

Go closer to your telephone because I hear like it's far away.

You can't-- is this better?

Yeah that's better.

OK. This is the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum interview with Paula Gutter. It is being conducted by Gail Schwartz on November 13, 2015 and it's taking place over the telephone at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and in Fresh Meadows, New York. This is track number one. What is your full name?

My full name is Paula Gutter.

And what is the name you were born with?

That was Schwartzberg. My family name was Schwartzberg.

And when were you born?

I was born August 18, 1935.

And where were you born?

Zamosc, Poland. And I'll spell it for you. Zamosc, it's spelled-- it's in Polish but that's how it should be written. It's Z-A-M-O-S-C, Zamosc.

Thank you.

A little line over the S and a little line over the C at the end.

OK. Thank you.

It's Zamosc, Poland. And the region is called Lubelskie if you want to write it down.

No, that's OK. That's OK.

OK. The region is Lubelskie but it's Zamosc.

Tell me your parents-- let's talk about your family. Your parents' names?

My mother's name was Rela Schwartzberg and my father's name was Nathan Schwartzberg.

And how long had they been in Zamosc?

When the war started, I was four years old. When the war broke out, the Germans came in--

No, no, no, we'll talk about that but I'm talking about before the war, your parents' background. I want to get--

They were born in Zamosc.

So they were born in Zamosc.

Sure. And the children and I, me and a sister and a brother, we were born in Zamosc.

And what are their names?

My sister's name is Sara but in Poland, she was called Sura and my brother's name, Meir.

And tell me about your extended family. What about grandparents?

The grandparents, they were all killed.

But your grandparents originally were from Zamosc also?

Also from Zamosc.

So how far back does your family go in Zamosc, many generations?

I only know about the grandparents.

What kind of work did your father do?

He had a horse and carriage and he was driving people to places. He had a horse and carriage. That's how we escaped Zamosc when the Nazis came in, with the horse and carriage--

Yeah, we'll talk about that. I want to get some before the war information first. So that's what he did as a full-time job?

That was his job, yeah.

And did your mother work?

No. She had one child after another.

And did you live right in the center of town?

In the center of town, yeah. In the center of town.

And were you in a house or an apartment?

It was a house. I even wrote down the name they sent me from Israel the name of the street.

Do you remember what the name of the street is?

Yeah. I have to look it up. Right now, I cannot look it up. I have to look it up. I wrote it down.

OK. And your brother and sister, were they older or younger than you?

My sister was the oldest, the brother was next, I was the youngest.

So you were the youngest.

Yeah.

All right. Do you have any memories of cousins and aunts and uncles before the war? I know you were very young.

I was very young.

Yes, I know that.

I don't have any memories, but they were all killed.

Do you know if your family was very religious, your parents?

Not too religious, no. Not too religious, no. Not orthodox.

But did you, let's say-- well, I guess you were too young to remember if you observed any holidays before the war. You were too young.

I was too young, but I remembered Zamosc was burning. That I remember. The houses were burning, a few houses.

Really? So that was-- all right. Let's talk about the beginning of the war now. So your very first memory, is that your first one?

Yes. It was.

Was this in 1939?

Summer of 1939, yes. It started that fateful day in summer of 1939. I was four years old then.

Right, and you saw houses burning?

Yes. You see things, when it's something terrible, you remember.

Yes. Yes, of course.

Other things I don't remember, but this I remember.

And what did your-- do you remember what your parents said to you?

No. I remember my mother said, we are going to run from here. She was afraid of the Germans so she forced my father to take us to Lublin. In Lublin, they were not yet there. Lublin was next to Zamosc, not too far and it was a bigger town so we went to Lublin.

Did your father want-- do you know if your father wanted to go and to leave Zamosc or you don't know?

No, he wanted to go. Whatever my mother said, he listened.

And what about other relatives? Did they leave with you?

They didn't want to leave.

And so they stayed?

They stayed.

Oh my. So this is after September 1, '39 right?

Right, 1939.

So do you remember leaving Zamosc and going--

I remember.

