

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:50,880

2
00:00:50,880 --> 00:00:53,660
Has anyone said how
wonderful you look?

3
00:00:53,660 --> 00:00:55,310
Camera roll nine.

4
00:00:55,310 --> 00:00:55,810
Continue.

5
00:00:55,810 --> 00:00:56,920
OK, thank you.

6
00:00:56,920 --> 00:00:57,670
Side three.

7
00:00:57,670 --> 00:00:58,710
[INAUDIBLE]

8
00:00:58,710 --> 00:01:01,350
I had a friend of
mine do my makeup.

9
00:01:01,350 --> 00:01:07,650
I usually do pretty good myself,
but this time I [INAUDIBLE]..

10
00:01:07,650 --> 00:01:08,150
All set?

11
00:01:08,150 --> 00:01:09,110
Yes.

12
00:01:09,110 --> 00:01:11,880
So they brought up a good point.

13
00:01:11,880 --> 00:01:16,160

How did your mother not have papers but you did have papers?

14
00:01:16,160 --> 00:01:18,290
OK.

15
00:01:18,290 --> 00:01:20,900
The reason my mother didn't have any papers

16
00:01:20,900 --> 00:01:24,440
was because of the quota system that there

17
00:01:24,440 --> 00:01:30,030
was in all over Europe, but each country had its own quota.

18
00:01:30,030 --> 00:01:33,590

19
00:01:33,590 --> 00:01:36,500
As a family, there was one quota.

20
00:01:36,500 --> 00:01:39,920
As minors, there was another quarter,

21
00:01:39,920 --> 00:01:44,780
and then as a parent joining children,

22
00:01:44,780 --> 00:01:45,990
there was another quota.

23
00:01:45,990 --> 00:01:48,680
So when our relatives tried to make out

24
00:01:48,680 --> 00:01:55,130
the papers for all three of us in 1937,

25
00:01:55,130 --> 00:01:59,510
they found the quota was like
maybe five or six-year wait

26
00:01:59,510 --> 00:02:02,180
to get into the United States.

27
00:02:02,180 --> 00:02:06,170
But they were told
that if we come first--

28
00:02:06,170 --> 00:02:09,710
the quota for minors
is much shorter.

29
00:02:09,710 --> 00:02:14,900
If we come first, there was only
like about a two-to-three-year

30
00:02:14,900 --> 00:02:17,090
waiting period.

31
00:02:17,090 --> 00:02:19,580
And then when we
get here, we could

32
00:02:19,580 --> 00:02:25,600
send for our mother, which
was a very short quota period,

33
00:02:25,600 --> 00:02:28,930
and that's why my mother
did not have the papers

34
00:02:28,930 --> 00:02:33,050
at the same time but we did.

35
00:02:33,050 --> 00:02:34,840
And that's what actually we did.

36
00:02:34,840 --> 00:02:39,430

Finally, when we came to this country, when we arrived here

37
00:02:39,430 --> 00:02:44,980
in November 22, 1940, our families, my mother's sisters

38
00:02:44,980 --> 00:02:47,590
and brothers, immediately started

39
00:02:47,590 --> 00:02:50,920
to make out affidavits requesting

40
00:02:50,920 --> 00:02:53,620
for her to join her children.

41
00:02:53,620 --> 00:02:57,640
And that's how she received a visa in Shanghai and then

42
00:02:57,640 --> 00:02:58,720
to the United States.

43
00:02:58,720 --> 00:03:03,590

44
00:03:03,590 --> 00:03:05,750
Tell me about what it was like to leave

45
00:03:05,750 --> 00:03:11,270
your mother the second time, and if you could,

46
00:03:11,270 --> 00:03:15,830
explain why your mother wasn't leaving with you but very, very

47
00:03:15,830 --> 00:03:17,300
briefly.

48

00:03:17,300 --> 00:03:19,850

You had a Sugihara visa,
but your mother did not.

49

00:03:19,850 --> 00:03:22,640

My mother did not have--

50

00:03:22,640 --> 00:03:25,460

the second time that we--

51

00:03:25,460 --> 00:03:27,710

I'll start from the beginning.

52

00:03:27,710 --> 00:03:33,650

When we were ready to leave
Vilna for Japan to get

53

00:03:33,650 --> 00:03:39,440

the Trans-Siberian
Railroad, it was a very--

54

00:03:39,440 --> 00:03:41,600

it was sort of like a finality.

55

00:03:41,600 --> 00:03:44,610

It was almost like
saying goodbye.

56

00:03:44,610 --> 00:03:48,630

We'll never see each other
again because Mother,

57

00:03:48,630 --> 00:03:54,870

at that time, had with no way
of getting out whatsoever.

58

00:03:54,870 --> 00:03:57,240

She had no papers.

59

00:03:57,240 --> 00:04:02,140

She had a passport, but she
had no visa to go to Japan.

60
00:04:02,140 --> 00:04:05,040
She had not visa to go
to the United States.

61
00:04:05,040 --> 00:04:11,520
And we sort of felt hopeless
that we'll never see her again,

62
00:04:11,520 --> 00:04:15,560
and that was devastating.

63
00:04:15,560 --> 00:04:19,589
I'll never forget that
scene, very devastating,

64
00:04:19,589 --> 00:04:25,320
leaving my mother on the
train, on that station.

65
00:04:25,320 --> 00:04:29,400
My sister and I were,
first of all, scared.

