,290 --> 00:00:37,130

I remember a little bit.

15

00:00:37,130 --> 00:00:39,280

And there was--

16

00:00:39,280 --> 00:00:43,370

I had a-- we had a--

17

00:00:43,370 --> 00:00:45,880

she was a nurse,

actually, but she--

18

00:00:45,880 --> 00:00:47,680

a baby nurse.

19

00:00:47,680 --> 00:00:52,060

But she was with us for

many years, as I was--

20

00:00:52,060 --> 00:00:57,410

from when I was about

three until I was about 10.

21

00:00:57,410 --> 00:01:01,060

And because my

mother was singing

22

00:01:01,060 --> 00:01:06,200

and my mother also

participated in the business,

23

00:01:06,200 --> 00:01:09,280

and so there needed

to be someone

24

00:01:09,280 --> 00:01:12,160

full-time that was appropriate.

25
00:01:12,160 --> 00:01:17,127
And so-- what was the question?

26
00:01:17,127 --> 00:01:19,335
You were telling me a little
bit about your childhood

27
00:01:19,335 --> 00:01:21,100
and your daily life.

28
00:01:21,100 --> 00:01:27,060
So it was until Hitler came--

29
00:01:27,060 --> 00:01:36,150
and I was 10 years old when it
really kicked in in '33-'34.

30
00:01:36,150 --> 00:01:40,500
And so my childhood
until Hitler was

31
00:01:40,500 --> 00:01:45,600
very serene, and very loving.

32
00:01:45,600 --> 00:01:49,930
I went-- very
purposely, my parents

33
00:01:49,930 --> 00:01:52,440
sent me to the
elementary school.

34
00:01:52,440 --> 00:01:57,600
And my mother was a leftist.

35
00:01:57,600 --> 00:02:00,885
And my father, I don't know.

36
00:02:00,885 --> 00:02:04,870

37

00:02:04,870 --> 00:02:06,175

So the child--

38

00:02:06,175 --> 00:02:09,970

I was very close

to both my parents.

39

00:02:09,970 --> 00:02:14,590

My mother and I were very

similar in many ways.

40

00:02:14,590 --> 00:02:17,230

And my father was,

for me, the saint.

41

00:02:17,230 --> 00:02:22,450

He was absolute goodness,

and patience, and kindness.

42

00:02:22,450 --> 00:02:28,310

And my brother and I, as I

said, fought like cats and dogs,

43

00:02:28,310 --> 00:02:30,620

but we loved each other.

44

00:02:30,620 --> 00:02:36,960

And he went to the

United States in 1936.

45

00:02:36,960 --> 00:02:43,680

My parents got him out because

he was very stormy child.

46

00:02:43,680 --> 00:02:47,310

And he would have gotten into

a lot of trouble because he

47

00:02:47,310 --> 00:02:48,990

couldn't--

48

00:02:48,990 --> 00:02:53,100

the whole antisemitism,
he would fight like crazy

49
00:02:53,100 --> 00:02:56,800
to defend himself.

50
00:02:56,800 --> 00:03:01,200
So he went to the United
States, to strangers.

51
00:03:01,200 --> 00:03:05,010
Not very good, not
a very good home.

52
00:03:05,010 --> 00:03:08,580
So at 18, he was independent.

53
00:03:08,580 --> 00:03:10,680
Then he went into
the army when the war

54
00:03:10,680 --> 00:03:14,850
broke out and became a citizen.

55
00:03:14,850 --> 00:03:19,410
And I went to
England three months

56
00:03:19,410 --> 00:03:22,500
before the war broke
out, World War II.

57
00:03:22,500 --> 00:03:24,090
Let's go back a
little bit before we

58
00:03:24,090 --> 00:03:25,382
get to that, if you don't mind.

59
00:03:25,382 --> 00:03:26,610
OK.

60

00:03:26,610 --> 00:03:30,430
So what language did
you speak at home?

61
00:03:30,430 --> 00:03:31,030
German.

62
00:03:31,030 --> 00:03:33,060
German, OK.

63
00:03:33,060 --> 00:03:38,860
And also, my parents both
spoke perfect French.

64
00:03:38,860 --> 00:03:42,690
And my father spoke
very good English.

65
00:03:42,690 --> 00:03:43,770
OK.

66
00:03:43,770 --> 00:03:47,010
And do you remember--
can you describe

67
00:03:47,010 --> 00:03:50,730
what your school was like,
if you remember any friends

68
00:03:50,730 --> 00:03:52,470
or hobbies?

69
00:03:52,470 --> 00:03:56,060
I remember many things, yes.

70
00:03:56,060 --> 00:04:01,110
Elementary school was
run by a very good friend

71
00:04:01,110 --> 00:04:02,060
of the family's.

72

00:04:02,060 --> 00:04:02,700
OK.

73
00:04:02,700 --> 00:04:08,010
And Leo Portchtell his name was.

74
00:04:08,010 --> 00:04:10,170
And Henishtar was his wife.

75
00:04:10,170 --> 00:04:15,300
So I have very happy memories
of the first four years

76
00:04:15,300 --> 00:04:16,019
of schooling.

77
00:04:16,019 --> 00:04:19,800
The first four years were
elementary, public school.

78
00:04:19,800 --> 00:04:22,560
That was the norm in Germany.

79
00:04:22,560 --> 00:04:26,100
Then you could continue in
public school for another four

80
00:04:26,100 --> 00:04:29,800
years or you could go
to a private school.

81
00:04:29,800 --> 00:04:30,300
OK.

82
00:04:30,300 --> 00:04:33,420
So when I was 10, I went
to a private school.

83
00:04:33,420 --> 00:04:38,550
And, of course, Hitler--

84
00:04:38,550 --> 00:04:42,205

when I was 12, I was
kicked out of school.

85
00:04:42,205 --> 00:04:44,080
So that was what I was
going to ask you next.

86
00:04:44,080 --> 00:04:49,840
When did you first start to
feel a presence of antisemitism

87
00:04:49,840 --> 00:04:52,460
in your town?

88
00:04:52,460 --> 00:04:56,740
Certainly 1933.

89
00:04:56,740 --> 00:04:58,560
So you were already nine.

90
00:04:58,560 --> 00:05:00,210
Mm-hmm.

91
00:05:00,210 --> 00:05:02,530
And your brother was
how old, like 12?

92
00:05:02,530 --> 00:05:06,080
12, yes.

93
00:05:06,080 --> 00:05:13,410
And when I was 10, I
was then going-- at 10,

94
00:05:13,410 --> 00:05:15,940
you could go to high school.

95
00:05:15,940 --> 00:05:19,120
And I went to a Jewish
elementary school.

96
00:05:19,120 --> 00:05:25,300

And then when I was 10, I went
to high school in my town.

97
00:05:25,300 --> 00:05:31,500
And when I was 12,
they threw me out.

98
00:05:31,500 --> 00:05:34,350
They kicked all of the
Jews out of school.

99
00:05:34,350 --> 00:05:35,330
Hmm?

100
00:05:35,330 --> 00:05:39,020
They kicked all of the
Jews out of school.

101
00:05:39,020 --> 00:05:46,120
And before we get into
that, before you noticed

102
00:05:46,120 --> 00:05:50,440
the antisemitism, did
you feel any antisemitism

103
00:05:50,440 --> 00:05:55,480
between your non-Jewish
schoolmates before 1933?

104
00:05:55,480 --> 00:05:56,420
Not at all.

105
00:05:56,420 --> 00:05:59,770
So the Jews and the
non-Jews got along well?

106
00:05:59,770 --> 00:06:05,600
And when Hitler first came in
and things began to change,

107
00:06:05,600 --> 00:06:12,050
I used to get notes from

the girls in my class

108

00:06:12,050 --> 00:06:15,440

saying, dearest Susan,
I love you so much,

109

00:06:15,440 --> 00:06:18,090

but I can't talk to you anymore.

110

00:06:18,090 --> 00:06:23,960

And that was the
beginning of the end.

111

00:06:23,960 --> 00:06:27,250

How did-- do you remember what
you felt like at that time?

