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YETTA CHAIKEN: Dora where were you born?

DORA MARKOWITZ: In Warsaw.

YETTA CHAIKEN: In Warsaw Poland?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Yes.

YETTA CHAIKEN: And ah, when were you born. What year?

DORA MARKOWITZ: That's a question.

YETTA CHAIKEN: About.

DORA MARKOWITZ: Well I'm eighty-two years old. I was born, I remember my husband (inaudible) they say before passover.

YETTA CHAIKEN: Before the Passover.

DORA MARKOWITZ: Yes before Passover.

YETTA CHAIKEN: And ah, where what kind of education did you get?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Well not too much of an education. Used to go night school, days school.

YETTA CHAIKEN: In, in Warsaw?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Everything was.

YETTA CHAIKEN: Night schools. Why didn't you go.

DORA MARKOWITZ: No there was no night school much only day time.

YETTA CHAIKEN: Only day time. Did you go to school there?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Yes of course.

YETTA CHAIKEN: And ah, ah, did you meet your husband there?

DORA MARKOWITZ: No I met him in New York.

YETTA CHAIKEN: In New York. Can you tell me something about your husband's background? Where was he born?

DORA MARKOWITZ: In Breslatufs.

YETTA CHAIKEN: And where is that?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Preslatufs, in Russia.

YETTA CHAIKEN: So both of you were born in Eastern Europe?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Yes.

YETTA CHAIKEN: And about the same time but you didn't know each other until you came to this country?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Yes, that's right. We got acquainted in the ladies house, millinery.

YETTA CHAIKEN: Were you working in a shop?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Yes.

YETTA CHAIKEN: What were you doing?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Millinery, hats.

YETTA CHAIKEN: And what did you do in that shop?

DORA MARKOWITZ: I was selling hats.

YETTA CHAIKEN: You were selling and you worked on a sewing machine.

DORA MARKOWITZ: Yes that's right.

YETTA CHAIKEN: And what did he do?

DORA MARKOWITZ: He came up in the shop where I was working. You want to know the name of the boss. His name was Barbera. I'll never forget it. It was Barbera. He came up and I was working there two months already. He came up and I got the dissatisfied. He got the job on Broadway. A big factory and then he made very nice good hats. I took him up he made there in the factory, seventy dollars a week and when I took him up and made nearly thirty dollars in one week.

YETTA CHAIKEN: That was a lot of money?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Oh, yes that was sure. From the little money he made in the barbershop. I was there too. I made pretty near the same. A dollar more a dollar less and then I took him up I went to the big shop. I walked in and say the advertisement and then I came in and then the floor lady asked me if I knew this kind of work, if I ever worked at this machine. I said yes. And I never worked at that machine until I worked.

YETTA CHAIKEN: The first time in her life.

I'd like to ask you what kind of Jewish background did you have?

DORA MARKOWITZ: It was religious, very religious.

YETTA CHAIKEN: You came from a religious family?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Yes.

YETTA CHAIKEN: And your husband?

DORA MARKOWITZ: My husband the same. I think I came ah, he came from a very religious I was more religious then he.

YETTA CHAIKEN: More, more training? Religious training or your family was more Orthodox?

DORA MARKOWITZ: My family was more Orthodox, yes. My grandfather and my father they came here and ah, it took ah not a shave but a haircut on his beard. I hardly recognized him.

YETTA CHAIKEN: This is your grandfather?

DORA MARKOWITZ: No my father.

YETTA CHAIKEN: Your father?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Yes. I hardly recognized him with his different head, you know and his beard. For he had a nice little beard. Which he took very good care of but it was cut off.

YETTA CHAIKEN: Not shaved?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Course then my aunt and him came to the ah, Saturday to pick me up and get me there.

YETTA CHAIKEN: They were already here?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Yes my father too.

YETTA CHAIKEN: And they sent for you. Did you mother come with you?

DORA MARKOWITZ: No I, my father came first and then I came after that. Then my mother no then my brother you know he came by himself and he stayed there with my aunt. I stayed with my mother and sisters.

YETTA CHAIKEN: After Sam then you came, or your mother?

DORA MARKOWITZ: I came first. First my father and then I forget, came me, then my brother came and then my the next was my

mother and two brothers. With ah Charlie and Morris.

YETTA CHAIKEN: Are you sure Sam came before you or after you?

DORA MARKOWITZ: After me. I was the first.

YETTA CHAIKEN: Oh, I see. So when you came you went to work immediately in the factory?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Yes I went to, I learned the profession, the sewing hat in Warsaw, which I had, my father and mother had to pay for me. Not only anybody wanted to learn that trade, they paid.

YETTA CHAIKEN: All right so you were an apprentice. In Warsaw you learned the trade.

DORA MARKOWITZ: Yes that's right.

YETTA CHAIKEN: And your husband learned a trade? Did he learn any trade before he came?

DORA MARKOWITZ: No.

YETTA CHAIKEN: How old was he when he came to this country?

DORA MARKOWITZ: He was the same age. He was seventeen years old.

YETTA CHAIKEN: When he came?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Yes.

YETTA CHAIKEN: All right well now, you were both living in New York City?'

DORA MARKOWITZ: Yes.

YETTA CHAIKEN: All right ah, what brought you to Delaware?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Ah, that's a good question. He always thought, He was a very good worker. He made in the last when he worked he made the most money for all the workers. He made a hundred dollars a week then.

YETTA CHAIKEN: So in what year was that?

DORA MARKOWITZ: 1918.

YETTA CHAIKEN: That was quite a bit of money.

DORA MARKOWITZ: Oh yes that time. He, he this was the most money from the other workers.

YETTA CHAIKEN: More money?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Yes he worked as a at a machine and made the little dots.

YETTA CHAIKEN: Appliques?

DORA MARKOWITZ: That the name of it ah, I had one hat that had that that he made for me. He made that it was just a few people that knew that work and they got the most of the money from the other workers.

YETTA CHAIKEN: So what made him decide.

DORA MARKOWITZ: He always before we got married always talked about a farm. He wanted, he never wanted to work in a shop.

YETTA CHAIKEN: But did he ever work on a farm in Europe?

DORA MARKOWITZ: No he worked as a bookbinder.

YETTA CHAIKEN: In Europe?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Yes he was young boy when he worked there. When he came here to New York, also was.

YETTA CHAIKEN: Had he ever gone to school in Europe?

DORA MARKOWITZ: I guess he went to Hebrew School.

YETTA CHAIKEN: He went to for the Sedar.

DORA MARKOWITZ: Yes.

YETTA CHAIKEN: Did he study for a long time there?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Well sure he studied oh thirteen, fourteen years. He studied and then he go to Ishiba.

YETTA CHAIKEN: So he went to school for a couple of years.

DORA MARKOWITZ: There, here.

YETTA CHAIKEN: There in Europe.

DORA MARKOWITZ: Oh yes for a couple of years, he went yes.

YETTA CHAIKEN: And then he came here, now you said he wanted, always wanted to own land..

DORA MARKOWITZ: Always talking about farming and always being(inaudible). He made a lot of money in the factories. But he

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didn't want to stay there. Always just thinking of the fields and nature.

YETTA CHAIKEN: He enjoyed nature.

DORA MARKOWITZ: Yes always. All time he walked around longtime he wanted he worked at the farm summertime. Always did farmers work. So they worked ah two weeks and they complained the food was very poor. At lunchtime they gave him a little fried potatoes and a little meat. All week it was no meat and milk and they had to do a lot of physical work. Cows, milking and field work so both decided to leave his friend. And while they was leaving he was they was wanted to walk to train station, so they didn't asked somebody, so they got the wrong and they have to go back. So the people told them to go the certain way to the station. Trainstation, bus station. so going back they went back to the same station, same place again. I never forget that

YETTA CHAIKEN: That was the only experience he ever had with farming?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Yes.

