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Dozier, Zulka Interview

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Stockton Immigrant Women Oral History Collection

by Sally Miller

DOZIER, Zulka (Polish)

November 10, 1980

Interviewed by Mary Wedegaertner

Transcribed by Robert Siess

**[TAPE 1, Side A]
[Begin Tape.]**

MARY WEDEGAERTNER: Just a couple of basic things. Where were you born?

ZULKA DOZIER: I was born in Eastern Poland. Just before the war. Just a few months before the war, in '39.

WEDEGAERTNER: Did you live in town or in the country?

DOZIER: In small town. My father was a ranger. Worked for the government in those days.

WEDEGAERTNER: And what did his duties consist of?

DOZIER: Oh gosh.

WEDEGAERTNER: I mean, like our park rangers, or a policeman?

DOZIER: Probably like a park ranger. But it was a forest ranger.

WEDEGAERTNER: Was he away from home much?

DOZIER: No. And they had house. And it was a small village. So he was commuting maybe two miles.

WEDEGAERTNER: How many children were in your family?

DOZIER: Four. I was the youngest. Every seven years, my mother had a baby. So there's a big difference between us.

WEDEGAERTNER: Wow. That's really stringing it out.

DOZIER: When I was a teenager, I looked like I had three mothers, because two older sisters of mine, and of course my mother. My mother was my best friend.

WEDEGAERTNER: Did your mother ever work outside the home?

DOZIER: No. Never. She had children.

WEDEGAERTNER: What if she had wanted to and didn't have the children to worry about? Was this done in Poland at that time? Did the women work outside the home much?

DOZIER: No, they didn't. The women stayed home mostly before the war. It changed after.

WEDEGAERTNER: How did the war affect your immediate family?

DOZIER: In 1940, one and a half million Polish people who were living in Eastern Poland were sent to Siberia. Because the Russians were afraid the Poles would join with the German Army and go against the Russians. So they took the intelligent people and the people who worked for the government and sent them to Siberia. So I was raised for four years near Archangelsk. It's near White Sea in Siberia. And people, they were in camps for one and a half year. Later, the Germans were fighting the Russians, the Russians let the Poles go out. But we couldn't go out any place. You stayed there.

WEDEGAERTNER: You couldn't get back in?

DOZIER: No. Because nobody wanted to go to the fighting. But the Polish Army formed in 1943, I believe. Early 1943. My brother was very young then. Joined with other people. And they were fighting together with the Russians, but in a Polish army.

WEDEGAERTNER: When you first went to Siberia, did you live in like a camp situation?

DOZIER: I don't remember, but that's what I heard.

WEDEGAERTNER: Right, you just heard your parents talk about it. But after the 1 ½ years, did you just move into a house or apartment or something?

DOZIER: We lived in small house. Northern house. And I am remembering the evening sometimes, but God, I was already like four or three and a half. And there were lots of snow. There was *always* snow.

And the scary thing for me was, and I remember it so well, during the evening, the wolves, hungry wolves, were trying to dig into people's homes. And that was very scary.

WEDEGAERTNER: That would be very scary.

DOZIER: But they did it just during the evening, at night.

WEDEGAERTNER: What line of work did your father do when you were there in Siberia?

DOZIER: He was very liked by people, so they choosed him as a leader of some kind. And then were help him. He was a friendly person. Too friendly. And those days, my father was not a Communist. So he was saying something against communism. And they arrest him one day and sentence him to ten years heavy labor. And that was last time I heard... He was sent down to Siberia, and he wrote letters to us until '47, 1947. We looked through [Red Cross?].

WEDEGAERTNER: What did the rest of your family do at that time?

DOZIER: My older sisters and my mother, they were working for the Russian. My sister worked in the factory and my mother cooked for people. And after the war, in '45 ended the war. In '46, we came to Poland.

WEDEGAERTNER: Did you come back to the same area?

DOZIER: No. No. We didn't even stop there because we couldn't. It belonged to Russia then. Russia took part of Eastern Poland then. So we were sent to Western Poland now, on the German side. And I started going to school there for like three years, and then after that I moved.

WEDEGAERTNER: Was that your first schooling then?

DOZIER: Yes. I started when I was seven. In Poland they start going to school when they are seven years old. Not younger.

WEDEGAERTNER: And how much schooling did you have total?

DOZIER: Thirteen years. But in Poland, when you graduate from grammar school, it's eight years. You choose to go to a high school, but they have technical high schools or regular high schools. And when I finished grammar school, I was never good like in Polish, in literature or history. I loved mathematics, and chemistry most of all. Like physics. So for me to go to a regular high school wouldn't be that good, because I'm not going to be a professor or a teacher. So I went to a technical chemistry school. So when I graduate from high school, it is like a high school, but I already got my degree. I was a technical, lab technician they call it. Then I went to polytechnic. I went to polytechnic for one year. And I met my husband and got married.

WEDEGAERTNER: What were the circumstances that you met him?

DOZIER: This was in '58. To '56, 1956, Poland was a very difficult country to live. People were afraid to talk open. In '56, when the government got changed, when Gomulka came, our leader, who he was

sitting in jail for eight years. And people liked him. The lives – the living for people was completely different. And I was very glad that it came, because I am girl, and I had a wonderful life. Even there were no money. My sister and my brother supported us.

WEDEGAERTNER: Your mother worked just when she was in Siberia doing the cooking?

DOZIER: Well, my sister had a baby, so she was working. She stayed in line for bread, and she cooked dinners and took care of the house. So in 1958, for the first time, Poland had a big match, track and field match. Poland against the USA. The Americans came from Moscow, and the Russians were beaten by the Americans. And the Russians, oh they had a strong team. So then they came to Poland, and I was going with young man who was a lawyer and tennis player and kibitzer of track and field. And I was following him. So when my husband Bill came to Poland with his father as a kibitzer for the American team, he went to play tennis one afternoon, met this friend of mine who speaks English. And they found that he's a lawyer and bill is lawyer and they have similar things in common. And one evening my friend said, "Bill, would you like to have dinner with us? I'll introduce you to my girlfriend." So that was it. That evening, Bill keeps staring. When he first time saw me, he said, "Oh, she must be mine." And in '58, he was already divorced for seven years. He was a divorced man and did not want to marry. He was very disappointed with his first marriage. And then he was a lawyer, and he saw all his friends, and he didn't like the American women.

WEDEGAERTNER: Did he have children from his first marriage?

DOZIER: Yes. He had one son.

WEDEGAERTNER: What language was spoken in your home?

DOZIER: Just Polish.

WEDEGAERTNER: When you met your friend who spoke English, did you pick up any English along the way?

DOZIER: Not at all. Not at all.

WEDEGAERTNER: How much education would you say your mother had?

