

INTERVIEW WITH HARRY HARTZ

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**Transcending Trauma Project
Council for Relationships
4025 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104**

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INT: Today is March 29, 1996. I'm doing an interview for the Transcending Trauma project. I'm interviewing a non-survivor spouse. Can you introduce yourself?

HARRY: Yes. My name is Harry Hartz. I'm Ruth Kapp Hartz' husband, born here in Philadelphia on May the 11th of 1925. I'm seventy-one and we've been married thirty-seven years.

INT: Thank you. (Tape closes at this point) How long have you been married and who are you married to? (Question repeated due to mechanical problem with tape recorder and to check for sound)

HARRY: My wife is Ruth Kapp Hartz and we were married in 1959, so I guess that makes it...well, we just passed thirty-seven years. It was February 22nd.

INT: Can you tell me how many children you have, how old they are and a little bit about their background and where they reside?

HARRY: We have two children. Dione is the older. She's thirty-five, married, has two young children, living in Salt Lake City at this point. Jordan, her older son, is going to be seven and Sarai is just past two. Our son Eric is married going on four years now. He's thirty-two living in Atlanta, Georgia. No children at this time.

INT: Can you tell me about your education, occupation and employment history?

HARRY: Basically I went through the public school system of Philadelphia, then went on to the University of Pennsylvania. Started in '42 and completed two and a half years and then I went into the service from 1944 to 1946. I was in the navy and saw service in a cruiser in the North Atlantic. Went back to Penn in '46, graduated in 1948 as a chemical engineer. Left Penn and started my profession as a petroleum engineer here in Philadelphia. Went through several different positions and the most recent one was with ESB Inc., formerly known as the Electric Storage Battery Company and Rayovac with them, at which time I had gone to sales, marketing, a variety of different professions of that nature and eventually became a director of corporate planning at ESB. In 1982 I went into business for myself as a business consultant which is what I do today, specializing in mergers and acquisitions of technically orientated companies, usually having sales volumes from two million to maybe thirty million in size and working internationally, working nationally it's not internationally.

INT: How about your religious background? Are you affiliated with a synagogue or involved in any religious organizations?

HARRY: Well, the family has always been modestly religious. Like many Jews, I was raised as a Conservative in a small congregation in West Philadelphia where I grew up. I was bar mitzvah. I was not confirmed. And we were just occasionally observant. Shortly after I graduated, because of social involvement I joined Rodeph Shalom here in town, is a reformed congregation, and belong every since. That was long before I met Ruth and we just continued, so that more recently

we have been reformed. We do observe the major holidays. We do light Friday night candles and we do the minor things of that nature. Strangely enough, our daughter Dione is kosher, and she is conservative, she being the whole family. And is very observant, much more so than we ever brought her up to be so that's something that was of her own volition. Eric is...I'm not so sure what they practice. They both married in the faith but I don't think they're very observant, Eric and his wife.

INT: How do you understand your daughter's stronger Jewish identity?

HARRY: Well, it could be two things. One, a cousin of mine with whom I had a very close affiliation, she's much younger than I am but it's my mother's sister's daughter, developed a very strong relationship with Dione, and Marcie, that's the cousin, is religious. Secondly, I think the first time Dione dated someone seriously, this young man happened to be religious as well. So that may have rubbed off. But Dione herself is very strong willed and she would not have done anything she did not want to do voluntarily so maybe the thinking fell on fertile ground and she just decided to go that direction. She married a man who also came from a family that kept a modified kosher, let's put it that way, but he had some background in being kosher so there was more or less a...just a complementary feeling.

INT: Do you think perhaps once you have children and seek out belonging to a synagogue or religious education, do you think that's part of it?

HARRY: No, because first of all from out point of view, I was already affiliated with Rodeph Shalom and just continued. Dione started to keep kosher before she was married and so I assume it had nothing to do with it. She was that way already. (Laughs)

INT: How about any Holocaust related activities on your part?

HARRY: You mean currently?

INT: In the past or currently.

HARRY: Very little. You'll probably come to it. I have some recollection of the Holocaust on a contemporary basis. The Holocaust activities that I pursue now are in cooperation with Ruth and her book, and I've taken a very personal interest in promoting it. As I've said earlier, my business situation is such that it's very easy for me to divert my time and put some time into that. We've been fairly successful in promoting the book. At this point, I don't even go with her to her presentations anymore. She's been through so many of them and I've heard it so many times but the relationship is basically through the book and because of the book, perhaps, made more personal awareness of the Holocaust. I certainly have a deep interest in it, but as far as manifesting itself in terms of what I do actively, there's not too much there.

INT: Did any time you and your wife have any involvement in second generation organizations or anything related to survivor's organizations?

HARRY: Well, Ruth certainly has and she's become active in some and I've attended meetings with her in New York, and I guess once in Washington. I've encouraged her in that, but once

again do not always...where I can be useful as a spouse I will always go. Where it's a matter of going because of just involvement for involvement's sake, I may or I may not. I have so many other things that I enjoy doing that we just can't a hundred percent of our time together on that, and so my exposure has been through what she's doing and my interests...I have an interest in history anyway so that kind of ties together somewhat.

INT: Can you tell me about your family background, your parents, what kind of business, lifestyle and economic status your family life was like?

HARRY: Well, starting way back, not way back but a couple of generations ago, all four of my grandparents came from Budapest, Hungary, although my grandparents did not meet until they came to this country. They thought it was coincidental and I think it's because at that time immigrants really stayed together by ethnic groupings. So they met, and I guess my parents met in somewhat the same way. My mother is native born. My father came over when he was six years old, that would have been about 1894, so that he was an immigrant along with the rest of his siblings. I come from a very modest background. My mother did not finish high school, but she was a very competent secretary in a fairly large firm ultimately. My father, I guess, did graduate with a degree in accounting from Temple University, which he took at night but he never pursued that and actually he was a salesman of costume jewelry, wholesale, for at one time a large jewelry firm here in the city, S. Kind and Sons. It no longer exists. Once again, Ruth calls me a depression baby. We pulled things together. We lived very modestly in West Philadelphia. I didn't feel that I was deprived or suffered. I'm an only child. They tell me I'm not spoiled but...at any rate we lived decently on a very meager salary. Going through school would have been difficult. I did get a scholarship, which I lost when I went to the service. Penn didn't honor them, surprisingly enough, but I was on the G.I. Bill when I got back so economically my college career wasn't too difficult. I don't know what more I can add to that.

INT: How about your parents' education?

HARRY: Well, as I say, my mother I'm quite sure did not graduate high school, although...and I'll add to that that she went on, she was a Sunday school teacher among other things, in spite of that.

INT: Was she a stay-home mother or homemaker?

HARRY: Oh, yes. Once married she did not work. It was more or less the rule at that time.

INT: Your father pursued this accounting degree but he chose another career?

HARRY: No, he did not. He had nothing to do with accounting. He was strictly a salesman and as I say, for S. Kind and Sons. He was home every night because his territory was in the Philadelphia area. During the summer he also serves the gift shops down the shore. All along the Jersey Coast, from Atlantic City to Cape May, and so we would go down the shore in the summer. He would make Wildwood his headquarters because that was...it was more important to cover that territory, so that worked out very nicely for us. My parents both come from large

families, if that's of interest to you. My mother, I guess, had five or six brothers and sisters. My father had at least four of them.

INT: Did their families come over at the same time, at any time together?

HARRY: Well, that's interesting. On my father's side, his father, my grandfather, came over first with his oldest daughter and established themselves here in Philadelphia through other relationships, and then he brought his wife, my grandmother, over with the other children. So my father at age six came over the second step in bringing the family together. Unfortunately, I don't know that much about on my mother's side of the family. I don't really know...I have a hunch my grandparents were born here, my mother's parents, but it's a shame I've lost it and one day I will get into it, but I don't know now.

INT: Can you talk about the religious life at home, celebration of holidays and with extended family?

HARRY: We observed Chanukah, Yom Kippur, Passover and so forth, and we would usually get together for these holidays. Now my father's father, my grandfather, was quite religious so as a young child I have strong memories of Seders which were very long and very detailed and quite orthodox. On my mother's side I do not recall a lot of religious background. It wasn't avoided but it just wasn't practiced, so my religious recollections are basically from my father's side.

INT: Could you describe yourself and your parents? Some adjectives to describe personality traits?

