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Project name: Bosnia Project
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Transcribing Conventions:

Use of square brackets [] indicates a note from the transcriber.
Use of parentheses () indicates a conversational aside.
Use of dash - indicates an interruption of thought or conversation.
Use of ellipses ... indicates a discontinued thought.
Use of quotations “ ” indicates reported speech.
Use of *italics* indicates emphasis.
Use of underline indicates movie, magazine, newspaper, or book titles.
Names of interviewee and interviewer are abbreviated by first and last initial letters.
Time is recorded in time elapsed by the convention [hours:minutes:seconds].

[00:00:00]

SH: We do not need a 'Hello' [slight laughter]
KH: Okay, so um, I'm Kate Horigan and I'm here interviewing um Senida Husic. Is that- am I pronouncing your last name correctly?
SH: Yes ma'am, that's correct.
KH: Wonderful. Um, it's October 21, 2015, and we're here at the Kentucky Museum in Bowling Green, Kentucky. Um, and thank you Senida for, for um, sharing your time tonight.
SH: Absolutely. I'm so-

KH: Um, so just at any point, um, whatever you feel is important to talk about, um, please feel free to, to take control, this is your interview. Um, so what, what you think is important is most important.

SH: Okay.

KH: Um, so if you would start, um, would you just tell me a little bit, kind of basic information about yourself? Your age, your profession.

SH: Okay. Uh, so my name is Senida Husic, I am twenty-nine years old. Um, I moved here in, uh to Bowling Green, Kentucky, um it was the first place that we lived in the states, and that was back in 1998, August of '98. Um, I went through school, went to college, I actually graduated from Western. And uh, I worked in retail while I was in college, so that kind of got me into the retail business, and um, over the years I moved up within the uh field, and I just opened my own boutique, um, actually a few months back. So that's what I'm doing right now. Um, and I've got three sisters and one brother. Um, they're all in the school, doing their own little thing, um, and that's pretty much it. We live in Bowling Green, we've always lived here. We haven't really wanted to move anywhere else be- the demographics are v- very similar to Bosnia, and, and the geographic, um, features I guess you could say, are very kind of homey, so we've always just kind of considered this our home. Really, it's, it's the one place that we've lived the most, um, than all the other places that we've actually had to move several times through the course of our early lives.

KH: Great, thank you. Um, so, so you mentioned that you came um to Bowling Green in, in 1998, um, let's back up a little bit and if you could tell me, um, where your family is from originally, uh where you lived, where you were born, and uh what, what you remember about that.

SH: Absolutely. So, um, my family is from Eastern Bosnia. Um, we belong to uh, a bigger city ordinance of Bratunac. Uh, my mother is from Zapolje, which is a, a village close to Pirići, which is the village where my father is from. Uh, and when my mother got married, of course she moved to live with my father is Pirići, and uh, shortly after they got married they actually lived in the city center of Bratunac [00:02:38] Um, they lived there for a couple years, until, um, my grandparents, late grandparents, um needed more help on the farm, and so my father decided instead of building a house in the city, he's actually going to build a house that was ab- a hundred meters from my grandparents' house. Um, and so we lived there until 1992, uh, when the war broke out. Actually, the wars kind of, kind of started breaking out in '91. Um, it was later in '92 that we had to completely uh abandon our houses because, um, the Serb forces were moving in. Um, and prior to that we kind of left for a week, or two weeks, sometimes even months when it really dangerous to be in that area because, um, areas around us and our area were being bombarded. Um, they had like, um, machine guns that were just- I mean you had bullets flying everywhere, so you really couldn't stay. So we really had to keep an eye on when it was okay to live there and not. Um, in '93- is a- we moved f- several different

