

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:01,800

2
00:00:01,800 --> 00:00:06,695
I'm interviewing
Majlech Kisielnicki--

3
00:00:06,695 --> 00:00:09,860
Majleck Kisielnicki.

4
00:00:09,860 --> 00:00:10,360
--on July--

5
00:00:10,360 --> 00:00:13,150
Kisielnicki, Michael--

6
00:00:13,150 --> 00:00:14,260
--or Michael Kishel--

7
00:00:14,260 --> 00:00:15,340
--Kishel.

8
00:00:15,340 --> 00:00:21,060
--on July 1, 1990.

9
00:00:21,060 --> 00:00:23,280
My name is Michael Kishel.

10
00:00:23,280 --> 00:00:25,770
I was born Kisielnicki.

11
00:00:25,770 --> 00:00:30,100
At my bris, I was giving
the name of Majleck.

12
00:00:30,100 --> 00:00:33,010
I lived in Kaluszyn,
Poland, which

13
00:00:33,010 --> 00:00:37,720

is 56 kilometers east of Warsaw
on the way to Brest-Litovsk

14
00:00:37,720 --> 00:00:40,350
and beyond.

15
00:00:40,350 --> 00:00:43,970
The first years of--

16
00:00:43,970 --> 00:00:48,260
when I was a young boy,
I was attending cheder.

17
00:00:48,260 --> 00:00:50,670
And later, I was
attending Betasefer,

18
00:00:50,670 --> 00:00:53,570
which was a Hebrew school
only, to learn Hebrew,

19
00:00:53,570 --> 00:00:58,530
and the public school
till the seventh grade.

20
00:00:58,530 --> 00:01:02,820
My family consisted of parents,
my father Moishe, my mother

21
00:01:02,820 --> 00:01:08,450
Reizel, my brother Abram,
and my sister Heisura.

22
00:01:08,450 --> 00:01:10,620
We had lived very well.

23
00:01:10,620 --> 00:01:13,830
And we had-- in the
late 1920s, early '30s,

24
00:01:13,830 --> 00:01:19,110
my father had a business of
retail and wholesale groceries.

25
00:01:19,110 --> 00:01:26,320
In the early '30s, my father
got to make a gasoline station,

26
00:01:26,320 --> 00:01:28,060
as the road--

27
00:01:28,060 --> 00:01:30,910
as this town that
we lived in was

28
00:01:30,910 --> 00:01:33,970
a main road from
Warsaw to the east,

29
00:01:33,970 --> 00:01:36,250
which was very heavy in traffic.

30
00:01:36,250 --> 00:01:40,240
And [INAUDIBLE]
very good things.

31
00:01:40,240 --> 00:01:44,360
He also made a restaurant
that was open 24 hours a day,

32
00:01:44,360 --> 00:01:47,660
and practically 365 days a year.

33
00:01:47,660 --> 00:01:53,430
Of course, we only had
closed on major holidays.

34
00:01:53,430 --> 00:01:56,663
Saturdays, we closed
the front, but business

35
00:01:56,663 --> 00:01:58,280
was done in the back.

36
00:01:58,280 --> 00:02:01,980

37

00:02:01,980 --> 00:02:05,450

We also had a business in
wholesale kosher products

38

00:02:05,450 --> 00:02:12,410

such as petroleum,
nafta, coal, rice, sugar,

39

00:02:12,410 --> 00:02:15,540

salt, and many products that
had to be brought in from Warsaw

40

00:02:15,540 --> 00:02:19,790

to sell to the local
grocery stores.

41

00:02:19,790 --> 00:02:22,060

We were very well-off
in many ways.

42

00:02:22,060 --> 00:02:27,976

43

00:02:27,976 --> 00:02:33,399

What was [INAUDIBLE] your
father's [INAUDIBLE]??

44

00:02:33,399 --> 00:02:36,370

45

00:02:36,370 --> 00:02:38,956

My father was born
also in Kaluszyn.

46

00:02:38,956 --> 00:02:43,028

I believe he was in 1895.

47

00:02:43,028 --> 00:02:46,410

And my mother was born in
1900, also in Kaluszyn.

48

00:02:46,410 --> 00:02:49,898

They were young people
when they got married.

49

00:02:49,898 --> 00:02:53,802

Thinking-- my mother would
have been 17 or 18 years old,

50

00:02:53,802 --> 00:02:56,790

as you can see on the picture.

51

00:02:56,790 --> 00:02:59,040

Could you tell me a
little bit about your--

52

00:02:59,040 --> 00:03:01,740

both of your parents' family?

53

00:03:01,740 --> 00:03:04,060

Your father had a
lot of siblings?

54

00:03:04,060 --> 00:03:08,053

My father had-- my father's
family consisted of--

55

00:03:08,053 --> 00:03:09,720

there were two brothers
and two sisters.

56

00:03:09,720 --> 00:03:10,920

And where was he?

57

00:03:10,920 --> 00:03:16,920

One sister emigrated to
Argentina in the '20s.

58

00:03:16,920 --> 00:03:22,830

And another sister emigrated
to France, also in the '20s.

59

00:03:22,830 --> 00:03:27,430

And he also had a brother,
who also lived in Poland.

60
00:03:27,430 --> 00:03:29,520
And my father's brother had--

61
00:03:29,520 --> 00:03:33,640
the family consisted
of him and his wife.

62
00:03:33,640 --> 00:03:36,370
And they had nine children.

63
00:03:36,370 --> 00:03:38,830
And they all perished.

64
00:03:38,830 --> 00:03:43,945
My mother had-- there were
four sisters and two brothers.

65
00:03:43,945 --> 00:03:48,020

66
00:03:48,020 --> 00:03:50,780
One sister lives now in Israel.

67
00:03:50,780 --> 00:03:53,300
She's the only
one that remained.

68
00:03:53,300 --> 00:03:57,650
One sister died in Russia after
she ran away from the Germans

69
00:03:57,650 --> 00:04:05,950
in 1939.

70
00:04:05,950 --> 00:04:09,100
And one sister and my
mother died in the Holocaust

71
00:04:09,100 --> 00:04:12,400

in September 1939 when--

72

00:04:12,400 --> 00:04:18,269

September 1942 when they
were taken to Treblinka.

73

00:04:18,269 --> 00:04:21,870

What did your
father's father do?

74

00:04:21,870 --> 00:04:25,820

Was he also a businessman,
a grocer, or--

75

00:04:25,820 --> 00:04:29,000

I don't remember what
my father's father did,

76

00:04:29,000 --> 00:04:31,970

because he died in the '20s.

77

00:04:31,970 --> 00:04:35,480

And I don't recall
exactly what he was doing.

78

00:04:35,480 --> 00:04:39,725

I believe he was
dealing in produce

79

00:04:39,725 --> 00:04:45,420

they brought in from Kaluszyn
to Warsaw during market days.

80

00:04:45,420 --> 00:04:52,070

And from there, he brought back
merchandise for stores that

81

00:04:52,070 --> 00:04:53,760

ordered certain merchandise.

82

00:04:53,760 --> 00:04:54,260

I see.

83

00:04:54,260 --> 00:04:58,930

So he was wholesaler.

84

00:04:58,930 --> 00:05:00,160

Some kind.

85

00:05:00,160 --> 00:05:04,180

He would be called a
supplier of things,

86

00:05:04,180 --> 00:05:07,330

whatever, that someone needed.

87

00:05:07,330 --> 00:05:11,200

My mother's father,
I was told, they

88

00:05:11,200 --> 00:05:16,720

used to work for someone
that lived in the forest,

89

00:05:16,720 --> 00:05:21,880

like the princess or
very rich gentiles.

90

00:05:21,880 --> 00:05:25,600

And they used to
sell their woods.

91

00:05:25,600 --> 00:05:28,330

And he used to be, I
suppose, their accountant,

92

00:05:28,330 --> 00:05:30,520

or something like
that in that respect.

93

00:05:30,520 --> 00:05:32,995

My grandfather died
in the early '30s.

94

00:05:32,995 --> 00:05:37,650

95
00:05:37,650 --> 00:05:41,810
Did your-- what
kind of education

96
00:05:41,810 --> 00:05:43,770
did your parents have?

97
00:05:43,770 --> 00:05:46,320
My mother had an education.

98
00:05:46,320 --> 00:05:49,860
She was attending,
during the First World

99
00:05:49,860 --> 00:05:52,900
War, the Russian schools-- and,
of course, Jewish education.

100
00:05:52,900 --> 00:05:54,840
My father only had
a Jewish education.

101
00:05:54,840 --> 00:05:57,550

102
00:05:57,550 --> 00:06:00,700
Do you know what age he
was when he left school?

103
00:06:00,700 --> 00:06:01,200
No.

104
00:06:01,200 --> 00:06:02,000
This, I don't know.

105
00:06:02,000 --> 00:06:04,920
I do not know when my father
left school, or my mother.

106
00:06:04,920 --> 00:06:08,700

But I do know that
they could go along

107
00:06:08,700 --> 00:06:13,020
with knowledge and on many,
many different things.

108
00:06:13,020 --> 00:06:15,610
What languages did you
speak in your household?

109
00:06:15,610 --> 00:06:18,730
In the household, we
spoke mainly Yiddish.

110
00:06:18,730 --> 00:06:22,270
Occasionally, when there
are people that came from--

111
00:06:22,270 --> 00:06:24,535
gentiles that came to
visit us, we spoke Polish.

112
00:06:24,535 --> 00:06:27,460

113
00:06:27,460 --> 00:06:30,130
Did your parents ever
discuss the circumstances

114
00:06:30,130 --> 00:06:34,010
of their meeting?

115
00:06:34,010 --> 00:06:36,590
I believe my parents
did not discuss

116
00:06:36,590 --> 00:06:38,390
with us the circumstances
of their meeting.

117
00:06:38,390 --> 00:06:45,530
But we know that my mother

wanted to marry my father

118
00:06:45,530 --> 00:06:49,010
because he was very
industrious, although the family

119
00:06:49,010 --> 00:06:51,395
of my mother's was more
prominent than my father's.

120
00:06:51,395 --> 00:06:54,020

121
00:06:54,020 --> 00:06:56,930
But you think they just
met through friends?

122
00:06:56,930 --> 00:06:57,470
Oh, no.

123
00:06:57,470 --> 00:06:59,180
No, they did not
meet through friends.

124
00:06:59,180 --> 00:07:01,610
But they were about the
same age, although it

125
00:07:01,610 --> 00:07:03,150
was different about five years.

126
00:07:03,150 --> 00:07:06,440
But when it comes to
marry, this is the ages

127
00:07:06,440 --> 00:07:11,728
that you marry, between four
to six, seven years apart.

128
00:07:11,728 --> 00:07:13,040
OK.

129

00:07:13,040 --> 00:07:18,280
And did you always live in
the same house as a child?

130
00:07:18,280 --> 00:07:22,270
As a child, I remember,
until the 1929 or '30,

131
00:07:22,270 --> 00:07:27,920
we lived in an apartment, which
was a one-bedroom apartment.

132
00:07:27,920 --> 00:07:29,990
And we were three
children, which

133
00:07:29,990 --> 00:07:38,030
was a little too high, too
tight in today's standards.

134
00:07:38,030 --> 00:07:40,490
But in those years,
the more the merrier.

135
00:07:40,490 --> 00:07:44,030
There was no such thing as there
is no space, you cannot sleep,

136
00:07:44,030 --> 00:07:44,760
or sleep there.

137
00:07:44,760 --> 00:07:45,260
Right.

138
00:07:45,260 --> 00:07:46,920
There's no such thing.

139
00:07:46,920 --> 00:07:49,490
And if somebody
came to visit, there

140
00:07:49,490 --> 00:07:53,166
was always a place

to find for them.

141
00:07:53,166 --> 00:07:57,650
And later on, when we had the
business in the late '20s,

142
00:07:57,650 --> 00:08:02,360
we had rented-- it was a
house that my father rented

143
00:08:02,360 --> 00:08:04,970
at the beginning, which
later on we bought.

144
00:08:04,970 --> 00:08:09,380
It was on a lot that
we consider here

145
00:08:09,380 --> 00:08:13,400
75 feet by 200 feet
in the length--

146
00:08:13,400 --> 00:08:19,100
or not to say 75, maybe 60 feet
wide, and about 200 feet long.

147
00:08:19,100 --> 00:08:21,710
And there was that
house that we lived in.

148
00:08:21,710 --> 00:08:25,880
And the house had a store.

149
00:08:25,880 --> 00:08:28,790
In the back of the store,
we had the living quarters.

150
00:08:28,790 --> 00:08:32,960
We also had an attic, which
a tenant lived there before.

151
00:08:32,960 --> 00:08:34,880
And then, because we

needed the apartment,

152
00:08:34,880 --> 00:08:36,650
we paid him to move out.

153
00:08:36,650 --> 00:08:39,500
And we occupied
that apartment also.

154
00:08:39,500 --> 00:08:45,410
Because of the space
that we needed more,

155
00:08:45,410 --> 00:08:49,280
my family rented an
apartment that we used only

156
00:08:49,280 --> 00:08:54,050
for a bedroom about
two houses away, which

157
00:08:54,050 --> 00:08:59,000
was only about 10 steps away.

158
00:08:59,000 --> 00:09:03,950
The back of the
lot or warehouse--

159
00:09:03,950 --> 00:09:10,925
of course, all the things that
was necessary for the business.

160
00:09:10,925 --> 00:09:14,100

161
00:09:14,100 --> 00:09:17,480
And sometimes, there
was a lot of space

162
00:09:17,480 --> 00:09:25,640
that we used to plant fruits,
or onions, or potatoes,

163

00:09:25,640 --> 00:09:31,820
or strawberries, or whatever
my mother or the people that

164

00:09:31,820 --> 00:09:35,690
worked for us liked to
do, because we always

165

00:09:35,690 --> 00:09:41,010
had people helping us
out in many, many ways.

166

00:09:41,010 --> 00:09:42,350
Non-Jewish people?

167

00:09:42,350 --> 00:09:43,010
That's right.

168

00:09:43,010 --> 00:09:45,630
I don't want to
mention it over there.

169

00:09:45,630 --> 00:09:46,130
Yeah.

170

00:09:46,130 --> 00:09:47,570
That sounds nice.

171

00:09:47,570 --> 00:09:50,990

172

00:09:50,990 --> 00:09:56,370
So you remember growing
up in this environment?

173

00:09:56,370 --> 00:09:56,870
Yes.

174

00:09:56,870 --> 00:09:58,787
What kind of a street
and neighborhood was it?

175

00:09:58,787 --> 00:10:01,730

Well, the
neighborhood-- our town

176

00:10:01,730 --> 00:10:05,210

was a town of a population
of about 10,000.

177

00:10:05,210 --> 00:10:08,330

And we had about
75%, 80% Jewish.

178

00:10:08,330 --> 00:10:16,830

Maybe not exactly 75%, but
it was about a 65% Jewish.

179

00:10:16,830 --> 00:10:19,875

And that, I remember
from many, many years.

180

00:10:19,875 --> 00:10:22,400

181

00:10:22,400 --> 00:10:28,230

The town lived mainly
from different trades.

182

00:10:28,230 --> 00:10:32,280

There were a lot of people
that had a trade making

183

00:10:32,280 --> 00:10:34,860

prayer shawls, tallisem.

184

00:10:34,860 --> 00:10:40,070

There were also a lot of people
that made sheepskin coats.

185

00:10:40,070 --> 00:10:47,020

There were a few people that
dealt in skin, making leather,

186

00:10:47,020 --> 00:10:48,610
tannery.

187
00:10:48,610 --> 00:10:54,700
And of course, shoemakers
and tailors were abundant.

188
00:10:54,700 --> 00:10:58,120
And the majority of it, the
rest were mostly, I would say,

189
00:10:58,120 --> 00:11:04,150
about 30% of the
people that did have

190
00:11:04,150 --> 00:11:09,700
businesses,
businesses of textile,

191
00:11:09,700 --> 00:11:11,950
like selling
materials for suits.

192
00:11:11,950 --> 00:11:18,230
There was no such thing
as ready-made suits here.

193
00:11:18,230 --> 00:11:20,290
There were tailors that
made ready-made suits.

194
00:11:20,290 --> 00:11:24,370
But they were making them
for out-of-town, maybe

195
00:11:24,370 --> 00:11:28,700
for business people in
Warsaw or other ones.

196
00:11:28,700 --> 00:11:31,960
But if you wanted to have a
suit, you went to the store

197

00:11:31,960 --> 00:11:35,410
to buy 3 yards or 3
meters of material,

198
00:11:35,410 --> 00:11:38,470
and give it to a tailor,
who made it for you.

199
00:11:38,470 --> 00:11:43,330
I remember that we always
had two suits a year,

200
00:11:43,330 --> 00:11:46,280
for Passover and
for high holidays.

201
00:11:46,280 --> 00:11:48,340
After that year,
the following year,

202
00:11:48,340 --> 00:11:51,650
my mother gave the
suits away to relatives

203
00:11:51,650 --> 00:11:53,200
who were less fortunate.

204
00:11:53,200 --> 00:11:56,273
And if they were still
good in the same condition,

205
00:11:56,273 --> 00:11:57,190
they wore it that way.

206
00:11:57,190 --> 00:12:00,670
If not, they turned it over on
the other side, the material,

207
00:12:00,670 --> 00:12:01,500
and remade it.

208
00:12:01,500 --> 00:12:03,400
It would look like new.

209

00:12:03,400 --> 00:12:06,800

The same thing was with shoes and other things.

210

00:12:06,800 --> 00:12:09,560

How would you describe the relations

211

00:12:09,560 --> 00:12:15,460

between the Jewish families and the non-Jewish?

212

00:12:15,460 --> 00:12:17,860

Were they Catholics?

213

00:12:17,860 --> 00:12:22,300

The gentiles in our town were 99% Catholics.

214

00:12:22,300 --> 00:12:26,680

The relations between the gentiles and the Jews

215

00:12:26,680 --> 00:12:29,830

officially were supposedly good.

216

00:12:29,830 --> 00:12:32,950

We, in particular, had no problem,

217

00:12:32,950 --> 00:12:35,860

because all the gentiles that used to come around

218

00:12:35,860 --> 00:12:38,110

had respect for my father.

219

00:12:38,110 --> 00:12:42,640

And especially the precinct, the police,

220

00:12:42,640 --> 00:12:45,130
were practically
stationed in our house,

221
00:12:45,130 --> 00:12:49,630
because it was a station that
the trucks and buses that

222
00:12:49,630 --> 00:12:53,700
used to pass by our
town made a stopover.

223
00:12:53,700 --> 00:12:55,710
They can gas, fill in with gas.

224
00:12:55,710 --> 00:13:01,860
And all the passengers came
into our restaurants to eat.