DOZIER: She had none. She was the oldest in my family. But she taught herself how to read. And then after the war, because I was the youngest in the family – the evenings during winter in Poland are long one, and we were together, my mother and I. And I had this urge to teach her how to write. It was a great pleasure. My mother was not an arrogant woman. She was overweight, and she never took care of herself. She was just a plain woman. But it was such a great pleasure for me. Sometimes I even took her and went to the movies. And I was 16, 17. I was already going with boys. I mean with men. I never went with boys. I didn't like boys. But so when I was probably 14 or 15, I start teaching her how to write. And when I moved, when I left Poland, she could write letters to me. And it's not that easy. She was over 50. But she taught herself how to read. She was a good reader.

WEDEGAERTNER: And what about your father? How much education?

DOZIER: Oh, he had an education.

WEDEGAERTNER: Through high school and beyond?

DOZIER: Well, you see, he was educated under the Czar. So I can't – well, the schooling was different. He never went to university, but he went like in gymnasium. Gymnasium in those days was very high level. Nobody could go. Just rich people, or very well-to-do.

WEDEGAERTNER: Were there any different standards in your family as far as the boys and the girls? As far as their education? As far as their chores around the house?

DOZIER: Not in my family.

WEDEGAERTNER: Were you encouraged to go on to school if you wanted to?

DOZIER: Oh, very much so. I was forced even to go. I didn't like to go to high school. And I don't feel sorry that I didn't. Because I found much easier, much pleasant thing for me to do more content. More happy than to study. Now my husband keeps telling me this all the time, and I just don't feel like it.

WEDEGAERTNER: Did you get a job after you graduated from polytechnic?

DOZIER: I got a job. Yes. It was very difficult to get a job. I could work in a chemistry institute, but it was very little pay. Even I would work seven hours a day and Saturdays off, but it was just not enough. So my sister got me a job. I worked in a laboratory in a big electrical plant. The biggest in Warsaw it was. So I got better money, but the job was quite dirty. My job was to take care of the water, the softness of the water, and what kind of coal was. You make... not experiment...

WEDEGAERTNER: Just check it.

DOZIER: Check it.

WEDEGAERTNER: Faulty type.

DOZIER: Yes. For the oxygen. It would explode.

WEDEGAERTNER: This was in a chemistry plant you said?

DOZIER: Well, this was an electrical plant.

WEDEGAERTNER: You probably don't have much recollection then as far as your father and mother, if your father was taken away. How old were you when he was taken away?

DOZIER: I was two.

WEDEGAERTNER: Okay, well I was going to say as far as who had the most responsibility. But it was all your mother.

DOZIER: Well, responsibility is. Because my father, he comes from a very high class of people. He always thought unfortunate he was born in the wrong place. Because he was born in Russia. When he was born, there was no Poland, so it didn't make a difference that he's 100% Polish. But he was spoiled. His father had lots of land in Russia. And the men in my father's family, they were very cruel toward women. They just ignored women completely. They thought women are there to have children and take care of them. And they wanted to just play and have good time. Go and hunt and play cards. Drink with other women, but not their wives.

WEDEGAERTNER: So they probably had no responsibilities for the children at home.

DOZIER: No. He thought he has nothing to do. He gave him []. But I think I would be very happy to help him.

WEDEGAERTNER: Also, it was probably your mother for your older brothers and sisters who would have made any decisions for their dating or things like that.

DOZIER: Yes.

WEDEGAERTNER: You said you didn't particularly care to go out with the boys. Were there any rules or anything about dating in your family?

DOZIER: Well, I was not permitted to date. My mother was quite strict. She got married my age. She was 22 when she got married. So she was born in 1900. And when a woman, when a girl was 20 years old, it was considered as an old maid. So she was older. And she didn't date when she was young, she told me. Why? Because she was living in a village and had to help her family support. There were seven of them, and she was the oldest. So you see, in her family, there were sons and daughters. There were three daughters. None of them were sent. The sons were sent to school. But we are talking, this is way back. It's not like that anymore.

WEDEGAERTNER: Did you have any particular chores or jobs around the house, as far as cooking or sewing or cleaning?

DOZIER: When we were just after the war and we were living in Western Poland. First we lived in small city. A very tiny, 5,000 population. A beautiful German clean town. But we couldn't survive. We didn't have any food. So we moved to the country, and we had land. So then I and my mother had a cow. And I always loved animals, so I wanted to have my own. So I had a goat. Now, my mother said, "I have enough work with cows and working the fields. If you want a goat, you have to take care of it." So I went to feed her. Get up early in the morning, take her by the road so she would eat. Or during the summers spent in the forest with her, picking mushrooms or picking blueberries. And then in the spring, I had to go with my mother together on the field, and we had sugar beets. And you know, if you plant sugar beets, the beets became about that big. You have to [] them. And so that was my job. And then we had no horse. So we had to do it all by hand. We were digging, piling the soil. And when the harvest came, I had to go and pick up. My mother would cut the wheat or oats, and I would have to go and roll it and tie it.

WEDEGAERTNER: You worked very hard!

DOZIER: And I was young. I was nine, ten, eleven.

WEDEGAERTNER: Did you take them to market then?

DOZIER: No.

WEDEGAERTNER: Just used them for your own?

DOZIER: We used for our own some, and some we paid in taxes. We had to deliver so many kilos.

WEDEGAERTNER: Did you ever trade with neighbors or anything like that, for products, produce?

DOZIER: They do it now, but not in those days. We had sugar beets, so we got sugar for the winter. We had linen. We plant linen. Not linen.

WEDEGAERTNER: Flax?

DOZIER: Yeah, flax. And so we got... Three yards of material they sent us. And I really liked that work. That was unique. Because you pulled the roots. And the roots are very shallow, so it was quite easy. And it's soft to the touch.

WEDEGAERTNER: You pulled it out, and then what did you do? You bundled it?

DOZIER: And you tie it, let it dry if the weather was nice.

WEDEGAERTNER: I've seen them do something with flax. Don't you kind of tear it apart?

DOZIER: We didn't do it then. We send away. They had to sock it first and water. Or I don't know. Dye. And then they have like []. And they do it by hand. Over the []. And it's over and over, and finally you get the white strings. Not white. They were almost white. And then they took it.

WEDEGAERTNER: And they'd send it back to you?

DOZIER: No, they would send just yardage. A yard of material. Not much though.

WEDEGAERTNER: Do you have any other recollections of your childhood days about what your family did for fun or recreation?

DOZIER: There was no fun. It was work in the morning until evening for the family. The fun was before Christmas. The 24th. Christmas Eve. It was fun because the family come, and they had a big salad, and they were all together for the Midnight Mass. And in Poland there are two days of holidays, 25th and 26th. And then after Christmas, the 6th of January it's a holiday. And children don't go to school. And they usually gather together. Oh, they go and dance after Christmas, of course. They have on Saturdays all-night dancing until six, seven o'clock in the morning.

