

INTERVIEW WITH EDWARD FISCHER

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INTERVIEW WITH EDWARD FISCHER

Interview with Edward Fischer, a survivor, November 25, 1993.

INT: ...for Edwin

ANNELIESE: Edward.

INT: Edward.

EDWARD: Yeah. Edwin doesn't exist.

INT: So Edward Fischer, who is the spouse of Anneliese Fischer and so he is the spouse, and a survivor. And so tell me about yourself. Your name is Edward Fischer and you live at the same address as Anneliese. You live at the same address in Miami.

EDWARD: Yeah, sure, also.

INT: And so what is that address again?

EDWARD: 500 Bayview Drive.

INT: 500 Bayview Drive.

EDWARD: North Miami Beach.

INT: And is there a zip code there?

EDWARD: Yes. What is it? (asks wife)

ANNELIESE: 33160. What is it?

INT: 33160. And do you have a telephone number?

EDWARD: Yes. What is it?

INT: Which is?

EDWARD: 944-9925, I think I remember.

INT: Is that a 305?

EDWARD: 305.

INT: 305. And how old are you?

EDWARD: 86.

INT: 86.

EDWARD: Yeah.

INT: Oh, so you have a child bride.

EDWARD: That's what they all say. That's what they say.

INT: And you were born when?

EDWARD: October 7, 07.

INT: October the 7th, 07. And you were born where?

EDWARD: Berlin.

INT: In Berlin.

EDWARD: Yeah.

INT: And, so your family was German. They...

EDWARD: No.

INT: No?

EDWARD: Parents were Austrian.

INT: I see.

EDWARD: But lately it became Polish.

INT: I see.

EDWARD: So he was in the Austrian army, my father. But still if he, he couldn't become a German. He had to be a Polish or stateless; so he didn't want to be Polish, so he became stateless and checked out, that's all. You know what stateless is?

INT: Yeah, no nationality.

EDWARD: No nationality. Only when we were 21 we could become citizens of Germany.

INT: I see.

EDWARD: Because we were born there.

INT: And so how many people were in your family? Your mother...

EDWARD: I had- we were three brothers and one sister.

INT: And you were which? The oldest? The youngest?

EDWARD: The middle.

INT: The middle one. So and how far did you go with your education?

EDWARD: We went to, only to a Jewish school.

INT: I see.

EDWARD: Middle school. Middle, what do you call it? We never went to a-

INT: To eighth grade you went?

EDWARD: Yeah. Yeah.

INT: And when you left school then you finished school in Berlin?

EDWARD: Yeah. Yeah.

INT: And then what did you do?

EDWARD: Yeah, I became apprentice in a place where they made wholesale coats, you know. I think it's called an apprentice. Businessman.

INT: I see. And could you tell me a little bit about your father. He was in the Austrian army in the First World War?

EDWARD: First World War.

INT: I see. And let's see, your father had the same kind of education as you?

EDWARD: My father had no education.

INT: He had no education. And what did he do?

EDWARD: He was a tailor.

INT: He was a tailor. I see. And so then you were- became an apprentice. You followed in-

EDWARD: No. Was something different.

INT: Was very different?

EDWARD: Yeah.

INT: That was manufacturing.

EDWARD: Yeah.

INT: I see. And your mother? What was her background?

EDWARD: My mother, she was the oldest from nine children. When she was ten years, took her out from school because she had to work and had to help bring up the other children.

INT: And so your family, the economic status of your family, was it more middle class?

EDWARD: Yeah. Yeah, middle class. Not the higher part.

INT: Not as high.

EDWARD: No, no, no.

ANNELIESE: Your brother's family.

EDWARD: All right, my brother's family they- he became an engineer.

INT: So some of the, if they wanted to-

EDWARD: They could. They could afford to send them to because they didn't have yet to pay. It is not like here. It was free. Maybe in school in the Jewish school you had to pay, not like here. Everything you had to pay for the books, everything.

INT: Your family was Orthodox.

EDWARD: Yes. Not that ever I was in synagogue, but we were kosher. A kosher house. We were not like there, real kosher.

INT: Real kosher. And glatt kosher?

EDWARD: Yeah.

INT: Okay.

EDWARD: But when the (?).

INT: What? I'm sorry I missed that.

EDWARD: But when they went out they-

INT: But when they went out they?

EDWARD: they didn't eat kosher.

INT: They ate what they wanted to. Okay. So did you belong to a synagogue, your family?

EDWARD: Yeah, always, sure. You had to because you paid taxes. You are not like here you had to pay through Jewish community, you had to pay a certain tax that count, tax like what you make. You made so and so much, you had to give to not like you'd have to "schnorr" [get something for nothing; to beg]. You had to pay a certain amount of money according what you had, however your income was. It was not like here.

INT: And this was called a tithe in the Catholic church, they charge you a certain amount, whatever you earned you have to give a certain amount to the church. So you are saying that as Jews you had to give the same thing to your synagogue.

EDWARD: So then you had tax from the Jewish.

INT: I see.

EDWARD: They had to exist somehow.

INT: How about the political or were your family, were they Zionists? Were they-

EDWARD: We were all Zionists.

INT: You were all Zionists.

EDWARD: All of us.

INT: And your family?

ANNELIESE: My parents, no. I mean I belong to a Zionists organization.

EDWARD: Later on (?).

ANNELIESE: When I was, from before I was thirteen years old, and when I was younger. When I was younger.

INT: So you had thoughts of going to Palestine?

ANNELIESE: Yes, I did.

INT: But when the time came to leave?

EDWARD: They didn't go. No, no, no.

INT: No, I don't think I did. I didn't want to go then, not in a kibbutz or anything.

EDWARD: See with us was different. My brother, he always wanted to go to Palestine. So he went in '32, already before Hitler. He didn't wait. We were Zionists but we lived in Germany. It was a nice life, very nice comfortable life, and we were Zionists, always, we was always, only had contact with Jewish people, not the Gentiles.

INT: Is this your oldest brother who went to-

EDWARD: Yeah.

INT: Israel, and how much older? And what is his name?

EDWARD: Natan.

INT: Natan. And Natan, and he went to Israel

EDWARD: So he too, Palestine.

INT: Palestine in 1932. That was even before Hitler came.

EDWARD: That's what I said, he didn't want to wait for Hitler; he wanted to go all the time.

INT: I see. And then were you next or was there another brother?

EDWARD: I have a younger brother.

INT: So you were next.

EDWARD: I was next.

INT: And then there was another younger brother.

EDWARD: And then a sister.

INT: And then the youngest was-

EDWARD: The sister came before the youngest brother.

INT: Okay. So after you there was the sister and then the youngest brother. And how did they feel about Zionism, about that?

EDWARD: I will tell you, we were brought up in Jewish way. We were Jews -- not the Germans; we were Jews.

INT: But your brother then became (?).

EDWARD: We went over in Zionist organization.

INT: You went as well and you were interested in going to Palestine yourself?

EDWARD: Now you see people talk, but I didn't go, actually, but we were in organizations, Zionist organization. We gave, you know.