225
00:13:01,860 --> 00:13:07,070
And for this, it was
very lively in our area.

226
00:13:07,070 --> 00:13:10,430
And the town was--
every evening,

227
00:13:10,430 --> 00:13:14,330
young people used to
stroll along the streets,

228
00:13:14,330 --> 00:13:16,840
especially the main
street, which it was called

229
00:13:16,840 --> 00:13:19,700
Warsaw Street, or Warszawska.

230
00:13:19,700 --> 00:13:21,770
And especially when
it came Friday night

231
00:13:21,770 --> 00:13:25,700

and Saturday night, you could not pass the certain area

232
00:13:25,700 --> 00:13:27,320
without bumping
into one another,

233
00:13:27,320 --> 00:13:31,460
because they were walking
four or five in a width,

234
00:13:31,460 --> 00:13:33,350
and all friends
and young people.

235
00:13:33,350 --> 00:13:35,480
And everybody was very happy.

236
00:13:35,480 --> 00:13:42,410
Of course, there occasionally
were anti-Semitic slogans not

237
00:13:42,410 --> 00:13:45,350
to buy from Jews, because--

238
00:13:45,350 --> 00:13:51,600
this came from other places
that instigated against Jews.

239
00:13:51,600 --> 00:13:54,730
And of course, it dropped
off among other populations,

240
00:13:54,730 --> 00:13:56,000
other areas.

241
00:13:56,000 --> 00:14:00,260
And the same thing rubbed
off on Jews in our area.

242
00:14:00,260 --> 00:14:04,340
So there were local
fascists, youths?

243
00:14:04,340 --> 00:14:04,840
Yes.

244
00:14:04,840 --> 00:14:05,673
There were fascists.

245
00:14:05,673 --> 00:14:08,470
But officially,
they did not come up

246
00:14:08,470 --> 00:14:12,430
to say exactly what they are.

247
00:14:12,430 --> 00:14:15,295
But in a group,
they were barking.

248
00:14:15,295 --> 00:14:18,340

249
00:14:18,340 --> 00:14:22,420
But many times, the gentiles
had very much respect

250
00:14:22,420 --> 00:14:24,730
for my family, for my father.

251
00:14:24,730 --> 00:14:30,220
And there was no hesitation that
if someone came into our house

252
00:14:30,220 --> 00:14:32,350
and said something
against the Jews,

253
00:14:32,350 --> 00:14:35,170
that my father
could take his neck

254
00:14:35,170 --> 00:14:40,930
and throw him out with a kick

in the back, in the rear end.

255
00:14:40,930 --> 00:14:43,770
And it was OK.

256
00:14:43,770 --> 00:14:55,710
And as the decade, the
'30s progressed, did things

257
00:14:55,710 --> 00:14:56,660
get tougher?

258
00:14:56,660 --> 00:15:00,400
Well, it start to
get a little tougher

259
00:15:00,400 --> 00:15:02,410
after Hitler came to power.

260
00:15:02,410 --> 00:15:04,700
And there was a lot
of writings about how

261
00:15:04,700 --> 00:15:06,370
he's treating the Jews.

262
00:15:06,370 --> 00:15:11,170
And of course, there was a
Polish anti-Semitic party.

263
00:15:11,170 --> 00:15:15,730
It's called Endek, the
National Polish Party.

264
00:15:15,730 --> 00:15:17,620
I don't remember exactly
what they called it.

265
00:15:17,620 --> 00:15:20,350
But there were a few of them.

266
00:15:20,350 --> 00:15:21,730

And they had their newspapers.

267

00:15:21,730 --> 00:15:25,090

And they used to write many
articles about the Jews,

268

00:15:25,090 --> 00:15:29,007

how bad the Jews are, and what
the Jews did bad to Poland,

269

00:15:29,007 --> 00:15:31,090

and what they do with this,
and what they do that.

270

00:15:31,090 --> 00:15:37,150

And of course, many Poles
that did not have anything,

271

00:15:37,150 --> 00:15:43,420

or did not have any incentives
to go out and work and better

272

00:15:43,420 --> 00:15:47,720

themselves, only saw that the
Jews take everything away,

273

00:15:47,720 --> 00:15:48,970

that the Jews have everything.

274

00:15:48,970 --> 00:15:53,320

And this made anti-Semitism
a little more.

275

00:15:53,320 --> 00:15:55,840

So there were more incidents?

276

00:15:55,840 --> 00:15:57,160

Well, actually, no incidents.

277

00:15:57,160 --> 00:16:01,810

The only incident that was
once was in the county.

278

00:16:01,810 --> 00:16:04,810

Someone had killed--

279

00:16:04,810 --> 00:16:06,020

I don't remember exactly.

280

00:16:06,020 --> 00:16:12,330

But this was that someone had
killed someone in the county.

281

00:16:12,330 --> 00:16:17,490

Or it was at a time when
a German ambassador,

282

00:16:17,490 --> 00:16:20,880

or councilor, was
killed in Paris.

283

00:16:20,880 --> 00:16:25,760

And that person that killed
him was from Minsk Mazowiecki.

284

00:16:25,760 --> 00:16:28,260

I don't remember exactly
whether this was the case.

285

00:16:28,260 --> 00:16:32,040

But there was some incident
in Minsk Mazowiecki.

286

00:16:32,040 --> 00:16:36,250

And of course, it
did not do much good.

287

00:16:36,250 --> 00:16:37,720

But people still lived.

288

00:16:37,720 --> 00:16:39,930

And there was no
other choice to do.

289

00:16:39,930 --> 00:16:43,330

But you had to live with them,
to make the best you can.

290

00:16:43,330 --> 00:16:48,320

But your freedom of movement or
opportunity wasn't restricted?

291

00:16:48,320 --> 00:16:51,730

No, freedom movement
was not restricted.

292

00:16:51,730 --> 00:16:54,710

And of course, there
were restrictions

293

00:16:54,710 --> 00:16:58,480

on higher education in schools.

294

00:16:58,480 --> 00:17:01,300

But there was no higher
education in our town.

295

00:17:01,300 --> 00:17:04,459

Our town was only public
school up to the seventh grade.

296

00:17:04,459 --> 00:17:04,959

OK.

297

00:17:04,959 --> 00:17:08,190

And tell me again what
your schooling was.

298

00:17:08,190 --> 00:17:09,359

Yeah.

299

00:17:09,359 --> 00:17:11,645

My schooling was that, when
I was a boy-- let's say,

300

00:17:11,645 --> 00:17:13,770

four or five years old--
the first thing you attend

301
00:17:13,770 --> 00:17:15,000
is a cheder.

302
00:17:15,000 --> 00:17:18,849
I remember that, till my
time of the Jewish education,

303
00:17:18,849 --> 00:17:23,130
I went to four different
rabbis, from the one that

304
00:17:23,130 --> 00:17:25,710
starts with small children,
and bigger children,

305
00:17:25,710 --> 00:17:27,460
and so on, and so forth.

306
00:17:27,460 --> 00:17:32,370
And then, when I was
about 11, 12 years old,

307
00:17:32,370 --> 00:17:37,290
I was attending a school
which taught only Hebrew,

308
00:17:37,290 --> 00:17:39,677
because my father was a Zionist.

309
00:17:39,677 --> 00:17:41,010
And he wanted us to know Hebrew.

310
00:17:41,010 --> 00:17:41,760
So we went.

311
00:17:41,760 --> 00:17:47,400
In that day, 11, 12, and 13,
I was going to Hebrew school

312
00:17:47,400 --> 00:17:49,920
in the morning, let's

say from 9:00 to 12:00.

313
00:17:49,920 --> 00:17:52,530
From 1:00 to 6:00, I
went to public school.

314
00:17:52,530 --> 00:17:54,720
And from 7:00 to
8:00 or 7:00 to 9:99,

315
00:17:54,720 --> 00:18:01,630
the rabbi came to the house to
finish my religious education.

316
00:18:01,630 --> 00:18:06,097
So for a time, we were
busy educating ourselves.

317
00:18:06,097 --> 00:18:07,930
And you were bar mitzvahed
when you were 13.

318
00:18:07,930 --> 00:18:08,430
Yeah.

319
00:18:08,430 --> 00:18:10,380
Bar mitzvah, I
got when I was 13.

320
00:18:10,380 --> 00:18:12,750
What was the ceremony like then?

321
00:18:12,750 --> 00:18:16,830
Well, the bar mitzvah
ceremony was new to me

322
00:18:16,830 --> 00:18:18,630
when I came to United States.

323
00:18:18,630 --> 00:18:21,450
There was no such thing
as elaborate bar mitzvahs

324

00:18:21,450 --> 00:18:24,030

that they have here
that was there.

325

00:18:24,030 --> 00:18:26,320

There was only, at a time
when I was bar mitzvah,

326

00:18:26,320 --> 00:18:27,960

it came on a Saturday.

327

00:18:27,960 --> 00:18:29,670

I was given an Aliyah.

328

00:18:29,670 --> 00:18:31,230

And I was reading
from the Torah.

329

00:18:31,230 --> 00:18:34,590

Or I don't remember
exactly what I read,

330

00:18:34,590 --> 00:18:36,690

the part that I supposed to.

331

00:18:36,690 --> 00:18:40,810

I don't-- but after that,
there was a big Kiddush

332

00:18:40,810 --> 00:18:42,600

in the synagogue.

333

00:18:42,600 --> 00:18:45,900

And a lot of friends
came to the house.

334

00:18:45,900 --> 00:18:48,710

And we had a separate
party in the house.

335

00:18:48,710 --> 00:18:51,180

But were you--

336
00:18:51,180 --> 00:18:54,092
I just went to a bar
mitzvah on Saturday.

337
00:18:54,092 --> 00:18:55,068
It was very elaborate.

338
00:18:55,068 --> 00:18:59,750
And the little kid was
just put out on a pedestal.

339
00:18:59,750 --> 00:19:01,340
You just want to a bar mitzvah.

340
00:19:01,340 --> 00:19:03,120
Do you want to say it?

341
00:19:03,120 --> 00:19:03,960
Yes.

342
00:19:03,960 --> 00:19:05,670
We'll get back to
the bar mitzvah.

343
00:19:05,670 --> 00:19:10,020
But you were going to talk about
your great grandmother, Mariam

344
00:19:10,020 --> 00:19:12,620
Gelbard.

345
00:19:12,620 --> 00:19:16,740
The picture you see here
is my great grandmother.

346
00:19:16,740 --> 00:19:19,250
Her name was Mariam Gelbard.

347
00:19:19,250 --> 00:19:21,110
She was a baker woman.

348

00:19:21,110 --> 00:19:22,880

And the whole town knew her.

349

00:19:22,880 --> 00:19:26,870

She also made
boxes for tefillin.

350

00:19:26,870 --> 00:19:32,120

She died in 1934
at the age of 100.

351

00:19:32,120 --> 00:19:34,010

A story comes--

352

00:19:34,010 --> 00:19:36,110

I was told a story
here in the States when

353

00:19:36,110 --> 00:19:42,980

I came in 1947 through her
son, that her son ran away

354

00:19:42,980 --> 00:19:44,150

from Kaluszyn.

355

00:19:44,150 --> 00:19:48,420

And he came as a young boy,
maybe 16 or 17 years old.

356

00:19:48,420 --> 00:19:49,760

He came to America.

357

00:19:49,760 --> 00:19:55,700

His name was Wallace Gilbert.

358

00:19:55,700 --> 00:19:56,900

And he told the--

359

00:19:56,900 --> 00:20:02,890

360

00:20:02,890 --> 00:20:08,340
And when he contacted after the
war to some Kaluszyn landsmans,

361
00:20:08,340 --> 00:20:10,950
I was told by some
landsmans that went away

362
00:20:10,950 --> 00:20:14,910
before First World War or
right after the First World War

363
00:20:14,910 --> 00:20:17,850
that, when her son ran
away to the United States,

364
00:20:17,850 --> 00:20:21,060
ran away from home, she
did not know where she is.

365
00:20:21,060 --> 00:20:24,930
And she almost forgot him.

366
00:20:24,930 --> 00:20:30,780
When one time came a picture
from him and without a hat

367
00:20:30,780 --> 00:20:33,840
on his head, while
sitting in front

368
00:20:33,840 --> 00:20:36,570
of the oven in the bakery,
she saw the picture

369
00:20:36,570 --> 00:20:37,710
and threw it into the oven.

370
00:20:37,710 --> 00:20:43,120

371
00:20:43,120 --> 00:20:44,410
And you remember her?

372
00:20:44,410 --> 00:20:48,500
I remember her being
sick, laying in bed,

373
00:20:48,500 --> 00:20:52,442
in the early '30s.

374
00:20:52,442 --> 00:20:53,438
I see.

375
00:20:53,438 --> 00:20:55,930
So she was a character.

376
00:20:55,930 --> 00:20:57,510
Very religious--

377
00:20:57,510 --> 00:20:58,010
Yeah.

378
00:20:58,010 --> 00:20:58,906
--obviously.

379
00:20:58,906 --> 00:21:01,600

380
00:21:01,600 --> 00:21:05,810
These two pictures
are of my grandmother,

381
00:21:05,810 --> 00:21:08,720
who is the daughter of
my great grandmother,

382
00:21:08,720 --> 00:21:12,230
and my grandfather.

383
00:21:12,230 --> 00:21:18,800
This picture was taken,
I believe, in the 1930s.

384

00:21:18,800 --> 00:21:21,940

Her name was Rivka Rzonczinski.

385

00:21:21,940 --> 00:21:26,280

She perished during
the Holocaust in 1942.

386

00:21:26,280 --> 00:21:29,160

My grandfather's name
was Fischl Rzonczinski.

387

00:21:29,160 --> 00:21:35,730

And he died before World War
II, sometime around '32 or '33.

388

00:21:35,730 --> 00:21:38,994

And your grandmother
Rivka Rzonczinski,

389

00:21:38,994 --> 00:21:45,190

R-Z-O-N-D-Z-I-N-S-K-I,
lived in Kaluszyn?

390

00:21:45,190 --> 00:21:48,030

Lived in Kaluszyn until the--

391

00:21:48,030 --> 00:21:53,730

392

00:21:53,730 --> 00:21:55,860

This is-- we went--

393

00:21:55,860 --> 00:21:57,630

No, because I am not--

394

00:21:57,630 --> 00:22:01,620

I don't want to come out on
the tape that that's why I'm--

395

00:22:01,620 --> 00:22:02,340

OK, so--

396

00:22:02,340 --> 00:22:06,840
My grandmother originally
lived with my aunt

397
00:22:06,840 --> 00:22:10,750
in Minsk Mazowiecki.

398
00:22:10,750 --> 00:22:16,660
Since 1939, after the
Kaluszyn was burned out,

399
00:22:16,660 --> 00:22:21,910
lived with her daughter and her
son-in-law in Minsk Mazowiecki.

400
00:22:21,910 --> 00:22:28,860
In 1942, after they start to
liquidate the town of Minsk

401
00:22:28,860 --> 00:22:32,950
Mazowiecki, my aunt
and my grandmother

402
00:22:32,950 --> 00:22:36,460
came to live with
us in Kaluszyn.

403
00:22:36,460 --> 00:22:44,110
And my grandmother perished
in the Holocaust in 1942

404
00:22:44,110 --> 00:22:46,390
on the way to Treblinka
or in Treblinka.

405
00:22:46,390 --> 00:22:46,970
OK.

406
00:22:46,970 --> 00:22:47,470
And so--

407
00:22:47,470 --> 00:22:48,030
My--

408
00:22:48,030 --> 00:22:50,240
--she was living-- were
living with you for a while.

409
00:22:50,240 --> 00:22:50,740
Yeah.

410
00:22:50,740 --> 00:22:54,430
Was she born in Minsk?

411
00:22:54,430 --> 00:22:55,570
No.

412
00:22:55,570 --> 00:22:58,955
She was born in Kaluszyn,
as far as I know.

413
00:22:58,955 --> 00:23:00,330
Yeah, they were
born in Kaluszyn.

414
00:23:00,330 --> 00:23:00,830
Oh.

415
00:23:00,830 --> 00:23:01,960
Oh, OK.

416
00:23:01,960 --> 00:23:07,420
And do you know anything
about her background, how many

417
00:23:07,420 --> 00:23:09,040
brothers and sisters she had?

418
00:23:09,040 --> 00:23:10,150
Yes.

419
00:23:10,150 --> 00:23:16,303
My grandmother had-- on
my grandmother's side,

420

00:23:16,303 --> 00:23:17,345

there were three sisters.

421

00:23:17,345 --> 00:23:20,570

422

00:23:20,570 --> 00:23:24,920

One sister died a long time ago that I did not know,

423

00:23:24,920 --> 00:23:30,010

that lived in Kaluszyn, who had together the bakery, who

424

00:23:30,010 --> 00:23:34,030

attended the bakery together with my great-grandmother.

425

00:23:34,030 --> 00:23:57,090

Her husband, Moishe Aaron Siroka, lived until 1939--

426

00:23:57,090 --> 00:24:02,030

I'm sorry, until 1939 when the city was

427

00:24:02,030 --> 00:24:07,360

destroyed, with his wife, and also had a bakery.

428

00:24:07,360 --> 00:24:11,620

After the city was destroyed, he went away and went out of town.

429

00:24:11,620 --> 00:24:15,550

But I do not know what happened to him.

430

00:24:15,550 --> 00:24:16,810

All right.

431

00:24:16,810 --> 00:24:19,457

He was born in Kaluszyn also?

432

00:24:19,457 --> 00:24:20,830

You don't know.

433

00:24:20,830 --> 00:24:26,150

Do you have any idea
how old he was in 1939?

434

00:24:26,150 --> 00:24:29,960

This great-uncle of mine,
Moishe Aaron Siroka,

435

00:24:29,960 --> 00:24:34,190

must have been, in 1939,
maybe 65, 70 years old.

436

00:24:34,190 --> 00:24:36,900

All right.

437

00:24:36,900 --> 00:24:41,580

And he and his wife,
they ran a bakery.

438

00:24:41,580 --> 00:24:46,000

439

00:24:46,000 --> 00:24:50,770

So your great-uncle
Moishe Aaron Siranka--

440

00:24:50,770 --> 00:24:54,800

Siroka owned a bakery,
or he ran a bakery?

441

00:24:54,800 --> 00:24:58,910

He ran a bakery when my
great-grandmother was still

442

00:24:58,910 --> 00:24:59,410

alive.

443

00:24:59,410 --> 00:25:02,470
But later on, he
ran the bakery also.

444
00:25:02,470 --> 00:25:05,600
But his wife died early.

445
00:25:05,600 --> 00:25:06,700
But I don't remember her.

446
00:25:06,700 --> 00:25:08,108
But he remarried.

