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Hannah Azenberg, August 1973

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L.B. Do you want to give us your name as you were given your name by your parents?

H. E. Hannah ~~HE~~

L.B. And what was your maiden name?

H.E. Kleiman.

L.B. Kleiman? And where were you born? *Czestahova*

H.E. Poland. Which is the Rome of Poland

L.B. Czestahova(?) it's on that map!

H.E. Yes, Czestahova is. This is the very famous place, as far as as far as religion is concerned. Now it's called Rome of Poland. Now historically in the (suburb) of Czestahova is a little mountain what's called Yasnagura, it means... Gura is a mountain, Yasna it mean enlightened, saint, I like a halo around it. And on the top of that mountain is a cloister.

Very famous, monks lived there. And in the 14th century, when the Turks invaded Vienna and ~~the~~ were going to cross Poland, and there were hordes of men, you know, Vienna felt it was hordes in those days, that Yasnagura, that cloister was a fortress actually, sort of fought the Turks and won the battle and saved the city. So from now on they considered this as a very holy place. And as a matter of fact it's like ~~Lourdes~~ (*Lourdes*) of France.

As a matter of fact as a child I remember pilgrimages... people from miles were going on their knees towards that cloister and they claimed there were miracles there, that Virgin Maria and who was dressed in diamonds and all kinds of things, and she performed miracles. Whether you believe it or not, but ah, cured and so on. And so I remember from America pilgrimages as a child, and from all over the world. That's why they call Czestahova the Rome of Poland. It's a very Catholic city.

L.B. Catholic... well Rome is...

L.K. Were there many Jews living...?

H.E. Well, yeah, in Poland in my day there was one(?) ⁰³⁷ and a half million Jews? Before the holocaust.

L.B. Well in your city?

H.E. In my city... my city was a hundred thousand people in my times... I would say there were at least thirty thousand Jews, thirtyfive thousand.

L.B. Jews...

L.K. ⁰⁴¹ Of the Czestahovitch population? *etc.*

H.E. Jews were all over Poland.

L.K. But that's a big percentage...

H.E. About thirty thousand...

L.K. especially in a holy city...

H.E. Well, Jews in that city, particularly in our city, and there were two classes of Jews; the poor and the comfortable. The poor were ghetto Jews, like Jews in the other cities ⁰⁴⁵. The others were so assimilated, I myself was very assimilated.

L.B. Could you tell me what year you were born? Hannah, would you mind?

I would like to know because I have to settle when events took place in your life.

H.E. O.K. when events took place in my life... I am sixty seven years old.

L.B. So that's when? 1906?

H.E. Right.

L.B. O.K. So you were born there in 1906.

H.E. Well I don't remember the very early days, I remember only Poland... independant Poland.

L.B. That would be after the war?

L.K. When did you leave Poland?

H.E. I went to this country 1930, January.

L.K. Oh, then that's a length of time, there's about 24 years that she can remember 20 years of. which is helpful.

L. B. Now you say you can't remember early times?

H.E. Oh, well, early times I can't remember.

L.B. You remember the house that you lived in?

H.E. Oh yes!

L.B. O.K.

H.E. I can remember every window, every room. Well the house we lived in.. you want the street??

L.B. Yeah, sure!

H.E. Well in my days it was called ^{Ogradova 7063} Ográ dova, later it was changed. *X* You want my days?

L.B. Both, if you know both.

H.E. In my days it was Ogradova shesh. It means, ^OOgradova, it means a garden... Six. This house was built by my father, it was a big apartment house. And it was like two yards, you know I have to give a description because the Germans confiscated that house, and you know the government, the Polish government had to give me ^{some} the money, you see. It has nothing to do with the Germans, they paid nothing. So I had to give a description of the whole ~~house~~ house and I just *remember it* like I look at you now. Now, If you want a description of the house, it was built by my father, it was estimated before the war...

L.B. Before which war?

H.E. ~~the second war~~ Before the second world war. As a child I remember. You see my father used to say... we were ten children, I was the tenth child, ~~I was~~ the youngest, and he said ... he was a business man, and when I was born I brought him lots of luck. So he says he was getting rich when I was born. But he raised the family, he gave everyone... *But you don't want to hear that now.*

L.B. First I want to hear about the house.

H.E. The house. The house is, the front is what they call, it's a two stories house.

L.B. Wood?

H.E. Oh, no..

L.B. Brick?

H.E. Brick, of course, brick, very civilised. With toilets, with water, electricity, everything. With bathrooms and everything.

L.B. This was built in what year? Before you were born or after?

H.E. No, after I was born. And then that was an old building, that Papa did not build. But then he built... you see in Europe there are yards, first there's a ~~front~~ ^{gate} ~~like a gate~~ ²⁰⁸⁹ - what they call a gate, like a gate, you open and then you get into the inside of the house. So there's one yard and in the yard there were two small buildings which didn't amount to anything, poor people ~~lived~~ lived there. But then there was the new addition to the house, which was two story house with all the conveniences. Running water, no hot water running, cold water running, we had to heat the hot water. But we had bathrooms, very civilised bathrooms., of course not this... we had to pull. And bathtub with a stove to heat the water in order to make the bath. And then there was another yard...

L.B. They were like inner court yards?

H.E. That's right, which had also another, new, building of two stories. And it was considered a big house. It was estimated before the war for a hundred thousand dollars.

L.B. What year was it built? Do you remember?

H.E. Buildings in Europe last a lifetime. Now it must have been built, I was at least six years old.

L.B. So about 1912.

H.E. And this building stays intact today. Not a brick is missing. The Russian government took it over.

L.B. This building city is now under Soviet...

INTERVIEWER

L. E. ROSEN

H.E. No, Polish government.

L.B. Oh, the Polish government.

H.E. First, when after the holocaust the Poles took over, ~~as when~~ the Jews ran away, the Poles took over, but then, you know, & when they settled down, the government... ~~that~~ is a little bigger house, the Polish government takes over. That's as far as I know about it now, I don't want to even inquire anymore. I have a lawyer in the... there is American government, ask them. Look it, if you pay, my citizens, I pay because there's frozen assets, like they had ~~in~~ the old people, you know, so they said if you want to pay, but of course they get the big money, the small man gets very little, because first of all the lawyers will come... ~~with~~ the large family ~~when all were alive~~ I get 118, so which amounts to extra money. But it was still assessed to for 90,000, today.

L.B. It must have been a beautiful building.

H.E. You see I tell you why is like that. Chensztajowa is a city on the German border. Now the Silesian border.

L.B. Silesian border.

H.E. Silesia, Ober (Oder?) Silesian.

L.B. That's the Eastern side, Ah, western...

H.E. Eastern, eastern.

L.B. It's on the eastern?

H. E. It's like towards the... check it, check it out, I think it, maybe...

L.B. Silesia I think is the western...

H.E. Breslau, you know where Breslau is?

L.B. That's in Germany?

H.E. That's a Polish... that was ^{before, now it's} in Polish hands. That's Silesia, Schlonsk. ^(Breslau?) That was German, those days, always German, Pomern, Pomozha, all this was German, on the Baltic Ocean. Suppot, Suppot, all this.

L.B. It's west.

H.E. It's west. All this was German. Danzig was Freistadt, that means it didn't belong to anybody, they had their own colony.

L.B. Where was Czesztahova in relation to the...

H.E. Czesztahova was on the border of Silesia. Anybody who wanted... there was a lot of smuggling going from Germany to Poland, you see, because of this.

So you see when the war broke out, in 1939, the first thing the Germans got into our city. So our city was never bombarded, it was incorporated ~~(sic)~~ to right.

(to Reich) That was Czastahova. Czastahova, as I say, was an intelligent city. It was a Polish city you know, it was more progressive city.

L.K. Did it have a university?

H.E. No, Universities in Poland were only two. In Warsaw and Cracow. But it had several Highschools. And I'll follow my ? now.

L.B. First may I go back to one thing? You say your father was in business? What kind of business was he in?

H.E. Those years, those years when I tell you, of course later he was different, The years when he built the house he was in, he had a representative of coal from the mines for Poland. There is a part of Poland called Zwagwendia, Zwagwendia is a part where the, also in Silesia, its Bengian, Sosnovian, all these, they are the coal mines. Poland has a lot of coal mines.

L.B. Silesia is coal too.

H.E. Not as ~~much~~ much, no. It comes from Poland, there's coal mines in Poland. And so he had a part representative of coal, for certain part of Poland from the mines, also had a representative of linens from Russia, Morozov, linen.

L.B. Was he the middle man? In the sense that someone would need to, someone would mine the coal and then they would come to him and say they need to sell it, he would find...

H.E. No, he was not... yes, something like that. But linens now we had a store, we had a wholesale place of linens, but that was in the good days. Things had changed after. In the days I'm telling you that was the good days, 1912, the Jews were... I mean if they were not very poor, as I said there were two classes, the tailor and the shoemaker and the worker was-- had it very dull. I tell you about later, as I go. But those years, I remember prosperity only. I can only tell you from my point, as a child. We were ten children, Father gave dowries to children, my sisters they got diamonds and furniture, my mother used to go to Warsaw for clothes etc., etc. Things have changed later, these were the good days.

L.B. That was before the first World War.

H.E. No, that was after the first World War.

L.B. You say it was 1912. But it lasted through...?

H.E. 1912 Father built the house.

L.B. And how long did the good times last?

H.E. The World War was 1916, no?

L.B. 1914-1918.

H.E. Well, so... I remember those good days. You see the first world war I don't remember much. I don't remember much...?

L.K. * 8, 10, 12 years old, what would she remember?

H.E. I don't remember, I remember that, one thing, that if you wanted to buy bread, well I have a brother who lives in New Zealand, a tall guy, and older than I, he was standing on line for the bread, which was called Popularka. It was made out of straw or whatever it is. The people who had money there was a black market. We could survive. We were buying, stored potatoes, and stored... but the first World War I cannot tell you much. I can only tell you after the first World War. And that's what I remember, I remember as a child when the world war broke out, I was a very small child, my father took me, I think I had a cold, my father took me with a bag to the cellar, and we all hid in the cellar because there was bombarding, you know, because the first World War the Germans were, the Germans got in too. But that time we welcomed the Germans. The Germans were the benefactors in 1914.

L.B. That's right.

H.E. I tell you a very interesting story about my grandfather with the Germans that was told to me and it was all in the family. My grandfather was a Jew who died at the age of... in the nineties. Was six foot two. Very good looking man. My father, my whole family's tall except me, I was the youngest

← they would kill me, there was no more strength.

joke laughter ?

LEROW

80 The grandfather had a beard, you know, he had a type of , you know, a scholarly Jew. My grandmother was the business woman, and he was studying (starting?). So during the week he had a different fur coat and sabbath he had a different fur coat. My grandmother had a mill and she had a business selling flour. So everybody came to the grandfather, see? "Grandmother", asked the grandchildren, "what shall we bring to Grandfather?" ^{when you}

202 "For me? I don't want it, bring him good cigars, bring him vodka, bring him good cognac, you know, things like that." And they never wanted anything. My grandparents married off grandchildren, giving dowries to grandchildren, to some, not my father, because my father was a man who didn't need any help. They had ten children, we had ten children. They had so many grandchildren. And when my grandmother in her eighties, and were wearing skirts like this, good looking woman, big pockets, and those pockets was filled with candy. And grandchildren, I don't know how many she had, they went "NOW, now!" That's how it was, that was the type of the family, you see.

L.B. Well your grandmother was quite a capable woman.

H.E. Very capable. And Grandfather was a scholar and she didn't let him do anything. He was on the ^{pedastle} ~~pedastle~~ and she was the one who ran the whole business.

L.B. Did they live in the same city as you?

