

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:01:21,120

2

00:01:21,120 --> 00:01:30,920

[INAUDIBLE]

3

00:01:30,920 --> 00:01:33,520

This is the Holocaust Oral  
History Project interview

4

00:01:33,520 --> 00:01:37,570

of Eva Slott taking place  
in San Francisco, California

5

00:01:37,570 --> 00:01:40,520

on November 15, 1993.

6

00:01:40,520 --> 00:01:43,300

My name is Sylvia  
[Personal name] Eva

7

00:01:43,300 --> 00:01:47,510

tell us when and  
where were you born.

8

00:01:47,510 --> 00:01:50,050

I was born in Hungary.

9

00:01:50,050 --> 00:01:52,480

The name of the  
town is Szentes--

10

00:01:52,480 --> 00:02:01,510

S-Z-E-N-T-E-S. And it's in the  
low land of Hungary between

11

00:02:01,510 --> 00:02:04,210

the Tisa and the Danube.

12

00:02:04,210 --> 00:02:14,840

And I was born on July 10, 1923.

13  
00:02:14,840 --> 00:02:17,160  
What was your father's name?

14  
00:02:17,160 --> 00:02:19,160  
My father's name was Dezso--

15  
00:02:19,160 --> 00:02:27,111  
D-E-Z-S-O with an  
apostrophe on the top.

16  
00:02:27,111 --> 00:02:29,410  
And where was he from?

17  
00:02:29,410 --> 00:02:33,600  
He was born from a small  
town nearby Szentes

18  
00:02:33,600 --> 00:02:37,070  
called Mindszent--

19  
00:02:37,070 --> 00:02:47,070  
M-I-N-D-S-Z-E-N-T.

20  
00:02:47,070 --> 00:02:48,380  
Do you know his father's name?

21  
00:02:48,380 --> 00:02:52,100

22  
00:02:52,100 --> 00:02:54,170  
For the moment, it escapes me.

23  
00:02:54,170 --> 00:02:56,270  
And his last name?

24  
00:02:56,270 --> 00:03:03,960  
Bergel-- B-E-R-G-E-L.  
They changed it.

25  
00:03:03,960 --> 00:03:06,200

They Hungarianized it to Biro--

26

00:03:06,200 --> 00:03:08,180

B-I-R-O.

27

00:03:08,180 --> 00:03:09,950

When was it changed?

28

00:03:09,950 --> 00:03:11,760

I really can't remember.

29

00:03:11,760 --> 00:03:15,110

It was quite a bit

before I was born.

30

00:03:15,110 --> 00:03:18,740

And when, I was born my

maiden name was Biro already--

31

00:03:18,740 --> 00:03:20,630

B-I-R-O.

32

00:03:20,630 --> 00:03:23,310

What did your father

do for a living?

33

00:03:23,310 --> 00:03:27,715

He had a yard goods

store in Szentes.

34

00:03:27,715 --> 00:03:32,300

35

00:03:32,300 --> 00:03:35,390

He was married to

my mother, which was

36

00:03:35,390 --> 00:03:38,120

my mother's second marriage.

37

00:03:38,120 --> 00:03:42,380

My mother was married to

someone from that town.

38

00:03:42,380 --> 00:03:44,930

39

00:03:44,930 --> 00:03:50,720

During the First World War,  
he contacted tuberculosis

40

00:03:50,720 --> 00:03:54,780

and died, and left my  
mother with a little girl.

41

00:03:54,780 --> 00:04:00,590

And my mother remarried my  
father, and from this marriage,

42

00:04:00,590 --> 00:04:03,590

they had two children--

43

00:04:03,590 --> 00:04:08,250

myself and my brother,  
in that succession.

44

00:04:08,250 --> 00:04:10,070

What's your brother's name?

45

00:04:10,070 --> 00:04:16,850

My brother's name was  
Laszlo in Hungarian,

46

00:04:16,850 --> 00:04:22,220

and later became Theodore,  
because he ended up in America.

47

00:04:22,220 --> 00:04:25,320

When was he born?

48

00:04:25,320 --> 00:04:29,490

He was born eight  
years later than I am.

49

00:04:29,490 --> 00:04:32,120  
1932?

50  
00:04:32,120 --> 00:04:33,990  
Maybe I'm wrong on that.

51  
00:04:33,990 --> 00:04:36,980  
'34-- excuse me.

52  
00:04:36,980 --> 00:04:39,920  
I can't remember the year  
when he was born, but--

53  
00:04:39,920 --> 00:04:42,610

54  
00:04:42,610 --> 00:04:44,380  
And you had an older sister?

55  
00:04:44,380 --> 00:04:47,770  
I had an older sister from  
my mother's first marriage.

56  
00:04:47,770 --> 00:04:48,940  
And her name?

57  
00:04:48,940 --> 00:04:51,100  
Anna-- A-N-N-A--

58  
00:04:51,100 --> 00:04:53,680

59  
00:04:53,680 --> 00:04:56,140  
Do you know how your  
mother and father met?

60  
00:04:56,140 --> 00:04:57,568  
No, I don't.

61  
00:04:57,568 --> 00:04:58,360  
I'm afraid I don't.

62

00:04:58,360 --> 00:04:59,480

When did they get married?

63

00:04:59,480 --> 00:05:00,740

What year?

64

00:05:00,740 --> 00:05:03,280

I don't know that either.

65

00:05:03,280 --> 00:05:05,170

What was your mother's name?

66

00:05:05,170 --> 00:05:09,640

Regina-- R-E-G-I-N-A--

67

00:05:09,640 --> 00:05:11,920

And where was she from?

68

00:05:11,920 --> 00:05:16,030

She was from near  
outskirts of Budapest.

69

00:05:16,030 --> 00:05:19,430

And I have no idea how they met.

70

00:05:19,430 --> 00:05:24,460

The only thing I recall that--  
since my mother was widowed,

71

00:05:24,460 --> 00:05:27,700

she remained in the town  
where they were living,

72

00:05:27,700 --> 00:05:33,160

and my father was not married,  
and somehow they got together.

73

00:05:33,160 --> 00:05:34,570

What year did they get married?

74

00:05:34,570 --> 00:05:37,160

I don't know.

75

00:05:37,160 --> 00:05:39,400

Do you know the name  
of her first husband?

76

00:05:39,400 --> 00:05:47,080

77

00:05:47,080 --> 00:05:54,480

Oh, dear-- their  
last name was Engel--

78

00:05:54,480 --> 00:06:04,100

Engelman. ] Can't remember--

79

00:06:04,100 --> 00:06:06,950

might be Henry I don't know.

80

00:06:06,950 --> 00:06:10,955

Perhaps not. did you know the  
name of your mother's parents?

81

00:06:10,955 --> 00:06:15,820

82

00:06:15,820 --> 00:06:19,640

Completely escape me-- I can't  
remember these names at all.

83

00:06:19,640 --> 00:06:22,880

What did they do for  
a living, if you know?

84

00:06:22,880 --> 00:06:23,380

Yes.

85

00:06:23,380 --> 00:06:27,040

My grandfather on my  
mother's side had a--

86

00:06:27,040 --> 00:06:29,590

87  
00:06:29,590 --> 00:06:31,850  
I had never seen it,  
but I understand--

88  
00:06:31,850 --> 00:06:37,870  
the wholesale liquor business  
in [Place name] which

89  
00:06:37,870 --> 00:06:39,595  
is in outskirts of Budapest.

90  
00:06:39,595 --> 00:06:42,550

91  
00:06:42,550 --> 00:06:44,660  
Did you ever meet  
your maternal--

92  
00:06:44,660 --> 00:06:47,770  
I never met my  
grandfather, but I

93  
00:06:47,770 --> 00:06:51,015  
did meet my grandmother,  
my mother's mother.

94  
00:06:51,015 --> 00:06:51,640  
I did know her.

95  
00:06:51,640 --> 00:06:53,680  
What was she like?

96  
00:06:53,680 --> 00:06:56,200  
She was a very  
kind and very dear

97  
00:06:56,200 --> 00:07:01,300  
lady, and kind of  
short and warm.

98



00:07:01,300 --> 00:07:04,240  
And I liked her very much, but  
I don't know her first name

99  
00:07:04,240 --> 00:07:06,910  
either.

100  
00:07:06,910 --> 00:07:09,250  
Did you ever meet  
your father's--

101  
00:07:09,250 --> 00:07:16,120  
I met my father's father,  
but not his mother.

102  
00:07:16,120 --> 00:07:17,970  
And his name was Lajos.

103  
00:07:17,970 --> 00:07:18,700  
I forgot it.

104  
00:07:18,700 --> 00:07:22,150  
I couldn't remember before--

105  
00:07:22,150 --> 00:07:26,590  
L-A-J-O-S-- Lajos.

106  
00:07:26,590 --> 00:07:29,280

107  
00:07:29,280 --> 00:07:32,020  
And what was he like?

108  
00:07:32,020 --> 00:07:39,020  
He had a great big mustache,  
and at the time I remember him,

109  
00:07:39,020 --> 00:07:42,070  
he was always sitting  
by a potbelly stove,

110  
00:07:42,070 --> 00:07:45,760

and warming himself,  
and smoking a cigarette.

111  
00:07:45,760 --> 00:07:55,570  
And he was very fond of me,  
and I treasured him very much.

112  
00:07:55,570 --> 00:08:00,500  
And he was rather old, in  
his 80s, when he passed away.

113  
00:08:00,500 --> 00:08:06,580  
He was a well-liked  
individual in the community.

114  
00:08:06,580 --> 00:08:10,330  
He lived in Mindszent,  
which is the town

115  
00:08:10,330 --> 00:08:11,710  
that I mentioned before.

116  
00:08:11,710 --> 00:08:20,330

117  
00:08:20,330 --> 00:08:22,180  
Your mother's maiden name--

118  
00:08:22,180 --> 00:08:23,500  
what was that?

119  
00:08:23,500 --> 00:08:35,140  
Regina Schlesinger--  
S-C-H-L-E-S-I-N-G-E-R I think

120  
00:08:35,140 --> 00:08:36,760  
it's spelled.

121  
00:08:36,760 --> 00:08:39,286  
And where were the Schlessingers  
from originally, Hungary

122

00:08:39,286 --> 00:08:41,200  
or elsewhere?

123  
00:08:41,200 --> 00:08:44,450  
Well, I always knew  
they were from Hungary.

124  
00:08:44,450 --> 00:08:46,600  
I don't know where  
the roots came from,

125  
00:08:46,600 --> 00:08:49,330  
but the family lived--

126  
00:08:49,330 --> 00:08:55,780  
cousins, and their sisters,  
and brothers-- they all

127  
00:08:55,780 --> 00:08:58,810  
lived in that area.

128  
00:08:58,810 --> 00:09:02,680  
Where they originally  
migrated from I have no idea.

129  
00:09:02,680 --> 00:09:05,212  
They were always very  
proud to be Hungarians.

130  
00:09:05,212 --> 00:09:07,810

131  
00:09:07,810 --> 00:09:10,810  
Your mother had  
brothers and sisters?

132  
00:09:10,810 --> 00:09:17,150  
My mother had several  
brothers and sisters.

133  
00:09:17,150 --> 00:09:22,630  
The only one I knew  
quite well was a sister,

134  
00:09:22,630 --> 00:09:27,160  
who lived in Budapest  
and whom I had contact

135  
00:09:27,160 --> 00:09:35,020  
with through my childhood  
and into the Holocaust,

136  
00:09:35,020 --> 00:09:37,460  
where she passed away  
after the Holocaust,

137  
00:09:37,460 --> 00:09:40,540  
actually, in Budapest.

138  
00:09:40,540 --> 00:09:41,320  
And her name?

139  
00:09:41,320 --> 00:09:44,810

140  
00:09:44,810 --> 00:09:55,390  
Janka, which spells J-A-N-K-A.

141  
00:09:55,390 --> 00:09:59,590  
If you can remember the other  
brothers and sisters by name,

142  
00:09:59,590 --> 00:10:03,400  
if you could tell us-- if  
not, just tell us how many--

143  
00:10:03,400 --> 00:10:04,520  
your mother's siblings.

144  
00:10:04,520 --> 00:10:11,530

145  
00:10:11,530 --> 00:10:15,280  
There I think there  
were three girls--

146

00:10:15,280 --> 00:10:20,320  
my mother, my aunt, and another  
sister, whose name was Hermina.

147

00:10:20,320 --> 00:10:30,690

148

00:10:30,690 --> 00:10:41,650  
There was a brother whose  
name was Joseph, Alex, Arthur,

149

00:10:41,650 --> 00:10:45,250  
and I believe one  
more, whose name

150

00:10:45,250 --> 00:10:48,650  
I can't think of right now.

151

00:10:48,650 --> 00:10:51,205  
The only brother  
I knew was Joseph.

152

00:10:51,205 --> 00:10:57,320

153

00:10:57,320 --> 00:11:01,880  
When you say knew, does  
that mean that you grew up

154

00:11:01,880 --> 00:11:03,300  
with him around visiting and--

155

00:11:03,300 --> 00:11:08,210  
No, it means that he became  
a physician and left Hungary

156

00:11:08,210 --> 00:11:10,550  
in the very early '20s--

157

00:11:10,550 --> 00:11:14,090  
1920s-- and came to New York.

158

00:11:14,090 --> 00:11:18,890

And he practiced as a physician  
in Flushing, New York.

159

00:11:18,890 --> 00:11:24,530

And my parents passed away  
when I was eight years old,

160

00:11:24,530 --> 00:11:33,150

and he was one of the brother  
who came back from New York.

161

00:11:33,150 --> 00:11:38,330

And that's when I met him, the  
year following after my death--

162

00:11:38,330 --> 00:11:45,590

after my parents' deaths, when  
he came back from Hungary--

163

00:11:45,590 --> 00:11:49,340

from New York to Hungary.

164

00:11:49,340 --> 00:11:52,460

See, what happened--  
there were three

165

00:11:52,460 --> 00:11:55,070

of us children in our family.

166

00:11:55,070 --> 00:12:02,420

My father died at the age of  
41 of a cardiac arrest on Yom

167

00:12:02,420 --> 00:12:08,810

Kippur night, and my mother  
died two weeks later.

168

00:12:08,810 --> 00:12:12,530

And the three  
children were left,

169

00:12:12,530 --> 00:12:18,500  
and my mother's last wish was  
to have the three children go

170

00:12:18,500 --> 00:12:26,000  
to three uncles, who had  
been in a financial position

171

00:12:26,000 --> 00:12:29,420  
to assume the responsibility  
of the three children.

172

00:12:29,420 --> 00:12:35,300  
My sister was, I  
believe, 16, I was eight,

173

00:12:35,300 --> 00:12:37,170  
and my brother was  
two years younger.

174

00:12:37,170 --> 00:12:39,500  
I couldn't recall  
the age he was born.

175

00:12:39,500 --> 00:12:42,710  
So my sister was  
16, I was eight,

176

00:12:42,710 --> 00:12:48,230  
and he was six at the  
time my parents died.

177

00:12:48,230 --> 00:12:53,780  
Then this small little  
family was divided.

178

00:12:53,780 --> 00:13:02,360  
My sister was transferred  
to her father's brother--

179

00:13:02,360 --> 00:13:05,960  
member of my mother's  
first marriage.

180  
00:13:05,960 --> 00:13:11,540  
I was transferred to  
my father's brother,

181  
00:13:11,540 --> 00:13:17,030  
and my brother was  
taken to Budapest

182  
00:13:17,030 --> 00:13:25,790  
and stayed with my  
mother's sister, who

183  
00:13:25,790 --> 00:13:30,110  
had my brother in her home  
until my uncle from Flushing,

184  
00:13:30,110 --> 00:13:34,970  
New York returned to  
Hungary with the intention

185  
00:13:34,970 --> 00:13:36,620  
of adopting me.

186  
00:13:36,620 --> 00:13:40,160  
And then they decided  
to adopt my brother.

187  
00:13:40,160 --> 00:13:44,780  
So my brother was adopted and  
brought to the United States.

188  
00:13:44,780 --> 00:13:51,400  
I believe the year was in 1932.

189  
00:13:51,400 --> 00:13:56,400  
Let me get this [INAUDIBLE]  
at the time of your parents'

190  
00:13:56,400 --> 00:13:59,640  
death, Anna was 16.

191



00:13:59,640 --> 00:14:03,155  
As I recall, she was 16--

192  
00:14:03,155 --> 00:14:03,780  
You were eight.

193  
00:14:03,780 --> 00:14:08,457  
--I was eight, and  
my brother was six.

194  
00:14:08,457 --> 00:14:11,040  
So there's two years difference  
between [you and your brother.

195  
00:14:11,040 --> 00:14:15,030  
Two years-- I couldn't  
recall it earlier.

196  
00:14:15,030 --> 00:14:17,410  
So he was born in 1928?

197  
00:14:17,410 --> 00:14:20,790  
Must have been-- and I  
can't remember his birthday.

198  
00:14:20,790 --> 00:14:22,620  
What did your mother die of?

199  
00:14:22,620 --> 00:14:26,130  
He took an overdose of seconal.

200  
00:14:26,130 --> 00:14:27,690  
My father died of--

201  
00:14:27,690 --> 00:14:33,420  
Yom Kippur night,  
and in those days,

202  
00:14:33,420 --> 00:14:36,840  
after the temple, people--

203  
00:14:36,840 --> 00:14:42,630

my whole family congregated  
in one family's home,

204

00:14:42,630 --> 00:14:47,580  
and after they walked home from  
there, my father went to sleep,

205

00:14:47,580 --> 00:14:51,030  
and during the night he  
had a coronary arrest.

206

00:14:51,030 --> 00:14:54,810  
And nobody travels  
on Yom Kippur day,

207

00:14:54,810 --> 00:14:59,070  
and the family was  
short of help--

208

00:14:59,070 --> 00:15:00,900  
immediate support.

209

00:15:00,900 --> 00:15:05,430  
And there was an aunt on my  
father's side, who was old,

210

00:15:05,430 --> 00:15:11,040  
in her late 70s, and every year  
she would spend her holidays

211

00:15:11,040 --> 00:15:11,880  
with us.

212

00:15:11,880 --> 00:15:14,790  
And she was the  
only lady around--

213

00:15:14,790 --> 00:15:17,310  
or the only person, I  
should say, who could stay

214

00:15:17,310 --> 00:15:18,720  
was my mother.

215

00:15:18,720 --> 00:15:23,100

And they covered all the  
mirrors, as the custom is.

216

00:15:23,100 --> 00:15:28,890

And because of the holidays,  
the body of my father

217

00:15:28,890 --> 00:15:30,960

had to remain in the house.

218

00:15:30,960 --> 00:15:33,930

And it was a very  
depressing situation,

219

00:15:33,930 --> 00:15:37,710

and my mother was very  
despondent to lose

220

00:15:37,710 --> 00:15:42,630

her second husband, and was  
left with three children.

221

00:15:42,630 --> 00:15:45,930

In the middle of the  
night, she couldn't sleep.

222

00:15:45,930 --> 00:15:49,770

And she went to the medicine  
cabinet, and found some seconal

223

00:15:49,770 --> 00:15:51,210

and took it.

224

00:15:51,210 --> 00:15:56,400

I have no idea how many she  
took, but in the morning,

225

00:15:56,400 --> 00:15:57,990

when this aunt--

226

00:15:57,990 --> 00:16:01,800  
who was sitting on the sofa  
sleeping while all this was

227  
00:16:01,800 --> 00:16:03,960  
taking place--

228  
00:16:03,960 --> 00:16:06,960  
my mother was not feeling well,  
and they called the doctor.

229  
00:16:06,960 --> 00:16:14,910  
And then they took her  
with an ambulance to a town

230  
00:16:14,910 --> 00:16:18,930  
where there was a good hospital,  
and they tried to save her,

231  
00:16:18,930 --> 00:16:25,410  
but the time between the  
ingestion of the medication

232  
00:16:25,410 --> 00:16:28,560  
and the time they  
found her was too long,

233  
00:16:28,560 --> 00:16:32,670  
and all that seconal absorbed.

