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Librowitz, Luba Interview

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Stockton Immigrant Women Oral History Collection

by Sally Miller

Librowitz, Luba (POLISH JEW)

January 12, 1981

Interviewed by Nancy Baldwin

Transcribed by Mark Linden

[TAPE 1, Side A]

[Begin Tape]

LUBA LIBROWITZ: Now that I have light again.

NANCY BALDWIN: Ok.

LIBROWITZ: You didn't have light again.

BALDWIN: But you talked. When you talk it, the light comes on.

LIBROWITZ: Mmmk Mmmk...

BALDWIN: Okay? Umm why don't you start by telling your name and why you came to the United States again?

LIBROWITZ: Ok. My name is Luba Librowitz. I came to the United States of 1949 in October 17th. I came here with my family, husband and a child of twenty months. The child was born in West Germany in a camp but it was not a concentration camp, a camp of refugees.

BALDWIN: What do you know of your family's sir name or anything about your family in Poland?

LIBROWITZ: My family in Poland all have perished I am one and two more cousins that survived the Holocaust. I am Jewish and as you know I didn't have a chance of surviving so our family my mother had four sisters and brother and there was about thirty-five kids that just three of us left.

BALDWIN; Umm, what about before the Holocaust and everything...

LIBROWITZ: Before the Holocaust I was raised in the country until I... I was having a pretty good life because in the country we had wood, we had... well then my father was alive we were treated decently. When my father died everything died with it. We didn't have a home, my mother soon after remarried and I was put to my grandmother and my brother was put to an aunt. So we didn't have... practically I was starved and poor, until the war come... [] I didn't have... A se... How do you survive let's put it that way.

BALDWIN: But umm, what did your father do when your mother...

LIBROWITZ: My father was uh how would I say like a supervisor in a big umm agricultural... some... something like [] family that has lots of land and a grow lots of things. He was supervising, you know the people. When to go to work what to have to do and... and this was. He... He loved it, he was a very good agranalist. We used to call it agronomy.

BALDWIN: Agronomy. Yes the English word. Umm did you live very comfortably?

LIBROWITZ: Umm when he was alive we had the Roman, beautiful Roman kitchen and we had cows and we had chickens. We had everything you know we used to have our own place where to put our potatoes and we used to get all kind of do anything. We had a roof... We didn't have to pay any rent or any heating we had everything to free. And the only thing we had to buy was meat and kerosene. Do you know what kerosene is?

BALDWIN: No.

LIBROWITZ: Kerosene is something...

BALDWIN: Oh! Kerosene mmhmm.

LIBROWITZ: To light because we didn't have any electricity. We didn't have the facilities like your bathroom we didn't know what the bathroom was. It was just plain outhouse.

BALDWIN: So that was a surprise when you came to America.

LIBROWITZ: Well I saw these before. I wasn't... Not this far in the dark.

BALDWIN: Umm what was your maiden name? Before you came...

LIBROWITZ: My maiden name is Beltzberg.

BALDWIN: Beltzberg

LIBROWITZ: I lately found... maybe six weeks ago I found that I have some relatives and they live in Hollywood in Los Angeles.

BALDWIN: Ohh good.

LIBROWITZ: And then I called them they were kinda skeptical. They were afraid because they're very well to do that I want something from them. The first he didn't want to talk to me and then I finally got he called me and he says he will come see me this month and I didn't hear no more from them. So I don't know.

BALDWIN: Ya It's kinda hard after people loose contact with each other.

LIBROWITZ: Well it would be nice to have. You know I see that he is involved with the Holocaust procedure and he's involved with the... Elizabeth Taylor has... [] Holocaust you know and he's Samuel Beltzberg. I know defiantly because I talked to them he's from the same city that my father... my grandfather was born so he must he a cousin of my father's or something like that.

BALDWIN: It would be nice if he got into contact with you. Umm was your name still the same when you came to the United States or did you change it.

LIBROWITZ: I have to... I have to change one word because they could not pronounce [Librowizch.]

BALDWIN: [Librowizch]

LIBROWITZ: They could not pronounce it. So we took out Z and put in the T it's somewhat easier for pronunciation. When we took our citizen papers that's when we changed it.

BALDWIN: Umm are there any traditional first names, middle names, or nicknames in your family?

LIBROWITZ: No.

BALDWIN: No?

LIBROWITZ: We don't have middle names. Very, very seldom we do have middle names.

BALDWIN: Umm is there a naming tradition in your family?

LIBROWITZ: Yes. The naming tradition in a... in a for the Jews is were not allowed to name a baby after someone who is alive. Who don't have Jrs.

BALDWIN: I see you have to name them after someone who has died.

LIBROWITZ: Is died like, also you name by the oldest person you don't want anybody named by a young person because your afraid that your child will not live longer then the person who named.

BALDWIN: Oh so it's sort of a...

LIBROWITZ: It's a tradition.

BALDWIN: Tradition.

LIBROWITZ: Yeah Its... It's a traditional thing which it goes from the [] years back.

BALDWIN: Umm Can you sort out the traditions in your current family according to the branches of the larger family in which they came from? I mean do you still carry on traditions that the family that you came from

LIBROWITZ: Well no. It's impossible. First of all we don't have kosher meat here, we don't have [] you know. If I should keep it you know like separate dishes... umm everything separate, I just could not afford it. The meat what I can get here is one quarter of the price but I should pay to for the more if I go to San Francisco. I don't think that is a family in Stockton maybe one or two that keeps that now I could not afford that. I never started and It's I was never so pious let's put it religious. No I have seen to it that my daughter had study Hebrew she went to a bar mitzvah if you know what that means.

BALDWIN: Yes, yes

LIBROWITZ: And she knows Hebrew. I don't know I never was taught see my parents never taught me. I taught her all the Jewish rituals when she married a non-jew so. []

BALDWIN: Well umm, is there a tradition with the grandfather at all? Or is it just well naming the first son like the grandfather if he has died do...

LIBROWITZ: Yes you should really name your first child after your grandfather. You see my daughter couldn't she didn't want it so. First of all she has her father alive so and after my grandfathers you know there was children so but. You know it's... it's a touchy matter so you kinda don't wanna get involved with things like that no when the girl was born I practically begged my daughter to name it after my mother because there was no name. So she...

BALDWIN: So she did. Oh, hmmm ok. What stories have come down to you about your parents or your grandparents, your ancestors?

LIBROWITZ: Well my parents were... ok I mean they were a very nice couple and everything was well cause I can remember I was four years old and my father died of a heart attack. He was just thirty four so my parents was very nice, now my family, my mother's sisters they was all very poor. And they all lived in very terrible conditions you know like one room there was ten kids one family, one had six kids and one had seven kids we were the least we had two. I had just a brother. My mother didn't believe to have such a big family and not be able to provide for them. So there was misery and there was just hunger, hunger all the time and we used to try and help them but it's so hard to help so many people. So. Still we were very close for holiday like Passover we used to get together like on the high holidays Sukkot we used to get together you know kinda. Do you know anything about Jewish religion?

BALDWIN: I know some of it. I saw fiddler on the roof.

LIBROWITZ: Well...

BALDWIN: I know that's... Its actually funny we have neighbor that live across the street from where I live at home that are a Jewish family.

LIBROWITZ: Sukkot is the holiday that's after Yom Kippur after Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur then it's Sukkot is the, this is the time and this is in the end of September, 1st of October. The time come for da all the harvest we get from our land. So we thank God for it.

BALDWIN: So you bless the...

LIBROWITZ: So we bless the harvest and this is the Sukkot. So we used to go to the families and bring them some from our land.

BALDWIN: So all the family, the whole family gets the...

LIBROWITZ: Well usally my mother's sister and my father's brother used to live together so when we count it all we all got together sometimes it was very nice and sometimes... You know how kids get together it can be [].

BALDWIN: Ohh sure haha. Umm what have you... well let's see. Its kinda hard to answer.

LIBROWITZ: You can ask it.

BALDWIN: Haha no, what have you learned from your relatives about their childhood. Say maybe your grandparents or stories past down in your family. Is there anything you'd like to talk about?

LIBROWITZ: Nothing... Nothing spectacular they always used to say they never believed in education. Like I... I was six years old I could already read and write. My parents could not write or read.

BALDWIN: Now why didn't they believe in education?

LIBROWITZ: Well they could not afford it. You see when I was born there was Poland. When my parents were born there was Russia. See there was no Poland. So they didn't have... So Russia didn't care. So you see.

BALDWIN: So they were raised with the attitude...

LIBROWITZ: THEY, THEY couldn't go to any kind of school. There was school but they wouldn't go to school because there was not compulsory. When I was born, so when I was [] your supposed to go seven years. My parents couldn't wait. When I was five years old they hired a tutor and I started the ABC's very quickly. So at least one of us can write or read. So when I went to first grade we had to false my birth certificate. So I could go to first grade because you have to be seven years old to be able to go to school, to grammar school. It was compulsory. And there was a school with at least four grade in that village we used to live. I went to that school, when I finished that school I went, I want to go Jewish kid because I was going with just a couple of kids. So I couldn't speak any Jewish at all so my mother wants to put me with the Jewish children because there was a catholic school and there was two grammar schools there was grammar school number one and number two and number two was the Jewish kids. Because there used to be...

BALDWIN: So there was a lot of segregation.

LIBROWITZ: There was segregation. There was anti-Semites in... It was best for the boys and the girls to be separate.

BALDWIN: But what did you think of the catholic school when you were there.

LIBROWITZ: Well where I went. Where I was in the village there was catholic school see my father was the supervisor everybody was afraid to touch me or to do anything to me see. And I had a dog. I had this German Shepard and he was to always to be with us, with me and my brother. I could play with everybody but I wouldn't touch anyone and the minute someone

would lift a hand on me that child wouldn't be alive and then what he would just tear him apart.

BALDWIN: Oh my gosh.

LIBROWITZ: He was taught like that. So the kids stayed away. So when I went to go to the Jewish school I had to make an exam. I pass from 4th to go to 6th but they would not let me in because I didn't know anything about Jewish religion. See before the war you have to take religion. Catholics took their religion and the Jewish had to take their religion. So I know the Catholic religion. I didn't know anything about the Jewish religion!

BALDWIN: So you had to stay back a couple years?

LIBROWITZ: No, I didn't stay back anything. My Father hired a tutor in the summer and that lady taught me. He hired a rabbi and []. He spend with me two and a half months through the summer and I learned what...

BALDWIN: What you had missed.

LIBROWITZ: What I missed because see the Catholic and Jews are so similar I didn't really have to sit and listen to the Catholic religion it was so cold and in the winter times they told me to sit in the corner and I used to take notes and later I used to sell them.

BALDWIN: Ohhh haha that's very intelligent. So a lot of kids in the class didn't take notes...

