

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:05,580

2
00:00:05,580 --> 00:00:10,170
The following is an interview
of the United States Holocaust

3
00:00:10,170 --> 00:00:13,710
Memorial Museum of
Josephine Becker.

4
00:00:13,710 --> 00:00:20,790
It is being conducted by Gail
Schwartz on March 26, 2017,

5
00:00:20,790 --> 00:00:25,400
and it's taking place in
Chevy Chase, Maryland.

6
00:00:25,400 --> 00:00:28,820
This is track number one.

7
00:00:28,820 --> 00:00:31,750
What is your full name?

8
00:00:31,750 --> 00:00:34,270
Josephine--

9
00:00:34,270 --> 00:00:34,840
And your--

10
00:00:34,840 --> 00:00:35,650
Becker.

11
00:00:35,650 --> 00:00:37,850
And the name you were born with?

12
00:00:37,850 --> 00:00:42,100
Velelli, V-E-L-E-L-L-I.

13

00:00:42,100 --> 00:00:43,880
And where were you born?

14
00:00:43,880 --> 00:00:46,060
I was born in Patras, Greece.

15
00:00:46,060 --> 00:00:47,650
And when were you born?

16
00:00:47,650 --> 00:00:49,330
1936.

17
00:00:49,330 --> 00:00:51,940
In May of 1936.

18
00:00:51,940 --> 00:00:52,690
May what?

19
00:00:52,690 --> 00:00:53,530
May the 5th.

20
00:00:53,530 --> 00:00:54,340
May the 5th.

21
00:00:54,340 --> 00:00:55,240
OK.

22
00:00:55,240 --> 00:00:57,880
And let's talk a little
bit about your family,

23
00:00:57,880 --> 00:00:59,020
now, your parents.

24
00:00:59,020 --> 00:01:00,200
Their names?

25
00:01:00,200 --> 00:01:03,010
My mother's name was Emily.

26
00:01:03,010 --> 00:01:04,260

Do you know her--

27

00:01:04,260 --> 00:01:10,110

Her maiden name was Osmo,
O-S-M-O. And then she--

28

00:01:10,110 --> 00:01:12,090

by getting married
was it was Velelli.

29

00:01:12,090 --> 00:01:13,080

Right.

30

00:01:13,080 --> 00:01:15,150

And your father's name?

31

00:01:15,150 --> 00:01:17,450

Emmanuel.

32

00:01:17,450 --> 00:01:21,710

And what kind of work did he do?

33

00:01:21,710 --> 00:01:24,460

He did a couple of things.

34

00:01:24,460 --> 00:01:29,260

He was working for a big
relative's business, an uncle's

35

00:01:29,260 --> 00:01:32,350

business that was
selling material

36

00:01:32,350 --> 00:01:37,320

at that time for people
to buy it and make--

37

00:01:37,320 --> 00:01:41,370

and dressmakers, all kinds
of clothing or curtains

38

00:01:41,370 --> 00:01:44,040

for the windows there
and everything else.

39
00:01:44,040 --> 00:01:48,420
Until the war came
for the Jewish people,

40
00:01:48,420 --> 00:01:51,930
and we had to go hide, run away.

41
00:01:51,930 --> 00:01:54,390
So the business
didn't last there.

42
00:01:54,390 --> 00:01:56,020
It went out.

43
00:01:56,020 --> 00:02:00,210
And my father opened
up, when we came back,

44
00:02:00,210 --> 00:02:02,730
his own store to sell
material for people

45
00:02:02,730 --> 00:02:04,920
to buy there that
did not do good.

46
00:02:04,920 --> 00:02:06,120
It did bad.

47
00:02:06,120 --> 00:02:08,039
People didn't have money.

48
00:02:08,039 --> 00:02:10,419
We'll talk about
that a little later.

49
00:02:10,419 --> 00:02:12,915
How far back can you
trace your family?

50

00:02:12,915 --> 00:02:15,610

51

00:02:15,610 --> 00:02:17,580

When you say my family,
my grandparents--

52

00:02:17,580 --> 00:02:20,260

Grandparents, aunts and uncles.

53

00:02:20,260 --> 00:02:22,710

Oh, my grandparents a lot.

54

00:02:22,710 --> 00:02:26,900

A lot because when I was
born they were very young,

55

00:02:26,900 --> 00:02:29,110

and they did a lot for me.

56

00:02:29,110 --> 00:02:31,120

They had a baby.

57

00:02:31,120 --> 00:02:32,620

I was the first
one in the family,

58

00:02:32,620 --> 00:02:34,750

the first child in the family.

59

00:02:34,750 --> 00:02:42,020

And my grandparents
they had all these boys.

60

00:02:42,020 --> 00:02:44,930

They had four sons
and a daughter.

61

00:02:44,930 --> 00:02:46,700

These are your
maternal or paternal?

62

00:02:46,700 --> 00:02:49,640

On you your father's side
or on your mother's side?

63

00:02:49,640 --> 00:02:51,590

On my father's side.

64

00:02:51,590 --> 00:02:58,400

But what happened is by hiding
in a village from the Germans

65

00:02:58,400 --> 00:03:02,220

during the time, his two
brothers, my father's two

66

00:03:02,220 --> 00:03:05,140

brothers that were my
grandparent's two sons,

67

00:03:05,140 --> 00:03:08,790

the youngest one that was 20
and the oldest one that was

68

00:03:08,790 --> 00:03:13,530

in his upper 20s, like 28, 29.

69

00:03:13,530 --> 00:03:19,150

They got taken by Germans
and by hillbillies also.

70

00:03:19,150 --> 00:03:21,100

We'll get to the
war years later.

71

00:03:21,100 --> 00:03:24,000

I want to talk a little
bit first about pre-war.

72

00:03:24,000 --> 00:03:25,590

About your family pre-war.

73

00:03:25,590 --> 00:03:33,260

The pre-war was that life was
beginning to get very different

74
00:03:33,260 --> 00:03:35,465
because everybody was saying--

75
00:03:35,465 --> 00:03:38,690

76
00:03:38,690 --> 00:03:40,790
the town that I
grew up in did not

77
00:03:40,790 --> 00:03:42,740
have that many Jewish people.

78
00:03:42,740 --> 00:03:43,630
But we did have--

79
00:03:43,630 --> 00:03:45,710
Did you live right in town?

80
00:03:45,710 --> 00:03:46,210
Yes.

81
00:03:46,210 --> 00:03:47,030
In the center.

82
00:03:47,030 --> 00:03:48,450
Did you live in a house?

83
00:03:48,450 --> 00:03:49,670
We lived in my-- yes.

84
00:03:49,670 --> 00:03:52,730
In a house that my parents had
bought when they got married,

85
00:03:52,730 --> 00:03:54,500
that's where I was born.

86

00:03:54,500 --> 00:03:57,590

But then after we
moved with my-- anyway,

87

00:03:57,590 --> 00:03:58,880

that I'll talk about later.

88

00:03:58,880 --> 00:03:59,963

We'll talk about it later.

89

00:03:59,963 --> 00:04:00,740

Yeah, OK.

90

00:04:00,740 --> 00:04:04,670

The business in my hometown
was very, very good

91

00:04:04,670 --> 00:04:06,560

when I was first born.

92

00:04:06,560 --> 00:04:08,510

When I was a little
girl, from what I know

93

00:04:08,510 --> 00:04:11,000

is that everybody
was doing well,

94

00:04:11,000 --> 00:04:14,030

and everybody had a maid in
the house to come and clean up

95

00:04:14,030 --> 00:04:16,610

and all kinds of things.

96

00:04:16,610 --> 00:04:20,690

But after the business with
the war with the Jewish people,

97

00:04:20,690 --> 00:04:22,970

everything went bad.

98

00:04:22,970 --> 00:04:23,470
Right.

99
00:04:23,470 --> 00:04:24,230
Right.

100
00:04:24,230 --> 00:04:27,770
Was your family a
religious family?

101
00:04:27,770 --> 00:04:29,720
I would say my father was.

102
00:04:29,720 --> 00:04:31,250
Yes, my mother and father both.

103
00:04:31,250 --> 00:04:32,870
And my grandparents both.

104
00:04:32,870 --> 00:04:38,780
But my father was the one that
remained much, much more when

105
00:04:38,780 --> 00:04:41,590
we came back from hiding.

106
00:04:41,590 --> 00:04:43,810
From hiding in the villages.

107
00:04:43,810 --> 00:04:45,860
Yeah, and again we'll
get to that later.

108
00:04:45,860 --> 00:04:46,440
Yeah.

109
00:04:46,440 --> 00:04:46,940
Yeah.

110
00:04:46,940 --> 00:04:49,210

111

00:04:49,210 --> 00:04:50,750

What about the
neighborhood, were

112

00:04:50,750 --> 00:04:53,740

there Jews in the
neighborhood where you lived?

113

00:04:53,740 --> 00:04:57,100

In our street when
I was born, no.

114

00:04:57,100 --> 00:04:58,640

We were the only Jewish people.

115

00:04:58,640 --> 00:05:00,640

The other Jewish
people lived closer

116

00:05:00,640 --> 00:05:02,950

to where their business was.

117

00:05:02,950 --> 00:05:05,770

Stores that they were
selling this, not the other,

118

00:05:05,770 --> 00:05:08,300

the theater and all that.

119

00:05:08,300 --> 00:05:12,940

But the house we had was a very
small house that we bought,

120

00:05:12,940 --> 00:05:15,580

but I was the only
child for a while.

121

00:05:15,580 --> 00:05:16,765

So it was plenty--

122

00:05:16,765 --> 00:05:19,480

I was going to ask you,

did you have any siblings?

123
00:05:19,480 --> 00:05:20,170
Oh yeah.

124
00:05:20,170 --> 00:05:21,280
Oh yeah.

125
00:05:21,280 --> 00:05:23,000
I have two sisters
and a brother.

126
00:05:23,000 --> 00:05:23,620
OK.

127
00:05:23,620 --> 00:05:25,870
And when were they born?

128
00:05:25,870 --> 00:05:28,930
Well my one sister
that lives in Florida

129
00:05:28,930 --> 00:05:33,410
now was born when I
was eight years old.

130
00:05:33,410 --> 00:05:33,970
Oh.

131
00:05:33,970 --> 00:05:35,920
So you were a single
child until eight?

132
00:05:35,920 --> 00:05:38,140
And she was taken to
the hiding village

133
00:05:38,140 --> 00:05:42,340
when she was eight months old.

134
00:05:42,340 --> 00:05:45,820
I went walking, and

she was being carried.

135

00:05:45,820 --> 00:05:48,310

But the others were
born when we came back.

136

00:05:48,310 --> 00:05:50,230

After we came back.

137

00:05:50,230 --> 00:05:56,470

Because my brother is now 70,
and my other sister is 68,

138

00:05:56,470 --> 00:05:58,770

and I'm 80.

139

00:05:58,770 --> 00:05:59,270

OK.

140

00:05:59,270 --> 00:06:02,950

So what memories do you
have before the war?

141

00:06:02,950 --> 00:06:06,650

Before the war started,
before things started.

142

00:06:06,650 --> 00:06:07,160

What mem--

143

00:06:07,160 --> 00:06:07,970

Memories.

144

00:06:07,970 --> 00:06:08,960

Oh, memories.

145

00:06:08,960 --> 00:06:11,630

Do have any-- I you know you
were very young, obviously.

146

00:06:11,630 --> 00:06:13,310

The memories were great.

147
00:06:13,310 --> 00:06:15,343
They were great.

148
00:06:15,343 --> 00:06:16,510
Pre-war we're talking about.

149
00:06:16,510 --> 00:06:17,090
Pre-war.

150
00:06:17,090 --> 00:06:18,200
Yes, yes, yes.

151
00:06:18,200 --> 00:06:18,890
I was taken--

152
00:06:18,890 --> 00:06:21,360
What are some of the things
you, I mean, you were so young.

153
00:06:21,360 --> 00:06:22,693
So what are some of the things--

154
00:06:22,693 --> 00:06:24,780
Yeah, well, we would
go to take a bus,

155
00:06:24,780 --> 00:06:27,230
my mother would take a bus
and take me to the beach.

156
00:06:27,230 --> 00:06:28,400
I was seven years old.

157
00:06:28,400 --> 00:06:31,070

158
00:06:31,070 --> 00:06:38,850
We had a different theater there
that would play for children,

159

00:06:38,850 --> 00:06:40,230
we would go to that.

160
00:06:40,230 --> 00:06:43,140
Or we would go to a
movie here and there.

161
00:06:43,140 --> 00:06:45,690
Where I grew up there
was only one theater.

162
00:06:45,690 --> 00:06:46,290
One theater.

163
00:06:46,290 --> 00:06:48,900
But there were three
or four movies,

164
00:06:48,900 --> 00:06:51,630
and every time they had
something for the children

165
00:06:51,630 --> 00:06:53,040
they would take me there.

166
00:06:53,040 --> 00:06:55,440
We would go to the--

167
00:06:55,440 --> 00:06:57,900
here you would call it
Constitution square,

168
00:06:57,900 --> 00:07:01,940
over there it was
called, what is it

169
00:07:01,940 --> 00:07:03,950
called in American, in English?

170
00:07:03,950 --> 00:07:09,110
It was called [GREEK]
George Square.

171

00:07:09,110 --> 00:07:09,740

George Square.

172

00:07:09,740 --> 00:07:11,040

And we used to go there.

173

00:07:11,040 --> 00:07:14,630

They had like a cafe
restaurant around it

174

00:07:14,630 --> 00:07:17,030

or they had tables to
sit outside and chairs,

175

00:07:17,030 --> 00:07:20,760

and we would go
there and sit around.

176

00:07:20,760 --> 00:07:23,210

And my father's store
was two steps away

177

00:07:23,210 --> 00:07:26,300

so I was running to the
store, that kind of stuff.

178

00:07:26,300 --> 00:07:29,070

How far back can you
trace your family?

179

00:07:29,070 --> 00:07:32,090

How many generations
in Greece were there?

180

00:07:32,090 --> 00:07:32,810

Do you know?

181

00:07:32,810 --> 00:07:36,020

Well my father's family
and my mother's family.

182

00:07:36,020 --> 00:07:39,080

And preceding that, do you
know where those families--

183
00:07:39,080 --> 00:07:40,220
Yes.

184
00:07:40,220 --> 00:07:50,090
I remember my grandmother,
my mother's mother's mother.

185
00:07:50,090 --> 00:07:56,042
My mother's mother's mother that
was 98 years old at that time

186
00:07:56,042 --> 00:07:57,000
Your great grandmother.

187
00:07:57,000 --> 00:08:00,620
A big lady, very tall lady
wearing the longest clothes

188
00:08:00,620 --> 00:08:02,000
I have ever seen in my life.

189
00:08:02,000 --> 00:08:04,520
She used to step
on them, very long.

190
00:08:04,520 --> 00:08:05,750
With big pockets.

191
00:08:05,750 --> 00:08:07,670
Was she born in Greece?

192
00:08:07,670 --> 00:08:08,840
No.

193
00:08:08,840 --> 00:08:10,610
Now where they
were born, I don't

194
00:08:10,610 --> 00:08:13,160

know if they were
born in Turkey,

195
00:08:13,160 --> 00:08:15,620
if they were born farther away.

196
00:08:15,620 --> 00:08:16,590
You don't know.

197
00:08:16,590 --> 00:08:17,360
I don't know.

198
00:08:17,360 --> 00:08:18,950
They were born
somewhere that they

199
00:08:18,950 --> 00:08:22,400
were speaking a lot of Italian.

200
00:08:22,400 --> 00:08:24,080
Oh, OK.

201
00:08:24,080 --> 00:08:26,750
But I don't know if
she was born in Italy,

202
00:08:26,750 --> 00:08:28,050
I was very young at that time.

203
00:08:28,050 --> 00:08:28,967
I was eight years old.

204
00:08:28,967 --> 00:08:29,650
I know, I just--

205
00:08:29,650 --> 00:08:30,470
yeah.

206
00:08:30,470 --> 00:08:33,900
What language did you speak
at home when you were little?

207

00:08:33,900 --> 00:08:34,400

Greek.

208

00:08:34,400 --> 00:08:35,270

Greek.

209

00:08:35,270 --> 00:08:35,789

Greek.

210

00:08:35,789 --> 00:08:39,230

And then my grandmother,
my father's mother,

211

00:08:39,230 --> 00:08:45,638

was born something that
they were speaking Italian.

212

00:08:45,638 --> 00:08:47,680

Some language that they
were speaking in Italian.

213

00:08:47,680 --> 00:08:50,590

I don't know what
place exactly she

214

00:08:50,590 --> 00:08:55,270

was born in because she came to
Greece when she was very young.

215

00:08:55,270 --> 00:08:58,720

And my grandfather too,
you know, her husband also.

216

00:08:58,720 --> 00:09:00,610

Do you know why
they came to Greece?

217

00:09:00,610 --> 00:09:02,200

Do you have any-- were you told?

218

00:09:02,200 --> 00:09:03,730

219
00:09:03,730 --> 00:09:07,510
Yes, I was told that they wanted
to come to Greece because where

220
00:09:07,510 --> 00:09:09,760
they were born there were
not that many Jewish people.

221
00:09:09,760 --> 00:09:12,940
There was maybe one
here and one there.

222
00:09:12,940 --> 00:09:16,610
And they wanted to come and
meet more Jewish people.

223
00:09:16,610 --> 00:09:20,350
But some of the family did not
come to the hometown I was.

224
00:09:20,350 --> 00:09:21,220
They went to Athens.

225
00:09:21,220 --> 00:09:23,920
They went to
Athens, the capital.

226
00:09:23,920 --> 00:09:28,720
That's where my mother's brother
ended up with a big business

227
00:09:28,720 --> 00:09:31,000
and got married there.

228
00:09:31,000 --> 00:09:35,710
And it was a little
different later on.

229
00:09:35,710 --> 00:09:39,400
As good as everything was
for the Jewish people when

230

00:09:39,400 --> 00:09:42,730

I was born and all, it got
worse and worse and worse.

231

00:09:42,730 --> 00:09:43,660

After the war.

232

00:09:43,660 --> 00:09:45,640

No, no, no, I know.

233

00:09:45,640 --> 00:09:48,710

But as I said, we're talking
pre-war at the moment.

234

00:09:48,710 --> 00:09:49,630

Yeah.

235

00:09:49,630 --> 00:09:52,240

Otherwise we didn't
have any problems with--

236

00:09:52,240 --> 00:09:54,590

Did you have friends?

237

00:09:54,590 --> 00:09:55,270

Oh yes.

238

00:09:55,270 --> 00:09:55,850

Girlfriends--

239

00:09:55,850 --> 00:09:56,415

Oh, yes.

240

00:09:56,415 --> 00:09:57,040

Before the war?

241

00:09:57,040 --> 00:09:58,170

A lot of friends.

242

00:09:58,170 --> 00:10:01,990

I went to an all

girls private school.

243

00:10:01,990 --> 00:10:03,910

They didn't want me
to go to a school

244

00:10:03,910 --> 00:10:06,520

where I would be the
only Jewish person.

245

00:10:06,520 --> 00:10:09,400

I was the only Jewish person
at an all girls private school,

246

00:10:09,400 --> 00:10:12,550

but they trusted it better.

247

00:10:12,550 --> 00:10:16,350

So I was the only
Jewish person there,

248

00:10:16,350 --> 00:10:21,240

and if the teacher was talking
about history in Greece

249

00:10:21,240 --> 00:10:24,000

and she was talking about
the Catholics or the other

250

00:10:24,000 --> 00:10:26,340

they that made me
go out of the class.

251

00:10:26,340 --> 00:10:28,650

The teacher used
to say, you go out

252

00:10:28,650 --> 00:10:30,220

while we're talking about this.

253

00:10:30,220 --> 00:10:32,690

And then you can come back
in when we're finished.

254

00:10:32,690 --> 00:10:34,890

How did that make you feel?

255

00:10:34,890 --> 00:10:36,790

Did it bother you?

256

00:10:36,790 --> 00:10:38,840

It bothered me when I was young.

257

00:10:38,840 --> 00:10:40,850

That was after the war
that all this happened.

258

00:10:40,850 --> 00:10:42,037

Oh this is after the war?

259

00:10:42,037 --> 00:10:42,620

After the war.

260

00:10:42,620 --> 00:10:46,430

Because when I came back,
I was close to nine years

261

00:10:46,430 --> 00:10:48,500

old, eight and a half years old.

262

00:10:48,500 --> 00:10:50,750

Yeah, yeah.

263

00:10:50,750 --> 00:10:51,380

OK.

264

00:10:51,380 --> 00:10:56,480

So you said pre-war
it was a happy life.

265

00:10:56,480 --> 00:10:59,630

It was, yeah, before we
knew what was going on.

266

00:10:59,630 --> 00:11:00,620
And what was happening.

267
00:11:00,620 --> 00:11:03,035
And when it started to
happen things were very bad.

268
00:11:03,035 --> 00:11:05,360

269
00:11:05,360 --> 00:11:08,240
What is the first thing
you remember of a change?

270
00:11:08,240 --> 00:11:10,280
Oh, I tell you that right now.