234  
00:16:32,670 --> 00:16:36,840  
So they brought her  
back home so she

235  
00:16:36,840 --> 00:16:39,750  
should be able to  
see the children,

236  
00:16:39,750 --> 00:16:43,380  
and then she passed  
away at home.

237  
00:16:43,380 --> 00:16:47,730

And that's when we were  
transferred to the family--

238  
00:16:47,730 --> 00:16:49,650  
to the different  
parts of the family.

239  
00:16:49,650 --> 00:16:51,090  
Must have been devastating--

240  
00:16:51,090 --> 00:16:57,360  
Well, it was very difficult.  
Of course, we were lost,

241  
00:16:57,360 --> 00:17:00,940  
and then we were separated,  
the three children.

242  
00:17:00,940 --> 00:17:04,560  
So we didn't even have  
the support of each other.

243  
00:17:04,560 --> 00:17:13,109  
And my sister, being  
16, shortly after the--

244  
00:17:13,109 --> 00:17:18,780  
her uncle found a young man  
who was looking for a wife,

245  
00:17:18,780 --> 00:17:23,910  
and she got married to somebody  
who was considerably older.

246  
00:17:23,910 --> 00:17:30,480  
And she died in childbirth  
at the age of 18.

247  
00:17:30,480 --> 00:17:35,760  
And my brother was taken  
to America by my uncle,

248  
00:17:35,760 --> 00:17:40,170

and I was left really  
the only one in Hungary.

249

00:17:40,170 --> 00:17:47,700  
Now, my sister's daughter, who  
was born out of this marriage,

250

00:17:47,700 --> 00:17:52,120  
survived and survived  
the concentration camp.

251

00:17:52,120 --> 00:17:54,570  
And she is still in Hungary.

252

00:17:54,570 --> 00:17:55,340  
And her name?

253

00:17:55,340 --> 00:17:56,880  
Her name is Agnes.

254

00:17:56,880 --> 00:18:00,850

255

00:18:00,850 --> 00:18:02,920  
As a matter of fact,  
I'm hoping that she

256

00:18:02,920 --> 00:18:06,970  
will come visit me this  
December, next month.

257

00:18:06,970 --> 00:18:10,100

258

00:18:10,100 --> 00:18:11,770  
Anna died when you were--

259

00:18:11,770 --> 00:18:13,460  
When she was 18--

260

00:18:13,460 --> 00:18:14,780  
--when you were 10.

261  
00:18:14,780 --> 00:18:21,530  
I must have been about 10,  
because my niece, Agnes--

262  
00:18:21,530 --> 00:18:24,950  
the little girl who was  
born out of that marriage--

263  
00:18:24,950 --> 00:18:29,870  
was born on July 6,  
and I was exactly

264  
00:18:29,870 --> 00:18:32,300  
10 years old at that time.

265  
00:18:32,300 --> 00:18:36,845  
And my birthday's July 10, so  
it's just a few days apart.

266  
00:18:36,845 --> 00:18:40,970

267  
00:18:40,970 --> 00:18:42,680  
Within the space  
of two years, you

268  
00:18:42,680 --> 00:18:49,520  
lost your mother, your father,  
your older sister to death.

269  
00:18:49,520 --> 00:18:51,590  
And my brother was  
brought to America.

270  
00:18:51,590 --> 00:18:53,100  
And you lost--

271  
00:18:53,100 --> 00:18:53,600  
Yes.

272  
00:18:53,600 --> 00:18:54,850

--separated from your brother.

273

00:18:54,850 --> 00:18:57,800

And then my grandmother,  
whom I was very fond

274

00:18:57,800 --> 00:18:59,550

of-- my mother's mother--

275

00:18:59,550 --> 00:19:03,350

she also passed away in  
that short period of time.

276

00:19:03,350 --> 00:19:10,430

277

00:19:10,430 --> 00:19:13,760

My uncle, who was  
my foster father--

278

00:19:13,760 --> 00:19:18,290

they had never adopted me, but  
they were married for 14 years

279

00:19:18,290 --> 00:19:21,000

and they never had any children.

280

00:19:21,000 --> 00:19:27,650

And she did get pregnant shortly  
after I came into their home,

281

00:19:27,650 --> 00:19:35,660

and then she died due to  
cancer when her child was,

282

00:19:35,660 --> 00:19:37,480

I believe, four years old--

283

00:19:37,480 --> 00:19:39,110

very young.

284

00:19:39,110 --> 00:19:41,870



So I was 14 when I lost her.

285

00:19:41,870 --> 00:19:44,430

286

00:19:44,430 --> 00:19:46,360

And her name?

287

00:19:46,360 --> 00:19:49,890

Her name was Elizabeth.

288

00:19:49,890 --> 00:19:51,300

And whose wife was--

289

00:19:51,300 --> 00:19:52,140

her husband?

290

00:19:52,140 --> 00:19:55,395

Her husband was

Joseph, my uncle.

291

00:19:55,395 --> 00:20:02,850

292

00:20:02,850 --> 00:20:05,100

You lived with

Elizabeth and Joseph?

293

00:20:05,100 --> 00:20:05,700

Yes.

294

00:20:05,700 --> 00:20:09,840

What is the name of the uncle  
who brought your brother?

295

00:20:09,840 --> 00:20:11,380

His name is Joseph also.

296

00:20:11,380 --> 00:20:11,880

[INAUDIBLE]

297

00:20:11,880 --> 00:20:16,440  
There were three Josephs,  
three uncles in the family.

298  
00:20:16,440 --> 00:20:19,260  
My sister went to  
an uncle, whose name

299  
00:20:19,260 --> 00:20:27,180  
is Joseph on her father's  
brother was Joseph.

300  
00:20:27,180 --> 00:20:32,110  
My father's brother  
was Joseph also.

301  
00:20:32,110 --> 00:20:37,770  
My mother's brother  
was also Joseph.

302  
00:20:37,770 --> 00:20:40,920  
So you went to live with  
Elizabeth and Joseph?

303  
00:20:40,920 --> 00:20:44,400  
And Joseph, in Mindszent--

304  
00:20:44,400 --> 00:20:55,770  
and he had a business where he  
sold leather goods to make--

305  
00:20:55,770 --> 00:20:57,960  
hand make in those days--

306  
00:20:57,960 --> 00:21:03,900  
shoes, and boots,  
and work shoes.

307  
00:21:03,900 --> 00:21:07,210  
And he had a very good business,  
and financially very secure.

308  
00:21:07,210 --> 00:21:11,310

And my mother felt that they  
had no children at that time,

309  
00:21:11,310 --> 00:21:13,680  
and financially  
secure that they would

310  
00:21:13,680 --> 00:21:19,350  
be able to take care of  
me properly, and love me,

311  
00:21:19,350 --> 00:21:22,590  
and I suppose educate  
me, because they

312  
00:21:22,590 --> 00:21:24,890  
had the financial means.

313  
00:21:24,890 --> 00:21:27,657  
You said that it was  
your mother's last wish

314  
00:21:27,657 --> 00:21:28,740  
that the three [INAUDIBLE]

315  
00:21:28,740 --> 00:21:31,200  
The three children should  
go to the three uncles--

316  
00:21:31,200 --> 00:21:33,810  
Where did she make  
this last wish known?

317  
00:21:33,810 --> 00:21:38,100  
She was at home after  
they brought her back

318  
00:21:38,100 --> 00:21:40,680  
from the hospital, when they  
realized that they could not

319  
00:21:40,680 --> 00:21:42,480  
save her life.

320  
00:21:42,480 --> 00:21:48,570  
And she was in our house at  
the time she passed away,

321  
00:21:48,570 --> 00:21:51,840  
and that is where she  
made her last wish.

322  
00:21:51,840 --> 00:21:54,270  
Were you were when she died?

323  
00:21:54,270 --> 00:21:57,270  
I wasn't at the bedside,  
but we were there

324  
00:21:57,270 --> 00:22:00,510  
to say goodbye to her  
before she passed.

325  
00:22:00,510 --> 00:22:04,150  
[INAUDIBLE] that she was  
dying and that you had to--

326  
00:22:04,150 --> 00:22:04,650  
Yes.

327  
00:22:04,650 --> 00:22:05,233  
--say goodbye?

328  
00:22:05,233 --> 00:22:07,650  
See, at the time my parents--

329  
00:22:07,650 --> 00:22:12,780  
my father died, we had a  
very good family friend

330  
00:22:12,780 --> 00:22:15,420  
who lived not very far from us.

331  
00:22:15,420 --> 00:22:20,940  
They took us into their home

to take us away from the house

332

00:22:20,940 --> 00:22:24,750  
where this tragedy happened.

333

00:22:24,750 --> 00:22:29,430  
People had to wait until  
the holiday was over

334

00:22:29,430 --> 00:22:32,820  
before they could  
do anything, or even

335

00:22:32,820 --> 00:22:35,220  
notify some of  
the family members

336

00:22:35,220 --> 00:22:37,710  
who lived in other towns.

337

00:22:37,710 --> 00:22:45,600  
And so this friend came and took  
my brother and I. My sister,

338

00:22:45,600 --> 00:22:48,340  
being older, she  
remained in our house.

339

00:22:48,340 --> 00:22:51,690  
And also, my aunt I  
spoke about earlier,

340

00:22:51,690 --> 00:22:54,450  
who was an elderly lady--

341

00:22:54,450 --> 00:22:55,980  
the two of them stayed.

342

00:22:55,980 --> 00:22:58,500  
And then we had people--

343

00:22:58,500 --> 00:23:01,230

servants who lived in  
house, and they were there.

344  
00:23:01,230 --> 00:23:07,010

345  
00:23:07,010 --> 00:23:14,070  
When my mother was  
brought back to our home,

346  
00:23:14,070 --> 00:23:16,340  
we were told that we're  
going to see our mother

347  
00:23:16,340 --> 00:23:19,270  
to say goodbye to her.

348  
00:23:19,270 --> 00:23:24,860  
We actually saw her being  
taken away with an ambulance.

349  
00:23:24,860 --> 00:23:28,940  
I remember looking  
out the window

350  
00:23:28,940 --> 00:23:30,140  
and seeing the ambulance go.

351  
00:23:30,140 --> 00:23:45,030

352  
00:23:45,030 --> 00:23:47,130  
I'm sorry.

353  
00:23:47,130 --> 00:23:53,430  
And then, when they  
brought her back,

354  
00:23:53,430 --> 00:24:02,350  
and then before my uncle  
arrived to take me with him,

355

00:24:02,350 --> 00:24:04,110  
I stayed with this  
family friend.

356  
00:24:04,110 --> 00:24:06,990

357  
00:24:06,990 --> 00:24:10,710  
And they had children--

358  
00:24:10,710 --> 00:24:12,690  
two boys about the same age.

359  
00:24:12,690 --> 00:24:17,110

360  
00:24:17,110 --> 00:24:22,780  
well, then, when I  
was at Mindszent,

361  
00:24:22,780 --> 00:24:27,490  
and my uncle and his wife  
had this little girl,

362  
00:24:27,490 --> 00:24:31,270  
they found out that she  
had a lump in her breast,

363  
00:24:31,270 --> 00:24:34,005  
and they did a--

364  
00:24:34,005 --> 00:24:37,060

365  
00:24:37,060 --> 00:24:39,220  
they took her into  
Szentes, where

366  
00:24:39,220 --> 00:24:42,970  
they had a specialist who  
was very highly thought of,

367

00:24:42,970 --> 00:24:44,740  
and he did a lumpectomy.

368  
00:24:44,740 --> 00:24:49,720  
And of course, he knew  
that it was malignant.

369  
00:24:49,720 --> 00:24:55,610  
And they did do a mastectomy,  
but it was too late.

370  
00:24:55,610 --> 00:24:58,180  
They did bring her  
home, and she actually

371  
00:24:58,180 --> 00:25:01,250  
passed away in our house.

372  
00:25:01,250 --> 00:25:11,080  
And then my uncle, who now  
had my niece and myself,

373  
00:25:11,080 --> 00:25:16,270  
had a housemother he  
hired from Budapest,

374  
00:25:16,270 --> 00:25:19,950  
who was a lady who  
lost her husband

375  
00:25:19,950 --> 00:25:23,000  
and came from a very good home.

376  
00:25:23,000 --> 00:25:26,510  
And she needed some  
income, and she

377  
00:25:26,510 --> 00:25:28,820  
was with us for quite a while.

378  
00:25:28,820 --> 00:25:31,790  
And I can't remember  
exactly how long.



379  
00:25:31,790 --> 00:25:38,330  
And then somebody told  
my uncle that there

380  
00:25:38,330 --> 00:25:42,440  
was a lady who lost her  
husband due to typhus,

381  
00:25:42,440 --> 00:25:48,140  
and she was in the same  
business in another town.

382  
00:25:48,140 --> 00:25:54,230  
And they brought them together,  
and he ended up marrying her.

383  
00:25:54,230 --> 00:26:00,350  
She had no children so I  
ended up with another mother

384  
00:26:00,350 --> 00:26:01,400  
by this time.

385  
00:26:01,400 --> 00:26:09,410

386  
00:26:09,410 --> 00:26:12,600  
Fortunately, these people  
were very good to us.

387  
00:26:12,600 --> 00:26:23,120  
But I think this early  
tragedy left all three of us

388  
00:26:23,120 --> 00:26:29,060  
with a very difficult  
life, I think.

389  
00:26:29,060 --> 00:26:35,330  
And then, when my brother  
came to America, of course,

390

00:26:35,330 --> 00:26:38,570

our only contact  
was through writing,

391

00:26:38,570 --> 00:26:45,320

and mainly between the adults,  
because we were too young.

392

00:26:45,320 --> 00:26:54,260

Then, after the elementary  
school and high school that I

393

00:26:54,260 --> 00:26:57,350

went through in Mindszent,  
which was a community--

394

00:26:57,350 --> 00:27:05,950

approximately 10,000 people--

395

00:27:05,950 --> 00:27:11,860

Hitler was already  
known and feared.

396

00:27:11,860 --> 00:27:17,620

And the question was as to  
what to do with my schooling

397

00:27:17,620 --> 00:27:18,835

and where to go.

398

00:27:18,835 --> 00:27:22,130

399

00:27:22,130 --> 00:27:28,600

I was hoping to go  
into nursing school,

400

00:27:28,600 --> 00:27:35,770

but that was quickly eliminated,  
because my uncle felt that,

401

00:27:35,770 --> 00:27:41,230

if I learned a trade,  
no matter what happens,

402  
00:27:41,230 --> 00:27:45,370  
that my survival  
would be easier.

403  
00:27:45,370 --> 00:27:57,970  
And so they considered  
hairdressing, shoemaking,

404  
00:27:57,970 --> 00:28:00,010  
or dressmaking.

405  
00:28:00,010 --> 00:28:06,370  
And for different  
reasons, they eliminated--

406  
00:28:06,370 --> 00:28:10,210  
the hairdressers in those  
days, unfortunately, were not

407  
00:28:10,210 --> 00:28:13,210  
very highly regarded tradesmen.

408  
00:28:13,210 --> 00:28:17,830  
And my uncle's words to me  
were that, no matter where

409  
00:28:17,830 --> 00:28:19,870  
people are where  
they have to go,

410  
00:28:19,870 --> 00:28:21,860  
they always have  
to wear clothes,

411  
00:28:21,860 --> 00:28:25,030  
so I think you  
should learn to sew.

412  
00:28:25,030 --> 00:28:33,970  
And he made the arrangement

for me to go into Szeged--

413

00:28:33,970 --> 00:28:40,000

S-Z-E-G-E-D-- Szeged,  
which is a larger town.

414

00:28:40,000 --> 00:28:46,450

And he had a good friend who was  
in manufacturing shoes there,

415

00:28:46,450 --> 00:28:47,840

who had a daughter.

416

00:28:47,840 --> 00:28:51,460

They had a lovely home, and  
sufficient servants and room

417

00:28:51,460 --> 00:28:53,050

for me.

418

00:28:53,050 --> 00:29:01,610

And he made the arrangement with  
a salon for me to study there.

419

00:29:01,610 --> 00:29:05,560

Everything was handmade,  
and the customers

420

00:29:05,560 --> 00:29:09,440

were mainly well-to-do people.

421

00:29:09,440 --> 00:29:14,200

And so I went through  
the training there.

422

00:29:14,200 --> 00:29:18,220

Then I was apprenticed  
there, and then I

423

00:29:18,220 --> 00:29:22,720

passed my examination  
and received my workbook.

424

00:29:22,720 --> 00:29:25,270

In those days, if  
you successfully

425

00:29:25,270 --> 00:29:29,380

completed your tradesmanship,  
you were given a book.

426

00:29:29,380 --> 00:29:34,360

And I have that  
book with me, if you

427

00:29:34,360 --> 00:29:39,640

would like-- so happens  
that I was able to save it.

428

00:29:39,640 --> 00:29:47,470

And then, while I was in  
Szeged, I was in my mid teens

429

00:29:47,470 --> 00:29:48,220

by that time.

430

00:29:48,220 --> 00:29:51,580

431

00:29:51,580 --> 00:29:54,910

Actually, we knew the  
situation with Hitler

432

00:29:54,910 --> 00:29:58,060

was getting more serious,  
but of course, it

433

00:29:58,060 --> 00:30:01,450

happened outside of  
Hungary, and it wasn't going

434

00:30:01,450 --> 00:30:03,140

to happen to us, of course.

435

00:30:03,140 --> 00:30:05,890

That was everybody's belief.

436

00:30:05,890 --> 00:30:14,680

And after I learned to  
sew and got my book,

437

00:30:14,680 --> 00:30:17,650

I moved to Budapest.

438

00:30:17,650 --> 00:30:20,680

And I was living there.

439

00:30:20,680 --> 00:30:23,560

And I was living in  
Budapest at the time

440

00:30:23,560 --> 00:30:25,465

Hitler marched into Hungary.

441

00:30:25,465 --> 00:30:28,065

442

00:30:28,065 --> 00:30:29,900

Do you remember the year?

443

00:30:29,900 --> 00:30:32,930

Well, I was trying to recall.

444

00:30:32,930 --> 00:30:35,390

I know it was on a  
Sunday when Hitler--

445

00:30:35,390 --> 00:30:37,940

when the Germans  
marched into Hungary.

446

00:30:37,940 --> 00:30:38,450

Excuse me.

447

00:30:38,450 --> 00:30:39,720

May I blow my nose?

448

00:30:39,720 --> 00:30:50,570

449

00:30:50,570 --> 00:30:55,750

How old were you when you graduated from high school?

450

00:30:55,750 --> 00:30:59,700

Well, see, we have four year elementary school,

451

00:30:59,700 --> 00:31:03,610

four year in high school.

452

00:31:03,610 --> 00:31:08,460

So I was 14, somewhere--

453

00:31:08,460 --> 00:31:16,170

let's see-- eight-- about 16, somewhere around there.

454

00:31:16,170 --> 00:31:18,540

And then how long did your apprenticeship

455

00:31:18,540 --> 00:31:20,460

as a dressmaker take?

456

00:31:20,460 --> 00:31:21,480

That was two years.

457

00:31:21,480 --> 00:31:26,070

458

00:31:26,070 --> 00:31:27,820

And then you moved to Budapest [INAUDIBLE]

459

00:31:27,820 --> 00:31:30,490

Then I went to Budapest, yes.

460

00:31:30,490 --> 00:31:32,140  
When you were 18?

461  
00:31:32,140 --> 00:31:36,500  
Somewhere around there,  
in my late teens--

462  
00:31:36,500 --> 00:31:37,480  
I can't remember.

463  
00:31:37,480 --> 00:31:40,960  
I was trying to  
think about the age,

464  
00:31:40,960 --> 00:31:44,080  
but I couldn't recall  
the-- but it was somewhere

465  
00:31:44,080 --> 00:31:48,290  
toward my late teens.

466  
00:31:48,290 --> 00:31:54,490  
So possibly, this  
might have been 1944?

