

Oral History-tape #1
Ruth, Steven, Flora, Leo

Last update: 8/5/02

Father was Solomon Winter, born August 29, 1871 in Wittelshofen

Mother was Hedwig Winter, born 2/6/1874. In Bütthard by Würzburg

SF: Spell Wittelshofen

FF: I hate to do that.

SF: Where is it located?

FF: In Bavaria

Mother's maiden name was Sichel.

I know my grandparents names but not when they were born. Mother's mother's name was

Malie (or Mallie?) Sichel. Mother's father's name was Simon Sichel

My father's mother's name was Hanna Winter, maiden name Monheimer.

Grandfathers's name was Falk Winter.

Grandmother was about 80 about '22. Died in 1922. and never knew my grandfather.

Never knew mother's parents too. Never knew either grandfather.

My parents married in 1899. They were matched. Introduced and the man who introduced mother to father said that father comes from wealthy parents. Only trouble in family is red hair.

If she doesn't mind red hair, he is the only child so she will do very well. So my mother said it doesn't bother me, I have to see the man. When she was introduced she really fell in love with him and I don't blame her, I would have too.

Set up by a matchmaker. When my mother's parents died, she moved to her sister who was married and her sister's husband was a teacher and a cantor. The cantor and teacher in our home town was a friend of his and that how he ur... not really a matchmaker but a friendly matchmaker. Actually through a mutual friend.

SF: Like how Ginny and I met on a blind date.

SF: Describe your parents.

FF: My grandmother was extremely smart but I didn't like her too much. Very bossy.

SF: Comes naturally

FF: Why do you have to look at each other like that. In fact when the minister in our town wanted a special sermon written up he came to my grandmother and she could write like a writer.

She was very bright. And my parents were very good people, very honest people, very charitable people. They helped everybody. Everybody. No matter what religion or whatever. Color they didn't have at that time. In fact one beggar came to town and my parents were away.

They were away. They were invited somewhere. When he got off the bus someone said to him 'Fraü Winter isn't home today' so he said 'I might as well go' because if my mother wasn't home he wouldn't come. And the Jewish schnorrers they used to call, came every few weeks.

He ate by us, he slept by us. And for a while he didn't come and my parents knew where he came from so they called up the Jewish community there and he(had) died. And he left my mother all his earthly goods, which were 100 marks, and my mother went and took the 100 marks and got him a tombstone. That's how good my parents were.

We had every year from the, what do you call that, orphanage in Furth where Ida was. We had 4 boys all summer and we dressed them with shoes and everything and we sent them back again.

For years. I was in love with one and I wrote it on a post card. The president of the school called my father and he told me never to write things like that on a postcard. What did I know.

That was really great. It was a good, good home.

My mother was very good looking and my father was, to me, very good looking too. My father was very tall. This is my daddy. That's the hometown.

Ruth: And he had a red beard, right.

SF: And a mustache. Did he have a beard or just a mustache?

FF: Had a mustache. And your (Ruth's) mother was the only one who resembled my father in size, in tall he was about like Uncle Leo. Not quite that tall but tall. Not stocky. He was well proportioned but not fat.

My mother used to be very beautiful but in the later years she got stout. She got stout. You know they ate a lot of ... I don't know. She was stout.

SF: What peculiarities do you think of when you think of your parents?

FF: I never think of any peculiarities (habits).

SF: They were good people, generous people, and your father always looked the other way with whatever you did.

FF: You bet. And my mother didn't approve of it. I never could find anything wrong with my parents. I was very young when I left and whenever I came home I really had a good, good time. I was lazy and didn't want to do any work. And my mother always said "child, one time in life must everyone work and someday it is going to hit you and you better start at home." Of boy, did I learn. Huh?

SF: What did your father do? FF: He was a cattle dealer.

SF: What did your mother do during the day?

FF: Huh. She had a house. We had two maids. We had a man who worked for us and two maids. And we had, what's you call it, where the cows go in. We had a big barn. The green grass. The pasture. And we had further away those pastures. They had to be gone after. Then we had a very big garden with all kinds of fruit: apples, pears, plums, nuts, and the gardens they were...and we had beautiful gardens with every vegetable under the sun. We never bought vegetables. We never bought salad. We never bought fruit. We grew all the stuff like that. Cherries, everything. We even grew flowers. Anything there was we never bought.

SF: What did you do in the wintertime?

FF: We kept them. They were sterilized in jars and they were in those big jars. And there was a thermostat in the middle of them. Boiled them in a big vat. We had them in the hundreds. The food had to be taken care of, in the cellars. We had big cellars. I told you our house was built on the cellars of a castle. And in the cellars we had those big...they were like closets and you pulled out the drawers and they were full of apples and then on the ground we had earth and in the earth we buried red beets and all those kinds of things. They last(ed) from one winter until the spring. Beets were kept in the bushels and kept in the sand. Big sacks were on pieces of paper. And the apples. Auch, did we have apples. We had a cellar twice the size of this room and the wooden things in which the apples were, were all around. When the name was written on, what kind of apples they were. And the other thing was for the wine.

SF: Did you make your own wine? FF: No we bought it. And beer for the summer. We had a big barrel of beer. It was a good life. You would have enjoyed it. Oh God, how you would have enjoyed it as a child, to come to a place like this. You didn't appreciate it because that's all you knew. It was hard work. But that's all they had to do, really. I mean there wasn't... no woman had to ever work.

SF: What kind of transportation did they have?

FF: My father had a horse and ...you know like they have in the Pennsylvania Dutch...they have

those buggies. Heavier buggies. In the winter he had a sled because you couldn't use the wagon.

