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Beatrice Kaufman, transcript only

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Beatrice Kaufman
Interviewer: Lucille Brown

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Q. Say your name again.

A. Beatrice Kaufman.

Q. And would you mind telling me what year you were born? Or approximately.

A. 1900, April 11th.

Q. Where were you born?

A. ~~R~~ussia, small town. Priluka.

Q. You were born in Priluka, which is in the Ukraine.

A. Right.

Q. Now, from your memory, could you describe Priluka?

A. It was a very small town, about 500 families and a lot of youngsters which we ^{went together} ~~had to get~~ to public school... I went with ^{your mother,} in fact, and after that we used to play together, there was a certain place ^{where} ~~that~~ we all went and, I didn't do much at home because my ^{parents} ~~family~~ were busy people and we had help. We had ^a husband and wife working for us. After graduating public school I went to ^{Vinnitsa} and naturally I was ^{through elementary, went to Vinnitsa} ~~told to talk in Nazi and~~ ^{to a gymnazia and had} there are test, which I passed five years of whatever you call it there. And from there I went to Odessa and went to ^{a gymnazia} ~~talk~~ in ~~Nazi~~, I went to this 6th and 7th class, After graduating ^{a taking up century (?)} ~~the gymnazia~~ ~~Nazi~~, I went one year to college, But then I went away from Russia.

Q. I see. Well you really covered your whole life in like two seconds. Right? So we'll go back. Now I just jotted down a few key words so I would remember what I wanted

to remember to ask you. Alright, how many people were in your immediate family?

A. Two uncles and aunts. *By immediate family you mean...*

Q. How about mother and father?

A. Yeah my mother and father and I have one sister.

Q. ^{one sister}
^{one sister} So there were two children? *girls... two children.*

A. Two children.

Q. Okay and what sort of home did you live in?

A. Well we had, I was very young when we built the house. *We built it.*

It was a brand new home. We had very nice quarters in the back of the house, ^{naturally} ~~I believe~~ there was two bedrooms, for ^{the} children and mother and father, and there was a living room there. ^{and a} ~~We had~~ kitchen and dining ^{area} ~~room~~. And the front, ^{that's where} they had the business.

Q. So you were in back of the business? This was very common.

A. In back of the building.

Q. And what kind of a business did they have?

A. *At home they called it a trator.* *Q. what?*

A. In Russian it was a ^{trator}, you know they had sold liquor, you know, that's what you called ^{when it was} ~~them~~, ^{sold} ~~it was~~ liquor store and food, restaurant.

Q. Now is that the same as a Kretchka?

A. You can say it's the same as a kretchka, but I don't think that any liquor in the kretchkas. I doubt it very much, it was just food and they used to stay overnight, but

this was a place that they just came in to eat and if they wanted a drink they got a drink.

Q. ^{Now} And what kind of food did they serve?

A. My mother always prepared, all kind of fish, meat, ^{gefilte} gefiltafish, the most.

Q. Did she do all the cooking?

A. Oh no, we had help. ^{We} Had a husband and wife.

Q. In the restaurant?

A. Well the ^{one, the} wife helped to cook, ^{with mother} and the husband helped serve.

Q. I see and what about the liquor part? Who served the liquor?

A. In the place, I don't know. If mother did or the man or my father. ^{They all in.}

Q. They took turns.

A. Turns.

Q. Now was this a Jewish restaurant. ^{It really wasn't a Jewish restaurant. No Jewish people came in.}

A. ~~They did come in, it was, not as nice a class of people~~ ^{If they did come in, it was the one from} to come for a drink. It was more Gentile people. Really. ^{The goyim.}

Q. Was the cooking kosher?

A. No I doubt it very much.

Q. Okay, so Jews did not come there?

A. no, no.

Q. Tratea? How do you spell, can you spell? ^{Do you remember}

A. ^{the Russian?} All I know that they were sold, ^{and I that} remember everybody.

^{I don't remember anything.}

Matty will be able to
Maybe explain to you. *you'll have to ask him what a traka is.*

Q. He did explain to me, once, but I wanted to know how to spell it. I don't remember hearing that word. He explained the difference between a bar and a kretchna^m where you stay overnight.

A. Yeah kretchna^m you stayed overnight ^{but} ~~and~~ in our place there was no sleeping quarters. ^{there} It was only a place where ^{they} you used to eat and ^{if they want to} drink. Or they drank without eating too.

Q. Were there tables and chairs?

A. Yeah tables and chairs. ^{It was a} Very big place. We had a very big place.

Q. *It was a very big place.* A. *Very big place.*

Q. How many people did it seat?

A. The place was as big as my ^{whole} ~~old~~ apartment. And they ^{there} ~~were~~ ^{rooms} had two small ~~ones~~. *The whole apartment put together.*

Q. Did you know what the square footage is here?

A. ^{It's about a} Thousand ^{and} something. See the living room is 15 by 24.

This here. The bedroom is 14 by 20. Then you have the kitchen and the bathroom. So its a nice place, but beside having

I remember we had a couple of weddings in there. My mother ^{rented out} ~~went to the~~ Jewish weddings. ^{so} ^{very} because the place was big enough they could dance and have music. ^{so} It was a big place and two small rooms on the side with the doors into the bigger room.

A. I see. Now, you say mostly Gentiles would come here to eat. What kind of Gentiles would come, ^{Would} a whole family? ^{come?}

Q. Usually men?

A. Men, most of it was men. Man with his wife could come into eat. And they would drink too.

Q. Tell me, I mean this is absolutely strange to me. This kind, after all you're a small town. You have 500 families and a non Jew comes in. Would he be traveling through or would he be a villager? The villagers wouldn't have any money.

A. The villagers. *Came in.*

Q. Oh they did?

A. Only the villagers came in. There wasn't no travelling

people. *who would come to Telukha to travel? there were no such fancy*

I mean there was no such a face. No movies or theat-

things. there were no res or anything like that. It was really the one, *that they lived around,*

and they once that

used to would go to the market and they would sell some stuff and had a few

dollars there. whatever you call it, rubles. they used to come in, they would

Q. So would you say it was more drink than food? *take a drink.*

A. *they drank* yes, more than eat. *they ate.*

Q. Now if they did eat, what would they order? *I'm really very*

interested in this.

A. You know, I don't remember what it was, my mother used

to make, the Jewish people call it, *ptsai*

ptsai.

Q. Yes, *Fanny* just made it. Its like pickled..

A. Right but instead of *having* adding it, you can make it pickled

for yourself, you buy one little *foot* food or something. Used to

buy a lot of it and cook that.

Q. Wait a minute. *Beatrice* You can have either pickled pig's feet

or calves feet.

and it would become like a jello. And they would eat ~~it~~ *that*
and if not, she made plain fish or ^{gefilte} ~~guilfish~~ fish.

Q. So that was the extent of the food?

A. That's the only kind of food.

Q. No meal, really?

A. No meal, right.

Q. Something to pick up and..

A. ~~..call me~~ ^{the same, we go in here} and get sandwich and a cup of coffee.

There they got this pickled thing, whatever you say, *or a piece of*
~~guilfish~~ fish.. *Ptai. My mother used to call it,*

Q. Its funny, cause she just made it. The other day, *It*
was delicious.

A. Yes put with garlic and comes out like a jello. With *a piece*
~~some bread and that's it.~~ ^{of a drink} There was beer and was liquor. And
most of them used to be beer. *#*

Q. They drank mostly beer?

A. Beer, yeah. The liquor you weren't allowed to sell,
(?) so there was beer and.. I don't remember. I really I was
never there. My mother ^{never let} ~~never~~ ^{go} ~~let~~ us ~~ginto~~ near it.

Q. She didn't?

A. No she never let us.

Q. What was your maiden name?

A. Borko. *(Spelled out)*

Q. Were both your parents from that particular *shtetel?*

A. Yes.

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they were in love because mother was ^avery beautiful ^{man} and
I think she was a year and a half older than dad, so
they kept the same. Usually they used to ^{get} marry ^{ed, I think they were very} very
young people. I don't think mother was that young. ^{like} years
back ^{the way} they used to get married...

Q. At fourteen or so.

A. No, she wasn't fourteen. I think dad was twenty and
mother..in fact my father was drafted to the first world
war.

Q. ^{oh he was in} Now tell me something about your family life. ^{if} Both
your parents working, did you see much of them in the home?

A. Yes because they made ^I sure ^{that their evenings were their own and that} they were with us.

Q. Now but in the evenings, that would be..wouldn't
there be villagers coming in ^{for} to drink ^{then?} there?

A. ^{no} They closed the place.

Q. They closed in the evenings?

A. In the evenings they were closed and ^{if there} was sometimes ^{that}
they had to have it open, ^{they had the help} only the husband and wife ^{worked}.

Q. Oh I see.

A. ^{they} Always had our main meal with us.

Q. They did have it?

A. ^{they were very} Yes, and they lived very very nice. Just like lovebirds.

Mother and dad.

Q. Oh they did?

A. ^{really} Yeah, terrific.

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*they would drop (?)
the names*

to Odessa, you know? They used to come and see me. Like
dad would come or mother. It was a very very close knit
family, like the four of us..but we had a lot of it. There
were, mother had two sisters. With^{her} family, and there ~~is~~
was a brother with a family. Mother's. Mothers' side.
Dad had only one brother.

Q. Was your father good looking too?

A. My father was a very good looking but mother must
have been a beauty.

Q. Well you were a beauty too.

oh thank you.
A. Mother was very very beautiful.

Q. Was your sis^{ter} also beautiful?

A. Yes. ^{she} Was taller than I am.

Q. And you're a very ^etall woman, especially for your
generation. And you're even tall for now.

A. No I'm not.

Q. How tall are you?

A. I'm only 5'2 1/2". Its the heels makes it..

Q. Why is it, you always impress me as being so tall?

A. Yes everybody. And the funniest part is I always
used to say, I'm 5'4". I was measured 5'4" ^{with} for the shoe
size. Only till recently. (Laughter)

Q. You're only 5'2"?

A. I'm only 5'2 1/4".

Q. I always pictured you as being about 5'6" which would

Q. Maybe that's why.

A. But I was the same height as my mother. Maybe a little bit shorter, ^{she had} mother was very tall. ~~Just~~ gorgeous hair, beautiful hair, beautiful ^{Nice} eyes. ~~And~~ skin. Father had a beard. It was the style you know.

Q. Now, you say they ^{all} come home and you'd eat the evening meal together. Who did the cooking and the cleaning.

A. ^{the cleaning, did the help.} The cooking did my mother.

Q. Your mother would come home from ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{tratta} and cook?

A. ^{Well} She didn't have to come home, because it was home.

All she had to do was get out of that place and get in.

In fact there was a door to the place, but mother never kept it open because she was afraid that in case somebody drunk would come into us children. So the door was always locked. And ^{when} they had to come into our quarters where we lived, ^{and to get out and} they ~~had to~~ go around, ^{a different side.}

Q. But she would cook all the meals?

A. The main meals.

Q. Now what about, did you have anything like a breakfast?

Or a lunch?

