

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:42,610

2

00:00:42,610 --> 00:00:46,450

In '90, we're in San Francisco
at Sue Siegel's house

3

00:00:46,450 --> 00:00:48,370

talking to Ruth Tanner.

4

00:00:48,370 --> 00:00:51,270

John Angel Grant is on camera.

5

00:00:51,270 --> 00:00:57,250

I'm Anne Feibelman, and this is
for the San Francisco Holocaust

6

00:00:57,250 --> 00:00:59,030

Project.

7

00:00:59,030 --> 00:01:01,720

Anything else?

8

00:01:01,720 --> 00:01:03,040

No, I think that's it.

9

00:01:03,040 --> 00:01:04,288

OK.

10

00:01:04,288 --> 00:01:07,220

Ruth, let's start
at the beginning.

11

00:01:07,220 --> 00:01:08,640

Where were you born and when?

12

00:01:08,640 --> 00:01:12,700

And what was your maiden
name, your family name?

13

00:01:12,700 --> 00:01:16,960
I was born in Vienna in 1929.

14
00:01:16,960 --> 00:01:25,000
And my maiden name was
Kummel, K, U-umlaut, M-M-E-L.

15
00:01:25,000 --> 00:01:28,390
How many people
were in your family?

16
00:01:28,390 --> 00:01:29,560
In my immediate family?

17
00:01:29,560 --> 00:01:34,540
It was my mother, myself,
and my sister, and my father.

18
00:01:34,540 --> 00:01:37,010
And what did your father do?

19
00:01:37,010 --> 00:01:43,870
My father was a manufacturer
of men's and ladies millinery.

20
00:01:43,870 --> 00:01:47,620
And was his factory
in Vienna, or?

21
00:01:47,620 --> 00:01:49,600
It was in Vienna.

22
00:01:49,600 --> 00:01:54,040
I can't tell you exactly where.

23
00:01:54,040 --> 00:01:59,630
And he also had half
a dozen retail stores.

24
00:01:59,630 --> 00:02:01,450
What was your life like?

25

00:02:01,450 --> 00:02:04,130

Was your school religious
or not religious?

26

00:02:04,130 --> 00:02:06,650

Did you have a large
extended family?

27

00:02:06,650 --> 00:02:08,169

Did you have Sunday school?

28

00:02:08,169 --> 00:02:10,509

Tell me a little bit
about life growing up.

29

00:02:10,509 --> 00:02:13,390

30

00:02:13,390 --> 00:02:15,680

Growing up, we did
go to Sunday school.

31

00:02:15,680 --> 00:02:18,370

My father was very religious.

32

00:02:18,370 --> 00:02:22,870

And he was very strict as
far as our religion goes.

33

00:02:22,870 --> 00:02:31,150

Going to school, we were allowed
to go to school on Saturdays,

34

00:02:31,150 --> 00:02:34,970

but we were not
allowed to write.

35

00:02:34,970 --> 00:02:38,240

And what about
grandparents and cousins?

36

00:02:38,240 --> 00:02:39,870

Who was around you?

37
00:02:39,870 --> 00:02:44,030
Aunts and uncles and all those.

38
00:02:44,030 --> 00:02:51,410
I was I was 10 when I left
Vienna, so a lot of that

39
00:02:51,410 --> 00:02:54,890
I don't remember, a
lot of the relatives.

40
00:02:54,890 --> 00:02:58,310
But I do remember
my aunts and uncles.

41
00:02:58,310 --> 00:03:00,560
Now, you were 10
when you left Vienna.

42
00:03:00,560 --> 00:03:03,080
Do you remember any--

43
00:03:03,080 --> 00:03:05,270
what happened before
you had to leave?

44
00:03:05,270 --> 00:03:09,890
Do you remember the war or
antisemitism, your father

45
00:03:09,890 --> 00:03:11,600
saying you must leave?

46
00:03:11,600 --> 00:03:18,260
There was a lot of antisemitism
prior to 1938 or 1939.

47
00:03:18,260 --> 00:03:21,290
When I went to
school, the children

48

00:03:21,290 --> 00:03:25,730
would throw stones and
call us dirty Jews.

49
00:03:25,730 --> 00:03:29,780
So I wasn't terribly
comfortable, very, very

50
00:03:29,780 --> 00:03:33,710
much persecuted, a lot of
persecution and antisemitism

51
00:03:33,710 --> 00:03:41,180
prior to Hitler
occupying Vienna.

52
00:03:41,180 --> 00:03:43,640
Do you remember tension
at home over it?

53
00:03:43,640 --> 00:03:47,170

54
00:03:47,170 --> 00:03:48,040
No.

55
00:03:48,040 --> 00:03:52,840
I remember my father showing
me a picture of Hitler

56
00:03:52,840 --> 00:03:55,150
in the lexicon.

57
00:03:55,150 --> 00:03:57,790
It's like a dictionary.

58
00:03:57,790 --> 00:04:03,850
And he told me a
little bit about him.

59
00:04:03,850 --> 00:04:07,450
But he didn't talk
about leaving.

60
00:04:07,450 --> 00:04:09,970
But my mother told
me afterwards,

61
00:04:09,970 --> 00:04:16,300
after we left the country,
that he tried to leave Vienna

62
00:04:16,300 --> 00:04:24,820
by way of crossing the border
to leave before we left,

63
00:04:24,820 --> 00:04:27,830
prior to 1938.

64
00:04:27,830 --> 00:04:29,710
That your father
had tried leaving?

65
00:04:29,710 --> 00:04:33,470
He had tried to cross
over to Switzerland,

66
00:04:33,470 --> 00:04:35,890
to cross the border.

67
00:04:35,890 --> 00:04:39,040
And for some reason or other,
because of inclement weather

68
00:04:39,040 --> 00:04:44,890
or whatever, he just wasn't
able to make it across.

69
00:04:44,890 --> 00:04:47,240
Now, you left in '39?

70
00:04:47,240 --> 00:04:48,310
Left in '39.

71
00:04:48,310 --> 00:04:49,570

What month?

72

00:04:49,570 --> 00:04:52,120

August of '39.

73

00:04:52,120 --> 00:04:54,730

Do you remember the day?

74

00:04:54,730 --> 00:04:57,490

The exact date I don't remember.

75

00:04:57,490 --> 00:05:00,460

Now, that was already late.

76

00:05:00,460 --> 00:05:01,210

Yes.

77

00:05:01,210 --> 00:05:07,685

Do you remember, could
you take things with you?

78

00:05:07,685 --> 00:05:08,560

What was the leaving?

79

00:05:08,560 --> 00:05:12,370

80

00:05:12,370 --> 00:05:14,050

Let me back up a minute.

81

00:05:14,050 --> 00:05:18,790

My father wasn't able to
leave to escape the country,

82

00:05:18,790 --> 00:05:22,300

and in 1938, they were
beginning to round up

83

00:05:22,300 --> 00:05:26,140

the Jewish men to send them
to a concentration camp.

84

00:05:26,140 --> 00:05:33,850

And he and my mother had decided
that as long as he couldn't get

85

00:05:33,850 --> 00:05:38,860

out of the country,
he would go--

86

00:05:38,860 --> 00:05:41,597

and he had a bilateral hernia--

87

00:05:41,597 --> 00:05:43,680

and they decided perhaps
that would be a good time

88

00:05:43,680 --> 00:05:47,340

to have it operated on.

89

00:05:47,340 --> 00:05:49,020

So they decided to
make arrangements

90

00:05:49,020 --> 00:05:50,340

to go into the hospital.

91

00:05:50,340 --> 00:05:54,390

And by doing so, they thought
maybe things would blow over,

92

00:05:54,390 --> 00:05:57,330

this political situation
would straighten itself out.

93

00:05:57,330 --> 00:06:01,610

94

00:06:01,610 --> 00:06:05,120

I do remember when
Hitler came in 1938,

95

00:06:05,120 --> 00:06:08,600

that was the Anschluss.

96
00:06:08,600 --> 00:06:13,130
They moved us out of
our house into a--

97
00:06:13,130 --> 00:06:16,286
it was a rather dark apartment.

98
00:06:16,286 --> 00:06:19,880
It was sort of a
basement apartment.

99
00:06:19,880 --> 00:06:25,190
And they took keys
to our residence

100
00:06:25,190 --> 00:06:27,065
and our factory and our stores.

101
00:06:27,065 --> 00:06:30,920

102
00:06:30,920 --> 00:06:35,980
So you lost everything,
really, in '38.

103
00:06:35,980 --> 00:06:39,520
And then your father
went into the hospital.

104
00:06:39,520 --> 00:06:42,850
My father went
into the hospital.

105
00:06:42,850 --> 00:06:46,600
And oh, I really
should mention the fact

106
00:06:46,600 --> 00:06:49,030
that before he went
to the hospital,

107

00:06:49,030 --> 00:06:54,220
my mother and father had
decided if we couldn't leave

108
00:06:54,220 --> 00:06:57,940
the country, perhaps she
could send us to Israel

109
00:06:57,940 --> 00:07:05,470
by way of the underground, which
a lot of families were doing.

110
00:07:05,470 --> 00:07:08,830
At least the children
would be safe.

111
00:07:08,830 --> 00:07:16,150
And then my father went into the
hospital and died unexpectedly.

112
00:07:16,150 --> 00:07:18,310
They told us he had
died of complications,

113
00:07:18,310 --> 00:07:19,780
but I don't really know.

114
00:07:19,780 --> 00:07:24,450

115
00:07:24,450 --> 00:07:26,250
That was '39?

116
00:07:26,250 --> 00:07:32,280
That was sort of
halfway into '38.

117
00:07:32,280 --> 00:07:36,180
So he died six months
prior to our coming

118
00:07:36,180 --> 00:07:39,090
to the United States.

119
00:07:39,090 --> 00:07:42,540
That must have been
terrifying for your mother.

120
00:07:42,540 --> 00:07:44,150
It was terrifying for her.

121
00:07:44,150 --> 00:07:46,860

122
00:07:46,860 --> 00:07:49,670
And for a long time, she lied.

123
00:07:49,670 --> 00:07:50,300
She lied.

124
00:07:50,300 --> 00:07:53,033
She didn't want to tell
us that he had died.

125
00:07:53,033 --> 00:07:54,200
She said he would follow us.

126
00:07:54,200 --> 00:08:00,320
But I think children
are pretty astute.

