

Union College Union | Digital Works

Lucille W. Brown and Stephen M. Berk Oral
Histories of American Jews

Special Collections And Archives

1-1-1975

Pauline Zollman, transcript only

Pauline Zollman

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalworks.union.edu/berkoralhistories>

Recommended Citation

Zollman, Pauline, "Pauline Zollman, transcript only" (1975). *Lucille W. Brown and Stephen M. Berk Oral Histories of American Jews*. 11.
<https://digitalworks.union.edu/berkoralhistories/11>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Special Collections And Archives at Union | Digital Works. It has been accepted for inclusion in *Lucille W. Brown and Stephen M. Berk Oral Histories of American Jews* by an authorized administrator of Union | Digital Works. For more information, please contact digitalworks@union.edu.

LB Now, you are Pauline? Would you tell me your name?

PZ Pauline Zollman.

LB Yes, and when were you born?

PZ I was born in, do I have to tell you my...

LB You don't want to? Let's say, between what years...were you born before 1900?

PZ No.

LB Sometime around 1900?

PZ No.

LB After?

PZ After.

LB Oh. Then you're a baby.

PZ I'm not a baby.

LB But you were born before the first World War?

PZ Yes.

LB All right. And could you please tell me where you were born?

PZ I was born in Zsezsow, Galicia. At this time it belonged to Austria.

LB At that time it was part of the Austro Hungarian Empire. And it's in Galicia and it's...was that considered western Galicia?

PZ Middle. Middle.

LB Middle. Because Tarnow is already western.

PZ This is more western. This is just - middle.

LB And ~~Pr~~ Przemysl (Shemesh)...

PZ Przemysl was a little more west,

LB East.

PZ East! I mean. Yes.

LB All right. Now is Cracow considered part of Galicia?

PZ Yes.

LB It is?

PZ Sure. It was a very important city in Galicia.

LB I know it was an important city, but I didn't realize it was...

PZ Sure, the biggest after Warsaw, I think. Cracow.

LB In Poland.

PZ In Galicia. Oh, Warsaw was not in Galicia.

LB Right. So Cracow was actually the biggest city in Galicia?

PZ Lemberg and Cracow.

LB Did you call it Lemberg or was it Lwow at that time?

PZ Lwow, in Polish. This time it was Lemberg. Since Poland, they call it Lwow.

But we used to call it Lemberg. But it was Austrian.

LB Now, Zseszow...what was the population of your...was it a city?

PZ A city, yes. A medium sized city. I wouldn't be able to tell you the population of Zseszow, because when I left Zseszow I was a small girl. We escaped from the first Waorld War to Berlin, from Zseszow.

LB You went to Berlin from Zseszow? What year was that?

PZ It was 1914.

LB You left then?

PZ We left Zseszow 1914.

LB And you went to Berlin? How old were you then? Do you remember?

PZ Now, you have to...(begins to laugh)

LB I have to have some idea.

PZ When I left ~~sz~~ Zseszow, I was maybe 8 years old.

LB Had you already started school?

PZ Yes. I ^{went} ~~was~~ in Poland, in Galicia, maybe two years to school.

LB What kind of school did you go to?

PZ Polish. Everything was in Polish there.

LB In Galicia?

PZ In Galicia, yes. We had Polish school and we also had some German. The main language was Polish.

LB Not German?

LB Before the war, now.

PZ Before the war.

LB The Austrian Empire was still in existence?

PZ Still in existence and we had our schhol, was in the Polish language. But we got also some German lessons. But the main language, everything was in Polish.

LB I see. Uh, in the city of Zseszow, were there many Jews living there?

PZ Mostly. Yes. The population was mostly Jewish.

LB They were. And how would you describe the city...was it an industrial city or a commercial city?

PZ Small businessmen. And mostly stores, little stores. Not a ^{very} big city. There was one building, that was the biggest and the owner was a very rich Jewish man, Silber. I remamber. There were three or four brothers, Silber. And they were well to do. They were the most wealthy people in town. In Zseszow. The Silver family.

LB Did you...Do you remember your home in Zseszow?

PZ Yes.

LB Could you tell me about that?

PZ It was a small, narrow street on the outskirts of Zseszow. And the street was Eade Hufka. I remember the name of the street. But the number of the I don't know. It was a house, about two flights. Two flights.

LB What was it made of?

PZ Made of...was a big...what do you call those balconies where you open the door? And every apartment was out...

LB Had it's own entrance, you mean?

PZ Yes, it had an entrance like a hall and every apartment had like, how do you call those apartments that open up onto a...

LB Balcon?

PZ To a balcon. Every apartment opened to this big balcon. You can walk on the balcon, from one apartment to the other. I remember this...

LB Was it made of stone or brick...

PZ Brick.

LB Then how many apartments? Then it wasn't a single unit? It was an apartment dwelling.

PZ No. No. I would say, maybe twelve apartments. One or two flights.

LB One or two flights. And were there all Jews living in...

PZ Mostly Jews.

LB Mostly Jews. Did you live in a Jewish neighborhood?

PZ The whole city was mostly Jewish. And then we had...this Bad Hufka was a long street and then it had a hill up to the main market street. The main market street were like little, stands, all kinds of stands on the market street. And around the market...all stores. Around the whole market were stores.

LB You mean in addition to the stalls?

PZ The stores were all round the market. Then they had stands, ^{all around.} And then they had a railroad station. It was already a big town. It had a railroad station.

LB Now, what did your father do there?

PZ My father had a business in textiles.

LB He sold textiles?

PZ Wholesale textiles. And when we escaped, we escaped five children...

LB That's what I want to know? Five children?

PZ Five children.

LB Were you the oldest?

PZ I was the oldest, yes. And then one brother, another brother and two more sisters.
Yes. I was the oldest.

LB Now, what did you speak at home?

PZ My parents spoke Jewish to us.

LB Yiddish?

PZ No. No. Polish and Jewish. Yiddish.

LB Yes? They spoke Polish. Were your parents born in Zseszow?

PZ No. They were born near Zseszow. In smaller, like villages. Near Zseszow.
They were born there near Zseszow and when they married they came to Zseszow

to open a business place there.

LB Now tell me, were your parents Orthodox?

PZ Yes, Yes, My father was Orthodox. As a matter of fact, for the High Holidays he used to go to another town to his rabbi, for the holidays. You know how the Hasidim...

LB I was going to say, Was he a Hasid?

PZ He was a Hasid,

LB Which group, do you know?

PZ He has his rabbi, his rabbi was the Bluzhover rebbe. He was born in Bluzhov, my father. And he stuck to this rabbi from Zseszow, the Bluzhover rabbi.

LB So he used to go there for the high Holy Days? And your mother?

PZ My mother...

LB Was she a Hasidic woman?

PZ Ummm, she wasn't so strict like my father, but of course, she ^{observed} everything, observed the Sabbath and everything strictly. We were brought up in a Hasidic home.

LB You were. And yet, you went to a Polish school.

PZ Yes, that was...that was for girls. My brothers went to the cheder. But we went to the Polish school, ^{I...} Because the others were too small. I was the oldest and I went to the Polish school.

LB All right, now tell me about your...well, your brothers started in cheder but you already left before too much could happen in the way of education, right?

PZ Yes.

LB Were your brothers still in cheder at the time that you left for Berlin?

PZ When we left for Berlin, they were still in cheder.

LB Do you know...I mean, I know its sort of silly, but was there ever any talk about what sort of an education they would have had if there had been no war?

PZ If there would be no war, they probably would go to the cheder and also to the public school.

LB They would have gone to the public school? But the public school...Did you have to go on a Saturday?

PZ No our Jewish ^{people} teacher didn't. They didn't have to go, No. As a matter of fact, I think the school was closed there on a Saturday. Mostly all the pupils were Jewish. So the school was not open Saturday.

LB Because that was a big problem with the Russian Jews. You know, in order to get secular schooling...

PZ Yes, I know. But it was not a problem here. Because Austrian was not considered so anti-Semitic, ^{like Russia.} So we had the privilege. We could choose our educational places. I think it was not so restricted as it was in Russia.

LB That's right. Now, you say your father was very Orthodox. Would you say he was strictly, strictly observant or was he beginning to...

PZ Not in Poland. When he came to Berlin, he even, he was, he had to change in order to make a living. He had to do business on Saturday.

LB All right, now let's go...when the war broke out in ^{August} 1914, did you move immediately?

PZ Yes, we moved, I would say, in 1914 about two months after the war broke out.

LB Because the Russians came through very quickly.

PZ No. No. That was maybe two months ^{and} until we went to Germany. My father had a lot of friends in Berlin. He went there because he knew, had connections there. It would be easier for him to make a living there on account of his friends. So he went to Berlin.

LB So you were not actually confronted with the Russians in your city?

PZ No. No. No. We left before ^{that happened.} that. We left in time.

LB You left in time. And how did you travel? Do you remember?

PZ Yes. We went with the train.

LB You went with the train. Did you take all your things with you? Was it considered to be a permanent move, or did you plan to come back?

PZ Yes. A permanent move. We gave up there, sold. I remember my parents sold whatever they could sell and we traveled only with suitcases. With our valuables in suitcases. ^{Personal dresse} and everything. And we sent, like a small ^{left}, I remember, in wooden packages.

LB Crates.

PZ Crates. Yes. We sent some dishes and silverware, all those, beddings. This we took

along.

LB Well, that's a permanent move.

PZ Yes, it was a permanent move.

LB How long a trip was it, do you remember?

PZ Yes, maybe twenty four hours ~~by train~~ trip.

LB By train. From Zseszow...

PZ To Berlin.

LB Which would be over here some place, right. (Looking at the map)

PZ Through Silesia, that's the capital of Silesia, and then Berlin.

LB Oh, you went this way?

PZ One second.

LB And then up north. And you went by train. So, do you remember what your feelings...

after all this was an Orthodox Hasidic Jewish family. What were their feelings towards Franz Jozef and towards Kaiser Wilhelm?

PZ We liked Franz Jozef very much, Kaiser Wilhelm, in the beginning, for us it was a Kaiser, you know? It was somebody. We looked up to a Kaiser. To a child, pictures of a Kaiser were...all the news about the Kaiser...it was interesting, for the children. And when we came to Berlin, we right away enrolled in a school.

