

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:02,290

2
00:00:02,290 --> 00:00:06,610
Carol was hoping, and I
think she also mentioned this

3
00:00:06,610 --> 00:00:12,970
to Sylvia and George,
that the two of you

4
00:00:12,970 --> 00:00:17,020
would be willing to add your
names to the list of people who

5
00:00:17,020 --> 00:00:19,240
are permitted to sign a check.

6
00:00:19,240 --> 00:00:20,630
Yes, she did ask me that.

7
00:00:20,630 --> 00:00:23,740
And I've got the little form.

8
00:00:23,740 --> 00:00:27,880
And I think you just
need to sign it.

9
00:00:27,880 --> 00:00:37,920
And then the other thing was

10
00:00:37,920 --> 00:00:41,480
--of the Holocaust
oral History Project.

11
00:00:41,480 --> 00:00:43,580
We have been
interviewing Joseph Weber

12
00:00:43,580 --> 00:00:47,100
and we're about to do

segment 2 this morning.

13
00:00:47,100 --> 00:00:48,380
My name is Peter Ryan.

14
00:00:48,380 --> 00:00:50,150
I'm one of the interviewers.

15
00:00:50,150 --> 00:00:53,450
And Elizabeth Ryan is
the other interviewer.

16
00:00:53,450 --> 00:00:56,660
Maurice Harris is
doing the videotaping.

17
00:00:56,660 --> 00:01:02,690
We have been collecting
stories of people's lives

18
00:01:02,690 --> 00:01:06,350
and their experiences
vis a vis the Holocaust

19
00:01:06,350 --> 00:01:12,320
for over 15 years
in San Francisco.

20
00:01:12,320 --> 00:01:18,560
And we, myself and my wife, have
been doing this interviewing

21
00:01:18,560 --> 00:01:25,520
for approximately two years now
and we do an interview a week

22
00:01:25,520 --> 00:01:26,870
if we can.

23
00:01:26,870 --> 00:01:37,130
And we try to find every one
possible to be interviewed.

24

00:01:37,130 --> 00:01:41,740

The project itself, and myself
and my wife in particular,

25

00:01:41,740 --> 00:01:44,120

I believe that it's
imperative that we

26

00:01:44,120 --> 00:01:46,910

get every story that we can.

27

00:01:46,910 --> 00:01:54,500

And I think it's fair
to say that people

28

00:01:54,500 --> 00:01:57,980

find it to be
quite an experience

29

00:01:57,980 --> 00:02:00,540

to tell their life story.

30

00:02:00,540 --> 00:02:05,360

And in fact, out of this project
I've come to the conclusion

31

00:02:05,360 --> 00:02:08,270

that this is something
that everyone ought to do,

32

00:02:08,270 --> 00:02:12,620

whether they've been in
the Holocaust or not.

33

00:02:12,620 --> 00:02:16,070

It's a wonderful opportunity
to kind of take a step back

34

00:02:16,070 --> 00:02:21,260

and have a perspective on your
life and put it into words.

35

00:02:21,260 --> 00:02:24,920

So that's what we're
doing, and we're

36

00:02:24,920 --> 00:02:28,610

continuing with our
interview this morning.

37

00:02:28,610 --> 00:02:31,910

And I just want to add
that the project has now

38

00:02:31,910 --> 00:02:37,430

collected about 1,700 interviews
and we're going strong.

39

00:02:37,430 --> 00:02:39,050

Hoping to get that many more.

40

00:02:39,050 --> 00:02:45,490

41

00:02:45,490 --> 00:02:49,810

Today is February 25, 1998.

42

00:02:49,810 --> 00:02:57,200

We're again at the Temple
Beth El of Alameda.

43

00:02:57,200 --> 00:03:01,480

We are interviewing
Joseph Weber.

44

00:03:01,480 --> 00:03:05,980

This is part 2 of
our installment.

45

00:03:05,980 --> 00:03:07,750

My name is Peter
Ryan, interviewer,

46

00:03:07,750 --> 00:03:11,560

and Elizabeth Ryan

is also interviewing.

47

00:03:11,560 --> 00:03:13,940

And Chris Harris is
doing the videotaping.

48

00:03:13,940 --> 00:03:16,790

49

00:03:16,790 --> 00:03:21,050

We had kind of left off
when the war had ended

50

00:03:21,050 --> 00:03:23,480

and you were in Shanghai.

51

00:03:23,480 --> 00:03:26,210

Before we go on, I would
like to just go back and ask

52

00:03:26,210 --> 00:03:28,490

a few things from Austria.

53

00:03:28,490 --> 00:03:32,870

One was could you tell
us about the family

54

00:03:32,870 --> 00:03:35,930

that you stayed with
in Vienna after you

55

00:03:35,930 --> 00:03:39,770

had been sent by your family
to Vienna to go to school?

56

00:03:39,770 --> 00:03:41,705

Just tell us a little
about that experience,

57

00:03:41,705 --> 00:03:42,830

what that was like for you.

58

00:03:42,830 --> 00:03:44,750
Certainly.

59
00:03:44,750 --> 00:03:50,270
In the small town of Oberwart,
where I was born and raised,

60
00:03:50,270 --> 00:03:57,530
it was a farmer's daughter
who we happen to know,

61
00:03:57,530 --> 00:04:02,300
and she in fact in
turn went to Vienna

62
00:04:02,300 --> 00:04:11,530
to marry the streetcar conductor
named Dvorak, Czech name.

63
00:04:11,530 --> 00:04:15,890
A lot of Czech names
in Vienna since Bohemia

64
00:04:15,890 --> 00:04:17,730
now was part of the
Austrian Empire.

65
00:04:17,730 --> 00:04:22,040
Since she knew that
family or that couple,

66
00:04:22,040 --> 00:04:26,060
my parents arranged for
me to stay with them

67
00:04:26,060 --> 00:04:33,300
after they had decided to
take me out of the gymnasium

68
00:04:33,300 --> 00:04:35,910
where I suffered so much from
anti-Semitism that I just

69

00:04:35,910 --> 00:04:37,360
couldn't take it anymore,

70
00:04:37,360 --> 00:04:39,810
It affected my grades, too.

71
00:04:39,810 --> 00:04:44,160
I went in with straight A's and
by the time I was through I had

72
00:04:44,160 --> 00:04:47,730
no more straight A's.

73
00:04:47,730 --> 00:04:50,340
I had the potential of
being a good student

74
00:04:50,340 --> 00:04:52,720
but it just wasn't in the cards.

75
00:04:52,720 --> 00:04:56,940
So I lived then in
Vienna as a sub tenant.

76
00:04:56,940 --> 00:05:01,860
It was a room, a small
room that had previously

77
00:05:01,860 --> 00:05:04,800
been occupied by a young
woman who was a heavy smoker,

78
00:05:04,800 --> 00:05:10,200
so the smoke was in the drapes
and the furniture all that.

79
00:05:10,200 --> 00:05:20,090
It was on the fourth floor
of the apartment house.

80
00:05:20,090 --> 00:05:23,900
And I enjoyed being in
Vienna, although for a country

81
00:05:23,900 --> 00:05:29,210
bumpkin, a real hayseed, it
was somewhat overwhelming.

82
00:05:29,210 --> 00:05:31,670
They were nice people
and they fed me.

83
00:05:31,670 --> 00:05:33,780
They were a young
married couple?

84
00:05:33,780 --> 00:05:35,300
Not that young.

85
00:05:35,300 --> 00:05:36,290
Well, to me I was--

86
00:05:36,290 --> 00:05:39,443
Let's see, '37 I was 15.

87
00:05:39,443 --> 00:05:40,610
Must have been in their 40s.

88
00:05:40,610 --> 00:05:42,410
No children.

89
00:05:42,410 --> 00:05:44,120
Kind of a comfortable apartment.

90
00:05:44,120 --> 00:05:45,960
There was no bathroom.

91
00:05:45,960 --> 00:05:49,700
There was a toilet, no
bathtub, so the bathing was

92
00:05:49,700 --> 00:05:56,360
done by going to a covered
swimming pool where

93

00:05:56,360 --> 00:05:58,760

we would swim,
just her, the lady

94

00:05:58,760 --> 00:06:01,520

and then myself and a friend.

95

00:06:01,520 --> 00:06:03,260

And we would take
a shower and that

96

00:06:03,260 --> 00:06:05,330

was the once-weekly bathing.

97

00:06:05,330 --> 00:06:08,140

98

00:06:08,140 --> 00:06:13,090

Other than that, yeah, well
when the Nazis came of course

99

00:06:13,090 --> 00:06:13,850

it all changed.

100

00:06:13,850 --> 00:06:15,460

It became somewhat distant.

101

00:06:15,460 --> 00:06:21,640

Actually, what's the word--
embarrassed, uncomfortable

102

00:06:21,640 --> 00:06:30,140

having me as a subtenant
because he worked for the city

103

00:06:30,140 --> 00:06:31,430

maneuvering streetcars.

104

00:06:31,430 --> 00:06:33,170

So as I mentioned,
he had to wear

105

00:06:33,170 --> 00:06:36,590

a swastika you know
just to at least pretend

106

00:06:36,590 --> 00:06:39,140

to be a sympathizer.

107

00:06:39,140 --> 00:06:47,450

I did visit the one time after
the Nazis had marched in,

108

00:06:47,450 --> 00:06:52,653

and the woman treated
me with some pastry,

109

00:06:52,653 --> 00:06:54,570

but she was in a hurry
to get me out of there.

110

00:06:54,570 --> 00:06:57,530

She didn't want the
neighbors to see me

111

00:06:57,530 --> 00:07:01,820

since I was obvious Jewish,
having no Nazi paraphernalia

112

00:07:01,820 --> 00:07:06,470

and I Looked Jewish with
the black, big hair.

113

00:07:06,470 --> 00:07:09,170

And I could feel her discomfort.

114

00:07:09,170 --> 00:07:13,550

You know she tried to be nice,
but it was really starting,

115

00:07:13,550 --> 00:07:18,250

the whole aura and atmosphere--

116

00:07:18,250 --> 00:07:19,720

Neither of them were Jewish.

117
00:07:19,720 --> 00:07:20,540
I beg your pardon?

118
00:07:20,540 --> 00:07:21,470
Neither of them were Jewish.

119
00:07:21,470 --> 00:07:22,130
No, of course not.

120
00:07:22,130 --> 00:07:22,630
No, no.

121
00:07:22,630 --> 00:07:23,650
Certainly not.

122
00:07:23,650 --> 00:07:25,880
As I mentioned, she's
a farmer's daughter

123
00:07:25,880 --> 00:07:32,060
and she didn't, at least not
at that time in that place--

124
00:07:32,060 --> 00:07:35,170
They were farmers
in my background

125
00:07:35,170 --> 00:07:38,730
but not that particular time.

126
00:07:38,730 --> 00:07:40,520
And the other thing
I wanted to ask about

127
00:07:40,520 --> 00:07:46,880
was you had mentioned that
there were four classes,

128
00:07:46,880 --> 00:07:48,890
and one class was for Jews.

129
00:07:48,890 --> 00:07:50,270
Eight of them, yes.

130
00:07:50,270 --> 00:07:54,350
The first grade was
divided to eight classes,

131
00:07:54,350 --> 00:07:58,560
and the 1B was the
Jewish class in school.

132
00:07:58,560 --> 00:08:00,680
Was just before the
Nazis came in or after?

133
00:08:00,680 --> 00:08:02,150
Oh no, before.

134
00:08:02,150 --> 00:08:03,680
After they came in,
it was all over.

135
00:08:03,680 --> 00:08:06,680
It only lasted a day
or two and that was it.

136
00:08:06,680 --> 00:08:09,260
What with the idea
of the Jewish class?

137
00:08:09,260 --> 00:08:12,080
Was that to segregate
you or to protect you?

138
00:08:12,080 --> 00:08:15,410
No, to make the Jews
feel comfortable.

139
00:08:15,410 --> 00:08:16,730
Did it?

140

00:08:16,730 --> 00:08:22,880

Oh yes, I felt, after
having been all my life

141

00:08:22,880 --> 00:08:28,100

in the non-Jewish school,
Christian schools,

142

00:08:28,100 --> 00:08:29,660

which became increasingly--

143

00:08:29,660 --> 00:08:33,980

Even though Austria
was officially

144

00:08:33,980 --> 00:08:39,380

a republic and democratic
and tolerant supposedly,

145

00:08:39,380 --> 00:08:49,730

yet the whole Nazi syndrome
kept increasing and worsening

146

00:08:49,730 --> 00:08:51,650

as far as the Jews
are concerned.

147

00:08:51,650 --> 00:08:56,000

In 1934, the chancellor
Dollfuss, Dr. Engelbert

148

00:08:56,000 --> 00:09:00,410

Dollfuss, was murdered
by Nazis, and they

149

00:09:00,410 --> 00:09:02,965

tried to topple the government.

150

00:09:02,965 --> 00:09:03,590

Didn't succeed.

151

00:09:03,590 --> 00:09:06,870

152
00:09:06,870 --> 00:09:15,670
And then that was only four
years later when it did happen

153
00:09:15,670 --> 00:09:19,090
and was Schuschnigg,
Kurt von Schuschnigg,

154
00:09:19,090 --> 00:09:21,730
was our chancellor.

155
00:09:21,730 --> 00:09:26,640
So there were socialists
and social democrats

156
00:09:26,640 --> 00:09:31,080
and I would imagine
some communists, too,

157
00:09:31,080 --> 00:09:36,510
but Austria was pretty
stable until '38

158
00:09:36,510 --> 00:09:40,050
when the Nazis
overran the country.

159
00:09:40,050 --> 00:09:43,180

160
00:09:43,180 --> 00:09:48,300
The school was a good
school, and the fact

161
00:09:48,300 --> 00:09:55,620
that it had a Jewish contingent,
had no anti-Semitic overtones

162
00:09:55,620 --> 00:10:00,560
or motivations whatsoever,
it was very nice place to be.

163

00:10:00,560 --> 00:10:03,630

I only had half a year
till it was all over.

164

00:10:03,630 --> 00:10:06,600

And I was 16 in March.

165

00:10:06,600 --> 00:10:10,710

The Nazis changed everything.

166

00:10:10,710 --> 00:10:12,000

OK.

167

00:10:12,000 --> 00:10:13,980

Now I want to jump to China.

168

00:10:13,980 --> 00:10:14,850

OK.

169

00:10:14,850 --> 00:10:19,020

And you have described
your experience in Shanghai

170

00:10:19,020 --> 00:10:22,530

through the war and
at the end of the war.

171

00:10:22,530 --> 00:10:24,750

Before you leave
the shores of China,

172

00:10:24,750 --> 00:10:28,170

I would like you to tell us
about your impression of China

173

00:10:28,170 --> 00:10:32,510

and Shanghai, what
that was like for you.

174

00:10:32,510 --> 00:10:34,830

Well, it was very exotic.

175

00:10:34,830 --> 00:10:38,790

And remember I was 17.

176

00:10:38,790 --> 00:10:39,660

That was '39.

177

00:10:39,660 --> 00:10:45,891

We arrived August 7, 1939.

178

00:10:45,891 --> 00:10:53,830

And to it a 17-year-old boy
who had never traveled much--

179

00:10:53,830 --> 00:10:55,690

traveling you know
when I was growing up

180

00:10:55,690 --> 00:10:58,540

as a major proposition.

181

00:10:58,540 --> 00:11:02,230

182

00:11:02,230 --> 00:11:05,270

Vienna was only about
130 kilometers away

183

00:11:05,270 --> 00:11:09,290

from where I was born, yet
I only went there one time

184

00:11:09,290 --> 00:11:17,540

until I went to school there,
on a trip to the theater.

185

00:11:17,540 --> 00:11:19,560

And it was a big
adventure in my life.

186

00:11:19,560 --> 00:11:21,770

So with that
attitude, Shanghai--

187
00:11:21,770 --> 00:11:24,080
To the kids or
people from cities

188
00:11:24,080 --> 00:11:26,030
who lived all their
lives it was perhaps less

189
00:11:26,030 --> 00:11:27,890
of a trauma or a shock.

190
00:11:27,890 --> 00:11:28,620
But to me.

191
00:11:28,620 --> 00:11:33,910
And my family it was quite
a major confrontation with--

192
00:11:33,910 --> 00:11:37,700
Plus, Shanghai being exotic
and so different in all

193
00:11:37,700 --> 00:11:41,780
respects from what
I had been used to,

194
00:11:41,780 --> 00:11:44,300
so it was very strange.

195
00:11:44,300 --> 00:11:50,780
Plus the fact that we had
suddenly become refugees.

196
00:11:50,780 --> 00:11:56,700
And because that's a
major transformation

197
00:11:56,700 --> 00:12:00,180
of your lifestyle, if
you can call it that.

198

00:12:00,180 --> 00:12:07,490

It was not so much a
lifestyle as forcing

199

00:12:07,490 --> 00:12:12,650

us to become used to
conditions drastically

200

00:12:12,650 --> 00:12:16,310

different to what we're used to.

201

00:12:16,310 --> 00:12:20,390

The first 14 months we lived in
a camp, and we were separated.

202

00:12:20,390 --> 00:12:23,660

I was in a room with 50 people
and my sister in a different

203

00:12:23,660 --> 00:12:25,340

room-- she's a year younger--

204

00:12:25,340 --> 00:12:27,320

and my parents
still another room.

205

00:12:27,320 --> 00:12:32,450

So for over a year, as
I said, an upper bunk

206

00:12:32,450 --> 00:12:36,830

was my whole world.

207

00:12:36,830 --> 00:12:44,840

And half of the space below the
bottom of the bunk bed, that's

208

00:12:44,840 --> 00:12:48,080

where I kept my
belongings, my possessions.

209

00:12:48,080 --> 00:12:51,380

And try to imagine how that is.

210
00:12:51,380 --> 00:12:54,090
You have no privacy ever.

211
00:12:54,090 --> 00:12:56,620
You just-- Yeah.

212
00:12:56,620 --> 00:12:58,910
Did you and your
parents and your sister

213
00:12:58,910 --> 00:13:00,680
get together for meals?

214
00:13:00,680 --> 00:13:02,210
Yes, they fed us.

215
00:13:02,210 --> 00:13:05,050
Yeah, we were dependent on the
committee, aid committee which

216
00:13:05,050 --> 00:13:07,850
was financed both by Jewish
philanthropists of the United

217
00:13:07,850 --> 00:13:12,070
States and also local
dignitaries such

218
00:13:12,070 --> 00:13:15,290
is Sassoon, the
Hardoons, Kadoories,

219
00:13:15,290 --> 00:13:20,300
these Jews that came originally
from Iraq by way of India,

220
00:13:20,300 --> 00:13:24,770
and some of the white
Russians had come in the '20s.

221
00:13:24,770 --> 00:13:28,100

And they supported us, so we
had no means of sustenance,

222
00:13:28,100 --> 00:13:32,490
but they fed us, and the
clothing that we had,

223
00:13:32,490 --> 00:13:35,540
that was it.

224
00:13:35,540 --> 00:13:37,940
Again, a youngster
takes it in stride.

225
00:13:37,940 --> 00:13:42,980
I made friends and even got
a job working, many in fact

226
00:13:42,980 --> 00:13:44,310
various jobs.

227
00:13:44,310 --> 00:13:45,830
Just went out and worked.

228
00:13:45,830 --> 00:13:48,800
Didn't get paid a lot.

229
00:13:48,800 --> 00:13:55,620
That was just token
pocket money, so to speak,

230
00:13:55,620 --> 00:13:57,270
because who could afford to pay?

231
00:13:57,270 --> 00:14:01,590
But you know the
Europeans picked up life.

232
00:14:01,590 --> 00:14:02,770
What else could you do?

233
00:14:02,770 --> 00:14:05,790

Some had professions, so
they were the lucky ones.

234
00:14:05,790 --> 00:14:06,610
The rest of us--

235
00:14:06,610 --> 00:14:08,340
My father had no skills.

236
00:14:08,340 --> 00:14:10,470
For many years he just
sort of vegetated.

237
00:14:10,470 --> 00:14:12,510
He didn't find any
kind of employment.

238
00:14:12,510 --> 00:14:17,400
And I was, being young
and more adaptable.

239
00:14:17,400 --> 00:14:20,120
And my sister got a job
right away, being a girl,

240
00:14:20,120 --> 00:14:24,010
as a waitress in a coffee shop.

241
00:14:24,010 --> 00:14:28,990
And the whole eight years
she worked as a waitress

242
00:14:28,990 --> 00:14:32,620
or in a bakery, a
Viennese confectionery

243
00:14:32,620 --> 00:14:37,350
where she made a living and
made more money than I did.

244
00:14:37,350 --> 00:14:39,990
Young girls were much in demand.

245

00:14:39,990 --> 00:14:43,740

246

00:14:43,740 --> 00:14:45,900

What were your impressions
of the Chinese people

247

00:14:45,900 --> 00:14:47,070

and the Chinese culture?

248

00:14:47,070 --> 00:14:50,930

249

00:14:50,930 --> 00:14:53,940

We didn't have that
much contact initially.

250

00:14:53,940 --> 00:14:59,990

Living for over a year in this
camp we were amongst ourselves.

251

00:14:59,990 --> 00:15:03,350

The routine would we be
much listening to the news

252

00:15:03,350 --> 00:15:04,010

on the radio.

253

00:15:04,010 --> 00:15:05,720

I didn't speak English
yet at that time,

254

00:15:05,720 --> 00:15:14,810

so there would be a German
Jew translating the radio.

255

00:15:14,810 --> 00:15:18,290

You know World War II
started on September 1,

256

00:15:18,290 --> 00:15:22,310

so that was about a month or

so a month and a half after we

257

00:15:22,310 --> 00:15:23,480
had arrived.

258

00:15:23,480 --> 00:15:27,540
So we did have contact with the
outside world by way of radio.

259

00:15:27,540 --> 00:15:31,130
This man would translate
into German the news.

260

00:15:31,130 --> 00:15:34,340
So we were among ourselves.

261

00:15:34,340 --> 00:15:40,460
And then later on when I
started working real jobs

262

00:15:40,460 --> 00:15:45,020
and I began to learn English and
Chinese both, I made friends,

263

00:15:45,020 --> 00:15:46,040
had some good friends.

264

00:15:46,040 --> 00:15:53,100
The Chinese were basically
very polite, courteous.

265

00:15:53,100 --> 00:15:58,710
And they had, initially
at least, respect.

