

Kindertransport Association Oral History Project
Interview with
GEORGE KRONENBERG (Part 2)
June 7, 1998

KEY:

- [brackets] describe action in the interview
- *Italics* indicates a word in a foreign language, spelled correctly
- {italics in bracket} indicates a word in a foreign language that may be incorrect
- {brackets} indicate indecipherable words

[FILE: 98_DC_A_10_GeorgeKronenberg2_06_07_98]

Interviewer: [audio starts mid-sentence] –1998 for Kindertransport Association. We were just talking about your experiences in England and the several months leading up to your departing for the United States. I think you were mentioning that you began to work in England.

George: Yes, that's correct. I worked for six months for this firm distributing {unintelligible}. And until June of 1946—

Interviewer: That was after the war had already ended.

George: This was after the war, yes.

Interviewer: Now, one of the things you didn't mention, you had been corresponding with your family. A lot of time elapsed for you in England. When did you find out, or when did you lose touch with your family? Or when did you find out they had been deported to the camps?

George: I'm trying to think. Actually, my parents were transported from Theresienstadt to Auschwitz in 1944. But I corresponded with my parents while they were in Theresienstadt, though the Red Cross in Switzerland. They used to write to us in 25 words, and I used to answer on the same sheet of paper, on the other side, 25 words. And all of a sudden the mail stopped coming, and then shortly thereafter we got a letter, I think from the Swiss Red Cross, that my parents were not alive. And I'm trying to think where I was at that point. I think I was still in {Aldrich} at that time, and my sister was in the upper part of England somewhere, where we were notified of what had happened.

Interviewer: Do you know who told you, or how you learned?

George: I think we got a letter through the Red Cross. I believe it was probably through the Jewish community. I'm not really quite sure. But I think it was through a letter from the Red Cross that my parents were sent to Auschwitz. I guess that seemed to be the final—

Interviewer: Was it a letter that stated definitively that they had died?

George: Yes.

Interviewer: That must have been a shock to you.

George: It certainly was. Absolutely.

Interviewer: Do you recall anything about that day, when you received that letter?

George: Not really. You know, it's a funny thing. At a certain point you try to put things out of your mind. That's one of the reasons I never talked about it. I just probably felt I never wanted to talk about it, until recently. It's something probably that I wanted to forget that ever happened. And I must tell you that the older I'm getting, I seem to get more angry about this situation of what happened to my family. And I guess in earlier years it just—these things happened. I don't know whether I really accepted it. Probably not, because I didn't want to talk about it. It's just a very sad experience. And of course since we were corresponding with this aunt and uncle in this country, the decision was probably made by them, here in the United States, of whether we wanted to stay in England or come to the United States. And my sister and I decided we would like to come to the United States.

Interviewer: And did you correspond with her shortly after you heard the news?

George: Yes. Well, like I said, I didn't exactly know where she was, other than I had an address. We used to write to one another. And she knew what had happened and I knew what had happened. And of course, like I said, we got back together again in Birmingham. That's when, writing to the United States, we both decided that probably the best thing for us would be to come here to the United States.

Interviewer: Do you remember your reunion with your sister?

George: Yes. Well, {unintelligible} I was ill, and since I hadn't seen her for six years, we certainly were delighted that we were able to get back together again at that point, because I really didn't think much about what would be when we would ever get back together again. The thought somehow never came to mind. She was in one place and I was in another place, and the idea of getting back together again at a certain point, we never ever talked about it.

Interviewer: Did she look like what you expected her to look like?

George: Yes, because I had pictures of what she looked like when she was younger. Yes, I remembered what she looked like. The only thing was that I found a tremendous change

in her. She seemed to be extremely hard-boiled, a lot of anger because of the way she was treated. I found out, like I said, and she started to mention a few things. She was mentioning things like she was molested where she was. Of course she never talked about it until, like I said, about two years ago, when we were together in New York, that she mentioned some of these things that she went through. So it left her very bitter. Very bitter person.

