

Hans AutoBiography And Interviews

By

Helga von Schweinitz

Released 2023
by
Helga von Schweinitz

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This book is in the open domain. You may quote or use portions as you see fit.
But remember, a memory is for a life time, but a good reference is forever.

Introduction

This little booklet is just a collection of personal information about Hans.

The first section contains his Obituary that was published after his death on 26 August 2015.

The second section is his own words what Hans wrote on resumes and essays for a communication skill course. They have been typed in for easy reading.

The third section is a transcript of interviews that were conducted later in Hans' life. They are typed in here just as he described, verbally. Since these interviews were conducted after his first stroke, 2003, some of the dates are questionable. But the events probably did occur.

The last section has the scans of his essay and resume that were used a reference.

Hans did not learn English until after he emigrated to USA in 1957. Several words were miss-spelled in the essay and resume, they have been corrected in the text here. Mainly because the new technology of word processing will auto correct the spelling and it is annoying to convince the software to except a miss-spelling. That is one reason why there are scans of the original attached at the end of this booklet.

For some attempt to clarify some of the pronouns and Acronyms, I have added the name of Hans' brothers and sisters or definitions in parenthesis.

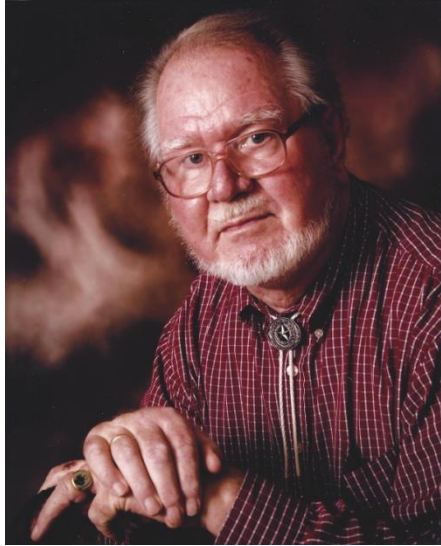
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Obituary published after Hans Death on 26 August 2015

Hans Ludwig von Schweinitz

October 26, 1934 - August 26, 2015



Hans Ludwig von Schweinitz passed away on the 26th of August, 2015, in Pflugerville, Texas. He was 80 years old, suffering from pancreatic cancer. Hans was born on October 26, 1934, in Liegnitz, Germany, in the province of Silesia (Schlesien). His father was Hans Wilhelm von Schweinitz, his mother was nee Sigrid Freiin von Zedlitz-und-Leipe. He had a happy childhood living on the ancestral estate Schloss Alt-Raudten, but his mother died when he was eight years old.

When, in early 1945, Russian troops rolled into Silesia, the von Schweinitz family, together with millions of other Germans, had to flee. They happened to be on the streets of Dresden when Allied planes dropped phosphor bombs on the crowd, and over 33 000 people burnt to death. The smell haunted Hans all his life.

Hans, his sister Ingrid, his father and his stepmother (nee Ursula von Frankenberg-Luettwitz) eventually settled in a small cottage without water and plumbing in the woods near Wiesbaden. His stepmother gave birth to three children within four years.

At the age of 14, Hans, all by himself, moved to Wiesbaden and completed a three-year apprenticeship as photographer and photo lab specialist. He worked in that field in Germany until he was 23 years old. His pay as an apprentice was so low, that he often had to go hungry.

In 1957, Hans immigrated to the United States and was soon drafted, although he was still a German citizen and could barely speak English. He joined the US Air Force and served honorably for 20 years, retiring as SMSgt. He became a US citizen in 1961. He earned a B.S. Degree with Honor in Mathematics from Auburn University.

He met and married Helga Poertner in Milwaukee, WI, in 1958. They have two children: Bettina and Christopher, and three grandchildren: Matthew, Elena and Michael.

Hans was very active and had many hobbies. He snow-skied on an Air Force team, he was a scuba diving instructor, he was a skilled spelunker and was one of the discoverers of the Cave of the Madonna in the Guadalupe Mountains.

His civilian jobs included setting up and running a reconnaissance photo lab in Saudi Arabia for three years, working for the Veterans Administration as a computer analyst and being a free-lance photographer. In 1980, he began buying run down houses, fixed them up and sold or kept them. That led to yet another career in buying and creating real estate liens.

Hans is survived by Helga, his wife of 57 years, their children Bettina and Christopher with wife Jill, his grandchildren Matthew with wife Sara, Elena and Michael, his sister Ingrid Wolf and numerous other relatives in Germany. His half-brothers are Kurt Balthasar in Namibia, Michael in Germany and Alexander in Italy. A half-sister is Therese Klar, Germany.

He loved to give his wife flowers and usually bought a bouquet when shopping in a supermarket.

Hans liked to travel and to experience different cultures. As a teenager he crossed the Alps on a bicycle. During his career he lived in Thailand, England, Germany, Saudi Arabia and many different States of the US, thus not having a place he could call home except his family. He joined Friendship Force International and stayed with families in Chile, Brazil, the Argentines, Japan and European countries. He really enjoyed hosting visitors from several continents.

He appreciated Austin's cultural scene, especially the Opera and activities sponsored by the German-Texan Heritage Society.

One of his greatest pleasures was salmon fishing in Canada and sea trout fishing with friends in the Gulf of Mexico.

Since his stroke in 2004, he could no longer read books, nor drive a car or take his dogs Whiskey and Schnapsi for walks. Yet, he never complained. Hans was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran faith and was a member of a Presbyterian church for several years.

Essay for Communication Course 1972

From: Flight A (Box 18)

Subject: Autobiography of Sergeant von Schweinitz

Date: 14 May 1972

To: Communication Skill Division SMSgt Shank

1. On October 26th 1934, joy went through the estate of a wealthy land baron in Silesia; because, his wife had given birth to her first son and the continuation of the family seemed to be secured. I was this boy, who was expected to carry on the tradition and take the responsibility to manage the estate which had been a family possession for over five centuries. Up to the age of 7 years my childhood was happy and carefree with a great amount of freedom to ideas and action. Then, in fall 1941, an epidemic of diphtheria spread through Silesia. I survived, by my mother died from this disease. During the following years I was placed under the care of several governesses. The switch to the stiff authoritarian treatment only resulted in the drive to have my caretakers fired or to make them resign. The war (World War II) had very little effect on my life until Russian tanks and guns were firing over our house on a cold January night in 1945. My father (Hans Wilhelm), whom I hardly knew since he had been either away building the East-wall or he had been occupied with the running of the estate, hastily over-night assembled a convoy of horse drawn-wagons. The following morning our trek of about 600 families joined the millions on the road, fleeing from the Russians. My father had remarried just before we fled and my only older sister (Ingrid) had joined us also during the following years in which we moved from country to country in Europe. We settled down in Wiesbaden Germany in 1947. By this time our worldly possessions were reduced to the clothing we wore. My father's second wife gave birth to one girl (Heizi) and two boys (Hemmi, Michael). The oldest boy is an engineer in South-west Africa, the second boy is serving in the German Navy and the girl is a nurse in Germany today. My sister (Ingrid) with her husband (Gunter) have a successful photo studio in Wiesbaden today.

My father married a third time, after his second wife had left him to join her father who had a farm in South-west Africa. A son (Alexander) was born to his third wife, who lives with his mother in Italy now. In 1969 my father died of cancer. He had succeeded in building up some worldly possessions, from cab driver to hotel owner, only to lose it again just before his death due to speculations on the stock and real estate market.

2 From the time I left Silesia until my migration to the USA, I led a very restless life. My father had placed me in several boarding schools during the years from 1945 to 1949. Due to the situation in Germany the schools opened and closed for political or financial reasons, therefore, I changed schools 22 times in those years.

I had 8 years of formal school at the age of 15 years and decided to become self-supporting with my father's permission. After two years of apprenticeship as a photographer in 1952 in Wiesbaden I passed the examinations. From apprenticeship I went to work for an AGFA color processing lab. In 1957 I had progressed to a foreman in a photo finishing plant, however, my income was insufficient to provide a home or to support a wife and children at a level I considered acceptable. My greatest desire was to start a family and to have a home. I decided to increase my opportunities by immigrating to the USA.

3. My life as an American in the Air Force has been rewarding and successful. A church organization assisted me to come to the States. In March 1957 I arrived in Chicago without a knowledge of the English language, but with \$50 and the desire to work, hard. Within six month I had learned the language in night school and my income had risen to about \$200 a week as a commercial photographer. In October 1957 the draft law required me to serve in the army or join any other branch of the service. I joined the Air Force. From basic training in Lackland AFB (San Antonio Texas) I went to Mitchell Field Wisconsin to be trained in aircraft refueling. In Milwaukee I met my wife (soon to be wife, Helga Pörtner) who had also immigrated from Germany. We married in November 1958. Mitchell Field was deactivated two months later and I was reassigned to Rheine Main AFB Germany. During the 4 years in Germany our daughter (Bettina) was born and I became a US citizen. My knowledge of German soon involved me in many special projects and joint NATO exercises. In 1962 I was transferred to Walker AFB New Mexico. SAC (Strategic Air Command) gave me the opportunity to retrain into still photography. In 1967 I was selected to advance into the precision photo processing field, I was in charge of the Base Photo Lab then. My next assignment took me and my family, which had increased by a boy (Christopher), to Upper Heyford England. Deployments took me to several European countries and I was able to assist in many special projects like NATO recon, competitions, Royal Flush, and training programs between the US and German Air Force. In 1969 I left my family in England and went to Udorn AFB Thailand. I was reunited with my family in December 1970 upon reassignment to Shaw AFB South Carolina. My next assignment will take me to Montgomery Alabama as an ANG (Army National Guard) advisor in July 1972.

4. My military education and experience consists of OJT (on the Job Training) to the 5 level in aircraft refueling, 7 level in still photography, 3 technical school courses in photography, several management and OJT trainers/supervisors courses, NCOL (Non-Commissioned Officer Leadership) school, and a 9 level in precision photography. My positions included NCOIC (Noncommissioned Officer in Charge) of sections and branches in the photography field, first sergeant,

inspector/advisor, mobility, MSgt (Master Sergeant), squadron training and disaster preparation NCO (Non-Commission Office). At the present I am the assistant NCOIC of the Precision Photo Processing Lab in the 363RTS (Reconnaissance Technical Squadron).

5. My civilian education increased with the help of the Air Force in off duty studies to about 100 semester hours of college credits. I hope to have my B.S. degree in two years with a major in mathematics and an M.S. before retirement.

6. My hobbies are in the sports areas. I am Scuba-diving instructor. Red Cross first aid instructor, member of the National Ski Patrol and competed in ski races for the Air Force. In addition I am active in several association. My family and I enjoy outdoor activities from skiing, diving, swimming, mountain climbing to camping.

7. I plan to retire from the Air Force with 20 years, however, with 5 years left in the Air Force, I am preparing myself for the increased skills and knowledge required of a senior or chief master Sergeant. After retirement from the Air Force I plan to teach mathematics at high school or college level in Florida and spend the summers traveling or in Europe.

Hans L von Schweinitz MSGT USAF

Resume for Communication Course 1972

Name: Hans L Von Schweinitz

Rank: MSGT

Home of Record: Milwaukee Wisconsin

Date of Rank: 1 May 1969

Date Assigned 363 RTS: 11 December 1970

Date of Entry in Service: 18 October 1957

EDUCATION:

Western New Mexico University, University of Maryland Far East and European Division.

86 semester hours off duty (3 years)

Major/Specialty: Physics and mathematics. 36 semester hours remaining for a degree.

MILITARY SCHOOLS/TRAINING

NCO Leadership School

Precision Photo Processing School 23430 Lowry AFB

Precision Photo Processing School 23470 Lowry AFB

OJT Supervisor/Trainer and OJT Administrator Courses

CAREER CIVILIAN

2 years vocational school in photography from 1950-1952 in Germany.

Completion of a two year apprenticeship as photographer in Germany.

Examination and diploma from the Chamber of Industry and Commerce

Wiesbaden Germany 1952. Employed as photographer in Germany until 1957

march. From March 1957 to October 1957 employed as photographer in Chicago.

MILITARY CAREER

October 1957 entry in US Air Force. Basic military training. OJT to the 5 level in 64350A Fuels Supply. Assigned to POL (petroleum, oil and lubricants) until 1962.

Air Force directed retraining to the Precision Photo Processing Field in 1966.

Technical school and OJT in this field and award of the 23490 AFSC (Air Force Specialty Code). Overseas assignments, 4 years in Germany, 3 years in England and 1 year in S.E.A. (South East Asia - Thailand).

PERSONAL DATA

Born in October 1934 into a rich Land Barons family in Silesia Germany. Flight from the Russians in the winter of 1945 to Austria. Returned to Wiesbaden

Germany in the summer of 1945. Emigrated to the USA in march 1957. Joined the Air Force in October 1957. Met a German girl, while stationed in Milwaukee, whom I married in 1958. My wife's name is Helga. Our daughter Bettina was born in Wiesbaden Germany 1959 while I was stationed in Rhine Main AFB. Our son Christopher was born in Roswell New Mexico in 1964. He is the only born American citizen in the family, the rest of us are all naturalized US citizen. My hobbies are scuba diving, speleology, mountain climbing and skiing. I am a senior in the National Ski Patrol and raced giant slalom, slalom and downhill for the AF.

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:

Honor graduate of the 23430 and 23470 Technical school
Commendation Medal

CAREER OBJECTIVES:

Happy with the present career. Hope for E-8 and E-9 before the 20 year point. Bootstrap to obtain a B.S. degree in physics or mathematics within the next 2 years and possibly a M.S. degree before retirement. I plan to return from the service in 1977, return to Europe and teach physics or mathematics at a German high school.

Resume 1965 For Job Searching after completing 8 years of Service

Hans L Von Schweinitz
602 W Redwood Street
Roswell, New Mexico

Age 30 years
Born October 26th, 1934, Liegnitz Germany
Height 6 feet
Weight 156 lbs
No physical handicaps
Married - two children; ages 6 yrs and 6 months
SSgt., USAF - 8 years of military service
Terminating October 18th, 1965

EDUCATION - CIVILIAN

1. High School Graduate.
2. Vocational School of Photography and Apprenticeship, Wiesbaden Germany 1950-1952.
3. Graduated, Board of the Chamber of Industry and Commerce, Wiesbaden Germany.
- 4: AGFA Color Photo Laboratory in Wiesbaden, Germany. Experience in color printing and processing. Four months.

EXPERIENCE COMMERCIALY

1952-1957 Employed by Central Exchange Photo Finishing Plant, Wiesbaden and Gruenstadt Germany. Custom Printing and Photo copying. Full charge of film processing department.

March 1957 immigration to the United States of America.

Employed by John Crerar Library, Chicago, Illinois. Photostat operator. Reason for leaving: personal betterment.

Huey Company Chicago Illinois. Coating photographic emulsions. Reason for leaving: financial betterment and difficult working conditions.

Keuffler Eusser, Chicago Illinois. Precision photo copying. Reason for leaving: no opportunity of advancement.

Williams Meyer Company Chicago Illinois. Advertising and Industrial Photography. Reason for leaving: drafted into the Armed Forces.

During the time prior to induction into the service, I encountered communication problems with the language barrier, which was a great handicap during my commercial employment. However, I now speak fluent English, as well as German, read and write both equally well. This resume is testimonial to that fact.

MILITARY EXPERIENCE

Since December 1962, I have been Staff SGT., and Production Chief in the Photo Lab at Walker Air Force Base, Roswell, New Mexico. My duties are quality control, training of new personnel, photographic work order assignment, maintenance of photographic supply records. I hold a Top Secret Clearance granted by the Air Force, Walker Air Force Base, since 1963.

I have completed the following training courses at Extension Course Institute, Air University, Gunter AFB. Alabama:

1. Photographic Fundamentals - 1960
2. Still Photography - 1960
3. Photographic Technician - 1964
4. Personal Counseling - group study - 1963
5. On the job training administrator and supervisor course - 1963
6. General Business and Typing.

HOBBIES

Skiing, Mountain Climbing and Caving.

Active Organizations: Sierra Blanca Ski Patrol, New Mexico; National Ski Patrol; Walker Air Force Base Ski Race Team; Classified Ski Racer of the U.S. Ski Association.

OBJECTIVE

To located in the field of still photography, primarily in advertising, industrial and commercial, research and engineering photography as well. Instruction in photography and laboratory teaching in my alternate field.

I shall be free to travel for interview from September 15th to October 10th, 1965. During this time I am on leave. If I cannot find suitable employment by that time, the I shall continue my career in photography in the Air Force.

Resume 1977 For Job Searching after completing 20 years of Service

Hans L von Schweinitz
2319 Village Circle
Austin, Texas 78745

OBJECTIVE

Reconnaissance Laboratory Management: Lab Chief

AREAS OF KNOWLEDGE and EXPERIENCE

Fixed and Mobile Reconnaissance Photo Lab and Still Photo Lab Operation and Management.

Planning and Execution of deployments and Reconstitutions of Mobile Photo/Processing Interpretation Facility

Personnel Training and Supervision in Reconnaissance and Still Lab Equipment Operation

Chairing of Boards, Panels and Committees.

Photographic Equipment and Product Evaluation and Testing

Evaluation of Photographic Reconnaissance Products and Operation Requirements.

Staff Supervision and Inspection of Reconnaissance Operations

Determination of Budgets and Equipment Requirements

Establishment of Quality Control Procedures and Programs

Color and Black and White Film Processing, Manual and Continuous Machines

Quality Control Equipment operations

Still and Motion Picture Photography

Color and Black and White Reproduction on Manual and Continuous/Automatic Printers.

Development of Regulations and Technical Orders

Specialty Knowledge Test Preparation

Production Control

Installation and Maintenance of Photographic Lab Equipment.

PERSONAL

Birthdate: 10-26-1934

6'

185 Lbs

Excellent health

Top Secret Clearance

US Citizen

Married (19yrs), Two children

Wife, US Citizen, Teacher of German and French

Son, 12 yrs., 8th Grade

Daughter, 17 yrs., will graduate from High School Nov 1977

EDUCATION

Auburn University, Alabama

B.S. Degree in Mathematics, with Honors - 1974

Major: Mathematics

Minors: Physics and History

FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Native Speaker of German, some Knowledge of Spanish and Thai

SERVICE SCHOOLS

Air University: Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy - November 1976

USAF Ground Operations School, Hurlburt Field, Florida - November 1975

Tactical Air Command NCO Academy, Langley AFB Virginia: Distinguished Graduate - June 1972

Air Training Command, Lowry AFB, Colorado: Course 3AZR23374 Color Photo Process Course FCA, Honor Graduate - December 1971

Air Training Command, Lowry AFB, Colorado: Course 3AAR23470 Precision Photographic Processing Technician CQ6, Honor Graduate - August 1969

Air Training Command, Lowry AFB, Colorado: Course ALR23430-1 Precision Photographic Processing Specialist, Honor Graduate - September 1966

Strategic Air Command NCO Preparatory School, 6th Aerospace Wing: Graduate - July 1965

EXPERIENCE 1957 to Present United States Air Force

Apr75 to Present:

Location: 67th Tactical Recon Wing, Bergstrom AFB, Texas

Position: SMS, AFSC 23391, Wing Precision Photo Processing Superintendent; Air National Guard Advisory Team Member; 67 TRW Self Inspection Team Member; 12 Air Force Operation Readiness Inspection Team Member.

Responsibilities: Staff Guidance and Supervision of Fixed and Mobile Photo Processing/Interpretation Facility Operation. Staff assistance to five Air National Guard Units and Four Active Units throughout the US. Inspect and Evaluate Reconnaissance Operations. Establish and Maintain current Quality Control Standards. Prepare Reports on Budget, Equipment, Supplies and Manning Requirements. Prepare Directives and Staff Correspondence. Maintain and Coordinate Contacts to Manufacturer Representatives of Photographic Equipment and Supplies. Chair Panels and Boards.

Dec 1974 to April 1975

Location: 45th TRS, Bergstrom AFB Texas

Position: NCO in Charge of Operations Section, Mobile Photo Processing and Interpretation Facility.

Responsibilities: Overall Supervision of Imagery Processing and Interpretation, Production Control and Quality Control.

June 1972 to December 1974

Location: OLBK 363rd Combat Specialty Group, Dannelly ANG (Air National Guard) Base, Alabama.

Position: Air Force Technical Advisor, Precision Photo Processing Technician.

Responsibilities: Assistance and Training of Air National Guard Personnel in the Operation and Management of Mobile Photographic Processing and Interpretation Facilities (WS430B).

Dec 1970 - June 1972

Location: 363rd RTS, Shaw AFB South Carolina

Position: NCOIC of the Precision Processing laboratory

Responsibilities: Supervision and Operation of the Continuous Film Processing Machine and Printing Section.

Dec 1969 - Dec 1970

Location: 14th TRS, Udorn, Thailand

Position: NCOIC of the Photo Lab (WS430B)

Responsibilities: Supervision of Mass Production of Photo Reconnaissance Products in Support of the SEA (South East Asia) War.

July 1968 - Dec 1969

Location: 18th TRS (USAFE), Upper Heyford, England

Position: NCOIC of 19th TRS Photo Lab (WS430B)

Responsibilities: Supervision and Organization of the Mobile Photo Processing and Interpretation Facility.

Nov 1966- July 1968

Location: 18th TRS, Upper Heyford England

Position: NCOIC of Film Processing and Quality Control

Responsibilities: Supervision and Training of Film Processing, Printing and Quality Control Personnel. Establishment of Quality Control Program and Testing of Mobile Photo Lab System.

Mar 1966-Oct 1966

Location: HQ 6th Strategic Aerospace Wing (SAC), Walker AFB, New Mexico.
Position: NCOIC of Base Photo Lab
Responsibilities: Supervision of the Operations of the Base Photo Lab.

Jun 1964 - Mar 1966

Location: HQ 6th Strategic Aerospace Wing (SAC), Walker AFB, New Mexico.
Position: Photo Lab Production Chief
Responsibilities: Supervision of Photographic Printing. Production and Maintenance Supply Account.

May 1963 - June 1964

Location: HQ 6th Strategic Aerospace Wing (SAC), Walker AFB, New Mexico.
Position: Photographic Technician, Assistant Lab Chief
Responsibilities: Production of all finished Photography, Color and Black and White. Taking of Still and Motion Pictures.

Aug 1962 - May 1963

Location: HQ 6th Strategic Aerospace Wing (SAC), Walker AFB, New Mexico.
Position: Still Photographer, NCOIC, Contact and Projection Printing Section
Responsibilities: Supervision of Section and Training of Personnel.

Oct 1957-Aug 1962

Location: Lackland AFB, Mitchell Field and 7310th Materiel Squadron, Rhein Main AB Germany
Position: Fuel Specialist
Responsibilities: Aviation Fuel and Petroleum Products Accounting and Storage. Aircraft Refueling. Scheduling and Coordinating Requirements with German Oil Companies.

CIVILIAN EXPERIENCE 1950 -1957

1957 to Oct 1957

Location: William Meyer Company, Chicago Illinois
Position: Advertising/Industrial Photographer and Processor

1957

Location: Keuffler and Eusser, Chicago Illinois
Position: Precision Photo Copier.

1953 - 1957

Location: Gruenstadt, Germany
Position: Custom Printer and Copier, later in Full Charge of Film Processing

1952 - 1953

Location: AFGA Color, Wiesbaden, Germany

Position: Custom Color Printer

1950 - 1952

Location: Wiesbaden, Germany

Position: Apprentice, Still Photographer and Darkroom Man

REFERENCES

SALARY

LOCATE: Willing to relocate

TRAVEL: Readily agreeable to travel as required.

AVAILABILITY: 15 September, 1977, if I take 54 days of accrued terminal leave; otherwise 1 November, 1977, retirement separation date.

INTERESTS: Skiing, Sailing, scuba diving (Former NAUI instructor),
Photography

FOREIGN TRAVEL

Germany, England, France, Benelux States, Spain, Italy, Austria, Switzerland,
Iceland, Thailand, Mexico, Honduras, Canada, Azores, South Vietnam, Laos,
Japan.

Resume 1980 For Job Searching after Leaving Northrop

Hans updated the resume he used in 1977 to apply for the position in Northrop that he took from 1977 to 1980 in Saudi Arabia.

This was the resume that was used to apply for the VA Computer Programming position that he held from 1980 to 1982.

CHANGES

For the Air Force Experience he add an exit salary of \$15,500 from April 1975 to September 1977.

For availability, he changed the entry to "now"

ADDITION

For EXPERIENCE

Sep 1977 to March 1980

Location: Northrop Corporation Aircraft Division, Dhahran Saudi Arabia. Home office: 3901 W Broadway, Hawthorne California 90250

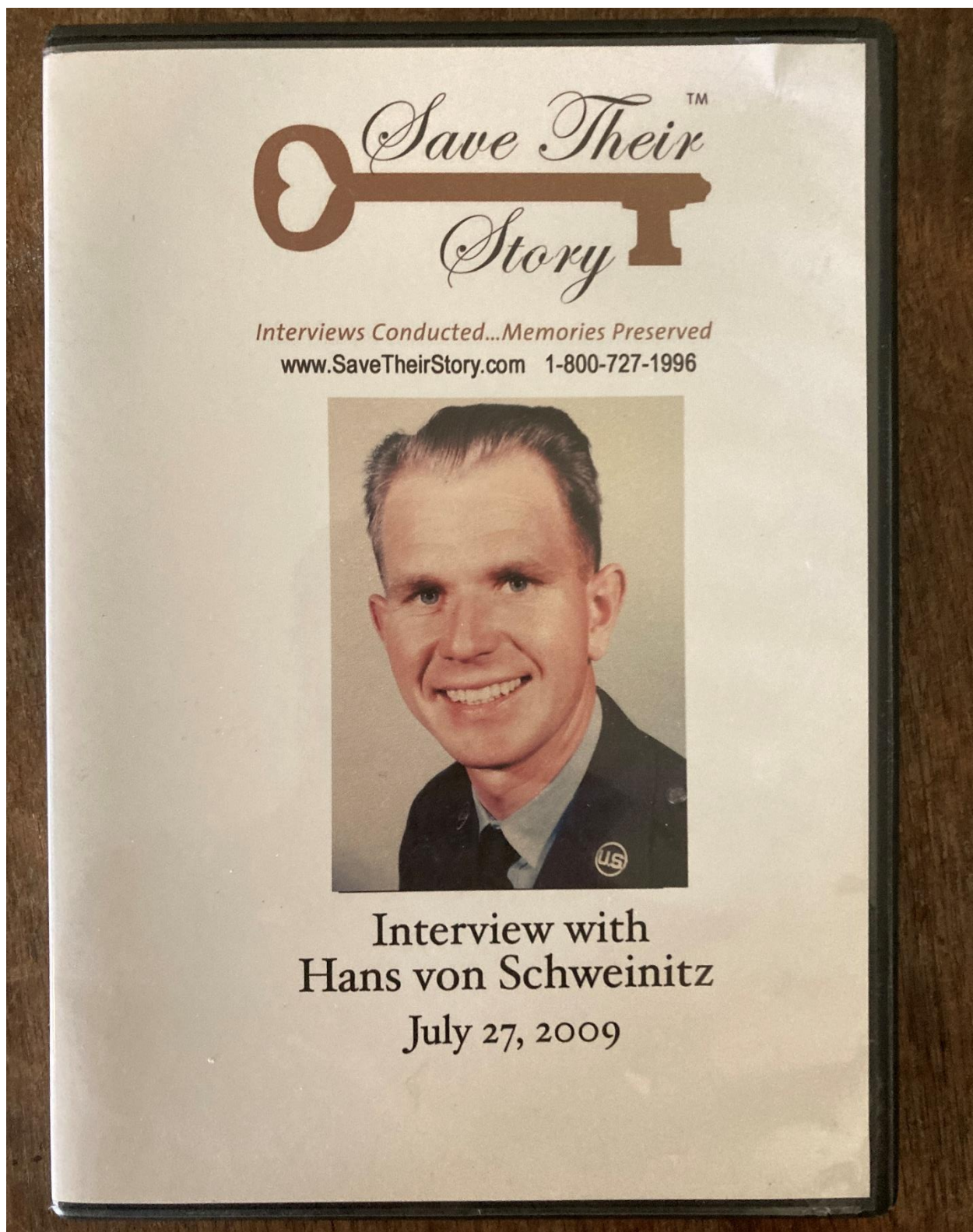
Position: Photo/Reconnaissance Laboratory Supervisor

Responsibilities: Established and management of the Dhahran Saudi Arabian Reconnaissance Center. Establishment and supervision of photo processing in Reconnaissance, sound motion picture, and still photography, and imagery interpretation. Supervision of academic instructions, On-the-Job training, photo lab and graphics sections. Planning and scheduling of workloads and duty assignments, quality control of laboratory products and training programs.

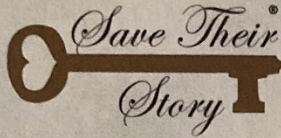
Salary: \$37,000 plus benefits

2009 Interview by Save Their Story

On 27 July 2009, Hans was interviewed by Aditi Worcester from Save Their Story. They produced a DVD with a video of Hans being interviewed.



Letter that came with the DVD



Interviews Conducted...Memories Preserved
www.savetheirstory.com

Aditi Worchester
Video Biographer
Save Their Story of Austin
PO Box 4964, Austin, TX 78765
Tel: 858-344-9898, Toll Free: 800-727-1996, Ext. 8
Email: Aditi@SaveTheirStory.com

DATE: 08/05/09

Dear Helga and Hans,

Here is a DVD of the "lightly edited" interview that I conducted on 07/27/09. As I mentioned earlier, if you would like to have any additional portions of it edited, I would be happy to take care of that. Just make a note on the attached sheet about the exact time that is marked on the DVD counter and a general statement as to what you would like removed and we will provide you with a copy of the more extensively edited version at no additional cost providing you require 3 or fewer edits. If you find that no additional edits are necessary, I will be happy to furnish you a second identical copy or mail it to any address that you choose. If you would like additional copies, please do let me know within 3 weeks of receiving the final DVD, and I will gladly arrange for them. The interview will remain in my archives for 3 weeks, after which it may be deleted.