INT: You wanted there to be a homeland for the Jews but not necessarily that you-

EDWARD: Like most of them, most of them. But really one was my brother; he wanted to go. Then later on when Hitler came, it was in '33.

INT: 1933.

EDWARD: '33. My mother said, "Go."

INT: Your mother, your mother was the one who made the decision?

EDWARD: Not decision, not the, "it is better you leave," and you see when, those, different people they had different friends. You see they were on a slate. They said the Jews, "go back to Palestine" till you are clear already all of the time, and I figure most of the Jews like this when you spit them in the face, they think it is raining. It wasn't raining. We had a different upbringing, a real Jewish upbringing. Not that we were elders in the synagogue, I hate to go to synagogue. I believed in people. People are G-d's creatures, right?

INT: But you were always identifying with Jewish people who were associated only with Jewish people.

EDWARD: We had Christian friends too.

INT: Christian friends, but different-

EDWARD: Completely.

INT: Because in Anneliese's family they socialized with non-Jews and they were Germans. You were not like that.

EDWARD: We never. Never. Never.

INT: So in 1933 your parents heard Hitler-

EDWARD: They sold their store that they-

INT: (?) and they saw what was happening and that's it. We are leaving.

EDWARD: But how will you get out?

INT: Yes, how did that happen?

EDWARD: How did that happen? I was in the soccer club, sports (?) and there they (?) them together from trying to (?) people up there. We went through Palestine as a visitor. You couldn't go through. You couldn't just go through Palestine.

INT: Oh, so you went to Palestine.

EDWARD: That time there was, you couldn't go.

INT: You went with your group?

EDWARD: As a visitor to Palestine.

INT: And your parents?

EDWARD: They stayed there.

INT: They stayed.

EDWARD: So when we were there you had to buy all of your return ticket. They make out a visa, not really, you could stay there. And once you were there you stayed.

INT: I see.

EDWARD: Different story. Illegal.

INT: Illegal.

EDWARD: Yeah. But that is how it was. And then a little bit later they saw my parents said it is time to leave anyway. A few months later how will you get a visa? So I would like, we had the best connection. That is how it is in life, and we got right away a visa for the parents.

INT: What was the connection?

EDWARD: Through the top.

ANNELIESE: Through your brother.

EDWARD: My brother had the connection to the-

INT: Because he was already living there.

EDWARD: Not that, now he had the right friends.

INT: And he also had the right friends. So when you went there to play soccer, you went with your group you just stayed. You never went back and then your brother sent for your parents and your younger sister and brother. So then you lived in-

EDWARD: The father didn't want to go.

INT: Your father didn't want to go?

EDWARD: No. But a few months later he wanted to go too. How do you do it?

INT: Did he stay in Germany?

EDWARD: For a few months later.

INT: Oh my. So your mother came with the younger brother and sister and he stayed.

EDWARD: Right, because he felt, you know, he stayed. But how do you get a visa? So my brother had to go again to the top.

INT: And then he got one for your father. So your father then came.

EDWARD: He came too.

INT: So that's very interesting, so the relationship between your mother and father was?

EDWARD: Yeah, but he-

INT: Was it an arranged marriage in the first place?

EDWARD: Always.

INT: Always.

EDWARD: She didn't know if was a man or a wife, he had no idea.

INT: But they were two strong individual personalities. She said, "Go, I'm going." He said, "Go, I'll stay."

EDWARD: Then later on when he, and a few months later he came. But we united from my mother; we had a connection.

INT: So how long then did you live in Palestine?

EDWARD: Through '39.

INT: You stayed there through '39 and then what?

EDWARD: I came as a visitor to America as a photographer to the World's Fair.

INT: You had a job as a photographer? You were no longer-

EDWARD: No job. I had the credentials for photographer from the Swiss newspaper.

INT: But you were working first with a Swiss newspaper?

EDWARD: Yeah, working, but that time was no market for pictures from Israel.

INT: But you were a photographer.

EDWARD: Yeah.

INT: So when you moved to Palestine no longer were you working in the garment industry.

EDWARD: I had to do too.

INT: You did that as well.

EDWARD: Make children's clothes.

INT: To make children's clothes. But then you started with photography.

EDWARD: On the side. But there was no market for it. Only I sent the pictures to Switzerland and (?). Now it is a different story. All these boys I taught how to make pictures, they make out very good in television and everything. I was out because I left early.

INT: I see. So you came here to the United States in 1939 to, at the World's Fair, and then you just stayed, again.

EDWARD: Yeah.

INT: So you have a system going. (laughs)

EDWARD: Yes. (laughs)

INT: And then you sent for your parents and?

EDWARD: No, no, no, no. My parents were-

INT: They stayed.

EDWARD: They stayed. They really didn't want to go.

INT: You were all very individual.

EDWARD: I didn't want to stay here neither.

INT: You didn't want to stay here?

EDWARD: No.

INT: You wanted to go back to Palestine.

EDWARD: Yes, Palestine.

INT: But you meant-

EDWARD: One second, no, now comes another story. Then in '40 I met her.

INT: This is where you fell in love.

EDWARD: I fell in love and she, first she was upset with me. I was a little bit not fresh, I was...

ANNELIESE: He said things which he shouldn't have said.

EDWARD: What did I say?

ANNELIESE: Never mind. Don't say that on the tape.

INT: Do you want me to turn off the tape?

EDWARD: No, I didn't say nothing wrong.

ANNELIESE: No, I cannot say. He said sometimes he wants to be too honest and he said the wrong things.

EDWARD: No, I said the right things, but I shouldn't say the right things sometimes. But all of the time you know that I don't agree with Carol because there are things I shouldn't say, but I said it because I like to say it. (laughs)

INT: So you are telling me that you are not too diplomatic.

EDWARD: That's right. Not at all. This is my disadvantage.

INT: I don't know.

EDWARD: So it's me, so. There is nothing wrong.

INT: So you said things that you shouldn't say.

ANNELIESE: I didn't want anything to do with him.

INT: And that turned you off. You didn't want anything to do.

ANNELIESE: I didn't want to have anything to do with you.

INT: And the more you pushed him away the more he wanted to be with you.

EDWARD: I only because I said the truth. There is nothing wrong to tell the truth.

ANNELIESE: What didn't seem-

INT: What these truths, I have to know about these truths. Were they political?

EDWARD: No, no, no. Physically.

ANNELIESE: Personal.

EDWARD: I used to tell her that her sister and her (?) and she was watching she was out, and it couldn't do you any harm to play tennis too, that she should lose some weight. That's all. It's not so bad thing. But she forgave me anyway. But then we married and I was still a visitor, right?

INT: And you, did you apply for citizenship?

ANNELIESE: I was here only two days when I applied for citizenship.

EDWARD: I couldn't. So then I got married and they get the certificate from the end.

ANNELIESE: For the affidavit.

EDWARD: I got affidavit from this, from a-

INT: So how did he convince you to marry him because?

EDWARD: She said there was nothing wrong with it.