112

00:06:27,250 --> 00:06:27,750

Yes.

113

00:06:27,750 --> 00:06:30,570

114

00:06:30,570 --> 00:06:35,050

Well, it was interesting because
you have defense mechanisms.

115

00:06:35,050 --> 00:06:38,910

And so a good part
of me felt proud

116

00:06:38,910 --> 00:06:43,500

that I was a Jew and
despised these girls, who

117

00:06:43,500 --> 00:06:46,830

were so stupid and superficial.

118

00:06:46,830 --> 00:06:56,370

And so they threw me out
of school on Kristallnacht.

119

00:06:56,370 --> 00:06:59,640

The morning after,
I went to school.

120

00:06:59,640 --> 00:07:02,500

I had no idea that
anything had happened.

121

00:07:02,500 --> 00:07:05,610

122

00:07:05,610 --> 00:07:10,830

But the girls were, in my
class-- it was a girls' school.

123

00:07:10,830 --> 00:07:16,860

And they were jeering and
throwing paper balls at me

124

00:07:16,860 --> 00:07:18,270

and stuff like that.

125

00:07:18,270 --> 00:07:20,310

And told me that
when I came home,

126

00:07:20,310 --> 00:07:23,250

my house would be burned down.

127

00:07:23,250 --> 00:07:25,380

And so I left school.

128

00:07:25,380 --> 00:07:28,150

I ran out, ran home.

129

00:07:28,150 --> 00:07:31,200

And I remember my
father standing

130

00:07:31,200 --> 00:07:36,850

at the top of the stairs,
looking down at me

131

00:07:36,850 --> 00:07:39,730
as I was running up the stairs.

132

00:07:39,730 --> 00:07:46,550
And then he-- and he
was absolutely marvelous

133

00:07:46,550 --> 00:07:51,380
and helped both my mother and
me through these awful times.

134

00:07:51,380 --> 00:07:56,120
And that first night, the
Nazis came to our house,

135

00:07:56,120 --> 00:07:58,560
about a dozen of them.

136

00:07:58,560 --> 00:08:03,840
And they took me into my room.

137

00:08:03,840 --> 00:08:05,910
I had my own room.

138

00:08:05,910 --> 00:08:08,760
And so they took
me into that room.

139

00:08:08,760 --> 00:08:14,250
And they made me
stand against the wall

140

00:08:14,250 --> 00:08:19,020
and pulled out their revolvers.

141

00:08:19,020 --> 00:08:25,870
And said, where is your foreign
money and something else.

142

00:08:25,870 --> 00:08:28,030
I can't remember now.

143

00:08:28,030 --> 00:08:30,100

And I said, we don't have any.

144

00:08:30,100 --> 00:08:35,320

And they said if you don't
tell us, we'll count to three,

145

00:08:35,320 --> 00:08:38,320

and if you don't
tell us, we'll shoot.

146

00:08:38,320 --> 00:08:40,690

It's unforgettable, that.

147

00:08:40,690 --> 00:08:44,470

And I remember, I was standing
against the wall with my hands

148

00:08:44,470 --> 00:08:47,830

against-- the palm of my
hands against the wall.

149

00:08:47,830 --> 00:08:52,550

And they counted, 1, 2, 3.

150

00:08:52,550 --> 00:08:54,620

And, of course,
they didn't shoot.

151

00:08:54,620 --> 00:09:01,250

And eventually they left.

152

00:09:01,250 --> 00:09:04,270

And so your brother had been
sent at this point already.

153

00:09:04,270 --> 00:09:06,350

Yes, he was in
the United States.

154

00:09:06,350 --> 00:09:07,370

OK.

155
00:09:07,370 --> 00:09:11,720
And how did they
manage to get him out?

156
00:09:11,720 --> 00:09:14,120
Through the Jewish
Refugees Committee.

157
00:09:14,120 --> 00:09:14,780
OK.

158
00:09:14,780 --> 00:09:17,210
And what year was that
when he was sent to the US?

159
00:09:17,210 --> 00:09:19,340
He went in '37.

160
00:09:19,340 --> 00:09:23,180
OK, so your parents saw
that things were changing.

161
00:09:23,180 --> 00:09:24,320
Oh, yes.

162
00:09:24,320 --> 00:09:26,010
But they couldn't get out.

163
00:09:26,010 --> 00:09:28,860
Right, I see.

164
00:09:28,860 --> 00:09:33,250
My father was very well known
in that town where I grew up.

165
00:09:33,250 --> 00:09:36,220
And there was no way.

166
00:09:36,220 --> 00:09:40,660
What kind of things were
changing in those years?

167
00:09:40,660 --> 00:09:43,940
Well, for instance, we
had to close our business.

168
00:09:43,940 --> 00:09:46,600
We had this very large store.

169
00:09:46,600 --> 00:09:49,070
And we had to--

170
00:09:49,070 --> 00:09:51,070
it was an [SPEAKING GERMAN].

171
00:09:51,070 --> 00:09:52,930
You don't speak German, no?

172
00:09:52,930 --> 00:09:56,650
[SPEAKING GERMAN] is when you
sell out, you sell everything.

173
00:09:56,650 --> 00:09:57,730
You liquidate the store.

174
00:09:57,730 --> 00:09:59,730
Liquidate, yeah.

175
00:09:59,730 --> 00:10:03,300
And did you have to wear a
yellow star at that point?

176
00:10:03,300 --> 00:10:03,930
No.

177
00:10:03,930 --> 00:10:06,080
No.

178
00:10:06,080 --> 00:10:09,410
Did I ever wear one?

179
00:10:09,410 --> 00:10:11,370

Isn't that interesting,
I'm not quite sure.

180
00:10:11,370 --> 00:10:15,760

181
00:10:15,760 --> 00:10:17,820
But you were kicked
out of school.

182
00:10:17,820 --> 00:10:20,380
And your father's
business had to close.

183
00:10:20,380 --> 00:10:22,470
And yeah, we closed
the business.

184
00:10:22,470 --> 00:10:30,380
And yeah, then Jews
couldn't go to the movies.

185
00:10:30,380 --> 00:10:31,590
Everything stopped.

186
00:10:31,590 --> 00:10:36,290
Any kind of recreational
activity, we were barred from.

187
00:10:36,290 --> 00:10:36,800
Right.

188
00:10:36,800 --> 00:10:44,510
And so the elementary
school that I went to,

189
00:10:44,510 --> 00:10:48,140
which was headed by a
friend of our family,

190
00:10:48,140 --> 00:10:53,390
they took us in, even
though we were too old

191
00:10:53,390 --> 00:10:55,580
for elementary school.

192
00:10:55,580 --> 00:11:01,200
So I went until shortly
before I left for England.

193
00:11:01,200 --> 00:11:06,086
I went to that school
just to sort of--

194
00:11:06,086 --> 00:11:09,470
he was wonderful, the man.

195
00:11:09,470 --> 00:11:17,330
He sort of managed to
teach us appropriately,

196
00:11:17,330 --> 00:11:18,770
in terms of our age.

197
00:11:18,770 --> 00:11:21,190
So the school was still
open, that lower school?

198
00:11:21,190 --> 00:11:23,090
That school, it was
still open, yeah.

199
00:11:23,090 --> 00:11:23,590
OK.

200
00:11:23,590 --> 00:11:26,990

201
00:11:26,990 --> 00:11:30,860
So your parents decided
to send your brother off.

202
00:11:30,860 --> 00:11:32,870
The night of

Kristallnacht comes.

203

00:11:32,870 --> 00:11:34,970

You come home from school.

204

00:11:34,970 --> 00:11:37,380

The Germans come to your home.

205

00:11:37,380 --> 00:11:39,188

They eventually left.

206

00:11:39,188 --> 00:11:39,980

Then what happened?

207

00:11:39,980 --> 00:11:41,910

Yeah, they ransacked the place.

208

00:11:41,910 --> 00:11:42,410

OK.

209

00:11:42,410 --> 00:11:44,750

It was the November 9th.

