

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:59,540

2
00:00:59,540 --> 00:01:01,580
OK.

3
00:01:01,580 --> 00:01:04,640
You were starting to tell
me that, when you came back

4
00:01:04,640 --> 00:01:09,075
from England, your were
able to go to some school?

5
00:01:09,075 --> 00:01:12,000

6
00:01:12,000 --> 00:01:16,230
When I came back
from England, I went

7
00:01:16,230 --> 00:01:20,670
to Stuttgart a couple of
times during the month,

8
00:01:20,670 --> 00:01:25,890
because there, the Jewish
Club had a stadium.

9
00:01:25,890 --> 00:01:30,030
And they had invited me to
come and use that stadium.

10
00:01:30,030 --> 00:01:33,090
So I happened to
learn about a school--

11
00:01:33,090 --> 00:01:37,710
not a Jewish school, it
was Gentile-owned school--

12

00:01:37,710 --> 00:01:39,075
for physical education.

13
00:01:39,075 --> 00:01:42,030
So it was a private
school, not a university.

14
00:01:42,030 --> 00:01:46,920
And I thought, well,
I'll apply and see.

15
00:01:46,920 --> 00:01:48,000
If they take me, fine.

16
00:01:48,000 --> 00:01:50,730
If they don't take
me, fine, too.

17
00:01:50,730 --> 00:01:54,070
And they did take me because
they might have got--

18
00:01:54,070 --> 00:01:56,460
they had to get permission
from the government

19
00:01:56,460 --> 00:01:58,680
that they could accept a Jew.

20
00:01:58,680 --> 00:02:01,980
And I suppose that
was all in view of my

21
00:02:01,980 --> 00:02:03,690
being an Olympic candidate.

22
00:02:03,690 --> 00:02:07,230
And had they not let
me go into that school,

23
00:02:07,230 --> 00:02:11,140
it might have come out
into the other countries,

24
00:02:11,140 --> 00:02:14,880
and there might have been
more problems for the Olympics

25
00:02:14,880 --> 00:02:15,990
for Germany.

26
00:02:15,990 --> 00:02:20,950
So they accepted me, and
I had a good time there.

27
00:02:20,950 --> 00:02:22,420
We were all very friendly.

28
00:02:22,420 --> 00:02:23,970
The girls were all
friendly there.

29
00:02:23,970 --> 00:02:26,910
And it was a big town, and
I could go in the afternoon,

30
00:02:26,910 --> 00:02:28,680
after we were
finished practicing,

31
00:02:28,680 --> 00:02:33,750
we would go into this
cafe and make pigs out

32
00:02:33,750 --> 00:02:36,840
of ourselves eating whipped
cream cake and everything.

33
00:02:36,840 --> 00:02:38,790
And we had a
terrific time there.

34
00:02:38,790 --> 00:02:42,450
And we were very
friendly, and it was nice.

35

00:02:42,450 --> 00:02:45,250

The only thing that
would prevent me,

36

00:02:45,250 --> 00:02:50,040

the curriculum had in
it German gymnastics.

37

00:02:50,040 --> 00:02:53,400

And they wouldn't let me take
part in the German gymnastics.

38

00:02:53,400 --> 00:02:56,580

Now, why, I don't
know, because the Jew

39

00:02:56,580 --> 00:03:01,800

and the German gymnastics, maybe
that was too much of a paradox.

40

00:03:01,800 --> 00:03:02,853

I don't know.

41

00:03:02,853 --> 00:03:04,770

But the other girls, we
just laughed about it.

42

00:03:04,770 --> 00:03:05,850

We thought it was funny.

43

00:03:05,850 --> 00:03:10,320

And by then, I was so
used to being excluded

44

00:03:10,320 --> 00:03:13,350

that it wasn't such a big deal.

45

00:03:13,350 --> 00:03:16,140

But here you were going to
the cafe and hanging out.

46

00:03:16,140 --> 00:03:17,590

Yes, it was good.

47

00:03:17,590 --> 00:03:18,360

It was good.

48

00:03:18,360 --> 00:03:24,240

It was a big time in a big town, you could do more things.

49

00:03:24,240 --> 00:03:25,620

You could go to the movies.

50

00:03:25,620 --> 00:03:33,390

And we did do a foolish thing one time with these girls.

51

00:03:33,390 --> 00:03:36,180

We were having a lot of good times,

52

00:03:36,180 --> 00:03:37,920

and laughing and carrying on.

53

00:03:37,920 --> 00:03:39,960

And there was about six of us.

54

00:03:39,960 --> 00:03:43,860

And there was a table full of uniformed SS

55

00:03:43,860 --> 00:03:45,420

men at the next table.

56

00:03:45,420 --> 00:03:47,790

And they kept looking at us and looking at us.

57

00:03:47,790 --> 00:03:51,060

Finally, they came over and they tried to make dates with us.

58

00:03:51,060 --> 00:03:56,280

And there's this
big German blond guy

59
00:03:56,280 --> 00:03:58,170
trying to make a date with me.

60
00:03:58,170 --> 00:04:00,240
And I said no, and I said no.

61
00:04:00,240 --> 00:04:02,160
And the more he tried
to make a date with me,

62
00:04:02,160 --> 00:04:04,020
the more the other
girls laughed.

63
00:04:04,020 --> 00:04:05,220
And we got hysterical.

64
00:04:05,220 --> 00:04:08,250
And it was funny and it was
stupid at the same time,

65
00:04:08,250 --> 00:04:10,650
because had I been
found out, I don't know

66
00:04:10,650 --> 00:04:13,360
what would have happened to me.

