

Tape three, side one:

GS: This is tape three, side one of an interview with Sylvia Ebner.

SE: Okay, so, you are ready?

GS: Eh, yes.

SE: Good? So I, I, she recognized my crying and she can tell, "Sylvia, what are you doing here? They didn't bring you back to your, to your sis--cousin." "What are you doing here? You were suppose to go to your mother?" "They didn't bring me back either. They dropped me off here. I am on that, up there, you know, on one of the..." She right away come down underneath with me, even so it was the ground, the cement floor, she give me back one of my top, the top of the pajama, and I hang up the, not just the top of the pajama, she gave me back all my pajama because I was, I have to take off my dress otherwise I would of stayed in the red dress, I would stay in the red dress, you know? She gave me back my pajama and I hang up on the side, we were crowding in, so I was hanging up somehow, I don't know how it stand that dress to dry up, I don't know. We were crying together, but we were together. It was like a, I don't know how to tell you, she was happy I was there and I was happy she was there, I mean, we have each other, we have each other. This place every morning, we have to get out and they took us to work. They catch us to work. We didn't volunteer but the Germans came--but I forget to tell you I was six week in that *revier* [sick quarters], under six week they came to select us Mengele, seven times. Well, my friend was there for other six weeks, five week and she was also on this side, there was a time on this side they select me next to her and I'm still alive. Six, seven time, I was there six week, seven time they was, she was there. He was there to select me, to put me to the crematorium and they never select. Would you believe it? I'm still here. But anyhow I was with her already so she have me, and I have her. We weren't gonna go separate nowhere, no matter where we going, we go together, we are going together but she was very smart. She was, not just smart, I was a *nebbish* all the time, I don't know why, my father didn't teach me for that. My father always said, "You should be strong, you shouldn't let yourself go, stand up and always for yourself," but this time every morning they come to select us to go to work, and they schlepp you, they pull you, they pull you. I have to--you have to go. If she, if they catch me, she come with me because we don't want to be separate, we don't want to be separated. Every time the poor kid when, they catch me all the time because we watched the Germans which side they coming. After nine you can go around, around the block, not nowhere but around, till nine o'clock you have to stand five line, five in one line, you know? After nine they said, "Okay, release." But we cannot go into the, into the house, into the building yet because they come to choose us to work. They catch me, so she come all the time too. There was a river, Vistula, the River Vistula, you heard about that river Vistula. It was raining, and it was such a big mud, the shoes was pulling off from your foot, from the mud. The clothing gets wet, they pull you to that work pit, they give a big piece of steel, steel piece, like this big, long, one

was holding on one end and one another was holding the other end, and we always push it together. We always went together, but that was nothing, we bring it over a narrow, narrow bridge, it was a narrow bridge. We have to walk with that on a narrow bridge, we bring it over to that side, the other two Jewish girls bring it back, again bring it over, bring it back, all day, we were doing that, all day. Bring the steel from this side to that side, from that side the other two people bringing it back. That was the job. I don't know how many days I was caught to do this, this things, but we already know what is waiting with, [unclear], we went back, and again, that was the work. Just to let us suffer, you know? It was raining and getting already cold, you know, November, almost October, November. One day finally they didn't catch us to work, then we can go in already to the room. Okay, we went into the room, we went into the room, my girlfriend went in, and then they catch me, catch me to the *Scheissewaggon*. You know what is the *Scheissewaggon*? At night, they don't let us to go to *Latrina*. There was a big wagon, you know like a, like here the, when they, when you build your house, you push it with that, with that, how you call that carriage? Or your dirt, you bring the dirt with that carriage or when you make your garden, you put the dirt on...

GS: A wheelbarrow.

