

**Q:** *This is January the 31st, and it's 5:15 in the afternoon, and I'm sitting the kitchen with Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Schibig, and he's going to help me answer some questions about his heritage. And, I already asked you this, but we'll put it on tape. What year did you arrive here in Tacoma?*

**A:** In 1920.

**Q:** *In 1920. Tell me what route that you took to get here.*

**A:** Well, I had friends living here, and of course, they were doing alright, so I figured I'm going to come over there and try it too, see?

**Q:** *So, someone in Steinen had told you that Tacoma sounded like a place you could make your living?*

**A:** And, another thing, at that time, in 1920, you had to be a farmer in order to get over here. That's what it was.

**Q:** *So, when you left Switzerland, what were you doing when you left Switzerland?*

**A:** I was doing farm work.

**Q:** *And you thought that you could make a better living here in the states?*

**A:** Yes, yes, I thought I could better myself. (Mrs. Schibig talks to Mr. Schibig in Swiss dialect.) When I was 16 years old, I was working on the farm. I got 5 francs<sup>1</sup> a week, and of course, board and room. I had to get myself a pair of shoes, and shoes cost me \$20. In other words, I had to work 4 weeks for the pair of shoes.

**Q:** *Oh, right. And you thought that if you came over to the states...*

**A:** That I could move here and should be able to do better than that.

**Q:** *Now, how many brothers and sisters did you have?*

**A:** There was 12 of us in my family.

<sup>1</sup> Swiss Currency

**Q: 12 brothers and sisters?**

**A: 7 boys and 5 girls.**

**Q: And what did your father, was your father a farmer?**

**A: He was Swiss farming back home, he had a little farm.**

**Q: And did he own the farm?**

**A: Yes.**

**Q: And so, back in Switzerland, would the oldest brother automatically inherit the farm?**

**A: Well, at that time, yes.**

**Q: And you weren't the oldest, were you?**

**A: No. The oldest brother and me, we come over here together in 1920.**

**Q: So, you came with your oldest brother.**

**A: Yeah.**

**Q: So, basically, your oldest brother decided to give up his inheritance.**

**A: Well, there was too much to get that in the first place, there was too many of us. That's what it was.**

**Q: There was just too many of you.**

**A: That's right. And, now the youngest boy, the youngest brother got the farm. Of course he passed away now too, there's none of us left. I'm the only one left out of the bunch.**

**Q: But your youngest brother inherited the farm?**

**A: Yes, he inherited the farm.**

**Q: And, how long did you go to school for over there?**

**A: 7 years.**

*Q: 7 years?*

A: Yes.

*Q: And what year did you finish school?*

A: Finished 7th grade.

*Q: And you would have had to have done work on the farm before you went to school and after you got home from school?*

A: Oh, yeah, I was born and raised on the farm.

*Q: So, you had chores in the morning and chores in the afternoon.*

A: Yeah, had to do my work.

*Q: And, when you finished school, did you go to work for your father, or did you go to work somewhere else then?*

A: No, when I finished school, I went to work for somebody else.

*Q: You worked for someone else.*

A: How much? (Mrs. Schibig talks to Mr. Schibig in Swiss dialect.) 5 francs a week.

*Q: No, not a lot of money.*

A: Not a franc a day, 5 francs a week.

*Q: So you knew someone in Tacoma, and so you came to Tacoma.*

A: Yes. This guy we came to see, he was from the same town where we come from.

*Q: And is he alive today?*

A: No. He passed away here, 10 years ago, something like that or more.

*Q: And, you took the train to get out of Switzerland, you took the train to which?*

A: Took the train to Le Havre in France.

**Q: *To Le Havre? And then straight from France to New York?***

**A:** New York, yes.

**Q: *And then train .....***

**A:** And then train out to Tacoma, Washington.

**Q: *And so it was just you and your brother?***

**A:** Just me and my brother and a bunch of others. There was about 40 of us.

**Q: *40 of you?***

**A:** Yes.

**Q: *So, 40 of you got off the train in Tacoma?***

**A:** Yes.

**Q: *What was the first thing you wanted to do when you got off the train?***

**A:** First (unclear) was ready to eat.

**Q: *You were ready to, alright.***

**A:** Because we were, most of them were sick and we had storm and it looked like everybody was sick on the boat, that ship. Then you don't eat, well, you eat but it don't do you any good, then when we get on solid ground, you're an altogether different person. I could eat, every 2 hours I could eat a big meal.

**Q: *When they arrived here and the people were sick, were they really, I mean, they just needed to get their bearings and get decent food in them? Is that what they needed? And then they would be better?***

**A:** You mean...

**Q: *They weren't seriously ill?***

**A:** Not seriously, not seriously. No, I don't know whether it's seriously or not, I tell you. I was so sick. I was laying in the bunk and we had storm, ship was going up and down, and I made up my mind that if that ship was gonna to go down, I wouldn't even get out of the bunk. I was that sick.

**Q:** *You were that sick. Well, by the time you got to Tacoma, were you feeling better?*

**A:** Oh yeah. By the time I got on solid ground I was ok.

**Q:** *You were alright. So when you got to Tacoma with your brother and these other 40 people, you're wanting to find the Swiss Hall? You knew that the Swiss Hall existed?*

**A:** We knew it from this friend of ours, we knew there was a Swiss Hall here.

**Q:** *And so did you make your way to the Swiss Hall?*

**A:** Made our way to the Swiss Hall. The Swiss Hall was fully occupied. We had to stay in the Jefferson Hotel, which is next to it. That's where we stayed the first couple of nights.

(Mrs. Schibig: Was nobody on the train to pick you up - no Swiss)

**Q:** *So, someone directed you to the Jefferson Hotel and you stayed there for a couple of nights?*

**A:** Until we went out on the job, which was 2 or 3 days after that.

**Q:** *So it took you a couple of days to get it. How did you get hired? How did you get your job?*

**A:** Well, these people, they found out there was a bunch of greenhorns, what you call greenhorns.

**Q:** *Greenhorns?*

**A:** Greenhorns. And, they figured they needed a lot of help them days, it was right after World War here, you see. (Mrs. Schibig talking Swiss.) No, we didn't know when we came over. We knew when we came over here, but we didn't know back home that we had this job here. Of course, they told us back there, they said, "you won't have no trouble gettin' a job as a farmer here in the United States." The farmers, there wasn't too many around seemed like. Well, farm work in them days is different than it is now. You needed more farm work.

**Q:** *So, when you hired on to your first job here, did you hire on as a milker?*

**A:** As a milker, that's right.

**Q:** *As a milker. And, how long did ...*

(Mrs. Schibig: ...And Frank too, the same place.)

