

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:48,080

2
00:00:48,080 --> 00:00:50,420
And this is really kind of
one of my last questions.

3
00:00:50,420 --> 00:00:53,000
But why should people
care about this story?

4
00:00:53,000 --> 00:00:55,590
Why is this important?

5
00:00:55,590 --> 00:00:58,600

6
00:00:58,600 --> 00:01:02,350
You mean about the Sugihara
story or in general?

7
00:01:02,350 --> 00:01:04,966

8
00:01:04,966 --> 00:01:06,225
Sugihara, the flight.

9
00:01:06,225 --> 00:01:09,160

10
00:01:09,160 --> 00:01:12,525
Why is it important that
people know that you escaped?

11
00:01:12,525 --> 00:01:22,100

12
00:01:22,100 --> 00:01:27,590
For strangers to know
what's the reason.

13
00:01:27,590 --> 00:01:28,750
That's a tough question.

14
00:01:28,750 --> 00:01:43,160

15
00:01:43,160 --> 00:01:45,350
I need a drink. -- how
philosophical it is,

16
00:01:45,350 --> 00:01:50,900
but I'll try and tell you how
I feel, why it's important.

17
00:01:50,900 --> 00:01:57,620
OK, I try and tell you
why it's important for--

18
00:01:57,620 --> 00:02:00,770
you wanted to know, before
I go on with the answer.

19
00:02:00,770 --> 00:02:04,280
You want to know why I feel
it's important for people

20
00:02:04,280 --> 00:02:05,230
to know about it.

21
00:02:05,230 --> 00:02:23,270

22
00:02:23,270 --> 00:02:29,550
In my view and
personal experience,

23
00:02:29,550 --> 00:02:43,180
I feel the reason for people to
know mainly about Mr. Sugihara

24
00:02:43,180 --> 00:02:48,130
and those are personal

reasons why I feel.

25

00:02:48,130 --> 00:02:56,790

If not from Mr. Sugihara
being there and doing

26

00:02:56,790 --> 00:03:05,890

such a noble and selfless
thing by giving the visas

27

00:03:05,890 --> 00:03:10,750

to me and my sister and a number
of other people, none of us

28

00:03:10,750 --> 00:03:11,590

would be here.

29

00:03:11,590 --> 00:03:14,050

We would be part
of the Holocaust.

30

00:03:14,050 --> 00:03:17,350

31

00:03:17,350 --> 00:03:22,570

I feel the world and
future generations

32

00:03:22,570 --> 00:03:29,930

should know about this man
even though while he was alive,

33

00:03:29,930 --> 00:03:35,740

he did not get the
recognition that he deserved.

34

00:03:35,740 --> 00:03:38,750

He should get it now.

35

00:03:38,750 --> 00:03:40,850

And people should
remember him for what

36

00:03:40,850 --> 00:03:43,175

a great humanitarian he was.

37

00:03:43,175 --> 00:03:46,580

38

00:03:46,580 --> 00:03:53,130

That's my personal reason
for people to know about it.

39

00:03:53,130 --> 00:04:04,510

Also, I would like people to
know that each individual,

40

00:04:04,510 --> 00:04:05,455

no matter how--

41

00:04:05,455 --> 00:04:13,620

42

00:04:13,620 --> 00:04:19,019

well, it's difficult
for me to express.

43

00:04:19,019 --> 00:04:23,100

I would like people to
remember this experience.

44

00:04:23,100 --> 00:04:30,420

45

00:04:30,420 --> 00:04:37,190

And again, I'm speaking from
my own personal experiences.

46

00:04:37,190 --> 00:04:46,700

That what my mother told
us when she left us,

47

00:04:46,700 --> 00:04:50,440

that you're never
to give up hope

48
00:04:50,440 --> 00:04:54,490
and that you should always
try and try and never

49
00:04:54,490 --> 00:05:01,960
give up, no matter what
the circumstances are.

50
00:05:01,960 --> 00:05:10,110
And have the faith in
yourself that you're able to--

51
00:05:10,110 --> 00:05:13,860
that you will survive,
that you will achieve

52
00:05:13,860 --> 00:05:17,600
what you're trying to achieve.

53
00:05:17,600 --> 00:05:24,240
And that's about as
much as I could analyze.

54
00:05:24,240 --> 00:05:25,890
I wish I could--

55
00:05:25,890 --> 00:05:26,880
I have it--

56
00:05:26,880 --> 00:05:29,366
I'm sorry, I don't
know if you're rolling.

57
00:05:29,366 --> 00:05:30,360
You're fine.

58
00:05:30,360 --> 00:05:35,180
I have it in my brain,
but it's not coming out.

59
00:05:35,180 --> 00:05:37,430

You want to give it another try?

60
00:05:37,430 --> 00:05:37,950
I'll try.

61
00:05:37,950 --> 00:05:45,660

62
00:05:45,660 --> 00:05:46,680
Oh, gosh.