266

00:15:58,710 --> 00:16:02,730
They probably found as
exotic as we found them

267

00:16:02,730 --> 00:16:07,980
because they were not used
to this type of white people.

268

00:16:07,980 --> 00:16:11,880

See, Shanghai as quite
an international city.

269

00:16:11,880 --> 00:16:14,310

But the people that had been
living there all these years

270

00:16:14,310 --> 00:16:15,570

were well-to-do.

271

00:16:15,570 --> 00:16:18,030

They were used to being
driven in limousines

272

00:16:18,030 --> 00:16:21,880

by Chinese chauffeurs.

273

00:16:21,880 --> 00:16:25,840

And that was the kind of
person that the Chinese thought

274

00:16:25,840 --> 00:16:27,670

initially that we also were.

275

00:16:27,670 --> 00:16:30,940

But then pretty soon they
found out that that's not so.

276

00:16:30,940 --> 00:16:35,200

And of course face is
very big in the Orient,

277

00:16:35,200 --> 00:16:42,010

so gradually they started
losing their admiration

278

00:16:42,010 --> 00:16:48,520

and they began to treat
this with disdain and hate

279

00:16:48,520 --> 00:16:51,160

and worse as things
deteriorated.

280
00:16:51,160 --> 00:16:55,960
Especially after Pearl
Harbor in December

281
00:16:55,960 --> 00:16:59,630
'41 when we were shut off
from the outside world.

282
00:16:59,630 --> 00:17:01,600
Then after that no news.

283
00:17:01,600 --> 00:17:03,170
We didn't know
what was going on.

284
00:17:03,170 --> 00:17:06,040
It was illegal to have
a shortwave radio.

285
00:17:06,040 --> 00:17:09,130
Most of them don't respect
and fear the authorities.

286
00:17:09,130 --> 00:17:10,869
We were under
Japanese occupation.

287
00:17:10,869 --> 00:17:18,040
But the Chinese, by and large,
I have a respect, admiration,

288
00:17:18,040 --> 00:17:21,156
and affection for the Chinese.

289
00:17:21,156 --> 00:17:26,380
And I did learn the language
by spending evenings

290
00:17:26,380 --> 00:17:30,970
at the building sites, since

I worked as a draftsman.

291

00:17:30,970 --> 00:17:34,480

And tradition in China,
the method of building

292

00:17:34,480 --> 00:17:39,520

was that the Chinese artisans
and craftsmen, the carpenters

293

00:17:39,520 --> 00:17:44,350

and bricklayers, would
live on the job site.

294

00:17:44,350 --> 00:17:45,850

They would cook
their dinners, and I

295

00:17:45,850 --> 00:17:50,260

would go evenings and
sort of fraternize

296

00:17:50,260 --> 00:17:57,120

and thereby learn not only
the language but certain body

297

00:17:57,120 --> 00:18:02,700

language, hand motions and eye
contact, that sort of thing,

298

00:18:02,700 --> 00:18:03,660

and become--

299

00:18:03,660 --> 00:18:06,970

Because language is
more than just words.

300

00:18:06,970 --> 00:18:10,860

To really understand it, you
have to absorb the culture.

301

00:18:10,860 --> 00:18:19,980

And these primitive people,

they were very down to earth.

302

00:18:19,980 --> 00:18:23,460

The upper class,
the upper crust,

303

00:18:23,460 --> 00:18:26,240

that's quite a different
type of animal.

304

00:18:26,240 --> 00:18:27,810

I had some contact
with him, too,

305

00:18:27,810 --> 00:18:32,490

but they are disdainful
of the lower class.

306

00:18:32,490 --> 00:18:37,110

If somebody had a tan face,
it was a coolie or someone

307

00:18:37,110 --> 00:18:37,830

had to work.

308

00:18:37,830 --> 00:18:40,890

To the Chinese, the
upper, the Mandarins,

309

00:18:40,890 --> 00:18:43,720

they were prideful
of their white skin

310

00:18:43,720 --> 00:18:44,595

and long fingernails.

311

00:18:44,595 --> 00:18:46,140

It means they
didn't have to work,

312

00:18:46,140 --> 00:18:50,280

and the women especially,
the alabaster white skin.

313
00:18:50,280 --> 00:18:53,340
They were beautiful,
porcelain quality.

314
00:18:53,340 --> 00:18:56,880
But the common folk
were down to earth

315
00:18:56,880 --> 00:19:00,420
and had no problem with them.

316
00:19:00,420 --> 00:19:03,306
We get along just fine.

317
00:19:03,306 --> 00:19:05,610
It was good.

318
00:19:05,610 --> 00:19:09,620
And your impression
of the Japanese.

319
00:19:09,620 --> 00:19:14,810
Well, here again the
situation was that they

320
00:19:14,810 --> 00:19:16,670
were the occupying power.

321
00:19:16,670 --> 00:19:22,750
They had occupied that part of
Shanghai since the war of '37

322
00:19:22,750 --> 00:19:30,950
when Japan invaded China from
North, Manchuria in 1937-38.

323
00:19:30,950 --> 00:19:33,620
And that part of Shanghai called
Hongkou, where we ended up,

324
00:19:33,620 --> 00:19:34,480

was destroyed.

325

00:19:34,480 --> 00:19:38,600

When we arrived, they
were just ruins--

326

00:19:38,600 --> 00:19:40,820

bricks in the street--
and was slowly

327

00:19:40,820 --> 00:19:43,820

built up by the refugees.

328

00:19:43,820 --> 00:19:47,500

But being the
occupiers, they were

329

00:19:47,500 --> 00:19:50,095

soldiers and civil servants.

330

00:19:50,095 --> 00:19:52,700

331

00:19:52,700 --> 00:19:55,780

And I don't know how
comfortable they were.

332

00:19:55,780 --> 00:20:00,620

They did what they had
to do and they treated

333

00:20:00,620 --> 00:20:04,260

us fairly for the most part.

334

00:20:04,260 --> 00:20:08,570

Not always with compassion.

335

00:20:08,570 --> 00:20:12,350

They were, after all,
this is a country that

336

00:20:12,350 --> 00:20:13,590

had never lost the war.

337

00:20:13,590 --> 00:20:16,760

They were militaristic.

338

00:20:16,760 --> 00:20:18,570

Until the last World War.

339

00:20:18,570 --> 00:20:20,510

Before that they were
always victorious.

340

00:20:20,510 --> 00:20:24,380

And they had this whole spirit
of the samurai, this honor

341

00:20:24,380 --> 00:20:26,010

and of course emperor.

342

00:20:26,010 --> 00:20:28,100

Emperor was everything.

343

00:20:28,100 --> 00:20:34,220

And very big on
formality and respect.

344

00:20:34,220 --> 00:20:41,320

There was an instance where on
the bus a white woman sat down.

345

00:20:41,320 --> 00:20:46,830

There was a Japanese soldier
who smashed her in the face

346

00:20:46,830 --> 00:20:50,460

for being disrespectful,
for sitting down and not

347

00:20:50,460 --> 00:20:52,650

letting the soldier,
who was a young man.

348

00:20:52,650 --> 00:20:56,730

See this is their
whole mentality.

349

00:20:56,730 --> 00:21:01,340

And the women would always walk
behind the man in those days--

350

00:21:01,340 --> 00:21:02,340

maybe they still do--

351

00:21:02,340 --> 00:21:04,990

a few paces behind.

352

00:21:04,990 --> 00:21:06,105

Respect.

353

00:21:06,105 --> 00:21:07,560

Was that respect?

354

00:21:07,560 --> 00:21:10,500

That's respect in their culture.

355

00:21:10,500 --> 00:21:13,850

The women didn't complain.

356

00:21:13,850 --> 00:21:16,260

This is their tradition.

357

00:21:16,260 --> 00:21:19,040

And we saw a lot of that.

358

00:21:19,040 --> 00:21:21,350

So we saw soldiers.

359

00:21:21,350 --> 00:21:23,780

Always there is a
constant presence.

360

00:21:23,780 --> 00:21:27,560

They would train
with wooden rifles

361
00:21:27,560 --> 00:21:31,550
because they were
not that fluent.

362
00:21:31,550 --> 00:21:35,240
And every morning at I think
it was 9 o'clock sharp,

363
00:21:35,240 --> 00:21:37,940
everybody was in the
street, men, women Japanese,

364
00:21:37,940 --> 00:21:43,160
would pause and do
exercises, calisthenics.

365
00:21:43,160 --> 00:21:45,290
Every morning strictly.

366
00:21:45,290 --> 00:21:49,830
Every Japanese
would just do that.

367
00:21:49,830 --> 00:21:51,930
Show discipline.

368
00:21:51,930 --> 00:21:55,550
It's probably the reason why
they were such good fighters,

369
00:21:55,550 --> 00:21:56,235
the soldiers.

370
00:21:56,235 --> 00:22:03,020

371
00:22:03,020 --> 00:22:08,480
So how long were you
in China after the war?

372
00:22:08,480 --> 00:22:13,190

The war ended in '45, in
August, in the Far East.

373
00:22:13,190 --> 00:22:16,020
In Europe it had ended
in May of that year.

374
00:22:16,020 --> 00:22:18,110
So we left in '47.

375
00:22:18,110 --> 00:22:22,010
So that was two years
after the war had ended.

376
00:22:22,010 --> 00:22:26,310
How did you manage to get out?

377
00:22:26,310 --> 00:22:30,610
Well, we really wanted
to come to this country.

378
00:22:30,610 --> 00:22:37,260
And I had first registered in
1939 at the consulate in Vienna

379
00:22:37,260 --> 00:22:39,120
and didn't quite make it.

380
00:22:39,120 --> 00:22:41,820
So we had to go to Bolivia
first because the quota system

381
00:22:41,820 --> 00:22:46,290
at that time in force was based
on the number of individuals

382
00:22:46,290 --> 00:22:51,210
that had come to this country
in a certain year in the 20s.

383
00:22:51,210 --> 00:22:55,440
And Austria at that time
had not too many immigrants

384
00:22:55,440 --> 00:22:59,290
come to England for instance,
it sent many people.

385
00:22:59,290 --> 00:23:02,130
So therefore the quota
based on that fact,

386
00:23:02,130 --> 00:23:03,510
they thought it was very large.

387
00:23:03,510 --> 00:23:06,660
And the German quota
was pretty good too.

388
00:23:06,660 --> 00:23:11,070
So my wife could have come, but
I couldn't being Austrian born.

389
00:23:11,070 --> 00:23:15,120
So all we managed to do
was get a visa to Bolivia

390
00:23:15,120 --> 00:23:20,550
and wait until the
quota came due to come

391
00:23:20,550 --> 00:23:24,380
to this country,
which happened '52.

392
00:23:24,380 --> 00:23:26,130
When you went to
Bolivia, how many choices

393
00:23:26,130 --> 00:23:29,637
did you have about
where you could go?

394
00:23:29,637 --> 00:23:30,720
There was only one choice.

395

00:23:30,720 --> 00:23:35,490
We happened to have a relative
in Bolivia, a veterinarian, who

396

00:23:35,490 --> 00:23:40,140
got us into the
country because he

397

00:23:40,140 --> 00:23:45,000
worked for the
ministry of interior

398

00:23:45,000 --> 00:23:47,100
as a veterinary surgeon.

399

00:23:47,100 --> 00:23:50,790
So he aided us.

400

00:23:50,790 --> 00:23:52,800
Did you have to have a sponsor?

401

00:23:52,800 --> 00:23:53,340
In Bolivia?

402

00:23:53,340 --> 00:23:54,780
No, no, no.

403

00:23:54,780 --> 00:23:57,540
It was based on a
different system.

404

00:23:57,540 --> 00:23:59,940
So he wasn't
financially responsible.

405

00:23:59,940 --> 00:24:01,520
No.

406

00:24:01,520 --> 00:24:02,520
All six of us--

407

00:24:02,520 --> 00:24:04,710
that is my parents, my
sister, and her husband

408
00:24:04,710 --> 00:24:08,220
she was by then married
and I was married also.

409
00:24:08,220 --> 00:24:10,230
And you didn't
ask me about that,

410
00:24:10,230 --> 00:24:11,880
but I'll come back to that.

411
00:24:11,880 --> 00:24:15,480
Yes, so the six of arrived
at different times.

412
00:24:15,480 --> 00:24:19,590
We had a two-month transit
feature for the United States

413
00:24:19,590 --> 00:24:20,430
in San Francisco.

414
00:24:20,430 --> 00:24:24,360
And my sister and her
husband went first, and then

415
00:24:24,360 --> 00:24:27,180
my wife and myself, and
then finally my parents

416
00:24:27,180 --> 00:24:29,620
also went to Bolivia.

417
00:24:29,620 --> 00:24:33,340
Did you all live near
one another in Bolivia?

418
00:24:33,340 --> 00:24:35,170
Not exactly.

419
00:24:35,170 --> 00:24:39,250
My parents went to Sucre,
which is the former capital.

420
00:24:39,250 --> 00:24:40,780
It means sugar.

421
00:24:40,780 --> 00:24:44,110
Named after one of their
heroes, Jose Sucre,

422
00:24:44,110 --> 00:24:47,680
because La Paz was a very
high altitude and my father

423
00:24:47,680 --> 00:24:50,650
was not that well health-wise.

424
00:24:50,650 --> 00:24:51,850
So they moved to Sucre.

425
00:24:51,850 --> 00:24:56,380
In fact, tragically, I never
saw my father in Bolivia alive.

426
00:24:56,380 --> 00:24:57,340
My mother, yes.

427
00:24:57,340 --> 00:25:02,080
He died before I
could come there.

428
00:25:02,080 --> 00:25:10,610
The last time I saw him alive
was in San Francisco in 1947.

429
00:25:10,610 --> 00:25:12,950
You got married in China.

430
00:25:12,950 --> 00:25:13,760
Yeah, in Shanghai.

431
00:25:13,760 --> 00:25:15,200
Yes.

432
00:25:15,200 --> 00:25:20,940
I met my wife before the
end of the war, around '43.

433
00:25:20,940 --> 00:25:24,020
She was a ballerina in
the Russian ballet, which

434
00:25:24,020 --> 00:25:26,930
was quite an accomplishment
because the Russian ballet was

435
00:25:26,930 --> 00:25:27,980
very tight.

436
00:25:27,980 --> 00:25:31,040
They had a lot of
restaurants to choose from.

437
00:25:31,040 --> 00:25:34,490
She, having had ballet
lessons in Berlin

438
00:25:34,490 --> 00:25:37,760
since the age of five, was
quite an accomplished dancer,

439
00:25:37,760 --> 00:25:39,780
so she was accepted.

440
00:25:39,780 --> 00:25:42,020
One of only two, to the
best of my knowledge,

441
00:25:42,020 --> 00:25:45,840
of Jewish refugees
that were accepted

442

00:25:45,840 --> 00:25:47,760
as part of the Russian ballet.

443
00:25:47,760 --> 00:25:51,060
And she performed on the
stage and in operas which

444
00:25:51,060 --> 00:25:52,275
some of which I saw.

445
00:25:52,275 --> 00:25:54,020
Was she a Russian national?

446
00:25:54,020 --> 00:25:57,000
No, she was from
Berlin, born in Berlin.

447
00:25:57,000 --> 00:25:58,770
Father was a doctor.

448
00:25:58,770 --> 00:26:01,350
Dr. Gustav Silverman.

449
00:26:01,350 --> 00:26:03,910
The silver man.

450
00:26:03,910 --> 00:26:07,110
She had a sister six
years her junior.

451
00:26:07,110 --> 00:26:09,330
And they ended up
in Shanghai also.

452
00:26:09,330 --> 00:26:12,270
They came in the
beginning of '39.

453
00:26:12,270 --> 00:26:14,070
I didn't know her then.

454
00:26:14,070 --> 00:26:17,230

And we met.

455

00:26:17,230 --> 00:26:20,050

It's interesting how we met.

456

00:26:20,050 --> 00:26:23,510

My brother-in-law,
my sister's husband--

457

00:26:23,510 --> 00:26:25,760

By the way they got married
before the end of the war,

458

00:26:25,760 --> 00:26:27,400

which is a daring thing to do.

459

00:26:27,400 --> 00:26:30,530

They got married
'44 in Shanghai,

460

00:26:30,530 --> 00:26:33,790

which was difficult because
in Shanghai at that time

461

00:26:33,790 --> 00:26:36,770

you couldn't get a
room for love or money.

462

00:26:36,770 --> 00:26:37,610

He was on his own.

463

00:26:37,610 --> 00:26:39,880

He had a bicycle repair
shop and through my sister

464

00:26:39,880 --> 00:26:43,000

I got a job as a
apprentice bicycle repair.

465

00:26:43,000 --> 00:26:44,540

So that was on the first floor.

466

00:26:44,540 --> 00:26:50,290

On the upper floor was
my future wife's parents.

467

00:26:50,290 --> 00:26:53,410

Not only a domicile-- in other
words, they lived in one room,

468

00:26:53,410 --> 00:26:56,200

but they had a
covered porch which

469

00:26:56,200 --> 00:26:58,330

was used by her father,
the doctor, and her uncle,

470

00:26:58,330 --> 00:27:03,160

the dentist, to do business.

471

00:27:03,160 --> 00:27:08,200

They were not
certified by Shanghai

472

00:27:08,200 --> 00:27:12,610

to perform in that profession,
but they did it anyway

473

00:27:12,610 --> 00:27:17,267

because in Shanghai the
controls were somewhat lax.

474

00:27:17,267 --> 00:27:18,600

They had quite a good following.

475

00:27:18,600 --> 00:27:21,010

In fact, he was
made chief physician

476

00:27:21,010 --> 00:27:23,960

at the hospital, which was
right next to where we lived.

477

00:27:23,960 --> 00:27:27,970

So one day Tessie,
that's her name,

478
00:27:27,970 --> 00:27:30,813
her younger sister
looked down and she

479
00:27:30,813 --> 00:27:32,980
saw down there and says,
oh, look at this handsome--

480
00:27:32,980 --> 00:27:36,130
I had curly, wavy black
hair and mustache.

481
00:27:36,130 --> 00:27:41,350
And they looked down, and
that's how the spark ignited.

482
00:27:41,350 --> 00:27:45,400
And so we started going
out, She had a bicycle,

483
00:27:45,400 --> 00:27:48,340
so I fixed the bicycle.

484
00:27:48,340 --> 00:27:54,440
And we went steady, got
engaged, and then married.

485
00:27:54,440 --> 00:27:57,440
When did you marry.

486
00:27:57,440 --> 00:28:00,190
Just two days ago it was
our 51st anniversary.

487
00:28:00,190 --> 00:28:04,000
And it was February 23rd in '47.

488
00:28:04,000 --> 00:28:07,150
And since Dr. Silverman
was very popular man,

489
00:28:07,150 --> 00:28:10,480
about 1,000 people
came to the wedding,

490
00:28:10,480 --> 00:28:13,300
to the ceremony at the temple.

491
00:28:13,300 --> 00:28:18,040
And I had the borrowed tuxedo
and she had a borrowed wedding

492
00:28:18,040 --> 00:28:19,120
gown.

493
00:28:19,120 --> 00:28:22,300
And we had the great honor of
having another doctor drive us

494
00:28:22,300 --> 00:28:23,370
in his little car.

495
00:28:23,370 --> 00:28:26,110
Cars among refugees
were a rarity,

496
00:28:26,110 --> 00:28:29,770
but we had the great honor of
being driven from the temple

497
00:28:29,770 --> 00:28:35,230
site to the wedding feast.

498
00:28:35,230 --> 00:28:41,390
And then this was
in February '47,

499
00:28:41,390 --> 00:28:44,230
and we left Shanghai
in March '47.

500
00:28:44,230 --> 00:28:52,160

In other words, we had about a month, roughly, of residence.

501
00:28:52,160 --> 00:28:55,580
And the room that we managed to obtain,

502
00:28:55,580 --> 00:28:57,930
we had to pay \$100 US key money.

503
00:28:57,930 --> 00:29:02,780
Key money is something that in Shanghai

504
00:29:02,780 --> 00:29:06,140
at that time, since there was no building going on,

505
00:29:06,140 --> 00:29:09,990
this was still shortly after the war,

506
00:29:09,990 --> 00:29:12,380
people had to pay just to get a room.

507
00:29:12,380 --> 00:29:15,050
And we got a room in the same building

508
00:29:15,050 --> 00:29:18,530
at the top floor, kind of an attic room.

509
00:29:18,530 --> 00:29:21,860
And the floor was so filthy that we had to scrape it,

510
00:29:21,860 --> 00:29:24,440
and all we had was the top of a tin can.

511
00:29:24,440 --> 00:29:27,200

And we used a tin
can and scraped hours

512
00:29:27,200 --> 00:29:30,500
and hours, scrape, scrape,
scrape, get the floor clean.

513
00:29:30,500 --> 00:29:33,650
Then we furnished it with
whatever furniture we could.

514
00:29:33,650 --> 00:29:37,700
There was a bathtub
in the building,

515
00:29:37,700 --> 00:29:41,190
one bathtub for the whole
building, and that was great.

516
00:29:41,190 --> 00:29:44,180
I've got to tell you how
we obtained hot water.

517
00:29:44,180 --> 00:29:48,680
There were no water heaters,
so there were Chinese shops

518
00:29:48,680 --> 00:29:51,230
that sold only hot water.

519
00:29:51,230 --> 00:29:52,610
That was their business.

520
00:29:52,610 --> 00:29:54,110
And the way you
paid, you had bamboo

521
00:29:54,110 --> 00:29:56,868
sticks with Chinese
calligraphy on it.

522
00:29:56,868 --> 00:29:58,160
That was used in lieu of money.

523
00:29:58,160 --> 00:30:01,310
You had buy those
sticks, about so long,

524
00:30:01,310 --> 00:30:06,530
and you gave them some sticks
to pay for the hot water.

525
00:30:06,530 --> 00:30:11,360
And then you ran with the hot
water quickly several trips

526
00:30:11,360 --> 00:30:13,460
to fill the bathtub,
which you had

527
00:30:13,460 --> 00:30:15,950
to make reservations you know.

528
00:30:15,950 --> 00:30:18,300
You had a pail?

529
00:30:18,300 --> 00:30:21,150
Yeah, a pail.

530
00:30:21,150 --> 00:30:24,840
And were there reservations for
the bathtub or for the water?