67
00:04:13,360 --> 00:04:15,940
But we were young,
and you didn't really

68
00:04:15,940 --> 00:04:20,320
think of any
consequences that much.

69
00:04:20,320 --> 00:04:23,670
I've heard that,
prior to the Olympics,

70

00:04:23,670 --> 00:04:31,800
Germany really tried to sanitize
its anti-Semitism, the signs,

71

00:04:31,800 --> 00:04:34,110
the way people were treated.

72

00:04:34,110 --> 00:04:36,150
Was that apparent to
you at all in Germany?

73

00:04:36,150 --> 00:04:38,820

74

00:04:38,820 --> 00:04:45,750
I didn't really see
these anti-Semitic signs.

75

00:04:45,750 --> 00:04:51,180
I mean, I knew I was excluded
from all public places,

76

00:04:51,180 --> 00:04:57,780
but I don't think I saw ever any
signs because I just didn't pay

77

00:04:57,780 --> 00:04:59,220
any attention to it, I suppose.

78

00:04:59,220 --> 00:05:02,850
I only noticed those in 1937.

79

00:05:02,850 --> 00:05:09,660
But I know that Brundage, the
head of the American Olympic

80

00:05:09,660 --> 00:05:13,800
Committee, went over to Germany
to see what was going on

81

00:05:13,800 --> 00:05:16,410
because there was

so much resistance

82

00:05:16,410 --> 00:05:19,770
in America against taking
part in the Olympics.

83

00:05:19,770 --> 00:05:21,420
So he went over there.

84

00:05:21,420 --> 00:05:25,950
And I read later on,
doing some research,

85

00:05:25,950 --> 00:05:31,650
that Berlin was
manicured terrifically.

86

00:05:31,650 --> 00:05:33,720
Everything was clean.

87

00:05:33,720 --> 00:05:37,410
All the offending
signs, dogs and Jews

88

00:05:37,410 --> 00:05:40,590
not allowed, et cetera, et
cetera, they were all gone.

89

00:05:40,590 --> 00:05:45,930
And Mr. Brundage who was not
a champion for Jewish causes,

90

00:05:45,930 --> 00:05:52,500
as I have heard, never
spoke to any Jewish people.

91

00:05:52,500 --> 00:05:57,660
He just left himself being
lulled into some false security

92

00:05:57,660 --> 00:05:59,970
by these Nazis saying
everything is fine,

93
00:05:59,970 --> 00:06:03,270
we are doing everything
we said we would do.

94
00:06:03,270 --> 00:06:05,210
And he came back to
the United States

95
00:06:05,210 --> 00:06:09,900
and said everything is fabulous
over there, and we'll be going.

96
00:06:09,900 --> 00:06:13,330
So you were aware of
efforts in other countries

97
00:06:13,330 --> 00:06:15,670
to boycott the Olympics?

98
00:06:15,670 --> 00:06:17,170
Not at that time.

99
00:06:17,170 --> 00:06:18,610
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

100
00:06:18,610 --> 00:06:21,070
Yes, I was not
aware of it at all.

101
00:06:21,070 --> 00:06:23,840

102
00:06:23,840 --> 00:06:27,190
So prior to the
Olympics, was there

103
00:06:27,190 --> 00:06:32,470
some qualifying
meet in Stuttgart?

104
00:06:32,470 --> 00:06:34,450

Yes.

105
00:06:34,450 --> 00:06:35,320
After the--

106
00:06:35,320 --> 00:06:36,700
Oh actually-- I'm sorry
to interrupt you, I want

107
00:06:36,700 --> 00:06:38,242
to ask you, this
school that you went

108
00:06:38,242 --> 00:06:41,080
to in Stuttgart, this
non-Jewish school,

109
00:06:41,080 --> 00:06:44,150
did it afford you an
opportunity to really

110
00:06:44,150 --> 00:06:45,275
get ready for the Olympics?

111
00:06:45,275 --> 00:06:47,970

112
00:06:47,970 --> 00:06:51,330
The school was
very nice because I

113
00:06:51,330 --> 00:06:55,470
was able to do as much
as I wanted to in sports.

114
00:06:55,470 --> 00:06:57,960
My body was reacting.

115
00:06:57,960 --> 00:07:02,400
The first few weeks,
I was a complete wreck

116

00:07:02,400 --> 00:07:07,050
because my body wasn't
used to this kind of--

117
00:07:07,050 --> 00:07:09,900
being used so much.

118
00:07:09,900 --> 00:07:15,720
But after a while, my
muscles got supple again,

119
00:07:15,720 --> 00:07:24,310
and it was great to be back into
every day being into sports.

120
00:07:24,310 --> 00:07:27,120
We had gymnastics, we
had track and field,

121
00:07:27,120 --> 00:07:30,960
we played team sports.

122
00:07:30,960 --> 00:07:32,430
It was very nice.

123
00:07:32,430 --> 00:07:36,090
And the first day
I was scared stiff

124
00:07:36,090 --> 00:07:38,700
because I didn't know how
the girls would react to me,

125
00:07:38,700 --> 00:07:42,480
and they greeted me,
what's your name?

126
00:07:42,480 --> 00:07:44,190
My name is Bergman.

127
00:07:44,190 --> 00:07:46,200
OK, you're Bergie from now on.

128
00:07:46,200 --> 00:07:48,450
And we were all the
best of friends.

129
00:07:48,450 --> 00:07:50,630
It was really very nice.

130
00:07:50,630 --> 00:07:54,510
Were these facilities comparable
to what the German athletes

131
00:07:54,510 --> 00:07:55,450
were practicing on?

132
00:07:55,450 --> 00:07:55,950
No.