63
00:05:46,680 --> 00:05:48,780
I know I'm very--

64
00:05:48,780 --> 00:05:52,980

65
00:05:52,980 --> 00:05:59,220
like, I'm very affected right
now by the refugee situation

66
00:05:59,220 --> 00:06:01,750
in Kosovo and all that.

67
00:06:01,750 --> 00:06:13,110
Because not as dangerous
as it is for them,

68
00:06:13,110 --> 00:06:20,040
I went through sort of
a similar situation.

69
00:06:20,040 --> 00:06:23,040
And I am almost--

70
00:06:23,040 --> 00:06:25,540
my husband says
don't be so angry.

71
00:06:25,540 --> 00:06:26,925
I am angry at--

72

00:06:26,925 --> 00:06:33,220

73

00:06:33,220 --> 00:06:35,920

if it's the
politicians or whoever

74

00:06:35,920 --> 00:06:46,210

is guilty of all these
atrocities and this.

75

00:06:46,210 --> 00:06:52,930

So I think maybe the
world would see that--

76

00:06:52,930 --> 00:06:55,984

77

00:06:55,984 --> 00:06:57,771

I'm supposed to look at you.

78

00:06:57,771 --> 00:07:01,010

79

00:07:01,010 --> 00:07:07,670

If the world in the future
would see that or arrive

80

00:07:07,670 --> 00:07:14,410

at a lesson from
these experiences,

81

00:07:14,410 --> 00:07:20,780

maybe it would prevent
situations like this to recur.

82

00:07:20,780 --> 00:07:23,890

83

00:07:23,890 --> 00:07:38,060

And that's why to do
this particular video

84
00:07:38,060 --> 00:07:44,050
it's not as painful for me as
it was the first one that I did.

85
00:07:44,050 --> 00:07:47,740
But I felt that it
was the right thing.

86
00:07:47,740 --> 00:07:54,850
That maybe I will contribute
something to the future

87
00:07:54,850 --> 00:08:00,340
by telling my story and by
people knowing about that.

88
00:08:00,340 --> 00:08:05,070
And maybe, as they say,
it shouldn't happen again.

89
00:08:05,070 --> 00:08:08,510

90
00:08:08,510 --> 00:08:09,574
Good.

91
00:08:09,574 --> 00:08:10,160
Seem better?

92
00:08:10,160 --> 00:08:10,660
Yes.

93
00:08:10,660 --> 00:08:13,420

94
00:08:13,420 --> 00:08:14,920
So why don't we
take a little break.

95
00:08:14,920 --> 00:08:17,700
Let's get 20 seconds

of silence right now.

96

00:08:17,700 --> 00:08:20,470

97

00:08:20,470 --> 00:08:21,060

Room tone.

98

00:08:21,060 --> 00:08:44,090

99

00:08:44,090 --> 00:08:45,454

End room tone.

100

00:08:45,454 --> 00:08:48,823

101

00:08:48,823 --> 00:08:50,490

That's just the air
conditioner running.

102

00:08:50,490 --> 00:08:51,750

We didn't turn the
exhaust fan on.

103

00:08:51,750 --> 00:08:52,345

It's not hard.

104

00:08:52,345 --> 00:08:52,845

[LAUGHS]

105

00:08:52,845 --> 00:08:57,350

Can you tell me the
significance of this document?

106

00:08:57,350 --> 00:09:00,500

107

00:09:00,500 --> 00:09:02,090

You were on your
sister's passport.

108

00:09:02,090 --> 00:09:04,940

Why was that?

109

00:09:04,940 --> 00:09:11,000

The reason my sister and I
were on one passport because--

110

00:09:11,000 --> 00:09:11,500

Sorry.

111

00:09:11,500 --> 00:09:14,500

112

00:09:14,500 --> 00:09:16,220

OK, we'll start over?

113

00:09:16,220 --> 00:09:18,370

Yeah.

114

00:09:18,370 --> 00:09:21,230

I just want to try to
remember something.

115

00:09:21,230 --> 00:09:22,560

Who was it?

116

00:09:22,560 --> 00:09:26,130

Yeah, I know now.

117

00:09:26,130 --> 00:09:29,510

My sister and I were on
one passport because A,

118

00:09:29,510 --> 00:09:32,140

it was cheaper.

119

00:09:32,140 --> 00:09:34,420

You only had to
get one passport.

120

00:09:34,420 --> 00:09:36,940

And she was the older one.

121
00:09:36,940 --> 00:09:41,770
And her name was
first, and that's why.

122
00:09:41,770 --> 00:09:43,870
And I was her sister.

123
00:09:43,870 --> 00:09:45,460
And that's how it worked.

124
00:09:45,460 --> 00:09:49,760
And that's why we were
both on one passport.

125
00:09:49,760 --> 00:09:52,270
And did you get two
visas or one visa?

126
00:09:52,270 --> 00:09:53,740
One visa.

