

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:48,610

2

00:00:48,610 --> 00:00:52,870

This morning is  
January 20, 1999.

3

00:00:52,870 --> 00:00:58,450

We're at the Temple Beth El  
at 1700 Alameda de las Pulgas

4

00:00:58,450 --> 00:01:01,300

in San Mateo, California.

5

00:01:01,300 --> 00:01:04,959

We are interviewing  
Walter Saphir.

6

00:01:04,959 --> 00:01:06,910

My name is Peter  
Ryan, interviewer.

7

00:01:06,910 --> 00:01:12,130

And Graham Salminger is doing  
the videotaping with help

8

00:01:12,130 --> 00:01:14,110

from--

9

00:01:14,110 --> 00:01:14,980

Trevor and--

10

00:01:14,980 --> 00:01:18,630

[INAUDIBLE]

11

00:01:18,630 --> 00:01:22,980

Could we begin by my asking you  
where and when you were born?

12

00:01:22,980 --> 00:01:25,200

I was born in Vienna, Austria.

13  
00:01:25,200 --> 00:01:26,920  
What year?

14  
00:01:26,920 --> 00:01:29,220  
1927.

15  
00:01:29,220 --> 00:01:33,010  
And how many people  
were in your family?

16  
00:01:33,010 --> 00:01:39,370  
Immediate family, at that time,  
at my birth, father, mother,

17  
00:01:39,370 --> 00:01:41,890  
and older brother.

18  
00:01:41,890 --> 00:01:45,260  
And could you give their names?

19  
00:01:45,260 --> 00:01:49,450  
My father's name was  
Armin, A-R-M-I-N, Saphir.

20  
00:01:49,450 --> 00:01:54,070  
My mother was Elsa  
Saphir nee [? Popper. ?]

21  
00:01:54,070 --> 00:01:57,520  
My brother's name  
is Kurt Saphir.

22  
00:01:57,520 --> 00:02:00,430  
And how much older  
was he then you?

23  
00:02:00,430 --> 00:02:02,620  
Almost two years  
older than myself.

24  
00:02:02,620 --> 00:02:03,370

Ten?

25

00:02:03,370 --> 00:02:04,076

Two.

26

00:02:04,076 --> 00:02:04,890

Two.

27

00:02:04,890 --> 00:02:07,918

Now could you describe  
the living conditions

28

00:02:07,918 --> 00:02:08,710

when you were born?

29

00:02:08,710 --> 00:02:12,400

30

00:02:12,400 --> 00:02:17,050

We lived comfortable  
probably in the middle class

31

00:02:17,050 --> 00:02:19,930

area in Vienna.

32

00:02:19,930 --> 00:02:30,670

Initially, we all lived in  
an area which was, I believe,

33

00:02:30,670 --> 00:02:35,110

the 18th District in Vienna.

34

00:02:35,110 --> 00:02:41,830

My grandparents owned a  
very large piano business

35

00:02:41,830 --> 00:02:45,100

in the center of Vienna,  
in the 2nd District.

36

00:02:45,100 --> 00:02:49,450

And upon her death,

who was basically

37

00:02:49,450 --> 00:02:54,700  
the leading light of the piano  
business, my father took over.

38

00:02:54,700 --> 00:02:58,550  
And we moved into  
that area then.

39

00:02:58,550 --> 00:03:01,600  
How old were you then?

40

00:03:01,600 --> 00:03:04,930  
I think I was five.

41

00:03:04,930 --> 00:03:07,870  
Do you remember that change?

42

00:03:07,870 --> 00:03:13,180  
I remember the  
change in the sense

43

00:03:13,180 --> 00:03:20,440  
that the entire floor of a very  
large building in that area

44

00:03:20,440 --> 00:03:25,390  
existed 1/3 of the apartment  
where we lived then.

45

00:03:25,390 --> 00:03:27,580  
Because my grandmother  
had nine children,

46

00:03:27,580 --> 00:03:30,160  
who were all raised in  
that particular apartment.

47

00:03:30,160 --> 00:03:33,160  
And then the piano business  
occupied the other 2/3

48

00:03:33,160 --> 00:03:36,430  
of that same floor.

49

00:03:36,430 --> 00:03:41,050  
And so the size was somewhat  
overwhelming initially.

50

00:03:41,050 --> 00:03:45,100  
So you moved into the  
2nd District about 1932.

51

00:03:45,100 --> 00:03:48,520  
Approximately, '32, '33  
if I remember correctly.

52

00:03:48,520 --> 00:03:52,565  
Could you describe  
your early schooling?

53

00:03:52,565 --> 00:03:53,065  
Yes.

54

00:03:53,065 --> 00:03:56,140

55

00:03:56,140 --> 00:03:59,710  
Clearly, I started  
schooling after we

56

00:03:59,710 --> 00:04:03,910  
had moved into the 2nd  
District, the normal kind

57

00:04:03,910 --> 00:04:08,050  
of public school in two  
adjoining buildings,

58

00:04:08,050 --> 00:04:11,560  
boys in one and the  
girls in the next,

59

00:04:11,560 --> 00:04:18,640

where you attend elementary school which lasted four years.

60

00:04:18,640 --> 00:04:24,310

After that, I went into the high school, quote "gymnasium",

61

00:04:24,310 --> 00:04:27,970

as it was called at that particular time, which

62

00:04:27,970 --> 00:04:29,620

also was in 2nd District.

63

00:04:29,620 --> 00:04:32,050

And coincidentally, my father had gone there, too,

64

00:04:32,050 --> 00:04:36,820

and so did most of his brothers, where

65

00:04:36,820 --> 00:04:48,520

I went until the I think was until Crystal Night, November

66

00:04:48,520 --> 00:04:56,950

1938, after which Jewish students were kicked out.

67

00:04:56,950 --> 00:05:04,030

And we went to a gymnasium, which

68

00:05:04,030 --> 00:05:11,290

was a Jewish gymnasium, subsequently until my departure

69

00:05:11,290 --> 00:05:11,920

from Vienna.

70

00:05:11,920 --> 00:05:15,280

71  
00:05:15,280 --> 00:05:19,502  
Any particular memories  
stand out of your schooling?

72  
00:05:19,502 --> 00:05:24,430

73  
00:05:24,430 --> 00:05:31,270  
Probably the most, as far  
as school is concerned,

74  
00:05:31,270 --> 00:05:36,520  
the most evident  
memory I have is

75  
00:05:36,520 --> 00:05:40,960  
the way we were forced  
to leave the school.

76  
00:05:40,960 --> 00:05:46,660  
It was pretty well-organized,  
in the sense that the younger

77  
00:05:46,660 --> 00:05:55,000  
youngsters, below the age of 13,  
could leave either on their own

78  
00:05:55,000 --> 00:05:58,570  
or be picked up on  
that memorable day,

79  
00:05:58,570 --> 00:06:00,830  
whereas the kids who  
were 13 and older,

80  
00:06:00,830 --> 00:06:05,110  
up to about the age of 18 when  
people went to the gymnasium,

81  
00:06:05,110 --> 00:06:08,920  
were systematically beaten  
up as we were leaving.

82

00:06:08,920 --> 00:06:19,090

And very generously, one of  
the older, non-Jewish boys,

83

00:06:19,090 --> 00:06:24,370

clearly an Aryan boy, very  
kindly explained to the parents

84

00:06:24,370 --> 00:06:27,430

that the younger kids  
would not be beaten up,

85

00:06:27,430 --> 00:06:30,710

and they could go  
home unhindered.

86

00:06:30,710 --> 00:06:32,140

And you were still young enough?

87

00:06:32,140 --> 00:06:32,860

I was young.

88

00:06:32,860 --> 00:06:36,470

89

00:06:36,470 --> 00:06:39,500

And do you know the history of  
your family, how long they've

90

00:06:39,500 --> 00:06:40,400

been in Austria?

91

00:06:40,400 --> 00:06:42,050

Yes.

92

00:06:42,050 --> 00:06:45,470

Actually, on my  
father's side, it

93

00:06:45,470 --> 00:06:51,620

must be dating back to the



late 18th century, early 19th.

94

00:06:51,620 --> 00:06:55,760

There's a very famous great,  
great, great grandparent,

95

00:06:55,760 --> 00:07:03,350

whose name is Moritz Gottlieb  
Saphir, who in the early 1800s

96

00:07:03,350 --> 00:07:08,330

was a music critic, a  
satirist, a humorist.

97

00:07:08,330 --> 00:07:12,600

In fact, coincidentally,  
about three weeks ago,

98

00:07:12,600 --> 00:07:16,100

a friend of mine drew my  
attention to an article

99

00:07:16,100 --> 00:07:18,710

in The Wall Street Journal  
that mentioned him.

100

00:07:18,710 --> 00:07:21,470

101

00:07:21,470 --> 00:07:27,350

So I presume from that,  
it dates back that far.

102

00:07:27,350 --> 00:07:32,300

I mean, it's well known that--  
and the Jews of the second Jews

103

00:07:32,300 --> 00:07:38,540

were permitted to live in  
Vienna, which means after 1780.

104

00:07:38,540 --> 00:07:42,890

And a large part of the

family came from Prague

105

00:07:42,890 --> 00:07:46,100  
and had been living in Prague  
for many, many, many years.

106

00:07:46,100 --> 00:07:49,640  
And that's really  
my mother's family,

107

00:07:49,640 --> 00:07:52,040  
of whom I know very little,  
because the grandparents had

108

00:07:52,040 --> 00:07:57,920  
died before my birth, were,  
as far as I knew, Viennese.

109

00:07:57,920 --> 00:08:00,230  
But she didn't talk much  
about their backgrounds,

110

00:08:00,230 --> 00:08:02,190  
so I don't know.

111

00:08:02,190 --> 00:08:05,210  
Do you know where they  
came from in Austria?

112

00:08:05,210 --> 00:08:06,680  
I think it's  
probably Vienna, too.

113

00:08:06,680 --> 00:08:09,400

114

00:08:09,400 --> 00:08:14,840  
Was that by decree  
that in 1780, you say?

115

00:08:14,840 --> 00:08:18,680  
Early 1800s, I'm  
not exactly sure.

116  
00:08:18,680 --> 00:08:20,210  
But there are quite  
a lot of books

117  
00:08:20,210 --> 00:08:22,820  
written by him still  
available apparently,

118  
00:08:22,820 --> 00:08:26,180  
secondhand stores in Vienna.

119  
00:08:26,180 --> 00:08:29,710  
So he mandated that Jews  
were allowed to live in--

120  
00:08:29,710 --> 00:08:35,840  
He, apparently,  
yes, as you know,

121  
00:08:35,840 --> 00:08:40,460  
you know, there was a great,  
perhaps not at that age,

122  
00:08:40,460 --> 00:08:46,010  
but rather in the Herzl's  
time, Herzl initially

123  
00:08:46,010 --> 00:08:47,810  
felt that the best  
thing for Jews

124  
00:08:47,810 --> 00:08:51,200  
was to be all baptized, before  
he realized with the Dreyfus

125  
00:08:51,200 --> 00:08:53,710  
case that there  
would be no help.

126  
00:08:53,710 --> 00:08:56,960  
Dreyfus being baptized,  
to be baptized as a Jew,

127  
00:08:56,960 --> 00:09:03,380  
and began the Zionist trade,  
move to Israel, Palestine

128  
00:09:03,380 --> 00:09:05,000  
at the time.

129  
00:09:05,000 --> 00:09:06,200  
But many were baptized.

130  
00:09:06,200 --> 00:09:07,490  
I don't really know.

131  
00:09:07,490 --> 00:09:12,390  
Not, no one that I know in  
my family had been baptized.

132  
00:09:12,390 --> 00:09:17,900  
They were the very typical,  
so-called assimilated Jew

133  
00:09:17,900 --> 00:09:19,490  
of central Europe.

134  
00:09:19,490 --> 00:09:21,590  
Were they very  
religious, your parents?

135  
00:09:21,590 --> 00:09:22,500  
Not at all.

136  
00:09:22,500 --> 00:09:23,960  
Not at all.

137  
00:09:23,960 --> 00:09:26,346  
What kind of religious  
training did you get?

138  
00:09:26,346 --> 00:09:30,080

139

00:09:30,080 --> 00:09:32,660

We'll get into that a  
little bit later, I'm sure.

140

00:09:32,660 --> 00:09:36,290

It's probably, I would call  
it, very close to zero.

141

00:09:36,290 --> 00:09:38,120

None of us were ever baptized.

142

00:09:38,120 --> 00:09:41,660

I think all of us were  
aware we were Jewish.

143

00:09:41,660 --> 00:09:46,310

And it's also in  
Austria, the law

144

00:09:46,310 --> 00:09:52,490

stated that I think once a week  
Protestants, of whom there were

145

00:09:52,490 --> 00:09:57,320

not too many in Catholic  
Austria in the first place, Jews

146

00:09:57,320 --> 00:10:00,770

and Catholic had to have  
religious education.

147

00:10:00,770 --> 00:10:03,260

I don't know whether it  
was one hour a week or so.

148

00:10:03,260 --> 00:10:04,640

In the school?

149

00:10:04,640 --> 00:10:06,410

In the schools, in  
the public schools.

150

00:10:06,410 --> 00:10:08,030

Did you have that?

151

00:10:08,030 --> 00:10:09,560

Yes.

152

00:10:09,560 --> 00:10:13,100

And how many were  
there in your class?

153

00:10:13,100 --> 00:10:15,555

I really don't remember it.

154

00:10:15,555 --> 00:10:18,200

155

00:10:18,200 --> 00:10:19,520

I know, you separated.

156

00:10:19,520 --> 00:10:21,480

I don't think  
anything was unusual.

157

00:10:21,480 --> 00:10:26,630

It was in the elementary school,  
you know, until I was about 10.

158

00:10:26,630 --> 00:10:29,420

But I must frankly say,  
in the elementary school,

159

00:10:29,420 --> 00:10:33,730

I never remember any  
negative reaction

160

00:10:33,730 --> 00:10:35,150

on the part of the other kids.

161

00:10:35,150 --> 00:10:38,450

Because clearly, at that time,  
everybody knew who was Jewish.

162

00:10:38,450 --> 00:10:40,220

Because this was  
a legal situation

163

00:10:40,220 --> 00:10:43,010

of having to attend  
religious education.

164

00:10:43,010 --> 00:10:43,510

Right.

165

00:10:43,510 --> 00:10:46,745

But no, no backlash at  
all that you remember.

166

00:10:46,745 --> 00:10:49,820

No, on the contrary,  
I would say,

167

00:10:49,820 --> 00:10:54,140

I mean, I remember  
that favorably I,

168

00:10:54,140 --> 00:10:58,070

at the graduation ceremony  
when I was 10, you know,

169

00:10:58,070 --> 00:10:59,870

there were all sorts  
of things happening.

170

00:10:59,870 --> 00:11:02,773

And I know I was  
playing the piano.

171

00:11:02,773 --> 00:11:04,190

And then I was  
playing the violin.

172

00:11:04,190 --> 00:11:09,650

This was the thing one did  
in Vienna at that time.

173

00:11:09,650 --> 00:11:13,340  
One doesn't do it now anymore.

174  
00:11:13,340 --> 00:11:14,712  
Could you describe your father?

175  
00:11:14,712 --> 00:11:15,420  
What was he like?

176  
00:11:15,420 --> 00:11:18,410

177  
00:11:18,410 --> 00:11:29,300  
My father who was very  
hardworking businessman.

178  
00:11:29,300 --> 00:11:32,750  
And I remember him to be under  
always a considerable amount

179  
00:11:32,750 --> 00:11:33,800  
of stress.

180  
00:11:33,800 --> 00:11:38,210  
Clearly because in the '30s  
business did very poorly.

181  
00:11:38,210 --> 00:11:41,810  
He was also the kind of  
person, and much of what I know

182  
00:11:41,810 --> 00:11:44,090  
is from what my mother  
told me, because she

183  
00:11:44,090 --> 00:11:48,920  
was 102 and 1/2 when  
she died two years ago,

184  
00:11:48,920 --> 00:11:52,790  
was that he never  
wanted to reduce



185

00:11:52,790 --> 00:11:55,380  
the size of the business.

186

00:11:55,380 --> 00:11:57,710  
And this was a very  
sizable business.

187

00:11:57,710 --> 00:11:59,450  
And it was the  
largest in Vienna.

188

00:11:59,450 --> 00:12:01,880  
And Vienna, as you  
all are aware of,

189

00:12:01,880 --> 00:12:07,850  
music was the important aspect  
of everybody's life, probably

190

00:12:07,850 --> 00:12:12,260  
aggravated the problems or  
the concerns and the worries.

191

00:12:12,260 --> 00:12:15,480  
And so I didn't really  
see that much of him.

192

00:12:15,480 --> 00:12:19,160  
I do remember,  
whenever I performed,

193

00:12:19,160 --> 00:12:23,580  
then clearly close  
attention was paid to that.

194

00:12:23,580 --> 00:12:26,540  
But I remember him very  
fondly and as a kind person

195

00:12:26,540 --> 00:12:30,320  
and non-disciplinarian at all.

196

00:12:30,320 --> 00:12:36,770  
And also, the chamber music,  
weekly chamber music evenings,

197  
00:12:36,770 --> 00:12:40,220  
in which he was the one  
who played the cello,

198  
00:12:40,220 --> 00:12:41,930  
was always something  
important also

199  
00:12:41,930 --> 00:12:43,880  
to my brother and  
myself, our lives

200  
00:12:43,880 --> 00:12:45,800  
when we were small children.

201  
00:12:45,800 --> 00:12:47,370  
Would that be at the house?

202  
00:12:47,370 --> 00:12:47,870  
Yes.

203  
00:12:47,870 --> 00:12:50,750

204  
00:12:50,750 --> 00:12:56,200  
Do you know if Austria was  
hard hit by the depression?

205  
00:12:56,200 --> 00:13:00,480  
I think so.

206  
00:13:00,480 --> 00:13:04,320  
It wasn't anything I  
felt directly personally,

207  
00:13:04,320 --> 00:13:07,333  
because whatever  
happened, I accept it.

208

00:13:07,333 --> 00:13:09,000

And though I must  
frankly say, my mother

209

00:13:09,000 --> 00:13:11,520

denied it when I  
confronted her with it,

210

00:13:11,520 --> 00:13:16,710

I mean, very often, dinner  
times was buttered bread

211

00:13:16,710 --> 00:13:20,940

and tea was dinner.

212

00:13:20,940 --> 00:13:22,832

And it was just--

213

00:13:22,832 --> 00:13:23,790

it just was part of it.

214

00:13:23,790 --> 00:13:25,350

My brother and I expected that.

215

00:13:25,350 --> 00:13:28,380

And very often, it was not.

216

00:13:28,380 --> 00:13:34,860

And many times it was the things  
that one does in Vienna a lot

217

00:13:34,860 --> 00:13:37,973

like apricot dumplings, things  
like that weren't expensive.

218

00:13:37,973 --> 00:13:39,390

And that's the  
reason why you have

219

00:13:39,390 --> 00:13:41,850

a lot of desserts in Vienna.

220

00:13:41,850 --> 00:13:43,840

Because meat was very expensive.

221

00:13:43,840 --> 00:13:47,340

And so if you fashion something,  
use potato flour and fruit,

222

00:13:47,340 --> 00:13:51,232

it was very tasty and filling.

223

00:13:51,232 --> 00:13:52,690

Tell us a little  
about your mother.

224

00:13:52,690 --> 00:13:55,500

What was she like?

225

00:13:55,500 --> 00:14:07,193

My mother was one of those women  
who was told by many people,

226

00:14:07,193 --> 00:14:08,610

sometimes she acts  
as if she would

227

00:14:08,610 --> 00:14:11,160

be the empress of  
Austria, you know,

228

00:14:11,160 --> 00:14:20,040

sort of presiding very  
kindly, very concerned,

229

00:14:20,040 --> 00:14:23,910

expect the kids to  
do what was expected.

230

00:14:23,910 --> 00:14:27,075

No physical punishment,  
except rarely I guess.

231

00:14:27,075 --> 00:14:30,120

232

00:14:30,120 --> 00:14:32,580

Rose to the occasion,  
of course, when Hitler

233

00:14:32,580 --> 00:14:36,210

came way beyond  
what anybody would

234

00:14:36,210 --> 00:14:41,490

have expected, as I presume most  
women in a situation like this

235

00:14:41,490 --> 00:14:42,000

do.

236

00:14:42,000 --> 00:14:43,350

The empress came through.

237

00:14:43,350 --> 00:14:44,700

Absolutely came through.

238

00:14:44,700 --> 00:14:48,810

239

00:14:48,810 --> 00:14:52,530

Was very helpful, in many  
respects, to her own sister who

240

00:14:52,530 --> 00:14:54,015

was a very impoverished person.

241

00:14:54,015 --> 00:14:57,180

242

00:14:57,180 --> 00:14:59,160

Not much money was available.

243

00:14:59,160 --> 00:15:05,790

I remember an incidence  
when I had a violin lesson.

244

00:15:05,790 --> 00:15:09,450

For that, there was always  
apparently money available.

245

00:15:09,450 --> 00:15:11,580

And I had very severe  
abdominal pain.

246

00:15:11,580 --> 00:15:15,660

At that time, I think I must  
have been nine years old.

247

00:15:15,660 --> 00:15:18,590

And the question  
was taking the bus

248

00:15:18,590 --> 00:15:22,796

or I don't have these  
things of any value.

249

00:15:22,796 --> 00:15:25,080

Yes, yes.

250

00:15:25,080 --> 00:15:28,620

The choice my mother gave me  
was, shall we take the bus?

251

00:15:28,620 --> 00:15:31,350

Is the pain-- is the  
pain so bad we should?

252

00:15:31,350 --> 00:15:34,600

Or because she has  
to buy some bread.

253

00:15:34,600 --> 00:15:36,695

Well, I certainly can manage.

254

00:15:36,695 --> 00:15:38,670

So the question was  
whether to walk to where--

255

00:15:38,670 --> 00:15:41,320

To home or not.

256

00:15:41,320 --> 00:15:46,410

And the same night, I  
had an appendectomy.

257

00:15:46,410 --> 00:15:49,320

So I guess the pain was a  
little worse than I remember it.

258

00:15:49,320 --> 00:15:51,780

So you were a good  
little trooper.

259

00:15:51,780 --> 00:15:54,120

I think most of the kids were.

260

00:15:54,120 --> 00:15:56,540

Most of my friends  
were the same way.

261

00:15:56,540 --> 00:15:57,660

Yeah.

262

00:15:57,660 --> 00:16:00,120

Nothing was unusual.

263

00:16:00,120 --> 00:16:04,050

You grew up in that time where  
these things everybody did,

264

00:16:04,050 --> 00:16:07,410

everybody expected out of you.

265

00:16:07,410 --> 00:16:10,080

Rebelliousness, of  
course, didn't exist,

266

00:16:10,080 --> 00:16:11,350

these kind of things.

267

00:16:11,350 --> 00:16:14,130

And I think my childhood, in  
spite of all these things,

268

00:16:14,130 --> 00:16:16,980

and I've often thought back  
about it and talked to my kids

269

00:16:16,980 --> 00:16:20,790

about it, it was really  
a very happy childhood.

270

00:16:20,790 --> 00:16:27,090

It-- I remember it  
very, very positively,

271

00:16:27,090 --> 00:16:32,430

none of the negative things  
that say that would have--

272

00:16:32,430 --> 00:16:35,370

I would have felt very bad  
about as a parent happening

273

00:16:35,370 --> 00:16:40,258

to my kids bothered  
me at the time.

274

00:16:40,258 --> 00:16:42,050

What kind of things  
would have bothered you

275

00:16:42,050 --> 00:16:42,600

if it had happened--

276

00:16:42,600 --> 00:16:43,350

With my kids?

277

00:16:43,350 --> 00:16:46,740

278

00:16:46,740 --> 00:16:51,120



The diet situation, perhaps.

279

00:16:51,120 --> 00:16:54,510

Perhaps the fact  
that I would not--

280

00:16:54,510 --> 00:16:56,880

I would be very,  
very concerned what

281

00:16:56,880 --> 00:16:59,205

would happen to them if they  
would be on the streets.

282

00:16:59,205 --> 00:17:01,860

283

00:17:01,860 --> 00:17:03,160

The danger.

284

00:17:03,160 --> 00:17:07,440

The incipient danger  
that, obviously, there

285

00:17:07,440 --> 00:17:10,410

was a feeling for that.

286

00:17:10,410 --> 00:17:14,079

I mean, it's inconceivable  
that I could ever

287

00:17:14,079 --> 00:17:18,480

have dealt with this  
happening to my children.

288

00:17:18,480 --> 00:17:20,190

And when I speak  
to my son about it,

289

00:17:20,190 --> 00:17:21,839

if this would happen  
to his daughter,

290

00:17:21,839 --> 00:17:24,390

he just can't imagine it.

291

00:17:24,390 --> 00:17:27,000

It's just way beyond  
his imagination.

292

00:17:27,000 --> 00:17:29,370

You have to sort  
of experience it.

293

00:17:29,370 --> 00:17:30,720

You have to experience it.

294

00:17:30,720 --> 00:17:33,360

Or be vitally,  
vitally interested,

295

00:17:33,360 --> 00:17:36,190

which, to be absolutely  
fair, my kids are not.

296

00:17:36,190 --> 00:17:36,720

They're not.

297

00:17:36,720 --> 00:17:38,200

Not vitally interested.

298

00:17:38,200 --> 00:17:43,200

I mean, their beginning to  
recognize some interest--

299

00:17:43,200 --> 00:17:45,180

Are they interested in  
you being interviewed?

300

00:17:45,180 --> 00:17:45,990

They don't know.

301

00:17:45,990 --> 00:17:46,870

They don't know.

302  
00:17:46,870 --> 00:17:47,370  
No.

303  
00:17:47,370 --> 00:17:50,480  
They will know.

304  
00:17:50,480 --> 00:17:56,870  
If the occasion comes up,  
I would mention it to them.

305  
00:17:56,870 --> 00:17:58,310  
I see.

306  
00:17:58,310 --> 00:17:59,750  
Probably would be  
more interested,

307  
00:17:59,750 --> 00:18:02,270  
I was interviewed in New  
York, where I was just

308  
00:18:02,270 --> 00:18:04,100  
on the street of Times  
Square as to what

309  
00:18:04,100 --> 00:18:06,006  
I thought about Clinton.

310  
00:18:06,006 --> 00:18:06,506  
Probably.

311  
00:18:06,506 --> 00:18:09,660

312  
00:18:09,660 --> 00:18:11,160  
Tell us a little  
about your brother.

313  
00:18:11,160 --> 00:18:13,100  
What was he like?

314

00:18:13,100 --> 00:18:21,950  
My brother was relatively, in  
that sense, European sense,

315  
00:18:21,950 --> 00:18:23,510  
fairly wild.

316  
00:18:23,510 --> 00:18:27,740  
I was clearly the good boy.

317  
00:18:27,740 --> 00:18:29,690  
I was the obvious bright kid.

318  
00:18:29,690 --> 00:18:32,210

319  
00:18:32,210 --> 00:18:37,100  
He, as you know, educational  
definitions unfortunately

320  
00:18:37,100 --> 00:18:40,700  
made in Europe even  
to this day, as

321  
00:18:40,700 --> 00:18:45,710  
to evaluation, how bright you  
are by the age nine or 10.