133
00:07:55,950 --> 00:08:02,340
I mean, the track and field
that they used was not bad,

134
00:08:02,340 --> 00:08:05,040
but it wasn't in very
good shape, either.

135
00:08:05,040 --> 00:08:09,390
And the male teacher
there, if he could beat me

136
00:08:09,390 --> 00:08:12,300
in high jumping, which
was really my specialty,

137
00:08:12,300 --> 00:08:13,860
he was so proud of himself.

138
00:08:13,860 --> 00:08:15,480
And I mean, as a
man, he should have

139
00:08:15,480 --> 00:08:17,440
been doing much

better than I did,

140
00:08:17,440 --> 00:08:23,150
but if he just beat me by
an inch, he was very happy.

141
00:08:23,150 --> 00:08:27,230
OK, so I had started and
then interrupt you about this

142
00:08:27,230 --> 00:08:30,490
meet in Stuttgart.

143
00:08:30,490 --> 00:08:35,380
There must have been
quite some protests again

144
00:08:35,380 --> 00:08:37,030
in the United States.

145
00:08:37,030 --> 00:08:43,270
I know that a senator
or congressman Celler,

146
00:08:43,270 --> 00:08:47,710
he was pleading in the Congress
not to send a team over.

147
00:08:47,710 --> 00:08:52,780
There were protest meets in
Madison Square Garden, where

148
00:08:52,780 --> 00:08:54,640
20,000 people showed up.

149
00:08:54,640 --> 00:08:57,430
There was a lot of resistance.

150
00:08:57,430 --> 00:09:00,850
And this must have been the
reason why they invited me

151

00:09:00,850 --> 00:09:07,480
to come to Stuttgart--
and that was in 1936--

152
00:09:07,480 --> 00:09:10,000
to compete at a meet there.

153
00:09:10,000 --> 00:09:13,960
And it was really rough.

154
00:09:13,960 --> 00:09:21,820
When you're the only Jew,
if the spectators knew

155
00:09:21,820 --> 00:09:24,580
that I was Jewish, they
didn't wish me well.

156
00:09:24,580 --> 00:09:26,020
I knew that much.

157
00:09:26,020 --> 00:09:30,370
And the officials were hostile.

158
00:09:30,370 --> 00:09:32,710
I think I mentioned that before.

159
00:09:32,710 --> 00:09:39,400
And it was very hard to
compete against myself.

160
00:09:39,400 --> 00:09:43,930
But I was so mad that I
equaled the German record.

161
00:09:43,930 --> 00:09:47,140
The German record then
was five foot three.

162
00:09:47,140 --> 00:09:49,390
And I equaled that.

163

00:09:49,390 --> 00:09:52,780

I must have cleared it
by 15 inches at the time.

164

00:09:52,780 --> 00:09:54,880

I was so angry.

165

00:09:54,880 --> 00:09:57,790

And usually, you have three
tries for each height.

166

00:09:57,790 --> 00:10:00,270

You started four,
six, let's say.

167

00:10:00,270 --> 00:10:02,650

And you do it the
first time fine.

168

00:10:02,650 --> 00:10:05,440

But you have to go over
it by the third try,

169

00:10:05,440 --> 00:10:07,090

otherwise you were eliminated.

170

00:10:07,090 --> 00:10:09,520

Well, all the other
girls were out by--

171

00:10:09,520 --> 00:10:12,310

they did about four, eight,
and they were all out.

172

00:10:12,310 --> 00:10:14,650

And I kept going,
and going, and going.

173

00:10:14,650 --> 00:10:18,400

And every height I jumped
over the first time.

174

00:10:18,400 --> 00:10:22,600

So I did the five, three.

175
00:10:22,600 --> 00:10:27,190
And I think the officials
most likely would have liked

176
00:10:27,190 --> 00:10:30,970
to poison me but they didn't.

177
00:10:30,970 --> 00:10:33,070
And I was just so elated.

178
00:10:33,070 --> 00:10:35,870
I thought this is the best
thing that ever happened to me,

179
00:10:35,870 --> 00:10:38,200
you know, those lousy Nazis.

180
00:10:38,200 --> 00:10:44,140
And after that I went
home, I think, and wanted

181
00:10:44,140 --> 00:10:45,730
to share this with my family.

182
00:10:45,730 --> 00:10:49,150
And I think that
was the last time

183
00:10:49,150 --> 00:10:52,030
that I stayed in Stuttgart.

184
00:10:52,030 --> 00:10:54,040
I went home then and I said--

185
00:10:54,040 --> 00:10:57,190
now, well, this is four weeks
before the Olympics start.

186
00:10:57,190 --> 00:11:00,230
I better go home and

see what happens.

187
00:11:00,230 --> 00:11:02,350
So I went home, and
my parents were happy,

188
00:11:02,350 --> 00:11:04,960
my brothers were
happy that I did this.

189
00:11:04,960 --> 00:11:10,040
And I looked for the mail every
day and what's going to happen,

190
00:11:10,040 --> 00:11:10,540
you know.

191
00:11:10,540 --> 00:11:13,810
What excuse are
they going to use?

192
00:11:13,810 --> 00:11:19,250
There was only one
other German girl

193
00:11:19,250 --> 00:11:22,400
who was capable of
doing this height.

194
00:11:22,400 --> 00:11:25,840
And if they don't
want me in there,

195
00:11:25,840 --> 00:11:27,610
how are they going
to get rid of me?

196
00:11:27,610 --> 00:11:28,808
And I was really scared.

197
00:11:28,808 --> 00:11:30,100
Are they going to break my leg?

198

00:11:30,100 --> 00:11:33,160

What are they going
to do to eliminate me?

