

GLORIA LYON II

00:04 Gloria Hollander Lyon was born in Czechoslovakia in 1930. The town in which she grew up, Nieberag, was nine km from the larger town of Baraksas, and about 40 km from the Carpathian mountains. Czechoslovakia was taken over by Hungary in 1938, and the Hungarian influence was felt from that point on.

00:06 She grew up in an agricultural area and her home was surrounded by forestry and vineyards. The whole region was wine country. The Hollander's owned a lot of land which had been inherited from both her father and mother's parents. The products they raised were not for sale and the family lived quite comfortably off of the land.

00:09 Potatoes, corn, wheat, grapes and sunflower seeds were some of their produce, as well as a cow which provided milk for butter and cottage cheese. The family also owned a small store which was the largest in their town, and every Monday and Friday her mother would go into town and do the shopping for the store. Gloria was a student at this time, and really enjoyed living there.

00:11 She had five brothers and sisters: Joseph, Michael, Shandor, Victor, Gloria, and Anushka. Her parent's names were David Hollander and Helene Hollander, and her mother and grandmother ran the store while the father oversaw the fields.

00:12 The children were in school during this time, and unfortunately upon her brother Joseph's graduation he was killed in an electrical accident. In 1938, all the Jews were forced to close their stores, and the Hollander family realized that tough times were ahead of them. Once the liquid assets were gone, it would be hard to maintain the lifestyle to which they were accustomed.

00:14 The closing of their store was not nearly as big a problem for them as it was for other Jewish families, however. Since they still had their land it was possible for them to have the basic necessities of life, and they were also able to help other Jewish families in the area with food. From 1938-1944 there were many difficulties, and in her second year of high school she took German as a foreign language which would help her later.

00:16 Anti-Semitism grew in her town, and the children began singing anti-Semitic songs. For instance, the words to an existing melody would be changed to contain words reflective of the current political situation regarding the Jews. The children would sing the song, not really hearing the words or understanding what the song meant. She sings the song, translating the Hungarian to English: "Whoever has a Jewish girlfriend should put a rope around her neck." Her mother yelled at her, but she explained that she learned it in school where everyone was singing it.

00:17 In her school, the Jews had to sit in the back of the classroom, and all Jews had to wear a yellow Star of David. The Hollander family was excused from wearing the star for awhile because her father was a highly decorated military hero in WWI, but realized that this may not have been good because then they were neither non-Jews or Jews, and had no group with which to bond. She wanted to belong to the Jewish group.

00:18 They were forced to sit in the back of the classroom when someone came in to announce that all Jews must sit in the back rows. She went to school in Baraksas, and the Jewish population within the school made up about 1/4 of all students. She remembered the effects of wearing a Jewish star because the people whom she had once considered friends would no longer include her in games, or want to spend time with her after school. The yellow star forced the Jews together and she recalls that even those Jews that she had never been friends with were now her friends because of the common bond that they all shared.

00:20 Wearing the Jewish star was not a practice that lasted long, and was only enforced during the second semester of the school year. She only wore the star for about six weeks during that time in 1944. The songs which she sang were popular around 1939-40, when she was ten years old. Her country remained Czechoslovakia until 1938 when Hungary took it over as part of the Munich Agreement, and it was then that racial laws filtered down from Germany.

00:23 In 1944, Jewish men would disappear from the town, and only months later would the families receive postcards saying that "so and so is missing from action on the Russian front." Her uncle was taken in such a manner. Poorer families in the area depended on other Jews who could help, and all foresaw hard times. But they never, ever thought that they would be taken from their homeland, and if they did, they would have fled. No one had any idea about what would happen.

