

THE SEIDEMANNS (FOR MORE PHOTOS SEE 53.00 THE SEIDEMANS PER SENTA---PASSWORD-- SOUTHAVEN

Senta Cann



When I was young, all of the family lived in Bochum except for 2 of my aunts. One of them lived in Dortmund and the other in Essen. They were only 20 minutes away by train.

The grandfather, Edward Seidemann had a



housekeeper.



Frau Kreide. I never saw a fat woman like her before. When my grandfather and her walked on the sidewalk, no one could get by. She had 3 braids, one on each side and one in the back. We kids always thought it was funny. She liked to eat.

My mother and my aunts came to visit him twice a week. All I ever said to my grandpa was "Hi. How are you?" I gave him a kiss. That's all I remember ever talking to my grandpa. He was an old man. He didn't want to be bothered with kids. My cousins from Essen, the Jacobson children, we met there; and we always had a good time together.

We didn't have refrigerators at the time. We had iceboxes outside. And Frau Kreide had good stuff in them: braunschweiger, salami, cheese, cake; she liked to eat. We kids always ran there and we always ate them up, in spite. She would get angry at us.

Edward lived in a first floor apartment. He had a living room, dining room, bathroom, a little toilet, a big, big kitchen, and three bedrooms: one for him, one for Fraulein Kreider; and one for Uncle Bruno. And a big backyard. Years ago they used to have chickens and a chicken coop. We kids liked that.

It seemed like we went to grandpa's house every day. One aunt came from Essen, the other from Dortmund. And my mother. They met at my grandfather's house. They had coffee and cake there. They sat and talked. They enjoyed each others company. They liked to be together and that was the best place to meet.

They didn't talk much to my grandfather. He was a quiet man. He liked to be left alone.



Fred Mishow: Edward's wife was Fredericka. Fredrika had 11 children. 2 died. 9 survived. Edward wasn't much of a worker. He moved around a lot. He bought and sold wheat and grain. Ultimately they had a vinegar factory. They had a vinegar factory in their house. She was the worker. She made vinegar. People came to her with their bottles, and she filled them. The kids went to work when they were 14 years old, and they sent money.

(Edward's wife died in Berlin and was buried at the Weissensee cemetery in Berlin. Herman and Leo died of Strep throat and were buried in Bochum. Herman was still alive on the day of Edward's 65th birthday)





EDWARDS 70TH BIRTHDAY 5 YEARS LATER

FRED MISHOW: Rosa was oldest. Then came Leo. Leo was the second. He was the first male member of the family (as a young man) to leave Biala and go to Westphalia. Leo was born in 82. Moritz was born in 84. They were entirely different. As a prank somebody put an ad in the paper. They said Moritz wanted to get married. Moritz didn't know anything about it. A lady in Southern Bavaria answered the ad and



wanted to meet him. Morris dismissed it as a prank. But Leo was a man of honor. He said he cannot do that. He went there in Moritz place. He met her, fell in love, and got married at age 25. He married Elsa Taub. She was a high classed lady. She loved classical music. She never got close with our family. She was closer to her family. They had no children. Leo was very thrifty. He spent very little money on himself. He was very good hearted. The others could always get anything out of him that they wanted. During the war they had 7 stores in various cities. Leo opened a manufacturing plant to supply the stores. He later hired salesmen and became very big.

LEO ELSA

SENTA CANN Then was Uncle Leo. He was married to Tanta Elsa. They had no children. He was nice, quiet. All the brothers were about the same height. He was the only brother who was skinny. His wife was skinny. They used to joke that she doesn't let him eat enough. Poor Uncle Leo. He looked puny to them. Elsa

would say that eating is a habit and we don't need to get that fat. Leo and Elsa liked us kids. Many times they invited us to their house. In 1936-7 they took Inga and me (Senta) on vacation when they went to the beaches of Belgium or to Scheveningen in Holland. Elsa was nice, well read, Smart. They lived in Bochum. They owned a house and an apartment.



LEO



ELSA

Moritz was the third child. He was very fluent in the Polish language. He answered an ad in the Bochum newspaper.

Bochum was a coal mining town. It had a lot of Polish coal miners who didn't speak German. The "From" firm (a Jewish clothing retailer) put an ad in the East Prussian newspaper. They needed salespeople who spoke Polish and German.

