

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:01:07,930

2
00:01:07,930 --> 00:01:10,490
Before we can start,
I'll let you know.

3
00:01:10,490 --> 00:01:18,463

4
00:01:18,463 --> 00:01:18,963
OK.

5
00:01:18,963 --> 00:01:21,570

6
00:01:21,570 --> 00:01:23,080
You were talking about raffle?

7
00:01:23,080 --> 00:01:24,720
What's a raffle?

8
00:01:24,720 --> 00:01:25,710
In French, raffle.

9
00:01:25,710 --> 00:01:30,500

10
00:01:30,500 --> 00:01:34,340
Let's say the Germans go out
in the middle of the night

11
00:01:34,340 --> 00:01:38,260
and pick up people
that were on their list

12
00:01:38,260 --> 00:01:41,110
to be picked up
because they were Jews,

13

00:01:41,110 --> 00:01:43,300
and they had to
put them together.

14
00:01:43,300 --> 00:01:48,310
So because it's a
large amount of people,

15
00:01:48,310 --> 00:01:50,170
they put them in a stadium.

16
00:01:50,170 --> 00:01:53,860
But that was a place that
would hold a lot of people,

17
00:01:53,860 --> 00:01:55,600
and it's called the raffle--

18
00:01:55,600 --> 00:02:00,640
R- A- F- F- L- E, which is in
English a lottery, so to speak.

19
00:02:00,640 --> 00:02:04,270
But a raffle is a--

20
00:02:04,270 --> 00:02:09,430
not get-together, but a way
to pick up a lot of people

21
00:02:09,430 --> 00:02:12,512
that you want to
bring to one place.

22
00:02:12,512 --> 00:02:15,110
A roundup, that's the word.

23
00:02:15,110 --> 00:02:17,240
A raffle is a roundup.

24
00:02:17,240 --> 00:02:20,170
Like the cowboys have
a roundup of cattle,

25

00:02:20,170 --> 00:02:22,730

the Germans had
around up of people.

26

00:02:22,730 --> 00:02:28,140

And these people on July 16,
which is my birth date, 1922,

27

00:02:28,140 --> 00:02:30,360

that was in 1942.

28

00:02:30,360 --> 00:02:34,650

Now, in '42, in July I was
in the French army in Lyon.

29

00:02:34,650 --> 00:02:37,260

I never knew what
happened in Paris.

30

00:02:37,260 --> 00:02:39,450

But naturally, after
the war, these people

31

00:02:39,450 --> 00:02:42,150

that had survived this
get together every year

32

00:02:42,150 --> 00:02:46,620

to memorize-- not memorize,
to get together and talk

33

00:02:46,620 --> 00:02:47,820

about these things.

34

00:02:47,820 --> 00:02:52,440

The French had a combination
of Jewish people--

35

00:02:52,440 --> 00:02:54,870

they were taken strictly
because they were Jews.

36

00:02:54,870 --> 00:02:57,180
And there were Jewish
people that were patriots--

37
00:02:57,180 --> 00:03:00,240
French assimilated patriots.

38
00:03:00,240 --> 00:03:04,440
Besides, there was
communists, anti-Nazis.

39
00:03:04,440 --> 00:03:06,630
They were taken with the Jews.

40
00:03:06,630 --> 00:03:10,620
Most of them went to
Dachau or to Dora,

41
00:03:10,620 --> 00:03:15,540
The Jews was extermination
camp in Auschwitz.

42
00:03:15,540 --> 00:03:19,410
I would say 99% of people that
went to the camp from France

43
00:03:19,410 --> 00:03:22,500
went to Auschwitz.

44
00:03:22,500 --> 00:03:27,270
As the war came to an end,
they moved people around,

45
00:03:27,270 --> 00:03:30,480
like Bergen-Belsen, Dachau.

46
00:03:30,480 --> 00:03:32,040
The women went to Ravensbruck.

47
00:03:32,040 --> 00:03:36,810
But in Ravensbruck was
mainly resistance women,

48

00:03:36,810 --> 00:03:43,150

people that had
hidden fugitives.

49

00:03:43,150 --> 00:03:48,150

So they didn't shoot
them for being the enemy.

50

00:03:48,150 --> 00:03:49,200

They put them in a camp.

51

00:03:49,200 --> 00:03:51,990

So basically, Ravensbruck
was a woman's camp.

52

00:03:51,990 --> 00:03:55,440

53

00:03:55,440 --> 00:03:59,280

The different things in
France, like every place else,

54

00:03:59,280 --> 00:04:03,540

like Holland or in
Belgium, it was systematic.

55

00:04:03,540 --> 00:04:06,570

It didn't go overnight.

56

00:04:06,570 --> 00:04:08,460

My father was taken in '42.

57

00:04:08,460 --> 00:04:11,130

The Germans came in in '40.

58

00:04:11,130 --> 00:04:15,320

So for two years, it looked like
nothing was going to happen.

59

00:04:15,320 --> 00:04:18,459

But unfortunately,
they had a plan

60
00:04:18,459 --> 00:04:20,529
to make you believe
everything is nice,

61
00:04:20,529 --> 00:04:23,980
and then they had a
roundup of people.

62
00:04:23,980 --> 00:04:29,380
And usually, that's 5:00,
6:00 in the morning.

63
00:04:29,380 --> 00:04:32,290
And so because I was in
this type of business,

64
00:04:32,290 --> 00:04:33,730
I was already at work.

65
00:04:33,730 --> 00:04:36,520
Otherwise, I would
have been taken in '42.

66
00:04:36,520 --> 00:04:38,560
What would have
happened most likely,

67
00:04:38,560 --> 00:04:41,320
I would have gotten
to a work camp, which

68
00:04:41,320 --> 00:04:45,220
I did when I was taken in '43.

69
00:04:45,220 --> 00:04:48,430
I got there December
'43 the tenth.

70
00:04:48,430 --> 00:04:52,810
And so I wasn't exactly
two years there.

71

00:04:52,810 --> 00:04:58,780

Maybe 20 months I would say
about, but it's sufficient.

72

00:04:58,780 --> 00:05:03,310

It was already a miracle when
people survived one year,

73

00:05:03,310 --> 00:05:05,050

let alone.

74

00:05:05,050 --> 00:05:06,880

Like I said, the
worst part of it

75

00:05:06,880 --> 00:05:11,620

was, I think, the last
five months of the war.

76

00:05:11,620 --> 00:05:15,730

Because things got
worse for the Germans,

77

00:05:15,730 --> 00:05:18,220

so it got worse for us.

78

00:05:18,220 --> 00:05:21,910

And then any time you move
people that are already weak,

79

00:05:21,910 --> 00:05:24,040

and you don't have
food in general,

80

00:05:24,040 --> 00:05:26,230

then you're-- when
you're getting moved,

81

00:05:26,230 --> 00:05:31,760

all these things happen, like
on that train, for one week.

82

00:05:31,760 --> 00:05:38,070
So if you were 75 on that
one compartment wagon, open,

83
00:05:38,070 --> 00:05:41,550
and we went to Germany,
maybe we got there 40.

84
00:05:41,550 --> 00:05:49,180
And 35 died by suffocation
or just had no more strength

85
00:05:49,180 --> 00:05:50,680
to survive.

86
00:05:50,680 --> 00:05:54,010
My luck was that I had
always people with me.

87
00:05:54,010 --> 00:05:56,590
And when you're
against a wall, I

88
00:05:56,590 --> 00:05:58,480
had guys that tried
to pull me away

89
00:05:58,480 --> 00:06:01,630
from there, because in the
middle, they knew if they fell,

90
00:06:01,630 --> 00:06:03,850
I'll just fall on them.

91
00:06:03,850 --> 00:06:07,600
And I had no hair, so they
tried to pull me back by my head

92
00:06:07,600 --> 00:06:08,950
and they grabbed my ears.

93
00:06:08,950 --> 00:06:11,830
So I used to scream, and

the guys' buddies next to me

94

00:06:11,830 --> 00:06:14,800
would push the guys away.

95

00:06:14,800 --> 00:06:19,810
It was an Inferno in the
sense people were savage.

96

00:06:19,810 --> 00:06:22,270
I've seen things on that
train you wouldn't believe.

97

00:06:22,270 --> 00:06:27,200
Guys that had some teeth left
with gold, when they died,

98

00:06:27,200 --> 00:06:32,350
they knocked the gold out of
these teeth, the guy that died,

99

00:06:32,350 --> 00:06:35,080
and then they threw
him overboard.

100

00:06:35,080 --> 00:06:37,960
And you're sitting there
and you're looking at this,

101

00:06:37,960 --> 00:06:41,170
just like looking at
somebody reading a newspaper.

102

00:06:41,170 --> 00:06:42,680
You have no emotion.

103

00:06:42,680 --> 00:06:44,440
There's no such thing.

104

00:06:44,440 --> 00:06:47,710
You're dehumanized by
the fact that you're

105

00:06:47,710 --> 00:06:52,470
looking at something that would
not happen in normal time.

106

00:06:52,470 --> 00:06:55,710
So you have to realize,
when you go through this,

107

00:06:55,710 --> 00:07:00,480
you have to be very strong
not to use this as a crutch

108

00:07:00,480 --> 00:07:02,130
to your life.

109

00:07:02,130 --> 00:07:06,210
You have to more or
less put it behind you,

110

00:07:06,210 --> 00:07:09,810
and go ahead and think
of what is the future.

111

00:07:09,810 --> 00:07:11,910
What's behind,
you cannot change.

112

00:07:11,910 --> 00:07:15,450
You become more or less
hardened to the point.

113

00:07:15,450 --> 00:07:18,210
I hardly knew my parents, if
you want to look at it this way.

114

00:07:18,210 --> 00:07:21,570
When you leave the house
at 14 to go to work,

115

00:07:21,570 --> 00:07:28,410
the little remembrance of
a family isn't very big.

116

00:07:28,410 --> 00:07:30,010

Look, my wife, she's 50.

117

00:07:30,010 --> 00:07:32,400

She has parents that are 83.

118

00:07:32,400 --> 00:07:35,490

For 50 years of her life,
she has her parents.

119

00:07:35,490 --> 00:07:39,480

She knew that if she is in
need of something, she can--

120

00:07:39,480 --> 00:07:41,100

I'm not talking material things.

121

00:07:41,100 --> 00:07:46,740

Needs a nice, kind
word, she can go there.

122

00:07:46,740 --> 00:07:53,670

I never had that, because
at 14, you were estranged.

123

00:07:53,670 --> 00:07:54,300

You don't know.

124

00:07:54,300 --> 00:07:57,280

But it's not so much
their fault or my fault.

125

00:07:57,280 --> 00:08:00,790

It's the circumstances
of life at the time.

126

00:08:00,790 --> 00:08:05,880

So you have to realize that
I consider myself very lucky

127

00:08:05,880 --> 00:08:07,980

to have gone

through all of this,

128
00:08:07,980 --> 00:08:13,260
and have been able to look at
it as an experience that is not

129
00:08:13,260 --> 00:08:14,040
very nice.

130
00:08:14,040 --> 00:08:19,110
But what can I do except look
tomorrow and the next day

131
00:08:19,110 --> 00:08:21,600
and the next day?

132
00:08:21,600 --> 00:08:25,200
What's your earliest
memory of your mother?

133
00:08:25,200 --> 00:08:26,220
My earliest--

134
00:08:26,220 --> 00:08:27,435
Memory.

135
00:08:27,435 --> 00:08:30,620
Oh, memory.

136
00:08:30,620 --> 00:08:37,970
Well, I would say, basically,
when we had this restaurant,

137
00:08:37,970 --> 00:08:42,770
she always was a
genius in the kitchen.

138
00:08:42,770 --> 00:08:45,080
She would fix different things.

139
00:08:45,080 --> 00:08:50,140
And I remember, to

me, I'd never really--

140

00:08:50,140 --> 00:08:52,960
ever since then, I never had had
occasion to see the same thing.

141

00:08:52,960 --> 00:08:57,100
She used to get
calves feet and make

142

00:08:57,100 --> 00:08:59,470
a jelly out of it, cooked this.

143

00:08:59,470 --> 00:09:02,170
And we used to eat this,
and it was like jello.

144

00:09:02,170 --> 00:09:06,880
But it was with a vinaigrette
on top, with vinegar and oil.

145

00:09:06,880 --> 00:09:07,900
That was a dish.

146

00:09:07,900 --> 00:09:12,070
Then for Passover, she made
what we called a bubaleh, which

147

00:09:12,070 --> 00:09:14,890
was-- now that I know
how to bake and cook,

148

00:09:14,890 --> 00:09:18,520
it used to be matzah
meal with eggs and sugar,

149

00:09:18,520 --> 00:09:21,100
and you made like a pancake mix.

150

00:09:21,100 --> 00:09:24,610
And you used to put in a
frying pan a little oil,

151

00:09:24,610 --> 00:09:28,450

and it'd be this
big, round like this.

152

00:09:28,450 --> 00:09:32,312

And then they would fix
this for the family.

153

00:09:32,312 --> 00:09:34,270

And they would cut it in
a square with powdered

154

00:09:34,270 --> 00:09:35,140

sugar on top.

155

00:09:35,140 --> 00:09:39,460

You eat a piece of this with
a schnapps or some brandy.

156

00:09:39,460 --> 00:09:41,920

And it used to be something
that stuck in my mind.

157

00:09:41,920 --> 00:09:45,700

When my folks took me to a
restaurant the first time--

158

00:09:45,700 --> 00:09:48,160

and I must have been
maybe six or seven,

159

00:09:48,160 --> 00:09:52,480

they ordered aperitif, which
was at that time Malaga.

160

00:09:52,480 --> 00:09:53,650

I looked at Malaga--

161

00:09:53,650 --> 00:09:54,850

it's a sweet wine.

162

00:09:54,850 --> 00:09:57,430

Malaga is like Manischewitz.

163
00:09:57,430 --> 00:09:59,560
It's the closest to it.

164
00:09:59,560 --> 00:10:03,115
And you drank this, and
it is sweet and strong.

165
00:10:03,115 --> 00:10:04,240
And that's what I remember.

166
00:10:04,240 --> 00:10:08,110
They used to laugh when I
took a sip, and I used to go.

167
00:10:08,110 --> 00:10:10,000
That's what I can
remember, looking

168
00:10:10,000 --> 00:10:15,070
at my mother laughing because
I took a drink of alcohol.

169
00:10:15,070 --> 00:10:21,880
Otherwise, as I said, because
of what happened in my life,

170
00:10:21,880 --> 00:10:23,470
I tried to--

171
00:10:23,470 --> 00:10:26,890
not that I wanted to forget.

172
00:10:26,890 --> 00:10:29,420
I had to look ahead.

173
00:10:29,420 --> 00:10:32,290
So you see, the only
thing that I remember--

174
00:10:32,290 --> 00:10:36,010

I remember things in 1930,
where I had to come home

175
00:10:36,010 --> 00:10:38,620
and I was playing
with the kids outside.

176
00:10:38,620 --> 00:10:43,360
And my mother sent my
sister that was younger

177
00:10:43,360 --> 00:10:44,530
to come home to eat.

178
00:10:44,530 --> 00:10:46,450
The food was on the table.

179
00:10:46,450 --> 00:10:53,170
And some guys, the buddies
with me, kids, had a whistle.

180
00:10:53,170 --> 00:10:55,480
And when the cars used
to pass on that road-- it

181
00:10:55,480 --> 00:10:58,930
was a main road, the
police had no cars.

182
00:10:58,930 --> 00:11:02,230
If your car would
speed, they had no cars.

183
00:11:02,230 --> 00:11:03,380
They had bicycles.

184
00:11:03,380 --> 00:11:06,160
So what they did, if
you had an infraction,

185
00:11:06,160 --> 00:11:09,220
they would blow the whistle,
and the car would stop.

186
00:11:09,220 --> 00:11:11,830
The authorities had the whistle.

187
00:11:11,830 --> 00:11:14,980
So some kid had a whistle,
started to blow the whistle.

188
00:11:14,980 --> 00:11:17,410
And when this car stopped,
everybody ran away.

189
00:11:17,410 --> 00:11:18,430
I didn't run away.

190
00:11:18,430 --> 00:11:21,468
The guy came out of the car, and
he looked at me, and he said,

191
00:11:21,468 --> 00:11:22,510
did you blow the whistle?

192
00:11:22,510 --> 00:11:23,230
I said, no.

193
00:11:23,230 --> 00:11:25,760
He gave me two boom boom,
and he went back to the car.

194
00:11:25,760 --> 00:11:26,860
He was mad.

195
00:11:26,860 --> 00:11:29,830
Now, that has nothing
to do with my mother.

196
00:11:29,830 --> 00:11:32,560
But it just shows you
that you get involved

197
00:11:32,560 --> 00:11:34,810
with different things as a kid.

198
00:11:34,810 --> 00:11:38,080
And I got at home,
they told me you

199
00:11:38,080 --> 00:11:40,430
should have been dead you
should have been at home.

200
00:11:40,430 --> 00:11:42,970
But kids are kids.

201
00:11:42,970 --> 00:11:44,170
You play with your buddies.

202
00:11:44,170 --> 00:11:47,500
You forget that you have to
come home to eat or something.

203
00:11:47,500 --> 00:11:53,440
And it was an area where
it was a small town,

204
00:11:53,440 --> 00:11:55,120
and the main road
would go across,

205
00:11:55,120 --> 00:11:56,350
and there were cars there.

206
00:11:56,350 --> 00:11:59,080
The school was on this side,
and we lived on that side.

207
00:11:59,080 --> 00:12:04,630
So when you had to go home,
you had to cross the street.

208
00:12:04,630 --> 00:12:06,220
I'll give you an
example of something

209

00:12:06,220 --> 00:12:09,820
that happened, by talking,
I just remembered.

210
00:12:09,820 --> 00:12:11,380
I don't think I had--

211
00:12:11,380 --> 00:12:14,380
I was maybe seven or eight.

212
00:12:14,380 --> 00:12:16,090
And my sister came
home from school

213
00:12:16,090 --> 00:12:21,090
crying that this boy
called a dirty Jew.

214
00:12:21,090 --> 00:12:22,110
So I went out.

215
00:12:22,110 --> 00:12:24,990
And when the guy saw me,
he ran across the street.

