

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:09:39,610

2

00:09:39,610 --> 00:09:41,560

So I said, well,
could I come anyway?

3

00:09:41,560 --> 00:09:43,570

And she said, you can come.

4

00:09:43,570 --> 00:09:45,910

I can show it to you.

5

00:09:45,910 --> 00:09:48,580

it won't do you any good.

6

00:09:48,580 --> 00:09:53,300

Well, it happened
that we just clicked.

7

00:09:53,300 --> 00:09:56,050

I liked her a lot, and she
liked me a lot, and she said,

8

00:09:56,050 --> 00:09:57,160

you know what?

9

00:09:57,160 --> 00:09:58,900

Let's go look at the apartment.

10

00:09:58,900 --> 00:10:01,010

Well, I walked
into the apartment.

11

00:10:01,010 --> 00:10:03,970

I didn't even look at the
bedroom or anything else.

12

00:10:03,970 --> 00:10:06,290

I fell in love with it.

13

00:10:06,290 --> 00:10:07,810

And I said, this is it.

14

00:10:07,810 --> 00:10:11,050

She said, you got it.

15

00:10:11,050 --> 00:10:15,040

And that's how I came and I've
been living there for 14 years

16

00:10:15,040 --> 00:10:19,060

and love it as I loved
it the first day.

17

00:10:19,060 --> 00:10:22,450

And that's very nice.

18

00:10:22,450 --> 00:10:24,710

Now you have been
back to Germany.

19

00:10:24,710 --> 00:10:29,380

I went back to Germany
only for a few days

20

00:10:29,380 --> 00:10:31,720

to see my school friends.

21

00:10:31,720 --> 00:10:33,900

When?

22

00:10:33,900 --> 00:10:39,570

I went-- So last
year it was seven.

23

00:10:39,570 --> 00:10:46,020

I went in '94, '95 and '96.

24

00:10:46,020 --> 00:10:48,255

'94 was the first time you went?

25

00:10:48,255 --> 00:10:50,340
Tell me what that was like.

26
00:10:50,340 --> 00:10:54,690
And I had only
corresponded with one.

27
00:10:54,690 --> 00:10:57,690

28
00:10:57,690 --> 00:10:59,490
How did you keep in
touch with that person?

29
00:10:59,490 --> 00:11:05,250
Through another school friend
who consequently passed away.

30
00:11:05,250 --> 00:11:07,230
And she was really
my best friend

31
00:11:07,230 --> 00:11:10,140
since we were little kids.

32
00:11:10,140 --> 00:11:16,260
My dad worked for a
time for her father

33
00:11:16,260 --> 00:11:19,650
and so we played when we
were way before school

34
00:11:19,650 --> 00:11:22,020
and then we went through
the whole school together.

35
00:11:22,020 --> 00:11:24,270
And she, for one
reason or another,

36
00:11:24,270 --> 00:11:26,970
I don't know why, she went

to Europe all these years

37

00:11:26,970 --> 00:11:30,240

and I guess she
found all the girls.

38

00:11:30,240 --> 00:11:36,750

And then she told me of this
one and she gave me her address

39

00:11:36,750 --> 00:11:39,840

and I started to
correspond with her.

40

00:11:39,840 --> 00:11:43,710

Not for too long really
until I had found her.

41

00:11:43,710 --> 00:11:47,970

And so I told her I would come.

42

00:11:47,970 --> 00:11:54,180

And then in the last minute
I wrote to her and I said,

43

00:11:54,180 --> 00:11:58,510

we haven't seen each
other in 58 years.

44

00:11:58,510 --> 00:12:00,510

How will we know?

45

00:12:00,510 --> 00:12:05,190

I said, you better
come to my hotel.

46

00:12:05,190 --> 00:12:08,350

Well, she came and she
knocked on the door.

47

00:12:08,350 --> 00:12:11,220

And I opened the door, and I
want to tell you something.

48
00:12:11,220 --> 00:12:14,670
She has not changed
since our school days.

49
00:12:14,670 --> 00:12:16,095
Her face is still the same.

50
00:12:16,095 --> 00:12:19,650
Her hair's a little thinner,
but that was always thin.

51
00:12:19,650 --> 00:12:24,180
And she is just as tall and
just exactly as she was.

52
00:12:24,180 --> 00:12:30,820
None of the others, but this
one has stayed exactly the same.

53
00:12:30,820 --> 00:12:33,435
So then she got me together
with all the others.

54
00:12:33,435 --> 00:12:35,160
There are eight of them.

55
00:12:35,160 --> 00:12:39,510
And we just had a
wonderful time together.

56
00:12:39,510 --> 00:12:42,420
I did not touch--

57
00:12:42,420 --> 00:12:48,060
I wanted to tell her
about what happened

58
00:12:48,060 --> 00:12:50,050
and so on and so forth.

59
00:12:50,050 --> 00:12:54,600

And she shut the
door immediately.

60
00:12:54,600 --> 00:12:58,530
No, nothing from before.

61
00:12:58,530 --> 00:13:02,460
The only remark she made, she
said you think you had it hard?

62
00:13:02,460 --> 00:13:04,560
We had it just as hard.

63
00:13:04,560 --> 00:13:05,550
We had to flee.

64
00:13:05,550 --> 00:13:06,540
I had a baby.

65
00:13:06,540 --> 00:13:07,530
I had no milk.

66
00:13:07,530 --> 00:13:10,860
I had nothing to feed the baby.

67
00:13:10,860 --> 00:13:14,790
We went from farm to farm
where we milked the cows

68
00:13:14,790 --> 00:13:19,440
and clean the stables
and did horrible work

69
00:13:19,440 --> 00:13:25,800
so that our little boy would
have a potato or something

70
00:13:25,800 --> 00:13:27,750
to eat.

71
00:13:27,750 --> 00:13:32,400
So I decided I'm not going

to touch on anything.

72

00:13:32,400 --> 00:13:36,960

I didn't want to hear how she
went through the Nazi time.

73

00:13:36,960 --> 00:13:39,420

And she married.

74

00:13:39,420 --> 00:13:44,200

I didn't want to hear if
she has in her living room

75

00:13:44,200 --> 00:13:46,132

a picture of her husband from--

76

00:13:46,132 --> 00:13:49,110

77

00:13:49,110 --> 00:13:50,820

I don't know
whether it was a war

78

00:13:50,820 --> 00:13:56,610

or what it was in a uniform,
in a military uniform,

79

00:13:56,610 --> 00:13:59,260

let's put it that way.

80

00:13:59,260 --> 00:14:02,580

So I have no idea was
he a Nazi was he not,

81

00:14:02,580 --> 00:14:04,380

how did she feel about it.

82

00:14:04,380 --> 00:14:07,560

I have no idea.

83

00:14:07,560 --> 00:14:08,980

They don't talk about it.

84
00:14:08,980 --> 00:14:11,500
They don't talk about anything.

85
00:14:11,500 --> 00:14:13,680
And I thought,
well, I'm not going

86
00:14:13,680 --> 00:14:15,480
to be the one to start it.