66
00:04:29,400 --> 00:04:32,340
It was a very frightening
experience, the whole thing,

67
00:04:32,340 --> 00:04:36,330
once we left her because
the Russians were not very

68
00:04:36,330 --> 00:04:40,470
friendly towards the refugees.

69
00:04:40,470 --> 00:04:43,990
And just crossing
that tremendous--

70
00:04:43,990 --> 00:04:47,760
it took seven days
and eight nights.

71

00:04:47,760 --> 00:04:49,020

I've been disputed.

72

00:04:49,020 --> 00:04:53,460

They say it took eight
days and nine nights,

73

00:04:53,460 --> 00:04:56,970

but we remember it as seven
days and eight nights,

74

00:04:56,970 --> 00:05:00,180

that trip across Siberia.

75

00:05:00,180 --> 00:05:02,190

First we went from Vilna.

76

00:05:02,190 --> 00:05:05,220

We made a stop in Minsk.

77

00:05:05,220 --> 00:05:08,100

Then we made a-- then
we went to Moscow,

78

00:05:08,100 --> 00:05:15,630

and we stayed there for about
three or four days in a hotel.

79

00:05:15,630 --> 00:05:19,560

And we had to wait
for the train,

80

00:05:19,560 --> 00:05:25,015

the Trans-Siberian train, and
it was only going once a week.

81

00:05:25,015 --> 00:05:25,890

Did you have any fun?

82

00:05:25,890 --> 00:05:29,340

Did you go to the opera?

83

00:05:29,340 --> 00:05:30,870

Yes, we went to--

84

00:05:30,870 --> 00:05:33,790

we went to a ballet.

85

00:05:33,790 --> 00:05:34,290

OK.

86

00:05:34,290 --> 00:05:35,570

Tell me "while in Moscow."

87

00:05:35,570 --> 00:05:38,860

While in Moscow, we went to
a ballet, and we also went--

88

00:05:38,860 --> 00:05:39,360

Sorry.

89

00:05:39,360 --> 00:05:40,740

You were talking
when I was talking.

90

00:05:40,740 --> 00:05:41,282

[INAUDIBLE]--

91

00:05:41,282 --> 00:05:42,000

Oh, I'm sorry.

92

00:05:42,000 --> 00:05:46,410

--when both of us are talking.

93

00:05:46,410 --> 00:05:49,050

So when you were in
Moscow, what'd you do?

94

00:05:49,050 --> 00:05:51,720

We were in Moscow
for about three days,

95

00:05:51,720 --> 00:05:54,810

and we were with those
two women and two men.

96
00:05:54,810 --> 00:05:57,150
And we went one night--

97
00:05:57,150 --> 00:06:00,300
I remember going to a
ballet, and one day we

98
00:06:00,300 --> 00:06:02,910
went sightseeing.

99
00:06:02,910 --> 00:06:05,430
But we were always--

100
00:06:05,430 --> 00:06:12,330
we were always watched, always
watched, always Secret Service.

101
00:06:12,330 --> 00:06:13,170
We felt it.

102
00:06:13,170 --> 00:06:14,490
We knew it.

103
00:06:14,490 --> 00:06:16,680
They were always
there watching us.

104
00:06:16,680 --> 00:06:20,040
But I remember we took
a sightseeing tour,

105
00:06:20,040 --> 00:06:23,640
and they took us down to the
subways, which were beautiful--

106
00:06:23,640 --> 00:06:26,920
they were like museums, clean--

107
00:06:26,920 --> 00:06:33,450

and Lenin's tomb, and
a few other famous--

108
00:06:33,450 --> 00:06:38,040
the Red Square and all that
we went and saw that day.

109
00:06:38,040 --> 00:06:39,720
And that's about it.

110
00:06:39,720 --> 00:06:42,310
But in the hotel,
on each floor there

111
00:06:42,310 --> 00:06:47,820
was someone sitting there
always, watching people going

112
00:06:47,820 --> 00:06:54,630
and coming here to sign in,
sign out, very regimented.

113
00:06:54,630 --> 00:07:00,540
And we felt strange and scared.

114
00:07:00,540 --> 00:07:02,280
We were kids.

115
00:07:02,280 --> 00:07:06,230
Did you play games
or do you remember--

116
00:07:06,230 --> 00:07:10,178

117
00:07:10,178 --> 00:07:11,720
what would you have
done if something

118
00:07:11,720 --> 00:07:14,630
had happened to your sister,
if you and your sister

119

00:07:14,630 --> 00:07:17,550
had gotten separated?

120

00:07:17,550 --> 00:07:23,250
Oh, I don't know what I really--

121

00:07:23,250 --> 00:07:27,150
what we really would have
done without each other.

122

00:07:27,150 --> 00:07:29,550
I don't know how we
would have survived.

123

00:07:29,550 --> 00:07:34,410
I suppose who did, but this
had never occurred to us,

124

00:07:34,410 --> 00:07:36,480
never occurred to us.

125

00:07:36,480 --> 00:07:38,890
As a matter of fact,
as I told you--

126

00:07:38,890 --> 00:07:42,350
as I said-- no.

127

00:07:42,350 --> 00:07:44,580
Just tell me new.

128

00:07:44,580 --> 00:07:48,330
My sister and I was so
close and had such a--

129

00:07:48,330 --> 00:07:51,090

130

00:07:51,090 --> 00:07:52,710
what is the word
I'm looking for?