After Morris worked for From for a few years he brought Leo to this coal mining town and they opened the first store "the Gebruder Seidemann".

Moritz never married. He had a girlfriend, Hilda Langewishe. They had a son, together. Hulda was married to a soldier. He was gone for 4 years. While he was away Hulda had a son with Morris. Mr. Langewishe was killed in WWI.

Hulda lived upstairs from us. My uncles, first Moritz, later Leo and then Julius, took care of them. Heinz was a good friend.

In 1921 Moritz caught pneumonia and ribenfelen syndrome, and he died. (He was born in 1884).

The next brother was Herman. He was the smartest of the Seidemanns. He was the only child who went to high school. My grandparents sent him to a high school in a nearby town. After he graduated from high school he worked as a salesman. Later he went to Bochum and went into business with my uncles. He was a bachelor. He had a girlfriend named Olly. In 1928, 7 years after Morris died, Herman caught pneumonia and died. His greatest wish was to marry Olly. He didn't marry her because she was gentile, and my grandfather didn't want him to marry a gentile. As Herman lay dying, Julius arranged for the rabbi to come to the house. Just before Herman died, the rabbi married them.



She moved to Berlin. She was well taken care of. She married a Jewish engineer. And she emigrated to Australia.

Bochum was a coal mining town. Lots of Poles went to Bochum, Essen and the the coal mining towns. They spoke no German. They only spoke Polish. My uncles were raised on the Polish border and they spoke Polish. There was a big Jewish business, Gebruder Frocht. They advertised for a Polish speaking salesperson.

Leo took the job. He worked there and he realized how easy it was to sell to the miners. He told his younger brothers, Morris and Hermann, and they came. Within 2 years they opened up a business, Gebruder Seidemann. Credit clothing.

SENTA CANN:

The Jacobsons were Peter and Inge. Their parents were Tante Frieda and Uncle Eric. Tanta Frieda was very nice woman. Very heavy set. She was always in the hospital, always sick. The doctors told the uncles, Leo and Ullu that it was in her mind. She was a hypochondriac.



She was only happy when she was in a hospital, being operated on. She met her husband while he was wounded and she was working as a nurse in an army hospital. He was a lieutenant, a lawyer. They fell in love. But I think they had a very unhappy marriage. Peter once told me his parents were not matched at all. They were entirely different. His mother was only happy when she was with her family, with her sisters and brothers.

FRIEDA ERIC

Eric was a lawyer, but my uncles tried to make him into a businessman. He wasn't a business man. They moved from one city to another. And my uncles always put him up in business (the clothing business). They wanted him to live in Essen, so Frieda would be closer to the family. Peter once told me that when she said "I'm going home" she didn't mean to their house, but she meant to Bochum, to her family. And I guess, maybe he resented that.

Eric was a funny guy. He had a couple of dueling scars on his face. They made him look funny but he was very proud of them. The kids thought he was peculiar. He talked funny. He was a little man. He had to do it his way. Very particular. He didn't fit into the whole family (My dad fitted in.) Eric wasn't too nice to us children. He didn't bother with us kids.

FRED MISHOW: Eric had one fault. He was always fighting, always arguing. When he married Frieda my uncles bought him a big law practice in Zurichhau, a small town near Berlin where a lawyer made a good



living for 40 to 50 years. When the old lawyer had died, my uncles bought his law practice for Eric. Within a year's time Eric lost all the clients. When people wanted a divorce he balled them out instead of helping or advising them. He always wanted to fight.

Frieda was very unhappy with her husband. My uncles wanted Frieda to leave him. She didn't want a

divorce. She liked being Frau Dr. Jacobson. He went his way. She went her way.

During the years before Hitler came to power he was a lawyer in Zurichhau, Elbefeld, Bamen, Essen. Wannaeicho. And every time after one or 2 years he had to leave town because he was fighting with everyone. They called him a stinker. My family made fun of him. They imitated him. They talked about him, that he couldn't make a living. Julius and Hermann supported the Jacobson family as long as they lived in Germany. Eric used the little money that he made out of the office for himself, for shaving, haircuts, and things like that.



SENTA CANN: Peter was a very nice boy. He was too intelligent for his own good. They pushed him ahead one grade in school. He was a clown. He liked to say poems and make funny jokes. He liked everyone to laugh at him. He liked to be in the limelight at all times. He was happy there. A little like his mother.



