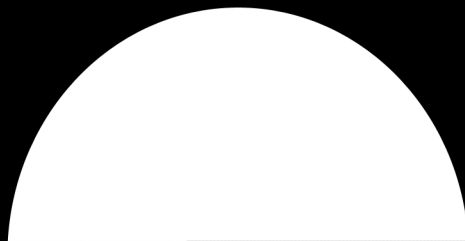
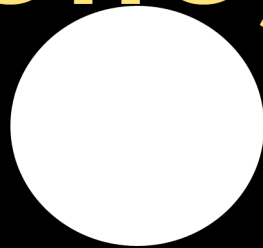


**Nevada State
College**



**Undergraduate Oral
History Project**

Oral History of Hildegard Lewin

An Interview

Conducted by

Jessica Vigil

April 4, 2014

Nevada State College Undergraduate Oral History Project

Produced by:

Nevada State College Undergraduate Oral History Project
Department of History, Nevada State College 89002
Directors: Peter La Chapelle, Ph.D. and Kate Hahn
Project Manager: Melissa S. Stoner
Project Assistants: Noelle Cruz and Laura Hutton

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The transcript received minimal editing to preserve the conversational style and content of the narrator.

This interview is from the series *Bridging the Past: Henderson through Oral History*.

Oral History of Hildegard Lewin

An Interview Conducted by Jessica Vigil on April 4, 2014

Biography

Hildegard Lewin was born in 1928 in Königsberg, East Germany. Her father was a dentist and her mother was a modiste, making hats. There were 9 children in the family 2, adopted. It was not clear if there was 9 total including the 2 adopted or a total of 11 children. She was in grade school during the holocaust and attended a Jewish school. She described her earliest memories of anti-Semitism when walking to and from school.

She described her father owning a car and that her parents took vacations and had sent them to boarding school. She described spending more time with her nanny than her parents as they left to Brazil once the war was hitting Germany and that she was sent to school in France. She talks about how she and her sister escaped the Gestapo on various occasions through a series of tunnels and underground workings. She was ultimately able to leave Germany, through England and finally to Brazil to be reunited with her parents.

Hildegard Lewin

Narrator: Hildegard Lewin
Interviewer: Jessica Vigil
Interview Date: April 4, 2014
Location: Las Vegas, Nevada

Jessica Vigil: Okay, my name is Jessica Vigil, V-i-g-i-l. I'm here with Hilde Lewin. Is that how -- -

Hildegard: Hildegard Lewin.

Jessica Vigil: Hildegard Lewin. So, it is April 4, 2014. We're in Las Vegas, Nevada. And this is being recorded for the Undergraduate Oral History Project for Nevada State College and it will be archived in the Nevada State College Library.

So, do you mind if I say Hilde? Hilde, what is your full name?

Hildegard: Hildegard Lewin. I was married. When I got my divorced finally I took -- he said take my name off. So I don't use it. It is a Portuguese name. Monteiro, M-o-n-t-e-i-r-o.

Jessica Vigil: And how do you spell your full name.

Hildegard: Hildegard, H-i-l-d-e-g-a-r-d

Jessica Vigil: And last name.

Hildegard: Lewin, Lewin is my family name. My single, my family is Lewin.

Jessica Vigil: Can you spell that?

Hildegard: L-e-w-i-n.

Jessica Vigil: And tell me a little bit about where you were born raised and what your parents did for a living?

Hildegard: I was born in Germany in the East. Way on top of the East. The name was Königsberg, K-ö-a-n-i-s-b-e-r-g. And when, hold on for a second.

Jessica Vigil: No of course.

Hildegard: I have to tell you the story why we had to leave there.

Hildegard Lewin

- Jessica Vigil: Well, I would love to hear that story.
- Hildegard: Okay, we were born - - when Hitler came to power in 1933, his mother was Jewish and he hated the Jews because of that. And my father was a dentist and he was incarcerated three times.
- Jessica Vigil: For what?
- Hildegard: And - - he was on Hitler's Black List. That means he was going to die. They were going to kill him.
- Jessica Vigil: Do you know what he was incarcerated for?
- Hildegard: No, I was a kid. I was very, very young.
- Jessica Vigil: What year were you born?
- Hildegard: 1928.
- Jessica Vigil: And other than your father being a dentist, do you know what your mother did for a living?
- Hildegard: My mother was a modist, m-o-d-i-s-t. She made -
- Jessica Vigil: Hats?
- Hildegard: Hats, yes, she made hats, depending on the season. She made hats for women.
- Jessica Vigil: And - - so your father's income was enough to support your family?
- Hildegard: Yes.
- Jessica Vigil: And what are your earliest memories?
- Hildegard: Well, my earliest memories, I remember [cat in background] the Gestapo wasn't ready to go after the people, the church people but it was a very big up roar and the economy was really bad. It wasn't a way that today's money that mean anything tomorrow.
- So instead of my father charging money for his work, he would say okay, I have to do this, I want to as a payment, a sack of potatoes, or a sack of apples, so we always had food. And then they went to get the rabbits, they were called different, you could eat rabbits. So

Hildegard Lewin

they went --when I get nervous I get [Inaudible] [cat in background].

Jessica Vigil: Oh, don't worry about it take your time.

Hildegard: Anyway, so we always have food and like we had here in 1923 or whatever but the economy was so bad, nobody had food. It was worse in Germany. So that's a way we had food. So I don't know what else you want to know.

Jessica Vigil: Who were the people in your family?

Hildegard: My father was the - -there was another brother that was older than my father; there was 9 in the family. My grandmother on my father side had 9 children. And then she could have any more but she wanted more so she adopted two more. Which unfortunately, I don't their names. I don't know anything. So that is on my heart and on my shoulders that won't go away. I'm going to have to wait until the 2nd coming of Christ, so then I know who I can still do work, you know.

Jessica Vigil: And who lived with you? Who do you remember living in your home?

Hildegard: Well in my home was dad, mom, my oldest sister, Erika, with a k, Hildegard and my youngest sister Eva.

Jessica Vigil: And what were the family dynamics like? How did you get along with the people in your family?

Hildegard: Oh we got along.

Jessica Vigil: Do you remember any particular squabbles or - -?

Hildegard: No, my mom and dad knew each other since; I don't know the word sweetheart to the school. And dad went to the first World War, 1914-18 and a bombshell fell near him and he was under the earth for three days, sucking air and he was in the infantry and - - so he has the -- -what heart -- when you get it - -

Jessica Vigil: A pace maker? A pace maker?

Hildegard: No, no. When you get a - -

Jessica Vigil: A transplant?