ANNELIESE: Well, we met the first time in October and then I didn't see you until January again. And somehow, I got used to him.

INT: So tell me, so now so you connected with him and you began, and you had children and then you had your own life together. But still during this was, you married in 194_?

EDWARD: One.

INT: So this was when the United States entered the war. And so, were you hearing all of the time about what was happening with relatives and that kind of thing?

ANNELIESE: Certainly, I mean in the beginning we still, we still had letters from my parents and last time my sister heard before she, when she was pregnant we still had mail from my parents. You know they used to write over Holland over because my father's brother-

EDWARD: You couldn't write directly.

ANNELIESE: you couldn't write directly.

INT: I see.

ANNELIESE: But somehow to my relatives we could write. And until they came, went to the concentration camp.

INT: You knew before the war was over, you really knew what was happening?

ANNELIESE: I didn't really know what was happening in the concentration camps.

EDWARD: No.

ANNELIESE: I don't think so. I don't think they believed in you.

EDWARD: No, no. They knew but the American government knew. That's a different story. They knew.

INT: Well you know they told us at the Holocaust Museum what was very interesting; they said people during the war had the facts. They knew they were taking people away.

EDWARD: Yes.

INT: They knew they were taking them to places, to concentration camps, but they didn't have the knowledge. They didn't have the understanding of what was happening. They had the facts but not the knowledge. They knew but they didn't know, this is what you are saying.

EDWARD: We didn't know. We didn't know what happened at concentration camps.

INT: Now did you, while you were here and did you join with other Jews? Did you join the synagogue? Did you join any groups of people whose parents had not come here, or hadn't made it, or were taken away? I mean did you develop any of those relationships?

EDWARD: No, we had the same friends like before.

ANNELIESE: Well we have really, we had mostly all German/Jewish friends, Polish friends. I mean some from Poland I guess.

INT: Do you think either one of you that from the result of knowing what happened to your parents, what happened to relatives, and friends and so on, that how has that stayed with you? And what effect did that have on how you lived your life?

EDWARD: It makes you angry.

INT: It makes you angry.

EDWARD: But you couldn't do anything about it.

INT: I mean did you have nightmares? Did you have-

EDWARD: No, no.

ANNELIESE: No, nightmares. Nightmares, I don't think I had nightmares. But-

EDWARD: You see you asked before-

ANNELIESE: Sometimes I can't talk about it. I mean it's-

INT: Too painful?

EDWARD: No, she cannot, she - the pictures-

ANNELIESE: I cannot see until today if they show anything from concentration camps. I just can't look at this.

EDWARD: I can.

ANNELIESE: And when we went to Israel, I could not go to the Holocaust Museum. I could not go there.

EDWARD: I could all of the time. I could.

INT: So your experience was different.

ANNELIESE: It is different because anyone who you see and he feels different about it from I do. I mean, I just - when I think about it what they did to, what they did and what they (?).

EDWARD: So why should I close my eyes? It is enough that the Gentiles close their eyes. Why should I close my eyes? They should know.

ANNELIESE: I mean I know it happened and I know what happened to my parents. For me its, I just - I mean there is the Holocaust Memorial in Miami. I couldn't look at the pictures at first. Now I look at them. But-

INT: That is an extraordinary memorial in Miami.

ANNELIESE: I mean it is a beautiful. It is beautiful.

EDWARD: Well they took care of it (?).

INT: It is beautifully done.

ANNELIESE: But I mean the pictures they have there. I mean now I look at them, but it-

[Begin Tape 2 - Side 1]

One year has passed. His wife, Anneliese has died. He has had a stroke while visiting his father in Israel. This was taped at Magee Rehabilitation Center.

INT: [Today is] December the 15th of 1994 and we're going to continue with his ideas on how he got his Jewish identity and how he passed that on to his-

EDWARD: I was born of a family very Orthodox Jewish so I couldn't say the Jewish identity. I was always Jewish, (?) but we belonged for Jewish people so it was that my identity, it never was in doubt. I was a Jew, right?

INT: Right. And you were in an Orthodox family where they practiced religion. You were kosher?

EDWARD: Yeah, we were kosher, but we were not very. We didn't go everyday to the synagogue but we were kosher. For Pesach we had separate dishes. We were very - our house was kosher. We had Jewish family.

INT: But your family did or didn't go to the synagogue?

EDWARD: Not very often.

INT: Not very often.

EDWARD: No, not very often because you had to work six days a week. There was no time to go inside the synagogue, for us at least.

INT: Right, okay.

EDWARD: And I, myself, I felt very Jewish but I didn't feel like going to a synagogue because and I looked as a, how did it (?) something didn't understand. They just talking. People, they didn't know what it meant.

INT: Did you have any youth groups?

EDWARD: Yes.

INT: Jewish youth groups or belong to anything like that? Like what?

EDWARD: Always, the Zionist organization all the time.

INT: I see. And what were, what kinds of activities did they have?

EDWARD: We discussed Jewish things and we traveled, we went together. We were brought up Jewish. We were to us the anti-Semitism didn't exist. We went only between Jews. Anti-Semitism exists all over, Germany, overseas. But not to the extent like with Hitler.

INT: Right, but did you experience any anti-Semitism growing up?

EDWARD: Not much. I knew of it but-

INT: But you personally didn't experience people calling you names?

EDWARD: Oh yes, sometimes "the dirty Jews." So I just let them have it. They didn't (?).

INT: What do you mean you let them have it? What did you do?

EDWARD: We had friends and the Maccabee boxing club, boxing. We beat them up and then they were very nice friends.

INT: Oh, you belonged to the boxing club.

EDWARD: No, I belonged together in the football but altogether with Jews-

INT: Right, you're a soccer player.

EDWARD: And something happened, they were right behind and I beat them up. They were quiet.

INT: So you were involved in sports, so you were a soccer player, you were strong.

EDWARD: Yeah, all the time, yeah, always.

INT: So they were a little afraid of you maybe?

EDWARD: Not afraid of me, not in general speaking, they left us alone.

INT: They left you alone.

EDWARD: I left, all I did we, our best friends, the Christians don't look here. Here, the Jewish families don't come together with Christians. Only business like and I see him as you and all the other, we have all, a group, we are Jewish. We don't come together discussion as a friend in the house. They don't do it here. I don't see it.

INT: Well I did growing up in high school.

EDWARD: But later on, no, I see it all you as Jews. For me I see it even with the best friends, as a little (?) between Jewish and Christians. You don't see it but you feel it.

INT: How do you feel about that?

EDWARD: You don't see it.

INT: A little distant?

EDWARD: Yeah, and, but it's there. It always takes us right as I close my eyes. My wife-

INT: Is this for you as well?

EDWARD: My wife said only, friends are jealous and (?) and I've forgotten anymore. And they are best friends; they're Christian.

INT: In Freiburg?

EDWARD: In Germany, as well the best friends they're Christian. We personally, we had only conduct in (?) there was only the Jewish.

INT: In Berlin you were only with Jews.

EDWARD: Me.