210

00:11:44,750 --> 00:11:45,660

Kristallnacht, right.

211

00:11:45,660 --> 00:11:48,690

212

00:11:48,690 --> 00:11:50,820

And then they left and,
of course, the business

213

00:11:50,820 --> 00:11:51,670

was closed.

214

00:11:51,670 --> 00:11:57,480

But we were still
comfortable financially.

215

00:11:57,480 --> 00:12:00,190

OK.

216

00:12:00,190 --> 00:12:04,205

And my parents only wanted
the kids to get out.

217

00:12:04,205 --> 00:12:05,360

OK.

218

00:12:05,360 --> 00:12:10,870

And so when I went to England,
I tried very hard to get them.

219

00:12:10,870 --> 00:12:12,430

I got an affidavit.

220

00:12:12,430 --> 00:12:14,080

I was able to do
all those things.

221

00:12:14,080 --> 00:12:17,980

But then the war broke out
three months after I got there.

222

00:12:17,980 --> 00:12:21,130

Well, first tell me
about how it is you--

223

00:12:21,130 --> 00:12:24,160

how is it that your
parents set you up to go

224

00:12:24,160 --> 00:12:27,470

on a Kindertransport?

225

00:12:27,470 --> 00:12:28,340

How they did it?

226

00:12:28,340 --> 00:12:29,090

Right.

227

00:12:29,090 --> 00:12:32,810

Through the synagogue too.

228

00:12:32,810 --> 00:12:37,330

There were ways of doing that.

229

00:12:37,330 --> 00:12:39,470

And this was in what year?

230

00:12:39,470 --> 00:12:44,060

I left Germany in '39.

231

00:12:44,060 --> 00:12:47,000

OK, and do you remember
the day you left?

232

00:12:47,000 --> 00:12:47,900

Yes.

233

00:12:47,900 --> 00:12:49,210

Can you tell me about that?

234

00:12:49,210 --> 00:12:51,880

Yeah.

235

00:12:51,880 --> 00:12:57,100

We got up terribly early,
like 4 o'clock in the morning.

236

00:12:57,100 --> 00:13:01,120

And my parents-- my brother
was in the United States.

237

00:13:01,120 --> 00:13:06,880

But my parents took us--
took me to Dusseldorf,

238

00:13:06,880 --> 00:13:09,730

which is a major city.

239

00:13:09,730 --> 00:13:15,530

And from there, there
was a train to Rotterdam.

240
00:13:15,530 --> 00:13:18,560
And that was the train I took.

241
00:13:18,560 --> 00:13:26,530
So I said goodbye to them at
the station in Dusseldorf.

242
00:13:26,530 --> 00:13:30,950
And I remember, we hugged.

243
00:13:30,950 --> 00:13:36,480
And I started to move away.

244
00:13:36,480 --> 00:13:40,290
And then suddenly,
I couldn't do it.

245
00:13:40,290 --> 00:13:42,360
I turned around and
they was standing there.

246
00:13:42,360 --> 00:13:43,350
And I ran back.

247
00:13:43,350 --> 00:13:47,940
And I said, I can't
go, I can't go.

248
00:13:47,940 --> 00:13:55,500
And my father, in his inimitable
way, persuaded me to go.

249
00:13:55,500 --> 00:13:58,950
So I remember that last look.

250
00:13:58,950 --> 00:14:02,390

251
00:14:02,390 --> 00:14:03,940
I think I wrote about it.

252

00:14:03,940 --> 00:14:05,920

Yeah, I think I was sorry.

253

00:14:05,920 --> 00:14:12,510

254

00:14:12,510 --> 00:14:16,700

Were you with other
children that you knew?

255

00:14:16,700 --> 00:14:18,260

No, nobody interesting.

256

00:14:18,260 --> 00:14:19,190

Nobody I knew.

257

00:14:19,190 --> 00:14:22,160

Many, many children.

258

00:14:22,160 --> 00:14:24,350

To me, it was like
hundreds of children.

259

00:14:24,350 --> 00:14:27,770

I'm not sure just how-- but
there were a lot of kids.

260

00:14:27,770 --> 00:14:35,480

And pretty much between
the ages of seven and 14.

261

00:14:35,480 --> 00:14:41,360

And so we went to
Rotterdam and then we-

262

00:14:41,360 --> 00:14:46,160

I remember we walked
for a very long time.

263

00:14:46,160 --> 00:14:52,260

And I had a suitcase, an
attache case, and a rucksack

264
00:14:52,260 --> 00:14:53,700
on my back.

265
00:14:53,700 --> 00:14:56,160
And we walk through
Rotterdam endlessly.

266
00:14:56,160 --> 00:14:59,160
And went into a children's
home eventually,

267
00:14:59,160 --> 00:15:03,660
where we stayed until
close to midnight.

268
00:15:03,660 --> 00:15:06,990
And then we took
the boat to England.

269
00:15:06,990 --> 00:15:12,240
And well, we arrived
at 6:00 in the morning.

270
00:15:12,240 --> 00:15:16,020
Did you know where you
were going at the time?

271
00:15:16,020 --> 00:15:17,430
I knew the names.

272
00:15:17,430 --> 00:15:20,400
I knew-- no, they
were strangers.

273
00:15:20,400 --> 00:15:24,160
And were there adults who
were looking after you,

274
00:15:24,160 --> 00:15:25,410
who were supervising the trip?

275

00:15:25,410 --> 00:15:28,920
Of course, yeah.

276
00:15:28,920 --> 00:15:31,290
They were both 35 years old.

277
00:15:31,290 --> 00:15:35,240
And were they from a
specific organization?

278
00:15:35,240 --> 00:15:39,540
Well, she was very religious.

279
00:15:39,540 --> 00:15:40,350
He was not.

280
00:15:40,350 --> 00:15:44,160
Though he had a father who
was really quite famous.

281
00:15:44,160 --> 00:15:45,940
Gastar, the name was Gastar.

282
00:15:45,940 --> 00:15:48,360
I don't know whether
it rings a bell.

283
00:15:48,360 --> 00:15:51,330
But he was a philosopher,
a Jewish philosopher.

284
00:15:51,330 --> 00:15:55,020
And he had 14 children.

285
00:15:55,020 --> 00:15:57,190
And I came to one
of those children.

286
00:15:57,190 --> 00:15:59,190
Right, so you're
talking about the family

287

00:15:59,190 --> 00:16:01,810
that you came to in England.

288
00:16:01,810 --> 00:16:03,900
I'm talking about
during the trip,

289
00:16:03,900 --> 00:16:06,570
before you got to England.

290
00:16:06,570 --> 00:16:10,080
Were there any adults who
were helping the children

291
00:16:10,080 --> 00:16:11,340
with the transport?

292
00:16:11,340 --> 00:16:15,250

293
00:16:15,250 --> 00:16:16,030
Peripherally.

294
00:16:16,030 --> 00:16:19,190

295
00:16:19,190 --> 00:16:20,750
There was no--

296
00:16:20,750 --> 00:16:25,220
I don't remember anything
affectionate or kind.

297
00:16:25,220 --> 00:16:27,770
It was just business.

298
00:16:27,770 --> 00:16:31,970
And do you remember
what agency helped you?

299
00:16:31,970 --> 00:16:33,680
The Jewish Refugees Committee.

300

00:16:33,680 --> 00:16:36,890

The Jewish Refugees
Committee, OK.

301

00:16:36,890 --> 00:16:41,980

And you were with approximately
how many other children?

302

00:16:41,980 --> 00:16:43,510

Maybe 30.

303

00:16:43,510 --> 00:16:44,830

OK.

304

00:16:44,830 --> 00:16:46,390

But you didn't know any of them.

305

00:16:46,390 --> 00:16:47,380

No.

306

00:16:47,380 --> 00:16:51,580

So you were 10 years old?

307

00:16:51,580 --> 00:16:55,272

No, no, no, I was 14.

308

00:16:55,272 --> 00:16:56,230

Oh right, you had left.

309

00:16:56,230 --> 00:16:58,330

OK, so you were 14 years old.