What did you take with you?

Whatever we could. We couldn't take too much because we had to do it very fast.

Did you take a favorite toy or anything like that?

No, nothing.

And you said you went in your father's--?

Carriage. Horse and carriage. We went to Lublin.

You all fit in with your belongings?

Whatever we were able to take. Some clothes but not too much. We left everything.

But do you remember being very frightened?

Very frightened.

And how did your mother console you?

She calmed us down. We were crying. I remembered the burning of the homes. I remember that very well.

So now you get to Lublin? To Lublin and we stayed in Lublin for about a month and they came to Lublin.

Where did you stay in Lublin? With relatives or friends or--?

I think it was some relatives, some cousins that was stayed, yes. I don't remember exactly--

Right. I know. I know you were--

In a house, where they had a house and they let us stay for a month.

OK. And then the Germans came there?

The Germans came there so we escaped. We took the train and we went to Russia.

This is your mother and your father and your sister--

And the three children.

And the three of you?

Yes.

But no other relatives?

No other relatives. They didn't want to leave. They didn't believe that something bad will happen like that but my mother said, no. I am afraid of the Nazis. They're going to do harm to us. So she was right.

So now you leave Lublin.

And we take the train and they took us where they can take us. They took us to Kazan, Russia and we went, it was fall already.

Do you remember the train ride?

I remember the train ride.

Can you describe it?

It was a poor train. It was not a nice-- no seats.

No seats?

No. We were sitting on something. We had some clothes on the floor. It wasn't a regular train. It was like a workers train.

Do you remember how long the journey took?

I don't remember how long, but it was a long ride. I don't remember--

So this is October '39?

Right. And so then you get--?

Then we get to Kazan. That's where they took us and they gave us a room in a building. We had one room. We were five people.

When you say they gave us, who was the they?

The Russians. The government. They knew that we escaped Poland so they gave us an apartment house, one room. One room for five people. I slept with my brother. He was two years older than me in one bed for five years.

Oh my.

We came '39. We left-- it's actually almost six years. It was cold. One room, the kitchen was in that room. The beds were in that room. Everything was in one room.

And where was the bathroom, outside or in the building?

Outside.

It was outside.

We had to go out to go to the bathroom.

OK. Well, let's talk about your experience there because that's very important. So you get there and of course as I said, you're quite young.

I'm young. I was four years old. I didn't go to school until I was six so for two years, I didn't go to school.

And do you remember what you did during those two years? Just nothing?

I stayed home. Sometimes my mother used to take me. She worked in a restaurant, a government restaurant and she took me with her to stay while she was cooking and working there.

The other two went to school.

And did you have enough warm clothes?

Not enough. Whatever we had, we had some boots, old boots and coats but not warm, no.

And what kind of work did your father do?

My father, after we arrived there, he worked also in a place where they build or they do things, he helped out. But then they took him to Siberia he should do the work so he went to Siberia for a couple years.

Do you know what year he left Kazan?

Two years later.

The first two years, he was with you?

Right. They took him. They took the men to work in Siberia. It was very difficult.

What was it like to say goodbye? Do you have any memories of that?

What is it like what?

To say goodbye to him when he left, do you have any memories?

Yes, I have memories.

What was it?

Very sad and he had to go.

How was your mother at that time? Was she--?

She was upset. She wrote a letter to Stalin, please to send him back.

Oh my.

Yes, she wrote a letter. She made somebody write a beautiful letter. I remember it. But they didn't let him go until finally they did, finally. So then he came back and he wasn't very good after he came back from Siberia. He was not feeling good.

What years were your parents born? Do you know?

Yes. My father was born in 1903 and my mother 1904.

So now you're left with your mother and your two--?

And the two-- and my sister and brother.

And were there many other children?

No.

No, from other families nearby?

Oh, children, Russian children. You mean in the building?

Yeah.

Yes. There were children.

What about Jewish refugee children like you? Were there others like you?

Not in that area. We used to meet some of them in a different area.

