

[INAUDIBLE] center, and today is May the 26th, 1990. And this is part two of the interview. So as I say, I wasn't exactly clear where we left off. But I know we've been talking about your life in San Francisco and you reunited with your parents. And I was wondering whether you and your family ever discussed all those events in Germany?

Well, we really did discuss it when my father found out that his brother and family perished in the concentration camp. And my mother found out that her brother also, he froze to death on the train on the transport to a concentration camp. So we did discuss. But mainly, we really just united after five years. It was so wonderful to be together.

And my father, he was about 65 when he came to the States, and they'd taken away all his factories and everything in Germany. So he had to start anew, because like everybody else he came here was \$10. And well, he was lucky. He had some family here in San Francisco.

And we had a nice little apartment. Very small. And yet my father insisted that my sister and I stay there with him. We didn't really want to. We were used to living independently for five years. But my father was really a typical European father. He said, no way. You don't live on your own. You have to stay with us. So we were a bit cramped, but it was nice. So my father found a job as a sales agent with a big paper company. He'd ever done that in his life, but he studied.

That's amazing.

Yeah, it is. He was really good at it. In fact, I never forget how he told us when he was first sent over to the States as a young man by his father to learn the American way of business. He said, you have to get a little black book and you write down all the first names of your clients and your friends and so on. It's all you need, the first names. And then when you meet them, you slap them on the back and say, hi, Joe. Nice to see you again. And that's the American way of life. And I was really impressed by that, because I never been to America. You know?

But actually, I loved San Francisco. But to me, I had the feelings of, I'd been here before. I heard so much and read so much about America, so I wasn't really surprised by anything, except the language was a bit different from England.

So I found a job right away. I wanted to go to work. I wasn't used to sitting at home. And it was still wartime, you know. So I went to the Presidio in San Francisco. And I can't quite remember whom I got hold of, but somebody. I said, I want a job. Said, what can you do? I say, well, I'm bilingual, English, German, and I can of course type and do office work. And so they referred me to the USS, the Office of Strategic Services at that time, forerunner of the CIA.

And I had no idea, really, what it was all about. But they put me to work there translating documents. And I was a sort of Girl Friday. I did everything. Chauffeuring people around, I got to know San Francisco very well, so I loved that.

And then the UN, it was after the war finished, the UN came to San Francisco. And I applied to be a chauffeur. So we got extra gasoline. Gasoline was rationed. And I drove delegates around and it was kind of exciting, too. I can't remember who they all were, but it was fun.

And then I figured, oh, well, that isn't for me anymore. Office work I didn't like. So I went to art school. But that didn't bring in any money. So my parents--

How did you afford to go to school?

Well, I just had earned a little money in the USS. And I know my parents were not very well off, so I had to contribute to the household. So I heard of a job opening in Sonoma-Napa County as a milk tester. Now, I had no idea what a milk tester was, but I applied. And they said yes, we'll train you. And I went to Santa Rosa and there they trained me to test the milk for butterfat. They gave me a big centrifuge.

And you know, I also had to learn to drive. I drove motorcycles and little trucks in England. But in America, I had to get driver's license. And I failed my first driver's license because I was so nervous. And the guy tricked me into going one-way street. I'll never forget that. He says, you go up here, and it was a one-way street. And I did that, of course, obedient

as I was. And I failed the first test. Now they're not allowed to do that anymore.

And so on Sundays, my sister and I drove patients from Lettermen Hospital. In fact, there were psychos, but under guard. They had outings So we had a big Red Cross-- it was for the National Red Cross-- big Red Cross buses, and we drove them all over San Francisco.

Was this a volunteer job?

Volunteer job. Yeah.

You weren't a citizen at that point, were you?

No, I wasn't. I had my first papers, and it was some-- I was so amazed at that the USS took me. But when the war finished, then of course, there was no more job for me. And that's when I applied for the milk tester job. And it paid quite good money. And I had to work 21 days on the farms, stay on each farm for two milkings, 24 hours, and get up at 3:00, 4:00 in the morning for one milking, and then 12 hours later for the next. Great big centrifuge, and I had to take all the milk buckets myself off the scale.

You know, if you want to have a job, you don't let the men work for you. So I was written up in the Santa Rosa Daily News or something as being the first female milk tester in the West Coast. That was OK. It wasn't anything special to me. Only I like to work outside, you see. I really enjoyed that.

So was this an opportunity to move out of your house, too?

Yeah. Well, yes, for 21 days. But I had to-- my father made sure that the rest of the nine days I came back home and stayed.

My sister went right away into a hospital to finish her nursing career.

And you had obviously already met the man you were going to marry?

Oh, yes. I met him in England. I told you about him. But he was stationed then with the military government in Germany. And we corresponded a little bit, but I didn't really think of marrying at all. I was so happy-- I was just happy to be with my parents and be home and more or less settled, something I had not really known before after I left Germany.

How were your parent's spirits, and you own, and your sisters? How were your--

Oh, we were in high spirits, yes. We did not hear too much about Germany, what went on. For some reason or other, we-- it wasn't talked about very much. My parents did not tell me an awful lot about their experiences. It's very strange that all these years, it took all these years for people to talk about their experiences.

And my parents hinted a little bit. They told us about Shanghai and how the Trans-Siberian Express, the trip to Siberia was, but they never really told us their whole story. And we didn't ask very much. We were just so happy to be in America and to lead a fairly normal life that we didn't talk much about Germany.

So at that point, did you know already about all the camps and--

Well, of course, from my own family. And then we had friends and they told us about their experiences and their families. I knew about that.

How did your parents find out about the deaths of their relatives?

I don't quite remember. I think another relative was over there with the military government. And like my own husband,

he was over there. And he also did some research what went on, what had been going on. So that's very hazy. I cannot remember exactly how my parents found out. But even so, my father-- I told you about my father, violent anti-Semitism, right?

Yes.

He really never changed, even after having found out about his own family. He was very reluctant to get together with other German-born Jewish people. He had some friends here who were not Jewish. And he rather would associate with them than with Jewish people. I mean, carry-- even that that had happened to his own family did not really convince him to change his mind.

Hmm. So he still revered the Germans?

Pardon?

I say, he still revered the Germans?

Yeah, mm-hmm. So I found that very sad, even at that time.

What about your mother?

My mother was not so strongly opinionated, but she agreed with him to a certain extent. I think she was very wise. She knew she couldn't change him. You know? And she just-- she wanted harmony in the family. But when she and I talked, we always said, oh, your father. You know your father, that sort of thing. And so we didn't make a big issue out of it, because he was, by that time, close to 70. And we knew we couldn't change him. He was also-- he had developed heart problems. And so we didn't want to excite him.

In a way, it seems that his anti-Semitism reflects some obvious German anti-Semitism--

Oh, absolutely.