**A:** My brother Frank and me both worked at the same place.

**Q:** *Worked at the same place. And how long did you work there?*

**A:** We worked there about 4 months, I guess, 5 months.

**Q:** *And then what did you go on to?*

**A:** Then went to work for another farm.

**Q:** *So, how long were you in the milking profession?*

**A:** Well, it was 15 years.

**Q:** *So you milked for 15 years?*

**A:** 15 years of milking.

**Q:** *So, if you came over then in 1920, you would have milked until about 1935?*

**A:** That's right, yeah.

**Q:** *Did you ever deliver too, or just worked on the farm itself?*

**A:** I just worked at the farm.

**Q:** *Just on the farm. Then what did you do in 1935?*

**A:** In 1935 I came out, moved in here; my father-in-law was living here at the time. Then I worked at the smelter.

**Q:** *And how long did you work for the smelter?*

**A:** Worked for the smelter for about 5 years.

**Q:** *And what did you do there?*

**A:** I was just in the sampling department. They don't take in a lot of territory.

**Q: *Why did you leave there?***

**A:** Well, I got a job, a job come up with the city, then I went to work for the city.

**Q: *And that's when you went to work for the Refuse Department at the city, the Sanitation Department?***

(Mrs. Schibig talking Swiss.)

**A:** That's right. That's where I'm retired from.

**Q: *And you retired in 19..?***

**A:** '63.

**Q: *And how old were you when you retired?***

**A:** 65.

**Q: *Did you drive the trucks around?***

**A:** The later part of it, yes I did.

Side 1 Count 100

**Q: *You did. Those are big trucks to have to drive.***

**A:** Oh boy.

**Q: *They've got to be heavy. You're not a very big man to be doing that?***

**A:** Then, the trucks weren't like they are now. They were altogether different trucks. Then they was hard to handle, them garbage trucks.

**Q: *Right, but picking up a garbage can, you've got to be a really strong person to do that.***

**A:** Oh yeah, oh yeah.

**Q: *You must've, and I mean you're not a very big gentleman.***

**A:** Well, I'd took it up with anybody you might say.

**Q: *Really?***

**A:** I did, I did.

**Q:** *You could keep your own with anybody.*

**A:** Yes sir.

**Q:** *Pick up, that's a hard job.*

**A:** Oh, yes. Now, it's altogether different now.

**Q:** *Did you feel, were you happy working for the city?*

**A:** That was for the city, yeah.

**Q:** *And you were happy working for the city?*

**A:** At that time, we had to live in the city. (Mrs. Schibig clarifying question for Mr. Schibig in English.) Oh yeah, I liked to work for the city.

**Q:** *You did. It was a good job.*

**A:** Good pension system.

**Q:** *Yes.*

**A:** That's what it was. And you got 5 days off a year.

**Q:** *5 days vacation?*

**A:** 5 days sick leave a year.

**Q:** *Oh, 5 days sick.*

**A:** Yeah.

(Mrs. Schibig talking Swiss.)

**Q:** *When you first came to the states then, when you settled, did you settle in a Swiss community? Were there a lot of other Swiss people around?*

**A:** There was a lot of Swiss people living around there.

**Q:** *So when you first came to live here, whereabouts did you live in this area?*

**A:** In Puyallup.



**Q:** *Oh, you lived in Puyallup. And were there other Swiss immigrants living there?*

**A:** The neighbors were, there was a lot of Swiss.

**Q:** *Were there any other immigrant people living in your neighborhood, like Italians or Scandinavians?*

**A:** Oh there was a lot of Swedes.

**Q:** *A lot of Swedes?*

**A:** Yeah. Danes.

**Q:** *So, it was a....*

**A:** And Germans.

**Q:** *Germans. So the neighborhood was made up of a lot of different nationalities?*

**A:** Yes, that's right.

**Q:** *Did you mix, intermix with them a lot?*

**A:** Oh yeah. We Swiss got together quite a bit.

**Q:** *But, did you Swiss get together with the Germans and with the Danes?*

**A:** Oh yes, oh yes.

**Q:** *You did.*

**A:** We mixed.

**Q:** *You mixed. And where did you mix? Did you go to dances together?*

**A:** We went to dances together. (Mrs. Schibig talking Swiss.) Well, we went to dances together and they came along too. I know the Swiss, I mean the Swedes, there was quite a few Swedes that came to the Swiss dances them days.

*Q: What about Austrians?*

A: Austrians, something more like Swiss, it's right next to it.

*Q: So were there a few Austrians around too?*

A: There wasn't too many of them. There was quite a few German people around, of course they're German people too, the Austrians.

*Q: And so would you, did the Germans have German dances that you would go to?*

(Mrs. Schibig speaking Swiss.)

A: The dances, they were real dance in the lights just like the Germans. Really going around. (unclear on this wording) Sure, there used to be a lot of the Germans came down to the Swiss Hall, when there was dances (unclear).

*Q: So a lot of the other nationalities would come to the Swiss Hall for your dances there at the Swiss Hall down on Jefferson?*

A: There was a lot of Germans, Italians, Greeks and all kinds of them came to the Swiss dance.

*Q: When you first came over here then, and I remember you said this yesterday, you did not speak any English?*

A: No, no.

*Q: And so, how long did it take you to become...*

A: Well, my second place, the second place I went to work, had a bunch of kids. They were just a little older than me. That's where I learned the English, with the kids.

(Mrs. Schibig speaking Swiss.)

*Q: Because I'm thinking that before you went to work for the smelter, you must've had to have spoken English very well.*

A: Oh yeah, I was citizen long before that. I became a citizen in 1927.

*Q: You did?*

A: Yeah.

**Q:** *Well, when you came over from Switzerland, did you ever have any intention of going back to Switzerland? Did you think...*

**A:** Well, I did because I had my family back there, mother, brothers, 10 brothers and sisters and of course, yeah, anybody you know, I felt I'd like to go see 'em.

**Q:** *Oh yes, I can understand that.*

**A:** We was a family, we're all got together pretty good, we always, we got along nice with one another. Of course, we had our fights like anybody else, but in the long run, we stuck up together too.

**Q:** *So kind of thought maybe you'd come over to the states, make your fortune and then go back?*

**A:** That was my intention.

**Q:** *And then what prevented you, what stopped you from doing that?*

**A:** In the meantime, I got married in '27. That tied me down.

**Q:** *Was your wife, was your first wife a Swiss lady?*

**A:** She was, yes.

**Q:** *She was 100% Swiss?*

**A:** Well, she was a year-and-a-half old when she come over, but she was 100% Swiss, you might say.

**Q:** *So that tied you down and you didn't go back.*

**A:** I didn't go back until, I did go back. After I got married, I went back just for a little while to see the folks.

**Q:** *Right, to visit.*

**A:** But, just a short while.

**Q:** *When you went back there, did you ever think to yourself, "oh, maybe I'll just come back here to live"?*

**A:** Well, when I came back, --- seems like I wanted to get back the United States.

*Q: You did.*

A: Yeah.

*Q: Why?*

A: It was a better place to live.

*Q: It was a better place to live?*

A: Yeah.

*Q: Do you know why it was a better place to live?*

A: Well, there's more money involved.

*Q: More money. You would get paid better for your services?*

A: You got paid a lot better.

*Q: Well, when you first went back, where were you working when you first went back?*

A: I was milking cows.

*Q: And you could still make more money milking cows in the states than you could milking cows in ...*

(Mrs. Schibig speaking - unclear.)

A: At that time, yes. Oh yeah. Same farm, they all, that last job I had over there in Switzerland before I left for the United States, and there was 2 or 3 more after me that left for the United States.

