

Lea Grunberger

4-26-96 Interview

1 Interview with LEA GRINBERGER

2 Bay Area Holocaust Oral History Project

3 April 26, 1996 San Francisco, CA

4 Interviewer: Sandra Bendayan

5 Transcriber: Deborah Solheim

6 Q. I'm Sandra Bendayan. I'm here interviewing Lea
7 Grinberger. Mona (Raffael) is also present
8 helping with the translation.

Spellins

9 Today is the 26th of April, 1996. We're
10 doing this interview for the Holocaust Oral
11 History Project. John (Rangen) is our
12 producer. And this is part two of our
13 interview.

Spellins

14 I WANTED TO START OUT BY GOING BACK AND
15 ASKING YOU. YOU SAID THAT YOU HAD AN AUNT,
16 YOUR MOTHER, AND SOME COUSINS WHEN YOU WENT TO
17 AUSCHWITZ.

18 A. I did.

19 Q. I KNOW YOUR MOTHER. BUT COULD YOU NAME THE
20 NAMES OF YOUR AUNT AND YOUR COUSINS.

21 A. Not everyone. You know, I forget.

22 Q. THE ONES IN AUSCHWITZ WITH YOU.

23 A. In the same camp?

24 Q. YES.

25 A. Was Selma, my mother (Lenka), in Hebrew, Golda;

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1 and my cousins (Aranka), Adelle, Helen,
2 Yolanka, Rabu. Yolanka, Rabu. And some I
3 forgot. I had more cousins.

4 Q. OUT OF ALL OF THOSE PEOPLE THAT YOU WENT INTO
5 AUSCHWITZ WITH, HOW MANY OF THEM SURVIVED?

6 A. Survivors -- (Speaking to daughter).

7 Yokanka, one more with Yolanka. They is
8 not coming home. And Harry too.

9 Q. THEY DID NOT SURVIVE.

10 A. No, no, no.

11 Q. AND THE OTHERS SURVIVED.

12 A. Yes, yes.

13 Q. YOU SPENT ABOUT SIX MONTHS IN AUSCHWITZ.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. COULD YOU DESCRIBE WHAT THE BARRACK WAS LIKE.

16 DID YOU HAVE THE BUNKS TO SLEEP IN?

17 A. Yeah. The bed was three floors. We was
18 sometimes in the middle, sometimes up. And
19 when we was up, then when it was coming rain,
20 we was wet. You know, the roof was leaking,
21 and we in one corner.

22 We don't, can't very -- in one corner was
23 13 people on the bed.

24 Q. THIRTEEN PEOPLE?

25 A. Thirteen people. Six from here, six from here,

1 and one in the middle. Then one want to turn,
2 then everyone want to turn. It was very --
3 this is a ().

spellings

4 And it was much people, 1,200, 1,100 in
5 one block, in one barrack. It was very, very
6 hard. In my -- everyone, we was all, we was
7 young. My mother was just the oldest. And
8 everyone is looking, will be good for the
9 mother, you know.

10 And when they bring to eat, mostly all day
11 we was inside. Sometimes when it was
12 (saloppa), we go out for hours. And then
13 Mengele is coming the same, was (blockspara).
14 And then it was the (blockspara) when we sit on
15 the bed.

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16 What is it called?

17 MARA: Bunk.

18 A. Bunk. When we sit, everyone look like crazy.
19 One had red paper. The second had a piece of
20 beet --

21 MARA: Beet peel.

22 A. Beet peel, yeah. And everyone do the --

23 MARA: Color.

24 A. -- yes, color in the face. Everyone. When
25 someone is looking from side, he think the

1 people is crazy.

2 Q. DID YOU HAVE SOME BEET TO DO THAT TOO?

3 A. Yeah. The beet from the kitchen sometimes, you
4 know. And the peel, just the peel. Or a
5 little red paper from some -- I don't know
6 where we take this. Everyone had something.
7 And one give for another, you know.

8 Q. THEY SHARED.

9 A. Yeah, yeah.

10 Q. DID YOU HAVE ANY HEAT IF IT WAS COLD IN THE
11 BARRACKS? WAS THERE ANY HEATING?

12 A. No, no. No.

13 Q. DID YOU HAVE ANY --

14 A. The place was for heating, you know. The place
15 was. Along in the barrack was the heating.

16 No, no.

17 Q. NO HEAT?

18 A. No, no. It was cold. And summer too. When it
19 was coming rain, we was very cold. And we warm
20 each other, you know. We warm each other.

21 And in Auschwitz, I never see -- not
22 mother.

23 MARA: Birth.

24 A. Never see. Not was birth, and not was grass.

25 Q. WHY DO YOU THINK THERE WAS NO BIRTH?

1 A. I think, I think, maybe from the smoke. You
2 know, or the gas. Something.

3 Not was birth. We don't see birth. Not
4 birth. Not grass. Everyone was on (pusta).

5 MARA: Desert.

6 A. Desert. Not trees, nothing.

7 Q. WAS THERE EVER ANY PROBLEM WITH STEALING FOOD
8 AMONG THE INMATES OF THE BUNKS?

9 A. Not the food. They bring very little food.
10 And this was, look like the soup water. Just
11 you feel some when you drink the soup, you feel
12 the something. Sometimes was potatoes with the
13 peels, with everything. The potatoes we take
14 out and give for my mother. And we eat the
15 soup.

16 And bread was this size, the bread. Look
17 like the (tagle).

18 MARA: Brick.

19 A. The brick. And this was five pieces. And they
20 cut five pieces. And this was for everyone.
21 Everyone take in the morning for one day, this
22 piece of bread.

23 Q. DO YOU REMEMBER, WERE THERE ANY PREGNANT WOMEN
24 AMONGST YOU?

25 A. In our -- yeah. In our block was one. She

speakers

speakers

1 born in the block. And they take. And they
2 take this child, and the mother too.

3 Q. THEY TOOK THEM?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. BOTH OF THEM?

6 A. Yeah, both of them, yeah.

7 Q. WELL, WHERE WE LEFT OFF LAST TIME WAS WHEN YOU
8 HAD GONE OFF. AND YOU CAME BACK, AND YOUR
9 BLOCK LEADER WAS TOTALLY ASTONISHED TO SEE YOU
10 BACK AGAIN.

11 A. Yeah, yeah. Yeah.

12 (Speaking to daughter.)

13 Yes.

14 Q. WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THAT, THAT YOU WERE BACK
15 AGAIN?

16 A. Normal, this -- (Speaking to daughter.)

17 Continued everything as it was before.

18 Mengele was coming, and was the selection.

19 And in November, we go to transport. In
20 November was, you know, everything, the weather
21 was very terrible. And everything was never --

22 (Speaking to daughter.)

23 MARA: It was (inaudible). The whole
24 thing was a chaos.

25 A. In December they come, and the Russians. It

1 was a few weeks. The front was near.

2 Q. DID YOU HEAR FIRE OR BOMBING OR GUNS?

3 A. No, no. In November, no, nothing.

4 Q. SO YOU WERE PUT ON ANOTHER TRANSPORT?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. A RAILROAD TRANSPORT? A BOXCAR?

7 A. No, a train. The same train what take us to
8 Auschwitz. The same train. And they take us
9 to Nuremberg.

10 And Nuremberg, the first days was very
11 okay. We was very happy. It was warm, you
12 know. The block was warm. Everything. After
13 a few days, they beginning to bomb. And in
14 February was every day. Every day we go to
15 bunk, and every night was very hard time in
16 this winter. It was snow, big snow, cold
17 outside. And we don't have warm clothes.

