

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:59,810

2

00:00:59,810 --> 00:01:05,950

1700 Alameda de las Pulgas
in San Mateo, California.

3

00:01:05,950 --> 00:01:09,970

We are interviewing Gerda Cohn.

4

00:01:09,970 --> 00:01:12,070

My name is Peter
Ryan, interviewer,

5

00:01:12,070 --> 00:01:15,320

and Jay Levin is
doing the videotape.

6

00:01:15,320 --> 00:01:18,770

7

00:01:18,770 --> 00:01:23,190

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

8

00:01:23,190 --> 00:01:26,360

I was born in
Breslau, in Germany,

9

00:01:26,360 --> 00:01:29,720

in the province
of Silesia, which

10

00:01:29,720 --> 00:01:35,780

was close to
Czechoslovakia and Poland.

11

00:01:35,780 --> 00:01:42,740

And I was born on
September 29, 1914.

12

00:01:42,740 --> 00:01:45,770

How many people
were in your family?

13

00:01:45,770 --> 00:01:51,680

My family consisted of
my mother and father--

14

00:01:51,680 --> 00:01:53,630

What were their names?

15

00:01:53,630 --> 00:01:56,180

My father's name
was Alfred Fischer,

16

00:01:56,180 --> 00:02:01,940

and my mother's
name was Margarete.

17

00:02:01,940 --> 00:02:05,300

Her maiden name was Riesenfeld.

18

00:02:05,300 --> 00:02:07,469

And I had a brother.

19

00:02:07,469 --> 00:02:10,310

Older, younger?

20

00:02:10,310 --> 00:02:13,730

Younger-- 6 and 1/2
years younger than I was.

21

00:02:13,730 --> 00:02:14,690

OK.

22

00:02:14,690 --> 00:02:19,220

And his name was
Klaus Peter Fischer.

23

00:02:19,220 --> 00:02:24,410

And I also had a sister who was
13 and 1/2 years younger than I

24

00:02:24,410 --> 00:02:27,524

was, and her name
was Lori Fischer.

25

00:02:27,524 --> 00:02:28,024

Uh-huh.

26

00:02:28,024 --> 00:02:30,950

27

00:02:30,950 --> 00:02:33,840

What kind of work
did your father do?

28

00:02:33,840 --> 00:02:37,220

My father was an
engineer, and he

29

00:02:37,220 --> 00:02:49,940

had a scrap iron business which
he developed after the First

30

00:02:49,940 --> 00:02:51,175

World War.

31

00:02:51,175 --> 00:02:51,980

Was he--

32

00:02:51,980 --> 00:02:52,490

Excuse me?

33

00:02:52,490 --> 00:02:53,510

--in the war?

34

00:02:53,510 --> 00:02:55,390

He was in the war, yes.

35

00:02:55,390 --> 00:03:00,890

But he was of
Czechoslovakian birth,

36

00:03:00,890 --> 00:03:07,190
and he fought in
the Austrian army.

37
00:03:07,190 --> 00:03:09,280
Now, you say Czechoslovakian.

38
00:03:09,280 --> 00:03:12,470
Was there a Czechoslovakia
when he was born?

39
00:03:12,470 --> 00:03:13,130
Yes.

40
00:03:13,130 --> 00:03:17,960
He was born in Olomouc,
Czechoslovakia.

41
00:03:17,960 --> 00:03:20,990
And that was part of the
Austro-Hungarian Empire?

42
00:03:20,990 --> 00:03:27,350
Well, it must have
been, but that I really

43
00:03:27,350 --> 00:03:28,800
am not too sure about.

44
00:03:28,800 --> 00:03:29,340
OK.

45
00:03:29,340 --> 00:03:30,020
How about your mother?

46
00:03:30,020 --> 00:03:30,812
Where was she born?

47
00:03:30,812 --> 00:03:32,180
My mother was born in Breslau.

48
00:03:32,180 --> 00:03:32,870

In Breslau--

49

00:03:32,870 --> 00:03:33,560

Yes.

50

00:03:33,560 --> 00:03:34,430

Where did they meet?

51

00:03:34,430 --> 00:03:38,270

52

00:03:38,270 --> 00:03:39,410

I'm really not sure.

53

00:03:39,410 --> 00:03:40,940

OK.

54

00:03:40,940 --> 00:03:43,910

Do you know when they met?

55

00:03:43,910 --> 00:03:47,870

I only know that
they got married.

56

00:03:47,870 --> 00:03:50,750

I know when they got
married, in 1913.

57

00:03:50,750 --> 00:03:52,080

In 1913--

58

00:03:52,080 --> 00:03:52,580

Yeah.

59

00:03:52,580 --> 00:03:55,820

So I guess they must have
met a little while before--

60

00:03:55,820 --> 00:03:57,675

I guess not too
much before that.

61

00:03:57,675 --> 00:03:59,300

Did they meet in
Breslau, do you think?

62

00:03:59,300 --> 00:04:00,300

Yes, I think so.

63

00:04:00,300 --> 00:04:01,370

Uh-huh.

64

00:04:01,370 --> 00:04:03,860

How big a city was Breslau then?

65

00:04:03,860 --> 00:04:07,405

I think we had about
500,000 inhabitants.

66

00:04:07,405 --> 00:04:11,450

And was there a big
Jewish community?

67

00:04:11,450 --> 00:04:11,960

Yes.

68

00:04:11,960 --> 00:04:13,480

I would think so.

69

00:04:13,480 --> 00:04:18,800

I remember that we
had three temples--

70

00:04:18,800 --> 00:04:21,829

an orthodox, a
conservative-- no,

71

00:04:21,829 --> 00:04:23,480

I think these were
only the two--

72

00:04:23,480 --> 00:04:25,280

a conservative and an orthodox.

73

00:04:25,280 --> 00:04:27,860

I don't think we had anything
like reformed temples

74

00:04:27,860 --> 00:04:28,590

at that time.

75

00:04:28,590 --> 00:04:30,350

OK.

76

00:04:30,350 --> 00:04:34,010

What kind of living
quarters did you have?

77

00:04:34,010 --> 00:04:35,810

Could you describe it?

78

00:04:35,810 --> 00:04:37,050

Yes.

79

00:04:37,050 --> 00:04:38,400

You mean when I grow up?

80

00:04:38,400 --> 00:04:38,900

Yeah.

81

00:04:38,900 --> 00:04:41,690

82

00:04:41,690 --> 00:04:42,770

Did you live in the city?

83

00:04:42,770 --> 00:04:47,300

We lived in the city-- a
little bit towards the suburbs

84

00:04:47,300 --> 00:04:49,280

actually, not in the
middle of the city.

85

00:04:49,280 --> 00:04:49,880

OK.

86

00:04:49,880 --> 00:04:52,790

And we lived in an apartment.

87

00:04:52,790 --> 00:04:54,200

I remember that.

88

00:04:54,200 --> 00:04:57,260

And I think it was
rather large apartment.

89

00:04:57,260 --> 00:05:02,150

And we had [? two in-help ?].

90

00:05:02,150 --> 00:05:04,710

Do you have good memories
of the apartment?

91

00:05:04,710 --> 00:05:07,160

Yes, yes-- very good.

92

00:05:07,160 --> 00:05:08,870

What can you tell us?

93

00:05:08,870 --> 00:05:13,040

Well, I had a wonderful
room to myself,

94

00:05:13,040 --> 00:05:19,550

and it was rather large
and beautifully furnished.

95

00:05:19,550 --> 00:05:25,340

And I liked that I
had an alcove, which

96

00:05:25,340 --> 00:05:27,950

had two sit-in chairs.

97

00:05:27,950 --> 00:05:31,370

And it had windows all around.

98
00:05:31,370 --> 00:05:35,870
And I remember that I loved
that the best, to sit there.

99
00:05:35,870 --> 00:05:36,854
--private place--

100
00:05:36,854 --> 00:05:40,580
Yeah, sort of-- read
and do things like that.

101
00:05:40,580 --> 00:05:44,210

102
00:05:44,210 --> 00:05:51,350
It was a wonderful way of life
that I was privileged to have.

103
00:05:51,350 --> 00:05:54,450
Well, my parents
apparently did very well.

104
00:05:54,450 --> 00:05:59,210
We had a car, and I
had about everything

105
00:05:59,210 --> 00:06:02,570
that anybody could really want.

106
00:06:02,570 --> 00:06:04,970
Although, I must say,
it wasn't like it

107
00:06:04,970 --> 00:06:08,900
is today with young people.

108
00:06:08,900 --> 00:06:14,420
Birthday presents were maybe
two very nice presents.

109
00:06:14,420 --> 00:06:15,244

Not 20--

110
00:06:15,244 --> 00:06:17,550
Not 20, not 30-- no.

111
00:06:17,550 --> 00:06:18,050
OK.

112
00:06:18,050 --> 00:06:21,470

113
00:06:21,470 --> 00:06:23,590
But my father was rather strict.

114
00:06:23,590 --> 00:06:28,780

115
00:06:28,780 --> 00:06:31,120
How would he express
being strict?

116
00:06:31,120 --> 00:06:35,800
Well, he was easy with a
hand to give us a patch.

117
00:06:35,800 --> 00:06:42,730
And he was demanding that we
did extremely well in school.

118
00:06:42,730 --> 00:06:50,500
And if it was only a B, he was
very upset, and punished us.

119
00:06:50,500 --> 00:06:59,770
And also, he had what I remember
I was a very sensitive person,

120
00:06:59,770 --> 00:07:06,970
and he always teased me
so that I'd very often--

121
00:07:06,970 --> 00:07:12,040

when we had our meal,
that I had cried.

122
00:07:12,040 --> 00:07:17,800
And when I was a grown up, very
grown up, I once asked him--

123
00:07:17,800 --> 00:07:19,660
I said, why did
you do this to me?

124
00:07:19,660 --> 00:07:21,530
Because I've never
forgotten that.

125
00:07:21,530 --> 00:07:23,680
And he said, I
thought, with that,

126
00:07:23,680 --> 00:07:28,540
I could get you over
your sensitivity.

127
00:07:28,540 --> 00:07:31,870
Because he recognized that
you were pretty sensitive.

128
00:07:31,870 --> 00:07:32,960
Right, right.

129
00:07:32,960 --> 00:07:35,380
How would he tease you?

130
00:07:35,380 --> 00:07:37,836
Oh, that I really
can't tell you.

131
00:07:37,836 --> 00:07:38,650
[INAUDIBLE]

132
00:07:38,650 --> 00:07:41,880

133

00:07:41,880 --> 00:07:43,330

I don't know the way it--

134

00:07:43,330 --> 00:07:46,400

no, no, it wasn't
anything like that.

135

00:07:46,400 --> 00:07:51,850

It was more maybe about my
manners to other people.

136

00:07:51,850 --> 00:07:54,400

And I always thought
I did so nicely,

137

00:07:54,400 --> 00:07:59,260

but he would find little
things and tease me about that.

138

00:07:59,260 --> 00:08:02,410

And I think, later on,
I just sort of wanted

139

00:08:02,410 --> 00:08:05,770

to forget about it and not
think about it anymore.

140

00:08:05,770 --> 00:08:07,390

Because it made you unhappy.

141

00:08:07,390 --> 00:08:09,500

Made me unhappy-- but
on the other hand,

142

00:08:09,500 --> 00:08:12,550

he was really a very
good father, and would--

143

00:08:12,550 --> 00:08:17,770

he was always very much
for us to be with him.

144

00:08:17,770 --> 00:08:21,250

And on Sundays, he would
get us out of bed--

145

00:08:21,250 --> 00:08:23,087

6 o'clock in the
morning, which we all

146

00:08:23,087 --> 00:08:24,295

did and very much appreciate.

147

00:08:24,295 --> 00:08:27,260

He said, come, come,
we'll go to the country.

148

00:08:27,260 --> 00:08:31,420

And we would drive out, and
he would take us to the woods

149

00:08:31,420 --> 00:08:35,500

and explain the
different berries to us

150

00:08:35,500 --> 00:08:38,990

and the different
kinds of mushrooms--

151

00:08:38,990 --> 00:08:43,405

which ones were poisonous,
and which ones were not.

152

00:08:43,405 --> 00:08:44,640

Was that fun?

153

00:08:44,640 --> 00:08:46,000

That was a lot of fun.

154

00:08:46,000 --> 00:08:48,670

We just absolutely loved it.

155

00:08:48,670 --> 00:08:51,100

Did your mother go?

156

00:08:51,100 --> 00:08:51,880

Yes.

157

00:08:51,880 --> 00:08:52,960

Yes.

158

00:08:52,960 --> 00:08:57,580

And we would be out
in the wheat fields,

159

00:08:57,580 --> 00:09:02,020

and there were always
poppies and corn

160

00:09:02,020 --> 00:09:04,000

flowers growing in there.

161

00:09:04,000 --> 00:09:07,226

And this was very nice.

162

00:09:07,226 --> 00:09:09,670

Anybody could go in there
and pick the flowers,

163

00:09:09,670 --> 00:09:13,630

and we would pick all
these wonderful flowers.

164

00:09:13,630 --> 00:09:16,450

Was Silesia a big farming place?

165

00:09:16,450 --> 00:09:24,190

166

00:09:24,190 --> 00:09:30,040

There was a lot of open country
around, a lot of farming.

167

00:09:30,040 --> 00:09:35,240

And when we went further, we
went to Czechoslovakia a lot,

168

00:09:35,240 --> 00:09:38,500

especially in the
wintertime for skiing.

169

00:09:38,500 --> 00:09:42,640

We almost went, I would say,
probably every two weeks.

170

00:09:42,640 --> 00:09:45,790

Now, this was after
World War I and--

171

00:09:45,790 --> 00:09:46,540

Oh, yeah.

172

00:09:46,540 --> 00:09:49,170

This was already when
my siblings were--

173

00:09:49,170 --> 00:09:51,560

174

00:09:51,560 --> 00:09:52,060

Older--

175

00:09:52,060 --> 00:09:54,130

--children.

176

00:09:54,130 --> 00:09:59,950

And that I always
really enjoyed a lot.

177

00:09:59,950 --> 00:10:03,410

So there was always a
lot of being together,

178

00:10:03,410 --> 00:10:06,280

but we also had--

179

00:10:06,280 --> 00:10:11,920

I had a grandfather that
was my mom's father,

180
00:10:11,920 --> 00:10:14,380
and he was quite religious.

181
00:10:14,380 --> 00:10:15,770
Did he live with you?

182
00:10:15,770 --> 00:10:16,570
No.

183
00:10:16,570 --> 00:10:17,230
No.

184
00:10:17,230 --> 00:10:21,100
He lived with my
mother's sister.

185
00:10:21,100 --> 00:10:25,540
And we always had these
family gatherings,

186
00:10:25,540 --> 00:10:28,120
especially on the holidays.

187
00:10:28,120 --> 00:10:31,330
And that was-- brought
us all very close.

188
00:10:31,330 --> 00:10:34,870
I had a lot of aunts,
and cousins, and uncles.

189
00:10:34,870 --> 00:10:35,800
On your mother's side?

190
00:10:35,800 --> 00:10:37,510
On my mother's side--

191
00:10:37,510 --> 00:10:41,020
on my dad's side, I only had--
my dad had a brother who lived

192

00:10:41,020 --> 00:10:47,140
in Vienna, and a sister who
passed away at an early age,

193

00:10:47,140 --> 00:10:53,140
and my grandparents
in Olomouc, and then--

194

00:10:53,140 --> 00:10:55,060
This was your father's--?

195

00:10:55,060 --> 00:10:57,280
They're both my
father's parents.

196

00:10:57,280 --> 00:10:58,630
They lived in Czechoslovakia?

197

00:10:58,630 --> 00:10:59,860
Mm-hmm.

198

00:10:59,860 --> 00:11:05,920
And they were already
elderly, and my father took--

199

00:11:05,920 --> 00:11:09,140
financially took care of them.

200

00:11:09,140 --> 00:11:14,260
And then, when the
money and Germany

201

00:11:14,260 --> 00:11:18,970
became less and
less and less, he

202

00:11:18,970 --> 00:11:22,930
told them one day they just had
to come to Germany, because it

203

00:11:22,930 --> 00:11:24,830
was going to be a lot easier.

204
00:11:24,830 --> 00:11:29,020
And so they came, and
I never forget my--

205
00:11:29,020 --> 00:11:34,630
they came, and my grandma
came with a bird in a cage.

206
00:11:34,630 --> 00:11:38,980
And that was something
I've never forgotten.

207
00:11:38,980 --> 00:11:40,230
So they came to live with you?

208
00:11:40,230 --> 00:11:44,800
They came, and my dad
took them, provided

209
00:11:44,800 --> 00:11:46,930
a small apartment for them.

210
00:11:46,930 --> 00:11:50,500
And they came every single
day and ate with us.

211
00:11:50,500 --> 00:11:52,420
The main meal was in
the middle of the day.

212
00:11:52,420 --> 00:11:53,890
Right.

213
00:11:53,890 --> 00:11:56,560
And so that was
always very nice.

214
00:11:56,560 --> 00:11:59,080
And then they spent
the afternoon--

215

00:11:59,080 --> 00:12:02,560
my grandmother usually helped
a little bit in the kitchen.

216
00:12:02,560 --> 00:12:06,670
And my grandfather, who
was a very tall, very good

217
00:12:06,670 --> 00:12:10,270
looking man, and had
a little mustache--

218
00:12:10,270 --> 00:12:13,210
gray mustache-- and he was
sitting there all afternoon

219
00:12:13,210 --> 00:12:14,365
brushing his mustache.

220
00:12:14,365 --> 00:12:17,260

221
00:12:17,260 --> 00:12:21,010
But these were all very
happy times for me.

222
00:12:21,010 --> 00:12:23,140
Can you explain
why it was easier

223
00:12:23,140 --> 00:12:25,630
for them to be in Germany
than Czechoslovakia?

224
00:12:25,630 --> 00:12:36,550
Because remember, the mark
was devaluated, and so--

225
00:12:36,550 --> 00:12:41,110
I remember, one time, my mother
sent me to the fish market,

226
00:12:41,110 --> 00:12:43,810

and she said, well, here's--

227

00:12:43,810 --> 00:12:46,810
lot more money than
it should cost--

228

00:12:46,810 --> 00:12:48,160
but buy such and such.

229

00:12:48,160 --> 00:12:49,850
I don't know what it was.

230

00:12:49,850 --> 00:12:52,060
So I did go, and by
the time I got there,

231

00:12:52,060 --> 00:12:55,720
I could not purchase what she
has asked me to for the money

232

00:12:55,720 --> 00:12:56,530
that I had.

233

00:12:56,530 --> 00:12:57,100
Right.

234

00:12:57,100 --> 00:13:01,600
And I remember that I was
very upset about that.

235

00:13:01,600 --> 00:13:06,670
And it was easier that way to
take care of my grandparents.

236

00:13:06,670 --> 00:13:09,130
Did you have a grandmother
on your mother's side?

237

00:13:09,130 --> 00:13:10,090
No.

238

00:13:10,090 --> 00:13:12,610

My mother's mother
passed away when

239
00:13:12,610 --> 00:13:15,010
my mother was 16 years old.

240
00:13:15,010 --> 00:13:20,080
She had diabetes,
and at that time,

241
00:13:20,080 --> 00:13:23,950
there wasn't too much that
people knew about all that.

242
00:13:23,950 --> 00:13:25,186
Yeah.

243
00:13:25,186 --> 00:13:28,060
When did you begin
going to school?

244
00:13:28,060 --> 00:13:31,600
I went to school when I was six.

245
00:13:31,600 --> 00:13:33,055
And I went to a private school.

246
00:13:33,055 --> 00:13:35,570

247
00:13:35,570 --> 00:13:36,890
Religious?

248
00:13:36,890 --> 00:13:38,040
No.