And when we came to the United States, after a couple years or so (I don't know exactly), she got married. She met her husband to be at the Catskills. We were at a resort, and she met her husband there. And she had an unfortunate situation that he passed away at an early age, 50. She was not one to be alone, and after a while she remarried. And she married a man quite a bit older than she, who at the moment is not a well person. He's got Parkinson's disease.

Again, she had a much rougher way to go than I did. And it shows. The scars show. Of course as children, we were extremely close. Now she is still very protective. She's concerned that: "Be careful, don't get into anything," this kind of thing. This happens to be her nature. But she can't show real warmth. This is something that has disappeared because of a lot of the things that have happened to her.

Interviewer: Does she not show real warmth to you?

George: She shows warmth up to a point. She's not a person that you can hug, for example. She can't show real affection. And I guess I'm just the opposite. It's just circumstances that came to be, because of a lifestyle.

Interviewer: When you met again in England, was there not an embrace after all that time?

George: I would say there probably was an embrace, but it was not a real affectionate kind of thing. It seemed that we were sort of apart even while we lived together, because she was already working, I went to school, she had her friends, I had my friends, and it was not really a warm relationship anymore.

Interviewer: Did you feel disappointment then?

George: Oh yes. Yes, I did. I still feel now.

Interviewer: How is it that you were able to get to the United States?

George: Well, like I mentioned, this aunt and uncle, after asking us whether we'd like to come, we said yes. They made the arrangements. They got somebody in Cleveland to vouch for us. They needed some kind of a sponsor, so they wouldn't be a burden to the United States. So we both came here. We left England June 8th, I believe.

Interviewer: 1946?

George: 1946.

Interviewer: Now, that means a year after the end of World War II. Do you remember the end? It's a silly question to ask, I guess.

George: Oh, absolutely.

Interviewer: Tell me about D-Day and tell me about—

George: It was an extremely jubilant time, because everything in England was dark. There were no streetlights. There was nothing during the war. Once the war was over and all the streetlights went on, there was dancing in the street. It was unbelievable.

Interviewer: That was V-Day?

George: Yes.

Interviewer: Do you remember D-Day from probably six months before, I think in October '44? Do you remember the progress, when the tides turned?

George: Well, we knew that the air raids had stopped. We knew, because of the newspapers and radio, that things were coming to an end. I guess we all felt very good about that, that it looked like the war was coming to an end. And of course once it did, it was almost like bedlam in the streets. I remember it very well. We were all in the streets. It was just dancing in the streets, this kind of thing.

Interviewer: Were you in Birmingham then?

George: Yes. It was very exciting. It really was. Then after a short while, knowing that we would come to the United States was very exciting, both my sister and I. And although I personally had never met this uncle, I never met him at all, my sister did. She used to go once in a while to Hamburg, where they lived. She went there. I never did. And when we were on the ship—

Interviewer: Which ship?

George: That was a Swedish boat called the *S.S. Drottningholm*.

Interviewer: From where did you leave?

George: We left from Southampton, and I think it took ten days. It was really a long trip.

Interviewer: It was summer?

George: It was summer. It was beautiful. Weather was gorgeous.

Interviewer: Were you sorry to leave England at all?

George: Well, I can't say I was really sorry. I was looking forward to coming to family. I'm very grateful for having lived in England, but I looked forward to coming to the United States. My uncle described himself—because I had never met him; I'm not quite whether my sister remembered what he looked like—but he said, "I shall be wearing a flower in my lapel," so we will recognize him. And he was therewith two other individuals, one a close friend of {Michael}.

Interviewer: When you say "there," are you talking about New York?

George: In New York. He met us at the boat, and I think Hans, this one cousin, was there also. And we stayed in New York—

Interviewer: Was that an emotional reunion?

George: It was exciting. I don't know how emotional it really was, since I really didn't know him. I almost felt like coming to a stranger, and yet he was very religious. He was extremely warm to us, the moment we arrived. And we stayed in New York three days. My uncle had a sister in New York with whom we stayed for three days. And this aunt remained in Cleveland. And after three days, we left on a train for Cleveland.