SF: You didn't have a car?

FF: No. Motorcycle.

SF: You had a motorcycle?

FF: Bianca's father had a motorcycle. SF: Was it a BMW. FF: No. It was a triumph. I had two bicycles.

My older sister was Marta and my other sister's name was Gerda. My older sister was born August 1st, 1900 in Wittelshofen and Gerda was born May 17, 1903. Marta married Samuel Bravman. He was born February 10, 1893 and Gerda married Emmanuel Danzig who was born on July 29, 1895. Marta and Samuel met in Wittelshofen. He lived there; he came back after the first World War and that's how they met. I was 6 years old and don't know any of the details. Gerda met Emmanuel through a friend of mine. I told that friend that I have a sister who is older than me who I would love to come to München. He invited her and they fell in love, they really fell in love. But he always loved me. He always told me he loved me. In a different way.

Samuel was a cattle dealer together with my father and Ruth's father was first a procorist (sp? and word?). He worked for Truler (name?) procorist. Like an accountant. In the accounting line. He had education for it. And later they moved away. The firm was sold to a firm in England and they moved to England (the firm) and then her father worked for the temple. First he held mincah service and then he did everything. He was the shamus and the banus and the...he did everything there was to do in the temple. He held the afternoon services and all that. And then one boy, Sigbert, my favorite, was born to Marta and Samuel. He was born September 19, 1923. He was just a pride and joy to everybody. That's Bianca's brother. He was really something.

Sigbert became a baker. He was so smart but you couldn't send him to school (because of the times). He would have outdone anybody. So Ida worked in Karlsruhe in her uncle's bakery and they brought him there as a baker. She said he was one of the best. He was really the pride and joy to everyone.

Ruth: Where does Ida fit in?

FF: Ida's uncle married my sister. Ida was a friend who lived in the same town. Ida's mother was a widow. Her maiden name was Bravman. And my sister married the Bravman. So Ida is not related to me at all, but she called my sister Aunt Marta and her husband Uncle Samuel and I wanted her to call me Aunt Flora and she wouldn't do it. We went to school together. First, the Turner and Weiler. Their father's name was Sichel and he was a brother of my mother. My father had no brothers or sisters. He was an only child. My mother had 12 brothers and sisters. There were 12 children altogether. One cousin is Aunt Saler. Her mother was a Sichel. And there was another sister and she had two sons and a daughter and the two sons were in the first World War. One was killed in action and one was at the day of the (World War I) armistice he threw a letter in the mailbox to tell his parents when he is coming home and the mailbox exploded and killed him. So my uncle and aunt just died of broken hearts, of TB. And their daughter was very badly spoiled and through the Hitler time I don't know what happened to them.

Uncle Emmanuel was also in Portland. He died, his wife died and his sons died. There were three uncles in Portland. Sons were sent to America. And the other sisters they all died. Some of them I never knew. Don't know what my mother's parents did for a living.

Ruth Turner is my first cousin and was born in Portland.

Herta is from my father's side. Aunt Herta's mother and my father were first cousins. Herta's mother's maiden name was Winter and my father's name was Winter. My father's father and Herta's mother's father were brothers. And Gretl's father was another brother of my grandfather. I don't know how many brothers there were and there were two sisters also. I was not too interested in some of the relatives. When you are young, what do you care about such things?

We're aren't related at all to the Kalbermans. No relation whatsoever. My father's mother. No. Daddy's mother's...Uncle Max Frank. My (Actually Siegfried's) father's mother and Uncle Max were brother and sister and Uncle Max married Tanta's (Mella Kalberman's mother) sister, which is the Vineland family. Lehman. That's pretty far.

There are some pictures of daddy. You know, you wrote on them. That's our daddy. The oldest was daddy. That's our daddy with his bicycle he was so proud of. That was with his dog.

Cannot tell you about your father's brothers and sisters. Your father had one sister, Hedwig, who was married. Had no children. Father's birthday October 16. Mother's was born in 1873. Could be. And father was born in 1874. He was a year younger. Hermann Frank and Therese Frank. Her maiden name was Frank. They lived in Bittenwiesen. In Bavaria. The sister's name was Hedwig. She was born 1902 and the other brother's name was Karl and he was born 1904, Ernst was born 1907, and Ludwig 1912.

In Bittenwiesen Siegfried was also a butcher and cattle dealer. He came to the United States in 1939. A cattle dealer was this. They bought cattles and all depends. If they had cattles for ... if they bought them for slaughter then they fat(ten) them up and then brought them to the cattle market auction. If they had cattles which the people needed for milk or for er... and they sold them from one to another. We bred cattles too. They went to the auctions and bought what they needed. If they had orders for cattles for pulling the wagons then they went to the auctions and tried to get them.

SF: People put orders in to them for what kind of cattles they needed?

FF: That's right. And then they bought them and then sold them for profit. Sometimes we bred some cattles. There was a big, big cattle market that was a few days away. He had to go a few days and then bring them home and then fatten them up and then bring them to the slaughterhouses. That's how they made the money.

SF: Any of father's relatives?

FF: The cousins Otto Frank and Walter Frank. Their fathers were brothers. They're very old. Also the sister-in-law also is very old. They live in New York. They came to America the year you were born. I went with her...she knew how to sew and wanted to make a living at it. I went with her to those trade places. I was already that big but I took her under my arm and I went with her. We walked all over where the sewing places were. You know, those sweatshops.

Ruth: How did you meet Siegfried Frank?