A. Well yes, you always had something, you know. First of all, we went away to school. ^{We} Had breakfast at home.

Q. Yeah but there was a time before that when, before you went to school, you were little children.

A. ^{when we were little children,} My mother always took care of us. She was the only

a little bit bigger and ^{we} started going to school, that's
when they ^{re} build the house, ^{Built a} and a very, very big house, ^{and that's when}
^{we got into this business.}

Q. Because that kind of house is rather unusual. Not
everybody had that kind of house.

A. No, we had a beautiful house and mother bought the
furniture from Kiev.

A. Oh she did.

A. Oh yes, such fancy furniture. I never forget when
I was sweet sixteen, and I had a party and the girls couldn't
get over. We had the ^{metal} matching beds shining.

Q. Brass beds?

A. Yes, very nice. We two girls had a bedroom by our-
selves.

Q. That was an exception.

A. ^{It was an exception. We didn't}
We had a bathroom.

Q. Oh, you did?

A. Yes and we had a bathtub. ^{Q. You had a bath...} But bathroom you had to
go outside.

Q. So the bathroom was separate. You mean the toilet ^{was outside?}

A. The toilet was outside.

Q. But if you wanted to take a bath..?

A. You had a bathtub where you had to fill it up with
water with pails and warm it up.

Q. So you would heat it on the stove and then..what kind
of tub was it?

Was it copper?

A. I don't remember. I think it was wooden, *if you ask me.*

Q. *A wooden tub.* A. Yes.

Q. But there was a separate room for that tub?

A. I Remember we had to take our baths every single

week. *Mother* We would wash our hair and take a bath. And it was

put away in the kitchen so that it was warm, because even

the winter in *I don't know if you ... of* we took baths. Course you wouldn't know, maybe your

parents *to* tell you, they used to have a bath, to go *a mikveh* and ~~other~~

people used to go to it, but maybe mother went there, I

don't remember. But we had our own.

Q. I don't think my mother liked that.

A. *No, they didn't even have a bathroom.* Nobody had a bathroom. Oh God forbid.. *You know, in the house*

Q. I don't think I spoke to her about baths, but what

you're saying is, it was a sign of, ~~the~~ being quite comfortable, well off.

A. *We were well off.* Yes.

Q. Now what about your clothing and stuff? Was that made for you?

A. Made.

Q. Was there a woman would come?

A. A woman would come and sew, *the house or* you give her *it away.* weight and.. *they'd come and*

take the measurements and give it away. In fact I was dressed very very nice. Always dressed.

Q. So were the two of you, the two dolls in the family?

A. Two dolls in the family and my mother was afraid to say that she has only two children. The next neighbor had

Q. Really?

A. *2ie hat moir far a gitoig.*
A.. You know what that is?

Q. Yes, she ~~was~~ was afraid of the evil ~~eye~~ *eye.*

A. And then ~~walked~~ *we were* very very ~~slow~~ *skinny.*

Q. Why was that an evil eye? I mean what was wrong with having..because if you lost one, then you wouldn't have very many left.

A. *No. Nothing left.*
A. And another thing is, she was the only one that had two children. Everybody *you turned around,* ~~was going on,~~ there was a lot of children. So I'll never forget, one had seven, ^(?) and one had nine, she would say nine. Always nine children and we were always ~~getting~~ *awfully skinny.*

Q. People must have known that she only had two.

A. *of course*
A. Everybody knew.

Q. Oh, but she said it to fool the. *malchen moved (the angel of death)* *that's it.*

A. Yes, and another thing is, as I said I'll never forget we used to wear about three or four petticoats underneath to look *a little bit* ~~about~~ fuller.

Q. Oh she worried because you were skinny?

A. If you were skinny, they *that* say she's not feeding us right or something. Or maybe something wrong with us.

Q. Was there a lot, amongst the women, I mean here you were, two girls and your mother, was there a lot of gossip in the village? Not in the village, in the town?

A. Well when I got *older* ~~home~~, they used to talk about people

they used to, people used to come in and they had a ^{horse} house with a little ^{wagon} ~~rag~~ in, a drushka, they called that. ^{they} Used to come in and stay overnight and used to ^{stay} say, they used to ^{camp on and the} ~~but~~ ^{men} some ~~girls~~ from other towns would come. ^{and camp on with the girls from Priluta} that was the gossip

Q. IN other words, in the house across the street, from you, were girls living, that men used to come and visit from out of town? Did you know these girls?

A. Just by sight. But I had nothing to do with them.

Q. Even though they lived just across the street?

A. ^{they used to say that she} Mother was ^{although she had a husband} ~~afraid~~ ^{just} too. My mother would never let us go there.

Q. So the rule was stay away from those girls.

A. Stay away from those girls. But ^{it} ~~they~~ really was

very nice, the young generation, like your father and

mother, they ^{had a} ~~are~~ different group. The older one was a different group and then they ^{called it the intelligentsia} because we all went to schools

and everyone who could afford it, went out of that small town to a big city and go to school. ^{So really we used to come for the summers} ~~Summers~~ We used to have a very good time.

Q. Now tell me about, you mentioned you went to a public school. Tell me about this public school. What was its official name?

A. ^{they called it the Dvorklassnaya shkola} ...but you didn't just go two years, you have to go about four years. And you could have, even your mother had

the same thing, when she graduated there. She went to Vinnitsa ^{it's only four years. Over there gymnasia}

would to
 I talked a lot of Odessa, so when I wasn't admitted because there was so many Jews that they admitted, to get in... so I went to Odessa. ^{First} Naturally we wrote to them, to find out if we can be in.

Q. What year did you enter in, the ^{gymnazium?} ~~gynosium?~~

Right after the Revolution...
 A. I got into ^{gymnazium.} ~~gynosium~~, if you wanted to go to medicine school was 8 years, but if you wanted ^{just} to graduate, it was 7 years. But I got, I went to the ^{gymnazium} ~~gynosium~~ the 6th year and 7th year.

Q. So you got into the 6th year?

A. Went two years and then after I graduated I got into college.

Q. Now lets go back to the ^{Dvorskaya shkola?} ~~Dorogosh shkola?~~ Was that a government run school?

A. Yes. Government. Government run school.

Q. Was it six days a week?

A. ^{those} ~~There was~~ that ~~they~~ didn't want to go on Saturday could stay ~~over~~ home, but you had to have a whole story

about it, thats why I remember my ^{Nathan} ~~my~~ didn't go to it, because

...the parents didn't want them to go on Saturday.

Q. Matthew told me about that

they didn't want him to go on Saturday. But he went Saturday and
 Q. ~~He wanted to go...but he~~ stayed home Sunday.

Q. But your parents allowed you to go?

A. Yes.

Q. Was it a full day Saturday?

A. No, we never went for a full day. It was about 3 ^{hills} in the afternoon.

B. That's what I mean. It was a full school day.

A. Yes a full school day.

Q. And you ^{wore} wear a uniform?

A. Yes.

Q. My mother went to the same school as you.

A. ^{Your mother went to the same school as I.} But it wasn't necessary to wear uniform. The ^{uniform you} ~~uniform~~ had to wear, ^{in the gymnasium,} ~~gymnasium~~, but always wore little skirt and blouse. ^{You always wore a dress next. Yet, you} Always dressed you know ~~in the skola,~~ ^{in the gymnasium} ~~in the skola,~~ ^{you wore a uniform.}

Q. What did you learn in the skola about? Do you remember?

A. Well naturally you learned to read, to write.

Q. What language?

A. Only Russian. Nothing but Russian. ^{They didn't even teach it. It was the Ukraine, but they didn't teach it.} Grammar, and

math. ^{Russian language?} A. Russian, only Russian, grammar and math.

Q. How old were you when you entered that school, about 6?

A. Yes. ^{Probably six or seven.}

Q. Six or seven? A. Yes.

Q. What about geography or history? ^{And math.}

A. Yes, little bit not too much. That's why we wanted to go ^{the gymnasium} ~~gymnasium~~, you have to be taught few months a little more, to be able to ^{go to} but as far as math, we ^{knew} ~~know~~ a lot of it.

The shkola
shkola was in Priluki?

A. *In Pilyuki, Novaya*
Yes, there was two. One we called... Priluki and Staraya Priluki.
There was tow, one in each part of it.

Q. How many children were in your class? In the *shkola?* ~~shkol~~.

A. *I* really ~~hardly~~, I can't tell you exactly, but there were quite a few.

Q. 20, 40?

A. *Probably around that. Between*
30 and 40. There were groups. You didn't go in, ... every year you went into a different room you know.

Q. Were they all Jews?

A. Not all Jews. There was a lot of Christian children too, but the most of them, the peasants, they send the child to three years..they ~~would~~ *would*, you know, *Keep them out.* But there were a lot. *I* remember *that* they came because they didn't have it, *there* used to be small, *small* like you say five, six miles away and *they* used to come to the *shkola* ~~shkola~~ too. Gentile boys and girls.

Q. They did?

A. Yes.

Q. Were they peasants..the non-jews were they from peasant families or middle class?

A. Peasant, most of them were peasant, but there were some of them you know, the parents had a little education, *lets say too.*
But some of them just came from like the fields.

Q. *How* would you say the percentages were? Was it mostly Jews? Jewish children or not

A. Yes. *You had to go to school on Saturday.*

Q. *It was at* Russian government school?

A. Yes, Russian government school and if you didn't

want to go on Saturday, *it depends* *muchum (her husband)* as I said, didn't go, ~~used to go~~ *because he was*
~~taught at home. He used to go to a cheder first for Jews...~~ *which I was*
~~taught Jewish in the house.~~

Q. You were?

A. *He teacher* Yeah use d to come in and teach us. In the house.

Q. You spoke Yiddish at home?

A. Yes.

Q. Could you read Yiddish?

A. I still can read the Yiddish. I ~~used~~ *gued* to write, when
my parents didn't know Russian much, so when I was in Odessa
I ~~used~~ *gued* to write to them in ~~Jewish~~ letters.

Q. *And* they could read them?

A. They could read them and write to *me* back.

Q. So they were both literate?

A. Yes.

Q. Was your father *an* educated man?

A. He was very educated, *in Jewish* yes, Mother too.

Q. Now so then you finished the *shkola* ~~school~~ and then you

went to *Vinnitsa...* you had some private tutoring and you went to Vinnitsa

~~Podolsiya~~ *here* and then you had an exam and from there ~~you knew~~...

A. And from there they would not admit me, I mean from *a certain*
the amount of Jews...

Q. ^{yes, I know.} That was the ^{numerous} ~~cause~~ ^{clauses.} ^{then} So now you went to Odessa. ^{So now} ~~Not~~ ^{take} lets ~~the~~ Odessa. In Odessa your parents ~~have~~ ^{had} to pay?

A. Naturally.

Q. Whom did you live with?

A. ^{We were three} Girls from Pirluka and the three of us, rented a room, one room. With privileges that you can bring in some food. We wouldn't cook there, we couldn't do anything, can only take a bath there and sleep there. And naturally, when we came from there we ^{had} to study.

Q. How how old were you when you went to Odessa?

A. I was 17 years old.

Q. But look there is a time gap in there. If you went to the ^{shkola} ~~schola~~ when you were about 7 and you... oh it was four years oh..

A. ^{Four years!} But ^{the shkola,} ~~then~~ you got finished with ~~schola~~, you were 14 years old, ^{when} and then my father was drafted.

Q. Wait, lets take this. ^I ~~That~~ want to account for this time. You start to ^{shkola} ~~schola~~ about 7 and you went till you were about 14. Oh okay, then in ¹⁴ you were...