Interviewer: What did you think of New York?

George: It was something that I'd never seen before. Whether we arrived, there was a dock strike, and the ship was trying to make extra time to beat this deadline of the strike. And we had to dock outside of New York Harbor because you have to pay a harbor duty. And as we were on the ship, I would say, a good day, just sitting outside the New York Harbor. And at night the skyline of New York was the most impressive thing I'd ever seen in my life. The weather was gorgeous, and the sunsets were just magnificent.

And also one incident. As we got into the harbor, I remember the Statue of Liberty. Everyone on board went to the one side of the ship to see the statue, and it seemed like the boat almost tipped over to one side because everybody was there. It was very exciting. And I was very impressed.

Interviewer: Who was on the boat? Was it a large—

George: It was a comparatively good size ship. And I must say, in England everything was rationed. Food was rationed, and all this kind of thing. When we got on this ship, I had never seen so much food in my life. Swedish food happens to be very good. And it just was phenomenal. That was also unbelievable.

Interviewer: Were the people nice?

George: Yes. From what I remember, everyone was very cordial. The only unfortunate thing was that in these ten days we were on the ship, my sister was sick practically all the way. And the strange thing is, which I still don't understand to this very day, I used to feed her Tom Collins. Somehow I thought it was a kind of fruit drink. I didn't know there was liquor in there. You know? I don't know whether that made her sicker or not, but for ten days she was actually in the cabin. She was very sick. And I was seasick just one night, the first night. After that I was fine. As a matter of fact, I remember when I didn't feel so good, one of the stewards said to me, "Why don't you go up on deck and get some air?" Well, I went on deck, but this motion of— You saw the water come up and the ship go down, and I saw this motion, that I ran down so fast, because that made me sicker. But I was only like that for one day, and the rest of the time I was fine. I enjoyed the trip very much.

Interviewer: Were there people your age?

George: There were younger people on the boat, yes. I don't remember if there were any *Kinder* like myself. I don't believe so. But the ship was pretty well filled.

Interviewer: There was a question I didn't ask about England, but the ship made me think of it. You were an adolescent in England, or became an adolescent in England, and then on the ship you were already a young man.

George: I was 17.

Interviewer: Was there any romance in England?

George: Well, that's not any real romance, so to speak, but in Birmingham there was one particular girl, who happens to be in the United States, that I used to go out to dances in Birmingham. I love to dance, and she did too. We lived in this hostel together. That's how the relationship— And so we used to go, believe it or not, to a hotel in Birmingham at night, dancing. I'm one that loves to get dressed up, and I remember that dark suit, and I had a navy blue raincoat, and I had the gloves (in England, you know, proper dress is like gloves: you don't go anywhere unless you have gloves with you, whether you wear them or not) and a white scarf. And we went out dancing. And I have met this girl here in the United States.

Interviewer: What's her name?

George: What's her name? I'll have to think. I can't remember, offhand.

Interviewer: Was it Suzy?

George: Yes, Suzy. Her maiden name was {Suzy Hertz}. Now it comes back. Of she's married and so forth. But we met here, and I guess we've talked a couple times on the phone. She lives up in the Catskills. Somewhere in the mountains, she lives. They have a farm of some kind. So primarily this was the girl that I chummed around with quite a bit. As a matter of fact, in the hostel we didn't really need to go out because we were like 16-17 years old, and every Saturday night we would move all the furniture in the living room (we lived in a very large home, a good size living room), we had records, and we used to dance in the hostel. But I used to go out every now and then.

Interviewer: So you did have some of the life of a teenager.

George: Oh yes. Absolutely, yes.

Interviewer: And we were at the point where you were about to board a train in New York, going towards Cleveland.

George: Yes. There was a train called the Empire State, and that was another impressive thing for me because I had never seen a train like that before, with the dining cars and the observation car and all this kind of thing. It took 12 hours by train from New York to Cleveland. And so that was very exciting. And when we arrived in Cleveland, my aunt did not meet us at the train station, but she was at home. That was an exciting get-together, being again with family. And I lived with them for about ten years.