HARRY: Of my parents?

INT: Uh-huh, and yourself.

HARRY: Easier for my parents. The whole family itself is...my mother is a very strong person and I think Ruth would say a real lady. I fill up when I think about it. She was the one who was the guiding light and her other siblings usually came to her for advice. I had a very close relationship with her. She probably was the dominant factor in the family, my mother rather than my father, where when it came to either conferences or advice or something else, I think my father by his nature was a little more withdrawn. I don't mean he's a withdrawn person, don't get me wrong, but of the two of them I guess I was more influenced by my mother than my father.

INT: Was he more passive?

HARRY: Yes, I would say he was more passive. They got along extremely well because I think if they were both strong there would have been a problem. As it was I felt that our family life was very much on an even keel ninety-nine percent of the time. I don't recall any serious conflicts. As far as myself is concerned, they tell me I'm very strong, that I like to be in control. I guess that's true. They tell me I inherited that from my mother. I guess other comments more

easily obtained by Ruth rather than from me, but I tend to be laid back. I think the children in particular tell me that.

INT: Are you the more relaxed one?

HARRY: Of the two? Well, I guess on rare occasions I lose my temper. Very rarely, but it's happened. I can get upset, maybe more so now than ten years ago, but I mean by and large, in fact Eric is the one who used to tell me this, I never lost my cool. Anyway, that's kind of the way I think they see me.

INT: In terms of your parents, how did they resolve conflicts or make decisions? Any perspective of how they expressed emotion?

HARRY: Okay. It wasn't a real emotional family. Certainly with my father, he co-existed and that was fine. As far as constant or deep expressions of love, I didn't feel deprived but it just wasn't voiced or demonstrated. Maybe a little bit more with my mother, but then again, it wasn't like it was an emotional, demonstrative family and I say that without wanting to leave the impression that it was cold or that I felt rejected or anything. That certainly was not the case. I don't know what else to add on that.

INT: So in terms of affection or emotional expression, did you see a range of emotions of sadness and happiness?

HARRY: Are you speaking about my parents or of me at this point?

INT: In your parents?

HARRY: In my parents? They argued very little. I don't recall fights. Again, when it came to decision making, I think my mother took the lead in those things. I remember we lived in West Philadelphia for a long time, for twenty-eight, thirty years, and it was my mother who finally got us to move because the neighborhood was changing. It was just for the better, but it was my mother's initiative, for instance, that did that. And as far as other emotional aspects of their relationship, I have no deep remembrances of them.

INT: How about when it came to discipline? Who was the disciplinarian or was one parent stricter than the other?

HARRY: I guess, again, it was my mother who controlled that but there were never major discipline problems either.

INT: You were a good kid?

HARRY: We did not have a problem. I studied a lot, prided myself in school. It was that type of thing. I had a few friends but I wasn't outgoing. It's very interesting. I would say that up and through college I was more of a loner than I was a gregarious joiner of anything. I guess after

college and I got into a different social circle, I guess I began to come out and I feel I'm much more a social person now than I was at that time.

INT: Do you think that has anything to do with being an only child, being perhaps around adults or alone more so?

HARRY: I don't know how I would judge that. I just have no idea. Having been only an only child, I have no comparison to make. I was obviously in adult company more often than not, so I was comfortable with that, but I'm not so sure being an only child, I think it's just the temperament I was born with. The fact that I became an engineer. I was oriented towards chemistry, I was oriented towards math, nature studies and what have you. I was absorbed in those things. Maybe they just came first in order of importance.

INT: Do you have recollections of occasions and celebrations with grandparents, other relatives? How involved were you with friendships and special relationships with relatives?

HARRY: More so on my mother's side. We saw more of her siblings and her parents. We got together every Sunday for dinner, and when I was young, most Mondays as well. I established one close relationship with...one closer relationship with one of her sisters who is almost like a second mother to me. What is she? Maybe six or seven years younger than my mother was, and I would say I had a special relationship with her. But otherwise it was just a calm, ongoing family relationship.

INT: How did your family handle hardships and difficulties such as death, financial worries? Observations about how your family coped.

HARRY: Well, we had financial worries and I can remember my mother reconciling the change in her purse every day versus what she could spend, and I was, even as a young child, I was aware of it. I don't think I was ever afraid of starving (laughs), but I was aware that money was tight and once again, mother kept, when I say kept the books, not detailed books, but kept the records of what was going on, and by and large I don't see it as having reached acute proportions at any time. For a long time there were no deaths in the family. My mother's father, my grandfather, died in our house. His final illness. He had been in a home and didn't like it. We brought him home and he was...his terminal illness ended in our home. And that did have an affect on me. That was before I went to the service and that must have been in '42 perhaps and it was quite a distraction as far as my studies were concerned. I was always a good student, but I nearly flunked one course in college at that time. I had a very understanding professor, which was very helpful. So that was the one time that there was any real impact.

INT: Was it a sad time for you?

HARRY: Well, it was a difficult time because here was my grandfather who was suffering terminal cancer and he was in...we lived in a small row house which meant that we were in close proximity to each other. We had three bedrooms. My parents, myself and the extra bedroom where my grandfather was and it wasn't drastic but it was depressing and a little difficult. That's the one death that really stays with me. Of course I remember grandparents having died but it

was a short period of mourning, but I mean life went on. So there was nothing traumatic about it or overly traumatic.

INT: You didn't notice anything in terms of how your parents were affected by those hardships?

HARRY: No, there was immediate sadness but no overly emotional reactions that I recall at all.

INT: When it came to your parents' expectations or goals for you, career, education, how was that communicated to you?

HARRY: I don't think it was ever communicated in so many words. But it was interesting. I guess it was just taken for granted that I would go to college. It was almost taken for granted that I would go to Penn, assuming that I would get in, because I did get a Mayor's scholarship. I automatically went in. We didn't visit colleges. We didn't...it was...life kind of went in that direction and that's what happened. I don't think I ever...they never pressed me as far as becoming a doctor or this or that. Two of my father's brothers were doctors, and I considered it for quite some time, but went into engineering instead. I don't remember getting specific guidance from my parents, except encouragement to do what I wanted to do (laughs). My life sounds very placid. It followed a path and there was not a lot of conscious choices. I mean, this is what I was going to do and this is what I did. That's the way it kind of worked out.

INT: You think fairly predictable, stable, and secure.

HARRY: Yes. Very much so. I would say very stable. I was never emotionally distraught about anything or had to be. Maybe I was just insensitive to all these things. (Laughter)

INT: I doubt that. Could you describe a type of philosophy or values that you grew up with? For example, that some families, suffering is conveyed as an important part of life, or anything like that that you remember?

HARRY: Not really. I think my development was based more on exposure and emulation, if you will, rather than formal lecturing, if you want to put it that way. My mother, my parents, were very moral people. There was never any cursing at home. To this day, as a matter of fact, I told you, Dione's son, Jordan, swore at seven. I forget what word he used. It's immaterial. But I remember she said to him, no one curses in this house and that's the way it is. But I mean, that's the way I was brought up and that's the way I brought them up. I love to tell jokes. I think I have a very good sense of humor. I do not tell dirty jokes. It doesn't make me a prude, but I mean, it's not in my nature to do that, and I think that's part of my upbringing. My son Eric kids me about being very formal. I don't think so, but that's coming from my son. Mother would not put...if we had orange juice in the can, it would not go on the table. It would go into a pitcher before it went to the table. And Ruth, in fact, comments on that. She would say today, your mother would never do that type of thing. So I think all of it is by example rather than by preaching.

INT: Any memories you care to share? Earliest, happiest, saddest? Meaningful memories of your childhood.

HARRY: I guess I had such a stable childhood, frankly, oh, I guess I could stretch for something or another, but, I mean, if I were to think back what was the high point...I've often thought about that type of thing and I don't have strong memories of that type of thing. I remember many, many situations, and I remember when I hit something happy or sad, but nothing of great note, frankly.

INT: Any experiences of anti-Semitism growing up?

HARRY: Oh, yes. Yes. As a kid, we lived in a mixed neighborhood. As a matter of fact, it was interesting. Our side of the street was predominant Jewish and the other side of the street was predominantly non-Jewish. Very conscious of being Jewish and...I wasn't beaten up periodically. It happened once or twice. I was called lots of names on the street from time to time. I don't think anything that ever had an impact on me. I was very unhappy at the time but I mean, I had some deep impact. As I grew older I had several experiences in the service. I felt at Penn at that time that Jews were very much held down. There were certain societies you couldn't join and there were certain sporting groups you couldn't join and so forth, but you more or less took for granted.