LB What school?

PZ German public school.

LB Is that right?

PZ I went in a public school when I came there. And I didn't understand German. It took about three four months and I could catch up a little. And I was, there was only one more Jewish girl in the school, in Berlin. But I felt ^{very} strange and isolated, let's say, and this girl, it was a very interesting story. And I realized when I started to speak German, this girl, I knew that's she's Jewish. I went to her, I said, Look. We're both Jewish girls. Let's walk together in the intermission. *In the intermission, we went down...* So I approached her. I said, Look...I saw she's not communicating with all the other girls in Germany. And this time there

was no Hitler. It was 1914, 1915. She was ^{also} somehow all by herself. So I approached her, a few times and she said, No, No, I don't want to talk to you and I don't want to talk to anybody, else. A beautiful kid. And again and again I tried. I was very hurt. I wondered, Why doesn't she want me and why doesn't she go with all the other girls. So, another few weeks, another few months, I approached her again. And I said, What is it? Why do you resent me? Why don't like me? And I said, Come to us where I have brothers and sisters and it's so nice. We have games and so on. Maybe you come to me in the afternoon. And...one day, finally, I invited her and she came. She came over and she liked us very much. She was the only child. And then she opened up to me. It took a very long time. She opened up to me. It's beautiful. And she felt so good in our house and there were children and so on. ~~Am~~ She said, You know, I'm the only child, I have no father. I have only a mother and I hate her. I hate my mother. And this is why I'm so sad. Always sad. I never smile. I'm so unhappy. I see you have the love of your father and mother and you have such a nice family. I never had that. My mother locked me up. When I was a baby, an infant, I remember, she put a glass of milk on the table and a roll, and she left. And I couldn't understand. We were on the twelfth floor and I looked down ^{through the window} and I saw all the children playing on the back yard. And I looked out of the window. I was so anxious to go down and to play with these kids. And my mother would never let me. And I said, Why can't I? - No, you cannot. I have to go away and I wouldn't let you all by yourself down there. So I was always alone. Always alone. When my mother came home, she gave me a supper. She put me to bed. But I hated her. Because she never, never would let me go and communicate with children. I didn't know how to speak to a child. Until I came to school and I, I'm so upset. And I can't make friends because I was always alone. And we became very close friends. And she couldn't live any more without me. She confided to me. Then I met her mother. Her mother was a very nice Jewish woman. Not Orthodox. And she said to me, You know all the girls - started in to teen agers, her mother started to talk to me. She said, Her father deserted me. I was pregnant with her. I was brought from Poland, from Galicia to Berlin so he could marry me. This was his home town. He came there to visit his mother. Fell in love with me, although

...married me, took me to Berlin and here I was pregnant. And one day I come home I find the letter, He's going to America. I will never see him in his life and I should forget about him. And he's leaving me. And I never heard from him and I was so...here I was pregnant. ^{I was poor} I didn't have a penny to my soul. I started to go...she want... (searches for word)

LB Housecleaning?

PZ No. No. She went ^{to sell} merchandize.

LB Oh, as a sales clerk.

PZ No, to the house. She knocked on the door, ~~not~~ private...

LB Oh, peddler.

PZ Peddler. She became a peddler, with sweaters. She knocked on the door and she got some sweaters wholesale, sold them, whatever she could make profit out of them. So she said, I got the child. And I took care of her. And I ran away to make a few dollars, a few marks, then, I had to ^{struggle} start to make a living for me and the child and she couldn't understand. I couldn't make her understand. I was afraid to let her down. She was small. There I had to go and make a living. I know she hates me. She doesn't like me and I would do anything now. I have a few, I made a little money. I have a few dollars in the bank. She's still peddling. She's going with the sweaters but she would like to open a little store with sweaters. But she cannot get the child to talk to her...to love her. She feels the child hates her. The mother spoke to me so. She begged me, I should talk ~~to~~ and I should explain to her. But she could not help it. And so, I was sorry, *such a...* the mother tried to get her love. She did everything. *She bought her nice things.* She wanted to make good for all the hardship she gave the child. But she could never forgive her. And this girl, she was my closest girlfriend. She was so close to me. And she became a beauty. You never saw in your life such a gorgeous person. When she was seventeen, eighteen, she started... she took a job in an office. She took typewriting and steno in a lumber...they had a big lumber business. And she was gorgeous. And there came a manufacturer from furniture. A handsome guy. Maybe he was in the middle of his twenties. And he saw

her. And he started...and she came to me and ^{she} ~~he~~ said, You know, I kn met a man. He's our customer. We had lumber. And he has a big furniture...and he's extremely rich and very handsome. And I fell in love with him. I love this man But how do I come to him? One day this Mr. Muller asked her for a date. And she was so happy. She came running to me. She cried for happiness. She has a date with Mr. Muller. And he took her out to ^{beautiful} the usual places. And he fell in love with her. And he started to buy her gorgeous clothes ^{and furs.} ~~and~~ everything. He was very rich. She was seventeen when she met him. And she was so ^(?) beautiful...maybe he would marry her. He spoke about marriage to her. And one day he said, Look. As my wife you have to have lessons in piano. You have to speak French. You will be, you will come into big Jewish society. And I give you all the lessons. I pay for them. And I want you should start also to take singing lessons. She took singing lessons. He paid for everything. And he said to her, He would like to meet her mother. They lived in such a tiny little small room. Very poor. But the mother had a few dollars already saved up. And when she heard that he wants to come to her house, My, but she wants to take another apartment. Something, a little more decent. And I was running with them. They took a little apartment. One room and a kitchen. No, two rooms and a kitchen. And we bought furniture. Everything was prepared for his first visit. And then finally, she was a nice Jewish person, Mrs. ^I ~~S~~ _e rmer. She made a wonderful dinner, with home cooking and everything served good and nice dishes. Everything ^{served} ~~when~~ he comes. He came to the house and was very nice. He spoke to her. He said, Look I want to marry Rizhkin.

LB What was her name?

PZ Rizhkin. Rose. Rose. I want to marry her. But I want to marry her when she is only ^{meanwhile} twenty. But/I want to give her all the education and everything. And he spoke about marriage. So, don't ask. The happiness was so great. But he took her out and every night, whenever he took her to a show or somewhere, ten o'clock, on the dot, he was watching the time. He brought her home. He brought her home. She said, Why can't I stay a little longer? No, you have to be beautiful. You have to have your sleep. I want you to go to bed ten o'clock. After ten o'clock...For one year. It was such a

puzzle. To me and to her. And she begged him some times. She wants to stay in a night club. No. No. He would never give in. And one day she takes her singing lesson from a professor. Meanwhile, she was gorgeous. You have no idea what a beautiful, what a beautiful girl she was. ^{classical} ~~She was~~ a beauty. And one day, she's taking her lesson, singing lessons, with her professor. And there were heavy draperies between the two rooms. So she sees a lady runs into the room. The maid opens, and she runs into the room and she said, Professor. Professor. I have to talk to you. And cries. And he goes with her to the other room. And the heavy drapery, the plush drapery between the two rooms. She said, Now I know. You know, he is engaged to me and he is engaged to a poor girl. I took a detective and he is engaged to a ^{Rizhia} ~~Rizhia~~ Lerner and with her it's always till ten o'clock and then he comes and picks me up from the theater. She was an actress or a singer. He comes and picks me up. And spends the night with me. But he is engaged to her and me. He is leading a double life. And she cries terrible. ^{She says,} For three years he has played this double role. And Rizhia hears this. He is engaged to a poor girl, Rizhia Lerner. It's her name. And she breaks down. She fainted away there.

LB Are you sure Arthur Schnitzler didn't write this?

PZ No. That's a true story.

LB Doesn't it sound like something by Schnitzler?

PZ No. That's such a true story. You have no idea. My children know this and my sisters...they all know this.

LB It is Schnitzler that I'm thinking of. Isn't it?

PZ It's the right Schnitzler. Believe me she could write a book...so she had a nervous breakdown. ^{this Rizhia}

LB Oh-h-h!

PZ She ran home. And her mother called me in the afternoon. She said, Paula, come over. Something terrible happened. And I come over. ^{She said,} He came like usual, four o'clock to pick her up. And there she was hysterically in bed. Mother didn't know if she had a nightmare. And she was ^{wild.} crying. And when he came in, she whipped a knife. Go out

of my life! What did you do to me! You ruined the best years of my life. What did you do? Get out. I don't want to see you any more. And she had a nervous break down. Took her to an institution. And she was admitted for ~~for~~ three months in a mental institution. And her mother went every day. And I went with the mother. And she didn't want to talk to us. She didn't want to see us. Finally, she was a little better. But she was so-0-0-0 how could I tell you? She never smiled. She never...

LB She was depressed.

PZ Depressed. She was very depressed. The doctor said to her, You take her to the North Sea. The Sea may help her. The mother did everything. The poor woman...I'm telling you. She didn't know what to do. She took her to Nordenidis (?). That's a resort on the North Sea. She took her to Northeneye (?). On the North Sea.

LB In Germany?

PZ In Germany. Near Hamburg. She took her to the Northerneye and there she was sitting only with the mother near the water. She didn't talk to anybody or anything. There was a beauty contest. Nordeneye from the resort. All those who wanted to participate had to go to the office and put their names down and so. But she didn't go down. But the cours director from the...noticed her. Everybody noticed...she was extremely ^{classical} beautiful. A classic beauty. Gorgeous. They went to her. To her mother. "Don't you come and want to participate in the beauty contest? There's no one of those girls who want to participate who is as beautiful as you. I'll take you down." She said, No. I don't want to go. I don't want to. But he said, You come. And he came and picked her up. She didn't want to go. And all the other girls with make up, with lipstick, with everything. She, just plain. Completely...no make-up, ~~no~~ or anything. And she walked there. From eight thousand people she was the only one ^{winner}.

From eight thousand people she was "einshtimming" - what's

that?

LB First?

PZ No.

LB Outstanding?

PZ No. No. *Everybody...*

LB One voice. One voice.

FZ In all the papers, her picture. In all the papers...

(Tape ends)

LB So? She won?