Hildegard Lewin

Hildegard: No. Let me talk about that later and ask me.

Jessica Vigil: Of course, we can come back.

Hildegard: And the dog found him after 3 days and he was looking [Inaudible] and that's how they found him and he had a big heart, because of sucking air under the earth. It's very difficult. He had a big heart that was named Cow's heart because the heart had to grow in order to suck air. And he died of a heart attack, three heart attacks one after the other. He was 51 years old when he died.

Jessica Vigil: Did he die in the United States?

Hildegard: No, no, he never went to States. Mom and dad never went to states.

Jessica Vigil: Where did he pass away at?

Hildegard: He, okay, that is another story but remind me of that. I'm a do it so I can tell it.

We went to a Jewish school. We come from a Jewish family okay. My grandfather on mother's side had - - you know the Jews always did their genealogy that comes from the Jews okay. And my grandfather had in the dining room a stand, a beautiful stand and had a big book this thick up to Adam. He had all the genealogy up to Adam. Well, I'm going to go back and forth because I don't remember, - -

Jessica Vigil: No worries.

Hildegard: When the Gestapo was very active there, one night 1 o'clock in the morning they [knocking on the table] so grandma said what can I do for you? And they knew everything what you have, what you wear, etcetera in your family. And they were very, very rude.

Where's Maxcohn? This is my grandfather's name, M-a-x-c-o-h-n, they call it here cohen but its cohn. Well get him up, get him up, I want to talk to him. So she went to wake up my grandfather and he came and said yes, what can I do for you. And they said, where's your book? And grandfather knew there was something going to happen very bad for him. He went to pick up his book and they took it from him and went outside. And he accompanied Gestapo and saw them burning in front him.

Hildegard Lewin

Jessica Vigil: So when you say book you mean your genealogy book that you referred to?

Hildegard: Yes.

Jessica Vigil: And when you say Gestapo, what do you mean by that?

Hildegard: What?

Jessica Vigil: When you say Gestapo, what do you mean by that?

Hildegard: Stop over?

Jessica Vigil: You said Gestapo.

Hildegard: The Gestapo.

Jessica Vigil: Yes.

Hildegard: They burned it. And my grandfather until he died, talked about his book. The genealogy book. Then they left. They left him. And grandpa saw it all and nothing. And I remember, it must have been 5 maybe 6 I don't remember and grandpa was always looking at it and was this size and this thing was high. Grandpa, what is this and grandpa said, this is book. But I was born but why and what is it. I wasn't born that way. But why, what do you meant it's a book, he said, this is the book that all my family and tells Adam it's written in here. And I was always took - - see it - - I only saw it once.

Jessica Vigil: About how old do you recall being when they burned the book?

Hildegard: Huh?

Jessica Vigil: How old do you recall being when the book was burned?

Hildegard: I must have been 5, 6, or 7. I can't remember.

Jessica Vigil: And do you remember what you saw? What it felt like?

Hildegard: What?

Jessica Vigil: Were you present when the book was burned?

Hildegard: No.

- Jessica Vigil: Oh.
- Hildegard: No, I was not. But they told us and grandpa was always, very, very sad that this book is gone and the interesting part is that my father was a dentist. Four other brothers were dentist, the only one the last one, the small one was a hospital director, or something - - he was a doctor in medicine.
- And my grandmother, my grandfather, both were dentist. 1800 something I don't know the age. Can you believe in Germany a dentist being a woman?
- Jessica Vigil: That is definitely fascinating. And do you recall ever seeing like a shop that they worked at or an office they worked at for your grandparents or your father?
- Hildegard: An office?
- Jessica Vigil: Did they work out of an office? Did they work out of home?
- Hildegard: Yes, my dad [Inaudible] I'm not going to make a question mark. And remind me. Grandpa -you know I don't know but I think he to be - - because he had a whole - - my grandparents are very rich okay and they had almost a whole building. It wasn't a whole building like we have today, huge building, no, like house; you know two, three floors only. He worked at home and grandma worked at home too.
- Jessica Vigil: And your father worked at home?
- Hildegard: No. My father had a business in Brazil, that's what I wanted to talk to you later. Okay now let's see what the next thing, yes.
- Jessica Vigil: You had mentioned that, to come back to you, in his heart?
- Hildegard: Oh about his heart. Well, when they took him out, he was better and then he was in the hospital for many, many months or a year so. Mom took care - - okay, another thing, my mother was a concert pianist in Germany.
- Jessica Vigil: You said your mother-in-law?
- Hildegard: My mother.
- Jessica Vigil: Oh your mother.

Hildegard: And grandmother made her play 6 to 8 hours a day and she hated that and because she had so much to look and her eyes were getting very weak and grandma took her to the doctor. And the doctor said you need to stop this, she's going to be blind if you do what you're doing. Make it go into the a lot of trees to look on green so that she forced the eyes to get better you know. And when she got married to my father, she never played the piano again.

Jessica Vigil: So she played when she was younger?

Hildegard: Well, because my grandmother - - yes, she was - - she gave concerts you know but she didn't like it because my grandmother was too strong on her and she was the only girl. I mean the only child.

Jessica Vigil: Do you recall where your parents met? Did they ever talk about that?

Hildegard: I can't hear you sweetie.

Jessica Vigil: Where your parents met? Did they ever tell you about that?

Hildegard: Where my parents what?

Jessica Vigil: Where they met at?

Hildegard: No, mom was a very- - because you see, she had to take care of dad. Dad sometimes during the night- - this is just a conversation. He would get -- don't remember what he's doing because that's how bad he was. He would get up and go out and so mom had to really watch him.

So it was very hard on mom and mom get sometime very nervous. It was a very hard time for my mom you know because First World War and then Second World War you know and she was a nervous person. And that was very calm, very collected, very voice like yours, calm voice and when she did too much she wouldn't talk to her, one, two day, three days, a week. Mom would get upset because this he would not talk but he would never answer her back.

Jessica Vigil: Tell me a little bit about your education.

Hildegard Lewin

Hildegard: Wait, I want to tell you something else. Because mom was an artist. When she had us, she got a nanny for us. So my nanny was my mom and - -

Jessica Vigil: Do you recall your nanny's name?

Hildegard: Yes, hold on. Helen and she has a funny name Januchevski, J-a-n-u-c-h-e-v-s-k-i, Januchevski.

Jessica Vigil: And do your earliest memories involve her?

Hildegard: I was - -she started to get born, she was already there.

Jessica Vigil: So back to your education, do you know - -

Hildegard: Oh, I went to school of course.

Jessica Vigil: Which school did you go to?

