

## **INTERVIEW WITH GOLDIE DIAMENT**

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## INTERVIEW WITH GOLDIE DIAMENT

**INT:** This is side one of a tape with Goldie Diamant, October 31st. Do you want to tell me your name?

**GOLDIE:** Goldie Diamant.

**INT:** And your age?

**GOLDIE:** Seventy-two.

**INT:** And where were you born?

**GOLDIE:** Well, I'm half Poland and half German, on the border between Poland and Germany. You want to know the city?

**INT:** Yes.

**GOLDIE:** Well, even if I tell you, you would not recognize it, Konigshette.

**INT:** Can you spell that?

**GOLDIE:** Yes, I can spell it. It's Konigshutte.

**INT:** Thank you. Are you married at the present time?

**GOLDIE:** No. When I was home, you mean, in Europe?

**INT:** No, no. Right now. Today.

**GOLDIE:** If I'm married today? I'm a widow.

**INT:** You're a widow. How long have you been a widow?

**GOLDIE:** Three and a half years.

**INT:** How much schooling did you have?

**GOLDIE:** I had until eighth grade, and two years was like, what should I say? It's not high school, well, I would say like high school. We called it different by us. It was Gymnasium.

**INT:** So you had two years of the Gymnasium.

**GOLDIE:** Yes.

**INT:** How much education did your husband have?

**GOLDIE:** My husband went mostly to yeshivas. He was in yeshivas. He was all this time before he went to concentration camp, he went to yeshivas, so, I mean, they didn't learn so much there like we learned in public school, but-

**INT:** But he was studying. Okay. What are you doing today to earn a living? You told me you were working.

**GOLDIE:** Well, I still run a business.

**INT:** What kind of a business?

**GOLDIE:** Drapery material.

**INT:** Yard goods.

**GOLDIE:** Yard goods. Right.

**INT:** And did your husband do that with you when he was alive?

**GOLDIE:** Yes, sure. He was a decorator, interior decorator, and we had our own shop. It was supplying goods, also, to decorators, because we were selling. We had sample books made up which we sent all over the United States, and that's where we were getting mail orders, phone orders.

**INT:** Did you ever do anything, any other kind of work other than in the decorating business?

**GOLDIE:** No. In 1953, when we start a business, and then I'm in that business.

**INT:** I take it if you're still in the business, it's a good business.

**GOLDIE:** No, it's not a good business, because my husband was there and now, once my husband is gone I don't do much business because I don't try to improve the business. I cannot improve it. A business has to be always improved, and if you don't do it, then it collapses, and that's what happened.

**INT:** But it was a good business when he was alive?

**GOLDIE:** I think so. Of course it was a good business. But now I'm just in a project to get rid of it. I'm not going to stay. I can't take it anymore. Too much.

**INT:** Do you want to tell me about your children?

**GOLDIE:** Well, I have three sons and one daughter. One son is in Israel. He lives in Jerusalem. He's there already twelve years. I have a daughter who lives in Baltimore. She and her husband are both educators. I have a son who lives in Edison, New Jersey. He's in computers. And then I have one son who lives in Montreal and he's in jewelry.

**INT:** Wonderful. And grandchildren?

**GOLDIE:** I have, kina hora, twenty grandchildren.

**INT:** Oh, how wonderful. I know you have one that must come to visit.

**GOLDIE:** Well, once in a while my son comes with the twins. He lives in Edison.

**INT:** Good. What are the ages of your grandchildren?

**GOLDIE:** The youngest is three months, the oldest is twenty-one.

**INT:** Oh, wonderful, wonderful. How are you affiliated religiously? With a synagogue?

**GOLDIE:** Yes. Young Israel in Wynnefield.

**INT:** Do you belong to any other organizations?

**GOLDIE:** Not really, no.

**INT:** Do you do any Holocaust related activities?

**GOLDIE:** Not recently, no. I used to be active, but not in the last years since my husband passed away, I'm not active. I meet with people occasionally, but I'm not active.

**INT:** Not officially.

**GOLDIE:** No. It's very difficult for me to get around, because I don't drive no more. I had a bad car accident and since that time I don't drive, so I just cannot get around too much.

**INT:** That is very difficult. Now I'm going to ask you some questions about your family before the war. All the way back. We're going to talk about your parents, your sisters, your brothers; those kinds of things. Where were your parents born?

**GOLDIE:** In Poland.

**INT:** Both your parents were born in Poland. Did they move to where you were born?

**GOLDIE:** Yes.

**INT:** Why?

**GOLDIE:** They came from different cities. My father went in business, and this was a big city where there was business available, and that's why he came to that city.

**INT:** What kind of business did your father have?

**GOLDIE:** I don't know how you call it in English. Like men's shirts and all kinds more things like articles of-

**INT:** Clothing?

**GOLDIE:** Not really clothing. Not clothing. Like small items, you know, for men mostly: Ties and shirts. And then also different things like...I'm trying to remember how to-

**INT:** Would you call it dry goods?

**GOLDIE:** Not really dry goods. Dry goods is material by the yards, right?

**INT:** Well, it's a lot of things, dry goods.

**GOLDIE:** Yes, you can say dry goods. You can say dry goods.

**INT:** Okay. How many brothers and sisters did you have?

**GOLDIE:** I had six brothers and one sister. We were eight children.

**INT:** You were eight children.

**GOLDIE:** Yes.

**INT:** Do you want to give me the names of your brothers and sisters?

**GOLDIE:** Yes. I'll give you their names. My oldest brother's name was Sigmund; the second brother was Emanuel, or they called him in Yiddish, they called him Mendel; then was Max. And my sister was Regina and me you have, and then I had one brother whose name was Simon, and then one was Alter and one was Bernard or Bernie, whatever.

**INT:** What kind of a-

**GOLDIE:** What they were doing, my brothers, right?

**INT:** Well, tell me about what your family was like when you were all little.

**GOLDIE:** Okay. My oldest brother finished Gymnasium. He also went to the yeshiva, and he was working for a German bank.

**INT:** You were in Poland? You were on the border-

**GOLDIE:** Well, it was a border. There were German and Polish people. When he worked in that bank, he worked there for quite a while, four, five years, and then Hitler came. He didn't come exactly to our city, but he was already, you know, he was in Germany already. So then my brother lost this job because he was Jewish. They sent him away; him and another person. It was a very big bank and it was all over the country the same bank. And the younger one worked also in a bank, but he worked in a Jewish bank. You know, like years ago, I don't know how you call

this, there was the man used to make a living. They used to go out of their homes with the things on the back and sell all kinds of things to the ladies to pay out.

**INT:** Like a peddler.

**GOLDIE:** Like a peddler. And these peddlers used to come to the bank. They had to borrow money or they gave, like, they used to call this, oh, I forget the name. A “wexel.” This was like a note that they’re going to pay the money in two months and things. So he was in the bank work, and he always had to go with these kind of people. This was his job.

**INT:** And tell me about your house that you lived in when you were little?

**GOLDIE:** Well, it was not a house. We lived in a big apartment. You know, in Europe there were not houses like here. We lived in a big apartment. It was pretty spacey, and nice, modern. What else should I tell you?

**INT:** Did your father make a good living?

**GOLDIE:** Pretty good. We lived pretty comfortable. My father had other business also. He was importing things from different countries, like silk scarves and things. He was going to France. He used to import from Germany, besides the other business. Comfortable. We were not rich, but we lived comfortable. We had a housekeeper and you know-

**INT:** That sounds comfortable. That sounds very comfortable.

**GOLDIE:** Yes, comfortable. We didn’t have luxuries.

**INT:** Were you very religious?

**GOLDIE:** Yes. My father had the business closed on Shabbos.

**INT:** How much education did your brothers have?

**GOLDIE:** They had quite a good education, because otherwise they couldn’t get the positions what they had. They had like they called, we used to call this...Gymnasium, once you finish the Gymnasium, you go to a higher school, but it was not college. It was a bit like college, but they couldn’t make it in certain hours, because they had to divide it between yeshiva and things.

**INT:** So they all went to yeshiva, but they also went on to-

**GOLDIE:** Yes, they didn’t sit the whole day in yeshiva like they do here, but they went on a bike, and they went and drove up to the yeshiva. No cars. In that time they didn’t have cars. There were cars, but, you know...

**INT:** Before the war, was your brother, the one who worked in the German bank, was he married?

**GOLDIE:** No, nobody was married.

**INT:** Nobody was married.

**GOLDIE:** Nobody was married. And then they had to go the army; to the Polish army. They had to go. But he was not too long there. My oldest brother was not too long in the army, because, you know, you had a pull. He was in the office working as a captain. But the younger one, the middle one, had to go to the army, and he was just completed when the war broke out. He was just supposed to come home, beginning September, and the war broke out. So he didn't come home. They send him right on the, what do you call it, on the front.

**INT:** On the front.

**GOLDIE:** Yes. He, and the oldest, who was home because he was not in the army; he was in the reserve, he had to go also. The oldest was killed right a couple of days when the war broke out.

**INT:** In the army?

**GOLDIE:** In the army.

**INT:** So he was fighting for Poland, against Germany.

**GOLDIE:** Right. And the younger one was also in the army, but he someways sneaked away. He went into a small town in Poland where we had relatives and he changed his uniform to civilian clothes, but a Polish man recognized him and the Germans killed him. The Polacks. I have a Polish woman in the house. But that's what happened.

**INT:** You mentioned your oldest brother and your youngest brother. What about the other brothers?

**GOLDIE:** The next one was going to school and he worked. He was working in a wholesale place where they sell candy, chocolate, whatever. He was like a salesman. But he also was going to school. And my sister was going to school. When the war broke out she worked already. She was working in a store...because we didn't have nothing. We had given up our business already, because we had to move to a different city. We had to get out from there because it was on the border where Hitler was. So we moved to a city where it was more Jewish people.

**INT:** Where did you move?

**GOLDIE:** Sosnowiec [Sosnovitz in Yiddish]. It was in Poland, but it was like fifteen, twenty, minutes away by bus or by car, you know. We moved to that city and my father found a nice, comfortable apartment. We moved in and we lived there until the Germans came and then we had to, after a couple of years, the Germans came and we had to get out of this place because they liked the place. It was a brand new building. I mean it was an apartment, it was not a house, but it was modern and we had to get out. So we moved to a house which my grandmother

owned, in the same city. But it was an old neighborhood, but we got an apartment and we moved in there. We had no choice.

**INT:** Tell me now about your grandparents?

**GOLDIE:** I had one grandmother who lived in a small town, my mother's mother. She was really a stepmother, but she was like a mother really. And one grandmother lived in Sosnowich, which she owned this building where we moved in.

**INT:** You had no grandfathers?

**GOLDIE:** No. Not that I remember.

**INT:** Right, right. What was your relationship with your two grandmothers?

**GOLDIE:** Very good. Very good. This grandmother who used to come to us, she used to come to visit to us before we moved to that city there. She used to come and she used to love to stay with us and she always used to say that I was named after her mother, so she was always...it was great. She came to our house. We enjoyed to have her over. She had to bring this little, well, you don't know, it's like a little glass with water and a little plate, so when she got up in the morning she could wash her hands. I always had to do it. I had to bring it to her bed always.

**INT:** What was your relationship, your feeling...how did you act with your parents?

**GOLDIE:** Very well. My parents were...well, they were pretty straight, but we also had to listen to my oldest brothers. They were very strict with us too. My oldest brother was like, maybe, I would say like fourteen years older than me, so we had to-

**INT:** So he was like a parent to you, too.

**GOLDIE:** Yes, well, because if he had to say something, we had to listen. We had to be very...we had to listen to him.

**INT:** What was your parents' relationship with each other?

**GOLDIE:** Very good. Very good. What do you mean?

**INT:** Did they fight?

**GOLDIE:** No, no. My father was a very gentle man, very fine man. He was very nice. And my mother too. My mother was a very quiet woman. He liked her very much. As a matter of fact, I have a cousin from my mother who lives in San Diego, and he calls me and he always reminds me of my mother, how wonderful she was and what a nice person she was. He remembers, because he's like, maybe, in the eighties, eighty-two years old. And my mother's father, no, my mother's father, I think, was a brother to his mother. I don't remember exactly how it was. But...yes. All remembrances, that's what we have left.



**INT:** What kind of relationship did you have with your sister and your brothers?

**GOLDIE:** Very good, yes. My sister went to concentration camp before me. She left before me, because when she was taken to the place where they get all the girls together, and, you know, they used to call it "Hauptshtanfirer," he came there...one of the Germans hide things and he looked on all the girls and he asked them questions, and my sister spoke very good German. So he said to her, you go to a camp and you're going to be the head of the girls. So she went to a camp in Czechoslovakia. It was taken over; the Germans took it over. It was originally Czechoslovakia, but the Germans took it. And she was in camp there. And I went to camp a little later.

**INT:** Was your sister older than you?

**GOLDIE:** Sure. My sister was seven years older than me. And then she was liberated, and she came where I was, to this place where I was liberated. She knew where I was. And then we were liberated in an area where the Russians came in, in Germany. But we didn't want to stay there. We wanted to go to Munich where the Americans were. So it took us three days. We went like a whole group of girls, we went there. And there I met my husband and she met her husband and we got married in Munich.

**INT:** That's wonderful. Did you have any special friends? Did your family have anybody that they were especially close to? Your parents have brothers or sisters or any special relationships, any people that they were especially close to you? All this is before the war, I'm talking.

**GOLDIE:** Yes, my father had two brothers who lived in that city where we had to move, why we came to when we had to get out of this big city where we lived before. He had two brothers and of course, one had children. There were cousins. But they all vanished in camps. Everybody. The uncles and the children and the cousins, everybody. There's nobody left.

**INT:** How did your parents discipline you? Not only you, but all of the children? What kind of environment did you have in your home?

**GOLDIE:** My mother was very, you know, she never was strict with us. My father also not. My brothers were more. (Laughter) My father was busy in a business and coming and going here and there. My mother was a very quiet woman. But my brothers, they were very strict with us. They always watched us with our homework and everything. We had to be home on time. We couldn't get home late. See, we went to school in the morning and we came home like twelve o'clock for lunch. And we had stayed home like an hour, an hour and a half, and then we had to go back for Hebrew. We didn't come home until six o'clock in the night. Sometimes on the way home we liked to play, or in the wintertime we took sleds and we were going on the sled, but we had to be home at a certain time.

**INT:** And if you were late, were you punished?

**GOLDIE:** Sometimes.

**INT:** What kind of punishments?

**GOLDIE:** Well, I was not allowed to go out to see my girlfriend, or nobody was allowed to come to my house, you know. That's what it was.

**INT:** You were grounded. (Laughter)

**GOLDIE:** Yes.

**INT:** Did you have any special girlfriends?

**GOLDIE:** Oh, yes. I had girlfriends. I had friends what we were going to school together. We were together in school, and as a matter of fact, one friend I even was together with her after the concentration camp. I stayed with her for a while.

**INT:** What did you...what is one of your earliest, earliest childhood memories? Something that you did when you were very young?

**GOLDIE:** Oh, I remember, as a matter of fact, several years ago when my sister was still alive, and I reminded her something and she didn't remember. We had whooping cough. I cannot forget it. We had whooping cough. The younger ones, the younger children; we had whooping cough. And there was...so they rent, my parents rent like, what's it called? What they have in town, what they ride around with the (?). A buggy with the...that's the way they used to ride if you had to go somewhere.

**INT:** A horse and buggy?

**GOLDIE:** Horse and buggy. And they send us up someplace to the country with the maid, to get the different air, to change the air. And my brother came along and one of his friends came along. And I remember it was...these things I remember. I must have been like four, five years old, and I cannot forget it. And we were going out to the country there, and we took food along, and somebody was sitting on it and they mused it up. It was not like we used to go with the iceboxes like here, because it was hot but there was no humidity. You could, in the summertime, we didn't even have...well, we had an icebox but we didn't have refrigerators. We always had an icebox, you know. Most of the things in the nighttime you put it outside on the balcony because the air was good. We didn't have refrigerators. Today it's a different world.

**INT:** Oh, it certainly is. Do you remember any death in your family before the war? You don't remember your grandfather's dying.

**GOLDIE:** I remember when my grandmother passed away.

**INT:** Your grandmother.

**GOLDIE:** She passed away in the war. One of my cousins were getting married, so the chupah [bridal canopy] they had by her bed.

**INT:** The chupah?

**GOLDIE:** My cousin. What I told you my father had a brother. His oldest daughter was getting married. This was already...Hitler was in already. It was 1940. And my grandmother was sick. She already didn't know much what's going on. But they made the chupah by her bed.

**INT:** So that she would be a part of the wedding ceremony.

**GOLDIE:** Yes. But she's not alive, this cousin. Nobody's alive.

**INT:** Do you remember any difficulties in your family before the war?

**GOLDIE:** I don't quite understand.

**INT:** Serious illness? Any problems among your family?

**GOLDIE:** Not really, no. You know, I had a little brother. He had surgery on his eye, so we sent him...well, one of my aunts, my mother's sister, she was still single, so she stayed with us. So she helped out in the house. She went with him. There was this city Cracow, in Poland, and they had the best eye doctors there. I remember he had to have surgery done on his eyes. He scratched his eye, you know with what? We were playing bingo, so they made up special for us little pieces from glass to put on the things. You know that you put on the cardboard. It was flying off, and he scratched his eye inside. But I don't remember no sickness.

**INT:** So there weren't any really serious problems that you remember?

**GOLDIE:** No.

**INT:** Was your family affectionate?

**GOLDIE:** Yes.

**INT:** A display of hugging and kissing?

**GOLDIE:** Pretty much, yes. Pretty much.

**INT:** Amongst your brothers and sister as well?

**GOLDIE:** Yes, we were very close. My sister was always very close with my brothers, because she was in the age already where she used to go out and she used to bring friends home.

**INT:** Were there a lot of young people coming into your home?

**GOLDIE:** Yes, always young people. Always friends.

**INT:** Now they were older than you. You were much younger.

**GOLDIE:** Sure. They were already like eligible to get-

**INT:** Teenagers.

**GOLDIE:** Older than teenagers, much older. They were already more in their early twenties. My brothers were.

**INT:** So were your brothers looking for wives?

**GOLDIE:** I was like a child. They always held me like I'm a baby. I was not a baby. I had two younger brothers, but they always held me...you know, because I was their little girl. But I was not really shy or something. I was a tomboy.

