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| Interviewee: | <u>WEISS</u> , Esther | Date: | December 14, 1988 |
| Interviewer: | Meta Joy Jacoby | | |
| Audio tapes: | 1 English | Transcript: | Not transcribed yet |
| Restrictions: | None | | |

SUMMARY

Esther Weiss, nee Melmed, is the daughter of survivor Sara Melmed. (See also her mother's interview RG-50.462.0417) Esther was born in 1947 in a German Displaced Persons camp. She details her personal experience as the daughter of survivors.

Both parents, Max and Sarah, were born in Poland and spent the war years in the Soviet Union. They met in a DP camp in the USSR where they married and had their first child, a son, in 1945.

The family moved to Pittsburgh, PA in 1949 where her father worked as a laborer in a factory. Her brother attended a yeshiva and she went to public school. Money was often an issue and Esther different because of her parents' past. They lived with a community of survivors; she felt she didn't fit into a community of wealthy Jews nor did she feel their support.

She describes growing up knowing something terrible happened to her parents so she felt she shouldn't upset them. Her family's message was 'something terrible happened in the past, but be tough and don't dwell on it.' She was embarrassed and ashamed of her parents socially due to the different foods and language and she felt her job was to help them assimilate. She tried to please her parents all the time and sought to be a high achiever.

She reflects that the difference between the child of refugees and survivors is that both want to assimilate but survivor's children feel a need to protect their parents.