18 Q. HOW WAS THE FOOD IN NUREMBERG?

19 A. The same. Better. Better than in Auschwitz.
20 Better. We was in Nuremberg look like, you
21 know, (arbitzlager). We work in the next
22 block, the next block. We worked to see
23 something for the planes. Little small parts,
24 yeah.

25 It was another life. Just the bombs, you

1 know. I've got over there --

2 MARA: Injuries.

3 A. Injuries.

4 Q. HOW MANY HOURS A DAY DID YOU HAVE TO WORK?

5 A. I don't remember.

6 Q. EVERY SINGLE DAY?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. NO DAYS OFF?

9 A. Yeah. Sunday.

10 Q. SUNDAY.

11 A. Sunday, yeah. Sunday was off.

12 Q. WHAT DID YOU DO ON SUNDAYS?

13 A. Nothing. Nothing. We sit. Yeah, inside.

14 Nothing. Nothing to do. We wash something,

15 our clothes, what we have. And we dried this

16 near to the oven, you know. But what can we

17 do? Nothing.

18 Q. HOW WERE YOU TREATED BY THE BLOCK ELDER OR THE

19 (copples), WHOEVER WAS IN CHARGE? HOW DID THEY

20 TREAT YOU?

21 A. Some, in Auschwitz she was very bad. She was a

22 nice lady. In Nuremberg was a (gengi). She

23 was not the same. Sometimes much we need, on

24 the snow outside. And this was her.

25 Q. Was that supposed to be a punishment or just a

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1 whim?

2 A. She with the overstone fuhrer, she was very
3 near to him. And she --

4 (Speaking to daughter.)

5 MARA: (Inaudible).

6 Q. SO SHE TREATED YOU PRETTY BRUTALLY, IT SOUNDS
7 LIKE.

8 A. Yeah. I don't remember if she was Jewish or
9 not. I don't remember.

10 Q. SPEAKING OF THAT, DID YOU OR OTHER PEOPLE TRY
11 TO MAINTAIN YOUR JEWISH PRACTICES AFTER YOU GOT
12 TO THE CAMP?

13 A. No.

14 Q. NO.

15 A. No. No.

16 Q. DID YOU EVER HAVE ANY OPPORTUNITY TO SEE OR
17 MEET UP WITH ANY OF THE GERMAN TOWNSPEOPLE?

18 A. No.

19 (Speaking to daughter.)

20 A. No.

21 Q. NO. NONE OF THEM WERE WORKING IN THE LABOR
22 AREA?

23 A. No, no. We see what's outside our camp was --

24 (Speaking to daughter.)

25 MARA: Captives.

1 A. Captives. Prisoners.

2 Q. PRISONERS OF WAR?

3 A. Of war, yeah.

4 Q. RUSSIANS?

5 A. Russians, Greeks, Italians. Much men. We
6 would just see them. Nothing more. Nothing
7 more.

8 Q. AND HOW LONG WERE YOU THERE IN NUREMBERG?

9 A. From November to February. February was the
10 bombs. And everything was -

11 (Speaking to daughter.)

12 MARA: Nothing was left after the bombs.

13 A. Nothing was left. The bunker the same. Then I
14 was injured.

15 And then they take us to one school far
16 from this place. And after three days, they
17 take us, we have our (quet), to (Suden),
18 Czechoslovakia, (Seden).

19 Q. HOW DID YOU GET THERE?

20 A. They take us in the train. The same train. I
21 remember many days we go. We was hungry, not
22 enough food.

23 And when we came to the (Suden Holshof),
24 it was 30 kilometers from (Bilzen). And we was
25 very happy too. A nice place. Warm,

spelling

spelling

1 everything. Not long.

2 Q. WAS IT A CAMP?

3 A. Yeah, yeah. Many -- a few days after, they
4 beginning again to bomb this place. And we
5 want to go to bunkers. Look like in Nuremberg.
6 And they told us, for you this kind bunker.

7 They go to the bunker, and we stay in the
8 barracks.

9 Q. WERE THE BARRACKS EVER BOMBED?

10 A. No. No. The barracks, no. No.

11 (Speaking to daughter.)

12 MARA: From the pressure.

13 A. From the pressure, you know, the doors explode.
14 And we see, we look in the small windows, and
15 the airplane is coming. And they get up when
16 it is coming in the camp, our camp. And after,
17 down.

18 We was near to the station, train station.
19 And the train station was much --

20 (Speaking to daughter.)

21 MARA: (Inaudible).

22 A. Soldiers. And they, every time they bomb them,
23 you know. And we feel this.

24 Q. YOU FELT IT. THEY KNEW WHO THEY WERE BOMBING?

25 A. Yeah. Yeah.

1 Q. AND WHO THEY WEREN'T BOMBING?

2 A. Yeah. They don't bomb, too much bombing.

3 They --

4 (Speaking to daughter.)

5 MARA: They were also shooting

6 Q. SCRAPING ON THE PLANE.

7 A. Yeah, yeah.

8 Q. AND WERE YOU GETTING ANY FOOD THERE?

9 A. We have -- no. The food, just on the way. I
10 don't remember we was very hungry over there.
11 We have -- you know, we don't was very full,
12 no.

13 MARA: (Inaudible).

14 Q. SO YOU WERE BEING BETTER FED OVER THERE THAN
15 YOU WERE.

16 A. Yeah, yeah.

17 Q. AND HOW LONG WERE YOU THERE?

18 A. How long. May 5th. May 5th we --

19 (Speaking to daughter.)

20 MARA: They were liberated.

21 A. Liberated. May 5th.

22 Q. AND YOU WERE LIBERATED, I THINK YOU SAID, BY
23 POLISH PARTISANS?

24 A. Yes, yes, yes, by Polish partisans. First
25 they. And just for tomorrow is coming the

1 American soldiers. The American Army.

2 Q. AND THEY CAME THE NEXT DAY?

3 A. Yeah, next day. Next day. Next day afternoon.

4 And the next day we sit in the barracks.

5 We afraid to go out. We think that, why, we

6 see more Germans. They came back. They go and

7 they came back. And the Polish partisans, they

8 tell us, they coming, they want to kill you.

9 They put it in fuel with --

10 (Speaking to daughter.)

11 MARA: Barrels of gasoline.

12 A. Gasoline around the camp. And they want to --

13 (Speaking to daughter.)

14 MARA: (Inaudible).

15 Q. YOU MEAN THE GERMANS DID THAT?

16 A. Yeah, the Germans did. And now they was near.

17 And they know everything. And they see they

18 coming a day before.

19 Q. WHEN DID YOU FINALLY BELIEVE THAT IT WAS OVER?

20 A. I don't know. I don't believe. You know, not

21 just me. They when they coming, they open the

22 gates. And they tell: You go, you free.

23 No. I personally, I beginning to cry. I

24 don't know why. And my aunt, I was with my

25 aunt, with cousins. Why you cry? Why you cry?

1 I don't know why.

2 I was very -- I was every time very
3 sensitive. You know, now too. Inside. I
4 cannot out. Inside I am very sensitive.

5 And someone said sing. Singing. Someone
6 laughing. You know, it was not a normal
7 picture. Not a normal picture.

8 And after the second day when the American
9 Army is coming, then we go out. It was more
10 free, you know, more --

11 (Speaking to daughter.)

