

TAPE 3, SIDE 1. 7/23/86  
Steven Frank, Scott Frank

SF: What towns were near Wittelshofen?

FF: Wassertrüdigen and Dinkelsbühl. Wassertrüdigen was east and Dinkelsbühl was west. They both had train connections but we did not. We had to get a bus from Wassertrüdigen to Wittelshofen or from Wittelshofen to Dinkelsbühl. Ours was like sandwiched in. A regular bus like we have here.

SF: What towns were near Buttenwiesen?

FF: Not towns. I don't know the towns. I just know the nearest city was Augsburg and Donauwörth.

SF: What mountains were near you. FF: Near us was the Hesselberg. On top of this Hesselberg, it was the most beautiful mountain. We could see it from our bedroom window. My mother used to say "That mountain is going to bring us only schlamazel" which means bad luck and it came to pass. Hitler built a youth hostel there and that's where they trained all those young Hitlers, Hitler guys, and that's where Goering and Goebbels and they all came there in order to teach them and tell them whatever they're supposed to do and whatever they should kill and not kill.

SF: What other landmarks were there?

FF: I don't really know any other landmarks except where we lived. We lived, our house was in the town and our street was called the Schloss. That means like a castle because that's where there used to be a castle.

SF: Did my father ever mention any landmarks near Buttenwiesen? FF: No.

SF: Where did the other families live in Wittelshofen?

FF: Through the town. There was our best friends they lived just two seconds away from us. Their name was Weinschenk. They had no children. We were just like with Aunt Mella and Uncle Leo, it was just like one family.

SF: You father was a cattle dealer. What were the occupations of the other Jews in town?

FF: They were mostly cattle dealers and one they had a material store. One he was a cattle dealer too but he couldn't make out too well so he started with knit clothes. (SF: So he owned a shop?) No. He just went around selling it to the small towns. He put the backpack on and that's how he went away. Weinschenk.

SF: What was the religion of most of the people in town? FF: Protestant.

SF: How big was the town. FF: about 700, 750 people.

SF: Were there other towns nearby that had big Jewish populations in them?

FF: No. The next was, as I said, Wassertrüdigen and next was Dinkelsbühl. They both had Jewish populations.

SF: How far back can you remember the family names and where they came from?

FF: As old as I am. (SF: So just your parents and grandparents who we've recorded already?)

FF: Yah. (SF: One of the early Winters came from Wassertrüdigen?) FF: They all came from Wassertrüdigen. Only my father (moved to Wittelshofen.). My father married my grandmother and married into the house and to the business. Not my father. My grandfather.

SF: He grew up in Wassertrüdigen and moved to Wittelshofen to get married. That was Solomon?) FF: No that was Falk. Gretl's father married and moved to Altdorf. That's near the Black Forest. Herta's grandfather stood in Wassertrüdigen.

SF: Where did your mother come from?

FF: My mother came from near Würzburg. From Bütthard. That's where my mother-in-law came from too. SF: Both your mother and my father's mother came from the same town, so they must have known each other? FF: Sure they knew each other. I told you that.

SF: What did the grandparents do for a living?

FF: My grandparents? In Bütthard? I don't know. (SF: Your father's family?) FF: They had leather, like you make shoes. They had a big business with that. They sold leather. SF: So Falk was in the leather business too? FF: Yah, yah.

SF: What educational background did your parents have and your grandparents have?

FF: I don't know any about my grandparents. I only know that my father went to real schul Which is equivalent to a boys school, to a seminary. (Note: described on a later interview as a 'business school.'). SF: Did he apprentice at all? FF: No. He could even speak some English words.

SF: What languages did they speak at home? FF: We only knew German. That's the only thing we spoke. SF: Not Hebrew or Yiddish? FF: No. We don't know anything about Yiddish (and didn't speak Hebrew.)

SF: At what age were your parents married?

FF: My father was, I think, 29 and my mother was 24. It wasn't arranged but everyone had to know where you come from and they inquired. I don't know how my parents really met. My mother's brother-in-law was a teacher and he wrote to the Hebrew teacher in Wittelshofen and asked about the family. They said it's a very good family and they are very well to do and the only bad part is that red hair is in the family so if you get children they might be red hairy. Because red hair wasn't too much liked at that time. That's what I have. That was the only bad part.

SF: Where were your grandparents buried? FF: In Schopfloch. That's near Dinkelsbühl. SF: Why were they buried there? FF: Because that was the Jewish cemetery. There was no other Jewish cemetery around. SF: So everybody in the surrounding towns went there to be buried? FF: Yah, yah.

SF: Was there any major, serious illness in your family when you were growing up?

FF: Nobody was ever sick. Nobody. In fact I asked my mother, I must have been about 20, I asked "What does it feel to have a headache?" We were never sick. I don't know. I didn't know anybody who was every sick in my family. SF: Healthy living. FF: Yah. Good air.

SF: Your father was a Cohen, right? How about your mother?

FF: Nothing I think. (SF: A Yisrael?) I imagine so. They didn't count. Cohen only counted.

SF: Who was the family member you thought the most colorful, the most interesting?

FF: My mother. My mother had a lot of common sense. My mother, it seemed to, had very good upbringing. She taught us things which other people never even heard of. Even at home, every few years we re-did our living room, we put new furniture in. She just had a flair for all that nice things. They used to say "Oh God, you must have a lot of money. Every time we come..." It's not every time. Every 10 or 15 years. "Things look so different. They look so nice." Because my mother had a thing for that.

SF: What kind of things did she teach you?

FF: Oh, I told you. She used to say "Wenn ich spar, spar ich on me selber" I want to save, I save on myself. And the manners. We were brought up on very good manners. I don't know if I followed them but we were brought up with them. Oh God, when I tell you what I used to do. Just to aggravate them. My mother was witty and my mother was extremely charitable. She always told us that. She says "If you have an extra, not dollars, we had marks, an extra

mark and someone needs what's underneath the mark, you always have to keep your hand open and think of somebody else. Not just of yourself." That's the way we were brought up. All the poor people they came to us. My parents were away once and one of the poor guys came out of the bus and he asked the man "Where does the Winters live?" He forgot from the last time. So this guy said "The Winters aren't home." He says "I might as well turn around." There was another, a Jewish schnorrer. A baker. I don't know how he lost his... Whatever he did I don't know. He used to sing very nice. He came to us every four weeks and we wined him and dined him and my mother had clothes made for him and everything. His name was Moses Mendel. And a while he didn't come, he just didn't come. My mother used to say "I'm so worried about Moses Mendel. I wonder what happened. He must be sick." My father said "Write to the city" which was Erlangen, that was near Nürnberg. So my mother wrote there and they said that he is very sick and he is in the hospital. Then my mother said they should keep us posted and let us know what happened. He died. So my mother went...and that was really something to go there. My father went to the cattle market in Nürnberg and my mother met him and they went to the funeral. They were the only ones at the funeral because he never told us if he had anybody. Then in his will that all the money he has had to go to my mother. It was a hundred marks, and my parents turned around and bought him a tombstone. He used to sing so nice, I never forget that. He used to come up the hill and he used to....and we came running. We loved him like he belonged to the family. He always came. And my father was the head of the Jewish organization so we gave him money. We gave him money, I mean my parents must have given him money, and the community gave him money. I don't know how he always go where he was, because he was such a jolly fella.

