

KECK-024

CHARLES LEHRER

BIRTH DATE: 1892

INTERVIEW DATE: SEPTEMBER 9, 1985

RUNNING TIME: 45:00

INTERVIEWER: EDWARD APPLEBOME

RECORDING ENGINEER: BOB BIELECKI

INTERVIEW LOCATION: NEW YORK CITY, NY

TRANSCRIPT ORIGINALLY PREPARED BY: NANCY VEGA, 1986

TRANSCRIPT RECONCEIVED BY: NANCY VEGA, 7/1995

TRANSCRIPT NOT REVIEWED

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY, 1913

AGE 20

PASSAGE ON THE "GEORGE WASHINGTON"

APPLEBOME: This is Edward Applebome and I'm speaking with Charles Lehrer on Monday, September 9, 1985. We are beginning this interview at 10:25 in the morning. We are about to interview Mr. Lehrer about his immigration experience from Austria Hungary in 1913. Mr. Lehrer, could you tell me where and when you were born?

LEHRER: Yeah, I was born in Clochwof, as I told you before, in, what else?

APPLEBOME: Where, where, you just told me, could you spell the name of the city?

LEHRER: Yeah. It's C-L-O-C-H-W-O-F.

APPLEBOME: Okay. And was that in Austria Hungary?

LEHRER: That's right.

APPLEBOME: Uh-huh. And what year were you born?

LEHRER: 1892.

APPLEBOME: 1892. What was life like in your native country?

LEHRER: Well, it was a little town, a brick city like, uh, Lemberg, they call it. It used to be Lemberg, now it's Leroff, you know, because Polish. It's a very small town, you know, but they had a station there. Big army down there in the town. Most of the people in the city itself, was most of them Jewish people. Outside of the city there was Gentile, you know. And I don't know what else, it was just very, very, they had no electric in the house and so forth, you know, lit the kerosenes.

APPLEBOME: What kind of house did you live in?

LEHRER: Huh?

APPLEBOME: What kind of house did you live in?

LEHRER: Well, I lived in a little house, you know, which is next to a little creek, you know, a river, very small house. And they had one bedroom and a living room and a kitchen. That was the whole house, you know. Because we lived, we slept in the kitchen. I had a brother, you know. We slept in the kitchen. My father and my stepmother was in the bedroom. My mother died when I was practically born, you know, maybe right after she gave birth ,you know. And my father used to , used to be like an egg handler. You handle eggs and look them over. But in the meantime, then after he quit, he couldn't make enough money on that to support a family, which he didn't. (he laughs) The family didn't have too much, you know. He used to be like, every week the farmers used to come into a section around there with a horse wagon, no cars at that time, you know, bring the horses and bring the, some of them bring in some eggs and some of them bring cherries or fruit or tomatoes, stuff like that. And used to have where they're all lined up with the merchandise and my father used to try to catch the farmers before they come into the

city and buy. They had a chicken so he bought a chicken from them and eh bought some eggs and stuff like that. And then he delivered it to certain people. Made maybe ten cents in a trip, you know, something like that. And it wasn't easy, you know.

APPLEBOME: He would examine the eggs for the farmers to see if there were imperfections?

LEHRER: No. He didn't examine them at all. He knew they were fresh because they didn't have much, you know. They brought in two dozen eggs or maybe one dozen, each farmer, they didn't have too much to sell. So he used to buy the chicken when they brought in and he went over to the (?) and he slaughtered the chicken and brought them over to people that they used to buy them from him, and he'd get a little profit out of that. And then on, on like a weekend they used to ship the, then there was a big place where all the farmers used to bring the, merchants used to bring their eggs there. And then packed them and sent them to Germany. So they had to be packed. So he used to work at that, you know, once a week, and made

a few chlotas, you know, what they call. But it was, you know, it was quite a little town, you know. Religious, you know, people who used to go to shul. Even to five o'clock in the morning they used to go and doven, and then they went out to look, to make a few cents, you know, for his family.

APPLEBOME: Would you and your brothers go to shul with him?