He went to England. When the war started they shipped him to a camp in Canada. Then he lived in Canada. Uncle Bruno and Tanta Ria visited him in Canada. They wanted him to come to Nashville and live with them. Finally he came to Nashville, but he didn't stay. He was on his own too long. And he had big arguments with Uncle Bruno. He couldn't see eye to eye with them. They had some kind of falling out.

Fred Mishow: Peter Jacobson was a child prodigy. He was an actor. He was smart. He was one or two classes ahead of his age. He was brilliant. We were always together. His mother spent more time with her family in Bochum than she spent with her husband in Essen. Her husband was an officer in the German army. Dr. Eric Jacobson. He was striking



in his officer's uniform. Frieda met him when she worked as a helper in a hospital. He was wounded, at the time.

Senta Cann: Peter had his own life. He worked and worked on his PhD. He never finished it. He was well liked in his circles. He was a teacher, a sociologist. He lived in a different world, a dream world. For example: When my father died Peter came to St. Louis. He needed a hat. He went to a store and bought a shirt and a hat. He walked out of the store and left the shirt lying there. And he didn't even realize it. He lived in a different world, an intellectual world, I think.

He came to visit my mother and us every 3 or 4 months. He was family oriented. He stayed for a couple of days and he said: "Uuh. I've had enough now. I can't stand it anymore here. Too much family."

But then he came back. And he would write and he would call every INGE AND PETER so often.

Inga was very nice. She was a year younger than I. We were not just cousins but good friends. We had good times together. We liked each other, enjoyed each others company. She came to visit us and slept at our house. I visited her. We went to the movies together. We were very close. She was left behind with her parents in the war. We heard they were killed.

Peter and I would argue, play, trick Heinz. Peter wasn't sports minded at all.

In 1936 Uncle Theo was living in Berlin. The Olympic Games were in Berlin. That summer Peter, Heinz and I went to Berlin for the games and stayed with Uncle Theo.

After that I was working for my father, learning the business.



INGE

Heinz was working for Uncle Leo. Peter was working in Arnhem, an apprentice for a men's clothing business. Then he went back to Germany.

Frieda got Peter out of Germany on a children's transport to England. A children's transport was when people didn't have visas to leave the country. Jews in other countries brought the youths in. Peter was 16 when he went to England.



INGE

FRED MISHOW: I was 17 when I went to America. When the war started the British shipped all the Germans out. They were afraid of spies. Peter was shipped to Canada. Early the number of Jews who left were a trickle. The children who got out were placed with families. Later on, when the trickle became a flow, there weren't enough families. So they kept them in children's camp. Peter was in a camp in England during the entire war.

After the war, they set Peter free. He got a job. Later, when Uncle Bruno tried to bring him to the U.S., he liked Canada, and he didn't want to come. Eventually he lived in Nashville, went to school in America, and became a citizen.

Fred Mishow: Rosa was the oldest child. She left her home and went to work as a saleslady. In her younger days



she was wild, had lots of boyfriends. In one of the stores she met a young window trimmer. He was 4 or 5 years younger than she was. His name was Solly Studinski. And they got married. They couldn't have any children.

Rosa wanted to adopt a child. In Berlin there was a Hazan named Herman. He and his wife died. They left a child that no one wanted. He was 3-4 years old. He had lots of curly hair. They saw him and fell in love with him. They took him home.



When they got him home they realized that there was something wrong with the boy (Heinz). Her family told her to return him to the orphan home. But she couldn't do it. She loved him. He was born in 1917.

After the First World War they moved to Dortmund and opened a credit clothing business.

Rosa became very heavy, the heaviest in our family. After a while Solly met someone younger, and saw her secretly on the sly. *Rosa and Solly*



ROSA AND SOLLY

Heinz was so slow that Solly took Heinz on

buying trips with him. They spent weeks with the girlfriend, and Heinz never said anything to his mother.

He once said "Last week I had such a nice governess". That made Tanta Rosa think. She confronted Solly. He admitted everything and said he wanted a divorce. Rosa didn't want a divorce but she had no choice.

Solly's second wife was gentile, and she saved his life. He survived the war years in Germany. After the war we got a book "Juden of Westphalia" and found that Solly was the head of a small Jewish community.

When Rosa didn't want to give Solly a divorce she went on a crash diet. She lost over 100 pounds. Then she got sick. It ruined her life.