199

00:11:33,160 --> 00:11:38,350

But it was very simple one
day a letter came and it

200

00:11:38,350 --> 00:11:41,380

said in view of the fact
that you have been doing

201

00:11:41,380 --> 00:11:44,800

very poorly lately,
we did not select you

202

00:11:44,800 --> 00:11:46,400

for the Olympic team.

203

00:11:46,400 --> 00:11:47,200

Heil Hitler.

204

00:11:47,200 --> 00:11:48,460

And that was the end of it.

205

00:11:48,460 --> 00:11:51,310

206

00:11:51,310 --> 00:11:54,700

I remember me sitting
outside on the stoop

207

00:11:54,700 --> 00:11:56,150

and I got this letter.

208

00:11:56,150 --> 00:12:00,670

And I must have used
every profanity I knew.

209

00:12:00,670 --> 00:12:03,490

And I knew a lot of them.

210

00:12:03,490 --> 00:12:09,520

And at the same time, I had
such an incredible feeling

211

00:12:09,520 --> 00:12:11,410

of relief.

212

00:12:11,410 --> 00:12:12,880

It's all over now.

213

00:12:12,880 --> 00:12:14,930

Now, I know what's
going to happen to me.

214

00:12:14,930 --> 00:12:17,230

I know.

215

00:12:17,230 --> 00:12:21,640

It was just like
the biggest load

216

00:12:21,640 --> 00:12:23,980

was lifted off my shoulders.

217

00:12:23,980 --> 00:12:28,570

You know, that was
such a paradox.

218

00:12:28,570 --> 00:12:32,660

That I was angry, very,
very angry at the same time.

219

00:12:32,660 --> 00:12:36,020

So relieved.

220

00:12:36,020 --> 00:12:42,320

And I don't remember a
thing about the Olympics.

221

00:12:42,320 --> 00:12:43,340

Just stop you a minute.

222

00:12:43,340 --> 00:12:46,350

Why were you so relieved?

223

00:12:46,350 --> 00:12:54,230

Well, all this time, I was
worried how, first of all,

224

00:12:54,230 --> 00:12:55,880

am I going to compete?

225

00:12:55,880 --> 00:12:58,010

Am I not going to compete?

226

00:12:58,010 --> 00:13:01,280

How are they going
to eliminate me?

227

00:13:01,280 --> 00:13:06,300

Or what am I going to do if I do
compete, and I do win a medal?

228

00:13:06,300 --> 00:13:12,410

And I know the German way
to acknowledge a victory,

229

00:13:12,410 --> 00:13:16,200

you stand up on the podium
and you Heil Hitler?

230

00:13:16,200 --> 00:13:20,210

And I didn't see that
happening for me too easily.

231

00:13:20,210 --> 00:13:24,770

That would be-- I mean, how
can you expect a German girl

232

00:13:24,770 --> 00:13:28,070

to stand there and raise her
arm in the Hitler salute?

233

00:13:28,070 --> 00:13:29,060

You mean a Jewish girl.

234
00:13:29,060 --> 00:13:30,020
A Jewish girl.

235
00:13:30,020 --> 00:13:34,820

236
00:13:34,820 --> 00:13:37,110
This was on my
mind for two years.

237
00:13:37,110 --> 00:13:40,220
And all of a sudden, I didn't
have to worry about it anymore.

238
00:13:40,220 --> 00:13:44,450
And that was a terrific relief.

239
00:13:44,450 --> 00:13:48,500
Did you also think
about the crowd reaction

240
00:13:48,500 --> 00:13:55,340
or the government reaction
to a win on your part?

241
00:13:55,340 --> 00:14:00,290
Had I won the
Olympics or had I been

242
00:14:00,290 --> 00:14:02,660
allowed to compete
in the Olympics,

243
00:14:02,660 --> 00:14:05,870
I would have been
a loser either way.

244
00:14:05,870 --> 00:14:11,390
Because had I won, there
would have been such an insult

245

00:14:11,390 --> 00:14:13,400
against the German psyche.

246

00:14:13,400 --> 00:14:16,670
How can a Jew be good
enough to win the Olympics?

247

00:14:16,670 --> 00:14:20,180
That I would have had to be
afraid for my life, I'm sure.

248

00:14:20,180 --> 00:14:25,310
And had I lost, I would
have been made as a joke.

249

00:14:25,310 --> 00:14:28,610
See, we knew the Jew
couldn't do this.

250

00:14:28,610 --> 00:14:35,940
And that was on my
mind all these years.

251

00:14:35,940 --> 00:14:39,030

252

00:14:39,030 --> 00:14:40,410
So you got this letter.

253

00:14:40,410 --> 00:14:43,950

254

00:14:43,950 --> 00:14:45,810
Excuse me.

255

00:14:45,810 --> 00:14:49,330
You got this letter that said,
sorry, you're not good enough,

256

00:14:49,330 --> 00:14:54,090
even though you
had just competed

257
00:14:54,090 --> 00:14:56,610
and had tied the German record.

258
00:14:56,610 --> 00:14:57,710
Didn't make much sense.

259
00:14:57,710 --> 00:15:01,820

260
00:15:01,820 --> 00:15:03,980
I think that was the
first time I really

261
00:15:03,980 --> 00:15:11,420
realized that my candidacy
as an Olympic athlete

262
00:15:11,420 --> 00:15:13,520
was really all a sham.

263
00:15:13,520 --> 00:15:16,010
It was just something
that the Germans

264
00:15:16,010 --> 00:15:18,710
did to fool the whole world.

265
00:15:18,710 --> 00:15:20,480
Maybe that's when I realized it.