SE: Wheelbarrow, okay? So we made on the wheelbarrow and we have to take it out. They catch me to take the wheelbarrow, my girlfriend was in already. That, we were already there in that place where we went to work, I don't know how many days already, how many, it was four weeks we were there already four weeks and every day we were caught to work, I was caught to work, she came along. This time I was caught to the, I'm telling you I was a *schlemiel*, they catch me, they catch me for *Scheissewaggon*, to take away the *Scheissewaggon* to the *Latrine* and push it down to the *Latrine*. It was raining and I was already so fed up, so fed up, I can't tell you. In the meantime, in the meantime before this *Latrine* thing, before this *Latrine*, one day [unclear], in the meantime one day, one day about after four weeks later they come, a German and a girl, come to select, what the heck to select? What for? Select to go to blood. Nobody wanted to go. Nobody wanted to go to blood.

GS: What is blood?

SE: They want to take blood from me.

GS: Oh to take blood, okay.

SE: Take blood from you.

GS: Umm humm.

SE: Nobody, they took up a few, they pull a few girl down, you know? And when they come back, they don't have the strength to work. They pull all the blood what they have in it. They pulled out all, that's what I said, if somebody was in scarlet, if somebody was in typhus, every people was put in this barrack, who was in typhus and become better, and who was in scarlet and become better, and they took the blood and from that blood they make the scarlet serum, you know? From that blood they were, they were,

they pull out from you, you know, they make the scarlet serum. I saw that there was a little girl upstairs, up, we were underneath and this little girl...

GS: In an upper barrack?

SE: Upper, upper, upper...

GS: A bunk, a bunk.

SE: Upper bunk, and she was, and they promised bread and the mother said, "Honey they don't give you bread, they just tell you. Don't go." "But I am so hungry," this young girl was. The mother couldn't talk her back, and she went, and she four, she come back with a four, hand and foot, she don't have the strength to stand. She was taken all her blood out, maybe they left a little bit, I don't know, just to crawl and she was crawling in. From that minute after we saw that, you know, the people coming back hardly can come back, walking on the, we were so scared, so scared, my girlfriend underneath. I tell you, if it would be, it was dark underneath, just at the beginning was light, you know, from the window. More deeper you go, it's dark. If there would be a mouse hole, we would go into the mouse hole, honestly. We got so scared. She was on that corner, I was on this corner, and was quiet like anything, then I saw when the German came with a plastic, black plastic a, a...

GS: Apron?

SE: Apron, full with blood, you know, full with blood. Pull the people down, pull the people from the *Covya* [bunk], she was--he was too lazy, he didn't know there was somebody underneath and we were so quiet. I still remember how I pushed myself to the wall. If there would have been a hole, a mouse hole, I would go in, I would go in the mouse hole. That was around, finished around three o'clock afternoon, she went--he went away. But I tell you that was a horrible thing, people was crying, screaming, pulling and when people was crawling back to the barrack. Three o'clock, all of the sudden *Zählappel*, three o'clock afternoon, *Zählappel*, what? Never have, *Zählappel*, three o'clock. It was four o'clock in the morning, and six o'clock at night, they were counting us okay?

GS: Ummm Hmmm.

SE: We said to our, to our girlfriend, we said for sure he don't get enough blood, and he solved the problem, everybody have to out and we'll finish, we're finished, that's all. We didn't know at that time what for they take the blood, we didn't know at that time, we heard it after. Anyhow we had no choice, we, my girlfriend and I, it was three barracks, it was *Zählappelling*, about 3,000 girls, you know, from three barracks was, and we were in the last barrack, and with my girlfriend we went up to the last minute, we were near the door, we had no choice, we have to go already. We were in the last line and they said--we were standing on the last line of the 3,000 peopl, 3,000 girls, three barracks, okay? And all of the sudden we were standing, all of the sudden they said, we were in the last line, and they said 'umdrehen, 'umdrehen means turn around, you know, turn around.

GS: Ummm Hmmm.

