

--of the Talmud Torah Schule, school. That building is still in existence today, I am told. I have not been back. It houses some sort of a library, has absolutely nothing to do with the school that it was at one time.

There's a big tree that's in the way, but if you see a dome in the background, that was the large synagogue.

You're talking about this?

Yeah. That's good. And that synagogue, which was right adjacent, a tremendously large building-- the only way I can compare it is to, perhaps, the size of the building on Arguello Boulevard and Lake Street, which houses Temple Emanuel. We also had somewhere around 2,000 seats for a congregation there, choir.

And that building was taken down after we left to make room for a playground. That gives you an idea of the importance that an edifice like this was holding for the National Socialists.

What year was it taken down?

I think it taken down probably in 1938 or '39.

And what year was this photo taken, would you guess?

Quite a bit earlier. I would think that that's somewhere in 1930, something like that.

Was it taken down in an orderly or a disorderly manner?

It was taken down-- it was taken down right after the Kristallnacht, and as a matter of fact, my film that I talk about, that videotape that I got recently, shows the shell on the inside completely burned out and someone having taken a couple of ropes from the ceiling and swinging on it like kids would do in a playground.

I've seen a still of just this.

Yeah. Yeah, that's a very-- yeah, that's fairly well-known.

Now, this is-- you're getting in on the right here. OK, well that's an-- that's a more up-to-date shot. You can tell by the cars. That is the building of the school, and that's the way it would still look today, except for the fact that it houses no schoolchildren. It houses a library for the city of Hamburg, I believe, or for the state. I'm not sure.

Can you tell us about this one?

Yeah. This is a picture of the bar mitzvah boy, short pants, jacket, of course, and-- I can only describe it as what we call a pork pie hat. It's black, as is the suit, and that's what I would have worn in the synagogue before my bar mitzvah. I'm standing in front of my new bicycle and a whole bunch of wonderful presents which will be on the next picture that we'll show.

Which is right here.

There it is right there. There's the bicycle again. It's been moved a little bit. Certificates in the back from friends out of country. We always kid that a bar mitzvah gets at least 50 ball pens. I didn't get 50. I think probably got two, but lots of good books. And I'm sure that must have been a raincoat in the back. I can't quite tell from the back, but a table that was laden with all kinds of wonderful goodies for this occasion.

Oh, that's an interesting thing. Right up in front with a white tag on it is a suitcase, has my initials on it, and that suitcase, I think, is still standing in my closet after all these years.

Yeah, yeah. I don't know what that tag is. Yeah, but that's part of the-- well, the white tag could be part of the bicycle, but the suitcase is visible. It's right underneath the white tag. I don't know how that suitcase has lasted, but at this rate it's going to outlast me.

Did you get to bring any of the other things that you received for bar mitzvah?

Oh, yes. Oh, sure, sure. There's a whole set of-- a whole set of Hebrew books for the various holidays. There are two sets of those. I've got those at home. And I can't quite make out whatever else was on that table, but I'm sure that there are things. There are the typical-- what we used to call a lexicon. It's not a dictionary but a--

Thesaurus?

That's what it is. And that's with us. We have that. There are probably one or two books that my uncle wrote which are part of that selection of gifts.

Tell us about this, please.

Yeah, this is the-- obviously the soldier is me standing in uniform during the Philippine campaign, and the plaque is part of the University in Manila, Santo Tomas.

I always have to laugh about this picture. First of all, I'm very skinny. I've never been like that since, before or since. And the other thing I remember is that somewhere right in that vicinity is the very famous San Miguel Brewery, one of the prime objects for liberating the Philippines, 1945. Right.

The Japanese don't eat very much.

No.

And a lot of it's liquid. You don't have to worry.

As my grandchild would say, yucky.

I think we're on tape here.

OK. I went from the Philippines into three months of occupational duty in a small town called Mishima in Japan. We're sitting in the home of-- my host at the time was a Mr. Watanabe.

On the left-hand side of the picture is his, at that time, 16-year-old daughter. I forgot what her name was, but she was wearing a traditional kimono, and that was pre-war. They're very beautiful. I'm not so sure whether that's still the same. Nowadays they're done by machines. In those days they were made by hand.

One of her dolls is sitting alongside there, and we're sitting-- I'm sitting in a very uncomfortable position that-- I know I had trouble getting up after a half hour or so because the circulation. You were sitting under the table with your legs crossed-- there's a foot showing out underneath that table-- not very comfortable. But they were delightful people.

And as a matter of fact, her uncle wrote a little piece of paper before I left, and while I cannot give you the exact words because I have forgotten-- and that piece of paper is not in my possession anymore because we had it printed from The Chronicle when I got back.

It said something to the extent that we didn't open our doors when we heard that you soldiers were coming from the United States because we had heard that you were bad soldiers-- they had heard all kinds of weird things that we might be doing-- and how wrong we were. Have pity on us, a defeated nation. Now compare that to 1990. That defeated nation is doing rather well. And that's it.

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