131

00:07:52,710 --> 00:07:59,090

132

00:07:59,090 --> 00:08:03,490

No [? string, ?] such
attachment and such a devotion.

133

00:08:03,490 --> 00:08:05,240

Can you start over?

134

00:08:05,240 --> 00:08:09,340

My sister and I had an
unusual relationship.

135

00:08:09,340 --> 00:08:18,910

We were very, very devoted to
each other, no restrictions

136

00:08:18,910 --> 00:08:21,130

upon our devotion.

137

00:08:21,130 --> 00:08:26,380

Even after we got
married, had our children,

138

00:08:26,380 --> 00:08:31,150

it was just like two
bodies and one soul,

139

00:08:31,150 --> 00:08:34,090

as one of my
daughters used to say.

140

00:08:34,090 --> 00:08:37,150

We had an unwritten
agreement between us.

141

00:08:37,150 --> 00:08:40,330

If anything ever
happened to one of us,

142

00:08:40,330 --> 00:08:42,669

we would take care of
each other's children.

143
00:08:42,669 --> 00:08:45,910
We never spoke about it.

144
00:08:45,910 --> 00:08:48,130
And my sister passed away.

145
00:08:48,130 --> 00:08:50,570
She immigrated to Israel.

146
00:08:50,570 --> 00:08:51,310
She got married.

147
00:08:51,310 --> 00:08:56,800
She met an Israeli, and after
20 years, they moved to Israel.

148
00:08:56,800 --> 00:09:02,770
And she contracted cancer,
and she died within a year.

149
00:09:02,770 --> 00:09:06,730
And it was just natural.

150
00:09:06,730 --> 00:09:09,190
Her daughter came
to live with me.

151
00:09:09,190 --> 00:09:12,520
She was nine years old,
and I brought her up.

152
00:09:12,520 --> 00:09:14,890
And if anything would
have happened to me,

153
00:09:14,890 --> 00:09:16,790
she would have done
the same thing.

154

00:09:16,790 --> 00:09:19,570

155

00:09:19,570 --> 00:09:26,610

It was an unreal devotion
and relationship.

156

00:09:26,610 --> 00:09:28,534

We shared everything.

157

00:09:28,534 --> 00:09:32,910

158

00:09:32,910 --> 00:09:35,575

Let's go back a bit to the
Trans-Siberian Railroad.

159

00:09:35,575 --> 00:09:40,500

160

00:09:40,500 --> 00:09:44,600

You were strip-searched
in Vladivostok?

161

00:09:44,600 --> 00:09:45,650

We were searched.

162

00:09:45,650 --> 00:09:47,800

We were not strip--

163

00:09:47,800 --> 00:09:52,580

we had women who searched us
when we got to Vladivostok,

164

00:09:52,580 --> 00:09:53,900

patted us and all that.

165

00:09:53,900 --> 00:09:56,750

But they didn't make
us get undressed.

166

00:09:56,750 --> 00:10:01,250

It's a good thing
they didn't because we

167
00:10:01,250 --> 00:10:04,310
would have never
left Vladivostok

168
00:10:04,310 --> 00:10:07,430
if they did because
my sister and I

169
00:10:07,430 --> 00:10:15,110
smuggled through that emblem
that you have the picture of.

170
00:10:15,110 --> 00:10:17,510
We smuggled that
through, which is--

171
00:10:17,510 --> 00:10:19,460
if they would've
found it on us, they

172
00:10:19,460 --> 00:10:21,980
would have surely arrested us.

173
00:10:21,980 --> 00:10:25,340
That was considered,
as they said,

174
00:10:25,340 --> 00:10:29,940
contraband, which
is illegal things.

175
00:10:29,940 --> 00:10:33,844
Can you tell me the
story about the Betar--

176
00:10:33,844 --> 00:10:35,400
what is it, a medallion?

177
00:10:35,400 --> 00:10:40,830
It was like a medal

of recognition,

178
00:10:40,830 --> 00:10:44,270
which was given out to the--

179
00:10:44,270 --> 00:10:46,430
Can you start again?

180
00:10:46,430 --> 00:10:50,120
Just very briefly, though,
what did you bring with you?

181
00:10:50,120 --> 00:10:53,860
What did you take out of Vilna?

182
00:10:53,860 --> 00:10:58,120
Out of Vilna we took
out some of the things

183
00:10:58,120 --> 00:11:04,120
that our mother gave us to take
with us, not very much, and one

184
00:11:04,120 --> 00:11:07,030
of the things that
we took with us

185
00:11:07,030 --> 00:11:11,350
was this particular emblem which
we brought from Volozhin which

186
00:11:11,350 --> 00:11:18,640
was given to us hopefully that
we will be able to bring it out

187
00:11:18,640 --> 00:11:24,760
into the world and rescue
it, which we tried very hard

188
00:11:24,760 --> 00:11:27,430
and we were successful in.

189

00:11:27,430 --> 00:11:35,710

It was a medal of
recognition to our town,

190

00:11:35,710 --> 00:11:43,720

to a group from the main
Zionist organization in Warsaw,

191

00:11:43,720 --> 00:11:49,270

and it was signed and all that
for recognition and for doing

192

00:11:49,270 --> 00:11:51,150

good work, whatever.