INT: Do you think it had anything to do with social class, with the level of society that people were in?

EDWARD: Usually if people didn't have so much money didn't come together business cause they could afford to do things I couldn't do but they are opposite, you know. So yeah, you are separated by (?) automatically. They want to go to a business talk, I couldn't afford to; we are separate.

INT: But the Jews who had more money, they mixed more with people who weren't Jewish? Is that what you're saying?

EDWARD: In Germany, yes. The Jews with money they mix with Christians all the time. Not only in Germany, it's all over the same, not here. Here, Carol's friends are Jewish.

INT: But how about now in Germany since Hitler? Since the Holocaust? Since the war?

EDWARD: I was there, but the Jews stayed together.

INT: Right, the Jews stayed together. But do you think they stayed socialized now in Germany as well as Christian people?

EDWARD: I don't know but I don't think so.

INT: You doubt that. And so you grew up in a family where you kept kosher although you didn't go to synagogue so much, but you practiced the religion, and keeping the holidays, and kosher, and so forth and you were Jews.

EDWARD: We were Jews. That's all.

INT: And so that was instilled in you. Did your parents ever say to you?

EDWARD: No, no it came up in the circle with the Jews, very much Jewish.

INT: So your parents didn't have to tell you, just that was your way of life.

EDWARD: No, no, no.

INT: Now when you married, and you now have children yourself.

EDWARD: Yeah, yeah.

INT: Now how did you decide what you would do to raise your children as Jews?

EDWARD: They should grow up Jewish.

INT: Right, did you keep kosher home?

EDWARD: No.

INT: No. So you didn't keep the kosher home.

EDWARD: No.

INT: You celebrated holidays?

EDWARD: Yes.

INT: And what else did you do to help them to feel Jewish?

EDWARD: The way we behaved.

INT: And how was that? The way you behaved?

EDWARD: We showed them, we belong to Jewish people, only between Jews. We went to the synagogue, those children you know the-

INT: Hebrew school?

EDWARD: Hebrew school, not so much because we had house on the lake, so we, over the weekends we go out there.

INT: Oh, every weekend you went to the lake? Where was this?

EDWARD: In Jersey, Lake Petron, New Jersey. We had a house with motorboats and all.

INT: Lake Pitcan?

EDWARD: Petcan, Hoe Petcan. Hoe Petcan. It's an Indian name.

INT: How do you spell that? H-O-T?

EDWARD: A-T-T-O-N-D Hottand.

INT: Okay, and your friend, in New York, where you lived in Kew Gardens, they were all Jewish?

EDWARD: Not all.

INT: Not all.

EDWARD: No, no, but our friends were Jewish, they didn't come together.

INT: And at the Lake?

EDWARD: Yeah, we have Jewish friends.

INT: You have Jewish friends. So your children also saw, similar to what you see here.

EDWARD: Yeah.

INT: Our children see us having all the Jewish friends.

EDWARD: We told them to. I told them where they belong.

INT: You told your children. How did you say that? What did you say to them?

EDWARD: We are Jewish. The way what happened to us is because we have forgot to be Jews. There should be Jewish people and come together with Christians but (?) you belong to Jews.

INT: Do you believe that the Holocaust happened because Jews forgot to be Jewish?

EDWARD: No.

INT: No.

EDWARD: No. It happened because Hitler wanted to win; to win you need a scapegoat. The scapegoat who is someone who is weak. The Jews are weak, right? They are minority. And then naturally people are "oh, the Jews have all the money." It's an old story but it is not true. And then they grab you (?) and then they like to hear what he said. But instead, he hypnotized them, all of them. And the Jews in the beginning when Hitler came to - they didn't want to leave, most of them. Some couldn't, some wouldn't, they made you money in the time when Hitler was there, didn't he?

INT: But your family, your brother had already left in 1932 or?

EDWARD: '33. My brother, the first one was out of there in '32. Had nothing to do with Hitler because he wanted to, he did. This is how he was brought up.

INT: But the minute that Hitler came in, your parents...

EDWARD: I did first.

INT: You did first.

EDWARD: I was, went as a tourist with the soccer club, we went there to, to Palestine.

INT: Right.

EDWARD: How could you get a visa otherwise? Or you have 10,000 pounds you get...

INT: Do you remember what was going through your mind when you decided to go to Palestine?

EDWARD: Yeah. Many Jews, if somebody spits in your face and does other things, if somebody spits in my face, (laughs) I spit...

INT: You spit back, and then leave.

EDWARD: I didn't.

INT: And you said, "I'm not staying here."

EDWARD: No, no, I'm not staying there. That was all right to see anymore. Then the parents came a few months later. We had connections, we got visa for my parents and the others.

INT: And you were playing soccer?

EDWARD: Yeah.

INT: When you lived in Palestine?

EDWARD: No, no. In Palestine I played tennis.

INT: Had you played tennis before you got there?

EDWARD: No, I started there and I was very ambitious. We played there in the, Interessante College, Italy.

INT: Italian college?

EDWARD: Yeah, or in front of the house there was another tennis club from a missionary.

INT: Missionary tennis club.

EDWARD: Yeah.

INT: So you mixed around.

EDWARD: I wanted to play so... (laughs)

INT: You wanted to play and it was the only game in town, right?

EDWARD: Right.

INT: And you became a photographer?

EDWARD: Yeah, no, it's only in Germany I took pictures. I had an eye for it.

INT: You had an eye for it in Germany.

EDWARD: Yeah, so they wouldn't learn this; you can't teach somebody to, a camera, where to stand, what to do, what to see what you have to see. It's only a (?).

INT: And what were you taking pictures of?

EDWARD: From happened in Israel, what happened in Palestine.

INT: What do you mean what happened in (?).

EDWARD: All the things what happened, how it grew bigger and events, you know not many people.

INT: And then you were selling your pictures?

EDWARD: Yeah. I had an agency in Switzerland who principally had the picture, or you took the pictures, all over. But there under ours- whatever you see a picture doesn't have to be proof, even when I took it, because they send me a copy, they send them the publishers, I get the paper, different kinds of, something different under the paper.

INT: Oh, they wrote something different under it?

EDWARD: Especially family, the Turkish of Omar, the Nazis, Turkish of Omar of Hitler, the newspaper. Actually it was separation of maybe Muslim or was rest of Ramadan [?], they called

maybe Muslim. You know what Muslim means? Moses, you know. And then they were dancing there and they would say it was a revolt against the Jews so...

INT: And that's not what was happening.

EDWARD: That's not what was happening. This is what happened in Germany.

INT: So they would take a picture in Germany and it was of people dancing, and then they would put that in the newspaper with a caption underneath and it would say that they were starting to revolt against the Jews. So what was this? This was the newspapers?

EDWARD: This was the newspaper in Germany.

INT: This was the newspaper and this helped Hitler to?

EDWARD: All right they couldn't show that cause see, how people get confused. You telling them things which are not true and they believe it. It's a picture, right? And you see pictures too.

INT: So tell me when your children then, so you let them see how you were living as Jews, told them that they were Jews.