INT: Was it talked about? Pretty overt or was it covert?

HARRY: It was covert. It was covert in that The Kite and Key and the Sphinx and the others and The Mask and Wig just didn't have Jews. But there were Jewish fraternities, so you could do that. And at that time...and I think there was even a quota. (End of tape 1, side 1) We were talking about experiences of, you know, anti-Semitic experiences. When I came back from the service I was debating whether to go into...to continue with engineering or possibly go into med school. Engineers, by the way, Jewish engineers were, that was supposed to be a problem as well. And I remember the dean, I asked him about it. I actually asked the dean if I continue with engineering, is being Jewish going to be a problem. And his very strange answer was, Mr. Hartz, if you didn't tell anybody, nobody would know the difference, meaning I should go forward. I told him I couldn't play a masquerade all my life. I remember this conversation very clearly, and decided to continue engineering anyway. But that was one experience. There was another where I developed a fairly close relationship with another fellow in the service, and overnight he shunned me. And I think he found out that I went to Friday night services or something. I got the feeling that he suddenly found out I was Jewish and therefore I could no longer be his friend. These are more or less passive indications rather than active situations, but they impacted obviously. But by and large, there were not constant beatings which some kids suffered, depending upon where they were. That wasn't my experience.

INT: Was there a small percentage of Jews in the military service at that time? Is that where you felt very much a minority?

HARRY: Well, I felt very much a minority because, well, I was able to identify two or three other Jews who were with me, particularly in the navy. I think there may have been even fewer in the navy than in the army. By the same token, it didn't affect me in terms of my relationships going outward, because I had always been in mixed company, and so occasionally, like this friendship that I told you about. Okay, so I went on to something else. It was that type of thing. I

would hear anti-Jewish remarks from time to time, not always directed at me. In fact, very frequently I'm exposed to it, because since I don't look, quote, look particularly Jewish, people are apt to make remarks in my presence, not realizing and especially in my professional experience. I try to circumvent that by in some fashion letting people know I'm Jewish in a subtle way before an embarrassing situation may arise. So that's the way I cope with that, and hopefully avoid any embarrassment.

INT: So it's happened in a professional context?

HARRY: Oh, yeah.

INT: You can mingle with other professionals and you're not visibly Jewish?

HARRY: I think throughout my professional career, I've always been a very small minority, and in fact when I was with a large corporation where I spent sixteen years ago just prior to becoming independent, I was perhaps the only one or two Jews in the top corporate level and perhaps I never became a vice-president because of that. And this goes back only ten or fifteen years. I was as high as anybody around me who was Jewish, but there were very few people around me who were Jewish. In my professional experience, I've always been a minority. Socially, and even more recently, basically our friends were all Jewish but because of Ruth's contacts, and particular as a teacher before she became this involved in the Holocaust, she became exposed to other people and we had a number of other friends who were non-Jewish, which pleases me, just because I think there should be that diversity.

INT: What did you know or understand about what was happening during the war?

HARRY: About the Holocaust?

INT: Right. What was life like in the United States in the thirties and the early forties before you went into the service?

HARRY: Well, keep in mind; being born in 1925, 1940 I was fifteen year old. And I think back on this occasion, and one of the things that surprises me is that not only speaking of myself but of my contemporaries, I don't think we were as politically attuned to what's going on. We didn't read the paper in detail and we lived our own lives without being that exposed, so there weren't strong feelings. Certainly there were strong feelings about the war, and we had rationing and we knew that this couldn't happen and we went on paper drives as boy scouts and these other...there was that type of involvement. Even in terms of concentration camps and what was going on. I think maybe it was in 1941, I can remember a good friend of the families coming into our house and being absolutely incensed over some of the reports that he had. Now this is a very singular incident about 1940 to '41. I can actually...I just absolutely remember the conversation. They were force-feeding castor oil to these prisoners and deportees and this guy was so enraged. But the awareness of what we now call the Holocaust was not something that was pervading and just came to mind on a daily basis. We were only somewhat aware of it. I remember at that time I used to read Life magazine and there was also Look magazine from cover to cover, and the reportage was, of course, very detailed. And for some reason then, and certainly now, I'm very much interested in the military and the strategy of war. So I guess...and weaponry. Interestingly,

and these magazines, of course, were staying very much current with all that. So that's where the war impacted. Also with regard...I was an air raid warden. I volunteered for that. I remember ration stamps. I don't recall that we suffered particularly. Mother, my mother, meted this out in such a way that it worked. But I remember gasoline. That was restricted in terms of how you used the car. I remember sugar. I remember meat. So that aspect of the war certainly impacted.

INT: Your parents had lived through the Depression?

HARRY: Yes.

INT: So this probably wasn't new to them.

HARRY: Well, that's right. They just kind of went on with it in that fashion. It's interesting. You were asking for certain remembrances. I remember September the 1st, 1939, which is the day war was declared. And for some reason I was in my room in the morning and at that time they still had paperboys. And I can hear the paperboy coming down the street hawking his paper, saying war was declared. This was September 1st, 1939. That was...well, obviously it has to be the earliest recollection because that's when the war happened. But getting back to the other, life was somewhat more modified to tolerate what the ration was, but as children, we were just not all that caught up with causes or cause and effect and what have you. That's the way it was.

INT: It's been represented in several documentaries about America's role in the war, stories about Roosevelt and certainly events like *The Voyage of the Damned*. There were certainly a number of incidents that suggest a kind of conspiracy of silence that survivors experienced coming to the United States after the war.

HARRY: Well, I've read considerably about that, basically because of Ruth and her experiences that time. Whether it was a conspiracy of silence or whether it was just unawareness. I don't recall other than that one incident that I just recited tremendous emotional upheavals with regard to what was going on, only because I don't think we knew what was going on at that time. Things like *The Voyage of the Damned*. Well, let me see, when was the *St. Louis*?

INT: I should remember because I read the book and I interviewed a child survivor on that boat. It was a very fascinating interview. It perhaps was around '40 to '41.

HARRY: I would say '41-'42. I have no recollection of it as a contemporary experience. Nothing like that.

INT: So I guess you don't recall talking to other relatives about the war?

HARRY: Oh, yeah.

INT: Or radio, newspaper?

HARRY: Oh, certainly. Certainly. I...recollections come back. I know exactly where I was on December the 7th, 1941. I was in Atlantic City visiting my aunt and I was driving back with my parents at about four in the afternoon. [Name of reporter] came on and indicated that Pearl

Harbor had been bombed. It's a very distinct recollection. I had another recollection is when Colin Kelly was one of the first...you may not know who he was. We talked about the Japanese kamikaze pilots. Well, he was really one of the first. He became a hero because he dove his plane into a Japanese battleship and blew it up within a week or so after Pearl Harbor. So I remember this announcement about Colin Kelly, what he had done. We obviously, once the war was declared, we followed it and knew what was happening.

INT: How about after the war?

HARRY: Well, by then we were...I was more mature and of course, during the war, I was in the service over two years but about one year of that I was here in training in the navy in electronics. And so we would devour the newspapers at that time as well.

INT: How'd you come to go into the military services?

HARRY: Well, that's interesting, because first I was deferred as an engineer and then as the war went on and more and more people were going, I was not unique in a number of us in the class who decided enough is enough, and we volunteered. Actually, I volunteered by going to the draft board and telling them I was ready to go, that I didn't want my deferment any longer. And I did ask that I wanted to go in the navy and it worked out that way. The interesting part of that is that when I was at Penn, I was in the army ROTC and because so many of the boys had gone, I very quickly rose to become second in command of the army ROTC but I decided when I went into the service I didn't want to be part of that, and so I got myself into the navy. As I said, I later served on a light cruiser in the North Atlantic and that was my service.

INT: Can we talk about your life after the service and how you met Ruth and what were some of these years like?

HARRY: Well, I came out of the service and...I came out in June and then spent the summer reacclimating myself and went back to school in September and started my junior year over again, so I had two years which I completed.

INT: What year was this?