322  
00:18:45,710 --> 00:18:46,370  
Very quick.

323  
00:18:46,370 --> 00:18:52,340  
And then you go to either the  
gymnasium to ultimately be

324  
00:18:52,340 --> 00:18:54,590  
a professional person  
or else you don't.

325  
00:18:54,590 --> 00:18:56,450  
You go to school for five years.

326

00:18:56,450 --> 00:18:59,270  
So your life was determined  
very early, the shape of it.

327  
00:18:59,270 --> 00:19:01,670  
Very early, in that sense.

328  
00:19:01,670 --> 00:19:04,010  
It's perhaps less of  
a problem in my case.

329  
00:19:04,010 --> 00:19:08,360  
It may have been more of a  
problem in my brother's case.

330  
00:19:08,360 --> 00:19:10,160  
But things changed  
as the years went on.

331  
00:19:10,160 --> 00:19:12,500  
And the Shanghai  
situation arose.

332  
00:19:12,500 --> 00:19:17,570  
But he probably,  
retrospectively,

333  
00:19:17,570 --> 00:19:22,440  
had a certain degree  
of learning disability,

334  
00:19:22,440 --> 00:19:26,240  
a word that, of course,  
didn't exist at that time.

335  
00:19:26,240 --> 00:19:29,730  
People always assume that's  
because their nasty kids

336  
00:19:29,730 --> 00:19:33,660  
and that's why they don't study  
and all this kind of thing.

337

00:19:33,660 --> 00:19:41,510

And my father belonged to  
this school of anthroposophy,

338

00:19:41,510 --> 00:19:44,120

I don't know if you heard  
about Rudolf Steiner was

339

00:19:44,120 --> 00:19:46,760

a philosopher, or whatever  
you wish to call him.

340

00:19:46,760 --> 00:19:47,940

It wasn't my thing.

341

00:19:47,940 --> 00:19:53,660

But it was my father thing, not  
fanatic, but at least certainly

342

00:19:53,660 --> 00:19:56,900

very much involved with  
this kind of philosophy.

343

00:19:56,900 --> 00:20:00,260

And there was a  
very good school.

344

00:20:00,260 --> 00:20:02,990

The schools here are  
called Waldorf schools.

345

00:20:02,990 --> 00:20:06,230

I'd never heard of that name  
until I came to The States.

346

00:20:06,230 --> 00:20:10,430

And he went to one  
of those schools.

347

00:20:10,430 --> 00:20:15,680

And I think meeting  
him and his friends,

348

00:20:15,680 --> 00:20:18,740

I mean, it was actually an  
excellent, excellent school,

349

00:20:18,740 --> 00:20:23,240

probably much better than  
the gymnasium I went to

350

00:20:23,240 --> 00:20:25,430

What did they do that was  
different from the public

351

00:20:25,430 --> 00:20:27,140

school, could you say?

352

00:20:27,140 --> 00:20:28,625

Probably much more intense.

353

00:20:28,625 --> 00:20:33,200

354

00:20:33,200 --> 00:20:36,390

For one thing, I'm sure  
the classes were smaller,

355

00:20:36,390 --> 00:20:40,550

much more intense reading,  
a little bit more history,

356

00:20:40,550 --> 00:20:42,290

a little bit more philosophy.

357

00:20:42,290 --> 00:20:48,080

Kids were not pressured  
in conforming.

358

00:20:48,080 --> 00:20:50,240

You know, it's very  
similar to the, what is it,

359

00:20:50,240 --> 00:20:53,060

the Pacific High School  
in Palo Alto, you know.

360  
00:20:53,060 --> 00:20:54,720  
So a much more  
relaxed atmosphere.

361  
00:20:54,720 --> 00:20:56,660  
A much more relaxed atmosphere.

362  
00:20:56,660 --> 00:21:00,740  
I do remember distinctly  
my brother's knowledge

363  
00:21:00,740 --> 00:21:03,830  
of Greek and Roman  
mythology at the age of 11

364  
00:21:03,830 --> 00:21:05,480  
was absolutely  
overwhelming, because it

365  
00:21:05,480 --> 00:21:06,800  
was very interesting.

366  
00:21:06,800 --> 00:21:16,070  
And so-- so that was, I thought,  
a great advantage for him

367  
00:21:16,070 --> 00:21:19,010  
at that particular level,  
to attend a school,

368  
00:21:19,010 --> 00:21:20,000  
that kind of a school.

369  
00:21:20,000 --> 00:21:21,980  
Did he blossom  
there, would you say?

370  
00:21:21,980 --> 00:21:23,720  
I think he did well enough.

371  
00:21:23,720 --> 00:21:25,850



It was a really  
very short interval

372  
00:21:25,850 --> 00:21:28,160  
between the time we  
went to gymnasium

373  
00:21:28,160 --> 00:21:32,965  
and by the time Hitler  
really came in March '38.

374  
00:21:32,965 --> 00:21:36,820

375  
00:21:36,820 --> 00:21:42,970  
Did you have meals at home  
in the middle of the day?

376  
00:21:42,970 --> 00:21:45,130  
Trying to think, yes.

377  
00:21:45,130 --> 00:21:50,680  
The public schools gave  
free milk at the time.

378  
00:21:50,680 --> 00:21:52,670  
So around 10:00, you had milk.

379  
00:21:52,670 --> 00:21:56,450  
I don't know remember, may  
have had some slice of bread.

380  
00:21:56,450 --> 00:21:58,370  
And everybody got  
that, doesn't matter.

381  
00:21:58,370 --> 00:21:58,870  
Yeah.

382  
00:21:58,870 --> 00:22:00,535  
And then you went  
home for your--

383

00:22:00,535 --> 00:22:03,640

And then I remember  
distinct most

384

00:22:03,640 --> 00:22:06,280

of the time I was picked up by  
my paternal grandfather, who

385

00:22:06,280 --> 00:22:09,630

always lived with us.

386

00:22:09,630 --> 00:22:13,720

And, you know, corner park,  
played a little marbles,

387

00:22:13,720 --> 00:22:16,230

and I went home.

388

00:22:16,230 --> 00:22:17,740

What would those meals be like?

389

00:22:17,740 --> 00:22:20,800

390

00:22:20,800 --> 00:22:26,350

It probably kind  
of buttered bread.

391

00:22:26,350 --> 00:22:28,240

I remember a few  
things, because when

392

00:22:28,240 --> 00:22:29,980

I quoted this to the children.

393

00:22:29,980 --> 00:22:32,710

It was spotted bread with  
pieces of chocolate on it.

394

00:22:32,710 --> 00:22:35,600

Sometimes was jam and  
sliced bananas on it.

395  
00:22:35,600 --> 00:22:37,480  
I mean, none of you  
know this kind of stuff.

396  
00:22:37,480 --> 00:22:39,460  
But it's really very good.

397  
00:22:39,460 --> 00:22:41,980  
But it may not be  
nutritionally very sound.

398  
00:22:41,980 --> 00:22:44,020  
Would there be a lot of talk?

399  
00:22:44,020 --> 00:22:46,780  
Talk, not really.

400  
00:22:46,780 --> 00:22:49,960  
The family didn't so  
much, we had it made.

401  
00:22:49,960 --> 00:22:55,600  
We often ate in the kitchen  
and that kind of thing.

402  
00:22:55,600 --> 00:22:58,360  
You know, I mentioned  
before, the food may not

403  
00:22:58,360 --> 00:22:59,620  
have been plentiful.

404  
00:22:59,620 --> 00:23:02,920  
But there were  
certain standards that

405  
00:23:02,920 --> 00:23:06,250  
somehow needed to be maintained,  
as I indicated before, you

406  
00:23:06,250 --> 00:23:12,100

know, music lessons,  
a maid in the house,

407  
00:23:12,100 --> 00:23:18,210  
that kind of thing, which  
was very acceptable.

408  
00:23:18,210 --> 00:23:19,220  
Yeah.

409  
00:23:19,220 --> 00:23:23,335  
Do you remember those meal  
times together fondly?

410  
00:23:23,335 --> 00:23:26,260

411  
00:23:26,260 --> 00:23:30,370  
Not in any-- not important  
in the American sense,

412  
00:23:30,370 --> 00:23:33,400  
the family should  
eat together and talk

413  
00:23:33,400 --> 00:23:35,350  
about what has  
happened during the day

414  
00:23:35,350 --> 00:23:38,800  
and inquire as to  
what the teachers have

415  
00:23:38,800 --> 00:23:42,470  
been doing, that kind of--  
not in that kind of sense.

416  
00:23:42,470 --> 00:23:43,750  
What kind of sense then?

417  
00:23:43,750 --> 00:23:47,380  
The sense really is more of a  
listening kind of situation.

418  
00:23:47,380 --> 00:23:48,910  
A listening, you  
mean the children.

419  
00:23:48,910 --> 00:23:52,240  
More listening, not that you  
had to be quiet or shut up.

420  
00:23:52,240 --> 00:23:53,740  
It's just simply  
you were much more

421  
00:23:53,740 --> 00:24:02,770  
busy eating and getting back to  
play or going out or whatever.

422  
00:24:02,770 --> 00:24:06,130  
Did that change over time as the  
situation in Austria changed?

423  
00:24:06,130 --> 00:24:08,710

424  
00:24:08,710 --> 00:24:11,620  
Did politics get discussed much?

425  
00:24:11,620 --> 00:24:12,550  
No.

426  
00:24:12,550 --> 00:24:19,390  
I think, I would imagine  
that within the framework

427  
00:24:19,390 --> 00:24:21,610  
of my immediate  
family, that they were

428  
00:24:21,610 --> 00:24:25,030  
politically very, very naive.

429  
00:24:25,030 --> 00:24:27,300

And--

430  
00:24:27,300 --> 00:24:29,810  
Did they belong to  
a political party?

431  
00:24:29,810 --> 00:24:30,660  
No.

432  
00:24:30,660 --> 00:24:31,160  
No.

433  
00:24:31,160 --> 00:24:33,590  
Not social Democrats  
or anything.

434  
00:24:33,590 --> 00:24:35,150  
Not as far as I know.

435  
00:24:35,150 --> 00:24:35,720  
OK.

436  
00:24:35,720 --> 00:24:38,780  
In fact, I don't really  
truly remember politics

437  
00:24:38,780 --> 00:24:41,570  
being discussed in that sense.

438  
00:24:41,570 --> 00:24:45,730  
What was historically discussed  
is the old emperor, perhaps,

439  
00:24:45,730 --> 00:24:50,960  
who had died in 1916 anyway.

440  
00:24:50,960 --> 00:24:52,580  
Discussion of music a lot.

441  
00:24:52,580 --> 00:24:55,520

442

00:24:55,520 --> 00:24:58,010

Perhaps philosophy,  
I think I knew

443

00:24:58,010 --> 00:25:02,090

a fair amount of Schiller and  
Goethe, this kind of thing,

444

00:25:02,090 --> 00:25:05,120

by the time I was nine or 10.

445

00:25:05,120 --> 00:25:07,940

And liked it?

446

00:25:07,940 --> 00:25:10,850

Yes, actually, my  
brother and I were

447

00:25:10,850 --> 00:25:13,850

talking about we  
can still recite

448

00:25:13,850 --> 00:25:20,120

some of Goethe's poems, which  
is ridiculous to pluck out one's

449

00:25:20,120 --> 00:25:23,340

brain with things like that.

450

00:25:23,340 --> 00:25:27,570

So it's in that sense.

451

00:25:27,570 --> 00:25:37,460

There's a reason why I consider  
the naivety of my parents.

452

00:25:37,460 --> 00:25:43,340

Because probably we could have  
avoided the Shanghai experience

453

00:25:43,340 --> 00:25:48,440

if they would not

have been so naïve

454

00:25:48,440 --> 00:25:50,490  
about the kind of situation.

455

00:25:50,490 --> 00:25:52,880  
And they didn't feel it  
was a temporary thing.

456

00:25:52,880 --> 00:25:55,100  
And my father didn't  
think, because it

457

00:25:55,100 --> 00:25:59,240  
was a Hungarian cavalry  
officer, not much would happen.

458

00:25:59,240 --> 00:26:02,540  
And because we had very,  
very little contact,

459

00:26:02,540 --> 00:26:05,900  
I think, with Jewish  
organization, I would say zero,

460

00:26:05,900 --> 00:26:10,400  
there was not enough warning  
perhaps coming through.

461

00:26:10,400 --> 00:26:11,030  
I think.

462

00:26:11,030 --> 00:26:14,780  
But that's an adult evaluation.

463

00:26:14,780 --> 00:26:18,170  
Much of what I say is really  
looking back at childhood

464

00:26:18,170 --> 00:26:19,070  
as an adult.

465



00:26:19,070 --> 00:26:20,240  
Sure.

466  
00:26:20,240 --> 00:26:22,180  
Do you remember when Dreyfus--

467  
00:26:22,180 --> 00:26:24,020  
Dollfuss was assassinated.

468  
00:26:24,020 --> 00:26:25,010  
Yes.

469  
00:26:25,010 --> 00:26:25,970  
Could you tell us--

470  
00:26:25,970 --> 00:26:28,760  
It, well, I don't  
remember it that well.

471  
00:26:28,760 --> 00:26:31,760  
I remember my family  
was horror struck,

472  
00:26:31,760 --> 00:26:35,540  
because it was, at that time,  
there was awareness of Nazis,

473  
00:26:35,540 --> 00:26:38,030  
of course, who  
were, it was felt,

474  
00:26:38,030 --> 00:26:40,730  
responsible for part of that.

475  
00:26:40,730 --> 00:26:43,910

476  
00:26:43,910 --> 00:26:45,470  
What kind of awareness was it?

477  
00:26:45,470 --> 00:26:47,820  
Did they have a

presence in Austria?

478

00:26:47,820 --> 00:26:51,190

The Nazis, I didn't  
feel it at the time.

479

00:26:51,190 --> 00:26:51,690

OK.

480

00:26:51,690 --> 00:26:53,930

And I don't know, I  
would be fear of what

481

00:26:53,930 --> 00:26:56,300

I know to what I've read.

482

00:26:56,300 --> 00:27:00,600

Because I've read a lot about  
these things since then.

483

00:27:00,600 --> 00:27:03,380

But I do remember the  
Dollfuss situation happening.

484

00:27:03,380 --> 00:27:07,190

Whether I remember it from my  
grandfather, who, he and I were

485

00:27:07,190 --> 00:27:14,430

exceedingly close, or from the  
atmosphere, I don't remember.

486

00:27:14,430 --> 00:27:17,540

I know I don't actually  
remember that it

487

00:27:17,540 --> 00:27:19,836

was discussed in school.

488

00:27:19,836 --> 00:27:23,090

Actually civics and these kinds  
of things weren't discussed.

489

00:27:23,090 --> 00:27:26,400

Wasn't there street fighting  
in Vienna during that--

490

00:27:26,400 --> 00:27:27,650

I know.

491

00:27:27,650 --> 00:27:34,400

And I know-- but,  
again, retrospectively,

492

00:27:34,400 --> 00:27:40,010

an uncle of mine was an  
intern at the famous hospital.

493

00:27:40,010 --> 00:27:43,430

And there were repercussions  
within the hospital emergency

494

00:27:43,430 --> 00:27:46,530

rooms and all that kind of thing  
about injuries and so forth.

495

00:27:46,530 --> 00:27:49,160

But then I heard this  
after I came to the States

496

00:27:49,160 --> 00:27:50,315

from my uncle.

497

00:27:50,315 --> 00:27:52,790

OK.

498

00:27:52,790 --> 00:27:56,900

When did you become  
aware of the Nazi threat?

499

00:27:56,900 --> 00:28:00,390

500

00:28:00,390 --> 00:28:05,920

Probably in a realistic

sense in March.

501

00:28:05,920 --> 00:28:06,630

When you came--

502

00:28:06,630 --> 00:28:12,130

In March when Hitler  
entered Austria,

503

00:28:12,130 --> 00:28:15,960

and I saw it from the balcony  
and the screaming and yelling

504

00:28:15,960 --> 00:28:18,630

and the swastikas.

505

00:28:18,630 --> 00:28:21,830

And there was a  
sense of anxiety.

506

00:28:21,830 --> 00:28:27,240

507

00:28:27,240 --> 00:28:30,390

It didn't really  
act up in the sense

508

00:28:30,390 --> 00:28:33,240

that I was horribly  
fearful of going.

509

00:28:33,240 --> 00:28:35,130

But I had a  
girlfriend, [INAUDIBLE]

510

00:28:35,130 --> 00:28:36,750

10-year-olds have girlfriend.

511

00:28:36,750 --> 00:28:38,460

And I saw her on the street.

512

00:28:38,460 --> 00:28:44,070

And for some reason or other,  
she was going on the other side

513  
00:28:44,070 --> 00:28:45,030  
as she saw me come.

514  
00:28:45,030 --> 00:28:46,328  
She didn't recognize me.

515  
00:28:46,328 --> 00:28:48,870  
And you know, after I hollered  
after her, and went after her,

516  
00:28:48,870 --> 00:28:51,820  
she ran, caught up with her.

517  
00:28:51,820 --> 00:28:52,860  
What's going on?

518  
00:28:52,860 --> 00:28:54,543  
She thought I was a Nazi.

519  
00:28:54,543 --> 00:28:55,710  
She thought you were a Nazi.

520  
00:28:55,710 --> 00:28:57,930  
I was a Nazi, right?

521  
00:28:57,930 --> 00:29:00,900  
At that time, I was pretty  
fair-haired and so forth.

522  
00:29:00,900 --> 00:29:04,110  
You know, and you have  
these preconceived notions.

523  
00:29:04,110 --> 00:29:09,720  
That I remember was always  
one of my early reactions

524  
00:29:09,720 --> 00:29:11,805  
as to this kind of

fear and anxiety.

525

00:29:11,805 --> 00:29:14,490

526

00:29:14,490 --> 00:29:17,070

But I don't remember  
my parents warning

527

00:29:17,070 --> 00:29:18,870

me one way or the other.

528

00:29:18,870 --> 00:29:23,910

I do remember being stopped  
by one of my classmates

529

00:29:23,910 --> 00:29:28,590

and tell me if I had any money.

530

00:29:28,590 --> 00:29:30,248

And I think I had  
two pennies and said,

531

00:29:30,248 --> 00:29:31,290

what do you want with it?

532

00:29:31,290 --> 00:29:34,830

Well, we want it  
because you're a Jew.

533

00:29:34,830 --> 00:29:37,110

Gave it to him.

534

00:29:37,110 --> 00:29:40,980

Another situation, I  
think that happened,

535

00:29:40,980 --> 00:29:45,600

I wasn't the kind  
of kid, I think,

536

00:29:45,600 --> 00:29:47,850

that's of some importance  
psychologically

537  
00:29:47,850 --> 00:29:51,600  
as things get into  
all the years, who

538  
00:29:51,600 --> 00:29:54,120  
was a kind of kid  
who was beaten up.

539  
00:29:54,120 --> 00:29:58,940  
Not because I was tough, but  
I just wasn't the kind of kid.

540  
00:29:58,940 --> 00:30:00,150  
You weren't a target.

541  
00:30:00,150 --> 00:30:00,870  
Pardon me.

542  
00:30:00,870 --> 00:30:04,500  
Not so much a target, it just--

543  
00:30:04,500 --> 00:30:07,110  
I didn't come across  
threatening, I presume,

544  
00:30:07,110 --> 00:30:08,820  
or anything of that sort.

545  
00:30:08,820 --> 00:30:13,090  
In class, I was relatively  
popular, that kind of thing.

546  
00:30:13,090 --> 00:30:17,610  
So in that sense, you know,  
whereas friends of mine

547  
00:30:17,610 --> 00:30:18,840  
were beaten up.

548

00:30:18,840 --> 00:30:21,870  
Adults didn't beat up me,  
because, as you probably

549  
00:30:21,870 --> 00:30:28,590  
realize, adult Austrians  
often beat up Jewish kids.

550  
00:30:28,590 --> 00:30:31,140  
I didn't have that  
kind of experience.

551  
00:30:31,140 --> 00:30:34,740  
Would you be-- could  
you easily be picked out

552  
00:30:34,740 --> 00:30:38,190  
as Jewish would you say?

553  
00:30:38,190 --> 00:30:39,870  
I don't really think so.

554  
00:30:39,870 --> 00:30:44,190

555  
00:30:44,190 --> 00:30:49,877  
At that time, at that time,  
I had no idea, basically,

556  
00:30:49,877 --> 00:30:51,960  
when somebody looked Jewish  
or didn't look Jewish.

557  
00:30:51,960 --> 00:30:55,800  
This whole idea, subsequently,  
of under Goebbels

558  
00:30:55,800 --> 00:30:57,900  
and the [? Sturmer ?]  
and all this kind thing,

559  
00:30:57,900 --> 00:31:00,240  
what a Jewish looks like.



560  
00:31:00,240 --> 00:31:03,480  
I'd never seen  
anybody like this.

561  
00:31:03,480 --> 00:31:06,360  
And none of my friends  
looked so, obviously,

562  
00:31:06,360 --> 00:31:09,510  
this kind of Jewish  
that I don't really

563  
00:31:09,510 --> 00:31:12,600  
think when I think of the  
Jewish kids in my class,

564  
00:31:12,600 --> 00:31:16,140  
unless we all would be going  
to that religious class,

565  
00:31:16,140 --> 00:31:19,640  
none of us would have  
known who is or is not.

566  
00:31:19,640 --> 00:31:22,710  
Did you have friends  
who were not Jewish?

567  
00:31:22,710 --> 00:31:24,480  
Yes, yes.

568  
00:31:24,480 --> 00:31:29,010  
What happened to  
those friendships?

569  
00:31:29,010 --> 00:31:35,940  
They, during the time, I had  
very little relationships

570  
00:31:35,940 --> 00:31:38,670  
with them.

571

00:31:38,670 --> 00:31:41,370

I actually at first,  
I've thought about it

572

00:31:41,370 --> 00:31:45,030

now that you're mentioning  
it, met them on the street,

573

00:31:45,030 --> 00:31:47,760

played marbles together.

574

00:31:47,760 --> 00:31:48,650

That's as much.

575

00:31:48,650 --> 00:31:51,150

It wasn't really in the fact  
you come to each other's house,

576

00:31:51,150 --> 00:31:54,870

you know, the American  
way, you don't just

577

00:31:54,870 --> 00:31:58,543

come and invite a kid for  
dinner because he's your friend.

578

00:31:58,543 --> 00:32:00,960

You always were expected to  
come home and have your dinner

579

00:32:00,960 --> 00:32:02,700

and that's it with your family.

580

00:32:02,700 --> 00:32:04,890

So you would meet your  
friends on the street.

581

00:32:04,890 --> 00:32:09,210

Basically played together and  
go to the Prater, famous part

582

00:32:09,210 --> 00:32:11,770

of Vienna, together  
and see them there.

583  
00:32:11,770 --> 00:32:15,060  
Did you witness any  
of those incidents

584  
00:32:15,060 --> 00:32:18,450  
after the Nazis came in,  
where they had people cleaning

585  
00:32:18,450 --> 00:32:21,270  
the sidewalks with toothbrushes  
or any of that kind of thing?

586  
00:32:21,270 --> 00:32:24,090

587  
00:32:24,090 --> 00:32:27,420  
Probably the most traumatic  
experience I had at the time

588  
00:32:27,420 --> 00:32:30,840  
was that my violin teacher  
was caught on the street.

589  
00:32:30,840 --> 00:32:38,370  
By that time, it was, I presume,  
very close in November already

590  
00:32:38,370 --> 00:32:47,220  
Crystal Night '38,  
who died in cleaning

591  
00:32:47,220 --> 00:32:52,380  
the street with a toothbrush  
of a sudden heart attack.

592  
00:32:52,380 --> 00:32:54,660  
That was literally  
incomprehensible

593  
00:32:54,660 --> 00:32:57,705

to me, number one, and  
hard to take, number two.

594  
00:32:57,705 --> 00:32:59,080  
And the violin  
teacher, you know,

595  
00:32:59,080 --> 00:33:01,560  
who is a certain  
authority figure,

596  
00:33:01,560 --> 00:33:02,560  
that this should happen.

597  
00:33:02,560 --> 00:33:05,920

598  
00:33:05,920 --> 00:33:07,940  
That, to me, was very traumatic.

599  
00:33:07,940 --> 00:33:09,730  
And--

600  
00:33:09,730 --> 00:33:12,130  
How did you find about it?

601  
00:33:12,130 --> 00:33:14,230  
My mother told me.

602  
00:33:14,230 --> 00:33:18,880  
And she befriended the  
widow then, of course.

603  
00:33:18,880 --> 00:33:22,870  
And I think once my mother  
and I went to see her.

604  
00:33:22,870 --> 00:33:27,610  
You know, at that time, when  
somebody died, you wore black.

605  
00:33:27,610 --> 00:33:37,090

And it seems so unrealistic  
to me, as many things do,

606  
00:33:37,090 --> 00:33:39,850  
that this even could  
happen or occur.

607  
00:33:39,850 --> 00:33:42,130  
And my feeling at that  
time was, this can only

608  
00:33:42,130 --> 00:33:45,520  
be a temporary situation, a  
horrible thing that happens.

609  
00:33:45,520 --> 00:33:48,210  
And within a few  
months, it'll be gone.

610  
00:33:48,210 --> 00:33:51,290

611  
00:33:51,290 --> 00:33:55,340  
How long were you able to  
hold onto that feeling?

612  
00:33:55,340 --> 00:34:00,350  
Until it became very real,  
until on Crystal Night,

613  
00:34:00,350 --> 00:34:04,320  
my uncle had always lived  
with us was sent to Dachau.

614  
00:34:04,320 --> 00:34:06,800  
My father was sent to prison.

615  
00:34:06,800 --> 00:34:10,020  
And then they weren't there.

616  
00:34:10,020 --> 00:34:12,170  
The other thing is--

617

00:34:12,170 --> 00:34:14,449

Were you there  
when that happened?

618

00:34:14,449 --> 00:34:16,340

No, because I was  
in that school.

619

00:34:16,340 --> 00:34:19,040

And that was a time the question  
of the beating up of the older

620

00:34:19,040 --> 00:34:20,460

kids came up.

621

00:34:20,460 --> 00:34:25,340

So if a mother of a classmate  
of mine picked me up and said

622

00:34:25,340 --> 00:34:28,310

I should come home with them.

623

00:34:28,310 --> 00:34:33,260

Because there was no  
one there to pick me up.

624

00:34:33,260 --> 00:34:38,360

When I approached my house,  
which was next to the largest

625

00:34:38,360 --> 00:34:41,210

Jewish temple, it was burning.

626

00:34:41,210 --> 00:34:47,860

And, you know, it's  
[INAUDIBLE] things before.

627

00:34:47,860 --> 00:34:51,620

628

00:34:51,620 --> 00:34:54,409

Excuse me.

629  
00:34:54,409 --> 00:34:59,900  
And-- and I heard  
the people yelling,

630  
00:34:59,900 --> 00:35:01,550  
throw the Jews into the fire.

631  
00:35:01,550 --> 00:35:04,550

632  
00:35:04,550 --> 00:35:08,720  
Then I went home  
and I was alone.

