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Mrs. Lenna Tannen

[0:00:00]

Interviewer: This is a recording of the University of Delaware Oral History Program. I am interviewing Mrs. Samuel Tannen and I am Myron Lazarus. Mrs Tannen, what is your own name.

Lena Tannen: Lena.

Interviewer: Lena. And where were you...

Lena Tannen: My maiden name?

Interviewer: Yes.

Lena Tannen: Schoitten, S-C-H-O-I-T-T-E-N.

Interviewer: Where were you born?

Lena Tannen: In *[inaudible]* [0:00:26] Austria.

Interviewer: Do you mind telling us when.

Lena Tannen: Well I was born March the 10th, that is what I remember. That's remain – they told me that. And it was 1893, now you could know how old I am.

Interviewer: Now we know. And do you know the particular town or the city you were born?

Lena Tannen: Yes, Lanca. That was like outskirts from the Bixen.

Interviewer: What were your parents? What do they do?

Lena Tannen: Well my parents, well my father used to make flour for the mill, you know, he had a mill, and he used it to make flour. That was his.

Interviewer: Was in the country or in the city?

Lena Tannen: Yes. No, in the country. That's what I'm telling you, yes.

Interviewer: In the country, right. I'd take it he did fairly well.

Lena Tannen: Oh yes, we did pretty good, but then my father decided that he wants to go to America.

Interviewer: Why did he want to go to the United States?

Lena Tannen: I really don't know. You know how you get an urge to go some place, where you haven't been before.

Interviewer: Was there any problem with being a Jew, any persecution or...?

Lena Tannen: Oh no, no, no, no.

Interviewer: He just thought opportunities probably be better in the United States?

Lena Tannen: That's right. You know what they used to say.

Interviewer: The grass is always greener.

Lena Tannen: The grass is always greener on the other side. What they used to say, when you come to America you shovel your money with shovels on the street. So of course it tempted him and he went.

Interviewer: Do you have brothers and sisters that came over with you?

Lena Tannen: Oh yes, but, of course, two of them passed away. I still have two brothers.

Interviewer: What kind of education did you receive in Europe?

Lena Tannen: Well, whatever education that they gave there.

Interviewer: Did you go to an elementary school?

Lena Tannen: Yes, the same as here as you go to a public school. Then you go on to high school, but I was old enough to go to high school.

Interviewer: Did you go to Hebrew school?

Lena Tannen: Oh yes.

Interviewer: How long did you go to the Hebrew school?

Lena Tannen: Oh, I don't know, I guess I was, well, in Europe, they did not have no schools, they have the Rabbi coming and teach you. And that is what they did. They did that to the boys and then of course me.

Interviewer: Otherwise, the Rabbi came into your house?

Lena Tannen: That's right. In fact he lived with us.

Interviewer: This is pretty sounding by the way. Other people that we had interviewed had the same thing.

[Cross talk]

Lena Tannen: As long as were not different. What else do you want to know?

Interviewer: Do you remember how your parents – did your parents bring you to the States?

Lena Tannen: Oh yeah my mother. I came with my mother.

Interviewer: And your father?

Lena Tannen: Of course my father went first.

Interviewer: I see.

Lena Tannen: When he was here, then he brought over my oldest brother. Then when my oldest brother was here, we all came over, my mother and my brothers. And we stayed here and we settled in.

Interviewer: Did you land in New York?

Lena Tannen: Yes.

Interviewer: Did you stay in New York for any length of time?

Lena Tannen: Oh yes. I stayed in New York until 1913.

Interviewer: 1913. What did you -- Did you remember anything about the passage over here? Do you know, how exactly, how you came?

Lena Tannen: On a boat.

Interviewer: Yes, but where was the port.

Lena Tannen: You mean, living?

Interviewer: Living Europe.

Lena Tannen: Germany.

Interviewer: You went to Germany.

Lena Tannen: Yes. Then we came over here.

Interviewer: Was it a comfortable crossing or difficult crossing?

Lena Tannen: Don't mention it.

[Laughter]

Interviewer: How was it?

Lena Tannen: It was not too bad but we were on the ship for 25 days.

Interviewer: Were your parents reasonably comfortable, I take it they were?

Lena Tannen: When, when they came over?

Interviewer: No well, I mean before you came over.

Lena Tannen: Yes, yes.

Interviewer: Well you were not living in any poverty or anything like that?

Lena Tannen: We were. We were nice and comfortable. We didn't have to crave for anything that we didn't get. We have everything beforehand. My father and mother were very, very nice people.