A. If you didn't want to go further education you could take care of yourself you could write nice letters, you can read books, do anything you want or as ^{fr} as you had to figure things out in math. But as I said I wanted to have ^a higher education, but I couldn't go right away after I graduated. *My father was..*

A. First world war.

Q. ^{OK.} Well some people were drafted otherwise, He was drafted in the first world war, so that means you didn't go to odessa until 1914?

A. I didn't go to Odessa until 1916. I had to wait till I was admitted to college because as I said, father was drafted and mother didn't want ~~me~~ ^{let me} to go because she was afraid, you know..and as I said, that was during the war and everything, but then the revolution started..

Q. No, no don't jump.

A. I ~~have~~ ^{had} to stay home and then I ~~have~~ ^{had} to be taught until I went to Vinnitsa and after I went to Vinitza I waited another year before I went to Odessa. *That's why the time passed.*

Q. Okay, I see. So in 1914 your father was drafted, *War was ...*

A. He went right away, the first draft..half a year later they took the little older people, *They* needed it, so thats when he went in..

Q. Did your mother maintain the restaurant during this time.

A. Got more help..*and she maintained the restaurant. But she was afraid...* during the war different people used to come in, soldiers ^{used to pass} ~~you know~~ and all that. I had to wait and didn't go to ^{Vinnitsa} ~~Vinnesta~~ until about, I think it was the end of '15 ^{when} ~~and~~ I went to the exams and then I ^{waited} ~~waited~~ till my father came back. *When he came back, then I went.*

Q. When he came back from the army you mean?

A. When he was released from the army.

Q. He was released after two years?

A. After two years.

Q. Even though the war was still on?

A. Still on, you know, but certain ages they let off.

The same as they did. *here in 1948, when the war started.*

Q. I think we're coming to the end, I'm watching this thing. Now what was life like in the village? In this town - during this time you were home with your mother, ^{your} and sister

was also ~~were~~ home?

A. Yes.

Q. Okay and you were not going to school, you were studying maybe?

A. Studying with my teach^{er} right.

A. So what was your life like then? During this inbetween period, before you went ^{to Vinnytsa} ~~to Vinnitsa~~ and then. ^{to} Odessa.

A. Well there were children same ages as I, that didn't

go, for instance my sister didn't study after she graduated. *shkola.*

she didn't pick up any more education, she didn't want it. But *we* still had a teacher coming, ^{with the Jewish...} ~~I wanted~~ ^{and I had me} to go ahead. So,

you were busy with them and studying and you went out a little

bit, there was always a park you went to and met with the

girls and the boys. Just pass the time.

Q. So you had a group of friends that..

A. Right.

Q. Earlier you called these.. [End of Side 1]

A. There was a ^{place} where they used to sell them, ^{they} used to call them ^{morozhnaya} moregani, its ice cream and we even sometimes, we meet there and, have the ice cream and then go together ^{out there were} around, always places where you could be together and play games. Or just talk. Listen, if you met ^{had somebody} something that you liked, ^{once in a while you} used to get together, ^{you'd} get a kiss once in a while.

Q. I'm sure you had more than one. Now, I think what I wanted to ask is, did your parents say to you, I don't want you associate with these children, but you may associate with those children? Or were you free to associate with anyone?

A. No, ^{we were} free to associate with anyone, but only the place that I told you right across from the street, that my mother always told us, whatever you do, please don't go around with those girls or don't play ^{with them. But} around there. We had our own crowd, you know. Used to be like few, like ^{always} parents, they were ^{three} years difference. ^{four} over there. There was a different group, like every three years there was a different group.

Q. Oh is that how it worked? By age really.

A. Yes.

Q. Was this for the girls or the boys too?

A. The boys were a little bit older than the girls, but there was a different, all together there was about three groups. In the town. And ^{they were} then all the ones that went to

school.

Q. I see. ^{So,} The children that did not go on to school or did not go to school were a separate group. ^{A. altogether a separate group.} Did you know them at all?

A. I knew them by sight. I knew they lived in the town but I never had anything to do with them. Not even to talk to them. Nothing. That is why I said I don't remember anybody, like they used to say we used to have the ^{shuls.} shoes, you know, they were, after all ^{three} through the synagogues ^{in Priluki, though it was a} and small town and anyone that lived there around that, ^{action, I never knew} ~~no~~ nobody from there. The children that we went to school together and the families that we know that came from a different type of family.

Q. Now as your family, for example, did they associate with other families in the ^{shetel?} shetel?

A. Yes, they did. But they always picked the ones ^{that they...} or some ^{maybe} people picked them too. But they're always with different groups. Even the families were different.

Q. How did the families level out? Would it be by income or by...?

A. No I wouldn't say it was by income. But they do, for instance, in the small town if somebody was a shoe repairman, ^{they used to} call the ^{sheisters} shisters, they wouldn't let the children go with the other children because they never went to school and they never knew anything. They used to work you know? And all that. That's the way ^{they had them paired.}

Q. Now then in your parents case, who were their friends? What kind of people were their friends?

A. ^{First of all, they were} Very busy people and they had a big family, most of the time they were with the family, ^{together. If there was any holiday or anything,} Anytime there was a little holiday or anything, most of them ^{were} ~~was~~ with them. ^{on} ~~all~~ the neighbors. The neighbors were very close.

Q. Do you have any idea, nobody has said this, how big was this ^{Shtetel} ~~stichole~~ geographically? *Like in mileage?*

A ..

Q. Everybody says 500 families but nobody-in fact I asked ^{Pinah} Panna, if he would draw me a diagram, ^{he} ~~you~~ would go home and see if ^{he} ~~you~~ could draw me a diagram of this. He said, I'll try, I'll think about it. He didn't promise me.

A. It wasn't too small. I mean as far as, well I wouldn't say there were too many miles, but was quite a lot because everybody had homes, had separate homes. Like they call the family home. ^{few} But they always had street between, from house to house you know? And it was quite few like you said 500 families, but you'd be surprised, 500 homes, ^{and if} ~~that~~ they live and separate ^{from each other} ~~that~~ you have to have some mileage.

Q. That's what I was wondering. I'm going to call Mattie and ask him, maybe he'll draw me a diagram. I'm not kidding.

A. Well Mattie went to, away from Priluki, he was very young.

A. Oh yes.

Q. Maybe my father would be able to..

A. He left in 1912. And ^{the ones, the years we} ~~when he went~~ ..started coming

1920, 21. I didn't get here till 1923, but November 1, 1923 ^{we came} ~~here~~

Q. Now lets get back to your parents were busy with your family, with their business and if they did associate ^{it would be} with ~~their~~ close neighbors. And ~~you~~ usually, your neighbors would be people who ^{were} pretty much in the same circumstances as your self, is that right?

A. Right.

Q. Now, is there anything that you know, since I didn't

live then and, ..its not as strange to me, as it would be, lets

say to my children, even, because ^{I've heard my mother talk and you talk and} I've heard Brina talk and

~~my mother talk~~ and so on, what constituted, lets say a good

time. What was ^a ~~the~~ party? Would there be music? Would be singing and dancing?

A. Well no music.

A. No music.

A. No, but there would be dancing and singing.

Q. But how could you dance with no music?

A. Oh there was singing and dancing. Even though the town

was very small, we ^{always used} ~~seemed~~ to have a tutor come, teaching us dancing.

Q. But you have to have music to dance.

A. Well they had. They had grammaphones and record ^{they had}

A. *Well,* That's when they were teaching us. But when you had a party, there was no one, that I know, ^{it} we had ^{later on,} *that they had a* gramophone, they called it, you know. and all that, but that was later, that time I was in Odessa, so if I went to a dance, there was music.

Q. But in the village, was there anyone ^{who} ~~that~~ played instruments? Or anything like that?

A. Yes there was. ^{Mitnik, if you remember.} Oh you know, ^{don't you} see what what happened, do you remember mother talking about ~~mek-ek~~ ^{Mitnik}? Did mother ever tell you that I had a visitor from ~~Russia~~ ^{Russia}?

A. I remember a ^{Mitnik} ~~mek-ek~~ name. I don't remember...

A. Well he was the one, that was quite a few that played violin. And we used to have weddings and naturally they hired music from different towns. And they used to go and the weddings you know, they used to march for the bride and groom, ^{used to be somewhere near the temple,} ~~tempo~~ they would put up a choopa, You know what a choopa is?

Q Yes.

A. ^{when} And people get ~~get~~ married. And those boys... ^{used to play.} So if you had a party and it was closed, somebody ^{that} had a violin, would bring the violin and ^{would} play. But it was very seldom.

Q. Alright. So there was no music, at these parties, could you, then if you had no music you couldn't dance, unless you were singing. Oh you would sing.

a. Singing, dancing, yes.

There was no particular place.
A. Same as over here. You ^{pick} ~~fix~~ some youngster that ^{had a} ~~meet~~
candy store and they have it. Yes.

Q. Okay.

A. You went ^{out} ~~there~~ to buy yourself, me I remember, I don't remember going myself, but if you would went, you'd always meet somebody that..

Q. Now were you young people, now lets see, you were 16 by the time you left there for Odessa and things were happening in the world. Were you following politics at all?

A. Not till the revolution started in 1917.

Q. Were you..

There was not such a thing as politics.
A. I mean we knew that the Jews were not accepted here and accepted there, thats the only thing we knew, But I didn't know anything about politics. Though we used to get a paper at home, but it was a Jewish paper.

Q. Did you read the paper?

A. Yes, and the funniest part is you know since I'm here, I didn't read anything Jewish. I wouldn't read the Jewish paper, I wanted to learn first english, so I didn't bother with it. But Miami, ^{I joined} ~~during~~ the temple, and the girls are going to ^{Hebrew} ~~school~~ so ^{I went with them. I was} ~~whenever~~ there was a holiday, I went with them and they give me a..and I could read. I was so surprised really because I didn't see a book of Jewish for a long, long time. And they said, Momma you learn, ^{you} ~~did~~ something

Q. Now was your father a religious man?

A. Yes and no. ^{They} There weren't strictly religious.

My mother ^{was} ~~would~~ when it came to us, that she would kosher the meat and all that. But dad would eat, and if they ^{were invited} ~~were at someone else's house, they would eat~~ somewhere else, they would eat. They wouldn't be too particular to find out if it was really kosher.

Q. Did he go to school?

A. Yes, every Friday night and Saturday he went to school.

Q. And he wore a beard? But he, was he a ^{Hassid} ~~hassid~~ at all?

A. No.

Q. So he was an orthodox Jew?

A. Yes.

Q. But he was already not quite so strict?

A. No I don't think he was. ^{Maybe} Mother was, ^{a little stricter but} father wasn't.

Q. Did you ^{ever} talk about these things with him?

A. Well we used to ^{talk about it,} particularly if we went to one place, ^{and I would tell him and all that,} and he would say, well when you go to somebody and they give you food and ^{if you feel that} it's not that strictness, ^{don't insult people.} ~~that for~~ them ~~its~~ old people. He said, just ^{don't} ~~not~~ make them feel bad they're not strictly kosher as you would like to be and I never know what it means to be strictly kosher, really. That was truth and I didn't believe in it, even when I was ~~old~~ home.

A. So would you say your father was a kind man?

A. He was a very good man.

Q. He was?

used to give charity.

