

-TITLE- PERERA, CECILIA
-I_DATE-
-SOURCE- ONE GENERATION AFTER, BOSTON
-RESTRICTIONS-
-SOUND_QUALITY- POOR
-IMAGE_QUALITY- FAIR
-DURATION-
-LANGUAGES-
-KEY_SEGMENT-
-GEOGRAPHIC_NAME-
-PERSONAL_NAME-
-CORPORATE_NAME-
-KEY_WORDS-
-NOTES-
-CONTENTS-

I was born in Sarnzevo in Yugoslavia, a large city with many Jews. Hitler sent student spies to proogandize the people and cause trouble. We were occupied by the Italians in the late 30s. In 1941 the Germans came in.

There were seven children in my family, I came from a very religious family, kept kosher, holidays, rituals. My mother came from a very rich religious family. My mother begged money from her father for our education. After high school I went to school for two years for business in the German language. The Rabbi came into the Cloister where my school met to give lessons in Hebrew. We were on very good terms with the Catholics. Our maids were Catholic. There was no anti-Semitism.

(She spoke at length of how good they were to their servants).

When it looked like there would be a war, we found the family was separated and living far from each other. My sister was married to a Catholic and her husband did not want to hide my brother . The Germans picked up Jews and put them in cattle cars. (She has an attack of sobbing). My family was mostly wiped out.

When Hitler came in, I was living with my husband and my 12 year old son in Spanito. We had an olive oil factory. My son is an engineer, working on the Ivory Coast. The Germans did not allow my son to continue school. We sent him to a private tutor. The priest told us the Germans were coming. We left for Italy in Nov. 1943 and stayed there until 1947. First we were in Barrie and then left for Torino. My son had sent an application to MIT and had received a scholarship. We emigrated to the U.S When we went to Italy, it

took us 15 days to get there by night. We took very little with us.

Friends got us an apartment. (Again uncontrolled sobbing).

We went to a refugee camp in Barrie.

47:95 I gave language lessons in Italy in addition to cooking, sewing, selling, anything to make money.

49:27 When I came to the U.S., I knew no English, that is in 1950.

My son stayed at MIT for four years and I lived nearby.

49:97 I was a seamstress in addition to other things to make money,

My son helped me.

50:77 I cooked for people, I went to school at night to make money.

51:07 I did not know what was going on in Yugoslavia. Later I learned.

51:33 My sister was in Bergen Belsen. We got into contact through friends and corresponded.

51:71 During the war I did not know what happened to my family. After the war I found out. I had no contact with Jewish people in Italy.

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51:84 In 68 and 70 I was able to find out what happened. My brother perished.

52:26 I tried to buy a recording machine to record everything but I cannot do it.

52:83 My sister married a Catholic. My sister was in Bergen Belsen and she survived. No one else. My brother's family was wiped out. My niece married a Catholic and survived.

53:38 I want to go to Yad Vashem and tell them the names.

53:68 My oldest brother survived. He lives in Israel and is over 90.

53:85 My sister is a Communist and we don't keep in touch.

54:01 She lives in Israel. She married a Catholic in the Kibbutz and he converted and they married in Israel.

54:36 My brother married a non Jewish woman but the children are Jewish.

54:70 My sister in law wanted to go to Israel , she is Catholic and they live in Israel.

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19:60 My brother's children married sabras in Israel and their grandmother (Catholic) came to Israel for the weddings.

19:38 My sister who married a Catholic and whose children are Catholic died in Yugoslavia.

19:90 It doesn't help to assimilate. I want to send whatever money I have left when I die to Israel to help young people who want to go to live in Israel and do not have the money. I would like to name this fund after my father. I would like to ask others to join

this fund.

21:51 My brother had a good job in Yugoslavia but he wanted to go to live in Israel.

22:39 In the beginning my brother lived under very difficult circumstances. He had to learn the language.

22:93 It is so confusing. I hope I have not been confusing in my report.

22:43 When we lived in Italy my son knew Italian, I did not.

23:91 She told a long winded story about gaining weight and her clothes, long, boring, about Italy.

25:11 Italian Jews were being sent to Auschwitz. In Barrie I was not bothered.

25:90 Many Jews from Rome were sent to Auschwitz in Italy. I did not see it in Barrie

26:90 My husband took sick soon after we married so I was responsible for everything.

27:41 I had to take care of my husband and son. I had to do all the work.

28:29 Longwinded story about how everyone loved her in Italy.

29:40 A woman from Yugoslavia loved her and invited her to visit her in San Francisco and treated her royally.

30:00 After the trip I sent money to Israel to plant trees in honor of this woman.

30:82 In Europe I came from a wonderful family, maids, cooks, my mother taught us to do everything and she taught us that change was the surest thing in the world and this helped me.

34:26 I lived near my son when he went to Oberlin University . She tells a endless story of her trouble with her apartment and falling.

36:71 My father was a good man, a pious man.

37:27 He shared whatever he had with people. I am the same. I want to share what I have.

37:58 I do everything for myself. I want to save as much as I can so when I die whatever is left over will go to the fund for young people to go to Israel to live.

37:98 My parents taught me to give and helped me to be able to cope.

38:86 We had rations in Italy. My son worked as an interpreter in American universities.

40:40 My son doesn't want to hear about the war. He has many troubles, his wife was ill. He doesn't want to hear about the Holocaust.

41:02 I want to send as many as I can to Israel to live - young healthy Jews who want to be good citizens.

41:35 Kahane 's ideas are not possible. We cannot throw out the Arabs.

41:91 We need young people to come to Israel to live.

42:39 When I learned to read and speak English I knew I wanted to help young people to go to Israel.

43:85 I want to do good.

44:15 When I came to the US I did not know English. I did bookkeeping, took care of little children but it was too difficult for me.

44:52 I found a job as a teacher and became an American citizen.

45:31 I worked in a hotel, did volunteer work, babysitter, scrubbed floors, anything to make money. I worked constantly. It stopped me from thinking about the Holocaust.

46:41 What is not bearable is the thought of how my people died. I want to find someone I can trust to carry out my wishes about sending young people to Israel to live there.

46:94 I don't know if I will have anything left over if I have to spend my money on my own health.

47:48 (She started to tell about her health and her operations and how much she suffered)

48:43 I want someone to help young people to settle in Israel whom I can trust to carry out my wishes for the fund to be in my father's name.

.END.