127
00:08:00,320 --> 00:08:02,510
We knew.

128
00:08:02,510 --> 00:08:04,490
When did she tell you the truth?

129
00:08:04,490 --> 00:08:07,760

130
00:08:07,760 --> 00:08:11,510
When they had the
funeral, I think.

131

00:08:11,510 --> 00:08:14,460

She didn't even
want us to see him.

132

00:08:14,460 --> 00:08:17,450

And I insisted,
because I really had

133

00:08:17,450 --> 00:08:20,770

to see my father
before they buried him.

134

00:08:20,770 --> 00:08:25,010

135

00:08:25,010 --> 00:08:27,000

And then what happened?

136

00:08:27,000 --> 00:08:29,930

Well, I have to
once more back up,

137

00:08:29,930 --> 00:08:36,559

because one of the reasons
we couldn't leave as a family

138

00:08:36,559 --> 00:08:40,820

was because my father
was born in Poland.

139

00:08:40,820 --> 00:08:45,920

And there was a quota
system that existed.

140

00:08:45,920 --> 00:08:53,450

They were still allowing Jews
to leave in 1938 or 1939,

141

00:08:53,450 --> 00:08:58,370

just a small part of 1939.

142

00:08:58,370 --> 00:09:00,530

But because my father

was head of the family

143

00:09:00,530 --> 00:09:05,530

and he was Polish,
the quota system,

144

00:09:05,530 --> 00:09:08,740

the Polish people were put
on the bottom of the list

145

00:09:08,740 --> 00:09:10,690

of the quota system.

146

00:09:10,690 --> 00:09:12,820

Well, when my father
died, my mother

147

00:09:12,820 --> 00:09:14,560

became head of the
family, and she

148

00:09:14,560 --> 00:09:21,610

was Viennese, which enabled us
to leave almost immediately.

149

00:09:21,610 --> 00:09:23,980

And then what happened?

150

00:09:23,980 --> 00:09:27,100

My mother had a sister
in the United States.

151

00:09:27,100 --> 00:09:33,250

She was a United States citizen,
and she sponsored our trip

152

00:09:33,250 --> 00:09:34,690

to the United States.

153

00:09:34,690 --> 00:09:37,480

We were not allowed to
bring anything with us,

154

00:09:37,480 --> 00:09:43,960

only used clothing and a
very small sum of money,

155

00:09:43,960 --> 00:09:47,890

something like
\$10, equal to \$10.

156

00:09:47,890 --> 00:09:53,980

Can you describe what life was
like during that 1938, 1939

157

00:09:53,980 --> 00:09:56,980

period, with all the
changes going on,

158

00:09:56,980 --> 00:10:03,110

the antisemitism, losing the
business, losing the house,

159

00:10:03,110 --> 00:10:05,930

losing your father?

160

00:10:05,930 --> 00:10:08,125

What was day to day life like?

161

00:10:08,125 --> 00:10:11,080

162

00:10:11,080 --> 00:10:14,000

Day to day life that
way wasn't pleasant.

163

00:10:14,000 --> 00:10:16,390

And what I can remember
was our neighbors

164

00:10:16,390 --> 00:10:21,780

no longer spoke to us, even
our immediate neighbors

165

00:10:21,780 --> 00:10:24,090

that we had been friends with.

166
00:10:24,090 --> 00:10:28,590
Suddenly, no one
spoke to us again.

167
00:10:28,590 --> 00:10:31,800
And they took us
out of public school

168
00:10:31,800 --> 00:10:33,480
and put us into a
separate school.

169
00:10:33,480 --> 00:10:36,240

170
00:10:36,240 --> 00:10:40,980
Just even if you had just
a smattering of Jewishness

171
00:10:40,980 --> 00:10:46,110
in you, they took the
children out of school.

172
00:10:46,110 --> 00:10:50,160
And what about getting
food and medicine and

173
00:10:50,160 --> 00:10:52,770
supplies, what kind of--

174
00:10:52,770 --> 00:10:53,800
Thank you.

175
00:10:53,800 --> 00:10:54,300
Great.

176
00:10:54,300 --> 00:10:55,020
Thank you.

177
00:10:55,020 --> 00:10:55,610

Boy--

178
00:10:55,610 --> 00:10:58,655
Second pre-roll, and we'll
be back, back into it.

179
00:10:58,655 --> 00:10:59,155
OK.

180
00:10:59,155 --> 00:11:03,420

181
00:11:03,420 --> 00:11:04,200
We ready?

182
00:11:04,200 --> 00:11:07,380
I think we are.

183
00:11:07,380 --> 00:11:11,670
Ruth, we were talking about
life in Vienna in '38 and '39,

184
00:11:11,670 --> 00:11:15,900
having lost your father's
business, your house, and then

185
00:11:15,900 --> 00:11:17,700
your father.

186
00:11:17,700 --> 00:11:20,310
Could you start that again?

187
00:11:20,310 --> 00:11:23,610
How did it affect you?

188
00:11:23,610 --> 00:11:26,340
Well, of course, life
wasn't the same for us,

189
00:11:26,340 --> 00:11:27,810
as you could imagine.

190

00:11:27,810 --> 00:11:30,600

We didn't have
familiar surroundings.

191

00:11:30,600 --> 00:11:33,240

We just had the bare essentials.

192

00:11:33,240 --> 00:11:38,610

I do remember, I believe it was
when the Anschluss occurred,

193

00:11:38,610 --> 00:11:42,540

there was some shooting
going on outside.

194

00:11:42,540 --> 00:11:46,740

And my mother put a
piece of furniture

195

00:11:46,740 --> 00:11:51,322

in front of the window, and she
put mattresses on the floor.

196

00:11:51,322 --> 00:11:55,290

And as far as getting
food, she was to go down

197

00:11:55,290 --> 00:11:58,350

to the grocery store.

198

00:11:58,350 --> 00:11:59,490

But I don't remember.

199

00:11:59,490 --> 00:12:02,590

200

00:12:02,590 --> 00:12:04,990

That's all I remember.

201

00:12:04,990 --> 00:12:08,163

What about the new
school you were put in?

202
00:12:08,163 --> 00:12:10,330
You mentioned you were taken
out of your old school.

203
00:12:10,330 --> 00:12:13,750
Do you remember the day
that you were taken out?

204
00:12:13,750 --> 00:12:15,280
Did they announce it at school?

205
00:12:15,280 --> 00:12:16,310
Or how did you know?

206
00:12:16,310 --> 00:12:19,760

207
00:12:19,760 --> 00:12:24,130
Oh, how did I know that
we were going to be moved?

208
00:12:24,130 --> 00:12:27,590
I think they-- I don't know.

209
00:12:27,590 --> 00:12:32,110
All I know is one day, we were
just going to another school.

210
00:12:32,110 --> 00:12:35,050
And do you remember
what your mother

211
00:12:35,050 --> 00:12:37,810
did after your father died?

212
00:12:37,810 --> 00:12:41,080
Did she have relatives
to rely on, or?

213
00:12:41,080 --> 00:12:47,800
Yeah, she had a

sister-in-laws, and my aunts

214

00:12:47,800 --> 00:12:57,000
and my uncle on my father's
side of the family were around.

215

00:12:57,000 --> 00:12:59,430
Were all the Jews
put in the same area?

216

00:12:59,430 --> 00:13:04,320
Did all your relatives
lose their houses and move?

217

00:13:04,320 --> 00:13:07,380
I don't know, because
I never saw them again.

218

00:13:07,380 --> 00:13:10,050

219

00:13:10,050 --> 00:13:12,495
Now, in '39, what happened?

220

00:13:12,495 --> 00:13:15,870

221

00:13:15,870 --> 00:13:23,080
In '39, my father died, sort
of, must have been six months.

222

00:13:23,080 --> 00:13:26,370

223

00:13:26,370 --> 00:13:34,200
Six months prior to her leaving,
and we left in August of '39.

224

00:13:34,200 --> 00:13:38,880
I do remember it was about
a week or two before they

225

00:13:38,880 --> 00:13:41,702
closed things off.

226
00:13:41,702 --> 00:13:43,410
And they wouldn't
allow Jews out anymore.

227
00:13:43,410 --> 00:13:45,660
That's when they were
hauling them all away

228
00:13:45,660 --> 00:13:48,160
to concentration camps.

229
00:13:48,160 --> 00:13:52,620
So we just missed
that very closely.

230
00:13:52,620 --> 00:13:57,150
I just remember being
on an ocean liner

231
00:13:57,150 --> 00:13:58,245
with my mother and sister.

232
00:13:58,245 --> 00:14:01,490

233
00:14:01,490 --> 00:14:03,990
You had an aunt in America?

234
00:14:03,990 --> 00:14:05,580
I had an aunt.

235
00:14:05,580 --> 00:14:08,610
She lived in Philadelphia.

236
00:14:08,610 --> 00:14:10,590
So you came right
to Philadelphia?

237
00:14:10,590 --> 00:14:11,700

Yes.

238

00:14:11,700 --> 00:14:14,100

And that was August '39.

239

00:14:14,100 --> 00:14:16,800

Now, what happened after that?

240

00:14:16,800 --> 00:14:21,390

After that, we lived with my
aunt for a very short time.

241

00:14:21,390 --> 00:14:26,140

And none of us spoke English.

242

00:14:26,140 --> 00:14:28,980

And my mother, at
some point, had

243

00:14:28,980 --> 00:14:32,100

decided that she
needed to she needed

244

00:14:32,100 --> 00:14:34,570

to leave my aunt's house
for one reason or another,

245

00:14:34,570 --> 00:14:36,030

whether she was a
very proud woman

246

00:14:36,030 --> 00:14:37,450

or just things were not working.

247

00:14:37,450 --> 00:14:40,590

And so she made
arrangements for us

248

00:14:40,590 --> 00:14:46,040

to go into an orphanage,
a Jewish orphanage.

249

00:14:46,040 --> 00:14:50,780

And she went to school to
learn to speak English.

250

00:14:50,780 --> 00:14:56,580

And also, she took a job
in a factory, sewing.

251

00:14:56,580 --> 00:14:58,830

Did you see her
in the orphanage?

252

00:14:58,830 --> 00:15:01,410

I saw her on the weekends.

253

00:15:01,410 --> 00:15:04,050

She was fairly close by.