193

00:11:51,150 --> 00:11:54,640

I can't even remember
the inscription on it,

194

00:11:54,640 --> 00:11:56,920

but it was very meaningful.

195

00:11:56,920 --> 00:12:04,880

And they hoped that we would be
able to rescue it, and we did.

196

00:12:04,880 --> 00:12:05,950

And I hope one day--

197

00:12:05,950 --> 00:12:13,660

I hope to-- what
do you call that--

198

00:12:13,660 --> 00:12:16,600

199

00:12:16,600 --> 00:12:19,510

when the exhibit is over,
I'm going to offer it

200

00:12:19,510 --> 00:12:24,010

to the museum to keep it.

201

00:12:24,010 --> 00:12:27,712

What else did you
bring on your trip?

202

00:12:27,712 --> 00:12:28,420

Or what did you--

203

00:12:28,420 --> 00:12:31,930

Well, we brought
those two blankets

204

00:12:31,930 --> 00:12:34,690

that my mother gave us
when we left Volozhin.

205

00:12:34,690 --> 00:12:38,020

They were actually her
trousseau blankets.

206

00:12:38,020 --> 00:12:41,750

She gave it to us to
keep us warm, and we did.

207

00:12:41,750 --> 00:12:50,680

And we brought some crafts,
things that we used to do,

208

00:12:50,680 --> 00:12:53,050

and I don't know why
mother took those.

209

00:12:53,050 --> 00:12:54,260

I guess they were--

210

00:12:54,260 --> 00:12:58,540

she gave us that, I guess,
to remember what we did

211

00:12:58,540 --> 00:13:00,190

or something.

212

00:13:00,190 --> 00:13:02,200

It must have had
some special meaning.

213
00:13:02,200 --> 00:13:05,180
It didn't have a particular
meaning to us at that time,

214
00:13:05,180 --> 00:13:07,440
but it has an awful lot
of meaning to me now.

215
00:13:07,440 --> 00:13:10,000

216
00:13:10,000 --> 00:13:14,560
And what else did we-- we had
no jewelry, and we had no--

217
00:13:14,560 --> 00:13:17,410
my mother was the one that
brought the French clock.

218
00:13:17,410 --> 00:13:18,370
She carried it.

219
00:13:18,370 --> 00:13:20,620
It came in a special
carrying case.

220
00:13:20,620 --> 00:13:23,860
And for the life of me, I don't
know how they permitted it

221
00:13:23,860 --> 00:13:28,210
because it's a gold-plated,
very rare cloth,

222
00:13:28,210 --> 00:13:30,550
and it has inscriptions
in Russian.

223
00:13:30,550 --> 00:13:33,760
And it's very valuable.

224
00:13:33,760 --> 00:13:36,790
And some of the silver--

225
00:13:36,790 --> 00:13:42,460
a little silver box
and a sugar tongs.

226
00:13:42,460 --> 00:13:45,875
And what else?

227
00:13:45,875 --> 00:13:50,590
I have a little Jew star
that I usually wear.

228
00:13:50,590 --> 00:13:52,540
I took it off today.

229
00:13:52,540 --> 00:13:57,430
I took that with me,
and I didn't wear it.

230
00:13:57,430 --> 00:14:01,300
I guess it would have been
against the law to wear it.

231
00:14:01,300 --> 00:14:02,170
And let's see.

232
00:14:02,170 --> 00:14:02,750
What else?

233
00:14:02,750 --> 00:14:04,270
My mother brought
the candlesticks.

234
00:14:04,270 --> 00:14:07,048
Those were hers.

235
00:14:07,048 --> 00:14:08,350
And how about those?

236
00:14:08,350 --> 00:14:10,210
We also had-- excuse me?

237
00:14:10,210 --> 00:14:11,080
A silver bowl?

238
00:14:11,080 --> 00:14:11,770
Oh, yes.

239
00:14:11,770 --> 00:14:13,960
This is a little, tiny--

240
00:14:13,960 --> 00:14:17,200
it's a little dish where
my mother used to--

241
00:14:17,200 --> 00:14:19,780
during Passover,
used the charoises,

242
00:14:19,780 --> 00:14:23,050
the special herbs that we used.

243
00:14:23,050 --> 00:14:26,210
And she used to use that, and
it has an inscription there.

244
00:14:26,210 --> 00:14:27,880
And we got that.

245
00:14:27,880 --> 00:14:31,720

246
00:14:31,720 --> 00:14:32,320
What else?

247
00:14:32,320 --> 00:14:35,950

248
00:14:35,950 --> 00:14:39,580
Pictures, some

pictures, an album.

249

00:14:39,580 --> 00:14:40,420

I had an album.

250

00:14:40,420 --> 00:14:41,560

I still have the album.

251

00:14:41,560 --> 00:14:48,080

It's falling apart, but I
have it with pictures in it.

252

00:14:48,080 --> 00:14:53,870

How about-- let me think.

253

00:14:53,870 --> 00:14:58,430

So let's go-- what did you
expect when you got to Japan?

254

00:14:58,430 --> 00:15:00,960

Here you had never been
away from home before,

255

00:15:00,960 --> 00:15:06,200

and here is a totally
different race of people.

256

00:15:06,200 --> 00:15:11,570

257

00:15:11,570 --> 00:15:16,970

Well, when we got to Japan, of
course, it was very strange,

258

00:15:16,970 --> 00:15:19,685

and as I said, I've never
seen Japanese people.