A. He was wonderful. Used to help people, Mother did too.

Q. Would you say that your home was happy?

A. Very happy. *home.* Very happy child. *first when I hear things, and seen.* there was they *there was* never raised their voice to each other. They was just like lovebirds. I remember them, the kissing, *the saying* good morning or dad would come from schull from Friday he would kiss mother, and *Kiss us, Kiss mother* when she can *lights* put the cndles, you know? *they would say "Good Shit"* Kiss each other. *and they would*

Q. That is not too usual.

A. *yes. they were* Very very close, mother and dad.

Q. Because very often the husband might respect the wife, but he didn't always treat her with tenderness.

A. With kindness always. *very, very.* I never forget the letters that when he was stationed away from everybody, He wrote *how much* that he missed her, you know. MOTHER went to see him.

Q. She did?

A. Yeah.

Q. Was he on the fighting front?

A. No he wasn't on the fighting front, but he was in the army. Listen if the revolution didn't break *out* down, he prob-

ably would have been *on the* front too. *Because don't* Cause ~~don't~~ you see, *there was* the age? *they were* the group, they were just training them to be ready, if they need them.

Q. So he just went in for his training?

A. No, but he was away from home.

Q. I know that, but he went in..

A. They trained him and..

Q. For two and a half years he was gone, or two years?

A. No we was away close to two years.

Q. Do you know where he was sent?

A. He was in Odessa, thats why. *I went to Odessa.*

Q. Oh I see.

A. He was stationed there, Near the Black Sea.

Q. Is there anything else more about this time, you know this period, before you moved to Odessa, that I haven't asked you about or that you would like to tell me?

A. *Well,* When I came back one summer, that was the first *pogrom* 1919..

Q. I'm talking about--this is before the revolution now.

A. I think we covered *everything. I think we really covered everything.* ~~that.~~ That was the time I met my

Nat. *Nathan.*

Q. *When?* A. *Very early.*

Q. During this time, was he part of your group?

A. Yes.

Q. Oh he was?

A. He was, *you* see the boys were always three or four years older. And he was part of our group and, he not to be in the army, the second war, you know the one we have in '41.

He was making all the things they needed for that. *the army.*

Q. OH you mean here in the United States?

A. Oh no, in..

Q. That is '14.

A. He wasn't on the..before the revolution. Before 1917.

Q. Wait a minute, you said the second war, what do you mean the second war?

A. Oh that's right it wasn't the second war, but ^{Don't you see,} because it was 1914, now, before we came, before we came here, before the revolution, see Nat was born in 1898. So they took him and start training them at 18. Started taking ^{them} and he was not drafted, ^{he would in Vinnitsa,} Not to go in it. He worked in Vinnitsa where they were making all the things. Everything for the army and that's why he didn't go in. But so ^{when} even I was stationed, when I was in Odessa he ^{used to take} was taking leave from there and he would for come to see me. And when I came to Priuki, ^{on the holidays} he come too. ^{would}

Q. So it was already understood between you that..

A. ^{It wasn't} Understood, but we knew that we cared for each other and then when we ran away, we ran away together.

Q. Oh you did?

A. He was the one that took me because he had the Brothers there.

Q. Now let's then get you, you are now going to school in Odessa. It's about 1916? 17. The revolution has not started yet. Did you move before or after?

A. Two months before.

Q. So you moved into Odessa. You and your mother and your sister and father? No, just you.

A. ^{I went with} Three other girls.

Q. And you moved into a Jewish home? ^{with this room.}

A. Right.

Q. Okay and you start going to the ^{gymnasium} ~~gymnasium~~.

A. Right.

Q. Then the revolution breaks out and ^{Kerensky} Krenski comes in?

A. Right.

Q. Do you pay any attention to this?

A. We didn't pay any attention. The only thing is, we were affected from the Black Sea you know, in the place where I lived, we had one part of the house fell apart. ^{they thought in Priluki that we were} killed. The building where we lived ~~it~~ was attacked from the Ulack Sea, you know?

Q. ^{Oh, it was} Shelled?

A. And how. Big corner.

Q. That was ^a prt of the world war?

A. Yes, ^{don't you} ~~so you~~ see what happened? Because ^{it became first Kerensky} ~~the.. was Krenski~~ like ^{you} ~~he~~ said, ^{then the Bela Gvardistas, then} ~~and the the..~~ officers, they were fighting each other.

Q. You mean there was a civil war among the officers?

A. Right.

Q. Where?

A. Between the officers and between ^{Kerenskys. Between} ~~Krenski~~. ^{The Bolsh-} aviks. You know it didn't become communism right away. ^{there was Trotsky and there were all those things.} They were fighting each other, till the communists won.

Q. Now the shelling of Odessa, when did this take place?

A. This was in 1919.

Q. 1919?

A. Before I came home, the summer before I came home.

Q And in the meantime, there was program in ^{Priluki} Prilicki. That was ^{just about} ~~four days~~ ^I and just came back from Odessa for the summer.

Q And you were ^{there} when it took place?

A Yes we were. It was a very big building and we climbed up on the roof and we were safe. *saved*

Q Who is that, you and you mother?

A My mother at that time, my husband was with me, he was visiting me because I just come from Odessa. So my sister and Nathan and my mother and father, we climbed up on the roof and thats how we were saved.

Q And you saw what was going on?

A We couldn't see it, *what was going on* but we know the screaming and all that was going on. That was the time when they were all killed.

Q Yes.

A Nathan's father was Killed.

Q Right and my grandfather.

A And Philips father.

Q Any my mothers father. Must have been terrifying.

A And then every day after that, It was the same thing, *they* ~~all~~ ^{were} afraid they were coming again and again.

Q What kind of a roof did you have on your house?

A Well it was a very big building, but you couldn't stay, *on the roof* you had to climb up on ^{top of} the roof.

Q Was it a pitched roof?

A Yes a pitched roof, but because the building was so big, there were like two roofs, up a tree, like a little place was flat..thats ^{where} ~~why~~ you could hide.

Q So you hid between the two.

A. Right.

Q. Otherwise your father would have been there too?

A. Sure and we climbed up and then ^{the funniest part is} before they spotted mother, didn't hide herself. She couldn't, because she was the one that ^{had} the stepladder and she had to throw it away, ^{so she} was left. She ^{but} ^{saved it} was safe as happened.

Q. She stayed down below you mean?

A. Yeah, ^{but} my sister, Mathan and my father, we heard what was going on and they ^{were in our} building..

Q. ^{they were} How did your mother? "

A. I don't know, just luck they didn't touch her. Didn't even hit her. And ^{all} those girls you know that they attacked, like.. ^{Hannah you know} she was cut up, she was fighting them off, they raped the girls..they thought she was dead when they left her. She was cut up all over.

Q. On her neck?

A. ^{Terrible. Her} Neck, head.

Q. ^{Because} For she was fighting? Who were these people that came/ Were they just ^{hooligans} hooligans or were they part of an army?

A. No part of ^{the army} that. They were really part of the..it ^{army} was the communist.

Q. It was the communist army?

A. Right, ^{In} and our ^{town} ~~time~~ it was the communist. All around ^{and} in all the towns. It was just..I don't know what you call it.

Q. I didn't understand that it was the communist army. ^{There} were the whites...

A. There were two ^{pogroms.} ~~programs.~~ ^{Two. Twice there were killed, people.} ~~Two the first of.~~

Once was a very bad one.

Q. When was the first one?

A. The first one was in 1919 and then ^{there was one} in 20.

Q. Now which is the one where?

A. The one in 20 because between themselves, some were fully attached to communists and the other weren't yet. So they were angry at the ones that were communists and they were the ones that were killing the people.

Q. No wait a minute Bupsy. I want to understand something. The one in which my grandfather and Mattie's father and Pina's father were killed, what year did ^{that} they take place?

A. That was '19.

Q. That's the first one. Now according to what I understood, those were not communists that killed.

A. No those weren't communists.

Q. Those were white guards. Or Denikens, or Petlura or whatever.

A. Yes. ^{And the second time...}

Q. In 1920?

A. They were Bolshavik

A. In 1920 they were Bolshavik?

A. Yes, there was a lot of them killed that time, young people on the street. They didn't go into the homes, but whatever was on the street..in fact they even asked dad for..

Q. Now in the second program, you say it was the Bolshaviks

Q. Were you there?

A. I was there. It happened at..my Nathan was working for Shimen that time, you know, well anyway, in a place.

Nathan ^{didn't} look like a Jew, remember Nathan? And they thought he was Christian. ^{they knew the way they were ~~dressed~~} dressed so, some of them ^{on the horses} stopped him and asked him where do the rich Jews live. And he made believe that he didn't understand what they talking. And he got away from it. But quite a few on the street were killed. *There were about 20 probably, or more.*

Q. But the people who stopped him, he thought were Bolshevik.

A. That's what he said. I mean read after in the papers said that it was one army of course, they said they were against Bolshavism, and that's why they were killing Jews.

Q. Jews?

A. Because they were against the Bolshavism, because at that time, the beginning the Jews were treated right by the Bolshevik. You know that. Because there were a lot of Jews *between the* *the ones that were, after, against... you know, too.* But ~~there were~~ *there were groups that were against it.*

Q. Its not quite clear in my head, how these the ^{program} program in 1920 could have been carried out by Bolsheviks if they said they were against the Bolsheviks..

A. well so don't you see? They called them ^{that} they were with it. ^{the Bolsheviks} But they had a fight with them, so they ^{that} got angry, and whatever they passed, everytime they passed, ^{they} killed a few Jews..I don't know if you heard, ^{that} these *Wiernika, I don't know if you're this* *these Kinufgas Kalinorka,* all those small towns.

Q. ^{Kalinovka} ~~Kinuskas~~ I heard of.

A. ^{Kalinovka, because} There was a station..

Q. That's right, yeah. ^{Stantyl}

A. And Priyutovo, ^(?) they killed there a few people.

Q. Course then it wasn't as many as ^{it} was the first one, ^{was} ~~about~~ ^{it was} about 160 I believe.

Q. I think Mattie said 180.

A. Maybe, I forgot already. But it was quite a few.

Lot of people killed. ^{A lot of people.}

Q. And you were there? You didn't see it, but..

A. Now when the ^{program} ~~program~~ was over, what happened, ^{These} people just rode into the town? And how did you know enough to go hide?

A. The minute, like somebody used to watch, ^{where people} they used to be all of a sudden, the beginning of the time or the end of the time, ~~Hitler~~ used to come in from different towns.

They used to watch already the Jews, knew that there is trouble or they heard, somebody from a town would call up.

There were telephones, there wasn't a telephone in every house, but there ^{was} ~~was~~ ^{where there were telephones.} a telephone station at the hotel and

they would call in. Watch out, a group is coming, ^{Bandits are coming.} ~~Terrible~~ ^{They} always came in on horses and with a terrible force you know? Some of the christian people were very nice.

^{We used to hide, we used to run to the...} We used to go there and hide. Jewish people. Many a night we used to spend hiding, somewhere in a field.

Q. So in other words, it wasn't just this one time?

A. No course not. ^{But I think,} ^{on others,} Twice people were killed, they used

they used to
 to rob, take everything out of the house. *You left your own:*
 because you didn't want to be killed or caught. *so they used to take*
 whatever they wanted, they took out of the house.

Q. Now how did the men, older men and the young men and ^{the} women react? For example after this terrible program with the killing in 1919..