87
00:14:15,480 --> 00:14:20,730
We reminisced a lot
and laughed a lot

88
00:14:20,730 --> 00:14:24,940
and really had wonderful
times together.

89
00:14:24,940 --> 00:14:27,330
What was it like for
you to be in Breslau?

90
00:14:27,330 --> 00:14:28,650
I did not go to Breslau.

91
00:14:28,650 --> 00:14:31,260
I only went to Munich.

92
00:14:31,260 --> 00:14:31,920
That's all.

93
00:14:31,920 --> 00:14:33,690
They are all there.

94
00:14:33,690 --> 00:14:38,340
And now a lot of Jewish
people who were born there

95
00:14:38,340 --> 00:14:41,730
and grew up there
are going to Breslau.

96
00:14:41,730 --> 00:14:43,320
I can't understand that.

97
00:14:43,320 --> 00:14:45,870
I don't want to do that.

98
00:14:45,870 --> 00:14:47,160
Why not?

99
00:14:47,160 --> 00:14:51,060
I have wonderful memories
of my growing up years.

100
00:14:51,060 --> 00:14:52,830
I don't want to destroy those.

101
00:14:52,830 --> 00:14:54,890
It's supposed to be terrible.

102
00:14:54,890 --> 00:14:56,940
In what way?

103
00:14:56,940 --> 00:14:58,560
It's not Polish.

104
00:14:58,560 --> 00:15:05,910
There isn't a German, not a
street name or anything around.

105
00:15:05,910 --> 00:15:09,600
Most of all the
buildings are destroyed

106
00:15:09,600 --> 00:15:16,390
and there are just very
military barracks built instead

107
00:15:16,390 --> 00:15:17,550
and so on and so forth.

108

00:15:17,550 --> 00:15:20,460

109

00:15:20,460 --> 00:15:25,920

Our school is still standing.

110

00:15:25,920 --> 00:15:29,140

I know this from one of the
girls who went there and found

111

00:15:29,140 --> 00:15:31,970

the school and went
inside where everything

112

00:15:31,970 --> 00:15:34,940

seems to be all the same thing.

113

00:15:34,940 --> 00:15:37,910

I just don't want to see it.

114

00:15:37,910 --> 00:15:45,610

I have a very hard
time looking at films

115

00:15:45,610 --> 00:15:50,140

that have to do with that time.

116

00:15:50,140 --> 00:15:54,070

It took me two years
before I finally

117

00:15:54,070 --> 00:15:57,070

got the courage to go
to the Holocaust Museum

118

00:15:57,070 --> 00:16:06,560

in Washington, which was a
wonderful experience for me

119

00:16:06,560 --> 00:16:11,720

because I think it's done
in such unbelievable taste.

120

00:16:11,720 --> 00:16:17,210

You really don't get the
horror feeling in there

121

00:16:17,210 --> 00:16:24,380

and I really like that a lot.

122

00:16:24,380 --> 00:16:26,850

But it's very strange.

123

00:16:26,850 --> 00:16:29,510

I didn't even go
through the horror time,

124

00:16:29,510 --> 00:16:33,950

but I have a hard time
dealing with that.

125

00:16:33,950 --> 00:16:35,090

Why it is I don't know.

126

00:16:35,090 --> 00:16:40,381

127

00:16:40,381 --> 00:16:41,210

Go ahead.

128

00:16:41,210 --> 00:16:42,370

No, you ask me.

129

00:16:42,370 --> 00:16:47,590

So all the people that you knew
from school are all in Munich.

130

00:16:47,590 --> 00:16:50,500

Yes, some of them,
not all of them.

131

00:16:50,500 --> 00:16:53,380

There are eight in
Munich and they all

132

00:16:53,380 --> 00:16:57,220

have contact to one another,
which I think is very nice.

133

00:16:57,220 --> 00:17:02,560

One is already in
pretty bad shape

134

00:17:02,560 --> 00:17:09,220

and they all have little
things here and there.

135

00:17:09,220 --> 00:17:11,619

I think with all
the things that I

136

00:17:11,619 --> 00:17:16,030

have to contend with, with my
inconvenience about my eyes,

137

00:17:16,030 --> 00:17:19,780

I'm still I think
in the best shape,

138

00:17:19,780 --> 00:17:23,440

better than they are together.

139

00:17:23,440 --> 00:17:27,819

But it always was a
very enjoyable time

140

00:17:27,819 --> 00:17:32,410

because we do have a lot
of memories to go back to.

141

00:17:32,410 --> 00:17:40,480

And so this last year and
this year I haven't gone.

142

00:17:40,480 --> 00:17:42,490

And I don't think I will.

143

00:17:42,490 --> 00:17:44,710

These are people that
you went to school with

144

00:17:44,710 --> 00:17:47,440

and the school that
you graduated in 1934.

145

00:17:47,440 --> 00:17:50,830

And from the very first
school day at the other school

146

00:17:50,830 --> 00:17:53,680

too, yes.

147

00:17:53,680 --> 00:17:55,810

And none of them want
to talk about it.

148

00:17:55,810 --> 00:17:57,850

No, they don't talk
about it at all.

149

00:17:57,850 --> 00:18:01,420

150

00:18:01,420 --> 00:18:04,540

Did that disappoint you that
you couldn't talk about it?

151

00:18:04,540 --> 00:18:05,500

Not really.

152

00:18:05,500 --> 00:18:10,390

Because I'm very
honest with you.

153

00:18:10,390 --> 00:18:15,800

I always felt a little strange
about that part of our lives.

154

00:18:15,800 --> 00:18:19,690

And I was kind of glad maybe.

155

00:18:19,690 --> 00:18:22,660

156

00:18:22,660 --> 00:18:24,790

I like them all

so much, I really

157

00:18:24,790 --> 00:18:28,480

didn't want to maybe discover

that there was something

158

00:18:28,480 --> 00:18:33,460

there that they did that I

would be very upset about.

159

00:18:33,460 --> 00:18:38,530

And I mean you would not

believe how warm they are

160

00:18:38,530 --> 00:18:40,150

and how sweet they are.

161

00:18:40,150 --> 00:18:42,610

And they go out of their

way when they see me.

162

00:18:42,610 --> 00:18:44,350

I mean it's unreal.

163

00:18:44,350 --> 00:18:46,990

And they write me the

most wonderful letters

164

00:18:46,990 --> 00:18:48,250

and everything.

165

00:18:48,250 --> 00:18:53,500

And when I talk to them

it's really interesting

166

00:18:53,500 --> 00:18:59,680

that after all these years
and being Jewish and different

167
00:18:59,680 --> 00:19:02,140
from them that that's
the way they are.

168
00:19:02,140 --> 00:19:05,050
You're the only
one who's Jewish?

169
00:19:05,050 --> 00:19:05,860
Yes.

170
00:19:05,860 --> 00:19:10,990
There is one in Argentina
whom I have contact with

171
00:19:10,990 --> 00:19:15,430
and she goes also to Germany
once a year to visit them.

172
00:19:15,430 --> 00:19:21,420
And we just loosely
correspond, but she's Jewish.