12 MARA: More secure.

13 A. More secure, yeah. And it is coming the
14 Czechoslovakia legion.

15 (Speaking to daughter.)

16 MARA: Legion.

17 A. Legion. And it was another life. One we was
18 over there in (Karantian). They don't give us
19 to go. And after a month, the government give
20 us papers. And we, everyone is a few peoples
21 go together. Anyone isn't go alone.

22 I am going with my aunt and the cousins.
23 The mother was not with us. They take. When
24 we go to transport, they take in another --
25 they take -- I think she is not alive.

- 1 Q. YOU THOUGHT SHE WAS DEAD AT THAT TIME?
- 2 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah.
- 3 Q. AND YOU WERE WITH YOUR AUNT? AND WHICH
- 4 COUSINS?
- 5 A. Which cousins? Yolanka, Adelle, and the aunt.
- 6 That's it.
- 7 Q. TWO COUSINS?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. YOU AND YOUR AUNT?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. AND DO YOU KNOW ABOUT --
- 12 A. No, no. Rabu and Yolanka. Rabu and Yolanka.
- 13 Q. DO YOU KNOW ABOUT HOW MUCH YOU WEIGHED WHEN YOU
- 14 WERE LIBERATED?
- 15 A. Everyone was very skinny. I don't know. Just
- 16 was skinny.
- 17 Q. HOW ABOUT YOUR HEALTH? DID YOU HAVE ANY HEALTH
- 18 PROBLEMS OR DISEASES?
- 19 A. No. They went -- one night. One night, one
- 20 day, day and a night, I have --
- 21 (Speaking to daughter.)
- 22 MARA: Diarrhea.
- 23 A. Diarrhea, yeah, when they give us to eat one --
- 24 I told you.
- 25 Q. TOO MUCH RICH FOODS?

1 A. Yeah, rich foods. And the (schmalt) from pork.
2 And we were hungry. We eat. And after then,
3 no, is okay.

4 No. After I born my son, is beginning my
5 healthy --

6 MARA: Health problems.

7 A. Health problems, yeah. I take blood pressure.
8 I have heart problem. I have knee problems.

9 Q. AND YOU THINK THAT THAT'S SOME OF THE PROBLEMS
10 THAT CAME FROM --

11 A. Yeah, I think so. You know, why -- it's 50
12 years, 51 years after this. And every day I
13 think of them. And when was near, more I think
14 of them, you know.

15 And I think this was -- I have very -- I
16 was 20 year old, 21 year old. My knee, I
17 cannot go. My knee, very (from). And I think
18 in the snow, many times my knee in the snow.

19 And the heart problem too. I have
20 endocarditis. This is --

21 (Speaking to daughter.)

22 MARA: Infections.

23 A. Infections. And the blood pressure. From
24 young time I take medication. Now I take more,
25 much more.

1 No, I take. I am on medication from 21,
2 22 years from blood pressure.

3 Q. SO THE TERRIBLE STRAINS --

4 A. Yeah. I think this is the problems today, too.

5 Q. WHILE YOU WERE THERE WAITING FOR QUARANTINE,
6 WHAT IDEA DID YOU HAVE ABOUT HOW YOU WERE GOING
7 TO PROCEED IN YOUR LIFE?

8 A. (Speaking to daughter.)

9 I want -- this coming in the camp, the
10 American soldier, American rabbi was. And they
11 came and they told us, you write your name, and
12 you came to America.

13 Everyone, everyone, if you want to go, you
14 came.

15 And I don't want to go. I told them -- my
16 aunt yes. And I told her, no, I want to go
17 home. I want to see maybe someone is coming.
18 Someone is home.

19 I have a young brother. My father was
20 young, 46 years old. My mother 42.

21 And she: No, no. She go. And I begin to
22 cry. Why you go? After. You came first home,
23 and after you go. And she --

24 (Speaking to daughter.)

25 MARA: She agreed.

1 A. She agreed. And I go home. We go home.

2 And the quarantine, they afraid maybe we
3 have some --

4 (Speaking to daughter.)

5 Something. And we go home, and I found my
6 mother.

7 Q. SHE WAS IN YOUR HOME?

8 A. Yeah, she was home. She was three weeks
9 before, she was coming home. And not my
10 brother. No my brothers. No, dead.

11 Q. DID YOUR MOTHER THINK YOU WERE DEAD TOO?

12 A. No, she know I am going for transport. I know.
13 I think they take her to the gas.

14 She know I am going in transport. She
15 think that I am young and I still live. Yeah,
16 she hope.

17 Q. HOW DID YOU MANAGE FOR ANY MONEY? DID SOME
18 ORGANIZATION HELP YOU OUT?

19 A. The marriage?

20 Q. NO, NO. FROM WHEN YOU WERE LIBERATED.

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. DID YOU NEED TO HAVE ANY MONEY TO TRAVEL --

23 A. No.

24 Q. -- OR BUY FOOD OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT?

25 A. No, no. I really don't remember how it was.

1 No, we don't have money. Some money they give
2 us. Very, very little. And after in Budapest,
3 they give us money. When we arrive to
4 Budapest, there was an organization. And they
5 give for everyone money. How many, I don't
6 remember.

7 And when we came home, after a short time,
8 we beginning to work.

9 Q. WHAT KIND OF WORK DID YOU DO?

10 A. We sewing. Sewing at home, and we have much
11 job, you know. I am working, Rabu, my aunt
12 Selma, and my mama is cooking. And Yolanka
13 too. So we was together.

14 And after we came home in June, and in
15 November I married.

16 Q. WHEN DID YOU MEET YOUR HUSBAND?

17 A. Six weeks before I married.

18 Q. WHAT'S HIS NAME?

19 A. Hiam. Hiam. Henry in Hungarian.

20 Q. WHERE DID YOU MEET HIM?

21 A. In town, in (Ushgarot) I meet him. In six
22 weeks, after six weeks we married.

23 Everyone, you know, this time, very short
24 time you meet each other. He don't have
25 anyone. We don't -- you know, and together, we

speakers

1 beginning a new life, a new family.

2 Everyone, one day was many, many weddings.

3 When I married was 11 weddings, Jewish

4 weddings.

5 Q. THE SAME DAY?

6 A. The same day, yeah.

7 Q. THEN DID YOU AND HE GO AND LIVE SOMEPLACE ELSE

8 TOGETHER?

9 A. Yeah. From when we was together, he has

10 apartment, another apartment. And he has two

11 sisters. One sister went to America. She was

12 not -- before. And one sister was home, stay

13 home. He lived in the apartment. His sister;

14 his brother's wife, she come back from the

15 camp; and a daughter from his sister.

16 And this time many people lived together,

17 you know. And after, everyone married or go

18 another place after many times.

19 Q. HOW WERE THINGS IN YOUR TOWN AFTER THE WAR?

20 DID YOU HAVE ENOUGH FOOD?

21 A. Yeah, we have enough. We have enough.

22 Q. (Inaudible)?

23 A. No, not was problem. We worked. And the

24 people, we worked for the --

25 (Speaking to daughter.)