HARRY: Well, that was in '46. I served from '44 to '46. Actually, I went into the service on Memorial Day, May 30th. I got out on Flag Day, June 14th and there was a two-year period in between. Things were much more serious in college at that time. There was a very large percentage of people going through college that were veterans, like myself, so you took it seriously and I got out of college and I say started with Atlantic Richfield as a petroleum engineer. I went on. I had the G.I. Bill so I went for the Masters degree at the Wharton School. I took advantage of continuing education. Following that, I got into a different social group and this now goes back to '48 to '50, and these are the people who are my friends today, rather than the people from before the war or my childhood. Because of my family ties, I never left the city. Professionally, I was never, I never had to. I went through several job changes but they were all local. In 1957...I had taken different vacations and decided I wanted to go to Europe and one of the fellows I knew said, well, can I go with you. I was really going to go by myself so he asked and I said, that's fine. We got along very well. And so we organized our own trip. London, Paris,

Venice, Florence, Rome in seventeen days. (Laughter) I had met an English, a young English lady who was over here visiting someone else and dated her a couple of times and when we went over, she hosted us and took us around London and what have you and then as we left, she said, I have a friend in Paris, and so if you're going to Paris maybe you want to give this girl a call. And so we went to Paris and we were going to be in Paris three days, and on the last day I mentioned that I had a business connection. I had to cancel a dinner that we were going to have, and so I decided I would call Josette, whose name I was given. And I called her and she was free, and I asked her if she could find someone for my friend and we would go out as a foursome. And Ruth's story and mine never quite coincide but at any rate, after considerable coaxing, she decided that she would at least spend a little time and so she did come along, and in the course of the evening the attraction was such that Ruth and I decided that we were going to switch partners.

INT: She was reluctant to join?

HARRY: Well, she was reluctant originally but she didn't leave, okay. And I think you got this feeling about my being in uniform, because the way she tells the story is that if we had had these Hawaiian shirts and cameras on our belly and what have you they weren't going to go with us, but we were dressed decently and so we were lucky. It wasn't a uniform it was...however we dressed. Anyway- (pauses)

INT: You were two obviously good-looking guys.

HARRY: Average, anyway. So that's what happened, and then we actually left Paris the next day. And I got home and I started a correspondence with this French girl and one thing led to another. We were writing. She passed her exams at the Sorbonne on the first try, so her parents let her go visit an uncle in New York. I went up to see her again and again and again, and it turned out she never went home, which probably, of course, coincides, or hopefully corresponds with what she told you.

INT: It sounds like she was afraid to go home because her parents wouldn't let her return to the United States?

HARRY: That certainly is part of it. Absolutely. And frankly, I never met her parents until they come over for the wedding, because we picked the girls up as Josette's home and they were asleep by the time we got back and when I dropped Ruth off, so that was a very traumatic time for Ruth and for her parents as well. We used to get tearstained letters. That was tough.

INT: She was an only child?

HARRY: She was an only child. Yes. She had...there were a couple of siblings who died, but she was the only surviving child. But that was the story. They met me as they came down off the boat.

INT: So was it love at first sight? What was it that attracted you to this young French woman?

HARRY: I guess a young French woman. (Laughter) Whether it was deep love at first sight, I don't think it was that, but I suppose exposure and one thing led to another. That's the way that happened.

INT: You were persistent, as she said, and pursued her?

HARRY: I'm sure that was the case. Certainly.

INT: How come you ended up marrying a child of survivors? Did her background influence you in any way?

HARRY: I didn't know about her background until years later. It never came up. I think that...well, that's not quite true. It may have come up in some superficial way, but there is no way that her background, let's say in the first five years of marriage or whatever, played any part in our lives. She never talked about it. There were maybe occasional references in some, like in passing, but it wasn't an overpowering thing. To the best of my knowledge it did not have an impact on her or her emotions or anything else. It came out over a period of time. Not that I drew her out, because frankly, I didn't know. And so the early part of our married life was Holocaust free, if you want to put it that way. And it's only more recently that she's become more and more involved as the exposure and with all her personal exposure to what she's doing so that there was no influence, positive or negative or whatever with regard to our relationship or either why we were married or what happened after we were married that I can really say is Holocaust related. In retrospect, whether some of her experiences made her more sensitive in certain areas, more emotional in certain areas, I don't know. To me, anything that I've observed with her could just as well have happened coming from somebody who did not have a Holocaust experience.

INT: So how did you view her parents, if not Holocaust survivors, as immigrants? You must have seen differences in their background since they were German, went to Israel and France?

HARRY: Oh, sure. But keep in mind that first of all, they didn't immigrate. They lived in Paris. We didn't see them that often. The early part of our marriage, I'm not so sure we even saw them during the first year. We went over after we were married a year but I don't think we even saw them during our first year. They were...the whole situation has been very interesting for me. A whole new culture. It's been a learning experience all the way along. I decided to learn French, which I did from Ruth, and my exposure to her parents. It was interesting. It was a challenge. It was all good things of that nature. Then again, I didn't have to cope with in-laws on a weekly basis. You know, the situation is quite different, but no major impact. As a matter of fact, we got along very well. Again, perhaps because we weren't thrown together that closely.

INT: Could you describe for me your impressions as them as people? It sounds like from your wife's interview, at times her father was an angry man, had a problem with his temper but also very loving and her mother far more of a worrier and at times quite depressed and sad about her life and experiences.

HARRY: Well, I would agree with everything you said up until the point where you said her mother was sad and depressed. I'm not saying that she wasn't, but I wasn't exposed to it. Her father certainly had a temper. It was never directed at me, but I was there when situations

occurred. They would squabble, but not in any serious fashion. I mean, more so than my parents who never squabbled, but I mean they didn't get into big shouting matches but sometimes over minor things. I sometimes really think that Ruth's mother goaded her husband somewhat. Papa had simple tastes. He was raised, and this is not derogatory, he was raised as a peasant. He was a very good person. Whenever they came here, our friends loved them. They were great people to be with. There was a communication problem. Most of our friends didn't speak French, or very haltingly, but they all got along and coming over was always a real positive experience for us. And they would come two, three weeks at a time, whenever they came. To the extent that whenever our friends were overseas they would always call, if not visit. It was that type of thing. That kind of describes the situation. Now I'm going to excuse myself for a minute. (Tape shuts off at this point) A couple of thoughts occurred to me along those lines. One, you among many people, are very positive about Ruth's presentation. You wouldn't believe how shy she was when we were first married. She couldn't face new people. I mean, I remember once she went to see my aunt with a box of chocolates. She handed her the chocolates and had to kind of walk out of the room. Couldn't cope with the thank you. It was a long time before she really opened up and relaxed.

INT: So would you say that the shyness or reticence on her part or does some of her background influenced her?

HARRY: Who's to say? I wouldn't judge that, except that she was a very shy person. If anyone at that time had told me that she would get up and address groups time after time, there's just no way, and I'm sure that in the interview, the other thought, and I asked Ruth whether I should even discuss it frankly, is that there was a time when we were married five or six years when she went through a depressed period. That's probably in there.

INT: She shared that with the interview.

HARRY: And she required a [hospitalization] (pause).

INT: A difficult time for her, for everyone, with the children.

HARRY: Well that, and there was a period when she desperately wanted to go back, and she was trying to find out if there were job opportunities for me, and at one time she even said, I have to go back for a year and try it. And I decided to take a stand. I said, if you go back, I won't be here. And so she decided not to go back. It was a calculated risk, but I mean, she wanted to go back without me, and I think that was the point.

INT: What were some of your feelings about leaving the States? What did you understand as your wife's depression and anxiety?

HARRY: About her wanting to go back? Well, I attributed it more to cultural differences, and there are differences. And whether after five or six years you would think should that occur. But the cultural differences, perhaps, with whatever the emotional problem was. I'm not real sure if it's Holocaust related. I mean, maybe it was. Maybe it's latent or what have you but it...for a while, I'll tell you. During that period it was depressing for a lot of people. There was Martin Luther King, there was Jack Kennedy who was shot, and the drug problem was coming out.