173
00:19:21,420 --> 00:19:23,560
So not wanting to
talk about it, not

174
00:19:23,560 --> 00:19:27,440
wanting to find out something
that might not feel good to you

175
00:19:27,440 --> 00:19:30,460
is sort of like not
wanting to see Breslau.

176
00:19:30,460 --> 00:19:33,100
Yes, for basically
the same reason.

177
00:19:33,100 --> 00:19:38,560

I have, like I said, I have
really such wonderful memories

178
00:19:38,560 --> 00:19:41,350
of growing up.

179
00:19:41,350 --> 00:19:45,230
I don't want to destroy that.

180
00:19:45,230 --> 00:19:49,120
And so I'd rather think about
it if I ever think back--

181
00:19:49,120 --> 00:19:50,455
I'm a very strange person.

182
00:19:50,455 --> 00:19:53,380

183
00:19:53,380 --> 00:19:58,210
I never really look back
and I always look forward.

184
00:19:58,210 --> 00:20:02,530
And I'll never forget, I think
I've always been this way,

185
00:20:02,530 --> 00:20:07,630
but I never forget a sermon
that our rabbi in Hollywood,

186
00:20:07,630 --> 00:20:10,030
a part of a sermon
that he talked about,

187
00:20:10,030 --> 00:20:14,020
and he said at the end
God has given your two

188
00:20:14,020 --> 00:20:16,420
eyes in front of your head.

189

00:20:16,420 --> 00:20:19,060

If he wanted you to
always look back,

190

00:20:19,060 --> 00:20:21,580

He would have put them
in the back of your head.

191

00:20:21,580 --> 00:20:23,470

And I've never forgotten that.

192

00:20:23,470 --> 00:20:26,350

And with this I
have helped a lot

193

00:20:26,350 --> 00:20:31,540

of people, people who
are unhappy about things

194

00:20:31,540 --> 00:20:34,760

that happened to them in their
lives or anything like that.

195

00:20:34,760 --> 00:20:36,525

And I always quote that.

196

00:20:36,525 --> 00:20:37,900

And then they come
to me and say,

197

00:20:37,900 --> 00:20:39,770

you know this is
really wonderful.

198

00:20:39,770 --> 00:20:42,410

I feel so much better.

199

00:20:42,410 --> 00:20:44,800

So I am I'm always
looking forward,

200

00:20:44,800 --> 00:20:47,320

I'm not a person

to look backwards.

201
00:20:47,320 --> 00:20:49,900
And it was very strange,
because when I talked to you

202
00:20:49,900 --> 00:20:53,230
I really had to sit down and
think a little bit about it

203
00:20:53,230 --> 00:20:55,240
because I haven't
thought of that in years

204
00:20:55,240 --> 00:20:56,560
and years and years and years.

205
00:20:56,560 --> 00:21:00,720

206
00:21:00,720 --> 00:21:05,460
Did the German government
ever invite you back?

207
00:21:05,460 --> 00:21:08,880
Well, the German government
only invites the people

208
00:21:08,880 --> 00:21:11,940
from Berlin, and now
also from other cities,

209
00:21:11,940 --> 00:21:13,950
but never from Breslau.

210
00:21:13,950 --> 00:21:15,360
Because Breslau is not Germany.

211
00:21:15,360 --> 00:21:15,860
Right.

212
00:21:15,860 --> 00:21:20,410

And then once I wrote
to them a few years ago.

213
00:21:20,410 --> 00:21:23,400
My husband was from
Berlin, and I wrote to them

214
00:21:23,400 --> 00:21:27,180
and I said you know
I would like to come

215
00:21:27,180 --> 00:21:30,030
to Berlin to see all the
places that my husband always

216
00:21:30,030 --> 00:21:31,420
talked about.

217
00:21:31,420 --> 00:21:33,660
And I explained to them
that I was from Breslau

218
00:21:33,660 --> 00:21:34,630
and so on and so forth.

219
00:21:34,630 --> 00:21:36,360
And they invited me to come.

220
00:21:36,360 --> 00:21:38,070
I mean, I have to
pay my own passage,

221
00:21:38,070 --> 00:21:40,560
but I think other people
have to do that too.

222
00:21:40,560 --> 00:21:43,560
But they invited me that
any time I wanted to come I

223
00:21:43,560 --> 00:21:44,280
should come.

224
00:21:44,280 --> 00:21:46,960
But I really don't
have the desire.

225
00:21:46,960 --> 00:21:47,460
You don't.

226
00:21:47,460 --> 00:21:48,660
Mm-hmm.

227
00:21:48,660 --> 00:21:51,750
I don't have the desire
to go to Germany at all.

228
00:21:51,750 --> 00:21:53,040
I mean, I like Munich.

229
00:21:53,040 --> 00:21:55,170
I had never been in
my life to Munich

230
00:21:55,170 --> 00:21:59,970
and I liked the thought that
this is such a wonderful city.

231
00:21:59,970 --> 00:22:03,070
And I have no memories
of anything in Munich,

232
00:22:03,070 --> 00:22:04,780
so it was all new
to me and nice.

233
00:22:04,780 --> 00:22:11,050
And I met my friends and I saw
a lot and that's enough for me.

234
00:22:11,050 --> 00:22:13,647
Otherwise, I don't really
want to go anywhere else.

235
00:22:13,647 --> 00:22:14,355

I have no desire.

236
00:22:14,355 --> 00:22:21,480

237
00:22:21,480 --> 00:22:23,710
Your parents never
went back to Germany.

238
00:22:23,710 --> 00:22:25,050
No.

239
00:22:25,050 --> 00:22:26,950
Your brother?

240
00:22:26,950 --> 00:22:30,520
My brother was in the war
and he was in Germany.

241
00:22:30,520 --> 00:22:32,450
He was in the American Army?

242
00:22:32,450 --> 00:22:32,950
Mm-hmm.

243
00:22:32,950 --> 00:22:38,120

244
00:22:38,120 --> 00:22:39,200
And it was so funny.

245
00:22:39,200 --> 00:22:44,480
We always joked about that,
because when he came back,

246
00:22:44,480 --> 00:22:49,790
his German was really bad,
and we always joked about it.

247
00:22:49,790 --> 00:22:53,330
Already he lost it so fast?

248

00:22:53,330 --> 00:22:57,560

And no, my brother
was in the war.

249

00:22:57,560 --> 00:23:01,460

And then he built up
a wonderful business.

250

00:23:01,460 --> 00:23:04,160

He was one of the
really first people

251

00:23:04,160 --> 00:23:07,760

who went to Japan to buy
cameras and bring them

252

00:23:07,760 --> 00:23:09,840

into the United States.

253

00:23:09,840 --> 00:23:16,520

And he built up an absolutely
fabulous business and was,

254

00:23:16,520 --> 00:23:21,390

unfortunately, too young to go.

255

00:23:21,390 --> 00:23:26,010

And my sister
married a man who was

256

00:23:26,010 --> 00:23:30,660

20 years older than she was, but
she had a wonderful marriage.