254

00:15:04,050 --> 00:15:06,270

So you were there
with your sister.

255

00:15:06,270 --> 00:15:09,010

What was life like
the orphanage?

256

00:15:09,010 --> 00:15:10,650

Pretty awful.

257

00:15:10,650 --> 00:15:12,540

We all hated it.

258

00:15:12,540 --> 00:15:13,830

How old were you?

259

00:15:13,830 --> 00:15:15,270

I was 10.

260

00:15:15,270 --> 00:15:17,170

And how long were you there?

261

00:15:17,170 --> 00:15:19,920

I was there for four years.

262

00:15:19,920 --> 00:15:24,420

Those are four important
years in a child's life.

263

00:15:24,420 --> 00:15:29,880

Yeah, it was a very
sad time for us.

264

00:15:29,880 --> 00:15:31,740

Your sister was there also.

265

00:15:31,740 --> 00:15:33,570

And she is how old,
or was how old?

266

00:15:33,570 --> 00:15:34,470

How much older?

267

00:15:34,470 --> 00:15:38,910

My sister is 17 months
older than myself.

268

00:15:38,910 --> 00:15:43,140

Now, were there other people
there who were also immigrants?

269

00:15:43,140 --> 00:15:46,110

Yes, there was one
other in the orphanage.

270

00:15:46,110 --> 00:15:51,540

Yeah, there was one other young
boy that was also a refugee.

271

00:15:51,540 --> 00:15:54,390

And were you friendly
with that person?

272

00:15:54,390 --> 00:15:58,630

273

00:15:58,630 --> 00:16:00,865

No, not that I can remember.

274

00:16:00,865 --> 00:16:03,065

275

00:16:03,065 --> 00:16:05,232

is that where you learned
English, in the orphanage?

276

00:16:05,232 --> 00:16:07,510

Actually, I went
to school, I lived

277

00:16:07,510 --> 00:16:10,360

with children that spoke
English, because most of them

278

00:16:10,360 --> 00:16:14,890

were American children
that had maybe just one

279

00:16:14,890 --> 00:16:16,750

parent or sometimes none.

280

00:16:16,750 --> 00:16:20,620

And we went to
school in September.

281

00:16:20,620 --> 00:16:24,550

And the teacher assigned
us each a student

282

00:16:24,550 --> 00:16:28,570

that was to help us get around
and help us with our work.

283

00:16:28,570 --> 00:16:32,310

284

00:16:32,310 --> 00:16:34,580

And how did that work?

285
00:16:34,580 --> 00:16:40,250
Well, I think my sister made
a little better progress

286
00:16:40,250 --> 00:16:40,980
than I did.

287
00:16:40,980 --> 00:16:45,200
And so they decided
to put me back

288
00:16:45,200 --> 00:16:50,540
a year, because the teacher
couldn't understand me.

289
00:16:50,540 --> 00:16:52,940
She understood, but
she couldn't respond.

290
00:16:52,940 --> 00:16:55,250
And they moved me
into a classroom

291
00:16:55,250 --> 00:16:59,270
where the teacher was Jewish,
and the teacher spoke Yiddish

292
00:16:59,270 --> 00:17:02,540
to me, and I would
respond in German.

293
00:17:02,540 --> 00:17:06,319
And that's how I learned
to speak English.

294
00:17:06,319 --> 00:17:07,359
That was a better place.

295
00:17:07,359 --> 00:17:09,560
It was a better place.

296

00:17:09,560 --> 00:17:13,200
And you lived there
all year round?

297
00:17:13,200 --> 00:17:16,940
I lived there all year round
for the next four years

298
00:17:16,940 --> 00:17:19,619
until I was 14.

299
00:17:19,619 --> 00:17:21,990
And then what happened?

300
00:17:21,990 --> 00:17:25,400
Well, then my mother had
established herself somewhat.

301
00:17:25,400 --> 00:17:27,290
She had gotten herself
a place to live,

302
00:17:27,290 --> 00:17:33,750
and she spoke the language
as well as she could.

303
00:17:33,750 --> 00:17:37,320
She decided she
would take us out,

304
00:17:37,320 --> 00:17:42,910
and it was about the time we
were going into high school.

305
00:17:42,910 --> 00:17:45,930
So you stayed in Philadelphia?

306
00:17:45,930 --> 00:17:47,790
Stayed in Philadelphia.

307
00:17:47,790 --> 00:17:51,030
And went to a public
high school later?

308
00:17:51,030 --> 00:17:53,190
Went to public high school.

309
00:17:53,190 --> 00:17:58,050
And to Sunday school, or
what was your religious--

310
00:17:58,050 --> 00:18:01,260
We did go to Hebrew school
when I lived at the orphanage.

311
00:18:01,260 --> 00:18:06,540
After I left the
orphanage, my mother

312
00:18:06,540 --> 00:18:10,770
was not strict about
religion, simply

313
00:18:10,770 --> 00:18:17,610
because I think she was
pretty disillusioned with what

314
00:18:17,610 --> 00:18:22,460
our faith had done to us.

315
00:18:22,460 --> 00:18:26,730
It was at what time
or what age did you

316
00:18:26,730 --> 00:18:28,285
understand what had happened?

317
00:18:28,285 --> 00:18:33,480

318
00:18:33,480 --> 00:18:40,490
Well, I can't remember not
ever knowing what happened.

319
00:18:40,490 --> 00:18:42,770

I always knew what
was taking place,

320
00:18:42,770 --> 00:18:47,270
because we were so
persecuted as children.

321
00:18:47,270 --> 00:18:48,050
In school?

322
00:18:48,050 --> 00:18:50,730
In school or on the street.

323
00:18:50,730 --> 00:18:59,300
So it was just I mean, I--
and I began to question,

324
00:18:59,300 --> 00:19:01,970
from the time I
was about 13 or 14,

325
00:19:01,970 --> 00:19:04,310
began to question the
validity of Judaism.

326
00:19:04,310 --> 00:19:07,850

327
00:19:07,850 --> 00:19:13,670
Can you give me any examples
of the persecution that

328
00:19:13,670 --> 00:19:18,350
was, in your experience,
specific times that you

329
00:19:18,350 --> 00:19:21,090
remember incidents?

330
00:19:21,090 --> 00:19:24,680
I only remember the children
throwing stones or spitting

331

00:19:24,680 --> 00:19:29,360

at you and calling
you a dirty Jew.

332

00:19:29,360 --> 00:19:32,570

Those are just in general.

333

00:19:32,570 --> 00:19:35,900

334

00:19:35,900 --> 00:19:38,914

Any specifics that you remember?

335

00:19:38,914 --> 00:19:41,690

No, I just in the
back of my memory,

336

00:19:41,690 --> 00:19:44,930

I remember nothing
specific, just in general.

337

00:19:44,930 --> 00:19:47,880

338

00:19:47,880 --> 00:19:53,060

Did you ever answer back, or
did your sister answer back?

339

00:19:53,060 --> 00:19:54,627

I know I never did.

340

00:19:54,627 --> 00:19:55,835

I don't know about my sister.

341

00:19:55,835 --> 00:19:58,490

342

00:19:58,490 --> 00:20:03,515

Coming back to Philadelphia,
after, let's see, you were 14,

343

00:20:03,515 --> 00:20:06,410
and you moved back
in with your mom.

344
00:20:06,410 --> 00:20:09,200
You finished high school where?

345
00:20:09,200 --> 00:20:12,890
What was high school like?

346
00:20:12,890 --> 00:20:15,140
It was just school.

347
00:20:15,140 --> 00:20:18,080
I wasn't terribly
fond of it, but I knew

348
00:20:18,080 --> 00:20:21,170
I had to finish high school.

349
00:20:21,170 --> 00:20:27,650
And life at home
was rather dismal,

350
00:20:27,650 --> 00:20:31,140
because we didn't
have any money.

351
00:20:31,140 --> 00:20:36,530
I worked from the
time I was about 15

352
00:20:36,530 --> 00:20:38,870
until I finished high school.

353
00:20:38,870 --> 00:20:40,640
And what were you doing?

354
00:20:40,640 --> 00:20:46,050
Well, I worked as a clerk or
wrapped packages in a store,

355

00:20:46,050 --> 00:20:48,840
so I could buy my own
clothes, because I didn't want

356
00:20:48,840 --> 00:20:52,380
to ask my mother for anything.

357
00:20:52,380 --> 00:20:54,220
Because I know she
was struggling.

358
00:20:54,220 --> 00:20:56,550
It was a real struggle for her.

359
00:20:56,550 --> 00:20:59,910
I always felt-- we lived
in a neighborhood that

360
00:20:59,910 --> 00:21:03,815
was rather mixed.

361
00:21:03,815 --> 00:21:05,440
It wasn't a terribly
good neighborhood.

362
00:21:05,440 --> 00:21:10,620
It was an apartment
above a store.

363
00:21:10,620 --> 00:21:13,050
And I grew up with a
terrible inferiority

364
00:21:13,050 --> 00:21:16,290
complex about where I lived.

365
00:21:16,290 --> 00:21:19,220

366
00:21:19,220 --> 00:21:25,100
Certainly was different
than Vienna, wasn't it?

367

00:21:25,100 --> 00:21:28,400

And what about your sister?

368

00:21:28,400 --> 00:21:33,760

369

00:21:33,760 --> 00:21:37,300

What specific would you like
to know about my sister?

370

00:21:37,300 --> 00:21:41,050

Did you stay close in the
orphanage, in high school?

371

00:21:41,050 --> 00:21:45,130

In the orphanage, since
we were the only two

372

00:21:45,130 --> 00:21:50,260

that spoke the same
language, we did

373

00:21:50,260 --> 00:21:54,910

communicate, because we had
no one else to speak to.

374

00:21:54,910 --> 00:22:00,130

The head of the orphanage
did speak a little German.

375

00:22:00,130 --> 00:22:02,730

He understood us because,
naturally, he was Jewish.

376

00:22:02,730 --> 00:22:06,470

377

00:22:06,470 --> 00:22:09,700

You mentioned that you grew
up with a terrible inferiority

378

00:22:09,700 --> 00:22:12,190

complex about where you lived.

379

00:22:12,190 --> 00:22:14,930

In what way, what
do you mean by that?

380

00:22:14,930 --> 00:22:18,310

Well, when I began to
date, I hated for my dates

381

00:22:18,310 --> 00:22:23,140

to come pick me up, because
I lived upstairs in a store.