YETTA CHAIKEN: But he still wanted to be a farmer?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Oh, yeh all he was always going around.

YETTA CHAIKEN: He was always talking?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Yes he wanted to be.

YETTA CHAIKEN: So what happened? What did he do? How did he get to come to Delaware?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Oh yeh. The Jewish Society, the Jewish Cultural Society invite him. I think he and his friend. He got a friend that he was in partnership with him, so they both went to the cultural and ah..

YETTA CHAIKEN: They both went to the Agricultural Society?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Yes, yes and they invite they recognize them here in Delaware. They recognize...

YETTA CHAIKEN: Well first of all, didn't he quit his job and travel over the United States?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Yes, he went to California, Los Angelos. I had my Aunt over and family. So he stayed with them. He worked with his brother. So his brother went to the station, so he stayed with his brother, hired himself taking in fruit.

YETTA CHAIKEN: He hired himself out as a worker to pick fruit?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Yes, orchards. So there he caused my husband to work with him together and finally he got tired of it and he didn't get enough money and he left and my husband said. He liked it, Pat wanted to be there and he asked me, on account of the children, I had both of my boys, Carl and Benney.

YETTA CHAIKEN: Were how old, two and three?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Yes, two three years old the most. So I asked him how much money he make there. Would it pay me to go to settle with the two kids and leave the home and everything. So he said the only, the most he can make is twenty some dollars a week. From eighty-nine dollars a week, I told him I said oh we not go there, come back home. He did come back home.

YETTA CHAIKEN: But Mom didn't he also go to Montana and Texas?

DORA MARKOWITZ: I didn't not Texas.

YETTA CHAIKEN: You said California, he didn't like because of the earthquakes.

DORA MARKOWITZ: No I didn't hear him say about earthquakes.

YETTA CHAIKEN: He told us that. He loved California except he didn't want to be a farmer there because he was afraid of the earthquakes.

DORA MARKOWITZ: That so. He didn't talk to me about it.

YETTA CHAIKEN: And then he told us, he went to Montana. And he said Montana was beautiful. But it was too desolate. Too ah, open. Not desolate, too foreign and white between settlements.

DORA MARKOWITZ: But anyway he wanted to settle there.

YETTA CHAIKEN: He wanted to be in the West?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Yeh he wanted to be California, close to my aunt and the family ah had two sons, two daughters. He wanted she took him very nicely, she liked him. And he liked the climate there. He wanted, ah, I said nothing doing, I'm not making enough money and I'm not going to drag the two kids. Because one was two years the other was a little over three and a half. I said you come home you make here eighty-ninety dollars for you work. And I'm going to be the mostest that he made was seventy-five, a hundred dollars a week. So I said no, he came back home.

YETTA CHAIKEN: So he went to the Agricultural Society?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Yes

YETTA CHAIKEN: Mom I also think he went to Texas and he liked Texas but ah why he didn't like Texas, it was too hot and humid and he said he didn't want to be a farmer there, right?

DORA MARKOWITZ: I didn't discuss.

YETTA CHAIKEN: And he also, didn't he go to New England and found that the climate was too cold. Ah, this is the story he's told us.

DORA MARKOWITZ: Yes, he didn't tell me that. I, he didn't discuss with me, this weather. He was very anxious to come home.

YETTA CHAIKEN: Yes so he traveled around the United States looking for a place to farm.

DORA MARKOWITZ: Yes that's right. Yes that was the main thing.

YETTA CHAIKEN: Where could he have farmed. And who suggested Delaware?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Ah, the society. The Jewish society.

YETTA CHAIKEN: The agricultural society?'

DORA MARKOWITZ: Yes and then got him acquainted with a farmer here, the name of Greenly.

YETTA CHAIKEN: What was his name.

DORA MARKOWITZ: Robert H. Greenly.

YETTA CHAIKEN: This is the reason that he settled in Delaware, that Pop told us.

DORA MARKOWITZ: Yes.

YETTA CHAIKEN: He said that Delaware had temperate climate, it was right. He liked the temperature. It wasn't too hot and it wasn't too cold. It didn't have hurricanes, like Florida because he was thinking of Florida also. It didn't have the earthquakes that California had. It didn't have the severe weather of New England and it was close to all the markets, like Baltimore, Washington, Philadelphia and New York. The soil was beautiful and he decided this was it and with the blessing of the Jewish Agricultural Society, this is where he settled.

DORA MARKOWITZ: And then he got a loan from the Jewish

DORA MARKOWITZ: Yes. He got in partnership with a friend. So he change his mind, was too hard work for him.

YETTA CHAIKEN: His friend?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Yes a friend of his. They work together but in the millenery. They put together a partnership of the machines. In the millinary with the hats but when he came here and he saw what a hard life, they part friends, his change his mind. He lost his deposit ah, a hundred dollars.

YETTA CHAIKEN: He lost his whole deposit?

DORA MARKOWITZ: No, not he, his friend. Because his friend did(inaudible)that's the main thing.

YETTA CHAIKEN: He lost his whole, the friend lost his deposit?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Yes it was a hundred or two hundred dollars.

YETTA CHAIKEN: This is the deposit for the land?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Yes, the land for the farm. Honey you close the door, there wouldn't be so much draft.

YETTA CHAIKEN: No it's fine.

DORA MARKOWITZ: If you like it that way, all right.

YETTA CHAIKEN: Now that left your husband all by himself to run the farm?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Yes that's right. Then he had a brother this is interesting, then his brother, his older brother was with him in California. He came back here too. And he was very interested in and he loved the farm. So my husband went into partnership with him? He didn't like it, he didn't want to do it. So I, suggested I couldn't that. Your own brother but the other stranger you wanted to go but your own brother, you know, you're exactly not too anxious. He didn't say much. That was afterwards I found out that he was right. He liked the farm very much but he couldn't do the work as much as my husband did so and then he sent for his wife and his wife was very religious and she didn't want to stay here and make a lot of trouble between both brothers. And so I left him, I said well, the farm can only exist if we take it over or they take it over ah or we sell it. I say we can't be no more partnership and she was very axious for that answer. For that idea so she said, yes, yes, you can have the farm and we are going to leave. We don't want it. He wanted it but she promised him that she'll get a farm in New Jersey among Jewish people.

YETTA CHAIKEN: With the society?

DORA MARKOWITZ: No.

YETTA CHAIKEN: He got himself?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Yeh maybe he got the loan from somebody, two hundred dollars and she liked it, he liked it to be among the Jewish farmers and be in the farm. You know ah very anxious to be a farmer. They did the work in the factory in the shop but she was very religious and she didn't want to be bothered with ah, farming or doing things like that so he had a lot of trouble with her. But anyway he had to go back to working. Ah, what was he working, men's work. You know jackets, pants.

YETTA CHAIKEN: He went back to the ah, sewing trade.

DORA MARKOWITZ: Yes.

YETTA CHAIKEN: Until he could get enough money to go into the ...

DORA MARKOWITZ: Yes he got a loan. He did buy a little farm. In Jersey among the Jewish farms..

YETTA CHAIKEN: Yes and where was that in Vineland?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Yes, New Jersey. Vineland somewhere. So then she didn't change. She didn't want to go even there because the insulted her so they have to go back to factory to work, start peddling.

YETTA CHAIKEN: All right now you said that ah, your where were your children born?

DORA MARKOWITZ: My children were born in hospital in New York.