257

00:23:30,660 --> 00:23:33,600

My brother and sister
each had two children

258

00:23:33,600 --> 00:23:41,990

and they all grew up and
are doing really fine.

259

00:23:41,990 --> 00:23:51,060
And the family got sort
of pulled apart so early.

260
00:23:51,060 --> 00:23:55,900
That was very sad because
also their children were just

261
00:23:55,900 --> 00:23:59,920
too young to lose their
father or their mother.

262
00:23:59,920 --> 00:24:04,425
But I guess they summoned
up enough strength.

263
00:24:04,425 --> 00:24:06,550
This was your sister's
family you're talking about?

264
00:24:06,550 --> 00:24:08,410
My sister's as well
as my brother's.

265
00:24:08,410 --> 00:24:11,740
My brother had a boy
and a girl and my sister

266
00:24:11,740 --> 00:24:16,750
had a boy and a girl and
everybody is doing well.

267
00:24:16,750 --> 00:24:19,780

268
00:24:19,780 --> 00:24:23,700
Gerda, what do you think
has been the effect on you

269
00:24:23,700 --> 00:24:28,410
and the way you have lived your
life from these experiences

270

00:24:28,410 --> 00:24:33,360
that you described and your
needing to leave Germany

271
00:24:33,360 --> 00:24:35,170
the way you did?

272
00:24:35,170 --> 00:24:39,040
Well, I think I always,
when I look back on it,

273
00:24:39,040 --> 00:24:42,840
I think it was an absolutely--

274
00:24:42,840 --> 00:24:44,790
how we did this I don't know.

275
00:24:44,790 --> 00:24:49,890
Why we did it, to be so to have
such a foresight to do that

276
00:24:49,890 --> 00:24:54,120
so early in the game.

277
00:24:54,120 --> 00:24:57,150
All the experiences
I would say have

278
00:24:57,150 --> 00:25:04,860
made me a very strong person
and a very tolerant person.

279
00:25:04,860 --> 00:25:10,230
I don't think that I was
exactly weak or intolerant,

280
00:25:10,230 --> 00:25:15,630
but I think I have
developed that

281
00:25:15,630 --> 00:25:18,750
during the course
of my lifetime.

282
00:25:18,750 --> 00:25:24,090
And also I think going
through the experiences

283
00:25:24,090 --> 00:25:30,450
that I've had I would
say that I probably only

284
00:25:30,450 --> 00:25:34,260
told you a very small
part of all the things

285
00:25:34,260 --> 00:25:37,470
that we went through.

286
00:25:37,470 --> 00:25:40,020
But I think it was good.

287
00:25:40,020 --> 00:25:44,610
I think when I look back on
my life I think I did well

288
00:25:44,610 --> 00:25:48,030
and I helped a lot of people.

289
00:25:48,030 --> 00:25:50,760

290
00:25:50,760 --> 00:25:54,630
When I came to
California, I immediately,

291
00:25:54,630 --> 00:25:59,220
except for my husband's family
and we were not too close

292
00:25:59,220 --> 00:26:04,830
and my sister-in-law
passed away real fast,

293
00:26:04,830 --> 00:26:06,840

I volunteered at the
hospital right away,

294
00:26:06,840 --> 00:26:11,930
and I joined the temple, and
I make friends very easily.

295
00:26:11,930 --> 00:26:13,560
This is no problem for me.

296
00:26:13,560 --> 00:26:16,140
I connect easily.

297
00:26:16,140 --> 00:26:20,250
And I built myself
a very full life.

298
00:26:20,250 --> 00:26:26,070
And I two years ago started
to lose my eyesight.

299
00:26:26,070 --> 00:26:32,460
And within months I
lost it completely.

300
00:26:32,460 --> 00:26:34,620
I don't see anything but shapes.

301
00:26:34,620 --> 00:26:40,410
And I can't write anymore
and I can't watch television.

302
00:26:40,410 --> 00:26:41,900
I lost the driving.

303
00:26:41,900 --> 00:26:47,970
I lost a great deal of
my life through that.

304
00:26:47,970 --> 00:26:51,450
And I sat down and
I thought, I am not

305

00:26:51,450 --> 00:26:54,240

ready to sit in a
wheelchair and just

306

00:26:54,240 --> 00:26:56,380

listen to my talking books.

307

00:26:56,380 --> 00:26:58,650

That's not the life for me.

308

00:26:58,650 --> 00:27:02,190

And I got involved with
the Center for the Blind

309

00:27:02,190 --> 00:27:03,600

in Palo Alto.

310

00:27:03,600 --> 00:27:10,650

And through that,
the social worker

311

00:27:10,650 --> 00:27:18,510

I had worked with
thought that I was

312

00:27:18,510 --> 00:27:26,700

lucky to be able to accept
this in such a short time

313

00:27:26,700 --> 00:27:29,310

with the limitations
that it has given me

314

00:27:29,310 --> 00:27:35,370

that she felt I should apply to
the Commission on Disabilities.

315

00:27:35,370 --> 00:27:40,830

They had nine seats available
on the Commission that's

316

00:27:40,830 --> 00:27:43,840

going to be turned over.

317

00:27:43,840 --> 00:27:48,790

And so I said, but I have
no experience in politics.

318

00:27:48,790 --> 00:27:52,990

I have no experience
in anything like that.

319

00:27:52,990 --> 00:27:56,290

And she said, I
want you to apply.

320

00:27:56,290 --> 00:28:02,470

And so she sent me
the application.

321

00:28:02,470 --> 00:28:06,840

And when I saw the
application I said, no.

322

00:28:06,840 --> 00:28:10,050

I still saw this through my--

323

00:28:10,050 --> 00:28:11,550

I want to explain this.

324

00:28:11,550 --> 00:28:14,640

I have what they call a CCTV.

325

00:28:14,640 --> 00:28:23,940

It looks like a computer and it
has a moving table underneath

326

00:28:23,940 --> 00:28:27,330

and a very, very strong light.

327

00:28:27,330 --> 00:28:35,790

And it enlarges the letters to
I would say probably 4 inches.

328

00:28:35,790 --> 00:28:42,030
And so with that I was still
able to read anything that came

329
00:28:42,030 --> 00:28:43,600
along that I needed to read.

330
00:28:43,600 --> 00:28:47,300
So when I read the
application I thought,

331
00:28:47,300 --> 00:28:49,210
how would they ever
be interested in me?

332
00:28:49,210 --> 00:28:55,020
But I filled it in and I told
them very much I had no--

333
00:28:55,020 --> 00:28:57,670
They asked what experience
do you have in that field?

334
00:28:57,670 --> 00:29:00,300
I said, I don't
have any experience

335
00:29:00,300 --> 00:29:04,020
but I've dealt with the public,
I volunteered an awful lot

336
00:29:04,020 --> 00:29:05,620
and I've dealt with the public.

337
00:29:05,620 --> 00:29:10,110
And that's all I
can offer really.

338
00:29:10,110 --> 00:29:17,130
And so I send it, and
my kids said, oh my God.