216
00:12:24,990 --> 00:12:28,970
And the last thing I saw
is a car running over him.

217
00:12:28,970 --> 00:12:30,890
And that's all I saw.

218
00:12:30,890 --> 00:12:32,180
I got back home.

219
00:12:32,180 --> 00:12:39,100
And on the top floor,
there was, like, a loft.

220
00:12:39,100 --> 00:12:41,740
I went and hid there,
I was so scared.

221

00:12:41,740 --> 00:12:43,780

And they were looking for
me all over the place.

222

00:12:43,780 --> 00:12:48,640

My luck, when the guy with the
car came, he went on the brake.

223

00:12:48,640 --> 00:12:52,570

The kid fell, and the front
right wheel of the car

224

00:12:52,570 --> 00:12:54,820

went on the curb up.

225

00:12:54,820 --> 00:12:58,380

So he was underneath, but
the car didn't touch him.

226

00:12:58,380 --> 00:13:01,410

He had absolutely nothing,
not even a scratch.

227

00:13:01,410 --> 00:13:04,350

But all I saw was a
kid under the car,

228

00:13:04,350 --> 00:13:06,540

and I was scared like heck.

229

00:13:06,540 --> 00:13:10,980

But that occurred
because you have

230

00:13:10,980 --> 00:13:15,240

that thing that exists
among kids, maybe less now,

231

00:13:15,240 --> 00:13:17,190

but at that time.

232

00:13:17,190 --> 00:13:19,350

And in that same
period of time, there

233
00:13:19,350 --> 00:13:23,940
used to be ice delivered
by wagons with horses.

234
00:13:23,940 --> 00:13:27,990
So kids, we play and we hang
around the back of the thing,

235
00:13:27,990 --> 00:13:31,500
and try to pick some piece
of ice in the summer to eat.

236
00:13:31,500 --> 00:13:33,570
So one time, I wasn't there.

237
00:13:33,570 --> 00:13:36,750
Some of the buddies did this,
and he ran away from the truck

238
00:13:36,750 --> 00:13:39,060
because the guy had a whip.

239
00:13:39,060 --> 00:13:43,380
He got killed by a car, because
when he got off of this--

240
00:13:43,380 --> 00:13:47,150
you look at these
things now, I don't

241
00:13:47,150 --> 00:13:49,520
think I had that on my
mind for the last 40 years.

242
00:13:49,520 --> 00:13:52,610
But just by talking about
that period of time,

243
00:13:52,610 --> 00:13:57,110
it goes back to my memory

of the incident that

244

00:13:57,110 --> 00:14:01,520
had to do with the family
life prior to the war, how

245

00:14:01,520 --> 00:14:02,960
you go with kids in school.

246

00:14:02,960 --> 00:14:06,170
I remember the
teacher I had that was

247

00:14:06,170 --> 00:14:08,570
in the reserve in
the French army.

248

00:14:08,570 --> 00:14:12,500
And how he had ways that, if
you didn't do your homework

249

00:14:12,500 --> 00:14:14,990
or something, he had you
put your fingers like this

250

00:14:14,990 --> 00:14:17,930
and hit you with a
stick on your fingers.

251

00:14:17,930 --> 00:14:19,440
Now, that doesn't exist here.

252

00:14:19,440 --> 00:14:21,750
That would be
harassment or whatever.

253

00:14:21,750 --> 00:14:26,420
But in those days, that
was common for the teacher

254

00:14:26,420 --> 00:14:31,120
to corporally hurt you if
you didn't do your job right,

255

00:14:31,120 --> 00:14:33,780
or your homework or something.

256

00:14:33,780 --> 00:14:36,360
But again, I digress to
something else, I know.

257

00:14:36,360 --> 00:14:40,115
Did anyone ever call
you a dirty Jew?

258

00:14:40,115 --> 00:14:43,530
No, not that I can
recall, because you see,

259

00:14:43,530 --> 00:14:45,880
if it happened,
I don't remember.

260

00:14:45,880 --> 00:14:48,030
I know where I was
among people, even

261

00:14:48,030 --> 00:14:52,230
in this country back east,
that talked about the Jews,

262

00:14:52,230 --> 00:14:55,200
and they didn't know I
was Jewish, which I just

263

00:14:55,200 --> 00:14:56,310
kept my mouth shut.

264

00:14:56,310 --> 00:14:58,740
There were some
other people that--

265

00:14:58,740 --> 00:15:01,740
you see, my opinion of what
happens in this country,

266

00:15:01,740 --> 00:15:06,390

it's terrific in the sense
everyone can have an opinion.

267

00:15:06,390 --> 00:15:11,430

Even to this day, you have the
extreme right, extreme left,

268

00:15:11,430 --> 00:15:13,440

the socialists, and
everything-- politics now.

269

00:15:13,440 --> 00:15:15,120

We're talking about politics.

270

00:15:15,120 --> 00:15:22,350

And my first opinion was very
sad when I got to back east,

271

00:15:22,350 --> 00:15:24,360

especially once I
got in business.

272

00:15:24,360 --> 00:15:26,820

My neighbors had businesses.

273

00:15:26,820 --> 00:15:29,070

The one guy on my
side had a deli.

274

00:15:29,070 --> 00:15:31,230

He was limey.

275

00:15:31,230 --> 00:15:34,410

They called him limey because
he was from English descent--

276

00:15:34,410 --> 00:15:35,370

limey.

277

00:15:35,370 --> 00:15:36,910

The other guy had a hardware.

278
00:15:36,910 --> 00:15:39,240
He was a German-Jewish guy.

279
00:15:39,240 --> 00:15:41,190
I had my bakery in-between.

280
00:15:41,190 --> 00:15:44,280
And there used to be
a guy coming in there,

281
00:15:44,280 --> 00:15:49,350
and when he was knocking
Roosevelt to me,

282
00:15:49,350 --> 00:15:51,670
it was unbelievable.

283
00:15:51,670 --> 00:15:55,350
But afterwards, I learned,
they knocked Eleanor Roosevelt.

284
00:15:55,350 --> 00:16:00,360
They knocked Roosevelt because
he put them in the war.

285
00:16:00,360 --> 00:16:05,790
But even to this day, you
have guys like Rush Limbaugh.

286
00:16:05,790 --> 00:16:07,470
I don't know if you
heard of this guy.

287
00:16:07,470 --> 00:16:09,630
I think that's the
biggest stupid guy that

288
00:16:09,630 --> 00:16:14,220
exists because he's
talking about the right.

289

00:16:14,220 --> 00:16:16,830
I first got to listen to him
on the radio when I was driving

290
00:16:16,830 --> 00:16:19,530
my car before the election.

291
00:16:19,530 --> 00:16:24,870
He was saying, Bush can't
lose, Bush this, Bush that.

292
00:16:24,870 --> 00:16:25,590
I'm sorry.

293
00:16:25,590 --> 00:16:28,770
My opinion of the
politics in this country

294
00:16:28,770 --> 00:16:31,500
has to do with my background.

295
00:16:31,500 --> 00:16:34,530
I am here because the government
at the time of the United

296
00:16:34,530 --> 00:16:38,010
States did enough for
refugees to come here.

297
00:16:38,010 --> 00:16:42,270
They helped people one way or
another the end of the war.

298
00:16:42,270 --> 00:16:44,880
If Roosevelt hadn't gone
to war, I wouldn't be here.

299
00:16:44,880 --> 00:16:46,260
Definitely wouldn't be here.

300
00:16:46,260 --> 00:16:48,798
I don't think I
could have survived.

301
00:16:48,798 --> 00:16:50,590
Could have worked maybe
another six months.

302
00:16:50,590 --> 00:16:52,610
That's it.

303
00:16:52,610 --> 00:16:55,310
So it comes to that.

304
00:16:55,310 --> 00:16:56,257
That's my opinion.

305
00:16:56,257 --> 00:16:57,340
You said you were spoiled.

306
00:16:57,340 --> 00:16:59,000
You were your mother's favorite.

307
00:16:59,000 --> 00:17:03,020
Yes in the sense that
it's so long ago,

308
00:17:03,020 --> 00:17:06,260
that I can specifically
say how I got spoiled.

309
00:17:06,260 --> 00:17:13,540
But I know by ways
of wanting something

310
00:17:13,540 --> 00:17:19,060
and by any means getting
it because kids--

311
00:17:19,060 --> 00:17:22,720
and if you look at the
psychology of kids,

312
00:17:22,720 --> 00:17:25,839
of thinking the more

you cry you want it,

313

00:17:25,839 --> 00:17:29,890

the parents, oh, give it
to him to keep him quiet.

314

00:17:29,890 --> 00:17:32,210

Well, I don't remember
this particular way

315

00:17:32,210 --> 00:17:33,820

that it occurred with me.

316

00:17:33,820 --> 00:17:37,780

But Jewish parents, always.

317

00:17:37,780 --> 00:17:42,940

In my case, I remember
both were a very giving.

318

00:17:42,940 --> 00:17:46,120

In other words, my
sister and my father,

319

00:17:46,120 --> 00:17:49,150

it was the favorite
because it was the girl.

320

00:17:49,150 --> 00:17:52,480

And come to think of
it, and I mentioned

321

00:17:52,480 --> 00:17:57,670

before, she happens to be saved
because the husband got away

322

00:17:57,670 --> 00:17:59,140

from the Germans.

323

00:17:59,140 --> 00:18:03,520

So I got her here for
my wedding in 1948.

324

00:18:03,520 --> 00:18:06,610

She had divorced
her husband, and she

325

00:18:06,610 --> 00:18:08,860

came with their daughter.

326

00:18:08,860 --> 00:18:13,210

Lillian was born in '43, which
I didn't know at the time what

327

00:18:13,210 --> 00:18:15,100

it was, a boy or a girl.

328

00:18:15,100 --> 00:18:22,100

In '48, she came in May, and
I got married in July 1948.

329

00:18:22,100 --> 00:18:28,070

And so she remarried,
had two children.

330

00:18:28,070 --> 00:18:32,150

And she passed away in
'82 with breast cancer.

331

00:18:32,150 --> 00:18:34,690

She never was in the camp.

332

00:18:34,690 --> 00:18:38,170

So all my family,
she's the only one

333

00:18:38,170 --> 00:18:39,790

that hadn't been in the camp.

334

00:18:39,790 --> 00:18:44,170

But in rummaging between
the pictures I had,

335

00:18:44,170 --> 00:18:49,240

I found a postcard that

she sent for Father's Day,

336
00:18:49,240 --> 00:18:50,920
for Valentine's Day.

337
00:18:50,920 --> 00:18:54,850
And my sister had put
me, like, on a pedestal,

338
00:18:54,850 --> 00:18:58,660
because I had been in
France, the little guy.

339
00:18:58,660 --> 00:19:01,120
And he became a businessman.

340
00:19:01,120 --> 00:19:06,270
And my life revolved
in different ways.

341
00:19:06,270 --> 00:19:08,940
I assimilated--
well, not assimilate.

342
00:19:08,940 --> 00:19:14,290
I blended in life of the United
States, although she did too,

343
00:19:14,290 --> 00:19:15,810
but in a different
way, because she

344
00:19:15,810 --> 00:19:18,660
was married to a fellow that
was with a telephone company--

345
00:19:18,660 --> 00:19:20,550
a big shot and everything.

346
00:19:20,550 --> 00:19:23,160
And she had two kids with him.

347

00:19:23,160 --> 00:19:26,130

And the daughter,
this girl that I never

348

00:19:26,130 --> 00:19:30,810

knew what she was
when she was born,

349

00:19:30,810 --> 00:19:32,850

is married in Connecticut.

350

00:19:32,850 --> 00:19:35,070

And her daughter is
getting married in May,

351

00:19:35,070 --> 00:19:38,340

and I'm going to the
wedding of her daughter.

352

00:19:38,340 --> 00:19:44,190

And Lillian, when she
was born, spoke German

353

00:19:44,190 --> 00:19:47,760

because she was in
Germany with a maid,

354

00:19:47,760 --> 00:19:49,980

and helped when my
sister was in the army.

355

00:19:49,980 --> 00:19:53,760

Then she came to this
country, and she was--

356

00:19:53,760 --> 00:19:56,310

1943, five years old.

357

00:19:56,310 --> 00:20:00,150

I have a picture of her holding
the ring for the wedding.

358

00:20:00,150 --> 00:20:04,200

And she would tell
my wife's aunt--

359
00:20:04,200 --> 00:20:05,730
she couldn't say I'm thirsty.

360
00:20:05,730 --> 00:20:08,550
She went like this.

361
00:20:08,550 --> 00:20:10,530
And now, she doesn't
speak a word of French.

362
00:20:10,530 --> 00:20:11,640
She's American.

363
00:20:11,640 --> 00:20:12,900
She has two daughters.

364
00:20:12,900 --> 00:20:14,610
One got married two years ago.

365
00:20:14,610 --> 00:20:17,160
And she came for
my second wedding.

366
00:20:17,160 --> 00:20:18,900
She came here.

367
00:20:18,900 --> 00:20:22,080
So it shows you, this
is talking about--

368
00:20:22,080 --> 00:20:26,640
asking me my impression
of my mother spoiling me.

369
00:20:26,640 --> 00:20:32,470
As I said, when I left, the
things I went through my life,

370
00:20:32,470 --> 00:20:35,740

especially since
1948 coming here,

371
00:20:35,740 --> 00:20:41,390
these are things maybe in a
day or two at home, I'll say,

372
00:20:41,390 --> 00:20:45,330
gee, I forgot to tell her
about this and this and this.

373
00:20:45,330 --> 00:20:46,450
What about your father?

374
00:20:46,450 --> 00:20:48,720
What are early memories
of your father like?

375
00:20:48,720 --> 00:20:56,100
My father, basically,
was a tall man that was--

376
00:20:56,100 --> 00:20:59,120

377
00:20:59,120 --> 00:21:00,940
how would I put it?

378
00:21:00,940 --> 00:21:03,580
My mother was the big boss.

379
00:21:03,580 --> 00:21:04,770
She knows business.

380
00:21:04,770 --> 00:21:06,610
She handled the business.

381
00:21:06,610 --> 00:21:10,360
She was what they
say in Jewish macher.

382
00:21:10,360 --> 00:21:13,120

She always got people to
come to the restaurant.

383
00:21:13,120 --> 00:21:16,530
My father was more or less
a guy that did his work.

384
00:21:16,530 --> 00:21:18,160
He was in the army.

385
00:21:18,160 --> 00:21:19,810
Eight years in the army.

386
00:21:19,810 --> 00:21:25,750
He was drafted in the
Russian army before 1914

387
00:21:25,750 --> 00:21:26,920
and he came home.

388
00:21:26,920 --> 00:21:29,590
They had the boy in 1911.

389
00:21:29,590 --> 00:21:31,570
Then he was re-drafted
because the army--

390
00:21:31,570 --> 00:21:33,580
he was in Vladivostok.

391
00:21:33,580 --> 00:21:36,910
That's what he used to tell me.

392
00:21:36,910 --> 00:21:40,090
When he was in the army, he
was in a place near Japan,

393
00:21:40,090 --> 00:21:43,180
way on the other end of Russia.

394
00:21:43,180 --> 00:21:47,350
And then he was in Odessa.

395

00:21:47,350 --> 00:21:51,070

That's in the south, where
there's nice weather.

396

00:21:51,070 --> 00:21:53,680

And that's all the places
that the army took him.

397

00:21:53,680 --> 00:21:56,320

So therefore, when
he got to where

398

00:21:56,320 --> 00:22:00,310

he was in Lorraine, where he
was a prisoner, this was like--

399

00:22:00,310 --> 00:22:03,640

we call California God's place.

400

00:22:03,640 --> 00:22:07,150

That was God's place
because there was no army.

401

00:22:07,150 --> 00:22:10,990

There was working
people that maybe

402

00:22:10,990 --> 00:22:13,550

got involved with some people
that weren't very nice.

403

00:22:13,550 --> 00:22:15,610

So he thought it's
better to stay there then

404

00:22:15,610 --> 00:22:18,040

go back to Poland.

405

00:22:18,040 --> 00:22:23,650

And I remember him talking about
pogroms and things like this.

406

00:22:23,650 --> 00:22:27,970

But it didn't mean much to me
because I was just listening.

407

00:22:27,970 --> 00:22:32,910

And I would say I remember
more about my oldest brother

408

00:22:32,910 --> 00:22:36,750

because he was,
like, 11 years older.

409

00:22:36,750 --> 00:22:39,660

So when I was 10,
he was already 21.

410

00:22:39,660 --> 00:22:45,480

And because we speak
French between the kids,

411

00:22:45,480 --> 00:22:47,250

and my father spoke French.

412

00:22:47,250 --> 00:22:51,120

But sometimes, you say,
that's not the way to say it.

413

00:22:51,120 --> 00:22:53,790

So you criticize your
folks because of that.

414

00:22:53,790 --> 00:22:55,830

And so the brother
was like the boss.

415

00:22:55,830 --> 00:22:58,410

He would bail us out if
we did something wrong,

416

00:22:58,410 --> 00:22:59,720

more than the parents.

417

00:22:59,720 --> 00:23:02,010

That's why I say we were
spoiled by the parents.

418

00:23:02,010 --> 00:23:06,060

But my brother, I remember,
he took me on a bicycle.

419

00:23:06,060 --> 00:23:10,050

And it was on his bicycle where
I was sitting there in front.

420

00:23:10,050 --> 00:23:13,170

And he went on the brakes, and
all of a sudden, the whole bike

421

00:23:13,170 --> 00:23:14,880

went like this.

422

00:23:14,880 --> 00:23:15,870

We fell on the ground.

423

00:23:15,870 --> 00:23:18,090

We didn't get hurt very much.

424

00:23:18,090 --> 00:23:20,580

But it's something
that you can remember

425

00:23:20,580 --> 00:23:23,280

because it's an accident.

426

00:23:23,280 --> 00:23:25,410

It happened as an accident.

427

00:23:25,410 --> 00:23:31,350

And when he got married,
I was working in a bakery.

428

00:23:31,350 --> 00:23:34,950

And I remember him being
at the cafe outside,

429

00:23:34,950 --> 00:23:37,960

and I was delivering pastry
for the bakery I was working.