FZ Yes. She won. She didn't even...she wasn't even happy. She was ^{so disinterested, nothing} bored with...and a man comes over to them in the cours park and approached them. "I saw the beauty contest. I am wathing you for days. I'm an American. I'm here. I was in Galicia to visit my parents...

LB Oh come! Another one!

FZ Yes. To visit my parents and I just stopped here for a short while. I wanted to see Nordeneye (?) I want to marry you. So, she was not quite twenty years old and she told him the story of her life. A very good looking man. Very nice man. His name was ~~K~~ Kobane and he was living in New Y^Urk. So she told him what happened to her. She said, I can't love you. I can never love another man again. This was my love. And my heart is broken forever. If you want to marry me without love, I don't want to remain an old maid. I marry, I made up my mind, whoever comes across and somehow decent, but I will never go with you to America. If you want to marry me, you have to marry me and stay in Germany. Because I would never go. My father left my mother to America. And I have such a terrible feeling about this country. Because this was the misfortune of my mother. And I don't want to go to this country. So he said, O.K. He's so much in love with her that he's going to liquidate everything in the country and he's coming to Berlin to live. And he came.

LB He did!

FZ He came to Berlin. He married her. They had two girls. Two lovely children. But she hated him. She couldn't stomach him. She couldn't ever love him. And but he was madly in love with her. Then Hitler came and they arrested him...Hitler arrested him. And she...arrested her.

LB Her! I was going to say. Wasn't he an American citizen?

FZ No. No. Hitler arrested her. I don't know if he became German citizen. Anyhow they arrested her. She did some favor to a friend. Sent them some money. And they arrested

her. She was in prison and he was with the ^{over two years with} her mother. And they tried everything to get her out from the Nazis. But they couldn't get her out. And he took it so much to heart. He was a young man, ^{not} even...in the forties, maybe. And he had a heart attack. A fatal heart attack. He passed away. And when he had this fatal heart attack, so the rabbis and everything ~~xxxxx~~ went to the Nazis and asked them only to release her only for two hours that she could go to the funeral. And they gave the permission that she could go to the funeral. They took her out from camp for two hours, to the funeral, and her mother had papers prepared for her, false passports and everything, and the two children, from the funeral, they gave a few hours maybe, or the next day, she took her to the train and with the false passport, only with a little suitcase, with the two kids, her mother took her to Cracow. But on the border, they were shivering. They were looking for her already. But she came through...it's a long story but I don't know...but she came through to Eland.

^{So}
 1 She escaped the Nazis.

LB Through Poland?

PZ This time, Cracow was Galicia.

LB But how did she get out of Poland? Nobody else could get out of Poland.

PZ No, this time it was not Poland. It was still...This time was Poland already, yah. This time the Nazis were not in Poland yet. Only in Germany. This time they were not in Poland. Poland was still...

LB So where did she go after Poland? I mean you might as well finish the story. Where did she wind up?

PZ She wound up...went to Israel. But the Nazis, the Nazis were searching for her and she...the mother was a smart woman. She had everything planned, prepared, false papers...

LB I, really, I have /never...that really should be a Schnitzler story.

PZ She, in Israel...I went for a trip to Israel in 1934 and I visited her and she had a little store there, in one of the main streets. She had a little store. And her mother had, she made, uh, little, like private...how would you call...she made some dinners and lunches, private...

- LB All right. Now let's say good bye to her, *to Rozina*.
- PZ Yes. That's Rose. Because that's also connected with the Nazis. I told you what she went through. But that's one story. And then we come...
- LB Wait a minute, now Paula... You come to Berlin... and tell me, where did you live in Berlin?
- PZ In Berlin...
- LB In any particular section?
- PZ In Lichtenberg. It's now the East zone. It comes under the east zone now but this time it was ...
- LB Was this a Jewish section?
- PZ No. No.
- LB Mixed?
- PZ Very few Jewish. Let's say ten percent Jewish.
- LB That's why there were so few Jews in your school. Only you and this other girl.
- ~~EE~~ PZ Yes. *Two girls*.
- LB Now, what kind of a school did you go to? No, first tell me how many years did you stay in Berlin?
- PZ In Berlin, I stayed until I married. I married to Danzig.
- LB Yes, what year? How many years did you live in Berlin then?
- PZ Berlin, I tell you... 1914 until 1923.
- LB That's a long time. That's almost ten years.
- PZ I went to school. I went to high school. First public school, then a lyceum. Lyceum was like a high school.
- LB What kind of lyceum?
- PZ Lyceum was like a high school.
- LB It's a lycee. What was the name?
- PZ Pestalozzi. Lyceum. That is the name of the lyceum in Lichtenberg.
- LB I know the name. I'm trying to remember where I heard the name of Pestalozzi.
- PZ Yes. Pestalozzi lyceum. And then when I graduated high school I went to the Humbert Akademie. It's like a college.

LB It's also in Berlin.

PZ In Berlin, yes...

LB What did you study there?

PZ I studied literature and music.

LB Was this a private school?

PZ No, No. There was a college.

LB Well, was it a private college?

PZ I think so...private.

LB You had tuition?

PZ Tuition, yes.

LB Now, here's your father...

PZ My father, he was so successful. He started small...

LB Wait, wait, wait. Your father was a Hasid, when he started.

PZ Yes, but in Berlin he had to work on Shabbos. What he didn't like to do. It was against him but in order to make a living, he had the store there, retail store with eggs and butter and cheese. And the main business was on Saturdays. We opened the store on Shabbos and he worked on Shabbos there.

LB And he also allowed his oldest daughter to go to public school...

PZ Yes. Yes. Yes. And to college. In Berlin he changed. Assimilated a little.

LB He became assimilated.

PZ A little.

LB Did he speak German?

PZ Yes. He spoke German.

LB Could he read German?

PZ Yes. He spoke and wrote and could read German. My father was self educated. In German, he wrote very nicely German letters. And read paper every day. He was very interested in current...in everything, politics and everything. Even here in America, when he came to...he always was well informed in politics, everything.

LB How about your mother?

PZ My mother? My mother ~~wax~~ wrote very nice German letters. She had a beautiful handwriting.

LB Was she able to speak German?

PZ Yes. Very good.

LB Did she help him in the store? In Germany...in Berlin too?

PZ Yes, she helped him in the business.

LB Now did they make friends in Berlin?

PZ Oh, yes. We had a lot of friends in Berlin.

LB Were they Jewish friends?

PZ Only Jewish friends.

LB How did they meet them if you lived in...

PZ Because,...this little part of Berlin, Lichtenberg, all the Jews there had a shul...

LB They did?

PZ Yes. They had a few shuls. And in the shul we made friends...

LB So he continued going to shul?

PZ Of course!

LB Did your mother keep a kosher home?

PZ Yes. Very strictly. This yes. We observed everything. With the one exception that we had to make ^{business} ~~this~~ on Shabbos.

LB Yes. Now, was this an Orthodox shul?

PZ Yes. Orthodox.

LB And so he stayed Orthodox?

PZ Orthodox, Yes. Orthodox. As a matter of fact, ^{he} ~~it~~ was the founder. He took...this... the next...when we started, first...he started another shul and later he founded a little shul and donated the Torah scroll, too, he donated...he was pretty well to do, later. He started, in the beginning was ~~hard~~. He worked very hard but he worked himself up and became very successful, my father was very successful. He had a very big business, wholesale, later on.

LB He was a wholesale grocer?

PZ First he started retail and then he started wholesale with eggs, butter, even, I

remember/~~Livingston~~ Libby's the condensed milk, Libby's, he imported from America to Berlin.

LB What was your maiden name?

PZ My maiden name was Schneiweiss.

LB Schneiweiss, White as snow. That's a very pretty name. Schneiweiss.

PZ Snow White.

LB How do you remember... Well your friends saw your home as a very happy ~~home~~ one. Is that how you...?

PZ Our home was a happy one, happy family life.

LB It was.

PZ Yes. And then I married...

LB No. We're not ready to go to your marriage yet. No... Many of the Hasidic husbands were rather reserved, you know, and they treated their wives with respect but they were ~~not~~ overly demonstrative or talkative. Sometimes they would be silent at the table unless they were addressed. How was it in ~~in~~ your home?

PZ No. Because my mother was working with him in the business. It was a different relationship. You know? They had to talk at the table, even for business and also about those things. So it wasn't like this, in our home. She was a partner in the business.

LB It was a friendly relationship?

PZ Yes. Yes.

LB Now how about the children? Were they ~~included~~ included in the conversation at the dinner table and so on?

PZ As a matter fact, yes, my father gave ~~us~~ us always some jobs to do. One had to make up the bills. Like me. He let me make out the bills for the customers and when we had, we went out the chauffer with merchandise, I had to take over what he brought back. And mark it down. He saw what he delivered, what he brought back. So, we all participated a little.

LB Now how about your brothers? What kind of education did they get?

PZ My brothers went also to the Lyceum.

LB They did. Did they...

PZ It was another name. The school for boys was separate and the girls was separate.

LB So it was not Pestalozzi. It was another one. Because that's an Italian name and I remember that name from some place...O.K.

PZ He was an educator.

LB Maybe that's it.

PZ He was an educator. But I don't remember the school my brothers went to. It was a high school too and I don't remember the name. I remember the building. I remember the building exactly. I forgot the name of the school.

LB Were your brothers educated in Yiddish, in ^{or} Hebrew?

PZ My father was *holding* private Hebrew teacher and specially the Talmud. He gave them Talmud lessons, they should know all about Talmud. A teacher came to our house specially to the two brothers. ^{My father} ~~It~~/was very much for it, they should know all about the Talmud. Especially the Talmud. Hebrew and Talmud.

LB Did your brothers have a chance to go to university? Were they considering going to on/the university?

PZ No. My brothers did not go. They only went to high school. They never went to college. One brother, the oldest, went right away to my father's business. He worked with my father then and the youngest also went for himself into business in another town. In the same type of business that my father had, but in Stettin. My youngest brother went to Stettin and established there almost the same business as my father had.

LB And you had the two brothers you say. And then two more sisters. There were three girls and two boys. And what did the other two girls do?

PZ The two girls went to high /school and then we had to...one went to an art school. That was...she was very talented in art. She was painting. And she went to Reimen Art School.

LB In Berlin?

