

Cal Poly Humboldt

Digital Commons @ Cal Poly Humboldt

Holocaust Rescuers Interviews

Oliner Altruism Research Archive

2002-10-02

Andrew Golden - Holocaust Rescuers Interviews

Sam and Pearl Oliner

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.humboldt.edu/rescuers>

Respondent: Andrew Golden

Interviewer: Sam Oliner

Transcriber: Farnad Darnell

Date: October 2, 2002

R. I'd like to know, do you believe in Jesus?

I. Do I believe in Jesus? Yes, I believe in Jesus as a great leader, great moral leader, great prophet...yes, in that sense I do.

R. I see, but you know the bible says that you have to believe him; he's God Almighty, and that's what the Jewish people have very bad problem, to believe him. But the bible says if you really want to receive the Holy Spirit born from above, you have to believe your shoah hamashia. So anyway, I didn't want to bug you, I just wanted to know.

I. Yes, I see. But I'm not practicing.

R. You can't because you don't have the holy spirit; you don't believe he's God Almighty.

I. I didn't say I don't believe. I just said that I had a problem with...

R. The good man Jesus is not enough; the prophet Jesus is not enough. All you believe is God almighty. The holy spirit is not coming to you because otherwise he's a liar because He said He's the One. And if he's a liar, I don't want nothing to do with Him.

I. So let me get back to your father...

R. If I may, in my opinion, just to onset a couple of questions, what you say before...I believe the Polish Jews were the only one's who could stand for anything. I know; I was a little boy and I was in Budapest, and I saw in my eyes when 45 drunk Hungarians bring hundreds and hundreds of Jews alongside the Danube, the river, and they just shot them in 10 by 10. And they just prayed and they don't do anything. so that's why I'm really proud I am a Jew now, because the Sabres in Israel really stand for something.

I. Let me talk about your father Jenó Galambos. Tell me what he did, when he did it. first of all, where was he born? In Hungary?

R. Yes

I. What place?

R. He born in Budapest

I. When about?

R. It was 1906, November 11

I. And when did he pass away?

R. He pass away in 1976, in Los Angeles

I. Tell me his story

R. I only know what I heard about. I was a little boy; I was in the ghetto in Budapest and when the Russian come, three of us (I was with my mother), and he actually is my stepfather, my uncle. My father get killed in Auschwitz. So he was my stepfather, and he came to the ghetto, and when the Russians order us to flee the city, he bring us home from the ghetto.

My brother Thomas was the one who was with him in that place, in the place they call Abonyi. That was a place there, but you know when I talk to Robert (Island), he was talking about thousand and thousand people he saved. I don't think that's true. I think that he probably...he was the head of this place, and he probably that was like 150, 200 people, and he bring in 50 people without the paper, and those 50 get saved.

I. Where did he bring them from?

R. He know that they was Jew and they don't have a paper, and somebody who don't have a paper in Budapest that time, it was like they gonna kill him or they put him to the train.

I. These people were Hungarian Jews...?

R. They was Hungarian Jews and he was helping them, and he was the head of this place. It was a place which was protected.