In the meantime, I always like to remind the person that was interviewed that when people first view their interviews, they are often self-conscious about their mannerisms or speech. So please remember that everyone has their nonverbal ways of communicating and personal speech characteristics and those who know you are quite used to yours. It's only you who is not accustomed to viewing or hearing yourself. Even though you might find yourself a bit self-conscious, I'm sure you'll agree that *this interview is truly a wonderful gift to your future great grandchildren!*

I would also like to take this time to thank you and your family for allowing me to conduct the interview. It was both a pleasure and a privilege to do so.

Sincerely,

Aditi Worchester

Aditi Worchester

Bill for DVD

Save Their Story of Austin

858-344-9898**The Video Biography Company****Bill To: Helga von Schweinitz****Invoice #:** 1227
Invoice Date: 07/27/09

Quantity	Item	Units	Description	Unit Price	Total
1	Video Biography Interview	60 minutes	Additional raw footage beyond 50-minutes interview package won at Silent Auction	\$150 per additional 60 minutes	\$150
				Subtotal	\$150.00
				TX Sales Tax (8.25%)	\$12.37
				Total	\$162.37
				Balance Due	\$162.37

Total session time: 100 minutes. Above cost includes editing.

Thank you for choosing 'Save Their Story' (Austin) in helping to document your family history. It was a pleasure interviewing Hans, and hearing the many marvelous stories from his life. The two of you make a wonderful pair!

Aditi Worchester

Emails between Helga and Aditi

Page 1 of 1

jwarake@austin.tx.com
 Subj: **Re: 2nd DVD**
 Date: 8/14/2009 8:25:45 A.M. Central Daylight Time
 From: **HELGA VS**
 To: **aditi@savetheirstory.com**

Hi Aditi. The second DVD came in the mail. Thank you.
 While watching the DVD I noticed that in the background one can see a photo of two of our grandchildren. We have three grandchildren, and I am sure the "missing" one will notice that. Maybe you can pay attention to that in future projects. There are some items that only the family can judge. If I had looked through the camera after you had placed Hans, I might have noticed that little detail and put another photo there or, better yet, taken all photos out of view. You never know about rivalries within a family.
 You did a great job nevertheless. Helga

In a message dated 8/8/2009 12:58:25 P.M. Central Daylight Time, aditi@savetheirstory.com writes:

Dear Helga,

Thank you for your very sweet email. I am glad that Hans and you were able to view the interview, and that it was to your liking.

I understand that a stroke brings with it many changes - both physical and mental - and those changes have the power to alter one's personality from what it used to be. I can imagine that must be frustrating, both for Hans to go through, and for you and the family to watch. Yet you and Hans continue on strong and as much of a team as ever before, I would imagine. That much is very obvious to even someone meeting the two of you for the first time. A sense of humor is always a good thing to have - and it is easy to discern that under the mask of some of the things Hans said with a smile on his face, there was great sincerity in his heart.

I leave for Boston on Wednesday, but will definitely send you the second DVD before that. And even though you mentioned Hans got a few dates wrong in the course of our conversation, I have a feeling that your grandchildren and their children will one day be very grateful to you for taking the initiative to record the experiences of his life... so that they feel they know him better.

You are indeed a very special lady. It was a pleasure meeting with you - and I hope our paths cross again some day soon.

Warmly,

Aditi

Aditi Worcester
 Video Biographer
 'Save Their Story' of Austin - Nationwide Service
 Tel: 858-344-9898
 Website: www.SaveTheirStory.com
 Blog: <http://savetheirstory.blogspot.com/>

2009 Interview Transcript by Save Their Story

In 2023, Hans' son Chris six step process to convert the video on the DVD to the following transcript. The software assumed that all words were English, so many of the words that are German, transcribed into strange English words. But the reader can understand what Hans probably was actually saying. This transcript has not been edited or corrected. That work will be done in a future date and be included in Hans' Biography.

Aditi did a good job with the questions and just letting Hans talk. Luckily in 2009, Hans had recovered enough memory from his 2003 stroke to tell a coherent narrative. When Hans was trying to explain about life on the Alt Raudten Estate, it seems from Aditi's follow-up questions that she thought estates were run like companies. But since she let Hans do the talking, this confusion did not effect the interview.

Transcript 18 May 2023 of interview in 27 July 2009

00:00:24 Speaker 1(Hans): I was born in. Which is now used to be. German and after the Second World War. It became part of Poland.

00:00:45 Speaker 2(Aditi): Does it exist in modern time today?

00:00:48 Speaker 1(Hans): Yes, and today it is part of Poland.

00:00:52 Speaker 2(Aditi): So how does it feel to have been born in a place that was something else? Back then and something else now.

00:01:06 Speaker 1(Hans): Well, it does not feel right, but many people are in that position. Just like the Mexicans who were here in Texas, this used to be Mexico before belonged to the Indians. They were exterminated. So that's nothing new. This is just the way history repeats itself.

00:01:33 Speaker 2(Aditi): And what sort of a place was it when you were growing up?

00:01:36 Speaker 1(Hans): Beg your pardon?

00:01:37 Speaker 2(Aditi): What sort of a? Place was it when you were growing up?

00:01:41 Speaker 1(Hans): Oh, I grew up on a on a family estate. The family was for years very successful in. Cultivating land, which was considered useless. Especially in the. Odor Valley, which was swamp areas. They drained the swamp

lands. They were trained in growing crops. And animals, livestock. And instead of having small potatoes, they would or small. Beads, they would grow larger ones. Of course, potatoes didn't come to that area. Till in the 17th, 18th century, before it was primarily corn. And grains growing there and we're very successful.

The farmers became very jealous and that could not compete and so eventually they started to work for these estates. Which the owners were trained in growing their agricultural products using. Planting different types of crops, diversifying, not growing, just one type of crop, but they always have something. Grown like like sugar beets when there was an overproduction of sugar beets, they would have. Other types of crops, or if there was an overage of of cattle or an overage of uh sheep or.

The result diversified that there were very little affected by droughts or. Crop or single type of income that's so diversified, but they were cash poor. Were totally self-sufficient. Most of these big estates.

00:03:57 Speaker 2(Aditi): And who were the people living on your estate?

00:04:00 Speaker 1(Hans): The people in the estate were. Of course it was a was a family. We usually 3-4 generation homes. And then the farm workers were attracted. To work on the estate and on these large estates. Of course they were the supporting. And Craftsman like blacksmith. Whether they're all. Part came under the control of the estate owners. And it attracted more and more of these people who could not. Make a living on their own, but it was a lot of people were business with themselves.

They were not dependent on employment, they were dependent on whatever they were producing. So on the estate, was your family responsible for looking after the people? Yes, very much.

There was no retirement system. There was no Social Security and there was no health care. The family was responsible for them from birth. Till they died, when they became old. They were doing work, whichever they could do. There was no 48 hour week. But they would get allowances. Which called deputat. They would get farm products like they would get a pig. Or they will get so many bushels of potatoes or. They would get enough to get paid very much cash. But there was no retirement system.

There was no pension. All this wasn't established. Till on the Bismarck later on in Europe. And that was 1850 or. Before that, there was no such thing as Social Security or health care, or. So all the medical, all the retirement and everything, they were totally dependent on the estates on their family.

00:06:14 Speaker 2(Aditi): And how did one become to own an estate or to become a land owner? How did your family reach that status?

00:06:22 Speaker 1(Hans): Usually the way became land owners, they bought land which was called especially some of the swamp areas in Eastern Europe. Which of the before Germany even existed was considered worthless land and they could buy it from they bought it for very little, just like people here in Texas bought land for 20-30 dollars an acre. They bought the land, they came, they. Came from northern Italy and had some money and. They moved as a group. Into that area and bought land, and then they cultivated the land, drained it. It will swamp areas. And made it useful, which was not.

Part of the knowledge of the local people, just like here in Texas, some of the land now is being used. The agriculture was never before used for agriculture. Farming or any other use? So they had the knowledge and they took advantage of the knowledge and established themselves, found 3-4 hundred years. So we're very well off, always supported whoever was ruling. Area where the Austrian Hungarian empire. The Prussian empire. And then later on came. The emperors and the Kings, they always supported whoever was the ruler and they supplied. The list of personnel and the and armies, and they gave military support.

00:08:17 Speaker 2(Aditi): So when you were growing up, who all lived in your family home?

00:08:22 Speaker 1(Hans): In our home. The system was set up that way that any family member had the right to live in that estate. In other words, if some of the previous generations as a family members moved out. Through marriage and husband died away. Or somebody could move back. It was multi generation and also several members of the families. Frequently moved back because they lost the husband. Or their wives. And they moved back on the estate.

And then when they again, when they were able to. Move away or by themselves property or land and move it away. And also the first born son usually inherited the

estate estate. And the other members of the family children, usually the children. Families at that time had. 10 or more children. And the sons. When they were not. Part of the estate. They would become officers in the military. And they remain that way or they go and they became politically active, they became.

00:10:14 Speaker 2(Aditi): Who are the oldest people you can remember in your family when you were growing up?

00:10:22 Speaker 1(Hans): The oldest members. Grandparents, great grandparents.

00:10:33 Speaker 2(Aditi): Was this your father's parents or your mother's parents?

00:10:37 Speaker 1(Hans): On both sides.

00:10:39 Speaker 2(Aditi): Uh-huh. Can you tell me a little bit about your father's parents? What can you remember about them? Your father's parents? Your.

00:10:46 Speaker 1(Hans): Grandparents oh, I knew my father's parents very well. I was very close to my grandfather, my father's father, very close to him. He's the one who. Because of a high living standard, he had maintained his my grandmother had uh grown up on a lower court. And she was used to parties and hunting.

And the system was set up on the estate that. You could not get a mortgage, you could only live off the net income. In other words, if we deliver, Purdue had no in net income they had, they could not get a loan, it was impossible. Put it at debt on the property.

So what they were doing. When they no longer when they were partying, a lot, loss of knowledge. To efficiently manage. The agriculture and livestock. We would hire somebody, but then. Family members who would party and have hunts. And parties and travel.

Then they would. Lease out the land. Lease it to the government or large corporations and just collect that money, which of course if large corporations. They don't care. Take care of the land. They go to a single crop. They leach out the land, they don't care well the way.

The owners take care of the land they used for crop rotation. Let the land rest recover. They don't just plant cut. No, just potatoes or then the land becomes useless after.

So they were living off the income of the land they had leased out. And that worked for a while. But then, after the First World War. Through Messiah treaties. They were allowed to take on mortgages again. And get money so their mortgage to land. Eventually they couldn't make the mortgage payments and the property was foreclosed and the family lost the estate, which was later repurchased by my father before my birth in 1934.

00:13:35 Speaker 2(Aditi): So what did the family do in between the years that they lost the estate and repurchased it?

00:13:47 Speaker 1(Hans): My father had a pretty good training. University training in in business. He was managing. In other states. He got into investments. Hauling coal on the auto river. He made some money on the stock market. He married money. And then he repurchased the estate family estate in the early 30s.

00:14:30 Speaker 2(Aditi): So would you call him a self-made man?

00:14:38 Speaker 1(Hans): Uh, that's a pretty restrictive name. He had help. Self-made the American definition of self-made is somebody who had did everything of himself. He had help.

00:14:58 Speaker 2(Aditi): What was your father's name?

00:15:01 Speaker 1(Hans): Hans Wilhelm Tassilo.

00:15:04 Speaker 2(Aditi): And when and where was he born?

00:15:07 Speaker 1(Hans): He was born same place he was born on the estate. As far as I remember.

00:15:15 Speaker 2(Aditi): And what are your memories of him as when you were growing up? What are your memories of the man he was? What kind of a father was he?

00:15:28 Speaker 1(Hans): He was very strict. And without his. Training and all that. So I would have not succeeded.

00:15:46 Speaker 2(Aditi): Did he spend a lot of time with you?

00:15:51 Speaker 1(Hans): Well, that's relative because we did spend time together after the war, considerable time. Before the war, he was busy managing the estates

and I had my weak kids were playing. We're pretty much on our own. The interaction with adults was very. We children were not allowed to dominate adult life.

00:16:23 Speaker 2(Aditi): What was your mother's name?

00:16:26 Speaker 1(Hans): Secret Ingeborg frying potatoes or glipper?

00:16:33 Speaker 2(Aditi): And when and where was she born?

00:16:40 Speaker 1(Hans): She was born. I have it somewhere. It says it slipped my mind.

00:16:47 Speaker 2(Aditi): OK. Do you remember much about her parents, your grandparents from your mother's side?

00:16:54 Speaker 1(Hans): Oh yes, I used to. They had lived in England. They came back from England. My mother's grandparents. Grandmother was not of nobility. And he left and went to England and lived in England. And then they came back from England. After the nobility was abolished after her First World War. Then he grandfather became very successful in training. Hunting ammunition and also a margarine. And he built another banner house, some not far from US, where we lived.

I knew the grandmother. She was quite well off, she. Was one of the major stockholders in the block. Family is some of them are ceramics. Which later on became famous for missile nose cones.

When she was quite wealthy and I knew her with her very well and I knew my grandfather very well, we used to spend vacations with them.

00:18:30 Speaker 2(Aditi): What sort of a woman was your mother? What sort of relationship did you share with her?

00:18:35 Speaker 1(Hans): A very, very close relationship I would. Always, always bring her flowers and. In a very close relationship with her.

00:18:46 Speaker 2(Aditi): Were there things you did together?

00:18:48 Speaker 1(Hans): Yes, we would travel together.

00:18:54 Speaker 2(Aditi): Where all did you go?

00:18:57 Speaker 1(Hans): Well, we went to. Capital at that time, we went to the Circus Bush circus. There we went to other states. Together we went to. To hunts together and.

00:19:20 Speaker 2(Aditi): Did she hunt?

00:19:23 Speaker 1(Hans): And she was also she was taking care of poultry. She taught me how to cut off the head of the chickens, chop off the head up and let the chickens run around like headless.

00:19:37 Speaker 2(Aditi): You must have been very young at that point.

00:19:40 Speaker 1(Hans): About 4-5 years.

00:19:43 Speaker 2(Aditi): Did it scare you? Would you say you were closer to your mother than you were to your father? Did your mother like to cook?

00:19:57 Speaker 1(Hans): Yes, she was in charge. Of all the cooking. All the preservatives, there were no canning at that time. They were preservatives with the jars we would pickle and smoke. And freeze or with packing ice salt. Because of the cold and severe winders in this area, we've always had. Food reserves for sometimes for a year or more. And they would do all these things. Like a cabbage and. Fruit would be put in jars with the rubber band in the rubber around it. Preserved and and honey and. So very little was bought. Most of it was produced on the estates itself. Very few things were bought.

If the shoes were made the. Taylors came to the house. Shoes were made. Sweaters were knitted. Then the rule used again. So there was very little purchasing going on. All of us are all self-sufficient, self supporting. And there was still till. The end of the war.

00:21:41 Speaker 2(Aditi): Do you have any brothers and sisters?

00:21:44 Speaker 1(Hans): A whole bunch of.

00:21:46 Speaker 2(Aditi): Tell me a little bit about them.

00:21:49 Speaker 1(Hans): Well, I have one sister from the first marriage. I have two brothers and one sister. From the second marriage, my father married my nanny. Also, was his golf colt at Godchild? My mother died in 1942. He, me and my father Raymer in 1944. There were three children.

My half brother. And half sister live in Germany and another half brother lives in South Africa.

00:22:31 Speaker 2(Aditi): And what about your sister?

00:22:33 Speaker 1(Hans): My sister also lives in Germany. My sister from the first marriage.

00:22:38 Speaker 2(Aditi): So growing up where you close? All of you together where you're closed. Bunch of mischief. Tell me some of the things you did for entertainment games you played.

00:22:55 Speaker 1(Hans): Well, we didn't have uh uh. Nintendo or that that then sure, one of the most prized toys we had was. A pocket knife. And a long string. And that was about it, that the toys I had would fit in the shoebox.

00:23:24 Speaker 2(Aditi): And how did those three things get you into trouble?

00:23:29 Speaker 1(Hans): Of multiple troubles we would we would chalk or something we would use with hopscotch, we play. Strings, we we would you know. The slingshots we use to harass the girls. Take a tomato and shoot it on their ****. Take them jump.

00:24:00 Speaker 2(Aditi): Would they tell on you? Would they tell on you to their mothers?

00:24:04 Speaker 1(Hans): What good would that do? The parents are not interfere with the kids problem we had. Establish our own. Authority or pecking order.

00:24:21 Speaker 2(Aditi): Who were these younger girls? Were they friends of the family? Were there people on the estate?

00:24:29 Speaker 1(Hans): I was very much restricted. I was actually not allowed to play. With the children of the farmhands.

00:24:38 Speaker 2(Aditi): And why is that?

00:24:39 Speaker 1(Hans): Well, there was a separation of. The Society I always had playmates. Which would be. Uh, living on the estate sometimes where children from the cities. Who were evacuated because of the bombing. Raids on the cities.

And then they were my playmate. For a while I had one from. East Africa, there was a colony in East Africa and one of the the East Africa was lost. One of their sons was my playmate for a while.

Then my niece was playmate because her husband, her father, had, uh, committed suicide. Uh, so she was my playmate, so we always had. I always had playmates who lived in the same house. Which we are of the same social. Class, but none of the working class.

And but I did go to public schools, and it was one of the first generations who went to public school. We always had house teachers. And at the age of 10, we still left the homes. And which send to boarding schools? Or cadet schools, military schools, the boys girls went to boarding schools.

00:26:10 Speaker 2(Aditi): So that must have been a big change for you to leave your home and go to school.

00:26:16 Speaker 1(Hans): That was a big change because there were socialists and and and. Commons trends and of course a lot of opposition against the wealthy and rich families. So I was, I really had to defend myself against the kids. In the village because they hated the ruling families and the children of the ruling families. So it was an outsider there.

00:26:44 Speaker 2(Aditi): But there must have been other people from your class, that socioeconomic class. In school or no? They were getting house tutored.

00:26:56 Speaker 1(Hans): No, we were the only land owners in that village.

00:26:59 Speaker 2(Aditi): I see. I see.

00:27:00 Speaker 1(Hans): And I was the only boy.

00:27:03 Speaker 2(Aditi): Now, you said traditionally children of your house would be tutored at home. How did that come to change in your childhood? Why were you sent to school?

00:27:18 Speaker 1(Hans): A I think it was a. An economic thing. Part of the war. That you could no longer afford a house teacher or tutor. Like Butters were no longer we no longer. We had no Butler, but we had three or four house girls. It was, I think, more of an economic thing.

00:28:02 Speaker 2(Aditi): Now, when you were in school, what was it? A1 room, schoolhouse. Or were there different classes, classes for different ages?

00:28:11 Speaker 1(Hans): It was a wonderful room schoolhouse. Eight classes and one. And one the teacher taught all eight classes at the same time.

00:28:24 Speaker 2(Aditi): So how Young was the youngest child at that point?

00:28:27 Speaker 1(Hans): We started school at the age of 6.

00:28:30 Speaker 2(Aditi): And the oldest.

00:28:32 Speaker 1(Hans): The oldest you know the figure 14.

00:28:35 Speaker 2(Aditi): And everyone was in the same class learning the same thing.

00:28:39 Speaker 1(Hans): Yes, not the same thing you see, there were.

00:28:41 Speaker 2(Aditi): OK.

00:28:43 Speaker 1(Hans): The teachers were trained in such a way that they. See the way the schools were structured at that time. You had four years of grammar school. And then you started high school. After the first four years, which was usually when we enter into into a boarding school now in the villages, you had eight two. Grammar school, which was at a high school, was first eight years. If you did not switch it at 4th grade, it couldn't switch anymore.

You didn't have any foreign languages, you just learned the basics. So that's the basic schooling and that's what was in the villages. The high schools were only. Available in the cities and boarding schools.

00:29:43 Speaker 2(Aditi): So what was your favorite subject in school? Was that unusual?Not many children like mathematics.

00:29:56 Speaker 1(Hans): Well, it was very much supported because your seating order in the school was established by how fast you learned the. Multiplication tables and the divisions we had only two or three hours of school, restless homework. Two students were on their own and then free to play that they have to make the homework.

A lot of it was committed to memory. We had to a lot of things we had to memorize poems, songs. The education system was extremely solid.

00:30:40 Speaker 2(Aditi): So how did you? Being the sort of unpopular child in school because you were. Of a higher class? How did you deal with that?

00:30:55 Speaker 1(Hans): It was extremely difficult because I'd had to sneak my way home. I was chased. With the children and made the fun out of it to chase me. Home from school. I found ways to establish myself. Like if I catch them along, you know, go after them or. I started to develop all kinds of tricks. Like they found their coat in the toilet where they found their pockets. Full of dog ship *****.

I've developed all kinds of tricks to get even with them. So eventually they laid off. And then eventually I would make friends with the biggest bully who usually was the most stupid and did his homework. So he went to bat for me.

00:32:10 Speaker 2(Aditi): Are you in touch with any of these childhood friends?

00:32:13 Speaker 1(Hans): Now then, most of them passed away. And no, I have one friend I've known for over 50 years, but none of my went to school with none of them. Because they're all are scattered all over the world. After the war.

00:32:34 Speaker 2(Aditi): How did you get to and from school? Walk was there. You walk and what?

00:32:41 Speaker 1(Hans): Running running because the other kids were chasing me. Made fun of her.

00:32:48 Speaker 2(Aditi): And what distance was it?

00:32:54 Speaker 1(Hans): Maybe a mile.

00:32:57 Speaker 2(Aditi): When your half brothers grew up, did they go to school as? Well, with you.

00:33:09 Speaker 1(Hans): I was already. We were born. In western Germany. They were born after. No, was ready. 13-14 years old. I got out of school at 14. So there was a little bone. They started school. I was long out of school.

00:33:44 Speaker 2(Aditi): But did they go to school in the same place, or had you moved by then?

00:33:47 Speaker 1(Hans): No, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, they were. We're not even born in Cilicia.

00:33:52 Speaker 2(Aditi): OK.

00:33:52 Speaker 1(Hans): They were born in western Germany, were born in Bavaria. And they were born in Western Germany after the war. After we have fled.

00:34:02 Speaker 2(Aditi): Well, Felicia, now you said after you had fled, why were you moving?

00:34:09 Speaker 1(Hans): Because the Russians were killing everybody on the way, there were 9 million people being chased by the Russian armies, only six million made it, 3,000,000 were killed. Of the Russian love since Stalin's armies.

00:34:27 Speaker 2(Aditi): And how old were you when you moved? So this was before you finished school? What are your most vivid memories from that period?

00:34:47 Speaker 1(Hans): Air raids, the killing and the air raids. And also the freedom we had to see where children were free. Out of control. Jill Lynette ganged up. We would get into black marketing. And a lot of. The adults couldn't say anything anymore. They had screwed up the country so bad. They either crippled, had lost their arms and legs. Or where in prisoner of war camps. Starved half to death full of holsters. They had lost all respect of the young people and the children of the children. Just like they did in Cambodia.

00:35:41 Speaker 2(Aditi): Now when you left for West Germany, what all did you take with you? What did your family take with you?

00:35:50 Speaker 1(Hans): The only thing we can carry.

00:35:57 Speaker 2(Aditi): And what was that?

00:36:07 Speaker 1(Hans): And Father, father carried some jewelry and a basic jewelry. So if it was gold or jewelry.

00:36:14 Speaker 2(Aditi): Was it with the understanding that you would never be able to come back?

00:36:22 Speaker 1(Hans): There was always hope that we might be able to go back. I went back many times. When he was under Polish control and the Russian and the communist control before the Iron Curtain came down with all the hope always hope. To go back. We were disowned. We always hoped.

00:36:55 Speaker 2(Aditi): Now when you left, did the people on the estate, the farmers and the blacksmiths, did they all leave as well? Did they go with you?

00:37:06 Speaker 1(Hans): Yes, some of who did they fled, but there were the death penalty against flee. A lot of them fled. A lot of them committed to use suicide.

00:37:22 Speaker 2(Aditi): How did seeing all this at the age of 11 affect you?

00:37:30 Speaker 1(Hans): I think it was exciting.

00:37:39 Speaker 2(Aditi): When you, when you reached West Germany, what was there waiting for you? Was there anything?

00:37:45 Speaker 1(Hans): We didn't go to West Germany, we went, we wanted to go to Berlin 1st and we cut off with the Russian armies. We went down to Austria for. 1st and then we got kicked out of Austria and went to Bavaria and then from Bavaria we went up and we spot in Frankfurt area.

00:38:00 Speaker 2(Aditi): So when you went to Austria, did you have family there?

00:38:04 Speaker 1(Hans): There were relatives there in Austria.

00:38:07 Speaker 2(Aditi): But who kicked you out?

00:38:09 Speaker 1(Hans): Nobody picked us up.

00:38:11 Speaker 2(Aditi): You said you were forced to leave.

00:38:14 Speaker 1(Hans): Yes, the Austrian will send us a paper hanger. Hitler was an Austrian originally. The Austrian kicked all Germans out. In 45. They restricted us to 20 pounds with my father had bribed people. We came out by truck and had little more. But we lost a lot in Austria when we left Austria. And went to New Munich. Friends of my father, which had in this state outside of music. But the Australian Austria. Sister lived there. So we had contact there. But then we had

to leave. We stopped in central Germany. While the Russians were pushing to go to her.

We stopped for a couple of months and I went to a boarding school and then when the Russians moved further in and we continued on to go down to Austria, my father took me out of that boarding school, went to Austria. I had some schooling there and then and was no schooling in Austria.

We went to Bavaria from Austria, Bavaria went to school there. But then again, I went to a boarding school. In the Alps. It stopped off and on and then. Went to when my father moved, the family moved. To near Lee spot near Frankfurt.

I got out of the. Boarding school in. In the Alps. And we went up into. To lease spot and from there again I went to the boarding schools. And Catholic priests and different boarding schools. I have become very honorably. And I had a very good. Boarding schools, good teachers and the nuns were very good.

Some of these. The conditions have become unbearable. Within the family. And then eventually when I got out of grammar school. Finished my grammar school I went to. Couple of years to help my father

And then eventually I went through apprentice and started apprenticeship. I think it was. 15 or 16 when I started apprenticeship as a photographer.

00:42:04 Speaker 2(Aditi): And who did you apprentice with?

00:42:07 Speaker 1(Hans): My sister got me the apprenticeship when I lived with my sister then. But then my father's. Her stepmother took off, went to Africa, took the oldest son with them. And my sister moved. Back in with my father to help him and I will move. Back with her. But then the conditions. Became very difficult between my sister and my father and her boyfriend, so she moved. She had to move back into town because she was also. A A photographer and had to earn a living.

I stayed with my father and eventually eventually moved out and moved on my own too.

00:42:54 Speaker 2(Aditi): So how long was your apprenticeship period? Years. Two years. And what did he do after that?

00:43:02 Speaker 1(Hans): After this, the work continued to work as a in photography.

00:43:07 Speaker 2(Aditi): Did you get a job?

00:43:09 Speaker 1(Hans): Well, as an apprentice you average job.

00:43:12 Speaker 2(Aditi): But after the apprenticeship.

00:43:13 Speaker 1(Hans): After the partnership, yes, I got jobs, so they're going to work for the motion Picture company and and they did various jobs and I started. Uh to be. Photography photographer going around on in restaurants at Carnival and. Had to actually do little jobs. You know, I had a regular job and also was going around on weekends taking pictures of people and selling their pictures.

And then eventually I came to the United States.

00:43:49 Speaker 2(Aditi): Before we get into that, what was the motion picture that you were taking pictures of?

00:43:54 Speaker 1(Hans): I wasn't taking pictures of, I was a Courier and a comparison and made a stand in the picture was with Martin Luther, not Martin Luther King with Martin Luther. Split away from the Catholic Church.

00:44:22 Speaker 2(Aditi): Now you mentioned that you. Came to the US shortly thereafter. Can you tell me what were the circumstances under which you moved?

00:44:34 Speaker 1(Hans): Well, came to the states in 56 because there was very little opportunity in Germany. I wanted to get married. I wanted to have a it was very difficult to rent even a place. The income was very low. I could barely afford a moped or bicycle. The future did not look very good in Germany, who had 48 hour week I had. The future didn't look.

Very promising, and the United States. Offered a lot of opportunities for people who are willing to work hard.

I wanted to leave. Before I was 21, I wanted. To go ahead and offer to go. The ones that offered to go to Australia. They will pay. The passage should offer jobs. Had to stay two years and then they had to give you an opportunity to go back at that time. I would have needed the permission of my father to leave Germany. I wasn't 21. He didn't give me permit permit.

And had a job offer in Colombia, Bogota, Colombia. To work for as a photographer and my father again wouldn't give me his permission.

As soon as I turned 20, I already started to apply for a sponsor. In the United States. Eventually found a sponsor for the American League. Of American Lutheran World Federation of what it was. I found a sponsor. And was able to come to the United States. Was offered a job. Came to the United States.

00:46:39 Speaker 2(Aditi): Did you fly here or was it by ship?

00:46:42 Speaker 1(Hans): Flew here 3 days. We didn't have jets at that time. It took two days, three days, almost three days to get here.

00:46:55 Speaker 2(Aditi): So where all did you stop? Do you remember?