127
00:09:53,740 --> 00:09:54,640
OK, so?

128
00:09:54,640 --> 00:09:58,360
We had on the next--

129
00:09:58,360 --> 00:10:04,000
Have a pause and just say and
since we had one passport,

130
00:10:04,000 --> 00:10:04,810
we had one visa.

131
00:10:04,810 --> 00:10:07,730

132
00:10:07,730 --> 00:10:10,190
Should I start from the
beginning, about the--

133
00:10:10,190 --> 00:10:11,000
[INAUDIBLE]

134
00:10:11,000 --> 00:10:11,765
I see.

135
00:10:11,765 --> 00:10:15,800
And since we had one passport,
there was just one visa

136
00:10:15,800 --> 00:10:20,050
issued to us by Mr. Sugihara.

137
00:10:20,050 --> 00:10:26,060
However, when we got
our American visas,

138
00:10:26,060 --> 00:10:29,540
we had two separate visas
but on the same passport.

139
00:10:29,540 --> 00:10:32,190
There were two steps.

140
00:10:32,190 --> 00:10:35,090
Here's a question I
forgot to ask you before.

141
00:10:35,090 --> 00:10:37,040
How did you react,
how did you respond

142
00:10:37,040 --> 00:10:39,320
when the Japanese who
had been your friends

143
00:10:39,320 --> 00:10:44,332
and helped you get to
the US invaded the US?

144
00:10:44,332 --> 00:10:45,290

Or bombed Pearl Harbor?

145
00:10:45,290 --> 00:10:48,440
Bombed Pearl Harbor,
how did I respond?

146
00:10:48,440 --> 00:10:52,760

147
00:10:52,760 --> 00:10:56,830
I think my feeling
at that time--

148
00:10:56,830 --> 00:10:58,150
Start with "when the Japanese."

149
00:10:58,150 --> 00:10:58,650
Oh.

150
00:10:58,650 --> 00:11:02,890
When the Japanese
attacked Pearl Harbor,

151
00:11:02,890 --> 00:11:08,950
I think our feeling at that
time was like most Americans.

152
00:11:08,950 --> 00:11:12,040
Because we sort of considered
ourselves already--

153
00:11:12,040 --> 00:11:14,350
although we were
not citizens yet,

154
00:11:14,350 --> 00:11:18,400
we considered
ourselves as Americans.

155
00:11:18,400 --> 00:11:21,940
And we were angry,
actually, at the government

156

00:11:21,940 --> 00:11:23,950
of the Japanese people.

157

00:11:23,950 --> 00:11:26,860
Just like most of
Americans were.

158

00:11:26,860 --> 00:11:30,460
And Japanese people
I remember feeling

159

00:11:30,460 --> 00:11:34,840
sad by the fact that some of
the American, Japanese-Americans

160

00:11:34,840 --> 00:11:38,680
who were put in
camps during the war.

161

00:11:38,680 --> 00:11:40,840
I remember feeling
badly about that.

162

00:11:40,840 --> 00:11:44,780

163

00:11:44,780 --> 00:11:49,060
What was the significance
of these candlesticks?

164

00:11:49,060 --> 00:11:53,740
Or how did you get them?

165

00:11:53,740 --> 00:11:56,140
These were my
mother's candlesticks

166

00:11:56,140 --> 00:12:00,880
that she had since she
was, when she got married.

167

00:12:00,880 --> 00:12:05,710

And she actually brought
those candlesticks with her.

168
00:12:05,710 --> 00:12:08,080
No matter where
she was, she used

169
00:12:08,080 --> 00:12:10,450
to light those candlesticks.

170
00:12:10,450 --> 00:12:13,120
And I guess they were--

171
00:12:13,120 --> 00:12:16,000
of course they were
very meaningful to her.

172
00:12:16,000 --> 00:12:20,530
And that's one of the few
things that she brought along

173
00:12:20,530 --> 00:12:22,750
with her.

174
00:12:22,750 --> 00:12:30,100
Did you observe the
holidays, the Jewish holidays

175
00:12:30,100 --> 00:12:33,940
while you were in Vilna
and in the Soviet Union?

176
00:12:33,940 --> 00:12:35,020
Very much.

177
00:12:35,020 --> 00:12:41,650
We observed all
holidays and kept kosher

178
00:12:41,650 --> 00:12:45,190
while we were in,
during the Vilna.

179

00:12:45,190 --> 00:12:50,140

And as a matter of fact, I
remember when we left Vilna,

180

00:12:50,140 --> 00:12:54,460

it was right after the
Rosh Hashanah holidays.

181

00:12:54,460 --> 00:12:57,790

And we spent Yom
Kippur in Moscow.

182

00:12:57,790 --> 00:13:03,790

And I remember my sister
and I fast during that day

183

00:13:03,790 --> 00:13:06,580

because we tried to
observe the holiday.

184

00:13:06,580 --> 00:13:12,770

We didn't go to temple because
the Russians didn't allow it.