249
00:13:38,040 --> 00:13:38,540
No.

250
00:13:38,540 --> 00:13:41,400
No, it was a private school.

251

00:13:41,400 --> 00:13:48,140

It was a very nice school
and a very good school.

252

00:13:48,140 --> 00:13:54,020

And the first day, I remember--

253

00:13:54,020 --> 00:13:57,170

when you came out of school,
and really behaved yourself,

254

00:13:57,170 --> 00:14:00,950

and didn't cry for
your mommy outside,

255

00:14:00,950 --> 00:14:04,820

you got what they call a
[? Zucker ?] [INAUDIBLE],,

256

00:14:04,820 --> 00:14:11,450

which was a large cone
about this high made out

257

00:14:11,450 --> 00:14:17,330

of cardboard, I would say, and
decorated in beautiful colors.

258

00:14:17,330 --> 00:14:20,900

And it was totally filled to
the brim with all the candy

259

00:14:20,900 --> 00:14:22,760

that you loved.

260

00:14:22,760 --> 00:14:25,550

And that was always
a very nice treat.

261

00:14:25,550 --> 00:14:28,980

Now, would[these things
being made at home, or bought?

262

00:14:28,980 --> 00:14:29,480
No, no.

263
00:14:29,480 --> 00:14:30,810
This was always bought.

264
00:14:30,810 --> 00:14:31,310
Bought--

265
00:14:31,310 --> 00:14:32,960
Yeah.

266
00:14:32,960 --> 00:14:35,738
Every child got that right
the first day of school.

267
00:14:35,738 --> 00:14:36,530
If they were good--

268
00:14:36,530 --> 00:14:38,210
If they were good--
and then, of course,

269
00:14:38,210 --> 00:14:42,710
since you knew you got
that, you were very good.

270
00:14:42,710 --> 00:14:46,940
So what are your memories
from that school?

271
00:14:46,940 --> 00:14:50,840
I have very good
memories of that school.

272
00:14:50,840 --> 00:14:53,570
I made a lot of friends.

273
00:14:53,570 --> 00:14:58,220
And also, the teachers
were very kind,

274

00:14:58,220 --> 00:15:08,630
except the teacher who taught
us sewing, and knitting,

275
00:15:08,630 --> 00:15:09,680
and things like that.

276
00:15:09,680 --> 00:15:16,230
She was the principal's
sister, and she was terrible.

277
00:15:16,230 --> 00:15:20,510
She was ugly, and we
called her the owl,

278
00:15:20,510 --> 00:15:23,210
because that's exactly
what she looked like.

279
00:15:23,210 --> 00:15:27,290
And she was just so strict,
and if you made a mistake,

280
00:15:27,290 --> 00:15:29,525
she would hit you
over your fingers.

281
00:15:29,525 --> 00:15:30,950
With a ruler?

282
00:15:30,950 --> 00:15:31,700
I beg your pardon.

283
00:15:31,700 --> 00:15:32,540
With a ruler?

284
00:15:32,540 --> 00:15:34,520
With a ruler, yeah--

285
00:15:34,520 --> 00:15:38,810
and she was just awful.

286

00:15:38,810 --> 00:15:42,660

And that wasn't a good
memory of that school.

287

00:15:42,660 --> 00:15:44,930

But the other teachers
were very nice,

288

00:15:44,930 --> 00:15:48,230

and I have very, very fond
memories of that school.

289

00:15:48,230 --> 00:15:51,500

Was your family
religious, Gerda?

290

00:15:51,500 --> 00:15:55,310

My family was religious
on the holidays,

291

00:15:55,310 --> 00:15:57,840

and then they were
very religious.

292

00:15:57,840 --> 00:16:04,600

We only walked to temple, which
was a very long, long walk.

293

00:16:04,600 --> 00:16:09,290

On Yom Kippur, we stayed
all day in temple.

294

00:16:09,290 --> 00:16:11,420

Now, which temple did you go to?

295

00:16:11,420 --> 00:16:12,890

To the conservative--

296

00:16:12,890 --> 00:16:14,162

To the conservative--

297

00:16:14,162 --> 00:16:18,090

298
00:16:18,090 --> 00:16:23,430
I also had religious
training in school.

299
00:16:23,430 --> 00:16:27,300
And then, as I grew
a little older,

300
00:16:27,300 --> 00:16:31,080
I got very into the religion.

301
00:16:31,080 --> 00:16:35,850
I took Hebrew lessons, and
then I came home one day

302
00:16:35,850 --> 00:16:40,890
and I said to my mom, I love
to light the candles on Friday

303
00:16:40,890 --> 00:16:43,050
night.

304
00:16:43,050 --> 00:16:51,780
Well, this, I guess, was not
what they liked to acknowledge.

305
00:16:51,780 --> 00:16:54,990
And so my mother said to me, if
you want to light the candles,

306
00:16:54,990 --> 00:16:56,370
you can do this in your room.

307
00:16:56,370 --> 00:16:57,537
I have nothing against that.

308
00:16:57,537 --> 00:16:58,953
In other words,
they didn't do it.

309
00:16:58,953 --> 00:16:59,580

No.

310
00:16:59,580 --> 00:17:02,880
It was not going to
be a family affair--

311
00:17:02,880 --> 00:17:04,170
absolutely not.

312
00:17:04,170 --> 00:17:05,057
So did you?

313
00:17:05,057 --> 00:17:06,390
Did you light them in your room?

314
00:17:06,390 --> 00:17:07,440
Yes, I did.

315
00:17:07,440 --> 00:17:08,069
I did.

316
00:17:08,069 --> 00:17:08,790
All by yourself?

317
00:17:08,790 --> 00:17:14,880
All by myself-- and that
was very interesting.

318
00:17:14,880 --> 00:17:19,589

319
00:17:19,589 --> 00:17:22,079
Then, on the holidays,
we were always

320
00:17:22,079 --> 00:17:28,185
together with my
grandfather and my aunts.

321
00:17:28,185 --> 00:17:31,600

322

00:17:31,600 --> 00:17:35,110

I have wonderful memories
of a large family,

323

00:17:35,110 --> 00:17:37,540

and everybody was very loving.

324

00:17:37,540 --> 00:17:41,710

And especially
when I was smaller,

325

00:17:41,710 --> 00:17:43,370

they all wanted to
take care of me.

326

00:17:43,370 --> 00:17:43,870

Yeah.

327

00:17:43,870 --> 00:17:47,900

Well, you were the only
grandchild then weren't you?

328

00:17:47,900 --> 00:17:51,650

Yeah, but it wasn't so
much my grandfather.

329

00:17:51,650 --> 00:17:53,560

It was more my
uncles, who also--

330

00:17:53,560 --> 00:17:58,930

and their families-- had fewer
children and grandchildren.

331

00:17:58,930 --> 00:18:01,060

But for some reason--

332

00:18:01,060 --> 00:18:04,065

I don't know-- I guess
they liked me a lot.

333

00:18:04,065 --> 00:18:05,440

Maybe it was
something about you.

334
00:18:05,440 --> 00:18:06,740
I don't know.

335
00:18:06,740 --> 00:18:08,450
I don't know.

336
00:18:08,450 --> 00:18:11,470
I only know what my
mom told me when--

337
00:18:11,470 --> 00:18:13,930
my mother was very fun loving.

338
00:18:13,930 --> 00:18:18,740
And she liked to
be with the family,

339
00:18:18,740 --> 00:18:20,800
and she liked to go out.

340
00:18:20,800 --> 00:18:23,450
And my dad was in the war,
and when I was little,

341
00:18:23,450 --> 00:18:25,600
she always took me
along when I was a baby.

342
00:18:25,600 --> 00:18:29,540
And then everybody
took care of me.

343
00:18:29,540 --> 00:18:33,970
And I remember they
played a lot of cards

344
00:18:33,970 --> 00:18:37,070
all on one large table.

345

00:18:37,070 --> 00:18:39,880
It was called [GERMAN].

346
00:18:39,880 --> 00:18:44,000
I don't know-- what kind of
a game that would be today.

347
00:18:44,000 --> 00:18:46,390
But they loved that.

348
00:18:46,390 --> 00:18:48,970
They played with
very little money

349
00:18:48,970 --> 00:18:52,365
and, I guess, just had
a wonderful, fun time.

350
00:18:52,365 --> 00:18:53,490
So those are good memories?

351
00:18:53,490 --> 00:18:55,660
Yeah-- all good memories.

352
00:18:55,660 --> 00:18:58,600
Now, did you have
friends who were not

353
00:18:58,600 --> 00:19:00,000
Jews as well as Jewish?

354
00:19:00,000 --> 00:19:00,580
Yes.

355
00:19:00,580 --> 00:19:06,490
I already started with my
non-Jewish friends when I was

356
00:19:06,490 --> 00:19:09,250
in that school, in
my first school--

357

00:19:09,250 --> 00:19:12,040
by the name of Irming Schuller.

358
00:19:12,040 --> 00:19:16,300
And I had a lot of
non-Jewish friends also.

359
00:19:16,300 --> 00:19:17,740
Did those friendships continue?

360
00:19:17,740 --> 00:19:21,010
These friendships
continued to this day.

361
00:19:21,010 --> 00:19:22,520
Would you believe it?

362
00:19:22,520 --> 00:19:25,090
And I have seen them.

363
00:19:25,090 --> 00:19:27,970
I went back to Germany for the--

364
00:19:27,970 --> 00:19:30,460
I did not go last year
because of my eyes,

365
00:19:30,460 --> 00:19:33,400
but before that, for
three summers in a row,

366
00:19:33,400 --> 00:19:37,000
I went back for a few
days to visit them.

367
00:19:37,000 --> 00:19:39,370
And they're all
non-Jewish friends.

368
00:19:39,370 --> 00:19:43,510
I have one Jewish friend
whom I have contact with,

369

00:19:43,510 --> 00:19:46,270
who lives in Argentina.

370

00:19:46,270 --> 00:19:49,090
And then, two years
ago, I discovered

371

00:19:49,090 --> 00:19:52,390
three more Jewish friends
from school in London,

372

00:19:52,390 --> 00:19:53,980
and I went to visit them.

373

00:19:53,980 --> 00:19:54,640
In London?

374

00:19:54,640 --> 00:19:55,300
Mm-hmm.

375

00:19:55,300 --> 00:19:58,480
What was that like that visit?

376

00:19:58,480 --> 00:20:00,700
It was very interesting to me.

377

00:20:00,700 --> 00:20:08,080
It was not as close
a contact that I

378

00:20:08,080 --> 00:20:11,830
could develop as it was with
my non-Jewish friends, which

379

00:20:11,830 --> 00:20:13,210
was really interesting.

380

00:20:13,210 --> 00:20:17,800

381

00:20:17,800 --> 00:20:20,920

They were very much
into their own lives,

382
00:20:20,920 --> 00:20:26,650
and really not too
interested in my own.

383
00:20:26,650 --> 00:20:29,500
It was wonderful
that we got together,

384
00:20:29,500 --> 00:20:32,410
but it wasn't anything
that I thought that we

385
00:20:32,410 --> 00:20:35,920
would talk about former times.

386
00:20:35,920 --> 00:20:37,570
They did not touch on that.

387
00:20:37,570 --> 00:20:38,540
For what reason--

388
00:20:38,540 --> 00:20:38,840
--don't talk about--

389
00:20:38,840 --> 00:20:39,340
No.

390
00:20:39,340 --> 00:20:42,970

391
00:20:42,970 --> 00:20:46,120
Well, I wanted to,
and I started to,

392
00:20:46,120 --> 00:20:48,910
but I didn't get too
much of a response, which

393
00:20:48,910 --> 00:20:50,100

was very strange.

394

00:20:50,100 --> 00:20:52,720

They wanted to talk about today.

395

00:20:52,720 --> 00:20:56,830

And then I had dinner

with one of them,

396

00:20:56,830 --> 00:20:59,680

and then I could get a

little more information

397

00:20:59,680 --> 00:21:05,020

about what she knew about

all the school friends

398

00:21:05,020 --> 00:21:08,350

that we had who

have passed away.

399

00:21:08,350 --> 00:21:12,130

But she knew a lot

more than the others

400

00:21:12,130 --> 00:21:15,010

were willing to communicate.

401

00:21:15,010 --> 00:21:18,340

It was strange that way.

402

00:21:18,340 --> 00:21:22,420

Had she gotten to

England before the war?

403

00:21:22,420 --> 00:21:24,190

I don't think so.

404

00:21:24,190 --> 00:21:26,350

And I know very

little about them,

405

00:21:26,350 --> 00:21:29,860
because they were not too
open to talk about it,

406
00:21:29,860 --> 00:21:31,390
and I did not want to dig.

407
00:21:31,390 --> 00:21:35,080
I felt it wasn't my
place to do that.

408
00:21:35,080 --> 00:21:37,700

409
00:21:37,700 --> 00:21:40,370
So how long did you go to
that school, the first one

410
00:21:40,370 --> 00:21:40,870
that you--

411
00:21:40,870 --> 00:21:46,150
The first one I
went uh-- past you

412
00:21:46,150 --> 00:21:48,820
see, they started
at the 10th grade.

413
00:21:48,820 --> 00:21:51,130
They started The
other way around.

414
00:21:51,130 --> 00:21:55,750
And I went there to--

415
00:21:55,750 --> 00:21:57,490
through sixth grade.

416
00:21:57,490 --> 00:22:00,640
And then I went to another
school, Auguste Schule,

417

00:22:00,640 --> 00:22:04,950
which was school of--

418

00:22:04,950 --> 00:22:08,650
what I would say-- probably
higher learning, I guess.

419

00:22:08,650 --> 00:22:11,290

420

00:22:11,290 --> 00:22:16,570
No, it's more than that,
because they call it gymnasium--

421

00:22:16,570 --> 00:22:19,270
because when I came to this
country and I thought maybe

422

00:22:19,270 --> 00:22:22,180
I would have an opportunity
to go to college,

423

00:22:22,180 --> 00:22:27,870
they would recognize two years
of college on my diploma.

424

00:22:27,870 --> 00:22:29,320
Do you remember
what year that was

425

00:22:29,320 --> 00:22:32,620
that you went to that school?

426

00:22:32,620 --> 00:22:34,120
Yeah.

427

00:22:34,120 --> 00:22:35,440
What year was it?

428

00:22:35,440 --> 00:22:39,565
Well, I was six, so
9-- to that school.

429
00:22:39,565 --> 00:22:43,230

430
00:22:43,230 --> 00:22:44,820
Well, let me go backwards.

431
00:22:44,820 --> 00:22:54,480
I had six-- eight years
there, and I graduated in '34.

432
00:22:54,480 --> 00:22:59,760
So '26 I must have gone.

433
00:22:59,760 --> 00:23:03,960
And I went through
seventh and eighth,

434
00:23:03,960 --> 00:23:17,880
and then [GERMAN] you have
here the juniors, and seniors,

435
00:23:17,880 --> 00:23:19,940
and sophomores.

436
00:23:19,940 --> 00:23:22,620
You have the double one.

437
00:23:22,620 --> 00:23:25,150

438
00:23:25,150 --> 00:23:28,680
And I graduated in 1934.

439
00:23:28,680 --> 00:23:31,080
Now, did they have religious
instruction in that school?

440
00:23:31,080 --> 00:23:33,760

441

00:23:33,760 --> 00:23:35,370
I don't believe that.

442
00:23:35,370 --> 00:23:37,560
I don't remember that.

443
00:23:37,560 --> 00:23:39,180
No, I don't think so.

444
00:23:39,180 --> 00:23:41,800
Now, in the first school, you
did have religious instruction.

445
00:23:41,800 --> 00:23:42,300
Yes.

446
00:23:42,300 --> 00:23:44,430
Was it actually at the school?

447
00:23:44,430 --> 00:23:45,750
Yeah, it was in school--

448
00:23:45,750 --> 00:23:46,972
I think, as I remember--

449
00:23:46,972 --> 00:23:47,930
And what would they do?

450
00:23:47,930 --> 00:23:49,970
They would separate
the class by religion?

451
00:23:49,970 --> 00:23:52,290
Yeah, that's right.

452
00:23:52,290 --> 00:23:53,850
A rabbi came in.

453
00:23:53,850 --> 00:23:55,780
How many people
were in that class,

454

00:23:55,780 --> 00:23:57,850
the religious instruction?

455

00:23:57,850 --> 00:24:01,290
I don't know-- maybe 10.

456

00:24:01,290 --> 00:24:03,920
I don't really remember
the exact number--

457

00:24:03,920 --> 00:24:07,230
maybe 10, I would say.

458

00:24:07,230 --> 00:24:10,200
I think I still had a little
bit of religious instruction

459

00:24:10,200 --> 00:24:14,640
in the other one, maybe
in the seventh grade.

460

00:24:14,640 --> 00:24:18,850
So you seemed more interested
in religion than your parents.

461

00:24:18,850 --> 00:24:21,260
Yes-- always was more.

462

00:24:21,260 --> 00:24:22,620
Did that continue?

463

00:24:22,620 --> 00:24:24,990
Yes-- absolutely.

464

00:24:24,990 --> 00:24:27,570

465

00:24:27,570 --> 00:24:30,540
There were years-- let's say,
when I came to this country--

466

00:24:30,540 --> 00:24:38,320
where I don't think
that was something--

467
00:24:38,320 --> 00:24:42,420
and I didn't go to any temple
for quite a number of years.

468
00:24:42,420 --> 00:24:45,810

469
00:24:45,810 --> 00:24:48,670
The beginning was
not an easy one,

470
00:24:48,670 --> 00:24:53,730
and we were very
consumed with working.

471
00:24:53,730 --> 00:24:55,890
Survival--

472
00:24:55,890 --> 00:24:56,640
I beg your pardon.

473
00:24:56,640 --> 00:24:57,780
With survival--

474
00:24:57,780 --> 00:25:00,210
With survival--
and not only that--

475
00:25:00,210 --> 00:25:07,485
I was very intent on getting
my family out of Germany.

476
00:25:07,485 --> 00:25:10,500

477
00:25:10,500 --> 00:25:13,800
I wanted very much
to study medicine.

478

00:25:13,800 --> 00:25:16,110

That was always my wish.

479

00:25:16,110 --> 00:25:21,660

But of course, after '33,
there was no such thing

480

00:25:21,660 --> 00:25:25,650

that a Jewish person could
go to the university.

481

00:25:25,650 --> 00:25:27,810

And you see, the school
system was such that,

482

00:25:27,810 --> 00:25:30,900

when I graduated, then I could
have gone to the university

483

00:25:30,900 --> 00:25:32,400

immediately.

484

00:25:32,400 --> 00:25:34,740

There was no such thing
like four years of college

485

00:25:34,740 --> 00:25:35,790

or something like that.

486

00:25:35,790 --> 00:25:39,564

487

00:25:39,564 --> 00:25:40,830

That was forbidden.

488

00:25:40,830 --> 00:25:44,040

489

00:25:44,040 --> 00:25:47,970

I asked my father if it
wouldn't be possible to send me

490

00:25:47,970 --> 00:25:52,860
to the Sorbonne so that
I could fulfill my wish,

491

00:25:52,860 --> 00:25:54,720
and he was totally against that.

492

00:25:54,720 --> 00:25:55,740
Why?

493

00:25:55,740 --> 00:25:58,030
He felt you don't
leave Germany--

494

00:25:58,030 --> 00:26:00,690
for him, for the longest
time was absolutely

495

00:26:00,690 --> 00:26:05,190
no reason to leave Germany.

496

00:26:05,190 --> 00:26:07,060
He was convinced
this would pass?

497

00:26:07,060 --> 00:26:07,560
Yeah.

498

00:26:07,560 --> 00:26:09,210
He was absolutely sure.