00:25 No one ever heard anything about the Jewish situation. Then one day, in the summer of 1943, a man came to the town and found her father. David Hollander was the leader of the Jewish community. The man recounted how he had come from a slaughterhouse-that he escaped from a pool of blood where people were being shot into mass graves. He crawled out from beneath the bodies, traveled through the Carpathian mountains and was making it his business to go to every town to tell what was happening. No one believed him, and many dismissed him as crazy. Gloria was eavesdropping, and remembers that as a thirteen year old, the man's story had made quite an impression on her. He said "Believe me! It's happening!" She described him as having big eyes, bushy eyebrows, and he was plump and intense.

00:28 There was a news blackout in her town, and only propaganda was broadcast. her brother had a secret radio in the basement to try and get news from outside the immediate area, but the static was too powerful. They were ignorant of the rest of Europe outside of the one eyewitness account from the man who had visited. She remembers thinking

"What if it is true?" but then dismissed it. She did not discuss this with her family or friends, because no one talked about the situation.

00:30 Jews weren't deported at this time, and the atmosphere was that everyone was going through a tough time-the Jews didn't seem to be singled out. The community was intermingled with Jews and Christians living side by side, and Gloria would remember seeing the peasants dressed in black on Sundays going to church. the language was Czech, but then became Hungarian after the takeover. Although her first language was Czech, she was schooled in Hungarian, and that became her native tongue. The children spoke fluently in both languages, but spoke to their parents in Hungarian.

00:33 Since her parents lost their store in 1938, the family lived off of the land. One cow was able to provide 15 liters of milk which made butter and cheese abundant. Purchases such as clothes were restricted however, and the family eventually sold many of their crops to raise money for clothing, which they would always get for the holidays.

00:34 In 1944, during the seder at Passover, a Christian friend of her father's came to tell them that they would be taken the next morning. The family was to be picked up the day after Passover ended. After hearing the news, David Hollander decided that they would bury the family jewelry. At that time, jewelry was an investment since the banks had no insurance. By investing their money in jewelry, they were guaranteed of some return at a later date should they decide to sell it, etc. They lifted up the floorboards in the bedroom and hid the jewelry in a metal box which was placed beneath a metal sheet and then recovered by the boards. The silverware and candelabras were hidden in a hole that he dug in the dirt floor in the corner of the living room. After the news came, the brothers were sent to tell the others in the town about the event to take place the following morning. For the family, they couldn't believe that they would be taken away, and at 5:00 am, the Nazi's came to get them.

00:38 Since it was Passover, no bread was allowed in the house, and even the flour was given to a neighbor. Helene went to get the flour, and set to work baking bread throughout the night for the family to bring with them the next morning. The family was orthodox, and the mother broke tradition on this one night to bake bread. She upheld some of the laws of kasruth, however, by moving all of the Passover dishes upstairs, and brought down the everyday dishes. The rest of the family got things together, yet were not sure what to bring. For the holidays, the children would always have new shoes custom made, and Gloria was grateful, for her new shoes would eventually serve her well. The bread hadn't finished baking, and they had to leave it behind, when at 5:00 am, two local policemen and three Nazi soldiers knocked on the door and told them to come.

00:42 As the family was forced out of the house, the Nazi's clamed a lock on the front door, and filled the key hole with wax. Her father seemed relieved by this, for he felt that no one would be able to enter their house. The Nazi however placed a stamp bearing the swastika emblem into the wax, and her father started to cry. This was the first time she had ever seen him cry, and it affected her very much. The family was taken to the City

Hall, and many other Jews were arriving from their town, and others. The date was April 15, 1944, and the weather was still very chilly. From the City Hall, they were loaded into trucks and taken to Baraksas and placed in a brick factory. There were about 300 people at this point, which included all the Jews from Gloria's town. They were all very, very close, and many of them were related.

00:46 The trucks which took them from City Hall to Baraksas were canvas covered and had no seats inside. Gloria sat on the floor with her family, and her father kept saying, "Let's just wait and see." He was a very calm and thoughtful man, and helped people from becoming hysterical. They did not believe that anything very, very bad would happen. The Nazi's were clever in trying to manipulate their prisoners, and attempted to reassure them by saying: "There are alot of anti-Semites in this town. We want to save you-we're taking you away from here." It seemed reassuring, and they didn't feel that they were in danger.

