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-TITLE-GLORIA LYON  
-I DATE-OCTOBER 25, 1990  
-SOURCE-  
-RESTRICTIONS-  
-SOUND QUALITY-EXCELLENT  
-IMAGE QUALITY-EXCELLENT  
-DURATION-2HRS 17MIN  
-LANGUAGES-ENGLISH  
-KEY SEGMENT-  
-GEOGRAPHIC NAME-  
-PERSONAL NAME-  
-CORPORATE NAME-  
-KEY WORDS-  
-NOTES-  
-CONTENTS-

#### TAPE 1

02.29 Gloria looked through her mail at work and noticed a piece of mail with a swastika emblem on it that claimed that the Holocaust never happened. She decided she had to come out of her cocoon and do something to educate people even though she was scared to speak publicly.

03.19 Gloria went to hear a rabbi speak, and he said it was now the survivors who needed to tell of the Holocaust, not rabbis. The rabbi was speaking directly to Gloria, and a date was set when she would give her first talk on her experiences.

04.16 Gloria felt that the problem with her speaking publicly was not what she would say, but how she would face the audience. She was very scared to speak publicly.

05.55 Gloria's husband, Carl, suggested she take notes as the speech deadline approached. She would sit down and type until 2 and 3 AM, almost writing a book. Carl said he would help her take the essence of her story from all of her writing, promising to keep it in her words.

06.44 During her first presentation, Gloria broke down 3-4 times but was able to recover and finish. She felt as if it were her first break through.

07.57 Gloria next spoke at Berkeley High School where her talk was opened up to the entire school due to the interest. She made it through her talk with a few breakdowns, mostly centering around her mother. Otherwise, she felt as if she were overcoming some of her emotional difficulties.

09.39 Gloria has spoken at high schools, universities, colleges, Hebrew schools, in communities, and has been invited to Nevada where there is a state-wide commemoration of the Holocaust.

11.09 She has also spoken in Sweden and in Germany at the University of Hanover.

12.25 In Sweden, she spoke in the town where she was quarantined after the Holocaust.

14.37 The reaction she got from the students at the U. of Hanover was one of silent shock. The students opened up after some pleading from her. They realized her pain. She wanted them to know of their country's history.

15.12 In her talks at Jr. High Schools, the students more readily asked questions as compared to older students. She had thought this age group might be too young to hear her story.

17.17 In her talk at Stanford when a student took her aside to privately ask her a question about menstruation, she revealed that even with the drugs that were put in the food her mother did not cease to have her period. This was very frightening. Gloria was 14 when she entered the camps.

19.11 Gloria feels as if she's made a difference with her talks about the Holocaust. She receives many positive letters to her work, asking her to keep speaking.

20.00 The negative side of her talks is the money she has to spend, the time she must take off from her job, and its interference in her personal life. She has never turned down a request for sharing her experiences, though.

21.45 Gloria is doing all she can to prevent another holocaust from happening. She sees that nothing is as valuable as the history of a survivor.

24.00 Gloria's concentration camp number is A6374. She lost her sense of smell in the camps, but to this day she can smell the odor of Auschwitz in her mind.

25.48 Gloria first realized she couldn't smell when she was in Sweden. She couldn't tell the difference between hair oil and perfume.

27.17 At Birkenhau (ph) Gloria sorted the clothes and packages of inmates. She knew she could smell when she went into the camps. She smelled the gas chambers, and the burnt bones and flesh.

29.15 Gloria sees her loss of smell as a protective device and a small price to pay for life. She will never get over the Holocaust. The fact that she still can't smell may still be a protective device.

30.26 When Gloria meets another survivor, she always has compassion and respect for that person. There is a bond. No survivor can ever completely encapsulate their Holocaust experience in its entirety.

32.29 Over the past few days, Gloria underwent a psychiatric interview which was very productive.

34.00 Gloria thinks that men who survived the Holocaust don't talk as much about it. She thinks that men suffered more than women in that they were abused.

35.41 Her father and brother worked in mines. Her dad said that they got double rations of food.

36.34 Gloria says that men had a more isolated experience in the camps, whereas women formed families. Gloria had her mother, her sister, her cousins, and two future sister in laws in her camp at some point. She didn't know about them all at the time she was there.

39.12 Although women in the camps were nurturing, one always had to watch out for herself. A best friend or sister might eat one's bread and

that is all that one really had in the camps. In other ways, the women would help out though.

40.15 Gloria escaped from a truck into some barracks and was given an overcoat and some shoes by one of the women in the barracks. They were from a dead person. The woman who gave her these things was with her until she arrived in Sweden, but Gloria doesn't remember her being there.