185

00:13:12,770 --> 00:13:16,810

But during the time
of Vilna, my mother,

186

00:13:16,810 --> 00:13:18,820

in that little
room that she had,

187

00:13:18,820 --> 00:13:21,670

she was able to
observe all holidays.

188

00:13:21,670 --> 00:13:27,790

She used to have a little plate.

189

00:13:27,790 --> 00:13:28,670

What do you call it?

190

00:13:28,670 --> 00:13:32,290

A heating plate where
she used to cook on it.

191

00:13:32,290 --> 00:13:34,930

And she kept-- she
did everything.

192

00:13:34,930 --> 00:13:39,640

She baked and she
cooked did all that.

193

00:13:39,640 --> 00:13:43,630

And all the holiday
dishes and the holiday, it

194

00:13:43,630 --> 00:13:45,100

was whatever you could get.

195

00:13:45,100 --> 00:13:48,130

You couldn't always
get the ingredients,

196

00:13:48,130 --> 00:13:49,930

but whatever she could.

197

00:13:49,930 --> 00:13:55,570

And I remember on Passover,
particularly, they

198

00:13:55,570 --> 00:13:57,790

issued matzah to us.

199

00:13:57,790 --> 00:14:01,150

As a matter of fact,
from the United States.

200

00:14:01,150 --> 00:14:05,530

Manischewitz, matzah,
they issued to us.

201

00:14:05,530 --> 00:14:07,990

And my mother made Passover.

202
00:14:07,990 --> 00:14:14,180
And I'll tell you the
truth, until this day,

203
00:14:14,180 --> 00:14:17,170
I keep a kosher home.

204
00:14:17,170 --> 00:14:19,810
However, I do eat
outside of my home.

205
00:14:19,810 --> 00:14:22,750
I eat in restaurants
and all that.

206
00:14:22,750 --> 00:14:25,510
But I never eat--

207
00:14:25,510 --> 00:14:31,480
on Passover, I never eat
anyplace else except at home.

208
00:14:31,480 --> 00:14:34,690
Because it brings me back
that if my mother was

209
00:14:34,690 --> 00:14:39,280
able to keep kosher on
Passover during that time,

210
00:14:39,280 --> 00:14:42,250
I could keep one week.

211
00:14:42,250 --> 00:14:45,820
I could abstain from going
out to restaurants and places

212
00:14:45,820 --> 00:14:50,110
like-- or eating in areas, in
homes where it's not kosher.

213

00:14:50,110 --> 00:14:54,888
And I never even non-kosher
food on Passover.

214
00:14:54,888 --> 00:14:55,388
Great.

215
00:14:55,388 --> 00:14:59,500
Can you tell me about
your relationship

216
00:14:59,500 --> 00:15:00,475
with Menachem Begin?

217
00:15:00,475 --> 00:15:03,070

218
00:15:03,070 --> 00:15:06,830
I'm looking for something
to use with that picture.

219
00:15:06,830 --> 00:15:08,330
And what were you
celebrating there?

220
00:15:08,330 --> 00:15:09,145
Do you know?

221
00:15:09,145 --> 00:15:12,070
I believe it was
Hanukkah because I

222
00:15:12,070 --> 00:15:17,620
could see the first
Hanukkah candle there.

223
00:15:17,620 --> 00:15:22,120
My relationship with
Menachem Begin started when--

224
00:15:22,120 --> 00:15:24,790
our family relationship
with Menachem Begin

225
00:15:24,790 --> 00:15:27,250
started when I was a
little girl, maybe around

226
00:15:27,250 --> 00:15:29,080
12 years old.

227
00:15:29,080 --> 00:15:35,680
Menachem Begin, at the time,
became the Betar leader

228
00:15:35,680 --> 00:15:39,220
of all of Poland.

229
00:15:39,220 --> 00:15:43,990
And my mother was very active
in the Zionist movement.

230
00:15:43,990 --> 00:15:46,340
And she used to travel.

231
00:15:46,340 --> 00:15:49,030
She went a couple
of times to Warsaw

232
00:15:49,030 --> 00:15:51,670
for the Congress meetings.

233
00:15:51,670 --> 00:15:54,370
And she met Menachem
Begin at that time

234
00:15:54,370 --> 00:15:56,890
when he became the leader.

235
00:15:56,890 --> 00:16:01,690
After, over the years, he
used to come to our small town

236
00:16:01,690 --> 00:16:03,880
for fundraising.

237
00:16:03,880 --> 00:16:07,150
And very often he had
dinner at our home

238
00:16:07,150 --> 00:16:09,760
and he stayed at our home.

239
00:16:09,760 --> 00:16:15,190
And I was about 10
or 12 years old.

240
00:16:15,190 --> 00:16:17,860
Then, when the war--

241
00:16:17,860 --> 00:16:22,720
mother was always in touch and
active during the organization

242
00:16:22,720 --> 00:16:23,230
with him.