633  
00:35:08,720 --> 00:35:10,040  
Nobody home.

634  
00:35:10,040 --> 00:35:11,780  
No, my father wasn't there.

635  
00:35:11,780 --> 00:35:15,210  
And my grandfather had  
left for the United States.

636  
00:35:15,210 --> 00:35:19,310  
And I don't know  
where my mother was.

637  
00:35:19,310 --> 00:35:22,650  
Whether it happened on that  
day or the day afterwards,

638  
00:35:22,650 --> 00:35:30,470  
my mother told me she was hauled  
to the Gestapo to wash windows.

639  
00:35:30,470 --> 00:35:36,240  
And at that time, of course, she  
would be the only one at home.

640  
00:35:36,240 --> 00:35:41,210

And she, obviously, had never  
washed windows in her life.

641  
00:35:41,210 --> 00:35:42,740  
So she took a pail and so forth.

642  
00:35:42,740 --> 00:35:45,990  
I mean, that story came up  
much, much, much, much later.

643  
00:35:45,990 --> 00:35:49,530  
I mean, I was well an  
adult by that time.

644  
00:35:49,530 --> 00:35:52,430  
And so she went into  
the Gestapo house,

645  
00:35:52,430 --> 00:35:56,030  
which was in the 1st  
District, with a pail.

646  
00:35:56,030 --> 00:35:57,710  
And the SS men in  
front told her,

647  
00:35:57,710 --> 00:36:00,095  
you go up to the third  
floor and was windows.

648  
00:36:00,095 --> 00:36:01,970  
It was a little dangerous  
in the first place.

649  
00:36:01,970 --> 00:36:03,762  
Because the third floor  
is the fourth floor

650  
00:36:03,762 --> 00:36:05,750  
in our American way of thinking.

651  
00:36:05,750 --> 00:36:07,460  
And she started.



652  
00:36:07,460 --> 00:36:13,440  
And an SS officer  
came and wondered

653  
00:36:13,440 --> 00:36:15,500  
what she was doing there.

654  
00:36:15,500 --> 00:36:20,190  
That was many years ago,  
clearly, 60 years ago.

655  
00:36:20,190 --> 00:36:23,420  
She was a very, very,  
very beautiful woman.

656  
00:36:23,420 --> 00:36:25,910  
And he said-- he  
said-- she said,

657  
00:36:25,910 --> 00:36:28,280  
I've been called to  
wash the windows.

658  
00:36:28,280 --> 00:36:30,170  
He said, well,  
that's ridiculous.

659  
00:36:30,170 --> 00:36:31,190  
What are you doing here?

660  
00:36:31,190 --> 00:36:32,210  
Go home.

661  
00:36:32,210 --> 00:36:34,820  
She said, I can't go home,  
because the SS men down there

662  
00:36:34,820 --> 00:36:35,370  
told me.

663  
00:36:35,370 --> 00:36:36,890

He says, well, that's OK.

664

00:36:36,890 --> 00:36:40,070

I'll take you through  
there, then you go home.

665

00:36:40,070 --> 00:36:45,350

And that SS officer got her  
through and she went home.

666

00:36:45,350 --> 00:36:48,440

And she was home.

667

00:36:48,440 --> 00:36:53,715

So she told me this  
many, many years later.

668

00:36:53,715 --> 00:36:54,215

Yeah.

669

00:36:54,215 --> 00:36:56,870

670

00:36:56,870 --> 00:36:57,890

How did she tell it?

671

00:36:57,890 --> 00:36:59,030

How did she feel about it?

672

00:36:59,030 --> 00:37:02,510

She told me this when I  
was an adult, had kids.

673

00:37:02,510 --> 00:37:07,910

She actually told me many  
of these things really only

674

00:37:07,910 --> 00:37:14,360

in the last 20 years  
before she died.

675

00:37:14,360 --> 00:37:23,840

And as I mentioned before, she died in 1995, 1996 actually,

676  
00:37:23,840 --> 00:37:26,330  
right, 1996.

677  
00:37:26,330 --> 00:37:28,740  
So there was a lot of  
time to tell me things.

678  
00:37:28,740 --> 00:37:34,910  
But she really didn't  
want to talk about many

679  
00:37:34,910 --> 00:37:36,245  
of these kinds of things.

680  
00:37:36,245 --> 00:37:39,320

681  
00:37:39,320 --> 00:37:41,540  
There was a lot of  
denial, I think,

682  
00:37:41,540 --> 00:37:45,380  
because when I amusedly told  
her about the dinners we had,

683  
00:37:45,380 --> 00:37:47,180  
I mean, she denied it.

684  
00:37:47,180 --> 00:37:50,810  
I mean, it was very hard  
for her to accept it.

685  
00:37:50,810 --> 00:37:52,250  
That she couldn't provide more.

686  
00:37:52,250 --> 00:37:56,570

687  
00:37:56,570 --> 00:38:02,570

I'm not sure about the  
psychological reason behind it.

688  
00:38:02,570 --> 00:38:07,760  
But a lot has to do with  
her own long history

689  
00:38:07,760 --> 00:38:12,480  
of her own life and her  
tremendous ability to survive.

690  
00:38:12,480 --> 00:38:15,500

691  
00:38:15,500 --> 00:38:19,100  
You have had many  
interview, interviewees here

692  
00:38:19,100 --> 00:38:21,390  
that have told you about  
the Shanghai situation.

693  
00:38:21,390 --> 00:38:23,390  
So there's no need  
for me to repeat it.

694  
00:38:23,390 --> 00:38:26,970  
But I mean, she was really  
a survivor in Shanghai.

695  
00:38:26,970 --> 00:38:29,300  
And there are all sorts  
of reasons that she was,

696  
00:38:29,300 --> 00:38:31,010  
and that our life  
in Shanghai perhaps

697  
00:38:31,010 --> 00:38:38,210  
was somewhat different than the  
life of many friends of mine,

698  
00:38:38,210 --> 00:38:40,550

for certain reasons.

699

00:38:40,550 --> 00:38:42,625

Did anything happen to  
your brother that day

700

00:38:42,625 --> 00:38:44,510

in Crystal Night?

701

00:38:44,510 --> 00:38:48,630

No, no.

702

00:38:48,630 --> 00:38:49,130

He was--

703

00:38:49,130 --> 00:38:52,550

He has never mentioned  
anything to me.

704

00:38:52,550 --> 00:38:57,440

We have really never  
talked about it.

705

00:38:57,440 --> 00:39:01,790

706

00:39:01,790 --> 00:39:07,310

He is very, very, very  
different from myself.

707

00:39:07,310 --> 00:39:11,750

Actually, I realize he  
doesn't talk about it,

708

00:39:11,750 --> 00:39:17,510

because it isn't that prominent  
in his mind, I don't think.

709

00:39:17,510 --> 00:39:20,900

He married a Polish lady, who  
was in Auschwitz at the slave

710

00:39:20,900 --> 00:39:23,270  
labor, many, many years ago.

711  
00:39:23,270 --> 00:39:25,520  
He's obviously happily  
married to her.

712  
00:39:25,520 --> 00:39:30,800  
And she told me that the only  
one she can talk about some

713  
00:39:30,800 --> 00:39:33,020  
of these experiences,  
so she lost her parents

714  
00:39:33,020 --> 00:39:36,920  
and her brother, is myself.

715  
00:39:36,920 --> 00:39:39,050  
She, I think, feels  
she doesn't want

716  
00:39:39,050 --> 00:39:42,320  
to burden my brother with  
these kinds of stories.

717  
00:39:42,320 --> 00:39:49,040  
He's sort of a very easygoing,  
charming, live let live kind

718  
00:39:49,040 --> 00:39:50,630  
of guy.

719  
00:39:50,630 --> 00:39:53,480  
And I think people  
feel instinctively why

720  
00:39:53,480 --> 00:39:54,830  
bother him with these things.

721  
00:39:54,830 --> 00:39:57,630

722

00:39:57,630 --> 00:39:58,130

So--

723

00:39:58,130 --> 00:40:01,960

724

00:40:01,960 --> 00:40:05,210

So when did your mother  
come home that day?

725

00:40:05,210 --> 00:40:07,660

I think she--

726

00:40:07,660 --> 00:40:09,550

I think she was there  
by that evening.

727

00:40:09,550 --> 00:40:12,070

728

00:40:12,070 --> 00:40:13,420

Were you frightened?

729

00:40:13,420 --> 00:40:14,890

Very much.

730

00:40:14,890 --> 00:40:17,710

Well, the temple was burning.

731

00:40:17,710 --> 00:40:20,140

It was the largest  
temple, a magnificent,

732

00:40:20,140 --> 00:40:21,577

you know, the usual  
Moorish style,

733

00:40:21,577 --> 00:40:22,660

the way they built temple.

734

00:40:22,660 --> 00:40:24,250

It was the largest temple.

735

00:40:24,250 --> 00:40:25,840

I don't think it  
was the oldest one.

736

00:40:25,840 --> 00:40:30,610

But it certainly was  
built in the late 1800s.

737

00:40:30,610 --> 00:40:33,340

I mean, after all, the  
Jews were 10% of the Vienna

738

00:40:33,340 --> 00:40:38,650

population, which was,  
what, about 200,000,

739

00:40:38,650 --> 00:40:42,220

and were prominent.

740

00:40:42,220 --> 00:40:45,190

And much of what I'm telling  
you is sort of retrospectively.

741

00:40:45,190 --> 00:40:47,260

There's an excellent  
book written by Berkley

742

00:40:47,260 --> 00:40:50,890

about Vienna and Its  
Jews, with the subtitle,

743

00:40:50,890 --> 00:40:52,727

The Tragedy Of Success.

744

00:40:52,727 --> 00:40:53,560

The tragedy of what?

745

00:40:53,560 --> 00:40:55,360

The tragedy of success.

746



00:40:55,360 --> 00:40:57,330

And the success,  
when you really know

747

00:40:57,330 --> 00:41:01,210

what Jews had accomplished  
in Vienna around the turn

748

00:41:01,210 --> 00:41:05,560

of the century and how prominent  
they were in the music field,

749

00:41:05,560 --> 00:41:14,170

in journalism, in medicine,  
just down the line, part of me

750

00:41:14,170 --> 00:41:20,600

was felt this intense  
envy of success.

751

00:41:20,600 --> 00:41:24,037

So much of what I know and  
say may be based very much

752

00:41:24,037 --> 00:41:25,120

on what I've been reading.

753

00:41:25,120 --> 00:41:28,640

754

00:41:28,640 --> 00:41:32,400

How long was your father  
and, what, your uncle?

755

00:41:32,400 --> 00:41:36,030

My uncle was in  
Dachau until the point

756

00:41:36,030 --> 00:41:38,460

my mother could get  
him out by proving

757

00:41:38,460 --> 00:41:40,710

that we were leaving Austria.

758

00:41:40,710 --> 00:41:45,990

And that was in April 1939.

759

00:41:45,990 --> 00:41:47,580

From November to April.

760

00:41:47,580 --> 00:41:48,650

Right.

761

00:41:48,650 --> 00:41:50,970

And my father got  
out, was in jail,

762

00:41:50,970 --> 00:41:59,160

he had had a few months  
before a very serious stomach

763

00:41:59,160 --> 00:42:03,270

surgery for bleeding ulcer.

764

00:42:03,270 --> 00:42:09,090

And he was in jail  
probably three weeks.

765

00:42:09,090 --> 00:42:13,830

And but was, I  
think, at that point,

766

00:42:13,830 --> 00:42:18,390

emotionally relatively  
incapacitated.

767

00:42:18,390 --> 00:42:21,810

And so my mother, you  
know, took over many

768

00:42:21,810 --> 00:42:24,420

of these kinds of things.

769

00:42:24,420 --> 00:42:27,030

By that time, and  
that brings me back

770  
00:42:27,030 --> 00:42:32,350  
to the political  
naivety of my parents,

771  
00:42:32,350 --> 00:42:40,560  
my two uncles, one of whom had  
a very large pharmacy in Vienna,

772  
00:42:40,560 --> 00:42:43,390  
and the other one was a  
very prominent lawyer,

773  
00:42:43,390 --> 00:42:46,800  
had left with their  
wives earlier.

774  
00:42:46,800 --> 00:42:47,810  
And--

775  
00:42:47,810 --> 00:42:49,230  
Where'd they go?

776  
00:42:49,230 --> 00:42:51,840  
To-- my uncle,  
from the pharmacy,

777  
00:42:51,840 --> 00:42:58,290  
went to the United States  
in May, I think, '38.

778  
00:42:58,290 --> 00:43:02,550  
My other uncle came  
temporarily to Shanghai,

779  
00:43:02,550 --> 00:43:08,100  
where a relative  
of an aunt of mine

780  
00:43:08,100 --> 00:43:10,950  
was a postal director

for the city of Shanghai.

781

00:43:10,950 --> 00:43:13,320

You know, that  
was before the war

782

00:43:13,320 --> 00:43:15,480

and lived with them  
very temporarily.

783

00:43:15,480 --> 00:43:17,990

Because my aunt  
had tuberculosis.

784

00:43:17,990 --> 00:43:19,740

And you couldn't  
immediately get accepted,

785

00:43:19,740 --> 00:43:23,520

because she had, obviously,  
some lung pulmonary findings

786

00:43:23,520 --> 00:43:25,710

on the X-ray.

787

00:43:25,710 --> 00:43:28,950

So there was a question  
of waiting time.

788

00:43:28,950 --> 00:43:32,040

And then immediately got  
back, got to the United States

789

00:43:32,040 --> 00:43:33,250

about six months later.

790

00:43:33,250 --> 00:43:39,140

So they lived very, very well in  
Shanghai at that fabulous home.

791

00:43:39,140 --> 00:43:41,790

792

00:43:41,790 --> 00:43:44,610

My grandfather,  
however, had stayed.

793

00:43:44,610 --> 00:43:51,660

And my father, prior to  
the November '38 day,

794

00:43:51,660 --> 00:43:58,430

was able to get my grandfather  
out to the United States.

795

00:43:58,430 --> 00:44:02,550

He still has had justified  
some anger about his brothers

796

00:44:02,550 --> 00:44:06,060

who didn't take their  
father with them.

797

00:44:06,060 --> 00:44:09,360

So my grandfather left  
alone for the United States.

798

00:44:09,360 --> 00:44:12,030

Because I had two uncles who  
had been in the United States

799

00:44:12,030 --> 00:44:14,490

since the early '20s.

800

00:44:14,490 --> 00:44:17,340

And they were doc  
physicians in Chicago.

801

00:44:17,340 --> 00:44:19,560

Were they his sons?

802

00:44:19,560 --> 00:44:22,312

They were the sons of  
my grandfather, yes.

803

00:44:22,312 --> 00:44:24,270

So he was able to get  
him to the United States.

804

00:44:24,270 --> 00:44:25,520

Without any difficulty.

805

00:44:25,520 --> 00:44:28,740

Yeah, which probably  
was a better experience

806

00:44:28,740 --> 00:44:30,663

than going to Shanghai.

807

00:44:30,663 --> 00:44:31,455

For my grandfather?

808

00:44:31,455 --> 00:44:32,220

Yeah.

809

00:44:32,220 --> 00:44:34,910

Oh, yes.

810

00:44:34,910 --> 00:44:36,780

I'm sure that's the case.

811

00:44:36,780 --> 00:44:46,240

He found it-- my grandfather was  
one of those wonderful people.

812

00:44:46,240 --> 00:44:48,420

And you have these  
fantastic memories

813

00:44:48,420 --> 00:44:51,220

of some people in your lives.

814

00:44:51,220 --> 00:44:53,880

And I do of my grandfather.

815

00:44:53,880 --> 00:44:56,970

816  
00:44:56,970 --> 00:45:01,600  
And I remember that his  
departure from Vienna from--

817  
00:45:01,600 --> 00:45:04,690  
my mother was very close to  
him and, obviously, I was--

818  
00:45:04,690 --> 00:45:07,670  
was extremely traumatic for him.

819  
00:45:07,670 --> 00:45:09,460  
So in that sense,  
retrospectively,

820  
00:45:09,460 --> 00:45:12,130  
now that you ask this  
question, perhaps

821  
00:45:12,130 --> 00:45:14,380  
he would have preferred going  
through all the problems

822  
00:45:14,380 --> 00:45:15,970  
in Shanghai.

823  
00:45:15,970 --> 00:45:20,650  
But he, obviously, had  
a lot of grandchildren

824  
00:45:20,650 --> 00:45:22,090  
in the United States.

825  
00:45:22,090 --> 00:45:24,010  
And that was so.

826  
00:45:24,010 --> 00:45:27,940  
But once we left Vienna, there  
was never any contact with him

827  
00:45:27,940 --> 00:45:30,320

anymore when the war broke out.

828

00:45:30,320 --> 00:45:31,610

[COUGH] Excuse me.

829

00:45:31,610 --> 00:45:33,430

Tell me some of your  
memories of him.

830

00:45:33,430 --> 00:45:37,720

831

00:45:37,720 --> 00:45:41,450

Picking me up in school.

832

00:45:41,450 --> 00:45:45,070

He was-- he was  
the one, probably,

833

00:45:45,070 --> 00:45:50,050

who was instrumental in teaching  
me about German culture.

834

00:45:50,050 --> 00:45:53,408

I mean, these names may not  
mean much to you nowadays.

835

00:45:53,408 --> 00:45:54,950

You know, this is  
kind of the culture

836

00:45:54,950 --> 00:45:58,226

that was very prominent  
then, you know,

837

00:45:58,226 --> 00:46:00,250

Heine and those I  
mentioned before,

838

00:46:00,250 --> 00:46:02,080

Schiller, and Goethe  
and [INAUDIBLE],,



839

00:46:02,080 --> 00:46:09,010

and these kinds of people,  
the operators, you know,

840

00:46:09,010 --> 00:46:13,810

and Johann Strauss,  
and [? Lehar, ?]

841

00:46:13,810 --> 00:46:16,810

and things of that sort.

842

00:46:16,810 --> 00:46:17,860

That was his thing.

843

00:46:17,860 --> 00:46:19,340

My father's thing  
was more opera.

844

00:46:19,340 --> 00:46:20,965

And the first opera  
I had to go and see

845

00:46:20,965 --> 00:46:23,770

was Richard Wagner,  
at the age of seven,

846

00:46:23,770 --> 00:46:28,990

which was traumatic at my age.

847

00:46:28,990 --> 00:46:34,750

So my grandfather's memory deal  
very much about surrounding me

848

00:46:34,750 --> 00:46:36,280

with a culture,  
which we all would

849

00:46:36,280 --> 00:46:40,630

like to do as grandparents,  
to give our grandchildren

850

00:46:40,630 --> 00:46:43,720

something very  
positive, which parents

851  
00:46:43,720 --> 00:46:47,440  
don't have the time  
or even the knowledge

852  
00:46:47,440 --> 00:46:49,420  
to impart on the kids.

853  
00:46:49,420 --> 00:46:52,300  
And that's how I  
remember my grandfather.

854  
00:46:52,300 --> 00:46:53,260  
What had he done?

855  
00:46:53,260 --> 00:46:56,110  
Had he run the piano business?

856  
00:46:56,110 --> 00:46:59,590  
He had run the piano  
business originally.

857  
00:46:59,590 --> 00:47:04,120  
But his wife was really the--

858  
00:47:04,120 --> 00:47:06,580  
she had been a  
teacher in Vienna--

859  
00:47:06,580 --> 00:47:10,990  
the business mind behind it.

860  
00:47:10,990 --> 00:47:14,020  
It was a kind of  
business in which

861  
00:47:14,020 --> 00:47:22,390  
many of the prominent musicians  
were giving recitals, people,

862

00:47:22,390 --> 00:47:25,870  
you know, whose names became  
prominent in the United States

863  
00:47:25,870 --> 00:47:28,600  
subsequently after Hitler.

864  
00:47:28,600 --> 00:47:34,690  
But she was really the mind  
and whether now my father

865  
00:47:34,690 --> 00:47:40,420  
felt he had to keep this up  
because it was her big thing.

866  
00:47:40,420 --> 00:47:44,530  
That kind of a status probably  
may have been a reason

867  
00:47:44,530 --> 00:47:48,250  
that he, in spite of advice  
given by other people,

868  
00:47:48,250 --> 00:47:52,490  
reduced the size of the  
business and the expense of it.

869  
00:47:52,490 --> 00:47:54,610  
He just didn't and couldn't do.

870  
00:47:54,610 --> 00:48:02,165

871  
00:48:02,165 --> 00:48:04,540  
Do you know if your mother  
was able to go see your father

872  
00:48:04,540 --> 00:48:05,530  
while he was in prison?

873  
00:48:05,530 --> 00:48:06,160  
No.

874  
00:48:06,160 --> 00:48:07,180  
No.

875  
00:48:07,180 --> 00:48:09,770  
There was suddenly a  
ringing at the door.

876  
00:48:09,770 --> 00:48:12,490  
And here he was there  
with another friend,

877  
00:48:12,490 --> 00:48:15,190  
who also was released from  
prison three weeks later.

878  
00:48:15,190 --> 00:48:20,695  
And-- and here he was.

879  
00:48:20,695 --> 00:48:22,570  
Initially, we didn't  
know where my uncle was.

880  
00:48:22,570 --> 00:48:25,330  
But then, of course,  
it became evident

881  
00:48:25,330 --> 00:48:27,790  
because you got notified.

882  
00:48:27,790 --> 00:48:29,620  
Was there any communication  
with the uncle?

883  
00:48:29,620 --> 00:48:33,130

884  
00:48:33,130 --> 00:48:33,880  
No.

885  
00:48:33,880 --> 00:48:38,590  
I think the first thing I  
saw was a picture, which

886  
00:48:38,590 --> 00:48:43,660  
they had to send in order to  
get the tickets or whatever.

887  
00:48:43,660 --> 00:48:45,700  
You had to get the  
visa or whatever.

888  
00:48:45,700 --> 00:48:48,610  
You didn't need a visa to  
go to Shanghai at that time.

889  
00:48:48,610 --> 00:48:51,190  
It was under  
Japanese occupation.

890  
00:48:51,190 --> 00:48:53,410  
But you had to get  
some picture, some sort

891  
00:48:53,410 --> 00:48:54,575  
of stateless passport.

892  
00:48:54,575 --> 00:48:56,950  
You did-- weren't permitted  
to have an Austrian passport.

893  
00:48:56,950 --> 00:49:01,990  
We had a stateless passport,  
you know, with a J in it.

894  
00:49:01,990 --> 00:49:05,290  
And that picture looked  
horrible, clearly.

895  
00:49:05,290 --> 00:49:11,500  
And that's a memory I have, in  
that sense, until he got out.

896  
00:49:11,500 --> 00:49:14,170  
Do you remember when the  
talk began about leaving?

897  
00:49:14,170 --> 00:49:18,430

898  
00:49:18,430 --> 00:49:27,740  
Probably-- probably  
shortly after my father's

899  
00:49:27,740 --> 00:49:29,270  
return from jail.

900  
00:49:29,270 --> 00:49:32,480  
The family had all left  
basically about it.

901  
00:49:32,480 --> 00:49:39,560  
And-- and there was, if I  
remember correctly, there

902  
00:49:39,560 --> 00:49:42,860  
was a problem about  
even getting out,

903  
00:49:42,860 --> 00:49:45,650  
Shanghai would have been  
the only possibility.

904  
00:49:45,650 --> 00:49:51,020  
Because that's a whole  
problem about immigration

905  
00:49:51,020 --> 00:49:53,780  
quota at the United States.

906  
00:49:53,780 --> 00:49:57,050  
There weren't that  
many visas available.

907  
00:49:57,050 --> 00:49:58,670  
And we did have  
an Austrian visa.

908

00:49:58,670 --> 00:50:00,865

So many Austrians  
had to go to Poland,

909

00:50:00,865 --> 00:50:02,240

because they were  
born in Poland,

910

00:50:02,240 --> 00:50:06,710

which was almost an non-existing  
immigration quota at the time.

911

00:50:06,710 --> 00:50:09,110

But the Austrian  
wasn't bad, except they

912

00:50:09,110 --> 00:50:15,240

didn't fill the quotas in the  
United States in that year.

913

00:50:15,240 --> 00:50:18,290

And so the question  
came, what's to be done?

914

00:50:18,290 --> 00:50:20,480

Because there was no  
question, number one,

915

00:50:20,480 --> 00:50:24,690

you couldn't get my uncle  
out from concentration camp.

916

00:50:24,690 --> 00:50:29,870

And number two, our lives  
would be forfeited at the time.

917

00:50:29,870 --> 00:50:32,510

And my parents, for  
some reason or other,

918

00:50:32,510 --> 00:50:35,375

didn't permit Kindertransports.

919

00:50:35,375 --> 00:50:36,875

You know about the  
Kindertransports.

920

00:50:36,875 --> 00:50:37,682

Yeah, yeah.

921

00:50:37,682 --> 00:50:40,280

922

00:50:40,280 --> 00:50:42,470

Was there any opportunity?

923

00:50:42,470 --> 00:50:43,280

Lots.

924

00:50:43,280 --> 00:50:44,030

A lot.

925

00:50:44,030 --> 00:50:46,400

A little bit more

if you had from--

926

00:50:46,400 --> 00:50:48,620

I hear from friends of mine

who were Kindertransports

927

00:50:48,620 --> 00:50:52,220

from the Vienna, if you

had more of a connection

928

00:50:52,220 --> 00:50:55,210

with the Jewish community.

929

00:50:55,210 --> 00:50:55,710

So the--

930

00:50:55,710 --> 00:50:56,710

I think so.

931

00:50:56,710 --> 00:51:00,230

I think that maybe, I



wouldn't call it isolation.

932

00:51:00,230 --> 00:51:00,930

It was just--

933

00:51:00,930 --> 00:51:01,430

Separation.

934

00:51:01,430 --> 00:51:03,650

It was just the way things were.

935

00:51:03,650 --> 00:51:06,260

936

00:51:06,260 --> 00:51:08,390

And I don't know whether  
they ever confronted

937

00:51:08,390 --> 00:51:10,813

Jewish community about  
it, what should they

938

00:51:10,813 --> 00:51:11,980

do, what should they not do.

939

00:51:11,980 --> 00:51:15,260

I really don't know.

940

00:51:15,260 --> 00:51:18,020

But it is certainly  
true that I don't

941

00:51:18,020 --> 00:51:22,310

know how much information they  
had about Kindertransports.

942

00:51:22,310 --> 00:51:26,630

But at that time, the Shanghai  
situation came as a family.

943

00:51:26,630 --> 00:51:32,530

And then the problem, of course,

was we didn't have any money.

944

00:51:32,530 --> 00:51:35,120

Did the Germans take  
the business away?

945

00:51:35,120 --> 00:51:46,010

The main workmen of  
my father's business

946

00:51:46,010 --> 00:51:51,050

was empowered by the Nazis  
to Aryanize the business.

947

00:51:51,050 --> 00:51:53,540

Every organization, you  
know, what that meant.

948

00:51:53,540 --> 00:51:54,380

And--

949

00:51:54,380 --> 00:51:56,510

Were they were able to  
get anything out of it?

950

00:51:56,510 --> 00:51:57,890

Absolutely nothing.