259

00:15:19,685 --> 00:15:23,570

260

00:15:23,570 --> 00:15:28,590

I remember being in a-- and
when we stayed in the hotel,

261
00:15:28,590 --> 00:15:30,080
later on I found
that there were--

262
00:15:30,080 --> 00:15:33,740

263
00:15:33,740 --> 00:15:35,510
those women, what
do you call them?

264
00:15:35,510 --> 00:15:37,970
Geisha girls.

265
00:15:37,970 --> 00:15:39,770
Am I pronouncing it right?

266
00:15:39,770 --> 00:15:40,270
Geisha?

267
00:15:40,270 --> 00:15:41,750
Geisha girls.

268
00:15:41,750 --> 00:15:44,540
They used to have Geisha
parties in the hotels,

269
00:15:44,540 --> 00:15:46,610
and they were quite noisy.

270
00:15:46,610 --> 00:15:50,570
And my sister and I used
to be so frightened.

271
00:15:50,570 --> 00:15:51,530
We used to--

272
00:15:51,530 --> 00:15:53,300
I know we had double beds.

273

00:15:53,300 --> 00:15:57,680

We used to climb into
one bed to be together.

274

00:15:57,680 --> 00:16:00,710

We didn't know anything about
it, what they were or anything,

275

00:16:00,710 --> 00:16:05,390

but later on I found out
what they were all about.

276

00:16:05,390 --> 00:16:10,940

It was very strange and
very, very insecure feeling,

277

00:16:10,940 --> 00:16:12,020

very insecure.

278

00:16:12,020 --> 00:16:13,760

How long did you
stay there in Japan?

279

00:16:13,760 --> 00:16:14,750

About a month.

280

00:16:14,750 --> 00:16:15,290

We stayed--

281

00:16:15,290 --> 00:16:19,070

How long did you stay in
Japan, and who paid for or made

282

00:16:19,070 --> 00:16:21,890

your arrangements?

283

00:16:21,890 --> 00:16:23,750

Well, we stayed in Japan--

284

00:16:23,750 --> 00:16:27,446

when we arrived in

Tokyo, we were--

285

00:16:27,446 --> 00:16:30,940

we left November 9th.

286

00:16:30,940 --> 00:16:31,440

OK.

287

00:16:31,440 --> 00:16:32,120

You don't have to get into that.

288

00:16:32,120 --> 00:16:34,037

Did you stay a week, or
two weeks, or a month?

289

00:16:34,037 --> 00:16:35,840

About a month, about a month.

290

00:16:35,840 --> 00:16:39,270

I was trying to figure
out how long was it.

291

00:16:39,270 --> 00:16:43,190

It was about a month, and
the way we were able to--

292

00:16:43,190 --> 00:16:46,830

293

00:16:46,830 --> 00:16:50,030

no, I'll go back.

294

00:16:50,030 --> 00:16:55,790

Our relatives from the United
States wired some money to us,

295

00:16:55,790 --> 00:16:58,550

to the American
consulate, and that's

296

00:16:58,550 --> 00:17:02,420

how we were able to

survive in Japan.

297

00:17:02,420 --> 00:17:07,040

Our family from the United States sent us money.

298

00:17:07,040 --> 00:17:09,319

And it wasn't much, but it was enough for us

299

00:17:09,319 --> 00:17:13,339

to get along, to pay for the-- it was a little hotel not far

300

00:17:13,339 --> 00:17:14,720

from the consulate.

301

00:17:14,720 --> 00:17:20,010

And it was a very meager diet, bread, sardines, and fruit,

302

00:17:20,010 --> 00:17:23,089

but we got along very good.

303

00:17:23,089 --> 00:17:25,460

And we didn't go anyplace.

304

00:17:25,460 --> 00:17:30,180

We really did not sightsee or anything.

305

00:17:30,180 --> 00:17:33,150

And were you able to--

306

00:17:33,150 --> 00:17:37,320

who made your arrangements for your voyage to the US,

307

00:17:37,320 --> 00:17:40,950

and what was that like?

308

00:17:40,950 --> 00:17:45,600

You mean the arrangement
from where, from Japan?

309
00:17:45,600 --> 00:17:46,710
Yes.

310
00:17:46,710 --> 00:17:52,470
Oh, yes, our family,
my aunts and uncles,

311
00:17:52,470 --> 00:17:58,905
paid through Cook Travel Agency.

312
00:17:58,905 --> 00:18:01,950

313
00:18:01,950 --> 00:18:04,590
They paid in an
awful lot of money.

314
00:18:04,590 --> 00:18:08,580
We went first class on
the President Coolidge

315
00:18:08,580 --> 00:18:12,270
because that was the only
available transportation they

316
00:18:12,270 --> 00:18:17,820
were able to get for us, and
they wanted to get us out

317
00:18:17,820 --> 00:18:20,430
of there soon as possible.

318
00:18:20,430 --> 00:18:24,390
So they arranged
for us first class,

319
00:18:24,390 --> 00:18:27,450
and it was a very
nice experience

320

00:18:27,450 --> 00:18:30,960

to be on the President
Coolidge first class.

321

00:18:30,960 --> 00:18:34,110

If I have time, I'll tell
you a little funny story.

322

00:18:34,110 --> 00:18:38,490

We traveled first class,
but we had two friends

323

00:18:38,490 --> 00:18:41,220

travel second class.