Despite the fact that Jews would say, oh, no, we're totally assimilated.

Yeah. You see, he also lived in a part of San Francisco where a lot of German Jewish refugees settled, very close to Temple Emanuel. I always looked at that temple. I thought it was really great. I'd never been inside a temple, inside a synagogue. But my father would walk by there, he would love to take walks in the Presidio. But he would walk by that temple and he just wouldn't look at it. And I never went inside either.

You didn't?

No.

Do you think he would have objected to you pursuing--

It never came up. It never occurred to me, even. I don't know. Looking back, I think it was all very foolish of me. But I never pressed him to change his mind or let me be Jewish, because I didn't really know what it meant to be Jewish. I was, at that time, not affiliated with a church or a temple or anything. I just had my own private religion and that was good enough for me at that time.

See, I also was very busy. We were busy making money, getting settled in a way, and being American. That was terribly important, to be American, to be just like the rest of native-born American. And that took up all our time. But I did go to art school, and I did pursue my art constantly. But I never did it full-time because I always sort of needed money in between. But it satisfied me. It was fine. And then one day--

So I stayed four years with my parents. And then my future husband wrote that he would be in San Diego and should we meet him there and on. And I went down there and we got engaged. And my father was very disappointed because I married a Jewish man, and he had hoped I would marry a non-Jewish person. I told you that before.

But we went ahead, got married by the judge, very quickly because he had to go back to Germany and I was not a citizen then. So in order to go back with him to Germany, I had to get my citizenship. And I had applied for first papers, but somehow or other they got lost in the shuffle in Washington. It had to happen to me, you know, newlywed and so on.

And I remember my husband I going to the Naturalization Services and the immigration officer felt very sorry for me. He says, well, I'll do my very best to trace your papers. I know you're a newlywed. And when your papers come through, you can be sworn in any time. You don't have to wait for the mass swearing in. You know, they had a big group of people mostly. So the papers did come through in January. We were married in September, and in January the papers came through. And I got a private little hearing from the judge. It was very nice.

And at that time, we studied like crazy for becoming a citizen. Nowadays, that changed a lot. I got a book, and what form of government do we have and so on, and all the presidents I learned by heart, so I really studied. And I came to the judge and he smiled at me and he says, what form of government do we have? And I answered that. And he said, good. I pronounce you an American citizen.

And then I got my first taste of the American press. Somehow they got wind that I had a private swearing In. They wanted to take a picture of me and write me up. And they did write up a little note about-- I mean, very exaggerated, that poor refugee girl from Germany, you know, paper that and that.

And then one photographer said, why don't you stand there in the corner? I'd like to take a picture of you. This is where I took Tokyo Rose yesterday. You heard of Tokyo Rose? I say, Tokyo Rose? Why should I stay in the same corner where Tokyo Rose stood? I say, no, no, no, no. I don't want any publicity.

You know, it's overwhelming when you're not used to that. And I'd never been written up in the paper or anything. And I didn't think all this was worth writing up. But you know the press. So then I got on a-- I got my ticket for going to Bremerhaven, where my husband was stationed, Bremen. And--

How did you feel with the prospect of going back to Germany?

Terrible. I didn't want to go. But he had a good job. And he didn't mind at all, being in Germany. To him-- I don't know. He felt very differently about the Germans because he had been stationed in Berlin from '45 to about '47 already. So he was so used to being back in Germany. And he was active in the de-nazification process and re-establishing the German press, giving the licenses for those people who wanted to reestablish the newspapers.

But he suffered a lot of losses through the war, too, hadn't he?

Oh, yes. He suffered, especially his own sister was transported from Germany to France and he found her again in a convent. She was a Down syndrome. Not very severe Down syndrome, but she was handicapped. And he was very worried about her. He had six sisters. And he found her in France, living with the nuns. So he took care of her, too.

And from his family, he had lost his parents very early in life, he only had one sister who escaped from Russia. And we found her in a DP camp in Germany with her husband and a little child. And my husband arranged for her to come to the United States. So he himself, his family didn't have losses in the concentration camp.

But he was really very involved in German political affairs. And most of his letters to me, before he-- they weren't really love letters or anything like that. He always told me long stories about the German provisional government and what happened in Germany politically. And at that time, I really couldn't care less. I didn't even want to know what was going on in Germany.

But you know where when you're in love you do these things? So I followed him. And I arrived in Bremen. And when we drove to our home I said, oh, look. Everything's written in German. It's been 10 years. It was '48. And we were-- wait a minute. '48? Yeah. And I left in '39, so it was nine years since I'd left there. So I found it very strange. I had a weird, weird feeling being back,

Can you describe it at all?

I don't know. I-- there wasn't hatred or anything, there was just contempt, in a way. And I did not want to know anything about the Germans. I had lived in England and I felt really like an English person, more than an American, although I loved America. But to me, England was my home. And I did not-- I wasn't interested at all in what was going on in Germany. And I was very reluctant about learning what went on in Germany at that time.

You mean, learning about what had happened during the war?

No. How the German government developed. I mean, what happened after the war now, with a military government and the Allies taking part in shaping up a new Germany. And at that time, don't forget, '49 was with Russia, the blockade of Berlin. And it was kind of exciting, because we saw the planes taking off from Hanover, every minute one plane coming into Berlin and supplying the Berlin population with food and coal, all that. So that I found very exciting.

But I really felt as an American, and not as a German at all. In fact, I didn't even speak much German. And it was in early '49 we still had what they called scrip money. The military government issued money. There was no German D-Mark yet. So there was nothing available. We had the commissary and we weren't allowed to fraternize with Germans.

You weren't allowed to?

No, no, no. We were not allowed to. And we were not allowed to buy in German stores at that time. And actually, you couldn't really, because it would be a black market deal. We couldn't pay with our money, with the scrip money, they couldn't accept that. So we were always scared. And I had a girlfriend whose husband was also with the military government, she was also born in Germany. Same situation as I. So we would sneak out and put our oldest clothes on, because at that time you recognize an American by their shoes.

Hmm.

They had good shoes and the Germans were very poorly dressed.

Why were you forbidden to fraternize?

Well, that was the military government at that time. There was no fraternizing. Germans were enemies at the time, you see. We were the conquerors, especially the military. You see, everything-- there wasn't an American civilian government then. It was just military. And the military had the power to say, you do this and you will do that. We shopped in the commissary. "You will not wear curlers when you shop," a big sign in the commissary, I'll never forget that. I thought, my goodness. And I'd never been with the military in that sense, American military like that. So it was a totally new experience for me, my husband's still wore uniform.

Yeah.