951

00:51:57,890 --> 00:52:02,570

My mother tells me that she--

952

00:52:02,570 --> 00:52:06,320

there was absolutely really no  
money really actually for food.

953

00:52:06,320 --> 00:52:10,430

My grandfather got a little bit  
of pocket money from his sons

954

00:52:10,430 --> 00:52:11,480

in Chicago.

955

00:52:11,480 --> 00:52:16,520

And he gave that money to  
my mother, as she told me.

956

00:52:16,520 --> 00:52:20,810

She begged, as she  
told me, on bended knee

957

00:52:20,810 --> 00:52:23,120

this particular man.

958

00:52:23,120 --> 00:52:26,070

After all, he has known the  
family for such a long time.

959

00:52:26,070 --> 00:52:27,830

And we had a good relationship.

960

00:52:27,830 --> 00:52:30,103

He didn't have a good  
relationship with my father.

961

00:52:30,103 --> 00:52:32,270

But they had a very good  
relationship with my mother

962

00:52:32,270 --> 00:52:34,020

and certainly with us kids.

963

00:52:34,020 --> 00:52:36,770

I mean, he was just  
like a second father.

964

00:52:36,770 --> 00:52:39,020

And I presume that's  
the basis on which he

965

00:52:39,020 --> 00:52:41,750

gave a little bit of money to--

966

00:52:41,750 --> 00:52:44,930

so that you, you know,  
could buy food or whatever.

967  
00:52:44,930 --> 00:52:47,570  
And this was what, a  
friend or the person then--

968  
00:52:47,570 --> 00:52:49,970  
No, that was the person  
who took over the business.

969  
00:52:49,970 --> 00:52:50,570  
Who took over?

970  
00:52:50,570 --> 00:52:50,910  
Right.

971  
00:52:50,910 --> 00:52:51,410  
OK.

972  
00:52:51,410 --> 00:52:54,710

973  
00:52:54,710 --> 00:52:57,780  
There was another workman  
there who was sympathetic,

974  
00:52:57,780 --> 00:53:00,140  
but I don't think he  
had anything to be done.

975  
00:53:00,140 --> 00:53:05,690  
And the accountant  
in the business

976  
00:53:05,690 --> 00:53:07,970  
was just doing what the  
Nazis were telling him.

977  
00:53:07,970 --> 00:53:10,820  
I think he was fearful.

978  
00:53:10,820 --> 00:53:13,820  
Because I confronted him when I

was stationed in Germany and I

979

00:53:13,820 --> 00:53:16,490

went to Austria.

980

00:53:16,490 --> 00:53:17,840

But that was many years later.

981

00:53:17,840 --> 00:53:21,102

982

00:53:21,102 --> 00:53:25,370

So-- so the problem

was of Shanghai

983

00:53:25,370 --> 00:53:28,100

and you had to pay

for your tickets.

984

00:53:28,100 --> 00:53:30,530

And that we didn't

really have any money.

985

00:53:30,530 --> 00:53:34,820

And very indirectly, there's

sort of a long story .

986

00:53:34,820 --> 00:53:39,410

Through the very

distant relatives,

987

00:53:39,410 --> 00:53:42,030

who received affidavits

from my uncles

988

00:53:42,030 --> 00:53:44,630

in Chicago, who were

very wealthy in Vienna

989

00:53:44,630 --> 00:53:48,770

and apparently still had

funds, gave us the money

990

00:53:48,770 --> 00:53:52,010

to buy the tickets and thusly  
got my uncle out of Dachau,

991

00:53:52,010 --> 00:53:54,140

proving that we would leave.

992

00:53:54,140 --> 00:53:57,020

And off we went to  
Shanghai in April.

993

00:53:57,020 --> 00:54:00,020

Now this was from  
money provided by the--

994

00:54:00,020 --> 00:54:01,560

By these distant relatives--

995

00:54:01,560 --> 00:54:03,500

--the uncles.

996

00:54:03,500 --> 00:54:06,830

--who gave us the money when  
they received the affidavits.

997

00:54:06,830 --> 00:54:11,090

And they then left on the  
strength of these affidavits

998

00:54:11,090 --> 00:54:14,700

to come to the United States.

999

00:54:14,700 --> 00:54:17,460

Now, after Crystal  
Night, you were not

1000

00:54:17,460 --> 00:54:19,600

allowed to go back to school.

1001

00:54:19,600 --> 00:54:25,070

No, I went to that Jewish Hebrew  
school called [PERSONAL NAME]

1002  
00:54:25,070 --> 00:54:25,725  
Gymnasium.

1003  
00:54:25,725 --> 00:54:27,600  
To this day, I don't  
know who [PERSONAL NAME]

1004  
00:54:27,600 --> 00:54:32,790  
was but apparently a  
prominent Jewish person.

1005  
00:54:32,790 --> 00:54:34,370  
And what was that  
like, that school?

1006  
00:54:34,370 --> 00:54:38,010

1007  
00:54:38,010 --> 00:54:42,330  
The faintest memory of  
it that I have was it

1008  
00:54:42,330 --> 00:54:46,160  
seemed to be a good school.

1009  
00:54:46,160 --> 00:54:52,470  
IT-- they taught a lot  
of Hebrew of which I

1010  
00:54:52,470 --> 00:54:56,220  
don't remember anything at all.

1011  
00:54:56,220 --> 00:55:01,890  
And so I went there, I  
guess, in November '38.

1012  
00:55:01,890 --> 00:55:05,310  
And it may have, yes,  
around that time,

1013  
00:55:05,310 --> 00:55:08,220

it may have been  
slightly before actually.

1014  
00:55:08,220 --> 00:55:11,380  
And we left in April.

1015  
00:55:11,380 --> 00:55:16,440  
So it was just really a few  
months that time of the year.

1016  
00:55:16,440 --> 00:55:18,900  
I probably was in the second  
year of the gymnasium class

1017  
00:55:18,900 --> 00:55:19,560  
by that time.

1018  
00:55:19,560 --> 00:55:22,200

1019  
00:55:22,200 --> 00:55:24,218  
And I assume all  
the other students

1020  
00:55:24,218 --> 00:55:26,010  
that were with you that  
their families were

1021  
00:55:26,010 --> 00:55:26,790  
trying to get out.

1022  
00:55:26,790 --> 00:55:29,520

1023  
00:55:29,520 --> 00:55:37,140  
The-- a number of them  
had left for other places.

1024  
00:55:37,140 --> 00:55:43,590  
After Crystal Night,  
the few contacts I had

1025



00:55:43,590 --> 00:55:46,260  
were people who  
basically had left.

1026  
00:55:46,260 --> 00:55:50,790  
And I just-- it's a  
real blank of what

1027  
00:55:50,790 --> 00:55:54,480  
happened between the  
Crystal Night and the time

1028  
00:55:54,480 --> 00:55:57,760  
we left for Shanghai.

1029  
00:55:57,760 --> 00:55:59,760  
Which was in May.

1030  
00:55:59,760 --> 00:56:00,960  
Was April, I think.

1031  
00:56:00,960 --> 00:56:01,650  
April.

1032  
00:56:01,650 --> 00:56:02,150  
Yeah.

1033  
00:56:02,150 --> 00:56:04,530

1034  
00:56:04,530 --> 00:56:07,220  
So there were about almost six  
months that you were there.

1035  
00:56:07,220 --> 00:56:08,480  
Right.

1036  
00:56:08,480 --> 00:56:13,750  
And you know, it's living in  
a state somewhat of suspense,

1037  
00:56:13,750 --> 00:56:16,950

as the parents were  
trying to do this Shanghai

1038  
00:56:16,950 --> 00:56:19,410  
trip, what Shanghai was like.

1039  
00:56:19,410 --> 00:56:23,850  
I do remember-- I do  
remember one thing.

1040  
00:56:23,850 --> 00:56:29,910  
I had a very good friend  
whose father was a bookbinder.

1041  
00:56:29,910 --> 00:56:31,860  
It was days before machine.

1042  
00:56:31,860 --> 00:56:34,560  
You did everything  
by hand actually.

1043  
00:56:34,560 --> 00:56:37,110  
And I learned how  
to do bookbinding

1044  
00:56:37,110 --> 00:56:39,240  
when I was 10 and 1/2, 11.

1045  
00:56:39,240 --> 00:56:43,020  
Actually, I still know how to.

1046  
00:56:43,020 --> 00:56:45,900  
My mother, because  
everybody was told

1047  
00:56:45,900 --> 00:56:47,710  
you had to learn  
some sort of trade,

1048  
00:56:47,710 --> 00:56:49,590  
the last thing  
anyone in my family

1049

00:56:49,590 --> 00:56:52,140

really had an ordinary  
trade, except my father

1050

00:56:52,140 --> 00:56:55,830

was a piano tuner,  
obviously, which is a trade.

1051

00:56:55,830 --> 00:56:59,710

And my mother when--

1052

00:56:59,710 --> 00:57:00,870

what did she learn?

1053

00:57:00,870 --> 00:57:06,720

I think it's something with  
cooking something of the sort,

1054

00:57:06,720 --> 00:57:09,210

you know, I think so.

1055

00:57:09,210 --> 00:57:13,500

And people learned to do things.

1056

00:57:13,500 --> 00:57:15,540

I remember that.

1057

00:57:15,540 --> 00:57:18,330

I think they learned how to  
make hats and things like that.

1058

00:57:18,330 --> 00:57:20,880

1059

00:57:20,880 --> 00:57:22,241

What did your brother learn?

1060

00:57:22,241 --> 00:57:24,988

1061

00:57:24,988 --> 00:57:26,405

I don't-- I don't  
really remember.

1062  
00:57:26,405 --> 00:57:27,110  
OK.

1063  
00:57:27,110 --> 00:57:29,498  
I don't-- I think the  
bookbinding wasn't anything,

1064  
00:57:29,498 --> 00:57:31,040  
that was a very  
close friend of mine.

1065  
00:57:31,040 --> 00:57:31,820  
It was fun.

1066  
00:57:31,820 --> 00:57:32,780  
Yeah.

1067  
00:57:32,780 --> 00:57:37,340  
And I still have things like  
music notes, which I bound,

1068  
00:57:37,340 --> 00:57:38,300  
to this day.

1069  
00:57:38,300 --> 00:57:41,550

1070  
00:57:41,550 --> 00:57:43,130  
So but that was a fun situation.

1071  
00:57:43,130 --> 00:57:45,590  
It wasn't anything  
because of Shanghai I

1072  
00:57:45,590 --> 00:57:47,930  
would have to go and get  
a job at 10 or at 11.

1073  
00:57:47,930 --> 00:57:50,416

1074  
00:57:50,416 --> 00:57:50,916  
Mm-hmm.

1075  
00:57:50,916 --> 00:57:51,650  
Go ahead.

1076  
00:57:51,650 --> 00:57:59,570  
Well and then my mother's  
sister and her two daughters

1077  
00:57:59,570 --> 00:58:01,400  
were still in Vienna.

1078  
00:58:01,400 --> 00:58:05,090  
They were originally from--

1079  
00:58:05,090 --> 00:58:11,180  
her divorced husband was from  
Bratislava, Slovakia now.

1080  
00:58:11,180 --> 00:58:13,880  
And they helped us flee.

1081  
00:58:13,880 --> 00:58:16,490  
Because there was some  
problem I know with taxes.

1082  
00:58:16,490 --> 00:58:18,800  
You had to pay all your  
tax before you could leave.

1083  
00:58:18,800 --> 00:58:20,580  
And we didn't have  
the money for that.

1084  
00:58:20,580 --> 00:58:22,400  
And I think the Germans,  
believe it or not,

1085  
00:58:22,400 --> 00:58:25,760

had made a mistake in giving  
us something, you know,

1086  
00:58:25,760 --> 00:58:27,360  
which is unheard of.

1087  
00:58:27,360 --> 00:58:28,610  
And so we had this.

1088  
00:58:28,610 --> 00:58:31,050  
But the fear was that they're  
going to fight it out.

1089  
00:58:31,050 --> 00:58:35,150  
So we fled at 5  
o'clock in the morning.

1090  
00:58:35,150 --> 00:58:37,760  
And my father arranged to--

1091  
00:58:37,760 --> 00:58:40,700  
had gotten all this  
emotional strength back,

1092  
00:58:40,700 --> 00:58:45,650  
that we should take the train  
to Munich and from Munich

1093  
00:58:45,650 --> 00:58:49,160  
to Genoa, to get onto the  
ship to take us to Shanghai.

1094  
00:58:49,160 --> 00:58:50,510  
Why Munich?

1095  
00:58:50,510 --> 00:58:53,210  
Well, that's because nobody  
would be stupid enough

1096  
00:58:53,210 --> 00:58:55,140  
to go into Germany and follow.

1097

00:58:55,140 --> 00:58:57,290

And they wouldn't  
find us this way.

1098

00:58:57,290 --> 00:59:00,500

So we took the train to Munich  
and Munich down to Genoa.

1099

00:59:00,500 --> 00:59:02,120

That was his reasoning.

1100

00:59:02,120 --> 00:59:05,300

And you went right  
into the lion's mouth.

1101

00:59:05,300 --> 00:59:06,080

Exactly.

1102

00:59:06,080 --> 00:59:07,070

Yeah.

1103

00:59:07,070 --> 00:59:11,990

And, Munich, as you know,  
Bavaria is a stronghold.

1104

00:59:11,990 --> 00:59:14,330

My theory is still in  
the Catholic countries,

1105

00:59:14,330 --> 00:59:18,290

like Austria, Bavaria,  
Ukraine, and Poland,

1106

00:59:18,290 --> 00:59:23,750

very strong Catholic countries,  
where the relatively uneducated

1107

00:59:23,750 --> 00:59:25,430

priests felt very  
strongly that Jews

1108

00:59:25,430 --> 00:59:29,370

were instrumental in

killing Christ were worse.

1109  
00:59:29,370 --> 00:59:32,870  
I mean, you could go to  
Berlin still relatively

1110  
00:59:32,870 --> 00:59:36,950  
well in '37, '38, and so forth.

1111  
00:59:36,950 --> 00:59:40,630  
I mean, there are books  
written on that subject.

1112  
00:59:40,630 --> 00:59:42,440  
That must have been  
terrifying to--

1113  
00:59:42,440 --> 00:59:45,140

1114  
00:59:45,140 --> 00:59:48,230  
It-- well, we took the  
train, stayed at the station,

1115  
00:59:48,230 --> 00:59:49,700  
took the train back.

1116  
00:59:49,700 --> 00:59:52,670  
So there wasn't much  
time to think about it.

1117  
00:59:52,670 --> 00:59:55,430  
How much layover between  
getting there and leaving?

1118  
00:59:55,430 --> 00:59:58,100  
If I remember, it was just  
something like two hours.

1119  
00:59:58,100 --> 01:00:00,140  
You know, I mean, the  
efficiency of trains



1120

01:00:00,140 --> 01:00:03,930  
was still excellent at the time.

1121

01:00:03,930 --> 01:00:05,210  
And then we arrived in Genoa.

1122

01:00:05,210 --> 01:00:07,370  
We stayed there.

1123

01:00:07,370 --> 01:00:11,810  
My uncle had gone to Genoa  
a few days before in order

1124

01:00:11,810 --> 01:00:14,180  
to separate him from  
the family, in case

1125

01:00:14,180 --> 01:00:15,800  
they catch one or the other.

1126

01:00:15,800 --> 01:00:20,210  
And we stayed a few days in  
Genoa, which was actually

1127

01:00:20,210 --> 01:00:23,690  
a relatively happy time.

1128

01:00:23,690 --> 01:00:25,910  
And this uncle was related  
to you by your father?

1129

01:00:25,910 --> 01:00:26,930  
My father's brother.

1130

01:00:26,930 --> 01:00:27,950  
Your father's brother.

1131

01:00:27,950 --> 01:00:29,120  
Yeah.

1132

01:00:29,120 --> 01:00:31,130

Was he single?

1133

01:00:31,130 --> 01:00:31,940

He was single.

1134

01:00:31,940 --> 01:00:34,960

1135

01:00:34,960 --> 01:00:36,130

He had lived with us.

1136

01:00:36,130 --> 01:00:40,390

1137

01:00:40,390 --> 01:00:42,050

I might be jumping from--

1138

01:00:42,050 --> 01:00:44,030

That's OK.

1139

01:00:44,030 --> 01:00:46,960

My father was one of 9.

1140

01:00:46,960 --> 01:00:50,530

And my grandmother  
was a kind of person

1141

01:00:50,530 --> 01:00:53,770

where intelligence  
and education is more

1142

01:00:53,770 --> 01:00:56,240

important than anything else.

1143

01:00:56,240 --> 01:01:01,000

And so she directed  
all of these nine kids.

1144

01:01:01,000 --> 01:01:05,860

So my oldest, the oldest one  
was the only daughter she had,

1145

01:01:05,860 --> 01:01:15,190  
became a physician, which for a  
woman and a Jew in, what would

1146

01:01:15,190 --> 01:01:18,190  
it have been, in  
1908 to 1909 was not

1147

01:01:18,190 --> 01:01:19,340  
the easiest thing to do.

1148

01:01:19,340 --> 01:01:23,380  
But my grandmother had a lot of  
influence because of this music

1149

01:01:23,380 --> 01:01:29,350  
business, which, as you  
probably know, was a big thing,

1150

01:01:29,350 --> 01:01:31,300  
was able to get her in.

1151

01:01:31,300 --> 01:01:34,120  
And two of my uncles  
also became physicians.

1152

01:01:34,120 --> 01:01:36,670

1153

01:01:36,670 --> 01:01:41,350  
The-- another uncle  
of mine studied

1154

01:01:41,350 --> 01:01:49,780  
agricultural engineering  
and a job in, for a Jew

1155

01:01:49,780 --> 01:01:54,010  
and in Europe, because  
nobody got baptized,

1156

01:01:54,010 --> 01:01:56,980

was obviously  
impossible to find.

1157  
01:01:56,980 --> 01:01:59,440  
And I'm a little bit  
shy on the subject.

1158  
01:01:59,440 --> 01:02:01,690  
There was a very  
prominent wealthy Jew

1159  
01:02:01,690 --> 01:02:07,450  
in the '20s who wanted to  
develop colonies in Argentina,

1160  
01:02:07,450 --> 01:02:09,660  
perhaps some of you  
know more about it.

1161  
01:02:09,660 --> 01:02:11,770  
And in fact, a cousin of  
mine mentioned the name

1162  
01:02:11,770 --> 01:02:14,540  
the other day.

1163  
01:02:14,540 --> 01:02:17,290  
And my uncle, with  
his expertise,

1164  
01:02:17,290 --> 01:02:20,620  
went to Argentina at  
that time to assist

1165  
01:02:20,620 --> 01:02:24,720  
in the development of this,  
of Jews settling there.

1166  
01:02:24,720 --> 01:02:28,120

1167  
01:02:28,120 --> 01:02:30,790  
Another uncle of mine,

well, some of them

1168  
01:02:30,790 --> 01:02:33,130  
obviously had to stay  
in the piano business,

1169  
01:02:33,130 --> 01:02:36,100  
was dispatched with  
quite a lot of pianos

1170  
01:02:36,100 --> 01:02:43,240  
to Palestine in 1921 or  
'22, did exceedingly well,

1171  
01:02:43,240 --> 01:02:44,680  
from what I understand.

1172  
01:02:44,680 --> 01:02:48,260

1173  
01:02:48,260 --> 01:02:49,510  
He also-- music was important.

1174  
01:02:49,510 --> 01:02:53,800  
He was the first cellist  
with the Vienna Opera House.

1175  
01:02:53,800 --> 01:02:55,360  
But nonetheless,  
the piano business

1176  
01:02:55,360 --> 01:02:57,900  
was important and  
sold a lot of piano.

1177  
01:02:57,900 --> 01:03:02,440  
Simply at that time, you know,  
they had these chic areas.

1178  
01:03:02,440 --> 01:03:04,870  
And if one of the wives  
wanted to buy a piano,

1179

01:03:04,870 --> 01:03:07,330

the other woman wanted  
to get one, too.

1180

01:03:07,330 --> 01:03:10,060

And the pianos had to be  
decorated in red and gold

1181

01:03:10,060 --> 01:03:10,940

and so forth.

1182

01:03:10,940 --> 01:03:13,780

So he did, from what I  
understand, extremely well.

1183

01:03:13,780 --> 01:03:16,930

And my single uncle, who  
I'd referenced to before,

1184

01:03:16,930 --> 01:03:18,550

was in Dachau.

1185

01:03:18,550 --> 01:03:22,150

Also they went to stay  
with him for seven or eight

1186

01:03:22,150 --> 01:03:25,270

years in Palestine  
at that time, had

1187

01:03:25,270 --> 01:03:28,798

a bit of a falling out  
with my-- with this uncle

1188

01:03:28,798 --> 01:03:30,340

who had originally  
been in Palestine,

1189

01:03:30,340 --> 01:03:35,380

came back to resume his  
relationship with my father

1190

01:03:35,380 --> 01:03:38,030  
and had a business  
where he grew up.

1191  
01:03:38,030 --> 01:03:39,430  
So he was in the piano business.

1192  
01:03:39,430 --> 01:03:40,158  
Yeah, right.

1193  
01:03:40,158 --> 01:03:41,950  
And then I had the  
uncle I mentioned before

1194  
01:03:41,950 --> 01:03:47,620  
in the pharmacy business,  
whose wife actually

1195  
01:03:47,620 --> 01:03:48,430  
owned the pharmacy.

1196  
01:03:48,430 --> 01:03:52,990  
It was a pharmacy that  
didn't belong to the family

1197  
01:03:52,990 --> 01:03:56,320  
until probably the early  
1900s but went back

1198  
01:03:56,320 --> 01:03:57,880  
to the 17th century.

1199  
01:03:57,880 --> 01:03:59,440  
And when I was  
stationed in Germany

1200  
01:03:59,440 --> 01:04:03,010  
and I came to visit  
them in the '50s,

1201  
01:04:03,010 --> 01:04:07,660  
I'm sure they had a jar of  
leeches still standing there.

1202  
01:04:07,660 --> 01:04:09,130  
Leeches are coming back.

1203  
01:04:09,130 --> 01:04:12,370  
But it wasn't very  
typical at that time.

1204  
01:04:12,370 --> 01:04:17,920  
Anyway and then another uncle  
was a very prominent lawyer

1205  
01:04:17,920 --> 01:04:18,740  
in Vienna.

1206  
01:04:18,740 --> 01:04:24,340  
And I have a feeling  
I'm leaving some out.

1207  
01:04:24,340 --> 01:04:31,330  
But anyway that was the sort of  
family structure at the time.

1208  
01:04:31,330 --> 01:04:35,590  
And she-- and so  
the piano business

1209  
01:04:35,590 --> 01:04:37,690  
is the one who, more  
or less, fed into all

1210  
01:04:37,690 --> 01:04:39,310  
this kind of education.

1211  
01:04:39,310 --> 01:04:42,010  
And my grandmother felt  
very, very strongly

1212  
01:04:42,010 --> 01:04:44,470  
that Austria was  
getting so decadent

1213



01:04:44,470 --> 01:04:48,040  
that the family  
in the early '30s

1214  
01:04:48,040 --> 01:04:51,610  
should all move to  
the United States.

1215  
01:04:51,610 --> 01:04:53,560  
Did she?

1216  
01:04:53,560 --> 01:04:54,220  
Pardon me.

1217  
01:04:54,220 --> 01:04:55,450  
Did she move?

1218  
01:04:55,450 --> 01:04:57,095  
Well, should move.

1219  
01:04:57,095 --> 01:04:57,595  
Should move.

1220  
01:04:57,595 --> 01:05:01,750  
She-- but these are stories.

1221  
01:05:01,750 --> 01:05:05,800  
She came to Chicago  
to visit her sons

1222  
01:05:05,800 --> 01:05:11,950  
and in all due respect in quotes  
her American daughter-in-laws.

1223  
01:05:11,950 --> 01:05:17,860  
And she was a real matriarch  
who expected people to jump,

1224  
01:05:17,860 --> 01:05:20,470  
particularly women ad  
particular daughter-in-laws.

1225

01:05:20,470 --> 01:05:23,560

It didn't quite work  
out that way in Chicago.

1226

01:05:23,560 --> 01:05:28,570

And she decided, one of the few  
wrong decisions she has made,

1227

01:05:28,570 --> 01:05:30,790

she'd rather die  
in decadent Austria

1228

01:05:30,790 --> 01:05:33,690

than put up with this  
kind of behavior.

1229

01:05:33,690 --> 01:05:35,220

The behavior is a long story.

1230

01:05:35,220 --> 01:05:36,210

It's a cute story.

1231

01:05:36,210 --> 01:05:38,352

But my cousins may hear this.

1232

01:05:38,352 --> 01:05:39,810

And I don't want  
to tell them that.

1233

01:05:39,810 --> 01:05:40,920

You don't want to tell them.

1234

01:05:40,920 --> 01:05:41,920

No, that's their mother.

1235

01:05:41,920 --> 01:05:45,570

1236

01:05:45,570 --> 01:05:46,770

And so she came back.

1237

01:05:46,770 --> 01:05:48,725

But it was an intriguing  
point of view.

1238  
01:05:48,725 --> 01:05:50,100  
And it gives you  
a little picture

1239  
01:05:50,100 --> 01:05:54,840  
of the kind of a situation of  
the intelligence that she had

1240  
01:05:54,840 --> 01:06:01,650  
and where she directed really  
a number of her children

1241  
01:06:01,650 --> 01:06:08,580  
into different directions,  
particularly her doctor sons

1242  
01:06:08,580 --> 01:06:09,210  
and so forth.

1243  
01:06:09,210 --> 01:06:11,740

1244  
01:06:11,740 --> 01:06:14,440  
Very successful  
family sounds like.

1245  
01:06:14,440 --> 01:06:17,680  
The family really I  
would say has good reason

1246  
01:06:17,680 --> 01:06:20,080  
to be proud of itself.

1247  
01:06:20,080 --> 01:06:26,230  
I think the younger generation  
also, the kids of my uncles

1248  
01:06:26,230 --> 01:06:29,650  
have achieved a lot.

1249

01:06:29,650 --> 01:06:37,540

My brother-- my brother who  
left school in Shanghai,

1250

01:06:37,540 --> 01:06:39,850

he went to school I think  
one or two more years,

1251

01:06:39,850 --> 01:06:43,420

left school basically at 14  
and had three large piano

1252

01:06:43,420 --> 01:06:45,340

stores in Chicago area.

1253

01:06:45,340 --> 01:06:46,780

He's doing extremely well.

1254

01:06:46,780 --> 01:06:49,670

He's always done better  
than me as a physician.

1255

01:06:49,670 --> 01:06:51,550

And he's very happy.

1256

01:06:51,550 --> 01:06:54,070

His son is running now  
the piano business.

1257

01:06:54,070 --> 01:06:59,050

And I understand his grandson  
is particularly talented.

1258

01:06:59,050 --> 01:07:04,340

And this goes into generations,  
really truly into generations.

1259

01:07:04,340 --> 01:07:07,990

Do you remember the picture  
that you have of Shanghai

1260

01:07:07,990 --> 01:07:10,660

when you were going there?