places, in '93 is when we actually went to Srebrenica. Um, that was uh, uh the next big town, next to Bratunac, and a lot of these similar towns uh and smaller villages, as they were ethnically cleansed, just like my, my village was of Pirići. As they were ethnically cleansed all these people we kinda, um, hoarded into Srebrenica. It was the only place that they really could go because we were, being in Eastern Bosnia, and Eastern Bosnia bordering with Serbia, the, the Serb forces were moving in and their- it was their plan to have a siege of Srebrenica and all of its occupants. So we lived there until 1995, um, when Srebrenica was over ran by Serb forces and that, that's like a huge chapter of our lives that we could talk about for, for days really, uh but essentially what happened is that the women, children, and the elderly, um, sought refuge, and the UN camp of Potocari, which Potocari is like a smaller town, in the same ordinance as Srebrenica. [00:04:51] And they knew what was- I mean people- you would see Serb forces and tanks moving in through the hills and around, I mean um at the very, I guess at top of the city, is where the Serb forces, people, citizens could see that they were coming in, moving in through town, or, or through the, um, streets that were leading into the town, so everybody just, somehow like started moving from the top of the um city into the bottom, which is towards- the bottom is where Potocari were. So, um, men, women, and, uh, or, uh children, women, and elderly moved into the UN camp, and uh, the men, um, they did not trust or they did not believe that the UN forces would keep them safe, because we've lived in that city for two years now, and you know, the UN forces and UNPROFOR really did not do much for us as far as keep us safe and protected. We, we weren't able to get any medical aid, we weren't able to get food, I mean we were just cut off completely. We didn't have electricity, people lived without electricity, people had to, um, construct generators. Um, we used, um, river and mills to generate energy, I mean we- my family didn't have electricity, we didn't have means to those generators at all, so it wa- it was very tough, kind of living in that situation. So they knew that the UN forces wouldn't be able to do much for them, so what they decided was to just group together and go through the woods, and this is where the genocide happened, or it- it's part of the genocide. A lot of people were killed in Potocari, um, men, women, and children. There were still some men that when- that hoped that, you know, the UN would keep them safe, and then of course the men that were killed in, in the hill the woods surrounding Srebrenica and Potocari are also- so all of that kind of orchestrates the Srebrenica genocide of 1995. [00:06:53] Um, and after that, um, we finally were- my father made it, a lot of my family did not, and my brother was a little boy so, you know? They thankfully didn't get him, but they took my grandfather in Potocari, and he never made it, um, to safety. So after we were kind of transported, um, in buses. Actually, my family we were transported in like um- and I don't if we don't have those here in the States, but they are trucks, um, kind of like pick-up trucks but they're huger, they are like labor trucks, where people, like they transport rocks and things like that. So, literally [slight laugh/sigh] my, my sisters, my brother, and my mother, uh, my other family, we're in this back of this truck and we had

that um the tarp all around, and we're talking July. Um, during the day it gets really hot, like Bosnia has really hot summers and it's like dry, so people were like suffocating, people were dying from heat strokes and things like that. So we, we were able to make it um thankfully safety, and we- a few days later our father was able to make it to safety as well. And after, um, we were kind of reunited, we didn't have anything. We had no money, um, we had no family to go to, no place to live, so we lived in schools for a while, because they, like they didn't- the school system stopped, and what they did is they took schools and they made like little camps where people can live, and you know, have shelter. And so we moved to several different places after that, and my father, with help of some men that he knew, was able to find an old abandoned **turbine** house and me, and my other uncles, um, who did not pass, um his family, we lived in that one house for several years, until we later on uh moved to another place as well. So there was a lot of moving. Um, back in Bosnia, I mean, li- as I said earlier, in, in the U.S. actually I spend [clears throat] majority of my life, in the States. So I was twelve when we moved, I'm twenty-nine now, so I've already, you know, lived the majority of my life here, but I don't think we've ever spent, or I personally, you know, in my course of my life, have spent five years in our house in Pirići and that's it, everywhere else we've just had to move. And that kind of takes a toll on a family in general, and kids in particular, because you don't have that opportunity to create your, you know, your friendships that last for a very long time. And even if you get attached to someone, you end up just never seeing that person again. So it was a, it was a lot of moving, but finally in 1998, my, my parents saw that this is a county that was devastated by war, um and a county that- it seemed like it wasn't in good hands because after the Dayton Peace Agreements, um, what they did is they put three different Presidents to run the country, and they all alternated every two years, and really, uh, you know, just speaking from a Bosnian Muslim perspective, that did a, a huge injustice to us, um, because what had happened is that thousands and thousands of our family were killed. [00:10:11] So instead of being the majority that we were, we were still a majority but by a much, much smaller percentage. And now, you know, all of that we knew like who wanted to kill the Bosnian Muslims, and it's not just to kill them, like ethnically cleanse them. What they did during the war, they, they first they looted our houses, our house especially. Like they looted our houses, um, then they set them on fire. Like they would go through cemeteries and graves and destroy monuments and destroy graves, so essentially they wanted to just erase us from existence as if we never existed. Um, I mean they burned our libraries, our mosques, they destroyed our mosques. And this is one thing, and one fact that you will know if you, you know, do some research and just read about the, the um, documentaries of the war, there were so many mosques that were shelled, that were um bombarded, that were looted, that were burned to the ground, but Bosnian Muslims never burned any churches, any synagogues, we never touched any of that stuff, um, because, you know, even though you pray to God in a different manner, you- we still believe that that's, you know, God's house, so we wouldn't do that. But, so,