LEHRER: No, no, I, I didn't go to shul with him on weekdays. But on Saturdays I used to go. And then, of course, after that, I grow up and I went to learn to be a carpenter, you know. Had to serve four years, you know, to learn the trade. Of course, they don't give you nothing, you know. You just work for, for the meal, you know. And I used to, used to sleep in the shop, you know, I didn't have no room in the, in the house, you know. So I slept in the shop on the bench, you know, the shaving there, and you sleep that way. And not only I. The other boys did the same thing. And worked there for four years after I got my classification, I mean, like passed the exams.

APPLEBOME: How was it arranged for you to apprentice?

LEHRER: Huh?

APPLEBOME: How was it arranged for you to apprentice as a carpenter?

LEHRER: How?

APPLEBOME: Yes. Did your father arrange for that?

LEHRER: No, I did it. My uncle was, had, was a boss, was a boss carpenter. they had their own business, you know. So his wife was my aunt, you know, my mother's sister. And I learned the trade over there. And I must say it was one of the best (he laughs) you know, there. And I got a step to work for years and I passed in three years. But after that it was a scarce of mechanics like, you know, like carpenters. So the little towns used to come in and pick up. After I passed and had papers my uncle said, "You go out to work for, you know, someplace else and learn a little more about the business. So where I worked in a little town down there not far from there. Uh, the guy used to wake you up five o'clock in the

morning. you didn't get no breakfast till about ten o'clock. And you worked till it gets dark, you know. There was no hours, you know. But I didn't care. I was young. I didn't mind. Uh, then after I grew up and I says I want to go to United States. I don't want to work here because they didn't pay anything. They themselves didn't have anything, you know. It wasn't a question of they didn't want to pay but they didn't have it.

So I worked there and, and then I decided to go to United States. So my father didn't have too much money to, uh, so he got an agent, I think it was about thirty dollars it cost to come to United States. I mean, on the boat. On the George Washington, that was the boat that I came.

APPLEBOME: What did your father and stepmother say when you told them you wanted to leave for the United States?

LEHRER: Well, stepmother said I shouldn't go, you, they wouldn't take you in the army, you're only a little skinny boy. But I didn't care about that. My father didn't say nothing. He figured, because my brother was in the United States

already. He came here in 1907.

APPLEBOME: Your brother was older?

LEHRER: Yeah, yeah, he was older. But, uh . . .

APPLEBOME: Was he writing to the family and letting you know what things were like?

LEHRER: No. He wasn't too much with that. He didn't really pay too much attention to the family after he got to the United States. But that was a little different. My heart and soul was for the family in Clochwof, you know, in Galicia, whatever it was.

APPLEBOME: But so what had you heard about the United States then?

LEHRER: Well, the only thing I really left United States because I didn't want to serve in the army. I was very, never forget when I was on the George Washington, when I have to get on the boat, that day they called me for the examination in Clochwof, you know. So I had a cousin of mine, about the same age, we come together. But the first time I went by myself. And I got turned

back because I was ready to serve the army.

APPLEBOME: Where had you gone?

LEHRER: Went to Mislowitz, that was the border between Germany and the, and the United, I mean where you leave there with the boat, that's where you came to, they can't do nothing no more. But the police come down, come down before to let me go. They found out that I was too young to serve in the army, so they took me off the boat, the, the train, and I had to go back. They brought me back to Lemburg, which was a big city, and they dropped me and let me go. So I decided I have to do something else. So my father got in touch with an agent, you know, to, to get me through the border. So the agent, I think, I don't know, we had to buy tickets from him. And I don't know what it was all together, but he got me through. When I got to the train to get on the boat before, that's when they examined you. So the, uh, what he do, he gave me a talice and twill, and you know, my cousin, and that's how the agent passed me so I can get out. So we got on the boat, on the George Washington boat, and we, uh,

we really couldn't eat nothing. We were seasick from the day we got on till we got there. And the funny part of it was it was a Jewish chef, it was a German boat, was Jewish for the, it catered to the Jewish people, you know.

APPLEBOME: What was the name of the boat?

LEHRER: George Washington.

APPLEBOME: And it left from which harbor?