SE: We become the first one, till then we were the last, we were the last ones and we become the first one, this is it. March. March, where you march? We march near there where the shower room was, you know? That's it, we gonna, they gonna kill us. We for, we were sure they gonna take our blood out and that's it, they throw us in the crematorium. On the road about, we went about a mile and I, we heard that the Jewish girls who were helping to the, to the, the *Blockältester*, they were cleaning there, the *Blockältester* they were Polish girls in our line you know, hollering there take off your glasses because they gonna take you to a transport, take off your, you know, you tell them you know how to sew or you tell them you work in an office, that's why, you know, take off. So I figure Polaner that all, but they're friend, why would they holler that take off your glasses or, or you know how to sew, tell you are a sewer, but we were the first on the line, we had no choice, we had to march, and when I heard that, you know, and my girlfriend have glasses, she was, she was, she can see but she cannot work, she cannot sew. I said Dudush, her name was Dudush, take off your glasses and put it in somewhere, hide it somewhere. Well she hide it, she hide it under the, under the arm in the dress. It's really, they come a German and come a Jewish girl, a German girl, a German man and he was asking who is a sewer and who was working in the office, and I, right away, I learned to sew what I didn't sew at that time. I was fourteen and a half year old. But my father, my aunt was a dressmaker and she said you have to go to a corner to learn how to sew because you won't be there all the time, you must have something in your hand. My mother said, "No, I don't want her to go because if she sew, she learn how to sew..." my mother was a sewer here for ten year, my mother was working in a factory while she was in America. And she said, "If she gonna learn how to sew, she have to sew all her life," like she wouldn't know it, she knowed, she felt it. "I don't want her to go, to learn to sew." And my father said, "Yes, she must learn a trade." So at night my aunt was teaching me how to sew and I said right away, "I am a sewer." I was in the first line and my girlfriend, she come right after me. I am, I work in an office, she don't wait, so we were there from the 3,000 girls they choose about 35 girls all together, 35 girls from the 3,000. They took us in one place, you know? And then we march back and the rest of the girls march back to the barrack too. We all march back to the barrack. Then went one week, went two week, they still-- they catch us again to work, catch us again to work, catch me to work, my girlfriend come with me because she don't want to be alone, and finally that morning they didn't catch us. She went in and they catch me to for the *Scheissewaggon*, she looked back, I wasn't there already. That was after three or four weeks and they choose us for this transport, and it was raining, and I was so disappointed and so much low. I was coming back from the *Scheissewaggon* walking slowly because then we can go into the barrack, okay? In the meantime, I met some people from the next town, the Tokaj and I asked her, "Where you from?" She said, "I am from Tokaj" "Do you know my cousin?" "Yes, I know Edith. I know Rachel," so we were already friends, you know? But we were walking slowly, and finally I went into my, my, I want to go into the house, into the barrack and she was in

another barrack. In a minute I run in to her, "I saw my girlfriend," you know? "My *Lager* sister." "Where, were you, I didn't you see you. I said, "They catch me too." "They want to put somebody into your place, we gonna go with the transport. Where, were you?" They want to put in--the Polish Jews, they want to put in--once they said the Hungarian, I don't know, you were there when the Polish woman said the Hungarian was very bad to us, the Hungarian people was very bad to us. He said to me, when I never hurt nobody, he was like wanted to kill me right then in that synagogue, you know? And the Polish people, I'll tell you between you and me, they were [unclear], they were there very long. No wonder they become like rude. They were looking only for themselves, you know? They were there three year and we were there one year, you know? So in a way they have the right because they were there too long and they become like rude and they steal and everything the food away, when they give it to all the *Lager* and all the people, and those Polish girls, they take it for themselves, for their relatives and everybody, and we don't have to eat nothing, bread they steal. We don't eat the food anyhow, I mean the soup, but the bread they take it, they cut it instead of giving us a pieces like that, they give us a pieces like that and they steal it for their relatives. Maybe I would do it too, if I would have, you know. But anyhow, she was screaming, "Where, were you? They taking us away to the transport." And first I went into my line to 35 people were--from the three barrack was 35, from there was maybe 15, maybe 10 from that barrack--and finally they took us to the shower room to take another shower room, that's for the shower, to take us a shower and they give us other clothing, you know. And finally they put us up on the train, winter, it was already winter--cold. It was November, end, beginning of Decem, December. They give us a whole bread, oh my God a whole bread, and some wurst--liverwurst and some jam. We couldn't believe it, we have whole bread; but why would they give us the whole bread? We were not thinking we gonna travel from the mid, from the middle of the week till the end of the week, you know, on the train. We were not thinking, you know. But in the meantime, when they put us into the train and it wasn't SS, it was *Wehrmacht*.