How would you describe the town you were, Kazan? What was it like?

Kazan?

Yeah.

During the war, it didn't look too good. It was very-- it was a sad town. It was not good, Cold. When the winter came, it was so cold. Snow, winds, the apartment didn't have heat. It was terrible.

There was no stove, no furnace?

There was a stove. So my mother put it on at night to warm up the house because we didn't have the wood. We had to buy the wood so we didn't have it for too long.

And so your mother got money from her job, right?

Yes.

That was the only money she had?

That's the only money, yeah.

Had she brought any jewelry from home or stuff like that?

No, no. Nothing.

Was your mother able to read and write?

Yes. She was able to write a letter to Stalin.

How much education did she have?

Public school.

So the first two years, you stayed with your mother and went to work and then you said you started school?

School when I was six years old.

And tell me about the school.

It was walking distance, not close. It was quite a long walk. I liked the school. They fed me in school.

Was it a Russian school?

A Russian school, yes.

Were there any other Jewish children?

I don't think so. No, I don't think so. They used to call me-- even the teacher once didn't call me by my name. She called me "yevreyka". It means the Jew.

The Jewish child.

The Jewish child, right. "Yevreyka", that's how she called me.

So you went to school and then you would come home. Did you go by yourself?

No, no. My mother walked me.

Both ways?

Both ways. She went to pick me up and walked me, yes. I was young still.

What were the other children like? Did they--

They were able to walk.

No, no, no. Was there any antisemitism that they showed?

Sure, it was.

What kind of things?

The oldest sister used to complain.

What did she say happened?

Oh, things like the children were making fun and teasing her. Yeah, it was. She used to complain.

And your brother, did he--?

No, he didn't complain.

He didn't?

No. The boy is different.

Right. Any physical problems? Did anybody hurt you or your sister?

No, no.

It was just all words.

No, they didn't hurt me, no

It was just words?



Words.

And besides the teacher that called you "yevreyka", what were the teachers like? Were they friendly to you or did they give you a difficult time?

No, they did their job but instead to call me Paula, they called me "yevreyka". That's how they did it.

And then you would come home and then just life kept going on like that?

Yeah, for five years, almost six years.

What did you do besides going to school? Did you do anything else?

Nothing. We played in the yard at summertime. We went and played in the yard, yes.

Did the children invite you over to their house?

No, no. We played in the yard. We didn't invite because they all had only one room like we had one room. The Russians had also one room.

So these were Russians who were brought there? They weren't--

They came, some of them were-- this town, it was a Tatar Republic. I don't know if you know the Tatars, like Uzbekistan? This was Tatar Republic so there were a lot of them also came to Russia, escaped from their country.

Oh, I see. Was there a big city nearby or--?

The big city was Moscow. This was the big city.

And how far away from Moscow were you?

By train? By train, I don't know, probably a whole day riding.

And now obviously when you were growing up, were you speaking-- before you left Poland, were you speaking Polish?

With my parents?

Yeah.

No, we were speaking Yiddish.

You spoke Yiddish. Did you know Polish at all before you left?

I knew Polish, yes. I understand very well but I don't speak it fluent.

But when you were home, when you were very little, it was Yiddish?

Right.

OK, now you're in Kazan and you have to learn Russian?

That's right.

Were you able to pick that up easily?

Right away.

Really?

Yeah, right away. I spoke very good Russian.

Were your parents able to pick up the language?

Yes, they were. They were young when we came to Russia. They were in their--

Late 30s, weren't they?

In their 30s, yeah. At that time, it used to be not so young but today 30s is very young.

Right. Now did your parents have any communication with your grandparents? Did they hear from--

They wish they could have. They didn't have.

They had no communication once they left?

No communication. When we left Russia, we went back to Poland to look if anybody stayed alive. Only one cousin from my mother's side. My mother's sister's son we found and he was hiding in the sewer and he lived through the war.

What was his name?

Chaim Dorenfeld.

But while you were in Kazan, there was no communication?

No, no, no. We couldn't communicate.