A. *It was* so awful. They tried ~~and~~ *to help, for instance, they* had to bury ^{the} people and there was nobody... families. I remember my nephew was standing and ~~digging~~ *digging* ~~I am a scumbi~~ *was helping*. He used to put it in some places, ~~maybe~~ *they put in* 20 people, 25 people.

Q. So you had group burials?

A. The ones that were alive, helped. Or, *left to help each other* for instance, Nathan wanted to have his father ~~..dig it himself.~~ *separate. Buried separate. He had to*

Q. He had to do it himself. Hmm

A. *He had to do it himself. (Long pause)*
 I'll never forget it. 1930 I didn't go after that you know, the ~~programs~~ *programs* and everybody was afraid. You were even afraid to go to bury the dead, but they had to be cleaned up because they were afraid of diseases you know there was typhoid fever and all kinds of ~~diseases~~ *sickness* after that. I went to Russia in 1936 when Roosevelt recognized *I went to visit my parents.* the Russia, 1936 and I went to visit my parents. I went to the cemetery to see how..

Q. You went to Prilucki?

A. Yeah in 1936. I was the only one from all of us that went. And I was in ~~Vinnitsa~~ *Vinnitsa*, was in Prilucki, ~~as as~~ *I was in Kiev* and Moscow but most of us stayed.. I was with my parents in Prilucki.

Q Your parents ^{well} ~~are~~ still there?

A Yeah my parents lived there. Yeah they were killed by Hitler..

Q Oh I didn't know that.

A Yeah my parents were killed by Hitler, ^{My} ~~my~~ parents my sister. My sister, her husband, ^{her two little children,} ~~Hitler killed them.~~ They lived in ^{Vinnitsa.} ~~Vinnitsa~~

Q So they stayed? They didn't come?

A Well no, dont you see what happened? When I came to this country first of all, I couldn't take them right away and after I ^{had to} register ^{half,} to become ^{half,} part citizen, and when I wanted them to come, they didn't want to leave my sister.

Q Was she married already?

A Yes she was married. She got married before me. So when they didn't want to leave her and ^{they said,} they didn't know it was going to be such a beating, so ^{they said we'd} ~~say~~ rather have good letters from you, instead of leaving her and ^I ~~I~~ couldn't take her ^{here} already, because I can bring only parents. But I couldn't bring my sister and her husband. So they decided to stay and thats why I went to visit them.

Q I see.

A That was in 1936. And I spent with them 6 weeks. I had two months, but travelling and ^(?) they wouldn't let you in without travelling to some..so I came ^{first} to Kiev, from Kiev I went to Vinnitsa, thats where my parents met me, because my sister lived there and I spent a few days with

her. And then I went to Priluki and I was 6 weeks in Priluki.

Q. So Priluki was still in existence in 1936?

A. Right.

Q. Do you know whether its still in existence now?

A. That I don't know.

Q. But ^{Vinnitsa} Vinnessa?

A. ^{Vinnitsa} Vinnessa is.

Q. That town goes back to at least 1500 or something.

A. Yes ^{Vinnitsa} ~~Vinnessa~~ still exists because I know that somebody went in the war, but I was in ^{Vinnitsa} ~~vinnessa~~ because ~~I saw~~ ^{(?) they went to visit Vinnitsa.} ~~Saulik~~ ^{Schochet} ~~the chuka~~ ^{had a sister} and the sister and then my sister lived there and then the fathers sister and her ~~Misbund~~ ^{my} lived right near ~~the~~ ^{Vinnitsa} sister. I saw a lot of Priluki in ~~Vinnessa~~ and I've seen Sonia's sister, Rose.

Q. My mothers sister.

A. Yes, and I seen ^{the Margulis'} ~~Marvellis'~~ from the area of Priluki. They know the family. I seen a lot of ^{it in Vinnitsa and in Priluki} ~~and~~ they all came to see me. Everyone, that that knew me, that wanted to know ^{if I bring regard from my family} ~~if I bring regard from my family~~

Q. Oh they would come? It was okay in 1936?

A. Yes ^{it was very good.} ~~in fact,~~ at one time in Moscow, I just couldn't believe my eyes what I ^{there was} ~~seen.~~ ^{no more,} Because that time they treated the Jews very good. And it was quiet, ^{they were comfortable.} ~~no more,~~ Hitler was the one that did the whole thing. ^{the big} ~~Course they~~ took away from them ^{the big} ~~business~~ but they did have quarters to

live there. And I used to send ^{them} things from here. They got along.

Q. Did you go alone?

A. Yes, because I have two little children here. I left, ^{Arnold} Donnie was a year and a half and ^{Marilyn} Anna was six, a little over six years old.

Q. But you decided to go?

A. Yeah the funniest part is, I didn't that I decide to go, Nat's mother died ⁱⁿ 1936 in February. She died here and Nat carried on..and then I said to him, ^{Horrible!} ^{what shall I say, I} assume my parents are alive, but I don't see..he said If I was you, I would go. ^{I would go.} And then I'll never forget it was our anniversary, he says I'm going to give you gift. He says and I want you to accept. I said what is it? He said I want you to go to visit your parents. I said but how can I leave my children? ^{and I had help.} ^{not...} And I had a maid a steady maid. ^{He said we would get her, and if}

TAPE 2

Q. So go ahead, Paula ^{Schedule} said she would say take care of the children.

A. She would take care and supervise them. ^{And if not they would} Go to the mountains. ^{She was supposed to go too.} But they didn't go to the mountains because ^{she had two children too,} the day they were packing to go to the mountains, ^{her} boy went outside and somebody was playing ball and they hit him with a bat. And he almost died, it was one in a million that they saved him, Brain came out, ^{what they went through here.} but he survived. He's alright, but as I said, when I came to Moscow when I..

Q. But you went anyway.

A. Well I didn't ^{know}. This happened while I was already on my way. I was already on the boat. ^{you see} I left... I had to go before. On that boat was only professionals. We were 850 passengers and I was the only one unprofessional. There were doctors, ^wlayers, most of them were teachers, because it was right after school. We left 30th of June, it was midnight first of July. I'll never forget. The boat left at 1 in the morning so it was the first of July. I didn't get home till the 3rd of September.

Q. Oh my.

A. So I spend the time with my ^{Priluki} parents. It was very quiet. I wasn't afraid in ^{you} political. Can imagine I went to the cemetery. ^I Didn't tell my parents, myself, because they wouldn't have ^{let} left me.

Q. They would not?

A. They would not let me to go, because it was too far and you know, all alone. I was alone there, there was nobody. Only the dead people. And I went to see where his father was. So I could tell. Then after being in Priluki, as I said they would bring in wine and the guests you ^{they would} know, ^{father when he went to school. He had an upper lip} come in to see... and as I say everybody and I'll never ^(they played here) forget, after I left ^{from Vinnitsa} Vinnitsa and I said goodbye to my parents and I was crying, they were all crying, my mother was running after and she fell. And you know I was so ^{heavy leaving} happy, not knowing what was going to be, but then I thought of, part of me, ^{few} the children and Nat and I was a little bit relieved. ^{and when I came to Moscow, everybody came to see me in Moscow} The ones that ran way from Moscow. If you

There was Moishe Mitnik's a
 remember, ~~Mishka~~, brother that.. was here. He suffered a
 little while and then he went to college and he became
 I think, a dentist or pharmacist. I don't know what, but
 when the revolution started, he wanted to go back to Russia.
 So he came back to Russia but he had to go to Japan, God
 knows to where. But he came back to Russia, this was
 before we left. We knew that he came back, this was yet in
 1920-21. So, he was in Moscow, *and then there were,* so he came to see me, you
you wouldn't know them, there were ~~children~~ *Chiliks*, they were doctors
 and engineers. They came to see because I *went with their sister ...*

Q. How does the word get around?

A. First of all, they wrote *and when* and when I came, there
 were *alot of, they were the* first americans that were let out. *Into* Russia, so
the publicity. And then when I was in *Vinnitsa* I wrote
 to somebody in Moscow that I'm coming, *Mitnik, the one that you heard...* ~~meet me~~. And he
 let the others know. And they know what hotel we're going
 to stay. Because *we* he knew in advance because *we* he had to pay
 for everything *day* so much. So when I was in Moscow at one
 time, I, he was the one that ran away from here and so,
 I said to him, I like it so much that *when* I'll come back home, *and I'll*
talk to Nathan Maybe we'll come back to Russia. So one was engineer and
 this one that was first here, he became a doctor there. So
the engineer says to the ~~USSR~~ and doctor, he said, *I don't know.* better examine her brain. Even
 though they were there already, they still didn't like it,
 because *they had to suffer.* a few of them killed ... It
 wasn't only your fathers
 brother that killed himself. *the young girl 19 years old, killed herself.*
there was a lot of tragedy there. You know the chiliks...
a lot of tragedy.

Q. I'm not sure that I ever got the story straight, as to why my uncle killed himself. From what I understood, it has to do with his not being ^{able} ~~able~~ to come to america. Is that what you understood?

A. ^{No, he did something wrong}
~~No, was~~ and the Russians. You know he was a communist?

Q. OH he was?

A. ^{He was a Communist}
 And he killed himself because I guess he did something wrong and was afraid they were going to kill him.

Q. This was Julius?

A. That's right. And there was a sister that was married.

Q. My fathers sister?

A. The youngest.

Q. Who was that? Was that Leah? Or Shaindel?

A. ^{No not Shaindel.}
^{When Shaindel got.}
 No there was a younger one. Oh ~~Hagan's~~ husband died. ^{Shaindel's} ~~and he~~
 She was remarried. But there was a younger one. An Eva or

~~something~~. And he did something wrong and they took him ^{Siberia} to ~~Siberia~~ and they killed him there. And she wouldn't ^{even} give her name. I couldn't see her. ^I Couldn't find her. Whenever

I asked, they ^{First} ~~sid~~ they didn't know where she lived. ~~Heard~~

she was in Kiev, ~~and~~ ^{when they took him} from Kiev, ~~went to take him away,~~ ^{he was} ~~somewhere in Moscow, but~~
 Nobody knew where.

Q. I think she remarried.

A. Yes she did. Mother, Misha, ^{through Misha they found it out and} ~~to find out and~~ daughter

^{she showed me a picture of her,} And she had a daughter, I think, ^{or son.}

Q. Now that wasn't Rosa?

A. *No*, no.

Q. There was Rosa, Leah, *Shaindel* ~~Shangie~~, there a was another sister?

A. .Leah,

Q. Thats what I said, Leah, Rosa, *Shaindel* ~~Shangie~~. *there was another sister?*

A. The youngest, of all, *Maybe it was...* beautiful girl.

Q. Maybe it was Leah. But I thought there was only three, but I could be wrong.

A. Yes.

Q. So her husband was killed by the communists and the brother killed himself ⁱⁿ order to avoid..

A. And the one that I know, the girls ^{that} they killed themselves, ^{when} didn't have enough for food, they couldn't stand it, there was no food, no clothes.

Q. Where was this, in Moscow?

A. *Yeah*.

Q. Now do you remember hearing what sort of functionary role my uncle played? I mean as a communist?

A. All I know is that he was a communist and he was with *the* gestapo,

Q. In the *cheka* ~~chusko~~

A. Yes and he did something wrong he was afraid *they were going to* ~~to go and~~ kill him, so he killed himself.

Q But you don't know what it was that he did?