*Q: How come you picked Tacoma? You could've picked the mid-west like Wisconsin, or you could've picked Oregon as a community?*

A: Or California, lot of (unclear).

*Q: Why Tacoma?*

A: Well, because my friend, my friend we were just talking about was living here before.

**Q:** *Alright, and so, but did you know anyone else that had gone to any other parts of the states?*

**A:** No, no.

**Q:** *Nope.*

**A:** Well, there was a whole bunch of them went to California. They come over on the ship with us but then they went to California.

**Q:** *Yes. From New York they went to California and you came on to Washington.*

**A:** We went down to Washington, a lot of them went to California.

**Q:** *Would you have come out here if your brother hadn't come with you? Would you have come by yourself?*

**A:** No, my brother was with me.

**Q:** *Right. But would you have come by yourself if your brother...*

**A:** I would have.

**Q:** *You would have come?*

**A:** Yes, yeah.

**Q:** *You thought things were better enough over here to have come by yourself if you had to?*

**A:** That's right. That was after World War I. Times was tough over there right after World War I.

**Q:** *Yes.*

**A:** I remember, we went through France, we would see miles and miles of railroad cars and locomotives all shot to pieces from the war.

**Q:** *Because of the war, right. Yeah. The war to end all wars did not end all wars.*

**A:** That war (unclear) right after war.

**Q:** *When you did get married and when you were living in the community, if you were milking cows, what language did you speak?*

**A:** Well, Swiss dialect.

**Q:** *Swiss dialect. So all your cows talked to you in Swiss dialect?*

**A:** That's right. (Laughter)

(Mrs. S. mentions something about their dog here, but very unclear))

**Q:** *This was a little dog that you had?*

**A:** Oh we always had dogs.

**Q:** *And your dog was bi-lingual, what was it bi-lingual? He spoke two languages?*

Mrs. Schibig: "Ja, he understood Swiss."

**A:** When you got kids, you have to have dogs.

**Q:** *Yes, you do.*

**A:** And we always had a dog.

**Q:** *And you have how many children?*

**A:** 3.

**Q:** *Three children.*

**A:** Yeah.

**Q:** *And I think you said 2 boys and a girl?*

**A:** Yes, yeah.

**Q:** *And you have how many grandchildren?*

**A:** We've got 12 grandchildren.

*Q: 12 grandchildren. And how many great-grandchildren?*

A: 4 great-grandchildren.

*Q: 4?*

A: Yeah.

*Q: How old is the youngest great-grandchild?*

A: 3 months.

*Q: 3 months. I remember you telling me that yesterday and I did write it down. Do your 2 boys and your girl, do they speak German, do they speak Swiss?*

A: No, they don't speak much anymore. They kind of got away from it.

(Mrs. Schibig shows me a picture of their younger son and his family who live in California.)

*Q: What beautiful girls. That's a handsome family. Very, very nice. When you were growing up though, you spoke with the boys and your daughter, you spoke Swiss in the house?*

A: Well, yeah. Grandma, on my wife's side couldn't speak English, in fact she was hard of hearing, so she was Swiss and she never caught on to the English language because she could never hear it. Then she was living with us; of course the kids, the oldest one when he started going to school, he couldn't talk English. But then that didn't take him long to pick that up.

*Q: Right.*

A: Then Margaret, the youngest, she's the youngest one (unclear) talked to one another, I got a kick out of her the way she was trying to talk to Grandma. She got into the American language and had a heck of a time to read the Swiss language.

*Q: Yes, I think after you don't use it for awhile you kind of start forgetting it, don't you?*

A: Yeah, yeah.

*Q: Where did your children go to school?*

A: At the Holy Cross.

**Q:** *Holy Cross?*

**A:** Yeah.

**Q:** *That's associated with the church?*

**A:** Yes, yeah.

**Q:** *Did they go to school with any other immigrant kids, any other immigrant children?*

**A:** Not that I knew of, to my knowledge.

**Q:** *Not that you know of, okay. When you moved over here, and as you were raising your family over here, tell me about some of the Swiss values, some of your beliefs and some of your values. The one thing that I think seems to be really important to you is your family. That your family is a very important part of your life.*

**A:** Oh yes, that was you might say, the most important part as far as that goes, yeah. Your family.

**Q:** *How did that compare when you were living over here and raising your family, compared to how when you were living in Switzerland and you were, you know, and your mom and dad were raising all of you "gang" of kids?*

**A:** There was 12 of us in my family, 12 kids. No running water, no electricity, no washing machines, no baby-sitters.

**Q:** *No.*

**A:** We made it alright.

**Q:** *You must've been a very tight, close family.*

**A:** A tight, a healthy family, because believe it or not, there never was, I never saw a doctor in our house on account of sickness.

**Q:** *Right. And, when you were over here in the states and you were raising your two boys and your daughter, were you say that you were still a tight, healthy family?*

**A:** Well, they had more leeway than we had. They got a better deal as far as that goes.



**Q:** *You mean they were more spoiled and they got given more things?*

**A:** They weren't spoiled too much, 'cause then they actually had a better upbringing you might say. I don't know whether they call it upbringing or not, we had a good upbringing by our folks, but then they had a little more than what we had. (Mrs. Schibig speaking - unclear.) Their work didn't, like where I come from, our work was waiting for us when we came home from school. We had to get after it. Which these here, they didn't have to do that. I was doing all the work for them.

**Q:** *You were doing it all for them. But I still sense that even when you were over here in the states, that family was very important to you just as it was important...*

**A:** Oh yes, yeah. Family life was important.

**Q:** *Just as family life was important to your mom and dad and all 12 of you when you were growing up in Switzerland. Can you think of anything else that is of value of yours or the Swiss culture that you were able to, or maybe were not able to keep or something that you were able to, anything else that comes to mind that was important to you?*

**A:** To be honest with you, I'm well satisfied.

**Q:** *You're well satisfied. That really comes to the next question. Did you ever regret moving to Tacoma?*

**A:** No, never have. Nope.

**Q:** *And because of what reason?*

**A:** What reason? The nicest weather.

**Q:** *Work seemed like it was pretty easy to get too. You didn't have a hard time getting a job?*

**A:** Never had a hard time getting a job. Always I got a job.

**Q:** *Do you think that when people hired you and they knew that you were of Swiss descent, that they said to themselves, "these are good workers, these are people that work hard"? Do you think that that ever came into play when you went for a job, your heritage?*

**A:** Well, you talk about Swiss. There's a lot of farmers, American farmers that want Swiss people working for them because they're more or less born and raised with the cattle, see. There's a lot of them wanted to have Swiss fellows there all the time for milking cows or something like that.

**Q:** *Right. But when you went to apply for the job, say, at the smelter, or for the City of Tacoma, do you think anyone in the employment office looked at your application and said, "I like to hire Swiss people because they're really hard workers and they like to do a good job"? Do you think that ever had any bearing upon getting a job?*

**A:** As far as I know it. I don't know, I haven't heard anything about it. I guess I always got along with everybody, wherever I worked I got along with everybody. It seems like everybody was satisfied and so was I.