243
00:16:23,230 --> 00:16:30,280
Then during the war when we
came to Vilna, Lithuania,

244
00:16:30,280 --> 00:16:40,270
he escaped the Germans
and came to Vilna also.

245
00:16:40,270 --> 00:16:48,430
And that's when we formed the
Betar internet and hostel.

246
00:16:48,430 --> 00:16:55,300
And the picture that you see
that was one of the holidays

247
00:16:55,300 --> 00:16:57,310
that we were celebrating.

248
00:16:57,310 --> 00:17:00,400

And during that time,
we were very close.

249

00:17:00,400 --> 00:17:06,369
And then during the time when
my sister and I were getting

250

00:17:06,369 --> 00:17:09,670
ready to leave for
the United States,

251

00:17:09,670 --> 00:17:12,160
we were going to
say goodbye to him.

252

00:17:12,160 --> 00:17:15,640
And just that day,
they arrested him.

253

00:17:15,640 --> 00:17:18,010
So we didn't get a chance
to say goodbye to him.

254

00:17:18,010 --> 00:17:19,930
And of course, he spent--

255

00:17:19,930 --> 00:17:22,134
they arrested him and
they sent him to Siberia.

256

00:17:22,134 --> 00:17:27,430

257

00:17:27,430 --> 00:17:30,940
Could you tell me during
that period of time

258

00:17:30,940 --> 00:17:33,790
that you were in Vilna that you
were close to Menachem Begin?

259

00:17:33,790 --> 00:17:36,730
I need his name.

260
00:17:36,730 --> 00:17:39,790
Well, during the
time-- oh, I see.

261
00:17:39,790 --> 00:17:41,770
And I could tell you
how close we were.

262
00:17:41,770 --> 00:17:44,440
During the time that
we were in Vilna,

263
00:17:44,440 --> 00:17:51,370
we were very close when Menachem
Begin and his wife, Aliza.

264
00:17:51,370 --> 00:17:59,950
And not only as members
of the same group,

265
00:17:59,950 --> 00:18:04,220
but real, real personal
friends we became.

266
00:18:04,220 --> 00:18:06,130
Of course, we were younger.

267
00:18:06,130 --> 00:18:12,390
But my mother was very close
with him and his wife--

268
00:18:12,390 --> 00:18:16,360
with Menachem Begin
and his wife, Aliza.

269
00:18:16,360 --> 00:18:22,030
Could you tell me that you
celebrated holidays with him?

270
00:18:22,030 --> 00:18:30,400
Well, during the time, of
course, there were holidays.

271
00:18:30,400 --> 00:18:34,300
And we-- Shabbat
--and, of course, we

272
00:18:34,300 --> 00:18:36,100
used to spend it together.

273
00:18:36,100 --> 00:18:38,910
And the picture--
should I mention?

274
00:18:38,910 --> 00:18:40,210
Yeah, just mention the picture.

275
00:18:40,210 --> 00:18:46,630
The picture that was
taken, I'm almost 100%

276
00:18:46,630 --> 00:18:48,670
sure that it was on Hanukkah.

277
00:18:48,670 --> 00:18:51,400
Because I remember
there was a celebration.

278
00:18:51,400 --> 00:18:54,880
And I don't know where the
photographer came from,

279
00:18:54,880 --> 00:18:56,545
but he took the picture of us.

280
00:18:56,545 --> 00:18:59,080

281
00:18:59,080 --> 00:19:04,000
There were other times, and
once when he was very ill

282
00:19:04,000 --> 00:19:09,070
and my mother helped with

cooking certain things for him

283

00:19:09,070 --> 00:19:11,890
to make and feel better.

284

00:19:11,890 --> 00:19:15,010
There was a very
close relationship

285

00:19:15,010 --> 00:19:19,330
with the family in Vilna.

286

00:19:19,330 --> 00:19:21,350
And then-- should
I continue about?

287

00:19:21,350 --> 00:19:23,890
No, that's enough.

288

00:19:23,890 --> 00:19:25,000
Tell me about this.

289

00:19:25,000 --> 00:19:32,986

290

00:19:32,986 --> 00:19:36,340
This is a silver
dish that belonged

291

00:19:36,340 --> 00:19:38,110
to my mother and father.

292

00:19:38,110 --> 00:19:42,220
It was used for lump
sugar, hard sugar.

293

00:19:42,220 --> 00:19:46,450
And then, which was used
most of the time in Europe.

294

00:19:46,450 --> 00:19:49,840
More than loose sugar.

295
00:19:49,840 --> 00:19:52,900
And that tong next
to it you used

296
00:19:52,900 --> 00:19:59,080
to pick up the sugar out of
the box and put it in your cup.

297
00:19:59,080 --> 00:20:02,930
Any particular
significance in that?

298
00:20:02,930 --> 00:20:04,480
Or why did your
mother take that?