essentially what the, the point of the war was to just completely delete the Bosnian Muslims out of existence. And so that, that was, that was really kind of tough to, to um, to understand. I mean imagine being a kid, you know I was six years old when all of this happened, and you know, knowing that somebody that doesn't even know you but they want to kill you, and not just you, you're entire family, and not just kill them but like make it as if though you never existed. So it, it was, it was a lot going on, just to say the least, [slight laugh] a lot going on. Sorry, I maybe went like a little bit more into detail than you guys-

KH: That's-

SH: -expected but-

KH: -perfect. No, no.

SH: -it's just like one thought leads to another, and then it just-

KH: Absolutely.

SH: -leads to another.

KH: No, I- that's, that's wonderful. Um, so the last thing you mentioned, that's really interesting is that you were saying you're a six year old kid trying to understand all of this, so how did your family talk to you about it?

SH: Um, you know, for us, and, and I think it was one thing that you tried to understand yourselves, but really to have those conversations with your parents, there was no time for that, if that makes sense. Uh, because we really- they didn't try to explain to us, you know, "Oh, these are the bad guys." You just understood that. I mean, you know, somebody who's trying to kill you, um, is a, is a bad guy. But really what we- we try to lead normal lives as much as possible, um, my father and my mother, um, they would send us to like schools, and, and they were like especially like religious schools because the school systems, you know, collapsed, and in a lot of different places they were non-existent. In Srebrenica, which this is amazing, I mean if you think about it the city was under siege, completely cut off from the rest of the world, yet we- the schools that we were able to utilize, we actually created like a school system of our own. So, I- this is like a v- a resilient people, is, is really what this is because most other, you know, ethnicities and other counties, they would just be like, you know, "We need to like get out." We wanted to get out and we had people working on that, but the teachers we had in Srebrenica we got them, uh, you know, motivated and, and got them organized. "Actually, okay we have a school, let's go ahead and put everybody together, that's okay, but we can teach them something." And that's really how, I mean, the two years that I spent there, I went through, I believe it was my first and second grade that I finished in Srebrenica, and you know going and, and just so you imagine the quality of, of, of the education that we got, when I- when we got into Tuzla, which that's a city that was not affected by war in a sense that it wasn't under siege, um, you know, there was no fighting in- on its grounds. When I came bac- when we got into Tuzla, I was able to continue school, still get good grades, still know everything I need to know to pass. And I mean in

college I graduated with honors, so that just shows you that like we've really, like we had our priorities because we knew, and it kind of gives you motivation I guess, a- an- and more drive to really be the best that you can, because I mean you had these people who wanted to, you know, delete your entire existence and you're gonna be like, "No you're not. No you're not. I'm gonna teach my kids, I'm not gonna allow them to, you know, have a lapse of two years with no education, I'm going to do everything I can to give them as much of a normal life as possible." [00:15:14] So, you know, that's what my parents did, you know? My dad, he wasn't in the army because um, I, I don't call it an army, I will call it a civilian defense force, it really what it was because my father went to the army, but he went to the Yugoslavian army, back when it was all Yugoslavia. And he got, you know, his training because it was mandatory. It was a Communist country and it was mandatory, you had to do that. But after that, you know an army is someone who is trained, who is well organized, who is well equipped, you know, and all of that stuff, the Bosnians were never any of that. It doesn't matter what city they were in, they were never, you know, trained, well equipped, and organized, it was really just, "We are going to defend ourselves, and we are going to do everything we can, with anything that we have." So what they did is like they would keep um- Bosnia is very hilly, so we used to the hills to our advantage. They would keep like uh guard, and, and they would alternate and switch shifts, and that's what a lot of the time my father did, is he would go to this and then, you know they'll cook for the guys that are keeping watch, you know, they will, um, sew clothes and all of that, I mean, they just really had to do with what they had, and what they didn't have, they had to make ends meet, some way. So, you know, my father did that, and my mother took care of us, the kids. Um, we went to school like, um, Sunday schools was very important so, so that we can learn our religion and, and to know what, you know, this is something that they wanna kill you for, but your religion is, you know, just as good as Christianity. And as far you, you know, the principles it teaches, it's almost identical. So, you know, you should not be ashamed of it, you should not question it, because, you know, thinking as a kid, you would be like, "Well why? You know, what's wrong with us that they want to us?" So, they, they made sure that we had as much of a normal life as possible.

