

1 Interview with ANNEMARIE ROEPER
2 Holocaust Oral History Project
3 Date: June 23, 1992
4 Place: San Francisco, California
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9
10 (Tape 1 of 2, both on one videotape.)
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12 MS. PROZAN: This is the Holocaust
13 Oral History Project interview of Annemarie
14 Roeper taking place in San Francisco on June
15 23rd, 1992.

16 My name is Sylvia Prozan, and the
17 second interviewer is Jake Birnberg.

18 INTERVIEW

19 BY MS. PROZAN:

20 Q. ANNEMARIE, WHERE WERE YOU BORN?

21 A. I was born in Vienna, Austria.

22 Q. WHEN?

23 A. August 27th, 1918.

24 Q. TELL ME ABOUT YOUR PARENTS. YOUR
25 FATHER'S NAME?

A. My father's name is Max Bondi. My
mother's name is Gertrude Wiener, W-i-e-n-e-r.

1 Q. WHERE WAS YOUR FATHER FROM?

2 A. My father was born in Hamburg, and my

3 mother was born in Prague.

4 Q. WHAT DID YOUR FATHER'S FAMILY DO?

5 A. Well, my father's father actually

6 came from Bohemia and emigrated to Hamburg.

7 And his parents were bakers, I think,

8 somewhere in Czechoslovakia. And I don't

9 exactly have that information with me.

10 He came as a person who had very

11 little money or background and became a banker

12 in Hamburg and became very wealthy.

13 Q. FROM A BAKER TO A BANKER?

14 A. Yeah. Well, his parents were, his

15 father -- his background.

16 And my grandmother on my father's

17 side -- you know, I have very little

18 information, really, about my family's

19 background. I don't know how much you want

20 me to just start talking about.

21 Q. WHATEVER YOU REMEMBER.

22 A. Well, I do remember -- the reason I

23 have very little information is that my father

24 really didn't want to be Jewish, and nothing

25 was ever discussed about our past. There was

1 little connection between what happened --
2 between his -- he was a very enthusiastic
3 German and volunteered in the first world war
4 along with many, many other German Jews.

5 It was really a period, especially
6 of people from a more intellectual background
7 who wanted to be German and gave up all of
8 their Jewish background. So I have very
9 little -- I don't have a Jewish upbringing
10 at all. I didn't know I was Jewish until
11 I was 11 years old. And then, it came
12 as a shock to me because someone made an
13 antiSemitic remark. And I said, "Who is
14 Jewish around here?"

15 And someone told me, "You are."
16 That's how I found out that I was Jewish,
17 but I don't know.

18 Why don't you ask me some more
19 questions?

20 Q. DO YOU REMEMBER YOUR FATHER'S PARENTS?

21 A. My father's mother died before I was
22 born. And I remember his father very well.

23 Q. WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER?

24 A. I remember that he was a very charming
25 man. He was -- he gave my -- my father had --

1 my parents ran a school, ran a boarding school.
2 And my grandfather gave him -- gave them the
3 property -- gave them money so they could buy
4 an estate not far from Hamburg on which the
5 boarding school existed. And it's a school
6 that still exists today.

7 Q. DID YOUR FATHER HAVE ANY SIBLINGS?

8 A. My father had four siblings. My
9 father was the oldest. And by the time he
10 was two, there were four children, because
11 he had -- his sister was born ten months
12 after he was born, and then twins were born
13 a year after that, and then another child
14 was born, I think, 15 years later.

15 Q. DID YOU KNOW THEM?

16 A. I know all but one of the twins
17 who died in the war.

18 Q. WERE THEY PRACTICING JEWS?

19 A. No --

20 Q. WHY --

21 A. -- except my -- my aunt married a
22 practicing Jew, so she then became practicing.
23 In fact, we were baptized -- I was baptized
24 when I was six. My whole family was baptized
25 around the time I was six.

1 Q. WHAT ABOUT YOUR MOTHER?

2 A. My mother is my father's first cousin.
3 And she was born in Prague. Her -- her -- I
4 don't know. There is so much to tell, of
5 course.

6 Her father died when she was very
7 young, and he had been blind ever since her
8 birth. He had never seen her. My mother was
9 a very beautiful woman, and she always regretted
10 that her father had never had the chance to see
11 her.

12 And they moved to Vienna. My
13 grandmother, later on, remarried. And she
14 lived in Vienna with my step-grandfather. And
15 later on, they -- she also moved to Hamburg.
16 Actually, he was a lawyer, but I think what
17 happened was that they moved to Hamburg
18 because they were really supported by my
19 father's father, because -- you know, the
20 two were sisters, my two grandmothers were
21 sisters.

22 So I have what you call a lack of
23 ancestors.

24 Q. DID YOU KNOW YOUR MOTHER'S MOTHER?

25 A. Yes. I didn't know my mother's

1 father. I knew my mother's stepfather.
2 Q. YES.
3 WHAT MEMORIES DO YOU HAVE OF YOUR
4 MOTHER'S MOTHER?
5 A. My memories of my mother's mother are
6 that she was a very warm, loving woman. She
7 was quite small. She had candy in every room
8 of her house. And as children, we could just
9 have as much candy as we wanted to, which really
10 was one of the best educational principles you
11 could have, because we never craved it like
12 other children.
13 My step-grandfather used to have a
14 cigarette box with chocolate cigarettes, and
15 whenever you came to the house, he offered
16 you this box with chocolate.
17 I also remember that my mother and my
18 grandmother didn't get along. And all of the
19 family, by the time that I have a real memory,
20 lived in the environment of Hamburg. My
21 mother's older sister and her husband lived
22 there. And my grandmother was very, very
23 close with her oldest daughter, much more so
24 than with my mother.
25 Then, there was another brother

1 between my aunt and my mother. He and his
2 family also lived in that area.

3 Q. DID YOU HAVE COUSINS?

4 A. I had lots of cousins. I had only
5 male cousins, but -- my aunt had two children,
6 two boys. My uncle had two boys, that's my
7 mother's brother. He had two boys. They all
8 lived in that area. My other aunt had three
9 boys, that's my father's sister.

10 Actually, I guess there weren't that
11 many, but there were a number of very close
12 friends, family friends. And I remember,
13 during vacation -- we were the only ones that
14 didn't live close by. We lived a little further
15 away because we grew up in my parents' boarding
16 school. But I remember, during vacation, we
17 would go to Hamburg. And I'd be surrounded
18 by only boys, not only my own family, but all
19 of the other friends. There were just no other
20 girls around except for my sister and myself.

21 Q. WHAT DID YOUR FATHER DO?

22 A. My parents ran a boarding school.

23 Q. BEFORE THAT, AT THE TIME THAT THEY
24 MARRIED.

25 DID YOUR FATHER HAVE ANY FORMAL

1 TRAINING?

2 A. Oh, yeah.

3 My mother is a medical doctor. My
4 father has a Ph.D. He is an art historian.

5 When I was born, my father was "at
6 the front," as they say, and he didn't know
7 about my birth for a while. And then he
8 received a telegram, which said -- and this
9 story has been repeated I don't know how many
10 times. It said, "Child born, sex mutilated,"
11 meaning that the telegram didn't say whether
12 it was a boy or a girl because that part of
13 the telegram was mutilated, the way it
14 arrived, so that he didn't know whether he
15 had a boy or a girl for a while.

16 Q. WHERE WAS HE EDUCATED?

17 A. Well, he was -- he went to public
18 school near Hamburg. And he went to different
19 universities. In Germany, you just don't stay
20 in the same place. But he got his Ph.D. in
21 a little university town named Erlangen,
22 E-r-l-a-n-g-e-n. That was after the war.

23 You know, all the details about both
24 of my parents' backgrounds, I have brought you
25 a little booklet. And they did a great deal of

1 research in the school -- now -- in the school
2 of my parents, and they've got a whole little
3 booklet about their background.

4 Q. JUST WHAT YOU REMEMBER.

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. WHAT ABOUT YOUR MOTHER? WHERE DID
7 SHE RECEIVE HER MEDICAL TRAINING?

8 A. In Vienna.

9 She got her -- she was one of the
10 first women doctors. And later on, she became
11 a psychoanalyst. And she was doing her --

12 Oh, what do you call that when you are
13 at a hospital doing your training?

14 Q. INTERNSHIP?

15 A. -- internship right during the time
16 that I was born, and so she took me to the
17 hospital. I spent the first three months in
18 the hospital because she only could do her
19 training if she took me along. So she --
20 actually, she had never expected to have any
21 children. She had been told she wasn't going
22 to be able to have children. And also, she
23 had suspected that my grandfather had syphilis
24 and that that's why he was blind, which is true,
25 he did have. That's what he had. So she warned

1 all of the family that they should be -- before
2 they had any children, they should make sure
3 that they were safe.

4 And when she then had a medical
5 examination, she was told she wasn't going to
6 have any children. She was really going to be
7 a professional woman. And all of a sudden, she
8 did. I came along. And the way the story goes
9 is that she wasn't really expecting me to be
10 born as yet, at the time that I was born. And
11 she was jumping on a running streetcar because
12 she was late for her appointment at the hospital.
13 And all of a sudden, she realized the baby was
14 coming. So she had to somehow get to the
15 hospital and have me.

16 Q. BY STREETCAR?

17 A. Well, she got there by streetcar,
18 right.

19 So then, I was born. And she just
20 took me back to the hospital every day for
21 three months until she realized that I had
22 lice. And I got it, somehow, in the hospital.
23 It was during the war. It wasn't a very good
24 place for me, and she stopped taking me.

25 She nursed me until I was almost two

1 years old, mostly because there was very little
2 food around in those days, and the only way she
3 could keep me healthy was by nursing me -- you
4 know, by continuing to give me -- to breast feed
5 me. And I don't remember this, of course, but
6 she said that I was already walking and just
7 would be running up to her breast and be nursed.
8 I guess that's my very first experience.

9 My father didn't meet me until I was
10 quite a bit older. You see, I was born in
11 August, and the war wasn't over until, I think,
12 the end of -- I think, until September or later
13 than that. And then it took a while before he
14 came home.

15 And he wasn't too happy to meet me, I
16 think. They had never lived together, actually.
17 I think they got married during the war just when
18 he came home for furlough or something. And then
19 he came, and there was I. And so he wasn't all
20 that interested in me.

21 Another story is that he always tried
22 to put me in the wastebasket. And they were
23 sort of living a student kind of life, especially
24 during those years when they were in Erlangen.

25 There was a story about me, where

1 my -- I had a nurse who took care of me, and she
2 used to take me out in a buggy somewhere. And
3 apparently, she would leave me in the buggy and
4 then go off with her boyfriend. So one day, my
5 mother was walking along and found me all by
6 myself, without supervision, in that buggy. So
7 she took me home. And when the nurse came back,
8 she didn't find me. And there came, of course,
9 a big upset.

10 Those are the stories I've been told.

11 Q. DID YOU HAVE SIBLINGS?

12 A. I have two siblings, a sister and a
13 brother.

14 My sister died, when she was 49, of
15 cancer. And we were in this country by that
16 time, of course.

17 Q. AND YOUR BROTHER?

18 A. And my brother took over the school
19 of my parents after we moved here, after --
20 my father was very ill, even before we left
21 Germany. And he had a kind of illness -- and
22 I'm forgetting the name now -- where you have
23 too many red blood cells. And it's the opposite
24 of leukemia, but it's a kind of cancer. And he
25 had that for many, many years. He had to have

1 blood taken out because he had too much, I think.
2 And he finally died of that disease. And then,
3 my brother took over the school together with
4 my mother.

5 Q. YOU WERE BORN IN VIENNA. AND THEN, WHEN
6 THE WAR ENDED IN NOVEMBER, YOUR FATHER CAME HOME.

7 A. And then I lived in Erlangen for a while.

8 Q. WHICH IS WHERE?

9 A. Which is in the southern part of Germany.
10 It's a small, little town.

11 Q. AND WHY DID THE FAMILY MOVE TO GERMANY?

12 A. That's where they found a place to -- I
13 mean, that's where they graduated. I think my
14 mother went back to school there, and my father
15 got his Ph.D. And I think he's always -- my
16 father was a member of the youth movement, which
17 was -- actually, it was, among young people, a
18 very frequent thing at that time. It was sort
19 of comparable to the '60s here, I think, where
20 they were all back to nature and no drinking and
21 very natural kind of living -- free love.

22 And out of that grew his idea that he
23 was going to start a school which would live
24 by those principles. And so he and my mother
25 founded this school in a little town in the

1 southern part of Germany. At first, they had
2 it together with another man, and the two of
3 them separated because the other man was a
4 communist -- I think that was the reason --
5 and they moved to another -- rented a place.
6 Oh, and my sister was born in that first
7 place where our school was. If you want
8 the name, it was called Bruckenau, B-r-u-
9 -- umlaut -- -c-k-e-n-a-u.