447
00:25:08,108 --> 00:25:09,025
And he ran the bakery.

448
00:25:09,025 --> 00:25:09,610
Oh.

449
00:25:09,610 --> 00:25:11,050
How many children did they have?

450
00:25:11,050 --> 00:25:19,530
They had four children,
three sons and one daughter.

451
00:25:19,530 --> 00:25:25,970
One son died during
the Holocaust in 1942.

452
00:25:25,970 --> 00:25:31,130
One son went to
Israel in the 1930s.

453
00:25:31,130 --> 00:25:36,080
One son went to
Russia in 1939, as you

454
00:25:36,080 --> 00:25:40,900
will see with a family picture,
as well as the daughter.

455

00:25:40,900 --> 00:25:46,990

456

00:25:46,990 --> 00:25:51,230

So those would be
your second cousins?

457

00:25:51,230 --> 00:25:52,390

My second cousins.

458

00:25:52,390 --> 00:25:53,790

They would be my second cousins.

459

00:25:53,790 --> 00:25:56,600

460

00:25:56,600 --> 00:26:01,520

So your Uncle Moishe
Aaron, did you

461

00:26:01,520 --> 00:26:02,850

know him when you were a kid?

462

00:26:02,850 --> 00:26:03,350

Yes.

463

00:26:03,350 --> 00:26:06,560

I know him very well,
because we had a restaurant,

464

00:26:06,560 --> 00:26:08,330

and we needed cakes.

465

00:26:08,330 --> 00:26:10,250

And he was the baker
that made cakes.

466

00:26:10,250 --> 00:26:11,224

Oh, OK.

467

00:26:11,224 --> 00:26:12,200

That's great.

468

00:26:12,200 --> 00:26:15,680

And did he have people
employed in his shop?

469

00:26:15,680 --> 00:26:17,720

They employ in
his shop, but only

470

00:26:17,720 --> 00:26:24,110

he, his wife, and his
daughter, and a son,

471

00:26:24,110 --> 00:26:27,050

because the other son
went away to Israel.

472

00:26:27,050 --> 00:26:33,500

And one son had a shop in Warsaw
with my aunt in partnership.

473

00:26:33,500 --> 00:26:35,630

They were making knitted goods.

474

00:26:35,630 --> 00:26:39,890

I mean they were knitting
and making garments for--

475

00:26:39,890 --> 00:26:42,180

they were contractors.

476

00:26:42,180 --> 00:26:47,210

So your Great-Uncle
Moishe Aaron,

477

00:26:47,210 --> 00:26:50,230

do you remember,
what was he like?

478

00:26:50,230 --> 00:26:52,955

He was a man like you see today.

479

00:26:52,955 --> 00:26:53,830
I could see it today.

480
00:26:53,830 --> 00:26:56,020
You go in, in an area
where a lot of Jews live.

481
00:26:56,020 --> 00:26:59,020
You can see the same type
of man that he was then.

482
00:26:59,020 --> 00:27:01,786
You can see today also.

483
00:27:01,786 --> 00:27:03,112
He was very pious.

484
00:27:03,112 --> 00:27:06,890
If you look at a picture,
you can visualize and go in,

485
00:27:06,890 --> 00:27:11,090
let's say, if you know New York,
Borough Park, or Williamsburg,

486
00:27:11,090 --> 00:27:14,630
or the east side, you can see
Jews like this just like him.

487
00:27:14,630 --> 00:27:18,830

488
00:27:18,830 --> 00:27:23,280
Do you remember him
as being nice to you?

489
00:27:23,280 --> 00:27:25,980
Well, he had no reason
not to be nice to me.

490
00:27:25,980 --> 00:27:29,340
We were not the type of
young boys that went out

491
00:27:29,340 --> 00:27:32,050
and making mischief
to all the people.

492
00:27:32,050 --> 00:27:34,320
We had, as you call
in Yiddish, [YIDDISH]..

493
00:27:34,320 --> 00:27:38,260

494
00:27:38,260 --> 00:27:40,150
We honored the older people.

495
00:27:40,150 --> 00:27:41,340
We had respect for them.

496
00:27:41,340 --> 00:27:44,100

497
00:27:44,100 --> 00:27:47,150
And so do you know--

498
00:27:47,150 --> 00:27:49,490
he probably had Yiddish
schooling, and then--

499
00:27:49,490 --> 00:27:50,270
Oh, yes.

500
00:27:50,270 --> 00:27:53,180
He was very well versed in--

501
00:27:53,180 --> 00:27:56,040
He's not Hasidim, though is he?

502
00:27:56,040 --> 00:27:56,540
Or was he?

503
00:27:56,540 --> 00:27:57,750

Yes, he was a Hasid.

504

00:27:57,750 --> 00:27:58,250

He was?

505

00:27:58,250 --> 00:27:58,910

Yeah.

506

00:27:58,910 --> 00:27:59,660

Oh.

507

00:27:59,660 --> 00:28:03,210

Whether he was a Hasid with his
brother-in-law, my grandfather,

508

00:28:03,210 --> 00:28:03,770

I don't know.

509

00:28:03,770 --> 00:28:05,180

But my grandfather was a Hasid.

510

00:28:05,180 --> 00:28:07,520

We used to call this
[? Kernowitz ?] Hasidim.

511

00:28:07,520 --> 00:28:10,700

Used to be, say, they
have a Ger Hasid,

512

00:28:10,700 --> 00:28:14,690

or you have different, from
different towns, rabbis.

513

00:28:14,690 --> 00:28:16,210

People go to him for holidays.

514

00:28:16,210 --> 00:28:17,780

They go to him for benedictions.

515

00:28:17,780 --> 00:28:21,200

They go to him for very
important questions.

516
00:28:21,200 --> 00:28:26,900
My grandfather was a Hasid of
a rabbi called [NON-ENGLISH]..

517
00:28:26,900 --> 00:28:29,650

518
00:28:29,650 --> 00:28:31,840
You need the spellings.

519
00:28:31,840 --> 00:28:33,104
I'll--

520
00:28:33,104 --> 00:28:33,990
OK.

521
00:28:33,990 --> 00:28:37,450
So it was a very
religious family--

522
00:28:37,450 --> 00:28:37,950
Yes.

523
00:28:37,950 --> 00:28:39,190
--the whole, extended family.

524
00:28:39,190 --> 00:28:39,690
But you--

525
00:28:39,690 --> 00:28:43,730
My mother's side
was very religious.

526
00:28:43,730 --> 00:28:45,290
But my mother
herself not that way,

527
00:28:45,290 --> 00:28:50,240
because she was already another
generation and more modern,

528

00:28:50,240 --> 00:28:57,200

although she knew all the
rights and wrongs of religion.

529

00:28:57,200 --> 00:28:59,960

And in the house, we
practiced religion.

530

00:28:59,960 --> 00:29:00,610

It was kosher?

531

00:29:00,610 --> 00:29:04,512

There was no such thing
as a non-kosher home.

532

00:29:04,512 --> 00:29:05,970

In Europe, there
was no such thing.

533

00:29:05,970 --> 00:29:08,420

You could not visualize,
even the people

534

00:29:08,420 --> 00:29:11,660

that did not have
much, to go out

535

00:29:11,660 --> 00:29:14,810

and buy for the house
non-kosher meat.

536

00:29:14,810 --> 00:29:17,300

Younger people of my
age at that time--

537

00:29:17,300 --> 00:29:23,030

13, 14, 16-- to be
considered to be a wise guy

538

00:29:23,030 --> 00:29:25,880

went into a Polish
delicatessen and bought

539

00:29:25,880 --> 00:29:28,080

himself a piece of
kielbasa, and said

540

00:29:28,080 --> 00:29:32,475

he had it, like he
conquered who knows what.

541

00:29:32,475 --> 00:29:33,350

Did you ever do that?

542

00:29:33,350 --> 00:29:35,510

I did that, too.

543

00:29:35,510 --> 00:29:36,480

But I didn't eat it.

544

00:29:36,480 --> 00:29:37,370

But I just had to.

545

00:29:37,370 --> 00:29:38,270

You had rebel.

546

00:29:38,270 --> 00:29:42,620

I had to be someone with a
group, although my group,

547

00:29:42,620 --> 00:29:46,640

we did not go there,
because it is required to--

548

00:29:46,640 --> 00:29:51,620

maybe it was cheaper
than Jewish salami then.

549

00:29:51,620 --> 00:29:54,890

Although I had it in
our house, this salami,

550

00:29:54,890 --> 00:29:56,065

which was better quality.

551

00:29:56,065 --> 00:29:57,440

Of course, it was
more expensive.

552

00:29:57,440 --> 00:30:00,020

But to me, it would
cost me nothing.

553

00:30:00,020 --> 00:30:03,200

But it was a big thing
to go in with a group

554

00:30:03,200 --> 00:30:07,420

and to participate.

555

00:30:07,420 --> 00:30:11,410

So in your household, you
celebrated all the holidays?

556

00:30:11,410 --> 00:30:15,870

All the-- in our house,
everything was 100% kosher.

557

00:30:15,870 --> 00:30:24,000

We celebrate all the holidays,
although as I mentioned before,

558

00:30:24,000 --> 00:30:27,390

we did conduct business.

559

00:30:27,390 --> 00:30:30,780

The main thing, the restaurant
was not open on a Friday night

560

00:30:30,780 --> 00:30:32,040

or till Saturday.

561

00:30:32,040 --> 00:30:36,420

But we did sell gasoline,
because we had employees

562

00:30:36,420 --> 00:30:38,940

that was a whole night.

563

00:30:38,940 --> 00:30:40,290

And they were gentiles.

564

00:30:40,290 --> 00:30:44,400

And they were selling the
gas and brought the money in.

565

00:30:44,400 --> 00:30:48,500

So there were a lot of vehicles
at this time running on gas?

566

00:30:48,500 --> 00:30:50,000

I always get the
picture of these--

567

00:30:50,000 --> 00:30:50,570

Pardon me?

568

00:30:50,570 --> 00:30:52,410

| were a lot of
vehicles running on gas?

569

00:30:52,410 --> 00:30:52,910

Oh, yes.

570

00:30:52,910 --> 00:30:54,890

If you ask about
the vehicles, this

571

00:30:54,890 --> 00:30:59,240

was a main road, same thing like
you have New York to Boston,

572

00:30:59,240 --> 00:31:00,560

or New York to Washington.

573

00:31:00,560 --> 00:31:04,430

It was a main road, traffic
of trucks and buses,

574

00:31:04,430 --> 00:31:06,620
that were going with
passengers to Warsaw.

575
00:31:06,620 --> 00:31:08,600
OK.

576
00:31:08,600 --> 00:31:11,280
But there would be a lot of
horse and wagons in town.

577
00:31:11,280 --> 00:31:13,030
Oh, yes, there were
horse and wagons, too.

578
00:31:13,030 --> 00:31:16,790
But we had nothing to
do with the horses,

579
00:31:16,790 --> 00:31:19,070
since we had the
gasoline station.

580
00:31:19,070 --> 00:31:21,780
Did your family
have a car or truck?

581
00:31:21,780 --> 00:31:25,850
We had a truck for business.

582
00:31:25,850 --> 00:31:27,650
You ask me if my
family had a car.

583
00:31:27,650 --> 00:31:33,170
I remember, in 1937 or
'36, there was an old,

584
00:31:33,170 --> 00:31:34,130
beaten up Ford.

585
00:31:34,130 --> 00:31:36,320
And it was called

a Model T Ford.

586
00:31:36,320 --> 00:31:41,690
And because we had two
trucks, and we had chauffeurs,

587
00:31:41,690 --> 00:31:44,390
we were depending upon
them to fix it, to run it.

588
00:31:44,390 --> 00:31:49,430
And my brother bought the
Model T Ford and was fixing it.

589
00:31:49,430 --> 00:31:51,892
It did run, but it looks like--

590
00:31:51,892 --> 00:31:54,350
I don't remember what happened
to it, because my father did

591
00:31:54,350 --> 00:32:01,565
not allow, because it was too
taking away from things that he

592
00:32:01,565 --> 00:32:03,650
is supposed to do otherwise.

593
00:32:03,650 --> 00:32:05,570
Maybe it wasn't good
enough or something.

594
00:32:05,570 --> 00:32:10,138
But we had two
trucks that were--

595
00:32:10,138 --> 00:32:11,180
I don't remember exactly.

596
00:32:11,180 --> 00:32:13,050
But there was two.

597

00:32:13,050 --> 00:32:16,180
Or maybe, because two,
there was different models

598
00:32:16,180 --> 00:32:17,760
at a later time.

599
00:32:17,760 --> 00:32:21,210
I remember the first
truck we had was a 1926.

600
00:32:21,210 --> 00:32:30,910
Then it was a 1933 or
1936, Chevrolet trucks.

601
00:32:30,910 --> 00:32:36,070
So if we can just finish
the story of your--

602
00:32:36,070 --> 00:32:38,080
I know we're skipping
around-- of your--

603
00:32:38,080 --> 00:32:38,800
great-uncle.

604
00:32:38,800 --> 00:32:39,730
--great-uncle.

605
00:32:39,730 --> 00:32:44,850
So did he live also with
your great-grandmother?

606
00:32:44,850 --> 00:32:45,350
No.

607
00:32:45,350 --> 00:32:48,410
My great-grandmother lived
with her daughter, Mariam.

608
00:32:48,410 --> 00:32:48,910
Right.

609

00:32:48,910 --> 00:32:49,452

But was she--

610

00:32:49,452 --> 00:32:50,840

--at the time when I knew her.

611

00:32:50,840 --> 00:32:54,042

Before, maybe she lived with
her daughter, with his--

612

00:32:54,042 --> 00:32:56,000

Where did your great-uncle
live, what kind of--

613

00:32:56,000 --> 00:32:57,863

In his house, in his place.

614

00:32:57,863 --> 00:32:59,030

Oh, what was his house like?

615

00:32:59,030 --> 00:33:00,290

He had the bakery.

616

00:33:00,290 --> 00:33:01,670

The bakery was downstairs.

617

00:33:01,670 --> 00:33:02,750

And upstairs, they lived.

618

00:33:02,750 --> 00:33:03,250

OK.

619

00:33:03,250 --> 00:33:04,810

With four children.

620

00:33:04,810 --> 00:33:05,740

With four children.

621

00:33:05,740 --> 00:33:06,240

OK.

622

00:33:06,240 --> 00:33:08,680

And his wife-- what
was his wife's name?

623

00:33:08,680 --> 00:33:11,590

I don't remember his
wife or his wife's name,

624

00:33:11,590 --> 00:33:14,453

because she died
before I even knew her.

625

00:33:14,453 --> 00:33:15,370

But then he remarried.

626

00:33:15,370 --> 00:33:16,298

And he remarried.

627

00:33:16,298 --> 00:33:16,798

Oh.

628

00:33:16,798 --> 00:33:18,820

Who did he remarry?

629

00:33:18,820 --> 00:33:20,710

He remarried a very
nice lady who worked

630

00:33:20,710 --> 00:33:23,260

with him continuously till--

631

00:33:23,260 --> 00:33:24,580

OK.

632

00:33:24,580 --> 00:33:25,510

Yeah.

633

00:33:25,510 --> 00:33:28,922

And were the four children
all by the first wife?

634

00:33:28,922 --> 00:33:30,880

The four children were
all from the first wife.

635

00:33:30,880 --> 00:33:31,190

OK.

636

00:33:31,190 --> 00:33:32,140

And he didn't have
any children--

637

00:33:32,140 --> 00:33:32,640

No.

638

00:33:32,640 --> 00:33:33,372

--by the second?

639

00:33:33,372 --> 00:33:35,180

OK.

640

00:33:35,180 --> 00:33:38,870

So did you ever get together
with this great-uncle

641

00:33:38,870 --> 00:33:40,785

for family occasions?

642

00:33:40,785 --> 00:33:42,410

The family occasions,
we were together.

643

00:33:42,410 --> 00:33:43,535

This is not with the uncle.

644

00:33:43,535 --> 00:33:45,950

This was already the younger
children, because the uncle

645

00:33:45,950 --> 00:33:48,590

was the age of my grandmother.

646

00:33:48,590 --> 00:33:51,830

And the age of the get
together was my mother

647
00:33:51,830 --> 00:33:55,610
with her sisters and
brothers and their children.

648
00:33:55,610 --> 00:33:58,470

649
00:33:58,470 --> 00:34:02,000
So the older generation
was not included

650
00:34:02,000 --> 00:34:06,980
in the gathering, unless the
grandmother came, or the--

651
00:34:06,980 --> 00:34:09,170
But the same thing
like you have here.

652
00:34:09,170 --> 00:34:11,190
You invite the parents.

653
00:34:11,190 --> 00:34:13,846
Or you invite the
children of the parents.

654
00:34:13,846 --> 00:34:14,929
Or you invite the cousins.

655
00:34:14,929 --> 00:34:16,670
Or the cousins are excluded.

656
00:34:16,670 --> 00:34:19,670
It was something like that,
but not to that extent

657
00:34:19,670 --> 00:34:21,840
as it's here.

658

00:34:21,840 --> 00:34:24,690
So you started to talk about
your bar mitzvah and family

659
00:34:24,690 --> 00:34:26,219
party.

660
00:34:26,219 --> 00:34:28,056
How many members of the family--

661
00:34:28,056 --> 00:34:29,139
There was no family party.

662
00:34:29,139 --> 00:34:33,120
The only bar mitzvah that I
had was a Kiddush in shul.

663
00:34:33,120 --> 00:34:34,830
And there were a
lot of people that

664
00:34:34,830 --> 00:34:38,130
were more friendly with--
more friends of my father.

665
00:34:38,130 --> 00:34:39,960
I invited them to
our house to have

666
00:34:39,960 --> 00:34:44,730
another drink, and another fish,
or another because usually,

667
00:34:44,730 --> 00:34:46,980
in the shul, you give parties.

668
00:34:46,980 --> 00:34:51,282
You give whiskey, cake, like
sponge cake, and herring.

669
00:34:51,282 --> 00:34:52,949
And you're inviting
them into the house.

670
00:34:52,949 --> 00:34:54,690
You give them fish.

671
00:34:54,690 --> 00:34:56,190
Or you give them challah.

672
00:34:56,190 --> 00:34:58,190
You give them some other things.

673
00:34:58,190 --> 00:35:00,470
You give them beer.

674
00:35:00,470 --> 00:35:04,020
This was the party in the
house, but no family things.

675
00:35:04,020 --> 00:35:06,290
There was no such
thing as gifts here--

676
00:35:06,290 --> 00:35:07,130
There wasn't?

677
00:35:07,130 --> 00:35:07,790
--as a check.

678
00:35:07,790 --> 00:35:10,040
I don't remember that I
got it, but I probably did.