[00:17:19]

KH: So before um Srebrenica-

SH: Mhm.

KH: -and you were- that was when you were living in the house that was near your Grandparents?

SH: Yes.

KH: Um, it's sort of pre-conflict or as the conflict was-

SH: Mhm.

KH: -beginning, um, what was a- a, so talking about normal like, your-

SH: Yeah.

KH: -what was, what a normal day then, when you were living in that home? And what, what kinds of things did you- what kinds of games did you play with your siblings? Or- ?

SH: We wa- uh, I, I was younger, and I remember some things but not a whole lot. Um, but I remember that we loved watching Tom and Jerry. [KH laughs] That- and we had this TV, it was a black and white TV, and like the brown boxy ones, you know what I'm- the wooden ones. Um, so, so we had that, and I know- I remember we, we liked to watch that. Um, our father read to us, he liked to re- you know? Because I, I was young and my little siblings were even younger, um, so he would read to us. I, I loved playing in the snow, um, that was one thing. And then just helping my mom around the farm because, you know, we lived on a farm and we had a lot of farms, but next to our house we had a cow, and we had chickens, and then my mom always had like a little tomato garden, and pepper garden. And I remember my mom, she loved coffee, and I don't know why, like when she would go out to work in the garden, she would have a little bit of coffee *beans*, and we would buy like coffee beans that have not been like baked or anything like, because you have to bake them first. She would bake them and that was one thing that a Bosnian woman had to know how to do to be like a *good*, well-equipped Bosnian woman is that you knew how to bake your coffee beans to perfection. You can't burn them, you can't under bake them. So she would do that and she would have like a little, little satchel, or even- they had da- uh, *dimija* was- uh, um, I don't know if you know what *dimija* is, but it's like a skirt but it actually is closed at the bottom. So essentially it's a skirt that's closed at the bottom but it has two like holes for your legs to come out.

KH: Oh okay.

SH: Yeah, so, and what she would do is she would tie it into that, and she always like carried that with her and I would go with her. And you know she taught me how to cook eggs when I was five years old, and she want- she needed me because, you know, she had five kids. At that time she only had four, because my youngest sister was born in Srebrenica, but, you know, she had four kids and it's kind of Bosnian tradition that the oldest, especially if it's a girl, if it's a girl, that she learns the household work, you know, that she learns how to take care of the kids, and to help her mother, so that's what I did, you know? And my mom, one thing I've been trying to get her to do lately and she is just like, "I don't have the patience for it anymore," is that she would do, um, like make pictures with a needle and thread, what is that called? It- it's um, like, it's kind of like quilting but it's not quilting?

[00:20:26]

KH: Not embroidery, but I know what you're talking about.

SH: Yeah.

KH: Uh, needlepoint? Is that the- ?

SH: I, I think it's possible because they would get like this big huge sheet, and it's just like a, it's like a web-y thingy, and y- you'll have your yarn and stuff, and you will just- and she made the most beautiful, I mean people, she would do people, she would do landscapes

and everything. And all of that is gone, of course, we don't have like a single one just as memory, but that I, I remember, you know, helping her out with a lot of that. So, I mean, that was, that was normal life. I didn't go to school because I was still too young, um, and I just remember doing little things around the house [background talking] and around the farm.

KH: And, um, what- and you lived very close to your grandparents, what were they like?

SH: Mhmm. Well my grandma died young, um, and I actually, I think of remember the day before she died because I was over her house and I think she wasn't feeling well, and this is the only thing that I remember. Um, she wasn't feeling well and she told me to go get my mother, and when I got my mother I remember them telling me to get out of the house and they closed the door. So I guess that was like, you know, at the very end, um, of, of her, you know, of her days. But that's one thing that I, I definitely remember. And as far as my grandpa, I really don't remember him that much, and I don't know, I guess I was just really that young, but I just don't remember too much. I remember kind of what the houses looked like, and I knew that there was my grandparent's house and then right next to them was another house, um, they call it the 'new house.' There was an old house and a new house, and the new house is where my father's youngest brother and his wife lived at the time. And then our house was maybe like, I would say maybe eighty meters from the new house. And I just knew there was like a, a water uh fountain that we had created so that we could have like drinkable water, and my mom and I would wash clothes in that, because you had to do everything. I mean it's- I miss it, and sometimes I wish that I still lived in the country because life is, is just different kind of life. I feel like it's more quality and more enjoyable than today, because today like I spent the whole day running around, doing so much stuff and then at the end of the day it's like, I didn't find a lot of fulfillment in all of those things. I feel like it's just all very motorbotic kind of thing, like, you know, you are just going with the flow and working and it's- and you're not really like enjoying it, I guess, so.