Interviewer: You and your sister, or just you?

George: No. Like I mentioned, they were very religious. My sister was not. My sister was not as tolerant as I. And so after about a year or two, she moved out with some friends of my aunt and uncle. She roomed with them. I went along with their lifestyle. I'm a little more easygoing. I could adjust much easier. And so until I got married, I actually lived with them.

Interviewer: Did it feel like home?

George: Yes. They made me feel very much at home.

Interviewer: Had they had children of their own?

George: No. They never had children. They owned an apartment building, and there was one suite in the basement that was empty, which I occupied. So I had my own private quarters.

They lived upstairs. Of course I had all my meals and everything else with them. That was a nice feature. So if I wanted to be on my own, I could. And then after a while we moved from the apartment. We still had it, but we moved into a different part of Cleveland, and I moved with them. And as far as my relationship was concerned, I had it very good there. They did everything for me.

I had an option of going to school or going to work. And I'm a very independent person. I'm not one to "thank you, thank you, thank you," this kind of— I wanted to be independent, and I told my uncle I would prefer to go to work. And my uncle had connections. He knew the owner of American Greetings, the greeting card company. And one Sunday afternoon, after about three weeks, four weeks being in this country, he had a wiener roast, this Mr. Sapirstein, who was the originator, the original owner of American Greetings, at his home. And there my uncle approached Mr. Sapirstein and said, "I have a nephew that came from England. He's looking for a job." And I was, I think, just a couple of weeks short of 18. And he said, "Well, come tomorrow to the office, and we'll see if I can find a job for you." So my aunt went with me on this job interview. And when I got there, the woman who did the interviewing said to me, "I'm very sorry, but the office boy job has just been filled." It so happened at that time that Mr. Sapirstein's office was just outside the employment office. He saw my aunt and told this lady who was doing the hiring, "Go find him a job."

So I got a job. And for three years I did nothing but file greeting cards. I was filing. And not having really a college education, all this kind of thing, I worked the next three years. After three years, one of the vice-presidents—there was a job opening in the art department office—and said to me, "Would you be interested in the job?" And I said yes. So I became involved with the creative department and doing various different jobs, until I worked myself into a position which was a graphics coordinator, which sounds fantastic but what it was, it was more like troubleshooting. It was dealing with problem solving, this kind of thing. And I was with that company until I retired, a little more than a year ago, which is almost 51 years with that company. And I enjoyed very job very much. I really did. I enjoyed the people that I worked with. I had a fantastic rapport. And I like art anyway, not that I'm an artist, but I enjoyed being involved with people that did this, and learning through the years the different aspects of the creative department. I dealt with printers and the problems that they had, and this kind of thing. So actually I worked myself up into a position, after all these years. They were very kind to me. I got all kind of awards. I got an achievement award and all this sort of thing. So I'm not one, as you can see, for changes. I'm a very stable person.

Interviewer: You found a happy niche there.

George: Yes, absolutely. And like I said, I was there almost 51 years.

Interviewer: During this time, were you then building friendships at work and in the community, maybe at synagogue?

George: I was more in the community. I was friendly with one of my bosses who happened to be {a woman}, and who was actually instrumental in many of the different aspects of my job, like recommending me for the achievement award and this kind of thing. You know, it had to be voted on, all this kind of stuff. So I was very friendly. Even to this very day, I talk to her, although she recently lost her job after being with the company for 20 years. But I didn't really make social friends per se with people that I worked with, other than this particular one. But I made friends in the community. I mean, I met people, I dated, until I met my wife.

Interviewer: Let's go back to 1946. You're living with your aunt and uncle, and you have a suite downstairs, and your English at this point has been honed by six years or more in England.

George: Eight years.

Interviewer: Eight years in England. So how is the adjustment to the United States?