467  
00:31:54,490 --> 00:32:01,970  
For some reason, March of  
'44 seems to be the date,

468  
00:32:01,970 --> 00:32:05,390  
but I know it was on a Sunday.

469  
00:32:05,390 --> 00:32:08,120  
What do you remember?

470  
00:32:08,120 --> 00:32:10,130  
It was a terrible day.

471  
00:32:10,130 --> 00:32:14,618  
I was visiting a  
cousin of mine on my--

472



00:32:14,618 --> 00:32:19,910  
my aunt Elizabeth had  
a niece in Budapest,

473  
00:32:19,910 --> 00:32:22,700  
whom I was very close to.

474  
00:32:22,700 --> 00:32:26,090  
And I went to visit  
them on Sunday,

475  
00:32:26,090 --> 00:32:29,780  
and we could hear the  
tanks rolling down

476  
00:32:29,780 --> 00:32:32,660  
the main boulevard.

477  
00:32:32,660 --> 00:32:39,660  
But I cannot describe the fear  
that we had in our hearts,

478  
00:32:39,660 --> 00:32:43,710  
because we didn't know  
what was going to happen.

479  
00:32:43,710 --> 00:32:46,370  
And I was visiting with--

480  
00:32:46,370 --> 00:32:48,740  
her name is [Personal  
name] in Hungarian,

481  
00:32:48,740 --> 00:32:52,370  
but it's Susan in English.

482  
00:32:52,370 --> 00:32:57,440  
And we knew that  
this probably is

483  
00:32:57,440 --> 00:33:06,170  
the beginning of the unknown of  
what might happen to the Jews

484  
00:33:06,170 --> 00:33:08,420  
in Hungary.

485  
00:33:08,420 --> 00:33:16,300  
And it was like this--

486  
00:33:16,300 --> 00:33:21,950  
life stood still for the time  
being-- the unknown, the fear,

487  
00:33:21,950 --> 00:33:25,900  
the uncertainty, the  
quandary whether I

488  
00:33:25,900 --> 00:33:28,990  
should go back to my family.

489  
00:33:28,990 --> 00:33:30,430  
Should I remain here?

490  
00:33:30,430 --> 00:33:35,560

491  
00:33:35,560 --> 00:33:39,910  
Nobody really knew  
what advice to give.

492  
00:33:39,910 --> 00:33:43,750  
And it was actually a  
good thing I decided

493  
00:33:43,750 --> 00:33:45,970  
to stay in Budapest for--

494  
00:33:45,970 --> 00:33:50,290  
from the point of view of  
staying alive, because as soon

495  
00:33:50,290 --> 00:33:57,970  
as the Germans came in, they  
occupied all the railroad

496  
00:33:57,970 --> 00:33:59,500  
stations.

497  
00:33:59,500 --> 00:34:01,780  
And there were a  
lot of people who

498  
00:34:01,780 --> 00:34:03,820  
were trying to get  
out of Budapest,

499  
00:34:03,820 --> 00:34:05,890  
go back to their families--

500  
00:34:05,890 --> 00:34:08,710  
they were arrested and  
deported, and most of them

501  
00:34:08,710 --> 00:34:10,870  
never heard from.

502  
00:34:10,870 --> 00:34:14,469  
And I remained there.

503  
00:34:14,469 --> 00:34:18,790  
I don't know how I made the  
decision, or what basis.

504  
00:34:18,790 --> 00:34:20,770  
Everybody said, why  
didn't you wait?

505  
00:34:20,770 --> 00:34:22,449  
And so I did.

506  
00:34:22,449 --> 00:34:24,610  
And then, of  
course, we heard not

507  
00:34:24,610 --> 00:34:28,840  
to go near any railroad

station to any direction,

508

00:34:28,840 --> 00:34:33,190

because they were  
picking people off.

509

00:34:33,190 --> 00:34:38,230

Of course, the Germans would  
close off streets and ask

510

00:34:38,230 --> 00:34:41,080

for identification,  
and that's how they

511

00:34:41,080 --> 00:34:44,980

started to gather the Jews.

512

00:34:44,980 --> 00:34:48,100

I was working  
actually at that time

513

00:34:48,100 --> 00:34:53,260

in a salon in the  
center of Budapest,

514

00:34:53,260 --> 00:34:58,960

which was a very well-liked  
and regarded place

515

00:34:58,960 --> 00:35:02,560

in [Place name]  
which today houses

516

00:35:02,560 --> 00:35:05,320

all the fashionable stores.

517

00:35:05,320 --> 00:35:12,400

And I was living with my aunt--

518

00:35:12,400 --> 00:35:16,780

my aunt who had my brother,  
who took care of my brother

519

00:35:16,780 --> 00:35:19,630

until my uncle came  
back from Hungary--

520

00:35:19,630 --> 00:35:21,130

from America.

521

00:35:21,130 --> 00:35:24,410

522

00:35:24,410 --> 00:35:29,780

Her name was Janka,  
and she had a daughter,

523

00:35:29,780 --> 00:35:31,430

whose name is Elizabeth.

524

00:35:31,430 --> 00:35:34,490

525

00:35:34,490 --> 00:35:39,420

And I was living with them.

526

00:35:39,420 --> 00:35:44,590

She was widowed, and  
lived with her daughter.

527

00:35:44,590 --> 00:35:48,590

528

00:35:48,590 --> 00:35:52,250

I went back to work after  
the Germans came in,

529

00:35:52,250 --> 00:35:54,620

and there were a  
lot of people there

530

00:35:54,620 --> 00:35:59,300

who were working in  
Budapest from Yugoslavia,

531

00:35:59,300 --> 00:36:02,300  
and they all worked underground.

532

00:36:02,300 --> 00:36:08,360  
And they advised me not to  
fear, that they would help me--

533

00:36:08,360 --> 00:36:10,790  
in case something  
happens, that they

534

00:36:10,790 --> 00:36:18,230  
would help me to escape, or  
hide me, or protect me somehow.

535

00:36:18,230 --> 00:36:20,090  
So I continued going to work.

536

00:36:20,090 --> 00:36:22,850

537

00:36:22,850 --> 00:36:25,610  
And then, of course, I was  
in contact with my family

538

00:36:25,610 --> 00:36:26,210  
through mail.

539

00:36:26,210 --> 00:36:31,610

540

00:36:31,610 --> 00:36:37,160  
One day I was asked  
to go downstairs,

541

00:36:37,160 --> 00:36:45,230  
where the customers were seen,  
because the shop actually

542

00:36:45,230 --> 00:36:46,355  
was on the second floor.

543

00:36:46,355 --> 00:36:50,690

544

00:36:50,690 --> 00:36:57,050

The cutter who was my  
foreman, walked up to us,

545

00:36:57,050 --> 00:36:59,120

and he was ashen white.

546

00:36:59,120 --> 00:37:03,980

And he came over to me, said,  
there are two gendarmes here

547

00:37:03,980 --> 00:37:05,840

to see you.

548

00:37:05,840 --> 00:37:12,780

And the whole room just  
really came to a standstill.

549

00:37:12,780 --> 00:37:18,230

And I was frightened, but I  
had to go down to see them.

550

00:37:18,230 --> 00:37:24,410

And they asked to owner  
to give us a private room.

551

00:37:24,410 --> 00:37:28,670

And when they closed the  
door, they told us that--

552

00:37:28,670 --> 00:37:33,200

they told me that they are  
there to arrest me and take me

553

00:37:33,200 --> 00:37:44,240

back to my family, because the  
head of the gendarmes was--

554

00:37:44,240 --> 00:37:47,930

had great respect for my uncle.

555

00:37:47,930 --> 00:37:54,770

My uncle asked him to  
come and bring me home,

556

00:37:54,770 --> 00:37:58,130

and the only way they could  
bring me home safely--

557

00:37:58,130 --> 00:38:04,550

if they would arrest me  
officially, and under arrest,

558

00:38:04,550 --> 00:38:09,950

would escort me back  
to where my family was.

559

00:38:09,950 --> 00:38:14,420

However, my uncle  
left message with them

560

00:38:14,420 --> 00:38:18,710

to tell me that, if I elect not  
to come, he will understand,

561

00:38:18,710 --> 00:38:22,880

because they already knew  
that, from the ghetto,

562

00:38:22,880 --> 00:38:26,810

they are going to have to be  
deported to a larger city.

563

00:38:26,810 --> 00:38:31,080

And if I elect not  
to go back, then he

564

00:38:31,080 --> 00:38:35,220

send me some money and  
food with these people.

565

00:38:35,220 --> 00:38:37,820



So these people would  
give me the choice

566  
00:38:37,820 --> 00:38:41,660  
whether to go back and join  
my family in the ghetto

567  
00:38:41,660 --> 00:38:46,455  
or whether to stay and  
remain in Budapest.

568  
00:38:46,455 --> 00:38:48,630  
The people who came to  
rescue you told you this?

569  
00:38:48,630 --> 00:38:49,130  
Yes,

570  
00:38:49,130 --> 00:38:50,240  
Yes.

571  
00:38:50,240 --> 00:38:50,810  
Yes.

572  
00:38:50,810 --> 00:38:57,260  
They were two trusted  
men from the--

573  
00:38:57,260 --> 00:39:01,160  
I call them the  
gendarmes, but I--

574  
00:39:01,160 --> 00:39:05,040  
they were not policemen  
and they were not military.

575  
00:39:05,040 --> 00:39:07,520  
There was another  
unit in Hungary

576  
00:39:07,520 --> 00:39:14,570  
that was really  
responsible to help to get

577

00:39:14,570 --> 00:39:16,970  
the Jews into the ghetto.

578

00:39:16,970 --> 00:39:20,510  
And my uncle lived  
in a corner house,

579

00:39:20,510 --> 00:39:24,020  
and because of his  
standing in the community,

580

00:39:24,020 --> 00:39:30,200  
they elected to put the ghetto  
starting with that house.

581

00:39:30,200 --> 00:39:34,220  
So I have never been there,  
but our house in Mindszent,

582

00:39:34,220 --> 00:39:38,480  
where my uncle lived with  
his second wife and his child

583

00:39:38,480 --> 00:39:43,010  
from the first marriage,  
was part of the ghetto.

584

00:39:43,010 --> 00:39:46,220  
And there were communities--  
smaller communities

585

00:39:46,220 --> 00:39:52,070  
around them, where the people  
were brought in and housed

586

00:39:52,070 --> 00:39:58,940  
there until the whole community  
was transferred to Szeged.

587

00:39:58,940 --> 00:40:00,950  
And Szeged is the  
larger community

588  
00:40:00,950 --> 00:40:04,340  
where I actually spoke of  
where I learned to sew.

589  
00:40:04,340 --> 00:40:11,140

590  
00:40:11,140 --> 00:40:13,720  
So I elected not to go back.

591  
00:40:13,720 --> 00:40:18,250  
I went upstairs and talk  
to my friends there,

592  
00:40:18,250 --> 00:40:23,320  
and I asked him some  
advice, some guidance.

593  
00:40:23,320 --> 00:40:28,810  
And they all felt that  
Budapest was a larger city.

594  
00:40:28,810 --> 00:40:31,030  
Possibly, the Germans  
might be defeated

595  
00:40:31,030 --> 00:40:38,690  
by the time this organization  
would succeed in Budapest.

596  
00:40:38,690 --> 00:40:44,800  
And as much as we had to  
live in yellow star homes,

597  
00:40:44,800 --> 00:40:49,240  
we were still not  
put into ghettos.

598  
00:40:49,240 --> 00:40:52,790  
So I elected not to go back.

599

00:40:52,790 --> 00:40:56,140

And this decision  
had caused me, I

600

00:40:56,140 --> 00:40:59,380

must admit, a lot  
of guilt feelings,

601

00:40:59,380 --> 00:41:02,950

because I felt  
that I was selfish.

602

00:41:02,950 --> 00:41:12,040

603

00:41:12,040 --> 00:41:13,810

Why?

604

00:41:13,810 --> 00:41:14,780

Because they all died.

605

00:41:14,780 --> 00:41:23,210

606

00:41:23,210 --> 00:41:25,465

At the time, you  
felt it was selfish.

607

00:41:25,465 --> 00:41:26,090

At that point--

608

00:41:26,090 --> 00:41:28,340

Well, at that time, I didn't.

609

00:41:28,340 --> 00:41:32,420

At that time, I really  
didn't know what to do,

610

00:41:32,420 --> 00:41:38,300

and I was scared, and  
it was the unknown.

611

00:41:38,300 --> 00:41:41,030

And I listened to  
one thing they said

612

00:41:41,030 --> 00:41:45,810

that possibly living in a  
large city might be easier,

613

00:41:45,810 --> 00:41:50,480

and I elected not to go.

614

00:41:50,480 --> 00:41:54,030

615

00:41:54,030 --> 00:41:57,990

And when did you start to feel  
that this was a selfish act?

616

00:41:57,990 --> 00:42:03,960

Well, after I'd realized that  
the family and all the friends

617

00:42:03,960 --> 00:42:05,340

were deported.

618

00:42:05,340 --> 00:42:11,180

619

00:42:11,180 --> 00:42:13,940

And of course, after the  
war, mainly because--

620

00:42:13,940 --> 00:42:17,660

after the war, when I realized  
that they were not coming back.

621

00:42:17,660 --> 00:42:19,790

See, I didn't know  
where they were taken.

622

00:42:19,790 --> 00:42:25,130

I knew the city they were  
taken to, but I didn't know.

623  
00:42:25,130 --> 00:42:28,630  
They ended up in Auschwitz.

624  
00:42:28,630 --> 00:42:32,470  
Of course, I didn't find  
this out until after the war.

625  
00:42:32,470 --> 00:42:36,730

626  
00:42:36,730 --> 00:42:38,860  
This was your uncle Joseph?

627  
00:42:38,860 --> 00:42:39,370  
Yes.

628  
00:42:39,370 --> 00:42:43,060  
And then I had an aunt,  
whom I was very fond of,

629  
00:42:43,060 --> 00:42:45,700  
who lived in a nearby community.

630  
00:42:45,700 --> 00:42:49,540  
And she had her husband  
and her two daughters,

631  
00:42:49,540 --> 00:42:52,330  
whom I basically grew up with.

632  
00:42:52,330 --> 00:42:54,350  
And they were all there.

633  
00:42:54,350 --> 00:42:58,120  
And of course, all the people  
in the community I grew up

634  
00:42:58,120 --> 00:42:59,620  
with, all the people I knew--

635

00:42:59,620 --> 00:43:08,350

636

00:43:08,350 --> 00:43:10,937

Let's go back for just a little.

637

00:43:10,937 --> 00:43:14,840

638

00:43:14,840 --> 00:43:19,680

Your father-- how many brothers  
and sisters did he have?

639

00:43:19,680 --> 00:43:26,250

640

00:43:26,250 --> 00:43:31,620

He had two sisters, and  
one of the sisters--

641

00:43:31,620 --> 00:43:35,520

the one I just mentioned,  
who had two daughters

642

00:43:35,520 --> 00:43:38,370

and lived in a nearby  
community not far away

643

00:43:38,370 --> 00:43:40,500

from where I was brought up--

644

00:43:40,500 --> 00:43:41,130

Right.

645

00:43:41,130 --> 00:43:42,540

And her name?

646

00:43:42,540 --> 00:43:46,380

Her name was Gisella.

647

00:43:46,380 --> 00:43:50,570

648  
00:43:50,570 --> 00:43:52,370  
We called her Giza--

649  
00:43:52,370 --> 00:44:00,770  
G-I-Z-A-- but I believe her full  
name might have been Gisella.

650  
00:44:00,770 --> 00:44:03,260  
I'm not so sure of--

651  
00:44:03,260 --> 00:44:10,880  
her two daughters-- one was  
Elona, Elonka, as we called it.

652  
00:44:10,880 --> 00:44:15,440  
And the other sister was Rozsa--

653  
00:44:15,440 --> 00:44:25,450  
R-O-Z-S-A. As a matter  
of fact, she survived.

654  
00:44:25,450 --> 00:44:27,480  
They all were  
deported to Auschwitz.

655  
00:44:27,480 --> 00:44:30,270

656  
00:44:30,270 --> 00:44:33,255  
My aunt and the two  
daughters survived.

657  
00:44:33,255 --> 00:44:40,010

658  
00:44:40,010 --> 00:44:42,190  
Do you know the name  
of the other sister?

659  
00:44:42,190 --> 00:44:45,370  
Elona and Rozsa--



660  
00:44:45,370 --> 00:44:46,570  
Those are your cousins?

661  
00:44:46,570 --> 00:44:47,710  
These are my cousins.

662  
00:44:47,710 --> 00:44:49,000  
Your father's other sister--

663  
00:44:49,000 --> 00:44:49,670  
Oh, I'm sorry.

664  
00:44:49,670 --> 00:44:52,180

665  
00:44:52,180 --> 00:44:55,840  
I think in English  
it would be Maria--

666  
00:44:55,840 --> 00:44:59,950  
[? Marishka ?] in Hungarian.

667  
00:44:59,950 --> 00:45:01,490  
She had one son.

668  
00:45:01,490 --> 00:45:06,520  
She was living with my  
grandfather, my father's

669  
00:45:06,520 --> 00:45:07,750  
father.

670  
00:45:07,750 --> 00:45:17,310  
And they had a grocery  
store in Mindszent,

671  
00:45:17,310 --> 00:45:20,870  
the same town where I was born.

672  
00:45:20,870 --> 00:45:22,740

Did your father had brothers?

673

00:45:22,740 --> 00:45:25,530

674

00:45:25,530 --> 00:45:28,350

My father had a  
brother who lived

675

00:45:28,350 --> 00:45:31,710

in Zagreb, whom I never met.

676

00:45:31,710 --> 00:45:35,910

He had two sons.

677

00:45:35,910 --> 00:45:37,440

I only knew one of them.

678

00:45:37,440 --> 00:45:41,530

679

00:45:41,530 --> 00:45:43,290

His name was Otta--

680

00:45:43,290 --> 00:45:52,350

O-T-T-A. And he had another  
brother who lived in the same

681

00:45:52,350 --> 00:45:54,150

town where I was born.

682

00:45:54,150 --> 00:46:00,450

His name was Matthew, or  
[Personal name] in Hungarian.

683

00:46:00,450 --> 00:46:03,435

He had one son, whose  
name I can't remember.

684

00:46:03,435 --> 00:46:14,890

685

00:46:14,890 --> 00:46:16,090

That's all I can remember.

686

00:46:16,090 --> 00:46:18,070

And Joseph?

687

00:46:18,070 --> 00:46:25,930

And Joseph, yes-- and my aunt,  
who had their two daughters--

688

00:46:25,930 --> 00:46:29,770

I said two sisters  
and the brothers.

689

00:46:29,770 --> 00:46:35,770

My father-- the brother  
who was in Zagreb,

690

00:46:35,770 --> 00:46:39,880

the brother who was in  
Szentes, who had that one son--

691

00:46:39,880 --> 00:46:46,040

692

00:46:46,040 --> 00:46:48,110

I think that's it.

693

00:46:48,110 --> 00:46:51,180

I didn't know these people, and  
we had no contact with them,

694

00:46:51,180 --> 00:46:53,410

so it's difficult for  
me to recall them.

695

00:46:53,410 --> 00:46:56,680

696

00:46:56,680 --> 00:47:01,730

Now, my aunt and  
the two daughters

697

00:47:01,730 --> 00:47:05,570

she had, they returned  
from Auschwitz.

698

00:47:05,570 --> 00:47:13,400

One daughter died in  
Hungary at a later age

699

00:47:13,400 --> 00:47:21,740

due to a stroke, and then the  
other daughter, Rosa, my--

700

00:47:21,740 --> 00:47:26,180

they live in San Jose here in  
California, so she survived.

701

00:47:26,180 --> 00:47:33,760

702

00:47:33,760 --> 00:47:39,125

The name of the daughter  
of Elizabeth and Joseph--

703

00:47:39,125 --> 00:47:39,625

Judith--

704

00:47:39,625 --> 00:47:48,080

705

00:47:48,080 --> 00:47:52,520

And the name of your  
elderly aunt who was

706

00:47:52,520 --> 00:47:55,430

staying with you when  
your mother died--

707

00:47:55,430 --> 00:47:57,470

I don't know.

