

1 Translation of Cantor Hans Cohn.  
2 Tape one of two tapes  
3 Interviewer: Peter Ryan  
4 Co-Interviewer: Ruth Donig McWhite  
5 Videographer: Anne Grenn Saldinger  
6 Date: August 11, 1999  
7 Place: 3103 Flowers Lane, Palo Alto, California  
8 Transcriber: June LaRose

9

10 MR. RYAN: Today is August 11, 1999.

11 We're at the home of Hans Cohn at 3103 Flowers Lane in  
12 Palo Alto, California. My name is Peter Ryan,  
13 interviewer. Ruth Donig McWhite, co-interviewer and  
14 Anne Grenn Saldinger doing the videotaping.

15 INTERVIEWING BY

16 MR. RYAN:

17 **Q. Can I ask where and when you were born?**

18 A. Yes. I was born in Berlin, Germany in 1926,  
19 31st of May. 1926.

20 **Q. And how many people were in your family?**

21 A. Actually it was just my parents and I. I had  
22 no brothers or sisters at all.

23 **Q. What did your father do?**

24 A. My father was a small businessman and my  
25 parents had a haberdashery or sold ladies - dress shop.

1 They sold lingerie and hosiery and women's apparel.

2 Q. They both worked in the business?

3 A. Yes. They both worked for a while until we had  
4 to give up this business in 1929, actually, during the  
5 depression and inflation time in Berlin.

6 Q. They had to give up business?

7 A. Yes. Since it was very difficult. There was  
8 an inflation in Germany, devaluation of the German mark.  
9 And we had a break-in and we had insurance. However, my  
10 parents had a door and it was a very, very bad winter. And  
11 my parents decided to take the door home because it was  
12 freezing and that night they were in and cleaned us out.  
13 Actually they decided that was it and my parents decided  
14 that was it. So they stopped the business and my mother  
15 worked as a secretary in a relative's business in Berlin.  
16 And my father was in men's clothing. He was a salesman  
17 until Hitler came to power, when we had to stop.

18 Q. Was that a travelling salesman?

19 A. Yes, to some extent travelling and men's  
20 clothing. At that time, it was fairly new at that time and  
21 in the late twenties, people started to manufacture  
22 clothes. Before people had tailor made suits and dresses  
23 and in the, twenties, it became very popular to have ready  
24 made clothing. So my father sold mens' clothing for a  
25 company in Berlin.

1           **Q.     What kind of living arrangement did you have in**  
2 **Berlin?**

3           A.     Well, we lived in an apartment. First we lived  
4 in east Berlin on the east side and then we moved to west  
5 Berlin which is very beautiful area really. Quite a few  
6 Jewish people lived there. Beautiful synagogues and was a  
7 lovely part of Berlin, and "Berlin Demasol" which was in  
8 the west.

9           **Q.     Do you remember your early schooling?**

10          A.     Yes, I do. I went to school in 1932. I  
11 started elementary school and I also started Hebrew school  
12 at that time and learned German, Hebrew and later on  
13 English in Berlin already.

14          **Q.     And what kind of students were in the school?**

15          A.     Well, this was called a first schule which was  
16 a German public school and there was Germans, mostly non-  
17 Jews and a few Jewish people in there. I would say we were  
18 the minority. Out of 30 in my class, maybe fifteen percent  
19 were Jewish. And that was until the Nuremberg laws in 1935  
20 at that time, of course, no Jews were allowed in Berlin to  
21 go to public school and we were then transferred to a  
22 Jewish school, a religious parochial school which also gave  
23 us our general education.

24          **Q.     Now you were how old when you had to change**  
25 **school?**

1           A.     In 1935, I was nine years old.

2           Q.     Did you understand why you had to change?

3           A.     Oh, yes. I mean we were aware we were Jewish  
4 and I didn't exactly understand what the Nazis were up to.  
5 I don't think anyone knew what was in store for us but we  
6 knew we were Jews and there was these laws where Jews were  
7 not permitted. There was propaganda. I remember Hitler and  
8 Goebels and the Nazi propaganda where Jews were segregated,  
9 discriminated against and persecuted. I remember that very  
10 well.

11          Q.     Do you remember that from the radio or the  
12 newspaper?

13          A.     From the radio and also, from my - from school  
14 and, you know at, when I was nine years old, I heard dirty  
15 Jew and nasty words. So I was fully aware that we were  
16 really not very much liked rather, not very much wanted in  
17 Germany.

18          Q.     Did you understand why you weren't liked or  
19 weren't wanted?

20          A.     Yes, because we were Jews. We were different  
21 and already at that time the Jews were blamed for the poor  
22 situation in Germany.

23          Q.     That the bad economic situation?

24          A.     The economic situation. There was unemployment.  
25 And we Jews were scape-goats and I think, yes, that's it.

1           Q.     Was that talked about much at home, what was  
2 going on?

3           A.     Oh, yes, it was. It was -- but my parents  
4 later were very careful because you had to be very careful.  
5 Very often they would whisper. There was -when they talked  
6 about Hitler and so forth. Sometimes they would speak in a  
7 hushed voice because already in 1933, there were already  
8 some arrests and people were already afraid that there was  
9 a change in Germany and so it was very much spoken about.

10          Q.     Hmm-hmm. What was your family religious?

11          A.     Yes. To some extent. We were not orthodox.  
12 You heard. Went to traditional- my parents went to  
13 services. High holidays and very often most Friday nights.

14          Q.     Hmm-hmm.

15          A.     And since I went to a Jewish religious school,  
16 Israel which was Orthodox day school, I did go to services  
17 and we were not ever to keep a kosher home anymore because  
18 of the laws, the slaughter laws were changed because there  
19 was no kosher meat except which was imported and it was  
20 very difficult. So we were very traditional, have Passover  
21 sedar. My mother lit the candles. Although my father  
22 drove on the Sabbath, he never smoked on Sabbath. He said  
23 his prayers everyday. So I would say we were liberal,  
24 modern. Not Orthodox.

25          Q.     Hmm - hmm- was he political, your father?

1           A.     My father wasn't political but he was a war  
2     veteran. In fact, my father - nothing seriously happened  
3     because he was a World War One veteran.

4           **Q.     What experience did he have?**

5           A.     Well, he has, he was on the front in France.  
6     He was injured. He had the decoration. He had an iron  
7     cross which was given to him for valor and since he fought  
8     for Germany, he thought well I bled for this country. I  
9     mean, if they would ever come to my door, I'll throw them  
10    out. That's what he thought.

11          **Q.     Hmm-hmm. Do you know how long your parents and**  
12    **their family have been in Germany in Berlin?**

13          A.     Yes. My parents -originally, my father came  
14    from Poznan, Poland which was a part of Germany which  
15    changed. So today it's Poland. It was sometimes Poland.  
16    Sometimes it was Germany. When my father was born in 1887,  
17    it was Germany.

18          **Q.     It was Germany?**

19          A.     Yes. When the war broke out, my father left,  
20    also enlisted in the German army and he was German really  
21    and became after the war Poland, that the Germans were back  
22    again and now it's again Poland but my father really  
23    considered himself a German. My mother came from Silesia.  
24    Silesia was Germany. Upper Silesia, it was part of Germany  
25    which had coal mines and was industrial part of Germany

1     which also is Poland today.

2           **Q.     Hmm-hmm.**

3           **A.     But my parents went to Berlin after the First**  
4 **War, met there and married in Berlin.**

5           **Q.     Did they go there separately?**

6           **A.     Yes. They met in Berlin. Yes.**

7           **Q.     A-huh.**

8           **A.     In 1920.**

9           **Q.     Also Poznan and Silesia same, shared the same**  
10 **fate; didn't they? They were Polish and then they were**  
11 **German?**

12           **A.     Actually Germany and Silesia, is part of**  
13 **Silesia did not change. Had to be became Poland. My**  
14 **mother came from Livers. That remained German until after**  
15 **the Second World War when the Polish people became to Upper**  
16 **Silesia and Poznan which was a province and you're actually**  
17 **correct. It's Poland. Very big Jewish community there.**

18           **Q.     Do you know how far back your families went in**  
19 **terms of how long they were in this part of Germany?**

20           **A.     I think over, many, many years. I don't know**  
21 **exactly.**

22           **Q.     A-huh.**

23           **A.     But it goes back to my great Grandparents and**  
24 **great great grand parents. My father's great Grandfather**  
25 **was someone I think was his name Abraham, and his father's**

1 name goes back almost 180 years.

2 Q. Hmm-hmm. Did your family consider itself  
3 assimilated?

4 A. You might say that. I mean they were Germans.  
5 They were Jews and - --

6 Q. Were they German first? Do you think?

7 A. I think so.

8 Q. A-huh.

9 A. I think so.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. Jewish, Judaism consider that their religion  
12 but that nationality, their home was Germany.

13 Q. Hmm-hmm. Their country was Germany?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And did you feel that for you?

16 A. How do you mean that.

17 Q. Germany was my country?

18 A. Yes. Actually until I was very young.

19 Actually when we went in 1939, I didn't have actually a  
20 feeling for patriotism. I was too young but I considered  
21 myself a German Jew.

22 Q. Hmm-hmm. Did you have any direct experiences  
23 of anti-Semitism?

24 A. Oh, yes. In fact I, not only was I heard  
25 names. I had gotten into fights. I had been in houses I



1    went to the German sewer. Pick us out as Jews and being  
2    different and I had this experience ever since I was say  
3    eight years old.

4            **Q.    I didn't get where they kicked you out of?**

5            A.    Well, when we had gymnastics, for instance, you  
6    know, they segregated us.

7            **Q.    Ah.**

8            A.    They were already lessons where they talked  
9    about races and the Jewish race being inferior and you had  
10   to listen to this.

11           **Q.    Hmm-hmm.**

12           A.    Also, at that time in 1934, and 35, there was  
13   the young Hitler youth but there was a younger group and  
14   they already had the daggers and the little insignias and  
15   we, Jewish kids never had this and we felt kind of bad, how  
16   come we were Jugend and my parents gave me to understand  
17   it's not for you. You're Jewish.

18           **Q.    If it had been up to you, you would have wanted**  
19   **one?**

20           A.    Probably yes if, because I wasn't really  
21   aware --

22           **Q.    Sure.**

23           A.    --what the ultimate intent of the Germans or  
24   the Nazis were so I probably felt it would be nice to wear  
25   the uniform and participate.

1           Q.     To be like everyone else?

2           A.     Exactly.

3           Q.     All right. You were in Berlin during the  
4   Olympics?

5           A.     Yes. In fact I attended one or two games. In  
6   1936, I wrote about it since it improved somewhat because  
7   Berlin became like you say, the Olympic Center and people  
8   came from all over the world to visit and Hitler somewhat  
9   relented --

10          Q.     Hmm-hmm.

11          A.     --the persecution subsided somewhat because  
12   Hitler didn't want to make it so with Germans. Goebels,  
13   Goebels wasn't only the propaganda minister, he was also  
14   the rabble rouser of Berlin which was administrator.

15          Q.     Like a mayor?

16          A.     And they some how subdued the anti-Semitism  
17   because it made the international press so --

18          Q.     Didn't they even took down some signs  
19   forbidding Jews from going into parks?

20          A.     Yes.

21          Q.     And they came up again afterwards?

22          A.     Exactly.

23          Q.     So that was like a little lull for people?

24          A.     Exactly. Yes. It didn't last. In fact, I  
25   don't know but you probably heard Hitler knew about Jesse

1 Owens. One of the races was a hundred meter and some other  
2 meters. Hitler refused to shake hands with Jesse Owens.  
3 There were some Jews who participated and they were not at  
4 all recognized by the Germans.

5 Q. The Americans had a Jewish sprinter who was not  
6 allowed to race that day?

7 A. Exactly. Yes. Yes.

8 Q. And after there were some German Jewish girls  
9 who were on the Olympic team?

10 A. One in fencing. She was very famous. Her name  
11 escapes me but --

12 Q. Hmm-hmm.

13 A. She had a chance to win the world medal and she  
14 was a Jewish fencer and she never did participate.

15 Q. Hmm-hmm. So when Hitler would give speeches,  
16 would you - would your family listen?

17 A. Yes. We had a radio and we did listen. We  
18 were very much concerned.

19 Q. Hmm-hmm.

20 A. Because the invective of the accusations. We  
21 were very, very much concerned about our future.

22 Q. Hmm-hmm.

23 A. Never really realizing what the final  
24 solution --

25 Q. Sure.

1           A.     --was to be.

2           **Q.     When do you remember talk beginning about maybe**  
3 **we should leave?**

4           A.     A-huh. Well, the end really, that made us  
5 decide was the Kristale Nacht in November the 9th, 1938.

6           **Q.     Kristale Nacht?**

7           A.     Kristale Nacht, right, and that was really the  
8 day, I remember I went to school and already -it was a  
9 Jewish School. I have some pictures to show you later on-  
10 and I came there. It was a beautiful synagogue in Berlin.  
11 (Something) Strasse. The building was built 1932. So it's  
12 one of the newest synagogues and it was completely engulfed  
13 in flames when they came.

14          **Q.     Did you see it?**

15          A.     I saw it and the teacher was out in front and  
16 we arrived there. In fact, on the way we saw Jewish stores  
17 their windows smashed and desecrated. Glass all over.

18          **Q.     Did you understand?**

19          A.     Oh, yes.

20          **Q.     It was clear?**

21          A.     That was 1938. I was twelve years old. And  
22 synagogue was in flames. Teacher said, "go home, kids. Go  
23 home." And I remember I see it in front of my eyes because  
24 I relived this when our temple in Redwood City was also  
25 destroyed by flames. The Cantor went into the burning

1 building to save the Torah scrolls.

2 Q. ~~Hum-hum~~.

3 A. And in 1979, our temple in Red Wood city was  
4 engulfed in flames by arson; I also tried to save the  
5 scrolls. Was able to save one scroll and to emulate what  
6 our Cantor in Berlin did. So I remember it very vividly.  
7 I came home. Yes.

8 Q. The Red Wood City fire was arson?

9 A. It was really never proven. The FBI was trying  
10 to investigate it but there was some hate mail and the  
11 investigation showed that there were traces of inflammable  
12 spray around the walls. So it was termed as arson or a  
13 fire of undetermined origin - whatever that means.

14 Q. A-huh. We don't know who had the match in  
15 their hands?

16 A. Exactly. I was one of the first ones to get  
17 there.

18 Q. A-huh.

19 A. But I saw it, and went in there after pictures  
20 of this thing.

21 Q. That must have been like a deja vu for you?

22 A. Exactly it was and it was almost like you say,  
23 reliving that. As you say deja vu reliving my past.

24 Q. Were you terrified that day in 1938?

25 A. Oh, yes. I loved the synagogue. I was there

1 not only went to school there, every Sabbath, I went to  
2 services and I used to sing in the children's choir and I  
3 loved the music. The music to me was so moving. So I was  
4 - I loved this place. Absolutely.

5 Q. A-huh.

6 A. The love of the synagogue for the rest of my  
7 life up to this day.

8 Q. A-huh.

9 A. I go to services and love the music for myself.

10 Q. So were you sent home when you got to school?

11 A. Yes. The teacher said, "kids, go home".

12 Q. Go home?

13 A. I came home.

14 Q. And any incidents on the way home?

15 A. Not really. We saw that when we came home our  
16 mother every time before when the door bell rang my mother  
17 turned white and was shaking we lived in the apartment.  
18 When I came home that day my father didn't come home that  
19 day. My father was gone. My father went into hiding. They  
20 arrested thousands of Jews.

21 Q. Did you know that?

22 A. I didn't know that. My mother knew and my  
23 father went into hiding. My aunt who lived on the other  
24 end of town was a widow. So my father wouldn't usually go  
25 there. So my father was away for a week.

