

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:02,988
[BEEP]

2
00:00:02,988 --> 00:01:02,870

3
00:01:02,870 --> 00:01:07,010
I wanted to ask you, even though
you didn't follow the Olympics

4
00:01:07,010 --> 00:01:10,340
at the time, what
kind of team did

5
00:01:10,340 --> 00:01:13,310
Germany present in the
high jump here event.

6
00:01:13,310 --> 00:01:16,040

7
00:01:16,040 --> 00:01:18,470
In the high jump,
usually, they're

8
00:01:18,470 --> 00:01:22,460
always three competitors
for each event.

9
00:01:22,460 --> 00:01:25,640
Three in the dash and three
in the shot-put, and three

10
00:01:25,640 --> 00:01:33,710
in the long jump, and they only
had two girls in the high jump,

11
00:01:33,710 --> 00:01:37,730
and that was a
little bit unusual.

12

00:01:37,730 --> 00:01:46,190
And a long time later, I found
out that the team was told that

13
00:01:46,190 --> 00:01:50,070
Bergmann is injured
and cannot compete.

14
00:01:50,070 --> 00:01:53,180
But I also had a
suspicion that they

15
00:01:53,180 --> 00:01:57,290
were trying to maneuver
this whole thing,

16
00:01:57,290 --> 00:02:02,540
because a letter was sent around
that those who were in the--

17
00:02:02,540 --> 00:02:05,420
Olympic candidates
should not expect

18
00:02:05,420 --> 00:02:12,380
to be chosen, some of them and
that they did not measure up,

19
00:02:12,380 --> 00:02:17,900
and in some events, there
would only be two competitors.

20
00:02:17,900 --> 00:02:21,770
And I think that was
really done for my sake

21
00:02:21,770 --> 00:02:25,190
already, because they were
already trying to get rid of me

22
00:02:25,190 --> 00:02:25,700
somehow.

23

00:02:25,700 --> 00:02:27,860

Maybe, I'm not
sure, but it seemed

24

00:02:27,860 --> 00:02:30,770

to be very unusual
that there would only

25

00:02:30,770 --> 00:02:33,260

be two girls in the high jump.

26

00:02:33,260 --> 00:02:35,270

When did you get this letter?

27

00:02:35,270 --> 00:02:43,270

I think a letter came in the
winter before the Olympics.

28

00:02:43,270 --> 00:02:45,220

I'll have to check the date.

29

00:02:45,220 --> 00:02:51,550

What role, if any, do you
think the 1936 Olympics played

30

00:02:51,550 --> 00:02:55,540

in bolstering the Nazis
for what was to come?

31

00:02:55,540 --> 00:03:02,440

32

00:03:02,440 --> 00:03:07,570

Adolf Hitler tried to use these
Olympics as his propaganda

33

00:03:07,570 --> 00:03:11,320

vehicle to show the world
how powerful he was,

34

00:03:11,320 --> 00:03:16,420

to show the world how
unified Germany was,

35
00:03:16,420 --> 00:03:25,420
and I think he tried to scare
the world into not standing up

36
00:03:25,420 --> 00:03:27,280
against him, somehow.

37
00:03:27,280 --> 00:03:30,990
That's the way I
have to look at it.

38
00:03:30,990 --> 00:03:36,700

39
00:03:36,700 --> 00:03:40,060
The Olympics were a
great success for Germany

40
00:03:40,060 --> 00:03:44,530
at the time, and they built
this beautiful stadium.

41
00:03:44,530 --> 00:03:50,620
People found work
due to the Olympics

42
00:03:50,620 --> 00:03:55,700
or help the Nazis
through to succeed.

43
00:03:55,700 --> 00:03:58,120
So you think he did gain from--

44
00:03:58,120 --> 00:04:03,190
He definitely did
gain from it, and I've

45
00:04:03,190 --> 00:04:07,090
seen it written in a
book someplace about how

46

00:04:07,090 --> 00:04:11,290
the Olympics are supposed to
bring the youth of the world

47
00:04:11,290 --> 00:04:16,450
together and that somebody
made the remark that, in 1936,

48
00:04:16,450 --> 00:04:19,420
the youth of the world came
together in these Olympics,

49
00:04:19,420 --> 00:04:24,010
and four years later,
they were coming together

50
00:04:24,010 --> 00:04:26,560
against each other
in a battlefield,

51
00:04:26,560 --> 00:04:32,660
then the war started in 1940.

52
00:04:32,660 --> 00:04:34,550
You mentioned that
your immediate family

53
00:04:34,550 --> 00:04:37,220
was able to get out of Germany.

54
00:04:37,220 --> 00:04:40,085
Did you lose friends
or family members?