00:48 No one offered to save them or hide them because it didn't even come up as a possibility. It would have been impossible to escape from the town, even though they lived 1/2 mile from a train station, because the entire town had been sealed. They didn't feel that they were in grave danger anyway, so to be hidden was not even thought of.

When they exited the canvas covered trucks, they were taken into a beautiful synagogue. The Nazi's at the same time were setting up a ghetto in the brick factory. The walls were open or closed depending on how many bricks were piled up, and families were concentrated into small cubicles on dirt floors. The set up was very crude, as Nazi's would bring around buckets of water for the inmates to drink. However, if a cup was not available, drinking was impossible. The prisoners were put to work on a "brick assembly line," where lines of people were formed and bricks passed down the row. Jews kept coming into the ghetto, yet they were only Jews from the surrounding areas. The entrance to the factory was where one could go to look for familiar persons, and Gloria and her father saw a neighbor who told them that people were using his horses during the day and night, and that it would be skin and bones by the time he returned. Her father again began to cry. Gloria also noted that she had blocked out names of the people of her town.

00:52 In the ghetto, soldiers came around with buckets to collect jewelry. Mother gave her wedding band, but Gloria and her sister couldn't remove the gold hoops from their ears because they were soldered in. The Nazi's did not remove them either. Some people sewed jewelry into the lining of their clothes, and others hid jewelry amongst their belongings. Gloria and others her age were students and did not work during this time, however her father and brother worked. There was free time for Gloria, and many of the young people got to meet each other. On the grounds of the synagogue, she met a boy who proposed marriage to her, and she replied that she was too young, but her cousin who was seventeen was available. He wanted Gloria to wait for him, and this revealed for her a sense of urgency. This happened quite often during their detainment.

00:54 Men were taken out to do work, and by this time everyone was frightened. Times were chaotic-babies were crying, mothers were too nervous to milk their young, people died of pneumonia because of the frigid air. There were no blankets, and many people brought too much with them and all of their possessions were taken away. Gloria's brother Michael was taken out for the labor force, and since he was Jewish, he would receive no uniform or gun, but would be considered a soldier. She didn't see him for 17 years from the time he was taken. The rest of the Jews who remained in the camp-which included the rest of Gloria's family- were ordered to get into cattle cars. The importance of choosing the detainment facility in the brick factory was that railroad tracks entered, and it was easy for the Nazi's to evacuate prisoners without giving suspicion to their activities to the civilians who lived around the area. The tracks led into a main railroad center called Chop, and from there it was easy to ship trains out in any direction. The prisoners were kept on the train for four days with only water and a bed pan. They couldn't even sit for lack of space, and took turns leaning on each other. This situation imposed a real shock to the normalcy of human functions as they were forced to perform bodily functions with only a small sheet for privacy.

00:56 As morning broke, her father looked through the cracks of the car, and replied that he didn't like what he saw. Electric fences, and rows and rows of long barracks were visible. They had arrived at Auschwitz. Thousands of Jews were forced out of the cars bombarded with German shouts of "Raus! Raus! Out! Out!" Dogs were barking, and German cries of "Line up and walk in an orderly direction" were heard. People in blue and white striped uniforms helped them out and told them in Yiddish how to reply to various questions. Anushka was told to say that she was 18, and her mother was told that she must tell them she was able to do any kind of work they needed her to do. They did not ask questions of these fellow prisoners, and followed the crowd. They reached a crossroads, and here the selection process took place. An officer wearing white gloves and holding a white baton separated the men and women, and then within the women's group, divided them into two groups. One for the old, sick, very young, and disabled, the second for those aged 17-40. Gloria was sent to the latter group with her mother, while Anushka was placed with the first, their fate having been determined by Dr. Joseph Mengele. Anushka snuck back with Gloria and her mother, however, and the group was sent to have their heads shaved and to be cleaned.