GS: Oh, okay.

SE: That was already *Wehrmacht*, okay. And they were not so rude, like the SS. They still have SS you pass before they bring us to the train, but they put us on that train and bring the bread and it was straw on the floor. That was a horse board, not a regular train. It wasn't regular train. It was a, you know, those that they bring the merchandise and the horses, and still not a regular train but still was ground clean, clean on the floor and they close the door and the German was sitting near the door, you know, and we were sitting where ever we can sit, on the floor. But in the meantime, the German was trying, sing us, was singing a song. I don't know what was the song but I still have the memory in my ear, "*The lolla, lolla ha, the scweitzza boone la ha*" [phonetic], he was in a good mood and something give me a good feeling, it must be, they must be taking us to a good place. Something like that, if you tell us, you know, something, the voice, he was like a [unclear] star, you know, when they were singing. Finally we went down from the train in maybe

three days to go, three nights, three days, cold like anything, there's no cover, nothing, but they have no cover either, they were just sitting on the door, you know, the two Germans were sitting on the door and we were going and going. Finally we went down from the train and we had to walk for the other big wagon, to go up on the big wagon. It was snowing, snow already and on the snow, I find a--not a plum, not a plum, a--pear. It was [unclear] on the floor, not on the floor, on the snow. Oh, my God, I didn't see a piece of fruit, a piece of food since we left Hungary, you know, and that, that, now that piece of pear, naturally we shared it with my girlfriend, you know, because she was there with me and they bring us in. It was a school, it was a, it was a school, a big building but they made out of the factory from it. It was in, it was in Oberhohen-elbe, Oberhohen-elbe, that was Sudeten Germany, become Sudeten Germany, and we were working downstairs, my girlfriend work upstairs and I was working downstairs, but I was worrying, how's she gonna work without the glasses? If she gonna put up the glasses, what they gonna say but she had no choice, but they don't say nothing there. It was private people, it was a factory to make lamps for submarine, radio and all kinds of tubes from glass in this factory. And we were, we have a German, a German woman, we have a German woman for four of us was taking care, and we had to work from morning six o'clock, till at night six o'clock, on one slice of bread, one potatoes and some kind of a soup, soup which wasn't so bad. At night when we go back then we get that one. And this woman was a Hungarian, she was a maid in Hungary, she speak a few words in Hungarian, who was taking care of us. And she was, in a way, nice and let me tell you one thing, between you there was also some nice people. This, you wouldn't believe it but there was human being between you too. We would die hunger if this woman didn't steal. One day she steal a piece of, a sandwich for me, one day she bring a sandwich for the other girl but not to say a word because she would be killed, if she would, they would see that, where we going, we were working on the *schleie*. I was working on the *schneife* machine [cutting machine] and we have to watch it. You know the lamp on the radio from, all the pieces is inside. My girlfriend was doing that, she put the pieces in those lamps. And I was making, make it sure with the *schleifen* machine, the machine was going like this, and making sure it's straight, every minute have to check if it's straight, that glass bottom because that had to be very straight. And we said, I never going to drink from glass no more, we have some kind of that, some kind of a powder, we have to put it, it was a hole here and have to put that powder there on top of the *schleifen* machine, eat up our hand. Yeah, you should have seen, we were full with, full with sh--with wound, because that thing what was strong for that, eating up the glass part, you know that eat up our hand, both of our hand because it work on both hand, and food, we were so hungry already if that woman once in a while didn't give a piece, we would drop dead right there, honestly. But in a way, they were taking us even for *spazieren*, would you believe it, every Sunday. They take us *spazieren*, the *Aufsehen*, *Aufschen*, the German SS, they take us for walk, they take us for walk, and we saw the free people was walking free, the people was walking free. We were even jealous for the birds because we