1           **Q.     At the aunt?**

2           A.     At the aunt because they were picking up Jews  
3     and so forth. And then, after a week, he came back and so  
4     on. But that day, my mother said "we have to get out.  
5     There is no future for us."

6           **Q.     Hmm-hmm.**

7           A.     I mean it was evident that we have to get out.

8           **Q.     To your knowledge, was that the first time they**  
9     **said that?**

10          A.     Seriously, yes, although there was a time in  
11     1936 already, there was a woman by the name of Henrietta  
12     Zorch. She was a Zionist and a very active Hadassah member  
13     who began a movement, her youth alia, and they wanted  
14     already in 36 and 37 the White Paper was issued in - I  
15     wanted to say not Paris. Israel. Six of the Jewish  
16     Immigration, a man Bevin in England was to issue this white  
17     paper but children were able to go in a group and I  
18     remember Henrietta Zorch started the youth alia movement  
19     and there was an intent that my parents wanted to send me  
20     alone but my mother said, "he is our only son. We must  
21     stay together." So I never went to Palestine.

22          **Q.     So children could go but not adults?**

23          A.     That's right. A select number. I mean a certain  
24     number of children but in Berlin there was an opening for  
25     many children and quite a few did go.

1           Q.     They could go and stay?

2           A.     Yes. Yes. They stayed.

3           Q.     But that really meant separating the family?

4           A.     Exactly.

5           Q.     And that was a big decision?

6           A.     Exactly. So --

7           Q.     Your mother didn't want that?

8           A.     No. We were first of all, unfortunately, and  
9 my father had to register for the United States immigration  
10 under the Polish quota. The quota laws, Immigration laws  
11 were in 1923. The American government set up a process of  
12 Immigration and the Polish laws were very bad quota. There  
13 were so many Polish Jews and the quota was very small. My  
14 father came under the Polish quota, even the German quota  
15 wasn't good; the numbers went into the thousands. We  
16 registered but there was a waiting period of maybe ten  
17 years until our name came through. I remember my parents  
18 running from one consulate to another one to this  
19 consulate, to the - that consulate, to the British, to get  
20 a visa. The worse there was no place to go except one  
21 possibility. One - there was one place in the world where  
22 you didn't need a visa and that was Shanghai.

23          Q.     Hmm-hmm. Did they have the money?

24          A.     We had, we did have the money in the bank.  
25 However, you probably know, you couldn't take the money



1 out.

2 **Q. You could buy a ticket?**

3 A. We bought tickets for Shanghai and paid for  
4 them. It was a shipping company. They sold the tickets  
5 and we prepaid them but when we left for Shanghai but, we  
6 left with the suitcase and they only allowed you to take  
7 ten marks out and the money in Germany you could keep in  
8 the bank. It was after you left, it was confiscated.

9 **Q. Did he have to leave much money?**

10 A. Not very much really because when my parents  
11 lost most of their business and so on and there was  
12 unemployment, we really had a pretty hard time.

13 **Q. How about your furniture? What happened to**  
14 **that?**

15 A. We had to sell it for peanuts. We had a sign  
16 out in the street furniture for sale and we practically  
17 sold it for peanuts. We mailed a few boxes to Shanghai, a  
18 typewriter, some books and some things that would be of use  
19 to us when we got to Shanghai, not furniture but most of it  
20 and some of it we left behind.

21 **Q. Did the stuff that you sent to Shanghai by**  
22 **mail, did it get there?**

23 A. Yes. It was there. It was by boat. It was in  
24 boxes.

25 **Q. Yes.**

1           A.     Sent by shipping company.

2           Q.     And you did get it?

3           A.     We got it. Yes.

4           Q.     And it came in handy?

5           A.     It came in very handy. Yes. And it came in  
6 very handy. Absolutely. We left Berlin fleeing. We went  
7 to Munich by trains, Italy, where we picked up a ship to  
8 Shanghai.

9           Q.     You went to Munich first?

10          A.     By rail to Munich. Stayed there and then  
11 overnight and picked up a train to Genoa.

12          Q.     Genoa?

13          A.     Over the Bernard pass and Genoa, we boarded our  
14 ship.

15          Q.     What day was that? Do you know?

16          A.     Yes, that was March the 23rd, 1939.

17          Q.     Hmmm. That was about the time that Hitler went  
18 into Czechoslovakia and took the rest of it?

19          A.     Exactly. Correct.

20          Q.     Do you remember that trip?

21          A.     I remember it very, very well.

22          Q.     Could you describe it?

23          A.     Yes. Actually it was- I must say -it was  
24 exciting. I was twelve before my Bar Mitzvah.

25          Q.     Everyone says that who was young?

1           A.     It was - we were in Italy and they didn't  
2     notice any problem in Italy and it was beautiful. We  
3     had --

4           **Q.     Was there any problem going across the border?**

5           A.     That was a different story. I remember on the  
6     border, I was strip searched. The Nazis took me out,  
7     frisked me because they thought maybe I was hiding some  
8     jewelry or some valuables and so on. It was quite  
9     unpleasant to be strip searched and to be touched. I had  
10    to put my pants down and, but they didn't beat me or  
11    anything. But they just frisked me and so on and that was  
12    our last experiences with Germans and it was before the  
13    Bernard's Pass and then the Germans went back and they  
14    (inaudible.)

15          **Q.     What did it feel like to leave your country?**

16          A.     I must say I wasn't so -- at first I felt  
17    although I was a little upset about Shanghai and some  
18    people said, you know, Shanghai is a miserable place. You  
19    probably will resent that you left here. Maybe things will  
20    get better but we were hopeful. I mean, after with what we  
21    saw of the destruction and the persecution and the burning  
22    synagogues, we thought --

23          **Q.     There were things that made you not sorry?**

24          A.     Exactly. Exactly.

25          **Q.     A-huh.**

1           A.     But of course my parents it probably was a  
2 different story. My father - that was his language.

3           Q.     Yes.

4           A.     They were already in their late forties. And  
5 in fact, early fifties. So it was leaving home. Leaving  
6 really everything behind as a refugee, starting all over.

7           Q.     What do you mean, leaving everything you knew?

8           A.     Exactly, yes.

9           Q.     Did anyone speak anything but German?

10          A.     My mother spoke English and French. My father  
11 spoke a bit of French but very very little. I spoke some  
12 English. I had French. I had Hebrew. A little Yiddish.

13          Q.     You got this in the Hebrew school?

14          A.     Yes. And I went to a, also to a day school  
15 where the teachers, religious school teachers were eastern  
16 European and their German was almost Yiddish. So I picked  
17 up some Yiddish. We had some modern Hebrew already at age  
18 ten, in 1936 and I had -- it was a high school. I had  
19 English one year and French.

20          Q.     Hmm-hmm.

21          A.     So I learned English.

22          Q.     So how long did you stay in Genoa?

23          A.     In Genoa, just overnight.

24          Q.     Overnight?

25          A.     And boarded a ship.

1           **Q.     What was the name of the ship?**

2           A.     (Something.) Means right hand. Right hand.  
3 Italian ship and there were fifteen hundred Jewish  
4 passengers along with non-Jewish passengers. Some Germans  
5 too were on the ship also. And it was a very nice ship.  
6 We went to Genoa, Naples, Suez Canal. In fact there were a  
7 couple people who escaped at Port Said through the Suez  
8 Canal to get to Israel, two of them made it. When we went  
9 to Israel -- excuse me. I meant Port Said, Egypt. Port  
10 Said was under British rule.

11          **Q.     Was that Alexandria?**

12          A.     I know it was PORT Said. It was a long the  
13 Suez Canal.

14          **Q.     No one could get off the ship?**

15          A.     No. It was British but the Jewish community  
16 came on board. It was before Passover. In fact they  
17 thought we were so poor. They brought us some clothing.  
18 They thought - but one thing that they gave us I never  
19 forget, it was before Passover. They gave us matzo. Lots  
20 of matzo they brought so we could have a sedar. The matzo  
21 - I will never forget. It was not fresh. When you break  
22 it, it was sort of damp. It was, you know, matzo is a  
23 cracker, is nice and crisp, but this was not very good  
24 matzo.

25          **Q.     Soggy? Huh?**

1           A.     We had it the first night. Then we went the  
2 second night on Passover. We went to the Red Sea Passover.  
3 Went to the Red Sea. We dumped the matzo over in the Red  
4 Sea because nobody wanted to eat it and so the rest of the  
5 people ate vegetables. Some people ate bread but you  
6 didn't have to have matzo for eight days. So we couldn't  
7 eat bread. First night you had to have matzo but so, we  
8 saw this many times. It was our first Passover in freedom  
9 going through the Red Sea dumping the matzo into the sea.

10                   INTERVIEWER #2: Maybe it got moist for  
11 just being on the ship.

12           A.     Well, I think they saw that but I don't know but  
13 matzo is supposed to be the bread of affliction.  
14 You're not supposed to enjoy it. So we surely didn't  
15 and we went through the Suez Canal to Aden.

16           Q.     Aden?

17           A.     Which is Aden, Yemen. Mazoa? Up to Bombay.  
18 Hong Kong.

19           Q.     Could you get off in any of these places?

20           A.     In someplaces yes. In Bombay, we were able to  
21 get off. Singapore, we were able to get off. Manilla we  
22 were able to get off. Someplaces, it was British they  
23 didn't let us off.

24           Q.     So did you actually get off? You and your  
25 family?

1           A.     Yes, but just for a day.

2           **Q.     To walk around?**

3           A.     And so on. Our last stop was Hong Kong. Hong  
4 Kong didn't allow us to get off. British didn't allow us  
5 to get off. It was just later on when I saw on the ship  
6 from Shanghai to Hong Kong that I lived illegally in Hong  
7 Kong after the war. So we arrived in Shanghai in April, I  
8 think it was 23rd or 24th. One month to a year on the  
9 ship.

10          **Q.     Did you get sick?**

11          A.     A little bit. Between, we got into a  
12 hurricane between Manilla and Shanghai in Hong Kong. There  
13 was pretty much typhoon. The first time I remember seeing  
14 people drown. There was some fishing boats and our ship  
15 tried to save these fishermen and it was impossible. And  
16 they drowned. I certainly remember the throwing away,  
17 throwing out ropes and this --

18          **Q.     Life raft?**

19          A.     Life rafts. Yes. And it was ever since pretty  
20 bad typhoon and we never saved them.

21          **Q.     A-huh.**

22          A.     When we arrived in Shanghai. That was my first  
23 memory of seeing people drown.

24          **Q.     A-huh. That couldn't have been pleasant?**

25          A.     No, it wasn't.

1           **Q.     Did the Italians treat you well?**

2           A.     Yeah. They were very nice. I must say they  
3 thought we were tourists and I am not so sure they were  
4 aware -Italians are very Jewish, you know. They - in fact  
5 many Jews - Italian Jews were able to hide during the  
6 Holocaust because they looked as Jews. They were dark and  
7 their features were really rather Mediterranean and not the  
8 typical Aryan Germanic.

9           **Q.     Right.**

10          A.     Blond blue eyed, tall.

11          **Q.     You know, Lenny Bruce once wrote an article for**  
12 **Playboy magazine?**

13          A.     Yes.

14          **Q.     And the first sentence was all Italians are**  
15 **Jews?**

16          A.     He-he. Yeah.

17          **Q.     And he meant that same thing?**

18          A.     Mussolini, you probably know, was not really  
19 anti- Semitic. It was only later on when Hitler insisted  
20 when Italy became a member of the Axis Hitler insisted to  
21 arrest the Jews and to bring them to him. So Mussolini  
22 complied but originally Mussolini had no intention to  
23 arrest and to segregate the Jews other than he was a  
24 fascist but not really like a Nazi in the beginning.

25          **Q.     Hmm-hmm.**



1           A.     It changed later on.

2           Q.     So you arrived in Shanghai in April of 1939?

3           A.     Yes.

4           Q.     And you were twelve years old?

5           A.     Yes, I was. Yes. My 13th birthday was in  
6 Shanghai.

7           Q.     Okay. What was --

8           A.     In May.

9           Q.     What was your first impression of Shanghai?

10          A.     Well, he-he. It was very-- I mean the culture,  
11 the language. From the ship, once we were on the ship it  
12 was very enjoyable. They served our meals. The food was  
13 pretty good also. It went so fast. It was all of a sudden  
14 we came down and there were trucks. We were loaded on  
15 trucks the way you load --

16          Q.     --cargo?

17          A.     --cargo. Exactly. And we were taken to first  
18 an embankment building to register and then to a temporary  
19 camp and, which was a place where they had big rooms like  
20 they were originally a house and they set up beds and they  
21 put us up there.

22          Q.     Bunk beds?

23          A.     Bunk beds like camp. And actually we stayed  
24 there for one week.

25          Q.     Hmm-hmm.

1           A.     And my parents did have a little bit of money  
2     that they were able to - - they were able to sell some of  
3     their-- my father had been a merchant - he sold some of his  
4     things and we were able to get a small apartment and my  
5     actually I was in Shanghai, we were only ten days where I  
6     was sick. I came down with Scarlet Fever. There was an  
7     epidemic and there I was sick ten days segregated and  
8     quarantined with Scarlet Fever.

9           Q.     How did they treat thatthen ?

10          A.     At that time.

11          Q.     Just wait?

12          A.     Just wait until the rash disappeared and rest  
13     and simple food and that was all.

14          Q.     Hmmm.

15          A.     And when I came out from-- It wasn't a  
16     hospital. It was also a camp called a "Chiam" which was  
17     like a camp and there were about 28 children. Boys and  
18     girls. They contacted us and within ten, twelve days it  
19     was time. They gave us some - something like aspirin to  
20     get the fever down.

21          Q.     Nobody died as far as you know?

22          A.     No. Nobody died.

23          Q.     A-huh.

24          A.     And so we were in Shanghai.

25          Q.     You had an apartment?

1           A.     We had a small -- It was very, very small.

2           Q.     How small?

3           A.     It was really a room and a little kitchen in  
4 the building was with other families.

5           Q.     What kind of kitchen?

6           A.     It was like a community kitchen. There was  
7 burners. There were little burners and you had one pot and  
8 you cooked your meal and also there were the Chiam  
9 furnished food, one cooked meal a day if you had a pot and  
10 you went to this Chiam, so you had the possibility of  
11 getting one meal a day. There was some very wealthy Jews  
12 Sassoon and Abrams and Hiram. They paid. There was a  
13 committee which they subsidized, so furnished food to the  
14 people to those who had no money or meals to eat. However  
15 my parents then opened a restaurant.

16          Q.     Oh, yeah?

17          A.     Oh, yeah.

18          Q.     Who taught them how to open a restaurant?

19          A.     My mother was a Yiddish cook. In fact in Berlin  
20 when things were so bad, my mother did have with her,  
21 admitted (something.) We had an apartment and she cooked  
22 meals for small amount. We were able to come and have  
23 lunch at our house and my mother was pretty good cook and  
24 in Shanghai she opened this - we had a little restaurant  
25 and she really was the first hot time in September in fact

1 September seventh, I believe 1939 when Hitler went into  
2 Poland that's when my mother had-- my mother contracted one  
3 of the first one, amoebic dysentery. She was hospitalized  
4 and at that time when there was a terrible disease. Many  
5 people died from it. Today we have antibiotics.

6 Q. Hmm-hmm.

7 A. And so at that time especially German and  
8 Jewish and my mother became weaker and weaker and really  
9 after 3 weeks died so I was my Bar Mitzvah was postponed  
10 and I became very partly an orphan and my father, he had  
11 hope and he put me in the kitchen just to help and to  
12 supervise and that's where I learned to cook and I became a  
13 pretty good cook in Shanghai.

14 Q. Hmm-hmm?

15 A. And so I grew up out of school. I was in the  
16 Jewish school. There was a very wealthy - - There were  
17 three types of Jews living in Shanghai. The Eastern  
18 European Jews from Russia. There was our community from  
19 about 18 to 20 thousand Russian Jews and then there was the  
20 first Jews, Iraqi Jews from Baghdad.