WEDEGAERTNER: Do you still carry out some of your Polish traditions in your family?

DOZIER: Although my husband doesn't eat everything. He's an American, so he has his favorite foods. But I try to. And then the Easter. There's two holidays in Poland that are very close. And this is where you do things. Oh, there's another one. The 15th of August they always call it, after the harvest. It's a religious holiday. St. Mary's.

WEDEGAERTNER: Did you yourself ever do any of these decorative eggs?

DOZIER: Yeah. I did a few too.

WEDEGAERTNER: What is the term for the...

DOZIER: [Pisalka?]. They say it comes from Czechoslovakia, and it's more known. But the Ukrainians do lots of it. And this is done completely different. My mother used to – we gathered the onion skins and dried them and hot boiled it. And the color is so pretty. Yellow. Dark yellow. And then she would take a razor, and she would scrape that color with a razor. Takes a long time to do it.

WEDEGAERTNER: Did you ever have anyone living with your family as you were growing up? Any grandparents or relatives?

DOZIER: My mother father's son, but the father []. They were killed by []. All of those people, those [] killed Poles during the war, because they were allies with the Germans.

WEDEGAERTNER: And you never had any borders or anything like that.

DOZIER: We had a Russian soldier, an officer, who was... When the war ended, and we were in the western small village, there was an officer staying. But it was very short, a couple months. He didn't speak and Polish, but we spoke Russian.

WEDEGAERTNER: So you spoke Polish and Russian. Okay. After you met your husband then, how long was it before you became engaged or whatever?

DOZIER: Well, in '58, we met, and he was there very shortly. Four or five days. Four days. And then he left for Berlin. I didn't fall in love at all. He was not my type. He was tall and skinny. And of course because he was divorced. He never took care of himself. I always like my men who would dress very nice. But when he came to California, after a month, he wrote a letter – no, he wrote a letter from Berlin. But either way, he compared me to the sun or the moon or something. You know. He got very romantic in that first letter. And I had feeling that probably there's something more in that letter. So I didn't give that letter to be read by my friend. So I give to somebody else. I was very smart. So I answered on that letter, and we corresponded for one year. He start sending me money so I will go to school. But I was foolish. Or maybe not foolish. I was maybe too young to think about it. I needed that money. So I had a very good friend of my girlfriend. And those days, there was not enough food in the house. So I would take Elena with me, and we'd go to a restaurant on Sunday, and I would pay for both our dinners. Oh, it was such a fun!

WEDEGAERTNER: Oh, I bet!

DOZIER: So this is where the money went.

WEDEGAERTNER: And you still at this point didn't feel that much towards him, did you?

DOZIER: And then he invited me to Stockton. After six months of corresponding. And I went to American embassy, and they refused to give me a visa. I don't know why.

WEDEGAERTNER: You were just planning to go for a visit?

DOZIER: Just for the visit. For the summer. So when I couldn't, he came in September. And we were together for a month. You see, Bill is very intelligent, and he knew that there is something going on in Warsaw that I'm not learning in English, because I didn't write letters in English. So he taught himself Polish. And when he came to Warsaw, he surprised me. And I liked it. And then, you see, we already could communicate. And of course, I heard so much about Bill from this friend of mine in Warsaw who's a lawyer. He said, "Bill's very intelligent. You're not going to make any mistake. He's very wise man. He's just older, so doesn't matter." And thanks to this old boyfriend of mine, who really felt very sorry. I wouldn't say mean. But he couldn't do anything. And we talk, and we got married. Maybe three weeks being together. We went everywhere. Spent days together. But my mother probably wouldn't – not just she wouldn't permit you. I would never want to show her that I can do it. You see, I was always embarrassed if I would do something. I always thought I could do it, but I had to write to my mother, because it would hurt her tremendously. And I would never hurt her. Never in my life I would do anything.

WEDEGAERTNER: Did she like Bill? Or did she have any reservations about your relationship with him?

DOZIER: She loved my father very much. But he was handsome and young and he was no good toward her. She felt that maybe older men would really be very good to me. She knew that he's not drinking, and that's very important in Poland if men is not drinking. Because men drink in Poland. And besides having go to United States, that it would make better living for myself.

WEDEGAERTNER: She was looking more at the advantages for you than missing you? She would miss you probably terribly when you did go.

DOZIER: But she never thought about herself. She always wanted so we'll become somebody or will have something. She always put herself. I have to tell you one thing. And I'll always tell this, because it's funny on the way. When my sisters were married and my brother was already married and they moved in another house, and just my mother and I. This was, oh, '52 or '53. 1953, I believe. We were very poor. There was no money at all. Well, we had milk, potatoes, bread, but no money to buy matches. Well, she had heat. And it was Easter, and in Poland, before Easter you don't eat meat. You fasted for week. And then Easter, you have to get sausages. Those Polish sausages. Polish kielbasa. So she gave me 50 zloty. It was not much. She said, "Go and get some for us." So I went four kilometers to small town, and I went to the meat market, meat store. And there were sausages hanging and the prices. And the price was like 45 zloty, 37. And there was 15. And, "Oh my gosh, I'll get lots! I have 50, so I'll get a whole kilo!" So I brought that kielbasa home, and my mother didn't say anything and cooked it. And the next day, on

Sunday, we had breakfast. And this is where you eat eggs. And she didn't eat anything. I thought that's something odd. But maybe I was too young to realize and ask why isn't she eat. But I thought, "Well, maybe she left it all for me." Well, I ate that kielbasa, very good. I was very happy. It tasted delicious. But ten years later, I ask her once, "Mamusha, why didn't you had kielbasa?" And she said, "You know why? Because it was made from a horse. That was a horse meat."

WEDEGAERTNER: But it tasted fine to you!

DOZIER: But she knew it and she couldn't eat it.

WEDEGAERTNER: Right. What were some of the things that you missed most about your country, that you knew you'd be leaving?

DOZIER: My parents. My parents mostly. And of course my family. My mother. And I mentioned to you earlier that I was raised by my brother-in-law and my sister. And they had a daughter, whom I took care of during the summer vacation. And I wanted make her a ballerina. So when she was three years old, I took her three times a week to ballet school. And then I signed her to an art school. And she was very little. And she was like my daughter. So I was very attached to Grazyna. Besides my mother, she's the other one who I'm very close to. She's now 25. But when I left, she got sick. And she got yellowgitis. And the doctors found that she is not normal in her heart. Was not able to dance. And she would have been the best ballerina, because she'd dance. When she was three years old, she was dancing in front of TV cameras. And we went to see it, and she danced solo. And my mother, her grandma, my mother said, "No I can't go, because I want to see her on television." She couldn't believe it that her granddaughter was on television. And this was something that was very exciting for Poland. Especially in Warsaw, where there are so many young, available children. And she was picked. It was very bad. But, well, now she's a very intelligent young girl. She's working on her doctor's degree.