531
00:30:24,840 --> 00:30:25,340
The tub.

532
00:30:25,340 --> 00:30:27,170
Yeah, that was wonderful.

533
00:30:27,170 --> 00:30:31,940
Another thing that was
more or less typical.

534
00:30:31,940 --> 00:30:36,470
In the house there

lived several families.

535
00:30:36,470 --> 00:30:40,190
And one day it was very hot.

536
00:30:40,190 --> 00:30:41,990
It was summer.

537
00:30:41,990 --> 00:30:45,690
One day my mother-in-law,
she was outside

538
00:30:45,690 --> 00:30:48,033
in front of the house, and
she was looking and said,

539
00:30:48,033 --> 00:30:49,200
there's a woman going there.

540
00:30:49,200 --> 00:30:53,270
And she was carrying
some dishes.

541
00:30:53,270 --> 00:30:57,630
And she said, those dishes
look familiar to me.

542
00:30:57,630 --> 00:30:59,720
It took her a while
to figure out.

543
00:30:59,720 --> 00:31:02,810
What happened was
this Russian woman

544
00:31:02,810 --> 00:31:05,390
had somehow walked
into her right place

545
00:31:05,390 --> 00:31:11,810
and she carried these
dishes out the front door

546

00:31:11,810 --> 00:31:15,110
until my mother-in-law, at that
time my future mother-in-law,

547

00:31:15,110 --> 00:31:16,880
realized what was
happening here.

548

00:31:16,880 --> 00:31:18,740
There was theft.

549

00:31:18,740 --> 00:31:21,890
It was very prevalent.

550

00:31:21,890 --> 00:31:28,070
One day I was riding
the bus, and I looked

551

00:31:28,070 --> 00:31:29,960
and the bicycle
rider was driving by

552

00:31:29,960 --> 00:31:33,975
and reached into the
bus, riding alongside,

553

00:31:33,975 --> 00:31:39,990
grabbed the hat of a
passenger and just took off.

554

00:31:39,990 --> 00:31:44,150
A man I knew, a contractor
who worked for the architect

555

00:31:44,150 --> 00:31:48,230
that I had worked for, had
the following experience.

556

00:31:48,230 --> 00:31:53,110
Chinese gowns, sort of
like kaftans, they button.

557

00:31:53,110 --> 00:32:00,240
They have those kind of button
things on the right side.

558
00:32:00,240 --> 00:32:03,630
And underneath this tunic,
there would be a jacket

559
00:32:03,630 --> 00:32:07,380
with a pocket on the left.

560
00:32:07,380 --> 00:32:12,090
He carried a large sum of
money with him on the bus.

561
00:32:12,090 --> 00:32:15,750
In order to secure that,
he put a safety pin

562
00:32:15,750 --> 00:32:21,380
on the top part of
this one pocket.

563
00:32:21,380 --> 00:32:26,290
The Chinese pickpockets
are very skilled.

564
00:32:26,290 --> 00:32:31,630
They had a method of sharpening
the coin to the razor edge,

565
00:32:31,630 --> 00:32:33,970
put the coin
between two fingers.

566
00:32:33,970 --> 00:32:36,300
The bus was very crowded.

567
00:32:36,300 --> 00:32:42,160
The pickpocket reached
through this tunic,

568
00:32:42,160 --> 00:32:49,280

over onto the pocket, slit
the bottom of the pocket,

569
00:32:49,280 --> 00:32:52,758
the money slipped to the floor.

570
00:32:52,758 --> 00:32:56,190
The pickpocket
picked up and gone.

571
00:32:56,190 --> 00:33:00,840
The man was really shaken by
the large amount of money.

572
00:33:00,840 --> 00:33:05,580
And yeah, that's just
a typical case of--

573
00:33:05,580 --> 00:33:09,400
They knew that the pocket would
always be on the left side.

574
00:33:09,400 --> 00:33:09,930
Yeah.

575
00:33:09,930 --> 00:33:13,090
Pocket the left side.

576
00:33:13,090 --> 00:33:13,770
Yeah.

577
00:33:13,770 --> 00:33:15,200
Man on the left side.

578
00:33:15,200 --> 00:33:16,890
Anyway, that was typical.

579
00:33:16,890 --> 00:33:21,172
There are many cases where since
it was so hot in the summertime

580
00:33:21,172 --> 00:33:22,380

people left the windows open.

581

00:33:22,380 --> 00:33:26,490

And by law all the ground
floor, what would be first,

582

00:33:26,490 --> 00:33:31,802

the ground floor in
China had metal grills

583

00:33:31,802 --> 00:33:33,010

you know guarding the window.

584

00:33:33,010 --> 00:33:34,613

But yet the Chinese
being resourceful,

585

00:33:34,613 --> 00:33:36,030

they would reach
over with bamboo,

586

00:33:36,030 --> 00:33:37,680

like a fishing
pole or something,

587

00:33:37,680 --> 00:33:42,600

reach in and extract things
that are eight, 10 feet away.

588

00:33:42,600 --> 00:33:47,760

It was very common,
that kind of theft.

589

00:33:47,760 --> 00:33:51,690

No such thing as
screens yet, I gather.

590

00:33:51,690 --> 00:33:56,070

Well you know it cost money.

591

00:33:56,070 --> 00:34:00,060

Why would a man be carrying a
huge amount of money on a bus?

592
00:34:00,060 --> 00:34:02,650
Did they not trust the
banks that were there?

593
00:34:02,650 --> 00:34:03,500
Were there no banks?

594
00:34:03,500 --> 00:34:05,250
No, no, I don't know
the circumstances.

595
00:34:05,250 --> 00:34:09,330
He might have perhaps
gone into the bank.

596
00:34:09,330 --> 00:34:12,620
In fact, the inflation was so--

597
00:34:12,620 --> 00:34:17,070
It was bulky because
inflation was so bad,

598
00:34:17,070 --> 00:34:20,580
and this happened again in
Bolivia that I was paid,

599
00:34:20,580 --> 00:34:23,969
I put the money in a gunnysack,
huge amounts of money

600
00:34:23,969 --> 00:34:27,060
in a big bag.

601
00:34:27,060 --> 00:34:27,960
That was the way.

602
00:34:27,960 --> 00:34:29,900
In Bolivia it happened again.

603
00:34:29,900 --> 00:34:35,070
1,000% or 10,000% inflation.

604

00:34:35,070 --> 00:34:37,469

That's why people put
their money in gold bars.

605

00:34:37,469 --> 00:34:42,270

My boss the architect one time
sent me with a bunch of gold

606

00:34:42,270 --> 00:34:43,830

bars I had to carry someplace.

607

00:34:43,830 --> 00:34:45,449

They had little
gold bars one ounce

608

00:34:45,449 --> 00:34:52,320

and 10 ounce gold bars because
that was the only security.

609

00:34:52,320 --> 00:34:54,210

The ones that had money.

610

00:34:54,210 --> 00:34:55,889

We had no such problem.

611

00:34:55,889 --> 00:34:58,530

No gold bars for the refugees.

612

00:34:58,530 --> 00:35:01,080

Tell us about Bolivia.

613

00:35:01,080 --> 00:35:02,820

OK.

614

00:35:02,820 --> 00:35:06,510

Bolivia was an
improvement over Shanghai.

615

00:35:06,510 --> 00:35:10,780

A sort kind of a way station to
the good life in this country.

616
00:35:10,780 --> 00:35:14,550
And it's a backward country
because it was landlocked.

617
00:35:14,550 --> 00:35:16,930
It's the only landlocked
country in Latin America

618
00:35:16,930 --> 00:35:20,100
except Paraguay,
which has access

619
00:35:20,100 --> 00:35:22,332
to the sea by the Para River.

620
00:35:22,332 --> 00:35:23,790
So it's landlocked,
but not as bad.

621
00:35:23,790 --> 00:35:28,320
Bolivia, by the way, had lost
every war they had ever--

622
00:35:28,320 --> 00:35:30,900
against Paraguay.

623
00:35:30,900 --> 00:35:32,190
Ramshackle.

624
00:35:32,190 --> 00:35:34,890
In '33 they lost a
piece of territory.

625
00:35:34,890 --> 00:35:37,980
They lost a big chunk of
their coastline to Chile.

626
00:35:37,980 --> 00:35:41,670
So they had access
to the Pacific Ocean

627

00:35:41,670 --> 00:35:44,500
all the way from the city of
Arica, where we stayed a week,

628
00:35:44,500 --> 00:35:46,030
until the Antofagasta.

629
00:35:46,030 --> 00:35:47,880
It's quite a nice chunk of land.

630
00:35:47,880 --> 00:35:49,545
So they lost that.

631
00:35:49,545 --> 00:35:53,110
Other than that,
it was OK for us.

632
00:35:53,110 --> 00:35:55,950
It was a step up.

633
00:35:55,950 --> 00:35:59,100
We're not refugees anymore
in the sense that we were--

634
00:35:59,100 --> 00:36:03,360
We're still refugees because you
could never become a Bolivian,

635
00:36:03,360 --> 00:36:05,700
we were foreigners.

636
00:36:05,700 --> 00:36:07,980
You couldn't become
citizens at some point?

637
00:36:07,980 --> 00:36:10,590
Well, not that we
didn't want to.

638
00:36:10,590 --> 00:36:11,940
I don't know if we could or not.

639

00:36:11,940 --> 00:36:15,810

They didn't have
that requirement

640

00:36:15,810 --> 00:36:16,760

like this country has.

641

00:36:16,760 --> 00:36:20,010

If you're here, you have
to become-- which is good

642

00:36:20,010 --> 00:36:21,360

and I like that.

643

00:36:21,360 --> 00:36:23,760

The only problem is
that of our three sons,

644

00:36:23,760 --> 00:36:26,370

two were born in
Bolivia and when

645

00:36:26,370 --> 00:36:30,630

we left we had to have a
clearance from the Ministry

646

00:36:30,630 --> 00:36:38,280

of Minors because of the
compulsory military training.

647

00:36:38,280 --> 00:36:40,020

So the theory being
that we wanted

648

00:36:40,020 --> 00:36:45,120

to take them out of the country
so as to avoid that duty.

649

00:36:45,120 --> 00:36:48,190

So they didn't make
it very difficult.

650

00:36:48,190 --> 00:36:49,920

I have the documentation.

651
00:36:49,920 --> 00:36:53,370
But we had to go
through the formality.

652
00:36:53,370 --> 00:36:55,470
But here again, the
lack of language.

653
00:36:55,470 --> 00:36:58,332
You see, I had a
background of Latin.

654
00:36:58,332 --> 00:36:59,790
I had four years
of Latin, and that

655
00:36:59,790 --> 00:37:01,860
helped me learn
Spanish immensely,

656
00:37:01,860 --> 00:37:05,160
but I didn't speak
it when we arrived.

657
00:37:05,160 --> 00:37:07,740
So I think the--

658
00:37:07,740 --> 00:37:10,330
My wife worked.

659
00:37:10,330 --> 00:37:12,310
She was a dancing teacher.

660
00:37:12,310 --> 00:37:16,320
She taught ballet,
tap and acrobatics

661
00:37:16,320 --> 00:37:18,570
to little girls and boys.

662

00:37:18,570 --> 00:37:21,180

And she made a few
bolivianos, that's

663

00:37:21,180 --> 00:37:23,790

the name of the currency.

664

00:37:23,790 --> 00:37:29,880

Bolivia was named after Bolivar,
Simon Bolivar, the Liberator,

665

00:37:29,880 --> 00:37:31,050

but he'd never been there.

666

00:37:31,050 --> 00:37:32,220

He lived in Venezuela.

667

00:37:32,220 --> 00:37:35,820

But Bolivia, being grateful--

668

00:37:35,820 --> 00:37:37,740

By the way, it's a very
revolutionary country.

669

00:37:37,740 --> 00:37:40,860

Had more revolutions than
years of independence,

670

00:37:40,860 --> 00:37:45,510

and they'd been independent
for perhaps 150 years or more

671

00:37:45,510 --> 00:37:46,890

when we arrived there.

672

00:37:46,890 --> 00:37:50,550

So we had just missed
a bloody revolution.

673

00:37:50,550 --> 00:37:53,250

The five years that we
were there, we were lucky,

674

00:37:53,250 --> 00:37:57,330
it was reasonably calm.

675

00:37:57,330 --> 00:37:59,430
But just before
we arrived in '47

676

00:37:59,430 --> 00:38:06,300
they had the Prime Minister,
Villaroyal, and his ministers

677

00:38:06,300 --> 00:38:09,780
from the lamp post, the famous
lamp post of the main plaza,

678

00:38:09,780 --> 00:38:13,380
Plaza Murillo, another hero.

679

00:38:13,380 --> 00:38:15,465
First he allowed them
to give speeches,

680

00:38:15,465 --> 00:38:18,720
and they did with Coca-Cola,
which they asked for,

681

00:38:18,720 --> 00:38:20,490
and they strung him up.

682

00:38:20,490 --> 00:38:21,900
It's a very
revolutionary country

683

00:38:21,900 --> 00:38:28,260
because they have not yet
grasped the idea of democracy,

684

00:38:28,260 --> 00:38:29,970
of having two parties.

685

00:38:29,970 --> 00:38:31,740
Only one party.

686
00:38:31,740 --> 00:38:35,250
One party grabs power and
then they line their pockets

687
00:38:35,250 --> 00:38:36,930
because they are not paid well.

688
00:38:36,930 --> 00:38:41,070
And then another party
overthrows their government

689
00:38:41,070 --> 00:38:43,770
and they are in power.

690
00:38:43,770 --> 00:38:49,270
You see, it's a mentality
that this country

691
00:38:49,270 --> 00:38:54,720
might find hard to follow.

692
00:38:54,720 --> 00:38:56,920
They respect and
they want power.

693
00:38:56,920 --> 00:39:02,650
They want a general in
charge or a military man.

694
00:39:02,650 --> 00:39:05,020
Discipline is the only way
that you can, in their view,

695
00:39:05,020 --> 00:39:05,920
run a country.

696
00:39:05,920 --> 00:39:09,580
That's why you have a number
of democracies or republics

697
00:39:09,580 --> 00:39:11,080

that say--

698

00:39:11,080 --> 00:39:13,090

It's changing, but
at one time there

699

00:39:13,090 --> 00:39:16,645

was Peron, a military man and--

700

00:39:16,645 --> 00:39:20,910

701

00:39:20,910 --> 00:39:25,890

Well anyway, General Strosser
in Paraguay, German name.

702

00:39:25,890 --> 00:39:28,560

703

00:39:28,560 --> 00:39:31,230

Well, it's not
really my province.

704

00:39:31,230 --> 00:39:35,120

When you got to Brazil was
there much of a Jewish presence?

705

00:39:35,120 --> 00:39:35,620

Brazil.

706

00:39:35,620 --> 00:39:36,240

You mean Bolivia.

707

00:39:36,240 --> 00:39:36,930

I mean Bolivia.

708

00:39:36,930 --> 00:39:39,660

I was in Brazil
as a visitor, yes.

709

00:39:39,660 --> 00:39:41,067

Yes, there was, quite.

710
00:39:41,067 --> 00:39:42,900
Because Bolivia was one
of the few countries

711
00:39:42,900 --> 00:39:45,870
that didn't make it very
difficult for refugees

712
00:39:45,870 --> 00:39:46,440
to enter.

713
00:39:46,440 --> 00:39:48,330
The other countries
set up barriers.

714
00:39:48,330 --> 00:39:51,090
They made it harder.

715
00:39:51,090 --> 00:39:56,280
Even so, some ended
up in Uruguay,

716
00:39:56,280 --> 00:40:00,450
quite a few in Argentina where
we at one time wanted to go.

717
00:40:00,450 --> 00:40:03,600
We had sent our
luggage, which got lost.

718
00:40:03,600 --> 00:40:09,360
But Bolivia was relatively
benign and tolerant

719
00:40:09,360 --> 00:40:15,440
of refugees, of immigrants.

720
00:40:15,440 --> 00:40:22,750
I must say I'm grateful to them
for allowing us to reside there

721

00:40:22,750 --> 00:40:25,510
for however long it lasted.

722
00:40:25,510 --> 00:40:29,950

723
00:40:29,950 --> 00:40:32,490
Why did they welcome
refugees, do you know?

724
00:40:32,490 --> 00:40:36,110

725
00:40:36,110 --> 00:40:40,400
Well, some of them
had professions that

726
00:40:40,400 --> 00:40:44,990
were useful to the country.

727
00:40:44,990 --> 00:40:51,080
They had about 3 million
inhabitants, and the vast bulk

728
00:40:51,080 --> 00:40:52,850
native Indians.

729
00:40:52,850 --> 00:40:59,100
Illiterate, living in the
Altiplano, the high plains,

730
00:40:59,100 --> 00:41:02,040
about 12,000 feet up.

731
00:41:02,040 --> 00:41:12,420
And a small white or
semi-white or mixed race

732
00:41:12,420 --> 00:41:22,770
were in need of a
expertise, of brains

733

00:41:22,770 --> 00:41:27,020
to try to improve the economy.

734
00:41:27,020 --> 00:41:31,870
Very primitive
economy based on tin

735
00:41:31,870 --> 00:41:36,530
at that time, which later on
I got a job at a tin mine.

736
00:41:36,530 --> 00:41:42,910
And other than that, there's
not a lot of infrastructure,

737
00:41:42,910 --> 00:41:48,340
not a lot of technology.

738
00:41:48,340 --> 00:41:52,870
They had to import many things,
so this influx of Europeans,

739
00:41:52,870 --> 00:42:01,120
which incidentally now you have
a well-educated, intelligent

740
00:42:01,120 --> 00:42:04,400
group of people with
expertise that could benefit,

741
00:42:04,400 --> 00:42:06,070
which they did.

742
00:42:06,070 --> 00:42:06,570
They added.

743
00:42:06,570 --> 00:42:09,580

744
00:42:09,580 --> 00:42:13,030
I'll tell you about the mine
later, because that's the last.

745

00:42:13,030 --> 00:42:14,340

I had three jobs in Bolivia.

746

00:42:14,340 --> 00:42:16,980

That was the last
one, the final one,

747

00:42:16,980 --> 00:42:20,350

but the other two
were also of interest.

748

00:42:20,350 --> 00:42:22,660

Do you think that you
helped to contribute

749

00:42:22,660 --> 00:42:24,040

to the welfare of Bolivia?

750

00:42:24,040 --> 00:42:25,870

Yes, indeed.

751

00:42:25,870 --> 00:42:28,470

752

00:42:28,470 --> 00:42:34,450

The first job I had
was in a silk factory.

753

00:42:34,450 --> 00:42:38,580

Now this was not the natural,
it was artificial silk.

754

00:42:38,580 --> 00:42:40,985

Viscose and acetate
were the ingredients.

755

00:42:40,985 --> 00:42:43,440

I was there about
a year and a half.

756

00:42:43,440 --> 00:42:47,250

I learned the business

of how silk us made

757

00:42:47,250 --> 00:42:51,300
and how the looms work.

758

00:42:51,300 --> 00:42:54,720
And I was put in
charge of a hall

759

00:42:54,720 --> 00:42:57,690
or a room of about 50 looms.

760

00:42:57,690 --> 00:43:01,290
These were all Japanese
looms, and the workers

761

00:43:01,290 --> 00:43:05,040
were men and women, boys
and girls, young people

762

00:43:05,040 --> 00:43:07,950
and middle-aged
people that worked

763

00:43:07,950 --> 00:43:10,500
these looms and the shuttles.

764

00:43:10,500 --> 00:43:18,450
And I was supposed to examine
and control the quality.

765

00:43:18,450 --> 00:43:20,340
And I had a little
magnifying glass

766

00:43:20,340 --> 00:43:23,910
and I would go
and check and see.

767

00:43:23,910 --> 00:43:27,390
They were more modern
looms, Swiss-made,

768

00:43:27,390 --> 00:43:33,940

that made jacquard,
fabrics with the patterns.

769

00:43:33,940 --> 00:43:36,680

I was not privy to that.

770

00:43:36,680 --> 00:43:40,950

In a way I had a little bit of
input but not all that much.

771

00:43:40,950 --> 00:43:45,210

So I learned to speak
Spanish and a few words

772

00:43:45,210 --> 00:43:48,690

of the local dialect, which
is Aymara and Quetchua, you

773

00:43:48,690 --> 00:43:50,320

just a few words.

774

00:43:50,320 --> 00:43:52,140

It was not bad.

775

00:43:52,140 --> 00:43:56,040

I had shift mostly since I
was the johnny-come-lately.

776

00:43:56,040 --> 00:43:58,500

And that was a big problem.

777

00:43:58,500 --> 00:44:06,570

At that elevation, my system and
many others' used to operating

778

00:44:06,570 --> 00:44:11,820

on sea level, got
very, very mixed up.

779

00:44:11,820 --> 00:44:14,490

I had constant heartburn.

780
00:44:14,490 --> 00:44:16,530
And there were some
people, Europeans,

781
00:44:16,530 --> 00:44:19,620
that had to go down to
sea level periodically.

782
00:44:19,620 --> 00:44:21,340
They could not
imagine the thin air.

783
00:44:21,340 --> 00:44:25,440
They had very rarefied air,
which was also a problem.

784
00:44:25,440 --> 00:44:30,330
I was only 25 years old,
and yet everybody else

785
00:44:30,330 --> 00:44:31,230
had trouble walking.

786
00:44:31,230 --> 00:44:35,910
And La Paz is built on a
hilly, very steep, extremely

787
00:44:35,910 --> 00:44:39,810
steep hillside, so you
had to walk slowly.

788
00:44:39,810 --> 00:44:42,630
If you ran, you just passed out.

789
00:44:42,630 --> 00:44:45,610
You couldn't do any of that.

790
00:44:45,610 --> 00:44:49,260
So it was difficult. The
Indians, the native Indians,

791

00:44:49,260 --> 00:44:50,550
they had barrel chests.

792
00:44:50,550 --> 00:44:54,930
They were short and
big lungs and they

793
00:44:54,930 --> 00:44:56,400
had no problem with that.

794
00:44:56,400 --> 00:44:58,740
They had probably never
been to sea level.

795
00:44:58,740 --> 00:45:02,400
But that was one of
the difficulties.

796
00:45:02,400 --> 00:45:05,940
And that didn't go away over
the time you were there?

797
00:45:05,940 --> 00:45:10,200
You don't really get
acclimated to that.