499

00:26:09,210 --> 00:26:11,940
As a matter of fact,
he always said,

500

00:26:11,940 --> 00:26:14,010
I hope maybe Hitler
should get in.

501

00:26:14,010 --> 00:26:16,643
He's so crazy that
he'll be out in no time,

502
00:26:16,643 --> 00:26:18,060
and then we can
forget about that.

503
00:26:18,060 --> 00:26:19,170
[MUMBLING]

504
00:26:19,170 --> 00:26:21,850
But that was not the case.

505
00:26:21,850 --> 00:26:26,895
But he was still not at all
convinced about anything.

506
00:26:26,895 --> 00:26:30,270

507
00:26:30,270 --> 00:26:32,490
What was there to do for me?

508
00:26:32,490 --> 00:26:33,270
Nothing--

509
00:26:33,270 --> 00:26:34,250
When did you graduate?

510
00:26:34,250 --> 00:26:36,045
When I graduated-- '34.

511
00:26:36,045 --> 00:26:39,930

512
00:26:39,930 --> 00:26:44,130
I was seeing a young man--

513
00:26:44,130 --> 00:26:45,150
dated him.

514
00:26:45,150 --> 00:26:48,840
And we decided to

get married in '35.

515

00:26:48,840 --> 00:26:50,020

How old were you then?

516

00:26:50,020 --> 00:26:51,870

I was 20.

517

00:26:51,870 --> 00:26:53,910

Not 21?

518

00:26:53,910 --> 00:26:56,070

I was not 21 yet.

519

00:26:56,070 --> 00:26:57,180

I was only 20.

520

00:26:57,180 --> 00:27:00,600

My father still had to go
and sign for me [INAUDIBLE]..

521

00:27:00,600 --> 00:27:01,700

Did they--?

522

00:27:01,700 --> 00:27:03,330

--that I was allowed
to get married.

523

00:27:03,330 --> 00:27:05,430

Did they approve
of the marriage?

524

00:27:05,430 --> 00:27:07,890

Yes, they approved
of the marriage--

525

00:27:07,890 --> 00:27:12,690

my father not too
much, my mother yes.

526

00:27:12,690 --> 00:27:18,390

He came from a very fine family

and he was a very fine person.

527

00:27:18,390 --> 00:27:19,930

You met in school?

528

00:27:19,930 --> 00:27:20,430

No, no.

529

00:27:20,430 --> 00:27:25,710

He was already studying
law, and I met him--

530

00:27:25,710 --> 00:27:31,430

I think I met him at students--
law students function--

531

00:27:31,430 --> 00:27:35,030

532

00:27:35,030 --> 00:27:36,740

one of those functions, I guess.

533

00:27:36,740 --> 00:27:38,330

What year?

534

00:27:38,330 --> 00:27:44,330

Well, must have been '33,
I would say, probably.

535

00:27:44,330 --> 00:27:49,190

How aware were you in
1933 of changes that

536

00:27:49,190 --> 00:27:50,640

might be going on in Germany?

537

00:27:50,640 --> 00:27:51,540

In '33?

538

00:27:51,540 --> 00:27:52,040

Yeah.

539

00:27:52,040 --> 00:27:55,450

Not at all, not at all--

540

00:27:55,450 --> 00:27:57,230

I was in school.

541

00:27:57,230 --> 00:28:02,420

I was always a little
frightened, I would say,

542

00:28:02,420 --> 00:28:05,780

because all the teachers--
especially the men--

543

00:28:05,780 --> 00:28:08,750

wore Nazi uniforms.

544

00:28:08,750 --> 00:28:09,680

In school?

545

00:28:09,680 --> 00:28:11,480

In school-- oh, yes.

546

00:28:11,480 --> 00:28:13,932

And while before,
we were always--

547

00:28:13,932 --> 00:28:16,790

548

00:28:16,790 --> 00:28:20,240

it was the custom that,
when you passed the teacher,

549

00:28:20,240 --> 00:28:26,510

you curtsied, but then it
was always heil Hitler.

550

00:28:26,510 --> 00:28:30,140

And you had to do it.

551

00:28:30,140 --> 00:28:34,500

If I could get away
from it, I tried,

552

00:28:34,500 --> 00:28:37,940

but if they just looked you into
your face and into your eyes,

553

00:28:37,940 --> 00:28:40,040

you better did it.

554

00:28:40,040 --> 00:28:43,790

And then they separated
the Jewish girls

555

00:28:43,790 --> 00:28:49,380

from the Christian girls and put
them in the back of the room.

556

00:28:49,380 --> 00:28:50,970

What year was that?

557

00:28:50,970 --> 00:28:57,028

That was already, I think,
in probably the end of '33.

558

00:28:57,028 --> 00:28:58,570

They put you in the
back of the room?

559

00:28:58,570 --> 00:28:59,870

Yeah.

560

00:28:59,870 --> 00:29:02,300

Like you didn't belong--

561

00:29:02,300 --> 00:29:03,740

We were separated.

562

00:29:03,740 --> 00:29:07,670

And very much so,
there was a lot

563

00:29:07,670 --> 00:29:14,120
of a lot of remarks
about Jewish people--

564

00:29:14,120 --> 00:29:14,960
Who would make them?

565

00:29:14,960 --> 00:29:19,200
--by the teachers-- not
very flattering, of course,

566

00:29:19,200 --> 00:29:20,580
as you can imagine.

567

00:29:20,580 --> 00:29:25,325
And you had to
just swallow this.

568

00:29:25,325 --> 00:29:28,170

569

00:29:28,170 --> 00:29:31,160
Were they talking about
specific people in the room,

570

00:29:31,160 --> 00:29:32,252
or just in general?

571

00:29:32,252 --> 00:29:35,810
No, it was a general remark.

572

00:29:35,810 --> 00:29:42,770
And I remember that
I had a teacher whom

573

00:29:42,770 --> 00:29:44,840
I was very fond of.

574

00:29:44,840 --> 00:29:49,610
I had him for, I think,
probably three years already.

575

00:29:49,610 --> 00:29:53,190

And he was always very
nice-- no remarks, nothing.

576

00:29:53,190 --> 00:29:57,230

And we were still sitting
in our regular seats,

577

00:29:57,230 --> 00:29:59,870

not in the back of the room.

578

00:29:59,870 --> 00:30:04,160

And two of the Jewish
girls were constantly

579

00:30:04,160 --> 00:30:12,500

talking while he
was trying to teach.

580

00:30:12,500 --> 00:30:17,210

And so I guess his temper let
loose, and he started to--

581

00:30:17,210 --> 00:30:20,480

it's always the Jews who
have to disturb things.

582

00:30:20,480 --> 00:30:22,200

And it was just terrible.

583

00:30:22,200 --> 00:30:28,100

And I was so upset, because he
was really my favorite teacher,

584

00:30:28,100 --> 00:30:30,030

and so I ran out of the room.

585

00:30:30,030 --> 00:30:30,890

I remember that.

586

00:30:30,890 --> 00:30:34,470

And I went to the bathroom

and I cried my heart out.

587

00:30:34,470 --> 00:30:40,070

I was so disappointed and so hurt that he would do that.

588

00:30:40,070 --> 00:30:42,140

And it was very strange.

589

00:30:42,140 --> 00:30:44,405

Two days before a final exam--

590

00:30:44,405 --> 00:30:47,180

591

00:30:47,180 --> 00:30:48,920

he taught physics.

592

00:30:48,920 --> 00:30:50,300

He called me.

593

00:30:50,300 --> 00:30:53,480

I still remember that like yesterday.

594

00:30:53,480 --> 00:30:57,380

We had windows, and he was standing there

595

00:30:57,380 --> 00:30:59,780

in the hallway by the windows.

596

00:30:59,780 --> 00:31:05,130

And I walked by to another class, and he called me.

597

00:31:05,130 --> 00:31:09,080

And I was very--

598

00:31:09,080 --> 00:31:11,150

not too friendly, I guess.

599

00:31:11,150 --> 00:31:16,200

And he said, you know, I have
to talk to you about something.

600

00:31:16,200 --> 00:31:17,960

It's two days before the exam.

601

00:31:17,960 --> 00:31:22,970

I have in my book what
everybody knows best,

602

00:31:22,970 --> 00:31:24,620

but I have nothing about you.

603

00:31:24,620 --> 00:31:26,090

How come?

604

00:31:26,090 --> 00:31:27,140

I said, I don't know.

605

00:31:27,140 --> 00:31:29,400

Maybe I don't know very much.

606

00:31:29,400 --> 00:31:32,810

And he said, well, I'm
sure you know about this,

607

00:31:32,810 --> 00:31:36,120

and you know about
that, and about this.

608

00:31:36,120 --> 00:31:38,630

I think you know about that.

609

00:31:38,630 --> 00:31:41,990

And I said, well, if I
have to know, I will.

610

00:31:41,990 --> 00:31:44,690

And after school,
I went right away

611

00:31:44,690 --> 00:31:47,840

to a girl who had
graduated the year before,

612

00:31:47,840 --> 00:31:49,700

and was just
fantastic in physics.

613

00:31:49,700 --> 00:31:53,240

I said, I have to help me
here and teach me that.

614

00:31:53,240 --> 00:31:57,530

And sure enough, in the exam,
these three things came up,

615

00:31:57,530 --> 00:32:01,460

and of course, I could do it.

616

00:32:01,460 --> 00:32:03,440

Now, how would he
know that people

617

00:32:03,440 --> 00:32:05,000

were good at this or that?

618

00:32:05,000 --> 00:32:07,800

By just observing
them in class or by--?

619

00:32:07,800 --> 00:32:08,300

No.

620

00:32:08,300 --> 00:32:11,600

It was certain things
about certain things that--

621

00:32:11,600 --> 00:32:12,390

how he knew?

622

00:32:12,390 --> 00:32:12,890

Yeah.

623
00:32:12,890 --> 00:32:14,390
Yes-- I guess so.

624
00:32:14,390 --> 00:32:15,612
Why didn't he know about you?

625
00:32:15,612 --> 00:32:16,820
Was it because [BOTH TALKING]

626
00:32:16,820 --> 00:32:21,050
Well, I think he knew some, but
I guess he wanted to-- or he

627
00:32:21,050 --> 00:32:28,490
was asked to ask these
particular themes by whoever

628
00:32:28,490 --> 00:32:31,160
made up the questions that he--

629
00:32:31,160 --> 00:32:33,490
Were you quiet in class?

630
00:32:33,490 --> 00:32:34,550
Yes-- partly.

631
00:32:34,550 --> 00:32:35,810
What I liked--

632
00:32:35,810 --> 00:32:37,640
I was very verbal.

633
00:32:37,640 --> 00:32:39,200
What I didn't care for so much--

634
00:32:39,200 --> 00:32:40,820
I was probably quiet.

635
00:32:40,820 --> 00:32:44,650
But it wasn't that I didn't

know anything about that,

636
00:32:44,650 --> 00:32:46,940
that I wasn't any good at it.

637
00:32:46,940 --> 00:32:50,270
It was just that these
particular questions--

638
00:32:50,270 --> 00:32:53,150
that I wanted to be
sure that I know this,

639
00:32:53,150 --> 00:32:58,730
and I thought it was very
nice of him to alert me.

640
00:32:58,730 --> 00:33:01,190
Somehow he didn't have
you in the same category

641
00:33:01,190 --> 00:33:02,570
as a troublemaker, huh?

642
00:33:02,570 --> 00:33:03,410
No.

643
00:33:03,410 --> 00:33:06,180
I think he really always
liked me very much,

644
00:33:06,180 --> 00:33:08,580
and I think he felt
terrible that he

645
00:33:08,580 --> 00:33:10,580
let his temper get loose.

646
00:33:10,580 --> 00:33:11,080
Oh yeah?

647
00:33:11,080 --> 00:33:12,020

You think he did?

648
00:33:12,020 --> 00:33:13,010
I think he did.

649
00:33:13,010 --> 00:33:13,757
I really do.

650
00:33:13,757 --> 00:33:14,840
What makes you think that?

651
00:33:14,840 --> 00:33:17,570
Well, because he was
basically a very kind man.

652
00:33:17,570 --> 00:33:19,850
But the whole
atmosphere in Germany

653
00:33:19,850 --> 00:33:24,050
was so that I guess everybody
was drawn into the--

654
00:33:24,050 --> 00:33:27,390
this whole Jewish thing.

655
00:33:27,390 --> 00:33:31,490
And I remember even I met a
teacher, and I went home--

656
00:33:31,490 --> 00:33:35,000
this was already outside
at the end of '33--

657
00:33:35,000 --> 00:33:40,040
I went home on the streetcar,
and one of my teachers

658
00:33:40,040 --> 00:33:45,800
and in Nazi uniform
was sitting down.

659

00:33:45,800 --> 00:33:47,480

And I came in, and
there were no seats.

660

00:33:47,480 --> 00:33:50,840

And he got up and he said,
please, take my seat.

661

00:33:50,840 --> 00:33:58,430

So basically, I'm sure that a
lot of these people in uniform

662

00:33:58,430 --> 00:34:01,610

really weren't totally,
totally convinced,

663

00:34:01,610 --> 00:34:05,430

but then they tried to
save their own skin.

664

00:34:05,430 --> 00:34:06,890

And I think that was that.

665

00:34:06,890 --> 00:34:09,810

They got on the bandwagon, but
maybe not with their full heart

666

00:34:09,810 --> 00:34:10,310

in it.

667

00:34:10,310 --> 00:34:11,239

Right.

668

00:34:11,239 --> 00:34:14,210

But I want to tell you
another thing that was really

669

00:34:14,210 --> 00:34:17,150

funny in that last school year.

670

00:34:17,150 --> 00:34:18,770

That was also 1933.

671

00:34:18,770 --> 00:34:22,400

We were still sitting
in our regular seats,

672

00:34:22,400 --> 00:34:23,914

and we had a substitute teacher.

673

00:34:23,914 --> 00:34:27,830

674

00:34:27,830 --> 00:34:31,024

I don't really know
exactly what it was.

675

00:34:31,024 --> 00:34:35,570

676

00:34:35,570 --> 00:34:38,600

He was a substitute
for the day, and he

677

00:34:38,600 --> 00:34:42,110

wanted to really teach us
something very interesting--

678

00:34:42,110 --> 00:34:50,360

how an Aryan, a real
true Aryan looks like,

679

00:34:50,360 --> 00:34:53,750

and what his
measurements would be.

680

00:34:53,750 --> 00:34:57,080

And he wanted to teach
us that and show us that.

681

00:34:57,080 --> 00:35:00,980

682

00:35:00,980 --> 00:35:04,580

He pointed to me

and said, come here.

683

00:35:04,580 --> 00:35:06,740

And he had all
these instruments,

684

00:35:06,740 --> 00:35:09,170

and he put them on my
head, and he put it

685

00:35:09,170 --> 00:35:13,610

all on the blackboard-- and
my ears, and everything.

686

00:35:13,610 --> 00:35:15,900

He measured me all
over the place.

687

00:35:15,900 --> 00:35:17,698

Nobody said anything
in class-- nobody.

688

00:35:17,698 --> 00:35:18,365

Were you blonde?

689

00:35:18,365 --> 00:35:19,430

Everybody was quiet.

690

00:35:19,430 --> 00:35:22,550

Yes-- very, very blonde.

691

00:35:22,550 --> 00:35:25,130

So when he was finished,
he said, you see?

692

00:35:25,130 --> 00:35:30,060

This is what an Aryan
person is born with.

693

00:35:30,060 --> 00:35:31,700

This is a true Aryan.

694

00:35:31,700 --> 00:35:32,550
Nobody giggled?

695
00:35:32,550 --> 00:35:36,200
Well, of course, the whole
class burst out laughing.

696
00:35:36,200 --> 00:35:38,060
And I turned around
and I said, I'm

697
00:35:38,060 --> 00:35:40,190
so sorry that I have
to disappoint you,

698
00:35:40,190 --> 00:35:41,510
because I'm Jewish.

699
00:35:41,510 --> 00:35:45,170
Well, he took his things
and he ran out of this room

700
00:35:45,170 --> 00:35:48,440
so fast like you
wouldn't believe.

701
00:35:48,440 --> 00:35:52,250
And that was really funny.

702
00:35:52,250 --> 00:35:55,200
How did the kids respond to
you about this whole incident?

703
00:35:55,200 --> 00:35:59,990
Well, the kids really--

704
00:35:59,990 --> 00:36:06,470
I cannot remember that anybody
was really anti-Semitic in this

705
00:36:06,470 --> 00:36:08,000
whole class.

706

00:36:08,000 --> 00:36:10,370

We were all very good
friends, and we all

707

00:36:10,370 --> 00:36:14,000

had a very good time
together, and nobody--

708

00:36:14,000 --> 00:36:20,630

and nobody was into this
too much yet in 1933.

709

00:36:20,630 --> 00:36:28,290

People just gradually sifted
into this whole atmosphere.

710

00:36:28,290 --> 00:36:33,920

And I think that people
who were non-Jewish

711

00:36:33,920 --> 00:36:38,270

were beginning to be very
afraid, because the propaganda

712

00:36:38,270 --> 00:36:43,940

was such that something would
happen to their own family.

713

00:36:43,940 --> 00:36:48,270

And I think that's why
they gradually pulled back.

714

00:36:48,270 --> 00:36:49,370

Right.

715

00:36:49,370 --> 00:36:52,470

In 1933, they were still
offering you their seat--

716

00:36:52,470 --> 00:36:53,210

Yes.

717

00:36:53,210 --> 00:36:56,730

Yes, absolutely-- which
really surprised me.

718

00:36:56,730 --> 00:36:59,000

But I was shocked.

719

00:36:59,000 --> 00:37:00,920

A few years later,
that wouldn't--

720

00:37:00,920 --> 00:37:01,960

Oh my gosh--

721

00:37:01,960 --> 00:37:03,950

I wouldn't have
liked to meet him.

722

00:37:03,950 --> 00:37:10,450

God knows what-- but that
was very interesting.

723

00:37:10,450 --> 00:37:17,590

When I had the final
exam, the questions

724

00:37:17,590 --> 00:37:22,220

were asked by my
teachers, but the grades

725

00:37:22,220 --> 00:37:31,880

were given by a lot of
principals from other schools

726

00:37:31,880 --> 00:37:38,000

and from universities who
had absolutely nothing

727

00:37:38,000 --> 00:37:39,680

to do with my teachers.

728

00:37:39,680 --> 00:37:42,650

They just came from the outside.

729
00:37:42,650 --> 00:37:47,180
And I was really scared that--

730
00:37:47,180 --> 00:37:49,910
I wasn't worried that they
won't give me the best grades.

731
00:37:49,910 --> 00:37:52,920
I knew that that
was going to happen.

732
00:37:52,920 --> 00:37:58,430
But I was really concerned that
they would not let me pass.

733
00:37:58,430 --> 00:37:59,630
That they'd fail you out?

734
00:37:59,630 --> 00:38:04,580
Yeah-- that they failed
me for some weird reason

735
00:38:04,580 --> 00:38:06,440
and-- because I was Jewish.

736
00:38:06,440 --> 00:38:06,950
Yeah.

737
00:38:06,950 --> 00:38:09,470
Now, this what,
in spring of 1934?

738
00:38:09,470 --> 00:38:11,600
That was May 1934.

739
00:38:11,600 --> 00:38:12,560
OK.

740
00:38:12,560 --> 00:38:15,260
And tell me how
it actually went.

741
00:38:15,260 --> 00:38:17,970
And it was scary.

742
00:38:17,970 --> 00:38:22,790
It was hours of grilling,
and it was very scary.

743
00:38:22,790 --> 00:38:23,930
Verbal questions?

744
00:38:23,930 --> 00:38:27,590
Verbal, all verbal--
the written things

745
00:38:27,590 --> 00:38:31,760
we had done probably
a month before.

