

KURT ADMON  
RG-50.755.001

Kurt Admon was one of the 50 Viennese children brought to the United States in 1930 by Mr. and Mrs. Kraus of Pennsylvania. Kurt was born in 1928 in Vienna; his father was a tailor and the family was not religious. Kurt reminisces about his childhood in Vienna; his first memory is being separated from Christian children in school. He remembers that the Austrians were very joyful when the Nazis marched into Vienna. He remembers that after Kristallnacht, he had to leave school. He saw the synagogue burned and his family had to give up their apartment and move closer to the ghetto.

The family wanted to emigrate in 1938. His father's sister lived in US but her family was poor and couldn't help them. They also looked at emigrating to Switzerland, but knew that the Swiss were turning back Jews, and also Australia. Then they heard about the American delegation that was offering 50 visas to Jewish children. At first his mother didn't want him to interview because she thought children got kidnapped in America, but his father prevailed. He was interviewed by the Krauses and accepted. The boat trip to America was exciting and he remembers seeing the Statue of Liberty.

Since his aunt couldn't afford to keep him, he went to a family from Albany and then another family. When his mother and brother came to America a year later, going through Italy, His father had left Vienna for a work camp. He had written until war broke out, and then they heard nothing. At first Kurt stayed with the family and visited his mother on weekends and vacations until he was older. He went to NYU and the New School and studied business economy. He then went to live in Israel, where he studied at the Technion and Tel Aviv University. He spent many years on a kibbutz, and then worked for the national organization of Kibbutzim.

Kurt doesn't have a relationship with any of the other 49 children.