H.E. Yes, they lived in the same city. They lived in the Jewish section. It was a little ghettos, you know, sort of? And my grandfather remembered Napoleon. So you can imagine. And they had their own house. They owned a house. And the janitors wife used to do things for them on sabbath, and this , and they had a maid to do. And when my grandmother died, my grandfather died a year after, he wouldn't go to children. Says "I die in my own bed". So every night another grandchild had to come to sleep with him. And on Sabbath he wouldn't let anybody to make fire or anything, so the janitors wife used to come on this. They were independant people, never had anything from children, and died very proud. As a matter of fact there was a pin of my grandmother's pin, that's a half a moon, I remember cause I always wanted it. Like a Turkish half a moon ^{every} ~~out of~~ gold. And there were two... filled with rubies, and they were not diamonds like we call... they were brilliante and diamante, brilliante was a finished diamond and diamond was unfinished stone. And they were cheaper, so this was that unfinished stone. Now during the World War One they became poorer, but they would not ask the children. We discovered after she died, ~~evidently~~ ^{she} evidently she used that pin, ~~when we inherited~~ when we inherited the pin those diamonds were placed with glass. She must have sold them, not asking for any help. This was the type, they don't exist, these ~~kind~~ ^{kind} of people any more. These were the people. ^{the kind maybe Sholem and maybe united all} my heritage, because that is what I remember. And I remember when the ~~War~~ World War One, when the Germans came in, the Jews welcomed the Germans, very much. They were our benefactors, because that time Russia was no good for Jews or for Poles either. They persecuted the Poles too. So everything concentrated on the market place. The market place was always in the middle of the city. And Jews were, and Poles too, the Jews especially, were waving and welcoming the German army. At the head of the German army sat, was an elderly man, a general. ⁱⁿ In those days the army was different, the Germans were different. And next to them was an empty horse, a horse without a rider. And grandfather, since he was taller than anybody else, stuck out. And he was very goodlooking. So he looked around you know, the people waiting, and he called him...

L.B. The general called him.

H.E. He called him, "Der Juden, with the big beard, with the nice white beard". Grandfather turned white! They're going to shoot him! So he went and he shivered, you know? And the general looked him over and said "For your good

ask for help?

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looks I'll give you that horse". And he gave him the horse! Now what would an old Jew do with a horse? So he gave it, those years they had these, what they call traiger(?)... *traiger*

L.K. A vasser traiger?

L.B. Carters.

H.E. They carted linens, and... So he gave it to him

L.B. They carted people too, not on their backs but in wagons.

H.E. I don't remember much, but I remember when Poland was independant after the World War. I remember when Poland, after the World War I, Poland was engaged in a war with Russia, which was a local war. That brother of mine who is in New Zealand, that's the time when he ran away from Poland, because ~~he would have gone to the front lines~~, and we didn't want him, and we sent him to Vienna, and that's ^{enough} story and so on and so on. So I remember Poland after... the Poles won the war you know.

L.B. Right.

H.E. And Poland became independant. So I went to school.

L.B. Where did you go to school?

H.E. In Czystahova. School from kindergarten. Private schools which were very expensive.

L.B. Who ran the schools, the government Or...?

H.E. Wait. First it was private. Then when I reached the first class or maybe the second class, which I don't remember exactly, the government took it over. And these schools were the best schools. The reason I could get in is because I came from kindergarten. There was a limited amount of Jews that could get in. These government schools they called Numerus Clausus. But it wasn't numerus clausus, it was numerus nulus. You understand?

L.K. No what is the meaning?

L.B. Practically no Jews were let in.

H.E. No Jews. But these who remained they couldn't get out. When we reached the eighth class which is Baccalaureate in French but Matura in Polish. Which means the... when you finish highschool.

L.B. You graduate.

H.E. I graduated. There were only two Jewish girls, I was *only (?) 303* ... Anti-semitism was at the highest level.

L.B. What year Please?

H.E. How can I give you the years?

L.B. How old were you when you graduated?

H.E. 17?

L.B. 1923. If you were born in 1906 and you were 17 it must have been 1923.

L.K. Had you sensed any anti-semitism before that time?

H.E. Yeah.

L.K. You Had.

H.E. There was always anti-semitism. *There was always anti-semitism.*

L.K. What were the signs that you could recognize?

H.E. Oh, I tell you... I remember a pogrom in our city, a pogrom. As I told you the houses are built as that is like a brama(?) like a gate... like a big door. In Poland every night the concierge, the superintendant or the janitor, whatever you call it, will lock it for the night. And there's a bell. When you come in after 12 o'clock you have to pull the bell and he comes out of the warm bed, and opens it, of course you give him a tip, and how you get into the houses. There was a rumour that there is going to be a pogrom, of course right away... the janitors were very devoted. They were very loyal people.

L.B. They were not Jewish?

H.E. Not Jews. A janitor was not a Jew. They were loyal to the people who employed them. Now they were loyal to us. But if I tell you, my brother, the one who is in New Zealand, was a very husky boy. He had a gun. He had a permit for a gun, because of our business and this... he had a gun. And he

was not afraid of anything. He went out, of course we all hid, we were not, none of us were hurt or anything. Nobody invaded our homes. But it was on the streets. You know who was fighting in those days, who... my father and our children, we were not. The butchers, the husky boys and the bakers and the young ones, they will go out and fight them, these Poles, you know, when there was a pogrom.

L.B. So what you're saying is the working class Jews went out and fought, resisted the pogroms.

H.E. Yes, very few. I remember only one, and I think one or two people were killed. It was not a slaughter like in Russia you heard about the pogroms, they came and raped and this and that,.... no, it was a clash.

L.B. Just on the street?

H.E. On the street. If I tell you that my brother recognized one of the boys, this is before(?) anti-semitism, and that was in the good days yet, it was not in the depression days as I get to it. There was one, a student, who used to come to our house. Who used to kiss my hand, kiss my mother's hand! They were you know, chevalier, they were gentlemen. And he was in the gang to attack the Jews.

L.B. Now who organized this gang, what kind of a gang was it?

H.E. Well, I don't know much about this, I remember only one of those pogroms, it's not an organized pogrom, it's not a major pogrom. I told you about pogrom because anti-semitism existed *ALL the time*

L.B. Was it worse after the first war or before or the same...?

H.E. ~~I don't remember~~ Before, I don't remember.

L.K. This is the thing that happened before, though, the one where your brother recognized his friend...

H.E. After the war, after.

L.B. After the war?

H.E. There was always anti-semitism. But I only experienced one as a child, that I remember. But I experienced anti-semitism in school. There was a time, in school, in high school, that we had professors who were not liberal people, the professors were anti-semitic. Same thing with the students. But once you are in school and this... you don't feel it that much, personally, but you know there is antisemitism because, first of all there came a time in schools where the Jews had their separate... we were segregated! One side, we had like little benches, like a pulpit seat a little bit, and two sat. We sat on this side, the gentiles sat on this side. In our Catholic schools we had to get out because there ^{was} prayers.

L.B. Your school was a Catholic school?

H.E. Of course it was a Catholic school.

L.B. Even though it was public?

H.E. It was not public. The government took it over, but it was never public, you paid. But you had only terrific... when you finished one of these schools your diploma is valid all over the world. All over Europe. It's valid, you don't have to take any exams, nothing.

L.B. So these public schools were taken over by the government...

H.E. High schools were not public. There was no such a thing like in my times a public high school. Later on there were public elementary schools. High school was always paid.

L.B. And it was Catholic?

H.E. Mine was Catholic, most of them ~~were~~ are Catholic.

L.B. Most of them are Catholic?

H.E. Yeah. But later on, I get to it....

L.B. I am trying to understand the difference, you paid, but the government owned them, is that correct?

H.E. We ~~gave~~ gave, we had the...

L.B. Or did the church own them?

H.E. Oh no! No church owned them, oh no!

L.B. But you say they were Catholic, this is why...

LEEROWN

H.E. The church of Poland is Catholic! See? Parochial schools... nuns had their ~~own~~ own schools. But government school meant, not that you don't pay, is public, it meant that you had privileges. The diploma has more value than any other school. And I tell you how the exam goes in order to get the diploma, it wasn't easy. Well, I tell you about the ~~anti~~ anti-semitism. So we had different... at that time there were a lot of clashes at various schools, like in (?) (Lemberg, ~~Warsaw~~?) and other schools, in our city there was not. When the Jewish students begin to revolt against the gentile students when there was the ghetto benches we called them. There was a lot of unrest. There was a lot of antisemitism. So I sat on the ghetto bench too. *gentile* Although I was only one of two Jewish girls, so the two Jewish girls (*-the rest were*) The Jews always had to be better in school than the gentiles, they always had to be brighter. They were persecuted more. I mean questions asked to us, they give us... How to explain it in English? Our marks were not a hundred like you have here, it was one, two, three, four, five. Now, five nobody gets, five is God. Four, the very privileged, if you got three it mean you passed. One, that means too low, but two is what we got, two was very ~~often~~ often. So, in math and high math, we had geometry, trigonometry, and all this, physics, and all, Jews always had to be a little better in Latin than... I remember all these years, I remember Ceasar still today by heart. That's how we had to study.

L.K. Were your exams different than the exams given to the other children? Were you asked more questions?

H.E. Not more, but they were a little more difficult, you know, not more. But in order to get a diploma, ~~finished~~ to finish, what did they call it?... government, the department of education from Warsaw, there was a commission, came, a commission of three people, from Warsaw, and they sat, they made the ~~exam~~ questions, not the professor, not the professor! They made the questions, they ~~made the exams~~ put the exams and they sat through all these exams. The professor witnessed, but they were... And they made the marks.

L.K. It's like a Regents exam here, that's made at the state...

L.B. Yeah, but it's more personal, so it's more threatening.

H.E. And they passed you. Once you get this diploma ... as you ... go to university. So what do you want, Medicine? Numerous nulus... You couldn't, unless you bribed and paid, and I don't know, medicine, a Jew couldn't get in my days, in my days, to study medicine in Warsaw. So where did they go? Most of them to ~~Praga~~ Praga (Prague?), a lot of them went to Prague. Czechoslovakia was liberal. A lot of them ... no, not to Germany,

L.B. No?

H.E. No. Vienna, and France. Now, I have a nephew, in Italy, I have a nephew doctor who is now Australia, survived (*Buchenwald*) concentration camp, who finished medicine in Italy. I have a nephew who finished in France chemical engineering. This nephew is come is Doctor of Law. He got, they call it Magisto of Law. He was the only one who went to Warsaw, who got into Warsaw, because law they let you. But any other... All my friends were college educated and professionals, but most of them... Cracow was the ~~place~~ *different* place. In Cracow they got into ~~the~~ universities. Jews... easier in Galicia, than it was in Warsaw... Warsaw was very difficult.

L.K. In Cracow did it involve bribery for a Jew to get into the university?

H.E. See, I didn't live in Cracow so I don't want to commit myself. But in Poland...

L.B.. I would guess bribery everywhere.

H.E. Bribery was everywhere.

L.B. They said in Vienna...

H.E. Bribery was everywhere. I had a brother doctor of law, but he finished in Vienna. So I tell you the higher education was very difficult for Jews to get in... for anti-semitism. And yet there was a lot of Jews who studied in Warsaw, but medicine was very difficult to get in. And every Jew wanted to be a doctor.

L.K. Did they, in the university, the friends that you had, talk of anti-semitism in the university?

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nunn?

INTERVIEWER
A. ERON

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Hannah Aronberg

H.E. ^{France} Prague had anti-semitism. Czechoslovakia did not have it. Czechoslovakia was nice, they liked Czechoslovakia, the Prague. Vienna didn't have it those years... they didn't feel... my brother loved Vienna, the one who finished, he's buried in Vienna, he died young.

L.K. He never talked of anti-semitism in the university?

H.E. No! Poland they talked about ~~it~~ anti-semitism. Poland was always anti-semitic. They liked...of course they always loved (?) a Jew like I. "Oh, you, you we love!" Because I spoke a good Polish, without an accent. I did like this... but the other Jews, they cut their beards, many times you heard "~~it~~ Zhide" That type was a normal thing. When children were playing you... We didn't associate with gentiles!

L.B. You did not associate with gentiles?

H.E. No! I went to ~~school~~ school with them, all right, if I needed something from school I would ask something. But we had our friends Jews!

L.B. That's what I was going to ask. So your social life was really all Jews?

H.E. Jews, definitely Jewish.