310

00:16:58,330 --> 00:17:02,172

And you were getting on a
train and leaving your parents

311

00:17:02,172 --> 00:17:03,880

and leaving your home
for the first time.

312

00:17:03,880 --> 00:17:05,530
Never to see them again.

313
00:17:05,530 --> 00:17:08,089
Wow.

314
00:17:08,089 --> 00:17:10,640
When you left, though,
did you feel like you

315
00:17:10,640 --> 00:17:14,160
were going to see them again?

316
00:17:14,160 --> 00:17:19,407
No, I felt that I
wouldn't see them again.

317
00:17:19,407 --> 00:17:21,240
Because you knew enough,
you were old enough

318
00:17:21,240 --> 00:17:24,950
to understand what was going on.

319
00:17:24,950 --> 00:17:27,839
Oh, yes.

320
00:17:27,839 --> 00:17:31,950
And during those last few
years before you left,

321
00:17:31,950 --> 00:17:34,140
you still been
living in your home?

322
00:17:34,140 --> 00:17:34,740
Yes.

323
00:17:34,740 --> 00:17:35,490
OK.

324
00:17:35,490 --> 00:17:36,760

Though we gave up--

325

00:17:36,760 --> 00:17:38,220
we had this huge house.

326

00:17:38,220 --> 00:17:41,460
And my father gave
up the business,

327

00:17:41,460 --> 00:17:45,810
which was part of the
house, the ground floor.

328

00:17:45,810 --> 00:17:50,130
And then there were three
floors above it, where we lived.

329

00:17:50,130 --> 00:17:54,080
And where was I--

330

00:17:54,080 --> 00:17:55,490
I don't know.

331

00:17:55,490 --> 00:18:00,470
So you were telling me, so
you were on the transport.

332

00:18:00,470 --> 00:18:06,200
First, you went on a
train from Dusseldorf.

333

00:18:06,200 --> 00:18:08,390
And then you arrived in--

334

00:18:08,390 --> 00:18:09,140
what was the city?

335

00:18:09,140 --> 00:18:12,490
Well, then I was on the train.

336

00:18:12,490 --> 00:18:14,470
Then we went to Holland.

337
00:18:14,470 --> 00:18:18,922
And I remember eating supper
in Holland, in Rotterdam.

338
00:18:18,922 --> 00:18:19,630
Rotterdam, right.

339
00:18:19,630 --> 00:18:20,920
And then we went back.

340
00:18:20,920 --> 00:18:22,570
It was evening.

341
00:18:22,570 --> 00:18:27,520
And we took the boat to--

342
00:18:27,520 --> 00:18:29,440
from Holland we took the boat.

343
00:18:29,440 --> 00:18:34,360
And we went to
Harwich on the west--

344
00:18:34,360 --> 00:18:36,730
on the east coast of England.

345
00:18:36,730 --> 00:18:42,260
And we arrived in Harwich--

346
00:18:42,260 --> 00:18:45,140

347
00:18:45,140 --> 00:18:49,480
oh, at about noon, I think.

348
00:18:49,480 --> 00:18:56,560
And here were all these
children waiting to be placed.

349
00:18:56,560 --> 00:18:59,410

And, of course, I
was one of them.

350
00:18:59,410 --> 00:19:05,620
And I remember-- oh,
yeah, they put us--

351
00:19:05,620 --> 00:19:09,940
somebody put me on a train
to the city where they lived,

352
00:19:09,940 --> 00:19:12,260
the couple who took me in.

353
00:19:12,260 --> 00:19:15,810
And I remember getting--

354
00:19:15,810 --> 00:19:18,785
we arrived there at about
10 o'clock at night.

355
00:19:18,785 --> 00:19:22,290
I hadn't slept for
two nights by then.

356
00:19:22,290 --> 00:19:25,650
And I remember
getting off the train.

357
00:19:25,650 --> 00:19:26,640
It was dark.

358
00:19:26,640 --> 00:19:32,340
And there were little lights,
red lights, yellow lights.

359
00:19:32,340 --> 00:19:35,340
And I stood on the platform.

360
00:19:35,340 --> 00:19:37,710
I didn't know what to do.

361

00:19:37,710 --> 00:19:43,100
And suddenly, there appeared
a shape out of the dark.

362
00:19:43,100 --> 00:19:51,010
And a man's voice said,
I am Uncle Michael.

363
00:19:51,010 --> 00:19:53,510
I've come to greet
you-- in German.

364
00:19:53,510 --> 00:19:55,420
He did it in German.

365
00:19:55,420 --> 00:19:59,440
And they were
fabulous, both of them.

366
00:19:59,440 --> 00:20:01,810
They didn't have children.

367
00:20:01,810 --> 00:20:03,760
And she didn't want to adopt.

368
00:20:03,760 --> 00:20:08,920
So they decided to
take a refugee child.

369
00:20:08,920 --> 00:20:13,430
And that they wouldn't get that
attached to the child that's

370
00:20:13,430 --> 00:20:15,870
on its way to America.

371
00:20:15,870 --> 00:20:20,750
Of course, they became very
attached and I did too.

372
00:20:20,750 --> 00:20:24,385
And we were in touch
always, until they died.

373
00:20:24,385 --> 00:20:27,100

374
00:20:27,100 --> 00:20:28,740
What was it like
living with them?

375
00:20:28,740 --> 00:20:29,240
Hmm?

376
00:20:29,240 --> 00:20:31,690
What was it like
living with them?

377
00:20:31,690 --> 00:20:33,610
I didn't live with
them very long.

378
00:20:33,610 --> 00:20:35,890
The war broke out.

379
00:20:35,890 --> 00:20:38,350
I was enrolled in a high school.

380
00:20:38,350 --> 00:20:42,580
I learned English very quickly.

381
00:20:42,580 --> 00:20:47,240
And three months after
that, the war broke out.

382
00:20:47,240 --> 00:20:49,450
And I was evacuated.

383
00:20:49,450 --> 00:20:53,710
So I only lived with
them for three months.

384
00:20:53,710 --> 00:20:55,720
But all my vacations,
I would always

385
00:20:55,720 --> 00:20:59,650
come back to their house.

386
00:20:59,650 --> 00:21:02,710
So where were you evacuated to?

387
00:21:02,710 --> 00:21:05,050
The first year, to
Scarborough, which

388
00:21:05,050 --> 00:21:11,965
is on the east coast of
England, a beautiful sea resort.

389
00:21:11,965 --> 00:21:14,800

390
00:21:14,800 --> 00:21:19,790
It was really a pleasure
place, fabulous place.

391
00:21:19,790 --> 00:21:23,190
And in a boarding school.

392
00:21:23,190 --> 00:21:25,760
It was in a boarding school.

393
00:21:25,760 --> 00:21:27,530
We were there for
one year and then

394
00:21:27,530 --> 00:21:34,080
we were sent to the Lake
District, also very beautiful.

395
00:21:34,080 --> 00:21:35,750
And I had another year there.

396
00:21:35,750 --> 00:21:38,060
And then I graduated
high school.

397

00:21:38,060 --> 00:21:40,660

Were you in touch with your
parents during this time?

398

00:21:40,660 --> 00:21:43,340

399

00:21:43,340 --> 00:21:45,570

I was in touch with them.

400

00:21:45,570 --> 00:21:50,430

The only thing that
I could do, I wrote,

401

00:21:50,430 --> 00:21:52,950

I think it was 13 letters.

402

00:21:52,950 --> 00:21:55,540

And then I couldn't
write letters anymore.

403

00:21:55,540 --> 00:21:57,750

They wouldn't allow it.

404

00:21:57,750 --> 00:22:03,540

But I could write messages,
30 words in a message.

405

00:22:03,540 --> 00:22:06,360

And I would do that as
often as they let me.

406

00:22:06,360 --> 00:22:07,750

Who would transmit the messages?

407

00:22:07,750 --> 00:22:08,340

Hmm?

408

00:22:08,340 --> 00:22:12,030

Who would send the
messages for you?