339
00:29:17,130 --> 00:29:20,220

You will never get it.

340

00:29:20,220 --> 00:29:27,090

So one day I got a call for
an interview and they took me.

341

00:29:27,090 --> 00:29:33,630

And I'm very active
working and I

342

00:29:33,630 --> 00:29:36,720

work on all different
kinds of committees

343

00:29:36,720 --> 00:29:45,190

and trying very hard to make the
public aware of disabilities.

344

00:29:45,190 --> 00:29:46,705

Now what Commission is this?

345

00:29:46,705 --> 00:29:47,205

The state?

346

00:29:47,205 --> 00:29:49,980

347

00:29:49,980 --> 00:29:55,770

That is the San Mateo County
Commission on Disabilities.

348

00:29:55,770 --> 00:29:58,360

349

00:29:58,360 --> 00:30:04,660

It is a subdivision
under the supervisors.

350

00:30:04,660 --> 00:30:11,400

And there are 21 commissioners.

351

00:30:11,400 --> 00:30:17,430

And we have a lot of professional people.

352
00:30:17,430 --> 00:30:28,230
And we have I think two or three or four in wheel chairs.

353
00:30:28,230 --> 00:30:31,950
We have two that are hearing impaired.

354
00:30:31,950 --> 00:30:37,350
I'm the only vision-impaired person.

355
00:30:37,350 --> 00:30:46,460
And a couple of people with mental disabilities.

356
00:30:46,460 --> 00:30:49,200

357
00:30:49,200 --> 00:30:50,970
I couldn't even call it that.

358
00:30:50,970 --> 00:30:53,670
I mean, they have a hard time talking.

359
00:30:53,670 --> 00:30:59,460
I don't know exactly what the problem has been there.

360
00:30:59,460 --> 00:31:04,300
And it's been a wonderful experience.

361
00:31:04,300 --> 00:31:11,310
I am working very hard now to try to go into the schools

362
00:31:11,310 --> 00:31:17,170
to make especially teenagers

aware of disabilities.

363

00:31:17,170 --> 00:31:25,020

They have absolutely no idea
or let's say you no feeling.

364

00:31:25,020 --> 00:31:30,240

I can't walk very much
in the streets anymore,

365

00:31:30,240 --> 00:31:35,010

it's just very difficult, but I
do try to walk around the block

366

00:31:35,010 --> 00:31:39,210

where I know pretty much the
unevenness in the street.

367

00:31:39,210 --> 00:31:47,340

And I come home maybe sometimes
from when the schools are out.

368

00:31:47,340 --> 00:31:50,160

So there's a bus
stop at our corner

369

00:31:50,160 --> 00:31:55,890

and they want to sit on the
ground there, on the sidewalk,

370

00:31:55,890 --> 00:32:01,530

and if you think anyone would
move or get up step aside

371

00:32:01,530 --> 00:32:03,640

for me or anything like that?

372

00:32:03,640 --> 00:32:08,460

I have to go out into the
street and go around them.

373

00:32:08,460 --> 00:32:10,620

And sometimes I

feel like saying,

374

00:32:10,620 --> 00:32:14,010

don't you know what that
means if a person can't see?

375

00:32:14,010 --> 00:32:15,450

And you got a little feeling.

376

00:32:15,450 --> 00:32:18,030

377

00:32:18,030 --> 00:32:21,840

I think that you
can do something

378

00:32:21,840 --> 00:32:27,360

like take a pair of glasses
and put Vaseline on it.

379

00:32:27,360 --> 00:32:30,570

Then they can see the way I see.

380

00:32:30,570 --> 00:32:34,260

And take a person in a
wheelchair with a dog maybe.

381

00:32:34,260 --> 00:32:37,020

382

00:32:37,020 --> 00:32:39,930

And a person who
is hard of hearing.

383

00:32:39,930 --> 00:32:41,990

She would bring
the dog more than--

384

00:32:41,990 --> 00:32:45,690

We have one person with a
wheelchair who brings a dog.

385

00:32:45,690 --> 00:32:49,470
And just sort of
spread awareness.

386
00:32:49,470 --> 00:32:55,350
We do all kinds of
leaflets and things

387
00:32:55,350 --> 00:33:01,710
we have now the disability
expo on the fairgrounds

388
00:33:01,710 --> 00:33:06,420
where they will have,
I think, 21 exhibitors

389
00:33:06,420 --> 00:33:09,760
who deal with all
kinds of disabilities.

390
00:33:09,760 --> 00:33:12,780
We also will have a booth
and I will work in that.

391
00:33:12,780 --> 00:33:15,000
I can't do much
but talk to people.

392
00:33:15,000 --> 00:33:19,650

393
00:33:19,650 --> 00:33:25,620
I am really always very sorry
and I've been looking around

394
00:33:25,620 --> 00:33:29,430
and maybe I put an
idea into your head.

395
00:33:29,430 --> 00:33:37,170
I would love to see
somebody make a documentary

396

00:33:37,170 --> 00:33:40,410
about macular deterioration.

397
00:33:40,410 --> 00:33:43,310

398
00:33:43,310 --> 00:33:46,340
It is not written up much.

399
00:33:46,340 --> 00:33:49,910
It's not discussed much.

400
00:33:49,910 --> 00:33:53,750
Most people don't
even know what it is.

401
00:33:53,750 --> 00:34:00,980
And the ophthalmologist
does not enlighten you

402
00:34:00,980 --> 00:34:03,380
until you are
suddenly in trouble

403
00:34:03,380 --> 00:34:10,310
and seek a specialist who
might still be able to help you

404
00:34:10,310 --> 00:34:14,850
with laser treatments or not.

405
00:34:14,850 --> 00:34:18,360
And there is nothing
that can be done.

406
00:34:18,360 --> 00:34:19,790
There's absolutely nothing.

407
00:34:19,790 --> 00:34:24,260
I have tried every
avenue possible.

408

00:34:24,260 --> 00:34:27,380
I've been everywhere,
to everything,

409
00:34:27,380 --> 00:34:31,520
have been examined by lots
of people, was willing to go

410
00:34:31,520 --> 00:34:32,969
all over the place.

411
00:34:32,969 --> 00:34:35,480
And when I talk to
doctors they will say,

412
00:34:35,480 --> 00:34:36,949
your sight is too far gone.

413
00:34:36,949 --> 00:34:39,020
We can't help you.

414
00:34:39,020 --> 00:34:43,100
And what I'm out
for, this is really

415
00:34:43,100 --> 00:34:47,870
not a very sad thing because
everybody, as you grow older--

416
00:34:47,870 --> 00:34:50,510
after all I'm 84 years old--

417
00:34:50,510 --> 00:34:55,100
everybody has a little
something in my generation.

418
00:34:55,100 --> 00:34:57,890
And I'm very lucky that this
is really the only thing

419
00:34:57,890 --> 00:34:59,550
that I have.

420

00:34:59,550 --> 00:35:02,060

And as I say, I call
it my inconvenience.

421

00:35:02,060 --> 00:35:05,360

I don't think it's a disability.