430

00:23:37,960 --> 00:23:40,320

I said, well, that's
a good life in a cafe.

431

00:23:40,320 --> 00:23:42,580

But you see, he
was older than me.

432

00:23:42,580 --> 00:23:47,070

I at the time I was maybe 15.

433

00:23:47,070 --> 00:23:49,560

He was married.

434

00:23:49,560 --> 00:23:56,250

And we didn't have big
celebrations per se

435

00:23:56,250 --> 00:23:58,470

like here, for instance.

436

00:23:58,470 --> 00:24:00,570

In Europe, we don't
send birthday cards

437

00:24:00,570 --> 00:24:01,780

for your birthday.

438

00:24:01,780 --> 00:24:04,340

For Father's Day or
for Valentine's Day,

439

00:24:04,340 --> 00:24:05,340

you don't send cards.

440

00:24:05,340 --> 00:24:08,490

All this is American style.

441

00:24:08,490 --> 00:24:14,130

And you see, the problem is
when you mentioned my folks--

442

00:24:14,130 --> 00:24:18,330

I try to be explicit
as much as possible,

443

00:24:18,330 --> 00:24:21,330

and my recollection
isn't that clear

444

00:24:21,330 --> 00:24:28,480

because it dates into the '30s,
which means over 60 years ago.

445

00:24:28,480 --> 00:24:30,390

So it's not too clear.

446

00:24:30,390 --> 00:24:32,610

What was your uncle's name?

447

00:24:32,610 --> 00:24:33,195

My what?

448

00:24:33,195 --> 00:24:34,530

Your uncle's name.

449

00:24:34,530 --> 00:24:37,260

My uncle's name was--

450

00:24:37,260 --> 00:24:40,140

Heidenberg first name, but I
can't remember his first name

451

00:24:40,140 --> 00:24:41,040

now.

452

00:24:41,040 --> 00:24:41,840

Heidenberg.

453

00:24:41,840 --> 00:24:45,610

454

00:24:45,610 --> 00:24:46,990

I don't remember.

455

00:24:46,990 --> 00:24:48,860

What happened to him?

456

00:24:48,860 --> 00:24:55,330

Well, when the war broke
out, he was living in Hayange

457

00:24:55,330 --> 00:24:57,630

where I was born.

458

00:24:57,630 --> 00:25:02,310

He also did markets with
clothes and everything.

459

00:25:02,310 --> 00:25:09,900

And they got evacuated
in the center of France.

460

00:25:09,900 --> 00:25:15,180

So when I went in the army in
'42, and had a month furlough,

461

00:25:15,180 --> 00:25:17,670

there was a refugee newspaper.

462

00:25:17,670 --> 00:25:20,320

And I put an ad in there,
I'm looking for my uncle.

463

00:25:20,320 --> 00:25:22,920

I don't know
exactly where he is.

464

00:25:22,920 --> 00:25:28,050

Turns out his son and his
sister, and the four of them,

465

00:25:28,050 --> 00:25:30,990

got to a small village
in the center of France.

466

00:25:30,990 --> 00:25:32,710

I forgot the name of it.

467

00:25:32,710 --> 00:25:35,290

And I got a note that
they are living there.

468

00:25:35,290 --> 00:25:36,480

So my furlough --

469

00:25:36,480 --> 00:25:39,810

I couldn't go home in a
zone where the Germans were.

470

00:25:39,810 --> 00:25:41,670

And they were in an
non-occupied zone.

471

00:25:41,670 --> 00:25:43,500

I went there.

472

00:25:43,500 --> 00:25:47,640

And sure enough, the fellow
that had given them a house,

473

00:25:47,640 --> 00:25:52,200

and they rented a house, his
son was a prisoner in Germany

474

00:25:52,200 --> 00:25:53,250

and that was empty.

475

00:25:53,250 --> 00:25:54,240

So they had this.

476

00:25:54,240 --> 00:25:58,410

And he worked for this
guy in the farm, my uncle.

477

00:25:58,410 --> 00:26:00,430

And so I went to visit
him during that month.

478

00:26:00,430 --> 00:26:03,300

And his son was there and
his daughter was there.

479

00:26:03,300 --> 00:26:08,610

So of all the people, after
'42, when the Germans went down,

480

00:26:08,610 --> 00:26:11,550

because he was a young
guy my age in his 20s,

481

00:26:11,550 --> 00:26:13,350

they grabbed him,
put him to Auschwitz,

482

00:26:13,350 --> 00:26:14,610

and he never came back.

483

00:26:14,610 --> 00:26:16,620

But the father was already--

484

00:26:16,620 --> 00:26:20,890

like I said, in World War
I, he was with my father.

485

00:26:20,890 --> 00:26:22,328

He wasn't taken.

486

00:26:22,328 --> 00:26:24,120

Because you remember,
in the small village,

487

00:26:24,120 --> 00:26:27,480

the Germans couldn't completely
turn the whole country

488

00:26:27,480 --> 00:26:29,940
and go house to
house to find Jews.

489
00:26:29,940 --> 00:26:32,340
If you're living in a farm
like he lived, and you looked

490
00:26:32,340 --> 00:26:35,940
like a farmer with
a beret on his head,

491
00:26:35,940 --> 00:26:38,580
they never went to look
for them, except the son.

492
00:26:38,580 --> 00:26:41,820
And even if he was a
non-Jew, a guy his age

493
00:26:41,820 --> 00:26:44,010
would have been taken to
go to work in Germany.

494
00:26:44,010 --> 00:26:47,010
And they must have grabbed
him, figured out he was a Jew.

495
00:26:47,010 --> 00:26:50,070
He went to Auschwitz
and never came back.

496
00:26:50,070 --> 00:26:52,800
And they after the war
went back to Hayange.

497
00:26:52,800 --> 00:26:59,676
In '58, I went to visit him with
my wife, and he had retired.

498
00:26:59,676 --> 00:27:02,910
Let me see, that was '58.

499

00:27:02,910 --> 00:27:04,980

I went twice to see him.

500

00:27:04,980 --> 00:27:07,870

In his basement, he
had the pushcart.

501

00:27:07,870 --> 00:27:09,600

He showed my wife--

502

00:27:09,600 --> 00:27:10,800

who was American.

503

00:27:10,800 --> 00:27:13,200

He showed her, and he was
so proud of his pushcart,

504

00:27:13,200 --> 00:27:16,620

that he had a very good
life with that pushcart.

505

00:27:16,620 --> 00:27:19,050

And he used to smoke two
packs of cigarettes a day,

506

00:27:19,050 --> 00:27:20,460

drink black coffee.

507

00:27:20,460 --> 00:27:23,230

He died, he was 78.

508

00:27:23,230 --> 00:27:24,450

And the wife is dead, too.

509

00:27:24,450 --> 00:27:30,210

And the daughter was married and
lived in Metz with her husband,

510

00:27:30,210 --> 00:27:31,440

and they had a child.

511

00:27:31,440 --> 00:27:35,470

But I have no contact
with these people-- none.

512
00:27:35,470 --> 00:27:39,650
Same thing goes with the two
daughters of my eldest brother

513
00:27:39,650 --> 00:27:42,260
that live in Dijon, France.

514
00:27:42,260 --> 00:27:46,250
Because the wife
was Catholic, there

515
00:27:46,250 --> 00:27:49,160
was no close relation
between this.

516
00:27:49,160 --> 00:27:52,890
With the mother, yes,
because I knew her

517
00:27:52,890 --> 00:27:54,590
when she was young bride.

518
00:27:54,590 --> 00:27:58,430
So I saw her when
she was about 75.

519
00:27:58,430 --> 00:28:03,380
And the one daughter was
married and had a girl.

520
00:28:03,380 --> 00:28:07,940
The other daughter,
I saw two years ago.

521
00:28:07,940 --> 00:28:14,150
And when they were about two
years old, I took both of them

522
00:28:14,150 --> 00:28:17,570
down into the shelter

when there was air raids.

523

00:28:17,570 --> 00:28:19,160

And they are in their 50s now.

524

00:28:19,160 --> 00:28:24,243

So one born in '40, so she's 53.

525

00:28:24,243 --> 00:28:25,285

But it was nothing close.

526

00:28:25,285 --> 00:28:30,350

But when my brother was killed--
and I came back from Germany,

527

00:28:30,350 --> 00:28:31,880

I found that out--

528

00:28:31,880 --> 00:28:36,680

I was not too happy, because
I went to the cemetery

529

00:28:36,680 --> 00:28:41,580

to see him in '58, and the tomb
was not taken care of at all.

530

00:28:41,580 --> 00:28:44,150

It was covered with--

531

00:28:44,150 --> 00:28:47,210

you see, in France,
you have to understand,

532

00:28:47,210 --> 00:28:53,270

the families are not
close in the sense,

533

00:28:53,270 --> 00:28:55,820

especially if it's
mixed marriages.

534

00:28:55,820 --> 00:28:59,540

Her family was
anti-Jewish, number one.

535
00:28:59,540 --> 00:29:03,920
So when he was killed,
they did everything

536
00:29:03,920 --> 00:29:04,890
to make her feel bad.

537
00:29:04,890 --> 00:29:07,710
And I found that out
through the daughter.

538
00:29:07,710 --> 00:29:11,360
And so she never remarried,
and the whole family blamed her

539
00:29:11,360 --> 00:29:13,790
because she married a Jew.

540
00:29:13,790 --> 00:29:15,620
So I don't know
her family at all.

541
00:29:15,620 --> 00:29:16,940
I never met them.

542
00:29:16,940 --> 00:29:20,420
But the daughter talked
to me, and I found out

543
00:29:20,420 --> 00:29:23,960
that the two girls were
brought up by the mother

544
00:29:23,960 --> 00:29:27,210
without a father image at all.

545
00:29:27,210 --> 00:29:34,460
And when they became
young ladies, 16, 17,

546

00:29:34,460 --> 00:29:36,800

the one went out with
a boy, and she never

547

00:29:36,800 --> 00:29:38,540

knew what it meant
to be pregnant.

548

00:29:38,540 --> 00:29:42,860

She got pregnant, and she
never knew who the husband was.

549

00:29:42,860 --> 00:29:46,930

550

00:29:46,930 --> 00:29:49,690

It's odd, but that's
what happened.

551

00:29:49,690 --> 00:29:55,020

So she had a son, and the son
came to visit me last year

552

00:29:55,020 --> 00:29:56,190

for New Year's.

553

00:29:56,190 --> 00:29:58,950

His name is Blankenberg.

554

00:29:58,950 --> 00:30:03,940

And he's Catholic, with
a cross and everything.

555

00:30:03,940 --> 00:30:06,010

So what happened, he found out--

556

00:30:06,010 --> 00:30:07,500

I'm looking to change my name.

557

00:30:07,500 --> 00:30:09,860

In France, if you want
to change your name,

558
00:30:09,860 --> 00:30:14,100
it has to go with the
official government paper.

559
00:30:14,100 --> 00:30:18,390
And if anybody who is against
this should speak up and let

560
00:30:18,390 --> 00:30:19,470
them know.

561
00:30:19,470 --> 00:30:22,243
So he found the name--
somebody of his said, look,

562
00:30:22,243 --> 00:30:23,910
there's a guy by that
name that's trying

563
00:30:23,910 --> 00:30:26,670
to change his name to Blane.

564
00:30:26,670 --> 00:30:30,690
And he told me when I was there
two years ago that he showed up

565
00:30:30,690 --> 00:30:32,070
in the paper.

566
00:30:32,070 --> 00:30:34,620
But he got married last year.

567
00:30:34,620 --> 00:30:36,780
His name is
Blankenberg, but there's

568
00:30:36,780 --> 00:30:38,530
nothing Jewish in these people.

569
00:30:38,530 --> 00:30:41,520
So you see, there's

intermarriage.

570

00:30:41,520 --> 00:30:46,440

There's a situation where,
for good or for bad,

571

00:30:46,440 --> 00:30:49,170

it branches into
different things.

572

00:30:49,170 --> 00:30:51,870

And you look at your
ancestry and you

573

00:30:51,870 --> 00:30:53,610

don't know exactly
what's happened,

574

00:30:53,610 --> 00:30:57,690

because if you look at my
name of birth, Blankenberg

575

00:30:57,690 --> 00:31:01,410

in Belgium, near
Ostend, there's a town

576

00:31:01,410 --> 00:31:03,630

by the name of Blankenberg.

577

00:31:03,630 --> 00:31:05,510

It's a resort.

578

00:31:05,510 --> 00:31:08,010

Now, it had nothing
to do with me.

579

00:31:08,010 --> 00:31:11,960

But you never know, four
or five generations before,

580

00:31:11,960 --> 00:31:12,880

what happened.

581

00:31:12,880 --> 00:31:18,050

You can't tell, because it's
not a name like Jim or Paul

582

00:31:18,050 --> 00:31:22,160

or Lincoln, for instance--

583

00:31:22,160 --> 00:31:25,550

Lincoln, Nebraska, and
the guy's name is Lincoln.

584

00:31:25,550 --> 00:31:29,180

But a Blankenberg, you have a
name that has to come from--

585

00:31:29,180 --> 00:31:31,240

I'd be curious to go
there and find out

586

00:31:31,240 --> 00:31:32,240

where they got the name.

587

00:31:32,240 --> 00:31:36,220

588

00:31:36,220 --> 00:31:38,230

I digress again
to something else.

589

00:31:38,230 --> 00:31:40,360

That what your father's
name in Poland was.

590

00:31:40,360 --> 00:31:41,530

Sure.

591

00:31:41,530 --> 00:31:42,760

Oh, sure.

592

00:31:42,760 --> 00:31:44,000

That's our family name.

593

00:31:44,000 --> 00:31:46,230

That's x, y, z.

594

00:31:46,230 --> 00:31:47,744

That's the name.

595

00:31:47,744 --> 00:31:51,240

What kind of student

were you in school?

596

00:31:51,240 --> 00:31:51,760

What?

597

00:31:51,760 --> 00:31:53,110

What kind of a student were you?

598

00:31:53,110 --> 00:31:53,820

In school?

599

00:31:53,820 --> 00:31:57,900

600

00:31:57,900 --> 00:32:01,460

The word in French

is insouciant--

601

00:32:01,460 --> 00:32:02,300

devil may care.

602

00:32:02,300 --> 00:32:05,670

I really didn't care too much.

603

00:32:05,670 --> 00:32:07,430

I wouldn't say I

was very studious,

604

00:32:07,430 --> 00:32:09,920

but there's some

subjects that I was good.

605

00:32:09,920 --> 00:32:11,480

Some didn't mean anything.

606

00:32:11,480 --> 00:32:16,730

I was always very good in
algebra, calculus, history.

607

00:32:16,730 --> 00:32:18,990

Oh, history was my favorite.

608

00:32:18,990 --> 00:32:25,850

I go back to Charlemagne
in the year 700

609

00:32:25,850 --> 00:32:29,690

and Louis XIV, Louis
XV, all of this.

610

00:32:29,690 --> 00:32:31,130

That was my favorite.

611

00:32:31,130 --> 00:32:37,816

And actually,
calculating was good.

612

00:32:37,816 --> 00:32:40,440

Sciences was nothing for me.

613

00:32:40,440 --> 00:32:48,720

I guess anything that
you don't know too well,

614

00:32:48,720 --> 00:32:52,830

you're not more or
less interested in,

615

00:32:52,830 --> 00:32:54,390

you're not going to be as good.

616

00:32:54,390 --> 00:32:55,890

When you're interested
in something,

617

00:32:55,890 --> 00:32:59,190
you improve because
the interest is there.

618
00:32:59,190 --> 00:33:04,830
And when it comes to calculating
and history, I always--

619
00:33:04,830 --> 00:33:08,610
I play almost every
night Jeopardy on the TV.

620
00:33:08,610 --> 00:33:12,090
And I have fun like heck,
because a lot of times,

621
00:33:12,090 --> 00:33:16,590
they have things that have to
do with France or with sports.

622
00:33:16,590 --> 00:33:20,250
And for instance, last
night, the question

623
00:33:20,250 --> 00:33:27,420
had to do with in
1985, they transplanted

624
00:33:27,420 --> 00:33:30,340
three organs in a human being.

625
00:33:30,340 --> 00:33:33,990
And the question was, what
was these three organs.

626
00:33:33,990 --> 00:33:40,490
And I marked heart, lungs, and--
right now I actually forgot.

627
00:33:40,490 --> 00:33:41,660
And none of them got it.

628
00:33:41,660 --> 00:33:48,800

I had it, because anything you
do, repetition, repetition,

629
00:33:48,800 --> 00:33:50,610
you get good at it.

630
00:33:50,610 --> 00:33:58,820
And my situation with figures,
I am pretty much good at it

631
00:33:58,820 --> 00:34:01,520
because I like it, see?

632
00:34:01,520 --> 00:34:05,450
As far as school is
concerned, I can't recall.

633
00:34:05,450 --> 00:34:06,860
It's a funny thing.

634
00:34:06,860 --> 00:34:10,995
I think my education
started after school?

635
00:34:10,995 --> 00:34:11,870
What about languages?

636
00:34:11,870 --> 00:34:15,580
About five seconds.

637
00:34:15,580 --> 00:34:16,080
All right?

638
00:34:16,080 --> 00:34:16,826
OK, yeah.

639
00:34:16,826 --> 00:34:19,159
We were talking about languages.

640
00:34:19,159 --> 00:34:21,105
What languages you
learned in school.

641
00:34:21,105 --> 00:34:25,370
Basically, in school, we had
two hours a week of German,

642
00:34:25,370 --> 00:34:27,800
because we were so close
to the German border

643
00:34:27,800 --> 00:34:31,688
and it was mandatory.

644
00:34:31,688 --> 00:34:32,980
You could have learned English.

645
00:34:32,980 --> 00:34:35,060
But at that time,
it wasn't mandatory,

646
00:34:35,060 --> 00:34:40,150
and I never thought one iota
that I'd be using English.

647
00:34:40,150 --> 00:34:41,320
Where was I going to go?

648
00:34:41,320 --> 00:34:44,290
Either England or the United
States when you're young.

649
00:34:44,290 --> 00:34:47,110
Your life is in France,
and French people

650
00:34:47,110 --> 00:34:51,699
in general [INAUDIBLE] school at
that time weren't in languages.