382

00:22:23,140 --> 00:22:24,370

It was a store down below.

383

00:22:24,370 --> 00:22:29,750

384

00:22:29,750 --> 00:22:31,830

You stayed there all
through high school?

385

00:22:31,830 --> 00:22:32,915

No, my mother moved.

386

00:22:32,915 --> 00:22:36,410

387

00:22:36,410 --> 00:22:43,520

We moved once during that time
that I went to high school.

388

00:22:43,520 --> 00:22:46,110

And how was your
English by that point?

389

00:22:46,110 --> 00:22:51,050

Well, I spoke fairly well
within six months of my arrival

390

00:22:51,050 --> 00:22:56,480
to this country, because we were
so immersed in school as well

391
00:22:56,480 --> 00:23:01,850
as at home, because there was
no one there to speak German.

392
00:23:01,850 --> 00:23:07,880
So as a result, I have
very little of accent.

393
00:23:07,880 --> 00:23:10,460
And then after high
school, what happened?

394
00:23:10,460 --> 00:23:15,200
After high school,
my mother said

395
00:23:15,200 --> 00:23:18,380
that she couldn't afford
to send us to college.

396
00:23:18,380 --> 00:23:20,450
And it was very,
very important to me

397
00:23:20,450 --> 00:23:22,490
for me to get an education.

398
00:23:22,490 --> 00:23:25,220
And she sat both of us
down and said that she

399
00:23:25,220 --> 00:23:27,590
couldn't afford to send us.

400
00:23:27,590 --> 00:23:29,270
And my sister was
very determined.

401
00:23:29,270 --> 00:23:32,910

She said she was going
to college anyway.

402
00:23:32,910 --> 00:23:37,020
And she asked me
what I wanted to do.

403
00:23:37,020 --> 00:23:39,090
Oh, she wanted me to go
to secretarial school,

404
00:23:39,090 --> 00:23:40,923
and I said I wouldn't
be interested in that.

405
00:23:40,923 --> 00:23:43,740

406
00:23:43,740 --> 00:23:48,630
And I didn't what I
wanted to take in college.

407
00:23:48,630 --> 00:23:51,010
So I went into nurse's training.

408
00:23:51,010 --> 00:23:52,320
She said she could afford that.

409
00:23:52,320 --> 00:23:56,320
It wasn't very expensive.

410
00:23:56,320 --> 00:23:57,990
So that's what I did.

411
00:23:57,990 --> 00:23:59,440
Did you live at home?

412
00:23:59,440 --> 00:24:06,725
No, I lived in the dormitory
with a lot of student nurses.

413
00:24:06,725 --> 00:24:09,660

And that was in Philadelphia?

414

00:24:09,660 --> 00:24:11,740

So you got through that.

415

00:24:11,740 --> 00:24:14,340

Yeah, I got through that.

416

00:24:14,340 --> 00:24:16,560

And then what?

417

00:24:16,560 --> 00:24:19,590

Well, then I worked
for about three years.

418

00:24:19,590 --> 00:24:24,070

419

00:24:24,070 --> 00:24:28,410

And at one point,
I was working--

420

00:24:28,410 --> 00:24:33,360

I had just working maybe the
first year I was out of school.

421

00:24:33,360 --> 00:24:37,800

I met a young man that
I was interested in.

422

00:24:37,800 --> 00:24:40,740

Well, he was more interested
in me than I was in him.

423

00:24:40,740 --> 00:24:42,380

And I ended up marrying him.

424

00:24:42,380 --> 00:24:45,110

425

00:24:45,110 --> 00:24:47,270

And is that the father

of your two sons?

426

00:24:47,270 --> 00:24:49,490

Yes.

427

00:24:49,490 --> 00:24:54,380

And how did you
come to California?

428

00:24:54,380 --> 00:25:00,770

Well, we lived in many
places in the United States.

429

00:25:00,770 --> 00:25:06,225

My husband's work took
him to different areas

430

00:25:06,225 --> 00:25:07,100

of the United States.

431

00:25:07,100 --> 00:25:11,720

And at some point,
he was transferred,

432

00:25:11,720 --> 00:25:14,570

he opted to take a
transfer to California.

433

00:25:14,570 --> 00:25:15,940

And his name is?

434

00:25:15,940 --> 00:25:17,960

His name is Mitchell Tanner.

435

00:25:17,960 --> 00:25:19,430

Mitchell Tanner.

436

00:25:19,430 --> 00:25:21,860

And what was his work,
or what is his work?

437

00:25:21,860 --> 00:25:25,100

He was a landscape architect.

438

00:25:25,100 --> 00:25:28,430

So how many years have
you been out here?

439

00:25:28,430 --> 00:25:34,490

I've been out here since
1973 in San Francisco.

440

00:25:34,490 --> 00:25:45,000

But prior to that, I lived in
Sacramento, about '68 to '73.

441

00:25:45,000 --> 00:25:47,640

And your sons, were
they raised Jewish?

442

00:25:47,640 --> 00:25:48,140

No.

443

00:25:48,140 --> 00:25:51,470

444

00:25:51,470 --> 00:25:54,050

Was that a conscious decision?

445

00:25:54,050 --> 00:25:56,330

Yes.

446

00:25:56,330 --> 00:25:58,500

It was a conscious decision.

447

00:25:58,500 --> 00:26:03,350

But I think I had two
reasons for doing that.

448

00:26:03,350 --> 00:26:07,580

And one was I was married
to an antisemitic Jew.

449

00:26:07,580 --> 00:26:11,930

450
00:26:11,930 --> 00:26:15,050
And the other was I
really felt that I didn't

451
00:26:15,050 --> 00:26:17,840
want my children persecuted.

452
00:26:17,840 --> 00:26:20,210
They were as good as anyone
else and maybe better.

453
00:26:20,210 --> 00:26:23,590

454
00:26:23,590 --> 00:26:27,980
And you were concerned
about them being persecuted?

455
00:26:27,980 --> 00:26:28,480
Yes.

456
00:26:28,480 --> 00:26:30,610
I was concerned, because
my ex-husband worked

457
00:26:30,610 --> 00:26:31,870
for the federal government.

458
00:26:31,870 --> 00:26:35,380
And if they had
sent us to someplace

459
00:26:35,380 --> 00:26:40,480
where it was very
rural, I didn't

460
00:26:40,480 --> 00:26:44,650
know how that would work.

461
00:26:44,650 --> 00:26:50,050

And so I decided I want them
to choose for themselves.

462
00:26:50,050 --> 00:26:51,940
And how did they choose?

463
00:26:51,940 --> 00:26:58,270
My oldest son is very much
interested in the Jewish faith.

464
00:26:58,270 --> 00:27:00,970

465
00:27:00,970 --> 00:27:05,770
In an intellectual
way, or a practicing?

466
00:27:05,770 --> 00:27:08,260
Well, he doesn't
always go to temple,

467
00:27:08,260 --> 00:27:13,690
but he does on High Holy
Days, he does participate.

468
00:27:13,690 --> 00:27:15,850
He just finished college,
so he participates

469
00:27:15,850 --> 00:27:22,960
at Hillel or wherever
on the college campus.

470
00:27:22,960 --> 00:27:26,500
And you feel, after
they've grown up now

471
00:27:26,500 --> 00:27:31,150
and they're adults, that was
the right decision to make?

472
00:27:31,150 --> 00:27:31,990
No.

473
00:27:31,990 --> 00:27:33,610
No, I don't.

474
00:27:33,610 --> 00:27:37,240
I regret not giving
them some background,

475
00:27:37,240 --> 00:27:42,160
some of the heritage.

476
00:27:42,160 --> 00:27:44,590
Maybe this tape will
interest him a little bit.

477
00:27:44,590 --> 00:27:47,230
Perhaps.

478
00:27:47,230 --> 00:27:51,550
Ruth, going back to
your early experiences,

479
00:27:51,550 --> 00:27:55,090
I'm trying to get
a picture of what

480
00:27:55,090 --> 00:27:59,140
life was like before
the Anschluss and after.

481
00:27:59,140 --> 00:28:01,690

482
00:28:01,690 --> 00:28:04,100
How did things change?

483
00:28:04,100 --> 00:28:09,190
Well, before the
Anschluss, I think

484
00:28:09,190 --> 00:28:12,010
our lives were fairly

happy and intact,

485

00:28:12,010 --> 00:28:15,640

because I had my whole
family together, my mother

486

00:28:15,640 --> 00:28:17,320

and father and my sister.

487

00:28:17,320 --> 00:28:21,210

And we would go on outings
and holidays and such,

488

00:28:21,210 --> 00:28:22,990

which afterwards, didn't exist.

489

00:28:22,990 --> 00:28:25,880

490

00:28:25,880 --> 00:28:29,110

We had some
continuity in my life

491

00:28:29,110 --> 00:28:32,020

that I didn't have afterwards.

492

00:28:32,020 --> 00:28:33,850

Afterwards?

493

00:28:33,850 --> 00:28:36,440

What do you mean by
no more continuity?

494

00:28:36,440 --> 00:28:39,790

Well, by having to
come to a new country

495

00:28:39,790 --> 00:28:51,270

and living in an orphanage
and not having a family,

496

00:28:51,270 --> 00:28:56,760

not having any relations
other than my mother,

497
00:28:56,760 --> 00:28:59,440
no extended family.

498
00:28:59,440 --> 00:29:01,920
Now, you can't go through
that, what you went through,

499
00:29:01,920 --> 00:29:04,680
without it having had
some affect about how

500
00:29:04,680 --> 00:29:07,740
you see the world
and what you wanted

501
00:29:07,740 --> 00:29:10,710
in life and your beliefs.

502
00:29:10,710 --> 00:29:12,750
And how do you think
it affected you?

503
00:29:12,750 --> 00:29:19,610

504
00:29:19,610 --> 00:29:27,990
I was pretty disillusioned
about humanity.

505
00:29:27,990 --> 00:29:31,680
And I see a tremendous
amount of cruelty.

506
00:29:31,680 --> 00:29:36,780

507
00:29:36,780 --> 00:29:37,620
Man's cruel.

508

00:29:37,620 --> 00:29:41,640
Or that's just a term.

509
00:29:41,640 --> 00:29:45,330
Human beings being so
cruel to one another,

510
00:29:45,330 --> 00:29:47,060
I see that as an adult as well.