10 And then we moved to -- and after
11 they separated from this other man, whose
12 name was Putz, P-u-t-z, they rented a place
13 in another little town called Gandersheim.
14 And that was also more in the middle of
15 Germany. It was spelled G-a-n-d-e-r-s-h-e-i-m.
16 My brother was born there. Both my sister and
17 brother -- well, I don't know about my sister.
18 I know my brother was born at home -- in the
19 school, right in the middle of the school.
20 And I remember I was sent somewhere to some
21 other part of the building while he was being
22 born. And somehow I remember that moment,
23 that I was just standing all by myself
24 somewhere in the front of the building and
25 realizing that my next -- my sibling was

1 being born and sort of wondering about it.

2 And I was six at the time.

3 We stayed in Gandersheim until I
4 was about 10. By that time, the school was
5 about -- maybe about 30 students. And my
6 future husband was already a student there.
7 And there were very few girls. In fact,
8 boarding schools weren't supposed to be --

9 What is the word? -- not bisexual.
10 There's another word.

11 Q. COEDUCATIONAL?

12 A. -- coeducational. So that whenever
13 there was any kind of inspection, there were
14 three or four girls besides me, and we all
15 had to disappear, go on a hike or something,
16 because there weren't actually any girls
17 supposed to be there.

18 Actually, the school, the classes
19 didn't really start until what would be, I
20 think, fourth grade here or fifth grade,
21 because in Germany, you had something that
22 was called a preschool, which was for the
23 first three years, three or four years.
24 And I went to the village school, where they
25 didn't treat me very well at all because

1 they were -- they were sort of jealous of
2 the -- of the students at my parents' school
3 because they were high school students, and
4 they made friends with the girls in the
5 village. Somehow, they were more attractive
6 to them than the village people. So there
7 was a resentment against the school, which
8 was being expressed to me when I went to
9 that school.

10 Also, I was sick all the time. It
11 seems to me that the classrooms were in very,
12 very old sort of musty buildings, and I was
13 just not doing very well there. So my
14 parents took me out, and they took a few
15 other children my age and started some
16 younger classes. And after that, I was
17 being educated at my parents' school.

18 It was always a strange thing to
19 be both a student there and to be the
20 children of the directors, because all of
21 my life, I really -- my parents were very
22 popular among the students. They had a
23 totally different approach to education
24 than people did in Germany, which was
25 mostly -- which was, you know, much more

1 authoritarian than you can ever imagine
2 here. Teachers would say you are a good
3 teacher if your children will obey you,
4 if they will jump out of the window if you
5 tell them to. They weren't going to use
6 their own judgment. Obedience was the
7 basis of their whole education.

8 My parents had the totally
9 opposite point of view. They were called
10 by their first name. They had very close
11 personal relationships with the students.
12 There was a student government where children
13 participated in all the decisionmaking. It
14 went much beyond anything that you might find
15 in this country now.

16 And from there, we moved to Marienau,
17 which was near Hamburg. That's spelled
18 M-a-r-i-e-n-a-u. And that was the estate
19 which my grandfather bought for my father.
20 That's really the place where I -- I was
21 already ten by the time we moved there. I
22 was old enough to really participate in the
23 community. And I spent eight years of my
24 life there, but I feel that -- I used to
25 feel -- I still feel that that was where

1 I felt at home. That's where my life,
2 where I really began to grow and where I
3 had a -- it was sort of the foundation of
4 my life. It was a very, very happy life.
5 It was -- I never had a family life. We
6 never sat down as a family until we came
7 to America. I was a member of the school
8 community, and my parents were the final
9 authority both for me and for everybody
10 else. So I didn't have what other children
11 have, that they sort of began to take the
12 next step and relate to teachers and
13 other people. All there was for me was
14 my parents, which I think is a totally
15 different upbringing than most other
16 children have.

17 But it was a true community, and
18 relationships to teachers were also very
19 close. I mean, not everything was always
20 fine, but I look back on it -- and this has
21 never changed -- as an absolutely wonderfully
22 happy time. It was also a very beautiful
23 landscape, which was most important for the
24 feeling of community there. It was pretty --
25 it was way out in the country, far away from

1 most other places, and it was in the heather.
2 Especially in the fall, you could see miles
3 and miles of purple interspersed with birch
4 trees and forsythia and lambs. It was an
5 unusual landscape and sort of slightly hilly.
6 We would take walks there a lot. I couldn't
7 separate the landscape from my life. It was
8 sort of integrated into everything we did.

9 Then, in 1933, the Nazis came.
10 And -- oh. Maybe I should still say, it was
11 such a protected and happy time that, in my
12 mind, I remember saying to somebody that war
13 is history. "There will never be another
14 war." Somehow, that's the way it felt to me.
15 It was -- I mean, not that I was always happy
16 or not that there were no conflicts. There
17 was a normal kind of growing up, but all of
18 this was within the context of that community
19 and of being -- feeling totally protected and
20 taken care of.

21 Then, when the Nazis came and all of
22 that ended, for me it was a total, total shock,
23 because these powerful parents of mine, all of
24 a sudden, were powerless. At first my father
25 took in another man, who was supposed to be

1 in charge of curriculum, but he was really
2 supposed to take over for him -- it was a
3 friend of his -- so that they wouldn't be
4 running the school, wouldn't be as visibly
5 running the school.

6 One memory I have, somehow I feel
7 that maybe that was the day that -- well, I
8 was 15 in '33, so I must have been 16 or so.
9 We had a festival day that was always sort of
10 the high point, when the parents were invited.
11 And there were plays and music and sports
12 activities and so on. And all of a sudden, I
13 looked out of the window and I saw this brown
14 ocean coming toward me. And what had happened
15 was that the SR -- you know, not the SS; they
16 are the worst ones. The brown ones were the
17 SR -- sturmabteilung is what they were -- sort
18 of decided they were going to participate in
19 that festival. They decided -- my mother was
20 providing food for all of the guests, and all
21 of a sudden she had to provide for 200 more
22 people, because these people then came from
23 the village, they were the village people, and
24 had decided they were going to participate in
25 it. And I think that image is sort of a --

1 probably a memory that covers a lot of how it
2 felt to me, this total dissolving of what my
3 life had been.

4 (Ms. Roeper has tears in her eyes.)

5 I have another memory of that time,
6 which I -- I had written, and I brought it here
7 for you. I wrote it about five years ago. And
8 I think it sort of shows my feelings more than
9 anything else. I had walked to the village by
10 myself. There was this small village, and in
11 order to walk there, you had to go across sort
12 of a little country road. And I remember this
13 walk because it was such a beautiful walk. It
14 was in spring, and they had these huge wheat
15 fields that the wind would sort of blow over.
16 And the wind sort of touched my cheeks, and I
17 just loved that walk. That's the thing that I
18 remember. And I got to the village, and I had
19 to buy some books or something. And all of a
20 sudden, I found myself in the middle of a
21 group. I heard this voice, this loud voice.
22 And out of this radio, this loudspeaker, came
23 Hitler's voice. You know, he had a specific
24 way -- all the Nazis had a specific kind of
25 tone. They would speak louder than their

1 voice box allowed them to, I think, so then
2 it became a kind of shrill sort of thing.

3 Here, Hitler was speaking. And
4 without my knowing, I was surrounded by
5 these redneck people. And I couldn't even
6 move. I couldn't move because they were all
7 standing in front of that box listening to
8 Hitler. Every few moments they would lift
9 their arm and shout, "Heil, Hitler," and
10 their arms would go right by my face. And
11 then, of course, I remember thinking, "Am
12 I going to -- am I a coward if I don't say,
13 'Heil, Hitler,' like all the rest? Are
14 they going to kill me if I do or if I
15 don't?"

16 I don't remember whether I did
17 that or not, but I do remember this feeling
18 of total evil around me -- it's funny, after
19 55 years.

20 (Ms. Roeper cries.)

21 Do you have a Kleenex ready?

22 (Ms. Roeper smiles.)

23 And also, the total helplessness.
24 You know, I remember the thoughts that went
25 through my mind that people did know who I

1 was. People knew I was Jewish. We were
2 probably the only Jews anywhere around there.
3 If anybody wanted to do anything to me, they
4 probably could, and nothing would happen to
5 them. This was early in the Nazi period, and
6 probably it wasn't even quite true, but it
7 sort of felt like that.

8 I don't know the end of the story.
9 I just remember the feeling of total evil and
10 of this being surrounded by a wild animal.
11 That's how it felt.

12 And the strange thing is that when
13 this fire happened and I wrote a letter --
14 a Christmas letter, actually, to all of our
15 friends, all of the people who had been so
16 helpful -- I described the fire as this animal
17 coming at me which was so much more powerful
18 than I was. And I had lost this little thing
19 that I had written. Someone just gave it to
20 me, actually, a few days ago. And I found
21 that I used exactly the same words to describe
22 that situation as I did to describe the fire.

23 Q. WHICH FIRE?

24 A. This -- the Oakland fire. You know,
25 we were in the Oakland fire.

1 And it was -- it was just amazing.
2 I mean, it's strange. It truly was a total
3 repetition for me -- I mean, all these many
4 years later. It was just the second time
5 that I had to flee, but it was also a totally
6 different feeling because, with the fire, I
7 felt in control. My mind just -- and I
8 remember watching my mind, that I think the
9 survival instinct took totally over, and I
10 didn't feel -- you know, usually you have a
11 number of layers of different thoughts at the
12 same time. There was nothing else in my mind
13 but that I had to get my husband out from way
14 downstairs, when he could hardly walk. I had
15 to get the car out. I had to get my purse.
16 And I had to be in total control, but I was.
17 I managed it.

18 And I also thought, later on, how
19 very -- I mean, it was a repetition, but it
20 was a very different repetition. And also,
21 this has been several -- in our school in
22 Michigan, which I have to tell you about
23 later, but someone wrote an article about
24 that, because the reality is that my
25 husband -- and I'm not being sequential

1 about this; is that all right? -- had
2 really saved me and my whole family from
3 the Nazis in some way, because he -- he
4 was not Jewish. And he took care of all
5 sorts of things for us.

6 Among them, he saw to it, one of
7 the important things was that you had to get
8 a passport so you could get out. If you had
9 a "J" on your passport, then things were
10 much more difficult. He went for us to the
11 passport place and somehow convinced them not
12 to put a J into our passports. And in many
13 ways he just -- he helped to sell the school,
14 and he did all sorts of things.

15 And then, later on, after we had
16 left Germany, I had come back to Vienna to
17 study, because I wanted to become a
18 psychoanalyst. And he was still in Hamburg.
19 And he called me and said, "The Nazis are
20 marching into Austria. You have to get out
21 right away." So that was the second time,
22 actually, he saved me, because I left with
23 the last train that came out of Vienna where
24 they didn't take the Jews off at the border.
25 And if he hadn't called me, and if I hadn't

1 gone right away -- I went immediately. I
2 mean, he called me in the morning, and I
3 left -- then, you know, I would have been
4 kept back.

5 Q. GOING BACK TO THE EARLIER PART OF
6 YOUR LIFE, WHAT IS THE FIRST MEMORY YOU HAVE
7 OF JEWS -- YOU DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE JEWISH --
8 OF SOMEBODY ELSE BEING JEWISH?

9 A. Well, the first memory I have --
10 well, a lot of other thoughts are coming to
11 my mind, but the first memory I had was that
12 my aunt's family, who lived right next door
13 to my grandfather, because he had built his
14 house and her house, celebrated Chanukah.
15 And we celebrated Christmas right next door.
16 But then, we would go over to have Chanakuh
17 in her -- in her house. I still -- I don't
18 know if I had a mental block or something,
19 but also, it really wasn't important at
20 that time. I should say that, too. It
21 was a period where, especially in Hamburg,
22 there -- my first real experience with
23 antiSemitism was outside of Germany. I
24 didn't experience -- that's not true. I
25 mean, before the Nazis. I didn't experience

1 anything or hear of anything that was
2 antiSemitism until the Nazis came. That was
3 another reason why it was such a shocking
4 thing for me.

5 Q. DID YOU KNOW ANY OTHER JEWS OTHER
6 THAN YOUR AUNT, YOUR FAMILY?

7 A. Oh, yeah. There were some Jewish in
8 our school. There was a young boy, with whom
9 we are still very close friends, who was Jewish.
10 It was not something that was ever discussed in
11 my circles, not only with my parents, but my
12 family never talked about it.