WEDEGAERTNER: How do you spell her name?

DOZIER: Oh, Grazyna. It's G-R-A-Z. We have Z with a dot on top. Y-N-A. Grazyna [Z pronounced like a French J]. She's very intelligent. Very, very nice. Especially she works now for Warsaw University. She's has master's degree in biology.

WEDEGAERTNER: Has she or your mother or your sisters and brothers ever come over?

DOZIER: My mother came. I wanted her to come in the '60s. Every time she was trying, they refused her passport. The government. Polish government. Then in 1970, they decided she was 70, so they decided to let her go. She came in January. It was supposed to be for six months. And we were supposed to go to Europe together. And I was thinking Paris and London and go to Polish. But she became very ill, and she was in a hospital here in Stockton for six weeks and died here. So she's buried in Stockton. It was very, very expensive to send her away. And besides, we had no insurance for her, so we had to pay everything. And it was much too much. And my sisters decided it was for the best. They said, "Well, you're over there, so why not?" She shouldn't be here. Maybe one of those days.

WEDEGAERTNER: Did you get to finish out your trip that you wanted?

DOZIER: Mmhmm. And then Grazyna came two years ago. This was her graduation present from university. And she was very happy. Very liked it here. I showed her the whole California. And Oregon. So she was very fortunate.

WEDEGAERTNER: Do you think she'll be back?

DOZIER: She would like to, yes. But you see, she can't pay. We have to pay in dollars, and that's the trouble. The trip is very expensive. Cost about a thousand dollars.

WEDEGAERTNER: Did you have any hesitations about coming to the United States?

DOZIER: You know, I didn't like it. I'd heard so much about it, but I thought, "It's so far away. And why would I go when I really have a good life here?"

WEDEGAERTNER: But you did change your mind.

DOZIER: I did.

WEDEGAERTNER: Were you able to come right back with him, or did you have to wait?

DOZIER: Yeah. I had to wait. There were two reasons. One was, my husband – well, first of all, I had some problems with the government. I had to wait for my passport. And then Bill was having election. Not election. He was running for superintendant. And this was in 1960s. This was before primary. And we decided nobody knew in Stockton he was married. So he felt if I come it would upset his campaign. All his girlfriends wouldn't [talk about him?]. So I came up eight months.

WEDEGAERTNER: So you made the trip by yourself. Did you come directly to San Francisco?

DOZIER: Los Angeles. And then to commute to another plane, and we landed in Catalina Island. And this was our honeymoon really. It was just two days, but it was lovely. And it was in June, and I got burned so quickly. So for a week I was not able to wear anything.

WEDEGAERTNER: When you first came, did you come to this house?

DOZIER: No. We drove on Sunday, and it was awfully hard. In 1960, it was 140 through the valley. And when I was driving, they had no air conditioner in the car. So the windows were open. And I was burning from the sunburn, and went through Los Angeles. So I didn't like that. I'm from a new country, and I thought, "Oh my gosh." And I said, "Bill, here's like Africa. How can people live?" And then we went to stop for dinner, and he ordered a prime rib. They gave prime rib like that big. And rare in the middle. And a baked potato. That would serve my whole family with a slice or two. And I couldn't eat it. Then we came to Stockton very late on Sunday. Very late. It was eleven or twelve at night. He took me into small apartment on top of the garage. And his mother bought some furniture. She was traveling to Europe many time. There were a big bouquet just from the garden, all kind of flowers. And it's very important for European, but the Polish woman, she loves flowers. She doesn't like perfume or stuff. She can buy herself. Everybody was different. But flowers, oh my. Any kind of flowers. You come with flowers. So I thought it was so beautiful. And the apartment was lovely. Because I was living with my brother-in-law

and my sister and that little Grazyna. And my mother was taking care of my older sister baby boy. And we had just one room, one kitchen, and a bathroom. And we were called fortunate because we had hot running water. We could take bath any day we wanted to. And I come here and there is a living room, and there was a bedroom separate. A bathroom, kitchen, oh it was lovely. Well, I knew the woman, this mother decorated. And she knew how. And it was like from the magazine. So I was so happy. I couldn't sleep all night. And then there were presents, because friends or family were expecting, so they already gave. And there were presents all over. And I got the most that I wanted to have, a sewing machine, from Bill. They knew that I love sewing, so he bought me a portable. And I felt like sewing right there! Oh, it was exciting. The next day, and I still don't speak any English. Not a word. So on Monday morning, Bill left to the office. He was already judge. And left me. And I was still looking and everything. And I had somebody walking towards our apartment. Bill's father that I met in Poland a year before. But I couldn't greet him. But he knew, so he sat by the table, and he showed me American language and speech. And he was speaking to me, but I couldn't understand. And then somebody opened the door, and I said in Polish, "Oh, how nice to see you! You're going to help me." And that person looks and is smiling, and said, "Me Jack."

WEDEGAERTNER: Oh no!

DOZIER: Bill has a twin brother.

WEDEGAERTNER: I didn't know they were twins.

DOZIER: Well I knew they were twins. Bill was telling me. But I didn't realize that it's that close resemblance. So they all came to see me. And the mother came to see me. And that evening, we were invited to Bill's sister-in-law's for dinner. And from then, I was going from house to house to dinner. Almost every night. Well, they all wanted to meet me. And my sister-in-law was trying to be friendly with me, but we couldn't communicate, but she had a girlfriend who could speak Russian. And I could speak Russian. But Shirley... Well, Bill had no money when he married. And Shirley, my sister-in-law, already had some money. And very well-established. So they went and took me to the store downtown, and I bought the first bra and paid ten dollars.

[End of Tape]

[TAPE 1, Side B]

[Begin Tape.]

DOZIER: ...two tables. So they took me, and I had lunch. I went with several women. With several American women. Who wanted... Who eat all the time in the afternoon. Even they had small children, but they had babysitters. Because they had money. And they got together and ate lunch and laughed and talk about clothes. And I couldn't fit with them, because I brought my own clothes that my mother

and I sewed. And I thought clothes was not that important to talk about. And so gradually, I was very unhappy.

WEDEGAERTNER: You were unhappy from your standpoint, but did you feel discriminated against at all?