324

00:18:41,220 --> 00:18:45,030

And first class-- it
was very luxurious.

325

00:18:45,030 --> 00:18:51,510

And we had no one except this
woman that we met on the boat

326

00:18:51,510 --> 00:18:56,070

to spend time with, so we used
to go down to the second class

327

00:18:56,070 --> 00:18:58,060

to visit our friends.

328

00:18:58,060 --> 00:19:00,450

We had no problems
getting down, but we

329

00:19:00,450 --> 00:19:04,830

had problems coming up
because they believe

330

00:19:04,830 --> 00:19:07,210

we belonged to the first class.

331

00:19:07,210 --> 00:19:11,820

So the first time, we had
to show them our passport,

332
00:19:11,820 --> 00:19:14,490
and after that, they got
to know us because we

333
00:19:14,490 --> 00:19:18,330
were on the boat for two weeks.

334
00:19:18,330 --> 00:19:19,920
Tell me who you traveled with.

335
00:19:19,920 --> 00:19:22,320
Who was the woman?

336
00:19:22,320 --> 00:19:23,460
And tell me her name.

337
00:19:23,460 --> 00:19:24,420
Yeah.

338
00:19:24,420 --> 00:19:27,570
When we got on the boat,
the President Coolidge,

339
00:19:27,570 --> 00:19:30,330
we, of course, didn't
speak any English.

340
00:19:30,330 --> 00:19:33,940
And they were trying
to ask us our name.

341
00:19:33,940 --> 00:19:37,270
We understood enough of
that, but anything else

342
00:19:37,270 --> 00:19:38,580
we didn't understand.

343
00:19:38,580 --> 00:19:42,480

And there was this woman
sitting by in the lounge there,

344
00:19:42,480 --> 00:19:45,960
and she saw the difficulties
they were having.

345
00:19:45,960 --> 00:19:48,480
And we said Yiddish.

346
00:19:48,480 --> 00:19:52,020
She heard that we were saying
we speak Yiddish and Polish.

347
00:19:52,020 --> 00:19:55,200
So she came over, and she
says, can I be of help?

348
00:19:55,200 --> 00:19:57,270
I speak Yiddish.

349
00:19:57,270 --> 00:20:02,160
So she was a Jewish woman that
was married to an officer who

350
00:20:02,160 --> 00:20:09,060
was stationed in China, and she
was coming home for a visit.

351
00:20:09,060 --> 00:20:11,940
And that's why she
happened to be on the boat,

352
00:20:11,940 --> 00:20:13,770
and she was traveling alone.

353
00:20:13,770 --> 00:20:18,540
So they asked her if she
would mind sitting with us

354
00:20:18,540 --> 00:20:20,790
and keeping us company.

355

00:20:20,790 --> 00:20:24,990

She says no, so they put
us with her at the table.

356

00:20:24,990 --> 00:20:28,890

And we spend a lot
of time with her.

357

00:20:28,890 --> 00:20:31,185

She taught us a lot of things.

358

00:20:31,185 --> 00:20:33,870

What was her name?

359

00:20:33,870 --> 00:20:37,410

Her name was Mrs. [? Yount, ?]
and she lived in San Diego.

360

00:20:37,410 --> 00:20:41,040

For a while we kept
in touch with her,

361

00:20:41,040 --> 00:20:45,090

and we sort of lost touch
after a couple of years.

362

00:20:45,090 --> 00:20:52,670

363

00:20:52,670 --> 00:20:57,710

Any other questions about
the journey or [INAUDIBLE]??

364

00:20:57,710 --> 00:21:00,380

365

00:21:00,380 --> 00:21:01,280

Sure.

366

00:21:01,280 --> 00:21:03,790

Well, it was--

367
00:21:03,790 --> 00:21:06,200
Start with "the transit."

368
00:21:06,200 --> 00:21:07,550
When we got on the--

369
00:21:07,550 --> 00:21:10,000
yes.

370
00:21:10,000 --> 00:21:11,020
Go ahead.

371
00:21:11,020 --> 00:21:19,390
When we boarded a train and
the Trans-Siberian Railroad--

372
00:21:19,390 --> 00:21:20,380
Sorry.

373
00:21:20,380 --> 00:21:23,425
You need to look--

374
00:21:23,425 --> 00:21:24,890
Go ahead.

375
00:21:24,890 --> 00:21:28,810
You need to pause between my
talking and your starting.

376
00:21:28,810 --> 00:21:31,180
OK, all right.

377
00:21:31,180 --> 00:21:35,350
So tell me about the
Trans-Siberian Railroad.

378
00:21:35,350 --> 00:21:40,150
When we got on the train, we
were assigned a cabin and--

379
00:21:40,150 --> 00:21:40,780

I'm sorry.

380
00:21:40,780 --> 00:21:42,920
Start, "When we got on
the Trans-Siberian."

381
00:21:42,920 --> 00:21:44,380
Oh, when we got on the--

382
00:21:44,380 --> 00:21:47,120

383
00:21:47,120 --> 00:21:51,830
You can always take a breath
because you have lots of time.

384
00:21:51,830 --> 00:21:53,630
So just take a breath.

385
00:21:53,630 --> 00:21:54,130
[INAUDIBLE]

386
00:21:54,130 --> 00:21:55,034
Go ahead.