**INT:** Oh.

**GOLDIE:** Oh, yes. I was a tomboy. I was not quiet. (Laughter)

**INT:** I thought maybe you took after your mother.

**GOLDIE:** No. I was a tomboy. People used to come from the little towns to shop, to our store, and they used to come with their bikes and they used to leave these bikes outside. They didn't have to be afraid that somebody was stealing. (End of tape 1, side 1)

**INT:** ...about how athletic you were.

**GOLDIE:** Is it on?

**INT:** It's on.

**GOLDIE:** I used to love gym. It was my favorite. Like they say today, to work it out, that's what I did. And I was very, very skinny. In school they used to call me "the skinny." So skinny I was. And when I used to tell my husband that I was skinny, he wouldn't believe me. (Laughter) He believed me because I have a friend who knows me from home. Even in the war I was skinny. After concentration camp I got a little heavy because, you know, the food was not balanced and there was a lot of soups and potatoes and they'd load you up.

**INT:** Now tell me about the role that religion played in your life at home?

**GOLDIE:** What do you mean?

**INT:** Tell me how religion affected your home life. Tell me about Shabbat in your home.

**GOLDIE:** Well, there was Shabbat. Our business was closed. Everybody was home Friday night and Saturday, Shabbos. My brothers went to the shul with my father.

**INT:** What did you do?

**GOLDIE:** I went sometimes, too, but we didn't go so much like here the kids all go. We stayed home. We read. We got together with friends. We didn't go so much on Shabbos to shul. It was a long walk, too.

**INT:** Tell me about celebrating the other holidays.

**GOLDIE:** Yes. Every holiday was very strict by us. We had no school. We were home, and we used to go to the synagogue like the kids go here. The same thing.

**INT:** What were your parents' attitudes towards Judaism?

**GOLDIE:** We were Jewish. They were religious.

**INT:** Was it very important to them?

**GOLDIE:** Yes, sure. Very important, very important.

**INT:** And everybody that they associated with had similar attitudes?

**GOLDIE:** Yes, most of the time. I mean my father was doing business with German people, but we were on good terms with them. But our friends, everything, religious people, only religious people.

**INT:** How would you describe your family? Can you think of three words that would describe your family?

**GOLDIE:** Well, we were very close to each other. One for the other would always do things and take care of things. We were very close. And the older ones were taking care of the younger ones. Something came up, even with homework, they helped each other. More than that parents, because the parents...my father was always busy and my mother was busy, you know, with the household and everything, but my brothers and my sister, they always helped out the younger ones when it came to homework or whatever.

**INT:** What was your view of what life was going to be like? What did you think? Did you think about the future, and what did you think about the future?

**GOLDIE:** No, I never thought about it. I don't remember thinking about it. I cannot remember that I thought about it.

**INT:** Did you expect to have a life just like your parents had?

**GOLDIE:** I don't remember that I should be thinking of it. I really never thought of it.

**INT:** Outside of the fact that you were a tomboy, which was different, is there any other way that you were different from the rest of your family?

**GOLDIE:** I was very wild. I was very wild. Do you know what it means wild? (Laughter) They used to send me places where they thought that nobody can get in, I took in. I used to go. I was

very...like they used to say, they can- with me, they can put me everywhere. That's what I was. And when Hitler came, we weren't allowed to go on the train to certain, to different cities. And I used to go. I used to cover up my star and used to go, because, of course I looked Jewish, but I spoke well the language, so they never thought of it. I spoke very, very [good] German.

**INT:** You spoke German and Polish?

**GOLDIE:** And Yiddish. Yiddish I didn't know so much. I learned Yiddish in concentration camp from the girls.

**INT:** What language did your parents speak?

**GOLDIE:** We spoke to the parents in German. We spoke in German at home. In our house we spoke German between each other. My parents spoke between themselves they spoke Yiddish. We children spoke German. In the school we spoke German and Polish, but when Hitler came to the, like we say, he came to the-

**INT:** To Poland. He invaded Poland?

**GOLDIE:** No, no, no. He was not in Poland yet.

**INT:** Or when he came to power.

**GOLDIE:** When he came to power, we were not allowed to speak German in school no more. We were not allowed. We had to speak Polish. We were not allowed to speak German.

**INT:** Why did you speak German at home?

**GOLDIE:** Because we were used to it. The surroundings where we lived were mostly German. You were going into the stores, you spoke mostly German or Polish, and we lived there with the Germans together. They were not really Germans. You used to call it like "Folkesdeutsche." They were like...they became German, like they married into the Germans or something like this. And we lived in the same city and we were talking to them. We were living with them together. So that's why we spoke, we spoke German.

**INT:** Did you have any experiences with anti-Semitism before the war? You referred-

**GOLDIE:** Yes, there were cases. There were cases, for instance, if it came Christmas the stores were very busy. There were a lot of times the Polacks used to stay, the Polish people used to stay in front of the Jewish store and say, "don't buy by Jews." Don't buy. They used to walk back and forth and they used to say don't buy by Jews. Don't buy. But the people didn't care. They went in anyway. They bought.

**INT:** Did you personally ever have an experience?

**GOLDIE:** Well, there used to be that the kids sometimes used to call us, "you're a Jew," you know, in German. There were cases. In Poland and Germany the people mixed. They used to let

us know we were Jewish people. There were cases. Sometimes a child was hit by somebody. There were cases like this.

**INT:** How did you personally feel about being Jewish?

**GOLDIE:** I know I'm Jewish and I wouldn't change.

**INT:** Well, sometimes young people are rebellious against the faith of their parents or the traditions.

**GOLDIE:** No, this would never happen. Never happen. Even when we were in concentration camp and I was trying for a while not to eat the food, but I couldn't...how long could I survive without food, because I just couldn't, I just couldn't eat it. I just couldn't bring it on. But then eventually I had to do it. But from the beginning I just couldn't. I was brought up, I will not say, I mean, but we were strict, religious in our house, and everything was taken care the way it should be. We didn't make a fire on Saturday, and my father didn't answer the telephone on Saturday. The business was closed. We didn't drive a car because we didn't have one. (Laughter) That time the cars were very...but I mean my father used to go to the synagogue with the boys. We called it synagogue by us; here they call it shul. Right? Here they say a shul.

**INT:** You say synagogue.

**GOLDIE:** Yes, that's right, because it's a German thing. In German we used to say synagogue, but you spell it the same thing like we say synagogue, the way you can write it down as synagogue.

**INT:** What was a typical day like for you as a child?

**GOLDIE:** Got up in the morning. Get ready for school. Come into the kitchen. We got breakfast.

**INT:** What did you eat for breakfast?

**GOLDIE:** For breakfast we had a roll with butter and a glass of milk or chocolate milk. And then they gave us second breakfast. We had in school, like recess. So they packed me up a little roll and a piece of fruit. And then there was a girl in school, she used to ask me she wants to trade with me. She had the pumpernickel black bread. And I was happy to trade, because to me this was another thing. We had rolls. You know, they went down to the bakery and picked up a whole bunch of rolls, and they had somebody standing in the morning and preparing breakfast, because my brothers were going to the office, they took along their second breakfast. Not lunch, because lunch we came home.

**INT:** Everybody came home for lunch.

**GOLDIE:** Yes, lunch we came home.

**INT:** Was lunch a big meal?

**GOLDIE:** Yes. It was the main meal, was lunch. In the nighttime we had also a meal, but lighter. Lunchtime was the main meal.

**INT:** Did you go to school all year round, or not in the summertime?

**GOLDIE:** No, summertime we were off. Summertime we used to pack up and go to the country.

**INT:** The whole family?

**GOLDIE:** Well, not my brothers, because they were working. But we kids were off from school, we had vacation, and we went to the country and my parents rented like a room or two rooms on a farm. We went to a hotel. We went and we brought from home all our dishes and all our linens and everything. And that was...and then for Shabbat my father used to come up and bring baked stuff from home, because we had somebody home always who did things.

**INT:** To cook and-

**GOLDIE:** Yes, and he brought cakes and everything.

**INT:** It sounds like it was a very warm family.

**GOLDIE:** Well, we had a very good time. I remember I was talking to somebody, I don't remember who. I met somebody. I was by my son for the holidays and I met somebody in synagogue there who her son went together with my younger one to school and we started to talk. And it turned out that she told me from what city she is, and this was not too far away from where we used to go on vacation. She also used to come there. And then it turned out that we had mutual friends there. There was a store that you used to go in and buy all kinds...like you go in in Israel, you buy all kinds of gifts to take back, but this was made out of wood. It was very beautiful done, and they put on the names to who you want to give it. It was, like, they did it with...it was beautiful things you could buy there, all kinds of things like little...like they have in Israel now also. You know, all kinds of knickknacks and all these things from wood made. So we remembered...I just remind myself that she was telling me that she had such a good time.

**INT:** What did you do on the farm?

**GOLDIE:** We didn't stay on the farm a whole day. We went swimming. We were hiking. We were going raspberry picking. Blueberry picking. We had a good time. The kids would run around, and usually the kids from the farmers there were taking us and going with us, because by ourselves we didn't know where to go. It was great.

**INT:** Were they Jewish also?

**GOLDIE:** No. They were not Jewish. They were farmers. They were not Jewish.



**INT:** How old were you when the problems started?

**GOLDIE:** Well, it started in 1938 already. '39 we moved away from that city where we lived and we moved into the city where it was like a Jewish...like you take Brooklyn, Borough Park. Were you ever there where all the stores are closed on Shabbat and the people go all dressed up? That kind of city we moved, because my grandmother lived there and my father's two brothers lived there, so we moved there.

**INT:** And what was the name of that city?

**GOLDIE:** Sosnowiec.

**INT:** Do you want to spell that?

**GOLDIE:** It's a shame...a few pieces of scrap paper so I can write it down.

**INT:** Here. You can write it right here. S-O-S-N-O-W...I see. Well, you spelled it on the tape, I think, so I hope that's okay. Tell me a little bit about the first place that you lived. The city. Before you moved to Sosnowiec.

**GOLDIE:** Konigshutte?

**INT:** Yes.

**GOLDIE:** It was a big city. There was a lot of the...what's it called. Where they used to have...the coal. What they used to burn the fire. The coal. They had a lot of-

**INT:** Coal mining?

**GOLDIE:** Coal mines, yes. A lot of coal mines. Most of the people were working in the coal mines. But not the Jewish people.

**INT:** Were there a lot of Jews in the city?

**GOLDIE:** There were quite a bit. There were quite a bit of Jewish people. It was a big city.

**INT:** But you left there because it was so close to Germany?

**GOLDIE:** Yes. We wanted to get out of there. Not because it was close to Germany. It was not good no more. You know, the people were feeling that Hitler is coming, so they started to get already a lot of German, so we felt that it's not the right place for us to stay there.

**INT:** Did your father sell his business?

**GOLDIE:** He sold it, yes. He sold it.

**INT:** With the idea that he could start another business?

**GOLDIE:** Didn't start another business, but he still was doing business. He was traveling a lot and doing still business with Germany and with other countries. But the business we closed up.

**INT:** And how old were you when you left?

**GOLDIE:** How old was I? Fifteen; fifteen or sixteen.

**INT:** Now was that the end of your education then?

**GOLDIE:** Yes. It was finished. No more. Because when we came to the city...we came at the beginning of summertime. Like in May or June. And in September the war broke out.

**INT:** Had you anticipated continuing on your education?

**GOLDIE:** No. There was no way.

**INT:** No, no. Before you had to move.

**GOLDIE:** Oh, if I would have continued?

**INT:** If you would have stayed.

**GOLDIE:** I might have continued to go to business school, yes. Very much I was interested to go to business school. And we had the abilities. There were schools where we-

**INT:** Did your parents want you to go to school?

**GOLDIE:** Yes.

**INT:** Were you very aware of what was happening in Europe or were you focused on your own-

**GOLDIE:** We were aware but we didn't visualize. It would never get into my mind that such a thing can happen.

**INT:** Did your parents talk about what was happening or not?

**GOLDIE:** They talked about it, but we thought it's going to be...it's like it's over. It's going to get over very quick. You know, they didn't give us the thing that we should think...what we thought they're going to come and they're going to leave. Go out a different way.

**INT:** Were your parents very political? Were they very interested in all the politics or what was happening in the world?

**GOLDIE:** No, no. The only thing was that my brothers wanted to go to Israel. Before the start, they wanted to go to a kibbutz, and my mother didn't want them to go. She said, what are you going to do on a kibbutz? Who's going to wash your shirts? You know, my mother was always...well, that's the way she was. They were always dressed very nice. We were always...some times I'll show you a picture. My brothers were always dressed; suits every day to

work. Suits and ties and shirt. That's the way they used to walk around. And she definitely didn't want them to go, because she was afraid they would not have the convenience of their home.

**INT:** Did your parents talk about Israel at all?

**GOLDIE:** We were talking about it. Like I said, my brothers wanted to go. Some of their friends went. But my mother would not allow them. She was afraid they would not have the convenient life like they had at home. Plain simple. Because they got up in the morning, they had their breakfast ready, they went to work, they came home, they ate their lunch, they went into the room and they went to sleep. They closed the door. Nobody was allowed to go through, because the rooms were like one after the other one. They would not have separate doors. There were only a couple that...nobody was allowed to go through there. When they were sleeping, that's it. It was quiet. Then they got up a quarter of three, they went back to work.

**INT:** Until what time?

**GOLDIE:** Until six, I think. Six they usually used to come home.

**INT:** What did the other people in the town...did all the Jews pack up like you did and move someplace else, or did some of the Jews in that city stay?

**GOLDIE:** Some of them still stayed there. There were still business people who stayed there. They came later on they went out. Because they saw what's going on. First of all, it became very anti-Semitic. The Polacks felt that they could do things, because when the Germans came...the Germans came right away. Three, four months later they came. And this was right on the border. But it was not far to that city also. That city was like twenty minutes by car or bus or whatever. But it was a different life there, in that city.

**INT:** Tell me how life was different here?

**GOLDIE:** How should I explain it to you? Were you ever in Brooklyn?

**INT:** Yes.

**GOLDIE:** Not on a Shabbos. Go through the streets. All the stores are closed. That's what this was like.

**INT:** The whole city?

**GOLDIE:** Most of it, because mostly religious people lived there. And the goyim who lived there - the non-Jewish people - mostly were not business people.

**INT:** So there was a different feeling?

**GOLDIE:** It was a different feeling but it was great. When I came to the city, we really loved it there. We used to go out, like Friday night, take a walk. The girls. There was a street where we used to walk and we felt so good because here we always were afraid that a non-Jew boy can

come over and say something or spray...I mean, that's just fun. Not something bad. But like it was Easter time, the goyishe Easter. So they had the little water balloons, and they used to spray the water. I mean, we always felt that we were not safe in that city. And here, we know we are in our city, only Jewish people. A different environment.

**INT:** Did you become aware of what was happening because you heard your parents talking about it?

**GOLDIE:** With what?

**INT:** When you already moved.

**GOLDIE:** Well, we knew what was going on. I was grown up already. I knew what was going on, but we were not so much aware. We didn't visualize it was going to be so bad.

**INT:** You got your knowledge because your parents were talking about these things or-

**GOLDIE:** Yes, but we thought that if we get away here from that city...with that time when we moved we didn't know that the war was going to be. We didn't know that Hitler's going to come into Poland. We just wanted to get away because we know he's there in Germany and he's close to the border and we didn't want to stay there. We got away.

**INT:** Did you talk about these things with your friends?

**GOLDIE:** We used to get together. We used to remind ourselves, when we were in concentration camp what it was home, how we spent-

**INT:** No, no. Before you moved or when you first moved, were you talking about what was going on with Hitler? Was this ever conversation?

**GOLDIE:** Not really. We were so busy. We had such a nice life together. It was such a nice, young teenagers and we used to walk around and you know, get together, and always had some...It was nice.

**INT:** So you were having fun with your friends and not terribly-

**GOLDIE:** Till a certain time when we were not allowed to go on certain streets; we were not allowed to walk here or there. It was closed up for us. It was difficult.

**INT:** Can you tell me if your parents were...if you felt any fear when you moved. Was there any uneasiness?

**GOLDIE:** No. No, no.

**INT:** At that point, you were-

**GOLDIE:** We were happy that we're getting out of that city. We were happy because we always knew that...like sometimes we used to get away and just to go to visit there. We had relatives

there, besides that my mother had there sisters also. We were very happy always to go there, to these people, even though they were not so well off, but we felt very comfortable with them. We always felt...and they gave us always so much...they always tried to do something for us special, because when we came they felt that we're something special because we came. And we, again, felt very good with them. It was really nice to spend time with them. We used to go in sometime to visit.

**INT:** Well, I see that you're getting a little tired. Do you want to stop now?

**GOLDIE:** Yes. I think so. Do you have it finished? (End of tape 1, side 2)

**INT:** This is tape 2 with Goldie Diamant. Before I ask you questions about the war, which I'm going to be asking today, I want you to remind me a little bit about the town that you moved to right when the war started.

**GOLDIE:** All right. They moved in 1939. They had to get out of the city where we lived because Hitler was coming close, and they moved to a city called Sosnowiec, and this was a very religious city, compares it like Borough Park, because all the stores were closed on Shabbos. It was a very nice community. And I was there until 1942 and I was taken to concentration camp.

**INT:** The whole town was Jewish?

**GOLDIE:** Most of it. The whole town was not Jewish. There lived a lot of non-Jewish people. But the Jewish people who lived in that city were ninety-nine percent religious.

**INT:** Can you tell me how religious they were?

**GOLDIE:** The stores were closed on Shabbos. They were going to the synagogues. The children were religious. They were going to special schools and...I don't know what else. Like most of the time you saw Jewish people on the street. There were not too many non-Jews. In every corner you only saw Jewish people, and most of the business belonged to the Jewish people.

**INT:** Now how did you feel about moving there?

**GOLDIE:** Very well. I was very happy. I had a lot of friends. I made a lot of friends and we had relatives who lived there, and we were very happy there.

**INT:** And what were your living accommodations like? What was your house like? Did you live in an apartment?

**GOLDIE:** Well, at that time mostly people lived in apartments. There were not homes like you live here. But they had a very nice apartment and as a matter of fact, when we moved to this building it was just finishing. The people who just built it was a very religious man who built this home and moved into it, and we lived pretty comfortable there. Several rooms and it was comfortable. It was very nice. I had a lot of friends. Right there in the house where we lived I

had friends, the daughters from the owner from the house. They moved also in there and it was a very nice Friday night. We enjoyed always. We used to get together. It was very, very happy.

**INT:** Did your whole family move? Was there anybody who didn't move with you? Any of your brothers?

**GOLDIE:** No, it was the whole family. Only one brother who was in the army. He was in the Polish Army; he was not home at that time.

**INT:** But everybody else moved?

**GOLDIE:** Yes.

**INT:** Until 1942 everything went along fine?

**GOLDIE:** No.

**INT:** Then tell me what it was like.

**GOLDIE:** It was not fine because 1939 in September the war started. I believe it was the 1st of September. And it was getting already very difficult. We were not allowed to go on the street at certain times. We had to stay home because it was like a curfew. And then after maybe a year, less than a year, they had to wear the stars, the yellow stars, that they should recognize the Jewish people.