Once she got divorced she was miserable. So the family figured she needed a husband. They put ads in the Jewish newspaper.

Her second husband to be, Willi Hartwich was a born gambler. When he came he had a worn suit on. His collar was frayed. He didn't have 5 marks in his pocket. He was a shirt salesman, but a compulsive gambler.

The first thing the family did was bought him new clothes. They took him to a restaurant and bought him a nice meal.



Tante Rosa 5/1882
Heinz 1916-

When he saw Rosa she was wearing diamonds, gold, bracelets, necklaces. He saw the beautiful apartment, and the big business. And he said "I'm decided already. I'll take her."

He was good looking. They were happy together. He must have taken a vow. He never gambled again until my father and Willi were in an internment camp in Marseilles. Then he gambled all the money Rosa sent him.



HEINZ INGA



SOLLY AND ROSA



HEINZ

After her first divorce Rosa became sickly. She never gained her weight back.

Willi and Rosa went to Belgium. When the Germans came in they got separated. Rosa and Willy made it to Marseilles. But they never heard from Heinz. They hired a detective agency. They found Heinz in Brussels. He had survived there among the Oxermans. They wanted him to join them in Marseilles, but he couldn't follow instructions. He never came to Marseilles.

Rosa was very hard of hearing. She had a big mouth. She was very domineering. In 1938, at my grandfather's birthday, Theo came with Manfred, Joachim, and Ruth.

Manfred was 5, Joachim 3. The boys were noisy. Rosa took them by the ears and threw them out. Theo got so mad at Rosa he took his family and returned to Berlin that night.

Senta Cann:

The oldest sister was Tanta Rosa.

She was married twice. I don't remember her first husband.

(Marion says that

Solly was known by the family as der verfloßsener). Her second husband was Willy Hartwich. They were killed in France. They went to Marseilles with us. They didn't have a visa.

We did. When we got on the boat to Casablanca we said goodbye to them. We wrote to each other for a while. Then we didn't hear anymore. We heard from neighbors that they were sent to a concentration camp.

They never heard from Heinz who was in Brussels. We don't know what happened to him.

The second brother was Uncle Moritz who died before I was born.



SENTA CANN:
After Leo came
Ullu, a great man,
the nicest of all
the uncles.
Generous to a
fault. When we



saw him on the street and ran to him, he slipped us 10 marks, just like this, for nothing at all.

FRED MISHOW: Julius was the brain. As a young child he went out and dealed in furs, corn, wheat. He was one of the last ones to leave Biala.



Marion: Julius and one of his brothers were in the German army during World War 1. Within days of arriving at the front Julius suffered a graze wound to the forehead. (He used to show me the spot. He had a little scar. Strangely enough I have a little scar in the same spot from a childhood injury.) He was immediately honorably discharged because he was injured. Head wounds and stomach wounds lead to automatic discharges.

His brother Herman had a minor stomach wound shortly after arriving at the front.

He too was quickly discharged from the army. They were both pleased.

After the First World War West Prussia) became part of Poland. As a result, the family (who were Germans) moved to Berlin.

We know that Fredrika (grandma) died in Berlin in 1919 and was buried in the Weissensee Cemetery.

We know Hannah and Frida were married in Berlin in June 1919. I was told that the brothers were building or buying a house for the parents, for Eduard and Fredricka, but that mother, Fredricka did not live long enough to move into the house.

At some point one of the brothers apparently heard there was good money to be made in Bochum. A few of the older brothers moved to Bochum in the 20s. Later Julius went to Bochum to join them.

In Bochum they did all kinds of business along with Julius' buddy the Rote (Alfred) Solomon (Lieschen's first husband. She was a Catholic girl from a town nearby. When he died she moved to America, to Alameda California. She had a clothing store in Antioch California and was successful. She married another Jewish man, who also died before her. She outlived a total of 4 husbands, all Jewish, and died at a ripe old age, was buried as a Catholic, and left much of her money to the church).

There is a picture of a store in Bochum. The sign on the shop says Seidemann brothers. There are some mannequins in the window and elegant shop ladies outside.

The Seidemans lived in apartments. They were successful. Julius had a "lady" named Hede. She was tall, blonde and kind of elegant according to Grete who worked at a shop where Julius bought things that he had sent to Hede. Julius and Hede did not live together. He "kept" Her in a separate apartment. He bought her furs, linens and dachshund puppies. They sent her to England when the Nazis came to power (the Nuremberg laws were harsh on Christians who were intimate with Jews). Hede was said to be pretty and nice. In England she apparently married a doctor and lived into the early 60s.