I. What do you mean by protected?

R. I mean I was in this kind of place too, some people was protected by Sweden, or some other nations.

I. Oh yes, in protected houses.

R. Yes, in protected houses. And he has this kind of protected thing, and he was the head on that.

I. So he must have had some papers, ID (identification papers), Sweden...

R. He was helping anybody he could, so at least 50 people can thank him their life.

- I. And did he ever talk about this, Jenó?
- R. No, not really. I just know that was true, and after, when he die, in a paper I think in Montreal, they was reading the story about him, and my mother send me a copy of that and said, "Look, your father is dead a long time and people still remember him." In that paper it said how much the man thank him because of him he survive and his life get saved.
- I. Let me ask you this, if you have the paper, could you xerox copy it for me and send me...
- R. I don't have it. I already know if you call me that I would...maybe my sister Suzie has it.
- I. Suzie in Israel...no, I mean Chicago. In fact I'm going to call her too.
- R. She's the one who has a change, who has that because from my mother everything went to her.
- I. Tell me, your father...I want to return to him for a couple more minutes. What was his education? Did he go to Kim Nazium?
- R. No, he's not.
- I. Was he a religious person?
- R. Yes. I could say he was a practicing when he was like that of the synagogue, but the practicing was really wasn't at all but to honor the Sabbath, and he went to the synagogue in the holidays. He was a really strong man, and I know one thing what he told me about it you know. Maybe that could help you in a way. There was a time when my father, my real father, and him was red-headed boys and they was very, very strong. And they went to a movie, they call Nilosh. I don't know if you heard this one, but Nilosh was Hungarian who was anti-Semite and wanted to kill the Jews, and so those green, they had a green sign, and anti-Semite was starred with them because they have red hair in the movie. And end of the movie, the go out from the movie, and this people, they have like 20-30 of them, and they start fighting with them, and there was another man there who went to my father, my real father, who pass away, and give him a metal thing in his hand. My step-father told me this story, and they start fighting with these 20-30 people, and he beat them all up. And he couldn't understand because when he hit somebody he went down but he got up a couple minute later. But whenever my father hit somebody with this metal thing, that was it; the guy was fall down and was finished. And the next day it was in the paper, "Two Jewish butcher was destroy these 20 people of this organization." And he talk about it a lot of time, and he tell him he was not so happy to beat up on.
- I. These two guys were brothers obviously. What was their names, Jenó and...
- R. Emery. They was brothers, so they was beat them up very badly.

- I. So when your father died, his brother married your mother...
- R. Yes, under Jewish law, because his wife die too.
- I. Tell me anything else that you might know about him.
- R. He was a very kind man, and...
- I. Kind to you?
- R. Yeah
- I. Do you have any more brothers or sisters? Obviously you have Tommy, and one in
- R. Yes. I have Tommy, and one in Israel, and I have my sister Suzie in Chicago.
- I. And the one in Israel is called Magda. Magda Burger, right?
- R. Yes. And we all love him very, very much. And he was kind-hearted. And when he pass away he give me the blessing and he put me at the head of the family cause he was close with me and...
- I. Now he died in Los Angeles, but you told me there was an article about him in Canada...? How did that happen?
- R. Because the Canadian people in Montreal, that was written strictly in Hungarian Jews, and they read the article that man who heard my father passed away, and he make article about him, and somehow my mother get this article, and I see this article.
- I. Your mother is also gone? When did she pass away?
- R. My mother passed away three years ago. But everything that they have is in my sister possession in Chicago.
- I. I have an appointment to talk to her also.
- R. But my brother told me was with him in that place.
- I. In the safehouse...
- R. The same place, yes. The safehouse; he was with him.
- I. How old is your brother Tommy?
- R. My brother is same age I am, 66.

- I. So your twins, or?
- R. No, we're not real brothers; we are stepbrothers, and there is one month difference between us.
- I. So his real father is Jenö.
- R. No. His father also get killed, and what happened here is that his mother, who also get killed in Auschwitz, his mother and Jenö's first wife was sisters. So he was his uncle. Jenö was his uncle. And then when his father die, he adopt...and he adopt me first because he married my mother. I remember he came to me and he said, "You are my son. You don't have to say anything, but his father die, so I want to adopt him too." And I said okay. So we grew up together.
- I. You were close together?
- R. We are. Not anymore cause I'm sure you heard I am a minister and I'm serving the Lord, and I believe, who is the Messiah, and they don't, so this one reason separate us totally.
- I. But he is still flesh and blood and...
- R. He is flesh and blood, and I'm not saying I'm not love them, but we don't have much together anymore, do you know?
- I. You have children too? you have other children besides Island (Robert)?
- R. Yes, I have other children. I have three children. besides Robert, two more; a boy and a girl.
- I. And what do they do?
- R. My son is a computer is a computer programmer, and my daughter just get married to a Russian, and she got a job to selling drugs to doctors; medications to doctors.
- I. Now the Russian that she married, is he Jewish?
- R. Yes.
- I. So what do you do for a living?
- R. I am a minister. I am like a Messianic rabbi.
- I. And where do you get your income from?
- R. I told you, I'm a Messianic rabbi. I have a congregation.

I. So there is a salary there.

R. And I also go out and preach to other churches. And we're going to try to get the land