00:46:57 Speaker 1(Hans): Well, yes, I remember You left from Germany. I went from Germany, went to Iowa. From Ireland and Iceland. From Iceland you went to uh. Somewhere on some island of Canada. And from there he flew down to New York.

00:47:24 Speaker 2(Aditi): And was it the same group of people from start to finish? Were they mostly migrants?

00:47:33 Speaker 1(Hans): Yes to all about.

00:47:39 Speaker 2(Aditi): What was your first impression when you reached New York? What was your first impression of New York?

00:47:46 Speaker 1(Hans): Oh, it was. I went up to the Empire State Building and. I was very much impressed.

00:47:56 Speaker 2(Aditi): What was your job in New York you said? You were sponsored. Oh.

00:47:59 Speaker 1(Hans): I didn't have a job in New York. I had a job.

00:48:02 Speaker 2(Aditi): OK, so from New York, you went to Chicago?

00:48:04 Speaker 1(Hans): I went that train to Chicago.

00:48:06 Speaker 2(Aditi): Now when you flew from Germany to New York, was it your first time in an airplane? And when you went from New York to Chicago, was it the 1st? Time in the train.

00:48:20 Speaker 1(Hans): No, no, no. I always travel by train even as a kid alone, without parents, without anyone. Even a six year old. I would travel by train was not unusual for children to travel by train. Or bus by themselves or no school buses that have used public transportation. They visited our relatives.

00:48:45 Speaker 2(Aditi): So what was it that you were going to do in?

00:48:50 Speaker 1(Hans): I was offered. It had supposedly had a job as a photographer there. But it was a very corrupt organ, American aid society, a very corrupt organization they had. Bribe sponsors who got money for it. And my sponsor was supposed to pick me up at the railway station. Never picked me up. Have a place to stay in the place to work and didn't show up, so I just walked the street till I found somebody that spoke German because I didn't speak English And they made some contact with some Germans in Chicago.

Then went out and looked for a job by myself. Because this guy went, I went to him. He told me that I should be glad that he sponsored me, but I should to kind of work. I would be doing shilling would be doing. It would do it in the United States. Also, I was since I was not a member of the. I couldn't get a job. Because in order to join the Union here to have a job for two years of the catch 22.

So I just wonder. Found the German family morning boarding house. And then went out and found it joined the church immediately and found a job through the. Worked in a scientific library as a photostat operator.

00:50:13 Speaker 2(Aditi): And how did you said you didn't speak English. How did you learn that? How did you pick that up?

00:50:20 Speaker 1(Hans): Every study, every free minute I had.

00:50:24 Speaker 2(Aditi): In the library.

00:50:27 Speaker 1(Hans): No, everywhere I was, I used to have flash cards one side German ones that English. Then went to night school.

00:50:37 Speaker 2(Aditi): And that's where you finished high school.

00:50:40 Speaker 1(Hans): Never finished high school.

00:50:44 Speaker 2(Aditi): OK.

00:50:47 Speaker 1(Hans): I just took the test.

00:50:49 Speaker 2(Aditi): And you passed.

00:50:52 Speaker 1(Hans): So much for American high school. Who don't know how to add $\frac{1}{3}$. And $\frac{1}{4}$. Can you do that? No, we learned that in 4th grade.

00:51:11 Speaker 2(Aditi): So how long were you at the library working the photostat machine?

00:51:18 Speaker 1(Hans): 12 to 16 hours a day because they're the work backlog. And then just tried to beat the hell out of me because I was they like. To have their backlog. And I worked there for. Three or four months. Then I got this higher paid job.

And then I got a draft notice and I left Chicago and went to Florida, get away from the draft that he caught up with me and. Told me that they would deport me if I wouldn't accept the draft. Would have to join the army. I left after about two months and $\frac{1}{2}$ in Florida. I went back to Chicago, got another job, didn't tell them they didn't know that it was an immigrant. I came under the draft law. Got a well paid job at that time. About 3-3 $\frac{1}{2}$ dollars an hour. It's equivalent of about \$40.00 an hour.

Whether they caught up with me again and but but their time. I took the exam for the high school to Plumb and I was able to join the Air Force Board. Going into the. Army Air Force was a better deal.

00:52:45 Speaker 2(Aditi): And why is that?

00:52:48 Speaker 1(Hans): You had to have a high school diploma every. Bimbo could go into the drafted into the army and the Air Force offered much better training. Let's bring up better career fields.

00:53:05 Speaker 2(Aditi): Do you remember your first day?

00:53:07 Speaker 1(Hans): Beg your pardon?

00:53:07 Speaker 2(Aditi): Do you remember your first day at Air Force training? What did they make you? OK.

00:53:16 Speaker 1(Hans): Lackland Air Force Base. This was still segregated. You could not. Go into a restaurant. During that time here in Austin. That's how it was here. Believe we are not Caucasian. They have differed. Bathrooms. Different schools. Different housing areas on the bus, you had to go into the back. The the military started to become integrated. Roger was already integrated. Right here down San Antonio.

00:54:05 Speaker 2(Aditi): Was there a big German population in San Antonio?

00:54:13 Speaker 1(Hans): There still is. But I had. Not much contact. You know the first years. You only get out on the weekend. For a couple of hours after hours. Class A pass will weekend. And then after I look up through basic training and Lackland, I was. Shipped up to.

00:54:48 Speaker 2(Aditi): Tell me where you first laid your eyes on Helga.

00:54:55 Speaker 1(Hans): I was stationed in Milwaukee and. Our pay was very low. And I lived in the YMCA. We didn't have barracks and I will. Was the military. Semi trucks and refueling units at that time and buses. The Air Force. In the military, we would go out in uniform. The city was very friendly towards the military, so if we went out in the uniform on the weekend. You went to a bar, Oregon. So immediately somebody would invite you for a beer or drink or. Something like that.

Also, the churches were putting on. Get togethers with. Soldiers who entered the uniform went there and you got kool-aid and cookies. Whatever was Helga was living at the YWCA and there the girls they were putting on dances. On the weekend, also with kool-aid and caucus up and invited the military there to dance with them because we had a steady income.

So I met Helga, the YWCA, and. I danced with her and she recognized that. I could dance the dance, as most Americans couldn't dance like the waltz or slow wolves. Or TF. And then we got into talking and notice that that was German, that she was German.

You know that we started. She was living at the YWCA and and then I. Askers, and we why do we live separately? Why don't we rent an apartment? So we were cohabitating. In other words, we were rented. We found the place furnished. And rented it. The landlady thought we were married since it was illegal and if I was in the military and I would be cohabitating, I would go to jail.

And they were raiding places ventilators could not rent. The people who were not married, they could not even go to the hotel. And they said proof of marriage. It was the way it was at. In the 50s.

00:57:50 Speaker 2(Aditi): So did you both wear? Did you both wear rings?

00:57:56 Speaker 1(Hans): I think we were engaged and it could be that we were. Wearing a ring. I don't know. I don't remember.

00:58:07 Speaker 2(Aditi): So it was. After a while of knowing each other that you decided to live together.

00:58:13 Speaker 1(Hans): It wasn't very long. Maybe a week. I had a girlfriend in Chicago. I was traveling to Chicago all the time.

00:58:27 Speaker 2(Aditi): And what did she think of this?

00:58:31 Speaker 1(Hans): She was, of course, she's thought that she. And be hooked, you know.

00:58:39 Speaker 2(Aditi): Was Helga a good dancer? That first night you went?

00:58:43 Speaker 1(Hans): Yeah, of course, yeah.

00:58:45 Speaker 2(Aditi): Do you know how?

00:58:45 Speaker 1(Hans): She still wants to dance and I can't dance anymore because when one side of her body is paralyzed, you know. Moving on command, she wants to while wants to do it and embarrasses me.

Anyway, so we moved in. And then after. I think it wasn't. And then in. We announced that we were getting married. And invited our landlady to the wedding. She got bendable, won't she?

Office you realize, because we were raided, you know, the police came, somebody had turned it in and came in. And talk to Landley landley through our through

police. I said to go next door and of course next door there were also people living in sin.

00:59:57 Speaker 2(Aditi): Did either of your parents come for the wedding? Did either your parents, your parents, or health's parents come for the wedding?

01:00:06 Speaker 1(Hans): Help us friends. So of course. Helgard has her relatives in Milwaukee. But some of my. Nobody from Germany other than my my my friend. I going to. He came down for the wedding, but all. Held us relatives who had also also chairman, had gone to Milwaukee and they all were there. And but I don't think, and my landlady and others, but none of my family had come from. Germany to the wedding.

01:00:52 Speaker 2(Aditi): So when did your family meet your wife? For the first time? Like when did your father meet Helga for? The first time.

01:00:58 Speaker 1(Hans): About three months after. Two or three months after we got married, my father had a heart attack. And I got a compassionate reassignment to Germany. So I was. Stationed in in the Frankfurt, Germany, and then Helco joined me a month later.

01:01:27 Speaker 2(Aditi): And what was it like being back in Germany after? Was it a year or two years in America?

01:01:35 Speaker 1(Hans): It was about. I think almost two years in America.

01:01:45 Speaker 2(Aditi): Did you find Germany?

01:01:45 Speaker 1(Hans): About a year and a half.

01:01:48 Speaker 2(Aditi): Did you find it changed?

01:01:51 Speaker 1(Hans): Yeah, Germany a change for the better of. Course there was the. But there still was a. Cold War going on?

01:02:04 Speaker 2(Aditi): Did you get a chance to go visit your childhood home? Your childhood home and the estate.

01:02:13 Speaker 1(Hans): Not for all of us in the military, you see, that was where the eastbrook countries was a Cold War. I couldn't get even within 20 miles of the East Iron Curtain.

01:02:26 Speaker 2(Aditi): But you did go back at some point.

01:02:29 Speaker 1(Hans): After I left the service.

01:02:31 Speaker 2(Aditi): And how was it?

01:02:34 Speaker 1(Hans): Well, I had been back there. Before I came to America. When East Germany was still open. Well, after I've gone to America once, I have been to military, I was sort of travel strictures. I could not travel into. East Germany or.

01:02:58 Speaker 2(Aditi): So when you went back, was it abandoned or were there people there?

01:03:09 Speaker 1(Hans): You're talking about the estate. Well, the estate blew up. We had several 100 tons of sugar. Stored in there. Which were moved from the cities. And the Russians, when they came in, they. Put a distillery in there, make vodka out of. Just sugar, you know. Then it blew up. Distilleries are very fire hazardous. It blew up. So it burned down. We didn't go back till. After 77.

First time we went back behind the Iron Curtain. I could travel. Was not on the travel restrictions anymore. The entire area, all the German people have moved out. Who have the few who have remained less than 2% of the Poly German population has remained. And Poland lost part of East Poland, went to Russia. And the Russians blew those all the cities and villages move Poland. Another 200 miles. It gave that part of Germany of eastern Germany. 2 Polish people and the Polish people moved into these villages and towns.

Now we always had a very close relationship with the Polish people, who even some of the members of the family, a dual citizenship with Poland, because Poland, Polish people were the migrant workers, like the Mexicans here. Polish people would come for harvest. And planting periods. Before the war even.

So the Polish, when we met the Polish people, had been moved in there. And to establish a pretty close relationship with them. But of course, they're very leery to deal with former property owners and still are today.

Like I still today, I still can't buy property in Poland because. Formerly as a German, I own property there.

01:05:59 Speaker 2(Aditi): When did you move to Austin?

01:06:02 Speaker 1(Hans): We came to Austin from. That's the second. In 75. I was stationed at Bergstrom Air Force Base. Before it came became an airport, they closed Bergstrom. I retired out of Bergstrom and then from Bergstrom I went to.

01:06:26 Speaker 2(Aditi): OK.

01:06:30 Speaker 1(Hans): Work in Saudi Arabia, and that's a different life.

We came here. Bought a house here. And the children went to school here. My daughter started college here.

01:06:49 Speaker 2(Aditi): And what were you doing after the Air Force?

01:06:49 Speaker 1(Hans): Right.

01:06:51 Speaker 2(Aditi): What was your profession?

01:06:53 Speaker 1(Hans): After the Air Force, I went to Saudi Arabia, I worked in the for the. Build technical facilities there reconnaissance and Media Center. After three years after the. Shiite uprising, religious and political instability in Saudi Arabia.

We left Saudi Arabia for safety reasons and came back to. And I bought some properties with the money I had saved. Didn't really want to work, but then the government came to me and asked me if I would go to work for them. And I worked in data processing. As a program analyst and as an inspector, then the installer. Very good pay and at a high position there.

And since 1973? I quit employment. I quit. Working for the government and. Started to go into real estate investments and I became. And from there I had then became a day trader on the stock market. And schemes, Ponzi schemes and. Lost a lot of money in the real estate, lost a lot of money, money, stock market than I recovered. There was a downturn in the market and then it came back and. Anyway, till 79, two thousand and.

Five, I think I had stroke in 2005. 2005 I think the 2006. How was day trader than basically a day trader? Good day was when by 10:00 o'clock. If we had made 10 or \$20,000. Then I had stroke and. It reduced my mental capabilities by about 30 to

40%. I lost the language. Recovered from that took me rehabilitation. It took me. 2-3 years. It was still on rehabilitation.

Out of the stock market and stick Premier list now. That's about it. My son took me out completely out of the stock market, you know, liquidated all positions and. Well, it had to be done because. No longer had the. Intellect or mental skills to do that.

01:10:31 Speaker 2(Aditi): Were your children born in America?

01:10:37 Speaker 1(Hans): My daughter was born. But she is not a naturalized citizen since he was the military. It's the same as like a born American citizen. During the Air Force got a regular Commission with captain in the Air Force. And then got. Out after six years or eight years.

And my son was born in New Mexico. Now they both have been.

01:11:25 Speaker 2(Aditi): They've spent their childhood and grown up years in America, right?

01:11:30 Speaker 1(Hans): My daughter spent the first three years in Germany and she grew up with German. Then we were transferred. From Germany to New Mexico.

01:11:44 Speaker 2(Aditi): Did you go back often to Germany with the children as they were growing up?

01:11:51 Speaker 1(Hans): Almost yearly in that sometimes twice a year.

01:11:54 Speaker 2(Aditi): You still have lots of relatives there. And they chose not to leave.

01:12:03 Speaker 1(Hans): Beg your pardon?

01:12:04 Speaker 2(Aditi): They chose to remain there. They chose not to leave.

01:12:17 Speaker 1(Hans): Very few family members left after. There's only one family I know of which left Germany after the first Second World War. A lot of family members left after First World War. A lot of family members left. Left 200 years ago, they're about.

If you Google my family, they're about 200 of us here in the United States. But some family members are in South South America, so in Africa.

Some of them were ambassadors. Some of them were high military. Some of them are still so a lot of family members. Here are active in. Different fields and we are family or unions here in the United States or sometimes in Germany and.

01:13:32 Speaker 2(Aditi): Coming back to your children. How did you feel the first time you became a father?

01:13:41 Speaker 1(Hans): Well, I was to. I still remember, you know, when the first child that is really a. Happy feeling, us. One of the you have children. Well, this is. I don't know. It's it's just one of the things we happen to do. And very happy about when we have children and I think it is very important to have children. And it enriches life. You can relive your own childhood. You'd act like a child as a parent. I think it is extremely important to have children, especially when you grow older. For me, children are. A great part. Of life, enjoyment of life and purpose of life. Not an RV or Nintendo. I think a lot of people wait too long. I think the time to have children. Is in the 20s.

01:14:57 Speaker 2(Aditi): Do you in your experience as a parent, find reflections of how you how your parents brought you up when you're bringing up your children?

01:15:10 Speaker 1(Hans): Well, this is a different culture, different time. So of course you like to pass on to the children. Make it easier for the children, but there comes a point where you. Have to kick the children out of the nest and if they don't want to be kicked out. They move the nest. You got to kick him out from under the apron of the mother and you got to. You got to be able to teach the children to be self support. Not dependent on the parents. Earn their own living. Be responsible and I think that there's a. There's no greater gift. The worst thing a parent can do is make them dependent.

01:16:03 Speaker 2(Aditi): What are your children's names?

01:16:05 Speaker 1(Hans): But Tina and Christopher.

01:16:08 Speaker 2(Aditi): And they're married, and they have children now.

01:16:10 Speaker 1(Hans): Though my son has married and has children, my daughter. There's just two houses down from here, and she's working right now.

01:16:21 Speaker 2(Aditi): Is becoming grandparents much different from becoming parents?

01:16:27 Speaker 1(Hans): Very much so.

01:16:32 Speaker 2(Aditi): Do you feel you spoil your grandchildren more than you did your children?

01:16:39 Speaker 1(Hans): I don't. My wife does.

01:16:47 Speaker 2(Aditi): Any message or any thoughts or any lessons that you've learned in your life that you would like to pass down to them?

01:16:54 Speaker 1(Hans): Well, what I would say is get an education while you're young travel. Don't buy a Nintendo or some of that other stuff. Don't go to school to be taught. Go to school to learn. There's no dumb questions, only stupid answers. Try at 16 to work part time and and get a car. This is nonsense travel. Like we have a young boy, right? Now we're just. Visiting now and they just came back from Colorado with my son. I would rather. Give them some money, said travel. The world for you.

01:17:52 Speaker 2(Aditi): When you were growing up, what did you want to be when you were small? What did you think you'd grow up?

01:17:56 Speaker 1(Hans): Exactly what I am right now.

01:18:00 Speaker 2(Aditi): And what's that?

01:18:04 Speaker 1(Hans): To accumulate a certain amount of wealth? And have a certain amount of security. And live in the country. Or a certain amount of freedom.

01:18:23 Speaker 2(Aditi): With a wonderful wife and family.

01:18:28 Speaker 1(Hans): Well, the calamities in the.

01:18:34 Speaker 2(Aditi): Where you've had a very rich life.

01:18:38 Speaker 1(Hans): You mean head?

01:18:39 Speaker 2(Aditi): And I'm sure that. I wasn't finished. I'm sure there are many more adventures for you to follow.

01:18:47 Speaker 1(Hans): Oh yeah, we just got back from. A couple of weeks ago.

01:18:58 Speaker 2(Aditi): And I hope that you accumulate many more chapters in your life.

2014 Interview by Assistant Chief of Police of Elgin

Article that was published in the German Texans Historical Society newsletter in by Helga about this interview.

Interviewing an Immigrant

When Phillip Taylor, Assistant Chief of Police in Elgin, Texas, signed up for a history course at Austin Community College in early 2014, he was asked to interview a person who had immigrated after 1947 and to write about it. He contacted the German-Texan Heritage Society in search of such a subject and was introduced to GTHS member Hans von Schweinitz, who had come to the United States in 1957 at the age of 23.

The initial two hours of interview turned into at least four long evenings of lively conversation, a CD and a paper.

It became obvious during the interview that the actions and reactions which immigrant Hans displayed when adjusting to the American way of life, were influenced strongly by his experiences in his younger years in Germany. An example would be the period of hoarding basic food like sugar, flour, cans of Crisco and cartons of cigarettes after he bought his first house in Texas. He had been hungry too many times in his teens.

Chief Taylor never considers himself completely off-duty and therefore always entered the von Schweinitz home displaying a gun and a badge on his hip and sporting a big black hat to complete the impressing appearance.

The interview in printed form will be added to the GTHS Trenckmann Library.

The photo shows Hans von Schweinitz being interviewed by Phillip Taylor, Assistant Chief of Police in Elgin, Texas.

Photos and article by Helga von Schweinitz



Phillip Taylor, Helga, Hans



Phillip Taylor and Hans

2014 Paper by Phillip Taylor from Interview with Hans

"Hans Vonschweinitz: The German American"
by Phillip Taylor

An immigrant's rags to riches story was discovered with my interview with Hans. What was learned from him reflects what is written in our history books about World War II and how some immigrants coming here actually made a difference in their lives and the new country they chose to make their new home.

Hans came to this country with less than \$100.00 and could not speak a word of the English language. Hans's life story is a true American dream for him and his family. As I walked into his home, he walked beside me and said loudly, "You know what a millionaire is right?"¹, and I answered yes. He pointed to the office area of his home and whispered in my ear, "Well I'm a multimillionaire!"²

Hans was born in Silesia, which was part of the German empire from 1871 to 1918. When World War I ended at the end of 1918 the new government was called the Weimar Republic.

Hans said, "Years ago this land was not considered good for agriculture"³, and went on to say the land was a muddy swampland. (See Figure 1) The manor houses, which had about 50 estates,⁴ were built around the year 1000 by his ancestors and the land surrounding the manor houses was drained and they discovered it to be extremely fertile for agriculture. (See Figure 2) Hans said, "They became wealthy and were able to support the rulers"⁵, and when this government ended it became part of Poland.⁶ As a child Hans honed a natural entrepreneurship in Germany, pre and post-World War II. He was able to locate black-market items and sell them for profit.

Hans' first real paying job was in apprenticeship as a photo lab technician paying only ten dollars a month. Hans reflects back to his teenage life and says what he learned as a small child has helped him succeed in the United States. Hans has earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mathematics with Honors with a minor in physics in 1974 through the University of Auburn University (On-Line), and while serving in the United States Air Force.⁷

Hans met his wife, Helga, at a dance in Milwaukee Wisconsin and they immediately fell in love and were married in 1959. They had two children, a

son and a daughter and both are college graduates with successful careers. His son lives just a few hundred yards from him, while his daughter lives in Virginia working as a tax accountant.

Hans' job in the Air Force led him to the air base in San Antonio Texas where he discovered he really adored Texas. While in Texas Hans was told that he was being sent to Vietnam and he asked his superiors what he had to do to keep from going. He was told retiring would be the only way to stay home, so with his 20 years of service he retired. Hans has been retired for some time now, but still enjoys what he learned as a child as an entrepreneur by buying and selling homes while dabbling in the stock market as a day trader.

Because of Hans' success from life experiences, it has given his family everything he had dreamed before coming to the United States.

Hans's life experiences are something everyone reads in books about Germany and the horrible wars and atrocities associated with that country. Hans grew up in nobility while living in large manor homes with moats around some of them. While growing up Hans was sent to a boarding school operated by Arians (pre-Hitler Youth). "I had to kneel before Hitler's picture on my knees and promise I would not wet the bed"⁸, Hans told me. Hans said, "I was one of the child soldiers at that time and we had to build barriers in the mountain passes against the Russian tanks."⁹ He said they were given bazookas and were taught how to use them. Hans's father was not fond of him wetting the bed so to keep from getting beaten for wetting the bed Hans would sleep with a bazooka to intimidate his father. Hans on occasion used the bazookas, but he had no appetite for the war. Later on, his father told him to desert and he did so.

The war was getting close to his family so they decided it best to move toward Berlin in a horse drawn carriage. But before they could arrive in Berlin they were cut off by the Russian army. They began traveling south to Dresden and on February 13, 1945 he and his family got caught up in the bombing of Dresden in which the killing of thousands of civilians created a firestorm by the allies.¹⁰

Hans remembers the smell of the burning flesh of over 100,000 civilians and to this day cannot be anywhere around meat that is cooking. They left and traveled south to Salzburg Austria to live with relative and while there he became disruptive because of the atrocities and killings that took place during that time. And in May of 1945 General Patton's Army came into Salzburg Austria.¹¹ Hans said since Adolph Hitler was from Austria and Austria had

voted to support Hitler before the war, his family was kicked out of the country. In Hans' words, "They sent us a paper hanger"¹², meaning orders to leave the country.

In 1946 they moved to a small town in the woods just south of Munich for about a year and then moved near Wiesbaden in West Germany. During this time, he worked as a journeyman and then as an apprenticeship in a photo lab technician at an Army base outside of Wiesbaden. In March of 1945 the airbase was abandoned by the Luftwaffe and was then occupied by advancing American soldiers.¹³

Hans laughingly told me the American soldiers were extremely kind to him and when they would see him, they would stop him and give him chocolate. The black soldiers were particularly friendly. Black soldiers were still segregated and many of them lived with German families and created great relationships with their second families.

Hans's situation did not have a promising outlook during these times and good jobs for the future were not to be found in Germany. Hans said, "With my name I was expected to be a high school student, which I wasn't; I was expected to have a certain amount of wealth, which I didn't have."¹⁴ He and his sister found an old bombed out building and built it so that it was livable. He had heard that the Lutheran Federation was taking applications from German citizens who had trades and wanted to go to America for a better future. The Lutheran Federation found sponsors in America for immigrants who had trades and these sponsors would have jobs available for them once they arrived. The Lutheran Federation found a sponsor for Hans in Chicago Illinois to work in the area of photography.¹⁵

Hans then flew into New York City in 1956 in what he called a "flying tiger"¹⁶, meaning a two-prop airplane with twin-engine propellers. He brought with him a book he bought in Germany that had 500 words with flash cards in the English language and \$50.00 to \$100.00. When they landed in New York and then a train to Chicago to meet his sponsor and he did not show up. He did not know anyone and just walked around for a long time trying to find someone who spoke German. He finally found someone and they led him to a boarding house which was run by a German family who housed German immigrants with a rent of \$25.00 a week.

Hans believes this is the land of opportunity. He says, "They don't pay attention to the titles, people value what you can do and what you do, and if

you do well you get paid well."¹⁷ Hans' first impression of the United States was that people were always in a hurry to do something or go somewhere. Everything was money oriented. He would see people standing in long lines to get hot dogs and it seemed he was looking at an assembly line. Hans said the workers in America were very pretentious and said that if there was someone dying in the street no one would stop to help them. He gave an example of one worker talking telling another worker that a relative had passed away and the worker would just pretend to be listening and would just nod their head up and down saying, "Uh Huh, yeah, oh really?" Hans does not like that much because in Europe people will stop working and look you in the eyes and listen to you and your needs. There was real compassion.¹⁸

Hans learned that the best way to integrate into America was to join a church and they found him a job at a scientific library as a Photostat operator. There was a tremendous work log and he was exceptionally busy making copies for them. Hans was being paid \$1.35 an hour, and that salary was decent for that era and that helped quite a bit since his rent at the boarding house was \$25.00 a month while doubling up in the room with another couple. Hans and his wife remained friends with the boarding house owners for many years.

Hans, being the achiever he is, got into a lot of trouble with the other Photostat operators because he was working so diligently in getting rid of the backlog of work the other workers got mad at him because it made them look bad. He left for another job making blueprint paper. Sometime later his landlord's sister said to him, "Why don't you come with me to Florida and work around the house and drive the car?"¹⁹ The draft office was looking for him about this time and he had no intentions in going to the military so he left for Daytona Beach.

Hans was content with his life in Florida and then the police began showing up telling him he had to go to the draft office or they were going to send him back to Germany. Immigrants had to obtain green cards when they came into America and also had to let the government know if you moved. That made it easy for the authorities to track him so he hopped on a bus and headed back to Chicago. When he arrived, he found a job making precision reproductions of to scale maps and plans and was being paid \$3.50 an hour. And according to Hans that is equivalent in today's market as \$80.00 an hour. The draft board was still chasing him so he decided to take the high school equivalency test so he could get into the Air Force in 1957.

He was taken to San Antonio for basic training and was acing all of his tests and everyone thought he was cheating, but Hans was just good at taking tests.

Hans laughed at the other soldiers who were having a hard time polishing their shoes and caring for their uniforms, because that sort of thing was second nature to him because of the way he was raised. Hans called himself a "five for sixer". He explained as a "five for sixer" he would loan them \$5.00 and when they paid him back, they paid him \$6.00. He was also running a candy store out of his mattress because those kids could not do without their chocolate. An advantage he had over the others was that he obtained a truck driver's license while in Germany and that gave him more opportunities as far as assignments and was finally given a job driving a gasoline tank truck making less than \$100.00 a month.

Hans was stationed just outside of Milwaukee and was living at a YWCA and he met his wife Helga there. He said the YWCA put on dances and what he called "Kool-Aid and Cookies."²⁰ The YWCA would invite servicemen to dances with women eagerly standing by waiting for a dance. The lights were turned down low and the music nice and soft to set the mood for romance.

He told me that things were very different in the Milwaukee 1950's. It was against the law for a man and woman to live together if they were not married. He told me of one instance that while he and Helga were living with a German woman, not married, and there was a knock on the door around 2:00AM. The woman went to the door to find two police officers and they told her they heard a rumor there was an unmarried man and woman living there and asked if it was true. Hans said the woman cursed at them telling them of course not. However, to get the police from her door she told them what they were looking for was next door. It seems one of Hans buddies was living with a woman next door and it seemed the police were satisfied with that information so they went next door and left them alone. He said this was a normal practice of the police during this time.

Shortly after Hans and Helga relationship began his father had a heart attack in Wiesbaden Germany and he received a compassionate leave to go there. But before he was allowed to leave the states, he had to pay any and all income taxes that he owed. They left and stayed there 4 years and he later re-enlisted and was transferred to Roswell New Mexico (Walker Air Force Base) in 1962 and drove fuel trucks to radar sites. Hans bragged that people were not even aware that at that time there were 4 Atlas missile sites in Roswell. Today there are a reported 7 sites currently in Roswell New Mexico.²¹

He cross trained into photography and was quickly promoted to Senior Master Sergeant and then advanced to intelligence and performed operation readiness

inspections, pre and post-strike targeting, and also worked with the Inspector General at Bergstrom Air Force Base. He also did tours in England, Spain, Thailand, Saudi Arabia and Vietnam while the children and Helga remained in England.

There is no doubt Hans' life experiences have been grim. How anyone can still be stable today having gone through the horrifying scenarios he survived as a child, teenager and adult. Hans tells me the roads in America are paved in gold for those immigrants who want to come here and work for it and the opportunities are unlimited if they would only take it. His experiences in life, although filled with many bumps, craters, and mountains, did not slow this German American down in clutching his piece of the American dream immigrants today still talk and dream of.