746
00:38:31,760 --> 00:38:33,650
It was all verbal.

747
00:38:33,650 --> 00:38:35,990
So was there one teacher
questioning you, or a number?

748
00:38:35,990 --> 00:38:37,460
No, no.

749
00:38:37,460 --> 00:38:41,960
All of our teachers
were questioning us.

750
00:38:41,960 --> 00:38:45,600
The questions that
apparently had come from--

751
00:38:45,600 --> 00:38:48,500
I don't know whether it
was the government already,

752
00:38:48,500 --> 00:38:52,055

or whether it came from
some university people,

753
00:38:52,055 --> 00:38:55,640
or where the questions
really came from.

754
00:38:55,640 --> 00:38:59,510
Did they test you separately
one by one, or together?

755
00:38:59,510 --> 00:39:00,240
One by one--

756
00:39:00,240 --> 00:39:00,740
One by one--

757
00:39:00,740 --> 00:39:01,260
Mm-hmm.

758
00:39:01,260 --> 00:39:03,290
So how many people
were questioning you

759
00:39:03,290 --> 00:39:05,810
when you took your exam?

760
00:39:05,810 --> 00:39:07,520
I don't know-- quite a number.

761
00:39:07,520 --> 00:39:12,080
I don't know-- maybe
six, maybe eight.

762
00:39:12,080 --> 00:39:14,810
And the principals and the other
people who were going to give

763
00:39:14,810 --> 00:39:16,790
the grades-- they
didn't [BOTH TALKING]..

764

00:39:16,790 --> 00:39:18,545

None whatsoever,
none whatsoever--

765

00:39:18,545 --> 00:39:19,850

They sat and watched?

766

00:39:19,850 --> 00:39:23,410

They sat, and
watched, and listened.

767

00:39:23,410 --> 00:39:25,520

How did it go?

768

00:39:25,520 --> 00:39:27,230

I never knew how it went.

769

00:39:27,230 --> 00:39:33,630

I had absolutely no idea,
until a few days later.

770

00:39:33,630 --> 00:39:36,260

I think the grades
were posted, or it

771

00:39:36,260 --> 00:39:38,660

was said, you have passed,
or whatever it was.

772

00:39:38,660 --> 00:39:40,010

I don't know.

773

00:39:40,010 --> 00:39:42,560

That was really the
only thing I have left

774

00:39:42,560 --> 00:39:45,500

is my diploma, which I brought.

775

00:39:45,500 --> 00:39:53,510

776

00:39:53,510 --> 00:39:57,200

I remember that I
was very scared.

777

00:39:57,200 --> 00:39:58,070

But you passed?

778

00:39:58,070 --> 00:39:59,180

But I passed.

779

00:39:59,180 --> 00:39:59,900

Yeah.

780

00:39:59,900 --> 00:40:02,570

But you knew you weren't
going to be able to go on?

781

00:40:02,570 --> 00:40:05,570

Well, even if I had
failed, you see,

782

00:40:05,570 --> 00:40:09,560

I wouldn't have been able
to go back to repeat.

783

00:40:09,560 --> 00:40:12,110

That would have been impossible.

784

00:40:12,110 --> 00:40:12,935

So that was scary.

785

00:40:12,935 --> 00:40:16,060

786

00:40:16,060 --> 00:40:22,180

So then I remember--

787

00:40:22,180 --> 00:40:27,160

this was still, I think, while
I was still going to school.

788

00:40:27,160 --> 00:40:30,820

I was walking down a
very prominent-- one

789
00:40:30,820 --> 00:40:37,900
of the most prominent
street in Breslau,

790
00:40:37,900 --> 00:40:42,310
and I was walking along
with then fiancée who

791
00:40:42,310 --> 00:40:46,750
was-- who had dark hair and
a little darker complexion

792
00:40:46,750 --> 00:40:48,550
than I had.

793
00:40:48,550 --> 00:40:52,360
And two Nazi officers
passed us by,

794
00:40:52,360 --> 00:40:57,100
and they rammed me and
they spit into my face.

795
00:40:57,100 --> 00:41:02,500
That wasn't a very
good experience.

796
00:41:02,500 --> 00:41:03,910
Did they say anything?

797
00:41:03,910 --> 00:41:09,070
Not one single word,
not one single word--

798
00:41:09,070 --> 00:41:11,500
Did they just do it to
you or to both of you?

799
00:41:11,500 --> 00:41:12,370
Just to me--

800
00:41:12,370 --> 00:41:16,693
I passed there on the
street-- just to me.

801
00:41:16,693 --> 00:41:17,860
They thought that you were--

802
00:41:17,860 --> 00:41:21,250
Well, they did not
like that I went with--

803
00:41:21,250 --> 00:41:22,140
This dark person--

804
00:41:22,140 --> 00:41:24,640
With this darker person,
who looked a little-- maybe,

805
00:41:24,640 --> 00:41:28,510
in their eyes, a
little bit Jewish.

806
00:41:28,510 --> 00:41:32,860
And there were
many incidents that

807
00:41:32,860 --> 00:41:36,790
happened where you were--
where they rammed you, pushed

808
00:41:36,790 --> 00:41:40,900
you, even called you Jew.

809
00:41:40,900 --> 00:41:42,490
You remember?

810
00:41:42,490 --> 00:41:45,730
I remember a few incidents.

811
00:41:45,730 --> 00:41:50,530
But otherwise, it wasn't

as bad in the streets.

812
00:41:50,530 --> 00:41:53,080
But you were always
worried, because there

813
00:41:53,080 --> 00:41:58,270
were constant proclamations
about one thing or another.

814
00:41:58,270 --> 00:42:00,850
One day it was
said that they were

815
00:42:00,850 --> 00:42:11,530
going to do house-to-house
searches for weapons.

816
00:42:11,530 --> 00:42:16,730
And I remember we were
sitting at dinner,

817
00:42:16,730 --> 00:42:19,570
and all of a sudden,
my dad got very pale.

818
00:42:19,570 --> 00:42:22,930
And he said, my God, I
just remembered something.

819
00:42:22,930 --> 00:42:27,425
I have a saber and a pistol
from the war in the attic.

820
00:42:27,425 --> 00:42:30,650

821
00:42:30,650 --> 00:42:33,430
So we went into the
attic and we found it.

822
00:42:33,430 --> 00:42:36,050
And that same night--

823
00:42:36,050 --> 00:42:40,390
I will never forget that
my dad put on a long coat,

824
00:42:40,390 --> 00:42:45,130
and he strapped that saber
on him and the pistol

825
00:42:45,130 --> 00:42:50,110
in his pocket, and
we went in the car

826
00:42:50,110 --> 00:42:57,320
and drove quite far away to
a very quiet little village,

827
00:42:57,320 --> 00:43:04,300
which had a small little lake.

828
00:43:04,300 --> 00:43:06,880
And we sat in the
car for a long time

829
00:43:06,880 --> 00:43:10,090
to see if anybody was coming,
but it was all very quiet.

830
00:43:10,090 --> 00:43:14,920
And then my dad got out, and he
threw the sabre and the pistol

831
00:43:14,920 --> 00:43:16,660
into that lake.

832
00:43:16,660 --> 00:43:20,200
And then we left in a hurry,
and thank God, nobody saw us.

833
00:43:20,200 --> 00:43:21,610
What year do you think that was?

834

00:43:21,610 --> 00:43:25,850
That was, I would say,
the beginning of '34.

835
00:43:25,850 --> 00:43:29,590
And he was still saying,
we should all stay Germany?

836
00:43:29,590 --> 00:43:30,090
Yes.

837
00:43:30,090 --> 00:43:34,450

838
00:43:34,450 --> 00:43:36,910
We got married.

839
00:43:36,910 --> 00:43:37,780
In '35--

840
00:43:37,780 --> 00:43:39,640
In '35--

841
00:43:39,640 --> 00:43:42,760
What did you do that year
after you got out of school?

842
00:43:42,760 --> 00:43:48,740
After you got out of
school, that was '34--

843
00:43:48,740 --> 00:43:51,260
nothing, absolutely nothing.

844
00:43:51,260 --> 00:43:53,000
Could you work, if you wanted?

845
00:43:53,000 --> 00:43:54,350
No.

846
00:43:54,350 --> 00:43:58,440
There was no way that I

would have gotten a job.

847

00:43:58,440 --> 00:44:00,900

And I think I did
absolutely nothing.

848

00:44:00,900 --> 00:44:03,950

I read, and things that
I could do at home.

849

00:44:03,950 --> 00:44:11,480

850

00:44:11,480 --> 00:44:16,220

No, then there came a time when
I said to my dad, you know,

851

00:44:16,220 --> 00:44:18,930

this, to me, doesn't
look very good.

852

00:44:18,930 --> 00:44:21,530

And I think that
you should think

853

00:44:21,530 --> 00:44:25,370

about it, leaving the country.

854

00:44:25,370 --> 00:44:29,590

My dad still had his business,
and it was still going OK.

855

00:44:29,590 --> 00:44:32,980

856

00:44:32,980 --> 00:44:35,260

I'll never forget that,
that he turned around

857

00:44:35,260 --> 00:44:37,010

and he looked me in
the face, and he said,

858

00:44:37,010 --> 00:44:40,050

you are absolutely crazy.

859

00:44:40,050 --> 00:44:41,930

Why would you do
a thing like that?

860

00:44:41,930 --> 00:44:45,500

861

00:44:45,500 --> 00:44:47,420

Do you know where your
mother stood on that?

862

00:44:47,420 --> 00:44:49,230

My mother never said anything.

863

00:44:49,230 --> 00:44:51,410

My mother was very
much with my dad--

864

00:44:51,410 --> 00:44:52,640

never said anything.

865

00:44:52,640 --> 00:44:56,660

I presume that she
felt the same way.

866

00:44:56,660 --> 00:45:04,550

And then we got married in
June of '35, and there were

867

00:45:04,550 --> 00:45:07,220

preparations and
everything, and--

868

00:45:07,220 --> 00:45:14,000

except for the book burning
that happened and-- where we had

869

00:45:14,000 --> 00:45:18,590

to go and bring all our

books that had any kind of--

870
00:45:18,590 --> 00:45:21,785
they listed exactly the
books that you had to bring.

871
00:45:21,785 --> 00:45:22,820
When was that?

872
00:45:22,820 --> 00:45:25,162
That was in '34.

873
00:45:25,162 --> 00:45:26,870
Did you have to witness
the book burning?

874
00:45:26,870 --> 00:45:30,230
Not only that-- I had
to bring all my books.

875
00:45:30,230 --> 00:45:32,420
And my fiance I
had a lot of books,

876
00:45:32,420 --> 00:45:34,400
and his family had
a lot of books,

877
00:45:34,400 --> 00:45:38,450
and we had to bring them
to a certain place--

878
00:45:38,450 --> 00:45:43,190
a big open place, and then--

879
00:45:43,190 --> 00:45:47,330
yes, I was there,
hidden from view

880
00:45:47,330 --> 00:45:48,830
when they burned all the books.

881

00:45:48,830 --> 00:45:52,400
And it was absolutely terrible.

882
00:45:52,400 --> 00:45:54,410
What type of books?

883
00:45:54,410 --> 00:46:02,000
Like Thomas Mann, Heinrich
Heine, Jewish writings.

884
00:46:02,000 --> 00:46:06,230
And this was mostly
what I really

885
00:46:06,230 --> 00:46:12,080
remember, because those were
some of my most favorite books.

886
00:46:12,080 --> 00:46:19,600
And that was very,
very upsetting.

887
00:46:19,600 --> 00:46:23,450

888
00:46:23,450 --> 00:46:27,110
Do you think that was before
or after you told your father

889
00:46:27,110 --> 00:46:28,490
that maybe we shouldn't stay?

890
00:46:28,490 --> 00:46:31,670

891
00:46:31,670 --> 00:46:36,470
No, I think that was
before I told my father.

892
00:46:36,470 --> 00:46:41,780
But my father always said,
these are little incidents.

893

00:46:41,780 --> 00:46:43,580

Don't pay too much
attention to it.

894

00:46:43,580 --> 00:46:46,340

It'll all blow over.

895

00:46:46,340 --> 00:46:49,010

Now, there wasn't any difficulty
about two Jewish people

896

00:46:49,010 --> 00:46:50,780

married?

897

00:46:50,780 --> 00:46:52,100

No.

898

00:46:52,100 --> 00:46:54,260

No, there was no problem yet.

899

00:46:54,260 --> 00:47:02,030

My father had to sign for me,
and we went to the place where

900

00:47:02,030 --> 00:47:03,590

you--

901

00:47:03,590 --> 00:47:04,490

City hall?

902

00:47:04,490 --> 00:47:06,810

City hall-- [GERMAN]
they called it--

903

00:47:06,810 --> 00:47:07,670

city hall, yeah.

904

00:47:07,670 --> 00:47:08,500

We got married.

905

00:47:08,500 --> 00:47:10,400

No, there was really nothing.

906

00:47:10,400 --> 00:47:14,000

And then we had a
wedding at the temple.

907

00:47:14,000 --> 00:47:15,200

Did you have a big wedding?

908

00:47:15,200 --> 00:47:18,660

Yes-- had a very big wedding.

909

00:47:18,660 --> 00:47:21,110

That all went still OK.

910

00:47:21,110 --> 00:47:25,995

I guess we were all caught up
and the beauty of the moment,

911

00:47:25,995 --> 00:47:26,495

I presume.

912

00:47:26,495 --> 00:47:29,240

913

00:47:29,240 --> 00:47:34,220

And that was still all right.

914

00:47:34,220 --> 00:47:35,660

That was in June.

915

00:47:35,660 --> 00:47:39,650

And then my husband and I
really started seriously

916

00:47:39,650 --> 00:47:41,780

thinking about leaving Germany.

917

00:47:41,780 --> 00:47:44,570

918

00:47:44,570 --> 00:47:45,950
The two of you?

919
00:47:45,950 --> 00:47:47,820
The two of us--

920
00:47:47,820 --> 00:47:53,150
at first, we decided, since
Switzerland was neutral--

921
00:47:53,150 --> 00:47:55,580
well, you couldn't
work in Switzerland.

922
00:47:55,580 --> 00:47:57,650
That was not allowed.

923
00:47:57,650 --> 00:48:02,180
But we went to
Liechtenstein, and we

924
00:48:02,180 --> 00:48:06,110
saw that that was a
wonderful little country

925
00:48:06,110 --> 00:48:10,280
where my husband--

926
00:48:10,280 --> 00:48:14,940
he was a lawyer,
but he couldn't--

927
00:48:14,940 --> 00:48:20,090
he thought he wouldn't
probably be in his profession.

928
00:48:20,090 --> 00:48:25,880
But he had already entered
a furniture factory

929
00:48:25,880 --> 00:48:29,060
where the man who
owned it, who was

930
00:48:29,060 --> 00:48:32,840
a friend of my dad's,
wanted a junior partner

931
00:48:32,840 --> 00:48:34,460
to teach him everything.

932
00:48:34,460 --> 00:48:40,640
And I think that was
already in '34 sometimes.

933
00:48:40,640 --> 00:48:45,140
And then fiance
went to work there,

934
00:48:45,140 --> 00:48:46,430
and learned the business.

935
00:48:46,430 --> 00:48:49,140
And we decided that's
what we were going to do,

936
00:48:49,140 --> 00:48:51,500
and we already picked
out the location,

937
00:48:51,500 --> 00:48:56,300
and this was all
very, very great.

938
00:48:56,300 --> 00:48:58,910
Did your father think you
were crazy for doing that?

939
00:48:58,910 --> 00:49:00,140
Oh, yes-- absolutely.

940
00:49:00,140 --> 00:49:04,790
My parents-- they just
couldn't think of it.

941

00:49:04,790 --> 00:49:10,160
And when we came back home,
I started thinking about it,

942
00:49:10,160 --> 00:49:17,750
and I said, you know, this
might not even be a good idea.

943
00:49:17,750 --> 00:49:20,900
Who says that
Hitler, who threatens

944
00:49:20,900 --> 00:49:25,520
to take Czechoslovakia, who
threatens to take Poland--

945
00:49:25,520 --> 00:49:27,170
why won't they take Switzerland?

946
00:49:27,170 --> 00:49:29,870
Why won't he go into
Liechtenstein also?

947
00:49:29,870 --> 00:49:32,780
It's also close.

948
00:49:32,780 --> 00:49:37,390
And I came up with the idea
maybe we should go to America.

949
00:49:37,390 --> 00:49:41,840

950
00:49:41,840 --> 00:49:48,140
My husband had relatives
in Czechoslovakia

951
00:49:48,140 --> 00:49:50,840
who had business--
great business

952
00:49:50,840 --> 00:49:54,020
connections in New York.

953
00:49:54,020 --> 00:49:58,550
And they gave us letters
of introduction to people

954
00:49:58,550 --> 00:50:00,170
who would possibly help us.

955
00:50:00,170 --> 00:50:04,130

956
00:50:04,130 --> 00:50:07,280
We went in--

957
00:50:07,280 --> 00:50:10,040
I think it was November.

958
00:50:10,040 --> 00:50:14,420
I believe it was November
of '35 we went to America.

959
00:50:14,420 --> 00:50:16,430
You had no trouble
getting into America?

960
00:50:16,430 --> 00:50:17,900
That was no trouble at the time.

961
00:50:17,900 --> 00:50:21,470
You still got a passport,
and you could come in--

962
00:50:21,470 --> 00:50:22,700
on a visitor's visa.

963
00:50:22,700 --> 00:50:25,880
We had to get a visitor's visa.

964
00:50:25,880 --> 00:50:30,140
And we came, and we
visited the people

965

00:50:30,140 --> 00:50:33,980

whom we had recommendations to.

966

00:50:33,980 --> 00:50:38,840

And they were very,
very nice to us,

967

00:50:38,840 --> 00:50:44,960

and really wined and dined
us, and gave us affidavits.

968

00:50:44,960 --> 00:50:48,080

We had two who
gave us affidavits,

969

00:50:48,080 --> 00:50:54,290

and when we came to the third
one, this gentleman said,

970

00:50:54,290 --> 00:50:59,780

this is so strange that you
come at this time for what

971

00:50:59,780 --> 00:51:01,040

you come for.

972

00:51:01,040 --> 00:51:06,590

And he told us a
story that he had

973

00:51:06,590 --> 00:51:14,600

many years before a lumberyard.

974

00:51:14,600 --> 00:51:18,590

And he had a partner,
and they had made already

975

00:51:18,590 --> 00:51:22,190

pretty nice money and
had money in the bank.

976

00:51:22,190 --> 00:51:27,620

And the partner went to the
dock to pick up, I presume--

977
00:51:27,620 --> 00:51:33,960
oversee the picking up of
big a big lumber shipment.

978
00:51:33,960 --> 00:51:40,590
And I guess he took quite
a bit of money and--

979
00:51:40,590 --> 00:51:47,140
to pay for the shipment,
and he never came back.

980
00:51:47,140 --> 00:51:49,050
He never came back.

981
00:51:49,050 --> 00:51:52,620
And nobody could find out
what happened to the man,

982
00:51:52,620 --> 00:51:55,170
and why did he run
away with the money,

983
00:51:55,170 --> 00:51:57,930
and what happened to everything?

984
00:51:57,930 --> 00:52:01,560
And then this gentleman
decided, well,

985
00:52:01,560 --> 00:52:03,420
he was going to close
up the lumber yard

986
00:52:03,420 --> 00:52:04,560
and do something else.

987
00:52:04,560 --> 00:52:11,670
And that was in years he
had built up a very nice,

988
00:52:11,670 --> 00:52:18,820
I would say, probably
a giftware shop.

989
00:52:18,820 --> 00:52:20,690
This was where?

990
00:52:20,690 --> 00:52:22,220
That was in New York.

991
00:52:22,220 --> 00:52:24,470
It was rather large, I remember.