Hildegard: We went to a Jewish school. Yeah, I meant to tell you. [Inaudible]. My two sisters and I, my oldest sister and I we gotta a -- we passed in the Jewish language that was not what it is today. It was—let me talk something else maybe it comes back. It's the old language that I still understand and I cannot -- I knew Jewish and I spoke Jewish but I can't remember nothing. And that language today is dead.

But all the holy books were in that language. And so about after 20 years, after the war, they opened up all the Jewish school to for them to learn the new language that I don't know and so that they could read the Old Testament. You know we didn't have to know the testament because they didn't believe in Jesus Christ okay. And all these books so they could read it. And so they did that. The language that I know and that old people still speak and I can't understand it, it's not spoken anymore.

Jessica Vigil: Is that your first language?

Hildegard: After my German, yes.

Jessica Vigil: Oh, okay and so you recall speaking the old Jewish and German?

Hildegard: It's not German it's Jewish. It's -- they have another now --they had it for 40, 50 years but the one of the old one - -I probably remember when it comes to me a little - - Anyway.

- Jessica Vigil: Do you remember the name of your school?
- Hildegard: The school oh no. You ask too much when I was a kid.
- Jessica Vigil: Do you remember anything about any of you classmates?
- Hildegard: No, I am - - boy that I liked and I must have been 4 or 5 maybe. One day mom talked about him and I said, and this is what I did. That's what she told me. Well yeah, I like him, I like him. But she was telling me I had to laugh.
- Jessica Vigil: That was cute.
- Hildegard: I know his name was, I can't remember. You see I forgot a lot after this pulmonary embolism. I fell four times on my head and opened up here. That's why sometimes you see some - - there's no hair and then- - he always would write to me but I was small to write to him. For years and years and years.
- Jessica Vigil: Do you remember how any of your peers viewed the current events at the time?
- Hildegard: My peers?
- Jessica Vigil: Yeah, any other - -
- Hildegard: Okay, let me tell you what happened once. In Europe, generally the same day, everybody got their - - what you call it when you a friend you know that you pass for the next year – what you call that little paper?
- Jessica Vigil: Visa?
- Hildegard: No, not Visa. In school?
- Jessica Vigil: In school, your report card?
- Hildegard: Your report card. Everybody has a report card when we came out from school and happy that we all passed and my oldest sister got first and I got second and a woman came by, all three, we were all together and let me see because people would ask you know and see and give their blessing or whatever.
When she saw that was a school a Jewish school she spit on it, on mine and my sister ran a little bit forward and I couldn't even move. And threw it on the floor and on the street and put her face, not her face, her shoe to make it black you know. And I cried like

crazy. So we ran home to grandma and I asked why grandma, why did you do that to us? I don't remember and I know my grandmother was very serious but I don't know what she said and that left me very bad you know, I can never forget that.

Jessica Vigil: About how old do you recall being?

Hildegard: Huh?

Jessica Vigil: About how old do you recall being?

Hildegard: I was copied.

Jessica Vigil: How old do you remember being?

Hildegard: Yeah about 5 or 6 or something like that. I was already in the first grade or something.

Jessica Vigil: And you said this was in Europe?

Hildegard: That was in Germany.

Jessica Vigil: Oh in Germany.

Hildegard: But all Europe did that with the report card.

Jessica Vigil: I see, I see.

Hildegard: Don't get upset with me. I'm just nervous.

Jessica Vigil: It's okay. So, when this woman spit on your sister's report card, was that your first experience - -

Hildegard: With a [Inaudible], yes.

Jessica Vigil: And what do you recall your sister doing?

Hildegard: They were crying. I didn't have a childhood because I am the middle one and I took care of both the oldest and the -- I got everything because I was very observant since I was born and

everything I saw - this was good, this is not good, you know. No, there goes my idea. Okay, keep talking.

Jessica Vigil: What were your favorite foods?

Hildegard: You won't believe this. I was always hungry. And my - - Helen because - - we called her Nana and grandmother would bring-- would call—when we were there with grandma, she would say here take the green beans and clean them up, take the things out on the side you know, so that - green beans you cannot eat because they close up - - so she had to cut it you know. So she did that and it was a big thing like this and she said Hildegard, I'm not going to tell you my name that they called me okay. Because I don't like it, shall I tell you?

Jessica Vigil: If you like.

Hildegard: P-u-m-m-e-l, pummel.

Jessica Vigil: And does that mean anything?

Hildegard: Yes. Gordita. Fatso

Jessica Vigil: Oh. So you said p-u

Hildegard: P-u-m-m-e-l. They called me pummel. Pummel go to take these green beans to grandma and she will cook them. I was always hungry. Hair was going like this, I picked on up and I tried it and I loved it. From then onward I eat all the vegetables, raw. When I got there my grandma gave me - - a here [making noise] because I ate half of it but I wasn't hungry anymore.

Jessica Vigil: So you had mentioned your dad in Brazil.

Hildegard: Well okay, let me talk then. During summer we always went to some - - you know how you had here in the United States and get from France , from other countries to go to a family in Brazil or everywhere to learn of the languages and so mom and dad put us for one month to Denmark.

Of course they are grown up people that took care of us. And mom said when you come back, you three we won't be here. Oh no before that let me say something. Mom said when we were in the east, we got to get out of here. The mayor of the city was very friendly with my parents. You better get out of here because you're

Hildegard Lewin

going to die. So guess where they went? To Berlin. That is - - that's where Hitler was.

And Hitler did some - - after the war they made—I don't know if you heard about the big wall that they separated the East and the West. We went to the west which was our luck but when we left they put Helen in the East. To the Gestapo. Hitler put out a lot that Jews cannot live with other organizations or religions – could not.

She was Catholic so we lived separate from grandma that was about 2 corners of the street where she lived. And we were here in a small. It wasn't even an apartment. It was only a living room a tiny living room, let's say here. And a room like this half where there were three beds, okay. And there was no bathroom. So that was—people working outside they need to go - - a thing like that. He bought it we never used it. I didn't never use it. I don't remember if they used it because I wouldn't go there. But if you four steps up outside that they had on a little thing here that was a restroom okay.

So at night when I had to go out I would cry like crazy and Nana – I need to go pee pee, go here I said no, you go there. And then I opened the door to go out the four stairs to open that door there but they were the drunks that they were sleeping. I said I'm not going there they're going to attack me. So I cried like crazy. And until we went to Brazil, I wouldn't go anywhere.

Jessica Vigil: You said that your family ended up in West Germany. Do you know how they ended up?