EDWARD: That's how it's supposed to be.

INT: They went to Hebrew school and then as they got older, did they start to date people who were not Jewish or?

EDWARD: No, no.

INT: Never.

EDWARD: No.

INT: How did that happen?

EDWARD: She only came together with the Jewish people and I told them that's where you belong. It's not like here. Here different times, intermarriages are nothing, it never occurred to us that we are in Germany disturbed [?] that all these Christian girls but never, none of them married a Christian.

INT: Not to (?).

EDWARD: No, not even one. And they were the best husbands.

INT: Jewish men?

EDWARD: Yeah, were the best because of what they look for, I got everything that nobody got divorced, not even one.

INT: And do you know why that is?

EDWARD: Because they experienced already everything and that's all what they are needed for. I have my wife.

INT: But if you didn't get along would you get divorced or would you stay?

EDWARD: Some do, but I didn't. I was very happily married. There is always somebody who didn't get along with their wife, you know, but not right now. Now it's different. Women are very independent and they think. Divorce was wrong but you had to feel like this.

INT: What would you have done if your children had been dating- Michael never dated girls who weren't Jewish?

EDWARD: No.

INT: What would you have done if you found out?

EDWARD: I wouldn't like it. (laughs)

INT: Would you do something about it?

EDWARD: I could tell them, like here with Carol, with Rachel, she always, always-

INT: Your granddaughter.

EDWARD: Yeah.

INT: And what do you say to her?

EDWARD: You'd better look ahead, there are nice Jewish boys too so don't do this. It's wrong. Now she listens. But when she started to date Jewish boys too she finds all Jewish boys could be nice too.

INT: And how did her mind, how did she change her mind?

EDWARD: I don't know. (?).

INT: Do you think this trip to Israel was-

EDWARD: Maybe it had too, yes, she saw there are Jewish boys on our street, not only (?).

INT: But you always told her.

EDWARD: Yeah, always, and her father too.

INT: And her father too.

EDWARD: He told her, he's asked her to promise - and he died [?] - never to marry a Christian. Where she lives, I don't know. Phillip, she's a nice girl now getting engaged. She hopes one of these days she may go to (?) and if it backfires we will get together with Christian girls, (?) Christian. And so you see later, if Hannah had two ideas in her head they will let me know what you are. See now it doesn't have in the marriage it is 50%, right? So, if it works out, I don't know but I never would say that German Jews who are not Jews because "ah, if you'll be more Jewish this wouldn't happen." I saw an article about Brazil, those people are so, I am Brazilian, a Jew too. Back in Germany it's the same thing, I'm first over here, I'm American, I'm a Jew. No, why should be in Germany the people say: [Yiddish] - that I'm a Jew and a human and a German. We were 400 years there, and then there are Jews, then you blame them they are not good enough, together. Good enough to fight all the others. I see it, first I saw the others from Brazil, 100% like the Germans. They speak like the German Jews this couldn't happen to them here, they are Brazilian but they are Jewish.

INT: And so what do you think was the impact of your wife had suffered through the Holocaust and although you were, you moved away and -

EDWARD: Yeah, yeah.

INT: ...and to Israel but she had some struggles before she left to Germany and then being a nursemaid in England and making her way to this country, what do you think was the impact of the Holocaust background on your family, on your children, on her having had that background?

EDWARD: Mine or hers?

INT: Hers.

EDWARD: All right does she, what do they call it? Most of the Germans didn't want to get out of Germany. They didn't realize this would happen. And many couldn't get a visa. And then not many had the opportunity and many, even good money in the beginning with Hitler and later came to see that he treated them like a goose, make them fat and then kill them. That's what he did but didn't realize it, and it was late in '38 was a little bit late, figured out. But some had luck - were lucky and could go.

INT: But she eventually got out but still the experience of what she lived through and having then lost her parents, what affect did all of that have on her and how she raised the children and so on?

EDWARD: She raised them Jewish.

INT: But do you think that Anne's having that experience, the Holocaust, knowing what it was like in Germany, what affect did that have? Do you think it changed how she raised the children? Was she more protective of them, or was she more worried about them or did she tell them more about the terrible things that happened in Germany?

EDWARD: I told them.

INT: You told them.

EDWARD: Yeah. I told them. She knew too but I told them.

INT: And what did you tell them?

EDWARD: You are what you are. You are a Jew, you could be a nice person; you could love your neighbor even if he's Christian, (?) but you and you are a Jew, don't forget it.

INT: Because what happened.

EDWARD: What happened. All right, many didn't believe it, especially German Jews with her, her parents or the others before, there's three or four years in Germany, how could you blame them for saying I'm a German? And the American justices, the American, I'm American. (?) American, better the Jew.

INT: Did you join a synagogue?

EDWARD: Where? In Germany?

INT: No, here in Kew Gardens.

EDWARD: Yeah, we had one there, (name of synagogue) (?).

INT: And did you belong to that synagogue?

EDWARD: Yeah, but I didn't go, only holidays.

INT: You only went on the holidays?

EDWARD: I told you before, see I got bored.

INT: You got bored?

EDWARD: Yeah.

INT: Why is that?

EDWARD: But it is something I don't understand, why should I, (?) the English version to me it turns my stomach. If this is supposed to be true, why could it let it happen to us, so many things? We "chosen people," are we chosen to suffer? When I asked the rabbi he doesn't like it. You are not supposed to ask questions the rabbi couldn't answer. But I do and it's no good.

INT: That your rabbi couldn't answer.

EDWARD: Any rabbi - all the rabbis you are not supposed to ask.

INT: Well we have a question and answer period you know, 4:00 on Yom Kippur in our synagogue.

EDWARD: But we question G-d what he said, you are not supposed to do. He cannot, they call it [Yiddish] the rabbi says you cannot do this because he couldn't answer you. You don't question G-d.

INT: Do you think that the reason he tells you not to question G-d is because he doesn't know how to give you - the rabbi doesn't know how to answer?

EDWARD: He doesn't know and you are not [to] question, please G-d doubts you know, you are not supposed to question. Because to you - So G-d knows what he's doing.

INT: Do you believe there is a G-d?

EDWARD: Ah, there's - believe in G-d. We were, we were carried it in His image, all right? Human beings, G-d created you in His image, so I believe in people. Take your own pick. So maybe I'm wrong sometimes but-

INT: But do you think that you raised your children differently because the Holocaust happened?

EDWARD: I didn't, I don't know another way. Only I was born I was a Jew, not as Hitler, not, born I was a Jew, nothing that was the Holocaust.

INT: But do you think that the Holocaust had any influence on what you told your children on your state of mind on what you thought about?

EDWARD: All I realize what happened you should tell them while you can tell them what happened, tell them.

INT: So you always told them, you never protected them from the information.

EDWARD: No, no but what protection, why should I protect them? Shouldn't protect them; tell them the story.

INT: And what do you think that will happen in the world now?

EDWARD: If I would know I would be the President. (laughs)

INT: Of the world Jewry, and Israel and?