00:58 She hadn't known what selection meant, and thought that the older women in the first group would be able to take care of the young. Other family members were with her including her aunt Sharota Scharf, and cousins Edith, Yonka, Chila, and Bougie, and a few of her other cousins were able to hide out in Budapest.

After having their heads shaved, the tattooing process took place. Gloria received number A 6374, her mother A6372, and her sister A 6373. Many people died from being tattooed since the same needle was used for all prisoners. They then received a grey short sleeved uniform and had to give up all clothes except for their shoes. Barrack

assignments were made, and they joined prisoners from Belgium, France and various other Nazi occupied territories.

01:00 Inside the barracks, the children wanted to make the others happy, so they began to sing songs. The prisoners gave hints to the new inmates however, telling them to look at the smoke- that their parents weren't alive anymore-"see that smoke stack, your parents went up in smoke there." They were trying to tell them something. The older prisoners told them that they were not at summer camp, but in a concentration camp. No one could really believe the reality of people being burned right where they were. At one point, a population shift took place, and many prisoners would switch barracks. Gloria and ten other girls composed a poem/song so they would remember the situation. The titled it "Hantiqua", and it was full of hope because they still didn't know where they were. The lyrics take on the following meaning:

Somewhere in the wilderness there is a camp with rolls and rolls of fields
and the people have to stand in line for the headcount
Be brave and strong worker, before too long will come big change
A day of reckoning will come and return us to the arms of our loved ones.
"This song is ours until we die, that we are Jews we will never deny."

1:04 In Auschwitz, they were required to stand in line for hours, awakened early by a shrill whistle and sometimes whipped. If the count was off- if someone was missing- they would have to stand until the number added up. Sometimes they received a bitter tea made from leaves, and their ration of two or three slices of bread for the day. Everyone's heads were shaved, so it was difficult to recognize her mother, unless she were looking right at her. They were reduced to "untermench"-sub-humans- but Gloria always felt that it was the Nazi's who were untermench.

1:06 They had to work for twelve hours a day at Berkenau sorting clothing of the people who had been stripped of it. Sometimes they were able to find food, and it was here that they befriended a Hungarian guard who would later save Gloria's life. The Nazi's would surprise them when they left Berkenau each night on their three km walk back to Auschwitz to make sure they had not taken anything from the piles of clothing.

1:08 They would always walk past rows of warehouses and realized that people would go into the strange buildings and never come out. It smelled awful, and she could only see smoke. She soon learned that the buildings were crematoriums, and she could not believe that such things were happening. The realization that their days were numbered hit her, and the psychological effect of the smoke caused her to lose her sense of smell to this day. She worked 50 meters from a gas chamber/crematorium, and when the trains would come in she and the workers would see people undressing. They were ordered to look the other way, but she knew where the gas chambers were, and what was happening.

1:12 After working 8 months at her job, they were transferred to a braiding factory, where the unusable clothes that they sorted were braided into tight braids of certain

widths and lengths. (She heard later that they were used for fuses, but was not positive). One day after work, her mother decided to keep a piece of diamond that she found and hid it in her shoe. On that day, they were required to remove their shoes, and fortunately the road was paved with gravel, so she was able to discard the diamond easily. her mother was also caught once earlier for giving throwing meat over a fence to the twin lager, and was to be flogged in public. The kapo of her barracks pleaded with the Commandant saying that the daughter Anushka was one of the best workers, and if her mother died, she would be unable to do anything. It would demoralize everyone. A Nazi came to watch Anushka's work, found it to be exemplary, and rewarded her with food from a nearby canteen. Although both were saved, there was constant worry about the danger of the selection.