**INT:** And how did you feel about that?

**GOLDIE:** I didn't feel too comfortable but I had no choice. And then we had to carry like a little identification with our name on it and that it said we were Jewish, and if we were walking on the street, like for instance a Saturday, if I was walking with my girlfriend they could just come over, a German fellow or whatever he was, and ask us for it, and we had to show it to him.

**INT:** How did that make you feel?

**GOLDIE:** We were getting used to it. How long they left us alone we didn't mind. But then, after a while, they started to close up all the Jewish stores. All the business people were turned out from their business, and they had made like a big, how shall I say, it was like a not a factory but it was like a place where they used to bring in the German's uniforms.

**INT:** Like a warehouse?

**GOLDIE:** Like a warehouse. And then they brought in machines there and we had to go to work there. In order not to be sent in to camp, we were working there. But with the time, they closed up the places and they were taking a lot of these people who worked there, they were taking to concentration camp.

**INT:** During this time, was your father in business?

**GOLDIE:** No, my father was not in business.

**INT:** Once he moved in '39 he didn't have any business any longer?

**GOLDIE:** No, we had business where we lived before. In the other city we didn't have business. But my father was a businessman. He was doing business with different countries and different cities. He was always on the go with business.

**INT:** In other words, he was able to keep dealing without having a place of business.

**GOLDIE:** Right.

**INT:** Was your father a shrewd businessman?

**GOLDIE:** Very good businessman. He was a very good businessman.

**INT:** And during this time period, what was your mother doing?

**GOLDIE:** My mother was home. She was just a housewife. She didn't go to work. She stayed home and took care.

**INT:** How did she feel about what was happening?

**GOLDIE:** How she felt? First of all, she was very upset because my brother was supposed to come home from the army. He was just finishing his service. He was supposed to come home like middle of September, end of September, just when the high holidays start. But on account the war started, they didn't let him come home. And my mother was very upset. And then the war started. They sent him on the front, you know, with the tanks. And my older brother who was home, he had to go also. And we never saw them. They never came back. And then I had a sister, older sister from me. She was home. She was working. She worked.

**INT:** In that warehouse?

**GOLDIE:** No, no. She worked in a private business until they closed the business up. I think '91 they closed up the business. And then she just was home.

**INT:** You mean '41.

**GOLDIE:** '41. What did I say?

**INT:** You said '91, but I know you meant '41.

**GOLDIE:** Of course it was '41, yes. Then she stayed home. She was knitting and doing things at home. She liked to knit always. And then in 1942 it was going on a lot of things. They were taking young people, not to concentration camps, because at that time it was working camps.

**INT:** Labor camp.

**GOLDIE:** Labor camp. And one night they came to our door and they took us both. The Germans came and they took-

**INT:** You and your sister.

**GOLDIE:** Me and my sister.

**INT:** That's all.

**GOLDIE:** Yes. And then what happened? My father, he had a lot of pull, so he got me out but he couldn't get my sister out no more because when they took us they would accumulate everybody together. There was one of the high rank Germans and he walked over and looked on all the girls and started to talk to them. My sister spoke German, a very good German, so he said to her, you will go to a particular camp what it will be opened up and you will be like the oldest, like the, well, they used to call it Judeneldeste, that means the oldest of the Jewish girls.

**INT:** Like in charge?

**GOLDIE:** In charge; the head of them. And she couldn't get out no more, because he already put like...he got her. And so my father just couldn't get her out no more, but I got out and I was home.

**INT:** When you were taken away, did you think your father would be able to-

**GOLDIE:** I couldn't believe it that I would go away to camp. I mean, I know that I someways will come out. I had the feeling that we'd both get out, but I didn't realize that he would meet my sister, that he'd find out that she speaks German, because the other girls didn't speak German. They all spoke Yiddish and Polish.

**INT:** Did you speak German?

**GOLDIE:** Oh, yes. Sure.

**INT:** But you didn't let anybody know?

**GOLDIE:** I was younger. I was at that time only sixteen years old, seventeen maybe. Something like this. But my sister was older. She was like over twenty so she was already more...she looked more like grown up. I was small. I didn't look so grown up. So that's what happened. She went away and she went to a camp in Czechoslovakia. She went with forty girls. Now from the beginning was not too bad there. They used to go to work and she used to be in camp and made sure that everything is under control - the girls, clean, and everything. But with the time it changed to concentration camp and somebody else had to take over, because she was not strict enough. So she just was a plain worker. But I always...and I was in the meantime, I was also taken to concentration camp.

**INT:** Later on.



**GOLDIE:** Later on. Like a year later I was taken.

**INT:** When you got out of the camp the first time because your father had pull, did you ever see your sister again?

**GOLDIE:** Yes, sure, after the concentration camp. I didn't see her while she was in camp. I couldn't see her, but after we were liberated she came to the place where I was. She came to me.

**INT:** So your father pulled strings and-

**GOLDIE:** Well, my father was a man who was known in the city and he had a big, like I said, between the...see, at that time you still could do something between the Jewish community; there were people who helped you and you could do something. Later on it was not. From the beginning you had quotas and like a Jewish organization like a Federation or like a Joint or something who was run only by Jewish people, but they had high positions and they could get in like to the government, I would say, something like this. So my father had people who he knew, so that's why I got out.

**INT:** So you came home.

**GOLDIE:** I came home, yes.

**INT:** And for how long were you home?

**GOLDIE:** I was home and then I was working in this place.

**INT:** Warehouse.

**GOLDIE:** Warehouse where they were bringing in the uniforms from the soldiers and they had to be repaired and other things.

**INT:** So you were doing sewing and things like that.

**GOLDIE:** Well not sewing really, because I didn't know how to sew, but like ironing and folding and things. And then my mother also went to work.

**INT:** She had to.

**GOLDIE:** She had to, of course. That was...otherwise, you know, you had to be occupied. They wanted you to bring something for them. Like they should have use of you. They didn't pay, but it was pretty safe that you worked so you didn't have to worry that they would send you away to camp. But with time they started to take all the young people. And then they took the older people.

**INT:** And where were your brothers? Except for the one that was in the army. Where were the other brothers at this time?

**GOLDIE:** One went right where he served. They sent him right on the front. My oldest, who was home, was called in. He had to go. And then I had another brother who was a little older from me. And he was in Warsaw. Warsaw was the capital city in Poland. And he was there. He lived there, and he was doing some business there. My father was also; he was sending some different merchandise there. He was doing business there. And then I had three younger brothers from me. And they were working like for the city. The German took them and they were sweeping the streets and cleaning up. And this protected them from not being sent away, because they were young.

**INT:** At this time, were your friends being sent away?

**GOLDIE:** Oh, yes. A lot of my friends were sent away. Every day there were transports and there were a lot of people going away. But we knew what was going on, and some nights they used to come knocking on the door to take out the young people. First they were taking the men out, and then they came and took the woman. So a lot of times I was hidden. We had like a basement in the kitchen that you opened up like a lift and you went downstairs and they closed the lift, put the table there or something, nobody knows that there somebody. We used to be there for days downstairs, hidden.

**INT:** And who would stay upstairs? Your mother?

**GOLDIE:** My mother and other people. Older people what they wouldn't touch them. They only were looking for the young ones to send them off to Germany to work. But that was the most the thing what they want. The young people to send them to work, because they had all the young people out in the army, so they had to replace them. That's what it was.

**INT:** Now during this time, did you feel that things were going to get better for you or things were going to get worse?

**GOLDIE:** Well, we were hoping, we always were hoping that it will get better. That something's going to happen and we would just like overnight-

**INT:** A miracle.

**GOLDIE:** A miracle. That's what we were hoping. Listen, that's what kept us going, because we had hopes. If we wouldn't have hopes, it would be bad. The hope kept us alive.

**INT:** Now when did you go to a concentration camp?

**GOLDIE:** 1943.

**INT:** '43?

**GOLDIE:** '43.

**INT:** At that time-

**GOLDIE:** That time I still was working in this place.

**INT:** At that time did the rest of your family go? Who went at the time you were taken?

**GOLDIE:** My sister was in camp already, and my brother who was in Warsaw, we didn't hear much from him because they had a ghetto there already, so we didn't hear much. My father was taken already. My father was not home no more.

**INT:** Went before you.

**GOLDIE:** Yes. My father.

**INT:** And how did you feel when your father-

**GOLDIE:** Well, it was very, very difficult for me, for my mother. And we had these three younger brothers home. But they were working. They were pretty occupied and I mean we were happy that we had them home, at least, but it was very difficult for my mother to get up in the morning. We had to go to work and we had to walk. It was a very hard work and sometimes we had to work like in the nighttime, from a certain hour late afternoon until the late night. There were shifts. It was very hard. But one day they came and took me too.

**INT:** Before they took you away, did you have enough to eat?

**GOLDIE:** We were not hungry. No. We always managed someways. We managed because we had...we always managed something.

**INT:** Your father was gone and you weren't making any money from your work?

**GOLDIE:** But we had some things what we still could sell, you know. We always had some things what we could...we had some...there were a lot of things in the house. We had...well, first of all, we had to get out from that place where we were living, because this was a modern apartment, and the Germans came in and they took whatever they liked. There was a lot of crystal and a lot of things, a lot of antiques, so they picked themselves out what they liked, and they made us move. So when we moved, we moved to a different section of the city, like an old section. And my grandmother had a house there. She had tenants there. And one apartment was not occupied. So we took this apartment. It was only one room and a kitchen. So we took this apartment. It was me, my mother and the three boys, and we were happy because some people didn't even get this. And then little by little my mother started to sell things out of the house, whatever, to make some money that we should be able to survive, to buy food and whatever we needed.

**INT:** When your father was taken away, did you-

**GOLDIE:** They didn't tell us when, what. We didn't know where he went. But we someways figured out that they took him to Auschwitz, because that's where they most of the time took the older people. And then little by little they started to take the older people. One day they told the

people that they should come to a certain place. It was like a big sports place, you know, where they play.

**INT:** Like a gym.

**GOLDIE:** No, no. It was outside.

**INT:** Like a field.

**GOLDIE:** A field; an open field. And they accumulate all the people, and they made like a segregation: The young ones, the old ones, the very young ones. And then they just kept them there, and we were there like two nights. It was very, very bad. Very difficult. And then they put us into a building, but someways I sneaked out from there, and my mother also. We got out of there. But it didn't take too long. We couldn't really hide too much.

**INT:** Had you planned this in advance?

**GOLDIE:** No.

**INT:** It just...how did it happen that your mother got out and you got out?

**GOLDIE:** Because they put us in a big building, and they find someways like a window was open. And I sneaked out and then I pulled my mother out. My brothers went out before. I don't remember how it was exactly, but I know we sneaked out and we went home to our apartment. And they didn't know exactly who was missing because there were so many people and they didn't keep track. They couldn't do it. But then after a short time they came and picked me up. In the nighttime, they took me.

**INT:** Now when they took you they didn't take your mother or your three brothers at the same time? They took you-

**GOLDIE:** No. They took me. My brothers were working. They were working, like, for the Germans. They sent them to different places to clean, to sweep, all kinds of things to do. So they still were...(tape is interrupted here)

**INT:** You were telling me about your three brothers. They were working for the Germans. So you were taken away, and your mother and the three boys-

**GOLDIE:** Stayed with the three boys home.

**INT:** Did you have a chance to say anything to your mother when you left?

**GOLDIE:** Yes. My mother knew that I'm going to camp, and I still talked to her. We were writing. She was writing. She was able to write to me.

**INT:** And you were able to write to her?

**GOLDIE:** Yes. And she was able to send me packages. She was sending me packages.

**INT:** What kind of packages?

**GOLDIE:** Well, she baked some cakes, and then certain clothes if I needed she sent them to me.

**INT:** Were you able to keep your clothes?

**GOLDIE:** Yes, yes. I had my clothes. I was able to keep it, because we still were in the...we were not in concentration camp yet. It was still like a labor camp.

**INT:** What did you do in the camp?

**GOLDIE:** I worked in a factory, was it, where they brought in from the field what they called the flax. And we were working on a machine where they made it...didn't come out the cotton yet, but it still came out like row things, and then it was sent to a place where they were...they would make the linen.

**INT:** Weave it.

**GOLDIE:** Weave it, right. But I was working by the raw material, because it takes a long processing until you can send it to the weaver, but we were working on the...practically when they brought it from the field.

**INT:** And your mother and the three brothers were at home.

**GOLDIE:** They were still home, yes.

**INT:** And then what happened?

**GOLDIE:** And then one day I got a package and I opened up the package and I didn't like the way everything was put in there. It didn't look like my mother did it. So I realized that my mother's not home no more, that my brothers sent the package. And then I find out that they took all the older people away to Auschwitz. My brothers were still home.

**INT:** You weren't writing or anything at that point.

**GOLDIE:** No.

**INT:** It was just the packages.

**GOLDIE:** Just the packages. And then a short while later, I didn't hear nothing no more. Then my brothers were also gone. They took them also. And they were finished. And like a couple of months later...well, I had an accident. My fingers were caught in a machine at work, by the things my fingers were caught-

**INT:** Was this...you didn't want this to happen.

**GOLDIE:** No. No. What happened we had like...we had to constantly where the flax was growing, we had to wet the things, the wheels, with...what's it called. They used to use it for lighting. It's like a liquid.

**INT:** Like an oil to burn?

**GOLDIE:** No, it's not an oil. I forgot the name of it. It's something like...it smelled very badly. It looked the color maybe of vinegar, like wine vinegar, a yellowish look. But this was something that they used to burn and make the lamps and the people used it instead of lights.

**INT:** Like kerosene.

**GOLDIE:** Kerosene, that's what it was. And so we had these wooden wheels and we had to constantly...they had this stuff like rags, and wipe this off. And while I had to do it I turned away my head for a second and I caught my fingers. So they took me back to camp and we had no doctor. And it was very bad. But I someways had a good eye by the German woman who ran the camp. She was like the head of us. She picked herself up and went to a camp where the men were and she brought a doctor from there. It was a camp for men, Jewish. It was snow. It was a bitter winter. This was in January or February when this happened. And in Europe there's a lot of snow. But she had to walk like a mile, more than a mile. She went and she brought him.

**INT:** She did this for you?

**GOLDIE:** Yes.

**INT:** She liked you?

**GOLDIE:** She liked me, yes. See, I had a pull because I knew the language. I could speak to them, and that helped a lot. It helped a lot. And I used to go in sometimes, they used to call me in there, I should clean their office and things because they liked me. They did me a favor; they called me in. And this was for me a big...I felt very good about it.

**INT:** It made you feel good that you could-

**GOLDIE:** They liked me. And she went and brought him, but I was so weak already because I lost a lot of blood. They just put me like a big dish and the blood was running, and I was like almost out. But he came and he had injections. That's what he gave me, right into it. And this made me get a little stronger and he stopped the bleeding, because these two fingers were all ripped apart, and the blood was just gushing and you couldn't stop it. They had a nurse there but she couldn't do nothing. She didn't know what to do. And then they used to bring me in the best food from the kitchen, but I couldn't eat. For days I couldn't eat. I just didn't have an appetite. And I was like, I don't know, maybe six weeks I was in the, how do you call this-

**INT:** Infirmary.

**GOLDIE:** Infirmary. And then the news came that they would transfer us to a different camp and then became concentration camp. And they transferred us. It was in the same city, but somewhere else. To different-

**INT:** Now you're still in Poland.

**GOLDIE:** No, no. This is in Germany.

**INT:** This is in Germany.

**GOLDIE:** Yes, they took us to Germany to concentration camp; deep, deep Germany.

**INT:** What was the name of the camp?

**GOLDIE:** Yes, of course I remember. But you wouldn't have heard of it anyway. It was Oberstadt. And then they took us to this camp, to this new camp, and they send the girls to different work. The work what the girls were doing was like the little watches, like the little mechanism what they used to put into the bombs. And you have to have very delicate fingers to work with it. So they used to use tweezers, you know. And I couldn't hold a tweezer. So they kept me inside the camp, and I had to do the work inside. Like carry the buckets with the coal to bring into the kitchen, because we had to make the fire where they were cooking the food, and sweeping the floor. I could [work] already with one hand, because this was still in bandages. But at least I had food; I was not hungry. And then they brought more girls from Auschwitz. They brought in a lot of mothers and daughters what came from Hungary and they brought in- They had shaved off their hair; they had no hair. And they all were wearing like gray dresses, very, you know, like a sack. And they were very, very scared when they came to us, and we were trying to make them feel good, to tell them don't worry, you're going to go to work and things, but that was so- And I worked until I was liberated. I was inside; they didn't send me to work. I worked inside, in the camp, and it was a help for me.

**INT:** And what was the reason? It must have been more than just that you could speak German?

**GOLDIE:** It was a big help even then in the concentration camp, because then in concentration camp we got a new head, what she was running the camp. A Jewish girl. And she was very, very strict with the girls. And again, there were two heads, two German women, and I also had a very good things with them, good connection. I used to go into them, how I did things for them, clean up there, and there was always food laying around. They told me I could take it. I really couldn't complain it was so bad for me. I mean, the idea was that I had enough food, but that's about all. But I still had to work hard inside, in camp. I had to carry the coal and then we had to carry the potatoes from the basement. Bring up. And it was not easy. But it was at least one thing that I had food. I was not starving, and I could help other girls. That's what I did. (End of tape 2, side 1)

**INT:** This is side 2, of tape 2. I forgot what we were talking about.

**GOLDIE:** When I was in the concentration camp, and the labor camp changed to concentration camp.

**INT:** And you were able to help other girls.

**GOLDIE:** Yes.

**INT:** Tell me how you were able to help.

**GOLDIE:** We used to get in the morning a slice of bread, and the girls used to go to work. They got that slice of bread and they went to work. But I was inside. I didn't go to work. I was inside, in camp. So I got like a plate of soup or something, so I could put away my piece of bread. And then when they got soup again and potatoes, like in the peels, I used to take a couple of potatoes and a slice of bread and give the other girls. And a potato was a big treasure. So this was the thing what I could do. And also we used to get more soup, you know, because I was in the kitchen. Whenever I wanted more I could get more. So that why I could save my bread and give away the bread, and that's the way I did it.

**INT:** Now how did you feel about this?

**GOLDIE:** About what?

**INT:** About being able to help the other girls.

**GOLDIE:** Well, I felt good. It made me feel good, until they caught me.

**INT:** Did you get caught?

**GOLDIE:** Oh, yes. The Jewish girl caught me; the head of the things. She caught me and she hit me in the face and she was threatening me that she would send me to work where all the other girls go. But she couldn't send me. She didn't have the power to do it. And I was not afraid of her. I did what I had to do, and that's it. I was not afraid.

**INT:** So you kept on doing it even after she caught you?

**GOLDIE:** That's right. I was not afraid of her, because I knew she couldn't do nothing to me. She couldn't even speak...she was speaking with the Germans, because she knows Jewish, and the Jewish is very similar to the German, you can understand. But she really couldn't have a conversation with them.