1261

01:07:10,660 --> 01:07:13,060

Initially, my first  
impression of--

1262

01:07:13,060 --> 01:07:15,428

What you though  
it would be like,

1263

01:07:15,428 --> 01:07:16,720

did you have any visions of it?

1264

01:07:16,720 --> 01:07:22,270

I-- actually I had none.

1265

01:07:22,270 --> 01:07:24,760

I think my brother and I  
had a good time on the ship.

1266

01:07:24,760 --> 01:07:27,700

1267

01:07:27,700 --> 01:07:31,150

I think it was a bit  
of a shock to arrive.

1268

01:07:31,150 --> 01:07:34,930

It was a large shock, really.

1269

01:07:34,930 --> 01:07:37,330

And I think both  
my brother and I

1270

01:07:37,330 --> 01:07:40,810

began to realize we are  
living for the present day,

1271

01:07:40,810 --> 01:07:43,340

I mean, almost instinctively.

1272

01:07:43,340 --> 01:07:45,310

And in talking to  
friends of mine

1273  
01:07:45,310 --> 01:07:49,600  
now as a senior citizen, so  
to speak, seemed most of us

1274  
01:07:49,600 --> 01:07:52,650  
had the impression,  
this is temporary.

1275  
01:07:52,650 --> 01:07:53,500  
This is present.

1276  
01:07:53,500 --> 01:07:57,070  
This can't be the future.

1277  
01:07:57,070 --> 01:07:59,320  
And so we arrived.

1278  
01:07:59,320 --> 01:08:03,280  
And my uncle, who  
had lived with--

1279  
01:08:03,280 --> 01:08:08,740  
has lived in this fabulous  
place in Shanghai, picked us up.

1280  
01:08:08,740 --> 01:08:13,660  
And you went to a camp.

1281  
01:08:13,660 --> 01:08:16,300  
As you probably know, there's  
a very wealthy Jewish community

1282  
01:08:16,300 --> 01:08:20,260  
in Shanghai, you know,  
the Kadoories, the Suns,

1283  
01:08:20,260 --> 01:08:21,430  
and so forth.

1284

01:08:21,430 --> 01:08:25,510

Many, many extremely  
wealthy were very, very kind

1285

01:08:25,510 --> 01:08:27,620  
and helpful.

1286

01:08:27,620 --> 01:08:32,830  
So large camp, the men  
went into one and the women

1287

01:08:32,830 --> 01:08:34,960  
into another, huge halls  
with, I don't know,

1288

01:08:34,960 --> 01:08:39,580  
100 beds and so forth,  
two or three layers.

1289

01:08:39,580 --> 01:08:42,700  
And boys about the  
age of 10 had to go

1290

01:08:42,700 --> 01:08:48,340  
with the men, which produced a  
horrible reaction, my mother's

1291

01:08:48,340 --> 01:08:48,939  
thing.

1292

01:08:48,939 --> 01:08:52,000  
And at that point,  
she, obviously,

1293

01:08:52,000 --> 01:08:53,680  
broke down and  
cried all the time.

1294

01:08:53,680 --> 01:08:56,740  
My brother and I started to roam  
the streets of Shanghai, which

1295

01:08:56,740 --> 01:09:00,338

wasn't a good thing  
to do at 11 and 13,

1296  
01:09:00,338 --> 01:09:01,630  
not knowing where you're going.

1297  
01:09:01,630 --> 01:09:03,580  
And you know, anybody  
would have kidnapped us

1298  
01:09:03,580 --> 01:09:04,788  
that would have been the end.

1299  
01:09:04,788 --> 01:09:07,569

1300  
01:09:07,569 --> 01:09:10,005  
My father immediately went  
out to look for a place

1301  
01:09:10,005 --> 01:09:11,380  
where it would be  
more reasonable

1302  
01:09:11,380 --> 01:09:13,600  
and the family can be together.

1303  
01:09:13,600 --> 01:09:15,399  
And he did find something.

1304  
01:09:15,399 --> 01:09:16,120  
And--

1305  
01:09:16,120 --> 01:09:17,229  
What did he find?

1306  
01:09:17,229 --> 01:09:24,140  
He found-- I'm trying to  
think where we lived at first,

1307  
01:09:24,140 --> 01:09:30,910  
a room in a very nice



house, where the four of us

1308  
01:09:30,910 --> 01:09:31,540  
were in a room.

1309  
01:09:31,540 --> 01:09:33,189  
But it was a very nice house.

1310  
01:09:33,189 --> 01:09:40,510  
And my uncle sort of was living  
in the kitchen kind of area.

1311  
01:09:40,510 --> 01:09:41,260  
In the same house.

1312  
01:09:41,260 --> 01:09:45,189  
In the same compound, right.

1313  
01:09:45,189 --> 01:09:47,710  
My uncle, my father was  
getting a little bit of money

1314  
01:09:47,710 --> 01:09:48,910  
from my uncle.

1315  
01:09:48,910 --> 01:09:51,819  
Because my uncle's from  
Chicago had sent some money.

1316  
01:09:51,819 --> 01:09:58,550  
So he could afford, you know,  
paying the rent at that time.

1317  
01:09:58,550 --> 01:10:00,370  
And as far as--

1318  
01:10:00,370 --> 01:10:03,520  
so we weren't really in that  
place longer than at the most

1319  
01:10:03,520 --> 01:10:04,345  
four or five days.

1320  
01:10:04,345 --> 01:10:08,160

1321  
01:10:08,160 --> 01:10:08,660  
And--

1322  
01:10:08,660 --> 01:10:10,330  
Before your father  
found a place.

1323  
01:10:10,330 --> 01:10:11,410  
Right.

1324  
01:10:11,410 --> 01:10:16,360  
And my father and uncle found  
a place in a music store

1325  
01:10:16,360 --> 01:10:17,440  
called Robinson.

1326  
01:10:17,440 --> 01:10:19,240  
But it was Chinese owned.

1327  
01:10:19,240 --> 01:10:22,220  
And they were piano  
tuners, both of them.

1328  
01:10:22,220 --> 01:10:23,470  
And did really very well.

1329  
01:10:23,470 --> 01:10:27,790  
Now this is in '39, so war  
didn't break out until December

1330  
01:10:27,790 --> 01:10:29,050  
'41.

1331  
01:10:29,050 --> 01:10:31,090  
And really did  
surprisingly well.

1332

01:10:31,090 --> 01:10:33,250

They had a need  
for piano tuners.

1333

01:10:33,250 --> 01:10:34,030

Oh yeah.

1334

01:10:34,030 --> 01:10:37,630

Shanghai, I don't  
know what you heard.

1335

01:10:37,630 --> 01:10:41,650

is-- was, and  
apparently has become,

1336

01:10:41,650 --> 01:10:46,450

an amazing city with the  
International Settlement

1337

01:10:46,450 --> 01:10:51,167

and the Constitution  
Francaise, which

1338

01:10:51,167 --> 01:10:52,750

were given to the  
French, the English,

1339

01:10:52,750 --> 01:10:54,910

because the Chinese  
had lost the Opium War.

1340

01:10:54,910 --> 01:10:57,100

Unjustly, but they  
lost the Opium War.

1341

01:10:57,100 --> 01:11:01,000

And so Shanghai was,  
therefore, divided.

1342

01:11:01,000 --> 01:11:02,920

The area where we  
lived was called

1343

01:11:02,920 --> 01:11:08,140

the Hongkou area, which was  
Chinese, to a large extent

1344

01:11:08,140 --> 01:11:12,360

still to--

1345

01:11:12,360 --> 01:11:14,833

partly destroyed  
still by the Japanese,

1346

01:11:14,833 --> 01:11:15,750

you know, at the time.

1347

01:11:15,750 --> 01:11:20,010

When, in '36, they  
conquered the entire side

1348

01:11:20,010 --> 01:11:23,655

of the Chinese Sea and  
all the way from North

1349

01:11:23,655 --> 01:11:24,405

all the way South.

1350

01:11:24,405 --> 01:11:27,840

1351

01:11:27,840 --> 01:11:30,750

The house in which my  
father found a place had

1352

01:11:30,750 --> 01:11:32,760

been originally English owned.

1353

01:11:32,760 --> 01:11:36,390

I don't remember who owned it  
at the time when he rented it.

1354

01:11:36,390 --> 01:11:42,210

But both my father and uncle  
found the job as piano tuners.

1355  
01:11:42,210 --> 01:11:45,900  
And I think they did  
surprisingly well.

1356  
01:11:45,900 --> 01:11:51,210  
Kadoorie, who was  
one of the wealthy,

1357  
01:11:51,210 --> 01:11:55,200  
I think, Baghdad Jews, who  
had emigrated to Shanghai,

1358  
01:11:55,200 --> 01:12:01,650  
I don't know, 1900 or so,  
had rented the building

1359  
01:12:01,650 --> 01:12:04,950  
in the same Hongkou district  
for the Jewish kids,

1360  
01:12:04,950 --> 01:12:08,070  
to which my brother  
and I went for a year.

1361  
01:12:08,070 --> 01:12:08,850  
For school.

1362  
01:12:08,850 --> 01:12:11,070  
To that school.

1363  
01:12:11,070 --> 01:12:13,920  
The school closed, because  
they lost the lease.

1364  
01:12:13,920 --> 01:12:15,840  
And they were building  
another school. ,

1365  
01:12:15,840 --> 01:12:19,670  
But there was a few  
months in between.

1366

01:12:19,670 --> 01:12:24,810

And now comes a story that  
differs me from other kids.

1367

01:12:24,810 --> 01:12:28,050

1368

01:12:28,050 --> 01:12:31,470

My father thought we have  
to go to a good school.

1369

01:12:31,470 --> 01:12:34,590

And for some reason  
or other, and he

1370

01:12:34,590 --> 01:12:36,810

may have found it through  
one of his friends

1371

01:12:36,810 --> 01:12:41,910

who had been living in Shanghai  
longer, a Catholic school.

1372

01:12:41,910 --> 01:12:44,340

It was called St.  
Francis Xavier College.

1373

01:12:44,340 --> 01:12:47,580

St Francis Xavier  
was the missionary

1374

01:12:47,580 --> 01:12:50,160

to China in the olden  
days, years ago.

1375

01:12:50,160 --> 01:12:52,350

And it was in Francis  
Xavier College

1376

01:12:52,350 --> 01:12:53,940

but he went from  
elementary school

1377

01:12:53,940 --> 01:12:56,490  
all the way through high school.

1378

01:12:56,490 --> 01:12:58,350  
So he and my brother and I went.

1379

01:12:58,350 --> 01:13:01,570

1380

01:13:01,570 --> 01:13:02,300  
He--

1381

01:13:02,300 --> 01:13:03,172  
Did you have to pay?

1382

01:13:03,172 --> 01:13:06,990

1383

01:13:06,990 --> 01:13:08,490  
He left after one year.

1384

01:13:08,490 --> 01:13:11,010  
I don't know whether in  
the first year we paid.

1385

01:13:11,010 --> 01:13:14,730  
And after that, I  
know I stayed on.

1386

01:13:14,730 --> 01:13:17,190  
And it was free.

1387

01:13:17,190 --> 01:13:22,200  
They gave me-- it  
was totally free

1388

01:13:22,200 --> 01:13:25,890  
because I know  
when the war came,

1389

01:13:25,890 --> 01:13:28,500

my parents couldn't  
afford anything.

1390  
01:13:28,500 --> 01:13:30,930  
Besides my father was  
dying at the time anyway.

1391  
01:13:30,930 --> 01:13:35,100  
So could never afford,  
and I stayed on.

1392  
01:13:35,100 --> 01:13:37,500  
And it was a very strict  
missionary school,

1393  
01:13:37,500 --> 01:13:39,930  
you know, with  
corporal punishment.

1394  
01:13:39,930 --> 01:13:41,180  
Boys.

1395  
01:13:41,180 --> 01:13:43,260  
Only boys.

1396  
01:13:43,260 --> 01:13:46,380  
A few of the kids lived  
there in the boarding.

1397  
01:13:46,380 --> 01:13:48,420  
Other kids were living outside.

1398  
01:13:48,420 --> 01:13:50,850  
What was the age range?

1399  
01:13:50,850 --> 01:13:52,560  
Well, it was from  
elementary school,

1400  
01:13:52,560 --> 01:13:54,780  
so I guess from 6 to 18.

1401



01:13:54,780 --> 01:13:56,760  
OK.

1402  
01:13:56,760 --> 01:13:58,620  
It went all the way through.

1403  
01:13:58,620 --> 01:14:01,350  
And it was very disciplined.

1404  
01:14:01,350 --> 01:14:03,720  
And luckily, they  
didn't take uniforms.

1405  
01:14:03,720 --> 01:14:07,350  
Because I certainly  
couldn't have managed that.

1406  
01:14:07,350 --> 01:14:09,660  
And the education was superb.

1407  
01:14:09,660 --> 01:14:11,910  
How did you feel  
about the school?

1408  
01:14:11,910 --> 01:14:14,670  
Being Catholic, being  
religious or something,

1409  
01:14:14,670 --> 01:14:17,100  
I took it in my stride.

1410  
01:14:17,100 --> 01:14:20,490  
But that's been my  
philosophy literally

1411  
01:14:20,490 --> 01:14:22,770  
since early childhood.

1412  
01:14:22,770 --> 01:14:24,990  
You had to take all the  
religious information.

1413

01:14:24,990 --> 01:14:26,690  
I mean, you had to say a rosary.

1414  
01:14:26,690 --> 01:14:29,010  
You didn't have to say  
this being a Jewish kid.

1415  
01:14:29,010 --> 01:14:32,100  
But you had to stand up and  
listen to that time and time

1416  
01:14:32,100 --> 01:14:33,270  
and time again.

1417  
01:14:33,270 --> 01:14:37,628  
You had to go to mass,  
if it was a funeral mass

1418  
01:14:37,628 --> 01:14:38,670  
or something of the sort.

1419  
01:14:38,670 --> 01:14:41,310

1420  
01:14:41,310 --> 01:14:44,880  
You knelt because everybody  
else knelt, that kind of stuff.

1421  
01:14:44,880 --> 01:14:46,410  
But you didn't partake.

1422  
01:14:46,410 --> 01:14:47,640  
And it was accepted.

1423  
01:14:47,640 --> 01:14:49,110  
And I accepted it.

1424  
01:14:49,110 --> 01:14:50,970  
Were there other  
Jewish children?

1425  
01:14:50,970 --> 01:14:54,300

There was one Jewish kid in my class, who was a Russian Jew.

1426  
01:14:54,300 --> 01:14:56,910  
How big was the class?

1427  
01:14:56,910 --> 01:14:58,410  
Initially, it was much larger.

1428  
01:14:58,410 --> 01:15:02,640  
It was something like, they had two classes at that time,

1429  
01:15:02,640 --> 01:15:04,110  
I remember in sixth grade.

1430  
01:15:04,110 --> 01:15:07,090  
Sixth grade isn't what we have in the sixth grade.

1431  
01:15:07,090 --> 01:15:08,670  
First grade is the lowest grade.

1432  
01:15:08,670 --> 01:15:11,310

1433  
01:15:11,310 --> 01:15:13,230  
Probably they had two sixth grade

1434  
01:15:13,230 --> 01:15:16,200  
and each one must have been 30 kids.

1435  
01:15:16,200 --> 01:15:22,770  
The graduation class was only 24, one single class.

1436  
01:15:22,770 --> 01:15:25,320  
And so it was the one Jewish kid.

1437

01:15:25,320 --> 01:15:30,450  
And I know once we got  
in terrible trouble

1438  
01:15:30,450 --> 01:15:32,550  
because it was said--  
next to me was telling me

1439  
01:15:32,550 --> 01:15:33,900  
a joke during the rosary.

1440  
01:15:33,900 --> 01:15:35,970  
And I got the church giggles.

1441  
01:15:35,970 --> 01:15:38,940  
And we had to leave.

1442  
01:15:38,940 --> 01:15:42,150  
But I must say, frankly,  
there was no attempt

1443  
01:15:42,150 --> 01:15:46,080  
at conversion, at least none  
that I felt. Perhaps there was.

1444  
01:15:46,080 --> 01:15:48,390  
I thought the education  
was excellent.

1445  
01:15:48,390 --> 01:15:50,035  
I thought--

1446  
01:15:50,035 --> 01:15:53,670  
Were your parents at all  
worried that you might convert?

1447  
01:15:53,670 --> 01:15:56,190  
Didn't enter their  
mind, knowing them.

1448  
01:15:56,190 --> 01:15:58,230  
OK.

1449

01:15:58,230 --> 01:16:00,780

I know, I know I'm here  
in a religious school.

1450

01:16:00,780 --> 01:16:03,490

1451

01:16:03,490 --> 01:16:06,480

I hope it doesn't strike  
you too negatively.

1452

01:16:06,480 --> 01:16:10,890

Because I never  
did get converted.

1453

01:16:10,890 --> 01:16:13,020

But I learned a lot.

1454

01:16:13,020 --> 01:16:15,660

You know, it's a memorization  
of all the Gospels.

1455

01:16:15,660 --> 01:16:17,865

I mean, to this  
day, I can recite

1456

01:16:17,865 --> 01:16:19,740

you all of Saint Luke's  
gospel from beginning

1457

01:16:19,740 --> 01:16:22,330

to the end, or the  
acts of the apostle,

1458

01:16:22,330 --> 01:16:23,370

all this kind of thing.

1459

01:16:23,370 --> 01:16:26,100

And it's come in very, very  
helpful with my Catholic

1460

01:16:26,100 --> 01:16:27,575

friends in the United States.

1461  
01:16:27,575 --> 01:16:28,950  
Because there  
isn't anything they

1462  
01:16:28,950 --> 01:16:31,500  
can tell me that I couldn't  
immediately argue against.

1463  
01:16:31,500 --> 01:16:34,770

1464  
01:16:34,770 --> 01:16:35,940  
They were very kind.

1465  
01:16:35,940 --> 01:16:40,210  
Because, clearly,  
I ask questions.

1466  
01:16:40,210 --> 01:16:40,710  
And--

1467  
01:16:40,710 --> 01:16:43,590  
You were not timid.

1468  
01:16:43,590 --> 01:16:45,197  
I was timid.

1469  
01:16:45,197 --> 01:16:46,530  
That wouldn't be the right word.

1470  
01:16:46,530 --> 01:16:49,810  
Let's say, I wasn't I  
would, for instance,

1471  
01:16:49,810 --> 01:16:51,810  
ask not in a provocative way.

1472  
01:16:51,810 --> 01:16:54,210  
I mean, the  
immaculate conception,

1473  
01:16:54,210 --> 01:16:57,720  
I don't know if you know what  
that is, the virgin being born

1474  
01:16:57,720 --> 01:17:00,030  
immaculately, which  
I think is always

1475  
01:17:00,030 --> 01:17:02,160  
one of those remarkable things.

1476  
01:17:02,160 --> 01:17:04,680  
You know, it was only  
decided by the pope

1477  
01:17:04,680 --> 01:17:07,620  
in the middle of 1800s.

1478  
01:17:07,620 --> 01:17:11,425  
And the question I ask, well,  
what happened before the 1850?

1479  
01:17:11,425 --> 01:17:13,050  
You know, I mean,  
this is not improper.

1480  
01:17:13,050 --> 01:17:16,350  
It's a question  
that's justified.

1481  
01:17:16,350 --> 01:17:18,030  
Well, the answer  
was invariably, who

1482  
01:17:18,030 --> 01:17:22,320  
are you to ask the whys  
of God and the pope?

1483  
01:17:22,320 --> 01:17:23,310  
Well, OK.

1484

01:17:23,310 --> 01:17:25,690  
They wanted, you know,  
this is a miracle.

1485  
01:17:25,690 --> 01:17:26,650  
And that's a miracle.

1486  
01:17:26,650 --> 01:17:27,660  
And that's all there is to it.

1487  
01:17:27,660 --> 01:17:28,890  
Didn't anyone take  
you more seriously

1488  
01:17:28,890 --> 01:17:30,150  
and try to give you a better--

1489  
01:17:30,150 --> 01:17:32,940  
It is-- it wasn't--

1490  
01:17:32,940 --> 01:17:34,440  
number one, I  
wasn't provocative.

1491  
01:17:34,440 --> 01:17:37,380  
Number two, they didn't  
want to convert me.

1492  
01:17:37,380 --> 01:17:39,930

1493  
01:17:39,930 --> 01:17:43,020  
And I presume it wasn't really  
that important to convince me.

1494  
01:17:43,020 --> 01:17:45,600  
Nor were all the brothers  
the most intellectual

1495  
01:17:45,600 --> 01:17:46,320  
of all people.

1496



01:17:46,320 --> 01:17:50,190  
But there were many, the one who  
taught advanced math and things

1497  
01:17:50,190 --> 01:17:51,410  
like that.

1498  
01:17:51,410 --> 01:17:56,370  
But in the younger years,  
probably not extremely bright.

1499  
01:17:56,370 --> 01:17:59,040  
So at the same time, I  
felt almost instinctively

1500  
01:17:59,040 --> 01:18:00,870  
I didn't want to challenge them.

1501  
01:18:00,870 --> 01:18:03,420  
They were very nice persons.

1502  
01:18:03,420 --> 01:18:08,300  
And, you know, why challenge  
this kind of thing?

1503  
01:18:08,300 --> 01:18:12,900  
So I stayed there  
until I graduated.

1504  
01:18:12,900 --> 01:18:14,340  
The--

1505  
01:18:14,340 --> 01:18:16,290  
At what age did you graduate?

1506  
01:18:16,290 --> 01:18:18,810

1507  
01:18:18,810 --> 01:18:22,650  
In-- I know it was in 1946.

1508  
01:18:22,650 --> 01:18:24,480

I was 18.

1509  
01:18:24,480 --> 01:18:25,110  
Yes.

1510  
01:18:25,110 --> 01:18:27,070  
So you went there from 11 to 18?

1511  
01:18:27,070 --> 01:18:28,350  
Yes.

1512  
01:18:28,350 --> 01:18:32,310  
12 to 18, because I have  
this one year in that school.

1513  
01:18:32,310 --> 01:18:38,310  
The-- well, that's  
my school experience.

1514  
01:18:38,310 --> 01:18:39,975  
And I did well in school.

1515  
01:18:39,975 --> 01:18:42,240  
You liked school.

1516  
01:18:42,240 --> 01:18:44,100  
I liked school.

1517  
01:18:44,100 --> 01:18:49,650  
At that time also,  
I went to school.

1518  
01:18:49,650 --> 01:18:51,180  
I went home from school.

1519  
01:18:51,180 --> 01:18:52,500  
I studied.

1520  
01:18:52,500 --> 01:18:54,280  
You had to do a fair  
amount of studying.

1521

01:18:54,280 --> 01:18:56,730

I mean, this is all-- there  
are lots of memorization

1522

01:18:56,730 --> 01:19:00,600

as the olden days when, I  
mean, you studied Julius

1523

01:19:00,600 --> 01:19:05,310

Caesar from beginning to the  
end not just the speeches,

1524

01:19:05,310 --> 01:19:07,560

you know, poems and  
stuff like that.

1525

01:19:07,560 --> 01:19:12,180

Doesn't exist anymore I know.

1526

01:19:12,180 --> 01:19:14,310

But everybody had to.

1527

01:19:14,310 --> 01:19:16,860

But I took it in stride.

1528

01:19:16,860 --> 01:19:22,140

So this was really my  
school experience, apart

1529

01:19:22,140 --> 01:19:24,750

from the home experiences.

1530

01:19:24,750 --> 01:19:28,020

And what was it like when  
you weren't in school?

1531

01:19:28,020 --> 01:19:29,190

When I was not in school?

1532

01:19:29,190 --> 01:19:29,690

Yeah.

1533

01:19:29,690 --> 01:19:33,930

1534

01:19:33,930 --> 01:19:46,138

The things were fairly  
stable until December 8.

1535

01:19:46,138 --> 01:19:47,430

It was seventh here, wasn't it?

1536

01:19:47,430 --> 01:19:49,513

The Pearl Harbor it's the  
international date line.

1537

01:19:49,513 --> 01:19:52,530

1538

01:19:52,530 --> 01:19:59,460

When I went to school,  
I was sent home.

1539

01:19:59,460 --> 01:19:59,960

And--

1540

01:19:59,960 --> 01:20:01,050

No explanation.

1541

01:20:01,050 --> 01:20:01,980

No explanation.

1542

01:20:01,980 --> 01:20:05,460

There, you better go home.

1543

01:20:05,460 --> 01:20:07,770

We'll see what happens.

1544

01:20:07,770 --> 01:20:09,885

And I went home and  
then I found out.

1545

01:20:09,885 --> 01:20:12,600

1546  
01:20:12,600 --> 01:20:16,830  
Then with this kind  
of declaration,

1547  
01:20:16,830 --> 01:20:19,680  
everything seemed  
to stop in Shanghai.

1548  
01:20:19,680 --> 01:20:26,430  
Clearly, you know, you've seen  
movies like, what's it called,

1549  
01:20:26,430 --> 01:20:27,600  
the setting--

1550  
01:20:27,600 --> 01:20:31,920  
rising sun or the sun  
by Bertolucci and plays

1551  
01:20:31,920 --> 01:20:34,050  
like this, where  
suddenly, you know,

1552  
01:20:34,050 --> 01:20:37,530  
all the foreigners  
got into a real bind

1553  
01:20:37,530 --> 01:20:40,440  
clearly because if a white  
person was a foreigner,

1554  
01:20:40,440 --> 01:20:43,380  
for all practical purposes.

1555  
01:20:43,380 --> 01:20:48,750  
And so there was  
a temporary hiatus

1556  
01:20:48,750 --> 01:20:53,010  
as far as school was concerned.

1557

01:20:53,010 --> 01:20:58,830

We-- we-- we had moved--

1558

01:20:58,830 --> 01:21:01,230

we had befriended somebody,  
had moved from that house.

1559

01:21:01,230 --> 01:21:06,090

It was sold to another area,  
where we had a small apartment.

1560

01:21:06,090 --> 01:21:08,040

Was your uncle there?

1561

01:21:08,040 --> 01:21:10,830

My uncle-- my uncle  
was also there.

1562

01:21:10,830 --> 01:21:14,280

My uncle always stayed with us.

1563

01:21:14,280 --> 01:21:21,790

And my father was  
beginning to be sick.

1564

01:21:21,790 --> 01:21:25,470

He had this severe ulcer  
operation in Vienna.

1565

01:21:25,470 --> 01:21:26,940

He was beginning to bleed.

1566

01:21:26,940 --> 01:21:31,230

There wasn't much one  
could do at the time.

1567

01:21:31,230 --> 01:21:37,740

But he was managing to  
continue working until, again,

1568

01:21:37,740 --> 01:21:41,190

and I don't remember

the date exactly,

1569

01:21:41,190 --> 01:21:46,740  
that under German pressure, that  
is certainly so, the Jews had

1570

01:21:46,740 --> 01:21:52,470  
emigrated into Shanghai in '38  
and later had to go to this

1571

01:21:52,470 --> 01:21:55,000  
designated area, the  
way it was called,

1572

01:21:55,000 --> 01:21:58,720  
which clearly was a  
ghetto, designated--

1573

01:21:58,720 --> 01:21:59,220  
Pardon me.