FF: Oh, boy. Somebody, a very old lady, a friend of my parents who liked me a lot and whenever I from Munich home I stopped in that city which was called Nordlingen to visit that old woman because I really liked her. And they came to America and they always asked me to come and visit them and finally one day I went there. Daddy was very friendly with a couple from Bittenwiesen and they were cousins with those Lefiters and the Leiters. The people I was friendly with (Leiters) and the people he was friendly with. They called me up once and asked

me to come at that and that time so I asked why. They said they had a very good friend who would like to meet me, so I asked 'what does he do?' So they said he is a butcher so I had no time. I had no time. So then she said 'when do you have time to come' and I said 'I don't know I'm very busy.' So one day she called me up and said "Look, you held us up long enough now. This is the best and nicest man you have ever met and you better come. Butcher or shoemaker or whatever it is you better come. You get down from your high horse and you better come." And so I went. And daddy liked me right away. I had a hat on and he didn't like my hat. I wore a hat. He said he couldn't understand how I could wear a hat.... I was 25. Look at this picture. It was when I was single.

SF: It says care of Eiseman on it.

FF: That's where I worked.

SF: you worked for the Eisemans?

FF: not for those. For anyone, believe me.

And then he invited me a few times. I was also going with another fella who was...who came from Nürnberg. I was very friendly with him. Daddy wanted to go steady but I told him I had to go to Lake Placid where I worked and I have to find out first what I really want. I liked the other fella better because he was better looking. I got letters. Daddy wrote to me and he wrote to me. That other guy, his name was Weil, wrote a letter to me and the envelope was addressed to me but the inside was addressed to a girl in Germany where he was going steady. He wrote about me and some of things were absolutely untrue. I couldn't believe it. Now I said to myself 'you went long enough for the outside of the person, now you better go for the inside.' Then I kept writing to daddy and he couldn't understand the letters were so different. They changed so. I told him later.

Then that Beno (sp?) Weil was his name. I figured I cannot write to him, I have to tell him. So then when I came back and daddy picked me up at Grand Central Station and brought me flowers and then he said he was taking me out to eat. Where do I want to go to eat? I said in the delicatessen. He was so relieved. He figured because I worked for such rich people that I have such rich ideas, you know. So we went there and we had a frankfurter and he was so grateful. He said to me 'I though you have all those high ideas and this...' and so that was it. Then a week or two later I met that other fella and he came and had something in a box like a thing of beer or whatever it was and he wanted to give it to me and I said 'you hold it Beno. I don't want to take a present from you.' I liked his mother a lot and I told him what I found and we broke up right then and there. I said I brought the letter back, I said 'you put it in the wrong letter and said you wanted to send it to her so send it to her.' In the meantime it was very bad and you couldn't write anymore to Germany so that's how I met daddy and what happened.

SF: What kind of pets did you have when you were growing up?

FF: Oh, God. Dogs and cats and sheep and a goat, lamb, you name it I had it. Oh I had such beautiful dogs. I did. I had two dogs like this. The little one died and I buried him and put a cross on his grave. My little one Ami and the other one was Leo and the other was Hans (laughter) and they were Saint Bernards. They were so beautiful. They shot them. The Germans shot them when I was home.

I was so afraid to look at a horse I wouldn't go into the stable. I used to feed the cows. Those kind of things I loved to do but when the horse... We had two horses, one for my father and one.... See in the Jewish religion you could never put a horse and a cow on a wagon to pull because a horse has more strength than a cow. Only two horses or two cows. So when we had

in the summer when we had to take home the hay and all those kind of things, we had two horses for this and in the winter we only had one. That horse was so old but I wouldn't go near it. We had some nice cows. We had little ones. Sometimes 40 and sometimes 5, it all depends. When I was a baby we had one for that purpose, for the milk, and when Bianca and her baby we had two. Always the steady one so the milk didn't have to be...always the same milk. We had little ones. My father bought once 50 little ones. We had extra stables for a while to see them grow up. You know bigger than calves. They were beautiful. I loved to work with them. I loved to work with them. But nothing in the house. No cooking, no nothing. Boy's work.

Our house was a nice house. It was nice to those times you know. You had a living room which was a dining room. In the middle of the living room was a dining room table which you could pull out. It was underneath. You pulled it out. We had everything there. We had everything there. We had a credenza, we had a buffet. But every house had in the middle of the living room a table. We had a beautiful stove. A square, long table. The table was a regular size and when we ate we pulled it out just like this and when we had company you pulled more out. Could be pulled out and out. We had beautiful flowers.

Next to the living room was a room which used to be my grandmother's room. When she died in 1922, I was 10 years old, I remember that. Then my father put his desk in and put his books in and a sewing machine in. We made it just like that. And then we had a kitchen with two big buffets. A milchdich and a fleishdich. And a stove and also a table and all those things. No icebox. Next to the kitchen was what they called a 'schpice'(sp?) was like a cool room. It was very cold. How it was so cold I don't know because we had no ice. It came from...it was built up from the cellars, see, and next to it, as big as this, we had what you called it your icebox but there was no ice in there. A pantry. It was very cold in there and I don't know why.

Then we had the bedrooms. On the same level we had my bedroom and then on the other side we had my sister's bedroom and upstairs was my parent's bedroom and another kitchen if you wanted to use the kitchen for two families. You know my mother. It was really built for two families. We used it for storage, for storing things. Then there was another room where we had the flour. When you had so many people you made your own bread and you had the big bins in there. White flour and dark flour. All the things and corn and that kind of stuff in that so-called kitchen.