Hildegard: Not in the West. We went to Berlin and they, I think about 5 years but I'm not quite sure – could be 4 years because I remember we went to Denmark on that exchange student or whatever and we had to - - then the older people say put your luggage together, put everything there and we couldn't get everything in the luggage so we put one dress, two dresses, three dresses on us. Well we had a way of doing it you know.

So when we came back, grandma started laughing. What is it here with these dresses but we couldn't put it in it wouldn't fit - - we just put - - we didn't put it nicely, you know like grown up people do. And she started laughing. And then I said grandma, where's mom and dad? Well you remember what she told you? Kids don't remember things like that. It was about what, three months after they left.

Jessica Vigil: Do you recall the year?

Hildegard: No.

Jessica Vigil: What about, how old you may have been?

Hildegard: Well I - - let's see, 1928, 30, 2 years, 32, it must have been 5 years, between 5 and 6 because Hitler was already in power - - he was already the owner there. And there's one thing, one day we were walking in Germany on the street and without meaning to my Nana got into with a lot of people where and I looked up and see Hitler there right in front of me. Do you know what that Satan? I saw started trembling from head to toe and I got my linen on the skirts, let's get out of here, let's get out of here, please - - [Inaudible] and started crying. I can never forget that.

Jessica Vigil: Do you remember how old you were?

Hildegard: Yes, about 6, 6 ½ or so but you see I was already not a child anymore. I was a young girl that new everything that was going on. I knew one time the Gestapo was running after us and we were all three of us and I saw him coming and I picked up my hand--- the hands of my sister and said let's get out of here, come on, let's go, let's go and I went under the buildings to the other building, to the other building because I knew under where we lived, under, not on top or else I knew. But I learned how to get under so they wouldn't follow us to get to our place.

Jessica Vigil: So like a series of tunnels?

Hildegard: No, it's you know, they always had yes, that connected one building to another but it wasn't really tunnels. It's like we - you have - what do you have in the house above the ceiling to go up into the what?

Jessica Vigil: Attic?

Hildegard: Attic. They had it also under. I remember my father and [inaudible]. He put the - he killed the - not the - I forgot the name again, the animals and took the took them and put - and hanged them you know and then the [inaudible] come in and take what they have to take away so and then you can cook it. We had a lot of those things so we had meat. You have that and then you can go through from one building to the other. Of course nobody does it but I know how to do it.

- Jessica Vigil: What was your first experience with anti-Semitism?
- Hildegard: Anti-what?
- Jessica Vigil: Semitism.
- Hildegard: Yeah, but you see I don't know anything about it. You see kids don't – people talk about it but I couldn't understand what it was so I just get it out. See I was a kid remember. Kids don't take – they – I knew how to save ourselves to get out of there. Oh, there was a thing. When I was in Brazil I had nightmares that the Gestapo pointing at me a revolver. He – I was in front of him and I wanted to run and you know when you have nightmares you run but you don't get out? And he was coming. He was coming and I was screaming, scream. Mom would wake me up and say what is it? It's the Gestapo after me. They – he was going to kill me and when I got married I said please, Joe, when you hear me crying and nervous wake me up fast because that guy is up after me. When I got a blessing from the church after 20 years it left.
- Jessica Vigil: So you say blessing from the church. Describe that for me. What do you mean by that?
- Hildegard: Our church. Well, I come there when I go to Brazil, when I talk to you about Brazil.
- Jessica Vigil: Okay, so do you remember going to synagogues when you were in Germany?
- Hildegard: Yes, yes, yes.
- Jessica Vigil: And what was that experience?
- Hildegard: But you see it didn't make me – no, no, no, we did because we were the kids, then you go sometimes especially when there are Hanukkah. Well, that's Jewish, all these dates that were important, then we went with grandpa and grandma.
- Jessica Vigil: What was your favorite holiday that your family celebrated?
- Hildegard: Christmas. [Laughs] I was in Brazil already. When I was a kid I don't remember anything.
- Jessica Vigil: And describe the religious practices of your family.

Hildegard Lewin

Hildegard: Well, the most practices I remember in Germany with grandpa and grandma, we always ate there, was Friday to Saturday after 6:00 on Friday starts the every week, okay and grandpa was – had his not his bible, his Jewish thing there, the Old Testament, okay. We didn't have [inaudible] and he prayed and I understood all of that you see because I knew the language and we – when I was already grown up and I went with my aunt in Brazil I said I remembered one song and I sang in Jewish in oh, what's the name? It was here. See after I hit my head so many times, the last time it just goes like this. If I don't catch it right then, it comes back later.

Jessica Vigil: Okay.

Hildegard: And I started to sing and my aunt said do you remember this, Hildegard? I said yeah, Pummal, [laughs] [inaudible] anyway.

Jessica Vigil: So –

Hildegard: You want to drink something?

Jessica Vigil: Oh, no thank you. I'm fine.

Hildegard: Okay.

Jessica Vigil: Do you remember your parents ever vocalizing fear?

Hildegard: Yes, my mother it's – look, you know that people that are not from our church, sometimes the Holy Spirit comes to them and my mother had it and she can foresee things so when we were in Germany, we went to Brazil – to Berlin, it was such an occasion that she said to her – to my dad we got to get out of here. We all going to die and dad never said anything because he didn't want to leave because his mother was still alive. See the father's – I know my grandfather on my mother's side. I don't know any others, men. They all died very early in life but my – so my grandfather mother was in a home like I am here and we always went to visit her and we called her "Kuchen Oma". Kuchen means cake Oma. Oma means grandma and she was always in a chair. You would like candy?

Jessica Vigil: No, thank you.

Hildegard: And I have to eat something.

Jessica Vigil: No, thanks. If you would like to take a break we can take a break. Okay.

- Hildegard: I have hypoglycemia. Do you know what that is? It's the opposite of diabetes so my blood sugar goes down very fast and I tremble. Like the day before yesterday I was doing something and the hours were going and I was still so – on my computer and suddenly I started like this and I was going like this and then I go with the whole body, I fall. I lie down because I'm going to faint. I don't faint because I can hear something oh, but I said now I got to eat fast so I went, picked up something to eat fast and then about ten minutes later I was better but I was still trembling so oh, where were we?
- Jessica Vigil: You were telling me about your mother and –
- Hildegard: Yeah, she didn't want to go. He didn't want to go because his mother was still – but it came to the point that she said if we don't go now you're going to stay because I'm going but she never said that she's taking the kids, us.
- Jessica Vigil: What was your understanding of her fear?
- Hildegard: I didn't hear it. I heard the whole thing later. Mom and dad were talking when we were in Brazil.
- Jessica Vigil: So you left Germany to Brazil.
- Hildegard: No, my parents left in 1933, '33, '36, '36 and left us there because we were in Denmark. When we came back I said – grandma told me that they were there. For three years we were with my – our nana, three years in that hole in the wall but we ate at the grandpa and grandma.
- Jessica Vigil: And when you say hole in the wall what do you mean by that?
- Hildegard: A tiny little thing that the neighbor have those bedbugs. They come through the wall to us. You know they bite you at night. She kept it clean but the lady there didn't so they came all over. It was terrible. It was a hole in the wall.
- Jessica Vigil: Do you ever remember being in fear while you were there?
- Hildegard: Oh, yeah, I was always in fear when I was on the street because I know about the Gestapo.
- Jessica Vigil: Did you ever know someone that was just taken up? What was your understanding of when people would disappear?