SF: Did the Jewish community have much money?

FF: There was a time where they did have money, Yah, but the young people moved away because there was no future for anybody. Them moved away and then just the old ones were there and the old ones had a hard time making ends meet. Especially at the time when the Nazis came. They wouldn't deal with us and so you had to live on what you had.

SF: Who was your favorite uncle or aunt or cousin?

FF: I had only one uncle I liked. The others I didn't know. See I came very late and they were already old. Most of them died. Then I had that one uncle which I liked. He died too. I didn't have any uncles. You never heard of him. He was a teacher. He had two sons and a daughter and the two sons went in the War. I told you that in the Second World War (Note: must have been the First) and one was killed and one there was the end of the war and he went to the mailbox to mail a letter to his parents to tell them when he comes and the mailbox exploded and killed him too. Then the mother... (SF: This must have been World War I). FF: World War I, yah. Then the mother, my aunt, her name was Laura. That was my mother's favorite sister. She couldn't eat anymore and she got sick and she got TB (tuberculosis) and then my uncle died, my aunt died, the two sons were killed and my aunt and then my uncle really died from a broken heart. (SDF: What was his name?) FF: Leo, Leo Hecht. They had one daughter and the daughter went to America. She was a spoiled brat. She went to America many, many years before this happened. Then she didn't like it and she came back and she married a man twice her age and we never knew what happened to her. My mother used to say "I wonder what happened to that girl." Nobody ever heard from her. She probably was killed too.

SF: Did my father mention any favorite uncles or aunts?. FF: No, no.

SF: Did you have any heroes when you were growing up? Anybody you read about...

FF: I liked everybody. I was a happy-go-lucky. History was not my... I liked music. I liked

theater. Richard Strauss and those kind I went for.

SF: Did you join any youth groups or clubs?

FF: Oh yeah. I was the leader of Agudas Yisrael. It was very religious. It's one of the religious... Agudas Yisrael. That's one of the real religious organizations. In München. Oh, at home we had one girl who was very religious too and she started, on Saturday, to have those uh....You know you come there on lernen (to learn). I couldn't take it. I couldn't do it. I just couldn't do it.

SF: Did you have any hobbies or collections? I collected dolls for a while. (SF: Who brought them to you?) My father. The Weinschenks. Everybody who came brought me dolls. I had them with those beautiful faces. You know something, I can't even remember that far back what I did.

SF: How about sports?

FF: I loved sports. I loved skiing. I loved tennis. I loved anything in sports. My mother used to beg me to come with a dress on and a pair of gloves in my hand and be dressed like a lady, and don't always come with skis and boots on. With pants and boots. I just couldn't... Ida used to go home all dressed up and me I came like this all the time. I was never the dress up type.

SF: How about my father with sports? He played soccer?

FF: Daddy was ...yah, he played soccer and he was a what's-you-call-it a physical...(SF: gymnastics?) Yah, he had those muscles. He was excellent. Excellent. (SF: Where did he learn gymnastics?) FF: At home. You learned and you taught it yourself and he taught it to others. That's how he got out of Dachau. Because he was so good that to the people in town, to those young people, and the mayor said "If I can help anybody, I help him." For some reason or other he got him out. SF: So he helped youth groups? Yah. He was very good in sports. If you remember, daddy had those muscles and all that. That's why we really clicked so easily.

SF: Did you ever go to camp when you were young?

FF: No. We didn't have to go to... we had the kids coming to us. From the orphanage in Furth, we had the boys coming. We had three boys every summer. Ida was in that orphanage. (SF: I thought Ida lived with her mother?) FF: She had to go away too to school. She lived in that orphanage for many years and she had those boys, they were with her, and we had the three boys coming every summer and we dressed them and we bought them shoes. They just lived with us. Every year we had them coming. The same boys. Till they grew up. When Ida went the first time to Israel and she wrote to them and met them and the first thing was that he wants to meet me. Then when I got there I left his address...I don't know, I just never met him. I think I didn't want to. It brings too much on. They always ask the same question: why? why? And I didn't want to answer that. It was just too hard to answer those things.

SF: Did you have any jobs around the house?

FF: I should have but I didn't. I did shopping for everybody. I rode with the bicycle like a lunatic. I did shopping for everybody in town. All the Jewish people. (SF: Where did you shop?) FF: Well, for meat I had to go to the next town. It's nothing to write up, believe me, that town. It was full of Nazis. Uch, it was so full of Nazis. (SF: What town was it?) Gerult.... I forgot what the name of it. (Note: Gerolfingen.) I don't remember any more. It was just full of Nazis. To Dinkelsbühl I went for other shopping. I had this bicycle and I had the two bags hanging on there and I shopped for them and brought them everything the way they wanted. I was the town shopper. (Chuckle.) And they never gave me anything. Sometimes they gave

me two candies. But I always did shopping.

SF: How far was it to the towns?

FF: To Dinkelsbühl with the bicycle it took about an hour and a half. It was uphill all the time. I drove and it just didn't bother me. Going there was hard because it went up the hill but coming home was all down the hills. That's why I went, so I could go down the hills. Oh, I had the nicest bicycles.

SF: Where did you get things like vegetables and clothing?

FF: (Vegetables) In our garden. In Dinkelsbühl (got clothing.) Then we bought the material and we always had a dressmaker coming twice a year to the house. She stood with us for a week and she made the clothes for my sisters and myself and my mother. After she made the dress for me and I didn't like it, I wouldn't put it on. (SF: How about for your father?) They had it made in town by a tailor. In Wittelshofen there was a very good tailor. There were shops, there were grocery shops, there were material shops, one material shop, and there was the tailor, and there was the shoemaker, and there was the butcher but we couldn't, you know..., (SF: It wasn't kosher?) well the one next town was not kosher either but was schect with kosher und was watched over with, what do you call it, those guys who come, a shomer or whatever you call it.

SF: Where did most of the relatives live in Germany, Herta, Saler, Gretl?

FF: Gretl lived in the Black Forest, in Altdorf. Herta lived in Wassertrüdingen, that was a little city. That's where our dentist was. I went there to the dentist. Aunt Saler, that was different. That was from my mother's side. She lived in Künzelsau. That's near Heilbronn. That's near the Neckar. Not far from Heidelberg.