422

00:35:05,360 --> 00:35:10,380

There is so much out
there to help you

423

00:35:10,380 --> 00:35:15,170

that is unbelievable that
people could take advantage of

424

00:35:15,170 --> 00:35:18,270

and don't know about.

425

00:35:18,270 --> 00:35:22,680

And I have created a full life.

426

00:35:22,680 --> 00:35:27,050

I've been in the support
group for the blind.

427

00:35:27,050 --> 00:35:31,160

I'm now being trained
to be a peer counselor.

428

00:35:31,160 --> 00:35:35,630

429

00:35:35,630 --> 00:35:40,700

I have tried to find
out what can you

430

00:35:40,700 --> 00:35:46,100

give me to help me so I can
be as independent as possible,

431

00:35:46,100 --> 00:35:48,870

and they have given me all

the help it's all there.

432

00:35:48,870 --> 00:35:50,190

It's all there.

433

00:35:50,190 --> 00:35:53,120

And people get so
caught up I see it

434

00:35:53,120 --> 00:35:56,810

in the support group
of this as they

435

00:35:56,810 --> 00:36:00,860

call it this terrible thing
that has happened to me, why me?

436

00:36:00,860 --> 00:36:05,330

why this, that they
don't know that there's

437

00:36:05,330 --> 00:36:08,730

a lot of life beyond that.

438

00:36:08,730 --> 00:36:12,500

And that you just have to pick
yourself up and say well I

439

00:36:12,500 --> 00:36:16,370

have this I have to accept
it and I can get all the help

440

00:36:16,370 --> 00:36:18,560

there is.

441

00:36:18,560 --> 00:36:20,870

Gerda, in listening
to your life story

442

00:36:20,870 --> 00:36:25,140

it sounds like you've been
doing that almost all your life.

443

00:36:25,140 --> 00:36:27,810

Yes, it's true.

444

00:36:27,810 --> 00:36:31,230

And that's why I have
been able to accept that

445

00:36:31,230 --> 00:36:36,240

as fast as it needed to
be accepted for myself.

446

00:36:36,240 --> 00:36:39,900

But I notice that I
have helped already so

447

00:36:39,900 --> 00:36:42,420

many people who have that.

448

00:36:42,420 --> 00:36:47,400

And I really have made a sort
of a little mission in my life

449

00:36:47,400 --> 00:36:50,040

and I'd like to do
as much as I can.

450

00:36:50,040 --> 00:36:56,490

Because it's so sad
that people feel

451

00:36:56,490 --> 00:37:01,840

when you lose your eyesight that
there's nothing left for them.

452

00:37:01,840 --> 00:37:03,330

And that's not true.

453

00:37:03,330 --> 00:37:07,560

You can absolutely be very
functional in your home.

454

00:37:07,560 --> 00:37:12,930

Of course the company that
makes TV dinners is making more

455
00:37:12,930 --> 00:37:14,730
money, there's no
doubt about that,

456
00:37:14,730 --> 00:37:19,560
because it gets a little
difficult to peel the potatoes.

457
00:37:19,560 --> 00:37:23,370
The oranges become blood
oranges all of a sudden

458
00:37:23,370 --> 00:37:30,210
and you cut yourself all
the time and it's hard.

459
00:37:30,210 --> 00:37:34,620
But you can learn to remember.

460
00:37:34,620 --> 00:37:38,355
Your senses get so much keener.

461
00:37:38,355 --> 00:37:43,650
Your sense of
hearing is stronger,

462
00:37:43,650 --> 00:37:48,180
your sense of
direction is stronger.

463
00:37:48,180 --> 00:37:54,390
Wherever I go I will remember
how many steps I have to take.

464
00:37:54,390 --> 00:38:02,820
I don't forget it and I
manage very well on my own.

465
00:38:02,820 --> 00:38:13,500
I only have help once in two

weeks to do my house cleaning.

466

00:38:13,500 --> 00:38:17,970

And then sometimes
during the other week

467

00:38:17,970 --> 00:38:23,460

I take a young woman
who came from Russia

468

00:38:23,460 --> 00:38:27,840

and she comes and she
takes me shopping.

469

00:38:27,840 --> 00:38:29,640

I don't see anything
on the shelves

470

00:38:29,640 --> 00:38:32,940

and I don't want to bother my
friends all the time because it

471

00:38:32,940 --> 00:38:37,770

can begin to be a nuisance,
so she takes me shopping.

472

00:38:37,770 --> 00:38:42,000

If I have to go anything
anywhere special,

473

00:38:42,000 --> 00:38:43,140

she will take me.

474

00:38:43,140 --> 00:38:44,355

And we will take a walk.

475

00:38:44,355 --> 00:38:47,770

476

00:38:47,770 --> 00:38:51,060

And she will clean my
kitchen because that I

477

00:38:51,060 --> 00:38:55,710

don't know whether it is
always the way I want it

478

00:38:55,710 --> 00:38:59,610

because I don't see
when I drop something.

479

00:38:59,610 --> 00:39:02,370

And it's a full life.

480

00:39:02,370 --> 00:39:05,400

I have a wonderful, full life.

481

00:39:05,400 --> 00:39:07,230

And I still have a social life.

482

00:39:07,230 --> 00:39:10,560

I take Ready Wheels
when we meet for lunch,

483

00:39:10,560 --> 00:39:14,970

when I meet friends for lunch,
and when I go somewhere.

484

00:39:14,970 --> 00:39:18,000

And once in a
while I take a cab.

485

00:39:18,000 --> 00:39:22,890

And I walk down to
Burlingame Plaza,

486

00:39:22,890 --> 00:39:25,770

that I have learned to do.

487

00:39:25,770 --> 00:39:31,470

And I had a mobility teacher
to teach me how to use a cane

488

00:39:31,470 --> 00:39:34,890

and how to get

along in the street

489

00:39:34,890 --> 00:39:39,450

and how to cross the
street, which is very hard.

490

00:39:39,450 --> 00:39:48,030

And when it came to cross
El Camino at Truesdale,

491

00:39:48,030 --> 00:39:52,270

I did go across three
times and he followed me.

492

00:39:52,270 --> 00:39:57,540

And when I came back I
said to him, you know what?

493

00:39:57,540 --> 00:40:00,120

I'll take a cab.

494

00:40:00,120 --> 00:40:05,970

It's just too hard because
the cars that have the U-turn

495

00:40:05,970 --> 00:40:09,780

come around so fast and
I can't see anything.

496

00:40:09,780 --> 00:40:13,740

I hardly see the cars
in the first lane

497

00:40:13,740 --> 00:40:17,610

and so I have abandoned this.

498

00:40:17,610 --> 00:40:19,350

Maybe one day.

499

00:40:19,350 --> 00:40:21,030

But he just told
me the other day,

500

00:40:21,030 --> 00:40:23,880

since you lost so
much more I can still

501

00:40:23,880 --> 00:40:27,000

teach you more things.

502

00:40:27,000 --> 00:40:29,850

And I will take him up on that.

503

00:40:29,850 --> 00:40:31,590

And you can always learn.