21 Q. And they had been there a long time?

22 A. Exactly. They were there already after when the  
23 Opium War was won by the British. They had British  
24 passports. They made - -they were multi millionaires.  
25 Very wealthy. Names like Sasson, Hovin, Abrams. Hiram and

1 they helped the Jews in the community. And a man by the  
2 name of (something) made money available for a school. It  
3 was a very nice school in this area where we lived. The  
4 poor rest area in Shanghai which was Horchow where we  
5 lived. It was in ruins. The Japanese destroyed it. There  
6 was a civil war with the Chinese and the Japanese destroyed  
7 most of Horchow. The other part, the international  
8 settlement and the French section were not destroyed and I  
9 was, you could live there if you had money. The Russian  
10 Jews and the wealthier Jews lived in the section in the  
11 national settlement and some of the Jews worked there but  
12 we lived in the Horchow where we had our place and there  
13 was S J Y S school. Shanghai Jewish Youth School and we  
14 had all sorts French. Hebrew, and so forth but when my  
15 mother died which was 13 I grew up fast. Never finished  
16 high school.

17 Q. When did she died?

18 A. She died in September the 23rd, 1939.

19 Q. A-huh.

20 A. It was a week before RoshaShonah in 1939.

21 Q. How long had she been sick?

22 A. She was sick at that time about three weeks  
23 getting weaker and weaker.

24 Q. That must have went very hard?

25 A. It was very difficult. I remember the funeral

1 was in the Russian cemetery. In the very beginning we  
2 didn't have a cemetery and the Russian administration said  
3 before you bury your wife you have to pay and my father was  
4 very upset. My wife is still around here and I can't think  
5 of money. I don't have it. And he had to, I remember him  
6 arguing. But she was buried in the Russian cemetery.  
7 Later on when my father had the same illness, amoebic  
8 dysentery, I took him to a Chinese hospital and they  
9 treated him with rice water. And he became well. There  
10 was some no remedies then and the Japanese used all the  
11 medicines for the military. So when my father recuperated  
12 from it and they learned that in the beginning the German  
13 Jewish said no. We have Typhus, Typhoid, Cholera and maybe  
14 Dysentery so the majority of Jews who died in Shanghai died  
15 very often from tropical disease or malnutrition primary  
16 and so I dropped out of school and worked in restaurant  
17 peeling potatoes. Doing vegetables.

18 **Q. And cooking too?**

19 **A.** Yes. I learned how to cook and some were very  
20 nice restaurants where I learned to cook. At night I stole  
21 bread. There were something so on. So there were rolls at  
22 night where people for a bakery. Just to earn a little bit  
23 of money. My father didn't work. So I was really never  
24 hungry in Shanghai because in the restaurant, they didn't  
25 pay very much. Pennies but I was at the source. I had

1 food. And that was that basis of that.

2 Q. Where did you get the food for the restaurant?

3 A. First of all, up to the, 1942, you know, and  
4 actually in 1941, there was not as much as a problem as  
5 later on because America didn't enter the war until the  
6 atom bomb. Excuse me. Until Pearl Harbor. So there was  
7 money coming in from America. There were committees like  
8 Hissam Refugees, Lehias. They sent money in. There were  
9 Jews who had relatives in America and England. Money came  
10 in from the outside. It didn't stop until the Japanese  
11 entered the war and then things became very tough.

12 Q. Hmm-hmm.

13 A. Then in fact we were a committee of 30 thousand  
14 Jews and there was a man, the Jewish community, by and  
15 large wasn't touched until 1942. There was a man who was  
16 called the Butcher of Warsaw. His name was Joseph  
17 Meisenger. He came. He was sent through Japan and became  
18 the administrator for Germans in the middle east, the Far  
19 East rather. He was a vehement Nazi. He knew about this  
20 ghetto, this community in Shanghai.

21 So he felt aware of the final solution Hitler  
22 didn't intend to destroy the German Jews. He intended to  
23 destroy the Jews all over the world and there was this  
24 isolated Jewish community. So Meissenger wanted to see  
25 that this community would also be destroyed. He came to

1 Shanghai and as I said was a Japanese administrator first.  
2 Refugees through Formosa and he said look, you have 20  
3 thousand Jews here and they have to be also put into camps  
4 or destroyed. I have a way -good plan for you. And there  
5 was a man also named Shibata. I think Shibata saved us.  
6 If it wasn't for this man I don't think we would be here.  
7 He said this is our plan. Let's take all the Jews on Rosh  
8 a Shonah. During their services. Let's arrest them. They  
9 were freighters and ships. Let's load them on boats. Push  
10 them out in the ocean and then leave them to their own  
11 destiny without food and let them starve and after a few  
12 weeks, let's torpedo the ships. That's one plan. The  
13 other plan would be maybe there are salt mines up the  
14 Yangtzee River. Let's take them and let them work in the  
15 salt mine in Shanghai. Put them in the salt mines and they  
16 will work themselves to death.

17 Q. Hmm-hmm?

18 A. And the third possibilities let's have a camp  
19 the way we have camps in Germany and let's use them for  
20 experiments. There was a chemical company, IG Farben which  
21 was like Dow chemicals. In fact we heard a rumor. The  
22 rumor was in a way pleasant. We heard things weren't so  
23 bad in Shanghai we were going to be sent into the interior  
24 where things are better. We did not know until after the  
25 war that this was a plan to really get rid of us and Mr.



1 Shibata was the one who said look, we Japanese cannot do  
2 this. I mean this is impossible. But he did one thing, he  
3 made a law the thing he did is in 1942, February, they made  
4 a law that all Jews who are stateless citizens and we lost  
5 our citizenship as soon as we left Germany. We became  
6 stateless refugees. As I say my passport with a "J" on it  
7 and the name. We were stateless refugees. So the Japanese  
8 government decreed, made a law that all stateless refugees  
9 have to move into a ghetto. So the ghetto in Shanghai  
10 didn't begin in Horchow until 1942. We already lived in  
11 Horchow but the majority of stateless Jews who lived in the  
12 international settlement or in the French settlement had to  
13 move to the --

14 **Q. That made it really crowded. Huh?**

15 **A.** It was an area of about 30 square blocks and  
16 that's where a long with Japanese and Chinese and I must  
17 say they accept this. The Japanese accepted us. We  
18 couldn't leave the area but you couldn't leave the area, if  
19 you could prove you have a job and so I later on get a job.  
20 I worked in a cigar factory and I visited there was man of  
21 the name of Roya. Roya was a little fat Japanese fellow.  
22 He was called the king of the Jews. He was able to get you  
23 passports. Identity cards so you could leave the ghetto  
24 and come back at night. And a number of Jews. Some  
25 Doctors, some professionals were able to work and they had

1 to come back and my father had one of these passes,  
2 identity cards. He worked for a French lawyer who had a  
3 nice home as a watchman. In Shanghai there was a lot of  
4 crime and so on. So wealthier people had watchmen and my  
5 father worked for this French Jew as a watchman. The  
6 French Jews were not really bothered because France, after  
7 France surrendered, the Vichy government became very much  
8 pro-Nazi. So the French settlement really wasn't very much  
9 bothered although the Japanese did move in there. The  
10 international settlement was completely occupied by the  
11 Japanese. The Burgar subjects were interned in camps also  
12 and some of them left Shanghai when the Japanese Americans  
13 war broke out but we stayed with the Japanese lived in Hong  
14 Kong and my father was able to live in this house and also  
15 for pennies as a watchman.

16 Q. He stayed there around the clock?

17 A. He stayed. They had a little room. And did  
18 get a very small salary and salvation salary really. It  
19 was a source in the French settlement, you could buy  
20 rosaries and so on, and he was able to exist mostly on cold  
21 food, you know. It was very hard but he did survive the  
22 war.

23 Q. Were you still running the restaurant?

24 A. The restaurant we gave up and the  
25 Japanese-American war broke out. The American war broke

1 out. That's when I went and worked in Jewish refugee  
2 restaurant and it's amazing the life in Shanghai. We were  
3 in the ghetto. We had a symphony orchestra. We had  
4 musicians. We had education. We had theatre. We had, by  
5 the way, there was one Yeshiva very famous AMirra Yeshiva.  
6 I also attended that. The Tomashurra School. The Amirra  
7 Yeshiva school -that's a different story. But it should be  
8 told. Them were in Lithuania in Vilna and very learned  
9 story about Sui Harvard the Japanese consort who issued  
10 first Visas for a few thousand Jews among them was a  
11 Yeshiva, Amirra Yeshiva. They left Lithuania through  
12 Russia via the TransSiberian railroad by Japan and issued  
13 transit visas and from Japan to Hobi, actually the visas  
14 were made up to Curacao which was Netherlands-Antilles  
15 island. However, they were stopped in Kobi and went from  
16 Kobi, Japan to Shanghai.

17 Q. How many were there. Do you know?

18 A. There were, I think there were about 300, 400.

19 Q. A-huh?

20 A. And they looked like workmen. In their beard  
21 and payos and so on and they studied. They had their  
22 Yeshiva and some of these very wealthy Jews who were  
23 Sephardic Jews, supposed, also they did through to the  
24 United States support and were able to survive the ghetto  
25 with their meager assistance but they're now partly in

1 Cleveland and in Canada, Amirra Yeshiva, very well known  
2 Yeshiva.

3 Q. Hmm-hmm. So were you able to go out of the  
4 ghetto from time to time?

5 A. From time to time when I was able to visit my  
6 father and so on. And I had to also get a card. It wasn't  
7 easy. You had to stand in line and if Mr. Roy was in a  
8 good mood. Sometimes he was angry and was - people.  
9 Sometimes he would stand on a table. He was so short.  
10 When there are tall Jews. Excuse me. When there were tall  
11 Jews. He would get on the table and blast you dirty  
12 people, what have you, but he gave these passes. At the  
13 end when the war was over. I think over, they were beating  
14 him up. But he was a real dictator. And we lived there up  
15 to the very very end and I remember.

16 Q. Did you have any direct contact with him?

17 A. I saw him. I saw him. Couple of times I  
18 needed my identity card. Otherwise --

19 Q. Was it considered legitimate to leave the  
20 ghetto to go see your father?

21 A. With a card. Yes. I maybe sometimes you know  
22 the police -- the Japanese police, they were very easy  
23 going. They were at the borders there was an area with  
24 guards right across and you bowed. You had to bow and  
25 they passed you. They didn't even speak German or

1 anything. The ghetto was by and large administered by  
2 Jews. There was a Jewish police Powocha. They were  
3 refugees who had an arm band and they were really  
4 instructed to see and they were afraid too because if they  
5 were caught, they did something illegitimate, once you were  
6 arrested and go into a jail. It was a very big jail.  
7 There was a place, a British house which was an infested  
8 place. Very rarely did you come out because they had lice  
9 and people who had typhoid and cholera. So once you were  
10 in there, so people were very much afraid. And people were  
11 afraid of illness. So the Powachow pretty much was head of  
12 the police. Pretty much enforced the laws but sometimes  
13 you go by there it was possible.

14 **Q. Did you ever have any run ins with the police?**

15 **A.** Actually never except at the very very end and  
16 this is started in the spring of 1945. We by the way heard  
17 pretty much what was happening because the Russian Jews  
18 were not arrested. They were not molested. We had Russian  
19 Jews we had actually radios in Shanghai. We got news from  
20 Russia, the Russians who are fighting the Germans in  
21 Germany were fighting on two front. The eastern front with  
22 Russia and there was a western front, France, Italy, Africa  
23 and Russia, and so on so we knew pretty much what was  
24 happening. We did not know about the assimilation camps.  
25 Auschwitz and so on but we heard how the Russians are

1 marching on into Germany and in the spring of 1945, we had  
2 air raids. There were air raids before by the Americans  
3 but in 1945 spring time they were coming to Shanghai and we  
4 heard explosions and even, they were even coming in over  
5 our ghetto. And there was, the day I will never forget was  
6 in 19 -- the 17th of July, 1945. I was in the restaurant.  
7 It was a Jewish place. The kitchen was sort of on the  
8 first floor. There was a mezzanine. And I worked there  
9 and planes came. The Japanese had a radio station and a  
10 warehouse in our ghetto that purposely was planted there  
11 because they felt if Americans ever bombed the area, they  
12 wouldn't bomb the Jewish ghetto. The American intelligence  
13 would know. But on the 17th of July, they bombed the  
14 ghetto by mistake. They wanted to catch the radio station  
15 and the jail also had a weapons storage. If that would  
16 have blown up the whole ghetto would have gone up in flames  
17 but the radio station was missed and they hit the ghetto.  
18 300 Jews were injured. 30 people were killed on the 17th .  
19 And the building that I was in was partly destroyed. The  
20 boys, that they heard me downstairs to tell me something I  
21 was up in the kitchen went down after the air raid which  
22 was a horrible experience I came back to the kitchen.  
23 There was a head by the stove. The head was shredded up in  
24 pieces. If I would have been up there that would have  
25 happened to me. The pressure of the bombs, the neighbors

1 house completely destroyed. Such about 30 people died.

2 Q. Hmmm?

3 A. I remember the funeral because it was July and  
4 it was very very hot. The smell. The first time I smelled  
5 the stench of corpses. The people were buried. We didn't  
6 have automobiles. They were on wagons and we marched there  
7 to the cemetery to bury those by, on foot by cemetery was  
8 about three miles out of town. It was a horrible  
9 experience.

10 Q. Was this a Jewish cemetery?

11 A. Yes. It was a cemetery -It was not a cemetery  
12 where my mother was buried which was a Russian cemetery but  
13 later on so many Jews died that the Jewish community they  
14 were very well- organized. There were synagogues, make  
15 believe - rather- make shift buildings and the movie  
16 theatre became a synagogue for the high holy days. So they  
17 organized funerals. They had Bar Mitzvah lessons by the  
18 community. Where I had Bar Mitzvah lessons and so on and  
19 they were buried outside of Shanghai.

20 I remember my mother's funeral earlier.  
21 Shanghai is below sea level. Shanghai means under the sea.  
22 I remember when my mother was buried, the grave, there was  
23 no caskets. She was in shrouds and they dug the grave and  
24 there was already ground water. So I still remember how  
25 you were pretty much put into the ground. Because five feet

1 below was already ground whatever. So we didn't have air  
2 raid shelter in Horchow. When they were air raids, the  
3 regular air raids, by the American Air Force we were very  
4 happy about it because we heard that things were coming to  
5 an end. We welcomed them and they came over our buildings  
6 except in July when they hit the ghetto. So later on, I  
7 remember one night, I was arrested since you asked if I was  
8 ever in trouble. In 1945, I smoked a cigarette during an  
9 air raid and a Japanese guard saw me. It was very much  
10 forbidden, even smoking, because the air planes they told  
11 me it was visible, the cigarette was visible by the air. I  
12 don't know. So he hit me with a bayonet, arrested me and I  
13 spent one night in jail. And the next morning they let us  
14 go. And that was the only time.