SF: Did you see them often?

FF: I wouldn't call often. Once a year at least. See the transportation was very bad. (SF: Did you go to see them or did they come to see you?) Either way. They came and we went there. Never on holidays. See my parents couldn't go away because they had all those animals which had to be taken care of. (SF: You had people to take care of them.) Yeah, but you still had to be there. The business had to go on. It wasn't that you took vacation like here. You go away for four weeks or whatever. They were busy too. Aunt Saler, they were twelve sisters and brothers so they were busy too. Then I had an aunt, she lived to Frankfurt and she was not nice to my mother, that was my mother's sister and she didn't treat my mother nice after her parents died, and I have never met her. I never wanted to meet her. She wanted to send me money to come to visit her and I told her I wouldn't come. So I never knew what she looked like. But when she died, she left me \$1000. A thousand marks.

SF: Were there other relatives that I skipped who you saw? Ones who stayed behind.

FF: Most of my family stayed behind. Tell you the truth I can't think that much. I can't...

SF: What were your parents ideas on charity?

FF: On charity? There were a Jewish family in our town and they had two boys and two girls. The oldest son was as old as my oldest sister and then the second son we didn't have anyone in between. The daughter was as old as Ruth's mother and the younger one was as old as I am. As I was. They had also,...they were cattle dealers. But they lived it up. Whatever they made they spent so they always got bankrupt. Every other year they got bankrupt. Then their relatives came, my father came, and they got the money together and took them out of the red. So one year that her relatives, the woman's relatives, said "I have enough now." She says "You're grown up people and if you can't live like everybody else and hold on to what you have, forget about it." So the winter came and they were really broke and they had no coals and no

nothing. We had two maids and the man working for us. One evening my parents they went and they said they go away. I want to come along and they said no we don't want anyone. They went down in the stables and they took those heavy coals, there were briquets if you know what that means, black coals, and they filled up. I never forget because I watched them, a big basket with coals, and they carried it out to them and they put it in front of the door, and then they took the basket home and filled it up with wood and they brought it there, so nobody should know that they did it, so none of the help should say we did it, you know. That's (what) they did it. They gave money to people and my mother gave constantly. There was a house in town where poor people lived. I had to bring fruit there and food there all the time. My mother fixed it so beautiful like, never forget, we had those high baskets and she filled it with the plums. They were beautiful blue plums with the blue on it and then she stuck leaves in there. I used to say "Why do you do that" so she said "People shouldn't think they just get it because they poor. They should see that they get like everybody else, with a little beauty behind it." You know, they looked nice with green leaves in between the blue. When I brought em there, she just opened the thing and poured them in, green or blue or whatever.

Then my father belonged in the town, he belonged in the town to all those...the school thing and to all that, and then I came home once and I said I fell up the stairs in that poorhouse and he made sure that someone went there and fixed the steps. He said "Those people, those people have to...." They were really poor, they have God know how many kids from all kinds of men, you know, just like here. Then my father arranged that they have the steps fixed. The town paid for that but he was the only one who saw it and I told him.

My parents did a lot of good. My mother went to poor people, to sick people. It's really.... That's where we learned to do the things we did, you can't just take it out of nowhere. You have to be shown somewhere.

SF: What were the typical foods you had at home?

FF: All the vegetables. I mean not (?) we eat. Carrots, peas, cole slaw, potatoes...potatoes we got from the farmers. (SF: What dishes did you make?) We had chicken. Chickens was a holiday meal. Chicken in Germany was very expensive. Then we had a lot of geese. In the winter we slaughtered about maybe 25 geese and that was all preserved and you wouldn't believe how that was preserved. In the goose fat. We had big stands like this with goose fat and that's where the geese was in there, the pieces of the geese, and then you took it out, out of the fat, and you wiped it off and you had fresh goose. We killed ten and another six and another fix and this.... Then had chicken. Then the butcher came every year and slaughtered an animal for us. (SF: A cow?). Yah. A young cow. A calf. Then we gave to the other Jewish people too.

SF: What did you have normally for breakfast.

FF: Cacao, a piece of cake. Yeast cake.

FF: Lunch we had the main meal. We had meat and we had potato salad and meat with some sauces, and vegetable and salads. Dessert you only had on Shabbos, Friday night and Shabbos. That was the difference between every day and Yontif. Then we had soup all the time and we had a lot of potatoes. My mother was a fantastic baker. We had big cans like this with cookies all the time. Cakes. Then we had fruit. Oh, did we have fruit. Did we have trees. We had

pears this size, apples and then we took them down like you have, to preserve them. Then in our cellar we had those big closets and pulled out a thing like a drawer, and that's where we had the apples in and the pears. (SF: How did you keep them from spoiling?) I don't know how but they were in those wooden things and they never spoiled. I mean you had to go down and go through it quite often in order to see but they lasted the whole winter. We never bought an apple. We never bought fruit. Plums my mother preserved. We had glasses and glasses of all the fruit.

SF: What did you do for dinner if lunch was the main meal?

FF: Evening you mean? Oh, you had potatoes and herring or scrambled egg and uh...you had a lot of fish. Fish was very cheap and easy to get. You had a lot of herring. You made a lot of stuff out of herring. Lox. (SF: Although you were inland, fish was easy to get?) Yah, yah. Like Uncle Leo said, they never had fish. (Note: Leo Kalberman lived in Mannheim but grew up elsewhere.) Fresh fish we had, carp and things like this. We had them very easily. We bought them but they were very easy to get. We had water around where they got fish but I don't know what kind of water. You know when you are young like this, and when I got older, then the trouble started so that was the least of your worries.

SF: How did the holidays differ from regular meals?

FF: Oh, you had noodle charlotte. You had matzoh balls. You had other soup. You had green kern soup. You had big pieces of meat. You had everything. Pot roast and all those kinds of things. Then we had pigeons. Then we had young lamb. Oh were they good. My mother never ate a piece of lamb but she knew how to make it. When we had the pigeons each one got a pigeon. They were like this and then they were stuffed and ohhhhh. When I was 16 then I got a whole one. Otherwise I just got a half one. I couldn't wait until I got a whole one. Oh those pigeons they were good. Ohhhh. Then stuffed breast of veal. Veal wasn't that expensive either. (SF: That was on the Jewish holidays?) Yah, or on Shabbos could be too. Shabbos was always treated like a holiday. Friday night and Shabbos.

SF: What were your favorite foods?

FF: Meat. Meat and chocolate. My mother told me to marry either a butcher or a chocolate manufacturer. That's the only thing that keeps me (will keep you) going she used to say. SDF: Chocolate all the way!

SF: What was the town synagogue like in size, shape, location?

FF: It was very big. It was big. I think I even have a picture of it. It was made for years, I don't know for how many hundred of years before when they needed it, and then it was empty.