And it was all very strange for me. But then the currency reform came and oh, it was really interesting. Overnight, the stores had all the goods came up on the table. It was like a miracle. They had everything. They-- somehow or other, they had the consumer goods. And they appeared on the counter. And then the D-Mark was established. And everybody had to start, I think it was 10 D-Marks or something. Everybody all across the country. I forgot how much they got, it's been too long ago. But everybody got the same sum of money. The old Reichsmark, you know, was changed. And suddenly prosperity started. It was really amazing. And Marshall Plan came and the Germans really went to town.

Yeah.

But I really did not enjoy being in Bremen at that time. I had my old boyfriend there and I wanted to see him again, just out of curiosity. He worked for Radio Bremen at that time. And I met him again, and he turned into an ardent communist. But he was also imprisoned, had been imprisoned, by the Russians, so he had suffered a lot. But he looked down on me because I came with the Americans. And it was a big conflict.

Did you discuss the war years at all together?

Pardon?

Did you discuss the war years?

No. No, he wouldn't. He was in Russian imprisonment all the time and he was very bitter. And he says, well, you left Germany. And he also looked down, I didn't stay home and fight. So that wasn't a good--

His bitterness was not against the Germans then?

No, not really. No, no, no. But it wasn't a good atmosphere. And then we were transferred to Vienna where my husband was-- they established then, what did they call it? OMGUS, I believe? The forerunner of the American Information Service and USI, as it was called. And he was put in charge of publishing and running a State Department newspaper for the Austrians, called the Vienna [INAUDIBLE]. And then they established a radio station called Red-White-Red, and that was also run with American money and American people in charge, and Austrians running it.

But we soon found out that Austria was really anti-Semitic.

Really?

And in fact, the army, the American army, had confiscated a few houses of former Nazis and we got one of those homes. Enormous house. And I rummaged around the attic and I found all that Nazi propaganda up in the attic. And I just didn't feel good in Austria.

Did you talk with many of the local people about [CROSS TALK]

Yes. Well, we had some Austrian friends who worked at the newspaper and they were carefully screened by the Americans for their past. And they were OK. That was fine. They were wonderful people. I mean, there's always good among the bad, right? But the general-- excuse me-- the general atmosphere, and we knew that the Austrians had treated the Jews 10 times worse than actually the Germans did in the beginning. And you can't forget that. You can't forget that.

And there was one synagogue in Austria and it was first time I went. My husband took me. Now, my husband was brought up very Orthodox and he did not want to practice Judaism openly. Like, he was turned off by being brought up extremely Orthodox. And that was wrong, too. So he was a practicing Jew, but not overly religious, so that we ran every Friday night to shul and so--

But he took me to synagogue and I was quite amazed to see the inside of a temple. That was my first time. Listen, I was 28-years-old. And slowly, you know, I got to learn something about Judaism. But over the years only. I always ask him, what does this mean, this custom in the Jewish religion? And he told me. And it took a while.

I mean, I still-- I'm still learning to this day. But I began to be interested in it.

Was there any kind of Jewish community in Austria at that time?

Well, not too big. Very little, very. There were very few. If so, we didn't really get to know anybody. It was all furtive, sort of, not organized. It was-- I can't really remember how many Jews at that time were there. We were-- we just went to see if the synagogue was destroyed, too. You know? So you just went. I don't even think there were services at that

time. Just the synagogue standing there, from all the other. They had lots of synagogues, I assumed, in Vienna. But we just went to that one to look at it.

And then my children were born there. Well, we stayed there nine years. And it was too long. Yeah. I really-- it was too long for me.

Did you have relationships by then, with the local people?

Yes. Yes, yes, yes. I also got very sick and I was a whole year in a hospital up in Styria with my back. You see, all the hard years in England really took their toll on me and I had a very bad back. And had an operation and I got to know the Austrians very well, you know, because I was a full year up in a sanitarium on my back, without being able to get up.

But they were all very nice to me. The Austrians are very friendly and very nice to you. Get to know them a little closer, the average-- As I see, there's good and bad everywhere.

Did you feel any anti-Semitism in that period?

Yes. It was always people telling you, talking about the Jews. And I let them talk and then I'd say, well, you know, I left Germany because I'm Jewish. So the answer was, oh, you're Jewish? But you don't look it. It's always the same story. It's almost like a cliché, you know. I get very tired of it. Yes.

And among my husband's colleagues, there were a few people, too, that were anti-Semitic, from the State Department. By that time, we worked for the State Department here. And the military government was separate.

But it was an exciting time in Austria. It was still the four power, the Russian, the American, the English, and the French. And every month they changed the command. You see, one month the French had jurisdiction over the city, the first district downtown. It was a combined district of all the Allied forces. And the takeover was very exciting. They paraded and then the-- I don't know what they handed over. The Book of the City or something like that, for being in charge for that current month.

And they'd have a big ceremony, especially when the Americans shook hands with the Russians. At that time, the Russians were our enemies. You know? In a way, the Cold War had started.

So they had the ceremony every single month?

Every single month, yeah. And we always rushed down and took pictures and films and listen after. So many years, we got used to it. But then in '55, I think, the state treaty was signed. '55, yeah.

In '54 an exciting time came when the Hungarian uprising came and all the refugees came in. And we from the American Embassy had established a big kitchen to feed the refugees who came over at night, over the border. And then Nixon came, at that time he was Senator, and inspected at all. And that's the first time I got to meet him, not realizing later on what sort of person he turned into. But

They were exciting times. Austria was really a very politically also, very exciting times, and we had-- I'm grateful I went through all that. But I was longing to go back to the States.

Did your parents ever return to Germany?

No, never. My father died in 1952. You see, every two years we went home, 2, 2 1/2 years. We had what they call home leave. And I have two children by that time. I picked them up and went home. And my father never wanted to go back to Germany. No, he loved America. But he died then. 10 years after he arrived in the States, he died. And my mother then came to Austria. We invited her and she came over. She didn't like it.

She didn't?

No, no, no.

But she didn't go to Germany either?

Oh, yes, she did.

Oh, she did?

Simply to arrange-- she had old friend there-- and to arrange for the restitution. You know, it was kind of demeaning. The German government at that time decided that they would pay Jews a restitution for their suffering. And for young people, like my sister and me, we were due for \$1,000 in dollars at that time, converting to dollars would be \$1,000, in loss of education in Germany. But in order to get that, we had to go to a doctor and be examined. And I found it very demeaning.

My husband didn't even want to apply for any kind of money. He did not want to be compensated. But I figured, oh, well, I can use \$1,000. So I got my money. But to deal with the German official bureaucrats was not easy. It's not nice in any country, anyway. It's not very easy. But in Germany it was twice as bad. The old authority came through, you know. And I really-- I really disliked it. I many times had to hold myself back. And I don't think we should have been over there that long. It wasn't right in retrospect.

Mm-hmm.