were closed in, fenced in. We were jealous for the birds, to see a bird free, to go and fly free, we were even jealous of that. And this *Aufschen*--when we went at night too--I was working dayshift and my girlfriend was working nightshift but somehow like, we don't never have a watch, but like we synchronize it, we met at the toilet every night. We met, we didn't have no food but we would say hello to each other and there was a washroom and we met there every night, just like the watch was ringed and you wake you up, like, like a, we don't even know what time is it, what time was it, we have no watch, but we met every time at the toilet because during the day we cannot meet because she was working at night. There was an *Aufschen* sitting on the corner, sometime you don't know if he going tell them, "*Aufsehen* can I go *rausgehen*, can I go out to the toilet?" If you wake them up, they could be so mad they could of kill you. If you don't gonna say, "Can I go out," and if they catch you they figure you gonna, you wanna walk out on you--on them. Anyhow I was sewing for the *Aufsehen* a blue shirt--short. I didn't get nothing for it, absolutely nothing, nothing, not even a potato, but she find out I am a sewer, you know, so she bring me material, by hand, there was no machine, by hand I was sewing her shorts. We were there, working there till May, last week of April, a slice of bread, one potatoes, and a little bit of soup. We were so skinny, if we would have to wait, stay there for two more week, I don't think I would make it. I hardly have the strength to work already, to work from 6 o'clock till 6 o'clock at night, not to eat, you know? And it was just horrible, you just can't, can't get no food. Once I find when we went around the kitchen, there was a kitchen, their kitchen, not ours, a pail of potatoes, and I find it. You know what a delicacy that was? I never eat such a good thing like that, never in my life, never.

GS: Is this the place where you were liberated?

SE: Yes, this is the place I was liberated. How we know, we didn't know we liberated. We just notice in the morning we going, one night, you know, I want to meet my, my girlfriend, there was no *Aufsehen* and there was nobody at the toilet, you know toilet was blocked up, blocked up right away, right away blocked up the toilet, everything. There was no work. They come back, you know, the, the, my girlfriend, they come back. Everybody was in the room at once, you know, in that big, big room. It was a big, big room and we look out the window, the German was escaping. Just they look like exactly like we did, with the horse and buggy they bring their stuff and they were going, they were trying to escape. Exactly that's the way we look like they were escaping from the, it was coming the Russian, I was liberated by the Russian, and they were running away not to get caught by the Russians.

GS: And when was this?

SE: That was the end of April.

GS: 1945?

SE: 1945, end of April, first of May.

GS: Okay.

SE: First of May they come in and they said, "Girls you are liberated." We couldn't believe it, we are liberated. We hardly have the strength to walk already. Only the thing, then they took us, the Russian took us to a camp where they have, there were the soldiers, there was food there, but they couldn't give us fast the food because we would drop dead, if we would eat too fast the food. Slowly, they were trying to build us up, slowly, slowly.

GS: What city was this in?

SE: Oberhochenalbe, Oberhochenalbe that was in, that was in Oberhochenalbe. In Czech they call it Rychlavi. That was Sudeten Germany, that was Sudeten Germany. Yeah, and from after that, when I come home, I was 40 like now, kilo, 42 kilo, after six week liberation, after six weeks eating, 42 kilo. I was so skinny like, I mean even then.

GS: So you went home to look for your father?

SE: Then I went home and my father voice came to me, first thing you will try to go home, but how you gonna go home? They, the Russian, they put you up on a train again, again horse and buggy train. The girls who went to Hungary, who went to Czechoslovakia, you know? They give us a piece of bread, a nice piece of bread, they were giving us salute with gun, you know? And we went about couple hour, and all of the sudden the train stop, and we were getting already hungry, toilet, we have to go to toilet. How toilet, who gonna go to the toilet, how can you go to the toilet again? You are in the cars, so one of the, two of the girls go down, two of the girls go down and she said, "We gonna go to see, we gonna go to see where is, where are we?" They are coming back and two Russian soldiers running after them like crazy, they want to catch them and we heard that, we saw that *Davay chasy* [Give me the watch.] We don't know what is *chasy*, *chasy* is clock. They were trying to tear off her, from her hand the *chasy*. I don't know where she took the *chasy* but she had the watch. *Davay Borisa* we don't know what is *Borisa*, they want to make fun for the girls. You don't know how we were, like do you ever see a chicken *kop*, chicken *kop* [head] and the chicken run out going the... [tape three, side one ended]

Tape three, side two:

GS: This is side two of tape three with Sylvia Ebner.