L.B. But your father sent you to ~~this~~ this school to get an education.

H.E. There was no other schools.

L.B. There was no Jewish gymnasia?

H.E. When I was already in the sixth, seventh classes my nephews made this, see? I went from kindergarten so I had to went through the... because once I am expelled...goodbye, I cannot get in. I tell you how strict our schools were, where I was brought up. We were not allowed to go to a movie unless is approved by school.

L.K. Which was a Catholic school.

H.E. No other schools had the same thing. They very, very strict. We were not allowed to be after a certain hour on the streets without chaperoning. We went to a movie, there has to be accompanied by an older person.

L.K. Did you live at the school?

H.E. No.

L.K. You lived at home.

H.E. I lived at home. We had, for instance affairs...a ball, you know, My brother went to (Goschminsky?) which was a gymnasium for boys. So we had, these boys were invited to our school, under the supervision of the teachers. Understand? Lipstick I didn't wear on until I was in the seventh class. I wore a uniform, which consisted of a Navy skirt, a middy blouse, like a...

L.B. Sailor blouse.

H.E. Sailor blouse, or a Peter Pan, white collar... I remember my sisters always, because I was the youngest I let them do it, to wash my, my...

L.B. Cuffs.

H.E. Cuffs and this, and sew it on. And a black apron. That was the uniform. Of course we were wearing a beret with insignia of the school.

L.B. Did you have to learn anything about the Catholic religion in the schools too?

H.E. We didn't have to. I know their prayers because I heard them. They were kneeling. They said the prayer at the end and at the beginning, but the Jewish girls used to stand up. We didn't walk out. Nobody forced you...

I want to tell you, later... if I would be caught twice, or three times against the rules, for instance on the street on a certain time, or in a movie that was not proper, three times, I am expelled from school. Once I am expelled I can not get into any other school. That's how we were good. It wasn't easy. But we had good times anyhow, we smoked cigarettes too.

~~My~~ L.B. So you enjoyed it actually in spite of everything ~~it~~ because you were young.

H.E. Those were the good years, you know, the boys from the other high schools were my friends, and later there were professionals who used to come from the universities, they come for the holidays, for the New years, for Christmas, they came home. And we had a very beautiful social life. But they

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were Jews.

L.B. Did your mother keep the Sabbath?

H.E. Yes.

L.B. Did you go to Shul on Friday night?

H.E. I went... no. No, Father went, we didn't. I had to go to school on Sabbath.

L.B. Oh, you did?

H.E. I had to write on Sabbath. We walked to school. *(? 56) depends on the distances you know.*
 I had to write. Sabbath, Father was a very religious man, we had a kosher home. The children were not kosher. Father knew, closed his eyes, closed his ears, tolerated it, said nothing. But that was... we were more assimilated, we belonged to the different class of people I told you. I will give you an entirely different story than the other people will give you. Because I've been experienced this sort of life. Sometimes when I tell these people who came they think, they don't believe me. That I lived like that, you see. First of all they came before, they came because of necessity. They came here to make a living, either they ran away from Russia, you see there is intelligentsia ~~who ran away from Russia~~ from Russia who ran away because of Pogroms and anti-semitism. From Poland they ran away because, either they were bankrupt or they stole, or they had to run away from military service, or poverty. I remember my father used to say "I am very proud, I have no relatives in America." America did not have... we looked down to Americans. We didn't know what America is. But who did we see in America? The one who *(?) came* many years ago, left, who was a black sheep of the family, put it this way. Left for America, made money in America, came to visit. If he didn't make money he still came and helped the family because everybody took advantage of the Americans. Every American is a millionaire. But how did he come dressed? In a big hat, wearing like that, yellow shoes, and we were very conservative people! There was a class of people, it was a class of people whose father's were doctors, lawyers, owned businesses. There was upper middle class people! Who never emigrated, who died in the holocaust. It was the ~~blue~~ *blue* of Jewry, people even lecture when they talk of Poland, and I hate Poland, say "what sort of a country is (Poland?)" When I came to this country I had a trousseau that my dress maker went to Paris to get, to get for my... my father gave me a tremendous trousseau, so they looked at me, I thought they would have a babushka, you know, a ~~kerchief~~ *kerchief* little kerchief... a peasant. Because it was a different element. And this element did not come to America. It perished during the Hitler. And this was the intelligentsia, they were the people *Sholom (Ash, etc...)*. The type of Sholom Ash, who never arrived to these borders, and they were a terrific asset, would have been, to any country.

L.B. They couldn't leave in time, is that it? Because war was declared ~~not~~ immediately and...?

H.E. First of all they couldn't leave... I must show you. I have here a letter written 1938 by my father, who wrote to me. He wrote in Yiddish, in Hebrew, in Russian, in Polish and German.

L.B. He knew those five languages?

H.E. And I show you, he wrote me, I just found I keep it, wrote me 1938, a year before war broke out. He was killed at the ~~age~~ *age* of eightie, he was at that time 78,79. I show you handwriting of a man... They were not dressmakers, they were not shoemakers, they could not... So what? I had a sister who worked in aluminum factory, what she going.... she perished with her two children and her husband, first thing. The Germans took over. I have the pots and pans, I show you, that she gave me 44 years ago as a wedding gift, a *(?)* *(a whole kitchen?)*. There is that fish cooking there in that pan that she gave me. They all perished, because *in Europe* they would be a bit poor. They wanted their children to come to university here. So I tried, so you know the consul, the American consul, that was when she wrote me...

L.K. Do you remember what year?

H.E. Yes, I remember, I tell you, because I remember. When I talk about it...

L.B. You want to not talk?

H.E. No, No, I talk, I get upset.

L.B. Sure.

641 ? H.E. Katya (?) died in a concentration camp of typhus. The other ones (C?)
So, this girl finished high school, so my sister wrote me, "Hanya, I want to get her out of Poland, is bad. And the only way I can get her out as a student." So I went to Columbia, ... the American consul in Poland gave her conditions, if she gets admittance to Columbia university, study medicine, they'll give her the visa. I didn't know that things are going to be the way it is, I live in.... Oh, I had a friend who was a graduate of Columbia, so they laughed at me. They said you know we don't even give our own people? And secondly we don't want anybody anymore because that time there was a civil war in Spain.

L.B. So this was '37?

H.E. So when was the Civil war in Spain?

L.B. '37, '38.

599 ? H.E. Well, that was the civil war in Spain and they say we don't want any (influent?)
In Columbia they told me! I never brought that child and she perished.

L.B. Now the Americans were not very good about letting them in?

H.E. No, they didn't want Poles here.

L.B. They didn't want anybody!

H.E. I don't know whether anybody, but they didn't want the Poles here, and I couldn't get her. Here, look at the handwriting, of a man who was close to 80.

L.B. Lieber kinde, so this is in German?

H.E. It's in German, but certain things...

L.B. That's a beautiful hand.

H.E. And the language.

L.B. Well, I don't know German, but it's a beautiful hand. He was 80? 78.

H.E. 78.

L.B. His hand is very steady.

H.E. That's it, you see? His name was Moshe. And the finishes...

573 ? L.B. You should put it in plastic.

H.E. I had another letter..." I hope to see you maybe with the children..."

Moshe. He used to write letters, pages and pages. This is a sister of mine wrote. But he wrote to me in this letter...

L.B. Now this is Polish?

H.E. This is Polish. He wrote me... I had a sister widow, and she lived with Father. Father wouldn't go to children, and he had asthma at that time and he was coughing at night, so he writes to me, ~~and~~ And that sister was a beautiful woman, blonde, tall, very beautiful woman. She was unfortunately married and he died. So he says, in this letter writes, ~~my other~~ "My other children don't know that I cough at night and wake up through, but Paula (her name) goes through that, and I would like to send her, she deserves it. I'll pay the expenses." (Father didn't have much those years anymore). And he says, "I want her to come to the exhibition, to visit you and be in America"...

L.B. That's the World's Fair in N.Y. ~~1922~~ 1938, '39.

H.E. And when, by the time I got to do anything, she got, the war broke out. She would have been saved. He wanted to save her. Well, where was I?

L.B. Well, now you had finished high school.

H.E. I had finished high school. I was taking up music.

L.B. Wait, let me ask you something else, your father knew Polish, Yiddish, Russian, Hebrew, and German.

H.E. Yes, he was a scholar.

L.B. Where did he go to school?

H.E. Private tutors.

L.B. Private tutors.

Ha E. They didn't have schools. He went to ~~Hebrew~~ (?) in those years. You

717?
have to realize you know how many years ago. 40 years ago they were 50 years married. Why, 44 years ago, excuse me. A year after... I be in November 44 years married. I came here in 1930 in January, right? I got married November 12, 1929, which is 44 years November? Right? Now, a year after my mother died, she died in Vienna, (and brought her home?), they believed in doctors in Vienna those days. We loved Vienna you know. And so Father... a year after I came to this, they celebrated their fiftieth ~~anniversary~~ wedding anniversary. And then my mother died. So, when he was a child, he got married at the age of 17, and I think my mother was the same age. So she was already a woman with a boy. They never saw each other until they got married. Until an engagement, from the... you know, that's the old story, which I was told. I lived in a different ~~xxxx~~ world, but that was the generation before, my father's generation was like that.

L.B. Their marriage was arranged?

H.E. Oh sure. There were arranged marriages when I was there too.

L.B. That's what I was going to ask you, the next question.

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H.E. Oh, yes, there were a lot of arranged marriages. Of course in a more civilised way, not like... the ~~shopman~~ ^{snadman} came and he suggested, and they met, and they went around, and they saw whether they liked each other, but those years they didn't even see each other probably. And, so I don't know how my father, but I'm sure he went to ~~Halda~~ ^{Heiter}, and they private... and from experiences. He travelled and he was bright. Talmud he knew very well. That he knew. There were schools by that, that they studied. Always, my father, every Saturday he studied, you know. And when the grandchildren grew up, never wanted it, the sons never wanted it, in his old age before he died he adopted a yeshiva boche ^(?). He gave him to eat, because they were starving, these yeshiva bachas in order to study with him. He wanted the child... he was lonely. It was a different world, you know. Father was a different world, altho was a very.... my father was a very domineering type, very domineering. He was what we was afraid of.

L.B. Was your mother afraid of him?

H.E. yeah. But she, you know. Among themselves they spoke Yiddish. To me Polish. My grandfather spoke Polish too. So

L.B. So just between themselves they spoke Yiddish, but you knew Yiddish?

SM H.E. I understood every word, but I never spoke Yiddish. I learned Yiddish in America.

~~My father spoke both languages and I did too~~

L.B. Now what languages did you speak?

H.E. Polish, French, a little German.

L.B. You learned French in school?

H.E. French was very important language in school, second language in Poland.

L.B. Polish and French.

H.E. I had even a private teacher come to talk to... And music, those years was like that... in order to marry well... ^{what did} one they give you... they didn't prepare you for life at all. Later on, when already I was... after this, I wanted... there was a movement among the youth to be independant, to have professions. Even some took millenary, were selling hats, anything to be independant. Some were druggists, some were lawyers, but before a "ashanda"!

"What do you mean a child making a living?!" I in a certain type of a family.

L.B. When did this movement start? This independant movement? Especially among girls. Do you remember when? After the war?

H.E. Among girls... boys they expected it from boys.

L.B. Was it after the war?

H.E. Oh, yes!

L.B. After the war.

H.E. Yes, I don't remember anything before the war. So after the war, mostly in the twenties.

L.B. Early?

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H.E. Probably.

L.B. Yeah?

H.E. Yeah. There was independant waman... I had already two friends, Cohen (Cohn?) her name was, her father was very rich man, was a ~~dux~~ druggist, and she worked! One was a lawyer, worked!

L.B. Now where did they go to school?

H.E. With me.

L.B. Where did they get their degree? They had to go past gymnasē.

H.E. They passed with me and then they went to various colleges, I don't know where they went.

L.B. They had to get into some university.

H.E. Well of course... they went abroad, there were... law locally there was obtainable (?).

L.B. And pharmacy was obtainable too?