There were many, many negatives about the United States and I think some of it...I remember her mentioning some of those. It was a depressing period, and if you tended to be depressed it became more acute. That may be an oversimplification on my part, but I don't think there's anyone who could say that it was because of this or this or this, or whether it was her experience, her background, her emotional constitution. Who's to separate one from the other? I just don't know. At that time, the Holocaust experience was still latent in terms of being discussed. It wasn't something that was on the table. It wasn't something that was bugging her all the time and so forth. So what was behind that I don't know. The only thing I do know is that she did require a lot of support to the extent that I really had never told her, but it was extremely difficult for me. It was very depressing. But there were times when I said to her, you know, you might need some professional help. She wouldn't have any part of it and I didn't insist and I was more than glad that we could get through it without that, which, of course, we have.

INT: How do you think you coped with her health problems and having children? Did you find yourself taking more responsibility?

HARRY: You mean at that period?

INT: Uh-huh.

HARRY: No. I don't think we changed roles at all. I think we tried, I tried, to keep life going the way it was, but with more understanding. As a matter of fact, I think I almost one day just flip-flopped and said; I just have to pay more attention. Maybe I'm not loving enough or demonstrative. I'm not a demonstrative...well, I am more so now but I was not a demonstrative person, and I think that I really stepped back and took a look at it. And I think maybe that helped. And I know that today there's a lot of touching and demonstration that didn't exist before. And I think that was a very conscious decision on my part to do that. Being aware of that problem. As far as how it helped the children, there was a period when she would lose her temper and anger, or whatever it was and maybe not have as much patience with the children. Not that she was ever a voracious mother, but I mean everything is relevant. And it went away. But there were times she'd break out in a sweat and I would have to hold her and she'd quiver and everything that goes with it. But that too passed.

INT: She didn't particularly share whether she had flashbacks or memories?

HARRY: I've never heard her say that. Never heard her say that. We've discussed memories, but that's more so since the book got started. Not when it was published, but you now, the number of four, five years of preparation and struggling to get it through and writing with Stacy and everything that went with it, and so more and more came out. But it came out more as a narrative form rather than emotional. I didn't detect that she was going to pieces over it or having bad dreams. I don't really think that was the case. I don't know how that checks with what she had to say.

INT: I think what makes the book so powerful is both the narrative storytelling of experiences but the emotional impact of not only of her childhood perspective but what happened to her. And

her feelings about family members. So it's those two qualities together that make the book so compelling.

HARRY: Yes. I understand.

INT: So perhaps that was a very valuable process for her, that allowed more openness and in accessing experiences and emotions for her.

HARRY: Yes. It was like a catharsis, except that it came late. It isn't like it's happened in the first five years and that was the salvation of her emotional problems, something like that. That's not the case, because this, maybe seven years we're talking about, in the late eighties. We'd already been married twenty plus years and the other problems, the way I could see it, are basically gone.

INT: In terms of your family life, observations on how you make decisions, solve problems and how you handle the nature of family difficulties.

HARRY: Between us.

(END TAPE ONE, SIDE TWO)

(TAPE TWO)

HARRY: If you think of marriage as going from ten or twenty years ago where the male and female roles, I would say it's a more traditional marriage. Ruth can get her way. Sometimes it's just with patience and persistence. She'll plant the seed. She knows if it's something way out, you don't say let's do it, so she's apt to start me on something and what have you, and whether I eventually give in just out of weakness or because I see the light I don't know, but in most things...First of all, let's see. Socially. Travel wise, planning, what have you, running the house, everything else, that's strictly it. When it comes to [the home].

INT: That's her job, you mean?

HARRY: Yes. I mean, I guess we're pretty traditional along those lines. I don't do the dishes. I will help. But there are times when she's going out I clean up. I don't make it a male-female role type of situation but we each have our roles, which we've accepted.

INT: You're not a help to her in the kitchen?

HARRY: No. Not at all. I like to cook. (Laughter)

INT: You changed diapers?

HARRY: Yes, I changed diapers. I took care of the kids one whole day. (Laughter) No. And I'll do any of that. I don't stand on ceremony, but she doesn't take out the trash. (Laughter) When it comes to financial decisions and so forth, we talk about it and she likes to be very much on top of it, but I think I normally prevail. Not that we have major disagreements on it, but that's...I

think she just defers to my judgment. In raising the kids there was an interesting situation when Dione, our first born, was a year and a half, two years old. Ruth one day said to me, you know, you're spoiling it for me. No matter what I do you have something else to say about it. I'd like to say that I'm smart enough that I backed off. I didn't realize it and I let her be a mother.

INT: Did she mean you were being critical?

HARRY: Critical or involved, becoming more involved to the extent that she was being pushed at me or pushed out of it or she didn't have her own way, and I can just remember that I backed off. But, once again, very vivid memory of that. However, for instance, we lived in a home which we built. It's a second home that we owned. The first room was a development home and it was Ruth's idea that we should move and she took it on herself to visit some builders and what have you, and then she came to me and said, I think I have something you'll like. So it wasn't like, hey, let's do it and I'll say yes or no, but she handled it very well and she did the right thing and I went along with it. So she's had some major influence too in terms of the direction we've gone. But I think the kids would say that it's a father-orientated family.

INT: How do you manage conflict and resolve differences? Is it okay to be angry?

HARRY: We've raised our voices from time to time. Yes, that happened to us. I told you once, occasionally I could lose my temper and on one or two occasions I just walked out of the house to walk around for about twenty minutes until I calmed down and turned back. But we don't have screaming matches. I'm just trying to think. There's not a lot of conflict, but I've also noticed and I've paid special attention to it, that over a period of time...I guess we both go through our emotional cycles, and when they don't correspond it makes it a little more difficult. But one is certainly not a, just a placid partner or the other way around.

INT: Do you see any relationship to what your wife described in her family background, what she saw between her parents and how she wanted her married life to be different?

HARRY: I don't think we ever discussed that formally. As a matter of fact, it's interesting. From my observation of her parents, while her mother used to goad her father, I would not have said that they didn't get along. But then again, maybe it was different whenever I was present. There's a difference. The two certainly had different personalities and her mother has certainly changed since her father died, and I'm not talking about her mental degeneration which we're having a little problem with right now. But as a person she's quite different.

INT: Could you add anything in terms of affection toward your children, emotional expressions and feelings?

HARRY: How I react?

INT: How that was different for both of you in caring for your children and in your styles of expression?

HARRY: Between the two of us?

INT: In terms of being affectionate or more demonstrative.

HARRY: I guess Ruth is a little more demonstrative, although I have...I went out of my way to, when I say show physical feelings, to demonstrate love when they were younger. I repeat, I'm not normally a demonstrative person but I don't think the children ever had any doubt about how I felt. I still...Eric and I still exchange cheek kisses when we see each other. It was very interesting. He was maybe twelve and he said, gee, I don't like to kiss you, Dad. And by coincidence there was an article in the paper about this old world thing, which I just happened to like, but it's not done here and I showed him. And he said it would be okay. And so when we see each other we still embrace. That's the way you would see...anyway...

INT: It seems so French?

HARRY: Yeah, well that's...and I'll tell you, I don't mind picking up on what I like out of the other cultures. As a matter of fact, made a very special effort to raise the family in a tri-cultural atmosphere. We have a lot of things French around the house. I collected French books. I collected French records. Not for Ruth, but because I was interested as well. We've raised the children to speak French and I had just felt that it was a very broadening opportunity that we should take advantage of. And that was one of the things.

INT: Are you aware of having fears or worries for your children because of how safe the world was to you? Are there differences in terms of parenting and child rearing, attitudes, values?

HARRY: Well, Ruth worries, and worries a lot more about them than I, and I think she's had trouble letting go. But they're out of the house and, you know, they're their own thing right now. They are self sufficient. They're both doing well with their families. They know we're their safety net, but I don't believe in lavishing gifts on them. If they had a problem, that's when...that I...and we do nice things for them, but I don't believe in, I'll just use the word lavishing, gifts and money on them and we don't do that. I don't worry about them. I think in terms of worrying about the world, the way I refer to that is that I'm glad I'm not in any position. I'm very satisfied to be my age and to have my career and years essentially behind me and be able to do what I'm doing rather than having to fight the corporate battles that I went through during my years going up the ladder. So I think the world is not as good a place today as when I went through it, and I sometimes give thought to Jordan, who is seven and what's the world going to be like twenty years from now when he's twenty-seven. But, no, I don't like the world the way it is, but I don't live with a constant fear for me or for the children. I don't know if I'm answering these.

INT: Do you think, perhaps, your wife is more suspicious and distrustful of the world related to her war experiences?