PZ In Berlin. It was a very good art school. She took up fashion designing, where she was very good. She took up fashion designing. And I tell you, my father's attitude was that a girl cannot take a job. It was against the Jewish tradition. A girl shouldn't work for a living. So, if she's not married, he was against it. My sister was offered

very nice jobs in fashion designing. He wouldn't let her go. He was wealthy, and he didn't want his daughters have to go out, they have to go out and make a living.

That would be...

LB A disgrace.

PL A disgrace, for him.

LB This was common, at that time.

PZ At that time, yes.

LB I've heard this from several German Jewish...this is a German Jewish view. I don't know if...^{certainly} among Galician Jews, women didn't work.

PZ No.

LB But they didn't have the chance. There was no place for them to work.

PZ No place and it would be degrading. Degrading for a family when a girl goes out to make a living.

LB Yes, I've heard this from several German Jewish families.

PZ They wouldn't let none of us to go out to make a living.

LB Now I also heard, that about that time, that the men could not...^{that} not/they could not, but that the pressure was on the young men not to marry until they were thirty.

PZ Twenty eight.

LB Is that /correct?

PZ Yes. Because until they establish themselves, and could make a living for a family... ^{that would need}
Like here...youngsters. They get married. He goes to work. She goes to work. Somehow the combination there can do something. There, he has to be established. Have a business or a position that he could get married and usually it was twenty eight or thirty years until a man was standing on his own feet and could support a family.

LB Now, one very nice man who lives on my street as a matter of fact, resented that terribly. He said, He felt that it worked a terrible hardship on the young men that they could not marry before they were thirty. He still resents it!

PZ But it was no hardship. No. It was no hardship. Just the opposite. When a man has to get married and a baby is coming, ^{and} they're striving, they don't have enough, I think it was a very good idea that they waited until they were ^{really} established and were

able to support a family. I think this was much better than *missing & starving to death*.

LB I see. Now, tell me, you finished the lycée about 1913, it would be, right? No, no. After. All right, now let me take you back. Now, you come in 1914. I know, what, there was one other question. 1914...I want to get some times straight. You came in 1914.

~~You~~ The war had just begun. Then, Germany lost the war and there were riots in Berlin..

PZ Riots in Berlin. There was no food, ^{food} Stamps. There was no clothing. Shoes. You would have to stay, days, sometimes two days and two nights in order to get a pair of shoes.

LB Now this was during the war?

PZ No, after the war.

LB I'm talking about...what do you remember about the war itself?

PZ The war itself was that my father had to go for examination. He was still a youngman *with five children,* and there was desperate not to go. He would do everything to avoid to become a soldier. They wanted to take him to the Austrian army there.

So - He didn't eat for weeks. He got weak. Lost weight. They shouldn't accept him, you know, when he went there. So Thanks God, he came through without having...they didn't take him. But every time, every year, every ^{half} a year, we had a scare. My father would have to leave the five children. My mother would go ^(?) back to Austria ^(?) but Thanks God the war was over and they didn't draft him.

LB Did you find that you suffered any hardships during the war?

PZ Oh yes.

LB How did.

PZ It was - everything. The food situation was terrible. It was very very hard to get even bread, and everything. But my father was in the egg business, butter, eggs, so he could exchange eggs...he gave them eggs. He gave them butter. He gave them the cheese. They gave us bread. They gave us the flour. They gave us sugar. So we didn't suffer as much as the others. But it was hardship.

LB But they never requisitioned his goods?

PZ No.

LB Not the German army.

PZ Not the German army. No.

LB As Jews, now, living in Berlin...now this is during the first world war, did you feel any...

PZ Discrimination?

LB Yes.

PZ No. This time, no.

LB There was no anti-Semitism?

PZ No anti-Semitism.

LB Among the Jewish friends that you made, in Lichtenberg...

PZ Lichtenberg, yes.

LB Were these Jews also refugees?

PZ Mostly from the same background. You see, usually you stick to your own.

LB Did you...did your parents make any friends amongst Berliners? Native Berliners?

PZ No.

LB They did not.

PZ Only with those people who came from the same background...from Galicia, they maybe came a little earlier, a little later. But this was the...

/LB That was the pattern.

PZ Yes.

LB Did you find that German born Jews were not so friendly towards those recent...

PZ Yes: Definitely!

LB Well, could you talk about that a little bit?

PZ There was like a barrier. They wouldn't...they hated the Ostjuden. German Jews...

LB Did they consider you Ostjuden?

PZ Yes. Of course, Ostjuden. *They hated us.*

LB Did they say so?

PZ They wouldn't like their sons or their daughters to marry Ostjuden. It was worse than they would marry a Christian. (Pause) Completely, make like a wall. (*war?*)

LB How did you become aware of this? How did it show itself?

PZ Because, I tell you. Many, many of those German Jews, the kids even would tell you,

You are Ostjuden.

LB Well, where did you see them or meet them?

PZ We met them in...we had a school ~~where~~...for religion.

LB Oh, this is a separate school that you went to?

PZ Separate school. ~~It~~

LB You didn't tell me that.

PZ No, no. We went to the Lyceum but Jewish children, there was (?) that

we couldn't get in our lyceum or the public school or the religionsunterische, now

to tell you, ^{had to go to a special school.} you had to go in the afternoon, you had to go to the religion shule.

And there we met the German/~~XXXXX~~ children too. And there they would always push us aside and they wouldn't talk to us. They wouldn't even...they ignored us, completely.

LB Now did you speak differently than they did?

PZ No; No, I spoke a perfect German and I wrote...and I can write perfect German and...

LB Well then, how could they recognize you?

PZ But they knew. They knew. From their parents that this family and this family were Ostjuden. God forbid.

LB You didn't have horns or anything?

PZ You have no idea how they hated you. And when Hitler came to power, they were so sure that Hitler didn't mean them. Only the Ostjuden. But Hitler meant them just the same. He destroyed them just the same and they learned a bitter lesson, that Hitler didn't mean only the Ostjuden. They were so sure. ~~xxxxx~~ Us! He doesn't mean us. Only the Ostjuden. And they didn't mind. As long as he would leave them alone. They wouldn't mind at all.

LB Are you sure?

PZ I am sure.

LB How do you know this Paula?

PZ They wouldn't come to rescue you if they would know only as long

That means me. Well, I don't mind.

LB You know this for a fact?

PZ That's a shame. Yes. I know for a fact. Because I was married in Danzig, this time.

LB Yes. In what year was this? That was in 1924?

PZ I was in 1923 married to Danzig. And when Hitler came to Danzig...

LB He came to Danzig later.

PZ Later. Later. And there came one of the biggest lawyers in Danzig, a Jewish lawyer.

Background all German Jews. Very proud of his inheritance.

LB What was his name?

PZ Dr. Abram was his name. He came to this country and changed it for Allington. So

Dr. Abraham he was a bachelor. Every rich family with a daughter wished Dr. Abraham should become their son in law. He was, how would you call it,...

LB Eligible.

PZ The most eligible bachelor in town. But he went to Switzerland, he didn't want to get married, ~~because~~ he was thirty seven, thirty eight years old and he went to Switzerland and fell in love with a very beautiful girl from Germany. Also German background.

LB A Jew?

PZ Also Jewish background. Yes. Very fine family. Very, nice society. She didn't have a father or a mother. Very wealthy. She was brought up and educated in Switzerland. He brought her to Danzig. He married her. And there was a big sensation. But as long as he married a German Jew, everything was fine.

LB (Laughs) ^{I know.} You know. It speaks so badly of human beings. Yes. Go ahead.

PZ So she was a German Jew. What happened, she brings, he introduces her to all his friends, the clubs, Dr. So and one was a judge and one was a famous lawyers, all of college educated people. All with degrees. And she couldn't find a friend there. She was a lovely girl. And her mother brought her up...her mother was a German Jew. She brought her up differently. She was an exception. Her mother said, There is no difference as long as you're Jewish. ^{Outside a German.} You should know, as long as you like a person, she's Jewish, your faith, there's no difference. And she came to Danzig. And all those

people who...in ^{his} ~~the~~ crowd she couldn't find one friend, and I took English lessons because Hitler came already and we planned to go to America. ^I Took private English lessons. I met her there. When I met her there, she just took a liking to me and also to my husband, especially to me. She said, You know, Paula, I'm here two years. I couldn't find anybody, anybody I could warm up. And with you I'm right...I'm warmed up to you. I'm so happy ^{that I will} you, finally, finally I have a person who I like and I could talk to her. I said, Hedi, your husband will never allow you to talk to me. I am an Ostjude. I'm born in Galicia. ^{she said:} What the heck do I care? I like you. And I'm brought up differently. I argue with him many times about it. He would ^{never} give in and he would never agree with me. ~~to~~ To him, they are outcasts. They are all outcasts. And she started to call me. And she said, I have to come up. And we have to go out together. And she wanted...

LB So she became your friend.

PZ And I said, Look, I like you. But I don't want to have arguments. I have plenty of friends, my own. I was very well known in Danzig. And millions of friends and belonged to all the societies there. She said, But I need you. I have nobody. I'm young but I want to talk and I want to go out. And Howard wouldn't let me. So I said to her, Look. I will tell you. Speak to your husband, and tell him I don't want you should hide behind the wall. And she told him, You know, Listen. In English lessons I met Paula, my name was Fish, Paula Fish. All right, I love her and she is just the type and I fell in love with her and I like her and I want her for my friend and she is the only woman I can talk with. He said, I forbid you to talk to her. I forbid you to communicate. Don't you know...She said, They are a respectable family. I know he is a big businessman. I belonged to a respectable...I belonged to all the societies. Everybody knew Paula Fish in Danzig. We were very well known. My husband was very wealthy and had a big business and ~~we~~ behaved very correctly, very nicely, only that we couldn't come near a German Jew. No. They are German Jews...

LB No. They are Ostjuden.

PZ What?

LB Who said NO?

PZ Her husband. I forbid you to talk to her and I forbid you to go out with her. I ~~don't~~ ^{don't}

You can not ^{forbid me} habituate this. I am a human being. I'm ^{old enough} ~~walking up~~ and I cannot be friends with your friends.

I don't like...

LB So, what happened?