H.E. Pharmacy was obtainable too.

L.K. The question occurred to me when you say about what time... Do you remember if that was about the time when the women started to cut their hair short?

H.E. Yes, yes.

L.K. Yeah, that was it.

H.E. Yes, and you know what? I had ^{problems} troubles with my father. My father believed, that's ~~at~~ the household I lived in, very strict. There was a grandfathers clock that inherited from his father in his bedroom, a big ~~old~~ old fashioned, and he watched ~~about~~ ^{problems}, I was the youngest, when I came home. My mother covered up ~~down~~ everything. She used to go out of bed barefoot, in the winter time it was bitter cold, sh, sh, and we had a big apartment, I told you we were not poor people, we had five room house, apartment, you know we lived in our own house. So we went through the living room, we call it the Salon, it was no living room, Salon. I had a room of my own, many Jewish....but the crowd... I had a sheltered life. And a bad life before ^(?) simple because I didn't see what the next ~~future~~ fellow. We were so, so,.... egoistic, put it this way. There was so much poverty, we didn't see it. ~~To live in that milieu! We didn't live in that milieu.~~

L.B. It was a private world.

H.E. It was a world of our own. I learned about things when I matured and I came to America. And then I opened my mind. It was a sheltered house, absolutely sheltered! I never knew what was not to get a thing! So that's no experience. But, so that's how we were brought up. Mother, "Shhhh." If my brother was with me it was fine. When my boys came to visit, all college boys, all students, the finest boys. We knew their fathers, we knew their mothers, you know, everybody knew everybody. So they used to take you to the brama, you know, the door, and there you stand, you were talking yet. When you said goodbye we didn't kiss, God forbid!, he kissed my hand. So there was a whole ritual. You moved away the glove... oh it was all gallant! If they wrote you letters its poetry. It was a romantic era, but it doesn't exist. You know today...

L.B. All right let's go... so you removed the glove...

H.E. I removed the glove, and he kissed right here.

L.B. In the middle of the wrist.

H.E. Very delicately, you know, oh very gallant! ^{when} My father would catch me standing with a boy he wouldn't say anything. Eh, Eh, he makes this cough, the boy started to run. So he ~~says~~ used to say ~~look~~ "who is he, who is his father?"

L.K. Even my father did that in my day.

H.E. What ~~did I say?~~ ^{what right had} He got to kiss your hand! What ^{right}... "Why didn't he come and ask me?" That's what I was going through, see? ~~My~~ My mother used to cover this up. I used to go to my sister to visit, was very, very... ^{Carnava} to a ^{larger} bigger city. Used to go ~~tax~~ where they call "Carnaro". Carnaron means carnival, it's the holiday season. So I was, I was standing in the doorway, you know, and the boy was saying goodbye, and he didn't know who he was

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and I heard "Eh,eh." He used to come for business calls. I heard his voice, did I run! () My sister would

get Hell! That's what it was. "Why doesn't he come and ask me?" So that was...

L.B. Now I asked one of the other woman, we were talking about... we wanted to know how women managed. And if the father was the head, I said didn't the women have tricks to avoid being...

H.E. Oh, they had plenty of tricks.

L.B. Right, that's what I wanted to know.

H.E. My mother had a (??) "Knippe" Savings, savings under the linens. And we needed something for... my father didn't know.

L.B. What else did she do?

H.E. My father had to ask questions. He asked... he had to know who's he and what is this and whatand we were different, and we were just as... was a generation gap. My father was extremely good father, there didn't come better. I give you an instance. He was a very religious Jew. During Sabbath he was like a Chosid. But during the week he was European. His clothes was European, because he had to meet the directors of banks, the directors of mines and this... so he was very well versed, he was intelligent man. But basically he was religious. And the children, none of us were religious. And nobody forced us to go to shul. I wnever went to shul.

L.K. I have a question to ask. At that time did you ever hear anything about a Zionist, or a Zionist movement in your shtetl.

H.E. Yes, my father was a Zionist. // Wasn't a shtetl, ^{min} was in a big city! I wasn't a Zionist, I'll be very frank with you. I was for ~~£~~() charity.

Now we had what they call ~~£~~ "Linat ha sedic" (?) Ha sedic, you know, it was a hospital. We were giving to Jewish... oh Jewish charities were very prominent. We were interested in the Jewish question, always, but it was more local. My father was a Zionist. We were too young yet, you see. There was there, there was an element there that was more of a Socialist element. And that Socialist element turned towards Zionism.

L.K. Was that before the first World War?

H.E. No, no. Nothing is before the first World War. After the First World War. In the twenties, in the early twenties and... 1919, 1920, 1922, 2 and 3. So you see, my father called them communists.

L.B. Was your father a Chasid actually?

H.E. Yes, he had a Rebbe what he went to.

L.B. He did?

H.E. Yah.

L.B. But he was a Zionist anyway?

H.E. Oh, yes.

L.B. He believed in political Zionism?

H.E. Yes. Yes.

L.B. He did?

H.E. Oh yes. Political Zionism he says... his dream was to be buried in Jerusalem. Oh yes, oh yes. Now I had a brother who went to a special agriculture school in order to be prepared for Israel.

L.B. One of the Baron ¹⁹⁵ ~~Hurst~~ schools was it?

H.E. No. There was a school "abronitcha" (?), that's an agriculture school. I don't know what school. And he was in the early days. He's in New Zealand now. So, but I had a brother who was in the first Zionist congress with my husband. That brother that died in Vienna I told you was a doctor of law. Who was first Zlionest congress.

L.B. So he was active in the Zionist movement! NO?

H.E. Well, in a way. I was too young to understand. I was the youngest of all of them. I was too young to understand these things. There was definitely Israel, there was a lot of Jewish families, those days I remember, who winding up and going to Israel. Because anti-semitism and depression was already in the

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twenties.

L.B. You knew Jewish Polish families who went to Israel?

H.A. Oh, yeah.

L.B. So these were the upper middle class or the poor?

H.A. The middle class. Not poor. I didn't know poor people.

L.B. You ~~did~~ didn't know the poor at all? You just knew they lived in another part of town?

H.A. I knew. Yeah. I knew there's poverty. And we were helping them. I have a sister

END SIDE ONE, PART ONE.

WHO Lived in Obershtater(?) had that aluminum factory, and every Friday night would give fish, (Chalas) to poor families. That was the year that father had to pay terrific taxes.

L.B. Now this is part of the Kehilla?

H.A. What Kehilla? Sure. We had to support the poor.

L.B. Not to the Polish government, but to the Kehilla.

H.A. Every Jew who made a living, who had a little more had to pay to support the poor. Because the government didn't do anything. So the Kehilla did this.

L.B. Did your father employ people?

H.A. When he was in business, I get to it when he didn't have it.

L.B. But when he was in business did he have people working for him?

H.A. Yes.

L.B. Were they Jews or nonJews?

H.A. Jews, everything Jews. ~~Except~~ Except the janitor, or the fellow to construct the.... Jews. We were among Jewish people. We didn't like the Gentiles. Now if any of his daughters would marry a Gentile he would sit shiva. And I had friends ~~with~~ boyfriends who were gentiles. But just once in a while, but it would never occur to me to convert or not to marry a Jew. I was too Jewish for that. And I had friends who married Gentiles. But they were rare cases. They would not... as today it is. It was not accepted. Well, that was the good days, then a depression set in.

L.K. Do you remember about when it started?

H.A. Before I left there was depression. When I left Poland the Jews wanted to get out of Poland. Father didn't want me to go. You see, my husband is related sort of, inter related (2) ^{machat} ~~machat~~ So he knew the ~~same~~ family. But my husband in the first years, we got engaged, second years he came we got married. It didn't just come! And I never was immigrant you see, I married an American citizen.

L.B. Oh your husband was an American born?

H.E. No. Polish born.

L.B. But he became a citizen?

H.A. He lived in England, and he was a long time a citizen when he came to see me. See me by ~~accident~~ accident. My sister was aunt by marriage to him.

L.B. To him, to your husband?

H.A. And when he came so he fell in love with me. And my father objected. My father didn't want me to go to America. And I was the youngest and only one. But he compromised, he says "YOU correspond for a year, let him go back anew." I had a boyfriend too. That's another story, its not important.

L.B. It is important.

H.A. And he says well after a year if you both decide that you want to get married he will come back and we will marry at home. And that's what happened. He came 1928 and 1929. And...

L.K. And the depression was there before it came to America?

H.A. Yes, the depression was ... My father and mother didn't want ... my sisters and brothers want to get out of Poland. I was so con... the family... didn't know. It was very difficult. I had a boyfriend who came just from England, he was an engineer, he specialized in England. He finished university in Poland and specialized in England and he was in love with me for when I was (2) , We were school children. And was very diffi-

cult. I remember my sisters "Get out! Get out of Poland." There was already... I remember, after one year being in America, I came back to visit, my mother died already. I came to the unveiling. I saw... before I left, the taxes were so big, the Jews were taxed so high, that they couldn't pay the taxes, actually, they were so... Father used to beg us "Children don't go out together," we were all dressed, "because they tax me so high." He was actually afraid because the taxes were going higher and higher. ^{they were} ~~Busy as~~ Father already ~~was~~ ^{was}... when I left Father just had the house and a little business, that linen ~~business~~ ^{business}. Small... he made a living. But he wasn't that ~~big~~ ^{big} merchant that I remember when I was growing... He was old already.

L.B. K Did they take away the licence to be the man for the mines?

H.A. No, they don't take away. Father gave it to the son, my oldest brother took over. What happened, Father lost a lot of money ~~being~~ ^{being} during... during the war... first of all during the World War I, I was told, a lot of his stuff was confiscated by the Germans. Wagons full with coal, linens and the Germans supposed to pay. After the war he used to go to Berlin to try to get... the lawyers collected very little. The coal, I don't remember what years, my father and brother were sort of yet partnership. There was a strike in England.

L.B. UM, '29. There was a general strike.

H.A. No, was before.

L.B. No it was '24.

H.A. '24. And they sell the coal, went to ... England bought coal in Poland. And my brother sent the coal to England, when they arrived in England... *it sat there* ~~sacked them~~ because the strike was ~~never~~ settled. And they lost fortunes.

L.B. Oh, by that time the strike...? It was a big strike.

H.A. Yeah, and ... but this is the story. So I remember we were lucky to pay tax money. ~~W~~ Father would not pay taxes I couldn't get out of Poland.

L.B. Is that right?

H.A. Sure, you had to pay taxes, you had to pay them... everything. The taxes, the taxes, Father always used to write me "the taxes are killing me, the taxes are killing me." And I remember the first year I came, ~~first~~ first time, it was I think 1930, 1931. It was 1931. I saw, I got scared because I was afraid with... the furniture would be out on the street... FURNITURES were out on the streets because the Jews couldn't pay the taxes! And if you couldn't pay the taxes they came and they took out everything that was in the house!

L.B. Now you're talking about the Polish government taxes, no more Kehilla taxes.

H.A. No, no, Polish government! The Jews were taxed highly. And they had auctions, they used to sell. And I went to the department of treasury, I remember, to see, Father asked me, because I was an American, ~~those were~~ ^{they opened} *the doors for me* when they lived, ~~the~~ ^{they made} the impressions you know. Make sure that what the father paid all the taxes you see. And Father did pay. But suppose if I wanted to prolong... I could have gotten it for him, if he says I couldn't pay 8 months, or 4 months, because I have a daughter an American. And if I came an American they were afraid of the Americans. They wanted to have with the government a good opinion, Well I go back to the story of school. When I was in the sixth class my nephews were only a few years younger because we were ten children. When Mother gave birth to me my oldest sister got married. So my nephew was about two or three years younger. He was(?) ... They couldn't get into schools anymore. The high schools. So was the first highschool, this is of importance, Jewish highschool, gymnasium, was opened in Czastahova. And the director was the famous historian Professor Balabqn(?). That was first. And this was the school that when you finished this school, you had also access to any university. So they went Hebrew school... they were already, when I was still going to that Catholic school, they were already, they were ~~xx~~ it was private, by private money. Jewish... they were already Jewish gymnasium.

