

Hedy Belnap's History

Q: Where were you born?

A: I was born in Bern. No it's not really Bern. It was just a little village, know it's a big village, but at that time it was a little village outside of Bern. Bern was the Hauptstadt (capital city).

Q: What was it like growing up in Switzerland?

A: It was a beautiful village. You just had to go through a big long street with both sides trees. At the end of that long street was the village. It was really a beautiful place. However, there were not too many big families. There was a grocery store and across the street there was a butcher shop. My half brother, he was just a little boy, but when they washed potatoes, etc. in the big water fountain around there they would give him meat after to bring home to the mother and tell my mother they just wanted to give my mother help because she had six kids.

Q: How many brothers and sisters did you have?

A: Three brothers and two sisters.

Q: What kind of things did you learn in school?

A: Well, you had to really work in school. They were very strong that way. I got the prize for the best scholar for the last five years. I got 50 franks (dollars) for it. So, I liked in school. All the teachers usually liked me because I did the work. They didn't have to push me because I always wanted to be on top. And so I got the prize after four years. The money I didn't get until four years later. In about the third or fourth grade we were learning how to knit in school but I already knew how to knit. I knit a pair of socks for my

teacher who taught us how to knit and crochet and all that stuff. It was nice and I liked school because when you tried to be the best you can, they were real nice to you.

Everybody knew we didn't have a father and that mother worked so naturally they thought we were fabulous that we were working for our grades even when no one was home. In school I really worked hard. Somebody had to bring our teacher's wife some medicine every morning. So he sent me because I made good grades so he figured there was nothing wrong that I missed an hour school in the morning. And I would go get that medicine and bring it to his wife. That was funny really.

Q: How old were you when you got out of school?

A: You go to school when you are seven years old and then you have seven years to go.

Q: Did you work when you got out of school?

A: I worked at the biggest department store in Bern. They paid pretty good wages. I liked it there. However, they were very strict. You had to work but I liked it there. Then later on we moved into the city, to Bern itself. For several years, we lived a little outside of Bern.

Q: Did you have days off from school?

A: The summer vacation was five weeks. Fall, winter, and spring vacations were only two weeks.

Q: What kind of activities did you do when you were a child?

A: Well, the classes didn't get together and play so we really didn't play.

Q: When did you join the church?

A: We were quite small when we walked a good hour to go to church from the village to Bern. Now they have their own in the village but at that time we had to walk an hour to go

to church, to the Mormon church. I was awful little at that time. I can't remember the winters. In summer we used to walk. Now there are buses that go every half hour or so out there and back but at that time there were no buses. We had to walk. I don't think in winter we went every Sunday there. When the weather was real bad we would stay home.

Q: What was the church like in Switzerland?

A: The church was kind of different at that time I think. They had missionaries and I can remember once we had them for dinner. Then later on we had them once a week. Some real old missionary came and he gave a big talk and said that a lot of missionaries didn't have enough money and that the parents should invite them for dinner. So we had them every Monday for dinner and another family had them every Tuesday and so they were invited the whole week so that they weren't hungry. It wasn't a fabulous life but we just did the best we could and we were happy. My father died when I was seven. We lived in a little apartment in the house of the grocery shop when my father didn't live anymore. I always think we had it good when you are young, you know, because we didn't have an awful lot but lots of people didn't even have as much as we had, you know. The youngest would go and help the butcher, he was just a little boy, and then in the evening they would give him maybe a pack of meat or something to bring home that he earned that day. It was kinda cute, you know, because he really didn't earn that, the butcher just wanted to help my mother out.

Q: Did you take piano lessons?

A: Well, I always wanted real bad but I had no piano at home so I could not learn. I could play little pieces. I played in Sunday School. I was the piano player. I did really good but

every Sunday they would tell me you just practice three songs so that I could play Sunday morning when we had Sunday School. I played the piano when they were marching around to go to there classes. The organ I played for singing, you know.

Q: How did you learn to play the organ and the piano?

A: Well, I practiced that by myself. When I was real young somebody showed me what all the music means. I could learn because I had learned what those marks meant on the paper, you know. I played for a long time in Sunday School. When I came over here I was still playing the organ, it's not an organ it's a harmonium but it sounds like an organ. I really liked it a lot.