Julius never drove. He had a Packard and a chauffer named Shavevinski. His was apparently the first Packard in Bochum. Julius had a cook named Kokacha. (not Jewish. Good food. Very continental). He wasn't religious but was affiliated with the synagogue of Bochum. The brothers donated a torah to the synagogue in memory of their mother.

The rabbi at the synagogue was Doctor David. He also confirmed Grete.

Morris or Hermann was dying (of strep throat) and the brothers brought his long term companion to his bedside and they married before he died.



Julius was much older than Grete but he knew who she was. He knew her dad.

In September of 1937 he saw Grete at services on the high holidays, and he immediately invited her to coffee.

They were married November 17th the same year. The ceremony was performed in Uncle Leo's apartment.

After they were married Grete moved into Julius apartment, where Kokacha was used to running the show. Kokacha didn't appreciate Grete. Some jealousy. Grete was banished from the kitchen and



Kokacha continued to work for the family and was the cook.

Grete's family were German Jews. The family had lived in Germany continually since the time of Martin Luther.

Grete's father was a horse butcher. Bernard Benjamin. He died young. Peter Benjamin of Australia was his relative.

Julius Benjamin was Bernard's brother. Julius was Peter Benjamin's grandfather.

Anna Wasserman was Bernard's sister and Julius sister.

She married someone named Solomon and had two children

Herbert was in Auschwitz at the end of World War 2 and somehow survived along with two other boys from Bochum. He later returned to Bochum, married a non Jewish woman, had some daughters, and is still alive.

Inge went to Manchester England on a kinder transport. Landed with a wonderful family whose children she is close to this day. At the end of World War II she was swept off her feet by a Czech Jewish Soldier named Ervin. They married and went back to Czechoslovakia. Later they moved to Israel. She had a son, a daughter. Her grandson is Guy Guddes. The basketball player.

Grete's mother was Cilly Buxbaum. The grandfather lived in Augsburg and Cilly was probably born in Augsburg. Grete was one of 17 children. (one of whom was uncle Hugo in Florida). 9 sons served in the military during WWI and all survived and returned home Grete attended Catholic grade school and high school. She was allowed to sit outside during catechism. She worked for a while in Augsburg, and then lived with her mother. She was working in a shop when she met Julius.

FRED MISHOW:

Moritz, Herman, and Julius were very close. They were in business together. Moritz died in 21, Herman in 28, and Julius was left with the retail clothing business. Herman was the smartest academically. Julius was the best businessman.

During WWI Julius went to the front. A bullet struck his skull. He was nicked and discharged. After that, Morris and Julius were the only brothers who weren't in the army during WWI. They made a lot of money selling cigarettes and other things. Right after the, war they went back into the clothing business.

Julius was very good hearted. He continued what his brothers had started. He took care of Heinz and Hulda Langewischa. He gave his sister Frieda Jacobson money. He also supported his younger brothers Theo and Bruno.



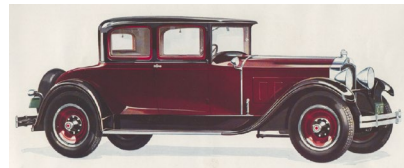
He had a special girlfriend for many years. Her name was Hedy. Olly and Hedy were very good friends. They became friends because they went with 2 brothers. They lived in the same house. Herman lived on the second floor, Julius on the third floor: I knew Hedy very well. She was a smart, chic dresser. She always had the latest style. Whenever she and Julius went into a restaurant or a night club she took her menu and covered the choice of entrees with her hand. All she could see was how much each item cost. She picked the most expensive meal and ordered it without knowing what it was. She had 2 or 3 Pekinese dogs. She liked to walk them. She dressed real elegant in a big hat and nice clothes. She wasn't very pretty. She looked exotic. She was a brunette.

ULLU AND HERMAN

Something happened after Herman died. Julius and Hedy split up. Julius opened an exclusive lady's ready to wear store for Hedy in Berlin. (Berlin was 400 km from Bochum.) He sunk a lot of money in the store. Hedy met a Jewish professional man and married him.