1:17 One day, all were called for selection, and they were told that it was for medical reasons. Everyone had to take their clothes off. They were ordered into a room, and many people just dropped from anxiety. Here they realized that someone would be making a big decision- a "godly decision". Gloria, who had passed several of Joseph Mengele's earlier inspections was told to turn around. This meant that he was suspicious, and after examining her, told her to join the smaller group of 30 prisoners, as she watched her mother and sister go to the other side of the room. She realized that she had been chosen to die; that she was not fit for work anymore. They had to remain in the barrack naked, and in the middle of the night, they were forced into trucks. One man led them to the truck, and another closed the canvas in the back. The man responsible for closing the canvas was the Hungarian officer she had met in the clothes factory. Just as he closed the canvas, he stuck his head in and said, in Hungarian, "You, too?" Gloria nodded, and he looked up and said, that the truck was headed for the gas chamber, and if she wanted to jump out she could, but not to ever tell of him or else they would both die. Then he got into the front of the truck and started to drive.

1:20 Another woman from her town was in the truck also, and Gloria asked if she wanted to jump. She said no, and Gloria realized that if she remained in the truck, she would surely die, but if she jumped there was a chance that she could live. She jumped without another thought, and rolled down a ditch and landed in something round. She remained in the covered shelter, hearing sirens and German voices above her. She stayed there for the entire night, the whole next day, and then in the middle of the following night, she left, and got to the road. She saw a light in the distance, and although she had lost her sense of direction, she followed it, hoping it would lead her to a safe barrack. It turned out to be a prisoner's bunk, and she climbed up to the third tier, and hid. A woman was in the bunk, and screamed when she saw Gloria, however realized what had happened and she hid Gloria with her overcoat. The next morning, the group was lined up and broken down into groups. They were ordered to go to a railroad platform, and Gloria feared that she would again be faced with another selection after she had managed to escape from the last one. What was really happening, however, was that the Germans had to empty Auschwitz because the Russian forces were getting close. The prisoners were packed into cattle cars, and traveled for days until they reached their next destination.

1:24 They had arrived at Barmen, and desperately missed her mother and sister. She had to prove to them that she was alive, and whenever someone new came into the camp, she would ask whether they knew her mother. She described her mother as elderly, because based on concentration camp standards, her mother, who was 49, was considered aged. The new camp was very overcrowded, and the camp was hilly. They were given shovels to move dirt from one spot to another, and realized later that they had been digging mass graves, although they didn't know it at the time.

1:26 Huge tents were set up because the camp had reached double its capacity, and when it rained, the mud from the hills would slide down into the tents and cover them. Many people were dying of malnutrition, hunger, disease, and although there was no gas chamber there, a crematorium operated day and night. It seemed like people were dying at a faster rate than they could burn them.

1:27 From here they were lined up and taken to Braun Schweig, and housed in the stables of the SS horses. The camp here was set up temporarily, and the purpose of having prisoners there was to put them to work to rid the street of debris, etc., so the artillery vehicles could get through. The commander of this camp was very cruel, and she beat up people for minor reasons. A girl who was suffering from dysentery was beaten by the commander on her way to the latrine. She was unable to keep herself up and consequently drowned in the toilet as she fell in. Gloria remembers the people in the town as being very kind, and they would throw the prisoners bread and sardine bones.

1:32 The entire town was leveled, and it was their job to clear the streets. One day, a young girl disappeared, and they could hear her cry that she was in a dark place, in a basement. She had fallen through a burned out house and fallen. As they hoisted her up, she carried burned potatoes in her hands that had been cooked by the fire that burned the house. They feasted while the guard was off in the distance.

1:35 Gloria was then shipped to Bendorf, a small town in East Germany, about 80 km from Braunschweig. Here she worked 1200' underground in a salt mine. Civilians were assigned to them for training as the prisoners worked on precision equipment for the V1 and V2 rockets. These rockets were the worry of Allied forces, being that they were the fastest missiles at the time. The Germans, afraid of the threat of Russian forces, moved the armament industry underground. 3,000 men and 1,500 women worked as slaves on these weapons, but they were rendered useless when removed from the ground since the salt had set in and formed rust.