504

00:40:31,590 --> 00:40:34,180

Whatever you do you
can learn from books.

505

00:40:34,180 --> 00:40:38,110

I mean, I enjoy so much reading.

506

00:40:38,110 --> 00:40:44,580

I have never been able to have
too much time to read history.

507

00:40:44,580 --> 00:40:49,230

And I have myself involved
in that so thoroughly.

508

00:40:49,230 --> 00:40:52,710

They sent me wonderful
books and I enjoy it.

509

00:40:52,710 --> 00:40:57,190

I sometimes say, oh gosh, I have
to get up and get going here.

510

00:40:57,190 --> 00:40:58,530

I have something to do.

511

00:40:58,530 --> 00:41:00,263

But I don't want to even stop.

512

00:41:00,263 --> 00:41:02,180

What periods of history
are you interested in?

513

00:41:02,180 --> 00:41:05,385

All kinds of periods,
especially Roman history.

514

00:41:05,385 --> 00:41:08,370

515

00:41:08,370 --> 00:41:11,490

And they have wonderful books.

516

00:41:11,490 --> 00:41:13,740

And it's been a real pleasure.

517

00:41:13,740 --> 00:41:17,280

And it was funny,
because when I called up

518

00:41:17,280 --> 00:41:21,570

at the library for the
blind in Sacramento

519

00:41:21,570 --> 00:41:24,480

they assign a person
to you that you

520

00:41:24,480 --> 00:41:27,010

can talk to what kind
of books you want

521

00:41:27,010 --> 00:41:28,910

and so on and so forth.

522

00:41:28,910 --> 00:41:31,210

And I told her what
I was interested in,

523

00:41:31,210 --> 00:41:35,710

and there hasn't been one

book that she has sent me,

524

00:41:35,710 --> 00:41:39,790

and I'm doing this since
December of last year,

525

00:41:39,790 --> 00:41:48,970

that I had to send back
unread or that I didn't like

526

00:41:48,970 --> 00:41:50,960

or anything like that.

527

00:41:50,960 --> 00:41:54,640

I've never talked to her
since December of last year.

528

00:41:54,640 --> 00:41:57,138

She sends me all these
books and every one

529

00:41:57,138 --> 00:41:58,180

is better than the other.

530

00:41:58,180 --> 00:42:04,100

Are these books where it's read?

531

00:42:04,100 --> 00:42:06,220

Yes.

532

00:42:06,220 --> 00:42:14,180

Yes, I have a 4-track
tape recorder.

533

00:42:14,180 --> 00:42:19,060

The tape has four sides.

534

00:42:19,060 --> 00:42:24,700

And it's about this big.

535

00:42:24,700 --> 00:42:27,460

And then it has a switch.

536
00:42:27,460 --> 00:42:29,770
When you have read
two sides you have

537
00:42:29,770 --> 00:42:34,030
to turn the switch so that
you can read three and four.

538
00:42:34,030 --> 00:42:37,540
And they have
sometimes 19 sides,

539
00:42:37,540 --> 00:42:40,750
sometimes only eight sides.

540
00:42:40,750 --> 00:42:44,950
And I just read a
lovely story which

541
00:42:44,950 --> 00:42:51,740
had nothing to do with
history about a couple who

542
00:42:51,740 --> 00:42:54,730
were so much in love till
the end of their days.

543
00:42:54,730 --> 00:43:00,070
And this lady developed
Alzheimer's, and how

544
00:43:00,070 --> 00:43:05,020
this old man who was so
crippled himself and so sick,

545
00:43:05,020 --> 00:43:08,680
how he carried on
with this love.

546
00:43:08,680 --> 00:43:15,580
It was really very moving,
and it was only four sides.

547
00:43:15,580 --> 00:43:21,820
But the books come
from Sacramento

548
00:43:21,820 --> 00:43:30,520
encased in a little green
shell that you snap closed.

549
00:43:30,520 --> 00:43:33,640
And you just have to
turn the label around

550
00:43:33,640 --> 00:43:36,040
to send it back to them.

551
00:43:36,040 --> 00:43:37,780
It doesn't cost a penny.

552
00:43:37,780 --> 00:43:38,545
Nothing.

553
00:43:38,545 --> 00:43:39,670
That's wonderful.

554
00:43:39,670 --> 00:43:42,850
And as soon as you
send one back--

555
00:43:42,850 --> 00:43:45,190
I always have seven
books at home--

556
00:43:45,190 --> 00:43:49,840
as soon as you send one
back the next one comes.

557
00:43:49,840 --> 00:43:51,400
Now you said earlier
that there was

558
00:43:51,400 --> 00:43:53,980

one thing that you had
in the back of your mind

559
00:43:53,980 --> 00:43:56,450
that you were
thinking about doing.

560
00:43:56,450 --> 00:43:58,180
Yeah.

561
00:43:58,180 --> 00:44:02,770
Well, this was that somebody
would make a documentary

562
00:44:02,770 --> 00:44:08,380
about that and to show this
in the doctor's offices

563
00:44:08,380 --> 00:44:12,400
and wherever.

564
00:44:12,400 --> 00:44:13,990
I haven't thought
about that much,

565
00:44:13,990 --> 00:44:16,240
but I thought, wouldn't
it be wonderful

566
00:44:16,240 --> 00:44:22,240
if you come to the
doctor and you still

567
00:44:22,240 --> 00:44:26,650
have some of your sight and
you can still look at TV,

568
00:44:26,650 --> 00:44:27,700
let's say.

569
00:44:27,700 --> 00:44:31,720
I can't look at TV anymore,
but most of the time and they

570
00:44:31,720 --> 00:44:36,100
come to the doctor's office
they still have sight left.

571
00:44:36,100 --> 00:44:43,100
And to show that and show
them that this is not the end.

572
00:44:43,100 --> 00:44:46,840
This is the beginning
of a new life of what

573
00:44:46,840 --> 00:44:49,000
you can do with yourself.

574
00:44:49,000 --> 00:44:53,950
And how really resilient
a human body is,

575
00:44:53,950 --> 00:45:00,130
what you can still get out
to do good in your community,

576
00:45:00,130 --> 00:45:07,970
to do good for yourself,
and to just live your life.

577
00:45:07,970 --> 00:45:11,720
And that's what I
always had in mind.

578
00:45:11,720 --> 00:45:13,600
That's what I would love to say.

579
00:45:13,600 --> 00:45:16,110

580
00:45:16,110 --> 00:45:20,730
I am very impressed with the
Commission on Disabilities.

581

00:45:20,730 --> 00:45:27,540

They are really
doing an awful lot

582

00:45:27,540 --> 00:45:30,840

of good, a lot of awareness.

583

00:45:30,840 --> 00:45:33,690

I mean, a sighted
person really never pays

584

00:45:33,690 --> 00:45:38,970

any attention to that, like that
the bathrooms have been made

585

00:45:38,970 --> 00:45:44,070

accessible, that there are
ramps where there are stairs,

586

00:45:44,070 --> 00:45:50,130

that in the airports the signs
are so clear, that you have

587

00:45:50,130 --> 00:45:53,160

help everywhere you
go, that there's

588

00:45:53,160 --> 00:45:55,620

housing for disability people.