HARRY: I would say she's more distrustful and what have you, but once again, whether it's related to her experiences, I don't know. With regard to what her background was and how it might have impacted on her later life and our married life together, very difficult is to distinguish one from the other. Someone who is naturally high strung could be reacting worse than she might without having had that prior experience, so our relationship has not been particularly unusual, in other words, I think we've had a good relationship. It's had some ups and downs, but

I don't think that...it was probably more tranquil and steady than a lot of the marriages you read about, so whether she's...not hiding but repressing it or whatever it is, I have no idea. There's no way for more to judge that. I think the alternate comment would be that there has been no big traumatic problem that you could point to and say, this could possibly be the result of her early experience. That is not something that is present.

INT: How about positive qualities regarding her ability to cope with hardships and difficulties? How has her background enriched your family?

HARRY: Well, that part's easy. The background and the enrichment has to do with the fact that she comes from a French culture, and together we went out of our way to raise a bi-cultural family. We have a lot of artifacts around the house, which reflect French influence. We've raised our children to be bilingual and they both are, and we have gone back often in ways in which we might not otherwise have gone back had she not had the connections and the cultural background related to France. So that has been very positive. From a negative point of view, once again, I think we've been rather lucky. Once again, it's not that our life has been absolutely one hundred percent, and I'm talking not about our relationship but just in general. We often think that we've been very fortunate in that we haven't between us had...not between us, that we had not had together traumatic experiences. Our children grew up without being in bad company or being drug related. We were spared all of that. What brought that about I don't know. Luck certainly to a certain extent but we've had a fairly stable life together.

INT: How would you describe successes or failures in your life, looking back?

HARRY: Individually or together?

INT: Both.

HARRY: Referring to Ruth first, I think that she has grown considerable emotionally and culturally over the period of time that we've been married. When we were first married I would say that she was quite shy and could not always cope with strangers, particularly if there were a lot at once. This has been overcome to the extent that she's very comfortable speaking professionally, whether it is to an adult group or to children. She's extremely well received. I'm very pleased with the accolades that she gets from the presentations she has made, so that has been a very positive thing over the years. As far as our success together is concerned, we're living comfortably, achieved not everything we wanted ever but we do the things we want to do by and large. We're not too restricted, but then again we don't try to live high. We live within our income, but that keeps us comfortable.

INT: Would you describe yourself as an optimistic or a pessimistic person?

HARRY: Well, I would say that I tend to be optimistic. Ruth would say that I'm an internal optimist, but that's only because I sometimes take a stand with her in an exaggerated fashion. I would say conversely, Ruth is pessimistic. She can get down on certain subjects, perhaps to a point that I feel is exaggerated or goes beyond what is necessary, and then sometimes we have to

really talk that out. It's not a point of conflict, it's a point of having a different point of view, but we are at opposite sides of the scale in that.

INT: Any way to account for the differences in views of life?

HARRY: That's tough, too, because it ties so much into personality. I grew up in what Ruth calls a depression family. I forget if we went over this before or not. And so I was comfortable, but we didn't have lots of luxuries and to the extent that we could enjoy that now, I'm more than satisfied. I don't have to be...I don't have to have everything our neighbors have, although we're doing very nicely, so that I don't feel that I'm deprived. I don't feel...I do feel that I'm ambitious, but I'm not driven. There's a difference, and maybe that gives me some degree of equanimity. And that's not just because of this stage of life. I have always been ambitious. I have always really striven to do my best, but I don't ever recall being depressed over having fallen short. With regard to Ruth, I think she's dissatisfied with her progress. I don't agree with it. I think sometimes she feels that financially she's not contributing her fair share. That has never come from me, and I would much prefer that she do what she wants and that she be successful at what she's doing right now and I don't count that success in terms of the dollars that are brought in. Fortunately we don't...more dollars are always comfortable, but we are not deprived because of it and I would much rather see her doing what she's doing than do something else that may not be as gratifying but perhaps could be more financially rewarding. I just don't see it that way.

INT: How does she see the development of the book, marketing and speaking about the book as quite a worthwhile project?

HARRY: She or me?

INT: She does how? She?

HARRY: Yes, but I think to an even more so. Well, I put a lot of myself into it as well. Fortunately, I'm in a position where they type of thing I do professionally permits me to turn around from that a bit and apply the same skills to marketing the book and so forth and so it has worked out very well, and I don't mind taking a little time away to accomplish that. And so that has been gratifying for me as well and, of course, I'm very anxious to see the book successful, not only because of what it means to Ruth but because of the importance of the subject.

INT: Has it been exhausting for her to make the numerous contacts and keep up with it?

HARRY: No, not exhausting. Not really physically exhausting. We'd come home tired sometimes, but we're in good shape.

INT: You talked about a religious faith, tradition, Jewish identity. What's influenced you culturally or religiously? What defines your Jewish identity?

HARRY: I have a very strong Jewish identity without actually practicing Judaism in a deep, formal fashion. We do light candles on Friday evening. We go to High Holiday services. We go to Friday night services from time to time. The identity is, I think, more cultural even maybe than religious. Speaking for myself, I think I have a very strong conscience. That's just an individual

trait which has...I don't think I was particularly influenced by Judaism. I think that's there anyway, it just happens to coincide with the Jewish beliefs and so forth. As far as Ruth is concerned, obviously feels a very strong Jewish identity. Her practicing of the religion is the same as mine. What influence her religious beliefs would have had on her cultural and conscious as applied to conscience outlook I don't know. We are not deeply religious in a formal fashion, but I think we live very, let me use the word exemplary, lives as far as our morals are concerned and so forth.

INT: In terms of confronting the Holocaust, how do you feel about the recent films, documentaries, about the Holocaust and the recent interest in videotaping stories? How does that affect you?

HARRY: Well, personally I'm not deeply affected except to say that I'm very gratified that all this attention continues to be focused on it. I feel very deeply about that, and I'm very pleased that Ruth in particular to the extent that I can help her is assisting in maintaining that memory. There are numerous particularly videotapes that I've watched, perhaps more related to the war, having been in World War II and I do like history and that part, but it may be noteworthy to say that I haven't seen Schindler's List. That I don't want to see it. I get very upset by that type of raw display of cruelty. I'm very sensitive in that area, and it would be extremely upsetting to me. Now Ruth has seen it, and more power to her, but she saw it with someone else. I just don't want to see it. I will get around to reading the book but I have a real problem when it comes to raw cruelty. I can't stomach it so...you've expressed...you've shown surprise, and I could understand that, but I just can't take it.

INT: Well, I agree that there were very disturbing scenes in this film and it's not easy to watch and anyone can react quite emotionally. I found the experience of going to the Holocaust museum very graphic and far more difficult.

HARRY: Well, that's interesting.

INT: Do you remember what your reactions were to the museum?

HARRY: Of course we have been to the Holocaust museum in Washington. I was very much taken by it, very much absorbed by it. I guess the displays are not as graphic in terms of being, having movement and showing ongoing cruelty rather than depicting it as something that had happened. And I guess there's a distinction there. The museum did not...I was impressed by it, but I mean I was not bothered by it in the same way that I think seeing Schindler's List would bother me. So I make that distinction.

INT: I was particularly struck by the videotapes at the Holocaust museum of survivors at the end of the museum tour. I think there was about an hour or more of videotapes and I found the stories and watching them very compelling.

HARRY: Well, and I'll be honest with you. Don't ask me why but I don't have a clear recollection of the videotapes. I don't know if they're repressed. I'm not so sure. I'm really not so sure I saw that because you could see so many different things and there are other parts of the museum that stay with me in greater detail, the collection of hair and the collection of baggage

and the full blown photographs and so forth. Those things obviously have stayed with me and the story of a little boy at the end. David perhaps was his name, I forget.

INT: I think Daniel's Story?

HARRY: Daniel, yes. I think watching or listening to videotapes of survivors, the story themselves are difficult, but that would not be, again, as bothersome to me as the actual depicting of the stories.

INT: Does the Holocaust affect your political views and how you see other world events?

HARRY: Very much so. When I see things that are happening in Rwanda, Somalia, Bosnia and so forth. I can't do anything about it as an individual, I guess, but it constantly brings to mind the Holocaust, although I really...as horrible as these things are, they're horrible because they're going on today in spite of what we should have learned, but in my mind I don't equate them with the overall and overwhelming horror of the Holocaust itself. I keep the...the Holocaust comes to mind frequently. I mean, with war, the general subject comes up and certainly plays a part in my thinking. I'm not obsessed by it, but politically I would like to see more done. I do feel that United States is not doing what it should be doing in taking a stand in the world for many reasons, that being just one of them.