1 For present, yeah. And they bring bread
2 and meat and eggs, flour. We have -- so we
3 give for another.

4 Q. THE LUXURY OF SO MUCH FOOD?

5 A. Yeah. And we lived in an apartment, in an
6 apartment house. And many rooms was in this
7 house. So in two rooms we lived; my mother,
8 five people. In another rooms, another people.
9 And the kitchen was the same. It was very --

10 MARA: Communal.

11 A. Yeah. Interesting, you know. We had what to
12 eat. We was full with food. And my cousin,
13 she cooked. My mother, she cooked in the
14 kitchen. And she put the meat, the chicken,
15 for everyone a piece.

16 When we go to eat, it's not enough. That
17 is the meal. And another people, they don't
18 have, and they take out.

19 Q. ANOTHER FAMILY WAS EATING YOUR FOOD?

20 A. Yeah, from the kitchen.

21 Q. AND WHAT KIND OF WORK WAS YOUR HUSBAND DOING?

22 A. He had a store --

23 (Speaking to daughter.)

24 MARA: At that time he had a school supply
25 business.

1 Q. WERE YOU CONTENT TO STAY IN YOUR TOWN, OR DID
2 YOU THINK AT ALL OF EMIGRATING TO ANOTHER
3 COUNTRY?

4 A. No, he don't want to go. He was from '39 to
5 '44 in --

6 (Speaking to daughter.)

7 MARA: In a working camp.

8 A. In working camps. And after we came home, he
9 don't. He say, I have enough to go from place
10 to place.

11 And he don't want to go. We sit there to
12 '69.

13 Q. YOU STAYED TILL '69?

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. HAD HE BEEN ONE OF THOSE PICKED UP AS A JEW TO
16 BE IN A SLAVE LABOR WORK CAMP DURING THE WAR?

17 A. I don't understand.

18 (Speaking to daughter.)

19 MARA: Labor camp or work camp?

20 A. Yes, yes. And after my son was eight months
21 old, when my mama married.

22 Q. YOUR MOTHER MARRIED?

23 A. Yeah. And in '56 with her husband, she
24 emigration to Israel. Her husband had a
25 daughter in Israel. And she told me, I must

1 go. When I am not going, you cannot be coming
2 too. But we don't have any family.

3 And she went, she is going. And after
4 this, she sent us papers. In 13 years, we give
5 the papers, the application. And the Russian,
6 they don't --

7 MARA: They don't give visa.

8 A. They didn't give the visas. In '69. In '67
9 they give the visas, we can go. This was in
10 May. So May, end of May.

11 And in June, beginning the Seven Days War
12 in Israel, and they cut us. They don't give to
13 '69. Two years we sit on the suitcases.

14 Q. WERE YOU ABLE TO WORK DURING THOSE TWO YEARS?

15 A. Yeah, yeah. Yeah.

16 Q. WHAT YEAR WAS YOUR SON BORN? WHAT YEAR WAS
17 YOUR SON BORN?

18 A. '46.

19 Q. WHAT'S HIS NAME?

20 A. Mickey. Mickey. 1946.

21 Q. AND WAS LIFE PRETTY SIMILAR TO THE WAY IT HAD
22 BEEN BEFORE THE WAR? DID THINGS GET KIND OF
23 BACK TO THE WAY YOU WERE USED TO IT?

24 A. No. It was different.

25 Q. IN WHAT WAY?

1 A. It was different. At first it was communism.

2 We live in the Russia communist system.

3 Q. WHEN DID THE COMMUNISTS TAKE OVER?

4 A. When we came back in '45.

5 Q. WHEN YOU CAME BACK?

6 A. Yeah, before it was Hungarian. I born was
7 Czechoslovakia. It was another -- it's not the
8 same.

9 Q. AND WHAT WAS IT LIKE UNDER THE COMMUNIST
10 REGIME. I MEAN, WHAT THINGS WERE DIFFERENT
11 WHEN THE COMMUNISTS TOOK OVER?

12 A. Everything. Everything, you know. The work,
13 the job, the school for the children.
14 Everything. In Czechoslovakia was democrat.
15 Was a very good life. When the Hungary is
16 coming, this is fascism, another kind. And the
17 Russian, the same.

18 For the children, the children was very
19 good, the Russian system. And for the poor
20 people too. Everyone is study. It's not
21 money. You don't need the money.

22 She knows. She lived. She was 18 years
23 old when we came to Israel.

24 Q. WHEN WAS YOUR DAUGHTER MONA BORN?

25 A. In '51.

1 Q. '51.

2 A. '51.

3 Q. AND YOU HAD TWO CHILDREN?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. SO HOW DID IT AFFECT YOU TO BE UNDER COMMUNISM?

6 DID YOU HAVE LESS GOODS OR LESS MONEY OR

7 SMALLER APARTMENT?

8 A. The apartment was small. We lived -- when I
9 married, we have a big apartment, very nice
10 apartment. And I was pregnant six months, when
11 one day is coming a Russian officer with his
12 wife, with two, three suitcases, and come in.
13 We are here, and we want to live here.

14 What we can do? And we don't, can't stay
15 with them to live. And we have many --
16 everything was ours in this apartment.

17 And I sit with them. And I talk in one
18 room. And this time my husband and friends,
19 they take out the --

20 (Speaking to daughter.)

21 MARA: The lamps and furniture.

22 A. Some, and take out. And when they came out and
23 they see it's nothing, you know, they go to
24 the --

25 (Speaking to daughter.)

1 MARA: To the police.

2 A. Yeah, to the police. And there they steal
3 everything from house. And the police take my
4 husband. One night, one night and one day he
5 was in --

6 MARA: In jail.

7 A. In jail. And many money. This is --

8 (Speaking to daughter.)

9 MARA: They have to pay off the judge.

10 Q. THE BRIBE.

11 A. Many, many, much money. And it's coming out.
12 And we found another apartment, very small
13 apartment. And this apartment is born my son.

14 And after a few months, we found another
15 apartment. Small, too. A little bigger from
16 this. And we lived there to '69. To 1969 when
17 we came to Israel.

18 Q. WERE YOU WORKING ALL ALONG DURING THAT PERIOD?

19 A. Where, is in Russia?

20 Q. WELL, WHEN THE COMMUNISTS TOOK OVER, AFTER YOU
21 GOT MARRIED. DID YOU WORK --

22 A. I am not working.

23 Q. YOU'RE NOT WORKING?

24 A. No.

25 Q. YOU'RE RAISING THE CHILDREN?

1 A. Yeah, I am not work.

2 Q. DID YOU HAVE ANY DIFFICULTY GETTING ANY GOODS?

3 YOU KNOW, CLOTHING OR THINGS LIKE THAT.

4 A. The clothing? No. We have clothing. Not too
5 much. We don't get to change every day another
6 clothes or shoes. We most -- we buy the
7 clothes on the flea market.

8 MARA: Flea market.

9 A. The flea market. You know, sometimes new,
10 sometimes no. Most people they go to
11 Czechoslovakia, to Hungary, and they bring from
12 there. And that's the life.

13 And my husband, he was twice in the jail,
14 in this time, in Russia. You know, you worked
15 from this --

16 MARA: Salary.

17 A. Salary, what you take. You cannot live. And
18 the work is very interesting in Russia. You
19 must do, still --

20 (Speaking to daughter.)