387
00:21:55,034 --> 00:21:57,262
Ask me.

388
00:21:57,262 --> 00:21:58,720
Can you tell me
about what you trip

389
00:21:58,720 --> 00:22:00,600
on the Trans-Siberian
Railroad was like?

390
00:22:00,600 --> 00:22:04,910

391
00:22:04,910 --> 00:22:11,250
When we got on the
Trans-Siberian Railroad train,

392
00:22:11,250 --> 00:22:14,220
we were assigned a
cabin, my sister and I,

393
00:22:14,220 --> 00:22:19,890
and then we were also told
where the dining car is.

394
00:22:19,890 --> 00:22:25,410
And in general, it was
not a bad accommodation.

395
00:22:25,410 --> 00:22:28,980
The dining room was very nice.

396
00:22:28,980 --> 00:22:32,790
But it was very bleak.

397
00:22:32,790 --> 00:22:35,490
You rode for seven
days and nights

398
00:22:35,490 --> 00:22:38,430
through ice, though snow.

399
00:22:38,430 --> 00:22:40,830
We used to have a
couple of stops.

400
00:22:40,830 --> 00:22:44,910
Like once a day they would
stop at a railroad stop.

401
00:22:44,910 --> 00:22:46,830
But my sister and
I never got off

402
00:22:46,830 --> 00:22:51,660
the train because we were
afraid we might miss it,

403

00:22:51,660 --> 00:22:53,640
or we'll get lost, or something.

404
00:22:53,640 --> 00:22:55,140
So we just stayed on the train.

405
00:22:55,140 --> 00:22:57,750
We would sometimes
get off the train

406
00:22:57,750 --> 00:23:01,680
and stay right by the door,
but we never went anywhere

407
00:23:01,680 --> 00:23:03,360
except in one place.

408
00:23:03,360 --> 00:23:06,680
There Is a city in Siberia.

409
00:23:06,680 --> 00:23:11,670
It's called Birobidzhan,
and that was at one time--

410
00:23:11,670 --> 00:23:17,280
they thought they were going
to make a haven for the Jews.

411
00:23:17,280 --> 00:23:20,220
So there was a lot
of Jewish riding

412
00:23:20,220 --> 00:23:23,370
and all the signs in
the railway station

413
00:23:23,370 --> 00:23:27,850
had the name Birobidzhan
in Jewish, Yiddish.

414
00:23:27,850 --> 00:23:31,440
And so we got off the train,
and it's sort of like,

415
00:23:31,440 --> 00:23:34,650
I would say, maybe
about 100 yards

416
00:23:34,650 --> 00:23:37,410
where the little
building was there.

417
00:23:37,410 --> 00:23:39,630
And we got in there,
and we looked around.

418
00:23:39,630 --> 00:23:42,990
And my sister and I went
right back on the train.

419
00:23:42,990 --> 00:23:45,630
That's the only
place we got off.

420
00:23:45,630 --> 00:23:51,990
And that was like about the
fifth or sixth day of the trip,

421
00:23:51,990 --> 00:23:55,510
way inside of Siberia.

422
00:23:55,510 --> 00:23:58,020
And then we arrived
in Vladivostok.

423
00:23:58,020 --> 00:24:04,090
Vladivostok was a very, very
busy port, very busy port.

424
00:24:04,090 --> 00:24:07,300
And we stayed there
a couple of days--

425
00:24:07,300 --> 00:24:10,200
I don't remember
exactly how many days--

426

00:24:10,200 --> 00:24:16,830

because we had to wait for
a boat to cross to Tsuruga.

427

00:24:16,830 --> 00:24:21,750

How was the voyage from
Vladivostok to Tsuruga?

428

00:24:21,750 --> 00:24:25,920

Oh, we got on a--

429

00:24:25,920 --> 00:24:32,910

our accommodations on the boat
to Tsuruga was on a freighter,

430

00:24:32,910 --> 00:24:37,800

and there were just
four passengers.

431

00:24:37,800 --> 00:24:42,300

They had no room for passengers,
so it was just us and the crew.

432

00:24:42,300 --> 00:24:49,200

And it was very nice, except
they were carrying spices,

433

00:24:49,200 --> 00:24:53,160

and the spices made us sick,
the smell of the spices.

434

00:24:53,160 --> 00:24:55,260

But the crew was
very nice to us.

435

00:24:55,260 --> 00:24:57,930

We used to have
meals with the crew,

436

00:24:57,930 --> 00:25:02,430

and they gave us nice
accommodation, a room, a cabin.

437
00:25:02,430 --> 00:25:03,480
And that was nice.

438
00:25:03,480 --> 00:25:06,420
That took about five
days, four or five days.

439
00:25:06,420 --> 00:25:08,730
I don't recall exactly.

440
00:25:08,730 --> 00:25:11,940
But that was OK.

441
00:25:11,940 --> 00:25:15,030
When you got to the
US, where did you go?

442
00:25:15,030 --> 00:25:23,830
Well, my sister and I
arrived in San Francisco.

443
00:25:23,830 --> 00:25:28,380
The boat was-- we made
a stop in Honolulu,

444
00:25:28,380 --> 00:25:32,400
and then we arrived
in San Francisco.

445
00:25:32,400 --> 00:25:34,050
And I could tell you one thing--

446
00:25:34,050 --> 00:25:37,350
the sight of the Golden Gate
was the most beautiful sight

447
00:25:37,350 --> 00:25:39,510
in the world.

