

INTERVIEW WITH STEPHANIE KRANTZ

HOLOCAUST ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

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MS. PROZAN: This is the interview of Stephanie Krantz for the Holocaust Oral History Project in San Francisco. Today is December 17th, 1991. My name is Sylvia Prozan, and assisting in the interview is Ilana Braun.

Q. (By Ms. Prozan) STEPHANIE KRANTZ, WHERE WERE YOU BORN?

A. I was born in Berlin, Germany, in 1923.

Q. WHAT DATE?

A. On July 6th.

Q. AND WHAT WAS YOUR FAMILY NAME?

A. My family name was Wieser, W-I-E-S-E-R.

Q. AND WHAT OTHER MEMBERS OF YOUR IMMEDIATE FAMILY WERE THERE?

A. There was my mother, my father, my sister and

myself.

Q. AND YOUR MOTHER'S NAME?

A. Ursula.

Q. AND YOUR FATHER'S NAME?

A. Bruno.

Q. AND WHERE WAS HE BORN?

A. He was born in (Tinapol) Poland, and my mother was born in Berlin.

Q. AND HER MAIDEN NAME?

A. Her maiden name was Neumann. Neumann.

Q. SPELLED?

A. N-E-U-M-A-N-N.

Q. AND WHERE DID THEY MEET?

A. I really don't know. They met in Berlin.

Q. AND WHEN DID THEY GET MARRIED?

A. They got married in 1918. No, that can't be right. Yes, 1918.

Q. WHERE DID YOU LIVE?

A. Where did we live?

Q. WELL, HOW OLD WAS YOUR DAD WHEN HE GOT MARRIED, DO YOU KNOW?

A. He was 39, I believe.

Q. DO YOU KNOW IF HE PARTICIPATED IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR?

A. No. Do you want me to talk more?

Q. OH, YES. KEEP TALKING.

A. My father was born in Poland Austria at the border, and it was one of these places that kept switching between Poland and Austria. I think his father died when he was quite young. And my grandmother remarried, and I think his stepfather adopted him. He had a number of sisters or half-sisters and half-brothers, and one sister from the first husband. And he was -- I think he left home very young and went to Vienna to study dentistry with an uncle. He was an apprentice and he studied dentistry in Vienna. I think there were too many women in the household for him. He just wanted to get out and be his own man. And he must have left at age 14, maybe, or even younger.

Q. THAT'S VERY YOUNG.

A. Mm-hmm. And he went to Vienna and finished his studies. And then he went to Hamburg and studied some more and was apprentice to someone there. And then I guess he came to Berlin. He brought over his mother and his sister and set them up in a place to live. It was a combination of his practice and their -- his mother lived in an apartment which was part of his office. And then he got married. He did all this

before he got married.

Q. AND WHAT ABOUT YOUR MOTHER'S FAMILY?

A. My mother was an only child. Her father was born in a town called Chernobyl or something like that. I have it here, and I don't really know where it is. I think it's in East Prussia. That's where he came from. He and his wife settled in Berlin, and I don't know very much about them.

I knew my grandfather very well on my mother's side, and my grandmother died when I was maybe five years old. I don't remember her too much. So my mother was raised in Berlin and was very German, very German. She was what you would imagine a German upper middle class person to look, very dignified.

Q. HELP ME. HOW CAN YOU DESCRIBE THAT? VERY PROPER?

A. I wouldn't say that so much, but very -- well, there is something special about that part of Germany, I think. And Berlin people are, I would say, very matter-of-fact and no-nonsense people, if you know what I mean. She was a very handsome woman and she never worked in Germany, was fairly well off, and I guess my father fell in love with her.

Q. AND HOW OLD WAS SHE WHEN SHE MARRIED?

A. She was 11 years younger, so she must have been 29. I may be wrong about the ages. I guess I could figure it out from when she was born, but let's just say she was 29 and he was 38 or maybe she was 27 and he was 38.

Q. AND WHEN WAS YOUR SISTER BORN?

A. My sister was born shortly after they married in '19, I guess, and I was born in '23. Yes. I was four years younger.

Q. WHAT CAN YOU REMEMBER ABOUT WHERE YOU LIVED?

A. Well, we first lived in an area that was a busy area closer to the downtown area. It was closer to my dad's office. And there were many shops, and we lived on the fourth floor. This was during sort of after the Depression, too, I think, and they got married during the Depression and so their first place was not grand. It was a nice apartment. There was no elevator, of course. I remember climbing up the stairs a lot and walking to school, which wasn't too far, maybe 15 minutes. And we lived there maybe four years, until I was ten or nine. It was a nice apartment with a large balcony, and it was a pleasant place. I remember we had a grand piano and we played under it a lot.

Q. OKAY. YOU SAID DEPRESSION. THE GERMAN

DEPRESSION WOULD HAVE BEEN--

A. Well, it was an inflation, really. Money meant nothing. People papered their walls with money. Money had lost all value, and it was like it is here now. No employment -- I mean, no, it was much worse, much worse. It happened after the war. And I guess people were selling pencils on the streets, just like here during the Depression. And that's when Hitler became or started becoming powerful.

Q. CAN YOU REMEMBER MONEY BEING A PROBLEM WHILE YOU WERE VERY YOUNG?

A. No. No.

Q. YOUR FATHER HAD HIS PRACTICE?

A. Yes. Yes.

Q. WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER ABOUT THE SCHOOL?

A. Well, it was a typical German school, very strict, and the Nazi thing started very early. By the time I started school, it was 1929, I guess.

Q. YOU WERE SIX YEARS OLD?

A. Mm-hmm. And at that time, there were plenty of Nazis already and the teacher was a Nazi and many of the kids were Nazis.

Q. WHAT'S YOUR FIRST MEMORY OF BEING CONFRONTED WITH THAT?

A. Just strangeness and discomfort.

Q. WHAT KIND OF JEWISH IDENTITY OR JEWISH FEELING DID YOU HAVE?

A. Well, my friends were all Jewish, and I can point out to you the friends in the class. There were maybe six Jews, and they were my friends.

Q. WERE YOU PART OF A LARGE JEWISH COMMUNITY?

A. Mm-hmm. We belonged to a temple, which was a very nice temple. It was something like Temple Emmanuel. It was not orthodox and it wasn't reform. It was conservative. The rabbi was Prince (Yoham Prince), who you've probably heard of; maybe not. He later became -- he went to Israel and I think he was the head of -- I forget which organization, but a large, important -- I don't remember. He became a very important person in Israel. We loved him, and we went to services mostly on the high holidays. My father sat downstairs and the women sat upstairs. And it was very pleasant. I enjoyed it.

Q. WAS THERE SOMETHING LIKE A SUNDAY SCHOOL THERE FOR CHILDREN?

A. Yes. Yes. I had religious education in Sunday school, and I also had a private religious tutor who came to our house. That came later.

Q. OH, OKAY. DO YOU REMEMBER HOW LARGE YOUR RELIGIOUS SCHOOL WAS OR YOUR CLASS WAS?

A. I would say like here, like Beth (Shoman). Maybe 15 or so in the class.

Q. CAN YOU ESTIMATE HOW LARGE THE TEMPLE WAS?

A. It was a pretty large temple. How many families, maybe 500 families at least.

Q. WHAT DID THE BUILDING LOOK LIKE?

A. I don't remember. It was a nice building, very imposing, very imposing. That's why sort of Temple Emmanuel strikes a memory. It was along that line.

Q. DID YOU CELEBRATE--

A. And they had an organ, for instance. So I think it was maybe closer to reform than you would consider. In this country, reform and conservative are more -- there is more of a difference, I think. In Germany, it was not quite as distinct a difference.

Q. CAN YOU REMEMBER ANYTHING ABOUT YOUR RELIGIOUS SCHOOL CLASSMATES?

A. No, nothing.

Q. DID YOU CELEBRATE HOLIDAYS AT HOME?

A. Oh, yes. We did always.

Q. WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER ABOUT PASSOVER?

A. Oh, great.

Q. WERE YOUR GRANDMOTHERS THERE AT THE SEDER?

A. Well, my--

Q. DID YOU NEED TO STOP?

A. Yes.

(Pause)

The whole family came, which included my grandfather on my mother's side and my grandmother on my father's side, who were very different. My grandfather was a proper Prussian, an upright man, handsome. My grandmother was from Poland. She was kosher, which we were not, so she had to bring her own things.

Q. HOW DID SHE MANAGE WITH THAT? DID SHE COOK?

A. She cooked her own food and brought that herself, because she didn't trust -- she didn't quite trust our cooking. And she brought her own dishes, I think. I don't remember. But I think my cousin came, also, and her brother and family usually. So it was a big crowd.

Q. ON WHICH SIDE WAS THE COUSIN -- OH, ON YOUR FATHER'S SIDE?

A. That was my father's side.

Q. YOUR AUNT'S CHILD?

A. My aunt's two children, yes, who later went to Lima, Peru. And my uncle, who was also a dentist, and

he came from Romania.

Q. ROMANIA?

A. Mm-hmm.

Q. ALL RIGHT. YOU MENTIONED YOUR FATHER'S STEPSISTERS?

A. Yes. Yes.

Q. HOW MANY WERE THERE?

A. I don't know. All I know is there is one sister.

Q. AND BROTHERS?

A. This sister that he brought over. No, no brothers. The sister that he brought over. He brought a sister and mother over, and then she married this Romanian person, and he was my uncle.

Q. SO EVERY YEAR, THEY CAME?

A. Every year, they came. And every year, we had a very nice Passover.

Q. YOUR FATHER CONDUCTED IT?

A. And singing, and my father conducted it in Hebrew.

Q. SO AS A CHILD, YOU CAN REMEMBER THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN YOUR PRUSSIAN GRANDFATHER AND YOUR POLISH GRANDMOTHER?

A. Oh, yes, very much. I don't know how Prussian

he was. I think he originally came from someplace other than Prussia, but he had this, you know, the bearing, the German uprightness.

Q. WHAT OTHER HOLIDAYS DO YOU REMEMBER?

A. Hanukkah and Purim. Purim and Hanukkah. And we didn't celebrate Christmas.

Q. DID OTHER JEWS CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS?

A. Not among our friends too much, really. Not as much as in San Francisco, I don't think.

Q. DID YOU HAVE THE DISTINCT FEELING THAT YOU WERE JEWISH--

A. Yes.

Q. -- RATHER THAN BEING ASSIMILATED?

A. Definitely, mm-hmm. Absolutely.

Q. AND PART OF A LARGE JEWISH COMMUNITY?

A. Large? No, not large. Just a community of people who were separate and not quite as German as the rest of the Germans, and particularly for me because of my Polish mixture.

Q. WOULD THERE BE ANYTHING IN YOUR NAME THAT WOULD SET YOU OFF AS NOT GERMAN?

A. No. My father had a Jewish name -- well, no. He changed his name when he came to Berlin or to Hamburg to Bruno. I think his original name was (Hiam or

Bernard Hiam). And I guess he changed it to Bruno because it was not easy, I guess, to have a really Jewish name in Germany, although he never hid his Jewishness. Neither did my mother.

Q. WHAT IS YOUR FIRST MEMORY OF SCHOOL?

A. Well, it's very hard, you know, to remember details. I really don't remember too many details. All I remember is a very strict teacher and the beginning of a Nazi feeling among the children, even the children, and also the teachers and remarks, but I can't remember details. It was just sort of an oppressive kind of feeling.