LIBROWITZ: Well... Well I don't know it's, maybe [] Jewish kids learned a little better than the Catholic kids. Something I don't know what it was.

BALDWIN: More discipline?

LIBROWITZ: No I could keep it more, oh how do I say. When I read something even now I keep eighty percent of it. See I can tell you the book eighty percent to [] sometimes more. So I kept it more than them you see. To them it went in and went out and I knew it. So I think that's what.

BALDWIN: Umm is there anybody in your family that was notorious or infamous or just awkward?

LIBROWITZ: I tell you something. You couldn't be in Jewish very much, probably there was very seldom, I mean one in a million well not in a million. One in a thousand, you know.

BALDWIN: You mean in the normal, in the Polish community.

LIBROWITZ: Ya, well you see you have to be special, special something my father was very good in agronomy and he couldn't write, he couldn't read.

BALDWIN: But he was great.

LIBROWITZ: He was the greatest guy, you know and he, people used to, there was a university were we used to live just for the people where they want to learn how to work on land. So he, they used to have to make an examine and if my father put the X that means he passed. He couldn't sign his name. Later I taught him.

BALDWIN: Well good, so he did learn to write eventually.

LIBROWITZ: Well yeah in his name just and I taught my mother.

BALDWIN: Umm how did your parents or grandparents come to meet and marry?

LIBROWITZ: Well I don't know anything about my grandparents, I know about my mother.

BALDWIN: Was it a match making?

LIBROWITZ: No. No, my mother was, this I remember this very clearly. My mother was gone around the [] man or boy whatever it is and one time like I told you my mother's sister and my father's brother was living, see in Europe you didn't have home we have apartments you know with hallways. One door opens the next one opens see and people live there so across from that one sat with my mother's sister and one sat with my mother's brother. So one time on Passover [] we have Passover [] we have [] to run around you know kinda get together so my mother decided to go to her oldest sister. [] and she saw my father there and she was thinking that he is gentile and he says I don't care what he is I have to marry him. So she dropped her first love and she... and she pursued my father.

BALDWIN: Because he was so handsome?

LIBROWITZ: He was very, he was defiantly. I don't have a good enough picture from [] terrible. He was so handsome, he was tall, beautiful stud with all wooden hair and he was a [].

{Excessively Annoying Phone Ring}

BALDWIN: Ok, continue about your father.

LIBROWITZ: Ok, well they fell in love and my fa... this was in 1918. In that time Poland start to form and still we didn't have a country yet so my father was and a they took my father to the war. And he was fighting against the Bolsheviks and he went into prison and he was in Hungry. He was there for maybe twelve months and my mother had a girlfriend that she used to write

to my father and my father had a friend that used to write to my mother and they used to have a little what you called... I don't know how to say it. A box and it was a cute box you know, very cute box and he used to hide all the letters in a [] but you know hide them. I remember when I was maybe ten years old I got a hold of it and having all the letters and I kinda blackmailed them because I know what was in them. So that's how I know how they and they married in 1919 and I was born 1920.

BALDWIN: Now Poland, umm Russia had taken over Poland...

LIBROWITZ: Well Poland was divided in three parts. Germany has a part, Austria has a part and Russia has a part. There wasn't a Poland.

BALDWIN: Until later.

LIBROWITZ: Until nineteen... nineteen nine ehh eighteen started. 1919 its already in till 29.

BALDWIN: And you lived in Russian, the Russian part.

LIBROWITZ: Well when I was born there was Poland. My parents live in the Russian part.

BALDWIN: Now when did you come to America?

LIBROWITZ: I came to America in 1949 in October.

BALDWIN: And you were the first, you parents didn't come. Your mother nobody else just you.

LIBROWITZ: I didn't have no parents.

BALDWIN: And other members of your family?

LIBROWITZ: Umm no, my cousin she went to Israel from Germany. One other cousin went to Canada to Montreal and I came to United States to Stockton, straight to Stockton.

BALDWIN: So you missed the depression and everything over here.

LIBROWITZ: Well I didn't miss no depression cause I have depression before I came here. Lots of it!

BALDWIN: Umm did a conflict or some national event here in America cause in any breaks in ties? Did you keep in touch with people back in the old county?

LIBROWITZ: I have no one there. I keep now, I have that lady who just called me, she is Polish and I got to very, very close friend to her, with her and Henrys was visiting here couple of years ago so I could [] it's the one contact I have with Poland.

BALDWIN: Does your family or do you have reunions with these people? The people that you kept close...

LIBROWITZ: Well sometime I... I don't have any family here, never had friends but we came here about forty-five of us came every one of them left. Some of them live in San Francisco some of them went to New York sometimes we get together, you know it's been a long time because every one of them got very well to do and there is a generation gap let's put it that a rich gap so I don't like to push.

BALDWIN: So how long have you lived in Stockton?

LIBROWITZ: Well I lived in Stockton 31 years.

BALDWIN: So you've been here ever since 19...

LIBROWITZ: Mmmhmm we lived for four years, we lived in an apartment and then we bought this house and that's, that's home.

BALDWIN: Now when did you two get married.

LIBROWITZ: We got married in 1946 the 1st of August and... and we have to leave Poland. I have to escape because it was very bad conditions for Jewish people to be living that period of time. There were [] there was a very [] just a month before in [Keltsa] There was a lots of my friends that got torn apart and killed, torn to pieces so I thought it's time that we should get lost.

BALDWIN: And you decided to come to the United States?

LIBROWITZ: Well we didn't... not so quick. We went to Germany first and we went into Czechoslovakia. I left my husband behind because I had to climb up a mountain. I came into Czechoslovakia and I speak a little Russian so it was very easy for me to get along with the Czechs. Then my Husband joined me on the [] day and we went, through the Russian zone and then over into Austria. We were in Austria maybe for a couple weeks [] passes. There was a sign to a camp to [Balralfenhild] it's in West Germany, very close to [Versegalt] and over there our daughter was born.

BALDWIN: Well how did you two meet?

LIBROWITZ: We met, well we went in the same camp. No we didn't know each other because there was 5,000 people and I was working in the different people and he was working the different people so. When the war was over he was send... eh... He was very, you want to know what he had at [Guistung] so he was running to the train in exchange with someone who was send to Buchenwald [] and a night later I was liberated. So when he come back from

Buchenwald there was just a bunch of bones, so never believe that he's gonna survive of any. So we got out, he came to help and we started dating. That's how it went.

BALDWIN: So umm, you, ok so you came to American and you lived in Stockton and in an apartment for four years and then you moved here. Umm...

LIBROWITZ: Then [] begin the problem.

BALDWIN: Ohh, what kind of problem?

LIBROWITZ: Well the boarder house, we were all very happy. We lived here one year and a month and my husband got a severe heart attack and he had a cardiac arrest. So, he was in the hospital for two weeks, brought him home, he stayed up day and night with him up, had him in that little room. The doctor wouldn't let him walk or anything. In three months he [use the bathroom] very good and he was begging the doctor, he wants to go back to work because we didn't have any way of living and we didn't want to take form no one nothing. So he tried to go back to work and failed. He wound up in the hospital. So I see that distinctly in my brain so I tried to find a job so he can stay home. I found a job in 1956 in San Jose, couldn't speak English at all so I am trying to learn a bit of nursing. So, they would hire me for that kind of a job even a nurses aid even though I knew lots of nursing because I couldn't communicate with the patient. So [] hired me as a house keeper so I was glad, anything so I can earn a living. Not as much a living but to have insurance case that his insurance runs out so they would take away the house or get a mortgage on it, whatever it is. So they hired me, my husband was very unhappy about it that I used to leave him alone and go to work and I tell them it's the best for both of us and I say. So he tried to go back again to work, he tried, he failed again. He tried six times till the doctor put his foot down he said this is it. So I could hardly make ends meat. I used to make 47 dollars every second Friday. I have to pay rent 52 on house payment and I have a child that goes to second grade at that time and I have a car that need little gas. So you can imagine how we lived. So I had some nice things that I brought from Germany I start selling them, practically giving them away for nothing just to keep my house going. So things started to normalize, I got to get a little bit of pay. They start to see that I can work and people start to like me there at work and the start to beg me to go to school. I went to Delta College. I finished to be an accepted house keeper. I had a license, I work as a supervisor. I could see, I went in on the bottom and I went up on the top. In 1975 I got hurt at work and I damaged my back sever and the doctor don't let me work anymore. But I got [] it isn't, you get used to it.

MR. LIBROWITZ: You missed the best part.

LIBROWITZ: What?

MR. LIBROWITZ: [] is waiting in Germany.

LIBROWITZ: Naw that is. She ask questions...

MR. LIBROWITZ: Ohh

BALDWIN: Umm... ok, how about could we get back to Poland and Wakingsworth before the Holocaust and everything. Umm were there any Family recipes that you have now? Or?

LIBROWITZ: We, we never. We never cooked anything from a... My mother was a terrific cook. This was a special thing. She was working as a domestic so she know excellent cooking, I wish I would have learned. I never wanna learn she says I be sorry and I am very sorry because she could make a meal practically from nothing. []

BALDWIN: That's a real art.

LIBROWITZ: That's a real art. I inherit a little bit on me, a little bit of [] not even one tenth because I'm, when it's a function I belong to the temple Israel when it's a function to [Maccarela?] [] so I'm the one who makes it. I supervise and make it.

BALDWIN: Ohh, umm, well what you learned was that pasted down just by word of mouth or did.

LIBROWITZ: Word of mouth. I wouldn't know how to do anything form a recipe. I just do how my mother did, a little of this, a little of that and...

BALDWIN: And if it taste good...

LIBROWITZ: It taste good.

BALDWIN: Umm, let's see... Is there, so you were the first generation, there's no body here besides you for your family at all.

LIBROWITZ: No

BALDWIN: Ok, umm. Do you still have and heirlooms, objects of sentimental or monetary value?

LIBROWITZ: Yes, this is from my mother.

BALDWIN: Now what kind, it that a diamond?

LIBROWITZ: Yes, that's a platinum set and I have a gold watch, happen to be my mother has given to my, to her sister when she went to Brazil. My uncle [Kamey] in 1954 he brought that watch to me and I have it and it's similar to that.

BALDWIN: Ohh that's beautiful. Umm alright.

MR. LIBROWITZ: Hear the [] part. [] should talk to her. She, you taping now?

BALDWIN: It's ok. Would you like me to turn it off? Ok I'll turn it off.

[The recording device is turned off then clicks back on]

BALDWIN: Mmmk, it's a beautiful watch. Umm did you, do you have photo albums, scrap books or anything left from...