SF: Was it wooden? FF: No. It was stone. It had windows that were like this (SF: Arched.)

And it only had in front there at the bimah they had you know the lions and that was in stained glass. (SF: So the Bimah was up front, it wasn't in the middle?) No it was up front. The men's seats were on the bottom and the ladies seats were upstairs. It was like wood around like this. It was like a design in it. You could look down and see the people (SF: and the people could look up and see you.) Yeah. They wouldn't dare do that but they could. SF: Do you know when the synagogue was built? FF: No. No idea. SF: Did it have any art work in it? FF: No, I don't think so. It didn't look like... There was a synagogue in a small town about maybe an hour and a half away. That was, they said, at that time that it was the oldest synagogue, I have pictures of it, in Germany. That was called Bechoven. It was made out of wood and everything was written on the wood. Prayers and everything. It was just beautiful. (SF: Was there anything written inside your schul?) No, no.

SF: What was the family role in the schul? Was your father president of the schul?

FF: Yah, forever. Forever.

SF: Do you remember the rabbi?

FF: We didn't have one. I told you the rabbi we had, who was gay, who came from Ansbach. The rabbi came every year, from Ansbach, during the year. He had to check us in Hebrew. You know, ask questions and the like, tests. He was not a married man and he was a very good looking man. His name was Dr. Brader. Whenever he came, I was six years old when my sister got married, I run out and run to my sister. I wouldn't stay in the same house with him. My mother said... So he said to my mother....yah he stood in our house. He was such a wonderful speaker that when he came and spoke in the temple the minister came, the teachers came, everybody came to listen to him. He had a voice, he was just a great man. That's what they thought. Whenever he came I run out. He used to stand like this and I run under the thing and run out so he said to my mother "What's wrong? Whenever I come, that little one runs out. Doesn't she like me." My mother said "I never asked her really" so my mother said to me before he came "If you stay home, why do you run out?" I said "I don't like him. I don't want him to touch me." My mother said to me "If you stay home, I buy you anything you want. I buy you a new bicycle, I buy you..." "I don't want it. I don't want to stay in the house." I run to my sister like crazy. She knew. She says "Oh, Dr. Brader came?" That was it. When he came and he made a speech and he came to eat, I'm sure I sat like this so when he gets up he wouldn't touch me. I don't know. I was six years old. So then my parents looked at him and everybody. They just thought he was the greatest. One day my father came home from the cattle market. Usually I run down and I greeted him and he opened his little satchel and he gave me chocolate and he always bought me chocolate with coconut. I liked that the best and he gave it to me and I hugged him and I said "Papa, don't you feel good?" He says "Yah." I said "Don't you like me?" "Oh yah, I like you. I have to speak to momma." So he came up and he took my mother and he talked to her and they all got red in the face and they went in the room. I stood there and I listened on the door and I heard them talk about Dr. Brader, Dr. Brader. Then when my mother came out I was gone already, and I said "What's wrong with Dr. Brader?" My mother said "You wouldn't understand." Well, Dr. Brader was caught with a soldier and they found out that both were gay. The soldier was arrested and he (Dr. Brader) fled. They thought he fled to Switzerland. I grew up....it was just a terrible shame. It was over all the papers and he was such a prominent man and everybody looked up to him. The little city of Gunzenhausen, of Ansbach where he was, they were heartbroken. They couldn't believe to them. In years later it was forgotten. We got a new rabbi and it was forgotten. I was with people in Switzerland, we went skiing, and we were very religious and we only ate in...they had very few Jewish restaurants but they had vegetarian places. We got in those vegetarian places. We sat down, I never forget it was a big round table like this, and I look up and I said "My God, there is Dr. Brader." He turned like this and run out. I wanted to run after him. I don't know what I wanted to run (laughing) and they held me back and this friend said to me, he says "How dumb can you be? He heard your name, he heard his name and he run and you want to run after him. What do you want?" I sat there. I just couldn't believe. It was the same man. The same tall, heavy man. He looked the same. And I wanted to run after him. That was our rabbi.

He was replaced by a rabbi, Dr. Munk. That's Tanya's uncle (Note: Tanya SF believes is the wife of Jack Kantal, son of Hella and Sol Kantal.) (SF: Who officiated at services?) We had a teacher. Lehrer Sommer. His name was Sommer. He taught us every day. We had to go



direct from public school to Hebrew school. From, I don't know anymore. I couldn't tell you anymore. Eight till one or twelve, I don't know. Then we went direct from there to Hebrew school. (SF: How long were you in Hebrew school?) Two, three hours every day. (He taught us) the reading, the history, everything. He was a very good teacher but he died. He was a nasty man too.

SF: Did your father go to schul every day?

FF: They went every day. As long as they had minyan they went every day. My mother didn't go. My mother went Shabbos. (My father went every day) as long as they had minyan. I was away already. I couldn't tell you. I was away already and they didn't have minyan anymore and came the holidays they we got either the boys from somewhere else or whoever came and we hired and paid....(SF: But they wouldn't have a service without a minyan?) No. No. That was very hard for the people.

SF: How far was the schul from your house?

FF: No far. Ten minutes. You just walked out the town and up the hills.

SF: Sigbert had a Bar Mitzvah? FF: Yeah. SF: Do you remember it? Did relatives come from all over. FF: No, just from the small community the family came. They brought the tie as a present, and the pen as a present. (SF: Herta and Saler wouldn't come?) FF: No, no. They weren't invited. They had a lot of kids of their own and they didn't.... It wasn't like that. It was like years ago here. The elderly people here they said they never heard of such big things. When you speak to elderly Jewish people they say "We didn't have that. We went to temple and came home and that was it." Like Richie, Ruth's (Note: FF's niece) first husband, he had his bar mitzvah on Thursday. They went to the temple and went home and that was the bar mitzvah. They didn't have it like this now. It was strange to me too when I came over. I remember that boy in our town who had bar mitzvah and I went down I brought him a tie. I still know the color of the tie. A striped tie. That was the present. Then you got a piece of cake and a cup of coffee. No, there wasn't a big thing done.

SF: What did your parents give Sigbert? FF: Gold. Gold pieces. That I remember. A lot of gold pieces. How many I don't know. Ginny (Note: wife of SF) got a gold piece? Remember (Note: Ginny has a gold piece that was sent to SF by a German friend of FF, for SF's bar mitzvah.)

SF: Do you remember your sister's weddings?