679
00:35:10,040 --> 00:35:15,140
Maybe I got another talis
kuten, a small towel.

680
00:35:15,140 --> 00:35:16,820
You know what a talis kuten is?

681
00:35:16,820 --> 00:35:18,830
It's a small towel
that you wear on--

682

00:35:18,830 --> 00:35:19,760

maybe I got it.

683

00:35:19,760 --> 00:35:24,720

But I stopped wearing it when
I was maybe 10, 11 years old.

684

00:35:24,720 --> 00:35:25,220

Oh.

685

00:35:25,220 --> 00:35:27,260

But you were 13 when
you were bar mitzvahed.

686

00:35:27,260 --> 00:35:27,800

Yes.

687

00:35:27,800 --> 00:35:30,350

But you see, that talis kuten
you wear when you're a child.

688

00:35:30,350 --> 00:35:31,170

Oh, OK.

689

00:35:31,170 --> 00:35:32,750

Many times, you
see the young kids.

690

00:35:32,750 --> 00:35:35,020

They run around.

691

00:35:35,020 --> 00:35:39,020

The fringe is still outside,
and they're running.

692

00:35:39,020 --> 00:35:44,310

And so just about the same
time, you left school?

693

00:35:44,310 --> 00:35:46,980

The school-- when I left
school, I was about 14.

694
00:35:46,980 --> 00:35:49,332
And that was the end
of elementary school.

695
00:35:49,332 --> 00:35:50,790
That was the end
of the elementary.

696
00:35:50,790 --> 00:35:51,690
And then you--

697
00:35:51,690 --> 00:35:52,410
I went--

698
00:35:52,410 --> 00:35:53,118
--to [INAUDIBLE]?

699
00:35:53,118 --> 00:35:54,330
Yes.

700
00:35:54,330 --> 00:35:56,280
After I finished the
elementary school,

701
00:35:56,280 --> 00:35:59,640
I went to Warsaw to attend
a trade school, which

702
00:35:59,640 --> 00:36:05,010
was run by the Jewish community,
by the Jewish community

703
00:36:05,010 --> 00:36:06,473
on the Grzybowska.

704
00:36:06,473 --> 00:36:07,890
It was a street
where the Jewish--

705
00:36:07,890 --> 00:36:12,490

706
00:36:12,490 --> 00:36:15,380
how do you call it?

707
00:36:15,380 --> 00:36:18,050
I attended that school
for about six months.

708
00:36:18,050 --> 00:36:21,320
And I lived with a family
that were very religious.

709
00:36:21,320 --> 00:36:24,110
It was not too
much to my liking.

710
00:36:24,110 --> 00:36:26,760
And I was a little
bit of homesick.

711
00:36:26,760 --> 00:36:28,080
That was 1934?

712
00:36:28,080 --> 00:36:29,450
That was 1934.

713
00:36:29,450 --> 00:36:32,240
What do you mean by
they were too religious?

714
00:36:32,240 --> 00:36:33,877
What were they
expecting from you?

715
00:36:33,877 --> 00:36:35,210
What do I mean by too religious?

716
00:36:35,210 --> 00:36:37,880
That I had to sleep with
a yarmulke on my head.

717
00:36:37,880 --> 00:36:39,860

I had to pray every morning.

718
00:36:39,860 --> 00:36:45,590
And the people that I lived
with were distant relatives

719
00:36:45,590 --> 00:36:46,880
of my mother.

720
00:36:46,880 --> 00:36:51,920
He was a barber that worked in
the house only for those people

721
00:36:51,920 --> 00:36:54,530
that cannot go take shaves.

722
00:36:54,530 --> 00:36:57,710
Only very religious people
came to take haircuts,

723
00:36:57,710 --> 00:37:01,660
and special haircuts that
you cannot use a razor.

724
00:37:01,660 --> 00:37:05,470
Or just that was such
a thing that was very--

725
00:37:05,470 --> 00:37:06,310
Special.

726
00:37:06,310 --> 00:37:07,430
--very special.

727
00:37:07,430 --> 00:37:10,000
I was too restricted.

728
00:37:10,000 --> 00:37:13,780
And this gave me a little bit--

729
00:37:13,780 --> 00:37:15,820
made me a little bit lonely.

730
00:37:15,820 --> 00:37:21,530
And I came back to
Kaluszyn, to the house.

731
00:37:21,530 --> 00:37:25,520
And from there, I worked in our
business, because we needed me.

732
00:37:25,520 --> 00:37:29,540
And my main work was-- we
had the shifts, daytime

733
00:37:29,540 --> 00:37:30,350
and nighttime.

734
00:37:30,350 --> 00:37:32,720
And most of the time,
I worked my nighttime,

735
00:37:32,720 --> 00:37:35,910
because in the evenings, we
used to go out with friends,

736
00:37:35,910 --> 00:37:39,020
I'd say till about 11
o'clock or 10 o'clock.

737
00:37:39,020 --> 00:37:40,910
And after that, I came home.

738
00:37:40,910 --> 00:37:43,428
And I attended the business
at night till about 5:00,

739
00:37:43,428 --> 00:37:44,470
6 o'clock in the morning.

740
00:37:44,470 --> 00:37:44,970
Wow.

741
00:37:44,970 --> 00:37:47,387

You mean you worked at the restaurant and the gas station?

742

00:37:47,387 --> 00:37:49,910

And the gas-- the gas, pumping gas, at the restaurant.

743

00:37:49,910 --> 00:37:52,902

Oh, wow.

744

00:37:52,902 --> 00:37:54,985

What sort of things would you do with your friends

745

00:37:54,985 --> 00:37:56,645

in the early evenings?

746

00:37:56,645 --> 00:37:57,270

We used to go--

747

00:37:57,270 --> 00:37:58,380

Go to the movies?

748

00:37:58,380 --> 00:38:01,680

The movies, we only went Friday night, Saturday night,

749

00:38:01,680 --> 00:38:02,940

or Sunday.

750

00:38:02,940 --> 00:38:05,020

Or we used to go out and--

751

00:38:05,020 --> 00:38:05,550

let's see.

752

00:38:05,550 --> 00:38:09,270

Summertime, during the daytime, we used to go on bike ridings.

753

00:38:09,270 --> 00:38:15,920

In the evenings, we used to go

out just walk on the street--

754

00:38:15,920 --> 00:38:19,020

what do you call it--

strolling and telling story,

755

00:38:19,020 --> 00:38:22,530

just like you have fun here,

but not such a degree that

756

00:38:22,530 --> 00:38:24,270

many time you see here.

757

00:38:24,270 --> 00:38:27,300

The public school

also supplied--

758

00:38:27,300 --> 00:38:34,050

one school was open

evenings so that children,

759

00:38:34,050 --> 00:38:37,330

that the students could come

in and congregate there.

760

00:38:37,330 --> 00:38:41,210

And we used to play various

games, domino or checkers.

761

00:38:41,210 --> 00:38:42,210

And we used to develop--

762

00:38:42,210 --> 00:38:47,910

I don't know if you ever

heard of literary cards.

763

00:38:47,910 --> 00:38:52,350

You take-- you have in a

deck four cards of each,

764

00:38:52,350 --> 00:38:55,980

four kings, four queens, four

jacks, four aces, and so on.

765
00:38:55,980 --> 00:38:57,360
We used to make those cards--

766
00:38:57,360 --> 00:39:03,300
by literary cards, we mean known
literary people, like poets,

767
00:39:03,300 --> 00:39:06,442
or musicians.

768
00:39:06,442 --> 00:39:08,340
Or matter of fact,
I wrote down here--

769
00:39:08,340 --> 00:39:12,785

770
00:39:12,785 --> 00:39:13,285
writers.

771
00:39:13,285 --> 00:39:29,630

772
00:39:29,630 --> 00:39:30,970
Composers?

773
00:39:30,970 --> 00:39:34,110
Composers, musicians, writers.

774
00:39:34,110 --> 00:39:38,120
They were different type
of well-known people--

775
00:39:38,120 --> 00:39:39,340
politicians.

776
00:39:39,340 --> 00:39:41,350
And we used to play
cards, just like you

777

00:39:41,350 --> 00:39:42,607
pull a card from someone.

778
00:39:42,607 --> 00:39:44,690
If you have four kings or
you have four composers,

779
00:39:44,690 --> 00:39:45,190
you go out.

780
00:39:45,190 --> 00:39:47,710
First you go out with the cards.

781
00:39:47,710 --> 00:39:48,546
Then you win.

782
00:39:48,546 --> 00:39:49,046
Oh.

783
00:39:49,046 --> 00:39:50,400
Oh, that's good.

784
00:39:50,400 --> 00:39:55,980
We also played the blackjack
and other types of games

785
00:39:55,980 --> 00:39:56,640
with cards.

786
00:39:56,640 --> 00:40:00,540
And this was our times we--

787
00:40:00,540 --> 00:40:02,610
Did you start dating
in your teens?

788
00:40:02,610 --> 00:40:05,340
We had a group of
friends, dating.

789
00:40:05,340 --> 00:40:09,510
But we did not go

directly with each other.

790

00:40:09,510 --> 00:40:14,550

We were always going in a group,
two friends, two boys and two

791

00:40:14,550 --> 00:40:16,380

girls, or three boys
and three girls.

792

00:40:16,380 --> 00:40:20,890

I have some pictures
of those friends.

793

00:40:20,890 --> 00:40:26,450

794

00:40:26,450 --> 00:40:30,240

These are my first
two girlfriends.

795

00:40:30,240 --> 00:40:31,160

This is my first one.

796

00:40:31,160 --> 00:40:32,900

This is my second one.

797

00:40:32,900 --> 00:40:34,292

I did not bring my third one.

798

00:40:34,292 --> 00:40:35,750

I forgot to take
the picture, which

799

00:40:35,750 --> 00:40:41,570

the third one was during
the war from 1940 till 1942.

800

00:40:41,570 --> 00:40:44,720

But my fourth and last one--

801

00:40:44,720 --> 00:40:48,790

This looks like a very
modern girl wearing pants.

802
00:40:48,790 --> 00:40:54,210
And that's my--
ultimate and last one

803
00:40:54,210 --> 00:41:00,950
is this one with
my two daughters.

804
00:41:00,950 --> 00:41:01,890
Wait a minute.

805
00:41:01,890 --> 00:41:03,680
This, your wife?

806
00:41:03,680 --> 00:41:05,030
This is my wife.

807
00:41:05,030 --> 00:41:06,250
She's not in this picture.

808
00:41:06,250 --> 00:41:07,630
No.

809
00:41:07,630 --> 00:41:09,320
But you met your wife in--

810
00:41:09,320 --> 00:41:10,560
I met my wife in New York.

811
00:41:10,560 --> 00:41:11,060
Oh, OK.

812
00:41:11,060 --> 00:41:12,790
She is not-- my wife is
not a Holocaust survivor.

813
00:41:12,790 --> 00:41:14,915
Oh, I see what you're
saying, your last girlfriend.

814
00:41:14,915 --> 00:41:17,840

815
00:41:17,840 --> 00:41:21,650
This picture was taken in
1936, '37 on vacation in Mrozy.

816
00:41:21,650 --> 00:41:24,800
Mrozy was a railroad station.

817
00:41:24,800 --> 00:41:26,590
We used to go out
there for vacations.

818
00:41:26,590 --> 00:41:28,660
It's 5 kilometers from
Kaluszyn-- with friends.

819
00:41:28,660 --> 00:41:30,710
It's M-R-O-Z-Y.

820
00:41:30,710 --> 00:41:32,266
That's right.

821
00:41:32,266 --> 00:41:37,980
On my right, [? IÅ¼a ?]
PiÅ™knawieÅ›, that's her--

822
00:41:37,980 --> 00:41:40,020
to my left, Masha Tennenbaum.

823
00:41:40,020 --> 00:41:43,040
All died in Treblinka
from Kaluszyn December 9.

824
00:41:43,040 --> 00:41:46,180

825
00:41:46,180 --> 00:41:50,497
[? IÅ¼a ?] PiÅ™knawieÅ› had a
sister whose name was Lali.

826
00:41:50,497 --> 00:41:51,958
Lala, we used to call her.

827
00:41:51,958 --> 00:41:53,420
We called her Lala.

828
00:41:53,420 --> 00:41:55,900
This is what we called
her, because she was a doll

829
00:41:55,900 --> 00:41:56,970
and looked like a doll.

830
00:41:56,970 --> 00:41:58,471
Mm, cute girl.

831
00:41:58,471 --> 00:42:01,770

832
00:42:01,770 --> 00:42:08,070
The family had a store of
liquor, a liquor store.

833
00:42:08,070 --> 00:42:12,230
She was my friend
for many, many years.

834
00:42:12,230 --> 00:42:12,730
And--

835
00:42:12,730 --> 00:42:15,680

836
00:42:15,680 --> 00:42:17,270
Did she go to the
same school as you?

837
00:42:17,270 --> 00:42:19,640
We went to the same school,
the same public schools.

838
00:42:19,640 --> 00:42:20,140
Oh.

839
00:42:20,140 --> 00:42:22,040
And she left when
she was 14 also?

840
00:42:22,040 --> 00:42:23,060
Yes.

841
00:42:23,060 --> 00:42:23,570
And she--

842
00:42:23,570 --> 00:42:26,770
What did the girls do
when they left school?

843
00:42:26,770 --> 00:42:28,980
Girls didn't do much.

844
00:42:28,980 --> 00:42:32,760
Some girls, that their
family were not well-off,

845
00:42:32,760 --> 00:42:37,640
while needed, some girls
went to work as a seamstress,

846
00:42:37,640 --> 00:42:39,270
to learn a trade.

847
00:42:39,270 --> 00:42:43,268
But these girls were well-off.

848
00:42:43,268 --> 00:42:44,310
The people were well-off.

849
00:42:44,310 --> 00:42:47,550
So they did not send
them to [INAUDIBLE]..

850

00:42:47,550 --> 00:42:49,470
As I can remember, maybe--

851
00:42:49,470 --> 00:42:51,510
because I did visit her
when she was in Warsaw.

852
00:42:51,510 --> 00:42:53,250
Maybe she attended
a school in Warsaw.

853
00:42:53,250 --> 00:42:55,508
I don't remember exactly.

854
00:42:55,508 --> 00:42:56,550
I don't remember exactly.

855
00:42:56,550 --> 00:43:00,910
Because I did see her in Warsaw
a few times where she was.

856
00:43:00,910 --> 00:43:05,340
But maybe you could talk about
this being together in 1936

857
00:43:05,340 --> 00:43:07,230
or '37 in Mrozy--

858
00:43:07,230 --> 00:43:08,010
Mrozy, yeah.

859
00:43:08,010 --> 00:43:09,770
--because I could
write about that--

860
00:43:09,770 --> 00:43:10,270
Yeah.

861
00:43:10,270 --> 00:43:12,836
--episode.

862
00:43:12,836 --> 00:43:13,336

what

863

00:43:13,336 --> 00:43:14,211

Were you doing there?

864

00:43:14,211 --> 00:43:16,210

During summertime,

we used to go--

865

00:43:16,210 --> 00:43:18,560

Yeah, it's on.

866

00:43:18,560 --> 00:43:21,710

--for vacation to a

town called Mrozy,

867

00:43:21,710 --> 00:43:26,840

which is a railroad station

5 kilometers from our town.

868

00:43:26,840 --> 00:43:31,150

Our parents sent us

there, because they

869

00:43:31,150 --> 00:43:39,790

had a friend that was running

a vacation house for children

870

00:43:39,790 --> 00:43:41,840

of our groups.

871

00:43:41,840 --> 00:43:48,040

And we were there for about

six weeks, four to six weeks.

872

00:43:48,040 --> 00:43:49,370

Was it on water, or--

873

00:43:49,370 --> 00:43:52,120

No.

874

00:43:52,120 --> 00:43:55,090

Water was about a mile away.

875

00:43:55,090 --> 00:43:57,890

And it was mainly in
the woods, the house.

876

00:43:57,890 --> 00:44:00,440

And we used to get
up in the morning.

877

00:44:00,440 --> 00:44:04,270

We used to play ball
and go on hikes.

878

00:44:04,270 --> 00:44:06,040

And although there
wasn't much to do,

879

00:44:06,040 --> 00:44:09,870

but we enjoyed it,
because it was in the air.

880

00:44:09,870 --> 00:44:10,950

We had fresh air.

881

00:44:10,950 --> 00:44:14,970

We had no one to tell us
what we can do and not do,

882

00:44:14,970 --> 00:44:21,470

because the people that wanted
us to be there treated us

883

00:44:21,470 --> 00:44:22,670

very well.

884

00:44:22,670 --> 00:44:24,665

How many years did you go there?

885

00:44:24,665 --> 00:44:28,980

I believe I went there two
years, two consecutive years.

886
00:44:28,980 --> 00:44:29,940
I went there.

887
00:44:29,940 --> 00:44:31,500
And my sister went also there.

888
00:44:31,500 --> 00:44:41,090

889
00:44:41,090 --> 00:44:43,400
There was no need for me to
go home during this time,

890
00:44:43,400 --> 00:44:45,410
as the parents wanted to see us.

891
00:44:45,410 --> 00:44:47,870
So they used to
come to see us, how

892
00:44:47,870 --> 00:44:50,450
we're progressing, because
to send children on vacation

893
00:44:50,450 --> 00:44:53,510
was mainly that they
should eat more.

894
00:44:53,510 --> 00:44:56,420
And because we had
everything in the house,

895
00:44:56,420 --> 00:44:58,310
we had to get paid to eat.

896
00:44:58,310 --> 00:45:06,390
So they sent us away to a place
where we can stay with friends,

897
00:45:06,390 --> 00:45:09,018
and eat together, and be there.

898

00:45:09,018 --> 00:45:09,810

And of course, we--

899

00:45:09,810 --> 00:45:10,620

I don't understand that.

900

00:45:10,620 --> 00:45:11,745

What do you mean, eat more?

901

00:45:11,745 --> 00:45:15,640

902

00:45:15,640 --> 00:45:17,850

So you ate very
good food at this?

903

00:45:17,850 --> 00:45:20,650

So you are on fresh air.

904

00:45:20,650 --> 00:45:22,150

You get more appetite to eat.

905

00:45:22,150 --> 00:45:23,058

I see.

906

00:45:23,058 --> 00:45:24,420

OK.

907

00:45:24,420 --> 00:45:26,690

Well, that's good.

908

00:45:26,690 --> 00:45:29,400

And you remember
the food was good?

909

00:45:29,400 --> 00:45:33,540

The food was-- they was catering
us good food, mostly butter,

910

00:45:33,540 --> 00:45:42,060

and cream cheese,

and the sweet cream,

911

00:45:42,060 --> 00:45:45,780

and fishes, and
herrings, and all kinds

912

00:45:45,780 --> 00:45:49,590

of things, what we
like, because nobody

913

00:45:49,590 --> 00:45:51,266

knew about cholesterol then.