**INT:** And you could?

**GOLDIE:** I could. For me it was no problem. I could have a conversation with them.

**INT:** How did you feel about this Jewish girl that was in charge?

**GOLDIE:** Well, we all hated her. We were very upset with her, but we couldn't do nothing. And also when I was working before, in the labor camp, before I had the accident, I had two people,



two German people who were bringing me every day food. I had a woman there who brought me a sandwich every day and there was a man who was like the manager there, by the machines, he used to come and help the girls, and then twelve o'clock they shut off the lights, and they went to their lunchroom and we went to our lunchroom. So he always showed me that I could go in there and there's a sandwich hidden. I could pick it up. But he had to watch that nobody should catch him. Why? I don't know. Because I could speak to the people; I could have a conversation with them.

**INT:** How did you speak to them?

**GOLDIE:** In German. But I had something in common. You know, if you know a language, the people were nice. They didn't hate us, because, see, the real Germans, the older people, they had nothing against the Jewish people. It was the young ones, who Hitler, he poured into them the hate for the Jewish people. He took young boys, fourteen, fifteen years old. He put them uniforms on and he put them the hatred in. All the people who worked there, there were only people who were already over fifty, because the younger ones they took them out to the army. So these people were nice people. They were nice people. We had no problems with them. But they had to be careful, because if they would catch them that's the end of them. But like I said, I was not hungry. I really had.

**INT:** Did you make any friends among the other girls in the camp?

**GOLDIE:** Oh yes, sure. I have friends. As a matter of fact one girl, who also worked inside in camp so we always were eating together, like we eat from one...we used to get like very big, how do you say, it was made out of clay, such a big bowls. So we always used to sit down and share our soup because we used to get double because we worked inside. And one of the other things we used to give it away. Share it with other girls. We shared one big thing. We had enough. And the other thing we always gave away. She had friends and I had friends, so that's the way we did it. I have a friend in New York, I mean I'm still friends with her, with the one what we were eating together.

**INT:** From the camp.

**GOLDIE:** She also lost her husband. And we're still friends. We get together once in a while.

**INT:** So there were very strong bonds that you established at that time.

**GOLDIE:** Yes. We made friends. We had a lot of friends. After the war liberated we were like a group of girls where we went to live together. When we were liberated, in that city where we were the Germans all ran off. They were afraid because they heard the Russians were coming. So they ran away. So when we were liberated, we went out from camp so we could have gone in a house where the German left behind, go in and stay there and live there. And that's what we did. We went like a whole group of girls and we stayed in the different homes.

**INT:** Before we talk about being liberated, how did your faith or beliefs change during this time that you were in a camp? Or didn't they change.

**GOLDIE:** Like what?

**INT:** Well, you were very religious. You were kosher.

**GOLDIE:** We had to forget this. The first couple of days when they gave us this soup and there were pieces of meat in it, I wouldn't eat it.

**INT:** You wouldn't eat the soup?

**GOLDIE:** I wouldn't eat the soup so I ate a piece of bread, I ate a potato, whatever. Then I couldn't do it no more so I just was taking out the meat and giving it to other girls, and they were happy to get it. And with the while, I got so used to it that I ate everything because-

**INT:** How did you feel about eating it?

**GOLDIE:** Well, I didn't feel good, but we didn't have the choice. See, if this would be a matter of a couple of weeks you could have survived, but we didn't know what was going to happen, and it was getting worse and worse. And we were hungry and we had to eat. So that's what happened.

**INT:** Now you were very religious before all this happened.

**GOLDIE:** Yes.

**INT:** Did your feelings about religion, about your Jewishness, about G-d, about these things, how did they change?

**GOLDIE:** I'll give you a little example. It came Yom Kippur, right. They had a meal in the evening and they went to sleep. We didn't went to shul, nothing, we went to sleep. Next morning we had to get to work. So we got up. They gave us a ration of the bread. We took it with us or we put it in our room. We put it under the pillow and bed, whatever. And we told our cook that we were not...they used to take us for lunch. That we will not eat until the nighttime when they come home from work. So she knew already because she was Jewish. In meantime, the German, the head of the German, I mean, the woman, the German found out about it that we were not eating. That means if we don't eat, they were afraid that we should not strike.

So there was one particular girl who was a little bit loud. You know, we all were, but she was a little bit louder. She was a little bit like she would be, how do you say, she would make us all do things, like she would give orders or something. But she didn't give orders. She was very strong about it that you should not eat. And someways they found out. The Germans found out. They took the girl and they sent her away to Auschwitz. Just like this. And we came back in the nighttime to camp and we were ready to have our supper, and they punished us. They didn't give us nothing to eat, but we survived. We went to sleep. The next morning they wanted us to go to work. We had to eat, otherwise we couldn't work, so they gave us our bread. But the night before we had no supper. We went to sleep...they punished us because it was Yom Kippur and we wanted to fast. And they said no.

**INT:** During all this time that you were in the camp, how did your...did your faith in G-d ever waver?

**GOLDIE:** I always believe in G-d. I believe that one day G-d would help and we would be liberated and we will go back to the normal things, but it was never normal no more. Because when the Russians came in and they liberated us, and like I would say maybe five miles away from us there was a man camp, where the men were, like housing men, and some of them had sisters, mothers in our camp. Wives. All kinds of things. And they all came to our camp to see their relatives, but someways I was not too much impressed with this thing that I'm free. They used to say, we're free, we're free. I just felt that I'm free and I've been in there...there was a bench in the kitchen. I sat on this bench and I started to cry. So the girls said to me, what are you doing? Why are you crying? We're free. You should be happy. I said, we're free, but I know I have nobody left from my family. I know where my sister was, but the rest...I knew that my parents were not alive and my brothers' were not alive.

**INT:** How did you know that?

**GOLDIE:** Because I know what happened. They heard what was going on.

**INT:** But you didn't have any official way of knowing it. You just felt it.

**GOLDIE:** We know it. We had some...there were girls who used to get letters. They used to have connections with Germans, and the letters used to come to the Germans from other friends; from non-Jewish friends. And that way we all knew. We know everything what was going on. Someways we had. We didn't hear a radio or nothing, but we had ideas what was going on.

**INT:** You had ideas but did you ever have any official-

**GOLDIE:** No. But we know that our parents are not alive, that's why I was so disturbed when they said we're free, we should be happy. I said, my parents are not alive. I mean, what do we have left? But some girls, you know, they didn't care. Of course they cared, they all cared. But they didn't, you know, you don't think about it. You're free. You have everything, but you don't have your parents, you don't have your sisters and brothers. Everything was gone.

**INT:** So while you were in the camp, you knew-

**GOLDIE:** I knew. We knew everything what was going on.

**INT:** ...that all of your brothers were gone. You knew that.

**GOLDIE:** We know. We know. Because once you know they were taken to Auschwitz, this was the end, especially older people. They didn't play around with them.

**INT:** Did you think or how did you think about the fact that you survived and your brothers didn't and your parents didn't?

**GOLDIE:** That's why I was not happy. That's why I was not enthusiastic after we were liberated.

**INT:** What did you think was special about you that enabled you to survive?

**GOLDIE:** What I said, what is it the good thing that I survived and my family didn't survive. That's why I was not so excited about it. The girls thought that I got crazy, got out of my mind, I start to cry, because they all were happy, but, you know, momentarily didn't think, and then realized they always...you know, you always were hoping that somebody's alive here, somebody. I also was hoping that somebody from my brothers is alive, but nothing happened.

**INT:** When were you liberated and by whom?

**GOLDIE:** I was liberated in 1945, in May, by the Russians. And I stayed there for a while. My sister came, because she knew where I was.

**INT:** She knew where you were?

**GOLDIE:** She knows where I was because the German woman who was the head of the camp came to visit to our camp once. It was quite a distance, but she came to visit and she brought me regards from my sister, because my sister knew where I am, and I knew where she was. And then my sister, with the while later, my sister came to me. She knew where I was.

**INT:** How did you feel when it was the Russians that liberated you? Were you frightened?

**GOLDIE:** Yes, we were frightened of the Russians. We were very much afraid of them. So with the while we didn't want to stay there. We were there for some months, a couple of months, and then we found out that the Americans are in different cities of Germany, like in Bavaria, so we went from that city where we were liberated, we went a whole group of girls. It took us three days, three nights, and we came to Munich. Bavaria. That's where the Americans were. And there I had friends and we stayed with them for a while, and I met my husband there. He was liberated in Dachau by the Americans.

**INT:** And then he went to...Munich is right there.

**GOLDIE:** He was liberated in Dachau and from Dachau they were in a suburban from Munich. They were like three, four friends. So they took a house from the Germans. They threw the Germans out and they occupied the house. And then they lived there. And then I came with my sister, with my friends, we came to another couple who got married right after concentration camp, they got married. So they were already like settled, and they came also to Munich, so we stayed with them, because otherwise we didn't know nobody there; but for a while we stayed there. Then I met my husband, and my sister met her husband, and we got married.

**INT:** Were you making any decisions? Were things kind of just happening?

**GOLDIE:** Like what.

**INT:** Well, did you have a plan when you were liberated? When your sister came to you?

**GOLDIE:** Yes. So first thing what my sister decided is she wants to go to Poland and see what is there left, because my grandmother had the property and we had all kinds of furniture, very expensive ones. And so she went to Poland.

**INT:** You didn't go with her?

**GOLDIE:** No. I didn't go. She went herself. And she went and then she came there to the house. So she went in and we had in the house was the Polish man who was like a caretaker of the house, of the...you know, like a janitor. And she came there, and he lived downstairs in the basement. So she went down to the basement and she saw the furniture, our furniture. So she said to him, how did you get our furniture? He said, well, your mother sold it to me. So we didn't know. It's a possibility that after I left my mother was selling out to get some money to live, so she wanted to try to get some...a lawyer and get some things to be able to sell the building, but she just couldn't stand it there. She couldn't stand the Polacks and she just left and came back.

**INT:** That brings up another question that I've been wanting to ask you. You have a Polish woman living with you.

**GOLDIE:** How I feel about it?

**INT:** Exactly.

**GOLDIE:** All right, let me explain to you what happened. When I had...end of March in 1992...I have a son who lives in Israel. And we find out that his wife has to go into the hospital. They find something on her breast and she has to be in the hospital.

**INT:** You have a son or a daughter?

**GOLDIE:** A son with the daughter-in-law and kids; a family, yes. So when they find out there, we decide we're going to go to Israel. And in meantime my son got sick too. While she got sick, he got sick. And I got the news like Sunday morning, like two, three o'clock in the morning. So Sunday we called my daughter. It was like a couple of weeks before Passover. I called my daughter and I said come in and pick up everything what I bought already for Passover - because they're supposed to come here - and take it home, because we're going to Israel. Monday night we're going to fly to Israel. We didn't have tickets yet.

So Monday morning we drove down to Center City. We had to go to the bank. We had to go to the business and sign checks to leave there that things should be able to take care, but we also had to stop in the German Counsel. A German Counsel, we had to go once a year to sign papers like evidence that we're alive, that we don't take...because we get reparations. The German Counsel is between Fifth and Fourth, on Market Street. It's the PNB building there, whatever. It's a big building. You cannot park there. It's very difficult. And across the street is a bank there, a Mid-Atlantic, it used to be Continental, and we parked the car there, but what we used to

do, my husband used to go up first and then he came down then I went up. Double parked. We couldn't get a ticket.

So he double parked. In the meantime there was a space empty. So while he was still in the lobby, I was trying to park the car. And I don't know - or my mind went blank - I don't know what happened. I must have put...you know, with all this [on my] mind, I must have put my foot on the gas. So I was parked on this side here, okay. The German Counsel is across the street. I was trying to back the car in here. In meantime the car went like this and went into a pole on the other corner, where the traffic comes going west. I was parked going east. Right. You understand what I said. So the car went like this, in a pole, on a corner, on the other side. And my husband was still in the lobby because he has to sign in, but he heard the crash so he ran out. He looked across the street, he sees the car's not there, so he already looked around. He saw what happened. So the car was totaled. They pulled me out of the car, because the air bag came out, so it was a lot of smoke so the people got scared, they saw this thing. But I was lucky that traffic didn't come from the other side, that the light was red. And they pulled me out of the car to the ground. And it didn't take too long, the car came and took me-

**INT:** Ambulance.

**GOLDIE:** Ambulance took me to the hospital. So that's what happened. I went into the hospital. I had a plate put in. My hip was broken. And of course-

**INT:** You didn't get a hip replacement.

**GOLDIE:** No, not a replacement. A plate. And in the meantime, we couldn't go to Israel no more and I don't know who called that time, my son, to Israel. Somebody called and they called...my daughter-in-law has a brother who lives in New York. And she has her parents but she didn't want to tell her parents nothing what happened, that she's sick and this. So her sister-in-law picked herself up and went to Israel. That somebody should be there while she goes into the hospital. Anyway, back and forth, and while this happened somebody was driving by who knew us; somebody from Fourth Street. We have our business on Fourth Street. And he went down to the store and he told the secretary and whoever was there what happened. And she called my daughter. She had the number of my daughter in Baltimore. And my daughter came in; my son came in from Montreal, whatever. I went into the hospital. I was in the hospital two and a half weeks.

When I came home I had to be in bed; I couldn't walk. For weeks I had to stay in bed. So my husband was asking for someone to recommend a woman to come here to stay with me, because he had to go to the business. Of course my daughter came in. She stayed with me over Pesach because it was a couple of days before Pesach, but what happened- So, we have friends who live in Latches Lane, and they have their Polish woman, so he asked somebody and they said: "well, you know what, I know somebody here and I'm going to ask her." So they asked and they told him that there's a woman coming in, I think, May the 1st. And I came home from the hospital maybe the 20th of April. So this woman came, this Polish woman.

**INT:** Did she come from Poland?

**GOLDIE:** Yes, she came from Poland. She was here already six years. She worked for other people in the Northeast, but she went home and she came back again after nine months. So she came. I was here in bed in the living room. I had this hospital bed, and my husband was overjoyed that we got somebody. And she came and she started to be here. In the meantime, my husband didn't feel good. He was complaining his shoulder and he didn't feel good. And nobody knew that he was so sick. They found out later. I was sick. Everything was going around me. Everybody was paying attention to me, but nobody realized how sick he was. So in the meantime my husband went into the hospital and they find out what happened. And I had this woman here, and she was great. And my husband was sick. You know, if I would have three nurses here around the clock, twenty-four hours, you have to change them every eight hours, they wouldn't do what she did. How good she was. And then my husband passed away and my kids said I should keep her. I should not give her up, because I still cannot walk right. I still have a problem.

**INT:** I see that you have trouble walking.

**GOLDIE:** So I kept her and she's wonderful. Let me tell you, she doesn't have much work here in my house because I'm not home the whole day, and how much is cleaning? How much clothes to wash? But I send her to my daughter to work more, for two, three days. And now I send her to my daughter-in-law and that's the way it goes. I pay good money but at least I get the satisfaction that she helps my daughter...was complaining me today that she has so much laundry and she has so much ironing. So I said, all right, next week she's coming to you. Now you have enough already.

**INT:** No, no, no. I'm just surprised that you didn't have any-

**GOLDIE:** Feelings.

**INT:** Feeling about a Polish woman.

**GOLDIE:** That's true, but not everyone was like this. We had them at home too. We had them in Europe. We had a steady maid in the house. She stayed with us, she slept in the house, and she was very good with the kids, but on the other hand we didn't like the Polacks. We didn't like them. We hated them. But some of them did help. Some of them were miserable. You know, for money and for things...but they did some of them save people. Some of them kept them in the basement and they hid them, and they put their own life in jeopardy, and some of them were just miserable. They went and showed where the Jews are hidden.

That's what happened. There's a lot of people wonder. But the only one, if you want a good housekeeper today, that's the only one what you can get, because the colored people will not work. They don't want to do the work. I had them here in the house. I had them here when my children were small, and I used to leave them in the house and they used to steal and they didn't do the right work. I had one girl what she came to me while she was still in high school, when I still lived in South Philadelphia, so she stayed with me quite some years, but then after this I had problems to get somebody right. I had a cleaning woman what she used to come, but lately they don't want to do no more. They're just very...and this one does whatever I tell her, she does. She never says no. She does it. I send her to my daughter and people wonder.

**INT:** Very good. Very good. Let's talk a little bit about the loss of your family. How did you feel about it and how did you mourn?

**GOLDIE:** You mean how I felt that my parents are gone and everybody's gone? Well, it's, you know, it was very, very difficult, but with the time we got used to it. We had no choice. We had to go on with our life. We started our own lives, we had our own family, and this was like, what should I say, we didn't have our parents, but after we got married and had children, this was our reward what we at least...that was our enjoyment, because we couldn't do nothing about it.

**INT:** So would you say you really didn't mourn for those that you lost?

**GOLDIE:** Of course I mourned, but what can you do? You cannot- Listen, you lose...like I lost my husband now. Of course I mourn, every time I think about it. But what can you do? There's nothing I can do about it. You have to go on with the life.

**INT:** Did you ever have any hard evidence of how anyone died or where or when?

**GOLDIE:** Not really.

**INT:** Nothing.

**GOLDIE:** Not really. I only know that one of my brothers, the one who was in service but supposed to come home, he was on the front and he...the Polish people lost the war. They lost it very quickly. Germany took over. So some of them took off the uniform and they just threw it away and put on civilian clothes. Well, that's what he did. And he went into a little town where we had relatives in his civilian...and a Polack recognized him and turned him in and the Germans killed him. That's what happened.

**INT:** So that's the only one of your family that you know exactly how they died?

**GOLDIE:** The older one was killed by the Germans on the front, you know, when they were fighting, because this happened right away. A couple of weeks when the war started. And they brought his watch and his belongings, they brought it to our relatives. My father has two brothers who lived in the same city where we came in, and they brought the belongings there and didn't want my mother should know about it. So my sister went and took it. She picked it up. As a matter of fact, she was wearing the watch from my brother in concentration, I mean, the time in the labor camp, and when this other girl took over, when concentration camp became, she wanted to take the watch away from her, because my sister was not allowed to have a watch no more. She only was allowed to have...and my sister said: "No, I'm not going to give you this watch. This is my brother's!" And it was a very big thing that time in camp, but my sister never gave her the watch. When my sister came back from camp, when she met me (end of tape 2, side 2)

**INT:** All right. Let's begin again. This is tape 3 of our interview with Goldie Diamant. It's the 7th of December and today, Goldie, we're going to talk about your marriage and your family life, how you happened to find your husband. So let's begin there.



**GOLDIE:** Okay. I was liberated from the Russians and I was not too comfortable to stay there. I heard that on the other side of Germany where the Americans liberated the people, the people are more happy. So I decided with a group of girls that we're going to go up toward Bavaria-Munich, and we came there. I had some friends there what I met.