409

00:22:12,030 --> 00:22:14,520

The people I lived with.

410

00:22:14,520 --> 00:22:15,180

They took care.

411

00:22:15,180 --> 00:22:16,530

I don't remember at all.

412

00:22:16,530 --> 00:22:18,150

They must have taken care of it.

413

00:22:18,150 --> 00:22:19,860

And did you receive
correspondence back

414

00:22:19,860 --> 00:22:20,610

from your parents?

415

00:22:20,610 --> 00:22:21,930

Yes, just 30 words.

416

00:22:21,930 --> 00:22:23,970

That was always--

417

00:22:23,970 --> 00:22:27,290

And what kinds of
things did they say?

418

00:22:27,290 --> 00:22:30,110

Happy things always, you know.

419

00:22:30,110 --> 00:22:31,625

And always, be good.

420

00:22:31,625 --> 00:22:34,910

421

00:22:34,910 --> 00:22:36,970

When did those

communications stop?

422

00:22:36,970 --> 00:22:39,616

423

00:22:39,616 --> 00:22:41,530

The war broke out in '39--

424

00:22:41,530 --> 00:22:45,210

425

00:22:45,210 --> 00:22:46,998

in '40.

426

00:22:46,998 --> 00:22:47,814

In '40.

427

00:22:47,814 --> 00:22:48,630

Mm-hmm.

428

00:22:48,630 --> 00:22:51,030

And you know what
happened to them?

429

00:22:51,030 --> 00:22:55,650

Yeah, they were sent
to concentration camp.

430

00:22:55,650 --> 00:22:58,870

They went to--

431

00:22:58,870 --> 00:23:02,040

I know from a girlfriend
of mine, who was in Germany

432

00:23:02,040 --> 00:23:02,850

and survived.

433

00:23:02,850 --> 00:23:04,980

And so she knew all this.

434

00:23:04,980 --> 00:23:12,630
And the place was Lublin,
it's become Lublin,

435
00:23:12,630 --> 00:23:14,760
where I don't think
there was a single--

436
00:23:14,760 --> 00:23:16,485
there was one survivor, I think.

437
00:23:16,485 --> 00:23:21,180

438
00:23:21,180 --> 00:23:22,050
And they vanished.

439
00:23:22,050 --> 00:23:25,450

440
00:23:25,450 --> 00:23:29,890
Did you ever receive
confirmation of their death

441
00:23:29,890 --> 00:23:31,930
from any organization?

442
00:23:31,930 --> 00:23:34,570
So what you know is
from your girlfriend?

443
00:23:34,570 --> 00:23:39,940
Exactly, she got
some mail from them.

444
00:23:39,940 --> 00:23:42,790
But no, it's just
they disappeared.

445
00:23:42,790 --> 00:23:47,010
And you found it after the war.

446

00:23:47,010 --> 00:23:49,440
But I knew.

447
00:23:49,440 --> 00:23:52,790
I really knew.

448
00:23:52,790 --> 00:23:56,208
And were you in touch with
your brother during this time?

449
00:23:56,208 --> 00:23:57,750
Yeah, I was always
in touch with him.

450
00:23:57,750 --> 00:24:02,810
Then he went into the army
when the war broke out.

451
00:24:02,810 --> 00:24:07,310
And was stationed in England
for a while, so I saw him.

452
00:24:07,310 --> 00:24:08,450
Oh, wow, OK.

453
00:24:08,450 --> 00:24:12,820

454
00:24:12,820 --> 00:24:14,950
And then I think I
came to the States

455
00:24:14,950 --> 00:24:17,990
just a little bit
before he came back.

456
00:24:17,990 --> 00:24:21,160
Wait, so what happened once
you graduated high school?

457
00:24:21,160 --> 00:24:24,400
You were at the resort
area for a year.

458
00:24:24,400 --> 00:24:28,150
You were at another
place for a year.

459
00:24:28,150 --> 00:24:33,310
Well, when I was
17, school was over.

460
00:24:33,310 --> 00:24:35,080
I graduated high school.

461
00:24:35,080 --> 00:24:42,100
And I decided that I
wanted to be independent.

462
00:24:42,100 --> 00:24:47,930
I felt-- from my parents I could
have taken anything forever

463
00:24:47,930 --> 00:24:53,240
without batting an eyelash,
but it was different.

464
00:24:53,240 --> 00:24:56,470
I loved the two of them.

465
00:24:56,470 --> 00:24:58,850
But I didn't want
to be dependent.

466
00:24:58,850 --> 00:25:00,580
I wanted to be independent.

467
00:25:00,580 --> 00:25:07,330
So when I was 17, I went
to London and I got a job.

468
00:25:07,330 --> 00:25:10,970
It was called-- I was a runner.

469
00:25:10,970 --> 00:25:13,240

It was the messenger.

470

00:25:13,240 --> 00:25:15,220

I was called a runner.

471

00:25:15,220 --> 00:25:17,090

Because I had no
skills whatsoever.

472

00:25:17,090 --> 00:25:18,880

I had a high school diploma.

473

00:25:18,880 --> 00:25:29,390

And so I-- what
happened then, yeah,

474

00:25:29,390 --> 00:25:33,320

at Bloomsbury House, the
Jewish Refugees Committee.

475

00:25:33,320 --> 00:25:38,210

And then from there, by the
time I left for the States,

476

00:25:38,210 --> 00:25:43,390

I was promoted to head
of a department there.

477

00:25:43,390 --> 00:25:43,940

Oh, wow.

478

00:25:43,940 --> 00:25:44,440

OK.

479

00:25:44,440 --> 00:25:46,530

It was the relocation
department.

480

00:25:46,530 --> 00:25:47,890

OK.

481

00:25:47,890 --> 00:25:55,800

And in 1945, I guess, I
went to United States.

482
00:25:55,800 --> 00:25:57,900
And you were in touch
with your brother.

483
00:25:57,900 --> 00:26:00,960
And he, you said, was
coming to England.

484
00:26:00,960 --> 00:26:02,380
He came to England.

485
00:26:02,380 --> 00:26:03,720
I saw him.

486
00:26:03,720 --> 00:26:08,370
He and I, we loved
each other, but we

487
00:26:08,370 --> 00:26:10,140
were very different in our--

488
00:26:10,140 --> 00:26:17,090

489
00:26:17,090 --> 00:26:20,870
our sense of the world was
very oppositional then.

490
00:26:20,870 --> 00:26:22,040
OK.

491
00:26:22,040 --> 00:26:26,940
And he was a big,
bigot, which really

492
00:26:26,940 --> 00:26:28,650
hurt the relationship a lot.

493
00:26:28,650 --> 00:26:32,340

494
00:26:32,340 --> 00:26:39,110
But he-- what can I say?

495
00:26:39,110 --> 00:26:41,080
It's all a long time ago.

496
00:26:41,080 --> 00:26:43,120
So you came to America.

497
00:26:43,120 --> 00:26:45,253
And where did you--

498
00:26:45,253 --> 00:26:46,170
how did you get there?

499
00:26:46,170 --> 00:26:50,070

500
00:26:50,070 --> 00:26:52,780
How did I get there?

501
00:26:52,780 --> 00:26:56,670
I worked for the Jewish
Refugees Committee.

502
00:26:56,670 --> 00:27:02,610
And I contacted the American
Distribution Committee

503
00:27:02,610 --> 00:27:04,600
in New York.

504
00:27:04,600 --> 00:27:12,590
And through them, they
sort of requested me.

505
00:27:12,590 --> 00:27:15,740
They asked for permission to
bring me to the United States.

506

00:27:15,740 --> 00:27:17,800

So I did, right after the war.

507

00:27:17,800 --> 00:27:21,440

508

00:27:21,440 --> 00:27:21,940

and

509

00:27:21,940 --> 00:27:23,770

Did you come by boat?

510

00:27:23,770 --> 00:27:25,390

Yes.

511

00:27:25,390 --> 00:27:28,180

Yes, I went by boat.

512

00:27:28,180 --> 00:27:32,546

And it found-- it was--

513

00:27:32,546 --> 00:27:36,920

I had a very good childhood
friend who lived in Chicago.

