

ANN LOWY ETTLINGER

May 20, 1996

Interviewer: Ann Solov Walker

Notetaker: Betty Ann Fishman

Minutes

Born July 3, 1924 in Vienna, Austria. Mother's name Flora, always called Frieda. Father's name Rudolph. Lived in small apartment until one. When sister born, moved to apartment with a bathroom, very special (only toilets in apartments). No hot water, just bath. Father was clerk in bank, then rep.

5 min. Celebrated Jewish holidays with grandparents. Belonged to a conservative synagogue. Religious instruction in public school. Mother was a milliner before married. Met father at gymnastic exhibition. Twenty-six when married.

10 min. She wanted to be a doctor. Parents sent her to private school. Fourth year of high school (1936), edict went out, Jewish children couldn't attend private school. That was the first hard thing. After she left school, she was apprenticed as a dressmaker. Then, she wasn't allowed to do that. November...Kristallnacht. Father went to Dachau. Mother had letter that said he was in the war that proved he wasn't a coward.

15 min. Was in Dachau six weeks, then got out. Made efforts for sister and her to get out. Friend of mother's parents gave them affidavit. Mother got job as cook. Father - visitor's visa. Children - children's transport (found family for them). Children were first to go, then mother, then father. Train full of children. Some five years old, not easy. She was one of the oldest. Eight to compartment.

20 min. At Dutch border, women with baskets. When they got over the German border, they got food. Got off channel steamer at Herrich, then train for London.

25 min. Went to Victoria Station. W. London synagogue community there. Sponsors took children and went away. Waylee Cohen - they were very nice to the children. They went to the school.

ANN LOWY ETTLINGER (continued)

Headmistress spoke fluent German. They moved away after two and a half years. They were in Bedford. Parents Oxford.

- 30 min. In 1942, went to London to start nursing. Parents came there to live. Mother cook and housekeeper. Father gardener. They didn't find out anything until after the war about relatives. Never able to trace them. London being bombed. Father got job in carpet import/export firm. Mother renovated hats and furs.
- 35 min. Girls could go into nursing, army, factory or agriculture. Sister was in factory, ended up in office. When war ended, they were waiting for quotas numbers.
- 40 min. In London, sponsor had redone affidavit three times. After war, sponsor told father he had a job for him. Father worked for him for fifteen years. They settled in N.Y., then parents moved to Massachusetts. After nursing school (1945), she worked for a while. Sister wanted to go back to Germany. She became a clerk in her father's office. She worked for U.S. War Department. Then opening in dispensary as Nurse.
- 45 min. She met her husband in Germany. He was working for War Dept. Husband born in Germany. When to America in 1936. Met sisters before her. Married in 1950. In 1948, went to America (N.Y.). Worked at Mt. Sinai. First child, Joan, in 1952. Michael in 1957. Grandchild, Timmy.
- 50 min. Photos of mother and family when thirteen. Grandma, Father WW II, Mrs. Waylee.