Without a girlfriend, Julius was terrible. He couldn't be alone. He always had to be with somebody. He sat day and night with his sisters and brothers. They couldn't go anywhere without him. So Bruno and Theo decided to get him a girlfriend. Ria knew a sales gal in Essen named Berti. They fixed Julius up. She was his girlfriend until things got bad under Hitler; he was older; he decided to marry Grete.

Julius had a good cook named Kochaka. She had worked for Herman until he died. He also had a chauffer named Shavinski. (He couldn't drive). In 1929 Julius bought a beautiful brand new Packard 4 door sedan, for 40,000 marks. It was a lot of money. He and his chauffer and Hedy went to Berlin where there was a show of beautiful automobiles. They won first prize.



During the post WWI inflation the stores did well. They bought merchandise. 14 days later, when it was time to pay for the merchandise, they could pay for it with a loaf of bread.

SENTA CANN: Then came Uncle Theo. He was the black sheep of the family. He liked the girls too much. He gambled too much. He always had girlfriends. Then he got married to Manfred's mother. They were fixed up. I don't think he was too happy with her. She had money and he needed money, so they fixed them up. He was good looking. She had a little hunchback. She was nothing to look at. But she had a lot of money.



THEO



THEO

Tanta Ruth was a plain, nice, friendly lady. Uncle Theo loved his children. He went to Holland and later to South America. On the Ninth of November they lived in Berlin. After Kristallnacht (November 9, 1938) he just got on a train. With all the commotion he got into Holland. He was in Holland in a camp. He got a visa and passage to South America for his wife, mother-in-law, his two children.

FRED MISHOW: The next sibling was Hanna. Hanna grew up in Biala. She was close with her mother. Hanna stayed in Biala and helped her mother raise the little kids. She later married Max Miskowsky of Bochum. He knew the Seidemann bothers and knew they had a sister.

After WWI, when Max came out of the army he wanted to settle down. He proposed to Hanna. In the meantime Frieda worked for the Red Cross in the hospital. She met Eric, a wounded officer. She fell in love with him. Frieda and Hanna had a double engagement party at Fredrika's brother's house in Alt Uckta, A city near Biala. (The



grandparents were at the time, in the process of moving from Biala to Bochum.) The story goes that Eric was a flirt. He flirted with a cousin who was the daughter of the uncle in Uckta. He danced with her all night. Fredrika was upset. After the engagement party Fredrika had a massive stroke. She died 3 or 4 weeks later.

Jews believe that nothing should cause weddings to be postponed. So, as planned, Hanna and Frieda had a double wedding in Berlin. Then Max moved to Bochum. He worked in the retail clothing business. He later opened a clothing factory, copied after Leo's.

After the inflation was the depression. Times were tough, but everyone managed to maintain their chauffeur, cook, etc.

Senta heard Fredricka was sick for a long time and she hoped she would be alive for the wedding. But she died a few weeks before the wedding at age 57. She was buried in Berlin.



HANNAH

HANNAH AND MAX

SENTA CANN:



Then came my mother. (Hannah). She was a stiff person. You couldn't get too close to her. She was probably warm and affectionate, but she didn't show it. I was the middle child. I always felt that my parents liked my older brother and younger sister better than me.

Fred, the older boy could do things. And my sister was the baby. I always thought I didn't have enough affection. I once told one of my girlfriend's mothers about that. She must have called my mother. And my mother told me "No, you are all loved the same way."

HANNA

For a long time I thought that I was adopted. I didn't have as good a relationship with my mother as I wanted until we came to St. Louis and we were adults.

My father was warmer. He had a boy's pants factory. He did well. I understand they were brought together too, somehow. He was more outgoing, warmer.

When they came to the states my father always wanted to go to the German-Jewish club. She never wanted to go along. She was formal.

When I was a girl we had a governess, a cook, and an upstairs maid.



Max 1940

We had several governesses. They were all friendly and nice. Freddy and I used to play tricks on them. We ran away and they were frantic. We had a good relationship with them all the time. And I always wondered why can't my mother be like they are?



SENTA

Some of my girl friends who were not as well to do were closer to their parents. When supper time came around they peeled potatoes with their mother, and I envied them. But we had a cook. My mother went shopping at the market with the maid.



SENTA

And the cook cooked. We had a car and a chauffer. My dad learned how to drive, but he was afraid to drive. We walked to school. It was 10 minutes away. They city wasn't that big that we couldn't go wherever we wanted to go. Sometimes they picked us up with the chauffer after school.