651
00:34:51,699 --> 00:34:56,840
They would learn the languages
of close by, which was Italian,

652

00:34:56,840 --> 00:35:01,040
Spanish, which resembles
French, Latin, or German.

653
00:35:01,040 --> 00:35:04,900
The Belgians speak French,
the Swiss speak French.

654
00:35:04,900 --> 00:35:07,540
Therefore, French
was more or less what

655
00:35:07,540 --> 00:35:10,230
English is now in the world.

656
00:35:10,230 --> 00:35:12,640
The international
language was French.

657
00:35:12,640 --> 00:35:19,420
And so I took some German, which
I fast forgot after the war.

658
00:35:19,420 --> 00:35:20,950
And then when I
got to this country

659
00:35:20,950 --> 00:35:24,820
and actually learned
English, my education

660
00:35:24,820 --> 00:35:30,280
started by going to night school
for adults for about a month.

661
00:35:30,280 --> 00:35:32,170
And then I realized
the people that

662
00:35:32,170 --> 00:35:37,090
were going there were to
pass their citizenship exams

663

00:35:37,090 --> 00:35:37,990
and to learn.

664
00:35:37,990 --> 00:35:43,720
And I thought I had
learned through newspapers,

665
00:35:43,720 --> 00:35:45,610
through the movies.

666
00:35:45,610 --> 00:35:47,380
And I got to speak.

667
00:35:47,380 --> 00:35:50,170
The funniest part is, I
know French people, as well

668
00:35:50,170 --> 00:35:52,480
as German people,
have a thick accent

669
00:35:52,480 --> 00:35:54,710
of their country of birth.

670
00:35:54,710 --> 00:35:55,600
I don't know.

671
00:35:55,600 --> 00:36:00,640
To me, I think the ear,
at times, it shows.

672
00:36:00,640 --> 00:36:05,560
But mostly, I lost my
accent of where I was born.

673
00:36:05,560 --> 00:36:07,160
And therefore, that's about all.

674
00:36:07,160 --> 00:36:11,020
Now, my wife being from
Tangier, her family

675

00:36:11,020 --> 00:36:15,520
speaks Spanish and
French from school,

676
00:36:15,520 --> 00:36:21,310
because Tangier is a town
that the school is French.

677
00:36:21,310 --> 00:36:27,070
And Spanish has to do
with the Spanish Morocco.

678
00:36:27,070 --> 00:36:29,860
Tangier was an
international town,

679
00:36:29,860 --> 00:36:31,360
but they spoke both languages.

680
00:36:31,360 --> 00:36:32,740
So they both speak.

681
00:36:32,740 --> 00:36:37,240
So I learned a little bit
Spanish through her family

682
00:36:37,240 --> 00:36:37,930
and her side.

683
00:36:37,930 --> 00:36:41,650
Well, between them, they speak
a lot of Spanish, you see.

684
00:36:41,650 --> 00:36:45,160
And when the ear
gets used to it,

685
00:36:45,160 --> 00:36:49,900
I understand most of
the Spanish they talk.

686
00:36:49,900 --> 00:36:52,660
As a young boy,

thinking of the future,

687

00:36:52,660 --> 00:36:55,510

what did you think you were
going to do when you grew up?

688

00:36:55,510 --> 00:36:59,770

Well, once I got into
the trade of bakery,

689

00:36:59,770 --> 00:37:04,270

I figured I'd eventually be
my own boss in the bakery.

690

00:37:04,270 --> 00:37:06,680

Before that time, did
you have any thoughts?

691

00:37:06,680 --> 00:37:07,180

No.

692

00:37:07,180 --> 00:37:09,280

Before I went to work, no.

693

00:37:09,280 --> 00:37:10,690

Hadn't the slightest idea.

694

00:37:10,690 --> 00:37:15,100

I think the thing that
I enjoyed is there was

695

00:37:15,100 --> 00:37:17,020

a little airport very closeby.

696

00:37:17,020 --> 00:37:19,750

I wanted to learn to fly.

697

00:37:19,750 --> 00:37:22,420

Like kids here say, I
want to be a fireman,

698

00:37:22,420 --> 00:37:26,240

I would have liked to fly, be a pilot, or something like this.

699

00:37:26,240 --> 00:37:29,420

And that's just the only thing I can remember.

700

00:37:29,420 --> 00:37:33,430

And the only way would have been to continue

701

00:37:33,430 --> 00:37:39,100

to go to school and to college, and then

702

00:37:39,100 --> 00:37:42,360

go to a military school and stuff like that.

703

00:37:42,360 --> 00:37:47,540

That's what I had in mind prior to going to work as a kid.

704

00:37:47,540 --> 00:37:52,430

I thought it was glamorous to be a pilot, something

705

00:37:52,430 --> 00:37:54,100

I would have liked to.

706

00:37:54,100 --> 00:37:56,320

I don't know if I would have succeeded,

707

00:37:56,320 --> 00:37:59,920

but the war ended all of these dreams.

708

00:37:59,920 --> 00:38:04,450

Did you know that your aunt had sent steamship tickets

709

00:38:04,450 --> 00:38:06,730

or whatever to your
parents at that time?

710
00:38:06,730 --> 00:38:07,330
No.

711
00:38:07,330 --> 00:38:12,010
I knew, but I never
thought of it.

712
00:38:12,010 --> 00:38:15,700
Because you've got to realize,
in the '30s, when you get mail

713
00:38:15,700 --> 00:38:20,410
from far away, it looks
like millions of miles away.

714
00:38:20,410 --> 00:38:22,970
Like nowadays, it's
common practice,

715
00:38:22,970 --> 00:38:27,160
you fly direct Paris to San
Francisco, Paris to New York.

716
00:38:27,160 --> 00:38:30,820
In those years, if you took
the ship, it took a week.

717
00:38:30,820 --> 00:38:34,750
And to us, it was so far away,
we never thought of a thing

718
00:38:34,750 --> 00:38:35,450
to do.

719
00:38:35,450 --> 00:38:39,940
First of all, my parents
were so old-fashioned,

720
00:38:39,940 --> 00:38:42,970
the first we went

away was 100 miles.

721

00:38:42,970 --> 00:38:47,600

And then you didn't even go by
car because they had no car.

722

00:38:47,600 --> 00:38:51,700

So you took a bus or
a trolley that would

723

00:38:51,700 --> 00:38:56,040

go some 30 miles in that area.

724

00:38:56,040 --> 00:38:58,830

725

00:38:58,830 --> 00:39:04,960

But as I said, that was part of
my subconscious, if you want.

726

00:39:04,960 --> 00:39:10,360

Because of the stamp, I remember
seeing this envelope in 1946

727

00:39:10,360 --> 00:39:13,090

when I was with these
people that were leaving,

728

00:39:13,090 --> 00:39:16,400

it dawned on me Williams
Avenue, Brooklyn, New York.

729

00:39:16,400 --> 00:39:17,690

That's how I sent it.

730

00:39:17,690 --> 00:39:20,750

No number of the street.

731

00:39:20,750 --> 00:39:23,600

Packard, because
in France, there

732

00:39:23,600 --> 00:39:25,970
was a car called a Packard--

733
00:39:25,970 --> 00:39:28,640
P- A- C- K- A- R- D-.

734
00:39:28,640 --> 00:39:34,160
And I remember the name was
Packard, something like that.

735
00:39:34,160 --> 00:39:37,370
And it had Williams Avenue,
and they got the letter.

736
00:39:37,370 --> 00:39:39,800
The biggest surprise was
when I got an answer.

737
00:39:39,800 --> 00:39:42,455
I just did this on a lark.

738
00:39:42,455 --> 00:39:44,330
I never figured I was
going to get an answer.

739
00:39:44,330 --> 00:39:45,980
I knew she couldn't
speak French,

740
00:39:45,980 --> 00:39:49,100
and the only way I could
write a letter was in French.

741
00:39:49,100 --> 00:39:52,640
But once we got in contact,
I have a postcard with me

742
00:39:52,640 --> 00:39:56,590
that I sent from
Paris in English.

743
00:39:56,590 --> 00:39:58,495
I remember one sentence I wrote.

744

00:39:58,495 --> 00:40:04,210

"Tomorrow I was at the embassy,
tomorrow I was at the embassy."

745

00:40:04,210 --> 00:40:06,460

The embassy was where I
was going to get a visa

746

00:40:06,460 --> 00:40:07,720

to come to the United States.

747

00:40:07,720 --> 00:40:09,910

So I looked at a
dictionary, I guess,

748

00:40:09,910 --> 00:40:11,590

and I wanted to say yesterday.

749

00:40:11,590 --> 00:40:13,750

I put tomorrow.

750

00:40:13,750 --> 00:40:17,140

My handwriting even
changed for my life over --

751

00:40:17,140 --> 00:40:18,310

Maurice.

752

00:40:18,310 --> 00:40:21,250

My M is pointy.

753

00:40:21,250 --> 00:40:23,320

Here, it's rounded.

754

00:40:23,320 --> 00:40:24,940

How do I change?

755

00:40:24,940 --> 00:40:25,780

Don't ask me.

756

00:40:25,780 --> 00:40:30,700
It became a natural transition.

757
00:40:30,700 --> 00:40:33,880
The human being is the
same, but a lot of things

758
00:40:33,880 --> 00:40:39,070
have changed, to a
sense that, as I said,

759
00:40:39,070 --> 00:40:42,370
to remember even what I said
about my parents is a miracle.

760
00:40:42,370 --> 00:40:45,010
Because believe
me, I can tell you

761
00:40:45,010 --> 00:40:49,140
about what happens is
'45, that's clearer,

762
00:40:49,140 --> 00:40:53,160
because not only is
it closer to two now,

763
00:40:53,160 --> 00:40:56,020
but more memorable to me.

764
00:40:56,020 --> 00:40:58,650
You see, I have another
thing that I usually do.

765
00:40:58,650 --> 00:41:01,740
A lot of good things happen
to me and a lot of bad things.

766
00:41:01,740 --> 00:41:05,250
And the bad things, I try as
much as possible to say they

767
00:41:05,250 --> 00:41:07,140

didn't exist there.

768

00:41:07,140 --> 00:41:09,930

No, only good things
happened to me.

769

00:41:09,930 --> 00:41:13,170

Therefore, if you talk about
good things, I can remember.

770

00:41:13,170 --> 00:41:16,260

And when it comes to--

771

00:41:16,260 --> 00:41:21,510

even if I did, let's say, get
involved here in investment

772

00:41:21,510 --> 00:41:23,610

and I lost money, I
don't remember that.

773

00:41:23,610 --> 00:41:25,590

But when I've made
money on stock,

774

00:41:25,590 --> 00:41:26,895

for instance, that I remember.

775

00:41:26,895 --> 00:41:27,720

[LAUGHS]

776

00:41:27,720 --> 00:41:30,030

That gives you an idea of
what I'm trying to say--

777

00:41:30,030 --> 00:41:31,770

that you do remember.

778

00:41:31,770 --> 00:41:36,600

And it's so far away
in my past that it's

779

00:41:36,600 --> 00:41:41,790
going to be a while for me,
more or less, to go back.

780
00:41:41,790 --> 00:41:43,530
You know what I think?

781
00:41:43,530 --> 00:41:47,070
If I were at home and
looking at pictures,

782
00:41:47,070 --> 00:41:48,400
something would come back.

783
00:41:48,400 --> 00:41:51,120

784
00:41:51,120 --> 00:41:52,920
You asked me about language.

785
00:41:52,920 --> 00:41:57,810
It was not one thing
that I was looking for.

786
00:41:57,810 --> 00:42:02,060
It's just a question of
what environment you're in,

787
00:42:02,060 --> 00:42:06,450
and I was in an environment
where French was the language.

788
00:42:06,450 --> 00:42:08,820
Nowadays, it's more
internationalized

789
00:42:08,820 --> 00:42:10,320
because we're so close.

790
00:42:10,320 --> 00:42:12,870
You go to Germany, you go
to France, a lot of people

791

00:42:12,870 --> 00:42:14,100
speak English.

792

00:42:14,100 --> 00:42:18,960
It became more natural to learn
a foreign language than it

793

00:42:18,960 --> 00:42:21,990
was at that time, although
some people go to school

794

00:42:21,990 --> 00:42:24,540
and learn Russian or
Chinese or Japanese,

795

00:42:24,540 --> 00:42:26,820
whatever, because
that's what they like

796

00:42:26,820 --> 00:42:28,600
and that's what they want to do.

797

00:42:28,600 --> 00:42:30,870
In my case, I was in
the food business.

798

00:42:30,870 --> 00:42:34,770
And all I needed to do is how
to make a recipe of something,

799

00:42:34,770 --> 00:42:39,645
and come out with something
that was edible, successful.

800

00:42:39,645 --> 00:42:42,862
Were you consulted about being
an apprentice to a baker?

801

00:42:42,862 --> 00:42:44,820
Did your parents ask you
whether you wanted it,

802

00:42:44,820 --> 00:42:46,170
or did they tell you this is it?

803
00:42:46,170 --> 00:42:47,790
No, no.

804
00:42:47,790 --> 00:42:51,300
Basically my father said
to me, for your future,

805
00:42:51,300 --> 00:42:54,280
it'd be a good idea if
you learned a trade.

806
00:42:54,280 --> 00:43:00,960
The question was a trade
versus intellectual college.

807
00:43:00,960 --> 00:43:03,270
Because on the
trade at that time,

808
00:43:03,270 --> 00:43:07,860
it meant you'll always
earn a living with food.

809
00:43:07,860 --> 00:43:12,360
So being my mother
had a butcher shop

810
00:43:12,360 --> 00:43:14,940
when she was younger
in Poland, they

811
00:43:14,940 --> 00:43:18,450
were trying to get
me to be a butcher.

812
00:43:18,450 --> 00:43:19,650
That wasn't for me.

813
00:43:19,650 --> 00:43:22,000
I really didn't care.

814
00:43:22,000 --> 00:43:25,320
So when I said, well,
I'd rather be a baker,

815
00:43:25,320 --> 00:43:28,380
I went as an apprentice to
a place in the same town

816
00:43:28,380 --> 00:43:29,410
we lived.

817
00:43:29,410 --> 00:43:32,130
I lasted a week.

818
00:43:32,130 --> 00:43:35,310
Like I said, I wasn't
used to work at 14.

819
00:43:35,310 --> 00:43:38,040
And I came home at
night, I was completely

820
00:43:38,040 --> 00:43:41,370
covered with all
kinds of goop on me.

821
00:43:41,370 --> 00:43:47,550
And it was not the place
to be, because although it

822
00:43:47,550 --> 00:43:51,000
was a bakery, it wasn't
in the sense something

823
00:43:51,000 --> 00:43:52,860
you can build a future on.

824
00:43:52,860 --> 00:43:57,840
And then in August, when I
went to Metz in the main town,

825

00:43:57,840 --> 00:44:00,540
this guy was a good baker.

826
00:44:00,540 --> 00:44:04,320
And we signed a
contract for three years

827
00:44:04,320 --> 00:44:06,780
that I would be working for him.

828
00:44:06,780 --> 00:44:11,070
And in those years,
that's what they did.

829
00:44:11,070 --> 00:44:13,080
That doesn't exist
anymore now, no.

830
00:44:13,080 --> 00:44:17,880
Well, there was room and board,
so I slept there, got fed.

831
00:44:17,880 --> 00:44:25,590
And I got experiences
there that were very funny.

832
00:44:25,590 --> 00:44:29,400
You got to realize,
bakery is also a business

833
00:44:29,400 --> 00:44:32,580
that is very busy on holidays.

834
00:44:32,580 --> 00:44:36,090
And in the summer, people go
on vacation and it's warm.

835
00:44:36,090 --> 00:44:39,670
People eat less sweets,
even in those days.

836
00:44:39,670 --> 00:44:43,870
So because you have room and

board, you had to do something.

837

00:44:43,870 --> 00:44:48,810

So the boss would buy
almonds in the skin,

838

00:44:48,810 --> 00:44:52,980

100 kilo in a sack, which
is about 220 pounds.

839

00:44:52,980 --> 00:44:58,140

And we would use a copper
kettle, boiling water,

840

00:44:58,140 --> 00:45:00,120

put these almonds in there.

841

00:45:00,120 --> 00:45:03,340

And then we had a marble table.

842

00:45:03,340 --> 00:45:05,460

We were three apprentices.

843

00:45:05,460 --> 00:45:09,630

And we had, when it cooled off,
taken some almonds on the table

844

00:45:09,630 --> 00:45:13,350

and squeeze the
almonds on that table.

845

00:45:13,350 --> 00:45:17,970

And they would come out of
the skin blanched, but wet.

846

00:45:17,970 --> 00:45:19,980

And the skin, we
would discard, and we

847

00:45:19,980 --> 00:45:21,600

had these blanched almonds.

848

00:45:21,600 --> 00:45:27,090

During the season, we used
to make a sliced almond

849

00:45:27,090 --> 00:45:28,410

with chocolate.

850

00:45:28,410 --> 00:45:33,900

We would make a pastry
where you mix 50% sugar

851

00:45:33,900 --> 00:45:39,450

and have two marble rollers
that would grind this,

852

00:45:39,450 --> 00:45:41,940

but not till the oil
comes out of the almond--

853

00:45:41,940 --> 00:45:43,410

just a powder.

854

00:45:43,410 --> 00:45:46,620

Then you sift 50% of
sugar, 50% of that.

855

00:45:46,620 --> 00:45:50,550

And you whip egg whites and
blend this all together,

856

00:45:50,550 --> 00:45:53,050

and you made cakes out of it.

857

00:45:53,050 --> 00:45:56,790

In other words, you made
on a sheet like a snail,

858

00:45:56,790 --> 00:45:57,913

about this big.

859

00:45:57,913 --> 00:45:59,580

And then you put
buttercream in between.

860
00:45:59,580 --> 00:46:01,140
You had a cake this high.

861
00:46:01,140 --> 00:46:03,360
And that's what the
almonds were for.

862
00:46:03,360 --> 00:46:06,420
Now, during the summer
with the dish, we made jam.

863
00:46:06,420 --> 00:46:09,090
We got fresh apricots
on the market.