708

00:47:57,470 --> 00:48:01,490

Or the name of a family  
friend with whom you

709  
00:48:01,490 --> 00:48:03,020  
stayed after your mother died--

710  
00:48:03,020 --> 00:48:08,030  
I was trying to recall their  
name, and I may recall it,

711  
00:48:08,030 --> 00:48:09,590  
but at the moment, I can't.

712  
00:48:09,590 --> 00:48:15,500  
Do you remember anything about  
when you stayed with them?

713  
00:48:15,500 --> 00:48:18,455  
Was it a few weeks, a few days?

714  
00:48:18,455 --> 00:48:21,050

715  
00:48:21,050 --> 00:48:24,875  
The length of time  
is completely lost.

716  
00:48:24,875 --> 00:48:27,750

717  
00:48:27,750 --> 00:48:32,590  
It was between the time  
my mother passed away

718  
00:48:32,590 --> 00:48:38,060  
and my uncle came to get me.

719  
00:48:38,060 --> 00:48:44,330  
And it wasn't a very long time,  
because after the holidays were

720  
00:48:44,330 --> 00:48:48,840

over with, they  
were able to travel,

721  
00:48:48,840 --> 00:48:54,510  
and then the decision was  
made to follow this course.

722  
00:48:54,510 --> 00:48:56,900  
And I really have  
no recollection

723  
00:48:56,900 --> 00:48:59,900  
as to how long I  
stayed with them.

724  
00:48:59,900 --> 00:49:01,580  
When you said goodbye to --

725  
00:49:01,580 --> 00:49:04,760  
Balazs, the last  
name was Balazs--

726  
00:49:04,760 --> 00:49:11,630  
B-A-L-A-S-Z. It's really  
interesting how these names--

727  
00:49:11,630 --> 00:49:13,880  
I thought about it so  
much before I came,

728  
00:49:13,880 --> 00:49:20,210  
and I couldn't think about  
[? it. ?] Suddenly it came.

729  
00:49:20,210 --> 00:49:22,737  
Do you remember saying  
goodbye to Anna?

730  
00:49:22,737 --> 00:49:25,940

731  
00:49:25,940 --> 00:49:29,510  
No, I don't remember

any of that--

732

00:49:29,510 --> 00:49:31,500

not at all, not at all.

733

00:49:31,500 --> 00:49:33,860

[INAUDIBLE] goodbye

to your brother?

734

00:49:33,860 --> 00:49:37,260

I have seen my brother

several times after she--

735

00:49:37,260 --> 00:49:43,670

he went to Budapest, because it

wasn't until the following year

736

00:49:43,670 --> 00:49:48,410

that my uncle and

his wife came back.

737

00:49:48,410 --> 00:49:52,940

I remember there was a

family reunion in Szentes,

738

00:49:52,940 --> 00:49:56,060

in the town when--

739

00:49:56,060 --> 00:49:59,990

where we were born and

raised with my parents.

740

00:49:59,990 --> 00:50:03,860

I do have a picture

of that reunion, when

741

00:50:03,860 --> 00:50:07,370

my uncle and his wife was

there, and all the family

742

00:50:07,370 --> 00:50:11,420

who was living in that town.

743

00:50:11,420 --> 00:50:12,800

And that was the last time.

744

00:50:12,800 --> 00:50:15,380

745

00:50:15,380 --> 00:50:21,860

But the specific goodbye  
is completely lost.

746

00:50:21,860 --> 00:50:25,550

I only remember  
the family reunion

747

00:50:25,550 --> 00:50:29,810

and knowing that he  
was going to America.

748

00:50:29,810 --> 00:50:34,280

But going to America  
in those days was--

749

00:50:34,280 --> 00:50:35,690

it was fantastic.

750

00:50:35,690 --> 00:50:39,860

It was the ultimate  
happiness for anyone.

751

00:50:39,860 --> 00:50:45,620

It represented a completely  
different life and.

752

00:50:45,620 --> 00:50:50,270

And somehow, I think,  
it represented hope

753

00:50:50,270 --> 00:50:58,310

in our particular predicament,  
since, in a sense,

754

00:50:58,310 --> 00:50:59,330



we all left--

755

00:50:59,330 --> 00:51:03,490

we all felt that we were  
left behind, which we were.

756

00:51:03,490 --> 00:51:06,620

757

00:51:06,620 --> 00:51:11,350

I think, in those days, we were  
much too young to understand

758

00:51:11,350 --> 00:51:13,060

what really took place--

759

00:51:13,060 --> 00:51:18,220

that my father couldn't help  
that his heart gave out.

760

00:51:18,220 --> 00:51:25,780

And the stigma of how my  
mother died, I'm sure,

761

00:51:25,780 --> 00:51:32,660

was lingering in the air,  
because for a long time,

762

00:51:32,660 --> 00:51:35,110

people didn't really  
talk about the fact

763

00:51:35,110 --> 00:51:36,640

that she took the medicine.

764

00:51:36,640 --> 00:51:39,490

765

00:51:39,490 --> 00:51:42,430

I have never held  
it against her.

766

00:51:42,430 --> 00:51:49,250

I never felt it was something  
she shouldn't have done,

767

00:51:49,250 --> 00:51:51,950

because I cannot  
make that judgment.

768

00:51:51,950 --> 00:51:53,270

She was despondent.

769

00:51:53,270 --> 00:51:57,210

She left three children behind.

770

00:51:57,210 --> 00:51:59,330

This was her second marriage.

771

00:51:59,330 --> 00:52:02,390

She was a woman who was  
in very delicate health.

772

00:52:02,390 --> 00:52:05,120

She had lots of health--

773

00:52:05,120 --> 00:52:07,220

serious health problems.

774

00:52:07,220 --> 00:52:11,420

And from what I understand  
from the adults who--

775

00:52:11,420 --> 00:52:14,360

I could still hear  
their conversations

776

00:52:14,360 --> 00:52:19,490

that basically was not for  
my ears in those days--

777

00:52:19,490 --> 00:52:21,650

that it was very  
difficult for her

778

00:52:21,650 --> 00:52:27,320

to face life with the three  
children, and the uncertainty

779

00:52:27,320 --> 00:52:34,040

of what may happen, how she was  
going to continue the business

780

00:52:34,040 --> 00:52:41,550

to give us livelihood when  
she was in such bad health.

781

00:52:41,550 --> 00:52:46,970

So in my heart, I  
always understood her.

782

00:52:46,970 --> 00:52:49,760

783

00:52:49,760 --> 00:52:54,530

She did come and tell  
your aunt who was staying

784

00:52:54,530 --> 00:52:56,420

she wasn't feeling well.

785

00:52:56,420 --> 00:52:59,600

Well, it was in the morning.

786

00:52:59,600 --> 00:53:01,730

I understand, from  
what I remember,

787

00:53:01,730 --> 00:53:05,330

that this was sometime  
during the night around

788

00:53:05,330 --> 00:53:09,410

1 o'clock in the morning  
or so when she got up,

789

00:53:09,410 --> 00:53:12,170

and she couldn't sleep,  
and she took the medicine.

790  
00:53:12,170 --> 00:53:18,260  
The medicine was given to  
her because of her insomnia

791  
00:53:18,260 --> 00:53:20,900  
due to her illness.

792  
00:53:20,900 --> 00:53:23,940  
But I don't know how  
many tablets she took,

793  
00:53:23,940 --> 00:53:26,420  
but whatever she did,  
she took too many.

794  
00:53:26,420 --> 00:53:31,940

795  
00:53:31,940 --> 00:53:34,820  
I don't really know whether  
she took it intentionally

796  
00:53:34,820 --> 00:53:38,120  
or whether she took it  
because she wanted to sleep.

797  
00:53:38,120 --> 00:53:44,600  
The only thing I remember  
as a child was that,

798  
00:53:44,600 --> 00:53:52,520  
by the time they found out and  
got a physician to intervene,

799  
00:53:52,520 --> 00:53:54,260  
it was too late.

800  
00:53:54,260 --> 00:54:01,700  
And in order to get her to a  
better place, where they could

801  
00:54:01,700 --> 00:54:06,530  
possibly help her more, she had  
to be transported several miles

802  
00:54:06,530 --> 00:54:07,400  
away.

803  
00:54:07,400 --> 00:54:11,390  
But somehow even the professors  
there at the hospital

804  
00:54:11,390 --> 00:54:16,130  
could not help her, because  
all that seconal absorbed

805  
00:54:16,130 --> 00:54:18,860  
and did so much  
damage to her organs

806  
00:54:18,860 --> 00:54:21,470  
that they didn't  
feel, in those days--

807  
00:54:21,470 --> 00:54:23,960  
this was many years  
ago, where I'm

808  
00:54:23,960 --> 00:54:29,280  
sure medical knowledge  
wasn't what it is today.

809  
00:54:29,280 --> 00:54:32,510  
But anyway, when they  
told her obviously

810  
00:54:32,510 --> 00:54:35,390  
that she was not to  
survive, then she

811  
00:54:35,390 --> 00:54:38,165  
asked to be returned  
to see her children.

812  
00:54:38,165 --> 00:54:41,160

813  
00:54:41,160 --> 00:54:44,280  
What illness did she have?

814  
00:54:44,280 --> 00:54:52,920  
Well, to be specific,  
I don't know.

815  
00:54:52,920 --> 00:54:58,060  
I have a picture of her in  
my mind, an actual picture,

816  
00:54:58,060 --> 00:55:00,670  
where she was always sickly.

817  
00:55:00,670 --> 00:55:08,200  
And she was a very attractive  
woman, but as a young child,

818  
00:55:08,200 --> 00:55:12,640  
I always remember  
her as being sick.

819  
00:55:12,640 --> 00:55:17,170  
My father was this  
strong person who

820  
00:55:17,170 --> 00:55:21,040  
carried the burden  
of having the family,

821  
00:55:21,040 --> 00:55:26,410  
and making a livelihood, and  
keeping their household going.

822  
00:55:26,410 --> 00:55:29,410  
And in those days,  
you had servants,

823

00:55:29,410 --> 00:55:33,370  
and the expenses  
had to be covered,

824  
00:55:33,370 --> 00:55:36,400  
and I imagine there was  
a great pressure on him.

825  
00:55:36,400 --> 00:55:40,510  
And I don't know what the  
Hungarian financial situation

826  
00:55:40,510 --> 00:55:46,690  
was at that time, but  
having a yard goods store

827  
00:55:46,690 --> 00:55:50,020  
and providing a  
good living might

828  
00:55:50,020 --> 00:55:53,580  
have been too much for him.

829  
00:55:53,580 --> 00:55:55,060  
So I don't know.

830  
00:55:55,060 --> 00:55:58,860  
I really can't remember  
what illnesses my mother.

831  
00:55:58,860 --> 00:56:02,070  
I don't even know if I  
really knew-- ever knew.

832  
00:56:02,070 --> 00:56:04,770  
I have a feeling that  
we were rather protected

833  
00:56:04,770 --> 00:56:09,930  
from any adult conversation.

834  
00:56:09,930 --> 00:56:13,860  
I remember several times as

a child walking into a room

835

00:56:13,860 --> 00:56:16,410

where adults were  
talking in German.

836

00:56:16,410 --> 00:56:19,185

They would always say,  
not front of the children.

837

00:56:19,185 --> 00:56:21,930

838

00:56:21,930 --> 00:56:24,930

It's like we were not  
supposed to understand German.

839

00:56:24,930 --> 00:56:27,600

840

00:56:27,600 --> 00:56:35,340

We had a Austrian nursemaid from  
the time I was two years old,

841

00:56:35,340 --> 00:56:38,340

so we all spoke German,  
so we understood it.

842

00:56:38,340 --> 00:56:41,670

But still, this was their  
signal to each other

843

00:56:41,670 --> 00:56:44,550

not to speak to children.

844

00:56:44,550 --> 00:56:48,390

So my ignorance partly is  
due to that, and partly

845

00:56:48,390 --> 00:56:49,358

probably memory.

846



00:56:49,358 --> 00:56:57,030

847

00:56:57,030 --> 00:57:02,360

10 seconds [INAUDIBLE]

848

00:57:02,360 --> 00:57:13,110

I can't remember where we were.

849

00:57:13,110 --> 00:57:15,840

You mentioned the stigma  
of your mother's death.

850

00:57:15,840 --> 00:57:19,260

Did you feel when she died --

851

00:57:19,260 --> 00:57:23,850

As a child, I did feel that  
people talked about the fact

852

00:57:23,850 --> 00:57:28,140

that, quote, unquote  
"she committed suicide,"

853

00:57:28,140 --> 00:57:31,800

but it wasn't an  
open discussion.

854

00:57:31,800 --> 00:57:35,970

And somehow I felt  
that, in those days,

855

00:57:35,970 --> 00:57:41,630

for anyone to commit  
suicide was a taboo,

856

00:57:41,630 --> 00:57:45,440

was not something  
that was admired.

857

00:57:45,440 --> 00:57:47,630

And I always felt that--

858

00:57:47,630 --> 00:57:52,730

even as a child, I have  
never held it against her.

859

00:57:52,730 --> 00:57:53,300

I don't know.

860

00:57:53,300 --> 00:57:55,790

Maybe I didn't  
understand it, or maybe

861

00:57:55,790 --> 00:58:00,380

because I wanted to  
protect her, or maybe

862

00:58:00,380 --> 00:58:03,410

I just understood  
her desperation.

863

00:58:03,410 --> 00:58:07,385

864

00:58:07,385 --> 00:58:13,700

Being a young woman  
left without parents

865

00:58:13,700 --> 00:58:19,820

is not a very happy childhood,  
and I don't think that--

866

00:58:19,820 --> 00:58:22,940

867

00:58:22,940 --> 00:58:27,690

as much as I would  
like to be very fair,

868

00:58:27,690 --> 00:58:29,750

I can remember  
some of the things

869

00:58:29,750 --> 00:58:37,280

that my uncle and his second  
wife, or even his first wife

870  
00:58:37,280 --> 00:58:42,050  
would elect to have as a  
policy in their house that--

871  
00:58:42,050 --> 00:58:45,410  
I held it against him that--

872  
00:58:45,410 --> 00:58:47,840  
would they do this  
to their own child,

873  
00:58:47,840 --> 00:58:50,780  
or is it done because I'm  
not their only child--

874  
00:58:50,780 --> 00:58:53,360  
not their own child?

875  
00:58:53,360 --> 00:58:58,400  
And people are always very  
kind and feed children

876  
00:58:58,400 --> 00:59:02,320  
with negative thoughts,  
thinking they're helping them.

877  
00:59:02,320 --> 00:59:09,230  
When I would go and talk to  
people and complain to them,

878  
00:59:09,230 --> 00:59:14,810  
people would not get  
me straightened out.

879  
00:59:14,810 --> 00:59:20,240  
Maybe it's for my  
good, but because--

880  
00:59:20,240 --> 00:59:24,200  
well, it's your stepfather,

or it's your uncle.

881  
00:59:24,200 --> 00:59:30,050  
So it wasn't a very  
happy childhood--

882  
00:59:30,050 --> 00:59:32,450  
with many happy  
things in between.

883  
00:59:32,450 --> 00:59:35,190  
I was very secure financially.

884  
00:59:35,190 --> 00:59:39,170  
I lived in a beautiful home.

885  
00:59:39,170 --> 00:59:44,090  
We had always two servants.

886  
00:59:44,090 --> 00:59:52,700  
And I was, in the meantime,  
brought up very strictly.

887  
00:59:52,700 --> 00:59:55,640  
I had to learn how to  
do all the housework,

888  
00:59:55,640 --> 00:59:59,660  
even though there  
were somebody who

889  
00:59:59,660 --> 01:00:03,410  
was responsible for the  
cooking and cleaning.

890  
01:00:03,410 --> 01:00:07,730  
I had to partake in it, because  
being a woman, you should know

891  
01:00:07,730 --> 01:00:08,630  
and you should learn.

892

01:00:08,630 --> 01:00:11,240

893

01:00:11,240 --> 01:00:16,430

In those days, we didn't have  
any entertainment in town.

894

01:00:16,430 --> 01:00:20,660

We had movies maybe once a  
week or once every so often,

895

01:00:20,660 --> 01:00:22,800

and it was a special treat.

896

01:00:22,800 --> 01:00:26,780

And if we did something  
that was punishable,

897

01:00:26,780 --> 01:00:31,610

then they grounded us and we  
couldn't even go to the movies.

898

01:00:31,610 --> 01:00:34,772

I remember my uncle  
being as strict as he

899

01:00:34,772 --> 01:00:41,270

was, we had school dances,  
and I was not allowed to go.

900

01:00:41,270 --> 01:00:43,980

It wasn't proper.

901

01:00:43,980 --> 01:00:54,200

And so these are the things  
that would cause unhappiness,

902

01:00:54,200 --> 01:00:55,460

of course.

903

01:00:55,460 --> 01:00:57,440

And if I would  
complain to people,

904  
01:00:57,440 --> 01:01:01,250  
well, they would say, well,  
it's because it's your uncle,

905  
01:01:01,250 --> 01:01:03,860  
or because your stepfather.

906  
01:01:03,860 --> 01:01:11,780  
So maybe all this feeling or--

907  
01:01:11,780 --> 01:01:15,460

908  
01:01:15,460 --> 01:01:17,290  
I don't know, but I never--

909  
01:01:17,290 --> 01:01:19,570  
coming back to the  
original thought,

910  
01:01:19,570 --> 01:01:23,010  
I have never faulted  
my mother for doing it.

911  
01:01:23,010 --> 01:01:26,870

912  
01:01:26,870 --> 01:01:29,630  
Do you remember what you said  
to her when you were brought in

913  
01:01:29,630 --> 01:01:31,190  
to say goodbye?

914  
01:01:31,190 --> 01:01:36,050  
I remember this scene  
that she was in bed,

915  
01:01:36,050 --> 01:01:39,470  
and my brother was there,  
and my sister and I,

916  
01:01:39,470 --> 01:01:41,770  
and we all were crying.

917  
01:01:41,770 --> 01:01:43,880  
And I remember her telling me--

918  
01:01:43,880 --> 01:01:47,870  
telling us, actually--  
that we are going

919  
01:01:47,870 --> 01:01:50,840  
to go and live with our uncles.

920  
01:01:50,840 --> 01:01:55,880  
But the only thing I remember is  
that we were crying very hard.

921  
01:01:55,880 --> 01:01:57,110  
What did she look like?

922  
01:01:57,110 --> 01:02:03,920

923  
01:02:03,920 --> 01:02:13,840  
She was a petite woman with  
very delicate features.

924  
01:02:13,840 --> 01:02:18,800

925  
01:02:18,800 --> 01:02:24,310  
And I think she had  
sort of blondish hair,

926  
01:02:24,310 --> 01:02:25,870  
but it wasn't very blonde.

927  
01:02:25,870 --> 01:02:27,865  
It was sort of brunette.

928

01:02:27,865 --> 01:02:31,660

929

01:02:31,660 --> 01:02:33,520

My father was very, very dark.

930

01:02:33,520 --> 01:02:38,310

931

01:02:38,310 --> 01:02:42,650

And I think that my  
brother resembled more

932

01:02:42,650 --> 01:02:46,490

my mother's family  
and I resemble

933

01:02:46,490 --> 01:02:49,100

more of my father's family.

934

01:02:49,100 --> 01:02:53,420

I had very dark  
hair, and my features

935

01:02:53,420 --> 01:02:59,420

were more how my  
father's family looked.

936

01:02:59,420 --> 01:03:04,400

And I remember my mother  
in a comfortable lounge

937

01:03:04,400 --> 01:03:08,630

chair and recovering from  
some kind of surgery.

938

01:03:08,630 --> 01:03:12,440

I remember her more  
as a person who

939

01:03:12,440 --> 01:03:17,280

was having medical problems.



