

-TITLE-LENORE HOLLANDER
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-NOTES-
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:37 Lenore Hollander is her maiden name. She dropped her married name because Hollander is quickly identifiable with her family. She was born in 1906.

2:20 Her father was a chemist, Charles Samuel Hollander, his father was Samuel, and his father was Charles. Charles came to the United States in 1848. His ship landed in Baltimore. Her mother's maiden name was Elsa Vynchdoser (ph). She was originally from Rosenheim (ph), Bavaria.

5:20 Her grandfather was an opera fan. Her son has some of his original librettos. Her son lives in Vienna, her daughter in Munich. Lenore was born here and went to Europe when she was 26 or 27 in 1932. Her mother's family had stayed in Europe.

7:00 Her mother's family was not Jewish. Her parents marriage was met with opposition by her family: not only was she marrying a barbarian American, but a Jew! Her father was educated in Munich, he got his PhD from Richard Weilstader (ph), a Nobel prize winner in Chemistry. Lenore got her PhD from Vincent Delvino, also a Nobel prize winner in chemistry, at the University of Illinois -- she goes on to tell about her studies and her discoveries in the field of amino acids.

10:23 She had an older sister named Edith. Her father was a "free-thinker", not a traditional Jew. He became a Lutheran to marry her mother. The family joined the first Protestant church they came upon -- Episcopalian.

12:52 She's ashamed to say she didn't feel Jewish growing up. She didn't try to find her Jewishness until college, except that she identified with her grandmother. Her grandmother had lived in Frankfurt and Munich in pensions. She had told Lenore a story about how she had met a lady there who liked her a lot, and she was surprised because the woman knew that she was Jewish. Lenore goes on to talk more about this woman.

17:16 In 1933 Lenore didn't return to Germany until after earning her PhD in the states and getting a job in Philadelphia, studying

enzymes with an expert from Europe who had come over with two assistants. One of these assistants turned out to be her future husband. He was a German from Czechoslovakia, from Moravia. He was "very Aryan".

20:00 Women with PhD's were outnumbered by men at that time. There was no flirtation within the work place, women were mostly put down. However, in the Spring of 1933 she was engaged. The expert and his helpers worked in Philadelphia for another year, then they returned to Prague, and Lenore went with them.

22:18 Hitler had been in power only half a year, so people thought it was just a phase, and that things would soon begin to improve. There were about 650,000 Jews in Germany, but the big concentration of Jews was in the eastern European countries. The German Jews were more prosperous than the eastern European Jews, so they were snobbier.

24:04 Lenore and her fiance made a stop in Munich on their way to Prague. The political climate here was murky. There was a different type of anti-Semitism, mostly only among the street ruffians. At that time the Germans were just as disliked in Prague as the Jews because they had just separated from the Austrian Empire. Also, the Germans had the advantage in education and career and were resented because of this. There was a sentiment of "look at all the wonderful things Hitler is doing for Germany, why can't we do that here?" This is when the trouble began.

26:00 Thomas Gerig Maserik (ph), the first president of Czechoslovakia, wanted Czechoslovakia to be like Switzerland, but the geography of Czechoslovakia is concave, and that of Switzerland, convex.

27:15 Lenore's fiance suffered some prejudice for being German, at two separate universities, one Czechoslovakian, and one German. When Hitler came to power there were riots, bricks were being thrown. There were intellectuals who were chauvinist Czechoslovakian. You would fare better if, in shops etc., you tried to speak English first and then German, than if you started out in German.

30:50 You could count on at least half an hour wait crossing any borders.

31:20 In the 1940's, when Lenore was married, in Czechoslovakia her husband could not get a job because he was German, in Germany, he could not enroll in any study programs because she was half Jewish. Lenore did not directly experience any prejudice, but it was in the air.

34:01 Lenore's husband finished his doctorate and wanted to continue to work in enzymes. They went to Heidelberg so he could work under Richard Kuhn (ph), another Nobel laureate who was forbidden to receive the prize by the Nazis because he was not properly anti-Semitic. He later received the award, but without the prize money.

37:27 In Heidelberg, her husband's name was Franz. His family liked her because of her education. She loved the family's farm in Moravia. Later all Germans were to be expelled from Czechoslovakia, in boxcars, with backpacks, over to West Germany. Her husband's family lost the farm with no indemnity. That happened to 3 million Germans. They were also expelled from Poland and Western Russia. Her husband's family had been skilled farmers. In West Germany everything was scarce so there was some initial unrest.

42:00 You don't hear any complaints about this treatment from the victims to this day. Lenore goes on to discuss the difficulty of crossing borders.

43:00 The Red Cross was able to transmit a 25 word message each month to the United States. This is how Lenore communicated with her mother. At the end of the war Lenore finally communicated to her mother that she had been divorced, although it had actually happened a year earlier.

44:10 She had friendships with some American GI's although there were non-fraternization rules. The rules were ignored by most. Lenore still has an expired American passport.

45:12 Lenore had one conversation with an American nurse who couldn't understand how an American woman like Lenore could find herself living among Germans.