Q. IS THERE ANY SPECIFIC REMARK?

A. No, I don't remember anything like -- well, there were remarks, but I don't remember them.

Q. ANY SPECIFIC THING THAT A FELLOW STUDENT MIGHT HAVE SAID TO YOU?

A. Well, this was still before the Hitler time, you know, and I don't remember anything in detail.

Q. BUT YOU HAD THOUGHTS ABOUT BEING DIFFERENT?

A. Oh, yes, I had thoughts about being different, and I was with my friends who were all Jewish.

Q. HOW MANY JEWISH PEOPLE DO YOU REMEMBER?

A. I think there were six in my class.

Q. IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL?

A. In my grade school class, mm-hmm, and then of course we had other friends, too.

Q. DO YOU REMEMBER ANYTHING ABOUT YOUR JEWISH FRIENDS IN SCHOOL?

A. I remember. Yes, I remember them very well.

Q. WHAT CAN YOU TELL US?

A. We had birthday parties, you know. We had fun together. We played and we did the things children do. We had the social life. My parents and their parents were friends.

Q. DO YOU REMEMBER ANY DISCUSSIONS IN YOUR HOME ABOUT BEING JEWISH OR FEELINGS YOU MAY HAVE HAD?

A. No. It was just there. Are you asking me whether I felt ashamed of being Jewish? No. No.

Q. NO. JUST YOUR FEELINGS. WE HAVE A PICTURE HERE. I DON'T KNOW IF ANYTHING CAME OUT.

A. I don't think anything came out. It was--

Q. THERE IS NOBODY YOU REMEMBER?

A. I don't remember. I don't remember.

Q. LET ME SEE IF THERE IS ANYTHING ABOUT BIRTHDAY PARTIES THAT YOU WOULD REMEMBER?

A. No.

Q. IN YOUR HOME, WHEN IS THE FIRST TIME THAT YOU

CAN RECALL THE SUBJECT OF ANTI-SEMITISM COMING UP?

A. Oh, I don't remember things like that.

Q. YOU DIDN'T EVEN HAVE THAT NAME?

A. Oh, sure.

Q. IN CHURCH OR--

A. Well, I think it came up later, really, around the time that Hitler came to power because that's when it started affecting us more.

Q. WHAT IS YOUR FIRST RECOLLECTION OF KNOWING THAT HE WAS COMING IN POWER?

A. Well, I was ten years old and I was well aware of what was going on. And when he was -- in 1933, he was elected or appointed elected; and it was frightening already. It was really a frightening -- the beginning of a very frightening time.

In Germany, children, I suppose you know this, changed schools at age ten. And we had moved at that point to another apartment in a different area, in a nice suburban area. And I was to go to this high school which was on the west end of town. And it was called (West End Shuler), and I was looking forward to it. I started there for one month, and Hitler had already then declared at that point that Jews could not go to public schools. Only 1 percent of the population of the school

could be Jewish. I believe that's what it was, and I was above that 1 percent that registered. I don't remember, or maybe no one could. I don't remember just how it worked.

But anyway, I had to leave that school instantly after about three weeks or a month in the school. And you had to prove that you had some non-Jewish blood in your family, grandparents or something, and then maybe you could stay. Well, we didn't. I was put in a Jewish school, which was very elegant, small, private, in a lovely suburb in sort of a mansion kind of a house. And I didn't like it. I did not like it. And I changed after several weeks to a Catholic school which was more of a -- this place was more like a country club. It was just not my kind of place. I didn't feel I could learn enough there. So I changed to another school which was a small Catholic school, and that's where I went to high school until they made the -- they closed the Catholic schools.

Q. DO YOU REMEMBER THE NAME OF THE CATHOLIC SCHOOL?

A. Mm-hmm. Sure.

Q. WHAT WAS IT?

A. The Jewish school was run by a woman called

Lesler, and it was called Frau Lesler School. And the other was . It was run by nuns and it was a nice school. It had about 200 students, I think. It was small.

Q. HOW MANY STUDENTS HAD BEEN IN THE JEWISH SCHOOL?

A. It was very small. It was maybe a hundred.

Q. AND HOW MANY STUDENTS IN THE SCHOOL YOU HAD TO LEAVE?

A. Oh, that was a large high school. Maybe 500 or a thousand.

Q. AND THE NAME OF THAT HIGH SCHOOL?

A. West End Shuler.

Q. AND THE SUBURB WHERE YOU LIVED?

A. And that was very close to where the Olympic stadium later was built in the west of town near Potsdam.

Q. AND YOUR SUBURB, THE NAME OF YOUR SUBURB?

A. Well, it wasn't really a suburb. We lived on a street called Kaiser Allee, which was later changed to -- it was very, very wide. (Kaiserdom), I think. It was a very, very wide street like in Paris, you know, huge wide, wide street with trees down the center. And it was far enough away from the center of town so there

was some woods like a forest. And on the other side, it was still not built up, and it was residential. It was like Seacliff.

Q. DO YOU REMEMBER THE ADDRESS?

A. 51 (Kaiserdom). 51, yes. And that was a beautiful apartment. We had a lovely place, a really lovely place and I remember it well.

Q. WHAT WAS THE SIZE OF THE APARTMENT?

A. Very large. My sister and I had one room, and then there was another room next to it that was sort of a study, and then there was what they call a salon with a piano and, you know, this was like a sitting room. And then there was a dining room and sort of a sunroom and several bedrooms and a kitchen. Very large rooms, I remember. And we had a governess that lived with us who was Catholic and who came to us when I was three, and there was another room for her. And later on, we had someone, an English lady, living with us because we needed to learn English, so she also lived there.

Q. SO THERE WERE TWO LIVING THERE?

A. Mm-hmm -- no. At that point, our governess, who I was very, very close to, had to move out because she was Aryan and we were Jewish. And she was of the age that it was not proper for her to live in the same

house.

Q. WHAT WAS HER NAME?

A. Elly, E-L-L-Y. (Schrader) was her last name.

Q. AND DO YOU RECALL HOW OLD YOU WERE WHEN SHE MOVED?

A. She didn't move. She lived in the same building. She just moved upstairs to some small tiny apartment.

Q. DID YOU HAVE CONTACT WITH HER?

A. Oh, yes. She was actually my father's -- later, when we didn't need her as governess, she became my father's assistant in his office.

Q. BUT SHE COULDN'T LIVE WITH YOU?

A. No. No. That was not allowed.

Q. DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN THAT WAS?

A. Maybe '36. Around '36.

Q. AND THE NAME OF THE ENGLISH PERSON?

A. I don't remember.

Q. DID YOU LEARN ENGLISH?

A. A little bit.

Q. AND IN SCHOOL, YOU SPOKE IT?

A. Yes.

Q. WHICH SCHOOL?

A. French. At first French, and then later

English. Of course, the Catholic school ended, also. Let's see, when did that end? In 1937, I think, the Catholic schools also were closed by Hitler. And I went again to a Jewish school, a different Jewish school. And that was when we were preparing to leave the country. And in that school, most of the subjects were taught in English, and English was emphasized.

Q. WELL, AT THE AGE OF TEN, WHERE YOU WENT TO THREE SCHOOLS IN THE COURSE OF A YEAR, DID YOU SAY THAT?

A. Mm-hmm.

Q. DID YOU HAVE ANY FEAR OR CONCERN?

A. Yeah, I think so. I think it was very hard going from one school to another.

Q. IN THE CATHOLIC SCHOOL, WERE THERE MANY OTHER JEWISH CHILDREN?

A. No. Two. There were two in the class. There were two. And the class was rather small, I think maybe 24. Two other Jewish children, and those were my friends.

Q. DID YOU FEEL ANY KIND OF DISCRIMINATION?

A. Mm-hmm. Yes, very much so.

Q. WHAT CAN YOU REMEMBER ABOUT THAT?

A. Well, there were actually fist fights and remarks. And some teachers were Nazis. Some were not.

Some were. There was one very outspoken teacher who was anti-Nazi.

Q. WHO WAS THAT TEACHER?

A. I am embarrassed.

Q. CAN YOU REMEMBER ANYTHING ELSE?

A. No. No. I mean I am embarrassed about all this crying.

Q. CAN YOU REMEMBER ANYTHING ABOUT THE TEACHER?

A. Mm-hmm. He was -- let me -- is it very hard to keep turning it on and off?

MS. SOSNA: Anything you want. Would you like to stop for a minute, or would you like to continue?

MRS. KAPLAN: I would rather talk about something else. What happened was that these other two Jewish friends--

Q. (By Ms. Prozan) SOMETHING HAPPENED WITH YOUR FRIENDS?

A. This is very silly. No. We were very close, the three of us, and we were sort of an island.

(Pause)

-- very foolishly outspoken and said many things that probably could have killed him. It could have easily, if someone had reported him and taken him

to concentration camp. And I really don't know what happened to him later. He was a music teacher.

Q. WERE THESE OUTSPOKEN WORDS IN CLASS?

A. In class, yes. He was not at all afraid to speak.

Q. DO YOU REMEMBER HIS NAME?

A. Doeblner, D-O-E-B-L-E-R. And he was, I think, very helpful to Jews later on.

Q. HOW SO?

A. One of my friends who was in this book hid in his house for a while when she went underground.

Q. WHEN HE SAID THESE THINGS IN CLASS OR IN SCHOOL, WAS IT A RESPONSE TO SOMETHING SOMEONE ELSE SAID OR SPONTANEOUS?

A. Spontaneous. Spontaneous. It just poured out of him. And there were many teachers who were the opposite, that spontaneously spouted Naziism.

Q. WHEN YOU SAY NAZIISM, IS THAT ANTI-SEMITIC REMARKS?

A. Just very pro Hitler and pro pure Germany and really gung-ho, gung-ho for the whole movement, but I don't remember anything specific.

Q. WERE THERE PICTURES OF HITLER IN THE CLASS?

A. Mm-hmm. Yes. I think that was a law. He had

to be. I would say the nuns, on the whole, were not bad, but there were other teachers, not just nuns, who were -- some of them were just very, very much Nazis. And the kids, too, wore uniforms to class and, of course, there was always the salute every day, morning, noon and night with every class.

Q. WHEN YOU CAME IN IN THE MORNING AND CLASSES BEGAN, HOW DID THEY BEGIN?

A. Well, first you had to salute. And we did not. The Jews did not. We never did, but everyone else did. It was just a normal way of saying hello.

Q. AND WHEN YOU PASSED EACH OTHER IN THE HALL, WOULD PEOPLE SALUTE THEN?

A. No, I don't think so.

Q. AND WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER CLASSES? YOU MENTIONED MORNING, NOON AND NIGHT.

A. Well, it was just the beginning of every class, I think we had to.

Q. THE BEGINNING OF EVERY CLASS?

A. Yes.

Q. WAS THERE ANY SONG THAT WAS SUNG?

A. Frequently, yes.

Q. WHAT WAS THAT?

A. You know, the Nazi songs. (Ufanaho) was one

of them. It was always sung with the other anthem, which was German National Anthem from before. They always did both.

Q. AND THE NAME OF THAT ANTHEM?

A. Duetschland, Duetschland

Q. AND THE NEW SONG?

A. (Ufanaho). To describe the things--

(Pause)

Q. DID YOU SING WITH THE OTHERS?

A. Uh-uh. No, we didn't. No.

Q. WERE YOU OSTRACIZED BECAUSE OF YOUR REFUSAL TO SING OR TO SALUTE.

A. No. I don't think it was expected of us to join in, not on these things.

Q. SO THE OTHERS KNEW THAT YOU WEREN'T GOING TO?

A. Yeah. Mm-hmm.

Q. YOU MENTIONED FIST FIGHTS. WERE ANY OF YOUR FRIENDS STRUCK?

A. Yes. I think the three of us had a fist fight once because of Nazi remarks because of anti-Semitism. I don't remember the incident, but it was the group of us, a group of three against, I don't remember, another group. But on the whole, it was a very creepy kind of thing, creepy. It might have been easier if I had been

older.