940

01:03:17,280 --> 01:03:24,360

And I don't remember  
any specific things

941

01:03:24,360 --> 01:03:26,280

that we did together.

942

01:03:26,280 --> 01:03:29,340

I remember our home.

943

01:03:29,340 --> 01:03:31,740

It was rather a large house--

944

01:03:31,740 --> 01:03:41,910

and a garden with very  
formal arrangement,

945

01:03:41,910 --> 01:03:45,240

and had some grapes,  
and then a veranda

946

01:03:45,240 --> 01:03:48,630

at the edge of the house.

947

01:03:48,630 --> 01:03:56,340

And we had a room that was  
decorated in Hungarian motifs.

948

01:03:56,340 --> 01:04:02,790

And the furniture was painted  
blue and with Hungarian motifs.

949

01:04:02,790 --> 01:04:08,670

It was a room with  
all windows, so it

950

01:04:08,670 --> 01:04:10,290

was very bright and cheerful.

951

01:04:10,290 --> 01:04:17,040

And we had the room next to it  
that had a piano in it, and--

952  
01:04:17,040 --> 01:04:25,160  
where the guests would be  
welcomed or entertained.

953  
01:04:25,160 --> 01:04:28,680  
And this room faced--

954  
01:04:28,680 --> 01:04:30,880  
had a window toward the street.

955  
01:04:30,880 --> 01:04:34,170  
Then the next room  
was a combination

956  
01:04:34,170 --> 01:04:39,220  
of a bedroom and sitting room--

957  
01:04:39,220 --> 01:04:42,630  
the next one also a  
bedroom and sitting room,

958  
01:04:42,630 --> 01:04:49,290  
and then a dining area,  
and then a summer kitchen.

959  
01:04:49,290 --> 01:04:56,370  
And then we had pigeons,  
and we had a back area

960  
01:04:56,370 --> 01:04:59,460  
where the wood, and coal, and--

961  
01:04:59,460 --> 01:05:03,210  
it was rather a large house.

962  
01:05:03,210 --> 01:05:05,160  
And how many servants  
did you have?

963  
01:05:05,160 --> 01:05:06,690  
We had two.

964

01:05:06,690 --> 01:05:09,270

What did they do?

965

01:05:09,270 --> 01:05:14,400

One was responsible  
for the cooking

966

01:05:14,400 --> 01:05:19,760

and the other one was mainly  
to keep the house clean,

967

01:05:19,760 --> 01:05:24,290

and I suppose to keep  
us cleaning-- clean.

968

01:05:24,290 --> 01:05:29,990

And then we had our nursemaid,  
who came from Austria.

969

01:05:29,990 --> 01:05:37,850

And she was with us until  
I was seven years old.

970

01:05:37,850 --> 01:05:41,240

And I think she  
learned Hungarian more

971

01:05:41,240 --> 01:05:46,850

than we learned German, but  
I did learn German, really.

972

01:05:46,850 --> 01:05:53,060

And we'd never actually  
practiced a language,

973

01:05:53,060 --> 01:05:55,640

other than talking to her.

974

01:05:55,640 --> 01:05:58,670

975

01:05:58,670 --> 01:06:02,990

And then she left,  
and I don't remember

976

01:06:02,990 --> 01:06:07,190

her leaving or why she left.

977

01:06:07,190 --> 01:06:09,970

But she was there until then.

978

01:06:09,970 --> 01:06:12,560

979

01:06:12,560 --> 01:06:14,750

I understand, when  
my brother was born,

980

01:06:14,750 --> 01:06:17,550

she was already with us.

981

01:06:17,550 --> 01:06:19,700

And I don't remember  
that either.

982

01:06:19,700 --> 01:06:22,320

I don't remember anything.

983

01:06:22,320 --> 01:06:26,810

I was about two years old  
when my brother was born,

984

01:06:26,810 --> 01:06:29,320

but I don't remember anything.

985

01:06:29,320 --> 01:06:33,500

I remember vignettes  
in our lives, but--

986

01:06:33,500 --> 01:06:35,600

Tell us the vignettes.

987

01:06:35,600 --> 01:06:40,910

Well, I remember when my  
brother broke his leg.

988  
01:06:40,910 --> 01:06:46,230  
And he was running home, and  
the street that we lived down

989  
01:06:46,230 --> 01:06:50,720  
had a sharp corner to turn on,  
and he was running too fast,

990  
01:06:50,720 --> 01:06:55,670  
and he fell and hit his leg  
on the edge of the sidewalk.

991  
01:06:55,670 --> 01:07:00,070  
And he broke his leg.

992  
01:07:00,070 --> 01:07:02,110  
And I don't know  
why I remember that.

993  
01:07:02,110 --> 01:07:03,740  
That stayed with me.

994  
01:07:03,740 --> 01:07:06,730  
I had nothing to do with  
it, and I don't remember

995  
01:07:06,730 --> 01:07:08,240  
taking care of him or anything.

996  
01:07:08,240 --> 01:07:12,040

997  
01:07:12,040 --> 01:07:15,130  
I remember our neighbors  
who lived next door.

998  
01:07:15,130 --> 01:07:17,140  
He was an attorney.

999

01:07:17,140 --> 01:07:19,960  
They had a daughter.

1000  
01:07:19,960 --> 01:07:22,940  
And as a matter of  
fact, after the war,

1001  
01:07:22,940 --> 01:07:27,670  
when I returned to  
Hungary and my husband

1002  
01:07:27,670 --> 01:07:32,920  
and I visited the town where I  
was born and raised in Szentcs,

1003  
01:07:32,920 --> 01:07:35,770  
I went back to  
look up their house

1004  
01:07:35,770 --> 01:07:37,690  
to see if it was still there.

1005  
01:07:37,690 --> 01:07:40,060  
And the people who  
lived next door to us--

1006  
01:07:40,060 --> 01:07:43,690  
the daughter who married the  
physician purchased our home,

1007  
01:07:43,690 --> 01:07:45,160  
and they lived there.

1008  
01:07:45,160 --> 01:07:51,090  
So I was able to go  
inside and see that.

1009  
01:07:51,090 --> 01:07:53,160  
Was it the same as  
you remembered it?

1010  
01:07:53,160 --> 01:07:55,840  
It was exactly the

same I remembered it.

1011  
01:07:55,840 --> 01:08:00,160  
They did not change any  
of the physical layout,

1012  
01:08:00,160 --> 01:08:01,840  
as far as I could tell.

1013  
01:08:01,840 --> 01:08:04,660  
Of course, I didn't remember  
everything about it, but--

1014  
01:08:04,660 --> 01:08:08,120

1015  
01:08:08,120 --> 01:08:15,110  
that was just a brief visit, but  
she did lead me through the--

1016  
01:08:15,110 --> 01:08:17,870  
You mentioned a room  
where there was--

1017  
01:08:17,870 --> 01:08:20,180  
where the family entertained.

1018  
01:08:20,180 --> 01:08:22,160  
What do you mean  
by entertaining?

1019  
01:08:22,160 --> 01:08:23,689  
Well, if people came--

1020  
01:08:23,689 --> 01:08:31,390  
visit us, then they would  
serve coffee, and cake, and--

1021  
01:08:31,390 --> 01:08:34,750  
like a sitting room more.

1022  
01:08:34,750 --> 01:08:35,920

Who would come to visit?

1023

01:08:35,920 --> 01:08:40,709

1024

01:08:40,709 --> 01:08:48,670

The family where my  
sister finally went to--

1025

01:08:48,670 --> 01:08:56,189

they were living in the same  
town, and they had cousins.

1026

01:08:56,189 --> 01:08:59,229

It was a rather  
large group of people

1027

01:08:59,229 --> 01:09:02,740

who came from that part  
of the family, my mother's

1028

01:09:02,740 --> 01:09:04,270

first marriage--

1029

01:09:04,270 --> 01:09:08,350

and they kept in touch with us  
and very close contact with--

1030

01:09:08,350 --> 01:09:11,560

and they would always get  
together for big holidays

1031

01:09:11,560 --> 01:09:15,520

or for some family gathering.

1032

01:09:15,520 --> 01:09:19,090

And if any of those people  
would come and visit us,

1033

01:09:19,090 --> 01:09:23,439

or people who were just  
friends of the family--



1034

01:09:23,439 --> 01:09:30,069

but that room was reserved  
for special occasions.

1035

01:09:30,069 --> 01:09:31,840

Do you remember  
birthday parties?

1036

01:09:31,840 --> 01:09:34,060

No.

1037

01:09:34,060 --> 01:09:34,899

No.

1038

01:09:34,899 --> 01:09:36,670

I don't remember.

1039

01:09:36,670 --> 01:09:42,399

Did you and your parents take  
vacation trips, or traveling?

1040

01:09:42,399 --> 01:09:43,714

I don't remember anything.

1041

01:09:43,714 --> 01:09:46,250

1042

01:09:46,250 --> 01:09:49,370

What about the food  
that was served?

1043

01:09:49,370 --> 01:09:52,520

The cooks did it all?

1044

01:09:52,520 --> 01:09:55,100

Yes, but my mother  
was rather active

1045

01:09:55,100 --> 01:10:01,600

also in the actual cooking,  
and she always did the baking.

1046

01:10:01,600 --> 01:10:05,450

It was sort of like  
she was doing it,

1047

01:10:05,450 --> 01:10:09,290

but all these-- these two  
people would be helpful.

1048

01:10:09,290 --> 01:10:25,430

1049

01:10:25,430 --> 01:10:30,530

She put all her  
winter fruits and--

1050

01:10:30,530 --> 01:10:35,990

conserve all the fruits, and  
vegetables, and tomatoes, and--

1051

01:10:35,990 --> 01:10:39,320

every year, because that's  
the only thing they used.

1052

01:10:39,320 --> 01:10:42,020

There are no canned  
goods in those days.

1053

01:10:42,020 --> 01:10:44,600

And she did all the preserving.

1054

01:10:44,600 --> 01:10:46,850

And I remember her  
pantry very well.

1055

01:10:46,850 --> 01:10:48,800

She had a very big pantry.

1056

01:10:48,800 --> 01:10:51,800

And the best I remember--  
that she partook

1057

01:10:51,800 --> 01:10:53,990

in all those activities.

1058

01:10:53,990 --> 01:10:57,250

1059

01:10:57,250 --> 01:10:59,710

I remember the room  
and the shelves for all

1060

01:10:59,710 --> 01:11:08,410

those wonderful apricots,  
and the rinds of watermelon,

1061

01:11:08,410 --> 01:11:12,870

and the different preserves  
that she put away.

1062

01:11:12,870 --> 01:11:16,150

1063

01:11:16,150 --> 01:11:19,120

I can see her in  
the kitchen, but--

1064

01:11:19,120 --> 01:11:25,420

and I know that we she  
had the Hungarian kitchen,

1065

01:11:25,420 --> 01:11:29,620

cooking like most Hungarians  
would, with a lot of paprika

1066

01:11:29,620 --> 01:11:34,390

and a lot of fried wonderful  
food-- tasting good food.

1067

01:11:34,390 --> 01:11:39,550

But I don't remember  
any specific things.

1068

01:11:39,550 --> 01:11:42,370

I remember one thing  
in the dining area--

1069  
01:11:42,370 --> 01:11:47,230  
that there was a  
summer kitchen that we

1070  
01:11:47,230 --> 01:11:49,810  
used when it was very hot.

1071  
01:11:49,810 --> 01:11:54,610  
And there was a sink that  
was attached to the wall,

1072  
01:11:54,610 --> 01:12:02,920  
and we had to wash our hands,  
of course, before we sat down.

1073  
01:12:02,920 --> 01:12:08,140  
And as children, we had a habit  
of leaning back on a chair

1074  
01:12:08,140 --> 01:12:12,250  
and just having  
the chair and the--

1075  
01:12:12,250 --> 01:12:17,530  
and we would always be  
told that, if we fall,

1076  
01:12:17,530 --> 01:12:22,000  
we're going to knock our front  
teeth against that faucet--

1077  
01:12:22,000 --> 01:12:23,900  
and little things  
like that which --

1078  
01:12:23,900 --> 01:12:25,360  
Did anybody fall?

1079  
01:12:25,360 --> 01:12:28,420  
No, nobody did.

1080

01:12:28,420 --> 01:12:32,410  
But that was the way to  
correct us for not doing it.

1081  
01:12:32,410 --> 01:12:35,260  
And I do remember  
one thing, that we

1082  
01:12:35,260 --> 01:12:40,090  
had to eat our vegetables  
first, and then we get the meat,

1083  
01:12:40,090 --> 01:12:43,840  
and we never got our dessert  
until we finished our meal.

1084  
01:12:43,840 --> 01:12:46,370  
Otherwise, we couldn't  
just eat what we wanted.

1085  
01:12:46,370 --> 01:12:50,500  
What was put on our  
plates we had to finish.

1086  
01:12:50,500 --> 01:12:55,210  
So it was straight  
from that point.

1087  
01:12:55,210 --> 01:12:56,590  
Did you finish?

1088  
01:12:56,590 --> 01:12:57,190  
Oh, yes.

1089  
01:12:57,190 --> 01:13:00,610  
Even today it's difficult  
for me to leave anything.

1090  
01:13:00,610 --> 01:13:02,730  
It's ingrained.

1091  
01:13:02,730 --> 01:13:06,010  
What was the dessert?

1092  
01:13:06,010 --> 01:13:08,440  
I can't remember any  
specific dessert,

1093  
01:13:08,440 --> 01:13:11,290  
but they were-- must have  
been very much liked,

1094  
01:13:11,290 --> 01:13:13,090  
because we all  
finished everything

1095  
01:13:13,090 --> 01:13:14,740  
in order to eat dessert.

1096  
01:13:14,740 --> 01:13:17,650  
And what were the  
vegetables [INAUDIBLE]

1097  
01:13:17,650 --> 01:13:20,680  
You mean specifically?

1098  
01:13:20,680 --> 01:13:25,720  
Well, chicken paprikash,  
which is a Hungarian dish--

1099  
01:13:25,720 --> 01:13:32,350  
it's made with a lot  
of onions and paprika.

1100  
01:13:32,350 --> 01:13:39,190  
And the Hungarian paprika has  
a very bright color to it,

1101  
01:13:39,190 --> 01:13:41,600  
and they put quite a bit in it.

1102  
01:13:41,600 --> 01:13:44,770  
Some people put flour in  
it, but my family never did,

1103

01:13:44,770 --> 01:13:48,490  
and I learned to do it that way.

1104  
01:13:48,490 --> 01:13:55,270  
And cucumbers salads  
or butter lettuce

1105  
01:13:55,270 --> 01:14:04,950  
with just water, vinegar, and  
sugar, that they still do--

1106  
01:14:04,950 --> 01:14:09,195  
some of the meats were  
breaded and fried.

1107  
01:14:09,195 --> 01:14:13,740

1108  
01:14:13,740 --> 01:14:19,065  
And the desserts  
were torts or crepes

1109  
01:14:19,065 --> 01:14:20,865  
suzette that type of dessert.

1110  
01:14:20,865 --> 01:14:24,910

1111  
01:14:24,910 --> 01:14:26,890  
What kind of tort?

1112  
01:14:26,890 --> 01:14:31,630  
Well, some of the torts  
had several layers,

1113  
01:14:31,630 --> 01:14:37,060  
or were [INAUDIBLE]  
that had jam in it,

1114  
01:14:37,060 --> 01:14:48,200  
or some had some fruit  
flavors called puncstorta.

1115

01:14:48,200 --> 01:14:51,930

I don't know where  
it got the name from,

1116

01:14:51,930 --> 01:14:54,150

because it doesn't make  
sense in relationship.

1117

01:14:54,150 --> 01:15:04,290

It's sort of like a sponge  
cake with fruit flavors in it.

1118

01:15:04,290 --> 01:15:08,970

And I know they used  
a lot of butter,

1119

01:15:08,970 --> 01:15:12,670

and the cream's chocolate  
with cocoa, with--

1120

01:15:12,670 --> 01:15:15,720

but a lot of butter.

1121

01:15:15,720 --> 01:15:25,100

I don't remember  
eating any pork,

1122

01:15:25,100 --> 01:15:28,680

but we did not have  
a kosher household.

1123

01:15:28,680 --> 01:15:35,750

And so it's possible that we did  
eat and I just don't remember.

1124

01:15:35,750 --> 01:15:42,000

But as far as I remember, we  
did not have a kosher household.

1125

01:15:42,000 --> 01:15:43,760

Did you have a Sabbath dinner?

1126



01:15:43,760 --> 01:15:48,830  
Yes, we had a Sabbath  
dinner, and then the family--

1127  
01:15:48,830 --> 01:15:50,900  
I don't remember going  
to the synagogue,

1128  
01:15:50,900 --> 01:15:52,730  
but I'm sure I must  
have, because I

1129  
01:15:52,730 --> 01:15:59,150  
had to go to study periods.

1130  
01:15:59,150 --> 01:16:07,470  
But the family would go to  
the synagogue Friday night,

1131  
01:16:07,470 --> 01:16:10,140  
and then usually,  
after dinner, people

1132  
01:16:10,140 --> 01:16:14,100  
would gather in  
somebody's home and have

1133  
01:16:14,100 --> 01:16:18,570  
dinner and conversation visit.

1134  
01:16:18,570 --> 01:16:23,400  
And when my father died, it was  
one of those occasions where,

1135  
01:16:23,400 --> 01:16:26,520  
on the holy holiday, they  
would go to the temple, which

1136  
01:16:26,520 --> 01:16:30,870  
was quite a distance  
away with some conveyance

1137  
01:16:30,870 --> 01:16:33,600

but then, coming  
back, I wasn't allowed

1138  
01:16:33,600 --> 01:16:39,970  
to use any of the conveyances,  
so they had to walk.

1139  
01:16:39,970 --> 01:16:43,480  
And I remember I was  
not included, but--

1140  
01:16:43,480 --> 01:16:45,460  
I mean the children were not--

1141  
01:16:45,460 --> 01:16:50,770  
but I remember them telling  
me-- telling us that,

1142  
01:16:50,770 --> 01:16:56,920  
when they walked home, my  
father was well, and then he--

1143  
01:16:56,920 --> 01:16:59,700

1144  
01:16:59,700 --> 01:17:03,870  
they went to sleep, and--

1145  
01:17:03,870 --> 01:17:07,800  
for some reason, I  
slept in the same room--

1146  
01:17:07,800 --> 01:17:11,490  
the same bedroom  
where they were.

1147  
01:17:11,490 --> 01:17:13,440  
Whether I was ill  
or not, I don't

1148  
01:17:13,440 --> 01:17:20,010  
know why I was, at that time,  
in my bed in the main bedroom.

1149  
01:17:20,010 --> 01:17:29,230  
And I remember my mother  
turning on the light and kind

1150  
01:17:29,230 --> 01:17:33,430  
of screaming, in a sense.

1151  
01:17:33,430 --> 01:17:39,010  
And my father was  
sitting up in the bed,

1152  
01:17:39,010 --> 01:17:42,070  
and then my mother  
put her coat on--

1153  
01:17:42,070 --> 01:17:44,560  
had her nightgown  
and her slippers on--

1154  
01:17:44,560 --> 01:17:46,640  
and then she left the room.

1155  
01:17:46,640 --> 01:17:49,450  
And then I heard that  
she ran next door,

1156  
01:17:49,450 --> 01:17:52,660  
because next door  
to us there was

1157  
01:17:52,660 --> 01:17:54,760  
a physician who lived there.

1158  
01:17:54,760 --> 01:17:59,260  
And she ran next door to ask  
him to come to help my father,

1159  
01:17:59,260 --> 01:18:04,630  
because she heard the gurgling  
sounds from his throat.

1160

01:18:04,630 --> 01:18:06,670  
He was sitting up in the bed.

1161  
01:18:06,670 --> 01:18:11,590  
And I remember when  
I finally woke up,

1162  
01:18:11,590 --> 01:18:16,870  
and he was kind of sitting in  
bed, and his head slumped down.