864
00:46:09,090 --> 00:46:11,550
We made our own jam
for the whole center.

865
00:46:11,550 --> 00:46:16,470
Jam is, I call it, the
lipstick of the bakery,

866
00:46:16,470 --> 00:46:19,740
because if you, let's say,
make an apple cake or peach

867
00:46:19,740 --> 00:46:22,770
cake, coming out of
the oven, it looks

868
00:46:22,770 --> 00:46:26,190
wrinkled and an odd color.

869
00:46:26,190 --> 00:46:29,250
You put some apricot
jam as the lipstick,

870
00:46:29,250 --> 00:46:32,190
and that thing shines, you see.

871

00:46:32,190 --> 00:46:35,790
OK, coming back to these
almonds, so we're here,

872
00:46:35,790 --> 00:46:38,460
and we're getting bored--
one hour, two hours.

873
00:46:38,460 --> 00:46:42,700
So one guy says to me,
look, can you do what I do?

874
00:46:42,700 --> 00:46:44,700
He threw up in the air,
catches it in his mouth.

875
00:46:44,700 --> 00:46:47,100
And he says, let's make
a little bet who can

876
00:46:47,100 --> 00:46:50,400
catch the most of them as fun.

877
00:46:50,400 --> 00:46:54,090
The boss was in an
office over there.

878
00:46:54,090 --> 00:46:55,740
All of a sudden,
he looks around.

879
00:46:55,740 --> 00:46:58,227
What are you doing there?

880
00:46:58,227 --> 00:46:59,310
He saw what we were doing.

881
00:46:59,310 --> 00:47:01,320
He said, OK, you
continue to work.

882
00:47:01,320 --> 00:47:05,900
But as of now, I want you

to whistle all the time.

883
00:47:05,900 --> 00:47:07,500
So stop wasting
time and come back.

884
00:47:07,500 --> 00:47:08,000
So we--

885
00:47:08,000 --> 00:47:10,300
[WHISTLING]

886
00:47:10,300 --> 00:47:11,394
--we were whistling.

887
00:47:11,394 --> 00:47:13,250
[LAUGHS]

888
00:47:13,250 --> 00:47:15,980
But this is a
commentary on how you

889
00:47:15,980 --> 00:47:18,410
get bored in doing something.

890
00:47:18,410 --> 00:47:20,750
And the boss, naturally,
he didn't want

891
00:47:20,750 --> 00:47:22,820
you to put them in your mouth.

892
00:47:22,820 --> 00:47:25,200
But as kids, what
are you going to do?

893
00:47:25,200 --> 00:47:28,698
I was 15, 16 at the time.

894
00:47:28,698 --> 00:47:30,740
Different things had
happened in the bakery where

895
00:47:30,740 --> 00:47:37,350
the boss showed authority.

896
00:47:37,350 --> 00:47:42,840
Easter in 1937,
'38, we had a doctor

897
00:47:42,840 --> 00:47:48,060
that ordered miniature pastries,
which means eclairs no bigger

898
00:47:48,060 --> 00:47:53,160
than a half a finger, napoleons
no bigger than a finger.

899
00:47:53,160 --> 00:47:57,750
And he ordered two trays.

900
00:47:57,750 --> 00:48:04,370
I had to deliver on Sunday
morning of Easter 1937 or '38.

901
00:48:04,370 --> 00:48:06,300
Now, I go on the bicycle.

902
00:48:06,300 --> 00:48:08,790
And I have this in
my hand and ride.

903
00:48:08,790 --> 00:48:10,530
I come to the place.

904
00:48:10,530 --> 00:48:12,630
The doctor-- [Personal
name] was his name.

905
00:48:12,630 --> 00:48:14,940
I remember his name.

906
00:48:14,940 --> 00:48:18,750
Entrance of the delivery

people was on the side.

907

00:48:18,750 --> 00:48:20,430

Come up, I rang.

908

00:48:20,430 --> 00:48:23,250

The maid comes out,
and I want to go in

909

00:48:23,250 --> 00:48:27,240

to take those trays that
were in a metal box.

910

00:48:27,240 --> 00:48:29,910

One tray on the bottom,
a suspension in between,

911

00:48:29,910 --> 00:48:32,842

the second tray on top, OK?

912

00:48:32,842 --> 00:48:34,050

She doesn't want me to go in.

913

00:48:34,050 --> 00:48:35,640

She says, I'll take care of it.

914

00:48:35,640 --> 00:48:37,230

She takes out one tray.

915

00:48:37,230 --> 00:48:39,930

She doesn't take the
tray from underneath.

916

00:48:39,930 --> 00:48:42,870

It's so light, I never felt that
there was something in there.

917

00:48:42,870 --> 00:48:44,880

I put the bicycle handle--

918

00:48:44,880 --> 00:48:48,290

I put the box, and here I come

running home with my cheeks

919

00:48:48,290 --> 00:48:50,410

all red from the cold.

920

00:48:50,410 --> 00:48:52,620

I get in, the boss

goes bang bang.

921

00:48:52,620 --> 00:48:55,120

Gives me two on my face.

922

00:48:55,120 --> 00:48:57,180

I said, what did I do.

923

00:48:57,180 --> 00:48:58,320

The doctor called.

924

00:48:58,320 --> 00:48:59,505

He ordered two trays.

925

00:48:59,505 --> 00:49:00,900

You only delivered one?

926

00:49:00,900 --> 00:49:02,340

What happened to the other?

927

00:49:02,340 --> 00:49:04,470

I said, the maid

didn't let me go in.

928

00:49:04,470 --> 00:49:07,470

So these things

stay in your mind

929

00:49:07,470 --> 00:49:10,260

how it could have

been avoided, and how

930

00:49:10,260 --> 00:49:15,290

to boss, for his

patrons, he wanted

931
00:49:15,290 --> 00:49:17,620
to not lose his customer.

932
00:49:17,620 --> 00:49:19,350
So that's what happened.

933
00:49:19,350 --> 00:49:21,780
You get corporally hit.

934
00:49:21,780 --> 00:49:24,520

935
00:49:24,520 --> 00:49:28,600
Again, I just give you a
commentary of different things

936
00:49:28,600 --> 00:49:32,620
that happened to me while I was
an apprentice in this bakery.

937
00:49:32,620 --> 00:49:35,200
And I don't keep a
grudge against this guy,

938
00:49:35,200 --> 00:49:39,490
because what he did
to me is changed me

939
00:49:39,490 --> 00:49:42,490
from a loose guy that didn't
know where tomorrow he's

940
00:49:42,490 --> 00:49:44,650
going to do or what his
future is going to be.

941
00:49:44,650 --> 00:49:47,920
He put me in a direction
to enjoy my work,

942
00:49:47,920 --> 00:49:51,170

and be hardened for it.

943

00:49:51,170 --> 00:49:52,130

I went in the army.

944

00:49:52,130 --> 00:49:55,160

I laughed when the guys crabbed
about what they had to do.

945

00:49:55,160 --> 00:50:00,700

I felt it was not so bad
because the hard life I had

946

00:50:00,700 --> 00:50:03,070

in the three years I was there.

947

00:50:03,070 --> 00:50:08,290

We slept in a room where there
was no windows and no heat.

948

00:50:08,290 --> 00:50:10,990

In the winter, we were freezing.

949

00:50:10,990 --> 00:50:12,760

And how did we go to work?

950

00:50:12,760 --> 00:50:17,860

The boss lived underneath and
he rang a bell to wake us up.

951

00:50:17,860 --> 00:50:20,950

And where the bell was in the
room was back in the corner.

952

00:50:20,950 --> 00:50:22,990

And there was a cage
around the bell,

953

00:50:22,990 --> 00:50:26,860

because previously, the
guys that slept there,

954

00:50:26,860 --> 00:50:28,510
for him to stop
ringing, they had

955
00:50:28,510 --> 00:50:32,680
to bang on the floor with the
shoes to tell them they're up.

956
00:50:32,680 --> 00:50:35,650
And they got so mad, they
used to knock the bell out.

957
00:50:35,650 --> 00:50:39,190
So he put a wired cage.

958
00:50:39,190 --> 00:50:45,125
That wired cage would be
making more noise like an echo.

959
00:50:45,125 --> 00:50:47,440
Now you see, this
is the thing that

960
00:50:47,440 --> 00:50:52,210
happens, which in this
country you wouldn't see--

961
00:50:52,210 --> 00:50:55,060
maybe 100 years ago.

962
00:50:55,060 --> 00:50:57,820
And you go through
this apprenticeship.

963
00:50:57,820 --> 00:51:00,310
And the reason I bring
it up is to give you

964
00:51:00,310 --> 00:51:04,990
a background that I had, and
how little by little things

965
00:51:04,990 --> 00:51:09,880

changed to a point where
it got bad, but not as bad

966
00:51:09,880 --> 00:51:12,645
because you started
off on a bad setup.

967
00:51:12,645 --> 00:51:14,020
Then when I came
to this country,

968
00:51:14,020 --> 00:51:17,590
everything really
didn't matter anymore

969
00:51:17,590 --> 00:51:20,230
because it's a
different country.

970
00:51:20,230 --> 00:51:23,070
During this time, in the
middle and late 1930s,

971
00:51:23,070 --> 00:51:25,360
did you know what was
going on with Germany?

972
00:51:25,360 --> 00:51:27,950
No, not at all.

973
00:51:27,950 --> 00:51:32,507
Not so much about the camps.

974
00:51:32,507 --> 00:51:33,340
That, I didn't know.

975
00:51:33,340 --> 00:51:37,930
But I knew in '33, we
had a radio at home,

976
00:51:37,930 --> 00:51:39,470
and I could hear--

977

00:51:39,470 --> 00:51:44,800
sometimes by turning the dial
you would hit a German station.

978

00:51:44,800 --> 00:51:46,750
And you'd hear Hitler
making speeches,

979

00:51:46,750 --> 00:51:48,940
and they would scream.

980

00:51:48,940 --> 00:51:53,830
But being it's in
Germany, my idea

981

00:51:53,830 --> 00:51:57,460
was that it's an inner
Germany problem that

982

00:51:57,460 --> 00:51:59,377
had nothing to do with us.

983

00:51:59,377 --> 00:52:01,210
We lived in a different
country, although we

984

00:52:01,210 --> 00:52:02,770
were very close to the border.

985

00:52:02,770 --> 00:52:05,540
And that's about the only thing
I can remember in the '30s.

986

00:52:05,540 --> 00:52:12,640
'33 was when Hitler took power.

987

00:52:12,640 --> 00:52:17,320
And I guess I heard on the
radio the noise that you

988

00:52:17,320 --> 00:52:20,260
can hear sometimes when they

show your old film where

989

00:52:20,260 --> 00:52:23,440

the Germans would get
together and they would holler

990

00:52:23,440 --> 00:52:27,070

about when he made speeches.

991

00:52:27,070 --> 00:52:28,960

That's what I can recall.

992

00:52:28,960 --> 00:52:31,840

Did you have-- you knew
about the anti-Semitism

993

00:52:31,840 --> 00:52:34,612

in Germany and the laws there.

994

00:52:34,612 --> 00:52:36,820

So you didn't have any fear
or a sense of foreboding?

995

00:52:36,820 --> 00:52:39,220

No, not at all.

996

00:52:39,220 --> 00:52:42,160

Basically because when
you're that young,

997

00:52:42,160 --> 00:52:46,390

you don't emphasize
on these things,

998

00:52:46,390 --> 00:52:50,980

because you put your
mind on other things

999

00:52:50,980 --> 00:52:55,060

than either politics
or things that

1000

00:52:55,060 --> 00:53:00,280
have to do with antisemitism
because it never

1001
00:53:00,280 --> 00:53:01,690
entered my mind--

1002
00:53:01,690 --> 00:53:04,600
not at that time at all.

1003
00:53:04,600 --> 00:53:06,860
Were your parents
politically involved?

1004
00:53:06,860 --> 00:53:09,276
No, no.

1005
00:53:09,276 --> 00:53:12,110
And what was a typical
day like in Metz

1006
00:53:12,110 --> 00:53:14,750
when you were an apprentice?

1007
00:53:14,750 --> 00:53:16,660
In Metz when I
was an apprentice?

1008
00:53:16,660 --> 00:53:17,710
Yes.

1009
00:53:17,710 --> 00:53:20,785
Well, it has nothing
to do with my parents?

1010
00:53:20,785 --> 00:53:21,490
No.

1011
00:53:21,490 --> 00:53:25,600
OK, a typical day I got
up at 6:00 in the morning

1012

00:53:25,600 --> 00:53:27,310
when he rang that bell.

1013
00:53:27,310 --> 00:53:30,350
And we worked in the bakery.

1014
00:53:30,350 --> 00:53:35,050
Usually, you had to prepare
for a particular order.

1015
00:53:35,050 --> 00:53:40,510
We had a daily order for
the military of croissants,

1016
00:53:40,510 --> 00:53:43,870
and the order was 1,000
croissants every morning

1017
00:53:43,870 --> 00:53:47,380
So what we had to do is, the day
before, we prepared the dough.

1018
00:53:47,380 --> 00:53:48,640
Let it rise overnight.

1019
00:53:48,640 --> 00:53:53,470
And then we had a sheeter, which
is instead of rolling out one

1020
00:53:53,470 --> 00:53:56,740
by one, we had
automatic rollers,

1021
00:53:56,740 --> 00:53:59,030
and would cut them out.

1022
00:53:59,030 --> 00:54:02,450
And then we would
shape them on a tray.

1023
00:54:02,450 --> 00:54:05,120
And the very first
day of work, my boss

1024
00:54:05,120 --> 00:54:06,500
said to me, you
know you're going

1025
00:54:06,500 --> 00:54:09,710
to be a painter before
you become a baker.

1026
00:54:09,710 --> 00:54:12,890
When I looked at
him, he handed me

1027
00:54:12,890 --> 00:54:17,180
a container that had eggs
beaten up in a brush.

1028
00:54:17,180 --> 00:54:19,907
And they had to brush the
eggs on every croissant.

1029
00:54:19,907 --> 00:54:22,490
Then they would go in the oven,
and then they would get baked.

1030
00:54:22,490 --> 00:54:24,890
So I was a painter
of the croissant.

1031
00:54:24,890 --> 00:54:26,630
And that's my first job.

1032
00:54:26,630 --> 00:54:31,370
And that was in December
that I learned how

1033
00:54:31,370 --> 00:54:34,505
to work with liqueur candies.

1034
00:54:34,505 --> 00:54:37,880

1035

00:54:37,880 --> 00:54:40,460

Again, because of
the labor situation,

1036

00:54:40,460 --> 00:54:44,510

that he had no money
to disburse for us,

1037

00:54:44,510 --> 00:54:49,700

he had us prepare these candies.

1038

00:54:49,700 --> 00:54:56,000

And the shape of the candy
had to be molded into starch.

1039

00:54:56,000 --> 00:55:01,460

The starch was a box this
high and about this long

1040

00:55:01,460 --> 00:55:03,950

and this wide full of starch.

1041

00:55:03,950 --> 00:55:06,500

And then you had a
piece of wood this long,

1042

00:55:06,500 --> 00:55:11,540

and there was, like, teeth the
shape of a candy on that board.

1043

00:55:11,540 --> 00:55:15,860

Then you pressed into
the starch, this board.

1044

00:55:15,860 --> 00:55:20,150

And it made a hole the size of
the candy, one after the other,

1045

00:55:20,150 --> 00:55:22,340

until you had about 20 rows

1046

00:55:22,340 --> 00:55:27,780

You cooked in a copper kettle

sugar at a certain degree.

1047
00:55:27,780 --> 00:55:32,430
Then you added either rum
or Kirsch, or whatever

1048
00:55:32,430 --> 00:55:34,650
liqueur you wanted to make.

1049
00:55:34,650 --> 00:55:38,040
And it went through what
looked like a strainer,

1050
00:55:38,040 --> 00:55:40,950
but it had just a little
hole like this in the bottom.

1051
00:55:40,950 --> 00:55:43,920
And you had a stick that
you closed the hole, poured

1052
00:55:43,920 --> 00:55:45,060
that liquid in there.

1053
00:55:45,060 --> 00:55:48,750
And over each hole
in the starch,

1054
00:55:48,750 --> 00:55:51,150
you filled it with that liquid.

1055
00:55:51,150 --> 00:55:53,340
Then when it stays
a little while,

1056
00:55:53,340 --> 00:55:59,920
the sugar that was cooked at
a certain degree gets a crust.

1057
00:55:59,920 --> 00:56:04,150
And you leave it
overnight in a steam room,

1058

00:56:04,150 --> 00:56:07,570

which is a little better
than a room temperature.

1059

00:56:07,570 --> 00:56:08,800

They dry out.

1060

00:56:08,800 --> 00:56:10,870

The liqueur is like antifreeze.

1061

00:56:10,870 --> 00:56:12,880

It stays liquid inside.

1062

00:56:12,880 --> 00:56:16,360

The exterior is
that crust of sugar.

1063

00:56:16,360 --> 00:56:21,190

And then you take one by
one with a shaving brush--

1064

00:56:21,190 --> 00:56:23,230

in those days when you
shaved with a brush.

1065

00:56:23,230 --> 00:56:27,340

That brush, you wiped off
every bit of that starch

1066

00:56:27,340 --> 00:56:28,630

and you put them on a tray.

1067

00:56:28,630 --> 00:56:31,450

And the boss would, in a
special [INAUDIBLE] room,

1068

00:56:31,450 --> 00:56:32,710

have melted chocolate.

1069

00:56:32,710 --> 00:56:37,990

Dip it with a two-prong
fork into the chocolate.

1070
00:56:37,990 --> 00:56:40,030
Take it out on a tray.

1071
00:56:40,030 --> 00:56:40,900
And that's it.

1072
00:56:40,900 --> 00:56:46,540
When they were ready, it was
sold in a Limoge type of tray.

1073
00:56:46,540 --> 00:56:50,500
Nothing, not cardboard,
but it was Limoge.

1074
00:56:50,500 --> 00:56:52,570
That cost more than the candy.

1075
00:56:52,570 --> 00:56:54,850
But I remember taking
one home one time

1076
00:56:54,850 --> 00:56:58,120
for my folks for the holidays.