271
00:11:10,280 --> 00:11:11,000
The first change.

272
00:11:11,000 --> 00:11:15,230
My mother had two
sisters that lived

273
00:11:15,230 --> 00:11:17,630
in an island called Corfu.

274
00:11:17,630 --> 00:11:19,050
You ever hear of
the Corfu Island?

275
00:11:19,050 --> 00:11:19,550
Yes.

276
00:11:19,550 --> 00:11:21,830
It's just beautiful
there, beautiful.

277
00:11:21,830 --> 00:11:25,700
And the two sisters were there.

278
00:11:25,700 --> 00:11:27,260

They both got
married to somebody

279
00:11:27,260 --> 00:11:30,320
that had grown up in Corfu.

280
00:11:30,320 --> 00:11:32,880
Now the one sister did
not have any children.

281
00:11:32,880 --> 00:11:34,620
She had just gotten
married a year ago,

282
00:11:34,620 --> 00:11:35,960
she didn't have any children.

283
00:11:35,960 --> 00:11:39,300
The other sister had
a lot of children.

284
00:11:39,300 --> 00:11:49,110
She had two sons and one,
two, three, four girls.

285
00:11:49,110 --> 00:11:51,660
She had six children.

286
00:11:51,660 --> 00:11:55,390
And when you are ready
to know what happened,

287
00:11:55,390 --> 00:11:56,790
I could tell you now.

288
00:11:56,790 --> 00:11:57,870
Do you want to know now?

289
00:11:57,870 --> 00:12:01,570
Well no, I want to follow
along chronologically.

290

00:12:01,570 --> 00:12:04,560

The first change
that you remember.

291

00:12:04,560 --> 00:12:08,160

That's what I remember,
that one of her sisters

292

00:12:08,160 --> 00:12:10,620

that lived in Corfu
had six children.

293

00:12:10,620 --> 00:12:12,600

The other one didn't
have any children.

294

00:12:12,600 --> 00:12:19,020

And when I was about four
years old or five years old

295

00:12:19,020 --> 00:12:21,420

my mother said we're going
to go to Corfu because I

296

00:12:21,420 --> 00:12:23,700

want you to meet your cousins.

297

00:12:23,700 --> 00:12:26,280

But things were still OK?

298

00:12:26,280 --> 00:12:28,140

It hasn't started yet.

299

00:12:28,140 --> 00:12:29,340

It hasn't started yet.

300

00:12:29,340 --> 00:12:34,090

So we went by boat to Corfu
because those days there

301

00:12:34,090 --> 00:12:36,550

were no airplanes to take
you to the other place.

302
00:12:36,550 --> 00:12:40,618
So we went with that and
we stayed there a week,

303
00:12:40,618 --> 00:12:42,910
and my father used to say,
why do you want to go there?

304
00:12:42,910 --> 00:12:47,760
My mother said I want her to
meet my nieces and nephews.

305
00:12:47,760 --> 00:12:48,370
So, OK.

306
00:12:48,370 --> 00:12:50,730
So we went that one time,
but after that, nothing.

307
00:12:50,730 --> 00:12:51,420
Because--

308
00:12:51,420 --> 00:12:52,980
You went and then
you came back home.

309
00:12:52,980 --> 00:12:56,010
We came back home and
then all the mess started.

310
00:12:56,010 --> 00:12:58,710
Again, before that,
are there any holidays

311
00:12:58,710 --> 00:13:01,630
you remember before
things got difficult?

312
00:13:01,630 --> 00:13:02,595
Everything.

313

00:13:02,595 --> 00:13:03,470
Can you tell me some?

314
00:13:03,470 --> 00:13:04,800
Passover.

315
00:13:04,800 --> 00:13:06,240
What was Passover like?

316
00:13:06,240 --> 00:13:09,990
It was a big holiday, Passover,
because my grandfather that

317
00:13:09,990 --> 00:13:12,870
was then alive in
the beginning, not

318
00:13:12,870 --> 00:13:16,950
when we came back after the
war, he would run the service.

319
00:13:16,950 --> 00:13:19,980
And we had because in Greece--

320
00:13:19,980 --> 00:13:21,600
Was it in your house?

321
00:13:21,600 --> 00:13:23,280
In my grandparents' house.

322
00:13:23,280 --> 00:13:25,300
We hadn't moved yet
with my grandparents.

323
00:13:25,300 --> 00:13:27,330
We moved with my grandparents
after we came back

324
00:13:27,330 --> 00:13:30,820
from the village hiding.

325
00:13:30,820 --> 00:13:33,220

After we were hiding, and
then we moved in with them.

326
00:13:33,220 --> 00:13:35,660
Pre-war, I'm talking
about pre-war holidays.

327
00:13:35,660 --> 00:13:38,710
Yeah, I mean they had
this real big house.

328
00:13:38,710 --> 00:13:42,190
The dining room was I would
say from here to there.

329
00:13:42,190 --> 00:13:44,950
And there was a big table,
and all the Jewish people

330
00:13:44,950 --> 00:13:47,270
used to get invited
to come to our house.

331
00:13:47,270 --> 00:13:50,488
And each one used to
bring whatever they made

332
00:13:50,488 --> 00:13:51,280
and all that stuff.

333
00:13:51,280 --> 00:13:52,810
Did you sing songs?

334
00:13:52,810 --> 00:13:53,680
Oh, yes.

335
00:13:53,680 --> 00:13:56,548
Is there any particular
song you remember?

336
00:13:56,548 --> 00:13:58,090
Well I don't even
remember the songs,

337
00:13:58,090 --> 00:14:00,895
but they were singing in Hebrew,
and they were singing in Greek,

338
00:14:00,895 --> 00:14:02,272
and they were singing in--

339
00:14:02,272 --> 00:14:04,230
I mean, I used to sit
there and listen to that.

340
00:14:04,230 --> 00:14:06,400
Of course I didn't--

341
00:14:06,400 --> 00:14:10,040
and they used to make
all the Jewish cooking.

342
00:14:10,040 --> 00:14:14,740
Not matzo ball soup and
stuff like that except for--

343
00:14:14,740 --> 00:14:16,540
you didn't have bread of course.

344
00:14:16,540 --> 00:14:21,140
There was no matzo that
you could buy there.

345
00:14:21,140 --> 00:14:22,180
Nothing.

346
00:14:22,180 --> 00:14:26,530
We used to beg the bakery, my
parents used to beg the bakery

347
00:14:26,530 --> 00:14:31,030
and say could you close for
two days, or maybe one day

348
00:14:31,030 --> 00:14:35,450

if you can't give us today so
we could come and make matzo.

349
00:14:35,450 --> 00:14:35,950
Yeah.

350
00:14:35,950 --> 00:14:38,140
So we used to go in there.

351
00:14:38,140 --> 00:14:41,320
That happened after
the war, and we made

352
00:14:41,320 --> 00:14:43,940
all this matzo that was awful.

353
00:14:43,940 --> 00:14:47,770
It tasted terrible, hard, you
know you couldn't chew it.

354
00:14:47,770 --> 00:14:52,130
But then later on we
got matzo delivered.

355
00:14:52,130 --> 00:14:56,530
Did your family have any
contact with Yiddish speaking

356
00:14:56,530 --> 00:14:58,270
Jews in Europe?

357
00:14:58,270 --> 00:15:01,180
No, no Yiddish.

358
00:15:01,180 --> 00:15:02,980
It was strictly separate.

359
00:15:02,980 --> 00:15:05,437
That was amazing because when
we came here my mother used

360
00:15:05,437 --> 00:15:06,520

to say, what did they say?

361

00:15:06,520 --> 00:15:07,355

What did they say?

362

00:15:07,355 --> 00:15:08,230

I said, I don't know.

363

00:15:08,230 --> 00:15:09,730

Don't ask me.

364

00:15:09,730 --> 00:15:12,940

OK, so let's start
moving up when

365

00:15:12,940 --> 00:15:14,980

things start to get difficult.

366

00:15:14,980 --> 00:15:15,530

Very.

367

00:15:15,530 --> 00:15:16,030

Yeah.

368

00:15:16,030 --> 00:15:17,170

What was the first--

369

00:15:17,170 --> 00:15:18,330

It was in 19--

370

00:15:18,330 --> 00:15:21,220

Did you have restrictions?

371

00:15:21,220 --> 00:15:25,000

Well the restrictions were we
couldn't go out of the house

372

00:15:25,000 --> 00:15:29,530

and go like we used
to go to the square.

373

00:15:29,530 --> 00:15:32,730
We couldn't because we didn't
know what was going on there.

374
00:15:32,730 --> 00:15:36,010
There were the Germans
and the Italians

375
00:15:36,010 --> 00:15:39,740
were in my hometown
at the same time.

376
00:15:39,740 --> 00:15:42,280
But it was very dangerous
because they were not

377
00:15:42,280 --> 00:15:43,270
getting along too good.

378
00:15:43,270 --> 00:15:44,478
The Germans and the Italians.

379
00:15:44,478 --> 00:15:46,420
It was a lot of fighting.

380
00:15:46,420 --> 00:15:47,590
And the Italians--

381
00:15:47,590 --> 00:15:50,560
We're talking about '41 now?

382
00:15:50,560 --> 00:15:51,250
1941?

383
00:15:51,250 --> 00:15:53,350
I was born in '36.

384
00:15:53,350 --> 00:15:54,290
Yes.

385
00:15:54,290 --> 00:15:54,790
Yes.

386
00:15:54,790 --> 00:15:57,160
1941 and then 1942.

387
00:15:57,160 --> 00:15:59,410
So it was OK up to
the time the Germans--

388
00:15:59,410 --> 00:16:00,310
It wasn't OK.

389
00:16:00,310 --> 00:16:03,010
I didn't know exactly
what was going on

390
00:16:03,010 --> 00:16:05,650
because I was so young, but
they had their problems.

391
00:16:05,650 --> 00:16:07,270
My father always
used to say that.

392
00:16:07,270 --> 00:16:10,930
Don't do this, and don't
do that, and don't go out.

393
00:16:10,930 --> 00:16:13,330
What is that like for
a five-year-old child

394
00:16:13,330 --> 00:16:15,820
to be told you can't go outside?

395
00:16:15,820 --> 00:16:18,130
They didn't want me to
because it was dangerous.

396
00:16:18,130 --> 00:16:19,630
But how did you feel about it?

397
00:16:19,630 --> 00:16:21,010

Do you remember being sad?

398

00:16:21,010 --> 00:16:23,012

I used to say, well,
why can't I go?

399

00:16:23,012 --> 00:16:24,220

You know, I wasn't in school.

400

00:16:24,220 --> 00:16:26,200

We didn't have any
kindergarten in the school

401

00:16:26,200 --> 00:16:29,160

that I went to in all
girls private school.

402

00:16:29,160 --> 00:16:31,140

So you hadn't
started school yet?

403

00:16:31,140 --> 00:16:32,020

No.

404

00:16:32,020 --> 00:16:32,520

No.

405

00:16:32,520 --> 00:16:36,990

But then before we went
away I got very sick.

406

00:16:36,990 --> 00:16:42,000

So we were in the old
house, and the doctor

407

00:16:42,000 --> 00:16:43,860

used to come to
the house to see.

408

00:16:43,860 --> 00:16:46,808

I had-- what do you call
the sickness that when

409

00:16:46,808 --> 00:16:48,600

you have something
wrong with your kidneys?

410

00:16:48,600 --> 00:16:50,280

Nephritis?

411

00:16:50,280 --> 00:16:51,450

It might have been that.

412

00:16:51,450 --> 00:16:55,980

I was urinating
blood, and my mother

413

00:16:55,980 --> 00:16:59,770

said there is no way that
we could continue with that.

414

00:16:59,770 --> 00:17:03,570

So the doctor came to the house
and gave us a prescription.

415

00:17:03,570 --> 00:17:07,079

And my parents went
and bought that.

416

00:17:07,079 --> 00:17:08,460

I was in bed.

417

00:17:08,460 --> 00:17:11,920

I was so sick from
that, terrible.

418

00:17:11,920 --> 00:17:15,210

But then it stopped with
the medicine I took and all.

419

00:17:15,210 --> 00:17:18,930

Because by the time we went to
the village I didn't have that.

420

00:17:18,930 --> 00:17:21,329

I had other problems by the
time we went to the village.

421
00:17:21,329 --> 00:17:24,960
I had whooping cough,
and I had, what

422
00:17:24,960 --> 00:17:26,875
do you call it
when you swell up?

423
00:17:26,875 --> 00:17:27,750
What's the sickness--

424
00:17:27,750 --> 00:17:28,940
Mumps.

425
00:17:28,940 --> 00:17:29,686
Yeah.

426
00:17:29,686 --> 00:17:30,480
Mumps.

427
00:17:30,480 --> 00:17:32,100
So the first thing
you remember are

428
00:17:32,100 --> 00:17:35,220
seeing the German and Italian
soldiers in your town?

429
00:17:35,220 --> 00:17:37,680
And they were living across
the street from my house,

430
00:17:37,680 --> 00:17:39,750
from my first
house, the Italians.

431
00:17:39,750 --> 00:17:41,190
They had a house there.

432

00:17:41,190 --> 00:17:44,370

And they were having big
fights with the Germans.

433

00:17:44,370 --> 00:17:45,450

The Germans used to--

434

00:17:45,450 --> 00:17:48,890

I remember my mother saying
don't look at the door

435

00:17:48,890 --> 00:17:49,975

and don't do this.

436

00:17:49,975 --> 00:17:52,350

They would go and they would
try to get them out of there

437

00:17:52,350 --> 00:17:54,040

because they wanted to go there.

438

00:17:54,040 --> 00:17:56,070

The Italians would
come-- my mother

439

00:17:56,070 --> 00:17:58,050

went to an all Italian school.

440

00:17:58,050 --> 00:17:59,560

Did you understand Italian?

441

00:17:59,560 --> 00:18:00,060

Yes.

442

00:18:00,060 --> 00:18:00,940

Very much.

443

00:18:00,940 --> 00:18:01,440

I still do.

444

00:18:01,440 --> 00:18:02,460

Greek and Italian.

445
00:18:02,460 --> 00:18:04,260
Very, very much.

446
00:18:04,260 --> 00:18:07,830
And my mother would say,
they are knocking on the door

447
00:18:07,830 --> 00:18:09,532
because they don't
have anything to eat.

448
00:18:09,532 --> 00:18:11,490
So I told them to stop
by and I would give them

449
00:18:11,490 --> 00:18:12,712
something to eat.

450
00:18:12,712 --> 00:18:14,670
I don't know, I didn't
know what to say to her.

451
00:18:14,670 --> 00:18:16,150
Don't do it or don't
give it to her,

452
00:18:16,150 --> 00:18:17,983
I don't know what my
father was telling her.

453
00:18:17,983 --> 00:18:19,050
I don't remember.

454
00:18:19,050 --> 00:18:23,320
And then the Germans
threw them out.

455
00:18:23,320 --> 00:18:25,200
So the best friends
that we had there

456

00:18:25,200 --> 00:18:27,750
were some Italians
that lived near us.

457
00:18:27,750 --> 00:18:28,950
They went back to Italy.

458
00:18:28,950 --> 00:18:30,480
They got away.

459
00:18:30,480 --> 00:18:33,500
Was it very frightening,
again, you were young--

460
00:18:33,500 --> 00:18:34,000
Yes.

461
00:18:34,000 --> 00:18:37,240
To see a German
soldier in uniform?

462
00:18:37,240 --> 00:18:40,210
Well my mother kept saying--

463
00:18:40,210 --> 00:18:43,690
my mother was home most
of the time and my father.

464
00:18:43,690 --> 00:18:45,670
Don't talk to
them, don't do this

465
00:18:45,670 --> 00:18:47,960
and don't do that because
they're dangerous.

466
00:18:47,960 --> 00:18:50,180
So was it very frightening
to see them as a child?

467
00:18:50,180 --> 00:18:50,770
Yes.

468

00:18:50,770 --> 00:18:51,370

Yes.

469

00:18:51,370 --> 00:18:52,390

There were not--

470

00:18:52,390 --> 00:18:55,600

If they said that, I

didn't know those people.

471

00:18:55,600 --> 00:18:57,850

But we were friendly with

the non-Jewish people

472

00:18:57,850 --> 00:18:59,040

that lived on the street.

473

00:18:59,040 --> 00:18:59,830

Yes, yes.

474

00:18:59,830 --> 00:19:01,550

No, but I meant the

German soldiers.

475

00:19:01,550 --> 00:19:02,050

Yeah.

476

00:19:02,050 --> 00:19:02,950

The German-- yeah.

477

00:19:02,950 --> 00:19:03,910

They were bad.

478

00:19:03,910 --> 00:19:05,800

But they were bad

because they were

479

00:19:05,800 --> 00:19:10,277

told to be bad from Hitler.

480

00:19:10,277 --> 00:19:12,360

Had you heard of a man
named Hitler at that point?

481
00:19:12,360 --> 00:19:12,990
Oh, yes.

482
00:19:12,990 --> 00:19:13,800
Oh, yes.

483
00:19:13,800 --> 00:19:15,330
How did you hear about him?

484
00:19:15,330 --> 00:19:17,760
Because my family
was taken by then.

485
00:19:17,760 --> 00:19:20,980
My mother's two sisters.

486
00:19:20,980 --> 00:19:21,510
No, no, no.

487
00:19:21,510 --> 00:19:24,060
I meant before things
really started.

488
00:19:24,060 --> 00:19:27,680
When did you first start hearing
about a man named Hitler?

489
00:19:27,680 --> 00:19:28,980
I hear them talking.

490
00:19:28,980 --> 00:19:30,320
I heard people talking.

491
00:19:30,320 --> 00:19:34,070
I didn't know anything about
it, I didn't ask questions.

492
00:19:34,070 --> 00:19:38,280
So the Hitler

people were the ones

493

00:19:38,280 --> 00:19:40,700

that were terrible
during the time

494

00:19:40,700 --> 00:19:43,200

that all the Jewish people
were in the concentration camp.

495

00:19:43,200 --> 00:19:44,690

Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

496

00:19:44,690 --> 00:19:47,990

But I just was curious when you
first started hearing about it.

497

00:19:47,990 --> 00:19:53,720

OK, so they come in,
the Germans are there.

498

00:19:53,720 --> 00:19:58,970

But they come in, the
Italians were calm to talk to.

499

00:19:58,970 --> 00:20:03,020

The Germans would come in and
say, what are you doing here?

500

00:20:03,020 --> 00:20:04,030

Where did you come from?

501

00:20:04,030 --> 00:20:06,440

Like they were
speaking in German.

502

00:20:06,440 --> 00:20:08,390

Were there swastikas on flags?

503

00:20:08,390 --> 00:20:09,140

Oh, yes.

504

00:20:09,140 --> 00:20:10,070
Oh, yes.

505
00:20:10,070 --> 00:20:11,610
That you saw in the town?

506
00:20:11,610 --> 00:20:12,110
Yes.

507
00:20:12,110 --> 00:20:13,485
And you know what
else there was?

508
00:20:13,485 --> 00:20:14,240
No.

509
00:20:14,240 --> 00:20:17,840
There were airplanes going
by and they were throwing

510
00:20:17,840 --> 00:20:19,430
something that was written up.

511
00:20:19,430 --> 00:20:20,460
Some kind of paper.

512
00:20:20,460 --> 00:20:21,132
A pamphlet?

513
00:20:21,132 --> 00:20:22,360
A leaflet?

514
00:20:22,360 --> 00:20:22,915
Single paper.

515
00:20:22,915 --> 00:20:25,040
I want to know what they
had written up there so we

516
00:20:25,040 --> 00:20:26,370
could see what's going on.

517

00:20:26,370 --> 00:20:30,890

And there was a war
going on in Greece also.

518

00:20:30,890 --> 00:20:34,850

The war was killing
at our houses.

519

00:20:34,850 --> 00:20:37,460

They would throw whatever, they
would throw it from up there.

520

00:20:37,460 --> 00:20:39,710

The houses went crazy.

521

00:20:39,710 --> 00:20:41,540

You know there was
nothing, but that also

522

00:20:41,540 --> 00:20:44,750

happened after we came
back in the real beginning.

523

00:20:44,750 --> 00:20:46,370

524

00:20:46,370 --> 00:20:50,720

Once things started to change
you stayed inside the house?

525

00:20:50,720 --> 00:20:52,050

Yeah, right.

526

00:20:52,050 --> 00:20:53,050

We wouldn't go anywhere.

527

00:20:53,050 --> 00:20:55,820

And then what was
the next change?

528

00:20:55,820 --> 00:21:01,960

The next change was that after

the Jewish people were killed,

529

00:21:01,960 --> 00:21:03,940

there were a lot of
Jewish people taken

530

00:21:03,940 --> 00:21:06,120

to the concentration camp.

531

00:21:06,120 --> 00:21:08,040

While you were
still in your house?

532

00:21:08,040 --> 00:21:11,590

Yes, and my mother said--

533

00:21:11,590 --> 00:21:13,885

Are you talking about
Jewish people in Greece?

534

00:21:13,885 --> 00:21:15,480

Yes, I'm talking about us.

535

00:21:15,480 --> 00:21:16,288

And the family.