L.B. Now what did they learn there, do you know?

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H.A. The regular curriculum.Plus...
L.B. Plus?
H.A. Hebrew,no Jewish, Hebrew.
L.K. Was there any kind of a Zionist orientation in that school?
H.A. Yes. I don't know, I don't think so. I don't think there was Zionist orientation. But there were ~~roots~~ Halutz, there were groups, there were...
L.K. There were interests.
H.A. Oh, of course there were Zionists. There were groups that were going to as Halutzim to Israel. There were a lot of them.
L.B. You did know a lot? You're the first person we've spoken to that really knew people that went.
H.A. I wasn't part of it.
L.B. ~~No, but that knew people~~ I know, but that knew people that went.
H.A. Oh,yeah. There were people. They were people in depression. Middle class people who sold everything up and the whole families... but alas a lot of them came back.
L.B. They came back, Why? Was it ^{hard} there?
H.A. Yes. Some remained, but a lot of them came back.
L.B. This was what Bark said would happen.
L.K. I read that.
H.B. They went unprepared.
H.A. Middle class values... they sold out their house holds and everything, went to Israel. You see I didn't belong to the Halutz movement. But there was a Ha lutz movement. And I remember we had a tenant in our house, and all these kids were Halutzim. My father called them the communists, you see, so you know...
L.B. Why, but he was a Zionist? Because they were socialists.
H.A. Oh, were socialists.
L.B. So a socialist was a communist?
H.A. Bundist(?) socialist...The act(?)
L.K. Yes that was frequently so.
H.A. Yes, that was my father, you know, my father was very conservative. The bourgeois.
L.B. And what did he think of the... when the Russian revolution came, what...?
H.A. The Russian revolution didn't affect us at all.
L.B. Not emotionally? There was no feeling? First there was the Karsensky government.
H.A. The feeling was... my father had a friend who ran away from Russia. Beautiful girl, very very elegant, very fine, very cultured. They ran away from the Bolsheviks and they settled down in Poland. I was too young to be concerned remember. You would ask my father, you would ask my older brother, maybe they would... I wasn't politically minded. I went to school.
L.B. Yeah.
H.A. you see, I wasn't politically minded at all. I told you that we lived sheltered lives. We lived... I can only tell you how I lived, I can't tell you... But there were movements. There were movements. There was Halutzim movement, there was Zionism movement. My father was a Zionist. My brother went... I told you. But I was the youngest, ~~Ma~~ and I ...
L.K. Lucille, the difference is, this is the city.
H.A. A big city.
L.B. That's right, yeah.
H.A. This is the ^{first} city in Poland, you see? And it was considered a big city. I was a selfish brat. I went to school, I had music lessons. I studied music since I was six years of age.

INTERVIEWER

L. BROWN

And I paid... We had a little conservatory in our school, it was not a formal conservatory. The head of the conservatory was a woman who finished in Czechoslovakia, conservatory. And her husband was a musician, he was a Czech. A gentile. Newfeldt was the name. And ~~she~~ she came ~~back~~ back to Czastahova after, and she opened a school for music. Just private school. Which were about ten or fifteen students. And private lessons. And at the end of the year we had a little concerts like that. ~~But it was very good guidance~~ But we had very good guidance, was a ^{talented} woman. And I remember those years we paid ten zlotas. I remember exactly because I know how much a dollar was. Ten zlotas a lesson, for which my mother paid from the knippel. And a dollar was ten zlotas. Exactly ten though, what I remember. Because when we used to buy the high boots for the winter we had to figure it out in dollars, how much it was. A lot of things was in dollars. What did the Jews do? If they had money... I remember my father, like after the first... during the World war I remember the first one when I was a little girl, you know, first they confiscate everything. Germans come and confiscate. The first World War I remember, I told you about it though, we had a big store. They took away the store. We had knobs out of metal, they took all these knobs off the door, to making guns, to ~~making~~ ammunition! You see, that was World War I. What did the Jew do? He hides things. Now if we had ... every Jew if he had a little money made a living. He converted, never had zlotas, he converted money to dollars, to gold, to have security. Buy diamonds. How do you think Jews survived all these ~~years~~ ~~to these~~ things? It's because of these things, that they had. That was the character of the Polish Jew. ~~And~~ And they had a pot made ~~out~~ out of iron, an iron pot, and they buried it in the cellar. I remember that exactly. As a matter of fact I was told after the holocaust *(a niece of mine who's now in Australia)*. Her father lived in our house, that older sister of mine, and when the Germans came, you know, the holocaust, and he was also a career ~~man~~ man who had, you know wanted to... that's how she survived, with all the jewelry they had. She lived like an Aryan (?) you know, and survived with paying with diamonds. She's alive today, in New Zealand, Australia, it wasn't New Zealand. He buried whatever he had of value under the toilet. Well, the house is standing today, till today... You know how they found all these treasures? After the Jews were killed? The Poles and the Germans and ~~all~~ all this? And when my niece who lived in Warsaw, Zenarian (?), survived, came back, she knew that her father, and she came back in a dress made out of a blanket, because she lost everything (I was to send her clothes later), and she knew that her father buried the money under the toilet... ~~the Poles~~ the Poles took over the apart... In the beginning I told you that the Poles took over, not ~~the~~ the government, the Poles. They grabbed ~~the~~ ! Grabbed! I mean the Jews were killed and they grabbed the apartment, furnitures and everything. ~~With~~ With a knife like this after her! So she ran away to save her life. And she... there is the money! That will have to...

L.B. Cause she had to leave it there. So for all you know it's still there.
H.A. Sure. But that's what I remember my father used to do to survive. ~~And~~ And Jews used to hide things. Jews used to bribe. With bribery you could get anywheres. You could survive, you didn't have to go to military service... the Russians and the Poles lived on bribery. My father had a finger like this. And I asked him, "Daddy what is this, why, what did ^{you} have?"

L.B. A bent finger.

H.A. Like that, exactly, ~~as~~ I remember, it's just like that. He says " My child, I got married at the age of seventeen, at 21 I had three children. If the Russians would take me into the military service I would have been I don't know how many years. I would never come back ." They kept them for years and years." So I went to a doctor, and he cut my tendon and crippled that finger. And if I crippled this finger I cannot shoot. And I never went to military service."

L.K. I heard many tales ~~like~~ like that.

H.A. You had to be so clever to outwit them. And Jews were.

L.B. Well the ones that survived certainly were.

L.K. The ones that had money. The ones that didn't have money, no matter how clever you were you had nothing to bribe...

H.A. *7330* ... *starved, actually starved.*

L.B. Now did you know anything about those... actually were ~~you~~ you in what was called the "Pale"? The pale of settlement or... because that was the part where the Jews were confined, to the pale.

H.A. No.

L.B. You were not. You were in Poland. Now what about this large, poor, Jewish population in Czesstahova?

7331 H.A. In Czesstahova? Well,... I told you. The poor were living in that form of ghetto. There was what you call ~~Staderanek~~ *Staderanek* (2) and Noveranek. *Staderanek* is the old ... *Staderanek*

L.B. Section.

7332 H.A. The old section. Jewish. Only Jewish, *and now Noveranek starts already.*

L.K. They had their own synagogue?

7334 H.A. Oh, yes. We had what they call *(nemetszka synagoga, German synagogue)*. If any one wants to say it was a progressive, they call it German. With a famous cantor. What was ~~his~~ his name? I never went to shul, you see. Oh, the famous cantor,... Charly will know. My father did not go to shul. My father went to *shtetl* (?) You know what a shtetl is?

shetel L.B. It's a little house!

H.A. A shtetl is a room.

L.B. A room.

H.A. Where a group of Jews had like what we have here. Raananah...

L.B. A study.

H.A. No, no... they ~~studied~~ studied at home. They went to shul there, and they had everything like we have here in Raananah. Was only a group of people, and they were... they conducted the services. Now, my grandfather was conducting... later my father was conducting. There's a group. And they were orthodox Jews. Now, there was another kind. My mother again, didn't go to to a place like this, there were only men. My mother went to a regular shul. Nice shul, you know, where there were men went downstairs, women were upstairs. For the high Holidays used to come to visit, Yom Kippur, you see. That was the middle class of a shul. Then there was a *very* assimilated shul. Elegant, like in America you see, elegant. Shuls where they had famous cantors, famous rabbis and where they ... the element who was only professionals, most professionals, or the ~~very~~ very rich who used to go only for the high holidays, like in America. There were three kinds of shuls.

L.K. And the shuls that were in the ghetto area you never saw. You don't know what they were like.

H.A. They were probably in a form like my father ~~went~~ went... in their own shul... in the room. I never went... ~~you see, I don't~~ you see, I don't know what they were like.

L.B. And you knew no people from there? Did you know anything, what kind of... did they have work? Most of them were...

H.A. We had tenants, on the side I told you they were smaller. So there were poorer people.

L.B. What did they do for a living?

H.A. But you see how they lived. They could have... a shoemaker. A shoemaker and a tailor was considered low. Nobody was proud to say my father is a shoemaker. Here you are proud to say my mother was a dress maker, my father was a cutter. You know... this is... not now! This is the time when I lived. When you say my father was a scholar, my father was a yeshiva boucher, you had respect! Was for schooling, no matter how poor you are, you had respect. The laborer, you know, they lived in the one room, and a little kitchen. And that one little room the children and the father and the mother and they slept, and they worked there, and they had their workshop there, and that's how they lived. And some lived in cellars. *in fact our* shoemaker lived in a cellar. I used to go there. He used to make me shoes to order. To order shoes!

L.B. Was there a large percentage of unemployed amongst the Jews there, do you remember?

L E R O W N

Did you ever hear?

H.A. The majority of Jews I knew were merchants. ~~Or~~ Whether they were big merchants or small merchants, used to go to the shetl and make ten zlotas to buy... used to buy... come to my father and buy one piece of linen. He was a merchant. Then he went... cut the linen, went to the peasants, went to small towns and that's how he made a living. They were peddlars. They were merchants and they were peddlars. And the working people... I had ~~textile~~ a tailor, he was a very rich tailor. ~~xxxxxx~~ the mahargnista's (?) wife used to, I was told that he was alive because the Germans liked his work to such an extent, he was making uniforms during the holocaust.

L.B. What's his name?

H.A. Katz. In Czesstahova.

L.B. Alright. I think I read about him. Go ahead.

H.A. And this Katz made me my trousseau. He made me a coat, and a suit, its ~~ix~~ like building a house. He used to go twice to Paris and get the journals, he would be the biggest designer. And then he was a tailor! But he only catered to the people who could afford. If I paid for a suit those years, for making a suit with my material, the material came from England, it was building a house! English. If I had a dress it was crepe de Chine, which the crepe de chine came from France. And the dressmaker was a designer, he had a journal, you picked a sleeve from this and the color from this and that, and she made you. It is something out of this world. The dressmaker was a gentle woman. Klaus, her name was, Klausov. I pay ~~50~~ 30 zlotas for making me a dress with embroidery with what not, which would cost me here hundreds of dollars, I can ~~xx~~ not afford the clothes here. ~~x~~

L.B. That's a ~~dollar~~ \$1.30.

H.A. No, 3 dollars.

L.B. 30 zlotas.

H.A. A dollar was ten zlotas in my time. I only... mind you, I am only telling you what I remember in my time. Because there were different times.

L.B. So you paid 30 zlotas.

H.A. 30 zlotas, 3 dollars. That Katz, to make a suit, first he made the canvas. Then you tried it. And then he was... And they ~~xxxxxxx~~ five times, 3 ~~times~~, four to five times... he charged me for the suit that I came to America, my father, my trousseau, a hundred zlotas. Which was a lot of money. It was ten dollars. It was a lot of money in those days. I don't remember how much food cost because I never went shopping. We would like to compare how much a bread cost, but I couldn't tell you that. Because I never went shopping.

H.B. Did you ever go hungry?