299
00:20:04,480 --> 00:20:05,830
I really don't know.

300
00:20:05,830 --> 00:20:08,260
Maybe it was one of her first--

301
00:20:08,260 --> 00:20:10,480
I know we used it all the time.

302
00:20:10,480 --> 00:20:13,540
Every holidays and Shabbat.

303
00:20:13,540 --> 00:20:17,950
Maybe it was one of her wedding
gifts or something like that.

304
00:20:17,950 --> 00:20:22,810
But that's one-- because we
had a lot of beautiful things

305
00:20:22,810 --> 00:20:23,620
in our home.

306
00:20:23,620 --> 00:20:28,170
And why she picked

certain things to take.

307

00:20:28,170 --> 00:20:31,880

Because, of course, she was limited, unable to carry it

308

00:20:31,880 --> 00:20:34,330

and so were we.

309

00:20:34,330 --> 00:20:38,830

But I guess it must have had special significance for her.

310

00:20:38,830 --> 00:20:42,940

How did she get all this stuff out, do you know?

311

00:20:42,940 --> 00:20:46,270

She had just had it packed in a little valise.

312

00:20:46,270 --> 00:20:49,350

And the blankets, of course, she gave us.

313

00:20:49,350 --> 00:20:55,180

And some of these things, they didn't take up much room.

314

00:20:55,180 --> 00:20:58,630

But over the years I've never gotten

315

00:20:58,630 --> 00:21:03,160

around asking her how she was able to carry the clock.

316

00:21:03,160 --> 00:21:07,780

Because that comes in a special case.

317

00:21:07,780 --> 00:21:11,140

But perseverance.

318
00:21:11,140 --> 00:21:16,060
[LAUGHS]

319
00:21:16,060 --> 00:21:19,105
Can you describe the
little silver bowl?

320
00:21:19,105 --> 00:21:22,000
The little silver--

321
00:21:22,000 --> 00:21:30,250
Tell me-- start with what
did your mother take out?

322
00:21:30,250 --> 00:21:33,510

323
00:21:33,510 --> 00:21:35,370
I should list them?

324
00:21:35,370 --> 00:21:44,740
Well, start with
you don't know why

325
00:21:44,740 --> 00:21:47,283
she picked what she did, but
one thing of significance

326
00:21:47,283 --> 00:21:47,950
that she picked.

327
00:21:47,950 --> 00:21:51,660
That I realized why she
might have picked that.

328
00:21:51,660 --> 00:21:52,160
Right.

329
00:21:52,160 --> 00:21:56,020
OK, all right.

330

00:21:56,020 --> 00:22:02,630

I don't really know
what significance--

331

00:22:02,630 --> 00:22:05,320

I'll start from the beginning.

332

00:22:05,320 --> 00:22:10,750

I'm not really sure why
mother took some of the things

333

00:22:10,750 --> 00:22:12,640

that she did take with her.

334

00:22:12,640 --> 00:22:17,350

But I know, of course, the
candlesticks had a very special

335

00:22:17,350 --> 00:22:19,810

religious meaning to her.

336

00:22:19,810 --> 00:22:23,950

And this little
dish, this little cup

337

00:22:23,950 --> 00:22:29,110

or dish that I remember we
used to use it during Passover

338

00:22:29,110 --> 00:22:36,190

for charoset, which is
used during the Seder.

339

00:22:36,190 --> 00:22:41,890

And of course it had
a special significance

340

00:22:41,890 --> 00:22:45,280

because it was only
used for that occasion.

341

00:22:45,280 --> 00:22:48,220

And I'm sure that
was the reason she

342
00:22:48,220 --> 00:22:50,200
decided on that little dish.

343
00:22:50,200 --> 00:22:53,190

344
00:22:53,190 --> 00:22:54,760
This is the plans of your house.

345
00:22:54,760 --> 00:22:55,260
Why?

346
00:22:55,260 --> 00:23:02,090

347
00:23:02,090 --> 00:23:07,730
These are the, actually,
plans of the property.

348
00:23:07,730 --> 00:23:12,830

349
00:23:12,830 --> 00:23:14,430
Why she took that with her?

350
00:23:14,430 --> 00:23:19,310
Maybe to have proof
that she owns that.

351
00:23:19,310 --> 00:23:21,530
That it belonged to her.

352
00:23:21,530 --> 00:23:26,990
Because those are the official
plans of the property.

353
00:23:26,990 --> 00:23:30,080
In Poland, you were not--

354

00:23:30,080 --> 00:23:32,300

actually, you did
not own the land.

355

00:23:32,300 --> 00:23:35,900

If you had a home, you
never owned the land.

356

00:23:35,900 --> 00:23:41,660

You only owned the house
that the land was on.

357

00:23:41,660 --> 00:23:46,520

As Jews, we're never
allowed to own land.

358

00:23:46,520 --> 00:23:50,190

The land belonged
to the land owners.