PZ She said, I want you to meet Paula Fisch. I invite her here for coffee, in the afternoon and I want you should meet her and then you will tell me if you can forbid me I should go out with her.

(End of tape)

Side 3

000

PZ My husband was very much against it, I should go to their house. He said, I don't have to beg for his approval, his friendship. We don't need them. Leave me alone. What can you do? She loves you but it's too bad. Her husband doesn't agree. I ~~had to beg~~ ^{don't want to beg for his friendship.} I said, Look Dave, I want to go once; for her sake. I feel sorry for her. The girl is lost here. Two years in the town and she hasn't got a soul. So, they invited me there one afternoon. I came there. I'm telling you, a home, with paintings, it was like uh, uh, how you call it, an estate. ^{you} ~~you~~ open the gates and he lived in the middle of the most beautiful garden, rose garden in the villa there. And this house was marvelous. Inherited from father and grand--father, paintings. A butler with white gloves. everything beautiful with silver, served the coffee and everything. Butler there. Very elegant you know. I had a maid. I didn't have a butler. I lived very nicely. My home was a beautiful home. But not compared with such a gorgeous estate like...so, he was sitting there, Mr. ^{Abraham} Avram, and talked to me and I talked to him. And I was sitting there, like, you know...Was friendly. Very nice. Heidi told me she loves you. She's so impressed. She likes you as a friend. And you know, that's inherited from way way bak. I can't help it. It's in me.

LB You mean those feelings.

PZ Those feelings. And O.K. I want ^{to be happy} her ^{and} to have somebody so O.K. I agree to your friendship.

LB A shidach. (match)

PZ Ah shidach, Hat men gemacht. So I looked up to Avraham, I don't need friends. I have plenty of friends. And I have very nice friends. And I told him with whom we communicate and so. But I like your wife and she begged me. I do it for her sake. Not for my sake. So this started the friendship and she came...but he never came. My husband...we were never invited there. Only when she came to my house or we went for coffee...

LB Paula. Do you see a similarity in these two stories?

PZ In which ones?

LB The one with your first friend and this one. Because when you told...when you began the first story I thought to myself, I wonder if that little girl would have nothing to do with Paula because Paula was a refugee. And this other little girl might have been, I didn't know...

PZ She was born in Berlin.

LB And she was a native Berliner.

PZ Her parents were also from Poland, from Galicia.

LB Her mother was from Galicia.

PZ Her father and mother they both came from Galicia, that's already different. But this was way back German, German...

LB But the wife was also from way back German, German?

PZ Who?

LB The second girl. The Danzig wife.

PZ Yes. But she was brought up liberal. Her mother was a different person. She was...

LB But the two stories are quite similar. It's very interesting. That two, in each case it was a lonely person who came to you for friendship. Very interesting.

PZ Yes. Here also. I ~~know~~ never thought about this parallel.

LB Very interesting parallel. Is that correct?

PZ Yes. That's right. But...

LB Now I wanted to know now...you managed to get through the first World War without any hardship. Now when the war was over and the Republic...the Kaiser

abdicated...

PZ And then the Republic started, yes.

LB But then there were certainly incidents in Berlin.

PZ Oh, my Gott. Revolts and everything. Yes. Communists. There were revolts and they came ^{this regime was} until they established a stable regime, it took so many, so many revolts and like revolutions. I would call them small revolutions.

LB They were. They were. Right. Now were you involved in this at all, in a political sort of way. Were you interested? Were you paying attention to what was going on? Or were you sort of removed from all this? *W*

PZ We were interested. See we were a clique of girls who were really intelligent. We had a few friends. And one of my friend's sister, she became, even she was running through the streets as a Communist. And she was also with the Pacifists. You know the pacifists? There was a famous...

LB Liebknight? No.

PZ ~~Li~~ Liebknight...this was a man with H-a-...I forgot his name. He was a very pacifist. She joined his party and she went with him on all the...when he went on...out of town and had speeches...she went around with one of my friend's younger sister. So we were somehow interested and a little involved, in political, in the political...

LB Did you find...Did the turbulence in the city affect your own life? I mean, were you unable to go out on the streets?

PZ We were unable to go out on the streets. Some weeks you were afraid to go out. It was terrible.

LB Now how did your father feel about ~~all~~ everything that was going on?

PZ Yes. It was a hard time also in business.

LB No, I mean did he have any political views in the matter? He hoped...my father was a very optimistic, he had a very optimistic outlook on life. Everything he saw, Gott vet helfen. You know, he was so religious that he said, Gott vet helfen. *you will* *will settle down* ~~he would~~ see everything, Gott vet helfen. Gott vet helfen. You know that's what he always...He was very optimistic. *And...* It came like this.

Things settled down and it started a normal life. Then the inflation came. That was a very big shock. We lost every penny from hour to hour.
LB. Now that was what year? I know.

PZ Everything... My father was a wealthy man, he organized, he was... ~~he~~ in a few weeks he was wiped out completely.

L.B. What year ~~that~~ was that?

PZ Financially. It was in the year '21, '22.

LB Oh in that... that's when the inflation started. Oh not the depression, but the inflation.

PZ No that was inflation.

LB 21, 22. o.k.

PZ Incredible. *Wiped out and* had to start all over again until it settled. We went through turbulent times. IT was terrible at times this... after the first World War.

LB Did you think of yourself as German by this time? Or did you always... How did you consider yourself? How did you see yourself?

PZ I wouldn't consider myself completely German.

LB No.

PZ Still there was something in your ~~picture~~ (?) *there. (Pause)*

LB Yeah. If you had to compare the two lives...

PZ Life in Germany I liked more than in Poland.

LB You did?

PZ Yeah.

LB Why is that?

PZ Because there always was anti-semitisms. In Poland it was more anti-semitic than Germany. *by this* ~~at that~~ time.

LB Even though it was Austria?

PZ Austria ~~was~~ *anti Semitic, sure!*

LB More so than Germany? Even, even, it was worse than it was in Berlin?

PZ Much worse. ~~at~~ In Berlin it got so bad when Hitler came in. Before

Hitler in Germany life was much nicer for Jewish people than in Poland, than in Galizia.

LB It was?

PZ Oh yes, definitely. But still there was also, there were anti-semites in Germany too, in Berlin. And I know when we went out in the street and the girls was a little nicer dressed, my father was well to do... they were calling after us, the children "Da ayah Juden".

LB What's "ayah"?

PZ Ayah from eggs. My father was the ...

LB Oh, the "Egg Jews".

PZ The Egg Jews. They are the Ayah Juden. The word "Juden" was before Hitler.

LB Yes.

PZ They called after us. The ~~xxx~~ Ayah Juden.

LB ~~Do you remember when?~~ When was this? Do you remember when?

PZ The year, that was in 1920, '21...

LB They were bad times.

PZ They called after us names. There was always a little anti-semitism^{semitic} but not as bad as in Galizia.

LB Do you remember anti-semitism in Galizia?

PZ Yeah, I remember.

LB 'cause you were just a little girl.

PZ I was a small girl but I remember. There was a shoemaker, ^{they} ~~the~~ beat them up... ~~and~~ and some Polish officers, soldiers beat the poor Jews in the market.

LB Yes.

PZ The soldiers ^{(?) didn't want} ~~are shooting~~ at us.

LB You saw it?

PZ I saw it.

LB Oh yeah, because in ~~Es~~ Zseszow you were far enough west that you would ~~be~~ ^{be}

living among Poles, right? Not Ukrainians.

PZ No, Poles. Only Poles.

LB You were living among Poles right, because further east they were surrounded by Ukrainians.

PZ By Ukrainians. No but we were...

LB But in Zseszow...

PZ In Zseszow were more Poles.

LB More Poles.

PZ Poles, yeah.

LB Were there any Ukrainians there, do you remember?

PZ No no, mostly Poles, yeah.

LB Okay. So here you were Jews among Poles and in Germany you were Jews among Germans and German Jews.

PZ German Jews, yah. Here we had two, two opposites, in Germany. So that's it. And then...

LB Now when you went to the lycée were there more Jewish girls in the lyceum?

PZ In the lyceum?

to also

LB How many?

PZ There were only two or three girls in the lyceum.

LB How about in the ^{Humboldt?} Humboldt College?

PZ There were more Jewish girls.

LB There were more.

PZ More Jewish girls. I went ^{with} three, four friends of mine.

oh ~~xx~~ I had four friends, Jewish girls. My friends.

LB So you didn't have the opportunity to make too many Jewish girl friends, did you?

PZ No, but ah... yes, *we were four.* I had three or four.

LB From the shul, did you make the friends?

PZ No, we were... it was... yah, from the shul, the parents were in the same shul than my parents. So we met and became good friends. Very good friends. ~~xxxxxx~~

LB But your best friend....

PZ My best friend was this time Rizhia, yeah? And I was single.

LB Oh! still. All the time you were single it was still Rizhia?

PZ Rizhia, yah. And two other girls. Very nice girls.

LB She didn't come to Humboldt College? No.

PZ No. She couldn't afford that.

LB Right.

PZ But I had two more very close girls friends besides Rizhia. They're both in Israel now.

LB They are?

PZ And one! ~~there is~~ There is a scholar, she is writing a book. ~~now~~ One of my friends who went to Israel, who is now in Israel. She is writing a book. This is such an interesting story when you have time I will tell you.

LB Well no, not... We'll save that.

PZ It's terrible, this is worse than Rizhia, her life. What she lived through.

LB Now tell me something... um,...

on account
PZ ~~In a camp~~ of Hitler, this one. Her name is Paula too. And she lost her husband in Holland. They took him to the camp they... she never ~~saw~~ saw him. She had two sons ... one was three, one was five. The three year boy *they* put also in camp and she didn't know where her children are. And one child, she... later when the war with Hitler was over in Holland and she found out her husband was dead...

171
LB ~~She~~ *was* ~~isnt~~ a Dutch girl?

PZ No. She was from Berlin but she escaped ~~to Holland~~ first to Holland. Because ^{if} Holland Hitler was much later.

LB They wiped out the Dutch Jews. Yeah.

PZ Yeah. And then she started to search for her children. She found out the older boy was dead, her husband was dead. But the smaller boy he was taken to London by a Jewish organization, they took him to London, And she found out he was adopted from a Jewish family baker. So she started to search... No, ^{when} ~~then~~ she came out... she didn't... she couldn't stay in Holland, the Nazis were still around and she came on the ship. Not the St. ^{Louis} there was another ship.