1574

01:21:59,220 --> 01:22:01,230  
Did it have a name, the ghetto?

1575

01:22:01,230 --> 01:22:01,740  
No.

1576

01:22:01,740 --> 01:22:02,610  
No.

1577

01:22:02,610 --> 01:22:04,770  
They called it a  
designated area.

1578

01:22:04,770 --> 01:22:06,900  
It was called ghetto.

1579

01:22:06,900 --> 01:22:08,490  
I was trying to think--

1580

01:22:08,490 --> 01:22:10,090  
I don't remember,

but it had a name.

1581  
01:22:10,090 --> 01:22:10,590  
OK.

1582  
01:22:10,590 --> 01:22:15,900  
But it was designated in terms  
of you knew the borders of it.

1583  
01:22:15,900 --> 01:22:18,240  
And--

1584  
01:22:18,240 --> 01:22:19,860  
Did it have barbed wire?

1585  
01:22:19,860 --> 01:22:20,530  
No.

1586  
01:22:20,530 --> 01:22:23,940  
No, but it had-- you had  
to leave in certain areas.

1587  
01:22:23,940 --> 01:22:27,840  
You had permission to  
leave from the Japanese.

1588  
01:22:27,840 --> 01:22:29,910  
And that, I don't  
want to repeat myself,

1589  
01:22:29,910 --> 01:22:32,550  
that you must have heard  
many, many times, that you had

1590  
01:22:32,550 --> 01:22:34,380  
to have a passport to leave.

1591  
01:22:34,380 --> 01:22:37,530  
By that time, to get into  
the more personal things,

1592  
01:22:37,530 --> 01:22:42,540



the school had moved way out  
to the other side of Shanghai

1593

01:22:42,540 --> 01:22:46,770  
into what was called the  
International Settlement.

1594

01:22:46,770 --> 01:22:51,210  
And because the school really  
didn't have any American

1595

01:22:51,210 --> 01:22:52,230  
or English students.

1596

01:22:52,230 --> 01:22:54,930  
Most of them were Portuguese,  
who were Catholic,

1597

01:22:54,930 --> 01:22:59,580  
as you probably  
know, a few Chinese,

1598

01:22:59,580 --> 01:23:02,280  
all sorts of different  
nationalities,

1599

01:23:02,280 --> 01:23:06,030  
and had moved far, far away.

1600

01:23:06,030 --> 01:23:09,120  
And when the war  
broke out, clearly, I

1601

01:23:09,120 --> 01:23:11,940  
had to, number one,  
get the passport.

1602

01:23:11,940 --> 01:23:18,510  
By that time, that was in  
the '41, so I was, December,

1603

01:23:18,510 --> 01:23:23,430  
so I was 14, in order

to leave that area.

1604

01:23:23,430 --> 01:23:25,470

And Ghoya, who is  
a name that you

1605

01:23:25,470 --> 01:23:28,950

may have heard in other  
Shanghai situation,

1606

01:23:28,950 --> 01:23:32,940

was a person who very  
arbitrarily be threatening

1607

01:23:32,940 --> 01:23:36,510

you and throwing you  
into jail or whatever

1608

01:23:36,510 --> 01:23:37,980

was giving you the passport.

1609

01:23:37,980 --> 01:23:40,020

He told me that he  
would cut off my head

1610

01:23:40,020 --> 01:23:42,990

if I leave the  
designated street that I

1611

01:23:42,990 --> 01:23:44,780

had to go to get to my school.

1612

01:23:44,780 --> 01:23:46,950

So you had a particular  
route that you had to go.

1613

01:23:46,950 --> 01:23:47,850

Right.

1614

01:23:47,850 --> 01:23:49,930

And there was no  
transportation, clearly.

1615

01:23:49,930 --> 01:23:51,000

How would you get there?

1616

01:23:51,000 --> 01:23:52,020

I walked.

1617

01:23:52,020 --> 01:23:53,670

How far?

1618

01:23:53,670 --> 01:23:55,350

Oh, it took two hours.

1619

01:23:55,350 --> 01:23:57,510

Each way?

1620

01:23:57,510 --> 01:24:00,490

They had street cars  
in the evenings.

1621

01:24:00,490 --> 01:24:02,130

But the school was only--

1622

01:24:02,130 --> 01:24:05,310

school at that time was  
in the afternoons only.

1623

01:24:05,310 --> 01:24:07,410

And so you walked.

1624

01:24:07,410 --> 01:24:11,550

You know, Shanghai's horribly  
hot in summer and horribly cold

1625

01:24:11,550 --> 01:24:12,510

in winter.

1626

01:24:12,510 --> 01:24:14,070

Because your own--  
it didn't have

1627

01:24:14,070 --> 01:24:16,630

much heat in the first place.

1628  
01:24:16,630 --> 01:24:18,060  
So you walked.

1629  
01:24:18,060 --> 01:24:24,555  
And I managed to do that.

1630  
01:24:24,555 --> 01:24:26,430  
But, you know, if I got  
late, I got punished.

1631  
01:24:26,430 --> 01:24:29,400  
I mean, this continued to be  
still the missionary zeal.

1632  
01:24:29,400 --> 01:24:32,320  
Was it any-- was it hazardous  
to walk that far alone?

1633  
01:24:32,320 --> 01:24:33,190  
No.

1634  
01:24:33,190 --> 01:24:33,807  
No.

1635  
01:24:33,807 --> 01:24:34,890  
No one ever accosted you--

1636  
01:24:34,890 --> 01:24:37,770  
When the Japanese  
accosted you in--

1637  
01:24:37,770 --> 01:24:42,900  
because-- but they accosted  
you for wanting the pass,

1638  
01:24:42,900 --> 01:24:45,150  
you know, that you  
weren't English American.

1639  
01:24:45,150 --> 01:24:49,260

Because you couldn't, by that time, they had caught them all.

1640  
01:24:49,260 --> 01:24:52,918  
They only caught you to check your health certificate.

1641  
01:24:52,918 --> 01:24:54,210  
And very often, I didn't have--

1642  
01:24:54,210 --> 01:24:57,420  
I had had more typhoid shots and cholera shots then imaginable,

1643  
01:24:57,420 --> 01:24:59,548  
because I didn't  
always remember to have

1644  
01:24:59,548 --> 01:25:00,840  
the health certificate with me.

1645  
01:25:00,840 --> 01:25:02,670  
They are very health conscious.

1646  
01:25:02,670 --> 01:25:03,810  
And they were at the time.

1647  
01:25:03,810 --> 01:25:07,930  
I mean, they would just  
drag you to the next station

1648  
01:25:07,930 --> 01:25:10,590  
and inject you.

1649  
01:25:10,590 --> 01:25:13,440  
And so the school continued.

1650  
01:25:13,440 --> 01:25:21,840  
And there was, however, while--

1651  
01:25:21,840 --> 01:25:23,010  
no, there was later.

1652  
01:25:23,010 --> 01:25:24,630  
I'm sorry.

1653  
01:25:24,630 --> 01:25:29,230  
At that time, my father  
really was very sick.

1654  
01:25:29,230 --> 01:25:31,110  
He was still able--

1655  
01:25:31,110 --> 01:25:37,200  
when either myself or my brother  
took him to the bus stop,

1656  
01:25:37,200 --> 01:25:40,260  
he always said, if he  
can get into the bus,

1657  
01:25:40,260 --> 01:25:41,220  
he would leave it.

1658  
01:25:41,220 --> 01:25:44,850  
But if he can't get in the  
bus, he just can't handle it.

1659  
01:25:44,850 --> 01:25:46,080  
He was so weak.

1660  
01:25:46,080 --> 01:25:48,660  
So after that, the  
piano tuning business

1661  
01:25:48,660 --> 01:25:50,580  
stopped, in that sense.

1662  
01:25:50,580 --> 01:25:57,210  
And that was the end of  
that, probably by '42.

1663  
01:25:57,210 --> 01:25:58,890  
But your uncle was

still doing it.

1664  
01:25:58,890 --> 01:26:03,390  
My uncle also did a  
little bit of tuning.

1665  
01:26:03,390 --> 01:26:05,550  
But there was so little be done.

1666  
01:26:05,550 --> 01:26:08,790  
Much of the tuning was actually  
in the local ghetto area,

1667  
01:26:08,790 --> 01:26:10,560  
you know.

1668  
01:26:10,560 --> 01:26:13,230  
And-- but that's a  
subject by itself,

1669  
01:26:13,230 --> 01:26:16,050  
how the Jews in that area  
started having operas

1670  
01:26:16,050 --> 01:26:18,063  
and symphonies and so forth.

1671  
01:26:18,063 --> 01:26:20,230  
And so, you know, somebody  
had to tune those pianos,

1672  
01:26:20,230 --> 01:26:22,740  
so my uncle was doing that.

1673  
01:26:22,740 --> 01:26:26,430  
But he was within  
the compound mostly.

1674  
01:26:26,430 --> 01:26:35,580  
But the, as opposed to most  
of my friends who's father

1675

01:26:35,580 --> 01:26:41,550  
had a trade that  
was very usable,

1676  
01:26:41,550 --> 01:26:45,390  
let's say, they were tailors  
or could make uniforms

1677  
01:26:45,390 --> 01:26:49,320  
or could run a restaurant  
or were bakers and so forth.

1678  
01:26:49,320 --> 01:26:52,080

1679  
01:26:52,080 --> 01:26:55,350  
My family didn't  
have a usable trade.

1680  
01:26:55,350 --> 01:26:59,760  
And so we were probably more  
dependent on the soup kitchens.

1681  
01:26:59,760 --> 01:27:03,180  
They were then give  
them out at noon.

1682  
01:27:03,180 --> 01:27:05,890  
What was your mother doing?

1683  
01:27:05,890 --> 01:27:06,390  
Nothing.

1684  
01:27:06,390 --> 01:27:09,300

1685  
01:27:09,300 --> 01:27:13,690  
Boiling water so you could  
drink it and that kind of thing.

1686  
01:27:13,690 --> 01:27:16,610  
There was really no,  
I mean, there was not



1687  
01:27:16,610 --> 01:27:19,040  
a job opportunity.

1688  
01:27:19,040 --> 01:27:21,190  
I don't really know.

1689  
01:27:21,190 --> 01:27:23,510  
I mean, it's not something  
that I could ever ask.

1690  
01:27:23,510 --> 01:27:24,760  
Well, why don't you get a job?

1691  
01:27:24,760 --> 01:27:25,920  
There was really no job.

1692  
01:27:25,920 --> 01:27:28,320  
They couldn't do  
anything about it.

1693  
01:27:28,320 --> 01:27:30,540  
People, if they had  
any kind of business,

1694  
01:27:30,540 --> 01:27:32,820  
it was within the  
family structure.

1695  
01:27:32,820 --> 01:27:45,030  
And so-- so the soup  
kitchens were maintained,

1696  
01:27:45,030 --> 01:27:47,310  
I presume, by the Joint  
Distribution Committee

1697  
01:27:47,310 --> 01:27:50,430  
from the United States  
via Switzerland,

1698  
01:27:50,430 --> 01:27:54,090

through some of the Russian  
Jewish organizations

1699  
01:27:54,090 --> 01:27:55,830  
into the area.

1700  
01:27:55,830 --> 01:27:58,260  
And there are some books  
written on the subject where

1701  
01:27:58,260 --> 01:28:04,170  
apparently one very, very  
fabulous Jewish Russian woman

1702  
01:28:04,170 --> 01:28:08,070  
had spoken to a Japanese  
general and said

1703  
01:28:08,070 --> 01:28:12,210  
he would have 20,000  
Jews dead at his hands

1704  
01:28:12,210 --> 01:28:15,060  
if they would not permit  
something of the sort.

1705  
01:28:15,060 --> 01:28:17,730  
That's also been written in  
books, which I didn't know,

1706  
01:28:17,730 --> 01:28:19,620  
but I've read since.

1707  
01:28:19,620 --> 01:28:21,630  
And so the soup  
kitchens existed.

1708  
01:28:21,630 --> 01:28:23,850  
I mean, they were,  
what, 8 ounces

1709  
01:28:23,850 --> 01:28:27,730  
of bread per person and

soup with some meat in it.

1710  
01:28:27,730 --> 01:28:29,680  
And we lived on that  
basically speaking.

1711  
01:28:29,680 --> 01:28:30,780  
How many meals a day?

1712  
01:28:30,780 --> 01:28:32,490  
Once, one.

1713  
01:28:32,490 --> 01:28:34,560  
And we lived on that.

1714  
01:28:34,560 --> 01:28:35,670  
It worked out OK.

1715  
01:28:35,670 --> 01:28:38,070  
But--

1716  
01:28:38,070 --> 01:28:41,850  
You would get up in the morning  
and go all day without eating.

1717  
01:28:41,850 --> 01:28:44,700  
No, with some bread leftover  
from the night before.

1718  
01:28:44,700 --> 01:28:48,810  
And then-- and I  
was trying to think

1719  
01:28:48,810 --> 01:28:52,530  
about my mother sold a fair  
amount of things that she had.

1720  
01:28:52,530 --> 01:28:54,150  
And so there was some money.

1721  
01:28:54,150 --> 01:29:03,270  
But you bought for the family

two ounces of cold cuts,

1722

01:29:03,270 --> 01:29:05,910

you know, and put a little  
sliver at the end of the bread.

1723

01:29:05,910 --> 01:29:08,100

I mean, I don't want  
to complain about it.

1724

01:29:08,100 --> 01:29:12,150

Because that was just so.

1725

01:29:12,150 --> 01:29:13,530

You accepted it.

1726

01:29:13,530 --> 01:29:15,840

It was OK.

1727

01:29:15,840 --> 01:29:19,590

I mean, we didn't hear how  
much people suffered in Europe

1728

01:29:19,590 --> 01:29:20,850

at the time, you know.

1729

01:29:20,850 --> 01:29:25,350

All we could hear is the  
Japanese radio stations.

1730

01:29:25,350 --> 01:29:26,550

So they went on.

1731

01:29:26,550 --> 01:29:34,284

And then my father--

1732

01:29:34,284 --> 01:29:38,040

oh, I must also say, I  
had a very close friend

1733

01:29:38,040 --> 01:29:39,330

who had a restaurant.

1734  
01:29:39,330 --> 01:29:42,330  
And I was particularly  
fortunate over it

1735  
01:29:42,330 --> 01:29:48,090  
because very occasionally I was  
invited to have lunch there.

1736  
01:29:48,090 --> 01:29:49,590  
It was great.

1737  
01:29:49,590 --> 01:29:50,730  
You know, I felt guilty.

1738  
01:29:50,730 --> 01:29:53,520  
Because my brother didn't  
have that kind of thing.

1739  
01:29:53,520 --> 01:29:56,250  
My brother did work a  
little bit at the time

1740  
01:29:56,250 --> 01:30:01,500  
as a guardsman to check  
the passports of people

1741  
01:30:01,500 --> 01:30:02,430  
leaving the area.

1742  
01:30:02,430 --> 01:30:03,480  
Coming in and out.

1743  
01:30:03,480 --> 01:30:05,980  
He was called [NON-ENGLISH],,  
which I presume is a Chinese

1744  
01:30:05,980 --> 01:30:06,480  
word.

1745  
01:30:06,480 --> 01:30:09,030  
What it means I

don't know any more.

1746

01:30:09,030 --> 01:30:11,340

To check these passports.

1747

01:30:11,340 --> 01:30:13,530

Because if anybody

had been found

1748

01:30:13,530 --> 01:30:17,190

outside by anybody controlling

would be a real problem.

1749

01:30:17,190 --> 01:30:18,690

Would he get paid for that?

1750

01:30:18,690 --> 01:30:20,760

He got some money for it.

1751

01:30:20,760 --> 01:30:24,090

Minimal, I'm sure.

1752

01:30:24,090 --> 01:30:25,250

Why did he quit school?

1753

01:30:25,250 --> 01:30:29,790

1754

01:30:29,790 --> 01:30:32,250

He was not interested in school.

1755

01:30:32,250 --> 01:30:37,920

He was never-- he

was never a student.

1756

01:30:37,920 --> 01:30:43,200

It's just a-- he didn't go into

the school that then was also

1757

01:30:43,200 --> 01:30:47,850

rebuilt by these

Kadoorie people.

1758  
01:30:47,850 --> 01:30:49,050  
He didn't go to that either.

1759  
01:30:49,050 --> 01:30:50,718  
He didn't want to go to school.

1760  
01:30:50,718 --> 01:30:53,010  
I'm trying to think if he  
was working at something else

1761  
01:30:53,010 --> 01:30:53,510  
or not.

1762  
01:30:53,510 --> 01:30:55,470  
I don't remember actually.

1763  
01:30:55,470 --> 01:30:58,360  
Other kids went to that  
school, I do remember.

1764  
01:30:58,360 --> 01:31:02,820  
But I lost contact to  
many of people my own age

1765  
01:31:02,820 --> 01:31:05,960  
when I went to  
that other school.

1766  
01:31:05,960 --> 01:31:07,920  
You know you had a  
girlfriend in Vienna.

1767  
01:31:07,920 --> 01:31:09,965  
Did you have one in Shanghai?

1768  
01:31:09,965 --> 01:31:10,630  
Not really.

1769  
01:31:10,630 --> 01:31:11,130  
No.

1770

01:31:11,130 --> 01:31:13,440

Yeah, somebody I did music  
with, that kind of thing,

1771

01:31:13,440 --> 01:31:18,000

but not in the intimate  
American kind of style,

1772

01:31:18,000 --> 01:31:20,190

where you're supposed  
to begin at 13 and 14.

1773

01:31:20,190 --> 01:31:22,296

No.

1774

01:31:22,296 --> 01:31:24,840

You were still playing  
the violin or the piano.

1775

01:31:24,840 --> 01:31:26,250

The violin, I took some lesson.

1776

01:31:26,250 --> 01:31:27,340

But then I gave it up.

1777

01:31:27,340 --> 01:31:29,790

I really concentrate on  
the piano at that time.

1778

01:31:29,790 --> 01:31:34,800

So which I did play  
piano, and there

1779

01:31:34,800 --> 01:31:39,000

was a piano around that  
friends of mine owned.

1780

01:31:39,000 --> 01:31:41,860

So that went on.

1781

01:31:41,860 --> 01:31:46,170

And so-- so there was



a home on the one hand

1782

01:31:46,170 --> 01:31:48,360  
and then there was a school.

1783

01:31:48,360 --> 01:31:53,790  
My-- we befriended  
a wonderful person

1784

01:31:53,790 --> 01:32:01,110  
who worked very hard and  
very, very successfully making

1785

01:32:01,110 --> 01:32:07,230  
lampshades for the very,  
very large department stores.

1786

01:32:07,230 --> 01:32:09,000  
They were still  
very, very active

1787

01:32:09,000 --> 01:32:13,080  
in Shanghai, which still  
exist at this time.

1788

01:32:13,080 --> 01:32:16,830  
And he was very successful  
and financially did very well.

1789

01:32:16,830 --> 01:32:22,950  
And his father and father-in-law  
helped him, making them,

1790

01:32:22,950 --> 01:32:24,180  
decorating them.

1791

01:32:24,180 --> 01:32:26,080  
Apparently, his father  
was very talented,

1792

01:32:26,080 --> 01:32:27,540  
his painting and so forth.

1793

01:32:27,540 --> 01:32:30,090

1794

01:32:30,090 --> 01:32:35,100

And they-- when you had to  
move into that designated area,

1795

01:32:35,100 --> 01:32:40,680

we had nowhere to go, except  
that they had bought sort

1796

01:32:40,680 --> 01:32:44,680

of two adjoining, what you  
would facetiously call,

1797

01:32:44,680 --> 01:32:46,140

townhouses here.

1798

01:32:46,140 --> 01:32:54,630

But they were Chinese things  
and invited us to stay with him.

1799

01:32:54,630 --> 01:32:59,460

He was a widow, a  
widower, and had a child.

1800

01:32:59,460 --> 01:33:02,490

And he was very close  
with the family.

1801

01:33:02,490 --> 01:33:08,430

And so he gave us a room  
where four of us slept and--

1802

01:33:08,430 --> 01:33:10,560

Who had made the  
contact with him then?

1803

01:33:10,560 --> 01:33:13,740

We had known-- I think  
it was from music.

1804

01:33:13,740 --> 01:33:17,080

Because his wife was  
a very fine pianist.

1805

01:33:17,080 --> 01:33:18,330

I think that's the way it was.

1806

01:33:18,330 --> 01:33:19,352

I don't remember.

1807

01:33:19,352 --> 01:33:21,060

When I go to New York,  
I always call him.

1808

01:33:21,060 --> 01:33:25,170

He must be 88 years old now.

1809

01:33:25,170 --> 01:33:29,280

Next time I call, I'll  
ask him how this happened.

1810

01:33:29,280 --> 01:33:33,900

And so we were living  
there and friends

1811

01:33:33,900 --> 01:33:35,580

and really had a grand piano.

1812

01:33:35,580 --> 01:33:39,000

I mean, he actually was,  
for the circumstances.

1813

01:33:39,000 --> 01:33:41,580

relatively comfortably off.

1814

01:33:41,580 --> 01:33:44,660

And we profited by his--

1815

01:33:44,660 --> 01:33:48,540

by his kindness, an  
astonishing, astonishing person.

1816

01:33:48,540 --> 01:33:51,000  
Did you have more to eat there?

1817  
01:33:51,000 --> 01:33:53,220  
Food never entered it.

1818  
01:33:53,220 --> 01:33:55,530  
I mean, the toilet, of  
course, was non-existent.

1819  
01:33:55,530 --> 01:33:57,330  
It was one of those  
things, you know,

1820  
01:33:57,330 --> 01:34:01,290  
which was collected 6  
o'clock in the morning

1821  
01:34:01,290 --> 01:34:07,170  
and emptied into some of  
those carts and then replaced.

1822  
01:34:07,170 --> 01:34:08,260  
There was no hot water.

1823  
01:34:08,260 --> 01:34:08,870  
So--

1824  
01:34:08,870 --> 01:34:10,620  
Were you still eating  
in the soup kitchen?

1825  
01:34:10,620 --> 01:34:13,233  
Yeah, throughout that time.

1826  
01:34:13,233 --> 01:34:15,150  
But I don't want to give  
the wrong impression.

1827  
01:34:15,150 --> 01:34:17,080  
It really wasn't a bad thing.

1828

01:34:17,080 --> 01:34:24,120

So, I mean, it may sound  
bad for the concept here.

1829

01:34:24,120 --> 01:34:27,270

But it really wasn't that bad.

1830

01:34:27,270 --> 01:34:28,170

We managed.

1831

01:34:28,170 --> 01:34:32,400

My father had to have, because  
he was bleeding, you know,

1832

01:34:32,400 --> 01:34:34,210

spleen, you know,  
which I wouldn't eat,

1833

01:34:34,210 --> 01:34:38,130

I don't care how hungry I  
was, things of that sort.

1834

01:34:38,130 --> 01:34:40,020

Because, facetiously,  
you thought

1835

01:34:40,020 --> 01:34:41,490

it would build up blood.

1836

01:34:41,490 --> 01:34:42,540

It doesn't.

1837

01:34:42,540 --> 01:34:44,910

But you used to think so.

1838

01:34:44,910 --> 01:34:50,160

And so whatever little money  
was really to help him.

1839

01:34:50,160 --> 01:34:55,350

And then he died shortly  
before the war ended in '45.

1840

01:34:55,350 --> 01:34:56,620

But then Shanghai was bombed.

1841

01:34:56,620 --> 01:34:57,870

I don't know if you know that.

1842

01:34:57,870 --> 01:35:01,080

And it was misbombed  
in the Jewish ghetto

1843

01:35:01,080 --> 01:35:03,930

were quite a few death.

1844

01:35:03,930 --> 01:35:04,890

People you know.

1845

01:35:04,890 --> 01:35:05,400

Pardon me.

1846

01:35:05,400 --> 01:35:06,990

People you know.

1847

01:35:06,990 --> 01:35:08,383

Yes.

1848

01:35:08,383 --> 01:35:09,675

And you went to sort of assist.

1849

01:35:09,675 --> 01:35:13,110

1850

01:35:13,110 --> 01:35:15,630

It was-- apparently,  
it was a radio station.

1851

01:35:15,630 --> 01:35:21,025

But it was subsequently said  
it was really a mistake.

1852

01:35:21,025 --> 01:35:22,650

But you didn't know

much about bombing.

1853  
01:35:22,650 --> 01:35:26,050  
Because that's when you  
found out what it was like.

1854  
01:35:26,050 --> 01:35:29,670  
And he died after the bombing.

1855  
01:35:29,670 --> 01:35:32,220  
But at that time, you know,  
there was no way of going.

1856  
01:35:32,220 --> 01:35:34,210  
If the place would be  
bombed, that would be it.

1857  
01:35:34,210 --> 01:35:37,890  
You couldn't get him  
down into a lower floor.

1858  
01:35:37,890 --> 01:35:46,080  
And so he died when he was  
just 50, in early '40--

1859  
01:35:46,080 --> 01:35:46,897  
early '45.

1860  
01:35:46,897 --> 01:35:51,340

1861  
01:35:51,340 --> 01:35:54,070  
And then things improve.

1862  
01:35:54,070 --> 01:35:57,760  
Because the uncle sent  
money from Chicago.

1863  
01:35:57,760 --> 01:36:01,030  
And my grandfather  
died meanwhile.

1864

01:36:01,030 --> 01:36:03,130  
And--

1865  
01:36:03,130 --> 01:36:04,390  
Your grandfather in--

1866  
01:36:04,390 --> 01:36:06,740  
In the States, in Chicago.

1867  
01:36:06,740 --> 01:36:07,240  
And--

1868  
01:36:07,240 --> 01:36:09,730  
Had there been any  
contact during the war?

1869  
01:36:09,730 --> 01:36:10,443  
No.

1870  
01:36:10,443 --> 01:36:11,290  
No.

1871  
01:36:11,290 --> 01:36:16,070  
And I finished going to school.

1872  
01:36:16,070 --> 01:36:19,510  
And I graduated in 1946.

1873  
01:36:19,510 --> 01:36:22,390  
And--

1874  
01:36:22,390 --> 01:36:25,270  
Did you know what you  
wanted to do then?

1875  
01:36:25,270 --> 01:36:27,200  
Yeah, I wanted to  
be a physician.

1876  
01:36:27,200 --> 01:36:28,012  
Yeah.



1877

01:36:28,012 --> 01:36:31,270

Tell me how you came to that.

1878

01:36:31,270 --> 01:36:36,130

Well, I'm trying to  
think whether it's

1879

01:36:36,130 --> 01:36:40,690

sort of the typical, well,  
how many profession would

1880

01:36:40,690 --> 01:36:42,610

theoretically be open for Jews.

1881

01:36:42,610 --> 01:36:48,220

At the time, it was pharmacy,  
medicine, law kind of thing.

1882

01:36:48,220 --> 01:36:49,390

I mean, if people--

1883

01:36:49,390 --> 01:36:51,340

kids ask me now, what  
would you have been

1884

01:36:51,340 --> 01:36:52,690

if it wouldn't be a physicians?

1885

01:36:52,690 --> 01:36:54,580

I'll tell them something else.