**INT:** How did you get to Munich? By what means? Did you walk?

**GOLDIE:** No. (Laughter) We couldn't walk. We were going by train. Part by train, part by horse and wagon, because we had to go to borders where you're not allowed to go out of: There was the Polish border; there was the Russian border. We had to go through several borders, but we went by train; most of the time by train. It took us a long time but we got to Munich and I stayed with a friend who was also in the same time liberated that I was, but she picked herself up earlier and left with her friends, and she got married in the meantime in Munich. And that's where we arrived, where I stayed with her until I met my husband.

**INT:** Now tell me how you met your husband.

**GOLDIE:** How I met my husband was very funny. My friend...I was complaining that I had to go to see a dentist. I said I had to go to see a dentist, so she said, okay, I will take you. So she and her husband took me to the dentist and while we were coming back from the dentist, it was snow. It was very, very cold. We were walking and she said, oh, the boys are coming. They were friends. There were three friends who lived together. They were liberated in Dachau, in concentration camp. So she said here are the boys and she introduced them and one of them was my husband and the other one was a friend. There were two of them. And then my husband was living together with my...of course he became my brother-in-law.

**INT:** Well, before we get to that part, what did you think of him when you first met him?

**GOLDIE:** Well, somehow he made a very good impression on me and I made on him also a good impression because he came right next day to visit and he was very happy to meet me.

**INT:** Was he...how were either of you...you had just been recently liberated.

**GOLDIE:** Well, I was already six months after liberation. This was already the beginning of January. We were liberated in May. I think end of May we were liberated so I think he was dressed nice already, you know. Because at that time, when the boys came out of concentration camp they were able to pick up clothes and everything. They were to the Germans and some ways were taking around that they got what they needed. They got food, they got things, because the Germans were afraid of them. And then I met him. He was decent dressed like it should be and he came to visit next day and then it started. He used to come to visit me there, to my friend.

**INT:** Now, was he working at the time?

**GOLDIE:** He, no. He was not working. He didn't work, but they were like buying things and selling things they used to get from the Americans; buy from the Americans things and selling it

to the Germans, like all different things what the Germans couldn't get, coffee and chocolate and cigarettes. So they were doing a little business.

**INT:** Did he speak German?

**GOLDIE:** He spoke Yiddish. He didn't speak German. He spoke Yiddish and he spoke Polish. He didn't know German.

**INT:** But you were speaking German?

**GOLDIE:** Yes. But I spoke Yiddish to him.

**INT:** Oh, yes.

**GOLDIE:** I spoke Polish to him and I spoke Polish. Mostly Polish to him and then Jewish. Yiddish, because the part of Poland that he came they spoke mostly Polish and Yiddish.

**INT:** So you were beginning to feel better.

**GOLDIE:** Yes, definitely. Definitely. I started to feel better and then when we came back home, where he lived with this friend who eventually became my brother-in-law, he told him that he met my sister, but also with me at that time there. My sister came also with me, and he told him that he met this girl and so and so, then he said to him, to his friend, so he said, well, there's another girl if you want to meet her. So he came and he met her and my sister got married. She got married three months before me.

**INT:** Oh. But really it was your husband that introduced them.

**GOLDIE:** Yes. Well, they were friends. They were together in concentration camp and they lived together, you know, they had after the concentration camp they like occupied a house. They took it from the Germans. They threw the Germans out and they took the house. They were like several boys together and they lived in this building, in that house.

**INT:** What was your husband's name?

**GOLDIE:** Alter.

**INT:** Alter?

**GOLDIE:** Yes, Alter.

**INT:** Alter introduced your sister to this man she married.

**GOLDIE:** Yes.

**INT:** And they got married before you.

**GOLDIE:** He brought him along next time when he came to visit, he brought him along. But my sister got married before me. I wanted her to get married because she was older from me. She was older. She was much older from me.

**INT:** Oh. And you wanted her to get married first?

**GOLDIE:** Yes, yes.

**INT:** That was the tradition.

**GOLDIE:** Yes. Well, I felt that she was older from me so she got married before me. And three months later I got married.

**INT:** In Munich?

**GOLDIE:** In Munich, yes.

**INT:** Were there rabbis there to marry you?

**GOLDIE:** Oh sure, sure. The rabbi's here now, he's here now in Philadelphia.

**INT:** The rabbi that married you?

**GOLDIE:** Yes. He was also a man who was liberated. He was also in the concentration camps and he was in Munich and he had a synagogue. As a matter of fact, there was one time a get together where all the people who were in concentration camps from all over Germany, wherever close, they all came to Munich. Then he gave a very big speech and he spoke to all the liberated kids, and he married us.

**INT:** So when were you married? You met in January and when were you married?

**GOLDIE:** On June 16th, 1946. '45 we were liberated and '46 I got married.

**INT:** Were you working at that time?

**GOLDIE:** No. I didn't work. I lived there in that...it was a suburb from Munich where we lived, I mean before I got married I lived with my sister, and then I lived with...well, these boys all moved out because my brother-in-law got married so he lived with her and I lived with...and the other fellow, there was another fellow who also got married, but he left for France because the girl what he was going out with - he had an uncle in France and he wanted to come there, to Paris, because he wanted to marry her. So they went there. So the apartment my husband had for himself, so we lived there. And-

**INT:** I'm wondering how you managed for money. I mean-

**GOLDIE:** No, like I said he was making money. He was, you know, and there were a lot of things we were getting like for instance we were getting a lot of things from the United States. They were sending a lot of food. The most thing what we needed was food, because we didn't

need to pay for apartment. We don't have cars to drive. I mean, it was all with the bicycles. We were going on bicycles. But we were, you know, we were managing. We were not rich. We didn't have much, but we were able to manage.

**INT:** You had no family in the United States?

**GOLDIE:** No.

**INT:** Did your husband?

**GOLDIE:** My husband had an uncle in New York but he was not in touch with him at all. He knows that he has an uncle but he was not in touch with him. But he had cousins who lived in Germany, in a different city, and they also were married already. They also got married after concentration camp and they used to visit. We used to go to them and then 1948 was my first child born, my son.

**INT:** In-

**GOLDIE:** In Munich, yes. We had moved from the suburb into the city, to Munich.

**INT:** Why?

**GOLDIE:** Because I didn't want to live there no more because with the Germans where we were living and we were occupying the house from the German people, they were trying to get it back. And I know...I felt very uncomfortable so we just got out of there and we moved to Munich, to the city, and we had an apartment there and then we lived there.

**INT:** Now were you living in a Jewish neighborhood? Were there other Jews?

**GOLDIE:** Not really. Not really, no. There was not to say there was a Jewish neighborhood. There was a lot of campers who were liberated. They lived also not too far away from Munich so it was like a camp where they all lived together and they had there their facilities but they were not...they lived like in small rooms and everything. It was very...like they had the freeness, that's what they had, but it was not too comfortable there. But we lived in the city.

**INT:** How did you feel about having children?

**GOLDIE:** Wonderful.

**INT:** You wanted children.

**GOLDIE:** Sure.

**INT:** You didn't have any feeling about being a terrible world to bring children into.

**GOLDIE:** No, no. I was not afraid because this was... my son was born in 1948. My sister's son was born 1947 in December. End of 1947. And then we were talking that we would probably go to the United States.

**INT:** How did you make that decision?

**GOLDIE:** That was the thing that we wanted to go to the United States, but in meantime, 1949 or 1950 even Israel became a state.

**INT:** '48.

**GOLDIE:** '48. That's right. 1948, when Israel became a state, the people were all deciding to go to Israel. So then my sister decided she will go first and-

**INT:** Go to Israel?

**GOLDIE:** Yes. She decided she would go to Israel. My husband in the meantime had a business. He went into a business.

**INT:** In Germany?

**GOLDIE:** Yes. He with three other partners. His parents, his father really, was...really, what should I say? His...no...his...you have your own, you know, everybody has his...I forgot what it's called. The people's tailors and the bakers. Everybody has his profession. So his father was at home in Europe, he was making for the shoes, the leather tops. Not the whole shoe, just the leather tops.

**INT:** He wasn't a shoemaker.

**GOLDIE:** No. Just the tops. So my husband had an idea, because he was helping his father. He know a lot. So he went with other three partners in business. They took over a shoe factory in Munich from a German.

**INT:** To make shoes?

**GOLDIE:** Yes. To make shoes. So they were running it, and he had the two partners, they know how to do these things, the shoes. And they had workers who were making...so then they were completing whole shoes. I mean like-

**INT:** Making the whole shoe. Manufacturing it.

**GOLDIE:** Manufacturing it. And they were doing very well, but then it became that the money changed there. That the German money was not worth it too much. They lost value. So everything went down the drain. They had a lot of merchandise and they couldn't sell it, so they just went out of it.

**INT:** Before that happened, when he was in business and he was making a lot of merchandise, how did you feel about having a life in Germany and making-

**GOLDIE:** No, no, no. I still wanted to leave. I felt that I don't feel well and I want to get out of here. But my sister left for Israel and we were planning to follow, but in meantime she wrote that how much she would like to be with me together. She still doesn't recommend that we should come, because they had a very difficult time. The living facilities were terrible. They gave them the homes what they were made out of like clay, where the Arabs used to live. They didn't have homes really, and they had no water and the water what they used to get, it was cold. You couldn't heat. And it was really, really difficult. So she wrote how much she would like to be with me but she suggests and she would feel better if I don't come to Israel; if we had the opportunity we should go to the United States.

In the meantime they were working on our things that we should be able to go to the United States because they started already. And they were working and we were supposed to go to the United States. Then in meantime what happened? I got a second child, the second son was born and I couldn't leave. I couldn't go. Then when I was ready to leave, they lost all the documents. They couldn't find them. They I got pregnant again and anyway it was very much a little complicated. Finally, when my daughter was six months old...I mean she was not six months really yet but when we got all the information that they have all our papers, whatever is necessary, everything is under control now and we can leave now. But the thing was like this. The people had to go by boat to the United States but because my daughter was not six months old -- she was still a little infant -- we had permission to fly.

**INT:** Oh.

**GOLDIE:** Yes, we had permission to fly. So then it starts all the things and we liquidate everything and we decided to go to the United States.

**INT:** So when did you arrive here?

**GOLDIE:** We arrived here in beginning March.

**INT:** Of-

**GOLDIE:** The wintertime.

**INT:** Of what year?

**GOLDIE:** 1952. And we were flying-

**INT:** So you were in Germany for six years after the war.

**GOLDIE:** For six years, yes. My oldest was already three and a half years old when we came here.

**INT:** So how was that six years living in Germany?

**GOLDIE:** It was not bad. I had a nice apartment. I had help for the kids because the help was very, very reasonable, very reasonable. And I managed. It was not easy, but some ways I was okay.

**INT:** Now, when you came to United States it must have been difficult because you had to start over again.

**GOLDIE:** Yes. So what happened? In meantime we got affidavit or whatever they call it that we will come to the United States, and they would send us to Annapolis.

**INT:** Maryland?

**GOLDIE:** No, no, no. Minneapolis.

**INT:** Minneapolis.

**GOLDIE:** Minneapolis.

**INT:** Minnesota. Where it's cold.

**GOLDIE:** Very far away. Okay. Till we came to New York was not easy because we were flying, I think twice the plane had to stop. What was it? In Newfoundland? In Iceland? Newfoundland. Twice we stopped there and then we finally arrived in New York. There was one representative from the Joint who picked us up. They took us from the airport to the Grand Central Station where there was a representative and she had all the things ready for us, to put us on the train to send us to Minneapolis. But my children were not too well. The little one, my baby, she had fever and the older ones also were not in good health. I mean the kids were tired, exhausted. So I said to her in Yiddish, because that's the only language I could speak with her -- I couldn't speak English. I said to her she should take me to a doctor. I need a doctor for the children. So she said okay. And in Grand Central Station was a doctor, an office from a doctor and she took me in there.

We came in to the doctor. He was a Jewish doctor. He was an immigrant from Austria, from Vienna, but he was already for a long time in the United States and I spoke to him in German and I said to him, the children have...this one has fever and this one...and he checked them and he said to her, there is no way, in English. I didn't understand what he said to her, but I could figure it out a little bit, the way he said it to her, I could see that he was very...decided that's the way he wants it. So he said to her, you cannot send this family away. You have to leave them here in New York for a short time until the kids recuperate, until they get back to health, then you could put them on a train and send them. She said: No, nothing to do. I have an order. I have to put them on a train. I have nowhere to put them and that's what..." He said: "Nothing to do. You will not send them." And he got so upset with her, I could figure out that he's on my side, even though I didn't understand.

Anyways, she had no choice. She took us to on Fifth Avenue to a hotel. I believe the hotel's name was Saint Frances, I remember. It was an old hotel, but for us it was a big palace, you know. And she took us in there and she gave us a room, and first of all what had happened, my husband had a cousin. She left with her husband but I would say maybe two years before us. She went to Munich. And they were already a little bit established. They had a little business already and they were working both and as soon as we came in, I called her. She came up to the hotel. So she went out and brought food.

**INT:** They lived in New York.

**GOLDIE:** They lived in New York. They lived in the Bronx but they had the place of business in Manhattan. And she came up and she brought food for us, and we felt already good because we had somebody there. Anyway, my little girl didn't feel good. She wouldn't nurse. I was nursing her and she wouldn't nurse so they had to bring a doctor into the-

**INT:** Hotel.

**GOLDIE:** To the hotel. A pediatrician. So he came. I was able to communicate with him because he spoke Polish and he said to me that if she doesn't want to nurse I should give her a zwieback. This was like a-

**INT:** Like a cracker.

**GOLDIE:** Like a cracker, with water, not with milk. Because until she gets used to the milk. She never drank other milk. So anyway, she started to eat but it took a little while until she got used to the food, and everything worked out okay. Then my husband had an uncle who lived in the Bronx and he came maybe 1925, and he had already grown up children, married children. So this aunt sent me food, like soup and whatever she cooked up and her daughter brought it up to us in the hotel. Then my husband had to go to the HIAS, or to the Federation, whatever it was. The Joint. He had to go there and talk to them and see what they're going to do, because they wouldn't keep us in New York. No way, because they were very much filled up with people and they couldn't keep no more nobody there. So my cousin, of course, she went with him. She spoke already English so she went up with him.

**INT:** Now this was your cousin.

**GOLDIE:** No, no, no. My husband's. I had nobody.

**INT:** Your husband's cousin.

**GOLDIE:** Yeah. I had no relatives here. I had no relatives. And he went up with her and they start to discuss things and they said they're going to leave us here two weeks and then they're going to send us. So in meantime we didn't say nothing. We had an appointment, constantly come in every couple of days there. Finally they say they're going to send us. Then my cousin said: "Can't you send them someplace closer to New York? It should be closer to New York that we should be able to get more in touch, because if you send them so far away and things. So they told her we can leave them in New York under one condition - that we will not be able to support



them. If they go wherever, we will support them until they find work, until they get on their own feet, but right now we can only leave them in New York and we cannot support them no more.

So my husband says, no, I don't want to be here, because if they cannot support me, I cannot depend on family. We had an uncle but he [my husband?] said: "I don't want to depend on nobody. I want to be on my own." So my cousin said to them: "Is it possible to send them someplace close to New York? Not so far away" Anyway, the story short, they send us to Philadelphia. So they brought us into Philadelphia. They put us on a train, and then we came into Philadelphia and somebody was waiting here, a representative again from the Joint, and they took us to a little house down in South Philadelphia. And we stayed there maybe two months. My husband got a job in meantime. He started to work.

**INT:** What kind of a job?

**GOLDIE:** He was working in a shoe factory.

**INT:** Oh.

**GOLDIE:** Yes, he went to work in a shoe factory. Not too long. He didn't work there too long. Then he got a job with someone who was making the straps for the watches; the bands for the watches. Band watches. The leather. And so he worked there for a short time, but that was not what he really wanted. And meantime we got an apartment. We moved out from that place and they gave us another apartment where it was a little bit more convenient with the children. And my oldest-

**INT:** Was it also in South Philadelphia?

**GOLDIE:** Yes, also in South Philadelphia, between Fourteenth and Fifteenth. And then I enrolled my son to a school, to Bais Yaakov, where he was like in kindergarten because he used to come in; he used to get so upset the children wouldn't play with him. They were making fun from him because he didn't know the language. And these kids were speaking all English, and some of them know Jewish words what they heard from their grandmother. So the only thing what they could say, "gei shlufen. [go to sleep]" So they used to tell him "gei shlufen." They used to come in, he used to cry. It was terrible. As soon as we enrolled him to school he came home. He was very happy because his teacher spoke to him in German. So he-

**INT:** And he spoke German?

**GOLDIE:** Yeah, sure. He was born in Germany. That was his only language. So he was very happy and he started to go to school every day, and then of course I started learning English from him.

**INT:** Now how did you feel when you first arrived in Philadelphia?

**GOLDIE:** Well, it was a little difficult, but the people where we lived out there they were very nice. Very warm the people what we met while we lived there, so some people were very nice. Now with the time...yes, and my husband was working by this watch band, and then he saw like

a thing in the Jewish paper, there was an announcement that they're looking for someone to learn the trade to make slipcovers. And they're looking for someone who - refugee, of course - and they're willing to teach him. And it was not too far away where we lived, because it was on Seventh Street there, South Philadelphia, and there was a big business place at that time, in 1952. So he took the address and he went up there and the man said to him, I teach you. And he can speak to him in Yiddish because he...so my husband started to work for him and he worked. So what he did from the beginning, he used to go with this man on jobs to cut the slipcovers. So my husband had to carry the packages for him, help him. It was an older man. But then my husband said, listen, you told me you're going to teach me. In meantime you're not teaching me. I'm just doing work like a boy.

**INT:** Errand boy.

**GOLDIE:** Errand boy. I like to learn, why don't you show me? He said, don't worry. I will. I will. Well, one week went by, two weeks went by. Nothing happened. So he finally said to himself, let me try myself to do something. So he took a piece of goods. I don't know where he got it. We had a sofa in the living room what a friend gave this to us, a very good friend. He was a lawyer and they lived there in South Philadelphia and someways we got friendly. My husband met him in the synagogue. My husband went to shul. And they bought themselves new furniture, so they gave us the whole set of furniture, the old ones. So he took a piece of material and he started to do it himself, to cut the slipcovers. He was trying out. But he still was working for this man. He was paying him very, very little. But he had patience, my husband. (End of tape 3, side 1)

**INT:** Go ahead. Tell me about the slipcovers.

**GOLDIE:** Okay. Now he started to make. He started on his own, but he didn't have a sewing machine to sew it. He cut it and he pinned it, but he didn't have a sewing machine.