Interviewer: There were no other relatives other than your parents over here, though.

Lena Tannen: Oh yes, a lot of cousins.

Interviewer: Cousins, yes, I see. Uncles?

Lena Tannen: No, no uncles but all cousins.

Interviewer: When your father came to New York, did he work in New York?

[0:04:57]

Lena Tannen: Yeah.

Interviewer: What did he do?

Lena Tannen: At Cloak.

Interviewer: Was he a teller, at Cloak did you say?

Lena Tannen: Yes. You know, making ladies clothes, ladies...

Interviewer: Was he a teller?

Lena Tannen: Yes.

Interviewer: Or was he a manufacturer or a...?

Lena Tannen: He was a part of it.

Interviewer: A part of manufacturing.

Lena Tannen: That's right.

Interviewer: And also working in...

Lena Tannen: That's right.

Interviewer: How long did he work in New York?

Lena Tannen: I guess, until he died.

Interviewer: How long was he in New York before he died?

Lena Tannen: Well, he died in 1917. So now, you can figure out how long he was there.

Interviewer: How did your father go from running a dress mill?

Lena Tannen: Did you ever seen one?

[Cross talk]

Lena Tannen: Well I don't know, I really don't know. I couldn't tell you that.

Interviewer: Because there is a difference.

Lena Tannen: That I don't remember.

Interviewer: He must have gotten some kind of education here or in Europe.

Lena Tannen: Oh yes, sure.

Interviewer: In tailoring, for tailoring.

Lena Tannen: Oh yeah. No, no, no, no. Not that, no. I don't know how he got into it. I guess through my cousins.

Interviewer: Because it's quite a difference.

Lena Tannen: Oh yes, it's different, surely. It's different like from walking to running.

Interviewer: Where did you live in New York when you first came here?

Lena Tannen: When we came first, we lived at 309 Broom Street, that's on the east side.

Interviewer: On the east of New York.

Lena Tannen: That's near the East River. It's a good thing I didn't jump in there.

[Laughter]

Lena Tannen: Otherwise I wouldn't be here today, yeah.

Interviewer: You went to school in New York.

Lena Tannen: Oh, yes. I went to school.

Interviewer: How many years, I mean, how far did you go to school in New York?

Lena Tannen: How far, I don't know, just across...

Interviewer: I mean, in grades, did you go to high school or...

Lena Tannen: In grades, no I finished public school, and then I didn't want it then.

Interviewer: And then what did you take?

Lena Tannen: I went to evening school.

Interviewer: Did you work before you got married?

Lena Tannen: Not too long. Well, I was just playing around.

Interviewer: Can you think of any interesting experiences in New York when you – during your duration in New York City? What was New York like?

Lena Tannen: Well, New York was a little different, the same as Wilmington was different when I came here, it was different. And now it's different. I just can't believe it that a city should change the way it did.

Interviewer: Both New York and Wilmington.

Lena Tannen: That's right, both New York and Wilmington. Who ever heard things going on the way they do now?

Interviewer: What do you mean?

Lena Tannen: That you will be afraid to walk out at night or even during the day, I mean here. I don't mean in New York, because I'm not in New York. I have been away from New York, and of course, my parents lived there. And I used to go and see them every two weeks. But after my – of course, my father passed away before my mother, and when my mother passed away, I had no reason to go there. I go every once in a while to visit my family.

Interviewer: You mean there was never any danger in New York at all, on the east side?

Lena Tannen: Not at that time, no, not at the time when I was there. There was no danger. Everybody was alike, sociable. But over here, the first when I came here, it was a just beautiful place.

You know where I used to live before at 309 Washington Street. When I lived in there, oh, if you live in Washington Street, you're a millionaire. It was so beautiful, it was nicer than around here now, much nicer.

You know, the rich people live there. The Top Kids were there, the Gains, the Wilson Black, the Fingers, who else? Oh, I can think of so many names, the Tollens, of course they passed away, Rabbi Regis lived right

next door to me. I mean that was before I moved into Washington. I lived on West Street and before that I came to Washington.

Back now, listen, I used to go upstairs at night and never have to lock the doors. Now, you're afraid to go out there. I'll tell you the truth, I'm afraid to get down there. The children won't let me.

Interviewer: You mean back down in Washington Street?

Lena Tannen: That's right. I lived there for 50 years.

Interviewer: Why did you move from New York to Wilmington, you got married in New York?

Lena Tannen: That's right. My husband has a business here. He was a sweet man, a candy man. He sold candy. I don't know whether you remember it or not. In San Montana, we had wholesale candy right across the street from the bank of Secno market.

