

Notes from Interview tape with Estella Frankel 4/11/78

Interview by Rachelle Saltzman

Showed ~~fff~~ book from son Victor, had it when snowed in at Cleveland airport on way home from visiting son in Washington(state).

Married Harry Frankel-1923, sister Rosalia married Sig Schorr
sister was a beautiful person, had 2 children: daughter-
Helene, married, lives in Bucks Cty. , Pa, married Kenny Hatfield
Daughter Sonia married Sloan--~~she~~ she is VP of Beth ~~Saxon~~/ Emeth
she had 2 boys, Victor and Jonathan, very active in community
politics, planned parenthood, was first woman grad. of Jefferson
med. school in bacteriology, first person and first woman to grad
from Temple University University in this program(discrepancy here)
both daughters went into bacteriology, both to Syracuse(?)

Estella ~~Frankel~~ married Harry Frankel, and one ~~son~~ son, Dr.
Victor Hirsch Frankel-teaches at University of Washington in
Seattle. He has 4 boys, 1 girl(twin girl and bly from 1st marriage-
wife died) He was first American to be awarded doctor's degree
from ~~Upsila~~ Upsila, Sweden-already was doctor when went, had
grant, supposedly for 1 year, stayed 2. Estella went over for
his disputation(had already graduated) ~~Had/V/~~ Victor had to defend
his book to a doctor from England, an engineer(engineering of the
human body), and others. Very serious formal affair, tails at
11:00 in the morning. Estella had been there to visit before, then
came again the next year for the disputation. He travels a lot now,
doing lectures.

Estella was born on 2nd ~~St.~~ St.(Wilm., Del.) 20?, where Blatman's
bakery used to be. Remembers Uncle Jake walking down to buy bread.
sister, Rosalia born in Chester in 1897, not know ~~when~~ when family
came to ~~Del.~~ Del. Estella born 1902, sure family came before then to Del.

parents, mother and father came from Russia, met in U.S.. mother
came with Aunt Rosie,(now Mrs. Barsky) came to Aunt Mary, already
here. They worked in factory in Phila., remembers mother telling
her how she got malaria, shivering and working thru summer with it.

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It was fascinating and interesting, Estella feels like a sissy along with what mother accomplished, went to nite school, a woman came for cousins to help with their English. Rosalia taught in public schools, too. but all teachers knew her mother, she went to all the meetings, etc. at school when her children were going.

Rosalia started teaching in 1918, during war, went to training school at 9th and Wollaston, ~~they/used to~~ (this building later became administration building) took girls out of training school before finished, needed teachers so desperately (far cry from today)

Estella was born 5 days before Christmas, not know if parents had store there, had one later, remembers Ashenbacks had store there. After a while moved to 204 Market St. , father had store, was before Estella was school age, about 5.

Father had cigar store and had gorgeous pipes, ~~very~~ expensive, \$12. was 70 years ago, lived above store, not recall upstairs living so much, cousins always staying with them from Europe, said mother (Aunt Lizzie) had rubber house, always stretching, mother so kind to everyone, all loved her.

remember standing in store at doorway, then moved across the street to 217 Market St. right below was one of the best grocery stores in whole state, maybe in all states! catered to a lot of people who had money to spend on fine goods, drackers in barrel. remembers Reynolds across the street, was big candy store, 1st on one side of street, then other, Lyric Theatre was across st. caught on fire one time , remembers leaning out window to watch.

217 Market St. ~~papa/~~ papa had cigar store, lived upstairs, in back was a big yard and big building, girls sat there and ~~made~~ made cigars, not remember cigarettes at all. remember making cigars, papa would make up special ~~blend~~ blends for special customers. had a table like a gymnasium horse, put tobacco leaf over this form and would strip off what went out of it-but different kinds of leaves together.

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Estella remembers first lesson in manners, was standing watching Papa, often customers come in and watch him work, was standing ~~with~~ with back to customer and papa said have back to ~~customers~~ that gentlemen, remembers to this day.