LIBROWITZ: I just have one picture of me. When I was about maybe 14 years old and I [] my grandmother because after the war I went to that little town where my grandmother, me and my grandmother used to live together. So I went up to the room and the first thing, I couldn't go by myself because I wouldn't dare. So I went to the Russian [commendantur] or the commander and I asked him if he assign a soldier or someone to go with me. I spoke Russian to him and he assigned a man and he went with me and I got my pillow. I still have it. My mother made it from goose down. You know...

BALDWIN: Goose down mmmhmmm.

LIBROWITZ: And, and I wanna see if there are some pictures so I found a picture of me and a girlfriend and I found a picture of my grandmother, all kinda wrinkled up. It's all I have. There was one thing that [].

BALDWIN: Let's start a new question. When you came to America in 1949 was it hard to adjust?

LIBROWITZ: Very, Very hard. First of all the language was just so difficult because I don't know it was... I am very quick to learn a language, now English was the hardest. Till this day I have problems writing, the writing is killin me and it was very, very hard.

BALDWIN: You speak very well.

LIBROWITZ: Well because, see I worked and I have to communicate to delegate my work to the people. I make it work.

BALDWIN: So what were you first impressions when you had...

LIBROWITZ: Ohh, I was. I am loved it from the first day. I said this is life, I still to this day I bless every day how wonderful it is here, there is so much food. I start cooking and baking and I start baking and I start to get [] I gain sixty pounds.

BALDWIN: Really?

LIBROWITZ: I came as a skeleton, I just went, I went to town.

BALDWIN: Well at least you don't look like it.

LIBROWITZ: Well I was [] I have to watch, you know my weight.

BALWIN: Watch your time?

LIBROWITZ: So I really enjoyed it because you know you could go to super market and pick up whatever you wish. I have never seen this in my life and people should live in so many rooms. This is, who lives. If you have a room like this you very good off in Poland. And you have a bathroom.

BALDWIN: Well that's a luxury. Umm what kinds of this before you came to the United States, what kinds of things did you expect to find or...

LIBROWITZ: Well I'll tell you something I, we heard that the United States is a free country you express what you feel and the country is built on lots of nationalities. We think that were not gunna be so persecuted...

MR. LIBROWITZ: Discriminated

BALDWIN: Discriminated

LIBROWITZ: Mmhmm, discriminated or were not gunna free oppressed you know we gunna... Were gunna be free, you know we can belong or go in day or night and not afraid that somebody gunna say "hey you Jew" well you know.

BALDWIN: Umm what did you think when you got here? Did a lot of those things come true? Or?

LIBROWITZ: Well when I got here I was... I was a little bit [shark] I shouldn't say this no, this is the true. When I came here I saw so many Orientals, I didn't believe I am in the United States because...

BALDWIN: Did you land in San Francisco?

LIBROWITZ: No

BALDWIN: New York?

LIBROWITZ: We landed in Boston and that's a story also with it. I was the first one to get off the ship.

BALDWIN: The very first?

LIBROWITZ: The very first person with my baby in my hand to get off the ship. So I say I wanna make some kind of history. This is my history. The general has his ship, we got off and for me being the first person to get off so we got Pullmen all the way from Boston to Stockton

BALDWIN: Ohh, really?

LIBROWITZ: To Sacramento. Well what's the difference. Pullmen, we had Pullmen. So we get to Pullmen, we come into Boston and they open [] well don't laugh, I didn't have anything. I have maybe 1,000 [Kotacs] so I stuck them all in see. So I didn't think there was any [Kotacs].

BALDWIN: Ohhh...

LIBROWITZ: Cause I didn't have anything to pack! So I put all... That's when I got to Stockton because we come from a camp, what, we didn't have anything. So we came here and we went from Boston to New York by train. We went in on the train. I saw a train, I didn't know a Pullman from the other. Who cared, train is train! We just went in, so the conductor comes over to me says I have to move. So he talks to me, he talks to me, he talks to me.

BALDWIN: In English?

LIBROWITZ: Naturaly! And I said, I just look at him and I said to my husband in Jewish I said "tell him to go away I'm tired" and my child is asleep she is just dead weight, my arm is almost falling off and he's just talking to me so we [] two sisters [] and she says to me in Jewish that he doesn't mean anything bad with it. You are just went into the wrong train. Your just supposed to be in a Pullman [] I say, then I ask her, how far do I have to go from here to New York? She says ohh about two hours. I said can't you tell them I can sit here the two hours and then from New York we will go into the... so he didn't wanna listen so he... he told us... forget it.

BALDWIN: Ohh so he did stay ok with it.

LIBROWITZ: So New York we got on the train we got a man who sells candies you know the people with the [] and that was [] took from us five dollar we have thirty dollar all the way to go to Stockton to eat. Well he took from us five dollar just to show us which one is Poland. So we went in and we and we couldn't order nothing to eat so we come in and you know it's all first class. So we [] we had water. We drink the water, they bring us some more water. So I said don't get [] at people but just keep pouring some more water, so we sit over there he look, you know what do you call them the waiter.

BALDWIN: The person that comes in?

LIBROWITZ: Yeah the waiter you know, you know the call it different on the train.

BALDWIN: Porter

LIBROWITZ: The porter comes and you know menu wants me to order something. I don't know. He pours in water and feel that I have to drink the... So.

BALDWIN: So did you eat, did you not eat the whole...

LIBROWITZ: First day, first day was very poor we didn't, we didn't practically we had a little bit that we took from Germany. We still had a little bit. And that was horrible for my little girl... so I.. I told them I don't want water so he brings in, he kinda got it he got milk you know for her. So that was ok, so finally we found a lady she was from Switzerland. She spoke German so we were in home. So see we was first class everything was very expensive on the second day we didn't have any more money. So one day we ate like kings and the next day we didn't have nothing. []

BALDWIN: So you ate once the whole trip?

LIBROWITZ: Once in the whole trip we ate pretty good and then the next we didn't eat practically... something, somewhat.

BALDWIN: Umm was there anything in the United States that really surprised you when you first got here?

LIBROWITZ: No, it surprised me to see so many cars. Cars, I never seen so many cars, couldn't believe that people lived so nicely even the poor people. At least they have two bedrooms. Who had two bedrooms?

BALDWIN: You all lived in basically one room?

LIBROWITZ: One room. That was it.

BALDWIN: Umm so you settled right away in Sto... When you got to Sacramento how long did it take before you came to Stockton.

LIBROWITZ: But just... no we didn't stay in Sacramento. In Sacramento when I just got up, I got a [] First he got out to the supermarket to get me some bread. I was hungry for bread so but French Bread and a basket of strawberries. Who had the [] to get strawberries here this is not herd of.

BALDWIN: Ohh this is California.

LIBROWITZ: So I missed my train so the people that were waiting in Stockton got worried in the telegraph to Sacramento. There is a couple nobody could find us, finally we showed up and we came to Stockton.

BALDWIN: So there were people waiting for you?

LIBROWITZ: Ohh ya, see the Jewish community sent their people you know wait in Sacramento and that lady had a dinner prepared for us and she took us in there and then she took us to the station to come into Stockton at night. That's when I saw some of the Orientals and colored people yes but I had never seen.

BALDWIN: Stockton is a very integrated city.

LIBROWITZ: Yes I saw lots of orientals people that time, you know this is the first reaction I was thinking is [] America is all white people. I knew there was negros, no I was thinking there is no white. That was the impression I got.

BALDWIN: Umm did you live in a neighborhood mostly with people from your country or...

LIBROWITZ: From here? When we come here we were, we didn't live with people from our country. Our country people lived in the west side and we lived in the north side. We lived just about couple months on the west side and we, the Jewish community let us rent a house so a two bedroom home and I our land lord used to live in the basement so my 20 month child she ran around she was a happy child so he couldn't stand her running on the floor because it used to squeak. So he used to...

[End of Tape]

[Tape 1, Side B]

[Tape Begin]

LIBROWITZ: Make all these kinds of noises you know he used to drink so I have to put her on the table. So I said I'm not gunna live in a place that I have to keep my child you know captive on a table so I start looking for an apartment and it was very hard to get. One day they took me to find an apartment and I went into a house. It was a very nice apartment and the lady wouldn't rent it to me. She says I'm Mexican and she don't rent to Mexicans. See I couldn't understand. I understand Mexican and she said [] and that lady tried to translate. And... and I kinda forget what it is, what she said. So I found another apartment that a Jewish man had he wouldn't rent to us either because he was afraid that we didn't have any money so he could not evict us. So he wants key money so I give him a hundred dollar key money and he rent me the apartment and I promised him that will pay every month his rent. [When in] my husband is from professional painter so he paint to whole apartment and we put everything for our money

because he wouldn't give it to us it was very, very tough to find an apartment. And we made a lovely apartment from the [] and we lived there until we moved out.

BALDWIN: And how long did you live in this apartment?

LIBROWITZ: Four and a half years.

BALDWIN: Four and a half.

LIBROWITZ: Well the reason why we moved is... it was eight blocks to a school. My Daughter start to go to kindergarten I walked with her because we have to go through, if your familiar with Stockton [] so I have to [] El Dorado, Center Street all them blocks you know. Eight blocks up and eight blocks back home. So I used to go to kindergarten stay there. There is no use for me goin back and forth, I..

BALDWIN: Cause it only lasts two or three hours didn't it?

LIBROWITZ: Yeah just three hours so I arranged, I could speak [no I arrange with other mothers] so once a week I went. So I say its time, we have to look for some kind of...

BALDWIN: A place that's closer to the school.

LIBROWITZ: To school and my daughter didn't like it to be you know she didn't see any kinda mother go with children to school. She wants to go by herself.

BALDWIN: Did it get to a point that she did start going by herself?

LIBROWITZ: Ohh yeah. When we moved here when she started to go to first grade she moved to Hoover, (Stockton Elementary School) that why we build a house cause it's very close to her school. [] watch that during high school. I made sure she has clothes nine years of school. So that time she be a teenager she can go to Stag. (Stockton High School)

BALDWIN: Umm how long ago did she graduate? Or...

LIBROWITZ: She graduated in 1966. Stag high school. She was the third student to graduate from 800 something.

BALDWIN: Ohh great and did she go off to college?

LIBROWITZ: Well she had won a scholarship for four years to go to Davis. Love makes terrible things to mothers sometime. So she fell in love with a guy. Well I needed to go to together to Davis and go to Delta. So she went to Delta, she finished delta with honors and she decided she want to go to work.

BALDWIN: And so now she's working here?

LIBROWITZ: So she... No. She worked in a courthouse and then a year later she got married and she moved away. Now she lives in Oregon and she still goes to school.

BALDWIN: What does she want to be?

LIBROWITZ: I don't know. One time she want to be a legal secretary she finished that. Now she wants to be a registered nurse. Once time she wants to be a teacher she needs a few units to be a teacher. She has enough umm units to graduate if she gets it all together. She is married for twelve years. She has a boy eleven and a girl eight. So she has... She has a handful.