Interviewer: Your husband was in this kind of business in New York?

[0:10:01]

Lena Tannen: No.

Interviewer: No. He met you in New York though?

Lena Tannen: Yes, we met in New York, and then of course his family was here. His sister and brother were here. Do you Flancer don't you, do you know Flancer?

Interviewer: Yes, yes.

Lena Tannen: Joe Flancer's mother was my husband's sister, and that's how they came over here. And they brought up the, brought out the candy business.

Interviewer: For how many years was your husband in this business?

Lena Tannen: Well, until 1943.

Interviewer: I see.

Lena Tannen: 1913 until 1943.

Interviewer: Was your husband living in New York when he met you?

Lena Tannen: Oh, yes.

Interviewer: I see. But he came to Wilmington because of his relations in Wilmington.

Lena Tannen: That's right.

Interviewer: And his contacts.

Lena Tannen: Yes. You see he had another brother and they were together.

Interviewer: What was the name of the wholesale company?

Lena Tannen: Tannen Brothers.

Interviewer: Tannen Brothers.

Lena Tannen: Yes. Then they separated. You know, when they, I am not going to mention that.

Interviewer: That's how brothers are.

Lena Tannen: No, it's not so much the brothers. It's no, I'm not going to tell.

Interviewer: Okay. What kind of candy did they wholesale?

Lena Tannen: Everything.

Interviewer: They did not make the candy.

Lena Tannen: No, no.

Interviewer: They were distributors.

Lena Tannen: That's right.

Interviewer: That's right.

Lena Tannen: There's still one. It's on 30 French, the building on 30 French my husband and his brother.

Interviewer: Started?

Lena Tannen: They built that building. They were on Sexton Street first, then they built that building down 30 French. They had the store downstairs.

Interviewer: What kind of store downstairs.

Lena Tannen: Wholesale.

Interviewer: Oh I see.

Lena Tannen: A wholesale store. And then they had *[inaudible] [0:11:50]*

Interviewer: Do you remember what kinds of candy they distributed?

Lena Tannen: Shret, although I can't mention the names, there were so many different kinds.

Interviewer: Do they have salesmen on the road to sell this?

Lena Tannen: They had two salesmen out there I think. You want me to remember all that.

Interviewer: Well, we would like to find out all of that.

Lena Tannen: Yes, you want to find out the dirt.

Interviewer: Oh no, not the dirt, no.

Lena Tanner: When you go away from here, you'll say "My God, what a natural".

[Laughter]

Interviewer: Oh don't be silly. Do you remember what life was like in Willington when you first came here?

Lena Tannen: It was very peaceful, everybody is a friend. Everybody was just like a one family. Now it's different. See all the old ones, almost all the old ones had gone.

And the young ones, listen they come from, I don't mean the children from here, the young ones from here, but the ones that come in town. They don't want to know you. They just don't have any use for you. That's how I feel about it. I don't know how somebody else feels about it but that's how my feelings are.

Interviewer: Was your husband connected with any other organizations beside the wholesale candy business. Was he a member of *[inaudible]* [0:13:14] or?

Lena Tannen: He was a member of the Shul.

Interviewer: What Shul is it now?

Lena Tannen: *[inaudible]* [0:13:21]. See when I came to Wilmington, they didn't have the Shul yet, now, they used to dub them and *[inaudible]* [0:13:30] and they used to dub them there.

Then when I came to Wilmington, they started to talk about building the Shul. And I put plenty of work in there, plenty of it. They build the Shul, and then they built the Hebrew School. I worked when they built the Blight.

I had my hand in every pocket, every organization. But now I just don't know. The young ones don't like the old ones to do anything so they do it themselves.

Interviewer: How many children do you have?

Lena Tannen: Five.

Interviewer: Five children.

Lena Tannen: Yes, I have two boys. Maybe you know my boys. I don't know whether you do or not. Joseph Tannen, he is married and lives in Virginia; Huntington, Virginia. And my younger son, Jerry Tannen, lives in Monterrey, California. And three daughters, you know my daughters, you should know them.

Interviewer: I may if you give me their names.

Lena Tannen: I will give you their Jewish name, so that you will know. They all go by their Jewish name, that's what everybody calls them. Nashie, Sitti, and Malchie.

Interviewer: And their all married?

Lena Tannen: Oh yes. Their all married. They all live in town here.

Interviewer: And how many children do they have?