992
00:52:24,470 --> 00:52:27,020
He had a ground floor
and a second floor,

993
00:52:27,020 --> 00:52:33,410
and the offices were on the
second floor on the side.

994
00:52:33,410 --> 00:52:37,520
So he said, two
days before we came,

995
00:52:37,520 --> 00:52:43,880
he had a caller, and this man--

996
00:52:43,880 --> 00:52:48,060
his former partner came in.

997
00:52:48,060 --> 00:52:54,780
And he said, you must
think that this is unreal

998
00:52:54,780 --> 00:52:59,970
that I'm coming here to
you after what happened.

999
00:52:59,970 --> 00:53:04,170
And so he told him he

was at the lumber yard,

1000

00:53:04,170 --> 00:53:06,720

and he was standing
there and was looking up

1001

00:53:06,720 --> 00:53:11,760

at this big lumber shipment that
they brought down on the crane.

1002

00:53:11,760 --> 00:53:18,210

And something broke, and
this whole shipment fell down

1003

00:53:18,210 --> 00:53:21,060

to the ground onto him.

1004

00:53:21,060 --> 00:53:23,160

And he was given up for dead.

1005

00:53:23,160 --> 00:53:27,750

He was in the hospital
for over a year

1006

00:53:27,750 --> 00:53:30,960

until they were able to
repair all the damage that

1007

00:53:30,960 --> 00:53:33,550

had been done to him.

1008

00:53:33,550 --> 00:53:35,250

And then, when he
was well again,

1009

00:53:35,250 --> 00:53:37,900

he needed a lot of therapy.

1010

00:53:37,900 --> 00:53:40,050

So it was, I think,
two or three years

1011

00:53:40,050 --> 00:53:41,790
until he was back on his feet.

1012
00:53:41,790 --> 00:53:45,660

1013
00:53:45,660 --> 00:53:47,940
How he got to
Washington I don't know,

1014
00:53:47,940 --> 00:53:50,310
and what he did in
Washington I don't remember,

1015
00:53:50,310 --> 00:53:56,820
but he had absolutely the
connections to the whole--

1016
00:53:56,820 --> 00:53:59,560
everybody in the government.

1017
00:53:59,560 --> 00:54:01,110
And so he came to
him and he said,

1018
00:54:01,110 --> 00:54:05,520
now I've been in Washington,
and I have really

1019
00:54:05,520 --> 00:54:08,160
gotten a permanent
position, and I

1020
00:54:08,160 --> 00:54:09,960
want to give you back
all the money that I

1021
00:54:09,960 --> 00:54:13,230
took and everything
that I had done to you.

1022
00:54:13,230 --> 00:54:16,680
And whatever I can do

for you, just name it--

1023

00:54:16,680 --> 00:54:18,880
I'll do it.

1024

00:54:18,880 --> 00:54:21,820
And so he told him
that we were coming

1025

00:54:21,820 --> 00:54:26,140
and we were looking for
wonderful connections

1026

00:54:26,140 --> 00:54:31,320
so that we could go to
America and get a visa.

1027

00:54:31,320 --> 00:54:36,390
And he took us to Washington,
and we met the Speaker

1028

00:54:36,390 --> 00:54:41,340
of the House, then Bankhead--

1029

00:54:41,340 --> 00:54:45,330
and even met Tallulah
Bankhead, who was there--

1030

00:54:45,330 --> 00:54:50,940
his daughter-- and a lot of
people in the State Department.

1031

00:54:50,940 --> 00:54:55,870
And everybody gave us a
letter of recommendations

1032

00:54:55,870 --> 00:54:57,690
so that we could come over.

1033

00:54:57,690 --> 00:55:02,700
And the consul in Berlin would
not recognize any of that.

1034

00:55:02,700 --> 00:55:03,660

Wouldn't recognize it?

1035

00:55:03,660 --> 00:55:06,360

Nothing, nothing--
he said, I only

1036

00:55:06,360 --> 00:55:11,070

give a visa to people who
have relatives in America,

1037

00:55:11,070 --> 00:55:15,090

and we have no relatives.

1038

00:55:15,090 --> 00:55:17,070

All these wonderful
letters and everything

1039

00:55:17,070 --> 00:55:19,200

didn't help us at all.

1040

00:55:19,200 --> 00:55:22,530

We went back and forth
to the consulate,

1041

00:55:22,530 --> 00:55:26,280

and I think, after we went
there for many, many times,

1042

00:55:26,280 --> 00:55:28,350

he finally said,
well, I'll give you

1043

00:55:28,350 --> 00:55:36,780

a visa if a bank account of
\$10,000 is opened in your name.

1044

00:55:36,780 --> 00:55:40,080

And then I will give you a visa.

1045

00:55:40,080 --> 00:55:46,110

And one of the people

who were so kind to us

1046

00:55:46,110 --> 00:55:52,320
opened a bank account of
\$10,000 for us and sent it.

1047

00:55:52,320 --> 00:55:54,780
The German consulate
didn't care whether you--

1048

00:55:54,780 --> 00:55:57,990
The German consulate
only wanted us out.

1049

00:55:57,990 --> 00:56:00,600
It was the American
consul who didn't

1050

00:56:00,600 --> 00:56:03,390
want us to have the visa.

1051

00:56:03,390 --> 00:56:07,157
And when he saw that, then
he finally gave us the visa.

1052

00:56:07,157 --> 00:56:08,490
So this was the American consul.

1053

00:56:08,490 --> 00:56:11,700
It was the American consul who
did not want to give us a visa.

1054

00:56:11,700 --> 00:56:15,270
He said, I only let you go to
America if you have a relative.

1055

00:56:15,270 --> 00:56:18,263
And all the people who had
maybe a sister, or brother, or--

1056

00:56:18,263 --> 00:56:19,680
Someone [INAUDIBLE]
to take care--

1057
00:56:19,680 --> 00:56:21,090
And if a cousin--

1058
00:56:21,090 --> 00:56:23,100
they got their visa immediately.

1059
00:56:23,100 --> 00:56:25,560
And we had a very
hard time getting it.

1060
00:56:25,560 --> 00:56:27,690
How long did it take to get?

1061
00:56:27,690 --> 00:56:29,080
It took a long time.

1062
00:56:29,080 --> 00:56:34,440
We left in November
of '36, so it

1063
00:56:34,440 --> 00:56:37,980
must have been probably until
maybe a month before that

1064
00:56:37,980 --> 00:56:40,710
or so.

1065
00:56:40,710 --> 00:56:43,530
And still my parents--

1066
00:56:43,530 --> 00:56:45,720
Now, when you say
left, left America?

1067
00:56:45,720 --> 00:56:46,590
Left Germany--

1068
00:56:46,590 --> 00:56:47,200
Left Germany--

1069

00:56:47,200 --> 00:56:48,580
Germany to come to America--

1070
00:56:48,580 --> 00:56:49,110
OK.

1071
00:56:49,110 --> 00:56:56,080
Finally-- and my
parents were still--

1072
00:56:56,080 --> 00:56:57,190
You went to New York.

1073
00:56:57,190 --> 00:56:58,930
You go to all these
wonderful letters.

1074
00:56:58,930 --> 00:56:59,890
Right, right.

1075
00:56:59,890 --> 00:57:01,790
Did you have to go
back to Germany?

1076
00:57:01,790 --> 00:57:02,630
No, no, no, no.

1077
00:57:02,630 --> 00:57:03,130
No, no.

1078
00:57:03,130 --> 00:57:04,000
You stayed.

1079
00:57:04,000 --> 00:57:07,190

1080
00:57:07,190 --> 00:57:12,280
Once the American consul gave
us the visa, we came to America.

1081
00:57:12,280 --> 00:57:15,070
Of course, we went

to Ellis Island,

1082
00:57:15,070 --> 00:57:18,760
and that was rough,
because they examined

1083
00:57:18,760 --> 00:57:22,270
you physically and mentally.

1084
00:57:22,270 --> 00:57:27,310
And that was really a
gruesome examination.

1085
00:57:27,310 --> 00:57:30,070
And then, when we were
through with that,

1086
00:57:30,070 --> 00:57:32,860
then they allowed us
to enter New York.

1087
00:57:32,860 --> 00:57:36,922

1088
00:57:36,922 --> 00:57:40,780
The last words that they said--

1089
00:57:40,780 --> 00:57:45,355
when you are in public,
you speak only English.

1090
00:57:45,355 --> 00:57:47,890

1091
00:57:47,890 --> 00:57:51,190
And if you become
a public charge,

1092
00:57:51,190 --> 00:57:53,275
we will report you
right back to Germany.

1093

00:57:53,275 --> 00:57:56,050

1094

00:57:56,050 --> 00:58:00,850

And that was our
last words from--

1095

00:58:00,850 --> 00:58:02,200

[INAUDIBLE]?

1096

00:58:02,200 --> 00:58:03,040

Oh, yeah.

1097

00:58:03,040 --> 00:58:04,510

That went real fast.

1098

00:58:04,510 --> 00:58:07,210

Did you know English
when you came?

1099

00:58:07,210 --> 00:58:09,130

English-- that I
learned in school.

1100

00:58:09,130 --> 00:58:13,510

I was perfect in spelling
and perfect and grammar,

1101

00:58:13,510 --> 00:58:15,880

but very poor in conversation.

1102

00:58:15,880 --> 00:58:17,760

Did your husband know English?

1103

00:58:17,760 --> 00:58:19,180

There was the same way.

1104

00:58:19,180 --> 00:58:21,550

This is what you
learned in Germany.

1105

00:58:21,550 --> 00:58:27,740

You really never had an
opportunity to speak English.

1106
00:58:27,740 --> 00:58:30,550
They didn't have
conversational English,

1107
00:58:30,550 --> 00:58:36,340
so we were very good and
in grammar and spelling,

1108
00:58:36,340 --> 00:58:42,700
but not in
conversational English.

1109
00:58:42,700 --> 00:58:44,950
So it took a little doing.

1110
00:58:44,950 --> 00:58:48,910
I was always walking
around with a--

1111
00:58:48,910 --> 00:58:50,290
Dictionary--

1112
00:58:50,290 --> 00:58:51,490
--dictionary.

1113
00:58:51,490 --> 00:58:58,750
And it was quite hot
at the beginning.

1114
00:58:58,750 --> 00:59:01,530
What did you do the both of you?

1115
00:59:01,530 --> 00:59:05,410

1116
00:59:05,410 --> 00:59:09,910
These last few weeks that I was
in Germany, I went to Berlin

1117

00:59:09,910 --> 00:59:15,370
and learned how to make these
very fine handmade gloves,

1118
00:59:15,370 --> 00:59:18,670
which were very
fashionable at the time--

1119
00:59:18,670 --> 00:59:21,580
very thin, fine leather.

1120
00:59:21,580 --> 00:59:25,780
And so I had made a collection.

1121
00:59:25,780 --> 00:59:28,810

1122
00:59:28,810 --> 00:59:38,440
On the ship, we met a couple who
had an art gallery in Germany,

1123
00:59:38,440 --> 00:59:40,090
and they came to America.

1124
00:59:40,090 --> 00:59:42,880

1125
00:59:42,880 --> 00:59:45,910
I don't know exactly the reason,
whether they transferred--

1126
00:59:45,910 --> 00:59:50,440
wanted to transfer some things
from Germany into American

1127
00:59:50,440 --> 00:59:52,780
museums or what--

1128
00:59:52,780 --> 00:59:54,280
art galleries-- whatever it was.

1129
00:59:54,280 --> 00:59:57,010

But they were
awfully kind to us.

1130
00:59:57,010 --> 00:59:59,963
And they also asked
us a question.

1131
00:59:59,963 --> 01:00:01,130
Now, what do you want to do?

1132
01:00:01,130 --> 01:00:03,760
So we said, we
really don't know.

1133
01:00:03,760 --> 01:00:05,470
My husband couldn't
practice law.

1134
01:00:05,470 --> 01:00:07,620
That was all he knew.

1135
01:00:07,620 --> 01:00:10,540
And I knew nothing, practically.

1136
01:00:10,540 --> 01:00:13,780
I didn't have a profession.

1137
01:00:13,780 --> 01:00:16,390
So they said, well, don't worry.

1138
01:00:16,390 --> 01:00:18,640
You'll come down
with us at the pier.

1139
01:00:18,640 --> 01:00:26,150
We are met by the nose and
throat specialist of New York.

1140
01:00:26,150 --> 01:00:27,430
He is very prominent.

1141
01:00:27,430 --> 01:00:29,670

And just wait what's
going to happen.

1142
01:00:29,670 --> 01:00:35,750
So we came down there, and
we met this man and his wife.

1143
01:00:35,750 --> 01:00:41,080
And these newfound
friends of ours said, oh,

1144
01:00:41,080 --> 01:00:45,040
listen to this man-- his
first name was Caesar--

1145
01:00:45,040 --> 01:00:48,790
said, listen, Caesar, I think
your son should have violin

1146
01:00:48,790 --> 01:00:52,180
lessons, and here's a young
man-- he can give you--

1147
01:00:52,180 --> 01:00:53,890
your son violin lessons.

1148
01:00:53,890 --> 01:00:56,290
My husband played the
violin just for fun.

1149
01:00:56,290 --> 01:01:00,250

1150
01:01:00,250 --> 01:01:03,700
And so she said, I am going to--

1151
01:01:03,700 --> 01:01:06,400
I'm going to Chicago
now and I'm meeting

1152
01:01:06,400 --> 01:01:12,730
a lady who has a boutique
on Lakeshore Drive,

1153
01:01:12,730 --> 01:01:15,430
and I will get in
touch with her,

1154
01:01:15,430 --> 01:01:17,110
and she will be
in touch with you,

1155
01:01:17,110 --> 01:01:19,300
and maybe you can do
something with your gloves.

1156
01:01:19,300 --> 01:01:21,820

1157
01:01:21,820 --> 01:01:25,780
And so my husband started
with violin lessons,

1158
01:01:25,780 --> 01:01:27,580
and they were very kind.

1159
01:01:27,580 --> 01:01:29,530
They overpaid.

1160
01:01:29,530 --> 01:01:34,210
And I started making a
collection of gloves.

1161
01:01:34,210 --> 01:01:42,640
And in a very short while, two
ladies knocked at our door.

1162
01:01:42,640 --> 01:01:47,950
There was the one from
Chicago and her friend,

1163
01:01:47,950 --> 01:01:51,780
who had a boutique in New York.

1164
01:01:51,780 --> 01:01:53,880

And they wanted
to see the gloves.

1165
01:01:53,880 --> 01:01:58,590
And the lady in Chicago
ordered something,

1166
01:01:58,590 --> 01:02:01,470
and she took my
collection along.

1167
01:02:01,470 --> 01:02:05,568
And the lady from New York--

1168
01:02:05,568 --> 01:02:07,110
her name was Mrs.
[PERSONAL NAME]----

1169
01:02:07,110 --> 01:02:10,140
said that she would
also be interested,

1170
01:02:10,140 --> 01:02:15,790
and I should give her three
or four pair of gloves and see

1171
01:02:15,790 --> 01:02:18,340
if she could do any business.

1172
01:02:18,340 --> 01:02:20,380
That was the beginning.

1173
01:02:20,380 --> 01:02:21,790
And it took a little while.

1174
01:02:21,790 --> 01:02:23,560
I got some orders from Chicago--

1175
01:02:23,560 --> 01:02:27,610
not much, but after
a pretty short while,

1176

01:02:27,610 --> 01:02:31,570
this Mrs. [PERSONAL NAME]
from New York called me.

1177
01:02:31,570 --> 01:02:39,540
And she said, you know, I don't
have much trade for the gloves.

1178
01:02:39,540 --> 01:02:41,860
Do you want to come
and work for me?

1179
01:02:41,860 --> 01:02:44,050
Well, of course,
I was delighted.

1180
01:02:44,050 --> 01:02:48,250
So I did go, and
she interviewed me.

1181
01:02:48,250 --> 01:02:54,010
And she said, yes, I need
somebody who could model,

1182
01:02:54,010 --> 01:02:56,920
and somebody who
could sell, and even

1183
01:02:56,920 --> 01:03:02,260
be my personal social
secretary sometimes.

1184
01:03:02,260 --> 01:03:05,980
Well, of course,
I was delighted.

1185
01:03:05,980 --> 01:03:11,020
She offered me \$20 a
week, which was very--

1186
01:03:11,020 --> 01:03:13,330
a very good salary at the time.

1187

01:03:13,330 --> 01:03:16,900
And I was really delighted.

1188
01:03:16,900 --> 01:03:19,640
Later on, a couple
of weeks later,

1189
01:03:19,640 --> 01:03:24,250
she rescinded her generous
offer and said, no.

1190
01:03:24,250 --> 01:03:25,720
I was thinking about it.

1191
01:03:25,720 --> 01:03:27,160
It's a little too much.

1192
01:03:27,160 --> 01:03:29,770
I'll pay you \$18.

1193
01:03:29,770 --> 01:03:32,030
So that was my beginning.

1194
01:03:32,030 --> 01:03:34,240
Now, this was 1937 now?

1195
01:03:34,240 --> 01:03:39,610
That was 1937-- just the
very beginning of '37.

1196
01:03:39,610 --> 01:03:42,430

1197
01:03:42,430 --> 01:03:47,680
And I worked for her
for, I think, four years.

1198
01:03:47,680 --> 01:03:53,200
She was a very--

1199
01:03:53,200 --> 01:03:54,790
let's put it that way--

1200
01:03:54,790 --> 01:03:58,070
not a very nice person.

1201
01:03:58,070 --> 01:04:01,000
She took terrible
advantage of me,

1202
01:04:01,000 --> 01:04:03,730
and times were
really not so that I

1203
01:04:03,730 --> 01:04:07,780
could afford to even look around
for another job, because we

1204
01:04:07,780 --> 01:04:10,660
really needed every penny.

1205
01:04:10,660 --> 01:04:13,930
What kind of advantage?

1206
01:04:13,930 --> 01:04:15,400
She would be mean.

1207
01:04:15,400 --> 01:04:21,310
She would say 10 minutes
for lunch is much too much.

1208
01:04:21,310 --> 01:04:21,835
Take five.

1209
01:04:21,835 --> 01:04:24,400

1210
01:04:24,400 --> 01:04:30,580
And lunch for me was going
around the corner to a bakery

1211
01:04:30,580 --> 01:04:35,320
and buying a couple of
rolls, and go to the bathroom

1212
01:04:35,320 --> 01:04:38,890
and eat my dry rolls, and
have some water out of my hand

1213
01:04:38,890 --> 01:04:40,960
from the sink.

1214
01:04:40,960 --> 01:04:42,400
And that was my lunch.

1215
01:04:42,400 --> 01:04:44,290
But 10 minutes was
too much for her.

1216
01:04:44,290 --> 01:04:47,800
Five had to be-- and I
had to work very hard.

1217
01:04:47,800 --> 01:04:53,560
And I worked six days
a week, Saturday also.

1218
01:04:53,560 --> 01:04:58,420
And then she said
to me one day, there

1219
01:04:58,420 --> 01:05:01,480
is a man in the house
who just lost his wife

1220
01:05:01,480 --> 01:05:05,350
and who was looking
around for somebody

1221
01:05:05,350 --> 01:05:08,560
who would come in and clean
his apartment every day,

1222
01:05:08,560 --> 01:05:11,260
and change his linens,
and do his dishes,

1223

01:05:11,260 --> 01:05:17,020
and vacuum, and just
keep his apartment clean.

1224

01:05:17,020 --> 01:05:19,420
And I had heard
the man talk to her

1225

01:05:19,420 --> 01:05:21,610
that he was looking
for somebody.