Q. WHAT ABOUT YOUR SISTER?

A. My sister went to a Jewish school. She went to that Jewish school that I didn't like.

Q. THE FANCY ONE?

A. Yes. She went there. And she was four years older, so she and I were not terribly close. Four years made a big difference in those days. And she eventually left school. I don't know. Let's see, I was 15 and she was -- when I left Germany, I was 15 and she was 19. So she had already finished school and she was helping my father, I think, in his laboratory. I don't remember about my sister's experiences.

Q. THERE WAS NOTHING, NO SHARED DISCUSSION AT HOME THAT YOU CAN RECALL ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED IN SCHOOL WITH YOUR SISTER?

A. Well, since she went to a Jewish school, I think she didn't have these experiences. In a way, it was probably much better for her.

Q. DID YOU SHARE THIS WITH YOUR MOTHER?

A. No.

Q. OR YOUR FATHER?

A. I don't think I knew whether I needed to share anything. It was all just sort of part of a life that I

didn't know any different.

Q. WELL, AT HOME, WERE THERE ANY DISCUSSIONS ABOUT HITLER?

A. Oh, I'm sure we must have had many discussions about Hitler, and especially after we started thinking about leaving and making plans. My parents were so preoccupied with that and making plans, they did not share all this with us. I was too young, and I'm sure they also didn't want to discuss anything that they might feel might get out somehow. This was all very dangerous.

Q. WELL, WHEN YOU HAD A FAMILY DINNER OR A SEDER OR ANY KIND OF FAMILY GATHERING, WAS THERE ANY TIME YOU CAN RECALL, BEFORE THE FAMILY PLANNED TO LEAVE, WHEN--

A. Well, my father was a very optimistic person, and he always felt that things would blow over. That was his point of view. He felt that this crazy madman couldn't last. And he was very well-liked in his practice, and even the Nazis liked him. Everyone liked him, so he felt less threatened than he should have felt. He felt well, it will blow over, it will all go away. And my mother was smarter.

Q. AND WHAT YOU REMEMBER HER SAYING?

A. Well, she was the opposite. She was a

pessimist, and she said let's make some plans to get out of here. And I don't think they discussed it too much with us children. We knew that we were all planning. All our friends were doing the same thing, starting to make plans, especially after 1936 with the Kristallnacht, which affected everyone, I think.

Q. WHAT CAN YOU REMEMBER?

A. About that?

Q. ABOUT THAT EVENT, YES.

A. Oh, we got a warning. We got a phone call. And I don't remember who called, but they said you better get your father out of the house, and there is something happening and there might be bloodshed and things are going -- something terrible is happening. And so he left. I think he rode the subway all night or something like that and just got out of the house and hid and then stayed with friends for three days who were not Jewish, of course. And it was very dangerous for them to do this, but they did it. And people did come to our house to pick him up, but he wasn't there.

Q. WHAT PEOPLE?

A. Oh, SS men. And then we just said he wasn't there, and they left. But that was the time when all the windows were broken, and it was a very

well-organized affair. That was the beginning of our real serious plans to leave. So then things quieted down again, and I think my father's practice continued with more and more restrictions. And I don't remember the restrictions.

We also had a maid who did clean the house and cooked, although my mother did most of the cooking, but the maid at that point could only be someone who was over 65 or something like that, because it was very dangerous for younger women to be in a Jewish household with a male, a Jewish male, present. So we had these old ladies who helped and who were probably Nazis, too. Some of it was quite comical.

Q. SUCH AS?

A. Well, just the worry of not talking in front of them, you know, keeping things secret. And I don't remember if we had help until the end. I don't think so, but that was the accepted way to live in those days.

Q. DID YOUR FATHER EVER MENTION ANYTHING ABOUT HIS PRACTICE THAT YOU CAN RECALL?

A. Well, I was -- oh, his practice, I was there many times. And I loved it and I liked his office. And my grandmother lived right there, and so I remember it with great pleasure. He had a nice, a very nice

practice and a nice office. And he went there every day and came home for lunch, took a little nap, and went back to work. That was the way it was done in those days. And he worked until about 7:00 and he came home. And we took vacations every year, summer vacations.

Q. WHERE?

A. We went to Sweden and Norway and Switzerland, and later we went to places in Germany. But we usually tried to leave the country just to get a little breath of fresh air. We went to Czechoslovakia quite a bit, to Marimba, and that was nice. In fact, we thought we would immigrate to Czechoslovakia. We decided between Portugal and Czechoslovakia, and luckily, we chose Portugal.

Q. CAN YOU REMEMBER ANYTHING ABOUT THESE OTHER COUNTRIES WHERE THERE MIGHT HAVE ALSO BEEN THE FEAR OF THE SAME KIND OF THING? WHEN YOU WENT ON VACATION, DO YOU REMEMBER A SENSE OF RELIEF THAT YOU -- (inaudible)?

A. Mm-hmm. Yes, very much so. It was just wonderful to leave the country. It was like a very good, very wonderful feeling of freedom.

Q. AND DID YOUR FATHER NOT BEGIN TO APPREHEND COMING BACK TO GERMANY?

A. Yes, I think he did, but there was just no way

just to leave. You had to settle things, you know, financially and every other way. You couldn't just -- I guess some people just left, but we just didn't. Some people left in '33. They were really brilliant people.

Q. DID YOUR FATHER'S PRACTICE DIMINISH CONSIDERABLY? WERE THE GERMANS STILL COMING THEN?

A. Still coming, mm-hmm, to the end. Oh, yes.

Q. NAZIS, AS WELL?

A. I suppose some, mm-hmm.

Q. BUT EVERYBODY KNEW HE WAS JEWISH?

A. Everyone knew he was Jewish, of course. And I suppose I'm sure he lost many patients, but others stuck with him because they liked him.

Q. AFTER KRISTALLNACHT, THAT'S YOUR FIRST RECOLLECTION OF PLANS BEING MADE TO LEAVE?

A. Mm-hmm.

Q. WHEN YOU FIRST LEARNED OF THIS, WHAT WERE YOUR FEELINGS AND THOUGHTS?

A. I was looking forward to it in a way, but I don't remember too much how I felt. I think I just took it as the thing to do, and prepared for it in a way.

Q. WHEN DID YOU LEAVE?

A. We left in '39. We left very, very late because we didn't get our papers together before then.

It took that long to get it all together. And we probably were one of the last ones to leave without great damage. We couldn't take our money. We did pack all our things -- which were never got later on -- and put them in storage because we were planning to -- we were planning to go to Portugal and wait there for our visa to the United States, which wasn't ready, and then send for our things. So our things were all packed and they were in Hamburg waiting. And then the war started, so all that was finished. It was lost.

Q. BETWEEN '36 AND '39 WHEN YOU ACTUALLY LEFT, ARE THERE ANY INCIDENTS THAT STAND OUT IN YOUR MIND?

A. I think I'm going to put on my coat, if you don't mind. I'm getting cold.

Q. OKAY.

(Pause)

A. -- Catholic school and I went to the other school.

Q. WHICH ONE?

A. The second Jewish school that I went to.

Q. AND WHAT WAS THE NAME OF THAT?

A. Goldschmidt. And I think all the students there were on their way out, hopefully planning to leave. We also joined a young Jewish organization

called (Derbunt), which was sort of a -- I think it was cultural. How come you know all this?

MS. SOSNA: From class.

MRS. KRANTZ: Really?

MS. SOSNA: Yes.

MRS. KRANTZ: That's a pretty good class.

MS. SOSNA: Well, I've done some reading, too.

MRS. KRANTZ: I remember they had their own theatre. A lot of Jews couldn't perform in regular theatre, so they had their own theatre and their own newspaper and their own everything. And we went to many of these performances. And they were very good, good theatre.

Q. (By Ms. Prozan) DID YOU HAVE AN INTEREST IN ANYTHING IN PARTICULAR, WHAT WE WOULD CALL EXTRACURRICULAR, MUSIC, THEATRE?

A. Yes, music and theatre. And I did a lot of this and spent a lot of time going to opera, not concerts so much, but opera and theatre, a lot of German theatre, which was the classics you learn. And this was probably before '36 or '37, between ages 12 and 14.

Q. DID YOU PLAY A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT?

A. I played, the violin, and I had a music

teacher who came to the house. I also did play the piano a little bit.

Q. HOW LONG DID YOU TAKE VIOLIN LESSONS?

A. Oh, about two years, I think, and then we left. And that was interrupted, among other things.

Q. WERE YOU STILL CONNECTED WITH THE TEMPLE?

A. Yes, I think we were. I think it got kind of difficult to go to temple. There were demonstrations and things. I think toward the end, the temples might even have been closed. I don't remember whether we went to the very end or whether that was difficult or whether they even closed them.

Q. WAS THERE--

A. Do you remember that from your history class?

Q. WAS THERE ANYTHING ELSE JEWISH THAT STOPPED?

I MEAN, WAS THERE A JEWISH NEWSPAPER THAT YOU GOT AND DIDN'T GET AGAIN, JEWISH STORES?

A. Well, I think there were just more and more incidents with graffiti and swastikas and damage to stores. And it just got to be more and more frightening.

Q. DID YOU EVER HEAR HITLER SPEAK?

A. Oh, yes. In person?

Q. EITHER WAY.

A. Oh, of course, constantly. You couldn't stop it. He was always on the radio. And he was a crazy man, absolutely. If you've ever heard him speak, he was hysterical. He was just awful to listen to. He would rant and rave and carry on. And the whole thing, of course, was always a spectacle. Everything was a spectacle. There were thousands and thousands of people and flags, and everything was carefully rehearsed.

Q. YOU HEARD HIM SPEAK IN PERSON?

A. No. I never heard him speak in person, but I saw him go by our house many times because during the Olympics, they constantly came by on this wide street. And the Olympics were kind of interesting because I remember doing a report on the Olympics, and there were a couple of -- a few Jews in the Olympics. I think there was a Hungarian fencing champion who was Jewish. And I think she got first, whatever you call it, first prize or first honors. And of course, all the Jews would root for her. And there was, of course, the American. Who was it? I can't remember. Owens. Was it Owens? Jesse Owens. And we hoped he would do well, and he did.

And so Germany, Berlin, put its best foot forward for the Olympics. It was all very grand and the

whole city was decorated with swastikas, and it was a big spectacle, and people came from all over the world. And it was just one of those things where they tried to impress the world, and they did.

Q. HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE BERLIN?

A. It's a beautiful city.

Q. WHY?

A. It was, I remember -- what I remember of it, it was a very pretty city, many parks, much green trees. I mean, it had its slums, too, but it was a very pretty and cultured city. Museums, zoo, good theatre, beautiful opera. It had everything, until the Jews left.

Q. WAS THERE MUCH DISCUSSION IN SCHOOL WITH YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS AT THE JEWISH SCHOOL ABOUT PLANS TO LEAVE?

A. No -- well, yes, I think there constantly was discussion about leaving, when are you leaving and what's happening and all.

