

III. THE SCHOOL SITUATION

A. "Now I want you to tell me something about your school in Hungary. First what about the subjects? Which subjects did you have?"

"We had math. Then we wrote and read. We also had gymnastics, drawing and singing.

Which subjects did you like most?

"My favorite subject was writing.

Tell me why?

"Well you see it was a subject that you didn't have to think about. You just wrote and that was all."

And what did you like to study least?

"I did not like to learn anything by heart. It was too difficult."

Tell me something now about your teachers. Who were they?

"We had one lady teacher for everything at school, but singing was taught by a man.

Did you like your teachers?

"Yes, I liked them!" Which one did you like better and why?"

"I don't know. I liked them all in the same way somehow."

Did the teachers treat all the children equally?

I don't know, I've never seen it.

Were any teachers of yours Communists?

"I do not think so."

Tell me do you know who is a Communist?

"A Communist is a Party member, isn't he?"

Now you will tell me something about your classmates. Who were your friends?

"I had two girls who were my friends." What sort of kids were they?"

"The father of one little girl was a lawyer. The other was a bookkeeper in a factory I think, and the father of the third one was a friend of my daddy, and he also

was an engineer."

Did you make friends with the other children in the class too?

"Well it depended. If they were decent and didn't quarrel with us very much then we did. If not, then we did not make friends with them at all."

What did you do together? What did you talk about? Did you play?

"Well we just talked about different little stories, then we were playing hide and seek, then were just running about in circles and such things."

Whom ~~is~~ did you not like at school and why?

"There was one girl. My goodness, she had a big mouth, she always was impertinent talking loudly. Nobody liked her. You know, she was a Communist."

How do you know she was a Communist?

"Well you know the father was a Communist too. And this was the one with whom the teacher was always nice. She was afraid of her you know, and the father also."

Were ^{there} any children in your class to whom you all looked up?

"Yes, there was one. She was a very good student. She always behaved very nicely, and she never quarreled or was nasty with anybody."

Did you have any religious instruction at school or elsewhere?

"Yes, we had religious instruction in great secret, ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~
When I asked the child how many of the class went for religious instruction she said:

"There were about forty in our class and as far as I can remember about ten of us went to religious instruction of our ~~class~~ class. The religious class said a little girl was for all children of the school regardless which grade we were attending."

B. Tell me, did you always tell your parents what happened in school?

"No, not always,"

Well what did you tell them and what ~~is~~ did you not?

"Well for one thing I always told them when I received

a good mark. No. 5. Certainly I did."

I tried to probe for a conflict between school and home education, but I could not get any response.

C. Did you ever talk about what happened at home when you were in school?

"No, because it is no concern of anybody's what is happening at home."

Did anybody warn you not to talk about something?

"Yes, mommy did."

D. Now Miss tell me something about what you did after school hours.

"You mean when I got home?"

Yes

"Well I went and played sometimes. And then also in the afternoon I did my homework."

Did you ever read, and if so what?

"I read story books, fairy tales. I had a nice book I received from grandfather with nice stories, but I can't remember the name."

Did you ever go to the movies?

"Yes, sometimes, but very seldom. Once we were taken by the school to the movie, but I didn't like it. It was a Communist picture, and I was scared. Then I went with my sister and we saw a comedy- that was funny, and very amusing."

Did you do any sports?

"Yes, my sister and I went to the pool to get swimming lessons, ~~xxxxxxx~~"

Well then, what did you play? "Well we played with dolls and all other things that children do."

Did you take part in the Pioneer movement?

"I just became a member in September and I was a junior member, so I hadn't done anything yet, because then the revolution broke out."

IV. Tell me something about your family, about your daddy, about your mother and your home.

"Daddy was a construction engineer and he not only went to his office, but very often worked at home. His office was in Sopron, and mommy worked in an office of a beer factory. She was typing."

Tell me something about your apartment.

"This was quite a big apartment you know. We had three rooms, a kitchen, a big hall, a bathroom and also there was a loft and a big cellar. I had a room together with my sister for ourselves."

Who did the housework?

"It was mostly mommy, but grandma came sometime and helped us. Also we always gave our laundry to the laundress to wash."

Did you help your mother in the household chores?

"Oh yes I did. I had to do the bathroom and the hall that was my daily duty, and also once I polished the floor of the big room."

Who took care of you after school?

"Well if there was nobody else there was my sister, and now once in while we went to the day schools. Here we received our lunch and then we had to study and we played, that was all. Then we went home."