The Lutheran World Federation or the National Lutheran Council began in 1918 and later responded to post World War I to react to the needs of refugees and immigrants. When the U.S. entered World War II it stopped refugee assistance in obtaining social support. In 1945 another agency, Lutheran World Relief, was created and this group met the widespread needs in post-war Europe. In 1953 Congress passed the Refugee Relief Act, which allowed thousands of expelled ethnic Germans who were escaping East Germany.²²

The bombing of Dresden Germany on February 13th and 14th of 1945 was very controversial for its time. There were thousands of civilians who lost their lives fleeing the Russian and German army's. The allies from the West, Churchill and Roosevelt, decided that Stalin was going to be a problem after the war. It was decided that the allies would show the Russians they had the superior military and they did not care who was in the city of Dresden, the allies were going to drop 3,300 tons of bombs in three waves. So many bombs were dropped at the same time it sucked the oxygen out of the air creating a great firestorm. Buildings and homes were completely destroyed. Bodies lie in the street, flesh burning and there is no way to walkaround them to escape.²³

On April 29th, 1945 Lieutenant Colonel Viktor von Schweinitz, uncle of Hans von Schweinitz, was authorized to sign the surrender of Germany in Caserta Italy. (See Figure 3) With this signing the Lieutenant Colonel was negotiate the framework of surrender of German soldiers and how they were to be treated as prisoners of war while they were kept in Italy. If an agreement was not met during the signing the German soldiers were to hide in the hills without surrender. They were told to surrender or be slaughtered and they eventually agreed to a fullsurrender.²⁴

Most World War II historians recognize the name Henning Von Tresckow. Henning was a Lieutenant Colonel in the German Army and after he witnessed the killings of captured soldiers in the Red Arm in 1941, he decided at that time Hitler had to be stopped. Henning later became an officer in the Army Group Centre. While there Henning recruited senior army officers to help him overthrow Hitler's government. In 1943 a makeshift bomb was placed on an airplane carrying Hitler, but the bomb failed to explode. Hitler was to attend another meeting on July 20th, 1944 and a recruitment of Henning, Claus von Stauffenberg, carried a briefcase bomb into the meeting. The bomb exploded while Hitler was inside, killing four men and only injuring Hitler's right arm. This plot was famously named Valkyrie. Henning lived during the same generation as Hans' father and was the son of a brother of Hans' paternal grandmother.^{25,26}

Before Hans began his journey to America, he talked to some of his relatives who had already been here. They told him of their experiences and the more he heard the more he wanted to make the trip. His uncle told him to be weary of people who were trying to be too nice, because those were the ones to take advantage of the immigrants. Immigrants were often taken advantage of by scam artists. Immigrants would often be told by someone that a job could be found for them, but to get the job they would have to give them there next three or four paychecks as payment for finding them a job. Hans say the same thing is happening to the Mexicans here today. They get paid nothing and they do all the hard work that others would never do. That's unfair in his mind.

When the airplane arrived in New York he saw what most arriving immigrants saw and that was the Statue of Liberty. The symbol of American freedom and prosperity. Once can only imagine the happiness in the minds of those arriving to a new life. Hans's first experience as an immigrant in America was not exactly what he expected when he stepped off of the train in Chicago. Imagine, as an American, being dropped off in the middle of Germany, not knowing the language, and trying to find a place to eat or sleep. Hans wondered the streets of Chicago until he found one person who spoke German and that led him to the boarding house.

There was humor in almost everything Hans saw or did. For example, when he was going through basic training, he hid chocolate candy bars under his mattress and sold them to the other soldiers because they could not do without their precious chocolate. When the others worked so hard at polishing their shoes or preparing their uniforms Hans laughed at them inside because they

were struggling with something that he was doing as a teen. They are all spoiled brats or "Mama's boys" in his mind.

Hans' experiences as an immigrant in America seemed relatively easy on him. It seems he was always a step or two ahead of everyone and he had that edge that others look for. The experiences he had as a child and teenager while growing up in Germany gave him that edge. All of us would revel to ensure our children had such an edge, but not at the price Hans had to pay. Some may say his childhood was taken away from him, but asking him about it he says, "No regrets" and smiles while saying it.

This interview with Hans is one of the most interesting conversations I have ever had. To actually speak with a person who has lived what is written in history books, and to hear the horrible stories of atrocities that have happened to human beings is mind boggling. I thought I was familiar with some of the German history, but as I asked more and more questions of Hans I realized that I had no clue. Hans would set me straight, but in a kind way of course.

To actually speak with a living person who can tell stories of firing bazookas at Russian soldiers, or being in Berlin when it was bombed by the allied forces and live to tell the stories of smelling burning flash everywhere. To learn that this man's family has so much to do with German and American history by having a relative who made two assassination attempts on Adolph Hitler, or an uncle who signed the documents of Germany surrender in Caserta Italy. Hans is really proud of this legacy and very well should be.



Figure 1 Prussia in the German Empire 1871-1918Figure 2 Manor House



Figure 2 Manor House



Figure 3 Caserta Signing

Footnotes:

1 Hans Vonschweinitz, interview by Phillip Taylor, January 30, 2014

2 Ibid.

3 Hans Vonschweinitz, interview by Phillip Taylor, February 6, 2014

4 Ibid.

5 Ibid.

6 Ibid.

7 Hans Vonschweinitz, interview by Phillip Taylor, February 14, 2014

8 Hans Vonschweinitz, interview by Phillip Taylor, January 30, 2014

9 Ibid.

10 (Trueman 2013)

11 Hans Vonschweinitz, interview by Phillip Taylor, January 30, 2014

12 Ibid.

13 (Wiesbaden Military Community, Your Home in Germany 2014)

14 Hans Vonschweinitz, interview by Phillip Taylor, January 30, 2014

15 (Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service n.d.)

16 Hans Vonschweinitz, interview by Phillip Taylor, January 30, 2014

17 Ibid.

18 Ibid.

19 Ibid.

20 Ibid.

21 (579th Strategic Missile Squadron 2014)

22 (Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service n.d.)

23 (Trueman 2013)

24 (Lamb, War in Italy, 1943-1945: A Brutal Story 1993)

25 (Jewish Virtual Library n.d.)

26 Vonschweinitz, Helga, email message to interviewees wife, March 12, 2014

2014 Transcript of Audio recorded by Phillip Taylor from Interview with Hans

In 2023, Hans' son Chris six step process to convert the video on the DVD to the following transcript. Just like the transcript from the 2009 interview, the software assumed that all words were English, so many of the words that are German, transcribed into strange English words. But the reader can understand what Hans probably was actually saying. This transcript has not been edited or corrected. That work will be done in a future date and be included in Hans' Biography.

This interview was much more informal. Sections of the transcript have been removed when they were just looking around the house for items or having a snack. By 2014, Hans' memory was fading and Hans could hardly read English or German. Helga had to provide some clarification and information when Hans' memory just quit. Since this interview was less formal, it is not structured in any format, such as time or place.

2014 Jan 30 Transcript

00:00:00 Speaker 1(Hans)

00:00:56 Speaker 2(Phillip): I've I've got like 40 some odd questions. It'll it'll last in 45 minutes to an hour maybe. OK.

00:01:10 Speaker 1(Hans): I came to this country. And the 20 year old 21 year. Old come from an old drummer family. This belonged to me. It's Alicia, the Manor house and an estate. My ancestors go back. To 800. And from an old mobility family doesn't count in these days.

Now you can either help me anytime.

00:02:00 Speaker 2(Phillip): All right, you're doing just fine.

00:02:12 Speaker 1(Hans): I came here with about 20 dollars \$200.00 a little education now.

00:02:19 Speaker 2(Phillip): You said a sixth grade education.

00:02:21 Speaker 1(Hans): Yeah, didn't speak English.

00:07:35 Speaker 2(Phillip): OK, OK, let's shoot. When and where were you born?

00:07:41 Speaker 1(Hans): I was born in Cilicia.

00:07:44 Speaker 2(Phillip): So, Alicia, can you spell that?

00:07:47 Speaker 1(Hans): Spell it for you. No, this is my problem I can't.

00:07:57 Speaker 3(Helga)(Helga) That's the English word, OK. Which is now part of Poland, was given to Poland afterward.

00:08:06 Speaker 2(Phillip): Ohh no kidding. So as part of Poland now, yeah.

00:08:14 Speaker 1(Hans): They took Poland and moved it.

00:08:16 Speaker 2(Phillip): So after World War Two, they.

00:08:19 Speaker 1(Hans): The Polish people would. Move displaced and moved about. Almost 200 miles West. Wow. And part of Poland went to Russia.

00:08:32 Speaker 2(Phillip): So is it? Is it still called Silencia cult celicia?

00:08:36 Speaker 3(Helga): Have a similar word in Polish, but you know there's big problems or like state in the United States, right. But now it's under it's officially.

00:08:51 Speaker 2(Phillip): OK. When were you?

00:08:57 Speaker 1(Hans): Born 1934.

00:09:03 Speaker 2(Phillip): OK. OK, October.

00:09:05 Speaker 1(Hans): What is? It's October.

00:09:09 Speaker 2(Phillip): Can you tell me about your hometown celicia? Is your hometown correct?

00:09:14 Speaker 1(Hans): So, Alicia, it's the province. Like the state now I was. I was on an estate. Was a family estate and we always open mobility and. It was a Manor house, not a cow castle and surrounded by farmland. And my ancestors came there. When it was Polish. Bought that land, there were nights.

Came out of Iran out of the southern part. Of the Alps and they came there with the. And then they drained the land with a swamp land. It was extremely fertile. And the Polish people didn't know that they had potatoes about the size of an egg, and we were growing potatoes. Size of a fish. And they drained the land. And we're very successful in. Agriculture and farm and animals just.

And then there's been Azra. The farm order start would start settling in. So a community was.

00:10:51 Speaker 2(Phillip): So what, what part of Selicia was that? Was it a was, was it just in a on some acreage in, in the the the Providence, I guess like a state?

00:11:05 Speaker 1(Hans): So this is like a state.

00:11:11 Speaker 2(Phillip): Was it the is Felicia, is that in the?

00:11:15 Speaker 1(Hans): Do you have a map? That's the best way of doing it. It's the first ever.

00:11:35 Speaker 2(Phillip): Well, I've got a I've got an old a map I got off the Internet. Well, we can go back to that here in just a second now.

I already know the answer to this question, but did you marry?

00:12:12 Speaker 1(Hans): Did I marry? We we've been married for, what, 55 years? We have two children. OK, two children. Your daughter and his son. Son lives about 600 yards from here. And while your daughter, who's in Maryland right now outside of washing Washington, DC. And she works. As for H&R Block now and does tax returns when she's retired.

00:13:02 Speaker 2(Phillip): From engineering, retired from engineering.

00:13:09 Speaker 1(Hans): She has an A master's degree in beer making.

00:13:14 Speaker 2(Phillip): Well, if you're going to have a degree, that's the one.

00:13:29 Speaker 1(Hans): It's we saved enough money to pay the house for the partially of the very frugal. It's not married.

00:13:38 Speaker 2(Phillip): Oh, she's not married? No. I know we spoke about this briefly, but what education did you have before you left?

00:13:49 Speaker 1(Hans): I went to, came to went to grammar school. A little late because it had a busted appendix that was usually deadly. So I got to school late and I was almost 7.

00:14:05 Speaker 2(Phillip): You started school when you. Were seven almost 7. And when, when would you have normally have started?

00:14:14 Speaker 1(Hans): Six really. Yeah. And started the grammar school. I took the exam to get into into high school. That's 4th grade.

00:14:38 Speaker 2(Phillip): And you took the exam at at what age?

00:14:41 Speaker 1(Hans): Took the exam. At almost 11.

00:14:47 Speaker 3(Helga): They they take to examine to, to find out which branch of schooling you should go. If you are university bound, then you take that branch of school. But if you want to become a plumber or something depending on you know where your interest is, you take a different now.

00:15:07 Speaker 2(Phillip): This is under under Polish rule or German rule.

00:15:12 Speaker 1(Hans): Or still German. Prior to the war.

00:15:31 Speaker 2(Phillip): What education do you have now? Could you tell me that?

00:15:34 Speaker 1(Hans): Yes, I have. Bachelor degree in. Bill Majors in physics and mathematics.

00:15:56 Speaker 2(Phillip): Why did you leave your country?

00:16:01 Speaker 1(Hans): I left you did not leave.

00:16:04 Speaker 3(Helga): 1956.

00:16:06 Speaker 1(Hans): 1956. Yeah, I could not leave before because I needed my father's approval to leave Germany and. I wondered had several offers to go to Australia or to South America, but then I. Applied for sponsorship. What was the Lutheran Federation, or what was it?

00:16:36 Speaker 3(Helga): Yeah, something with the with the sponsored immigrants. They got paid. For they charge for sponsoring immigrants.

00:16:52 Speaker 1(Hans): I had completed apprenticeship as a photographer. Was working and in the photo labs. In in West Germany then we fled between the armies.

With the Russian and the German army, we fled to. We wanted to go back to Berlin and fled upon horse drawn wagon.

00:17:23 Speaker 3(Helga): In 1945.

00:17:24 Speaker 1(Hans): 1945.From Gordon to Berlin. The reason we wanted the Berlin is is because. Yeah, they were high military. In Hitler's.

00:17:54 Speaker 2(Phillip): You're who who was now.

00:17:57 Speaker 1(Hans): My stepmother, my mother died in 41 on this area. But while they remarried. His wife is one of the family. Who was very high up. In the military.

00:18:19 Speaker 2(Phillip): In Hitler's army.

00:18:20 Speaker 1(Hans): Time on the staff, and we're supposed to go to battle of Berlin and we got caught up. By the Russian armies. And went to. Outside spoke, yeah. I was hiding out in another part in the opposite.

00:19:04 Speaker 2(Phillip): You were hiding for what reason?

00:19:05 Speaker 1(Hans): Ohh well I was getting pretty unruly.

00:19:10 Speaker 3(Helga): How old were you then? 10-11 years?

00:19:15 Speaker 1(Hans): I would become a very unruly because of all the atrocities. Up he was during the all across all the killing and.

00:19:32 Speaker 2(Phillip): So you weren't. You weren't brainwashed like a lot of the other kids were.

00:19:38 Speaker 1(Hans): Because yes, of course.

00:19:40 Speaker 2(Phillip): I mean, a lot of the kids were brainwashed.

00:19:41 Speaker 1(Hans): Oh, I went to a special school for Arians with let's have 0. I was in the pre Hitler. OK. And I had to kneel before Hitler's. For my niece and promise that I wouldn't have pizza to bed.

00:20:15 Speaker 2(Phillip): Ohh my gosh. OK.

00:20:27 Speaker 1(Hans): And then I was. Hit away in another part of Austra. My parents were dead, and then in May 45. American forces patents. Army.

00:20:48 Speaker 2(Phillip): Team Indus elsewhere.

00:20:56 Speaker 1(Hans): What happened there? Yeah, I was one of the child soldiers at that time and they we had to build. The mountain passes against the Russian tanks and they gave us bazookas and then. We're told how to use them.

00:21:25 Speaker 2(Phillip): Did you use them?

00:21:26 Speaker 1(Hans): Later on, when I took, I deserted. My father told me to desert I when he was thought wanted to beat me again for fishing in bed and let the bazooka rip swoop.

00:21:42 Speaker 2(Phillip): Talk about rebelling, huh? Talk about rebelling.

00:21:53 Speaker 1(Hans): Anyway, and then from us, we got a cut kicked out of Austria. Being German, they send us the paper hanger. He's looking for some other person austringer. So but I.

00:22:12 Speaker 2(Phillip): Who kicked you out of Austria? All the Austrians but the IT was already free from Germans though, correct?

00:22:21 Speaker 1(Hans): What do you mean free by reserves?

00:22:22 Speaker 2(Phillip): I mean, if the pattern was already there though, was he just going through or had he liberated that area? Occupied, I mean occupied, yes. So so did Patton did the US forces come in and and run the Germans off?

00:22:43 Speaker 1(Hans): Or though we were living with relatives in Salzburg.

00:22:49 Speaker 3(Helga): Though the Austrians had voted to become part of Germany.

00:22:54 Speaker 1(Hans): Ohh absolutely 90% of them.

00:22:54 Speaker 3(Helga): We are there popular vote, they want driving tourism. They had they had a big vote and then they said we want to be annexed by Germany. That was before the war.

00:23:05 Speaker 2(Phillip): Before the war.

00:23:06 Speaker 1(Hans): Anyway, but they didn't.

00:23:08 Speaker 3(Helga): Have to be liberated, you know as such.

00:23:11 Speaker 1(Hans): OK. Anyway, they kicked us out of Austria at a certain time limit and over was supposed to take was £20.00 of. Personal belongings and anyway, we got kicked out of Austria. And we went from Austria near a small town South of Munich, OK. And from that part, we stayed there I believe. And then came up. Through the area near Frankfurt to Vespida. In West Germany. And that's where I went through. Finish and then I went to some other places in between I went to. On the on the another home which was run.

00:24:34 Speaker 2(Phillip): You were by your, were you by yourself or with your family still?

00:24:37 Speaker 1(Hans): Part was with my family, but then the part that was the problem was my family lived way up in the woods. Most of the cities were in ruins, was very difficult to find living places. My family lived in a small house. Up in the mountains.

00:24:54 Speaker 2(Phillip): And this was white, white and what, what year was that?

00:24:55 Speaker 1(Hans): 46-47 OK and then. I started apprenticeship I think. The partnership in responding to the exam as the journeyman then worked as a photographer. And photo lab. Yes, and I was. But then I went through. Place outside of his pardon? Kaiserslautern with Big Army bases. And I worked in a photo lab which worked for the.

00:25:46 Speaker 2(Phillip): The The Big Army base you speak of. Is the one that the Americans have been using since they've been in Germany. There's an Army base. My my son, he spent three years in the in the Army and he spent almost a year in these spotting.

00:26:08 Speaker 1(Hans): Yeah, there's there were some headquarters there this because hospital there.

00:26:13 Speaker 2(Phillip): They they have now. Well, they've now the American forces are out of that base now. They've turned everything over to the Germans now.

00:26:23 Speaker 1(Hans): Yeah, but doing now during the war. We're we're we're fighting in the Middle East. It's one of the major.

00:26:32 Speaker 2(Phillip): Yeah, he's very busy back then.

00:26:32 Speaker 1(Hans): Places for us with. Hospital. No, you're now. It's now very busy.

00:26:41 Speaker 2(Phillip): Oh, I didn't realize they. Were using it for a hospital.

00:26:42 Speaker 1(Hans): Oh yeah, with NATO bases and a lot of the American wounded. Can't go to his spot now. Going to the pictures.

And in fact, my daughter was born there. When I was, I was stationed there. Then later on when I. Was in the Air Force.

00:27:14 Speaker 2(Phillip): Why did you? Why did you actually leave Germany?

00:27:23 Speaker 1(Hans): First of all with my name. I was expected. Was a high school student. And which I wasn't. I was expected to have a certain amount of wealth, which I didn't have. We had no material belongings to stay up. What can I say? The situation was not very promising at that time.

It was his restaurant and you know, it was not united yet released. We're very, very limited. Even with the journeymen completing.

00:28:26 Speaker 2(Phillip): Now you were. You were living with your. Who are you living with? And you were living by yourself at that time?

00:28:31 Speaker 1(Hans): Oh yeah, was her little room and board place.

00:28:34 Speaker 2(Phillip): And how old were you?

00:28:39 Speaker 1(Hans): I started apprenticeship when I was. I missed about a year and a half of school during the confusion after the war and traveling. Then move together with my sister. We went in an old farm dock building and rebuilt one of the rooms, some of it the. Bricks which were there. And then started working as a journeyman. There was number hope even to. Accumulate enough finances or something on a motorcycle level at a moppet. 11 with the little. There was no hope of ever. Getting married or having a family or something And we were it was pretty wild years.

00:29:53 Speaker 2(Phillip): When, when, when did you leave? And she's in the other room.

00:30:02 Speaker 1(Hans): Let me see.

00:30:09 Speaker 2(Phillip): Oh, it says 1956. You left in 1956 and how? How old were you at that?

00:30:14 Speaker 1(Hans): All right, yeah. Time of board 34.

00:30:21 Speaker 2(Phillip): So you'd have been, uh. 20,21 or 22.

00:30:30 Speaker 1(Hans): I had to be a full aged.

00:30:33 Speaker 2(Phillip): OK, so the the conditions of your country when you left were horrible.

00:30:40 Speaker 1(Hans): Not horrible, but the prophecy. The future was not. But I didn't know that I had a lot of relatives in America who had even fought on this side. I I made the contact with the family members. There are more. Family members now in America than any in Europe, really. Wow, this is less than the military wise, very successful high-ranking military, high-ranking lawyers or doctors.

00:31:27 Speaker 2(Phillip): How how did you prepare for your trip here?

00:31:36 Speaker 1(Hans): How did I prepare? I started to get a book called basically English. 500 words. And I have little flash cards and also I got. Practice, practice and basic vocabulary. I mean, I don't want pockets that I could at least say hello. Where do I have to go and? Then applied to Lutheran Federation for sponsorship. Was hoping that I get an immigration resort to come to the United States. Did it happen? Yes, it happened.

00:32:21 Speaker 2(Phillip): How long did that take? How long did that process take?

00:32:24 Speaker 1(Hans): The process took not very long actually. I think it took only about three or four months.

00:32:32 Speaker 2(Phillip): How how did you? How did you get here?

00:32:35 Speaker 1(Hans): Again, here we went a flying tiger. And of course it didn't have props. Don't get it. At that time, we went from Hamburg to. From Ireland to Newfoundland. The food that. One of the East Coast islands, Gander, I believe, was his base and then to New York. And then I took the train from New York to Chicago. To meet my sponsor. And we were guaranteed a job. In what of? As a photographer?

00:33:24 Speaker 2(Phillip): As a photographer. So the Lutheran Federation guaranteed the job. Are they the one that guarantees?

00:33:30 Speaker 1(Hans): They had a sponsor assigned for each one of. And then there came to this big disappointment. He was supposed to pick me up at the airport at the train station and didn't show.

00:33:42 Speaker 2(Phillip): Up in Chicago.

00:33:47 Speaker 1(Hans): That was the time where you had informed agency and had to pay three months salary. Over the one year period right to get a job. For the unionist. Anyway, my sponsor had not shown up. And I've just walked the street till I found somebody spoke German. And found a boarding house which were run by a German family. Who took care of a bunch of bunch of immigrants? Was \$25.

00:34:34 Speaker 2(Phillip): How much money did you have when you come over here?

00:34:36 Speaker 1(Hans): Oh, I think what about 50 or \$100?

00:34:44 Speaker 2(Phillip): In German marks or U.S.

00:34:51 Speaker 1(Hans): What did you do with German marks here?

00:34:53 Speaker 2(Phillip): Well, that that's why I asked. I mean I I wasn't sure if.

00:34:56 Speaker 1(Hans): The flowers, they will not take yours where nothing circulates.

00:35:01 Speaker 2(Phillip): Right, I know that I know the EUR weren't weren't existent back then, but the the Mark were before the. Well, what was before the year of? Was it the mark? It wasn't the.

00:35:13 Speaker 3(Helga): Deutsche Mark it was DM Deutsche Mark and before then there was.

00:35:19 Speaker 1(Hans): The next was.

00:35:20 Speaker 3(Helga): Basically the ice mark. That was during the 20s and 30s. And during World War 2, will that change? Then the Deutsche mark? For West Germany and then in two year 2000, I think it changed to euros.

00:35:40 Speaker 2(Phillip): Has it been EUR since that long? I didn't realize the EUR have been around that long.

00:35:47 Speaker 3(Helga): But all those countries that belong to that Union. There is something. Shows you Cilicia. You know this is was Germany. And this was before World War Two was all gone. And then, you know, there's Bavaria, there's Russia has, and all these different governmental.

00:36:15 Speaker 3(Helga): This is Felicia.

00:36:18 Speaker 2(Phillip): Alright, that gives me something to. Work with, yeah. How did you view life in the US?

00:36:30 Speaker 1(Hans): Well, it was. I had read about America. I didn't know. I had relatives yet. But I was. Very much interested. It had heard about from my uncle that traveled here in America. I did a lot of reading at that time already, but in German so you. I said this is the land of opportunities. It doesn't pay attention. People value what you can do and what you do right. If you do well, you get paid well. And so when I've came to Chicago? Well, Luther Lutheran Federation had already. Worked with other local. So my my response I had not looked at my sponsor and I met him, he said. If we're photographer children, do that he find himself something to do. And so I found that German, it's. More boarding house.

And then I. Had been informed that one of the best ways to integrate into society in America, so join a church. And that's what I did. That joined the church. And they

helped me to get a job as a photostat operator. I don't know if it is no longer use that method.

00:38:34 Speaker 2(Phillip): Which which which church did you join?

00:38:39 Speaker 1(Hans): Remember, we got married.

00:38:41 Speaker 3(Helga): No, we got married in the Presbyterian Church. It was probably some Lutheran Church. Yeah, all of this basically was given to Poland and Russia. So the the German border is now here. After World War 2.

00:39:13 Speaker 1(Hans): Where were we? Oh yeah, I joined the church. The church helped me to get a job with a scientific library as a photostat operator. We've scientists would cut scientists, library scientists would cover the unmarking the books with which pages they want copied. It has started working. They had a tremendous work log. Made the copies there. They paid me. It was. \$1.35 or something an hour which was. It was pretty good for me. I had a. Especially since I had a little report for around \$25 as I don't remember exactly. He doubled up in her room.

00:40:19 Speaker 3(Helga): But the German immigrant couple stayed. Immigrants because they spoke German.

00:40:26 Speaker 1(Hans): And we, we stayed friends for many, many years. I worked there, but I was. Or he get into trouble because I took care of the backlog and the the other workers didn't like them.

And so I got another job doing. Making a blueprint paper. You know what that is? Coating the emulsions, of course, that was. These huge rolls, which had to be cut and the drying rooms the motion had to be. Coated and had.

My landlady's sister offered me, said. Why don't you come with me? To Florida drive down there and help me. Of the house. Drive the car. All of it. So I went to Daytona Beach, drove her down there. Took care of some of her household matters and so far and around. But at this time the. Draft office already?

Had a fingers on me, you know, I had to register, right? I had no intention whatsoever to go. Go into the military. You also had what's called the hidden card you had just to let them know. Where you at? And in Florida, I was happy at Daytona Beach, you know where they had the race. And the girlfriends there anyway, was happy. Happy there but. Police start showing up. You got to go to the office. You don't show up, we send you back. Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. I'll be, yeah, I'll be there on the bus.

It got the real job. It was that I wasn't making. \$3.50 an. It's like you know how much it is equivalent to today's money, 80. Dollars an hour.

00:43:21 Speaker 2(Phillip): What were you doing for \$3.50? Cents a month.

00:43:23 Speaker 1(Hans): I was doing precision reproductions. To scale precision. Reproductions of maps. Two scale exactly. Of plans and stuff like that. And it was. Then of course they got a hold of me again. I said I don't want to go in. I don't want to hold the army.

So I went ahead and took. The high school equivalency test. You needed to have a high school equivalency get into the Air Force past it.

00:44:08 Speaker 2(Phillip): Do you remember what year that was? Hello, how old you are?

00:44:13 Speaker 3(Helga): When you were in the Air Force in 1957, I met you late in 1957, so I think it was an earlier in 90.

00:44:23 Speaker 2(Phillip): OK. So in early 1957, you took your high school equivalency, OK?

00:44:33 Speaker 3(Helga): One thing the law said at that time. If an immigrant comes with an immigration visa and has a green card to work, he is subject to. The draft bill. But he cannot become an officer. You know, those were the Lords.

00:44:52 Speaker 1(Hans): You get that? They put me on the big chief, had shipped it down to San Antonio, the basic experience. Tank and put down there. When I got down there, I had everybody's money.

00:45:32 Speaker 2(Phillip): How are you?

00:45:40 Speaker 1(Hans): Go to the basic training there. And I was, I mean, you have what's called the second wind, where people will come to this country. Whatever you know, I have a good memory and I was acing almost every test. They couldn't figure that out.

00:45:59 Speaker 2(Phillip): You had to be cheating, right? That's what they said. He's got to be cheating.

00:46:07 Speaker 1(Hans): Versace, you know, was also up front, you know, marching. And I had a ball. I mean, these are American. My, my, my sons had such a hard time adjusting to washing down the various polishing issues and. I just couldn't stop from laughing. I have the the eyes, you know? They couldn't figure eventually. Never figured it out and. I had another advantage.

Then you know when to select you for a careful I had in Germany, had paid for my own truck drivers license. I could have everything which have more than one wheel. Once we got out of basic training, I was we were. Correct selected for career fields and I wound up putting petroleum, oil and lubricants driving tank trucks. Please fill on aircrafts. And then our stations outside the walk put an air base.

We lived at the. They're going to swirl and metaphor.

00:47:42 Speaker 2(Phillip): You met Helga at the YMCA YWCA.

00:47:47 Speaker 1(Hans): Is they put on dancers? It's kool-aid and cookies.

00:47:51 Speaker 3(Helga): Only invited young men in uniform because they had a regular paycheck.

00:47:59 Speaker 1(Hans): Which was a donor dollars a month.

00:48:04 Speaker 2(Phillip): So you were making obviously less in the military than you were at your \$3.50. I can see why you wouldn't want to go.

00:48:14 Speaker 1(Hans): Yeah, all my. I was making more money when I wasn't busy training because I was a 54 SIXER. You know what that is? I lend them \$5 and they pay me back \$6 on payday. Also, I was running it. Can you slow out of my mattress? These kids, you know, they couldn't do without chocolate, and soon enough, that mattress.

00:48:44 Speaker 2(Phillip): And look at you now. I mean, look, it's it's turned out to be a good investment then.