41.37 In Auschwitz, Gloria's mother's teeth cracked. Gloria and her sister had to chew their mother's food just so she could eat.

44.30 In Braunschwey (ph) where Gloria helped clean the streets after bombings, one woman in her group would disappear. This woman had found a basement where she found potatoes. All the women except Gloria would go down to the basement for food. Gloria wasn't allowed to because of her age, but wishes she had. She feels as if they endangered their lives for her and she did nothing.

46.00 Gloria had her bread stolen until her mother advised her to eat it immediately after it was given to her. Though she might be hungry later, at least she would know it was in her stomach.

48.00 Gloria had her mother, her father, two of her brothers, and one sister survive with her. She doesn't feel guilty that they survived or that she did. She feels that other survivors diminish her survival because she didn't spend as much time in the camps as they might have.

48.40 Gloria's sister re-married a survivor from Romania.

49.43 Gloria thinks that deep down survivors don't mean to hurt her, they just wish they had surviving family members as she does. It makes her feel guilty that they don't.

51.25 Gloria says that the guilt she feels isn't like the guilt felt after stealing, but that it goes deeper from losing one's family or seeing others lose their family. In losing family, it becomes harder to pull yourself out of bed in the morning.

53.23 The books she has read on the Holocaust don't describe survivor guilt as she feels it. Instead, they emphasized other parts of the psyche.

Gloria studied child psychology in college. She feels as vulnerable as a child when she speaks on the Holocaust. The feelings of pain don't go away, but pop up unexpectedly.

55.09 Gloria's mother died from holocaust related causes after the Holocaust. She was buried in Hungary. Gloria has a great need to see her burial spot and to say goodbye to her even though she intellectually knows she is dead. Emotionally, she feels that it is unfinished business. She is planning a trip to Hungary for April 15 - the day she was deported.

56.00 Her mother died of heart failure. Gloria's mother had heart problems in Auschwitz which caused many near misses in the camp.

57.40 On one death march, her mother went to sit down which would mean getting shot. She did so against the pleas of her daughter, Gloria's sister. Just as she sat, the SS jeeps drove away and that was the end of their captivity. Her mother had been saved.

59.24 When Gloria escaped the truck she was in that was headed for the gas chamber, she thought the others were stupid for not having done the same. She feels no guilt about her actions. There was no time to think. One just had to act.

1.01.23 Gloria was housed in Auschwitz and had to march to Birkenhau (ph) to work. It was in Birkenhau (ph) that she was selected for extermination.

1.03.16 Gloria's mother found a diamond once when they were sorting and hid it in her shoe so they might have something to start over with if they got out of the camps. Later, everyone was asked to undress and her mother had to secretly dump the diamond out of her shoe or she would have been beaten. Gloria and her sister were terrified for their mother.

1.05.59 The last time Gloria saw her mother was when Gloria was chosen for selection. Joseph Mandela (ph) sent Gloria to the death side. As Gloria walked away, she could see her mother crying.

1.10.56 Gloria's sister was selected many times, but was saved when her supervisors would tell the SS what a good worker she was. Once, an SS officer tested her by having her braid cloth around her shoe. He compared her braid with what the older women could braid. Then, he took Anushka

(ph), Gloria's sister, away and later she returned with food and drinks which the SS had given to her.

1.16.52 When Gloria was selected, she was led onto a truck by a Hungarian guard she had known from Birjenka (ph). The guard told the people in the truck their destination to the gas chambers, and then offered that they might jump out along the way to escape. He would not tell and neither should they. Gloria did so when she saw a familiar deep ditch. No one followed her. She heard the sirens that meant that someone escaped and then heard SS voices above her, but she was not discovered by anyone. After spending a night and a day hiding, she made it to some barracks where a lady gave her an overcoat and shoes. Gloria had been naked.

1.18.42 To get to the barracks, she had followed a little light, not knowing where it would lead her. She says God must have been with her during this escape.

1.23.48 Gloria finds that as she retells her story, she remembers more and more. Once when she was watching TV and saw news of the Beauxpaul incident in India, she remembered what work she had done in Hanover. Seeing the gas mask on TV triggered her memory of working in a gas mask factory. In this factory, when mistakes were made, the SS took down the women's numbers and punished them when they were back at their barracks. The citizens of Hanover had said they did not want the workers in the factory to get beatings, so it was done elsewhere.

1.24.32 Gloria, once free, later returned to this area and found the oldest citizen of Hanover who remembered the barracks and the screams.