**INT:** Did he know how to sew?

**GOLDIE:** Well, he didn't know how to sew either. He had a little bit idea, because he watched this man. This man was sewing it himself. He used to go out and cut it and used to sew it himself. And then in the synagogue where he was going always, he met someone and they started to talk, and this man said to him that he works for a company who sells materials for slipcovers, for draperies, but he really doesn't know much. He don't know...he didn't know the language so they didn't let him do too much there. What he was doing like an errand boy also. Sweeping up the floor. But he was a businessman. He knew that he...he was also a newcomer. So anyway, the two fellows got together and they said to themselves, they wanted to open up a little business. So this man said, I live on Third Street and there is an empty store. We take this store.

So okay. In meantime, I was going with the trolley on Fourth Street and I passed and I saw a sign in the window, Store for Rent. So I came home and I said to my husband, you know, there is a store for rent on Fourth Street. How about renting this store? So he said it's a good idea. So he was trying to tell his partner. He said, no, we would have to pay too much rent and here I get reasonable because I live there. Okay. I didn't listen. I picked up the phone and I called the

people. And I didn't know how to speak yet. It was very difficult. But while I started to speak with the person, I realized that she speaks with a German accent. So I said to her, do you speak German? She said yes. And I spoke to her in German and I said to her we would like to rent the store. And she said I will give it to you very reasonable and that was so. So we went down and we made the deal and we rent the store, and my husband, with this fellow, they both start going in business.

**INT:** On Fourth Street, not Third Street.

**GOLDIE:** On Fourth Street.

**INT:** Why were you so-

**GOLDIE:** On Fourth Street? Because it was a business street.

**INT:** Oh.

**GOLDIE:** Where he lived it was just convenient because he lives there but people who had moved out already to a different neighborhood, they were older people, and the store was empty. There used to be a tailor shop or whatever, so they wanted to give it to him reasonable, but it's no use. You get it reasonable and you cannot do nothing there, and I thought this way. If you are a businessman and you want to go to business, you go where all the business people are, and then always you can be successful.

**INT:** I think that took a lot of courage, didn't it.

**GOLDIE:** Well, it took but we both know what we want to do. We both were very anxious to do things, to accomplish things, so anyway, I called up and we made arrangements. We meet the people and we took the store. We rent the store on Fourth Street. But we didn't have money. You need money to put merchandise in. So anyway, my husband knew a lot of this, how you call it, people who used to...they used to go to the homes to the people and sell things like-

**INT:** Oh, installment buying.

**GOLDIE:** Installments. And he know them, because they all used to come there where he worked by this man because they all used to take orders from these people, slipcovers and all kinds of things, and they used to come to this man and the man used to make it, so these people always used to talk to him and he got friendly with them because they were also old timers. They were already older, older people, but he could communicate with them. So little by little he got a few of these people and they started to come in and he was taking work from them and he started to go out and cut the slipcovers and then he used to bring them. There was a time when he used to give it out to someone to sew it because he didn't know how to sew, but then someways we got someone in there who came in and sewed. But I had to be there and help because, you know, at that time when they used to make the slipcovers, on the left side where the seam was you had a special machine where you used to finish it off that it goes overlap. When you put it in the washer, when you wash it, so the things used to...the material used to come like apart. So this used to finish off on the left side. And someone showed it to me and I was able to do it. But my

little girl was only two years old. She was not even two yet. I couldn't put in the nursery. Two boys were already in the school and the school was around the corner, because we took the place on Fourth Street and right around the corner was Catherine Street and there was the school.

**INT:** Now were they in public school?

**GOLDIE:** No, no, no. Bais Yaakov School. This was a Jewish school. Sure, this was Bais Yaakov, a Jewish school. It was the only one in Philadelphia, but that's where I wanted to send him, between Jewish children. And that's the way we started, little by little. And then my husband went into New York. He borrowed money from the cousin. He started to buy material. He started to bring materials in and little by little we built up a business.

**INT:** Wonderful, wonderful. Now tell me something about your marriage, your relationship with your husband. It sounds like you had a lot in common.

**GOLDIE:** That's right. We were very happy. We were working always together. There was a time where I didn't want to work and when my youngest son was born. I had a child here in the United States so I didn't work for a short time, and then there were problems with the partner. We wanted to split up. It was a lot of aggravation. But after the children were all in school I was with my husband in the business every day. I was going every day to business with him.

**INT:** And you liked being in business.

**GOLDIE:** Yes, yes. I liked it very much.

**INT:** You had a mind for business.

**GOLDIE:** I like it and I was very happy because it gave me an opportunity to meet people and I learn to speak to people, because I never went to school. I never had the time to go to school. I said every year I'm going to go to school, I'm going to learn how to write, how to read, but I never really had the time, so I just picked up whatever I could and I was in the business with my husband, then my son came into the business with us, but then he left for Israel. Well, he left like twelve years ago. But I was always with my husband.

**INT:** You're obviously an outgoing kind of person. Was your husband like that, too?

**GOLDIE:** Yes, very much.

**INT:** You say you both got along very well with-

**GOLDIE:** Anything, yeah.

**INT:** Customers.

**GOLDIE:** We had a lot in common with parts of business and people, and we both wanted to bring up the children the right way, they should go with the right-

**INT:** What's the right way? How did you want to bring up the children?

**GOLDIE:** They should be good Jews. They should believe in everything what has to be...they should believe, what should I say? Like they should know that they're Jewish and they're religious and they have to keep up with everything. They were taught that this what they could do and what they cannot do. What they can eat and what they cannot eat.

**INT:** Tell me what you can do and what you can't do. What kinds of things did you teach them?

**GOLDIE:** Well, like for instance when it came Shabbos, they were not allowed to watch TV. No telephone. No money. That was what the kids were taught. They cannot eat. They cannot pick up food, any food anyplace. If they were eating something they had to know what they're eating. They had to say a prayer. Everything. That's the way we want them to be.

**INT:** So you closed your business on Shabbos?

**GOLDIE:** Oh, yeah. This was also a big undertake, because when they start the business the people were making fun of us, on Fourth Street. All the business people there. They say, you will not be able to stay in business if you close on Saturday, because Saturday was the biggest day. The biggest day of business was Saturday. So we used to tell them, I said: "We're going to work other days." We worked in the nighttime. We worked on Sundays, but then it came out on Sunday the Blue Laws. We were not allowed to be open Sundays. So my husband with two other guys, they went to Washington and were fighting the Blue Laws and they won and they were allowed to be open on Sundays. And it worked out very well. They went to the Supreme Court. There was a write up that time. This goes back to 1959, '60 maybe. That's what happened.

**INT:** How did you feel when people made fun of you for closing?

**GOLDIE:** Well, it just didn't bother me. Then after we split up with the partner, because when we had the partner he lived above the store. There was an apartment and he lived there. But after we split up we moved in there. He moved out, we moved in. And Saturday morning my husband went down with the two boys, he went to shul, he locked the door and the people were standing. They were shaking their heads. What're you doing? You must be off your mind. So my husband said, don't worry. I feel good and Hashem will help me and everything will be okay. And we have no complaints. We worked hard but we accomplished whatever we want to. We sent the kids to the right school and everything. That's what happened. We were rewarded for it, because we have good children. They're all married to nice...they have nice spouses and we're very happy. And my grandchildren go the same way. They're very, very religious. And that's what keeps me going. I'm proud of it. Of course we had to work hard on it, but listen, you have to...if you take something in your mind and you want to accomplish it, then that's what you have to do.

**INT:** Did you raise your children the way you had been raised in Poland?

**GOLDIE:** Yes. The way I was raised at home. The same way. The same way.

**INT:** Did your husband come from the same background?

**GOLDIE:** Oh, yeah. My husband came from a very religious family. Very religious. And he also wanted the children to be brought up the same way, and he went to special schools where they learn. And that's the way it's supposed to be.

**INT:** Did you talk to your children about the war at all?

**GOLDIE:** We used to talk, but I didn't want to bring them into it so much because it was nothing happy, reminding, you know, I just didn't. But they know a lot of things.

**INT:** How do you think your children look at your experience during the war?

**GOLDIE:** How they look on-

**INT:** Yes, how do they feel about their mother being a survivor? Their mother and father?

**GOLDIE:** I mean they were not happy with it, but they made...they know that that's what it was, and there was nothing different they could do about it. They were not that we should be proud of it, because there was nothing to be proud of it that we were in concentration camps, but they were, listen, what should I say? Sometimes when we talked about it, it was very sad when they were thinking about it. What we went through.

**INT:** What was your attitude, you and your husband together, what was your attitude towards money and things, possessions?

**GOLDIE:** What do you mean? Possessions like to become rich?

**INT:** Yes.

**GOLDIE:** Well, we worked hard. We want to have savings because we have children. We want to give them, like they say, we want to give them what we didn't have.

**INT:** What did you want to give your children?

**GOLDIE:** Good education. They should be dressed. They should be able to communicate right. They should have the right friends. This was very important. For me, I never cared I should have expensive jewelry or clothes. This really didn't bother me because I always...whenever my husband came home he brought jewelry, I took it back. Yeah, it happened. I mean it was later in the years. He had customers and he came to them and they were jewelers and they had...at that time you want to buy something. Oh yeah, he said. So he took it home and the next day I took it back. So they were surprised. They said, why, you don't like it? We'll show you something else. I said, no. I'm just not interested. And I definitely didn't care about it. But later in the years when my children grow up already, when they started to go out already, then I accept things, but before I just didn't care about it.

**INT:** So your focus was on your children.

**GOLDIE:** Yes. The children were our first priority.

**INT:** And that's the way your mother was. That's the way your parents were.

**GOLDIE:** Oh, yes. That's the way we were brought up.

**INT:** You were brought up that the children were the most important thing. What were your pleasures? What were your enjoyments? What did you do, you and your husband, that was fun?

**GOLDIE:** What was fun? Well, Friday night when you got together, when they had the time, we were relaxed. We didn't have to think about work and business. We were able to sit with our children by the table and discuss things and that was our most enjoyment, Friday night and Saturday when we were home with the children. Then we didn't think of work, of nothing. Everything was blocked out.

**INT:** How important was being independent to you? Your idea of independence. Not having to ask anybody for anything.

**GOLDIE:** I felt good about it, that I'm my person and I can do whatever I want, that nobody can give me orders.

**INT:** How about your children? Did they feel the same way about being independent from you?

**GOLDIE:** Children are children, you know. There were times to ask for things and they want to get it, but certain things we gave them. We tried to give them everything what it was necessary. They should go to camp. They should have friends. They should be able to spend time with friends. We didn't went too much on vacation with the children. That was really very...it was not possible because the business was open six days a week and when it was a holiday we didn't go no places. We stayed home. But the children, I always made sure that they were away for the summer. That they should have...yes. This was very, very important to me. Even when I had to go borrow money from a corporation, years ago, and pay out every week like five dollars, whatever, but I made sure that the children were away for the summer, that they shouldn't...

**INT:** Why was that so important?

**GOLDIE:** It was important that they should not stay around the house. What would I do with them? They would stay home and fight with each other or be outside on the street and get...so that was important, that they should go away to camp. Day camp. And eventually they went to overnight camp. When they were younger they went to day camp, and then I sent them to overnight camp. It was difficult for both of us to go visit them. Then I had to go by myself and I had to go by bus to New York because that time I wasn't driving up to the mountains. I went to New York. My husband took me to the bus station here, because he had to go to the business, and I went into New York and took another bus up there wherever it was, and then I was walking and then people were driving by always who were going back. You know, hitchhiking. I find my way around. You have to do it, you have to do it. And it was pleasurable. It was enjoyable. If I think of it, it was great. It was great.

**INT:** Were you ever afraid for your children? Did you have any fears?

**GOLDIE:** The children?

**INT:** For the children.

**GOLDIE:** That what? Like what?

**INT:** I don't know.

**GOLDIE:** Well, I always was very...one thing I was very...not that I was, what should I say? I was not afraid that they would do something bad, but I always...we were worrying that they were not home in time from school or whatever. It always worries me. I was a big worrier. Even when they were older and they used to go out and drive a car, but they used to go in groups, they always had to call me. Like Saturday night. And their friends were making fun of them. You have to call your mommy? I just reminded my son the other day. But that's the way I was. I was always very, you know, with all the things what I went through in my life I was always very worried for them. Because you hear such a...especially today.

**INT:** Even worse. How did you handle decision making? Did you make the decisions for your children? Did you make them with your husband? Did you include your children in the decision making? How much freedom did they have to make decisions?

**GOLDIE:** In school?

**INT:** In school or going to camp or their friends. Whatever.

**GOLDIE:** They used to make their own decisions too. When it came to camps we always used to discuss or they'll go this camp or they came up with the idea they would like to go to this particular camp because they had friends, so we always accepted. And parts of decisions with school, well, when they went to elementary school, we made the decisions. Then when they got older, well, I never told my child in which school they should go and what they should take in college or if they should become a lawyer or a doctor. I left it to them whatever they want to do, they were on their own. When they were younger we always used to control but when they were older, we let them make up their mind whatever they want to learn, whatever they want to take up, we left it to them.

**INT:** But you let them know you expected them to go to college?

**GOLDIE:** Oh, yes. Oh, yes. They all went to college. All went to college.

**INT:** That was important to you that they-

**GOLDIE:** Yeah, of course. Because, you know, you want the child to be educated because I know what it means because I had no...I didn't have the opportunity to be educated. No



education because I was on the way to camp, but my brothers were educated so I know it meant a lot to me that they should be educated.

**INT:** And your husband wasn't educated either.

**GOLDIE:** My husband was educated, but my husband was educated more in the really Jewish history and religion. He was educated in this. He didn't went to a high school but he was very learned in the Jewish education and Jewish history. Very much.

**INT:** And it was important that your children be educated Jewishly as well.

**GOLDIE:** Yes. Also. Of course. My husband had a lot of knowledge like, I wouldn't say like a rabbi but people really admired him like, you know, a lot of things that he was learning when he was a young boy when he was going to that schools where he learned only religion.

**INT:** Why not like a rabbi?

**GOLDIE:** Well, listen, a rabbi you have to have more study, more years. He was in concentration camp. I don't know if he would have become a rabbi, but you don't have to be a rabbi. You can have knowledge not to be a rabbi. Not everything is to be a rabbi, but good to have the knowledge.

**INT:** It certainly is. How do your children view you? What do your children think about you?

**GOLDIE:** What do you mean what they think about me?

**INT:** Do they think that you're a...that you worry too much about them, that you have too much control over them?

**GOLDIE:** Yes, well, that's also. They always noticed I worried. I was a big worrier. Always was worried. But they know this and they try to calm me down and we cooperated because they know if I worry they were always, like they always called. They always called. They know they have to pick up the phone and call me. Even if they had to make a collect phone call, they had to call me. Even today my children call me. If they don't call me I call them and I say, how does it come you didn't call me? (Laughter)

**INT:** How about your grandchildren?

**GOLDIE:** They also.

**INT:** How do they view you?

**GOLDIE:** Also. Very, very...I have very nice grandchildren. I have great grandchildren. Great. I don't have "great-grandchildren" but my grandchildren are really very, very wonderful children: Intelligent and very steady and very religious. Very religious. All of them. They also study, always study religion. You know, they go to the religious school.

**INT:** How do you think that happened?

**GOLDIE:** That what?

**INT:** That all of your children married people that were-

**GOLDIE:** I was lucky. That's all. You have to be lucky with everything because you never know. You can try to bring them up the right way and you never know what is "bashert" [fate or destiny]. You know what's bashert?

**INT:** Yes I do.

**GOLDIE:** So that's what it is. But you always have to take it and I'm grateful for everything that I have with my kids. I have a grandson who's fifteen. He's in Los Angeles in the yeshiva there. He's a very good student.

**INT:** I find it remarkable that you say you're lucky given all the experiences that you've had.

**GOLDIE:** It's lucky. I thank G-d that I was lucky because you never know. You can try and you can be and you never know what happens to the children, how they grow up and how they marry. You know, it happened in the best families sometimes that the children don't marry the right person. Like I said, I'm very happy and I'm very grateful that my children are married to the right spouses and I'm very happy with them. Happy with my daughter-in-laws and happy with my son-in-law and just hope we should be healthy. That's the important thing for me. My grandchildren are great. They're the best.

**INT:** That's wonderful.

**GOLDIE:** From the youngest to the oldest, they're just great. Precious. They're very warm. They're very good. Good natured and also to other people. They know how to behave, how to treat people, even strangers. You know, you have to teach your children how to behave between grownups, how to handle people, how to be nice with people, and you come across people you have to help and everything, and they know all these things and they're doing it. It's called "chessed." You do this work. You know, chessed is like you do, how you say? You do a lot of work...I can't think of the word. You go out on your own. You try to do voluntary work.

**INT:** Right.

**GOLDIE:** You do work with children. My granddaughter in Israel now, she didn't go to the army. She's a religious girl so don't go to the army, but they give them some work to do. So she goes to teach. She teaches. Now the younger one who's still in school, in the summertime every year, when she's off from school, she has vacation, she goes and works with blind children with no pay. She does it all for free because she feels she wants to do something and this makes me feel good. I'm proud of it.

**INT:** Of course you are. Do you think this is because of what you taught your children?

**GOLDIE:** No. No. It comes to them. They get it from their parents. My daughter-in-law teaches them this in the home. They teach them. They get it from their parents.

**INT:** I mean that's what you taught your children.

**GOLDIE:** I taught them also. You always have to be nice and kind. My mother used to teach us. I will never forget. If somebody throws, because, you know, we lived with a lot of anti-Semitic things. If somebody throws a rock on you, you throw back bread.

**INT:** If somebody throws what?

**GOLDIE:** A rock. A stone. You throw back bread. You never throw back a stone. Never throw back a rock. And that's the way she taught us. And I will never forget when she used to tell us this that we should never be mean. Even somebody's mean to us we should try to be nice and you could work it out. And I came across these things because I was going to school where I was the only Jew there. After I came out of certain grades, there was only Jewish children. It was a Jewish school. But then different grades, different schools, I was mixed. I was the only Jewish girl. There was another girl there but she was like...she didn't care that she was Jewish and she played with them around like she would be one of them. But I was going through a lot in this school at that time, but I try not to be mean to them. I invite them to the house and they came and they saw the way I live and my parents and everything. And they changed. They became different to me. I showed them that you could be nice and I offered them things when they came to the house and then they changed. Different. They became different.

**INT:** That was remarkable to me that you still believe what your mother taught you.

**GOLDIE:** Yes. I still believe in it. I still believe. I was telling a friend several weeks ago (end of tape 3, side 2)

**INT:** This is tape 4 with Goldie Diamant on February 7th, 1996. Goldie, we haven't met for a long time, so I'm going to ask you to go back over some of the things that we talked about before.