Lena Tannen: Well my Nashie has two boys, one goes to Delaware and one goes to Tennessee.

Interviewer: University of Tennessee.

Lena Tannen: Yes. And my other daughter had one boy, he graduated from Delaware, Freddie Goodman. And of course Gerry, goes to – Gerald goes to Delaware now he went to *[inaudible]* **[0:15:32]** for seven years.

[0:15:33]

Interviewer: In New York, *[inaudible]* **[0:15:35]**.

Lena Tannen: He went to New York, he went to Baltimore, and he went to Philadelphia. And of course now he changed, and he's gone. He wants his degree so he changed, and I hope he will graduate this June. Right now, he is in New York.

Interviewer: How many grandchildren do you have altogether?

Lena Tannen: Well, to tell you the truth, I have 14. And of course my granddaughter got married so her husband that makes it 15, they're all my grandchildren.

Interviewer: What kind of organizations had you, beside your work with the temple, and then why, whatever organizations have you been active with?

Lena Tannen: *[inaudible]* **[0:16:16]** that used to be the old age channel, of course the Sisterhoods, both Sisterhoods, the...

[Cross talk]

Interviewer: Why were you associated with Jewish War veterans?

Lena Tannen: Because I was – my boys were in the service. My son works on the service, and I felt that I want to do something for them. Sure, I was the first one.

Interviewer: What do you mean the first one?

Lena Tannen: I mean we were the organizers.

Interviewer: I see.

Lena Tannen: Charter members, that's what they call it.

Interviewer: When was this, after World War II?

Lena Tannen: No, during World War II.

Interviewer: During World War II.

Lena Tannen: Oh sure.

Interviewer: But not before World War II?

Lena Tannen: Oh no, no. Why should they have it before?

Interviewer: Well, there was World War I.

Lena Tannen: Yes, but none of my children were in it. At World War II, I had my two sons, and I had my sons-in-law in it and I had my nephews, my cousins.

Interviewer: What kind of work did you do in this kind of organization?

Lena Tannen: Anything that came along. I was the Treasurer for five years for the Sisterhood. And all the others they used to go out and sell tickets, get donations, work at the picnics, and bring them plenty of money.

Interviewer: Do you have any stories to tell us about Wilmington, let's say, when you first married here in Wilmington?

Lena Tannen: I was a stranger, but I made plenty of friends, if you ask anybody about Mrs. Tannen, they will tell you who I am. And I won't talk anymore.

Interviewer: Oh yes. Okay.

Lena Tannen: See I lost my husband.

Interviewer: When did you lose your husband?

Lena Tannen: It was going to be, May the 31st, three years.

Interviewer: And now, you're living here alone?

Lena Tannen: No, I'm living with my oldest daughter and her husband and boys. See, before they live with me, now I have to live with them.

Interviewer: That's here, in this house.

Lena Tannen: Yes.

Interviewer: Okay. Are you active at all now in the Sisterhood?

Lena Tannen: Yes, I try to do and put my finger on the next spot. Anybody ask me to do anything, I never refuse. I'm always there with my hands in my pocket.

Interviewer: Well you sound like a very pleasant person, very helpful.

Lena Tannen: Well, I don't know whether I'm pleasant or not. That's right. You see, you can't praise yourself, let others praise you, and that's better.

Interviewer: Do you remember what kind of candies you used to eat years ago?

Lena Tannen: Oh, they ate all of it. My children...

Interviewer: ***[inaudible] [0:19:07]*** or was it different?

Lena Tannen: No, it was a little different. It was little different. We had so many different kinds of candies that I just can't recall them all. It's impossible.

Interviewer: Other than this danger that you talk about in the street now, what other big differences do you see between life now in Wilmington and life as it was when you first came to Wilmington?

Lena Tannenii: Well, what should I tell you. First of all you make more money now. At that time you didn't have so much. And people they just want to go one above the other.

Interviewer: Then or now. You mean now?

Lena Tannen: Now, now. Before...

Interviewer: You mean their competing now?

Lena Tannen: Yes, that's right. They think if they have more money, they are everything. And if you don't have money, they don't want to know you. That's right, I really mean it, they don't want to associate with you

because they know that you can't keep up with them. I don't know what anybody else told you but that's how I feel about it.

[0:20:21]

Interviewer: You really think people were more sincere years ago that they are now.

Lena Tannen: They were friendly. If they know that somebody was in need, they were right there to help, now they are not.

Interviewer: Now are you talking about the Jewish community. I mean, was the Jewish community a closer net group than...?