514

00:27:36,920 --> 00:27:40,280

And I told her to come to
New York when I arrived.

515

00:27:40,280 --> 00:27:42,650

And I was taking care
of all the expenses.

516

00:27:42,650 --> 00:27:44,240

I'd saved money.

517

00:27:44,240 --> 00:27:48,275

And so I booked a room
at the St. Moritz Hotel.

518

00:27:48,275 --> 00:27:51,230

519
00:27:51,230 --> 00:27:53,000
And there we met.

520
00:27:53,000 --> 00:27:56,420
And she stayed
with me for a week.

521
00:27:56,420 --> 00:28:01,970
And I found a room during that
time that I could move into.

522
00:28:01,970 --> 00:28:07,370
And then I went to the
Joint Distribution Committee

523
00:28:07,370 --> 00:28:09,410
and said, here I am.

524
00:28:09,410 --> 00:28:11,100
And they hired me.

525
00:28:11,100 --> 00:28:14,540
And so I was there for a
while, but not for that long,

526
00:28:14,540 --> 00:28:17,180
because I wanted to
go to into theater.

527
00:28:17,180 --> 00:28:18,410
OK.

528
00:28:18,410 --> 00:28:21,940
So I auditioned.

529
00:28:21,940 --> 00:28:23,840
There was a school in New York.

530
00:28:23,840 --> 00:28:27,620
It was called The Dramatic

Workshop of the New School

531

00:28:27,620 --> 00:28:29,810
for Social Research.

532

00:28:29,810 --> 00:28:32,720
And it was attached
to the New School.

533

00:28:32,720 --> 00:28:35,170
And the head of it
was a man called

534

00:28:35,170 --> 00:28:39,950
Erwin Piscator, who was
a very, very famous stage

535

00:28:39,950 --> 00:28:41,420
director in Germany.

536

00:28:41,420 --> 00:28:42,140
OK.

537

00:28:42,140 --> 00:28:44,480
He was not Jewish,
but politically he

538

00:28:44,480 --> 00:28:48,320
was so opposed to Hitler, he
had to get out of the country.

539

00:28:48,320 --> 00:28:48,860
OK.

540

00:28:48,860 --> 00:28:51,470
And he opened a school here.

541

00:28:51,470 --> 00:28:58,070
And I asked for an
audition because I

542

00:28:58,070 --> 00:29:00,210

couldn't afford to pay.

543

00:29:00,210 --> 00:29:01,680

So he gave me a scholarship.

544

00:29:01,680 --> 00:29:03,530

I auditioned.

545

00:29:03,530 --> 00:29:07,280

And he was wonderful.

546

00:29:07,280 --> 00:29:14,430

And so I stayed for
a year and worked

547

00:29:14,430 --> 00:29:15,645

for a Jewish organization--

548

00:29:15,645 --> 00:29:18,270

I can't remember their name--

549

00:29:18,270 --> 00:29:19,150

on the side.

550

00:29:19,150 --> 00:29:20,830

I did both.

551

00:29:20,830 --> 00:29:26,620

And then I had my own apartment.

552

00:29:26,620 --> 00:29:28,440

And from there, I took off.

553

00:29:28,440 --> 00:29:31,670

554

00:29:31,670 --> 00:29:34,780

What did I do?

555

00:29:34,780 --> 00:29:39,510

I did quite a bit of

theater, yeah, on Broadway,

556

00:29:39,510 --> 00:29:41,090
off Broadway.

557

00:29:41,090 --> 00:29:43,460
That's wonderful.

558

00:29:43,460 --> 00:29:44,420
Yes.

559

00:29:44,420 --> 00:29:46,760
That's how I met
my husband, yes.

560

00:29:46,760 --> 00:29:48,650
I got you.

561

00:29:48,650 --> 00:29:50,540
So he was American.

562

00:29:50,540 --> 00:30:00,920
Yes, he was an American,
second generation I think.

563

00:30:00,920 --> 00:30:03,410
And we were married
for 60 years.

564

00:30:03,410 --> 00:30:05,680
Wow.

565

00:30:05,680 --> 00:30:10,830
And did you continue to
practice Judaism after the war?

566

00:30:10,830 --> 00:30:15,290

567

00:30:15,290 --> 00:30:18,560
Now, I remember-- when was it?

568

00:30:18,560 --> 00:30:20,960

That's hard to remember.

569

00:30:20,960 --> 00:30:26,210

I was in Wales, vacationing.

570

00:30:26,210 --> 00:30:29,360

And I was walking
through the hills

571

00:30:29,360 --> 00:30:40,580

all by myself in this
wonderful sort of mountain

572

00:30:40,580 --> 00:30:43,880

and wonderful forest.

573

00:30:43,880 --> 00:30:47,600

And it's funny, all of
a sudden I stood still.

574

00:30:47,600 --> 00:30:50,260

575

00:30:50,260 --> 00:30:54,600

And it was the
silence around me.

576

00:30:54,600 --> 00:30:58,080

And that at that
moment, I said, I

577

00:30:58,080 --> 00:30:59,665

don't believe in
this any longer.

578

00:30:59,665 --> 00:31:02,420

579

00:31:02,420 --> 00:31:06,268

And that was it.

580

00:31:06,268 --> 00:31:08,610

And your husband wasn't Jewish.

581

00:31:08,610 --> 00:31:09,110

Hmm?

582

00:31:09,110 --> 00:31:10,470

Your husband wasn't Jewish?

583

00:31:10,470 --> 00:31:11,017

Yes, he was.

584

00:31:11,017 --> 00:31:11,600

He was Jewish.

585

00:31:11,600 --> 00:31:12,100

OK.

586

00:31:12,100 --> 00:31:15,020

Oh, I couldn't-- I don't think

I could have married a non-Jew.

587

00:31:15,020 --> 00:31:20,000

588

00:31:20,000 --> 00:31:22,460

But you didn't practice

once you were married?

589

00:31:22,460 --> 00:31:23,570

No.

590

00:31:23,570 --> 00:31:25,620

We got married in a synagogue.

591

00:31:25,620 --> 00:31:26,120

Why?

592

00:31:26,120 --> 00:31:30,560

Because he said my grandmother

would never forgive me.

593
00:31:30,560 --> 00:31:32,990
We need to show her pictures.

594
00:31:32,990 --> 00:31:34,830
So we did.

595
00:31:34,830 --> 00:31:35,790
But we were not--

596
00:31:35,790 --> 00:31:41,180

597
00:31:41,180 --> 00:31:43,880
no longer, traditionally.

598
00:31:43,880 --> 00:31:47,740

599
00:31:47,740 --> 00:31:50,710
Do you think that your
experiences, losing

600
00:31:50,710 --> 00:31:55,260
your parents at such
a young age, and all

601
00:31:55,260 --> 00:31:58,440
that happened to you, was
part of the reason why

602
00:31:58,440 --> 00:32:01,850
you didn't want to be a
practicing Jew any longer?

603
00:32:01,850 --> 00:32:05,510

604
00:32:05,510 --> 00:32:08,360
I remained a Jew,
not a practicing Jew,

605

00:32:08,360 --> 00:32:10,400

but very much a Jew.

606

00:32:10,400 --> 00:32:14,500

And I don't know.

607

00:32:14,500 --> 00:32:15,570

I really don't know.

608

00:32:15,570 --> 00:32:19,620

609

00:32:19,620 --> 00:32:23,270

And did you continue to be
in touch with your brother

610

00:32:23,270 --> 00:32:26,090

once you were here?

611

00:32:26,090 --> 00:32:32,360

I came to the United
States in 1946.

612

00:32:32,360 --> 00:32:36,710

And he was in Boston.

613

00:32:36,710 --> 00:32:39,310

614

00:32:39,310 --> 00:32:41,890

And he wanted me to come
and live with him in Boston.

615

00:32:41,890 --> 00:32:43,010

And I said, no.

616

00:32:43,010 --> 00:32:45,050

I stayed in New York.

