

Summary of Oral History: Neti Fredericks

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Summary

Neti Fredericks (née Levy) was born on July 31, 1937 in Sarajevo, Yugoslavia. She was six years old when arrived at Camp Oswego. Her father was killed by the Nazis in or near Sarajevo, but she doesn't know anything about how or when. She and her mother arrived in Oswego, N.Y after a few years in Italy where her mother worked as a seamstress and Ms. Levy, at the time, went to a convent school. They were fortunate to be picked to go to Oswego. She remembers little about her experience there except for a few flashes that came back during her return for the 50th reunion. She remembered standing at the camp fence and people from the town throwing things over, including toys, for the Jewish emigres. She also remembered a visit by Eleanor Roosevelt which excited many in the camp, though she didn't really understand why. She also went to school but remembers little about her experience. In the camp her mother taught people how to sew clothes.

After Ms. Fredericks left the camp (she was then still Neti Levy) she and her mother went to New Jersey where her mother made wedding gowns and she went to school. She and her mother then went to New York City where her mother remarried when she had confirmation that her first husband was dead. Eventually, they moved to Orange County, California for the warmer weather.

For Ms. Fredericks going to Oswego and looking at the photographs shown at the 50th reunion enabled her to make the Holocaust personal.