My father's father was killed when he was 5 or 6 years old. My father was the youngest. He had 2 unmarried sisters who lived somewhere else. My father wasn't that close to his family, but he helped support his sisters. Once in a while, in the summer, we visited them.



Max was born in Johannisburg in East Prussia, from a town close to Biala. Tanta Frieda was born in Johannisburg and the younger children were born in Biala where they made Vinegar from wheat. Fredricka's brothers distributed cigarettes.



Fred is 2 years older than I am and Helga was 6 years younger than I was. When she was born we didn't know anything about it. We went away to my aunt, Tanta Frieda. And we came back in the evening and there was a baby, a red headed baby in a little crib. I was very upset. I said "What is that kid doing here?" For 6 years I was the baby, and suddenly there was another baby. I hated her when I saw her.



The house I grew up was at the end of a dead end street. They always said they were going to change the city and tear our house down, and widen the street. Sure enough, they bombed the house. When we came back to see it, it looked like a different city. The house wasn't there. The street was different. We lived a block away from the synagogue. From our house you could see the synagogue. It was bombed during the war.



FRED

Our house was an apartment building. Uncle Ullu had a lady and men's ready wear store downstairs. We lived on the second floor. Another family lived on the second floor. The maids lived on the third floor, with their families. One was married and she lived up there with her child. The cook lived up there. The chauffer lived at home. The governess lived in the apartment with us.

They were huge apartments. We had a big, formal, dining room. We had a formal living room we never sat in except when we had company. We had a small living room, like a den today. Then we had a playroom for us. My parents had a bedroom with a bathroom. We had another bathroom. Helga and I had a bedroom. Freddy had one. And there was a small bedroom for the governess. And there was a big, big back yard. And tons of kids came and played with us. Before the Hitler times 2 of my best friends weren't Jewish. After Hitler came to power they couldn't play with us any more. I remember visiting my gentile girlfriend once. Her grandmother lived with them. And there was a parade of Hitler's brown shirted followers. And the grandmother looked out the window and said "How wonderful." My girlfriend later became a big Nazi.

fred



BRUNO



JULIUS



HERMAN





Rosa Ullo Hanna



Herman Bruno Theo



PETER

August 1939
Essen -Germany

Edward had a half brother. The brother had fought with his children. We called him the blind uncle. All his children were grown and in the US and he came back to Germany to visit his brother, Edward. He had a \$10 gold piece he wanted to change it into marks. Julius and Herman took him to the bank. After the bank changed the gold piece it had to close because it ran out of money.

In 1925 Edward's sister, Pauline's mother, came for a visit from America. Her last name was Morris. My uncles sent tickets for Edwards's sister and her husband to come to Bochum for a visit.

Summers we always went on vacation for 3 to 4 weeks. At first we went to Norderney, an island by the North Sea.

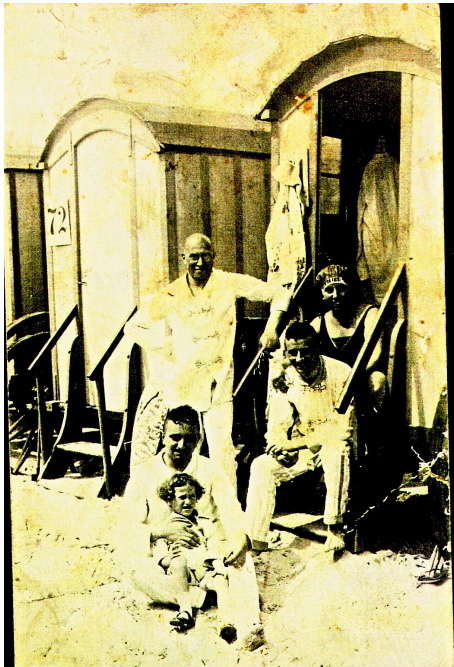


Norderney is one of the seven populated [East Frisian Islands](#) off the [North Sea](#) coast of [Germany](#).

It was beautiful. We used to meet there: my parents, the Jacobsons, my grandfather, and other cousins. We always had about 20 people. The kids had a great time. We stayed at hotels. Sometimes we stayed at little apartments where the maids came along and cooked. We got there by car. My uncle Leo took driving lessons and drove. Most of the others had chauffeurs. The ocean i



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m.