617

00:32:45,050 --> 00:32:52,300

And that's where I met Lester,

my husband in acting school.

618

00:32:52,300 --> 00:32:56,170

And we-- so we got married.

619

00:32:56,170 --> 00:32:59,170

I came to the United

States in '46.

620

00:32:59,170 --> 00:32:59,980

And in '48--

621

00:32:59,980 --> 00:33:02,650

622

00:33:02,650 --> 00:33:03,470

You were married.

623

00:33:03,470 --> 00:33:07,010

We were married, yes.

624

00:33:07,010 --> 00:33:08,460

And where did you live together?

625

00:33:08,460 --> 00:33:08,960

Hmm?

626

00:33:08,960 --> 00:33:11,270

Where did you live?

627

00:33:11,270 --> 00:33:16,440

We lived-- the first place

we ever lived was wonderful.

628

00:33:16,440 --> 00:33:19,900

It was at 50 Grand Street.

629

00:33:19,900 --> 00:33:21,400

Do you know where

that is, downtown?

630

00:33:21,400 --> 00:33:22,608
Yeah, on the Lower East Side.

631
00:33:22,608 --> 00:33:23,480
Yes.

632
00:33:23,480 --> 00:33:28,100
And we-- there were a bunch of
actors who found this building.

633
00:33:28,100 --> 00:33:30,000
We were among them.

634
00:33:30,000 --> 00:33:32,090
And it was empty.

635
00:33:32,090 --> 00:33:36,360
It was totally-- you couldn't--

636
00:33:36,360 --> 00:33:40,100
it was uninhabitable.

637
00:33:40,100 --> 00:33:41,750
And we took it on.

638
00:33:41,750 --> 00:33:43,730
And we renovated it.

639
00:33:43,730 --> 00:33:46,250
We worked like dogs.

640
00:33:46,250 --> 00:33:47,720
And we lived there.

641
00:33:47,720 --> 00:33:49,040
And we lived there--

642
00:33:49,040 --> 00:33:50,910
\$25 a month.

643
00:33:50,910 --> 00:33:51,410

Wow.

644

00:33:51,410 --> 00:33:53,930

645

00:33:53,930 --> 00:33:55,510

But you couldn't stay there.

646

00:33:55,510 --> 00:33:56,760

You stayed there for how long?

647

00:33:56,760 --> 00:34:00,240

648

00:34:00,240 --> 00:34:02,790

Several years.

649

00:34:02,790 --> 00:34:04,030

We loved it.

650

00:34:04,030 --> 00:34:07,020

We had a wonderful
time there, yes.

651

00:34:07,020 --> 00:34:11,429

And then we moved
to 46th Street.

652

00:34:11,429 --> 00:34:16,630

And then we moved
to Brooklyn Heights.

653

00:34:16,630 --> 00:34:20,710

That's where my
daughter was born.

654

00:34:20,710 --> 00:34:22,330

What year was that?

655

00:34:22,330 --> 00:34:27,610

1960.

656

00:34:27,610 --> 00:34:32,389

Late-- we were married for many
years before we had a child.

657

00:34:32,389 --> 00:34:39,195

And Lisa died when she was 40.

658

00:34:39,195 --> 00:34:40,185

I'm sorry.

659

00:34:40,185 --> 00:34:45,139

660

00:34:45,139 --> 00:34:47,775

Have you ever returned
to Germany since then?

661

00:34:47,775 --> 00:34:48,275

Once.

662

00:34:48,275 --> 00:34:50,810

663

00:34:50,810 --> 00:34:53,510

Very traumatic.

664

00:34:53,510 --> 00:34:56,870

My husband and I
went to Europe for--

665

00:34:56,870 --> 00:34:58,520

we never took a vacation.

666

00:34:58,520 --> 00:35:00,990

And then after 10
years of marriage,

667

00:35:00,990 --> 00:35:03,450

we took a vacation
for five months.

668

00:35:03,450 --> 00:35:04,340
Oh, wow.

669
00:35:04,340 --> 00:35:05,810
And we toured Europe.

670
00:35:05,810 --> 00:35:07,880
We had a marvelous time.

671
00:35:07,880 --> 00:35:13,110
And I wasn't going
to go to Germany.

672
00:35:13,110 --> 00:35:16,770
And toward the end of
the trip, he said, look,

673
00:35:16,770 --> 00:35:20,700
I just have a feeling it's
important for you to go back

674
00:35:20,700 --> 00:35:23,410
and how about it?

675
00:35:23,410 --> 00:35:26,920
So he persuaded me.

676
00:35:26,920 --> 00:35:31,720
And I spent two nights
there in my hometown.

677
00:35:31,720 --> 00:35:32,350
Wow.

678
00:35:32,350 --> 00:35:39,800
Saw a very good childhood
friend, who was half Jewish

679
00:35:39,800 --> 00:35:43,160
and survived, she
stayed in Germany.

680

00:35:43,160 --> 00:35:47,630
And I saw a cleaning
lady we had.

681
00:35:47,630 --> 00:35:50,000
When you couldn't
have maids anymore,

682
00:35:50,000 --> 00:35:57,380
Jews couldn't, this lovely
woman, Mrs. Sangzen,

683
00:35:57,380 --> 00:36:00,380
came and she cleaned.

684
00:36:00,380 --> 00:36:03,920
I can't remember, but almost
every day that she came.

685
00:36:03,920 --> 00:36:11,270
And she was just so wonderful
with my brother, and I,

686
00:36:11,270 --> 00:36:12,450
and my parents.

687
00:36:12,450 --> 00:36:15,740
And it was just-- it
was a love affair.

688
00:36:15,740 --> 00:36:18,100
Wow.

689
00:36:18,100 --> 00:36:20,890
Did anyone in your
family ever receive

690
00:36:20,890 --> 00:36:25,360
any sort of compensation for
the property that was lost?

691
00:36:25,360 --> 00:36:26,200
Yes, I did.

692
00:36:26,200 --> 00:36:27,175
You did.

693
00:36:27,175 --> 00:36:31,120
It was like, I think,
\$2,000 they gave me

694
00:36:31,120 --> 00:36:33,430
for the life of my parents.

695
00:36:33,430 --> 00:36:35,840
Wow.

696
00:36:35,840 --> 00:36:38,960
So you don't get any
ongoing compensation?

697
00:36:38,960 --> 00:36:40,160
And nothing--

698
00:36:40,160 --> 00:36:45,680
I think I was too young and I
didn't know how to maneuver it.

699
00:36:45,680 --> 00:36:48,200
So I didn't.

700
00:36:48,200 --> 00:36:52,100
Can you talk at all about
the long-term impact

701
00:36:52,100 --> 00:36:59,000
your experience as a child had
on your life, and your family,

702
00:36:59,000 --> 00:37:03,570
and how you chose
to raise your child?

703
00:37:03,570 --> 00:37:13,680
I think the major impact

was I hated discrimination.

704

00:37:13,680 --> 00:37:19,690

And I needed to do something
that addressed that.

705

00:37:19,690 --> 00:37:30,630

And so I did in my work
and I wrote about it.

706

00:37:30,630 --> 00:37:34,280

707

00:37:34,280 --> 00:37:35,550

Where did you write about it?

708

00:37:35,550 --> 00:37:36,050

Hmm?

709

00:37:36,050 --> 00:37:37,910

Where did you write about it?

710

00:37:37,910 --> 00:37:40,456

In my apartment.

711

00:37:40,456 --> 00:37:42,110

Like in your diary?

712

00:37:42,110 --> 00:37:45,650

No, it was published
somewhere too.

713

00:37:45,650 --> 00:37:46,850

I have it still.

714

00:37:46,850 --> 00:37:47,870

I have my--

715

00:37:47,870 --> 00:37:49,440

Can I take a look at it after?

716

00:37:49,440 --> 00:37:49,940
Hmm?

717
00:37:49,940 --> 00:37:51,350
Can I see it afterwards?

718
00:37:51,350 --> 00:37:52,520
Sure.

719
00:37:52,520 --> 00:37:55,010
What kind of work were
you involved with?