Q. CAN YOU RECALL ANYBODY WHO WASN'T GOING TO LEAVE?

A. No. Some people got caught and couldn't get out in the end, but I think most people planned to, either planned to leave or -- I didn't know about

concentration camps. I knew some people disappeared. I don't think I was aware of the concentration camps before I left Germany.

Q. AGAIN, DID THIS TOPIC EVER COME UP IN YOUR HOME OR SCHOOL ABOUT PEOPLE DISAPPEARING?

A. It must have, but I blocked it out. I don't remember details. It's so hard. You know, you see these movies and you read the books, and it all gets kind of mixed up.

Q. BUT WAS THERE SOME MEMBER OF THE FAMILY OF A FRIEND OF YOURS WHO MIGHT HAVE HAD A PROBLEM THAT YOU WOULD HAVE KNOWN ABOUT?

A. I'm sure my parents would know this, but unfortunately, I really don't remember. I think things got really bad when we left and after we left.

Q. WHAT DID YOUR FATHER DO WITH HIS PRACTICE?

A. I don't know if he sold it. I don't think he sold it. No, he couldn't sell it. He just dissolved. He just packed up his equipment and closed.

Q. WHEN DID YOU LEAVE IN 1939?

A. We left in February, I believe.

Q. HAD SOME OF YOUR FRIENDS ALREADY LEFT?

A. Yes. Mm-hmm.

Q. WHERE HAD THEY GONE?

A. Well, I think my cousin went to Lima, Peru, about the same time, maybe a little before us, and her family. And another friend, my closest friend's father had left for the United States and was going to bring his family there later, as soon as possible, but unfortunately wasn't able to because the war started and they couldn't get out. And they are the ones who went underground and survived. That's quite a story, too.

Q. WHAT WERE THE PLANS FOR YOUR GRANDFATHER?

A. Grandmother. Grandfather died.

Q. OH, ALL RIGHT.

A. My grandfather died when I was ten. My grandmother was going to go back to Poland where she had some relatives. And I think she left after we did or maybe just about the same time. We did not take her with us because we couldn't get the papers for her in time, and we thought we would bring her over to the United States much later after we got settled from Poland.

Q. WHAT WERE THE PAPERS THAT YOU GOT?

A. We got a visa. You know, we had to get -- we were registered to immigrate to the United States. We had an affidavit from a friend of my father's, who was an old school friend from Poland. And we had to wait

for our number, and so we waited in Portugal.

Q. HOW DID YOU GET TO PORTUGAL FROM BERLIN?

A. We took a ship, a German ship from Hamburg.

Q. ON THE DAY THAT YOU LEFT, YOU TOOK A TRAIN FROM BERLIN?

A. I guess so. I don't remember that. we must have.

Q. DO YOU REMEMBER A LOT OF LUGGAGE?

A. Yes. We had these big steamer trunks, which was really all we ever brought out of Germany, since we lost everything else.

Q. AND DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT WAS IN THOSE TRUNKS?

A. Oh, just our clothes and a few pictures, and that's it.

Q. AND EVERYTHING ELSE WAS LEFT BEHIND?

A. Mm-hmm. Right.

Q. AND YOU GOT ON BOARD THIS GERMAN SHIP?

A. We got on board this German ship. And since we were not allowed to take money out of Germany, we bought first-class tickets so we could, you know, at least spend some of the money. And it was a very beautiful, elegant ship. And I don't remember much about it except that they had an orchestra playing at dinner, and it was very lovely. And everyone got

seasick and no one ever ate after that first meal, I think.

Q. DO YOU REMEMBER HOW LONG IT WAS?

A. And we got evening gowns for the occasion. I think we had, you know, to plan immigration. We sort of had clothes made for us or bought, because we didn't know if we could afford it later. So we had some extra clothes made. And I had this one evening gown for the ship and I was very excited about it. And oh, I forgot to mention that we also -- I also took dancing lessons. This was kind of nice when I was 14, maybe. Yes, between 14 and 15. We had this private dancing class which met at different people's homes, but of course all Jewish, all Jewish and a Jewish teacher. And it was nice, pleasant, my first introduction to men.

Q. WERE THE SCHOOLS CO-ED?

A. Uh-uh.

Q. IT WAS ALL WOMEN?

A. Girls.

Q. GIRLS?

A. All girls, but I don't think that was true of all schools. I think most schools were.

Q. THE SCHOOLS YOU ATTENDED?

A. Yes. Even most public schools were.

Q. HOW FREQUENTLY DID YOU HAVE THE DANCING CLASSES?

A. I think maybe once a week for a while. And it was a nice social occasion, and fun.

Q. WHERE DID IT MEET?

A. Well, different people's homes. It once was at our house and other people's homes. And it was very formal. Boys lined up on one side and girls on the other, and they would come over and ask you to dance, and it was fun.

Q. AND HOW DID YOU GET THE MUSIC FOR IT?

A. Piano.

Q. SOMEBODY CAME AND PLAYED?

A. Someone came and played the piano, or maybe we played records, too. In those days, you had record players. You had to wind them up.

Q. AND HOW LONG DID THIS GO ON?

A. Oh, I don't know. Maybe two months, three months. And I also learned to type to prepare myself for the immigration, you know, to learn a skill. I took some sewing classes and I studied English, all those things.

Q. AND WHAT ABOUT YOUR MOTHER, DID SHE DO ANYTHING SPECIAL?

A. My mother took a lot of trips. I think I didn't know this, but she went to Switzerland a lot, I think, to smuggle some money out and jewelry. We had close friends in Switzerland, and she went there. And it was dangerous, very dangerous, but she did it. And that was the money we had when we left. It wasn't too much, but it was something. What else did my mother do? I think she did most of the paperwork and the running to consulates and all this kind of thing and writing letters and applying for passports and applying for visas, and she did all this.

Q. AND YOUR SISTER?

A. And my sister, I don't know. She started seeing boys, you know, going out with boys at that age, but I don't remember.

Q. WHAT WERE YOUR THOUGHTS WHEN YOU SAID GOODBYE TO YOUR FRIENDS THAT DAY IN BERLIN?

A. Oh, I don't think we said goodbye on the very last day, but I think some of my friends had left and some were about to leave. And it was very sad. It was very sad.

Q. WAS IT A POSSIBILITY THAT ONE DAY, DID YOU THINK YOU WOULD RETURN?

A. Yeah -- no. No. Return, no. That was the

farthest thing from our minds to ever go back, no.

Q. SO IT WAS YOUR INTENTION NEVER TO GO BACK TO GERMANY?

A. Mm-hmm.

Q. WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER ABOUT YOUR GRANDMOTHER LEAVING?

A. I don't remember it. Maybe she left after we did. I don't remember saying goodbye to her.

Q. DO YOU KNOW WHAT CITY SHE WENT TO TO IN POLAND?

A. Krakow. And she was later -- I think when they invaded Poland, she and the family she was with, I think, tried to leave. And they escaped and she caught -- we found out much later that she caught pneumonia and she died on the escape route. So that was very sad.

Q. WELL, BACK TO THE SHIP. DID YOU GET TO USE SOME OF YOUR ACQUIRED DANCING SKILLS?

A. No, I don't think so. I think that came later. I don't think so. I was much too shy, first of all, and I was too young.

Q. DO YOU REMEMBER HOW LONG THE JOURNEY WAS?

A. I think it was about three days.

Q. DID THE SHIP MAKE OTHER STOPS?

A. No, I don't think so. It might have stopped

in Gibraltar briefly. All I remember is that it was very, very rough, a rough trip.

Q. YOU MENTIONED THAT IT WAS BETWEEN PORTUGAL AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA WHERE YOU WOULD IMMIGRATE?

A. Mm-hmm.

Q. DO YOU REMEMBER, BY THE TIME YOU LEFT, WHAT THE FEELING WAS ABOUT NOT GOING TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA?

A. Well, my mother looked at the atlas. We all looked at the, I think, atlas and we decided Portugal was farther away, so it was safer.

Q. WHAT IS YOUR FIRST RECOLLECTION OF PORTUGAL?

A. Oh, very exotic and exciting and different and strange and adventurous, and I enjoyed it.

Q. WHEN YOU GOT OFF THE BOAT, WAS THERE ANYBODY THERE THAT YOU KNEW?

A. No. No, but we soon -- my parents soon met many German refugees who were either settled there or who also were waiting -- is it getting colder in here -- who were also waiting to immigrate to the United States. So they met a circle of people there, and I must have had some friends, too. We all went to Berlitz school together, the four of us, and with the pride of the teacher, because our accents were much better than the Portuguese people's accents. You know, it's easier for

Germans to speak English than Portuguese. So we went to class every day and we lived very modestly, at first in a small hotel and later with a family, a Portuguese family, and rented a room, too, and then again moved to another family who was, I think, a German family who rented us some space.

Q. WERE THEY JEWISH?

A. Mm-hmm. The Portuguese people?

Q. NO. THE GERMAN.

A. Yes. Sure, of course.

Q. WHAT LANGUAGE DID YOU SPEAK THERE?

A. German, I think, and trying to speak English.

And my sister met her future husband at the time, who was also a refugee and who came to that house to sell pickles or something door-to-door. That's how he made a little money. And he came from Graz, Austria. She was 20, and he was nice-looking. And we left Portugal before she did because her visa didn't come through as quickly as ours, for some reason. I think she had a German passport, and we had stateless passports and our number came up sooner. So we had to make a hard decision. And since she was already 20 years old, I think we decided we should go and she should come -- it was a matter of maybe four or five months later, and she

did. And during those five months, she and her young man got very friendly, and then later they married.

Q. NOT IN PORTUGAL?

A. No.

Q. HOW LONG WERE YOU IN PORTUGAL BEFORE YOU GOT YOUR VISA?

A. Not too long. About nine months. And that was a very difficult time because we only had a one-month stay, I think. It was sort of from month-to-month. And we had to bribe our way to stay longer each month. And they said if you don't give us so much money, you have to go to some kind of a camp in North Africa. So it was always constantly the danger of being put in this camp. But somehow, we managed to bribe them along. They are very bribable, very much like Mexico. So we finally got our number.

Q. WELL, DURING THIS TIME, YOU SAID YOU WEREN'T ALLOWED TO TAKE MONEY OUT OF GERMANY. DO YOU THINK YOUR PARENTS WERE ABLE TO GET SOME?

A. Well, I told you my mother had smuggled some of their money across the border to Switzerland.

Q. AND HOW DID SHE GET IT FROM SWITZERLAND TO PORTUGAL?

A. Well, our governess came to visit us in

Portugal, and she brought it to us. She brought us whatever it was, jewels, money.

Q. DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT MONTH IT WAS THAT YOU LEFT PORTUGAL?

A. Mm-hmm, November. So we were there from February to November. And by that time, the war had started in Europe and all our things were finished, you know. We knew we wouldn't get anything. And we had very little money, so we took this Greek ship in third class, and we were somewhere in the engine room way down below. It was pretty awful. It was a very dirty ship, and the food was absolutely terrible. I think I lost 20 pounds on that trip. And they served it without plates. I think they just had sort of holes in the tables they put the food in. It was not much -- not very nice, but I don't think it bothered us too much. We were just glad to go.

Q. WHERE WERE THE STEAMER TRUNKS?

A. We took those. I guess we took them. But I almost got raped on that ship. I remember one day, one night waking up right in the engine room, near the engine room. It was very, very hot, although it was November, and I was sleeping with nothing on, just covered with a sheet maybe. All of a sudden, this

sailor was standing there staring at me and ready for action, I think. But next door in the next cabin was a Greek -- let's see, a Greek Catholic priest who came in and saved me. I must have screamed.