914

00:45:51,266 --> 00:45:54,870

We had eggs
practically every day.

915

00:45:54,870 --> 00:45:58,455

So how many of you teenagers
would be together here?

916

00:45:58,455 --> 00:46:00,905

We were there about
18 to 20 teenagers.

917

00:46:00,905 --> 00:46:03,366

Oh, it must have been fun.

918

00:46:03,366 --> 00:46:06,080

That's good.

919

00:46:06,080 --> 00:46:08,600

Did you sing songs
together at night or--

920

00:46:08,600 --> 00:46:10,280

Yes, we sang songs.

921

00:46:10,280 --> 00:46:11,915

Yes.

922

00:46:11,915 --> 00:46:13,290

I want to put on
another picture.

923
00:46:13,290 --> 00:46:23,840

924
00:46:23,840 --> 00:46:26,330
Here, I'll show you
two pictures again.

925
00:46:26,330 --> 00:46:31,450
One picture is also
myself with friends.

926
00:46:31,450 --> 00:46:33,680
We also attended
the same school.

927
00:46:33,680 --> 00:46:38,270
The one that stays with me,
her name is Sarah Aaronsohn.

928
00:46:38,270 --> 00:46:39,170
She was married.

929
00:46:39,170 --> 00:46:42,950
She married after the war with
a man by the name of Cooper.

930
00:46:42,950 --> 00:46:45,020
He died in France.

931
00:46:45,020 --> 00:46:48,756
She lives now in Nancy, France.

932
00:46:48,756 --> 00:46:50,440
Do you still stay
in touch with her?

933
00:46:50,440 --> 00:46:50,980
Yes.

934

00:46:50,980 --> 00:46:53,530
I'm staying in touch
with her by telephone.

935
00:46:53,530 --> 00:46:55,000
And she visit us a few times.

936
00:46:55,000 --> 00:46:58,580
I saw her a few
times in her house.

937
00:46:58,580 --> 00:46:59,080
And--

938
00:46:59,080 --> 00:47:00,910
So where were you rowing here?

939
00:47:00,910 --> 00:47:02,420
That was also in Mrozy.

940
00:47:02,420 --> 00:47:04,120
That was also on vacation time.

941
00:47:04,120 --> 00:47:05,373
There was a pond there?

942
00:47:05,373 --> 00:47:05,873
Yes.

943
00:47:05,873 --> 00:47:09,100

944
00:47:09,100 --> 00:47:13,450
The person that sits
at the end of the boat,

945
00:47:13,450 --> 00:47:16,420
he is the son of the
woman that was running

946
00:47:16,420 --> 00:47:19,230
the house, the vacation house.

947
00:47:19,230 --> 00:47:21,272
And this is
[? IÄ¼a ?] PiÄ™knawieÄ¸.

948
00:47:21,272 --> 00:47:23,990

949
00:47:23,990 --> 00:47:27,200
The person in the middle, the
two in the middle, one's name

950
00:47:27,200 --> 00:47:31,160
is Adam [? Kamieni. ?]
He now lives in Israel.

951
00:47:31,160 --> 00:47:35,570
And his name now is [? Sela. ?]
And the girl next to him

952
00:47:35,570 --> 00:47:37,850
is a girl that came
to visit my sister.

953
00:47:37,850 --> 00:47:39,080
She's from Warsaw.

954
00:47:39,080 --> 00:47:40,280
She died.

955
00:47:40,280 --> 00:47:41,530
I don't know where she is now.

956
00:47:41,530 --> 00:47:44,930

957
00:47:44,930 --> 00:47:46,730
So she came to stay
with us one summer.

958
00:47:46,730 --> 00:47:47,897
And she went for a vacation.

959
00:47:47,897 --> 00:47:50,650

960
00:47:50,650 --> 00:47:52,840
You look quite old
here, all of you,

961
00:47:52,840 --> 00:47:57,295
to be doing this camp thing.

962
00:47:57,295 --> 00:47:59,030
You like you're in your--

963
00:47:59,030 --> 00:47:59,680
well, you were.

964
00:47:59,680 --> 00:48:02,335
You were 17 or 18 years old.

965
00:48:02,335 --> 00:48:05,258
So that was really a luxury--

966
00:48:05,258 --> 00:48:05,800
That's right.

967
00:48:05,800 --> 00:48:08,170
--for kids that age
not to be working.

968
00:48:08,170 --> 00:48:12,768
This is a picture of the--

969
00:48:12,768 --> 00:48:15,110
this is the mother
of my friend that you

970
00:48:15,110 --> 00:48:19,250
see in the picture with the two
girls, and the other one here.

971

00:48:19,250 --> 00:48:23,210
The one below her is her
daughter, her younger daughter.

972
00:48:23,210 --> 00:48:27,200
The one next to
her is the daughter

973
00:48:27,200 --> 00:48:31,010
of the woman that runs
the summer house, which

974
00:48:31,010 --> 00:48:33,860
is a sister of hers.

975
00:48:33,860 --> 00:48:35,255
Next to her is my sister.

976
00:48:35,255 --> 00:48:39,080

977
00:48:39,080 --> 00:48:45,920
And the couple above are
parents of the boy on the left,

978
00:48:45,920 --> 00:48:47,570
of this boy.

979
00:48:47,570 --> 00:48:55,096
This picture was also
taken in that summer camp.

980
00:48:55,096 --> 00:48:55,940
See there?

981
00:48:55,940 --> 00:48:59,280
Around there.

982
00:48:59,280 --> 00:48:59,910
So--

983
00:48:59,910 --> 00:49:01,325

It's getting complicated.

984
00:49:01,325 --> 00:49:01,825
Yeah.

985
00:49:01,825 --> 00:49:04,740

986
00:49:04,740 --> 00:49:07,980
So you had a very--

987
00:49:07,980 --> 00:49:13,900
it was a nice break from
your regular routine. there.

988
00:49:13,900 --> 00:49:16,360
But you don't remember
what these two

989
00:49:16,360 --> 00:49:22,000
girls did when they went back
to town after that summer camp?

990
00:49:22,000 --> 00:49:25,880
How young-- neither of them
married before the war?

991
00:49:25,880 --> 00:49:26,380
No.

992
00:49:26,380 --> 00:49:27,390
No.

993
00:49:27,390 --> 00:49:29,790
Masza Tennenbaum had relatives.

994
00:49:29,790 --> 00:49:35,950
They originally came from
a town called Kobryn.

995
00:49:35,950 --> 00:49:42,160
That's about 50 kilometers east

or northeast of Brest-Litovsk.

996

00:49:42,160 --> 00:49:45,190

That would be about 200
kilometers from our town.

997

00:49:45,190 --> 00:49:46,360

She had relatives there.

998

00:49:46,360 --> 00:49:51,290

And her parents
were not druggists.

999

00:49:51,290 --> 00:49:55,420

In New York or in Kaluszyn,
there were not such a--

1000

00:49:55,420 --> 00:49:58,030

there were a drugstore.

1001

00:49:58,030 --> 00:50:00,850

But there was also a
store that used to sell

1002

00:50:00,850 --> 00:50:02,920

ready-made prescriptions.

1003

00:50:02,920 --> 00:50:09,130

You could get pills against
a headache, like aspirins,

1004

00:50:09,130 --> 00:50:14,020

or special soaps, like you
have a drugstore today,

1005

00:50:14,020 --> 00:50:17,020

but without the drugs.

1006

00:50:17,020 --> 00:50:19,570

But her father could
have made drugs.

1007

00:50:19,570 --> 00:50:22,510
But he was not allowed to,
maybe because he was Jewish,

1008
00:50:22,510 --> 00:50:26,980
or because maybe he didn't have
the license to be a druggist.

1009
00:50:26,980 --> 00:50:28,430
But he was there.

1010
00:50:28,430 --> 00:50:28,930
So--

1011
00:50:28,930 --> 00:50:30,280
Did he own the store?

1012
00:50:30,280 --> 00:50:31,963
He owned that store.

1013
00:50:31,963 --> 00:50:33,130
And they lived in the store?

1014
00:50:33,130 --> 00:50:33,880
They lived there.

1015
00:50:33,880 --> 00:50:38,938
They lived there in Kaluszyn
for a time, all that.

1016
00:50:38,938 --> 00:50:40,730
You don't know if she
was born in Kaluszyn?

1017
00:50:40,730 --> 00:50:41,890
She was born in Kaluszyn.

1018
00:50:41,890 --> 00:50:42,390
OK.

1019
00:50:42,390 --> 00:50:43,480
Yes.

1020
00:50:43,480 --> 00:50:45,790
But she had an older
sister and a brother.

1021
00:50:45,790 --> 00:50:48,180
I don't know whether they
were born in Kaluszyn

1022
00:50:48,180 --> 00:50:50,170
or they were born
in another town.

1023
00:50:50,170 --> 00:50:51,420
And she had an older sister
and an older brother.

1024
00:50:51,420 --> 00:50:52,128
An older brother.

1025
00:50:52,128 --> 00:50:53,445
And she was the youngest.

1026
00:50:53,445 --> 00:50:54,570
Yeah, she was the youngest.

1027
00:50:54,570 --> 00:50:55,070
OK.

1028
00:50:55,070 --> 00:50:56,738
And she had the same
schooling as you.

1029
00:50:56,738 --> 00:50:57,280
That's right.

1030
00:50:57,280 --> 00:50:58,030
The school you
went to was mixed.

1031
00:50:58,030 --> 00:50:59,185
In school, we went all together.

1032
00:50:59,185 --> 00:50:59,470
Boys and girls.

1033
00:50:59,470 --> 00:51:00,200
Boys and girls.

1034
00:51:00,200 --> 00:51:00,700
Yeah.

1035
00:51:00,700 --> 00:51:01,200
OK.

1036
00:51:01,200 --> 00:51:08,370
So it wasn't-- the Hasidic
schools were segregated,

1037
00:51:08,370 --> 00:51:09,210
weren't they?

1038
00:51:09,210 --> 00:51:11,770
No, this was a public school.

1039
00:51:11,770 --> 00:51:13,780
Oh, OK.

1040
00:51:13,780 --> 00:51:15,200
But there were a lot of Jewish--

1041
00:51:15,200 --> 00:51:15,700
Yes.

1042
00:51:15,700 --> 00:51:16,240
--students.

1043
00:51:16,240 --> 00:51:17,907
As a matter of fact,
the public school--

1044
00:51:17,907 --> 00:51:20,140
we had two public

schools, one public school

1045

00:51:20,140 --> 00:51:22,600

that only Jewish
students attended,

1046

00:51:22,600 --> 00:51:25,150

only Jews, although it
was a public school.

1047

00:51:25,150 --> 00:51:30,220

The only school that non-Jews
attended with the gentiles

1048

00:51:30,220 --> 00:51:33,160

were those that had
very heavy accents.

1049

00:51:33,160 --> 00:51:39,400

And to straighten
out the accent,

1050

00:51:39,400 --> 00:51:41,860

or teaching them better
the Polish language,

1051

00:51:41,860 --> 00:51:46,760

those had to go to a
Polish public school.

1052

00:51:46,760 --> 00:51:52,068

But we went-- everything was
conducted in Polish only.

1053

00:51:52,068 --> 00:51:52,568

Oh.

1054

00:51:52,568 --> 00:51:53,068

Oh, I see.

1055

00:51:53,068 --> 00:51:56,660

The public school-- although
the attendance was all Jewish.

1056
00:51:56,660 --> 00:52:01,260
But the schooling
was only in Polish.

1057
00:52:01,260 --> 00:52:02,850
And teachers were--

1058
00:52:02,850 --> 00:52:04,890
Teachers were Jewish
and Polish teachers.

1059
00:52:04,890 --> 00:52:05,790
Oh.

1060
00:52:05,790 --> 00:52:09,880
Was Maja a good student?

1061
00:52:09,880 --> 00:52:10,510
Masza.

1062
00:52:10,510 --> 00:52:11,880
Masza a good student?

1063
00:52:11,880 --> 00:52:12,630
Yes.

1064
00:52:12,630 --> 00:52:13,630
Were you a good student?

1065
00:52:13,630 --> 00:52:14,450
We were all good students.

1066
00:52:14,450 --> 00:52:14,950
Oh.

1067
00:52:14,950 --> 00:52:15,950
OK.

1068
00:52:15,950 --> 00:52:16,855
Yeah.

1069
00:52:16,855 --> 00:52:18,220
OK.

1070
00:52:18,220 --> 00:52:21,130
But there was never any
idea that any of you

1071
00:52:21,130 --> 00:52:25,180
would go on to some secondary
school in another city.

1072
00:52:25,180 --> 00:52:30,910
She went back to a school
from where her parents came.

1073
00:52:30,910 --> 00:52:33,140
How many years she went
there, I don't remember.

1074
00:52:33,140 --> 00:52:34,390
The name of the town again is?

1075
00:52:34,390 --> 00:52:37,780
Kobryn, K-O-B-R-I-N.

1076
00:52:37,780 --> 00:52:38,280
OK.

1077
00:52:38,280 --> 00:52:39,610
And her parents
were from that town?

1078
00:52:39,610 --> 00:52:41,080
Her parents were from that town.

1079
00:52:41,080 --> 00:52:43,360
And they settled in Kaluszn.

1080
00:52:43,360 --> 00:52:46,520
Since I knew them, they
were living in Kaluszn.

1081
00:52:46,520 --> 00:52:48,650
Before she was born.

1082
00:52:48,650 --> 00:52:49,275
I don't know.

1083
00:52:49,275 --> 00:52:51,400
I only know her because we
went to school together.

1084
00:52:51,400 --> 00:52:54,274
Oh, OK.

1085
00:52:54,274 --> 00:52:56,190
All right.

1086
00:52:56,190 --> 00:53:01,370
And you've told me
a little bit about--

1087
00:53:01,370 --> 00:53:01,870
Idza.

1088
00:53:01,870 --> 00:53:03,040
--Idza.

1089
00:53:03,040 --> 00:53:05,520
Her father was the one who
owned the liquor store.

1090
00:53:05,520 --> 00:53:06,250
Liquor store.

1091
00:53:06,250 --> 00:53:09,580
And she had sisters
and brothers?

1092
00:53:09,580 --> 00:53:10,870
She had one sister.

1093

00:53:10,870 --> 00:53:11,397
Right.

1094
00:53:11,397 --> 00:53:12,730
She just had one younger sister.

1095
00:53:12,730 --> 00:53:13,780
She only had one younger sister.

1096
00:53:13,780 --> 00:53:14,405
She's adorable.

1097
00:53:14,405 --> 00:53:15,760
Lala.

1098
00:53:15,760 --> 00:53:18,340
Now, the word
[YIDDISH] is a doll.

1099
00:53:18,340 --> 00:53:20,700
The word [YIDDISH]
in Yiddish is a doll.

1100
00:53:20,700 --> 00:53:22,450
Her name was different,
but we didn't call

1101
00:53:22,450 --> 00:53:23,740
her anything else but Lala.

1102
00:53:23,740 --> 00:53:25,093
Oh, she was beautiful.

1103
00:53:25,093 --> 00:53:28,250

1104
00:53:28,250 --> 00:53:34,130
And Id-- Idzia--

1105
00:53:34,130 --> 00:53:34,720
Idza.

1106

00:53:34,720 --> 00:53:36,050

Idza?

1107

00:53:36,050 --> 00:53:41,080

Idza, is there anything special about here that you remember?

1108

00:53:41,080 --> 00:53:43,510

We we're very good friends, all of us,

1109

00:53:43,510 --> 00:53:45,850

with Masza and with Idza.

1110

00:53:45,850 --> 00:53:49,337

As I said, she was my first girlfriend.

1111

00:53:49,337 --> 00:53:50,920

How did she became my first girlfriend

1112

00:53:50,920 --> 00:53:53,050

is a whole different story.

1113

00:53:53,050 --> 00:53:57,700

And the story goes back as follows.

1114

00:53:57,700 --> 00:54:00,310

After each school year, the school

1115

00:54:00,310 --> 00:54:08,260

made trips to towns in Poland, historic towns like Warsaw,

1116

00:54:08,260 --> 00:54:13,330

Krakow, Kazimierz-- which was a king, Kazimierz,

1117

00:54:13,330 --> 00:54:15,880

which was very good to
Jews-- and to Gdynia, which

1118
00:54:15,880 --> 00:54:19,120
is on the north on a port.

1119
00:54:19,120 --> 00:54:22,660
And supposedly, on the way
back-- we had gone by train.

1120
00:54:22,660 --> 00:54:29,350
On the way back, we were
sitting at the benches.

1121
00:54:29,350 --> 00:54:30,990
I was sitting
supposedly next to her.

1122
00:54:30,990 --> 00:54:31,948
And was was next to me.

1123
00:54:31,948 --> 00:54:35,710
And we were sleeping, or having
our heads this way, that way.

1124
00:54:35,710 --> 00:54:37,960
And supposedly, my
head touched hers.

1125
00:54:37,960 --> 00:54:39,910
And her head touched mine.

1126
00:54:39,910 --> 00:54:43,090
And it came to know
that a maid that

1127
00:54:43,090 --> 00:54:46,080
used to work for
us a certain time

1128
00:54:46,080 --> 00:54:50,470
worked later on for her parents.

1129

00:54:50,470 --> 00:54:52,880

And she used to come
to us and go there,

1130

00:54:52,880 --> 00:54:56,320

and used to tell stories,
whether the stories were true,

1131

00:54:56,320 --> 00:54:57,550

that she likes me.

1132

00:54:57,550 --> 00:54:58,600

And she came to tell me.

1133

00:54:58,600 --> 00:54:59,910

And I said, I like here, too.

1134

00:54:59,910 --> 00:55:01,150

And this was the story.

1135

00:55:01,150 --> 00:55:03,850

But besides her, she
was a very nice girl.

1136

00:55:03,850 --> 00:55:06,370

And there was no
reason not to like her.

1137

00:55:06,370 --> 00:55:08,200

At the time, we did not think--

1138

00:55:08,200 --> 00:55:10,630

we were 13,
14-year-old children.

1139

00:55:10,630 --> 00:55:13,390

We would not think to go out
tomorrow and get married.

1140

00:55:13,390 --> 00:55:15,460

But we were very good friends.

1141
00:55:15,460 --> 00:55:19,130
But then you said that
this was also a girlfriend?

1142
00:55:19,130 --> 00:55:19,630
Yes.

1143
00:55:19,630 --> 00:55:20,950
But just a girlfriend, meaning--

1144
00:55:20,950 --> 00:55:21,590
That was a girlfriend.