A. No, there was quite few from Priluki that became *very, very* ...terrific communists. In fact one helped us escape. *You know, Nat...*

Q. *I know.* Lets get back to Odessa. Now you're in Odessa, then

you come home on these visits and on one of the visits here is the *program* ~~program~~. Thats in 1919. And in ~~to~~ other words, then you witnessed these raids, continual. *Right?*

A. Yes.

Q. So how long did you stay in Odessa?

A. I went back, couldn't stand it all, those every night, every night you were afraid to go to sleep. You were always in your clothes. So I went back to Odessa and then in 1921, we decided ~~that~~ we going to run away from Russia.

Q. Now wait a minute, you had moved to Odessa.

A. I didn't really move. I went back to school.

Q. *I know.* Thats what I mean, I'm sorry. You went to Odessa in 1917?

A. That was in the beginning, *but when I came for the holidays* ~~but the holidays~~ when I came ~~in~~, you're talking about 1919.

Q. No I want to know how long a period of time all together you were in Odessa. About four years?

A. Four years.

Q. Okay, so and there you finished *gymnazium* ~~gymnasium~~ and then you started college and that was the dental college?

A. Yes.

- Q. What was the name of the school?
- A. They called it ^{Kruschov} ~~Krushev~~ Institute
- Q. And you would have been a dentist?
- A. Yes, would have continued, ^{I would have been a dentist.} already pulled teeth from a dead man.
- Q. Alright, so you were ^{there for - it was} while you were in college, that you made the decision to leave?
- A. While I was in college.
- Q. Now who made this decision.
- A. Nathan ^{was the one that made the decision.}
- Q. He said we're going to go?
- A. He said, we're going to go, he says there's no use. His parents, ^{he was} ~~were~~ afraid, ^{where they} in fact, we ^{went away} were before, ^{Hannah} ~~corner~~ went away when the father, ^{that was} the first group, they went, and ^{we were} ~~they~~ the second group.
- Q. Who was afraid to go? ^{Did he say?}
- A. He wanted to go away, the old people were afraid. Afraid was everybody to stay ~~and~~ in Priluki anymore. And the mother wouldn't move to ^{any} another place.
- Q. Their mother?
- A. Their mother.
- Q. Would go only to America?
- A. Only to America because she had two boys in America. ^{for America. Hannah left already.} And the daughter left already, So when we were left and I ^{didn't want} ~~wasn't going~~ to go because I didn't want to move ~~and~~ leave my parents. But she was ^{very} ~~sweet~~ about it, she said..
- Q. Who, his mother?

A. Yes, she say to me, we'll try and help your parents.

Your parents will come out after. She says if he doesn't go, he doesn't want to go without you, and if he wouldn't go, then I would stay here, ^{is out} we all be killed. And the

way she put it, I said alright I'll go. And thats where we decided and we met, but ^{he (Nathan)} ~~we~~ couldn't get away because ^{one of them made up for him that} he worked that time, so ~~papers~~ and he was going to buy

something for the place where he lived through the government. Thats when we came to ^{Mogilev. And theres the Dniester, thats where we crossed.}

Q. I don't kniw why they didn't just surround the place with barbed wire, because everybody got out through that place.

A. Through that place, but never mind, plenty got drowned.

Plenty got caught. ^{In jail,} God know what happened to them. It was a terrible thing. All you do in the night. I never forget it. ^{at the Dniester its half} Nysa, frozen ~~and~~ and the little boats that they took us

and then when you got in on the other side you have to be ^{quiet} so quiet, so quiet, so the patrols wouldn't catch you from there.

Q. Thats in ^Besrabia you mean?

A. Yes.

Q. Now how did you get from Odessa to Mogilev?

A. Well don't you see what happened? Because..

Q. Nat had the papers?

A. Nat had the papers already and I just ^{took} off that I was going to visit my parents, from school. Told them I was going to visit my parents, ^{but} instead of going to Prilucki, I met in ^{Vinnitsa} Nivvesta and from ^{Vinnitsa} Vinneasta we went, my parents naturally came to say Goodby to me. And from ^{Vinnitsa} Vinnista we went to Mogileiv.

Q. Now but his mother, also went, right?

A. Yes.

Q. So how did he account for his mother?

A. His mother came, ^{How did he account for his mother?} ~~look~~ we had to cross ^{the same Dniester as} ...

Q. No, I mean how did they explain that she was coming along?

A. Well with her she went to see her daughter, her daughter ^{Mogilev} lived in Mogileiev.

Q. Everybody had a different reason.

A. Well everybody had ^{so have a} ~~a different~~ reason. See, your mother and father they went before. We were the group third.

Q. This was the third?

A. Yeah.

Q. So you got to Mogileiev and then you had to contact.

A. I had to contact and stayed for a while ⁱⁿ ~~and~~ Romania because..

In Besarabia you mean?

Yes. But it's called Rumania.

Now what town?

Mos. Betz.

- Schochets
- Q. So that is where you met the Shovas then?
- A. Yeah that's right. No, ^{in Belz} I met the Schochets. ~~the Belles, met shrovas.~~
- When I was in ^{Belz} ~~Belles~~. I met the Schochets.
- Q. Except you didn't meet him, ^{Polya.} first you met Paula.
- A. Because they weren't married yet, but I met him too after. But, it happened, how we met him, he lived in one house and they lived in another house. And that is, ^{how the...} Nat was the first one they met, ^{I don't know how because} and I was working ^{in Belz}.
- Q. You were working? What kind of work were you doing?
- A. What kind of work was I doing? I used to take care of myself, I went into a ^{beauty parlor}, I used to straighten my hair, so I went to a beauty parlor to have ^{them} straighten my hair and a manicure. And I was talking ^{they want a} while the man was giving the manicure, ^{How is a man giving a manicure?} and I said, and he said, he would like to keep ^{teach} somebody, manicure and cashier, if he could get somebody nice.
- ^{Do you know} Anybody, and he knew that I wasn't, and I was really ^{very} good looking at the time.
- Q. You were a beautiful girl.
- A. ^{And you know the Rumanian... I said} ~~there were many officers~~ I'll willing to learn, I said, but I don't know anything. He said would you take ^{be cashier too?} care of my cashier? I said yes. That I would do willingly. And he taught me, ^{when} and then I became ^a manicurist, ^{the officers drove me} mad ^{then, Mr. Romanescu, I took them} ...I told ^{them} I didn't understand what they were talking about.
- Q. What did you say?
- A. ^{Nu se vorbeste} ..that I don't speak..
- Q. That's Romanian? ^{That's not Russian.}
- A. I don't understand Romanian. ^{No, of course not.} And so when I was

worked
 working, Nat ~~was~~ too. He worked in a factory, but he had different hours than I have, so that's when he met. *The whole family because it was their Hannah's husband, because they came from same town as the other. Paula's parents, or something. So they met and that's how we knew them.*
 Q. So you were both working there?

A. Yeah.

Q. Were you married in ^SBessarabia?

A. *Stupid me.* I was afraid to be married and have a baby. Wasn't that stupid? We were together ^{for} so many years and when I think of what going on now, and we didn't touch each other. And he was crazy in love.

Q. I don't know if it's better.

A. *I don't know what it was*
 But we were so in love.

Q. It didn't spoil your life with him.

A. No, he ~~was~~ a wonderful husband. He really was like he wrote to my parents he said, I'm her husband, I'm a father and mother, husband and lover and I take care of her and he ^{said}. You wouldn't believe it was possible. And he ^{He} was all that. And another thing, we had to come as husband and wife because they couldn't bring us. So my name was Kaufman and when we were on the boat, they said we can't understand, ^{at that time the young generation} was running away from ^{Palestine} ~~They were~~ at that time in Israel, *But it's called Palestine, so the ones that went first there,* were running away and we came on the same boat. ^{It was} Almost like a cattle boat, I'll never forget, ^{Batorya} ~~the Batorya~~ was the name of the boat and we took it from Romania. And,

Gdynia

~~Katarya~~ and there's where we met the other young people.

And they were poor, they didn't have nothing, ~~We~~ we were dressed nice, because ~~we were always~~ ^{the two of us were} working, ^{and} we had some money with us. So we give, Nat give some clothes to the others and I gave them some other things, ~~And~~ they couldn't understand what we are. They're not husband and wife, they're not together. The boys were in one place and the girls ^{there were} in another. ^A Very big rooms that boat. And we act like sister and brother.

Q. Because your name was the same?

A. The name was the same.

Q. So you had to go as husband and wife?

A. Husband and wife.

Q. But you had to show a license then didn't you?

A. Well..didn't have to show a license. All they told us here we should put on get married, but I said to Nat, listen I says, Mattie is not married yet, ^{Hannah} ~~Horne~~ is not married ^{yet} and we'll get married in America. So they told us to wear wedding bands, So we wore wedding bands. I mean we didn't wear it, but when ^{we} got off the boat, we put on the wedding bands, but here when we got to America and we ^{were} here about six months, he lived with Mattie, Mattie made a home for the mother and sister. And I stayed ^{And he wasn't married yet, so he was with them} with ^{Morris} ~~Mrs.~~ Kaufman and after two weeks I started working in a ^{beauty} ~~beauty~~ parlor.

Q. Oh is that right?

A. Yeah in New York. I never forget 8 to 5 and I made

a lot of money. So after six months, I decided that we were going to get married. Nat went to night school and I made a mistake, instead of telling them ^{do what he did when} ~~he would~~.. I said I was in the ^{gymnasium} ~~gymnasium~~ and that I was in College, ^{to learn} they sent me to Columbia College, English, but I didn't stay long there.

Q. What do you mean? What was your mistake?

A. If I would, all I could have told them I wanted to take up just English but when they ask you, what education did you ~~have~~ had in Russia, so I told them I was in one year of college.

Q. Why was that a mistake?

A. I tell you why.

Q. You didn't want to go to Columbia?

A. No I wanted to go, but you see what happened, when I started to work, I had to work different hours and I couldn't go. Nat went to night school, he graduated over here high school. He first went to public school, he was about here year, year and a half and then he graduated high school. Night high school and ^I had to stop and I couldn't go, ^{in the day time...}

Q. So you didn't get an American high school diploma is that what you're saying?

A. Yes.

Q. So what?

A. Well it didn't bother me, but I think I would have learned better. ^{I would have} Spoke better maybe. My writing could have

been maybe better. And all that. *That's what I'm trying to say.*

Q. Because you actually had an education.

A. Yes, I figured..after all you know ^{math} ~~not~~, you know -
can read English, you write, what do you want to go again.

And as I said, they couldn't help us. And when we decided

to get married, we lived, I forget a furnished room, ~~or~~ and

I was very thin and my ^{Nat never liked fat} people and I never forget that room

must have been smaller than our kitchen. All we had ^{was} a 3/4

bed and a little dresser and a closet that could be built

^{so put it in. He said, if you ever get fat, I'll throw you out that window}
out, the first night, ^{stay to see us there, and we spend}

the whole night with him, sitting on that bed. I was tell-

ing him, He laughed. He said, ^{it} doesn't look like he's going

to throw you out. But we came ^{so America on our} own money, but you see what

it is, I didn't know. I didn't read the letter, But I guess ^{when they wrote}

^{so Morris wrote} when ^{when} to Nathan, What do you think of bringing a girl in

America. ^{In America when you bring a girl you have} Hye to had a maid, you have diamonds for ^{you} have

to have a wedding and ^{see Vids, best in town that suit (Don't you have any thing} ^{you have an} older brother and so he got ^{older sister}

angry. And he didn't want to go to America. But ^{when} then the

mother left and all that...