359

00:23:50,190 --> 00:23:52,610

But you were given
permission to build your home

360

00:23:52,610 --> 00:23:56,930

and you were able to live
there as long as you lived

361

00:23:56,930 --> 00:23:58,510

and pay taxes.

362

00:23:58,510 --> 00:24:00,170

And then that was that.

363

00:24:00,170 --> 00:24:02,488

So you think your mother
took the plans of the house

364

00:24:02,488 --> 00:24:03,530

to prove that you owned--

365

00:24:03,530 --> 00:24:06,680

To prove that we owned a house.

366

00:24:06,680 --> 00:24:10,190

But I know the house
doesn't exist anymore.

367

00:24:10,190 --> 00:24:14,780

Because people have gone
back to Volozhin most of it

368

00:24:14,780 --> 00:24:19,790

was destroyed during
the changing of the--

369

00:24:19,790 --> 00:24:21,710

first the Russians,
then Germans.

370

00:24:21,710 --> 00:24:23,070

And then vice versa.

371

00:24:23,070 --> 00:24:26,120

There were a lot of
fighting going on.

372

00:24:26,120 --> 00:24:29,690

Could you give me that
in a complete sentence?

373

00:24:29,690 --> 00:24:34,070

"My mother took the
plans to prove--"

374

00:24:34,070 --> 00:24:38,360

I imagine that my mother
took the plans for the--

375

00:24:38,360 --> 00:24:39,710

I can't use "I mentioned."

376

00:24:39,710 --> 00:24:40,845

I imagine?

377

00:24:40,845 --> 00:24:42,650

She said "I imagine."

378

00:24:42,650 --> 00:24:45,410

Oh, I see.

379

00:24:45,410 --> 00:24:48,686

I think.

380

00:24:48,686 --> 00:24:52,670

I think that my
mother took the plans

381

00:24:52,670 --> 00:24:59,960

to have proof that she owned
that property or the home

382

00:24:59,960 --> 00:25:01,790

on that property.

383

00:25:01,790 --> 00:25:04,910

Those are official
plans that were

384

00:25:04,910 --> 00:25:10,370

given by the village
or the municipality.

385

00:25:10,370 --> 00:25:13,370

And I think that was the only
reason she took it with her.

386

00:25:13,370 --> 00:25:18,210

387

00:25:18,210 --> 00:25:21,340

Oh, those blankets.

388

00:25:21,340 --> 00:25:24,530

Those were her
blankets and those

389

00:25:24,530 --> 00:25:28,630

were her [INAUDIBLE]

blankets that she used.

390

00:25:28,630 --> 00:25:32,200

And then when we were leaving

home, when she packed us

391

00:25:32,200 --> 00:25:35,230

up that night, she

gave us those blankets

392

00:25:35,230 --> 00:25:39,670

because she wanted to make sure

that we would be kept warm.

393

00:25:39,670 --> 00:25:41,500

And we did.

394

00:25:41,500 --> 00:25:45,030

We surely use them all the time.

395

00:25:45,030 --> 00:25:47,605

And they're very, very unusual.

396

00:25:47,605 --> 00:25:50,950

They're very unusual wool.

397

00:25:50,950 --> 00:25:52,230

They are reversible.

398

00:25:52,230 --> 00:25:54,820

They're beautiful.

399

00:25:54,820 --> 00:25:57,740

And they are just

like brand new.

400

00:25:57,740 --> 00:26:02,770

They must be, let's say, they're

probably about 85 years old.

401
00:26:02,770 --> 00:26:05,560

402
00:26:05,560 --> 00:26:06,920
Did you use them all the time?

403
00:26:06,920 --> 00:26:08,920
Did you use them on the
Trans-Siberian Railroad?

404
00:26:08,920 --> 00:26:09,580
Yes.

405
00:26:09,580 --> 00:26:11,300
We used them all the time.

406
00:26:11,300 --> 00:26:17,470
And as a matter of fact,
when I came back here,

407
00:26:17,470 --> 00:26:20,140
we used them when we were
here in the United States.

408
00:26:20,140 --> 00:26:22,080
And then, of course,
they're small.

409
00:26:22,080 --> 00:26:24,070
They're for single beds.

410
00:26:24,070 --> 00:26:26,800
When my children went
to sleep away camp,

411
00:26:26,800 --> 00:26:31,660
I used to give them to take
them with sleep away camp

412
00:26:31,660 --> 00:26:33,420
to keep them warm.

413

00:26:33,420 --> 00:26:37,690

It has their names
on it from camp.

414

00:26:37,690 --> 00:26:41,141

[LAUGHS]

415

00:26:41,141 --> 00:26:43,810

OK, and this?

416

00:26:43,810 --> 00:26:55,000

This is a silver citation that
was given to a group of Betar

417

00:26:55,000 --> 00:27:05,050

from the national organization
for some unusual good deeds

418

00:27:05,050 --> 00:27:08,410

that the group did.