DOZIER: No. I wasn't discriminated against. They took me everywhere. But I knew that that's not me over there. I just felt uncomfortable, because I never paid any attention on clothes. Even I had one dress. I always put makeup. I maybe did something with my hair. Something I did that maybe didn't cost anything. But here, women bought slacks with matching shoes, and they keep changing the clothes. And I thought, knowing that Bill is not making that much money, and besides, he spent all his money on his campaign. In his bank he was on red. So he was paying. I knew I was not able. And I thought it's silly that you just talk about clothes all the time. And I was very unhappy. I didn't meet the right women. And Bill was occupied with himself, and of course he had his son too. He saw his son every day. His son was twelve. He needed that attention. And I was jealous. I wasn't thinking that he was going to see his son. I thought he's seeing his wife. Because she's there always. So it was very uncomfortable for me. I was very unhappy.

WEDEGAERTNER: Did you want to go back?

DOZIER: I almost did. But then I met a woman here. Her name is Luda. She is Jewish Polish. From Poland. She told me she had a hard life because her husband got sick. So she went to work while he stayed home. And she said, "Oh, you just have to do something." So I went to school and I learned English.

WEDEGAERTNER: To night school, or Delta?

DOZIER: Delta. I went to Schneider Vocational first. And then I went to Delta College. Just to learn English. I really should take maybe more courses. But then, you see, I was very unhappy in that apartment. At first, I was very happy. I was the luckiest person when I first came and lived there a couple weeks. But then when I was introduced, I was invited to people's home. And then I have to invite them for dinner. And into my small apartment. I felt it's not right. I wanted to have a house too.

WEDEGAERTNER: This apartment was above your mother-in-law's home?

DOZIER: No. It was nearby. And we quarrel a lot. And I didn't quarrel with Bill that much. When I first came, a week later, his mother and father and his brother went to Poland to meet my family. And they saw from where I was living. So his brother Jack still tells me, after twenty years, he would say, "Now, you wanted [], and how were you living?" I said, "Everybody lived like that!" There was no difference. And maybe I was even luckier, because I had that hot water that some people didn't. So you see, he thought I wanted too much. Came from a poor family, a not-educated, poor family. Wanted to be a queen. []. After two years, we got this house. And then when we moved here, there was no garden. It was brand-new. The house was brand-new. And I was occupied here in that garden, and I went to school. And then I start playing rich. That I was involved very much with the []. And I made my own friends.

WEDEGAERTNER: During that period when you sort of pulled away from your sister-and-law and her friends, you had this one – Luba, that’s her name?

DOZIER: That’s right.

WEDEGAERTNER: Was she your main friend during this time?

DOZIER: Yes. And she’s older. She’s 15, 16 years older than I am. But til this day, we’re like sisters.

WEDEGAERTNER: Did she taking you shopping and things?

DOZIER: Yes. Even she worked. She worked very hard. Every Thursday. Thursday night, in Stockton, downtown, the shops were open. So every Thursday night, we went shopping, and then we stopped and had donut and a cup of coffee. It was a big thrill. I enjoyed it more than going to Stockton Hotel for lunch and see those modeling dresses or something. And she had a hard life. There was no money in her family. But oh, we had fun. We still do. We go sometimes to Lake Tahoe. Or she likes to... Whoever comes from Poland, we take them to Big Trees or Yosemite. Make a picnic. And she’ll go with me any place. And so would I. The difference between us is just religious.

WEDEGAERTNER: Are you Catholic?

DOZIER: I’m Catholic. But you see, she comes and celebrate my Christmas, and I come and celebrate her Hanukkah.

WEDEGAERTNER: That’s wonderful that you had someone like that to relate to during those years.

DOZIER: I’m sure if Luba wouldn’t be here, I wouldn’t be in Stockton. Because I’m very sensitive. I’m maybe... I don’t know why. People should study me. Bill says I shouldn’t be like that. But I felt like I’m not secure. I wasn’t secure. I always felt like somebody wants to attack me or wants to be very nasty to me.

WEDEGAERTNER: Did you have any reason for feeling this? Did the people in Stockton in general, because you were shopping and everything, treat you badly because of the language or anything?

DOZIER: No. No. American people, Stocktonians especially, are very friendly. Too friendly. And I thought that’s odd. Because they are too friendly. If I go to the store, they all smiling, and be so polite. And I thought, “That’s not normal. There is something wrong. They probably are not...” I don’t know why.

WEDEGAERTNER: Did you have a feeling that they were laughing at you for some reason?

DOZIER: No.

WEDEGAERTNER: Oh. You could tell it was just friendliness.

DOZIER: I just thought maybe they shouldn’t do it like that. But I found later on, after I made my friends, after I hear. So I found the Stocktonians are the most friendly, the most wonderful people.

WEDEGAERTNER: Do you and Bill have any children?

DOZIER: No, we don't.

WEDEGAERTNER: Did you and Bill belong to any groups or organizations those first few years you were here?

DOZIER: No. He belonged to [Something Future?], [] Agency, to World Affair Council. Then much later, I joined People to People. But that's with working the []. That's all probably. Well, I was working for the Dameron [] for a while, but then I didn't like it. It's too depressing. So I gave up. And I got hooked on bridge, so I'm a bridge nut.

WEDEGAERTNER: How often do you play bridge?

DOZIER: Now I play much less, but there were times that I would play four times a week.

WEDEGAERTNER: Did you ever play cards in Poland?

DOZIER: Other cards. When I was small. I think every child plays cards. And of course, this friend of mine that I was going with in Poland, he was in a Polish bridge team. But Bill taught me how to play.

WEDEGAERTNER: Have you been active in any Catholic organizations or societies?

DOZIER: No.

WEDEGAERTNER: What parish do you go to?

DOZIER: Well, I belong to St. Bernadette's, but I go to Annunciation. If I go.

WEDEGAERTNER: Would you say religion played a larger part in your own family than it does in yours and Bill's family?

DOZIER: No. In my family, religion, there was no time for it. My mother prayed every night she went to bed. That's all. And she sent me to communion. But she never... She went once in a while.

WEDEGAERTNER: Have you and Bill ever had any foreign students living with you?

DOZIER: No.

WEDEGAERTNER: But you're still active in the People to People?

DOZIER: Mmhm. We don't have a good accommodation for having people outside. We can have two or three nights, sure. We had a few students, like from Japan. They were just passing by.

WEDEGAERTNER: We had a German boy this last spring for four weeks. It was a nice experience. [break]

WEDEGAERTNER: With you and Bill, who would you say makes most of the decisions in your family?

DOZIER: Most? A hundred percent! Of course, all depends what kind of decision. About house, about the kitchen or garden, I have.

WEDEGAERTNER: Sure. Do you ever ask him for his ideas on these things though?

DOZIER: No. I think he has no knowledge about it, so I don't even bother.

WEDEGAERTNER: What about what it comes to making purchases? Large purchases, things like this.