21 MARA: You must have some money on the
22 side.

23 A. You know, this game alone. You want or know --

24 MARA: You couldn't survive from salary
25 only.

1 Q. YOU HAD TO HAVE SOMETHING GOING ON THE SIDE?

2 A. Yeah, yeah.

3 MARA: And that side was black market.

4 Black money.

5 A. Black money.

6 Q. EXACTLY WHAT DID YOU DO ON THE BLACK MARKET?

7 WHAT DID YOU DO TO SURVIVE ON THE SIDE WITH THE

8 BLACK MARKET?

9 MARA: (Inaudible).

10 A. The same work. He had a store. The three

11 people, they work it. They have --

12 (Speaking to daughter.)

13 MARA: Frame shop.

14 A. Frame shop. And you know, what it was, the

15 black money, someone came to want to buy frame

16 or a picture. And he don't give the receipt.

17 You know, he don't -- he doesn't give the

18 receipt. And this money they take to in the

19 {case) or the material. Every month they need

20 to give --

21 (Speaking to daughter.)

22 MARA: They had to give the government the

23 receipts, was how much did they buy and how

24 much --

25 A. How much material he used, how much --

1 (Speaking to daughter.)

2 MARA: How much left over.

3 A. How much left over. You know. Every time,
4 this is look like --

5 (Speaking to daughter.)

6 MARA: Like a chain.

7 A. Yeah, you know. There where they buy the
8 material, they do it the same. You know.

9 Q. YOU MEAN EVERYONE WAS DOING IT?

10 MARA: A chain reaction.

11 Q. UH-HUH.

12 A. And they have more material. They can do it of
13 black. You know, the black money.

14 And the way in Russia was many, many
15 people very rich. And the money is inside.
16 They cannot --

17 MARA: Spend it.

18 A. Spend it, the money. And now when the
19 communism is over, you know, now is coming out
20 the black money in Russia. They was very rich
21 people.

22 Q. SO THIS WAS HAPPENING IN YOUR TIME THERE TOO?

23 A. Yeah. In our time too. Who is doing much
24 money, they don't -- he don't can take out the
25 money. You know. When they see the money is

1 out, they ask, from where you have the money?

2 How you do the money?

3 And twice, so they --

4 Q. WHY WAS HE IN JAIL THE SECOND TIME?

5 A. For the same thing.

6 MARA: They caught him. They caught him.

7 Q. DOING THIS PRACTICE?

8 A. Yeah.

9 MARA: (Inaudible) they got caught.

10 Q. SO HE WOULD BUY HIS WAY OUT OF THIS PROBLEM

11 TOO?

12 A. Yeah. You know, he was not long time. A few

13 days. Again, much money. You don't give

14 for --

15 (Speaking to daughter.)

16 MARA: To bribe the judge.

17 Q. DID HE EVER SPEAK ABOUT HOW THEY TREATED HIM IN

18 THE JAIL?

19 A. No. It was --

20 Q. NO PROBLEM?

21 A. No, no. He don't was --

22 (Speaking to daughter.)

23 MARA: He was (inaudible).

24 A. To the court.

25 Q. SO THE AUTHORITIES ALLOWED HIM TO OWN HIS OWN

1 BUSINESS?

2 MARA: It wasn't his business.

3 Q. OH.

4 MARA: It was government.

5 A. It was government. Yeah, in Russia, it's not.

6 Everything is.

7 Q. SO HE GAVE UP THE SCHOOL SUPPLY BUSINESS. HE

8 HAD TO GIVE THAT UP. IS THAT WHAT HAPPENED?

9 A. Yeah, yeah.

10 MARA: (Inaudible).

11 A. Yeah. It was a hard time, you know. Very the

12 nerve --

13 MARA: Stress.

14 A. Stress, yeah. Not a quiet life.

15 Q. DID YOU FEEL THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS WATCHING

16 YOU ALL THE TIME?

17 A. Not just us.

18 Q. EVERYONE?

19 A. Everyone. Everyone.

20 Q. YOU COULDN'T SPEAK FREELY, HOW YOU THOUGHT?

21 A. No, no, no. No, we was very happy when we take

22 the visa to Israel. We was very happy.

23 Q. HOW ABOUT YOUR RELIGIOUS POINT OF VIEW AFTER

24 THE WAR? HOW DID YOU FEEL ABOUT JUDAISM, OR

25 DID YOU HAVE A RELIGIOUS POINT OF VIEW?

1 A. The religious, you cannot open --

2 Q. PRACTICE?

3 A. Yeah, practice. No. The young people, the
4 children, they go to school, they --

5 (Speaking to daughter.)

6 MARA: They didn't practice at all.

7 A. No, no. It was the bar mitzvah for my son.

8 Q. HE HAD A BAR MITZVAH?

9 A. Yeah, he had a bar mitzvah.

10 Q. WAS HE CIRCUMCISED?

11 MARA: Yes.

12 (Speaking to daughter.)

13 A. Yes, yes, yes. No, everything, you know,
14 quiet. Everything. The bar mitzvah, too. He
15 go to the synagogue. And on other way from
16 back he go from. Not from front. They don't
17 want to see.

18 And after the bar mitzvah, he came to
19 school. And I had a party at home. Not.

20 And when he go to school next day and they
21 ask him, someone, you know, people told in the
22 school, the Mickey Greenburger has bar mitzvah.
23 And he told, no, I don't, wasn't. No. We told
24 him.

25 Q. SO YOUR CHILDREN HAD TO LIE?

1 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

2 Q. HOW ABOUT YOU? AFTER THE WAR AND THROUGHOUT,
3 DID YOU HAVE, YOU KNOW, A RELIGIOUS PRACTICE?
4 DO YOU FEEL LIKE YOU BELIEVE IN GOD OR GODS OR
5 NOT?

6 A. Yes and no. You know. Sometime yes, sometimes
7 no. I go to the synagogue just Rosh Hashanah,
8 Yom Kippur, and that's it. And the same now.
9 Here too.

10 Q. OBVIOUSLY, YOUR HUSBAND DECIDED THAT HE WOULD
11 EMIGRATE OUT OF YOUR COUNTRY WHEN HE DECIDED HE
12 WOULD GO TO ISRAEL.

13 A. Yeah. We like -- yeah, he very want to.

14 MARA: He was a Zionist.

15 Q. HE WAS A ZIONIST?

16 A. Yeah, yeah. He don't --

17 (Speaking to daughter.)

18 MARA: After the war he wasn't religious
19 anymore. (Inaudible.)

20 A. He no. And he is very firm on the religious
21 family. Very very. I am too a religious
22 family. Not the same that he was.

23 MARA: He was raised in a (sheva). He was
24 from a very orthodox family. But after the war
25 came, it just changed completely.

1 Q. YES. AND YOU TO SOME DEGREE?

2 MARA: (Inaudible).

3 A. Yes. See, I do everything with him together.

4 Yeah. Sometimes I think, you know, I believed,
5 yes, maybe, yes. I don't have --

6 Q. FIXED?

7 A. Fixed, yeah.

8 Q. GO BACK AND FORTH.

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. WHEN YOUR CHILDREN WERE GROWING UP WERE YOU
11 TELLING THEM ABOUT YOUR HOLOCAUST EXPERIENCES?

12 A. Yeah, yeah. Yeah. I think so, they don't
13 understand really.

14 I am sure?

15 MARA: Well, it was hard to understand.
16 Especially in Russia because it wasn't open
17 talk.

18 A. Maybe now they understand more. When they was
19 young, no.

20 Q. COULD YOU TALK TO OTHER PEOPLE, OTHER ADULTS
21 ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCES?

22 A. Yeah. You know, when we came together -- the
23 most people in my age, when we were together,
24 everyone was in camp. And when we came
25 together to talk, we talk from another --

1 (Speaking to daughter.)