266
00:15:20,480 --> 00:15:23,210
I really don't even know.

267
00:15:23,210 --> 00:15:27,650
I think I have complete amnesia
what happened to me after this.

268
00:15:27,650 --> 00:15:30,740
I cannot remember whether
I watched the Olympics.

269

00:15:30,740 --> 00:15:32,490

I mean watch-- you
couldn't watch it,

270

00:15:32,490 --> 00:15:34,550

there was no television.

271

00:15:34,550 --> 00:15:36,230

Whether I listened
to the Olympics,

272

00:15:36,230 --> 00:15:39,230

whether I followed the
Olympics in the newspaper,

273

00:15:39,230 --> 00:15:41,630

I have no idea.

274

00:15:41,630 --> 00:15:43,670

I can not.

275

00:15:43,670 --> 00:15:47,210

I have complete
amnesia about it.

276

00:15:47,210 --> 00:15:49,070

You don't know where you were?

277

00:15:49,070 --> 00:15:52,910

I knew where I was
except I did not want

278

00:15:52,910 --> 00:15:55,010

to think about the Olympics.

279

00:15:55,010 --> 00:15:58,200

As a matter of fact,
you know, people

280

00:15:58,200 --> 00:15:59,720

were, oh, maybe
it's for the best.

281
00:15:59,720 --> 00:16:02,720
And my parents looked at
me feeling sorry for me,

282
00:16:02,720 --> 00:16:05,300
and my brothers looked at
me feeling sorry for me,

283
00:16:05,300 --> 00:16:07,640
and is she going to
freak out, or what's

284
00:16:07,640 --> 00:16:08,750
going to happen to her?

285
00:16:08,750 --> 00:16:10,790
I said, I'll have to
get away from me here.

286
00:16:10,790 --> 00:16:14,420
And I went to a spa, under
an assumed name, of course.

287
00:16:14,420 --> 00:16:16,980
I couldn't afford to.

288
00:16:16,980 --> 00:16:19,700
Nobody would take me if
they knew I was Jewish.

289
00:16:19,700 --> 00:16:22,850
And I sat there for two
weeks not talking to anybody.

290
00:16:22,850 --> 00:16:25,610
I did not want to be
bothered with anybody.

291
00:16:25,610 --> 00:16:27,740
And I was just
thinking about all this

292

00:16:27,740 --> 00:16:30,230
and what was going to
happen, and what did happen.

293

00:16:30,230 --> 00:16:35,570
And that's when I realized I
have to get out of Germany.

294

00:16:35,570 --> 00:16:37,535
And I just made up my mind.

295

00:16:37,535 --> 00:16:38,660
I'm going to have to leave.

296

00:16:38,660 --> 00:16:44,040

297

00:16:44,040 --> 00:16:47,970
So you weren't-- at least you
don't remember being very aware

298

00:16:47,970 --> 00:16:48,660
of the Olympics?

299

00:16:48,660 --> 00:16:51,360
That you tuned that out.

300

00:16:51,360 --> 00:16:55,560
I had complete-- I to this day,
I can't remember what I did.

301

00:16:55,560 --> 00:16:57,660
But I knew who did what.

302

00:16:57,660 --> 00:17:02,190
Or I know this one
person that I knew that

303

00:17:02,190 --> 00:17:04,349
later on that she came in third.

304

00:17:04,349 --> 00:17:07,260
Girl I was very friendly with.

305
00:17:07,260 --> 00:17:11,160
She came in third in the
high jump, a German girl.

306
00:17:11,160 --> 00:17:14,550
But whether I realized it
at the time, I do not know.

307
00:17:14,550 --> 00:17:16,290
I cannot remember.

308
00:17:16,290 --> 00:17:18,180
What point do you
think you came to?

309
00:17:18,180 --> 00:17:22,710

310
00:17:22,710 --> 00:17:25,050
And realized that the
Olympics have taken place

311
00:17:25,050 --> 00:17:26,790
and you weren't
there, of course.

312
00:17:26,790 --> 00:17:27,849
Yes.

313
00:17:27,849 --> 00:17:32,340
I think that I only realized
what was really going on

314
00:17:32,340 --> 00:17:35,880
once I came over to the States.

315
00:17:35,880 --> 00:17:38,730
Friends of ours had
saved all the newspaper

316

00:17:38,730 --> 00:17:40,252

articles where my
name appeared, you

317

00:17:40,252 --> 00:17:45,210

know, with all the ups
and downs of whether--

318

00:17:45,210 --> 00:17:48,120

what the Germans said, and
what the Americans said,

319

00:17:48,120 --> 00:17:50,820

and what was going on,
and all their promises,

320

00:17:50,820 --> 00:17:55,210

and all their excuses,
the German excuses.

321

00:17:55,210 --> 00:17:57,090

And I think that's the
first time I really

322

00:17:57,090 --> 00:17:59,610

realized how I was used
as a political football.

323

00:17:59,610 --> 00:18:03,350

324

00:18:03,350 --> 00:18:07,550

Did the winners in your events--

325

00:18:07,550 --> 00:18:09,650

were the winners German?

326

00:18:09,650 --> 00:18:13,850

Would your record have been
competitive in the high jump?

327

00:18:13,850 --> 00:18:17,000

The high jump in
the Olympics was

328
00:18:17,000 --> 00:18:20,060
won with a height of 5 foot 3.

329
00:18:20,060 --> 00:18:24,410
The height I had reached
four weeks earlier--

330
00:18:24,410 --> 00:18:27,290
and I had the best
chance to win a medal.

331
00:18:27,290 --> 00:18:29,120
I could have had the gold medal.