55
00:04:40,085 --> 00:04:42,890

56
00:04:42,890 --> 00:04:46,460
Unfortunately, my
husband's parents

57
00:04:46,460 --> 00:04:50,570
and many of his relatives

were not able to get out,

58

00:04:50,570 --> 00:04:57,410

and we really tried so hard,
and we had to battle people

59

00:04:57,410 --> 00:05:02,360

here to help, and there was
so little help to be had.

60

00:05:02,360 --> 00:05:04,920

My husband has very rich
relatives over there.

61

00:05:04,920 --> 00:05:08,420

They had the jewelry store in
New York and were very rich,

62

00:05:08,420 --> 00:05:13,220

and I approached them for papers
for him, and they refused.

63

00:05:13,220 --> 00:05:15,260

And I made out his
papers for him.

64

00:05:15,260 --> 00:05:17,300

I mean, I got him out like--

65

00:05:17,300 --> 00:05:20,900

it was really not quite
honest got him here,

66

00:05:20,900 --> 00:05:25,370

but we didn't even think
about approaching them

67

00:05:25,370 --> 00:05:30,380

for his parents, because we
knew they wouldn't do it.

68

00:05:30,380 --> 00:05:34,790

And we tried to

get them into Cuba,

69

00:05:34,790 --> 00:05:41,270
and people would buy
visas for Cuba for \$400

70

00:05:41,270 --> 00:05:45,920
and we got two visas for them,
and just when their turn was

71

00:05:45,920 --> 00:05:49,820
about to come, these visas
were found out to be phony,

72

00:05:49,820 --> 00:05:54,710
and that avenue was shut off so.

73

00:05:54,710 --> 00:05:58,490
And they were also a
little bit reluctant.

74

00:05:58,490 --> 00:06:00,860
My father-in-law
never could understand

75

00:06:00,860 --> 00:06:02,610
that this could happen to him.

76

00:06:02,610 --> 00:06:05,030
So he said, I've been
living in this town forever.

77

00:06:05,030 --> 00:06:07,010
We were friends with everybody.

78

00:06:07,010 --> 00:06:09,260
They can't do anything
to us or nothing

79

00:06:09,260 --> 00:06:12,950
is going to happen
to us, and then

80

00:06:12,950 --> 00:06:16,640

when he did realize that he
should have done something

81

00:06:16,640 --> 00:06:19,060

it was too late.

82

00:06:19,060 --> 00:06:20,030

There were many--

83

00:06:20,030 --> 00:06:23,720

I don't remember
how many relatives.

84

00:06:23,720 --> 00:06:26,270

I think of at least 15 or 30.

85

00:06:26,270 --> 00:06:30,110

I don't remember how many
and in my family too some.

86

00:06:30,110 --> 00:06:30,845

And friends.

87

00:06:30,845 --> 00:06:33,600

88

00:06:33,600 --> 00:06:35,370

Who didn't have the
notion of getting out?

89

00:06:35,370 --> 00:06:36,090

Right.

90

00:06:36,090 --> 00:06:42,490

It was-- the American
people, a lot of them

91

00:06:42,490 --> 00:06:45,320

did not kill themselves.

92

00:06:45,320 --> 00:06:48,910
They made all the big speeches
how helpful they wanted to be.

93
00:06:48,910 --> 00:06:52,090
Like my sponsor, when
it came down to it,

94
00:06:52,090 --> 00:06:56,050
he wasn't so anxious,
except my brother who--

95
00:06:56,050 --> 00:07:00,310
that was the father of the
motion picture industry

96
00:07:00,310 --> 00:07:01,930
by name of Carl Laemmle.

97
00:07:01,930 --> 00:07:04,240
I mean, he's a very famous man.

98
00:07:04,240 --> 00:07:08,110
He came to the United
States from Laupheim,

99
00:07:08,110 --> 00:07:11,560
and he made out 300 affidavits.

100
00:07:11,560 --> 00:07:15,010
Anybody who approached him
for papers, he made them out,

101
00:07:15,010 --> 00:07:17,620
and he wasn't sure whether
these people weren't

102
00:07:17,620 --> 00:07:20,200
going to sit on his
pocket eventually,

103
00:07:20,200 --> 00:07:22,080
but he was wonderful.

104
00:07:22,080 --> 00:07:25,560
But I think the American
people, in general,

105
00:07:25,560 --> 00:07:27,355
were not very generous
in that respect.

106
00:07:27,355 --> 00:07:30,420

107
00:07:30,420 --> 00:07:38,500
When you think back about 1936,
what you must do occasionally,

108
00:07:38,500 --> 00:07:40,180
what sort of an
impact do you think

109
00:07:40,180 --> 00:07:42,670
it had on your life,
these experiences?