2 MARA: Of another subject.

3 A. Another subject. In the end, every time the
4 camp, Auschwitz.

5 Q. ALWAYS.

6 A. Always. Always. Then we would talk. Always
7 we came to the same thing.

8 Q. SO WHERE YOU WERE LIVING WAS THEN OFFICIALLY
9 RUSSIA.

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. WERE YOU EVER ABLE TO OR DID YOU EVER WANT TO
12 TRAVEL TO ANY PLACE ELSE OUTSIDE OF WHERE YOU
13 WERE LIVING?

14 A. We don't have -- we don't have any family any
15 place. We was a small, not too big family.
16 And they stay in -- they don't come home. And
17 we don't. Just in Russia.

18 Q. WHAT DID YOU DO FOR FUN OR RELAXATION DURING
19 THAT PERIOD?

20 A. (Speaking to daughter.)

21 Yeah. We go to movies. We go to theater.
22 This was very cheap in Russia and very popular.
23 Much. Yeah.

24 Q. I REMEMBER THAT YOU SAID YOUR SON WOULD GO TO
25 THE BACK DOOR OF THE SYNAGOGUE. IT SOUNDS LIKE

1 THE RUSSIANS ALLOWED THE SYNAGOGUE TO BE OPEN
2 MORE OR LESS, DIDN'T THEY?

3 A. The synagogue was open, you know, for the old
4 people.

5 Q. THEY ALLOWED THAT?

6 A. Yeah. The old people. Not for the young. For
7 the (comsomal).

8 He was a (comsomal). No.

9 The young people, the children, they go to
10 school, later to university. No, no.

11 Q. THEY WEREN'T ALLOWED TO GO.

12 A. Yeah, no.

13 Q. SO YOUR MOTHER HAD ALREADY GONE TO ISRAEL.
14 YOUR MOTHER.

15 A. Yeah, yeah.

16 Q. AND THEN IN '69 YOU AND YOUR FAMILY WENT TO
17 ISRAEL.

18 A. Yeah, then we went to Israel in '69. And Mona
19 was 18, and my son was 23.

20 Q. TWENTY-THREE. HE HADN'T MARRIED YET, OR HAD
21 HE? DID HE MARRY BY THAT TIME?

22 A. No, no.

23 Q. SO YOU ALL WENT TO ISRAEL?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. HOW DID ISRAEL STRIKE YOU WHEN YOU WENT THERE?

Spelling

1 WHAT DID YOU THINK ABOUT ISRAEL?

2 A. You know, I am not working in Russia. And I
3 know when I came to Israel, I need to work. A
4 new life, a new everything. And I still to
5 work. My husband to. And we like it in
6 Israel.

7 You know, when I came to Israel, one day I
8 don't think of my home. Where I was live.
9 Where I was born, where I was live. Never.

10 Q. YOU NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT THAT.

11 A. No. Now too.

12 Q. YOU DIDN'T MISS IT AT ALL?

13 A. No. At Auschwitz I think. And from then,
14 never.

15 Q. WHERE WERE YOU LIVING IN ISRAEL.

16 A. (Armatka.)

17 Q. AND WHAT ABOUT YOUR CHILDREN? DID THEY WORK OR
18 GO TO SCHOOL OR WHAT?

19 A. They go to school and learn the language. And
20 after they go, my son was in (Technien). And
21 she too. He has in Russia three years
22 university, my son. When he came to Israel, he
23 go for the second. One year less; yeah?

24 And she don't like the (Technien). And
25 she went to Jerusalem.

Spelling

Spelling

Spelling

1 MARA: (Artaka.)

2 A. (Artaka.)

3 Q. YOU WERE STUDYING PAINTING?

4 MARA: Yeah.

5 Q. AND HOW DID YOU DO FOR THE LANGUAGE?

6 A. I start to work. And I learned the language.

7 After a few years just, I go to school too, to
8 learn the language.

9 My mother was very sick. I work very hard
10 in Israel. After work I go to my mother. And
11 she was many times in the hospital. I sit and
12 I work, and I take a telephone. I get the
13 telephone, your mother, she don't feel okay. I
14 leave the work, I run to my mom, and I take her
15 to hospital.

16 My life was not light in Israel. I like
17 it.

18 Q. STILL YOU WERE GLAD TO BE THERE?

19 A. Yeah. You know, I like it. After all what I
20 had in Russia with my husband, he was in the
21 jail three times. Two times, and one time when
22 the apartment. And every time I was in Russia
23 in stress. You know, he is not coming home
24 this hour, I think, what has happened? But
25 every time in --

1 MARA: Israel.

2 A. Fear.

3 MARA: Fear.

4 A. Yeah. And Israel was another. Okay, I work.

5 It was hard for me, no. Morally.

6 MARA: Morally.

7 A. Morally it was more easy. And I like Israel.

8 I like now too Israel. Just, I don't have

9 anyone in Israel.

10 Q. SO YOUR MOTHER WAS VERY SICK. WHAT WAS WRONG
11 WITH HER?

12 A. Yeah, the heart. And the blood pressure, the
13 same. She has a very, very big blood pressure,
14 high. And she has many times heart attacks,
15 too. And she died in '80, 1980. She was 60
16 years (ago in) Israel. She was 76 years old.

17 Q. THAT'S BEEN HARD FOR YOU, TOO?

18 A. Yeah. It was a hard time. I tell you, it was
19 a very hard time for me in Israel. And after
20 she died, my husband was very sick too. He has
21 stones.

22 Q. KIDNEY STONES?

23 A. No.

24 MARA: Gall.

25 Q. GALLSTONES?

See 18

1 A. Gallstones. And they don't found it, what is.

2 And he take --

3 MARA: (Inaudible).

4 A. You know, and they don't know from what, from

5 where. And he lost 18 kilo in six weeks. And

6 they think he has a cancer. You know, and they

7 look, and they don't found anything. And after

8 the doctor told me, you know, we need to do for

9 him operation, to open and look what is in.

10 And when they opened him, they found stones.

11 But the stones were so small and the --

12 (Speaking to daughter.)

13 MARA: Blocked the duct.

14 A. You know, and they don't see this. And after

15 they came, he had the --

16 (Speaking to daughter.)

17 MARA: Put on some weight.

18 A. Some weight. Not the same. And then '84 he

19 take a stroke, and he died.

20 And the children is coming. I told for my

21 son, your father is hospital, he take a stroke.

22 And he told me, I am coming. Mom, I am coming.

23 And I told him, you don't tell for your

24 sister. She is far. She has two children.

25 She cannot come. Maybe will be okay.

1 No, he called her. And she called me, and
2 she said, mom, I am coming. I told her, don't
3 came. You have two children. They are small.
4 Maybe -- I told her the same. Maybe will be
5 okay.

6 No, she is coming.

7 And he was alive five days after the
8 stroke. No, he just was alive.

9 MARA: He was unconscious.

10 Q. UNCONSCIOUS?

11 A. Yeah. And she is coming.

12 After one day he died; yeah?

13 Q. SO HE WAS BURIED THERE IN ISRAEL.

14 A. Yeah. Yeah. And that was ten days after, the
15 children was left. Everyone go home. And I
16 stay alone. It was hard time. I tell you, I
17 was having in Israel a hard time.