When you're there, you live your everyday life. You bring up the children and you-- my children went to American school. And by the way, they were not brought up Jewish. I asked my husband about it and he said, if you want to, we can bring them up in the Jewish tradition. But I said, I don't know anything about it. So we agreed that we would just tell them about God and let them make up their mind later on. And are very grateful for that. Both of them feel Jewish but they have never been brought up in a formal Jewish atmosphere.

So they feel like ethnic Jews?

Mm-hmm. Exactly. Yeah, yeah, yeah. And I don't regret that. Did you talk to them about your experiences in German history?

Yes, but they were very small at that time. And then when they grew up, they didn't really want to hear about it.

They didn't?

No, no, no. That's very typical. They-- oh, yes, you were in England and you did this and that. And now they realize what we all went through. But at that time--

And we didn't overemphasize it either. You didn't-- you didn't talk very much at that time. We were very busy. You see, those were All-American kids.

Yes.

And that was very important to us. They were native born. Although they were born in Vienna, they-- at that time they could choose. As a matter of fact, from the Austrian government, when you were 18 you could not hold dual citizenship at that time. So they could choose, if they would have stayed in Austria, to be either Austrian or American citizen. Now, of course it was out of the question. But that the Austrian government gave you that so-called privilege. But it's changed in that they don't do that anymore.

I see.

But I remember I had an Austrian birth certificate for them and an American one. You registered them at the consulate, you know.

Do you have some ideas about why, as you say, people didn't talk about these things for that long period?

About what things?

About the war experiences and the--

You mean, us?

You or-- I mean, it's a common thing. It seems like a lot of people say that.

You're not talking about the Austrians?

I'm talking about whether, do you have any ideas about why the Jewish people also--

Oh. You know, I've been trying to figure that out for a long time. Because, doing interviews myself, I hear so many times people saying, it's the first time I talk about it. Now, I always emphasize I've been terribly lucky, right? And I did not go through all these horrible, horrible things which so many people had to go through. And I can understand that it takes years and years for you to digest that and to even talk to yourself about it, I think.

Mm-hmm. Yeah, that's a good point.

And so many of them have told me that their children-- they did not want to tell their children. They want-- I guess sparing your children. You don't like to talk about unpleasant things with your children. You feel that you don't want to expose them to the ugliness of the big world. You want to shield them?

Yes. Yes.

Right? That's the feeling I have. And that, I think, is why so many people did not come out with their story. Also, nobody was really interested. You know? Nobody asked. They just-- it felt ashamed, too. Some of them felt ashamed. Really ashamed. Some of them had remorse about being the only ones left of their family. Right?

But I had a very what I call ugly experience. My mother had four brothers. And when we were stationed in Berlin, I-- after Vienna, we were sent to Berlin, although we wanted very badly to go to Washington. But State Department in Washington wanted my husband in Berlin. He spoke a lot of languages and they needed his expertise and the presence in Berlin. And I found out that one of my mother's brothers lived in East Berlin.

Now, we were not allowed to go to East Berlin at that time. But I did go over there. It's like the subway, only it gets elevated. It becomes an elevated subway, so to speak. And I went over there and visited him. I had his address. Now, that also was strictly against the rules. That was military, at that time. They were very strict about it.

And I found him. He had gone through Theresienstadt. He had married a non-Jewish woman, German born. And that sort of saved him from being sent to Auschwitz. So he went to Theresienstadt, which was not a death camp, called a transit camp. You know about that.

And I invited him to come over. My husband did not want me to go over to East Berlin. I did not feel very good and I could have gotten him into trouble. So I asked him to come over and visit us. And he came. And he was an old man. He was in his high 70's. And he smelled very badly because he didn't have soap. They lived really in squalor in East Berlin at that time.

But he told me stories about Theresienstadt which absolutely amazed me. He said, I made money in Theresienstadt. I came out richer than I went in. I mean, when he said that to me, I said, what kind of a person are you? You see, I'd never

really-- he was my oldest uncle. I never met him or I must have been very small when I did meet him, so I could not remember him at all. I just was absolutely amazed for a person to talk like that.

What was his name?

Martin. Martin Hahn. He was Jewish. And he was brought up very Jewish. My mother's household was very Jewish at home. But he married a non-Jewish woman and he got away from Judaism, too. But I found it very ugly.

Did he-- do you remember anything else that he told you? Or how he made his money or other stories?

You know, I didn't ask. I didn't want to know. I thought it was so ugly that I-- it must have been black market dealing and wheeling. How could you make money in a concentration camp, right? I did not want to know. I find all my life I'd rather not ask a question rather than find out the ugliest things. That's my philosophy. Spare myself a lot of trouble that way.

And I only remember my husband took his winter coat. It was very cold. And the man was very small and my husband is very tall. He says, it may not fit you, Martin, but take it home. It'll keep you warm. So he turned around and looked at him and says, well, It doesn't really hit a poor person, does it? He didn't say thank you anything.

Doesn't really what?

Hit a poor person. I mean, it doesn't-- you don't mind giving it to me, because you can always afford to get another one. I translated from German right now. He used a strange expression. And I had a very bad taste in my mouth at that time. I said it was the only time I really, at that time, that I met a survivor from a camp, and that was my own uncle.

Mm-hmm.

It wasn't very nice. So we sent some packages over through another person, it couldn't be sent officially, because we felt sorry for him and his wife. He was an old man. But we had no other contact. I didn't want to see him again.

Now that you were back in Germany, were you meeting local people again?

Yes, I met local people again. And I saw the house where I was born. It wasn't bombed.

Mm-hmm.

It stood there. It was ugly as before. And I thought Berlin was terrible. I mean, Berlin still looked very bad. It was the worst hit city, next to Hamburg in Germany. And there was rubble all over. [DOORBELL] Although they had built it up.

Should we stop a minute?

Yeah, why don't we take a one minute break here?

Yeah, because--

[SIDE CONVERSATION]

OK, I would say any time, Evelyn, you may begin.

OK. Of course, I met a lot of local people. My husband worked with only Germans, mostly Berlin-born people. And we went to a lot of functions, official German functions, too. I always-- I didn't really feel comfortable. Because remember when I told you as a child I never liked to be in Berlin? Well, when I came back, I didn't like to be in Berlin any better than I did as a child.

And my children went with me and they went to American school, although they had a German nursemaid. So they both spoke-- they spoke both German and English fluently, of course. They switched dialect a little bit from the Austrian to the German, being exposed to that sort of thing.

You know, I was so busy that I did not even have time to think. And that was maybe good.

Did you ever talk with your German friends about the war years?

Oh, yes, I did. But everybody said, oh, how we suffered. I did not-- I met one German Jew who went through the war-- the whole war he spent in Berlin in hiding. In fact, there's a book written about those people who stayed in Berlin, especially in Berlin, all during the war, and his story's in there. And he became a very well-liked and famous talk show host in West Berlin. And we, as the American run radio station in Berlin at that time, also like the Red-White-Red in Austria, the State Department had the radio station in Berlin. And the military government also had, at that time, newspaper. And then eventually that was faded out and then the German newspapers became. My husband had licensed most of these newspapers at that time. So he became very friendly with all the editors and the publishers and they were all carefully screened. And we felt comfortable being with those people, because we knew their past was more or less clean.