**Q:** *What were the major obstacles that you did face when you moved to Tacoma?*

**A:** The language.

**Q:** *The language. Mr. Marty said the same thing.*

**A:** Yeah, the language.

**Q:** *Anything else, any other major obstacle that you can think of?*

**A:** No. In fact, I liked it here. I like to drive an automobile; because I was here 3 months before I could drive an automobile.

**Q:** *When you were milking then, did you have a car when you were milking?*

**A:** I got my first car in 1924. Yeah.

**Q:** *A Model T?*

**A:** Model T.

**Q:** *Was it a new one?*

**A:** Got a new one. 1926 got a new one.

**Q:** *And you got your license in 1924?*

**A:** Yes. My drivers' license, 1924.

**Q:** *Why was it important to own a car?*

**A:** Well, we had girls in our life you know.

*Q: Girls? Girls, oh.*

A: (unclear) girls.

*Q: For girls, okay. So you could go out to the dances and meet girls.*

A: And the drivers' license at that time, I bought the car from a car dealer and the agent and the boss, they had to fill out a form for me that I can drive a car. They sent it in, then I got the license through the mail like that.

*Q: Oh you did?*

A: Didn't have no examination or nothing.

*Q: No examination.*

A: No.

*Q: Did you have to finance this car or did you have the cash to buy this car?*

A: No, it was \$200.

*Q: For your first car?*

A: For my first car, yeah.

*Q: And so did you have to go finance it through a bank?*

A: No, I paid in cash.

*Q: You paid cash?*

A: Oh yeah, yeah.

*Q: Good. And when you bought your new one, did you pay cash for it?*

A: I paid cash again.

*Q: How much was a new Model T in 1926?*

A: 1926. I don't know, \$700 something like that. Around there I wouldn't be able, I wouldn't know much something like that, seems like.

**Q:** *So, you'd saved up a lot of money then. In 2 years, you'd...*

**A:** Oh yeah, I saved money. There was no place to go. When you're on the farm, you didn't have an automobile, there was no place to go, you have to stay there, you have to make money whether you want to or not.

**Q:** *And so you must've been really good at saving it then, too?*

**A:** Oh yeah, I was the saving type.

**Q:** *Since you've been in the United States, have you felt like you've faced any discrimination because you are of Swiss descent?*

**A:** No, never had to.

**Q:** *What about during the second World War, did you ever feel that you've ever faced any discrimination?*

**A:** No. I was...

**Q:** *During the second World War, I was trying to just look back and see where you were working during 1939. In 1939 --- you worked at the smelter?*

**A:** I worked at the smelter then, but I was married and had 3 kids. That's what kept me out.

**Q:** *Right. Okay, yes. Because you were a citizen.*

**A:** If I wouldn't have the family, I'd have joined the Army.

**Q:** *But you were never, no discrimination at all when you worked at the smelter or when you went to work for the city.*

**A:** No, no discrimination.

**Q:** *How did the church play a role in your life when you first came to the states?*

**A:** The church?

*Q: Yes.*

**A:** Well --- We didn't go to church too much at that time because there was no transportation and then too far away. Some churches were too far away. We was busy every day, every day out of the year milking cows, and they've got to be milked twice a day. So there wasn't very far you could go in between, in between time.

*Q: So, when you first got here, then the church was not really a very important part of your life?*

**A:** No, it wasn't.

*Q: Did it ever become an important part of your life?*

**A:** Later on. The kids went to Catholic school and we got more involved at that time. I had more time too; when I worked at the smelter I had more time. Up to that time, we didn't have the time.

*Q: That is true. Cows have to be milked morning and night. Let me ask you a few questions about some of the societies that you have as a Swiss people. I understand that there are 4 different societies in existence today: The Swiss Men's Club, The Women's Club, the Swiss Sportsmen's Club and the Swiss Aid Society. Do you know why these societies were formed, and what the purpose was for the societies?*

**A:** The Aid Society, that's what we're talking about (unclear)?

*Q: Yes.*

**A:** They do help people. That's why they call them the Aid Society.

*Q: And they would help a Swiss person today?*

**A:** Oh yeah, yeah. They're still helping. (Mrs. Schibig: Send all the people at Christmas, a present.) I don't how much they give them, \$20, \$30? They get a certain age they give them. The Aid Society gives them a Christmas present like that. I know some of them don't even want it, don't even like it. They don't, not that they won't like, but they don't feel they need it. (Mrs. Schibig speaking Swiss.)

**Q:** *They don't really..*

**A:** The sick or somebody like that. I know it. A kid got in an accident, a pretty bad accident, the Swiss Society really helped him out with quite a little money. That's what it's for.

**Q:** *Do you know, did the Swiss, join any labor unions or any political organizations?*

**A:** No. When I worked for the city I joined the Teamsters Union.

**Q:** *Did you have to join the Teamsters?*

**A:** Just about, yes. If I wanted to get some benefits out of it. If you didn't belong to the Union, you couldn't work no overtime. We worked overtime during the war.

**Q:** *So you didn't, you had no objection to joining the union?*

**A:** No, no objection whatsoever.

**Q:** *And you stayed a member of that union for all of the time that you were with the city?*

**A:** When I was with the city. Before that I was with the smelter's union, I should've brought that up.

**Q:** *Oh, you were with the smelter union also? And which union was that?*

**A:** What year you mean?

**Q:** *Which union? Do you remember?*

**A:** United Smelter Workers I believe it was.

**Q:** *Did you ever hold office in any of these two?*

**A:** No, no.

**Q:** *But you were a card-paying member but you never held office?*

**A:** That's right, card-payer and dues-payer.

**Q: Dues-payer. Did you vote on, during the elections, did you always vote?**

**A: Yeah, we would, yeah.**

**Q: Did you, we talked a little bit about this. Did you ever join any other immigrant communities, like the Scandinavian clubs or anything? Did you ever join those?**

**A: No, never joined, except the Swiss Society. That's the only one I joined.**

**Q: Yeah, you joined the Swiss Society. How long were you a member, how long have you been a member?**

**A: I joined in 1922. I'm really the oldest one there too.**

**Q: You're the oldest member.**

(Mrs. Schibig speaking Swiss.)

**A: Yes. And of course the oldest and belong to the Society longer than anybody else.**

**Q: Longer, alright.**

**A: And I'm the oldest in years too, for that matter.**

**Q: Oldest member plus oldest in age?**

**A: That's right.**

**Q: And have you ever held office in there?**

**A: I was Vice President for a number of years.**

**Q: Do you hold any office in there today?**

**A: Not today, no, no.**

**Q: When's the last time you held office? What year?**

**A: 1968 or something like that, something like that.**

**Q: *Did most of the Swiss, or did all of the Swiss people that came over here come over, basically, did they all go to work at least, first of all, on the farms?***

**A:** No, there's a lot of mechanics.

**Q: *Some mechanics?***

**A:** Some mechanics.

**Q: *And, where did they go to work?***

**A:** Boeing, some went to Boeing, and then there was a little place downtown, down here, So (unclear) or something like that. Yeah, there was another one down the waterfront, I don't remember the name of that. There was quite a bunch of them came over for that.

**Q: *But primarily they came over to be farmers?***

**A:** Primarily as, but it's like I say this, after that they could move, they didn't need to be farmers. But at the time I come over, you had to be a farmer otherwise you couldn't get over here.