18 Q. DID YOU HAVE ANYBODY ELSE THAT YOU -- ANY
19 FAMILY OR CLOSE FRIENDS?

20 A. No. Two cousins I have. We were not close,
21 no.

22 I have friends. Friends. The same. This
23 is not family.

24 And I came here after I retired. I was 58
25 years old when my husband died. I work two

1 years more. At 60 I retired.

2 And I am beginning to come to San
3 Francisco. I sit here three months, I go back.
4 I cannot here.

5 After, when I am in Israel, when I was in
6 Israel, I want to come to San Francisco. If I
7 am here, I want -- many years I am coming and
8 going. I cannot --

9 MARA: Decide.

10 A. -- decide. And now I am more here. Last three
11 years, I am more here.

12 Q. WHAT KIND OF WORK WERE YOU DOING IN ISRAEL?

13 A. I sew. I am a tailor.

14 Q. SO DID YOU GET A PENSION OR SOMETHING WHEN YOU
15 RETIRED?

16 A. Yeah. No.

17 (Speaking to daughter.)

18 MARA: Social security.

19 A. Social security just.

20 Q. OBVIOUSLY ALONG THE WAY, BOTH OF YOUR CHILDREN
21 GOT MARRIED.

22 A. They married. My son married in Israel.

23 Q. MARRIED IN ISRAEL?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. AN ISRAELI WOMAN?

1 A. Yeah, yeah. She is from Romania. She is in
2 Israel. Yeah, they went from Israel in '72.
3 We stay alone with my husband. He don't like
4 it to be in Israel.

5 Q. HE DIDN'T LIKE ISRAEL?

6 A. No, no. I don't know why. She told me the
7 climate, she don't like the climate. And my
8 son, too.

9 They like each other, like sister and
10 brother. And they went together from Israel.

11 Q. IS THAT WHEN HE WENT TO GERMANY?

12 A. Yeah, they went together to Germany.

13 Q. AND MONA WENT TO GERMANY TOO?

14 A. Yeah. And after this, they married.

15 Q. SO YOUR SON MARRIED IN ISRAEL?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. AND THEN SOON WENT TO GERMANY?

18 A. Yeah. And my daughter married in Tehran.

19 Q. IN TEHRAN?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. HOW DID SHE GET TO TEHRAN?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. SHE LEFT ISRAEL FOR TEHRAN?

24 A. She meet her husband in (Tokyo).

25 Q. WAS HE FROM TEHRAN?

Follow

1 A. Yeah, he is from Tehran, yeah. And after he
2 left Israel, then she go to -- he went to New
3 York to study, my son-in-law. And after he
4 finished his study, he came to Germany to take
5 her.

6 Q. AND THEN WHERE DID THEY GO?

7 A. To Tehran.

8 Q. TO TEHRAN?

9 A. Yeah. And she married in Tehran.

10 Q. AND WERE YOUR GRANDCHILDREN BORN THERE, TOO?

11 A. The grandchildren born here.

12 Q. Mona's children?

13 A. Yeah. Mona's. Emmy, the granddaughter, she
14 married in New York.

15 MARA: Born.

16 A. Born. Born in New York. And Alonnie, this
17 grandson, born in San Francisco.

18 Q. AND HOW ~~7~~OLD ARE THEY?

19 A. Amy is 20. And Alonnie is 15 and a half.

20 Q. AND YOUR SON HAS CHILDREN TOO?

21 A. One son. He is born in Germany, too. He was
22 16.

23 Q. AND WHAT'S HIS NAME?

24 A. Daniel.

25 Q. AND DO YOU EVER TELL YOUR GRANDCHILDREN ABOUT

1 YOUR HOLOCAUST EXPERIENCE?

2 A. Yes, yes. Yes. The grandchildren here, they,
3 I think so, they understand more the Holocaust,
4 than from Germany, than Daniel.

5 Q. WHY DO YOU THINK THAT IS?

6 A. I don't know why. He, he think -- he has
7 another think. You know, he think not the
8 same.

9 MARA: Different.

10 A. He is different. I think -- so he is more
11 child. You know, maybe I am -- so --

12 (Speaking to daughter.)

13 MARA: Maybe she is mistaken.

14 A. A mistake. I think so.

15 MARA: (Inaudible).

16 Q. SO YOU THINK IT'S MORE OF A CULTURAL THING OR
17 AN EDUCATIONAL APPROACH?

18 A. He never asks me. He never asks me. I told
19 him. Oh, if we talk together with my son, with
20 my daughter-in-law. And I see, no. It's not
21 go in. You know, I have this feeling. I don't
22 know.

23 Q. YOU TALKED A LITTLE BIT LAST TIME ABOUT THE
24 DIFFICULTY YOU HAD IN GOING TO GERMANY.

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. IN DEALING WITH PEOPLE IN GERMANY.

2 IS THIS STILL THE CASE? I MEAN, AFTER ALL
3 THESE YEARS.

4 A. Yeah, yeah. You know, I go. When they want to
5 came here, it's much money, the whole family,
6 when I want to see them. I go over there
7 alone. I want to be with them. And I want to
8 see them. No, never I am more than three
9 weeks. One month. This is (indicating) -- I
10 cannot. I cannot.

11 I see, I know I am not right. You know,
12 it's not okay what I think. I can't.

13 Q. HOW IS IT FOR THEM TO LIVE IN GERMANY?

14 A. They like it.

15 Q. THEY LIKE IT. THERE ARE NOT THAT MANY JEWISH
16 PEOPLE IN GERMANY.

17 A. No. They like it. They have very good
18 friends. Not Jewish friends. They like it.
19 What can I do?

20 Q. HAVE YOU EVER GONE BACK AGAIN TO YOUR OLD HOME?

21 A. No.

22 Q. NEVER?

23 A. No.

24 Q. NO DESIRE TO DO THAT?

25 A. No. When someone pay me to go, to came.

1 No. No, I don't think of them never.

2 It's not in my mind, never, how I go out from
3 them. And the same with my husband.

4 Q. HE NEVER WANTED TO GO BACK?

5 A. No.

6 Q. YOU SAID LAST TIME THAT YOU DID HOPE THAT YOU
7 WOULD GO TO AUSCHWITZ ONE DAY.

8 A. Yeah, yeah. I like, this very -- this I think
9 every time. Yeah. Maybe this summer. I don't
10 know. I will see. I go to Germany, to my son.
11 I will see.

12 Q. YOU THINK HE MIGHT BE WILLING TO GO WITH YOU?

13 A. Yeah, yeah. I like it. We go to my
14 grandchildren from here, too.

15 Q. (INAUDIBLE)?

16 A. I talk to my son-in-law last week, and he told
17 me, I go with you. Yeah.

18 Q. YOU THINK IT WILL HELP EASE YOU?

19 A. I don't. Maybe. I don't know. I would like
20 to go. I want to go.

21 Q. HAVE YOU EVER GONE TO NUREMBERG?

22 A. No.

23 Q. THOSE PLACES?

24 A. No, no. This is no -- I cannot found, you
25 know, this place. I don't know where it was.

1 I know one, this was near to, across the street
2 was a cemetery. Many cemetery. I don't know
3 where. This I remember, across the street was
4 a cemetery.

5 Q. DID YOU EVER GET ANY REPARATIONS FROM GERMANY
6 OR YOUR OWN GOVERNMENT FOR, YOU KNOW, ANY KIND
7 OF LOSSES YOU SUFFERED?