511
00:29:47,060 --> 00:29:51,320

512
00:29:51,320 --> 00:29:56,330
You might say man's
inhumanity to man, very cruel.

513
00:29:56,330 --> 00:29:58,210
I think life is very cruel.

514
00:29:58,210 --> 00:30:03,970

515
00:30:03,970 --> 00:30:07,780
Was there any hope or--

516
00:30:07,780 --> 00:30:09,530
somehow you survived.

517
00:30:09,530 --> 00:30:10,600
You made it.

518
00:30:10,600 --> 00:30:15,130
And do you think it
gave you something,

519
00:30:15,130 --> 00:30:21,220
a positive kind of spirit
or made you more sensitive

520
00:30:21,220 --> 00:30:27,430
or also gave something

in a positive way?

521

00:30:27,430 --> 00:30:27,930

Yeah.

522

00:30:27,930 --> 00:30:34,060

It did make me very sensitive,
incredibly sensitive.

523

00:30:34,060 --> 00:30:36,550

Did it influence,
aside from religion,

524

00:30:36,550 --> 00:30:40,870

did it influence how you
raised your children?

525

00:30:40,870 --> 00:30:42,040

Yeah, I sheltered them.

526

00:30:42,040 --> 00:30:44,830

527

00:30:44,830 --> 00:30:46,800

My oldest son does
accuse me of that.

528

00:30:46,800 --> 00:30:50,020

529

00:30:50,020 --> 00:30:53,680

It's easy to see why
you would want to.

530

00:30:53,680 --> 00:30:56,360

And what about relations
with your sister?

531

00:30:56,360 --> 00:30:59,530

Is she still--

532

00:30:59,530 --> 00:31:02,675

Unfortunately, I haven't
seen my sister in 20 years.

533
00:31:02,675 --> 00:31:05,050
Oh, my.

534
00:31:05,050 --> 00:31:06,430
She's in Philly?

535
00:31:06,430 --> 00:31:08,135
No, she lives in the Bay Area.

536
00:31:08,135 --> 00:31:08,635
Bay Area?

537
00:31:08,635 --> 00:31:11,570

538
00:31:11,570 --> 00:31:13,300
Is there anything
that you would like

539
00:31:13,300 --> 00:31:21,640
to tell people about your
philosophy of life or anything

540
00:31:21,640 --> 00:31:27,820
specific from the war years
or from what you went through?

541
00:31:27,820 --> 00:31:30,910
If you were telling people
about your experience,

542
00:31:30,910 --> 00:31:35,020
it's obviously very
different from mine,

543
00:31:35,020 --> 00:31:39,940
what would you like
to tell about it?

544

00:31:39,940 --> 00:31:40,620
I don't know.

545
00:31:40,620 --> 00:31:43,300
I'd probably have to
give that some thought.

546
00:31:43,300 --> 00:31:47,830
I couldn't be terribly
extemporaneous about it.

547
00:31:47,830 --> 00:31:50,980

548
00:31:50,980 --> 00:31:52,700
You want to pause for a minute?

549
00:31:52,700 --> 00:31:54,850
And if you want to
just take some time

550
00:31:54,850 --> 00:32:02,020
and think about what it is
that you'd like to share.

551
00:32:02,020 --> 00:32:04,120
Was he Zionist, or?

552
00:32:04,120 --> 00:32:08,410
No, it's just that we were so
terribly persecuted that he

553
00:32:08,410 --> 00:32:10,060
wanted to live
somewhere where we

554
00:32:10,060 --> 00:32:14,207
didn't have this kind of
thing, or a land of our own.

555
00:32:14,207 --> 00:32:15,040
Have you been there?

556
00:32:15,040 --> 00:32:16,150
No.

557
00:32:16,150 --> 00:32:17,930
He was right.

558
00:32:17,930 --> 00:32:20,140
It is an incredible experience.

559
00:32:20,140 --> 00:32:23,200
Yeah, except that
there's so many problems.

560
00:32:23,200 --> 00:32:27,370
I mean, last year, I took a
class in conflict resolution

561
00:32:27,370 --> 00:32:28,870
in the Middle East.

562
00:32:28,870 --> 00:32:32,400
And the woman that
taught it was an Israeli.

563
00:32:32,400 --> 00:32:36,070
And the things that are going
on there are just unreal.

564
00:32:36,070 --> 00:32:37,240
It's very bad.

565
00:32:37,240 --> 00:32:39,830

566
00:32:39,830 --> 00:32:42,034
Yeah.

567
00:32:42,034 --> 00:32:43,860
Yes.

568
00:32:43,860 --> 00:32:44,660

It's interesting.

569

00:32:44,660 --> 00:32:47,540

I might have ended up in Israel.

570

00:32:47,540 --> 00:32:51,630

I had a friend in Sacramento,

and she went to Israel.

571

00:32:51,630 --> 00:32:54,293

And she didn't know whether

her parents were alive.

572

00:32:54,293 --> 00:32:55,710

And 30 years later,

she found they

573

00:32:55,710 --> 00:32:57,030

were living in Switzerland.

574

00:32:57,030 --> 00:32:57,940

Really?

575

00:32:57,940 --> 00:32:58,730

Yeah.

576

00:32:58,730 --> 00:33:00,840

So you hear stories like that.

577

00:33:00,840 --> 00:33:01,780

Yeah.

578

00:33:01,780 --> 00:33:02,280

Yeah.

579

00:33:02,280 --> 00:33:06,300

580

00:33:06,300 --> 00:33:09,300

It's a place you'd

like, probably.

581

00:33:09,300 --> 00:33:12,100

I don't have anymore
relatives left.

582

00:33:12,100 --> 00:33:13,530

I only had one aunt.

583

00:33:13,530 --> 00:33:15,910

When we came to this
country, she went to England.

584

00:33:15,910 --> 00:33:18,840

She and her husband
went to England.

585

00:33:18,840 --> 00:33:20,670

And she filled me
in on some things.

586

00:33:20,670 --> 00:33:23,270

587

00:33:23,270 --> 00:33:25,790

The Nazis came one
day and hit her

588

00:33:25,790 --> 00:33:29,030

over the head with
brass knuckles.

589

00:33:29,030 --> 00:33:31,790

As a result, she
developed a brain tumor.

590

00:33:31,790 --> 00:33:33,020

In Vienna?

591

00:33:33,020 --> 00:33:36,540

Well, she didn't find the
brain tumor until afterwards.

592

00:33:36,540 --> 00:33:39,130

Yeah.

593

00:33:39,130 --> 00:33:43,140

The incidents
happened in Vienna.

594

00:33:43,140 --> 00:33:45,800

Was she all right
after the operation?

595

00:33:45,800 --> 00:33:46,610

Yes.

596

00:33:46,610 --> 00:33:49,250

She was OK.

597

00:33:49,250 --> 00:33:49,760

She was OK.

598

00:33:49,760 --> 00:33:53,180

But their lives were
just incredibly hard.

599

00:33:53,180 --> 00:33:56,010

600

00:33:56,010 --> 00:34:00,390

What else did she
fill you in on?

601

00:34:00,390 --> 00:34:01,170

Let's see.

602

00:34:01,170 --> 00:34:05,830

Oh, well, I asked
her about my father.

603

00:34:05,830 --> 00:34:09,870

I wanted to know some things
about him, because I was only 9

604

00:34:09,870 --> 00:34:12,360

when he died.

605

00:34:12,360 --> 00:34:15,570

I wanted to know where they came
from and what kind of childhood

606

00:34:15,570 --> 00:34:16,080

they had.

607

00:34:16,080 --> 00:34:20,940

And she did tell me a
little bit about that.

608

00:34:20,940 --> 00:34:22,500

Tell me.

609

00:34:22,500 --> 00:34:27,989

Well, she said they lived
on a farm in Poland.

610

00:34:27,989 --> 00:34:32,639

And that's all I remember.

611

00:34:32,639 --> 00:34:36,389

And she said that
she had two brothers.

612

00:34:36,389 --> 00:34:43,330

One of them was my dad, and the
other brother went to Canada.

613

00:34:43,330 --> 00:34:46,750

And he was murdered in Canada.

614

00:34:46,750 --> 00:34:48,360

I don't know the
details of that.

615

00:34:48,360 --> 00:34:51,400

616

00:34:51,400 --> 00:34:55,900

And her husband,
my aunt's husband,

617
00:34:55,900 --> 00:34:59,080
actually was in a
concentration camp for a year.

618
00:34:59,080 --> 00:35:01,690
And somehow, she
managed to get him out.

619
00:35:01,690 --> 00:35:04,850

620
00:35:04,850 --> 00:35:07,130
And they both came to
England as domestics,

621
00:35:07,130 --> 00:35:09,950
because they didn't have
anyone to sponsor them.

622
00:35:09,950 --> 00:35:15,140
My aunt, that was not
anything my aunt could do,

623
00:35:15,140 --> 00:35:17,660
the one that sponsored us.

624
00:35:17,660 --> 00:35:19,700
She sponsored as many
people as she could,

625
00:35:19,700 --> 00:35:24,110
and it was my mother and
her brother and maybe one

626
00:35:24,110 --> 00:35:24,695
other person.

627
00:35:24,695 --> 00:35:29,650

628

00:35:29,650 --> 00:35:33,940

And she went to
Israel, this aunt?

629

00:35:33,940 --> 00:35:34,690

No.

630

00:35:34,690 --> 00:35:36,970

That aunt went to England.

631

00:35:36,970 --> 00:35:39,070

I see.

632

00:35:39,070 --> 00:35:41,512

And when did you talk to her?

633

00:35:41,512 --> 00:35:46,570

The first time I spoke
to her was in 19--

634

00:35:46,570 --> 00:35:53,770

I hadn't seen her
from 1939 until 1969.

635

00:35:53,770 --> 00:35:59,590

So the next time she saw
me, I guess I was 40.

636

00:35:59,590 --> 00:36:02,590

I hadn't seen her in 30 years.

637

00:36:02,590 --> 00:36:04,120

That's incredible.

638

00:36:04,120 --> 00:36:05,330

That was in England or here?

639

00:36:05,330 --> 00:36:06,130

I went to England.

640

00:36:06,130 --> 00:36:06,940

My uncle died.

641

00:36:06,940 --> 00:36:08,050

I never saw him again.