**Q: *Right.***

**A:** After that, there was mechanics and (unclear) all kinds of trades come over after that. Carpenters, bricklayers, and stuff like that.

**Q: *Did you have any problems with immigration to come over to the states?***

**A:** No, no trouble at all.

**Q: *No problems.***

**A:** No, no.

**Q: *You just filled out some forms and you came over?***

**A:** That's right, yeah.

**Q: *Have you ever been members of any other organizations at all besides the Swiss and the two unions here?***

**A:** No. Them are the only organizations I ever belong too, the only ones.



**Q: *Let's talk about the Swiss Hall. I bet you spent many an evening in there at a dance, or a wedding reception or a birthday.***

(Mrs. Schibig: Many times he helps cleaning, roofing or all kinds of things.)

**A:** Oh yeah, lots of dances, a lot of good times there.

**Q: *Why was the Swiss Hall originally built?***

(Mrs. Schibig comments Mr. Marty would know.)

**A:** Why was it built? Primarily to build a Society, which they did. Then they bought that hall, I suppose they bought it reasonable at the time; a place where they could have their doings and where they could have the meetings. That was in '89 yeah, '99? 100 years. Let's see, you got that thing in there? 100 years. There was 100 years...

Side 1 Count 500

**Q: *In 1889?***

**A:** 1889. The state was 100 hundred years. The state entered and the Swiss Society the same year.

**Q: *The same year. So, I did talk to Joe today about how the facilities were used, and did you ever actually stay in the Swiss Hall in the rooms upstairs?***

**A:** Yes.

**Q: *You did?***

**A:** Yes.

**Q: *And how long did you stay for?***

**A:** Oh, 2 or 3 days. 2 or 3 nights or so?

**Q: *Where did you get your meals when you lived in there?***

**A:** Well, a lot of restaurants. No, they used to have one there, but not very much. There was one guy that ran the restaurant down below in the same floors as the saloon is. But then that didn't seem to last too long.

*Q: But the saloon stayed?*

A: Then there was a lot of restaurants in the neighborhood there, you didn't have to go very far.

*Q: So there were lots of restaurants in the area that you could go and eat at?*

A: Yes.

*Q: Were the rooms comfortable upstairs?*

A: They were comfortable, yes.

*Q: The saloon was already in existence there?*

A: Oh yeah, it's been in existence for I don't know how long.

*Q: For a long time. Did you go down there occasionally, into the saloon?*

A: Go down there and get a glass of beer. But that was during the prohibition days.

*Q: And that was the next thing I was going to go into, was the prohibition. When prohibition was on, what did you drink down there?*

A: Sometimes drinking stuff we wasn't supposed to.

*Q: I bet!*

A: I'll tell you a little story here. I knew a friend of mine, he told that around the Swiss Hall, he took in another partner, a friend of mine. Of course, they sold cider. What they call "hard cider", which was against the law. Well, they got raided, my friend was there when they got raided, and they took the sample downtown and then of course there was way too much alcohol. He said well he didn't know, he bought that stuff when it was sweet, he didn't know it was going to turn like that and that was the end of that.

*Q: Oh really? So he got off without, he got off?*

A: He got off.

*Q: Who made this hard cider?*

A: Anybody. There was quite a few Swiss making it.

**Q:** *But it was made by the Swiss?*

**A:** Well, others too I guess, but mostly Swiss, mostly Swiss.

**Q:** *Was there any beer there?*

**A:** Near beer - there was what they called "near beer", there was nothing to it.

**Q:** *There wasn't any alcohol in the beer?*

**A:** No alcohol. Normally there was no alcohol in it. Near beer, I guess, what they called that.

**Q:** *And that's what they call it. But, you couldn't get beer that was brewed by, I mean any of the Swiss people?*

**A:** No, at that time you couldn't. It came back in 19, what was it '34 I believe.

**Q:** *I'm not sure of the date. So when you went down there, you'd have a hard cider?*

**A:** I never went for a hard cider, I never did.

**Q:** *You didn't?*

**A:** I had beer. We had beer. Nothing to it.

**Q:** *You'd just have the near beer?*

**A:** Just had that beer, that's all they had. Of course just like I say, I never did go for the hard cider at that time.

**Q:** *If you'd have asked for hard cider would he have served it to you.*

**A:** Oh yeah, they would if they know you.

**Q:** *If they knew you.*

**A:** Otherwise they wouldn't serve you.

**Q:** *Only serve it if they knew you. 'Cause they didn't want to get caught.*

(Mrs. S. interjected some comments here)

**A:** That's right. No, not that I know of, I never seen anybody drinking coffee. Drinking wine later one.

**Q:** *Were there any ladies that frequented that bar, or was it just the Swiss, just men?*

**A:** No, there was ladies in there too. They was running the place, helping out.

(Mrs. Schibig speaking Swiss.)

**Q:** *There were ladies. I'm thinking back in the 30's here, late 20's, early 30's.*

**A:** You're talking about the customers.

**Q:** *Yes.*

**A:** Oh there was some in there once in awhile. There were some women in there.

**Q:** *Do you know where the money came from to purchase the building? The building that was originally there was bought from a Swiss gentleman, a Swiss man. And then, so....*

**A:** Wilds, I guess wasn't it Wilds?

**Q:** *Mr. Wilds.*

**A:** I knew him.

**Q:** *You knew him?*

**A:** Yeah, yeah, I knew him well.

**Q:** *So, where did he get the money to buy that building in the first place?*

**A:** Well, I don't know where he got that building. Of course, stuff was easy to get in them days.

Side 1 Count 600

**Q:** *So, did he come over from your home town?*

**A:** No, not from my home town, but he was originally from Switzerland.

**Q:** *So did he come over with any money that he could have bought it with?*

**A:** He didn't have any money, he was more or less a carpenter.

Side 2 Count 000

**Q:** *So Mr. Wilds was a carpenter when he first came to the states?*

**A:** Yeah, yes.

**Q:** *And, he purchased that building?*

**A:** He purchased that building as far as I know. He must've, because ... at that time.

**Q:** *Do you know what he purchased it for? What reason he purchased it?*

**A:** I have no idea. I think, actually, I think he was, he had a saloon I believe at one time, when he sold it out.

**Q:** *Oh. So maybe he purchased the building to run the saloon?*

**A:** I supposed that's what, I couldn't tell, but I think that was the intention. And then the person they added on to it, built to it, bought some more.

**Q:** *And that was the other thing. I mean, money didn't seem to be any problem for you to finance the building, and it seems to me there was a quite a bit of money actually donated up front for building the new building on.*

**A:** Well, they, I don't know how they... What it was, I remember there was still in existence, they had what you call you putting \$500 or \$200 was a lot of money 80 years ago.

**Q:** *Oh yes.*

**A:** But then I remember even in my time, there were still members that had a share, what you call shares. They bought a share for \$200 or \$400 or whatever it was. That's the way they built that building.

**Q:** *Oh, you bought shares?*

**A:** Yeah.

**Q:** *Were you paid back then?*

**A:** It was paid back, it was paid interest, and I remember one particular party, and just the one that I know of, they was trying to buy him out; trying to give him back his money and he didn't want it, he wanted to leave it there because it was drawing more interest than at the bank.