1226

01:05:21,610 --> 01:05:25,000

1227

01:05:25,000 --> 01:05:27,550
And he said to her,
get me somebody,

1228

01:05:27,550 --> 01:05:31,000
and then tell me how much
it is, and I will pay you.

1229

01:05:31,000 --> 01:05:34,630
I will reimburse you the money.

1230

01:05:34,630 --> 01:05:38,620
And so she said to me,
this is the situation.

1231

01:05:38,620 --> 01:05:42,520
Why don't you come in
at 8:00 instead of 9:00,

1232

01:05:42,520 --> 01:05:47,032
and go up there and keep
his apartment clean?

1233

01:05:47,032 --> 01:05:48,850
[INAUDIBLE]?

1234

01:05:48,850 --> 01:05:52,930

I was delighted, because
every penny for me--

1235
01:05:52,930 --> 01:05:56,770
for us was just so important.

1236
01:05:56,770 --> 01:06:02,350
And so I went there
every day at 8 o'clock,

1237
01:06:02,350 --> 01:06:09,600
and I worked very hard do
the right job and please him.

1238
01:06:09,600 --> 01:06:12,580
And at the end of the
week, this gentleman

1239
01:06:12,580 --> 01:06:17,560
came down and told her
that he was delighted.

1240
01:06:17,560 --> 01:06:19,810
She must have found a
wonderful person for him,

1241
01:06:19,810 --> 01:06:22,030
because everything
is just so perfect.

1242
01:06:22,030 --> 01:06:25,900
And how much did he owe her?

1243
01:06:25,900 --> 01:06:28,330
And so I don't
remember what it was.

1244
01:06:28,330 --> 01:06:33,670
So he gave her the money, and
she put the money in her purse.

1245
01:06:33,670 --> 01:06:36,610

1246
01:06:36,610 --> 01:06:38,290
I did that for years.

1247
01:06:38,290 --> 01:06:42,640
Never, ever did I see a penny.

1248
01:06:42,640 --> 01:06:46,300
And she did many
things like that.

1249
01:06:46,300 --> 01:06:51,280
When my father and
my brother were taken

1250
01:06:51,280 --> 01:06:54,880
to concentration camp, I--

1251
01:06:54,880 --> 01:06:57,760
my mother sent me a
telegram, and she just

1252
01:06:57,760 --> 01:07:03,130
signed it, and Mom and Lori.

1253
01:07:03,130 --> 01:07:07,060
So I knew what had happened.

1254
01:07:07,060 --> 01:07:08,330
You knew what that meant.

1255
01:07:08,330 --> 01:07:10,000
I know exactly what that meant.

1256
01:07:10,000 --> 01:07:11,480
May I just have a sip of water?

1257
01:07:11,480 --> 01:07:11,980
Sure.

1258
01:07:11,980 --> 01:07:15,390

1259
01:07:15,390 --> 01:07:16,140
When was that?

1260
01:07:16,140 --> 01:07:21,380

1261
01:07:21,380 --> 01:07:27,750
That was the end of '38.

1262
01:07:27,750 --> 01:07:31,950

1263
01:07:31,950 --> 01:07:38,630
And I was very perturbed, of
course, as you can imagine.

1264
01:07:38,630 --> 01:07:45,540
And she came in and she said,
why you look so grim today?

1265
01:07:45,540 --> 01:07:47,520
I told her I just
had a telegram,

1266
01:07:47,520 --> 01:07:51,330
and I knew that my
father and brother must

1267
01:07:51,330 --> 01:07:53,350
be in a concentration camp.

1268
01:07:53,350 --> 01:07:57,900
So she said to me, oh, God--

1269
01:07:57,900 --> 01:08:00,580
they must have really
done something terrible.

1270
01:08:00,580 --> 01:08:04,530
They must have stolen something

done something really bad,

1271

01:08:04,530 --> 01:08:07,350

because otherwise,
nobody would put anybody

1272

01:08:07,350 --> 01:08:09,940

into a concentration camp.

1273

01:08:09,940 --> 01:08:12,780

And I tried to explain to her.

1274

01:08:12,780 --> 01:08:16,760

She wouldn't listen.

1275

01:08:16,760 --> 01:08:17,870

She was Jewish?

1276

01:08:17,870 --> 01:08:18,979

Oh, no.

1277

01:08:18,979 --> 01:08:21,080

No, she wasn't Jewish at all.

1278

01:08:21,080 --> 01:08:25,670

No, a Jewish person
wouldn't have done that.

1279

01:08:25,670 --> 01:08:31,790

But she did many of
these very nasty things

1280

01:08:31,790 --> 01:08:34,609

and made my life
pretty miserable.

1281

01:08:34,609 --> 01:08:37,729

1282

01:08:37,729 --> 01:08:42,350

She finally-- I think
it was in 1941--

1283
01:08:42,350 --> 01:08:49,460
she finally closed
the boutique, and that

1284
01:08:49,460 --> 01:08:56,390
was when I finally could leave
and was out of her grasp--

1285
01:08:56,390 --> 01:08:57,735
which was good.

1286
01:08:57,735 --> 01:09:00,140
Now, what did your husband
do during those years?

1287
01:09:00,140 --> 01:09:10,039
My husband went into the
insurance business, and by then

1288
01:09:10,039 --> 01:09:10,539
already--

1289
01:09:10,539 --> 01:09:13,510

1290
01:09:13,510 --> 01:09:16,479
we had already better times.

1291
01:09:16,479 --> 01:09:24,130
The years in between, we worked
very hard to try to get my--

1292
01:09:24,130 --> 01:09:25,810
well, let me go
back a little bit.

1293
01:09:25,810 --> 01:09:30,470

1294
01:09:30,470 --> 01:09:35,050
My mother came to

visit me in 1937,

1295

01:09:35,050 --> 01:09:39,490

and I told her that I
was absolutely determined

1296

01:09:39,490 --> 01:09:43,479

to get my brother and
sister out of Germany.

1297

01:09:43,479 --> 01:09:48,640

She was very unhappy
about that thought,

1298

01:09:48,640 --> 01:09:52,149

but she didn't really
fight me particularly.

1299

01:09:52,149 --> 01:09:55,180

1300

01:09:55,180 --> 01:09:57,280

So you were saying, I want
my brother and sister--

1301

01:09:57,280 --> 01:09:59,487

I was saying, you got to leave.

1302

01:09:59,487 --> 01:10:00,070

But not them--

1303

01:10:00,070 --> 01:10:01,120

You can't stay.

1304

01:10:01,120 --> 01:10:02,190

Yeah, I told them.

1305

01:10:02,190 --> 01:10:03,070

She said no.

1306

01:10:03,070 --> 01:10:04,540

You know how we feel about it.

1307
01:10:04,540 --> 01:10:05,360
No, no.

1308
01:10:05,360 --> 01:10:10,810
And she said, you really
think this is necessary?

1309
01:10:10,810 --> 01:10:13,840
So I said, yes, I really feel
very strongly about that.

1310
01:10:13,840 --> 01:10:17,710
And if you're not going
to be happy about it,

1311
01:10:17,710 --> 01:10:19,360
I said, I will have
to do it anyway,

1312
01:10:19,360 --> 01:10:23,500
because I see
absolutely no future.

1313
01:10:23,500 --> 01:10:28,820
Then my dad came
in '38 to visit me.

1314
01:10:28,820 --> 01:10:33,190
And that was already in
the latter part of '38.

1315
01:10:33,190 --> 01:10:38,845
And I've said to him,
you can go to Cuba.

1316
01:10:38,845 --> 01:10:41,950

1317
01:10:41,950 --> 01:10:46,000
It takes three days to
immigrate to America.

1318

01:10:46,000 --> 01:10:49,010

1319

01:10:49,010 --> 01:10:54,650

Do it, and let mom dissolve
the business and everything.

1320

01:10:54,650 --> 01:10:58,730

Well, he had about a fit.

1321

01:10:58,730 --> 01:11:04,170

He was very angry at me that
I would suggest such a thing.

1322

01:11:04,170 --> 01:11:08,180

And he went back to Germany,
and that was just the time

1323

01:11:08,180 --> 01:11:10,580

when they started putting
people into camps.

1324

01:11:10,580 --> 01:11:14,900

1325

01:11:14,900 --> 01:11:24,500

The manager of his business
had asked him about his--

1326

01:11:24,500 --> 01:11:27,350

the manager's son, who
was always in trouble.

1327

01:11:27,350 --> 01:11:29,040

And he was 16 years old.

1328

01:11:29,040 --> 01:11:34,640

And he said to my dad, couldn't
you just give him a small job?

1329

01:11:34,640 --> 01:11:38,090

I think, if he would

have steady work,

1330
01:11:38,090 --> 01:11:40,160
he would really straighten up.

1331
01:11:40,160 --> 01:11:44,450
And so my dad said OK.

1332
01:11:44,450 --> 01:11:52,430
This young guy came while
my brother and my dad

1333
01:11:52,430 --> 01:11:54,650
were at the camp.

1334
01:11:54,650 --> 01:11:56,180
He came to my mother's house.

1335
01:11:56,180 --> 01:11:59,300
He denounced my brother and--

1336
01:11:59,300 --> 01:12:01,610
my dad and my brother.

1337
01:12:01,610 --> 01:12:06,650
And so he told the Nazis,
here's a Jewish people,

1338
01:12:06,650 --> 01:12:08,270
and here are two men.

1339
01:12:08,270 --> 01:12:12,380
And they came right away
and they took them away.

1340
01:12:12,380 --> 01:12:17,540
And then he came in his uniform
up to my mother's apartment

1341
01:12:17,540 --> 01:12:19,370
with an ax.

1342

01:12:19,370 --> 01:12:21,290

First, he took all the jewelry.

1343

01:12:21,290 --> 01:12:23,570

That was the first thing.

1344

01:12:23,570 --> 01:12:28,610

And then he took an
ax to the furniture

1345

01:12:28,610 --> 01:12:33,110

and just did horrible,
horrible damage so

1346

01:12:33,110 --> 01:12:36,470

that they couldn't they
couldn't stay there anymore.

1347

01:12:36,470 --> 01:12:42,080

And they moved in with
my husband's parents,

1348

01:12:42,080 --> 01:12:50,600

who had a very large home,
and then they lived there.

1349

01:12:50,600 --> 01:12:56,480

And in the meantime, I
found out that, if you

1350

01:12:56,480 --> 01:13:01,520

got a visa for somebody who
is in a concentration camp

1351

01:13:01,520 --> 01:13:07,470

to another country,
then they would--

1352

01:13:07,470 --> 01:13:09,090

the Nazis would let them go.

1353

01:13:09,090 --> 01:13:11,430

And they had to leave
without anything.

1354
01:13:11,430 --> 01:13:15,240
They had to leave within
three days and leave Germany.

1355
01:13:15,240 --> 01:13:20,550
And so we were able, with
borrowing and whatever--

1356
01:13:20,550 --> 01:13:22,440
everything that we had--

1357
01:13:22,440 --> 01:13:26,730
to buy a visa for my
parents for England.

1358
01:13:26,730 --> 01:13:31,440

1359
01:13:31,440 --> 01:13:35,010
And in the meantime, my
brothers and my sister's visa

1360
01:13:35,010 --> 01:13:38,370
came through from America, and--

1361
01:13:38,370 --> 01:13:39,660
Which you had applied for--

1362
01:13:39,660 --> 01:13:41,340
--which I had applied for.

1363
01:13:41,340 --> 01:13:46,740
And so my mother was able to
get them both out of the camp,

1364
01:13:46,740 --> 01:13:49,920
and took my sister
and my brother

1365

01:13:49,920 --> 01:13:57,000
immediately to the
Bremen and put them

1366
01:13:57,000 --> 01:13:59,940
on the ship to come to me.

1367
01:13:59,940 --> 01:14:00,690
To America?

1368
01:14:00,690 --> 01:14:04,260
To America-- and then
my dad and my mother

1369
01:14:04,260 --> 01:14:06,060
went to England, to London.

1370
01:14:06,060 --> 01:14:07,810
Now, how long was your
father in the camp?

1371
01:14:07,810 --> 01:14:10,500
Do you know?

1372
01:14:10,500 --> 01:14:16,090
It must have been many months.

1373
01:14:16,090 --> 01:14:18,090
I don't know exactly
how many of this.

1374
01:14:18,090 --> 01:14:21,150
I really don't recall.

1375
01:14:21,150 --> 01:14:23,250
But it must have been very hard.

1376
01:14:23,250 --> 01:14:24,830
And they had nothing to eat.

1377
01:14:24,830 --> 01:14:28,170

1378
01:14:28,170 --> 01:14:30,450
He never, never
talked about that,

1379
01:14:30,450 --> 01:14:32,220
and neither did my brother.

1380
01:14:32,220 --> 01:14:33,970
When you started
talking about it,

1381
01:14:33,970 --> 01:14:38,170
then they would not tell you.

1382
01:14:38,170 --> 01:14:42,340
The only thing my
dad told me once

1383
01:14:42,340 --> 01:14:47,860
was that he tried to get
himself a job in the kitchen,

1384
01:14:47,860 --> 01:14:53,860
and then he stole a
few slices of bread

1385
01:14:53,860 --> 01:14:56,530
and brought it to my brother
so that he would have something

1386
01:14:56,530 --> 01:14:58,100
to eat.

1387
01:14:58,100 --> 01:15:01,300
That was the only thing
that I ever heard.

1388
01:15:01,300 --> 01:15:06,560

1389
01:15:06,560 --> 01:15:12,920

And my brother and
sister came to me.

1390
01:15:12,920 --> 01:15:16,220
And my brother was 17.

1391
01:15:16,220 --> 01:15:19,760
They were both terribly,
terribly spoiled,

1392
01:15:19,760 --> 01:15:22,760
because my parents
saw that money

1393
01:15:22,760 --> 01:15:25,430
was going to be taken
away from them anyway,

1394
01:15:25,430 --> 01:15:29,510
so they gave them anything
their little heart desired.

1395
01:15:29,510 --> 01:15:34,670
So whatever came to
their heads, they got.

1396
01:15:34,670 --> 01:15:38,390
And so they came to me,
and I didn't have a thing,

1397
01:15:38,390 --> 01:15:42,710
and they couldn't have what they
thought they were entitled to.

1398
01:15:42,710 --> 01:15:45,440
When did they come to you?

1399
01:15:45,440 --> 01:15:53,480
So that must have
been, I would say, '39.

1400
01:15:53,480 --> 01:15:54,892
Early part of '39?

1401
01:15:54,892 --> 01:15:55,600
Do you know when?

1402
01:15:55,600 --> 01:15:59,000

1403
01:15:59,000 --> 01:16:01,820
Must have been, I
would say, probably--

1404
01:16:01,820 --> 01:16:06,095
maybe in the summer of
'39, I would say, probably.

1405
01:16:06,095 --> 01:16:08,720

1406
01:16:08,720 --> 01:16:18,710
My brother was passed away when
he was 50 years old in 1970--

1407
01:16:18,710 --> 01:16:21,950
'71, I think-- yeah, 1971.

1408
01:16:21,950 --> 01:16:30,420
And my sister passed away, oh,
just very shortly after that.

1409
01:16:30,420 --> 01:16:35,960
So I never had really
an opportunity anymore

1410
01:16:35,960 --> 01:16:39,320
to question them,
ask them anything.

1411
01:16:39,320 --> 01:16:42,410
Were very glad to
be out of Germany?

1412
01:16:42,410 --> 01:16:46,730

Well, I don't believe
that they really realized

1413
01:16:46,730 --> 01:16:49,410
too much what was happening.

1414
01:16:49,410 --> 01:16:51,560
Even though your
brother was in the camp?

1415
01:16:51,560 --> 01:16:53,630
Yeah, even so--

1416
01:16:53,630 --> 01:16:58,590
I don't really believe
that even that had made

1417
01:16:58,590 --> 01:17:01,620
a very big impression on him.

1418
01:17:01,620 --> 01:17:04,940
But I really don't know,
because he never would

1419
01:17:04,940 --> 01:17:07,115
venture to tell me anything.

1420
01:17:07,115 --> 01:17:09,950
Do you know what camp he was in?

1421
01:17:09,950 --> 01:17:12,980
I'm not sure whether
it was Buchenwald,

1422
01:17:12,980 --> 01:17:15,470
but I'm really not 100% sure.

1423
01:17:15,470 --> 01:17:19,320

1424
01:17:19,320 --> 01:17:29,645
My brother was just 17

and my sister was 11.

1425

01:17:29,645 --> 01:17:32,210

1426

01:17:32,210 --> 01:17:36,680

And I was able to get
a job for my brother.

1427

01:17:36,680 --> 01:17:40,820

He worked in a jewelry store.

1428

01:17:40,820 --> 01:17:44,570

And we needed every
penny, because we needed

1429

01:17:44,570 --> 01:17:45,890

to send money to England.

1430

01:17:45,890 --> 01:17:49,380

My parents weren't
allowed to work,

1431

01:17:49,380 --> 01:17:52,820

so we had to sustain them.

1432

01:17:52,820 --> 01:17:56,030

And my sister had
a horrible time.

1433

01:17:56,030 --> 01:18:01,060

She went to-- I put
here through school.

1434

01:18:01,060 --> 01:18:07,741

I worked two jobs, and I was
never home really before 9:00--

1435

01:18:07,741 --> 01:18:10,590

8:00, 9:00.

1436

01:18:10,590 --> 01:18:14,660

And she was in school,
and every week I

1437
01:18:14,660 --> 01:18:20,670
had a letter from the
teacher to come and see me--

1438
01:18:20,670 --> 01:18:22,500
to come and see her.

1439
01:18:22,500 --> 01:18:25,800
And she said, I don't know
what to do with this girl.

1440
01:18:25,800 --> 01:18:29,760
She sits on the last
bench in the back.

1441
01:18:29,760 --> 01:18:31,320
She sucks her thumb.

1442
01:18:31,320 --> 01:18:34,330
And she will not learn English,
she will not participate,

1443
01:18:34,330 --> 01:18:36,240
she will not talk to anybody--

1444
01:18:36,240 --> 01:18:37,380
nothing.

1445
01:18:37,380 --> 01:18:41,610
And then she would go home and
she would sit on the couch.

1446
01:18:41,610 --> 01:18:44,640
The beds weren't made, we
all rushed out so early

1447
01:18:44,640 --> 01:18:45,370
in the morning.

1448

01:18:45,370 --> 01:18:47,560

The dishes were
still in the sink.

1449

01:18:47,560 --> 01:18:49,500

She wouldn't do a thing.

1450

01:18:49,500 --> 01:18:52,980

And I said to her, you
know, you're 11 years old,

1451

01:18:52,980 --> 01:18:55,140

and we all work so hard.

1452

01:18:55,140 --> 01:18:56,730

This is your job.

1453

01:18:56,730 --> 01:18:58,140

You'll have to learn English.

1454

01:18:58,140 --> 01:19:00,630

You have to do good in
school, and you have

1455

01:19:00,630 --> 01:19:03,450

to help a little in the house.

1456

01:19:03,450 --> 01:19:07,080

Nothing I could do
with her-- nothing.

1457

01:19:07,080 --> 01:19:12,630

I met a very nice Jewish family
who lived in the suburbs.

1458

01:19:12,630 --> 01:19:20,370

And they were really,
really very sweet,

1459

01:19:20,370 --> 01:19:24,120

and tried to help somebody.

1460

01:19:24,120 --> 01:19:25,950
And they told me that.

1461
01:19:25,950 --> 01:19:28,500
And I told them about
my sister, so they

1462
01:19:28,500 --> 01:19:32,220
said, how would you feel
and how would she feel

1463
01:19:32,220 --> 01:19:35,910
if we take her to live with us?

1464
01:19:35,910 --> 01:19:37,470
They had two little girls.

1465
01:19:37,470 --> 01:19:39,600
One was a little older
than my sister and one

1466
01:19:39,600 --> 01:19:41,490
was a bit younger.