332
00:18:29,120 --> 00:18:35,130
Because as I said, when
I got mad, I did better.

333
00:18:35,130 --> 00:18:38,210
So I would have been mighty
mad seeing all those people out

334
00:18:38,210 --> 00:18:42,050
there with the uniforms on,
all the swastikas flying.

335
00:18:42,050 --> 00:18:43,850
I would have been really mad.

336
00:18:43,850 --> 00:18:48,730
And I know I had a very
good chance to win a medal.

337
00:18:48,730 --> 00:18:51,400
Now, was it hard for you to
come over to the United States?

338
00:18:51,400 --> 00:18:53,990
When did you come over here?

339

00:18:53,990 --> 00:19:00,000

Well, when I came back from
that spa, I told my parents,

340

00:19:00,000 --> 00:19:00,570

I'm leaving.

341

00:19:00,570 --> 00:19:03,520

I cannot stay over here anymore.

342

00:19:03,520 --> 00:19:05,460

This has no future for me.

343

00:19:05,460 --> 00:19:07,200

My brother had left already.

344

00:19:07,200 --> 00:19:10,980

He came to the States
in January, I believe.

345

00:19:10,980 --> 00:19:14,270

No, no, no, no, that was later.

346

00:19:14,270 --> 00:19:15,480

I said, I'm leaving.

347

00:19:15,480 --> 00:19:20,400

And my father had a very good
friend who came from this town

348

00:19:20,400 --> 00:19:24,450

and who emigrated to the United
States, became very rich here.

349

00:19:24,450 --> 00:19:29,820

And when he visited in our town,
I was the big shot, you know,

350

00:19:29,820 --> 00:19:31,260

the Olympic candidate.

351

00:19:31,260 --> 00:19:33,180

And he said to me,
oh, any time you

352

00:19:33,180 --> 00:19:35,860

want to come to the United
States, just let me know

353

00:19:35,860 --> 00:19:38,310

and I'll give you
all the papers.

354

00:19:38,310 --> 00:19:42,480

So we wrote him a letter
and said that we were now

355

00:19:42,480 --> 00:19:45,630

ready to accept his offer.

356

00:19:45,630 --> 00:19:49,200

And very quick a letter
came back saying,

357

00:19:49,200 --> 00:19:54,030

well, times are very
bad in the United States

358

00:19:54,030 --> 00:19:56,520

and you might not be
able to find a job.

359

00:19:56,520 --> 00:19:58,860

And maybe things will
get better in Germany,

360

00:19:58,860 --> 00:20:03,060

and maybe you should
rethink your future.

361

00:20:03,060 --> 00:20:05,880

Maybe you should stay
and see what happens.

362

00:20:05,880 --> 00:20:08,730
And my father wrote him a
very strong letter back,

363
00:20:08,730 --> 00:20:10,560
and he finally did
give me the papers

364
00:20:10,560 --> 00:20:15,260
and I was able to come
to the United States.

365
00:20:15,260 --> 00:20:16,510
When was that?

366
00:20:16,510 --> 00:20:24,310
I came to the United
States in May of 1937.

367
00:20:24,310 --> 00:20:27,550
When you came over
here, did you decide

368
00:20:27,550 --> 00:20:29,410
to pursue your athletic career?

369
00:20:29,410 --> 00:20:32,630
Or had you been
completely soured?

370
00:20:32,630 --> 00:20:37,680
When I came over here, the
first thing I had to do

371
00:20:37,680 --> 00:20:39,720
was make some money.

372
00:20:39,720 --> 00:20:41,970
Because the Germans
allowed each immigrant

373
00:20:41,970 --> 00:20:49,410
to take along \$4 and a camera,

which everybody sold and lived

374

00:20:49,410 --> 00:20:51,540

on until they found a job.

375

00:20:51,540 --> 00:20:53,550

And I had the same thing.

376

00:20:53,550 --> 00:20:56,670

And the first thing I
had to do was find a job.

377

00:20:56,670 --> 00:21:04,560

But somehow, an article appeared
in the long-defunct Royal

378

00:21:04,560 --> 00:21:08,040

Telegram, a newspaper,
a New York newspaper,

379

00:21:08,040 --> 00:21:09,548

about me arriving.

380

00:21:09,548 --> 00:21:10,090

I don't know.

381

00:21:10,090 --> 00:21:11,465

I think my brother
must have been

382

00:21:11,465 --> 00:21:13,170

managing to get this in there.

383

00:21:13,170 --> 00:21:17,980

And talking about what
had happened to me.

384

00:21:17,980 --> 00:21:23,610

And one day, a coach
showed up at my house

385

00:21:23,610 --> 00:21:27,540

and said, listen, I have
a track and field team

386
00:21:27,540 --> 00:21:29,280
and would you like
to compete for me.

387
00:21:29,280 --> 00:21:32,430
And I said, you bet.

388
00:21:32,430 --> 00:21:33,660
And that was it.

389
00:21:33,660 --> 00:21:36,090
And he wasn't a very good coach.

390
00:21:36,090 --> 00:21:37,980
He was an undertaker.

391
00:21:37,980 --> 00:21:41,010
And I kept teasing him that
I thought the bodies that he

392
00:21:41,010 --> 00:21:44,310
prepared for wherever
these bodies were going,

393
00:21:44,310 --> 00:21:47,160
were in better shape than
the bodies he prepared

394
00:21:47,160 --> 00:21:51,690
to compete at the track meet.

395
00:21:51,690 --> 00:21:53,370
But he tried hard.

396
00:21:53,370 --> 00:21:56,700
And I competed here
several events.

397
00:21:56,700 --> 00:21:59,310

And I did OK.