FF: Yah. When my older sister got married I was 6 years old. I had to stand up there and make a speech. I got two pigeons, two paper mache pigeons and I had to say a poem how those pigeons love each other and this and I couldn't stand it but I had to do it. That was in a hotel. That was a beautiful wedding. In Gunzenhausen. That was the only Jewish hotel in the whole neighborhood. Strauss in Gunzenhausen. I remember that. That's where we went and we stood overnight and it was a big thing. (SF: A lot of people came?) Yah. I don't know how people came from out of town but there were a lot of people there. When Ruth's mother got married, she said she wanted to be married at home so she got married at home. Then we had somebody who cooked. We had ducks that time, I remember that too. That was a nice wedding too. I used to say then already "Momma, that's not going to happen to me." "I don't have this kind of business" I said. "Not with all those people. That's not for me."

SF: When Ruth's mother got married where did people stay?

FF: There's a hotel, there were two hotels in our town. They weren't called hotels. They were called gasthof. They gave beer and dinners and they had a lot of rooms upstairs. That's where

they were. We had a big house. I remember Ruth's parents they went away the same night. Where they went on their honeymoon I don't know. I don't know where my other sister went either. Look I was so young I didn't know those kind of things. Never asked.

SF: Did any of your relatives get into the reform movement? No. Uh, yah. Not in...there was no movement. They just kept less and less and less. Where Saler came from they weren't that religious at all. I mean they kept the holidays and this but I don't think they were that religious.

SF: How about my father's family.

FF: They were not that religious either. They also kept the holidays...

## SIDE 2

SF: Was there a newspaper in town?

FF: Oh yeah. We had the Frankfurter Zeitung (Frankfurt Newspaper) and the Wörnitz Boden, that was the water which went through our town was the Wörnitz. (SF: Was that a stream or river?) FF: It wasn't a real river, it was sometimes in the winter from snow when it run over, boy it had half of the town in trouble. It never hit us because we were up the hill. (It was) pretty wide, pretty wide. There was a bridge over it and the other side was the other side of the tracks. I never even came...very seldom came there.

SF: There was a Jewish paper too?

FF: No. Oh, yah. There was the Familien Platt, Family Paper, that came from Frankfurt. That came every week. Every Friday. When the town was prosperous, when the Jewish people were prosperous, my father had the Frankfurter Zeitung, that almost like the Wall Street Journal, and we had the Wörnitz Boden, and we had sometimes the Nürnberger Zeitung.

SF: Was your father a Hebrew Scholar? Did he study Talmud?

FF: No. He knew but he didn't study. Nobody in the town studied.

SF: How about your grandparents?

FF: I don't think so but I didn't know them. I only know my grandmother which I didn't like.

SF: What were your parents' likes and dislikes?

FF: I don't know. My father was a businessman through and through. My father couldn't tie his tie. My father didn't know where his handkerchiefs were. My father was everything handed (to him). When my father came home we stood on the door and my mother wiped his head, he had no hair like Uncle Leo, and I put the cap on. Then he had to take his jacket off and my mother hanged it up. My father was a businessman through and through but otherwise he didn't know a thing. Like my mother used to say "As much as I love papa, but I hope if the time comes that papa dies before me." I used to say "How could you say that. I thought you love..." She said "Yes, because I love him so much. Nobody would take care of him the way I do." That's the truth. He was spoiled.

SF: Did he dislike anything in particular? FF: He never said.

SF: How about your mother?

FF: No. My mother didn't like gossip and my mother didn't like when people complaining about others. She used to say "Stay away. Why aggravate each other." She was always there to have peace.

SF: What was your parents greatest source of pride?

FF: The children, and the grandchildren. And me, I must say me. My father used to say "I wouldn't give you away for a million dollars" and my mother used to say "Who do you think would want her?" But he used to give me anything and everything. When he came home

sometimes and business was bad he used to say, he always said "Sit over there." He just looked at me and that made him happy. That's the spoiling he did. See he could never see any wrong.

SF: Was there anything they were ashamed of?

FF: No. We never did anything to...ashamed of.

SF: Was there a schul in Bittenwiesen?

FF: Yah. You met the woman in Israel who her father was daddy's teacher. Sun. There was a schul there. There were more Jewish people than by us.

SF: Was the family, like your father or grandfather or your mother's parents, do any military service?

FF: My father was in the First World War four years. And Bianca's father and Ruth's father. Ruth's father was in Russia. Bianca's father was in Macedonia wherever that is. My father was in Grafenwere (?) and then he was in France, in Lille or something. (SF: Did he ever talk about it?). He used to say how some people stole the people blind. He never...in fact when they came home, my mother used to tell that. I didn't know. When they came home they could keep the uniform, the long coats and the long things and my father said "Give it away. I don't want to see it anymore." But those people who I was telling you before, who never had anything, who were always bankrupt, he brought home diamonds and he brought green velvet, I never forget, and he brought everything. He just robbed the people blind. You know, in France, the ones who because Germany because they went through, I don't know really how that happened. My father said "No, I don't want to get rich on other peoples trouble." Never did.

SF: You grew most of your own vegetables and fruits. Did you have your own vineyards too?

FF: No. We had some but they were so small that they weren't... (SF: Who did the cultivating?)

FF: Our man.

SF: What clothes did you normally wear? A dirndl?

FF: Yah, I wore a dirndl. I wore dirndls. I was very thin so not everything fit me. The dirndls you could tie up here, the vests and this. I had a lot of dirndls and they were beautiful. Then for Shabbos I had a regular dress. A silk dress or anything like that.

SF: How about my father? Did they were lederhosen or regular pants?

FF: No. Regular pants. They wore regular pants.

SF: Who wore lederhosen?

FF: Sigbert, my sister's... I bought him the lederhosen for the summer. The kids when they were young they wore lederhosen. (SF: Adults didn't wear lederhosen?) FF: In Munich they did but not where we were. Because that's where they all wore them all the time. (SF: That was the style?) FF: Yah. I mean you didn't go to work with those. Like you wear them now, when you come home from work you change. Or they were out in the fields they with lederhosen, things like that.

SF: Can you draw a diagram of your house?

FF: Our house was outside like this. Very heavy. Stone. For years, you know, the Nazis broke the windows. They didn't let put any of the glass. There was no one there who would put glass in so we had to put paper, from a box-cardboard in. On the outside of the house it was so neglected. My mother used to say "I don't want to go out." It was so neglected. Because it needed to go over because it was up on the hill and the wind (Note: said winnnnd with inflection), you know. Nobody could do anything so half of the wall was...it was a terrible thing, it was just an awful thing to see.

