

Bay Area Holocaust Oral History Project

P.O. Box 25506, San Mateo, CA 94402

Name of interviewee: Frankston, Jay

Date of interview: 11/4/1994

Summary: Joseph Frankenstein was born on October 10th, 1928 in Frankfurt, Germany. He remembers the early accounts of his life only because they were told to him again from his friends and family, or very vague accounts of the past. He was born in Germany, but moved with his parents, Max and Alice, to Poland not too long after his birth. He doesn't recall much of Poland except having to leave real abruptly. His father was a barber in Poland, but was treated as an outcast because of his religious beliefs, and fled to Germany. Then in 1937 Joseph and his family moved together to Paris, France where his father opened his own store that sold leather goods.

In Paris Joseph didn't recall meeting or seeing many Jewish people, and he didn't realize that there was anything wrong with being Jewish, but he did recall being in school one day, when he was about ten years old, and going out to recess and coming back and finding that other students in his class wrote on his folder about how all Jews should die and other stuff of that sort. He goes on and on about other stories of his father and mother, and other anti-Semitism stories. Then in 1939 with the threat that Germany could invade Paris, Joseph and his family moved south to Marseilles, France. And in 1943 they made their way to the United States, and changed their name to Frankston, and Joseph changed his name to Jay. If it weren't for the fact that Joseph's family was middle class they may not have made it to the US, because it took a lot of time and money to get the correct papers and everything together in order to become an American citizen.