YETTA CHAIKEN: New York City. Were you living here at the time?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Yes.

The children were born before she moved here, right. They probably were born in New York City, right.

DORA MARKOWITZ: Yes, they was raised here.

YETTA CHAIKEN: Yes but two of the children were born before you moved. You moved here in 1920?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Yes.

YETTA CHAIKEN: And the other children were born while you were here and you went back to New York City to have your children, why?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Because I had a very good doctor there. The doctor took all my children.

YETTA CHAIKEN: You had what? How did you have your children?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Well by Caesarian.

YETTA CHAIKEN: By Caesarian section. So you had five Caesarian births?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Yes.

YETTA CHAIKEN: And..

DORA MARKOWITZ: Well there was a woman, she had seven.

YETTA CHAIKEN: And so ah, ..

DORA MARKOWITZ: But the same doctor was a wonderful doctor. I loved him. Everyone that he delivered, the children they are so, I loved him, I liked him so much. One woman I heard her saying that when my father would come up from his grave ah....

YETTA CHAIKEN: All right what kind ah, so you said two of your children ah, were born before you moved, and the rest of your children were born here. Now what ah, about the children's Jewish education? You and your husband were both Jewish and you were living in downstate Delaware, how were you able to educate them in the Jewish manner?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Well not much. My father was here for a few summers. He did teach them. Jewish, Hebrew, reading and the Sedar. He was a very good job. But ah, he said, he, wouldn't happen because if they don't practice. They don't read the Yiddish paper and they don't read Yiddish book...

YETTA CHAIKEN: Yiddisha, you mean the Jewish paper.

DORA MARKOWITZ: The jewish paper.

YETTA CHAIKEN: Right.

DORA MARKOWITZ: My father teach them very good. Twice a day. Each time was an hour, two hours a day and he was a wonderful good teacher. So he said they'll forget if they don't practice. They wouldn't know much. They haven't got no hader and they don't talk Yiddish and they don't read Yiddish paper. I get my Yiddish paper every day.

YETTA CHAIKEN: You still get the Yiddish paper?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Sure, I pay for the whole year.

YETTA CHAIKEN: So you get the Jewish forward delivered here by mail.

DORA MARKOWITZ: That's right.

YETTA CHAIKEN: And did your children remember. Do they still have?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Yes they do, not as good as I. Little bit, not much. Because they don't practice.

YETTA CHAIKEN: But they still can read it, mom?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Yes they can read it.

YETTA CHAIKEN: Was it hard for you to be Jewish? Was it hard, did you keep Kosher?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Most of it, yes. I still have separate dishes.

YETTA CHAIKEN: Was it hard for you to get Kosher meats?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Yes it was.

YETTA CHAIKEN: Where did you have to go to get Kosher meat?

DORA MARKOWITZ: We had to go to Wilmington.

YETTA CHAIKEN: Into Wilmington and we didn't have freezers in those days, so what did you do?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Well we had the icebox.

YETTA CHAIKEN: But you ended up having to use non-kosher meat, didn't you? But then who was it taught you how to showed you how to kill the chickens by the way the Rabbi did?

DORA MARKOWITZ: The Rabbi taught my husband how to kill the chickens.

YETTA CHAIKEN: So you learned how to make your meat Kosher?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Yes, if we got meat Kosher we used to get most of it from Wilmington. My husband had to go to Wilmington to work and treat the people. Most we ate chicken. To Wilmington if we do go. Then my children, the Rabbi came here and spent one or two nights, and he...

YETTA CHAIKEN: The rabbi from where?

DORA MARKOWITZ: He came from New York or Philadelphia. Either one. So he did teach my husband for the chickens, how to make the chicken Kosher. He took a chicken, the way he show, bend down his neck and he said you pick away the feathers, and here the feathers was in the neck, make very clean and he said by each chicken you can't use a halif, you know what that is, but use a razor blade. Each time use a new razor blade and I'll never forget, I was standing the way he did teach him. He said, cut this right through, through and through, don't move it up and down. Just go through from the back, the same side. Just like Joseph would do.

YETTA CHAIKEN: Yes a chafit is a Jew, I have to explain. Is a Jew.

DORA MARKOWITZ: Kills chickens or cows for Kosher.

YETTA CHAIKEN: And so that they are Kosher for Jewish use, right.

DORA MARKOWITZ: And then when you get the chicken, you know, you had to salt it and soak it, half an hour.

YETTA CHAIKEN: And you did that to all your meat?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Yes.

YETTA CHAIKEN: And so you still had two sets of dishes here that you use. And you have separate Passover dishes?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Separate.

YETTA CHAIKEN: This is for milk and meat.

DORA MARKOWITZ: For milk I had separate. Vegetables and other things, I use the same.

YETTA CHAIKEN: Right, exactly. All right so now did, when the high holy days came, where did you worship? Did you have a....

DORA MARKOWITZ: In the earlier days, my husband went to synagogue.

YETTA CHAIKEN: Where was there a synagogue?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Dover.

YETTA CHAIKEN: Was there a synagogue in Dover?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Yes, they had a private. They used to rent a house. It's a private house and now they have a real synagogue.

YETTA CHAIKEN: But not in 1920?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Well I'm telling you that.

YETTA CHAIKEN: Didn't you go to Orkens, too?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Yes the Orkens, we went to a family Orkens Brothers in Milford.

YETTA CHAIKEN: And you went there to their house.

DORA MARKOWITZ: Yes, we used to stop to sleep there and then we rented a house, an empty house and we paid, me, my husband and children and another couple, we took that house for ah, to sleep.

YETTA CHAIKEN: For the holidays?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Yes for the holidays and then we used to sleep at Mr. and Mrs. Orken.

YETTA CHAIKEN: And who conducted the services? Did Mr. Orken conduct them?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Yes, they had a rabbi used to come from Philadelphia.

YETTA CHAIKEN: How many Jewish families lived here in 1920?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Well there wasn't many more than twelve. When we came, it was very hard, a hard life and then they moved back to the city, was four or five families. They had to pump the water and the pressures and they couldn't get that so they had to move back to the city.

YETTA CHAIKEN: It was a hard life so they moved back?

DORA MARKOWITZ: That's right. I used to pump myself water with the pump they had put down there and when I pumped the water, the clothes, it was a beautiful day but was freezing, when it was ready to hang it up, the clothes was frozen.

YETTA CHAIKEN: Four or five families left but more came, but only four or five stayed, is that what you mean't?

DORA MARKOWITZ: No darling, they didn't come. The one left, none came.

YETTA CHAIKEN: No that's not what I mean. Four or five were here and they all left and you were the one's who stayed? The orkens stayed.

DORA MARKOWITZ: Honey the Orkens are not farmers.

YETTA CHAIKEN: Oh, they're not. Are you talking about Jewish farmers, Mom?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Yes.

YETTA CHAIKEN: So there was just four or five Jewish farmers?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Yes.

YETTA CHAIKEN: With the agricultural fund, did they all come with that?

DORA MARKOWITZ: I think so, yes. I think there was advertising from the agricultural.

YETTA CHAIKEN: Adele stayed and Blum stayed and Glickman stayed and who else?

DORA MARKOWITZ: That's all.

Kelloff.

DORA MARKOWITZ: Kelloff was there, a couple just two. One died and the husband died and she had to live with a family in New York.

YETTA CHAIKEN: So she didn't stay very long?

DORA MARKOWITZ: No. The one that stayed was adele.

YETTA CHAIKEN: What about Greenberg, mom? Harry Greenberg?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Ah, he was a business man. He used to buy cows, chickens, stayed in town.

YETTA CHAIKEN: So did the Orkens, they didn't really work as farmers. They were business men too?