H.A. Never. I told you. I tell you a story that you wouldn't hear//. Not only did I not go hungry, but I ~~xxxx~~ was a spoiled brat, I told you that. Those years I had a better life than I have it here. ~~xxx~~ Not in one respect. I didn't have so many dresses, I didn't have so many... but what I had was of the best and of a very occasion(?) and I was a very well dressed woman. I had a good schooling, I had private tutors for music, private tutors for French, there were maids in the house, and if I had to go to Madame Klaus, to Klausova, for a dress, so the concierge's little girl was carrying the package because I would ride back. When my mother went to the market to buy ... I tell you how food came. When to market she had a big basket like we have for clothes. There were ten children, that's a lot of them, and grandchildren, a lot of food had to be bought. And nobody was hungry. So that basket the cook, not the maid, we had a "yiddeshe kerchen" a cook.

L.B. Jewish cooks.

H.A. Yes. And we had a peasant girl who slept in our house who cleaned.

L.B. And did the heavy work.

H.A. There was plenty heavy work, because there was no vacuum cleaners, ^{was frötte?} (??) It was a heavy brush that you had to... the carpets were not all over, it was like linoleum, and then the dining room(?) and it shined like mirror. The carpet was on the Salon. The small carpets, like throw carpets were in the bedroom. The dining room was a big table that 40 people could sit at. Sugar was in the dining room locked with a key.

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There was no ~~Refrigerator~~ Frigadaire. Food was being sent downstairs to the cellar, was cold, that was perishable. In the bathroom hanging them from the window. The bathroom, this was to put certain things, food, you know. Cooking was on the coal. To cook for a meal, the main meal was 3 o'clock, when we came back from school, so cooked for hours and hours. So the maid was cooking, you know, there was something to cook, you know.

L.B. But the maids were Jewish. The cooks were Jewish.

H.A. Of course, we always had a Jew cook. But the gentile did the hard work. To wash, there was no laundry that you give away. So you, I remember, I used to run away from the house when it was the washing week. There was a laundress coming and put ~~baix~~ baiya(?) it was a wooden pot, big wooden tub, and we had it in that bathroom I told you ... it's a big bathroom. And she washed, and washed by hand.

L.B. On a wash board.

H.A. On a wash board scrubbing. And then a big pot, iron pot, was on the stove and that wash was put on the stove and boiled. And the house was full of steam you could die!

L.K. Just how my mother described it.

H.A. And that's how it was. That was the first three days. The fourth day, and then you hang up the clothes. The hang up was on the roof. Not on the roof. "Nagura", see like you have two floors, right? Then is a little step, goes up and there is...like an attic, it's not an attic, but there you put the lines up on and everything. It's not on the outside, it's on the inside.

~~But there where the clothes dries~~ But there where the clothes dries, see? So the clothes dries, then she take. The woman comes, a fat woman, Polish woman, peasant woman, comes and she folds up and she goes to the mangle. You mangle the clothes.

L.K. A mangle was not in the house though.

H.A. No, you had to go to mangle and feed it by hands.

L.B. But they were already dry when she mangled them?

H.A. Yeah, they were dry but she had to mangle them.

L.B. That's like an iron then?

~~Wx~~ L.K. Yeah.

H.A. The mangle was operated by hand, by the people who came to mangle and you paid the fellow who owned the mangle. After they came home then they start ironing. For instance to repair there was ~~babatishkas~~ "babatishkas". Clothes were not thrown out, there was no waste. Linens would get... and we were linen business, but still suppose it gets torn we didn't do the work, don't you see, we have people do it. But it was done. So we had a seamstress come for a week every three months. A poor Jewish girl, Jewish girl. We'd call her "miss". We'd call her "miss" you see. The maid you didn't call "miss", by the first name. But there, you see, a seamstress is a "Miss", "Pano", "Pana", "Panyenka", you know. So she used to patch up the linens, the sheets, the pillow cases, patch up, every... was such a babatishkat~~xi~~ in our house hold. And every thing was... I remember in the beginning she used to make me brassieres. I didn't... I was ashamed when I was young. So I asked her, from linen that should press it down so it shouldn't show. So that was done and she ate with us. And we paid her for whatever it is.

L.B. You don't know what they were paid, do you?

H.A. I don't even know what we paid the maid. The maids were slaves. ~~And~~ And I tell you a secret, most of these maids came with bastards. They had children. They left their children with their mothers or the grandmother, and they all came from various villages. They were not city people. The city person was a worker. All the other domestics came from villages. And they, in order to support their child, they had to go to work. Most of them went as wet nurses. You know, I was brought up by a wet nurse. I was the tenth child, my mother didn't... I was brought up by my wet nurse. She used to take(?) me

along when I was a big girl already. She stayed with us many years, later as a maid.

L.B. She lived in your house?

H.A. Where do you think she lived? You think she had a room?

L.B. No?

H.A. No. See, you had a kitchen...

L.B. She slept on the oven?

H.A. No, no. You have a kitchen, it's not like you see here, in small towns you have ovens like this, we were civilised, I told you, it was modern.

L.K. Was it a tile oven?

H.A. What?

L.K. Was it one made out of tile?

H.A. Yes. A tile oven was in every room to heat the rooms in the winter. It was a procedure, if you want to know I tell you. But the kitchen oven was a tile oven, but it was iron on the top. And you had to make fire. You put a piece of paper first and then a few pieces of wood and light a match and then a piece of coal. And it was going all day long. And then you had a big table like we have where there was the work. Then there was a sink. And the sink was faucet, we had the water. The water was going by a pump that was in the yard, went by electricity and had a tank upstairs and if the tank was full we had the water. To heat water you got to heat it yourself. So, in order to wash dishes you had a big basin. The procedure, it lasted hours! You warmed the water, you put the water in the place and then how the dishes were washed. Who washed dishes? I wouldn't wash dishes, I wouldn't(?) be caught in the kitchen, I wouldn't be caught dead. The maid. It was the lowest work you can imagine.

L.B. Now you started to tell us where the wet nurse lived. Did she live in the kitchen then?

H.A. Oh, well I tell you. That was the kitchen, then. Whenever it was like a ^{credenza} sort of this. That was the kitchen, where the dishes were. Food was not in the kitchen. Food was not. Then behind the door there was a bed. In the kitchen, and that... it was warm in the winter time. And there where she slept. And there was a healthy 18 year old... with the red cheeks... a pleasure to look at. And they were clean, they were hard workers. So that's how it was. Food, milk, my days. I'm telling you my days, don't confuse the situation because later has changed. So it's a different world. But in these days, milkmen, like Sholom Aleichem, Fiddler on the Roof, exactly the type like that. With a hat like this, with everything which you've seen on the stage. Now he's come with the big can, measures; we used to get 3 quarts of a day. And we used to boil that milk. You boil it and the top, I used to love the top like the top, I used to love that top.

L.K. You'd float it on top of the coffee?

that was her...?

H.A. Yeah. But my mother used to have use for that, (?) and my mother used to give me a little. That's when they... when you boil that milk that, that, the coffee was with...

L.B. Skim.

L.K. They had a name. What was the name?

H.A. Kojoof(?)

L.B. Kojoof?

L.K. No, it had another name too.

H.A. Oh, we called it "Kojoof" ^{doz}

L.K. In yiddish it was the hatela, the skin.

H.A. The skin, "kojoo" has another meaning, "kojoo" means a heavy coat like, that the peasants used to wear, lined with sheep lining. And that's how milk came. Food. How did food come? Butter, eggs, used to come from a farmer, used to bring it to the house, or used to go to the market place, but the women, peasant women ~~used to~~ came with their wares from the village, On the market day, They were twice a week, I think Wednesday and Friday, if I am not mistaken.

shochet x Friday I remember exactly in the war. And they were selling fresh right... milk, oh, not milk but eggs, butter and cheese, you know. (?) meat. Meat, used to buy, they used to buy live geese, live chickens, went to the ~~shop~~ ^{shochet} the ~~shop~~ used to kill it, you know the ritual kosher. And used to ~~kill~~ ^{clean} at home, but there was plenty of food. Matzo's, we had in the city, our matzo's were known(?) in the whole Poland. There was the machine. They had there was the ^{thinnest} famous, finest matzo's. Matzo's came by the "poot". "Poot" is the 40 pounds. We were a large family, there were 2 or 3 poots, can you imagine 80 pounds of matzo's? And came in a sheet, put on a clean sheet, and the fellow brought on this, and we had in the foyer a big closet, and that's where the matzo's were, for the holidays. The eggs came by the "shok". "Shok of eggs was sixty eggs, was a shok.

L.B. Where were they stored? In the cellar?

H.A. I don't remember that. I guess ^{eggs} they were not stored. We didn't buy a shok of eggs, only for the holidays. But for the holidays. Otherwise I don't know how mother stored... But I remember for the Passover holidays, you know, the children came, the grandchildren, and then every Jewish family had a soldier or two to Pesach, to the tables.

L.B. A Jewish soldier?

H.A. Sure, of course. For the holiday. So, mother used to go to "Kushnerka", we call it.

L.K. I recognize everything you're talking about. My mother talked about it. She came from ~~Bolesna~~ ^{Varsna (Warsaw)}

H.A. Yeah, to "Kushnerka". A "kushnerka" was a baker, a bakery that used to bake macaroons, and the sponge cakes ~~and~~ and chalah, everything for the holidays. We used to go, bring all the ingredients and she did all the baking and then we brought it home. That's how it was our household. Dinner was at 3 o'clock. If I came home at 3:30 I didn't get dinner. The maid would not serve me. 3 o'clock the table was set, our school finished 2:30, by 3 o'clock we were home. Was table set beautifully. And dinner was very nice, there was soup, ~~there was vegetable~~ there was meat, there was vegetable, there was a salad. Oh, and desserts! We ~~had~~ ^{didn't eat} ice cream every day. We went specially to special places to have a (P) ^{lodi}, it means a word for ice cream. It was a holiday you know. We had Italian in those days, it was from Italy, Italian ice cream. But there was beautiful food in our household. But people eat rye ~~dry~~ bread, you know, I don't have to tell you. And then after Father closed, from 1:00 to 3:00 shops are closed, every business is closed.

L.B. This is Jew and Gentile?

H.A. Jew and Gentile, right. Father had dinner with us. Main meal was at 3 o'clock, after Father went to lie down. "Kozetka", kozet is from French comes, a little sofa like, in his bedroom. Every bedroom looked like that, had always a kozetka. And he lie down to sleep, and we were quiet. I did my home work or whatever, you know. And the maid took off and cleaned, it took her half a day to clean. At night there was a small snack. You know, at 8 o'clock, in the evening, we ate.

L.B. Now what did your mother do while your father was napping?

H.A. My mother was helping. No, my mother was helping in the business. What my mother did... First of all, I was the youngest and was already ~~at~~ ^{done at home} so it wasn't, I don't remember the days, you know how it happened to Jewish families when they were, in Europe, ^{when} there were a lot of children. One child took care of the other. You ~~see~~ ^{think} my mother would take care of ten children, or even we had to... Now I remember I had a sister Paula and she used to dress me up with ribbons and she... I was a baby, you know. One took care of the other, you see. But mother was helping father a lot in business. My mother. She shopped for the family, looked... she used to send me to the kitchen, "Taste it, tell me what's missing". But the cook cooked! But I had to know, to tell her, I should know how to manage, you see. And... what were we talking about?

L.B. What your mother's role was.

LEWON

7/6/73
H.A. Yeah, my mother's role. I don't ~~xxxx~~ remember ever Mother cleaning. Cooking yes, ~~(?) Friday~~ She was helping. The chalahs were baked at home. Didn't buy chalahs. Cakes were baked at home. Was made fish, and the fish was so beautifully made. Now we made gefilte fish, the gefilte fish was ~~made~~ done in one.

L.K. Like the shape of a fish.

H.A. The shape of a fish. Now for instance a big pie, to save the skin, filled in and saved in one big...

L.K. And the head and the tail.

H.A. And the head and the tail and that's how we cut it. And it was...

L.K. I wonder, did you have, like if you cooked on Friday, was the meal taken to the local bakery and put in ~~has~~ oven to keep hot until Saturday night?