George: I really had no problem with adjusting to the United States at all, except there was just one incident that was kind of humorous. When I came here, it was in the summer, and my aunt and I went out to visit someone. And I get dressed, and I'm taking the gloves. My aunt says, "What are you going to do with the gloves?" I says, "Well, {unintelligible} we're going out." She says, "In this country we don't do that. People don't dress like that." And I'd never worn a hat before. And we went shopping for clothes, and one of the things is, in the summertime at that time, everyone wore straw hats. Of course I had a straw hat which was different.

But as far as adjusting, I really had no real problem in adjusting. I found the language sounded different to the way I spoke. Of course now I still sound different. But I met people, by the way, through the synagogue, and people they knew introduced me to different people. And I went out. I dated quite a bit. I got involved with the chorus.

Interviewer: With?

George: It was called the Cleveland Jewish Singers Society. It was a Jewish chorus, which I enjoyed.

Interviewer: How did you feel about the creation of the state of Israel?

George: I thought it was fantastic. I thought it was the greatest thing that ever happened. And as a matter of fact, my wife and I traveled to Israel five times already. I think it was a tremendous event. {inaudible}

Interviewer: And that was probably over two years after you'd come to the United States.

George: Yes. It was in 1948.

Interviewer: So how did you end up meeting your wife?

George: My wife, I met at a bar-mitzvah. We were invited. My aunt and I were invited to the same bar-mitzvah that my wife and her family was invited. And there was dancing, and I enjoy to dance. So I saw my wife and asked her to dance. And we didn't really go out right away, but we dated a few times, up to a point that I started feeling much more serious about her. And there was a time I was going to ask her whether she would marry me, and it happened that I went on vacation to the Catskills, and she was going to pick me up at the airport when I came home. When I came home, I found her parents at the airport, and they told me what had happened. She had been in a car accident, so she didn't come to the airport. So I went to visit her, and she had bandages all over her face. And I guess that's when I proposed to her, at that time.

Interviewer: In the hospital?

George: She wasn't in the hospital. She was at home. But she had band aids here and there, or stitches and things. And that was really when I asked her to marry me.

Interviewer: And what did she say?

George: She said yes.

Interviewer: Did you get down on one knee?

George: I don't remember. [laugh] I don't think so.

Interviewer: How old were you and your wife when you proposed?

George: She was just out of high school. She was 18. I was 27. And although she was going to start college (at that time I believe she started a little bit), but then with all the wedding plans, arrangements, etc., I guess she decided to drop out. And I think it was nine months after I asked her, we got married.

Interviewer: Was your wife's background similar to yours?

George: She came from a religious background. Her parents are very religious. She's religious. And so we had no problem adjusting to our lifestyle, since I was religious, she was. So that worked out very well. There was no problem there at all.

Interviewer: Was she a Cleveland native?

George: Yes, she was.

Interviewer: And how about the fact that you were from Europe? Was that anything for you to adjust to?

George: I don't think so. I think she adjusted to me very well. Yes.

Interviewer: And in terms of the difficulties of the tragedies in your past, you said that you didn't talk about that very easily.

George: True.

Interviewer: Is it something that you talked about with your wife or her family?

George: Not all that much. I didn't speak about it very much. No. I don't know. Like I said, it's probably something that I— I always had the feeling that people weren't really interested to hear all that. And so I never really discussed it very much. I mean, they knew that my parents were murdered by the Nazis, my family, but as far as any real details were concerned, we never really went into it very deeply.

Interviewer: Did you have children?

George: We have one daughter, and she's adopted. We adopted her.

Interviewer: Is she interested in your past?

George: No, not really. My daughter, unfortunately, she lives in the sixties, that kind of lifestyle. She is 34 years old now. She does not live at home. And she is an individual. She has her own lifestyle. She is absolutely not religious. She doesn't believe in anything. But we are close. But as far as interest in my background, she really is not.

Interviewer: And I take it that you don't have grandchildren yet?

George: No. No, she's not married.

Interviewer: I see. Do you have nieces and nephews?