1145
00:55:21,590 --> 00:55:22,810
--a friend who was a girl.

1146
00:55:22,810 --> 00:55:24,250
We can say more
than a girlfriend.

1147
00:55:24,250 --> 00:55:25,790
Oh.

1148
00:55:25,790 --> 00:55:28,160
You were very close.

1149
00:55:28,160 --> 00:55:28,660
Thank you.

1150
00:55:28,660 --> 00:55:33,010
Maybe she-- she looks nice.

1151
00:55:33,010 --> 00:55:36,373
Well, tell me something a
little bit more about here.

1152
00:55:36,373 --> 00:55:38,040
She went to the same
school as you also?

1153
00:55:38,040 --> 00:55:38,130

Yes.

1154
00:55:38,130 --> 00:55:38,730
We all went.

1155
00:55:38,730 --> 00:55:40,530
There was only
one public school.

1156
00:55:40,530 --> 00:55:45,480
One public school was one
large building that had--

1157
00:55:45,480 --> 00:55:47,980
in that school we had from
the fourth, fifth, sixth,

1158
00:55:47,980 --> 00:55:49,470
and seventh grade.

1159
00:55:49,470 --> 00:55:53,160
All other grades were located
in different parts of the town.

1160
00:55:53,160 --> 00:55:55,980
There were a building that had
the first and second grade,

1161
00:55:55,980 --> 00:55:58,230
and second and third
grade, different grades.

1162
00:55:58,230 --> 00:56:02,760
But that school was a large
school with a large yard.

1163
00:56:02,760 --> 00:56:03,750
We used to come there.

1164
00:56:03,750 --> 00:56:07,110
And that was the main school.

1165

00:56:07,110 --> 00:56:08,840
And what did she do?

1166
00:56:08,840 --> 00:56:11,973
Do you know what she did
after she left school?

1167
00:56:11,973 --> 00:56:14,330
Did she help in
the liquor store?

1168
00:56:14,330 --> 00:56:17,371
No, she wouldn't help
in the liquor store.

1169
00:56:17,371 --> 00:56:20,150
Most of the girls
didn't do much.

1170
00:56:20,150 --> 00:56:21,940
What did they do?

1171
00:56:21,940 --> 00:56:23,020
I mean, I'm really--

1172
00:56:23,020 --> 00:56:25,047
There was not much to do.

1173
00:56:25,047 --> 00:56:25,630
They used to--

1174
00:56:25,630 --> 00:56:27,547
Did they babysit littler
kids, little sisters?

1175
00:56:27,547 --> 00:56:28,600
There was no-- no.

1176
00:56:28,600 --> 00:56:30,360
Maybe she used to
babysit for her sister.

1177

00:56:30,360 --> 00:56:30,660

But--

1178

00:56:30,660 --> 00:56:31,210

Did she weave, sew--

1179

00:56:31,210 --> 00:56:31,720

Oh, yes.

1180

00:56:31,720 --> 00:56:32,220

We were--

1181

00:56:32,220 --> 00:56:32,920

--embroider?

1182

00:56:32,920 --> 00:56:33,580

Maybe.

1183

00:56:33,580 --> 00:56:36,310

But as I mentioned
before, I believe

1184

00:56:36,310 --> 00:56:37,960

that she went to
Warsaw to a school,

1185

00:56:37,960 --> 00:56:40,240

because I met her a
few times in Warsaw,

1186

00:56:40,240 --> 00:56:43,935

because I used to travel
to Warsaw occasionally,

1187

00:56:43,935 --> 00:56:45,310

because I had
nothing to do also.

1188

00:56:45,310 --> 00:56:47,720

I wanted to take
a trip to Warsaw.

1189

00:56:47,720 --> 00:56:51,340
So '18, '19, '20, she didn't
have any specific work

1190
00:56:51,340 --> 00:56:52,570
that she did?

1191
00:56:52,570 --> 00:56:53,620
Then?

1192
00:56:53,620 --> 00:56:54,940
No.

1193
00:56:54,940 --> 00:56:55,570
She wasn't--

1194
00:56:55,570 --> 00:56:58,168
'20s was already the war--

1195
00:56:58,168 --> 00:56:58,960
Yeah, that was 19--

1196
00:56:58,960 --> 00:57:00,760
--during the wartime, in 1939.

1197
00:57:00,760 --> 00:57:01,900
Oh, OK.

1198
00:57:01,900 --> 00:57:03,370
So that changed.

1199
00:57:03,370 --> 00:57:04,210
That changed.

1200
00:57:04,210 --> 00:57:06,370
And there was not much--

1201
00:57:06,370 --> 00:57:08,120
in a small town, there
was not much to do.

1202

00:57:08,120 --> 00:57:08,620
OK.

1203
00:57:08,620 --> 00:57:12,005

1204
00:57:12,005 --> 00:57:14,160
So between the ages of--

1205
00:57:14,160 --> 00:57:17,310
but most of these girls would
generally married pretty young,

1206
00:57:17,310 --> 00:57:18,580
eventually.

1207
00:57:18,580 --> 00:57:19,080
No.

1208
00:57:19,080 --> 00:57:21,975
I would say there was no
such thing as marrying young.

1209
00:57:21,975 --> 00:57:23,070
They married in their 20s.

1210
00:57:23,070 --> 00:57:23,970
Oh, early 20s.

1211
00:57:23,970 --> 00:57:24,750
There was no--

1212
00:57:24,750 --> 00:57:25,920
20, 21.

1213
00:57:25,920 --> 00:57:30,120
There was very few that would
marry younger, very few.

1214
00:57:30,120 --> 00:57:32,490
And there was no
accidents, I had to marry.

1215
00:57:32,490 --> 00:57:33,210
There weren't?

1216
00:57:33,210 --> 00:57:33,710
No.

1217
00:57:33,710 --> 00:57:36,460
I wouldn't say to.

1218
00:57:36,460 --> 00:57:36,960
No.

1219
00:57:36,960 --> 00:57:42,066
There were more respect
for girls than it's--

1220
00:57:42,066 --> 00:57:43,820
Even in the 1930s?

1221
00:57:43,820 --> 00:57:48,200
We never thought--
all right, say

1222
00:57:48,200 --> 00:57:51,230
we used to be in love with
the girls-- kiss, and hug,

1223
00:57:51,230 --> 00:57:52,580
and touch.

1224
00:57:52,580 --> 00:57:56,580
But to go to
extremes, the risk--

1225
00:57:56,580 --> 00:57:59,120
No one did that.

1226
00:57:59,120 --> 00:58:01,430
I say it for myself
that I wouldn't

1227

00:58:01,430 --> 00:58:03,920

take a chance, because you
never know what can happen.

1228

00:58:03,920 --> 00:58:05,150

So nobody wanted to.

1229

00:58:05,150 --> 00:58:08,480

1230

00:58:08,480 --> 00:58:09,140

OK.

1231

00:58:09,140 --> 00:58:10,970

So a nice Jewish boy wouldn't--

1232

00:58:10,970 --> 00:58:11,470

Do that.

1233

00:58:11,470 --> 00:58:13,310

That's right.

1234

00:58:13,310 --> 00:58:14,840

All right.

1235

00:58:14,840 --> 00:58:16,870

Even though you were
very good looking.

1236

00:58:16,870 --> 00:58:17,370

Thank you.

1237

00:58:17,370 --> 00:58:19,880

1238

00:58:19,880 --> 00:58:22,490

Wait till you see
another picture.

1239

00:58:22,490 --> 00:58:29,560

All right, so to return

to your grandmother--

1240
00:58:29,560 --> 00:58:32,510
I remember that, after
my grandfather died--

1241
00:58:32,510 --> 00:58:33,365
Rifka.

1242
00:58:33,365 --> 00:58:35,083
Rifka Rzonczinski.

1243
00:58:35,083 --> 00:58:36,705
R-Z-O-N-D-Z-I-N-S-K-I--

1244
00:58:36,705 --> 00:58:40,400

1245
00:58:40,400 --> 00:58:40,900
Yeah.

1246
00:58:40,900 --> 00:58:42,010
-- was your--

1247
00:58:42,010 --> 00:58:42,660
Grandmother.

1248
00:58:42,660 --> 00:58:43,160
Mother's?

1249
00:58:43,160 --> 00:58:45,800
My mother's mother, my
maternal grandmother.

1250
00:58:45,800 --> 00:58:47,200
All right.

1251
00:58:47,200 --> 00:58:49,780
After my grandfather died--

1252
00:58:49,780 --> 00:58:50,650

In the early '30s.

1253
00:58:50,650 --> 00:58:53,290
--in the early
'30s, my grandmother

1254
00:58:53,290 --> 00:58:59,870
got herself a kiosk
to sell newspapers.

1255
00:58:59,870 --> 00:59:03,920
And I remember there
was a time they came--

1256
00:59:03,920 --> 00:59:06,920
an area that they
made a train to go

1257
00:59:06,920 --> 00:59:13,360
to the train, a small
train, a feeder,

1258
00:59:13,360 --> 00:59:17,110
because before, and even
during that time and later on,

1259
00:59:17,110 --> 00:59:24,550
there used to be special
porters, special guys.

1260
00:59:24,550 --> 00:59:29,267
They used to have a horse and
buggy, horse and special--

1261
00:59:29,267 --> 00:59:30,100
what do you call it?

1262
00:59:30,100 --> 00:59:32,690

1263
00:59:32,690 --> 00:59:34,100
Not a van.

1264

00:59:34,100 --> 00:59:36,850

It's a-- there used to
be a horse and carriage.

1265

00:59:36,850 --> 00:59:46,200

It used to take
passengers from our town

1266

00:59:46,200 --> 00:59:49,860

to Mrozy to go to
Warsaw, which is west,

1267

00:59:49,860 --> 00:59:52,530

or to go to Siedlec, which is
east, to other places, wherever

1268

00:59:52,530 --> 00:59:54,000

they need to go.

1269

00:59:54,000 --> 01:00:00,150

Then it became-- the city
made a train, a small train,

1270

01:00:00,150 --> 01:00:08,400

with a huff-and-puff
locomotive with one caboose,

1271

01:00:08,400 --> 01:00:12,030

with one to carry
passengers to the train.

1272

01:00:12,030 --> 01:00:15,270

And my grandmother
had there a kiosk

1273

01:00:15,270 --> 01:00:19,080

to sell candy, and
newspapers, and the sodas,

1274

01:00:19,080 --> 01:00:22,110

and whatever there was.

1275

01:00:22,110 --> 01:00:24,720
And when the newspaper used
to come in from Warsaw,

1276
01:00:24,720 --> 01:00:27,900
it came by train to Mrozy.

1277
01:00:27,900 --> 01:00:29,430
And from Mrozy,
they used to bring

1278
01:00:29,430 --> 01:00:32,820
in with that train to Kaluszyn.

1279
01:00:32,820 --> 01:00:34,980
And she used to sell it.

1280
01:00:34,980 --> 01:00:38,040
Later on, the train
stopped going,

1281
01:00:38,040 --> 01:00:39,630
because the city was losing.

1282
01:00:39,630 --> 01:00:41,970
The owner of it
was losing money.

1283
01:00:41,970 --> 01:00:45,450
And a man that used to be
the conductor of the train

1284
01:00:45,450 --> 01:00:47,430
bought himself a horse.

1285
01:00:47,430 --> 01:00:49,920
And he was riding with
a horse on the rails

1286
01:00:49,920 --> 01:00:51,240
with a train to Mrozy.

1287

01:00:51,240 --> 01:00:53,880
But it did not do good
enough, because he didn't have

1288
01:00:53,880 --> 01:00:57,230
enough money to feed the horse.

1289
01:00:57,230 --> 01:00:58,980
So it's tough going.

1290
01:00:58,980 --> 01:01:06,770
So that kiosk was transferred
to another part of town.

1291
01:01:06,770 --> 01:01:10,640
And she had that
kiosk in the town.

1292
01:01:10,640 --> 01:01:13,340
Then we had to bring
in the newspapers

1293
01:01:13,340 --> 01:01:20,090
from Mrozy to Kaluszyn
with the regular drivers,

1294
01:01:20,090 --> 01:01:24,410
with the regular horse and
carriage that was running.

1295
01:01:24,410 --> 01:01:26,990
But because there
was competition--

1296
01:01:26,990 --> 01:01:28,970
there was another man
that had a kiosk--

1297
01:01:28,970 --> 01:01:34,070
we as grandchildren, my brother
or I, or my grandmother's son,

1298
01:01:34,070 --> 01:01:36,470

used to go with a
bicycle to Mrozy

1299
01:01:36,470 --> 01:01:40,220
and get the pack of
newspaper, Jewish newspapers

1300
01:01:40,220 --> 01:01:42,680
and Polish newspapers,
on the back,

1301
01:01:42,680 --> 01:01:47,840
load it up on the back of the
bicycle, and bring it faster.

1302
01:01:47,840 --> 01:01:50,600
Who brings her
faster the newspapers

1303
01:01:50,600 --> 01:01:54,530
is able to sell it to those
who were interested to read,

1304
01:01:54,530 --> 01:01:56,750
because not everybody
wants to buy a paper.

1305
01:01:56,750 --> 01:01:59,960
There was one that--
if one bought a paper,

1306
01:01:59,960 --> 01:02:02,540
he used to give it to all
his neighbors to read it.

1307
01:02:02,540 --> 01:02:04,520
Or two of them bought a paper.

1308
01:02:04,520 --> 01:02:07,160
You buy it today,
I'll buy it tomorrow,

1309
01:02:07,160 --> 01:02:10,640

because a paper used to cost 15
or 20 groschen, or maybe more.

1310
01:02:10,640 --> 01:02:12,080
I don't remember exactly.

1311
01:02:12,080 --> 01:02:13,850
But it was a matter
of money that no one

1312
01:02:13,850 --> 01:02:17,310
wanted to spend day,
after day, after day.

1313
01:02:17,310 --> 01:02:20,480
So from this, she
was making a living.

1314
01:02:20,480 --> 01:02:21,140
Later on--

1315
01:02:21,140 --> 01:02:22,670
How old was she then?

1316
01:02:22,670 --> 01:02:27,170
I don't think you told me
her approximate birthday.

1317
01:02:27,170 --> 01:02:31,210
I would say that, when she died,
she must have been in her 70s.

1318
01:02:31,210 --> 01:02:32,900
OK.

1319
01:02:32,900 --> 01:02:33,430
OK.

1320
01:02:33,430 --> 01:02:35,830
Your grandmother
was born about--

1321

01:02:35,830 --> 01:02:37,930
Around 1875.

1322
01:02:37,930 --> 01:02:39,330
In Kaluszyn?

1323
01:02:39,330 --> 01:02:40,662
Yeah, I would say in Kaluszyn.

1324
01:02:40,662 --> 01:02:42,870
Yeah, I believe, because
they all came from Kaluszyn.

1325
01:02:42,870 --> 01:02:43,570
All right.

1326
01:02:43,570 --> 01:02:45,370
They went back for generations.

1327
01:02:45,370 --> 01:02:46,430
Yes.

1328
01:02:46,430 --> 01:02:46,930
OK.

1329
01:02:46,930 --> 01:02:48,490
So she had the kiosk.

1330
01:02:48,490 --> 01:02:52,080
And after your
grandfather died around--

1331
01:02:52,080 --> 01:02:53,880
did you say 1933?

1332
01:02:53,880 --> 01:02:55,770
Yes, in the early 30s.

1333
01:02:55,770 --> 01:02:59,670
And her husband was a Hasid?

1334

01:02:59,670 --> 01:03:00,380
Was a Hasid.

1335
01:03:00,380 --> 01:03:01,230
Yeah.

1336
01:03:01,230 --> 01:03:02,970
But he did not live
from the Hasidic.

1337
01:03:02,970 --> 01:03:11,650
He lived-- he had a job
going to the places of woods.

1338
01:03:11,650 --> 01:03:13,220
How do yo call it?

1339
01:03:13,220 --> 01:03:14,220
The--

1340
01:03:14,220 --> 01:03:15,220
You said he was in the--

1341
01:03:15,220 --> 01:03:17,320
Forest-- the forest.

1342
01:03:17,320 --> 01:03:18,280
And he used to--

1343
01:03:18,280 --> 01:03:21,640
when they used to sell the
trees to make the wood,

1344
01:03:21,640 --> 01:03:25,300
he used to give a assessment.

1345
01:03:25,300 --> 01:03:27,140
I really don't know
what he was doing.

1346
01:03:27,140 --> 01:03:29,500
But I do know that

he was connected

1347

01:03:29,500 --> 01:03:30,940
with a forest kind of business.

1348

01:03:30,940 --> 01:03:33,390
All right.

1349

01:03:33,390 --> 01:03:37,755
And your grandmother was just
at home then with the children?

1350

01:03:37,755 --> 01:03:38,660
Yeah.

1351

01:03:38,660 --> 01:03:39,420
OK.

1352

01:03:39,420 --> 01:03:42,120
And she only started
working outside the home

1353

01:03:42,120 --> 01:03:44,130
after her husband died?

1354

01:03:44,130 --> 01:03:44,990
This is what I know.

1355

01:03:44,990 --> 01:03:46,310
OK.

1356

01:03:46,310 --> 01:03:47,810
Well, that's very
difficult, a woman

1357

01:03:47,810 --> 01:03:49,610
her age to start
working outside.

1358

01:03:49,610 --> 01:03:50,890
Well, to start.

1359

01:03:50,890 --> 01:03:51,390

Yeah.

1360

01:03:51,390 --> 01:03:54,230

But there was not much--
to run a kiosk is just

1361

01:03:54,230 --> 01:03:56,360

to stay there and take her part.

1362

01:03:56,360 --> 01:03:58,920

But because her
daughter helped out--

1363

01:03:58,920 --> 01:04:01,170

because her daughter remained
with the kiosk later on.

1364

01:04:01,170 --> 01:04:02,050

Her daughter--

1365

01:04:02,050 --> 01:04:04,330

The daughter, the
oldest daughter.

1366

01:04:04,330 --> 01:04:06,080

What was the oldest
daughter's name again?

1367

01:04:06,080 --> 01:04:07,010

Hanne.

1368

01:04:07,010 --> 01:04:08,960

I did not put a name on.

1369

01:04:08,960 --> 01:04:09,460

Hanne.

1370

01:04:09,460 --> 01:04:09,960

Yeah.

1371

01:04:09,960 --> 01:04:11,450
H-A-N-N-E?

1372
01:04:11,450 --> 01:04:12,140
Yes.

1373
01:04:12,140 --> 01:04:13,400
She helped her mother
with the kiosk.

1374
01:04:13,400 --> 01:04:13,900
Yes.

1375
01:04:13,900 --> 01:04:15,950
So her mother wouldn't
have to stand up outside.