398
00:21:59,310 --> 00:22:01,555
You weren't turned
off by sports?

399
00:22:01,555 --> 00:22:02,055
No.

400
00:22:02,055 --> 00:22:03,888
I mean, you weren't
sick of the whole thing?

401
00:22:03,888 --> 00:22:06,540
No, I really wanted
to get back into it.

402
00:22:06,540 --> 00:22:10,000
And I was right away
very successful.

403
00:22:10,000 --> 00:22:13,320
So that kept me
going, I suppose.

404
00:22:13,320 --> 00:22:17,400
The first year I was here, I
won the American Championship

405
00:22:17,400 --> 00:22:20,250
in high jumping.

406
00:22:20,250 --> 00:22:23,520
I won the American
Championship in shot put,

407
00:22:23,520 --> 00:22:27,450
weighing all of 112
pounds, beating out

408
00:22:27,450 --> 00:22:32,550
my competition who must have
been twice my size and twice

409
00:22:32,550 --> 00:22:33,540
my weight.

410
00:22:33,540 --> 00:22:37,440
And that really gave
me a good feeling.

411
00:22:37,440 --> 00:22:39,570
Do you feel somewhat
vindicated in a way?

412
00:22:39,570 --> 00:22:42,870
That finally you had an
opportunity to show your stuff?

413
00:22:42,870 --> 00:22:46,470
It felt very good because
I knew that somehow, word

414
00:22:46,470 --> 00:22:49,350
had to get back to
Germany that I did win.

415
00:22:49,350 --> 00:22:52,170
And that made me feel very good.

416
00:22:52,170 --> 00:22:54,615
But I knew it wouldn't
be in any newspapers,

417
00:22:54,615 --> 00:22:58,410
it would be like word
of mouth, you know.

418
00:22:58,410 --> 00:23:02,580
And I know that people who
wished me well-- and there

419
00:23:02,580 --> 00:23:03,570
were some Germans.

420

00:23:03,570 --> 00:23:06,000

I mean, not every
German was a Nazi.

421

00:23:06,000 --> 00:23:07,440

They would be happy for me.

422

00:23:07,440 --> 00:23:10,570

423

00:23:10,570 --> 00:23:13,840

I think we're close to
the end of my questions.

424

00:23:13,840 --> 00:23:14,780

Well, how many?

425

00:23:14,780 --> 00:23:15,280

Stop.

426

00:23:15,280 --> 00:23:15,780

OK.

427

00:23:15,780 --> 00:23:19,402

428

00:23:19,402 --> 00:23:20,360

What about your family?

429

00:23:20,360 --> 00:23:21,902

Were they able to
get out of Germany?

430

00:23:21,902 --> 00:23:25,030

431

00:23:25,030 --> 00:23:26,850

We were very worried
about my family.

432

00:23:26,850 --> 00:23:29,670

My brother came here a

few months before I did.

433

00:23:29,670 --> 00:23:32,770

And we were very
worried about my family.

434

00:23:32,770 --> 00:23:36,150

And finally, somehow,
my father was

435

00:23:36,150 --> 00:23:40,300

able to get out even
though it was a miracle.

436

00:23:40,300 --> 00:23:43,150

They took all the
people who they wanted,

437

00:23:43,150 --> 00:23:45,790

the Germans, whom they
wanted to keep in Germany.

438

00:23:45,790 --> 00:23:47,380

They just took their
passports away.

439

00:23:47,380 --> 00:23:50,800

So there was no way
for them to get out.

440

00:23:50,800 --> 00:23:54,610

And my father had a
work permit for England,

441

00:23:54,610 --> 00:23:55,860

which was pretty hard to get.

442

00:23:55,860 --> 00:23:59,490

But he had done business
with England quite a bit.

443

00:23:59,490 --> 00:24:00,990

And he got that work permit.

444
00:24:00,990 --> 00:24:02,620
And that was about to expire.

445
00:24:02,620 --> 00:24:04,930
So he went to the
authorities and said, listen,

446
00:24:04,930 --> 00:24:06,540
can I have my passport back?

447
00:24:06,540 --> 00:24:09,210
I need to have my
work permit renewed.

448
00:24:09,210 --> 00:24:12,330
And somebody gave
him this passport.

449
00:24:12,330 --> 00:24:15,160
And my father said,
we are leaving.

450
00:24:15,160 --> 00:24:19,500
So they packed the little
suitcase, little clean

451
00:24:19,500 --> 00:24:21,540
underwear, and
they all took off.

452
00:24:21,540 --> 00:24:22,670
My brother, my mother.

453
00:24:22,670 --> 00:24:25,380
Then left the house,
left everything back,

454
00:24:25,380 --> 00:24:28,530
and went to the next town,
went to the next town,

455

00:24:28,530 --> 00:24:29,790
went to the next town.

456
00:24:29,790 --> 00:24:32,940
Finally ended up in Cologne,
where they took a plane

457
00:24:32,940 --> 00:24:36,450
and flew to England.

458
00:24:36,450 --> 00:24:38,340
Were you able to
communicate with them

459
00:24:38,340 --> 00:24:40,380
once you left Germany?

460
00:24:40,380 --> 00:24:41,580
Oh, yes.

461
00:24:41,580 --> 00:24:43,480
We wrote to each
other all the time.

462
00:24:43,480 --> 00:24:46,210
But you had to be extremely
careful what you wrote.

463
00:24:46,210 --> 00:24:48,240
For instance, there
was the Crystal Night,

464
00:24:48,240 --> 00:24:51,510
and they took all the men
from, I think, the age of 18

465
00:24:51,510 --> 00:24:56,070
to maybe 60, and took them
to concentration camps.