SE: So when this two soldiers come in and we saw if she was carrying down the watch and want to catch her, we like, we were running out, flying out from the, but where we gonna go? There is no, there was no train, there was no nothing to go, the station was bombed down, we have to walk miles and miles till they meet the other station where it wasn't bombed down, okay? So we were sitting there for a couple hours and then comes the night, you have to do something, you have to rest and then you go further, we were, this girl, my girlfriend, Edit, Zsuzsi my other young girl and Zsuzsi and me, we were four and one more, one more girl from, also from Hungary, we were all together the three of us, well, the four--the five of us, you know? We were starting to go to somewhere to lay down. So where can we lay down? This time we have already not a blanket, those horse cover, what you call those? Cover, you know some cover, those light thing, those light things...

GS: Not a blanket?

SE: Not a blanket, regular blanket but...

GS: Like a throw?

SE: Throw, like a wools, gray things, you know, everybody was the first thing you bring yourself, a cover and when they said we gonna go, so we are one underneath and we were one on the top but I have to go to the toilet, and toilet, there was no toilet, so go to the bushes. So my girlfriend, I told my girlfriend, I have to go and I come back, can you shut it for please a minute. [tape shut off temporarily] So from that station, we went, we have to make another station to go home, that was still in Sudeten Germany, and we went walking to meet the, to get, to meet the next train where it wasn't bombed down, the road, you know, you should have seen all the soldiers, it was horrible. All the soldiers, all around, Hungarian soldiers they were coming back from the front, Jews was coming back and Russian, Russian soldiers. Finally, we are, I am, we were watching very much so, walking, walking, walking, and we met, they said afternoon gonna go on train from here. We were sitting down, there was no food. We eat already that food up.

GS: Sylvia...

SE: Yeah..

GS: I'm sorry to interrupt you. I'd like to, to have you tell me what happened when you got back to your village?

SE: My town?

GS: Yes.

SE: First thing, you wanted to go back to there but you have to watch all the time from the Russian because they gonna catch girlfriend, and I, we went to Budapest, she met her, we met the Joint,⁵ there was already Joint, there was already the Joint. They give

⁵Joint Distribution Committee.

us thousand five hundred florin. That was enough for a good slice of bread, a good size of bread, you know, a haircut or something but her aunt was waiting there because everybody know in this place if any Jew comes home from Germany, they going to go into that Joint place, they call it Joint. All the Jews went in that place, and they give you food there right away, they give you thousand, five, and some clothing, some, some...

GS: Okay.

SE: Clean clothing, you know? And her aunt right away took us down to her house, her house in Budapest. She said, "Your mother is here." She met her mother already home. I didn't know my cousins, where are my cousins. Your mother is here so she was very happy and your boyfriend is coming. Your boyfriend is home already. She was very happy. Anyhow they put me up, next day, my *lager* sister and her aunt take me to Budapest, to the train station. In the meantime, I have a haircut, put me up on the train station and in the train there was a, I recognize it. He, she recognize me, he recognize me, I don't recognize it. He was already an elderly boy and he recognizes me as a child, you know? And he was going home too and the train arrived from morning till at night, 12 o'clock where I live, and the train station already my uncle was waiting, who, he came home by himself and one of my cousin who visit me here, 1983. She went back and four days later was died, she dead.

GS: She was, in Hungary and then...

SE: She was here and...

GS: [unclear].

SE: She was in Hungary, she was in Hungary and I came out from Hungary too, you know, and she stayed there because she married, and then she come out to visit me, she was here, four days later she died. But, but what I want...

GS: So you got home--you're home.

SE: I got home, I got home to my town. The minute, you must shut this, shut it for a minute. Shut it for one minute.

GS: Okay. [tape shut off temporarily].