798
00:45:10,200 --> 00:45:13,410
La Paz, a city of 300,000,
had no fire department.

799
00:45:13,410 --> 00:45:15,330
There was no need for one.

800
00:45:15,330 --> 00:45:19,410
You see, to start a fire
it was very difficult.

801
00:45:19,410 --> 00:45:25,470
You had to boil
water for a long time

802
00:45:25,470 --> 00:45:30,480
and meat without the

pressure cooker impossible.

803

00:45:30,480 --> 00:45:33,440

One day our pressure
cooker exploded.

804

00:45:33,440 --> 00:45:35,745

The safety valve got
embedded in the ceiling.

805

00:45:35,745 --> 00:45:38,350

806

00:45:38,350 --> 00:45:39,540

It's a different lifestyle.

807

00:45:39,540 --> 00:45:45,180

You have to get accustomed
to other things.

808

00:45:45,180 --> 00:45:48,150

No anti-Semitism there?

809

00:45:48,150 --> 00:45:51,110

This is funny.

810

00:45:51,110 --> 00:45:57,470

There was a German contingent
in La Paz, and one of them

811

00:45:57,470 --> 00:46:00,560

was former Emma von
Stroheim, the sister

812

00:46:00,560 --> 00:46:07,220

of Erich von Stroheim, the
famous actor and director.

813

00:46:07,220 --> 00:46:10,070

Emma von Stroheim taught piano.

814

00:46:10,070 --> 00:46:12,470

Now some of our
refugees were blonde.

815
00:46:12,470 --> 00:46:15,390
You know not all Jews
are black and brown.

816
00:46:15,390 --> 00:46:18,860
And there were some Germans
there who were also blonde.

817
00:46:18,860 --> 00:46:25,490
So the Bolivians, not being
terribly sophisticated

818
00:46:25,490 --> 00:46:29,930
let's say in this
area, when they

819
00:46:29,930 --> 00:46:34,340
start to realize
that there were Jews,

820
00:46:34,340 --> 00:46:42,130
refugees were Jews, and the word
for Jews, Judios in Spanish,

821
00:46:42,130 --> 00:46:45,510
they would occasionally call
some of the blonde people

822
00:46:45,510 --> 00:46:49,560
Judio, and they happened
to be German citizens.

823
00:46:49,560 --> 00:46:52,170
Little paradox there,
a little humorous--

824
00:46:52,170 --> 00:46:53,830
But there was no anti-Semitism.

825
00:46:53,830 --> 00:46:56,730

There were not that
many Jews there.

826
00:46:56,730 --> 00:47:04,230
But there was a synagogue,
a Jewish congregation.

827
00:47:04,230 --> 00:47:07,470
And some of our friends
from Shanghai also.

828
00:47:07,470 --> 00:47:12,870
We had friends that were in
Shanghai also, people our age,

829
00:47:12,870 --> 00:47:16,680
so we had that in common.

830
00:47:16,680 --> 00:47:19,500
The country was
nominally Roman Catholic?

831
00:47:19,500 --> 00:47:20,370
Oh, very much so.

832
00:47:20,370 --> 00:47:21,720
Yes, absolutely.

833
00:47:21,720 --> 00:47:26,010
Did they have a
religion, the Indians?

834
00:47:26,010 --> 00:47:28,860
They were for the
most part at least

835
00:47:28,860 --> 00:47:32,880
nominally Catholic, Christian.

836
00:47:32,880 --> 00:47:35,590
There were churches,
primitive churches.

837

00:47:35,590 --> 00:47:38,980

I saw some of these, very, very
down-to-earth, very primitive

838

00:47:38,980 --> 00:47:41,670

adobe up on the high plains.

839

00:47:41,670 --> 00:47:43,920

There is no
vegetation, windswept.

840

00:47:43,920 --> 00:47:45,720

You have to picture
that, just miles

841

00:47:45,720 --> 00:47:49,020

and miles of the Altiplano.

842

00:47:49,020 --> 00:47:52,450

And a church here and
there, a door open.

843

00:47:52,450 --> 00:47:54,060

It's nothing to steal.

844

00:47:54,060 --> 00:47:55,080

Perhaps a crucifix.

845

00:47:55,080 --> 00:47:57,455

But you know I walked in and
they're just very primitive,

846

00:47:57,455 --> 00:47:58,650

down to earth.

847

00:47:58,650 --> 00:48:02,400

How could they
survive on that plain?

848

00:48:02,400 --> 00:48:07,740

Their main staple was
naturally frozen potatoes.

849
00:48:07,740 --> 00:48:09,090
Tasted terrible.

850
00:48:09,090 --> 00:48:12,060
And maize, corn.

851
00:48:12,060 --> 00:48:13,410
Speak fluent English.

852
00:48:13,410 --> 00:48:19,410
And they were, well, primitive.

853
00:48:19,410 --> 00:48:20,730
Colorful clothing.

854
00:48:20,730 --> 00:48:22,020
We had a maid.

855
00:48:22,020 --> 00:48:24,660
You know a maid was
not such a big deal

856
00:48:24,660 --> 00:48:25,980
because they didn't pay much.

857
00:48:25,980 --> 00:48:27,482
A very beautiful girl, Colvia.

858
00:48:27,482 --> 00:48:28,440
They always wore a hat.

859
00:48:28,440 --> 00:48:31,500
The man didn't always, but
the women always wear hats.

860
00:48:31,500 --> 00:48:33,810
They sort of wore a derby,
which meant she came

861
00:48:33,810 --> 00:48:36,300

from the province of La Paz.

862

00:48:36,300 --> 00:48:38,910

And if you wore a
white like a top hat,

863

00:48:38,910 --> 00:48:41,190

white with a little
black thing on the side,

864

00:48:41,190 --> 00:48:44,040

that means the
province of Cochabamba.

865

00:48:44,040 --> 00:48:45,540

And the same in Peru.

866

00:48:45,540 --> 00:48:49,390

Each province had
their own headgear

867

00:48:49,390 --> 00:48:51,090

worn only by the women.

868

00:48:51,090 --> 00:48:54,120

The men had their
knit caps which

869

00:48:54,120 --> 00:48:57,030

had ear flaps, the Indians.

870

00:48:57,030 --> 00:48:59,100

The clothing was very colorful.

871

00:48:59,100 --> 00:49:05,400

They had the many petticoats,
the women, quite a few.

872

00:49:05,400 --> 00:49:08,640

And they, well,
I got to tell you

873

00:49:08,640 --> 00:49:11,730

this is a family
entertainment, when

874

00:49:11,730 --> 00:49:15,960

they had to go to the bathroom
they would just squat down

875

00:49:15,960 --> 00:49:17,550

and the women do their business.

876

00:49:17,550 --> 00:49:25,290

And our own maid, Gregoria
was her name, but at the time

877

00:49:25,290 --> 00:49:29,670

we had our number-one son,
Ron, who was born in '48.

878

00:49:29,670 --> 00:49:31,952

She would take him to her place.

879

00:49:31,952 --> 00:49:32,910

We never saw her place.

880

00:49:32,910 --> 00:49:34,285

I don't know what
happened there.

881

00:49:34,285 --> 00:49:35,680

I don't know how dirty it was.

882

00:49:35,680 --> 00:49:37,600

But he was OK.

883

00:49:37,600 --> 00:49:41,220

It turns out somehow,
that was later

884

00:49:41,220 --> 00:49:44,580

on when we went to the tin mine,
in a tin mine everybody had

885

00:49:44,580 --> 00:49:51,010

to have a medical exam so
they wouldn't make a claim

886

00:49:51,010 --> 00:49:56,010

for black lung, silicosis.

887

00:49:56,010 --> 00:49:57,580

So everybody was examined.

888

00:49:57,580 --> 00:50:00,680

This gal turned out
to have syphilis.

889

00:50:00,680 --> 00:50:02,380

What a shock.

890

00:50:02,380 --> 00:50:04,225

So we shipped her off
and get another maid.

891

00:50:04,225 --> 00:50:05,460

Anyway, I'm jumping ahead.

892

00:50:05,460 --> 00:50:10,330

893

00:50:10,330 --> 00:50:12,300

OK, silk factory.

894

00:50:12,300 --> 00:50:14,700

I made a big mistake
in the silk factory.

895

00:50:14,700 --> 00:50:16,505

I confronted one
of the Europeans.

896

00:50:16,505 --> 00:50:21,090

There were quite a few Europeans
employed in higher positions,

897

00:50:21,090 --> 00:50:22,890
engineers and such.

898

00:50:22,890 --> 00:50:26,400
Not only Jews,
Germans and Swiss,

899

00:50:26,400 --> 00:50:28,815
having Swiss looms operating.

900

00:50:28,815 --> 00:50:32,880
And quite a few Japanese
because it was owned jointly

901

00:50:32,880 --> 00:50:38,060
by a Japanese named Komori,
and the Jews were partners.

902

00:50:38,060 --> 00:50:42,390
So the mistake I
made was I confided

903

00:50:42,390 --> 00:50:46,680
in one of the superiors
that I was a Zionist,

904

00:50:46,680 --> 00:50:51,650
I wanted to go to
Israel or to Palestine.

905

00:50:51,650 --> 00:50:53,800
And it so happens that
the chief engineer who

906

00:50:53,800 --> 00:50:59,970
was Austrian Jewish was a
very, very patriotic Austrian,

907

00:50:59,970 --> 00:51:04,180
in spite of having been
kicked out for being Jewish.

908

00:51:04,180 --> 00:51:07,540

In fact, one day I had the
privilege of riding in his car,

909

00:51:07,540 --> 00:51:08,670

in his limousine.

910

00:51:08,670 --> 00:51:13,860

And he said, Oh Austrian is
the most beautiful language

911

00:51:13,860 --> 00:51:15,450

in the world.

912

00:51:15,450 --> 00:51:16,620

This I don't understand.

913

00:51:16,620 --> 00:51:18,240

He was also named
honorary consul.

914

00:51:18,240 --> 00:51:22,650

I don't understand this
that after being kicked out

915

00:51:22,650 --> 00:51:28,560

for being Jewish,
he never ceased

916

00:51:28,560 --> 00:51:32,790

being the patriotic Austrian.

917

00:51:32,790 --> 00:51:35,328

And so therefore he
looked askance at my--

918

00:51:35,328 --> 00:51:36,870

Because you're going
back to the idea

919

00:51:36,870 --> 00:51:38,910

that I was not a
patriotic Austrian.

920
00:51:38,910 --> 00:51:41,590
And that meant that I had
no chance to be promoted.

921
00:51:41,590 --> 00:51:43,330
Most of my friends got promoted.

922
00:51:43,330 --> 00:51:45,810
I just stayed on the
damn night shift, which

923
00:51:45,810 --> 00:51:49,620
was, as I mentioned, it
affected not my health,

924
00:51:49,620 --> 00:51:55,820
but to sleep in the daytime
was impossible so I was tired.

925
00:51:55,820 --> 00:51:59,970
And my job was at
the end of each shift

926
00:51:59,970 --> 00:52:06,840
I had to read the little
gauge that was on each loom

927
00:52:06,840 --> 00:52:10,530
to see the production and then
add it up on a sheet of paper

928
00:52:10,530 --> 00:52:11,040
by hand.

929
00:52:11,040 --> 00:52:15,330
We had no machines of any kind,
no calculators at that time.

930
00:52:15,330 --> 00:52:18,430
This was '47, '48.

931

00:52:18,430 --> 00:52:22,840
So part of my job was at the
end of the shift I had to add up

932
00:52:22,840 --> 00:52:26,350
the columns just like by head.

933
00:52:26,350 --> 00:52:28,300
And it was no
problem because when

934
00:52:28,300 --> 00:52:31,853
I was a little boy at our
parents' country store

935
00:52:31,853 --> 00:52:33,520
we still had to do
the exact same thing.

936
00:52:33,520 --> 00:52:36,430
At the end of the
day my dad made me,

937
00:52:36,430 --> 00:52:38,770
I was a little
schoolboy so I was

938
00:52:38,770 --> 00:52:40,570
very good at adding figures.

939
00:52:40,570 --> 00:52:47,140
That was the main thrust of my
employment in the silk factory.

940
00:52:47,140 --> 00:52:48,625
And then I got a better--

941
00:52:48,625 --> 00:52:51,880
The gauge would tell you what?

942
00:52:51,880 --> 00:52:54,880
The yardage of the silk
that would be produced.

943
00:52:54,880 --> 00:52:58,240

944
00:52:58,240 --> 00:53:02,350
The production for each worker.

945
00:53:02,350 --> 00:53:03,940
Each loom.

946
00:53:03,940 --> 00:53:10,030
The workers had several
looms to attend to.

947
00:53:10,030 --> 00:53:11,770
It was just a matter
of making sure

948
00:53:11,770 --> 00:53:16,030
that the shuttle was filled,
the back-and-forth shuttle,

949
00:53:16,030 --> 00:53:20,320
and if there was a thread
broken, to repair it.

950
00:53:20,320 --> 00:53:21,760
Things of that nature.

951
00:53:21,760 --> 00:53:22,930
Boring, basically.

952
00:53:22,930 --> 00:53:24,570
Interesting at first.

953
00:53:24,570 --> 00:53:28,510
At least I got to know
how silk is manufactured.

954
00:53:28,510 --> 00:53:32,350
Then I got a better job
in the export-import firm.

955
00:53:32,350 --> 00:53:34,900
What did you do then?

956
00:53:34,900 --> 00:53:42,190
I had learned shorthand in
school in gymnasium one year.

957
00:53:42,190 --> 00:53:44,890
But it's known as
[GERMAN],, which means

958
00:53:44,890 --> 00:53:50,080
the German unified shorthand.

959
00:53:50,080 --> 00:53:54,460
Well, it's just it's a
shorthand based on phonetics.

960
00:53:54,460 --> 00:53:56,560
I'd never practiced
it, but then I

961
00:53:56,560 --> 00:53:58,000
remembered that
I had learned it,

962
00:53:58,000 --> 00:54:01,630
so therefore my
qualification to learn

963
00:54:01,630 --> 00:54:04,660
to become a secretary
to the manager

964
00:54:04,660 --> 00:54:09,280
of an export-import firm was
that I could take dictation

965
00:54:09,280 --> 00:54:12,550
in three languages.

966

00:54:12,550 --> 00:54:13,600
Yes.

967
00:54:13,600 --> 00:54:17,360
English, Spanish-- by that
time, about a year and a half,

968
00:54:17,360 --> 00:54:21,370
two years, I had learned
enough Spanish to be able--

969
00:54:21,370 --> 00:54:22,840
and German.

970
00:54:22,840 --> 00:54:27,850
Because that firm also
dealt with the West Germany

971
00:54:27,850 --> 00:54:29,497
in their business.

972
00:54:29,497 --> 00:54:31,330
As a matter of fact,
the name of the company

973
00:54:31,330 --> 00:54:37,930
was Deutsche [GERMAN],,
which means German West

974
00:54:37,930 --> 00:54:40,660
African Trading Company.

975
00:54:40,660 --> 00:54:42,760
Because Germany,
as you know, had

976
00:54:42,760 --> 00:54:46,960
colonies in the southern
part and other places too.

977
00:54:46,960 --> 00:54:52,720
So after the war, West
Germany at that time

978
00:54:52,720 --> 00:54:57,010
revived some of their
commercial activities.

979
00:54:57,010 --> 00:55:03,550
And the company that I got a job
for, it did business with them.

980
00:55:03,550 --> 00:55:05,800
They did business with
other companies too.

981
00:55:05,800 --> 00:55:09,280
The partners, the
owners were two Italians

982
00:55:09,280 --> 00:55:15,400
called Inalde Pedro and
Nicolo Linale, and Weiss.

983
00:55:15,400 --> 00:55:17,830
Weiss was the
Czechoslovakian Jew.

984
00:55:17,830 --> 00:55:22,000
And the manager
was Julius Salomon,

985
00:55:22,000 --> 00:55:27,670
who changed his name to Julio
Salbone Salomon suddenly became

986
00:55:27,670 --> 00:55:29,200
Julio Salbone.

987
00:55:29,200 --> 00:55:31,930
Very, very Latino.

988
00:55:31,930 --> 00:55:38,320
And he's the one that I worked
for, for about two years,

989

00:55:38,320 --> 00:55:41,890

taking dictation in
the three languages.

990

00:55:41,890 --> 00:55:44,290

During the day, I hope.

991

00:55:44,290 --> 00:55:46,210

You didn't have to work
night shift anymore.

992

00:55:46,210 --> 00:55:49,310

No, actually in a way
not night shift exactly,

993

00:55:49,310 --> 00:55:52,300

but the man was a taskmaster.

994

00:55:52,300 --> 00:55:54,580

He really made me work hard.

995

00:55:54,580 --> 00:55:56,680

I could not observe
regular office hours.

996

00:55:56,680 --> 00:56:00,100

When everybody went home,
the guy stayed behind

997

00:56:00,100 --> 00:56:01,870

and he made me stay.

998

00:56:01,870 --> 00:56:03,700

He really didn't treat me well.

999

00:56:03,700 --> 00:56:08,540

And I wanted to get home
to my wife and family

1000

00:56:08,540 --> 00:56:12,920

so I devised a ruse,
I enrolled in a--

1001
00:56:12,920 --> 00:56:16,960
I only, to this day, only hunt
and peck, the touch system,

1002
00:56:16,960 --> 00:56:18,890
and after a while
I stopped going.

1003
00:56:18,890 --> 00:56:19,390
I pretended.

1004
00:56:19,390 --> 00:56:20,750
I still--

1005
00:56:20,750 --> 00:56:26,590
But I was going to say,
you know I learned a lot.

1006
00:56:26,590 --> 00:56:30,970
The business of
export-import is fascinating.

1007
00:56:30,970 --> 00:56:35,860
The letters and the procedures
and the different licenses.

1008
00:56:35,860 --> 00:56:39,010
We dealt with firms like
Packard, which doesn't exist.

1009
00:56:39,010 --> 00:56:42,820
We imported Packard cars Venable
trucks, which I imagine also

1010
00:56:42,820 --> 00:56:44,860
don't exist anymore,
from this country.

1011
00:56:44,860 --> 00:56:48,220
And Austin automobiles
from England.

1012

00:56:48,220 --> 00:56:49,180

And many other things.

1013

00:56:49,180 --> 00:56:53,560

And we had a barter deal with
the B.F. Goodrich company.

1014

00:56:53,560 --> 00:56:56,920

And the barter deal meant that
Bolivia exported raw rubber.

1015

00:56:56,920 --> 00:57:05,170

It wasn't the main
income or industry.

1016

00:57:05,170 --> 00:57:10,260

It was tin and other
metals, the mining of tin.

1017

00:57:10,260 --> 00:57:12,280

Bolivia is a rich
country, potentially.

1018

00:57:12,280 --> 00:57:20,110

They have vast resources of raw
rubber, oil, precious woods.

1019

00:57:20,110 --> 00:57:24,190

La Paz is in the high
altitude, but it's

1020

00:57:24,190 --> 00:57:27,670

really tropical
in the sense that

1021

00:57:27,670 --> 00:57:32,320

the eastern and southern
part, the Santa Cruz region

1022

00:57:32,320 --> 00:57:36,820

is jungle, and
very hot and humid.

1023

00:57:36,820 --> 00:57:37,850

But it's not developed.

1024

00:57:37,850 --> 00:57:39,392

They have no roads,
only a few roads,

1025

00:57:39,392 --> 00:57:44,630

so therefore to get
the benefit of this oil

1026

00:57:44,630 --> 00:57:46,630

that Bolivia didn't
have to import,

1027

00:57:46,630 --> 00:57:51,730

they had their own oil
wells and the precious woods

1028

00:57:51,730 --> 00:57:54,610

and many other
things, and cattle,

1029

00:57:54,610 --> 00:57:57,730

it didn't do much good because
it was down in the jungle.

1030

00:57:57,730 --> 00:58:01,630

But anyway, our barter, we
imported tires and rubber

1031

00:58:01,630 --> 00:58:06,543

products from B.F. Goodrich,
and in turn exported

1032

00:58:06,543 --> 00:58:07,210

this raw rubber.

1033

00:58:07,210 --> 00:58:08,460

Have you ever seen raw rubber?

1034

00:58:08,460 --> 00:58:15,310

It's big barrels of dark
kind of, well, it's rubbery.

1035
00:58:15,310 --> 00:58:18,010
I was fascinated to learn.

1036
00:58:18,010 --> 00:58:23,080
And now the three different
licenses that were required

1037
00:58:23,080 --> 00:58:28,150
were a fact of life for
countries such as Bolivia

1038
00:58:28,150 --> 00:58:34,450
and other countries that needed
to survive by means of export.

1039
00:58:34,450 --> 00:58:40,030
Now the most
desirable license was

1040
00:58:40,030 --> 00:58:42,370
in the color of white,
which was restricted

1041
00:58:42,370 --> 00:58:48,280
to medicines and machine
tools, things of that type.

1042
00:58:48,280 --> 00:58:52,360
Then the next we
called it yellow,

1043
00:58:52,360 --> 00:58:58,600
they had less vital things like
industrial products but still

1044
00:58:58,600 --> 00:59:01,480
important import items.

1045
00:59:01,480 --> 00:59:03,820
Then last one, which

had the least--

1046
00:59:03,820 --> 00:59:06,670
Oh yeah, but with a favorable,
the rate of exchange

1047
00:59:06,670 --> 00:59:10,300
to the dollar, it was the
best for medicines and machine

1048
00:59:10,300 --> 00:59:11,100
tools.

1049
00:59:11,100 --> 00:59:15,770
The least favorable
was for luxury items,

1050
00:59:15,770 --> 00:59:17,230
the record players and such.

1051
00:59:17,230 --> 00:59:22,400
What would you and your
family do for entertainment?

1052
00:59:22,400 --> 00:59:26,320
We had a radio, of
which were proud.

1053
00:59:26,320 --> 00:59:28,570
Shortwave.

1054
00:59:28,570 --> 00:59:31,060
This was before television.

1055
00:59:31,060 --> 00:59:34,420
We would meet with my sister
her husband and other friends

1056
00:59:34,420 --> 00:59:35,200
that we had.

1057
00:59:35,200 --> 00:59:36,730

We had family there, too.

1058
00:59:36,730 --> 00:59:38,770
I mentioned the uncle.

1059
00:59:38,770 --> 00:59:40,400
Actually, it was
my mother's uncle.