KH: Hmm, yeah.

SH: [slight laugh]

KH: That sounds like a very nice childhood [both laughing] the-

SH: Yeah, I mean-

KH: -the, the early years, there.

SH: Yeah, it wa- it was definitely nice and sometimes I think, "What would my life- " and I, I ask my mom, "Like what would my life be like? You know if, had, had the war never happened? You know, like had I lived there." She's like, "Well, you would've gone to school just like your father did. You would've walked a lot [KH laughs] to get to the bus station so that you can go to school, but you would've done that." And she's like, "And you probably would've been married by now." [both laugh] You know? Because being ninety-nine and, and not married and, and a woman, in Bosnian culture is, is a little shocker. It- especially back then, now it's okay, you know? Now, i- it- it- i- it's more

common that before, but, you know, and especially in like a country setting, village setting, women got married a lot younger because, you know, they didn't go to college necessarily, you know? They would go maybe to, uh, elementary school or maybe middle school, and that's kind of where things stopped right there, and then, you know, the next that you look forward to in life is marriage and family, so.

KH: Hmm.

SH: She's like, "You would've been married by." [laughs]

KH: How old were your parents when- or was your mom when your parents got married?

SH: My mom was sixteen when she got married.

KH: Wow. That's-

SH: She was very young. Um, my father, he is fifty-six now, my mother is fifty-one, so there's just five years difference b- essentially when he got done with high school and he was done with his army training, he's like "I'm getting married." And that's what most men did back then because the army training was mandatory, it was mandatory army, I don't know if it was like two years or something like that, I don't remember really, but I know that in Bosnia you go to high school but high school differentiates in length, depending on what you decide to do. Like if you're doing something like business and marketing kind of thing, then it's a different length. But if you're doing something, uh, machine operators, which that was very pop- like it's what my dad did. I think he did like eight years, and then three, instead of the standard four that we have in the States. So they, they kind of gear it a little different over there.

[00:25:09]

KH: So I feel like I have a, a much better sense now of what life was like in that first home-

SH: Yeah.

KH: -and then you mentioned living, was it in, in the same home in, um, in, uh, Potocari- Potocari? Porto-

SH: Potoc- uh it's Srebrenica. Potocari was where the co- the camp was at, the UN camp.

KH: Okay, okay.

SH: Um-

KH: But that, but you were there for a few years?

SH: Yeah.

KH: So what was daily life like there?

SH: In Srebrenica, it, it was very different.

KH: Yeah.

SH: Um, so in, back in Pirići, which is where our house- we'd just started building a house, and uh this one thing that I will always remember because through life we're struggled a lot, um, just with safety, with shelter, but not just that, with finances. I mean imagine being a family with five kids, you know, and having to kind of provide for all of them, um, it, it was tough, but my mom says that back before the war, like we were very well off, even though we live in the village, my father had an amazing job. Um, he worked in

coal mining, but he had a very good position, and back, you know, in that region of our county, coal mining was like the top of the jobs that you could possibly have, um, because Bosnia has a lot of, um, silver mines and aluminum, and things like that, that people, you know, would work, and those were very well paying jobs. So we were- if you look at Bosnian houses the kind of wealth is determined by the size of the house. So, you know, a single level is like, "Oh you know, it's either an older, older house or you're just, you know, very modest with your spending," you know? A two-story house is like, "Oh, you know, they're, they're fairly to-do, you know? This and that." Our house had three levels, so you know we were doing good, and we didn't even get to finish it. That's another heart-breaking thing, like our house was in progress and it was looted, it was destroyed, it was burned, so, yeah. Um, in Srebrenica we actually lived in the building, and um, we lived in an apartment on the fifth or the fourth floor, I'm not really sure but one of those. And it was a, I want to say it was a three bedroom apartment, and we- one room was our room, for my family. The other two rooms had other families living there, and that's how we spent our, our lives there. Um, we didn't have anything at first, and actually, no it was a two bedroom apartment, uh because we lived in the living room. So I remember the women, there was- we were the ones that had the stove in, in your room, so imagine like let's say this is the living room, and back in Bosnia living room and kitchens are kind of the same thing, they're like, you know, the, the main room. And so, you know, you have your life but then people are coming to like use the stove to cook because, you know, they share that with you, so you didn't have any privacy. And the other two bedroom, they had like I think one on the right side had this older man and older women, and they loved to play poker. [slight laugh] I remember that! [slight laugh] They would- that's how they, that's how they kept sane and, and you know, kept the time passing is that they would play poker and there was- there's another game, and I don't know how it translates to English, but it's called uh Žandari in Bosnian, and there, I think the, the joker and twelve. Uh, what's twelve, like the number twelve, what does that stand for? It's not, uh, there's a king, there's a queen, and there is something else?

