

OK. You were saying, displaced person--

Ah. I had Italian passport, but Rhodes passed to the Greeks in 1948. And so I didn't want to be Greek. I pick up-- I choose to be DP, displaced person to come in the United States, so I have to go to Bremen in Germany because the Americans-- they used to send soldiers to Germany, and the boats empty, the boats in the Navy-- they used to come back and bring refugees from Germany.

So I was in Germany again for three weeks to see those lousy face of Germans, but I never came out there from my room. I never went to eat out because I don't want to hear the steps of the Germans, and I don't want to hear their voice.

So when the time came, we went to the boat, to the Navy, and so I came to United States, to New York. From New York, I came to Los Angeles, three nights and two days and a half by train.

I came to Chicago. I missed the train. So I have to stay another 24 hours there with no food, no nothing because I didn't know the language. I didn't know what to ask, to say, give me a tuna sandwich or cheese sandwich. I didn't know.

So I arrived to Los Angeles. When I arrived to Los Angeles, my aunt-- she says, you know, I was in the depot. She came to pick me up, and she said, the first thing, now you are in America. Your name is no Miru anymore. We have to go and change to Mary. I say, I'm very sorry. My parents-- they gave Miru. I want to keep Miru. If you don't like Miru, call Mary.

First of all, I say, Aunt, I got your mother's name. I'm the only survivor who got your mother's name. We had four Mirus in the family. I'm the only survivor. Why you don't like?

So I say, OK, you call me anything you want. And I did like this because I was exhausted from the trains with no food. I came, and you start to give me lecture, to say, not Miru, Mary.

And I stay a few months over there, seven months with my aunt. I didn't get along. I took one room with somebody, and in the meantime, I didn't have no money. I brought with me \$500, but it was easy to spend. So I wrote to Italy. I say, when I will work, I will pay you. They sent me every month \$100. Like that, I can pay \$40. And the \$60, I can eat and take the carfare.

So I had more hard time in the United States than in Germany because in Germany I know I was obligated, no choice, but over here I couldn't speak the language. I couldn't find a job, and I didn't have no place to stay. I have a very bad life.

For one year I was desperate until I decided to go back to Italy. So I say, I wish to find a job to make my ticket and to go back. So a friend of mine, my cousin who I saved from Auschwitz who got diarrhea-- she said, come to Seattle, and I will find job for you.

So I went to Seattle. I start to work. But I had a hard time because I didn't know the language. I was working in a tailor shop, but very hard to explain to me. And I took time from the other people who teach me to tell me what to do and my time also, so they fired me.

And finally, I look in the telephone book, Italian family, Italian place, and I find a grocery store. And I start to work in grocery store. So after five years, I became American citizen. I say, goodbye, everyone. I'm going to Europe to see where will be my destiny.

So I was going to Israel, and in Israel they have war after war. I said, not for me. So when I went to Italy, I found out that life was very hard to find job. I said I will come back to United States. I will work more. When I will have more money, I'll go back to Israel. So that is what I did. So now, in the meantime, my health is not good. My health is very deteriorated.

So is there anything else you can think of that you'd like to add?

Eh?

Is there anything else that you can think of that you would like to add before we finish?

I don't know what to say.

OK. Then I'll just say that this interview was recorded on August 30-- today is August 30, 1992-- in Los Angeles, California. And that's it.