1060
00:59:40,400 --> 00:59:42,850
We'd meet for card games.

1061
00:59:42,850 --> 00:59:43,530
Canasta.

1062
00:59:43,530 --> 00:59:46,150
Canasta means
"basket" in Spanish.

1063
00:59:46,150 --> 00:59:49,150
Canasta and things like that.

1064
00:59:49,150 --> 00:59:51,190
Bridge at one time.

1065
00:59:51,190 --> 00:59:53,680
And on Sunday,
traditionally, we would

1066
00:59:53,680 --> 00:59:58,450
do what everybody in
the Latino world does,

1067
00:59:58,450 --> 01:00:03,130
which is promenade
and the main street

1068
01:00:03,130 --> 01:00:07,090
or the boulevard
or the main paseo.

1069
01:00:07,090 --> 01:00:11,800

In Bolivia they had the added
attraction of buying saltenas,

1070
01:00:11,800 --> 01:00:13,540
which are like empanadas.

1071
01:00:13,540 --> 01:00:17,020
It's like a pasty,
an English pasty.

1072
01:00:17,020 --> 01:00:20,320
It's a baked bit of
pastry with something

1073
01:00:20,320 --> 01:00:22,900
inside-- chicken, olives, eggs.

1074
01:00:22,900 --> 01:00:24,880
So we would go traditionally
on Sunday morning

1075
01:00:24,880 --> 01:00:30,910
along with all the rest of the
pasenos, the La Paz people,

1076
01:00:30,910 --> 01:00:34,552
and promenade and enjoy.

1077
01:00:34,552 --> 01:00:36,010
The young boys,
the young men would

1078
01:00:36,010 --> 01:00:38,093
walk on one side and the
young girls on the other,

1079
01:00:38,093 --> 01:00:40,080
and they would eye each other.

1080
01:00:40,080 --> 01:00:41,530
And they would--

1081

01:00:41,530 --> 01:00:47,260
See, the Latino tradition
is, at that time at least,

1082
01:00:47,260 --> 01:00:53,080
was a little more formal and
traditional than just jump

1083
01:00:53,080 --> 01:00:54,740
right at each other.

1084
01:00:54,740 --> 01:00:58,000
Oh, you know I spent a
week in Columbia, too,

1085
01:00:58,000 --> 01:01:01,120
and I didn't mention that.

1086
01:01:01,120 --> 01:01:02,800
That's very interesting.

1087
01:01:02,800 --> 01:01:06,700
When we arrived in Columbia--

1088
01:01:06,700 --> 01:01:08,260
Let me backtrack.

1089
01:01:08,260 --> 01:01:11,320
When we left San Francisco
in '47 to go all the way

1090
01:01:11,320 --> 01:01:16,840
to Bolivia, the Jewish Aid
Committee made sure that we

1091
01:01:16,840 --> 01:01:17,360
got--

1092
01:01:17,360 --> 01:01:17,860
we left.

1093
01:01:17,860 --> 01:01:19,735

They didn't want us to
stay in San Francisco.

1094
01:01:19,735 --> 01:01:24,170
They helped us while we
were here the two month.

1095
01:01:24,170 --> 01:01:26,830
They gave us some
funds to survive.

1096
01:01:26,830 --> 01:01:31,030
But then they made sure a lady
escorted us to the airport.

1097
01:01:31,030 --> 01:01:34,780
And that was a constellation,
a Lockheed constellation

1098
01:01:34,780 --> 01:01:36,150
of four propellers.

1099
01:01:36,150 --> 01:01:39,580
At that time that was
the number-one plane.

1100
01:01:39,580 --> 01:01:44,500
Now somewhere out of San
Francisco over the Rockies

1101
01:01:44,500 --> 01:01:48,310
the plane dropped
into an air pocket.

1102
01:01:48,310 --> 01:01:52,170
And I hit my head and
I gave back the lunch.

1103
01:01:52,170 --> 01:01:54,510
The comfort bags in
the pocket at that time

1104
01:01:54,510 --> 01:01:55,510

were there for a reason.

1105

01:01:55,510 --> 01:01:58,910

They still have them, but
they don't use them anymore.

1106

01:01:58,910 --> 01:02:00,822

So I threw up into the
bag, filled the bag,

1107

01:02:00,822 --> 01:02:01,780

the stewardess took it.

1108

01:02:01,780 --> 01:02:05,100

My wife's heel broke off.

1109

01:02:05,100 --> 01:02:09,840

1110

01:02:09,840 --> 01:02:14,490

So we landed in Chicago and
then in Miami 20 hours later.

1111

01:02:14,490 --> 01:02:18,860

Took 20 hours at that
time to fly the distance.

1112

01:02:18,860 --> 01:02:22,650

In the morning, we slept in
the morning was very tired

1113

01:02:22,650 --> 01:02:29,010

and then the next day went to
Schumake and had the heel fix.

1114

01:02:29,010 --> 01:02:31,620

So then the next plane we
thought was a little smaller.

1115

01:02:31,620 --> 01:02:34,680

And progressively each
plane, there were many stops,

1116

01:02:34,680 --> 01:02:37,258

you couldn't just fly
directly, got smaller

1117

01:02:37,258 --> 01:02:38,550

and the service more primitive.

1118

01:02:38,550 --> 01:02:42,870

In the US we had two
stewardesses serving lunch.

1119

01:02:42,870 --> 01:02:48,810

The next plane had only one male
steward with a Thermos bottle

1120

01:02:48,810 --> 01:02:50,110

of coffee.

1121

01:02:50,110 --> 01:02:52,740

We flew to Cuba.

1122

01:02:52,740 --> 01:02:56,960

On the way, one of the props
stopped and we had to fly back.

1123

01:02:56,960 --> 01:02:58,500

Then they stopped again.

1124

01:02:58,500 --> 01:03:00,240

So when we arrived
in Kingston, we

1125

01:03:00,240 --> 01:03:02,760

were interviewed by reporters.

1126

01:03:02,760 --> 01:03:04,260

And they took our
names because they

1127

01:03:04,260 --> 01:03:06,695

thought this plane
might crash and then

1128
01:03:06,695 --> 01:03:08,380
we have some names to report.

1129
01:03:08,380 --> 01:03:12,240
So little by little
that we came to Colombia

1130
01:03:12,240 --> 01:03:14,340
in the port of Barranquilla.

1131
01:03:14,340 --> 01:03:18,810
And then we headed in
Medellin and Cali, which

1132
01:03:18,810 --> 01:03:20,370
is now known for drug cartels.

1133
01:03:20,370 --> 01:03:22,710
In those days, in '47
there was no problem.

1134
01:03:22,710 --> 01:03:26,040
In Cali, we realized
that we were heading

1135
01:03:26,040 --> 01:03:28,810
to a very primitive
and uncertain future,

1136
01:03:28,810 --> 01:03:31,830
and it's going to be not at
all like the two month in San

1137
01:03:31,830 --> 01:03:33,690
Francisco, which was wonderful.

1138
01:03:33,690 --> 01:03:36,910
We went to the
movies and all that.

1139
01:03:36,910 --> 01:03:40,530

So we tried to stay in
Cali, Colombia, which

1140
01:03:40,530 --> 01:03:44,640
was a foolish thing to do,
but we were just determined.

1141
01:03:44,640 --> 01:03:47,490
We wanted to come
back, to be closer

1142
01:03:47,490 --> 01:03:49,860
geographically and physically.

1143
01:03:49,860 --> 01:03:53,910
I even got a job with a German
architect as a draftsman

1144
01:03:53,910 --> 01:03:57,480
because his draftsman,
his Colombian employees,

1145
01:03:57,480 --> 01:03:58,710
were unreliable.

1146
01:03:58,710 --> 01:04:00,450
The word manana.

1147
01:04:00,450 --> 01:04:02,160
They sometimes didn't
show up for work.

1148
01:04:02,160 --> 01:04:05,100
So he was happy to
have me and was going

1149
01:04:05,100 --> 01:04:08,670
to pay me 200 pesos a month.

1150
01:04:08,670 --> 01:04:11,010
And we couldn't find
a place to stay.

1151

01:04:11,010 --> 01:04:15,660

The only place that he shows
a stable with no windows,

1152

01:04:15,660 --> 01:04:18,150

and my wife was unhappy.

1153

01:04:18,150 --> 01:04:21,210

So after one week
we flew all the way

1154

01:04:21,210 --> 01:04:26,910

to Peru, Lima, and
a few other stops.

1155

01:04:26,910 --> 01:04:29,850

One time the plane, the
little two-engine plane,

1156

01:04:29,850 --> 01:04:31,350

landed in the jungle.

1157

01:04:31,350 --> 01:04:34,730

It was just a clearing,
jungle on both sides, just

1158

01:04:34,730 --> 01:04:36,360

a little strip.

1159

01:04:36,360 --> 01:04:38,407

And it was hot and humid.

1160

01:04:38,407 --> 01:04:40,740

My goodness, how is this plane
going to get out of here?

1161

01:04:40,740 --> 01:04:42,480

Well, it did.

1162

01:04:42,480 --> 01:04:44,730

And one of the
stops was in Tolara,

1163
01:04:44,730 --> 01:04:47,550
which was a very small
town on the coast of Peru.

1164
01:04:47,550 --> 01:04:49,870
There was no building,
no airport, nothing.

1165
01:04:49,870 --> 01:04:52,110
It was just a little shack--

1166
01:04:52,110 --> 01:04:56,370
not even a shack,
like a watchman's post

1167
01:04:56,370 --> 01:05:00,480
with a guy with a headset and
he was talking to the pilot.

1168
01:05:00,480 --> 01:05:01,500
And then we flew on.

1169
01:05:01,500 --> 01:05:04,710
We were damn happy to be
in La Paz and out of that.

1170
01:05:04,710 --> 01:05:07,680

1171
01:05:07,680 --> 01:05:11,280
OK, export-import.

1172
01:05:11,280 --> 01:05:13,040
Questions?

1173
01:05:13,040 --> 01:05:13,710
No?

1174
01:05:13,710 --> 01:05:17,460
I'm just imagining the
shock of the European

1175
01:05:17,460 --> 01:05:19,780
finding himself in the jungle.

1176
01:05:19,780 --> 01:05:20,490
Yeah.

1177
01:05:20,490 --> 01:05:23,460
It was very hot.

1178
01:05:23,460 --> 01:05:27,750
Did you get any feeling of
being assimilated in Bolivia?

1179
01:05:27,750 --> 01:05:31,140
Did you know much
about the politics.

1180
01:05:31,140 --> 01:05:32,220
Not really.

1181
01:05:32,220 --> 01:05:36,660
Although when we got a visa at
the consulate in San Francisco,

1182
01:05:36,660 --> 01:05:41,100
the Bolivian consul told us
that when you go to Bolivia

1183
01:05:41,100 --> 01:05:45,760
you will be unable
to leave the country.

1184
01:05:45,760 --> 01:05:48,510
You will be in love.

1185
01:05:48,510 --> 01:05:50,160
You will like it so much.

1186
01:05:50,160 --> 01:05:56,760
Well actually, the
Latinos are warm, polite.

1187
01:05:56,760 --> 01:06:02,260
They have many good
qualities that are admirable.

1188
01:06:02,260 --> 01:06:05,070

1189
01:06:05,070 --> 01:06:08,650
But we didn't really feel
that we'd ever be comfortable.

1190
01:06:08,650 --> 01:06:11,130
Plus, we always want to
come to this country anyway

1191
01:06:11,130 --> 01:06:12,460
to join the rest of the family.

1192
01:06:12,460 --> 01:06:17,400
My wife's mother and sister
and uncle were living here.

1193
01:06:17,400 --> 01:06:22,800
They were already established.

1194
01:06:22,800 --> 01:06:24,555
They had come from Shanghai.

1195
01:06:24,555 --> 01:06:25,960
By way of Germany.

1196
01:06:25,960 --> 01:06:26,820
Had to go back.

1197
01:06:26,820 --> 01:06:28,080
Here again, the quota thing.

1198
01:06:28,080 --> 01:06:30,930

1199

01:06:30,930 --> 01:06:33,840

Well, they done away
with it, but at the time

1200

01:06:33,840 --> 01:06:36,810

it could have used
a bit of generosity.

1201

01:06:36,810 --> 01:06:42,210

So the mother-in-law
and the other daughter

1202

01:06:42,210 --> 01:06:44,293

had to go back to Germany.

1203

01:06:44,293 --> 01:06:46,210

I don't know how they
felt about it because it

1204

01:06:46,210 --> 01:06:48,450

was very soon
after the war and I

1205

01:06:48,450 --> 01:06:52,920

don't imagine they felt
very comfortable there.

1206

01:06:52,920 --> 01:06:54,450

So much had happened.

1207

01:06:54,450 --> 01:06:57,510

But they had to, and so they
came back to this country.

1208

01:06:57,510 --> 01:07:01,960

1209

01:07:01,960 --> 01:07:04,180

What did you do after
the export-import.

1210

01:07:04,180 --> 01:07:08,120

Oh yeah, that was very good.

1211
01:07:08,120 --> 01:07:10,070
I had a year, the
last year in Bolivia,

1212
01:07:10,070 --> 01:07:13,190
that was the best thing
I've ever done there.

1213
01:07:13,190 --> 01:07:15,370
But when I first got the
job at the export-import,

1214
01:07:15,370 --> 01:07:18,910
my boss, the manager, said to
me, I make two predictions.

1215
01:07:18,910 --> 01:07:21,790
One, you will be very good--

1216
01:07:21,790 --> 01:07:23,560
even before he saw the work.

1217
01:07:23,560 --> 01:07:26,530
He said, you'll be a
very good secretary.

1218
01:07:26,530 --> 01:07:29,410
And two, you'll leave us.

1219
01:07:29,410 --> 01:07:30,310
You'll leave us.

1220
01:07:30,310 --> 01:07:31,090
You'll not stay.

1221
01:07:31,090 --> 01:07:32,710
Which is exactly what happened.

1222
01:07:32,710 --> 01:07:35,980
When I was leaving,
when I gave notice,

1223
01:07:35,980 --> 01:07:38,950
they wanted to establish
a US dollar account for me

1224
01:07:38,950 --> 01:07:39,700
in this country.

1225
01:07:39,700 --> 01:07:41,840
They wanted me to stay.

1226
01:07:41,840 --> 01:07:45,220
But I wouldn't stay because I
figured, well, after two years

1227
01:07:45,220 --> 01:07:47,520
if now I'm worth that,
why wasn't I worth--

1228
01:07:47,520 --> 01:07:51,070
I always went for raises
and I was always underpaid.

1229
01:07:51,070 --> 01:07:53,650
They didn't have to pay
a lot, so they didn't.

1230
01:07:53,650 --> 01:07:56,920
I made a living,
but just barely.

1231
01:07:56,920 --> 01:08:01,270
We could never take a vacation
or buy a lot of clothes.

1232
01:08:01,270 --> 01:08:03,610
We lived, we got by.

1233
01:08:03,610 --> 01:08:04,270
It was OK.

1234
01:08:04,270 --> 01:08:06,220

It was better than
shanghai being a refugee.

1235
01:08:06,220 --> 01:08:08,890
Being a man without
pride at least

1236
01:08:08,890 --> 01:08:12,760
I could say that I
support my family.

1237
01:08:12,760 --> 01:08:15,220
If you had asked earlier,
would have given you

1238
01:08:15,220 --> 01:08:17,710
earlier the offer?

1239
01:08:17,710 --> 01:08:18,840
Of the dollar?

1240
01:08:18,840 --> 01:08:19,340
Never.

1241
01:08:19,340 --> 01:08:21,510
I didn't go for
raises and discounts.

1242
01:08:21,510 --> 01:08:25,672
I got nominal raises, but the
dollars, that didn't happen.

1243
01:08:25,672 --> 01:08:27,880
You had to say you were
leaving in order to get that.

1244
01:08:27,880 --> 01:08:30,250
That's right.

1245
01:08:30,250 --> 01:08:35,560
But the mine, the tin
mine, was something

1246

01:08:35,560 --> 01:08:39,609

that I wish I had thought of or
perhaps I'd not be qualified.

1247

01:08:39,609 --> 01:08:43,540

But all the immigrants
and other foreigners

1248

01:08:43,540 --> 01:08:46,029

made excellent money, very
good money in the tin mine.

1249

01:08:46,029 --> 01:08:47,979

That was really well paid.

1250

01:08:47,979 --> 01:08:50,020

Of course there is a trade off.

1251

01:08:50,020 --> 01:08:53,020

There was risk, risk
of life involved.

1252

01:08:53,020 --> 01:08:55,180

I'll give some examples.

1253

01:08:55,180 --> 01:09:02,950

But they paid, and
this was in '51,

1254

01:09:02,950 --> 01:09:09,500

they paid me \$25 and
then \$150 a month,

1255

01:09:09,500 --> 01:09:15,290

from which I think it was
\$100 initially and then \$125.

1256

01:09:15,290 --> 01:09:19,740

With the \$125, I could save \$100
a month, because in the mine

1257

01:09:19,740 --> 01:09:20,689

everything is free.

1258
01:09:20,689 --> 01:09:24,950
Free lodgings, free
medical, and the company

1259
01:09:24,950 --> 01:09:27,800
store very cheap, good food.

1260
01:09:27,800 --> 01:09:31,319
Wonderful beef imported
from Argentina.

1261
01:09:31,319 --> 01:09:33,859
Translated \$0.17 a
pound at that time.

1262
01:09:33,859 --> 01:09:36,979
The best filet mignon.

1263
01:09:36,979 --> 01:09:39,050
That was wonderful.

1264
01:09:39,050 --> 01:09:41,359
And my work, I was
secretary again

1265
01:09:41,359 --> 01:09:43,843
in three languages for the--

1266
01:09:43,843 --> 01:09:48,529
No, the German I didn't need
because the general manager

1267
01:09:48,529 --> 01:09:49,580
was from England.

1268
01:09:49,580 --> 01:09:52,040
I needed Spanish and English.

1269
01:09:52,040 --> 01:09:59,210
I did need it later on when

the natives got restless,

1270

01:09:59,210 --> 01:10:00,620

which happened periodically.

1271

01:10:00,620 --> 01:10:03,400

They shipped all the women
and children off the mine

1272

01:10:03,400 --> 01:10:06,290

into the next city, which
is Oruro, because there

1273

01:10:06,290 --> 01:10:07,610

had been instances of Indians.

1274

01:10:07,610 --> 01:10:08,855

They wanted the mine workers.

1275

01:10:08,855 --> 01:10:12,440

1276

01:10:12,440 --> 01:10:18,290

Killing some of the foreigners
in the presence of their wives.

1277

01:10:18,290 --> 01:10:21,770

They would kill
the mining engineer

1278

01:10:21,770 --> 01:10:24,590

and the wife and the children.

1279

01:10:24,590 --> 01:10:26,441

Why?

1280

01:10:26,441 --> 01:10:28,280

These are very
primitive Indians.

1281

01:10:28,280 --> 01:10:33,110

And they've been maltreated,

mistreated for generations.

1282

01:10:33,110 --> 01:10:37,370

The Spaniards started
it and they, well, you

1283

01:10:37,370 --> 01:10:41,500

know the story of the
killings for gold and silver.

1284

01:10:41,500 --> 01:10:48,980

And they just had a history
of built-up resentment.

1285

01:10:48,980 --> 01:10:51,500

And every so often
it would break out.

1286

01:10:51,500 --> 01:10:54,320

Did they feel you were
taking their jobs?

1287

01:10:54,320 --> 01:10:57,110

Or did they just envy
that you were better paid?

1288

01:10:57,110 --> 01:11:01,932

No, as a matter of fact,
they were treated much better

1289

01:11:01,932 --> 01:11:04,390

than they would have been if
they had not been in the mine.

1290

01:11:04,390 --> 01:11:06,650

I'll give an example.

1291

01:11:06,650 --> 01:11:09,650

The foreigners, there were about
100 at that particular mine.

1292

01:11:09,650 --> 01:11:11,810

This was the second-largest

tin mine in Bolivia,

1293

01:11:11,810 --> 01:11:14,780
called Colquiri.

1294

01:11:14,780 --> 01:11:18,410
And there were 2,000
native mine workers

1295

01:11:18,410 --> 01:11:20,210
that had to go underground.

1296

01:11:20,210 --> 01:11:24,740
Now our living was
at the lowest level.

1297

01:11:24,740 --> 01:11:26,510
We had three rooms--

1298

01:11:26,510 --> 01:11:33,670
living room, bedroom,
kitchen and a bathroom.

1299

01:11:33,670 --> 01:11:39,190
But they had better housing than
the Indians on the Altiplano

1300

01:11:39,190 --> 01:11:41,170
would have.

1301

01:11:41,170 --> 01:11:43,490
But they had no wooden floor.

1302

01:11:43,490 --> 01:11:47,410
They had dirt floors
and small hovels.

1303

01:11:47,410 --> 01:11:52,030
But they were provided
a roof and for them it

1304

01:11:52,030 --> 01:11:54,280

was much improved.

1305

01:11:54,280 --> 01:11:56,230

And they were paid
well, much better

1306

01:11:56,230 --> 01:11:58,600

than they would have otherwise.

1307

01:11:58,600 --> 01:12:01,750

But there were always
mine disasters.

1308

01:12:01,750 --> 01:12:04,300

I went underground just to see.

1309

01:12:04,300 --> 01:12:06,460

And it's a very strange feeling.

1310

01:12:06,460 --> 01:12:08,770

You get in a little
wagon and you duck

1311

01:12:08,770 --> 01:12:11,290

because the high voltage--

1312

01:12:11,290 --> 01:12:15,280

I have pictures in the
mine helmet and the lantern

1313

01:12:15,280 --> 01:12:16,660

underground.

1314

01:12:16,660 --> 01:12:20,020

It's a very
claustrophobic feeling.

1315

01:12:20,020 --> 01:12:23,530

It's a very large mine,
miles and miles of tunnels.

1316

01:12:23,530 --> 01:12:25,540

Were most of the miners Indians?

1317

01:12:25,540 --> 01:12:27,670

All of them.

1318

01:12:27,670 --> 01:12:30,400

But the engineers, the
foreigners, the approximate 100

1319

01:12:30,400 --> 01:12:37,010

whites, they were of
all different countries.

1320

01:12:37,010 --> 01:12:42,260

Mostly US mining
engineers, Chileans.