1.27.54 Gloria remembers new details with retelling her story. One story she is slowly beginning to remember but not yet in its entirety is when she was taken to the 'hospital' by Mangela (ph) because of a rash she had on her stomach from the filth. A Dr. Gizela (ph) from Hungary took care of her rash. Gloria spent one or two nights in the 'hospital'. On her last night, Dr. Gazela (ph) warned her that the 'hospital' was going to be liquidated and that she should leave. Gloria was escorted somewhere - she doesn't remember where, nor does she remember how she made it the rest of the way to her barracks.

1.29.56 One night, Gloria woke to screams in her barracks. A pregnant

woman was being told that she should abort her baby in order to live. Gloria was not aware that there was an underground in the camps. It was Dr. Gizela (ph) who aborted the baby by hand.

1.31.25 Gloria wants to find out the name of the Hungarian guard who aided in her escape from the truck. He wasn't in Auschwitz by choice.

1.33.40 Gloria believes that human beings have to learn to be good from their family and then apply their goodness. People build defense mechanisms early on in life which serve them well in hard situations. She feels as if she really learned about humans in the camp situations. Kindness came through.

1.36.21 Once, when Gloria was beaten until unconscious, others dragged her back to the car. Gloria thinks that the circumstances surrounding the acts that humans commit must be taken into consideration, and that reactions vary depending on one's background. Rarely will people allow another person to rot. When given a choice people will help, but when it comes to survival, the self comes first.

1.38.23 Gloria learned about kindnesses and weaknesses, and now feels like an expert. She feels sensitized and can't watch fights between people. Yet, she is able to yell at her husband, knowing she is being unfair. She feels it is normal to do this and that it doesn't mean she's bad.

1.39.56 The Holocaust made her more sensitive of human beings. She values life more and freedom more. In life, one must take the good with the bad - it's not smooth.

1.41.49 Gloria believes that humans were meant to be free and that one mustn't let freedom be taken away. She does not like the idea of war. She sees another Hitler today, (hinting to who she thinks it is but not giving a name).

1.43.28 Gloria speaks about Germany and the possible reunification.

1.45.39 Gloria runs a Bed and Breakfast, and has done so for 10 1/2 years. In that time, no one has taken anything. She trusts them. She sees that there is nothing really to take (of true importance). From her experiences with the people who have stayed in her home, she believes the majority of

people are good and decent.

1.48.58 Gloria is making a film. The film has great footage from San Francisco, Germany, experiences from concentration camps, and more.

1.52.06 In Braunschweig (ph) Gloria was housed in a barn. In 1987, she returned with a film crew to the area. She saw a man in the area and told him that he now lives next door to what was a former concentration camp. He didn't know - it is now a ceramic factory.

1.54.30 The man found some old books in a garbage can that Gloria identified as Hummich (ph). This whole scene was taken down on film. The man gave the books to Gloria.

1.55.56 The man had a daughter that Gloria spoke with and now corresponds with.

1.57.35 Gloria explains that the Hummich (ph) contains the Torah, five books of Moses, and commentaries by various sages.

## TAPE 2

2.01.25 Gloria says that she survived for her mother and sister, but mainly for her mother. She was very close to her mother. She was the first daughter after four sons. Out of her surviving family, Gloria was the only one who came to the USA. The rest were sent to the Soviet Union and got stuck behind the iron curtain. In 1962, she saw her family for the first time after 17 years. She won't rest until they are all brought to the USA.

2.03.35 The loving family that wanted to adopt her in Sweden helped her. She didn't want to be adopted in hopes that she could be reunited with her family. She came to the USA alone. Gloria sees the different effects the Holocaust had on her family. Her family was willing to work at anything to be in a free country. The young have graduated and have professions.

2.07.11 Her dad and her mom made strong contributions to her well-being. She had a big family that was able to use their resources when their store was closed during the Holocaust.

2.09.13 Gloria's cousins' father was taken into the Jewish labor force, so

her dad acted as their father.

2.10.50 The Hungarian officer was the only kind officer she encountered. The officers were different - some were more sadistic than others. Mangela (ph) didn't beat people, but could shoot a child.

2.14.00 Gloria's children started asking questions as soon as they became aware of her tattoo. She informed them as she thought appropriate. As they got older, she told them more.

2.15.54 When Dorothy Robinowitz (ph) interviewed Gloria for a book in her home, Gloria's two sons sat in on the interview and heard her entire story for the first time. Now, when she speaks in her sons' communities, they come and listen.

2.17.25 Concluding, Gloria thinks it is important to educate children about the Holocaust, and to have them learn of man's inhumanity to man through the Holocaust. Racism must be eradicated. People must learn to live with each other and find love for each other.