00:48:51 Speaker 1(Hans): Oh, I'm on bus several times I went to 0. Then my father had a heart attack and I got a compassionate reassignment. I'll go ahead and pay her taxes first or for very strict rules, you know, she she was. She was an alien. She couldn't leave the country until she had all the taxes.

00:49:29 Speaker 2(Phillip): Taxes to go back in to get back into Germany.

00:49:30 Speaker 1(Hans): Income tax, yeah. Yeah. Get out of America.

00:49:37 Speaker 2(Phillip): How did they? How did they form? What was the formula for the tax?

00:49:43 Speaker 3(Helga): I worked as a waitress and whatever taxes you pay as a waitress, it had to be paid. Up if I had left without paying, then I would never be able to. Come back to the United States.

00:49:56 Speaker 2(Phillip): So you you went and she came later.

00:50:01 Speaker 3(Helga): I spent my honeymoon with five guys, German guys who were debating the draft.

00:50:16 Speaker 1(Hans): I wound up in Frankfurt.

00:50:20 Speaker 2(Phillip): Did your father pass or did he just have a heart attack that put him in the hospital?

00:50:26 Speaker 1(Hans): Ohh, he was a hospital nobody. He lived a few more years. Not very many.

00:50:33 Speaker 2(Phillip): And this was in what city? Oh, in Frankfurt.

00:50:38 Speaker 3(Helga): Where actually Father Lincoln Eastbourne and we lived in Eastbourne too, but he was stationed in Frankfurt Airport base.

00:50:46 Speaker 2(Phillip): And how long were you in Frankfurt?

00:50:50 Speaker 1(Hans): Four years I have.

00:50:53 Speaker 2(Phillip): So you did four years there and.

00:50:56 Speaker 1(Hans): Then I want. And then I was transferred. To Roswell, NM. Taking pictures of the areas.

00:51:11 Speaker 2(Phillip): We have a lot of aliens here in Texas.

00:51:19 Speaker 1(Hans): I was driving tank trucks all over Germany doing aircraft refueling, taking fuel to. Stuff like that.

00:51:30 Speaker 2(Phillip): So what year was it you were in?

00:51:32 Speaker 1(Hans): Roswell in Roswell.

00:51:37 Speaker 3(Helga): The thing is 1962 to 1960.

00:51:45 Speaker 2(Phillip): My father-in-law was Air Force and he was stationed in Roswell. Yeah, I can't recall. I can't recall. What? What year? My wife, probably.

00:51:59 Speaker 1(Hans): Does he still live?

00:52:00 Speaker 2(Phillip): No, he he passed away one year ago. Yesterday, as a. Matter of fact. Oh. But he was. His his wife, my mother-in-law had passed three years ago and he's just been going downhill for quite some time and he he he is when he retired Air Force, he retired in Lubbock at the Reese Air Force Base when Reese had the Air Force Base there. And that's where he settled down and and got a home and stuff. And we when he started getting sicker, we we asked him to come and live with us. So he spent his last year and a half with us in Manor. But anyway, it's a. He has a lot of good stories about Ross. Well, he was very, very strict man. He was a bookkeeper. He was a he. Well, I say he was a book. He was a bookkeeper. After he got out of the service because he was such and I and I mean this in a nice way about him. But he was an ***. He was very strict. And it's kind of like me because people call me anal because of the way I take care of the books and. Things just have to be in place and perfect, you know? And that's me.

That's probably why my wife married me is because I'm like her father. You know, that's usually how that's usually how. How how women pick their their husband. But he he was in, he spent a lot of time in uh. Around the world also. But anyway, that's that's that's another story.

00:53:52 Speaker 1(Hans): Well anyway, and I can show you some pictures of the two of them at time.

00:54:01 Speaker 2(Phillip): I want to see the alien pictures too.

00:54:07 Speaker 1(Hans): Anyway there were was a lot of turbulence in at that time. The people who also don't even know that that there were 12. Atlas missile sites around Roswell. The silos, right? I spend time with these silos. When they blew up. It was all contaminated by nuclear weapons. I got a heavy dose of radiation. Wow, which is still have problems with the effect on my body. Anyway, when we got through Oslo,

I cross trained back into photography and then. Photography and then advanced on to higher positions and very quickly. Was promoted to the one of the youngest master sergeants and who was first Sergeant for a while and who came into the Super Graves and worked in intelligence targeting vehicle strike. Later on I won't work for the Inspector General out of. Brookstone, we traveled all over, but in the meantime, I was fashion stationed in England and Spain. Vietnam and Thailand.

00:55:44 Speaker 2(Phillip): And what was your title?

00:55:46 Speaker 1(Hans): Senior master Sergeant.

00:55:48 Speaker 2(Phillip): And what what was your position? What were you? Your job title.

00:55:53 Speaker 1(Hans): A job title, yes, was I worked for the Inspector General General in Wing Intelligence.

00:56:01 Speaker 2(Phillip): At doing what I was, so just an intelligence officer then.

00:56:06 Speaker 1(Hans): Yeah, that's something I've witnessed. We did the. Operational readiness inspections basis. We did pre and post track targeting when it was the Vietnam War. We did a lot of goofy things. I got involved in in a. Double reporting. Double reporting, yes. You might want to read before I go too far into it. I got off with a lot of things. Then what happens in in Laos? And then the plan of jars.

00:57:14 Speaker 3(Helga): You were stationed in Thailand then?

00:57:17 Speaker 1(Hans): Entire land there go on the north. A lot of goofy things.

00:57:21 Speaker 2(Phillip): Like what was hell got with you during all these times? Where was she? Where was she at?

00:57:30 Speaker 1(Hans): She was in England. That wasn't strong enough in England. It's no rule.

00:57:42 Speaker 2(Phillip): How did the how did others in your home country treat you when when they knew you were leaving your country? Were they congratulatory to you or?

00:57:53 Speaker 1(Hans): Well, it's the difference you see, of course. Of my background. Some family members and relatives had a hard time putting up that I was not an officer. And not a commissioned officer. They did not. What is a wanted me to wear my uniform around the.

00:58:23 Speaker 2(Phillip): Well, yeah, I'm talking about when you first left, when you first left Germany. How how did your? How did your family members feel about you coming over here?

00:58:35 Speaker 1(Hans): I think they were, otherwise they were supportive.

00:58:39 Speaker 2(Phillip): And your friends the same way, yes.

00:58:43 Speaker 1(Hans): In fact, some of my friends left too, went to Canada. He didn't need to sponsor the go to kind of Canada.

00:58:55 Speaker 2(Phillip): How were you treated then when you first arrived in the United States other than? Your responses are not showing up in Chicago.

00:59:01 Speaker 1(Hans): So so through the church, I had a lot of help. Other Germans said come here, there. Some of them who are. When people of immigrants, it's just like with the Mexican here, they prey on the people who they come later and take advantage of them, right, give them loans or whatever it is. For cars or social outrageous rates and conditions, right? And so I was warned about that, and I would not associate. Very much with other German immigrants. Which is very advisable and I see with similar. Things happening now to the Mexicans here, right? We do the lawn work on construction and stuff like that. So these are usually the people who can't succeed, and they have to feed of the newcomers.

01:00:10 Speaker 2(Phillip): So you're you're treated very well now, correct?

01:00:23 Speaker 1(Hans): No, it's it's, it is just. The opportunities here in America even today. Education wise, financially ISM. Roads are paved with gold, but you better got to bend over. Unlimited for opportunities who are willing to adjust. People can get to come to this country and some friends of mine are there. They were putting people in, sometimes some foreign countries. They get free education. All the tuition paid for some who have their PhD. Some people know where or some people from Russia. People from Germany get everything offered on the silver platter, right? But you have to bend over.

01:01:14 Speaker 3(Helga): We have our own grandchildren. God, don't get we were born. You don't get anything free.

01:01:20 Speaker 1(Hans): Well, you mean free? I would rather pay for the college education and sunburned the money already. I have \$10,000 or more 20,000 set aside for 1000, but you got to take the courses, right?

01:01:30 Speaker 3(Helga): The grandchildren they don't get from this place.

01:01:38 Speaker 1(Hans): Like my son, you know, he was signed in in UT and I paid his books or. Tradition. He never. Went to class.

01:01:52 Speaker 3(Helga): Now he has a Masters degree.

01:02:04 Speaker 2(Phillip): Where does he have his degree from?

01:02:09 Speaker 3(Helga): The master is from Phoenix University.

01:02:14 Speaker 1(Hans): You have to slow down with the car to pick up your diploma. Stick up your hand from Auburn, tough university.

01:02:28 Speaker 2(Phillip): So what did you come here by yourself? Who did you leave behind now? You had your, your father and your stepmother. And you had you had the sisters?

01:02:44 Speaker 1(Hans): I had a sister. From from the first marriage and I had. One brother who's in South Africa now. He left with his mother.

01:02:59 Speaker 3(Helga): You had three half brothers.

01:03:04 Speaker 1(Hans): Two half brothers, 1/2 sister. Rather live in Germany. My real sister lives also in Jarvisburg, Germany. And one of our half brothers. Went with his mother. To southwest Africa, he. Is retire or does safaris? What was way wow, but. It's been here. I have invited him to come here.

01:03:45 Speaker 2(Phillip): So you got here on the the dual prop plane, correct?

01:04:01 Speaker 1(Hans): What do you call it with Super Kitty?

01:04:25 Speaker 2(Phillip): What was your first impression of the United States when you got here?

01:04:36 Speaker 1(Hans): Well, landed New York and went on up on the Empire State Building. I was impression that the people were in a hurry. With very little time for personal contacts. Everything was very money oriented. And the interaction personal interaction. In in the normal daily life as very. I'm personally might say. Well, when you're in Europe, people when you visit them, they will stop the work. The talk to people. Friends or relatives? Here I found. Somebody can collapse on the street and die and nobody would stop.

01:05:51 Speaker 2(Phillip): Yeah, that's that's unfortunate, but that happens. Has has your has your initial impression changed over overtime?

01:06:05 Speaker 1(Hans): Well, the impression is still there, but I know that you have worse. Behavior in other countries. This one has to be careful to choosing friends and with people who want to interact with. I think in in most. Americans in general are very generous, very helpful. But there are a lot of vultures out there. Or what do you call leeches or? You hear that? Again and again, that elderly, educated people lose all that money. And also I found out that no reflect on you, but I lived in countries where the police does not carry weapons other than the stick.

I know one has to be extremely careful in Germany is the same way one has to be very careful. Approaching the policy, police in this country say please don't shoot officers. Oh, I had a lot of interaction with the police. In in Austin, because we had the chief of police from on the bike house in in Russia was in the House House case and I took them there to the swapping team and a lot of interaction with with the police how they operate and work. So I sympathize, but I don't necessarily agree with some of the practices.

01:08:02 Speaker 2(Phillip): Well, there's there's a lot of practices I don't agree with either, but.

01:08:05 Speaker 1(Hans): There's just too quick with the gun. No, you have to defend yourself. Well, I've not too many cases. Where people have been shot. That shouldn't have happened. They should. They should never. I really don't worry about it. I know how to behave. You know, I don't get out of the car. I put my hand. On the steering wheel. Because I know the risk you're taking with some of these yoyos.

01:08:39 Speaker 2(Phillip): What are some of the differences or similarities that you've noticed in the cultures here and in your home country?

01:08:51 Speaker 1(Hans): The difference in the cultures is. I think the interaction is more personal. People here you have sometimes people. Talk sideways from you. You talk to somebody who is a doctor or. Something you know, they try to impress you, right? They elevate themselves. Inside the Lord. The park, the park that they interact with, right. I have done this as this and I'm sold.

01:09:35 Speaker 2(Phillip): So they're talking down on on people.

01:09:42 Speaker 1(Hans): In America is it's a mix like what the Japanese do. We would have travelled excessively little time to panic. In Japan, they automatically lower themselves even when they talk to somebody they Lord put they go down, they put their. Head below their head. Don't go above right and then the conversations the the topic of vocabulary always talk about themselves.

In Germany it is. There's still very. Doctor, if she's married to a doctor. But you can talk to we know some people, scientists and very high educated people. One of them is here who lives here in Austin. What's this? They're tinsel, right? That's his

last name. And we have friends, you know this. He is one of the highest mathematicians in the world. He's got a little farm or something else. The neighbors come up and he runs around in his cover. Also something ask him if he could mow the lawn or cut the tree. Other than Hawkins, Harvard Hawkins. He's one of the most biggest brains here. Already talked to him. You think he's just a bricklayer or so? And you find that quite often. Then you don't. Have to be careful. Because some very highly educated people. They don't live in this if if they are good then then they feel they don't have to impress others. With what they know well, you have that in Germany quite often they would impress you, talk about you. I don't like that.

01:12:34 Speaker 2(Phillip): How did you keep the old country alive in your new country?

01:12:39 Speaker 1(Hans): Very much so.

01:12:40 Speaker 2(Phillip): How how did you do?

01:12:41 Speaker 1(Hans): That both of us spoke to the German American Heritage Society actively volunteering. Of meetings only German has spoken once a week. Regular customers that you have that at the bars in Europe, you have your own. There where you put the little cover. And where he. Sit every time you go there that evening, you know, have your beer and talk to the neighbors and stuff. So we're that respect very, very active now, this organization which is statewide.

01:13:58 Speaker 2(Phillip): So do you do you and and Helga, do you do you both? If if I'm not here. Are you speaking English or German? You speak German here at the house?

01:14:20 Speaker 1(Hans): This is just to be able to maintain. To lose it, there are many Germans we know don't like to speak German anymore. But German is a difficult language.

01:14:34 Speaker 3(Helga): But if you grow up with it, you don't notice that that it's difficult. We also, when people come to town, they try to invite German speaking people over. Friends have this. Just ended there. You know, we used to go over there once a year.

01:14:54 Speaker 1(Hans): At least once a year. How that goes once a year. But before we went, you know, we were traveling to Poland. I had inherited property there and was fighting it out with the officials there, right?

01:15:10 Speaker 2(Phillip): And trying to take it away from you somehow, I'm sure.

01:15:14 Speaker 1(Hans): We're trying to. But there are many.

01:15:20 Speaker 2(Phillip): You've got the it's it's tough to win when you're fighting the government. It's tough to win.

01:15:26 Speaker 1(Hans): I'm just getting hit. Hit 400. \$1000 tax bill. I sold the property which has been fully depreciated for half \$1,000,000. Don't have try to figure out a way to get around paying the taxes.

01:15:44 Speaker 2(Phillip): Well, just find you a good tax lawyer.

01:15:48 Speaker 1(Hans): That was, oh, I have good tax lawyers. And I don't. There's one thing I don't fool around with. I I work for the Irish. I worked as a programmer analyst. I was nailing some of the people.

01:16:05 Speaker 2(Phillip): You could have invented some of the holes. You could have made a hole for yourself when the position.

01:16:10 Speaker 1(Hans): In fact, I did discover that and a closet. But the work for the. In the data data Processing Center Center with Veterans Administration, IRS and Treasury. As a programmer, analyst knows under the first got involved in the interactive.

01:16:31 Speaker 2(Phillip): When was that?

01:16:31 Speaker 1(Hans): Computers in 1980. Alright, helga. Yeah. Early 1980s. It's that people who are wrestling with math majors. Send them to special schools.

01:16:47 Speaker 2(Phillip): What were you doing in the 80s before that?

01:16:50 Speaker 1(Hans): I worked three years, Saudi Arabia.

01:16:55 Speaker 2(Phillip): So you were still. Were you in the in the service? What were you doing in Saudi Arabia?

01:17:02 Speaker 1(Hans): The same thing I was doing in the service and was getting five times as much pay.

01:17:07 Speaker 2(Phillip): Driving the tank trucks.

01:17:10 Speaker 1(Hans): I worked as a. Reconnaissance, that was later, you know, reconnaissance. Muslims were. Ohh. For the Saudi Air Force. For the Saudi Princess. But it got. Political upheaval with the GX. Took over Mecca, the Grand Mosque became unsafe. They changed to ex. Patriot tan tax laws. They wanted to tax us on the housing. Rent \$5000 a month And that brought a lot of American expatriates. Back to the states. And the Canadians, the English state. Only some of the upper management state, but they changed that then.

01:18:13 Speaker 2(Phillip): Well, I'm sure they did that to run run you guys off anyway, knowing that you couldn't afford it, huh?

01:18:20 Speaker 1(Hans): Well, the taxes you have will have more taxes than you would. Have paid right? Almost. Oh, that's important. That's Saudi. I had a lot of help and a lot of problems with people. Who came from America and. For a brief. Properly when they went there, they didn't believe what they were thought. Got caught drinking. That's Sedona. In public just you can do in their home what you want to. They never go. The police would not come into your home.

01:19:13 Speaker 2(Phillip): What were your hopes and dreams for yourself? When you came here.

01:19:22 Speaker 1(Hans): Exactly what I've achieved. Financial independence. Good education. For farmers financial independence. And good friends.

01:19:42 Speaker 2(Phillip): What was was your idea of America the same as the reality?

01:20:21 Speaker 1(Hans): Did not expect. And people being able to advance so far. Means in politics as well as in business, especially in business that people who have stolen. 1,000,000 if not billions of dollars from from people. Criminal activities going on are tolerated. And they should be taken care of. We're not picking that. We're still changing.

01:21:21 Speaker 2(Phillip): Well, we still we we need more chain gangs right now.

01:21:25 Speaker 1(Hans): We want to pamper them. Like leaving on. The hill. So. I mean this should be hard labor.

01:21:32 Speaker 2(Phillip): Oh, I agree absolutely. Ball and chain and give them the rock to bust with a £5 sledge hammer, absolutely.

01:21:40 Speaker 1(Hans): Yeah, but not pampered.

01:21:42 Speaker 2(Phillip): Television and air conditioning, three meals a day. Yeah, trust me, I'm you preaching to the choir here. I mean, if if we had that my my job would be easier, you know? But you know, my my job is is. Is a long career, you know.

01:22:04 Speaker 1(Hans): How long you been?

01:22:05 Speaker 2(Phillip): Doing that 32 years.

01:22:09 Speaker 1(Hans): Have you been to every shot? Have you ever been?

01:22:13 Speaker 2(Phillip): I've been shot at. I've been shot at twice. But not been shot. I have not had to. I have not had to shoot anybody. I've had to pull my gun several times on people and well, it's.

01:22:24 Speaker 1(Hans): I don't like to be shattered. I don't even own a gun anymore. After I got I said out of the service. No, I don't like to be shot. Is a very

uncomfortable. You see, we didn't. Have Flack, Flack West. No, they got to the body armor.

01:22:54 Speaker 2(Phillip): What did your house or your apartment look like from the outside? I guess when you left, when you left Germany. What did it look like from the outside? Well, I mean that's that's just the question. Your house or apartment, whichever one you lived in.

01:23:18 Speaker 1(Hans): I didn't have an apartment. I had what was called a sub tenant.

01:23:25 Speaker 2(Phillip): So there were several other people living.

01:23:32 Speaker 1(Hans): I rent it from. They were the one who rented the apartment. It was usually. That would have been super big. Here only this part.

01:23:53 Speaker 2(Phillip): What did it look like on the outside?

01:23:58 Speaker 3(Helga): It was a two-story house, wasn't it?

01:24:01 Speaker 1(Hans): Well, two-story. Well, it was different in the east spot it was at. The 6th floor.

01:24:08 Speaker 3(Helga): Finally left in Boonstra.

01:24:13 Speaker 1(Hans): A good start.

01:24:15 Speaker 3(Helga): It was actually one family house. Where they rented out. Rules, not kids.

01:24:19 Speaker 1(Hans): Rooms those two-story. I know she had a lot of silver coins under her mattress.

01:24:31 Speaker 1(Hans): Yeah, she thought we were married and that cohabitation was.

01:24:41 Speaker 3(Helga): That was in Milwaukee. It's working. They had police. 2:00 o'clock at night. Between 2:00 and 3:00. And if they hurt at some. People are living together, they are not married. They would knock on the door, front door, 2:00 o'clock or so and handsome eye. We were planning to marry, but it took so long to get the paperwork done in the Air Force and security. So police came 3:00 o'clock at night because somebody. Had told them. That I enhanced. The boyfriend who somebody wanted to be my boyfriend and save the police out. And then then they opened the door and the police said police in my house. You must have. You must have gotten the house numbers mixed up so they. Were all in front. Of let's say well. Let's try next door. They went next. Door there was. One of his comrades living with his girlfriend. There you go.

01:26:05 Speaker 2(Phillip): Thank goodness for your landlord then, huh?

01:26:08 Speaker 1(Hans): Then then she came all apart when we invited her to our wedding, she saw.

01:26:08 Speaker 2(Phillip): Cover covering for you.

01:26:17 Speaker 3(Helga): We didn't tell her that. I wanted to rent the IT was kind of the kitchenette apartment. And so on. Strove me there, and I signed the paper. Address him with my last name, Mr. Kirtner last name and then thinking that he was my husband. And it's all Han said. Well, in that case, you know. How it goes said. He moved in. Either he lived at the YWCA. Nobody would miss.

But we had to hide that from our relatives. On his underwear had to be.

01:27:08 Speaker 1(Hans): 57 ohh at that time you had lovers lane. And the police was going around with flashlights and they just could not be in the back seat.

01:27:22 Speaker 3(Helga): And if you were in? The back seat the girl had to have the blouse all buttoned up. Have you ever watched the show?

01:28:26 Speaker 2(Phillip): The the apartment or the the house that you were in before you came over here? Was it a two-story?

01:28:36 Speaker 1(Hans): That's the second. I had a life AM permit. Photographer to go around, take pictures of people in restaurants. Alright, well, that those stuff and I would just send them the take the pictures, send them the pictures. And I was. That's probably was draw from here to there it was all I had. Photo lap in there and then I use the kitchen. Syncing everything to wash my pictures.

01:30:47 Speaker 2(Phillip): I can see that this is going to take more than hour, hour and a half. So if if if it's OK, I would like to. To come back and and visit with you. One or two days next week, but I'll I'll call in advance and and make sure that you don't have a doctor's appointment or you're taking a nap or counting your money.

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00:00:01 Speaker 2(Phillip): When and where were you born?

00:00:10 Speaker 1(Hans) : I was born in leaflets. Which is now called sleep nitza. Which was the German parts of Silesia. Which has become Poland have. It became Polish after the Second World War. This entire part of Germany. Became Poland, part of Poland?

00:00:42 Speaker 2(Phillip): Yeah, I've OK. I've got selucia SILESIA and the the you said.

00:00:49 Speaker 1(Hans) : If if yeah, I can understand your spelling, I would be able to spell it, but I cannot spell anymore.

00:01:00 Speaker 2(Phillip):The the city or the the Alicia is like.

00:01:08 Speaker 1(Hans) Is the town in which I was born.

00:01:22 Speaker 2(Phillip): Leibnitz. Yeah. Sleekness. OK. All right. And you were born October 26, 1934.

00:01:23 Speaker 1(Hans) Believe that's yes.

00:01:41 Speaker 2(Phillip): Tell me about your hometown.

00:01:43 Speaker 1(Hans) It was not a town, it was a village.

00:01:49 Speaker 3(Helga) He was born in leaflets only in the hospital.

00:01:53 Speaker 1(Hans) In a hospital and.

00:01:53 Speaker 3(Helga) Then they went back to their home village.

00:01:56 Speaker 1(Hans) The hometown was actually. Consisted of a small village. Which at that time had about 500 inheritance. And the village was built around an estate. Or a Manor house and a large farm. And this is what's developed. Years ago, it was considered. Land which could not be used for agriculture because it was muddy. But when the Germans? Came there from north of the Alps around 1000. They drained the land, is very fertile land very and they were increasing the agricultural product quality. And then they built the rental house is not a castle. But Manor House consisted just of a very large house, sometimes with a little Moat around it.

00:03:10 Speaker 2(Phillip): Who built the Manor house?

00:03:12 Speaker 1(Hans) It was built in the around 1000 who built it. Some of my ancestors which? Yes, it was built. Family tree, yes. So the actually family members. About Father Saga 50 estates. And I have pictures of it where they were located. They were all in that area. And then we have a Council came very wealthy and we're able to support. It was under. And and German and different kings. So they always Or the automatic because of that became a position in the academies military academies, and it was expected. The sense of the might call it land mobility, mobility. Refurbishing new offices and paying for their illicit personnel self. And for hundreds of years.

00:05:05 Speaker 2(Phillip): And I already know that answer to this question, but did you marry?

00:05:11 Speaker 1(Hans) Yes, we're married. We're married in. 55 years.

00:05:19 Speaker 2(Phillip): And that would be to Helga. And your family? You have two children, a son and a daughter. Your daughter works for H&R Block and.

00:05:38 Speaker 1(Hans) Before that, she was a captain in the Air Force. She has two engineering in the master's degree.

00:05:47 Speaker 2(Phillip) And your son lives a few 100 yards from you now, and he he's a crime scene.

00:05:50 Speaker 1(Hans) Know just across here I guess.

00:05:55 Speaker 2(Phillip) Or he he cleans up.

00:05:58 Speaker 1(Hans) Lot of crime since he is worked for. What is the name Helga? Size of Surf Pro and they clean up after water damage and including crime scenes. All fire suicides for crime scenes, and he employs about 15 people now.

00:06:21 Speaker 2(Phillip) And he's got his degree through Phoenix. Masters Degree Masters degree from Phoenix OK. Now, what education did you have before you left?

00:06:35 Speaker 1(Hans) I actually had a basic grammar school. I missed time because of the war. And when we fled from the Russians, I had about a total of about six years of basic grammar school.

00:06:52 Speaker 2(Phillip) And that was it. You started at about age 7, correct?

00:06:56 Speaker 1(Hans) Right. Because of the six blockbusters at Appendix.

00:07:03 Speaker 2(Phillip) And what education do you have now?

00:07:06 Speaker 1(Hans) I have a bachelors degree.

00:07:11 Speaker 2(Phillip) Mathematics. Yes, Sir.

00:07:13 Speaker 1(Hans) And the minor in physics.

00:07:16 Speaker 2(Phillip) Bachelors in mathematics and minor in physics.

00:07:18 Speaker 1(Hans) Asthmatics, pure Muslim. Minor in physics, yeah.

00:07:25 Speaker 2(Phillip) Why did you leave your country?

00:07:32 Speaker 1(Hans) From the upper society and when we left the lease here, we had had not the financial resources to be representative of the upper society and by loss of status and where we're used to servants and have leading positions. So it was very difficult to integrate with in West Germany without having the position of the money.

00:08:02 Speaker 2(Phillip) When when did you leave?

00:08:04 Speaker 1(Hans) We're left in. Celicia in January 1945. We fled to Central Germany but cut off. We couldn't go to to Berlin and we then moved down

to Austria. Fled there and then were kicked out of Austria. And went to the Maria. From Bavaria eventually went we went near Frankfurt to Vespa and that's where basically my other family members are now.

00:08:48 Speaker 2(Phillip) In B spotting.

00:08:49 Speaker 1(Hans) In this spot, however, my father remarried. And I have a. The three children, from the remarriage, and. The sister lives in also in Germany and my brother lives also near near me spot and another brother is in southwest Africa. Lowe's Bay, former. And my other brother lives in Italy.

00:09:22 Speaker 2(Phillip) Italy what does he do in?

00:09:23 Speaker 1(Hans) In Italy is selling look luxurious yachts, really.

00:09:28 Speaker 2(Phillip) And you haven't bought 1 yet?

00:09:31 Speaker 1(Hans) Two \$3,000,000 yeah, she sells. It equips them, too, with the proper. Silverware. This is China and.

00:09:45 Speaker 2(Phillip) Maybe I need to meet this guy, huh?

00:09:47 Speaker 1(Hans) Yeah, he's just married too.

00:09:50 Speaker 2(Phillip) OK, so you were 21 or 22 when you left, correct. OK.

00:09:54 Speaker 1(Hans) Let me through this.

00:09:58 Speaker 2(Phillip) What were the conditions in the country when you left?

00:10:04 Speaker 1(Hans) Well, Germany was divided. Into east and West Germany, OK. And with the British zone. And Russia zone, an American zone, the. It builds plenty of work because cities have to be rebuilt. Normal work week was. 48 hours I work half day on Saturdays. The pay was. You could barely afford on my bicycle. But I'll finish the partnership and I had even moppet later on.

But the future does don't look very bright. If you did not have a good education. But I had to finish apprenticeship as a photographer. Photo lab operator the.

00:11:14 Speaker 2(Phillip) So did you have to have money to get a good education at at that time then or? So you were you were kind of stuck. I mean, you you couldn't.

00:11:24 Speaker 1(Hans) Also you have made a decision when you attend years old. It's when you took a test to get into the high school or you stayed in grammar school of eight years or nine years. And there are. I was heavily involved in black marketing. Because there was a shortage of everything.

00:11:45 Speaker 2(Phillip) At what age? What kind of? Things were you.

00:11:54 Speaker 1(Hans) I was selling, I was getting light bulbs from the Russians.I was getting homes.

00:12:00 Speaker 2(Phillip) Come Combs, comb your hair Combs.

00:12:03 Speaker 1(Hans) Hair Combs and I had silver nylon stockings. These were my best. Trading goods I.

00:12:19 Speaker 2(Phillip) Had so you were a a 12 year old entrepreneur then?

00:12:23 Speaker 1(Hans) Oh yes, I had money coming out of my ears. But the money wasn't worth very much.

00:12:32 Speaker 2(Phillip) How did you prepare for your trip here? How did you prepare for your trip here to the states?

00:12:43 Speaker 1(Hans) One thing you could not leave Germany if you had any debt. You have had a. Clearance, you might say, from the police. It had no records.

00:12:58 Speaker 3(Helga) Yeah, everybody in Germany has to be registered.