589

00:45:55,620 --> 00:45:58,440

590

00:45:58,440 --> 00:45:59,280

There's so much.

591

00:45:59,280 --> 00:46:02,100

They do so much,
it's unbelievable.

592

00:46:02,100 --> 00:46:04,080

I was always--

593

00:46:04,080 --> 00:46:07,590

When I remember back, even
when I was very young when

594

00:46:07,590 --> 00:46:09,840

I saw a blind person I
would always go and say,

595

00:46:09,840 --> 00:46:11,670

can I help you in any way?

596

00:46:11,670 --> 00:46:12,790

Or something like that.

597

00:46:12,790 --> 00:46:16,530

But that was really the
extent that I would go to.

598

00:46:16,530 --> 00:46:21,540

I was never going any further
to really find out what

599

00:46:21,540 --> 00:46:23,190

has happened to this person.

600

00:46:23,190 --> 00:46:24,700

Why is a person like that?

601

00:46:24,700 --> 00:46:27,180

And how does a person
live like that?

602

00:46:27,180 --> 00:46:30,660

And now of course I'm
very aware of everything.

603

00:46:30,660 --> 00:46:36,450

And I'm trying my best
to be as helpful as I can

604

00:46:36,450 --> 00:46:40,230

and to spread

awareness that people,

605

00:46:40,230 --> 00:46:43,110

even people in wheelchairs,
can live their lives.

606

00:46:43,110 --> 00:46:50,090

And people who don't hear
can still be very productive.

607

00:46:50,090 --> 00:46:53,850

608

00:46:53,850 --> 00:46:57,810

It should not be the
end of anybody's life.

609

00:46:57,810 --> 00:47:00,750

And it goes on and on and on.

610

00:47:00,750 --> 00:47:03,360

And especially I find
that older people

611

00:47:03,360 --> 00:47:10,350

get so desperate about something
like that happening to them.

612

00:47:10,350 --> 00:47:14,820

And it's true when you think
back how much you really

613

00:47:14,820 --> 00:47:19,260

read, if there's a good show
on television how much you

614

00:47:19,260 --> 00:47:21,660

enjoy that.

615

00:47:21,660 --> 00:47:26,070

And just to cross the
street without worrying,

616

00:47:26,070 --> 00:47:30,660

even just walk around the
block without thinking

617

00:47:30,660 --> 00:47:32,220

about every step you take.

618

00:47:32,220 --> 00:47:35,970

619

00:47:35,970 --> 00:47:38,640

And to function in the home.

620

00:47:38,640 --> 00:47:40,230

And it's easy.

621

00:47:40,230 --> 00:47:41,610

It's real easy.

622

00:47:41,610 --> 00:47:45,320

I even had a little party
for lunch the other day.

623

00:47:45,320 --> 00:47:48,930

We were six and I cooked.

624

00:47:48,930 --> 00:47:51,230

And I did a good job.

625

00:47:51,230 --> 00:47:53,430

I had to try myself
out if I could still

626

00:47:53,430 --> 00:47:56,100

do it because I used
to entertain so much.

627

00:47:56,100 --> 00:47:57,850

Yes, I can still do it.

628

00:47:57,850 --> 00:48:00,510

That's not the end.

629

00:48:00,510 --> 00:48:04,750

So it's been wonderful for me.

630

00:48:04,750 --> 00:48:09,660

So I really always can say

I have such a good life

631

00:48:09,660 --> 00:48:11,280

and I'm so grateful to that.

632

00:48:11,280 --> 00:48:16,350

And I must mention that I have

two wonderful children who

633

00:48:16,350 --> 00:48:21,240

are so attentive to me and

two great grandchildren.

634

00:48:21,240 --> 00:48:25,170

Not great-grandchildren,

but great grandchildren.

635

00:48:25,170 --> 00:48:30,180

And I'm really blessed

that way with everything

636

00:48:30,180 --> 00:48:32,700

that has happened.

637

00:48:32,700 --> 00:48:35,230

So I'm grateful.

638

00:48:35,230 --> 00:48:37,860

Gerda, on behalf of the

Holocaust Oral History Project,

639

00:48:37,860 --> 00:48:41,610

I want to thank you tremendously

for being willing to come

640

00:48:41,610 --> 00:48:44,280
and for sharing
your story with us.

641
00:48:44,280 --> 00:48:47,980
And for being such an
inspirational person.

642
00:48:47,980 --> 00:48:49,865
Thank you very much.

643
00:48:49,865 --> 00:48:50,740
It's been a pleasure.

644
00:48:50,740 --> 00:48:52,530
Thanks, and thank you too.

645
00:48:52,530 --> 00:48:53,970
Thank you very much too.

646
00:48:53,970 --> 00:48:57,120

647
00:48:57,120 --> 00:49:04,500
This is my school
diploma, my final exam.

648
00:49:04,500 --> 00:49:11,500
It was given to me in
1934 when I graduated.

649
00:49:11,500 --> 00:49:15,510
And as you can see, you
have the Nazi emblem.

650
00:49:15,510 --> 00:49:19,203
I'm going to open it up now
so we can see the emblem.

651
00:49:19,203 --> 00:49:24,390

652

00:49:24,390 --> 00:49:26,810
Where's the Nazi emblem?

653
00:49:26,810 --> 00:49:30,630
I think it's on the
front, isn't it?

654
00:49:30,630 --> 00:49:31,680
Wasn't it on the front?

655
00:49:31,680 --> 00:49:34,560

656
00:49:34,560 --> 00:49:35,790
What is it you asked?

657
00:49:35,790 --> 00:49:37,050
The Nazi emblem.

658
00:49:37,050 --> 00:49:38,320
Oh, I think it's here.

659
00:49:38,320 --> 00:49:39,280
Is it there?

660
00:49:39,280 --> 00:49:40,590
Yeah.

661
00:49:40,590 --> 00:49:43,380
I'm going to zoom in on it.

662
00:49:43,380 --> 00:49:44,705
Is it the eagle?

663
00:49:44,705 --> 00:49:45,580
It's the Reichstadt--

664
00:49:45,580 --> 00:49:46,980
Yeah.

665
00:49:46,980 --> 00:49:48,070

Yeah.

666
00:49:48,070 --> 00:49:52,710
It was the Nazi, that's right.

667
00:49:52,710 --> 00:49:57,760

668
00:49:57,760 --> 00:50:00,862
You want me to describe anymore?

669
00:50:00,862 --> 00:50:01,570
I don't think so.

670
00:50:01,570 --> 00:50:09,640
The grades are on
the front page and I

671
00:50:09,640 --> 00:50:12,610
thought the Nazi emblem
is also on the front

672
00:50:12,610 --> 00:50:13,780
but I guess not maybe.

673
00:50:13,780 --> 00:50:18,920

674
00:50:18,920 --> 00:50:20,470
OK.

675
00:50:20,470 --> 00:51:21,000