Then we had a room which was called the 'gudes tzimmer (good room)'. We had the piano in there, we had the red velvet sofa in there and red velvet chairs and a big table and the most beautiful buffet you have ever seen in your life. I don't know what ever happened to it. Right now you ask me (what kind of piano) I couldn't tell you. (Note: it was a Bechstein.) It was like this and had two hands up like this. There were like two handles which were put on there and it was an upright. It was a beautiful piano but I never liked to play it. It was on the second floor. Then we had another room where we had a laundry mangow(?) A mangow where you...after the wash dried you put it through that mangow. We were the only one in the whole... not to dry it, you put it through like your sheets your things you didn't have to iron (e.g. a wringer). We were the only one to have that, no one else had that. Then we went upstairs and there were the maids' rooms. On the third floor. Two maids rooms.

Bianca's parents lived in Munich and Ruth's parents lived in the same town as we did. (Note: opposite of actual situation.) They had their own house. I remember and I don't (what their house was like.) My father bought it from an old woman who had no children and nobody. She died and when she died Ida's mother moved in. Ida's mother was always renting a place

you know. So she moved in and had the downstairs which was a living room, a bedroom, a kitchen and also (a place) like where you kept your fruit and your stuff, you know. My sister lived upstairs. They had beautiful things. When I think of the furniture she got when she got married my heart breaks still today. Beautiful furniture, and they a kitchen and a living room. One room was called a 'spice tzimmer' already. An extra room for dining. With a buffet and....it was a beautiful, beautiful room. They had such figurines and everything. We had it home too.

We had a pewter, a whole wall of pewter and we had beer steins, pewter beer steins, other beer steins. Then my father never smoked but he collected some pipes and we had them hanging there and there were ebony pipes with silver things on them and we had beautiful silver. Oh my parents had such beautiful silver, which only came out when company came. And dishes and all that stuff which you buy now...the stuff you bought...the bowls and things ...pottery. We had all that stuff for Passover. We had tons. Up in the roof was in boxes and written on there yontiff fleishdich and milchdich. We had very beautiful furniture in the living room. Very beautiful furniture. We had upstairs that buffet, it was just beautiful. (In the buffet was) good dishes all the porcelains, all good figurines.. The only thing I got from there were those pink little demi-tasse. All those birds, all this here. That's why it means so much to mean. The birds came from home. I had so much I gave it away. I needed wedding presents for the Hoffheimers so I gave them the crystal bowls and all those kind of things.

SF: What did the farm look like? How many barns did you have?

FF: I tell you something, when I left it was a sad looking thing. It was a very sad looking thing. We had no more cows. We had no more... They took the wagons out. We were the only family.... See for transportation to the nearby cattle market my father had made like a truck which had to be pulled by two horses and he had this made. Everything was taken away. It was very sad. (Before) it looked like a very well kept farm, a very well kept farm.

END OF TAPE 1, SIDE 1.

SIDE 2

We had two barns. Two big barns. We had hay wagons in there. We had a cow wagon for transportation. We had those wheel barrels. Whatever you needed. I don't even know the name for all those kind of things. One day we had 40 (cattle) and two days later we had 4 or 5. We had one steady cow. Oh boy, we had one steady cow.

SF: Was cattle dealing the family business?

FF: Ya, my father's father was a cattle dealer and then he also dealt with leather. Leather. Skins. Hides and leather. And he did very well with it. Sometimes my father, when they bothered him, so he says "ok, since he had this friend who had a leather factory so he used to say to him 'oh, they bother me for so'. He made good money on that too."

In the Jewish community he was the president for many, many years. For as long as I can remember. in the gentile community, he was everything but mayor. He was on the school board, he was the other board, he was for the poor, he was everything, everywhere. People used to come to us and brought complaints and he brought it up to the mayor and they had meetings and the school board they had meetings. He was just the only Jewish man in town for all those kinds of things.

SF: So he was the main contact between the gentile and Jewish community?

FF: He was president of the synagogue. When I remembered there were maybe 15 families there and then less and less. The children got married and moved away; the elderly people died and then later on everybody moved away.

SF: What did the family do on a normal week?

FF: The man went out to work and the woman was home and cooked and washed.

SF: Somewhere we got all those doilies.

FF: They did this in the winter in the evening. Oh, yeah. They were sitting there. That was the right way of doing for a well brought up family, just I was the only one who rebelled against it. I blamed my eyes. I used to sit like this and say 'my eyes can't see.'

SF: What did the family do for entertainment?

FF: They came to visit each other. The grandchildren came. They went to visit in the afternoons.

SF: Did your father bring flowers home all the time?

FF: No, we had the flowers right outside.

SF: Did they read a lot of books?

FF: Ya, oh ya. Oh my God how I had to go to the library every so often. The school library. We had a lot of books at home.

SF: Did your parents have any special degrees or did your father just learn the trade?

FF: No, my father went to high school when he was young. Novels. Read all books. Genevieve. That was one my mother read every year. My father read books on everything.

Ruth: Who played the piano?

FF: Your (Ruth's) mother. I played but I didn't like to. It went too slow for me. They bought me a violin. I started learning and then they told me only boys learn the violin so I broke it. Couldn't play it.

SF: There was a bearskin rug on the floor?

