

MARGOT PELS --married:? Sadiky

Born in Berlin ( Germany) in 1931.

Her Mother was very religious but not orthodox, born in the area of Thuringia, Germany. She was called Genny. Her Father, Hermann, born in the North of Germany, not religious, but adapted to his wife's habits, attended services. Shabbat was kept at home. Mother loved music, played the piano and her brother played the violin. Her Father sold and repaired watches from Switzerland. Mrs. Pels had one older sister who died young. As she was only 7 years old when she left Germany she has very few remembrances, except the daily routines.

She remembers that they had a nice life and in 1939 they left for Chile stopping first in Austria. Her Father decided it was time to leave Germany, felt the antisemitic wave, heard talks by Hitler and being a realist he said it was time to get away, and that all Jews should do the same. They spent a short time in Austria where they waited for visas, and then left for Argentina where paternal Uncles resided and helped them to arrange their travel. From there they left for Chile on a Chilean boat named Imperial, and they arrived in Valparaiso where an Uncle was waiting for them. Why Chile? Her Father was the decision maker and he preferred Chile to Argentina.

She went to school, remembers a very nice teacher and another Jewish girl in her class who also was German born. She went to the university and graduated in education. She met her husband before graduation while buying tickets for a musical performance. He, Manfred, was born in Poland, his family perished in concentration camps, he survived 5 years as a young teenager in Auschwitz working in a workshop, and he excelled in manual works. He was doing similar work in Chile but was not earning enough to maintain a family and she worked as well. Her father intervened and helped them; he gave Manfred a job as a salesman for his store. He ended being a very successful salesman.

Her husband never talked about his time in Auschwitz, even when their 2 children (a boy and a girl) asked him to do so.