George: Yes. On my wife's side, yes. We have quite a number of nieces and nephews.

Interviewer: Do you make any effort to talk now? I think you said that you find it a little bit easier now to talk about?

George: Yes, I do. Absolutely. I've talked about it to people I work with, because they raised certain questions, to a point where one particular fellow said to me, "Are you ever interested in writing your biography?" And at that point he told me that he does some writing, and that he would write the story, but it never materialized. This was like maybe a year and a half, two years, maybe three years. But I started talking about it at work, and people used to tell me, "George, you're so interesting." They wanted to hear the story at that point. But before that, I did not talk about it very much. But when I found out that there are people that are interested, I started to open up.

Interviewer: When did you become involved in KTA?

George: Almost ten years ago. We went to the reunion in—well, it will be ten years. And I forget how I found out, whether it was through the Jewish papers in Cleveland, or I don't remember whether I saw some kind of advertisement or something. But I did hear about it. And when I heard that there is a reunion in England of people like myself, I said to my wife, "I definitely want to go there." And we did. And I met about eight, nine people that I lived with. It was very exciting. And so I've been coming to these get-togethers of the KTA. I think I missed one reunion, but I went to the reunion in the Catskills, I went to the reunion in Florida, and of course now here in Washington. So I felt it was very important for me to be part of this organization, because somehow it feels good to be with people who unfortunately had the same tragedies that I did. It's almost like misery likes company, kind of. So to me it's very important that I am part of this organization.

Interviewer: Has your perspective about your experiences changed over the last ten years or so, perhaps since you've joined the organization or just as you've lived a little bit more of life?

George: Well, not really. Like I said, I was never much for going out and speaking to people of this, but I'm getting to the point now where I feel I would like to do this, but I'm not quite sure how to go about it. And some of the meetings here, some of the conferences, are kind of helping me to do this. So I'm trying to get some help of how to go about going out and talking to people about the Holocaust. And so I hope in the near future that I'll be able to do that.

Interviewer: You've lived in three countries. In terms of identity, what does your identity feel like? Nationality? Religion?

George: Well, certainly I'm very involved with the Jewish way of life. Whether I feel myself a true American, I'm not quite sure. I still feel that I'm different, a little bit different than the people around me. I certainly try to fit into the society, and I think I do a pretty good job of that, but I still feel not too American. I still feel, well, I'm German {unintelligible}, all this kind of thing. It's not totally 100%.

Interviewer: Although you did marry somebody American.

George: Oh, absolutely. And like I say, we are very happily married.

Interviewer: If you were going to characterize your feelings about the three places that you've lived (Germany, England, and the United States), how would you describe that?

George: I'm certainly much happier here than anywhere else. I think the American way of life is tremendous. I've been very fortunate. And I think outside of maybe wanting to live in Israel maybe, I wouldn't want to live anywhere else except the United States. Like I say, I'm grateful of having been in England, but I never had the feeling of actually wanting to live there on a permanent basis. I never had that. I knew when I was in England that probably I wouldn't stay there. As a matter of fact, a lot of the people like myself in England went on *{Hashara}*. They went to Israel, Palestine. And I had thoughts of going there as well, but because in the situation I was, of my coming to the United States, I chose to come here. And actually I'm very happy that I did. Like I say, we travel to Israel as much as we are able to. I enjoy that. But no, I definitely identify with the United States. I wouldn't want to be anywhere else.

Interviewer: Did you feel conflict during the British Mandate in Palestine? Because in 1946, it was a hot little topic. Was that something that—

George: Bothered me? Well, I knew there was enough disturbance at that time, but we were very Zionist in England, and I felt that probably that's where I would want to be, with my own people in Palestine at that time, because a number of people that I knew left from England to go to Palestine. And as a matter of fact, I belonged to *Habonim* in England and I went to their meetings. But like I said, I came to the United States instead.

Interviewer: One more question about your roots, and then I'll ask you a more open-ended question for anything you'd like to add. How about Germany? You mentioned having gone back two years ago. What are your feelings about Germany now?