13 Q. WHAT ABOUT AT CHRISTMASTIME?

14 A. Christmastime, we celebrated
15 Christmas. I mean -- we were not religious.
16 It was totally -- you know, it was a time you
17 give presents and you had a Christmas tree, and
18 you sang some songs, but we didn't ever -- you
19 know, it was a free-thinking -- it was a period
20 of free thinking. It was reason, or else you --
21 we had -- I mean, we used to talk a lot about
22 "Is there a God or is there not a God?" We had
23 a theory; we had a feeling. We learned a lot
24 about the Eastern religions, much as they do
25 here now. I knew quite a bit about Buddhism.

1 I believed that there was a God in everything
2 and everybody and that -- it was what we called
3 a pantheist religion. It was just -- you know,
4 you talked about the tasks -- you had a life
5 and how were you going to serve mankind, and
6 what was friendship, and -- I mean, there were
7 a lot of intellectual discussions.

8 My father was an art historian, and
9 I learned a great deal about art. We had
10 wonderful music at our school. I learned a
11 lot about America. It was the thing you were
12 interested in. Except I never, ever thought
13 I was going to live here.

14 Q. ALL RIGHT.

15 WERE THERE ANY RELIGIOUS JEWS OR
16 JEWS THAT WERE OBVIOUSLY ORTHODOX THAT YOU
17 CAME IN CONTACT WITH OR SAW?

18 A. Not many. Not in my -- not in my
19 environment. I don't know anybody that went
20 to temple.

21 Q. HOW ABOUT CHURCH?

22 A. Or church, no. You just didn't.
23 Except, that's when I was -- you know, I
24 told you, we were baptized. And then, after
25 the Nazis came, our not being Jewish took on

1 a different form. It became a kind of, a way
2 of -- of trying to not be hurt. And I remember,
3 I did -- I was -- I don't know what you call it.
4 We were Lutherans. I mean, that was as far as
5 we got, in terms of religion, except that I
6 was -- I can't think of the word now.

7 You know, when you are 13?

8 Q. BAT MITZVAHED?

9 A. Well, confirmed, yeah.

10 I didn't want to have anything to do
11 with that. And my mother insisted that I would
12 go through with it. She said, "But you do
13 believe in this?"

14 And I said, "No." And I knew she
15 didn't. It was my first big disappointment,
16 because I knew it was an opportunistic thing
17 that she did. She knew it would help me.

18 Q. HOW WOULD IT HELP YOU?

19 A. It would help me by not being
20 identified as a Jew. And that was not
21 what -- that was not her reason. And I
22 said, her reason was not that she was
23 religious or I was religious. She felt
24 that it would be a good thing. In those
25 days, you really thought the Nazis were

1 going to be a passing thing. You thought,
2 "We'll just make it through it," and --
3 but I think that this -- and actually, in
4 another way, my father really became rather
5 Christian, not in a religious way, but he
6 felt that the Christian ethics were what
7 he believed in.

8 It looks like all this is shocking
9 you.

10 Q. YES.

11 A. Good.

12 And this, I think, has become one of
13 the -- one of my problems of my life, because
14 once I found out I was Jewish, I thought I
15 should be Jewish. I thought that it was -- you
16 know, I felt this dishonesty that my parents
17 were -- mostly my father. My mother just went
18 along with it, but that it was a disappointment
19 for me. But also, I think it isolated me.

20 I've just now got a book from a friend
21 of ours who described the young Jews in Germany,
22 age, oh, 14 through 17 or something, who were
23 being prepared to leave the country. In fact,
24 my uncle -- oh, sure. There was my uncle, my
25 father's brother, was Jewish. My father was

1 not. But as I said, it never played a great
2 role.

3 But he, I think, probably -- maybe
4 in '34 or '35 -- started a school for
5 emigrants, for people who were to emigrate,
6 a school for young German Jews, who learned
7 agriculture, who learned how to work, you know,
8 on farms, learned farming in one of the East
9 German -- that someone gave him a big piece of
10 property where he educated these children for
11 about two years before he had to leave. And
12 then, I think it existed for another year,
13 and then this thing was closed. But I had
14 not realized until I read this book that there
15 were a number of places like that in Germany
16 and that they were quite well organized in
17 preparation for either emigration to Israel
18 or America or other places.

19 What happened -- and it was then
20 that I began to really miss the fact that I
21 wasn't identified with that. I really didn't
22 have what other people had, namely, the bond
23 among them, because I had no Jewish background
24 and no -- no Jewish community. I didn't have
25 that at all. And yet, you know, my -- you

1 know, we were Jews, and we had the same fate
2 that everybody else did.

3 Q. WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER ABOUT THE DAY
4 THAT YOU WERE TOLD YOU WERE JEWISH?

5 A. Well, I was 11 years old. And we
6 were on a class trip. And we were in what is
7 now Gdansk. At that time, that was part of
8 East Germany; that was Danzig.

9 We were walking through the streets,
10 and some children were throwing rocks, throwing
11 stones at us. And I was very frightened. And
12 they made some antiSemitic remarks. That was
13 the first time I ever heard an antiSemitic
14 remark. And I said, "My goodness," you know.
15 I was just terrified. I said to a young -- a
16 boy who was next to me, "And nobody is even
17 Jewish in this group" or something like that.

18 He said, "Yes. There are two Jews
19 here."

20 And I said, "Who are they?"

21 And he said, "You and I." That was
22 how I first found out that I was Jewish.

23 Q. WHAT DID YOU THINK?

24 A. I was very stunned. I -- I didn't --
25 I don't know what I thought. I just remember

1 this incident as an incident.

2 Q. DID YOU THINK IT WAS TRUE?

3 A. Yes -- yeah.

4 Actually, I never doubted that it
5 wasn't true. I probably did know it, and
6 that's the thing I've often wondered about.
7 It was not discussed in our family. I was
8 baptized when I was six, all of us were, my
9 brother was just born, my sister was three,
10 both my parents. We were all baptized. You
11 usually remember, six is not that young, but
12 I don't remember anything about that.

13 But not only my family was -- I
14 mean, not only my immediate family, but my
15 other relatives were all baptized, I don't
16 know, about the same time. The reality,
17 actually, is that all of our friends were
18 Jewish, and they were all baptized, except
19 for my father's sister's family. And it --
20 well, I don't quite know.

21 Q. DID YOU HAVE A DISCUSSION WITH
22 YOUR PARENTS AFTER THIS INCIDENT?

23 A. No. It wasn't very important. I
24 mean, that's what I'm -- that must be hard
25 to understand, but it was that we were so

1 totally assimilated, I mean, everybody in my
2 environment, too. It was not very important.

3 And actually, probably what I
4 remember was this incident and then I found
5 out I was Jewish, but it didn't change
6 anything.

7 Q. WHEN DID A CHANGE OCCUR?

8 A. Probably when I saw those brown
9 people coming in and when it became a
10 matter of, within our school, people,
11 students, children having to become members
12 of the youth, Hitler youth. And, of course,
13 you know, my family wasn't participating in
14 that. But even that didn't seem -- it
15 wasn't anything we wanted to do. And we
16 were so integrated in that whole -- I think
17 what made it different was that our identity
18 was with that school. That was, you know,
19 more -- and also, it was such a safe place.
20 There wasn't -- I mean, I was frightened when
21 people threw rocks at me, but it wasn't --
22 it didn't really upset me at the time. I
23 didn't see it in the same context. I think
24 that's --

25 Q. WHEN YOU HAD THIS SENSE OF -- THIS

1 STRONG SENSE OF EVIL, THAT YOU WERE IN THE
2 MIDST OF EVIL, WHY DO YOU THINK YOU FELT
3 "EVIL"?

4 A. Oh, by that time, that was maybe --
5 I think this class trip -- I was 11. So
6 that was before the Nazis came. But I had
7 the sense of evil after the Nazis were there,
8 when I began to realize that we would be
9 leaving. In '36, it was very clear that we
10 had to leave the country. And my mother went
11 to Switzerland and started a school there and
12 took my younger brother and sister with her.
13 And I stayed with my father in -- in the
14 school in Marienau, because I just had one
15 more year before -- it was my last year, and
16 I was graduating that year.

17 Q. GOING BACK TO THE TIME THE NAZIS
18 FIRST CAME, WHAT ARE THE INITIAL CHANGES
19 THAT YOU REMEMBER IN THE SCHOOL, IN THE
20 ADMINISTRATION, IN YOUR LIFE IN 1933?

21 A. That was very strange. There was
22 the Hitler youth in there. And this man
23 came in to help my father who was not Jewish.

24 Q. IS THAT MR. PUTZ?

25 A. No, no. This man's name was

1 Donandt, D-o-n-a-n-d-t. No. Mr. Putz was
2 in that very first school, but the school
3 went on the way it was.

4 And, in fact, about a month ago, I
5 went to Germany because the school there had
6 built a memorial for my parents. They had
7 built a building in the name of my parents,
8 and it was my father's hundredth birthday --
9 I mean, memorial. So they had a very nice
10 memorial service for him.

11 And one of the former students
12 gave a speech about -- he called it something,
13 a continuing democracy within -- or secret
14 democracy within the Third Reich, because it
15 went on the way it had. They had the school
16 student government, the school government that
17 I told you about, where everybody participated
18 in all the decisions. My parents had -- their
19 relationships were unchanged. The students
20 would come and say goodnight to my parents
21 every night when they were already in bed.
22 And it just continued, for a while, the way
23 it was. So there was little to be noticed,
24 except there were some incidents. This is
25 one thing that was terribly frightening to

1 me.

2 There was this -- within the school,
3 there was this Hitler youth organization, and
4 some money had been stolen from them. And
5 they -- and there were some Nazis that did
6 an investigation. We were all herded into
7 a room, but this investigation, it was not
8 directed particularly against us. It was
9 all the students were herded into that room.
10 All of their rooms were, you know, totally
11 searched, and it was -- it was awfully,
12 awfully frightening.

13 And then, my mother somehow
14 figured out and it turned out that the person
15 who had stolen that money was the leader of
16 that organization. And he had stolen, you
17 know, his own money. And when his mother --
18 he must have been 16 or something. When his
19 mother heard about that, she sent him to
20 Africa. I remember that. She wouldn't let
21 him come home. She said she was dishonored
22 by her son having done this thing. And what
23 I remember is that I couldn't imagine that
24 a mother would be so cruel that she didn't
25 try to teach him that it was wrong. I don't

1 know. I remember feeling sorry for that
2 boy rather than much else.

3 But it wasn't that much of a --
4 it was an experience that was shared with
5 everybody in this community. It wasn't
6 something where the Jews were picked out as
7 being the ones who most likely had done this.

8 Q. WHEN DID YOU FIRST BECOME AWARE
9 THAT THERE WERE CHANGES, BECAUSE OF YOUR
10 BEING JEWISH -- CHANGES FOR THE JEWS IN
11 GERMANY?

12 A. I think, mostly through these
13 personal things -- I mean, that personal
14 experience that I had. Oh, yeah. Well,
15 I guess I'm not -- you see, I think what
16 it was for me, it was more a difference
17 between the good guys and the bad guys.

18 In the school, after a while,
19 you knew exactly who were the Nazis and
20 who weren't the Nazis, who were the people
21 you could talk to and you couldn't talk
22 to, who were the people you had to be
23 afraid of. And I began to be just very
24 scared personally -- I don't know. You
25 know, it's strange, because it seems to

1 me that there are times when I could tell
2 this whole story quite differently.

3 I think that the greatest -- I
4 guess, for me, it wasn't a problem of Jewish
5 or not Jewish. It was a problem of evil or
6 not evil. I just thought these people were
7 so evil. I mean, I had always thought that
8 you were supposed to be good to each other
9 and helpful. And, you know, I had a whole
10 psychoanalytic upbringing that you had to
11 think about other people's feelings and
12 try to be supportive of others. And I
13 think that's -- you know, that's probably
14 what I've done all of my life.

15 And it, I think -- you know, I
16 know my husband and I were friends since
17 I was six years old. And I knew I was
18 going to marry him when I was 13 or
19 something. He was not Jewish. And
20 he -- he was very much of a hero for me.

21 Q. YOU SPOKE ABOUT YOUR PARENTS,
22 EVERYTHING ENDING AND YOUR PARENTS
23 BEING POWERLESS.

24 WHEN DID YOU ARRIVE AT THAT
25 FEELING?

1 A. I'm sure that that didn't happen
2 from one day to the next. I think, when
3 I realized that they -- that they had to
4 leave, that they had to -- that they could
5 not combat this evil. They couldn't. The
6 country was taken over by -- by insanity.
7 That's the way it felt.

8 Then, I think, when it was the
9 most impressive thing for me was that last
10 year that my father and I were sort of left
11 behind. My mother had already left, and we
12 were the only ones there. He was already
13 sick, but he was in a total, total depression.
14 He was so -- he had become absolutely silent.
15 And I remember a meal. And it's probably
16 incidents that tell you the most.