448
00:25:39,510 --> 00:25:42,210
San Francisco is still

my favorite city.

449

00:25:42,210 --> 00:25:43,320

It is.

450

00:25:43,320 --> 00:25:49,950

And when we arrived, our family made arrangements for--

451

00:25:49,950 --> 00:25:53,100

oh, I can't remember those organizations which-- they

452

00:25:53,100 --> 00:25:54,600

took care of us for the day.

453

00:25:54,600 --> 00:26:00,930

We had to wait for a whole day to get a train

454

00:26:00,930 --> 00:26:02,130

to come to New York.

455

00:26:02,130 --> 00:26:05,010

There were no planes then at that time.

456

00:26:05,010 --> 00:26:07,500

You went by train.

457

00:26:07,500 --> 00:26:10,470

Oh, I can't think of [? this name, ?] but two nice

458

00:26:10,470 --> 00:26:15,690

young girls, and they wore special uniforms.

459

00:26:15,690 --> 00:26:18,390

And they were taking care of us for the day,

460

00:26:18,390 --> 00:26:21,160
and they took a sighting
of San Francisco,

461
00:26:21,160 --> 00:26:24,690
to the farmer's market
and all of that.

462
00:26:24,690 --> 00:26:27,300
Since then I've been
there a number of times,

463
00:26:27,300 --> 00:26:30,120
and I enjoy it every time.

464
00:26:30,120 --> 00:26:32,720
But the Golden Gate is--

465
00:26:32,720 --> 00:26:34,050
And then you came to New York?

466
00:26:34,050 --> 00:26:41,520
We came to-- when my sister and
I came to New York by train,

467
00:26:41,520 --> 00:26:46,330
it took about three days from
San Francisco to New York,

468
00:26:46,330 --> 00:26:47,730
and made a stop in Chicago.

469
00:26:47,730 --> 00:26:51,090

470
00:26:51,090 --> 00:26:55,710
And two of my uncles
met us at the train.

471
00:26:55,710 --> 00:26:57,030
We never saw them.

472

00:26:57,030 --> 00:27:01,680
We never knew them, but
we recognized each other.

473
00:27:01,680 --> 00:27:08,820
And then we came to live with
one of my aunts and uncles,

474
00:27:08,820 --> 00:27:13,470
who actually were
the most instrumental

475
00:27:13,470 --> 00:27:17,190
in bringing us here, who
did actually most of-- there

476
00:27:17,190 --> 00:27:21,060
was a lot of hard work in it,
the affidavits, and making

477
00:27:21,060 --> 00:27:25,560
[INAUDIBLE],, and
waiting, and going.

478
00:27:25,560 --> 00:27:28,560
But they had no
children, and they

479
00:27:28,560 --> 00:27:31,080
were very anxious to have us.

480
00:27:31,080 --> 00:27:36,840
But I would say they were
not very affluent people.

481
00:27:36,840 --> 00:27:42,940
They were candy store owner,
but they were wonderful people.

482
00:27:42,940 --> 00:27:45,378
They gave up themselves.

483
00:27:45,378 --> 00:27:46,920

And how did you get
your mother here?

484
00:27:46,920 --> 00:27:49,650

485
00:27:49,650 --> 00:27:56,580
Well, after my sister
and I arrived here,

486
00:27:56,580 --> 00:28:01,500
my mother's brothers and
sisters, our aunts and uncles,

487
00:28:01,500 --> 00:28:06,060
started to make out the
affidavits right away

488
00:28:06,060 --> 00:28:11,850
to bring her here as a mother to
be reunited with her children.

489
00:28:11,850 --> 00:28:16,380
And there was not actually
a very limited quote,

490
00:28:16,380 --> 00:28:19,470
not much of a quota, and
she would have had to--

491
00:28:19,470 --> 00:28:25,350
and she actually waited a
very short time to get a visa.

492
00:28:25,350 --> 00:28:27,810
And my mother got
her visa, and she

493
00:28:27,810 --> 00:28:32,910
left on the last boat that
left Shanghai to go to Manila.

494
00:28:32,910 --> 00:28:38,070

And I don't recall
the exact date,

495
00:28:38,070 --> 00:28:42,990
but it must have been like
around December 1, 1941.

496
00:28:42,990 --> 00:28:46,530
She was in Manila
a few days, and she

497
00:28:46,530 --> 00:28:50,640
boarded the boat to go
to the United States

498
00:28:50,640 --> 00:28:54,450
on December 5, 1941.

499
00:28:54,450 --> 00:28:57,580
And the war broke
out December 7, 1941.

500
00:28:57,580 --> 00:29:01,230
She was on the high
seas when it broke out,

501
00:29:01,230 --> 00:29:06,210
and they joined a
military convoy.

502
00:29:06,210 --> 00:29:10,890
And they went through
Australia and all

503
00:29:10,890 --> 00:29:13,770
around until they
got to San Francisco

504
00:29:13,770 --> 00:29:18,150
on Christmas Day in 1941.

505
00:29:18,150 --> 00:29:20,130
Can you tell me that

story once again but

506

00:29:20,130 --> 00:29:21,810

say "the Japanese bombed--"

507

00:29:21,810 --> 00:29:23,960

Re-load.

508

00:29:23,960 --> 00:31:13,088