Q. WHERE WAS THE SHIP HEADED?

A. Hoboken.

Q. HOBOKEN?

A. Yeah. Oh, let's see, I think we landed maybe in South Hampton first and then Hoboken. No, I think it went straight. It went straight across.

Q. WERE THERE OTHER JEWISH FAMILIES ON THE SHIP?

A. Yes, mm-hmm. There were some, and I made friends with one person whom I later became very friendly with.

Q. BEFORE YOU LEFT PORTUGAL, DID YOU COMMUNICATE WITH YOUR GRANDMOTHER? WERE THERE LETTERS THAT WENT BACK AND FORTH?

A. I don't remember.

Q. AFTER THE WAR BROKE OUT, ALL YOU KNEW WAS THAT--

A. We didn't know anything.

Q. -- SHE WAS IN KRAKOW AT THAT POINT?

A. We just didn't know. We didn't hear until after the war.

Q. AND SHE DIDN'T KNOW WHERE YOU WERE?

A. No. Well, she knew we were eventually going to the United States, and she knew we were going to Portugal.

Q. IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE ABOUT LISBON AND PORTUGAL THAT YOU CAN REMEMBER?

A. I had my first job there. I was tutoring a young girl, maybe an eight-year-old, ten-year-old girl in German, and earned some money and became friendly with the family, which was an interesting family, a well-to-do family. The wife was English and the husband was Portuguese, so it was a mixed family. And I think the mother tutored us in English.

Q. DID YOU MAINTAIN ANY KIND OF CONTACT WITH THE FRIENDS YOU HAD WHO WERE STILL IN BERLIN OR WHO HAD LEFT? WAS THERE ANY COMMUNICATION?

A. There was one friend that I saw shortly after we came to New York who had already gone to New York. The other was the one who couldn't get away in time, whose father had gone to New York. He was a doctor and he went to New York, and we saw him shortly after we came. And he had lost touch with his family and was terribly worried that something terrible had happened to them. And throughout the whole war, he didn't know and

had no communication. And then after the war, they were found. They had hidden with some peasants way up in the mountains through the whole war.

Q. WHICH MOUNTAINS?

A. The Bavarian Alps. And they were lucky to escape that way. It was not easy, but they were Catholic, these peasants, and I think one was a school teacher and one was -- they had to hide. There were three people, two daughters and the mother. And they hid with three different families and had to stay in the basements where they couldn't be seen. And the only way they could meet was in the middle of the night, you know, when they were sneaked out of their homes and met someplace. And it was pretty terrible.

Q. AND YOUR OLD MUSIC TEACHER?

A. Yeah.

Q. WHOM HAD HE HELPED?

A. He helped this girl who later then just before she -- you know, Jews, we had to wear the stars and Magen Davids and sweep the streets. And they just decided one day to take off the stuff. They must have gotten false papers somehow. And they just got on a train and went to Bavaria. And I don't know how they got help there, but before they did that, she hid with

this music teacher for a week or more.

Q. SOMEHOW THEY ALL MANAGED TO ESCAPE?

A. Somehow they did.

Q. WELL, WHAT IS YOUR FIRST MEMORY ABOUT ARRIVING IN THE UNITED STATES?

A. I think we saw the Statue of Liberty, but I'm not quite sure. I may have just imagined that. Are any of you from New York? No. I think when you arrive, we arrived in New Jersey and I don't know if you pass it then. But I think what happens usually is that the ship anchors overnight or something and you get the papers straightened out, people come aboard with a lot of paperwork. And then the decision had to be made if we needed to go to Staten -- I mean, not Staten Island -- Ellis Island or not. And we didn't have to go. We went straight to Hoboken, I guess, where we landed and where my father's old school chum picked us up. And I saw the skyline. It was very impressive. And they took us to a hotel somewhere in Manhattan, a simple hotel, and it was good to be there.

New York looked pretty much like I expected it to. It didn't look as modern as I thought. I thought the United States would be very, very, very modern, very like Life Magazine pictures, you know, advertising

pictures, but it was dirty and noisy and a big city. I wasn't overwhelmed, because I came from a big city. And we settled in this German neighborhood called Washington Heights, which was, I think, maybe a mistake. And I went to class, immediately went to school, and the class was all German and I think even the teaching was done in German. It was really very strange, and I hated that. I didn't want that.

Q. WHAT DID YOU WANT?

A. I wanted -- let's see, I was 16 then. 16, yes. I wanted to be an American.

Q. WHAT WAS THE NAME OF THE SCHOOL?

A. George Washington. It was a big high school and right near the George Washington Bridge. And I don't remember much about it except that the classes were mostly German students. And I only went there for a short time because we didn't stay in New York more than half a year.

Q. WHEN DID YOU LEAVE?

A. I don't know the exact date, but we stayed there about a half a year, and then went to Chicago where we settled.

Q. AND WHERE IN CHICAGO?

A. First on the north side and then on the

southside. I went to school on the north side for the summer, maybe, you know, for the summer. And then we moved south and I went to another school, and that was my last year of school, high school.

Q. SO ALL IN ALL, YOU WENT TO HOW MANY HIGH SCHOOLS?

A. Oh, let's see, one, two, three. One, two, three, four. Four in Germany. Portugal, I didn't go to school. One in New York. That's five. Two in Chicago. That's seven. Seven.

(Tape interruption.)

Q. (By Ms. Prozan) OKAY. WAS YOUR FATHER ABLE TO PRACTICE DENTISTRY?

A. No. He was close to 60, unless I'm wrong. Yeah, he must have been close to 60. And he did try to study for the exams, but it was just too hard, English and everything else. And so what he did instead when he first came, he worked -- he had some factory jobs. I forgot what, making matzoh and cutting glass, various things. And then he worked in a dental lab until he was 70 or so. He worked very hard.

We also had enough money, just barely enough money to invest in a small apartment building. We took all our money that we had brought out and invested and

bought this small apartment building which we lived in. And the reason we did that was that we had the advice of a good friend who had already moved to Chicago and who was a financial wizard, and he had immigrated from Russia to Berlin, and then from Berlin to the United States. And he knew the ropes and he was very smart, and he said this is what you should do. And it was the best thing my parents ever did to invest in that because of what happened to real estate during the war. It was very good. And they sold the building at a good profit and were able to live more or less comfortably the rest of their lives.

Q. AND THIS BUILDING WAS--

A. This building was on the south side of Chicago and had 12 apartments, I believe, 12 units, and we lived in one of them. And I became, I think, the bookkeeper and sort of caretaker of everything because my parents' English wasn't good enough. Mine was better. So I dealt with the tenants and the janitor and kept the books and really did it.

Q. WHEN DID YOUR SISTER GET TO YOU?

A. She came about five or six months, four months later and joined us in New York still, still in New York, and then moved to Chicago. Let's see, yes.

Q. AND AFTER YOU GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL IN CHICAGO, WHAT DID YOU DO?

A. Well, I felt that I should go to work, and my parents said no. I did go to work for the summer. Yeah, I did go to work for the summer. I also worked while I went to high school. And I went to the junior college first and then the University of Chicago.

Q. AND WHAT DID YOU STUDY THERE?

A. Sociology, and finished.

Q. WHEN DID YOU FINISH?

A. In 1945, and then I had various jobs in the field, public housing and planning, and then got married and moved to New York and worked for the United Nations.

Q. WHEN DID YOU MARRY? WHAT WAS HIS NAME?

A. His name was Robert, Bob, which he had changed from Valna. His German name is Valna Werner, and he changed that. He came -- my parents and their parents were very good friends, and I knew his -- and his sister was one of my good friends in grade school. So we knew the family, and we knew them and my parents kept in touch with them. They lived in Boston. They came much earlier, in 1933 or '4, and settled in Boston. And the father was a banker from Berlin, well-to-do. I think they went to Holland first, and then went there. My

parents kept in touch with them. And when Bob was -- he became a soldier in the war and came to Chicago to visit as a soldier. He was stationed near there, and so we saw each other again, and we started writing each other during the war. He was in Europe as a soldier with the intelligence, and we wrote each other. And then he came back and I met him again several years later and, after going through various other men, liked him very much and we got engaged.

Q. AND WHEN DID YOU GET MARRIED?

A. In 1949. 1949. He had been in New York and was transferred to Chicago. And we married in Chicago and then went back to New York to settle there, and I got a job at the United Nations.

Q. AND DID YOU HAVE ANY CHILDREN?

A. Oh, no. Not yet. I waited. I got married at age 25. And the job was great. I really loved it, and it was too good to settle down and have children. So one day, we decided to take a vacation after three years there. And I really never liked New York. I never liked it in the beginning and I didn't like it the second time either, because it's just too big and too much stone. And we didn't live in Manhattan. We lived in Queens, which is not the greatest place to live. And

we were too close to our in-laws and relatives. And so we took a trip west and we decided to stay. We just stayed. We went to Los Angeles, and my husband had a friend there who had recently moved there, and he said why don't you stay. So we wrote his mother and said please pack up all our things. We're going to stay for a while. And I got pregnant. Took a leave of absence from the United Nations, got pregnant and started a family, stayed in LA. And why am I in San Francisco?

Q. WHY ARE YOU IN SAN FRANCISCO?

A. Because my husband died in an auto accident. And I was 37. This was ten years after we moved to -- no -- yes. Anyway, I had to start off from scratch.

Q. DID YOU CONTINUE TO LIVE IN LA?

A. Yeah. Mm-hmm, five more years. Five more years. And I went back to school. My children were four and seven when my husband died.

Q. WHAT SEXES ARE THEY?

A. Oh, they are both girls.

Q. AND WHERE DID YOU GO BACK TO SCHOOL?

A. Let's see, how did that go? First, I think I did some volunteer work at the hospital, at the UC Hospital in the psychiatric hospital. And that developed into a job in the psychology department part

time, and that worked out fine with my children. And then I decided to go back to school. I first went into education at Northridge, Northridge which is in the valley. And then I decided that wasn't for me, so I switched to library school. And I went to library school, and then I met my present husband.

Q. WHO IS?

A. Who was from San Francisco, and his name is Morris Krantz. And he was the cousin of a very good friend of mine in LA who said you must meet him and so forth. And so I met him. We had first a friendship, and then later a courtship, and we got married.

Q. AND WHEN WAS THAT?

A. In '65.

Q. AND WHEN DID YOU COME TO SAN FRANCISCO?

A. In '65, the day we married.

Q. WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR SISTER?

A. My sister. My sister married this young pickle salesman, and he became a buyer in a department store in Chicago. And it was a miserable marriage. She had three children. And he was a very nice man, but very, very weak. And she needed someone very strong because she was a very difficult person, and she is quite psychotic at this point. He died. And she is a

very, very sick person. I think much of this is due to Hitler.

Q. HAVE YOU EVER RETURNED TO BERLIN?

A. No.

Q. HAVE YOU ANY -- (inaudible)?

A. No. No. No.

Q. HAVE YOU BEEN IN TOUCH WITH ANY OTHERS OF YOUR SCHOOLTIME FRIENDS?

A. No. No. That's finished. I did try to keep in touch with these two friends, my two close friends. And one turned out to be totally boring, and the other I just lost touch with her, unfortunately. That's the one who escaped and hid and had this very interesting and horrible four years during the war, who eventually then came to the United States. And I did see her and we spent some time together, and then she married and she went one way and I went another, and we lost touch.

