

Bay Area Holocaust Oral History Project

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

Name of interviewee: Farkas, Lenci

Date of interview: 11/6 & 12/11/1990

Summary: Lenci Farkas was born Lenci Zisovits in 1922 in a small town in Czechoslovakia, which later became part of Hungary. Immediately after Passover in April of 1944, she and her family were taken to a nearby Ghetto with no time to gather even the barest necessities. After 4 weeks they were taken to Auschwitz. Despite the atrocities she experienced and witnessed, staying together with some of her family and friends helped Lenci to survive. However, after enduring Auschwitz and digging ditches in forced labor, the "death march" had become unendurable. Lenci and two of her sisters took the bold risk of escaping as an alternative to dying on the march. They were successful and found some safety working for the Russians until the war was over.

After the war, Lenci married and soon after had her first child. With the political situation becoming worse daily under Communist rule, Lenci, her baby son and her husband together with his brother and sister-in-law secretly crossed a snowy border on a cold winter night and eventually were able to immigrate to America in 1949.

A few years ago, at the behest of her children, they took a trip together back to her hometown. This stirred in her considerable sadness and anger and she prefers to keep in her mind the picture of how it was during her childhood. "You live day by day and then you just kind of suppress [the memories] in a way. It's always there; it's always there -- like we always said, one thing we don't want to be is hungry and cold. We don't want to be hungry and cold. So in my house it's always warm. . ."