**GOLDIE:** Very well.

**INT:** One of the things that we talked about before was how you met your husband, but I didn't get a real good sense of what kind of a man he was, so I want you to tell me a little more-

**GOLDIE:** The best.

**INT:** That's a wonderful adjective to describe him. Do you have any more adjectives that can describe your husband?

**GOLDIE:** I don't think that there's available people like he, a person the way he was. He was unbelievable. Very kind and very good to everybody, and didn't care who he is, nationality, everything. He was great.

**INT:** Was it his kindness or was it something else that first attracted you to him?

**GOLDIE:** Well, I don't know. Something hit me. The way he acted and the way he presented himself was really something very special.

**INT:** Was he confident?

**GOLDIE:** Yes.

**INT:** Did he represent security to you?

**GOLDIE:** No, I was not thinking of so much security at that time. I just was seeing that he has a personality, and I could speak to him, I could relate to him. He was everything what I was looking for.

**INT:** That's wonderful. That's marvelous. Can you tell me how you decided to get married?

**GOLDIE:** How I decided? Okay. We met in the beginning of January and we got married in the middle of June. It was almost six months; five and a half. Whatever. And, well it was a time when we were looking forward to being with people who were warm and who really we can depend on them, so we decided we liked each other, we got married.

**INT:** That's wonderful. You told me about your sister. I remember that. What I don't remember is what happened to your sister. She got married and went to Israel.

**GOLDIE:** She got married before me, because she was older. I wanted her to get married first.

**INT:** You wanted her to get married first.

**GOLDIE:** Yes, I wanted her to get married before, and this was in 1946 in March. And then, of course, this was 1949 when Israel became a state, and she decided with her husband and her son to go to Israel. And I...we would have gone also, me and my husband, but the way she was writing to me that the...there was a lot of complications there, there was a lot of very, very inconvenient life. Very. She couldn't adjust herself from the beginning, because they didn't have the right facilities, the living facilities. The homes were not...were very, very bad. So she wrote me how much she would like to be with me, but she feels that I would do better if we decided to go to the United States in the meantime.

**INT:** Now I'm going to ask you more about going to the United States too. But did she eventually come to the United States?

**GOLDIE:** No, she stayed in Israel. Eventually it got better. They adjusted themselves. They got a nicer living quarters and it was...they liked it. They were very happy there. Eventually.

**INT:** Eventually.

**GOLDIE:** Yes. Her husband started to work and she was happy.

**INT:** But it took them a long time.

**GOLDIE:** It took them a long time because they were living like in this old, little hoots [huts?], I don't know how you call this...It was made only out of clay where the Arabs lived. That's the kind of-

**INT:** Oh. Were they living with Arabs?

**GOLDIE:** No. They didn't live with them, but there are Arabs...the flat from there. So they have these little things there but it was a very...there was no oven. It was very, very difficult to live.

**INT:** It was very primitive.

**GOLDIE:** Very primitive. Very difficult for them. But eventually they got themselves together and my brother-in-law started to work and they were looking around, and then they had a nicer apartment, and eventually they got themselves a home later, in Be'er Sheva in the Negev.

**INT:** So they eventually adjusted to Israel.

**GOLDIE:** Yes, they adjusted and they wouldn't leave. They wouldn't leave there. They just liked to stay there. I mean, she came to visit several times, but they would not give up...their children were brought up there. She had two children. One was born...the boy was born in Germany and then she had a girl in Israel. And the children live there and they're happy. Very happy.

**INT:** Are you in touch with your-

**GOLDIE:** My sister passed away.

**INT:** I know she did.

**GOLDIE:** She passed away like-

**INT:** But her children.

**GOLDIE:** Oh, yes. Sure. Of course.

**INT:** And your son is in Israel.

**GOLDIE:** Yes.

**INT:** So is he in touch with his cousins?

**GOLDIE:** Any time. They are always together. When somebody has a "simcha" [happy occasion], whatever, they always get together. Whenever I come they come to visit me. They take me out for the day to where they live and they take me around and it's very nice. My

nephew really acts very nicely. He always takes me on tours and goes with me places. Always. When I used to come with my husband he was always there. Very nice.

**INT:** Good. That's very good. Now the other questions that I want to ask you about that I know we talked about a little bit was mourning for all the death that you have experienced. How would you describe your sadness? How would you tell me what you thought when you thought about all the losses?

**GOLDIE:** What do you mean what I thought?

**INT:** Did you often think about how much you lost?

**GOLDIE:** Yes.

**INT:** What did you think when you thought about them?

**GOLDIE:** Well, I just thought that it would have been nice if I had my parents, especially whenever I used to go somewhere to a Bar Mitzvah or to a wedding, to a simcha, whenever I saw a grandfather or grandmother. So I felt a little bit not too comfortable because I felt how nice it would be if I would have my parents and they would be able to be here and spend time with us together. But there's nothing we could do about it.

**INT:** Was your sadness so great that it kept you from going to things like this?

**GOLDIE:** No, no. It didn't keep me. I was always going, but there always were minutes where I was very sad, because I remind myself how beautiful it is to have a grandmother walking down or whatever. It's just great. I believe that this is the greatest thing in your life, that you have your parents and you can share with them all different simchas and activities and whatever.

**INT:** Let's talk a little bit about how you adjusted coming to America. Your sister had a difficult time in Israel. What did you think about when you came? Were you afraid? You knew already what a difficult time she had had in Israel.

**GOLDIE:** No, I was not afraid. It was very difficult because I didn't know the language and I had three small children. It was not easy because they had to adjust. It was a different life in the United States, but eventually we got ourselves together. My husband went to work and we appreciated everything what came to us. And we were happy.

**INT:** I think you told me about this but tell me again about the support system. Who was here to help you?

**GOLDIE:** The HIAS. Jewish Federation.

**INT:** Didn't you have any relatives here?

**GOLDIE:** I had relatives in New York but they couldn't help me too much. They tried to help whatever they could but the most important things like to get a job and be supported in the meantime, and with medical things because with children...they took care, the Federation.

**INT:** Now what was the relationship of your family here?

**GOLDIE:** My husband had an uncle in New York and an aunt what they came in maybe the thirties. They were very kind. They were lovely people, but what happened? We wanted to stay in New York but the HIAS didn't allow us. They said in New York is overflowing with people. They cannot keep us there. They have to send us someplace else. And so we asked them maybe we could stay, maybe if we get help. They said yes, but we have to get a hundred percent help, then we will be able to stay. Medical things. But my husband didn't want to...he didn't want to listen to this. He didn't like the idea to get help. He wanted to be on his own. So they decided they would send us to Philadelphia what it's not so far away from New York, that we'll be able to get in touch with them and it was really great. But the uncle in the end gave us a lot of, what should I say - they gave us a lot of courage. They were telling us that when they came it was much, much harder than for us because he had to go to work and because he was an observant Jew he couldn't work on Shabbos. When he came Sunday to work he didn't have no job, so it was very difficult for him to adjust, until he finally found something to do. He became a kosher butcher, so this was really...but it was very hard and very difficult for them.

**INT:** So it was less difficult for you.

**GOLDIE:** It was less. I would say for us it was less difficult, because everything was already the different thing. This was already like, I would say, twenty, twenty-five years later and the country was really, United States was more on higher things. It was much easier with their help, because the way they were telling us it was very difficult for them.

**INT:** How did you trust the people that you met here? Did you trust-

**GOLDIE:** Yes, most of the time.

**INT:** Did you trust HIAS?

**GOLDIE:** Yes, sure.

**INT:** Did you trust the non-Jewish community?

**GOLDIE:** I tried to stay away from them. I was trying to stay more with Jewish people, to mingle more with Jewish people, and especially more with religious people, because this appealed to me more. I had a lot of friends here what they came also what they were in concentration camp with me together, but I was seeing them once in a while but they I decided it's not my cup of tea, because they were not religious. So I mingled more with the American born people, because I found some of them who were religious.

**INT:** But then it wasn't really whether you trusted. It wasn't lack of trust; it was just a different lifestyle.

**GOLDIE:** It was a different lifestyle. I couldn't...I mean to me this didn't appeal, that what they were doing. I liked the different life, and I met a lot of people who were American born and with them I mingled and with them I became friends.

**INT:** I understand. Were you ever in conflict over your values and what you saw in America? What values you saw in America. Did it ever trouble you that the people here were living differently than your values were?

**GOLDIE:** Well, not really, because you get adjusted to these things and I find it very quick that I got adjusted to the people. Then the kids started to go to a school - especially my oldest son - when he went the first time, when I sent him to kindergarten, he was very excited when he came home because his teacher spoke to him in German and otherwise he couldn't communicate with nobody. The children wouldn't play with him. They were making fun from him on the street. And he was very depressed. But as soon as he started kindergarten, Bais Yaakov, and there was a teacher who spoke German so he came home, he was very excited. He was very happy. And so he went.

**INT:** Now was this public school or religious school?

**GOLDIE:** It was religious school. Bais Yaakov. It was a day school. It was the only one in Philadelphia, and we were very fortunate we had it. I mean we were very happy with it.

**INT:** And most of the other children there were children of American born parents.

**GOLDIE:** Most of them, yes. Most of them.

**INT:** So then you were able to bring your children up without any-

**GOLDIE:** No problem. I had no problem.

**INT:** No conflict.

**GOLDIE:** Not at all. Absolutely.

**INT:** Did any...were you able to use any of the skills here that you had learned in Europe? The things you had learned there, were you able to use here in making your living?

**GOLDIE:** No, not really.

**INT:** You had to learn all new skills.

**GOLDIE:** Yes. My husband started to learn something new what he was in a different field.



**INT:** Do you ever have any regrets about the way your life turned out? Are you happy with the way your life turned out?

**GOLDIE:** Definitely. With everything. With my children, my whole life. Everything was great.

**INT:** When you came here and you had these difficulties in the very beginning, with the language for example, to whom did you talk?

**GOLDIE:** Well, put it this way. I lived in an area where the Federation put me where mostly Jewish people lived. All the Jewish people. And they knew the language and I could communicate with them. That's what it was. They made sure that they put us in a place where it was a grocery what was owned by Jewish people, older people, and they spoke Jewish. And little by little I learned the language, mostly from the children when they started school. And I started to learn the language.

**INT:** So you learned the language from your children.

**GOLDIE:** Only from the kids, yes. When they started to come home and they started to speak English, so I learned from them and I spoke to them in English.

**INT:** But in the people in your neighborhood you spoke Yiddish.

**GOLDIE:** I spoke Yiddish and I spoke German, but they understood, because if you know Yiddish you can understand German.

**INT:** Right.

**GOLDIE:** But soon the children started to speak English, I spoke to them in English, because I wanted to learn the language.

**INT:** Do your children know Yiddish?

**GOLDIE:** No. They maybe understood certain words, because they were very, very similar to German, but they didn't understand Yiddish. You could figure out because-

**INT:** Some words.

**GOLDIE:** Some words, yes. But they really didn't, because they spoke only German. And my daughter was only six months old when we came here.

**INT:** In your life here, how much did you balance out between work and leisure? Outside of Shabbat, did you work all the time?

**GOLDIE:** Well, I was occupied with the children. Maybe, I would say, about a year and a half, when we already in the country, my husband went into business for himself, and then I had to-

**INT:** So you worked with him.

**GOLDIE:** Yes.

**INT:** So then you worked most of the time.

**GOLDIE:** Always.

**INT:** So you didn't have much leisure time?

**GOLDIE:** Not really. But I was happy. We had Friday night and we had Saturday, and this was...we were happy with it.

**INT:** How important have your friendships been that you made here in your life?

**GOLDIE:** Well most of the friendships I made when we moved out here to Wynnefield, because where I lived before, with the business, there were not too many friends available. I didn't have too many friends because first of all, the area was not the greatest, and all the business people who had the business there didn't live there. They all lived in different areas. But we managed.

**INT:** How long have you been living here?

**GOLDIE:** Thirty-three, thirty-four years, something like that.

**INT:** So that's when you made your friends, when you moved here?

**GOLDIE:** Mostly, right.

**INT:** And you still have some of those friends.

**GOLDIE:** Oh, yes.

**INT:** They're very important to you.

**GOLDIE:** Very important. I don't have too many, but the one what I have is solid. The best.

**INT:** That's great. That's wonderful. What do you see as the successes in your life? What are the things that you consider your successes?

**GOLDIE:** That I brought up the children the right way, and they got married and they got the right spouses and they're happy. And I have grandchildren and they all go the right way. They right direction.

**INT:** How about mistakes?

**GOLDIE:** Like what?

**INT:** I don't know.

**GOLDIE:** Oh, I made mistakes?

**INT:** Yes, did you make any mistakes?

**GOLDIE:** Well, of course. We all make mistakes. You don't think of it. I don't think, I mean, so far, with the children, we didn't make a mistake. We sent them to the right school where they should go and we always made sure that they had the right friends; that they mingled with the right people. Until today, I'm happy the way my grandchildren are growing up.

**INT:** So you don't have many regrets in your life and you don't see that you should have done this or you should have done that.

**GOLDIE:** No. Absolutely. I was very happy that we came to Philadelphia and it was everything worked out the right way.

**INT:** Let's talk a little bit about the role that the Holocaust has played today-I mean, not today, but in American in your life. Do you read anything about the Holocaust?

**GOLDIE:** Yes, sure.

**INT:** Do you go to see a Holocaust film?

**GOLDIE:** Not really. I'm not so anxious to see it, because whatever they're showing in the film I know and I went through, so I'm not really anxious just to go to see.

**INT:** But you do read?

**GOLDIE:** I read, yes. I read from people who went through and they were in different camps or they were in different countries and what they went through in their life, but as far as to go to see pictures, to movies, I'm not anxious.

**INT:** Do you talk about it?

**GOLDIE:** Oh, yes.

**INT:** With your children?

**GOLDIE:** With my children, with my grandchildren. They interview me sometimes. They have certain work to do for the school and they ask me questions. The other day my granddaughter called me from Canada and she asked me and they're very happy. They get good marks after-  
(Laughter)

**INT:** You're a good subject to interview.

**GOLDIE:** Yes.

**INT:** So that's why they do so well.

**GOLDIE:** Yes.

**INT:** How important do you think talking about the Holocaust is to the gentile world?

**GOLDIE:** Well, I don't think it's so important for them to talk because they don't believe. I think they don't believe in it. A lot of them say that it's not true. You cannot really persuade them and talk into them and tell them what happened and they would say, was it really, or things. They don't believe in it. You cannot, you just cannot visualize. People who were there and went through know it. They can understand. But the other people, not the gentiles, even the Jewish people some of them don't believe in it, here in the United States, because they didn't feel it. The only people who felt it, they know it and they believe it, but you speak with other people, some of them believe, but a lot of gentile people don't believe in it.

**INT:** Is there anything we can do?

**GOLDIE:** That you should believe in it? To make them believe? I don't think so, because the only people that can believe who fight, they lost somebody or they were acquainted with somebody, but otherwise, the other people, they were too far away. They were not interested. Even if they heard, they just felt that it's not important; it's probably not true.

**INT:** Do you think that the Holocaust has affected how you feel about government or how you would vote or what your political beliefs are?

**GOLDIE:** You mean here in the United States?

**INT:** Here in the United States.

**GOLDIE:** I believe the government...I mean, some people, intelligent people believe in it. I mean, they did help out a lot with it. But the general, they don't believe in it. They say it's impossible that such a thing should happen. They don't believe in it.

**INT:** But how has it affected you, do you think, or hasn't it affected how you...do you vote in the elections?

**GOLDIE:** Yes, sure.

**INT:** Do you think that you vote as a result of the Holocaust? Has it made you more anxious to vote or less anxious to vote?

**GOLDIE:** No, this has nothing to do with it.

**INT:** It has not had any effect on you.

**GOLDIE:** No, it has nothing to do with it.

**INT:** Do you think that people in Europe are more interested today in the Holocaust than they were twenty years ago or thirty years ago? Do you see any change?

**GOLDIE:** Which people you mean?

**INT:** Any people.

**GOLDIE:** Depends. Depends in which country and which people. There are still people in Europe what...there are still things going on. They don't like the Jews and they would still harm them. But I believe that in some countries they try to, I mean, something to do about it. But it's not really...it's not this real thing. They should have done something before.

**INT:** Oh.

**GOLDIE:** I mean, this was the whole idea. The people were all blind. Nobody saw nothing.

**INT:** Right. They should have done something a long time ago.

**GOLDIE:** Even in the United States they didn't believe in it, because after they would tried to do something, like they tried to help now the other countries like in Bosnia, whatever. They help them, and that's really a big help for them. But there was nobody to help us.

**INT:** So do you think people are changing?

**GOLDIE:** I hope so.

**INT:** Well, you're very optimistic so-

**GOLDIE:** No, there are people who...I mean, listen, I know, especially the Jewish people, when they came here they were really great. Some people really tried to help how much they could and if you hear what they were telling us. They were very hurt when we told them how we lived and what was all the things, but on the other hand there were also people who just didn't care.

**INT:** Well, I guess there are always people like that.

**GOLDIE:** Yes. These things you cannot control. There are all different people. What can you do?

**INT:** Let's talk now a little bit about as you look back. As you look back, what was the most difficult time for you since the war, after the war ended?

**GOLDIE:** Well, what was very difficult for me was I was lost. I had no one. My parents were dead and all my brothers. I had no one. But at least I had a sister what I hold on to me, and this was my only thing what I was hoping to get through with all my problems, because I was like lost when I came out from concentration camp. It was very difficult for me, because most of the girls they had brothers, they had sisters. Some of them found parents. But I only had my sister, and this was my...the biggest fortune what I had.

**INT:** So what did you think about?

**GOLDIE:** Like what?

**INT:** What did you think about when you were in this very difficult time?

**GOLDIE:** Well, the first minute when I was liberated I was very depressed, because I figured, what did it help me that I am free and that I can live, but nobody from my family, my parents, nobody's around. And I was very depressed. But then when I started to think that at least I have my sister and she will come to me, that made me feel better. Then when my sister came so I was-

**INT:** So what did you say to yourself to bring you out of this feeling depressed?

**GOLDIE:** There was nothing really what I...I couldn't do nothing about it, and I was hoping someways I get through in my life and I have to make my best. Try to do my best on my own, what I could. It was not easy, but...

**INT:** But you succeeded.

**GOLDIE:** Thank G-d I succeeded, yes.

**INT:** What would you say was the happiest moment since the war ended?

**GOLDIE:** The happiest thing when the war ended?

**INT:** From the time the war ended until now, what's the happiest moment?

**GOLDIE:** Well, I got married. We had children.

**INT:** Was your wedding the happiest moment?

**GOLDIE:** Yes and no, because it was very difficult. I had no parents. I had no one. I had to prepare myself everything. I had to cook and everything. Whoever came to the wedding they were close friends and a couple of relatives what we had there came. But it was still something missing. There was something missing, because like the important thing, you know, by the Jewish people when you get married, the parents take you up to the "chupah"[wedding canopy]. (End of tape 4, side 1)

**INT:** Tape 4, and Goldie is talking about one of the happiest moments of her life. Your wedding wasn't one of this because it was mixed.