17 We were all -- you know, the whole
18 school was always eating together. And I
19 remember that I was sitting at the table,
20 at his table, with a group of other people.
21 We were all sitting there talking, and he
22 came in late. And his expression was so
23 terribly sad that sort of a silence spread
24 across the room, and not that it was the
25 habit that when the headmaster comes in you

1 were quiet. He could have just come in and
2 sat down and would have come in late, and
3 that was it. Out of normal circumstances,
4 no one would have stopped talking. They
5 would have continued and just said hello
6 to him. But there was something about
7 the expression in his face and his whole
8 posture that was so depressed and so
9 unhappy. And most of these students had
10 a very close relationship to him. There
11 are about 60 of them that still do. They
12 are still around. And that's a whole
13 extra story, how they dealt with it and
14 with their being Germans and their, you
15 know, realizing that my parents had to
16 leave and all of that. And that's -- I
17 think the thing I remember most about that
18 year was his total depression and inability
19 to really -- to change the situation.

20 Q. WAS HE STILL IN CONTROL OF THE
21 SCHOOL?

22 A. Yes. He was still in control of
23 the school. But at the end of the year,
24 when I graduated, he and I both left the
25 school. And by that time, it had been sold

1 to somebody else, and we went to Switzerland.
2 That was in '37.

3 Q. NOW, IN 1936, YOUR MOTHER WENT TO
4 SWITZERLAND.

5 DO YOU REMEMBER ANY INCIDENTS AROUND
6 HER DEPARTING? DID SHE PACK AND LEAVE AS IF
7 SHE WERE LEAVING FOREVER?

8 A. I don't remember that much about that
9 at all. I remember my father and me departing.

10 Q. What do you remember about that?

11 A. I remember that -- and there are
12 some pictures of it, too -- we were leaving
13 in the car. He had always -- there was a
14 big place in front of the building. It was
15 sort of like a square. There were several
16 buildings that made the square. And he had
17 always had the habit that he would, before
18 he left anywhere, he would drive around a
19 few times -- he would call it the honor
20 round -- and sort of wave to everybody.
21 When that happened the last time, and
22 there were still people standing around
23 and they were all waving goodbye, I had
24 the feeling then that I could not bear
25 the pain, and that I would have to just

1 turn off all of my feelings or else I
2 couldn't bear it, that I would die
3 because it was so -- it was such a --
4 our departure, it wasn't as a departure,
5 it was a kind of death. That's the way
6 I remember it.

7 (Ms. Roeper has tears in her eyes.)

8 And the reality is that I did turn
9 off my feelings. I remember that everything
10 that happened after that and then emigrating
11 here, it was like -- like -- first of all,
12 like things didn't happen, like I wasn't
13 really living. It's only when, many years
14 later now, I can cry about it. I couldn't
15 do any of that. And I felt totally alienated,
16 also, from -- you know, I never felt at home
17 here. Neither did I feel at home in Germany.
18 I felt that in spite of the fact that I had
19 a very rich and rewarding life -- and we
20 haven't even gotten into that part -- that a
21 lot of me was not really living. And it
22 actually only came -- something came back to
23 me when I finally began to sort of believe
24 that the people who are now running the
25 German school -- and the man who is running

1 it now took it on because he was impressed
2 with my parents' theories -- he wanted to
3 continue what my parents had started. They
4 built -- they collected the money to build
5 that building. And they had me speak at
6 the dedication of that building. That
7 sort of allowed me to, in some way, bring
8 my life back into a circle in some way.

9 And what I said in that speech,
10 then, is that I actually felt that I'd
11 lived two lives or that my life had ended
12 when I left Germany. That my real life
13 began at the age of 21, which is when I
14 came here, when I got married. And it was
15 like I forgot -- even now, talking to you --
16 I -- I forgot most of everything. And I
17 know I've heard that of other people, too,
18 that there is a kind of amnesia that took
19 place. And now things are coming back to
20 me that I had forgotten about my youth.

21 Q. JUST RIGHT NOW, DURING THIS TIME?

22 A. No, no. During the last few years,
23 it's been coming back to me.

24 And the fire brought a lot back.
25 The fire really awakened a lot of my early

1 feelings.

2 And also, it actually happened
3 before, when we left our school in Michigan
4 and moved to California. I went through a
5 period of a kind of panic. I -- no, I don't
6 think it was a nervous breakdown, but I had
7 some -- some real emotional, strange emotional
8 reactions. And I felt then that leaving the
9 German school -- I mean, the school in
10 Michigan, made it possible for me to, for the
11 first time, experience my -- my leaving the
12 German school, that it was just, also, a
13 repetition -- you know, moving all the way
14 across the country, which happened nine years
15 ago. It was like a reaction, experiencing
16 something 50 years later. That's really
17 what happened.

18 And the fire did it all over
19 again, but in a different way, because there
20 I really felt in charge. This leaving the
21 Michigan school where I had had a very happy,
22 wonderful life, really -- and then I left
23 again -- and it was --

24 Q. WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER ABOUT YOUR
25 FATHER SELLING THE SCHOOL? DID HE EVER

1 SIT DOWN AND TALK TO YOU ABOUT IT?

2 A. Actually, my husband did that.
3 He became very much -- he was a very -- he
4 was one of my parents' students, but he was
5 their favorite student. And my father was
6 paralyzed. He couldn't do anything.

7 What my husband did was that he
8 got in touch with all the -- there were
9 quite a number of private schools who had
10 more or less the same kind of philosophy
11 as my parents did. And so what he did
12 was get in touch with the other schools
13 to see if there was somebody there who
14 would want to buy it. It was then sold
15 to a young teacher from one of the other
16 schools. It was sold for very little
17 money. And the money, as soon as it was
18 paid out, was confiscated by the Nazis.

19 But there is a very interesting
20 history connected with that because,
21 actually, that's the reason I'm here today
22 is because the wife of the man who took
23 over my parents' school was the sister of
24 one of the people who was killed in the
25 White Rose, so she was put in prison also.

1 It was very -- it was real luck that they
2 were able to even continue the school,
3 because they never -- they remained as
4 anti-Nazi, I think, as they could possibly
5 be without being closed down. So she was
6 sent to prison because her brother was
7 among the White Rose people.

8 Q. WHO WAS SENT TO PRISON?

9 A. The wife of the man who took over
10 my parents' school.

11 There, she met another woman, whose
12 brother had also been in the White Rose. And
13 she, then, came to Marienau, and she -- Knoop
14 is the name of the man who took over the school,
15 K-n-o-o-p. And I don't know the circumstances,
16 but he divorced his first wife and married
17 Anna Lisa Knoop, who is now one of the leaders
18 of the White Rose, and who was also in prison
19 because her brother was one of the people in
20 the White Rose.

21 MS. PROZAN: Okay. I just --
22 well --

23 (Off the record discussion between
24 the interviewers.)

25 MR. BIRNBERG: Okay.

1 Q. BY MS. PROZAN: WHAT WAS ANNA LISA
2 KNOOP'S ROLE WITH THE WHITE ROSE?
3 A. You know, after -- now, I think
4 the White Rose really got developed as
5 an organization after Reagan went to --
6 Oh, what was that place?
7 Q. BITBURG?
8 A. Beg pardon?
9 Q. BITBURG?
10 A. Yeah.
11 What was that place? What was it
12 called?
13 Q. AFTER HE WENT TO GERMANY?
14 A. Yeah.
15 Q. THE CEMETERY?
16 A. Right.
17 That was when it became -- it
18 was reorganized. And I think there was a
19 connection, then, with America. And I think
20 that she was very instrumental in doing this.
21 And that's really how I got to be a member
22 of the White Rose -- I mean, the White Rose
23 organization.
24 And she and I became very close
25 friends. And so it was in Berkeley at the

1 White Rose, at this exhibit, where I met
2 somebody from this organization. That's
3 really how the whole -- how it came about.

4 Q. GOING BACK TO THE TIME THAT YOUR
5 FATHER SOLD THE SCHOOL AND THE MONEY WAS
6 CONFISCATED, DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR FAMILY
7 HAD THE MONEY TO EMIGRATE?

8 A. My mother must have taken some.
9 I know we rented this place in Switzerland.

10 Q. WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER PARTS OF
11 YOUR FAMILY, YOUR GRANDFATHER, GRANDMOTHER,
12 THE UNCLES, AUNTS, COUSINS? DO YOU KNOW
13 WHETHER THEY LEFT AT THE SAME TIME?

14 A. There were no -- my grandparents
15 weren't living. Nobody was living. My
16 uncle I was telling you about already, he
17 founded the school for young emigrants, and
18 he and a group of about ten of them were in
19 a concentration camp for about three months.
20 And that was a -- I don't think anything --
21 I mean, they weren't beaten or anything, but
22 they were living under terrible, terrible
23 conditions. And I remember him talking about
24 it later, saying that the only way -- these
25 were all young students that were -- young

1 children; that the way he got them through
2 this experience was by creating a very,
3 very strong bond between them and just
4 making them feel that they, as a unit,
5 were going to be strong enough to
6 withstand this.

7 What I also remember is that
8 he said he made them stay just within
9 themselves. And if, for instance, somebody
10 else, some other person in the concentration
11 camp was cold and needed a blanket, he
12 didn't allow them to give it to that person.
13 He felt that they had to just protect
14 themselves. I think I remember it because
15 it seemed very strange to me, and it seemed
16 like a strange reaction.

17 Q. WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?

18 A. He was released from the
19 concentration camp. He and a whole group
20 of them emigrated to the United States.
21 They lived in a house in Richmond, Virginia,
22 for a while. And then, from there, they
23 spread all over the whole world.

24 Everything seems to be coming in
25 round circles now, because my brother is

1 now running a school in Virginia. And at
2 the 50th anniversary of this house that
3 this person had given them -- some rich
4 American Jew gave them this place. And
5 they lived there, I think, for about two
6 or three years. And it was 50 years now,
7 so -- there was something in the paper
8 about it. And somehow, then, people began
9 asking my brother if he was related to Kurt
10 Bondi. It was sort of an interesting thing.
11 Things are all coming back.

12 Q. IS THAT --

13 A. He, later on, went back to Germany
14 after the war.

15 Beg pardon?

16 Q. YOUR AUNTS AND YOUR UNCLES, DID
17 THEY REMAIN IN GERMANY?

18 A. No. Everybody -- everybody
19 emigrated, except for my step-grandfather,
20 who died in Theresienstadt -- who died in a
21 concentration camp. And I also have a cousin
22 who had -- well, it's a whole long story in
23 itself.

24 He and his wife -- he was also
25 leaving the country. He and his wife were

1 already in London, and they arrived there in
2 an airplane in the evening. And the people
3 wouldn't -- and he already had a job waiting
4 for him there. And the people would not let
5 him -- they didn't let him come into the
6 country, and they didn't allow him to call
7 anybody. They sent him back to Czeckoslovakia
8 on the next plane. And they then spent
9 four years in a concentration camp. They
10 were in Theresien, and they were saved.
11 From Theresien, people were sent to the
12 extermination camps.

13 My cousin was a chemist, and his
14 specialty was disinfection. And one of
15 the things the Nazis were terribly afraid
16 of was disease for themselves, not for the
17 Jews. And the circumstance under which
18 people lived in those concentration camps,
19 of course, would spread disease. And he
20 knew what to do, in terms of things that
21 just were put there to keep it from
22 spreading. So every time -- and, you know,
23 the people in the concentration camps, the
24 Jewish leadership had to decide who was
25 going to be sent to the extermination camps.

1 And every time their name was on the list,
2 the Nazis would cross it out again.

3 The same thing happened with
4 her, because she took care of the children.
5 And it's always struck me as such a terrible
6 feeling it must have been for them. Well,
7 of course, I had the same feeling, too.
8 Why did I survive and other people didn't?
9 But in their case, other people would be
10 substituted for them because they were
11 more expendable, in terms of the Nazis.
12 So they actually did survive and other
13 people had to die. I mean, other
14 people's names were substituted for
15 their name. It always seemed to be
16 like one of the terrible things to me,
17 the strangest things, to be saved on
18 that basis.

19 They came to this country.
20 And by that time, they were in their
21 early 40s and then had two children.
22 And they actually are our closest friends.
23 You know, we used to travel with them
24 quite a bit. And I have one memory when
25 they were at our house. We had just come

1 back from a trip together, and they were
2 going to leave the next morning. We lived
3 in Michigan, and they lived in Pennsylvania.
4 And I had already gone to bed. And they
5 came up to say goodbye because they were
6 going to leave at 5:00 in the morning or
7 something before I would be up. Their
8 young son was a teacher at our school and
9 somehow -- oh. And someone had given my
10 husband some money that was supposed to
11 have been used in Theresien. And so,
12 at that moment, he found it or he had it
13 there, and he showed it to them. And he
14 said, "Was that money actually used?"

