

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum
Oral History Volunteer Collection
Survivor/USHMM Volunteer Project

Summary of Interview with
MARTIN WEISS
RG-50.106*0134

Date of interview: August 26, 2000
Interviewer: Margaret Garrett

Notes: This interview focuses on the interviewee's post-Holocaust experiences. The summary follows the order in which the interviewee relates his story and thus does not necessarily present the interviewee's experiences in chronological order.

Tape 1 of 2/Side A

After the war, in 1945, Martin Weiss (né Meier Weiss) was living in the Czech Republic with his sister. He strongly wanted to leave when the Soviets gained power after the Communist victory. In 1946 he received papers from a distant cousin to move to America. Martin moved to Carteret, New Jersey, and quickly began working at a butcher shop so that he could be self-supporting. English was not one of the six languages that he could speak, but he desperately wanted to speak it like an American. Before his marriage in 1957, he bought a store to start a living.

Tape 1 of 2/Side B

Martin was not happy living in Carteret, where he felt that as an immigrant he was not treated equally. He and his family moved to Madison, New Jersey, and he opened a meat store, which flourished for 25 years. It took Martin three years to walk through the doors of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, but after the initial shock he decided that he wanted to volunteer and give more meaning to what visitors see. He hopes that with more information about the Holocaust out, there will be fewer deniers.

Although Martin was observant growing up, he lost his faith during the war. Today he practices most of the Jewish teachings and attends services for his son, daughter and grandchildren. He lives his life Jewish, but in many respects his thinking is non-sectarian.

Tape 2 of 2/Side A

Martin is happy that Senator Lieberman was nominated to be vice-president because he thinks that he is a capable man. He was impressed with the movies "Schindler's List," "Life is Beautiful" and "Sunshine."