BALDWIN: Oh I bet she does.

LIBROWITZ: She still goes to school and works two days a week.

BALDWIN: What made them decide to move to Oregon?

LIBROWITZ: Well he is from... he is a Wyoming boy.

BALDWIN: A Wyoming boy?

LIBROWITZ: He is how do you say cowboy. He's not really a cowboy he's a very nice guy. He is a Wyoming boy he was in the Vietnam war was. He was sent to Korea. He was in Korea when we come back, he decided that he wants to go back to college. My daughter decide that and he went to junior college and he went to college in Laramie finish university of Laramie Wyoming and got his degree in pharmacy and that time he was accepted for his master degree to go and then you have to go to a hospital to get your degree in medicine.

BALDWIN: Internship or was...

LIBROWITZ: Internship and then you get your credits and then you work half a year and I promise to help them because I was working so I could help them out a little. That year I got hurt so I told them this is it. So I went there and I told them [] opening in the pharmacy wing. This thing happen to me so he went passed his exam, got his license, got a job.

BALDWIN: And he had to move to Oregon?

LIBROWITZ: No he was already in Oregon. He was working in that hospital.

BALDWIN: Ohh I see. I see...

LIBROWITZ: So he settled there. He bought a house, a small house and they sell the small house and bought a bigger house. They doin quite well.

BALDWIN: Umm, did... umm, what were the main problems when you came to America?

LIBROWITZ: The main problem was language and we didn't have no one to talk to. People, I notice even now, people need you. People are very kind to you when they need you. When they don't need you, they don't give a damn. Plain English.

BALDWIN: It's true. It's the coldness of Americans.

LIBROWITZ: I don't know what it is. It's not that the American people I talking about the people I work with for the Jewish community. I do a lots of work and they... Two years ago I did a lots of translating [] lots of work [] down here maybe the last three weeks you know like now [] I could hardly move. There is not a soul who come and [] person and I'm the one [] so there is no one will call and say nobody [] something can I do anything for you? Not I need anything. This is from the beginning and it's to the end.

BALDWIN: And when... from back home when you used to live in Poland did...

LIBROWITZ: This didn't... that never happened. No. [] whatever little we had. Something stuck a family the whole community was helping. They even went door to door to collect that this family has something so this one thing what I have noticed but I don't know bout this the American but I know this about the Jewish.

BALDWIN: Umm what languages were spoken at home? Or did you spe...

LIBROWITZ: Well I, my first language was polish and when I was thirteen years old then I start speaking Jewish.

BALDWIN: Hebrew.

LIBROWITZ: No Hebrew, Jewish. English.

BALDWIN: Ohh, okay and you said you knew some Russian?

LIBROWITZ: Well the Russian I learned a little later. And I learned German in school because we have it when we come into fourth grade in grammar school, in third you had to take a second language. This is mandatory.

BALDWIN: Well when you moved here did you raise your daughter to... you said you...

LIBROWITZ: Ohh yes. She went... She went to, she went to Sunday school and she went to a cantor, (Jewish music instructor.) he was a cantor. [] Six years he taught her Hebrew.

BALDWIN: And what about Polish?

LIBROWITZ: She doesn't know Polish. She can't speak Jewish either and I spoke to her Jewish all her life. She understands every word. Well my husband used to discourage it because when she didn't talk good you know kinda like I talk English so he used to laugh [] she didn't talk good enough for him. So he says from now on we in America, you speak English.

BALDWIN: I notice that you speak English to each other too.

LIBROWITZ: Well no when I spoke... speak to him telephone some time I speak to her Jewish she understands.

Mr. LIBROWITZ: Pronouncing

LIBROWITZ: She doesn't know how.

BALDWIN: Umm, when you first start learning English did he know English?

LIBROWITZ: No.

BALDWIN: Now how did you get around? And how did you...

LIBROWITZ: Well after four days here there was a I don't know if she was a sponsor or just a... I'm sure she must have been a sponsor because didn't... she wouldn't let [] There was a lady Mrs. Frankenheimer she was a very how would I say... big wheel in Stockton. She was a very wealthy person you know when President Nixon stopped over she had a tea for his wife so she wasn't one of every day ladies. She was a very famous person. So she went with my husband to the Union she saw that my husband get a [] permission because you have to go through an exam he had a man that spoke German. Can always find someone speaks German and they ask him a few questions and they saw that he is a painter so they pay [] dues starting with 75 dollars and let him be a member of the Union. When you are a member of the Union you start workin. So he worked a few days here and he worked a few days there, you see the boss talked to him, he didn't what he is talking to him. So finally after lots of trouble, you know I, I got pregnant in 51' and was four and a half months ahead and I lost the baby [] the hospital. [] every something that's happened to you something good happens to you. I lost the baby and my husband gained a job. So there was a lady laying in the same room with me and he could speak a few words German and he start talking to my asking what kind of profession []. He says he is a painter he has no work. Why don't you come Monday I give you a job. So he worked till he got sick.

BALDWIN: Umm who... lets see. No I already asked you some of these. Ohh in your fam... Okay when you were back in Poland and you were growing up you lived with several families then in an apartment is that right?

LIBROWITZ: Yeah, now we have all separate apartments.

BALDWIN: They were all separate but they were all one room.

LIBROWITZ: No well

BALDWIN: I mean each separate

LIBROWITZ: No, everyone has a separate door it's like a hallway... It's a hall everybody has his own kitchen. We didn't... One family didn't bother with the next one. [] you somebody could [] room in the kitchen. Someone [] for that but when they used to live in the country we used to have a bigger home and we used to have a kitchen, bigger kitchen than this one and we used to have a little room for our groceries because we never went to buy everything by the pounds we used to buy by hundred kilograms see it's a lots of pounds. So we used to have a room to sto..

BALDWIN: Storage like a pantry.

LIBROWITZ: Like a pantry above our kitchen. We used to have this.

BALDWIN: Now where were you born? In what part of Poland?

LIBROWITZ: I was born in [Natbar] in [Goryits], Warsaw.

BALDWIN: Warsaw?

LIBROWITZ: It's 50 kilometers from Warsaw.

BALDWIN: Umm now what was the climate like there? Was it cold or...

LIBROWITZ: Very cold.

BALDWIN: Now you must be very warm.

LIBROWITZ: Very, very, cold. I went one time to school [] my toes got frost bitten [] when I came home I was completely grey.

BALDWIN: Grey?

LIBROWITZ: Grey. My hair was grey.

BALDWIN: Umm how does the climate affect you now? Here in Stockton? Do you like it?

LIBROWITZ: [] see I

BALDWIN: Or when you first...

LIBROWITZ: First year I couldn't believe you know to me it was just unheard of but as time goes by you don't remember this. You know you don't remember the bad things. I do. I still do remember them very vividly. Specially to go out in that house: in that winter.

BALDWIN: Ohh yes. That'd be terrible. Umm did you ever work at a job in Poland? When you were growing up, what did you do?

LIBROWITZ: Well when I, I was going to grammar school I always was to go to Gymnasium it's like your high school. I couldn't afford it, I didn't have a father and in that time you have to pay [] a month and that meant a lots of money. I have had no one to pay this money for me. I was a very good student [] no scholarships like here. So my mother has decided that I should be a seamstress. Not [] dresses, no shirts, underwear because in Europe you don't buy this stuff. You sow this. So she paid that lady a hundred [zlotys] for a whole year and that lady supposed to teach me, how to sow and in a year I was supposed to know []. After three months I knew how to make a shirt and how to do lots of stuff so I think why should I work for nothing? Because you know [] so I told the lady either you pay me or I don't work. My mother says I was to work a whole year for nothing. Well you have to go and get my mother because I'm not working here for nothing. So she start paying be two [zlotys] a week.

BALDWIN: And how much is that?

LIBROWITZ: That was enough to buy bread and kinda [] well I didn't want bread I wanted something to wear. Like a dress or something you know. So Europe as girl get married, you know she goes and she has had pillow cases made and you have to have comforting or [] made and all that stuff before she gets married. She gets six of this and six of that, you know. Like a dowry is that how you say it? Okay and I was supposed to take it to the girl and the girl always gives you something for it. This was....

BALDWIN: A tradition?

LIBROWITZ: A tradition, you know. So I used to kinda [] on that, you know. The money that she used to give me, I used to kinda save it and buy a new pair of shoes or get a piece material [] to make me a dress because you don't buy a dress. There is no such thing as buying a dress because you have to have it fitted.

BALDWIN: And that cost money.

LIBROWITZ: That was always very expensive. So this was till... When my year was up I already made eight [zlotys] a week. I was doing pretty good.

MR. LIBROWITZ: Two dollars.

BALDWIN: Well back then...

LIBROWITZ: It was lots of money. So I figure I... this is too small of a community to stay there and I didn't like the idea of sewing. I wanna be a registered nurse. So I went to Warsaw. I went to Warsaw and it was very hard to get into that hospital. You have to have so much money to get into the hospital. Finally I worked a little better in lots of places and I made my [] every year. So I went into the hospital in 1938 and I worked over there. I was going to school and I lived there. It was one Jewish hospital in Warsaw. First examine and I went in and they started teaching me. First of all they teach you how to scrub beds and set up [] and we learn reading, you know. Its lots of work, you know. We had to be there six days a week and []. The only thing you have, you have [foot]. So at least I got a little bit. [See I had foot...] [] Every time you graduate first you wear the grey and then you go to another color, you know. It's supposed to last thirty six months

BALDWIN: Three years?

LIBROWITZ: Then you are full registered nurse. Well 1939 you had Hitler come into Poland so that was that. I just had a year and something nursing training. Well I learn quite a lot it really helped me survive.

BALDWIN: Did you think of coming back to that when you came here.

LIBROWITZ: I should have proceeded with it. I was very young, I was 28 when I came here. I know I must have been, my own... I wanna go to learn English, I wanna go so bad [] war. See nobody wanna hire me. Finally one lady she was a neighbor of mine , she was director of nursing at [] hospital. She lived above me and she was the night nurse. So this didn't work out. I work nights and my little girl, I had to hire someone. It just didn't work out at all because I just couldn't believe that someone else is gunna raise my child. Let's put it that way.

BALDWIN: You wanted to be the one to do it.

LIBROWITZ: My husband says I don't have to work. He says he didn't marry a wife so she should go away to work and not be home when he comes home.

BALDWIN: So was that different in the U.S. did the standard of a woman working...

LIBROWITZ: See today this wouldn't happen to me. Today if I have to have... [] What I think now if I was thinking the same when I came. If there was no world war I would have gone directly to school and picked up where I left off. I think I would have made it because it was no different because when I started working in San Jose, one time I couldn't speak and the nurse got very... in the emergency room I was working with her, you know cleaning up and she was so bogged up with lots of trash and she walked away and I set up five trays in a couple minutes and she came over and she says "Luba who did that"? I said I did. She said "do you know how to

do this"? I say yes. [] I shouldn't say hell but that's the way she said it, I'm repeating it. See I couldn't get a chance because I couldn't.