536

00:21:16,288 --> 00:21:16,830

In your town?

537

00:21:16,830 --> 00:21:18,000

Yeah, in our Patras.

538

00:21:18,000 --> 00:21:18,990

In our town.

539

00:21:18,990 --> 00:21:23,040

Because they came with
a boat from places

540

00:21:23,040 --> 00:21:26,080

that had the word
like an island.

541
00:21:26,080 --> 00:21:31,830
They only had three places
around with water and one

542
00:21:31,830 --> 00:21:33,020
that did not have water.

543
00:21:33,020 --> 00:21:35,760
It has regular earth.

544
00:21:35,760 --> 00:21:38,790
But my family, my
mother's family,

545
00:21:38,790 --> 00:21:42,150
was coming to my
home town by boat.

546
00:21:42,150 --> 00:21:45,750
And then after they got off the
boat they put them on a train

547
00:21:45,750 --> 00:21:47,520
to take them to Germany.

548
00:21:47,520 --> 00:21:50,160
And we knew about
it because they were

549
00:21:50,160 --> 00:21:52,270
advertising all these things.

550
00:21:52,270 --> 00:21:53,790
And my mother kept
saying, I want

551
00:21:53,790 --> 00:21:56,550
to go see my sisters
to say hello to them

552
00:21:56,550 --> 00:21:59,670

and not to forget to call
me when they're there.

553
00:21:59,670 --> 00:22:02,350
And my father says, well
you're not going anywhere.

554
00:22:02,350 --> 00:22:03,600
So she didn't leave the house?

555
00:22:03,600 --> 00:22:04,100
No.

556
00:22:04,100 --> 00:22:07,677
She wanted to take me also,
and my father says no.

557
00:22:07,677 --> 00:22:08,760
You're not going anyplace.

558
00:22:08,760 --> 00:22:10,380
You're not going to do that.

559
00:22:10,380 --> 00:22:13,500
So it's a good thing she didn't.

560
00:22:13,500 --> 00:22:16,470
Did you see, while you
were inside the house--

561
00:22:16,470 --> 00:22:18,390
Because they took them.

562
00:22:18,390 --> 00:22:21,060
They took them down and they
put them in certain places.

563
00:22:21,060 --> 00:22:23,150
What they did is my
mother's younger sister that

564
00:22:23,150 --> 00:22:27,690

had all those children, she
had three girls and two boys.

565
00:22:27,690 --> 00:22:28,715
Five or six children.

566
00:22:28,715 --> 00:22:30,090
I can't, I think
there were five.

567
00:22:30,090 --> 00:22:31,410
What was her name?

568
00:22:31,410 --> 00:22:34,290
Esther Mordo.

569
00:22:34,290 --> 00:22:41,098
M-O-R-D-O. And she
was on the train.

570
00:22:41,098 --> 00:22:42,890
They didn't give them
any food or anything,

571
00:22:42,890 --> 00:22:44,780
I don't know what they ate.

572
00:22:44,780 --> 00:22:47,420
But when they got
to Germany they

573
00:22:47,420 --> 00:22:52,280
had an announcement saying
that you are going to get food

574
00:22:52,280 --> 00:22:53,420
when you come out of here.

575
00:22:53,420 --> 00:22:54,680
Yeah, right.

576
00:22:54,680 --> 00:22:57,770

When you come out
of here, and the men

577
00:22:57,770 --> 00:23:03,260
are going to go to a different
place to live with their sons.

578
00:23:03,260 --> 00:23:05,210
And the mother
with the daughters

579
00:23:05,210 --> 00:23:08,090
will go to another place, and
that's where they all got--

580
00:23:08,090 --> 00:23:09,830
except for one thing.

581
00:23:09,830 --> 00:23:16,600
My mother's two nieces,
one niece really,

582
00:23:16,600 --> 00:23:20,050
that still lives in
Baltimore now, Lena.

583
00:23:20,050 --> 00:23:24,190
She was 15 years old, and they
did not kill the 15-year-olds.

584
00:23:24,190 --> 00:23:27,230
They let them stay
and work there.

585
00:23:27,230 --> 00:23:29,720
Clean the street from
all the dirt and all.

586
00:23:29,720 --> 00:23:34,875
And the two boys that
were a little bit older.

587
00:23:34,875 --> 00:23:37,000

They killed the ones that
were under a certain age,

588
00:23:37,000 --> 00:23:39,610
under 15 or something.

589
00:23:39,610 --> 00:23:42,820
The two boys survived
also working.

590
00:23:42,820 --> 00:23:46,330
The one boy got killed,
the youngest one.

591
00:23:46,330 --> 00:23:50,850
But the older boy that still--

592
00:23:50,850 --> 00:23:52,900
he just died a year ago.

593
00:23:52,900 --> 00:23:57,570
They put the younger
boy, they were

594
00:23:57,570 --> 00:24:00,040
going to take him and throw
him out because he died.

595
00:24:00,040 --> 00:24:02,940
But the older boy took him and
put him in his bed with him

596
00:24:02,940 --> 00:24:04,020
because he was dead.

597
00:24:04,020 --> 00:24:05,850
That was terrible.

598
00:24:05,850 --> 00:24:08,280
Terrible.

599
00:24:08,280 --> 00:24:11,410

So but finally you
know he couldn't do it.

600
00:24:11,410 --> 00:24:12,370
He gave him up.

601
00:24:12,370 --> 00:24:15,510
And my cousin Lena
that lives, like

602
00:24:15,510 --> 00:24:19,500
I said, in Baltimore, she was
working, cleaning the streets

603
00:24:19,500 --> 00:24:22,170
and whatever she was doing.

604
00:24:22,170 --> 00:24:24,240
And they gave her shots.

605
00:24:24,240 --> 00:24:26,040
She had a lot of
needles so she wouldn't

606
00:24:26,040 --> 00:24:30,150
get her period anymore,
and she would have

607
00:24:30,150 --> 00:24:33,570
this or that, or the other.

608
00:24:33,570 --> 00:24:37,050
We didn't hear from them,
of course, or her brother.

609
00:24:37,050 --> 00:24:40,840
Her brother was Sabino Mordo.

610
00:24:40,840 --> 00:24:44,260
And you know, we
didn't hear from them.

611

00:24:44,260 --> 00:24:47,170
And then after everything
was finished they were there

612
00:24:47,170 --> 00:24:48,820
a little more than a year.

613
00:24:48,820 --> 00:24:52,810
After it was finished, she
ran away from there somehow

614
00:24:52,810 --> 00:24:56,830
and went either to--

615
00:24:56,830 --> 00:25:01,610
what is the word Elvetia
called in English?

616
00:25:01,610 --> 00:25:02,230
Elvetia.

617
00:25:02,230 --> 00:25:04,660
It's another country.

618
00:25:04,660 --> 00:25:06,730
That's where she went.

619
00:25:06,730 --> 00:25:08,740
And she went into
a hospital there

620
00:25:08,740 --> 00:25:10,840
because she was very sick.

621
00:25:10,840 --> 00:25:12,760
And they called my
mother's brother

622
00:25:12,760 --> 00:25:16,690
that lived in Athens,
my uncle, and she

623

00:25:16,690 --> 00:25:20,300
said we are here my brother and
I, we don't know what to do.

624
00:25:20,300 --> 00:25:24,500
We were not treated
well and all that.

625
00:25:24,500 --> 00:25:27,710
So he says don't do anything,
and I'll make sure you come in.

626
00:25:27,710 --> 00:25:30,730
So they both, somehow
he took them to Athens.

627
00:25:30,730 --> 00:25:32,760
I don't know how
they came to Athens.

628
00:25:32,760 --> 00:25:37,540
She went to a doctor, and she
had all kinds of treatments

629
00:25:37,540 --> 00:25:41,080
to become a woman again.

630
00:25:41,080 --> 00:25:45,422
And she got married there, and
he left and went to Israel.

631
00:25:45,422 --> 00:25:46,630
He didn't want to live there.

632
00:25:46,630 --> 00:25:50,410
He lived in Israel the rest
of his life after that.

633
00:25:50,410 --> 00:25:53,960
Which I met when I went to
Israel, you know, I saw him.

634
00:25:53,960 --> 00:25:55,630

Let's get back to your story.

635

00:25:55,630 --> 00:25:58,480

So you're in the house,
the Germans are there,

636

00:25:58,480 --> 00:26:00,130

you're not going outside.

637

00:26:00,130 --> 00:26:02,050

And then what changed?

638

00:26:02,050 --> 00:26:03,010

What was the next--

639

00:26:03,010 --> 00:26:04,180

And then we left.

640

00:26:04,180 --> 00:26:04,690

We were--

641

00:26:04,690 --> 00:26:06,160

How did you know,
do you know how

642

00:26:06,160 --> 00:26:08,560

your parents knew how to leave?

643

00:26:08,560 --> 00:26:09,070

Yes.

644

00:26:09,070 --> 00:26:11,830

The people that were not Jewish.

645

00:26:11,830 --> 00:26:18,670

They were Greek Orthodox,
whatever the Greek religion is.

646

00:26:18,670 --> 00:26:21,400

It's not like they have here,
they're not Jewish people.

647

00:26:21,400 --> 00:26:24,640

And they were doing
business, the father,

648

00:26:24,640 --> 00:26:29,620

the man of the family was
doing business with the bank

649

00:26:29,620 --> 00:26:34,000

that my father's brother
who had a big job there.

650

00:26:34,000 --> 00:26:38,470

So my father's brother said
I'm not going to be here.

651

00:26:38,470 --> 00:26:41,250

In a few days we're going to
be running away to a village.

652

00:26:41,250 --> 00:26:42,940

He says, we don't
know where to go.

653

00:26:42,940 --> 00:26:47,080

And he says we have
a house in Micalaca.

654

00:26:47,080 --> 00:26:51,310

Micalaca was the
name of the country.

655

00:26:51,310 --> 00:26:54,610

And you can have the house
to live there, he says,

656

00:26:54,610 --> 00:26:58,990

the house is not well finished.

657

00:26:58,990 --> 00:27:01,750

They lived in another house
but that one was not-- it

658

00:27:01,750 --> 00:27:04,600

was built up, and it had
a door and everything.

659

00:27:04,600 --> 00:27:07,480

It had nothing, no bathroom.

660

00:27:07,480 --> 00:27:08,980

If you had to go
to the bathroom you

661

00:27:08,980 --> 00:27:12,100

had to go outside
in the wintertime.

662

00:27:12,100 --> 00:27:14,620

My grandfather used
to find a chair that

663

00:27:14,620 --> 00:27:17,290

had a hole in the middle,
it didn't have any--

664

00:27:17,290 --> 00:27:19,610

so he used to go to that
in the middle of the night.

665

00:27:19,610 --> 00:27:20,480

It was very cold.

666

00:27:20,480 --> 00:27:22,540

We had snow there.

667

00:27:22,540 --> 00:27:25,600

And they had some
kind of a place where

668

00:27:25,600 --> 00:27:27,520

they could light some wood.

669

00:27:27,520 --> 00:27:30,490

And if my mother wanted to

warm up something that we got

670

00:27:30,490 --> 00:27:34,880

she had to light
whatever the matches are.

671

00:27:34,880 --> 00:27:36,870

That, I don't know.

672

00:27:36,870 --> 00:27:38,190

And they did that.

673

00:27:38,190 --> 00:27:42,840

And we didn't have any milk,
we didn't have nothing.

674

00:27:42,840 --> 00:27:44,790

Somehow they were making bread.

675

00:27:44,790 --> 00:27:48,510

Where did they get the
flour from, I don't know.

676

00:27:48,510 --> 00:27:51,900

Let's talk about your
leaving your first house.

677

00:27:51,900 --> 00:27:53,100

What was it like?

678

00:27:53,100 --> 00:27:54,233

Well we came back.

679

00:27:54,233 --> 00:27:55,650

No, no, no not
when you came back.

680

00:27:55,650 --> 00:27:59,070

When you were leaving
to go out in hiding.

681

00:27:59,070 --> 00:28:01,260

How did you feel about that?

682

00:28:01,260 --> 00:28:04,662

When was this, in 1940--

683

00:28:04,662 --> 00:28:06,870

when did you leave your
house to go into the country?

684

00:28:06,870 --> 00:28:08,162

Wait I'll tell you in a minute.

685

00:28:08,162 --> 00:28:12,760

I was born in 1936, 1940,
I think it was 1942.

686

00:28:12,760 --> 00:28:14,490

OK, so you're six years old.

687

00:28:14,490 --> 00:28:14,990

Right.

688

00:28:14,990 --> 00:28:17,073

And you're told that you
have to leave your house.

689

00:28:17,073 --> 00:28:19,353

We were leaving, yeah.

690

00:28:19,353 --> 00:28:20,520

Do you remember this at all?

691

00:28:20,520 --> 00:28:21,403

Oh, yes.

692

00:28:21,403 --> 00:28:22,320

Like it was yesterday.

693

00:28:22,320 --> 00:28:24,737

Well what was it like for a
six-year-old to have to leave?

694

00:28:24,737 --> 00:28:27,360

Well my uncle came
back from the bank.

695

00:28:27,360 --> 00:28:29,790

Two of my uncles were
working at the bank.

696

00:28:29,790 --> 00:28:31,770

The youngest one, and
he was the oldest one.

697

00:28:31,770 --> 00:28:34,860

And he said we get everything
ready because we're

698

00:28:34,860 --> 00:28:36,250

leaving right away.

699

00:28:36,250 --> 00:28:38,120

Did you want to leave?

700

00:28:38,120 --> 00:28:39,048

Yeah, I don't know.

701

00:28:39,048 --> 00:28:40,340

I didn't know it was dangerous.

702

00:28:40,340 --> 00:28:41,220

I was scared.

703

00:28:41,220 --> 00:28:43,550

You know enough that it
was-- at six years old.

704

00:28:43,550 --> 00:28:44,570

Yes.

705

00:28:44,570 --> 00:28:46,445

I didn't know that they
were killing people.

706

00:28:46,445 --> 00:28:48,320

I didn't know what they
were doing like that.

707

00:28:48,320 --> 00:28:50,240

Why they took them there
I still didn't know.

708

00:28:50,240 --> 00:28:52,780

They didn't tell us that.

709

00:28:52,780 --> 00:28:54,800

Did you take anything
special with you?

710

00:28:54,800 --> 00:28:58,400

Any special toys
or books or dolls?

711

00:28:58,400 --> 00:29:00,740

No toys, no dolls, no books.

712

00:29:00,740 --> 00:29:03,078

A couple of clothing, you
know, like different--

713

00:29:03,078 --> 00:29:03,620

Just clothes.

714

00:29:03,620 --> 00:29:05,030

Yeah and some shoes.

715

00:29:05,030 --> 00:29:06,170

I came back without shoes.

716

00:29:06,170 --> 00:29:11,450

I came back barefoot because
the shoes were worn out.

717

00:29:11,450 --> 00:29:12,500

And he--

718

00:29:12,500 --> 00:29:15,650

What time of year was this
in '42, was it spring?

719

00:29:15,650 --> 00:29:16,610

It was, yeah.

720

00:29:16,610 --> 00:29:17,780

Spring '42.

721

00:29:17,780 --> 00:29:21,770

It was like the beginning-- the
summer was coming after that.

722

00:29:21,770 --> 00:29:25,790

But the uncle that
was at the bank,

723

00:29:25,790 --> 00:29:28,713

he said to this
non-Jewish person

724

00:29:28,713 --> 00:29:31,130

that was doing business-- they
were so nice, those people.

725

00:29:31,130 --> 00:29:33,080

Do you remember the
non-Jewish person's name?

726

00:29:33,080 --> 00:29:33,700

Oh yeah.

727

00:29:33,700 --> 00:29:35,390

They live in Baltimore.

728

00:29:35,390 --> 00:29:36,650

Michaelis.

729

00:29:36,650 --> 00:29:37,310

Michaelis.

730

00:29:37,310 --> 00:29:39,770

And the first name?

731

00:29:39,770 --> 00:29:43,880

The mother's name was
Catherine Michaelis.

732

00:29:43,880 --> 00:29:45,380

And the other one was--

733

00:29:45,380 --> 00:29:47,235

how do you call it in--

734

00:29:47,235 --> 00:29:47,735

Elias.

735

00:29:47,735 --> 00:29:50,750

736

00:29:50,750 --> 00:29:54,080

And he said, this
man said to my uncle,

737

00:29:54,080 --> 00:29:58,250

don't worry I'll find you
some horses to take you there.

738

00:29:58,250 --> 00:30:00,220

Because the roads
were that narrow.

739

00:30:00,220 --> 00:30:01,370

Now they're all fixed up.

740

00:30:01,370 --> 00:30:02,900

How far from Patras?

741

00:30:02,900 --> 00:30:04,340

Oh it was quite a few hours.

742

00:30:04,340 --> 00:30:04,910

A few hours.

743
00:30:04,910 --> 00:30:05,210
Oh, OK.

744
00:30:05,210 --> 00:30:05,877
With the horses.

745
00:30:05,877 --> 00:30:08,000
And the horses couldn't
even walk there

746
00:30:08,000 --> 00:30:11,540
because it was so narrow
and they would tip.

747
00:30:11,540 --> 00:30:13,490
But who sat on the horses?

748
00:30:13,490 --> 00:30:16,220
Oh you didn't go in a wagon,
you went on the horse itself?

749
00:30:16,220 --> 00:30:19,410
I didn't go to
nothing, I walked.

750
00:30:19,410 --> 00:30:21,750
I walked holding my father's
hand or my mother's hand.

751
00:30:21,750 --> 00:30:23,940
My mother was carrying
my sister that was

752
00:30:23,940 --> 00:30:26,080
seven months old at the time.

753
00:30:26,080 --> 00:30:31,830
And my grandmother and
grandfather sat on the horses.

754

00:30:31,830 --> 00:30:33,690

And it was terrible
to get out of there.

755

00:30:33,690 --> 00:30:37,200

We got there that
day, that night.

756

00:30:37,200 --> 00:30:38,790

And we went to that
house and we had

757

00:30:38,790 --> 00:30:40,800

taken with us some
blankets, and I

758

00:30:40,800 --> 00:30:42,570

don't know who
carried them I have

759

00:30:42,570 --> 00:30:45,660

no idea if they tied them
on the horse or something

760

00:30:45,660 --> 00:30:46,510

to take them.

761

00:30:46,510 --> 00:30:47,230

I don't know.

762

00:30:47,230 --> 00:30:48,120

Yeah.

763

00:30:48,120 --> 00:30:50,100

So now you get to the house.

764

00:30:50,100 --> 00:30:53,040

We got to the house and that's
where we started to say.

765

00:30:53,040 --> 00:30:56,800

And it was beginning to
be the fall after that.

766
00:30:56,800 --> 00:30:58,620
And what did you do every day?

767
00:30:58,620 --> 00:31:00,000
What was a typical day like?

768
00:31:00,000 --> 00:31:03,780
I met the Michaelis' family
that gave us the house.

769
00:31:03,780 --> 00:31:08,290
They had two daughters, one
exactly my age, two days apart.

770
00:31:08,290 --> 00:31:13,200
And she said to me, we can go to
the school here in the church.

771
00:31:13,200 --> 00:31:17,120
There's a church
there and the priest

772
00:31:17,120 --> 00:31:20,360
was teaching a little bit,
you know, I mean whatever.

773
00:31:20,360 --> 00:31:23,830
So we would go there every
day, we would walk together.

774
00:31:23,830 --> 00:31:27,940
Because when we got there,
it was the end of summer

775
00:31:27,940 --> 00:31:29,290
just about.

776
00:31:29,290 --> 00:31:31,630
And then he was doing
this all the time,

777

00:31:31,630 --> 00:31:34,000
and she had another
sister, then the brother

778
00:31:34,000 --> 00:31:35,060
that was much too young.

779
00:31:35,060 --> 00:31:37,510
So she and her sister
used to come in there,

780
00:31:37,510 --> 00:31:40,450
and we used to hear
what they were saying.

781
00:31:40,450 --> 00:31:41,620
The two teachers.

782
00:31:41,620 --> 00:31:44,780
I mean, how can you learn,
you were seven years old,

783
00:31:44,780 --> 00:31:47,860
six years old, whatever.

784
00:31:47,860 --> 00:31:50,920
But there was a lot
of trouble there also.

785
00:31:50,920 --> 00:31:54,130
They took my father's two
brothers, the youngest

786
00:31:54,130 --> 00:31:55,780
and the oldest one.

787
00:31:55,780 --> 00:31:58,930
They came in where we
stayed and they took them.

788
00:31:58,930 --> 00:32:02,710
It wasn't only the Germans,
it was the hillbillies.

789
00:32:02,710 --> 00:32:03,310
The what?

790
00:32:03,310 --> 00:32:03,977
The hillbillies.

791
00:32:03,977 --> 00:32:05,800
Hillbillies?

792
00:32:05,800 --> 00:32:07,900
Together with the Germans.

793
00:32:07,900 --> 00:32:09,070
They took them to a place--

794
00:32:09,070 --> 00:32:11,320
The native Greeks, is
that what you're saying?