LEHRER: From, uh, Mislowitz. I don't know, I forgot, I think it was Mislowitz, on the border from between Austria and Poland. So we didn't eat nothing, the two of us didn't eat nothing till we got to United States. And when we got to United States . . .

APPLEBOME: Can you tell me anything else about the boat trip over? Did you meet any people?

LEHRER: Yeah, we meet a lot of people. Most of them were from Russia, you know. You know they were on that boat at Mislowitz, they were there for weeks before they got some papers. Sleeping on the floor, you know, maybe children and the old

people, people from the children. A lot of old Jewish people were on that boat. Most of them all, all Jewish. Some Gentiles, you know, but most of them were Jews. And they were there for weeks. They wouldn't let them go till they had to have certain papers. Had to wait till they get the papers from Russia, you know how hard it was to get anything from Russia. And it was a pity the way these people lay there on the floor. No, no mattress or nothing. But we didn't have to wait. Once we got past the border, you know, then we have no problem.

APPLEBOME: Did you travel steerage?

LEHRER: Steerage, yeah, and we went there way down the bottom where the cattle was, you know. Way down.

APPLEBOME: There was actually cattle on the boat with you?

LEHRER: Huh?

APPLEBOME: There was actually cattle on the boat with you?

LEHRER: Who? What do you mean?

APPLEBOME: I misunderstood you then. Were there cattle on

the boat?

LEHRER: There was cattle on the boat, oh, yeah, that's why they call it steerage. That's why they had the name steerage, because there was cattle on the same, on the same floor that we lived.

APPLEBOME: And so what did you and your cousin do on the trip over besides no eat?

LEHRER: When we, we got to, the boat got to Ellis Island, the boat itself. The George Washington got to Ellis Island and they let everybody off. And then you have to wait in Ellis Island till you get examined.

APPLEBOME: What was it like when you came into New York Harbor? Do you remember the buildings you saw or how you were feeling?

LEHRER: Well, I was very impressed the way, the thing was when I got off after my, they examined me, and we got off, got off to Ellis, to South Ferry. The ferry, not with the big boat didn't come into South Ferry. They let us off and I saw a big stand with pies. So (he laughs) I ask it in

Jewish, it must have been Jewish, I says, "How much is this?" They said, "Ten cents." I couldn't get over it. Big apple pie for ten cents. (he laughs) That was the best meal I had. Then this voice down there in Ellis in South Ferry, waiting for the immigrants where they going. They take you for a few cents, whatever it was, they'd take you where you want to go . And that's how, and, my cousin was here in the United States about the same time as my brother, about 1907. He was in stair building business. So he got me a job for the next day with his, he and a partner with the name of Halpern, and they got me there to the job. But (he laughs) the funny part of it, I was young and they didn't work on Saturday over there at that time. It was a Jewish outfit, so they work Sundays. Well, I got up a little late and his partner, Halpern say, "You're fired." I didn't know what the hell he was talking about. I couldn't understand English. He says, "You're fired because you, about a half an hour late." Instead to be seven o'clock in the morning I was seven-thirty. You know, your first time I met

with a lot of landmen, you know, get together. So then after I got a job in Greenpoint, fellow by the name of Feldman. I got seven dollars a week for forty-four hours. And I worked there already. Because over there when you graduate your profession you get a union card. Because over there you get to be there four years until you get your papers. Then they give you from Lemberg, you know, an agent comes and gives you a union card. That union card was good here. And labor lodge on 86th Street, I think it was 86th Street was the labor lodge, and you go in there to carpenter's local and you got to pay three month dues ahead, I don't know. It costs a couple of bucks or something, it didn't cost much. And so the first job I got, after that I got a job as a, it was a union shop, and there was a shop steward in there. And the union wages was then twelve dollars a week. But the boss, I couldn't get twelve dollars because I was a young kid and people there were children, they got, they got the union wages, the shop steward saw, but I had to bring back three dollars every week because I, uh, but he says, "If you say anything

that, or if the boss say anything, if you say anything how much you got, don't tell 'em." In Yiddish, you know. I couldn't understand English then, you know. So it was a Jewish boss, you know. But I had work and I was just as good as the other guys because I had, I knew carpenter work pretty well. And then . . .