00:13:01 Speaker 1(Hans) And you had to be registered where you live. You had to have a trade. I wanted to leave Germany, my father, about the needed permission from the parents. You needed a sponsor. I wanted to go to Australia first because they paid for the fare and the they promised the job. And then I wanted to go to South America. We'll go to, we'll go to Columbia.

But then when I've got past 21. I could make my own decisions. I was not dependent on my father's permission and contacted the. American Aid Society, which was Lutheran Federation organ organised to. Try to find sponsors for young. Who had had a afraid. And I found a sponsor in Chicago. Transferred to America came over to America.

00:14:23 Speaker 2(Phillip) How did you view life in the US when you got here?

00:14:27 Speaker 1(Hans) Well, I had talked to people who have been.

00:14:31 Speaker 2(Phillip) Let me rephrase that. It's it's how did you view life in the US while you were there when you were there? How did you view life in the US before you came?

00:14:42 Speaker 1(Hans) Before I came. It's, I was told a lot of things about the American working conditions with its unions. Unions were very strong. We did not have that problem in Germany. Also was aware of. (Hans) You might say. That's the word for it.

00:15:27 Speaker 2(Phillip) Loot con artist.

00:15:31 Speaker 1(Hans) Yeah, there's a lot of. The people who came were new. OK, immigrants who came to America.

00:15:42 Speaker 2(Phillip) We're taking advantage of.

00:15:44 Speaker 1(Hans) It's a definite advantage of which Germans had come before and could not. Substantiate and earn enough money. That there were feeding of the new immigrants, and since all immigrants want to come over time, want to build a new life and willing to work so. We're not supposed. They didn't all go on welfare they want.

00:16:06 Speaker 2(Phillip) To work right.

00:16:08 Speaker 1(Hans) So they will offer credits if they were taken advantage of, but being. Offer jobs and then they had to pay. Two or three months salary over the one year period before they could get the job, so they've never given free loans really inexpensively. But I was warned.

00:16:35 Speaker 2(Phillip) So these you were warned by people who had already been exposed to that, OK?

00:16:40 Speaker 1(Hans) Right, so I was warned on that. So I joined the church and I made good contacts to the church. That was enabled. My sponsor didn't have a job. He got paid to sponsor. There were people he was supposed to give me a job. Just to live. They they they didn't have. They didn't show up to pick pick. Me up but. In in Chicago. And I got a job then with the scientific library as a forest operator. In Chicago, yes. It was at that time, Dollar 3, an hour.

When I lived in a boarding house which were run by a German family, it was just all people who had just come to the United States and was room and board and usually usually had 2-3 people to the room, very inexpensive like \$25 a week for room and board.

00:17:37 Speaker 2(Phillip) So what? What was it? Like traveling from from Germany to to the states.

00:17:43 Speaker 1(Hans) Well, it was still with he came over with Flying Tiger and they had to come through. Iceland and Newfoundland and Cape Gander and all these places and have been landed in New York. And from the New York, then I took the train to Chicago. We're very inexpensive to flight from Germany, and since that airline. Was transporting these flights are especially arranged for for people who left? And I think was \$65.

00:18:35 Speaker 2(Phillip) That's still a lot of money for even back then.

00:18:37 Speaker 1(Hans) For that time, that's equivalent for today's money. You know, percent just has 20. And that's for the sales today. It hasn't changed adjusted to income, right?

00:18:50 Speaker 2(Phillip) So did anybody come with you when you immigrated?

00:18:55 Speaker 1(Hans) No relatives, nobody. Nobody I knew.

00:18:58 Speaker 2(Phillip) OK, so you left behind a father, a stepmother, a sister and a brother. Two half brothers and one step sister, OK.

00:19:17 Speaker 3(Helga) You did not. Have a full brother. You had half brothers.

00:19:24 Speaker 1(Hans) Yeah, one, one sister. One sister from first marriage.

00:19:28 Speaker 2(Phillip) But not one full brother, OK? It was just OK. So a father stepmother's sister, two half brothers and one step sister. OK. What was the? Your first impression of the United States when you got here. You had indicated.

00:19:59 Speaker 1(Hans) Well, first impression was that the people that have. Always been hurt. Especially in New York. You know, when he went to the to one of these fast food places, if he had ordered an order immediately you just ask him.

00:20:27 Speaker 2(Phillip) Has has this initial impression changed over the time?

00:20:34 Speaker 1(Hans) No, it's still the same.

00:20:35 Speaker 2(Phillip) Still the same. What are some of the differences? Well, what are some of the differences or similarities that you've noticed in the cultures here and in your home country?

00:20:56 Speaker 1(Hans) People will stop working to call talk to visitors. Relatives or something here people have. And they work. They work that they have very little interaction, personal interaction at that time anyway. Sometimes they wouldn't have listened to you. You know, you could tell them. Oh, my father just died. Oh, my lies and lies. And he would not listen. What you're saying that's. It was where? Superficial, but it was different in the in this house. Here people have time to listen to your show personal interest.

00:21:46 Speaker 2(Phillip) You say in here they show a personal interest, but not in Germany.

00:21:49 Speaker 1(Hans) No, not you. Oh, in New York, NY is up. When I first my first impression, you said and then that they were. Not very impersonal.

00:22:08 Speaker 2(Phillip) How did you? And I think I already know the answer to this, but this is how do you how do you keep the old country alive in the new country? You you said that it was the shump shump fish shrimpfish.

00:22:28 Speaker 1(Hans) Some tissue. Yeah, this is.

00:22:31 Speaker 2(Phillip) And and that is. Can you explain what that?

00:22:34 Speaker 1(Hans) Is yes, that's where people regularly get together and hear people do that. They go, sometimes they go to. The bar after work. They have a regular place. How did you know the English word for that?

00:22:53 Speaker 3(Helga) It's the the the table for the regulars but. In this case. Where we go on Thursdays, it's a stamp fish, you know, we sit around the table and the fish and everybody tries to speak German and they get there to keep the German language alive. Germans do that. All Americans who have learned English over here. Where we get the purpose of the Spanish is to speak German.

00:23:23 Speaker 1(Hans) Yeah, that's well, that's that's especially stumped. Many Americans go for to dinner together and talk to each other or go to the place after work. They go and have a beer. We use the service we used to call it attitude adjustment hour.

00:23:42 Speaker 2(Phillip) Yeah, we still call it. That's that sometimes too, in in my, in my line of work too. What were your hopes and dreams for yourself and your family when you came here?

00:24:08 Speaker 1(Hans) Well, the first priority was of course. To learn the language. And get the equivalency of a high school diploma. That was the most important thing. I don't know. I was subject to draft. They've played a very big Corolla, had to register with the with the. Or draft office or whatever called them.

00:24:43 Speaker 2(Phillip) But you had financial dreams, correct? Uh and independents. And you wanted independence and get a good at good education, is what you're referring to about your high school diploma?

00:25:02 Speaker 1(Hans) The patient was the first priority for her first priority. To get into the door and the other one was of course. I was hoping for him to get a car.

00:25:25 Speaker 2(Phillip) Were your expectations of America met? Was your idea of America the same as as the reality?

00:25:42 Speaker 1(Hans) No, this this would be clairvoyant.

00:25:48 Speaker 2(Phillip) And last time we spoke, you said you did not expect so much corruption and about the about the criminals advancing in society.

00:25:55 Speaker 1(Hans) Yes, that's why. Did the did the expect? And criminal behavior. Of high-ranking people in business, industry and government.

00:26:20 Speaker 2(Phillip) Were you excited about coming here?

00:26:26 Speaker 1(Hans) Oh, yes, of course I had what's called the second wind.

00:26:30 Speaker 2(Phillip) A second wind.

00:26:31 Speaker 1(Hans) Yes, it's called the second wind. When the people come to this country, they get a second wind. In other words, should become more lurk. More rare with the doom to try to do much better than they. Had done before.

00:26:54 Speaker 2(Phillip) Can you tell me what your house looked like from the outside in? I guess it was in in the spot. And when when you. Left from the spot.

00:27:03 Speaker 1(Hans) I was a subtenant. I was had only had. I was in a room. Ruben port. That's it. It's 22. Room or three. Two room.

00:27:15 Speaker 2(Phillip) And this was the. And this was in the two-story house, correct.

00:27:21 Speaker 1(Hans) Ohh, that's three or four stories with me.

00:27:25 Speaker 2(Phillip) And it was in Groundstate. Is that right?

00:27:28 Speaker 1(Hans) Oh, do you mean in Germany or in in the states? Ohh Germany that was. Three story house. Yeah, and this this is quite often that they took unmarried people and you would just rent a bedroom. And sometimes you had no Kitchener rights either. But I had Kitchener rights and you had no. You had toilet rights, just you had to be able to, but they usually. We're just toilet, but the bath or shower or something you had to go to public bath.

00:28:12 Speaker 2(Phillip) How far was that?

00:28:14 Speaker 1(Hans) Depending where you live, you know most cases. It was everything is nearby because a lot of people are just renting a bedroom.

00:28:25 Speaker 2(Phillip) Were able to take it.

00:28:25 Speaker 1(Hans) You gotta do you gotta get do your laundry. Boundless public just started that you could take stuff to the laundry, get it washed and pressed.

00:28:37 Speaker 2(Phillip) Were you able to take a bath every day or no, no.

00:28:44 Speaker 1(Hans) Oh, maybe once a month. Maybe once a month. Usually took your underwear with you to wash it. And all that. How come did you take a breath every day?

00:29:01 Speaker 3(Helga) But we washed very, very carefully. You know, under arm everywhere we wash very carefully. Sometimes we had not with running water we had a faucet. Morning water in the house. But we filled a bowl with warm water or cold water and then added boiling. Water from the kitchen. And then we washed very, very carefully. In our House, we didn't even have a bathtub.

00:29:30 Speaker 1(Hans) Did you have a shower?

00:29:33 Speaker 3(Helga) Well then, once we had the faster we had to kind of shower with that but.

00:29:39 Speaker 1(Hans) Coal. The coal-fired water heaters. OK, I public passes.

00:29:49 Speaker 2(Phillip) Yeah, shower would probably waste a lot of water.

00:29:54 Speaker 3(Helga) And then the water had to be heated and and. There was a. Water bill, everybody's you know. So you knew. And that's why some people who rented out rooms. They did not. Automatically, given the way to take a shower but everyday because there was a major Saturday.

00:30:17 Speaker 1(Hans) What's usually the day where? Well, to do people you know, took took a bath.

00:30:27 Speaker 3(Helga) And in our family, after we were once we had a bathtub. My mother, my father. Took the bath, the first bath in the water. And then my mother and then my children.

00:30:44 Speaker 2(Phillip) Children last, huh? Were the children, did the children get sick all the time then?

00:30:52 Speaker 3(Helga) No, don't get sick from not taking it.

00:30:56 Speaker 2(Phillip) Well, I would figure after so many baths or taking a bath after so many people getting the dirt off of them, I would think that they would.

00:31:04 Speaker 1(Hans) Well, you had soap in there.

00:31:09 Speaker 3(Helga) Yeah. No, that doesn't. Get sick of men. There are many other ways of getting sick.

00:31:21 Speaker 2(Phillip) What foods did you eat on a typical day?

00:31:30 Speaker 1(Hans) He only usually only ate on a. A lot of soup. Eat a lot of soup. Of course, potatoes.

00:31:47 Speaker 2(Phillip) Fish on Friday.

00:31:52 Speaker 1(Hans) Potato soup, yeah.

00:31:54 Speaker 2(Phillip) I love potato soup, the.

00:31:59 Speaker 1(Hans) Something special was already when you had liver sausage or something like that on bread. Usually, even when you ate bread, you had a warm meal. You maybe had some. Grits form of grits. With sugar or sugar was pretty hard to find, but they usually had some kind of honey or some other stuff, which was kind of sweetened.

00:32:34 Speaker 2(Phillip) But being the entrepreneur that you are or were you probably knew where to get everything right? What did you eat on holiday? And

the holidays and something very special. Was fish like we would eat carp on Christmas carp? Yeah, fish was fairly inexpensive in area.) Quickly, what we call fish was. Very early available. Then a chicken was something special already. Chicken were counted and you had to report how many chickens you had had. Anything you slaughtered from a calf or from a. Pink or that it's also all controlled, and even chickens in the report on my knee, your head.

00:33:37 Speaker 2(Phillip) Is and I don't mean to sound.

00:33:41 Speaker 1(Hans) So don't worry about it.

00:33:42 Speaker 2(Phillip) Stupid, but did you celebrate a something similar to Thanksgiving?

00:33:55 Speaker 3(Helga) But it's an entirely different thing. There's nothing to do with the Indian culture celebrate in a way, being thankful for all the food that is there, you know, from the fields and in the church to decorate the altar with.

00:34:00 Speaker 2(Phillip) Yes, I understand.

00:34:14 Speaker 1(Hans) Which farm products?

00:34:15 Speaker 3(Helga) And pumpkins, you know.

00:34:17 Speaker 2(Phillip) And that's celebrated when.

00:34:20 Speaker 3(Helga) In end of September, I think.

00:34:23 Speaker 2(Phillip) End at the end of September.

00:34:31 Speaker 2(Phillip) What fast did you say?

00:34:33 Speaker 1(Hans) And the ductus harvesting.

00:34:37 Speaker 2(Phillip) Harvesting. Thanks, Dave.

00:34:38 Speaker 1(Hans) Is the translation. Or Harvest appreciation day.

00:34:45 Speaker 3(Helga) But it is not celebrated at home with the dinners, family dinners or so.

00:34:52 Speaker 2(Phillip) You say it is. It is a fan. Oh, it's not.

00:34:55 Speaker 3(Helga) God, it's only celebrated in the. Celebrated in the church. And people might decorate their house in that way.

00:35:52 Speaker 2(Phillip) What did your kitchen look like? And I think you pretty much described almost described it for me, but the.

00:36:02 Speaker 1(Hans) Well, for one thing.

00:36:04 Speaker 3(Helga) You didn't have one. Before you emigrated.

00:36:10 Speaker 2(Phillip) Yeah, because he shared one, correct or in in the house at the there wasn't a kitchen in that house.

00:36:20 Speaker 1(Hans) It depends on. The status you had usually the kitchen was the place where you got together. Which the only place in the House. Which was heated. You had what's called a. Which was the dining, dining, the dining room or the living room. And that was only for when used when guests came in and we had some celebration or something. But the center of life was usually the kitchen.

00:36:57 Speaker 3(Helga) For most people, that's where the hearts wants.

00:36:59 Speaker 1(Hans) Most people for. Well, of course the upper class, you know, they had special dining rooms in.

00:37:09 Speaker 2(Phillip) So in in the kitchen, in in the kitchen that you're Speaking of, it would have a a sink and. Kitchen table obviously with with a number of chairs with an ice box, no.No ice box.

00:37:30 Speaker 1(Hans) Do you have an ice box? But they would deliver ice, yeah.

00:37:35 Speaker 3(Helga) We had an ice box in the basement. And the local. Brewery would bring our big chunks of ice.

00:37:40 Speaker 1(Hans) To live in the block of.

00:37:44 Speaker 3(Helga) And to put it. On the top, you know they had. The same ice boxes.

00:37:49 Speaker 1(Hans) And they would cut that ice into something winter. Then they delivered to the house.

00:37:57 Speaker 2(Phillip) And you would keep your mates in in there. Or you hang your meats, hang your meats up on.

00:38:04 Speaker 1(Hans) Well, a lot of meat was smoked. Or it was somehow preserved? It could have been. He didn't store. I don't remember meat being stored otherwise. If I smoke it right.

00:38:32 Speaker 3(Helga) Yeah, it was either like hands would be smoked in the ash and otherwise meat would be something you in jars, you know, sometimes you get 20 jars of of pig. You know, if you slaughter the pig or or beef. You didn't have in any big amount. You bought half a pound.

00:38:56 Speaker 2(Phillip) Just what you could eat real quick. So what was stored in the ice box?

00:39:07 Speaker 3(Helga) No, they drink beer at room temperature. Milk, sometimes butter.

00:39:19 Speaker 2(Phillip) Can you describe your your toys as a child?

00:39:23 Speaker 1(Hans) Yes, they were very limited.

00:39:26 Speaker 2(Phillip) Limited to what?

00:39:28 Speaker 1(Hans) To a little box. We had, for example, we had these little blocks you could set together, you know, make different pictures. You had yo-yo. We have sweatshops. Trade Center already out because of the steel for the spring. Was not rarely available, they were usually broke. But we had a lot of homemade choice. How can I explain that? We used to take a piece of wood. And hollowed it out. And then they had this like from a. Bicycle pump that that slide the handle. And we put. Wet it down. Newspaper or something in there? Stuffed it down so that will sit long and stuffed it down to the end. And then the second one behind it and then pumped it and popped out so further. It was kind of a fun thing we used to play with.

00:40:55 Speaker 2(Phillip) Kind of like those cork pop guns that they have now. OK, so homemade pop guns.

00:41:03 Speaker 1(Hans) And then we have slingshots. We use it. We also had. Would love to have them. Practice them. We have marbles.

00:41:18 Speaker 2(Phillip) That's what I was getting ready to ask. If you had marbles. Business I played, I played marbles as a child too.

00:41:21 Speaker 1(Hans) Oh, yeah, that was. We've been playing it a different way, they. They played here in the states.

00:41:27 Speaker 2(Phillip) Oh, I'm sure you did.

00:41:28 Speaker 1(Hans) A different way we used to have a little shoe box and hole in that is 5. Especially Big Blue marble over this whole. You got one that's flew there, you know, you could collect it and the other collection later you could. Where you have. To get close to it was shooted in. A certain direction. Of course, that was. Slingshots. Let's see what? Bow and the air. We will make ourselves. Of course a.

00:42:20 Speaker 3(Helga) Not at that time.

00:42:21 Speaker 1(Hans) If we had that ring, we would run in the street after.

00:42:26 Speaker 2(Phillip) Oh yeah, is that the one you chased with the OR you? You lead with a stick, OK? Yeah, I know what you're talking about. They they used to, they used to play that in in the 20s, in the in the Chicago well in the 20s, in the states the you'd always see the kids rolling the. The steel ring with.

00:42:51 Speaker 1(Hans) That's on the bicycle Rivers reports for the.

00:42:54 Speaker 3(Helga) And these little things. That's well around real fast you have.

00:42:58 Speaker 2(Phillip) It that would be the top, yeah.

00:43:02 Speaker 3(Helga) Yeah, we had that in there. It's something very, very special was if you had a teddy bear because that was an American thing.

00:43:12 Speaker 1(Hans) Oh Oh yeah.

00:43:12 Speaker 3(Helga) And although a German company style made rocking horse. And all the teddy bears have little. Button in the ear button ear.

00:43:24 Speaker 1(Hans) Well, this came after the war. Of the nickis. Like we have up there.

00:43:30 Speaker 3(Helga) Or Mickey and Nick Mickey. Yeah, but the Kitty bed, Charlie.

00:43:36 Speaker 1(Hans) We have some of these old clothes.

00:43:40 Speaker 2(Phillip) Did you have a teddy bear as a child? A rocking horse or a rocking.

00:43:47 Speaker 1(Hans) Yeah, parking horse.

00:43:49 Speaker 2(Phillip) Rocking horse spring loaded? Or was it the? Just a normal wooden rocking.

00:43:56 Speaker 1(Hans) Bicycles. We had a little. Little little car pedal cars. Of course we had building blocks made out of box with building blocks that could build things.

00:44:24 Speaker 2(Phillip) OK. Can the. What is an early image of your mother?

00:44:35 Speaker 1(Hans) I was very close to my mother. Early images he. Here's from the other #5.

00:44:52 Speaker 3(Helga) He mentioned that all his life. Mention he's looking for that.

00:44:58 Speaker 2(Phillip) It's perfume, Chanel #5.

00:45:01 Speaker 3(Helga) Yeah. Where we find Chanel #5. But it says it was. A little more flowery. But his mother was a beauty. I'll show you a picture.

00:45:15 Speaker 2(Phillip) What hairstyle did she wear?

00:45:22 Speaker 1(Hans) Well, you got that picture.

00:45:26 Speaker 3(Helga) Yeah, we have this book with her. Big picture, but the big picture behind you. Yeah, I'll look for it.

00:45:35 Speaker 2(Phillip) What kind of clothes did she typically wear?

00:45:42 Speaker 1(Hans) I really remember with pants.

00:45:47 Speaker 3(Helga) Yeah, that wasn't done. It was not lady like.

00:45:52 Speaker 3(Helga) Wow, this is not the best picture, but this is a very nice one.

00:45:54 Speaker 1(Hans) Where is it? That's typical. Yeah, that's. They had a lot of fur.

00:46:04 Speaker 3(Helga) And they lived in. The cold country. So Alicia has a lot of frozen nights.

00:46:09 Speaker 1(Hans) They lived in this one of these castles.

00:46:10 Speaker 3(Helga) Cold wind coming from Siberia.

00:46:17 Speaker 1(Hans) This is what you got the year in that school.

00:46:22 Speaker 3(Helga) What year that was taken? I don't know. I don't. Know when it was taken. And then I thought she was the Hostess for many high society events where people came.

00:46:47 Speaker 2(Phillip) Well, I can see why people would want her hosting their party in events.

00:46:52 Speaker 3(Helga) And she didn't host for other people.

00:46:55 Speaker 3(Helga) She hosted people to come to to the Manor house big, even hunting events and so on.

00:46:59 Speaker 2(Phillip) Oh, I see. What kind of what? What is this hat called?

00:47:09 Speaker 3(Helga) I don't know.

00:47:09 Speaker 2(Phillip) It's it's an Austrian hat, is it not?

00:47:12 Speaker 1(Hans) Oh, you think this was like Hunter said? Well, there were many different fashions.

00:47:18 Speaker 3(Helga) There are so many probably failed head.

00:47:22 Speaker 1(Hans) They usually had a. Half hour when they went outside. Or you might want. To look through that, this is the first years.

00:47:40 Speaker 2(Phillip) So she never wore, never wore pants, you say?

00:47:45 Speaker 1(Hans) I don't remember her wearing pants.

00:47:48 Speaker 2(Phillip) So it's always long, long. Long dresses or right below the knees.

00:47:55 Speaker 1(Hans) Well, she also was ski, so she must have worn ski pants.

00:48:00 Speaker 3(Helga) Yeah, for skiing and maybe. But for horseback riding, you know, ladies that would horseback ride, do you see Downton Abbey, you know?

00:48:08 Speaker 1(Hans) She was a horse.

00:48:12 Speaker 3(Helga) The type of society?

00:48:14 Speaker 1(Hans) Wow. Yeah, that's typical.

00:48:14 Speaker 3(Helga) Well, she would dress the 20s like that.

00:48:23 Speaker 2(Phillip) So what kind of clothes did you wear every day?

00:48:28 Speaker 1(Hans) This isn't home and we didn't buy things off off.

00:48:30 Speaker 2(Phillip) Knit it in.

00:48:37 Speaker 1(Hans) If you see them when you see them there, the pictures of Maine and their my father. What clothes I had worn?

00:48:47 Speaker 2(Phillip) What clothes did you wear on special occasions?

00:48:51 Speaker 1(Hans) Of special occasions.

00:48:59 Speaker 2(Phillip) You have like a special dress or not dress, but did you dress a certain certain way? You have special clothes that you wear on certain events.

00:49:06 Speaker 1(Hans) Yes. Oh yes. Yeah, they have to look at the pictures. And have problems.

00:49:13 Speaker 3(Helga) I remember pictures of my brother's boys wore. Marine little marine.

00:49:21 Speaker 1(Hans) Yes, I had that too, yeah.

00:49:23 Speaker 3(Helga) Everybody's parents could afford. That they would have kind of a Navy or marine shoots, you know, doctor.

00:49:31 Speaker 1(Hans) I have that too. You see the pictures of the you have to find your own description.

00:49:39 Speaker 2(Phillip) But you you won't mind if I take if I take photos.If I take pictures with my iPhone with some of these things.

00:49:50 Speaker 3(Helga) Hands dressed like a little bear with the boys wore a lot of. Leader holes and. Because then they didn't have to be wrong or.

00:50:02 Speaker 2(Phillip) And so that's what it is, is the leader.

00:50:04 Speaker 3(Helga) Hosen that that is leader Boys wore that a lot all over Germany because you can wear them for four weeks and pee into their washing machine. And you know these are.

00:50:24 Speaker 1(Hans) See, that's me. That's my friend. Yeah, with my grandfather.

00:50:32 Speaker 2(Phillip) So how many times did you pee in your leader hosen?

00:50:39 Speaker 1(Hans) No, no those.

00:50:40 Speaker 3(Helga) I'm stuck on the leg.

00:50:42 Speaker 2(Phillip) I'll take pictures and just. What medicines or remedies do you remember?

00:51:11 Speaker 1(Hans) Coal, oil, coal.

00:51:15 Speaker 3(Helga) Tablets, you know, kind of.

00:51:20 Speaker 1(Hans) What's that you have?

00:51:25 Speaker 3(Helga) Or liver cause little liver oil?

00:51:30 Speaker 1(Hans) Card liver oil. Aspirins, of course. That you had. Well, sugar and cardiac. That's the that's the best of all. That's the kids to calm them down. Handkerchief filled with sugar. And then they put cognac in. Suck on it.

00:51:59 Speaker 2(Phillip) So, so, so drunk drunk your kids and knock them out then, right?

00:52:04 Speaker 1(Hans) Well, there was no restriction on what we could drink or eat.

00:52:17 Speaker 2(Phillip) Now, what transportation did you use? I know you mentioned you had a moped.

00:52:20 Speaker 1(Hans) No, that was much later, but at home as a kid, kid bicycle was the ultimate yeah. And I did my own A. Moped show I was.

00:52:34 Speaker 2(Phillip) An adult in V spotting right?

00:52:36 Speaker 1(Hans) Though even later than that, when I moved from we spot near Kaiserslautern, that bottom over one of these 59. In the late 50s. But I had a truck drivers license.

00:53:03 Speaker 3(Helga) Not at home with a child, not at home.

00:53:07 Speaker 1(Hans) No, not at home. But I didn't have motorized transportation of it. Till I went to grindstone.

00:53:18 Speaker 2(Phillip) What did you traditionally do on Christmas?

00:53:23 Speaker 1(Hans) Traditionally on Christmas. Was an important day and you had. Usually the father prepared the Christmas tree on the 20 on the 24th of the evening. Right, Heather. You prepared the Christmas tree and your special room. You will not allow us to see it. Till Christmas evening. And then where the tables were prepared. With the gifts and usually most of the gifts were not purchased, we did jigsaws. In fact, I still have some I could sell which I made.

00:54:13 Speaker 2(Phillip) You know, I see Germany getting farther and farther away from that tradition because I know that's what that's one of the things that I went looking for was a homemade German toys to bring back. To bring back with me. And it seems that the winter markets are getting so commercialized and.

00:54:38 Speaker 1(Hans) Yes, this this is too commercial. I said Christmas was usually the. The weeks before you, but did the Christmas cookies for herself.

00:54:48 Speaker 2(Phillip) But see, nobody commercializes Christmas more than America. And and what I mean by? That is that.

00:54:56 Speaker 1(Hans) Yeah, I know.

00:54:57 Speaker 2(Phillip) Is that you know they? They they start advertising Christmas in October, November and just hyping everybody up to, you know, pre Christmas sale after Christmas sale during Christmas sale.

00:55:16 Speaker 1(Hans) And clubs would have. Socks, homemade socks or sweater gloves? Or you would have. Made things made out of the jigsaw. What visually was made that gets?

00:55:39 Speaker 2(Phillip) And did did you? Did you try to go out and and as a family, go out and cut your own Christmas tree?

00:55:57 Speaker 1(Hans) We take later. Going back well, you see, we had, you know, we had a park around the Manor house. My father got treasure.

00:56:10 Speaker 2(Phillip) But y'all didn't go out as a.

00:56:10 Speaker 1(Hans) Before it was taken before it was then decorated.

00:56:12 Speaker 2(Phillip) You didn't go out as a family and pick it out though, or did he just he just brought it home.

00:56:16 Speaker 1(Hans) No, no. Oh. That's what I remember. I don't remember the thing. I guess I remember the Christmas tree. Usually the father got and it was especially the Christmas room when the when the once the Christmas tree was decorated and we used the regular candles. No artificial stuff also would hang on there. Cookies and stuff like that.

00:56:46 Speaker 2(Phillip) Did you put a? An object on the top a star.

00:56:52 Speaker 1(Hans) And we also have a. The nativity nativity scene. I think we still have one. Don't we hung up?

00:57:08 Speaker 3(Helga) Wanted our daughter Tina made. We have tiny one. Part of what your dad had. There are a few.

00:57:22 Speaker 2(Phillip) What arts and crafts were created during during the Christmas? You know, because now here, here they have, they have the the children draw Christmas trees or makes something that associates its stuff.

00:57:43 Speaker 1(Hans) Well, cows was jigsaw, you know, figures with Jigsaw, we have some here which is go back 100 years or something Christmas gifts. Which wound up. Again with us. But with all her handmade stump the jigsaw.

00:58:00 Speaker 2(Phillip) So this is jigsaw pieces that are Christmas related.

00:58:02 Speaker 1(Hans) Have a lot of jigsaw, yeah. Yes, there would be maybe. Animal figures or or the jewelry box. But there are some Christmas gifts I gave to my father. They're sitting up there. This is 3 monkeys. That was the Christmas gift to my father.

00:58:30 Speaker 3(Helga) Yeah, but it didn't make.

00:58:31 Speaker 1(Hans) That it didn't make that. About the but that's something we have some.

00:58:37 Speaker 3(Helga) You know the what you talked about the sewing out. Then you can. A lot of fairy tale themes will be used for Christmas.