795
00:32:11,320 --> 00:32:13,990
Yeah, they never
had any education,

796
00:32:13,990 --> 00:32:15,070
never knew about nothing.

797
00:32:15,070 --> 00:32:17,980
They knew about Christ.

798
00:32:17,980 --> 00:32:21,262
So they took them in the
village and they killed them.

799
00:32:21,262 --> 00:32:22,720
They were going to
kill them there.

800
00:32:22,720 --> 00:32:25,380
What they did is--

801

00:32:25,380 --> 00:32:27,030
it's a terrible thing to say.

802
00:32:27,030 --> 00:32:30,780
When my father and his other
brother that they didn't take,

803
00:32:30,780 --> 00:32:34,800
he was with him, they decided
to go and see where they were,

804
00:32:34,800 --> 00:32:36,115
where they took them.

805
00:32:36,115 --> 00:32:38,490
And they found them because
I had heard from other people

806
00:32:38,490 --> 00:32:41,050
where they went, and
they found them there.

807
00:32:41,050 --> 00:32:45,010
So they took the
brothers by the hands

808
00:32:45,010 --> 00:32:49,690
to get them to join and
come back with them.

809
00:32:49,690 --> 00:32:54,790
Whoever it was, my father would
say it was not the Germans,

810
00:32:54,790 --> 00:32:56,530
it was the hillbillies
that did that.

811
00:32:56,530 --> 00:33:00,130
They took the oldest brother
that was older than my father,

812
00:33:00,130 --> 00:33:03,370

and they grabbed him back
and they put his eyes out.

813
00:33:03,370 --> 00:33:05,050
They poked his eyes out.

814
00:33:05,050 --> 00:33:06,550
And my father
remembers seeing that.

815
00:33:06,550 --> 00:33:07,660
What was his name?

816
00:33:07,660 --> 00:33:09,460
The one who was killed.

817
00:33:09,460 --> 00:33:10,570
The oldest brother?

818
00:33:10,570 --> 00:33:12,640
Victor.

819
00:33:12,640 --> 00:33:14,260
That's what my
brother's name is now.

820
00:33:14,260 --> 00:33:15,302
They named him after him.

821
00:33:15,302 --> 00:33:19,030
And the youngest
one, that was Joseph.

822
00:33:19,030 --> 00:33:21,690
I don't know what
they did to him.

823
00:33:21,690 --> 00:33:25,290
So my father came back with
his other brother because he

824
00:33:25,290 --> 00:33:27,630

couldn't-- you know, they
were throwing them out.

825
00:33:27,630 --> 00:33:28,900
And that was the end of that.

826
00:33:28,900 --> 00:33:30,990
So my grandparents
went crazy because they

827
00:33:30,990 --> 00:33:33,130
lost their children.

828
00:33:33,130 --> 00:33:35,870
And then they had different
things that were going on.

829
00:33:35,870 --> 00:33:38,860
They were coming to
the house we were at

830
00:33:38,860 --> 00:33:42,940
to find who was there so
they could do bad things.

831
00:33:42,940 --> 00:33:44,210
But we used to run away.

832
00:33:44,210 --> 00:33:45,760
They being the Germans?

833
00:33:45,760 --> 00:33:46,640
Or they being the--

834
00:33:46,640 --> 00:33:47,440
Together.

835
00:33:47,440 --> 00:33:47,980
Together.

836
00:33:47,980 --> 00:33:50,080
The Germans and the hillbillies.

837
00:33:50,080 --> 00:33:52,090
So we were petrified.

838
00:33:52,090 --> 00:33:53,830
So we would leave.

839
00:33:53,830 --> 00:33:55,600
So where did we go one time?

840
00:33:55,600 --> 00:33:57,160
In the church that they had.

841
00:33:57,160 --> 00:34:01,060
Because the priest said
come here, we have a room.

842
00:34:01,060 --> 00:34:02,980
What do you think they had?

843
00:34:02,980 --> 00:34:08,860
A room with horses and with,
what do you call the stuff,

844
00:34:08,860 --> 00:34:10,480
that sometimes you get--

845
00:34:10,480 --> 00:34:11,570
Hay?

846
00:34:11,570 --> 00:34:12,070
Hay.

847
00:34:12,070 --> 00:34:17,889
That's where we stayed, on the
hay, until we left from there.

848
00:34:17,889 --> 00:34:20,739
And we went to another
place, because they put fire

849

00:34:20,739 --> 00:34:22,199
on the other houses that we had.

850
00:34:22,199 --> 00:34:24,449
You left that first
house that you went to?

851
00:34:24,449 --> 00:34:24,949
Yeah.

852
00:34:24,949 --> 00:34:27,076
They put fire in
that, they burned it.

853
00:34:27,076 --> 00:34:28,909
And they burned some
other houses there too.

854
00:34:28,909 --> 00:34:30,284
Were you home when
that happened?

855
00:34:30,284 --> 00:34:30,980
No no.

856
00:34:30,980 --> 00:34:33,560
We had left right away.

857
00:34:33,560 --> 00:34:36,830
My father said we're going to
get away from here because it's

858
00:34:36,830 --> 00:34:37,550
dangerous.

859
00:34:37,550 --> 00:34:38,370
Oh, I see.

860
00:34:38,370 --> 00:34:41,090
So where did you-- where
was the second place?

861

00:34:41,090 --> 00:34:44,420

To another house in
another small town.

862

00:34:44,420 --> 00:34:47,692

But the houses that are not
finished, you know, nothing.

863

00:34:47,692 --> 00:34:49,400

And we stayed there
the rest of the time.

864

00:34:49,400 --> 00:34:52,695

What was the name of
that town or village?

865

00:34:52,695 --> 00:34:53,320

You don't know.

866

00:34:53,320 --> 00:34:54,159

It didn't have a name.

867

00:34:54,159 --> 00:34:55,534

I don't even think
it had a name.

868

00:34:55,534 --> 00:35:00,368

It must have been there
near the Micalaca.

869

00:35:00,368 --> 00:35:01,690

The place I remember.

870

00:35:01,690 --> 00:35:03,850

But we used to go
out with my friends,

871

00:35:03,850 --> 00:35:05,650

with the non-Jewish people.

872

00:35:05,650 --> 00:35:09,910

When I say out, outside,
and they had a river there.

873

00:35:09,910 --> 00:35:15,280
And we would pull some water
out and to play with some rocks.

874

00:35:15,280 --> 00:35:19,490
But it was bad because
guess what was in the water?

875

00:35:19,490 --> 00:35:21,470
There's one time my
mother was so excited

876

00:35:21,470 --> 00:35:26,302
because somebody said to her
you can have meat tonight.

877

00:35:26,302 --> 00:35:28,760
It was killed animals that they
were throwing them in there

878

00:35:28,760 --> 00:35:29,780
for people to take them.

879

00:35:29,780 --> 00:35:30,410
There was what?

880

00:35:30,410 --> 00:35:31,490
Killed animals.

881

00:35:31,490 --> 00:35:34,520
Oh, killed animals.

882

00:35:34,520 --> 00:35:37,130
So my father says throw it out.

883

00:35:37,130 --> 00:35:40,010
He says you're not
doing anything with it.

884

00:35:40,010 --> 00:35:42,740
We were a year and a half there.

885
00:35:42,740 --> 00:35:49,100
Because we went in
the summer of 1940--

886
00:35:49,100 --> 00:35:51,470
when was Regina born,
do you know what year?

887
00:35:51,470 --> 00:35:53,218
She is seven years
younger than you.

888
00:35:53,218 --> 00:35:54,635
I know but what
year was she born?

889
00:35:54,635 --> 00:35:57,350
So you were born in '36.

890
00:35:57,350 --> 00:35:59,330
So '43.

891
00:35:59,330 --> 00:36:01,202
'43.

892
00:36:01,202 --> 00:36:03,470
'43.

893
00:36:03,470 --> 00:36:06,560
I mean, we were just going to
come back because by then it

894
00:36:06,560 --> 00:36:10,070
was beginning to be the change.

895
00:36:10,070 --> 00:36:12,590
They caught the Germans
and they were running away,

896
00:36:12,590 --> 00:36:16,110
going back home and all that

because Hitler, he was sick.

897

00:36:16,110 --> 00:36:16,610

OK.

898

00:36:16,610 --> 00:36:20,910

At that time did
your parents ever

899

00:36:20,910 --> 00:36:23,480

talk to you, I know,
again, you were young,

900

00:36:23,480 --> 00:36:26,790

but did they talk to you
about what was happening?

901

00:36:26,790 --> 00:36:27,940

Yes.

902

00:36:27,940 --> 00:36:28,440

Yes.

903

00:36:28,440 --> 00:36:29,357

I knew what happened--

904

00:36:29,357 --> 00:36:30,990

Do remember always
being frightened

905

00:36:30,990 --> 00:36:32,550

or did you some fun times?

906

00:36:32,550 --> 00:36:33,420

Yes.

907

00:36:33,420 --> 00:36:35,235

When I came back home--

908

00:36:35,235 --> 00:36:37,000

No, before you came back home.

909
00:36:37,000 --> 00:36:37,500
Yes.

910
00:36:37,500 --> 00:36:38,430
Oh, yes.

911
00:36:38,430 --> 00:36:39,180
I definitely did.

912
00:36:39,180 --> 00:36:40,290
I definitely did.

913
00:36:40,290 --> 00:36:41,460
Yes.

914
00:36:41,460 --> 00:36:42,460
I knew what was--

915
00:36:42,460 --> 00:36:46,590
Would you describe yourself at
that young age as independent?

916
00:36:46,590 --> 00:36:48,323
Not independent at all.

917
00:36:48,323 --> 00:36:50,490
You'd been very dependent
on your mother and father.

918
00:36:50,490 --> 00:36:53,850
I was dependent on
the non-Jewish people,

919
00:36:53,850 --> 00:36:54,900
the Michaelis people.

920
00:36:54,900 --> 00:36:56,940
You know, they were so nice.

921
00:36:56,940 --> 00:36:59,260
And they live in Baltimore

now those people.

922

00:36:59,260 --> 00:37:02,070

And I'm still
friendly with them.

923

00:37:02,070 --> 00:37:03,040

They were very nice.

924

00:37:03,040 --> 00:37:04,240

They were not Jewish people.

925

00:37:04,240 --> 00:37:04,830

They were very nice.

926

00:37:04,830 --> 00:37:06,497

Why are they doing
that, they would say.

927

00:37:06,497 --> 00:37:07,530

Why?

928

00:37:07,530 --> 00:37:09,210

How was your health
when you were

929

00:37:09,210 --> 00:37:11,100

in the country in
the second house?

930

00:37:11,100 --> 00:37:12,160

Not good.

931

00:37:12,160 --> 00:37:12,660

Not good.

932

00:37:12,660 --> 00:37:13,710

You got sick there also?

933

00:37:13,710 --> 00:37:17,910

Very bad cold and coughing.

934

00:37:17,910 --> 00:37:20,610

When I fell off a horse
because there was a horse,

935

00:37:20,610 --> 00:37:25,290

I was carrying grapes to take
them someplace to make wine,

936

00:37:25,290 --> 00:37:26,950

and I was out walking.

937

00:37:26,950 --> 00:37:28,420

It was summer.

938

00:37:28,420 --> 00:37:32,220

So I was climbing up on the
horse to get some grapes,

939

00:37:32,220 --> 00:37:36,858

and the horse was wild,
big and started running

940

00:37:36,858 --> 00:37:37,650

and pushed me down.

941

00:37:37,650 --> 00:37:40,650

And I had a terrible,
terrible trouble with my leg.

942

00:37:40,650 --> 00:37:41,910

Bleeding and everything.

943

00:37:41,910 --> 00:37:45,210

Nothing, not a
Band-Aid, not nothing.

944

00:37:45,210 --> 00:37:46,620

No alcohol, nothing.

945

00:37:46,620 --> 00:37:51,060

So it was a handkerchief that
my mother turned it like that

946
00:37:51,060 --> 00:37:52,050
and tied it down.

947
00:37:52,050 --> 00:37:53,700
And I still have it in my leg.

948
00:37:53,700 --> 00:37:56,490
Did you always keep your name
when you were in the country

949
00:37:56,490 --> 00:37:57,657
or do you have another name?

950
00:37:57,657 --> 00:37:58,157
No.

951
00:37:58,157 --> 00:37:59,220
The family always kept--

952
00:37:59,220 --> 00:37:59,910
Yeah.

953
00:37:59,910 --> 00:38:01,050
There were no false names?

954
00:38:01,050 --> 00:38:01,770
Yeah.

955
00:38:01,770 --> 00:38:03,390
Always, yeah.

956
00:38:03,390 --> 00:38:04,950
But my grandmother
and grandfather

957
00:38:04,950 --> 00:38:06,885
went crazy because their
two kids were killed.

958
00:38:06,885 --> 00:38:09,840

959

00:38:09,840 --> 00:38:12,810

They were going to
come home without them.

960

00:38:12,810 --> 00:38:16,120

And it was terrible, and my
grandfather lost his mind.

961

00:38:16,120 --> 00:38:20,310

And he died very young,
shortly after that.

962

00:38:20,310 --> 00:38:22,830

Do you know if there were
other Jewish families around?

963

00:38:22,830 --> 00:38:23,710

Not in that village.

964

00:38:23,710 --> 00:38:24,210

No.

965

00:38:24,210 --> 00:38:27,027

Yes, in other villages,
but not in the same one.

966

00:38:27,027 --> 00:38:28,110

How did you all know that?

967

00:38:28,110 --> 00:38:29,527

Or how did your
parents know that?

968

00:38:29,527 --> 00:38:32,820

Because there was some
people that we were

969

00:38:32,820 --> 00:38:35,310

friendly with in my hometown.

970

00:38:35,310 --> 00:38:37,650
Going to the same
synagogue, and they

971
00:38:37,650 --> 00:38:39,540
had businesses and all that.

972
00:38:39,540 --> 00:38:40,950
Still now they're in Baltimore.

973
00:38:40,950 --> 00:38:42,640
They came to Baltimore with us.

974
00:38:42,640 --> 00:38:43,140
Yeah.

975
00:38:43,140 --> 00:38:45,060
But they were hiding
in another village?

976
00:38:45,060 --> 00:38:48,740
Yes, but they
didn't have as much

977
00:38:48,740 --> 00:38:52,490
bad things happen in there.

978
00:38:52,490 --> 00:38:54,620
So you are living in
that second house,

979
00:38:54,620 --> 00:38:57,230
and you were able to go outside,
you said, because you were--

980
00:38:57,230 --> 00:38:58,438
I went to the private school.

981
00:38:58,438 --> 00:38:59,930
The all girls private school.

982
00:38:59,930 --> 00:39:01,040

Where was that?

983

00:39:01,040 --> 00:39:03,050

Up the street from the house.

984

00:39:03,050 --> 00:39:05,340

The house you were hiding in?

985

00:39:05,340 --> 00:39:05,840

No.

986

00:39:05,840 --> 00:39:07,910

No, no, no.

987

00:39:07,910 --> 00:39:10,380

Not our house that

I was born at.

988

00:39:10,380 --> 00:39:11,150

I know that.

989

00:39:11,150 --> 00:39:12,620

And then you went to--

990

00:39:12,620 --> 00:39:13,910

To my grandparents' house.

991

00:39:13,910 --> 00:39:15,583

That they'd lost the children.

992

00:39:15,583 --> 00:39:16,500

No, I understand that.

993

00:39:16,500 --> 00:39:19,130

But then you said you were
taken into the countryside,

994

00:39:19,130 --> 00:39:21,140

and then you stayed
in that house,

995

00:39:21,140 --> 00:39:23,720
and then you went to a
second house in hiding.

996
00:39:23,720 --> 00:39:24,230
OK.

997
00:39:24,230 --> 00:39:25,580
Did you go to school then?

998
00:39:25,580 --> 00:39:26,910
Oh yes.

999
00:39:26,910 --> 00:39:29,000
I was seven years
old when I came back.

1000
00:39:29,000 --> 00:39:31,460
No, not when you came back home.

1001
00:39:31,460 --> 00:39:33,170
Oh, I went to the church school.

1002
00:39:33,170 --> 00:39:35,300
You're still in hiding.

1003
00:39:35,300 --> 00:39:37,820
In the village I went
to the church school.

1004
00:39:37,820 --> 00:39:42,860
It wasn't a school because there
was not any young people there.

1005
00:39:42,860 --> 00:39:46,700
It was this Michaelis family,
their two daughters, and me.

1006
00:39:46,700 --> 00:39:51,350
And a couple of other goyim,
you know, non-Jewish people.

1007

00:39:51,350 --> 00:39:53,360

They sent their children
there and this priest

1008

00:39:53,360 --> 00:39:54,770

used to talk to us.

1009

00:39:54,770 --> 00:39:55,670

Right, OK.

1010

00:39:55,670 --> 00:39:56,930

So that was your schooling?

1011

00:39:56,930 --> 00:39:57,430

Yeah.

1012

00:39:57,430 --> 00:40:00,950

He used to say bring
a book and a pencil,

1013

00:40:00,950 --> 00:40:05,180

and write down what I'm saying
and maybe tomorrow, you know--

1014

00:40:05,180 --> 00:40:06,380

we couldn't write.

1015

00:40:06,380 --> 00:40:09,170

We didn't know what to write.

1016

00:40:09,170 --> 00:40:13,033

But he was very nice,
this priest guy.

1017

00:40:13,033 --> 00:40:14,450

I guess he was a
priest, he didn't

1018

00:40:14,450 --> 00:40:19,610

feel like being mean to
people that are hiding there.

1019

00:40:19,610 --> 00:40:22,370

And then after we
came home that's

1020

00:40:22,370 --> 00:40:25,220

when I started going
to my private school.

1021

00:40:25,220 --> 00:40:25,830

No, no, no.

1022

00:40:25,830 --> 00:40:26,910

You're not back home yet.

1023

00:40:26,910 --> 00:40:30,260

I want to still talk
about what you--

1024

00:40:30,260 --> 00:40:31,120

That's what we did.

1025

00:40:31,120 --> 00:40:33,510

Yeah.

1026

00:40:33,510 --> 00:40:37,380

So you would just go
outside and walk around?

1027

00:40:37,380 --> 00:40:39,170

You mean where, at home?

1028

00:40:39,170 --> 00:40:39,670

In hiding.

1029

00:40:39,670 --> 00:40:41,040

In the village.

1030

00:40:41,040 --> 00:40:42,780

Yeah.

1031

00:40:42,780 --> 00:40:45,780

And did you feel safe?

1032
00:40:45,780 --> 00:40:47,040
Yes and no.

1033
00:40:47,040 --> 00:40:49,320
I wasn't by myself.

1034
00:40:49,320 --> 00:40:52,440
With those are the girls
that were not even Jewish.

1035
00:40:52,440 --> 00:40:54,275
But they knew you were Jewish?

1036
00:40:54,275 --> 00:40:54,775
Oh, yes.

1037
00:40:54,775 --> 00:40:55,290
Oh, yes.

1038
00:40:55,290 --> 00:40:56,820
So you didn't have
to hide anything?

1039
00:40:56,820 --> 00:40:58,590
No, no, no, no, no, no.

1040
00:40:58,590 --> 00:41:01,620
They were very nice people.

1041
00:41:01,620 --> 00:41:06,710
And it got to the
point that a lot

1042
00:41:06,710 --> 00:41:08,510
of people that were
not Jewish they would

1043
00:41:08,510 --> 00:41:12,457
say, how do you hang
around with them?

1044

00:41:12,457 --> 00:41:14,540

And I said, but you don't
know what kind of people

1045

00:41:14,540 --> 00:41:16,760

they were where
we were with them.

1046

00:41:16,760 --> 00:41:18,920

They were wonderful people.

1047

00:41:18,920 --> 00:41:21,440

And then when we
came to Baltimore

1048

00:41:21,440 --> 00:41:23,150

they met us right away.

1049

00:41:23,150 --> 00:41:25,760

They invited us in their house.

1050

00:41:25,760 --> 00:41:27,230

They were very nice people.

1051

00:41:27,230 --> 00:41:31,160

The mother has died, my friend
Elaine died several years ago.

1052

00:41:31,160 --> 00:41:32,690

She got cancer and died.

1053

00:41:32,690 --> 00:41:35,210

So how long were
you in hiding from--

1054

00:41:35,210 --> 00:41:35,960

A year and a half.

1055

00:41:35,960 --> 00:41:38,420

Spring of '42.

1056

00:41:38,420 --> 00:41:42,523

And we came back close
to the fall of '43.

1057

00:41:42,523 --> 00:41:45,430

1058

00:41:45,430 --> 00:41:46,730

Yeah, later.

1059

00:41:46,730 --> 00:41:48,890

'43 you came back?

1060

00:41:48,890 --> 00:41:49,390

Or '44.

1061

00:41:49,390 --> 00:41:50,348

I'm trying to remember.

1062

00:41:50,348 --> 00:41:54,820

1063

00:41:54,820 --> 00:41:57,190

I think when we came back
I was seven years old.

1064

00:41:57,190 --> 00:41:58,060

OK.

1065

00:41:58,060 --> 00:41:59,510

So that's '43.