LB The St. Louis was sent back wasn't it?

PZ Yeah.

LB Yeah, but there was another ship and ~~for~~ ^{for} ~~took~~ weeks, she was on the ship. The others died ^{from typhus.} Maybe only 20 percent survived. And she came to Ecuador, to a south American country. She was starved. She didn't have... one dress, it was in rags already. She came ^{out} ~~off~~ there and took ^{her} off the boat, and gave her to a ^{factory there;} ~~factory~~ it was an Italian foreman and he said "Look what you can make here is just a ^{bottle of milk and a} bread a day. That's what I give you." Every day a..." She was happy and she slept ^{on mattresses there on straw-} ~~in~~ this factory ^{with twenty} survivors. And she was a very intelligent girl. She played piano ^{beautifully;} a concert pianist, spoke many languages. She was also ^{Paula, my friend;} Then this foreman saw that she's a better person, she said maybe I can get you a position. The Swiss consul here is looking for a governess for their ~~children~~ children and ~~I~~ maybe I could recommend you there. And she got the job. The day after at the ^{Swiss} ~~Swiss~~ consul she came and she introduced herself and there were two boys and they reminded her so of her ~~own~~ children. Meanwhile she started through organizations to write to find out. And found out that the one boy is alive and adopted by baker in London. She wrote to the HIAS organization, ~~sk~~ She saved her money, she made thirty dollars a month there with the consul. She saved every penny she should accumulate money ^{so she could} ~~she should~~ go to London and maybe see her child.

Meanwhile the boy was 13,14 years already. And she wrote to the bakers a heart breaking letter. She wrote English. She doesn't... she will not tell the boy that she's the mother but they should just ^{grant her} ~~give in to~~ the permission that she could look at the boy once. She wants to see her child.

And they answered *Your (?) is not granted.* They didn't want her to come.

So she wrote to all of her organizations in London for the accomplishment that she could see the boy. And she took all the money that she had saved up. She went to London. She ~~was~~ called up the bakers, she is there and there she met the boy. She saw the child and she saw him and she didn't... she didn't... she promised she would never say a word. When she came the boy said "What do you want from me you bad German woman?" "Get away from me!" They brainwashed him that there will be a German woman come wants to see him, she's a crazy woman. "you are crazy, get out of here!" So she

became a breakdown. She screamed so. *Zie iz gevorn meshige dorten (She became crazy there.)*

They took her away to an institution. And the child was scared she... he saw what she did. They took her to an institution, she was there for few months, and she came out of it. We didn't know, she didn't know that I am alive, I am safe in America. I didn't know where she was. We lost track.

everything. But when I met her in Israel a few years... 8 years ago. I met her, I found out she lives in Israel, she told me the story. So, I'm telling you, the boy didn't want to see her and she was so sick. Finally an aunt... at the time she had an aunt in Israel. The aunt sent her papers to Israel. Before she went to Israel she went to the organizations again. They knew all about the story. She wants to see the boy before she leaves. For once more in her life she wants to see him. And then she wants to take

advantage... *uh, revenge, on those...* She found the picture of her, her husband, the little boy and the big brother, and on the other side was the real name. Ashen was the name. And this time the organization accomplished that she would see him the last time in her life. She was going to Israel. So they

gave her the permission. So she came into the boy. She told him. She told him " I didn't tell you the first time, I am your real mother. Don't say to me I am a crazy woman. Look at this picture. Can you remember? Who is this? "

LB Yeah. Go ahead.

PZ So he said "This man with the glasses, I remember him. And that's you."

So "This is your father! And do you remember this boy?" He said " I think I remember him." She said " Would I tell you a lie, this is your brother.

They're both dead. I am alive. I promise bakers I don;t take you away.

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ You are happy here, they love you."

"Yes," he said, " I don't know you. I love them."

She said "I leave you with the bakers, but here is my address. I will write to you, to the post office... to the post office box. And if you will only answer me once in a while you will make me the very most happy person alive." And she left him. She kissed him. The boy said "I believe your story but X, you know I have no feelings for you. I ~~like~~ like my parents now." So she said "I don't want to take you away, I want your happiness." And four years later... she wrote to him. She ~~wrote~~ wrote to him every week. And once in a while he answered, a few words only. One day he writes to her he was sent, in Ping-pong, he is the champion and they ^{in London} ~~they~~ sent him to Israel, there was ...

LB There was a ping-pong competition in Israel!

PZ And he will be there in Israel, he will look her up. He came to Israel. Meanwhile she found ~~met~~ a very nice man, she married him. Very poor, very poor. He was a taxi driver, the taxi was only... it was not his own taxé...

LB Don't get off onto another story. Yeah.

PZ And the boy came. The boy came. And she spoke to him. She was so happy, he came to see her. She said to him "Are you happy?". He said "No". The bakers they have an upholstery business. my dream was that I was to become

a psychiatrist. I want to be a doctor. They wouldn't let me go. They need me in the business. I am upholstering. I help them in the business. I am very good in this Trade but I hate it. I'm so unhappy. I want to become a doctor." So she said to him "You know, when you come back, I am your mother, I want your best. You are so young, you are 18 years old. Give them an ultimatum. 'Or you let me go and study, if not...', you have a trade, you go out, look for a job, go in the evening to college and study what you want to study. Become a doctor. And he kissed her, embraced her and said "You are my mother, because you understand me. You feel for me." He came back to London he started to write her everything. "I did listen to you. I followed your advice. They didn't... wouldn't send me to college. They wouldn't let me go to study so I went away. I took a little room. I am going in the daytime, I work as an upholsterer and I started to study. And I am so happy. I study day and night. I want to become a doctor." And he became a doctor and he went to Sidney, Australia. He's now leading there a psychiatric eh, eh,... what's...

LB A clinic?

PZ A clinic. Yah. He's a very famous doctor. And he saw her, visits her. He married there a Jewish girl. He visits her, the mother in London with his wife, in Israel with his wife. (My husbands there.) And she's so happy, she has a child, they have grandchildren. And this is her life.

LB Now tell me something. Can we talk about how you got to Danzig?

PZ Yah, I married to Danzig.

LB Yah. How?

PZ I met my husband...

LB Where?

PZ In Berlin. He was from Danzig. He came on business , on a business trip. I was introduced to him by a second cousin, my mother's first cousin. And we liked each other and I married him and we are... I ^{went} with him in 1922. 1922 to Danzig. I married 1922.

LB Now is this kind... was this sort of a... did other people have this in mind when they...

PZ No, I was invited to my...

LB How old were you?

PZ When I married?

LB No, when you first met him.

PZ When I met him I was 19.

LB Oh.

PA Mike are you going?.... *(speaking to someone leaving the room)*
I married and I lived there until Hitler came.

LB And what was life like there?

PZ Very nice. Beautiful, the most wonderful years of my life, I spent in Danzig.

LB How long were you there, from '23?

PZ From '23 until '38. 14 years.

LB Till '38? You got out in '38.

PZ Till '38, '38.

LB And ah, you had children?

PZ I have a son.

LB You have a son.

PZ One son. He 's married to N.Y.

LB And you had your own home in Danzig?

PA Yah. yah.

LB Was there a Jewish community there?

PZ Oh, a big community! 8,000 Jews in Danzig.

LB Is that right?

PZ Yah.

LB Tell me something about it because I never spoke to anyone who lived there.

PZ It was a...

LB So most of the people were...

PZ Restricted life for Jewish people. You couldn't , you couldn't...
like a , you couldn't establish yourself as a tailor, as a shoemaker, nothing.
Only in business.

LB Is that right?

PA Yah. A professional or business.

LB Now, most of the people living there were what? Poles?

PA Most of the people were German Jews. Dānzig was originally a German
town. Doctors, lawyers, this...

LB No, no, no, I mean, other than the Jews, who lived there? Mostly Germans
or mostly Poles? Besides the Jews, who lived in Danzig?

PZ Mostly Germans.

LB Mostly Germans?

PZ Mostly Germans. Very few Poles. There was a strictly German town.

All the... everything in school, in police, in, in... every office
of the... was German language.

LB It was?

PZ Yah.

LB I know very little about Danzig.

PZ Danzig was strictly German.

LB When did it become a free city?

PZ A free city after the...

LB First World War?

PZ After the second World War.

LB No.

PZ After the first World War?

LB Yeah, it had to be.

PZ Maybe after the first World War.

LB Because then the Germans... you see Hitler claimed it.

PZ Yah, yah. When I came to Danzig it was a free city.

LB Was it a ^{free} city already?

PA The free city of Danzig. Sure, but everything, it was completely German, everything. Post office. *Banks* Everything! The language was German. Even as a free city of Danzig. EveryThing was German. And the few, the few Jews in Germany... in Danzig, were mostly very well off.

LB They were?

PZ Very well off.

LB Well, if they wouldn't admit anybody who was in any of the trades...

PA Yah.

LB If you could only be a professional.

PZ Oh, either a professional or a businessman.

LB Or a business...

PZ There was successful businessmen and , and.... was a nice life in Danzig.

LB . I see. Now...

PZ Social, Jewish social life was very active.

LB It was?

PZ It was beautiful social life.

LB Now, in Danzig... but there was still a separation between the old German Jewish families . . .

PZ Yah! There were, there were... I told you the story of Doctor Avraham, he was in Danzig.

LB So what you're saying is it carried over into

PZ Oh, absolutely. But then Hitler came in and ^{said} the German Jews, ^{well} just as persecuted , persecuted ^{as} ostJuden. No ^{difference}

LB Now, in Danzig then, were your Jews... were your friend all Jews?

PZ Yah.

LB Yah.

PZ Absolutely.

LB Okay. So you actually travelled in Jewish circles only.

PA Jewish circles.

LB Now were then... were these Jews also OstJuden? Was your Husband an OstJuden?

PZ Yah! Sure.

LB Where was he from?

PZ *Nowysocz.*

LB Where is that?

PZ Between, between...

LB Cracow?

PZ And Zseszow.

LB And so it was in here. He was also a Galician then?

PZ A Galician, yeah.