00:58:50 Speaker 2(Phillip) And this would be Hansel and Gretel.

00:58:53 Speaker 3(Helga) And the rich?

00:58:59 Speaker 2(Phillip) That's very nice.

00:59:02 Speaker 3(Helga) Sometimes you have a silhouette of the nativity scene, you know. Mary and Joseph in the cradle.

00:59:12 Speaker 1(Hans) I would knit. Top floor from the houses of the English.

00:59:26 Speaker 3(Helga) You know when you have a hotspot and you.

00:59:35 Speaker 2(Phillip) I know what you're talking about. I know, I know what you're talking about.

00:59:42 Speaker 1(Hans) I learned to knit at the crochet.

00:59:46 Speaker 3(Helga) Yeah, boys would make them for shade.

00:59:49 Speaker 2(Phillip) Well, my wife taught me how to do that years ago too, but I forgotten.

01:00:00 Speaker 1(Hans) You make the blanket.

01:00:03 Speaker 2(Phillip) You made that.

01:00:08 Speaker 3(Helga) Yeah, a few. Yeah, that. Was that shocking? But a few years ago it was. Many men here did beautiful. Big thing, you know, like like knitting, you know that can. Be very useful at sometime. And you're up stuck in the mountains. In a village. All you have is sheep.

01:00:34 Speaker 2(Phillip) Now it's time to make some wool blankets. Yeah, that's right.

01:00:38 Speaker 1(Hans) Yeah, yeah, like this one, that one.

01:00:44 Speaker 2(Phillip) What do you do for relaxation now?

01:00:55 Speaker 1(Hans) Well, there are several things I do with relaxation. I do sudoku.

01:01:04 Speaker 2(Phillip) You like Sudoku puzzles then, huh?

01:01:11 Speaker 1(Hans) Computer games or something to keep my mind going? Telephone I play. Like jacket poker. And that's that's for real money.

01:01:26 Speaker 2(Phillip) Yeah, I saw. I saw the dice clock on the. Wall I figured that.

01:01:34 Speaker 1(Hans) It's from Vegas. Don't keep it ground up, yeah. Reading is kind of faded away.

01:01:52 Speaker 2(Phillip) You watch a lot of television. What do you watch? What's your interest?

01:01:57 Speaker 1(Hans) Nature, family, nature and.

01:02:01 Speaker 2(Phillip) So you like National Geographic? One of my favorite channels.

01:02:05 Speaker 1(Hans) And then I like that other one we have now American greed.

01:02:11 Speaker 2(Phillip) I've never watched that one. Do you watch any news, any news program? What news program do you watch?

01:02:25 Speaker 1(Hans) Usually I keep track of.

01:02:34 Speaker 2(Phillip) Bloomberg you watch Bloomberg? No.

01:02:36 Speaker 1(Hans) No, I don't do that. We get, I get CNN there and. And we get German television out there.

01:02:48 Speaker 2(Phillip) Oh, really? Yeah.

01:02:51 Speaker 1(Hans) You gave a compulsive better on the computer. I can transfer to the. We got a problem with that right now. Lasers for the.

01:03:02 Speaker 2(Phillip) OK, I'd like to, I'd like to jump from. I'd like to jump to the 1940s. During the the the Nazi takeover.

01:03:22 Speaker 1(Hans) Well, they took over in the 30s.

01:03:29 Speaker 2(Phillip) And that's why I'm alluding to is the the first question on that was how did your parents feel about the Nazi takeover?

01:03:43 Speaker 3(Helga) At first, at least.

01:03:45 Speaker 1(Hans) Also, he built the autobahns. You got out of the Forsyth treaties. We got cut the Rhine lamp back. There were to the reparation bird. Imposed on Germany after First World War.

01:04:05 Speaker 2(Phillip) But, but you say you say your. Your parents were compliant.

01:04:10 Speaker 1(Hans) They have a beer.

01:04:11 Speaker 2(Phillip) OK, but did did they agree or disagree with what was going on?

01:04:21 Speaker 2(Phillip) Well, I guess in when it when it first started in the 30s.

01:04:26 Speaker 1(Hans) Well, the 30s, I don't know. I was just a kid, you know, but I know that my father had higher position in the hospital for he was the local leader of the farmers group, you know. And I don't know one time I got there where he was given. A speech or something? He was wearing, you know, the plastic car and kind of a uniform or something.

01:04:56 Speaker 2(Phillip) So he he. He just blended in and and went with the flow.

01:05:01 Speaker 1(Hans) He he went with the flow but later on. He was very lucky because. We've got involved with the assassination attempt on it and they just recklessly.

01:05:24 Speaker 2(Phillip) You talking about the Valkyrie, the Valkyrie or which which which assassination?

01:05:32 Speaker 1(Hans) They were directly involved.

01:05:36 Speaker 2(Phillip) With the valkyrie. Really.

01:05:42 Speaker 1(Hans) Yeah, the only way. He got out of it. His my stepmother was very closely related to some of the leaders who were on Hitler staff. And they were, well, not only this, where grandmother that was born at Tresco. Tresco was one of the leaders. Of the occurred. Project for the fascinated and also there was. Contact already with America to. There was the there were. The real ***** during the war. We're also Churchill. The the the. Greatest sacrifice that was made

by the Russians. America would have never won the war, and of course related with nuclear weapons would have been different. Fortunately, because Germany did not have. They had opposing groups. None of them had enough to. To pay to build a critical mass, you needed £22.00 and your children got 15 pounds. And they use heavy water as a moderator, and they had. The research was done in in the Norway. But they got very close to it. They also got very far advanced in some of the missiles. You know, and buzz bombs what they call them. Yeah, V1 and V2. And there were other projects. They were working on.

01:07:55 Speaker 2(Phillip) What role was it again that your father had in the Valkyrie?

01:08:01 Speaker 1(Hans) He was not directly involved other. Than that he was. His second wife. Was directly involved with and the motherless and his brother. Relatives were involved in the conspiracy.

01:08:29 Speaker 3(Helga) And your uncle from fresco.From your father's side.

01:08:34 Speaker 1(Hans) Father side, OK. So they're very much a lot of the. Relatives OK, say. After the stop the. Had realised that they executed people too quickly.

01:08:51 Speaker 2(Phillip) Too quickly, yes.

01:08:53 Speaker 1(Hans) He lost his.

01:08:55 Speaker 2(Phillip) What? What was your father's name?

01:08:57 Speaker 1(Hans) Hans William from Shriners.

01:09:01 Speaker 2(Phillip) So almost the same as yours. And his is Hans Wilhelm? And that would be WILHEI AM.

01:09:36 Speaker 3(Helga) Actually this is maybe off the record. But that question. Your own is so. Misleading because, you know, Hitler came to the power in 1933 and then it changed peoples perceptions of who he was and what he planned changed during the 30s.

01:09:52 Speaker 2(Phillip) Right. Yeah, because he started brain. I started out by brainwashing people and and helping people.

01:10:07 Speaker 3(Helga) Brainwashed them. He helped them. And there were a lot of Jewish people, like my friends.

01:10:12 Speaker 1(Hans) The highway system was about industry, so you see the lot of the industry what had happened, you know.

01:10:14 Speaker 3(Helga) Father was a lawyer.

01:10:21 Speaker 2(Phillip) Well, if if not for Hitler, we wouldn't have the Volkswagen bug.

01:10:22 Speaker 1(Hans) With our best cars and. All the others are Mercedes and all the.

01:10:29 Speaker 3(Helga) Yeah, and he helped a lot of people get work. My, my friend's father was a lawyer, a Jew or have had Jew. Well, he had hardly any clients because people couldn't afford a lawyer. When Hitler came, people had jobs. They had arguments. And so on all. Sudden they had money to pay a lawyer, so that lawyer being Jewish. Had nothing to do with it. He had worked. He could feed the family.

My father, for instance, was against Hitler from the. Beginning because he. Wanted the Kaiser. Back and my father was a civil servant and he didn't like any of that socialism. And all that. But being a civil servant. You either had to join the party. Oh, you had no job, you know, being being kind of an accountant at City Hall, you know, he was staying out of the job out of, you know, couldn't get another job. So he finally joined the party. To feed the family, but also he was then obliged since he was, you know, had a higher education to be in charge of the the precinct. You know that. All the things that happen to make sure every. Where they had. A gas mask and when they had access to shelter bomb shelters, he was in charge of that. But also he had the opportunity. To know when the Gestapo or certain people had a plan on picking up ***** children. And he could warn the parents. He could not have known that and do that if he hadn't been a. Member of the party. So he never. He had and. He bought the the the material for a uniform. There was another requirement that you had the material for uniform, but you never had a uniform made. I didn't want to be seen anyone, but because after the war, when I was older than neighbors told me. All the things that my father had done in the name of the party but working against the party, like protecting an old one guy when the the police were supposed to pick him up from home, that guy always was in. Our house and I had to play with him. There was terrible. He was always drooling and he he couldn't speak well. But you know, his parents loved him. And another one had Down syndrome. And my father always told within them the mother of this girl told me later on, you know. My father always contracted no phone or so made sure he walked by that house and left a message. That they plan, they want to pick. Her up so.

01:13:47 Speaker 2(Phillip) Hitler was just trying to find the imperfect people, what he considered to be imperfect people.

01:13:53 Speaker 1(Hans) They collected them and then over gas.

01:13:55 Speaker 3(Helga) One time my father had a fit. He was running through the. House yelling and. Screaming because his own was *****, his older sisters

son was very *****. You know, he could not get up or eat by himself or anything but. Know they all loved him and he was my father's godson. And he had a. Minor thing, and the doctor sent him to the hospital and know which hospital that is and. Within two days. He had died of. And my father saw, you know, ran along and they killed him. They killed him. And that was his home. So, and he couldn't stop that. It was out of his precinct. And so to this day, I always feel like going to that hospital. And and everybody is registered in Germany and we had a family book where we both was every death. His death was never that boys death was never. And and I always feel like before I die, I should go by that hospital and ask them, what did they do in the 1940s, you know, during the war. That hard, but it's, but it's still hard.

01:15:17 Speaker 2(Phillip) Yeah, well, most likely they wouldn't tell you the truth anyway.

01:15:23 Speaker 1(Hans) They were pretty good record keeping.

01:15:25 Speaker 3(Helga) Yeah, but I mean that's why the question always touches only a very, very small thing. Reagan Reagan went to Germany and there were some people greeting him who had been in the Hitler Youth where the kids had no choice. And then it was, can't it can't against the ring.

01:15:49 Speaker 2(Phillip) Yeah, I I I you know. People, people in this country, they under, they understand what what happened over there and they.

01:15:58 Speaker 3(Helga) Many don't have no idea.

01:16:00 Speaker 2(Phillip) Well, the younger. The younger the yeah, the younger ones. Well, that's because nobody that they're not getting taught right in in the in the in our school system and they're just not getting taught. Right and and they're not going out and learning on their own. They're just taking for granted you know they hear bits and pieces and that's what they believe. You know, but.

01:16:20 Speaker 1(Hans) Well, you got you have. You should not forget that the winner always rewrites the history. And the winner is always right. When the atrocities committed. By the Allied forces. It's unbelievable if we dig into it. But courts all comes to mind. I don't know how many other thousands of soldiers were herded on a field. It mud something? How many died there? Courts just comes to mind.

01:17:04 Speaker 3(Helga) Yeah, my my father was one of those American. Prisoner of war fields and he was thrown on the they were starved to death and he was thrown on the truck because they thought he was dead and then he kind of rolled off the truck and walked through Germany.

01:17:17 Speaker 1(Hans) I mean, the ones that wound up in Russia.

01:17:27 Speaker 3(Helga) He walked home. And I did not record. I was so scared. It looked so bad. But that was. But prisoners of war that made it to America.

01:17:39 Speaker 2(Phillip) Right.

01:17:40 Speaker 3(Helga) But those that were put in there, that was Eisenhower.

01:17:45 Speaker 1(Hans) But here the person of war camp which was here near Austin, they could all go out on the farms and they taught the people a lot of things that were very popular and some of them came back except. And you can contact some of them, but most of them have passed. Away now and.

01:18:02 Speaker 2(Phillip) Well, I not not long ago well. Couple of years ago I was doing some research on on the city of Elgin Police Department and through my research, because I was, I was trying. To figure out. Gather information on when the first constable was there and the 1st police officer. 1st police chief and stuff and some of my research led me to camp Swift. Which I know there were a lot of. Germans brought to camp Swift and kept prisoners there because that's where.

01:18:44 Speaker 1(Hans) What they had, they were worked out on the.

01:18:48 Speaker 2(Phillip) And and there's there's a story to this day in in the Elgin Courier, in the archives. Some German prisoners. Who had been out there at Camp Swift for quite some time and became friendly with the with the female staff. And one one prisoner. Whenever they released. The the the Germans from camp Swift. Whenever everything was over and they let them go, they had the opportunity to stay or go back to their country well. When the prisoners left. They got to looking around the the prison and on one of the typewriters they found a letter that a a German prisoner had wrote. Or had typed out and he was talking about this pretty. Pretty receptionist that was out there. That was always wearing stockings and was always carrying a bottle of Coca-Cola and. He was he was saying how much he really enjoyed her and and I don't really remember. I can get that for you and let you read it if if you're interested. Well, I'll read it to you.

01:20:25 Speaker 3(Helga) That comes out material like that.

01:20:28 Speaker 2(Phillip) That it's it's really very interesting, but but there was also another another story about the the the German prison camp is that? They had a. There was a hot air balloon. With two or three people in it, and this is when they wore the what kind of hats were they the flat hats with the? Anyway, they were. They were dressed, dressed up in as entertainers and. They landed in encamp Swift and I can't recall if it was. If it was on purpose or they were doing a show, I think they were putting on a show for the for the guards. But what had happened is 3 of the. Had somehow got the clothing, the American clothing, this entertainer clothing, and hopped in that hot air balloon and took off. But they didn't know

what they were doing, so they come back down and they got captured again. And that's in the newspaper. Also, but but these these Germans out there at this prison camp were. Treated very, very well and as you might imagine, a large portion of them stayed in this area because they were treated so well and created what?

01:22:07 Speaker 1(Hans) Yes, also spear garden. There used to be several who we knew who had been. This thing around the. I know some of them are now. They passed along, some passed away.

01:22:23 Speaker 2(Phillip) It's been a few years.

01:22:25 Speaker 1(Hans) Yeah, but 30 years ago or something. We already knew them.

01:22:33 Speaker 2(Phillip) And and I may or may not have already asked this, but did someone in your family fight? In World War 2.

01:22:41 Speaker 1(Hans) Oh yeah? Ohh wonderful. Not my father. He was excused because of a hard tradition he had. But O'laughlin he was at the he was the general.

01:23:01 Speaker 2(Phillip) Your uncle was a Brigadier General, yeah.

01:23:05 Speaker 1(Hans) Oh, there were several of them.

01:23:07 Speaker 3(Helga) They were all.

01:23:09 Speaker 1(Hans) What was the other one? Who was with that stick that Hamburg? Remember them when he. He was terrible too.

01:23:21 Speaker 3(Helga) Yeah, but he was. His name was also.

01:23:25 Speaker 1(Hans) Lot of family member I will.

01:23:28 Speaker 3(Helga) Now, who signed the letter of?

01:23:32 Speaker 1(Hans) Ohh yeah, I got pictures of it of Anna's unconditional surrender.

01:23:38 Speaker 3(Helga) Surrender in in northern Italy, there were several conditions.

01:23:41 Speaker 1(Hans) I got pictures of.

01:23:44 Speaker 3(Helga) Treaty of surrendered. One was in Italy and was signed by Avon Schleinitz.

01:23:50 Speaker 3(Helga) Cousin of his or uncle of his, because that Uncle had no children yet. And so that.

01:23:57 Speaker 1(Hans) Was this penalty?

01:23:58 Speaker 3(Helga) Somebody because it was actually treason and it could have been killed, you know. Accused of treason because of the war wasn't over. So if that hadn't hadn't expired, then he would have been accused of treason. But he was picked to sign it because he was one of the few officers who didn't have children.

01:24:19 Speaker 2(Phillip) Yet and this was a condition of surrender in Italy. I mean unconditional.

01:24:27 Speaker 3(Helga) Yeah, between Germany and. In the US.

01:24:33 Speaker 2(Phillip) And this was an uncle of yours. And I'd like to, I'd like. To get a photo of that.

01:24:39 Speaker 1(Hans) Yeah, this is somewhere in the.

01:24:40 Speaker 2(Phillip) Yeah, I'll, I'll, I'll get that. We're almost we're almost through here. That your uncle, the Brigadier General in obviously in Italy.

01:25:12 Speaker 3(Helga) The general was stationed in France and then it was in charge of retreating from France as the Americans, who he had several uncles in high ranks and the one who signed the treaty, was an officer on some the staff officer. But he did not.

01:25:34 Speaker 2(Phillip) What branch of the military?

01:25:39 Speaker 1(Hans) That should be in there, yeah. With a picture of the newspaper article.

01:25:57 Speaker 2(Phillip) Was was. Was he wounded?

I don't think so, because she he got married.

01:29:01 Speaker 2(Phillip) Do you remember not being able to get certain things during the war?

01:29:07 Speaker 1(Hans) Oh yes, like what? Was hard to get. Of course, I hardly drink coffee at that age, sugar. In fact, we had about 1000.

01:29:33 Speaker 3(Helga) It was just that, everybody.

01:29:35 Speaker 1(Hans) With sugar stored in our in the dance hall of.

01:29:42 Speaker 2(Phillip) What what was stored there? So you didn't have any problem with sugar?

01:29:47 Speaker 1(Hans) I want to sneak in there and go after the shower war. After the war, when the sugar was. Hard to come.

01:29:57 Speaker 3(Helga) Was always locked away.

01:30:00 Speaker 2(Phillip) So what are the things?

01:30:00 Speaker 1(Hans) That was normally locked away because children were not supposed to have sugar.

01:30:10 Speaker 2(Phillip) What other things were do you remember not being able to get ahold of?

01:30:25 Speaker 1(Hans) I'm trying to think of the worst vertices. And the coffee was once. Elder, you were too young.

01:30:38 Speaker 3(Helga) Yeah. And he was. Such an exception with with that estate and then all the farms and everything around. Life in the city was different.

01:30:48 Speaker 2(Phillip) Right. Yeah, this is a.

01:30:51 Speaker 1(Hans) See, we were self-sufficient.

01:30:51 Speaker 2(Phillip) You were. You were. You were isolated and.

01:30:55 Speaker 1(Hans) Well, we were self-sufficient. Because of the agricultural products and. Before you know we. Had our own mill, we had our own blacksmith. On brewery and we have a lot of things. Which these little villages. Producing a lot of the stuff. Themselves for the centuries. So there was not these. Pre manufacturers products are dependent on. What we are now dependent on by ready made.

01:31:47 Speaker 2(Phillip) And unfortunately not ready made here. I know we've probably already talked about the.

01:31:59 Speaker 1(Hans) However, very frugal and cash poor.

01:32:10 Speaker 2(Phillip) Did any of them work in the war industry? Like making the making the bombs or making the planes.

01:32:25 Speaker 1(Hans) I'm trying to think of. Remember, Brown was a classmate of my father. Vernon von Brown.

01:32:44 Speaker 3(Helga) You know the rocket scientist that then came to America.

01:32:48 Speaker 1(Hans) Well, well, they had all these rocket sciences, you know, for an Elmo. He bought them all over here after the Russians got the best ones. There's a lot of the research. OK, I'm here. In fact, I was skiing with them and cloudcroft.

01:33:17 Speaker 2(Phillip) Were you aware of all of the mass suicides of 1945 after the occupation?

01:33:24 Speaker 1(Hans) After our five.

01:33:26 Speaker 2(Phillip) The all of the mass suicides after the occupation.

01:33:29 Speaker 1(Hans) Oh yes. Ohh yes. There are thousands of who went into the water. Families have shot, were all shot by the rest of the house.

01:33:42 Speaker 2(Phillip) So not only not only them, but the the officers, the German officers. Were committing suicide too.

01:33:50 Speaker 1(Hans) Oh, yes. Oh yes. A lot of, but a lot of families that entire half a population of the village. Put go into the water.

01:34:01 Speaker 3(Helga) And the license came as switching one little towns that we know we know the town 300 women. Well, about 300 walked into the lake as Russians moved into the north.

01:34:03 Speaker 1(Hans) The Russians came oht it was. The Russians were ***** everything, even the elderly women. And the kids? They were ***** pennyless girls could do what they wanted to do.) And they never got it in the right order. Sometimes, like I said, rape burned.

01:34:35 Speaker 2(Phillip) So in the occupation it was set up in zones that were that that were established in in 1945 and they had the the Polish, the Soviet, the American, British.

01:34:57 Speaker 1(Hans) But there there was no Polish occupational.

01:35:01 Speaker 2(Phillip) Well, this was the yeah, this was the.

01:35:02 Speaker 1(Hans) So while they had roof polling. They had depopulated.

01:35:07 Speaker 2(Phillip) They call it the zone of occupation of occupation.

01:35:10 Speaker 3(Helga) The police did not have a zone. It was rushing the French, the British.

01:35:17 Speaker 1(Hans) That would be interesting. It must be the part.

01:35:24 Speaker 3(Helga) If you are shown.

01:35:26 Speaker 1(Hans) Oh, in the north.

01:35:28 Speaker 2(Phillip) Well, I was just just showing that and what I'm looking for is is when. French there's a French right here.

01:35:39 Speaker 1(Hans) Americans, your friends here. I used to go over there. So what parking?

01:35:44 Speaker 2(Phillip) Where, where, where, where were you on here?

01:35:51 Speaker 1(Hans) When we were, we were down. In 45, we were in Austria. We were down here in the islands.

01:36:03 Speaker 2(Phillip) All sport Salzburg, correct.

01:36:09 Speaker 1(Hans) That's what the way down here. Austria, let me see here. Vienna, near Vienna. This area down here that we were, we had fled. I was born here. We wanted to go. You were cut off. And then one. Check folks walking down here. And then crossed over into Australia. So I'll support. OK. And then we kicked out as I had. I would go over here first to here. Right. I would go over here with it.

01:37:15 Speaker 2(Phillip) Yeah, these botting and stuff's gotta be over in this area somewhere.

01:37:18 Speaker 1(Hans) Yeah, we inspired this. As we respond.

01:37:24 Speaker 2(Phillip) And be spotting to the West.

01:37:26 Speaker 1(Hans) I would travel by train. And then I would go.

01:37:34 Speaker 2(Phillip) And that was in American occupation.

01:37:36 Speaker 1(Hans) This was America of an occupational zone.

01:37:43 Speaker 2(Phillip) OK. But in in 45 then July? Yeah, July 4th. Well.

01:37:50 Speaker 1(Hans) Well, in May, so in May 45 we. We were taken in by the American.

01:37:56 Speaker 2(Phillip) And the American troops withdrew in July of 45. Correct. The American troops they withdrew. Yes in July of 45, OK.

01:38:09 Speaker 1(Hans) Oh, what if we were kicked out? They had sent us that paper hanger. You know, Hitler was Australia. And they, I mean, they were great contributors, they were stronger Nazi supporters and Germans were actually.

2014 Feb 6 Transcript Second

A note before this transcript. Phillip is all American, and his knowledge of world history is from the winner's side, America. In the historical narrative in America, the Nazi party began and ended with Germany, and all Nazi party history is suppressed. This suppression makes it difficult for Americans to comprehend why the Nazi Party did the atrocities that happened. Also, Phillip seems to have forgotten that by 1945, the end of the Nazi Party and WWII, Hans was only 11 years old and Helga was 8 years old. Already in the interview Hans and Helga explained that their generation was wild, uncontrollable, and rebellious because they believed that the behavior of their parent's generation had failed the world. At 11 and 8 years old, Hans and Helga could not have done anything about the atrocities. And, because of the war, there was no communication with United States and of course any Newspaper they could read only addressed the war from

Germany's perspective. So, Hans and Helga were not aware of any US World War II action in the Pacific or about German Prisoners in Texas.

00:00:08 Speaker 2(Phillip) How were you treated by Allied forces?

00:00:17 Speaker 1(Hans) In fact, when I walked out, we lived out in the woods outside the city and respond. Sometimes American cars would stop and give me chocolate or candy. Oh yeah, it said very, very generous.

00:00:31 Speaker 3(Helga) Especially black people. Because it's so general.

00:00:35 Speaker 2(Phillip) Oh. Oh, really.

00:00:37 Speaker 1(Hans) They were still segregated. No, they had already. That they're already mixed. Don't ever fear baculus.

00:00:48 Speaker 3(Helga) Yeah, we had black people that when they came to occupy Germany, first they came through the north before they gave that to the British were bad people in the house and the rest. We all had to move. Into two rooms. And then we had black people living in the house.

00:01:07 Speaker 1(Hans) Very, very generous.

00:01:08 Speaker 3(Helga) If they were so generous. Americans was against the law for them. They were not allowed to.

00:01:19 Speaker 1(Hans) Friend does. Yeah, but that changed American friend. That's pretty, especially with you, Coca-Cola girls. You know what the Coca-Cola girls are those blended in. They put a coke bottle in the men's hip pocket back pocket, the hook that makes it haven't had sexual intercourse. I mean, they were already with the. Healthy American occupational forces while the. I should please know of war camps. But what was the question before? Repeat that please.

00:02:00 Speaker 2(Phillip) It was how were you treated by the Allied forces?

00:02:04 Speaker 1(Hans) Well, they did a lot for us, a lot in the schools. They came and gave the suspicion that you didn't have that because you were.

00:02:15 Speaker 3(Helga) They call it the flagger, the Quaker food, because it was. Group of Quakers who had didn't fight in the war and they were all young people. Some one here, Hoffman. From Austin, they were all in a big camp because they refused to go become soldiers and they they were Quakers and then they organized feeding German children after the war sending.

00:02:45 Speaker 1(Hans) Show that the schools. So that's when we came to school. Then they came by and they had this huge. That would have. Cocoa chocolate cream. Hot cocoa or all kinds of stuff and some. But what was difficult with cornmeal? The Germans could not digest corn, chicken. We could not just we

didn't have the enzymes to. Process corner. Wow. You know that certainly once it came into the food chain, right then it changed, but it was. The you could. Would pass it. I had eaten it. But they had all these different types of cream soups and stuff like that. We got bread and stuff, couldn't stand the bread, but. Was a lot of that that, you know, gave us something to Billy.

00:04:12 Speaker 2(Phillip) What do you remember hearing anything about hear Hiroshima?

00:04:20 Speaker 1(Hans) Course. Nagasaki, oshima.

00:04:23 Speaker 2(Phillip) I mean during, during the time during the event, you do.

00:04:30 Speaker 1(Hans) It was a late 45 or 46 already, yes. I don't forget what the date was. Oh, we went there and I talked to the people today and then some. Most of them passed away.

00:04:44 Speaker 2(Phillip) What do you remember hearing about the German concentration camps?

00:05:01 Speaker 1(Hans) If somebody tells that they didn't know about it, they're lying. We knew that they were making lamp shapes up out of the skin of people that had tattoos. We knew about the doctors. Well, his name. You might have heard that. Mandela Mandela, who did all these experiments on the people. I cannot say that everybody knew about it, but I as a 12 year old. Uh knew about it.

00:05:52 Speaker 3(Helga) That there were camps or what was going on in the camps.

00:05:56 Speaker 1(Hans) Ohh what's going on? Also what was going on? I mean, you had relatives who were picked up, right? You had ***** people who were picked up.

00:06:13 Speaker 3(Helga) Our ***** cousin was told. Was not picked up, you know, was sent to the hospital for a cold and and was killed.

00:06:19 Speaker 1(Hans) Well, it disappeared.

00:06:23 Speaker 2(Phillip) Do do you remember hearing anything about the Japanese detention camps?

00:06:37 Speaker 3(Helga) We had no news from the United States people. Yeah, I know. But those our American relatives, you know, my mother's sister and brothers and so on could not send mail to us, to Germany, only death notices. To the right cause, and that was often not even delivered. And many of the prisoners of war here, that was one of the big things they suffered from was. Lack of mail exchange. And so we knew very little about what was going on.

00:07:21 Speaker 1(Hans) Well, later on, you know, part of the training of. That in the. When I went through special training in the Air Force and that I. Heard about all this? What happened there? With a lot of who got captured in what was that island? There were a lot of Americans were abandoned. Wound up in Japanese personal opiums. I know there were. At first I don't know. I don't recall when I say that, but I remember that we had. I can't recall. But I know there were a lot of atrocity, a lot of Americans that became prisoners of war. But when Japanese controlled for most services.

00:08:49 Speaker 2(Phillip) So you you were saying that on the German concentration camps, if if people told you that they didn't know it was going on, they they were lying?

00:08:58 Speaker 1(Hans) There's a lie. Well, let's say. I know about it.

00:09:15 Speaker 2(Phillip) It's hard for. For me, I mean I can. I can sit here and say I know what it I can understand what it felt like to to know. Something like that was going on and not being able to to stop it. But I would be lying to myself if I if I made that statement.

00:09:34 Speaker 1(Hans) Well, you do. Don't forget we got things going on in this country right now. You know about it, but you will not admit to know about it. What has happened at Guantanamo Bay? What's happening to the camps in Poland where Americans? Have foreign people imprisoned, you know? Which is against human rights, inhumane treatments. You push it out of your mind. Well, have you heard about? That right? Sure.

00:10:19 Speaker 2(Phillip) But you know it's it's.

00:10:21 Speaker 1(Hans) You saw with these. List vicki's list. So what is it?

00:10:27 Speaker 2(Phillip) You know about Schindler's list?

00:10:30 Speaker 1(Hans) It's not Schindler's list, they said. I've had one. We have one guy who brought all that stuff up.