1066

00:41:59,510 --> 00:42:00,010

Yes.

1067

00:42:00,010 --> 00:42:02,920

So you came back to
your original house.

1068

00:42:02,920 --> 00:42:04,660

No, we went to my
grandparents' house.

1069

00:42:04,660 --> 00:42:06,260

We never went to our own house.

1070

00:42:06,260 --> 00:42:07,570

Oh, OK.

1071

00:42:07,570 --> 00:42:09,130

How did you know to come back?

1072

00:42:09,130 --> 00:42:10,480

Because the Germans had left?

1073

00:42:10,480 --> 00:42:12,397

Because it was finished,
the war was finished.

1074

00:42:12,397 --> 00:42:13,150

For you all.

1075

00:42:13,150 --> 00:42:15,010

The war was finished.

1076

00:42:15,010 --> 00:42:17,500

And we came back, and
it was a terrible thing

1077

00:42:17,500 --> 00:42:19,810

because here is my
poor grandparents,

1078

00:42:19,810 --> 00:42:22,660

they're coming in
not two children.

1079

00:42:22,660 --> 00:42:24,293

And their daughter
lived in Athens.

1080

00:42:24,293 --> 00:42:25,960

She was married and
she lived in Athens.

1081
00:42:25,960 --> 00:42:27,280
So that was OK.

1082
00:42:27,280 --> 00:42:28,840
You know, she got saved.

1083
00:42:28,840 --> 00:42:30,040
You sure this wasn't '44?

1084
00:42:30,040 --> 00:42:33,840

1085
00:42:33,840 --> 00:42:35,730
I think when I came
back I was seven.

1086
00:42:35,730 --> 00:42:36,810
OK.

1087
00:42:36,810 --> 00:42:37,950
So back in '43.

1088
00:42:37,950 --> 00:42:38,910
OK.

1089
00:42:38,910 --> 00:42:45,510
I went in '43, in
the summer of '43.

1090
00:42:45,510 --> 00:42:48,570
In '44 in the fall.

1091
00:42:48,570 --> 00:42:50,520
We came back after
the summer was

1092
00:42:50,520 --> 00:42:54,270
finished before the winter
came with bad weather.

1093

00:42:54,270 --> 00:42:56,600
How did it feel to come back?

1094
00:42:56,600 --> 00:42:58,250
It felt good to
come back, and it

1095
00:42:58,250 --> 00:43:00,972
felt good to be registered
in a private school.

1096
00:43:00,972 --> 00:43:02,930
So that's when you started
that private school.

1097
00:43:02,930 --> 00:43:04,670
Right, in an all
girls private school.

1098
00:43:04,670 --> 00:43:06,080
It was very nice.

1099
00:43:06,080 --> 00:43:09,850
Were there any other Jewish
students who had come back?

1100
00:43:09,850 --> 00:43:10,630
Not from there.

1101
00:43:10,630 --> 00:43:13,770
There were not in that
village, we were the only ones.

1102
00:43:13,770 --> 00:43:19,260
But the Jewish children did
not go to the private school.

1103
00:43:19,260 --> 00:43:21,140
It was only me, it
was very expensive.

1104
00:43:21,140 --> 00:43:23,600
Yeah, but your parents had

enough money obviously.

1105

00:43:23,600 --> 00:43:26,900

No they didn't, but somehow my
father, he was making it work,

1106

00:43:26,900 --> 00:43:30,320

and my grandmother--
my grandfather had

1107

00:43:30,320 --> 00:43:36,020

a business in our hometown
that he was-- anytime a boat

1108

00:43:36,020 --> 00:43:40,600

came in, the soldiers,
whoever was on the boat,

1109

00:43:40,600 --> 00:43:42,640

they would come out
and go to his store.

1110

00:43:42,640 --> 00:43:46,780

If they wanted money, they
would give him jewelry

1111

00:43:46,780 --> 00:43:49,210

and he would give them money.

1112

00:43:49,210 --> 00:43:56,080

If he wanted to give them money,
to give my grandfather money,

1113

00:43:56,080 --> 00:43:59,530

he would give them jewelry
to give to their girlfriends.

1114

00:43:59,530 --> 00:44:02,830

But then he lost the business
after that, during the war.

1115

00:44:02,830 --> 00:44:06,320

He had that way before

the war started.

1116
00:44:06,320 --> 00:44:09,590
And then he had
built in the house,

1117
00:44:09,590 --> 00:44:14,060
in the wall, a real big thing
where you can put stuff inside

1118
00:44:14,060 --> 00:44:15,170
to save it.

1119
00:44:15,170 --> 00:44:18,140
That was gone all
the way the wall,

1120
00:44:18,140 --> 00:44:20,810
and he put all his
business stuff in there.

1121
00:44:20,810 --> 00:44:24,170
Tried to find it when we
came back, they took it all.

1122
00:44:24,170 --> 00:44:28,040
Do you know if your parents
knew during the war what

1123
00:44:28,040 --> 00:44:31,870
was happening to the
other Greek Jews?

1124
00:44:31,870 --> 00:44:32,500
Did they know?

1125
00:44:32,500 --> 00:44:34,330
They were listening
here and there.

1126
00:44:34,330 --> 00:44:36,790
Did they always have a radio?

1127

00:44:36,790 --> 00:44:38,290

Are you kidding?

1128

00:44:38,290 --> 00:44:39,100

No.

1129

00:44:39,100 --> 00:44:40,582

We got a radio
when we came back.

1130

00:44:40,582 --> 00:44:42,790

Oh, you didn't have one when
you were in the village.

1131

00:44:42,790 --> 00:44:44,200

We had nothing.

1132

00:44:44,200 --> 00:44:46,960

When we came back my
father bought a radio

1133

00:44:46,960 --> 00:44:48,890

and we would hear news.

1134

00:44:48,890 --> 00:44:51,670

A Philips radio.

1135

00:44:51,670 --> 00:44:53,290

OK.

1136

00:44:53,290 --> 00:44:55,420

So now you're back home.

1137

00:44:55,420 --> 00:44:56,110

Oh, of course.

1138

00:44:56,110 --> 00:44:56,950

I've been here.

1139

00:44:56,950 --> 00:45:01,090

No, no, no I'm saying in '43.

1140
00:45:01,090 --> 00:45:03,052
And you're in school.

1141
00:45:03,052 --> 00:45:03,760
You're in school.

1142
00:45:03,760 --> 00:45:06,580
Everything started
getting better,

1143
00:45:06,580 --> 00:45:10,000
but we had a money problem.

1144
00:45:10,000 --> 00:45:12,550
Because my father's
business was not doing well.

1145
00:45:12,550 --> 00:45:16,520
Because after the war,
people didn't have any money.

1146
00:45:16,520 --> 00:45:20,260
It's not only Jewish people,
it's everybody that were bad.

1147
00:45:20,260 --> 00:45:29,270
So somehow, whatever he did and
whatever he could try to save,

1148
00:45:29,270 --> 00:45:32,502
he would say we have to
do something about this,

1149
00:45:32,502 --> 00:45:33,960
we have to do
something about this.

1150
00:45:33,960 --> 00:45:37,430
We couldn't go anywhere
until my grandparents died.

1151

00:45:37,430 --> 00:45:39,590

They didn't want
to leave where they

1152

00:45:39,590 --> 00:45:42,450

were, where their children
were raised and everything.

1153

00:45:42,450 --> 00:45:44,690

So my grandfather died
first, and my grandmother

1154

00:45:44,690 --> 00:45:50,270

died-- we came here in 1956,
and my grandmother died in 1955.

1155

00:45:50,270 --> 00:45:51,770

OK.

1156

00:45:51,770 --> 00:45:54,120

Now the war was over in '45.

1157

00:45:54,120 --> 00:45:56,990

The World War II
was over in May '45.

1158

00:45:56,990 --> 00:45:58,190

'45.

1159

00:45:58,190 --> 00:46:00,980

But D-day was June '44.

1160

00:46:00,980 --> 00:46:02,510

Did that mean anything to you?

1161

00:46:02,510 --> 00:46:05,990

Did your family know about
the invasion in France,

1162

00:46:05,990 --> 00:46:07,310

what they called D-day?

1163

00:46:07,310 --> 00:46:09,858
Yeah, I heard about it, but I
didn't know what was going on.

1164
00:46:09,858 --> 00:46:11,525
But while it was
happening your parents,

1165
00:46:11,525 --> 00:46:12,620
you didn't know about it?

1166
00:46:12,620 --> 00:46:13,190
We didn't know
what was going on.

1167
00:46:13,190 --> 00:46:13,690
OK.

1168
00:46:13,690 --> 00:46:17,428
So you didn't really know at
that time what was going on.

1169
00:46:17,428 --> 00:46:18,470
Just what was happening--

1170
00:46:18,470 --> 00:46:24,550
All we knew was when we came
back be careful to be safe.

1171
00:46:24,550 --> 00:46:27,830
Don't listen to strangers
that you don't know.

1172
00:46:27,830 --> 00:46:28,990
They'll talk to you here.

1173
00:46:28,990 --> 00:46:30,970
We heard that when
we got older also.

1174
00:46:30,970 --> 00:46:33,700
That everybody's not normal.

1175

00:46:33,700 --> 00:46:35,650

Everybody, they want
money or they want this

1176

00:46:35,650 --> 00:46:37,300

or they want that.

1177

00:46:37,300 --> 00:46:40,420

So it was at the
point where, when

1178

00:46:40,420 --> 00:46:43,270

it was Hanukkah
coming or Christmas,

1179

00:46:43,270 --> 00:46:47,050

everybody had tables
in a big street

1180

00:46:47,050 --> 00:46:49,390

that they had little
things to sell.

1181

00:46:49,390 --> 00:46:52,160

My mother would buy for
me, she bought me a doll.

1182

00:46:52,160 --> 00:46:55,390

But that was before
all this started.

1183

00:46:55,390 --> 00:46:57,490

After we came back
and everything

1184

00:46:57,490 --> 00:47:00,040

got kind of
straightened up and they

1185

00:47:00,040 --> 00:47:03,940

had the same things
on the streets

1186

00:47:03,940 --> 00:47:06,610
there was already two children.

1187

00:47:06,610 --> 00:47:09,220
And she was going
to have more, I

1188

00:47:09,220 --> 00:47:12,730
think she was pregnant in
the beginning or something.

1189

00:47:12,730 --> 00:47:14,560
We didn't buy
anything like that.

1190

00:47:14,560 --> 00:47:15,880
We didn't have any money.

1191

00:47:15,880 --> 00:47:17,560
We had nothing.

1192

00:47:17,560 --> 00:47:22,450
I used to buy a
dress, one dress.

1193

00:47:22,450 --> 00:47:26,110
And the dress is what we were
wearing under the uniform.

1194

00:47:26,110 --> 00:47:30,670
The school had a blue uniform
with white in the neck

1195

00:47:30,670 --> 00:47:33,070
and with buttons down the front.

1196

00:47:33,070 --> 00:47:36,470
And when I went home from
school in the afternoon,

1197

00:47:36,470 --> 00:47:38,827
my mother would take the white

part off, it had buttons,

1198
00:47:38,827 --> 00:47:40,660
and she would wash it
and iron it to have it

1199
00:47:40,660 --> 00:47:41,680
again for the next day.

1200
00:47:41,680 --> 00:47:45,790
Before she washed the uniform.

1201
00:47:45,790 --> 00:47:48,250
And underneath was
a normal dress.

1202
00:47:48,250 --> 00:47:53,873
And we always had to wear
a pair of socks and shoes.

1203
00:47:53,873 --> 00:47:55,540
A lot of times it was
like a tennis shoe

1204
00:47:55,540 --> 00:47:57,940
because we were
taking gym in school.

1205
00:47:57,940 --> 00:48:01,810
So what was it like when the
big World War II was over

1206
00:48:01,810 --> 00:48:05,770
in '45, spring of '45.

1207
00:48:05,770 --> 00:48:07,750
Did you celebrate?

1208
00:48:07,750 --> 00:48:09,820
Were there celebrations?

1209
00:48:09,820 --> 00:48:10,940

We couldn't celebrate.

1210
00:48:10,940 --> 00:48:13,720
I mean yes, we were lucky
we all didn't get killed.

1211
00:48:13,720 --> 00:48:17,730
'46, you were nine
years old by then.

1212
00:48:17,730 --> 00:48:19,011
Was it '46?

1213
00:48:19,011 --> 00:48:20,250
No it was after.

1214
00:48:20,250 --> 00:48:21,000
'45.

1215
00:48:21,000 --> 00:48:22,080
'45.

1216
00:48:22,080 --> 00:48:23,850
I was seven or eight
when I came back.

1217
00:48:23,850 --> 00:48:26,610
When you came back, but
I'm saying World War II

1218
00:48:26,610 --> 00:48:29,010
was over in the spring of '45.

1219
00:48:29,010 --> 00:48:30,270
Oh, it was over then.

1220
00:48:30,270 --> 00:48:31,710
So you were nine.

1221
00:48:31,710 --> 00:48:32,220
Yeah.

1222

00:48:32,220 --> 00:48:34,050

Do you have any
memories of that?

1223

00:48:34,050 --> 00:48:35,550

Were there celebrations
in the town?

1224

00:48:35,550 --> 00:48:39,750

A lot of people that
had gone to the army,

1225

00:48:39,750 --> 00:48:41,400

some of them got killed.

1226

00:48:41,400 --> 00:48:46,068

Some of them came back halfway
normal, they cut out a leg,

1227

00:48:46,068 --> 00:48:46,860

or they cut out a--

1228

00:48:46,860 --> 00:48:48,670

you know, it was bad.

1229

00:48:48,670 --> 00:48:50,730

So you don't remember
any big celebrations

1230

00:48:50,730 --> 00:48:53,130

in your town for liberation?

1231

00:48:53,130 --> 00:48:57,180

They had celebrations
gradually in February.

1232

00:48:57,180 --> 00:48:59,640

Because in February
was what we do here

1233

00:48:59,640 --> 00:49:03,720

on Halloween or something with

the uniforms and all that.

1234
00:49:03,720 --> 00:49:04,910
Yeah.

1235
00:49:04,910 --> 00:49:08,300
And we were not allowed
to go out from my parents.

1236
00:49:08,300 --> 00:49:10,800
I wasn't allowed to go out to
see what they were doing going

1237
00:49:10,800 --> 00:49:13,542
around with these big trucks.

1238
00:49:13,542 --> 00:49:15,000
They had all kinds
of things there.

1239
00:49:15,000 --> 00:49:17,610
No, you stand on
the balcony to see.

1240
00:49:17,610 --> 00:49:18,670
Don't go.

1241
00:49:18,670 --> 00:49:21,190
We don't have to go.

1242
00:49:21,190 --> 00:49:23,800
So your parents were
very protective?

1243
00:49:23,800 --> 00:49:24,790
Extremely so.

1244
00:49:24,790 --> 00:49:26,080
Extremely protective.

1245
00:49:26,080 --> 00:49:28,030
Extremely so.

1246
00:49:28,030 --> 00:49:30,760
Yeah, but they
were not protective

1247
00:49:30,760 --> 00:49:32,230
if it was during
the day that you

1248
00:49:32,230 --> 00:49:36,010
wanted to walk to a girl's
house, to your friend's house.

1249
00:49:36,010 --> 00:49:40,870
The school was up the street
from my house so it was OK.

1250
00:49:40,870 --> 00:49:44,200
So now it's the end of the war.

1251
00:49:44,200 --> 00:49:46,580
And you're still living in
your grandparent's house.

1252
00:49:46,580 --> 00:49:48,600
And then in 19--

1253
00:49:48,600 --> 00:49:51,550
we moved in with my
grandparents because they

1254
00:49:51,550 --> 00:49:53,180
were in such bad shape.

1255
00:49:53,180 --> 00:49:54,910
They'd lost their
children and all.

1256
00:49:54,910 --> 00:49:57,010
My grandfather died
shortly after that,

1257

00:49:57,010 --> 00:50:01,270
and my grandmother was not
real old when she died.

1258
00:50:01,270 --> 00:50:02,410
She was in her--

1259
00:50:02,410 --> 00:50:04,360
52, 51.

1260
00:50:04,360 --> 00:50:07,360
She was like a stick, so skinny.

1261
00:50:07,360 --> 00:50:09,220
And then she couldn't
even walk in the end,

1262
00:50:09,220 --> 00:50:11,560
and she was laying in bed,
and the doctor would come in

1263
00:50:11,560 --> 00:50:13,550
to see her in the house.

1264
00:50:13,550 --> 00:50:16,960
And then my mother was
taking care of her.

1265
00:50:16,960 --> 00:50:19,900
And she was told by
the doctor she's not

1266
00:50:19,900 --> 00:50:23,300
going to last much longer.

1267
00:50:23,300 --> 00:50:25,820
She had nothing.

1268
00:50:25,820 --> 00:50:30,400
So that's when they thought
they wanted to move out of there

1269

00:50:30,400 --> 00:50:31,550
and come to America.

1270
00:50:31,550 --> 00:50:33,320
My parents.

1271
00:50:33,320 --> 00:50:34,610
When she died.

1272
00:50:34,610 --> 00:50:36,590
They were not going
to leave her there.

1273
00:50:36,590 --> 00:50:38,990
After she died then
that's when we came here.

1274
00:50:38,990 --> 00:50:45,710
She died in the fall of 1955,
and we came here in 1956.

1275
00:50:45,710 --> 00:50:47,780
But let's talk a little
bit about your life

1276
00:50:47,780 --> 00:50:51,770
between 1945 and 1956.

1277
00:50:51,770 --> 00:50:54,950
I mean that's 11 years
that you were there.

1278
00:50:54,950 --> 00:50:56,570
So what did you do?

1279
00:50:56,570 --> 00:50:59,450
Well after I finished school.

1280
00:50:59,450 --> 00:51:01,070
How much schooling did you have?

1281
00:51:01,070 --> 00:51:02,420

12 years.

1282
00:51:02,420 --> 00:51:03,350
OK.

1283
00:51:03,350 --> 00:51:05,930
I finished high
school and everything.

1284
00:51:05,930 --> 00:51:07,767
In Greece?

1285
00:51:07,767 --> 00:51:08,600
Yes, in my hometown.

1286
00:51:08,600 --> 00:51:09,790
In your hometown.

1287
00:51:09,790 --> 00:51:11,360
There was a private school.

1288
00:51:11,360 --> 00:51:12,710
And my uncle--

1289
00:51:12,710 --> 00:51:15,092
When you started
and you got back

1290
00:51:15,092 --> 00:51:16,550
in with your older
friends, did you

1291
00:51:16,550 --> 00:51:19,275
tell them about your
hiding in the village

1292
00:51:19,275 --> 00:51:20,150
and what it was like?

1293
00:51:20,150 --> 00:51:21,500
Were they interested in that?

1294

00:51:21,500 --> 00:51:22,290

Very much so.

1295

00:51:22,290 --> 00:51:24,320

I'm still friendly with them.

1296

00:51:24,320 --> 00:51:26,060

I still talk to
them on the phone.

1297

00:51:26,060 --> 00:51:28,670

She met them when she
was there with me.

1298

00:51:28,670 --> 00:51:32,420

And what was it like for you
and your family when you heard

1299

00:51:32,420 --> 00:51:34,790

what happened in the camps?

1300

00:51:34,790 --> 00:51:36,580

You know, when that
came out in '45, '46.

1301

00:51:36,580 --> 00:51:38,160

It was awful.

1302

00:51:38,160 --> 00:51:38,660

Terrible.

1303

00:51:38,660 --> 00:51:42,830

My mother lost two sisters.

1304

00:51:42,830 --> 00:51:44,420

They got killed like that.

1305

00:51:44,420 --> 00:51:46,970

And the children--

1306

00:51:46,970 --> 00:51:50,330

How did they find out what happened to their relatives?

1307
00:51:50,330 --> 00:51:54,680
Because the other
sister, the daughter Lena

1308
00:51:54,680 --> 00:51:58,160
that lives in our hometown,
when she called on the phone

1309
00:51:58,160 --> 00:52:00,560
she told them that
everybody's dead.

1310
00:52:00,560 --> 00:52:03,130

1311
00:52:03,130 --> 00:52:07,420
So, you know, you had to know.

1312
00:52:07,420 --> 00:52:09,560
You had to find out.

1313
00:52:09,560 --> 00:52:16,030
But what happened was
I remember that when

1314
00:52:16,030 --> 00:52:18,130
we would go to the synagogue--

1315
00:52:18,130 --> 00:52:19,750
we had one synagogue there then.

1316
00:52:19,750 --> 00:52:23,980
We had a rabbi, and the rabbi
left and somebody else came,

1317
00:52:23,980 --> 00:52:25,400
and he left.

1318
00:52:25,400 --> 00:52:28,870

So in the end, there was just
very few people left there.

1319
00:52:28,870 --> 00:52:31,900
And my father used
to run the service

1320
00:52:31,900 --> 00:52:34,660
and then go open the
store after that.

1321
00:52:34,660 --> 00:52:37,930
So whoever went to the
service it was couple of men

1322
00:52:37,930 --> 00:52:40,280
and maybe a couple of
women here and there.