1:40 She was then transferred to Hamburg, and then to Hanover, which would be significant in her future. In Hanover, Gloria was sent to work in a factory which produced gas masks. Hitler wanted everyone to have a mask because he thought that the Allies would fight a war with chemicals. When Gloria returned to the factory in 1987, the company would not admit to having had slave laborers, and she also found out that the plant had been founded by Jews over 100 years ago.

She worked on an assembly line which consisted of prisoners who were hand-picked for their skills. Representatives would enter the camp and pick laborers for their factories. Gloria for example was picked to work on precision instruments because she had small hands.

1:43 Hanover was frightening in a psychological sense because it was set up on factory grounds, surrounded by rows of electric fences, yet directly adjacent to the camp were summer homes for vacationing Germans. Gardens filled with flowers and children were abundant in the summer, and for Gloria to see life so close to her destruction was ironic.

In 1987, when Gloria went back to visit, she met a woman who lived in one of the summer homes. Upon interviewing her, she found out that the woman had photos of herself as a girl, with pictures of the factory and camp behind her. (These were later blown up for Gloria, and shown in the oral history). The woman wasn't sure who the people in the camps were- whether they were civilians from other countries- but she later realized that they were concentration camp victims. She recalled that she heard screams from the barracks at night, and Gloria explained that the prisoners, who worked side by side with civilian employees, would be beaten on the spot if they didn't do the work correctly. The civilians didn't like that, so the officers would then write down the numbers of those workers who would then be beaten later. Their numbers would be called out, and they would be beaten in the barracks.

1:47 Gloria was then sent to Raubinsburg, and she and other prisoners were in bad shape from long hours and no food. They had Sundays off sometimes, and in order to get good work out of the prisoners, the Nazi's designed a program in which they would get coupons to turn in for things. The workers felt that this would single out workers who weren't as fast, and cause animosity. The prisoners did not want the program, and wouldn't accept the coupons. They were beaten, and in order for the beatings to stop, they decided to accept the coupons, but would not cash them in. There were few Jews at this camp, and Raubinsburg became notorious for experiments on women. It was unbearable, yet only lasted for about one month.

1:52 The prisoners were taken from Raubinsburg, and Gloria and the hundreds of other women traveled for days. While the trip would only take 1-2 hours today, it took 2-4 days in box cars then. The women didn't do much of anything but delouse themselves because they were full of lice.

1:55 The train stopped in a meadow in the middle of nowhere. Gloria heard the Germans discussing how to get the women out of the cars to execute them. Reactions set in at this time, and some prisoners were apathetic, some became delirious, while others sobbed. Gloria couldn't stop thinking that why had she lived so long to end like this. The cars were opened, and the guards made them line up. Each woman was given a handful of raw macaroni and a handful of sugar. Gloria lifted up her dress to receive the ration,

yet she forgot that there were holes in the dress. Both handfuls fell through onto the ground. She stooped down to try and pick up the macaroni and was beaten and clubbed by a Nazi guard. She forgot everything.

2:00 She awakes to hear a voice telling her that she is lucky, and she'll be free. She was still in Germany, but aboard a train headed for Copenhagen. She would soon be traveling through the Danish countryside. Unable to comprehend what she was hearing, she managed to open her eyes, and actually found herself on a real train traveling to Copenhagen. When the train stopped, church bells were ringing and crowds of people were outside waving Danish flags. She saw happy faces--for the first time she saw smiles. The entire train of people was transferred to a ferryboat, and she was carried on a stretcher.

2:04 People were handing them brown bags filled with candy and food, and the crowds even broke the barriers to try and see the newly arrived prisoners. All of the Concentration camp survivors became ill from overeating, yet Gloria recalls that people had even forgotten how to eat.

2:07 People were dying everywhere from existing illnesses and from the news of freedom which was difficult to grasp. Many young girls died on the way to Sweden because of anxiety and the inability to endure life anymore. On May 3, 1945, Gloria arrived in Moma, Sweden and they were taken to a high school and sprayed down with DDT, cleaned and given new clothes. They were then dispersed into surrounding communities.