Lena Tannen: That's right, closer. If you have a neighbour, you have a friend. Now, there's no neighbour over here I don't – of course, I used to know them all. I know everyone of them. Because I have been in town for so many years, but you see, I was out of commission for over 15 years, 16 years, I could say. See my husband was bed-ridden, 15 years and three months.

Interviewer: That's a long time.

Lena Tannen: And I just couldn't go out. I used to go out just once a month to a meeting, just to break the monotony.

Interviewer: I see. This was before he died?

Lena Tannen: Yes. You ask anybody, they will tell you. He was home, bed-ridden, he was helpless, but I took care of him and God should help me for that. Maybe that's why He's giving me a little bit of pleasure now.

Interviewer: What is your pleasure now, your grandchildren and your family?

Lena Tannen: My grandchildren and my family. You don't have to sit and watch how a person is just taken away. That's a terrible thing, I don't wish to nobody. My other nephew passed away a few months ago.

Interviewer: Nephew?

Lena Tannen: Yes. Barry Tannen.

Interviewer: How old was he?

Lena Tannen: He was 46. He went to sleep and that was it. And I told you before, **[inaudible] [0:22:10]**. I see you want to be thankful, I said you didn't have to sit and watch. It's very hard, you know for the living. But you get over it. Instead of seeing that everyday and seeing the same thing you don't know when the time comes, you don't know how long their going to suffer.

Interviewer: Do you think that the reason that the Jewish Community isn't so close today is because it's so much larger?

Lena Tannen: Well yes it is larger, but when I came to Wilmington, there were no streets here, there weren't any, really. And all the Jewish people are on the Second Street, Second Street, Third Street, Fourth Street, and that was it. It was, they used to call it, let me think...

Interviewer: Was the centre, while you're thinking, was the centre of the Jewish Community then, the temple?

Lena Tannen: The Temple Beth Emeth was on 9th in Washington.

Interviewer: That was the thing that drew them most of them together, was it not the central, the focal point of the community?

Lena Tannen: No, its **[inaudible] [0:23:24]** at Scaldish.

Interviewer: But do you think the temple was more important than that it is today, as far as the Jewish community is concerned?

Lena Tannen: No, it's more important now. Because more young people go to it.

Interviewer: Than when you were younger.

Lena Tannen: Than when I was younger, when I was younger we snuggled and think of going into the temple **[inaudible] [0:23:43]** without hats. In fact I'm really

shocked now, because the *[inaudible]* [0:23:53] code, they combined it with *[inaudible]* [0:23:55] and of course the Scaldish always have the seating separate, the men separate and the women separate. The same thing was with the *[inaudible]* [0:24:05]. They had a balcony upstairs for the women and downstairs for the men.

Interviewer: Does this shock you, this change?

Lena Tannen: Yes.

Interviewer: You don't think – why, what's the difference?

Lena Tannen: I don't know, I really don't know. But I – do you know that my grandson who wouldn't go into the temple here because the men and women sit together.

Interviewer: You mean at Scaldish?

Lena Tannen: That's right.

Interviewer: And that's an Orthodox Temple.

Lena Tannen: That's Orthodox, it is supposed to be Orthodox, yes. But before this, we never sit together, the men and women.

Interviewer: What about the conservative and the reformed, isn't it different than the others?

Lena Tannen: That's different, that's different. Now the Beth Shalom, when they built their building 18th in Washington, I don't know whether that building dissolved now or not, 18th in Washington...

Interviewer: Yes, yes.

[0:25:01]

Lena Tannen: I think so. Then they built of course 18th in Boulevard. But we have built that Schul, I mean the temple, that Shalom. My husband got plenty of money for it.

Interviewer: Even though that was conservative temple, not an Orthodox.

Lena Tannen: No, it wasn't too conservative, it's just since they moved over here it's a little bit different, but before it wasn't.

Interviewer: But it was not an Orthodox Temple before. But it was always conservative even in Washington?

Lena Tannen: Well, halfway, let's put it that way, halfway. Of course Rabbi Greif is very religious.

Interviewer: Do you know Rabbi Greif very well?

Lena Tannen: Well when we came to Wilmington the first time, yes.

Interviewer: But your affiliation is with Scaldish not Beth Shalom.

Lena Tannen: No, That's right. Because you see it was a little bit too far, you see the place *[inaudible]* **[0:25:59]**, the building is still there, I don't know whether it was sold or not, but the building is still there. And of course it was closer for the children to go there to Hebrew School than to *[inaudible]* **[0:26:12]** into Washington, it's too far.