1376
01:04:15,950 --> 01:04:16,742
That's right.

1377
01:04:16,742 --> 01:04:17,825
She helped in her family--

1378
01:04:17,825 --> 01:04:19,580
That's when it was
cold and stuff.

1379
01:04:19,580 --> 01:04:22,380
Yeah.

1380
01:04:22,380 --> 01:04:25,730
It was colder than that.

1381
01:04:25,730 --> 01:04:26,627
She helped out.

1382
01:04:26,627 --> 01:04:27,710
And her family helped out.

1383
01:04:27,710 --> 01:04:30,420
And they remained with
the newspaper business,

1384
01:04:30,420 --> 01:04:33,440
with the kiosk.

1385
01:04:33,440 --> 01:04:37,400
So she did that after 1933.

1386
01:04:37,400 --> 01:04:39,830
And then that kept going until--

1387
01:04:39,830 --> 01:04:42,050
That kept going till 1939.

1388
01:04:42,050 --> 01:04:42,990
Oh, OK.

1389
01:04:42,990 --> 01:04:46,750
She was still doing that.

1390
01:04:46,750 --> 01:04:50,020
Did she only speak--

1391
01:04:50,020 --> 01:04:51,437
she spoke Yiddish in Poland?

1392
01:04:51,437 --> 01:04:52,020
Yiddish, yeah.

1393
01:04:52,020 --> 01:04:53,312
My grandmother, she understood.

1394
01:04:53,312 --> 01:04:55,650
I believe she
spoke Russian, too.

1395
01:04:55,650 --> 01:04:59,370
But not to me, because I
did not understand Russian.

1396
01:04:59,370 --> 01:05:03,120
And Polish, we did not

talk to our parents in--

1397
01:05:03,120 --> 01:05:04,773
to our great
grandparents in Polish.

1398
01:05:04,773 --> 01:05:06,690
We talked to our
grandparents only in Yiddish.

1399
01:05:06,690 --> 01:05:07,190
OK.

1400
01:05:07,190 --> 01:05:10,900

1401
01:05:10,900 --> 01:05:12,988
Do you know what your--

1402
01:05:12,988 --> 01:05:16,390
it would be your
great-great-grandfather.

1403
01:05:16,390 --> 01:05:18,120
Did you tell me
anything about him?

1404
01:05:18,120 --> 01:05:18,170
No.

1405
01:05:18,170 --> 01:05:20,253
About my great-grandfather,
I know nothing about--

1406
01:05:20,253 --> 01:05:21,000
OK.

1407
01:05:21,000 --> 01:05:21,820
--nothing of.

1408
01:05:21,820 --> 01:05:22,320
All right.

1409
01:05:22,320 --> 01:05:28,250
Well, do you know how
your grandparents met,

1410
01:05:28,250 --> 01:05:29,120
by any chance?

1411
01:05:29,120 --> 01:05:30,260
No, I do not.

1412
01:05:30,260 --> 01:05:33,110
In those days, there were
no such thing as meet.

1413
01:05:33,110 --> 01:05:37,700
My grandparents was
only a made-up marriage,

1414
01:05:37,700 --> 01:05:39,500
because you did not go--

1415
01:05:39,500 --> 01:05:43,995
they were more religious
in that they would not be--

1416
01:05:43,995 --> 01:05:45,620
not to say they
wouldn't be interested.

1417
01:05:45,620 --> 01:05:49,610
But their parents
would not allow

1418
01:05:49,610 --> 01:05:51,248
for them to go out
to see each other,

1419
01:05:51,248 --> 01:05:52,790
and then say, we
want to get married.

1420

01:05:52,790 --> 01:05:53,160
Right.

1421
01:05:53,160 --> 01:05:54,118
So it was an arranged--

1422
01:05:54,118 --> 01:05:55,610
It was arranged marriages

1423
01:05:55,610 --> 01:05:58,010
Were they happy?

1424
01:05:58,010 --> 01:06:00,436
Evidently, if you've
see Fiddler on the Roof.

1425
01:06:00,436 --> 01:06:04,875

1426
01:06:04,875 --> 01:06:06,500
His dream, he said
it-- do you love me?

1427
01:06:06,500 --> 01:06:08,540
What's today's love?

1428
01:06:08,540 --> 01:06:09,980
His parents told him.

1429
01:06:09,980 --> 01:06:11,990
They'll get to like each other.

1430
01:06:11,990 --> 01:06:16,860
Do you remember anything about
her house, where she lived?

1431
01:06:16,860 --> 01:06:22,290
I remember only that
they lived in a house

1432
01:06:22,290 --> 01:06:28,160
where my great-grandmother

was with her, in a house.

1433
01:06:28,160 --> 01:06:30,410
And my great-- she
was in a bed there.

1434
01:06:30,410 --> 01:06:32,270
I always remember
my great-grandmother

1435
01:06:32,270 --> 01:06:32,970
laying in a bed.

1436
01:06:32,970 --> 01:06:33,990
She was sick.

1437
01:06:33,990 --> 01:06:35,240
Occasionally, she was out.

1438
01:06:35,240 --> 01:06:39,530
But the few times that I went
in to see my grandmother,

1439
01:06:39,530 --> 01:06:40,310
she was there.

1440
01:06:40,310 --> 01:06:41,750
I saw her there.

1441
01:06:41,750 --> 01:06:44,200
But there was not--

1442
01:06:44,200 --> 01:06:45,470
what can I tell you?

1443
01:06:45,470 --> 01:06:46,820
Did she live near you?

1444
01:06:46,820 --> 01:06:51,910
No, that was not far
away, maybe 100 yards.

1445
01:06:51,910 --> 01:06:52,410
Oh.

1446
01:06:52,410 --> 01:06:54,110
Oh, she was very near you.

1447
01:06:54,110 --> 01:06:54,610
Yeah, near.

1448
01:06:54,610 --> 01:06:55,520
OK.

1449
01:06:55,520 --> 01:06:58,670
Did a lot of the family members
live in the same neighborhood?

1450
01:06:58,670 --> 01:07:00,190
Yes.

1451
01:07:00,190 --> 01:07:00,850
You did?

1452
01:07:00,850 --> 01:07:01,350
Yes.

1453
01:07:01,350 --> 01:07:04,230
Most of the family lived in the
same, unless they moved out.

1454
01:07:04,230 --> 01:07:06,568

1455
01:07:06,568 --> 01:07:08,360
Which family members
are you talking about?

1456
01:07:08,360 --> 01:07:16,925
It's only my grandparents
and my aunt, this aunt,

1457
01:07:16,925 --> 01:07:18,050

that she lived in Kaluszyn.

1458
01:07:18,050 --> 01:07:20,157
The other ones did
not live there.

1459
01:07:20,157 --> 01:07:20,740
For instance--

1460
01:07:20,740 --> 01:07:22,615
Well, you talked about
your great-grandmother

1461
01:07:22,615 --> 01:07:23,880
and your great-uncle.

1462
01:07:23,880 --> 01:07:24,380
They didn't?

1463
01:07:24,380 --> 01:07:27,170
Yeah, all right, they
lived 100 yards further.

1464
01:07:27,170 --> 01:07:32,040
But this is already considered
their second generation,

1465
01:07:32,040 --> 01:07:33,810
the third generation of me.

1466
01:07:33,810 --> 01:07:34,920
Right.

1467
01:07:34,920 --> 01:07:35,520
OK.

1468
01:07:35,520 --> 01:07:36,830
Just trying to get the picture.

1469
01:07:36,830 --> 01:07:38,640
Yes.

1470

01:07:38,640 --> 01:07:39,270

All right.

1471

01:07:39,270 --> 01:07:42,510

1472

01:07:42,510 --> 01:07:47,610

Before 1939, some of your family members emigrated to Israel?

1473

01:07:47,610 --> 01:07:48,150

Yes.

1474

01:07:48,150 --> 01:07:52,730

Before 1939, my mother's sister--

1475

01:07:52,730 --> 01:07:53,810

Whose name was?

1476

01:07:53,810 --> 01:07:58,400

--whose name is Nechama Hausmann.

1477

01:07:58,400 --> 01:08:03,840

Left for Israel with her husband, Meyer Hausmann.

1478

01:08:03,840 --> 01:08:06,400

They were Zionists?

1479

01:08:06,400 --> 01:08:09,470

Before I do that, I'll say it differently.

1480

01:08:09,470 --> 01:08:14,470

Before the war-- let's say, about in the '30s, maybe

1481

01:08:14,470 --> 01:08:16,630

'34 or '35--

1482

01:08:16,630 --> 01:08:22,779

my mother's sister,
Nechama had a partnership

1483

01:08:22,779 --> 01:08:28,090

with a cousin whose name was
Fischl Siroka in Warsaw where

1484

01:08:28,090 --> 01:08:32,439

they made the knit goods.

1485

01:08:32,439 --> 01:08:37,479

They knitted goods
and cut into articles,

1486

01:08:37,479 --> 01:08:41,109

like sweaters and
jumpsuits, for children.

1487

01:08:41,109 --> 01:08:47,550

Later on, my mother's sister
married and went to Israel.

1488

01:08:47,550 --> 01:08:50,340

1489

01:08:50,340 --> 01:08:51,450

Another sister--

1490

01:08:51,450 --> 01:08:55,075

But were they Zionists?

1491

01:08:55,075 --> 01:08:56,524

Yes.

1492

01:08:56,524 --> 01:08:57,490

They were.

1493

01:08:57,490 --> 01:08:59,910

So a lot of your family--

1494

01:08:59,910 --> 01:09:03,819
Practically all the family was
Zionists, Zionist oriented.

1495
01:09:03,819 --> 01:09:06,460
How was the decision made?

1496
01:09:06,460 --> 01:09:09,712
How did certain people decide
to leave then for Israel?

1497
01:09:09,712 --> 01:09:11,420
Was it a matter of--
because I understand

1498
01:09:11,420 --> 01:09:13,210
there were only few places.

1499
01:09:13,210 --> 01:09:13,720
Or--

1500
01:09:13,720 --> 01:09:15,580
They decided because--
first of all,

1501
01:09:15,580 --> 01:09:19,420
they decided to leave
because they were idealists.

1502
01:09:19,420 --> 01:09:23,920
And they wanted to go to Israel.

1503
01:09:23,920 --> 01:09:27,380
And of course, they also had
to have a certificate, which

1504
01:09:27,380 --> 01:09:31,240
the certificate is a permit
from the British government

1505
01:09:31,240 --> 01:09:34,370
that they can get
into the country.

1506
01:09:34,370 --> 01:09:36,399
So that's what they did.

1507
01:09:36,399 --> 01:09:39,130
When they got the permit,
there was-- just like today,

1508
01:09:39,130 --> 01:09:41,590
somebody gets a
visa from a country

1509
01:09:41,590 --> 01:09:46,210
that it's out of
someplace, and tries

1510
01:09:46,210 --> 01:09:49,134
to get here, which is
the most important thing.

1511
01:09:49,134 --> 01:09:51,460
But was there any
idea of escaping

1512
01:09:51,460 --> 01:09:53,080
something that might happen?

1513
01:09:53,080 --> 01:09:56,590
At that time, there was
no thought about escaping.

1514
01:09:56,590 --> 01:09:58,360
The only reason people
went to Israel--

1515
01:09:58,360 --> 01:09:59,530
because they were Zionists.

1516
01:09:59,530 --> 01:10:01,390
They wanted to help
build a country.

1517

01:10:01,390 --> 01:10:02,830
About what year did she leave?

1518
01:10:02,830 --> 01:10:04,317
That was in the early '30s.

1519
01:10:04,317 --> 01:10:04,817
OK.

1520
01:10:04,817 --> 01:10:10,180

1521
01:10:10,180 --> 01:10:13,270
And you mentioned some
other family members

1522
01:10:13,270 --> 01:10:15,437
who emigrated to South America?

1523
01:10:15,437 --> 01:10:18,420

1524
01:10:18,420 --> 01:10:20,550
The other families that
emigrated to South America

1525
01:10:20,550 --> 01:10:26,190
was my father's
sister, to Argentina.

1526
01:10:26,190 --> 01:10:27,456
That was much earlier?

1527
01:10:27,456 --> 01:10:30,260
That was in the late '20s.

1528
01:10:30,260 --> 01:10:34,870
That was-- maybe not late
'20s, maybe in the middle '20s.

1529
01:10:34,870 --> 01:10:38,240
And another sister

went to France, also

1530

01:10:38,240 --> 01:10:39,170
about the same time.

1531

01:10:39,170 --> 01:10:43,290

1532

01:10:43,290 --> 01:10:45,610
Just to make better
lives for themselves?

1533

01:10:45,610 --> 01:10:46,110
Or because--

1534

01:10:46,110 --> 01:10:46,630
That's right.

1535

01:10:46,630 --> 01:10:47,400
--they married people--

1536

01:10:47,400 --> 01:10:48,360
They married people.

1537

01:10:48,360 --> 01:10:51,720
And they were making for
themselves a better life,

1538

01:10:51,720 --> 01:10:54,810
for their husbands to make a
better life in those countries.

1539

01:10:54,810 --> 01:11:06,850
One was making wooden articles
for toys and for furniture.

1540

01:11:06,850 --> 01:11:08,650
And that was for Argentina.

1541

01:11:08,650 --> 01:11:12,270
And the one that emigrated
to France was a tailor.

1542
01:11:12,270 --> 01:11:15,370
He had a very important
tailor shop in Paris.

1543
01:11:15,370 --> 01:11:19,140

1544
01:11:19,140 --> 01:11:21,710
And you kept in contact
with the cousins?

1545
01:11:21,710 --> 01:11:23,090
Yeah, we kept--

1546
01:11:23,090 --> 01:11:28,700
I remember the addresses
from the cousins,

1547
01:11:28,700 --> 01:11:30,830
from the relatives in
Argentina and in France,

1548
01:11:30,830 --> 01:11:34,430
because when they were
writing letters in there,

1549
01:11:34,430 --> 01:11:38,040
I used to read the addresses
or address the letters,

1550
01:11:38,040 --> 01:11:40,440
the envelopes to them.

1551
01:11:40,440 --> 01:11:42,350
So when I came
back after the war,

1552
01:11:42,350 --> 01:11:47,900
I remembered the address
in France of my uncle

1553

01:11:47,900 --> 01:11:49,880
to see whether they are alive.

1554
01:11:49,880 --> 01:11:53,205
And after the war, somebody
was traveling there.

1555
01:11:53,205 --> 01:11:54,830
And I gave him the
address, they should

1556
01:11:54,830 --> 01:11:56,980
look up and see whether
that address exists,

1557
01:11:56,980 --> 01:11:58,130
and if they are there.

1558
01:11:58,130 --> 01:12:02,990
And they did bring me
a notice that a son was

1559
01:12:02,990 --> 01:12:06,600
alive of that uncle of
mine, which is my cousin.

1560
01:12:06,600 --> 01:12:09,000
And we were in touch
with them since.

1561
01:12:09,000 --> 01:12:10,500
Were his parents killed?

1562
01:12:10,500 --> 01:12:11,370
Parents were killed.

1563
01:12:11,370 --> 01:12:12,750
They were deported?

1564
01:12:12,750 --> 01:12:17,040
They were deported in
1939, in 1941 or '42,

1565

01:12:17,040 --> 01:12:18,900

when the Germans
started sending all

1566

01:12:18,900 --> 01:12:23,180

the people to the concentration
camps and to gas chambers.

1567

01:12:23,180 --> 01:12:25,070

They were deported from Paris?

1568

01:12:25,070 --> 01:12:27,560

From Paris.

1569

01:12:27,560 --> 01:12:29,030

But they are not
in this picture.

1570

01:12:29,030 --> 01:12:31,610

This, I'm talking about
my father's family,

1571

01:12:31,610 --> 01:12:32,650

from my father's side.

1572

01:12:32,650 --> 01:12:33,790

OK.

1573

01:12:33,790 --> 01:12:35,610

Yeah.

1574

01:12:35,610 --> 01:12:36,780

And--

1575

01:12:36,780 --> 01:12:38,820

So those were the family
members that were.

1576

01:12:38,820 --> 01:12:39,780

Otherwise--

1577

01:12:39,780 --> 01:12:41,310
Those family members
in this picture

1578
01:12:41,310 --> 01:12:43,680
are all family members,
from my mother's side.

1579
01:12:43,680 --> 01:12:44,700
Right.

1580
01:12:44,700 --> 01:12:47,730
From my father's side,
I only have one picture,

1581
01:12:47,730 --> 01:12:55,720
which is my father's cousins.

1582
01:12:55,720 --> 01:12:58,030
And this picture
was taken sometime,

1583
01:12:58,030 --> 01:13:02,470
I would say, in
the '30s or '20s.

1584
01:13:02,470 --> 01:13:07,210

1585
01:13:07,210 --> 01:13:10,830
And did all these
cousins live in Kaluszyn?

1586
01:13:10,830 --> 01:13:12,100
They all lived in Kaluszyn.

1587
01:13:12,100 --> 01:13:19,920
They all perished
in the Holocaust.

1588
01:13:19,920 --> 01:13:25,620
So please talk
about what happened

1589
01:13:25,620 --> 01:13:29,580
after Germany invaded Poland.

1590
01:13:29,580 --> 01:13:35,480
After Germany invaded
Poland on September 1, 1939,

1591
01:13:35,480 --> 01:13:37,940
we were on the
belief, as we were

1592
01:13:37,940 --> 01:13:41,720
told by the Polish government,
that the war will not

1593
01:13:41,720 --> 01:13:44,840
take long, that the German
armaments are made out

1594
01:13:44,840 --> 01:13:50,100
of wood and cardboard things,
and things will fall apart,

1595
01:13:50,100 --> 01:13:52,220
and they will not last long.

1596
01:13:52,220 --> 01:13:56,270
But soon afterwards,
maybe two or three days

1597
01:13:56,270 --> 01:13:58,730
in the war, a plane passed by.

1598
01:13:58,730 --> 01:14:00,920
And we thought that these
is a friendly plane,

1599
01:14:00,920 --> 01:14:03,050
because it came in so low.

1600
01:14:03,050 --> 01:14:07,940

And what it did, it just threw
down a little bomb in our town,

1601
01:14:07,940 --> 01:14:12,530
as there was a line in front
of a bakery to buy bread.

1602
01:14:12,530 --> 01:14:15,060
And a lot of people got killed.

1603
01:14:15,060 --> 01:14:17,970
After this had
happened, we realized

1604
01:14:17,970 --> 01:14:21,960
that all the propaganda that
we were told about before

1605
01:14:21,960 --> 01:14:27,000
is not as true as
it seems to be.