**Q:** *So members bought shares and that's where the money came from to build the new Swiss Hall?*

**A:** Yeah, new. That's the way I figured it.

**Q:** *So do you think any money was financed on that through a bank at all?*

**A:** I don't hardly think so, I think it was all private.

**Q:** *Alright. Obviously, there was a real commitment from the Swiss to put that building up?*

**A:** They all got together and they stuck together and sold shares like, whatever. ... I remember, just like I say, they were still buying them back, the certificates more or less as a certificate.

**Q:** *By what year had they bought them all back so that the building was free and clear?*

**A:** The last one I'd say, in the 30's; the last one.

**Q:** *So the building was free and clear then.*

**A:** Free and clear, yeah.

**Q:** *And in the meantime, money was raised because you would've paid some money to stay in those apartments there.*

(Mrs. Schibig speaking Swiss.)

**A:** Well, you see, then rented it out, that's what it was. Then they started the Swiss Society, and you had to pay every month.

**Q:** *Dues to the Swiss Society?*

**A:** Yeah, yeah.

**Q:** *And, also, the tavern has to have paid some rent too?*

**A:** Oh yeah.

**Q:** *The saloon.*

**A:** Yeah. Well, the tavern, at that time there was, the Swiss had the whole works, he had the tavern and the apartment upstairs and the rooms.

**Q:** *Right. And Mr. Marty I think managed all of those for awhile, didn't he?*

**A:** Yeah, yeah, yeah. He had it for over, for 10 years. He was running it.

**Q:** *Right, and he had the bar for 10 years. He and his wife ran it for 10 years.*

**A:** That's right. We had to have the bar and the upstairs all together, you couldn't have just one of them. You had to have the whole building, let's put it that way.

**Q:** *Well, then who managed the rest of the building? Did always the person that owned the saloon manage...?*

**A:** He was the manager.

**Q:** *Managed the rest of the building?*

**A:** Yeah, yeah.

**Q:** *When did the Swiss Hall start to decline as far as Swiss people not living there?*

**A:** Well, see then nobody come over from the old country anymore. Everybody that come over here, they joined the Swiss Society. Of course, joined and some of them dropped out. But then pretty near every one of them joined it at one time or another.

**Q:** *So, there were not the people coming into America from Switzerland?*

**A:** There was a lot of people coming in from Switzerland, and then it's just like I say, in the later years, they didn't, nobody come over here anymore, so they couldn't get any new members.

***Q: When did people stop emigrating to the United States? When did it almost stop, where the Swiss immigration stopped?***

**A:** I don't know when the last of them.

***Q: Are we talking before or after the 2nd...after the second World War.***

**A:** No, after the war.

***Q: After the second World War.***

**A:** To be honest with you, we had better times over in Switzerland than we had here, after the war.

***Q: After the war. You mean from an economy perspective?***

**A:** Yes. Better. Years ago, she came over here. When did you come over, in '65? Just for a visit. A lot of money in Switzerland. (Talking to Mrs. Schibig.)

(Mrs. Schibig talking... Come to America for vacation. My sister, she was 20 years here (unclear) all the time when you come over? When you come over? For a visit (unclear). I come over with these 2 girls for 3 months.)

***Q: I'm going to ask you a few more questions too in just a second about that, but let me just ask another question about the Swiss Hall and then I'll get back to you. So, some time after the second world war.. Some time then, after the second world war, the Swiss people stopped emigrating to the states.***

**A:** Stopped emigrating.

***Q: And then what happened to the rooms at the Swiss Hall then?***

**A:** Well, the inside rooms, the city condemned them.

***Q: They condemned them?***

**A:** They couldn't use them.

***Q: Who condemned them?***

**A:** The city of Tacoma.

***Q: The city condemned the rooms?***

**A:** Just the inside rooms. Not the outside rooms.



**Q:** *Just the apartment rooms?*

**A:** The apartment rooms, yes.

**Q:** *Why did they condemn them?*

**A:** Because there's no protection, fire protection. I think that's what it was.

**Q:** *Fire protection. And about what year was that?*

**A:** Oh that's not too long ago? Maybe 15 years ago.

**Q:** *15?*

**A:** Maybe something like that. I wouldn't say for sure, but that's about what it is I think, around 15 years. They could only rent the rooms, the outside rooms.

**Q:** *The outside rooms.*

**A:** The inside rooms was condemned. They were condemned, they couldn't use them.

**Q:** *Alright, so the city condemned the inside apartment rooms, because there was no fire protection, but you could still rent out the outside rooms?*

**A:** Oh yes, the outside was rented all the time.

**Q:** *And who were the outside rooms rented to primarily?*

**A:** Well, I know there's some who worked at the brewery who rents it. I knew 2 or 3 guys, worked at the brewery and they was rooming up there, had a room.

**Q:** *But it would be then, primarily non-Swiss people that rented the rooms?*

**A:** That's right, yeah, oh yeah.

**Q:** *When the University of Washington bought the Swiss Hall from you, from the Swiss Society, were there people still living in these outside rooms?*

**A:** Oh yeah, still somebody living in them outside rooms.

**Q:** *There were still people there and then the University of Washington asked them to leave.*

**A:** Yes. I'm quite sure there was somebody there yet.

**Q:** *Why did the Swiss Society not sell the hall earlier on? I mean, did it ever cross your minds that you know, that this building?*

**A:** It was making money.

**Q:** *It was making money.*

**A:** Making money. The Swiss Society made money all the time. That hall belonged to the Swiss Society. Made money all the time, every year.

**Q:** *When is the last year that there was a dance in the Swiss Hall?*

**A:** When is the last dance here? Not too long ago. We weren't there. (Mrs. Schibig speaking Swiss.) Last year. No, I think it's longer than that, could be about 2 years ago.

**Q:** *Just before the University of Washington bought the building?*

**A:** They already bought it. That's when they bought it and you couldn't use it any more.

Side 2 Count 100

**Q:** *Right. So was your dance just before they bought it or just after they bought it?*

**A:** I think just before, just before. I think that was the last time.

**Q:** *So there were still functions going on in the hall regularly?*

**A:** Up 'til that time.

**Q:** *Up to that time?*

**A:** Yes, up to that time.

**Q:** *You would rent it out for different occasions?*

**A:** What's that?

**Q:** *You would rent it to different people?*

**A:** Yeah, yeah. And the Swiss Society too. We had meetings down there. The men's had the meetings down there, the ladies had the meetings down there. Not the Sportsmen's Club, but the Aid Society had their meetings down there.

**Q:** *Up until...*

**A:** Up until it was sold.

**Q:** *Up until it was sold. So between the rental of the hall and the outside rooms that could still be rented out, you were still making money on this property, and that's the reason that you didn't sell it?*

**A:** That was rented until the property was sold. Now it's empty, there's nothing in there, except down below in the tavern.