15 Q. Where is the there?

16 A. In Shanghai, in a police station. Police  
17 station. That was the only time and then of course, when  
18 the atom bomb was dropped in August. I don't remember - the  
19 sixth. I don't remember exactly. All of a sudden the  
20 guards disappeared and there was a rumor the war was over.  
21 We didn't know really except that the guards disappeared  
22 and all of a sudden, the air raids stopped. And we heard  
23 the war -- we couldn't believe it. The Germans - we went  
24 out to the streets. We danced and we were very happy. And  
25 as much as I resent the atom bomb because it's a terrible



1    weapon, I have a feeling the war couldn't have ended  
2    without the atom bomb. I am not so sure we would have  
3    survived but the war was over in August and a week later,  
4    ships started to arrive. American transports. War ships.  
5    The airport became an American air base and American  
6    soldiers came into Shanghai. And I was one of the first to  
7    get a job at the airport. I learned very few Jews learned  
8    to speak Chinese. I did. I picked it up and there was one  
9    thing that I did in Shanghai on the side. There was Jewish  
10   dresser by the name of Lazar who lived opposite the  
11   restaurant where I worked. And he had a practice mostly  
12   Chinese and he couldn't speak Chinese and there was a lot  
13   of venereal disease, gonorrhea, syphilous primarily and I  
14   spoke Chinese and he treated some of these Chinese and I  
15   was able to be his interpreter. And he gave me ten  
16   percent. So I learned some of these words in chinese.  
17   Syphilous. Pus, infection, intubation. I learned these  
18   words from a Chinese pharmacist who spoke English and I  
19   made a little money there. But I also spoke English. I  
20   learned in school. I told you I dropped out of school but  
21   when the Americans came I got myself a job as an  
22   interpreter at the air base, the Air Force work command.  
23   They needed interpreters to tell the crew, to carry stuff  
24   and so on and I was one of the first to get a job at the  
25   airport. Later on.

1           **Q.     How did you pick up Chinese?**

2           A.     Primarily in the street. In the restaurant,  
3 they had a Chinese dish washer and in the street, I always  
4 loved music. I have a very good music ear. I study music.  
5 Even in Shanghai, I had music lessons with a few pennies.  
6 I had voice lessons. I was always good in languages.  
7 English, French, Yiddish, Chinese, Hebrew. So I picked up  
8 Chinese. I never learned the writing. But I spoke it  
9 fairly well and it helped me getting by the Chinese  
10 neighbors, working I did for short time for Chinese people.  
11 So I was --

12           **Q.     Doing what?**

13           A.     There was a bank and I, Jewish people changed,  
14 those who had money from change and so on and they changed  
15 U.S. dollars into Chinese currency so I was able to work  
16 for these, little, one building bank. One house banks.

17           **Q.     Chinese banks?**

18           A.     Yes. And then they gave me, I think, fifty  
19 cents a day. And a meal. And I was able to work there for  
20 a short time.

21           **Q.     Hmm-hmm?**

22           A.     Until I worked in restaurants and had regular  
23 meals. And I did odd jobs and it wasn't until the war was  
24 over and there was so far Shanghai.

25           **Q.     How did you find the Chinese?**

1           A.     On the whole, the Chinese, we had good  
2 relationship with our neighbors. There was crime. There  
3 was illness. But we lived among Chinese. Some Chinese  
4 worked for Jews. Some Jews worked for the Chinese. Even  
5 the Japanese -- there was very little anti-Semitism. There  
6 was anti-Semitism with the Germans in the international  
7 settlement during the war. There was a German colony. I'd  
8 say about 1500 Germans. They started anti-Semitism because  
9 they were Nazis, not all, but many of them. So, but the  
10 Japanese by and large were not anti-Semitic.

11                     It wasn't until at the very end with the  
12 Germans, especially Meissinger, first the Japanese said you  
13 can't trust the Jews. They're against Germany. So they're  
14 against you because Japanese are Allied. So on and so.  
15 Don't trust them. They're pro-Americans. So there was  
16 some anti-Semitism but very, very, very little. So the  
17 problem was not anti-Semitism. It was poverty, illness and  
18 malnutrition really -up to the end of the war. And then at  
19 first- - shall I go on?

20           Q.     Sure.

21           A.     Yeah, and then at first the war was over.  
22 There were quite a few Jews who were able to work for the  
23 Americans as civilians. Some women. So I can say we had  
24 prostitution. American soldiers came with their  
25 cigarettes, with American dollars. So it wasn't difficult

1 for the American soldier to persuade some women to go to  
2 bed with them and some of them, I suppose, there were so  
3 very little but there was some Jewish women who married  
4 American soldiers.

5                   There were a -some American -- there was  
6 an American rabbi, military rabbi, who arranged for  
7 services. They brought in food supplies and so on and now  
8 the province Sergeant with the province sergeant with the  
9 communists come in from the interior. And Jews wanted to  
10 get out. The situation was pretty bad. Malnutrition. We  
11 lost about, I would say at least ten percent to fifteen  
12 percent of our population by malnutrition and illness. So  
13 Jews wanted to -- and there was no future there. Many  
14 Jews --

15           **Q.     Was your father okay?**

16           A.     My mother -- my father was okay but the problem  
17 was Polish quota. My father -- the Polish quota was just  
18 terrible.

19           **Q.     That's still?**

20           A.     Still. Because --

21           **Q.     Still terrible?**

22           A.     The Polish quota still, you know, was bad. So  
23 we always wanted to leave, wanted to go to America. And we  
24 thought Shanghai was just a temporary place. We never  
25 realized that we were going to be there for seven years.

1 So after the war had ended, I didn't come under the Polish  
2 quota. Under the German quota because I was born in  
3 Berlin. My father came on the Polish quota.

4 Q. So even though he was considered Polish, you  
5 were considered German?

6 A. We were stateless refugees.

7 Q. Yes.

8 A. But the quota system if you emigrate, if you  
9 were born in Posnad, Polish quota. I was born in Berlin.  
10 German quota but I was a very impatient young man.

11 Q. You were 19 now. Huh?

12 A. Yes. And it was in 1946. I said I wanted to  
13 get out. I wanted to get out. So the first group was out  
14 in -it was in September, 46. We went to Australia. And  
15 there was a ship Dansoon that was going to take the first  
16 300 refugees from Shanghai to Australia that had relatives.  
17 Well, I thought that would be a wonderful way to get out.  
18 I had to. Although I was foolish maybe. I don't know.  
19 Maybe it was not. So --

20 Q. Were you worried about leaving your father?

21 A. Yeah. I wrote him a note that I felt I wanted  
22 to get out. Maybe get him to Australia or America was too  
23 difficult. The last minute, the Dansoon was cancelled  
24 because of American war brides were to be taken from  
25 Australia with GI's to America. So what happened really, I

1 should tell you, the ship Dansoon was supposed to leave  
2 from Hong Kong and a boat, from Shanghai to Hong Kong, an  
3 American President Liner called the General Worden was to  
4 take a number, 300 relatives to Hong Kong, to take the ship  
5 to Australia. I managed to sneak on the ship. The General  
6 Worden as a sure way.

7 Q. How?

8 A. Hid myself on the ship to Hong Kong and get out  
9 the ship in Hong Kong hiding with about 300 refugees. We  
10 were put up in the Peninsula hotel in Kaloan. The  
11 Peninsula hotel was owned by the Shanghai -Hong Kong hotel  
12 corporation owned by the Hillel) and the Sassone; so they  
13 put us up in the ball room.

14 Q. You left the ship with the other people?

15 A. Yes. I left it. We were put up in a ball room  
16 and so on.

17 Q. And nobody realized you weren't really there?

18 A. There were a few of my friends who knew. Very  
19 few but the majority didn't know.

20 Q. Did people have papers that established who  
21 they were?

22 A. Most of them had sort of Immigration paper for  
23 Australia and they had German passports. I had nothing.

24 Q. Yes.

25 A. So I was hiding in the hotel with -- we were

1    there actually a month. Put up first by the Jewish  
2    community in Hong Kong. The first ship Yuchow was to  
3    take 350 refugees from Hong Kong to Kaloan to Australia and  
4    I thought this is my big opportunity.

5           **Q.     That's my what?**

6           A.     Big opportunity. So I sneaked on the ship with  
7    fifty refugees. It was a British ship.

8           **Q.     How did you get on?**

9           A.     I sneaked on. I mean it was with a crowd. The  
10   majority of people said good bye to the first fifty leaving  
11   and I went to say good-bye also. I had two friends. I was  
12   able to-- the Chinese didn't know too well. The British  
13   were somewhat careless. I was able to get on the ship.  
14   There were 50 refugees. And we were also living. There was  
15   Yuchow was a freighter and was room and there was also a  
16   steerage room where we put up, some were able to sit a bit  
17   in cabins and I was with a bunch of people in the steerage  
18   room. The Chinese didn't understand the British were  
19   officers. They left it to the Chinese. I was able to be  
20   on the ship. Ate there in the dining room which was like a  
21   room with tables and benches. Separate meals and so on.  
22   And I ate there and the majority of many people between  
23   Hong Kong and Australia, Philippines, the water was pretty  
24   bad. It was a small ship and there was sickness. I  
25   managed very well. I did Friday night. I went to Yeshiva.

1 So I was always doing services as a boy, religious  
2 services. So I did Friday night service on the ship. The  
3 Captain would come in and listen and it was very nice.  
4 This young man. The services. When they got after the  
5 Philippines, the weather became much better. The weather  
6 became smooth and calm. In the dining room one day they  
7 counted and they counted. They were supposed to be fifty  
8 people. There was 51. All of a sudden they said there was  
9 one person too many. They reported it. The workers and so  
10 on. There is a stowaway on board. So the Captain found  
11 out. They immediately arrested me. And --

12 Q. On the ship?

13 A. On the ship and locked me up. And I have some  
14 newspaper articles to prove that. And they locked me up  
15 and the Captain was furious. He said you have the nerve  
16 and I stood there listening to you. I think I should throw  
17 you into the sea. Throw you over board. How you have the  
18 audacity to do what you did. You know it's nothing to  
19 throw a stowaway over board. You have no rights  
20 whatsoever. But he kept me up to Australia. There is a  
21 stowaway on board. What shall we do? It happened. What  
22 kind of papers does he have? Captain comes back. No  
23 papers. Keep him locked up for the Australia authorities.  
24 So they locked me up in this cabin. They arrived in  
25 Sydney. The majority got off but not all of them but they



1    went on to Sydney and then Melbourne and a man from the  
2    welfare board which is similar to welfare came on board  
3    ship and said hello. I hear you are a stowaway. We're  
4    trying to help you. We're trying to get you off. Don't do  
5    anything. Let me see what we can do for you. Behave  
6    yourself. Be nice and we'll do our best. I said, I will  
7    be a good boy in this cabin and the next evening he came.  
8    We stayed overnight in Sydney. Many of the passengers went  
9    out. Not all because some went to on a boat to Melbourne.  
10   So he came back and he said look, I didn't have permission  
11   yet. It was during the time of elections and he  
12   has approached some people who are running for elections.  
13   Minister of Immigration. And it wasn't easy to get special  
14   dispensation. Look. Be patient. Go on to Melbourne.  
15   We'll work on it. So the ship went on to Melbourne. I was  
16   still in my cabin. It was not a jail. It was just a cabin  
17   downstairs - locked up. And they brought in my meals. And  
18   the next night, the ship went to Melbourne. The rest of  
19   the passengers got off except one. I was still locked up.  
20   And then a man came from the welfare board. And he said  
21   Hans, I have bad news for you. I - we tried to get permit  
22   with the elections and government pardons. We couldn't get  
23   papers for you. We will try to help you. You have to go  
24   back to Hong Kong. And he gave me a ten pound Australia  
25   note. He said I'm sorry. That was eve of Roshashona.

1 There I was in the cabin. The ship was to leave in the  
2 evening. Everyone was out except me locked up in the  
3 cabin.

4 Q. Was it going back to Hong Kong with no one on  
5 it except you?

6 A. And freight. And the Chinese and the British.

7 Q. A-huh.

8 A. I said to myself, well, I have to plan  
9 something. So when they brought in my meal, I kept a knife  
10 and I started to -- I was by myself in the cabin. I had a  
11 little like a little backpack with a prayer book, a change  
12 o some shirts and so on and I had my addresses, my ten  
13 pound note. I kept the knife. I started to fool around  
14 with the lock. And I was able to unlock the cabin. Slowly  
15 but surely. I managed to unlock the cabin. There were  
16 there, the harbor workers, longshore people were loading.  
17 I was in my cabin down below was a little fan. I took some  
18 of the oil and smeared my face to cover myself. The cabin  
19 must have opened. At the small bridge of the ship, there  
20 was a guard. So on the other end was fairly low. It was  
21 about from the ceiling down below. I said I have to take  
22 the law in my hands. I jumped the ship. And I was off. I  
23 jumped the ship. It was already evening. And walked out  
24 of there. It was similar to the piers that you have in San  
25 Francisco. I walked out there. Looking messy like a

1 worker. And I happened to have addresses. One address I  
2 remember had a house.

3                   So in house I had an address. I went out  
4 of the port. Went on the first street car. They call it a  
5 tram to get out. To get away from the working men. I got  
6 there. And the man who collects the fares, the conductor.  
7 I gave him a ten pound bill. He looked at me. The fare  
8 was three pennies. And he made a nasty remark. I have no  
9 change. And never mind. So I went to, I didn't want to  
10 look suspicious. So I got off. And I didn't know. All of  
11 a sudden I see a sign. Hoisin. I said gee, I must be in  
12 Hoisin. I was released here.

13                   Then I walked one block. There was a  
14 little block and I see a big sign. Cohn's Kosher  
15 restaurant. Cohn's Kosher restaurant. Sounds great. I5  
16 was eve of Rosh HaShana. So I said, well, it's getting  
17 dark. I am hungry. What can they do to you. I went in  
18 there. There were Jews in this restaurant. It was in a  
19 kosher restaurant. People paid for their meal ahead of  
20 time to get a meal because they didn't collect money on a  
21 Jewish holiday because Rosh HaShana because it was a kosher  
22 restaurant. I went in there and people were nicely dressed  
23 sat down and Mr. Cohn was at the door. He looks at me.

24                   And I quickly - which is perfect to him.  
25 Mr. Cohn. I am Mr. Cohn. Yes. I turned to him quickly.

1 I am a refugee. I just jumped a ship. He looked at me.  
2 He grabbed for my hand. Takes me to the kitchen. Talk to  
3 my wife. His wife was a cook in the kitchen and I quickly  
4 told her the story. She breaks out in tears when she hears  
5 what happened. Very quickly. I jumped the ship. That's  
6 all I have. Ten pounds and she says sit down. She gave me  
7 a bowl of chicken soup and gave me a meal in the kitchen.  
8 They didn't want to put me in the restaurant I was so  
9 messy, and when she says sit, my husband will talk to you  
10 later. Then the husband came an hour later and said to me,  
11 tell me what happened. So I told him.

12 When he said, you know, I am sure the  
13 police is aware of you. They will be looking for you. You  
14 better get out of town. So let me see what we can do to  
15 get you out of the town. So he said I have a friend in the  
16 country in Talsford which is about like San Francisco is to  
17 California. They own a hotel. Maybe you can work in the  
18 kitchen there. I told him I am a cook. I am a chef. I  
19 can work in the restaurant. No we can't do this. Police  
20 will come. He calls this man and he says the first night  
21 you can stay overnight in my house but then he calls him  
22 up. He says you know I have a young man here who is a cook  
23 and he's a refugee -illegal -- can you use him? He says  
24 what? He says my chef was out last night. I fired him.  
25 He says an angel. Bring him here. I need him.

1                   So the next day, he had a friend who drove  
2 me out to Talsford. Rosh HaShana. He drove me out to that  
3 restaurant. The ones who owns the restaurant they received  
4 me like I was the Messiah. They gave me a uniform. A pair  
5 of pants and Cook uniform and said here. You know how to  
6 do chickens? Yeah. They were delighted. I saved their  
7 life. So there I was. I was in Australia 24 hours. I was  
8 already working in the kitchen. And so on, I worked there.  
9 People - I changed my name. People didn't know except the  
10 owners knew and I --

11           Q.     What did you change it to?

12           A.     Johnny Kron. Johnny K-r-o-n. I spoke English  
13 and I cooked there and he paid me six pounds a week. A  
14 pound a day. And he gave me room and board. I couldn't  
15 believe it. I was earning money the first day in Australia  
16 and so on. He had a daughter who loved music.