1163  
01:18:16,870 --> 01:18:20,770  
And that was the last  
picture I remember.

1164  
01:18:20,770 --> 01:18:24,850  
So he probably was short  
of breath or in pain,

1165  
01:18:24,850 --> 01:18:26,530  
and he probably sat up.

1166  
01:18:26,530 --> 01:18:29,620  
My mother woke up and turned  
to light on because she

1167  
01:18:29,620 --> 01:18:33,280  
heard the gurgling sounds.

1168  
01:18:33,280 --> 01:18:44,710  
And then I remember afterwards,  
they cover all the mirrors

1169  
01:18:44,710 --> 01:18:45,295  
with black.

1170  
01:18:45,295 --> 01:18:47,890

1171  
01:18:47,890 --> 01:18:56,900  
And then they put the deceased  
down on the floor, and he--

1172

01:18:56,900 --> 01:18:59,495  
they dismantled the beds.

1173

01:18:59,495 --> 01:19:03,680

1174

01:19:03,680 --> 01:19:06,680  
And I remember,  
for a long time, I

1175

01:19:06,680 --> 01:19:10,360  
could never walk through that  
area where he was lying down.

1176

01:19:10,360 --> 01:19:42,790

1177

01:19:42,790 --> 01:19:49,370  
When the family would come back  
from the synagogue on Sabbath,

1178

01:19:49,370 --> 01:19:53,920  
what time of day would  
the Sabbath meal be held?

1179

01:19:53,920 --> 01:19:57,420  
We're talking about  
Friday night or Saturday?

1180

01:19:57,420 --> 01:20:02,280  
Well, the Friday  
nights that I remember,

1181

01:20:02,280 --> 01:20:09,470  
when they had candles and a  
table was set specially with

1182

01:20:09,470 --> 01:20:15,840  
the challah on the table--  
but of course, we would--

1183

01:20:15,840 --> 01:20:19,340

my father was in  
business, so I don't

1184  
01:20:19,340 --> 01:20:21,110  
know what time it  
might have been,

1185  
01:20:21,110 --> 01:20:23,840  
but it would have had to be  
after my father came back

1186  
01:20:23,840 --> 01:20:25,415  
from the business.

1187  
01:20:25,415 --> 01:20:29,310

1188  
01:20:29,310 --> 01:20:31,190  
I don't have very  
much recollection

1189  
01:20:31,190 --> 01:20:34,440  
of my childhood in detail.

1190  
01:20:34,440 --> 01:20:36,410  
I don't ever think about it.

1191  
01:20:36,410 --> 01:20:39,370

1192  
01:20:39,370 --> 01:20:46,590  
It seems like the  
memories that remained

1193  
01:20:46,590 --> 01:21:01,020  
with me were more  
related to the tragedies,

1194  
01:21:01,020 --> 01:21:04,710  
instead of to the  
happiness, because--

1195

01:21:04,710 --> 01:21:06,600

Is there any happy  
moments that you

1196

01:21:06,600 --> 01:21:10,710

can recall from the childhood?

1197

01:21:10,710 --> 01:21:13,560

Well, the only thing  
I feel in my heart--

1198

01:21:13,560 --> 01:21:18,420

that I felt very secure  
and loved, but I cannot--

1199

01:21:18,420 --> 01:21:22,400

and I was very fond  
of both of my parents,

1200

01:21:22,400 --> 01:21:24,540

and I felt that they  
loved me very much,

1201

01:21:24,540 --> 01:21:26,010

but I don't remember.

1202

01:21:26,010 --> 01:21:28,500

I felt very secure.

1203

01:21:28,500 --> 01:21:33,780

I remember the house,  
I remember the people,

1204

01:21:33,780 --> 01:21:41,660

but I don't remember any  
outstanding memory of birthdays

1205

01:21:41,660 --> 01:21:44,960

or any special occasions.

1206

01:21:44,960 --> 01:21:47,620

What is the earliest memory  
you have of your father?

1207  
01:21:47,620 --> 01:21:58,350

1208  
01:21:58,350 --> 01:22:17,100  
I remember him in about  
the period very close

1209  
01:22:17,100 --> 01:22:18,970  
toward the end.

1210  
01:22:18,970 --> 01:22:24,490  
I don't remember him in an  
early age, when I was younger.

1211  
01:22:24,490 --> 01:22:29,280  
I don't remember our  
whole family upbringing.

1212  
01:22:29,280 --> 01:22:38,000

1213  
01:22:38,000 --> 01:22:40,200  
I can't recall anything.

1214  
01:22:40,200 --> 01:22:42,920  
What about earliest  
memories of your mother?

1215  
01:22:42,920 --> 01:22:51,710

1216  
01:22:51,710 --> 01:22:56,240  
I can see them both  
just before they died.

1217  
01:22:56,240 --> 01:22:57,620  
I don't remember them before.

1218  
01:22:57,620 --> 01:23:05,200



1219

01:23:05,200 --> 01:23:08,560

Did you celebrate all  
the religious holidays?

1220

01:23:08,560 --> 01:23:10,720

We celebrated the  
religious holidays,

1221

01:23:10,720 --> 01:23:15,460

but I don't think that my  
family was very religious.

1222

01:23:15,460 --> 01:23:18,760

They observed Friday nights.

1223

01:23:18,760 --> 01:23:22,540

They observed all  
the high holidays.

1224

01:23:22,540 --> 01:23:28,340

But I really think that  
they were so assimilated.

1225

01:23:28,340 --> 01:23:32,970

1226

01:23:32,970 --> 01:23:36,480

They didn't deny being Jewish.

1227

01:23:36,480 --> 01:23:40,650

They didn't assimilate  
into another religion,

1228

01:23:40,650 --> 01:23:46,200

but I don't remember any  
religious custom that

1229

01:23:46,200 --> 01:23:52,080

would have remained  
with me that was

1230

01:23:52,080 --> 01:23:53,947

other than around the holidays.

1231

01:23:53,947 --> 01:23:54,780

What about Passover?

1232

01:23:54,780 --> 01:23:57,720

1233

01:23:57,720 --> 01:24:02,470

I remember they observed

all the major holidays,

1234

01:24:02,470 --> 01:24:07,410

and that we wouldn't have any

bread when matzoh was served

1235

01:24:07,410 --> 01:24:12,090

or on Yom Kippur, they

would go to temple

1236

01:24:12,090 --> 01:24:16,950

and stay there all

day, but I don't

1237

01:24:16,950 --> 01:24:20,400

remember any ceremony or any

family gathering in our house

1238

01:24:20,400 --> 01:24:22,890

due to any of these holidays.

1239

01:24:22,890 --> 01:24:26,310

Did you have a Passover seder?

1240

01:24:26,310 --> 01:24:29,110

We must have had, but

I don't remember --

1241

01:24:29,110 --> 01:24:29,610

[INAUDIBLE]

1242

01:24:29,610 --> 01:24:30,960

[INAUDIBLE]

1243

01:24:30,960 --> 01:24:33,580

Any of the Passover  
foods at all?

1244

01:24:33,580 --> 01:24:36,030

Well, not from home--

1245

01:24:36,030 --> 01:24:39,090

I have attended Passover  
since I came to America,

1246

01:24:39,090 --> 01:24:42,990

and some of those  
things are in my mind

1247

01:24:42,990 --> 01:24:47,160

because of what  
I have seen here.

1248

01:24:47,160 --> 01:24:52,230

And I know that it must  
have existed, but as far--

1249

01:24:52,230 --> 01:24:54,660

it's all gone.

1250

01:24:54,660 --> 01:24:57,920

How old were you when you went  
to public school for the--

1251

01:24:57,920 --> 01:25:00,250

or when you went to  
elementary school?

1252

01:25:00,250 --> 01:25:05,670

Well, I believe we started  
school around the age of six.

1253

01:25:05,670 --> 01:25:08,790

And then we went to  
elementary school.

1254  
01:25:08,790 --> 01:25:14,070  
And I went to elementary  
school in Szentes.

1255  
01:25:14,070 --> 01:25:16,980  
That was before my  
parents passed away.

1256  
01:25:16,980 --> 01:25:21,160

1257  
01:25:21,160 --> 01:25:26,140  
I remember the town scarcely.

1258  
01:25:26,140 --> 01:25:28,520  
I remember where we lived.

1259  
01:25:28,520 --> 01:25:32,470  
I remember where my  
father's business was.

1260  
01:25:32,470 --> 01:25:38,560

1261  
01:25:38,560 --> 01:25:40,270  
I remember where  
the cemetery is.

1262  
01:25:40,270 --> 01:25:43,128

1263  
01:25:43,128 --> 01:25:44,420  
Do you remember their funerals?

1264  
01:25:44,420 --> 01:25:48,360

1265  
01:25:48,360 --> 01:25:50,860  
We were not allowed  
to go to the funeral,

1266

01:25:50,860 --> 01:25:54,520

but I remember seeing the  
cortège going by the house,

1267

01:25:54,520 --> 01:25:56,770

where we were at  
the friend's house,

1268

01:25:56,770 --> 01:25:59,710

because I was at the window.

1269

01:25:59,710 --> 01:26:03,070

And the only thing I remember  
was that I was crying,

1270

01:26:03,070 --> 01:26:09,277

and the person who was next  
to me was comforting me,

1271

01:26:09,277 --> 01:26:10,360

and that's all I remember.

1272

01:26:10,360 --> 01:26:18,870

1273

01:26:18,870 --> 01:26:25,442

Can you remember  
yourself at the time

1274

01:26:25,442 --> 01:26:26,900

when your parents  
were still alive?

1275

01:26:26,900 --> 01:26:32,230

1276

01:26:32,230 --> 01:26:38,010

I remember one dress I must  
have been very fond of.

1277

01:26:38,010 --> 01:26:48,270

It was pink silk dress

with blue scallops

1278

01:26:48,270 --> 01:26:52,770

all around my neck  
and my sleeves.

1279

01:26:52,770 --> 01:26:59,250

And I think the reason I  
remembered that-- because I

1280

01:26:59,250 --> 01:27:07,620

was in a park, and I put some  
blueberries on the pink dress

1281

01:27:07,620 --> 01:27:10,410

And that's why I  
probably remember.

1282

01:27:10,410 --> 01:27:12,840

And I was very afraid  
as to what was going

1283

01:27:12,840 --> 01:27:14,370

to happen when I get home.

1284

01:27:14,370 --> 01:27:17,220

1285

01:27:17,220 --> 01:27:22,290

I don't know what happened,  
but I remembered it.

1286

01:27:22,290 --> 01:27:25,380

I had a pair of black  
patent leather shoes

1287

01:27:25,380 --> 01:27:33,110

with ankle socks and pink--

1288

01:27:33,110 --> 01:27:36,024

I think I even have a  
picture of it somewhere.

1289

01:27:36,024 --> 01:27:38,770

1290

01:27:38,770 --> 01:27:45,270

Can you describe that  
little girl to me,

1291

01:27:45,270 --> 01:27:46,710

before your father died?

1292

01:27:46,710 --> 01:27:51,183

1293

01:27:51,183 --> 01:27:52,530

What did she look like?

1294

01:27:52,530 --> 01:27:53,750

What did she walk like?

1295

01:27:53,750 --> 01:27:58,800

1296

01:27:58,800 --> 01:28:07,150

Well, I think they had a lot  
of trouble with me, I think.

1297

01:28:07,150 --> 01:28:09,700

1298

01:28:09,700 --> 01:28:13,840

I was very energetic, I think.

1299

01:28:13,840 --> 01:28:17,545

I remember being very active.

1300

01:28:17,545 --> 01:28:21,270

1301

01:28:21,270 --> 01:28:27,450

And I have a feeling, as much  
as I can't remember the details,

1302  
01:28:27,450 --> 01:28:30,480  
that I did something  
naughty within that dress

1303  
01:28:30,480 --> 01:28:35,280  
with the berries, and  
that I was probably afraid

1304  
01:28:35,280 --> 01:28:37,980  
of the consequences,  
where I knew I

1305  
01:28:37,980 --> 01:28:39,370  
shouldn't have done what I did.

1306  
01:28:39,370 --> 01:28:42,975  
But what actually  
happened I can't remember.

1307  
01:28:42,975 --> 01:28:46,320  
I remember the  
park, where we used

1308  
01:28:46,320 --> 01:28:50,730  
to go every day for our walks.

1309  
01:28:50,730 --> 01:28:53,510  
Oh, I remember one  
incident very well.

1310  
01:28:53,510 --> 01:28:57,230

1311  
01:28:57,230 --> 01:28:59,300  
And that is not  
very complimentary.

1312  
01:28:59,300 --> 01:29:02,870

1313  
01:29:02,870 --> 01:29:09,040



The young lady who was  
with us from Austria

1314  
01:29:09,040 --> 01:29:18,820  
had found another young woman  
from either Austria or Germany,

1315  
01:29:18,820 --> 01:29:22,120  
from an attorney's  
home, where she

1316  
01:29:22,120 --> 01:29:28,060  
was taking care of the little  
boy who was about our age.

1317  
01:29:28,060 --> 01:29:30,990  
And the three children  
were walking in the front--

1318  
01:29:30,990 --> 01:29:34,960  
the little boy, my  
brother, and I--

1319  
01:29:34,960 --> 01:29:37,540  
and the two ladies  
were behind us.

1320  
01:29:37,540 --> 01:29:40,130

1321  
01:29:40,130 --> 01:29:46,430  
And on our walk, we came to a  
store that was selling nuts.

1322  
01:29:46,430 --> 01:29:50,720  
And this little boy said  
to me, why don't you

1323  
01:29:50,720 --> 01:29:55,070  
go over there and take it  
you know the big sacks, front

1324  
01:29:55,070 --> 01:29:57,360

of the store.

1325

01:29:57,360 --> 01:30:07,550

And I remember that I got a  
good coaching that I should

1326

01:30:07,550 --> 01:30:09,860

and I said, no, why  
don't we all three go?

1327

01:30:09,860 --> 01:30:12,620

And he said, no, you go.

1328

01:30:12,620 --> 01:30:15,110

So all three of us went  
over to the window,

1329

01:30:15,110 --> 01:30:17,900

but I was the one who  
went over to the sack

1330

01:30:17,900 --> 01:30:22,490

and took one nut out.

1331

01:30:22,490 --> 01:30:25,730

And we continued with our walk.

1332

01:30:25,730 --> 01:30:28,790

And I can't remember what  
happened with the nut,

1333

01:30:28,790 --> 01:30:30,410

but I do remember,  
by the time we

1334

01:30:30,410 --> 01:30:35,000

got back to my  
father's store, I was

1335

01:30:35,000 --> 01:30:39,080

asked to come over to  
where he was sitting.

1336

01:30:39,080 --> 01:30:44,010

And he asked me if anything--

1337

01:30:44,010 --> 01:30:47,180

how was our walk, and if I--

1338

01:30:47,180 --> 01:30:48,910

anything happened.

1339

01:30:48,910 --> 01:30:50,600

And I said no.

1340

01:30:50,600 --> 01:30:53,180

And he said, you know,  
there was a policeman here--

1341

01:30:53,180 --> 01:30:56,345

told me that you  
stole from the store.

1342

01:30:56,345 --> 01:30:58,920

1343

01:30:58,920 --> 01:31:00,300

And I said, I didn't do it.

1344

01:31:00,300 --> 01:31:02,750

My friend did it.

1345

01:31:02,750 --> 01:31:05,390

Well, it turned out to be  
that my father knew that I

1346

01:31:05,390 --> 01:31:07,800

was the one who took it out.

1347

01:31:07,800 --> 01:31:12,170

So I had to go over and  
apologize to the little boy,

1348

01:31:12,170 --> 01:31:14,780

because I lied.

1349  
01:31:14,780 --> 01:31:17,810  
And I had to go back and  
apologize to the people I

1350  
01:31:17,810 --> 01:31:20,100  
took the one nut from.

1351  
01:31:20,100 --> 01:31:22,770  
So I learned my lesson.

1352  
01:31:22,770 --> 01:31:25,760  
Which was--

1353  
01:31:25,760 --> 01:31:28,280  
First of all, not to  
steal, and then not lie--

1354  
01:31:28,280 --> 01:31:31,640

1355  
01:31:31,640 --> 01:31:36,710  
but this was one incident  
I remember from my father.

1356  
01:31:36,710 --> 01:31:39,860  
And this was-- must  
have been before I

1357  
01:31:39,860 --> 01:31:46,970  
was seven years old because,  
my Austrian nanny left

1358  
01:31:46,970 --> 01:31:48,290  
when I was seven.

1359  
01:31:48,290 --> 01:31:54,590  
So somebody must have  
seen us from the store,

1360  
01:31:54,590 --> 01:31:56,300

and must have gone back.

1361  
01:31:56,300 --> 01:31:59,750  
I don't know how that  
information got to my father,

1362  
01:31:59,750 --> 01:32:02,120  
but it sure did.

1363  
01:32:02,120 --> 01:32:04,916  
That was the only  
incident I remember.

1364  
01:32:04,916 --> 01:32:06,784  
How large was this nut?

1365  
01:32:06,784 --> 01:32:10,220  
A nut, one nut--

1366  
01:32:10,220 --> 01:32:11,420  
Was it good?

1367  
01:32:11,420 --> 01:32:14,870  
I can't remember whether we ate  
it, or threw it away, or played

1368  
01:32:14,870 --> 01:32:16,520  
with it, or what.

1369  
01:32:16,520 --> 01:32:18,345  
It was the lesson of life.

1370  
01:32:18,345 --> 01:32:21,350

1371  
01:32:21,350 --> 01:32:24,390  
What did your father's  
store look like?

1372  
01:32:24,390 --> 01:32:27,920  
Well, I remember his store--

1373

01:32:27,920 --> 01:32:30,470

beautiful materials.

1374

01:32:30,470 --> 01:32:36,500

All these materials were  
very colorful and very neatly

1375

01:32:36,500 --> 01:32:38,480

lined up on the shelf.

1376

01:32:38,480 --> 01:32:40,730

And he had several--  
couple of people,

1377

01:32:40,730 --> 01:32:43,950

if I remember  
correctly, working.

1378

01:32:43,950 --> 01:32:49,520

And one of the ladies who  
worked there with my father

1379

01:32:49,520 --> 01:32:51,980

must have been very fond of him.

1380

01:32:51,980 --> 01:32:58,580

After the war, when I went  
back to Hungary and saw--

1381

01:32:58,580 --> 01:33:01,310

visited the house where--

1382

01:33:01,310 --> 01:33:05,300

that was ours, and the  
attorney's daughter

1383

01:33:05,300 --> 01:33:06,500

with her husband--

1384

01:33:06,500 --> 01:33:10,560

who was a physician--  
purchased it,

1385  
01:33:10,560 --> 01:33:15,600  
she told me that there is  
a woman who used to work

1386  
01:33:15,600 --> 01:33:21,720  
for my father, and that she  
always ask her if they ever

1387  
01:33:21,720 --> 01:33:25,650  
heard what happened to us, who--

1388  
01:33:25,650 --> 01:33:30,220  
by that time, I came to America  
and my brother was in America.

1389  
01:33:30,220 --> 01:33:33,390  
And so she told me  
where this lady lived,

1390  
01:33:33,390 --> 01:33:36,420  
and I went to visit her.

1391  
01:33:36,420 --> 01:33:39,690  
And I kept in touch with  
her until last year.

1392  
01:33:39,690 --> 01:33:44,500  
And she was very sick  
and elderly lady.

1393  
01:33:44,500 --> 01:33:49,090  
And she told me that she  
was very fond of my father,

1394  
01:33:49,090 --> 01:33:54,720  
because he was a very  
kind and good man.

1395  
01:33:54,720 --> 01:33:57,720  
What did he look like?

1396

01:33:57,720 --> 01:34:02,280  
He had very dark hair, was  
very nice looking man with

1397  
01:34:02,280 --> 01:34:05,070  
a black mustache, dark eyes.