**Q:** *Right, in the Swiss Hall Tavern. But up until the time that you sold it to the University of Washington it was making money?*

**A:** Making money, making money every year.

**Q:** *Did you have to sell it to the University of Washington?*

**A:** Oh yes.

**Q:** *It was a compulsory purchase?*

**A:** They bought, that certain district, they bought everything in that district.

**Q:** *You had no choice in the matter.*

**A:** No choice. If we didn't sell, they'd condemn it. What it was, we was lucky. We was lucky because the old electric appliances, sewers, being so old, the City of Tacoma was good to us. We decided they were good to us for a long, long time, so was the Fire Dept. They could've condemned that building for the building the way it was for a long time ago, they wanted them to, but we was doing our best, trying, we was trying to keep it up with whatever they told us to do, we done it. So, just otherwise, then later on this thing was going around that it's going to be sold so that nothing was going to happen to it anymore, see. We had to pay - I don't how much we had to pay to get the asbestos out of there.

**Q:** *Oh, you removed the asbestos?*

**A:** We removed the asbestos.

**Q:** *What year did you do that?*

**A:** I think, I don't know, the government or whoever done that, just a year ago or so, a couple years ago, after they bought it.

**Q:** *Oh it was removed after they bought it.*

**A:** After they bought it, yeah. We had to pay for it. The Swiss Society had to pay for it.

**Q:** *You had to pay for it!? Did the University of Washington know that there was asbestos in there?*

**A:** Oh yes, yeah, they knew it.

**Q:** *How much did this cost the Swiss Society?*

**A:** Well, it didn't cost them as much as they felt it would. I don't remember how much it cost, but I remember it didn't cost as much as they thought there was going to be.

**Q:** *Why did the Swiss Society have to pay for it?*

**A:** I don't know. That's your government.

**Q:** *That's a good reason. Do you know anything about the tenants that used to rent space from you, like the Carlisle Distributing Co.?*

**A:** In my days, there was rooms rented upstairs, what you call an inside room from a Spanish War vet.

**Q:** *From the what, from the what?*

**A:** Spanish War.

**Q:** *Yes.*

**A:** That was in the '90's wasn't it? In 1792 or something like that, and he was a vet, and he had a room rented up there for years, up in the Swiss Hall.

**Q:** *Oh really.*

**A:** Yeah.

**Q:** *But there were other tenants in downstairs like the Carlisle Distributing Company? They rented warehouse space down stairs?*

**A:** Yeah.

**Q:** *Are you familiar with any of the tenants that rented space there?*

**A:** No I'm not, I didn't know the people. Never knew the people. Joe could tell you all about it.

**Q:** *What would you like to see happen to the Swiss Hall?*

**A:** What?

**Q:** *What would you like to see happen to the Building?*

**A:** I'd like to see them leave it the way it is.

**Q:** *You don't want them to renovate it?*

**A:** The insides renovated, they could do the inside, but the outside, leave it the way it is.

**Q:** *Oh yes. So leave the outside the way it is, but the inside ...*

**A:** You have to leave it like that. They can't do nothing else.

**Q:** *Because it's on the historical registry.*

**A:** That's right.

**Q:** *What about the inside? Can we?*

**A:** The inside can be changed. Needs to be changed if you want to make something out of it.

(Mrs. Schibig speaking Swiss.)

*Q: Except the hall?*

A: Except the hall and of course, the beer parlor, that don't need to be changed either. We spent a lot of money on that place. He must've got a long lease from the University.

*Q: I don't know.*

A: They must've.

*Q: They must have. Have you been in the new Swiss Hall Tavern?*

A: I've been in there just for the fun of it, saying that we were in there, her and I because I haven't been in it for years.

*Q: Did you go and have something to eat?*

A: We went in there and had something to eat. My old place, of course it's altogether different than it was at the time.

*Q: Did you tell the people there who you were?*

A: Tell the people who we are, and tell them how many years I've been going in there.

*Q: Mr. Marty was saying that the part on the corner, there was a barber shop there. There was a grocery shop on the corner, a grocery store on the corner.*

A: There was barber shop at one time, a grocery store, I remember years ago I had a hair cut in there too, the barber shop there.

*Q: So you'd like to see again, leave the outside as it is and the hall part as it is, but you wouldn't object to remodeling the rest of the building?*

A: But you know that's the nicest floor in Tacoma, that Swiss Hall dance floor. The nicest floor.

*Q: Oh, it's beautiful. The way the woodwork, the diagonal on the corner, it's beautiful, and the wood around...*

A: Oh you saw it already.

**Q:** *I've been inside, yes. And the wood around it and the stage. It's a beautiful room and it needs to be renovated.*

**A:** Oh yeah, oh yeah.

**Q:** *I mean it needs to, just be fixed, you know, just that little bit fixed up, but left so that...*

**A:** I don't know what the University's going to do with it. They're going to change it over and lease it to somebody or what?

**Q:** *I don't think they have made final plans yet.*

**A:** They have to do something about it because there's a lot of money involved there.

**Q:** *There is, but I don't think they've got final plans. They've talked about making it a multi-cultural center.*

**A:** Oh yeah.

**Q:** *I think their plan is to do something, but I don't think they really have got formulated exactly what.*

**A:** I don't know. I don't know what they'll do. They bought it for some reason.

**Q:** *Oh sure.*

**A:** Of course, that whole section there was bought, up to "K" Street I believe. In the hall, the dance hall... The picture there, they were going to take it out. Like I say, I haven't been in here for a long time, the dance hall.

(Mrs. Schibig speaking Swiss.)

**Q:** *The mural?*

**A:** The big lake in there?

**Q:** *Yes, yeah.*

**A:** It's right where we come from. They thought they're just going to take that out somehow.

**Q: *How would they do that?***

(Mrs. Schibig speaking Swiss.)

**A:** Take the whole side out of it I guess. There's two guys painted that picture and I knew both of them then. This is years ago.

**Q: *It was one of the owners of the tavern at one time, wasn't it?***

**A:** Yeah, one of them owned the tavern.

**Q: *So it was two men that painted that mural? Two men that painted the picture?***

**A:** One of them, his name was Albert Felchlen(?) and the other one is Baker.

**Q: *How do you spell his name?***

**A:** F-L-E-K-LIN, I believe.

Side 2 Count 200

**Q: *And the other person?***

**A:** The other guy was... I knew him well, what was his last name now? You can find it, anybody.... I don't remember. Everybody would know about it, who painted that picture there. They made a nice, good job of it.

**Q: *Yes, it's beautiful. It is a beautiful painting.***

**A:** They always figured well, we'd have to take the wall out of there to save you the picture.

**Q: *I think you would, I think you're right.***

**A:** That's not, that's painted right on the wall.

**Q: *Let me ask you a few questions if I can do. (Addressing Mrs. Schibig.)  
You came over to the United States in 1965?***

**A:** Ja<sup>2</sup>

2 "Yes" (German)



**Q:** *And you came over here to marry Mr. Schibig.*

**A:** I come to visit my sister.

**Q:** *You came to visit your sister.*

**A:** Ja. I came with (unclear).

(Mr. Schibig clarifies):

2 girls. They was on a, stayed over in Switzerland for awhile and then for a visit, the 2 girls came here to Tacoma. We are in Switzerland, both are in Switzerland and then he goes home. Stayed there about a year over there, I guess

**Q:** *So was your sister living in Olympia when you came over to visit her?*

**A:** Ja.

**Q:** *And how long did you stay with her?*

**A:** 3 months.

**Q:** *Did you meet Mr. Schibig during this time?*

**A:** Ja. I saw him before, long time when he was in Switzerland, '52.

That was '52, yeah. (Mr. Schibig clarifies.)