Q: What were the plays you did in church?

A: In church we would always play little theater things, you know. Especially on Christmas, we always Christmas afternoon played some kind of Christmas story. There came a lot of people who never came, who were not Mormons, they would ask us do you play a play Christmas afternoon again. We would say yes and sometimes I was in the play and sometimes I was behind the curtains to help them when they got stuck, you know. They always would say they would rather I would do that than being in the play because they always said they understood the whispering when I would help them along. That I did the better job than anybody else. So I always helped them with that. We kept really busy, you know. Everybody got gifts on Christmas in church too. That was always fun. Once I was the Christ child.

Q: What did you do as the Christ child and how did you look?

A: Well, I was all in white, I had that stuff in my hair. The stuff you put all over the tree, the long pieces of decoration you get along the tree. It's in long streaks and it's all shiny and glittery and then they would put that around my head. Some Christmas's if I wasn't in the play, I would be behind the curtain and make sure if somebody got stuck that I would know where he was and whisper behind the curtain and help them along so they could go on. We were really busy people. We would play about the Christ child that he was come.

Q: When you worked at Lubz, what did you do?

A: When they first hired me I put prices on the merchandise. Later on they took me ahead. They made their own packages. They would send catalogues out to hundreds of people. Then the people would write I would like number so and so and this and that and so we got that together at Lubz. Then I would check if everything was there. Every order was in a basket by itself. Then I would check the baskets and read the card, whatever the people wanted, and if everything was there I would add how much the whole thing would be. Then I put it on the right hand corner of the card how much money that one is. Then that went on to the one who was typewriting. She would put it on the address on the outside how much the people had to pay for the things. It was really a very interesting job. I always liked it because you had to think and you had to get things done. We always had about two weeks, real rough weeks you know because about two weeks before Christmas that catalogue came out. A lot of people would write because it didn't cost so much then.

Q: What were your bosses like?

A: We had two bosses. The one he shouted that you could hear him from one store to the other. He was very strict. He would get mad and shout. For the other one you had to be

careful. He was the top manager and during the day he would come once or twice or three times walking by to see what we were doing, if we were working. I don't know how it goes now but in my time they were very, very strict. But I got used to it. I learned all the prices from hundred grands to, most packages were about seven or eight pounds. You add everything together, what was in there, and we had addresses and here up in this corner how much they should have to pay when the merchandise came for the post office and they paid the post office and the post office paid us.

Q: What were your lunch hours like? What did you do on your lunch hour?

A: We had it pretty good. Lubz always paid the best money. We had ten minutes from 9:00 to 12:00 in between some place there for an in between snack. We all had together lunch. The store would close from 12:00 to 2:00 or 1:30. Then in the afternoon somehow we had again a break. People went at different times.

Q: Did you go swimming during your lunch hour?

A: Well the lunch hour was about two hours. We would walk down a big, it was a good highway, would go down where the river came and goes around, you know. So we would walk down there, get undressed, jump in the water, and then you could buy soup there instead of go home. You would buy a bowl of soup and you swam once or twice and then you had to get dressed again and go back up to work. But we had a nice life. A lot of people thought we had it rough but later on when in the fourth grade I helped a lady out. But then she said I should come in the morning but then she kept me until three or four o'clock, when I went there about nine o'clock in the morning. Then she didn't pay me more so I quit. But another one asked me immediately and said if I would work for her. She paid me

the right amount, she kept me only the three hours not four or five hours. I worked hard as a young kid but I always had some money.

Q: How old were you when you were working the lady in her home?

A: Ten when I used to help in the home. I don't think they do that anymore.

Q: What kind of things did you do when you worked in her home?

A: She was really nuts. She was a nice gal but she mopped her floor everyday, the kitchen floor. She had two floors and she made me dust the railing everyday up to the second floor. She over did it really bad. That one paid me good.

Q: Did she let you eat with the family?

A: I was the only one who ate with the family on the table. Whenever she had somebody else, they had to eat alone in the kitchen because that was the maid. But I was not the maid because I guess I was a kid, you know, so she took me to the table. I always ate at the table with them.

Q: Did you get to sleep at her house?