Q. You mean Nat got angry and..

A. He got angry ^{why} ~~while~~ his brother is telling him why

he's bringing a girl. So he got mad ^{So he didn't write} at the brother. ^{to them} So after we were working, we came on our money. And the papers on uncle

couldn't take the papers from the brother. But after they ^{sent them}

it up. ^{They were} Very nice, ^{and} maybe he meant well. ^{you} See they told

that I was brought up, that I went to private schools

I'm beautiful and I'm this and they thought I

here and I wouldn't do a thing and he'd ^{have} had to

slave and he has a mother to support, and ^a sister is not married and all that. It was only ^{Morris} ~~in~~ that it was this. But he, I said, ~~you know~~ you don't have to apologize, ~~but~~ I didn't know anything, all I think I know that you're not writing to brothers and not getting letters from the brothers. It stopped. He was angry and wouldn't write to them.

Q. And he could get angry.

A. YOU know it!

Q. I remember, his eyes would shoot out, you know.

A. ~~Yes. He didn't want to forgive them. But he did forgive them. In fact, we were working but give money because all of a sudden, beautiful, we had a stand, we thought it was working~~ *when times were bad for Morris, he gave him money. The two of us were working but all of a sudden, beautiful, we had a stand, we thought it was working*

His father was working for him.
Everybody was working for him, making, so he wanted to go to garage business, so I pleaded with Nat that he should

buy, because I said you're working. I'm working. We work together. He said no I wouldn't. This way you're working

I don't see you. I wouldn't want to watch you work with

me. *He didn't want it.* So he sold that and he bought a garage on 65th Street.

In New York and after six months everything went to nothing.

All the money was lost, everything was lost and then he

wanted ~~the~~ the stand back. So I never forget, Nat said,

remember you wanted..now we could be left without money,

without a stand, without anything.

Q. Oh did Nat have the stand?

A. No, he didn't take it. *He didn't. But* He sold it to somebody else.

Q. Oh you mean he said to Morris. And you wanted him..

A. I wanted him to buy the stand. We had already money we both were working and we had some money so I said, lets buy and we'll be together. It was a good thing. It was making a lot of money because ^{he} ~~we~~ was paying everybody, your father was working, and ^{an} other fellow were working.

Q. So did Morris go back to the stand then?

A. So after that you know you wanted the stand back, I don't know what happened. But he went back to the garage he had no business, so went to the garage where Matthew was working, but they were partners. He was the silent partner becuae he had, ~~he~~ had the other three. And ^{then things turned out} they couldn't stay together, ...thats when he bought the garage with Nat. But of course, they didn't know ^{that} he bought the garage. Because Nat was the one, we were the ones, the two of us were working making very nice money. We had the money. So we give him some money and he bought it. And Mattie got sick, so ^{Morris} I said we have to help him out, so.. ^{that they were partners} then it came out, but he paid in something.

Q. Alright anyway it worked out all right.

A. No, they were very nice to me. I wouldn't, very nice, I ~~had~~ loved them.

Q. Those things always happen in families.

A. Yeah, well maybe he was right. Figuring that a mother came, he wasn't making so much money.

Q. But the mother did come with you. She stayed..was she with you in Desarabia?

A. No, she went ahead before because Nat didn't want to go. But the mother pleaded and cried and in fact she got badly sick here. And when we heard she got sick and then ^{we} couldn't ^{stay} stand in Romania any more. They didn't let us.

Q. They were going to kick all the Jews out. Weren't they?

A. ^{Right} right. And that's the time we decided, we had the money, ^{we bought tickets} and we came.

Q. But otherwise he was all..oh that's when he got angry?

A. Yes, because he was angry, because the brother wrote that to him. And another thing was he was so angry that he didn't even write to them that we were coming on the boat. He told me they were going to meet us at the boat. We come and there's no one. We took a cab, I'll never forget it. They came from ^{the HIAS to help us} ~~this place~~..and he said, no, he has his own money, so he went to the address of the stand, we came to the stand he wasn't there, so they told us where he lived and we came. The same driver took us there and then he rang the bell for us and then he came down. Morris Kaufman came down. And I'll never forget, ^{Nat} ~~the man~~ said he's looking for Morris Kaufman.

Q. They ^{had never seen} never saw each other?

A. No, because my ^{Morris} ~~husband~~ was ^{in America when} he was born. So when

he said he was from Moscow, ~~he's~~ looking for Morris dKaufman, ^{he said} you're looking for Morris Kaufman, you're Nathan Kaufman.

ts how they met. And we went upstairs and we find out

^{that's where}

the mother was very sick. So we came in the 2nd of November and 20th of November I started to work.

Q. Life is very funny. Because if you look, he wanted to stay in Besaribia, what happened in Besarabia was hell.

A. *He made a fortune. Yes, after - yes. And I too.*
~~He made up for it a year after..~~

Q. He made a fortune in Besarabia. Just working in the factory?

A. Yes, they loved him, He became the head, oh they pleaded with him, they wanted to make him partner. We came here, ^{we} had money, we give ^{the} money boys and were running from Palestine, we gave them money.

Q. That's the question I wanted to ask you. Why were they running from Palestine at that time? I know I read that they left. Did they tell you why they left?

A. They said that they couldn't get any work. And they were afraid of the Arabs and it wasn't, they were Zionists, but when they got there, I guess they ^{just} didn't like it.

Q. This was what year? '23?

A. Was in '23 then.

Q. So it wasn't quite as easy I mean..

A. No. No.

Q. Zion wasn't as beautiful as they thought.

A. No and they were very young people. *They were the same age as me.*
~~I would say~~
IT WAS A FULL BROT. IT WAS ABOUT...
21. younger ones. I never forget was singing, we was always

upstairs and we singing songs and our boat was 42 days, but we stopped in africa, ^{we} stopped in Algiers, ^{we went to oh we} seen so many different things, ⁱⁿ Turkey you know. Syria-all over the boat, ^{I said,} 42 days.

Q. But still, these young people ^a were coming back?

A. Yeah and some of them didn't even have ^{... the HIAS} helped them.

Q. The ^{HIAS} ~~HIAS~~ helped them out of Palestine.

A. Because they had no money, had no people to come to.

Q. And they were coming to America? And they could get in?

A. Yeah.

Q. People from Europe couldn't get in.

A. But from there they could.

Q. They could?

A. Yeah because they were running away. ^{or something. Because they ran} First from ~~Russia~~ ^{Russia} and then ^{they were} running from there and they did admit them. In fact when we came in, I think we were the last ^{quota} ~~quarter~~.

Q. You came in before..

A. In 1923, we couldn't ^{stop} ~~start~~ over here, we had to stop in Providence, ^{Rhode Island.} The boat this was the last ^{day} to get into America. So we couldn't stop...so we came during the night with a smaller boat.

Q. From Providence to New York.

A. ^{To New York.} And I never forget ^{what} ~~the~~ Morris kept ^{on} telling Nat. ^{Telling him} that he wasn't smart, to give the driver, didn't know what to say, so he showed five do-lars so we got there and Nat

Beatrice Kaufman

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I think on the boat, 10th Ave and 42nd
give him five dollars and we stopped, 10th Avenue, and
Morris lived on 15th Street, so it wasn't worth the five
dollars. But I never forget when they asked if *he wants any help, In Jewish*...they

They asked us, and he said no. Thank you it wasn't needed. ~~It~~
was a big shot.

Q. I remember him. Let me see now if there is anything
else. To take you back for a minute, which synagogue did
your father belong to in Priluki? *Do you remember? Because* There were four.

A. I know it was a small one. Its a ~~clash~~ *Kloise*...The bigger
one. They all went to the same one. Your father's father,
and..

Q. I'm not sure. At one time my father's father went
to the ~~chosh~~ *Kloise*. My dad..

A. *at the* Beginning and then they all ~~attended the~~ *changed to bigger* I asked
Matthew what the reason was. He says well, its like

Republican and democrats. Now how would you explain it?

A. Well it was the same way, *It was the same, really. Some few rich* It was divided there, it
ones were some part and others went to another. it
wasn't republicans but *rich* was rich ~~with~~ people and..some people
Don people,
were very rich. Oh they called them rich, they made a living.

They didn't have to ask nobody for money. They didnt have
to take a loan so, they were rich. *But really in* My house we were very
comfortable.

Q. No I understand that.

A. *We were dressed beautiful always*
~~Beautiful home~~ and we had everything. My mother used
to go to Vinitsa and bring oranges. Things like that.

That was a luxury item.

Yes. Sure. Kapshunkas.

- Q. *That was a* ...fish. I have't heard that word in 30 years. What kind of fish was it? Do you remember?
- A. It was a *dried fish* ..they have it over here too.
- Q. What do you call it over here? *I haven't seen it since I was a little girl.*
- A. *Rapchuska.* In Russian, you ask Mattie. Mattie used to send it, my Marilyn likes it ~~by~~ *but* you couldn't find it in New York.
- Q. I can't find it.
- Q. They used to send it from here.
- A. Really.
- A. You know there is a appetizing store on Washington ..*(Tape off)*
- Q. Did you do any reading in the Russian literature?
- A. *We read Tolstoy* Oh, the russian books. *Anna Karenina. Things that I read when I got older.*
- Q. When this was in Odessa?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Alright, how about any feelings about Palestine or Zionism, did you hear anything of that kind? Or ~~would~~ *were* you be interested in it?
- A. I really wasnt.
- Q. *You were not.* Tell me the truth.
- A. *He* Truth is, I wasn't, till I came to America, and realized..
- Q. It was fairly late probably.
- A. When I was young..
- Q. You were not in Zionist circles then?
- A. *I was definitely not* ~~I never was in, no.~~

Q. Were you in Bolshëvik circles?

A. Not even in Bolshëvek circle.

Q. How would you describe, was there any political coloring to the kind of people that you were..

A. ^{(Tape off) (Side ends)}
Course you know.. I was against killing the Czar.
^{.. (?)} They didn't want him, but not to kill ^{out} other family. But later on, when I start reading and.. ^{talking} was in Odessa you know, and I seen him and his speeches..

Q. Oh you did see him?

A. Yes, came to Odessa and I thought ^I was right.
There were too poor, ^{were too poor} people and some had too much. And ~~was~~
I figured that in a way they were right. There should be ^{normalized}
that people shouldn't die from starvation, ^{or} to be neglected,
not to go to school and so many children that never knew what
a school ^{meant} ~~meant~~ and all that. That's when I ^{thought that I} ~~wash't~~ too much
against it.

Q. I see. But you were never.. ^{or were you ever a party member} ~~never part of that?~~

A. No.

Q. And what about Nathan?

A. Never. He wasn't a party member.

Q. Was he interested in the Bolshëvek point of view at all?

A. He was for a while, at the beginning, when they didn't go to such extreme. But later on, everyone you knew was against it. Course some belonged, ^{like Fanny,}

Q. She was American, I don't care. I'm talking about the people that were there. Now Odessa was an unusual city.

You had a big Jewish population, they were highly assimilated and they ^{were} very active. In all kinds of ways.