DOZIER: It's him. I have to ask. There is another problem. He's not a buyer. He's not a spender. So I'll ask him once, and he says no. And naturally, because I'm too proud to ask again.

WEDEGAERTNER: He probably does all the bill-writing, things like that.

DOZIER: Oh yes. It helps me. Otherwise I would probably have to spend more time writing.

WEDEGAERTNER: How do you feel about women's liberation, equal rights, and things for women?

DOZIER: I think women should be liberated and should be equal. Why shouldn't they? They are human beings too. As much intelligent as men. But it has a certain level. Like there's a woman, a lawyer woman, who wants to... Joan Amenskov. Now I think that's awful. That's terrible. She's not helping the women's movement at all. What I think, women should get equal pay. I'm not talking about myself. I can't talk about politics. I know about politics or what's going on what Bill tells me. He tells me a lot. And he reads some, he underlines, he makes check, and I read. I don't read the whole story. I read just the main most important things. But the women, some women wanted too many things unfortunately. They wanted really to fit into men's shoes. Some men, some husbands like to. But at the officers – like I say, I don't like women who are not feminine.

WEDEGAERTNER: So you may have some reservations about certain occupations that women try to go into?

DOZIER: Oh, no. No. They can climb the telephone pole. It's alright. And some of them I've seen, and they are very slim, good-looking women who are doing probably as good job as men.

WEDEGAERTNER: Oh, I see what you mean. You still want them to look a little thinner than...

DOZIER: Yes, but... Like I know men and women who really had no idea what they are saying, but in a crowd they would talk so the whole crowd has to listen to them. And they don't have the knowledge even that they think they are. I'm for women's liberation, very much so.

WEDEGAERTNER: What if the situation where the mother and the father were working and there were young children? Do you think it's right for them to both share equally in the responsibilities to take care of the children?

DOZIER: Of course. Of course. If both of them are working. But if woman stays home and she still ask him to do it, I think it's not right. Woman who stays home, even she has lots of work to do. But that's her job. Unfortunate, in Poland, the women's liberation... They say the women are liberated in Poland,

but they aren't. They are doctors there and professors. Women. Lawyers. Very good one. But they go home and they start being housewife. They have nothing to say at home. The men still unfortunate. My sister is educated, and she has a very good job, and they respect her for it, even the men. But not her husband. She comes home, she has to pull her sleeves and start from the beginning. And he's like a king. He comes home, lies down and a wrinkly newspaper, and just the men's things. That's terrible.

WEDEGAERTNER: Have you become an American citizen?

DOZIER: Oh yes. Long time ago. Four years. After four years being here.

WEDEGAERTNER: How do you describe yourself now? Would you say you're Polish or Polish American, or do you feel completely Americanized now?

DOZIER: No, not Americanized. I'm Polish. I'm Polish, but I have American citizenship. But I'm Polish.

WEDEGAERTNER: And you still have ties back there through your relatives, of course. Do you feel like you're in pretty close touch with Poland?

DOZIER: Yes. Uh huh. Besides, I get Polish books, and I write letters. We communicate quite frequent. And not just family and friends too.

WEDEGAERTNER: Have you ever had the opportunity since you've been here to help someone learn Polish?

DOZIER: Yeah. Right now, Barbara is learning very fast. And she's very ingenuous. That month she would spend in Poland, the coldest. But she's doing very well.

WEDEGAERTNER: I don't know Barbara. I just got her name from somewhere.

DOZIER: A lovely girl. Beautiful girl.

WEDEGAERTNER: Will she be there just this spring?

DOZIER: Just three months.

WEDEGAERTNER: Will she be going to school there or working?

DOZIER: No, she'll be working at the university. She's doing some research. And she is working, she will be working with their courts. The Polish courts. And she will be in the oldest university in the world. Krakow is one of the oldest universities.

WEDEGAERTNER: That will be a wonderful experience for her.

DOZIER: And she's speaking words. Polish is very difficult. My husband speaks Japanese, French, Spanish, Polish. He learned Polish, and he even is working on another language, [Katir?], that is spoken in the northern part of Afghanistan, in the Hindu-Kush Mountains. And he believes that is one of the oldest languages. And he's writing, and he's trying to make it to words. Subject he could learn.

WEDEGAERTNER: Does he have another trip scheduled in the near future?

DOZIER: It keeps postponing, postponing. He was supposed to be gone a year ago exactly in September. Then for December he was supposed to go and the Russians invaded. It's very danger for the American to go.

WEDEGAERTNER: Does he go a lot for a month at a time?

DOZIER: Yeah.

WEDEGAERTNER: Do you find this hard when he's gone?

DOZIER: No, because Bill keeps me very busy. So when he's gone, that's my vacation.

WEDEGAERTNER: How about the first time it occurred? Were you more lonely then, the first few times he went?

DOZIER: No. Because I went to Poland, and I was without him. And then he came and joined me. So you see, I was without him. But now it's going to be impossible for us to part. We'll be together most of the time. Bill has eye problems, so I have to be most of the time with him. And Bill is such a helpless. He can't even slice a bread. So he will be starving. And he's not a person who will go a restaurant by himself. So he won't be eating anything. He always loses weight. He says it's the one opportunity he gets. We do more things together now. And Bill keeps me busy. Like I say, he won't even... We were supposed to go, tomorrow's a holiday, and he were supposed to go to Silver Lake. Because there are new trucks that we should go and inspect for next summer. And it's a nine-mile trip almost to Silver Lake. And I've been postponing because I don't really want to go. You see, now we are taking lessons. Golf lessons. So I have to go and practice almost every afternoon with him. And I have to play bridge with him two nights. Mondays and Saturdays. Sometimes we'll go and play on the weekends.

WEDEGAERTNER: You have a busy schedule!

DOZIER: Very busy.

WEDEGAERTNER: And I think I heard you say that you, at this point in your life, are not interested in going out and having any type of a job, are you?

DOZIER: Oh, no. No. This is a big job for me. To take care of him. To be always alert. And even he's older, but gosh, he's 20 years younger than I. I feel so happy. And then I do all my garden work, like I said. Three hours a day. And there was a time not so long ago where we came back from Europe and I had to pull all the weeds and transplant away. I ordered a huge truck that sometimes you see...

WEDEGAERTNER: The big garbage bins?

DOZIER: Yeah. I filled it whole. The whole thing. For a week. And I'm a slow worker.

WEDEGAERTNER: There's no need to be too fast. What are some of the things you see about the United States, or about programs, maybe just in California, that you think are good or helpful to people? Or on the other things, what are some things you don't like about the United States?