17                   And there was a man who played piano. So he  
18 played Schubert songs - in my afternoon breaks, I was  
19 singing with him. He accompanied me. I had a wonderful  
20 time. Under a different name and he was knew me as Johnny  
21 Kron and here I was trying to get into Australia where this  
22 kept on going. I had no papers and after six weeks, I said  
23 to myself, look I have to do something.

24                   What can I do here? And I told Mr. Kohn  
25 you can hire someone. I went back to Sydney and maybe get

1 myself legal and I went to Sydney and I was introduced to -  
2 and I was introduced to a patron. A patron. And they  
3 were very big patrons in Sydney and I said do you have a  
4 job for me. I can cook. I told him the story. He hired  
5 me in the kitchen and I remember I worked for him for two  
6 months and I saw Winston Churchill. He came to his house.  
7 In Sydney and I heard him in the kitchen with Winston  
8 Churchill who was visiting and there I was -the police were  
9 looking. There were ads in the people looking for this man  
10 who escaped.

11 This was going on. I was introduced to  
12 the rabbi in Australia who also knew my story. I told him.  
13 He said you sing. Wonderful. He invited me to his house.  
14 He said the in a great synagogue in Sydney, beautiful big  
15 temple we have a wonderful choir. I will introduce you to  
16 the choir master. After three months I was singing in the  
17 great synagogue in the choir. I was working. I had a bank  
18 account under a different name. Everything was fine. The  
19 police still looked for me didn't know and very few people  
20 knew but I couldn't do anything for my father.

21 So after six months the rabbi says you  
22 know the only way you can get yourself legalized is you go  
23 to the police and give yourself up and maybe we can help  
24 you to become legal. So a man from the welfare Federation  
25 who knew me went to the police with me and he said you're

1 looking for this man. Here he is. Immediately he they  
2 arrested me and I was put into this jail in sydney.

3 **Q. This was a real jail?**

4 A. This was-- well, It was not yet real. It was a  
5 hold house in a police station and he said I will fly to  
6 Hamburg to the Immigration office and get you off. And he  
7 flew. And I was. I should tell you there is one loop  
8 hole. Australia had one loop hole. If you had passed a  
9 language test in a foreign language, if you pass it, you  
10 get a visa legal.

11 **Q. You can pass what?**

12 A. If you pass a foreign language examination  
13 other than English.

14 **Q. Other than English?**

15 A. They give you a permit. So I said what can I  
16 do? Sure. So they gave me a test. Perfect. What do you  
17 think they gave me? Portuguese.

18 **Q. You didn't get to chose what language.**

19 A. No. So Portuguese. There was intentional  
20 because there was one way, one in a million you could pass  
21 is, you made it but it wasn't to be fair. So of course I  
22 failed it. So Mr. Brown from the welfare board said he  
23 flew to Australia, to Hamburg. And is there anything I can  
24 do. And I remember I sat before the whole test came out  
25 with a group of feminists. I was very well dressed because

1 I wanted to make a good impression. I put on my best suit.

2                   There were a bunch of feminists and they  
3 were very into it. There was a big jewelry robbery in  
4 Sydney that day and right away they said did you do that.  
5 No, I didn't because I looked so well dressed. There were  
6 pick-pockets and burglars until my case came up. My case  
7 came up. Six months they gave me. Six months in prison.  
8 So Brown said. Don't worry. I will get you off. He went  
9 to Hamburg. It was very very late. So the Moriah, the  
10 prison guards came. I was already in the wagon to the main  
11 jail, registering down below. It was six off clock and  
12 there was everyone in uniform to be sent to the main jail.  
13 Six months.

14                   In comes Otto Brown, he says I have a six  
15 months temporary permit for you. Just five minutes before  
16 I was to be up there, he got me off and he said however, in  
17 six months you have to leave Australia and come back with a  
18 permit. You cannot get permits the way you are now. We  
19 will send you back. Maybe you will go to Hong Kong or  
20 wherever but then we would love to have you back. You have  
21 a profession. You sing. You're very nice boy. So on. So  
22 I was off. And - --

23           Q.     You had to leave in order to come back?

24           A.     Yes. Exactly.

25           Q.     Did you want to come back?





1 on a small boat. And I had friends. But I never did want  
2 to go back to Australia any more because I left -America.  
3 I lived in Los Angeles. And I saw Hollywood. I said boy,  
4 wouldn't it been nice maybe I could get into the movies.  
5 So I never did go back to Australia.

6 And I was with my uncle for three days.  
7 Actually he put me up he had a small house on Melrose in  
8 Los Angeles. And I was --

9 Q. Is that the one who sent you the affidavit?

10 A. Yes. And I arrived in San Francisco. Took a  
11 train. The money I had. I had 80 dollars then from  
12 Australia that I saved. 80 American dollars. I bought-- I  
13 went overnight in a nice upper -nice- it was all day to Los  
14 Angeles. My uncle picked me up and he said, Hans, don't  
15 think America is easy. This is very difficult here. It  
16 was after the war. G I's came around. It wasn't so easy  
17 after the war. There was also unemployment. Many G I's  
18 needed to be placed.

19 So he said, we will go out and look for a  
20 job. I said, look for a job? Yes, he said. Let's go. I  
21 was dead tired. The first day in America. I first.  
22 Actually one night on the train. He took me to downtown LA  
23 restaurants and so on. Come on Hans. He says hello. I  
24 have a cook here who. You want to hire him. I felt so  
25 embarrassed with my uncle's bad English. So after six jobs

1 and places downtown L A these restaurants. I said uncle  
2 Martin, I am so tired let's go home. Tomorrow I will go by  
3 myself. My English was much better than his. He came from  
4 Brazil.

5                   So I spent one night at his house. The  
6 next morning, I said the first thing to do is to get a  
7 newspaper. I bought myself a newspaper and looked at the  
8 ad and I saw they had a delicatessen at Hollywood and Vine  
9 looking for 24 hour delicatessen man. So I said let me go  
10 there. So I went to Hollywood and Vine by myself. This  
11 man interviewed me and knew I was a Jew. So he says ten  
12 bucks a night. You want to work? I said sure. He hired  
13 me. The second night I was already working in a  
14 delicatessen in Hollywood and Vine. I went back to my  
15 uncle. I had my uniform and suitcase. He says you're back  
16 already. I said yes, I am going to work.

17                   And I worked the next night at the  
18 delicatessen. I had no idea what the hell I was doing.  
19 U.S.A., Hollywood and Vine. Pastrami. Salmi, corn beef.  
20 But I enjoyed. There was black fellow there who was very  
21 nice. So I worked there. I lasted one week and by and  
22 after five days. He paid me ten dollars a day. I found  
23 myself a rented room and on Fountain Avenue nearby and  
24 after ten days, he fired me. He said, you know, you don't  
25 have enough experience. I need a better man. He fired me.

1                   So I began but already had earned hundred  
2 dollars. Room was ten bucks a week. It wasn't so bad. I  
3 still had 65 dollars from Australia money that I brought.  
4 So I went across the street, there was a restaurant. They  
5 needed a bus boy. So I went there and worked as a bus boy  
6 for 6 dollars a day. It wasn't so bad. My room was ten  
7 bucks a day.

8                   So, and I heard of a man, a voice teacher,  
9 in the building by the name of Davis who was a very well  
10 own organist. Who was ex husband of Aimee McPherson, the  
11 evangelist, who was very well known in Australia. So I  
12 went to him and I said I want to study words. I've been  
13 studying in Shanghai. So he gave me lessons for \$5 a  
14 lesson. One lesson a week. And I told him that I had  
15 cooked. I can work as a chef. He said you can? I have a  
16 friend in lives in Hollywood and she owns a restaurant, a  
17 movie star. Let me introduce her to you. Her name was  
18 Peggy Ryan. Not too well known. She was a dancer. She  
19 made movies. Job Oakie. Barry Monahan. She was a dance  
20 teach. She owns a restaurant.

21                   So I said sure, I would. He took me to  
22 her in Burbank and in this restaurant and she was looking  
23 for someone. So she saw me there. I was 20 years old.  
24 She interviewed me. She says you're very, very young. Can  
25 do this kind of work. I said I cooked European food.

1 French food. I also worked in a French restaurant in  
2 Australia. So she thought. I said Miss Ryan, I will make  
3 a deal with you. I'll work for you for one week for  
4 nothing. If you like me hire me. If not, never mind.  
5 Nothing.

6 Peggy hired me and I worked there for one  
7 week. These people were Irish. They loved me and I stayed  
8 with them for just about one year. But after three months  
9 they and I was legal now. I was -after two months I bought  
10 an automobile. Used for 400. In 1946 convertible Plymouth  
11 pre-war car. I still lived in Hollywood. I worked there  
12 and Peggy says to me Hans, why don't you move in with us.  
13 They had a back in the back a guest house.

14 So I lived with them for a year in this  
15 guest house. And she paid me fifteen dollars a day as a  
16 chef and room and board was fantastic. 1948. Can you  
17 imagine? Fifteen bucks a day. 19 dollars a week. Room  
18 and board. I loved it. I had singing lessons. I went to  
19 concerts. I tried to get my father. Everything worked  
20 fine.

21 And in 1948, there was trouble with the  
22 Russians. The Berlin blockade. The air lift and they  
23 drafted. And I was. I had to register for the draft. I  
24 don't know if you're aware if when you emigrate you have to  
25 sign you will bear arms for this country and if you had to

1 be drafted, you would. In 1948, Burbank drafted two people  
2 and my number was chosen. Two were drafted. The first  
3 draft in 1948. And I was drafted into the military in 48.  
4 Shipped to Fort Ord, California.

5 Q. Where. Fort Ord?

6 A. It was very nice. Basic training. And it was  
7 Los Angeles. I had such a good time. I dated girls. I  
8 went out. I had nobody. So I was lonesome. I was  
9 wonderful. But nothing serious developed. Then I came to  
10 Fort Ord and I reported myself to the chaplain and I said I  
11 can sing. I have a Jewish education. Do you need an  
12 Assistant. So I became a Chaplain's assistant in Fort Ord.  
13 I was in the infantry. And I -there were services in  
14 Salinas. They had a synagogue.

15 So I had - I took a driver's test. I  
16 drove a bus for Jewish soldiers also in Salinas and  
17 services voluntarily as a Cantor in Salinas. So it was  
18 wonderful until the spring of 49. And someone says, you  
19 know, knew my wife and said there is a young man from  
20 Germany. My wife lived - who wasn't my wife then. She  
21 lived in Salinas. She was a schoolteacher. My wife also  
22 came from Germany. She was a schoolteacher. And she said  
23 when? You should meet him. He has a nice voice. He  
24 speaks German. Why don't you come and meet him? My wife  
25 was not a temple girl. She was very rarely went to

1 services.

2 But she went. And we met in Salinas. We  
3 met in Salinas 50 years ago. This is our 50th wedding  
4 anniversary coming up. We met in Salinas and became  
5 acquainted. Dated. She came. There were dances in Fort  
6 Ord. We went out to Carmel and we developed a very  
7 wonderful friendship which became rather serious. And in  
8 June, 1949, in Carmel, under a Eucalyptus tree, we became  
9 engaged.

10 So there was a little over fifty years ago  
11 and then I was transferred to Fort Bragg, North Carolina  
12 and Eva came and visited me. We were engaged. I was in  
13 special services with the engineers. Also entertained  
14 because I was singing. And then the law came out if you  
15 were drafted and during the Berlin blockage, it was under  
16 Truman, after one year, if you sign up for five years  
17 reserves, you could get out. So I signed up for reserves.  
18 I got -I was out in December. Came back to Salinas. And  
19 in December, Christmas day, 1949, 50 years ago, I married  
20 my wife. And things went very nicely. I found a job in  
21 Pebble Beach.

22 Q. Doing what?

23 A. Okay. Pebble Beach was DelMonte properties.  
24 Very fancy hotel in Pebble Beach and I applied as a chef  
25 there a Swedish fellow. I applied as a cook and he said,

1 experience? I said I am European. I handle European food.  
2 He says, okay, after you get married come and see me. It  
3 was at the end of December. He hired me and I worked as a  
4 cook in the DelMonte Lodge. I did very, very well.

5 **Q. DelMonte Lodge?**

6 A. DelMonte Lodge in Pebble Beach. Today it's  
7 called the Lodge. It's a very prominent, it's owned by  
8 DelMonte Properties. The President was S.F.M Morse. Morse  
9 - they were the Morse -- They were the Morse Alphabet.  
10 They brought it for thousands of dollars. Which today is  
11 worth millions.

12 **Q. Just got sold?**

13 A. Yes. Exactly. I worked there and we were  
14 married. Eva taught in Salinas. We moved. Eva, my wife.  
15 We moved to Monterrey and from a cook I worked myself up to  
16 second cook to relief man and increased my salary.

17

18

19

20

21 And then he needed a chef for the big shop which is near  
22 by which is part of DelMonte. So I applied. It was a job  
23 at the shop at the beach shop and on the side for services,  
24 I was singing. In fact, I did high Holy Days and  
25 RashaShona in San Francisco. There was my first high



1 HolyDay job in 1951. I was hired. I was Cantor to a  
2 second Cantor there. Holy services. They had services in  
3 the temple house and I could sing. I knew my Hebrew. I  
4 knew the music to where I was hired and Fridays I  
5 volunteered in Salinas at the synagogue but at the  
6 beginning I never finish high school. It was a job. I  
7 worked as a cook. Why I did work in the kitchen? Because  
8 I was hungry. Why? I really always wanted to have an  
9 education. I study music. Languages. I read. So I very  
10 much wanted to be a Cantor. Rabbi White over shown me. He  
11 had a restaurant and he said happens you have a nice voice.  
12 Why don't you go to school and study?

13 Q. Who was this?

14 A. Rabbi White.

15 Q. Oh.

16 A. Rabbi White was the Rabbi of Temple Bat-Shalom  
17 in San Francisco. He died 7, 8 years ago. He was there for  
18 many years, a wonderful man who hired me with Bernstein.  
19 He was the president and he said you would make a nice  
20 salary. You love to sing. So get yourself an education .  
21 So in 1957. First of all, I must say, I opened a  
22 restaurant in Carmel after I was, I saved a little money.  
23 I opened a restaurant in Carmel which is still there. The  
24 Hot Dog. And I opened a Cantoring business. Made myself a  
25 little money but I still wasn't happy because still no

1 education. So I wanted to sing. I wanted to make something  
2 with my voice with my life. So I sought Mr. Rabbi White's  
3 advise. I went to New York. I applied and I auditioned  
4 and to make a long story short, I took an exam. I was  
5 accepted at Hebrew College. I took tests. I managed to  
6 get a bachelor degree in music. I got myself a Cantor  
7 diploma. I spent five years in New York. Going to school  
8 in Seminary. Since I know Hebrew, I was able to teach  
9 Hebrew in an afternoon school. I taught. I worked at  
10 night for caterers in New York.

11 In the summertime, I worked in the Borsch  
12 belt in the mountains in the Catskills. I worked as a  
13 singing waiter. Made myself tips and so on. All this  
14 time, I had promised my wife who hated heat that I would  
15 move her out of New York. So I - we went to the mountains.  
16 We rented a bungalow. We already had three children. Two  
17 were born in California. When I went to study, believe it  
18 or not, my wife became pregnant. The third one, Barbara,  
19 was born in New York. Summertimes were spent in the  
20 mountains. I worked as a waiter to earn money for my  
21 singing lessons. To pay money for books and tuition and it  
22 was a very nice job. It paid fifteen dollars a week and  
23 thirty five dollars a week because I was singing with a  
24 band. There was fifty dollars. It wasn't very much but  
25 but -but - but -my tips as a waiter was over two hundred a

1 week.