15 And that triggered, all of a
16 sudden -- we had spent many, many
17 vacations, much time with them, and they
18 had never talked about their concentration
19 camp experience. This sort of -- this
20 was 30 years later or something. This
21 triggered -- all of a sudden, it all poured
22 out of them. And what triggered it was
23 that that money had never been used. That
24 money was just used for one day when the
25 Red Cross came to visit. And we spent all

1 night talking, and they just poured out all
2 of the experiences they had had.

3 And their young son was also
4 sitting there. He must have been, maybe,
5 20 at the time. And I remember that his
6 eyes literally got bigger and bigger because
7 he had never heard any of it. He kept
8 saying, "Why didn't you tell me? Why didn't
9 you tell me any of this?" That was really
10 one of the -- you know, one of the strangest
11 experiences. I have heard that this has
12 happened to many. And you probably have
13 heard that concentration camp people --
14 that they keep it in, and then something
15 just triggers it. And they said they had
16 never talked about it.

17 Q. WHEN YOU AND YOUR FATHER LEFT
18 FOR SWITZERLAND AND YOU FELT THIS DEATH OF
19 EVERYTHING, DID YOU THINK IT WAS FINAL?
20 DID YOU THINK YOU WOULD EVER BE ABLE TO
21 GET BACK?

22 A. Oh, yes. I never thought I'd --
23 at that time -- oh, I don't know if it was
24 then or if it was finally when we emigrated
25 to America, but I thought it was totally

1 behind us.

2 But we didn't -- we didn't leave
3 together. There was something else. I had
4 to have a slight operation. And I think we
5 tried to do everything before emigrating,
6 otherwise -- I don't know whether we even
7 knew about emigration. I think we thought
8 we might have stayed in Switzerland, but
9 anyway, I had to have that operation.

10 And my husband, who -- we weren't
11 married then. My husband and I, together
12 with my aunt, were going to Switzerland.
13 And what I remember about that is only that
14 I felt very sick. I just had an operation,
15 and I wasn't feeling well at all, and I
16 wanted to just get away and get over the
17 border and get somewhere. But you see,
18 then I went back to Vienna where I went
19 through the same thing all over again.

20 Q. WHAT CITY IN SWITZERLAND DID YOU
21 GO TO?

22 A. It was a very small place called
23 Gland, G-l-a-n-d. It was right between
24 Lausanne and -- there is another bigger
25 city there -- Geneva, opposite the Mont

1 Blanc. Right on Lake Geneva, you could
2 see the Mont Blanc on the other side.

3 My parents -- the school actually
4 consisted mostly of German immigrants where
5 the parents were still living in Germany
6 and were able to send money for the tuition.
7 And it was run, actually, by another former
8 student of my parents, together with my
9 mother. And it only existed for about three
10 years because, although there were other
11 students -- there were some Swiss people
12 there and there were some French people and
13 a few Americans, I think, but most of the
14 money came from Germany. And that dried up.
15 People lost their money or they emigrated
16 or -- but that -- that was -- I've talked
17 to other people who had gone to that school,
18 and it was -- it was -- my parents had a
19 real ability, I think, to make people feel
20 very much at home and very protected. And
21 for these children who all had to flee the
22 Nazis, it was still not a bad time, still,
23 you know.

24 Q. WHAT WAS THE NAME OF THE SCHOOL?

25 A. It was called Lehrion. I don't

1 think we gave it that name. It had been a
2 quaker school before. That had closed, for
3 some reason, and then we rented it from them.

4 Q. LET'S GO BACK, BRIEFLY, TO YOUR
5 HUSBAND; WHAT IS HIS NAME?

6 A. George.

7 Q. AND WHEN DID YOU MEET HIM?

8 A. I met him when I was six years
9 old, when he was in -- he was a student in
10 my parents' school.

11 Q. AND HOW OLD WAS HE?

12 A. He was 13 or -- more than that,
13 15. And we had become friends even then.
14 Somehow, there was never a question that
15 he and I were going to get married.

16 Q. WERE YOU --

17 A. No.

18 I was thinking, we tried to get
19 married in Switzerland. And he says -- and
20 I must have forgotten that, because I think
21 it's such a shocking thing -- that the Swiss
22 wouldn't allow us to get married there
23 because they were following the German laws
24 and wouldn't allow a Jew and a non-Jew to get
25 married. And I hadn't really realized that.

1 When I went to Vienna, he was still
2 in Germany, and of course there was no -- he
3 was not allowed to communicate, even, with a
4 Jew. So the arrangement that we had was
5 that he would -- his letters would be -- he
6 would send them to me, what do you call it,
7 post -- you know, the post office -- I don't
8 remember the word now, where you just pick
9 them up. And we made up a name for me. And
10 I forgot the name, so I couldn't pick up his
11 letters until three weeks later. All of a
12 sudden, it came back to me. We made up an
13 Austrian sounding name.

14 Q. DO YOU REMEMBER IT NOW?

15 A. No. I had remembered it, but I
16 have forgotten it again.

17 And the way we had to do this was
18 that I sent my letters to a Jewish friend
19 of ours in Hamburg, who then gave them,
20 unopened, to George. That was the only
21 way we could communicate. We also made a
22 habit of tearing up everything we got the
23 minute we got it. I think I wrote such
24 nice letters, and I've often --

25 Q. WHY DID YOU TEAR THEM UP?

1 A. Because we were afraid of --
2 because he -- he was really in danger
3 because he was known for being so
4 supportive of my parents, for trying to
5 help them, for -- he tried to organize --
6 after we had to leave the school, he tried
7 to organize a meeting of the former students
8 of my parents in some different building.
9 And that was seen as some kind of an act of
10 anti-Nazi thing. He was also of draft age
11 and so he couldn't -- wasn't really allowed
12 to leave the country.

13 Once, he came to Switzerland,
14 I think, just for a visit -- no. Wait
15 a minute. This is the way it was: He
16 bought a ticket on the Queen Mary, but
17 he had to buy a return ticket; otherwise,
18 they wouldn't have allowed him to go to
19 America. So up until the fire, we still
20 had that return ticket.

21 In order for him to even leave
22 the country, he went through a whole lot of
23 things. He -- first of all, he bought some
24 gold. And if you burn it or something, it
25 gets black. And he put it under the car

1 somewhere in order to take some money out.
2 Then, he got himself all rigged up in
3 mountain climbing outfits, with a rope and
4 everything. And he decided to go over a
5 border, over a very small border. What I
6 should say is that he was not allowed to
7 leave because he was of draft age, and,
8 also, he was wanted. He was on a list
9 to be shot on sight because of his Jewish
10 relationships. So when he got to the
11 border, that was the thing he had to be
12 afraid of, that the man was going to look
13 up that list.

14 And he got into -- decided to
15 get into a discussion with the person at the
16 border about mountain climbing. And the way
17 he describes it is that he said to the man,
18 he pointed up some mountain, and he said,
19 "This is the place I want to go. How do I
20 get up there?" And while the man was looking
21 up and giving some kind of explanation of how
22 you got up there, he just stepped on the gas
23 and went through without giving that person
24 any time to look up anything. And that is
25 really how he got out.

1 Q. HE WENT WITH YOU TO SWITZERLAND,
2 AND YOU COULDN'T GET MARRIED. SO HE
3 RETURNED TO GERMANY?

4 A. No. He went to America. But
5 this time line is a little different --

6 Q. ALL RIGHT.

7 A. -- because he went with me to
8 Switzerland at one time. Then, he was back
9 in Germany, I think, still taking care of
10 our affairs. He was living in an apartment
11 that belonged to my parents. After we had
12 to leave the school, we took an apartment
13 in Hamburg, where I have never stayed. But
14 this description I just gave you was the
15 last time he left Germany. That must have
16 been after I left Vienna, after he had
17 called me and told me to leave. And he,
18 then, started the whole thing about our
19 emigration. He got that into --

20 Q. ALL RIGHT.

21 GOING BACK TO WHAT YOU JUST SAID,
22 YOU SAID YOUR PARENTS HAD TO LEAVE THE
23 SCHOOL AND THEY GOT AN APARTMENT IN HAMBURG?

24 A. Uh-huh.

25 Q. WHEN WAS THAT?

1 A. That must have been in '37. But
2 they never lived there, either. I think
3 that we needed an address --
4 Q. I SEE.
5 A. -- in Germany.
6 Q. YOU WENT TO SWITZERLAND WITH GEORGE
7 AND YOUR AUNT AND YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER.
8 AND EVENTUALLY, HE RETURNED TO GERMANY.
9 WHAT MADE YOU DECIDE TO GO TO AUSTRIA
10 AGAIN?
11 A. Oh, I had always planned to do that.
12 I was going to study medicine in Vienna. And
13 I lived with an aunt, a kind of aunt of mine,
14 who was also a doctor. She actually had
15 delivered me. She was my mother's friend,
16 and she delivered me. And I lived with her.
17 I was going to study medicine, and I was going
18 to become a psychoanalyst.
19 I had just talked to Anna Freud and
20 Sig- -- and her father, because she was
21 going to give a course on child analysis the
22 following fall. They had the rule you had to
23 be 21 years old before you were mature enough
24 to take that course, and I wanted very much to
25 do it before that. So I had this long talk

1 with Sigmund Freud and Anna Freud. And after
2 that interview, they decided that even though
3 I was only 18 that I was going to be mature
4 enough to take that course, and I was very
5 excited about that. And at the same time,
6 I was studying medicine. And that was going
7 to start the next fall, I think.

8 Q. CAN YOU DESCRIBE THE FREUDS?

9 A. Well, my mother knew him also,
10 because my mother had studied with him.
11 It's hard to differentiate all the things
12 I've read about them and what I saw that day.

13 What I remember is Anna Freud was
14 one of my heroes, along with Eleanor Roosevelt
15 and, oh, the woman in Israel --

16 Q. GOLDA?

17 A. -- Golda Meir. Those are my heroes.

18 I thought she was very, very kind and
19 very friendly looking. I also thought she was
20 very matter of fact. She asked me what I knew
21 about psychoanalysis, what my reasons were
22 for wanting to do that. And she wore a long,
23 old-fashioned dress like people had worn maybe
24 30, 40 years before that. I lived, actually,
25 across the street from them. And he was smoking

1 a pipe. And it was in their -- in their house,
2 but -- I don't know, probably was in their
3 waiting room or their living room, which looked
4 the way rooms -- you know, a Viennese apartment
5 would have looked, very warm, carpets all over,
6 lots of knick-knacks, pictures. And he was
7 smoking a pipe, which he always did.

8 And then, just a few months later,
9 you know, he was being treated terribly,
10 terribly. And I left probably a month before
11 they did. And of course, nothing ever came
12 of that course that I was going to take, but
13 I did correspond with her later on about a
14 child that had been in a -- that came to us
15 that had been in a concentration camp and
16 then later came to our school in Michigan.

17 Q. WHEN DID GEORGE NOTIFY YOU THAT
18 SOMETHING WAS GOING TO HAPPEN?

19 A. It was the same day, and I'm trying
20 to figure out -- dates are something I -- I
21 don't remember what it was. I think it was
22 in March '37 -- no, '38, wasn't it? Yeah.

23 What happened there, also, I took
24 a train to Prague because my parents were on
25 a trip. And they were in Prague, which is

1 where my mother was born. And I had -- I
2 don't think I had ever been there before.
3 My mother had. When I arrived at the
4 platform in Prague, there were 30 people
5 picking me up. All of my mother's old
6 friends were there because they thought
7 that it was impossible that I would get
8 through. I mean, they were all there to
9 pick me up, not expecting me to be there,
10 actually. What I remember about -- I mean,
11 I was still very young. I was about 19 at
12 the time. And I remember a conversation.

13 You see, I think, in moments like
14 that, you are not aware of the general
15 problem but of your own, what happened to
16 you. Well, I had not been scared because
17 I didn't realize that people were being
18 detained at the border. And mine was the
19 last train that went through where they
20 didn't take all the Jews off at the border.

21 But the thing I remember about it
22 is that I heard some of these people who had
23 known my mother all their life saying, "Oh,
24 Annemarie looks just like her mother." The
25 other one says, "Oh, I don't think so. Her

1 other one says, "Oh, I don't think so. Her
2 mother was always so beautiful." Now that
3 impressed me much more than all the political
4 danger I was in because it upset me, I must
5 say.

6 But the other thing I remember is
7 that these were all rather wealthy people.
8 Somehow, people always think that when you
9 have money you can overcome any dangers.
10 And I remember my father telling those people
11 that they should get out, that the Nazis were
12 going to be in Czechoslovakia and that, you
13 know, it was just a matter of time. And they
14 just wouldn't believe him. They just said
15 that, you know, "Pretty soon the Nazis will
16 be gone." And they didn't see themselves in
17 any kind of danger.