BALDWIN: But did you find it strange that women worked and...

LIBROWITZ: No

BALDWIN: And did that happen more...

LIBROWITZ: I tell you something I found out if you wanna live because Europe's women work too, to help out the husbands. You see, just in [] situation in Europe every one of us has a mother. You know, to get the child to the mother. So you can go, you're not used to get it to a babysitter. Because see I lost a child and this child was everything you cannot imagine what [] in that child. All my [], all my... but I live through and when I saw that child that was the end of the world. I said no one is gunna put a hand on it, this is it, I'm []. See I'm just raising that child. So it's not very good. I think it was, I shouldn't have felt it like that way because I don't feel it now.

BALDWIN: Well at the time it seemed right.

LIBROWITZ: The time was very you know.

BALDWIN: Coming to the United States with just the three of you it must have been...

LIBROWITZ: Well he says I'm sure I'm gunna find a job and whatever we make were gunna have better then we had over there. Then were gunna be millionaires. [] We don't have any [] poor, I mean we have [], the old car and the house is paid. The most important thing is health.

BALDWIN: Excuse me?

LIBROWITZ: Health. This what we don't have too much of.

BALDWIN: When you were growing up did your mother have a lot of influence in deciding things that were not in the household or was it...

LIBROWITZ: Well she had a lots of influence but she could not implement them.

BALDWIN: I see was she outnumbered?

LIBROWITZ: []

BALDWIN: Was she outnumbered by the rest of the family?

LIBROWITZ: Well because we never listened to my mother. My wasn't as disciplined as much as my father. My father doesn't have to say nothing. Just look, this was it. See and she could talk

from now till the next day and we just listened and do whatever we want to. Not that she wasn't a good mother; she was a very good mother.

BALDWIN: Well that happens a lot here too. I know my mom says a lot of things and my brother and I wouldn't really listen to her either until my dad put his foot down.

LIBROWITZ: See and our house was different. Ohh yes, my daughter know when I just look this... this is sufficient. Cause she used to get it, even when she was a child.

BALDWIN: Did you ever disagree with your parents about things?

LIBROWITZ: lots of times. Lots of time I disagree with my father and why he married my mother because my mother was a city girl. She was afraid of animals. She was a afraid to milk a cow. She was afraid of a dog. She didn't like cat. She didn't like nothing. She didn't like nothing of the country. I said thins was cruel to my mother to do a thing like that.

BALDWIN: But for your own self did you disagree like when you wanted to go work or...

LIBROWITZ: Well when my parents alive, you know I didn't have to go to work, I mean, I used to go picking strawberries, you know kid stuff. Make a few cents so I can buy some ice-cream and things like that. I was a child so I didn't have to go to work. We had everything we need.

BALDWIN: [] repeated some of my question and I'm trying to avoid that so here you say, you say you don't really practice any customs or rituals that...

LIBROWITZ: [] we practice... I mean were not []. I don't light the candles Friday night. My husband go to the [schue]. You know what the [schue] is?

BALDWIN: A synagogue?

LIBROWITZ: Yes a synagogue. He goes to the synagogue ever Friday night and when he comes back we go to the temple. I like the temple better because it's more younger people and its more modern. I like it because it's quiet and its younger people you can talk. The synagogue is kinda, like I say it's a little old and generation and its better than people []. So my husband goes Friday night and Saturday. I like to Friday night to the temple. I belong to jewish [] I belong to the Hadassah and I belong to the sisterhood.

BALDWIN: So you are keeping...

LIBROWITZ: It is quite busy.

BALDWIN: Are there any superstitions or things that you carry over here that you had over there?

LIBROWITZ: Superstitions?

BALDWIN: Maybe your custom things, like you mentioned one earlier about naming children.

LIBROWITZ: Ohh yeah, this is not really superstition just is a law.

BALDWIN: Ohh it is.

LIBROWITZ: This is a law, we don't name children after people. This is something that we [] in the Torah.

MR. LIBROWITZ: You don't have choice.

BALDWIN: Right.

LIBROWITZ: Superstition. We don't have any kind of a superstitions, I don't really don't believe. Like they say the cat is something and a [] the same thing.

BALDWIN: When you were growing up did you belong to any groups besides the...

LIBROWITZ: I belong to a Zionist organization. I was forced to belong to it. I didn't want to belong to it but they wouldn't let... the administrator's sons belonged to it and I was forced to belong to it because if I didn't belong to that I would have to walk 14 kilometers every day. So this where they took me... just go. So I belong to that and then later I didn't particularly care for it. There all rich children and they was wearing beautiful clothes and I couldn't compete. If they see you three, four times in the same outfit, you know, sometimes the mothers are very rude. They ask you, how come you always wear the same thing? So if your kinda... it's happened to me and I came home, you know, practically in hysteria. So I feel... I always thought I don't wanna be pushed you know? So I just stayed away.

BALDWIN: So you dropped out...

LIBROWITZ: I dropped out because first of all I couldn't pay the dues when my father was alive. I just didn't have the money.

BALDWIN: Were your friends in Poland mostly of the same religious background...

LIBROWITZ: Usually yes.

BALDWIN: So you didn't really associate with other... Well you went to a Catholic school.

LIBROWITZ: Yeah, well there was no other school. I had to go to that school. I had a lot of polish friends. Like the girl our [] she is []. There was a wall [in half the town]. There was no heart in it. You know what I mean? There was always a anti-Semitic.

BALDWIN: Even though it wasn't necessarily spoken it was...

LIBROWITZ: You always had to... You felt, you know. Like I have [] two friends and the lady come []. This one, she was born 19[] she doesn't know that things. The other one knows a little bit. You see, even she is married now to a Jew. She is very much an anti-Semitic.

BALDWIN: Did your parents object if you...

LIBROWITZ: Very much so. No playing in the country there was no Jewish kids. I had to play with someone. Now when my father died when I moved to the little town, actually I couldn't play with the Jewish kids because I couldn't speak very well and the Jewish kids used to make fun of me. [] with gentile [boys] but I liked to go cause if I went I got beat up.

BALDWIN: By other gentiles?

LIBROWITZ: No, by my uncle.

BALDWIN: Oh your uncle.

LIBROWITZ: So that was not allowed, it was a disgrace.

BALDWIN: Did you ever bring friends into your home []

LIBROWITZ: Just Jewish kids.

BALDWIN: Okay, so, your parents set rules about dating as far as...

LIBROWITZ: Oh yeah. My grandmother, she set the rules. You know she was a very old lady and she wasn't a lady but like hundred year before her. She was just with the times. Even she was old, more with the times than my mother. She says that a Jewish girl should go with Jewish boys. [] right, she believed in that. She says you can never marry them. Why get []? It's just no good. She...

BALDWIN: She was very practical.

LIBROWITZ: She was practical because it's like [] you can marry, you don't have to go over to the religion. In Europe if you want to marry a catholic, you have to go to a convent, you have to convert, you have to go through all the rituals, you have to go to con... what do you call it?

BALDWIN: Confirmation.

LIBROWITZ: Confirmation and then you have to go to confession and I know Catholic religion maybe better than the Jewish. So I know what this [] you know there was maybe one or two that went through that hell and you know then the parents feel like their daughter disowned

and died. That son or daughter don't live anymore. So I didn't feel that it's worth that hassle, you know to kill off my family because of that.

BALDWIN: Was it difficult for your daughter to grow up in Stockton at all?

LIBROWITZ: Well my daughter was a very happy go lucky girl. She never missed a day of school from first grade to finished in high school.

BALDWIN: Really?

LIBROWITZ: Not a day, perfect attendance. She was a very good student. She was a very lovable girl. She was a very popular girl. She was homecoming queen. She was... She did... She was the president of the German club. She did lots and lots of things, you know. She was a popular little girl. She is not little; she is much taller than I am.

BALDWIN: Where there any advantages to growing up in Stockton as opposed to somewhere else in the United States or...

LIBROWITZ: Well I feel a bit [] San Francisco, maybe she would have married a Jewish boy. That's the one thing about [] not his any good. He is a very good husband, a good provider and they have a good life and I still feel the kids don't have the religion, that's what kinda bothers me very much.

BALDWIN: How about his parents?

LIBROWITZ: He has no parents, they died.

BALDWIN: Was it helpful to have sisters... you said you had sisters.

LIBROWITZ: No I have one brother.

BALDWIN: Was it helpful to have a brother when you were growing up? Or?

LIBROWITZ: Yes and no.

BALDWIN: How so?

LIBROWITZ: Well, he was three years younger than I was. He was a sickly baby so my mother used to pay a lots of attention to him. So naturally I start to get jealous so she used to leave me with him and I would take care of him so I used to bit his nose. So when I saw [] I put... we had the German shepherd so I told the German shepherd go in there so he bit his nose.

BALDWIN: Does he still have a nose?

LIBROWITZ: Well...

BALDWIN: So you've been to school in the United States at Delta College. Did you like that?

LIBROWITZ: The only thing I have problem is with writing. I had a teacher, he was from Sacramento. See I was going, I was working and I was used to take these classes after work and first exam and I have to []. I told him I can pass it. I want to do so good. No you have to write and I say well I can't write English very well and he says what can you write? I say I can write polish. He said write polish. I get dictionary I can [] So I write it in polish. He said well how did you like it? It was a tough translation for me. I said would you tell me this only what you write in here Paul. You see I want to catch it. So I told him gimme an A.

BALDWIN: Did you find the system here tougher then or easier than...

LIBROWITZ: Very much because up to then, you know because of the writing. I used to have problems sometimes you know communicating. See, my whole job is communication... you know I have learned how to work with people. I learn how to communicate with people. I lean how to understand them. I learned their need. I learn so much, they give me so much that they didn't know how much they give it to me. One time I was reading a paper about the... you know they had given to me.

BALDWIN: So you feel like coming to the United States you've learned so much from our... from being...

LIBROWITZ: Well I could have left United States in 1957 because I have an aunt in Brazil at that time and she was very well to do and she wanted us to come and live with her. But she didn't believe in me working as a domestic... as a house keeper in a hospital. So I went to San Pablo Brazil and she wanted... that we should settle with her. She says Paula my daughter, we'll go to a privet school and she will learn English and French and Portuguese, that's the language. We can live all together so she would have a family. So before I say I will sell everything, ruin everything. I say I better go and see how things are over there. I'm always skeptical of throwing away...

BALDWIN: What cha got.

