

You don't tape my legs, I hope. Just my head. OK. So I'll be comfortable.

OK. We're all set.

You had some questions, Jack?

Gloria, I keep noticing there is such a family-orientated person that you are projecting here. And the one question that I keep wanting to ask you is, do you feel that you survived for yourself or did you survive for your family? Can you answer that?

Very easily. I have really survived for my mother and my sister, and mainly for my mother. I have always just wanted to prove to her that I'm alive and that I must keep myself well, otherwise, I bring her down. If I go, she goes. We were very close. I am her first child, first daughter after four boys. And you can imagine how much I was wanted. I mean, I grew up with this story.

but we are a very close family. We always were a very close family. Since the Holocaust, however, those of us who survived and who were trapped behind the Iron Curtain-- I'm the only one who came to the US from Sweden. From Sweden I came directly here. The rest of my family who were liberated by the Americans and the British and the Russians, they were sent back home. Home became the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union took this part of what was Czechoslovakia and what became Hungary and it became part of Ukraine. And it is still today a part of the Ukraine since World War II. And you know the turmoil today about this area. Ukraine wants to be independent. That is the part I come from.

The point I wanted to make is they lived through difficult days after the Holocaust, only to be trapped behind the Iron Curtain and couldn't come out. I saw them after a hiatus of 17 years, in 1962, for the first time. And I vowed to myself that I would not rest until we brought them to this country. And so we did, family by family, starting with my dad.

But I found that they had a very difficult adjustment after the Holocaust. And I had such a good start in life again. I fell into loving hands in Sweden. A Swedish family wanted to adopt me and I couldn't have asked for a better life after the Holocaust compared to everybody I know. This was like Dunedin for me. And from there, I came to relatives in the US.

Of course, this is not to say that I didn't have my own problems dealing with the fact that I was all alone in a strange country whose language I didn't speak. And I didn't have any family. And I set to work immediately searching for my own family. They wanted to adopt me. I was 15 years old and they had a little girl one year younger than me and I wanted to go and live with them, but the adoption was out of question because I still hoped to find my very own family.

And long after we brought them over here, we found how the years have affected us so differently. In a way we are all the same. We all have this very strong family feeling for each other. But the fact that they had to struggle so much where they were left deep scars in their psychological makeup. It's clearly evident. But they still are very, very well adjusted and happy individuals, as people can be.

They came here and they were willing to settle, doing anything just to be a free country. They didn't go to a movie for so long unless we took them. I mean for years they all, children, everybody they put the money together so that they could put a down payment down on a little house. And they did, and now the young people have graduated, they have professions, and everybody's name is on the title of this house. I've never seen a deed of trust like that, to answer the point that you've made, including the children.

Who in your family do you feel created this more than the other individuals? Do you attribute to your father's teachings as a young girl, you were 14? Did you get strength from your father, did you get strength from your mother, or did you determine that you had your own strength or were you able to find that you had your strength? Or did you get the strength combined between the two? Could you answer that?

I think that's a very good question. I thought about this many times and I feel that Dad and Mother both made very

strong contributions to my well-being, and I was very close to both of them. Also, we were a large family whom we helped during the latter years-- excuse me. For example, after 1939, when we had to close our store, we had the farm and vineyard left. But many people who didn't have any fields closed their stores and used up their cash, and many times funds in banks were frozen, they had no money to buy food with or-- We at least grew grow our own food, and so this was shared.

When a cow delivered a calf, there was a lot of milk, and we had several cows and this got spread around. Eventually, Mother even sold some of it because we too eventually became short of liquid assets, I would say. The children were growing, shoes had to be replaced, clothes became too tight or too short or whatever. And materials couldn't be gotten, and so eventually alterations became the way of life. We even took men's pants and turned them into dresses.

And so you had to use your imagination, and everybody sort of worked together. I come from a small town near a city, just nine kilometers from the city, and we commuted into the city, Mother and Dad, on a regular basis once a week. And we to high school. But I think it was a family affair. Everybody helped each other. When someone's father in the family was taken into the military or into, such as my cousins across the street with six daughters, and my father's sister, my father became their father, too.