DORA MARKOWITZ: That is correct.

YETTA CHAIKEN: So you and the Sydells were really the only farmers.

DORA MARKOWITZ: Yes and the Blackmans and the Blooms.

YETTA CHAIKEN: Blackmans and Blooms.

DORA MARKOWITZ: No Men, the women made the dinner.

YETTA CHAIKEN: I know the women made the dinner for the men.

DORA MARKOWITZ: Oh sure, they came in and was everything. The chickens, steak, and the soup and everything.

YETTA CHAIKEN: And you had a good time.

DORA MARKOWITZ: Yes the men had a good time. We had to do the work, all the work.

YETTA CHAIKEN: And everybody brought all their children?

DORA MARKOWITZ: You had to clean the chicken, cook the chicken.

YETTA CHAIKEN: And everybody had a good time.

Mom tell Yetta about back when Pop first came to the farming, he knew nothing about ah, saddling a horse or riding or milking a cow and all the neighbors taught him and he knew nothing about plowing or cultivating.

DORA MARKOWITZ: Excuse me. Now you didn't know better. Maybe because he forget. He was so busy, that he used to come back from the city about business or something so he start plowing the ground, and he was wearing his tie (laughing)

YETTA CHAIKEN: One drink or two.

DORA MARKOWITZ: So a man coming by with a car stopped for a moment and looked and smiled and he didn't understand Poppa with his tie (laughing)

YETTA CHAIKEN: He was so busy he didn't have time.

DORA MARKOWITZ: No he was so interesting, he didn't take off his tie and change work shirt. He had the city clothes.

YETTA CHAIKEN: Well did he know, did he know how to ah, saddle a horse?

DORA MARKOWITZ: No he didn't know. They teached him. The farmers liked him very much. One time, did I ever tell you he was a fixing his sprayer. He used to spray his orchards. So his hands got caught in the machine, in the wheels and pressed the way that thing and he hollered, he finally the farmer came along in a big car and lifted it up and after that he was laying down, he got better.

These farmers that taught my father to farm, from the word go. From the basic farming to ah, everything they knew, eventually he ended up teaching them. Many, many things. Because he became more modern and went into greenhouse farming. Developed one of the earliest tomatoe plants ah, in three states. And he developed a cantaloupe ah, devised a method whereby the you could plant cantaloupes, and they are doing it now, in individual pods so that they could get a very early production a very early crop. And this was experimental work that my father had done. University of Delaware would come down and ah, consult with him. My father they would give him special seeds to experiment with and ah, he would give them reports and as ah, to how the crop was coming along, as to how the plants were doing and ah, he was highly re-pected.

DORA MARKOWITZ: They came, the professors came the cultures professors used to come and go around with him in the orchard and one after the other one would tell what kind of work he was doing. How he's doing, what he's doing. It was very good. Very successful with his orchards. He was the Jewish king of the orchards.

YETTA CHAIKEN: The Jewish king of the orchards. That's quite a title. You must have been the Jewish Queen. Yes let's get back to the work that you did. What did you do on the farm?

DORA MARKOWITZ: I'm telling you.

YETTA CHAIKEN: Tell me about the work that you did on the farm?

DORA MARKOWITZ: The cooking, the washing, the cleaning.

YETTA CHAIKEN: No, how did you have to drag the buckets of water, down the yard into the house and where on the stove was a hugh tin and you'd take a stick?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Ah, the boiling. Remember the clothes. Yeh, the kettle and the washtub.

YETTA CHAIKEN: So anyway, you used the stick to stir it because the water was so boiling hot.

DORA MARKOWITZ: I don't remember I suppose I had to boil it turn it over.

YETTA CHAIKEN: It would take you all day to do the wash, wasn't it Mom?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Yes it take so many hours.

DORA MARKOWITZ: We had a tenant here and he was a terrible dangerous man. He was a good worker, my husband wanted him.

YETTA CHAIKEN: What do you mean, he was a dangerous man?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Dangerous man, he was ah, he had a terrible temper. He could, he did kill a man, a neighbor. His mother a sweetheart, shot. He had to leave Delaware. So that man live here with me, with his wife, of course and I was here with ah, how many children?

I don't know. Was I born then.

DORA MARKOWITZ: Yes. Yes I think so. Yes, yes, that's right you was born before so I, that man, this was a terrible thing to have. Yes he got acquainted with a neighbor, she was very much afraid of him and her husband used to be a making whiskey. How do you call it. Moonshine and he used to hide the whiskey in our orchards. But the agents used to come...

YETTA CHAIKEN: So the agents.

The government agents.

DORA MARKOWITZ: Yeh, the government agents come and look around. So and they was afraid of him so they was very afraid to live with him. So one time, I gave him an argument, he took my horse, our horse and went for her to buy her dresses. So I found it out and I said I didn't know he was such a crazy, dangerous man. I said you took my horse, the horse, went and got a dress, why didn't you ask me if I needed something. I need bread or other things, you could get for me and that I critized him and had a little argument and didn't holler and he got terrible mad. What did he do to get even with me. He took, bought bread and put poison in it. Poisoned up the bread.

YETTA CHAIKEN: Oh, my God.

DORA MARKOWITZ: Yeh and put it in my orchard by the trees. So that is that my chickens I used to let out the chickens late in the afternoon, which was three, four o'clock. She led her chickens free...

YETTA CHAIKEN: She, meaning, the lady.

DORA MARKOWITZ: The neighbor, yes.

YETTA CHAIKEN: The one who put the stuffing in your..

DORA MARKOWITZ: No, no he did.

YETTA CHAIKEN: The one..

DORA MARKOWITZ: The one who stayed with me here.

YETTA CHAIKEN: Oh, the wife of the man?

DORA MARKOWITZ: The man, not the wife.

YETTA CHAIKEN: I know, but whose chickens were they?

DORA MARKOWITZ: It was Ken's chickens. Just across the way, yes. They used to come to my orchard and used to pick the weed you know, found a lot of food there and always run over. So that devil didn't know that ah, that her chickens was going to get killed but they get even with me. So my chickens I left my chickens out this afternoon later, she left them out free. They went over right away to orchard and food and chickens died. Everyone of them. She lost ten, twelve hens. Terrible thing. So I went over to Ms. Hippel and I told her, I said look at that this couldn't explain ah, in good english. Look at the joke I said, he wanted to kill my chickens and Mrs. Kent's chickens died. They went over and ated poison bread. So she said for such a joke you can go to jail. So I was thinking that she was with sympathize with me ah so I went home and the two children and I walked the floor and I said, oh God help me. I am here with enemies. But Mrs. Case and Ms. Kemp didn't beleive that I did it. They had a suspicion to know that he did it. But they couldn't do nothing against him because they was afraid of him. He was a dangerous man.

YETTA CHAIKEN: Was he still at this time, in did he live in his room?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Yeh he live with his wife.

YETTA CHAIKEN: So how did you get rid of him?

DORA MARKOWITZ: I'm telling you the story my husband promised him if he do the work with the cows and the chickens and the fields, he'll bring him a pair of shoes. Good new shoes. So my husband used to come every two, three weeks for the weekend. Came Saturday night slept overnight the next day, went back to the factory and worked. So he stayed at night, he went home sometimes he walked from the station, three, four miles. To come here to the house. One time I remember I had a little chick and I was feeding them, giving them the heat at night it was wintertime, freezing. So I had to have the kerosine lamp, the kerosine heater was nine, ten o'clock and I was dressed warm, he went in there and he was looking in the window and he walked over from the station he didn't want to bother anybody. It was too late.