KH: The Jack, maybe?

SH: Maybe. I, I-

KH: Or Ace? Oh, the Ace. No?

SH: It's not ace, but it's Jack.

KH: Okay.

SH: Jack. Um, the game is about the Jack, and I think-

KH: Okay.

SH: -the Jack is like the most important. I don't quite remember, but I know that they played the games. And then the other people, I don't remember them so much but I remember mom telling me that they don't like us very much.

KH: Huh.

[00:29:18]

SH: And I think it's because we had a lot of kids, and you know, you know, mom was, for the second part, was pregnant with my youngest sister and my brother, my brother was a very, we call it alive kid, which means he was full of energy, he wanted to like jump around and yell, and you know, scream and all of that, so I bet they didn't appreciate that very much, but we lived there, um, and after, you know, after a while we kind of got different ways to make money, and, and different ways to just get bread. Like, that was the main thing, it's just having enough bread, and through all of the time that, and everything that we've gone through, my mom keeps telling me that we still went through everything okay. Like we didn't suffer as some people suffered, like almost always we had something to eat. There were people who did not have anything to eat. And she's like, "I, I can't thank God enough, I don't even know how it was possible, but it is." She's like, you know, "I always had something to feed my kids, even if it is a little bit of bread to, you know, divide it amongst the four of you, you guys still had something to eat." So, uh, we lived there and that's where we went to school. I remember playing with the girls from that building, um, we played some games with like um jump ropes, and there was a similar thing that's similar to jump rope, but not really jump rope. Um, and we played the one, hopscotch, we did a lot of that. Um, and then I remember visiting my um late grandma and uh my aunt, that they also- like they were all able to get an apartment by themselves, so it was a bit easier for them because they knew each other, and, and kind of, you know, could, could live together a little bit better than when you're just stuck to live with someone that you don't know, [laughs] and that doesn't like that you have four kids. [both laugh] That kind of thing, so.

[00:31:14]

KH: So do you remember when your sister was born?

SH: Yes. Um, the- there, there was- like it happened super late at night, early in the morning, and mom was ready to go into labor and I just remember, at the time I was like, "Something's not okay." And mom wasn't like, she wasn't having a very good labor. Like she was going into labor but things were not how- you know, she's had four kids by now, and I just remember the atmosphere feeling like something's not okay, something's not okay. So, in that apartment building, right across from our apartment was a doctor that- and we- our building was like right next to the hospital. We were in a set of like, I think it's a two or three buildings, and they're probably like ten-stories tall or something like that, and we were in the far right one, like right next to the hospital. And I think she sent my dad to like get her, because something's not right. And um, he happened to knock at her door and she was there and she was able to like get my mom into the hospital, because women at that time, especially in that situation, they wouldn't go to the hospital because hospital are crowded with people who are like sick, or wounded, you know and things like that, so, you know? And home birth is something that was, was very common. So she didn't intend to go to the hospital, but I guess, um, some complications arose and so she is like, "Go get her." Like, you know, "I need her." And she happened to be there,

and the only thing I remember is them taking mom and then they were gone, and I don't know when I got to see my sister first time or anything like that, I don't remember any of that, but I just remember that one moment, and I was like, "Mom is such a strong person in general." The- the- that was one of the things that I'm like, you know, just being able to go through all of that, and then having all of those issues, and then just taking care of five kids, pretty much by herself because my father was always either working, you know for flour and, and salt, and things like that, so that he can bring home so we have something to eat, or he was, you know, watch- doing the watch, um, or helping, you know, the, the defense guard and all of that. So he was always doing something.

KH: Yeah.

SH: Yeah.

KH: Um, I would love to keep talking, I don't- but I know you have-

SH: Yeah I don't even know.

KH: It's, it's been a little over a half and hour, um-

SH: Oh, it is? Oh, it was 6:30 then, where does the time go?

KH: Yeah, so I, I don't want to make you, so I'm gonna go ahead and stop this.

[00:33:59]