1606
01:14:27,000 --> 01:14:32,100
And being that we had trucks and
some other people and friends

1607
01:14:32,100 --> 01:14:36,330
of our family had
trucks, we decided

1608
01:14:36,330 --> 01:14:39,420
that we'll take two
trucks and go away

1609
01:14:39,420 --> 01:14:42,120
to the east towards Russia.

1610
01:14:42,120 --> 01:14:48,580
In the meantime, things will
slow down and stabilize itself.

1611
01:14:48,580 --> 01:14:51,630
The reason why we went away

is because the older people

1612
01:14:51,630 --> 01:14:55,380
knew from the First World War
that when the Germans come in,

1613
01:14:55,380 --> 01:14:57,570
the first thing
they do is they take

1614
01:14:57,570 --> 01:15:00,810
the young men and the
older men to work.

1615
01:15:00,810 --> 01:15:05,460
And they tell them to work
on the roads, forced labor,

1616
01:15:05,460 --> 01:15:06,720
to work for them.

1617
01:15:06,720 --> 01:15:09,270
And being that
Hitler came to power,

1618
01:15:09,270 --> 01:15:14,140
the fright was a little
bit more than before.

1619
01:15:14,140 --> 01:15:18,510
So everyone said for the
young people to move away.

1620
01:15:18,510 --> 01:15:22,260
But in 1938, after
Kristallnacht in Germany,

1621
01:15:22,260 --> 01:15:24,740
nothing happened in your town?

1622
01:15:24,740 --> 01:15:26,870
After 1938, we were
only frightened.

1623
01:15:26,870 --> 01:15:28,970
But we did not think that
this thing will come up,

1624
01:15:28,970 --> 01:15:32,000
because when Hitler
went to war with Poland,

1625
01:15:32,000 --> 01:15:35,360
it was only that he wanted
to have the corridor

1626
01:15:35,360 --> 01:15:40,550
to go through to Danzig, to
take away that right, and so on.

1627
01:15:40,550 --> 01:15:43,400
But nobody knew that this
is going to come so far.

1628
01:15:43,400 --> 01:15:45,890
And later on, everything--
his propaganda

1629
01:15:45,890 --> 01:15:50,000
was that the Poles want
to attack him, and so on.

1630
01:15:50,000 --> 01:15:53,555
But when the war
came, all our thoughts

1631
01:15:53,555 --> 01:15:57,770
were how to escape from
Hitler, that they're coming in,

1632
01:15:57,770 --> 01:16:01,430
because the radio and the
news came in the Germans have

1633
01:16:01,430 --> 01:16:06,740
entered Poland, and they

are pushing certain areas

1634

01:16:06,740 --> 01:16:09,470
into the country more and more.

1635

01:16:09,470 --> 01:16:12,500
So my father and his
friends took two trucks,

1636

01:16:12,500 --> 01:16:15,870
and went away, about 20 people.

1637

01:16:15,870 --> 01:16:18,342
And we took some food with us
towards the Russian border.

1638

01:16:18,342 --> 01:16:20,300
Your whole family, your
whole immediate family?

1639

01:16:20,300 --> 01:16:20,800
No.

1640

01:16:20,800 --> 01:16:25,160
Only my father, my brother
and I, and friends of ours,

1641

01:16:25,160 --> 01:16:27,890
and friends of other
people, and their families.

1642

01:16:27,890 --> 01:16:29,390
Your mother and
sister stayed there?

1643

01:16:29,390 --> 01:16:30,800
My mother and sister--

1644

01:16:30,800 --> 01:16:33,860
at that time, my mother and
sister and my grandmother,

1645

01:16:33,860 --> 01:16:36,320
my father's mother,
was living with us,

1646
01:16:36,320 --> 01:16:42,140
as her husband passed away
some 8, 10 years before.

1647
01:16:42,140 --> 01:16:44,840
And they remained,
because there were no--

1648
01:16:44,840 --> 01:16:49,500
nothing was taught that they
will do anything to the women.

1649
01:16:49,500 --> 01:16:51,350
So they remained.

1650
01:16:51,350 --> 01:16:56,000
After we went back about 200
kilometers from our town,

1651
01:16:56,000 --> 01:16:58,400
we heard that the town
has already been taken.

1652
01:16:58,400 --> 01:17:02,330
But we did not
realize at what cost.

1653
01:17:02,330 --> 01:17:06,380
And we waited later on to
go further and further away.

1654
01:17:06,380 --> 01:17:09,710
We were up to the Russian
border, about 3 kilometers

1655
01:17:09,710 --> 01:17:11,490
from the Russian border.

1656
01:17:11,490 --> 01:17:15,050

The name of the town was Mezhyrich.

1657
01:17:15,050 --> 01:17:24,080
It's a town past Ratno, Kowel, Lutsk, Rowno, and so on.

1658
01:17:24,080 --> 01:17:28,070
Then, on September 17, the Russians came in.

1659
01:17:28,070 --> 01:17:31,070
And the Russians came in from the other side, started

1660
01:17:31,070 --> 01:17:36,680
to occupy the Russian area.

1661
01:17:36,680 --> 01:17:39,410
At the same time also came news that the pact

1662
01:17:39,410 --> 01:17:41,240
that the Russians made with the Germans

1663
01:17:41,240 --> 01:17:44,680
was that the Russians will go up to the Vistula.

1664
01:17:44,680 --> 01:17:46,430
And the Germans will go up to the Vistula.

1665
01:17:46,430 --> 01:17:49,430
And that will be the dividing line.

1666
01:17:49,430 --> 01:17:52,730
Being that we were on the east side of the Vistula,

1667
01:17:52,730 --> 01:17:56,930

we presumed, which
is logically, that we

1668
01:17:56,930 --> 01:17:58,847
will belong to the Russians.

1669
01:17:58,847 --> 01:18:00,680
So while the Russians
were pushing forwards,

1670
01:18:00,680 --> 01:18:03,410
we were behind the Russians
going with our trucks,

1671
01:18:03,410 --> 01:18:07,530
going home to see our parents,
to see our mother and sister

1672
01:18:07,530 --> 01:18:09,860
and the family.

1673
01:18:09,860 --> 01:18:13,310
When we came to a town 33
kilometers from Kaluszyn--

1674
01:18:13,310 --> 01:18:15,410
which the town's
name is Siedlce--

1675
01:18:15,410 --> 01:18:18,230
we were told that the
Russians are not going

1676
01:18:18,230 --> 01:18:20,900
to occupy until the Vistula.

1677
01:18:20,900 --> 01:18:23,270
They're going back
to the Bug, which

1678
01:18:23,270 --> 01:18:25,740
is another demarcation line.

1679

01:18:25,740 --> 01:18:30,230

And at that time, we heard the news that the town of Kaluszyn

1680

01:18:30,230 --> 01:18:34,160

was bombed out, all, everything.

1681

01:18:34,160 --> 01:18:37,580

There was a big fight there, because there were many--

1682

01:18:37,580 --> 01:18:41,195

many groups of soldiers were there congregating.

1683

01:18:41,195 --> 01:18:44,300

And they had to put up a big fight against the Germans.

1684

01:18:44,300 --> 01:18:46,400

So the only thing the Germans could take revenge

1685

01:18:46,400 --> 01:18:49,430

is they burned down the whole town.

1686

01:18:49,430 --> 01:18:51,860

Our house was on the outskirts of the city.

1687

01:18:51,860 --> 01:18:55,220

Well, actually, we were coming from Warsaw to our town.

1688

01:18:55,220 --> 01:19:01,040

We were the first or the second house entering the city.

1689

01:19:01,040 --> 01:19:03,710

So the outskirts of the town remained.

1690

01:19:03,710 --> 01:19:06,140
So our house remained standing.

1691

01:19:06,140 --> 01:19:08,480
So being that we
were in Siedlce,

1692

01:19:08,480 --> 01:19:10,760
we heard the bad news about it.

1693

01:19:10,760 --> 01:19:13,220
We decided that, no matter
what, we will go back

1694

01:19:13,220 --> 01:19:19,113
to see our mother and sister
and the other relatives

1695

01:19:19,113 --> 01:19:20,030
and see what happened.

1696

01:19:20,030 --> 01:19:23,288
When we came, we saw
the very bad situation

1697

01:19:23,288 --> 01:19:24,830
with the town burned
out, and we were

1698

01:19:24,830 --> 01:19:27,650
told how the fight had
happened, that they

1699

01:19:27,650 --> 01:19:30,650
took all the Jews and other
people into the church

1700

01:19:30,650 --> 01:19:31,830
and were closing the doors.

1701

01:19:31,830 --> 01:19:35,440
They supposedly wanted

to kill all the people.

1702

01:19:35,440 --> 01:19:40,430

But anyhow, when we
came in, we started

1703

01:19:40,430 --> 01:19:43,700

to realize that many people
were living in our house,

1704

01:19:43,700 --> 01:19:46,820

because they did not have
anyplace else to live.

1705

01:19:46,820 --> 01:19:53,160

So we see more
strangers than our own.

1706

01:19:53,160 --> 01:20:00,260

And so we start to negotiate
with the people that were there

1707

01:20:00,260 --> 01:20:02,550

either to go to their
relatives to live there,

1708

01:20:02,550 --> 01:20:05,520

as we had our relatives
to take into our house,

1709

01:20:05,520 --> 01:20:08,010

or to some people to give
money to go to other towns,

1710

01:20:08,010 --> 01:20:10,770

because they did
not have anything.

1711

01:20:10,770 --> 01:20:13,920

And slowly-- it took about
maybe a week, maybe 10 days,

1712

01:20:13,920 --> 01:20:15,630

I don't remember exactly--

1713
01:20:15,630 --> 01:20:17,670
the people vacated our house.

1714
01:20:17,670 --> 01:20:23,250
And we took in our relatives
to stay with us at the time.

1715
01:20:23,250 --> 01:20:31,500
Then the town was
without any government.

1716
01:20:31,500 --> 01:20:32,850
The Germans weren't in.

1717
01:20:32,850 --> 01:20:35,040
The Russians did not come in.

1718
01:20:35,040 --> 01:20:37,050
And the Poles did
not know what to do.

1719
01:20:37,050 --> 01:20:39,520
But there were the
militia, the civil--

1720
01:20:39,520 --> 01:20:40,020
Wait.

1721
01:20:40,020 --> 01:20:41,520
The Germans did not
occupy the town?

1722
01:20:41,520 --> 01:20:44,070
The Germans-- being
that the Russians

1723
01:20:44,070 --> 01:20:48,630
were supposed to go up to the
Vistula, the Germans moved out.

1724

01:20:48,630 --> 01:20:50,550
And the Russians did not go in.

1725
01:20:50,550 --> 01:20:51,890
It was very close--

1726
01:20:51,890 --> 01:20:52,630
did not go in.

1727
01:20:52,630 --> 01:20:54,270
So the Russians
didn't come in there.

1728
01:20:54,270 --> 01:20:56,880
So the town was by itself.

1729
01:20:56,880 --> 01:21:02,550
But there were civilian
employees of the town hall,

1730
01:21:02,550 --> 01:21:06,470
of the town government.

1731
01:21:06,470 --> 01:21:07,490
They patrolled.

1732
01:21:07,490 --> 01:21:10,130
The city should remain
and see what happened.

1733
01:21:10,130 --> 01:21:12,890
A few days after we returned,
the Germans started to come in.

1734
01:21:12,890 --> 01:21:15,660

1735
01:21:15,660 --> 01:21:18,600
And they started to come in.

1736
01:21:18,600 --> 01:21:31,550
And they told the mayor

of the city, which

1737

01:21:31,550 --> 01:21:39,620
was a neighbor of us, to order
the Jews to make a Judenrat,

1738

01:21:39,620 --> 01:21:49,945
to make a Jewish government to
attend to the Jewish things.

1739

01:21:49,945 --> 01:21:51,320
But what they had
in mind was not

1740

01:21:51,320 --> 01:21:53,360
so much as to attend
to the Jewish problems

1741

01:21:53,360 --> 01:21:57,140
as to supply them with
whatever they want.

1742

01:21:57,140 --> 01:22:02,910
And their appetite
became bigger and bigger.

1743

01:22:02,910 --> 01:22:05,090
They wanted for the
Jews to supply them

1744

01:22:05,090 --> 01:22:07,460
with furnitures for
their occupation

1745

01:22:07,460 --> 01:22:09,590
that they're going
make to be there.

1746

01:22:09,590 --> 01:22:13,400
And being that they did not
have a place in the town,

1747

01:22:13,400 --> 01:22:17,150

because the town was burned out, they moved into a town

1748
01:22:17,150 --> 01:22:19,440
5 kilometers from our town, which is Mrozy.

1749
01:22:19,440 --> 01:22:21,050
And they settled there.

1750
01:22:21,050 --> 01:22:24,530
And the Jewish Judenrat, the Jewish community,

1751
01:22:24,530 --> 01:22:28,970
had to supply all the tables, and chairs, and beds,

1752
01:22:28,970 --> 01:22:31,160
and everything there.

1753
01:22:31,160 --> 01:22:35,810
They also ordered the mayor of the town, which his name was

1754
01:22:35,810 --> 01:22:42,380
Plywaczewski, to nominate 10 rich Jews that they

1755
01:22:42,380 --> 01:22:45,650
should be responsible for anything they will want to.

1756
01:22:45,650 --> 01:22:49,400
Among the 10 Jews was my father also.

1757
01:22:49,400 --> 01:22:52,430
I wrote a separate article in Yiddish

1758
01:22:52,430 --> 01:22:56,030
about the functioning

of the Judenrat.

1759

01:22:56,030 --> 01:23:01,220

This article I wrote
in request of some Jews

1760

01:23:01,220 --> 01:23:04,790

that came back from Russia
and settled in Israel.

1761

01:23:04,790 --> 01:23:11,410

Being that we were very few from
our town that remained alive,

1762

01:23:11,410 --> 01:23:12,350

he wrote to me.

1763

01:23:12,350 --> 01:23:13,830

And I responded to him.

1764

01:23:13,830 --> 01:23:16,490

And I wrote a letter,
an article in Yiddish,

1765

01:23:16,490 --> 01:23:22,350

sent to them to
Israel to publish it.

1766

01:23:22,350 --> 01:23:28,290

They took out a lot of items
that needed, and put it

1767

01:23:28,290 --> 01:23:31,830

in the book, of a yizkor
book, of a commemoration book

1768

01:23:31,830 --> 01:23:34,050

for our town.

1769

01:23:34,050 --> 01:23:36,330

Maybe they have it.

1770

01:23:36,330 --> 01:23:37,890
YIVO has it.

1771
01:23:37,890 --> 01:23:39,260
It's in Yiddish.

1772
01:23:39,260 --> 01:23:40,750
It's in Yiddish.

1773
01:23:40,750 --> 01:23:42,940
I brought it with me here.

1774
01:23:42,940 --> 01:23:50,890

1775
01:23:50,890 --> 01:23:51,390
All right.

1776
01:23:51,390 --> 01:23:54,110
Well, we'll deposit
that in the archives.

1777
01:23:54,110 --> 01:23:55,565
That will be useful.

1778
01:23:55,565 --> 01:24:00,340

1779
01:24:00,340 --> 01:24:00,840
So--

1780
01:24:00,840 --> 01:24:04,000

1781
01:24:04,000 --> 01:24:07,560
To be exactly-- what
happened, how it went through,

1782
01:24:07,560 --> 01:24:12,610
through the time the Jews lived
under the German occupation

1783

01:24:12,610 --> 01:24:20,110

until 1942, is mostly
described in this article.

1784

01:24:20,110 --> 01:24:23,260

Being that my father
was in Judenrat

1785

01:24:23,260 --> 01:24:28,410

and doing all the things
what the Germans wanted--

1786

01:24:28,410 --> 01:24:29,860

What specifically did he do?

1787

01:24:29,860 --> 01:24:34,490

Specifically, his
main object was

1788

01:24:34,490 --> 01:24:41,320

to make the laws, or their
requests, or their orders

1789

01:24:41,320 --> 01:24:44,920

smaller, which he many times
succeeded, most of the time

1790

01:24:44,920 --> 01:24:46,180

succeeded.

1791

01:24:46,180 --> 01:24:50,740

For instance, although
the town was living mainly

1792

01:24:50,740 --> 01:24:53,620

in the center of the
town before the war,

1793

01:24:53,620 --> 01:24:57,290

when the town was
burned, all the Jews--

1794

01:24:57,290 --> 01:24:59,080
there were also
people that lived

1795
01:24:59,080 --> 01:25:00,760
in the outskirts of the town.

1796
01:25:00,760 --> 01:25:02,740
When the ghetto was
made, the Germans

1797
01:25:02,740 --> 01:25:04,930
ordered that all the Jews
should go into the center,

1798
01:25:04,930 --> 01:25:06,610
they should have more of them.

1799
01:25:06,610 --> 01:25:13,350
What my father did is to make
the Jews live the way they are

1800
01:25:13,350 --> 01:25:16,680
in the outskirts of the town--
wherever they were before,

1801
01:25:16,680 --> 01:25:18,300
make it like that.

1802
01:25:18,300 --> 01:25:21,210
When they closed the ghetto,
because the ghetto was

1803
01:25:21,210 --> 01:25:23,940
an open ghetto-- that means you
could go in, you could go out.

1804
01:25:23,940 --> 01:25:28,140
When they closed the ghetto, it
also remained the way it was.

1805
01:25:28,140 --> 01:25:32,190
Jews had no right

to go out of town.

1806

01:25:32,190 --> 01:25:35,550
And most of the Jews that lived
there, that remained there,

1807

01:25:35,550 --> 01:25:38,077
made their livelihood
from the villages,

1808

01:25:38,077 --> 01:25:39,910
from the farmers that
lived in the outskirts.

1809

01:25:39,910 --> 01:25:43,770
They used to go out and sell
them a shirt, buy from them

1810

01:25:43,770 --> 01:25:47,073
the cheese, or the
eggs, or anything.

1811

01:25:47,073 --> 01:25:48,240
And this was their business.

1812

01:25:48,240 --> 01:25:49,980
This is how they--

1813

01:25:49,980 --> 01:25:51,340
their livelihood.

1814

01:25:51,340 --> 01:25:55,360
The orders were not to go,
because they will be shot.

1815

01:25:55,360 --> 01:25:57,930
Of course, there
were many instances

1816

01:25:57,930 --> 01:26:01,350
that some were shot
going to the railroad.

1817

01:26:01,350 --> 01:26:09,560

My father succeeded in getting many permits for those people

1818

01:26:09,560 --> 01:26:11,900

to go out during daytime.

1819

01:26:11,900 --> 01:26:17,780

And there were many things, for instance,

1820

01:26:17,780 --> 01:26:26,770

for the community itself.

1821

01:26:26,770 --> 01:26:28,590

There were--

1822

01:26:28,590 --> 01:26:35,000