A. Very active.

Q. Can you tell me something about that city?

A. Well there's not much that I can tell you because I was busy with school. You know ^{until} ^{o'clock} ~~to~~ three, you were in school and then you came home. There was a lot of homework to be done and if you wanted to go, we have the opera, we want to go to the opera or to a movie.

Q. You had movie houses?

A. Yes and then there were a lot of ^{from our town that} ~~times~~ they came to see us, the girls. ^{Boys that they came altho they were older than me.} ~~If~~ ^{But} they knew we were from the same, they would come and maybe get something to eat. Then we would run out and buy something. And make tea for them because ^{there was} ~~we had~~ no coffee. We didn't drink coffee. So as I said, there was no time to be busy with anything else, and the school ^{that} we went to, wasn't.. It was more technical.

Q. See if it had been like in history or political science, then you would have been closer, but you did go to hear ^{Trotsky} ~~Trotsky~~ talk?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you remember what year that was?

A. That was in 1918.

Q. So the Civil War was just about started.

A. The Civil War started in '17.

Q. But I'm talking about between the Reds and Whites.

A. That was already ~~than~~ *the end of '18.*

Q. Did you meet with any Odessa natives/ People who grew up in Odessa/

A. Yes, I lived with people, young people. And there were ^{two} ~~three~~ young girls in the building that we lived, I mean that ~~the~~ parents lived, and they were born in Odessa. The ^{parents} ~~girls~~ were born in Odessa.

Q. Now..

A. They were more, on the stand of the Boshavik, they were more against it.

Q. They were more against Bolshavik?

A. Yes, because they were very rich people.

Q. Oh, *all the rich people were against the Bolsheviks.*

A. They took away everything from them.

Q. Were these people Jews?

A. Yes.

Q. Were they assimilated or were they religious, observing Jews?

A. ^{they were} 50/50 I would say. I wouldn't say they had a kosher home ^{but} when it came to holidays *they went to the temple.*

Q. What language did they speak?

A. Russian and Jewish.

Q. They did speak Jewish?

A. Oh yes.

Q. Now there were a lot..

A. They used to fast ^{on} Yom Kippur. I'll never forget it you know, I usually used to go for the holidays home. But one

year, I couldn't go, something happened and we were separated, the Bolsheviks and Vienna were fighting, so you know you were separated that you couldn't travel. So I was doing a fast and in the evening before they had supper they told us should have really supper and don't forget you're ^{not} allowed ^{so ext. of course we didn't listen to} what they said. But were told. So as I ^{re} said...

Q. So they knew and they remembered.

A. IN a certain way ^I they knew, but they did not, for instance when it came to dishes, I don't think they changed the dishes.

Q. I understand. The thing is, somebody was telling me that there were a lot of anti semetic Jews.

A. Not in Odessa.

In Odessa

Q. That only one person's opinion.

A. I didn't come across that, ~~many~~. No.

Q. And I know that I've heard some people from Odessa, ^{a jargon} call Yiddish. ^{Not necessarily just from Odessa} quite a few people, not necessarily from Odessa. Yiddish was not a language to them.

A. No, but don't you see what it is? It was the same, *when you talk* they got very angry and one wasn't intelligent enough or he wasn't agitated enough, he would call them, even the Jews, he used to call each other, ^{oh, he's a} you-se kyke. Meaning *what does he know* that, I remember even in New York.

Q. That's what I'm saying.

A. ^{I don't} ~~And~~ remember that in Priluki, there wasn't such a people to call each other, no. But ^{coming to} even ~~for~~ America.

they'd pay, oh what does he know he's a Kike.

So you see there was people all over, but I don't remember..

Q. Did you like the time that you spent in Odessa?

A. Yeah I loved it.

Q. You did?

A. I ~~dent~~ loved it. It was a very lively..school was very nice. Girls were very nice. ^{we} Went to a girls school. Very exceptionally nice and you meet girls from all over.

of Course there was a lot of them that they lived in Odessa.

Yet there wa pepole from all over. Some from Kiev, from ^{Vinnitsa,} ~~Ninnitsa,~~ from all over, as I said. And very nice. And then we had the very nice, if there was a show, we wern't allowed, we always had somebody that.. ^{went with us.} if we wanted to go, they would ask us in school if there was anything you'd like to see.

Q. Chaperones?

A. Yes, take a group of girls and we would go with a chaperone.

Q. So for you, coming from the ^{Klein shtetel} ~~kianstachager~~ like that it was a really big thing. And it was. Odessa was a big city.

A. It was a beautiful city. With that Black sea, it was out of this world. And I remember comign to America, Morris lived on ⁵⁰ ~~40~~th Street, you know, where he lived? Near Broadway.

Q. Oh, 50th.

A. 50th, Near Broadway, I remember 214 50th Street, ^{And when I went on the top floor,} and he lived on the top floor, all the lights, so I wasn't so surprised. So he looked at me and said.. Zehst du, ah Klein shtetel dike. Zis gurnisht zu ir. (Look, from a small shtetel and this city is nothing to her.)

Q. I'll just translate then, small town girl ^{and} in this doesn't mean anything to her. Right? ~~ton~~

A. Yes.

Q. He was surprised.

A. So ^{Nat} I said to him, ^{She's} do you see nicer things than this? Cause Odessa was a very beautiful and when I lived on the street, high class very rich people. But they have big homes and they had rooms to rent out. ^{they} We used to rent out, I guess it ^{used to give them money so pay their own} mortgage or whatever it was. But it was very nice and it was very bright. And, you know, Odessa opera house, you couldn't ^{even} compare ^{it} to Moscow. Because when I was in Moscow, I went, I didn't go to see the show, but you know, I look in the building and Odessa was much nicer. ^{The theaters, the opera houses...} decorated, beautiful, Not that I didn't like in Moscow.

Q. I understand. You say it just wasn't a small town.

A. Odessa was a very big town and the building was much nicer than in Moscow. In Moscow we have nothing. We have a little ^{hatka} hutka or a little taller building. ^{where} Stalin was buried you know The Red Square. Alright what is it the Red Square? Is this the street, its very very wide, and the ^{made a} monument, It was nothing to see. No stores or anything when I was...such beautiful stores. I

Q. In Odessa you mean?

A. Even ^{the} revolution didn't catch up to Odessa so much.

Q. That was what I was going to ask.

A. Wasn't..

Q. Did you feel the pinch?

A. No, no, not in Odessa. Now for instance, I hear ^{in other towns} people saying, that in Kiev or..there was no meat, no bread.

We didn't have that. We never had any horsemeat, ^{that} people were ^{feeling me} ~~they were~~ eating.

Q. You did not?

A. Not when I was in Odessa no. Only the last year..

Q. You left in '21 right?

A. Yeah the last year, when I left, I came back and ^I left from ^{Vinnitsa} Vinnitsa, so before I left there were, I knew there was a shortage, they said there is a shortage of meat, but I still didn't feel it.

Q. Who fed You? Did you buy your own food?

A. Oh naturally. The three girls, we bought our own food. After, you know, when we went to college, then we ^{already} have a little bigger place with a little kitchen. We still..

Q. But you did your own shopping?

A. We did our own shopping.

Q. And you didn't find that it was so impossible to get?

A. They still have everything.

Q. Why do you think that was true in Odessa?

A. As I said, we didn't feel it as much..

Q. I know, but how, why do you think? Do you have any idea?

A. I don't know. All I know that we heard ^{that} places had ^{do here}

horsemeat and all that. But I remember that. .

Q. ^{Pinah} ~~Piner~~ said he was starving.

A. In Kiev, they said it was awful.

Q. ^{Pinah} ~~Piner~~ said he would get so faint, he would have to lean up against the building.

A. I was told that in Moscow that..-she couldn't take it. ^{Jews} Starving ^{and she} ~~should~~ not take it. For instance ^{when I was} in 1936

my mother told me that between the peasants, they used to.. ^{if a child} ~~did, they used to eat that...~~

Q. During what years? ^{I left in '21.}

A. In the 20's. ^{It must have been 1921.} Must have been in the 20's. Was very very tragic. Used to live on bread and water.

Q. Bopsy, is there anything else? Have I tired you out completely?

A. ^{No.} would you like to eat something?

Q. First, is there anything that you would like to add or that I haven't..

A. There is really, you covered everything I think.

Q. You've been very, very good really. Yeah, there was no problem with your parents about educating a girl, by the way? ~~They~~ didn't..

A. In the beginning, they ^{were} against me leaving town or leaving Prilucki, leaving the house. Mother..

Q. Was it only because of the war or just ⁱⁿ a general?

A. No, mother didnt want to see me going away, especially ^{mama} Odessa. In other words, they used to say Odessa..on my mind.

Q. That's what I heard last night. That's the first time.

A. Yeah what mother felt. But I pleaded with her and I said, I want an education and they ^{didn't want to} put me ⁱⁿ Vinnitsa. I didn't want to go to Odessa, and...but being that my father was stationed there, and ^{I mean, he saved} about Odessa and start writing ^{from a few} letters ^{willing} to highschools to accept me. Told them the grades I didn't send any, have to have admitted diploma and all that. So I went there. Mother was against it. ^{But} Then afterward she went to see me and all that. And she seen I went with two girls from Prilicki.

Q. Maybe if you hadn't ~~of~~ been so pretty, she wouldn't have been quite so worried.

A. Well no, she was worried.

Q. I think that will be..

A. Oh we had a lot of fun in Odessa.

Q. Well maybe you'd like to tell me some of those things because we don't hear about them. *We only hear about the sad things.*

A. No we had a lot of fun. The three of us we used to go and then we'd meet a lot of students, Russian ^{student} agent, they was college boys, they wore the uniforms and the girls would like to meet somebody, ^{her} always pushed me in front. We had a lot of fun. But I never bothered with anyone. They used to come, I never went out with anyone. They used to call ^{the house} to find out where we live and all that. But I don't know, I must have been crazy about my husband that I didn't ^{bother} with it. He was a jealous type too. He would come and see.

Q. I wouldn't want to cross him, I'll tell you.

A. To come to Odessa, don't forget, that he couldn't afford it. He was working in Vinnista ^{Vinnitsa and he took off still that he should} and to take me ^{you know what he used} to a nice places, he used to bring, because he, Odessa didn't have it, ^{he} used to bring vodka. Russian voka, they used to sell it there. ^{then he went} Able to get some money and take me to the opera and he couldn't spend a lot of time, you know, ^{he had to} stay in a hotel, ^{cost} money. And then when he came, he was ^{very} nice, ^{he} used to ^{take} pay for my two girlfriends. He took off a week. So he spends almost one day travelling and..

Q. Did you correspond with him?

A. Yes, constantly. And every time I came for the holiday home he would come too. And then when I went, ^{you have} ^{stop in} ~~year after living~~ Vinnista, ^{you know, at the ...} there's always a stop, so we would meet there.

Q. ^{at the} ~~Thats a big~~ stantsi.

A. Vinnista was a big stantsi. When you went from Tubruk it was a small stantsi and other thing it was only one rail road and when it came on Vinnista there was fewer railroads. Even in ^{at the} Kalinikov

Q. Was more than one, right?

A. Yeah.

Q. Well then I'm going to say thank you. I think that will...

bsh