642

00:36:08,050 --> 00:36:10,840

643

00:36:10,840 --> 00:36:15,414

Any other relatives that you met
up with later, at a later time?

644

00:36:15,414 --> 00:36:15,914

No.

645

00:36:15,914 --> 00:36:20,090

646

00:36:20,090 --> 00:36:26,055

So you really lost your
family, and that was hard.

647

00:36:26,055 --> 00:36:34,920

It was very difficult.

648

00:36:34,920 --> 00:36:36,600

Would you like
some more time to--

649

00:36:36,600 --> 00:36:37,770

I got you off the subject--

650

00:36:37,770 --> 00:36:38,772

You did.

651

00:36:38,772 --> 00:36:39,790

That's OK.

652

00:36:39,790 --> 00:36:41,220

We'll wait.

653

00:36:41,220 --> 00:36:42,840

May I ask a couple
of questions there?

654

00:36:42,840 --> 00:36:43,340

Sure.

655

00:36:43,340 --> 00:36:44,640

Yeah, please.

656

00:36:44,640 --> 00:36:49,770

Where did the boat leave
from when you left in 1939?

657

00:36:49,770 --> 00:36:52,420

It left from Hamburg.

658

00:36:52,420 --> 00:36:54,390

That's a good question.

659

00:36:54,390 --> 00:37:00,110

We traveled by train to Hamburg,
and the boat left from there.

660

00:37:00,110 --> 00:37:03,030

Was that an eventful or
uneventful train trip?

661

00:37:03,030 --> 00:37:05,910

662

00:37:05,910 --> 00:37:08,400

Well, we traveled third class.

663

00:37:08,400 --> 00:37:11,790

I remember the wooden benches
and my sleeping on the train.

664

00:37:11,790 --> 00:37:13,000

Were you in flight?

665

00:37:13,000 --> 00:37:15,510

Did you feel like you were
in flight during that train

666
00:37:15,510 --> 00:37:18,480
trip there?

667
00:37:18,480 --> 00:37:20,370
By in flight, what
do you mean by that?

668
00:37:20,370 --> 00:37:28,580
Were the officials starting to
close in and prevent efforts

669
00:37:28,580 --> 00:37:29,190
at operation?

670
00:37:29,190 --> 00:37:30,210
Yeah.

671
00:37:30,210 --> 00:37:33,780
In fact, I guess that
whole experience,

672
00:37:33,780 --> 00:37:36,630
that whole year stayed with me.

673
00:37:36,630 --> 00:37:45,570
And the first time I returned
to Vienna was in 1970.

674
00:37:45,570 --> 00:37:47,310
Yes, 1970.

675
00:37:47,310 --> 00:37:50,940
I returned to Vienna after 1939.

676
00:37:50,940 --> 00:37:54,390
So that was a long time.

677
00:37:54,390 --> 00:38:01,290
And traveling on the train

from Munich to Vienna,

678

00:38:01,290 --> 00:38:05,610

I experienced this
man in uniform

679

00:38:05,610 --> 00:38:10,140

coming into our compartment,
and I broke out in a sweat.

680

00:38:10,140 --> 00:38:13,020

At that point, I
was an adult. And I

681

00:38:13,020 --> 00:38:17,070

realized that he was not
a Nazi, but he was just

682

00:38:17,070 --> 00:38:18,210

asking for passports.

683

00:38:18,210 --> 00:38:23,870

684

00:38:23,870 --> 00:38:26,750

Ruth, going back
to John's question,

685

00:38:26,750 --> 00:38:34,160

what was the trip like on the
train and then on the boat?

686

00:38:34,160 --> 00:38:36,560

You were leaving everything.

687

00:38:36,560 --> 00:38:38,150

Were you on the run?

688

00:38:38,150 --> 00:38:39,530

Were you worried
about actually--

689

00:38:39,530 --> 00:38:40,460

No, no.

690

00:38:40,460 --> 00:38:43,280

I am actually
pretty lighthearted.

691

00:38:43,280 --> 00:38:48,320

And things were rather
nice for us on the boat.

692

00:38:48,320 --> 00:38:54,350

The chef took a liking
to me, and it was almost

693

00:38:54,350 --> 00:38:59,730

like a weight had
been lifted off us.

694

00:38:59,730 --> 00:39:05,170

I think for the first time,
I was being a child again.

695

00:39:05,170 --> 00:39:05,670

Yeah.

696

00:39:05,670 --> 00:39:07,310

You missed out on
your childhood.

697

00:39:07,310 --> 00:39:12,920

698

00:39:12,920 --> 00:39:17,900

And then when you first
came to America, oh, I see.

699

00:39:17,900 --> 00:39:20,330

That's when you went
into the orphanage.

700

00:39:20,330 --> 00:39:21,552

Yeah.

701
00:39:21,552 --> 00:39:23,010
John, anything else
you have there?

702
00:39:23,010 --> 00:39:24,150
Yeah, I have a few questions--

703
00:39:24,150 --> 00:39:24,710
Go ahead.

704
00:39:24,710 --> 00:39:26,240
--if it's all right.

705
00:39:26,240 --> 00:39:29,660
Could you tell us what a day
was like in the orphanage,

706
00:39:29,660 --> 00:39:32,720
your average day?

707
00:39:32,720 --> 00:39:37,510
Well, vaguely, I could tell you.

708
00:39:37,510 --> 00:39:41,360
I want to tell you that when I
first arrived at the orphanage,

709
00:39:41,360 --> 00:39:44,750
it was very traumatic, because
there was a woman there who was

710
00:39:44,750 --> 00:39:47,150
the, as they call, the nurse.

711
00:39:47,150 --> 00:39:52,190
And she had us wash
her hair with kerosene.

712
00:39:52,190 --> 00:39:56,990
And we actually came from
a pretty good environment,

713
00:39:56,990 --> 00:39:59,570
and that was rather
strange to me.

714
00:39:59,570 --> 00:40:02,250
And we had to use a fine comb.

715
00:40:02,250 --> 00:40:02,750
Lice?

716
00:40:02,750 --> 00:40:04,160
Yeah.

717
00:40:04,160 --> 00:40:08,240
She was big on us
using a fine comb.

718
00:40:08,240 --> 00:40:14,810
It was almost like as if
we were in some sort of a--

719
00:40:14,810 --> 00:40:16,150
we were incarcerated.

720
00:40:16,150 --> 00:40:19,460

721
00:40:19,460 --> 00:40:21,300
We'd get up and have breakfast.

722
00:40:21,300 --> 00:40:23,720
We all had chores to do.

723
00:40:23,720 --> 00:40:25,670
And we were assigned
to do chores.

724
00:40:25,670 --> 00:40:27,140
We'd have to clean
the bathrooms,

725

00:40:27,140 --> 00:40:31,470

or maybe that week, we'd
work in the dining room.

726

00:40:31,470 --> 00:40:33,020

So we always had chores to do.

727

00:40:33,020 --> 00:40:35,750

And then we went to school.

728

00:40:35,750 --> 00:40:39,860

And at school, when
we first arrived,

729

00:40:39,860 --> 00:40:44,330

we were rather a
curiosity item, my sister

730

00:40:44,330 --> 00:40:47,390

and I. It's like the whole
school would gather at recess

731

00:40:47,390 --> 00:40:50,660

and look at us, because
we were foreigners.

732

00:40:50,660 --> 00:40:53,160

We were, I guess, one
of the few refugees

733

00:40:53,160 --> 00:40:54,440

that had come to that area.

734

00:40:54,440 --> 00:40:57,240

735

00:40:57,240 --> 00:41:00,100

And that was rather
strange a strange feeling.

736

00:41:00,100 --> 00:41:03,070

737
00:41:03,070 --> 00:41:08,590
And then tell us
more about life.

738
00:41:08,590 --> 00:41:10,930
What was meal time
like or supper?

739
00:41:10,930 --> 00:41:15,790
Meals were just at big
tables, and the food

740
00:41:15,790 --> 00:41:19,310
was not terribly good.

741
00:41:19,310 --> 00:41:24,190
I mean, institutional food
is not ever that great.

742
00:41:24,190 --> 00:41:27,610
And I know we all wanted
out of the orphanage,

743
00:41:27,610 --> 00:41:32,960
not just myself and my sister,
but the other children as well.

744
00:41:32,960 --> 00:41:41,315
And then I would see
my mother on weekends.

745
00:41:41,315 --> 00:41:43,190
I don't know whether I
saw her every weekend,

746
00:41:43,190 --> 00:41:46,010
but I saw her most weekends.

747
00:41:46,010 --> 00:41:48,800
And also on Saturdays,
they used to send us

748

00:41:48,800 --> 00:41:52,655

to the movies, the
children in the afternoon.

749

00:41:52,655 --> 00:41:57,300

750

00:41:57,300 --> 00:41:59,530

And you went to school there?

751

00:41:59,530 --> 00:42:02,430

I went to a public school.

752

00:42:02,430 --> 00:42:04,776

That was not connected
to the orphanage?

753

00:42:04,776 --> 00:42:07,230

No, a public school close by.

754

00:42:07,230 --> 00:42:08,580

And what about friends?

755

00:42:08,580 --> 00:42:11,560

Did you have friends?

756

00:42:11,560 --> 00:42:14,590

Yes, I did have some friends.

757

00:42:14,590 --> 00:42:16,920

When I began to speak
English, it was easier.

758

00:42:16,920 --> 00:42:20,336

759

00:42:20,336 --> 00:42:21,212

[COUGHS] Excuse me.

760

00:42:21,212 --> 00:42:22,420

John, anything else you have?

761
00:42:22,420 --> 00:42:22,920
Yeah.

762
00:42:22,920 --> 00:42:26,990
What sort of work was your
mother doing during this period

763
00:42:26,990 --> 00:42:29,630
when she was not able
to support you and later

764
00:42:29,630 --> 00:42:31,700
on when once she
was able to have you

765
00:42:31,700 --> 00:42:32,930
live at home, at least?

766
00:42:32,930 --> 00:42:34,710
Well, she worked in a factory.

767
00:42:34,710 --> 00:42:38,630
She worked as a sewing
machine operator.

768
00:42:38,630 --> 00:42:43,670
And I was terribly unhappy
about her doing that.

769
00:42:43,670 --> 00:42:44,960
I didn't like the environment.

770
00:42:44,960 --> 00:42:50,230
She'd come home and tell
us what it was like.