110
00:07:42,670 --> 00:07:45,320

111
00:07:45,320 --> 00:07:51,050
I think it made me a lot tougher
to face what I had to face,

112
00:07:51,050 --> 00:07:55,040
and my fear was very, very
hard in the beginning.

113
00:07:55,040 --> 00:07:58,370
I've worked as a
housemaid for \$10 a week,

114
00:07:58,370 --> 00:08:02,660
and even though life
was a lot cheaper then,

115

00:08:02,660 --> 00:08:05,540

you couldn't get very
far with \$10 a day.

116

00:08:05,540 --> 00:08:07,280

My husband worked
as a house painter.

117

00:08:07,280 --> 00:08:11,030

Being a physician, he
worked as a house painter

118

00:08:11,030 --> 00:08:12,560

when he arrived over here.

119

00:08:12,560 --> 00:08:18,260

It made us, I think, tougher
what we went through.

120

00:08:18,260 --> 00:08:22,670

And it might have helped us,
even though it was a pretty

121

00:08:22,670 --> 00:08:24,020

tough school to go through.

122

00:08:24,020 --> 00:08:26,880

123

00:08:26,880 --> 00:08:28,680

Anything else you want to add?

124

00:08:28,680 --> 00:08:32,549

Well, one thing I
should mention maybe.

125

00:08:32,549 --> 00:08:39,120

I recently got a letter from
the German National Olympic

126

00:08:39,120 --> 00:08:45,450

Committee, and they invited

me to be the guest of honor

127
00:08:45,450 --> 00:08:52,860
at the Atlanta Olympic
Games from July the 19th

128
00:08:52,860 --> 00:08:58,110
until August the 3rd, and
although I have never gone back

129
00:08:58,110 --> 00:09:00,300
to Germany and
they had invited me

130
00:09:00,300 --> 00:09:04,800
before for some
other occasion, I

131
00:09:04,800 --> 00:09:07,410
have accepted this
invitation, and I

132
00:09:07,410 --> 00:09:11,220
think it'll be a very
emotional thing for me.

133
00:09:11,220 --> 00:09:16,440
But I said to my husband,
what goes around comes around,

134
00:09:16,440 --> 00:09:19,740
and I think I've got to make my
peace with this thing at last,

135
00:09:19,740 --> 00:09:26,850
even though it gnawed
on me all these years.

136
00:09:26,850 --> 00:09:28,710
And every time the
Olympics come around,

137
00:09:28,710 --> 00:09:31,080

I get mad as hell again.

138
00:09:31,080 --> 00:09:32,370
I say, why?

139
00:09:32,370 --> 00:09:35,250
Why did this happen to me?

140
00:09:35,250 --> 00:09:39,780
But I've got to
make peace before I

141
00:09:39,780 --> 00:09:43,040
go I'm going to go, up
or down, I don't know.

142
00:09:43,040 --> 00:09:45,660

143
00:09:45,660 --> 00:09:49,590
So I'm looking forward
to that, and I think

144
00:09:49,590 --> 00:09:51,630
it was a very nice gesture.

145
00:09:51,630 --> 00:09:53,190
They have tried to--

146
00:09:53,190 --> 00:09:57,470
and the town where
I come from also,

147
00:09:57,470 --> 00:09:59,970
they have tried very
hard to make amends.

148
00:09:59,970 --> 00:10:02,040
They take care of
the Jewish cemetery.

149
00:10:02,040 --> 00:10:04,860

Not a single Jew went
back to that town,

150
00:10:04,860 --> 00:10:10,390
but the citizens of the town
take care of the cemetery,

151
00:10:10,390 --> 00:10:13,440
and they have
Jewish artists come

152
00:10:13,440 --> 00:10:18,210
and they have all
kinds of activities

153
00:10:18,210 --> 00:10:25,330
to do not to let the Jewish
life that once was there die,

154
00:10:25,330 --> 00:10:30,130
and I think that helped me too,
because even though I would

155
00:10:30,130 --> 00:10:33,150
have never, never
thought of going back,

156
00:10:33,150 --> 00:10:37,200
I was invited three times
from the town to go.

157
00:10:37,200 --> 00:10:39,690
And some people went and
had a very good time.

158
00:10:39,690 --> 00:10:43,620
I said, no, I will never set
foot on German soil again,

159
00:10:43,620 --> 00:10:46,260
and I won't.

160
00:10:46,260 --> 00:10:49,110

I don't know how long I'll
last, but I'll never go back.