APPLEBOME: Who were you living with at this time? Where did you live?

LEHRER: I lived with some woman, some couple down in Brooklyn, on Bushwick Avenue. I paid twenty dollars a month for the room and she give me breakfast with that. She gave me coffee and a roll and butter for free, you know. And at night, then it was fifteen cents.

APPLEBOME: Were there other immigrants who were boarding with them?

LEHRER: No, because they didn't have, they only had, could spare that one. And Saturday was twenty-five cents.

APPLEBOME: Where did you stay in their house?

LEHRER: Stayed, they had, there was an apartment house, they were railroad flats, you know. I was like in the middle, you know, no windows or nothing, you know. Just a place to sleep. And I was happy.

APPLEBOME: Had you gotten in touch with your brother?

LEHRER: Yeah, I knew my brother. But he was, he wasn't married then. He lived in another place, you know. But, uh, I don't know. I didn't follow him around too much, you know. I wanted to be on my own.

APPLEBOME: When the ship came into New York Harbor and your cousin and yourself went to Ellis Island, what happened there?

LEHRER: Well, over there, you see, I had to have twenty-five dollars to show the boss, the directors, or whatever was the people down on Ellis Island where they had the big long desk, maybe a hundred feet long. All the immigrants lined up and they asked them, you know, different things. And he didn't have to. He had a brother, his brother came and take him off the boat. But I couldn't

depend on my brother because I know he was working. He couldn't do it. So my father didn't have the money, the twenty-five dollars. So he asked his brother to lend him the twenty-five dollars so I can show, show the inspectors down there that I got, then they let you off. Otherwise you couldn't get off the boat. And when I was here two, a week or so I went and, I never touched that money. I took that money, sent it right home. And I didn't have nothing in my pocket to live on or nothing. But I wasn't afraid. I knew I can get along all right. I sent the money back because I feel he borrowed the money and I didn't want to feel bad. So I sent the money right back to him. Everybody thought that was crazy. They says, "What do you want to do that," in Yiddish, you know. I says to myself, I says, "I don't care." I want, I want, he didn't have anything. And he's a poor man. And I says, "I don't want him to feel bad and have to do a lot of explaining to his brother." Because his brother wasn't rich either. But they had a few dollars, you know. Probably had, that's all he had.

APPLEBOME: Had an inspector actually asked to see the twenty-five dollars?

LEHRER: Oh, yeah, yeah, you had to show. You had to show at the desk that you got it. Oh, yeah. No ifs and ands. That's the way.

APPLEBOME: Can you remember any other questions they asked you, in what language?

LEHRER: They, well, they have interpreters. You speak Yiddish, they had interpreter in Yiddish. And then they, he explained what they asked and, you know, that's how they'd go around. And then they'd take you over to a room. The doctor look you over. And if you were all right, otherwise they keep you there. There was a hospital down there where they put you in and they keep you there till you, till you good shape, you know. There was, they didn't have no problem, no trouble. They were very nice all around, you know. They, they know you immigrants, you know. They can't speak a word of English and they had to go through an interpreter to explain everything.

APPLEBOME: Did you see some people who didn't pass the medical test?

LEHRER: Well, I didn't know it. They don't tell you, see. They don't, they don't tell you what's wrong or what. You go in there and if you don't pass they keep you there. You don't see them no more. They had a place where to keep all these people.

APPLEBOME: Were you worried about not passing?

LEHRER: Oh, no, I wasn't worried, I was in good shape, you know a carpenter is always in good shape. I mean, they do hard work and, you know, I wasn't worried about it at all.

APPLEBOME: If we can go back a little bit.

LEHRER: Go ahead.

APPLEBOME: When you were leaving Austria Hungary I understand that you wore an interesting disguise. Could you tell us a little bit about what that was like getting out of the country.

APPLEBOME: Oh, as I told you, got to the end of the line

before they release you to your own. The, uh, the agent, they gave you a talice and twill and you face out like you doven, and that's how they pass. Otherwise you never be able to leave the country at that age, you know.