1886

01:36:54,580 --> 01:36:57,100

But at that time, the  
expectations, I'm sure,

1887

01:36:57,100 --> 01:37:02,020

were there, unspoken  
expectations.

1888

01:37:02,020 --> 01:37:04,930

It was also interesting the  
whole idea of liberality,

1889  
01:37:04,930 --> 01:37:10,750  
helping mankind, helping  
people kind of thing.

1890  
01:37:10,750 --> 01:37:15,160  
It certainly wasn't making money  
at the time or the reliability

1891  
01:37:15,160 --> 01:37:16,090  
of the profession.

1892  
01:37:16,090 --> 01:37:19,810  
It was really that kind  
of idealistic part of you.

1893  
01:37:19,810 --> 01:37:22,440  
I'm sure that was the case.

1894  
01:37:22,440 --> 01:37:30,490  
So when I graduated, the SFX,  
St. Francis Xavier's College

1895  
01:37:30,490 --> 01:37:35,860  
had had arrangements  
with England,

1896  
01:37:35,860 --> 01:37:40,420  
so that you would get an  
acceptable graduating kind

1897  
01:37:40,420 --> 01:37:41,410  
of certificate.

1898  
01:37:41,410 --> 01:37:42,910  
Because, I mean,  
who knows something

1899  
01:37:42,910 --> 01:37:45,180  
about the Shanghai schools.

1900  
01:37:45,180 --> 01:37:48,465

They-- most of the  
schools had arranged

1901  
01:37:48,465 --> 01:37:52,870  
with Cambridge, used the  
Cambridge entrance examination.

1902  
01:37:52,870 --> 01:37:55,180  
My school, high  
on the horse, felt

1903  
01:37:55,180 --> 01:37:56,740  
anybody can go to Cambridge.

1904  
01:37:56,740 --> 01:37:58,540  
That wasn't good enough.

1905  
01:37:58,540 --> 01:38:00,550  
That was a typical  
public school, you know,

1906  
01:38:00,550 --> 01:38:02,450  
where the fancy kids  
from England go.

1907  
01:38:02,450 --> 01:38:02,950  
Oxford.

1908  
01:38:02,950 --> 01:38:03,700  
No.

1909  
01:38:03,700 --> 01:38:04,660  
Exactly.

1910  
01:38:04,660 --> 01:38:08,090  
No, it has to be the  
University of London.

1911  
01:38:08,090 --> 01:38:13,150  
So they took up with the  
University of London.

1912

01:38:13,150 --> 01:38:14,860  
Again, there were problems.

1913  
01:38:14,860 --> 01:38:21,970  
The University of London sent  
the questions to the school.

1914  
01:38:21,970 --> 01:38:23,020  
We answered.

1915  
01:38:23,020 --> 01:38:25,750  
And the answers were sent back  
to the University of London.

1916  
01:38:25,750 --> 01:38:28,420  
And we got the  
certificate if you passed,

1917  
01:38:28,420 --> 01:38:31,120  
even first or second division.

1918  
01:38:31,120 --> 01:38:34,840  
And I passed.

1919  
01:38:34,840 --> 01:38:37,990  
And so you had something  
official at the time.

1920  
01:38:37,990 --> 01:38:39,850  
But this was in '46.

1921  
01:38:39,850 --> 01:38:44,770  
And though we were eager to  
get to the United States,

1922  
01:38:44,770 --> 01:38:50,830  
you know, the four  
of us who were left,

1923  
01:38:50,830 --> 01:38:55,480  
it took the American Consulate  
a tremendously long time

1924

01:38:55,480 --> 01:38:57,610  
of getting the visas ready.

1925

01:38:57,610 --> 01:39:01,360  
So you stood, and  
I would say, it

1926

01:39:01,360 --> 01:39:04,210  
produces a little bit  
of anger in my part,

1927

01:39:04,210 --> 01:39:06,520  
even retrospectively.

1928

01:39:06,520 --> 01:39:08,920  
You stood in front of  
the American Consulate,

1929

01:39:08,920 --> 01:39:12,790  
you know, line up for your visa,  
very shortly after the American

1930

01:39:12,790 --> 01:39:16,070  
Consulate opened, which it  
did very soon thereafter.

1931

01:39:16,070 --> 01:39:17,260  
So you stood in a line.

1932

01:39:17,260 --> 01:39:19,480  
It's hot.

1933

01:39:19,480 --> 01:39:25,240  
And at 2 o'clock, you saw  
those lovely young vice consuls

1934

01:39:25,240 --> 01:39:28,510  
in their white golf  
shorts and tennis shorts

1935

01:39:28,510 --> 01:39:30,340  
leaving and closing

the consulate.

1936  
01:39:30,340 --> 01:39:31,460  
That was the end of that.

1937  
01:39:31,460 --> 01:39:32,440  
So you left.

1938  
01:39:32,440 --> 01:39:33,610  
And you lined up again.

1939  
01:39:33,610 --> 01:39:40,510  
And it took literally until  
I could leave in August '47.

1940  
01:39:40,510 --> 01:39:43,060  
The rest of my family  
left a month later.

1941  
01:39:43,060 --> 01:39:45,610

1942  
01:39:45,610 --> 01:39:49,870  
That long to where we had  
the visa from way before

1943  
01:39:49,870 --> 01:39:52,750  
to get to that.

1944  
01:39:52,750 --> 01:39:55,557  
You didn't have any resentment.

1945  
01:39:55,557 --> 01:39:58,140  
And friends of mine, of course,  
discuss a lot of these things.

1946  
01:39:58,140 --> 01:40:00,690  
Simply over there, you were  
so browbeaten by that time,

1947  
01:40:00,690 --> 01:40:01,860  
you know, it's expected.

1948  
01:40:01,860 --> 01:40:05,940  
You know, they are the better  
class of people, you know,

1949  
01:40:05,940 --> 01:40:07,140  
clearly.

1950  
01:40:07,140 --> 01:40:10,290  
I mean-- I mean,  
what did you have?

1951  
01:40:10,290 --> 01:40:14,730  
You had old clothes on that  
were tailored upside down.

1952  
01:40:14,730 --> 01:40:17,640  
You know, because it looked  
inside better than outside.

1953  
01:40:17,640 --> 01:40:21,300  
So I'm sure that had  
something to do with it.

1954  
01:40:21,300 --> 01:40:25,770  
But it didn't take anything  
away from your self-respect

1955  
01:40:25,770 --> 01:40:26,730  
in many respects.

1956  
01:40:26,730 --> 01:40:29,040  
I do want to emphasize that.

1957  
01:40:29,040 --> 01:40:31,590  
Because after all, by  
the time, who knows who

1958  
01:40:31,590 --> 01:40:35,980  
these people are at my  
University of London exam.

1959

01:40:35,980 --> 01:40:37,830  
But because it took  
that long in time,

1960  
01:40:37,830 --> 01:40:40,860  
I had to go on to  
the university.

1961  
01:40:40,860 --> 01:40:45,150  
And the university, I'm trying  
to emphasize a little bit

1962  
01:40:45,150 --> 01:40:47,460  
there might be a little  
bit different about my case

1963  
01:40:47,460 --> 01:40:52,210  
than other people that  
had Shanghai experiences.

1964  
01:40:52,210 --> 01:40:56,190  
The second language  
heavily stressed

1965  
01:40:56,190 --> 01:41:00,090  
at the St Francis Xavier's  
College was French.

1966  
01:41:00,090 --> 01:41:03,840  
And the reason it was  
stressed because they expected

1967  
01:41:03,840 --> 01:41:06,270  
their graduates to go to  
the French university,

1968  
01:41:06,270 --> 01:41:10,110  
Universit   l'Aurore, which  
was a Jesuit University.

1969  
01:41:10,110 --> 01:41:18,150  
And so if you passed, you were  
then admitted to University.



1970

01:41:18,150 --> 01:41:22,020

So I went on to the  
French University,

1971

01:41:22,020 --> 01:41:24,480

which was in French.

1972

01:41:24,480 --> 01:41:25,020

And it was--

1973

01:41:25,020 --> 01:41:25,910

In Shanghai?

1974

01:41:25,910 --> 01:41:27,450

In Shanghai.

1975

01:41:27,450 --> 01:41:31,380

And by that time, of course,  
the war was over with.

1976

01:41:31,380 --> 01:41:33,720

The French had more  
or less resettled

1977

01:41:33,720 --> 01:41:36,390

their French concession.

1978

01:41:36,390 --> 01:41:44,856

And-- and there was--

1979

01:41:44,856 --> 01:41:46,590

there was, I don't  
know whether it

1980

01:41:46,590 --> 01:41:50,550

was a senior center or  
something, there was free--

1981

01:41:50,550 --> 01:41:55,500

a free kitchen food thing not  
too far from the university,

1982

01:41:55,500 --> 01:41:57,930

where a girl and I--

1983

01:41:57,930 --> 01:42:01,920

the girl had come

from another school.

1984

01:42:01,920 --> 01:42:04,680

She may have been Russian

and I were sort of friends.

1985

01:42:04,680 --> 01:42:06,570

But she was Jewish.

1986

01:42:06,570 --> 01:42:10,810

And also when there was

a co-educational school.

1987

01:42:10,810 --> 01:42:11,610

No, I'm sorry.

1988

01:42:11,610 --> 01:42:13,050

It wasn't co-educational school.

1989

01:42:13,050 --> 01:42:15,370

She went to a sort

of sister school.

1990

01:42:15,370 --> 01:42:17,010

But we met at that lunchroom.

1991

01:42:17,010 --> 01:42:19,950

Because we got pretty decent

food, which was, I think,

1992

01:42:19,950 --> 01:42:23,250

sponsored by the

Polish community.

1993

01:42:23,250 --> 01:42:25,800

The Polish community

during the war

1994

01:42:25,800 --> 01:42:31,260  
was able to get much, much more  
funds than the Central European

1995

01:42:31,260 --> 01:42:33,855  
Jew that wasn't really a  
good Jew in the first place.

1996

01:42:33,855 --> 01:42:36,670

1997

01:42:36,670 --> 01:42:39,660  
And so there were these  
sections, you know, the--

1998

01:42:39,660 --> 01:42:40,350  
pardon me.

1999

01:42:40,350 --> 01:42:43,290  
How did they get the  
funds, do you know?

2000

01:42:43,290 --> 01:42:46,410  
I think they got it  
through the United States

2001

01:42:46,410 --> 01:42:48,780  
to Yeshiva organizations  
and so forth.

2002

01:42:48,780 --> 01:42:50,610  
I don't know that much about it.

2003

01:42:50,610 --> 01:42:53,520  
But I do know that  
indirectly I profited

2004

01:42:53,520 --> 01:42:57,540  
because I had a very  
good lunch in this place

2005

01:42:57,540 --> 01:43:01,560  
and met some wonderfully  
nice people, you know,

2006  
01:43:01,560 --> 01:43:04,560  
that otherwise I would have  
had no opportunity to meet.

2007  
01:43:04,560 --> 01:43:12,930  
Anyway, so the-- so I went  
to that French university.

2008  
01:43:12,930 --> 01:43:22,500  
And meanwhile, the--  
my family in Chicago

2009  
01:43:22,500 --> 01:43:25,170  
on the strength of  
all my tests was

2010  
01:43:25,170 --> 01:43:29,640  
able to get me admitted  
to University of Chicago.

2011  
01:43:29,640 --> 01:43:37,260  
So I left Shanghai  
in August 1947.

2012  
01:43:37,260 --> 01:43:45,420  
Now in the last two years,  
as soon as the war ended,

2013  
01:43:45,420 --> 01:43:49,680  
a Rabbi Fine, who is rather  
well known from San Francisco,

2014  
01:43:49,680 --> 01:43:53,280  
from Temple Emanu-El,  
who is now retired in

2015  
01:43:53,280 --> 01:43:58,770  
is-- well in his 80s,  
lives in [INAUDIBLE]

2016

01:43:58,770 --> 01:44:02,430  
had come to the Shanghai.

2017

01:44:02,430 --> 01:44:06,570  
He was a rabbi with  
the American military,

2018

01:44:06,570 --> 01:44:09,750  
I think with the army, who--  
and they had heard there's

2019

01:44:09,750 --> 01:44:14,070  
a group of Jews there,  
particularly young Jews, who

2020

01:44:14,070 --> 01:44:17,200  
had been isolated  
from the world.

2021

01:44:17,200 --> 01:44:19,560  
He would like to  
see what it's like.

2022

01:44:19,560 --> 01:44:21,990  
He came with the  
Captain Herbert,

2023

01:44:21,990 --> 01:44:24,360  
also a captain who a Jew.

2024

01:44:24,360 --> 01:44:27,630

2025

01:44:27,630 --> 01:44:30,810  
The all-American man,  
literally from Texas,

2026

01:44:30,810 --> 01:44:34,360  
I mean, it was a new  
revelation to all of us kids.

2027

01:44:34,360 --> 01:44:38,940

A Jew, you know a very sporty  
and football type of guy.

2028

01:44:38,940 --> 01:44:45,240  
And they created the club called  
Tikvah, and I did find out it

2029

01:44:45,240 --> 01:44:50,280  
meant hope, for the Jewish boys.

2030

01:44:50,280 --> 01:44:57,096  
That more or less signaled  
the return of my--

2031

01:44:57,096 --> 01:45:02,610  
of my really not knowing many of  
the kids to that group of kids,

2032

01:45:02,610 --> 01:45:05,550  
you know, who had stayed  
around in the Jewish schools

2033

01:45:05,550 --> 01:45:06,760  
and so forth.

2034

01:45:06,760 --> 01:45:09,210  
And we became, of  
course, very close.

2035

01:45:09,210 --> 01:45:13,680  
And I have a lot of friends in  
the United States from that.

2036

01:45:13,680 --> 01:45:15,390  
There was a very  
progressive club.

2037

01:45:15,390 --> 01:45:16,620  
We learned about things.

2038

01:45:16,620 --> 01:45:19,110  
We put on a play called  
Warsaw Ghetto, you know,

2039

01:45:19,110 --> 01:45:21,840  
which you hadn't heard  
anything about in the past.

2040

01:45:21,840 --> 01:45:23,700  
There were concerts  
given at that time.

2041

01:45:23,700 --> 01:45:27,120  
I could use some of  
my piano playing.

2042

01:45:27,120 --> 01:45:31,200  
There were extremely many  
talented Jewish singers.

2043

01:45:31,200 --> 01:45:33,820  
And operettas were performed.

2044

01:45:33,820 --> 01:45:35,010  
I mentioned that earlier.

2045

01:45:35,010 --> 01:45:41,190  
And it was a tremendous  
cultural experience, theaters,

2046

01:45:41,190 --> 01:45:46,410  
many, many things going on,  
even during the war, I must say.

2047

01:45:46,410 --> 01:45:51,460  
And so that Tikvah club then  
flourished for two years

2048

01:45:51,460 --> 01:45:53,790  
until many of us left.

2049

01:45:53,790 --> 01:46:00,240  
And the third person involved  
with this was Jordan.

2050

01:46:00,240 --> 01:46:03,990  
If you have heard about the,  
I don't remember his first,

2051  
01:46:03,990 --> 01:46:09,270  
was representative of the  
Joint Distribution Committee,

2052  
01:46:09,270 --> 01:46:12,990  
who more or less insulted  
that finances were coming

2053  
01:46:12,990 --> 01:46:14,430  
into the Jewish community.

2054  
01:46:14,430 --> 01:46:17,080

2055  
01:46:17,080 --> 01:46:21,960  
He subsequently, we heard in  
the '50s, was killed in Prague.

2056  
01:46:21,960 --> 01:46:25,110  
And it's assumed that  
it was a CIA person was

2057  
01:46:25,110 --> 01:46:26,370  
killed by Arabs, apparently.

2058  
01:46:26,370 --> 01:46:31,290  
It's written up  
actually in [INAUDIBLE]..

2059  
01:46:31,290 --> 01:46:35,250  
And he was very,  
very helpful also

2060  
01:46:35,250 --> 01:46:38,250  
to help settlement, a  
very close friend of mine,

2061  
01:46:38,250 --> 01:46:44,610  
who subsequently became a



very famous suit and coat

2062

01:46:44,610 --> 01:46:48,600

designer for women in New  
York City, was sent by him

2063

01:46:48,600 --> 01:46:51,870

to they call the  
bazaar in Paris.

2064

01:46:51,870 --> 01:46:54,690

People went different  
kind of ways.

2065

01:46:54,690 --> 01:46:58,110

And that's where he  
was for two years

2066

01:46:58,110 --> 01:47:00,630

until he came back  
to the United States.

2067

01:47:00,630 --> 01:47:03,810

So a number of kids  
such as we, you know,

2068

01:47:03,810 --> 01:47:05,980

went in different ways.

2069

01:47:05,980 --> 01:47:09,060

I would say I was the only one  
who really went into medicine.

2070

01:47:09,060 --> 01:47:13,470

Because in the European sense,  
you enter professional schools

2071

01:47:13,470 --> 01:47:16,110

after high school, not the  
way we do here in the States

2072

01:47:16,110 --> 01:47:19,560

with a college intervening

between professional schools

2073

01:47:19,560 --> 01:47:20,790  
and high school.

2074

01:47:20,790 --> 01:47:25,650  
Now when you came to Chicago,  
did you go to undergraduate?

2075

01:47:25,650 --> 01:47:29,940  
The University of Chicago, to  
which I attended a quarter,

2076

01:47:29,940 --> 01:47:33,780  
subjects you to  
all sorts of tests.

2077

01:47:33,780 --> 01:47:41,640  
The-- it's for the first  
time I saw objective tests.

2078

01:47:41,640 --> 01:47:45,390  
You know with these pencils and  
true and false questions, which

2079

01:47:45,390 --> 01:47:48,480  
one of five questions is  
the most reasonable one.

2080

01:47:48,480 --> 01:47:50,640  
I mean, I'd never seen  
anything like this.

2081

01:47:50,640 --> 01:47:52,830  
You know, I was raised  
with essay questions

2082

01:47:52,830 --> 01:47:55,260  
and oral things and that.

2083

01:47:55,260 --> 01:47:57,270  
So I mean, it was  
really something.

2084  
01:47:57,270 --> 01:48:01,700  
But I was accepted  
and, you know,

2085  
01:48:01,700 --> 01:48:04,590  
into whatever the  
definition was.

2086  
01:48:04,590 --> 01:48:13,770  
But I really basically  
felt not too comfortable

2087  
01:48:13,770 --> 01:48:14,677  
with their system.

2088  
01:48:14,677 --> 01:48:16,260  
You know, it was a  
[INAUDIBLE] system.

2089  
01:48:16,260 --> 01:48:18,810  
It was relatively new.

2090  
01:48:18,810 --> 01:48:20,950  
It was very different.

2091  
01:48:20,950 --> 01:48:27,420  
And I looked in the  
University of Illinois.

2092  
01:48:27,420 --> 01:48:30,330  
I really-- Chicago also  
is a private university.

2093  
01:48:30,330 --> 01:48:33,420  
And I felt, after first quarter,  
I couldn't really afford it.

2094  
01:48:33,420 --> 01:48:36,050  
University of Illinois  
was a state university.

2095

01:48:36,050 --> 01:48:38,690

And, obviously, it  
didn't cost much.

2096

01:48:38,690 --> 01:48:41,280

I could manage working and  
all that kind of thing.

2097

01:48:41,280 --> 01:48:45,530

And I transferred to the  
University of Illinois.

2098

01:48:45,530 --> 01:48:47,720

The--

2099

01:48:47,720 --> 01:48:50,120

Which was Champaign?

2100

01:48:50,120 --> 01:48:52,400

No, they had a down-- they  
had a downtown campus.

2101

01:48:52,400 --> 01:48:53,405

You know Chicago?

2102

01:48:53,405 --> 01:48:55,730

It was at Navy Pier at the time.

2103

01:48:55,730 --> 01:48:59,420

They didn't have the big  
fancy University of Illinois

2104

01:48:59,420 --> 01:49:03,450

downtown campus that they have  
in the last 25 or 30 years.

2105

01:49:03,450 --> 01:49:07,640

It was the Navy Pier, which  
is now an amusement park.

2106

01:49:07,640 --> 01:49:12,620

At the time, I really  
liked it better.

2107  
01:49:12,620 --> 01:49:16,520  
The system was more what  
I was familiar with.

2108  
01:49:16,520 --> 01:49:19,340  
Also I was able  
to proficiency out

2109  
01:49:19,340 --> 01:49:22,680  
of a number of tests,  
particularly languages,

2110  
01:49:22,680 --> 01:49:24,410  
including English to be frank.

2111  
01:49:24,410 --> 01:49:26,043  
Did you know English?

2112  
01:49:26,043 --> 01:49:26,960  
I knew it pretty well.

2113  
01:49:26,960 --> 01:49:27,810  
You did.

2114  
01:49:27,810 --> 01:49:30,570  
The high-- the school I went  
to in Shanghai was in English.

2115  
01:49:30,570 --> 01:49:32,060  
Oh.

2116  
01:49:32,060 --> 01:49:36,080  
My German ends at the age of 11.

2117  
01:49:36,080 --> 01:49:38,480  
And you became proficient  
in English and French.

2118  
01:49:38,480 --> 01:49:39,050  
Yes.

2119

01:49:39,050 --> 01:49:39,860

OK.

2120

01:49:39,860 --> 01:49:46,805

And I got credits for,  
let's see, advanced math.

2121

01:49:46,805 --> 01:49:48,680

Because that was all  
the University of London

2122

01:49:48,680 --> 01:49:50,770

business and physics  
and so forth.

2123

01:49:50,770 --> 01:49:53,420

So I was able, after a  
year and a half of college,

2124

01:49:53,420 --> 01:49:56,360

to get into medical school.

2125

01:49:56,360 --> 01:49:59,250

And the-- well, I wasn't  
that young anymore.

2126

01:49:59,250 --> 01:50:02,600

But I did get, after  
that, into the University

2127

01:50:02,600 --> 01:50:04,400

of Illinois Medical School.

2128

01:50:04,400 --> 01:50:07,370

How young were you when you  
got into medical school?

2129

01:50:07,370 --> 01:50:10,160

Let me try and see.

2130

01:50:10,160 --> 01:50:14,384

After we've-- it would be 20--

2131  
01:50:14,384 --> 01:50:17,330  
21, 21.

2132  
01:50:17,330 --> 01:50:20,840  
Now when you were in Chicago,  
did you live with your uncle?

2133  
01:50:20,840 --> 01:50:22,880  
In the first year, we--

2134  
01:50:22,880 --> 01:50:26,690  
the family lived with my uncle.

2135  
01:50:26,690 --> 01:50:28,760  
When you say the family?

2136  
01:50:28,760 --> 01:50:33,780  
My mother, my brother,  
my uncle, myself.

2137  
01:50:33,780 --> 01:50:37,100  
My uncle had always  
lived with us.

2138  
01:50:37,100 --> 01:50:39,410  
And then we found the apartment.

2139  
01:50:39,410 --> 01:50:41,060  
My mother went to work.

2140  
01:50:41,060 --> 01:50:45,080  
She worked in the hat  
shop, a bridal hat shop.

2141  
01:50:45,080 --> 01:50:48,320  
My uncle had a job  
as a piano tuner.

2142  
01:50:48,320 --> 01:50:52,370  
My brother worked in--

2143

01:50:52,370 --> 01:50:54,350  
in an optometry shop.

2144

01:50:54,350 --> 01:50:56,820  
And initially, I worked  
in the optometry shop.

2145

01:50:56,820 --> 01:50:59,780  
And we both then worked  
in a wholesale drug house.

2146

01:50:59,780 --> 01:51:04,850  
And then I worked, I mean,  
in college I did this.

2147

01:51:04,850 --> 01:51:08,180  
But it's unheard of nowadays.

2148

01:51:08,180 --> 01:51:12,590  
In my first year of medical  
school, I worked as--

2149

01:51:12,590 --> 01:51:14,450  
in the emergency  
room as a physician.

2150

01:51:14,450 --> 01:51:15,950  
I mean, don't mention  
that nowadays.

2151

01:51:15,950 --> 01:51:18,740

2152

01:51:18,740 --> 01:51:20,300  
And I worked in a blood bank.

2153

01:51:20,300 --> 01:51:24,380

2154

01:51:24,380 --> 01:51:29,570  
Anyway, so and medical  
school, that was



2155  
01:51:29,570 --> 01:51:32,460  
the thing that happened next.

2156  
01:51:32,460 --> 01:51:37,070  
How-- what did America feel  
like to you when you came here?

2157  
01:51:37,070 --> 01:51:41,810  
It-- I arrived in San  
Francisco, clearly.

2158  
01:51:41,810 --> 01:51:45,740  
And I had some cousins  
there, the sort

2159  
01:51:45,740 --> 01:51:51,260  
of typical, young,  
handsome American cousins

2160  
01:51:51,260 --> 01:51:57,630  
in their late 20s in a very  
pretty house in Berkeley.

2161  
01:51:57,630 --> 01:51:59,060  
It was beautiful weather.

2162  
01:51:59,060 --> 01:52:00,155  
It was August.

2163  
01:52:00,155 --> 01:52:03,320

2164  
01:52:03,320 --> 01:52:05,210  
Oh, it was absolutely  
delightful.

2165  
01:52:05,210 --> 01:52:06,980  
I mean, it's--

2166  
01:52:06,980 --> 01:52:10,250  
I mean, a milkshake,

these kinds of things.

2167

01:52:10,250 --> 01:52:12,410

I mean, it may sound a  
little naive to you now

2168

01:52:12,410 --> 01:52:14,540

and probably does  
to me nowadays.

2169

01:52:14,540 --> 01:52:18,920

But it was an experience  
along these kinds of lines.

2170

01:52:18,920 --> 01:52:24,380

And then I took the train to  
Chicago, arrived in Chicago,

2171

01:52:24,380 --> 01:52:29,540

again, in August, horribly  
humid, horribly hot.

2172

01:52:29,540 --> 01:52:33,140

The back entrance-- a contrast.

2173

01:52:33,140 --> 01:52:39,570

The back entrance into the  
train station, one of my uncles

2174

01:52:39,570 --> 01:52:41,510

who was a doctor picked  
me up and took me

2175

01:52:41,510 --> 01:52:44,540

to my other uncle, who  
was a Chief of Pathology

2176

01:52:44,540 --> 01:52:47,450

at Michael Reese Hospital,  
a very well known, large,

2177

01:52:47,450 --> 01:52:49,280

large hospital in Chicago.

2178  
01:52:49,280 --> 01:52:51,660  
Took me there, who wanted  
to know if I really want

2179  
01:52:51,660 --> 01:52:54,080  
study medicine, and I said yes.

2180  
01:52:54,080 --> 01:52:56,450  
So that, everything  
went on from there.

2181  
01:52:56,450 --> 01:52:58,700  
You passed.

2182  
01:52:58,700 --> 01:52:59,840  
I passed.

2183  
01:52:59,840 --> 01:53:03,200  
I'm not so sure that he was  
that excited, that second uncle,

2184  
01:53:03,200 --> 01:53:05,420  
about it.

2185  
01:53:05,420 --> 01:53:07,280  
But I said I came that far.

2186  
01:53:07,280 --> 01:53:08,630  
I don't see why I shouldn't.