FF:.... because they got old and couldn't climb stairs. So that was my grandmother's room. It was a small room off the living room, to the left. When my grandmother died, then we had a

desk in there and a sewing machine in there. It made it very comfortable. It wasn't that small but it was a nice room. Then you came out from the living room and then you went...that was the hall, then you went here and there was the kitchen. The kitchen was big. (SF: Across the hall from the living room?) FF: No. It was this way, toward the front. This was the kitchen and the kitchen had two buffets, one for milchdich and one for fleishdich. There was a stove and the stove was beautiful. It had a what-do-you-call-that? The top was shiny like a... It was always polished. There was a big kitchen table in there and from the kitchen you went into what we called the schpice. That was...that came up from the cellar, the coldness came up from the cellar and there was all out of stone. That's where...it was cold like ice in there too. The coldness came out from the cellar somehow or another. It was built on top of the cellar. Then in the corner my mother had a big closet like with screen and that's where we had our food in there. You didn't have a frigidaire or even ice, we didn't have that. That were the food in there. Then you went back there from the hall and there you went down the cellar. Back here was a big room where we had our working clothes. The men had their shoes there. You know, you came up from the thing. The shoes and we had the big thing where we all had the shoes, the working shoes, and the girls had the closet there. They had their clothes there. What was in the closet. I don't know. My father's working clothes. Then there was the bedroom, one bedroom. No then there was the bathroom and there was the bedroom. The bedroom was first for my sisters because it was big and they got married so I got it. It was a nice sized bedroom. It had two beds in there and they had a thing in there to wash your hands and all that. It was nice set. Then you went upstairs. There was my parent's bedroom. Then there was another bedroom. Then there was a room where you had a big thing where you had your flour for the winter. Next to it was another way we had...I don't even know what was in there. Then there was the "gutte zimmer" (good room) they called it. It was a beautiful room with red velvet furniture in there. Then there was a buffet that was just beautiful. Next to this was another room like a guest room and there was a big closet in there with mirrors and clothes, where we hung the clothes. Then upstairs were the maids rooms. (SF: You lived downstairs and the maids lived upstairs?) Yah, on the top floor.

SF: Where did the people who worked on the farm live?

FF: In their own houses. The man who worked for us, he lived above the stables because somebody had to live there in the winter. (SF: You had several people who worked for you?).

FF: At times.

Phone rings, interrupting discussion, which picks up at a different point.

SF: Camp?

FF: No her husband was...

SF: When did get a telephone?

FF: I don't know. It was there all the time.

SF: Did you have any other appliances?

FF: Electric iron. We had the electric iron. See Uncle Leo could remember that they didn't have electricity but I don't. We had electricity all the time. Then we had some other irons which you put on the stove to get hot and to iron with. Then we had the carpet sweeper. That was really something to have a carpet sweeper. (SF: A vacuum?) FF: No a carpet sweeper. A regular carpet sweeper for the rugs. Well, we had electricity all through the house.

SF: What style of furniture did you have?

FF: Modern. We had beautiful furniture. Like this. We had in the living room we had a

buffet and we had where you came in we had a stand where we had a big palm tree. Then we had a buffet and we had like a credenza on this side and then we had the sofa here and then we had leather chairs.

SF: The furniture was made by somebody?

FF: Yah, they were made locally. Lately they were locally but I don't know where the buffet we had downstairs...

SF: Where did the family buy steins and silverware and those things?

FF: They had it all. We had it all the time. In the city I imagine. The steins you probably bought from the farmers when you saw them.

SF: What did you do for transportation?

FF: We had the bus who came through the town three times a day. Then we had the horses and the wagon. (SF: The bus went between the little towns?) FF: Yah, from Dinkelsbühl...from Wassertrüdingen from the train to a small town, to our town and then to Dinkelsbühl. You could go on the train here and my father went to Nürnberg, to the markets so he took the bus or sometimes the man brought him there with the two horse...with the horse.

SF: Did you ever ride horseback.

FF: I didn't go near a horse. They scared me to death. SF: How about your father? FF: He didn't drive either. The man drove.

SF: Did you or your father take trips to other cities?

FF: My father went every week to Nürnberg, that was a trip, that was with the train about three and a half hours. (SF: That's where the cattle market was?) FF: Yah, and Dinkelsbühl had a cattle market about once a month. And Nördlingen and Donauwörth. That's how he knew daddy. Our daddy knew my father from Donauwörth, from the cattle market and from Nördlingen from the cattle market.

SF: What happened at these markets? Did people just make paper transactions?

FF: No. You transferred your animals there. We were the only ones in town who had a truck. My father had a truck made where you put the two horses on and you transported the animals (SF: You mean a wagon?) FF: Yeah, a wagon and you transferred the animals to the train and then it was transferred to the city. (SF: My father did the same thing and that's where they met?) FF: Your father didn't. Your father bought em. He bought them to take them home and slaughter them.

SF: How did the family make the money originally to buy the schloss?

FF: (Laughing) You got a good question. I have no idea. This was my grandmother's name. My grandmother was...

SF: Do you want to read the article now and translate it?

FF: It says here: When there were anymore Graffen and ... their title was taken away and they fought each other. Those herren. Whatever they were. When this was taken away, the Margrave, then they lost all their money and then they had to sell it. The family Schlossheimer and Monheimer. Schlossheimer was a cousin of my grandmother's. My grandmother's maiden name was Monheimer and they took this over, the schloss besitz (possessed) for 1800 gulden. That's what they paid them for. 1800 gulden. It was 1856. Wittelshofen, 130 years ago, at night from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> of May, 1856 the fire alarm came. The Margrave...and the schloss stood in flames. The fire came from all sides that they couldn't save it. It was burning and they came from all the surrounding towns they came with fire equipment. Nine fire sprayers came and only two could come nearby on account of the high elevation. It was high up. They didn't reach up. I always told you our house was up on the hill. The burning took

from May 14, 12 in the afternoon till May 16. They had fights with each other. The Margrave and the other one. You know all those people, they lived on the people's land and the people had to bring all the food in and support them and they lived in...they had to work for them for nothing, bring the food in for nothing, bring the wine and the beer, and they lived up to it and the other people starved and they got tired of it so they through some flames in and burned down the whole thing. They had a hard job that they (the Margrave?) got away from it. They would have killed them too. They were always killers you know. 1300. In the year 1300 came a man, 13 hundred eighty were that one thrown out and another one came in. He sold it to someone in Dinkelsbühl. (SF: So it was built in 1300 originally?) FF: Yah. Then came something else. In 1426 came another one who owned it. Ninety nine years. Ninety nine years they had the man in Ansbach who took care of, who owned it this place in Wittelshofen. Then in 1520 finally he could call it his own. Again it started like this that they took everything from the people and then... That's also a town. 1525 they also came and sturmed against it. They shot against the thing. They just didn't take this being fooled anymore. Then they built it up again. 35 rooms and three rooms for...where you have the big parties in it, what do you call it? Three ballrooms. They put that thing around the walls. Those water... (SF: A moat?) FF: But they was just small things. It was floating around but there were small things. On both sides were trees and there was water going through. That went around the houses. We had a lot of trouble with it. There were stones in there and we had to clean them out. He thought that's going to help. He built 35 rooms with three of those ballrooms and the zehnten (Note: tithe). That's the one who is still standing. That's call zehn. They had to give a tenth of all their earnings and all their fruit they had to bring there. So those big shots could just live on that. They didn't have to worry and work about it. They just took whatever they could get. And they got tired of it and they burned it down again. That place was burned down more often than anybody ever....