Mm-hmm. That they weren't Nazis?

No. They weren't.

Did you experience anti-Semitism at all at that time?

Yes, same as in Austria. Berlin was not quite as bad, but we traveled a lot to West Germany and it was really-- there it was bad.

In what sense?

I encountered many, many times that people talked about the Jews in the typical way. You know? And damn Jews and if it hadn't been for them, et cetera, the cliché things. But in Berlin, you did not find that so much. The Berlin people were a little different.

Also, as time went on, I noticed that the Germans forgot their past and always break through their own being industrious and willing to work, that they are now where they-- a prosperous country. And the Americans were never mentioned, the Allies having helped them.

But in Berlin they never forgot the Americans. First of all, they were the airlift. Remember, I told you about that, how the Americans helped them and lost their lives, some of them lost their lives flying the planes in there? And the Berliners were a little better in that respect. They were always grateful to the Americans, always closer to the Americans.

See, the Americans weren't too well liked in a way. When they come in masses, you know, who is liked? And who likes his rich uncle?

Oh, how true.

There's a certain envy. There was so much. They had so much. The Germans had so little.

But you're describing almost a kind of arrogance amongst many of the other Germans.

Yeah. Well, I've never been the greatest admirer of Germany anyway. So you know, I was so glad as a young girl to go out of there, to leave Germany, that if it hadn't been for my husband, I would have never gone back. I really wouldn't.

Did you look up any information about your family when you were in Bremen?

Yes. We-- there was one what they called a document center in Aroldson that was somewhere in middle Germany, in West Germany. I don't know if you are familiar with how Berlin was situated at the time?

No.

You see, Berlin was an enclave in the Russian zone. Germany was all chopped up. They were the British zone, American zone, the Russians zone. And in order to reach Berlin, you had to drive to the Russian zone. If Berlin was an Island and then there was West Berlin and East Berlin, by now everybody knows there was wall and all this, but the wall came much later. I was there before the wall.

But in order to get into Berlin, you had to get a pass. You had to get all sorts of permissions from the Russians. I still have that document at home. The Russian had to issue you a permit to travel through the Russian zone that was a two hour drive from our part of Berlin, the West Berlin part, to Helmstedt, that was the border. There were only two accesses at that time between West Germany and Berlin, and you had to travel that in a certain-- you were clocked in and clocked out. If you were too slow, they sent somebody for you. You could have defected to some place or inspected something they didn't want you to inspect. If you were too fast, you were cited for speeding.

So it was horrible, that drive between Berlin and West Germany. Full patrols with German, with the Russian zone. And nobody really liked to go through the Russian zone. And we had a military train, too. It was called the Berlin or something like that. It was called the Mozart. Vienna wasn't the same situation. It was also surrounded by the Russian zone. And in order to get to the American zone of Austria, you had to travel through the Russian-occupied zone.

And you could always feel by train when you came through there. Everybody froze. Now, the train between West Germany and Berlin was an American train. There were no, at that time, German trains. Or if there were, we weren't allowed to ride on them. It was all controlled by the military at that time. And the atmosphere was very-- you froze. People didn't talk very much. And you saw all these Russian soldiers and everything. It was tense. Everybody was tense.

Did you feel like you might get taken by the Russian soldiers?

Well, they at that time couldn't do very much. Except one day what happened, a friend of my husband asked us to take him along in the car through the Russian zone to West Germany. And when we got to the controller station he pulled out a passport and it was a red passport. Now, a red American passport had been an old passport. They changed colors every so often. So that was an old, old passport and that guy had the nerve to travel on his old passport, which was completely invalid. But at that time, the Russian, he held it upside down. He didn't know what he was--

So if he had found out, the Russians were, we could have all gotten into trouble. Oh, my husband was furious. It took some nerve to do that. But little things like that happened all the time. So you were constantly governed by you mustn't do this and-- And you know, that doesn't go over very well with me. I'm not a real military person. So I always rebelled against that. But I loved my husband very much and it was his job. And I just went along with the whole thing.

But you were describing going to some place when you were trying to look up old relatives.

Yeah. Then we came to Aroldson. And there the Nazis had left all their documents. It was a document center. And the Americans had collected them and it was underground and no German had access to it at that time. It was, don't forget, in the '50s. And no American had access to it, unless they were in the military government. And my husband happened to know the director of [INAUDIBLE], so we got him there.

And that's the first time I was exposed to how thorough the Nazis had been in keeping book. There were literally that thick, all the names and in this handwriting, in Gothic script. It was just unbelievable. And they were lines through the names. I believe the red ink was exterminated and the black one was shot while trying to escape. So all these meticulous signs.

And then I found the name Bendix and there were four of them. Both my uncle's and one of their wives and my cousin, young girl, 14, whom I was very fond of. I went skiing with her always. And that was the first time we really saw it documented that they had been exterminated. And my husband looked up a few-- not his family, but a few friends of his, too, and who were--

I mean, that is one thing I will never forget. You entered there and they had put-- the Americans had put a desk of a commander in a concentration camp, which was-- it had compartments which were constructed so that they would hold certain sizes of files they had on various prisoners. Each one had different shape of paper. And it was all so meticulous and all so regulated. And it was unbelievable. So that really shocked me, you know. That was the first time.

I don't know if that is still in existence. I know the Berlin Document Center is still in existence.

Berlin Document Center?

They call it the Berlin Document Center. It's also underground, heavily guarded. Now, what they have done at this point, I don't know. But up to a few years ago also, only certain Germans had access to that. See, they are so frightened that somebody goes in there and destroys them. Now it's not possible, because everything is on microfilm, you know? So even if somebody goes and destroys it all, there are duplications of it. But at the time we were stationed there, it was all heavily guarded.

What kind of-- I'm thinking what kind of atmosphere do you remember, say, during the time of the Nuremberg trials?

You know, the Nuremberg trials, I wasn't even in Germany, was I? I forgot when they were. Right-- that was in '45 I believe. '45, '46? I wasn't in Germany at that time. See, I came to Germany in late '48, '49. My husband was there, but I wasn't there. But I know a few people who attended the Nuremberg trials.

Oh, well, we watched it here, you know. Like you--

Mm-hmm.

So it's all I know about the Nuremberg trials. But it was so overwhelming, the whole thing, after the war. There was so much, and yet so little had been discovered. Over the years they discovered more and more and more, right? So that there was almost too much to digest?

Yes. Yes.