LB It had to be in here. Here's Cracow...

PZ Near *Tarnow.*

LB D.K.

PZ *Halfan hour from Tarnow*
Near Tarnow, yah.

LB Now, so were there many Jews in Danzig who were of Galician origin?

PZ Very, all my friends was, we were all of the same origin.

LB Is ~~it~~ that right?

PZ Yah, yah, you always find your *own.*

LB How did they get up there? Why did they go up there?

PZ Who?

LB These Galician Jews.

PZ They went up there for, on account of financial... It was easier to make a living there, easier than in Galizia. In Galizia it was very hard for Jews to, to become rich or to, to make a good living. It was very hard. And

then Danzig it was... easier for them.

LB Now what was your life like there?

PZ Very... very beautiful life. My husband was very wealthy. When I married him he ^{was} very rich. Twenty four and a half years old, he was. And he was already...

LB He was $24\frac{1}{2}$? He was quite young then.

PZ Yes. Forthe, for over there.

LB Yes, yeah.

PZ And he was a millionaire when I married him. I didn't even know it. He didn't want to tell me. He was afraid I'd marry him for his money. So he wouldn't tell me. He was very rich. At $24\frac{1}{2}$ years he was already a millionaire. And we led a easy life, a very good life. And we had a beautiful home. Very nice, everything. And it was a terrible thing that we had to escape. And ^{again} we run away and leave everything behind.

LB How did you manage to get Out? Did you make the decision, you and your husband?

PZ Sure.

LB When did you make the decision?

PZ We made the decision when we saw how bad it...

LB No, no, let me see this. Hitler came to power in 1933.

PZ Yeah, but not in Danzig. InDanzig we hoped he will not come this far. But when he started to come to Danzig and started to arrest all the Jewish businessmen, and my husband escaped eh,... I came after him a few days later. He went away without a coat, without a hat. He went to the railroad station and just took a ticket to the next town and escaped because they arrested 800 businessmen in one day. And he knew that he got... somebody gave him a hint that he would be one of the next. And he escaped. And I came with the child two days later.

LB So you went to another town?

PZ Yeah.

LB In... where was this town?

PZ It was in Poland.

LB You went into Poland?

PZ Yeah. Let me see.

LB Let's see if it's on the map.

PZ Gdynia. Danzig, Danzig, Baltic Sea....

LB No, there's not enough.

PZ It was near here.

LB O.K.

PZ Baltic Sea.

LB No, but that's Germany. Here's Danzig.

PZ Danzig was near...

LB But if you went...

PZ Poland.

LB You went to Poland?

PZ Yah. From Danzig to Poland was very near.

LB Well Konigsberg was where?

PZ No, was Austria...

East Prussia, this was German.

LB Well then you had to go over here.

PZ ~~Ken~~ No, no, it was a very small place to go.

LB Well this map obviously is not...

PZ That's not a good, the right map.

LB No.

PZ It was right near Danzig.

LB Did you go to Gdynia?

PZ Gdynia!

LB I thought Gdynia was the... Is that not the other name for Danzig?

*Looking at
map*

1. 483

PZ No, Danzig is Gdansk. Gdansk.

LB Oh, I see! Wait a minute.

PZ Danzig is Gdansk.

That's not the right map.

LB Alright. I'm going to write it up.

PZ It's not the right... Gdynia. Gdansk! Danzig in Polish was Gdansk.

And ^{this} was Gdynia.

LB I know that. I've heard of the city. I know. So that's where you went.

PZ Yah.

LB I have it written down here. It's G-D-Y-N-I-A.

PZ G-D

LB Yeah.

PZ It was a port also, a Polish port. Gdynia, a new city. Poland built this port.

LB Oh! That's right. O.K.

PZ A very new port.

LB That's right o.k. So you went there. Now how did you get out?

PZ My husband went ^{to} Gdynia, it was already over the border.

LB Right.

PZ Gdansk... Danzig was a free city and Gdynia....

End Side Three

PZ A free city.

LB Yeah, hold on. O.K. Now here we go. Now remember you said that you

could get a visa to this country.
PZ and we... on a capitalist ^{proof} that we have in a foreign country, money.

LB And your husband had deposited \$5,000 in Sweden.

PZ We had more but 5,000 was enough.

LB That was... the minimum.

PZ The minimum. And we came on account of the capitalist, ^{as capitalists} ~~capitalist~~ we have a capitalistic visa. We came to this country. It was a possibility. You didn't have to have no affidavit, anything, if you prove to them that you have, a family, \$5,000. And we had the proof.

LB Was a bank book sufficient?

PZ The bank books? Yes. And the certificate from the bank in Sweden that ah...

LB That that is legitimate.

PZ Yah, yah.

LB So you did have to wait then for the certificate?

PZ From Sweden. Yah, yah.

LB Yeah. And then where did you sail from?

PA We sailed from Antwerp.

(Tape stops and starts again.)

PZ It's very interesting.

Third Voice: Yeah I know, I know.

PA It's very interesting, I like it.

LB It wasn't painful.

PZ No. I tell her all kinds of stories. I went out a little of her...

LB That's alright.

PZ Out of my way.

LB No.

PZ You don't want... interested to hear all those.

LB If I were not interested I would have stopped you.

PZ You would tell me, yah. You would tell me.

LB Yeah. Now, you sailed from where then?

PZ From Antwerp in Belgium.

LB So, in '38 you just got out then before the war started.

PZ Yah. In '38 no in thirty... in 1939. The war started.

LB That was in Poland. And then by '40 they were already in...

PZ Over Danzig. It started over Danzig. This war started practically over Danzig. The second World War.

LB ^{well}, whatever...

PZ No? It didn't start over Danzig?

LB I suspect if it hadn't been Danzig it might have something else.

PZ Yeah, but it started... Actually it started there.

LB Alright, now let me see if I have everything here, that ah... yeah,

Tell me, yeah, when you were living in Berlin and you lived in this Jewish...

PZ It was not Jewish.

LB No, it was not Jewish section, but you made friends with these other Galician Jews. Did most of them manage to do well in Berlin? Those that came from Galicia? Or were there poor Jews there too?

PZ There were poor Jews too.

LB There were?

PZ Of course, yeah. A few were poor.

LB Did you know them?

PZ Yah. I knew two families. They were not so well and still were very good friends.

LB That's what I was going to ask.

PZ They were very good... we didn't make a difference if they were rich or not.

They were nice people and two of those families were not rich at all. Just...
LB In that shul that you were talking about.

PZ Yah.

LB In that group that went...

PZ Yah, they belonged to the shul also.

LB Ah ha.

PZ Two families were not so well. One had a cigar store. A very nice couple with a son. And they just struggled along.

(Other voices in background.)

LB Sha, You can talk but not in here. ^(Tape off and on) So you had poor Jews there too and, ~~EX~~ but you associated with them too. But actually, would you say most of your friends were in your class?

PZ Yeah, Well, I would say yah.

LB Alright. Now let me ask you a question and you better be honest with me.

PZ Yeah, I'm honest with you.

LB There were Jews that were even more "Ost" than you. There were Russian Jews. and there were poor Polish Jews... non Galician Jews. What was the attitude in your family towards those Jews?

PZ Not, not at all different.

LB Yeah.

PZ We as Ost Jews, we felt for them just the same as we would ^{if they were Galician}
In our family we would not make any difference between Russian, or Lithuanian Jews. Not at all. As a matter of fact I think we had a few friends Russian and Lithuanian too, Litvaks.

LB Yeah,,yeah.

PZ Yeah, we had, we had. There was no difference at all.

LB These were among the Jews then that came to live in Berlin.

PZ Yeah.

LB Because that would be the only chance you had to meet them, right?

PZ Yeah.

LB Did you meet... Were there any in Danzig? Any Russian Jews?

PZ oh yes.

LB There were?

PZ And Litvaks also.

LB And Litvaks.

PZ Yah, I had a very good friend. She was from Riga, Lithuania.

LB No, that's Latvia.

PZ Latvia. She was a very good friend of mine, one of my best friends in Danzig, was from Riga. A very nice girl and we were very good friends.

LB How did you feel about the European countries in general?

PZ Which countries?

LB Well now just let me see if I can formulate the question. Alright?

You considered yourself a Jew first, is that correct?

PZ Yah, first a Jew, yah.

LB Then what?

PZ Then...

LB Anything?

PZ OstJud, A OstJude second.

LB OstJude second.

PA OstJude second.

LB Did you have another identity after that?

PZ No. Jew was my first identity.

LB Not Galicia?

PZ No. Galicia is second. Jew.

LB Jew is the primary.

PZ Jewish yeah. And I was always Zionistic.

LB o.k. you were?

PZ Inclined.

LB Did you ever learn Hebrew?

PZ no.

LB No.

Pz Only I can davan.

LB Yes.

PZ The ^{Siddur} .Because my father gave me teaching.

LB Yeah.

076 PZ They teach us that I could davan in shul. This I can follow.

LB Were you Zionist back in Berlin days?

PZ Always Zionist inclined. I didn't belong to a special Zionist organization.

But I sympathized always with the Zionist idea. I read alot about Herzl and all the...

LB Oh, you did?

PZ Yah, I read.

LB In Berlin?

PZ In Berlin.

LB Were there many Zionist groups, young peoples groups?

PZ No, not too many Zionist young people in Berlin. No.

LB So where do you think this sympathy came from?

PZ Because... maybe the anti-semitic, ^{re} marks from them.

LB You mean "Ayah Juden."

PZ "Ayah Juden". And all this makes you, gives you a feeling that it would be nice if you would have our identity. And we would have our own country, of course. This gave me also the feeling ~~of~~ that, of belonging. Somewhere to belong. Not to belong to everybody.

LB And nobody.

PZ I want to belong to somebody.

LB Didyou read anybody other than Herzl?

PZ Oh yeah. I had, I mean other literature?

LB In Zionist...

PZ In Zionist? Yah. Some. There was some Zionist papers, magazines, yeah.

LB Do you remember the names of them?

PZ I wouldn't recall the name of the magazines.

LB O.K. They were printed in Germany.