18 Q. DO YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM?

19 A. Most of them emigrated.

20 (End of tape 1, beginning of tape 2,
21 still recorded on the same videotape.)
22

23 INTERVIEW (Resumes)

24 BY MS. PROZAN:

25 Q. WHAT HAPPENED AFTER YOU ARRIVED

1 IN PRAGUE?

2 A. Well, I told you part of the
3 story.

4 And then, it was a matter of
5 everybody wanting to know what happened to
6 me, of course, but mostly I got to know -- I
7 met, for the first time, all of these people
8 that my mother had grown up with. And I
9 don't know how much you know about Prague.
10 There is sort of a -- the German speaking
11 people are the Jews in Prague. There was a
12 whole society who were usually the wealthier,
13 better-educated people, who spoke Czech as
14 a second language, and German was really what
15 they grew up with.

16 I actually don't know the
17 background, where they came from originally,
18 but it was a very closely-knit group that my
19 mother was very much a part of. So what I
20 remember there is just that I think we stayed
21 for about two or three more days, and I met
22 all sorts of different people and sort of
23 went from one social occasion to another.

24 Then, we went back to Switzerland
25 from there in the car.

1 Q. WHO IS "WE"?

2 A. My parents and I and -- there was
3 another girl with us, who must have been
4 one of my parents' students. Where she came
5 from, I don't remember, but I remember she
6 was also in the car. And we had to sort of
7 circle our way around Germany to avoid any
8 place that would get us into Germany. So we
9 drove, I don't know, through several other
10 countries, I remember, some of them on the
11 border. They were very, very rigid, looking
12 for all sorts of things. And at one place,
13 I had to get all the way undressed. And
14 some woman was, you know, checking through
15 everything.

16 And I remember -- one thing I
17 remember about this other girl was that
18 she kept a piece of paper in her hand.
19 And she said she could have -- and nobody
20 found that, even in spite of all that
21 thorough investigation. And somehow that
22 really made her feel that she had really
23 fooled them.

24 Q. YOU HAD LEFT VIENNA TO GO TO
25 PRAGUE --

1 A. Uh-huh.

2 Q. -- AFTER YOUR FRIEND AND

3 HUSBAND-TO-BE, GEORGE, WARNED YOU?

4 A. Right.

5 Q. YES.

6 HOW MUCH IN ADVANCE WAS THAT?

7 A. That was the same day.

8 Q. THE SAME DAY?

9 A. Uh-huh.

10 Q. HOW --

11 A. See, he knew -- he had heard that

12 the Nazis were marching into Austria. And,

13 in fact, he remembers -- he told me later

14 that he was surprised he was able to just

15 make a simple telephone call and tell me

16 that the lines weren't closed or busy or

17 something. He just called and said, "You

18 have to get out."

19 And my aunt went and bought me a

20 golden bracelet as a farewell present.

21 And it was -- it had -- it was very pretty.

22 And it had white gold and yellow gold. And

23 it got burned up in the fire like everything

24 else. But, you know, I had it and treasured

25 it. And then she put me on the train. And

1 she followed -- she went to England, I think,
2 several months later, and then, also, came to
3 America.

4 Q. AND WAS IT BY PREARRANGEMENT THAT
5 YOU MET YOUR PARENTS IN PRAGUE?

6 A. You know, I think that -- that
7 part, I don't know. I don't know how they
8 got in touch or how I got in touch with them.
9 It seems to me that I was probably supposed
10 to -- I think it might have been around
11 vacation time, anyway, and that I was supposed
12 to meet them there, probably, a few days later.
13 I don't really remember those details.

14 Q. AND HOW DID YOU GET BACK TO
15 SWITZERLAND, WHAT MODE OF TRANSPORTATION?

16 A. Car. They were in the car. My
17 parents had driven there. They were just
18 on a vacation trip, which you could
19 apparently still take even in those terrible
20 days.

21 Q. DID YOU GET ANY NEWS OF WHAT HAD
22 HAPPENED IN AUSTRIA?

23 A. Not that I remember. I think most
24 of that was -- was later. I mean, this was
25 the very first few days. I don't remember

1 much about that.

2 Q. WHAT HAPPENED AFTER YOU WENT BACK
3 TO SWITZERLAND WITH YOUR PARENTS?

4 A. I stayed there with them. And that
5 was when I knew I wasn't ever going to go
6 back to Vienna. I wasn't going to finish my
7 medical studies, at least, in Vienna. I don't
8 know if I thought I was going to finish them
9 later on. It seems to me that's when we began,
10 in earnest, to think about the emigration to
11 America.

12 And I stayed there, and I worked. I
13 took care of the little children at the school.
14 We had some very young children there. There
15 were about five or six boys that I took care
16 of. I worked there then. I think it must
17 have been for about a year.

18 Q. AND THEN, WHAT WAS GOING ON WITH
19 GEORGE IN GERMANY DURING THIS TIME?

20 A. It seems to me that it was about
21 that time that he then took this trip that
22 I was telling you about and finally came to
23 Switzerland. And from there, he went to
24 America. He came over here a half a year
25 before we did and was sort of preparing --

1 he was trying to buy or rent some kind of
2 property so that my parents -- so that we
3 could, all together -- all of us started
4 a school together.

5 One of the interesting things
6 that we noticed, he was not as fluent in
7 English as I was. My parents, as though
8 they had foreseen this, they had hired an
9 English woman to teach English. And when
10 my sister was three and I was six, we had
11 private lessons in English. So that I
12 spoke English quite well when I came here,
13 but my husband didn't know that much. And
14 what I remember was that he -- he learned
15 the real estate language, because that's
16 what he was trying to negotiate with people
17 about, getting some property or a house or
18 something. So he didn't know most of the
19 social kind of daily language, but he knew
20 all sorts of expressions that he has
21 probably forgotten long since. And then,
22 we came over half a year after he did.

23 Q. ON YOUR GERMAN PASSPORT?

24 A. On a German passport.

25 Q. WITH NO "J"?

1 A. No J.

2 We came over on a boat, Amer- --
3 what was the name of it? It was a
4 freighter. There weren't very many people
5 on it. I remember getting into a terrible,
6 terrible storm. I also remember they were
7 showing a movie about a storm on the ocean,
8 and I just remember feeling quite seasick.
9 And there were all of us, both of my parents
10 and my brother and my sister, who were all
11 coming over here together.

12 Q. IS THIS IN 1939?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. DO YOU REMEMBER THE MONTH?

15 A. It seems to me we arrived there
16 on April 3rd, but I'm not sure that that's
17 exactly true, but I think so.

18 Q. WAS THERE A SPECIFIC IMPETUS TO YOUR
19 LEAVING SWITZERLAND AT THAT TIME?

20 A. Just that we got the visa at the
21 time, and we -- we were just waiting, then,
22 to go whenever we -- whenever we'd get the
23 transportation. You had to have an American
24 person vouching for you, and I think George
25 found people to do that for us. But he --

1 that's one of the problems is that his memory
2 is totally gone. And it's too bad, because
3 he knew much more about these things than I
4 did. I was just sort of going along.

5 Q. DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN HE LEFT
6 GERMANY TO JOIN YOU IN SWITZERLAND?

7 A. I think it was that time that I
8 told you about. What the date was, no,
9 I don't remember that.

10 I remember our last days in
11 Switzerland. I remember when we left, I
12 was participating in a play the night
13 before I left, a Shakespeare play, and I
14 was very excited about that. But I also
15 knew, I mean, I knew then -- which turned
16 out not to be true -- that I would never
17 go back to Europe, that that was my very
18 last moment there, and --

19 Q. WHICH PLAY?

20 A. I can't remember what play it was.
21 I know it was a Shakespeare play.

22 And I also remember that we packed
23 at 2 o'clock at night, even though we were
24 packing for the rest of our lives. We had
25 some books in boxes that we had mailed over

1 here, that we'd sent over here. My parents
2 had several boxes. And when we arrived in
3 America, we didn't have the money to pay
4 whatever it was in order to get them, so
5 that we never got them out. And years later,
6 I found, on some street corner, some books
7 that had the name "Max Bondi" in it that
8 were being sold for 30 cents or something,
9 because somehow I guess those boxes were
10 opened up then and sold. I don't know.
11 I remember being in New York, just finding
12 my parents' books.

13 Q. ON A STREET CORNER?

14 A. On a street corner.

15 Q. DID YOU BUY THEM?

16 A. I don't think I did. I don't
17 really remember that. Probably, I did,
18 but I can't remember that.

19 Q. WHERE WERE YOU WHEN KRISTALLNACHT
20 OCCURRED?

21 A. Here.

22 Q. IN THE UNITED STATES?

23 A. Yeah.

24 But that's when my father's -- my
25 husband's brother and his wife were still

1 in Berlin then. And the story has never
2 been quite clear whether it was
3 Kristallnacht or the night after that, they
4 took 15 Jews into their apartment. One of
5 them was my cousin, who -- I -- I don't know
6 if they -- my cousin really was in England,
7 and he was about my age. And somehow, he
8 talked to George's brother, who must have --
9 my cousin was in Hamburg, I mean. And he
10 talked to him, and it was expected.
11 Somehow, it seems to me that Kristallnacht
12 was expected. What people tried to do is
13 go to places where they were not known.

14 And he said to my cousin, "Why
15 don't you come to us, come to Berlin,
16 because something is going to happen."
17 So they took 15 Jewish people into their
18 apartment. They were living in an apartment
19 building that had a doorman, and they had
20 to find ways of getting these people past
21 the doorman. They took them up to their
22 apartment, where they stayed, I think, for
23 two or three days. And then they had to
24 smuggle them past the doorman out again. I
25 don't know how they did it. I do know that,

1 of course, had they been found, they would
2 have been killed or sent to concentration
3 camps.

4 My husband's brother died about
5 three years ago. And I remember asking him --
6 actually, the last time I saw him, I asked
7 him about this. I've always felt that this
8 is a story that ought to be known. You know,
9 I think it's important that people know that
10 not all Germans behaved like the Nazis did
11 and that there are people who really risked
12 their life.

13 And when I asked him how he could
14 even do that, and I remember saying, "I
15 don't know that I could have done that," he
16 said he had no choice. He has never wanted
17 it publicized very much. He never talked
18 about it, but he said there was just -- he
19 saw what was happening, and there was no way
20 in which he could not try to help to save
21 people. And it's one of the stories that I
22 always felt should have been told before
23 either one of them died. Now she died about
24 six or seven years ago, I think.

25 Q. WHEN YOU LEFT SWITZERLAND TO COME

1 TO THE UNITED STATES, WHERE DID YOU GO TO
2 GET THE SHIP, THE FREIGHTER?

3 A. I think we went to England. We
4 had to go from France to England, and I can't
5 remember the port there. We left from England,
6 I think, but first we had to take a boat from
7 France to England. And there was -- I'm not
8 good at remembering all those things. They
9 somehow don't seem to -- like dates and places,
10 they don't register very much with me, I think.

11 Q. DO YOU REMEMBER THE DAY THAT YOU
12 ARRIVED IN THE UNITED STATES?

13 A. Oh, I remember that very well. That
14 was very strange because, first of all, we got
15 up very early in the morning, and you really
16 do see the Statue of Liberty before you see
17 anything else. And it does impress you, just
18 the way one always hears of it. It really was
19 the symbol of freedom for us.

20 And my husband was supposed to pick
21 us up. And for some unknown reason -- and I
22 can't remember now what the reason was -- he
23 was four hours late picking us up. And that
24 was a very strange situation, because we were
25 just waiting around for him. In those days,

1 people were still taken to Ellis Island.
2 And I don't know why that was never even in
3 question. Some of my other relatives had
4 been in Ellis Island, but we were not.

5 And then he rented an apartment,
6 and we were supposed to get married right
7 away. I remember having to get -- it felt
8 so strange, the whole thing. It was like
9 a -- like a dream, all of a sudden being
10 so far away, getting married -- you know,
11 it was all happening at the same time. I
12 remember having to get a Wassermann test.
13 And then, we were married two weeks after
14 I arrived here. That's why -- we did
15 arrive on April 3rd, because we were
16 married on April 20th, which was also
17 Hitler's birthday. And I've never
18 forgotten that those same --

19 Q. DID YOU EVER SEE HIM?

20 A. No. I think my husband did,
21 though. No.

22 Q. DID HE CONVEY HIS IMPRESSIONS TO YOU?

23 A. He just told me that if he -- that
24 if he could have killed him, he would have.
25 My husband is a very unaggressive person, but

1 he said, seeing Hitler -- and I can't remember
2 what occasion that was -- he just said he's
3 never wanted to kill a person like he wanted
4 to kill Hitler.