And everybody lived in their own little world. And the Germans-- you know, at that time when we were there, of course the Americans were well-liked. They brought all the prosperity. But that was soon forgotten. I don't really think, deep down, that a lot of Germans of that generation who went through the war, not the younger generation, really liked the Americans very much. They felt that well, they're over here and they're very rich. Everybody was very rich. To them, every American [INAUDIBLE].

The rude awakening came when the girls married the soldiers and came back to the middle west and had to milk the cows when they weren't soldiers anymore. So that happened many, many times. But that's all past history.

Have you been back to Germany again in recent years?

Oh, yes, I've been back there. I still have these old, old friends of ours. But we left Berlin in '58 and came to Washington. And that was just lovely. And from then on, we went to Brazil and to Mexico and to France. So we were stationed in many, many places.

And I learned more and more about Judaism. Whichever country we were stationed in, I made a point to ask my husband, please let's go to this synagogue and that synagogue. And I remember very distinctly in Brazil I went to a

synagogue with my oldest daughter. She'd never been to one, really. And we got to be-- it was an Orthodox one and I didn't realize that. And we came to the door and the caretaker took one look and says like this. And I said, what does he mean? The entrance is there. But the women, you see.

Oh, yes.

So downstairs the synagogue was beautiful. You should see the chairs with velvet covering. And upstairs, we all sat on kitchen chairs. I was really taken aback with that. That was my introduction to an Orthodox synagogue.

Mm-hmm. Another form of prejudice.

Yeah. Exactly. Another form. And I always rebelled against those things and it annoyed me very much. But what I found very interesting in Rio that there was a downtown neighborhood where the Jews and the Arabs had their shops side by side, perfectly amicable. They were friends. We got to know a few coffee dealers and they were perfectly all right with each other. I never forget that. There was absolutely no mention that one is a Jew and the other one is an Arab. And I never forget that, because it could be--

Right. People can coexist.

Exactly. Exactly.

What are your feelings about the potential reunification of Germany?

Well, we haven't talked now for a few weeks, and a lot of things have happened since. Right? So what I have always said, they charged ahead so fast everybody was euphoric about it, which is understandable. But then tremendous problems in my opinion, monetary as well as human problems, because generation over generation has grown up under communism, does not deal, does not know how to deal with freedom overnight. And the pitfalls like filling out forms, thinking for yourself. Everything was done for them. I mean, I don't have to tell you that. You know this.

So I think reunification has to come very slowly. But it's again the good old story. It's money. You see, now the conversion of the East Mark and of the D-Mark. I'm not an expert on it. But I foresee that there are a great many more difficulties coming. And West Germany, of course, is going to bleed, which I don't mind at all.

I mean, they lived-- what has always turned me off in coming back to Germany after the war is this opulence. The people have-- they're fat. They have-- it's changed a little bit now, but let's say 10 years ago. They lived in that opulent, they-- you went to a store which had maybe 80 different kinds of salami.

Like, one of the East Germans came over. I remember reading in the paper and said, well, who needs 100 different kinds of cheeses to live on? You see, these things turn you off a little bit, that they have forgotten. Now

I, don't think they should remember for the rest of their lives and all the generation what had been. But to me, it was a real ostentatious display of wealth, which I think is not the right thing. But I guess human. I don't know.

Do you have some sense of a state of anti-Semitism in Germany today?

Oh, yes. There will always be. I mean, it goes back too far in German history not to appear again, in Austria for sure. You know, I told you I was in Austria last year and I saw commemoration, I guess you call it. One sculptor had made sculptures of the war, in remembrance of the war, like a memorial. And there was a statue of a Jew, had a bearded face like a Sphinx, on the ground, scrubbing with a brush, commemorating the Jews. They were forced to brush, clean the streets, with a hand brush, one of those.

And it stood there. No Austrian really-- I asked a few native Austrians, do you know what? Oh, yes, I don't know. Some crazy man put that sculpture there. And it is made out of bronze and it's near a tourist bus stop. And the tourists come out of the bus and I was watching. They sit on that statue. That really hurt me terribly to see that nobody respects it. And

there is no sign on it. If there were only a plaque commemorating this and that and the other. Nothing. You can't find anything. It's as if they were forced to put it there and yet they don't want it. And they don't really want it.

I see what you're saying.

And then, of course, the whole Waldheim affair and all this. So the Austrians are very stubborn people and they don't really-- they will never changed, I think. So I'm not sure.

Although I do have, I must tell you frankly, I have Austrian friends. And I can only state again and again there's good and bad in every country and every person. And wherever you go, you find good people, you find bad people. But the trend in Austria, the anti-Semitism is stronger I think, than in Germany. And we've seen that happening. And look at France now, what happened last week.

That's right.

So, I mean we did not relive two years in Paris. And there was anti-Americanism at that time, it was under the goal. But I never personally encountered anti-Semitism in France. Never. In fact, we went to synagogue there and I went to the Jewish part of Paris. Very interesting. Old, old, buildings. There was nothing. We never encountered anything. And yet, you read what you read last week?

That's right.

About these happenings.

So it can happen anywhere.

Yeah. I only know my grandparents' are buried in a Jewish cemetery in East Berlin. And we could never, when we were stationed there, we never went there. We couldn't officially go over to East Berlin. But I did go last year and I saw the graves. But it's in really bad shape. Nobody takes care of it very well, although we did send money there. My whole family sent money and other people sent money. It's in bad disarray.

They have another Jewish cemetery nearby, a newer one. But the old graves are really in bad shape.

Mm-hmm. It's too bad.

It's very sad.

Did you ever go to any of the concentration camps when you were--

Oh, yes. We went to Mauthausen in Austria, and something very ugly happened there. We had not really planned to go there, but on the spur of the moment we found ourselves near there. And we did not have any Austrian money because we came over from Germany.

So there was a guard at the entrance. And at that time, they asked for money for a certain cause. I forgot what it was. Not to visit the camp, but to give money. And my husband put some D-Marks down, German marks. And there was a caretaker and he says, I don't take D-Marks. And my husband burst out and he said, you damned old Nazi! It was an older man. You damned old Nazi, you take whatever I give you. And he couldn't hold back, you know? It was ugly.

And we went into Mauthausen. We went to Dachau. And at that time, I was really shocked. When we went there, there were young people from school and colleges. They were smoking, eating ice cream, laughing, as if it was some public entertainment place to go to. And that really shocked me. Apparently, it is a little bit different now. But it has been my experience in the '50s.

And then we went to Bergen-Belsen. And we knew about where Bergen-Belsen was located in Northern Germany. But

when we got to the town of Bergen, we asked people in the street where the former concentration camp. And people turned around and they didn't answer. We don't know. And we asked in German. We don't know.

And I understand that that is still happening, that people will not tell you the place. They don't want to hear about it.

They just want to bury the subject.

Well, so we visited quite a few places.

Did you?