YETTA CHAIKEN: Why was your husband working in New York?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Ah, that's a good question. He had to work to make ah, to pay for the interest.

YETTA CHAIKEN: On this farm?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Yeh, he couldn't pay the interest here and then....

YETTA CHAIKEN: What year was that? Do you remember?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Yeh, 1921, 25, 24, all those years.

YETTA CHAIKEN: So he had to go to work frequently. All winter long.

DORA MARKOWITZ: A few seasons.

YETTA CHAIKEN: But not during the spring, in the summer, he farmed.. Did any other farmers go in and work in the winter also?

DORA MARKOWITZ: No, few did it. He was a good worker he made the money he had to pay for the interest. Many farms was taken away, there was a lady and she took away Ms. Halkensalder. This farm was ah taken away, the other farm. We had a good lawyer. Satterfield.

YETTA CHAIKEN: Satterfield.

DORA MARKOWITZ: How do you know him?

YETTA CHAIKEN: Well I know the name.

DORA MARKOWITZ: Satterfield, he was wonderful. A holy man. He stopped the marketeer. He said if that man will not pay you, I'll pay.

YETTA CHAIKEN: He had great faith in your husband.

DORA MARKOWITZ: Oh, yeh. He liked him. You know when he got there it was a little mixed up. There was another Jewish man, you know, Sammy Markowitz. And her husband was a shoemaker. And that was a honest man.

YETTA CHAIKEN: The other Mr. Markowitz was an honest man.

DORA MARKOWITZ: My husband was yeh, the other one.

YETTA CHAIKEN: The other one wasn't honest. Okay.

DORA MARKOWITZ: My husband was a very honest man. This I can say. So the lawyer liked my husband very much and he said this to her for him. If you don't pay, I'll pay. Many times I had to go with him in wintertime, freezing weather and had to sign but later on to pay and the lawyer had said, she'll pay later. And one time I remember we had a few dollars we made out a little better and he want to used to get in from the kitchen. This room was closer and they was going to his room with a big ah, sofa in the middle. Oh my heater to cook the stove was same place with another one. Was heater so it, it was very cold. So, one time I moved the table to the door and left it. One time he had to make a payment for the mortgage. Five, six hundred dollars or so. And then he wanted to improve the house, now to brick it up for the winter. Coming wintertime and the heat shouldn't come in so much as summertime. So I said, you pay the last payment. We waited to so many years, we wait another year. So my husband went to the banker and said asked him, he said you pay the last, just the same thing what I told him. We waited so long, struggled the banker that we had.

YETTA CHAIKEN: It took him forty-five years to pay for it?

DORA MARKOWITZ: No, that long.

YETTA CHAIKEN: Do you want to tell us about ah, the interest rate that you had to pay on this farm?

How many times over did Pop have to pay in interest for this farm? Yes he paid for it two or three times over. It cost basically over twelve thousand dollars but he paid that in interest several times over in the years that he lived on this farm, right, in interest alone.

DORA MARKOWITZ: Oh, yes.

YETTA CHAIKEN: How long did it take him to pay off the mortgage?

It was in the 40's, right mom?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Oh, yes it was even later.

YETTA CHAIKEN: So it was over twenty-five years?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Yes every bit

YETTA CHAIKEN: To pay off the mortgage, it was a lot of hard work.

The depression came in.

DORA MARKOWITZ: Oh, the first year when it close up all the blooms from the peaches and apples.

YETTA CHAIKEN: So the first year, you lost all the fruit from the orchard?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Yes the first year, second year was freezing, a lot of troubles. Hard work.

And Mom the depression ah, didn't pay to pick the apples so you left them rot. They were a foot deep on the ground and the whole place smelled like apple cider and the apples rotted. All the neighborhood smelled of cider. I can remember the odor right to this day. I can remember smelling apple cider from miles around because the, it cost for instance, eight cents a bushel or a basket, to pick the apples. If you took them to the market you only could get seven cents. So it didn't pay him to pick them, so he left them rot. He left them fall off the trees and rot.

DORA MARKOWITZ: That's what Pop told you?

Yes I can remember it.

DORA MARKOWITZ: He didn't tell me. I had to find out later from the children.

YETTA CHAIKEN: Do you drink apple cider? I thought maybe he wouldn't like it.

DORA MARKOWITZ: You know about apple cider, we had a neighbor, two of them. They used to come and drink the cider, they was so crazy to drink this stuff. He used to sell it and then one time we had a very bad luck and this was a heartbreaking thing. He sent away a truckload of peaches. Not baskets but bushels. He had to pay the freight he had to pay for picking. He had to pay for a lots of money invested and he sent away a truckload but was so high, it reached pretty near the point of this tree and what did he get back, forty some cents.

YETTA CHAIKEN: What?

Forty some cents..

YETTA CHAIKEN: What happenend?

DORA MARKOWITZ: The crook, the devils they took away all the money and that's what they send him.

The sent the payment after. He waited for the check and all that came was forty-three cents.

YETTA CHAIKEN: And who stole it?

DORA MARKOWITZ: The buyer.

The brokers in New York.

DORA MARKOWITZ: Since then my husband didn't send anymore to New York. He just sold it in Wilmington no more sending it away.

YETTA CHAIKEN: He didn't trust them.

DORA MARKOWITZ: Of course not.

YETTA CHAIKEN: He just sold it locally.

DORA MARKOWITZ: The only thing he didn't know was he was new and green about the business. He ought to go with it, the truck.

And years later I can remember his going up with the truck load.

DORA MARKOWITZ: His own truck.

But years later he go up with a truck load it would take six to eight hours to get to New York, Mom?

DORA MARKOWITZ: No he didn't go to New York. The only time he went to New York, it didn't pay. But most of the time he went to Wilmington.

And Philadelphia.

DORA MARKOWITZ: Not to Philadelphia..

Anyway I remember his going up and then coming back and being so exhausted. Because he was so overly tired and couldn't sleep. Literally couldn't sleep.

DORA MARKOWITZ: And he had to get up. He used to stop the truck for the apples and the fruit on the side and had to lay down or sit down and try to sleep. Those are a lot of words, he said he would have an accident. He couldn't drive anymore. No one was with him. So nobody would go with him at that time and he didn't want to bother any man cause it cost a lot of money. It was a very hard work.

YETTA CHAIKEN: When did this farm begin to make money?

DORA MARKOWITZ: I don't know. When the greenhouse work.

YETTA CHAIKEN: It started in the greenhouse work. He started to make money.

DORA MARKOWITZ: Yes he planted himself the tomatoes and he used to sell to the local stores.

YETTA CHAIKEN: And was he truck farming all kinds of vegetables ah, farming.

Yes with the greenhouse.

DORA MARKOWITZ: The most was tomatoes.
But there were, I remember one year
broccoli and cauliflower.

DORA MARKOWITZ: This was ah, just for the family not
for social.

Well cantelope and watermelon, yes.

DORA MARKOWITZ: Yes the most was the tomatoes.
They started six, seven dollars, seven eight dollars a basket. It
was early and I had to make it early on account of the greenhouse
and then the other farmers came in and they sold it for a dollar
or two dollars so it went down to nothing so my husband started
selling it to the cannery. The cannery was forty, fifty cents
a basket.

You asked a question about when did
the farm start to pay off. I think it must have been ah, right
after the war or during the war. We also had a roadside market.
Plus ah, a few years after that he sold the property, some property
and with that property he finally made the last payment of the
farm. That was one way he got out of debt finally to sell some
of the property for houses, for real estate.

DORA MARKOWITZ: At the lake.

See we're on a lake. The Andrews
lake and it's a lovely section and he sold the property there.
He made the last payment on the mortgage.