- Hildegard: No, I was not. I wasn't really realizing it you know because grandma and grandpa and nana, she would never – they would never talk about this so I knew something was wrong. I knew that something was very bad with Hitler and – but they wouldn't talk you see so I observed was on the street what was going on. When somebody was running and the Gestapo was running after them I did never think what it was but I found out when I was growing up.
- Jessica Vigil: And did you know anybody personally that was – that had gotten taken away?
- Hildegard: My cousin and my aunt. His – my aunt's name was Nona, N-O-N-A, O-N-N-A, Lewin and I – oh, I think I have it in my book, her single name but that was – my uncle, her husband, he killed himself. One day – so you have to take that over as on the time what I tell them change the time later from you know because this is – I'm going further up but this is something that you might have to put in something else and then a paragraph or something else. You have to – and like that, okay? My – one day Hitler put out a law that nobody could – Jewish couldn't work anymore. From today nobody can work so how are they going to take care of their family? Nonna's husband, he killed himself that night. [hitting table] He went into the car, closed all of the things in the garage, put out – put the engine on and then he died gassed.
- Jessica Vigil: Do you remember what his name was?
- Hildegard: Oh, sure, let me see if I can find that.
- Jessica Vigil: Okay.
- Hildegard: I have it all there in my book. Hold on, Sweetheart. [leaves to find book] I just remembered where it was. [Laughs] When you came in I couldn't remember. Hold on, okay?
- Jessica Vigil: And so what is this book?
- Hildegard: Hmm?
- Jessica Vigil: What is this book?
- Hildegard: This book is a book of remembers and this – these are my, what you call, genealogy. Okay, Martin, M-A-R-T-I-N, Lewin.
- Jessica Vigil: And what year did he pass away?

- Hildegard: Hmm?
- Jessica Vigil: What year was it when he passed away?
- Hildegard: Hold on. He was born on April 13, 1890. Didn't I do his? No, it's open. Shoot, [cat in background] yeah, they are all out of order. The one – the first one is Max Herman. This is my uncle that I loved. Then my dad, then one, two, three, there were six men, male and three female. There were nine. [talking to cat] What, Sweetheart? I know you want to you want to sit with me. I know. Well, lie down here, okay?
- Jessica Vigil: And so you had said that there was a rule about Jews not working.
- Hildegard: Yeah, there was a rule about that no Jews could work anymore.
- Jessica Vigil: And at that time were your parents in Germany or were they in Brazil?
- Hildegard: Can't remember. Hold on. No, I think it was afterwards because I got the notice and then I started putting things in here. It was around, I don't know, '39 or yeah, yeah, it was after.
- Jessica Vigil: You – meaning after they had left?
- Hildegard: After they had left.
- Jessica Vigil: So what did your family – what do you remember your family doing to –
- Hildegard: Well, you see they were in another state and with kids you don't remember states or whatever you know. What happened was he killed himself and I went when I was in, was it in California or was it, yeah, it was in California. That killed me. I could never ever remember. I could never forget this uncle and why did it really go and see I didn't know enough about church at that time and I said how can I save him? Do you think he will be saved or is he going to hell? And I didn't want him to go to hell. [Laughs] Well, I went to Utah no, to – yeah, I went to Utah to a family thing, genealogy for a week and I was there with somebody from church that wanted to go and we had – every morning we had one hour together but we would go to church and then one time – and then an hour for conversation later in one of them I put my hand up and said – talked to the brother. I don't know who it was.

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I don't remember but I said there's something that bothers me all these years and I said can you tell me something about it? And he said yeah. Is it in regards – it's in regards to my uncle that committed suicide because he knows that he couldn't work anymore and how was he going to support the family and – but he did and so he said – and I'm afraid he's somewhere that I don't want him to be and I started crying you know.

He said Sister, please don't do that. Let me tell you something that will alleviate you. You don't know in what situation his mind was, why he was so concerned and not really dared to analyze things, knowing that Hitler just wanted to kill all the Jews and Heavenly Father knew about that and He won't say no, you didn't do this. You killed yourself. You have to go there. He's probably at somewhere you're going to find him and that alleviated me and it went out. I was so at peace and after a couple of days I felt so alleviated. The world was out there again. It was off of my shoulders you know so I was relieved and I cannot forget that but let me tell you something. Do you know what Hitler did the next day? He took the law away. Everybody could work again but my uncle was dead. Now isn't that terrible what Hitler to do that?

Jessica Vigil: The church that you're referencing to, what is the name of the church?

Hildegard: Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

Jessica Vigil: And when did you join that church?

Hildegard: Well, when we went to Brazil in '39, end of '39, mom took us in and the first was – thing that I asked, I said Mom, do you have a toilet? [Laughs] Yeah. Do you have a banheiro? What you call this here, not take your shower, whatever?

Jessica Vigil: Bathroom?

Hildegard: Bathroom, I didn't ask her for toilet. I said do you have a bathroom? Yeah. I want to see it. She showed it to me. Oh, was I relieved. Everything was nice and clean, smelled good. You know everything smelled terrible in that hole, in that there over there. It was never clean so I was happy and what did you ask me again?

Jessica Vigil: When did you join the LDS church?

Hildegard: Okay, mom put us in the Catholic Church in a Catholic where they had children and I was three and a half years in that Catholic

Church. When I heard what they said I didn't agree with it. Do you know when I was growing up in Brazil I said I'm going to find a church. Well, what happened was I had a book of Saul Tarssas, that make – when he accepted Christ he was, what was the name? Paul.

Jessica Vigil: Paul, which book – what is this book called again?