EDWARD: Israel will have plenty of problems, but I predict this: I, by accident Carol gave me a paper (?) from here - you know information from Israel. Carol doesn't want to hear it. Helms, supposed you know, anti-Semitism, with Helms the senator.

INT: Oh yeah, Jesse Helms.

EDWARD: Helms, now he got a big position. What does he know? The minutes of, he's the worst anti-Semite. He was only one- I was surprised who so much in favor of Israel you won't believe it. Beneath her, show me anyone whose wife is, no (?) I read it in the Jewish paper, Helms say we need things protect us, we need them. We give them money, they save us money. If we wouldn't dare cost them more money without Israel. Then wouldn't be free, Israel wouldn't be there. Now we have plenty.

INT: So you're hopeful that Israel will exist.

EDWARD: Yeah.

INT: ...that we'll have (?).

EDWARD: Yeah, yeah, (?).

INT: And the Arabs?

EDWARD: Somehow they'll exist too, there is so much all around see for instance jobs, it's actually sponsor (?) jobs was created in 1914 after the war.

INT: And the terrorists?

EDWARD: Will always be, unfortunately. More that they always here through, it's easier here (?).

INT: Were you the kind of a person who always has a positive attitude?

EDWARD: Is always like this? Yes.

INT: No, but you personally, about things in life in general, you have a positive attitude.

EDWARD: Yeah, I say better things, not positive what happened now is not very positive but you couldn't change. You see in Yugoslavia, Jews never have to, but you already England, France, Israel, all around. It happened there, not here. (?) said something in the beginning, now it's too late. Now they call America.

INT: But are you an optimist? You think that things will happen where they'll turn out all right?

EDWARD: Not in the near future.

INT: Not in the future?

EDWARD: Not in the near future.

INT: Not in the near future, but eventually.

EDWARD: Eventually everything changes (?).

INT: Between you and your wife, between you and Anne, which one was more positive? Was one an optimist and one was a pessimist or?

EDWARD: No, we were never a pessimist. I never.

INT: You were never.

EDWARD: Because so clearly what happened to her, I didn't like it but.

INT: And how about Anne? Do you think that she was pessimistic about life because of what had happened to her family?

EDWARD: No, no, no. She wanted to live. I, at some time (?) I don't know but (?). There is a world for you like to live in but they are here (?). People will suffer because of the people who change the world. The world doesn't change. People change the world.

INT: And how do you think that you coped with difficulty that happened to you in life? What is your personal coping strategy? How do you deal with things when they don't go your way?

EDWARD: I've had many things happen which were no good, but in the end it straightened out by itself. In the end, yes.

INT: So you would say that you just kind of wait and see?

EDWARD: And it changes.

INT: Until it changes.

EDWARD: Every time for the best.

INT: It usually changes for the best. And was Anne like that as well?

EDWARD: She was just a nice person. She had never was negative, always positive. She had me.

INT: She had you. You were strong.

EDWARD: Yeah, yeah. In a way she was stronger.

INT: But when something happens that was bad how did she cope with it? What did she do?

EDWARD: She was all right; she managed.

INT: She managed, but did she cry? Did she get depressed?

EDWARD: No, no.

INT: Did she get upset?

EDWARD: No.

INT: No.

EDWARD: Never.

INT: Never.

EDWARD: Never, certain all the time, then I lost, my business burnt down. I was depressed. I (?) I come home, I'm terrible, I got the job. And I understand, no?

INT: Yes.

EDWARD: I understand, come home, suddenly, someone died; I got a good job. Always came out in the end all right.

INT: So do you attribute that to good luck?

EDWARD: No, oh G-d, good luck. No, it just, the power of Hitler came out like this. That's why I say you never think it's the end if something happens to you. Right now it's different when my wife died.

INT: But Carol got that from you, that quality. She never thinks it's the end. Whatever it is, it's always going to work out.

EDWARD: No doubt.

INT: And how were you able to transmit that to her?

EDWARD: The way we lived?

INT: Yes, so the message that you gave to her was it will work out.

EDWARD: It did, with her too.

INT: But in the meantime, look, it will work out, but didn't to sit around and wait for it to work out in Germany. You left.

EDWARD: This was different. I saw what was coming so I left.

INT: So how were you able to tell how terrible in 1933, how terrible this was going to be? How did you know and some other people didn't know?

EDWARD: They didn't expect the world would come like this.

INT: Did you?

EDWARD: No, nobody knew. Even then it wasn't in Palestine. In the concentration camps they didn't know in Palestine about this even the Germans didn't know what happened in Germany. The only ones who knew were Roosevelt and Churchill; they knew but didn't do anything about it. They knew. But see in the concentration [camps] in Germany they were and to this day all the ones in the village, they didn't know what was going on there nobody told them, you know (?) they kill them, everything was done peacefully, nobody should know.

INT: But you see you also in Palestine you didn't stay there either, you came to the United States.

EDWARD: It was just- I was a photographer. I came to the World's Fair to take pictures.

[End Tape 2 - Side 1] [Begin Tape 2 - Side 2]

EDWARD: Possibility, I was...

INT: But you were only here on a visitor's visa.

EDWARD: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

INT: How were you able to stay and not go back to Palestine?

EDWARD: First I got for a year I could wait, and then I got married and then I got-

INT: Was Anne already a citizen?

EDWARD: She was not citizen but she had the right to stay with a regular visa.

INT: Oh, I see.

EDWARD: And I, when I got married, when Anne's affidavit came, so I went over one night you have to go to Montreal. I got my visa, come back for stay.

INT: You had to go to Canada to get your visa?

EDWARD: Yeah, out of town. You have to go out of the country. Overnight only you go in the evening, come back in the morning because that's (?) here, I had no intention to stay here in the beginning.

INT: Did you try to convince your parents to come here or not?

EDWARD: No, my parents they didn't want to leave already.

INT: They wanted to stay in Palestine.

EDWARD: It was a home. They didn't know how good this is or bad; it's a home.

INT: Now they said to you that you should stay.

EDWARD: Until the war is over.

INT: Until the war is over. And you felt that way also?

EDWARD: Yeah, already I got married, that shows I had responsibility so I knew I could make a living here. There was no doubt so I stayed here. In the beginning I didn't want to stay here.

INT: So in the beginning you didn't want to, and when they suggested to you that you stay here, had you thought about that or that was a new idea?

EDWARD: No, it was a new idea so I stayed till the war is over.

INT: I see, but you didn't expect it to last so long.

EDWARD: No, not at all. And then I got married, had the children and responsibility.

INT: Now tell me something, you talk about, you said your business burned down and you came home and you had a job. Was that true or you were just making that up?

EDWARD: No, it's true.

INT: What happened? What kind of business was it?

EDWARD: Fur business.

INT: It was the fur business.

EDWARD: A store, one flight up. The downstairs was a restaurant and there was a fire burned the store.

INT: Downstairs was what? A restaurant and they had a fire. And upstairs you were what? You were doing what with the furs? You were making fur coats?