Q. WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR AUNT AND UNCLE AND COUSINS WHO WENT TO LIMA?

A. Well, that's interesting. They did all right in Lima. He continued being a dentist. And his son became a dentist. And his daughter came to New York when she was maybe 23 or so, because there wasn't very much of a future for her in Lima. And they really

wanted her to leave and meet a nice Jewish man, which she did, and I have seen her.

Q. There was another cousin?

A. No. There was a brother and a sister. The brother stayed in Lima and married a Jewish -- a German Jewish woman in Lima and raised a family there. And I don't know what happened with them, but his sister, who I was close with as a child, came to New York, married here, had a family. And we stayed in touch and we see each other, write to each other.

Q. HAVE YOU BEEN TO EUROPE?

A. Oh, yes.

Q. YES?

A. Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm. I love Europe. I feel close to it.

Q. HAVE YOU EVER BEEN TO GERMANY?

A. Uh-uh -- yeah, once just for about a day. It was less than a day. We were in Switzerland and we -- no, we were in France and very close to the German border, and we decided to go to the Black Forest for the day from Strasbourg. And we spent the day driving around, and we went back into Baden-Baden. And it was weird for me.

Q. WHAT WERE YOUR THOUGHTS?

A. Uncomfortable, unpleasant, very unpleasant.

Q. WHILE YOU LIVED IN BERLIN, DID YOU HAVE STRONG FEELINGS OF DISLIKE, I MEAN OTHER THAN FEAR, FOR THE OTHER GERMANS?

A. No.

Q. NO?

A. Some Germans, we had good friends. We also had good friends who were German and not Jewish who helped us, and we were very fond of them. But in general, there's something about the Germans that I dislike intensely about their personalities. And I don't want to generalize. I think I am generalizing, but it's just the Germanic personality is unpleasant to me, and especially the older ones. I think young Germans are somewhat different now.

Q. LOOKING BACK, WHAT DO YOU FEEL IS YOUR MOST COMPELLING MEMORY OF YOUR LIFE IN BERLIN?

A. You mean pleasant or--

Q. COMPELLING EITHER WAY.

A. Just my home, I guess. No. My governess. We did keep in touch.

Q. DID YOU KEEP IN TOUCH AFTER THE WAR?

A. Mm-hmm. She never married. Could I have another Kleenex? She never married, and she was a

wonderful person. I loved her. I loved her.

MS. PROZAN: Ilana, do you have any questions?

MS. BRAUN: Yes.

Q. (By Ms. Braun) GOING BACK TO THOSE YEARS '36, '35, '38, COULD YOU TELL MORE ABOUT HOW LIFE WAS? WHAT KIND OF ENTERTAINMENT DID YOU DO? DID YOU GO OUT TO PARKS AND SO ON?

A. Yes. We did a lot of Sunday walking, going taking little trips out of town, walking in the forest with my dad. My mother stayed home and cooked. My parents gave parties for their friends. I went to the movies with my friends. It was fairly normal, in spite of everything else.

Q. DID YOU EVER HAVE TO WEAR ANY CLOTHING THAT (inaudible)--

A. No. We left before that.

Q. IN THIS LAST TIME JUST BEFORE YOU LEFT, WHEN YOU WERE WALKING THROUGH THE STREETS AND SAW THE -- (inaudible) -- WHAT DID YOU DO?

A. Oh, turned the other way. You know, they had these boxes with these terrible hate newspapers on every street corner. It was horrible with all these caricatures of Jews, and I was just very frightened for

a child.

Q. IN THOSE LATER YEARS, WERE THERE ANY PHYSICAL INCIDENTS THAT HAPPENED TO ANYBODY?

A. No. My father was lucky on that one horrible day. He escaped. And I don't know of any -- he didn't tell me if there was anything. Nothing much happened to me except that one fist fight we had with the other children and name calling, you know.

Q. DID YOU CALL BACK?

A. I don't remember. Probably not.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ELSE THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADD TO THOSE YEARS IN GERMANY BEFORE LEAVING?

A. No, except that it obviously affected my whole life.

Q. WHEN YOU OBTAINED YOUR PAPERS AND YOU WERE GOING TO GET THE VISA, ON WHAT KIND OF PAPERS DID YOU GO TO PORTUGAL?

A. It was another -- it was a temporary kind of a visa. I forgot what they called it. It was a temporary thing like month-to-month waiting for the American. I think I even have it with me but, you know, it was difficult to get, but somehow we got it.

Q. DO YOU KNOW WHAT WAS THE THINKING BEHIND NOT WAITING FOR THE AMERICAN VISA IN GERMANY?

A. Well, we knew that we better get out of there as quickly as we could. We knew it was the last possible time to get out of there. And if we hadn't had a stateless passport, I don't think we could have made it.

Q. SO THE BEST WAY TO GET FROM GERMANY WAS THE PASSPORT WITH THE J ON IT?

A. No. It said stateless. I think maybe if it had been a German passport, it would have said J. But I'm sure it says Jewish somewhere on the passport or Mosaic, as they called it, Mosaish.

Q. AND IN NEW YORK, THE NEIGHBORHOOD WHERE YOU WERE IN WASHINGTON HEIGHTS, WAS IT GERMAN OR JEWISH GERMAN?

A. Jewish German. The other is called Jackson Heights, the German German.

Q. WHY CHICAGO? WHAT WAS THE REASON FOR CHICAGO?

A. There was a friend there. It's always a friend, you know. Immigrants always find friends who can help. And also to get away from New York. I don't think any of us really liked New York.

Q. ANOTHER QUESTION, GOING BACK, YOU SAID THAT YOU LOVED YOUR UN JOB. WHAT WAS IT, THE JOB AT THE UN?

A. Oh, I worked -- I did research in the

population division of the Social Affairs Council and worked with an Indian -- well, I worked with a small department, about 24 people, only two or three Americans. And it was just very nice, very international, and very interesting work. And I could have gone abroad to India, for instance, to participate in some research, but I didn't because I had just gotten married. And so I did everything -- I did my work there. But it was interesting work and I liked being in this atmosphere.

Q. IN LOOKING BACK, WERE YOU OR YOUR FAMILY ABLE TO RECOVER ANYTHING FROM YOUR POSSESSIONS IN GERMANY?

A. No, none. They were sold, I think, or stolen. Nothing. I think my father got a small pension eventually, you know, like most Germans did who lost a lot, lost their profession and they lost their job. He got a monthly something check. And I got, I think, \$1,000 for interrupted education, which was the standard thing. This is the way it was done.

Q. DID YOUR PARENTS EVER GO BACK TO GERMANY?

A. No -- yes, my father did go back, amazingly, on a trip. I think he went. I think he took that free trip that's offered to people. He didn't -- somehow, he didn't mind. Interesting that he could do it. Well, he

even visited some old friends, some non-Jewish friends, and the brother of our governess who lived there who was a close friend. So he was able to do it.

Q. DID YOU EVER SEE YOUR GOVERNESS AFTER THE TIME YOU LEFT?

A. No. She did come to Portugal for a visit. And after that, we just wrote letters. And I did want to go, but I just couldn't get myself to go to Germany. We were thinking of bringing her over here, and then we thought that was too hard for her. She had suffered a lot. The Germans suffered, too.

MS. SOSNA: Let's take a quick break.

(End of Tape 1.)

Q. (By Ms. Prozan) WHY DID YOUR PASSPORT DESIGNATION SAY STATELESS? WHAT DID THAT MEAN?

A. Because my father was Polish and he, I think -- I don't know exactly how it worked. We sort of resigned our German citizenship. We gave it up. And stateless was more in our favor for getting into the United States. There was a smaller quota in that category.

Q. IF YOU COULD HAVE ADVISED YOUR PARENTS, LOOKING BACK, OR ADVISED ANYBODY IN YOUR PARENTS' CIRCUMSTANCES ABOUT WHEN TO LEAVE BERLIN, LOOKING BACK,

WHEN WOULD THAT HAVE BEEN? WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE SAID?

A. When I was born. Oh, in '33, certainly.

Right away.

Q. IT WASN'T THE FEELING THEN THAT IT WOULD BLOW OVER--

A. Yes. That was the thing.

Q. -- AND WE HAVE OUR FAMILY AND WE HAVE OUR FRIENDS?

A. Of course. Of course. But now thinking back, it's very difficult to think back, you know, because we know what happened.

Q. WHEN DID YOU FIRST BEGIN TO HEAR ABOUT WHAT WAS GOING ON IN EUROPE IN THE HOLOCAUST CAMPS?

A. I think we must have started hearing about it when we were in Portugal maybe, but I don't -- I can't pinpoint that.

Q. BUT BY THE TIME YOU CAME -- WELL, WHEN YOU WERE IN THE UNITED STATES, WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER THEN ABOUT HEARING ABOUT THE CAMPS?

A. Then I think it became kind of public knowledge.

Q. AND DID YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER TALK ABOUT MEMBERS OF THEIR FAMILY, COUSINS OR OTHERS WHO WE MAY NOT HAVE TALKED ABOUT WHO WERE CAUGHT IN THE WAR?

A. Yes, but we had a very small family and there weren't that many relatives involved. We were worried about my grandmother. There were some other aunts and uncles who didn't get out, and we didn't know what had happened to them. During the war really there was no way to check on it.

Q. AND HOW WERE YOU ABLE TO FIND OUT ABOUT YOUR GRANDMOTHER?

A. The relatives wrote us. The people that had been with her wrote us what had happened. And thank God she didn't die in a concentration camp. She died from an illness on the way away from Krakow.

Q. THE FAMILY MEMBERS SHE WAS WITH WHO WERE FLEEING, DID THEY MAKE IT TO SAFETY?

A. Oh, I think what happened to some of them was that they were caught by the Russians. And one man was in the Russian camp. And they eventually went to Australia, some of them. And it's just, you know, people went. We did see these Australian relatives once maybe 15 years ago. They came here, and we saw them briefly. My new husband, whom I've been married to 26 years, comes from Russia, and many of his family were killed there, you know, in . He came when he was three and-a-half. He was very young, three

and-a-half.

Q. WHAT YEAR--

A. When he was three and-a-half.

Q. -- DID HE ARRIVE?

A. What year did he arrive? He was born in -- it must have been 1921. It was one of the last waves of immigration from Russia. And his parents were very religious, and his father was extremely religious. And they had a large, large family in New York and joined them and they lived in New York and he grew up there and he went to Jewish school and is fluent in Hebrew. He is not religious. I would say he is almost an atheist at this point.

Q. DO YOU FEEL YOU ARE RELIGIOUS?

A. No. Religious? I'm not -- I'm Jewish. I'm not religious, no.

Q. WHAT HAPPENS AT PASSOVER?

A. Oh, well, we like -- we celebrate all the holidays, but we don't go to temple. We don't pray. We don't observe the -- we're not religious. We're not members of the religious community as templegoers. We tried. Our children went to Hebrew school, and it just isn't part of my life.

Q. WHAT PART OF RUSSIA IS YOUR HUSBAND FROM?

A. He is from Minsk.

Q. AND HE CAME TO THIS COUNTRY WITH HIS PARENTS AND SISTER?

A. Yes, sister and brother -- no. I guess he was the only one who was born over there. The others were born here. And they were a very close-knit, large, large family, and still have many relatives and many, many cousins.

Q. WHO DID HE HAVE WHO WAS LEFT BEHIND?

A. Oh, I think many people in his family were killed. His brother had a twin brother -- I mean, his father. And they had a very hard time, too. I mean, worse than we did. Not he himself, but his parents in getting out of Russia, and that's another story.