Hildegard: I don't know, Saul, S-A-U-L of Tarsus, T-A-R-S-S-A-S, E-S or S-U-S, I don't know. That was – he – I don't know if you know that story. When he came he was against the – he was against the people that believed in Christ and he went after them, killed them until he found the church and Jesus asked him if he would stop going against these people and he accepted the laws of Christ and was a good man. He was a prophet later and so Heavenly Father forgave him for what he did because he didn't know anything and I said I'm going to find this church that is so good that talks and gives you good ideas and you know I didn't know about the Holy Spirit yet, nothing like that.

I didn't like the priests because I knew things what they were doing so I didn't believe in the Catholic Church. [Laughs] But we were three and a half years interns. We never got out. They came to visit us, even during the time that is – there's no school and for I don't know how many months or whatever. Like they out of school for so much longer and then they go back to school but we never got out and I wanted to run away. I didn't believe anything and something told me there's something wrong here.

Jessica Vigil: Do you recall how old you were?

Hildegard: I was about 10 years, 11, yeah, after 11. I think I was 15 when we got out.

Jessica Vigil: Got out? What do you mean by that?

Hildegard: Well, in turn I want to get out of there.

Jessica Vigil: Oh.

Hildegard: But I told my mom and dad I want to get out of here and then I told them I almost ran away. I was very – I'm very honest and very sincere. If I get some penalties forget it but I didn't want to stay there anymore because I didn't believe in what the priests and the nuns were doing. They were very strict and I don't believe in

anything and you had to go every day to church and kneel. You want to see something?

Jessica Vigil: Okay.

Hildegard: Yeah, it's okay. You stay there. I want to show you something. You see this bowl here? I have it on both sides. See here? This is kneeling on the wood and it hurt me so much that this hurt me. You don't have that. It's kneeling every day for two hours, two or three hours. Everything had to be kneeled. I cannot kneel anymore. It hurts like crazy so what was I talking about? Okay, then we got out and dad and mom went to the nuns there and put us in but he didn't have the money to pay for three people so he said I could do all the sons – nuns be a dentist and make it free for them so that means make it free and there was to pay and the kids, when they found out they started hehehe, he don't pay anything. You [inaudible] tease hahahaha, you know.

We needed that really so there was an orchard, an orchard and a – with all the vegetables and my grandfather had an orchard, too and vegetables and he would go and I would go during the time when I was out from that school and went to a normal school. During the summer I would go with him and would eat his – everything, everything raw, all the vegetables and all the fruits, not all. He had a big thing. That's why I'm so healthy. I'm 86. Can you believe that?

Jessica Vigil: Yeah, so your grandfather owned an orchard in Brazil as well?

Hildegard: No, that was in Germany.

Jessica Vigil: In Germany.

Hildegard: So you have to then put anything from Germany and Germany whatever, you have to put that.

Jessica Vigil: No worries.

Hildegard: Okay, whatever you want to do.

Jessica Vigil: And do you remember where in Germany this was?

Hildegard: No, we had to go on a train. It was I think four hours or three hours on a train. We're very far away from Berlin you know.

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- Jessica Vigil: And do you remember any particulars about the train ride besides the length of it?
- Hildegard: No, I usually would go with grandpa and I don't remember.
- Jessica Vigil: Was that your primary mode of transportation?
- Hildegard: Yeah, well, grandpa didn't have a car. My father had a car in 1920. I know I was a kid, maybe 29, 30. He had a car and because of his thing and in Germany, the first World War, mom always said when dad drives don't talk. He needs his patience to drive so we never talked. Yeah, okay, Sweetheart. I mean you can't come up here, okay? Anyway, so where are we now? We are now in – oh.
- Jessica Vigil: Did other – do you remember other people having cars or was your family –
- Hildegard: I don't know if – I don't know if – I never saw my grandpa on my mother's side driving.
- Jessica Vigil: Do you remember any of your friends or classmates having cars?
- Hildegard: No, friends, who has friends when the country was so crazy? [Laughs]
- Jessica Vigil: And can you sing some of your childhood songs?
- Hildegard: Hmm?
- Jessica Vigil: Can you sing some songs from your childhood?
- Hildegard: I don't remember. What I did, I asked my father and my mother when we got to her apartment, I said do not put us in a Jewish school again and they didn't. They listened to us.
- Jessica Vigil: Do you remember if you had any teachers, neighbors or close friends that were supporters of Hitler?
- Hildegard: We had a teacher in school. That was – I cannot forget it and I can see her in my mind in Germany. She always had a ruler in her hand and when she – she taught math. That's why I'm very fast with math. She always went like this [tap tap] 2 times 2 [tap tap] and if you don't answer you got [inaudible]. Put your hand out. [tap] [Inaudible], you didn't answer. [tap] Give me the other hand. [tap] My hands were always red but then I learned very fast that

until today I can multiply in my mind here and divide and everything very fast. [Laughs] And then we had – the school gave milk every, I don't know what it was, once a week and we had four rows here, rows, row, row. Well, I sat in the middle sometime. When I saw that this person that week got here then the next person will get this row so without telling anybody I went from here, sit here in the back and then there until the teacher there watched me. Then I didn't have any milk anymore. [Laughs] Yeah, yeah.

Jessica Vigil: Do you ever remember being without food or having to go without anything?

Hildegard: Clothes, food, anything. Then I'm going tell you for my grandma. Let me finish mine and then I'll tell you something from my grandma about food, okay?

Jessica Vigil: Okay.

Hildegard: She eat her dog as food.

Jessica Vigil: Is that because there was no other food available or just because she –

Hildegard: There was no food. Do you know what the people did? They took the, what do you call the tree the outside of the tree? What is it called?

Jessica Vigil: Bark?

Hildegard: Bark, they put – they cut bark from the tree and made soup out of it. That's how bad it was.

Jessica Vigil: Do you ever remember doing – having to drink that type of soup or –

Hildegard: No, you see I was already in Brazil and grandma had money at the time because Hitler took everything from us, even from us for school that they paid later but mom kept and I don't want to talk about that because – anyway, she grandma, she had no money and she paid money in the black market to go through London to come to Brazil. I don't know. She never told us how much it cost. It must have cost a fortune to get out of Germany. She left Germany from 1941 which was really bad.

Jessica Vigil: Do you remember what year you guys left, your family?

Hildegard: We left in 19 – mom left in 1936 and we left in 1939. We left, three girls by ourselves on the boat two weeks. My uncle, the one that I told that I loved, he took us to Hamburg and gave us over to the captain, left three girls all by themselves. Well, the captain never saw us because we never went to the [inaudible] what you call where you eat dinner, lunch?

Jessica Vigil: Like a diner?