771
00:42:50,230 --> 00:42:51,290
What was it like?

772
00:42:51,290 --> 00:42:53,930
Well, people smoking,

and she worked piecework,

773

00:42:53,930 --> 00:42:57,920
so that meant she had to really
rush through whatever she

774

00:42:57,920 --> 00:43:00,800
was doing to earn enough money.

775

00:43:00,800 --> 00:43:02,390
It wasn't a terribly
good environment.

776

00:43:02,390 --> 00:43:05,160
The lighting wasn't good.

777

00:43:05,160 --> 00:43:08,210
It was like a sweatshop, sort
of the proverbial sweatshop.

778

00:43:08,210 --> 00:43:11,570
I wasn't terribly happy
about her working in that.

779

00:43:11,570 --> 00:43:14,960
And when I finished
nurse's training,

780

00:43:14,960 --> 00:43:22,010
they were beginning to have open
schools for practical nurses.

781

00:43:22,010 --> 00:43:23,630
And I helped her with that.

782

00:43:23,630 --> 00:43:27,170
And she ultimately
became a practical nurse,

783

00:43:27,170 --> 00:43:31,870
which was a better
environment for her.

784

00:43:31,870 --> 00:43:33,688

That's great.

785

00:43:33,688 --> 00:43:34,640

And John--

786

00:43:34,640 --> 00:43:35,960

Does that answer your question?

787

00:43:35,960 --> 00:43:36,660

Yes, yes.

788

00:43:36,660 --> 00:43:37,313

OK.

789

00:43:37,313 --> 00:43:39,230

May I ask you, you had
mentioned that you were

790

00:43:39,230 --> 00:43:41,520

married to an antisemitism Jew.

791

00:43:41,520 --> 00:43:42,020

Yes.

792

00:43:42,020 --> 00:43:44,090

Could you explain
what you mean by that

793

00:43:44,090 --> 00:43:47,060

and what that meant
in terms of your life

794

00:43:47,060 --> 00:43:49,470

and your relationship?

795

00:43:49,470 --> 00:43:52,160

Well, unfortunately,
I didn't know

796

00:43:52,160 --> 00:43:57,600

that before we were married.

797

00:43:57,600 --> 00:44:01,400

That didn't become
apparent until afterwards.

798

00:44:01,400 --> 00:44:05,020

And I felt terribly restricted.

799

00:44:05,020 --> 00:44:07,820

He was just not interested in--

800

00:44:07,820 --> 00:44:09,680

not interested, he was
really ashamed of it.

801

00:44:09,680 --> 00:44:12,900

802

00:44:12,900 --> 00:44:14,790

But it was his immaturity.

803

00:44:14,790 --> 00:44:19,820

804

00:44:19,820 --> 00:44:22,560

So it wasn't a
terribly good feeling.

805

00:44:22,560 --> 00:44:24,890

I really felt I had
no business being

806

00:44:24,890 --> 00:44:28,570

married to a man like that.

807

00:44:28,570 --> 00:44:33,060

But the times were
such that you stayed?

808

00:44:33,060 --> 00:44:34,000

You had no choice?

809
00:44:34,000 --> 00:44:40,220
Well, you couldn't get a divorce
unless you proved adultery

810
00:44:40,220 --> 00:44:42,010
those years.

811
00:44:42,010 --> 00:44:42,610
Yeah.

812
00:44:42,610 --> 00:44:44,380
It just wasn't accepted.

813
00:44:44,380 --> 00:44:45,240
How did you cope?

814
00:44:45,240 --> 00:44:49,390

815
00:44:49,390 --> 00:44:54,010
With being married to
an antisemitism Jew?

816
00:44:54,010 --> 00:45:00,070
I'm afraid there were so many
other problems, I just didn't.

817
00:45:00,070 --> 00:45:04,330
I mean, I coped by
just ignoring that,

818
00:45:04,330 --> 00:45:07,650
my heritage, by just
ignoring that part of it.

819
00:45:07,650 --> 00:45:11,840

820
00:45:11,840 --> 00:45:14,593
And when you refer to so
many other problems, what

821
00:45:14,593 --> 00:45:15,260
are you talking?

822
00:45:15,260 --> 00:45:19,030
Well, just from day to day,
and just in the marriage,

823
00:45:19,030 --> 00:45:20,670
just dealing with
him as a person.

824
00:45:20,670 --> 00:45:26,340

825
00:45:26,340 --> 00:45:28,920
Given your background,
it's awfully brave of you

826
00:45:28,920 --> 00:45:32,940
to have come in and
shared your experience,

827
00:45:32,940 --> 00:45:38,760
because you've been
shut out so many times.

828
00:45:38,760 --> 00:45:42,870
I really admire you're
coming and talking about it.

829
00:45:42,870 --> 00:45:45,060
Well, I think it's really
important for people

830
00:45:45,060 --> 00:45:48,480
to know about this era.

831
00:45:48,480 --> 00:45:51,570
It seems so far
removed, because we

832

00:45:51,570 --> 00:45:54,360
live in such a
different environment.

833
00:45:54,360 --> 00:45:58,860
And most people
would never envision

834
00:45:58,860 --> 00:46:02,160
that this could
ever have happened,

835
00:46:02,160 --> 00:46:04,470
and some people just
don't believe it.

836
00:46:04,470 --> 00:46:09,420

837
00:46:09,420 --> 00:46:11,820
Is that what made you
finally decide to come?

838
00:46:11,820 --> 00:46:17,810
Well, I thought it was
important for my children

839
00:46:17,810 --> 00:46:23,520
to know a little bit about this,
because they're not terribly

840
00:46:23,520 --> 00:46:27,090
aware of what my life was like.

841
00:46:27,090 --> 00:46:31,510

842
00:46:31,510 --> 00:46:32,297
I agree.

843
00:46:32,297 --> 00:46:33,880
I think that's a
very important thing.

844
00:46:33,880 --> 00:46:36,180
And if you want to
take some time--

845
00:46:36,180 --> 00:46:39,670
I promise I won't talk to you
now-- and think about what you

846
00:46:39,670 --> 00:46:42,520
would like to convey
to your children

847
00:46:42,520 --> 00:46:48,856
about what life was like or what
happened, just take your time.

848
00:46:48,856 --> 00:46:51,720

849
00:46:51,720 --> 00:46:55,200
Would you like some paper
to scribble down some notes?

850
00:46:55,200 --> 00:46:56,070
No.

851
00:46:56,070 --> 00:46:56,715
Well, maybe.

852
00:46:56,715 --> 00:47:04,550

853
00:47:04,550 --> 00:47:07,730
If you want to pause or--

854
00:47:07,730 --> 00:47:08,720
All righty.

855
00:47:08,720 --> 00:47:10,860
--want them to be orphans.

856

00:47:10,860 --> 00:47:14,510

I wanted them to have a mother.

857

00:47:14,510 --> 00:47:17,450

And you were afraid that if
you stayed in the marriage--

858

00:47:17,450 --> 00:47:22,010

Well, if I had split, they
would be latchkey children

859

00:47:22,010 --> 00:47:25,670

like we were, because we
would both be working.

860

00:47:25,670 --> 00:47:30,110

861

00:47:30,110 --> 00:47:31,110

I see.

862

00:47:31,110 --> 00:47:32,720

So you waited until they were--

863

00:47:32,720 --> 00:47:37,640

Well, I actually made
some steps to do it

864

00:47:37,640 --> 00:47:44,850

earlier when I was about
40, and my oldest son

865

00:47:44,850 --> 00:47:48,210

threatened to commit suicide.

866

00:47:48,210 --> 00:47:51,180

And so I decided I would just
stay until I couldn't handle it

867

00:47:51,180 --> 00:47:52,146

anymore.

868

00:47:52,146 --> 00:47:54,942

869

00:47:54,942 --> 00:47:55,680

So You.

870

00:47:55,680 --> 00:47:57,450

Are a survivor.

871

00:47:57,450 --> 00:47:58,110

Yeah.

872

00:47:58,110 --> 00:48:01,494

I mean, it was terribly
destructive, but I did.

873

00:48:01,494 --> 00:48:04,567

I think it was because it was
the only continuity I ever

874

00:48:04,567 --> 00:48:08,520

knew in my whole life.

875

00:48:08,520 --> 00:48:11,970

And you gave to your
kids what you didn't get?

876

00:48:11,970 --> 00:48:12,610

Yes.

877

00:48:12,610 --> 00:48:16,890

And my youngest son would like
to put a real guilt trip on me.

878

00:48:16,890 --> 00:48:18,570

He used to tell
me I didn't do him

879

00:48:18,570 --> 00:48:24,420

any favors, because he wasn't
treated too well by his father.

880

00:48:24,420 --> 00:48:27,630

881

00:48:27,630 --> 00:48:29,460

You have a lot of
guts to come here

882

00:48:29,460 --> 00:48:30,990

today and talk about this too.

883

00:48:30,990 --> 00:48:33,660

I just want to say that.

884

00:48:33,660 --> 00:48:37,680

Are you putting this on camera?

885

00:48:37,680 --> 00:48:40,190

We started rolling the
tape about 30 seconds ago.

886

00:48:40,190 --> 00:48:40,690

Oh, you did?

887

00:48:40,690 --> 00:48:42,175

Want me to shut this off again?

888

00:48:42,175 --> 00:48:42,930

Up to you.

889

00:48:42,930 --> 00:48:43,860

Well, I--

890

00:48:43,860 --> 00:48:45,370

We don't have the part--

891

00:48:45,370 --> 00:48:48,560

we have about the left--

892

00:48:48,560 --> 00:48:50,380

Let's see.

893

00:48:50,380 --> 00:48:56,130

I wonder if you thought that
the fact that you haven't

894

00:48:56,130 --> 00:48:58,590

communicated with your
sister in the last 20 years

895

00:48:58,590 --> 00:49:03,780

is related to the Holocaust
experience of your childhood.

896

00:49:03,780 --> 00:49:04,320

No.

897

00:49:04,320 --> 00:49:04,820

No.

898

00:49:04,820 --> 00:49:05,430

Not at all.

899

00:49:05,430 --> 00:49:06,888

That's something
totally different.

900

00:49:06,888 --> 00:49:09,010

It's totally different.

901

00:49:09,010 --> 00:49:10,590

It's totally different.

902

00:49:10,590 --> 00:49:12,510

That was very sad.