2                   So I earned about 250 dollars a week in  
3 the mountains in the summer. So the summer was 25 hundred  
4 which was pretty good at that time in the 1950's. 25  
5 hundred. My wife had a job teaching school in California  
6 in 1949. 25 hundred a year. So 25 hundred for a summer  
7 was very good as a waiter. I got myself my diploma. I  
8 worked during school at night for Hedron, United Nations.  
9 I substituted as Cantor. I taught Hebrew and when I  
10 graduated. I also had a student something. So at that  
11 time during my student years I was able to earn about ten  
12 thousand dollars a year, in the fifties which was not bad  
13 singing, working day and night in restaurants, cantoring,  
14 Hebrew teaching. Until I graduated. My first job was in  
15 South Bend, Indiana. I also did get myself a principal's  
16 address and in South Bend, Indiana, I was a cantor and a  
17 principal in a reformed congregation. Wonderful  
18 congregation. Wonderful community. And the people loved  
19 me. There we lived there for two years. At one point I was  
20 not terribly happy with reform because I had a very  
21 traditional background. The Rabbi loved me. The people  
22 liked me but I felt - besides my wife came from California.  
23 And Indiana is tornado country. The winter there in April  
24 when the snow melts. Lots of snow in October. Freezing  
25 climates. So it was a Rabbi Tannenbaum who heard from a

1 friend Rabbi Dubin that I was interested to make a change  
2 and who wanted me in 1964 which is thirty five years ago  
3 and would I be interested to move? So --

4 Q. To move where?

5 A. To move to Redwood City. Yeah. So I came in  
6 and auditioned for Redwood City. The audition went very  
7 well. They were very interested. I sang. Sang with the  
8 choir. Taught the assembly, what have you. They were  
9 interested. Except the last day they interviewed me from  
10 the school committee. They were excited because they  
11 weren't in the original auditions. They insisted  
12 immediately and they said, gee, can you work under fire?  
13 Have you had ulcers. Because they had problems in the  
14 school with the principal. And they made it sound so  
15 miserable in the school. Pressure and what have you. And  
16 I said that's not for me. So I came home back to Indiana.  
17 My wife met me and I said the congregation was nice but  
18 they were really having trouble in the school. Ulcers and  
19 pressures. Who needs that?

20 And I wasn't going to go there and I had  
21 a letter from Rabbi Tannenbaum and Rabbi Tannenbaum said  
22 don't take it that seriously. They will be your best  
23 friends. Come. We like you. They like your voice. They  
24 like your singing and I accepted it. And then in 1964, my  
25 wife and three children moved to Redwood. We moved

1 actually to Palo Alto and we lived here one year and then  
2 we bought this house 34 years ago and I was with Beth Shiva  
3 - for 24 years. Actually now thirty five. That's pretty  
4 much the story in a nutshell.

5                   Everything, I mean I would say my life was  
6 in danger. A few times I faced death. Germany, then  
7 Shanghai, the bombardment and then the escape where almost  
8 they wanted to throw me overboard and all challenges. And  
9 then there was the last challenge came about seven years  
10 ago when I had some problems in my throat. And I had a  
11 lesion in my tongue which was getting bigger. And to make  
12 a long story short, I was diagnosed with cancer. So then  
13 they removed half of my tongue seven years ago. And I made  
14 a pretty good recovery.

15                   In fact I still sang, I taught at the  
16 temple. Everything was going fine until two years later.  
17 I had some problems again on the side here and it was a  
18 reoccurrence. And again, I was examined and had a biopsy  
19 and it was malignant. The first surgery was five and a  
20 half hours. The second surgery was really much more  
21 intensive. It was eleven and a half hours. They removed a  
22 jaw bone here. Titanium. They put in a titanium jaw bone  
23 besides my tongue had been removed. Half of my tongue.  
24 Radiation. And they went in here. Put an artery in here  
25 which they took from here. They put a flap from here and

1 here with by surgery. The skin here was taken off from  
2 here and put here. It was a horrendous surgery and in fact  
3 for a while I couldn't speak. A tube in my nose. I had a  
4 gastric tube in my nose and I survived it. Better I  
5 learned to speak again and I started to sing again. But  
6 you probably noticed I have a speech defect.

7                               So my speech was not the same as it used  
8 to be. From a basso I became a baritone. I am still  
9 alive. This whole thing, if I should sum up, has been a  
10 challenge. I felt I never want to give up. I never want  
11 to-- there is always hope. I think I always had a positive  
12 attitude. I must say my religion has given me the faith  
13 and believe that there is much good in life. You have to  
14 look for the good. A positive attitude. Maybe a sense of  
15 humor. I love to laugh and joke and enjoy myself, to be  
16 happy and that's last but not least, I feel there's always  
17 a challenge in order to overcome maybe to do something for  
18 somebody else. And over the years I've tried to maybe help  
19 others in some way. I have accepted life the way it is and  
20 I am thankful to be here, to be around and to --when I  
21 visit rooms in a hospital, I see people. I even see that  
22 there are people who are worse off than I am. I have a  
23 wonderful wife who has supported me through all this  
24 illness, who was with me day and night when things were  
25 very tough. They're still hard with eating and swallowing

1 and so on. I have three children. They are in this  
2 country. They are all working. One is working for the  
3 Palo Alto school system. She was a principal.

4

5 Tape two.

6

7 Q. I think we were talking about your daughters  
8 when we got cut off. So could you pick up there?

9 A. Okay. Yes. Well, we started with our oldest.  
10 Becky who is an administrator at the Palo Alto school  
11 system. For five years she was a principal of an  
12 elementary school of fifteen hundred students. Now she's  
13 administrator here in Palo Alto, an educator. She has  
14 three children, is married and lives in El San Burante.

15 Number two is Ruth. Ruth Cohn is psycho-  
16 therapist, is married. Lives in San Francisco and has an  
17 office practice in Berkeley. And number three is Arianna  
18 Barbara. Barbara is married, has three children and she is  
19 a nurse and she does nursing administration and does some  
20 teaching and also does some health care.

21 So these are the three girls.

22 Q. Hmm-hmm.

23 A. My wife, as I mentioned before, is a  
24 schoolteacher. She teaches right now. She's retired like  
25 me. She teaches privately here. We have an office in the

1 back and she has some naturalization groups. She does some  
2 seminars. Center for the Polish boards and advanced  
3 placement. And we have done a bit of travelling since we  
4 retired. I still have Beth Jacob reading the Torah. And  
5 we have a committee, holistic committee, where we visit  
6 people who are ill and we have been doing some travelling.  
7 I've been doing some services on the ship at holidays and  
8 Passover and we wanted to see the world and besides  
9 enjoying our home and our life. If I reflect about the  
10 years, past years, and my own identity, it has been  
11 somewhat confusing.

12 Namely I was born in Germany. I loved the  
13 music. I love Schubert and Lida and the culture itself,  
14 you know. The arts and poetry which German was my mother's  
15 home and when I visited Germany, I felt very much at home  
16 despite the fact what happened.

17 **Q. I wanted to ask if you had gone back to**  
18 **Germany?**

19 **A. Yes.**

20 **Q. When was the first time?**

21 **A. I've gone back to Germany, oh, maybe I-- we**  
22 **have friends in Germany who have been in the army here and**  
23 **maybe in 20 years ago, we have been back. But I've taken**  
24 **several Jewish students to Germany for visits by invitation**  
25 **by the German government and because I speak the language.**



1 So twice we have done that. Once with my wife in Stanford  
2 and we have frankly visited. So the German culture it's  
3 unbelievable that what happened with such advanced society.  
4 Music, art, and what have you. So speaking German, I loved  
5 it. It was my mother's home.

6 Q. **Hmm-hmm.**

7 A. And then I visited Israel. I saw Jews. I saw  
8 Hebrew. I saw different, my people. That's really my  
9 country. That is what I love. That's my background. It's  
10 my home and coming back to America, I am an American  
11 citizen. I was here. I had my education, my profession,  
12 my children were born here. My family is here. So really,  
13 what am I? Where is my home? And to some extent, my  
14 identity, I consider myself a citizen of the world. I  
15 really have become in Germany, not in the history what they  
16 have done but culturally and intellectually. Israel, I  
17 mean, this is my religion, my background. So I've been  
18 very happy to go there. And America, where they accepted  
19 me. I am a citizen. My family is here. I speak the  
20 language. So really, I am a citizen of the world and this  
21 is by and large my identity.

22 Q. **Does that feel good?**

23 A. It does. It does in a way. But I am not fully  
24 identified on the fourth of July which is for America very,  
25 very special. For me it's a holiday. It's not really

1 indicative of when I came into the world because it was my  
2 adopted country. And Israel again is, well, it's my  
3 religion, my background as a Jew. And Germany is the  
4 creator of my birth, my language. So I am what I am.

5       **Q.     Hans, how did it feel when you went back to**  
6 **Germany?**

7       **A.     The first time, it was very strange and I'd**  
8 **tell you the people who took me around, who took me around.**  
9 **They took me to the place where I was born. They took me**  
10 **to the street where I lived. I saw the house. And the**  
11 **people stood next to me and they looked at me. And I had a**  
12 **stone face. It didn't move me. The house. It didn't do a**  
13 **thing for me.**

14       **Q.     What were you feeling?**

15       **A.     And then I went to services. I sang in the**  
16 **Passover synagogue and when I was in the service and when**  
17 **the arc was opened and I heard the melodies that I heard as**  
18 **a child, the tears came. I started very moved and sad and**  
19 **in a way nostalgic but that's where I cried. Not when I**  
20 **saw this darn house with the street where I had been as a**  
21 **boy where they beat me up. Didn't do a thing for me but it**  
22 **did bring back some memories. I went to the cemetery and**  
23 **visited my birth mother at the cemetery. Was pretty bad**  
24 **when I went because it was in the east German and the**  
25 **Russians so, look,-- now I understand they hated. I**

1 haven't been there in a while. It's been cleaned up but I  
2 visited the services in Germany and music was my life. You  
3 don't feel very good. You stand outside. There are police  
4 outside. Still don't feel at home because it's all under  
5 security. So you're really not comfortable at all. I  
6 would never want to go back there and live. Although if--  
7 I had a wonderful opportunity. They had the cantors and  
8 probably, they would give us restitution. Some money. I  
9 would never want to go back. I tried going back to Israel.  
10 I visited there several times. Had sabbaticals. I love  
11 the music and I am very very moved but it has been  
12 accomplished but look, I am 74 years old, almost. I have a  
13 nice home. My family is here. I enjoy my life here. I am  
14 a citizen and I hope and I pray that this will never happen  
15 here. Although you saw what happened yesterday in Los  
16 Angeles and a month ago what happened in Sacramento but  
17 having been an optimist all my life, I feel we have  
18 survived for three thousand years. This too will pass.

19 Q. Do you think it could happen in America?

20 A. It's possible, yes. I mean, if-- when people  
21 are hungry and desperate and completely without food,  
22 without work, where --it's possible.

23 Q. Hmm-hmm.

24 A. I hope it never were.

25 Q. Yeah.

1           A.     But, I mean, Germany was a very developed  
2 country. Science, music, art. It was unbelievable that  
3 they would stoop that low. In fact, the Japanese in  
4 Shanghai Mr. Shibata said we would never stoop that low and  
5 help these camps of death, camps that happened in Germany  
6 which is unbelievable. So we will never know but -- there  
7 was one, there was - I mean, you never know.

8           Q.     Yeah. You're making a connection between bad  
9 economic conditions. Unemployment, poverty?

10          A.     Yes.

11          Q.     And yet in America now that was not the case?

12          A.     That's right. That's why I have no fear it  
13 will never happen. But God forbid, if another monster. I  
14 mean the Russians intended to, just, I mean, I remember  
15 Kruschev at the United Nations with the shoe banging on the  
16 table when he said we will bury you. And he meant it. And  
17 now Stalin became a citizen but you never know.

18          Q.     I wanted to understand a little bit about the  
19 development of your singing and your music. When you sang  
20 when you were young were you singing religious things or --

21          A.     Yes, among other things, when we had to be in a  
22 Jewish school, first of all I always went to services with  
23 my parents. Ever since I was very little. I would imitate  
24 the Cantor as when I came home. I didn't know Hebrew then.  
25 I was six and seven, and I would sing the melodies, not

1 knowing the words. I would imitate and I was, I had a nice  
2 voice and then I sang in the children's choir and I took  
3 singing lessons. So music, I loved always opera, and  
4 music; so I sing Russian, German, Italian, a little bit of  
5 everything, Yiddish, Israeli Hebrew, English, German. So  
6 music has somehow been my life and my avocation until it  
7 became my profession.

8 Q. When did you know that you wanted it to become  
9 your profession?

10 A. Oh, when I went to Shanghai, I volunteered. I  
11 sang and did children's services in our Schule. I lead  
12 services and I study voice and already then, but then I had  
13 to work for a living and learn and get an education but  
14 immediately when I came here, I took voice lessons all the  
15 time and in New York, I sang with a very, very famous opera  
16 singer, who was internationally famous and became a  
17 hypnotist who was with the Berlin opera was in Edinburgh.  
18 He was in the Metropolitan opera. He was Meissinger when  
19 he was older. He had a heart attack. So he was retired  
20 and charged I study with him for a few years.

21 Q. Hmm-hmm. I wanted to ask about your father.  
22 What happened to him?

23 A. My father, since he couldn't come here  
24 immediately because of the quota system, went to England  
25 and I always, even when I worked here, I send him money to

1 support him, supported him, and he lived in England until  
2 1952, I think, 56. He lived here for six years. Came to  
3 America. I even got him a job when I worked in Pebble  
4 Beach. He worked there for a short time as a janitor, you  
5 may say. At first, his English was always very bad. So  
6 then he worked, he came to America, the family. What was  
7 his name? Mrs. Shreck helped many refugees and my father  
8 worked there -enfirmen -until he became ill. I went to New  
9 York and he died. Came back in 58. Was buried in San  
10 Francisco and died here after Germany, China, England, San  
11 Francisco.

12 Q. How was America for him?

13 A. Difficult. I mean he - I always helped him  
14 somewhat financially. Here he never properly adjusted. He  
15 regularly went to social services. He went to Big Brother.  
16 They had a rabbi. Up to the end always went to services.  
17 He had friends that played cards which was a German card  
18 game. He had quite a few Jewish. Dined out but he made  
19 the best of it and we were nearby except at the very end,  
20 he had Parkinson's's disease and he died unfortunately. So  
21 the last year was tough.

22 Q. Hmm-hmm.

23 A. But he was happy to be here.

24 Q. Hmm-hmm.

25 A. So it was hard because of language.

1           Q.     I want to ask - for Ruth to ask you some  
2 questions?

3           A.     Sure.

4                     (The following questions are from Ruth.)

5           Q.     You know you mentioned that it was around the  
6 time of your Bar Mitzvah when your mother died and um, did  
7 you then subsequently have a Bar Mitzvah?

8           A.     Yes.

9           Q.     You did? And how do you think that your  
10 mother's death, at that time, I mean really important time  
11 in your life, really affected you then?

12          A.     It really-- I am glad you asked me. It  
13 affected me very much. First of all, I must say I've  
14 always been conscious of my mother, my father. My mother.  
15 She was the light of our family. She made the decision.  
16 She insisted. I think if it wasn't for my mother, my  
17 father would have - have said. She was the one that  
18 started the business. She was very efficient and when she  
19 died, it was a real blow to the point where my father was  
20 so distraught, says there is nothing left for me. My wife  
21 is gone and I asked, dad, you still have me, you know.

22                     In Shanghai, I had worked with the Cantor  
23 Fleischer who also was in the San Francisco. He went to  
24 Chicago. I don't know if he's still alive. I sang in this  
25 very nice orthodox Schule. I sang very beautifully. He

1   taught me. It was a wonderful Bar Mitzvah. The Rabbi, he  
2   sort of made a tear jerker out of it because I sang so  
3   well. The women were upstairs and he said you sang so  
4   beautifully. Your mother should have been here. She would  
5   have loved it but she's in spirit. And I still remember up  
6   above, the women sobbing. They were sobbing. This poor  
7   boy, you know, and I was thirteen. A year later, I worked  
8   at the school but I must say the hardship has been always a  
9   challenge. I never give up the synagogue was my second  
10  home. The synagogue. I sang. I went to services, the  
11  choir, the melodies. So my Bar Mitzvah maybe gave me an  
12  impetus to continue my studying which I did in music and so  
13  forth.