1323
00:52:40,280 --> 00:52:40,780
On Saturday.

1324
00:52:40,780 --> 00:52:44,840
So between 1945 and
1956, before you left--

1325
00:52:44,840 --> 00:52:47,650
The synagogue got
worse and worse.

1326
00:52:47,650 --> 00:52:49,360
Who was going to go there?

1327
00:52:49,360 --> 00:52:51,130
There weren't that many people.

1328
00:52:51,130 --> 00:52:57,910
And on Friday I used to go
with another girl that just

1329
00:52:57,910 --> 00:52:59,370
got married, was older than me.

1330

00:52:59,370 --> 00:53:01,150

She was just going
to get married,

1331

00:53:01,150 --> 00:53:03,550

but we used to go
Friday and clean up.

1332

00:53:03,550 --> 00:53:08,530

So they would be coming
in to a clean place.

1333

00:53:08,530 --> 00:53:12,610

And then when they had the
[? Sukkot ?] coming in,

1334

00:53:12,610 --> 00:53:14,440

and you could have
some food or something.

1335

00:53:14,440 --> 00:53:17,970

We used to buy something
and have it there.

1336

00:53:17,970 --> 00:53:19,960

Make something and
everybody would

1337

00:53:19,960 --> 00:53:23,770

sit outside in a garden that
was in the back of the building.

1338

00:53:23,770 --> 00:53:27,420

Did you know anything
about Israel at the time?

1339

00:53:27,420 --> 00:53:29,820

Yes because my uncle
went to Israel.

1340

00:53:29,820 --> 00:53:31,060

The one that survived.

1341

00:53:31,060 --> 00:53:35,040

Yeah, so were your
parents Zionists?

1342

00:53:35,040 --> 00:53:36,900

Do you know if
they were Zionists?

1343

00:53:36,900 --> 00:53:38,560

I don't think so.

1344

00:53:38,560 --> 00:53:40,020

I don't think so.

1345

00:53:40,020 --> 00:53:42,750

My grandmother, when her
son left to go to Israel,

1346

00:53:42,750 --> 00:53:45,288

she was very unhappy.

1347

00:53:45,288 --> 00:53:46,830

She didn't want him
to go because she

1348

00:53:46,830 --> 00:53:49,250

was afraid something
was going to happen

1349

00:53:49,250 --> 00:53:50,250

and he wouldn't survive.

1350

00:53:50,250 --> 00:53:51,210

Which he survived.

1351

00:53:51,210 --> 00:53:55,590

If you lose two children,
you don't know what's

1352

00:53:55,590 --> 00:53:57,810

going to happen in the end.

1353

00:53:57,810 --> 00:54:00,420

Did your mother
ever go out to work?

1354

00:54:00,420 --> 00:54:01,110

Not in Greece.

1355

00:54:01,110 --> 00:54:01,750

Not in Greece.

1356

00:54:01,750 --> 00:54:02,250

OK.

1357

00:54:02,250 --> 00:54:04,698

So life went on
from '45 to '56--

1358

00:54:04,698 --> 00:54:06,240

To raise her children
because she had

1359

00:54:06,240 --> 00:54:07,690

two more children after that.

1360

00:54:07,690 --> 00:54:08,190

Right.

1361

00:54:08,190 --> 00:54:09,190

She was having children.

1362

00:54:09,190 --> 00:54:12,720

And then what made your
family decide to leave?

1363

00:54:12,720 --> 00:54:16,170

Because life was
getting worse and worse

1364

00:54:16,170 --> 00:54:19,860

because of the
situation with money.

1365

00:54:19,860 --> 00:54:23,820

Greece was getting poor,
that's why they're so poor now.

1366

00:54:23,820 --> 00:54:27,000

And they--

1367

00:54:27,000 --> 00:54:29,460

Did you know anything
about America?

1368

00:54:29,460 --> 00:54:31,860

What did you think
about America?

1369

00:54:31,860 --> 00:54:32,860

What was your vision?

1370

00:54:32,860 --> 00:54:36,180

I didn't know anybody in
America then, but my cousin--

1371

00:54:36,180 --> 00:54:38,180

What did it mean to
you as a young person?

1372

00:54:38,180 --> 00:54:39,810

It was a big country,
we knew that.

1373

00:54:39,810 --> 00:54:40,780

You knew it was big.

1374

00:54:40,780 --> 00:54:42,600

Our country was small.

1375

00:54:42,600 --> 00:54:46,290

And we knew that they had
a lot of synagogues here,

1376

00:54:46,290 --> 00:54:49,230

and a lot of Jewish

people going there.

1377

00:54:49,230 --> 00:54:52,050

And they had bar mitzvahs
and stuff like that.

1378

00:54:52,050 --> 00:54:56,160

But there was nothing
like that over there.

1379

00:54:56,160 --> 00:54:58,200

There was nothing
going on like that.

1380

00:54:58,200 --> 00:55:00,630

Children did not have
bar mitzvahs in Greece?

1381

00:55:00,630 --> 00:55:02,700

We didn't have anything.

1382

00:55:02,700 --> 00:55:04,120

I didn't have a bar mitzvah.

1383

00:55:04,120 --> 00:55:05,920

I was older when I
came here, I was 20.

1384

00:55:05,920 --> 00:55:06,420

Yeah.

1385

00:55:06,420 --> 00:55:08,280

No, no, I know, but the boys?

1386

00:55:08,280 --> 00:55:09,270

None of the boys?

1387

00:55:09,270 --> 00:55:11,220

My brother had his
bar mitzvah here.

1388

00:55:11,220 --> 00:55:12,210

OK.

1389
00:55:12,210 --> 00:55:16,650
So your parents tell you that
you're-- you're still living

1390
00:55:16,650 --> 00:55:18,630
with your parents at age 20.

1391
00:55:18,630 --> 00:55:19,440
Well, no.

1392
00:55:19,440 --> 00:55:23,520
When I graduated
high school at 18,

1393
00:55:23,520 --> 00:55:25,560
my uncle, my
mother's brother was

1394
00:55:25,560 --> 00:55:26,980
in a big business in Athens.

1395
00:55:26,980 --> 00:55:30,460
He had started small and got
bigger and bigger and bigger.

1396
00:55:30,460 --> 00:55:33,300
And they were making
all kinds of materials

1397
00:55:33,300 --> 00:55:34,980
there and selling
them, and then he

1398
00:55:34,980 --> 00:55:37,313
said to me, why don't you
come to Athens to live with us

1399
00:55:37,313 --> 00:55:38,200
and work.

1400

00:55:38,200 --> 00:55:41,240

So I went to Athens
and I worked.

1401

00:55:41,240 --> 00:55:45,920

When I was 18 in May, and
I went there in September.

1402

00:55:45,920 --> 00:55:50,350

And I lived with them, and
I worked in the business.

1403

00:55:50,350 --> 00:55:53,897

And I was getting paid,
not a lot of money,

1404

00:55:53,897 --> 00:55:55,480

but it doesn't matter
because I didn't

1405

00:55:55,480 --> 00:55:58,420

have to pay where I was living.

1406

00:55:58,420 --> 00:56:01,720

And then I worked there
until we left to come here.

1407

00:56:01,720 --> 00:56:02,800

I was 20.

1408

00:56:02,800 --> 00:56:06,630

At that point what were
your thoughts about Germany?

1409

00:56:06,630 --> 00:56:08,610

Oh, I hated to hear the word.

1410

00:56:08,610 --> 00:56:10,470

I hate to hear about Germans.

1411

00:56:10,470 --> 00:56:12,420

To me they reminded
me of somebody

1412
00:56:12,420 --> 00:56:15,720
like you see sometimes
in a movie, people

1413
00:56:15,720 --> 00:56:17,730
that like to kill other people.

1414
00:56:17,730 --> 00:56:21,000
And what I heard was
something else that I didn't--

1415
00:56:21,000 --> 00:56:23,940
I didn't know anything about it,
they were talking about that.

1416
00:56:23,940 --> 00:56:28,170
A lot of women didn't get
killed right away because there

1417
00:56:28,170 --> 00:56:30,900
were a couple of men
and Hitler that they

1418
00:56:30,900 --> 00:56:33,210
had to go to sleep with him.

1419
00:56:33,210 --> 00:56:37,810
And then if they wanted to
survive they let them, if not

1420
00:56:37,810 --> 00:56:38,850
they killed them.

1421
00:56:38,850 --> 00:56:39,690
You know, lovely.

1422
00:56:39,690 --> 00:56:41,950
Did you understand any German?

1423
00:56:41,950 --> 00:56:42,460
No.

1424
00:56:42,460 --> 00:56:43,635
Never understood German.

1425
00:56:43,635 --> 00:56:44,760
I didn't even want to know.

1426
00:56:44,760 --> 00:56:46,140
Yeah.

1427
00:56:46,140 --> 00:56:47,990
So you're working in Athens.

1428
00:56:47,990 --> 00:56:50,670
I work until I was 20.

1429
00:56:50,670 --> 00:56:53,370
And then your father said we're
moving to the United States?

1430
00:56:53,370 --> 00:56:57,510
Then they told me that he's
making arrangements to do that.

1431
00:56:57,510 --> 00:57:01,220
And I have to leave this
house, my uncle's house

1432
00:57:01,220 --> 00:57:05,310
and come back home so we can
get ready in a few months.

1433
00:57:05,310 --> 00:57:08,310
And I started crying because
I didn't want to leave.

1434
00:57:08,310 --> 00:57:09,680
I didn't want to come here.

1435
00:57:09,680 --> 00:57:11,520
Did you know any
English at that point?

1436
00:57:11,520 --> 00:57:12,480
No.

1437
00:57:12,480 --> 00:57:14,820
I went to school
when he said that.

1438
00:57:14,820 --> 00:57:17,940
When my father said
that I went to a school

1439
00:57:17,940 --> 00:57:19,740
with a lady teaching us.

1440
00:57:19,740 --> 00:57:22,450
It was a private--

1441
00:57:22,450 --> 00:57:27,240
yeah, I learned a few words,
but I couldn't speak English.

1442
00:57:27,240 --> 00:57:28,140
I learned here.

1443
00:57:28,140 --> 00:57:31,040

1444
00:57:31,040 --> 00:57:33,700
So what month did you leave?

1445
00:57:33,700 --> 00:57:35,130
We came here in October.

1446
00:57:35,130 --> 00:57:35,800
October.

1447
00:57:35,800 --> 00:57:37,660
And where did you settle?

1448
00:57:37,660 --> 00:57:39,340

We settled in Baltimore.

1449
00:57:39,340 --> 00:57:43,330
Here in-- not here in Baltimore.

1450
00:57:43,330 --> 00:57:44,660
The Jewish school--

1451
00:57:44,660 --> 00:57:46,390
How did you get over?

1452
00:57:46,390 --> 00:57:51,790
What happened is we came
in into New York by boat.

1453
00:57:51,790 --> 00:57:53,860
What was the name of your boat?

1454
00:57:53,860 --> 00:57:56,830
Well, no, it wasn't a
boat the whole time.

1455
00:57:56,830 --> 00:57:58,690
We came in with a plane.

1456
00:57:58,690 --> 00:57:59,530
You flew.

1457
00:57:59,530 --> 00:58:00,250
You flew.

1458
00:58:00,250 --> 00:58:02,978
And then something with a boat
that brought us from one place

1459
00:58:02,978 --> 00:58:03,520
to the other.

1460
00:58:03,520 --> 00:58:04,062
I don't know.

1461

00:58:04,062 --> 00:58:06,340

The plane we flew in,
god forbid I should ever

1462

00:58:06,340 --> 00:58:08,214

get into a plane like that.

1463

00:58:08,214 --> 00:58:10,650

God forbid.

1464

00:58:10,650 --> 00:58:12,520

They had the
terrible seats there

1465

00:58:12,520 --> 00:58:17,810

and these other families had
a baby, and it was awful.

1466

00:58:17,810 --> 00:58:19,540

And then--

1467

00:58:19,540 --> 00:58:21,700

When you landed in New
York, what was that like?

1468

00:58:21,700 --> 00:58:24,400

The Jewish Family Services
met us where we landed.

1469

00:58:24,400 --> 00:58:25,915

Did you see the
Statue of Liberty?

1470

00:58:25,915 --> 00:58:26,785

Yes.

1471

00:58:26,785 --> 00:58:28,510

Did that mean anything to you?

1472

00:58:28,510 --> 00:58:29,950

You were 20.

1473

00:58:29,950 --> 00:58:31,300
Didn't have much meaning?

1474
00:58:31,300 --> 00:58:32,620
OK.

1475
00:58:32,620 --> 00:58:38,020
But they took us around
the people that we knew.

1476
00:58:38,020 --> 00:58:41,630
People from my hometown
came to New York.

1477
00:58:41,630 --> 00:58:45,550
And they took us around to see
things they had in New York,

1478
00:58:45,550 --> 00:58:48,280
but we couldn't come to
Baltimore on the weekend

1479
00:58:48,280 --> 00:58:51,550
because they said Jewish people
don't fly on the weekends,

1480
00:58:51,550 --> 00:58:53,800
or don't get on a bus.

1481
00:58:53,800 --> 00:58:55,660
So we came here on Monday.

1482
00:58:55,660 --> 00:58:57,200
We came in New York on Friday.

1483
00:58:57,200 --> 00:58:59,200
Because it was the Sabbath
and you don't travel.

1484
00:58:59,200 --> 00:58:59,700
Yes.

1485

00:58:59,700 --> 00:59:00,820
Saturday and Sunday.

1486
00:59:00,820 --> 00:59:04,180
And we came to
Baltimore on Monday.

1487
00:59:04,180 --> 00:59:09,060
And of course the stuff
that we brought from Greece,

1488
00:59:09,060 --> 00:59:12,360
I still wonder who's
got those blankets.

1489
00:59:12,360 --> 00:59:15,030
They were in a big
suitcase, you remember

1490
00:59:15,030 --> 00:59:16,440
the suitcase my mother had?

1491
00:59:16,440 --> 00:59:17,580
Yeah.

1492
00:59:17,580 --> 00:59:19,020
And it was blankets.

1493
00:59:19,020 --> 00:59:21,270
And my mother would
say when I got married,

1494
00:59:21,270 --> 00:59:22,895
you want to take one
of those blankets?

1495
00:59:22,895 --> 00:59:25,020
I said no ma, those
blankets were itchy.

1496
00:59:25,020 --> 00:59:28,740
They were very-- the
old fashioned stuff.

1497
00:59:28,740 --> 00:59:30,580
I don't want that.

1498
00:59:30,580 --> 00:59:32,710
OK so now you're
settled in Baltimore.

1499
00:59:32,710 --> 00:59:34,290
And you're living
with your parents.

1500
00:59:34,290 --> 00:59:34,950
And what?

1501
00:59:34,950 --> 00:59:35,708
When I came in?

1502
00:59:35,708 --> 00:59:36,750
When you came here, yeah.

1503
00:59:36,750 --> 00:59:38,640
No, I lived with my parents
for a very short while.

1504
00:59:38,640 --> 00:59:39,765
Short while, and then what?

1505
00:59:39,765 --> 00:59:40,990
I got married.

1506
00:59:40,990 --> 00:59:42,660
How did you meet your husband?

1507
00:59:42,660 --> 00:59:44,670
That's a good question.

1508
00:59:44,670 --> 00:59:46,690
I met him at a Valentine's Day.

1509
00:59:46,690 --> 00:59:47,410

Oh, OK.

1510
00:59:47,410 --> 00:59:48,190
At a party?

1511
00:59:48,190 --> 00:59:50,880
At a dance that I went
with some Greek people.

1512
00:59:50,880 --> 00:59:52,020
Was he American or was he--

1513
00:59:52,020 --> 00:59:52,760
Oh yeah.

1514
00:59:52,760 --> 00:59:53,530
He was American?

1515
00:59:53,530 --> 00:59:55,170
Very much so.

1516
00:59:55,170 --> 00:59:57,030
Had he been in the service?

1517
00:59:57,030 --> 00:59:57,570
Yes.

1518
00:59:57,570 --> 00:59:59,570
He had fought in the war?

1519
00:59:59,570 --> 01:00:02,220
No, not that kind of service.

1520
01:00:02,220 --> 01:00:06,872
He was in the service but he
wasn't far away from Baltimore.

1521
01:00:06,872 --> 01:00:08,580
Sometimes he would go
home on the weekend

1522

01:00:08,580 --> 01:00:10,740
to see his family,
to see his mother.

1523
01:00:10,740 --> 01:00:11,700
OK.

1524
01:00:11,700 --> 01:00:13,360
And then you got married.

1525
01:00:13,360 --> 01:00:15,000
We got married in August.

1526
01:00:15,000 --> 01:00:19,820
We came here in October of 1956.

1527
01:00:19,820 --> 01:00:22,760
And we got married
in August of 1957.

1528
01:00:22,760 --> 01:00:24,080
Oh my.

1529
01:00:24,080 --> 01:00:25,430
That was very quick.

1530
01:00:25,430 --> 01:00:29,670
And I had a child
a few months later.

1531
01:00:29,670 --> 01:00:31,430
She's making a face.

1532
01:00:31,430 --> 01:00:32,770
She's not happy about it.

1533
01:00:32,770 --> 01:00:35,180
Trying to figure out if I was--

1534
01:00:35,180 --> 01:00:38,685
So then you had your daughter.

1535

01:00:38,685 --> 01:00:39,560

I had three children.

1536

01:00:39,560 --> 01:00:40,430

Three children.

1537

01:00:40,430 --> 01:00:41,120

OK.

1538

01:00:41,120 --> 01:00:42,260

Yeah.

1539

01:00:42,260 --> 01:00:44,840

Everything started
getting normal.

1540

01:00:44,840 --> 01:00:48,140

And did you have contact
with people in Greece?

1541

01:00:48,140 --> 01:00:51,020

Oh my god, I still have contact
with all my school mates.

1542

01:00:51,020 --> 01:00:54,650

At that time, when you first
came, you kept up in contact?

1543

01:00:54,650 --> 01:00:56,090

Oh my goodness, yes.

1544

01:00:56,090 --> 01:00:58,368

Don't go, don't leave, we
like you, we want you here.

1545

01:00:58,368 --> 01:00:59,160

I said yeah, right.

1546

01:00:59,160 --> 01:01:01,930

And when did you
become a citizen?

1547

01:01:01,930 --> 01:01:03,020

That's a good question.

1548

01:01:03,020 --> 01:01:06,250

I had a lot of disagreements
with your father.

1549

01:01:06,250 --> 01:01:09,690

Because in the beginning
he kept saying to me

1550

01:01:09,690 --> 01:01:11,280

sit down with the
book, and I'm going

1551

01:01:11,280 --> 01:01:12,280

to take you to become a citizen.

1552

01:01:12,280 --> 01:01:14,530

No, I don't want to, I don't
want to, I don't want to.

1553

01:01:14,530 --> 01:01:17,970

But then I became a
citizen a while later.

1554

01:01:17,970 --> 01:01:21,960

About five, six years later,
seven years later because I

1555

01:01:21,960 --> 01:01:24,610

didn't have trouble staying
here because she was American.

1556

01:01:24,610 --> 01:01:26,850

So she wasn't going
to get rid of me.

1557

01:01:26,850 --> 01:01:32,650

But in order for me to become
a citizen I had to read.

1558

01:01:32,650 --> 01:01:34,798
I had to know what I
was going to answer.

1559
01:01:34,798 --> 01:01:35,590
Where they took me.

1560
01:01:35,590 --> 01:01:37,570
And I did.

1561
01:01:37,570 --> 01:01:39,220
So I became a citizen.

1562
01:01:39,220 --> 01:01:41,860
So you picked up English
quickly when you came here?

1563
01:01:41,860 --> 01:01:42,550
I had to.

1564
01:01:42,550 --> 01:01:45,760
If I didn't speak
English what would I do?

1565
01:01:45,760 --> 01:01:48,010
You know to go shopping or to--

1566
01:01:48,010 --> 01:01:50,410
So you picked up English
and obviously your husband

1567
01:01:50,410 --> 01:01:52,390
didn't speak Greek, did he?

1568
01:01:52,390 --> 01:01:53,660
He learned some of it--

1569
01:01:53,660 --> 01:01:55,330
But when you first met him?

1570
01:01:55,330 --> 01:01:58,180
No, no, no, no.

1571
01:01:58,180 --> 01:02:01,030
And did you work at all?

1572
01:02:01,030 --> 01:02:03,280
I worked a few months
after I was here.

1573
01:02:03,280 --> 01:02:04,960
What kind of work did you do?

1574
01:02:04,960 --> 01:02:07,000
A terrible job.

1575
01:02:07,000 --> 01:02:12,130
A factory that were making
covers for furniture

1576
01:02:12,130 --> 01:02:17,000
and covers for bed covers,
and what I had to do

1577
01:02:17,000 --> 01:02:19,600
was fold them and
put them in a drawer.

1578
01:02:19,600 --> 01:02:21,280
I hated that.

1579
01:02:21,280 --> 01:02:21,882
I hated that.

1580
01:02:21,882 --> 01:02:23,090
I wanted to get out of there.

1581
01:02:23,090 --> 01:02:23,810
I did.

