

HHA# 00549
Interviewee: Blum, Morris
Interview Date: November 18, 2004

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The University of Houston

Interviewee: Morris **Blum**

Interviewer: Shannon Sheena

November 18, 2004

Houston, Texas



Sheena: This is Shannon Sheena interviewing Morris Blum on November 18, 2004 at his home on Braesvalley.

Blum: I came to America in 1949, and lived with my uncle Louis Blum in Nashville. My wife was of the museum and she likes to work helping people. We wanted to help them since we had the assets to help somebody else. But she always is involved in some community affair. She likes to do and help, just like Tina likes to do the same thing.

Sheena: Yes, she is always involved in something.

Blum: Yes, and she volunteers the same way. So, she is very much involved in it and we enjoyed living in Houston. Our children are okay, and we are very sad about Glenda because we did not realize what it means for parents to lose a child. We hope it never happens again to anybody, but that's the way life is.

Sheena: What were your parents' names?

Blum: My father's name was Elimelech Blum. My mother's name was Brana. We were all together seven children. My oldest brother was Shmulick and I were the only survivors.

Sheena: No one else from your family survived?

Blum: No, Lee, my brother, and I were the only ones. The rest, all of them got killed.

Sheena: The one that came with you here?

Blum: My brother came, yes. He died here. He had his own store on the [furniture] freeway.

Sheena: Oh yes, I have seen it down on the Beltway.

Blum: Yes.

Sheena: How old were you when you were sent to the concentration camp?

Blum: That is a very good question. When they took us to the concentration camp at Auschwitz, I was about 22 years old and Lee was 2 or 3 years younger than I am. I took them [siblings] away because I saw how the Nazis would send children to the gas chambers, and they were not going to live. I am talking about Lee, my brother, and the younger one also. The Nazis took them away and they went to the gas chambers. [Ann Blum elaborated on this story, adding that Morris hid his brother Lee behind his

back and hid a younger sibling inside his coat. However, the Nazis saw the younger sibling and dragged him away].

Sheena: When did you last see your parents?

MB: When we came to Auschwitz in the winter of 1941. I remember it was very, very cold, and they got killed the same day probably. It was like a death factory. My older brothers and sister, and my parents all disappeared in the gas chambers.

Sheena: Did they come knock on your door? How did they round up the Jews in your town?

Blum: They told all the Jews to come to the middle of the city and they loaded them up on trucks.

Sheena: Would you like to add any other information to your interview? Thank you so much for your time.

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