1398  
01:34:05,070 --> 01:34:07,750

1399  
01:34:07,750 --> 01:34:11,380  
He was a very nice looking man.

1400  
01:34:11,380 --> 01:34:13,390  
He wasn't very tall--

1401  
01:34:13,390 --> 01:34:16,810  
was, I would think,  
more on the stocky side.

1402  
01:34:16,810 --> 01:34:21,190  
And I think he had a  
little bit of a bow legs,

1403  
01:34:21,190 --> 01:34:26,770  
because I remember when my  
brother was very much built

1404  
01:34:26,770 --> 01:34:29,590  
the way he was.

1405  
01:34:29,590 --> 01:34:31,480  
Everybody used to  
say, you inherited

1406  
01:34:31,480 --> 01:34:32,800  
your father's physique.

1407  
01:34:32,800 --> 01:34:38,220

1408  
01:34:38,220 --> 01:34:42,450



When your uncle came to  
take you to live with him,

1409  
01:34:42,450 --> 01:34:47,540  
what did you bring with  
you from your home?

1410  
01:34:47,540 --> 01:34:50,860  
I don't remember  
anything bringing.

1411  
01:34:50,860 --> 01:34:52,690  
I didn't have anything that--

1412  
01:34:52,690 --> 01:34:58,360  
I recall that was  
brought with me.

1413  
01:34:58,360 --> 01:35:02,650  
I remember the room that I  
received as a private room--

1414  
01:35:02,650 --> 01:35:04,330  
my own room.

1415  
01:35:04,330 --> 01:35:08,820  
But I had a doll.

1416  
01:35:08,820 --> 01:35:13,030

1417  
01:35:13,030 --> 01:35:14,350  
Maybe that came with me.

1418  
01:35:14,350 --> 01:35:15,490  
I don't remember.

1419  
01:35:15,490 --> 01:35:18,670  
I remember the doll as a  
child, but I don't remember

1420  
01:35:18,670 --> 01:35:21,130

whether it came with me or not.

1421

01:35:21,130 --> 01:35:21,960

Doll have a name?

1422

01:35:21,960 --> 01:35:24,730

1423

01:35:24,730 --> 01:35:25,670

Not in my memory--

1424

01:35:25,670 --> 01:35:30,350

1425

01:35:30,350 --> 01:35:33,450

it was a porcelain doll--

1426

01:35:33,450 --> 01:35:36,690

was really rather large doll.

1427

01:35:36,690 --> 01:35:40,060

1428

01:35:40,060 --> 01:35:44,110

I think I have a picture of it.

1429

01:35:44,110 --> 01:35:46,150

But I don't remember the name.

1430

01:35:46,150 --> 01:35:47,800

I don't remember  
playing with it.

1431

01:35:47,800 --> 01:35:50,470

I just remember the doll.

1432

01:35:50,470 --> 01:35:53,290

And I had a little carriage  
that the doll was in.

1433

01:35:53,290 --> 01:35:56,580

That's all I remember.

1434

01:35:56,580 --> 01:35:59,830

Did you take the dog for a walk?

1435

01:35:59,830 --> 01:36:03,670

Well, I suppose so, because

I remember the carriage out

1436

01:36:03,670 --> 01:36:08,410

in the pathway between

the flower bed,

1437

01:36:08,410 --> 01:36:10,040

so I presume I must have.

1438

01:36:10,040 --> 01:36:12,970

But I don't have any

recollection of my childhood.

1439

01:36:12,970 --> 01:36:15,580

1440

01:36:15,580 --> 01:36:17,890

Even trying, I don't.

1441

01:36:17,890 --> 01:36:22,690

1442

01:36:22,690 --> 01:36:23,635

You mentioned a piano.

1443

01:36:23,635 --> 01:36:26,380

1444

01:36:26,380 --> 01:36:29,740

Was the family very musical?

1445

01:36:29,740 --> 01:36:32,080

They enjoyed music.

1446

01:36:32,080 --> 01:36:33,940  
And I didn't play the piano.

1447  
01:36:33,940 --> 01:36:38,860  
I didn't study piano  
until later on.

1448  
01:36:38,860 --> 01:36:41,500  
And I don't remember  
my mother playing it.

1449  
01:36:41,500 --> 01:36:42,730  
I don't know who played it.

1450  
01:36:42,730 --> 01:36:45,300

1451  
01:36:45,300 --> 01:36:48,320  
Now, I don't think  
my father did.

1452  
01:36:48,320 --> 01:36:49,905  
I don't remember.

1453  
01:36:49,905 --> 01:36:52,470

1454  
01:36:52,470 --> 01:36:56,180  
Do you remember what  
your bedroom looked like?

1455  
01:36:56,180 --> 01:36:59,850

1456  
01:36:59,850 --> 01:37:07,850  
I remember it had large--

1457  
01:37:07,850 --> 01:37:11,390  
the closets in Europe in  
those days were not built in,

1458  
01:37:11,390 --> 01:37:14,930

and I don't know if they--  
know what the name of it

1459  
01:37:14,930 --> 01:37:17,510  
is it was a big  
piece of furniture,

1460  
01:37:17,510 --> 01:37:23,930  
where you actually  
bring it into the room.

1461  
01:37:23,930 --> 01:37:26,480  
So it's not built in.

1462  
01:37:26,480 --> 01:37:30,530  
And it had several compartments  
with a mirror in the middle.

1463  
01:37:30,530 --> 01:37:37,490

1464  
01:37:37,490 --> 01:37:43,210  
Just now something came  
to mind my memory that--

1465  
01:37:43,210 --> 01:37:48,900  
before the holy  
holidays, the two people

1466  
01:37:48,900 --> 01:37:54,180  
who worked for us had gone  
through the whole house

1467  
01:37:54,180 --> 01:37:58,020  
to clean everything  
from stem to stern.

1468  
01:37:58,020 --> 01:38:04,800  
And this room had the  
two beds, and a chest

1469  
01:38:04,800 --> 01:38:08,010  
of drawers between

the two windows,

1470  
01:38:08,010 --> 01:38:12,000  
and this big piece  
of furniture that

1471  
01:38:12,000 --> 01:38:13,230  
had the mirror in the middle.

1472  
01:38:13,230 --> 01:38:16,220

1473  
01:38:16,220 --> 01:38:22,400  
And I suppose, in those days,  
it was customary for women

1474  
01:38:22,400 --> 01:38:25,400  
to have the clothes  
made that they

1475  
01:38:25,400 --> 01:38:28,220  
were going to be buried in.

1476  
01:38:28,220 --> 01:38:32,060  
And cleaning the  
house, my mother

1477  
01:38:32,060 --> 01:38:35,810  
came across this garment.

1478  
01:38:35,810 --> 01:38:39,086

1479  
01:38:39,086 --> 01:38:40,540  
And she put it on.

1480  
01:38:40,540 --> 01:38:46,970

1481  
01:38:46,970 --> 01:38:48,472  
This was before Yom Kippur.

1482

01:38:48,472 --> 01:39:05,210

1483

01:39:05,210 --> 01:39:09,190

I remember her  
having that dress.

1484

01:39:09,190 --> 01:39:12,140

You remember her  
putting on the garment.

1485

01:39:12,140 --> 01:39:14,080

I don't remember  
her putting it on.

1486

01:39:14,080 --> 01:39:19,090

I remember her standing  
front of the mirror dressed

1487

01:39:19,090 --> 01:39:22,000

in this black garment that  
she was going to wear,

1488

01:39:22,000 --> 01:39:22,990

if she ever dies.

1489

01:39:22,990 --> 01:39:27,140

1490

01:39:27,140 --> 01:39:29,420

I don't remember the  
faces of these two people

1491

01:39:29,420 --> 01:39:33,040

who work for us, but I  
know they were there.

1492

01:39:33,040 --> 01:39:35,120

That's all I remember.

1493

01:39:35,120 --> 01:39:36,590

This was just

before your father--

1494  
01:39:36,590 --> 01:39:38,400  
And this was just  
before Yom Kippur.

1495  
01:39:38,400 --> 01:39:38,900  
Yeah.

1496  
01:39:38,900 --> 01:39:51,310

1497  
01:39:51,310 --> 01:39:54,520  
I remember another  
thing about that room.

1498  
01:39:54,520 --> 01:40:05,570  
I had scarlet fever, and  
they called a physician out

1499  
01:40:05,570 --> 01:40:07,160  
from Szeged--

1500  
01:40:07,160 --> 01:40:14,690  
where I suppose all the better  
trained people came from--

1501  
01:40:14,690 --> 01:40:17,210  
to examine me, because  
I had scarlet fever.

1502  
01:40:17,210 --> 01:40:21,730  
And they put up a table,  
and they put me on it.

1503  
01:40:21,730 --> 01:40:28,540

1504  
01:40:28,540 --> 01:40:30,400  
I remember them examining me.

1505  
01:40:30,400 --> 01:40:32,000



That's all I remember.

1506  
01:40:32,000 --> 01:40:34,540  
I think I was two years  
old, or three years,

1507  
01:40:34,540 --> 01:40:39,310  
somewhere in early age  
when I had scarlet fever.

1508  
01:40:39,310 --> 01:40:41,460  
But somehow I survived.

1509  
01:40:41,460 --> 01:40:43,660  
I don't know what they did--

1510  
01:40:43,660 --> 01:40:45,240  
must have done the right thing.

1511  
01:40:45,240 --> 01:40:47,930

1512  
01:40:47,930 --> 01:40:50,435  
It seems like the only thing  
I remember is bad things.

1513  
01:40:50,435 --> 01:40:56,048

1514  
01:40:56,048 --> 01:40:58,340  
Do you remember what you  
thought when your mother said,

1515  
01:40:58,340 --> 01:41:02,890  
if she ever died, she would  
[? have ?] that dress?

1516  
01:41:02,890 --> 01:41:05,210  
Well, the only thing I feel--

1517  
01:41:05,210 --> 01:41:10,500  
and I don't know whether

it's just what I think now

1518  
01:41:10,500 --> 01:41:13,920  
or-- but I remember  
these two women saying,

1519  
01:41:13,920 --> 01:41:19,110  
oh, take that thing off,  
urging her not to keep it on.

1520  
01:41:19,110 --> 01:41:22,740  
But it was sort of done in a--

1521  
01:41:22,740 --> 01:41:25,800  
I don't know if you can  
say it-- in a fun way.

1522  
01:41:25,800 --> 01:41:28,290  
It was not a very  
happy situation,

1523  
01:41:28,290 --> 01:41:32,520  
but it was kind of making  
fun out of it, more than--

1524  
01:41:32,520 --> 01:41:36,060

1525  
01:41:36,060 --> 01:41:37,185  
gee, I can't remember.

1526  
01:41:37,185 --> 01:41:40,820

1527  
01:41:40,820 --> 01:41:43,940  
It was a fearful feeling,  
but in the same time,

1528  
01:41:43,940 --> 01:41:49,500  
it was made in the vein of a  
joke, a bad joke, a poor joke.

1529

01:41:49,500 --> 01:41:52,780

I suppose that's the only  
thing I can think of.

1530

01:41:52,780 --> 01:41:56,390

1531

01:41:56,390 --> 01:42:03,890

Seeing the scene, sometimes  
these gruesome things people

1532

01:42:03,890 --> 01:42:11,930

make fun out of to alleviate  
the seriousness behind it.

1533

01:42:11,930 --> 01:42:12,920

I don't know.

1534

01:42:12,920 --> 01:42:14,510

I don't know where  
she got it from.

1535

01:42:14,510 --> 01:42:17,060

I don't know how  
she came across it.

1536

01:42:17,060 --> 01:42:24,950

I don't know why she even had  
any handling of the garment--

1537

01:42:24,950 --> 01:42:28,340

cleaning a room, where the  
garment might have been.

1538

01:42:28,340 --> 01:42:32,470

1539

01:42:32,470 --> 01:42:33,910

But I just remembered the scene.

1540

01:42:33,910 --> 01:42:36,430

1541

01:42:36,430 --> 01:42:39,010

The only thing I remember was  
these two women were saying,

1542

01:42:39,010 --> 01:42:42,150

oh, take it off, urging  
her to get rid of it.

1543

01:42:42,150 --> 01:42:48,490

1544

01:42:48,490 --> 01:42:52,135

I have another vignette  
that came to my mind.

1545

01:42:52,135 --> 01:42:55,020

1546

01:42:55,020 --> 01:42:58,155

My nanny had to take  
me to the dentist.

1547

01:42:58,155 --> 01:43:01,660

1548

01:43:01,660 --> 01:43:07,600

And they gave me an  
injection, and then we

1549

01:43:07,600 --> 01:43:10,840

had to go out to  
the waiting room.

1550

01:43:10,840 --> 01:43:12,520

And I ran out.

1551

01:43:12,520 --> 01:43:16,060

And I ran as hard as I  
could, and she ran after me.

1552

01:43:16,060 --> 01:43:20,650

She caught me halfway home to

take me back to the dentist.

1553  
01:43:20,650 --> 01:43:27,300  
But I visited the  
dentist quite frequently,

1554  
01:43:27,300 --> 01:43:30,310  
unfortunately, and I must  
have had bad memories of him.

1555  
01:43:30,310 --> 01:43:35,730  
But in those days, they had  
the foot pedal to drill teeth,

1556  
01:43:35,730 --> 01:43:38,520  
and I'm sure it must have  
not been very comfortable.

1557  
01:43:38,520 --> 01:43:42,660  
But the only thing I remember  
is when she ran after me

1558  
01:43:42,660 --> 01:43:44,220  
and brought me back.

1559  
01:43:44,220 --> 01:43:49,980

1560  
01:43:49,980 --> 01:43:52,020  
Did you eat a lot of sweets?

1561  
01:43:52,020 --> 01:43:53,040  
Oh, I'm sure.

1562  
01:43:53,040 --> 01:43:54,270  
I'm sure.

1563  
01:43:54,270 --> 01:43:58,920  
Now, I don't know if  
people were aware of what

1564  
01:43:58,920 --> 01:44:04,650

caused cavities, or diet.

1565

01:44:04,650 --> 01:44:10,710

I'm sure we used a lot of butter  
and all the good things that

1566

01:44:10,710 --> 01:44:12,459

are taboo today.

1567

01:44:12,459 --> 01:44:16,250

1568

01:44:16,250 --> 01:44:19,220

Was there much interaction  
between you and your sister?

1569

01:44:19,220 --> 01:44:23,120

Did you play together, have  
any things you did together?

1570

01:44:23,120 --> 01:44:25,700

1571

01:44:25,700 --> 01:44:29,360

Well, I remember my  
sister, of course.

1572

01:44:29,360 --> 01:44:33,140

She was quite a bit older--

1573

01:44:33,140 --> 01:44:36,530

at least the way I thought  
about her at that time.

1574

01:44:36,530 --> 01:44:43,295

And she was quite heavy, obese.

1575

01:44:43,295 --> 01:44:46,860

1576

01:44:46,860 --> 01:44:49,840

That's for her

appearance, but her face--

1577

01:44:49,840 --> 01:44:54,160

she has a very pretty face.

1578

01:44:54,160 --> 01:44:57,430

And I had a very good  
relationship with her.

1579

01:44:57,430 --> 01:45:01,960

I remember she's the one who  
introduced cigarette to me.

1580

01:45:01,960 --> 01:45:06,730

She was smoking, and in  
order to keep quiet-- for me

1581

01:45:06,730 --> 01:45:09,880

to keep quiet, she  
gave me a cigarette.

1582

01:45:09,880 --> 01:45:13,300

1583

01:45:13,300 --> 01:45:16,300

I must have been pretty  
close to eight years old

1584

01:45:16,300 --> 01:45:18,070

when that happened.

1585

01:45:18,070 --> 01:45:20,350

I remember having  
my first cigarette

1586

01:45:20,350 --> 01:45:22,550

when she wanted to smoke.

1587

01:45:22,550 --> 01:45:24,160

There was somebody  
with her, and I

1588

01:45:24,160 --> 01:45:30,370  
can't remember whether it  
was her friend or our maid.

1589  
01:45:30,370 --> 01:45:32,950  
I don't know who it was, but  
there was another person.

1590  
01:45:32,950 --> 01:45:36,520  
They were smoking,  
and they were afraid

1591  
01:45:36,520 --> 01:45:41,450  
that I was going to really  
get them into trouble,

1592  
01:45:41,450 --> 01:45:44,860  
so I think they let  
me have a cigarette.

1593  
01:45:44,860 --> 01:45:47,320  
I remember having  
the first cigarette.

1594  
01:45:47,320 --> 01:45:48,880  
And then, later on, I did smoke.

1595  
01:45:48,880 --> 01:45:51,600

1596  
01:45:51,600 --> 01:45:53,800  
What was that first  
cigarette like?

1597  
01:45:53,800 --> 01:45:56,020  
Awful, just awful--

1598  
01:45:56,020 --> 01:45:59,140  
I couldn't understand.

1599  
01:45:59,140 --> 01:46:03,310  
I remember not liking it, but  
then later years, I did pick up



1600  
01:46:03,310 --> 01:46:05,560  
the cigarette and I did smoke.

1601  
01:46:05,560 --> 01:46:06,430  
Do you still smoke?

1602  
01:46:06,430 --> 01:46:11,050  
No, I stopped quite  
a few years ago.

1603  
01:46:11,050 --> 01:46:14,950  
But during the war, it was a  
very important part of my life.

1604  
01:46:14,950 --> 01:46:18,610  
I had cigarettes,  
but I had no food--

1605  
01:46:18,610 --> 01:46:19,810  
foolishly.

1606  
01:46:19,810 --> 01:46:21,430  
But then I stopped smoking.

1607  
01:46:21,430 --> 01:46:25,260

1608  
01:46:25,260 --> 01:46:27,880  
Did your sister have  
a separate bedroom?

1609  
01:46:27,880 --> 01:46:30,460  
My sister and my brother  
had a separate bedroom,

1610  
01:46:30,460 --> 01:46:35,170  
but I don't remember where  
they exactly situated.

1611  
01:46:35,170 --> 01:46:39,280  
And that's why I don't

quite know why my bed was

1612  
01:46:39,280 --> 01:46:42,800  
in the master bedroom.

1613  
01:46:42,800 --> 01:46:46,590  
It was rather a large room.

1614  
01:46:46,590 --> 01:46:48,490  
I might have been ill or--

1615  
01:46:48,490 --> 01:46:53,830  
I don't know what the reason  
was, but that's how I remember.

1616  
01:46:53,830 --> 01:46:55,720  
And it's possible that  
I don't remember it

1617  
01:46:55,720 --> 01:46:57,530  
and my brother was  
in the same bedroom.

1618  
01:46:57,530 --> 01:46:58,443  
It was a large room.

1619  
01:46:58,443 --> 01:46:59,110  
That I remember.

1620  
01:46:59,110 --> 01:47:04,820

1621  
01:47:04,820 --> 01:47:09,530  
It was a good size  
house, and I remember.

1622  
01:47:09,530 --> 01:47:13,010  
And there must have been  
a quarter where our--

1623  
01:47:13,010 --> 01:47:15,350  
the people who

worked for us lived,

1624

01:47:15,350 --> 01:47:19,760

but I don't remember that  
section of the house at all.

1625

01:47:19,760 --> 01:47:29,050

I remember the front part,  
and kitchen, that's it.

1626

01:47:29,050 --> 01:47:31,290

What was your favorite  
place in the house?

1627

01:47:31,290 --> 01:47:34,370

1628

01:47:34,370 --> 01:47:36,520

Well, I liked the room--  
the Hungarian room,

1629

01:47:36,520 --> 01:47:38,020

because it was very sunny.

1630

01:47:38,020 --> 01:47:43,450

1631

01:47:43,450 --> 01:47:48,070

The light was always in,  
and it was always cheerful.

1632

01:47:48,070 --> 01:47:54,910

And somehow I liked the  
room where the piano was,

1633

01:47:54,910 --> 01:47:55,990

but I don't know why.

1634

01:47:55,990 --> 01:48:04,810

1635

01:48:04,810 --> 01:48:08,110

Did you have any  
religious education?