1321

01:12:42,260 --> 01:12:46,600

Chile has copper mines, so they
have a tradition of mining.

1322

01:12:46,600 --> 01:12:49,390

And Europeans from
various countries--

1323

01:12:49,390 --> 01:12:52,360

Yugoslavia, England.

1324

01:12:52,360 --> 01:12:58,660

The mining engineers and
the chief of, let's say--

1325

01:12:58,660 --> 01:13:01,790

well, mining is basically a
two-part operation, the mine

1326

01:13:01,790 --> 01:13:02,920

and the mill.

1327

01:13:02,920 --> 01:13:04,510

See the mine is underground.

1328

01:13:04,510 --> 01:13:07,390
And the man in charge is an
American mining engineer,

1329
01:13:07,390 --> 01:13:09,400
Frank Bemis.

1330
01:13:09,400 --> 01:13:13,070
The mill part was where
the ore was refined.

1331
01:13:13,070 --> 01:13:15,760
It was run by a
American engineer

1332
01:13:15,760 --> 01:13:21,010
from Coeur d'Alene
called Frank Albertson.

1333
01:13:21,010 --> 01:13:23,260
Idaho, mining country.

1334
01:13:23,260 --> 01:13:28,685
Those really the chiefs
of the two main parts

1335
01:13:28,685 --> 01:13:29,560
of the mine and mill.

1336
01:13:29,560 --> 01:13:32,920
And the people on the
river mining engineers

1337
01:13:32,920 --> 01:13:35,815
from other countries, and
most from this country.

1338
01:13:35,815 --> 01:13:37,630
It was very interesting
and fascinating,

1339
01:13:37,630 --> 01:13:42,070
the whole manufacture of

how the tin or any ore

1340
01:13:42,070 --> 01:13:48,550
is refined from the ore, the
raw material is fascinating.

1341
01:13:48,550 --> 01:13:50,620
I could probably write
a book about that.

1342
01:13:50,620 --> 01:13:52,840
But it also had byproducts
like gold and silver.

1343
01:13:52,840 --> 01:13:54,600
But mainly it was tine.

1344
01:13:54,600 --> 01:13:56,110
But being at such
a high altitude,

1345
01:13:56,110 --> 01:14:00,730
even higher than La Paz,
about 15,000 feet altitude,

1346
01:14:00,730 --> 01:14:04,690
the air was even
more rarefied, even

1347
01:14:04,690 --> 01:14:06,620
harder to walk, just to breathe.

1348
01:14:06,620 --> 01:14:08,770
That must've awful
down in the mines

1349
01:14:08,770 --> 01:14:10,660
then when you're really high.

1350
01:14:10,660 --> 01:14:13,540
Yeah, quite.

1351

01:14:13,540 --> 01:14:19,720
To give an example, the
trucks were very large trucks.

1352
01:14:19,720 --> 01:14:24,760
But they only had one
layer of sacks of pure tin.

1353
01:14:24,760 --> 01:14:29,020
Just one layer because the air,
even though the trucks and cars

1354
01:14:29,020 --> 01:14:37,270
were all equipped with
extra-large pistons, bigger

1355
01:14:37,270 --> 01:14:43,150
engines, and just
specially made for working

1356
01:14:43,150 --> 01:14:46,280
under those kind of
conditions, yet they

1357
01:14:46,280 --> 01:14:48,670
could only take one later
because the truck wouldn't

1358
01:14:48,670 --> 01:14:49,420
go otherwise.

1359
01:14:49,420 --> 01:14:52,690
It was not enough oxygen.

1360
01:14:52,690 --> 01:14:54,790
When you talk about
the Indians sometimes

1361
01:14:54,790 --> 01:14:57,370
killing the
foreigners, would these

1362
01:14:57,370 --> 01:15:00,490

be the Indians who worked in the
mine or the people who lived--

1363
01:15:00,490 --> 01:15:01,130
Absolutely.

1364
01:15:01,130 --> 01:15:01,630
Yeah.

1365
01:15:01,630 --> 01:15:03,680
Well, I'm not sure about that.

1366
01:15:03,680 --> 01:15:04,900
It happened.

1367
01:15:04,900 --> 01:15:06,610
And the reason
for this, I bought

1368
01:15:06,610 --> 01:15:09,820
myself a gun, a
six-shooter, a pistol

1369
01:15:09,820 --> 01:15:12,430
even though I'm very much
opposed to that, but just

1370
01:15:12,430 --> 01:15:13,990
for self-protection.

1371
01:15:13,990 --> 01:15:16,400
And when that happened,
it happened several times

1372
01:15:16,400 --> 01:15:17,920
in the one year I was there.

1373
01:15:17,920 --> 01:15:21,220
More than once they shipped
all the women and children

1374
01:15:21,220 --> 01:15:24,790

down to Oruro, which is a
mining town, the third biggest

1375
01:15:24,790 --> 01:15:25,780
town in Bolivia.

1376
01:15:25,780 --> 01:15:28,690
And the men would stay behind.

1377
01:15:28,690 --> 01:15:32,380
And I would be put into the
little radio room with a radio

1378
01:15:32,380 --> 01:15:35,800
transmitter to keep in contact
with the main office in La Paz.

1379
01:15:35,800 --> 01:15:38,440
And they would communicate
through me in German

1380
01:15:38,440 --> 01:15:40,900
because the people
might be listening

1381
01:15:40,900 --> 01:15:43,090
in Spanish or English.

1382
01:15:43,090 --> 01:15:45,380
English and Spanish
were the languages.

1383
01:15:45,380 --> 01:15:51,400
So they would use me to
transmit the messages.

1384
01:15:51,400 --> 01:15:54,320
I also was the code clerk.

1385
01:15:54,320 --> 01:15:57,550
They would send the
messages in code,

1386

01:15:57,550 --> 01:16:02,890

and I being the secretary
to the general manager,

1387

01:16:02,890 --> 01:16:05,040

I had my own secretary
in another room.

1388

01:16:05,040 --> 01:16:11,120

It was a room dedicated to
me, and was a big, big wheel.

1389

01:16:11,120 --> 01:16:13,060

So I would decode
things and encode them.

1390

01:16:13,060 --> 01:16:15,790

It was part of my job also.

1391

01:16:15,790 --> 01:16:19,302

Did it ever come down to an
attack when you were there?

1392

01:16:19,302 --> 01:16:20,260

Not when we were there.

1393

01:16:20,260 --> 01:16:23,440

But it had happened before that,
so there was a history of that.

1394

01:16:23,440 --> 01:16:24,970

So there was that the risk.

1395

01:16:24,970 --> 01:16:26,830

Was there any kind of
collective bargaining

1396

01:16:26,830 --> 01:16:30,070

that went on to determine
how much miners were paid?

1397

01:16:30,070 --> 01:16:31,450

How did they work that?

1398

01:16:31,450 --> 01:16:35,550

I don't know, but they were
paid well compared to the oil.

1399

01:16:35,550 --> 01:16:38,552

it was a desirable job.

1400

01:16:38,552 --> 01:16:40,130

Plus, what choice was there?

1401

01:16:40,130 --> 01:16:41,720

Such an impoverished
country, it was

1402

01:16:41,720 --> 01:16:44,505

wonderful to get a job
with a mine, any mine.

1403

01:16:44,505 --> 01:16:45,755

Bolivia had quite a few mines.

1404

01:16:45,755 --> 01:16:48,530

1405

01:16:48,530 --> 01:16:50,600

So you were there for a year?

1406

01:16:50,600 --> 01:16:53,390

Yeah, my wife taught
again dancing and ballet

1407

01:16:53,390 --> 01:16:54,710

and acrobatics.

1408

01:16:54,710 --> 01:16:56,730

And at Christmas
time they selected me

1409

01:16:56,730 --> 01:16:58,205

as being a Santa Claus.

1410
01:16:58,205 --> 01:17:00,080
I must have been the
only Jewish Santa Claus.

1411
01:17:00,080 --> 01:17:02,270
And it would happen
they gathered

1412
01:17:02,270 --> 01:17:06,410
all the children of
the higher employees

1413
01:17:06,410 --> 01:17:08,240
at the general manager's house.

1414
01:17:08,240 --> 01:17:09,750
It was a lot of children.

1415
01:17:09,750 --> 01:17:13,910
And my good buddies Frank
Bemis, the manager of the mine,

1416
01:17:13,910 --> 01:17:16,160
thought he was doing me
a favor and he plied me

1417
01:17:16,160 --> 01:17:17,990
with the whiskey.

1418
01:17:17,990 --> 01:17:20,970
And I don't take
alcohol too well,

1419
01:17:20,970 --> 01:17:23,000
so by the time I was
ready to emerge--

1420
01:17:23,000 --> 01:17:26,000
they had me a way to put
pillows on my stomach

1421

01:17:26,000 --> 01:17:29,900
in the traditional
American-style Santa Claus

1422
01:17:29,900 --> 01:17:32,540
costume with a white beard
and all the rest of it--

1423
01:17:32,540 --> 01:17:35,215
I was pretty well two
sheets to the wind.

1424
01:17:35,215 --> 01:17:36,840
I didn't know exactly
what I was doing.

1425
01:17:36,840 --> 01:17:38,760
I was a little unsteady.

1426
01:17:38,760 --> 01:17:41,480
So I had to come out
and the children clap.

1427
01:17:41,480 --> 01:17:43,350
And in Spanish I addressed them.

1428
01:17:43,350 --> 01:17:45,350
They gave me a big
sack, so I reached in

1429
01:17:45,350 --> 01:17:47,480
and I handed out the--

1430
01:17:47,480 --> 01:17:54,280
I tell you the trip from La
Paz to the mine was by train.

1431
01:17:54,280 --> 01:17:58,040
That was very interesting.

1432
01:17:58,040 --> 01:18:02,330
The Altiplano is a
desert without sand.

1433
01:18:02,330 --> 01:18:03,740
It's just rocky.

1434
01:18:03,740 --> 01:18:06,860
There are no trees, no
vegetation, nothing,

1435
01:18:06,860 --> 01:18:08,270
just emptiness.

1436
01:18:08,270 --> 01:18:11,930
And we just went
on and on by train.

1437
01:18:11,930 --> 01:18:17,330
And then we came near the
site and it was night.

1438
01:18:17,330 --> 01:18:19,340
There were two stops.

1439
01:18:19,340 --> 01:18:25,010
One was called silencio
and the other is soledad.

1440
01:18:25,010 --> 01:18:29,230

1441
01:18:29,230 --> 01:18:29,820
Solitude--

1442
01:18:29,820 --> 01:18:32,130
And silence.

1443
01:18:32,130 --> 01:18:35,460
They were just spots on the map.

1444
01:18:35,460 --> 01:18:36,685
There was nothing there.

1445

01:18:36,685 --> 01:18:37,838
And this was at night.

1446
01:18:37,838 --> 01:18:38,380
We had a dog.

1447
01:18:38,380 --> 01:18:40,140
We had a German
shepherd dog that we'd

1448
01:18:40,140 --> 01:18:41,400
inherited from a neighbor.

1449
01:18:41,400 --> 01:18:45,420
And our son, Ronald,
was born in '48,

1450
01:18:45,420 --> 01:18:47,760
so he was then three years old.

1451
01:18:47,760 --> 01:18:50,460
Ron and my wife and myself.

1452
01:18:50,460 --> 01:18:53,010
So we got off the train
and it was darkness

1453
01:18:53,010 --> 01:18:54,600
and there was nothing there.

1454
01:18:54,600 --> 01:18:56,610
No light, nothing
that we could see.

1455
01:18:56,610 --> 01:18:59,890
We just stood there
in pitch darkness.

1456
01:18:59,890 --> 01:19:02,265
I don't know if it was
soledad or silencio.

1457

01:19:02,265 --> 01:19:06,240

It was one of the
two, aptly named.

1458

01:19:06,240 --> 01:19:07,100

And we just waited.

1459

01:19:07,100 --> 01:19:08,840

It seemed like hours.

1460

01:19:08,840 --> 01:19:10,440

And then we saw--

1461

01:19:10,440 --> 01:19:14,747

We're just standing there
scared really, it's frightening.

1462

01:19:14,747 --> 01:19:15,330

We don't know.

1463

01:19:15,330 --> 01:19:16,200

With our luggage.

1464

01:19:16,200 --> 01:19:18,990

We had luggage,
suitcases and that's it.

1465

01:19:18,990 --> 01:19:20,460

We had sold everything else.

1466

01:19:20,460 --> 01:19:22,260

Oh, I better backtrack again.

1467

01:19:22,260 --> 01:19:23,880

I got to tell about that too.

1468

01:19:23,880 --> 01:19:27,130

Somebody shot into our
house because of that.

1469

01:19:27,130 --> 01:19:28,560

I keep backtracking.

1470

01:19:28,560 --> 01:19:30,340
Anyway, yeah, let me backtrack.

1471

01:19:30,340 --> 01:19:33,750
When we got ready for the mine,
we advertised in the paper.

1472

01:19:33,750 --> 01:19:37,633
We had a record player,
and we advertised

1473

01:19:37,633 --> 01:19:38,800
that and a few other things.

1474

01:19:38,800 --> 01:19:40,410
People came and bought.

1475

01:19:40,410 --> 01:19:42,180
And one day I wasn't home.

1476

01:19:42,180 --> 01:19:46,830
Somebody knocked and
my wife wouldn't open.

1477

01:19:46,830 --> 01:19:51,910
So then the guy went away and
at night there was a crash.

1478

01:19:51,910 --> 01:19:54,630
Somebody shot a pistol
through the window,

1479

01:19:54,630 --> 01:19:57,300
our bedroom the top floor.

1480

01:19:57,300 --> 01:20:01,660
Broke the window and it
didn't hurt other than that.

1481

01:20:01,660 --> 01:20:05,100
So it turns out that it was

a civil servant, an employee

1482
01:20:05,100 --> 01:20:07,140
of the city, who was angered--

1483
01:20:07,140 --> 01:20:10,590
you know the Latinos
were short fused--

1484
01:20:10,590 --> 01:20:12,430
that the door
wouldn't open to him,

1485
01:20:12,430 --> 01:20:14,730
an official, so he
came with his pistol.

1486
01:20:14,730 --> 01:20:16,310
And I told it to my
boss at the time.

1487
01:20:16,310 --> 01:20:19,140
I worked for the
export-import, my boss.

1488
01:20:19,140 --> 01:20:24,780
And he gave me an
automatic gun, bit gun,

1489
01:20:24,780 --> 01:20:26,130
which I put in my pocket.

1490
01:20:26,130 --> 01:20:27,660
I felt a man with power.

1491
01:20:27,660 --> 01:20:30,475
I carried that for a few days.

1492
01:20:30,475 --> 01:20:32,300
It's dangerous to be--

1493
01:20:32,300 --> 01:20:34,410

Anyway, we stayed
in the darkness.

1494
01:20:34,410 --> 01:20:36,160
And then after what
seemed like hours

1495
01:20:36,160 --> 01:20:37,800
there's a little
light in the distance,

1496
01:20:37,800 --> 01:20:40,340
far distance, getting
closer and closer.

1497
01:20:40,340 --> 01:20:42,870
And finally it
was a pickup truck

1498
01:20:42,870 --> 01:20:47,580
and the Bolivian employee
of the mining company

1499
01:20:47,580 --> 01:20:49,890
had been sent to take us.

1500
01:20:49,890 --> 01:20:54,030
And we all went into the
front cab, dog too, all of us.

1501
01:20:54,030 --> 01:20:57,270
And he drove.

1502
01:20:57,270 --> 01:21:00,690
And again for hours
it seems darkness.

1503
01:21:00,690 --> 01:21:05,430
And then in the distance we saw
little light, and more lights,

1504
01:21:05,430 --> 01:21:10,720
and that was Colquiri,

the mining settlement

1505

01:21:10,720 --> 01:21:14,500
in the mountains.

1506

01:21:14,500 --> 01:21:19,140
So we went to bed that night.

1507

01:21:19,140 --> 01:21:21,510
We had a heater.

1508

01:21:21,510 --> 01:21:23,040
It was cold.

1509

01:21:23,040 --> 01:21:24,630
This was wintertime.

1510

01:21:24,630 --> 01:21:26,720
And then the next morning
it was nothing to eat

1511

01:21:26,720 --> 01:21:27,720
or to drink or anything.

1512

01:21:27,720 --> 01:21:29,980
It was very cold,
it was freezing.

1513

01:21:29,980 --> 01:21:32,775
It was far away from where
we ended up eventually.

1514

01:21:32,775 --> 01:21:34,280
It was quite an extensive mine.

1515

01:21:34,280 --> 01:21:37,260
So we finally got to
where we would be staying

1516

01:21:37,260 --> 01:21:39,240
and established ourselves.

1517

01:21:39,240 --> 01:21:44,100

And I could walk to my
place of work, suit and tie,

1518

01:21:44,100 --> 01:21:47,950

property sector to
the general manager.

1519

01:21:47,950 --> 01:21:52,250

And I worked for a
year in the tine mine.

1520

01:21:52,250 --> 01:21:54,980

What did the wives
do while you were--

1521

01:21:54,980 --> 01:21:56,570

You know something?

1522

01:21:56,570 --> 01:21:58,350

They had a wonderful time.

1523

01:21:58,350 --> 01:22:01,120

As a matter of fact,
I'll jump ahead.

1524

01:22:01,120 --> 01:22:02,880

We finally came to this country.

1525

01:22:02,880 --> 01:22:06,830

Even though my wife's mother,
her sister, her uncle,

1526

01:22:06,830 --> 01:22:10,040

her aunts and friends
were living here,

1527

01:22:10,040 --> 01:22:12,145

she was so unhappy she cried.

1528

01:22:12,145 --> 01:22:13,520

She wanted to go

back to Bolivia.

1529
01:22:13,520 --> 01:22:18,050
Imagine that, back to
Bolivia in spite of all that.

1530
01:22:18,050 --> 01:22:21,560
Because the one year in the
mine it was the best life,

1531
01:22:21,560 --> 01:22:22,460
best time we had.

1532
01:22:22,460 --> 01:22:28,490
Because even though the place
is rocks, rocky, not a tree,

1533
01:22:28,490 --> 01:22:35,400
not a blade of grass, the social
intercourse, in other words,

1534
01:22:35,400 --> 01:22:38,430
the parties, the
dancing, the games.

1535
01:22:38,430 --> 01:22:42,080
We were thrown on
each other's company.

1536
01:22:42,080 --> 01:22:44,570
See the foreigners
and a few Bolivians

1537
01:22:44,570 --> 01:22:48,650
were married to foreigners of
the upper crust, so to speak.

1538
01:22:48,650 --> 01:22:52,340
It was so wonderful, so good
for the women especially.

1539
01:22:52,340 --> 01:22:57,215
And plus she taught dancing

to the little girls and tap

1540
01:22:57,215 --> 01:23:00,290
and acrobatics.

1541
01:23:00,290 --> 01:23:03,830
Our son, Ronald, he was
too young for school,

1542
01:23:03,830 --> 01:23:06,323
but he would sneak in
to the regular school

1543
01:23:06,323 --> 01:23:08,240
and would listen, and
he learned some Spanish.

1544
01:23:08,240 --> 01:23:10,760
We had a maid.

1545
01:23:10,760 --> 01:23:17,150
Until one day he wandered off
into the barren Altiplanos.

1546
01:23:17,150 --> 01:23:18,750
I don't know why he did it.

1547
01:23:18,750 --> 01:23:21,770
And he was brought
back by native Indian.

1548
01:23:21,770 --> 01:23:23,810
We didn't know where he was.

1549
01:23:23,810 --> 01:23:25,790
A native Indian
brought him back.

1550
01:23:25,790 --> 01:23:28,350
He'd gone off into
the wilderness, driven

1551

01:23:28,350 --> 01:23:30,980
by some who knows what impulse.

1552
01:23:30,980 --> 01:23:33,440
Did the foreigners get along?

1553
01:23:33,440 --> 01:23:35,370
For the most part,
yes, very well.

1554
01:23:35,370 --> 01:23:38,390
There were some instances
of it so happens

1555
01:23:38,390 --> 01:23:40,380
that both parties
involved are called

1556
01:23:40,380 --> 01:23:42,580
Towsley, spelled differently.

1557
01:23:42,580 --> 01:23:45,620
A geologist with
his attractive wife,

1558
01:23:45,620 --> 01:23:49,310
Jeanette Towsley, Fred
Towsley, were friends.

1559
01:23:49,310 --> 01:23:50,690
They were nice people.

1560
01:23:50,690 --> 01:23:56,420
And then another Towsley
spelled with an OW came.

1561
01:23:56,420 --> 01:23:59,390
Kind of beefy guy from the
southern part of Texas I

1562
01:23:59,390 --> 01:24:00,600
think it was.

1563

01:24:00,600 --> 01:24:03,620

And he made a pass
at Mrs. Towsley.

1564

01:24:03,620 --> 01:24:05,860

This is a no-no.

1565

01:24:05,860 --> 01:24:08,450

He had his hormones were raging.

1566

01:24:08,450 --> 01:24:10,940

He had a wife.

1567

01:24:10,940 --> 01:24:14,060

We all dance at parties
and so it became known

1568

01:24:14,060 --> 01:24:18,140

and he almost was shipped off.

1569

01:24:18,140 --> 01:24:21,710

But other than that, things
like that, we get along.

1570

01:24:21,710 --> 01:24:25,100

We had a diesel plant
so we had electricity.

1571

01:24:25,100 --> 01:24:27,980

We never turned the lights out
because we had a diesel plant,

1572

01:24:27,980 --> 01:24:28,890

so it was unlimited.

1573

01:24:28,890 --> 01:24:30,140

We never paid for any of that.

1574

01:24:30,140 --> 01:24:32,360

Everything was free.

1575

01:24:32,360 --> 01:24:36,410
They employed a young
German diesel engineer.

1576
01:24:36,410 --> 01:24:38,150
A young German.

1577
01:24:38,150 --> 01:24:39,890
I had a little
problem with that.

1578
01:24:39,890 --> 01:24:43,260
It wasn't that
long after the war.

1579
01:24:43,260 --> 01:24:46,235
So he, of course he couldn't
speak anything but that.

1580
01:24:46,235 --> 01:24:50,450
We had a few German engineers.

1581
01:24:50,450 --> 01:24:52,660
He one day came into the office.

1582
01:24:52,660 --> 01:24:57,610
And first to the other offices
and then came to my office

1583
01:24:57,610 --> 01:25:00,900
with his hat in his
hand, respectful.