5 Q. DID YOU HEAR MANY OF HITLER'S
6 SPEECHES?

7 A. No. I heard that one that one time.
8 No. I don't think one -- you know, you
9 avoided that, if you could.

10 Q. YOU HAD MENTIONED THAT YOUR FATHER
11 DIDN'T WANT TO BE JEWISH ANYMORE --

12 A. Uh-huh.

13 Q. -- IN GERMANY.

14 DID YOU AND HE TALK ABOUT THAT, OR
15 WAS IT SOMETHING THAT WAS JUST TOLD TO YOU?

16 A. No. I don't think we ever talked
17 about that. It was just a fact of my life,
18 I think. It was just the way it was.

19 And I think I told you, it really
20 only became important after the Nazis came.
21 Before that, it wasn't -- it really wasn't an
22 issue.

23 MS. PROZAN: Jake, perhaps you have
24 some questions.

25 ///

INTERVIEW

BY MR. BIRNBERG:

Q. ACTUALLY, I WAS RATHER CURIOUS AS TO THE BOY WHO MADE THE -- WHO TOLD YOU THAT YOU WERE JEWISH, THAT YOU AND HE WERE JEWISH.

HOW DID HE KNOW THAT YOU WERE JEWISH?

A. I think everybody else knew it, except I didn't. It was a well-known fact. My family was a well-known Jewish family, really. It was just known, but it wasn't talked about.

Q. AND SO YOU DIDN'T CELEBRATE ANY OF THE HOLIDAYS OR ANYTHING?

A. No. No. We've done -- since we've been in this -- well, actually, since I've been in California, I've been going to a seder every year; but otherwise, it's just not been a part of my upbringing.

But it seems to me we probably would have come across other people who were assimilated as we were. Ours was just -- and I think people that lived in Hamburg, it was particularly less of an issue. As I said, it just -- people became German and wanted to be German and that was all, you know, the only language they knew. I heard Yiddish for the

1 first time when I came to America. Never
2 heard anybody speak Yiddish.

3 Q. DO YOU REMEMBER THE TIME THAT YOU
4 HEARD HITLER SPEAK THAT ONE TIME, DO YOU
5 RECALL ANYTHING ABOUT THE CONTENT OF HIS
6 TALK?

7 A. About what he said?

8 Q. YES.

9 A. No. I just remember his voice. He
10 probably didn't say very much. He probably
11 said -- oh, in that little story which I have
12 over there, I did write something. I think he
13 said something about the Germans being the --
14 the leaders of the world or something like
15 that, being -- oh, no, "We are going to conquer
16 the whole world." That's what he probably said.

17 Q. WHERE WERE YOU WHEN YOU HEARD THAT
18 TALK? WERE YOU AT THE SCHOOL?

19 A. No. I was in the village that's near
20 the school.

21 Q. YOU WERE IN THE VILLAGE, AND THAT'S
22 WHERE YOU ENCOUNTERED SO MANY OF THESE
23 BROWN COATS?

24 A. That's -- what?

25 Q. THAT'S WHERE YOU ENCOUNTERED THE

1 BROWN COATS?

2 A. Well, no. I was telling two
3 stories about that. One was about when they
4 came -- wanted to come to the festival that
5 our school had. The other time was when I
6 went there just to buy something. I have a
7 feeling I bought some books. I have a
8 feeling that I had these books in my hand
9 when all of this happened.

10 Q. YOU SAID THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU
11 WHO WERE SAYING, "HEIL HITLER," THEY WERE
12 JUST THE PEOPLE WHO LIVED IN THAT VILLAGE?

13 A. I think so.

14 They -- to me, what I remember --
15 you know, all of this is over 50 years ago.
16 I remember a lot of red faces and the odor
17 of perspiration. You know, just -- evil
18 passion is what I remember.

19 Q. BUT NOTHING HAPPENED TO YOU?

20 A. Nothing did happen to me.

21 Q. AFTER THE SPEECH, YOU JUST WENT
22 BACK TO --

23 A. I just went back.

24 No. Nothing ever happened to me.
25 And I think that is something that I would

1 like to talk about, because I have always
2 felt as though my fate didn't count because
3 I never was in a concentration camp. Nobody
4 ever did anything to me, and why should it
5 affect my whole life as it has, and why
6 should anybody take it seriously? And this
7 is the reaction that I've found other
8 people have, too. I have told a number of
9 my relatives about this interview. And
10 their reaction is, "But nothing happened to
11 us. We're not the people they want to talk
12 to. They want to talk to people who are
13 concentration camp survivors."

14 And that's always, I think, given
15 people like me a kind of in between position.
16 It gave me the feeling that it really didn't
17 count, what happened to us, that I had no
18 reason to be so affected by it. And on the
19 other hand, I had tremendous survivor guilt.
20 All my life, I had the feeling that I had no
21 right -- that I had no right for pleasure.

22 And I remember, I used to be -- my
23 other interest, which I got from my father,
24 was history of art. I used to be very
25 interested in going to museums and in

1 learning something about art, and I used to
2 know quite a bit about it. After I came to
3 this country, I never went to a museum for
4 a long, long time. And I remember when my
5 son, my oldest son, got to be about seven
6 or eight, and I thought, well, it's really
7 probably time that he should learn something
8 about art and that he should go to a museum.
9 And there was a very good art museum in
10 Detroit, where we lived. And it was so
11 nice that now I had a good reason to go,
12 because I could do it for him. I didn't
13 have to do it -- I couldn't do it for myself.
14 It's been a long time before I thought that
15 anything should be done for me or that I
16 should have -- that I should enjoy myself
17 when, you know, other people died in
18 concentration camps.

19 And what really, I think, sort of
20 made it possible for me to really live a
21 normal life and a very happy life, was,
22 first of all, that -- you know, we were a
23 very, very closely-knit family, especially
24 after we came here. We still all stick
25 together quite a bit, all of our cousins

1 and everything.

2 And my husband and I were very
3 close. And we were starting the school,
4 which, whenever people ask me why we started
5 it, my answer was -- and I think it's the
6 real reason -- is that it's the only way in
7 which you could survive something like the
8 Nazis, by feeling that you are going to be
9 able to create an atmosphere for young people
10 which will give them so much inner security
11 and so little reason for aggression that they
12 would never have to act like the Nazis did.

13 And, of course, in those days, I
14 still had hopes that this world would really
15 become a better world, which, at this moment,
16 I don't feel is true. I also feel that it's
17 a mistake to think that what the Nazis did was
18 peculiarly German. And I used to feel that
19 way very strongly. I thought it was an
20 operation, and we would get over this, and
21 this world would be a better place. I don't
22 think it's peculiarly German. I think it's an
23 attitude that exists all over the world. The
24 world is really filled with hostility. And I
25 think people all over the world are capable of

1 the same kinds of things that the Nazis did.

2 And I still hope that we can change it.

3 (Inaudible discussion off the record.)

4
5 INTERVIEW (Continued)

6 BY MS. PROZAN:

7 Q. I WANTED TO TALK MORE ABOUT WHAT YOU
8 DID IN THIS COUNTRY.

9 WHERE DID YOU GET MARRIED?

10 A. We got married two weeks after we
11 arrived here.

12 Q. WHO MARRIED YOU?

13 A. Well, that was a whole story in itself.
14 We were going to be married at the city hall, I
15 guess. And when we arrived there, the man said,
16 "You have to be 21." I wasn't quite 21 at the
17 time. He said, "We can't marry you." And he
18 said, "But if you go to Lafayette Street 1 --"
19 this was in New York -- "If you go to Lafayette
20 Street 1, there is a judge, and he can marry
21 you."

22 So my mother had a little party at
23 the apartment building waiting for us, and we
24 thought it would be a good idea if we really
25 got married. And we were wandering the streets

1 in the rain trying to find this Lafayette 1.
2 And finally, when we did, we walked in there
3 and we asked if there was someone who could
4 marry us. And there was this man who said,
5 "Well, if you give me something, I'll find
6 somebody for you."

7 So my husband -- we really didn't
8 have much money -- gave him \$10. Then, he
9 introduced us to someone else. And that man
10 said, "I'll find you a judge. If you'll give
11 me something, then I'll see that the judge
12 can marry you."

13 So they brought us into -- there
14 was some kind of a court session, and the
15 man interrupted the court session and put
16 this book in front of him. And so he --
17 then he said -- he asked my husband a
18 question. And I didn't really understand,
19 especially the American English. I knew
20 English well, but American English was
21 pretty -- was hard to understand.

22 And my husband said, "No." And
23 I was a little shocked. I thought you were
24 supposed to say, "I do." And so when he
25 asked me the same question, which I, again,

1 didn't understand, I said, "No," too.
2 Apparently the question was, "Is there
3 any reason why this marriage shouldn't take
4 place?" And then he kept on rattling off
5 more things. And finally, I did get to say,
6 "I do." And he said, "Kiss your bride," and
7 he clapped the book closed.

8 And then we got some kind of a
9 certificate, which also must have burned up
10 now in the fire, but also, it never had a
11 date. They didn't put a date on it. It
12 was sort of a very funny story.

13 Q. THERE WAS AN ONGOING SESSION IN
14 COURT AND THEY JUST ADJOURNED THAT?

15 A. Yeah. They just interrupted it.

16 Q. AND YOU WENT INTO THE JUDGE'S
17 CHAMBERS?

18 A. No. All of the people were there.
19 They were sort of the witnesses. I think
20 the two fighting parties were there. And
21 at the end of the ceremony, they all clapped.
22 It was probably the only time they were in
23 agreement.

24 Q. YOU THOUGHT THIS WAS THE WAY ALL
25 THINGS HAPPENED?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. WHERE DID GEORGE FIND AN APARTMENT
3 FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY?

4 A. Somewhere in New York, I don't
5 know, some plaza -- the Plaza Hotel? The
6 word "plaza" comes to my mind, but I don't --

7 Q. WHERE DID YOU AND GEORGE LIVE AFTER
8 YOU GOT MARRIED?

9 A. We then had a summer camp. We lived
10 all together for a little while. I remember
11 it was the days before air-conditioning. It
12 was so hot. We weren't used to New York heat.
13 And I also remember that 3 o'clock at night we
14 would get up and go for a walk in Central Park,
15 which is probably totally unheard of today.

16 Then, we had a summer camp, right
17 away, in New Hampshire, in Wolfeboro, New
18 Hampshire. And at that time, somehow we had
19 gotten to know -- people were very helpful
20 to us. We had some connections in America
21 and had, also, some students from America in
22 my parents' school, so we were not unknown.
23 And people would give parties for us and
24 introduce us to people so that when we
25 started our summer camp, we had 30 campers.

1 But my father was so homesick for
2 Germany that he went back to Germany, which
3 still seems like the craziest thing he could
4 have done.

5 Q. WHEN?

6 A. While we were running the camp. We
7 didn't have the money or anything. He took a
8 boat back to Germany. He went to Switzerland
9 to visit the school there, and then he must
10 have spent some time in Germany, where, as a
11 Jew, he could have been stopped right away.
12 Also, he got back here just a few days before
13 the war started.

14 Q. YOU MEAN, IN AUGUST OF '39?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. WAS HE STILL DEPRESSED?

17 A. It was very hard for him to -- to
18 give up his German school. And also, he
19 was sick. He had this -- this illness that
20 I explained to you before. He was just driven
21 to get back. He just wanted to have one last
22 look. And so we ran the camp without him.
23 And we had, also, mostly a lot of refugees'
24 children.

25 We had become friends with the

1 Budapest Quartet. And they used to play
2 there all the time, which we didn't even
3 think was anything special, but --

4 Q. DID YOUR FATHER SAY MUCH ABOUT THE
5 TRIP?

6 A. I don't think so -- no. He died in
7 '51, and we came in '39. So he really wasn't
8 here that long, in a way. And he never made --
9 he was sick, and he never made a real
10 adjustment, I think.

11 But there was something about him.
12 Students used to love him, even though he
13 didn't speak English very well. I was talking
14 to my -- the same cousin who was in a
15 concentration camp and was telling him that I
16 was going to give a short speech about my father
17 on May 11th of this year because of his birthday.
18 And he said he remembered that he and his
19 wife -- there was a group that had invited my
20 father to speak to them. And he said -- my
21 father always looked very sloppy. And he said
22 he went up and tried to straighten out his tie,
23 and he couldn't do it. And he had spots all
24 over.

25 Anyway, they listened to the speech

1 that he gave. He was never a good speaker,
2 and he didn't speak English very well. But
3 they said that they remembered like it was
4 today -- this must be at least 30 years
5 ago -- how he had impressed the people,
6 that they were totally quiet and that they
7 listened to his sort of stammering English
8 for an hour because he was a very impressive
9 personality. And he was very, very sincere
10 about his love for children and his
11 philosophy of community and of simply more
12 respect and love than people usually give.