FF: That wasn't a bearskin. It wasn't a bearskin. That was from one of our dogs. I hid the key of the piano. They didn't know. It was What do you call it when the dog dies and then you skinned it and have it fixed. There was one person who picked it up and did everything and they brought it back and it was laying like this but the head was up like that. That wasn't a dog you can pet. They were dogs for the fields and the cows and for this. Then we had that skin and I had the piano up there. Then when our junior teacher taught me. When my mother came up once he had his arm around me like this. I was 15 or 16 and he was 18. So my mother said from now on, when I get the lessons, she has to be there because she didn't like that. I said I wouldn't do it. If you be there, I'm not playing piano anymore. So one day my mother came up and she sat there and did some whatever...crocheting, and I finished and no more. I was very young then. So I took the key and threw it in the dog's mouth and went down where you couldn't see. This room was only cleaned for Passover. No one was ever in this room. It was always locked. So then you went and shook out the rug and the things and the key came out. Then I told them what I did. My mother said 'we're not going to spend money. If you don't want to play you don't play', so I never played.

Ruth's mother played. They did everything my parents told them to do. Especially Ruth's mother. She never said no. They used to say "The oldest can never say no." The big ones never said that. They did everything they were told

SF: What sports did you participate in?

FF: At home, skiing, bicycle riding, runner in public school and all the school sports—in Munich,

not home.

SF: Where did you go skiing.

FF: Home, in Munich, in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, in Lenggries.

SF: How far was Switzerland?

FF: From Munich, 3 and a half, four hours. From Wittelshofen to Munich was 5-6 hours by train.

SF: Did others in the family participate in a lot of sports?

FF: No, just me. They were married already, and when you're married you don't do those kinds of things.

SF: Didn't an uncle skate with Sonya Henie?

FF: Ya, you know that. In Munich everybody went skiing. You didn't go skiing you were severely an outcast.

SF: How about my father's family?

FF: Your father's family had a hard job making ends meet. The only one who really made ends meet was your daddy. His father retired with 42. He had asthma and he had those boys. You know the boys were supposed to support the parents. He was a butcher. But what he did...daddy made money and very hard earned money and he put it all into the house. He built and built and built and daddy was promised a motorcycle and never got it. His youngest brother I knew in Munich. He went to high school there. He went to trade school and as a kaufman (buyer/salesman). I have his picture here. He spent the money the way they made it. He went out with girls like crazy. I never went out with him because I didn't like the girls he went out with.

Then he had two more brothers. One was a baker. I don't know what the other one was. I think Ernst was the baker and Ludwig was the salesman. Karl, I don't know what he was. But the brothers were not that ambitious. He was the most ambitious one. That's what the people told me from Bittenwiesen. Everyone said he was the best of all. And then he made the money so his sister could get married. She got 10,000 marks when she got married. SF: He made money for her dowry.

FF: Ya. There is another relative in New York. I told you they are elderly people now. That's the sister's sister-in-law. She came to Bittenwiesen and she wanted to marry daddy. So they said that if he would marry the sister-in-law he would get the 10,000 marks back but he didn't like her. She was a very nice person. Recha. You must remember her. She used to come to the house. But he didn't care for her, he always said. So he had to marry out his sister for 10,000 marks and the studies of his brother cost another 10,000 marks. When it came to him. He did everything on bicycle. To get his motorcycle then something else came up. His father built and built and built and he never got it. That's why when he got the car here he felt he was king.

He was very active. He was very sporty. Football. All kinds of sports. He had muscles.

Ruth: Like Popeye.

FF: Yeah, he had muscles. Daddy and me, we walked and did exercise and we did everything. He was very sporty. That's what I liked. After I got to know him, he was really my type of person.

SF: Did you get any awards when you were young?

FF: I got a lot of awards. I was the valedictorian but I got stuck in my speech. I couldn't finish the speech. My parent's nearly died. Then I finished it. I was choked up that I had to leave school. So then I...yeah, I was pretty good in school I must say.

SF: The state supported religious schools. Did you go to public or religious school? FF: I

went to both a public school and a religious school. We came home from public school and had to go for two hours to Hebrew school. SF: My father did the same thing? FF: I imagine. That's how we learned. I went there (to public school) until I was 12 years and then I went to high school. They went to public school to 15 or 16 and then they went to another school there which was called Volkpilldenschul (sp?) but I never went there so I don't know what they learned. After they graduated public school they went every Saturday and Sunday to this same school but for different subjects. I don't know what they learned because I went away and I never knew....

SF: Did the family take any vacations?

FF: Yeah. My parents sometimes took vacations. My parents went once to Wiesbaden. They had baths there for arthritis and that stuff and then they wanted to go and there was this Jewish family in town and the man was very bad arthritis ridden and then my father sent him.

SF: Did they ever go to another country? FF: No.

SF: Did they go with the family or by themselves? FF: They went by themselves but then they went to Munich but they only went separately to Munich because someone had to be home in the house. You had animals. You had cows, you had dogs, you had cats, you had maids. So my father came and my father came (to Munich) and he wanted to stay a week and then he only stood three days and we wanted to know why. So he said he goes up and down the street and nobody says "good morning, Herr Winter; good afternoon Herr Winter." He was very lonesome so he left. And my mother wouldn't go without my father.

SF: Couldn't the people left behind run the farm.

FF: Yeah, but not the cattle dealers. The cattle dealers had to be there. When a farmer called then they couldn't do it and they wanted my father.

SF: Didn't you have to have someone who lived further away for when the fields were snowed in?

FF: No. Our man lived above the stables because when the snow was in someone had to feed the animals. He had the room above the stables and fed them. That happened quite often because sometimes we couldn't open the shutters for days.

SF: Tell us about the neighbor whose chickens you got drunk.