903

00:49:12,510 --> 00:49:14,020

I feel very sad about that.

904

00:49:14,020 --> 00:49:16,870

Can you tell us what happened?

905

00:49:16,870 --> 00:49:21,030

Well, it was not something
that she created,

906
00:49:21,030 --> 00:49:25,110
but it was something
that my mother created.

907
00:49:25,110 --> 00:49:27,660
And she never understood.

908
00:49:27,660 --> 00:49:31,230
She made us rivals,
not so much on my side,

909
00:49:31,230 --> 00:49:33,610
but on my sister's side.

910
00:49:33,610 --> 00:49:35,500
I can tell you what happened.

911
00:49:35,500 --> 00:49:37,410
Sure, go ahead.

912
00:49:37,410 --> 00:49:42,660
My mother used to praise
her for her accomplishments,

913
00:49:42,660 --> 00:49:46,470
and I was praised for my looks.

914
00:49:46,470 --> 00:49:50,310
But no matter what she did,
you couldn't do anything right.

915
00:49:50,310 --> 00:49:53,400
So to her, she would say, why
can't you be as social as Ruth?

916
00:49:53,400 --> 00:50:00,700
And to me, she would say, why
can't you do as well in school?

917

00:50:00,700 --> 00:50:04,620

So she began to hate me, because
she was not the good-looking

918

00:50:04,620 --> 00:50:09,090

one, and I guess I
got the attention.

919

00:50:09,090 --> 00:50:13,750

And as I grew up,
as I got older,

920

00:50:13,750 --> 00:50:16,200

I was aware of
what was going on.

921

00:50:16,200 --> 00:50:20,610

But she always
blamed me for that.

922

00:50:20,610 --> 00:50:23,280

She wasn't he wasn't
aware that this

923

00:50:23,280 --> 00:50:24,570

was something I didn't create.

924

00:50:24,570 --> 00:50:31,360

925

00:50:31,360 --> 00:50:37,150

She's just a very difficult
person as a result of that.

926

00:50:37,150 --> 00:50:40,000

My mother died 20 years ago.

927

00:50:40,000 --> 00:50:47,053

And over 20 years ago, I
severed my ties with her,

928

00:50:47,053 --> 00:50:48,720

because I didn't want

to be her doormat.

929

00:50:48,720 --> 00:50:54,680

930

00:50:54,680 --> 00:50:57,843

So that's--

931

00:50:57,843 --> 00:50:58,635

One other question.

932

00:50:58,635 --> 00:50:59,720

OK.

933

00:50:59,720 --> 00:51:03,660

Do you experience anti-Jewish
feeling in your community

934

00:51:03,660 --> 00:51:04,160

today?

935

00:51:04,160 --> 00:51:12,010

936

00:51:12,010 --> 00:51:14,680

Not in my community, per se.

937

00:51:14,680 --> 00:51:18,610

But every once in a while,
I do run into someone

938

00:51:18,610 --> 00:51:21,910

that is antisemitic.

939

00:51:21,910 --> 00:51:24,640

Could you share an experience
or two with us there?

940

00:51:24,640 --> 00:51:26,710

Yes, there was a
man that I dated.

941

00:51:26,710 --> 00:51:29,260

And I didn't know
this when I was

942

00:51:29,260 --> 00:51:31,510

going with him,
until one day, he

943

00:51:31,510 --> 00:51:36,340

told me that he didn't believe
that this Holocaust ever

944

00:51:36,340 --> 00:51:39,670

existed, that they blew all
of this out of proportion.

945

00:51:39,670 --> 00:51:42,490

946

00:51:42,490 --> 00:51:44,850

But then he was bigoted.

947

00:51:44,850 --> 00:51:52,800

And he would called Jews
kikes and Blacks niggers,

948

00:51:52,800 --> 00:51:56,540

so that kind of thing.

949

00:51:56,540 --> 00:52:00,250

So yes, every once in a
while, I would run into it

950

00:52:00,250 --> 00:52:03,070

along the way somewhere.

951

00:52:03,070 --> 00:52:05,380

Because now, I do
stick up for it.

952

00:52:05,380 --> 00:52:07,240

I don't allow anyone

to get away with it.

953

00:52:07,240 --> 00:52:10,635

954

00:52:10,635 --> 00:52:11,605

That's good.

955

00:52:11,605 --> 00:52:17,430

956

00:52:17,430 --> 00:52:21,270

What does the state of
Israel represent for you?

957

00:52:21,270 --> 00:52:23,430

The state of Israel
represents a place

958

00:52:23,430 --> 00:52:27,780

for where Jews can come
and live without the fear

959

00:52:27,780 --> 00:52:28,680

of persecution.

960

00:52:28,680 --> 00:52:31,260

961

00:52:31,260 --> 00:52:33,660

I'm really happy
that it came about.

962

00:52:33,660 --> 00:52:37,370

963

00:52:37,370 --> 00:52:40,660

And if it had come
about sooner, perhaps I

964

00:52:40,660 --> 00:52:43,000

might have been living there.

965
00:52:43,000 --> 00:52:46,750
Did your family ever consider
emigrating from Vienna

966
00:52:46,750 --> 00:52:51,070
to Palestine in 1939?

967
00:52:51,070 --> 00:52:52,780
Yes.

968
00:52:52,780 --> 00:52:57,070
I think before my father died,
they were talking about that,

969
00:52:57,070 --> 00:53:02,650
doing that exact thing,
going to Palestine.

970
00:53:02,650 --> 00:53:05,400
It was my father's
dream to really live

971
00:53:05,400 --> 00:53:07,060
in what is now Israel.

972
00:53:07,060 --> 00:53:15,650

973
00:53:15,650 --> 00:53:16,150
That's it.

974
00:53:16,150 --> 00:53:18,910

975
00:53:18,910 --> 00:53:19,410
John?

976
00:53:19,410 --> 00:53:22,480
That's all I had to say.

977

00:53:22,480 --> 00:53:22,980
OK.

978
00:53:22,980 --> 00:53:26,280

979
00:53:26,280 --> 00:53:27,630
Are you still trying to get a--

980
00:53:27,630 --> 00:53:28,480
Yeah, I don't--

981
00:53:28,480 --> 00:53:30,030
get a final--

982
00:53:30,030 --> 00:53:30,870
Would you like to--

983
00:53:30,870 --> 00:53:31,370
--statement?

984
00:53:31,370 --> 00:53:32,730
--wrap this up or something?

985
00:53:32,730 --> 00:53:33,600
Whatever.

986
00:53:33,600 --> 00:53:36,538
Just give you your shot.

987
00:53:36,538 --> 00:53:40,210
You obviously went to some
trouble to come here and do it.

988
00:53:40,210 --> 00:53:43,800
Well, yeah, I'm pleased that
I will get a copy of this,

989
00:53:43,800 --> 00:53:48,180
because if nothing
else, there are days

990

00:53:48,180 --> 00:53:51,150
that I think about writing.

991

00:53:51,150 --> 00:53:54,480
But somehow, the weather
is so beautiful I

992

00:53:54,480 --> 00:53:56,902
don't want to be
behind a computer,

993

00:53:56,902 --> 00:53:58,860
that at least, they'll
have something that they

994

00:53:58,860 --> 00:54:02,310
can remember of my past.

995

00:54:02,310 --> 00:54:05,840

996

00:54:05,840 --> 00:54:07,980
Yeah, the video is good.

997

00:54:07,980 --> 00:54:08,480
That way--

998

00:54:08,480 --> 00:54:09,170
The video.

999

00:54:09,170 --> 00:54:10,310
Yes.

1000

00:54:10,310 --> 00:54:15,170
I have a friend who is very
insistent about my writing.

1001

00:54:15,170 --> 00:54:19,940
In fact, she's the one that
told me about this project.

1002

00:54:19,940 --> 00:54:21,260
Is she a survivor?

1003
00:54:21,260 --> 00:54:21,795
No.

1004
00:54:21,795 --> 00:54:22,610
No, she's not?

1005
00:54:22,610 --> 00:54:24,980
Yeah.

1006
00:54:24,980 --> 00:54:29,000
Well, Ruth, I won't
tie you to that chair.

1007
00:54:29,000 --> 00:54:34,290
I just thought if there's
something else that's

1008
00:54:34,290 --> 00:54:36,800
sort of eating at you
that you think boy, I'd

1009
00:54:36,800 --> 00:54:41,960
like them to know this,
I'd love for you to say it.

1010
00:54:41,960 --> 00:54:46,880
No, I don't really
have anything.

1011
00:54:46,880 --> 00:54:55,650
Except that I'd hope that
my two sons at some point

1012
00:54:55,650 --> 00:54:57,380
will take up their
heritage again.

1013
00:54:57,380 --> 00:55:00,432

1014

00:55:00,432 --> 00:55:02,390

And what do you mean by
take up their heritage?

1015

00:55:02,390 --> 00:55:07,540

Well, I'm proud
to be a Jew, and I

1016

00:55:07,540 --> 00:55:09,290

would like them to
learn a little bit more

1017

00:55:09,290 --> 00:55:12,110

about it, even though
I didn't teach them.

1018

00:55:12,110 --> 00:55:16,530

1019

00:55:16,530 --> 00:55:17,970

That's nice.

1020

00:55:17,970 --> 00:55:19,080

Well, Ruth, I thank you.

1021

00:55:19,080 --> 00:55:22,920

And I hope you enjoy
seeing yourself on tape.

1022

00:55:22,920 --> 00:55:26,110

It was wonderful to
hear about your life.

1023

00:55:26,110 --> 00:55:31,130

And if there's anything else
we can do, you'll have to--

1024

00:55:31,130 --> 00:55:31,630

Thank you.

1025

00:55:31,630 --> 00:55:35,730

Or if any point you want to

come back and do a part 2,

1026
00:55:35,730 --> 00:55:38,430
people do that sometimes also.

1027
00:55:38,430 --> 00:55:40,350
So let us know.

1028
00:55:40,350 --> 00:55:42,074
Yeah.

1029
00:55:42,074 --> 00:55:42,730
John?

1030
00:55:42,730 --> 00:55:43,230
OK.

1031
00:55:43,230 --> 00:55:43,772
Shut it down?

1032
00:55:43,772 --> 00:55:46,580
Shut it down.

1033
00:55:46,580 --> 00:57:47,456