DOZIER: I think there are many, many things in Stockton, California that they are helping people doing a great things for people. Like even those []. People are just average housewives. They give great pleasure helping somebody. And Salvation Army or any organization. Or the schooling. My gosh. The level is so low. Even the stuff in the college. Everybody goes to college, but that level is still so low. And what else? I know, like the city or county spends lots of money for all sorts of... Even for the parent without a [father?], they have their own organization. Now the women is not all by herself anymore. Everybody wants to do something. Maybe it's better they're not that sad and not very depressed.

WEDEGAERTNER: Do you think people here live at a terribly fast pace?

DOZIER: Very fast. Too fast. They want to do everything. And they are doing. I don't know how, but they are doing.

WEDEGAERTNER: But nothing usually seems to suffer though. I don't know.

DOZIER: Maybe it's a different kind of grade of people. Because I know in Poland, they are just working and raising children. A woman who has children who is... Girl has fun when she goes to high school. And university. Not at university, because she has to study a lot. But after she gets married and has children, there is no outside activities with her. She goes to [feed her?], oh yes. During the winter months, the evenings are long. She goes. She can't afford to go there. Nothing like that.

WEDEGAERTNER: Have you been able to build up any kind of relationship with Bill's son over the years? Do you have much of a relationship with him?

DOZIER: No, I didn't. You see, I couldn't see... Even in my family, my mother was very lenient. But I'd respect her always. And I saw what Bill's son said or did to his father. I will never forgive him for it. So I said a young boy should have respect towards his father. Even he liked his idea or not. He could think about it, but not say or do things like that. See, I thought Bill's son had no respect towards older people. And why would I have to like him for it? That's unfortunate. And when I came, he was twelve years old. He was in junior high school. And he passed. He was about to start high school. And had D in mathematics. It's unheard of in Poland that with D you pass to another class. You stay one more year in the same class. So that D went after him through high school. And then he had either probably F and D in something else. And he was not a good student. And he had tutors. And he's not dumb. He's intelligent boy. But he was spoiled. He never was spanked, because he was raised by Dr. Spock, that you permits your child to walk on your head. Because otherwise he will get a schizophrenia. I don't know. Some kind like that. And I thought he needed spanking when he was younger, and he needed spanking when he was twelve. And then he got in trouble. And he's 33 years old, and he's without a job. He's without woman. Nobody wants – well, he's very spoiled, so probably no woman is good for him.

WEDEGAERTNER: Do you find this to be the case with a lot of American children? Do you think they're spoiled or disrespectful?

DOZIER: Yeah, they were spoiled. Oh, they were spoiled. Yes. And what I don't like, the American children had no choice of doing. The mother would say, "Alice, would you wash dishes? I'll pay you 50 cents." Isn't this her job to do it? Not every day. But...

WEDEGAERTNER: Right. That's part of her contribution to the family.

DOZIER: This is a must for her. Not to work in a garden like my sister in [Losan?]. He would do it, she will pay him. Doesn't he live there? Doesn't he wants the garden look nice? See, in my family, we did all together. Maybe because there were no money.

WEDEGAERTNER: I was going to say, what about the system of allowances that children have here? Was this something unheard of when you came here?

DOZIER: Yeah. There is no allowance. The mother decided if I could get... Well, I shouldn't be talking about myself, because after the war, there were different times. But like my niece, Grazyna. Well, she never had her pocket spending money. They decided, if she wanted, if she should have it. Of course, she would come and say, "Mom, I would like for gum, to buy candy or something." So they would give her. Or no, they would buy a candy probably. She was not allowed to go to the store by herself. Here, you train your children from five year old. They say, "We train them. We pay them because we want them to learn the value of the money." But I don't think that's right. Because they come to mother and say, "I want this," and the mother goes and buys it. "I want that." They spend here money – well, I'm not talking about people who have money, but they owe so much.

WEDEGAERTNER: What do you think about the welfare system here?

DOZIER: Oh, it's wonderful. It's very good, that welfare system for people who are not working. Women with children and the husband's away and just dumping them. Otherwise they would be starving.

WEDEGAERTNER: Do you think it's abused a lot, the system?

DOZIER: People say that it is, but I don't see that. I don't think so. I don't think so. Because there is still not enough work in the United States. Look at the percentage unemployment, how many people are unemployed. In Poland, it's opposite. There is so much work that there is not enough men to work. You know, it's awfully hard. The young girl gets married, has a baby, and the husband leaves her. And what kind of job can she do? And place the child, it costs over \$100, just the nursery school. And then she makes how much? \$600? And what is the food? So she has to have government support?

WEDEGAERTNER: Are you familiar with the women's center here in town very much?

DOZIER: Like babysitters?

WEDEGAERTNER: No. The group that's called the Women's Center, and it's down in there, between here and downtown some place. Close to downtown area. And they have various programs of interest to

women. And they do have some training programs too for women who are in this situation, that are a real boost to the community.

DOZIER: See, that's very good. This is just happening in America. Just in United States.

WEDEGAERTNER: Right. And it's probably only been here about three years, but they've done...

DOZIER: This is beautiful. I want the men and women that are seeking for some kind of help.

WEDEGAERTNER: I think so. They have a lot of programs. Of course, they have the rape crisis program when they started out. And they have self-defense programs for women. And they have just support groups for women, say mothers or young children, or working women can get together, and just discuss problems. Especially if they're alone and have no one else to relate to. But they're broadening out into lots of different programs to help women.

DOZIER: You see one more thing that's coming. And now woman is going even more occupied, because she adds to her list a fifth or sixth thing to do. You see, in Poland, they don't have things like that. They have cultural things more. Here in Stockton, I'm talking about Stockton, there's not too much cultural thing. It's big, over 100,000 people. That should be full of things. There is a university, private university, college. Beautiful college.

WEDEGAERTNER: Do you go to many of the events there?

DOZIER: Yeah.

WEDEGAERTNER: Do you go to the symphony?

DOZIER: Yeah.

WEDEGAERTNER: I know sometimes I feel like in my own life that I'm so pulled between different organizations and children's activities that I don't partake of the cultural things like I would like to. But an awful lot of nice events go on. [break]

WEDEGAERTNER: Have there been any disappointments in what you have expected here in America, that you found to not be true, or have been different than what you expected things might be?

DOZIER: I wasn't disappointed. I was not disappointed.

WEDEGAERTNER: Looking at your life overall, what would you say has probably been the worst time in your life?

DOZIER: My goodness. Probably the first year being in the United States. The first two years were the most difficult. Of course, I had a very poor childhood. Very poor, very poor. No food. I didn't tell you, but I forgot to mention, and it is very important, because for six years that I was in Siberia, I didn't have cookie or candy. Can you imagine? The first time I came to Poland in '46, I ate candy. And I didn't like it. It was some kind of sticky candy. To this day, I'm not very like sweets. But you know, they were poor, but I always had something. My mother had a hard life, during the war and especially after the war. But I

had a very happy childhood because I didn't know anything. Just the food was the problem. I remember many times I was hungry. Many times.