Oh, dear. So now life just goes on, and what about communication with your father after he left? Was he able to write to your mother?

Yeah, he was able to write. In Russia he was able to write. Not to family in Poland.

Right, so you knew he was OK.

Yes.

And what did he say he did in Siberia?

He worked hard.

Do you know what kind of work he did?

Build buildings.

Build buildings?

Yes.

And how was his health in Siberia?

When he came home, he wasn't healthy but then he improved.

And how did your mother get food to feed you all? From her job?

She brought from work, sure. Yeah, she brought whatever she can. She brought the peels from the potatoes and she cooked those peels, whatever she was allowed to take.

And did you and your brother and sister stay healthy while you were there?

Yes, we were OK.

Nobody got sick or anything?

No, no. We got sick with the cold but not serious.

Nothing serious, and did they have Russian friends, your brother and sister?

Yes, yes. I had some Russian friends in the building. I remember my mother took a heavy blanket made out of down and that, she was able to take two of those blankets so it was good to lay on the bed. It kept us warm.

And do you remember what your mother said about what was happening and why your father was away? How did she explain it to you?

No, she explained that he had to go. That's what they wanted. The government wanted him to go and help out over there.

And do you know if she knew what was happening in Europe to the Jews? Did she know anything about that at the time?

We found out later on.

Later. You didn't know while it was happening?

No, no. Later on we found out that they're killing the Jews.

Was there anybody else from Zamosc with you in Kazan?

No.

So these were all new people for you?

All new people. Nobody from Zamosc, no.

Was there any dangerous times when you were there?

In Kazan?

Yeah. Any bombing or anything like that?

No, no.

So it was quiet?

In Kazan it was quiet. Remember they tried to go to Moscow and it got very, very cold so they backed out. You remember the story?

Yeah.

No, no. They didn't come to Kazan. We didn't hear any bombing. It was at least safe that way.

When you look back at it, was it a very frightening time or--?

Very frightening time, but when you go through difficult times, you learn a lesson and you appreciate what you have now.

Yes. Oh, yes.

We had it very difficult, very difficult. It wasn't easy especially for my mother it was very difficult.

Was her health OK during that time?

Yes. She went to work every day.

She did?

Yes, she did.

Did you observe any of the Jewish holidays while you were in Kazan?

No.

So then your father came back. Do you remember what year that was he came back?

He came back two years later and so we stayed in Russia until '45. At the end of '45, we went back to Poland.

OK. How did you know that the war was over?

No, it was in the streets, a celebration. Sure, in school, in the street.

And here you're 10 years old so you obviously knew what was happening.

Sure, absolutely.

What did it mean to a 10-year-old? Do you remember any of your thoughts?

My thoughts were now, it's going to be good. Until now it was very difficult.

And did you celebrate yourself? Did you celebrate? Celebrate--?

Well, when you knew the war was over.

Oh, sure. We were running outside and singing and dancing, yes.

So then you returned, you said?

We went back to Poland to see if we find anybody so I told you we only found this cousin and the streets in Poland were

unbelievable. Bodies still laying. You wouldn't believe it. The end of '45, you see the skeletons. Terrible, terrible. Very sad. So we didn't find anybody and so from Poland they took us. The DP took us to Germany.

Yeah, but before that did you go back to your house in Zamosc?

We didn't go to Zamosc. We went to Lublin.

Oh, you went Lublin.

To see if anybody is alive and they told us nobody.

Right. But you did not go back to Zamosc?

No.

All right, and now who took you to the DP camps?

I guess it was the Americans. Yeah, they took us to a DP camp in Germany called Heidenheim and we stayed in Germany from '46 to '48, two years in that camp. And there they gave us canned food, all kinds of things from America and that's how we survived in Heidenheim.

Now there obviously were other children your age who had gone through the same--

The same, gone through the same thing.

And did you talk to them and did you each tell your stories to each other?

Yes, yes. Absolutely. They went through the same thing. They also escaped to Russia. Some of them escaped from the concentration camps. Some of them.

Really?