466
00:24:56,070 --> 00:25:00,330
And we had no idea, was my
father taken or wasn't he?

467
00:25:00,330 --> 00:25:03,810
And my mother wrote a letter
that dad was quite ill

468
00:25:03,810 --> 00:25:05,770
and had to go away.

469
00:25:05,770 --> 00:25:08,040
So we knew that he was gone.

470
00:25:08,040 --> 00:25:09,540
And we tried everything.

471
00:25:09,540 --> 00:25:13,830
You know, Congressmen,
and tried to get him back.

472
00:25:13,830 --> 00:25:17,250
And he finally did come
back after four weeks,

473
00:25:17,250 --> 00:25:20,910
weighing 80 pounds,
and signing himself

474
00:25:20,910 --> 00:25:24,450
into the hospital in Laupheim.

475
00:25:24,450 --> 00:25:29,140
And the next day, the nuns who
ran the hospital came to him,

476
00:25:29,140 --> 00:25:30,900
said, you have to leave.

477
00:25:30,900 --> 00:25:34,620
The authorities told me
we can't keep Jews here.

478
00:25:34,620 --> 00:25:36,720
So they threw him out,

weighing 80 pounds.

479

00:25:36,720 --> 00:25:38,850

And he had to
recuperate another way.

480

00:25:38,850 --> 00:25:44,100

And I still blame them, apart
from his smoking cigarettes,

481

00:25:44,100 --> 00:25:48,570

that he died of a very sudden
death, of a heart attack.

482

00:25:48,570 --> 00:25:51,140

Where was he sent?

483

00:25:51,140 --> 00:25:53,300

Dachau.

484

00:25:53,300 --> 00:25:55,130

That's near Munich.

485

00:25:55,130 --> 00:25:58,760

And they took all
their clothing away,

486

00:25:58,760 --> 00:26:02,660

dressed them in these
clothes, you know,

487

00:26:02,660 --> 00:26:06,410

like you see in the old movies
with the stripes, the cotton,

488

00:26:06,410 --> 00:26:07,760

the cotton suits.

489

00:26:07,760 --> 00:26:10,670

And they had to stand outside
from 5 o'clock in the morning--

490

00:26:10,670 --> 00:26:12,320
and it was November.

491
00:26:12,320 --> 00:26:14,840
Until 11 o'clock at night.

492
00:26:14,840 --> 00:26:16,610
No, no warm underwear.

493
00:26:16,610 --> 00:26:17,570
No nothing.

494
00:26:17,570 --> 00:26:22,670
And I mean, this
is what they did.

495
00:26:22,670 --> 00:26:24,770
This is in '38/'39?

496
00:26:24,770 --> 00:26:26,810
I think it was in '39.

497
00:26:26,810 --> 00:26:28,640
I don't know, the Crystal Night.

498
00:26:28,640 --> 00:26:29,960
It was November--

499
00:26:29,960 --> 00:26:30,860
I can't remember--

500
00:26:30,860 --> 00:26:30,920
--of '38.

501
00:26:30,920 --> 00:26:31,100
--was it?

502
00:26:31,100 --> 00:26:31,460
It was '38

503
00:26:31,460 --> 00:26:32,290

I think it was '38.

504
00:26:32,290 --> 00:26:32,580
November.

505
00:26:32,580 --> 00:26:33,080
Yeah.

506
00:26:33,080 --> 00:26:35,900

507
00:26:35,900 --> 00:26:39,925
When you got this letter saying
your father had to go away,

508
00:26:39,925 --> 00:26:41,300
what was going
through your mind?

509
00:26:41,300 --> 00:26:43,820

510
00:26:43,820 --> 00:26:48,290
Well, we just tried to get
him out of there, you know.

511
00:26:48,290 --> 00:26:51,980
We wrote to everybody
that we could think of

512
00:26:51,980 --> 00:26:53,150
to try to get him out.

513
00:26:53,150 --> 00:26:56,090
And whether it was
that we were successful

514
00:26:56,090 --> 00:26:57,480
or whether they
were just saying,

515
00:26:57,480 --> 00:27:03,320

well, let's just get those
old guys out of here,

516
00:27:03,320 --> 00:27:06,860
you know, after four weeks
or five weeks he came home.

517
00:27:06,860 --> 00:27:11,600
And my husband's brother
and future brother-in-law,

518
00:27:11,600 --> 00:27:13,070
they were also in Dachau.

519
00:27:13,070 --> 00:27:16,850
And the Germans told them,
if you can go someplace,

520
00:27:16,850 --> 00:27:19,160
leave Germany today,
you can leave.

521
00:27:19,160 --> 00:27:22,430
So China was the
only country that

522
00:27:22,430 --> 00:27:26,330
would take you
without any red tape,

523
00:27:26,330 --> 00:27:32,360
so they bought steamship tickets
to China and went to China.

524
00:27:32,360 --> 00:27:35,900
Was he taken-- did they
give him a reason why they

525
00:27:35,900 --> 00:27:37,130
were taking him, your father?

526
00:27:37,130 --> 00:27:38,600
No that was just--

527

00:27:38,600 --> 00:27:41,390

you know, was a fun thing to do, I suppose, for the Nazis.

528

00:27:41,390 --> 00:27:46,280

529

00:27:46,280 --> 00:27:48,080

I think we're going to change the tape.

530

00:27:48,080 --> 00:27:49,790

I don't have much else to ask you.

531

00:27:49,790 --> 00:27:53,480

But I did want to check with Tom in the other room and Steve,

532

00:27:53,480 --> 00:27:56,470

just make sure that we--

533

00:27:56,470 --> 00:29:55,000