He received my brother and that I come home this time and saw him.

I almost wrote a letter to my wife, my first wife, in '52.

**Q:** *And that's when you first met him?*

**A:** Ja.

**Q:** *And then you met him again when you were staying with your sister?*

**A:** Ja, I first saw him when they come to the church.

(unclear) Felchlen and Bagher, B-a-g-h-e-r. Was his last name.

**Q:** *Okay, so Mr. Albert Felchlen and Mr. Bagher. And so you stayed 3 months and you got to know Mr. Schibig. But then you went back to Switzerland?*

**A:** I went back to my job.

**Q:** *To your shop?*

(Mr. Schibig clarifies):

**A:** To her job. She worked for a lady there for years and years, a housekeeper.

**Q:** *Oh, you were a housekeeper? So you went back to Switzerland to your job as a housekeeper, and then how long before you went back over to Switzerland?*

**A:** June, you come. In September I go back. (Mrs. Schibig.)

About 10 months or so after that. (Mr. Schibig.)

**Q:** *So, about a year? I'm sorry, how long afterwards, I missed that?*

**A:** September. June you come. (Mrs. Schibig.)

Back in June, yeah, September. (Mr. Schibig.)

**Q:** *September of which year, of '65?*

**A:** '66. '66 yeah. (Mr. Schibig.)

**Q:** *You went back, so in September of '66, you went back to.*

**A:** No, she came back in June of '66. (Mr. Schibig.)

**Q:** *In June of '66.*

**A:** You go, come to Switzerland, I go back in September. I come here in June and go back in September. (Mrs. Schibig.)

That was in '65. (Mr. Schibig.)

Ja, and then in '66, you come in June, ja. (Mrs. Schibig.)

**Q:** *So you went to Switzerland in June of '66 and you got married over there?*

**A:** In August. The second of August. (Mrs. Schibig.)

**Q:** *And then you came over to the states in September. And you spoke no English? How did you manage?*

**A:** I don't know. (Mrs. Schibig.)

Well, I don't know to be honest with you, even the time we came over here, there was an awful lot of people spoke German. For instance, on the railroad, it seemed like everybody could talk German. The conductor, I know that guy could talk German like, just as good as me if not better. (Mr. Schibig.)

I came down to the store, Piggly Wiggly, huh, and long time ago must (unclear). (Mrs. Schibig.)

Oh yeah, Piggly Wiggly stores are going back in. (Mr. Schibig.)

And I could not understand the, how much, is the cost (unclear) and (unclear) how much (unclear) and the employee says, "what are you saying?" (Mrs. Schibig.)

He was Swiss too! (Mr. Schibig.)

He was a Swiss. (Mrs. Schibig.)

**Q:** *Oh, he was, so did you end up taking care of the transaction in Swiss?*

**A:** Ja. One time I went to buy a tongue and was not on the things, no tongue. (Mrs. Schibig.)

You mean you want to buy (unclear). (Mr. Schibig.)

A tongue, a (unclear) tongue. And I told the meat man and I said, "can you give me a ..." (Mrs. Schibig.)

She wants to buy the tongue. (Mr. Schibig.)

**Q:** *So you just stuck your tongue out. Well, did you go to any English classes at all?*

**A:** Oh I was in Switzerland ja, for a couple weeks.

**Q:** *But did you go to any English classes when you moved here to the states?*

**A:** I was here too, but then. (Mrs. Schibig.)

She went through the citizen class. (Mr. Schibig.)

I have (unclear) to school first. (Mrs. Schibig.)

Oh, you went to school. (Mr. Schibig.)

I went to school. You come in and then you have a (unclear). You can no more drive. Then the teacher was close to us, he picked me up and then he got (unclear). (Mrs. Schibig.)

That was for your citizens' papers. (Mr. Schibig.)

Nein<sup>3</sup>, nein. (Mrs. Schibig.)

Wasn't it? (Mr. Schibig.)

Unh uh. (Mrs. Schibig.)

Oh yeah. (Mr. Schibig.)

Crosby. He was a nice teacher but then he goes away for visit. He told me (unclear) it is not good to go with the bus. One time when (unclear) was on the bus and a black man, we was 2 girls together just on the bus. (Mrs. Schibig.)

**Q: *On the bus?***

**A:** Ja, and he said, "girls, you look for work?" and I cannot understand English. (unclear). We told the teacher when we come, we told the teacher (unclear) all the time you come, not speak English. And it's not good for girls in the evening to the bus. (Mrs. Schibig.)

It wasn't so bad, it's a lot worse now. (Mr. Schibig.)

**Q: *This is true.***

**A:** One time we have to change bus, we have to wait at a school. We have sometimes, we have to run for the bus until downtown, we have to wait for the other bus. (Mrs. Schibig.)

**Q: *So you were going to a language school to learn English? Ok. Did you ever work, did you work outside the home at all?***

**A:** Never have, no. She worked for me all the time. (Mr. Schibig.)

**Q: *Oh I bet you made her work hard too!***

**A:** I did. (Mr. Schibig.)

We have a big garden and a big house. (Mrs. Schibig.)

3 "No" (German)

**Q:** *Well, now I'm going to ask you this, and I shouldn't ask you in front of your husband. Do you ever regret coming over to the states?*

(Mr. Schibig translated my question into Swiss.)

**A:** No. I have a home and he needs somebody too. Was good for both.  
(Mrs. Schibig.)

She was working for somebody else all the time. Didn't have her own place.  
(Mr. Schibig.)

**Q:** *Right.*

**A:** And working for somebody else, and you're always more or less, you're not yourselves. Now this way, she's her own boss, which she wasn't before.  
(Mr. Schibig.)

**Q:** *Right.*

**A:** She decided to even boss me around. (Mr. Schibig.)

Side 2 Count 300

**Q:** *Good for you, good for you.*

**A:** It was no good for her either. It was no good for me to stay single.  
(Mr. Schibig.)

**Q:** *Absolutely, absolutely. People need each other, people need company.*

**A:** I would've started drinking if I'd have stayed alone. (Mr. Schibig.)

**Q:** *Oh, I don't think so.*

**A:** Oh yes, I would. I had a start already, but then I quit. (Mr. Schibig.)

**Q:** *Now say that one more time.*

**A:** Many Swiss told me inside was the best to (unclear) ...(Mrs. Schibig.)

The best thing for me to have happen to me. (Mr. Schibig.)

**Q:** *And the best thing for you, too, and the best for you.*

**A:** Of course, you're lost. You lose your wife, the kids had their own families.  
(Mr. Schibig.)

Louie Imhof, who was the honoree at the birthday, he said, "I'm so alone in the evening at home". A lady can't help but then the man is lonely, much more than a lady man is alone: (Mrs. Schibig.)

It's no good for neither one of them, a man or a lady, or a woman. (Mr. Schibig.)

**Q:** *I agree, I agree. Well, I'm going to turn this off.*