Yeah.

And so you made friends as a 10, 11, 12-year-old? You made some friends?

Yes, yes. And also I went to school in that DP camp. They had a Hebrew school and they taught us Hebrew.

Did they want you to go to Palestine?

They wanted us to go to Palestine. In fact my sister, she went to help out. She went to at that time, it was called Palestine. She went-- they took her, she was already 17 so they took her so we went to Israel after two years, in '48 we went to Israel.

Oh, so she went first or you all went together?

She went herself first.

They collected teenagers.

Teenagers, yeah.

To help. Her they took, and then we went.

So you were in the DP camp for a couple of years.

Right.

And what did your parents do? Where they working then?

No, they were not working. You didn't have jobs there. We were just in camp. My mother was cooking and my father, I think he did some work. I'm not sure what he did.

And what was the living arrangements? Were you in barracks or were you in apartments or what?

It's in a little house.

A little house, oh.

Yeah, they gave us a little house but it was like an attached house so there were apartments in each section.

And you had enough food, enough clothing and you were warm?

Enough, it wasn't enough but it's-- I did some babysitting so I got paid a little. Yeah, I was already 10 years old, 11 so I was able to babysit.

So then your sister goes off to Palestine and then you and your family go over there also?

And we meet her at the airport, yes.

How did you how did you get from Germany to Palestine?

By boat.

Oh. I thought you said airport?

No, I think it was by boat.

By boat?

Yes, it was by boat.

Did Palestine--

Yes, I remember. It was a special boat that went from Germany to Palestine.

Do you remember the name of the boat or not?

I think Zion?

Oh, really?

Or something like that.

And were there a lot of other children on the boat?

Yes, a lot. Filled, the boat was filled.

Filled with children and families?

Yeah. Boats were coming constantly.

And do you know what port you'd left from or not?

What port, from Germany?

Yeah.

No. I know we were driven by a big truck to the port. Yeah, that I remember.

All right. So now you arrive in Palestine and what does that mean to you?

Oh, it changed completely. It's like home. Yes, it was like home. And we worked. They took us to a field to collect oranges from the trees.

Had the state of Israel been declared already?

In '48? Not right away, not right away. When we came, was still shooting.

Oh, my.

Yes, not right away. I think it took a couple months.

Do you know what month you arrived?

We arrived I think in the fall, the end of '48.

Oh, so it was the state of Israel by then but they were still fighting.

They were still fighting, yeah.

And out fighting, shooting.

Where did you live? Where did say--

Lod, L-O-D, Lod.

That's the town?

That's the town. That's near the airport.

Near the airport, right.

Near the port.

Yes, near the airport. Right. So you settled there and what was that--

For a short time and then we went, we lived in Jaffa.

And what was life like then? Did your father work?

Oh yes, he worked.

What did he do?

And my mother worked.

What did they do in Jaffa?

He got himself a horse and carriage. He worked-- he had it in Poland so he got himself that and my mother, she was babysitting. She was watching children when the parents went to work.

And your sister and brother, what were they doing?

They went to school in Israel and after that, my sister got married at a young age and she worked also. She worked.

And you were at school?

I'm in school, yes.

And did you know Hebrew before?

In Germany, they taught me Hebrew so I knew. Not fluent but I knew. I knew how to write and read, yes. I still know how to write and read.

Wonderful. So then you continue on until when?

Then they gave us a little house in a suburbia near Tel Aviv so then we all moved to that suburbia. It was called-- I forgot. I forgot what it was called but it was a nice little house. It was an all-new home.

Oh, how interesting.

From the government.

How interesting. So you moved from Jaffa to there?

From Jaffa to there, yeah. I forgot the name of the town.

That's all right.

All the way from Tel Aviv. Do you know Israel?

Yes I do but--

It was near Ramat Gan. I forgot the name.

And you stayed in Israel for how long?

I stayed until I met my husband and he wanted to go-- his parents were in the United States. They came straight from Russia to United States. They didn't go back to Poland so they wanted us to come there. I met my husband in Israel.