14           **Q.    What do you think gave you the courage and the**  
15 **confidence every time it seemed that you landed somewhere**  
16 **you were able to say you can cook or you presented yourself**  
17 **as someone who was very capable and you always had the**  
18 **confidence and you were gutsy and took chances. How do you**  
19 **think you developed that courage and that self confidence?**

20           **A.    I tell you, when my mother died and she was the**  
21 **one who had chutzpah. My father was the one who was sort**  
22 **of easy going. I even helped him when I was cooking. I**  
23 **brought him some food home. I always had the audacity. I**  
24 **never gave up and maybe tenacity. It may be the word, to**  
25 **persevere. It may be partly my religion. You must never**



1 give up. There is hope.

2 In German you say -- (something in German  
3 and inaudible.) If you miss and slept into your affairs,  
4 there are thousands of us that are still open. Try  
5 something else.

6 I went to Beth Shalom at that time. I  
7 could sing. I wasn't a real Cantor there. My music - I  
8 wasn't a real musician yet. I was - before I went to  
9 Hebrew University but I said I can do this. I can sing.  
10 He listened to me. He was impressed when I went to him.  
11 So I always was singing with my eyes. I was always  
12 watching how he was doing. Imitating when I saw a piece of  
13 music or something. I was, I picked things up and maybe,  
14 and despite the fact that as I mentioned, there were  
15 challenges and problem of surviving, maybe that has  
16 sharpened my intent to succeed because you try harder. The  
17 harder it is, the harder you try.

18 Q. Hmmm. Um, oh, you mentioned that, I was just  
19 wondering did your family get or did you get any  
20 restitution from Germany?

21 A. There was once a German government made five  
22 thousand dollars marks to Ruth Shine which means loss of  
23 profession, education loss. I got that. That's it.  
24 Nothing else. Because I never worked in Germany. My  
25 father who was a smart man worked, in Germany. He was

1 employed. So was my mother. I never -- I came as a child.  
2 I had no insurance. In fact, I am still thinking my mother  
3 had insurance but she never collected, paid into for years.  
4 I have never collected but so much of the money inherited.  
5 I have never done anything about it.

6 (Questions by Mr. Ryan.)

7 Q. Don't want to?

8 A. I have mixed feelings about it but I must say  
9 financially I am not wealthy but I have my social security.  
10 I have a small pension and my wife has a pension. We're  
11 not desperate really. So not that we are living in  
12 abundance, but I haven't.

13 Q. Is it an emotional thing that you don't want to  
14 follow up on?

15 A. Maybe. Maybe. I'm really not to bother with.  
16 I really haven't been serious about it. On the other hand,  
17 maybe I should see. But to hell with them, you know. It's  
18 blood money and don't touch it. So I have really done  
19 nothing about it.

20 (Question by Ruth.)

21 Q. How do you think that your experience of, you  
22 know, being in Shanghai the time your mother died, that's a  
23 crucial time. Your father sort of going off and, you know,  
24 and leaving you, affected your ability or how did you then  
25 parent, you know, three children and how do you think your

1     **relationship with your children was affected?**

2           A.     Yes.   Very good question.   I would say in the  
3     very beginning I barely even talked about it.   We never  
4     spoke German at home.   Except lately.   Except in bed.   We  
5     didn't want to, our kids to understand.   So -- and I didn't  
6     want to bother them.   Although sometimes when we're eating  
7     and the kids didn't want to eat, it upset us.   I would tell  
8     them, you know, in Shanghai, I lived on bread and water.   I  
9     was starving.   Eat.   Eat.   I was telling them I lived  
10    through hard times.   Be thankful with what you have.   But  
11    the children never really understood the Holocaust.  
12    Lately, maybe at the movie house, Schindler's List, the  
13    Holocaust has become more or less a very, very important  
14    subject for Jewish survivors.   So that become more  
15    interested.   Before we never discussed very much about it.  
16    And I didn't want to interfere.   I suffered in hardship  
17    because we're here to go ahead, to succeed and forget the  
18    past.   That's history.

19           **Q.     Did they know about your working in restaurants**  
20    **in Shanghai?**

21           A.     Yeah.   I told them.   Yes.   They know.   Yes.  
22    They knew when they were older.   When they were in high  
23    school.   And so on, I told them.   Unfortunately I had few  
24    pictures because I didn't save anything.   I went in  
25    Australia, I had nothing.   So I'm now trying to get

1 pictures, people who were my classmates and working on  
2 this. Class picture. A picture of Shanghai where might be  
3 in. I discovered one picture. There is (inaudible.)  
4 There is Shanghai music. And there is one picture, a class  
5 music in the Jewish club and there is a tiny picture. I  
6 see my face. And Rabbi Shofar who works there and I still  
7 write to him, this plan as I mentioned before, was one of  
8 the challenges that we survived the Germans wanted to  
9 destroy the Jews and it was, this Japanese really who  
10 didn't permit it and the Japanese who said, many many Jews.  
11 In his book he writes in there, Shanghai went back to Tokyo  
12 just retired, for many years, who wrote this book. So I  
13 have some memories and so on and similarly. I wanted to  
14 contact him. He probably had the picture. I don't know.  
15 I am working on this because whenever you have history, a  
16 book that's history and memorized, you have pictures and I  
17 with like to have it. A book that just came out about a  
18 man if you can interview him. You probably have, he things  
19 of Berlin, Shanghai my time. He had nothing like me. His  
20 name was you probably you know Michael Blumenthal. Michael  
21 Blumenthal was in Shanghai delivering bread, came to  
22 America, had an education, went to Princeton, had his  
23 Ph.D., was president of Bendix corporation and became the  
24 secretary of the Treasury under President Carter.  
25 Blumenthal. His picture is on all the door bells in New

1    York City. He came on the same ship. He's now teaching at  
2    Princeton. He's an economist and he's the President of the  
3    Holocaust Museum in Berlin. He was on the same boat which  
4    I have The Invisible World. He writes about the Germans  
5    and Jews, about the history, and he still is up to this  
6    day, we are now accepted in Germany as Jews and what have  
7    you but there is This Invisible World which exists which  
8    you are never at home. Despite the fact that the Germans  
9    invited you to come back and he writes about it. The  
10   Invisible World by Michael Blumenthal. And Michael was a  
11   bit more successful than I was. He made it up to the  
12   Cabinet of the president but it's a very interesting man  
13   exactly my age and has written about Shanghai, Berlin and  
14   now he's back in Berlin where they're building a Holocaust  
15   Museum and maybe some of the tapes might be of interest to  
16   the Museum and Berlin. Although, there are tapes in there  
17   also Berlin in German. They have some of this similar  
18   tapes in German at the Museum in Berlin.

19            **Q.     They're having a big controversy about that**  
20   **museum; aren't they?**

21            A.     Yes, the building. Apparently it's -- the  
22   Museum --it's not so much as the Holocaust memorial. That  
23   is the controversy. Some rather than having a monument use  
24   the money for education to fight as Nazism, to educate and  
25   to do something positive, rather than have having another

1 statue, another similar like New York. That's the  
2 controversy you're quite right but the Jews want to have  
3 the museum. It's there, by the way, it a very nice  
4 building. But it's a memorial that's being created that's  
5 the controversy.

6 (Questions by Ruth.)

7 Q. I have one question. Going back to the days in  
8 Shanghai you mentioned that your father worked for one of  
9 the eastern Jewish - -

10 A. French.

11 Q. One of the French. Right so were there first  
12 of all many Jews from the ghetto who were allowed to leave  
13 to go to work?

14 A. Not many. There were quite a few doctors who  
15 were able to practice in some hospitals. They had some  
16 permits but very few. My father was there for one year.  
17 They gave him but then it became also very difficult to  
18 live there. And he gave it up. But there was in the  
19 French section.

20 Q. I was wondering did many of the German Jews go  
21 and work for the Iraqi Jews or --

22 A. Well, the Iraqi Jews, when the war broke out,  
23 some of them were imprisoned by the British and some of  
24 them left the city, were British. The Iraqi's were, Iraq  
25 was a British colony and when Sassone and (Inaudible name)

1 they left Iraq, British citizens went to Hong Kong and  
2 Shanghai and had British passports. When the Japanese took  
3 over Shanghai, some of them were in camp and some of them  
4 went to Hong Kong and then left again because they were in  
5 prison in Hong Kong too. So no one worked for them any  
6 more.

7                   And one time I worked also in the French  
8 settlement. There was a strike and I was a bell hop there  
9 for a very short time because they needed some people and  
10 there was a strike. And I got a short permit there but it  
11 didn't last. I enjoyed doing it also. Primarily they fed  
12 you. That was always nice. There was a big hotel and the  
13 chef was French. It was very nice. I ate there.

14           **Q.     Very early on when you were still in Germany,**  
15 **what do you remember? How did you spend your time as a**  
16 **young child. What did you do during the summers?**

17           **A.     Well, I remember when I was very young, my**  
18 **parents didn't go overseas. We went to resorts nearby,**  
19 **rented today we call condominiums just to get out of**  
20 **Berlin, have a little vacation by some lake. I remember**  
21 **that and my mother cooked and we hiked, maybe similar to**  
22 **New York you go to the Catskills, but not in the hotel but**  
23 **rather renting a small place where you can do your cooking.**  
24 **Because this is mixed. Although it wasn't kosher but we**  
25 **fixed our own food and then when I had to be at Schule, I**

1 remember that. I had only Jewish friends, the synagogue,  
2 the choir. We played in the park and I must say on the  
3 whole, I was deprived of my youth altogether. There wasn't  
4 any youth. It was either being at home or being when I was  
5 thirteen which was very young, at the Bar Mitzvah. I  
6 already was in the business world working. So I didn't  
7 have much of a youth all together.

8           **Q. When you mentioned going back to Germany, you**  
9 **said you were very moved when you went to services. Was**  
10 **this the same synagogue that had been destroyed during**  
11 **Kristale Nacht?**

12           **A. No. Maybe I should show you. Maybe I will**  
13 **show it. The synagogue where there was destroyed. There**  
14 **were 350 synagogues or more were destroyed. There was**  
15 **some, this synagogue where I sang, it was in the courtyard.**  
16 **In Germany, the houses had a courtyard and this synagogue**  
17 **was in back of a housing development so they couldn't**  
18 **destroy it by fire. It would have burned the neighboring**  
19 **building. In fact in Kristalle Nacht, I remember when we**  
20 **went to Schule, the fire in the Schule sprayed the**  
21 **neighboring houses. To protect the neighborhood. They**  
22 **didn't do anything to help the synagogue at all. But this**  
23 **synagogue remained. Something Strasse. One of the few**  
24 **synagogues that remain in Berlin. During the war it was**  
25 **saved. The Germans fixed it up. Today one of the nicest**



1 services in Berlin is in the synagogue. They have organ.  
2 They have a choir. Women and men sit separate, but it's  
3 still there. Wonderful music. The choir is German. They  
4 have German. Both of us in Auschwitz. Lovely voice  
5 survived Auschwitz and sang all of these beautiful  
6 melodies. The early synagogues except in London where you  
7 hear this type of music from beginning to end. And, so I  
8 was very moved. It brought me back to my childhood because  
9 it's the same music. The service still in German. The  
10 rabbi just retired. His name was Stein. He also was in  
11 Shanghai. Went from Shanghai to London. He was my rabbi  
12 and was in Berlin. Just retired. I thing it's a new Rabbi  
13 now. Israeli.

14 Q. I actually this is a two part question. You  
15 know given that you had a lot of trauma and a lot of the  
16 obstacles overcome, first, how do you think that that  
17 strengthened you or made you able to achieve what you  
18 wanted to achieve and also how do you think that has held  
19 you back any maybe it disabled you from being what you  
20 would have liked to have been?

21 A. Actually the hardship strengthened me. It's a  
22 challenge. I should maybe say by mentioning Victor  
23 Frankel. Victor Frankel was a psychologist psychiatrist.  
24 He survived Auschwitz. He was living under the worse  
25 conditions in death camps and he said under the hardest

1 condition, you find meaning in life and so, and I felt the  
2 hardness the more I wanted to persevere. I never felt that  
3 I was dying although I was near being somewhat either  
4 destroyed or ill or what have you. I always was positive  
5 that things will get better. Things will get better and  
6 they did get better. I mean surviving the miserable  
7 conditions in Shanghai -illness, poverty, extremes.  
8 Extreme wealth or extreme poverty. People starving. Dying  
9 in the street and in the way, it strengthened. I felt  
10 better times are ahead. I really never thought they we  
11 wouldn't make it. I always thought we would win the war.  
12 That the Nazis would be destroyed. I had the confidence  
13 and the strength in me. And my religion of course.

14 **Q. So do you feel that there were some ways that**  
15 **the experiences disabled you that maybe, you know if you**  
16 **hadn't had -- if you had had a normal up bringing that's**  
17 **maybe you would have been able to achieve different things**  
18 **that you didn't or that you weren't able to or emotionally**  
19 **you would have been?**

20 **A. I don't know. I imagined if the Nazis wouldn't**  
21 **have come, I don't know. I don't even know if Hitler**  
22 **wasn't there wouldn't have persecuted the Jews, we wouldn't**  
23 **have joined the youth movement and nationalistic movement**  
24 **where Jews are not nationalists. But maybe it was very**  
25 **exciting to wear a uniform and to march and so on. So if**

1     it hadn't been-- I don't know.

2                     But my parents never entertained this  
3     thought of leaving Germany. There was always anti-Semitism  
4     in Germany. You know, I mean, Jews still were not in the  
5     highest order. Although there were some in Rattenaw, in  
6     the Weimar republic who were at that time one of the top  
7     men in German government, by the president and chancellor,  
8     whatever he was. He was a Jew. There were some Jews in  
9     the University but it was always, my father was a soldier  
10    in the Army. To be an officer in the German army was very,  
11    very hard. A Captain, major-- my father was an enlisted  
12    man. It was not easy but there always was anti-Semitism  
13    but it was never to the proportions of death camps and  
14    labor camps. Nothing like that.

15            **Q.     Do you think that your ability to have been,**  
16    **you know, such an incredible teacher or religious Bar**  
17    **Mitzvah, did you begin that skill, you think, from the**  
18    **different mentors along the way or how did you gain that?**

19            A.     Well, could be. I would say I had very few-- I  
20    had to really, go to college and we had so many professors  
21    but there always were a few, I would say, there was a  
22    composer, I was a music teacher. There were some Rabbis  
23    who inspired me. I would say I - - always in our home, we  
24    didn't have much in Germany like we had books. We had  
25    music. My mother played the piano. My father played a bit

1 of the violin. We had books and I had an insatiable  
2 appetite for reading and studying. I always read - as soon  
3 as I came here, I bought books and I read. I was so  
4 enchanted where I went to the library and it was free, you  
5 know.

6 In Shanghai, if you took a book out of the  
7 library, you paid. You paid by the week certain amounts.  
8 And so education and such, I was always impressed with  
9 that. Beside having been deprived, I had this desire to  
10 make something out of myself other than coming home and  
11 smelling from garlic and onions, you know, from the  
12 kitchen. I felt, you know, I would like an education. And  
13 I, when I study my own history, something to pass on. I  
14 was studying the Holocaust and in Hebrew I felt that there  
15 was something very precious, two thousand years old and  
16 here I had the opportunity to pass it on. I always have  
17 been successful in my own family although I would say my  
18 grand children have become Bar Mitzvahed; so on, they have  
19 become very religious but they join temples. My son-in-law  
20 is an administrator in a temple. Becky, my oldest daughter  
21 has taught Sunday school and music in the temple. So they  
22 go to services.