YETTA CHAIKEN: Where was the roadside market?

The roadside market was on US 113
near Bowers Beach and it was one road went into Dover, actually
they both went into Dover and one went to the airbase and the
other one went into ah, ah, Wyoming, no not Wyoming ah, Rising
Sun and he had a roadside market right there. The children would
all help selling. I remember spending ah, my kid brother spending
the night watching the produce over night and ah, we would gather
up what we didn't have on our farm. Ah, he would go to neighbors
and buy their produce and sell to the traffic that went to the
resorts.

It was a very excellent location.

YETTA CHAIKEN: Tell me about your children ah, what happened to all of them, here? I mean your son and your daughter Did they stay on the farm, did they leave?

DORA MARKOWITZ: All of them stayed.

YETTA CHAIKEN: Everyone stayed on the farm. Can you tell me, where they, what they're doing now. All of them. Name each one and tell what they're doing.

DORA MARKOWITZ: They have all farms. The one is my daughter that works with her husband. They have chickens.

YETTA CHAIKEN: Your daughter her name is Freda, and she and her husband have a chicken farm.

DORA MARKOWITZ: Yes.

I married a city boy. Right he was an accountant/bookkeeper in Philadelphia and ah, he went to ladies ready to wear business and after a year with his uncle and aunt lady ready to wear business in Miami Beach or Miami. Ah, he was getting an eye problem and the doctor said that he must get out of stores and into the open. Become either a salesman or a farmer. I said well you married a farmers daughter let's go back to the farm. So we lived with mom and pop for about a year, till we found our present home which we lived there now for twenty-nine and a half years. Now that's the story of our particular family. Now Ben he's the oldest one, ah, ...

YETTA CHAIKEN: Your the youngest?

ah, ... No I'm next to the youngest. Ah, Benny

YETTA CHAIKEN: How old is Ben?

Benny is sixty-two, mom?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Sounds like it Sixty-one, sixty-two.

next year. At any rate ah, he bought the adjacent farm.

YETTA CHAIKEN:: To this property?

Right.

DORA MARKOWITZ: Why do you say adjacent.

Next two is always ah called adjacent.

YETTA CHAIKEN: Let me ask you a question. Did he buy the farm. Did he borrow the money from the Jewish agricultural society?

No he was ah, he got.

DORA MARKOWITZ: He got this farm honey, he bought it from Ms. Case.

Right Pop started him on his way. He loaned him money. Right Pop started him on his way. He loaned him money.

DORA MARKOWITZ: Who loaned him money?

Pop.

DORA MARKOWITZ: Oh, Benny.

In the very beginning, pop bought the farm actually.

YETTA CHAIKEN: And what does he raise?

He is right now a truck farmer and chickens. He has boilers and chickens. And ah, he also was a field service man but he was a supervisor for Green Giant for many years. Ah, he was the supervisor over a large quantity of men. Now ah, I think Green Giant moved out of Delaware and now he's doing that sort of work himself. Ah, he has two sons. One is an entomologist and now working for mushroom growers up in Pennsylvania. The other son is works in business near Washington. Not connected with farming.

DORA MARKOWITZ: Hasn't got no children

Well they're married. The oldest one is.

DORA MARKOWITZ: They don't both believe in it.

Oh, ho Mom. The next son is Solomon. He ah, is a was originally a teacher. Then a principal and now he is ah, superintendent of curriculum at Lake Forrest School District. Ah, he lives on a farm also adjacent to Mom and he farms.

DORA MARKOWITZ: What adjacent?

Next to. He doesn't do the farming himself, he rents. Actually my brother, my youngest brother farms his land and my mother's land. His own land. He was at one time even tilling our land.

DORA MARKOWITZ: He's not doing it now.

No, no not this year. A neighbor is doing it. Anyway he is really the big farmer. He tills ah, how many acres do you have here mom?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Ah maybe forty.

No you have more then that here. At any rate originally it was ninety. Ah, Sol's land is I don't know how many acres, mom does Sol till?

DORA MARKOWITZ: He has more then sixty maybe

Maybe more then that and his own acres is ninety or a hundred or so. Plus he has forty thousand chickens. So he's a busy boy.

YETTA CHAIKEN: You have a tremendous family. A family of whom you can be justly proud.

Well Pop's instilled the love of the land, the love of the soil, the farm, he always said it wasn't a way of living. It was a way of life. And he instilled this love in all his children. And ah, they all remained on the farm. And we all live within fifteen miles of mom.

YETTA CHAIKEN: I think that's a beautiful story.

DORA MARKOWITZ: You know honey, I want to tell you this. I think I have to give myself credit. They was living on this little farm there, you know when you come here so the brother comes over, from mortgageers men who was a lawyer from Dover.

YETTA CHAIKEN: What brother?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Mortgager's brother the lawyer, I forgot his name already. So he comes over and he was taken that lawyer, had a lot of men, lot of farms. And that brother took care, he collected the money. Took care of the brother's business' so he comes over, calls up, and he said ah, he takes orders from his brother, the lawyer from Dover, that this farm ah, is ah, the people's going to move away and another tenant is going to move in. So I heard him when he talked on the phone and I gave a dollar Sol he came home from his work, I said Sol you go over to the lawyer's and buy the farm. Borrow some money, a hundred dollars, two hundred.

YETTA CHAIKEN: He just come out of the Army? Or was he still in the Army?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Was out of the Army had a wife and a child.

No he didn't have any children.

DORA MARKOWITZ: All right. This is different then ah the way he told him to get this farm because this farm we will need and this farm. He didn't want that brother, he was the commissioner he didn't want to sell. He got a profit from it with the interest. I said you go right over to this brother, the lawyer, and buy the farm. Buy it give him a deposit. So he did. He went over.

YETTA CHAIKEN: And that's how he has his present farm.

DORA MARKOWITZ: Yes.

YETTA CHAIKEN: And how many years now. This was 1940 what 49?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Think Mary was born now maybe a year or two. Yes quite a few years and he did and you know that man after that came over to his brother and told him the farm is sold you don't have to go and collect any money for rent. He got a heart attack, he died a day or two later. Well maybe he had heart trouble before but the aggravation. Well I didn't mean to kill the man.

YETTA CHAIKEN: Well so your children have all remained Jewish?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Yes.

YETTA CHAIKEN: That is very unusual.

And we all married Jewish men.

YETTA CHAIKEN: And they all married Jewish women or men.

DORA MARKOWITZ: But one of my grandson's he married a gentile but she is a nice girl and she like the Jewish way of life and she like to eat Gefite fish. She like the synagogue. SHE like to go to synagogue. He was born a Jewish had a bar mitzvah and everything and she's a nice girl.

And all her grandson's were bar mitzvahed and her own children were bar mitzvahed. Her father taught her two oldest children, oldest boys Hebrew enough so they could be bar mitzvahed. And who taught Iffy my youngest brother, who taught him.

DORA MARKOWITZ: No body.

He was bar mitzvahed, wasn't he.

DORA MARKOWITZ: Oh yes.

Who taught him/

DORA MARKOWITZ: My father.

Your father taught Iffy too.

DORA MARKOWITZ: I don't remember, maybe he did, maybe not.

YETTA CHAIKEN: Was there ever a Rabbi came?

DORA MARKOWITZ: There was a Rabbi in Dover, we used to go there.

YETTA CHAIKEN: A Rabbi used to come to Dover?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Yes, pop used to take him to Dover, once or twice a week. Whenever he could spare time to go.

May I ask a question. Do you know or have you in the past did you lite candles on Friday nights?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Yes I do. I lite candles every Friday night. My father said to me, he said, we don't have to if you feel like (inaudible)put down your head and....