1584
01:25:00,900 --> 01:25:02,190
Imagine that.

1585
01:25:02,190 --> 01:25:06,930
The ex-- well, maybe
he was not old enough

1586
01:25:06,930 --> 01:25:09,070
to have participated.

1587

01:25:09,070 --> 01:25:12,390

He would sort of type
and then he was joining

1588

01:25:12,390 --> 01:25:13,950

the general manager's office.

1589

01:25:13,950 --> 01:25:15,030

He had been arrogant.

1590

01:25:15,030 --> 01:25:17,190

He'd done something
and said something,

1591

01:25:17,190 --> 01:25:21,450

I forget what, that the
general manager cautioned him

1592

01:25:21,450 --> 01:25:23,535

through me that he
better cut that down

1593

01:25:23,535 --> 01:25:25,050

or he would be shipped out.

1594

01:25:25,050 --> 01:25:32,320

They had contracts, these
people, but he just--

1595

01:25:32,320 --> 01:25:34,210

I'll say no more
about it, it was

1596

01:25:34,210 --> 01:25:36,700

just one of those incidents.

1597

01:25:36,700 --> 01:25:38,530

During all this time
you were applying

1598

01:25:38,530 --> 01:25:40,780

to try to get into the US?

1599

01:25:40,780 --> 01:25:42,820

We had registered a
long time before that.

1600

01:25:42,820 --> 01:25:45,790

We were just waiting
for it to be--

1601

01:25:45,790 --> 01:25:48,070

We were just waiting.

1602

01:25:48,070 --> 01:25:50,080

It was uncertain.

1603

01:25:50,080 --> 01:25:54,280

At the time, I correspond
with friends United States.

1604

01:25:54,280 --> 01:25:58,390

I had a friend called Roger
Karas, who has now become

1605

01:25:58,390 --> 01:26:01,090

a spokesman for wildlife.

1606

01:26:01,090 --> 01:26:02,050

Roger Karas, yes.

1607

01:26:02,050 --> 01:26:03,380

He was very handsome.

1608

01:26:03,380 --> 01:26:04,480

He got a little heavy now.

1609

01:26:04,480 --> 01:26:04,980

Handsome.

1610

01:26:04,980 --> 01:26:06,550

He was an actor and
a wonderful guy.

1611

01:26:06,550 --> 01:26:08,860

And we corresponded.

1612

01:26:08,860 --> 01:26:12,070

And he approached Senator
Leverett Saltonstall

1613

01:26:12,070 --> 01:26:15,520

of Massachusetts, who
interceded on our behalf.

1614

01:26:15,520 --> 01:26:18,970

The famous Leverett
Saltonstall wrote a letter

1615

01:26:18,970 --> 01:26:23,770

to the consul in Pomeranz in
La Paz, Bolivia, on our behalf,

1616

01:26:23,770 --> 01:26:25,360

that we would be
the kind of people

1617

01:26:25,360 --> 01:26:28,000

that the United
States would benefit.

1618

01:26:28,000 --> 01:26:29,950

And I tried all
different, but it

1619

01:26:29,950 --> 01:26:32,140

didn't do a damn bit of good.

1620

01:26:32,140 --> 01:26:34,870

The law is the law,
and when you're

1621

01:26:34,870 --> 01:26:37,420

in a quota such as Austrian--

1622

01:26:37,420 --> 01:26:39,280

And the day finally did come.

1623

01:26:39,280 --> 01:26:43,030

And my boss was from
England, Mr. Charles Rule,

1624

01:26:43,030 --> 01:26:44,580

he was put out.

1625

01:26:44,580 --> 01:26:47,590

He said if he had known,
I would have hired you.

1626

01:26:47,590 --> 01:26:48,970

I said one year.

1627

01:26:48,970 --> 01:26:49,930

I didn't know myself.

1628

01:26:49,930 --> 01:26:52,900

I was sorry about that
because of the mine.

1629

01:26:52,900 --> 01:26:56,980

We made just enough money
to pay for the ship's fare.

1630

01:26:56,980 --> 01:27:03,028

I saved \$100 a month to
pay for the ship's ticket,

1631

01:27:03,028 --> 01:27:04,570

but the others that
hadn't been there

1632

01:27:04,570 --> 01:27:09,730

before me, refugees and others,
they could save big bucks.

1633

01:27:09,730 --> 01:27:15,580

There was at that
time in '51, '50

1634

01:27:15,580 --> 01:27:20,420

even my \$125, that
was a lot of money,

1635

01:27:20,420 --> 01:27:26,150

especially in Bolivia where
the dollar went a long way.

1636

01:27:26,150 --> 01:27:28,750

I knew what they were
paid because I was privy

1637

01:27:28,750 --> 01:27:29,470

to the payroll.

1638

01:27:29,470 --> 01:27:35,900

My boss made \$2,000 a
month, the general manager.

1639

01:27:35,900 --> 01:27:39,820

He had two Buicks.

1640

01:27:39,820 --> 01:27:42,570

He was at the top, I was
at the bottom, so I knew.

1641

01:27:42,570 --> 01:27:46,450

It was a great, great life
in spite of, as I say,

1642

01:27:46,450 --> 01:27:48,670

no vegetation, nothing.

1643

01:27:48,670 --> 01:27:54,640

And yet it's not
necessary to have forests

1644

01:27:54,640 --> 01:27:56,050

and meadows and flowers.

1645

01:27:56,050 --> 01:27:57,670

There was none of that, none.

1646
01:27:57,670 --> 01:28:05,428
Yet just you have this wonderful
relationship with people.

1647
01:28:05,428 --> 01:28:06,970
Because there was
nothing else to do.

1648
01:28:06,970 --> 01:28:08,230
We had movies.

1649
01:28:08,230 --> 01:28:11,330
They showed it
private just for us.

1650
01:28:11,330 --> 01:28:13,810
The general manager in
front in the big armchair,

1651
01:28:13,810 --> 01:28:15,130
the rest of us behind.

1652
01:28:15,130 --> 01:28:26,880
And all we saw was cowboy
movies with very, well,

1653
01:28:26,880 --> 01:28:28,230
what's the word?

1654
01:28:28,230 --> 01:28:29,910
Primitive style.

1655
01:28:29,910 --> 01:28:32,100
Nothing really good.

1656
01:28:32,100 --> 01:28:36,370
But since that's all
there was, then-- called

1657
01:28:36,370 --> 01:28:42,050
The Marshal, whatever it is.

1658
01:28:42,050 --> 01:28:43,470
It was a good life.

1659
01:28:43,470 --> 01:28:49,672

1660
01:28:49,672 --> 01:28:52,130
What is the impression that
you're left with about Bolivia?

1661
01:28:52,130 --> 01:28:55,930

1662
01:28:55,930 --> 01:29:03,220
Well, it's a hospitable,
friendly country to a refugee,

1663
01:29:03,220 --> 01:29:07,600
to somebody who is one
wandering around and trying

1664
01:29:07,600 --> 01:29:10,180
to seek shelter.

1665
01:29:10,180 --> 01:29:13,930
The United States ultimately is
a goal, that's understandable.

1666
01:29:13,930 --> 01:29:19,030
And why not come
to a place where

1667
01:29:19,030 --> 01:29:26,720
you can have dignity and feel
a sense that you're a person.

1668
01:29:26,720 --> 01:29:31,222
That you won't be
prosecuted or called names,

1669
01:29:31,222 --> 01:29:32,930

even though there is
some of that anyway.

1670
01:29:32,930 --> 01:29:36,790
But even so, of all
the different options

1671
01:29:36,790 --> 01:29:38,110
it was the best.

1672
01:29:38,110 --> 01:29:40,720
Bolivia would have
been OK, not bad,

1673
01:29:40,720 --> 01:29:47,110
if we hadn't already signed up
to come to the United States.

1674
01:29:47,110 --> 01:29:49,570
But other than that, it's
one of the few countries

1675
01:29:49,570 --> 01:29:51,370
that did open their arms.

1676
01:29:51,370 --> 01:29:55,360

1677
01:29:55,360 --> 01:29:58,680
Well, a primitive country
might have, being a primitive

1678
01:29:58,680 --> 01:30:01,240
might have been
one of the reasons

1679
01:30:01,240 --> 01:30:07,090
that others that were more
advanced put up barriers.

1680
01:30:07,090 --> 01:30:11,800
Maybe they had been
brainwashed by anti-Semitism.

1681
01:30:11,800 --> 01:30:12,780
Who knows?

1682
01:30:12,780 --> 01:30:15,770
I'm sure it's true
in some cases.

1683
01:30:15,770 --> 01:30:18,790
Because the refugees, by
and large, did contribute.

1684
01:30:18,790 --> 01:30:20,410
They had skills.

1685
01:30:20,410 --> 01:30:23,110
They were well-educated people.

1686
01:30:23,110 --> 01:30:27,250
They did not become parasites
in any sense of the word.

1687
01:30:27,250 --> 01:30:33,070
They added, they employed
natives and established

1688
01:30:33,070 --> 01:30:36,950
factories and
industries and such.

1689
01:30:36,950 --> 01:30:42,740
So Bolivia is a good place.

1690
01:30:42,740 --> 01:30:45,400
So then let's move on
to the United States.

1691
01:30:45,400 --> 01:30:45,900
OK.

1692
01:30:45,900 --> 01:30:49,270

1693

01:30:49,270 --> 01:30:56,150

The beginning was traumatic
and shocking and not--

1694

01:30:56,150 --> 01:30:58,820

What was your command of English
by the time you got here?

1695

01:30:58,820 --> 01:31:00,620

It was pretty good.

1696

01:31:00,620 --> 01:31:01,730

I had enough.

1697

01:31:01,730 --> 01:31:04,320

Eight years in China.

1698

01:31:04,320 --> 01:31:08,870

And I guess by the time I
arrived in Bolivia I probably

1699

01:31:08,870 --> 01:31:11,060

spoke as well as--

1700

01:31:11,060 --> 01:31:13,970

Well no, I added some of the
vocabulary in the meantime.

1701

01:31:13,970 --> 01:31:17,270

But it was sufficient
to the job.

1702

01:31:17,270 --> 01:31:18,080

I had high hopes.

1703

01:31:18,080 --> 01:31:22,280

I had a letter of recommendation
from the president

1704

01:31:22,280 --> 01:31:26,660

of the export-import

firm that I had worked

1705

01:31:26,660 --> 01:31:30,800
for since they were also in the
business of importing mining

1706

01:31:30,800 --> 01:31:32,100
equipment.

1707

01:31:32,100 --> 01:31:35,645
There was a company in
San Francisco exporting

1708

01:31:35,645 --> 01:31:37,850
mining equipment, and
I had this letter.

1709

01:31:37,850 --> 01:31:39,540
Based all my hopes
on that letter.

1710

01:31:39,540 --> 01:31:43,350
I thought with this
letter I'll be all made.

1711

01:31:43,350 --> 01:31:46,310
I went to the company.

1712

01:31:46,310 --> 01:31:48,743
The president and manager
received me cordially,

1713

01:31:48,743 --> 01:31:52,250
he read the letter, was
very friendly to me.

1714

01:31:52,250 --> 01:31:55,790
He says, well, at the
moment I have no opening,

1715

01:31:55,790 --> 01:31:57,830
and that was that.

1716

01:31:57,830 --> 01:32:00,670

I will call you.

1717

01:32:00,670 --> 01:32:04,020

Even, as a little sidelight,
before I went there,

1718

01:32:04,020 --> 01:32:07,160

I went to a barbershop,
had a haircut and a shave.

1719

01:32:07,160 --> 01:32:10,790

1720

01:32:10,790 --> 01:32:13,250

Now remember, eight
years in Shanghai,

1721

01:32:13,250 --> 01:32:15,020

the Orient, the
tribes in Bolivia,

1722

01:32:15,020 --> 01:32:17,780

we used to do business
in a different fashion.

1723

01:32:17,780 --> 01:32:19,820

You bargain.

1724

01:32:19,820 --> 01:32:21,500

So I tried--

1725

01:32:21,500 --> 01:32:23,120

You bargained in Bolivia, too?

1726

01:32:23,120 --> 01:32:25,530

Oh yes, very much so.

1727

01:32:25,530 --> 01:32:28,610

I tried to bargain
with the barber.

1728

01:32:28,610 --> 01:32:31,070

I can't believe that I
did that, but I did it.

1729

01:32:31,070 --> 01:32:34,130

I mean, that was my
background, my training.

1730

01:32:34,130 --> 01:32:38,570

That was part of my
way of doing things.

1731

01:32:38,570 --> 01:32:41,270

And he didn't yell at me.

1732

01:32:41,270 --> 01:32:44,840

He says no, whatever it
was. \$1.50, if you have it,

1733

01:32:44,840 --> 01:32:46,370

something that.

1734

01:32:46,370 --> 01:32:47,310

So I paid.

1735

01:32:47,310 --> 01:32:54,830

And I had to kind of come down
from that kind of the type of--

1736

01:32:54,830 --> 01:32:56,960

A rude culture shock.

1737

01:32:56,960 --> 01:33:00,350

Very much so, yes indeed.

1738

01:33:00,350 --> 01:33:07,520

So the reason why we had
such an unfriendly welcome

1739

01:33:07,520 --> 01:33:13,300

was because we could not
find a place to rent.

1740
01:33:13,300 --> 01:33:16,150
Since we already had two
children by that time,

1741
01:33:16,150 --> 01:33:24,710
Larry was born on the mine, our
second son, up in the altitude.

1742
01:33:24,710 --> 01:33:27,990
Our only two sons are
Bolivians by birth, so

1743
01:33:27,990 --> 01:33:31,450
could never become
president of this country.

1744
01:33:31,450 --> 01:33:35,450
And this was 1952.

1745
01:33:35,450 --> 01:33:37,690
Arrived on st. Patrick's
Day, March 17th.

1746
01:33:37,690 --> 01:33:42,380
I was 30 years and
one-day-old St. Patrick's Day.

1747
01:33:42,380 --> 01:33:45,980
And at first we
stayed in the hotel.

1748
01:33:45,980 --> 01:33:50,690
So we tried to rent a place
and I read all the papers,

1749
01:33:50,690 --> 01:33:52,220
went to agents.

1750
01:33:52,220 --> 01:33:55,400
Even paid \$10 which
I could ill afford

1751

01:33:55,400 --> 01:33:57,200

to somebody who
did not guarantee

1752

01:33:57,200 --> 01:33:58,730

they would find us something.

1753

01:33:58,730 --> 01:33:59,900

The \$10 was lost.

1754

01:33:59,900 --> 01:34:01,100

We never found.

1755

01:34:01,100 --> 01:34:02,870

It was always with children no.

1756

01:34:02,870 --> 01:34:03,870

No can do.

1757

01:34:03,870 --> 01:34:07,790

You could not at that
time find a place anywhere

1758

01:34:07,790 --> 01:34:14,120

in San Francisco to
accept a young couple

1759

01:34:14,120 --> 01:34:17,030

with two small children.

1760

01:34:17,030 --> 01:34:19,370

We just were really
getting desperate.

1761

01:34:19,370 --> 01:34:23,030

And my wife, as I say,
she broke down, she cried.

1762

01:34:23,030 --> 01:34:26,590

She didn't want to, in spite
her mother, sister, uncle,

1763

01:34:26,590 --> 01:34:29,240
wanted to go back.

1764

01:34:29,240 --> 01:34:30,990
And there were some
people who went back.

1765

01:34:30,990 --> 01:34:32,615
But we didn't have
the money to go back

1766

01:34:32,615 --> 01:34:35,270
or we would have, probably.

1767

01:34:35,270 --> 01:34:40,530
Enough cases where people
had great hopes and money

1768

01:34:40,530 --> 01:34:41,780
and they found it temperately.

1769

01:34:41,780 --> 01:34:46,046
Bolivia and the rest of
Latin America was laid back.

1770

01:34:46,046 --> 01:34:48,798
And they could not,
particularly a specific case

1771

01:34:48,798 --> 01:34:50,090
was a fellow who was a butcher.

1772

01:34:50,090 --> 01:34:52,160
Made a lot of money,
came with money.

1773

01:34:52,160 --> 01:34:54,830
He got a job as a butcher,
had his own shop in Bolivia.

1774

01:34:54,830 --> 01:34:57,080
Couldn't stand the pace.

1775

01:34:57,080 --> 01:35:01,700

He went back to Bolivia and came
back again and then back again.

1776

01:35:01,700 --> 01:35:04,460

They had enough
money to do this.

1777

01:35:04,460 --> 01:35:06,440

It sounds crazy but it's not.

1778

01:35:06,440 --> 01:35:08,840

Because you have to
remember that you

1779

01:35:08,840 --> 01:35:14,390

get accustomed to the
tempo of where you live

1780

01:35:14,390 --> 01:35:17,210

so quite a few did go back.

1781

01:35:17,210 --> 01:35:18,420

And some stayed.

1782

01:35:18,420 --> 01:35:20,360

Were you ever tempted?

1783

01:35:20,360 --> 01:35:23,420

Not as much as my wife.

1784

01:35:23,420 --> 01:35:27,220

I was still, in fact, I'm still
I have a positive attitude.

1785

01:35:27,220 --> 01:35:29,660

After going through
Shanghai, all the things

1786

01:35:29,660 --> 01:35:33,820

that we had to go through,

all the difficulties,

1787

01:35:33,820 --> 01:35:36,080

it sort of hardens you.

1788

01:35:36,080 --> 01:35:40,070

And you don't take no for
an answer that easily.

1789

01:35:40,070 --> 01:35:43,220

You just forge
ahead, just press on.

1790

01:35:43,220 --> 01:35:44,000

You don't give up.

1791

01:35:44,000 --> 01:35:47,547

1792

01:35:47,547 --> 01:35:48,380

How can you give up?

1793

01:35:48,380 --> 01:35:51,380

You have children and family.

1794

01:35:51,380 --> 01:35:55,370

Or even without that,
what's to give up?

1795

01:35:55,370 --> 01:35:58,640

1796

01:35:58,640 --> 01:36:01,805

This attitude of not giving
up, I give you a little--

1797

01:36:01,805 --> 01:36:03,010

I stray a lot.

1798

01:36:03,010 --> 01:36:09,620

But in Hawaii we
met a young family

1799
01:36:09,620 --> 01:36:13,100
who spoke German, perfect
German, no accent,

1800
01:36:13,100 --> 01:36:14,502
and they were Jewish.

1801
01:36:14,502 --> 01:36:15,210
I talked to them.

1802
01:36:15,210 --> 01:36:23,120
So it turns out they had a
girl 14 and a boy maybe 12.

1803
01:36:23,120 --> 01:36:25,190
They lived in Germany.

1804
01:36:25,190 --> 01:36:27,890
I said, naturally, how can you?

1805
01:36:27,890 --> 01:36:30,182
Explain to me.

1806
01:36:30,182 --> 01:36:34,450
They said, if no Jew
ever returns to Germany

1807
01:36:34,450 --> 01:36:37,780
then Hitler would
have succeeded.

1808
01:36:37,780 --> 01:36:38,740
I can understand that.

1809
01:36:38,740 --> 01:36:41,140
I changed my mind.

1810
01:36:41,140 --> 01:36:43,570
Not a lot of them, but
quite a few did go back.

1811

01:36:43,570 --> 01:36:47,160

Because otherwise
the whole thing,

1812

01:36:47,160 --> 01:36:48,670

all the suffering
was for naught.

1813

01:36:48,670 --> 01:36:50,850

So therefore I can
now understand.

1814

01:36:50,850 --> 01:36:54,040

I myself would not want
to live in Austria,

1815

01:36:54,040 --> 01:36:57,340

though some of my friends
go back to Austria.

1816

01:36:57,340 --> 01:36:58,490

It's still anti-Semitic.

1817

01:36:58,490 --> 01:36:59,650

It's still that.

1818

01:36:59,650 --> 01:37:03,520

In Germany you have the
skinheads and the segregation

1819

01:37:03,520 --> 01:37:06,220

of cemeteries every so often.

1820

01:37:06,220 --> 01:37:08,900

It's still there.

1821

01:37:08,900 --> 01:37:09,730

So I give up.

1822

01:37:09,730 --> 01:37:12,490

1823

01:37:12,490 --> 01:37:14,830

But in a way, it's sounded
like your father gave up

1824

01:37:14,830 --> 01:37:18,640

after he came, after he
got to Shanghai when he

1825

01:37:18,640 --> 01:37:20,440

had such trouble finding work.

1826

01:37:20,440 --> 01:37:21,175

Yeah.

1827

01:37:21,175 --> 01:37:23,340

It sounded like that
was a hard time for him.

1828

01:37:23,340 --> 01:37:26,440

1829

01:37:26,440 --> 01:37:28,390

I never discussed that with him.

1830

01:37:28,390 --> 01:37:30,550

I don't think he gave up.

1831

01:37:30,550 --> 01:37:35,697

Life, the spark of
life, is too strong.

1832

01:37:35,697 --> 01:37:37,030

He gave up in a different sense.

1833

01:37:37,030 --> 01:37:41,590

He became somewhat
depressed or phlegmatic.

1834

01:37:41,590 --> 01:37:44,080

I should never say depressed.

1835

01:37:44,080 --> 01:37:49,030
He kind of muddled through
with or without work.

1836
01:37:49,030 --> 01:37:50,860
He adapted himself.

1837
01:37:50,860 --> 01:37:54,370
But I think a lot of giving
up is often depression.

1838
01:37:54,370 --> 01:37:56,130
It's not really giving up.

1839
01:37:56,130 --> 01:37:57,880
I shouldn't have used
the word depression.

1840
01:37:57,880 --> 01:38:02,170
There was no sign of
depression, not really.

1841
01:38:02,170 --> 01:38:08,020
But I must confess there is one
instance where there was some

1842
01:38:08,020 --> 01:38:10,180
of that on my mother's side.

1843
01:38:10,180 --> 01:38:15,560
She became disturbed and
lost her sense of reality.

1844
01:38:15,560 --> 01:38:18,723
You must remember that my
mother is the oldest of five,

1845
01:38:18,723 --> 01:38:20,140
and there are two
younger sisters.

1846
01:38:20,140 --> 01:38:22,810
Her two younger

brothers were killed,

1847
01:38:22,810 --> 01:38:26,140
as well as their spouses
and the children.