386?
H.A. No. In small town some people did it. They would have ~~(?) choley~~ things like that, we didn't have it. I told you, the children ~~xxxx~~ would eat it. We wouldn't eat this type of food, so we never did. But a lot of people did it. But we had a gentile shiksa. The light, you know, she lit it and she, but no cooking on Saturday. So, that's how it was.

L.B. Let's see if there's anything else that we want to know. It's really a fascinating story. Everything you told us, it's wonderful!

~~xxxx~~

L.K. You really know exactly what we wanted to hear about.

L.B. Yeah, you really did!

L.K. And that's very unusual.

H.A. I can talk for five, six days! But you better tell me what you want to know.

L.K. Exactly what you've told us. What your life was like, what the town was like.

H.A. But when I left, I want to specify now, because I might give you too much of a pink picture.

L.B. No, it's dead, the life is dead!

H.A. The life is dead. It was a beautiful life. Do you know, I give you something, and that I give you very confidentially. Sometimes, you know, one doesn't sleep, and so I close my eyes and say, let me think of something pleasant I should fall asleep. And so help me God, that I tell you the truth, and I think of my child hood.

L.B. You know something, you're not the only one.

H.A. I think of the dates I had, the boys I met. It's nothing sexual, because we were very romantic people those years. Do you know when we got together we sang, we read poetry. It doesn't exist! Very romantic. Everything. I put a picture,,, I had a boyfriend who was in love with me for years. He wrote poetry to me. Put me on a pedestal. It doesn't exist. No sex. If I kissed, yes I was maybe kissed once or twice, but it only was the hand, but that I have forgotten. And then I got married. I can assure you I was a virgin.

L.B. How was it...When you came here then ~~it was xxxxxxx difficult~~, there was no difficulty with passage here.

H.A. I was the wife of an American citizen.

L.B. So you just came?

H.A. I have never been immigrant, I traveled the first class. I came here. I tell you, I had a very interesting incident.

L.B. Let me make sure there's time.

H.A. There probably isn't ...

L.B. I want to hear what happened when you came here.

H.A. When I came here we had a three month honeymoon trip. Now who, what immigrant had such life? I told you, it sounds too rosy, and I don't want you to have a wrong opinion that I give you such a beautiful picture, but it's the truth, what I had. I told you, my husband came to Poland and we got married, we had three month honeymoon. We were in Paris, we were in Vienna, we were in London, we had friends all over. We were not in Italy. We were

in Paris. Paris and London, we stayed... and Budapest. Some friends of his were studying (Dr. Friedman, an eye specialist was studying there) We went to see them. Vienna we were. And November 12 we got married. The wedding was at home, just the family, you know, I wasn't even wearing gown, that's how modern we were. We went to the rabbi, the rabbi of Czeszstahova was Rabbi Ash. Was very well known in the family and he was a friend of ours, so we went there and my little nieces were flower girls. You know how could you go there, you didn't go by car? "Druyshka, druyshka", you know, like a coach. He married off, we came home, the reception was home. We left then and we... the guests, we said goodbye, we went to Warsaw, to the American Consul, and then we took our trip! We came here the 8th of January, 1930.

L.B. Your husband was already established here?

H.A. My husband was manager of Camp ~~Boyberick~~. ~~Boyberick~~ Boverick

L.B. I'm sorry?

H.A. My husband was always in the same position. I married him...

L.B. The manager of what?

H.A. Camp ~~Boyberick~~, you know, the Camp ~~boyberick~~. Boverick [Boyberick?]

L.K. I have friends that went to that camp.

H.A. Yeah, yeah!

L.K. My friend Sophie went there.

L.B. Where is the camp?

L.K. I don't know but Sophie always told me about it.

H.A. Yeah, its one of the better Jewish camps. It's the ~~Ever~~ ^{Yivo} (2) camps.

Jewish (2) Wissenschaft Institute. You know ~~Richy~~ ^{Yivo} became manager of Unser camp. I was there 25 years, after there. When I came he was an executive, he never was a worker, even... in England. As a matter of fact when I came here the organization made us a banquet of 300 people, and 300 people came to look me over! "What sort of a gal did he bring?" And he was watched and he was a very handsome man as a young man, and he was an executive. What ~~did~~ was it about me?

L.B. So you came right into the Jewish world?

H.A. Right away, to a different environment.

L.B. But it was the Jewish world.

H.A. ~~English~~ ^{Yiddish} speaking, ~~and I would~~ camp, and I would have to speak Yiddish. So, you know, my husband gave me a teacher, I have forgotten his name, who became, this man who was a counselor in camp those years and he was a foreign correspondent in Russia for the New York Times.

L.B. And you can't remember his name?

H.A. Charlie maybe remember. He used to teach me.

L.B. Not Schwartz?

H.A. No, no. It had a Russian name, Russian sound. He taught me Yiddish, to read a little. See, I tell you, why didn't I know Yiddish? Mother, Father didn't not want... I didn't want to. My father begged me, all my other sisters knew. As the youngest, I told you, that spoiled, more assimilated, went to gentile schools. You see, Father sent me a Rebbe, a Jew, to teach me Ivre (Hebrew?), to teach me Jewish, I should know how to davin ~~(?)~~ I ~~should~~ should know this. So that Jew, I sound very anti-semitic so don't ...

L.B. Speak up, what you said...

H.A. So this fellow, were poor people, they were so poor, these teachers, these belfors(?) . He was a Chalactic, you know, a long this, satin, and it was shiny from dirt and from perspiration, he had pais, and he stunk. That's true. ~~And I~~ couldn't do it. Cheder we didn't go. Boys went to Cheder, girls didn't go to Cheder. There was an attitude in Poland those years, in this type of family, that the girl doesn't have to know. If she wants it, fine. But she had to know French. She had to play the piano, she had to be... ^{because} she has to get married. And marry properly, the same type of a family that she comes from. That's what it was. So that's the reason I didn't know. My father didn't feel good about it, because my brothers went to Yeshivas and finished yeshivas and finished highschool and universities. And I was the only one whom my ~~other~~ sisters needed. ?

L.B. There was a good reason by the ~~way~~ way.

H.A. That's it. So what did the fellow do? He taught me ~~to speak~~ how to speak

and what do you think we were discussing, world situation...

L.B. In America, now?

H.A. In America, I learned very little. So I came to ^{Boyerick (Boyerick)} there were all Yiddish speaking people. Charly? I was worried about you. And all Jewish people. And so I stayed a year there, and then I went back, I went back to my mother's unveiling. And then when we came back... this is my husband... I never, when I was on the border, I never went to Poland back. I never will go to Poland. I have no use for it.

L.K. Isn't that interesting Lu, My mother's attitude...

L.B. No, it's very understandable, I think it's very understandable.

H.A. Well you understand, because of the holocaust. Because what they've done.

L.B. Even before.

L.K. It was before the holocaust. Because of the anti-semitism she experienced. If there was a Holy day, if there was a holiday, they had to hide because they didn't dare to go out on the streets.

H.A. ~~Your mother, where did she come from?~~ Your mother, when did she come? What year?

L.K. When did Mother come to America? Oh, it had to be 1914. It had to be 1914.

H.A. I don't know.

L.K. No,...

H.A. ~~Every city had different problems.~~ Every city had different problems. In every city it was different. In every city it depended where you lived, what address you had, ~~and where your friends.~~ Every body will tell you a different story.

L.B. ~~Tell me, take me back to Camp Boyerick and did you learn Yiddish?~~

H.A. Well, they spoke Yiddish, but I was there a year only. I went back to Poland first time for my mother's unveiling. I was ~~only~~ 31, ^{in 1931} I came back...

L.B. Oh, and then you came to Unzer Camp?

H.A. It was a beautiful camp. My husband was there seven years.

L.B. And you had how many children? You had how many children here?

H.A. Two.

L.B. Two. This girl...

H.A. A daughter and a son.

L.B. And a son.

H.A. My son is a producer on Broadway, and she is married to a producer on T.V., in California.

L.B. Did you have any theatrical feelings in Europe?

H.A. No. To my father theatrical feelings were bad. Jewish theater wasn't good, because Jewish theater was for ~~clowns~~, ^{Kedogenas} for kooks, for..

L.B. For the middle class.

H.A. For the low. So we went to the ~~the~~ ^{Quid Pro Quo}, and this was the higher theater. Local, steady (?) theater now said he wasn't., so we went to different. ~~So, you see,...~~

L.B. He was not a Yiddishkite person then, really.

H.A. Who?

L.B. Your father.

H.A. Yes he was.

L.B. No.

H.A. Yes he was, but...

L.B. Did he read the Yiddish authors?

H.A. Of course!

L.B. He did read Yiddish!

H.A. Of course, we had a "Heint", that was a Jewish paper from Warsaw, "Heint".

L.B. Today.

H.A. Of course? He was, I told you, he was an orthodox Jew! A learned orthodox Jew!

L.B. But a learned orthodox Jew is not necessarily a Yiddishist.

L.K. At that time I think yes, Lu.

L.B. No? We don't know.

H.A. Well, it was the children who are not. Not he. He spoke Yiddish.

L.B. It's not that he spoke Yiddish, but there were writers coming out in Yiddish at that time, there was a revival of the Yiddish language, of the interest in the Yiddish language and the Yiddish culture.

H.A. My father had ~~plenty of work~~ ^{plenty of work}. He was in business, my father always travelled, was so busy, this one was sick or this one was this or that, that he couldn't concentrate on literature. What he concentrated was on Talmud. And on Saturday he studied.

L.B. All right. That's what I'm saying. Right.

H.A. He studied Talmud, he went to Shul. But I wouldn't say he was a Yiddishist, no.

L.B. So this is more Hebrew. Right. There's a difference, that's all.

H.A. You see, the Yiddishists were...

L.B. Was more the Socialists. Right.

H.A. The Bundists, the kibbutzim, they spoke Hebrew and they spoke Yiddish.

L.B. That's right, there's a difference, that's what I'm trying to bring out.

H.A. And we were not. No, no. and this is ... So theater, we didn't go much.

L.B. See but the Bundists would have gone to the theater.

H.A. Yeah. But my father wouldn't look at Bundists. (?) ... was the leader of the Bundists, ...

Now, here you have it, so the Jewish theater was in the lower, ~~lower~~ sphere, I told you, it was in the lower classes. So, what means you go ~~in~~ to the opera in "Warsaw. How often did we ~~go~~ go to Warsaw? So Father didn't go to the theater altogether. Father never went to a movie! He said What do we need a movie for? But he used to go, when he used to go ~~x~~ to the movie he went to, *he traveled, he went to Italy, so* probably he went, but it was against his religion! to go to a movie, it wasn't... I don't ever remember my father going to a movie, ~~we~~ went! So he would kid us "I make you a movie at home". So he would make this...

L.B. Shadow.

H.A. "Why do you go to a movie, we don't need it!"

L.B. But you went to the movies?

H.A. We went to concerts, ~~we~~ went to movies.

L.B. What movies did you see? Do you remember?

H.A. American.

L.B. American movies. Do you remember what movies you saw?

H.A. I remember the movie... As a matter of fact I even sang the song recorded (?) (hums tune).

L.B. Oh, "He's My Man!"

H.A. "He's My Man!"

L.B. With Fanny Brice.

H.A. Right, Fanny Brice!

L.B. I can't remember the name of the movie.

H.A. I remember all the movies, a movie we went to one day... But a movie was something we made an appointment, went to the movies, it was not, it was a big event. But then we had Cabarets, you see, where you sat, and you see most of it was a lot of dancing. Five o'clock tea, used to go dance! In the hotels, or you went to the (?) , and in the afternoons, ~~the whole day~~ you sat the whole afternoon and you ~~only~~ ordered just a half a cup of coffee. And if you had a little "bichasko", it means a little pastry, you sat for three hours you saw your friends and everybody came and greeted you, you had a wonderful time! That's... like in Israel now. Same thing! Like you had in Israel, the people sit on the street, and the coffee houses, the cafes, that's how it was. But there, there were times that, in better places, hotels, there was orchestra playing. And it was five o'clock, or five to seven. And people asked you to dance and you danced, you got your coffee... it was all beautiful. Then there were cabarets where famous writers wrote, and there were always satires. Satires on the governments and satires on this. And it was the

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in Quid Pro Quo

. And that was the type of...