1467
01:19:41,490 --> 01:19:43,110
Had they met your sister?

1468
01:19:43,110 --> 01:19:44,790
No.

1469
01:19:44,790 --> 01:19:48,503
So when I introduced them, and
they said-- they asked her,

1470
01:19:48,503 --> 01:19:50,170
would you like to
come and live with us?

1471
01:19:50,170 --> 01:19:52,320
She said, yeah.

1472
01:19:52,320 --> 01:19:56,520

Well, within a month, she
was the best in school.

1473
01:19:56,520 --> 01:19:58,860
She spoke perfect English.

1474
01:19:58,860 --> 01:20:01,890
They called them mom and dad.

1475
01:20:01,890 --> 01:20:03,930
And they spoiled her.

1476
01:20:03,930 --> 01:20:05,850
She had the best
things, and she had

1477
01:20:05,850 --> 01:20:11,230
just an absolute
wonderful, wonderful life--

1478
01:20:11,230 --> 01:20:15,740
until my mother came.

1479
01:20:15,740 --> 01:20:18,500
My mother came--

1480
01:20:18,500 --> 01:20:25,630
I believe it must have been '41.

1481
01:20:25,630 --> 01:20:27,580
And you say your
mother, not your father?

1482
01:20:27,580 --> 01:20:28,510
No.

1483
01:20:28,510 --> 01:20:33,100
My mother wanted to stay
with my dad, but it was--

1484
01:20:33,100 --> 01:20:36,410
we didn't have the kind of

money that we could afford.

1485

01:20:36,410 --> 01:20:41,500

And I said to my mother,
if you would come,

1486

01:20:41,500 --> 01:20:46,000

we only have to send
money for daddy.

1487

01:20:46,000 --> 01:20:49,840

And then you could
help me in the house,

1488

01:20:49,840 --> 01:20:52,960

because I work very hard.

1489

01:20:52,960 --> 01:20:56,240

And so they finally decided it
would be the right thing to do,

1490

01:20:56,240 --> 01:20:58,120

and so my mom came.

1491

01:20:58,120 --> 01:20:58,890

Just your mother?

1492

01:20:58,890 --> 01:21:01,090

Mm-hmm.

1493

01:21:01,090 --> 01:21:04,870

And the minute that my sister
knew that my mother was there,

1494

01:21:04,870 --> 01:21:08,140

she was not to be lived with.

1495

01:21:08,140 --> 01:21:10,250

She just wanted to come home.

1496

01:21:10,250 --> 01:21:14,860

She was really not very

gracious to these people.

1497
01:21:14,860 --> 01:21:18,760
And it was terrible
for me, because they

1498
01:21:18,760 --> 01:21:20,260
had been so good to her.

1499
01:21:20,260 --> 01:21:22,330
And I didn't know
what kind of excuse

1500
01:21:22,330 --> 01:21:24,700
to make that she
would make such--

1501
01:21:24,700 --> 01:21:27,310
How long was she
with that family?

1502
01:21:27,310 --> 01:21:32,890
Well, she was with this
family for, I would say,

1503
01:21:32,890 --> 01:21:35,500
probably close to two years.

1504
01:21:35,500 --> 01:21:38,110

1505
01:21:38,110 --> 01:21:40,670
She wanted to come home.

1506
01:21:40,670 --> 01:21:44,840
And so finally, that's
what we had to do.

1507
01:21:44,840 --> 01:21:53,050
And it was very hard, because
my mother was very ill.

1508

01:21:53,050 --> 01:21:57,310

And so one day I said,
you look so terrible

1509

01:21:57,310 --> 01:21:59,560

and you don't feel well.

1510

01:21:59,560 --> 01:22:01,900

You have to go and see a doctor.

1511

01:22:01,900 --> 01:22:05,020

There was no money
for a doctor, so I

1512

01:22:05,020 --> 01:22:11,745

said, there's a clinic in Mt.

1513

01:22:11,745 --> 01:22:13,480

Sinai Hospital.

1514

01:22:13,480 --> 01:22:17,010

And that's supposed to
be a very good clinic,

1515

01:22:17,010 --> 01:22:21,120

and so why don't you go?

1516

01:22:21,120 --> 01:22:23,560

It costs \$0.25.

1517

01:22:23,560 --> 01:22:26,310

And so she went, and
when she came home,

1518

01:22:26,310 --> 01:22:30,920

she said, well, she had
a wonderful doctor--

1519

01:22:30,920 --> 01:22:33,360

an older man.

1520

01:22:33,360 --> 01:22:37,170

And he said, if she wasn't
operated on immediately,

1521
01:22:37,170 --> 01:22:39,720
she would absolutely--

1522
01:22:39,720 --> 01:22:41,730
she would pass away.

1523
01:22:41,730 --> 01:22:43,410
What did she have?

1524
01:22:43,410 --> 01:22:46,870
She was bleeding internally.

1525
01:22:46,870 --> 01:22:53,430
I think she had some
woman's problem.

1526
01:22:53,430 --> 01:22:57,240
And that's what
she came home with.

1527
01:22:57,240 --> 01:23:01,770
And she was already so anemic
from losing all this blood--

1528
01:23:01,770 --> 01:23:05,620
which, I had no idea
that was happening.

1529
01:23:05,620 --> 01:23:10,570
And so I didn't know what to do.

1530
01:23:10,570 --> 01:23:15,000
And I asked her who it
was, and she gave me

1531
01:23:15,000 --> 01:23:16,170
the name of the doctor.

1532
01:23:16,170 --> 01:23:18,030

And so I looked him
up in the phone book,

1533
01:23:18,030 --> 01:23:21,180
and it happened that
his residence was

1534
01:23:21,180 --> 01:23:23,970
very close to where we lived.

1535
01:23:23,970 --> 01:23:28,320
And I called him up, and
he was very gracious.

1536
01:23:28,320 --> 01:23:30,630
And I asked him if I
could come and see him,

1537
01:23:30,630 --> 01:23:33,370
and he said, of course.

1538
01:23:33,370 --> 01:23:36,600
And so he told me
that that was true.

1539
01:23:36,600 --> 01:23:43,320
If she wasn't operated on
within three days, she would--

1540
01:23:43,320 --> 01:23:45,850
she couldn't make it.

1541
01:23:45,850 --> 01:23:48,810
And so I said, well, how
does this work in the clinic?

1542
01:23:48,810 --> 01:23:54,780
He said, you see, we
give one day a week--

1543
01:23:54,780 --> 01:23:56,970
one day a month,
I think it was--

1544
01:23:56,970 --> 01:24:00,360
to the clinic to help people.

1545
01:24:00,360 --> 01:24:03,400
We don't get paid for that.

1546
01:24:03,400 --> 01:24:07,050
And she might get a
first year resident

1547
01:24:07,050 --> 01:24:09,600
to do his first
operation, or it's

1548
01:24:09,600 --> 01:24:14,790
possible she gets to
a wonderful surgeon.

1549
01:24:14,790 --> 01:24:17,460
Well, that, of course,
broke my heart,

1550
01:24:17,460 --> 01:24:20,405
because I wasn't going to take
any chances with my mother.

1551
01:24:20,405 --> 01:24:23,280

1552
01:24:23,280 --> 01:24:26,230
I asked him what he would
charge for the operation,

1553
01:24:26,230 --> 01:24:33,070
and he told me, normally,
he would charge \$200.

1554
01:24:33,070 --> 01:24:35,930
I said, doctor,
this is my mother.

1555

01:24:35,930 --> 01:24:40,660
I would like for you to do
it, but I don't have any \$200.

1556
01:24:40,660 --> 01:24:43,480
I will promise you
I pay you that,

1557
01:24:43,480 --> 01:24:46,120
but how long that will
take, I don't know.

1558
01:24:46,120 --> 01:24:49,690
We have absolutely nothing.

1559
01:24:49,690 --> 01:24:55,540
And I guess, since he was Jewish
himself, he took pity on me,

1560
01:24:55,540 --> 01:24:56,040
I suppose.

1561
01:24:56,040 --> 01:25:00,990
And he said, OK,
I'll agree to that.

1562
01:25:00,990 --> 01:25:02,910
And he operated on my mother.

1563
01:25:02,910 --> 01:25:05,170
My mother got well.

1564
01:25:05,170 --> 01:25:09,900
And it took me many,
many, many years

1565
01:25:09,900 --> 01:25:15,840
before I could put two \$100
bills into a nice new billfold

1566
01:25:15,840 --> 01:25:18,810
and bring it to him.

1567

01:25:18,810 --> 01:25:22,930

And he said, I didn't think
that that would happen,

1568

01:25:22,930 --> 01:25:25,890

but I trusted you anyway.

1569

01:25:25,890 --> 01:25:28,950

So that was that.

1570

01:25:28,950 --> 01:25:33,850

And then it was getting
to be very hard.

1571

01:25:33,850 --> 01:25:38,100

My dad always felt,
in America, you

1572

01:25:38,100 --> 01:25:39,780

have to have your own business.

1573

01:25:39,780 --> 01:25:42,390

I kept saying, daddy, to
have your own business,

1574

01:25:42,390 --> 01:25:45,030

you have to have money.

1575

01:25:45,030 --> 01:25:50,700

He said, well, yeah,
but I can't take a job.

1576

01:25:50,700 --> 01:25:52,370

I have to have my own business.

1577

01:25:52,370 --> 01:25:54,300

When did he come here?

1578

01:25:54,300 --> 01:26:04,520

He came about five
months after my mom.

1579

01:26:04,520 --> 01:26:07,490

And of course, I called our
apartment the [? rabbi ?]

1580

01:26:07,490 --> 01:26:11,330

apartment, because all we had
was a living room, a dining

1581

01:26:11,330 --> 01:26:14,960

room, and two very
small bedrooms,

1582

01:26:14,960 --> 01:26:17,060

and we all lived there.

1583

01:26:17,060 --> 01:26:19,970

And it was beginning
to be very difficult,

1584

01:26:19,970 --> 01:26:28,010

because we needed really
more income to do what we--

1585

01:26:28,010 --> 01:26:31,370

to sustain such a big family.

1586

01:26:31,370 --> 01:26:36,650

So my husband finally said,
you know what we have to do?

1587

01:26:36,650 --> 01:26:40,400

We have to get your
parents an apartment,

1588

01:26:40,400 --> 01:26:45,290

and we'll pay for
five months, and then

1589

01:26:45,290 --> 01:26:47,270

we tell your dad,
in five months,

1590

01:26:47,270 --> 01:26:48,680
you have to be on your own.

1591
01:26:48,680 --> 01:26:58,880
Between the two men, they should
be able to sustain the family.

1592
01:26:58,880 --> 01:27:02,240
And my parents, of course,
were beside themselves,

1593
01:27:02,240 --> 01:27:05,210
and they were very
angry with me that I--

1594
01:27:05,210 --> 01:27:10,070
they felt I put them out.

1595
01:27:10,070 --> 01:27:13,070
But there was nothing
I can do about it.

1596
01:27:13,070 --> 01:27:19,990
And I had met a very nice lady
who was looking for a companion

1597
01:27:19,990 --> 01:27:21,400
to go to Florida with her.

1598
01:27:21,400 --> 01:27:25,060
She had a home and
an orange plantation,

1599
01:27:25,060 --> 01:27:29,470
and she was widowed, and she
didn't want to go by herself.

1600
01:27:29,470 --> 01:27:33,850
And she needed somebody to
go with her for five months.

1601
01:27:33,850 --> 01:27:39,830

1602
01:27:39,830 --> 01:27:43,400
A cousin of hers asked
me, do you know anybody?

1603
01:27:43,400 --> 01:27:44,790
And we didn't know anybody.

1604
01:27:44,790 --> 01:27:47,280
And then, after a while, I
said, well, what about me?

1605
01:27:47,280 --> 01:27:50,900
I'm just losing my
job, and I could really

1606
01:27:50,900 --> 01:27:52,310
use a good vacation.

1607
01:27:52,310 --> 01:27:56,300
And my husband was
very much for that.

1608
01:27:56,300 --> 01:27:58,400
She wasn't going
to pay me anything,

1609
01:27:58,400 --> 01:28:00,770
but it was also not
going to cost anything.

1610
01:28:00,770 --> 01:28:02,720
And he had very
good friends where

1611
01:28:02,720 --> 01:28:05,510
he could live until I
came back, and then we

1612
01:28:05,510 --> 01:28:07,310
would be on our own.

1613

01:28:07,310 --> 01:28:10,310
And in the meantime, we could--

1614
01:28:10,310 --> 01:28:13,700
with the money that he made,
we could sustain my parents

1615
01:28:13,700 --> 01:28:15,480
for five months.

1616
01:28:15,480 --> 01:28:17,730
Did your brother and sister
go with your parents?

1617
01:28:17,730 --> 01:28:20,040
Yeah, right.

1618
01:28:20,040 --> 01:28:23,450
And so I went to
Florida with this lady,

1619
01:28:23,450 --> 01:28:29,020
and didn't take a month and
my father had a fantastic job.

1620
01:28:29,020 --> 01:28:29,720
Doing what?

1621
01:28:29,720 --> 01:28:33,860

1622
01:28:33,860 --> 01:28:36,340
You remember that
film company Pathé?

1623
01:28:36,340 --> 01:28:39,665

1624
01:28:39,665 --> 01:28:41,090
News.

1625
01:28:41,090 --> 01:28:42,460

Yeah, something like that--

1626
01:28:42,460 --> 01:28:43,490
News reel.

1627
01:28:43,490 --> 01:28:45,290
Yeah-- correct, correct.

1628
01:28:45,290 --> 01:28:47,330
Now, exactly what
he did for them--

1629
01:28:47,330 --> 01:28:50,510
but it was in the
engineering field.

1630
01:28:50,510 --> 01:28:52,580
And then he was there
for quite a while,

1631
01:28:52,580 --> 01:28:59,060
and then he changed to
some kind of an outfit that

1632
01:28:59,060 --> 01:29:00,930
made storm windows.

1633
01:29:00,930 --> 01:29:03,770
And he designed
this these windows.

1634
01:29:03,770 --> 01:29:07,640
They were custom made so--

1635
01:29:07,640 --> 01:29:09,530
[INAUDIBLE]

1636
01:29:09,530 --> 01:29:12,230
Oh, absolutely, absolutely--

1637
01:29:12,230 --> 01:29:13,580
Could he speak English?

1638
01:29:13,580 --> 01:29:16,010
Well, he learned,
like everybody--

1639
01:29:16,010 --> 01:29:17,790
every one of us had to learn--

1640
01:29:17,790 --> 01:29:19,170
the same way.

1641
01:29:19,170 --> 01:29:20,340
Your mother learned?

1642
01:29:20,340 --> 01:29:22,760
My mother learned.

1643
01:29:22,760 --> 01:29:27,530
And in the end, my father
was very, very successful

1644
01:29:27,530 --> 01:29:28,280
with this company.

1645
01:29:28,280 --> 01:29:33,410

1646
01:29:33,410 --> 01:29:41,640
They lived there-- of course,
then my brother got married,

1647
01:29:41,640 --> 01:29:44,240
and then he had his own life.

1648
01:29:44,240 --> 01:29:48,230
And then my sister got married,
and she moved out of the house.

1649
01:29:48,230 --> 01:29:50,060
Now, where were they living?

1650

01:29:50,060 --> 01:29:53,270

My brother was
living in Larchmont,

1651

01:29:53,270 --> 01:29:57,050

which is a suburb of New York.

1652

01:29:57,050 --> 01:29:59,440

And my sister was living
in Forrest Hills--

1653

01:29:59,440 --> 01:30:01,190

And your parents--
where were they living?

1654

01:30:01,190 --> 01:30:01,940

Was also New York.

1655

01:30:01,940 --> 01:30:04,610

My parents still
stayed, and they

1656

01:30:04,610 --> 01:30:08,550

lived in West 180th Street.

1657

01:30:08,550 --> 01:30:09,290

Manhattan?

1658

01:30:09,290 --> 01:30:12,630

In Manhattan-- and then
my mom passed away.

1659

01:30:12,630 --> 01:30:15,510

And then my dad couldn't
stay by himself,

1660

01:30:15,510 --> 01:30:20,810

and he went into a senior home,
and he stayed there a number

1661

01:30:20,810 --> 01:30:23,390

of years until he passed away.

1662

01:30:23,390 --> 01:30:25,790

Were they glad they
had come to America?

1663

01:30:25,790 --> 01:30:27,470

Yes.

1664

01:30:27,470 --> 01:30:30,980

Well, and especially with what
happened in Germany, of course,

1665

01:30:30,980 --> 01:30:34,040

they were very glad.

1666

01:30:34,040 --> 01:30:35,960

They liked America very much.

1667

01:30:35,960 --> 01:30:42,030

And they traveled around a lot
and got to know the country.

1668

01:30:42,030 --> 01:30:42,770

No, no.

1669

01:30:42,770 --> 01:30:47,960

They were totally integrated
into American life.

1670

01:30:47,960 --> 01:30:49,490

How about the grandparents?

1671

01:30:49,490 --> 01:30:57,020

1672

01:30:57,020 --> 01:31:00,040

My grandfather on my mother's--

1673

01:31:00,040 --> 01:31:04,550

of my mother still passed away
while I was still in Germany.

1674

01:31:04,550 --> 01:31:07,580

It was even before I got
married, he passed away.

1675

01:31:07,580 --> 01:31:10,698

1676

01:31:10,698 --> 01:31:11,990

And on your father [INAUDIBLE]?

1677

01:31:11,990 --> 01:31:16,490

And my father's
parents passed away.

1678

01:31:16,490 --> 01:31:21,650

My grandfather passed away
while I was on my excursion trip

1679

01:31:21,650 --> 01:31:27,320

to America in 1935, and then
my grandfather passed away very

1680

01:31:27,320 --> 01:31:31,190

shortly after that too.

1681

01:31:31,190 --> 01:31:35,270

My grandmother passed away
shortly after that also.

1682

01:31:35,270 --> 01:31:37,280

Did you have cousins?

1683

01:31:37,280 --> 01:31:45,900

Yeah, but I had really lost all
track of-- some went to Israel.

1684

01:31:45,900 --> 01:31:51,050

A lot of them went
to the gas chamber.

1685

01:31:51,050 --> 01:31:57,860

And I had I tried very hard
to get my mother's sister

1686
01:31:57,860 --> 01:32:01,550
out to come to America.

1687
01:32:01,550 --> 01:32:06,000
She was my favorite aunt, and
it just didn't work out anymore.

1688
01:32:06,000 --> 01:32:09,830
She was taken to a camp,
and perished there.

1689
01:32:09,830 --> 01:32:14,120

1690
01:32:14,120 --> 01:32:19,970
I had no idea where any cousins
went, and only lately, I

1691
01:32:19,970 --> 01:32:20,960
heard--

1692
01:32:20,960 --> 01:32:26,870
and I have to look into this--
that I still have a cousin who

1693
01:32:26,870 --> 01:32:28,265
lives somewhere in Texas.

1694
01:32:28,265 --> 01:32:32,740

1695
01:32:32,740 --> 01:32:38,480
I have contact to a
cousin in Australia,

1696
01:32:38,480 --> 01:32:44,150
but they are really the only
ones that I have contact with.

1697
01:32:44,150 --> 01:32:47,000
What did your husband

end up doing in America?

1698

01:32:47,000 --> 01:32:48,775

My husband ended up to--

1699

01:32:48,775 --> 01:32:49,400

Oh, insurance--

1700

01:32:49,400 --> 01:32:51,590

--to be in the
insurance business.

1701

01:32:51,590 --> 01:32:56,960

When I came back, I also
took my insurance exam

1702

01:32:56,960 --> 01:32:59,540

to work with him for a while.

1703

01:32:59,540 --> 01:33:00,920

I did not like that.