PZ We had a group *when I was a girl...* students, who went to the university in Berlin. And we met in my girlfriend's house, Paula, this one with the son in London there. There was always a gathering in her house and a big nice home and she was playing beautiful piano. And we had discussions there. The students from... there were a few girls and men students, studied with us. They came from Galicia, studied there. The Galizian merchants sent their children to study there. *and...* So we had gatherings, students and...

LB How did one Galician find another? Through a kind of a grapevine?

PZ . . .No, one introduces to the... invites a few friends. And this what became...

LB So you managed somehow to remain in contact with Galicia all through your travels through Europe?

PZ Yah.

LB Is this correct?

PZ Mostly yah. You looked for your kind.

LB Yah.

PZ It's so funny. Somehow you look for your kind.

LB Paula you've been very kind, and we've talked a lot longer than half an hour.

PZ You see I wanted to...

LB I warned you, no you... That's why I..

PZ Two and a half hours.

LB No, I didn't... I told you it would take longer. Now let me ...

PZ I don't mind, it was interesting. You're a sweet person.

LB Tell me...

PZ Can I offer you something?

LB No, no wait, we're still on the tape!

PZ We're still?

LB Yeah, I want to know... Your father read a German newspaper, right?

PZ German and Jewish.

LB Was there a Yiddish newspaper printed in Berlin?

PZ Yes, also. There were Jewish papers.

LB Did he read a Hebrew newspaper?

PZ No.

LB Was he a Zionist?

PZ No I wouldn't say. He sympathized also with the Zionist idea, but he was not exactly a Zionist...

LB Yeah.

PZ That would go to Israel and fight for it.

LB No, no, but I mean in his feelings.

PZ Yah. He was absolutely sympathizing with the Zionist ideas, yah. MY father was a very intelligent man. He was... I tell you, when I was 17 years old I was much more alert and intelligent than today. It's unbelievable. I read Nordall. I read all the..

LB You did read Nordall, so there...

PZ Yeah, Nordall.

LB So there's another Zionist...

PZ Zionist yeah.

LB right, alright.

148
 PZ I studied alot. I read Shakespeare. And I studied all the real, the literature, I went to the Humboldt Akademie for literature. I enrolled in literature. And I had a friend, he was an old man, and he really was like a teacher to me. He came every day and I enjoyed his lessons. He gave me real lessons in literature. He studied Maria Stewart and everything, and every word he explained to me, wanted I should have it, how I understood this. And if I didn't understand correctly he explained it to me. He took me to shows. He bought tickets. I was 17, he was maybe...

149
 LB Did he keep you... make you go back home at 10 o'clock at night too? (Laughter)

PZ It was harmless. He just thought wonderful...

LB I know, I'm just teasing.

PZ that I could understand him. And I followed him in all his talks. He found... he was like a teacher to me. I'll never forget this man. He took me to all the classical shows, and, and Hamlet and everything. He explained it to me so wonderful, I could never understand it as well without him explaining it to me.

LB Yes, I understand.

150
 PZ The idea he explained it to me. I tell you at 17, 18 years I was more intelligent than today. I think so. I was very, very interested in everything and he... I have to thank him for this.

LB What was his name?

PZ Sa firstein. *Nute.*

LB Safirstein.

PZ Safirstein. *Nute*

Nute?

LB

PZ *Nute*, that's a Jewish name, *Nute*, Safirstein.

LB Now tell me, the thing that I was trying to get at was that if you were going to rank countries in... you say you yourself felt, first you were a Jew.

PZ Yah.

LB Second you were an OstJude .

PZ Yah.

LB Now if you were going to rank the European countries in the order of your liking for them, could you do that?

PZ European only?

LB Yes, just the European countries. As you experienced...

PZ I think Holland is one... I think it was the most liberal, it was the most liberal country toward Jews. Holland.

LB Holland?

PZ Holland. Was always good. Was never anti-semitic. And then also the Scandinavian countries. Sweden. Norway.

LB So in other words your criteria would be how they treated the Jews.

PZ Treated the Jews. This... everything was, my feelings are whoever was good to us I like.

LB I see.

PZ I like those ^{countries} who were ever good to Jews.

LB So in... in what happened in Germany then you suffer terrible loss, you see. Because first they are good, and then suddenly they turn!

PZ The best friends in Danzig turned against us.

LB That's right.

PZ I had a few Christian friends...

LB Yeah?

PZ In Danzig, I made a few friends and I could never believe it how they turned against you. They reported you. They arrested my husband, he was

arrested for 8 months.

LB Was that before he escaped?

PZ Escaped. And then...

LB He was arrested for 8 months.

PZ 8 months. Because one of my goyish friends reported him.

LB For what?

PZ For... let me see, He claimed he didn't pay correct taxes. You didn't have to say too much. Whatever you said they took you.

LB Well, Paula, is this thing turning? Yes. I'm going to say Thank-you.

PZ You're welcome, dear.

END

LB You didn't tell me about your brother.

PZ My brother, I told you, the older brother was a partner with my father, went into business with my father. And one night, the Nazis were already there, it was already ~~bad~~, one night...a knocking, a terrible knocking on the door. Open the door, Gestapo and four Nazis with bayonets and revolvers came in and put the light on my father...put the light on, looking if my brother is there. Oh, we had a Christian girl, a maid in the house. She ~~came~~ down and she begged them, they shouldn't harm us, They're so good to me and they're so good people. *they said, this young Jew... (?)* Him we want to kill. *And the four (?) want to kill him.* My mother cried. Give them all the jewelry. Give them all the money. Take the money. Let them. Let them. And he was there shaking. And they let him live. They gave him ... they took money and jewelry and when they left he was paralyzed, his legs.

LB Had they hurt him? *Physically?*

PZ No, no, no. But from the...

LB From the fright.

PZ From the fright. He walked, later, with a walker a little. But he was a cripple.
Don't ask how I brought him to New York.

LB Were you able to bring them out?

PZ No. *First* they escaped to me. To Danzig.

LB Oh, they came to Danzig.

PZ They came to Danzig and Danzig was not yet... But we felt it was starting and I applied for my trip to America. My parents had affidavits. My father had a brother here. He sent wonderful affidavits for my brother and my father and mother. And they wouldn't let my brother pass.

LB Because he was crippled.

PZ Because he was crippled. They refused him. My mother could get a visa. My father could get... *My brother* He came on the black list. All the American consuls, had on the black list. They would never let him into the country. Once I went like this (knocks rapidly on the table) they wouldn't let me. He wrote to Roosevelt. A very intelligent note. A wonderful letter and said, You will feel for me because, and this happened to me...they wanted to kill me and since then I became a cripple through the Nazis. And the secretary of Roosevelt answered...

LB No.

PZ No. And it's a very long story. I got him out. A miracle happened. It's too long to tell you. I cannot tell you. It would take another hour. I got him into this country. It was such a miracle, once in a million times you have something like how I got him in here. And he came here and lived here a normal life as a cripple *many years.* And he died of a heart attack at fifty seven years. But how I got him here, that is such a story.

LB And the others...

PZ The others all came.

LB They all came?

PZ They all came because my uncle sent affidavits. He was pretty wealthy. He had two buildings here, guaranteed for them...they all came. I mean, with affidavits ...

LB If you had not been in Danzig, that would have been impossible.

PZ No. I suppose that's also Danzig. Also my younger sister with her husband. My two brothers came all to Danzig. To Danzig they came. As a matter of fact, now I can tell you what I did for my sister, for my other younger brother...the money in Sweden, when we got the visa, I said to my husband, Let's give them the money. We withdrew the money and opened the accounts in their name. So they got capitalistic visa. My youngest brother and my other sister with her husband. Once we had the visa, we withdrew the money in Sweden and took it to Denmark and put it in their names. In this way, I got the family out.

LB That was bright.

PZ I did everything for my family.

LB How did you know about this rule? Was this common knowledge among the Jews?

PZ Yes, it was common knowledge. The consul told me, when it came up, or you have to be a capitalist, or you have to have affidavits, affidavits so they could recognize them and see that you wouldn't be a burden to the state.

LB Actually, if you had the money and you were smart enough to get out in time...

PZ No, smart enough...if you had the money it was enough. If only you had the...

LB No, but if you waited too long the money was no good.

PZ From Danzig, if you had the money it wouldn't help you because the Nazis would know you have the money, they'd take it away from you. But when you had it transferred to another country...

LB But, my dear, if you waited too long you would have wound up in prison and

the money wouldn't have done you any good.

PZ You don't know how you have to bring the proof to the consul, to Danzig, and how dangerous it was, in the shoe... I travelled to Sweden and built into a shoe the proof that I have the money there.

LB That's why I did ask you the question.

PZ Yes, it was very dangerous. They would arrest me if they found one ^{shoe} and I had the receipt there. And I travelled with this receipt three, four times for my sisters and brothers. To Berlin I travelled. To bring them their receipts. My sister. I had it built in, in a shoe. And I brought the receipt to her, in Berlin. And I had to stay two days in line by the American consul until I came there and I said, *Listen*, I am coming now from Sweden, and my sister was in Berlin. They would arrest her and me.

LB Your sister could not get out to go to Danzig?

PZ No. The sister couldn't come to Danzig. She was in Berlin with her husband and two children and I had to go to Berlin with the receipt, *with the certificate* from Sweden or from Denmark. I travelled there... don't ask how many trips I had to make, for my youngest brother, for my sister and brother in law with the two children. I had to go. And bring it over the border. It was so dangerous. If the Nazis find me I wouldn't be alive and my sister would be dead. They would arrest us all. It was ^{very} dangerous. But thank God we overcame it and lived, *lived here* free in this wonderful country...

LB Sometimes it's amazing, when you listen to people, just ordinary human beings and they were able to accomplish such phenomenal things, you know?

PZ You know, when you are in the need, when you're so desperate, you think of everything.

LB Some people don't think of anything.

PZ Or you lose yourself.

LB Yes.

PZ I lose myself, usually, but if I'm so desperate, then I climb mountains. I climb the walls and especially I have the feeling I have to help. I have to help. And I have a wonderful feeling because I saved, only one sister and brother in law, they were in Israel, they could go out. But I saved all, my whole family I saved. This gives me a wonderful feeling. *also* a brother I didn't have to help, ^{the} all/others...how I worked my sick brother out, this is a story, unbelievable.

LB All right. Well, I thank you very much.