A: Yes, she had a whole floor, the second floor, where nobody slept. So when we were late at night, in summer only, when we were late at night then we told mother that I wouldn't walk home late, I would stay there and sleep right there. It was totally different because my mother worked, you know, she had to work because my father died so young.

Q: What kind of subjects did you have in school?

A: We had math and then we had also that we had to write little stories. Every week we had to write an aufsatz (essay). That was a little story of something, what you would do or where we were going. Then they would give you how good that was. Then the end of the

year they would take that together and I guess that's how you got your note (grade) in your book, the grade book. Schools were really strict over there. I can remember that one of them, he would hit them on both hands with a stick. I saw that several times. I think I got it once. I can't remember if I did or not but they would take a stick like that and then they would have to hold your hands down and hit your hands. That's how they punished you. But I wasn't scared. They were all nice to me.

Q: Did they teach you how to cook in school?

A: Only towards the end. It wasn't that much but maybe for the others it was. I cooked at home because my mother was at work so I was used to cooking at home. That didn't make any difference.

Q: Did you have school trips?

A: Once a year we had a nice, whole day long vacation trip. The teacher would take his class. Usually the younger ones they took some relative, the teacher so that he had help watching them together and they went the whole day some place to look at stuff. Then they would come back and that was usually in the buses.

Q: Where did you go on those trips and what did you do?

A: It depended how old they were. First it was just this small mountain just outside of town. I can remember we had to watch, two and two together when we went that way because just one teacher, we had one guy, a substitute, and he made us walk two and two together when we were on the street so that we had our vacation trip. Each class has one vacation trip.

Q: Did you enjoy them?

A: It depended where we went. The first ones were not too elaborate because you know when you had over twenty first graders they had to watch for them, that they wouldn't walk along the side of the street. However, there weren't that many cars either at that time. The older you were the further they would take us. But they always told us that they had to do exactly what they said.

Q: When did you come to the United States?

A: In 1942.

Q: Why did you decide to come over here?

A: I always wanted to come to America. Maybe it was because so many people were nice to me especially the missionaries were nice to me as a little kid. Byron Belnap wrote me a letter seven years after he returned home after his mission and he asked me to marry him. I was thirty years old and I didn't have any prospects in Europe. I prayed to Heavenly Father about it and I felt that it was the right thing to do. So I came to the United States to marry him.

Questions by Tracy Blackburn and Renae Blackburn

Answers by Hedy Belnap

Hedy Belnap's History

Q: Did you ever here Grandma (Hedy) talk about her trip coming from Europe and what it was like? Please give me as much information as you can remember. (For example any blackouts, passport troubles, dodging enemy troops, taking care of a child on the boat over here, etc.)

A: Hedy came over from Portugal, she had an interesting trip, but the details I forgot. Just that she befriended a French girl. They kept in touch quite some time.

Q: Who attended the wedding?

A: I think Les and Erma went to the temple with them.

Q: How did Grandma and Grandpa (Hedy and Byron) get along before they had children?

A: They got along fine. Hedy was never homesick, as I remember.

Q: Whose wedding dress did Grandma (Hedy) wear?

A: She did not have a wedding dress. She didn't know any body over here.

Q: Did they do anything special after they were married? (For example any family party, reception, honeymoon, etc.)

A: They went to San Francisco and we (Trudi and Garth Youngberg) went along. Had a good time. Hedy did not talk much English.

Q: When Grandma and Grandpa (Hedy and Byron) lived at 904 21st street--how many years did they live in the upstairs apartment?

A: Not long. Then they moved downstairs and rented the upstairs.

Q: Can you tell me any experiences/stories you had with Grandma and Grandpa (Hedy and Byron) when you were all young?

A: We always had our trips together. California, Yellowstone, New York, good times.

Q: What were Grandma's (Hedy's) pregnancies like? (For example was she sick a lot, was she big, etc.)

A: I don't think Hedy was sick and not too big, as I remember. Of course she lost one baby between Gary and Renae, but she never talked much about that.

Q: When Great Grandma Schindler came to live with Grandma and Grandpa (Hedy and Byron), how did everyone get along?

A: That was a hard time for Hedy. Her mother never liked it in Ogden since she could not talk English. So when Marty (Hedy's sister) came, she took her back to Switzerland with her.