1704

01:33:00,920 --> 01:33:04,130

1705

01:33:04,130 --> 01:33:08,930

I also took the real
estate brokers exam.

1706

01:33:08,930 --> 01:33:12,470

I did not like that.

1707

01:33:12,470 --> 01:33:14,190

You still wanted to
be a doctor, huh?

1708

01:33:14,190 --> 01:33:17,330

I wanted so much to be a doctor.

1709

01:33:17,330 --> 01:33:27,320

Well, we sort of drifted
apart, and in 1942--

1710
01:33:27,320 --> 01:33:32,600
at the end of 1942,
I met a dentist who

1711
01:33:32,600 --> 01:33:36,410
was just going into practice.

1712
01:33:36,410 --> 01:33:42,680
And he asked me if I would
be interested in becoming

1713
01:33:42,680 --> 01:33:45,150
his assistant, and that he
would teach me everything.

1714
01:33:45,150 --> 01:33:47,660
I had no idea about anything.

1715
01:33:47,660 --> 01:33:52,830
And he was only going to work
a half a day to begin with,

1716
01:33:52,830 --> 01:33:57,980
and so I worked--

1717
01:33:57,980 --> 01:33:59,660
since I didn't like
the real estate,

1718
01:33:59,660 --> 01:34:01,555
I thought I could drop that.

1719
01:34:01,555 --> 01:34:02,930
And then the
insurance business--

1720
01:34:02,930 --> 01:34:05,570
I just worked a half a
day, so that was great.

1721
01:34:05,570 --> 01:34:09,140

So he only started
in the afternoon.

1722
01:34:09,140 --> 01:34:12,980
It was from-- I think
from 3:00 to 8:00.

1723
01:34:12,980 --> 01:34:16,760
And he really taught
me, and I was with him

1724
01:34:16,760 --> 01:34:18,140
for quite a number of years.

1725
01:34:18,140 --> 01:34:20,670

1726
01:34:20,670 --> 01:34:22,400
What were you, like
a dental assistant?

1727
01:34:22,400 --> 01:34:24,290
Yeah-- right, right.

1728
01:34:24,290 --> 01:34:28,710
I worked at the chair, I did
all the surgery with him,

1729
01:34:28,710 --> 01:34:32,810
and I also kept the books
and worked in the office--

1730
01:34:32,810 --> 01:34:35,840
sort of an all around person.

1731
01:34:35,840 --> 01:34:39,300
And I really loved that.

1732
01:34:39,300 --> 01:34:44,342
And then, in 1942, I--

1733
01:34:44,342 --> 01:34:45,425

my husband and I divorced.

1734
01:34:45,425 --> 01:34:49,460

1735
01:34:49,460 --> 01:34:51,560
Was that painful to you?

1736
01:34:51,560 --> 01:34:55,520
No, it wasn't painful, because
we had really drifted apart.

1737
01:34:55,520 --> 01:34:57,110
It wasn't painful for me.

1738
01:34:57,110 --> 01:35:01,400
As a matter of fact, I really
felt I was still so young,

1739
01:35:01,400 --> 01:35:04,160
and we didn't have any children.

1740
01:35:04,160 --> 01:35:09,080
Wasn't that better to just go
our separate ways and build

1741
01:35:09,080 --> 01:35:11,760
a life for myself--

1742
01:35:11,760 --> 01:35:12,470
which I did.

1743
01:35:12,470 --> 01:35:15,740

1744
01:35:15,740 --> 01:35:20,940
I learned all that the
assisting, and I really,

1745
01:35:20,940 --> 01:35:22,400
really loved that job.

1746

01:35:22,400 --> 01:35:27,560

And after a few months, he
went into practice all day,

1747

01:35:27,560 --> 01:35:29,780

and by then, I was
already trained,

1748

01:35:29,780 --> 01:35:33,240

and that was really nice.

1749

01:35:33,240 --> 01:35:42,590

And then, in 1946, a friend--

1750

01:35:42,590 --> 01:35:46,580

it was really a family friend.

1751

01:35:46,580 --> 01:35:49,880

She was 10 years
older than I was,

1752

01:35:49,880 --> 01:35:52,160

and she was very
close to my parents.

1753

01:35:52,160 --> 01:35:57,470

And she had married in Germany,
and they ran all over--

1754

01:35:57,470 --> 01:35:59,900

to France, to Italy,
and everything,

1755

01:35:59,900 --> 01:36:01,590

and finally landed in America.

1756

01:36:01,590 --> 01:36:05,300

He was a conductor
by profession,

1757

01:36:05,300 --> 01:36:10,160

and also that was a

hard beginning for them.

1758
01:36:10,160 --> 01:36:12,770
And he developed
cancer very soon

1759
01:36:12,770 --> 01:36:14,520
after they came to this country.

1760
01:36:14,520 --> 01:36:19,610
And when he passed away, she
wrote a very, very sad letter

1761
01:36:19,610 --> 01:36:23,330
to my mother and asked her
if she couldn't come and be

1762
01:36:23,330 --> 01:36:26,360
with her for a little while.

1763
01:36:26,360 --> 01:36:28,850
But my mother couldn't
leave the family.

1764
01:36:28,850 --> 01:36:35,360
My brother and my
sister were then still--

1765
01:36:35,360 --> 01:36:39,235
I think that they were
still at home, I believe.

1766
01:36:39,235 --> 01:36:40,940
Where did this woman live?

1767
01:36:40,940 --> 01:36:42,210
She lived in San Francisco.

1768
01:36:42,210 --> 01:36:42,710
[INAUDIBLE]

1769
01:36:42,710 --> 01:36:43,210

Yeah.

1770

01:36:43,210 --> 01:36:46,490

So I said, you know what, I
could take two weeks' vacation.

1771

01:36:46,490 --> 01:36:49,100

I haven't had a
vacation in a long time.

1772

01:36:49,100 --> 01:36:53,990

And I could go, and that way,
I see some of the country.

1773

01:36:53,990 --> 01:36:57,170

That'd be wonderful.

1774

01:36:57,170 --> 01:37:02,690

So I took a vacation, and
I came out to be with her,

1775

01:37:02,690 --> 01:37:05,240

and I fell in love
with San Francisco--

1776

01:37:05,240 --> 01:37:07,250

absolutely fell in love with it.

1777

01:37:07,250 --> 01:37:12,140

That was the first time that
I really felt, oh boy, this

1778

01:37:12,140 --> 01:37:13,940

feels like home--

1779

01:37:13,940 --> 01:37:16,730

for a city.

1780

01:37:16,730 --> 01:37:21,710

And after the two weeks were
over, she wasn't so sad.

1781

01:37:21,710 --> 01:37:25,190
She already had a boyfriend,
and she had lots of friends,

1782
01:37:25,190 --> 01:37:28,610
and so it was really
a wonderful time.

1783
01:37:28,610 --> 01:37:30,920
And after two weeks, I--

1784
01:37:30,920 --> 01:37:33,630
even before two weeks, I
went and looked around,

1785
01:37:33,630 --> 01:37:36,080
and I found myself in a room.

1786
01:37:36,080 --> 01:37:39,080
And I wrote my boss--
sorry, I can't come back.

1787
01:37:39,080 --> 01:37:41,360
I'm going to stay here.

1788
01:37:41,360 --> 01:37:45,696
And I found a job.

1789
01:37:45,696 --> 01:37:47,690
In the dental field?

1790
01:37:47,690 --> 01:37:48,790
No.

1791
01:37:48,790 --> 01:37:51,080
I worked for
Maisson Mendessolle.

1792
01:37:51,080 --> 01:37:51,600
For what?

1793
01:37:51,600 --> 01:37:54,410

Maisson Mendessolle.

1794
01:37:54,410 --> 01:37:57,650
Have you been to San
Francisco for a long time?

1795
01:37:57,650 --> 01:38:01,050

1796
01:38:01,050 --> 01:38:06,530
That was a very,
very fancy dress shop

1797
01:38:06,530 --> 01:38:09,800
in the St. Francis Hotel.

1798
01:38:09,800 --> 01:38:12,050
And I started there.

1799
01:38:12,050 --> 01:38:17,360
I had a recommendation from
someone, and they took me,

1800
01:38:17,360 --> 01:38:19,940
but it was a straight
commission job.

1801
01:38:19,940 --> 01:38:25,610
They would pay me \$200 a
month, but I had to make it up

1802
01:38:25,610 --> 01:38:26,990
and commission.

1803
01:38:26,990 --> 01:38:31,460
Well, the old sales
ladies who were there

1804
01:38:31,460 --> 01:38:37,280
didn't let you get to anybody,
and it was really, really

1805

01:38:37,280 --> 01:38:40,520
a terrible struggle
to make these \$200.

1806
01:38:40,520 --> 01:38:43,300
And I was a wreck.

1807
01:38:43,300 --> 01:38:44,900
It was so stressful.

1808
01:38:44,900 --> 01:38:47,760
I hated every minute of it.

1809
01:38:47,760 --> 01:38:55,170
And there was another young
person who was there also,

1810
01:38:55,170 --> 01:38:56,210
and she didn't like it.

1811
01:38:56,210 --> 01:39:00,860
And she got an offer
at [INAUDIBLE] that

1812
01:39:00,860 --> 01:39:03,290
was a sporting goods store.

1813
01:39:03,290 --> 01:39:07,790
And she said they offered
her the job as a buyer.

1814
01:39:07,790 --> 01:39:09,770
And she said, I'll tell
you what, if you want,

1815
01:39:09,770 --> 01:39:11,090
I'll take you with me.

1816
01:39:11,090 --> 01:39:17,000
You won't make \$200, but if you
want, it'll be probably fun.

1817

01:39:17,000 --> 01:39:19,100

And since I was so
much into sports

1818

01:39:19,100 --> 01:39:22,910

when I was a young
person, I said, OK.

1819

01:39:22,910 --> 01:39:27,890

So instead of \$200, I made \$175,
but I had the time of my life.

1820

01:39:27,890 --> 01:39:32,870

It was just absolutely,
absolutely what I loved.

1821

01:39:32,870 --> 01:39:39,650

I sold ski wear, and
tennis gear, and--

1822

01:39:39,650 --> 01:39:40,970

You worked in the store?

1823

01:39:40,970 --> 01:39:43,910

I worked in the store.

1824

01:39:43,910 --> 01:39:47,570

I grew up with a lot of sport,
and so I had good knowledge.

1825

01:39:47,570 --> 01:39:50,250

You didn't tell us about
that that part of--

1826

01:39:50,250 --> 01:39:52,100

I probably haven't
told you a lot

1827

01:39:52,100 --> 01:39:54,240

of things that have happened.

1828

01:39:54,240 --> 01:40:01,360

But anyway, I was very,

very, very happy there.

1829

01:40:01,360 --> 01:40:03,380

It was a lot of fun.

1830

01:40:03,380 --> 01:40:06,110

It was fun to sell that.

1831

01:40:06,110 --> 01:40:09,560

But \$175--

1832

01:40:09,560 --> 01:40:10,550

Didn't go very far--

1833

01:40:10,550 --> 01:40:15,530

Came the 28th, that was rough.

1834

01:40:15,530 --> 01:40:18,050

And all our friends--

1835

01:40:18,050 --> 01:40:19,490

they were in the same boat.

1836

01:40:19,490 --> 01:40:20,810

Nobody made a lot of money.

1837

01:40:20,810 --> 01:40:24,360

Came the 28th,
everybody had a problem.

1838

01:40:24,360 --> 01:40:28,580

And so we always got together,
and we pooled our resources.

1839

01:40:28,580 --> 01:40:29,930

One would bring bread.

1840

01:40:29,930 --> 01:40:31,730

The other one would
bring avocados

1841

01:40:31,730 --> 01:40:33,350
from a neighbor's tree.

1842
01:40:33,350 --> 01:40:37,820
Another one would bring an
apple or something like that.

1843
01:40:37,820 --> 01:40:42,450
So we lived until
the 30th or the 31st

1844
01:40:42,450 --> 01:40:47,910
until we, again, had money,
and could do it all over again.

1845
01:40:47,910 --> 01:40:51,890
But that was a wonderful,
wonderful time for me.

1846
01:40:51,890 --> 01:40:53,790
How long did you work there?

1847
01:40:53,790 --> 01:41:03,330
I stayed until the
beginning of 1948--

1848
01:41:03,330 --> 01:41:06,780
not quite two years.

1849
01:41:06,780 --> 01:41:13,350
And I had met my husband
and-- my next husband,

1850
01:41:13,350 --> 01:41:15,990
my second husband--

1851
01:41:15,990 --> 01:41:17,170
already in New York.

1852
01:41:17,170 --> 01:41:20,910
He was a patient in the
doctor's office, so I knew him.

1853

01:41:20,910 --> 01:41:24,390

And he really pursued me.

1854

01:41:24,390 --> 01:41:25,440

Cross-country--

1855

01:41:25,440 --> 01:41:29,640

Cross-country--

religiously, every week--

1856

01:41:29,640 --> 01:41:33,600

and well, we fell in love.

1857

01:41:33,600 --> 01:41:39,330

And in 1948, I went back
to New York to get married.

1858

01:41:39,330 --> 01:41:46,620

And that was the end of my
very beautiful, carefree San

1859

01:41:46,620 --> 01:41:48,360

Francisco time.

1860

01:41:48,360 --> 01:41:50,490

You stayed in New York?

1861

01:41:50,490 --> 01:41:51,540

We stayed in New York.

1862

01:41:51,540 --> 01:41:54,480

1863

01:41:54,480 --> 01:41:58,890

Our daughter was born
in November of '48.

1864

01:41:58,890 --> 01:42:03,330

We got married in
January of '48,

1865

01:42:03,330 --> 01:42:09,090
and Jackie was born
in November '48.

1866
01:42:09,090 --> 01:42:19,800
And my husband lost his very,
very good job on the day

1867
01:42:19,800 --> 01:42:20,940
our daughter was born.

1868
01:42:20,940 --> 01:42:23,580

1869
01:42:23,580 --> 01:42:28,410
New government
regulations after the war

1870
01:42:28,410 --> 01:42:33,270
didn't permit these
people that he

1871
01:42:33,270 --> 01:42:36,630
worked for-- he was
a textile chemist,

1872
01:42:36,630 --> 01:42:40,170
and he had his own lab, and
developed all these yarns.

1873
01:42:40,170 --> 01:42:47,100
And these yarns were sold
to foreign countries.

1874
01:42:47,100 --> 01:42:49,740
And all of a sudden,
the government

1875
01:42:49,740 --> 01:42:54,150
did not allow this anymore, and
the business had to fold up,

1876
01:42:54,150 --> 01:42:56,850

and he lost his job.

1877
01:42:56,850 --> 01:43:00,600
That was a shock.

1878
01:43:00,600 --> 01:43:06,540
And now came very lean years.

1879
01:43:06,540 --> 01:43:08,430
It was hard for him.

1880
01:43:08,430 --> 01:43:13,410
He tried a couple of things,
which didn't work out.

1881
01:43:13,410 --> 01:43:16,920
And in the end, he decided
that the only way to do this

1882
01:43:16,920 --> 01:43:22,350
was to have his own business.

1883
01:43:22,350 --> 01:43:23,700
Just like your father said--

1884
01:43:23,700 --> 01:43:24,930
Right.

1885
01:43:24,930 --> 01:43:30,630
And with the help of some
friends, and finding a partner,

1886
01:43:30,630 --> 01:43:37,350
he founded [INAUDIBLE]
Incorporated,

1887
01:43:37,350 --> 01:43:49,080
which was a converting
business where the yarn was

1888
01:43:49,080 --> 01:43:54,480
made into certain

fabrics, and then dyed,

1889

01:43:54,480 --> 01:43:57,750
and finished, and sold.

1890

01:43:57,750 --> 01:44:05,310
He limited himself to the flag
and banner industry, and sold--

1891

01:44:05,310 --> 01:44:06,180
Flags and banners?

1892

01:44:06,180 --> 01:44:09,345
Flags and banners,
yeah-- sold this--

1893

01:44:09,345 --> 01:44:19,640
these particular fabrics only
to flag and banner people

1894

01:44:19,640 --> 01:44:22,970
all over the United
States and Canada.

1895

01:44:22,970 --> 01:44:26,000

1896

01:44:26,000 --> 01:44:35,840
We had an office,
and also a stock room

1897

01:44:35,840 --> 01:44:39,710
where the finished
fabrics would come in.

1898

01:44:39,710 --> 01:44:43,040
And we had a manager,
and a secretary,

1899

01:44:43,040 --> 01:44:45,050
and a packing
person, and then it

1900

01:44:45,050 --> 01:44:49,730

was shipped all
over the country.

1901

01:44:49,730 --> 01:44:52,790

And as the years went
on, he traveled a lot.

1902

01:44:52,790 --> 01:44:59,030

And in '53, our son was born.

1903

01:44:59,030 --> 01:45:05,000

And he, as he grew
up, was always

1904

01:45:05,000 --> 01:45:06,800

pretty sick in the wintertime.

1905

01:45:06,800 --> 01:45:09,240

He constantly had
throat infections.

1906

01:45:09,240 --> 01:45:14,730

And when he started school,
he was more at home than--

1907

01:45:14,730 --> 01:45:16,230

[INAUDIBLE] California
[INAUDIBLE]..

1908

01:45:16,230 --> 01:45:17,400

--in school.

1909

01:45:17,400 --> 01:45:20,300

No, no-- not yet.

1910

01:45:20,300 --> 01:45:28,370

And so one day, my husband said,
you know, I have traveled--

1911

01:45:28,370 --> 01:45:31,700

I have to travel so much--

he was away about six weeks

1912
01:45:31,700 --> 01:45:33,920
at a time.

1913
01:45:33,920 --> 01:45:37,940
He said, you know what,
why don't we try Florida?

1914
01:45:37,940 --> 01:45:39,450
Why don't you go to the--

1915
01:45:39,450 --> 01:45:41,810
to Florida with the
children for the winter,

1916
01:45:41,810 --> 01:45:46,430
and see if he doesn't do
better in a warm climate?

1917
01:45:46,430 --> 01:45:47,930
And at first, I
couldn't believe it.

1918
01:45:47,930 --> 01:45:51,500
I said, we can't
do that like that.

1919
01:45:51,500 --> 01:45:52,550
And he said, yeah, yeah.

1920
01:45:52,550 --> 01:45:53,570
That's not so hard.

1921
01:45:53,570 --> 01:45:57,500
He said, I come
after my travels.

1922
01:45:57,500 --> 01:46:02,060
I come to Florida,
and I am in touch

1923

01:46:02,060 --> 01:46:04,490
by telephone and
special delivery letters

1924
01:46:04,490 --> 01:46:08,030
with the office every
day, so it's no problem.

1925
01:46:08,030 --> 01:46:09,960
And then, in the
summer, of course,

1926
01:46:09,960 --> 01:46:16,160
we have to go to New York
for a month or six weeks.

1927
01:46:16,160 --> 01:46:17,875
So I left in--

1928
01:46:17,875 --> 01:46:19,875
So he was going to keep
the business in New York

1929
01:46:19,875 --> 01:46:20,140
[BOTH TALKING]--

1930
01:46:20,140 --> 01:46:21,020
Yes, yes.

1931
01:46:21,020 --> 01:46:21,590
--Florida?

1932
01:46:21,590 --> 01:46:22,090
Yeah.

1933
01:46:22,090 --> 01:46:23,510
Well, just come to Florida--

1934
01:46:23,510 --> 01:46:27,110
still, we had our apartment
in New York, and--

1935

01:46:27,110 --> 01:46:31,800
but he felt he could be with
me in Florida for quite a bit,

1936
01:46:31,800 --> 01:46:35,590
and then be in New
York for a bit.

1937
01:46:35,590 --> 02:02:45,000