**GOLDIE:** It was mixed feelings.

**INT:** Can you think of a moment in the past forty or fifty years that was happy?

**GOLDIE:** When my first child was born it was a very, very joyous time for us and well, of course, when my sister was with me I was very happy. When she left I was a little sad, but I was happy to have mail from her what made me feel good. The way she always...I know that I have somebody to write and things. And then we were trying to get out of Germany, to get to the United States, but someways didn't work. And right away when we wanted to go we didn't have

the possibility. But it was all right. We got adjusted a little bit in Germany, and when we left we had three children who were born in Germany.

**INT:** You said that one of the happiest moments was when your first son was born. I understand this. My husband always said that his happiest day in his life was the “bris” [celebration of circumcision] of his first son. That was it. For him, that was everything. But did you have any concern about bringing children into this world where such a terrible thing could happen?

**GOLDIE:** Not really, because I knew that eventually I would leave. I’m not going to stay there. We didn’t really...we really didn’t...we had it not so bad when we were there, but I know I’m going to leave. We had no intention to stay in Germany at all.

**INT:** As you look back over your children and now your grandchildren, what do you think gave you the strength to be so optimistic, to teach all these values that you taught to your children, to build a new life? What gave you all the strength?

**GOLDIE:** Well, I always looked back and I was thinking of the way it was at home with my parents, with my brothers; and it was always such a nice, happy life together and we had a lot of excitements because my brothers were very big in sports, and they used to get very excited. They used to go skiing and I used to go ice skating, and we used to go...we joined, we used to call it Maccabee. It was like an organization, gym. We always used to go there in the nighttime. And it was very exciting and I enjoyed it and I was thinking how nice it was everything, so I thought, perhaps, my children grow up and we would be able to give them all the necessary...what they need, and they will grow up to be going the right way, the way we want them to grow up.

**INT:** All of these kinds of things that you did with your family in Europe, did you try to recreate those experiences for your children?

**GOLDIE:** Some of them, yes.

**INT:** Did your children play sports and do those kinds of things?

**GOLDIE:** My kids still remind me, my son reminded me the other day, this was a time when I didn’t drive yet. It came Saturday night, I used to call up a cab and I used to go with the children ice skating in Center City, like at Penn Center. Downstairs. You used to go down and they used to have such a good time. And then Sunday morning we used to go and I used to skate with them. I used to get them hot chocolate milk. They were so happy. They were so excited when we used to do it. Whenever I had a chance I did it with them.

**INT:** So you did try to recreate all those kinds of experiences that you had had.

**GOLDIE:** Yes, very much.

**INT:** How did you keep up your energy to do all this?

**GOLDIE:** I don’t know.

**INT:** You worked, you did all these things with your children.

**GOLDIE:** I had to come home. I had to cook. I had to prepare lunches for them, but I did it with the very...I was so, what should I say. I was happy. I did it with a lot of happiness. I watched my children growing up and they're going to be good Jews and they're going to school and they learn and they came home and they were happy, and that's what made me go on.

**INT:** You must have had, during this time, some disappointments.

**GOLDIE:** Oh, sure. There were a lot of disappointments.

**INT:** How did you cope with the disappointments?

**GOLDIE:** But sometimes I just wiped them away. I just didn't...it bothered me, but I tried not to think about it, and always make the best of it.

**INT:** You said that, a couple of times. To make the best of things. What does that mean? How did you make the best of things?

**GOLDIE:** How? I would say that I always was thinking of it, saying to myself it could be worse. Thank G-d I have healthy children. They're happy. They go to school. They're good students and they keep a nice Jewish house. And that's what made me feel good. Came Friday night and Shabbos we were home together, and this was the whole thing that kept me going.

**INT:** That's wonderful. That really is. Do you...of your memories, as you look back over the time since the war, which memories are the strongest? Is Friday night, the family together, is that your strongest memory or did you have others?

**GOLDIE:** Here in the United States.

**INT:** Here in the United States, what are your strongest memories?

**GOLDIE:** In Germany I couldn't have all the, like you say, I couldn't...was not able to manage to have all the things. Well, first of all, the children were still small, but this was for us the best thing. When it came Monday I started to think already about...That's what kept me going the whole week. Because on Monday I started to think already Friday is coming soon, and that's what me feel good.

**INT:** Do you, as you look back over the past, do you have any feelings of guilt about anything?

**GOLDIE:** Not really. Not really.

**INT:** What do you think the impact of the Holocaust will have on future generations?

**GOLDIE:** I don't know. It's hard to say. Maybe some people will remember, some children will remember. Some of them it's just like...it's not really...they don't think much of it. There are some people, there are some children that are growing up and they still talk about it, and they



talk it over now. They do things. But some of them just don't bother with it. They're not interested in the murder of people.

**INT:** So you don't think it's going to have much impact on future generations?

**GOLDIE:** I don't know. I don't know, because today the generation, the kids, it's a different thing altogether. You see the way they live today and the way they dress, and sometimes I look on these children, I just shake my head because I come across a lot of young people. I see them. And when I watch them, the way they walk around and the way they dress, it really hurts. It hurts. And they schlep around. You know, it's...I had once a young girl came in. She wanted to rent an apartment from me. She was such a cute little girl, and you could see she was Jewish. And she came in with no shoes. She walked just with no shoes. A long dress, down to the floor, this size, very, very small, and I said to her, do you have parents? She said yes. I said, where do your parents live? In West Oak Lane. And I couldn't believe it. Then she told me that her father's an educator and her mother also, and I couldn't believe it. And she tells me she's the only daughter. I said, your parents ever come to visit? She said, no. When I have my apartment, they're going to come to see me. And I used to see them coming some late afternoons to take her out for dinner and she wore shoes. But then she used to walk on...I couldn't believe, my eyes. I couldn't believe it, how I came across all different kids. I had once a couple, they came both from very good families and they both were on drugs. It was terrible. It was terrible. But there's nothing you can do about it.

**INT:** How would you say the Holocaust has impacted the lives of your children and your grandchildren?

**GOLDIE:** My grandchildren, so far, when I speak to them, I can feel it that they are...they think a lot about it. They talk about it.

**INT:** Has it affected the kind of people they are?

**GOLDIE:** No. I wouldn't say so. It wouldn't affect them, because...what they are?

**INT:** The kind of people they are. The things they believe in; characteristics that they have. Has the effect of the Holocaust affected the kind-

**GOLDIE:** No.

**INT:** How about your children? Maybe you're not understanding the question.

**GOLDIE:** I know what you mean.

**INT:** Because maybe of the Holocaust they are more caring, more sensitive to other people.

**GOLDIE:** My children are very caring, not only to me, to strange people. To people what they meet or wherever they come across, they're very caring.

**INT:** They're very caring people.

**GOLDIE:** Very caring people.

**INT:** Is that because of the Holocaust or just because of the kind of people you are?

**GOLDIE:** I don't know. I don't think so. I'm not sure. You know, you never know what's in their mind, but I feel that that's the way they were brought up, and it also comes from my generation, from my family, from my husband's family, that his family was very caring. And this goes, you know, this is like, how do you say, it's like not that you adopted but you-

**INT:** You mean it's in your genes?

**GOLDIE:** Inherited.

**INT:** Inherited.

**GOLDIE:** Yes, it's in them.

**INT:** So you think they inherited this-

**GOLDIE:** Right. From his father, from his father's parents, relatives, because they were very caring people, and this you find later in your children and then it goes to the grandchildren. That's the way I feel that's what it is.

**INT:** Okay. Would you describe yourself as optimistic or pessimistic?

**GOLDIE:** It's hard to say. It's very difficult. I just don't know what to tell you. I mean, what do you mean, that I'm optimistic with, for instance, with-

**INT:** Looking at life. Are you hopeful about the future that it's going to be better?

**GOLDIE:** Yes. I always hope it's going to be better. I never give up the things. I have sometimes days that I don't know how I survive, but then I always say, ah, it's going to get better and I always look forward that it will be good.

**INT:** What do you think gives you this optimism?

**GOLDIE:** I have...I have, I'm forward, to look for things that's going to come up in the future. My grandchildren, you know, you always like to see things, success in the life, and they should, when they approach the life when they try to do something with themselves, that they'll become something that I'll be proud of it.

**INT:** Do you think that one of the reasons that you're optimistic, hopeful, has anything to do with your faith in G-d?

**GOLDIE:** I guess so. That has a big thing. I always hope in G-d. I never lose myself. I said, ah, it's going to get better. It will improve or whatever. That's the way I feel.

**INT:** Do you ever have any nightmares about the war?

**GOLDIE:** Not really. Not so much now. I used to have more, but now-

**INT:** You used to.

**GOLDIE:** Yes. Not now, no. It's already over fifty years. Don't believe that it's fifty years already. I cannot believe it.

**INT:** That's good. That's good that it's a long time ago. Do you trust most of the people that you come in contact with or are you suspicious of them?

**GOLDIE:** Sometimes I trust them and some of them I'm suspicious. If I see that it's not my cup of tea, I stay away from them. Plain and simple. I don't mingle with them. If they come and talk to me nice and I know it's not right, that it's not the way it should be, I just don't bother with them.

**INT:** Do you find more people to avoid or more people that you can trust?

**GOLDIE:** I think you find more people you can trust. There are people trustable.

**INT:** When everything is going along really well and things are good and you're feeling good, then what do you think?

**GOLDIE:** Then I thank G-d that everything is fine, is good. I always think it's not me. Sometimes I figure do I really deserve it?

**INT:** Do you think life is an orderly kind of process or is it random or-

**GOLDIE:** It's not orderly. It's not orderly. That's for sure not. But we have to take it the way it comes and we should not complain, because it always can be worse. You always have to say thank G-d for this, as long as it's not worse. That's the way I feel. But I don't know, maybe I'm wrong.

**INT:** When you get down, when you have a bad day and you think things really aren't good, do you blame the Holocaust, the war, for this?

**GOLDIE:** No. I mean it's fifty years now. Who can I blame now?

**INT:** Well, do you blame what happened to you fifty years ago?

**GOLDIE:** Well, I don't think that you can figure out what would happen to you in such an amount of time. Listen, as a human being you never know what can happen, but these things, we think of it...of course if it would not be the Holocaust it would have been a different life. We

would have lived different, and my children would have grandparents and we would have a lot of relatives and it would be a much, much happier life, but these things we cannot go back to.

**INT:** Do you think about that very often?

**GOLDIE:** Sometimes, yes. Sometimes.

**INT:** And when you think about it, do you get depressed?

**GOLDIE:** Well, it's hard to say. Sometimes yes, and sometimes no. I do think of it, but I'm trying not to think of it. I should not get depressed.

**INT:** How do you try not to think of it?

**GOLDIE:** Well, I try. I always visualize happy things with the family, and then I don't think of it.

**INT:** Okay, what are they happy things that you visualize?

**GOLDIE:** I think the children grow up and there are bar mitzvahs and there are weddings and there are always happy...the graduation and the...so many things.

**INT:** That's super. That's really wonderful. Let me ask you a few more questions about the war. Were there any secrets that...things that happened that you never told, that you never wanted to tell, that you try to forget? Any secrets involved with the war?

**GOLDIE:** What do you mean secrets? You mean what I went through? There are no secrets.

**INT:** No. I don't mean your experiences. I mean things that happened that you didn't tell or things that you did that you were ashamed of or things that you knew that other people did that you never told. Things like that. Were there any secrets?

**GOLDIE:** No, nothing that I can think of.

**INT:** Did you try to protect your children from any of your experiences? Did you not tell them about anything because you didn't want them to know about the pain?

**GOLDIE:** Well, most of the time we were talking about it with the children. We used to tell them things. My husband used to tell them. I used to tell them.

**INT:** You both talked freely with your children.

**GOLDIE:** Yes.

**INT:** Did you ever have any false information? Did you falsify passports or ages or dates?

**GOLDIE:** No.

**INT:** You never had to do any of that.

**GOLDIE:** I didn't have to do that. It was not necessary. I came to the United States. Everything was legal and then when I needed a passport, I got always passport when I used to travel somewhere out of the country. No problems. (Coughing)

**INT:** You should take something for that cough.

**GOLDIE:** I would take something but it doesn't help.

**INT:** Can you tell me about how your faith in G-d played out? How your faith in G-d...I know you had a very strong faith in G-d. How did it manifest itself? How did you think about it? What did you do about it? Did you talk about your faith in G-d to your children?

**GOLDIE:** Of course we always talked to them about it. This was the whole idea, to bring the children up the right way and tell them what they're allowed to do and what they're not allowed to do. They had to know, because when they used to be sometimes with friends somewhere, that they were not religious, and they used to come home and say, oh, this boy ate this or he did this, so they always were...we always showed them the right way what they were allowed to do and what not.

**INT:** But there are some people that tell their children what they're allowed to eat or what they're not allowed to eat-

**GOLDIE:** And they don't do it.

**INT:** But they don't talk about G-d.

**GOLDIE:** No. My children were always very, very...I mean, they always listened and they did what they had to do. They never rebelled or whatever. Never had the problems.

**INT:** But you did talk to them about G-d.

**GOLDIE:** Well, they knew. They were going to school where they learned it, and they had it home and they knew about it.

**INT:** What did you tell them about G-d?

**GOLDIE:** What did I have to tell them? I didn't have to tell them much. They were going from nursery until high school, they were learning all the things what they're allowed to do and what they're not allowed to do, so I just didn't have to tell them nothing no more. They came home and told me. (Laughter)

**INT:** Did they ever question G-d because of the Holocaust?

**GOLDIE:** No. They never said this. I know people talk about it sometimes. They say how is this possible? And it was such religious Jews. But listen, we cannot do nothing. That's what happened, it happened.

**INT:** What would you say about your identity as a Jew?

**GOLDIE:** I was always proud of it.

**INT:** Nothing ever happened that made you question your identity as a Jew?

**GOLDIE:** No.

**INT:** And you got that from your parents?

**GOLDIE:** Right.

**INT:** And your children felt the same way.

**GOLDIE:** That's correct.

**INT:** And they never rebelled against this?

**GOLDIE:** The same thing my grandchildren.

**INT:** Why do you think this is? Why do you think it is?

**GOLDIE:** I don't know.

**INT:** I think this is wonderful.

**GOLDIE:** For this you have to be thankful also to G-d, that the children are like this. That they're not rebelling, because sometimes you find in very religious families that the children rebel. It's also...I don't say that it's because I put the work in them, it's just...I'm lucky. I'm really lucky.

**INT:** Why do you think you were lucky?

**GOLDIE:** I mean because my children grew up to be people, "menschen" [good people], you know. Sometimes you try and you watch them and you give them everything, and it sometimes turns out not the right way. It can happen. But I say I was just lucky.

**INT:** Why were you lucky?

**GOLDIE:** I don't know. I was just lucky. Thank G-d for this that I was lucky, because these things nobody can predict, with children, what they do when they grow up. Especially when they go out in the world. They go to colleges, they go different directions, different cities. All right. Sometimes I was a little bit shaky, but it was okay. My son, my oldest son, he applied to MIT and he applied to Drexel, and I was happy that he was accepted to Drexel, that he didn't have to

go to MIT, because this way he was...and he was also very happy. He was very happy because he knows he can stay in the city and he can be home, because at that time, and this goes back thirty years ago when children were going out of town to colleges, was not like today. Today they have all the facilities with Kosher food and all the...whatever it needs to be for the young it is in the colleges. But that time there was not much.

**INT:** Yes, you're right.

**GOLDIE:** So you were a little bit always scared. A little nervous.

**INT:** You're a little worried.

**GOLDIE:** That's right. Always worried. Always was a big worry, not so much with them. I know they wouldn't go in the wrong direction, but also when they were driving, whatever, I was always very, always very afraid. That's the person I was. I always...but thank G-d.

**INT:** Are you still a worrier?

**GOLDIE:** Yes. I'm still a worrier. The grandchildren, they drive. I'm a big worrier, and this I cannot change. That's the way I am.

**INT:** Is it easier when you're not there to not worry?

**GOLDIE:** It's easier if I don't know about it. (Laughter) Then it's better. But when I see it or I'm there, so I always worry.

**INT:** Do you still worry about your children?

**GOLDIE:** Oh, yes.

**INT:** They'll always be your children.

**GOLDIE:** And then they grow up and then the grandchildren, and that's the way it goes. It's a round circle. But I always was a worrier.

**INT:** Is there anything else about anything that I haven't asked you that you would like to tell me?

**GOLDIE:** I cannot think of nothing.

**INT:** You think you've told me-

**GOLDIE:** I don't know, maybe not. You asked me, I answered. If not, I don't remember.

**INT:** Well I've tried to ask you as many questions as I can-

**GOLDIE:** So whatever you ask that I can answer I answer.

**INT:** But sometimes I don't think to ask something-

**GOLDIE:** You don't think or it doesn't come to your mind.

**INT:** Right. So is there anything else that you can think of that played a role in the kind of person you are that I haven't asked about that you can tell me?

**GOLDIE:** Nothing I can think of. I cannot think of nothing. I told you everything. I think so. Maybe I forgot something but most everything I told you. From the day I met my husband, when we got married, everything. That's the way it goes. That's life.

**INT:** Well it certainly has been full for you.

**GOLDIE:** But I don't want to complain and I'm not complaining. Thank G-d for everything. I think I succeeded with everything. It's a shame that my husband is gone, but otherwise, I had always a lot of "nachas" [happiness, joy] from our children. We enjoyed every minute of them, even if they don't behave always, like kids, but most of the time they were good. Sometimes was not too easy for them, because I don't always have the time to spend with them. I didn't always could make homework with them because certain things I didn't understand, but someways we managed.

**INT:** Well they were very lucky to have such a loving mother.

**GOLDIE:** Yes, but I was lucky also that they were the right children. If they would be different it would be hard for me and it would be hard on them, but everything worked out fine. No complaints.

**INT:** Good. Well thank you very much for sharing your story with me.

**GOLDIE:** My pleasure. I hope you, I mean, there is nothing to say to enjoy or whatever, but it brings back a lot of...you really pushed a button and I just came back to my remembrance what they were some of them were very pleasurable. That you asked when I was young, especially I used to go to the gym and we used to go ice skating and it was beautiful. Just were talking the other day we used to walk two miles, over two miles to school in the morning, and there was snow and everything, but we were happy. Today the kids if they have to walk they complain. They cannot go to school. We used to go in big snow. We used to go to school. We used to walk. Today the kids cannot go because they are driven, so the cars cannot drive, but we walked. But it was nice.

**INT:** Well, thank you. (End of tape 4, side 2)