1848
01:38:26,140 --> 01:38:29,570
And probably grandfather
died before they got there.

1849
01:38:29,570 --> 01:38:35,230
So for a person to take that,
I don't know if I could do it,

1850
01:38:35,230 --> 01:38:37,060
or if you could do it.

1851
01:38:37,060 --> 01:38:42,760
So she did for a time
lose her sense of reality.

1852
01:38:42,760 --> 01:38:46,200
But my dad, no.

1853
01:38:46,200 --> 01:38:53,050
He was OK, as much as
you can be OK after being

1854
01:38:53,050 --> 01:38:57,600
a man with pride and
self-worth and all

1855
01:38:57,600 --> 01:39:01,140
that taken away from you that
age when it happened to him.

1856
01:39:01,140 --> 01:39:05,810
In '38 he was 47.

1857
01:39:05,810 --> 01:39:07,380
So you were young man.

1858

01:39:07,380 --> 01:39:09,120

I imagine it was
easier for you--

1859

01:39:09,120 --> 01:39:11,980

The, youngsters all my
friends, took it in stride.

1860

01:39:11,980 --> 01:39:14,010

You know you can survive
that sort of thing.

1861

01:39:14,010 --> 01:39:15,838

An adventure, I think,
when you're young.

1862

01:39:15,838 --> 01:39:16,380

It really is.

1863

01:39:16,380 --> 01:39:18,210

In retrospect, you
look back and you

1864

01:39:18,210 --> 01:39:21,120

forget a lot of the bad things.

1865

01:39:21,120 --> 01:39:23,940

And then the mind dwells.

1866

01:39:23,940 --> 01:39:25,785

I think for men to
take away their work

1867

01:39:25,785 --> 01:39:28,320

is to take away an enormous
part of who they are.

1868

01:39:28,320 --> 01:39:31,650

1869

01:39:31,650 --> 01:39:35,520

Plus, added to the fact that he
was a Hungarian by temperament,

1870
01:39:35,520 --> 01:39:42,168
traditionally proud
and self-reliant.

1871
01:39:42,168 --> 01:39:45,700
I don't know if he ever had
a job even when he came back

1872
01:39:45,700 --> 01:39:48,520
from being a prisoner of war.

1873
01:39:48,520 --> 01:39:50,650
He got this business
right away, so it

1874
01:39:50,650 --> 01:39:56,890
was his own without any
help, carrying things

1875
01:39:56,890 --> 01:39:59,640
and doing things.

1876
01:39:59,640 --> 01:40:03,840
That's what happened to him
and many other men and women.

1877
01:40:03,840 --> 01:40:06,626
Their pride was taken from them.

1878
01:40:06,626 --> 01:40:11,190
They were made to feel
worthless, less than human.

1879
01:40:11,190 --> 01:40:13,750

1880
01:40:13,750 --> 01:40:16,670
They were the lucky
ones that they survived.

1881
01:40:16,670 --> 01:40:18,090

Well, yes.

1882
01:40:18,090 --> 01:40:22,600
Yeah, we only had a little
bit of that done to us.

1883
01:40:22,600 --> 01:40:26,200

1884
01:40:26,200 --> 01:40:30,790
The people that were
massacred or murdered,

1885
01:40:30,790 --> 01:40:35,170
by the time they were taken
and by the time their life was

1886
01:40:35,170 --> 01:40:41,770
extinguished, you can only
imagine the thoughts that

1887
01:40:41,770 --> 01:40:44,440
go through a person's mind.

1888
01:40:44,440 --> 01:40:48,070

1889
01:40:48,070 --> 01:40:50,690
So you had a rough
start in America.

1890
01:40:50,690 --> 01:40:51,190
Oh yeah.

1891
01:40:51,190 --> 01:40:54,160

1892
01:40:54,160 --> 01:40:57,610
After a while we did find
the place eventually.

1893
01:40:57,610 --> 01:41:00,290

It was a hard, very,
very tough to not

1894
01:41:00,290 --> 01:41:04,270
to be able to rent a
place for your family.

1895
01:41:04,270 --> 01:41:07,210
Everybody says, no.

1896
01:41:07,210 --> 01:41:08,410
No can do.

1897
01:41:08,410 --> 01:41:10,850
So we finally found a place.

1898
01:41:10,850 --> 01:41:15,370
In Divisadero near Haight, which
later became Haight-Ashbury.

1899
01:41:15,370 --> 01:41:19,990
For six months we
stayed in a flat.

1900
01:41:19,990 --> 01:41:21,730
That was a step up.

1901
01:41:21,730 --> 01:41:24,770
Friends gave us furniture.

1902
01:41:24,770 --> 01:41:29,990
I got a job at the
Army-Navy store, sales

1903
01:41:29,990 --> 01:41:32,230
at the surplus store.

1904
01:41:32,230 --> 01:41:34,480
Paid \$60 a week.

1905
01:41:34,480 --> 01:41:38,290
In '52, that wasn't

all that much.

1906

01:41:38,290 --> 01:41:40,510

Yeah, try to think back.

1907

01:41:40,510 --> 01:41:41,590

\$60 a week.

1908

01:41:41,590 --> 01:41:45,170

Our rent was \$75 a week.

1909

01:41:45,170 --> 01:41:46,770

So it was a hard start.

1910

01:41:46,770 --> 01:41:54,340

They were nice people, but this business, I was not skilled.

1911

01:41:54,340 --> 01:41:56,320

I was a draftsman but
couldn't get a job

1912

01:41:56,320 --> 01:41:58,713

because I didn't have a
school diploma to prove.

1913

01:41:58,713 --> 01:42:01,130

I had drawings to prove it,
but that didn't mean anything.

1914

01:42:01,130 --> 01:42:06,190

So all I could get was something
like a bottom grade, unskilled,

1915

01:42:06,190 --> 01:42:10,680

as a sales clerk in a surplus
store, Army-Navy store.

1916

01:42:10,680 --> 01:42:13,210

Languages didn't help you?

1917

01:42:13,210 --> 01:42:13,970

A little.

1918
01:42:13,970 --> 01:42:14,860
Speaking Spanish.

1919
01:42:14,860 --> 01:42:17,500
Put up a sign, this
was a 33 Market,

1920
01:42:17,500 --> 01:42:20,040
between Fremont and Beale,
a few blocks from the ferry

1921
01:42:20,040 --> 01:42:22,420
building lower market.

1922
01:42:22,420 --> 01:42:24,520
The sign said Se Habla Espanol.

1923
01:42:24,520 --> 01:42:26,140
That helped some.

1924
01:42:26,140 --> 01:42:30,040
Most if the trade was merchant
sailors coming from the dock,

1925
01:42:30,040 --> 01:42:34,090
from the pier, walking up Market
Street and pop in the store

1926
01:42:34,090 --> 01:42:40,260
and buy maybe a ring
or some [YIDDISH]

1927
01:42:40,260 --> 01:42:43,030
I worked there for 12 years.

1928
01:42:43,030 --> 01:42:46,620
And slowly I got small raises.

1929
01:42:46,620 --> 01:42:50,930
It was always

underpaid, in my view.

1930
01:42:50,930 --> 01:42:53,772
I'd go for raises
and they'd say,

1931
01:42:53,772 --> 01:42:55,230
no, you'll never
make that \$10,000.

1932
01:42:55,230 --> 01:42:56,820
It's not possible
in this business.

1933
01:42:56,820 --> 01:42:58,880
Well, I ended up
making about \$12,000.

1934
01:42:58,880 --> 01:43:01,190
That's the last four years
I worked as an auctioneer

1935
01:43:01,190 --> 01:43:02,370
as well.

1936
01:43:02,370 --> 01:43:04,160
They figured I could
be an auctioneer.

1937
01:43:04,160 --> 01:43:08,940
I don't know where they got
the notion because I was shy

1938
01:43:08,940 --> 01:43:12,090
and not self-assured at all.

1939
01:43:12,090 --> 01:43:16,200
Plus, the difficulty in the
beginning, this store, very few

1940
01:43:16,200 --> 01:43:18,840
prices that were marked.

1941

01:43:18,840 --> 01:43:21,120

So here I come to
this country novice,

1942

01:43:21,120 --> 01:43:24,960

not knowing anything
about anything,

1943

01:43:24,960 --> 01:43:26,100

never having been salesmen.

1944

01:43:26,100 --> 01:43:29,160

So people come in, they
knew more about the stuff

1945

01:43:29,160 --> 01:43:32,100

than I did, I had
to make up a price.

1946

01:43:32,100 --> 01:43:35,130

And to me that it was very
difficult, if not impossible.

1947

01:43:35,130 --> 01:43:36,510

What did I know?

1948

01:43:36,510 --> 01:43:40,630

So I grew so desperate that
I just wanted to give up.

1949

01:43:40,630 --> 01:43:41,490

I cried.

1950

01:43:41,490 --> 01:43:44,550

I broke down in tears.

1951

01:43:44,550 --> 01:43:48,660

I really felt I can't do this.

1952

01:43:48,660 --> 01:43:50,040

It's impossible.

1953

01:43:50,040 --> 01:43:54,300

I'll never be comfortable
with making a price

1954

01:43:54,300 --> 01:43:55,170

and then haggling.

1955

01:43:55,170 --> 01:43:59,520

There was haggling,
there was bargaining.

1956

01:43:59,520 --> 01:44:02,340

You weren't enjoying
the bargaining?

1957

01:44:02,340 --> 01:44:02,880

No.

1958

01:44:02,880 --> 01:44:06,073

Because you were preoccupied
with getting the right price.

1959

01:44:06,073 --> 01:44:07,365

Yeah, and not making a mistake.

1960

01:44:07,365 --> 01:44:10,230

1961

01:44:10,230 --> 01:44:12,715

Well, that lasted about
two years at that location.

1962

01:44:12,715 --> 01:44:14,090

Then they raised
the rent so they

1963

01:44:14,090 --> 01:44:18,270

had to move away and
end up in Redwood City.

1964

01:44:18,270 --> 01:44:20,520

And so did 10 years.

1965
01:44:20,520 --> 01:44:22,770
The last days of the job
that's where I worked,

1966
01:44:22,770 --> 01:44:23,790
in Redwood City.

1967
01:44:23,790 --> 01:44:27,570
The same merchandise
more or less.

1968
01:44:27,570 --> 01:44:31,080
They expanded to things
like steel sheets.

1969
01:44:31,080 --> 01:44:35,700
There was a yard
attached to the building.

1970
01:44:35,700 --> 01:44:36,540
Lumber.

1971
01:44:36,540 --> 01:44:41,910
So I expanded my knowledge
of the merchandise.

1972
01:44:41,910 --> 01:44:46,020

1973
01:44:46,020 --> 01:44:48,548
They added the scrap
metal so I know

1974
01:44:48,548 --> 01:44:50,340
something about how to
buy copper and brass

1975
01:44:50,340 --> 01:44:54,920
and aluminum and such.

1976
01:44:54,920 --> 01:44:59,760

Jack of all trades added to
my other extensive knowledge.

1977
01:44:59,760 --> 01:45:02,100
You could probably
pop me down anywhere

1978
01:45:02,100 --> 01:45:06,000
and I come up with something.

1979
01:45:06,000 --> 01:45:12,000
So the auctioneering
part was interesting,

1980
01:45:12,000 --> 01:45:17,320
but I didn't have any clue
what this was all about.

1981
01:45:17,320 --> 01:45:21,780
So I started going to auctions
to listen and to observe.

1982
01:45:21,780 --> 01:45:25,110
In addition, I told my bosses,
well, I need self-confidence.

1983
01:45:25,110 --> 01:45:28,650
There were no schools
that type of auctioneers.

1984
01:45:28,650 --> 01:45:29,702
There are now.

1985
01:45:29,702 --> 01:45:32,160
The only thing I can think of
to go to Dale Carnegie school

1986
01:45:32,160 --> 01:45:35,670
for public speaking
and self-confidence,

1987
01:45:35,670 --> 01:45:40,890
which I did, and ended up

gaining self-confidence.

1988
01:45:40,890 --> 01:45:42,090
It really works.

1989
01:45:42,090 --> 01:45:42,870
Yeah.

1990
01:45:42,870 --> 01:45:48,480
My first auction
was scary suddenly

1991
01:45:48,480 --> 01:45:50,610
to do something I'd
never done before.

1992
01:45:50,610 --> 01:45:55,230
But they arranged it,
mercifully, with a small--

1993
01:45:55,230 --> 01:45:59,070
They were both in bankruptcies,
court-ordered bankruptcies.

1994
01:45:59,070 --> 01:46:02,910
Small TV repair shop,
not too much mischief

1995
01:46:02,910 --> 01:46:04,060
to be done on my part.

1996
01:46:04,060 --> 01:46:06,630
So then I gained
confidence and I went on

1997
01:46:06,630 --> 01:46:07,910
and became better and better.

1998
01:46:07,910 --> 01:46:13,500
And then finally went as far as
Santa Maria, the southern part.

1999

01:46:13,500 --> 01:46:15,390
Did you enjoy it?

2000
01:46:15,390 --> 01:46:16,140
Eventually I did.

2001
01:46:16,140 --> 01:46:19,200
I gained confidence, although
it's physically very demanding.

2002
01:46:19,200 --> 01:46:23,730
Because everybody in the
audience can go to the bathroom

2003
01:46:23,730 --> 01:46:25,000
or have a snack.

2004
01:46:25,000 --> 01:46:27,030
The auctioneer cannot.

2005
01:46:27,030 --> 01:46:29,160
You have to keep plugging
away because if you

2006
01:46:29,160 --> 01:46:31,650
lose the audience
you lose the auction.

2007
01:46:31,650 --> 01:46:32,790
So you have to keep going.

2008
01:46:32,790 --> 01:46:34,960
And I give you one example.

2009
01:46:34,960 --> 01:46:38,880
We had an auction in
the lumber country

2010
01:46:38,880 --> 01:46:42,360
up north in the wintertime.

2011
01:46:42,360 --> 01:46:43,710

It was very cold.

2012

01:46:43,710 --> 01:46:50,220

The auction was office stuff
and equipment, machinery.

2013

01:46:50,220 --> 01:46:57,700

And I was standing on a ladder
with a megaphone, an overcoat,

2014

01:46:57,700 --> 01:47:01,820

tie, gloves, the rest of it.

2015

01:47:01,820 --> 01:47:03,830

And then as the
auction proceeded,

2016

01:47:03,830 --> 01:47:06,760

I got warmer and warmer.

2017

01:47:06,760 --> 01:47:09,580

You work yourself into a steam.

2018

01:47:09,580 --> 01:47:11,230

Took off the coat.

2019

01:47:11,230 --> 01:47:13,370

But it was so cold.

2020

01:47:13,370 --> 01:47:16,240

Oh yeah, I also had a sore
throat before I went to that.

2021

01:47:16,240 --> 01:47:19,480

I stopped by a doctor and
he gave me some pills.

2022

01:47:19,480 --> 01:47:22,403

And he says, you auction better
than you did in your whole life

2023

01:47:22,403 --> 01:47:24,070

than you did in your
whole life, and I'm

2024
01:47:24,070 --> 01:47:26,040
convinced it was placebos.

2025
01:47:26,040 --> 01:47:29,380
I think it was the
psychological effect.

2026
01:47:29,380 --> 01:47:35,530
But I did auction OK, and I
did well and it went fine.

2027
01:47:35,530 --> 01:47:38,260
So did you and your wife
stay in San Francisco?

2028
01:47:38,260 --> 01:47:41,060

2029
01:47:41,060 --> 01:47:41,560
No, no, no.

2030
01:47:41,560 --> 01:47:45,040
We moved from the
flat on Divisidero,

2031
01:47:45,040 --> 01:47:48,700
and moved to Westlake in
Daly City, which at that time

2032
01:47:48,700 --> 01:47:50,580
they had just built apartments.

2033
01:47:50,580 --> 01:47:56,740
We found an apartment where
we stayed for about two years.

2034
01:47:56,740 --> 01:48:01,150
It was on an upper floor,
and the people below--

2035

01:48:01,150 --> 01:48:02,590

You want me to--

2036

01:48:02,590 --> 01:48:05,530

2037

01:48:05,530 --> 01:48:06,990

It that the end of it?

2038

01:48:06,990 --> 01:48:07,840

No.

2039

01:48:07,840 --> 01:48:08,950

You interrupt?

2040

01:48:08,950 --> 01:48:09,580

No, go ahead.

2041

01:48:09,580 --> 01:48:12,460

Oh, go ahead.

2042

01:48:12,460 --> 01:48:15,370

And below us were people
also with a family

2043

01:48:15,370 --> 01:48:17,570

but our children, two
children, were kind of frisky,

2044

01:48:17,570 --> 01:48:22,750

so the noise that they made on
the floor became intolerable,

2045

01:48:22,750 --> 01:48:25,300

so we moved.

2046

01:48:25,300 --> 01:48:29,140

We found, fortunately, a house
in Pacifica, where we still

2047

01:48:29,140 --> 01:48:30,310

live.

2048

01:48:30,310 --> 01:48:34,060

At that time was \$9,950,
less than \$10,000,

2049

01:48:34,060 --> 01:48:37,082

and the rent was \$67,
\$68 a month, less

2050

01:48:37,082 --> 01:48:38,290

than we had paid in Westlake.

2051

01:48:38,290 --> 01:48:42,490

So we were very
happy to find that.

2052

01:48:42,490 --> 01:48:55,320

And our son, Randy,
was born '56.

2053

01:48:55,320 --> 01:48:57,300

We lived there in
Pacifica and he

2054

01:48:57,300 --> 01:48:59,235

was born in Kaiser
Hospital in the city

2055

01:48:59,235 --> 01:49:03,150

in '56, my youngest son.

2056

01:49:03,150 --> 01:49:09,120

Anyway, I worked as a
salesman, as an auctioneer,

2057

01:49:09,120 --> 01:49:12,060

and then how did
it come to an end?

2058

01:49:12,060 --> 01:49:15,360

I could have just gone on and
on, but here's what happened.

2059
01:49:15,360 --> 01:49:17,700
About two years after
they hired me in '52,

2060
01:49:17,700 --> 01:49:20,320
they hired another
refugee from Germany

2061
01:49:20,320 --> 01:49:23,850
who had lived in South
Africa for quite a while.

2062
01:49:23,850 --> 01:49:27,480
He was in the business of
photographing small children.

2063
01:49:27,480 --> 01:49:37,483
And he became so
nervous and worked up

2064
01:49:37,483 --> 01:49:39,525
with the business of
dealing with small children,

2065
01:49:39,525 --> 01:49:40,800
he couldn't stand it.

2066
01:49:40,800 --> 01:49:49,420
He was just completely
mixed up or sick of it.

2067
01:49:49,420 --> 01:49:51,478
It was Johannesburg.

2068
01:49:51,478 --> 01:49:53,020
So he came to this
country, and it so

2069
01:49:53,020 --> 01:49:56,320
happens that he took a
job in the same company.

2070

01:49:56,320 --> 01:50:00,830

And the two of us worked
side by side for 10 years.

2071

01:50:00,830 --> 01:50:03,520

But the man was 13
years my junior.

2072

01:50:03,520 --> 01:50:10,030

In the sense that he was
Jewish, but he was in a sense

2073

01:50:10,030 --> 01:50:14,840

German that he felt that
he was superior to me

2074

01:50:14,840 --> 01:50:15,850

and should have been--

2075

01:50:15,850 --> 01:50:17,710

and I called myself
the manager--

2076

01:50:17,710 --> 01:50:19,043

he should have been the manager.

2077

01:50:19,043 --> 01:50:20,740

Title was very important to him.

2078

01:50:20,740 --> 01:50:23,815

Being from Austria,
too, they very much

2079

01:50:23,815 --> 01:50:28,240

are impressed by even
the most boring title.

2080

01:50:28,240 --> 01:50:33,200

This is the mentality of
people from that area.

2081

01:50:33,200 --> 01:50:35,050

So he was unhappy.

2082

01:50:35,050 --> 01:50:39,507

And as time progressed,
he became more so.

2083

01:50:39,507 --> 01:50:40,840

And the first we get along fine.

2084

01:50:40,840 --> 01:50:45,400

We visited each other's
homes, we had children--

2085

01:50:45,400 --> 01:50:49,150

we had three sons, he had two--

2086

01:50:49,150 --> 01:50:52,600

and it finally
became intolerable.

2087

01:50:52,600 --> 01:50:55,600

It came to the point
where we just couldn't

2088

01:50:55,600 --> 01:50:58,720

stand each other's sight.

2089

01:50:58,720 --> 01:51:03,910

And time came for an
ultimatum on my part.

2090

01:51:03,910 --> 01:51:10,030

And I went to my
bosses and told them,

2091

01:51:10,030 --> 01:51:18,910

either he goes or I, except
that I was sure that I

2092

01:51:18,910 --> 01:51:21,730

would be the one to stay.

2093

01:51:21,730 --> 01:51:30,590
Imagine my chagrin, my
astonishment, when they said,

2094
01:51:30,590 --> 01:51:32,420
you go.

2095
01:51:32,420 --> 01:51:33,880
Whoo!

2096
01:51:33,880 --> 01:51:34,990
Never thought of that.

2097
01:51:34,990 --> 01:51:37,390
But I've been a
refugee for a while,

2098
01:51:37,390 --> 01:51:41,080
so I kind of hedged my bet.

2099
01:51:41,080 --> 01:51:46,060
There's a store for sale
in the same business.

2100
01:51:46,060 --> 01:51:48,720
It was called Redwood Surplus.

2101
01:51:48,720 --> 01:51:51,040
It had been founded
in '52, the same year

2102
01:51:51,040 --> 01:51:53,530
I got the job in
the surplus place,

2103
01:51:53,530 --> 01:51:55,550
by a man named Judy
Blum, who had passed away

2104
01:51:55,550 --> 01:51:56,980
about a year before.

2105

01:51:56,980 --> 01:51:57,880

His widow--

2106

01:51:57,880 --> 01:52:02,080

I think maybe we stop at this
point and change to tape.

2107

01:52:02,080 --> 01:52:03,580

Because the tape's
going to run out.

2108

01:52:03,580 --> 01:52:05,440

Yes.

2109

01:52:05,440 --> 01:52:06,280

Hold that thought.

2110

01:52:06,280 --> 01:52:07,270

Hold that thought.

2111

01:52:07,270 --> 01:52:09,180

How long will it take?

2112

01:52:09,180 --> 01:54:11,000