161
00:10:49,110 --> 00:10:51,340
But I did accept
that invitation,

162
00:10:51,340 --> 00:10:55,560
and I'm looking forward to it.

163
00:10:55,560 --> 00:10:57,330
One last question, I guess.

164
00:10:57,330 --> 00:11:00,050
Do you think-- this
is typical producer.

165
00:11:00,050 --> 00:11:03,390
Just one more question.

166
00:11:03,390 --> 00:11:09,930
Do you think had there been more
of a public reaction, boycott

167
00:11:09,930 --> 00:11:14,310
or whatever, that it would have
made any difference in terms

168
00:11:14,310 --> 00:11:16,080
of what followed the Olympics?

169
00:11:16,080 --> 00:11:21,350

170
00:11:21,350 --> 00:11:24,290
Any boycott that
would have happened

171
00:11:24,290 --> 00:11:27,740
would have influenced
only the Olympic games.

172

00:11:27,740 --> 00:11:32,630
That it would not have been
the huge success that Hitler

173
00:11:32,630 --> 00:11:36,650
expected from it,
but Hitler and Nazis,

174
00:11:36,650 --> 00:11:39,080
they would have gone
on no matter what,

175
00:11:39,080 --> 00:11:43,960
even if only one other
country would have shown up

176
00:11:43,960 --> 00:11:46,940
to participate in the Olympics.

177
00:11:46,940 --> 00:11:51,320
I don't think it had
anything to do with what

178
00:11:51,320 --> 00:11:52,680
he wanted to accomplish.

179
00:11:52,680 --> 00:11:57,590
He wanted to conquer the world,
and he would have gone forward

180
00:11:57,590 --> 00:11:59,210
no matter what,
and I don't think

181
00:11:59,210 --> 00:12:01,760
that the Olympics, in
that respect, had anything

182
00:12:01,760 --> 00:12:04,670
to do with it.

183
00:12:04,670 --> 00:12:07,320
In retrospect, do you think--

184
00:12:07,320 --> 00:12:08,480
do you have any feelings?

185
00:12:08,480 --> 00:12:10,820
I mean, you didn't have
much choice in Germany,

186
00:12:10,820 --> 00:12:12,320
but do you have
any feelings about

187
00:12:12,320 --> 00:12:14,780
German-- the Jewish athletes
in other countries who did

188
00:12:14,780 --> 00:12:18,890
participate that maybe they
should have stayed home?

189
00:12:18,890 --> 00:12:21,710
Well, there are two
train of thoughts.

190
00:12:21,710 --> 00:12:24,260

191
00:12:24,260 --> 00:12:26,870
They could have stayed home
or they could have come

192
00:12:26,870 --> 00:12:28,580
and showed what a Jew could do.

193
00:12:28,580 --> 00:12:31,010
As a matter of fact, I
think the high jump was

194
00:12:31,010 --> 00:12:35,840
won by a Czech
Jewish girl, and I

195

00:12:35,840 --> 00:12:38,970
think that was like
spitting in Hitler's eye.

196
00:12:38,970 --> 00:12:39,470
See?

197
00:12:39,470 --> 00:12:41,580
The Jews, they can do it.

198
00:12:41,580 --> 00:12:44,330
And I think there was
some that didn't come,

199
00:12:44,330 --> 00:12:46,790
and that was
whatever they wanted

200
00:12:46,790 --> 00:12:48,620
to decide about their lives.

201
00:12:48,620 --> 00:12:52,370
But I think they
only hurt themselves,

202
00:12:52,370 --> 00:12:55,850
and it didn't make an impact.

203
00:12:55,850 --> 00:13:03,266

204
00:13:03,266 --> 00:13:07,640
I think it had more
impact for the Jews

205
00:13:07,640 --> 00:13:12,020
to go there and beat the
Germans than to stay home

206
00:13:12,020 --> 00:13:13,250
and say I'm not going.

207

00:13:13,250 --> 00:13:17,210
I have that much respect
for myself that I won't go.

208
00:13:17,210 --> 00:13:19,580
I don't think that
that was the--

209
00:13:19,580 --> 00:13:22,730
the ones that did it,
I respect them for it.

210
00:13:22,730 --> 00:13:24,440
But the ones who
didn't do it, they

211
00:13:24,440 --> 00:13:26,180
have my respect
too, because they

212
00:13:26,180 --> 00:13:27,980
did what I would have them.

213
00:13:27,980 --> 00:13:28,760
Beat the Nazis.

214
00:13:28,760 --> 00:13:32,530

215
00:13:32,530 --> 00:13:33,620
Thank you.

216
00:13:33,620 --> 00:13:35,460
Thank you.

217
00:13:35,460 --> 00:15:43,211