LIBROWITZ: Bread, you know to look for butter, in case I have bread. I went there and I found I didn't like one bit, at all. First of all it's an aunt not a mother. She lived in very exclusive neighborhood like 5th avenue New York and she lived on the nineteenth floor. She had a very beautiful suit, like a [] apartment. She has two rooms and a entry hall and a big kitchen and big bathroom. It was luxurious. This... there is nothing can bother... for one person, it's a luxury. Beautiful [] just look everything sad. It was beautiful and I couldn't see all of us living there. [] what I have here. I know I couldn't go to work over there but not allowed for five years. You had to support me. So I didn't think that I would like for her to support me. I found out that

every day for two or three hours there was no light so you could get stuck downstairs. You couldn't go up to the nineteenth floor because nobody can walk nineteen floors. He was so sick. Then I find out that the city was on a very high plateau so...

BALDWIN: High elevation.

LIBROWITZ: Very high elevation in San Pablo. I didn't think this was too good for him so I telegram my husband immediately, please don't sell anything. Wait until I come home. After two weeks I come back, that was a fiasco.

BALDWIN: Well at least it made you more sure about its...

LIBROWITZ: Well it made me realize... It made me see what United State have [], United State is and how much better these people live here then there. There is no middle class. They very rich or they very poor. I want to see people... it wasn't... It was a disgrace that... this time, of century that we find people living in this kind of conditions.

BALDWIN: South America has its...

LIBROWITZ: It was San Pablo 1957. I don't know what's now. Now it's 12 million people in the population.

BALDWIN: Now that they moved the capitol to Brazil, yeah.

LIBROWITZ: To Brazil.

BALDWIN: When you were here going to school... oh yeah. You went to Delta so everybody spoke English. How did you relate to the teachers that you have?

LIBROWITZ: Well I tell you a little bit about me teachers. There is another... This is something what really make me ill. I worked on St. Joseph and I have, you know, everyone [] a boss. So my boss practically hated my guts, was my teacher.

BALDWIN: And why did he hate your guts.

LIBROWITZ: Because I was very lack with the sisters. You see I was already working [] years and then just came in. So when the sisters needed something they always came to me. They knew if they tell me I will break my neck to do it immediately. When the boss man says, she can wait. Doesn't have to do that right away because she told you so. I felt... She signs the check so I have to do what she says. You see there was a con...

BALDWIN: She made you over work then?

LIBROWITZ: She made me... No. It was really the fault of the administrator. Instead to go the chain of command she bypass by boss, she came to me but I was lower than my boss. So I made my boss very angry. Why I do this to her? I say why don't you talk to her? I say I cannot tell her I'm not gonna do it, she really is the boss.

BALDWIN: Why couldn't your boss talk about...

LIBROWITZ: Well she cannot [] the sisters. So she used to, you know, hate me because I was so liked and that used to irritate her.

BALDWIN: Because you were liked?

LIBROWITZ: I was liked.

BALDWIN: Well I could imagine you were liked... because she wasn't...

LIBROWITZ: Well she found that the people I work with, they didn't understand me. That when I tell the girl, you know, I want you to clean up this room and I want you do a super job and do you have any problems? I used to have a mobile phone so you can call my number and I came and I help and I show you how to do it properly because I want you to know I'm [] so I want this room to be clean. I mean squeaky clean. So if you have problems and I tell them what to use and what not to use so later there would be no misunderstandings. No telling me you did not understand me. They used to repeat to me everything I used to tell them. I used to talk like I talk now, very slow and lay it out. This and this and this I []. So when I come I say, I want this to be... so I can check it.

[End of Tape]

[TAPE 2 Side A]

[Tape Begin]

LIBROWITZ: Thinking you know, that the higher up likes me more than her but I could not help and I told her doesn't have to be jealous cause I will never take her place. I have no intention of taking anybody's place. She says she was [] she was my teacher. So I...

BALDWIN: [] respect her.

LIBROWITZ: She taught very good, you know, she didn't teach us []. There was people all around San Joaquin general from [] hospital. From the bay area... She was an excellent teacher. I know some of them I should get A's but she give me B. I was happy with the B.

BALDWIN: [] with that grade.

LIBROWITZ: Well you see I know I deserve more than a B. I used to demonstrate and one time she says to me, she think that you're a person to hire. See she didn't know that I have so much ability to talk, you know.

BALDWIN: Didn't she stand up for you?

LIBROWITZ: I wouldn't dare. Then she would go at work at me.

BALDWIN: Tough situation. So this is how you...

LIBROWITZ: See this, this what really make me mad. One time, you know, she embarrassed me I don't know how to talk properly to girls that's why my group doesn't produce well. So one time we had a meeting after she got all finished then I started to demonstrate something for them and I ask them if they all understood what I had just spoken in English and if there is anything that they want me to tell them. They say that they understood perfectly well. There is no...

BALDWIN: No problems.

LIBROWITZ: No problems with understanding. She was kinda angry because I pulled this on her and there was an administrator sitting there.

BALDWIN: Well as long as you kept your job I guess it was working.

LIBROWITZ: Well I worked there for nineteen years.

BALDWIN: What's she doing now? Is she still working there?

LIBROWITZ: Oh she got fired.

BALDWIN: She was fired.

LIBROWITZ: Yes. She was fired and she want to hire me to be her assistant. She says that she didn't knew. She knew all the time that I was very bright, that I really have, how do you all used to say...

BALDWIN: Intuition?

LIBROWITZ: No. She knew..

MR. LIBROWITZ: IQ?

LIBROWITZ: No. She knew that I can really manage. I can manipulate. Manipulate she says this is something nobody can do it like I. I could see the day immediately when [] come into work.

BALDWIN: Well did you become the assistant then?

LIBROWITZ: Not hers. No.

BALDWIN: Not hers, Somebody else's?

LIBROWITZ: I didn't want to be her assistant. She wanted me but I did not. I just wasn't []. I don't want to be one step away. I want to be two steps away from her. She went fired because of me. It was a terrible situation. She used to always... Saturday and Sunday I was all alone so I was the boss. So she used to schedule the six, seven girls on me that was just too much. I was such a big hospital. I used to help this and help that and help here and make this work and make that work. You know, everything I wanted to click so my blood pressure used to just so much so [] I was in a frenzy. Just in a frenzy. My blood pressure went up 220/102 to my nurse... one of the nurses... One time I'm red the next time I'm white and the next time she says I'm walking here and then I'm on this wall, on that wall. She says what did you drink , I say water. So I knew my blood pressure was high because I knew wasn't functioning [] afternoon. She says you have to lay down. I lay down for a half hour, I get up and I got through the day. I have to write a report what I did the whole day. So I didn't write nothing. I got ill. I couldn't write [] this and this. That's what I write []. [] Couldn't work I was very sick. My husband took me to the doctor. The doctor says [] such a high blood pressure. [] just can. So I don't wanna, you know, she's my teacher and she's my boss. See I have two things. I can't get rid of them. At least for the night I couldn't get rid of them. So my husband went to the doctor and told him that []. []. Later I had a boss, a man, he was very, very []. To this day [] invites me to charismas parties and things... []. Just a [] person.

BALDWIN: Why didn't you take over the job that she didn't have?

LIBROWITZ: I didn't want to.

BALDWIN: You just... too much time.

LIBROWITZ: Too much, yeah. It's too much of a headache. I had it once for two months. It's better []. [] work as on the same level then you go up a step higher and then you go up again higher. You see you have that [] and I don't know what. It's... I will be always working. Day and night I would be working because this breaks down and they call me.

BALDWIN: So it would just be more time for you and...

LIBROWITZ: I need to be home because my husband was very ill and he needs... Like I said he doesn't drive car for years so I have to take him to the doctor. [] I don't know what to do first, I have to do some cleaning, some yard work or something you know. I feel, you know, work isn't everything. I need a little play too.

BALDWIN: Some time to yourself.

LIBROWITZ: I had a taste of it for two months. So I used to be called Sunday morning, Sunday night, Saturdays... No. Money doesn't pay [].

BALDWIN: Did school help you understand life in the United States?

LIBROWITZ: Well I didn't learn about this thing. I learned about people, you know, how to work with people. I learn a lot, how to live with people, how to understand people, how to work with them, how it feels, you know, [] colored people. Mexican American people, I could see the difference between []. One time I had a Korean, could see the difference, you know, between them. I really didn't learn much more than my trade. See [] to take over a hotel and be a housekeeper. I can set up schedules and all kind of working procedures, you know. In everything in []. That's what I... But that wasn't my cup of tea. I always wanted to be a nurse.

BALDWIN: Would you say you learned more about the American social system by going to school and finding a job and...

LIBROWITZ: The social system... I like history.

BALDWIN: Excuse me?

LIBROWITZ: History. See when I went to school I am over here five years. I went to school to earn the citizenship. So I went to [] school and I talked less than my teachers tell me not to come to school. [] so I was leaving and like I say I got... I have a terrific memory. That's the one thing. So I used to memorize... what.... Oh I didn't know what's mean. Like we had one time a discussion on the tea party. See I didn't know... a tea party also mean you have tea, you have a party. It was the Boston tea party. Represn... Taxation without representation. See I told them the whole the whole and I couldn't speak English. So he says if you know all that stuff, you don't need to come in []. I have my problem to [] papers. [] Warren. He used to be a chief justice, you should know that, of the United States. He was our governor. See that time President Nixon was just... He was a congressman Nixon from.

BALDWIN: []

LIBROWITZ: See how many here?

BALDWIN: That's great. You should be a history teacher.

LIBROWITZ: I know history quite a bit.

BALDWIN: Can you think of any differences between your life when you came to the United States and your childhood.

LIBROWITZ: Now?

BALDWIN: The way she lives now compared to the way you...

LIBROWITZ: Oh it's like day and night. It's like day and night. Now I have a very relaxed life because we both on disability and I get a little pension from [] and so does my husband. So our income in meager, I mean we have enough to live. I wouldn't say lavishly but comfortable. [] buy me something. Everything in the house is paid. We have no kinda bill from []. We wanna do something or go someplace. We just go and that's it. But when we came here we came with ten dollars so life was kinda hectic in the beginning and when you got sick people used and put us in [] I used to cry day and night. I'm just thirty five years old. I'm not used to go on charity. I don't want charity. Why don't you find me a job, any kinda job. I just didn't wanna go in somebody's house because I need to have insurance. I say, find me a job in a hospital, in a factory. Any place there is hospital insurance that I can join. Of course if not... it's gonna be...

BALDWIN: If anything should happen, yeah it wouldn't be... it would pay for it.

LIBROWITZ: See and what happened after [] lost everything. So this [] when he got sick... full time school. [] St. Joseph's hospital. I had a...

BALDWIN: []

LIBROWITZ: No, just to have the hospital insurance paid for.

BALDWIN: [] Do you... Does your daughter have anyone living in the household besides her husband and her children?