FF: It wasn't a neighbor, it was an old woman down and around. She lived in this house. She didn't like me because when I passed with the bicycle and she lived on the corner house I rang the bell like crazy on the bicycle and that drove her nuts. I knew it drove her nuts so I started a long time before and kept ringing the bell. So whenever something happened... Once her window broke. She called my father. Not by telephone because we were the only Jewish people who had a telephone. Then someone else got it. She told my father I broke her window and when I came home my father said I have to come in. He said "What did you do to Frau Pollock?" I said "I didn't do anything papa." He said "She says you broke her window." I said I wasn't even there. Ida was her love. You know. So I said "I wasn't even there papa" so my father said he was going to go out and tell her and he told her. She said I did it anyway. She said all she wanted to do was be paid so my father said "Have it fixed. I pay you." My mother got very mad. She said "You shouldn't do that." He said "She is an old woman. She has no children. What are you going to do, fight with her?"

So whenever there was something... When it rained, when it snowed, when the sun shined, it was always me. So once she told the Hebrew teacher that she asked me a brucha, it was thundering and lightening and she said "Do you know the brucha for when it thunders and lights" and I said "I knew it but I forgot." So she told him and he gave me a good licking because I

didn't tell her the brucha so I really felt hurt. Why is she riding around me all the time. I bring her fruit. I bring her cake and I'm so good to her and she just doesn't like me. So I figured I'm going to do something that hurts her the most. I'm going to kill her chickens. I went home and I had this blue apron on, I'll never forget. It had two pockets. I took some schnaps. One thing in our house I must say, nothing was ever locked. Even where we had the money the key was in the thing. Everything had a key. I took a bottle of schnaps and I took some Berches and I put them in. Instead of putting it in a bowl I put it in my pocket. You know they were all soaked through. I put my hands in my pockets and I went down there and I went drup, drup, drup and all the drups came and I just threw this schnaps there. The Berches with the... Whoever taught me this...no one ever taught me this. I made it up myself. They all came and they drank like crazy. I stood there and they all went down and I thought this time she really got it. I thought they were killed already and I didn't care a bit. I went home.

After a while I run again and they were all lying together, all together like a real clique. I didn't say anything but my mother, I never forget, said to me "How come you're home all afternoon. How come you're not..." because I was always running around. I wanted to be home. My father came home and I kissed him and my father came home and was standing on the door. We took off his hat and we wiped his head with a handkerchief and one put the shoes on, the slippers on. All of sudden Frau Pollock comes running. "Herr Winter, Herr Winter, Herr Winter, you gotta come home. My chickens are dead." So my mother said "What happened" because my father had connections with the veterinarian who treated the animals, you know. So my father said "I come right away" and my father run out and I run after him. He went there and he sees the chickens. It took a long time. They were really drunk. Then he came home and he took me by the hand and he says "this is sad, this is sad." She had those gray, those real gray and white hens. He says "That's everything she had. That's really sad. I wonder what happened." He's going to speak to the veterinarian tomorrow.

So at night, after we were finished eating, I never forget, I stood on the door and I said "I know what happened to Frau Pollock's hens." So my father said "What happened?" "I made them drunk. I don't think they're dead but I think I made them drunk." So my father said "You didn't." My mother said "She wouldn't say it unless she did." So they said "What did you do?" so I stood on the door. I had the copper door handle in my hand in case they go after me, if my mother goes after me, I'm right out, you know. So the whole everyone, the maid and everyone, they got hysterical. So the man, our knecht(?) says "You're right. Because she does nothing but aggravating you and me too." He says "She doesn't like us" I said "I don't think they're dead because I saw them like this." So my father got up and says "I can't believe it. Who told you? Where did you get the schnaps? Where did you get the Berches. How did you cut the Berches?" You know it was heavy to cut it. I cut it. My mother looked and it was really sawed off like this, not the way it was supposed to be. Well they couldn't get up from the table, they were hysterical.

So my father went out, he says to me "You have to come along and excuse yourself" and I said "no I'm not. I'm not. She hurt me and she lied about me and she told the Hebrew teacher about me and it wasn't true and I'm not gonna go" and I wouldn't go. He went out and he says he wants to see what the chickens do and she was there crying with her hands in her apron and my father said "They look alright." She says they come to. I don't know what happened, I don't know what happened. He says "They'll be alright. They'll be alright." And then he didn't tell her. Later on he told her. He went out on a Saturday after the temple. He went there and he told her what happened and he said to her why it happened. He said "You leave

this kid alone. She doesn't do any harm to you. Everybody likes her and you are the only one who really does all this harm to her and she wanted to get back at you." He says "you know I don't help unless its necessary but you leave her alone." She left me alone.

So when she died we were three girls: Ida, myself and Selma who is in England. We were supposed to sit there in the wake, you know, because we had no funeral home. I didn't believe she was dead. I said to them "I don't think she's dead." They said "She's dead." So I said "I got to try and I took a ball and I bounced the ball back on her, where she was laying there dead, on that wall and when she didn't move I said "she's dead." "Now we have to sit quiet" I said, "Now I know she's dead." Because I used to throw the ball against the wall too and it annoyed her to death, you know. I said "She's dead. We got to leave her alone." Then we sat real quiet. Left her alone. Ida was crying. She said "you're going to hit Frau Pollock" and I said "I'm not hitting her but I don't believe she's dead." It was the first time I saw a dead person and it didn't affect me at all.

SF: Did you do any work on the farm?