1077
00:56:58,120 --> 00:57:01,810
And that's how I learned
in '36 to make candy--

1078
00:57:01,810 --> 00:57:02,980
the liqueur candy.

1079
00:57:02,980 --> 00:57:05,210
And they don't make them
here, because first of all,

1080
00:57:05,210 --> 00:57:06,230
it's against the law.

1081
00:57:06,230 --> 00:57:07,690
You can't make liqueur candy.

1082

00:57:07,690 --> 00:57:09,160

In Europe, they do.

1083

00:57:09,160 --> 00:57:13,660

And I learned how to make
eclairs, basically yeast

1084

00:57:13,660 --> 00:57:15,670

doughs, all in the first year.

1085

00:57:15,670 --> 00:57:18,430

I would say after 18 months
working in this place,

1086

00:57:18,430 --> 00:57:22,000

you could have gone
out and got a job.

1087

00:57:22,000 --> 00:57:23,300

I'll give you another example.

1088

00:57:23,300 --> 00:57:26,080

When I finished
in the third year,

1089

00:57:26,080 --> 00:57:29,980

to give me my diploma
degree of baker,

1090

00:57:29,980 --> 00:57:34,930

I had to go one day
to another bakery

1091

00:57:34,930 --> 00:57:39,580

in the association of bakers,
and I to pick up a name.

1092

00:57:39,580 --> 00:57:42,310

We had to go to the-- not
a Chamber of Commerce,

1093

00:57:42,310 --> 00:57:44,890

but a Chamber of Trades.

1094

00:57:44,890 --> 00:57:48,220

And they had a hat with all
the bakeries and a name.

1095

00:57:48,220 --> 00:57:49,240

And you pick one name.

1096

00:57:49,240 --> 00:57:51,370

And then you read the name,
you have to go and work

1097

00:57:51,370 --> 00:57:52,477

for the guy for the day.

1098

00:57:52,477 --> 00:57:54,310

Whatever he asked you
to do, you have to do.

1099

00:57:54,310 --> 00:57:57,790

And then he grades you, and it
goes to the Chamber of Trade.

1100

00:57:57,790 --> 00:58:02,650

And then at the same time, by
the end of your third year,

1101

00:58:02,650 --> 00:58:08,080

to get your diploma, there
has to be a special cake

1102

00:58:08,080 --> 00:58:12,280

that you have to bake,
like a signature cake.

1103

00:58:12,280 --> 00:58:15,220

Now, I had at that
time a book that

1104

00:58:15,220 --> 00:58:19,540

was called La culinaire moderne,
which means the modern culinary

1105
00:58:19,540 --> 00:58:21,070
art.

1106
00:58:21,070 --> 00:58:24,230
In there was a
picture of a cake--

1107
00:58:24,230 --> 00:58:25,130
listen to this.

1108
00:58:25,130 --> 00:58:28,440
I was never in the idea of
coming to the United States.

1109
00:58:28,440 --> 00:58:31,190
There was a cake
made with marzipan.

1110
00:58:31,190 --> 00:58:35,240
Half was the American flag,
half was a French flag,

1111
00:58:35,240 --> 00:58:38,600
blue, white, and red--
bleu, blanc, rouge.

1112
00:58:38,600 --> 00:58:39,660
That was the French flag.

1113
00:58:39,660 --> 00:58:42,460
It was like an emblem.

1114
00:58:42,460 --> 00:58:45,640
In French, it's called *Ã©cusson*.

1115
00:58:45,640 --> 00:58:47,170
It's shaped like this.

1116
00:58:47,170 --> 00:58:49,810
So it was a cake
covered with marzipan.

1117
00:58:49,810 --> 00:58:53,430
And on top, it said "Lafayette."

1118
00:58:53,430 --> 00:58:57,270
It was that year some
kind of a birthday,

1119
00:58:57,270 --> 00:59:00,510
or it was an
anniversary of Lafayette

1120
00:59:00,510 --> 00:59:01,810
coming to this country.

1121
00:59:01,810 --> 00:59:06,600
That's what I presented at
the fair, my signature cake.

1122
00:59:06,600 --> 00:59:08,850
And that was in 1939.

1123
00:59:08,850 --> 00:59:11,790
Never any idea I'd be
in the United States.

1124
00:59:11,790 --> 00:59:14,490
And I did this.

1125
00:59:14,490 --> 00:59:17,700
Naturally, during the
war, I lost that book.

1126
00:59:17,700 --> 00:59:21,990
My friend Paul-- and I'm
still friendly from 1939,

1127
00:59:21,990 --> 00:59:25,380
over 50 years, got me the
book in the early '60s

1128
00:59:25,380 --> 00:59:26,740

when I was in this country.

1129

00:59:26,740 --> 00:59:27,790

And he sent it to me.

1130

00:59:27,790 --> 00:59:30,780

So I got that book at home,
and that picture of that cake

1131

00:59:30,780 --> 00:59:32,550

is in that book.

1132

00:59:32,550 --> 00:59:35,190

So you see how hard life can be.

1133

00:59:35,190 --> 00:59:38,400

I had not the slightest idea.

1134

00:59:38,400 --> 00:59:40,530

You see, the thing
you had to understand,

1135

00:59:40,530 --> 00:59:46,800

the right thing to do was make
what's called a piece montee.

1136

00:59:46,800 --> 00:59:50,130

It's a tiered cake.

1137

00:59:50,130 --> 00:59:54,315

And some guy made
a cake with nougat.

1138

00:59:54,315 --> 00:59:57,570

It's made with nuts and brown--

1139

00:59:57,570 --> 00:59:59,340

it's like candy.

1140

00:59:59,340 --> 01:00:01,290

And it had all kinds of things.

1141

01:00:01,290 --> 01:00:04,620

But if it's humid outside,
the thing starts to melt.

1142

01:00:04,620 --> 01:00:08,620

He got to the fair with
that cake, it fell apart.

1143

01:00:08,620 --> 01:00:13,170

And I remember that thing, that
this guy made a much nicer cake

1144

01:00:13,170 --> 01:00:14,530

than I did.

1145

01:00:14,530 --> 01:00:18,150

But it was not practical
to transport anyplace,

1146

01:00:18,150 --> 01:00:20,040

except if you made him--

1147

01:00:20,040 --> 01:00:22,290

San Francisco, there's
a guy on Union Street.

1148

01:00:22,290 --> 01:00:24,990

He's a very good
French pastry man.

1149

01:00:24,990 --> 01:00:26,010

He's an artist.

1150

01:00:26,010 --> 01:00:29,010

He makes that type of
stuff in the chocolates,

1151

01:00:29,010 --> 01:00:31,470

and also in pastry.

1152

01:00:31,470 --> 01:00:35,430

He opened about 10 years

ago, and I went to see him.

1153

01:00:35,430 --> 01:00:38,820
And I said to him-- when I saw
the bakery, I asked a girl,

1154

01:00:38,820 --> 01:00:40,040
could I speak to the boss.

1155

01:00:40,040 --> 01:00:41,520
And she said, sure.

1156

01:00:41,520 --> 01:00:42,560
So he's French.

1157

01:00:42,560 --> 01:00:48,180
I said, to me, you're the
Rembrandt of the patisserie.

1158

01:00:48,180 --> 01:00:50,250
Boy, was he happy
when I said this,

1159

01:00:50,250 --> 01:00:54,480
because that's the way I felt.
He made such beautiful stuff,

1160

01:00:54,480 --> 01:00:57,390
and we're friends ever since.

1161

01:00:57,390 --> 01:00:58,860
And he does business
with my wife.

1162

01:00:58,860 --> 01:01:01,920
My wife is in a bank
that does a lot of work

1163

01:01:01,920 --> 01:01:06,570
with people from overseas,
because either the Americans

1164

01:01:06,570 --> 01:01:08,640
go to Europe and
buy homes, and they

1165
01:01:08,640 --> 01:01:10,830
have an account
here and in France,

1166
01:01:10,830 --> 01:01:13,870
and they're transferring
money and all of that stuff.

1167
01:01:13,870 --> 01:01:18,270
So she has even
people from Greece.

1168
01:01:18,270 --> 01:01:21,450
Two weeks ago was a
Greek national holiday.

1169
01:01:21,450 --> 01:01:27,300
She got an invitation
to go to the party.

1170
01:01:27,300 --> 01:01:29,280
So you meet people.

1171
01:01:29,280 --> 01:01:36,310
And so Greek, from this guy in
camp that was underneath me,

1172
01:01:36,310 --> 01:01:39,810
I learned the word
[INAUDIBLE] ti kaneis.

1173
01:01:39,810 --> 01:01:43,680
And automatically, the
Greek answered, kala.

1174
01:01:43,680 --> 01:01:46,740
Which [INAUDIBLE] ti
kaneis means "how are you,"

1175

01:01:46,740 --> 01:01:49,410
and kala means "thank you."

1176
01:01:49,410 --> 01:01:52,270
And so when I see Greek
people, that's what I say.

1177
01:01:52,270 --> 01:01:54,052
And they say, oh,
you speak Greek?

1178
01:01:54,052 --> 01:01:55,260
I say, no, that's all I know.

1179
01:01:55,260 --> 01:01:56,640
[LAUGHS]

1180
01:01:56,640 --> 01:01:58,680
It's very funny.

1181
01:01:58,680 --> 01:02:03,860
Getting back to that particular
time, what recipe for baba

1182
01:02:03,860 --> 01:02:05,920
did you recite?

1183
01:02:05,920 --> 01:02:08,990
When you were telling the
recipe to make baba au rhum

1184
01:02:08,990 --> 01:02:10,960
in the camp, can you recall?

1185
01:02:10,960 --> 01:02:12,060
Oh, yes.

1186
01:02:12,060 --> 01:02:17,170
I know that fellow from
Russia was looking at me.

1187
01:02:17,170 --> 01:02:18,540

I didn't understand a word.

1188
01:02:18,540 --> 01:02:21,810
He waited for the other one
to translate it from French

1189
01:02:21,810 --> 01:02:24,550
into Spanish, to him in Spanish.

1190
01:02:24,550 --> 01:02:26,670
Then he would speak
Spanish to him,

1191
01:02:26,670 --> 01:02:29,130
and he would speak
to me in French.

1192
01:02:29,130 --> 01:02:33,780
And that had to be something
that you can't explain,

1193
01:02:33,780 --> 01:02:36,400
because there, you got
people from all over.

1194
01:02:36,400 --> 01:02:39,870
And here were three guys
by these three beds.

1195
01:02:39,870 --> 01:02:42,600
And time, there's
nothing you can

1196
01:02:42,600 --> 01:02:45,790
do except pass the
time talking what

1197
01:02:45,790 --> 01:02:48,310
do you think interests you.

1198
01:02:48,310 --> 01:02:51,790
Being hungry, I was
thinking about the bakery

1199
01:02:51,790 --> 01:02:53,380
goods I knew how to make.

1200
01:02:53,380 --> 01:02:56,440
So I explained to him, well
first, you take a bowl.

1201
01:02:56,440 --> 01:02:58,120
You take so much flour.

1202
01:02:58,120 --> 01:03:00,280
You put some yeast
in there with water,

1203
01:03:00,280 --> 01:03:01,510
and you mix that together.

1204
01:03:01,510 --> 01:03:04,360
And then when it starts to
rise, you add eggs and butter.

1205
01:03:04,360 --> 01:03:07,870
And you're whipping up
till it gets very elastic.

1206
01:03:07,870 --> 01:03:10,660
And then you mold it in a mold.

1207
01:03:10,660 --> 01:03:12,160
Then you prepare--

1208
01:03:12,160 --> 01:03:14,080
Anyways, I gave him
the whole recipe.

1209
01:03:14,080 --> 01:03:16,960
And it took a couple
of hours because we

1210
01:03:16,960 --> 01:03:18,460
weren't going anyplace.

1211
01:03:18,460 --> 01:03:21,670
We are stuck in there.

1212
01:03:21,670 --> 01:03:26,250
And the one thing I
recall, very easily,

1213
01:03:26,250 --> 01:03:29,940
that the Russian had a
round peasant's face.

1214
01:03:29,940 --> 01:03:31,650
He must have come from a farm.

1215
01:03:31,650 --> 01:03:35,250
And his eyes were drooling.

1216
01:03:35,250 --> 01:03:37,740
And he said to me, after
the war, I'll be in Paris.

1217
01:03:37,740 --> 01:03:39,610
I want to work for you.

1218
01:03:39,610 --> 01:03:45,600
Well, the guy from
Salonika was a fellow

1219
01:03:45,600 --> 01:03:48,280
that to me looked very sad.

1220
01:03:48,280 --> 01:03:53,040
I wonder if he didn't have his
family that was out in a camp.

1221
01:03:53,040 --> 01:03:56,410
And he was an educated
man to speak the language.

1222
01:03:56,410 --> 01:03:59,670
And he told me he was a

professor at a university.

1223

01:03:59,670 --> 01:04:03,280

And naturally, he
was a skinny guy.

1224

01:04:03,280 --> 01:04:10,830

He was very skinny, and his
nose was like he had had--

1225

01:04:10,830 --> 01:04:13,380

not varicose veins,
but had had some marks.

1226

01:04:13,380 --> 01:04:16,650

And that's how I remember
his face being sad

1227

01:04:16,650 --> 01:04:19,620

and no smile in his face.

1228

01:04:19,620 --> 01:04:21,960

Well, the Russian was a peasant.

1229

01:04:21,960 --> 01:04:25,440

He's the one that made me
feel good about talking.

1230

01:04:25,440 --> 01:04:29,860

I can't tell you what I looked
like because I don't remember.

1231

01:04:29,860 --> 01:04:31,650

But I do know one thing.

1232

01:04:31,650 --> 01:04:38,810

I wanted so much to come
back, because the life

1233

01:04:38,810 --> 01:04:40,610

that you have to
set up for you when

1234

01:04:40,610 --> 01:04:44,660

it's like this, the hope
of someone waiting for you,

1235

01:04:44,660 --> 01:04:50,240

which was a girl that had
come to the commisaria

1236

01:04:50,240 --> 01:04:54,180

de police, the police
station, to see me off.

1237

01:04:54,180 --> 01:04:55,830

I knew her.

1238

01:04:55,830 --> 01:04:59,390

And I have in my possession--

1239

01:04:59,390 --> 01:05:02,210

because as I tried
to explain to you,

1240

01:05:02,210 --> 01:05:04,430

my ears are open at all times.

1241

01:05:04,430 --> 01:05:05,510

I can hear things.

1242

01:05:05,510 --> 01:05:09,320

I react to what I hear,
react by what I see.

1243

01:05:09,320 --> 01:05:14,030

I went to work in that
camp in a factory inside

1244

01:05:14,030 --> 01:05:16,760

after that [INAUDIBLE] work.

1245

01:05:16,760 --> 01:05:17,630

What do I hear?

1246

01:05:17,630 --> 01:05:20,460

Two guys speaking French.

1247

01:05:20,460 --> 01:05:23,400

As soon as I hear
this, I talked to them.

1248

01:05:23,400 --> 01:05:25,590

And they were civilians.

1249

01:05:25,590 --> 01:05:29,040

My first thought was,
listen, I'm from Dijon.

1250

01:05:29,040 --> 01:05:30,220

Where are you from?

1251

01:05:30,220 --> 01:05:31,950

From Lille.

1252

01:05:31,950 --> 01:05:35,490

Listen, here's a name and
the address of my girlfriend.

1253

01:05:35,490 --> 01:05:36,930

She lives in Dijon.

1254

01:05:36,930 --> 01:05:42,810

Please let her know that
I'm alive, which they did.

1255

01:05:42,810 --> 01:05:47,160

Never, ever did they say to
me we got a letter from her,

1256

01:05:47,160 --> 01:05:49,020

we got some answers.

1257

01:05:49,020 --> 01:05:52,920

After the war, I
get back to Dijon.

1258

01:05:52,920 --> 01:05:58,980

Unfortunately, the girl that
I wanted so much on my return

1259

01:05:58,980 --> 01:06:00,002

got married.

1260

01:06:00,002 --> 01:06:01,710

She never figured I'm
going to come back.

1261

01:06:01,710 --> 01:06:02,730

She was gone.

1262

01:06:02,730 --> 01:06:06,000

But her mother that was at
the police station with her,

1263

01:06:06,000 --> 01:06:07,590

I went to see her.

1264

01:06:07,590 --> 01:06:14,260

And she says to me they got
a postcard from some people

1265

01:06:14,260 --> 01:06:18,100

from Auschwitz, because the
town was called Auschwitz.

1266

01:06:18,100 --> 01:06:19,420

They weren't in the camp.

1267

01:06:19,420 --> 01:06:21,610

They were civilian workers.

1268

01:06:21,610 --> 01:06:24,280

It said, dear [Personal
name] all in French.

1269

01:06:24,280 --> 01:06:26,590

Dear [Personal name]
Maurice is well,

1270
01:06:26,590 --> 01:06:28,308
but he's hungry and needs food.

1271
01:06:28,308 --> 01:06:29,350
They sent three packages.

1272
01:06:29,350 --> 01:06:31,940

1273
01:06:31,940 --> 01:06:34,370
I have the name of the guy.

1274
01:06:34,370 --> 01:06:38,860
I have the letters
with-- no, it's

1275
01:06:38,860 --> 01:06:42,190
postcards, remember,
censor, with Adolf Hitler's

1276
01:06:42,190 --> 01:06:44,260
face on the stamp.

1277
01:06:44,260 --> 01:06:46,780
And they stopped
sending when they

1278
01:06:46,780 --> 01:06:49,300
asked for money and a watch.

1279
01:06:49,300 --> 01:06:52,300
They knew damn well I
wouldn't ask for this,

1280
01:06:52,300 --> 01:06:54,010
but they sent shoes.

1281
01:06:54,010 --> 01:06:56,310
They sent underwear.

1282

01:06:56,310 --> 01:07:00,000

They never, ever
said a word to me.

1283

01:07:00,000 --> 01:07:03,240

But when I came back-- it
was a father and his son.

1284

01:07:03,240 --> 01:07:04,440

I got it all here.

1285

01:07:04,440 --> 01:07:08,310

What happened is, over the
years, this postcard gets lost.