419

00:27:08,410 --> 00:27:13,310

And when the war broke out
and we were leaving Volozhin

420

00:27:13,310 --> 00:27:16,330

and they were very
anxious to give it to us

421

00:27:16,330 --> 00:27:22,240

So maybe we could rescue
it and take it out from--

422

00:27:22,240 --> 00:27:26,290

bring it out from Russia
or wherever we're going.

423

00:27:26,290 --> 00:27:29,200

And we tried very hard to do it.

424

00:27:29,200 --> 00:27:31,150

We did it, my sister and I.

425
00:27:31,150 --> 00:27:34,300
What would have happened
to you if they had

426
00:27:34,300 --> 00:27:36,810
discovered that you had this?

427
00:27:36,810 --> 00:27:39,720
Well, I'll tell you one
thing, I don't think even--

428
00:27:39,720 --> 00:27:43,170
I don't think I would
be sitting here today.

429
00:27:43,170 --> 00:27:46,620
Because they were
very, very strict.

430
00:27:46,620 --> 00:27:49,500
Why we did it, right now--

431
00:27:49,500 --> 00:27:54,270
I mean, but we were
young and, I guess,

432
00:27:54,270 --> 00:27:58,320
very national,
very zionistically,

433
00:27:58,320 --> 00:28:00,600
nationalistically-minded.

434
00:28:00,600 --> 00:28:04,690
And we wanted to do it, without
thinking of the consequences.

435
00:28:04,690 --> 00:28:08,700
But we knew that if
anything, if they would have

436

00:28:08,700 --> 00:28:15,930
catch it with us, we
would have been detained.

437
00:28:15,930 --> 00:28:21,220
We would have never been
allowed to leave Vladivostok.

438
00:28:21,220 --> 00:28:29,280
We were really scared when
they came to body searches.

439
00:28:29,280 --> 00:28:34,640
They didn't strip us, but
they body searched us.

440
00:28:34,640 --> 00:28:37,010
So could you tell me that
one more time a little bit

441
00:28:37,010 --> 00:28:37,820
more concisely?

442
00:28:37,820 --> 00:28:41,420
When you were in
Vladivostok, you

443
00:28:41,420 --> 00:28:44,450
were very scared that they
would discover this plaque.

444
00:28:44,450 --> 00:28:45,980
And tell me what it is.

445
00:28:45,980 --> 00:28:50,990

446
00:28:50,990 --> 00:28:52,462
I can't be sure I
could remember--

447
00:28:52,462 --> 00:28:54,920
People will be looking at it,

but they still need to know--

448
00:28:54,920 --> 00:28:57,500
What it is.

449
00:28:57,500 --> 00:29:03,860
OK, when we arrived in
Vladivostok, we were searched.

450
00:29:03,860 --> 00:29:08,090
Our baggage was searched
and we were bodily searched,

451
00:29:08,090 --> 00:29:09,950
but not stripped.

452
00:29:09,950 --> 00:29:14,480
And we had it
hidden on our body.

453
00:29:14,480 --> 00:29:21,470
But we were very, very concerned
that it would be discovered.

454
00:29:21,470 --> 00:29:25,280
At that time, I think that we
were probably a little sorry

455
00:29:25,280 --> 00:29:26,930
that we tried.

456
00:29:26,930 --> 00:29:31,070
But thank God we were
successful in rescuing it.

457
00:29:31,070 --> 00:29:33,320
The reason we did
was it was very

458
00:29:33,320 --> 00:29:37,400
meaningful to our organization.

459

00:29:37,400 --> 00:29:40,310

It was sort of, we
were very proud of it,

460

00:29:40,310 --> 00:29:44,000

the fact that we received it.

461

00:29:44,000 --> 00:29:49,850

And it was meaningful
to my sister and myself

462

00:29:49,850 --> 00:29:55,370

to try to get it out
because they trusted us.

463

00:29:55,370 --> 00:29:58,040

They entrusted us with it.

464

00:29:58,040 --> 00:30:02,990

So this was a
silver emblem which

465

00:30:02,990 --> 00:30:10,430

was sent to the Betar
Volozhin from Warsaw,

466

00:30:10,430 --> 00:30:12,620

from the headquarters in Warsaw.

467

00:30:12,620 --> 00:30:21,140

And I believe at that time it
was [INAUDIBLE] was different.

468

00:30:21,140 --> 00:30:22,850

Not Menachem Begin.

469

00:30:22,850 --> 00:30:26,960

He was the head of
the organization.

470

00:30:26,960 --> 00:30:32,420

And that's why it was
so meaningful to us

471

00:30:32,420 --> 00:30:35,990

to try to get it
out, to rescue it.

472

00:30:35,990 --> 00:30:39,540

And thank God we
were successful.

473

00:30:39,540 --> 00:30:48,610

And I hope to donate it,
as I said, to the museum.

474

00:30:48,610 --> 00:31:15,000