INT: How about your relationship with Israel? How you feel about events occurring there?

HARRY: I have an arm's length, a mental arm's length relationship with Israel. No desire to ever live there, that's very remote. I think it should exist. I think it should exist for the Jewish people. I think it should exist independently of continuing threats from the Arab world, including the P.L.O. and I don't think they have a proper claim to the physical resources of Israel. I'm very proud of Israel for what has been done in taking a desert spot and turning it into a lush oasis, if you will, of land which yields what is required. I don't have a strong affinity for many Israelis who I've met. I could almost sound like a bigot if I tried to characterize them all together. That's not the case. I think there is a culture there that I don't identify with, a mid-Eastern culture which I have a conflict with, as a matter of fact. Not that I would ever try to change, because I think they are what they are, but not something that I would have to relate to and become closely involved in. So I'm very ambivalent about it. On a personal basis, it's arm's length. As far as its need to exist and its need for the Jewish people as a general category, extremely important.

INT: Is there anything more that you could offer to explain that comment?

HARRY: Yeah. Very definitely. We went to Israel in '80 or '81. We did not go with a group and as a result we got no red carpet treatment or anything like that. In fact we made our own way and I found that if we didn't keep our wits about us, we were being taken right and left and I really consider that to be a middle-Eastern culture. It really turned me off. I think most people who go to Israel, particularly those who go with organized groups, many of them fund raising type of groups, do not see the real Israel at the grass roots individual person type of level, if I'm stating that correctly. They see a gilded picture, so I think, and I'm being very candid here, I think I was really turned off because the attempt, frequently successfully, to cheat me so frequently. I don't live like that. I don't like it. I don't like being taken advantage of and there is too much of it to

suit me. Now, if you put that aside, I think there is so many other aspects of Israel with regard to the history and the culture and everything else, completely different situation. A completely different outlook. But I feel almost like a traitor in saying what I'm saying, but that's the way it comes out.

INT: Does it have anything to do with how assimilated you are as an American Jew?

HARRY: I think it does. I think it does. I'm probably a very well assimilated Jewish person. In my professional career I most frequently was a very small minority of Jews. Frequently, perhaps, only one of maybe one or two who were as high in the hierarchy, if you will, some of the corporations that I was in. So my exposure was much more American, to use that, than it was Jewish, to the extent that I'm sometimes uncomfortable with too outgoing displays of Jewish culture or if it comes to outlandish dancing or when I say...I don't mean costume but Lubavitchers and so forth.

INT: More orthodox observances?

HARRY: Yeah. I just don't identify with them as Jews and they're religious Jews, but I mean with that aspect. I mean, there are subcultures within cultures, and I would call these the subcultures. I'm just not...I just don't identify with them.

(END TAPE TWO, SIDE TWO)

(TAPE THREE)

HARRY: (long pause on tape) [Regarding the French during the war,] I think it was criminal in what De Gaulle tried to foist on the world in terms of what the French did, what the French were. It turns out that the sense of every Frenchman being in the resistance. An extremely small percentage of them were. The French police were very diligent in rounding up Jews and I think the French philosophy and the French mind set is reflected even today in terms of the way they see themselves in the community of nations, being extremely independent and extremely uncooperative. To see that I'm annoyed is an understatement. There are people who feel like I do who would never go to France. I have other family reasons for doing so, but I think I would go anyway because it happens to be a beautiful country and there are many other reasons for going, but the French politics are disgusting to me.

INT: Your wife wrote about the number of righteous Christians that were significant in her life, that helped her family survive the war and I've been wondering if you had any comments about those people and your contact with them over the years.

HARRY: Well, my feeling, of course, on an individual basis, is gratitude for what they did for the family. You mix them in with the rest of the French, you can't distinguish them, and it's a particular decision that individuals made and, you know, what I said about France before was more or less all encompassing, obviously it's never a hundred percent. There are always people who are going to extend themselves for others. Ruth has said her family was fortunate being among people like that, so, you know, I have very...on a microcosm basis I have a very close

relationship and a lot of gratitude. Of course the other comments were more with regard to the overall picture.

INT: How much contact have Ruth and you had with the [other hidden] children that she has survived with and other important family in her life?

HARRY: We have, in fact, seen them at least three times. It was in the early sixties perhaps, we saw the whole family. We saw the woman who was, more or less, Mama's peer. She had lost her husband. Her children, her grandchildren, actually her great-grandchildren and so we got together for a short family reunion at that time, although it was a very moving little episode. We've, in fact, twice since, most recently last summer when we met...at this point the oldest of the children who was just a little bit older than Ruth at the time, plus two generations beyond that, and always extremely warm to us, just delighted that we come back. The fact that she married an American, I think, has some significance to them. They actually commented on that.

INT: I'm not quite sure about what that means.

HARRY: Yeah, I'm not either, but they did. They think and said you married an American. Isn't that wonderful. No, I'm not sure at all what it means except...I don't know. They thanked me profusely for bringing Ruth, and I don't understand either except they had developed a mother hen complex about her.

INT: I'm just curious whether with Ruth's mother living all this time in Paris, how did she stay connected with other and did she seek out other survivors for friendships and for support?

HARRY: I don't think...I don't recall the family ever needing support, per se, or psychological help or anything of that nature, although they certainly went through very difficult times. They did not have a camp experience but being hidden is a different, but just as debilitating a psychological experience. I would think...I think just because they are thrown together or seek out people of their own age, there were a number of other survivors. We've met a number of such people. Some who survived the war being out of the country, and some who actually were camp survivors, and a number of people who we met with tattooed arms and so forth, most of whom readapted to life and have done well for themselves to an extent that I don't understand. I don't know what baggage they've got and I don't know how they cope with it. Just going back to what I said before, it's the type of thing that I have no stomach for and I'm sure I would have been psychologically scarred for life had I undergone a fraction of what some of these people have experienced. But we met a number of them, and yet I don't think it's because they sought out peer groups for mutual sharing of distress. Papa never talked about all this because he kept it a very...it wasn't until Stacy ingratiating herself with him and got his confidence that he even talked with her at all, and what Stacy brought out of Papa a lot of things that Ruth was even unaware of. So getting back to-

INT: How do you think that occurred?

HARRY: Well, partially with the passage of time. Partially because Stacy is who she is. I don't think it had to do particularly with the fact that she was preparing it for a book. The

circumstance, I think, and even there he went so far and then he just told her I don't want to talk about it any more, so that even at that point there was a problem.

INT: In terms of describing your personal strategies for coping, how do you think your family background influenced you in dealing with life's hardships and difficulties?

HARRY: My personal background?

INT: What do you attribute to your ability to cope and master the problems that you've encountered?

HARRY: Well, I think one answer is that I've been fortunate in that I haven't had terrible traumatic problems to deal with, so my coping has been with life's ups and downs and I'm not saying that there weren't some of it but no major tragedies that I've had to cope with, premature deaths or financial destitution or something of that nature (laughs). I think the life, the household, the atmosphere in which I grew up was a calm one. I don't really recall my parents arguing. I certainly was not subjected to any sort of physical violence or what have you. I guess in my own way I was considered being, in quotes, a good child, so there wasn't a lot of conflict. Maybe that in itself leads you to having a more ordered outlook on life. Then again, I'll repeat, I haven't had major problems to really cope with.

INT: Pretty well assimilated into American culture?

HARRY: Well, as far as that's concerned, yes, you know, if you're referring to anti-Semitism or something, I was exposed to it but never to an extent that it became an overriding problem for me, never incidents, but nothing of deep traumatic nature.

INT: So there have been situations, job losses, changes that had to be dealt with?

HARRY: Yes. And we dealt with them. I don't know how else to put that. There was no hand wringing or tearing of the shirt or anything like that but kind of pick yourself up and go on to the next step. I don't want to make it sound over-simplified, but that's how the way it comes out.

INT: It seems to me that you have a sense of stoicism.

HARRY: Maybe that helps (laughs).

INT: Ruth can be the more anxious one?

HARRY: Yeah, that's also true.