Hildegard: Diner. He never saw us. You know where we were? We were under – we went all the way under the boat because you see today you don't have to kill animals to make the food. You have food that is in packages you know but at that time they didn't have that so they had chicken. They had lamb. They had pork. They had you know, they all alive and they would kill them as they needed for the food, for the lunch. They looked for us. They couldn't find us. When we were hungry we went to the kitchen and said to the chef we are hungry. What, in German. What do you want to eat? Banana. When we get to Brazil, what did you eat? Banana. They started laughing. Brazil is a banana country. [Laughs] And we didn't have any bananas there. We had none of fruits, no oranges, nothing.

Jessica Vigil: So you left Germany with your two sisters on a boat.

Hildegard: We went on a boat from Hamburg and arrived two weeks later. Oh, in the middle of the – we were in the middle of the ocean, the captain gets a note, gets a, we call it fax today, a telegram let's say, turn around, turn around. We declared war. Germany. He did not – Heavenly Father, he did not turn around because he already crossed the equator. Then if he was before that we would have arrived in Germany again, okay? We went to Brazil direct.

Jessica Vigil: Do you remember what the circumstances were, the environment was like whenever you left?

Hildegard: It was a – I can't really describe it. People, poor people on the streets, people that couldn't even walk. It was awful. I was afraid to go out on the street.

Jessica Vigil: What was your understanding of why they were on the streets?

Hildegard: I knew everything was bad because one time I heard my grandma say this is terrible. This is so dangerous to go out. I – you see kids don't think very much. I was the one that thought for my two

sisters and made sure that they all were okay but I heard that one say it is very bad and in 1941 it was even worse. They were doing the night so nobody saw them. The Gestapo was all over to catch people, even young people. I was 11 years old and I was so blessed and well, I thank oh, Heavenly Father and Jesus had something to do with it because they took kids for 10 years old and had sex with them. They had babies with them.

Jessica Vigil: What is your favorite memory of your family?

Hildegard: My favorite memory is my father that I never forget and my grandfather, they were in Brazil you know and grandfather was a – I'm sorry to say, mom liked my father but because father and mom were so together she couldn't get to it so she – I think she – the first man that she saw I think she, who was Jewish, she married him. Of course they never got together. She had one daughter. [Laughs] But they bickered from morning to evening and I heard all that, then I found out from mom things you know.

Jessica Vigil: How did your father die? You said he died of a heart attack?

Hildegard: Yes, my father died. One night mom woke up and came running into our room with three girls at one room and said dad is dying. Dad is dying. I got such a shock I couldn't wake up but the two one went with mom because my mom was crying. When she got there I saw dad all these here, all the veins here, everything exploded. His heart exploded and mom saw him dying. That was something terrible.

Jessica Vigil: Do you ever remember him talking about his experiences serving as –

Hildegard: No, dad was very quiet, never talked about the bad things, never. They tried not to shock us too much you know but sometimes I would hear something but I forget. You see my grandma. Mom never talked about it. The only thing is you know when – here we have the, what you call it? When it's a bad time, bad weather, not here but in Oklahoma have it.

Jessica Vigil: The sirens, yeah.

Hildegard: [Coughs] I saw one and I had that house rented and I couldn't go down. I had to open the door and go in a hole but if the, what you call it?

Jessica Vigil: Tornadoes?

Hildegard: The tornadoes, I would probably die because it was open, the door but then I suddenly didn't hear anything. I studied the tornadoes and all that. You know I like to study these things and I know that when you are in the eye it's very quiet. Nothing moves so I open – I let the door open a little bit and I went out and I went out in the street. It was all green, very quiet. You can't imagine. It's really frightening and then when the wind started going I went back in the house under that thing you know. It was coming back to go away. That's the only time. Then suddenly we started to have earthquakes there. Did you know that, in Oklahoma?

Jessica Vigil: Yeah, I saw that on the news.

Hildegard: I was there and suddenly my bed was going like this and I put the TV on. It was an earthquake. I said beside tornadoes or whatever and whatever we still – now we have to have earthquakes, too?

Jessica Vigil: Well, is there anything else you would like to tell me?

Hildegard: Yeah, I want to go further when we come to Brazil.

Jessica Vigil: Okay.

Hildegard: Okay, so the boat came and finally the – we came up and the captain said well, finally we have to pick – give you back to your parents. [Laughs] So we said to each other whom are we going to go first? We haven't seen mom, dad for three years, okay. I say I go to dad. [Inaudible] says I go to dad. I go to dad so we all went to dad because dad was the same people – the same person and of course we said dad, you're so small. He said no, you grew up. [Laughs] And then we didn't look at the woman. It's like finally, aren't you going to talk to your mom? And then we looked at him, mom? Well, here's mom. No, this is not our mom. Can you believe the shock she got?

Well, first of all she had lipsticks on. She had this red. Her hair was different because in Brazil – in Germany you don't have any – all that stuff so we didn't recognize mom. It took a long time for not – for us to get acquainted with mom but it wasn't the same. Those three years did a lot of bad things you know. We never really warmed up to mom and then suddenly dad dies.

Jessica Vigil: Do you recall how your mother passed away?

Hildegard: Huh?

Jessica Vigil: Do you recall how your mother passed away?

Hildegard: No, mom, okay, later on after the war the German government started talking to people that left. If they would like to come back they would pay for hospitalization, everything and she wouldn't have to pay anything and an apartment would be very cheap and she would have a monthly thing so she can buy things and stuff. She went back. She left. She lived there in Germany, I don't know where and didn't talk to us anymore. Well, what happened, when my grandmother died in Brazil I was the, what you call it, I opened the word, the will and everything. What you call that? There's a name for it and I was the one that had to do that and the first thing she said, she disowned my mother. She had things that she could give to my mother. Well, they never liked each other, okay, so she said in big letters, DO NOT GIVE HER ANYTHING. EVERYTHING THAT I HAVE IS FOR YOU THREE PEOPLE.

Okay, so I called my youngest sister that was here in the United States already. She was in New York and I called my sister in Brazil, in another city up in the mountain, so I did everything for them, send that for her, send that for her and kept one and then I wrote a letter to my mom that why did she do that? Why did she leave and she's not talking to us, Mom and then I really poured my heart out and she wrote me a letter and then I wrote her back and I said well, are you okay? Well, what has grandma given me? I said grandma disowned you. I had to tell her and I have a soft heart so whatever I got I sent to her to Germany. That was a lot of money.

Jessica Vigil: Do you recall what year it was she went back to Germany?

Hildegard: Yeah, it was after 10 years when the government started to recruiting people back to help. I don't remember that. I know that I have a gift that Heavenly Father gave me but I don't want you to tell anybody, okay, please.