APPLEBOME: Were they doing that with other boys also?

LEHRER: I don't know. I know my cousin and I did that. I don't know, it wasn't too many fellows down there at that. I think it was more elderly people that went to the United States to see their children and stuff like that.

APPLEBOME: Did the border guards ask you any questions?

LEHRER: No, they don't ask you nothing. Once you're off, the agent, the, uh, the police release you, then they don't ask you nothing no more.

APPLEBOME: The agent would speak to the policeman for you?

LEHRER: No. The agent had (?) you. But they got the contacts with them from I don't know where, but from Lemburg or some other place, which they worked through that, you know. The agent wasn't there at all. See, otherwise they'd probably

lock up the agent. (he laughs)

APPLEBOME: So at that point when you get to the border
you're travelling by yourself?

LEHRER: Yeah, you're by yourself. Nobody bothers you.
Nobody asks you any questions after you're on the
boat.

APPLEBOME: But when you travelled to the boat was it by
train or by coach.

LEHRER: No, the, the train. The train goes up to the
border. Then they stop. Then nobody gets off
till the police come and question you, you know.
And, of course, I suppose they all work together
down there to, uh, release you, you know, with
the agent.

APPLEBOME: So were you worried on the train when the police
came on?

LEHRER: No, I wasn't worried at all. The worry was to be
off the train on time and so I know it was safe.
Because when I went there I didn't do that what
they do. I didn't put no talice or twill like
that. Didn't know that. But they know, this is

a sign that it's all right. I mean, as far as I'm concerned, you know. That they gotta take me into, take me off the train, you know, to go. The train came in and the border was right there. And people were there for weeks down there, you know, to before they get released. But I found after you gotta pay (he laughs) if you wanna go. When you're that age you gotta pay. Can't get through.

APPLEBOME: But so were you carrying money with you to pay?

LEHRER: I had that twenty-five dollars. Oh, no, no. I didn't pay anybody. That was for the ticket. They bought the ticket, that was included. They guarantee you they gonna take you off. They guarantee that. Because they know the agents that were there. They work together, I suppose.

APPLEBOME: Okay. I think I understand. Um, and on the boat trip over, you didn't really eat any food?

LEHRER: I didn't eat then because I was sick from the day I got on the boat till I got off the boat?

APPLEBOME: People around you were sick?

LEHRER: Yeah, yeah, but they say if you eat herring you'll be all right, you know. You tasted a little stuff, you know. But I couldn't get rid of the seasick.

APPLEBOME: And what was it like seeing people from other countries?

LEHRER: Well, everybody is, some of them speak Russian, some of them speak Polish, some of them, you know, they speak different languages over there. And most of them were Jewish people on the boat.

APPLEBOME: Did you talk to any of them?

LEHRER: Well, talked to them, you know, everybody's a little afraid, you know, to say anything, you know. But we talked to people, yeah. There were a lot of people we talked to when they come on the deck, you know. Talked to people from different places in Galicia or Poland or some other places, you know, Russia. And the Russian people were like sticking by themselves, you know, their own. But, uh, what I spoke to is, is the Austrian people, you know.

APPLEBOME: What did you take with you when you left home?

LEHRER: What did I took with me?

APPLEBOME: Right. What were you travelling with?

LEHRER: Nothing. Just, we didn't have much clothes, you know. So you, I think I had just an overcoat and I don't think I had much more. Just the one suit that I had, I was wearing, and some underwear, something like that. And I had, had an overcoat that I was wearing.

APPLEBOME: Your family didn't give you anything else to take with you? Did you travel with any food?

LEHRER: They didn't. No, no, you didn't travel with any food at all. You, uh, you bought on the train. They had, they were selling on the train sandwiches, stuff like that. You, you bought it on the train. I don't remember taking anything from home.

APPLEBOME: This is the end of side one of tape one.

END OF SIDE ONE

BEGINNING OF SIDE TWO

APPLEBOME: This is side two of tape one. Mr. Lehrer, can you tell us anything else about when you arrived in New York and Ellis Island? Did anybody meet you at the island?