SF: But if they had 35 rooms on the same property you had your house on...

FF: We had four houses built there. Four houses.

SF: Article is from a May 13, 1986 FLZ.

FF: Let me tell you something. Our house was built on the ruins of the schloss but the surrounding, the grounds belonged all to the schloss and that's where the other houses.... We didn't own them. We only owned the grounds. We owned the trees and we owned the gardens. The houses were built from the Monheimer and the Schlossheimer and they must have sold the houses to those people but our house was ours and the one opposite us, was just almost like here, belonged to ...but this house on 1936 or 38 or 34, they don't go that far, see.

SF: You said your father knew my father. What did he have to say about my father?

FF: Steven. Listen. Let me explain. Your questions some of them are so ignorant. I have never spoken to my father since I got married.

SF: But he wrote to you after that.

FF: Daddy said, our daddy said he knew my father when I explained to him what my father looked like. So he said he knows my father, he remembers my father. He had a little red hair here and he knows my father. My parents couldn't write. They wrote through the red cross to me. What are you talking? So I'm going to ask him how he likes daddy when he never spoke to him? I don't know. Hella says the same thing. I want to tell you something. When I was young....

SF: Was the family in any kind of politics?

FF: No.

SF: Did any of them talk about Israel?

FF: No. My father just said once a year “lashonah habah berushahlayim” (next year in Jerusalem) and I said “I don’t want to say it because I don’t want to go there. It’s good enough for me here and I don’t want to go to Jerusalem.” He used to say “That’s what written here and you read it.” I said “I don’t want to go, why should I read it?”

SF: Were there any Zionists in the area?

FF: No. He always said... He says....then he always said he would love to go to France to-what is it called?-the Forgesen(?), that’s a mountain in France. He always said “Ooo, I would love to go to see that once in life.” He would have enjoyed that. Oh would he have enjoyed that.

FF: Scott don’t, God forbid, don’t drop it. Don’t play around with it.

SF: Did the family take trips together or go on vacations?

FF: They couldn’t take it together. My father came to Munich or my mother came to Munich. I told you about the animals. Always somebody....even if you had help you still had to be there to...

SF: Did you or your sisters ever go with them?

FF: They lived already in Munich. My sister lived in Munich. (SF: How about when you were younger?) Yeah, I went with my father and with my mother. They weren’t too keen on taking me because I wanted to do things and they were already old, don’t forget. My mother was 42 when I was born.

SF: What did the family do for relaxation during the year?

FF: Huh, huh. That’s a good question. We relaxed at home. We were glad to be home after a day’s work.

SF: Did you listen to music or read or...?

FF: Read. My father was a great reader. A great reader. We had a lot of books. Always had a lot. My mother always..I got her from the school library a book. It was called Genevieve and she read that every year. We had all the papers and magazines. (SF: You had a Bechstein?.) I took piano lessons but I wasn’t good at it. I didn’t care. (SF: Did you have a record player?) FF: No, we didn’t have a record player. (SF: Did you go to concerts?) FF: Not in town. When I came to Munich. Yah, we had sometimes some theater groups coming to town. Steven, don’t forget, it was a small town. There weren’t such things as you ask. You had to go to work early in the morning. Those kinds of things, they are not real what you ask. This is not this time. Remember when we used to go to Toms River, when they had the chicken farm? They worked from mornings to night and went to bed at night. Right. This is the way it was at home too.

SF: What were your favorite subjects in school?

FF: Math. Reading. No, I didn’t like history. I hated history. Geography. I loved geography and I was very good at it.

SF: Did my father ever talk about school?

FF: He was the best in math. He enjoyed math. He loved math. And reading. He used to say he wasn’t good in writing, in writing letters, but his handwriting was 100 times better than mine ever, and when he sat down and wrote a letter he came right down to the point, he didn’t flower it up but he knew how to write a letter. Just like Uncle Leo. He always said he wasn’t good in writing. He wrote very well too.

SF: You went away at what age to go to school? FF: 12.

SF: Why did they send you away to school.

FF: Because that was the only way, you go away. Because that was the break of the public

school. 12. SF: Did most people continue their education.

FF: No. They all went. They went to 16. It didn't stop at 12 but that was the public... I don't know how to explain it to you. The teacher always said that, to tell you the truth I to say, I was too smart for the school there and they should put me in a better school. He didn't know what to do with me a times to ask questions, you know. Then my mother said she didn't know what to do and then my relatives came from Nürnberg, they came during the war. They had no food so we gave them all the food, we had the chickens and we had the meat and we gave them.... Then they wanted to make good and they said "Why don't you send her to us and we send her to school from hereon where she can learn better than at home." So that's where I went. Then I went to public school till 16, right? How long do you go to public school? 14? 16? Then I went right away from there to high school which we didn't have home. We had good teaching but not that excellent.

SF: So you went to high school in Nürnberg? FF: Yah. See we didn't just have one class together. We had classes together third and fourth and fifth grade. We had it in the morning. They had it in the afternoon. It was just one schoolhouse. In Wittelshofen. Nürnberg, that was much different. It was such an old building. Oh, was it old.

SF: Was it unusual to send the girl away to school? FF: Yah, very unusual.

SF: You said Ida went away also. FF: Well she had to go away to the orphanage.

SF: But her mother was alive. FF: Yah. I don't want to tape that....

SF: Did you have any very good friends in school?

FF: Yeah, I had very good friends in school. In Nürnberg they were very Nazis then already. They used to sing some Jewish things against the Jews then already. At home yeah. They were good. I was very good with them. (SF: Who were your best friends?) Selma in England who died and Ida naturally and there were a lot of...we were just like one family, there were a lot of girls I was very friendly with. We didn't even know any different. I mean I didn't go to their house and they didn't come to my house but we were very family. There was this girl, her name was Marga, who was at the post office who we supported. Her mother had TB and she came home with me every day to eat. When I expected my papers she says to me "We don't give papers to Jews and I'm not giving it to you." She wouldn't give me my paper and I went in and I threw her against the wall.

SF: Were your friends mostly Jewish?

FF: No, there was just Ida and Selma and me and Josef, he went away to become a teacher and that was all of us young people. SF: Who was Josef? FF: Gallinger, the one who took me down like this and I thought I was pregnant. I told you.

SF: Did you ever have any private tutors? FF: No, I never needed any. I tutored others. I helped Ida. Don't ever talk to Ida about school otherwise she's going to hit the ceiling.

SF: Any special books you remember other than Genevieve?