720
00:37:55,010 --> 00:37:55,740
Theater.

721
00:37:55,740 --> 00:37:57,800
Theater.

722
00:37:57,800 --> 00:38:00,440
I was on Broadway
and off Broadway.

723
00:38:00,440 --> 00:38:04,510
And worked-- you
wouldn't know, but there

724
00:38:04,510 --> 00:38:08,830
was a very famous acting
couple, Alfred Lunt and Lynn

725
00:38:08,830 --> 00:38:11,890
Fontanne, very famous.

726
00:38:11,890 --> 00:38:18,170
And I eventually
worked with them.

727
00:38:18,170 --> 00:38:20,810
And I had a very good role.

728
00:38:20,810 --> 00:38:23,820

And it sort of launched
me into television,

729
00:38:23,820 --> 00:38:25,410
the stage, et cetera.

730
00:38:25,410 --> 00:38:27,960
I did quite a bit of work.

731
00:38:27,960 --> 00:38:33,750
And then when my daughter
was born, I dropped it.

732
00:38:33,750 --> 00:38:35,380
I stopped it.

733
00:38:35,380 --> 00:38:37,170
And I spent the
first three years

734
00:38:37,170 --> 00:38:41,190
with her, the only time in
my life that I didn't work.

735
00:38:41,190 --> 00:38:42,870
OK.

736
00:38:42,870 --> 00:38:46,590
And then you went back to
work when she was three?

737
00:38:46,590 --> 00:38:49,230
Yes, yes.

738
00:38:49,230 --> 00:38:50,510
What did I do then?

739
00:38:50,510 --> 00:38:54,075

740
00:38:54,075 --> 00:38:54,950
Isn't that marvelous?

741
00:38:54,950 --> 00:38:55,990
I've blocked it.

742
00:38:55,990 --> 00:38:59,835
I became director of what?

743
00:38:59,835 --> 00:39:00,335
Jesus.

744
00:39:00,335 --> 00:39:05,440

745
00:39:05,440 --> 00:39:07,510
I thought I read
somewhere Head Start.

746
00:39:07,510 --> 00:39:10,260

747
00:39:10,260 --> 00:39:12,600
Yes, I did.

748
00:39:12,600 --> 00:39:15,750
I became a Head Start
director, right.

749
00:39:15,750 --> 00:39:21,430
And I started a school for young
children, two and three years

750
00:39:21,430 --> 00:39:21,930
old.

751
00:39:21,930 --> 00:39:23,010
Oh, wow.

752
00:39:23,010 --> 00:39:29,370
And as the school was growing,
Head Start had come into being.

753

00:39:29,370 --> 00:39:34,940
And so I applied for a Head
Start grant and I got it.

754
00:39:34,940 --> 00:39:37,490
And so for many
years, many years,

755
00:39:37,490 --> 00:39:45,900
I can't remember how
many, until 1983, I

756
00:39:45,900 --> 00:39:52,826
was with something called the
Bloomingdale Family Program,

757
00:39:52,826 --> 00:39:54,920
a wonderful organization.

758
00:39:54,920 --> 00:39:59,300
And it's my organization.

759
00:39:59,300 --> 00:40:00,470
I started it.

760
00:40:00,470 --> 00:40:01,640
Wow.

761
00:40:01,640 --> 00:40:05,450
And I was with that
for many, many years.

762
00:40:05,450 --> 00:40:09,900
And that was very
meaningful because I

763
00:40:09,900 --> 00:40:15,890
worked with minority children
from very poor families.

764
00:40:15,890 --> 00:40:19,280
And it opened a whole
new horizon for me.

765
00:40:19,280 --> 00:40:24,535
It was a wonderful
time in my life.

766
00:40:24,535 --> 00:40:26,220
It sounds like it.

767
00:40:26,220 --> 00:40:29,020
I still am in touch with some
of the parents and children,

768
00:40:29,020 --> 00:40:29,830
and yeah.

769
00:40:29,830 --> 00:40:31,480
That's wonderful.

770
00:40:31,480 --> 00:40:34,210
And what was your husband
doing during this time?

771
00:40:34,210 --> 00:40:36,460
My husband was in theater.

772
00:40:36,460 --> 00:40:37,450
OK.

773
00:40:37,450 --> 00:40:39,850
But also, because there
wasn't enough money

774
00:40:39,850 --> 00:40:45,970
always in theater,
he one day decided--

775
00:40:45,970 --> 00:40:49,930
he said, I think I'm
going to make a handbag.

776
00:40:49,930 --> 00:40:52,780
He bought some leather

and a couple of tools.

777

00:40:52,780 --> 00:40:58,260

And before we knew it, we had
a store on Christopher Street.

778

00:40:58,260 --> 00:41:00,640

Oh, wow.

779

00:41:00,640 --> 00:41:06,120

And he-- he was very
talented in many ways.

780

00:41:06,120 --> 00:41:11,520

He had a PhD in
theater and criticism.

781

00:41:11,520 --> 00:41:13,480

That was his field.

782

00:41:13,480 --> 00:41:15,510

He was a wonderful
stage director.

783

00:41:15,510 --> 00:41:20,370

784

00:41:20,370 --> 00:41:22,060

And we met in acting school.

785

00:41:22,060 --> 00:41:25,220

That's where we met.

786

00:41:25,220 --> 00:41:29,610

Do you ever dream about
your experiences as a child?

787

00:41:29,610 --> 00:41:30,590

I used to.

788

00:41:30,590 --> 00:41:33,830

I haven't for quite a

long time, but I used to.

789

00:41:33,830 --> 00:41:37,220

It was a recurring dream.

790

00:41:37,220 --> 00:41:42,630

And yeah, it was awful always.

791

00:41:42,630 --> 00:41:46,898

And the same dream
over and over again.

792

00:41:46,898 --> 00:41:48,690

Is there anything else
you want to tell me?

793

00:41:48,690 --> 00:41:49,200

Hmm?

794

00:41:49,200 --> 00:41:51,000

Is there anything else
you want to tell me

795

00:41:51,000 --> 00:41:53,820

about yourself or your
story, or anything

796

00:41:53,820 --> 00:41:56,310

you want to pass
on to anyone who

797

00:41:56,310 --> 00:41:57,800

may be listening to your story?

798

00:41:57,800 --> 00:42:03,430

799

00:42:03,430 --> 00:42:05,590

I don't know, what can I say?

800

00:42:05,590 --> 00:42:14,010

I believe that the

experiences of the past

801

00:42:14,010 --> 00:42:15,345

made me a better person.

802

00:42:15,345 --> 00:42:20,700

803

00:42:20,700 --> 00:42:31,410

Yeah, because there was a lot
of pain, and a lot of guilt,

804

00:42:31,410 --> 00:42:38,970

and a tremendous need to
protect freedom and justice.

805

00:42:38,970 --> 00:42:43,142

And I became very
committed to that.

806

00:42:43,142 --> 00:42:43,850

That's wonderful.

807

00:42:43,850 --> 00:42:49,320

And that what my work for
many years, in Head Start,

808

00:42:49,320 --> 00:42:52,050

as a Head Start director.

809

00:42:52,050 --> 00:42:58,660

I had 200 children in the
program, in my program.

810

00:42:58,660 --> 00:43:01,920

And I'm still in
touch with some.

811

00:43:01,920 --> 00:43:08,292

And it was just a marvelous,
different experience for me.

812

00:43:08,292 --> 00:43:11,880

It sounds like it.

813

00:43:11,880 --> 00:43:13,770

Well, thank you so
much for sharing

814

00:43:13,770 --> 00:43:15,555

your story with us, Susan.

815

00:43:15,555 --> 00:43:17,250

I really appreciate it.

816

00:43:17,250 --> 00:43:20,820

I'm very glad to
do it, yes, yes.

817

00:43:20,820 --> 00:43:21,720

Great.

818

00:43:21,720 --> 00:43:23,160

What was I going to show you?

819

00:43:23,160 --> 00:43:25,940

Something I was
going to show you.