1636  
01:48:08,110 --> 01:48:10,060  
Yes.

1637  
01:48:10,060 --> 01:48:14,200  
Other than going  
to public school,

1638  
01:48:14,200 --> 01:48:16,780  
we had to go to the synagogue--

1639  
01:48:16,780 --> 01:48:19,330  
next to the synagogue,  
where the cantor lived,

1640  
01:48:19,330 --> 01:48:24,250  
and that's where we had  
our religious education,

1641  
01:48:24,250 --> 01:48:27,580  
and had to learn to read Hebrew.

1642  
01:48:27,580 --> 01:48:29,500  
And then, when my  
parents died, it

1643  
01:48:29,500 --> 01:48:32,500  
continued, because the  
community that I went into

1644  
01:48:32,500 --> 01:48:36,130  
was a smaller community,  
and my grandfather

1645  
01:48:36,130 --> 01:48:38,890  
was very active in temple.

1646  
01:48:38,890 --> 01:48:45,680  
And he would go to temple  
every Friday night.

1647

01:48:45,680 --> 01:48:48,730

And it was rather difficult  
to bring the minyan together

1648

01:48:48,730 --> 01:48:52,600

because of the few Jewish  
families who lived there,

1649

01:48:52,600 --> 01:48:55,660

but he was-- my grandfather  
was always there.

1650

01:48:55,660 --> 01:48:59,950

And then we would  
always go and get our--

1651

01:48:59,950 --> 01:49:04,450

we had a cantor who had lived  
right next to the temple,

1652

01:49:04,450 --> 01:49:09,370

and continued our education  
when I was living with my uncle.

1653

01:49:09,370 --> 01:49:11,910

1654

01:49:11,910 --> 01:49:15,150

And of course, we learned  
about all the holidays,

1655

01:49:15,150 --> 01:49:21,810

and learned to read, and took  
part in the religious holidays.

1656

01:49:21,810 --> 01:49:26,130

But even my uncle  
and aunt, who were--

1657

01:49:26,130 --> 01:49:30,540

they did not have a  
kosher house, but all

1658

01:49:30,540 --> 01:49:35,535

the major holidays, and Friday,  
and Sabbath was observed.

1659

01:49:35,535 --> 01:49:41,310

1660

01:49:41,310 --> 01:49:48,870

In our section of the country,  
most of the Jews were--

1661

01:49:48,870 --> 01:49:53,250

I think today would  
call them reformed Jews.

1662

01:49:53,250 --> 01:49:59,980

And they were very much  
part of the community life,

1663

01:49:59,980 --> 01:50:05,050

as much as they observed  
the religious holidays.

1664

01:50:05,050 --> 01:50:12,430

And making friends would be  
more with people whom they

1665

01:50:12,430 --> 01:50:14,590

had something in common with.

1666

01:50:14,590 --> 01:50:20,580

But I think they very  
much assimilated.

1667

01:50:20,580 --> 01:50:23,400

As a matter of fact, when--

1668

01:50:23,400 --> 01:50:28,380

after the war, I  
escaped from Budapest

1669

01:50:28,380 --> 01:50:33,270

and arrived in Vienna at  
the Rothschild Hospital.

1670  
01:50:33,270 --> 01:50:38,460  
And you had to register as to  
what country you came from.

1671  
01:50:38,460 --> 01:50:43,590  
There were people from Poland  
there who were registering us,

1672  
01:50:43,590 --> 01:50:46,500  
and they didn't  
look very favorable

1673  
01:50:46,500 --> 01:50:50,880  
on the Hungarian Jews, because  
we did not speak Hebrew.

1674  
01:50:50,880 --> 01:50:52,000  
We did not speak Yiddish.

1675  
01:50:52,000 --> 01:50:56,160

1676  
01:50:56,160 --> 01:51:02,430  
We were not very orthodox Jews.

1677  
01:51:02,430 --> 01:51:10,740  
And I remember being sent to the  
end of the line, and somebody

1678  
01:51:10,740 --> 01:51:19,890  
from Poland or Russia who spoke  
Yiddish was registered ahead

1679  
01:51:19,890 --> 01:51:24,460  
of me, because I did not  
speak their language.

1680  
01:51:24,460 --> 01:51:27,360  
So in a sense, we were  
discriminated against,

1681  
01:51:27,360 --> 01:51:29,550  
because we were so assimilated.

1682  
01:51:29,550 --> 01:51:33,480

1683  
01:51:33,480 --> 01:51:37,440  
Most of my friends  
were from school,

1684  
01:51:37,440 --> 01:51:41,160  
and most of those people  
were Catholic or Lutheran,

1685  
01:51:41,160 --> 01:51:44,730  
because the country  
was Hungarian--

1686  
01:51:44,730 --> 01:51:48,600  
I mean Catholic mainly.

1687  
01:51:48,600 --> 01:51:57,690  
And religion played  
a part in our family,

1688  
01:51:57,690 --> 01:52:01,720  
as far as the holy  
holidays were concerned.

1689  
01:52:01,720 --> 01:52:07,930  
But we spoke  
Hungarian, and that was

1690  
01:52:07,930 --> 01:52:09,910  
the only language they spoke.

1691  
01:52:09,910 --> 01:52:14,170  
I spoke German, but that's it.

1692  
01:52:14,170 --> 01:52:19,150  
My whole family that I



recall were that way.

1693

01:52:19,150 --> 01:52:22,310

1694

01:52:22,310 --> 01:52:25,070

Did you feel any anti-Semitism?

1695

01:52:25,070 --> 01:52:27,860

Oh, yes.

1696

01:52:27,860 --> 01:52:30,590

Actually, when I  
can say when I felt

1697

01:52:30,590 --> 01:52:40,310

it was when I was in  
high school and we had

1698

01:52:40,310 --> 01:52:44,330

to go to the Jewish synagogue.

1699

01:52:44,330 --> 01:52:48,980

And we were not part of  
the rest of the people

1700

01:52:48,980 --> 01:52:54,380

who went to church and observed  
the Christian holidays.

1701

01:52:54,380 --> 01:52:59,990

We naturally had to stay  
home and observe our holidays

1702

01:52:59,990 --> 01:53:02,210

on Jewish holidays,  
and may have not been

1703

01:53:02,210 --> 01:53:06,800

on Saturday and Sunday, or  
whenever the Christian holidays

1704

01:53:06,800 --> 01:53:07,430  
were.

1705  
01:53:07,430 --> 01:53:10,430  
So we were kind of separated.

1706  
01:53:10,430 --> 01:53:14,660  
And I did not  
feel, in the school

1707  
01:53:14,660 --> 01:53:18,530  
where I went to high  
school, that I personally

1708  
01:53:18,530 --> 01:53:22,980  
was discriminated against  
because of my religion.

1709  
01:53:22,980 --> 01:53:27,380  
My uncle had a very good  
standing in the community.

1710  
01:53:27,380 --> 01:53:32,960

1711  
01:53:32,960 --> 01:53:39,140  
People who he did business with  
respected him and liked him,

1712  
01:53:39,140 --> 01:53:46,060  
so that we didn't have any  
conflict with the people

1713  
01:53:46,060 --> 01:53:47,410  
in the community.

1714  
01:53:47,410 --> 01:53:53,080  
His home was in  
the middle of town,

1715  
01:53:53,080 --> 01:53:55,940  
very prominently placed,  
as a matter of fact.

1716  
01:53:55,940 --> 01:54:02,620  
The schools were across the  
street from us and the square--

1717  
01:54:02,620 --> 01:54:06,910  
the town square was across  
the front of the house.

1718  
01:54:06,910 --> 01:54:10,180  
And people looked up to him.

1719  
01:54:10,180 --> 01:54:12,130  
He helped people  
who needed help.

1720  
01:54:12,130 --> 01:54:16,690  
And people who  
needed credit, who

1721  
01:54:16,690 --> 01:54:19,550  
came to purchase from his  
store-- he extended it.

1722  
01:54:19,550 --> 01:54:24,130  
So there was no hard feelings  
between the community

1723  
01:54:24,130 --> 01:54:25,860  
and the people.

1724  
01:54:25,860 --> 01:54:30,600

1725  
01:54:30,600 --> 01:54:33,630  
When I actually became  
conscious of the fact

1726  
01:54:33,630 --> 01:54:42,000  
that this will give me  
problem, I was in high school,

1727

01:54:42,000 --> 01:54:44,940  
and I met a young man who--

1728  
01:54:44,940 --> 01:54:48,760  
whose brother-in-law  
was in the--

1729  
01:54:48,760 --> 01:54:53,110

1730  
01:54:53,110 --> 01:54:57,760  
involved with the county  
politics, and in a position

1731  
01:54:57,760 --> 01:55:01,030  
and suddenly, it  
became important

1732  
01:55:01,030 --> 01:55:05,170  
that our religion was  
different, that we could never

1733  
01:55:05,170 --> 01:55:12,310  
really become more than just  
friends, or go together,

1734  
01:55:12,310 --> 01:55:15,010  
or date.

1735  
01:55:15,010 --> 01:55:16,780  
And it really was  
kind of frowned

1736  
01:55:16,780 --> 01:55:23,170  
on that our friendship developed  
to the point of an attraction,

1737  
01:55:23,170 --> 01:55:28,810  
more than just going  
to the same school.

1738  
01:55:28,810 --> 01:55:31,790  
So it became a problem.

1739  
01:55:31,790 --> 01:55:36,730  
And so I was never allowed to go  
out on a date with him, as far

1740  
01:55:36,730 --> 01:55:38,170  
as that is concerned.

1741  
01:55:38,170 --> 01:55:40,780  
And the custom in  
those days was really

1742  
01:55:40,780 --> 01:55:44,470  
that you took your bicycle and  
you went for a bicycle ride,

1743  
01:55:44,470 --> 01:55:47,330  
and then you got together  
with several people

1744  
01:55:47,330 --> 01:55:48,940  
so you were not alone.

1745  
01:55:48,940 --> 01:55:53,470  
Or you went down to the Tisa  
River during the summer.

1746  
01:55:53,470 --> 01:55:58,120  
And then it was more of a  
group activity than individual

1747  
01:55:58,120 --> 01:56:05,740  
dating or going to dinner.

1748  
01:56:05,740 --> 01:56:08,410  
It was not customary.

1749  
01:56:08,410 --> 01:56:13,420  
And my uncle and his  
wife played bridge,

1750  
01:56:13,420 --> 01:56:17,230

and if the bridge party  
was not in our home,

1751  
01:56:17,230 --> 01:56:22,130  
then I was left  
home with a servant.

1752  
01:56:22,130 --> 01:56:28,060  
And I was not allowed  
to go out of the home

1753  
01:56:28,060 --> 01:56:35,530  
after they went out  
to visit with friends.

1754  
01:56:35,530 --> 01:56:38,420

1755  
01:56:38,420 --> 01:56:42,530  
And of course,  
there's always that.

1756  
01:56:42,530 --> 01:56:49,130  
We had this big windows, and  
my friend would come and stand

1757  
01:56:49,130 --> 01:56:50,840  
outside the house,  
and then we would

1758  
01:56:50,840 --> 01:56:55,040  
converse with one of the  
maids in the window with me.

1759  
01:56:55,040 --> 01:57:00,830  
So there was communication,  
but it-- the social customs

1760  
01:57:00,830 --> 01:57:01,910  
were so different.

1761  
01:57:01,910 --> 01:57:05,090

1762  
01:57:05,090 --> 01:57:07,220  
We would go out  
for a bicycle ride,

1763  
01:57:07,220 --> 01:57:11,360  
but it became a problem, because  
his family objected to the fact

1764  
01:57:11,360 --> 01:57:14,760  
that he would even see me.

1765  
01:57:14,760 --> 01:57:17,270  
And I'm sure that, if  
I would have stayed--

1766  
01:57:17,270 --> 01:57:21,260  
remained there longer,  
if it would have really

1767  
01:57:21,260 --> 01:57:25,340  
become serious, that my family  
would have not permitted it.

1768  
01:57:25,340 --> 01:57:27,130  
But it never came to that point.

1769  
01:57:27,130 --> 01:57:35,450

1770  
01:57:35,450 --> 01:57:40,340  
So my friends were  
all Catholics.

1771  
01:57:40,340 --> 01:57:43,890  
The Jewish friends I had--

1772  
01:57:43,890 --> 01:57:48,140  
very few because of few  
families who had children.

1773  
01:57:48,140 --> 01:57:51,230

Of course, we did have friends--

1774

01:57:51,230 --> 01:57:55,070

some of them younger  
and some of them older.

1775

01:57:55,070 --> 01:57:58,820

1776

01:57:58,820 --> 01:58:07,460

But I wasn't there at the  
time when the community had

1777

01:58:07,460 --> 01:58:13,070

to go into the ghetto,  
so I don't really

1778

01:58:13,070 --> 01:58:20,480

know how many of them were in  
the ghetto at that time I. Know

1779

01:58:20,480 --> 01:58:24,275

that there were only very,  
very few people who returned.

1780

01:58:24,275 --> 01:58:29,190

1781

01:58:29,190 --> 01:58:34,760

I know one young man who  
returned and lived in Budapest

1782

01:58:34,760 --> 01:58:43,080

at the time the war ended;  
and another one who returned,

1783

01:58:43,080 --> 01:58:52,320

and he is now in Israel;  
and one young man, who

1784

01:58:52,320 --> 01:58:56,460

was about my age, who returned.



1785

01:58:56,460 --> 01:58:58,470

But his family didn't.

1786

01:58:58,470 --> 01:59:01,650

And I don't know where he  
lives, but somewhere in Hungary

1787

01:59:01,650 --> 01:59:03,780

he was saved.

1788

01:59:03,780 --> 01:59:06,180

So there-- very few  
people returned there.

1789

01:59:06,180 --> 01:59:09,060

1790

01:59:09,060 --> 01:59:12,060

When did you first  
become aware of Hitler?

1791

01:59:12,060 --> 01:59:17,600

1792

01:59:17,600 --> 01:59:23,640

It was through the  
radio when the news--

1793

01:59:23,640 --> 01:59:28,520

when my family was listening  
to the news and heard that--

1794

01:59:28,520 --> 01:59:34,550

what actually was taking place  
in Austria and in Germany.

1795

01:59:34,550 --> 01:59:38,390

And the fear that  
what would become--

1796

01:59:38,390 --> 01:59:42,290

or what would

happen in Hungary--

1797

01:59:42,290 --> 01:59:45,200

would the same  
thing happen here?

1798

01:59:45,200 --> 01:59:46,940

What would they do?

1799

01:59:46,940 --> 01:59:49,490

What should they do?

1800

01:59:49,490 --> 01:59:52,310

And as I said earlier--

1801

01:59:52,310 --> 01:59:55,520

that, when it came to a decision  
as to what happened after I

1802

01:59:55,520 --> 01:59:57,290

finished my high school--

1803

01:59:57,290 --> 02:00:02,390

that influenced their decision  
because of what happened.

1804

02:00:02,390 --> 02:00:06,770

They were listening to the BBC.

1805

02:00:06,770 --> 02:00:09,810

I think it was  
voice from England.

1806

02:00:09,810 --> 02:00:11,990

There was a broadcast  
that came in,

1807

02:00:11,990 --> 02:00:15,230

and they listened  
to it at night,

1808

02:00:15,230 --> 02:00:19,730

because it was too  
dangerous, fearful to listen

1809  
02:00:19,730 --> 02:00:21,470  
to these broadcast.

1810  
02:00:21,470 --> 02:00:23,690  
In what language was the BBC?

1811  
02:00:23,690 --> 02:00:25,970  
Well, it must have  
been in Hungarian.

1812  
02:00:25,970 --> 02:00:28,520  
I never listened  
to it, but it must

1813  
02:00:28,520 --> 02:00:32,100  
have been, because they didn't  
speak any other languages.

1814  
02:00:32,100 --> 02:00:37,490  
So it was Hungarian,  
because they

1815  
02:00:37,490 --> 02:00:41,810  
knew what was going on in  
other countries around us.

1816  
02:00:41,810 --> 02:00:46,070

1817  
02:00:46,070 --> 02:00:50,600  
At that time, there was still  
communication with America,

1818  
02:00:50,600 --> 02:00:53,150  
because I remember  
my uncle telling me

1819  
02:00:53,150 --> 02:00:57,440  
that he had corresponded  
with my uncle in Flushing,

1820  
02:00:57,440 --> 02:01:03,050  
as to what course to take  
for my future education.

1821  
02:01:03,050 --> 02:01:09,215  
And this is how they decided  
to steer me toward a trade.

1822  
02:01:09,215 --> 02:01:12,200

1823  
02:01:12,200 --> 02:01:18,170  
And this is how I learned  
to do sew and make garments.

1824  
02:01:18,170 --> 02:01:23,630

1825  
02:01:23,630 --> 02:01:26,840  
You knew what was going on  
in the other countries then?

1826  
02:01:26,840 --> 02:01:28,826  
You know what was  
going on in Poland ?

1827  
02:01:28,826 --> 02:01:32,520  
Did you know about the camps?

1828  
02:01:32,520 --> 02:01:38,050  
We didn't know about Auschwitz  
and exterminated camps,

1829  
02:01:38,050 --> 02:01:41,180  
and I don't know if, in those  
days, they existed or not.

1830  
02:01:41,180 --> 02:01:45,560  
But I know that they were  
aware of the fact that, if--

1831

02:01:45,560 --> 02:01:50,180  
the Jews were in  
danger for their lives,

1832  
02:01:50,180 --> 02:01:51,260  
and that they were--

1833  
02:01:51,260 --> 02:01:55,100

1834  
02:01:55,100 --> 02:01:58,160  
their belongings have  
been confiscated,

1835  
02:01:58,160 --> 02:02:01,400  
and that they were  
killed and deported--

1836  
02:02:01,400 --> 02:02:05,570  
and then, of course,  
the Warsaw ghetto.

1837  
02:02:05,570 --> 02:02:10,100  
But I remember  
the feeling that--

1838  
02:02:10,100 --> 02:02:13,190  
and I don't know whether it  
was because we were sheltered

1839  
02:02:13,190 --> 02:02:16,790  
in our home or it  
was to believe,

1840  
02:02:16,790 --> 02:02:23,480  
but it was happening over there,  
and it's not happening here.

1841  
02:02:23,480 --> 02:02:29,780  
And of course, this was just  
sort of a false security.

1842  
02:02:29,780 --> 02:02:34,520

1843  
02:02:34,520 --> 02:02:38,810  
When you went off to  
Budapest by yourself,

1844  
02:02:38,810 --> 02:02:40,760  
you did stay with someone.

1845  
02:02:40,760 --> 02:02:44,780

1846  
02:02:44,780 --> 02:02:52,520  
After I finished my studies  
and I received my certificate,

1847  
02:02:52,520 --> 02:02:55,430  
I did remain Szeged  
for a little while,

1848  
02:02:55,430 --> 02:02:57,080  
and then I went to Budapest.

1849  
02:02:57,080 --> 02:03:00,230  
And I went there with  
one of my cousins.

1850  
02:03:00,230 --> 02:03:03,140  
And we had a friend  
in Budapest who

1851  
02:03:03,140 --> 02:03:08,730  
said that she was going to  
get us a job in the factory.

1852  
02:03:08,730 --> 02:03:12,620  
And we stayed there,  
I think, one day.

1853  
02:03:12,620 --> 02:03:18,770  
They were making buttons  
made out of cotton--

1854

02:03:18,770 --> 02:03:20,930

doesn't exist in this country.

1855

02:03:20,930 --> 02:03:24,890

But it had a wire

circle and edge,

1856

02:03:24,890 --> 02:03:31,400

and then there was a machine

that was encompassing that when

1857

02:03:31,400 --> 02:03:32,870

the button was finished.

1858

02:03:32,870 --> 02:03:34,970

And it was a thread--

1859

02:03:34,970 --> 02:03:38,120

a cotton thread

with a metal circle,

1860

02:03:38,120 --> 02:03:41,080

and they used it for a button.