Questions by Tracy Blackburn

Answers by Trudi Youngberg, a friend of Hedy Belnap

Mother told me that she miscarried first and then had my brother, Gary and then me, Renae.

Per A Renae Belnap Blackburn



Marty Schindler in Italy, 1933



Marty Schindler & friend in Italy



a friend of Marty's in Italy, 1933



a friend of Marty's in Italy,



Clarie Schmid & Marty Schindler,
1927



Hedy & Marty Schindler, 1927



Marty Schindler in Italy, 1933



Marty & friend in Italy, 1933



Aubacherhaus (Schindler's
first home)



Elisabeth Dubach & Gottlieb
Schindler



Zaugghaus in Ostermündigen
(Schindler's 2nd home)



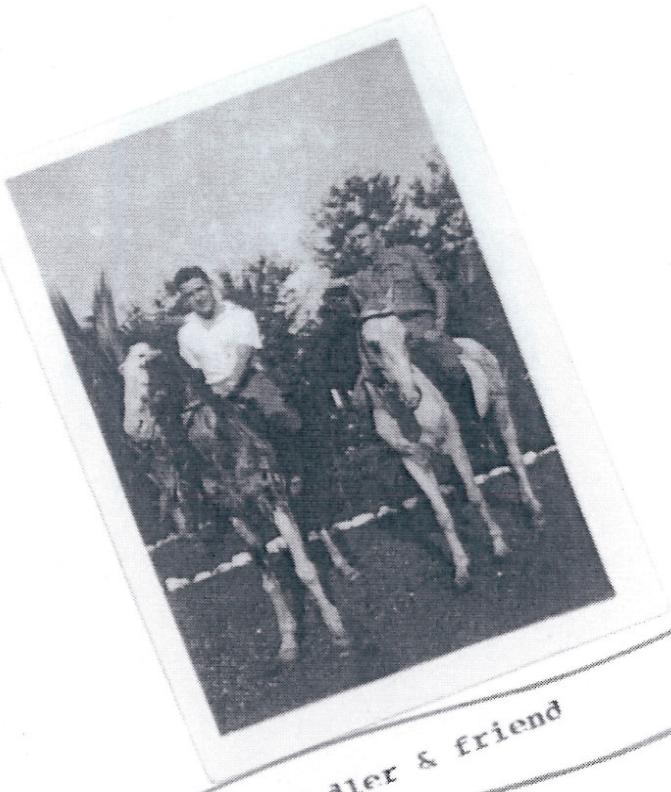