Uncle Solly Tante Rosa
Uncle Herman Uncle Julius holding Heinz

Later on, during the Nazi times, we couldn't go to the fancy hotels anymore, so we went to the small Jewish hotels.

When Hitler came to power in 1933, I was in my first year of high school, at the Lyceum. (The Lyceum was a private girl's school. In Germany you went 4 years to a public school. After that you spent another 4 years in a public school. But if you could afford it you went to a private boys or girls school for 6 or 8 years before you went on to college.)

When we could we sent money to Fred in America. When we were in Belgium and France Fred sent dollars. And we got an allowance from the German government. They took care of the German people in France. Once they occupied the country the French made no distinction



GRETE SENTA RON HENRY



**BACK GRETE RIA SENTA
FRONT MAX JULIUS HANNAH**

Fred Mishow: I was very sports minded. When Hitler came to power the Jewish community was very sports minded. I learned boxing, wrestling, soccer. I was best at ping pong. I was the champion of the whole region of Westphalia. Second best: We had a Maccabia for all the German Jewish sports club. I took the bronze medal in the decathlon. I

was very good in soccer. The first team took me from the youth team. I didn't box or wrestle much.

My folks wanted me to either a doctor or a rabbi. When I was a child we had a big house with a cook, governess, and maid. Our cook, Mrs. Neiwald, was with the family for many years. When she got married they gave her a third floor apartment. She lost her husband and only child during WWII. When Marion's parents opened the dime store they sent Mrs. Neiwald a ticket and she came to the U.S. She stayed for a year, but she was homesick for Germany. So after a while she left.

I played with lots of kids from school all the time. We had a big yard. The school was only a stones throw away. And we always played in our backyard or on the school grounds.



In the family. I was closest to my cousins Peter and Heinz. And there was a boy who lived in our apartment named Heinz Langewiescha. He was my best friend. His mother was a former girlfriend of one of my uncles, uncle Moritz. (Moritz died in 1921 when I was one year old.) The story was that this Heinz was his son. Hulda Langewiescha, her mother. Mrs. Herbst, and Heinz lived on the third floor. We lived on the second floor. On the first floor was S. Gatner and company, Uncle Ullo's store. It was a clothing time payment store.

FRED PETER

Our family always took somebody else's name for their businesses. My father took the name Herbst and company. (Hulda's mother.) Gatner was the name of uncle Leo's brother-in-law. Albert Salomon's company was Thomas and company. That was Lieschien's maiden name.



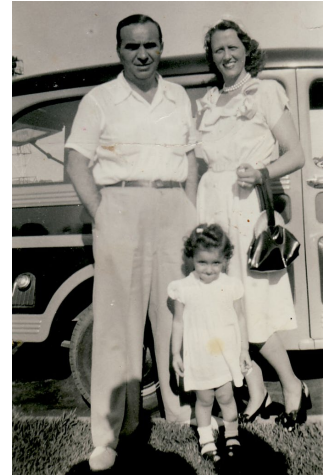
Fred's earliest recollections were of birthday parties and going on vacation. He remembers skiing and sledding in Switzerland when he was young. (in St. Moritz)

Theo was a lady's man. He lived on the 4th floor (above Julius.) He was 19 when his mother died. He liked to carouse and gamble. He married Ruth. On Kristallnacht he boarded a train to Holland and lived in a refugee camp. He later got his wife, children, and mother in law out of Germany.





Bruno, the youngest, quit school. His older brothers made him go to school until he was 16. Then he started working for the brothers. He met Ria in 1929. He was 25 years old. She was young. They stayed together after that.



Under Hitler we lost Leo and Elsa. They could have gone to Indonesia, but they didn't want to. Eric, Frieda. and Inge had a waiting number to go to America. But Eric was born in the free state of Danzig. The Danzig quota was very low. So he never got out. We tried to get Edward, my grandfather, into Cuba. But Cuba required lots of money and we couldn't raise it.



Eduard's father had two wives
 First wife a few children
 2nd wife 3 children.
 They were Eduard, Henrietta, and Yohanna

Henrietta Seidemann the sister of Eduard
 Came to America married a Morris a tailor in New York
 and had four children: Pauline Alex max and Louis
 Henry Morris is Max's son. They live in West Palm
 Beach

EDUARD

Fred's earliest recollections were of birthday parties and going on vacation. He remembers skiing and sledding in Switzerland when he was young. (in St. Moritz)