2:09 The rescue operation was formed by the Swedish government, headed by the leader of the Swedish Red Cross and member of the royal family Count Bernadotte. He pleaded with Hitler for the release of Scandinavian prisoners, and found that all Scandinavians were held in Ravensbrück. Hitler was unresponsive, until he finally told him to take all the prisoners out of Ravensbrück, paint them white and put red crosses on them. As ambulances, trucks, and vans made their way into Northern Germany, the prisoners waited, the paint still wet on their bodies. The rescue team took as many as they could into vehicles, and passed the train that Gloria was on, and saved them from the impending execution.

2:13 They were sent to Lager Grosse in southern Sweden, however there were not enough hotels to house all the prisoners. Schools were used instead and they were all placed in quarantine. They slept on mattresses and were unable to handle food. Swedes had to come in and spoon feed many of the freed prisoners, who lived for weeks on oatmeal. They had to relearn how to eat. Gloria was malnourished and had 17 cavities. Her shoulders had also become deformed from lack of nutrition and she had to undergo two operations to correct them. The psychological scars will never leave, and she still has nightmares of her life during the Holocaust. The only way for her to deal with the experience is to talk about it. She has to live it again in order to live with her past.

2:15 The survivors remained in quarantine until their physical problems were cured, and then they were sent to a summer resort where they remained under constant care. It was here that Gloria met the Swedish family who would come to adopt her as their foster child. She returned home with Erich and Lilly Berglund and their daughter. She became part of their family, and Gloria would come to affect her foster sister with stories that the two would discuss at night in their shared room.

2:17 The names of Holocaust survivors were read over European radio stations, and also printed on long lists which would be posted all over major European cities. On January 27, 1945, the Russian army swept Auschwitz, and sent the remaining prisoners back to their homes. Gloria's mother and sister returned to Hungary, and her brother Michael survived his duration of slave labor under Adolph Eichmann in Buchenwald. She found out that her father and brother Shandor went home together, and spent their time in captivity 40 miles from each other in Bendorf. Her father worked in Dora dynamiting silos and tunnels, and her brother Victor died.

2:20 No one from her father's family survived, however her mother's family made it to the United States. People told her mother that she was alive, but Helene would not believe it. Her brother went to Budapest and found one of the survivor lists, brought it home and showed his mother that indeed Gloria had survived. the jewelry was still intact when the family returned home, however most everyone in the town had died in Auschwitz.

2:22 Gloria remembered that she had an uncle in St. Louis, Missouri, and remembered his address in a dream while in Sweden. She wrote to him and he wrote back telling her that her parents were alive, but she must not write to them because he wanted to bring her to America. If anyone knew that her family was alive in Hungary, they would force her to go back. Her mother did correspond with her in letting her know that she was alive with the rest of the family. Her mother, realizing how hard life would be for her behind the Iron Curtain, encouraged her to go to America.

2:25 Helene Hollander died within two years of her release from the camp, and Gloria was never to see her mother again. She would later rescue her family from the USSR, which had now claimed territorial rights to their town. Gloria and her husband helped bring the entire immediate family into America, where her father died in 1977. One horrors of the Holocaust is that along with the deaths of 6 million Jews came also the destruction of an entire generation of Jews. This caused marital hardship for those seeking to marry within their faith, and Shandor's daughter had to marry outside of the Jewish faith.

2:27 In 1949, Gloria arrived in St. Louis, and lived with her aunt. Her uncle died before she arrived in America, and it was hard for Gloria to deal with more death. She has now been working with a professor of film who has plans on making a documentary of Gloria's life, and is in the process of being edited. She has dedicated her life to lecturing and talking about the Holocaust at various schools around the country, and feels

a pressing need to have eyewitness accounts of the atrocities given before the last survivor dies.