

3

We were married less than a year when Hitler came to power - and our first anniversary was overshadowed by the anticipation of Boykott Day - April 1st, 1933 - when in front of every Jewishly owned store, factory or office a brownshirted member of Hitler's employment solution stood guard to remind non-Jews to stay out of the Jewish place. These were the threatening clouds on the horizon of Jewish life in Germany but we Jews in Germany had the time to gear ourselves to a small degree - emigration. But then, Jewish life continued and had to be maintained inspite of ever stronger Jewish restrictions and laws which prevented us from normalcy. The Nürnberg laws of 1935 gave away whatever secrets the Nazis had about a Jewish solution.

Though we lived in Stuttgart only for a short time, zionist activities had pushed me in an unexpected and unwanted leadership in the Jewish community. I gave up business and worked fulltime for problem solving which plagued the young more than the old - and living on money of our own; there was no income but expenses increased. As a parnes, a member of the Jewish community council and member of the State of Wuerttemberg's Council for directives of Jewish living, I presided as chairman of Hakoah, the zionist sport group, founded and directed the college for sport teachers in preparation for their emigration - it was a certified school and in whatever time I had worked for release of young people from jails where they were held for having non-Jewish girl- or boyfriends and see them out of Germany. We Jews were not permitted to have any household help except women over 45 years - and we had to let go the good help we had, cooks, maids, nurses. Amazingly, it didn't disturb us as it did others, mostly women, who never did their own housework.

The beginning of 1936 I went to Palestine to check for the possibility of building a rubber-factory - to be set up by the Gumpel owned Elbe Gummiwerke, after persuading the family to invest in Palestine. When I returned with very favorable reports to Switzerland where the family was assembled, it was agreed to go ahead with the plans after I returned to Stuttgart to liquidate whatever Margot had been unable to do while I was away. 2 weeks after my return from Palestine, the Arabs began rioting and the family decided against a Palestinian investment. The Arabs continued their rioting until World War II - and new emigration plans had to be made.

Planning to go on our own to Palestine, family and zionist friends urged us to go to the United States - the family because we would be together - they were still in Switzerland but had decided to move to San Francisco after a previous search trip through Canada, the USA and South America - the zionists realising that Palestine didn't need non-farming and non-investing immigrants but that zionist activists were needed everywhere else, including the USA. And so I came and on my way to San Francisco stopped in Buffalo - I'm still stopping after 46 years.