Q. (By Ms. Braun) DO YOU TALK TO YOUR CHILDREN EVER ABOUT YOUR LIFE IN GERMANY? HAVE YOU TOLD THEM ABOUT THAT OR DID THEY EVER ASK?

A. Well, of course they know. They know what happened. They also know that we were very lucky.

(Tape interruption.)

I would never want to show this to my children.

Q. BECAUSE YOU ARE EMOTIONALLY -- (inaudible)?

A. No, because I'm emotional, because the story

is a very simple story. It's not a bad story.

Q. (Inaudible) -- EVERYTHING THAT WAS GOING ON?

A. True. And it was frightening, I think maybe because of my age. If I had been younger or older, it might have been easier.

Q. IF YOU WERE SPEAKING TO YOUR CHILDREN, WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE LIKED THEM TO KNOW?

A. Well, they basically know everything I told you, but they don't know that I was sad. My children, I don't want them to know.

Q. WHY?

A. Why, because I don't feel that I have any reason to. I think that my story is such a great lucky story. I'm glad that we got out, that I shouldn't feel this way.

Q. YOUR LIFE AND THE LIFE OF ALL OF YOUR FAMILY HAS BEEN CHANGED?

A. For the better, really.

Q. FOR THE BETTER?

A. Of course. We live in a good country, a more or less good country. My children are fine. Their children are fine. They don't feel anti-Semitism. I haven't felt anti-Semitism in this country personally. A little bit, but not much. And that's great. And my

parents escaped the concentration camp. So we were lucky. It's still sad.

Q. (By Ms. Prozan) WHEN YOU SAY SAD, OTHER THAN WHAT WE'VE COVERED, WHAT ARE THE SAD, SAD PARTS FOR YOU?

A. I think the good-byes, the cutting off of friendships and relationships, that's the sad part, and never seeing these people again.

Q. WAS IT A HAPPY CHILDHOOD?

A. No. It wasn't a childhood.

Q. WHY NOT?

A. It wasn't a normal childhood, because my parents were too involved in immigration, immigration and planning, and so were we. And there was a pall over the -- it was a scary childhood. It wasn't a feeling of a free and playful childhood.

Q. NEVER?

A. Maybe when I was very young, but from age eight, I mean, the handwriting was on the wall, and we could feel it and we could sense it. I think that one couldn't be one's self. You always had to pretend or hide or disappear in the woodwork. I can't explain it. The Nazis were -- it was frightening. It was just all around you. It wasn't a free, careless, playful kind of life. And there were many changes from one school to

another school, and friends leaving and parents worried about the future.

Q. BUT STILL IT WAS SAD WHEN YOU HAD TO BREAK IT UP?

A. It was sad, but I don't know. I don't know if I felt sad then. Probably not.

Q. DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT YOU FELT?

A. I think I just dealt with the next step, so I don't think I dealt with these feelings. I'm sure that's pretty typical, because it becomes a matter of survival, you know what I mean.

Q. STEPHANIE, I HAVE ANOTHER QUESTION WHICH MAY SEEM LIKE IT'S A CHANGE IN SUBJECT, BUT WHAT WAS YOUR NAME IN GERMAN?

A. Steffi.

Q. STEFFI?

A. Steffi. It was short for Stephanie. That was my name.

Q. THAT WAS YOUR NAME?

A. Yeah.

Q. OKAY. YOU NEVER HAD TO CHANGE IT?

A. No.

Q. (By Ms. Braun) GOING BACK, IF WE CUT OUT THE THINGS THAT WERE EMOTIONAL, WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR

CHILDREN TO LEARN FROM THIS VIDEOTAPE?

A. I don't think I ever want them to see that.

Q. AT ALL?

A. Huh?

Q. AT ALL?

A. No. I wouldn't want them to see me like this.

Q. I KNOW, BUT IF WE COULD CUT THIS OUT AND THEY
COULD NOT SEE YOU EMOTIONAL?

A. Oh, you mean if they couldn't see me? If they
could just hear it?

Q. YES.

A. I don't know what it would accomplish. It
might just depress them. And why should I put that on
them?

Q. LET ME ASK YOU WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU ENCOUNTER
HATE OR OFFENDING?

A. When I encounter it?

Q. YES. YOU SAID YOU DID IN FACT MAYBE A FEW
TIMES. WHAT DO YOU DO?

A. Well, I really haven't encountered it much.
You mean would I fight? Would I take action? I think
so.

Q. SO YOU THINK IT'S IMPORTANT?

A. Oh, yes. It's essential. But I'm not an

activist. That's hard for me.

Q. (By Ms. Sosna) I HAVE A COUPLE OF JUST KIND OF LITTLE PICK-UP QUESTIONS, THINGS THAT I THOUGHT OF.

A. Okay.

Q. YOU MENTIONED THE OLYMPICS?

A. Yes.

Q. THIS MAY SEEM LIKE A VERY SIMPLE QUESTION, BUT COULD YOU ATTEND? COULD JEWS ATTEND OLYMPIC EVENTS?

A. I don't remember that, but probably. Probably at that time.

Q. DID THEY BROADCAST THE EVENTS ON THE RADIO?

A. Oh, yes. Mm-hmm.

Q. SO YOU COULD TURN ON THE RADIO AND LISTEN--

A. Yes. Mm-hmm.

Q. -- TO THE ANNOUNCERS LIKE WE DO TODAY?

A. Yes. Right. They were movies, and newspapers would follow it.

Q. DID THEY HAVE THE NEWS REELS OF THE OLYMPIC EVENTS?

A. Yes. Of course, yes.

Q. YOU SAID YOU LIKED TO GO TO THE MOVIES A LOT. DO YOU REMEMBER PARTICULAR STARS OR MOVIES THAT YOU LIKED A LOT AND YOU WANTED TO SEE, FAVORITE MOVIE STARS?

A. American movie stars?

Q. ANYBODY?

A. Oh, I loved Greta Garbo, Shirley Temple, Clark Gable. The usual. Robert Taylor.

Q. OKAY. WHEN YOUR FAMILY WAS DEALING WITH THE ISSUES OF THE PASSPORTS AND VISAS AND ALL THAT PAPERWORK, DID YOU PERSONALLY EVER HAVE TO APPLY IN PERSON?

A. No.

Q. IT WAS ALL DONE THROUGH YOUR PARENTS?

A. Yes. Mm-hmm.

Q. NOW WE'RE GOING TO SKIP FORWARD TO LOS ANGELES.

A. Okay.

Q. WHEN YOU MOVED TO LA, WHERE DID YOU LIVE?

A. In the valley, if you know what that is.

Q. SURE. I'M FROM THERE MYSELF.

A. North Hollywood.

Q. NORTH HOLLYWOOD, OKAY. AND YOU SAID THAT YOU WENT TO NORTHRIDGE FOR A WHILE?

A. A brief time.

Q. A BRIEF TIME. AND THEN YOU SAID TO WENT TO ANOTHER SCHOOL?

A. Mm-hmm.

Q. I DIDN'T GET--

A. The Sacred Heart College. They have a very good library science department and good parking.

Q. YES. GOOD PARKING LOTS?

A. Yes.

Q. OKAY. AND MY LAST QUESTION IS WE DIDN'T GET YOUR CHILDREN'S NAMES.

A. Oh, Claudia and Julie, and my husband has a daughter Rebecca.

Q. OKAY. AND ARE THEY MARRIED?

A. They're married. They're all married, one for the second time.

Q. DO THEY HAVE OCCUPATIONS? WHAT DO THEY DO FOR A LIVING?

A. The one who studied the most is taking care of three little children. She isn't working. The other two are working, one for the Bank of America and one at the Washington Hilton.

MS. SOSNA: Okay. I think that's all the questions I have. Thank you.

Q. (By Ms. Prozan) THREE GRANDCHILDREN?

A. Four, at this point.

Q. FOUR?

A. All boys.

Q. DO YOU THINK THEY WOULD HAVE CURIOSITY ABOUT

THIS?

A. Yes. I think my oldest grandson is fascinated with the subject of Hitler. He is nine years old and going on ten and, yeah, he would find that interesting.

Q. WHERE DOES HE LIVE?

A. He lives in Danville. You know where that is? And we're very close.

Q. (By Ms. Braun) DOES HE ASK YOU?

A. No. I think he just knows that I came from that Hitler country. And I guess I should tell him a little more about it, but I don't know if it's appropriate for a ten-year-old to hear this.

Q. (By Ms. Prozan) WAS IT APPROPRIATE FOR YOU?

A. No, but I was forced into it. He doesn't need to.

Q. DO YOU THINK IT WOULD FRIGHTEN HIM?

A. No, because he loves horror stories, the bloodier the better.

Q. (By Ms. Braun) HAS ANYTHING ELSE COME TO MIND, SOMETHING YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE?

A. Not really. I think that's enough.

MS. PROZAN: Thank you very much for sharing all of this.

MRS. KRANTZ: You're most welcome.

(Tape interruption.)

(Going through photo albums and passports:)

MRS. KRANTZ: I don't know who that is. This is my father and his sister. Her name was Lola. And down there on the right is my father studying with a friend.

MS. SOSNA: That's a wonderful.

MRS. KRANTZ: Okay. This is my grandmother on my father's side, who was a very sweet woman. You can see from her face.

MS. SOSNA: She has very gentle eyes.

MRS. KRANTZ: Yes. This is my father here.

MS. SOSNA: On the lower left?

MRS. KRANTZ: Yes. And probably one of these men is the man who brought us to the United States.

This is -- I can't see too well from here. I'm not sure. This is my father, too, I think. This is my mother, and my mother and father shortly after they were married.

MS. SOSNA: That's wonderful. Okay.

MRS. KRANTZ: They were doing this training in 1917. I suppose it's in Hamburg. And this

is his practice in Berlin, and this is our -- my governess, who then became his assistant. My mother with my sister, and myself and my sister down here.

MS. SOSNA: Oh, look at that, a goat cart. That's wonderful.

MRS. KRANTZ: I don't remember where that was.

MS. SOSNA: Oh, that's great.

MRS. KRANTZ: This is on one of our vacations. I think it's near the ocean someplace. And my governess, who always made the same dresses for both of us. This is my future husband in this picture, my sister, myself, and his sister.

MS. SOSNA: That's great.

MRS. KRANTZ: And this is me, my father and my sister and I.

MS. PROZAN: Where was that?

MRS. KRANTZ: This was probably the same place as this, at the beach somewhere. And my sister's first day of school. And this was some kind of a little costume party. I was Little Red Riding Hood, and I don't remember what was my sister was. And this is myself and my sister. And both of us sisters later, a few years later, the first day of school.

MS. SOSNA: This is you?

MRS. KRANTZ: Me.

MS. SOSNA: Do you remember how old you were then?

MRS. KRANTZ: Six.

MS. SOSNA: Six?

MRS. KRANTZ: Mm-hmm. This is the way you carried your lunch, in a little bag, and the books in the back. This was my Nazi class and the Nazi teacher in grade school. This is me right here.

MS. PROZAN: Now, where are your friends?

MRS. KRANTZ: Jewish friends are this one, this one, this one, and this one, and this one.

MS. PROZAN: How old were you there?

MRS. KRANTZ: I would say about eight. These are some of our non-Jewish friends that we were very close with. And this is in the Black Forest, we once had a vacation there.