EDWARD: Yeah, retail customers, everything.

INT: Retail?

EDWARD: Retail.

INT: Retail, okay.

EDWARD: And then happened our business.

INT: Did you own this business?

EDWARD: Yes.

INT: Wow, and it burned down?

EDWARD: Yeah.

INT: And you must have been upset? I mean you had furs there, it was a lot of money, what?

EDWARD: Insured, some was insured but it was, I think it's the end.

INT: You did think that.

EDWARD: But I didn't (?) I had some, a few things, what's left I had on the lake, I had a garage; I put everything in the garage.

INT: So immediately you start again working in the garage, you didn't even think?

EDWARD: No, no, no. I had to move to the garage but there is no business there. Just because (?) like a (?).

INT: A workshop.

EDWARD: Not workshop; I have it there until I needed something again. Then I came home. A friend of mine called me says this man called you. This how it was. This man was the best job I ever had in my whole life.

INT: But tell me how you got to be the kind of person who believed that this was not the end of the world. Something will come along. How did you get to be the kind of person?

EDWARD: I didn't believe, it just happened. I lived (?) I should commit suicide? That (?).

INT: No, no but a lot of people you know they are going through depression.

EDWARD: I wasn't depressed.

INT: They become nonfunctional.

EDWARD: No.

INT: They can't work; they can't do anything.

EDWARD: No.

INT: You have a different mindset. How did you get to be that way?

EDWARD: How could I? I had a wife and two children. How could I be-

INT: A lot of people (?).

EDWARD: Not me (?).

INT: They have a nervous breakdown and go into a hospital.

EDWARD: I was unhappy.

INT: Do you think it had anything to do with your family growing up, the way they handled difficulties or problems?

EDWARD: No.

INT: No. It was just you.

EDWARD: Yeah.

INT: That's the kind of person that you are.

EDWARD: Yeah, yeah.

INT: Other people in your family, how did they handle problems, like your brothers?

EDWARD: They had no problems like this, no problems.

INT: They never had a problem?

EDWARD: Like this.

INT: Not like that. They had other problems.

EDWARD: Maybe.

INT: Did they get upset when they have other problems?

EDWARD: Oh I don't think so.

INT: Your brother, Hymie, he doesn't get upset?

EDWARD: No.

INT: When you were in the hospital in Israel, he didn't get upset?

EDWARD: Oh naturally. (laughs) This had nothing to do with (?) - sure he's my brother. He was very upset.

INT: Do you think it had anything to do with health; they get more upset about health than about the material things?

EDWARD: It's human nature. He's my brother. Why shouldn't he get upset? He loves me, I love him. He gets upset.

INT: Did anybody in your family, when you were growing up, was there anybody who got sick or who died? Do you remember anything like that?

EDWARD: Oh yes, I have a very good memory. When I was five years old I (?) I had a sister. I was with my brother, he was older, Hymie was not there and I had a sister, she died. We did not know at that time was she had water in her inside. (?) She had water and she was operated and she was home.

INT: Fluid.

EDWARD: Fluid. And I didn't know what happened, only as a memory when she died, downstairs was the hearse, big hearse to take her down. My mother was at the window and she wanted to jump out. I remember that.

INT: Oh, I can imagine.

EDWARD: Yeah.

INT: So you witnessed the death of a sister. How old was she?

EDWARD: She was, maybe she was four years older.

INT: So she was maybe nine.

EDWARD: Yeah, ten maybe.

INT: Maybe nine or ten. It sounds like maybe she had pneumonia or something.

EDWARD: It was stomach; it was inside.

INT: It was in the stomach not her lungs?

EDWARD: No, no, no.

INT: In her stomach.

EDWARD: Fluid.

INT: (?) fluid. So and then she died and your mother wanted to throw herself out of the window. Who kept your mother from doing that?

EDWARD: All right, there were three right under her, holding her back.

INT: But you saw how your mother reacted as though her life were over herself.

EDWARD: She's a Jewish mother; her children are the most important thing, more than the husband.

INT: Right, more than the husband. You know the Bible doesn't say that. The Bible says your husband comes first, do you know?

EDWARD: Only the Polish.

INT: Only the Polish. (laughs)

EDWARD: Not the Germans.

INT: Oh, in the Germans.

EDWARD: In the Germans the husband goes first, then the children. This how the mother taught the children. This is your father; you are the children. With the Polish the mother, the children are everything. The husband's there too. (laughs)

INT: And so then how did your mother get through all of that? How did your father react, do you remember?

EDWARD: Yeah, in Israel?

INT: When, no, your father, when, when your sister died.

EDWARD: No, I don't know.

INT: You don't remember.

EDWARD: No, I don't remember, only her.

INT: And how did you react? You were a little boy; you were five. What did you feel? Do you remember?

EDWARD: I remember, I didn't know what, only saw there was a black hearse.

INT: And she went away.

EDWARD: And that is all.

INT: But you don't remember any feelings.

EDWARD: No.

INT: That you were upset, that you were?

EDWARD: I didn't know what was going on.

INT: You just didn't know what was going on.

EDWARD: I didn't know about that or about that. I didn't realize?

INT: And nobody talked to you about it. Nobody told you what was happening?

EDWARD: No, no, no, no, no.

INT: No. So it was never talked about. Have you ever talked about this with your brother, Hymie?

EDWARD: No, he doesn't, he wasn't there. He wasn't born at that time.

INT: Oh your brother, Hymie's younger, he wasn't born yet.

EDWARD: Yeah.

INT: So it was just you and this older sister.

EDWARD: Brother.

INT: And the brother was how old?

EDWARD: (?) he was two years older than I am.

INT: So he was about seven.

EDWARD: Yeah.

INT: And this brother what?

EDWARD: He doesn't remember anything.

INT: He doesn't remember anything.

EDWARD: I remember everything, he doesn't. I could paint it for you in color.

INT: So you remember everything but you don't remember, they didn't take you to a funeral?

EDWARD: No.

INT: You didn't go.

EDWARD: No, no, no. I only remember this, the hearse.

INT: You just have that memory and that's all.

EDWARD: That's all, yeah.

INT: And no feelings.

EDWARD: No.

INT: And what was your recollection then of what your mother was like as a person? Was she strong? Was she weak? Was she?

EDWARD: In a way she was strong. She had a husband and children to take care of so life goes on.

INT: And so was she sad? Do you remember your mother? Was she a jolly person, happy, a sad person?

EDWARD: She was what people often don't have, I have. She was not very educated. They had ten children in Poland. She was the oldest. When she was ten years old she had to take herself, gone to school, had to work home, had to bring up the other children. And home do some sewing, helping out; this was her education. But when we came to Germany I took her to every Shakespeare play, every opera. I don't know if she liked it - or enjoyed it. If she hadn't had children, I don't know. (?) she enjoyed it. She knew exactly if it was right or wrong. Then she was righteous, I am wrong, because she knew if it was somebody who comes along here she knew it (?).

INT: Your mother had good judgment?

EDWARD: Yeah. And people don't like this.