Estella went to #6 school 4th and Walnut, Rosa went to #1 school. was across from Adas ^Aodesch, later #1 became Vocational School. The Sellas, people had fruit store at 4th and King, Marie Sella & Estella used to be elected to go-must have been older then- kids brought pennies to school and teacher collected them-had bank ~~s~~ books and had accounts. Marie and Estella were elected to go to bank. Always stopped at Marie's place first and got peanuts or something.

Then papa moved to 8th something Market st. and had store there. then lived at 815 west 4th st. went to-- Rosa then in High School (on Del. Ave.) Estella went to #28 school, ~~W~~(became Willard Hall School, now freeway) then went to Wilm. H. S. all graduated from there. (knew Mollye Sklut, but Mollye younger than Estella)

mother never read psych book, but knew psych, not have to read book, when lived at 217 Rosa went to #1 school and took piano lessons from Miss Gillespie, taught piano and violin. Used to come to 217 Market to give Rosa her piano lessons. One day told Estella's mother that Estella should take violin lessons. Was seven when started and stayed with Gillespie til 17 and then went to conservatory. was very close to her, loaned Estella her violin ~~s~~ to take to conservatory with her. went to Peabody(Baltimore) moved to 815 West 4th st., Gillespie lived 513 Wash. went there for 10 years for lessons. owe her a lot, sometimes ~~forget~~ forget what we owe people.

went to high school, had orchestra there, only boys, had played in jr. high orchestra and wanted to play in high school one. asked Johnny Taylor, ~~director~~ director, and he told her weren't any girls, and his language was sometimes rough. she said she would leave then come back when his language got rough. got into orchestra that way. was 1st girl. later there was another one.

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Never had any trouble with boys, ~~not make any difference~~, even later when was teaching, had job to do, not make any difference what sex, at first only woman in instrumental, but treated like colleague, she learned from them, they from her. no feeling of discrimination, there and not aware of it, never felt it.

after high school, for grad. present, mama let go with Gillespie to Chataqua, N.Y. to study with teacher's teacher. went to a lot of lectures. came back and went to Peabody. was there for 2 years and got teacher's diploma. got married 1923, still going ~~g~~ up to Phila. to take lessons. began teaching privately, playing at churches, alot of ~~playing~~ playing, lunnhes, etc. (not very many others around to do it)

1929 was separated, ~~divorced~~ divorced 1931, 1925 had only son. husband was born in London, came to Wilm very yong.

Estella taught at music school(Wilm.)-1929, there 15 years at 8th and Wash., taught Sunday school, sister had also done so, had classes in basement of temple, had orchestra in Sunday School. when had plays, Estella had to play violin and never got to be Queen Esther! today when teaching and students have chance to ~~y~~ be in play, says to go and change lesson.

needed to earn more money after the divorce, applied to substitute in public schools, not have college degree (Peabody not considered college degree) but those days not too worried about college degree. got first call to teach at Bayard school. was 7 days before Christmas and icy roads. was living with Uncle Jake (mother's half brother) trolleys not running, too far to walk, saw butcher's delivery boy out in truck and asked for ride (butcher store across street) wen t to first job in butcher's wagon. first job lasted 26 days. subbed for 2 years and worked for adult ed. too. adult ed. send to vocational school to ~~lead~~ work with ~~the girls'~~ girls' glee club- \$9./month, next year got \$13./month vocational school had grad. in YMHA, not have own auditorium, when moved to new school, 14th and Market, wanted man music teacher to lead band at football games - Estella not qualified to teach band.

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Supervisor sent Estella out one hour per week to teach violin at George Gray school, got to be $\frac{1}{2}$ time, teacher there invited all other teachers from other schools to a tea to hear the orchestra of kids play, other teachers got annoyed and jealous, wanted orchestra for their schools too, very loyal to schools and proud of them.

So Estella had to do all the work on Sat. mornings, from 9:00 to 12:00, had 4 classes ~~per~~ with 80 kids. taught ~~at/vocal/vocal~~ these classes at the vocational school and one year in the basement of Wilm. High school. little by little teaching increased until full time. went around to 5 schools, doing string work only.

last few years only taught ~~at~~ at Harlan Williams school, had all classes there. originally subbed in vocal, not really her field. led choir, Rosa was in choir.