FF: Genevieve. What I read. I read everything. Whatever came across I read. I don't know any special books but I read any romance and anything. Whatever a kid reads. We had a very good school library.

SF: And you had good teachers too?

FF: One. He killed himself later on because he went after girls. He went after me too. He kept me in school and then he sat down with me. Because I didn't empty that spit thing he kept me in school. Then he sat on the bench with me and we went all over me and I went home and told my father and then another girl the same thing. Then they called him and told him and he didn't and just wanted to be good to us and then, years later, I was already in ...oh ya I was in



München and he did the same thing and then they threw him out and he went to another town and did the same thing and then he killed himself. But he was a very good teacher.

SF: How about in Nürnberg, what did you study?

FF: Everything. But nothing specific. (SF: What about the professor who did this?—pointing to the pencil drawing/Mizrach). Oh, he was wonderful. He was wonderful. In Hebrew.

Zeigler. He was a wonderful man. I tell you something Steven, you ask me something 50 years ago and if you want me to remember those things I have to make up a story. I cannot remember. If you asked me what he looked like I really don't know anymore. I really don't.

SF: What did your parents do during the inflation?

FF: I was 14 years, 13, 14 years old. I don't know. My father built a new stable. He built a beautiful stable. A modern stable where you fed the cows...you know you used to have to go in between the cows to put the food in and then it went around. Just the heads faced you.

SF: Then you bought a piano too? FF: Yah, we bought a piano. I must have said that. I forgot in the meantime. As I tell you Steven...

SF: Tell the story about the lady whose chickens you got drunk.

FF: Oh, well. The lady I got the chickens drunk. The lady didn't like me and she lived downstairs in a house and every time I passed by with my bicycle I rang the bell like crazy because I didn't want to run anybody over, you know, so she didn't like me for that because sometimes she must have slept. I woke her up with ringing the bell. Everybody knew I was coming because I rung like a lunatic. So whenever something was wrong in her place she blamed it on me even if I wasn't there. She's says "Flora did it. Flora did it." Once I came to Hebrew school and he said to me "What did you do to Frau Pollock?" "I said "nothing." He said "Yes you did" and he hit me. I said "What for?" He said the Frau Pollock said you did something. I didn't say good morning or...she asked me...oh no, I never forget Frau Pollock, it was thundering and she says to me "Do you know the brocha over the thunder or the lightning?" I says "Yeah, but I forgot" and I should have remembered it. Frau Pollock said to the teacher "You don't teach your children right. She didn't even know the brocha over thing" so he hit me. Everything what was wrong she blamed it on me. So one day I felt very hurt because she said I did something and as bad as a devil as I was, I never lied. I told the truth even if I know I get punished.

So she made this up. I don't know what she told my father I did something I didn't do so I said to myself "This time I'm going to hit you where it hurts you most." I just about had it. She was this size but she was a devil. So I had this apron on. And she loved her chickens. She always stood there and cluck, cluck, cluck, cluck and they stood in the middle and the clucks were all around her. I put this challah, this Berches, in whiskey and as a child, as dumb as you are, and I put the whiskey things in my pocket and my pocket got all sticky and full of crumbs and I went to the chickens and I just through it. I go cluck, cluck, cluck and all the cluck, cluck, clucks came and all the cluck, cluck, clucks they ate the thing and I stood there on the corner. I know the spot. I looked and they ate like crazy and I threw more. I went home and I was the happiest person. I said to myself "This time I got you. This time I got you." It didn't take an hour. She comes running in and she had such small feet. "Herr Winter, Herr Winter." My father was for everybody. My mother used to call him the blitzachleiter. He was like whenever the lightning hit they knew where my father was. We had a veterinarian. We had him under thing (retainer). You never know what happens to the cows. So she said "You got to call the veterinarian. You got to call. Oh my chickens are dying. My chickens are sick. My chickens are dying. My children. My children." My father said "What happened?" She

says "I don't know what happened. They were all right in the morning and I let them out and I come out and they are all laying there dead." So my father said she should go home and he is going to call the veterinarian and he is going to come out and he is going to tell her what to do. He says "We get you chickens. Don't worry about it." "No" she says "We had those gray pearl chickens." They were all gray. They looked like pearls, you know. My father said "We help you getting it. Don't worry about it." So she run home and she had a kerchief around. My father said "What could happen? What could happen?" I stood on the door and I said to my father "Papa, her chickens aren't sick." He said "What do you mean?" I said "They're not sick. The chickens are drunk!" So my mother said "Her chickens are drunk? What are you saying?" I said "You're going to hit me." (Background has Scott laughing.) I always said that. My father said "Tell the truth. I don't hit you." My father never hit me anyway. My mother did the hitting. I said "I tell you why. Because she is always saying things about me and she's always lying about me and even the lehrer, the teacher, hit me because she lied about me. I'm sick and tired and I wanted to hurt her. So I made her chickens drunk" My father started laughing (continued laughing in background by Scott) and my mother said "Solomon that's nothing to laugh. This is the undergang. She said this is the trouble with that kid. Whatever she does you laugh to it." He said "What did you do?" and I told him what I did. My mother said "Where did you get the whiskey?" I said "Home, from here." "How did you do it." "In my pocket. My pocket was all fat and greasy from the liquor." I said "You gonna hit me." My father said "No, I don't hit you but what am I going to tell her? Because if I tell her this, you really be mud (Note: Scott is continuing to laugh. and FF is feeding on his laughter.)" My father went out. To tell you the truth I don't know what he told her but when he came out the chickens came back to life. I don't think he ever told her what happened but he came home and he took me on his lap and he says "Would you promise me one thing? Would you promise me not to do those things. This time you got away good. The next time it's not going to work that easy. Don't do those bad things." I said "She condemned me all the time. She blames me for everything." Ida could do anything she wanted. She never was wrong and I was always wrong and I got tired of it. My father told her, he said to her "Enough is enough. This constant bothering and the constant hurting the kid and the constant telling her the things, I don't want you to do it. If she does something wrong then we punish her, but you don't leave her alone..."

I tell you what happened then. She died a few years later. We were supposed to sit there and watch over night. See when the people died in small towns, you didn't have a funeral parlor or anything. You put straw on the floor and that's where the person stood overnight. The next day they got buried. Ida, Selma and me were supposed to watch a few hours at night, you know, you changed off. So I said to them "I don't believe she's dead" so Ida said "Yes she's dead." I said "Let me do something." I took the ball and I always played ball and I was very good like a ...?...I said "I'm going to throw the ball against the wall and if she doesn't say anything then I will know she is dead." I took the ball, I threw it against the wall, she didn't say anything, I said "She's dead. We have to sit. We have to watch. She's dead." Then I believed. We really had good times though.

SF: Anything else you can remember like that?

FF: No. Then came the hard times.