INT: So when things go well in your life, what do you think about that? How life makes sense to you when both predictable and unpredictable events occur?

HARRY: I guess it's been more predictable than unpredictable. I must say I don't have a deep philosophy of what life is all about. I think a little deeply about things, but I don't have a...it's

not an overriding concern, really. A day at a time type of thing. It ties in to not being threatened, and I mean that from any point of view. I don't know how else to put it.

INT: How does that differ from your wife's strategies of coping? Her life certainly had more trauma and insecurity and instability, far more unsettling early experiences.

HARRY: Oh, sure.

INT: How do you view her coping mechanisms?

HARRY: Well, I think given any given situation of a negative type, she reacts more deeply than I do. I sometimes think that she...well, that is considered overreacting, from my point of view. I sometimes annoy her, I guess, because I don't get as agitated as she does over a particular situation. That, to me...and yet, her reaction is such that I would not consider it abnormal or necessarily the result of her childhood experiences, because I'm not saying she goes off the wall with those things. That's not the case. It's very difficult for me to put the Holocaust experience into any sort of a picture or a context that has had some tremendous affect on her or our relationship. I just can't find that, but then again, that's all tough because how do I know what it would have been like had she not had that experience. The only thing I can say is that there hasn't been nightmares, hasn't been any extreme nervousness or anything that as a layman I would think would be the result of that type of experience. She went through one period. We were married maybe six years or so. I can't say that she wouldn't have had this period of anxiety or what have you otherwise. I just don't know.

INT: It was a difficult period of adjustment.

HARRY: Yeah. And yet it wasn't like it was the first year of marriage, but it took her an increasingly long time to adjust to this country. Superficially everything was fine, but I think there were longings of going back. Of course, she was separated from her family, but it never became a major issue, never became a major...at least to the extent that I felt that I really have a problem with it. Yes, I felt I had a problem but I didn't call it a major problem.

INT: It sounds like Ruth was close to her family. Do you think that your family provided a closeness and were welcoming?

HARRY: Well, I would say very definitely, but going beyond that I had a very close circle of friends who through me took her in. So she was immediately taken into a circle that gave her, or should have given her, a sense of security. There was a lot there. In fact, I said something about giving up job opportunities that would have caused us to move. One of the reasons is that I did not think it would be a good thing to put her into a situation where she didn't have, unconsciously, a support group. That continues to the day. In other words, I'm talking about the same circle of friends.

INT: Through these occasional periods of job loss or job changes, it certainly must have affected your family life and required strength for the family to handle.

HARRY: Yeah, there wasn't any handwriting, but certainly it had an affect. Dione was in college at the time, and she said to me later she didn't know if she wanted to drop out and go to work or what have you. Fortunately it wasn't necessary. Eric, I guess, was still in high school. But we never got to the point where the money ran out. I was able to relocate and do what had to be done.

INT: It sounds like you seized an opportunity later in life to take a risk and go into your own business.

HARRY: It's something that was situational. I'm not so sure I would have done it voluntarily, but it seemed the right thing to do. I did go out on my own, organizing myself and I guess I had enough experience to pull it off.

INT: In terms of summarizing, looking back on your life of how your wife's experiences and the Holocaust have affected your life and the next generation, of your children. Can you explore that?

HARRY: Well, the Holocaust, Ruth's experience with the Holocaust has not really impacted on our life, except more recently because it has become a cause celebre for her and I think it's a wonderful outlet. I think it's a very good thing she's doing. And I'm in a situation where I could help her do that which I'm delighted to do, but normally when you say how did something like that impact, you're thinking of what negative things would come out of it, but nothing I can really point to. Again, if there would have been out of the ordinary or might not have occurred under any circumstances. As far as the children are concerned, I guess Dione would say that as she grew up she knew that Ruth was dealing with certain tensions. I'm not even sure that...not that I detected. Dione may be finding reasons for things I'm not even aware of, but I don't think the Holocaust experience overall left major marks on Ruth's psyche. That's about as much as I could say.

INT: In terms of your life, marriage and children, positive effects?

HARRY: Well positive in terms of I think it helped Ruth fulfill herself from being somewhat shy to being very much at ease in a professional atmosphere as a speaker, speaking to small groups, large groups of several hundred people. She's changed considerable over the last two years in gaining that confidence from a point where she was quite shy at the outset, really did not cope with meeting a roomful of strangers. Very specific circumstances come to mind that illustrate that. I won't go into it, but the point is that she did have that as a problem. She would not have that as a problem.

INT: So it took quite a while for this change. She had invested a lot of years into teaching?

HARRY: Well, I think teaching helped as well. I mean, just being in front of a class is not an easy thing, certainly not something that I would seek out. And that helped, but she has changed considerably as a speaker over the past couple of years.

INT: So in her ability to find meaning in her experiences, it's been quite beneficial to her personally, and through the book. Can you talk more about the book's value and success?

HARRY: I'm not quite sure what you mean to say.

INT: Well, I think we talked about the energy involved in the book, writing it, marketing and now educating the vast number of groups and children.

HARRY: Well, I'm still not sure what you want me to comment on, what aspect.

INT: Well, I guess you were talking about the value of this work, regardless if it realizes great financial rewards?

HARRY: Oh, well, I've more or less touched on that. That it's been very fulfilling for her and I guess I did use the word that it's an ego trip, and I think I used that in a positive fashion. It's very uplifting to be the center of attention, be the subject of a book and I think that's all to the good. It would have a very positive impact on a person's estimation of self worth.

INT: So in terms of what the world needs to know about the Holocaust versus the lessons learned through museums, films, videotapes and books. What do you think the world needs to know, especially Gentiles?

HARRY: Well, everyone's been exposed to what the Holocaust is all about and you can't avoid it. One of the most important things, I think, is that people see the flesh and blood, a survivor, and hear a personal story. The letters we get from the children, we have hundred of them at this point, reflect that. They heard about it and many of them had no identification really, but to see somebody who's gone through it and so forth makes an impact, whether the impact lasts is something else but the children say I'll never forget this and now I understand that and what have you to the extent that she can do that. She's getting across in memory of the Holocaust that hopefully will stay embedded only because she was there and it's not just something they've read, and I think that's the important part of what she's doing and hopefully she realizes it and she's gratified by it.

INT: Thinking more in terms of your children's view of their mother's activities at this stage in her life.

HARRY: Well, with Eric, he doesn't pay much attention to it and he's aware, of course, and he's not negative but there are other things going on. Dione, somewhat the same way, but I don't think she would really admit it but because of her involvement with the Jewish community and the fact that she's in a position to set up speaking engagements for Ruth and would go out and so forth, she is more involved, but not on a daily think about it basis. Certainly she knows her mother was a Holocaust survivor. I guess she talks about it. As a matter of fact, it's somewhat a badge of notoriety now, if you can call it that. In Salt Lake City in particular they're not too accustomed to seeing survivors. She's very cooperative but not overly responsive with regard to the situation. Then again, for how long can you be, unless like myself you're involved with the ongoing phases of the book? I'm not saying it in a negative fashion. I imagine they're reacting the way many children react. Mom's out and she spoke three times last week and with the

hurricane I know that's nice, but how many times can you say, gee, isn't that great. You know, like where is the end.

INT: I imagine that your grandchildren will be more informed than other children.

HARRY: I'm sure of that.

INT: I was just curious about how the book is selling in France and elsewhere.

HARRY: Well in France it's not selling but of course it's only in the English version. We are looking for a publisher. We do have an agent and we are encouraged and discouraged by turn, looking at the possibility of translation. There are many, many such books out. There's one coming out all the time. We are told things are a little different. I don't know how different it could be, but so much of that has to do with who's promoting and to what extent, like how much time and money you put into it. What we've done with the book has been with a certain amount of time and essentially no financing, so we haven't advertised. Notwithstanding, we've sold probably forty-five hundred, five thousand copies, which I think is outstanding. At this point, not through so much the bookstores as through the schools. And Ruth spoke just yesterday, well maybe today, to a school that bought a hundred and sixty copies, as a teaching tool. So we consider that...the other day she made a presentation and on the spot sold twenty-six copies so that's been the outlet. Of course, that's always exciting.

INT: Is there anything you'd like to add to the interview?

HARRY: No, we've been pretty thorough, I think.

INT: I appreciate your time and I've enjoyed it very much. Thank you.