46:18 In every town there was the current issue of Der Stern (ph). Never once did she see anyone stop to read it, except her father -- the only Jew in town. It of course gave him no pleasure, but he was curious. It featured distorted caricatures of Jews.

48:19 There was no direct prejudice against Lenore in Aushbach (ph). She had three small children and she was provided with rations.

49:17 In Heidelberg they were in a scholarly community. The head of the institute was supposed to spout the party line. He made the gesture but didn't go any further. Everyone still thought of the anti-Semitism as a phase.

50:50 People in Aushbach would sometimes find out she was Jewish and let their friendships die. She handled this with no problem.

52:11 There was one row of mansion-like homes and a stone building with arched windows in Heidelberg. She was walking by this area when she was approached by a man who said he wanted to show her something. He took her into the building with the arched windows. She could see through the dusty interior that it was a storage warehouse. The man said, "This used to be a Synagogue. God will punish us."

54:14 Until that time Lenore could kid herself into thinking the anti-Semitism was just a passing phase. It was 1938 she and her husband discussed the situation and realized that it would culminate in war. Kristallnacht did not affect her in Aushbach, and she did not travel because of the three children.

55:42 They had a wonderful marriage until Franz met an attractive assistant. He came home every day to a frumpy housewife with children.

57:13 Franz was denied an academic career because of Lenore's ancestry. That did not affect the marriage, just the other woman. In 1941 the marriage broke up. Lenore felt threatened that she and her children would be shipped off by the Nazis.

59:15 Lenore met another half-Jew, Mr. Zimmerman, in Aushbach. The Gestapo came to get his mother, he had the town doctor intervene and say that she was too sick to be moved and so they left her alone.

61:35 Lenore had a document saying she had dual citizenship in Germany and in the United States.

62:49 Townspeople disregarded the Jewishness of the children, and they were not about to let them be orphans, so they all protected Lenore.

64:00 When Lenore first applied for dual citizenship she was issued a yellow paper with brown printing. There was a big "J" in the background. She said, "I can't accept this " to the official. She knew it would be her death warrant. So she put it on the table. She just stood there. She had come 10 miles by bicycle and couldn't bear the thought of the trip back. The man who had issued the paper said, "Try room 11". So she went down the hall and knocked. Sitting at the desk was a peculiar-looking man named Trumphaller (ph). He had bright blue eyes. She sat and poured her heart out to him about why she shouldn't be in Germany. About a year later she got a normal dual citizenship passport.

66:47 Franz was not pressured to become a Nazi. A Jewish co-worker of his had his house painted yellow during Kristallnacht and he was expected to have the paint removed at his own expense.

69:21 This man's wife had died before Kristallnacht.

70:49 In Darmstadt Kristallnacht was not as bad. Plenty of part-Jews survived without having to hide.

72:31 All the children were hungry because of the war rations, but Lenore also grew vegetables.

73:30 There was a black market, but Lenore did not participate.

74:54 Franz almost had to go into the military, but he was doing research so he was exempt.

76:33 The mistress lived in their family home because Lenore wanted the children to be near their father. Everyone had to take strangers in anyway because of the war.

78:00 Most of Darmstadt was destroyed. There were signs on piles of rubble listing those who had been killed, and people were laying wreaths.

79:00 There was one dramatic night when bombers flew directly overhead. There was a wall of flame about ten miles away that all could see.

80:36 In the early 40's Franz packed up and moved of. He was gone for 1 1/2 days, before he returned with the mistress. She had a black eye because Franz had hit her for trying to get him drafted.

82:00 They all knew that the Jews were disappearing and that where they were going was not any fun. The general impression was that they were being shipped off to work camps. This evolved into a year of duty for women, in someone's household. Lenore did a succession of those. She's on correspondence terms today with two of the ladies she worked for. They loved her and the children.

84:37 The serving was a positive experience.

86:08 Nobody realized that Jews were progressively being killed. Others, handicapped, homosexuals, were rumored to have been killed, but she didn't know for sure.

87:42 A man told her he had a camp in the country for soldiers who wanted to get away from the fighting. There were mistreated Jews there and he gave them money for pawning their belongings. When this was discovered he was penalized by being sent to the Eastern front. There his leg was shot off.

89:17 Lenore didn't really have any Jewish friends, but she could sense that more and more people were disappearing.

90:43 Medical care was difficult to come by.

92:34 Lenore's brother's name is Dr. Joseph Hollander. Her son in Vienna is Dr. Ehrhart K'hler, and her daughter is in Munich. Darmstadt is between Frankfurt an Heidelberg.

96:29 Lenore was in Darmstadt during Kristallnacht. She heard crashes, but did not know the extent of it till later.

97:50 Jewish businesses suffered. She knew someone who was in Dachau and bribed a guard to let him go.

1:01:00 in 1935 Everyone had known Lenore's father and knew he was Jewish so people knew she was part Jewish and basically overlooked it.

1:03:37 Germans were quartered in her house.
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