1286

01:07:08,310 --> 01:07:10,350

So at the consulate,
I knew somebody,

1287

01:07:10,350 --> 01:07:13,210

they make copies of that.

1288

01:07:13,210 --> 01:07:16,270

So it's going to last.

1289

01:07:16,270 --> 01:07:19,890

But when I came after the war,
I was so happy to be alive.

1290

01:07:19,890 --> 01:07:23,670

I didn't go look to find out
what happened to these guys.

1291

01:07:23,670 --> 01:07:26,160

They got a pair of
shoes and some food,

1292

01:07:26,160 --> 01:07:28,610

but who knows if they made it.

1293

01:07:28,610 --> 01:07:29,940

So I didn't look further.

1294

01:07:29,940 --> 01:07:35,160

But that's another episode of
what has occurred in the camp

1295

01:07:35,160 --> 01:07:35,910

while I was there.

1296

01:07:35,910 --> 01:07:38,790

1297

01:07:38,790 --> 01:07:39,750

I'll let you know.

1298

01:07:39,750 --> 01:07:44,560

1299

01:07:44,560 --> 01:07:50,200

OK, you talked about
three buddies of yours.

1300

01:07:50,200 --> 01:07:50,830

In the camp?

1301

01:07:50,830 --> 01:07:51,730

In the camp.

1302

01:07:51,730 --> 01:07:52,690

OK.

1303

01:07:52,690 --> 01:07:56,320

Among the three,
one was from Holland

1304

01:07:56,320 --> 01:07:59,860

and the other one
was from France.

1305

01:07:59,860 --> 01:08:04,960

And I couldn't recall
exactly where he was from.

1306

01:08:04,960 --> 01:08:08,350

But the guy from
Holland happened to have

1307

01:08:08,350 --> 01:08:12,970

had the misfortune or
fortune in one way--

1308

01:08:12,970 --> 01:08:14,500

I don't know exactly.

1309

01:08:14,500 --> 01:08:20,649

He was in Auschwitz where they
put the bodies in the ovens.

1310

01:08:20,649 --> 01:08:23,229

And he said, I have
seen so many things.

1311

01:08:23,229 --> 01:08:26,920

A lot of people
had hidden stuff.

1312

01:08:26,920 --> 01:08:29,529

And at the last minute,
they wanted me to have it,

1313

01:08:29,529 --> 01:08:32,229

and I couldn't take it because
the Germans would have taken it

1314

01:08:32,229 --> 01:08:33,800

from me.

1315

01:08:33,800 --> 01:08:38,500

And so when we got
evacuated, the three of us

1316

01:08:38,500 --> 01:08:40,720

were for a week on a train.

1317

01:08:40,720 --> 01:08:45,939

He was telling me of

things that the guys that

1318
01:08:45,939 --> 01:08:49,720
had to put these
people in the ovens,

1319
01:08:49,720 --> 01:08:52,899
every so often-- maybe every
month or every three months, I

1320
01:08:52,899 --> 01:08:56,060
don't recall exactly,
automatically they killed them

1321
01:08:56,060 --> 01:08:57,790
so there was no witnesses.

1322
01:08:57,790 --> 01:09:01,680
He was in the last
group, and he got

1323
01:09:01,680 --> 01:09:04,680
saved because the Germans
didn't care anymore.

1324
01:09:04,680 --> 01:09:05,910
They left.

1325
01:09:05,910 --> 01:09:10,319
And he's the one that was always
the strongest because he always

1326
01:09:10,319 --> 01:09:12,840
was able to get something
extra because of the work

1327
01:09:12,840 --> 01:09:15,240
he was doing.

1328
01:09:15,240 --> 01:09:18,750
Now, the other fellow, I can't
recall, except what happened

1329

01:09:18,750 --> 01:09:23,010

is, it's usually people
close to you, either at work

1330

01:09:23,010 --> 01:09:25,080

or in the barracks.

1331

01:09:25,080 --> 01:09:28,290

And I don't recall
anymore who he was.

1332

01:09:28,290 --> 01:09:31,380

I had one buddy but
that didn't survive.

1333

01:09:31,380 --> 01:09:34,830

I didn't see him at the end.

1334

01:09:34,830 --> 01:09:42,380

He was from Reims I have
his name in the book here.

1335

01:09:42,380 --> 01:09:47,450

And he had such a
gentle face that I

1336

01:09:47,450 --> 01:09:50,670

felt something keen with him.

1337

01:09:50,670 --> 01:09:55,730

You could talk about different
things, like music or something

1338

01:09:55,730 --> 01:09:57,155

that I liked to talk about.

1339

01:09:57,155 --> 01:09:59,030

And you couldn't talk
to the Greek about this

1340

01:09:59,030 --> 01:10:02,060

because his type of

life was different.

1341

01:10:02,060 --> 01:10:04,460

But when you talk to someone
that lived in France--

1342

01:10:04,460 --> 01:10:06,380

and I like sport even there.

1343

01:10:06,380 --> 01:10:08,930

There was a Tour de
France the bicycle races.

1344

01:10:08,930 --> 01:10:10,700

I used to talk about the guys.

1345

01:10:10,700 --> 01:10:14,570

And soccer was very
big in France in '38.

1346

01:10:14,570 --> 01:10:17,840

They had a World Cup of soccer
in France, and there was teams

1347

01:10:17,840 --> 01:10:18,910

and he liked that.

1348

01:10:18,910 --> 01:10:22,070

I used to talk with
him about these things.

1349

01:10:22,070 --> 01:10:27,060

Otherwise, in the very
beginning when I got there,

1350

01:10:27,060 --> 01:10:33,270

there was a fellow that was very
influential on our lives, too.

1351

01:10:33,270 --> 01:10:38,430

He was a pilot, a captain in
the French air force, Jewish.

1352

01:10:38,430 --> 01:10:47,570
And he tried to keep us mentally
and physically alert because

1353

01:10:47,570 --> 01:10:49,730
of his background in the army.

1354

01:10:49,730 --> 01:10:53,540
And so we had a
guide, so to speak,

1355

01:10:53,540 --> 01:10:58,400
on how behavior while we
were really like subhuman.

1356

01:10:58,400 --> 01:11:01,640
Unfortunately, life
is a funny thing.

1357

01:11:01,640 --> 01:11:06,230
He happened to meet
in the of camp,

1358

01:11:06,230 --> 01:11:10,250
because we had barbed wire
in the camp where we slept.

1359

01:11:10,250 --> 01:11:12,410
Every morning, we'd
go out of the camp

1360

01:11:12,410 --> 01:11:15,350
into IG Farben industry factory.

1361

01:11:15,350 --> 01:11:19,280
In that factory was a civilian
French that I talked to.

1362

01:11:19,280 --> 01:11:23,840
There were some English soldiers
that had Red Cross packages.

1363

01:11:23,840 --> 01:11:27,120

While they were there, he saw
them eat and he was hungry.

1364

01:11:27,120 --> 01:11:28,770

He spoke English.

1365

01:11:28,770 --> 01:11:30,530

This guy fed him.

1366

01:11:30,530 --> 01:11:34,430

He got some stuff
from the soldiers.

1367

01:11:34,430 --> 01:11:38,300

Now, this was in
December, January.

1368

01:11:38,300 --> 01:11:43,520

By March, he had
died of pneumonia.

1369

01:11:43,520 --> 01:11:48,720

Now, he was mentally
a strong man

1370

01:11:48,720 --> 01:11:57,150

that had given us the will
to go over this, easily,

1371

01:11:57,150 --> 01:12:02,340

possibility to fall into
a situation of no return,

1372

01:12:02,340 --> 01:12:04,650

not giving a damn
what happens to us.

1373

01:12:04,650 --> 01:12:07,020

So that helped us.

1374

01:12:07,020 --> 01:12:10,980

We were about a dozen

guys from that convoy

1375

01:12:10,980 --> 01:12:12,870
that got pretty close.

1376

01:12:12,870 --> 01:12:16,120
Some guy was an
attorney in Paris.

1377

01:12:16,120 --> 01:12:19,630
Another guy, this guy from
Reims was in business.

1378

01:12:19,630 --> 01:12:23,400
The guy that came for me from
the Dijon prison to Paris--

1379

01:12:23,400 --> 01:12:27,838
when we got in the subway in
Paris, we had no shackles.

1380

01:12:27,838 --> 01:12:30,130
He said I could run away,
but where are we going to go?

1381

01:12:30,130 --> 01:12:32,750
You can't go anyplace.

1382

01:12:32,750 --> 01:12:33,990
That was one station.

1383

01:12:33,990 --> 01:12:37,550
He said, my business was
just above the station,

1384

01:12:37,550 --> 01:12:39,290
and there's nothing to do.

1385

01:12:39,290 --> 01:12:45,150
They left us in Drancy,
which is about 40,

1386

01:12:45,150 --> 01:12:46,920
50 miles north of Paris.

1387
01:12:46,920 --> 01:12:49,110
And that's where,
up to this day,

1388
01:12:49,110 --> 01:12:51,800
they still have
a memorial there,

1389
01:12:51,800 --> 01:12:54,710
because all the Jews that left
in France left from that place.

1390
01:12:54,710 --> 01:12:55,460
Not all of them.

1391
01:12:55,460 --> 01:12:58,550
There was other places,
but that was a major place

1392
01:12:58,550 --> 01:13:00,510
that the Jews left.

1393
01:13:00,510 --> 01:13:03,020
But again, you got to
remember, when you asked me

1394
01:13:03,020 --> 01:13:05,690
that question the three
brothers, who were they were,

1395
01:13:05,690 --> 01:13:10,010
it's very vague in my mind.

1396
01:13:10,010 --> 01:13:15,170
Basically, like I said before,
in my life changed radically

1397
01:13:15,170 --> 01:13:18,740
when I came here, learned the
language, learned everything

1398
01:13:18,740 --> 01:13:21,490
of this country, that I--

1399
01:13:21,490 --> 01:13:23,320
not so much that I wanted to.

1400
01:13:23,320 --> 01:13:26,620
But my wife told me,
you're better off.

1401
01:13:26,620 --> 01:13:29,350
Forget the past, forget
the past, which I did.

1402
01:13:29,350 --> 01:13:32,530
And remember, the things
about the Holocaust,

1403
01:13:32,530 --> 01:13:36,070
I think the first
15 years, it wasn't

1404
01:13:36,070 --> 01:13:40,060
talked about until
Wiesenthal in Germany

1405
01:13:40,060 --> 01:13:42,550
started to go after
these war criminals.

1406
01:13:42,550 --> 01:13:46,640
Then the world got aware of what
the Holocaust was all about.

1407
01:13:46,640 --> 01:13:49,750
Most of the people had no idea--

1408
01:13:49,750 --> 01:13:51,610
right after the war.

1409
01:13:51,610 --> 01:13:55,120

My bone of contention is
I'm shocked to realize

1410
01:13:55,120 --> 01:13:59,290
what the Americans
did saving these Nazis

1411
01:13:59,290 --> 01:14:03,070
because they knew something
about the Soviets.

1412
01:14:03,070 --> 01:14:04,930
Most of these Nazis came here.

1413
01:14:04,930 --> 01:14:07,630
Even Barbie, the
guy that was in Lyon

1414
01:14:07,630 --> 01:14:11,500
that killed all these
people, was in this country.

1415
01:14:11,500 --> 01:14:14,470
Now again, I digress
on something.

1416
01:14:14,470 --> 01:14:18,130
This is why I realized
what good is it

1417
01:14:18,130 --> 01:14:22,270
for me to look in the past
and dwell on something that

1418
01:14:22,270 --> 01:14:23,320
was bad?

1419
01:14:23,320 --> 01:14:28,960
I set up my life on thinking
about being married, having

1420
01:14:28,960 --> 01:14:34,300
a kid going to a ball game,

going on vacation to Florida

1421
01:14:34,300 --> 01:14:36,550
and Miami, and driving.

1422
01:14:36,550 --> 01:14:38,290
I've been driving since '49.

1423
01:14:38,290 --> 01:14:42,400
I went from Montreal to Miami,
from New York to California

1424
01:14:42,400 --> 01:14:43,240
in the car.

1425
01:14:43,240 --> 01:14:44,170
Went to Texas.

1426
01:14:44,170 --> 01:14:49,160
I've seen a lot of things which
have to do with my philosophy.

1427
01:14:49,160 --> 01:14:54,390
Try to get a life as
pleasant as possible.

1428
01:14:54,390 --> 01:14:57,800
Don't try to harm anyone,
but look at yourself, where

1429
01:14:57,800 --> 01:15:02,600
you come from, and look in the
future of what you have done.

1430
01:15:02,600 --> 01:15:04,310
And you got to say
to yourself, you

1431
01:15:04,310 --> 01:15:08,330
can understand now why it took
till now for me to come here,

1432

01:15:08,330 --> 01:15:10,310
because I wanted to forget.

1433
01:15:10,310 --> 01:15:12,300
I didn't want to dwell on it.

1434
01:15:12,300 --> 01:15:15,230
Even my son told me yesterday,
when I told him, he said, look.

1435
01:15:15,230 --> 01:15:18,710
I know you're always telling me
I don't want to talk about it,

1436
01:15:18,710 --> 01:15:20,010
I don't want to talk about it.

1437
01:15:20,010 --> 01:15:21,260
You're going to talk about it.

1438
01:15:21,260 --> 01:15:24,200
If it doesn't please you,
tell them and you leave.

1439
01:15:24,200 --> 01:15:25,560
That's what he told me.

1440
01:15:25,560 --> 01:15:26,990
But I feel OK.

1441
01:15:26,990 --> 01:15:29,220
I think the question
you asked me,

1442
01:15:29,220 --> 01:15:31,313
it bothers me because
I can't answer some

1443
01:15:31,313 --> 01:15:32,480
of the questions you ask me.

1444
01:15:32,480 --> 01:15:35,780

Like these bodies--
at that time,

1445
01:15:35,780 --> 01:15:38,180
you couldn't have been
closer to somebody.

1446
01:15:38,180 --> 01:15:40,790
But unfortunately,
50 years later,

1447
01:15:40,790 --> 01:15:42,200
you're not the same person.

1448
01:15:42,200 --> 01:15:45,140
You have looked upon your
family and your future.

1449
01:15:45,140 --> 01:15:47,480
You lost some dear
ones in between.

1450
01:15:47,480 --> 01:15:50,447
How can you remember what
really their names were?

1451
01:15:50,447 --> 01:15:51,530
Or look, like Lee J. Cobb.

1452
01:15:51,530 --> 01:15:52,790
I couldn't remember.

1453
01:15:52,790 --> 01:15:54,080
This is so you know.

1454
01:15:54,080 --> 01:15:55,640
I guess that answers your--

1455
01:15:55,640 --> 01:15:56,620
those three buddies.

1456
01:15:56,620 --> 01:15:59,150

It does.

1457
01:15:59,150 --> 01:16:02,300
Does the world
keep trying to make

1458
01:16:02,300 --> 01:16:05,358
you remember, though, because
you have a number on your arm?

1459
01:16:05,358 --> 01:16:06,930
No.

1460
01:16:06,930 --> 01:16:07,700
You know what?

1461
01:16:07,700 --> 01:16:09,320
I do sometimes.

1462
01:16:09,320 --> 01:16:13,360
When I have a situation
where I'm with some people

1463
01:16:13,360 --> 01:16:16,550
new that I don't know, and I try
to figure out are they Jewish,

1464
01:16:16,550 --> 01:16:18,950
are they not Jewish,
I have a good way.

1465
01:16:18,950 --> 01:16:21,326
I say, you know what this is?

1466
01:16:21,326 --> 01:16:23,990
And the guy looks, he says, no.

1467
01:16:23,990 --> 01:16:25,400
What is it?

1468
01:16:25,400 --> 01:16:26,900
I don't tell him

it's from the camp.

1469

01:16:26,900 --> 01:16:31,010

I say, when I was in the army,
I had a number tattooed on it.

1470

01:16:31,010 --> 01:16:33,620

Because I realized she
doesn't know what it is.

1471

01:16:33,620 --> 01:16:35,412

And I want to know--
a Jewish guy knows

1472

01:16:35,412 --> 01:16:37,370

what it is There isn't
a Jew in this world that

1473

01:16:37,370 --> 01:16:39,680

doesn't know what that is.

1474

01:16:39,680 --> 01:16:40,640

See?

1475

01:16:40,640 --> 01:16:46,320

In other words, if it was Jewish
people and they talk to me--

1476

01:16:46,320 --> 01:16:48,470

I had met some guys
and they were Jewish,

1477

01:16:48,470 --> 01:16:51,530

and I knew they were
Jewish, and I never met him

1478

01:16:51,530 --> 01:16:53,160

in another circumstance.

1479

01:16:53,160 --> 01:16:56,180

And so I said, you know this?

1480

01:16:56,180 --> 01:16:57,560
You were there?

1481
01:16:57,560 --> 01:16:59,540
That's the answer.

1482
01:16:59,540 --> 01:17:04,310
And that's a way for me to
find out is he or isn't he.

1483
01:17:04,310 --> 01:17:06,670
And if he doesn't know,
I say I was tattooed

1484
01:17:06,670 --> 01:17:07,670
while I was in the army.

1485
01:17:07,670 --> 01:17:12,830
I had it tattooed on it, which
is a good way for me to realize

1486
01:17:12,830 --> 01:17:15,950
if the guy knows about it
or he doesn't know about it.

1487
01:17:15,950 --> 01:17:18,980
But otherwise, I tell
you, for many years--

1488
01:17:18,980 --> 01:17:25,940
that the years of
1952 to '59 back east,

1489
01:17:25,940 --> 01:17:30,450
I don't think I
much talked about it

1490
01:17:30,450 --> 01:17:34,670
or thought about it, because
we were in these years

1491
01:17:34,670 --> 01:17:38,330
where after the war, people

were getting back on their feet

1492

01:17:38,330 --> 01:17:41,390
and the Holocaust
was not in the paper.

1493

01:17:41,390 --> 01:17:44,090
It wasn't on TV.

1494

01:17:44,090 --> 01:17:48,320
It wasn't a thing of
discussion with your neighbors.