YETTA CHAIKEN: What you mean is, if you feel like reciting the prayers before the candles. And so then you can put something on your head before, as part of the ritual but if you don't want to, go ahead what did he say?

DORA MARKOWITZ: The main thing is to lite the candles.

Part of a tradition, right mom.

DORA MARKOWITZ: Right, my father was religious man and he was very educated in Jewish religion. So the main thing you lite a candle. You put on the cover on your head but the main thing is to lite the candles. And the main thing is you say the prayer or another prayer, just lite the candles.

YETTA CHAIKEN: So to this day, you still lite the candles.

DORA MARKOWITZ: I lite the candles to let the others say the prayers.

YETTA CHAIKEN: But your children have obviously maintained some of the Jewish.

DORA MARKOWITZ: Yes they do lite the candles. How about you.

I like them every Friday night.

DORA MARKOWITZ: That's good.

YETTA CHAIKEN: Does your family get together often.
Your family.

DORA MARKOWITZ: How much.

YETTA CHAIKEN: Your children get together.

The husband's I think are fairly close.
I think the children are fairly close.

YETTA CHAIKEN: Ah, have you ever been sorry that you
came on the farm?

DORA MARKOWITZ: That's a good question. No.

YETTA CHAIKEN: Why?

DORA MARKOWITZ: I liked the life because of the farm
life.

YETTA CHAIKEN: Even though it was so hard?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Yes.

YETTA CHAIKEN: Wouldn't it have been easier if you
lived in the city?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Probably it would be easier but not
have been as healthy. The one thing about it I'm happy with all
my children's around me close. They are still all farmers and
they like the life too.

YETTA CHAIKEN: So you must have done something right.
You took in some people, you mentioned to live with you.

First let's talk about the niece and
the nephew you took in.

YETTA CHAIKEN: All right let's talk about all the people
that you took in to live with you.

DORA MARKOWITZ: There was my niece when she was a baby.
I took her into my home. From a home.

YETTA CHAIKEN: What kind of home.

DORA MARKOWITZ: A children's home.

YETTA CHAIKEN: Well it's an institution.

DORA MARKOWITZ: But it was in Brooklyn in the Bronx.

YETTA CHAIKEN: Was she an orphan?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Her mother was mentally retarded.

Not retarded, she had a problem mom. She wasn't retarded she was a bright woman. She was not fully adjusted or ah, what was the word. She wasn't mentally capable of raising children but emotionally handicapped, I would say. She loved children, loved them dearly but didn't have the background the actually I guess the emotional background to raise them and as long as my mother's mother was there in the house taking care of the children, they you know, did all right. But then mom's mother became bedridden, very ill and she called mom, my grandmother called mom or wrote her and said I beg of you take these children because they, are not, they will never be raised to be normal children. So ah, mom said I can't, things are very, very bad. So grandmom called the authorities and they came and they saw the atmosphere ah that these children were being raised in and they took, at the time there were three children, took them away and put them into three different institutions. Ah, the youngest was three and I think ah, then six and about nine. Ah, Martin was nine, Daisy...

DORA MARKOWITZ: David wasn't in home not David, Amy I mean.

Amy wasn't born yet. So ah, continued to ah, run away from the institution and come home, right.

DORA MARKOWITZ: Not from institution honey, this was very good. From his home, his father.

Oh, he would run from his father?

DORA MARKOWITZ: From his father and his mother yes.

And finally he was old enough to ah, be taken into the service, the second world war had started by that time and he enlisted right?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Right and then he came to work for Mildred and Benny.

And then the second one David you took because he would not adjust to the institution or the home.

DORA MARKOWITZ: No, no it was not David. They wanted him out. You see my brother Charlie, not so smart. He took him out. He start taking him out. He wanted him not to be there. He wanted him to go home. So they found out and let know the people that took care of the home. They told Charlie never to

She thought she was going to be taken away again.

DORA MARKOWITZ: Someone take her back to the home.

Right but Mom raised her until she was eighteen when she went away to become a secretary and stenographer. Down in Dover and then she went to Philadelphia and she went to Germany and she married a chemist unfortunately it didn't work out. She gave birth to twin boys also. She just happily remarried just this last May but refers to Mom as Mom and Amy she took another child. Now what happened to David Mom? Why couldn't you keep David.

DORA MARKOWITZ: Oh, David he was terrible. Very, I didn't want him. He was, you couldn't handle him. I remember he was here a few weeks or a few months. It was a very bad winter day and he had to go to the bus for school. And I buttoned him up, so his neck shouldn't be so much open and he didn't want it open it up. I was afraid he would get a cold. I couldn't handle him. I could not, he had to go back. With the grandmother or mother. I wouldn't keep him for any money. He was impossible.

He developed rickets because he made up his mind he was not going to drink any milk and the doctor said you absolutely have to get that child to drink milk. His head got extremely large in proportion to his body and his arms were very, very thin and it was a form of rickets. And so my father who was a very patient man, begged him to eat with him, ordered him and finally he had to he got to the point where and he refused each, ah, time. Checked his mouth. He wouldn't even let a drop of food go into his mouth. Finally pop through up his arms gave him up, threw the glass of milk in his face and left. And he says I ah cannot take anymore of this and he went I think what did he do, go back to his mother and father?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Yes.

They promised to take better care of him.

DORA MARKOWITZ: No, no the society or company whatever you call them. The home didn't know that we sent him back to their people. Otherwise they wouldn't allow. They didn't want him to. They didn't want them to they wasn't able to take care of him properly. Rachel was away most of the time. She was going to the mission day and night all the time.

She was a Jewish woman and she was converted to Christianity by missionarys and she lost the baby in the bathtub.

DORA MARKOWITZ: No, no, no. No Darling she went to her brother and Charlie wanted her to live by herself. She used to be

with my mother. She should keep house herself. So she left the baby on the washtub on her table, you know.

With a basin of water.

DORA MARKOWITZ: No, no no. water what are you talking about. With clothes, covered up with the clothes had the baby diapered and dressed and left the poor baby on the table. On the table, not in the water. No water. She didn't bother much with water. So the poor baby cried and cried until it gave out, it died.

How old was it Mom?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Two months.

So then Mom took all the children into her house.

DORA MARKOWITZ: The baby was the youngest baby. The other baby was older, was Sarah and David and Martin was in a home he was in very good home but Charlie took him out.

So then years later after Sarah was mostly raised and Martin was grown and David

DORA MARKOWITZ: She got married with a gentile and then two months later she became pregnant with her twins.

Now this is Sarah but I want to tell them about Avy now. The story about Avy. Mom took in another nephew. He was born several years after Sarah. The same thing started all over again. He was not being raised properly and ah, I guess who decided that he come to the farm.

DORA MARKOWITZ: Rachel wanted very much.

Rachel was the mother.

DORA MARKOWITZ: And I want, I like that boy very much.

So you took Avy when he was how old?

DORA MARKOWITZ: Twelve years old. He used to come every summer here. For summer vacation.

So you were used to him.

DORA MARKOWITZ: Oh, yes. He was such a boy.

Anyway the story with Avy is that ah, he continued after he was twelve years old and Mom called Sarah.

DORA MARKOWITZ: And he liked your sister he wanted to be here with Sarah too.

Mom and Pop took full care of him. And ah, he didn't do too well in school. Towards the end of his high school year, pop said to him Avy look what are you going to do with your future. You're not doing too well in school, what are you going to do. Don't you want to go to college? And he said yes. He'd love to go to college and I can I, Pop said certainly I'll see that you go to college.

DORA MARKOWITZ: No that wasn't it.