Marty & Fred Schindler, 1933



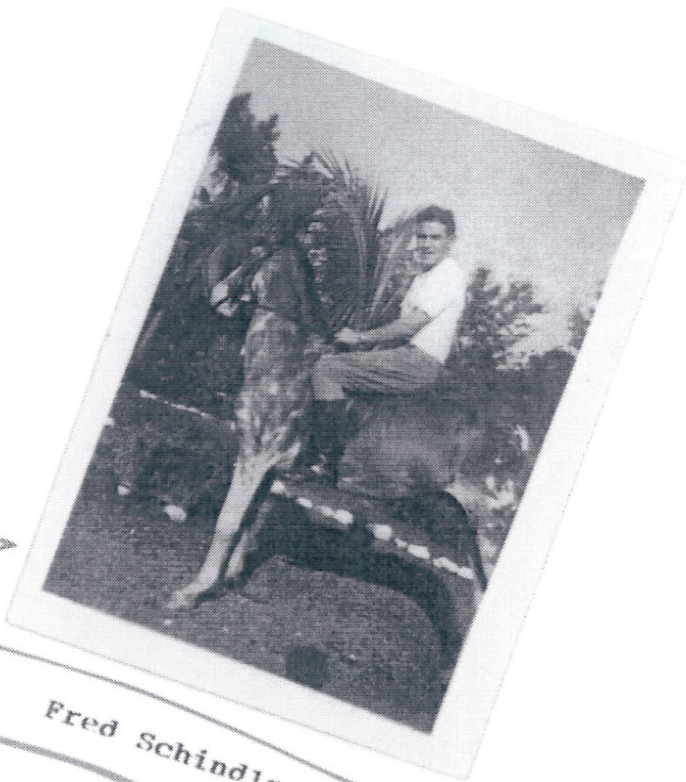
Hedy Schindler & Clarie Schmid, 1927



Marty Schindler



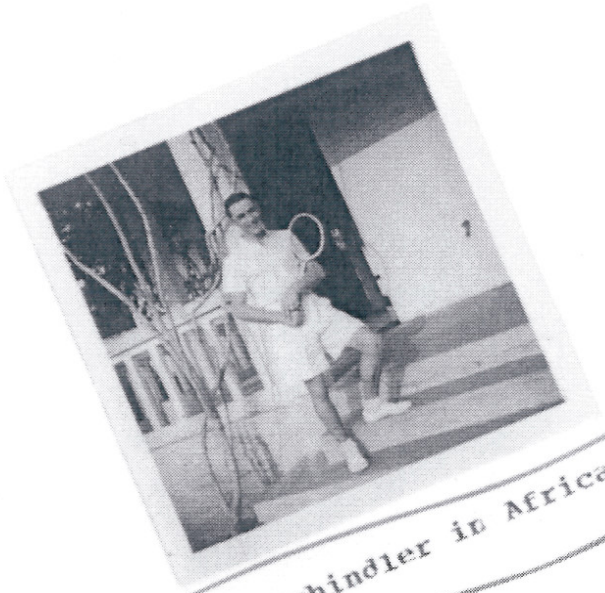
Fred Schindler & friend



Fred Schindler



Fred Schindler & friend in Africa



Fred Schindler in Africa



Hedy Schindler & Maybean, 1928



Orsenbach girls & Hedy Schindler
1928



Old Roman Wall



Hedy Schindler & American visitors



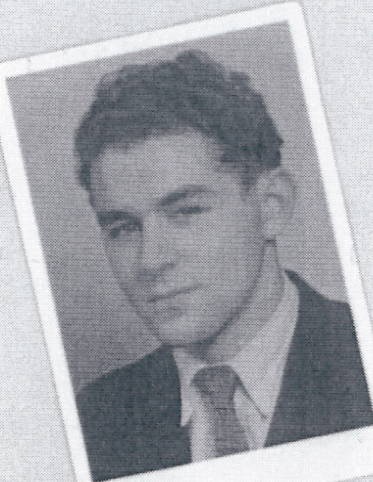
Jeanette Streun



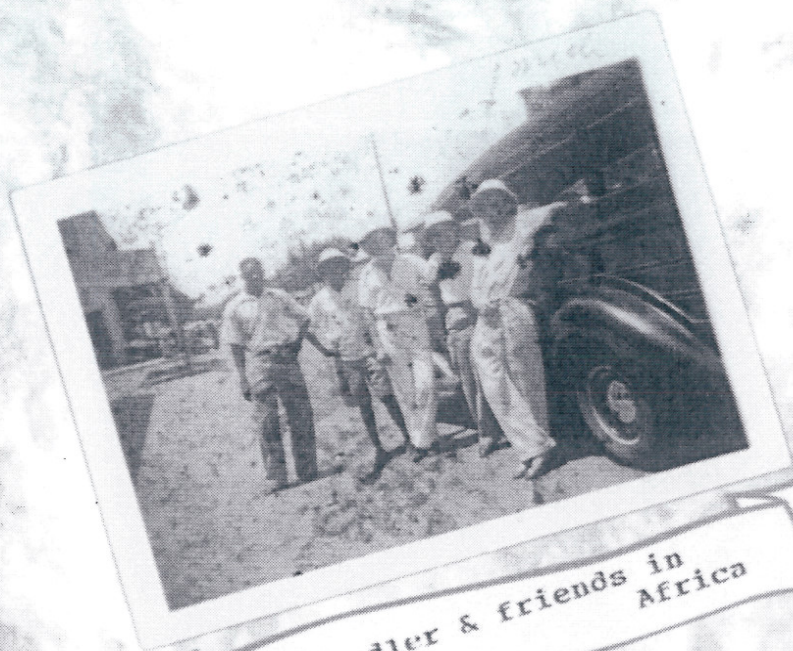
Hedy Schindler & friends from
France



Hedy Schindler



Fred Schindler, Bern
Switzerland



Fred Schindler & friends in Africa



Fred Schindler



Fred Schindler in Africa