Jessica Vigil: Well, it's recording right now so if you want I can push stop.

Hildegard: Will you?

Jessica Vigil: Yes.

[Recording stopped]

Jessica Vigil: This is the second part with Hildegard and we're going to be ending our interview. Is there anything else you want to tell me

about your memories from Germany or the Holocaust before we end?

Hildegard: The Holocaust, yes, the father that I – that committed suicide because Hitler had put out the law, the son and the mother one night the Gestapo came, knocked on the door [knocking on table] at 1:00 in the morning and the mother went to the door and said yes, can I help you? And he said, “Where is Heinz Siegfried?” Heinz Siegfried is my cousin. He’s asleep. Call him. He took Heinz Siegfried with him. The mother want to come. She wouldn’t let – he wouldn’t let. They liked to separate families you know but she did go and they died both in the concentration camp.

Jessica Vigil: Do you recall what year that was?

Hildegard: Yeah, that was – no, I – because my daughter did that, that day – I – after – when I got so sick I gave up on this and she continued and – but she called me and said do you know? She called me and she wanted to do the, what you call this?

Jessica Vigil: Temple work?

Hildegard: The temple work and they said well, who is the family? Because a lot of people did other things they shouldn’t do, okay and so I need to find out who the family is so my mom, she said. What’s her name? And they called me and said are you so and so? Who is this and this? I said Heinz Siegfried’s my cousin and Nonna is my aunt and he said is that okay that your daughter can do the work with – we had – we got all the work from the concentration camps? Do you agree with it? I said yes, I agree so she has all the papers and I don’t have it.

Jessica Vigil: Do you happen to know which concentration camp?

Hildegard: If they tell me which concentration this I can remember but I know it was – I don’t think it was Dachau. I can’t remember and I can’t talk to my daughter. I’m so sorry.

Jessica Vigil: No worries.

Hildegard: You can put Dachau because that’s the only one that I remember. Dachau is D-A-C-H-A-U.

Jessica Vigil: And do you what is the spelling of Heinz Siegfried?

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Hildegard: Okay, the first is H-E-I, Hein, N, Heinz, Z, Siegfried, S-I-E-F-R-I-E-D, Siegfried. Did I say G?

Jessica Vigil: No G.

Hildegard: Okay, S-I-G, S-E-I-G, E-I-G and then F-R-I-E-D, Siegfried Lewin.

Jessica Vigil: Do you remember about how old he was?

Hildegard: He was 17.

Jessica Vigil: And you said his mother's name was Living?

Hildegard: Yeah, Nonna Lewin. You have it there somewhere but Nonna.

Jessica Vigil: Oh, Nonna.

Hildegard: N-O-N-N-A Lewin, Lewin, W for them is a V.

Jessica Vigil: Oh, so L-E-V-I-N.

Hildegard: L-E-W-I-N.

Jessica Vigil: Oh, W-I-N.

Hildegard: That's why I say Lewin.

Jessica Vigil: Do you know about how old she was?

Hildegard: Yeah, she was about let me see, 1930, 35, 50 maybe, between 35 and 50 approximately. You can put approximately. You can do that here, too with genealogy.

Jessica Vigil: It is great. Anything else you have to say?

Hildegard: Yeah, you know I was talking about I was going to church – to churches to find – yeah, I want to tell you about that a little bit. Is that okay?

Jessica Vigil: Okay, of course.

Hildegard: I went to the, what you call that. I can't remember the [inaudible]. Well, in the Catholic I knew about it but I went to the other – all the other churches, even to the thing that they said that they saw things or whatever. I went to all of these things and I said Heavenly Father, I don't like any of these. Please help me. I was

praying day and night. One day I was home with my two – with my kids. I was only with my son and I had him in my arms and I had a big gate you know and so they had to ring the bell so I went outside with my son and there were two men and I said yes, what can I do for you? And they said – they said the name of the church. Don't ask me. I don't remember. Stop there and they said well, is your husband home? And I said no, my husband's working so I started laughing.

Well, during the day they work, right? [Inaudible] and they said can we come later? And something told me, it was something warm and I said, yes. What time can we come? Between 5:30 and 6:00. Now my husband was home. They came but before they came my husband came home. He was a Catholic. I said I saw two men and talked to me. Well, who are they? I have no idea but I want to hear them. That's what I said. I put my foot down and what time are they coming? I said, "About – between 5:30 and 6:00 so we ate at 5:00 so when they came in I let them in and here I was puffing my cigarette, okay. [Laughs] I can't stop puffing cigarettes like because my mom, she smoked. I was 15 when I started. Can you believe that? And so we sat there and I had my cigarette and my ashtray were there so they talked about the church and that ah, something – the light went on. I want to hear more I said.

Well, they gave us a lesson and so on and so on and, can we come back? I said yes, before he talked so they came back once a week or so and when they left I had such a good feeling and my husband said would you like to hear that? I said yeah. Then I said you're Catholic. Are you going to – do you ever go to church? No. Well, I would like to hear them. Okay, so the second lesson or third, I don't remember which one, they talked about smoking and then I was still smoking and then they said – they talked about it and said would you – next week we're coming. Yes. Would you for a week wait for us and not smoke? I said sure.

I stopped from one day to the other. For a year I would dream that I was smoking. I would wake up. I would say no, not smoke and go back to sleep. I got rid of it and we didn't have a church there. We – they rented a house and on top where we had – they put the – and the second week they asked again can you take a – can you do like a talk? I said what is a talk? We'll talk about [inaudible]. What do you want me to talk about? Oh, Gabriel. Fine. I have no idea what I talked. They said I was great. I have no idea.

Jessica Vigil:

Where was this at? In Brazil?

Hildegard: That was in Brazil. I was about 30, 32, 34. No, that was – I was baptized in the ocean because we didn't have a –

Jessica Vigil: Baptismal font?

Hildegard: Yeah, we didn't have that and when the – well, three times we went in the mountains where there was nobody but there was the ocean and every time that I get baptized my feet came up. On the third time they said well, can't your feet – keep the feet down? I said no, when the well's come in automatically because I can't – how am I going to hold myself? So I said okay, wait for me to tell you because when it goes out it takes a little while to come back and then I said when I said now, then they did it. My – I was down in the water. [Laughs] That was fun.

Jessica Vigil: That was neat. Okay, well, I'm going to conclude this interview. Thank you for your time.

Hildegard: You speak too low.

Jessica Vigil: I'm going to conclude the interview. Thank you for your time.

[End of Audio]