1495

01:17:48,320 --> 01:17:51,800
And so that's another reason
why a lot of these things

1496

01:17:51,800 --> 01:17:55,960
got more or less dwindled
in my mind in a sense.

1497

01:17:55,960 --> 01:17:59,870

1498

01:17:59,870 --> 01:18:02,970
So you have no contact
with people who you

1499

01:18:02,970 --> 01:18:04,220
were in the camps with at all?

1500

01:18:04,220 --> 01:18:08,270
No, no, because
basically, well, we

1501

01:18:08,270 --> 01:18:11,610
realized-- once I was in
the camp and was in Europe,

1502

01:18:11,610 --> 01:18:13,160
I came here.

1503

01:18:13,160 --> 01:18:18,740
And there's none, except this
fellow, that was in a place

1504
01:18:18,740 --> 01:18:20,450
where I made these
eclairs for everybody

1505
01:18:20,450 --> 01:18:22,250
and he was coming to New York--

1506
01:18:22,250 --> 01:18:23,150
Manny Blatt.

1507
01:18:23,150 --> 01:18:24,530
See, his name I remember.

1508
01:18:24,530 --> 01:18:26,045
He was a very friendly guy.

1509
01:18:26,045 --> 01:18:28,740
He had curly white hair.

1510
01:18:28,740 --> 01:18:32,030
And I went to his wedding.

1511
01:18:32,030 --> 01:18:34,370
In his case--

1512
01:18:34,370 --> 01:18:36,780
I don't know if it was
Treblinka where he was.

1513
01:18:36,780 --> 01:18:39,470
They start to shoot
a bunch of people.

1514
01:18:39,470 --> 01:18:41,750
And he was among these people.

1515
01:18:41,750 --> 01:18:43,820
He fell down, a body

fell on top of him,

1516

01:18:43,820 --> 01:18:47,270

and he was never even
touched with a bullet.

1517

01:18:47,270 --> 01:18:51,170

But he was underneath, so
they presumed he was dead.

1518

01:18:51,170 --> 01:18:53,250

Now, again, he told me that.

1519

01:18:53,250 --> 01:18:58,070

And he told me his situation.

1520

01:18:58,070 --> 01:19:01,220

And it was much worse to me,
because he's talking about

1521

01:19:01,220 --> 01:19:08,210

'40, '41 in Poland, where they
exterminated whole towns--

1522

01:19:08,210 --> 01:19:10,380

the ghetto in Warsaw
and everything.

1523

01:19:10,380 --> 01:19:14,090

So I considered my luck is
that when I got to Germany,

1524

01:19:14,090 --> 01:19:17,780

it was already '43,
close to the end,

1525

01:19:17,780 --> 01:19:21,920

although it took almost
two years to get us freed.

1526

01:19:21,920 --> 01:19:26,190

Therefore, the ones
that survived like him,

1527
01:19:26,190 --> 01:19:28,830
I tip my hat to him.

1528
01:19:28,830 --> 01:19:33,020
And again, I think it had a
lot to do with luck, destiny--

1529
01:19:33,020 --> 01:19:37,050
how a guy fell, and a
body fell on top of him.

1530
01:19:37,050 --> 01:19:40,770
So I was akin to his situation.

1531
01:19:40,770 --> 01:19:43,430
So we were friendly when
we first got to New York.

1532
01:19:43,430 --> 01:19:44,750
I was at his wedding.

1533
01:19:44,750 --> 01:19:47,180
He was at my wedding in '48.

1534
01:19:47,180 --> 01:19:53,720
But then, he was in a
center of the tailoring--

1535
01:19:53,720 --> 01:19:55,130
shmatas.

1536
01:19:55,130 --> 01:19:58,860
And I was in the bakery,
worked at the Waldorf.

1537
01:19:58,860 --> 01:20:00,270
We lived in New Jersey.

1538
01:20:00,270 --> 01:20:01,493
He lived in New York.

1539

01:20:01,493 --> 01:20:03,410

It's just like in my
street, there are people,

1540

01:20:03,410 --> 01:20:04,460

I see them once a year.

1541

01:20:04,460 --> 01:20:08,630

They're on my street, because
that's the way you live.

1542

01:20:08,630 --> 01:20:10,760

Either you see each
other often or you

1543

01:20:10,760 --> 01:20:13,430

don't see each other, although
there's very good rapport.

1544

01:20:13,430 --> 01:20:15,980

1545

01:20:15,980 --> 01:20:20,330

You referred earlier to a
scar on the top of your head.

1546

01:20:20,330 --> 01:20:21,560

Yeah.

1547

01:20:21,560 --> 01:20:27,440

Now, the funniest part of this
is, when I went for my pension

1548

01:20:27,440 --> 01:20:30,470

in France, they asked me all
different questions like you

1549

01:20:30,470 --> 01:20:31,970

did-- where were
you and everything.

1550

01:20:31,970 --> 01:20:34,430

I had to fill out papers.

1551

01:20:34,430 --> 01:20:37,070

So they said, well, for that,
we're going to take care of you

1552

01:20:37,070 --> 01:20:38,090

for this, for this.

1553

01:20:38,090 --> 01:20:39,710

So I told them about my scar.

1554

01:20:39,710 --> 01:20:42,320

They said, we can't do
anything about this.

1555

01:20:42,320 --> 01:20:43,750

What proof?

1556

01:20:43,750 --> 01:20:45,760

We could have had
this after here.

1557

01:20:45,760 --> 01:20:46,750

We have no proof.

1558

01:20:46,750 --> 01:20:50,320

But really, what happened,
when we were evacuated

1559

01:20:50,320 --> 01:20:54,220

from Auschwitz, and we
took that train for a week

1560

01:20:54,220 --> 01:20:59,170

and we got to another camp, and
we got evacuated from there,

1561

01:20:59,170 --> 01:21:01,730

I had a cap on my head.

1562

01:21:01,730 --> 01:21:04,630

It's just the cap
from the people

1563
01:21:04,630 --> 01:21:07,510
in the camp with the stripes.

1564
01:21:07,510 --> 01:21:12,180
And before we were
going to leave,

1565
01:21:12,180 --> 01:21:16,565
I knew where there were
some depots with food.

1566
01:21:16,565 --> 01:21:18,690
So when you're hungry, you
scavenge like an animal.

1567
01:21:18,690 --> 01:21:20,250
You're looking for something.

1568
01:21:20,250 --> 01:21:21,980
I get to a barrack.

1569
01:21:21,980 --> 01:21:23,980
I can see a barrack
if I was there now.

1570
01:21:23,980 --> 01:21:25,680
This barrack had a window.

1571
01:21:25,680 --> 01:21:30,240
A window was open, and inside
was a warehouse with food--

1572
01:21:30,240 --> 01:21:31,530
cheese and everything.

1573
01:21:31,530 --> 01:21:34,650
And there was a
soldier in there.

1574

01:21:34,650 --> 01:21:36,640
There was two guys in there.

1575
01:21:36,640 --> 01:21:40,390
Now, I tried to--

1576
01:21:40,390 --> 01:21:42,010
I was making sounds.

1577
01:21:42,010 --> 01:21:45,070
I couldn't speak, he was
too far He never heard me.

1578
01:21:45,070 --> 01:21:47,140
So I he's coming with--

1579
01:21:47,140 --> 01:21:51,520
I don't know if it was
salami or cheese, towards me.

1580
01:21:51,520 --> 01:21:53,260
And all of a sudden,
the other guy

1581
01:21:53,260 --> 01:21:56,260
disappeared, and I see
around the building,

1582
01:21:56,260 --> 01:22:00,850
he's coming towards me
with a leg of a stool.

1583
01:22:00,850 --> 01:22:04,840
You know, the cow stool
where you milk the cow?

1584
01:22:04,840 --> 01:22:07,120
He had a leg with him.

1585
01:22:07,120 --> 01:22:09,520
And this guy's coming.

1586

01:22:09,520 --> 01:22:14,320
I was wondering, should I wait
till this comes or get hit

1587
01:22:14,320 --> 01:22:15,550
and the guy kill me.

1588
01:22:15,550 --> 01:22:17,005
You know what this guy did?

1589
01:22:17,005 --> 01:22:18,130
He didn't give me anything.

1590
01:22:18,130 --> 01:22:21,280
He closed the window
and caught my sleeve,

1591
01:22:21,280 --> 01:22:23,140
and it was stuck in the window.

1592
01:22:23,140 --> 01:22:26,500
This guy hits me on the head.

1593
01:22:26,500 --> 01:22:31,210
He gave me one on the head, and
I was able to rip myself away.

1594
01:22:31,210 --> 01:22:32,890
And then I had this little cut.

1595
01:22:32,890 --> 01:22:34,870
The first thing--
it was bleeding.

1596
01:22:34,870 --> 01:22:36,340
I didn't realize
it was bleeding.

1597
01:22:36,340 --> 01:22:38,480
I didn't even feel any pain.

1598
01:22:38,480 --> 01:22:43,450

I said, gee, it's like
ants crawling on my head.

1599
01:22:43,450 --> 01:22:45,580
And I look, it was bleeding.

1600
01:22:45,580 --> 01:22:47,110
He just opened the skin.

1601
01:22:47,110 --> 01:22:49,500
It wasn't a big wound.

1602
01:22:49,500 --> 01:22:53,530
But among all the other
things, that was part of life.

1603
01:22:53,530 --> 01:22:54,930
I didn't make much.

1604
01:22:54,930 --> 01:22:57,150
And to tell you
the truth, when I

1605
01:22:57,150 --> 01:23:01,290
asked can I get some
compensation for this,

1606
01:23:01,290 --> 01:23:02,670
they said no.

1607
01:23:02,670 --> 01:23:06,180
I have 15 different things
that are wrong with my health.

1608
01:23:06,180 --> 01:23:11,490
Even for that, I get a 10%
pension for the tattoo.

1609
01:23:11,490 --> 01:23:13,170
But for this, I
didn't get nothing,

1610

01:23:13,170 --> 01:23:14,850
and that's how this happened.

1611
01:23:14,850 --> 01:23:18,630
The hunger was so great that
I wouldn't care if the guy hit

1612
01:23:18,630 --> 01:23:20,310
me, as long as I get the food.

1613
01:23:20,310 --> 01:23:21,690
I got neither.

1614
01:23:21,690 --> 01:23:24,450
I got hit, yes, but I
didn't get the food.

1615
01:23:24,450 --> 01:23:26,340
I was all by myself there.

1616
01:23:26,340 --> 01:23:28,350
Then I ran up a
hill, I remember,

1617
01:23:28,350 --> 01:23:30,088
and I got back to my buddies.

1618
01:23:30,088 --> 01:23:31,380
They say, what happened to you?

1619
01:23:31,380 --> 01:23:33,015
Well, I almost got some food.

1620
01:23:33,015 --> 01:23:36,880

1621
01:23:36,880 --> 01:23:38,020
That's the way it went.

1622
01:23:38,020 --> 01:23:41,290
But after this, it was
downhill for the Germans.

1623
01:23:41,290 --> 01:23:46,300
I started to see in
those woods tanks.

1624
01:23:46,300 --> 01:23:49,057
And it had, like, the star.

1625
01:23:49,057 --> 01:23:50,140
I thought it was American.

1626
01:23:50,140 --> 01:23:52,270
It was a Russian tank.

1627
01:23:52,270 --> 01:23:54,310
A Russian guy
comes off the tank.

1628
01:23:54,310 --> 01:23:57,520
He sees us, and he hands
us Russian cigarettes

1629
01:23:57,520 --> 01:23:59,440
with a filter that long.

1630
01:23:59,440 --> 01:24:03,850
And he must have been a Mongol
because he looked Chinese.

1631
01:24:03,850 --> 01:24:05,870
And we looked like this.

1632
01:24:05,870 --> 01:24:08,930
And what he did, he took
a piece of newspaper

1633
01:24:08,930 --> 01:24:10,150
and he found some tobacco.

1634
01:24:10,150 --> 01:24:12,150
And he rolled a newspaper
and he smoked this,

1635

01:24:12,150 --> 01:24:15,460
and he gave us cigarettes,
which we couldn't smoke.

1636

01:24:15,460 --> 01:24:17,470
But anyway, at that
particular time,

1637

01:24:17,470 --> 01:24:21,280
they caught some
Germans, officers mainly.

1638

01:24:21,280 --> 01:24:24,160
And they stripped them and
let them loose in the woods.

1639

01:24:24,160 --> 01:24:26,350
And they were running in
the woods completely naked.

1640

01:24:26,350 --> 01:24:29,320
And those Russians,
they didn't shoot them.

1641

01:24:29,320 --> 01:24:31,900
They just stripped them
and they let them loose.

1642

01:24:31,900 --> 01:24:34,390
And we laughed
because we realized

1643

01:24:34,390 --> 01:24:37,270
here's our time to
be free, and they

1644

01:24:37,270 --> 01:24:39,580
are going to get the business,
although we don't know

1645

01:24:39,580 --> 01:24:42,163
exactly what business went on.

1646
01:24:42,163 --> 01:24:43,580
I forgot to mention
another thing.

1647
01:24:43,580 --> 01:24:46,510
You remember the fellow
that gave me the potatoes?

1648
01:24:46,510 --> 01:24:48,670
He talked to me a couple
of times upstairs.

1649
01:24:48,670 --> 01:24:50,860
He says, don't let
anybody see you.

1650
01:24:50,860 --> 01:24:53,590
It's going to be very
dangerous for me.

1651
01:24:53,590 --> 01:24:56,655
Then once in a while, he'll say,
you know, I like the French.

1652
01:24:56,655 --> 01:24:57,280
They were nice.

1653
01:24:57,280 --> 01:24:58,720
The farmers were
very nice to me.

1654
01:24:58,720 --> 01:25:02,050
But like in World
War II, eventually,

1655
01:25:02,050 --> 01:25:05,110
the Russians are going to
fight with the Americans,

1656
01:25:05,110 --> 01:25:07,810
and we're going to come
ahead on the whole thing.

1657
01:25:07,810 --> 01:25:10,270
Now, this one was
a real Prussian.

1658
01:25:10,270 --> 01:25:12,400
He was from Prussia.

1659
01:25:12,400 --> 01:25:13,540
He was a German.

1660
01:25:13,540 --> 01:25:15,460
In a sense, the
reason he was there,

1661
01:25:15,460 --> 01:25:18,370
he was shell shocked
in some battle.

1662
01:25:18,370 --> 01:25:23,050
And his eyes was puffed.

1663
01:25:23,050 --> 01:25:25,210
In other words, he was
discharged from the army.

1664
01:25:25,210 --> 01:25:30,700
But he could work with a metal--

1665
01:25:30,700 --> 01:25:34,350
see, there was a pipe
atop of this factory.

1666
01:25:34,350 --> 01:25:37,720
We used to go up there
and we would seal

1667
01:25:37,720 --> 01:25:40,030
this pipe, either hot or cold.

1668
01:25:40,030 --> 01:25:41,020
I forgot what it was.

1669
01:25:41,020 --> 01:25:43,900
And then we would put
glass wool in there.

1670
01:25:43,900 --> 01:25:46,898
That's that white
stuff like cotton.

1671
01:25:46,898 --> 01:25:48,190
And that's what I did with him.

1672
01:25:48,190 --> 01:25:50,140
And that was something
that helped me, too,

1673
01:25:50,140 --> 01:25:51,850
because I was indoors.

1674
01:25:51,850 --> 01:25:54,070
I had nothing to do outside.

1675
01:25:54,070 --> 01:25:54,820
And it helped.

1676
01:25:54,820 --> 01:25:59,560
Every little bit in that period
of time that got better for me

1677
01:25:59,560 --> 01:26:03,700
helped me, although like I said,
that was only the beginning.

1678
01:26:03,700 --> 01:26:06,730
The worst part came after
we had to leave that camp--

1679
01:26:06,730 --> 01:26:12,310
that whole weekend without
eating and seeing the bodies

1680
01:26:12,310 --> 01:26:17,080

shot, the bodies they
put in the ravine.

1681
01:26:17,080 --> 01:26:18,940
And the Germans
were right there.

1682
01:26:18,940 --> 01:26:23,620
The nurses, the German Red
Cross, and the soldiers,

1683
01:26:23,620 --> 01:26:24,520
they fed them.

1684
01:26:24,520 --> 01:26:27,890
And they ignored us like
we weren't even there.

1685
01:26:27,890 --> 01:26:32,720
It was a shock in the sense
that another human being--

1686
01:26:32,720 --> 01:26:35,740
but basically, now I say
what could they have done?

1687
01:26:35,740 --> 01:26:37,030
Rien-- nothing.

1688
01:26:37,030 --> 01:26:40,000
See, my word to French
comes in between.

1689
01:26:40,000 --> 01:26:43,570
I speak French with
my wife all the time.

1690
01:26:43,570 --> 01:26:46,390
My basic language at
home is French now.

1691
01:26:46,390 --> 01:26:48,580
And in 1958, I went

back to France.

1692
01:26:48,580 --> 01:26:50,650
I had forgotten
most of my French

1693
01:26:50,650 --> 01:26:55,300
due the fact I wanted so much
to learn English that I didn't

1694
01:26:55,300 --> 01:26:58,850
use it for about 10 years.

1695
01:26:58,850 --> 01:27:04,120
And so since I remarried and she
speaks French, we speak French.

1696
01:27:04,120 --> 01:27:06,820
And she uses her
French and Spanish

1697
01:27:06,820 --> 01:27:10,140
at work because of
the work she does.

1698
01:27:10,140 --> 01:27:11,830
I'm very blessed.

1699
01:27:11,830 --> 01:27:12,910
I'm very happy.

1700
01:27:12,910 --> 01:27:16,840
I had 35 years of an
unbelievable life.

1701
01:27:16,840 --> 01:27:21,310
And now, I'm married
five, six years.

1702
01:27:21,310 --> 01:27:24,310
January was six years,
and it's just as well.

1703

01:27:24,310 --> 01:27:30,220

And people don't have a
happy life in one life.

1704

01:27:30,220 --> 01:27:33,160

I have two lives,
and I'm not through.

1705

01:27:33,160 --> 01:27:35,350

I got a lot of
things in mine yet.

1706

01:27:35,350 --> 01:27:38,700

[AUDIO OUT]

1707

01:27:38,700 --> 01:30:12,374