George: Well, I'll tell you. I went there the one time, after many, many, many years of not wanting to go there at all. I went there and that's it. I would not want to go back. I have no desire to go back at all. I saw what I wanted to see. It's sort of closure, I guess, as far as my life is concerned. I really have no desire to be any part of going back to Germany at all. I just needed, I guess, to just see where I came from, which I did. But that seems to be all I wanted to do. I have no desire ever to go back to Germany again. I have no feelings for that at all.

Interviewer: Are your aunt and uncle still alive?

George: No. My aunt died about 10-12 years ago, and my uncle died about 10 years ago. So actually my family here is my wife's family. And there's one cousin that I have in Cleveland, and of course my sister. And like I said, I married into a very fine family. I'm very fortunate.

Interviewer: What's your wife's name?

George: Sally.

Interviewer: What was her maiden name?

George: Her name was Polster, P-o-l-s-t-e-r. And a very religious, warm family. So I made a very good choice.

Interviewer: That's wonderful. Is there anything else you would like to add?

George: Well, I enjoyed being interviewed. I wasn't quite sure to what extent I was going to go with this. And I enjoy the organization, and like I said, I enjoy my life here in this country. I'm very happy being here.

Interviewer: Are there recollections about your parents?

George: Well, I don't have really any more recollections other than what I have mentioned earlier. There's really not that much anymore to say at this time, being as young as I was at the time. I know my family life in Germany was a good one, but other than that, their part of my life stopped in 1944, after my parents were murdered, and I made my life here.

Interviewer: And you've been living in the United States for fifty—

George: Fifty-one years.

Interviewer: Well, it's been a pleasure interviewing you.

George: It's been a pleasure being interviewed. Thank you.

Interviewer: I would be very happy to swivel the camera around. It's the end of our interview, and I am now going to introduce your wife. In fact, if you would like to get up and have a seat where your husband was just sitting? Thank you very much. Okay. And this is Sally Kronenberg.

Sally: A couple things that I would just like to intervene on, is the fact that for many years of course, as my husband said, he didn't talk about his background and so forth. But then, as he started opening up, things that he remembered, such as he always would describe his home. He would describe his mother with her big hats, and he would say about his mother being very modern; where most of the women didn't smoke, his mother smoked and so forth. And he remembered details that were, as far as I was concerned, they were amazing, of how he remembered exactly what his house looked like, and where things were, and where they stayed, and where they played, and so forth like that. And I think

that probably, because this was taken away from them, he remembered details that— Well, I, for example, had a very normal childhood and I really don't remember too much about my childhood. But he did remember things that up until age nine, he remembered all these different things and places that he went to, his relatives and so forth, and to a point that when we went back to Germany, he knew where everything was. And I couldn't imagine how a nine-year-old child could remember what street to go down, or which house it was. And I was shocked when we got to his house. I said, "Are you sure that this is your house?" And I know he had spoken many, many times of the number, {*acht Mennenstrasse*}. And I saw in the corner of this house was the number eight. And so certainly it was.

And then one other thing that I think probably his background keeps this in his mind. He constantly feels that the lifestyle many times in the United States, that it could happen again, because he sees the handwriting on the walls of many things he saw back in Germany in the United States. And he sees this through the anti-Semitism at times, through things that he reads, through TV and so forth. And so I guess that this has a lasting spot in his mind, that it hasn't gone away. So that's what I just wanted to add.

Interviewer: And do you feel that you see the boy from Germany in the man you married?

Sally: Well, just in these few things. I mean, typically my husband is a very straightforward person, which is, I think, a Germanic trait. He's very prim and proper, which may be an English trait or a German trait. But I do see that. These are things that over the years you do notice. So those are just a few things I wanted to add.

Interviewer: Well, I appreciate your contributing to the interview. So thank you very much.

George: You're very welcome.

Interviewer: You've been very generous with your time, and I think then we'll turn off the camera.

[END OF INTERVIEW]