How did you meet him?

I met him in Tel Aviv through friends and so then we started going out. We married in Israel and two years later, we went to the United States.



And that was in what year?

'59, the end of '59.

So you got married in '57 then?

I got married in '57, yes.

And then you left in '59 to come to the United States?

Actually it was almost '60. It was December, the end of December in '59.

And how did you feel about leaving Israel to come to the United States?

I said I'm going but if I don't like it I'm coming back.

And your husband's name?

Because I like Israel very much. Life is very warm over there. It's different.

And your husband's name?

My husband's name is Fred. His Polish name was Romek. Fred, but I called him by his Hebrew name Ephraim.

And so where did you come when you came to the United States? Where did you--

Brooklyn. That's where my in-laws live. We stayed with them for a little while but then we rented an apartment. We lived in Brooklyn. Now I live in Queens.

Right, and then you had children?

Right, after we came to the United States. My daughter was born a year later. I had my daughter and then in '64 I had my son.

And you've been there ever since.

What?

You've been there ever since.

I'm here ever since. I went to Israel a couple times but now I'm so used to the United States that I love it. I like America.

And can we now just talk about some of your thoughts and feelings about what you went through? When you think about your childhood which was so difficult--

Very difficult.

Do you feel you lost part of your childhood?

Absolutely, absolutely. Yeah, very difficult. But you know? We didn't complain and it wasn't things like it's happening now. Sometimes you hear children take drugs, take this, take that. This never happened, never happened. Not with my brother, not with my sister.

Did they stay in Israel, your brother and sister?

Yes. They lived in Israel. They passed away unfortunately. My brother passed away in 2012 and my sister 2008. They had cancer.

Did they get married and have children?

They had children, yes.

Can you tell me what your thoughts are now about Germany? Do you have any special thoughts about the country?

You mean about Germany after the war when we stayed in that DP camp?

No, no. Just your general feelings now about Germany.

Oh, the general feeling? Look, it's not their fault what happened during the Nazis. Right now Germany is very-- they are upset what happened. Germany itself is very against what happened but it happened during the war in '39. It was terrible, terrible what they did to people. Not only Jews, they were a lot of Christians killed. If they were hiding a Jewish person then they were killed.

Are there any sights or sounds or smells that remind you of your life in Poland and Siberia, anything that brings back memories for you?

I'm not thinking about it because if I start thinking, I get depressed so I don't want to look back. It was rough. It was rough.

When your children were growing up, did you talk about your childhood?

Yes. They know. My granddaughter wrote the whole thing in school about me.

Really?

Yeah. I have it right in front of me. She writes, "My grandmother was born Perla Schwartzberg, American name Paula--" but it's spelled different. In Polish it's spelled different and here it's spelled differently. In Polish it's spelled S-Z-W-A-R and then in here it's S-C-H-W. So she wrote a whole megillah.

So your name at birth was Perla? Perla, yes.

Not Paula.

No. My name here is Paula. In Russia also was Paula but spelled different. Here it's P-A-U-L-A. In Russia, it's P-O-L-A, Pola.

Have you ever been to Germany?

No.

Would you go?

No.

Why not?

Not to Germany. I would like to go to Kazan where I lived. Oh, I would love it. But I'm too old now. I should have gone when I was younger. My nephew, my sister's son went to Poland to see the street where his mother was born and he

wrote to me the name of the street. [? Ryavrushuk ?] that was the name of the street.

Do you get reparations?

I applied but it's not so easy. You have to be in concentration camps. They gave some money, those that had to leave Poland but I didn't get anything, not yet. Maybe. Yeah, I'm registered. I'm registered with an organization. It's called-- what is it called? I forgot.

Do you feel totally assimilated? How would you describe yourself? Are you American or--?

No. I'm American. I'm all the way American. I put out the flag when we had the holiday. Every holiday, I put out the flag.

When did you become a citizen?

Five years later, 1965.

What was that like?

Beautiful. I answered all the questions. I studied. I went at night to high school to finish up. So I studied anew.