1582
01:02:23,810 --> 01:02:28,270
When I met him he says to me,
you have to quit that job.

1583

01:02:28,270 --> 01:02:30,700

I said no, I need
to work, and then I

1584

01:02:30,700 --> 01:02:32,950

quit after we got married.

1585

01:02:32,950 --> 01:02:35,470

But then I got
another job later on.

1586

01:02:35,470 --> 01:02:38,870

And when were your
children born?

1587

01:02:38,870 --> 01:02:40,820

Were you born in 1957?

1588

01:02:40,820 --> 01:02:41,795

No, '58.

1589

01:02:41,795 --> 01:02:44,400

You got married in '57.

1590

01:02:44,400 --> 01:02:45,746

In '58.

1591

01:02:45,746 --> 01:02:46,640

She was born in--

1592

01:02:46,640 --> 01:02:48,515

And then you said you
had two more children.

1593

01:02:48,515 --> 01:02:50,870

The other one, she's three
years younger than her.

1594

01:02:50,870 --> 01:02:54,080

She was born I think in '61.

1595

01:02:54,080 --> 01:02:57,330

And my son, what year
was your brother born?

1596

01:02:57,330 --> 01:03:01,590

He's 10 years younger
than me so '68.

1597

01:03:01,590 --> 01:03:06,810

And then can we now, I'd like
to ask you some questions

1598

01:03:06,810 --> 01:03:08,610

about your thoughts.

1599

01:03:08,610 --> 01:03:09,630

About what?

1600

01:03:09,630 --> 01:03:12,000

About your life,
your experiences.

1601

01:03:12,000 --> 01:03:14,610

Do you feel Greek at all?

1602

01:03:14,610 --> 01:03:16,380

Somehow.

1603

01:03:16,380 --> 01:03:17,190

Somehow.

1604

01:03:17,190 --> 01:03:20,550

I feel Greek in certain
things that I do.

1605

01:03:20,550 --> 01:03:22,050

In what sense?

1606

01:03:22,050 --> 01:03:22,710

The cooking.

1607

01:03:22,710 --> 01:03:25,570

1608
01:03:25,570 --> 01:03:28,510
The cooking that I like
better than what some

1609
01:03:28,510 --> 01:03:31,570
of the American people make.

1610
01:03:31,570 --> 01:03:33,170
Am I right?

1611
01:03:33,170 --> 01:03:33,670
Yeah.

1612
01:03:33,670 --> 01:03:40,000

1613
01:03:40,000 --> 01:03:42,720
I used to love to spend
time with my mother

1614
01:03:42,720 --> 01:03:46,480
and my father, time with them.

1615
01:03:46,480 --> 01:03:49,540
After I was here, after
I was married already

1616
01:03:49,540 --> 01:03:54,080
and I didn't live at home, I
liked to spend time with them.

1617
01:03:54,080 --> 01:03:55,930
We used to eat at my
mother's house quite

1618
01:03:55,930 --> 01:03:58,900
a bit in the beginning.

1619
01:03:58,900 --> 01:04:01,330
She would make a big

dinner on Friday night.

1620

01:04:01,330 --> 01:04:08,120

And my mother got a job right
away also as a seamstress.

1621

01:04:08,120 --> 01:04:12,170

She was never a seamstress in
Greece, but she did it here.

1622

01:04:12,170 --> 01:04:14,990

Because she wanted
to make money.

1623

01:04:14,990 --> 01:04:18,410

When your children were
young did it bring--

1624

01:04:18,410 --> 01:04:20,632

and they were the
ages that you were

1625

01:04:20,632 --> 01:04:22,340

when you were going
through the difficult

1626

01:04:22,340 --> 01:04:25,640

times when the Germans--

1627

01:04:25,640 --> 01:04:29,660

at that time did it bring back
memories of your childhood?

1628

01:04:29,660 --> 01:04:31,538

Yes, it brought back
a lot of memories.

1629

01:04:31,538 --> 01:04:33,080

When you would look
at them and think

1630

01:04:33,080 --> 01:04:36,900

at their age I was

hiding, and the Germans--

1631

01:04:36,900 --> 01:04:37,400

Yes.

1632

01:04:37,400 --> 01:04:40,100

Yes, sure.

1633

01:04:40,100 --> 01:04:44,420

I kept saying to myself,

I didn't say it loud,

1634

01:04:44,420 --> 01:04:47,780

maybe I said it when my husband

was around I don't know,

1635

01:04:47,780 --> 01:04:52,370

but I'm so lucky to have

children that are growing up

1636

01:04:52,370 --> 01:04:54,050

in a normal place.

1637

01:04:54,050 --> 01:04:56,760

That they don't have all this

don't do this and don't do that

1638

01:04:56,760 --> 01:05:01,400

and this is not a good thing.

1639

01:05:01,400 --> 01:05:03,690

That's what I went through

when I was growing up.

1640

01:05:03,690 --> 01:05:07,598

My mother would say, you're

going to be with your friends--

1641

01:05:07,598 --> 01:05:09,140

my father used to

say, you have to be

1642

01:05:09,140 --> 01:05:11,360
home by 8:00 or by whatever.

1643
01:05:11,360 --> 01:05:15,200
Because they were afraid
of what was going on.

1644
01:05:15,200 --> 01:05:18,260
And you always sensed that
fear even though you--

1645
01:05:18,260 --> 01:05:20,750
did you sense it when
you were that young?

1646
01:05:20,750 --> 01:05:21,740
The fear and their--

1647
01:05:21,740 --> 01:05:29,540
Not that I sensed that, but I
was not happy to be going out

1648
01:05:29,540 --> 01:05:31,760
and to meet, on
the way out, some

1649
01:05:31,760 --> 01:05:35,660
of the goyim, non-Jewish people.

1650
01:05:35,660 --> 01:05:39,080
The people that went to my
school, the private school,

1651
01:05:39,080 --> 01:05:40,830
were very nice.

1652
01:05:40,830 --> 01:05:43,760
They came from classy families.

1653
01:05:43,760 --> 01:05:46,820
You know, that was very nice.

1654

01:05:46,820 --> 01:05:51,740

And I mean one girl, her
parents had a bakery.

1655

01:05:51,740 --> 01:05:55,210

Another girl in those
days they decided

1656

01:05:55,210 --> 01:05:57,170

to sell radios and
stuff like that,

1657

01:05:57,170 --> 01:06:00,010

then gradually they were selling
washing machines and dryers,

1658

01:06:00,010 --> 01:06:01,300

you know.

1659

01:06:01,300 --> 01:06:04,250

And they were very
classy people.

1660

01:06:04,250 --> 01:06:05,980

They had a lot of--

1661

01:06:05,980 --> 01:06:10,430

their parents, their
families were classy.

1662

01:06:10,430 --> 01:06:14,390

They had a lot of good thoughts,
you know, what they should do

1663

01:06:14,390 --> 01:06:16,610

and how their lives should go.

1664

01:06:16,610 --> 01:06:19,100

The ones that were really
bad that we were afraid of

1665

01:06:19,100 --> 01:06:22,680

was the real poor people.

1666

01:06:22,680 --> 01:06:24,900

The poor people that
couldn't even speak,

1667

01:06:24,900 --> 01:06:27,000

they didn't even know
what they were saying.

1668

01:06:27,000 --> 01:06:30,018

They never went to school.

1669

01:06:30,018 --> 01:06:32,310

And they would come and knock
on the door all the time,

1670

01:06:32,310 --> 01:06:33,420

they wanted some money.

1671

01:06:33,420 --> 01:06:35,870

To give them money.

1672

01:06:35,870 --> 01:06:36,980

It was different.

1673

01:06:36,980 --> 01:06:38,630

Now, they're not like that.

1674

01:06:38,630 --> 01:06:41,630

Now, they're in bad shape
because they have no jobs.

1675

01:06:41,630 --> 01:06:44,090

They lost their jobs because
they don't have any money,

1676

01:06:44,090 --> 01:06:45,965

and they don't know what
they're going to do.

1677

01:06:45,965 --> 01:06:48,610

1678
01:06:48,610 --> 01:06:52,930
Are there any sights
or sounds that you

1679
01:06:52,930 --> 01:06:56,290
hear today that bring back
memories of being in hiding

1680
01:06:56,290 --> 01:06:58,120
and the difficult war years?

1681
01:06:58,120 --> 01:07:00,140
I think about that a lot.

1682
01:07:00,140 --> 01:07:00,640
A lot.

1683
01:07:00,640 --> 01:07:02,860
As you've gotten older or
was it always like that?

1684
01:07:02,860 --> 01:07:03,910
Always.

1685
01:07:03,910 --> 01:07:04,983
Always, always, always.

1686
01:07:04,983 --> 01:07:06,400
Think about what
you went through.

1687
01:07:06,400 --> 01:07:09,130

1688
01:07:09,130 --> 01:07:10,960
If I met somebody I
used to tell them,

1689
01:07:10,960 --> 01:07:14,530
oh I'm lucky to be
alive, to be here.

1690
01:07:14,530 --> 01:07:18,640
And then of course my
husband would ask questions

1691
01:07:18,640 --> 01:07:19,900
when we were going together.

1692
01:07:19,900 --> 01:07:22,870
He would ask questions
about where were you

1693
01:07:22,870 --> 01:07:26,480
and what happened and how
was this and how was that.

1694
01:07:26,480 --> 01:07:29,780
And he still would
say, are you sure?

1695
01:07:29,780 --> 01:07:30,790
I said, yes I'm sure.

1696
01:07:30,790 --> 01:07:33,670

1697
01:07:33,670 --> 01:07:35,550
I think that people
that were here

1698
01:07:35,550 --> 01:07:36,925
didn't have that
kind of problem.

1699
01:07:36,925 --> 01:07:41,440

1700
01:07:41,440 --> 01:07:45,190
On that topic, are
you angry that you

1701
01:07:45,190 --> 01:07:47,200

had to go through
what you went through,

1702
01:07:47,200 --> 01:07:48,790
whereas the young
people your age

1703
01:07:48,790 --> 01:07:50,470
here didn't have
to go through that?

1704
01:07:50,470 --> 01:07:51,940
You're talking about to hide.

1705
01:07:51,940 --> 01:07:53,920
Yeah, you had to go
into hiding while--

1706
01:07:53,920 --> 01:07:55,240
That was not a good thing.

1707
01:07:55,240 --> 01:07:57,740
While children your age here
were playing in their backyard.

1708
01:07:57,740 --> 01:07:58,823
That was not a good thing.

1709
01:07:58,823 --> 01:08:00,110
It was very bad because--

1710
01:08:00,110 --> 01:08:02,710
Are you angry that
you had to do that?

1711
01:08:02,710 --> 01:08:08,560
I was upset, very upset because
the weather in that village

1712
01:08:08,560 --> 01:08:12,140
that we went to hide was awful.

1713

01:08:12,140 --> 01:08:16,396

The snow was up to here, I
only wore a pair of shoes.

1714

01:08:16,396 --> 01:08:17,979

I didn't have any
other shoes with me.

1715

01:08:17,979 --> 01:08:20,180

I couldn't go out.

1716

01:08:20,180 --> 01:08:21,979

I don't know if my
father would go out.

1717

01:08:21,979 --> 01:08:25,640

There was no place that you
could go buy food there.

1718

01:08:25,640 --> 01:08:27,950

If you wanted to
go buy something

1719

01:08:27,950 --> 01:08:29,960

you had to go farther away.

1720

01:08:29,960 --> 01:08:31,880

And it wasn't that easy
to do stuff like that

1721

01:08:31,880 --> 01:08:34,819

if the weather was bad in
snow and stuff like that.

1722

01:08:34,819 --> 01:08:41,910

And then after his two brothers
died, that was terrible.

1723

01:08:41,910 --> 01:08:44,899

It was a bad thing
that we went through.

1724

01:08:44,899 --> 01:08:47,720

No, no, no, but my
question is are you angry

1725
01:08:47,720 --> 01:08:50,840
that you had to go through
that, whereas children

1726
01:08:50,840 --> 01:08:53,750
in the United States did
not have to go through that?

1727
01:08:53,750 --> 01:08:57,140
I'm not going to say
that I was angry.

1728
01:08:57,140 --> 01:08:58,609
I felt different.

1729
01:08:58,609 --> 01:08:59,590
Yes, I'm sure you did.

1730
01:08:59,590 --> 01:09:01,729
I felt different.

1731
01:09:01,729 --> 01:09:04,640
When I first came here,
if I met people here

1732
01:09:04,640 --> 01:09:07,939
you know that I was
becoming friendly with

1733
01:09:07,939 --> 01:09:10,770
and all that, they would say,
well, what happened here?

1734
01:09:10,770 --> 01:09:12,590
What did you do?

1735
01:09:12,590 --> 01:09:13,878
What did you do at night?

1736

01:09:13,878 --> 01:09:15,170
I said, what did I do at night?

1737
01:09:15,170 --> 01:09:17,950
We didn't have any light.

1738
01:09:17,950 --> 01:09:20,979
There was something with
a match you could light it

1739
01:09:20,979 --> 01:09:21,910
and whatever.

1740
01:09:21,910 --> 01:09:22,600
You couldn't.

1741
01:09:22,600 --> 01:09:24,808
You couldn't do anything,
you couldn't read at night.

1742
01:09:24,808 --> 01:09:27,250

1743
01:09:27,250 --> 01:09:31,420
The truth of the matter is
that no matter what I think,

1744
01:09:31,420 --> 01:09:35,200
and how was it like this--

1745
01:09:35,200 --> 01:09:40,720
now, my son, who is much
younger than they are--

1746
01:09:40,720 --> 01:09:45,390
I mean, he's going
to be 50 soon.

1747
01:09:45,390 --> 01:09:47,819
He is going to
Greece this summer

1748

01:09:47,819 --> 01:09:51,290
with his wife and
his four children.

1749
01:09:51,290 --> 01:09:53,510
He lives in Wisconsin.

1750
01:09:53,510 --> 01:09:55,923
And he made up his
mind that he wants

1751
01:09:55,923 --> 01:09:58,090
me to go to Greece with
him, and I don't want to go.

1752
01:09:58,090 --> 01:09:59,440
Have you been back to Greece?

1753
01:09:59,440 --> 01:10:00,815
Yeah I've been
there three times.

1754
01:10:00,815 --> 01:10:02,350
Oh you have?

1755
01:10:02,350 --> 01:10:04,810
Three times I've
been there, yeah.

1756
01:10:04,810 --> 01:10:08,300
Once or twice I was
with your father.

1757
01:10:08,300 --> 01:10:11,180
And then I went with you
last year or two years ago.

1758
01:10:11,180 --> 01:10:12,440
Three summers ago we went.

1759
01:10:12,440 --> 01:10:13,340
Yeah.

1760

01:10:13,340 --> 01:10:16,080

Three and that's number
four that I would go.

1761

01:10:16,080 --> 01:10:19,160

What was it like to
go back to Greece?

1762

01:10:19,160 --> 01:10:24,245

I went to Athens mostly because
my mother's brother's family

1763

01:10:24,245 --> 01:10:25,000

lives in Athens.

1764

01:10:25,000 --> 01:10:26,780

Did you ever go
back to the village

1765

01:10:26,780 --> 01:10:27,890

that you were hiding in?

1766

01:10:27,890 --> 01:10:28,750

No.

1767

01:10:28,750 --> 01:10:31,007

That's what my son wants now.

1768

01:10:31,007 --> 01:10:32,090

To go back to the village?

1769

01:10:32,090 --> 01:10:36,650

He wants to go to the
village for me to show him,

1770

01:10:36,650 --> 01:10:37,730

but they have changed.

1771

01:10:37,730 --> 01:10:40,580

They have built stuff there now.

1772

01:10:40,580 --> 01:10:44,540
So to stay overnight and
to see, to look around,

1773
01:10:44,540 --> 01:10:47,930
and then the other
thing he wants to do

1774
01:10:47,930 --> 01:10:51,530
is go to my hometown to
Patras and look at this.

1775
01:10:51,530 --> 01:10:53,570
Look at where the
synagogue was which

1776
01:10:53,570 --> 01:10:55,130
is now everything knocked down.

1777
01:10:55,130 --> 01:10:57,480
There's not there anymore.

1778
01:10:57,480 --> 01:10:59,870
And I don't want to go,
and he got very upset.

1779
01:10:59,870 --> 01:11:02,030
Why don't you?

1780
01:11:02,030 --> 01:11:04,490
Because I have some
problems with my--

1781
01:11:04,490 --> 01:11:06,330
I had an accident.

1782
01:11:06,330 --> 01:11:07,730
Not in Greece, not in Greece.

1783
01:11:07,730 --> 01:11:09,257
I had an accident here.

1784

01:11:09,257 --> 01:11:11,715
No, but you mean for physical
reasons you don't want to go.

1785
01:11:11,715 --> 01:11:12,430
Yeah, I'm afraid.

1786
01:11:12,430 --> 01:11:13,110
Not emotional.

1787
01:11:13,110 --> 01:11:13,785
Not emotional.

1788
01:11:13,785 --> 01:11:16,110
No, and I had another accident.

1789
01:11:16,110 --> 01:11:20,440
I was at my sister's in
Florida a couple of months ago,

1790
01:11:20,440 --> 01:11:21,970
a month ago or something.

1791
01:11:21,970 --> 01:11:26,400
And in her house I went to
spend some time with her.

1792
01:11:26,400 --> 01:11:29,800
And I skidded in her house.

1793
01:11:29,800 --> 01:11:31,380
And I fell.

1794
01:11:31,380 --> 01:11:35,970
Do you belong to any
survivor groups of,

1795
01:11:35,970 --> 01:11:39,210
let's say hidden children
or anything like that?

1796
01:11:39,210 --> 01:11:39,860

No, you don't.

1797

01:11:39,860 --> 01:11:40,360

No.

1798

01:11:40,360 --> 01:11:45,660

Are you more comfortable around
people who survived the war?

1799

01:11:45,660 --> 01:11:47,760

Do you feel more comfortable?

1800

01:11:47,760 --> 01:11:52,740

Yeah, but we met a lot of
people here that were survivors.

1801

01:11:52,740 --> 01:11:56,870

My mother's good friend,
she's still alive.

1802

01:11:56,870 --> 01:11:58,100

She's a survivor.

1803

01:11:58,100 --> 01:12:00,750

She's now in very bad
shape, she's lying in bed.

1804

01:12:00,750 --> 01:12:02,978

But just generally, do you
feel more of an attachment

1805

01:12:02,978 --> 01:12:04,520

or an understanding
with people who--

1806

01:12:04,520 --> 01:12:06,170

No, I don't have
any friends that

1807

01:12:06,170 --> 01:12:11,090

are very close because
they were survivors.

1808

01:12:11,090 --> 01:12:13,790

I don't because the
survivors have died.

1809

01:12:13,790 --> 01:12:14,960

The patterns.

1810

01:12:14,960 --> 01:12:18,830

Do you receive
reparations at all?

1811

01:12:18,830 --> 01:12:20,520

Payment from Germany?

1812

01:12:20,520 --> 01:12:21,020

Yes.

1813

01:12:21,020 --> 01:12:21,650

You do?

1814

01:12:21,650 --> 01:12:22,170

Yes.

1815

01:12:22,170 --> 01:12:22,815

Yeah.

1816

01:12:22,815 --> 01:12:25,160

And what are your
thoughts about that?

1817

01:12:25,160 --> 01:12:28,280

It's OK that they decided
to send something.

1818

01:12:28,280 --> 01:12:32,090

I think the Germans
that are there now,

1819

01:12:32,090 --> 01:12:37,610

they feel very bad for
what happened in Germany.

1820

01:12:37,610 --> 01:12:41,050

What the people in Germany
were doing before them.

1821

01:12:41,050 --> 01:12:43,560

They must feel guilty.

1822

01:12:43,560 --> 01:12:47,520

They didn't do anything,
but there is some people,

1823

01:12:47,520 --> 01:12:50,160

and I would be the same
way if somebody said to me,

1824

01:12:50,160 --> 01:12:52,230

do you want to go
to Germany to visit?

1825

01:12:52,230 --> 01:12:56,740

I have no interest and no
desire to go to Germany.

1826

01:12:56,740 --> 01:12:57,685

I don't want to go.

1827

01:12:57,685 --> 01:13:00,190

What for?

1828

01:13:00,190 --> 01:13:02,500

To see what this
place looks like

1829

01:13:02,500 --> 01:13:06,440

that they were killing
people left-to-right?

1830

01:13:06,440 --> 01:13:08,430

And maybe I'm not
right, maybe I'm wrong,

1831

01:13:08,430 --> 01:13:09,740

but I don't want to go.

1832
01:13:09,740 --> 01:13:13,080
I would never want to go.

1833
01:13:13,080 --> 01:13:17,020
You know, people in France,
they had a lot of things

1834
01:13:17,020 --> 01:13:18,270
happen to them during the war.

1835
01:13:18,270 --> 01:13:20,430
You know how many people
got killed in France?

1836
01:13:20,430 --> 01:13:22,320
My grandmother had
relatives there

1837
01:13:22,320 --> 01:13:27,040
she doesn't know what
happened to them.