WEDEGAERTNER: What were some of the things that made it seem like a happy childhood? Just the fact that you were all there together?

DOZIER: Because I could be with my mother. My mother, she was such a wonderful. She had everything there was.

WEDEGAERTNER: That's nice. What would you look at as the best time of your life then?

DOZIER: Best time was when I was just graduated from high school, from that technical school. And I was very popular. I was very pretty. I was very young. And I was Miss Poland. So it was something. And the men adored me.

WEDEGAERTNER: That does sound like a happy time!

DOZIER: I had almost everything. But I think I'm happy all the time. I'm very content. I think I was very lucky to be me. And I don't want to say that I found myself. But for me, I don't require much. I will take whatever it is, and I'm very happy.

WEDEGAERTNER: That's a wonderful attitude.

DOZIER: I'm very slow in things, and I'm emotional but not that emotional. I like most people, and what is every day that I'm healthy. That's the most important thing. And we don't quarrel. We don't have any misunderstandings. So I go to bed with clear conscience, get up with clear conscience.

WEDEGAERTNER: That's something a lot of people don't have.

DOZIER: And Stockton is such nice weather, it's so beautiful, that oh boy, everybody in Stockton should be very happy.

WEDEGAERTNER: Can you see some differences between all of the new immigrants that are coming into Stockton and, say, the time you arrived? Can you see there are similar problems, or different problems?

DOZIER: No. There are different problems maybe because they are coming with their families. Like I've known many Jewish Russians who came. But they came with their whole families. And they came because they had to. Because you see, I didn't have to come. I choosed. Because I didn't have to marry Bill. There was nobody forced to. I would marry Bill even if he would be in Poland. And tell the truth, in the beginning, I would prefer living with Bill in Poland. It would be better for me. But right now, I've been living half of my lifetime here, and I feel like I'm putting – even not having children, but I put roots into my garden. So I'm feeling more American. The new people that come... They are more materialistic people. But maybe because I'm not materialistic. Probably if I would be materialistic, I would have the same mentality what they have. I don't know, but you see, things for me have no value.

WEDEGAERTNER: There are other people like that, but I think that's a rare quality.

DOZIER: Those Russians people, they were lucky that they were escaping Russia. Because they didn't have a good life. Even they were educated people. Life in Russia, it's different than in Poland. It's much different. More difficult. Poland is still country that... You know, it's communist country, but it's still more prestige. Although now, right now, I fear for the [Chivol?]. They were showing on the news yesterday that the Russian army and Polish army maneuvered together. And that's not a good sign, because they're expecting another strike. I talked to my brother-in-law on the telephone a few days ago, and he said now the Polish people are... They demand too many things. They weren't raised in that way. Communism had any money at all. Because the government was so stupid. The plans were that they build factories and build foreign machineries. And they don't have the material to work with. Or the workers. So there was huge factories are standing open. Standing. And no food whatsoever. There's no food. Again, like during the war, no food.

WEDEGAERTNER: Your family is really feeling this now too?

DOZIER: Mmhmm. He was so angry. He never says anything against government on the telephone, because he thinks maybe it's tapped. But this time, I was surprised. I even changed the subject. But I'm glad it's probably not so far away from my country, because he makes me that I feel like I am in Poland. He reads Polish letters. He's interested in things, and we discuss Polish.

WEDEGAERTNER: That's great.

DOZIER: So sometimes even I forget that I am in Stockton.

WEDEGAERTNER: Yeah. I think it's unusual for someone to come over and keep using their native language.

DOZIER: And I try to find more Polish friends here. We don't have many, but like I mentioned to you, this teacher was third generation, and when we first met ten years ago, his Polish was very poor. And now he speaks beautiful, and he's very happy to.

WEDEGAERTNER: Now your friend Luba, do you speak English?

DOZIER: Polish. Yes. And she speaks Jewish to her husband. So sometimes when I walk into their house, they speak Jewish. So I learn Jewish. Well, I know some words that I didn't heard them in Poland. We are trying to bring some Polish people into my house who [] Krakow. And we listen to the music. I have good records. Polish records.

WEDEGAERTNER: During the day you mean?

DOZIER: Or sometimes in the evening.

WEDEGAERTNER: There's no formal organization though, is there? For Polish people?

DOZIER: There is in Sacramento. But those Polish, you see, those were immigrants. I don't call myself as an immigrant. I don't know what I am probably.

WEDEGAERTNER: We'll probably classify you as that, but why is that? What difference do you see?

DOZIER: Well, I think those people came from... Just after the war. And they know Poland before the war. What a great Poland was and so forth. And they have a different mentality. See, I was raised under the communists, and I'm...

[End of Tape]

[TAPE 2 (labeled Esther Corren), Side A]

[Begin Tape]

DOZIER: So people are very intelligent in Poland. They're more intellectualist in Poland than I don't know where. Everybody's an intellectual.

WEDEGAERTNER: Does the fact that you chose to come play a part in your feeling that you're not an immigrant too?

DOZIER: Uh huh. Yeah. So you see, it's hard for me to even... I went to San Francisco. And I met older women. Polish older women who came from villages, and they had no electricity before the war, and they still think that it's no television. And I said, "Well, before the war, there was no television in the United States either. So why would you be..." And they would be looking down on Poland. And you see, I wasn't patriotic in Poland, but I'm very patriotic here. But everybody's like that. Sometimes people tell Polish jokes. And they ask. People that know me. And I said, "No, I'd rather not." I don't want to listen to Polish jokes.

WEDEGAERTNER: Do you have any good friends of any other ethnic groups? Like any good Japanese or Filipino friends or anything like that?

DOZIER: Japanese. I have a neighbor across the street that she taught me English. And she had four children, so I felt like I was raised during the day. And I'm very friendly with Jewish people. There's another American Jewish woman who is a very good friend of mine. And I have one who is half Indian. She's another teacher in Stockton High School. She's very friendly. Quite friendly. I have met my own friends, and I will probably keep to choose their own friends. And I feel much comfortable than before, when I had to be with them. Like maybe I resented because they were Bill's friends. That's why. And I always felt that we had nothing in common. I still sometimes substitute bridge for somebody. And those women are doctors' wives. And it's really boring. Women who have money, or whose husbands have money, they're so empty. And they were not empty because they were young, because most of them supported the husbands. But now they just gave up on any interests. The interest is to spend money.

WEDEGAERTNER: Have you found any exceptions to this stereotype?

DOZIER: Mm-mm.

WEDEGAERTNER: They all seem about the same?

DOZIER: Mmhmm. So I go more seldom to those. To the ones who ask sometimes, but that's a big thing for me to do.

[End of Tape]