2187  
01:53:08,630 --> 01:53:11,300  
And there's no problem working.

2188  
01:53:11,300 --> 01:53:15,620  
At that time, you could really  
put in a lot of hours work,

2189  
01:53:15,620 --> 01:53:18,540  
in spite of going through  
college and medical school.

2190

01:53:18,540 --> 01:53:19,940

Yeah.

2191

01:53:19,940 --> 01:53:21,830

Did you have any  
idea why he might not

2192

01:53:21,830 --> 01:53:25,230

have been enthusiastic  
about you doing it?

2193

01:53:25,230 --> 01:53:28,150

2194

01:53:28,150 --> 01:53:33,370

I think it was  
somewhat his style.

2195

01:53:33,370 --> 01:53:40,540

He thought it was difficult.  
He didn't know me really

2196

01:53:40,540 --> 01:53:42,020

in that sense.

2197

01:53:42,020 --> 01:53:53,770

And I would say that after  
I got to know him better,

2198

01:53:53,770 --> 01:53:55,350

I didn't love him anymore.

2199

01:53:55,350 --> 01:54:02,475

But he had many, and  
I do want to be really

2200

01:54:02,475 --> 01:54:09,580

here quite prejudiced and,  
many negative characteristics

2201

01:54:09,580 --> 01:54:14,020

of a transplanted European,

of a transplanted European

2202

01:54:14,020 --> 01:54:15,970  
professional.

2203

01:54:15,970 --> 01:54:19,430  
Now, at another time, I can  
explain what I mean by that.

2204

01:54:19,430 --> 01:54:24,250  
But I have, since  
that time, we've seen

2205

01:54:24,250 --> 01:54:28,030  
this on a number of occasions.

2206

01:54:28,030 --> 01:54:30,880  
In terms of a certain  
superciliousness,

2207

01:54:30,880 --> 01:54:40,810  
certain terms of arrogance,  
insurmountable difficulties

2208

01:54:40,810 --> 01:54:43,960  
with my background kind of  
thing, that kind of thing.

2209

01:54:43,960 --> 01:54:47,020  
I think he, obviously,  
after some time,

2210

01:54:47,020 --> 01:54:50,060  
appreciated what I  
was able to achieve.

2211

01:54:50,060 --> 01:54:53,450

2212

01:54:53,450 --> 01:54:56,130  
But I'm sure he didn't  
remember his initial reactions.

2213  
01:54:56,130 --> 01:54:59,600  
Probably not.

2214  
01:54:59,600 --> 01:55:02,590  
So you stayed at the  
University of Chicago--

2215  
01:55:02,590 --> 01:55:03,970  
For one quarter only, Illinois.

2216  
01:55:03,970 --> 01:55:05,660  
Yes, all the way through.

2217  
01:55:05,660 --> 01:55:10,540  
And then was accepted to the  
University of Illinois Medical

2218  
01:55:10,540 --> 01:55:13,365  
School and stayed there.

2219  
01:55:13,365 --> 01:55:15,490  
The only reason why I  
mentioned Chicago, as opposed

2220  
01:55:15,490 --> 01:55:18,220  
to San Francisco, I mean,  
as soon as medical school

2221  
01:55:18,220 --> 01:55:21,940  
finished, I applied  
to San Francisco,

2222  
01:55:21,940 --> 01:55:23,620  
to a hospital internship.

2223  
01:55:23,620 --> 01:55:26,560  
That really made an impression  
on you, your first--

2224  
01:55:26,560 --> 01:55:28,330  
Well, it made an  
impression for me.

2225

01:55:28,330 --> 01:55:33,310  
But Chicago, which I like a lot  
more now that I visited then

2226

01:55:33,310 --> 01:55:37,210  
at that particular time, it  
was a bit of a hardship also.

2227

01:55:37,210 --> 01:55:39,880  
You know, I never had a car.

2228

01:55:39,880 --> 01:55:44,340  
You know, the subways, the  
schools were a little bit away

2229

01:55:44,340 --> 01:55:44,840  
from--

2230

01:55:44,840 --> 01:55:46,720  
I lived way on the  
the south side.

2231

01:55:46,720 --> 01:55:48,940  
The school was on the west side.

2232

01:55:48,940 --> 01:55:51,010  
It was difficult.  
But I had began

2233

01:55:51,010 --> 01:55:53,680  
to have some very nice friends  
who all had cars, who literally

2234

01:55:53,680 --> 01:55:56,680  
picked me up at home  
to take me to school

2235

01:55:56,680 --> 01:55:57,820  
and so forth, you know.

2236

01:55:57,820 --> 01:56:01,758

So it really was great.

2237

01:56:01,758 --> 01:56:02,800

The school was excellent.

2238

01:56:02,800 --> 01:56:04,870

When you finished school,  
you wanted to come out here.

2239

01:56:04,870 --> 01:56:05,370

Yeah.

2240

01:56:05,370 --> 01:56:08,620

And your mother was--

2241

01:56:08,620 --> 01:56:13,120

My mother-- No, my mother and  
uncle stayed on in Chicago.

2242

01:56:13,120 --> 01:56:15,910

They lived-- after  
the initial apartment,

2243

01:56:15,910 --> 01:56:18,940

they had bought a  
very small house.

2244

01:56:18,940 --> 01:56:20,350

My mother had stopped working.

2245

01:56:20,350 --> 01:56:26,440

My uncle did quite  
well in his business.

2246

01:56:26,440 --> 01:56:28,030

As I told my brother  
all the time,

2247

01:56:28,030 --> 01:56:32,470

piano tuning paid a  
lot more than a house

2248



01:56:32,470 --> 01:56:38,290  
call did in the early  
days here in pediatrics.

2249  
01:56:38,290 --> 01:56:39,400  
So he did quite well.

2250  
01:56:39,400 --> 01:56:42,970  
And they bought a very  
small house, very nice.

2251  
01:56:42,970 --> 01:56:47,440  
And subsequently,  
they got married

2252  
01:56:47,440 --> 01:56:49,100  
and were very, very  
happy together.

2253  
01:56:49,100 --> 01:56:51,010  
I could hear that coming.

2254  
01:56:51,010 --> 01:56:51,550  
Oh, yeah.

2255  
01:56:51,550 --> 01:56:52,360  
OK.

2256  
01:56:52,360 --> 01:56:56,890  
Actually, they're very, very  
happy together, I must say.

2257  
01:56:56,890 --> 01:57:00,010  
One of my aunts,  
after I had moved out,

2258  
01:57:00,010 --> 01:57:03,340  
insisted on the morality  
of the situation.

2259  
01:57:03,340 --> 01:57:06,190

2260

01:57:06,190 --> 01:57:08,890

About once I'm gone,  
which clearly I

2261

01:57:08,890 --> 01:57:10,930

don't function as a  
chaperone anymore,

2262

01:57:10,930 --> 01:57:14,080

you know, a man and woman  
living together should really

2263

01:57:14,080 --> 01:57:16,660

get married, which they did.

2264

01:57:16,660 --> 01:57:20,080

2265

01:57:20,080 --> 01:57:22,420

By then, I [LAUGHING].

2266

01:57:22,420 --> 01:57:24,130

It was amusing.

2267

01:57:24,130 --> 01:57:25,660

But who cares?

2268

01:57:25,660 --> 01:57:28,390

And anyway, they  
were very happy then.

2269

01:57:28,390 --> 01:57:31,840

The-- so they continued  
living in Chicago,

2270

01:57:31,840 --> 01:57:34,810

while I was here for the  
internship in the year.

2271

01:57:34,810 --> 01:57:36,550

And your brother  
stayed in Chicago.

2272

01:57:36,550 --> 01:57:40,810  
My brother was then opened up  
a very small piano business.

2273

01:57:40,810 --> 01:57:45,010  
He is-- his wife has  
a business sense.

2274

01:57:45,010 --> 01:57:50,110  
I must say, quoting my  
mother, the Polish head

2275

01:57:50,110 --> 01:57:53,050  
had an unbelievable  
business sense.

2276

01:57:53,050 --> 01:57:55,840  
And my brother who's  
a very charming person

2277

01:57:55,840 --> 01:57:58,690  
and can sell any kind of piano.

2278

01:57:58,690 --> 01:58:02,890  
Business wise, you know, I  
had to capitulate to her.

2279

01:58:02,890 --> 01:58:07,360  
And if there's that success I  
really would attribute to her.

2280

01:58:07,360 --> 01:58:10,540  
I mean, really had  
done exceedingly well.

2281

01:58:10,540 --> 01:58:11,200  
Yeah.

2282

01:58:11,200 --> 01:58:14,680  
And so he had opened up  
that little piano business

2283

01:58:14,680 --> 01:58:16,840

and gradually more  
and more and more.

2284

01:58:16,840 --> 01:58:21,880

And then had these  
stores, which he

2285

01:58:21,880 --> 01:58:27,040

owns in a very important area  
in Wilmette, North Shore suburb.

2286

01:58:27,040 --> 01:58:31,300

And I'd come to San  
Francisco then for a year.

2287

01:58:31,300 --> 01:58:35,980

After that, just to finish  
the educational aspect,

2288

01:58:35,980 --> 01:58:39,700

my uncles wrote to me there's  
no, believe it or not,

2289

01:58:39,700 --> 01:58:44,120

no decent medicine is practiced  
west of the Mississippi.

2290

01:58:44,120 --> 01:58:44,890

Which uncle?

2291

01:58:44,890 --> 01:58:45,400

Or the--

2292

01:58:45,400 --> 01:58:48,670

The pathologist, while he was  
a very famous pathologist,

2293

01:58:48,670 --> 01:58:50,290

I must say in the United States.

2294

01:58:50,290 --> 01:58:51,940

I mean, he has written books.

2295

01:58:51,940 --> 01:58:54,790

I mean, much of the  
dissection of a cadaver, much

2296

01:58:54,790 --> 01:58:59,580

of the virus effect on  
the heart is his doing.

2297

01:58:59,580 --> 01:59:02,072

Was this uncle number one  
who picked you up or uncle

2298

01:59:02,072 --> 01:59:03,280

number two who was skeptical?

2299

01:59:03,280 --> 01:59:04,600

Number two who was skeptical.

2300

01:59:04,600 --> 01:59:08,950

2301

01:59:08,950 --> 01:59:14,710

So-- so he's the one  
who felt very strongly

2302

01:59:14,710 --> 01:59:17,530

about this medical aspect  
west of the Mississippi.

2303

01:59:17,530 --> 01:59:19,480

So I returned and--

2304

01:59:19,480 --> 01:59:20,920

To Chicago.

2305

01:59:20,920 --> 01:59:22,060

To Chicago.

2306

01:59:22,060 --> 01:59:23,200

And--

2307  
01:59:23,200 --> 01:59:25,090  
Where did you do your  
training out here

2308  
01:59:25,090 --> 01:59:26,920  
when you came back here?

2309  
01:59:26,920 --> 01:59:31,360  
At Mount Zion Hospital  
in San Francisco.

2310  
01:59:31,360 --> 01:59:36,520  
And I was very nice, you  
know, a young Jewish doctor

2311  
01:59:36,520 --> 01:59:41,140  
in San Francisco, you  
know, has it made.

2312  
01:59:41,140 --> 01:59:41,710  
So--

2313  
01:59:41,710 --> 01:59:44,800  
And that was a good  
institution, wasn't it?

2314  
01:59:44,800 --> 01:59:45,340  
Yes.

2315  
01:59:45,340 --> 01:59:46,330  
It was very good.

2316  
01:59:46,330 --> 01:59:52,540  
I would say that I wanted to  
be a pediatrician even then.

2317  
01:59:52,540 --> 01:59:54,340  
And obviously, the  
pediatrician was

2318  
01:59:54,340 --> 01:59:58,480

in charge of the department,  
was very, very supportive

2319  
01:59:58,480 --> 01:59:59,260  
at the time.

2320  
01:59:59,260 --> 02:00:05,020  
And I made a lot of very  
wonderful long-term friends.

2321  
02:00:05,020 --> 02:00:09,880  
And so I came back to  
Michael Reese Hospital,

2322  
02:00:09,880 --> 02:00:13,820  
to the Children's Hospital  
for my first year residency,

2323  
02:00:13,820 --> 02:00:17,650  
which was an excellent,  
excellent residency program

2324  
02:00:17,650 --> 02:00:21,040  
with a lot of independence  
on the part of a resident.

2325  
02:00:21,040 --> 02:00:26,080  
I mean, you really  
were in charge.

2326  
02:00:26,080 --> 02:00:27,550  
And--

2327  
02:00:27,550 --> 02:00:28,740  
And you were in pediatrics.

2328  
02:00:28,740 --> 02:00:29,380  
Yeah, right.

2329  
02:00:29,380 --> 02:00:30,520  
Yeah.

2330

02:00:30,520 --> 02:00:31,726  
Why pediatrics?

2331  
02:00:31,726 --> 02:00:35,700

2332  
02:00:35,700 --> 02:00:38,190  
Actually I like it.

2333  
02:00:38,190 --> 02:00:41,790  
I felt I really would  
do well with kids.

2334  
02:00:41,790 --> 02:00:44,250  
I-- you know, of  
course, these questions

2335  
02:00:44,250 --> 02:00:45,375  
I've been asked many times.

2336  
02:00:45,375 --> 02:00:48,090

2337  
02:00:48,090 --> 02:00:54,330  
I really, retrospectively,  
I would have

2338  
02:00:54,330 --> 02:00:55,800  
liked to be a family physician.

2339  
02:00:55,800 --> 02:01:01,770  
But at that time, there was--  
it didn't have the reputation

2340  
02:01:01,770 --> 02:01:02,958  
that you have nowadays.

2341  
02:01:02,958 --> 02:01:04,500  
I mean, I certainly  
would have wanted

2342  
02:01:04,500 --> 02:01:05,542



to be a family physician.

2343

02:01:05,542 --> 02:01:07,800

Training is much,  
much better nowadays.

2344

02:01:07,800 --> 02:01:09,450

Family physician,  
I certainly didn't

2345

02:01:09,450 --> 02:01:12,300

want to be a pathologist.

2346

02:01:12,300 --> 02:01:13,740

And I didn't want  
to be a surgeon.

2347

02:01:13,740 --> 02:01:17,220

So the question comes up,  
what didn't you want to be?

2348

02:01:17,220 --> 02:01:20,460

Internal medicine  
was the other thing.

2349

02:01:20,460 --> 02:01:24,870

Internal medicine frightened me  
because all the people I knew

2350

02:01:24,870 --> 02:01:27,690

were brilliant in that field.

2351

02:01:27,690 --> 02:01:30,480

I don't want to bore you with  
the medical aspect of it.

2352

02:01:30,480 --> 02:01:35,040

But I had the misfortune of only  
meeting brilliant people in it.

2353

02:01:35,040 --> 02:01:39,540

I knew I could never  
be on that level.

2354  
02:01:39,540 --> 02:01:42,540  
But I felt in pediatrics  
I would do well.

2355  
02:01:42,540 --> 02:01:44,790  
And there was an  
additional factor.

2356  
02:01:44,790 --> 02:01:50,220  
The father of my aunt,  
who is not a blood

2357  
02:01:50,220 --> 02:01:53,070  
relative but, clearly, was--

2358  
02:01:53,070 --> 02:01:56,250  
is a pediatrician or was  
a pediatrician, very, very

2359  
02:01:56,250 --> 02:01:57,660  
famous.

2360  
02:01:57,660 --> 02:02:01,080  
His name is Julius Hess,  
who's written up in all books.

2361  
02:02:01,080 --> 02:02:05,880  
He was the originator of any  
care for the premature in 1910.

2362  
02:02:05,880 --> 02:02:09,630  
In fact, the Hess bed is in  
the Smithsonian Institute.

2363  
02:02:09,630 --> 02:02:13,200  
He took a great interest in me.

2364  
02:02:13,200 --> 02:02:14,790  
And--

2365  
02:02:14,790 --> 02:02:16,210

Here in Chicago.

2366  
02:02:16,210 --> 02:02:17,122  
Yes.

2367  
02:02:17,122 --> 02:02:18,540  
Yeah.

2368  
02:02:18,540 --> 02:02:20,310  
And he was a professor.

2369  
02:02:20,310 --> 02:02:25,830  
And he had retired, of  
course, long time before.

2370  
02:02:25,830 --> 02:02:29,820  
And he died, I think,  
in the early '50s.

2371  
02:02:29,820 --> 02:02:31,800  
But he knew at least  
I was a pediatrician.

2372  
02:02:31,800 --> 02:02:34,050  
Why did he take an  
interest in you?

2373  
02:02:34,050 --> 02:02:37,590  
Why did he take  
an interest in me?

2374  
02:02:37,590 --> 02:02:40,200  
Well, because I was a  
fledgling doctor at the time.

2375  
02:02:40,200 --> 02:02:42,870  
I was in medical school.

2376  
02:02:42,870 --> 02:02:44,590  
No, I actually, I  
wanted to be a doctor.

2377

02:02:44,590 --> 02:02:46,215  
I was still in college.

2378  
02:02:46,215 --> 02:02:51,270

2379  
02:02:51,270 --> 02:02:53,760  
I think he also took an  
interest in the family

2380  
02:02:53,760 --> 02:02:55,350  
because we were  
Jewish immigrants.

2381  
02:02:55,350 --> 02:02:56,190  
He was Jewish.

2382  
02:02:56,190 --> 02:02:58,650  
His wife was not.

2383  
02:02:58,650 --> 02:03:01,050  
Actually, she was-- came  
with the Pilgrim fathers,

2384  
02:03:01,050 --> 02:03:02,850  
her background, a  
wonderful person.

2385  
02:03:02,850 --> 02:03:05,460

2386  
02:03:05,460 --> 02:03:07,380  
That may have had  
something to do with it.

2387  
02:03:07,380 --> 02:03:10,180

2388  
02:03:10,180 --> 02:03:12,160  
I mean, never discussed  
that kind of thing.

2389

02:03:12,160 --> 02:03:16,770  
But perhaps retrospective  
now that you ask me

2390  
02:03:16,770 --> 02:03:19,808  
that had something  
to do with it.

2391  
02:03:19,808 --> 02:03:21,600  
And the fact that I  
actually, at that time,

2392  
02:03:21,600 --> 02:03:24,420  
I really wanted to  
be a pediatrician.

2393  
02:03:24,420 --> 02:03:27,240  
So after that year  
at Michael Reese,

2394  
02:03:27,240 --> 02:03:31,260  
I got an offer from Stanford  
to become the chief resident

2395  
02:03:31,260 --> 02:03:32,220  
at Stanford.

2396  
02:03:32,220 --> 02:03:33,720  
Now you have to  
remember, Stanford

2397  
02:03:33,720 --> 02:03:36,820  
used to be in San Francisco.

2398  
02:03:36,820 --> 02:03:41,910  
And it was a different kind of  
university the way it is now.

2399  
02:03:41,910 --> 02:03:45,570  
When they moved in 1960,  
it was a very clinical kind

2400  
02:03:45,570 --> 02:03:46,530

of situation.

2401

02:03:46,530 --> 02:03:50,730

And it was a tremendous  
honor, you know,

2402

02:03:50,730 --> 02:03:54,240

after first year residency  
to become a chief resident

2403

02:03:54,240 --> 02:03:57,310

in an institution like that.

2404

02:03:57,310 --> 02:03:59,860

And because I've had  
enough of Chicago,

2405

02:03:59,860 --> 02:04:03,730

and there was this  
tremendous offer of--

2406

02:04:03,730 --> 02:04:06,220

You weren't going to listen  
to your uncle's advice, huh.

2407

02:04:06,220 --> 02:04:10,450

By the time, they've  
learned not to interfere.

2408

02:04:10,450 --> 02:04:18,490

And-- and so I went  
to Stanford then.

2409

02:04:18,490 --> 02:04:20,410

And I had a year there.

2410

02:04:20,410 --> 02:04:25,030

And then, well, the next  
thing is, at that time,

2411

02:04:25,030 --> 02:04:30,670

the universal draft was over  
with, as you may remember.

2412  
02:04:30,670 --> 02:04:33,400  
I finished Stanford in '56.

2413  
02:04:33,400 --> 02:04:36,790  
The universal draft was over  
with in the early '50s I think,

2414  
02:04:36,790 --> 02:04:39,130  
except for physicians.

2415  
02:04:39,130 --> 02:04:40,420  
I was never deferred.

2416  
02:04:40,420 --> 02:04:42,220  
But I was a physician.

2417  
02:04:42,220 --> 02:04:44,710  
It was called the Berry  
Plan, so I had to go in.

2418  
02:04:44,710 --> 02:04:49,550  
And then, as soon as I  
finished my residency,

2419  
02:04:49,550 --> 02:04:54,610  
I was put in the service.

2420  
02:04:54,610 --> 02:05:01,075  
And within-- I finished and  
literally had to report.

2421  
02:05:01,075 --> 02:05:04,660

2422  
02:05:04,660 --> 02:05:09,160  
And then by that  
time, I was married.

2423  
02:05:09,160 --> 02:05:10,430  
Where had you met your wife?

2424

02:05:10,430 --> 02:05:13,660

I met my wife during  
the internship.

2425

02:05:13,660 --> 02:05:16,330

She was a secretary  
in the hospital.

2426

02:05:16,330 --> 02:05:22,060

There was a hospital, a  
chronic disease hospital,

2427

02:05:22,060 --> 02:05:25,550

called Maimonides attached  
to Mount Zion hospital.

2428

02:05:25,550 --> 02:05:27,700

I really don't know  
whether it still exists.

2429

02:05:27,700 --> 02:05:30,610

But it had a very large  
pediatric ward of children

2430

02:05:30,610 --> 02:05:32,770

with rheumatic fever,  
which is a disease

2431

02:05:32,770 --> 02:05:35,060

luckily that exist anymore.

2432

02:05:35,060 --> 02:05:37,100

So I was really  
involved with that.

2433

02:05:37,100 --> 02:05:39,010

And she was the secretary there.

2434

02:05:39,010 --> 02:05:42,250

And that's where I met her  
and didn't think much of it.

2435



02:05:42,250 --> 02:05:44,600

And she came visiting  
in Chicago on occasion.

2436

02:05:44,600 --> 02:05:46,480

And when I came  
back to Stanford,

2437

02:05:46,480 --> 02:05:50,320

we took up our relationship  
and became married

2438

02:05:50,320 --> 02:05:53,870

shortly thereafter.

2439

02:05:53,870 --> 02:05:55,750

And so I was drafted.

2440

02:05:55,750 --> 02:06:00,690

And she stayed back,  
because she was pregnant.

2441

02:06:00,690 --> 02:06:03,280

And so you had to  
go to San Antonio

2442

02:06:03,280 --> 02:06:05,710

to go to the military  
medical school,

2443

02:06:05,710 --> 02:06:08,380

to learn how to  
polish your shoes

2444

02:06:08,380 --> 02:06:10,690

and how to take out  
bullets from goats

2445

02:06:10,690 --> 02:06:15,640

in the middle of the night,  
to infiltrate barbed wire

2446

02:06:15,640 --> 02:06:19,930

with all the rattlesnakes in  
Texas, which I didn't like.

2447  
02:06:19,930 --> 02:06:23,480  
And then I was sent to Germany.

2448  
02:06:23,480 --> 02:06:24,770  
Did you have any choice?

2449  
02:06:24,770 --> 02:06:25,270  
Yes.

2450  
02:06:25,270 --> 02:06:28,180

2451  
02:06:28,180 --> 02:06:31,520  
And that's an intriguing fact.

2452  
02:06:31,520 --> 02:06:34,720  
I applied-- they  
asked you where to go.

2453  
02:06:34,720 --> 02:06:37,540  
And I really want  
to go to Europe.

2454  
02:06:37,540 --> 02:06:41,290

2455  
02:06:41,290 --> 02:06:44,510  
Because, you know, I thought I'd  
be stationed someplace in Italy

2456  
02:06:44,510 --> 02:06:45,670  
really if nothing else.

2457  
02:06:45,670 --> 02:06:47,500  
Because they had  
a big base there.

2458  
02:06:47,500 --> 02:06:49,480  
I knew they had in Germany.

2459

02:06:49,480 --> 02:06:52,240

And then the question came up,  
they are sending me to Germany.

2460

02:06:52,240 --> 02:06:56,440

And I had absolutely  
no objections.

2461

02:06:56,440 --> 02:07:00,540

So and they needed  
pediatricians.

2462

02:07:00,540 --> 02:07:02,290

You know, I was a  
practicing pediatrician.

2463

02:07:02,290 --> 02:07:04,720

And I was board  
eligible at the time.

2464

02:07:04,720 --> 02:07:06,250

And I finished Stanford.

2465

02:07:06,250 --> 02:07:08,980

And they needed  
somebody on that level.

2466

02:07:08,980 --> 02:07:12,850

And I was still  
relatively young.

2467

02:07:12,850 --> 02:07:18,220

So I was sent to--

2468

02:07:18,220 --> 02:07:24,950

to Europe, very close to  
Frankfurt, Mainz and Weisbaden,

2469

02:07:24,950 --> 02:07:25,810

that theater.

2470

02:07:25,810 --> 02:07:29,530

The city was called  
Bad Kreuznach.

2471

02:07:29,530 --> 02:07:34,930

Its subtitle is city of  
roses and nightingales.

2472

02:07:34,930 --> 02:07:39,940

It's a beautiful spa city on a  
lovely tributary of the Rhine.

2473

02:07:39,940 --> 02:07:42,730

And it was a field hospital.

2474

02:07:42,730 --> 02:07:45,850

The preceding physician  
had been a regular army

2475

02:07:45,850 --> 02:07:49,030

officer, a major.

2476

02:07:49,030 --> 02:07:51,250

And you know, you're a  
captain when you get in.

2477

02:07:51,250 --> 02:07:54,700

And he was now  
suddenly being replaced

2478

02:07:54,700 --> 02:07:56,730

by a, quotes, two-year man.

2479

02:07:56,730 --> 02:07:59,680

2480

02:07:59,680 --> 02:08:03,190

So I got there in--

2481

02:08:03,190 --> 02:08:09,390

in end of July and  
beginning of August.

2482

02:08:09,390 --> 02:08:11,890

What year are you talking about?

2483

02:08:11,890 --> 02:08:16,790

'56, that's when I finished  
my residency, in that year.

2484

02:08:16,790 --> 02:08:25,463

And then in November, my  
wife came, even though she

2485

02:08:25,463 --> 02:08:26,380

was heavily practiced.

2486

02:08:26,380 --> 02:08:27,760

Because no, I'm sorry.

2487

02:08:27,760 --> 02:08:30,070

She came in September.

2488

02:08:30,070 --> 02:08:33,130

She came two months after  
me, even though the baby

2489

02:08:33,130 --> 02:08:34,270

was born in November.

2490

02:08:34,270 --> 02:08:38,200

It was very difficult. But  
it was a propeller plane

2491

02:08:38,200 --> 02:08:39,160

at the time still.

2492

02:08:39,160 --> 02:08:44,640

But she had a birth,  
so she came over.

2493

02:08:44,640 --> 02:08:48,390

And then I was two  
years in Germany.

2494

02:08:48,390 --> 02:08:50,610

You know, you talked  
about going to Austria

2495

02:08:50,610 --> 02:08:52,580

while you were there.