V. REWARDS AND PUNISHMENT

A. Have you been rewarded at school for good work?

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"Yes, at the end of the school year we usually got books, if we studied well, but you know, I was not any very good scholar. I usually had 3's very seldom 5's. But one thing is sure. If you know, auntie, we had so much more to learn there than here. Here in America it is much more easy to study than back home.

B. Were you ever punished at school, and what for?

"Of course we were punished at school if we didn't know the lesson or were very naughty or we didn't know the lesson well, if we didn't write what we were supposed to write at home and so on. We had to stand in the corner, then we got raps on our knuckles, and sometimes we were held back after lessons. Also there were the report cards which the teachers sent to daddy and mommy if something was wrong with them us at school."

C. Were you ever punished by your parents?

"They just gave us a good spanking."

Who used to spank you?

Well you know, usually it was mommy. Because she was very quick in doling out slaps, but once daddy gave me a good spanking because I was quarreling with my sister over the bike."

VI. THE REVOLUTION

A. Can you tell me why the Hungarians started the revolution?

"I think because there are so many communists in Hungary, and also the communist wanted to rule Hungary. You know the communist never go to church and they persecute the other people so I think that was the reason.

How did you realize that the revolution broke out.

"Well you see the radio said we didn't ^{have} ~~have~~ to go

to school. We just stayed at home and played. You know everybody put out the Hungarian flag. Mommy too made a Hungarian flag. We didn't have anything else, so we made it out of red, white and green rags, you know. Father found a big stick, it was quite thick at one end, but the other end was pointed so it was all right. So we nailed the flag on it and put it out from the loft window.

What impressed you most during the revolution?

"I suppose it's all right if I say this, just this, that we could put out the Hungarian flag."

VII. I would like to know what you would like to be when you grow up.

"I am going to be a dress designer. I know that for sure. s

Why would you like to be a dress designer.

You know I always like to draw and I draw a great deal. I am always painting in colors. Do you want to see what I have done? (The little girl rushed off and brought out a big book with pictures she colored with the colored crayon. Also she drew me a face on a piece of paper and showed me drawings, it really seems that she has some talent for drawing.)

Can you tell me what a good father is like?

"I think a good father must always tell me what is good and what is right."

What do you think an ideal teacher is like?

"I think he must be very strict with the children"

What is a good mother like?

"When she is in need of help, she calls that I should go and help."

What are the three worst thing a kid can do?

"First of all, if a kid is disobedient, this is very bad. Then if a kid is very naughty, and I think also if a kid is a liar."

What do you think are the three most important things that a child should be taught.

"First of all I think that a kid must always obey. Then should respect his parents, and always tell the truth. Is that enough now?"

What do you think are the three worst things that you can say about a friend of yours?

"That she is quarrelsome, that she is liar and that she is stupid. I think that this is quite enough."

VIII. Who do you think are the three greatest people in the world? (Quite unexpectedly the little girl rattled off the three names one after the other without thinking very much about it.)

"First of all I think Kossuth Lajos, then Petofi Sandor, and ~~XIX~~ ~~Ry~~ ~~Rinyi~~ Rinyi Inyre. You know this is the one who invented matches. We read about him in a book at school."

Who do you think are the three greatest people in the world today?

(After a long silence and thinking hard, the little girl said that she didn't know.)

Who do you think is the greatest living Hungarian?

"Imre Nagy."

Now I am going to give you a few names of famous Hungarians and maybe you can tell me something about each of them

St. Stephen: After a long silence she said: "well this is the name of a church." She is quite right in that too.

Who was King Mathias? Oh he was a famous Hungarian King and there is a street and a school also called after him.

Who was Ferenc Rakoczi? "There is also a street called after him."

Who was Petofi? "Petofi was a very famous Hungarian writer"

Who was Kossuth? "I do not know."

Respondent had no idea who the other names asked were. She knew however that Mindszenty was a priest, and Imre Nagy was the one who wanted to govern Hungary during the revolution."

IX. Can you tell me what strikes you as being completely different in the United States from Hungary?

"I think it is quite different that at school here in the United States we are together with boys in the same class, and then also I find it quite different that the boys are not so quarrelsome here as back at home. You know at home the boys were very, very naughty ~~always~~ always."

What are the things you like most about the United States?

"I think I like the whole United States. Everything is good here. The people are very nice and friendly and they don't quarrel so much with anybody. Also I love television very much."

Is there anything you don't like in the United States and if so what. ~~XXXXX~~

"There isn't such a thing that I don't like. She has added as an after thought, "but I really hate the children of the neighbor. They are such naughty children, always quarreling, teasing me, and being very rude." (They have some South American people living as next door neighbors and it seems that the little girl disapproves of the manners of those children.)