Yeah. Well, there's no-- I can't explain the feeling you have when you go there. I don't know if you've ever been there. But that's something you simply-- I did not take photos. I did not do anything. I just stood there and stared. It is so unbelievable. It's so overwhelming that you-- although it's all cleared up and their commemoration plates and plaques and what have you.

Beyond words.

It's beyond words. It's just beyond words, you know.

Well, what-- I mean, after all this, what sense do you have whether you think the Germans have learned from history? Or--

I don't know. I really don't know, tell you frankly. You always hope-- I am a terribly optimistic person. I always try to see the good side of everything. And the present generation, I think it's going the opposite way. They don't really want to know too much about politics. Young people.

But I have a feeling it can really happen again I mean, I really do. Because if you read history, you know your German history, you're not quite aware what has been, and that it very, very easily can happen. It can happen any country.

That's true.

It can happen here.

Yeah. But I know in the latter years, you have been an interviewer of other survivors. And maybe you could talk a little bit about how that has been for you?

Oh, that-- to me, it's been wonderful. I have learned more about human nature than doing anything else in my life. And I've done a lot of things. But the people I've interviewed, they were so revealing. And they made such a tremendous impression on me that I can only say I'm glad I found that kind of work I could do. And I hope we can get as many people to tell their stories to the world. To me, that's one of the most important things. It really is.

Well, I guess as a survivor yourself, you bring an extra understanding to--

You know what? I don't even call myself a survivor. I find I've always said that. A survivor to me is somebody who has really had to fight for his or her life, going through the camp. I mean, the stories I've heard, that to me, my story is absolutely nothing. That's the way I personally feel.

I think you're minimizing it. Anybody who was born in Europe and in Germany in the '30s suffered.

I know. But I have been so terribly lucky, having been young enough to escape all that and that I had a normal childhood, so to speak. I'm very grateful for that, believe you me. Because the stories you have heard and I have heard are so incredible. And then there are still many more stories out there of which we haven't heard yet. Right?

I belong to a group of, we call each other Child Survivors of the Holocaust. And we get new members. It's not a membership, but it's a group. In a way, it is. You become a member, but there's no structure. You don't pay and you don't do anything. You just meet once every two weeks.

And we have a new person came in last week, a Hungarian lady. Never told her story. She is-- well, they're all in their 50s, 60s, [INAUDIBLE] And I said to her, I'm an interviewer. Would you like to be? She says, no. By no means. I'm not ready yet. Imagine. She's not ready yet. And has never told her story, not to her children, not to anybody.

Well, as you said before, some of those experiences are so incredible that you may never digest them.

In fact, that lady showed me her arm. And she says, do you see that scar here? My husband made me erase the mark. And a lot of people, I remember, in the early days, wanted to have that taken out surgically. Because they were ashamed.

Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

You see?

Yes.

It's human nature. You cannot criticize anybody for doing it or for not doing it. And it's the way you deal with your past.

Yes.

I hate to be judgmental about anything.

So this is a support group, I gather.

Oh, that group is wonderful. It has-- everybody starts their story, oh, my story isn't really very terrific. It's interesting, you know. I don't have too much to tell. And then out pours all this.

I believe it is you just said about your story.

Yes, I know. But we actually have inmates, former inmates, of concentration camps. And children who saw their mothers and fathers and sisters and brothers killed. Imagine not being spared all that.

Yes, I appreciate what you're saying. But it is amazing that everybody kind of denigrates what they have been through.

Yeah, because you keep comparing yourself, involuntarily, with somebody else. Now when I was sick for so long, with my back being in the sanitarium, I said, oh, am I lucky. After all these young people were born to be. They have opened souls. And say, I have nothing like that and I'd be able to get out of here. Because deep down I knew I didn't have to be. So I tend to be that way.

Well, that's the positive side, too

Yeah, yeah, yeah. That's the way I got myself through my whole life, always finding I'm luckier than anybody else. And I find that helps me. You know?

Yes, it is.

But it's a personal thing. So I don't know.

Well do you think of anything else that you would like to add?

I don't know. I just hope we get everybody, everybody who has been through the Holocaust, to tell their story and just never be forgotten. It's-- I feel very, very strongly about that. And what we all are doing, I think we can pat our backs. You know? I think we are doing a wonderful thing.

Yes, it is a wonderful thing.

John and this camera, I just love him. I Think he does a marvelous job.

Really? And Lonnie?

Lonnie and everybody. Just everybody, every one of us.

So do you have any other messages or--

No. That's all I wanted. I've talked and talked and talked.

Well, thank you very much. And now we have Emily here.

Emily, fire way.

OK. We didn't get your mother's maiden name.

My mother's maiden name is Hahn, H-A-H-N.

And your father's first name?

Fritz.

Fritz Hahn.

But when they came to the States, my parents want, like so many people from Germany-- Austria anyway-- wanted to be super American and blend in. Assimilate. And my father became Frederick and my mother became Jean.

And one very nice little anecdote about American, my father called my mother Hani, H-A-N-I, that is a diminutive form of Johanna. That was her maiden name. And one day she came home and she said Fritz, the Americans are fantastic people. Everybody calls me by my first name. Honey.

And she didn't understand honey. And I've never forgotten that. She really and truly believed that they all knew her first name. And that's one thing I never forget. It was really sweet, you know.

But all my relatives over here, they all-- I had one aunt, you know, she admired Eisenhower. And you came into her room and the piano was a great big portrait of General Eisenhower, then President Eisenhower. They all wanted to be 150% Americans. Really, it was wonderful. It doesn't always happen now. But at that time, we all felt America was absolutely it. It gave us a haven. So that was really terrific.

OK. Where were you baptized? What was the name of the Church? And were there other Jews who were baptized in that church? Was it common?

I don't know. It was common at that time, not too common. But since then, I met a lot of people who also had been baptized, not necessarily in that church. Now that was the church, was Emperor Memorial Church of Berlin in the center of Berlin. Very, very famous landmark, which got bombed . The top was shorn off. And they left the ruin.

If you see pictures of Berlin now, and then there was a man named Eiermann, an architect. And he built some modern structure around that shell. I mean, it's just about the ugliest piece of architecture I personally have seen anywhere. But

that was the-- that was the church. It was a fashionable place to be in. My father, I told you about him. It was all just done that way.

Did your family-- were a lot of their friends Jews who converted to Protestantism?

At that time, I had no idea. I had friends. I personally never asked, but they were. But my parents picked the friends for me when I was a child. And believe you me, there wasn't a Jew among them.

Even Jews who were converted? Or you had no idea?

I had no idea. You didn't talk about that. Later on, I met a few people who were just like me. In fact, one of my cousins, she's a second cousin, lived-- her father-- she was converted and her father perished in the concentration camp. So you see, shows you how conversion helps you.