INT: They don't like it. Why is that?

EDWARD: Who likes it they telling you "you are wrong"?

INT: So she was critical.

EDWARD: No, she knew that something was wrong. Twice, maybe she didn't know why but she has all right, I have it too. I know it (?).

INT: Intuition.

EDWARD: Yeah, I have this too. I know it.

INT: Okay, now so you inherited maybe...

EDWARD: Maybe, must be somehow.

INT: This intuition from your mother and your father was-

EDWARD: No.

INT: Nothing from your father?

EDWARD: No.

INT: No, you're like your mother.

EDWARD: Yeah.

INT: So you were strong; you knew how to go on in life?

EDWARD: Yeah.

INT: You had an intuition; what's right, what's wrong.

EDWARD: That was her.

INT: What's good, what's bad.

EDWARD: No education, but she had it.

INT: Now, then you got married and Anne lost her family in the Holocaust and what kind of a person was she about making decisions and about coping with difficulties? Was she strong like your mother or did she need your help?

EDWARD: She needed my help.

INT: She needed your help. Tell me a little bit about that.

EDWARD: She always asked me what should we do? Fear.

INT: Do you think she had difficulty making decisions?

EDWARD: No, no, no. When she made the decisions they were wrong. (laughs)

INT: She didn't have trouble making the decisions, she just made it wrong? (laughs)

EDWARD: For instance then she wants to buy a dress, (?) right? She always picked the dress which doesn't fit her. Anna (?) (laughs)

INT: So you used to go with her to shop?

EDWARD: Yeah, sure, every time.

INT: You would pick it out.

EDWARD: No, she picked it out, I don't let her buy what doesn't fit her. Then she realized.

INT: Okay. But do you think she relied on you?

EDWARD: Yeah, yeah.

INT: She did, she relied on you for a friend, for judgment.

EDWARD: Yeah, she had her own judgment too but she (?).

INT: Now do you think this was because of what she experienced in the Holocaust or do you think this was just her personality?

EDWARD: Personality, and she lost her parents.

INT: And she lost her parents.

EDWARD: She had me.

INT: And so what do you think about her personality? She was dependent on other people?

EDWARD: No, no, no. We were, we were very happy together.

INT: Yes, I know.

EDWARD: That's all.

INT: I know. I know it's hard. But you were very strong and you got that from your mother and your mother, even when she lost a child.

EDWARD: She went on.

INT: She went on. You learned something from that.

EDWARD: Maybe.

INT: And now you experienced with Carol, also, she lost two husbands. And do you think that Carol's ability to go on, that she got that from you and from your mother, from three generations?

EDWARD: She goes on, she knows. She's her own person, but I have to tell you, Carol is an outstanding person.

INT: Outstanding.

EDWARD: (?) nothing to do with her father.

INT: Nothing to do with the father?

EDWARD: I mean it's not my, that she-

INT: You don't claim that she got everything from you?

EDWARD: No, I don't, I don't claim anything. She is one of a kind, right? (interruption)

INT: So now you have a visitor and I have to go so we'll just finish a little bit. We've been talking about coping skills and talking about whether you got that from your family and how your mother was very strong.

EDWARD: In a way.

INT: In a way.

EDWARD: Yes.

INT: And she was not so strong in another way? How was that?

EDWARD: No, she was all right. She has the children; that was her main part, the children, like her Polish mother. Children first, husband second.

INT: And your father, he was treated second?

EDWARD: No, no, but-

INT: But the children came first. You see she put a lot into the children and you received that from her.

EDWARD: Yeah, actually all the Polish mothers who were.

INT: She was loving to you?

EDWARD: Yes, yes.

INT: Was she tough? Was she strict?

EDWARD: No, no, more strict than here, here the people not strict. The children have more to say than the parents, right?

INT: Where did the strict come from, your mother or your father?

EDWARD: They come, people brought up in you know, up.

INT: In Germany. And so you were, you became very strong. You coped with a lot of difficulties-

EDWARD: Not now.

INT: ...in life and you were, no.

EDWARD: No.

INT: No.

EDWARD: Not now.

INT: No, not now.

EDWARD: Not now.

INT: Not now. Who takes care of you now?

EDWARD: Takes care? What do you mean? I have a piece of myself in here. I'm not-

INT: Okay, you're a strong person to take care of you now.

EDWARD: Yeah, but I'm not at peace with myself.

INT: You're not at peace with yourself.

EDWARD: No, no.

INT: Do you want to talk about that a little bit?

EDWARD: It's a long story. All right, why should I tell you?

INT: Do you want to tell me?

EDWARD: Yeah, I understand. No secrets with me.

INT: When you say you're not at peace with yourself, particularly now in your life, particularly now, and you're sad.

EDWARD: (crying)

INT: Eddie, and your strength is there too. Your strength is there. You've had a sad time. Go on. Sometimes we cry a little bit, sometimes.

EDWARD: (still crying)

INT: It's all right. Just take a deep breath. (?)

EDWARD: I can laugh and cry at the same time.

INT: Well that's very Jewish; that's because you're very Jewish. You know in Fiddler on the Roof, you remember in the middle of the wedding they said that they are all joyous and then they are crying a little as well.

EDWARD: Well I know I'm Jewish. (laughs)

INT: You know you're Jewish. (laughs) That's right. So this is a time where you're recuperating from your stroke.

EDWARD: Yes.

INT: And you're going back to Florida tomorrow.

EDWARD: Yeah, tomorrow, yes.

INT: Tomorrow. But I think we can agree that the strength that Carol has, a lot of it comes from you.

EDWARD: Maybe.

INT: And now we're determining that maybe some of that comes from your mother.

EDWARD: Yeah.

INT: Not your father.

EDWARD: No.

INT: No. Was your father a weak man?

EDWARD: No, he was a man.

INT: He was just a man.

EDWARD: Yeah.

INT: You wouldn't say anything bad.

EDWARD: No, nothing bad.

INT: Okay. And I think pretty much we've covered what we needed to about your coping skills and about-

EDWARD: I'm not coping now.

INT: You're not coping now? I don't know. I think you're doing pretty well.

EDWARD: In the end, when I'm alone I'm coping when I start crying I'm not crying.

INT: Well but everyone has to cry a little bit.

EDWARD: Not that much.

INT: I mean you wouldn't be human if you didn't cry a little bit, right?

EDWARD: Too much.

INT: Too much crying. So what do you do about that?

EDWARD: Nothing.

INT: You keep a little busy? You're sad when you're alone. You have to stay with people a little bit.

EDWARD: And then we talk.

INT: It's better and you talk and that's why you don't want me (?) (laughs)

EDWARD: No, no.

INT: But you see Ruth is here.

EDWARD: I know. I know, I don't remember, I remember her. He didn't remember how I met her.

INT: And do you remember?

EDWARD: I have a memory, I could write it in pictures.

INT: But you have a very good memory.

EDWARD: Very good. I know when it's good but (?) I have you, and Carol, and me.

INT: I'm going to turn off-

[Tape 2 - End Side 2] End of interview