1838
01:13:27,040 --> 01:13:30,060
You know, everybody's dead.

1839
01:13:30,060 --> 01:13:34,840
And other people that they
had relatives someplace else,

1840
01:13:34,840 --> 01:13:37,030
they're dead.

1841
01:13:37,030 --> 01:13:41,290
Without knowing what happened,
why did they do that to them.

1842
01:13:41,290 --> 01:13:44,920
The reason that Hitler did these
arrangements, why did people

1843

01:13:44,920 --> 01:13:47,880
listen to him, I don't know.

1844
01:13:47,880 --> 01:13:51,140
Do you know why?

1845
01:13:51,140 --> 01:13:52,910
What have you learned
from other people?

1846
01:13:52,910 --> 01:13:54,410
I'd like to know.

1847
01:13:54,410 --> 01:13:55,790
We can talk about that later.

1848
01:13:55,790 --> 01:14:00,830

1849
01:14:00,830 --> 01:14:03,230
Has it affected your
feeling of being Jewish?

1850
01:14:03,230 --> 01:14:04,905
That all this--

1851
01:14:04,905 --> 01:14:05,405
Never.

1852
01:14:05,405 --> 01:14:05,905
Never.

1853
01:14:05,905 --> 01:14:09,120
That all this happened because
you and your family are Jewish.

1854
01:14:09,120 --> 01:14:09,620
No, never.

1855
01:14:09,620 --> 01:14:12,550
I like being Jewish.

1856

01:14:12,550 --> 01:14:13,660

I like being Jewish.

1857

01:14:13,660 --> 01:14:16,970

I like listening to--

1858

01:14:16,970 --> 01:14:22,060

unfortunately, I can't follow
around the book in Hebrew

1859

01:14:22,060 --> 01:14:26,343

because I never want
to Hebrew school.

1860

01:14:26,343 --> 01:14:27,760

They have it in
English, sometimes

1861

01:14:27,760 --> 01:14:30,190

they explain it in
English so that's better.

1862

01:14:30,190 --> 01:14:33,190

I like going to
synagogue every Saturday.

1863

01:14:33,190 --> 01:14:35,000

Did you raise your
children Jewishly?

1864

01:14:35,000 --> 01:14:35,500

Oh yeah.

1865

01:14:35,500 --> 01:14:37,300

They were all bat
mitzvah and bar mitzvahs

1866

01:14:37,300 --> 01:14:38,260

and all that stuff.

1867

01:14:38,260 --> 01:14:42,220

And she she teaches

Hebrew to kids.

1868

01:14:42,220 --> 01:14:45,920

So it's very nice, very nice.

1869

01:14:45,920 --> 01:14:48,680

I don't mind any of
that stuff at all.

1870

01:14:48,680 --> 01:14:52,060

The only thing
that a lot of times

1871

01:14:52,060 --> 01:14:57,430

I have, especially if I dream
about something you know,

1872

01:14:57,430 --> 01:15:02,550

why did the Jewish people
have such a bad treatment?

1873

01:15:02,550 --> 01:15:03,120

Why?

1874

01:15:03,120 --> 01:15:05,930

What was the reason?

1875

01:15:05,930 --> 01:15:09,220

Do you dream a lot about your
childhood, your experiences?

1876

01:15:09,220 --> 01:15:11,200

Yeah here and there, yes.

1877

01:15:11,200 --> 01:15:18,480

But I don't understand why
those days the Jewish people

1878

01:15:18,480 --> 01:15:20,650

were being pushed on the side.

1879

01:15:20,650 --> 01:15:23,050

Why?

1880

01:15:23,050 --> 01:15:25,100

What was the reason?

1881

01:15:25,100 --> 01:15:27,460

That because they thought
that the Jewish people had

1882

01:15:27,460 --> 01:15:28,780

more money than other people.

1883

01:15:28,780 --> 01:15:31,700

Maybe they wanted the money.

1884

01:15:31,700 --> 01:15:34,550

I don't know.

1885

01:15:34,550 --> 01:15:35,990

Have you been to Israel?

1886

01:15:35,990 --> 01:15:37,540

Yeah, I've been to Israel.

1887

01:15:37,540 --> 01:15:40,460

What are your
thoughts about Israel?

1888

01:15:40,460 --> 01:15:41,500

I liked it there.

1889

01:15:41,500 --> 01:15:44,420

I mean, I don't know,
it's nice, it's beautiful.

1890

01:15:44,420 --> 01:15:44,920

The people--

1891

01:15:44,920 --> 01:15:47,480

Did your parents ever
consider going to Israel?

1892

01:15:47,480 --> 01:15:48,970

No, no, no, no never.

1893

01:15:48,970 --> 01:15:51,310

My father's brother lived
there, the one that survived.

1894

01:15:51,310 --> 01:15:52,990

He has family there.

1895

01:15:52,990 --> 01:15:55,180

He's dead now, but
he has family there.

1896

01:15:55,180 --> 01:15:59,902

But no, I wouldn't
want to live in Israel.

1897

01:15:59,902 --> 01:16:01,110

I could never live in Israel.

1898

01:16:01,110 --> 01:16:03,810

I was thinking in the
1950's they wouldn't.

1899

01:16:03,810 --> 01:16:04,380

No.

1900

01:16:04,380 --> 01:16:08,340

The way some of the people from
my hometown went to Israel,

1901

01:16:08,340 --> 01:16:10,320

they went secretly.

1902

01:16:10,320 --> 01:16:12,120

They didn't have a--

1903

01:16:12,120 --> 01:16:14,540

what do you call it,
permission to go.

1904

01:16:14,540 --> 01:16:17,790

They got on a boat, and
they got off on the way,

1905

01:16:17,790 --> 01:16:19,945

and they were hiding
until they got on again

1906

01:16:19,945 --> 01:16:20,820

until they got there.

1907

01:16:20,820 --> 01:16:23,443

Because they didn't have
any way to get there.

1908

01:16:23,443 --> 01:16:25,860

When they got to Israel what
do you think they were doing?

1909

01:16:25,860 --> 01:16:26,760

Cleaning the streets.

1910

01:16:26,760 --> 01:16:29,670

1911

01:16:29,670 --> 01:16:32,400

Do you remember the
Eichmann Trial at all?

1912

01:16:32,400 --> 01:16:33,870

Eichmann, Adolf Eichmann.

1913

01:16:33,870 --> 01:16:34,710

The Eichmann Trial.

1914

01:16:34,710 --> 01:16:35,210

You don't.

1915

01:16:35,210 --> 01:16:36,936

I was just wondering.

1916

01:16:36,936 --> 01:16:39,720
From Germany.

1917
01:16:39,720 --> 01:16:45,030
I have no desire to know
anything about Germany.

1918
01:16:45,030 --> 01:16:48,360
And I know some people
that married German girls.

1919
01:16:48,360 --> 01:16:48,960
That what?

1920
01:16:48,960 --> 01:16:49,850
German women.

1921
01:16:49,850 --> 01:16:51,990
Yeah, I know a couple.

1922
01:16:51,990 --> 01:16:52,840
You do?

1923
01:16:52,840 --> 01:16:54,300
Yeah, one is divorced already.

1924
01:16:54,300 --> 01:16:55,590
You mean in Baltimore?

1925
01:16:55,590 --> 01:16:57,910
Yes.

1926
01:16:57,910 --> 01:16:58,410
Yes.

1927
01:16:58,410 --> 01:16:59,880
My friend's son.

1928
01:16:59,880 --> 01:17:04,085
You know, Ruth's son married a
German girl, and he's divorced.

1929

01:17:04,085 --> 01:17:06,210

Do you think you would have
been a different person

1930

01:17:06,210 --> 01:17:12,140

today if you hadn't gone
through what you did as a child?

1931

01:17:12,140 --> 01:17:14,540

I don't know what I
would grow up to be.

1932

01:17:14,540 --> 01:17:19,310

Maybe by going through this
it makes you a little more

1933

01:17:19,310 --> 01:17:23,750

thoughtful, a little
more interested

1934

01:17:23,750 --> 01:17:25,820

in what you want
to do, or what you

1935

01:17:25,820 --> 01:17:29,650

want to raise your family, or--

1936

01:17:29,650 --> 01:17:36,640

I always had in my mind
when I was growing up,

1937

01:17:36,640 --> 01:17:43,170

before I was 20 years old I'll
say, after I finish school,

1938

01:17:43,170 --> 01:17:48,480

I always had in my mind that
if I get married one day, which

1939

01:17:48,480 --> 01:17:52,200

I have to marry a Jewish
person, I would never ever

1940

01:17:52,200 --> 01:17:54,570

have in my mind that I
wouldn't marry somebody

1941

01:17:54,570 --> 01:17:56,130

who's not Jewish,
which is something

1942

01:17:56,130 --> 01:17:58,620

they do all the time now.

1943

01:17:58,620 --> 01:18:00,510

My son married a
non-Jewish girl,

1944

01:18:00,510 --> 01:18:03,900

but she's more Jewish than me.

1945

01:18:03,900 --> 01:18:06,990

So that takes care of it.

1946

01:18:06,990 --> 01:18:11,190

But I never had any interest
for anything else different.

1947

01:18:11,190 --> 01:18:12,660

I wanted to do
everything that has

1948

01:18:12,660 --> 01:18:14,550

to do with the Jewish people.

1949

01:18:14,550 --> 01:18:17,060

Even though you had difficulties
in your childhood because

1950

01:18:17,060 --> 01:18:17,560

of that?

1951

01:18:17,560 --> 01:18:18,450

Yes.

1952

01:18:18,450 --> 01:18:20,460

Yes.

1953

01:18:20,460 --> 01:18:27,300

Yes, and when I hear that my son
is talking about his son's bar

1954

01:18:27,300 --> 01:18:30,300

mitzvah that's going to be
next year, not this year,

1955

01:18:30,300 --> 01:18:31,680

and I'm happy about it.

1956

01:18:31,680 --> 01:18:38,560

Because this is what I always
wanted to have in my family.

1957

01:18:38,560 --> 01:18:41,500

Do your grandchildren ask
you about your experiences,

1958

01:18:41,500 --> 01:18:43,170

and if so do you
tell them about it?

1959

01:18:43,170 --> 01:18:43,930

I don't think so.

1960

01:18:43,930 --> 01:18:45,642

Do you think your
children know anything?

1961

01:18:45,642 --> 01:18:47,800

They may be too young.

1962

01:18:47,800 --> 01:18:50,140

No, they're not too young.

1963

01:18:50,140 --> 01:18:53,960

They know a lot of things
because they hear me talking.

1964
01:18:53,960 --> 01:18:54,460
Yeah.

1965
01:18:54,460 --> 01:18:55,960
You've talked to them.

1966
01:18:55,960 --> 01:18:58,960
I mean, I'm not going to
spend a whole day sitting down

1967
01:18:58,960 --> 01:19:01,000
with them and, you know.

1968
01:19:01,000 --> 01:19:06,200
And my other grandchildren
that my son has,

1969
01:19:06,200 --> 01:19:08,563
they're much too young for that.

1970
01:19:08,563 --> 01:19:09,730
They don't live here anyway.

1971
01:19:09,730 --> 01:19:12,558

1972
01:19:12,558 --> 01:19:14,350
Do you think the world
has learned anything

1973
01:19:14,350 --> 01:19:15,550
from the Holocaust?

1974
01:19:15,550 --> 01:19:17,420
I think so.

1975
01:19:17,420 --> 01:19:18,170
I think so.

1976
01:19:18,170 --> 01:19:22,660

I think there must be a
lot of thoughts going on

1977
01:19:22,660 --> 01:19:29,260
that nobody should become
Jewish, and just become Jewish

1978
01:19:29,260 --> 01:19:33,670
because they want to be Jewish
and not doing anything else.

1979
01:19:33,670 --> 01:19:38,950
I don't think they're
so great, people

1980
01:19:38,950 --> 01:19:43,270
that are not born Jewish,
that they become Jewish.

1981
01:19:43,270 --> 01:19:47,260
Some are, yeah, but I
wouldn't say everybody is

1982
01:19:47,260 --> 01:19:49,610
as Jewish as they want to be.

1983
01:19:49,610 --> 01:19:52,130
Do you think that's going to
happen again, the Holocaust?

1984
01:19:52,130 --> 01:19:55,390
Oh god forbid, I hope not.

1985
01:19:55,390 --> 01:19:56,770
I hope not.

1986
01:19:56,770 --> 01:19:58,180
Hitler is not around anymore.

1987
01:19:58,180 --> 01:20:00,756
He was a sick person.

1988

01:20:00,756 --> 01:20:05,278

He was sick upstairs,
in his head.

1989

01:20:05,278 --> 01:20:06,820

I don't know what
other people think,

1990

01:20:06,820 --> 01:20:09,790

but I think what happened
then it's something

1991

01:20:09,790 --> 01:20:13,060

that I don't think it's
ever going to happen again.

1992

01:20:13,060 --> 01:20:18,480

Why did Germany become
so friendly with America?

1993

01:20:18,480 --> 01:20:19,860

Why?

1994

01:20:19,860 --> 01:20:24,180

Have you been to the Holocaust
Museum or any Holocaust museum?

1995

01:20:24,180 --> 01:20:27,990

I went to the Holocaust
Museum in Baltimore.

1996

01:20:27,990 --> 01:20:28,933

Awhile back.

1997

01:20:28,933 --> 01:20:29,850

Did you ever go there?

1998

01:20:29,850 --> 01:20:31,770

We went to the Jewish Museum.

1999

01:20:31,770 --> 01:20:32,760

To the Jewish Museum.

2000

01:20:32,760 --> 01:20:34,810

You've been to DC
to the Holocaust--

2001

01:20:34,810 --> 01:20:35,310

Where?

2002

01:20:35,310 --> 01:20:37,360

You've been to DC,
the Holocaust Museum.

2003

01:20:37,360 --> 01:20:37,860

Yes.

2004

01:20:37,860 --> 01:20:39,600

I went on a trip.

2005

01:20:39,600 --> 01:20:42,330

2006

01:20:42,330 --> 01:20:46,110

It was very interesting
you know and all that.

2007

01:20:46,110 --> 01:20:50,550

And you know what I heard the
other day, my other daughter's

2008

01:20:50,550 --> 01:20:52,518

son is in Israel now.

2009

01:20:52,518 --> 01:20:54,060

I don't know if you
heard about that,

2010

01:20:54,060 --> 01:20:56,670

Ben is in Israel
because they had

2011

01:20:56,670 --> 01:20:58,410

a friend that was
getting married

2012
01:20:58,410 --> 01:21:00,060
that went to school with him.

2013
01:21:00,060 --> 01:21:02,580
So he went to the
wedding and then

2014
01:21:02,580 --> 01:21:05,695
after the friend got married
he didn't come back right away.

2015
01:21:05,695 --> 01:21:06,570
He stayed extra days.

2016
01:21:06,570 --> 01:21:10,470
So he went where they have in
cemeteries different things

2017
01:21:10,470 --> 01:21:11,790
that they have written up.

2018
01:21:11,790 --> 01:21:13,970
And he called his
mother and father

2019
01:21:13,970 --> 01:21:16,710
and he said, guess
what, he says,

2020
01:21:16,710 --> 01:21:19,530
there is written
up something there

2021
01:21:19,530 --> 01:21:28,360
that says this is in memory
and to be so pleased about what

2022
01:21:28,360 --> 01:21:32,250
the Michaelis family did
to the Jewish people.

2023

01:21:32,250 --> 01:21:35,000
We saw that at the
Holocaust Museum.

2024
01:21:35,000 --> 01:21:37,670

2025
01:21:37,670 --> 01:21:40,460
They were honored
by-- the people who--

2026
01:21:40,460 --> 01:21:41,450
Us, we send money.

2027
01:21:41,450 --> 01:21:43,980
Yeah, no but I meant
they honored you.

2028
01:21:43,980 --> 01:21:47,360
I mean they honored that family.

2029
01:21:47,360 --> 01:21:51,200
The Jewish people from
here send some money there.

2030
01:21:51,200 --> 01:21:54,020
So you know he was so
excited, he says, oh I can't

2031
01:21:54,020 --> 01:21:56,390
believe the name is there.

2032
01:21:56,390 --> 01:21:59,090
He took pictures to show
us when he comes home.

2033
01:21:59,090 --> 01:22:00,810
Wonderful.

2034
01:22:00,810 --> 01:22:02,300
Well is there
anything you wanted

2035

01:22:02,300 --> 01:22:03,950
to say that we haven't covered?

2036

01:22:03,950 --> 01:22:06,020
Do you feel like--

2037

01:22:06,020 --> 01:22:09,890
What I want to say
is the good thing

2038

01:22:09,890 --> 01:22:13,310
that I did in my
life is to come here.

2039

01:22:13,310 --> 01:22:16,760
To come to America to be
with a lot of Jewish people.

2040

01:22:16,760 --> 01:22:18,920
Rather than staying in Greece?

2041

01:22:18,920 --> 01:22:20,840
Yeah, to be the
only family there?

2042

01:22:20,840 --> 01:22:22,430
That's what we were then.

2043

01:22:22,430 --> 01:22:23,720
I didn't want that.

2044

01:22:23,720 --> 01:22:26,900
Not to be able to
go to a synagogue?

2045

01:22:26,900 --> 01:22:29,360
And not to be able to see--

2046

01:22:29,360 --> 01:22:32,180

2047

01:22:32,180 --> 01:22:35,090
the Jewish people, what they
do, where they get together

2048
01:22:35,090 --> 01:22:39,500
and they have, what do you
call all these groups that they

2049
01:22:39,500 --> 01:22:43,280
call-- like the money, they help
Israel with stuff like that.

2050
01:22:43,280 --> 01:22:47,630
No, I think this is a
very good thing to do.

2051
01:22:47,630 --> 01:22:50,840
I mean, now the younger
people do a lot of things

2052
01:22:50,840 --> 01:22:52,850
that we had a chance to do.

2053
01:22:52,850 --> 01:22:55,480

2054
01:22:55,480 --> 01:22:59,540
But when you get to be
that old things change.

2055
01:22:59,540 --> 01:23:02,820
So it's not the same.

2056
01:23:02,820 --> 01:23:10,270
But I really feel happy to
know a lot of Jewish people.

2057
01:23:10,270 --> 01:23:11,200
I feel good about it.

2058
01:23:11,200 --> 01:23:12,640
To be in my synagogue.

2059

01:23:12,640 --> 01:23:17,020

And you know when I go
to synagogue on Saturday

2060

01:23:17,020 --> 01:23:19,780

and they're always
there and then they

2061

01:23:19,780 --> 01:23:22,760

have a big lunch for all
the people afterwards.

2062

01:23:22,760 --> 01:23:24,490

So that helps you feel good.

2063

01:23:24,490 --> 01:23:27,460

It helps me feel good.

2064

01:23:27,460 --> 01:23:30,760

But you said you do not
belong to any survivor groups,

2065

01:23:30,760 --> 01:23:31,960

let's say, in Baltimore?

2066

01:23:31,960 --> 01:23:34,630

No, I haven't joined anything.

2067

01:23:34,630 --> 01:23:37,590

Purposely, or you just--

2068

01:23:37,590 --> 01:23:40,480

I didn't know of anybody
that was coming to say

2069

01:23:40,480 --> 01:23:43,490

to me do you want to join?

2070

01:23:43,490 --> 01:23:47,480

If somebody would ask
me, I would say yes.

2071

01:23:47,480 --> 01:23:50,600

You know, some of these
very Jewish people

2072

01:23:50,600 --> 01:23:54,640

do things that I'm
not so excited about.

2073

01:23:54,640 --> 01:23:57,250

They're doing a big--

2074

01:23:57,250 --> 01:23:58,750

they have the big
lunch that they

2075

01:23:58,750 --> 01:24:01,630

charge you \$45 each
person, because they're

2076

01:24:01,630 --> 01:24:06,160

going to have this lunch,
whatever they serve,

2077

01:24:06,160 --> 01:24:07,360

this lunch or that.

2078

01:24:07,360 --> 01:24:10,663

And some of this
money, after it pays

2079

01:24:10,663 --> 01:24:12,580

for what they're having,
the rest of the money

2080

01:24:12,580 --> 01:24:13,330

will go to Israel.

2081

01:24:13,330 --> 01:24:14,300

I don't believe that.

2082

01:24:14,300 --> 01:24:18,280

I think they'll just tell

you that so you can join.

2083

01:24:18,280 --> 01:24:20,800

You think I'm funny, right?

2084

01:24:20,800 --> 01:24:23,760

You don't believe me.

2085

01:24:23,760 --> 01:24:27,630

Well, thank you very much
for doing the interview.

2086

01:24:27,630 --> 01:24:29,510

Thank you for
including me in this,

2087

01:24:29,510 --> 01:24:34,530

and I hope you got what you
thought would be interesting.

2088

01:24:34,530 --> 01:24:35,030

Yes.

2089

01:24:35,030 --> 01:24:35,530

Yes.

2090

01:24:35,530 --> 01:24:39,920

So this concludes the United
States Holocaust Memorial

2091

01:24:39,920 --> 01:24:44,753

Museum interview with
Josephine Becker.

2092

01:24:44,753 --> 01:24:45,253