LIBROWITZ: No. No.

BALDWIN: Like aunts or cousins or anything?

LIBROWITZ: No. No.

BALDWIN: Do you think that your daughter leads... teaches her children to...

LIBROWITZ: Well I tell you something. I tell you something. I see them very little, maybe once a year. [] because it is very hard for me to take him and drive to doctor and my kids always try to come at least once []. Their life is more western. That's what I understand. [] caught a elk back []. To me it's [] it's terrible. It's atrocious, you know, to kill animal. Why kill them, what do you want from them? See, it's a different.

BALDWIN: Different values.

LIBROWITZ: It's a whole I don't know, a whole different life. I don't live this kind of life. I can't.

BALDWIN: So you don't think that she's raising her children...

LIBROWITZ: No.

BALDWIN: Do you... Okay. How did the younger people born... the your daughter born in the United States. She was born in Germany but she was raised in...

LIBROWITZ: She was just one month.

BALDWIN: How does she feel about... Do you know how she feels about other ethnic groups in the United States?

LIBROWITZ: Well Paula is very... she was going around with a Spanish boy but I objected. Not because he is Spanish because I know if she is going to marry him she will have to be Catholic because he was very much catholic and that's what I didn't want her... Like his mother came over. She said they can get married by the reverend and get married in a church. I say not when I'm alive. So... It's not because he's Mexican. I have nothing about I'm the least one person should discriminate because I was myself discriminated. I just couldn't see. See if they had been Jewish the kids [] bar mitzvah. I told Paula [].

BALDWIN: So there [] if they're not Christian? Jewish?

LIBROWITZ: They're Jewish because the mother is Jewish. There is no Jewish community where she lives, nowhere to []. Paula was brought up [] Jewish. She went eleven years to Sunday school. She went six years to Hebrew school. []

BALDWIN: I'm sure it will come back []

LIBROWITZ: Oh sure.

BALDWIN: What is life here like.... Your friends that are from Holland...

LIBROWITZ: I have friends in San Francisco. []. See I would have [] but their can... their husbands was much younger then my husband and they are...

Mr. LIBROWITZ: []

LIBROWITZ: and there life is much more comfortable than mine because they come over here, there husband was [] and my husband was [].

BALDWIN: Do you still feel like you have ties in []...

LIBROWITZ: No. I have no desire.

BALDWIN: Do you feel that your still effected by what happened...

LIBROWITZ: Well I don't like the things that happen now because I still... I was born there. I don't have very good memories there either. You know, it's a very mixed emotion about these things because now there is maybe six thousand Jewish is whole Poland it used to be three million. So... and these six thousand Jewish that live there don't even know the other Jews that live there. The kids don't know anything. []

BALDWIN: What you first got to the United States did you think of yourself as a Polish person or as a... Well do you think of yourself now as an American?

LIBROWITZ: The minute I stepped on the [] in Sacramento. I always love America even I never dreamed to come to America. I always fantasized about, you know, little girl's fantasize, you know, about boys. I always fantasized to come to America. Sometimes I pinch myself and think do I really live in America.

BALDWIN: So your attitudes have they changed? About Poland?

LIBROWITZ: Well like I said I don't despise Poland, don't get me wrong it was my birth place. I won't go there because it's bad memories for me to go there. My best friend is Polish. I love her just like my daughter. She is a very lovely girl. I just... and her husband is spirited and I like this very much. I don't despise Polish people I just don't want to go the country that did me so wrong.

BALDWIN: Did people from Poland tend to live in the same neighborhood as people in... Did they usually tent to stick together or did a few break up?

LIBROWITZ: In small towns Jewish people used to have there was no ghettos. There used to be whole streets. Polls used to live to very little, you know, they used to be Jewish [] halls. The polish used to live you could find a doctor or a male nurse, used to call it a [], you know, an attorney. [] Maybe one here, one there, now his life was in jeopardy all the time. See when my father died, when my mother remarried I couldn't get along with my step father. I could not see my mother have another man so... cause I so idolized my father so I [] my father's place. It wasn't his fault. []. I moved... I have a very good friend [] and his parents had a littler problem in the [] there was no Jewish family living on the whole street and the people []. My grandmother was skeptical, afraid that they gunna kill us. I said Grandma if they [] us they gunna protect us and they really protect us.

BALDWIN: Were there ever anything about so you basically [] this neighborhood.

LIBROWITZ: There is no Jewish people. [] this neighbor for thirty... twenty five years were the best neighbors [] I need something or [] year a ago I couple of [] attack my husband in the night and knocked him out cold so the neighbors... everybody came and took him []

emergency was very concerned and everything. I have no [] about this. You know, there are good neighbors and bad neighbors... I don't need go around with them or you know spend time with them...

BALDWIN: But if you need them...

LIBROWITZ: If I need them... If I need something or something I [] often [].

BALDWIN: So what kind of recreational activities do you enjoy now?

LIBROWITZ: Oh I love Lake Tahoe.

BALDWIN: Lake Tahoe. Do you like to gamble?

LIBROWITZ: [] sometimes they [] but when we want to spend thing we go for a day. We go this Sunday on a trip with [Hadrassa] [] Jewish [] so we go. This is enjoyment and...

BALDWIN: And you've been fairly active in your synagogue.

LIBROWITZ: Oh, I am at the Temple []. I do what [] you know, having a collection for money for the Jewish [] so I [] and I cook. The rituals... Easter, you know, we have Passover... say that [] the first night.

BALDWIN: So you []

LIBROWITZ: Well it's not the whole night. It's starts with the [] and it's a big affair, you have so many dishes to prepare and what kind of dishes. [] what kind of, you know, the bitters and the sweets and all that stuff. So alright this is the fifth year I gonna be going it. Cause when I worked []. So now I have a lots of help... people help me cause [] so I supervise. [] Everything is cooked the same day so nothing gets cooked and frozen and reheated, no. No way.

BALDWIN: []. You didn't remarry in Poland.

LIBROWITZ: Everything... The Holocaust I was liberated from the camp. I was quite sick. I weight just 63 pounds when I was liberated.

BALDWIN: You lost 63 pounds?

LIBROWITZ: I weighed 63 pounds.

BALDWIN: And you gained 63 pounds when you came over here.

LIBROWITZ: Well I gained a little bit in Poland and a later in German. When I came here... When I started working I weighed a hundred and seven pounds so []. I couldn't move so I lost quick [].

BALDWIN: Excuse me?

LIBROWITZ: I didn't diet.

BALDWIN: You just worked

LIBROWITZ: I just worked.

BALDWIN: How did you husband feel... How did he feel about you working?

LIBROWITZ: He didn't like it. [] he said it was against his principle.

BALDWIN: I see, most of these questions have already been answered. Let me go through really fast. How did you husband's job compete with things that... jobs in Poland [] in Stockton.

LIBROWITZ: His job here was a very good job because it paid real good and it was a steady job and he had lots of private work. You didn't have his hands. You could have six hand and that how many more people, you know, he does all because he is here to [] some remodeling [].

BALDWIN: After you were married how did the two of you make decisions?

LIBROWITZ: Usually I'm the aggressor as you can see. And she knows everything.

BALDWIN: How did you resolve your differences?

LIBROWITZ: We both talk it out and see which one is, you know, kinda 50/50. See which one is better.

BALDWIN: So you kinda did compromise...

LIBROWITZ: We always... when to buy something and then I have to be the aggressor. The first car I bought, he went to work and I bought a car. Cause I felt... He says he doesn't need a car, we didn't need a car. He says car is expensive and we don't know what's gonna be. I say... He had a man he used to take him to work for a dollar... What do I need a car for? Well I say that man is not gonna always be around. See my husband couldn't see from here till there. He saw from here to here. I saw from here to there. You see?

BALDWIN: So he was thinking of the immediate future and you were thinking long range.

LIBROWITZ: I was thinking, you know, things happen to people and you're not a young man. What do you do if you fire him? How is he gonna work more... So I bought a car and there was [] go all the way to New York and he didn't... we had saved up a little bit and I paid him that 1950 [pemunsa] I bought it for six hundred dollars. It was brand new. They had it just a few months

so I took the [pemunt] and I couldn't learn to drive cause it was a stick shift. I could not reach it and my leg couldn't reach the...

BALDWIN: The clutch?

LIBROWITZ: The clutch and I had the most horriblist time with it so I sold it and I made money on it and I bought a 1951 Chevrolet automatic. So for weeks I have to drive us places. Never drove a car, never knew what a car is. My neighbor was a bus driver. He was my teacher.

BALDWIN: Fantastic.

LIBROWITZ: I went for my permit... I didn't... I couldn't read and I couldn't write. So the teach.... The examiner was... he spoke German so he ask me in German questions so I answer him in German.

BALDWIN: Wait how could you get a permit if you couldn't reads the street signs?

LIBROWITZ: Oh yeah I can read the street signs.

BALDWIN: Oh you could?

LIBROWITZ: I didn't know what it meant. I know all the signs. See and I couldn't understand... [] I couldn't understand what [] because it is multiple choices.

BALDWIN: So how did the two of you divide responsibilities?

LIBROWITZ: Well usually it was all my husband's ability. He know the... He walked the whole [] and the check and give me a dollar, two dollars for spending. You know, he always had a few dollars with him and I... I got some to buy groceries for the week and back then we didn't have to pay any kind of []. Saved everything because very economical with our living, we bought chicken because chicken to me was better than steak because... there was a hungry point and I used to make all kinda dishes out of the chicken but to this day you can check... You see chicken... I have chicken all kinda styles.

BALDWIN: Great. Different things you can do with...

LIBROWITZ: You just have to know how. You will.

BALDWIN: Who made most of the decisions regarding your daughter? Or did she make them on her own?

LIBROWITZ: She made them on her own.

BALDWIN: But as she was growing up...

LIBROWITZ: Well we had a very close relationship. Not mother and daughter but two girlfriends. My daughter was very close to me. I told her from the begging. I said Paula I don't care how bad you do in school or what you do in school I wanna...

[End tape]

LIBROWITZ: [] from the first grade down. Started right away, see I don't want you to tell me things but they are not []. She used to have girlfriends I didn't like [] girlfriend are too [] and shoplifting and I want them [] garage party kids. I say you can have the garage [] dollar store and she is gunna shoplift things. She [] girlfriend and I don't want to see her here no more and I want you to stay from her. That was it.

BALDWIN: She really respected you...

LIBROWITZ: I say Paula, I say this is very wrong. I say... She says, her mother doesn't mind. I say she is not my child. You are my child and we [] and we have to show that we don't steal because we can be deported. So I have to give her some kind of a scare there, some kind of a hitch. So she...

BALDWIN: She obeyed you.