00:10:43 Speaker 2(Phillip) Oh, you talking about the WikiLeaks Assange?

00:10:45 Speaker 1(Hans) Yeah, wiki leaks, yeah. Most people after a while. Be motivated to forget that.

00:10:58 Speaker 2(Phillip) Julian Assange, that's his name.

00:11:06 Speaker 3(Helga) We all accept that.

00:11:07 Speaker 1(Hans) Yeah, I mean, he is, you know, he was. The one who published it. And you know that he fled with something.

00:11:20 Speaker 2(Phillip) He's in some small room at some consulate somewhere. Yeah, waiting for somebody to give him asylum then.

00:11:32 Speaker 1(Hans) But that's not the only thing we're. This there's so much suppressed from the public. Atrocities to being committed and then. Considered top secret? But the American government? You have, for example might be an experience to you. We have a camp here for several hundred families up with their children being detained. The outside of us.

00:12:16 Speaker 2(Phillip) Detained for what?

00:12:18 Speaker 1(Hans) They're illegally here. They're locked up in there. Have where's this? Where is this? Like I have motivated for getting to ignorance. It is somewhere to the outside of Austin.

00:13:09 Speaker 2(Phillip) People, I don't know anything about that. And I'm not just blocking it out of. My mind either I just I I.

00:13:17 Speaker 3(Helga) Yeah, and your job, you would.

00:13:18 Speaker 1(Hans) Of your job. I'm surprised that you because there's a restrict that says do not pick up that hitchhiker.

00:13:27 Speaker 2(Phillip) Well, they usually have that at the prisons around the prisons. But they've they've they've got that. I mean, those signs are at every state prison in the state of Texas.

00:13:38 Speaker 1(Hans) No, I'm not. I will go. It doesn't ring a bell right though.

00:13:46 Speaker 2(Phillip) OK, I'm going to go ahead and end this thing, OK?

Hans Autobiography
Images of actuals written or typed by Hans

FROM: FLIGHT A (Box 18)

Date 14 May 1972

SUBJECT: Autobiography of Sergeant Von Schweinitz

TO: Comm Skill Division SMSgt Shank

1. On October 26th 1934, joy went through the estate of a wealthy land baron in Silesia; because, his wife had given birth to her first son and the continuation of the family seemed to be secured. I was this boy, who was expected to carry on the tradition and take the responsibility to manage the estate which had been a family possession for over five centuries. Up to the age of 7 years my childhood was happy and carefree with a great amount of freedom to ideas and action. Then, in fall 1941, an epidemic of diphtheria spread through Silesia. I survived, but my mother died from this disease. During the following years I was placed under the care of several governesses. The switch to the stiff authoritarian treatment only resulted in the drive to have my caretakers fired or to make them resign. The war had very little effect on my life until Russian tanks and guns were firing over our house on a cold January night in 1945. My father, whom I hardly knew since he had been either away building the East-wall or he had been occupied with the running of the estate, hastily overnight assembled a convoy of horsedrawn-wagons. The following morning our trek of about 600 families joint the millions on the road, fleeing from the Russians. My father had remarried just before we fled and my only older sister had joint us also during the following years in which we moved from country to country in Europe. We settled down in Wiesbaden Germany in 1947. By this time our worldly possessions were reduced to the clothing we wore. My father's second wife gave birth to one girl and two boys. The oldest boy is an engineer in South-west Africa, the second boy is serving in the German Navy and the girl is a nurse in Germany to-day. My sister with her husband have a successful photostudio in Wiesbaden to-day.

My father married a third time, after his second wife had left him to join her father who had a farm in South-west Africa. A son was born to his third wife, who lives with his mother in Italy now. In 1969 my father died of cancer. He had succeeded in building up some worldly possessions, from cab driver to hotel-owner, only to lose it again just before his death due to speculations on the stock and realstate market.

2. From the time I left Silesia until my migration to the USA, I led a very restless life. My father had placed me in several boarding schools during the years from 1945 to 1949. Due to the situation in Germany the schools opened and closed for political or financial reasons, therefore, I changed schools 22 times in these years. I had 8 years of formal school at the age of 15 years and decided to become self-supporting with my fathers permission. After two years of apprenticeship as a photographer in 1952 in Wiesbaden I passed the examinations. From apprenticeship I went to work for an AGFAcolor processing lab. In 1957 I had progressed to a foreman in a photofinishing plant, however, my income was insufficient to provide a home or to support a wife and children at a level I considered acceptable. My greatest desire was to start a family and to have a home. I decided to increase my opportunities by immigrating to the USA.

3. My life as an American in the Air Force has been rewarding and successful. A church organization assisted me to come to the States. In March 1957 I arrived in Chicago without a knowledge of the English language, but with 50\$ and the desire to work hard. Within six months I had learned the language in night school and my income had risen to about \$200 a week as a commercial photographer.

In October 1957 the draft law required me to serve in the army or join any other branch of the service. I joined the Air Force. From basic-training in Lackland AFB I went to Mitchell Field Wisconsin to be trained in aircraft refueling. In Milwaukee I met my wife who had also immigrated from Germany. We married in November 1958. Mitchell Field was deactivated two months later and I was reassigned to Rhein Main AB Germany. During the 4 years in Germany our daughter was born and I became a US citizen. My knowledge of German soon involved me in many special projects and joint NATO exercises. In 1962 I was transferred to Walker AFB New Mexico. SAC Gave me the opportunity to retrain into still photography. In 1967 I was selected to advance into the precision photo processing field, I was in charge of the Base Photo Lab then. My next assignment took me and my family, which had increased by a boy, to Upperheyford England. Deployments took me to several European countries and I was able to assist in many special projects like NATO recon. competitions, Royal Flush, and training programs between the US and German Air Force. In 1969 I left my family in England and went to Udorn AFB Thailand. ~~XXXXX~~ I was reunited with my family in December 1970 upon reassignment to Shaw AFB S.C. My next assignment will take me to Montgomery Alabamax as an ANG advisor in July 1972.

4. My military education and experience consists of OJT to the 5 level in aircraft refueling, 7 level in still photography, 3 technical school courses in photography, several management and OJT trainers/supervisors courses, NCOL school, and a 9 level in precision photography. My positions included NCOIC of sections and branches in the photography field, first sergeant, inspector/advisor, mobility, ~~GMT~~, squadron training and disaster prep. NCO. At the present I am the assistant NCOIC of the Precision Photo Processing Lab in the

363PTS

5. My civilian education increased with the help of the Air Force in off duty studies to about 100 semester hours of college credits. I hope to have my B.S. degree in two years with a major in mathematics and an M.S. before retirement.

6. My hobbies are in the sports areas. I am Scuba-diving instructor. Red Cross first aid instructor, member of the National Ski Patrol and competed in ski races for the Air Force. In addition I am active in several associations. My family and I enjoy outdoor activities from skiing, diving, swimming, mountain climbing to camping.

7. I plan to retire from the Air Force with 20 years, however, with 5 years left in the Air Force, I am preparing myself for the increased skills and knowledge required of a senior or chief master sergeant. After retirement from the Air Force I plan to teach mathematics at highschool or college level in Florida and spend the summers traveling or in Europe.

HANS L. VON SCHWEINITZ, MSCT, USAF

1972
Course

NAME: Hans L. Von Schweinitz
RANK: NSGT
HOME OF RECORD: Milwaukee Wisc.
DATE OF RANK: 1 May 1969
DATE ASSIGNED 363 PTS: 11 Dec 70
DATE OF ENTRY IN SERVICE: 18 Oct 57

EDUCATION:

Eastern New Mexico University, University of Maryland Fereast and European Dev.
86 semester hours off duty (3 years)
Major/Specialty: Physics and mathematics. 36 semester hrs remaining for a degree.

MILITARY SCHOOLS/TRAINING

NGO Leadership school
Precision Photo Processing school 23430 Lowry AFB
Precision Photo Processing School 23470 Lowry AFB
OJT Supervisor/Trainer and OJT Administrator courses

CAREER CIVILIAN

2 years vocational school in photography from 1950-1952 in Germany. Completion of a two year apprenticeship as photographer in Germany. Examination and diploma from the Chamber of Industry and Commerce Wiesbaden Germany 1952. Employed as photographer in Germany until 1957 March. From March 57 to Oct 57 employed as photographer in Chicago.

MILITARY CAREER

Oct 1957 entry in US Air Force. Basic military training. OJT to the 5 level in 6135QA Fuels Supply. Assigned to POL until 1962. Voluntary retrained into the Still Photography Field up to the 7 level in 1962. Air Force directed retraining to the Precision Photo Processing Field in 1966. Technical school and OJT in this field and award of the 23490 AFSC. Overseas assignments, 4 years in Germany, 3 years in England and 1 year in S.E.A.

PERSONAL DATA

Born in Oct 1934 into a rich land Barons family in Silesia Germany. Flight from the Russians in the winter of 1945 to Austria. Returned to Wiesbaden Germany in the summer of 1945. Emigrated to the U.S.A. in March 1957. Joined the Air Force in Oct 57. Met a German girl, while stationed in Milwaukee, whom I married in 1958. My wife's name is Helga. Our daughter Bettina was born in Wiesbaden Germany 1959 while I was stationed at Rhine Main AFB. Our son Christopher was born in Roswell N. Mex. in 1964. He is the only born American citizen in the family, the rest of us are all naturalized U.S. citizen. My hobbies are scuba diving, speleology, mountain climbing and skiing. I am a senior in the National Ski Patrol and raced giant slalom, slalom and down hill for the A.F.

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:

Honor graduate of the 23430 and 23470 Tech. school
Commendation medal

CAREER OBJECTIVES: Happy with the present career. Hope for E-8 and E-9 before the 20 year point. Bootstrap to obtain a B.S. degree in physics or mathematics within

the next 2 years and possibly a M.S. degree before retirement. I plan to retire from the service in 1977, return to Europe and teach physics or mathematics at a German highschool.

16/06/05

Hans L. Von Schweinitz
Age 30 years
Born October 26th, 1933
Height 6 feet
Weight 156 lbs
No physical handicaps
Married - two children
SSgt., USAF - 8 years
Terminating October 18

EDUCATION - CIVILIAN

1. High School Graduate.
2. Vocational School of Photography and Apprenticeship, Wiesbaden Germany 1950 - 1952.
3. Graduate, Board of the Chamber of Industry and Commerce, Wiesbaden Germany.
4. Agfa Color Photo Laboratory in Wiesbaden, Germany. Experience in color printing and processing. Four months.

EXPERIENCE COMMERCIAL

1952-1957 Employed by Central Exchange Photo Finishing Plant, Wiesbaden and Gruenstadt Germany. Custom printing and photo copying. Full charge of film processing department.

March 1957 immigration to the United States of America.

Employed by John Crerar Library, Chicago, Ill. Photostat operator.
Reason for leaving:- personal betterment.

Huey Comp. Chicago, Ill. Coating photographic emulsions. Reason for leaving:- financial betterment and difficult working conditions.

Kenffler Eusser, Chicago, Ill. Precision photo copying. Reason for leaving:- no opportunity of advancement.

Williams Meyer Co., Chicago, Ill. Advertising and Industrial Photography.
Reason for leaving:- drafted into the Armed Forces.

During the time prior to induction into the service, I encountered communication problems with the language barrier, which was a great handicap during my commercial employment. However, I now speak fluent English, as well as German, read and write both equally well. This resume is testimonial of that fact.

SOCIAL SECURITY # ~~██████████~~

Hans L. Von Schweinitz
602 W Redwood Street
Roswell, New Mexico

MILITARY EXPERIENCE

Since December 1962, I have been Staff SGT., and Production Chief in the Photo Lab at Walker Air Force Base, Roswell, New Mexico. My duties are quality control, training of new personnel, photographic work order assignment, maintenance of photographic supply records. I hold a Top Secret Clearance granted by the Air Force, Walker Air Force Base, since 1963.

I have completed the following training courses at Extension Course Institute, Air University, Gunter AFB. Alabama:-

1. Photographic Fundamentals - 1960
2. Still Photography - 1960
3. Photographic Technician - 1964
4. Personal Counseling - group study- 1963
5. On the job training administrator and supervisor course - 1963
6. General Business and Typing.

HOBBIES

Skiing, Mountain Climbing and Caving.

Active Organisations: Sierra Blanca Ski Patrol, New Mexico; National Ski Patrol; Walker Air Force Base Ski Race Team; Classified Ski Racer of the U.S.Ski Assn.

OBJECTIVE

To locate in the field of still photography, primarily in advertising, industrial and commercial, research and engineering photography as well. Instruction in photography and laboratory teaching is my alternate field.

I shall be free to travel for interview from September 15th to October 10th, 1965. During this time I am on leave. If I cannot find suitable employment by that time, then I shall continue my career in photography in the Air Force.

1977
HANS L. VON SCHWEINITZ
2319 Village Circle
Austin, Texas 78745
Telephone: (512) 443-1053 (home)
(512) 385-4100 ext. 3382 (office)

OBJECTIVE

Reconnaissance Laboratory Management: Lab Chief

AREAS OF
KNOWLEDGE
AND
EXPERIENCE

Fixed and Mobile Reconnaissance Photo Lab and Still Photo
Lab Operation and Management

Planning and Execution of Deployments and Reconstitutions
of Mobile Photo/Processing Interpretation Facility

Personnel Training and Supervision in Reconnaissance and
Still Lab Equipment Operation

Chairing of Boards, Pannels and Committees

Photographic Equipment and Product Evaluation and Testing

Evaluation of Photographic Reconnaissance Products and
Operational Requirements

Staff Supervision and Inspection of Reconnaissance Operations

Determination of Budgets and Equipment Requirements

Establishment of Quality Control Procedures and Programs

Color and Black and White Film Processing, Manual and
Continuous Machines

Quality Control Equipment Operations

Still and Motion Picture Photography

Color and Black and White Reproduction on Manual and
Continuous/Automatic Printers

Development of Regulations and Technical Orders

Specialty Knowledge Test Preparation

Production Control

Installation and Maintenance of Photographic Lab Equipment

PERSONAL

Birthdate: 10-26-1934 Married (19 yrs.), Two Children
 6' 185 lbs. Wife, U.S. Citizen, Teacher of
 Excellent Health German and French
 Top Secret Clearance Son, 12 yrs., 8th Grade
 U.S. Citizen Daughter, 17 yrs., will graduate
 from High School Nov. 77

EDUCATION

Auburn University, Alabama
 B.S. Degree in Mathematics, With Honors - 1974
 Major: Mathematics
 Minors: Physics and History

FOREIGN
LANGUAGES

Native Speaker of German, some Knowledge of Spanish and
 Thai

SERVICE
SCHOOLS

Air University:
 Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy - November, 1976
 USAF Ground Operations School, Hurlburt Field, Fla:
 - November, 1975

Tactical Air Command NCO Academy, Langley AFB, Va:
 Distinguished Graduate - June, 1972

Air Training Command, Lowry AFB, Co:
 Course 3AZR23374 Color Photo Process Course FCA,
 Honor Graduate - December, 1971

Course 3AAR23470 Precision Photographic Processing
 Technician CQ6, Honor Graduate - August, 1969

Course ALR23430-1 Precision Photographic Processing
 Specialist, Honor Graduate - September, 1966

Strategic Air Command NCO Preparatory School, 6th Aerospace
 Wing: Graduate - July, 1965

EXPERIENCE
1957 to
Present

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

Apr 75 to
Present

Location: 67th Tactical Recon Wg, Bergstrom AFB, Texas

Position: SMS, AFSC 23391, Wing Precision Photo Processing
 Superintendent; Air National Guard Advisory
 Team Member; 67 TRW Self Inspection Team Member;
 12 Air Force Operation Readiness Inspection
 Team Member

Responsibilities: Staff Guidance and Supervision of Fixed
 and Mobile Photo Processing/Interpretation
 Facility Operation. Staff assistance to five

Air National Guard Units and Four Active Units throughout the U.S.. Inspect and Evaluate Reconnaissance Operations. Establish and Maintain current Quality Control Standards. Prepare Reports on Budget, Equipment, Supplies and Manning Requirements. Prepare Directives and Staff Correspondence. Maintain and Coordinate Contacts to Manufacturer Representatives of Photographic Equipment and Supplies. Chair Pannels and Boards.

(Dec 74 to
Apr 75)

Location: 45th TRS, Bergstrom AFB, Texas

Position: NCO in Charge of Operations Section, Mobile Photo Processing and Interpretation Facility

Responsibilities: Overall Supervision of Imagery Processing and Interpretation, Production Control and Quality Control.

(Jun 72 to
Dec 74)

Location: OLBK 363rd Cmbt Spt Gp, Dannelly ANG Base, Al

Position: Air Force Technical Advisor, Precision Photo Processing Technician

Responsibilities: Assistance and Training of Air National Guard Personnel in the Operation and Management of Mobile Photographic Processing an Interpretation Facilities (WS430B).

(Dec 70 to
Jun 72)

Location: 363rd RTS, Shaw AFB, S.C.

Position: NCOIC of the Precision Processing Laboratory

Responsibilities: Supervision and Operation of the Continuous Film Processing Machine and Printing Section.

(Dec 69 to
Dec 70)

Location: 14th TRS, Udorn, Thailand

Position: NCOIC of the Photo Lab (WS430B)

Responsibilities: Supervision of Mass Production of Photo Reconnaissance Products in Support of the SEA War.

(Jul 68 to
Dec 69)

Location: 18th TRS (USAFE), Upper Heyford, England

Position: NCOIC of 18th TRS Photo Lab (WS430B)

Responsibilities: Supervision and Organization of the Mobile Photo Processing and Interpretation Facility.

(Nov 66 to
Jul 68)

Location: 18th TRS, Upper Heyford, England

Position: NCOIC of Film Processing and Quality Control

Responsibilities: Supervision and Training of Film Processing, Printing and Quality Control Personnel. Establishment of Quality Control Program and Testing of Mobile Photo Lab System.

(Mar 66 to Oct 66) Location: Hq 6th Strategic Aerospace Wing (SAC), Walker AFB, New Mex.

Position: NCOIC of Base Photo Lab

Responsibilities: Supervision of the Operations of the Base Photo Lab.

(Jun 64 to Mar 66) Location: Hq 6th Strategic Aerospace Wing, Walker AFB, N.M.

Position: Photo Lab Production Chief

Responsibilities: Supervision of Photographic Printing. Production and Maintenance Supply Account.

(May 63 to Jun 64) Location: Hq 6th Strategic Aerospace Wing, Walker AFB, N.M.

Position: Photographic Technician, Assistant Lab Chief

Responsibilities: Production of all finished Photography, Color and Black and White. Taking of Still and Motion Pictures.

(Aug 62 to May 63) Location: Hq 6th Strategic Aerospace Wing, Walker AFB, N.M.

Position: Still Photographer, NCOIC, Contact and Projection Printing Section

Responsibilities: Supervision of Section and Training of Personnel.

(Oct 57 to Aug 62) Location: Lackland AFB, Mitchell Field and 7310th Materiel Squadron, Rhein Main AB, Germany

Position: Fuel Specialist

Responsibilities: Aviation Fuel and Petroleum Products Accounting and Storage. Aircraft Refueling. Scheduling and Coordinating Requirements with German Oil Companies.

(1950 to 1957)

CIVILIAN EXPERIENCE

(1957 to Oct 57) Location: William Meyer Co., Chicago, Ill.

Position: Advertising/Industrial Photographer and Processor

(1957) Location: Keuffler and Eusser, Chicago, Ill.

Position: Precision Photo Copier

(1953 to 1957)
Location: Gruenstadt, Germany
Position: Custom Printer and Copier, later in Full Charge of Film Processing

(1952 to 1953)
Location: Agfa Color, Wiesbaden, Germany
Position: Custom Color Printer

(1950 to 1952)
Location: Wiesbaden, Germany
Position: Apprentice, Still Photographer and Darkroom Man

REFERENCES

Mustafa Khan P.O. Box 3305 Al Muneera (Aramco) Dahran, Saudi Arabia	Lt. Col. Whitt Latham 506 Mc Whirk Bergstrom AFB, Texas 78743 Phone: (512) 385-5899 (home) (512) 385-4100 ext. 3382 (office)
Lt. Col. Louis Falconieri 9208 Queenswood Austin, Texas 78745 Phone: (512) 282-0237(home) (512) 385-4100 ext. 3472 (office)	Lt. Col. C.A. Rager 4840 Canyon Bend Circle Austin, Texas 78745 Phone: (512) 892-1687 (home) (512) 385-4100 ext. 2435 (office)

SALARY

Negotiable in the range normal for the position

LOCATE

Willing to relocate

TRAVEL

Readily agreeable to travel as required

AVAILABILITY

15 September, 1977, if I take 54 days of accrued terminal leave; otherwise 1 November, 1977, retirement separation date.

INTERESTS

Skiing, sailing, scuba diving (former NAUI instructor), Photography

FOREIGN TRAVEL

Germany, England, France, Benelux States, Spain, Italy, Austria, Switzerland, Iceland, Thailand, Mexico, Honduras, Canada, Azores, South Vietnam, Laos, Japan.

1984
of Hans
1105

Hans L. von Schweinitz
2319 Village Circle
Austin, Texas, 78745
Phone: (512) 441 2089 (home)

Objective Reconnaissance/Photographic Laboratory Management: Lab Chief/Technical Advisor

Areas of Knowledge and Experience

- Fixed and Mobile Reconnaissance Photo Lab and Still Photo Lab Operation and Management
- Planning and Execution of Deployments and Reconstitutions of Mobile Photo/Processing Interpretation Facility
- Personnel Training and Supervision in Reconnaissance and Still Lab Equipment Operation
- Chairing of Boards, Panels and Committees
- Photographic Equipment and Product Evaluation and Testing
- Evaluation of Photographic Reconnaissance Products and Operational Requirements
- Staff Supervision and Inspection of Reconnaissance Operations
- Determination of Budgets and Equipment Requirements
- Establishment of Quality Control Procedures and Programs
- Color and Black and White Film Processing, Manual and Continuous Machines
- Quality Control Equipment Operations
- Still and Motion Picture Photography
- Color and Black and White Reproduction on Manual and Continuous Automatic Printers
- Development of Regulations, Technical Orders and Manuals
- Specialty Knowledge Test Preparation
- Production Control
- Installation and Maintenance of Photographic Lab Equipment

Personal Birthdate: 10-26-1934 Married (23 years), Two Children
6' 185 lbs. Wife, U.S. Citizen, Teacher of German and French
Excellent Health Son, 15 yrs., 10th Grade
Top Secret Clearance Daughter, 20 yrs., Air Force Officers
U.S. Citizen Training School

Education Auburn University, Alabama
B.S. Degree in Mathematics, with Honors - 1974
Major: Mathematics
Minors: Physics and History

Foreign Languages Native Speaker of German, some Knowledge of Spanish and Thai

Service Schools Air University:
Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy - November, 1976
USAF Ground Operations School, Hurlburt Field, Fla: - November 1975
Tactical Air Command NCO Academy, Langley AFB, Va: Distinguished Graduate - June, 1972

Air Training Command, Lowry AFB, Co:
Course 34R23374 Color Photo Process Course FCA,
Honor Graduate - December, 1971
Course 34R23470 Precision Photographic Processing Technician (QB,
Honor Graduate - August, 1969
Course ALR23430-1 Precision Photographic Processing Specialist,
Honor Graduate - September, 1966
Strategic Air Command NCO Preparatory School, 6th Aerospace Wing:
Graduate - July, 1965

Experience

Sep 1977 Location: Northrop Corporation, Aircraft Services Division, Dhahran,
to Saudi Arabia, Home Office:
Mar 1980 3901 W Broadway, Hawthorne, Ca, 90250

Position: Photo/Recce Lab Supervisor

Responsibilities: Establishment and Management of the Dhahran Saudi
Arabian Reconnaissance Center. Establishment and Super-
vision of Photo Processing in Reconnaissance, Sound Motion

Picture, Still Photography and Imagery Interpretation; Supervision of Academic Instructions, On-the-Job Training, Photo Lab and Graphics Sections. Planning and Scheduling of Workloads and Duty Assignments, Quality Control of Laboratory Products and Training Programs.

Salary: \$37,000. - plus Benefits

United States Air Force

1957 to
Sep 1977

Location: 67th Tactical Recon Wg, Bergstrom AFB, Texas

Apr 1975
to
Sep 1977

Position: SMS, AFSC 2391, Wing Precision Photo Processing Superintendent; Air National Guard Advisory Team Member; 67 TRW Self Inspection Team Member; 12 Air Force Operation Readiness Inspection Team Member

67 TRW

Responsibilities: Staff Guidance and Supervision of Fixed and Mobile Photo Processing/Interpretation Facility Operation. Staff Assistance to Live Air National Guard Units and Four Active Units throughout the U.S.: Inspect and Evaluate Reconnaissance Operations. Establish and Maintain current Quality Control Standards. Prepare Reports on Budget, Equipment, Supplies and Manning Requirements. Prepare Directives and Staff Correspondence. Maintain and coordinate Contacts to Manufacturer Representatives of Photographic Equipment and Supplies. Chair Panels and Boards.

Salary: \$15,500. -

Location: 45th TRS, Bergstrom AFB, Texas

Dec 1974
to
Apr 1975

Position: NCO in Charge of Operations Section, Mobile Photo Processing and Interpretation Facility

Responsibilities: Overall Supervision of Imagery Processing and Interpretation, Production Control and Quality Control.

Location: OLBK 363rd Cmbt Spt Gp, Dannelly ANG Base, AL

Jun 1972
to
Dec 1974

Position: Air Force Technical Advisor, Precision Photo Processing Technician

Responsibilities: Assistance to and Training of Air National Guard Personnel in the Operation and Management of Mobile Photographic Processing and Interpretation Facilities (WS430B).

Dec 1970 Location: 363rd TRS, Shaw AFB, S.C.
 to
 Jun 1972 Position: NCOIC of the Precision Processing Laboratory
Responsibilities: Supervision and Operation of the Continuous
 Film Processing Machine and Printing Section.

Dec 1969 Location: 14th TRS, Udorn, Thailand
 to
 Dec 1970 Position: NCOIC of the Photo Lab (WS430B)
Responsibilities: Supervision of Mass Production of Photo
 Reconnaissance Products in Support of the SEA War.

Jul 1968 Location: 18th TRS (USAFE), Upper Heyford, England
 to
 Dec 1969 Position: NCOIC of 18th TRS Photo Lab (WS430B)
Responsibilities: Supervision and Organization of the Mobile
 Photo Processing and Interpretation Facility.

Nov 1966 Location: 18th TRS, Upper Heyford, England
 to
 Jul 1968 Position: NCOIC of Film Processing and Quality Control
Responsibilities: Supervision and Training of Film Processing,
 Printing and Quality Control Personnel. Establishment
 of Quality Control Program and Testing of Mobile
 Photo Lab System.

Mar 1966 Location: Hq 6th Strategic Aerospace Wing (SAC), Walker AFB, N.M.
 to
 Oct 1966 Position: NCOIC of Base Photo Lab
Responsibilities: Supervision of the Operations of the Base Photo
 Lab.

Jun 1964 Location: Hq 6th Strategic Aerospace Wing, Walker AFB, N.M.
 to
 Mar 1966 Position: Photo Lab Production Chief
Responsibilities: Supervision of Photographic Printing. Production
 and Maintenance Supply Account.

May 1963 Location: Hq 6th Strategic Aerospace Wing, Walker AFB, N.M.
 to
 Jun 1964 Position: Photographic Technician, Assistant Lab Chief
Responsibilities: Production of all Finished Photography, Color
 and Black and White. Taking of Still and Motion Pictures.

Aug 1962 Location: Hq 6th Strategic Aerospace Wing, Walker AFB, N.M.
 to
 May 1963 Position: Still Photographer, NCOIC, Contact and Projection
 Printing Section
Responsibilities: Supervision of Section and Training of Personnel.
 Oct 1957 Location: Lackland AFB, Mitchell Field and 7310th Materiel
 to Squadron, Rhein Main AB, Germany
 Aug 1962 Position: Fuel Specialist
Responsibilities: Aviation Fuel and Petroleum Products Accounting
 and Storage. Aircraft Refueling. Scheduling and
 Coordinating Requirements with German Oil Companies.

Civilian Experience
 1950 to 1957 Location: William Meyer Co., Chicago, Ill.
 to Oct 1957 Position: Advertising/Industrial Photographer and Processor
 1957 Location: Keuffler and Esser, Chicago Ill.
Position: Precision Photo Copier
 1953 to 1957 Location: Gruenstadt, Germany
Position: Custom Printer and Copier, later in full Charge of
 Film Processing
 1952 to 1953 Location: Agfa Color, Wiesbaden, Germany
Position: Custom Color Printer
 1950 to 1952 Location: Wiesbaden, Germany
Position: Apprentice, Still Photographer and Darkroom Man

References:

Cecil H. Rigby
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Austin, Tx
Phone: (512) 836 0511

Robert L. Paradis
Box 728 Northrop Corp.
APO New York NY 09616
Phone: Dhahran Air Base, Saudi Arabia, Ext. 247

Lt. Col. Whitt Latham
506 McWhink
Bergstrom AFB, Tx 78743
Phone: (512) 385 5899 (home)
(512) 385 4100 (office) ext. 3382

Salary:

Negotiable in the range normal for the position

Travel:

Readily agreeable to travel as required

Availability:

Now

Interests:

Skiing, sailing, scuba diving (former NAUI instructor),
Photography

Foreign Travel:

Saudi Arabia, Iran, Germany, England, France, Beneluc States,
Spain, Italy, Austria, Switzerland, Iceland, Thailand,
Mexico, Honduras, Canada, Azores, South Vietnam, Laos,
Japan, Bahrain.

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