FF: A lot. I did everything. I liked it. I mowed the grass. We had a machine where you drove around and this but there were corners where you couldn't do so you had to have one of those long knives, we called it sense (sp?) and I did it. Once I cut my finger all across. Then we also had a hand one, a sickle, that's called a sickle here too? And I had to go in the corners. I loved that work. I would have been the best farmer. I did everything on the farm. Fed the cows, milked them. I learned to milk on a goat.

SF: Did you ever deliver any baby animals?

FF: No, I run away. I couldn't see this. We had geese. We didn't have geese on our home. We bought the geese and made them fat and then they were schlact(slaughtered).

FF: There was a pond in the gardens. (To Ruth) Do you remember in the gardens where we had all this water coming through? But I tell you, it was very hard. We had a lot of water sometimes and it came all the way up but it couldn't go up to our house because it was up on the hill, but a lot of people had water. Bianca's parents had water in their cellar many times. Our house was Schloss 87B. Our house called Schloss Hof. That's where it was.

SF: Whose castle was it built on?

FF: I forgot. Would you believe it? There were so many those Fursten, those people, those Pfalsgraff. Uncle Leo knows a lot about them. I don't know anything about them.

SF: Were there any family traditions that you had in particular?

FF: The holidays. Ya. The holidays were always real family tradition. Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Passover. All the family came to us. The Sabbath. Birthdays we celebrated. Chanukah we celebrated. We were big on birthdays. Not my father. He left the house 5 in the morning. He didn't want anything..... Came Chanukah I had every Santa Claus chocolate from this size to this size. Came Easter I had every bunny from this size to this size. Passover and Easter never fell together. If it did, then I didn't have it. But I had every Santa Claus there was. We never made anything out of that.

SF: Your mother put out your clothes for your father?

FF: Yeah. Handkerchief, tie, everything. We tied our father's shoes. Then there came something new that they didn't have to be tied. Came like with buckles. He had such beautiful shoes. In the winter they were inside with fur.

SF: Why didn't he do it?

FF: We were supposed to do it. My father didn't wear glasses. He wore a zwicker (sp?). He wore glasses with the thing here. Pinched on the nose. (A pince nez.) Shabbos it was gold and for every day it was silver.

(He normally wore) a suit. A summer suit, black summer suit. Dark blue or black. And a jacket. Never without a jacket. (He always wore a jacket) and a shirt. My father never worked on the farm. My father couldn't put a nail in the wall if he wanted to.

SF: What did you normally wear? Dirndls?

FF: Yeah. In winter I wore pants, ski pants and in summer I wore dirndls.

SF: Who were your best friends?

FF: My girlfriend in England and Ida. Selma and Ida and a gentile girl, a very good gentile girl. I understand.... Very good friends.

SF: What about my father's friends? FF: Yah. He had beautiful gentile girlfriends. He would have married a gentile girl if Hitler wouldn't have come. It didn't bother him too much. But he had nice Jewish girlfriends too and many times they wanted to marry him off and he didn't. He wanted someone sporty and full of the devil and he got it. (Chuckle) That's what he told me. I never forgot when his mother wrote "what you couldn't find at home you found far away." When my mother came to Munich to visit, I used to say "momma, isn't there anybody from your hometown you want to visit." She used to say "There are old people, there are very old people who live there." There were the Hamburgers who lived in our house (in Brooklyn), don't you remember, on the top floor, and he was always with you when I wheeled you around and I used to feed him and used to give him candies. His sons were as rich as can be. And then she said "There is only one family, and they don't live to far from here, in Bittenwiesen."

FF: "What's their name." Momma Winter: "Frank"

FF: "Why don't you ever visit them." Momma Winter "They have a lot of children.

FF: They weren't 'up to our expectations' so she didn't visit them. So when I wrote.... Well, first of all I read in a letter my parent's wrote to me last week (must be when FF re-read the letter) that my father knew daddy from the cattle markets. From the auctions. And daddy knew my father. When I wrote to them, my mother was so excited you know, that I am away and found somebody so to speak from home. They were so happy, they just couldn't believe it. At home they would have never allowed me. At home I was engaged and not-engaged (to a doctor). Well I went steady for three years.

SF: Do you have any other stories from your childhood?

FF: I don't know, I might have but I don't remember right now.

SF: How about my father's?

FF: Daddy had a lot of good memories. Daddy came from a good town where there were a lot of decent people and he had help from a gentile man to come out. They were very good to him. Very, very much nicer people than where I come from. He had to work from when he was 12 or 13 years old. He had a hard life. He never had vacation or anything like that. He sent everybody else but not himself. His mother would do anything for him. When I was pregnant he wanted to wash the floors. I said "Why should you wash the floors?" He said "I used to do it for my mother." I said "Well, you're not doing it for me." He did everything for his mother. He was very good to his mother. Very good to his mother. See, when you're good to your mother, you're good to your wife. I think I'll put the air conditioning on.

Ruth: That definitely is true.

SF: Do you remember your sister's weddings at all?

FF: Yah. I remember my oldest sister's wedding first. It was such a big spiel. It was a wedding in a hotel and I was six years old. I think I must have been eight years old. I was born in 1912 and my sister got married in 1920. I was eight years old. It was such a big wedding and such a clamorous thing that I said to my mother when I was eight years old that would never happen to me. I had to say a speech. I had two pigeons in my hand. They were made out of paper mache. I had to make a whole poem I had to say. Ida had to say something too. I didn't want to do it. I never liked that, but I had to do it. There was a big dinner and we stood in this hotel. It was a big to do. Ruth's mother wanted to be married at home in our house, and it was in the winter. In February or whatever, in the snow. It was so beautiful. We were taken to the temple where the ceremony was in the coach with the two horses and it was a beautiful ceremony. It was really.... Ida's mother cooked the meal. We had ducks. That was a delicacy you know. It was really beautiful...-----phone rings and Ruth goes to answer.