SE: So when I went home, my uncle was waiting at the station and my cousin. Right away they went there, I was happy because they were home. In the morning, I must go to see my house, I must go to my home. I thought I gonna find my home the same way like I left it, although I know they went in to steal, but I didn't figure they gonna steal everything from the house. It was full with horse manure, the house, we have a flat house, one house, one floor, everything goes in one floor. The store was in one floor, the house, the rooms was in one floor and it was full with horse manure. The German put it in, horses, all the Jewish houses, where they were a Jewish home and the next town, two mile away, where I went to school, every house was occupied with the horses and the store, my store, my parents have a store because we live in the country and we have animals, even the store was taken off. It was about that far up, about one wall was high, about maybe a yard and a half, all the stone because everything was built in stone there in Hungary, we have stone

mine near us, everything was built in stone, they still, even the top of the clay, we have red clay tops in the houses, not like here the houses, every house was red clay, but the houses was standing but no window was, not one window was, that all the windows was torn out because people said the German horses was looking out of the windows. It was full with horse manure. What I find, I find one of my doll, but I was never suppose to play with that because somebody, one of my cousins from here, America, she has, he has the factory. The Ideal Doll factory was his. And he send it to my one of my cousins and when my cousin growed it out, she give it to me, that Sylvia, she give it to me. I find that doll sitting on the top of the horse manure and my mother's sewing machine. That's all I find, nothing at all, not one old dress what my mother was wear to remind my mother for that. But I saw half, about a yard and a half of one wall was standing, and the minute I saw this wall I know I find the jewelry, because before we went to the concentration camp, before we went to the ghetto, my father, he was a very smart man. They give in to the townhalls whatever they think we have jewelry, but my mother lived in America for ten year and all her money she was saving for the house if she come home and jewelry, she was bringing home a lot of jewelry, and they never knowed that, he have, she have it. And my father before they took us to the ghetto, he opened up in the store, one hole and put in a straw and put in cement, cement it in except the straw was standing out and she send, he send me in to see, go in the store and see where you find fresh cement because the stone was cemented, all cemented together, and you find the fresh cement, there I put the jewelry and he said, "Go in, first you, and then mommy." I said, "Why can't..." I said to myself, "Why can't we go together?" you know? I couldn't understand it. When I come home and I saw that the only wall was standing, full with grass, the grass was up to my knee, the house was full with horse manure, not a knife, nothing I find it, everything was torn. I said, I gonna go over one of my neighbor house and I gonna ask a knife from her. And I said, "Can you come with me, Mrs. Sznuznyk?" In the meantime, I find on the floor, the chicken was drinking from a beautiful dish what my mother was the dowry in Europe. When somebody get married, they don't give money, they give present, dowry, they call it, they call it...

GS: Yeah.

SE: All kind of ceramic or things like that and my mother never let me to, never let me to drink from that, eat from that thing because we gonna be good when you got a big, when you gonna be a big girl. I said, "Where did you take this Mrs. Sznuznyk?" "I don't know. One kid bring it here." So naturally, I right away picked it up. In the meantime, I look in the, in the stall, I saw my cow, my mother cow there. "How come-- the name was *Pirosh*, reddy.⁶ How come *Pirosh* come here?" "Ahh, they take mine and I take yours." Not even think to give me back, no way, or the house to give me back, no way. I have to go to the city, her had to fight it, that was my father's house and I want it, I want back the house. "No, the German give it to us," you know? So I said, "Why don't

⁶*Pirosh* is Hungarian for the color red.

you clean it up? Why did, why is it full of horse manure? Why don't you clean it up?" Anyhow when I saw that, you know, the doll and the house was full, the ground was full with big, big thing, you know? So this, when she saw, I took out the jewelry, she saw I'm taking out the jewelry, she was looking, what are you doing there? "You know, what?" I said, "You see my father outsmart you." My father, and that's the jewelry I save my life when I escape from Hungary to go to Canada, that was the jewelry I bribed down the Czechoslovakian *gendarme*, police. The, if not that, I wouldn't find it, I wouldn't be able to come, because I need some money to bribe them. They catch us. The Czech, the Czech catch us. Can I use your phone for a minute?

GS: Certainly. [tape shut off] [tape three, side two ended, interview end]