23 So except our middle daughter has been  
24 turned off. Maybe she'll come back. Who knows? But we  
25 have holidays. I can have a seder here, so I try. But

1 it's not easy in America because it's a free country. In  
2 Germany as a Jew, you know, you had your own circle of  
3 friends. But here you're free. We have non-Jewish  
4 friends. We meet them. We socialize with them. Our  
5 children have non-Jewish friends. So it's very different  
6 where as in Shanghai or in Germany, you wouldn't be able to  
7 associate with Germans during Hitler. Before, yes. But  
8 that was before my time. We were all believers then. I  
9 was very small. My parents had this business, you know,  
10 where my day school was a Catholic school. I have pictures  
11 in a Catholic Day Care Center. There were nuns teaching me  
12 until I went to kindergarten but then of course I was under  
13 age. Five. There was 1931. We had to do that later on  
14 but not any more.

15 **Q. Also I did have one question about the ghetto.**  
16 **What happened to your, the restaurant when the ghetto was**  
17 **put in place?**

18 **A.** When we had the ghetto it was very difficult  
19 because we were poor for money. There was still some small  
20 lessons. Since my mother died and my father wasn't so  
21 adept, and I was so young to run the business. So we had  
22 sold it for pennies and I worked in restaurants because I  
23 couldn't handle it at all. And there was such poverty  
24 there. I remember when I worked in restaurants and I  
25 cleaned potatoes in the back of the kitchen, people said

1 Hans, and we had a potato shaver. The shavings from the  
2 potato. You didn't have a lot. You have the shavings. So  
3 this man came with a pot to get something hot in the  
4 stomach. The potato shaver from the restaurant. Up to  
5 this day I wouldn't use a potato shaver. Up to this day, I  
6 save it, because I remember the poverty. So people from -  
7 there were some shipments that were free and there were  
8 some people who had clothes made out of Red Cross bags, you  
9 know, this canvass bag. A lawyer was helping. A lawyer  
10 with a wonderful education who had learned the violin when  
11 he was a young man, stood at the street corner begging.  
12 You see it, by the way, today in Israel. You see Russian  
13 Jews with their violins. A Russian Jew comes to Israel.  
14 Carrying a violin. He must be a pianist because they  
15 couldn't carry but they have the violin. They can take out  
16 but the poverty was unbelievable.

17 Q. Did you also have to give up that small  
18 apartment once?

19 A. Yes. After my mother died, we lived in one  
20 room, in one small room, my father and I, and outside there  
21 was a balcony with a little stove we fixed a little food  
22 but since I worked in this restaurant the pay was pennies  
23 but I arranged, I said I must bring some every day in the  
24 evening. I brought some home for my mother and as I  
25 mentioned before, I was never hungry. I may be thin.

1 Under nourished. Under fed, but I never really was hungry  
2 because I was at the stove. If the boss didn't feed me, I  
3 would take it right out of the pot by tasting the soup  
4 here. Little vegetable there so I survived very nicely.

5 Q. (Mr. Ryan) Did you get to know him well being  
6 in close proximity to him that way?

7 A. My boss?

8 Q. Your father?

9 A. Oh, my father. Well, I never was very, very  
10 close because I worked very long hours and my father was a  
11 work man. And when I was twenty, I left. So I never  
12 really developed a really, very close relationship. With  
13 my mother, I was maybe, with my mother I was, she was very  
14 protective. So I was closer to her but she died when I was  
15 13. So, and I worked. I went to work. And I had no  
16 youth. I didn't begin to really enjoy life until Australia  
17 any maybe America. And then-- I mean the first time I had  
18 freedom was when I retired. Never collected a penny of  
19 unemployment. Either I study and worked part time or I had  
20 a job and so on. So but the family was the center of my  
21 existence.

22 Q. (Ruth) okay. I think that probably covers  
23 most.

24 Q. (Anne) I have one last question. You mentioned  
25 that you talked about your experiences but more bits and

1 pieces. And I'd like to know how you feel today having sat  
2 down with us and really told your story in a very complete  
3 way?

4 A. Well, in a way, I would say it brought back  
5 memories, I don't have any regrets. I- even this  
6 illness, even this last illness which was for me a learning  
7 situation too, I have no regrets about the past. When I  
8 have the hardship, I mean, I would do it again. My  
9 education and so on. Shanghai or Germany, no. But as far  
10 as working my way through, probably I would do it again. I  
11 have no regrets. I'm sorry that my retirement is the way  
12 it is, you know. I was a Cantor. I studied for my  
13 master's. I had hoped after retirement because I study  
14 musicology and history that I wanted to lecture. Give  
15 lectures and programs, playing my guitar and so on. But I  
16 approach it with this illness much of the time is spent  
17 with my itching and swelling and preparation and, energy  
18 wise, I am doing some writing and my singing is not as good  
19 as it used to be. And my speaking, as I am saying. Doing  
20 lectures and so on. It's one thing to do this. But when  
21 your voice and diction isn't that good, it's not very  
22 pleasant to have a lecturer who has defects or impediments.  
23 So I am a bit sorry about that. I had hoped my retirement  
24 would be a little bit more what I wanted it to be. On the  
25 other hand, I am always saying I am happy to be here. I'm



1 happy to be anywhere. And I try to maintain my sense of  
2 humor and I am happy now after five years of freedom from  
3 cancer, I hope I am out of the woods and do what I like to  
4 do and have my memoirs, my memories, and may be publish it  
5 and share it and maybe being of some help to some others.  
6 That would be, I would say the challenge to make life worth  
7 while and do something, you know, rather than sitting at  
8 home and watching TV which I enjoy too, by the way.  
9 Because when I eat. I can't speak. When I eat my food  
10 with a blender and that is something I never dreamed of  
11 that everything I eat is blended.

12 **Q. (Peter) You can't eat solid?**

13 A. A little bit. I have some eggs a day. And  
14 some tofu. Maybe some very soft toast or some fish. Just  
15 to savor it but it's very tiring. Every meal takes about  
16 25 minutes and so and the preparation when you blends. I  
17 make a pot of soup for the week and then stew some prunes  
18 for dessert and do the vegetables. The preparation.

19 **Q. Takes a long time?**

20 A. Four or five hours a day in the kitchen.

21 **Q. Have you had any speech therapy?**

22 A. I had some. Yes.

23 **Q. Some?**

24 A. A little bit. Not too much but I had some.

25 **Q. Did it help?**

1           A.     It helped to a certain extent. I mean there  
2     are certain words that I have difficulty. In other words,  
3     Hong Kong.

4           Q.     K is hard?

5           A.     Yes. The K is hard. Certain vowels.  
6     Especially the ones in the back. The consonant K and G are  
7     difficult. And P and D and so on. But I am using my voice  
8     training which I am learning to project. I manage.

9           Q.     You do very well.

10          A.     Thank you.

11          Q.     (You did mention you're part of the lost chord  
12     club. I just wondered because most of those people?

13          A.     Yes. I manage. They haven't had too many.  
14     Their problem. They eat regular food. They have no  
15     larynx. They have this gadget here where they speak and  
16     it's interesting in a way because I give lectures to them  
17     saying, you know try hard speech and so much on. But it  
18     hasn't helped me. Speech therapy and also I don't know  
19     whether it has helped. A little bit.

20          Q.     Probably alot of it is just practicing and  
21     developing the muscles?

22          A.     Exactly.

23          Q.     Since the surgery?

24          A.     And more so I wish I would improve my  
25     swallowing. It would be nice to eat a regular meal and I

1 did have some surgery about six months ago. Yeah. As I  
2 say he - elevated my pharynx/ larynx into to avoid  
3 aspiration. So when you eat a bit of solid food. It's  
4 very tiring. It isvery tiring. So and I am very very  
5 careful and so I have had episodes of-- aspirating. So I  
6 am very very careful when I eat. So I don't choke and I  
7 take my time.

8 Q. (P) On behalf of the Holocaust history I want  
9 to thank you very much for giving this interview, for  
10 sharing so many of yourself for telling us such a  
11 fascinating and interesting story.

12 A. Thank you. It's my pleasure and I hope I know  
13 the tapes that Anne is giving me will be used. But I hope  
14 that someone will watch them some day. Maybe when I am not  
15 here any more. Maybe someone is interested but I hope they  
16 will be watched.

17 Q. (R) To make sure your children and grand  
18 children?

19 A. Yes. Anne is seeing to that.

20 Q. (A) And we'll give you a copy and certainly  
21 part of our purpose is that these tapes are used and I  
22 think your's is very inspiring story.

23 Q. (R) Remarkable life.

24 Q. (A) We thank you very much.

25 A. Spielberg is doing a wonderful mitzvah. There

1 has never been done before what he's doing and it's really  
2 refuting the denial of the Holocaust which there are still  
3 people around who deny the whole thing that it didn't  
4 happen. So I hope in this respect I have done a small part  
5 to prove that I did exist during that time.

6 ANNE: Quite remarkable life.

7 A. And I want to thank you Peter and Anne, and  
8 Ruth for giving me the opportunity to probably I wouldn't  
9 have sat here for-- oh, my God. You said four hours and  
10 you were just about right. So.

11 WOMAN INTERVIEWER: It was an honor to be  
12 here and listen to this.

13 A. Thank you.

14 ANNE: Thank you.

15 A. Okay. Well let's have some coffee.

16

17

18

19 ANNE: You want to tell us what we're  
20 seeing.

21 A. Well, here is my father during the first world  
22 war. He was very patriotic German who was in the military.  
23 Never thought that one day he would actually have to leave  
24 Germany.

25 Here is my father. He was a soldier in

1 the first world war. He was very proud and he fought in  
2 the military. He was wounded. And as I said before never  
3 dawned on him that he would have to leave and be chased  
4 out.

5 And in the end, I loved my mother very much but  
6 she died when she was 53 years old in Shanghai of amoebic  
7 dysentery. This is my parents' business in Berlin and they  
8 had it but during the depression, we had a break in. We  
9 lost everything. So we had to give it up before Hitler  
10 came to power but that's where we were in Berlin. Womens  
11 clothing and ladies dresses and so forth.

12 Q. Okay. And this is you?

13 A. This is me. I was four years old in the  
14 country. We had a vacation and my parents always wanted to  
15 get out of Berlin and get fresh air. Here I am a country  
16 boy. My first day in Schule in 1932, I had a school bag,  
17 heavy bag and a sailor suit. That's my first day in  
18 Berlin. My first day in school. That's our German pass  
19 port. It's my mother's passport. And we had to put a red  
20 J in there. Stands for Jew. And every Jewish woman's name  
21 was added with the name Sarah so, here we have the J. We  
22 had the J in there and I was. We have added the name  
23 Sarah. For me it was Israel. Now, in 1935 when the  
24 Nuremberg laws came out. And here, you see the picture of  
25 my mother and she had one son. That's me. Right here.

1                   Here I have the newspaper articles when I  
2    stowed away from China to Australia and the police were  
3    after me and they wanted to deport me but, thank God, I was  
4    helped out by someone from the welfare board and I was to  
5    stay in Australia for one year but these other stories  
6    about my escape from the ship and then my arrest by the  
7    police.

8                   And October, 1947, I arrived in the United  
9    States and that's the ship that brought me here. It's a  
10   Metzin liner called the U.S. New Charles. Marie Phoenix.  
11   And it came from Sydney from the Hawaiian Islands through  
12   San Francisco. That's where I arrived in 1947. After I  
13   was in the United States for one year, I was drafted into  
14   the army. And here I am a soldier at Ft. Ord, California in  
15   1948.

16           Q.       (P)Which one are you?

17           A.       I am right here in the middle. Since I was  
18   always a singer, I became a Chaplain's Assistant and here I  
19   am doing my first high Holy days, 1949, and this was taken  
20   in Ft. Bragg, North Carolina. And this picture was used  
21   all over the country and at that time I was 22 years old.  
22   My first debut as a Cantor for high holidays.

23                   When I was a soldier in Ft. Ord ,  
24   California, I met my wife. We fell in love and to make  
25   along story short, in 1949, December, 25th, we married and

1 we have been married ever since which is now about fifty  
2 years. We had a very, very simple wedding. It was cake  
3 and wine or champagne and that was it. No dinner. We had  
4 a little family dinner. But what we had was lots of love.  
5 We were very much in love and up to this day, we are happy  
6 with each other just like you see it in the picture.

7                   When I was out of the army, I went back  
8 into the cooking and restaurant. So here I am a cook in  
9 Delmonte Lodge, 1950. I was working in the Hotel Delmonte  
10 and I was there for about a year and then I was promoted to  
11 the chef of the beach club and here I am outside the buffet  
12 table at the beach shop serving someone some roast beef.

13                   And 1953 in June, I opened my own  
14 restaurant in Carmel and I had the restaurant for about  
15 five years. A restaurant. I was about four years I had  
16 the restaurant very successfully. I made a little money  
17 and I used this money to go to New York to become a Cantor  
18 and get a college education and we left for New York in  
19 1957, four years after we opened the restaurant.

20                   Along with singing in the temple, I always  
21 was able to do some concerts or some special programs.  
22 Here I am singing an operatic aria from Mozart's the  
23 marriage of Figaro.

24                   It was about 15 years ago, or so, I took a  
25 number of German Jewish students to Germany. The first

1 time I went with my wife and I sang here and this is the  
2 Weider Strasse synagogue, religious service there. The  
3 lady next to me is the representative from Hillel. The  
4 other time I sang in Berlin. This is another beautiful  
5 synagogue which still remains. Was never destroyed during  
6 the Holocaust and that's Weider Strasse. And only remained  
7 because it was in a courtyard surrounded by a lot of other  
8 buildings so they couldn't burn us down because it would  
9 have burned down the neighbors buildings so it is intact.  
10 During the war, it was used as a stable for horses.

11 On our trip to Germany with the Stanford  
12 students, we visited not only synagogues but here I did  
13 memorial service in Bergen Belsen and right in front of the  
14 monument in Bergen Belsen was the place where Anne Frank  
15 died and thousands of Jews were murdered and we observed it  
16 with a memorial service.

17 We lived in West Berlin and went services  
18 at a beautiful synagogue Pedita Strasse. It was built in  
19 1932. It was destroyed only six years later during  
20 Kristalle Nacht and the school that I attended after 1935  
21 was in this part here where we had classes and I was in  
22 walking distance from our other house and the synagogue  
23 seated over two thousand people and after Kristalle Nacht,  
24 you will see the same building. The same building only  
25 completely gutted and burned out. The beautiful dome was



1 gone. That was the day after the fire. The Cantor tried  
2 to save the Torah scrolls and I remember this because when  
3 we had our fire at temple, also, I went in to save some  
4 Torah scrolls. We were able to save one scroll which we  
5 still have at Temple Beth-Jacob.

6 Two years ago I retired. And here as a  
7 special dinner that was given for us at Temple Beth-Jacob  
8 at the Westin hotel is my whole family. My wife Eva and I.  
9 Sat with our oldest daughter. That's Becky. Her husband  
10 Victor. And then there is Ruth and her husband Michael.  
11 And then there is Arriana. That's Barbara and another  
12 Michael her husband and all of them live in our area in San  
13 Francisco. We are so happy to have them all here with us.

14 The children and they are grand children.  
15 Here is Barbara's Benjamin, and Allison and this is Julia,  
16 Bethie has three. Priscilla, Diana and David. And then of  
17 course I don't see Ruth on here. Ruth is married but has  
18 no children. So we have six grandchildren here. That's  
19 it.

20 WOMAN INTERVIEWER: Beautiful.

21 (That completes the stenographic tape transcription to  
22 the best of my ability.)  
23  
24  
25

1 I, June LaRose, do hereby certify the  
2 foregoing to be a true and accurate verbatim transcription  
3 of the original video record.

4 June LaRose

5 June LaRose

6 Senior Court Reporter

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