Their father was taken into not the military service, to the labor force that Jewish men were taken into. And he disappeared, leaving six kids. So how does one answer that, really? I think both my mother and father-- And my grandmother lived with us, who I remember telling us lots of stories about American history by the way, about slavery in America. I just finished writing in my book about that. And it's amazing things come back to me as I write it.

So I asked her as a little girl how come you let your children go to a country that steals people and turns them into slave? I just remember asking that question. And, well, she had her way of answering that she had children here. All her children were here except for my mother. And she said, the people who lived there fled from other countries because they did not have freedom and their people are generally free. And I don't know, the slavery wasn't explained too well. How does one explain slavery and justify it?

You can't.

No.

The other I wonder is it's because of the is that one Hungarian officer who said that basically you could jump off of the truck. Did you find at any time other than that there were any traces of kindness given to you by the Nazis at any time?

No, never. I have found differences among them. For example, some were more sadistic than others. And some were simply nice in that that person wouldn't beat you up. But he was to be feared nevertheless. The word nice hardly fits. But then he didn't do anything to prevent any mistreatment by another SS. So I can see these individual differences between them as well.

Mengele didn't beat us up, and yet he could shoot a child just as easily and perform experiments on twins without thinking anything of it. He was convinced that he is helping medical science. I'm not really totally certain that was the only reason he did it.

That's all the questions I have.

Did you talk with you children from the time they were little about your experiences?

Did I talk to my children? Yes. I let my children set the pace. My children started asking me questions when they saw my tattoo. As soon as they became aware that I have a tattoo on my arm, A6374, and I felt that it was up to me to give them concise answers, limited ones depending on how much they can understand.

And of course at that time survivors were still not talking. They were still mum on the Holocaust. We didn't even talk to each other. There was a silent understanding between us that we went through what we did and we know, we as

survivors. But we would not ask each other questions. Even survivors didn't ask each other questions, or rarely would. One survivor may have said, I see you've been there, too, and that's it. Or you have any parents left? Just, yes. Brothers, sisters? Yes. How did you do it? You know it was always a miracle.

But the children would ask some very good questions. Why were you there? Why did they take you? Because I was Jewish. Well I'm Jewish too, will they take me? No, they won't take you. They don't exist anymore. We won the war and they were wiped out just like so-and-so and so-and-so in the history. And so I tried to compare Purim, for example, the celebration of Purim. Because at that time, or so legend has it, that the Jewish people were to be killed and instead they ended up killing the person who wanted to do away with the Jewish people. So that was one way that a young child could understand or compare.

But as they grew older, I dare to tell them more and more. And so the children heard little bits and pieces about my background. And never having heard most of these stories until about 13 or 14 years ago Dorothy Rabinowitz, I don't know how many years ago, Dorothy Rabinowitz came to San Francisco and interviewed me for her book called *New Lives: Survivors of the Holocaust Living in America*.

And Dorothy said, could we sit in the living room? And our two boys asked if they could sit in, and she said, certainly you can. This is the first time since I've been across the country, this is the first time that the children wanted to sit in and hear the stories. Until now, the children would always leave and find some reason not to be here. And that apparently made her feel really good that they wanted to hear their mother's story. And that's really the first time that our two sons heard my story connected, and it left quite a deep impression on them.

In the meantime, our youngest son, Jonathan, who is a man of 34, and our older son is 37, David, have come to hear me a number of times when I spoke in their communities.

Gloria, I think we need to take the photographs of your photographs.

--what you're thinking about that you would just like to conclude this interview with?

I think I concluded one of the others with I think it's very important that we educate our children about the Holocaust and have them learn man's inhumanity to man through what happened during this period. And that racism must be eradicated. We must learn to live with each other. We must find love for each other and-- I'm sorry, I just can't have-- I just don't have the words to-- Would you shut if off, please?