

Interviewee: Eva Voloshin de Lisnofsky

January 27, 1989

Interviewer: ?

Eva was born in Argentina in 1912. She is the daughter of colonists, and has 3 siblings. The parents arrived in Argentina around 1908 from Russia. Life in the colony, El Palmar, (near Ubajay) was difficult and father was sickly. They complemented the income from the harvests with dairy products made of their cows' milk. The girls stayed home and only the boys worked the fields. The children went to a school where they studied the secular subjects for half a day, and the Jewish subjects the other half of the day. They were in school from 8 in the morning to 4 in the afternoon. The Yiddish first teacher was a Mr. Forman; the one for the other subjects was Mr. Berchovsky. School went only to the third grade. Most of the students were Jewish and the language of studies was Yiddish. A few children of the peons also attended the school. The children participated in plays. National and Jewish celebrations. At the age of 11, Eva went to live with her older sister, who was already married and lived in Entre Rios, in Libaros, near Basavilbaso. She was very well-to-do, and did not have children, but later adopted a 7-year old girl. There were only 13 Jewish families there. Eva's father died young. He never managed to buy his farm. The younger brother was tired of working an unproductive field, so he left it and moved to Basavilbaso, where he bought a plant that produced soda water. He took his mother with him. None of the 72 colonists of El Palmar bought their lands. The lands went to non-Jewish owners. The monies due to the Jewish Colonization of Argentina (JCA) went mainly to pay the interest on the loans. Because of the unpredictability of the harvests, the colonists never had enough money.

Eva got married at the age of 26 in Concepcion Del Uruguay. She met her husband in Parana. She mentions that the colonists married amongst themselves. She was an exception, as she wasn't living in the colony then. Eva's first daughter died at birth in Parana, and then they had another daughter. They moved to Buenos Aires when the daughter was an infant. Husband had a transportation business.

Eva says her family was Zionist and not religious. In her school there were 2 institutions: The Israel League, and The Zionist League. Eva was the treasurer of both. When the Balfour Declaration came out, the entire town came out to celebrate, and the demonstration departed from the school.