8 A. Yes, yes. Now I beginning to.

9 (Speaking to daughter.)

10 Very -- 500 mark. For three months I
11 take -- in April. Yeah, this month. I take
12 \$970 for three months. Yeah. It's not enough
13 of nothing.

14 Q. DO YOU THINK THE HOLOCAUST COULD HAPPEN AGAIN?

15 A. I am afraid, you know. I think of them. I
16 don't know. I don't know what to tell you. I
17 don't know.

18 (Speaking to daughter.)

19 MARA: (Inaudible).

20 A. When I think of my grandchildren for the
21 future, you know, I am very -- my heart is --

22 (Speaking to daughter.)

23 MARA: She is (inaudible).

24 A. And I am very afraid for the grandchildren.
25 Not just the grandchildren. Every children.

1 For hunger. Not to be hungry.

2 You know, this, this is very, very -- when
3 you want to eat, when you don't have what to
4 eat, and every time you think just of this, to
5 eat, to eat, to eat, and your stomach is empty,
6 this is very -- and you see the other people
7 eat, you know, and you cannot and you don't
8 have what to eat, and they don't give you to
9 eat, this even -- I think, I don't know.

10 Maybe for them, how I say my grandchildren
11 or they come to, you want to eat? You want to
12 eat? This is the first thing.

13 Q. HOW ABOUT YOU? DO YOU FEEL LIKE IT CHANGED
14 YOUR WAY OF BEING WITH FOOD? I MEAN, DO YOU
15 LIKE TO ALWAYS HAVE MORE THAN ENOUGH FOOD?

16 A. Yeah. I have -- every time I have -- she told
17 me sometimes, my daughter, what, you think you
18 are in Russia? You are in Russia? Here it
19 is -- no, I have every time food in freezer.
20 Freezer.

21 Q. THAT MAKES YOU FEEL MORE COMFORTABLE?

22 A. Yeah. Bread, everything. Everything.

23 Q. DO YOU THINK THAT -- WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEAVE
24 ANY KIND OF MESSAGE HERE ON THIS TAPE FOR
25 ANYBODY OR YOUR CHILDREN OR GRANDCHILDREN?

1 ANYTHING YOU COULD THINK OF YOU WOULD LIKE TO
2 SAY?

3 A. I think, you know, just this. Never they came
4 to the same --

5 (Speaking to daughter.)

6 MARA: What she went through. To not go
7 through what she went through.

8 A. And they don't to be -- they want to be very
9 careful --

10 (Speaking to daughter.)

11 MARA: If somewhere ever some antisemitism
12 rises up, we have to put it out right away.
13 Not let it go.

14 A. By the first time, just a little, you know.
15 The same was in Europe. And after they take
16 more -- streak.

17 MARA: Strength.

18 A. Strength.

19 MARA: (Inaudible).

20 Q. HAVE YOU EVER HAD AN INSTANCE OF ANTISEMITISM
21 HERE IN THE UNITED STATES?

22 A. (Speaking to daughter.)

23 MARA: Not where she was associated.

24 A. No. I am very of small place. You know, and I
25 don't have -- no. No.

1 You know, I don't feel this never. In
2 Russia too. I don't know why. I don't. No.
3 Never I feel this. And I think my children
4 too.

5 You feel?

6 Never they came home. Never they told me,
7 something has happened in the school, they tell
8 me this. I don't know. Maybe yes, they don't
9 tell me. Never.

10 Q. ARE YOU SAYING, MONA THAT YOU HAVE FELT
11 ANTISEMITISM IN RUSSIA OR HERE?

12 MONA: Sometimes.

13 Q. IN BOTH PLACES?

14 MONA: Mild cases.

15 Q. IN BOTH PLACES?

16 MARA: Uh-huh.

17 A. They don't tell me ever.

18 Q. PEOPLE CALLING YOU NAMES OR ANY VIOLENCE?

19 MARA: No, no. But mild cases.

20 Q. IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE THAT YOU CAN THINK OF OR
21 THAT YOU THOUGHT OF SINCE WE LAST MET THAT YOU
22 WOULD LIKE TO ADD ABOUT YOUR LIFE?

23 A. (Speaking to daughter.)

24 No. Just this. The life, our
25 organization was a very hard life. You know,

1 and you forgot. After this, you don't
2 remember: I want to say this, I want to say
3 this. Maybe I want to first write for me what
4 I want to say. And when a long time, you know,
5 you remember this, this. I don't do it now.

6 Q. I THINK YOU SAID THE LAST TIME THAT OUT OF 36
7 FAMILY MEMBERS, ONLY SIX SURVIVED.

8 A. Yeah. What I tell you.

9 Q. THE ONES THAT YOU TOLD ME, YOUR COUSINS AND
10 YOUR AUNT, YOUR MOTHER AND YOU.

11 A. Yeah. And from they, and alive, just two
12 people. Three.

13 Q. YOUR COUSINS?

14 A. Yeah. Yeah.

15 Q. IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU CAN THINK OF YOU
16 WOULD LIKE TO ADD?

17 A. No. No. You know, I like to be in the future
18 healthy and everything in the family will be
19 okay.

20 I had Sunday my 70 birthday. My daughter
21 make me. I don't want it. After she do this,
22 I was very happy. It was very nice. And
23 thanks for her from me. It was very nice.
24 Very nice party.

25 Q. HAPPY BIRTHDAY.

1 A. Thank you. Thank you.

2 Q. YOU'RE WELCOME.

3 A. And life is very short. The 50 years, you
4 know, they run. I don't know when. I don't
5 know how. Now when I look for -- I look back,
6 it's very, everything was very simple, very --
7 I don't know. Sometimes people have some
8 things in life big, you know, something they
9 do, they can say.

10 No, I think in the future.

11 Q. YOU'RE THINKING OF THE FUTURE.

12 A. Yeah. Just my children, they will be healthy.
13 And the grandchildren, they marry, they have
14 family.

15 Q. WELL, I WANT TO THANK YOU VERY, VERY MUCH FOR
16 COMING AND DOING THIS INTERVIEW.

17 A. Thank you.

18 Q. AND THANK YOU, TOO, MONA FOR COMING AND DOING
19 TRANSLATION.

20 A. No, I am very -- my English, you know, I --

21 (Speaking to daughter.)

22 MARA: I repeat.

23 A. Yes, I repeat everything. The same words. The
24 same. I don't have enough words in English
25 language. It's hard for me.

1 Q. WELL, YOU SPEAK SO MANY LANGUAGES, THAT
2 STARTING OUT WORKING ON ENGLISH LATE IN LIFE
3 MUST BE DIFFICULT.

4 A. Yes, it's difficult. And in this age, my age.
5 You know, I have the word. Repeat. I know
6 this word. And I need to use them. I don't
7 found I want.

8 MARA: (Inaudible).

9 Q. YES. YOU HAVE MADE YOURSELF UNDERSTOOD. YOU
10 REALLY HAVE.

11 A. Thank you.

12 Q. SO THANK YOU. AND I SEE THAT IT'S WORK TO DO
13 THAT. SO I APPRECIATE THAT PART TOO.

14 SO THANKS AGAIN FOR COMING AND DOING THIS.

15 A. Thank you. Thank you.

16 Q. YOU'RE WELCOME.

17 (End of tape.)

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