Wasn't that the story.

DORA MARKOWITZ: Avy thought that Pop going to keep him on the farm, make him into farmer. So that's why he didn't care. So he said why don't you learn good, what's the matter with you. The principal said you're not doing very well. Why do I have to do good. Why do I have to go to college are you going to keep me here on the farm. He thought that my husband would keep him on the farm as a farmer and he didn't care for it. He didn't want to be on the farm. He didn't like farm work. So my husband said, no who wants you on the farm? I don't want you. Get an education. And he changed so quick.

He became a great student. So from then on he was on the Dean's list constantly. He got his, graduated college, went on for his Masters in ah, physics and then a doctorate in Mathematics. Now working for the government in Washington.

YETTA CHAIKEN: Beautiful story.

DORA MARKOWITZ: I made a menshe out of him.

Now tell us about the other two sisters. Oh, I guess one is Ernest and Teddy you're referring to.

DORA MARKOWITZ: Ernest is not my son.

She wanted to know about Ernest and Teddy because you raised.

DORA MARKOWITZ: I didn't raise Ernest.

Ernest came when he was thirty-three years old. He stayed here for exactly thirty-three years and died. He was supposed to have died within a few years. The doctors told him, told mom and pop that when they took him he was ah, that the doctors diagnosis was that he was not going to live very long and he was a harmless psychoid, unless ah, otherwise mom and pop would not have taken him.

DORA MARKOWITZ: He what was he.

He was harmless. He was a beloved man. He was an intelligent man, extremely intelligent man ah, he was a cultured man.

DORA MARKOWITZ: He loved her very much.

I was a young child and so was my kid brother and whenever we had difficulty in school, he was so patient. He would spend hours with me helping with my math or anything else that I needed help with. He knew all the classics. He was a book-keeper and accountant. He had hundreds of people working under him and his mind suddenly gave out.

DORA MARKOWITZ: He had a nervous breakdown.

Anyway he bathed us, he yes, when mom would go and leave us with him in charge. I cannot forget one night he was putting Itsy and I in the bathtub, bathing us and putting us to bed and he would take us for walks in the woods and talk about he knew every bird that he ever say and every tree. He was ah, animals had instinctive love for him. They would come to him as if he were one of them. And he spoke a language all his own.

DORA MARKOWITZ: Sure when he went with you. You never told me that.

And he did this with all of our children in later years when I had children. He would take them by the hand and take them for walks in the woods, and talk about the birds and the animals and the trees etcetera. He was a beloved man. But he would get these spells which he became completely uncontrollable. I mean he would Pop would end up having to shake him to bring him back to normalacy. But he was a lovely man. He wrote the most fantastic letters for my mother. He was almost like a private secretary. He would write like script.

DORA MARKOWITZ: My brother wrote the same way.

YETTA CHAIKEN: How about Teddy?

Teddy ah, Mom you told me that his grandfather found Pop on the roadside market and asked him if he would take him and the grandfather died and then ah, the grandmother and then the father was in charge of him and then the father died and then his brother.

DORA MARKOWITZ: Accident, car accident.

Right then the brother ah, finally took over seeing that Teddy was taken care of then they finally left Mom and Pop to take charge of Teddy. And they haven't seen him in years right?

DORA MARKOWITZ: SAid the boys here for years and years not only has a brother, uncles aunts and cousins. They never come. In the beginning they came. And after that the father used to come but his grandmother used to come but they passed away. They got old and they died and so the father had an accident and he died.

So this is Mom's life at the farm with lugging the buckets of water to cook and clean and working with a wood stove and handling the wood by herself to cook.

DORA MARKOWITZ: I remember one time I washed my clothes for the pump. It was wintertime. The water was warm, you know the sink water and then when I rinsed out and was ready to hang it out, it was froze. I couldn't hang it up.

YETTA CHAIKEN: I can remember that. Taking clothes off the line that were frozen.

Pop was strictly a geenhorn with many many things. In those days they used kerosene lamps. Kerosene lights and had no electricity and one time they ran out of kerosene and pop happened to have some gasoline around and not knowing the danger of gasoline,...

DORA MARKOWITZ: Oh, that's right they didn't have no kerosene they had to put kerosene in the lamps and ah, the lanterns to go to the stable to take care of the cows, the horses so they put in gasoline and when he put in gasoline in the lamp and he even the lantern, I said don't put nothing. It's only for kerosene. He said what's the difference. It's all right and it started burning and it burned on his pants. It caught fire on his pants.

YETTA CHAIKEN: What was the worst thing that ever happened while you were living on the farm?

Well that was one of the worst things. That plus we've had a serious of fires in the barns. Teddy one day took a lantern and obviously the cow knocked over the lantern and the barn went up.

DORA MARKOWITZ: Not(inaudible)that stupid idiot. It was Teddy in the hayloft. And it was that and he had matches with him. He lit a match and burn his fingers and dropped it in the hayloft in the hay and the hay burned out, the stable burned out the barn and all the firemen came from everywhere. It was afraid that it shouldn't get to the big house.

Pop and Sol were away at the time.

DORA MARKOWITZ: Pop was away in the city.

In New York right., he was in New York Sol was going away, the second world war. He was going overseas. Pop went up to see him off. So my kid brother and my oldest brother were here and ah, they ran to the house. They woke, this was five or six in the morning. And ah, it was an unusually bright morning because of the fire. They didn't understand what was happening. Something woke my big brother. He looked out and he saw the whole barn up in flames and he ran out screaming to us to call the fire company and mom didn't know what to do and I ran downstairs. I called the fire company.

DORA MARKOWITZ: I knew what to do. I pumped water and tried to stop the fire. Pumped it with buckets of water to stop the fire.

Anyway we called the fire company and they came. We had a gasoline pump that we were afraid would explode. It went up in flames. They had all the machinery there and my brother my kid brother went into get the machinery out, the last piece of machinery we pulled out it was so close to the flames we had all our eyebrows burned off. Then we had to get the animals out first of course. The horses and cows especially horses have a I don't know what it is that draws them to flames. So they'd no sooner get out of the barn and they'd go back in and so they kept the barndoor open to get the cows out and the horse was back in and it took so long to get all the animals out.

DORA MARKOWITZ: Because they get so scared they go right to the fire, its terrible.

YETTA CHAIKEN: Well I certainly do feel as though you're life has been very full and we thank you very much for sharing it with us.

DORA MARKOWITZ: Yes thank you.

YETTA CHAIKEN: Before we leave, I think you should tell us how, had your husband been ill did he, ...

DORA MARKOWITZ: He wasn't.

YETTA CHAIKEN: He wasn't ill.

He had three heart attacks.

DORA MARKOWITZ: This was fourth heart attack this year.

YETTA CHAIKEN: When was that? Did he take care of himself.

It's a very interesting story. He refused to follow doctor's instructions. He felt that he could go on and on

and was a very active man to the very last day of his life. He saw all four of his children. He visited farmers ah, farm and field day in the substation in Georgetown, where they had an annual farm and field day. He picked tomatoes that day and hauled them to the roadside market. He was active to the very last and he was to this day we all.

DORA MARKOWITZ: This was his fourth heart attack. How many heart attacks can a person have. He wouldn't take care of himself.

YETTA CHAIKEN: How long ago was this that he passed away?

It will be six years next month.

YETTA CHAIKEN: And you say he had been in Israel twice.

He was a very most unusual man.

DORA MARKOWITZ: His brothers, his sisters, his cousins and aunts. He had a very big family.

him. Once you met him you were to love

DORA MARKOWITZ: This was when he was a young man with me in the pictures.

show you. Oh, here is a picture I've got to