What language do you think in?

What language I'm thinking?

Yeah, in.

In English.

You think in English?

Yeah. Yeah, I think in English.

So I guess you are totally assimilated.

Right. But I also speak Hebrew and I speak Russian. Polish, I'm not so perfect but I understand very good and I speak a little German. You know, I was in Germany for two to three years. I was young. You pick up fast the language.

Do you think about your experience as a child more so now as you get older? Are you finding that you're thinking about it more?

As I'm getting older if I'm thinking about my childhood?

Yeah.

Yes, I'm thinking. I'm always telling my grandchildren, you don't know how I lived through the war being a child, how difficult it was. You have it very good, I tell them. They know, they know.

Are you more comfortable around people who are also survivors, people who lived through the war than being around people who never had to experience any of that?

No. I meet-- I go to organization where people from Poland, from Hungary, from-- it's called Selfhelp I think. Selfhelp is the organization. It's on Queens Boulevard. I belonged there. We meet once in a month or sometimes twice a month. They came from different countries. No, I like Americans better. I feel comfortable more.

Would you be a different person today if you hadn't had the experiences you had as a child or do you think--?

I think this taught me a good lesson.

What lesson did it teach you?

To appreciate what we have now and what we went through before and not to complain.

I know you were young, but do you remember the Eichmann trial?

Eichmann trial? Sure, I remember.

What were your feelings during the Eichmann trial?

Oh, it was coming to him, everything he got. He was a murderer and hiding in Argentina. Sure I remember. I listened constantly to news when they have something special and I'm very aware of everything. Some days, I listen to, I watch Face the Nation, Meet the Press, very interesting for me.

Did you work in the United States when you came and settled?

Yeah, sure I worked. I worked in JC Penney, a salesgirl. Yeah, I worked.

For how long?

Quite a few years. I worked after the children grew up and they didn't need me anymore so I went to work. I didn't work when I came. I had them right away, a year later.

Right, and your husband was able to support?

Yes. He was working as an electrician and that's how it was. It was a difficult time but I survived.

Yes, yes. Do you think the world has learned anything from those years?

Oh, I don't know if the world learned anything. What do you think? Does it look to you that they learned? Look what's going on now with ISIS. They still hate the Americans and hate the Europeans.

Have you been to the Holocaust Museum in Washington?

Oh sure.

You have?

Yes, yes. I have and the children have. My children went with their children. Yes, sure. But what do I have to see? I know. When I came back to Poland, I knew. I saw the streets with skeletons, bodies. They didn't clean up yet. So I know. It was a terrible war, terrible.

Well, is there anything you wanted to say that we haven't covered?

What things?

Well, anything about your experience or your life today that we haven't talked about.

Oh, my life today. My husband passed away in 2002 unfortunately. He had a bad heart and they couldn't do anything.

He had congestive heart failure so he died. He was too young to die. He was only 74. This was a difficult time.

I'm sure.

Otherwise, that's it.

Do you belong to any other survivors groups? In that Selfhelp, I belong.

Besides that one, do you belong to any others?

No. I do get mail from them. They send me newspapers. I'm registered but that's the only one that I belong. Do they have any others?

Oh, I'm sure there are other survivor organizations in different cities.

I have to find out.

Well, I want to thank you.

Thank you. Is there any message--

I tell you, we had a long interview. An hour.

Right. Is there any message you wanted to leave to your grandchildren, anything?

Oh, I just want to leave them that I love them with all my heart.

That's beautiful.

And they're always on my mind. And my children, always on my mind. They should have better than I had. They shouldn't have to go through what I, God forbid, went through. It was difficult, difficult times. Very difficult.

Well, I really appreciate you.

OK, it was good talking to you.

Thank you. And let me just finish--

And how will my children get this--?

You will get a copy of the interview.

I will?

Yes.

Oh, how wonderful. By mail?

Yes, yes.

Beautiful. Thank you so much.

Let me just finish by saying this concludes the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum interview with Paula Gutter.

Thank you.