13 Q. DO YOU RECALL BEING VERY ANXIOUS
14 ABOUT HIS TRIP BACK TO EUROPE?

15 A. Yes.

16 But I also -- you know, we were
17 so busy. We had never run a camp. We had
18 never -- you know, we didn't know the language
19 too well. We had to do everything. I mean,
20 we had to take care of the garbage and get the
21 food and create activities for children. And
22 we found there were things that were different.

23 We used to have a camp in Switzerland.
24 And the way we did it was that there would be,
25 maybe, two or three organized activities, that

1 you had supervision at the lake. And the rest
2 of the day, children did what they wanted to do.
3 And you didn't worry every moment about them.
4 And we found out that you can't run a camp like
5 that here. Here, you have to make sure that
6 every minute is organized and that there is
7 supervision every moment. It was a totally
8 different concept that we had to get used to.

9 So what I remember mostly of that
10 time was that we were worried about him, but
11 we were too busy. You know, we just had to
12 take care of things.

13 Q. HAD YOU WRITTEN TO FRIENDS THAT HE
14 WAS GOING TO COME, THAT SOMEONE WAS WAITING
15 FOR HIM?

16 A. You know, it was strange, because
17 when I was in Germany right now -- and they
18 have tried very hard to sort of restructure
19 my parents' story -- no one remembered seeing
20 him in Germany. One friend -- actually, the
21 wife of the man who started the school in
22 Switzerland with them -- remembered that he
23 was in Switzerland, but I remember that he
24 went to Germany. I do remember that. But
25 nobody knows where he went, really. I'm sure

1 he couldn't go back to Marienau. He probably
2 went to Hamburg.

3 Q. DID HE TELL YOU ANYTHING ABOUT THE
4 TRIP?

5 A. I don't think so. He came back,
6 and the war started. And then we got all
7 concerned about the war. And my brother
8 volunteered pretty soon after the war had
9 started -- oh, it couldn't have been,
10 because my brother then went to another --
11 to a boarding school after we were married.
12 Our honeymoon consisted of taking my brother
13 to a boarding school. And so I -- the war
14 started in '39.

15 Q. HOW OLD WAS HE THEN?

16 A. Well, he was very young. That's
17 why I'm getting confused about it. I do
18 know that he volunteered. He was right in
19 the middle. He went through the worst part
20 of the war.

21 Q. WHERE DID HE SERVE?

22 A. Isn't that funny how much of it is
23 lost in my mind? I know he had training,
24 very, very hard training. He was in the
25 intelligence. But I also know that he crossed

1 the Channel. I don't really remember exactly.

2 Q. HE WAS IN THE ARMY?

3 A. He was in the Army, yes -- yeah.

4 I mean, it was sort of a strange thing that
5 he -- you know, my father fought on the
6 German side in World War I and my brother
7 fought on the American side in World War II.

8 Q. WHERE DID YOU LIVE DURING THOSE
9 FIRST YEARS? DID YOU LIVE IN MANHATTAN IN
10 NEW YORK?

11 A. No.

12 We lived in Manhattan for a few
13 months, and then we, my husband and I, ran
14 the school together with my parents in a
15 place in Windsor, Vermont, where we rented
16 a building. And it seems to me we had about
17 30 students there that very first year.
18 Then, we moved to Manchester, Vermont.

19 I guess we were with them for two
20 years, and then we decided that we should
21 leave the school. And we taught in a school
22 in New Jersey for a year, and we lived in an
23 apartment in a little city there.

24 Q. WHAT DID YOU TEACH?

25 A. Little children. Just -- it was a

1 progressive school, and we both assisted in
2 a classroom. I think, probably, I worked
3 with four- and five-year-olds.

4 Q. DURING THIS TIME, WERE YOU IN
5 CONTACT WITH A LOT OF JEWISH PEOPLE?

6 A. No.

7 Q. DID YOU EVER HAVE ANY CURIOSITY
8 ABOUT JEWISH HOLIDAYS?

9 A. No. I was working. And I was
10 young, married.

11 Q. EARLIER YOU HAD MENTIONED THAT YOU'D
12 NEVER SAT DOWN TOGETHER AS A FAMILY UNTIL YOU
13 CAME TO THIS COUNTRY.

14 WILL YOU ELABORATE ON THAT, SITTING
15 DOWN TOGETHER AS A FAMILY? HOW WAS IT?

16 A. It was a new experience. It was
17 nice. We really only got very close as a
18 family after we came here, but it was mostly
19 a time when you had to worry about your
20 existence. We had very little money. I
21 remember when my brother wanted to go to the
22 movies when he was, maybe, 14 or 15, that he
23 would go around and collect pennies from
24 everybody so that he would have the money to
25 go.

1 And you wouldn't -- you know, it
2 really wasn't in the center of my thinking
3 at all. I was concerned with building up a
4 school. I was also concerned about working
5 with my own parents and trying to find my
6 place. You know, I was beginning to compete
7 with my mother. And she was a queen, and
8 I felt I couldn't really ever find a place
9 where she was. And that was when we decided
10 to -- actually, we decided to move to Detroit.

11 We had one of our summer -- we had
12 people at the summer camp, not only children,
13 but sometimes whole families would come. And
14 one family that used to come every year were
15 the Sturbers. They were psychoanalysts from
16 Vienna who were the only non-Jews who were
17 surrounding Freud, but they left out of loyalty
18 to Freud and because they didn't really want
19 to live in a country like that. They came to
20 our summer camp with their two children. And
21 they were living in Detroit and had started
22 a nursery school for their children. And I
23 guess George and I realized that we needed
24 to leave my parents, that it wasn't really
25 possible, especially for me, to try and really

1 become somebody or be myself, since they were
2 such domineering personalities, both of them.

3 And the Sturbers had been -- they
4 had a nursery school, which was called Adetha
5 Sturber Nursery School, in Detroit, and were
6 looking for someone to take it over. And
7 even though I didn't have any training, they
8 asked me to take it over, and that's what we
9 did. That's how we moved to Detroit.

10 And my husband -- I ran the
11 nursery school, and he ran -- he had
12 some older children, among them one of
13 the Sturber children. So he took care
14 of seven-, eight-, and nine-year-olds.
15 And in fact, just recently, everything
16 seems to be coming back.

17 We had the 50th anniversary of
18 our school, and one of the students who
19 had been one of my husband's first students
20 came back and talked about it. He later on
21 became a teacher at our school, and his
22 children went to our school. That was the
23 beginning of the school that we developed.
24 It was later called Roeper City and Country
25 School. We had about 500 students by the

1 end, and it was very much based -- and
2 whenever anybody asked me why did we have
3 the school, I said that it was the only way
4 in which you could survive the Nazis. I
5 told you that. I said that before.

6 And it was really -- the basic
7 principle was that it was a very open,
8 progressive type school based on psycholytic
9 theory, where we thought about, talked about,
10 and taught the teachers about unconscious
11 motivation and about what really made a
12 person be what they are. We worked very
13 closely with the Sturbers all during that time.
14 We participated in psycholytic seminars, and
15 it probably was one of the very few schools
16 that were based on psycholytic theory as well
17 as a humanistic philosophy.

18 Later on, it was turned into a
19 school for gifted children. This was a day
20 school. We never had a boarding school,
21 because we didn't really want -- we wanted
22 to have a family life, which was the only
23 thing that I think I missed in my childhood.
24 And it became a school for gifted children.
25 It also had a totally different approach

1 than most other schools. We had no grades.
2 We had very, very individualized education.
3 And we, in the end, developed a participatory
4 democracy among the teachers, because we felt
5 that the teachers, that -- oh, I'm getting
6 very tired -- that the teachers could only
7 be models for children if they really knew
8 how to live in a democracy.

9 It's been and it was a very
10 wonderful -- it was sort of -- we were able
11 to recreate what we had had in our school in
12 Germany, and it was a very satisfying life.
13 And I've -- you know, we touched probably
14 thousands and thousands of people. And
15 recently, I'm still very -- we retired
16 12 years ago now, but I'm still closely
17 involved with the school, and I'm still
18 involved with education. I have a
19 consultation service for gifted children
20 now. And what I believe in now is that
21 it's absolutely necessary that one develops
22 a concept of global education and global
23 awareness. And it's something that I think
24 people have not understood yet, that this
25 world is only going to be saved if we

1 understand that we all depend on each
2 other. And I have, you know, read quite a
3 bit about that. And it's somehow what keeps
4 me from being desperate. But it also, I
5 feel, goes directly back to my experience
6 with the Nazis. It's -- it's -- I think
7 you can only either despair or continue
8 to believe that maybe one can do something
9 about making this a better world.

10 And I think -- you know, I know
11 you keep asking me about my Jewish --
12 feelings about Judaism. I don't feel
13 Jewish. And I don't feel that any kind
14 of nationalism of any sort is helpful at
15 this time. I think one really needs to
16 feel as a human being, without any chips
17 on one's shoulder.

18 This is probably going beyond
19 what this is supposed to be about, but I
20 feel it so very strongly. It's -- you
21 know, I was telling you in the car
22 (indicating) that I think it would be
23 interesting to do the same kind of thing
24 that you are doing with people who have
25 experienced the Nazis with people like

1 the Vietnamese, with other people who have
2 had, you know -- or maybe people who live
3 in Los Angeles, who knows, who have had
4 some terribly cruel things happen to them.
5 There are many, many more stories around.

6 Q. BUT ON THE OTHER HAND, YOU SAY
7 YOU HAVE GUILT BECAUSE YOU SURVIVED?

8 A. I do.

9 I don't know if it's a rational
10 emotion. I've had guilt that I didn't -- I
11 mean, I lived through a terrible, terrible
12 thing and millions and millions of people
13 died, and I didn't. I not only feel I have
14 guilt, but I also feel that there is maybe a
15 reason I survived, maybe that I have to help
16 people.

17 But, you know, there isn't really a
18 reason why I should feel more guilty than my
19 husband does, just because he isn't Jewish.
20 He survived.

21 Q. DOES HE FEEL GUILTY?

22 A. He never shared that with me.
23 No, he doesn't. I'm sure that's because
24 I'm Jewish that I feel it. And I know that
25 he could. For him, it wasn't the same thing.

1 The big difference is that he chose to leave
2 Germany, and he chose to align himself with
3 us, but I didn't choose it. It could have
4 happened to me as it happened to all the
5 other Jews in Germany. I escaped it somehow.
6 It's a subtle, but a very important,
7 difference.

8 Q. IF YOU HAD BEEN IN A CONCENTRATION
9 CAMP, DO YOU THINK YOU WOULD FEEL MORE JEWISH
10 IF YOU SURVIVED THAT?

11 A. If I had been in a concentration
12 camp, I would have died in the first month.
13 I have often thought about that, because I
14 wouldn't have had the strength to deal with
15 it. I can't see anything, even watching
16 other people being mistreated. I truly think
17 I couldn't have survived it. I don't know
18 that I would have felt more Jewish. I would
19 have felt -- I've often thought, I'm sure I
20 wouldn't have survived it. I couldn't have.
21 I don't think I would have had the strength
22 to even live a life like that.

23 Q. WELL, WHAT DID YOUR FATHER AND
24 MOTHER DO DURING THE TIME THAT YOU LIVED IN
25 MICHIGAN AND SET UP THIS SCHOOL?

1 A. Oh, they had their own school.

2 Q. WHERE WAS THEIR SCHOOL?

3 A. In Massachusetts. They had a

4 school -- they had a boarding school for

5 30 years. They had actually spent more time

6 in this country -- my mother did -- running

7 a school than in Germany.

8 Q. WHERE WAS THE SCHOOL?

9 A. In -- oh, my goodness -- Lenox,

10 Massachusetts.

11 Q. WHAT WAS THE NAME OF THE SCHOOL?

12 A. It was called the Windsor Mountain

13 School. It was named that because that's

14 where it originated, in Windsor, Vermont.

15 They had built -- they had the same type of

16 school they had in Germany. And they had

17 the same charismatic influence.

18 My father died very early. He died

19 at 59 years of age. And my brother and my

20 mother ran the school together. And I still

21 meet many people who went to school there and

22 who just absolutely loved my mother. She

23 would know every individual child. She would

24 speak with every child once a month for at

25 least a half an hour. They all felt that

1 they were her special child.

2 Q. HOW LARGE WAS THE SCHOOL?

3 A. Probably, about 150. It wasn't
4 nearly as large as our school.

5 Q. AND HOW LONG -- WELL, LET'S SEE,
6 YOUR PARENTS STARTED IT WHEN?

7 A. '39, I think, or '40. We started
8 it together, and then we left.

9 (This concludes tape 2 of the
10 interview of Annemarie Roeper on
11 this first videotape.)

12 ---ooOoo---

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