So I never, at that time, asked anybody what religion they were, even as a child. I didn't know. I thought everybody was Protestant. You know, I had no idea. I knew they were Catholics and Protestants and I just didn't bother with it. It didn't occur to me.

Did your family celebrate the Christian holidays like Christmas? Do you have a Christmas tree or do any of that stuff?

Yes, but that's very common in Germany. Many Jews had Christmas tree. Christmas tree did not so much represent a religious symbol as it was Germany. You know? It came from Germany, the Christmas tree anyways. The songs, the Christmas carols and all that, we sang away about Christ and all this. Everybody was singing on top of their lungs. So-- in my household, especially.

But I noticed other Jewish people, too. German Jews were very assimilated. And there are a lot of German Jews I've interviewed who said, oh, yes, we were Jews and we knew we were Jews. But Christmas was Christmas. And they celebrated Hanukkah at the side. And so it wasn't a tremendously religious happening. You know?

A secular sort of holiday. Do you remember at all, maybe, in what social activities was your mother and father involved? Like, what communities? Or I remember you said that they were pretty active people.

Yeah.

What type of organizations were they?

Well, my mother was in the Red Cross and she also stood on the street and collect like Salvation Army. It wasn't Salvation Army, it was for the Red Cross, and rang the little bell. I helped her. I remember once I went with her as a child and collected money. And then she took me at Christmas time to the poor sections of Berlin to distribute clothing and presents. So she was very, very actively involved in charity.

And my father, I don't remember very much. He was always busy. German fathers are always busy. They always work. But my mother was quite active.

OK. Can you expand on your discussion with your sister when she was-- this is now, I guess, 1938 when you were deciding, when she realized you should leave? And sort of more what was the flavor of that conversation like? Because you, all along, really didn't want to be German, as I understood.

Yeah.

You didn't like Germany. And I thought maybe you would naturally come to that conclusion that you should leave. But I would like, maybe, if you could expand a little on what did your sister tell you exactly? Or the feeling of that?

Oh, my sister and I were just determined to leave Germany at that time. And we were afraid of our Father. You are--

German fathers tend to be very autocratic. And we knew that my father did not want to hear about us leaving. And he didn't want to leave. So he didn't want to be parted from us. You know?

So we just decided that since she was the older one, she would go to my father and confront him with the fact that she had registered at the American consulate to emigrate to the United States and apply for, at that time you had to get a quota number, because there were so many applications. And the trouble. We had in America under Roosevelt to get the Jews over here.

I can't remember really. It's long ago, you know? I cannot remember the exact conversation we had. I just thought she was terribly brave to do that, because my father hit her on both cheeks like this, and said, you dare to go out there and do this on your own! She was very unhappy about that sort of thing. So. I can't remember the conversation though.

So obviously it took a lot of courage of your sister to stand up to your father.

Yeah. Yeah. She was very brave. I wasn't that brave at the time.

OK. I think you extended before on what was happening to your parents' business. You noticed your father was losing business and stuff like that.

Oh, yeah. They had what they call, they made his factory Aryan. There was a special German word for that. That word, Aryan, really cuts me in half, when so many people now to this day still use it. The Aryan. And I find that it's such a Hitler-ish, Hitler-like expression. To me, it's non-Jewish. Right?

So that was, at that time, somebody was put in charge who was non-Jewish to run the factory. And my father could not go there anymore. And that happened to most Jewish businessmen.

Did you ever get reparations for big business?

Yes, we did for some of them. We are applying now for the one in East Germany, East Berlin as a matter of fact. And the one in Czechoslovakia. So if they come through or not, we don't know. It took 25 years for us to get that money. My father always said, I will never see the money. But you may one day, or your children. And he was right. We did get some money, some compensation for it. Of course, just a fraction of what it was worth. But better than nothing.

But I know some people who were too proud to apply for it. They would not. They'd have nothing to do with it and would not apply for it. It's an individual thing. My father did.

What was the name of the girlfriend who wrote home to her mother and asked if you and your sister could come over?

Now wait a minute. What girlfriend?

The first girlfriend, the girlfriend that you met in Germany?

The English girl?

The English girl.

Her first name was Lovedy.

Lovedy.

Have you ever heard a name like that?

Yeah. Her name was-- she was English. And I kept up with her all during the years.

Do you still have contact?

Yeah. Her mother died. And as I told you, she married my boyfriend.

No.

I didn't tell you. Yes. I had a boyfriend in England and they got married. So we kept up. We kept up. [INAUDIBLE]

You helped her out. [LAUGHS]

When you were-- this is going back-- when you were in your all girls school, did you know anybody else there that might have been a Jew who converted? Or everybody else in that school--

Yes. There was one girl in my class who was a half Jew. And her father-- her mother was Jewish and her father was not. And her father was Chancellor of Germany for one day. Yeah. I met her-- that was just before Hitler. And I met her again. She lives in New York. And we met after all these years. We met about five years ago. That was very exciting.

And she does not-- she really feels more German than Jewish. And it's very interesting that she always emphasizes the non-Jewish part of her family rather than the Jewish part. And I told her how I felt. And we are good friends to this point, but in that respect, we are quite different, that I feel more Jewish and she does not.

Did she know that you were Protestant Jew?

At that time, you didn't talk about that so much.

There was not--

No, it was-- in school-- she went as a half Jew and she was half Jewish person. So she was not, at that time when I went to school, very affected by-- See, Nuremberg laws hadn't been pronounced at that time so she didn't make a big issue of it. But I remember my parents later on telling me that her mother comes from a very prominent Jewish family who were very rich and that's how I happened to know that she was half Jewish.

What's her name?

What's her name? Ermengarde, her first name. Yeah. Ermengarde, yeah. I don't know her last name. She was-- she had married since and changed her name, of course.

Oh. Who is the biochemist who developed the natural loaf when you were hanging out at Cambridge? Do you remember his name?

Yeah. John Hutchison. Yeah. It's funny how so many names I forgot, but I remember his name. John Hutchison. He was really instrumental in biochemistry in England.

Were you two friends at all, or you were just sort of in the same circles?

I don't know if he's still alive. We have lost touch.

No, at that time were you friends? Or were just in the same circles?

No, no. We were friends.

And just from what you said today, I don't think we got down the very first place that you went, the underground archive. What was the name of that place? Aroldson.

Aroldson?

Yeah. You spell it A-R-O-L-D-S-O-N. Or S-E-N. I forgot. It's -O-N or E-N. Not very important. And I don't know, it's somewhere in the middle of Germany. I'm not-- near Stuttgart. It could be near Stuttgart. I can't remember too well. I don't even know if it's still in existence.

Do you have anything else? These are just some of the questions.

No, if you don't have any more questions for me, I'd be just as happy to cut it off.

OK.

OK?

Well, thank you very much.

OK. It was fun. I go to the bathroom.

That's [INAUDIBLE] with terminated.