LIBROWITZ: She did obey me. She was very happy lady. That girl wound up to be in a reform school and Paula turned out to be going a different way. She was cheerleader, she participate everything there is not a thing she []. She played in the pep band.

BALDWIN: Great. Do you feel like your children got [] from your mothers? Do you feel like your child rearing... the way you raised your child was different?

LIBROWITZ: Yes, much different.

BALDWIN: How you were more disciplined or...

LIBROWITZ: Well I have disciplined Paula to a degree. I have given her free choice. I mean, I told her schooling should come first. She should see how tough it is for me. That I don't have any schooling. That I don't have any trade and I have to work such a hard work. [] you have all opportunity, everything. I say, I do everything that you have everything.

BALDWIN: And she took advantage of it.

LIBROWITZ: I didn't have to stay so Paula do homework. Never. She did too much homework. She never liked television. Sometimes when [] maybe you a little younger so you don't...

BALDWIN: Oh I underst... I admire...

LIBROWITZ: You must have had a good []. She used to have [] music [] very slow. Close the door... She like music... Some people like to do their homework with music so...

BALDWIN: It didn't hurt did it? What she very demanding on you at all?

LIBROWITZ: Well when my husband got sick she couldn't get into her clothes the way she used to get cause I used to buy them nice... I didn't have any. She had the nicest coat. I remember I used to make 75 dollars a week and I went out and bought her a coat for 60 dollars. That was a lots of money. That was one coat. She had that thing for five years. It was a coat. She was dressed beautiful. She loved that. For her dress meant everything. See I never had any good clothes to wear. I know what it meant to her.

BALDWIN: In other ways was she demanding?

LIBROWITZ: No. It's just clothes. [] she [] she says girls don't [] I was too tiered. My husband was not allowed. We didn't have a [] or a []. So she used to sit there [] come over.

BALDWIN: Did you...

LIBROWITZ: Very good relationship. Sometime I scream, you know. She never lie to me. This is the only I must say. She was excellent, she keep []. Her things were always put away. She wouldn't make the bed her father make the bed that day. She went to school... in her drawers was a necklace. [] everything at this place. Till this day...

BALDWIN: What were your greatest satisfactions as a mother?

LIBROWITZ: Well I have a very beautiful daughter. I wouldn't say she is very much devoted because in a way she let me down one time when her father had to do surgery. He had a brain bypass four years ago and she didn't come. She should have. My husband had surgery too []. Look at it both ways so I felt that she let down her father that time.

BALDWIN: So you were saying that your greatest satisfaction was your daughter.

LIBROWITZ: I lost two pregnancies here. I had to go to the doctor and I have damaged my kidneys in the concentration camps , sleeping on the cement floors. My kidneys didn't work well when I got pregnant. They used to produce lots of poison and I [] so the poison used to go to [] of the baby. See I used to develop [toxemia]. It's a medical term I don't know it you know it. So I used to get bloated the water has to go somewhere so I goes all away. If I would have been as smart as I am now I could have collected lots of money from my doctor. He almost killed me. I was five days in a coma.

BALDWIN: What were your greatest concerns as a mother?

LIBROWITZ: My greatest thing, I want her to marry a Jewish boy. Not I have anything against []. I think if her would have married a Jewish boy, maybe he would not be as good to her as he is. You know, I think [].

BALDWIN: What were you especially proud of in your home.

LIBROWITZ: Well I don't know. I think I did pretty good because of... Thriftiness I don't know. being frugal. []. Seeing a head. I always see things a head. I always, you know... I wish my husband would have listened to me when [] hospital. [] he wouldn't let me sign the papers. That's the one thing []. So they wanted to less money [].

BALDWIN: What did... What age did you daughter become really independent?

LIBROWITZ: I tell you something... She became an independent when she was 11th grade or 10th grade and she come from [] it was the graduating from the... watch the high school and she had to go to conformation. So she had to go to half here and half there. It was tragedy for her. Well because she had to go to conformation and she wanna go here too. So it kinda...

BALDWIN: []

LIBROWITZ: It was torn apart. She went to both. Since that she [] She didn't like, you know I used to arrange for Jewish boys to come and she didn't like that stuff. She didn't like one bit. Then there was another boy, you know, that we know the family really good. He took her out on a date and he tried to give her a []. She call me and she says mother, please come and pick me up and don't arrange for me no body and I went and picked her up. That was it. I wish she would live close by. It's the only child I have.

BALDWIN: Maybe someday they'll move back to California.

LIBROWITZ: He cannot work here in California. He wants to work in California he has to go to school [] licensing. [] have to have licensing. California is the hardest state to pass the license.

BALDWIN: Would your interests... if you came to America as soon as a single person would you have different interests.

LIBROWITZ: Oh yes, much different. I wouldn't have been a house keeper. I would have gone to school immediately. I would have continued my education. []. Because of the family I could not do it.

BALDWIN: Now, how often do you get back together with your daughter and her husband...

LIBROWITZ: Just once a year.

BALDWIN: Just Christmas?

LIBROWITZ: Well this Christmas he didn't come. Usually they come for Hanukkah. I don't celebrate Christmas.

BALDWIN: Right, right. They celebrate Christmas.

LIBROWITZ: They do and I celebrate Hanukkah and this year they didn't come. 79 they were here so I had a very nice party with open house. I invite my neighbors and we make potato pancakes and light Hanukkah candles. I give some presents for the kids. This year I sent them some money to buy whatever they wish. Celebrate Hanukkah the 6th of December so I sent them money to buy their...

BALDWIN: Thinking of your family overall how did it compare with other families from your country or Polish immigrant families in Stockton.

LIBROWITZ: Here in Stockton? Practically the same... It's just more successful I don't know. I don't know how to bring this up they just went into business and... you know you can push a person so far and then...

BALDWIN: You can't push them anymore.

LIBROWITZ: Anymore. That's to say you can put the horse to the water but they have to drink it.

BALDWIN: Taking everything into consideration would you say that you are happy... pretty happy or...

LIBROWITZ: I am very happy. Today is not my... on of the best days. Sometime you know I am 60 years old so I go through a lot of periods in my life. Not because of domestic but it's just I get a depressed feeling and my back hurts me a lot. I can't do... I mean I would love to go out in the yard but I can't go out and it bugs me to see things that need to be done and it isn't done. I don't know its... Sometimes when I start cooking my husband has to take me the pots and the pans out and I can't do everything standing up. I can't bend over... that's what happened. Three weeks ago I bend down and I just could not get up. I had to use [].

BALDWIN: I know I have a really bad back too. I go to the chiropractor and that makes all the difference.

LIBROWITZ: I am not allowed to go... I am on disability. You say you have back problem where did you get that?

BALDWIN: I was born with mine.

LIBROWITZ: See I lift up the chair and my legs slipped under me and it's all my boss...

BALDWIN: And this happened five years ago?

LIBROWITZ: This happened six years ago. It will be six years ago on the []

BALDWIN: But are you happier that your home now rather than working?

LIBROWITZ: Well the last eighteen months I had a excellent boss. He really made me feel useful. I had fourteen bosses. Every person has a different personality. By the time you get to know their personality and get used to him, he is gone. I don't know, he does not get along with the administrative or lots of people complained about his attitude. I am not the one that [] she picked on me. When [] despised me because I was Jewish. I could feel it. When she talked to me, she never looked at me, you know? She would give orders to me. She ordered that to me. I used to tell her... I am not in the Army. You don't order me. I was very outspoken. See I felt I have a question underneath. My sister always used to tell me, whenever you are in trouble, you just come to me. I straighten them out. See I felt that cushion. So I felt... I didn't take advantage of that. [] she says to me. I ask for the high holidays off and I used to get days like labor day, admission day, and the fourth of July holiday. See I used to keep them, save them. [] I want them three days. So she used to tell me. Are you a Jew on these three days? I say I am a Jew every day. She didn't have to ask me again.

BALDWIN: Put her in her place.

LIBROWITZ: So I felt a little antiemetic. She used to tell me that I am very shrewd. She used to tell me that I'm conniving. I ask her, why am I conniving? I work every Christmas even it came out of my days off Christmas. I used to go and ask the boss and why don't you get the supervisor off for the family, children. I work. It's not a holiday for me. Not I, disgrace the holiday. Let somebody enjoy the holiday. It's their holiday. So I work twenty Christmas. People couldn't understand it. Why I volunteer to work Christmas. Because I have New Years off.

BALDWIN: That's pretty much everything I need to know.

LIBROWITZ: That's all.

BALDWIN: Everything I need to know. When did you... What year did you become a United States citizen? What year was that?

LIBROWITZ: I become a United States citizen, I think... I think 55.

BALDWIN: How do you feel about the United States?

LIBROWITZ: I love the United States I am very much interested in the United States. I know history of the United States. []. I read everything about Nixon. I read everything about... I can tell you everything you want to know. Believe me, many things Americans don't know.

BALDWIN: Considering your own life what's the best stage to be... considering what you've been through in your own life and everything...

LIBROWITZ: What's the best age? I wish I would be twenty again.

BALDWIN: Considering your own life what was the worst of each? Or what was the worst age to be?

LIBROWITZ: Well [] the border, it's a nice age. I would not say that 60 is a good age it's a very nice age. I think this age is quite well.

BALDWIN: Looking back on your life now can you think of some times when great changes happened that redirected your life. You came to America that one major change.

LIBROWITZ: My life was redirected when my husband got ill because I will [] went back to school because my husband was going and [] I always had that in the back of my head that I []. I would want to go back but I've got to save him. My [] finish. Nobody will hire me. See I have that back disability. There is no way in this world that somebody will give me a job. There is no way. It's the first thing that....

BALDWIN: []

LIBROWITZ: I'd consider working in an office. I can't stoop. I can't teach people how to []. I can't teach people how to sweep a floor. I cannot show them how to wash bowls. When you should stop. [] then go from up down. You cannot... Why should I stand from right here and go around? Because it runs, so if it runs dirty [] forget it. Your not making []. [] clean.

BALDWIN: You know about the women's liberation movement and what do you think about that?

LIBROWITZ: What do I think? I'm all for it. I think... I think a woman should get the same rent as a man. If she does a man's job, she is doing exactly like a man and I also believe a woman should have the right to be whatever she wished to be. She wishes to be President, I'm all for it. If she is qualified I will vote for her.

BALDWIN: Any other Stockton events affect you and your family?

LIBROWITZ: Well I [] and all that stuff. I don't go for that, I don't like that kind of []. That's one thing about this, I wish they wouldn't get away with it because this is a free country and we have to accept.

BALDWIN: Well thank you very much.

LIBROWITZ: You're quite welcome. Sometime if you would like to send me a copy of it

BALDWIN: Sure. The tape or the paper?

LIBROWITZ: Just type it up. Whatever your gunna do.

BALDWIN: Okay I'll do that. What's your zip code?

[End Tape]