SF: Was Sigbert bar mitzvahed?

FF: Yah, I don't remember that anymore, would you believe it. I don't remember it. Many times I think of it and I can't remember it. I don't know why. Maybe I don't want to, but I can't remember it. It hurts me very much to think about him. It really does because he was like a brother. He was the last person I saw when I left Germany because he came on the train. See when I went into Paris, to France, and where he was in Karlsruhe was the last station in Germany when I knew that my trunks didn't come through. I saw them being disconnected. He was the last person I saw and it hurts me really bad.

SF: Tell me about some of the things in the house like where did the picture of the old man....

FF: This here? I got this as a present. I got this from a professor in school. (He gave it to me) because he liked me. When I graduated he gave it to me. From High School. Yah. Dr. Zeigler.

SF: Where did the scarf from the Franco-Prussian war come from?

FF: There were people living just.... we went out of the house just like here, a little further apart between this and the neighbor here. They had no children. They were the ones who spoiled me to no end. They had an old mother and that old mother loved me to no end. To no end. See I was the youngest. The big ones had gone already. They gave me everything they could. You know that old silver thing there is from home too, that silver basket. (SF=What old silver basket?) And all those beckers. SF description--Rings come out from the middle with a flower in the middle. FF: That's yours. SF: Was that your parents'? FF: Yah, they used it for Pesach. For fruit.

SF: This family lived next door to you.

FF: There was this old woman who really loved me, she was hunchbacked, and I loved her. And she gave me things and she gave me this and she said to me "This is my oldest, best possession." She got it either from her husband or I don't know from whom, who brought it to her. She says "I'm giving it to you. Promise me you never give it away. That's yours. That's yours. That's all I can give you." She gave me money too. She opened a bank account for me. She says "I want you to have that" and then she gave it to me.

SF: She gave it to you when you were ready to leave Germany?

FF: No, she died long before. She gave it to me before, when she was old and sick. She called me in and said "that's for you." She gave me that. She only had a daughter and a son-in-law. They knew. They were right there. Rosa was right there when she gave it to me. Nisset Elkin

(was her name). Elkin was her last name. Elkan.

SF: Where did the little girl with the apple in her hand come from?

FF: My mother. See they are all things from home. My mother bought it for me when I went away to school and said that's the way I should be. Nice and quiet and polite. I wanted to become like this but it wasn't in my genes. They wanted to hold me down with anything and never made it.

SF: Did you have any early idols, people you looked up to?

FF: Like my teachers. The young teacher I liked. I liked a lot of boys. Like a young girl does. I never saw a movie home. The first movie I saw when I came away to school and I thought the best seat is in front and I had to sit in front like this and I nearly broke my neck.

SF: Was there a paper in town?

FF: Oh, yeah, we had a few papers. We had the Nürnberger Zeitung (newspaper), we had the Frankfurter Zeitung, and we had the Wörnitz Boden. Wörnitz that was the flood, the lake, yah, fluß

(flooss), what's a fluß? A river went through.

SF: But there wasn't anything in town. How many people were in Wittelshofen?

FF: 700. (Note: probably closer to 200, certainly about 200 now). I always said a thousand because I really didn't want to say something. About 15 or 20 Jews (not families, people). I told you all the young ones were gone. There were just five families. There was us, the Weinschenks, and the Oberdorfers and the Gallingers and the Eisens. Five families. That's all there was when I left. (Nearby towns) had a bigger Jewish population. Some of them had a big Jewish population.

SF: Why did your father settle in Wittelshofen?

FF: His parents and his grandparents. That was used to be 60, 70 (Jewish) families there. They had their own temple and everything. People died and the young ones went away to school and learned something and settled somewhere else. They had families. Some young ones married in town and they couldn't make a good living so they moved to the city. Same thing was happening then as is happening now. I think we did enough for today.

Leo: Same thing by us too. 15 families. But they all moved away too. Gross Eichelsheim. And then there was Klein Eichelsheim was close. It was half as big. There was Jewish people there too. It is in Baden between Mannheim and Würzburg. If you know where this is. In Odenwald.

SF: You didn't know my father in Germany?

LK: I only heard from your father from a cousin, from der Lehman.

FF: We eat dinner in the house. And then your (Ruth's) uncle was sitting next to me and he offered me a cigarette. I was pretty young and I didn't want to say no and I really wanted to know what a cigarette tasted like. So he gave me a cigarette and I took it and my mother got up from the table and gave me one look, like this..., and I put that cigarette down and never touched a cigarette ever. Never. Then my mother said to me (I didn't want to say no) she says "Look, a fine girl does not smoke. I don't care who hands it to her. If it is a doctor or the mayor or whoever it is, I don't want you to smoke" and I never smoked. She how you listen.

Then your parents went to honeymoon. I went with your mother who bought a creptescine (sp?) nightgown. It was so beautiful. Oh, it was so beautiful. I used to say "What do you need such a thing for." So she said she wanted a creptescine nightgown. My oldest sister went and got married, Bianca's mother. They asked her what she wants best before she got married. So she said she wants me to sleep with her before she gets married, the last two nights. She loved me

like a mother. So I slept with her for two nights and she had to bribe me with chocolate and everything under the sun, otherwise I wouldn't do it. That was your parents. Then they moved to Munich and then they had this apartment and they fixed it up with a big bay and everything, and that was it. That's enough now. I don't want any more. It should be enough.