That's why, of course what I meant was if I was there and I was telling them. I said, "It's no use for me." I said "I'll give you all the support you want, that's why I will not come to Haverhill, it's too far for me."

In fact when the, as the Scaldish moved over here and I live on 3rd in Washington I couldn't walk here, not with the *[inaudible]* **[0:26:40]**. So I used to go to *[inaudible]* **[0:26:45]** 602 Washington Street. That's the real Orthodox too same as the *[inaudible]* **[0:26:55]**. See the men sits separate, and the women sits separate.

Interviewer: That was a long time ago.

Lena Tannen: Well no, only three years ago.

Interviewer: What's the name of the temple now in Washington Street?

Lena Tannen: Yes, what do they call it *[inaudible]* **[0:27:13]** 602 Washington.

Interviewer: I see. I never heard of it.

Lena Tannen: You never heard of it, well, you take a drive right down there. Of course it doesn't look the way it used to. Ah, what do you call it, I forgot the name of it. Tile, Necks Tile, that was his house. Then he sold it to Green Blant, I don't know whether you remember Mr. Green, then Green Blant sold it to the **[0:27:46]** *[inaudible]*. In fact they had there the a Hebrew school.

Interviewer: Did you live here since your husband died, in this area?

Lena Tannen: Yes, after my husband passed away.

Interviewer: That's 38, what's the address, Monroe.

Lena Tannen: Monroe, yes.

Interviewer: Have you noticed any changes in this area in the last few years?

Lena Tannen: Since I lived here, no, not exactly, just that they – just a few, no, nothing at all.

Interviewer: But this isn't the area you were talking about where you are afraid of walking in the street, not 38?

Lena Tannen: It is over here.

Interviewer: Really?

Lena Tannen: I wouldn't walk out at night. I'm sorry to say it.

Interviewer: Because of your neighbours, do they present any danger.

Lena Tannen Oh no, no. It's not the neighbours, the once that come to the neighbourhood. You know, I'm afraid to go near the school even, at night I wouldn't walk out, that's all. If I can accomplish it during the day, then I don't go out at night. If I have to go to a meeting, my son takes me over or my grandson.

Interviewer: Have you ever been interested in politics or anything like that, pretty much with the Jewish community?

Lena Tannen: I'm only interested in the welfare of the Jewish people. Politics, I don't want to be a politician.

Interviewer: Why not. There are some older Jewish people who are pretty much involved in it.

Lena Tannen: I know, that's a...

Interviewer: Probably men or something?

Lena Tannen: Well, men and women, I don't like to put my nose in everything.

Interviewer: Can you think of any other changes, things that you don't like in Wilmington, besides the size and the unfriendliness that you find.

[Cross talk]

Can you see anything now that you like it better in the old days?

Lena Tannen: That's right.

Interviewer: Why?

Lena Tannen: Because you never heard a child, a boy or a girl, go out and do the mischief the way they do now, I really mean it.

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First of all, I think that its, the time, you know, that the women go to work or they go out playing cards in the afternoon, and when the children come home, they find the door closed.

They come in, they don't have, who to say hello. I really mean it. They like to have their mother meet them. And they come home, you give them a snack, give them some milk, or give them some cookies with it, or cake, or anything like that. And now, as I said, when they come in the door is locked, so what are they going to do, bang their heads against the wall, so they ran out and try to get into mischief.

Interviewer: But don't you think kids always play in the streets?

Lena Tannen: No, not the way they do now. I'd say, I know if my child was small, and anybody that complained, I told them, that's all right for a months' time you can't go to the movies, or you can't go out at night, you can't go play ball, until you will know how to behave.

I'll say, how would you like it if they did the same thing to you what you have done to them. I said, I don't like that. I said, you've got to obey, respect others like you'd want others to respect you. I said, no. And of course, so far, thank God, nobody had ever said something bad to my children or my grandchildren.

Interviewer: You think that most women are too permissive with their children now, they let their children...

Lena Tannen: They give them too much freedom, they give them too much.

Interviewer: Your parents were strict with you?

Lena Tannen: They didn't have to be strict with me. I know that I have to respect them. And it's their word, when they said something to me, I know they meant it.

Interviewer: What pleases you about your life in Delaware? What are you proud of, your family, your children?

Lena Tannen: My family, my children, my friends, all the people that I know. I never did anything, any harm to anybody, nobody. Well, they did, they did, I excuse them and I look the other way. That's the only way to do. Don't – if they throw you a stone, don't throw it back.

Interviewer: Well I want to thank...

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