L.B. Was *Quid Pro Quo* a theater or a Cabaret?

H.A. Cabaret.

L.B. It was a Cabaret?

H.A. That was the revues. ^{acceptably} They had the revues, people thought to be a revue too. But you see opera was not acceptable to average people, you know.

L.B. Why, because of the...?

H.A. Price and besides you didn't live all the time, well of course I used to visit once in a while, I used to go. But for most of them it was cafe like, of cabaret music was liked very much, but that's about all. Father never went to these. It was we children, but we were very assimilated. We travelled, we were assimilated. The majority of Jews didn't go to the theater, or didn't go to cabaret, it was only the upper class.

L.B. Now cabarets were run by whom? By Jews or by Poles?

H.A. That I don't know.

L.B. It would be interesting to know. But they spoke Polish, the shows were in Polish, everything was in Polish. The music was Polish.

H.A. ~~It~~ No. ~~Strauss~~ ^{Paderewski} ~~Waltzes~~, ~~Tchaikovsky~~, International my dear, it was ~~Paderewski~~ who was, it was Rubenstein, it was ^{It was Paderewski} ~~(?) Paderewski~~ who wrote the famous opera. It was international, Chopin. We were brought up on Chopin. Was very important. Any cultured people knew music, international music. We didn't know exactly American, even Jazz came. I remember, I must tell you, this is interesting, I was at that time almost engaged to him. We were in for a holiday in Zakopania ~~in the Carpathian~~ ^{Carpathian} mountains. ~~It's~~ like here, Lake Placid, even nicer because we were in the ~~Carpathian~~ ^{Carpathian} mountains and the hotel... And there in that hotel they had English, American Jazz. Negro. You see how narrow minded we were those years in a way, towards Negroes, that we were discussing it at the table. We liked the Jazz to dance but we wouldn't sit with a Negro at the table. And I tell you the truth, I said the same thing.

L.K. Had you seen Negroes in Poland before?

H.A. Very few. That first time I saw it was in that Zakopania, once. I never saw Negroes. Only once. I saw it once.

L.B. You don't remember the name of the group, do you?

H.A. No, no.

L.K. How did it sound up there to you? The Jazz Sound?

H.A. Well, we wanted to be modern. Foxtrot, we knew, and Charleston, and... You'd be surprised at all the cabaret songs, all the dances, all these things, within one year they came there.

L.B. Oh, Poland was not a backwater. There was one part of Poland that was and...

H.A. One part of Poland was 16th century and one part of Poland was Berlin and Vienna.

L.B. They took over immediately what came from Berlin....Right.

H.A. There were parts of Poland that there was feudal system yet. Which I don't know because who lived in these places, you know you could tell... but the cities, big cities like Warsaw, Lodz, Czestahova, Cracow, Lemberg, these were the cities were very international. There ~~always~~ travelled to Paris, travelled to Vienna, brought the styles in and what you could afford, led a decent life.

L.B. I want to ask you something. I want to see if I have time. You say you went to the Carpathians on vacation.

H.A. Yeah, once.

L.B. Only once?

H.A. Yeah. Only once. I tell you I was engaged that time to Charly. I tell you, my sister, to most people to go to Grenitza, we go... ~~xxxx~~ As a child I used to go to ~~Maribor~~ ^{Herenbaken}, ~~Causbotten~~ ^{Carlson}, all these places that were... parents for instance, my parents had ten children right? So the family with a Jewish "kirchen" with a Jewish cook, they took a wooden house in the middle of the woods for the family. The house belonged to the peasants. ~~For~~ the summer they moved into the stable, and what consisted of two rooms and a kitchen maybe. And a porch. So we stayed there for the summer, we went in the woods, away from the city for the summer, in the pine woods. We used to pick mushrooms and berries and even lunches were brought

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up to the woods, the maid used to bring them. Father and Mother take the one child alone, and since I was the youngest, they took me. Mariva, Landic (?), these were the ~~expensive~~ cure ~~(2)~~ places. And they used to go for the stomach ailments, for this ailment, for that ailment, you know, they claimed the waters used to go and healthy. We have pictures with the glass.

L.K. Like at Saratoga Springs.

H.A. With the glass, you know, these tubes. But most of it... but Zakopanaa was in the winter time. And people, there was a lot of consumption in Poland. Clamate. If you know these, there were reasons. It's not a lack of food so much, because it happened in the middle class and upper middle class. You see, the climatic conditions were very bad. There was no steam heat. There were those... every room had a, made out of "katchle". "Katchle" is like my bathroom ~~sk~~ is made out of.

L.B. ~~Tile, that's a tile.~~ You're talking about the tile.

H.A. Tile. In the corner was a big, they were beautiful, they ~~xxx~~ were beautiful those...

L.K. They were stoves, tile stove.

H.A. Stoves. Now school, for instance where I went had central heating. It was a rarity. But I heard of central heating in school, not home. So, if I tell you that in the winter time... we had two entrances, the servant entrance (?) ... because our apartment was made from two apartments. We were the landlords, we had a large family so we were five rooms. So I remember on the side was the kitchen, the kitchen was always warm in the winter time, because the stove was going on all the time. And when one came from the foyer to the dining room, ~~xx~~ was a big room, was a long foyer, I saw icicles.

L.B. In the house!

H.A. In the house. In the winter. How often in the toilets the water froze in the winter time, or the pipes. That's how cold it was. So what was the procedure? The procedure was to heat up the apartment or you freeze right? So you heat up the big stoves. The maid used to go to the cellar. The coal, used to buy it by the wagon, full wagon stored cellar to the ceiling for the winter, because we were fortunate. People, not everybody was fortunate at that time. And they used to, ~~bring~~ the bucket, used to bring it up and used to heat up these. Now since we had so many rooms, not all the rooms were heated up. So first the Salon, the livingroom, which was not used only until, unless guests come. My father had his own... the bedrooms were heated, the diningroom was heated. Now, suppose you wanted to go from one room to another, the change of temperature was terrific. There was a lot of colds. A lot of tuberculosis...

L.B. Tuberculosis is transmitted by bacteria.

H.A. Yeah, but it starts with a cold.

L.B. You were probably more susceptible to it then.

H.A. Yeah, but of course by bacteria... there was a lot of tuberculosis ~~xxx~~.

So, Zakopania was the place where people used to go, with high..

L.B. Mountains.

H.A. Altitude.

L.B. This is in Poland?

H.A. This is Poland, famous place. Zakopania every body knows where Zakopania is. In the Carpathian mountains. Its a Switzerland.

L.B. I wonder if this is the place that Kwattler was telling us that ~~near~~ him. Now I can't remember, the names, you know, escape me. It was a famous resort.

H.A. He's Silesian. *Galician*

L.B. Yes but he was on the border of the Carpathian mountains, and he said there was a very famous resort town.

H.A. Zakopania ~~xxx~~ maybe. And there was a famous place, ~~Othotzk~~ Othotzk (?) is near also. And there were all these wooden... *I've seen (?)* Jewish people. And so near Czystahova, not far we used to go for the summer. There are miles and miles of pine ~~wood~~. Oh, its the most beautiful, the Polish are ~~(?)~~ very proud, it was written in a book about them and translated into languages, and dry. And all during the holocaust you know the underground was all through these...

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So in these woods, so as I say we lived there, but a lot of Jewish people, Chasidim I saw, the young ones, ~~now for~~ a lot of them were...

L.K. Consumptive.

H.A. Consumptive. So many you can tell. A lot of Jews were consumptive, young ones, yeshiva boucher,...

L.B. Tuberculosis was known as the Jewish disease at that time.

H.A. Well, so here you are. So they used to come to these woods, to the pine woods for the summer because the air was good. The air was good. No pollution.

L.K. They probably could breathe better.

H.A. They could breathe better, there was no pollution there you see, and the woods were pure, virgin woods, beautiful woods. And Zakopane again is for the winter. Used to go up I remember, I came to visit a sister of mine, a sister in law of mine, that first time I got a picture on skis. Never did ski, but I took a picture. And at 12 o'clock they used to take these people on balconies covered up with blankets, like in Switzerland, the sun was ~~xx~~ so strong they got as black ~~xx~~ sun burn. And that's supposed to be good for... So these were ~~where~~ cure places ~~xxxx~~ where the Polish people used to go. With limits because they know ~~they know~~ that the very rich gentiles never ~~where~~ were in Poland, they were never in Poland. The big landowners.

L.B. Oh, you mean they lived else where.

H.A. Yeah. It was a feudal system yet in these places. The Jew had a ? Kratche ? Krachmer he had a modest time, where they lived they used to sell liquor to Berlin and this, and they were managers of

L.B. the estate.

H.A. The estate. We were city folk. This was an entirely different life. We were city people. And the owners, ~~they what's~~ ^{the same as} ... the Radziwells (?) and the others, they all owned land for thousands and thousands of acres. And they were managed by other people. They went to Monte Carlo, to the other places, to the Riviera. But they're Polish people.

L.K. In the cottage that you rented from the peasant for the summer, did he live nearby you when you were there?

H.A. Yeah, you know, he kept a little farm like. He lived on the edge of the woods. He has a wooden house where he lived all year round. He had hogs and chickens and geese and that's how he, you know. And a little garden he had potatoes or wheat or something, beets or something like this sort of thing. You know corn I had never eaten before.

L.B. It's not a European grain. It's an American grain.

H.A. Corn? I understand that corn was given to the pigs that they had.

L.K. It was a different kind of corn.

H.A. Eggplant I had never eaten.

L.B. I don't know where that comes from. But corn was an Indian grain. An American Indian grain.

H.A. For instance celery, I never had eaten, never. I had tomatoes, cauliflower.

L.B. You were allowed to eat tomatoes?

H.A. Of course, anybody who tell you they never saw a tomatoe, I heard of people, or they were not allowed to eat, they come from towns, they were poverty, come from towns I've never seen. There were tomatoes like here, my mother used to make a tomatoe soup, we had... Salads we made differently, we didn't make a salad ~~xxx~~ oil

~~(?)~~ said, we take the Roman... not the Roman the other lettuce of a very soft.

What do you call this?

L.B. Escarole?

H.A. No, no.

L.B. A soft lettuce.

H.A. A soft lettuce, and we washed it,

L.K. I know, you mean with the big leaves.

L.B. Yeah.

H.A. Yeah, and put vinegar and sugar, and put it on the top, I had a piece of iron ~~on the top and~~

on the top, and it stand there like that. That's how we ate our salad.
 L.K. My mother made that salad. It was vinegar and sugar with the lettuce.
 H.A. And the same thing with cucumbers.
 L.B. Yeah! But that I thought was German. It's not German?
 L.K. } No!
 H.A. } It's Polish.

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 H.A. You want to know how we made tomatoe soup? You take real tomatoes, you stew them, you stew them in the ^{little fat} ~~little~~, you strain them, then put a couple of eggs over with flour. And that's how you ate it. That was tomato soup. Geese ^{give us} ~~give us~~ as we used to ... and there was no chicken fat, was goose fat. The geese were artificially fed. I once bought a goose here it was as tough as a hard bird, I was very embarrassed, went out. And there, you see, its against the law here, the law is artificial, & you know what they did?

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 L.B. They force feed them. There was a movie, a Czech movie, did you see it? I forget, it was called the...

H.A. NO, They used to take the goose and fatten them up, and there were (?L) , So the food... the fat went for ^{given us} ~~given us~~ and chicken fat. We collected chicken fat for months for the Yontuv.

L.K. You could also use the down for your pillows.

H.A. Down for the pillows. The feathers were down for the pillows. My mother used to put it away and gave it to me to my trousseau.

L.K. That's right, my mother, I have my mother's pillows that were given to her for her trousseau.

H.A. I still have quilts, silk quilts made out of down, I never used it. Beautiful quilts, you wouldn't buy it in I & on't know how long. A trousseau was... my trousseau was...

End of Tape. Hooray!