MS. SOSNA: Was the Black Forest like a resort, or was it more rustic?

MRS. KRANTZ: It's a whole area of the country that borders on Switzerland, and it's very beautiful.

MS. SOSNA: Did you stay in a hotel or

was it more like a cabin?

MRS. KRANTZ: A hotel. A hotel.

MS. SOSNA: Okay.

MRS. KRANTZ: This is my grandfather, the Prussian-type grandfather here.

MS. SOSNA: A very formal gentleman?

MRS. KRANTZ: Yes, he was very formal.

MS. SOSNA: Yes.

MRS. KRANTZ: And this is shortly before we immigrated. I must have been about 15. And this is my grandmother in Poland. I think this was one picture they sent us back after my grandmother left.

MS. SOSNA: I'm intrigued by this photo of the lady with the hat. Who is this?

MRS. KRANTZ: Oh, that's me.

MS. SOSNA: That's you?

MRS. KRANTZ: That was a party. It was really a farewell party. The brother of my governess, who we were very, very close and fond of, and my father, governess' mother, a friend of my governess, and myself and my sister.

MS. SOSNA: That's great.

MRS. KRANTZ: And this is the, you know, Marlene Dietrich.

MS. SOSNA: Yes. That's why it caught my eye. It's wonderful.

MRS. KRANTZ: And this was my high school class.

MS. PROZAN: At the Catholic school?

MRS. KRANTZ: With just three Jews in it.

MS. SOSNA: This is the Catholic school?

MRS. KRANTZ: Mm-hmm.

MS. SOSNA: Yes. And there are some portraits over here?

MRS. KRANTZ: This is my Jewish friend who was hiding during the war for four years.

MS. SOSNA: What was her name?

MRS. KRANTZ: Eva.

MS. SOSNA: Eva.

MRS. KRANTZ: The last name was Daln, D-A-L-N. This is my father's passport picture, I think. And I think this is my passport picture. It's always bad. And my sister and I. And this is my cousin who went to Lima, Peru, and who now lives in New York. And this is Portugal. The pictures are too small to really recognize too well, but this is the Portuguese family we stayed with, and the little girl and a couple of other children. This was the man that my sister later

married.

MS. SOSNA: Oh, the pickle salesman.

MRS. KRANTZ: And this is in Portugal in a very beautiful place. This is when my governess came to visit. Here she is. She brought us some money.

MS. SOSNA: There you go. She is the one that's standing?

MRS. KRANTZ: Mm-hmm.

MS. SOSNA: That's great.

MRS. KRANTZ: And my father is up here. My father was a very cheerful man. Even in this country, he never -- he always saw things from the bright side. These were the two -- this was the Portuguese family that I tutored. I tutored the youngest child. These are the older -- some of the older children. And this is Portugal, Lisbon, beautiful streets and mosaics on the streets. This is on a ship coming over here, I think.

MS. SOSNA: That's your father?

MRS. KRANTZ: This is my father. And this is also Portugal. And this is now in Chicago. This is the building we lived in.

MS. SOSNA: That's the one you owned, your family owned?

MRS. KRANTZ: Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

MS. SOSNA: It's big.

MRS. KRANTZ: Well, it ends here. I think the next building is attached to it. Maybe I think it was this and then it was attached. This is my high school graduation. My first boyfriend.

MS. SOSNA: Which one?

MRS. KRANTZ: This one.

MS. SOSNA: Okay. Wait just a second. I would like to get a shot of that. Okay. We need to tilt it up just a second. I'm getting some glare from the plastic. That's good. That gets some of the glare off. Okay. Go ahead.

MRS. KRANTZ: This is pictures from Chicago. This was during my university days, and then school, beach, parties, friends, friends. This was the other German friend that got to be so boring. We lost touch. And this is my sister's daughter, who I'm very close with now, this girl or woman. And this was -- I think the other one was it. This is my father and I. This is after I graduated from university. I was working, and then I joined the American Youth Hostel Association, and we took bicycle trips, which were lots of fun. This young lady here, I met when I had just

finished high school. And just about ten years ago, we met again. We sort of lost touch, and now we're best friends again. Another boyfriend. This is my first husband.

MS. SOSNA: Oh, let me zoom in on that shot. Hold that thought for just a second.

MRS. KRANTZ: Bob.

MS. SOSNA: That's Bob?

MRS. KRANTZ: Mm-hmm, here.

MS. SOSNA: Okay.

MRS. KRANTZ: That's a terrible wedding picture. The only one that came out, because he forgot to put a new film in the camera, so all the others got lost except for this one. This is him and me, my mother and father, mother-in-law. This is at the United Nations. This was my boss. He was Indian. Another man, a Greek man who worked in my department. These are other people from different countries who worked with me. These are pictures of myself and my first husband. Friends. My husband. My husband in the war.

MS. SOSNA: Oh, look at that.

MRS. KRANTZ: Pregnant, almost ready to give birth. First child. First child. Second child.

MS. SOSNA: Let's hold on that one for a

second. I would like to get a shot of that.

MRS. KRANTZ: Here. This is better.

MS. SOSNA: You like that one better?

MRS. KRANTZ: Yes.

MS. SOSNA: Okay. Great.

MRS. KRANTZ: I think this is already after my husband died -- no, maybe not. This is my husband's mother, and this is my husband when he was a little boy.

MS. SOSNA: He is a very stern little boy. That face is very stern.

MRS. KRANTZ: He got frightened with the camera. And this is definitely after their father died here. This is the United Nations, and I worked somewhere up here. And my children, this was shortly before I left LA and came to San Francisco. This was a man with a sailboat that I had a romance with shortly before I met my present husband. I belonged to a chorus. I played the guitar. This was my mother. She was working for the Red Cross. I think this is her. It's hard for me to see at this angle. That's me. These are too small to see properly. These are all too small. Okay. These are my nieces, my sister's children. This is my niece that I'm very close with

now. Her name is Susan. And her husband, whom she just divorced because he is a bastard, or he divorced her. And that's it.

MS. SOSNA: Great. Okay. The word "fremdenpass," you said, meant foreigner pass?

MRS. KRANTZ: Foreigner passport, yes.

MS. PROZAN: And this is for?

MRS. KRANTZ: For me, Stephanie Wieser.

MS. SOSNA: Okay. Let's flip it open and we'll get a shot of the inside.

MRS. KRANTZ: And here is the (stasloss) means belongs to no country.

MS. SOSNA: Okay. Let me get a shot of your photo. That's nice. Okay.

MRS. KRANTZ: This passport was issued in 1936, on December 13th. No. No. Actually, it says that would be out-of-date. It has to be extended this date, I think.

MS. SOSNA: Okay.

MRS. KRANTZ: So I guess I got it earlier, maybe the beginning of the year.

MS. SOSNA: Wow, the German eagle.

MRS. KRANTZ: The Polish stamp. These must be the extensions.

MS. SOSNA: Okay. Let's flip to the next page and take a look and see what's there.

MRS. KRANTZ: This is '38. So we we had another extension to December 1938. And here is one for 1940. This was extended in Germany or in Lisbon already.

MS. SOSNA: Okay. And then on this side?

MRS. KRANTZ: This is permission to stay.

MS. SOSNA: Difficult to tell. It's difficult to make out, isn't it? The stamps are blurred.

MRS. KRANTZ: It says is no good, no longer valid.

MS. SOSNA: That was probably right before you left to go to Lisbon, yes?

MRS. KRANTZ: Right. It says you can no longer stay there.

MS. SOSNA: Okay. Do you want to flip again?

MRS. KRANTZ: This one had to do with money.

MS. SOSNA: Yeah.

MRS. KRANTZ: '36. This is no longer valid.

MS. SOSNA: Let's zoom in right here and see what this looks like.

MRS. KRANTZ: October 6, 1936.

MS. SOSNA: '36. They're big on stamps. They stamped everything a hundred times, huh?

MRS. KRANTZ: Yeah. I don't know what that is. I can't make it out.

MS. SOSNA: Okay. Let's flip one more time.

MRS. KRANTZ: This was a trip to Austria. I think we went to Austria to visit some relatives again. So that was just a short-term visa to go to Austria. And this was another extension, I think. This is for going to Czechoslovakia. This is a visa to go to Czechoslovakia.

MS. SOSNA: Okay.

MRS. KRANTZ: And this--

MS. SOSNA: Difficult to tell. It's very old here. Yes. It's not clear. Okay. There's a lot of those stamps in there. I noticed three or four pages.

MRS. KRANTZ: This is just that we paid a certain fee. This is another extension, I think.

MS. SOSNA: There is a stamp?

MRS. KRANTZ: Another extension.

MS. SOSNA: Notice the stamps have changed a little bit. Now there's a swastika, a very prominent swastika. Before it was the eagle. Now it's--

MRS. KRANTZ: It's still the eagle.

MS. SOSNA: Yeah, but there is a more prominent swastika on it. It's difficult to see what that is. It says 13 December 1938. Hard to tell.

MRS. KRANTZ: I think it means we came (inaudible) --. That's it.

MS. SOSNA: There's a couple more pages.

MRS. KRANTZ: Only this one.

MS. SOSNA: It looks like Portuguese.

MRS. KRANTZ: Yeah, that's Portuguese.

MS. SOSNA: Consul General in Hamburg for Portugal, so this is on the way out?

MRS. KRANTZ: Right.

MS. SOSNA: Okay. And a stamp from Hamburg?

MRS. KRANTZ: That means we left on the 21st of February. We left on the 21st of February of '39. And this is a visa from France, because we landed briefly in Boulogne on the 22nd.

MS. SOSNA: On the 22nd, so the next day.
Okay.

MRS. KRANTZ: The next day, mm-hmm.

MS. SOSNA: And these are all of the
visitor visas, because they all say visto?

MRS. KRANTZ: Right. It's just
temporary.

MS. SOSNA: Right. So it's kind of a
month-to-month lease, as it were?

MRS. KRANTZ: Right, month-to-month with
bribery.

MS. SOSNA: This is good for traveling to
England.

MRS. KRANTZ: We must have been on our
way to the United States.

MS. SOSNA: It says visit of one month?

MRS. KRANTZ: Mm-hmm.

MS. SOSNA: And that's approximately--

MRS. KRANTZ: We got that from the
British Consul in Lisbon, but I don't think we ever used
this because I don't think we went through England. We
didn't use that.

MS. SOSNA: And interestingly enough,
you're on a Polish quota. Your Polish quota number is

1813?

MRS. KRANTZ: That's true. We were on a Polish quota.

MS. SOSNA: Is that because of your father?

MRS. KRANTZ: Right. My father was born in Poland.

MS. SOSNA: Right. So that's one way of getting an earlier visa number?

MRS. KRANTZ: That's right.

MS. SOSNA: Okay. And it has your immigrant identification card number?

MRS. KRANTZ: That's right. Mm-hmm.

MS. SOSNA: And this was issued in Lisbon?

MRS. KRANTZ: Right.

MS. SOSNA: Wow. This is great. Okay.

MRS. KRANTZ: North America. This is something to do with the ship, maritime. Maritime. The 14th of October. It must be some kind of a stamp to get you on the ship.

MS. SOSNA: Okay. And there is one up here. Let me see if I can get a shot of this.

MRS. KRANTZ: This is also something to

do with the ship. This is the name of the ship. It was a Greek ship.

MS. SOSNA: Mm-hmm. Okay. This looks like the last of it, and it's a stamp from Berlin, which is interesting. It's hard to tell what it says though, huh? Okay. Great.

(Interview concluded.)

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