LEHRER: Ah, no, nobody. As I said, I had a boy came over to me. He asked me where I gotta go and I told him, and I told him where I'm gonna go.

APPLEBOME: How did you know where to go?

LEHRER: Well, I told him, they look up the name, you know, they looked it up, you know, American boys, they looked it up.

APPLEBOME: What name was it that you were giving them?

LEHRER: I gave, I gave him to go to my cousin, which was here a long time. And they took me down there. So I don't know how much I gave them that time, maybe a dollar, something like that.

APPLEBOME: When you were on Ellis Island, there was the medical examination and then they asked you some questions. Did you have any food while you were on the island?

LEHRER: No, i didn't have, while on the island, no. I didn't eat nothing till I get off the island. Then I start to fell all right, you know, I wasn't dizzy, I wasn't, you know.

APPLEBOME: You weren't feeling well when you were on the island?

LEHRER: No, on the island I was all right. Once I got off the boat I was all right, no, no more.

APPLEBOME: How, after the boat pulled into New York Harbor, how did you get to Ellis Island?

LEHRER: Well, they, the boat, the boat takes you right to Ellis Island, you know. From there you get a ferry to go to South Ferry after they release you. But the boat goes into, went into Ellis Island and there were all the immigrants. Everybody gets off there. And then over there they get examined. They get, asked you whatever questions they got to ask you.

APPLEBOME: What did the island look like when you were getting off the boat?

LEHRER: Well, it looked like a nice country place, you

know. It wasn't like a hospital or something like that. The Ellis Island, I mean, the building that's in Ellis Island where the immigrants get off, was a nice high ceiling, you know. Had a long desk where, maybe a hundred foot long. Not a desk, but it was like a, like a counter, you know, like the old fashioned way. Stand up and write, you don't sit down at a stool. It was up like that. But everybody was lined up at that desk and different type of questions.

APPLEBOME: How did you know what line to go stand on?

LEHRER: They tell you there. They tell you what to do, you know, where to. No, I didn't know.

APPLEBOME: Were there people from other boats on Ellis Island that day?

LEHRER: I think they could only take one boat at a time. Because they haven't got that much space for all the immigrants coming on the boats. One boat at a time.

APPLEBOME: And your father and stepmother who you had left

in Austria Hungary, did you communicate with them after you got to the United States?

LEHRER: Oh, yeah, I wrote to them. Couldn't, there was no telephone at that time to call, you know. And I couldn't afford it, couldn't call them. What did you tell them about the United States? How did it compare with what you had expected?

LEHRER: Well, I really was happy when I got here right away, because everything was so free. You know, uh, and, uh, food was free. Plenty, you know, and no problems. And I, I liked it. Right away I liked United States. You know, I mean, people were different, you know, then, over there. Over there nobody has anything, you know, they haven't got no food to live on, you know. Eggs, if you get one a week, you know, there, but here you're lucky.

APPLEBOME: Did you go back to your home country?

LEHRER: Yes. I went back in 1931. I, I was then in business for myself then after a while. Worked for somebody, then I went in business. Well, I didn't know anything else but carpenter work.

But as you go along you learn a lot about other, so start to, he owned a contracting business. And, but I went back, at that time, my father wouldn't let me go. My daughter, my daughter was with me, my wife. Of course, my wife passed away ten years ago. My daughter's still alive. My daughter was about seven years at that time when I went back to see the old people. And the first night I stayed in my father's house, it rained. The water come right in to the bed. So I went out the next day, I got some carpenters over there and took off the whole roof and the beams were all rotten and everything. I put a new roof, new rafters, new, new metal covering. And, and I was there for about three weeks and then I went back, went back. We stopped at Vienna. We stayed there, I don't know, a week or so. And I took along three thousand dollars with me and I practically spent it all when I got home. When I got home, oh yeah, I rebuilt the whole roof and put a porch on the front of the house, re-stuccoed the outside.

APPLEBOME: This was the house you had been living in as a

boy?

LEHRER: Yeah, as a boy. And I want to put electric in there. He wouldn't let me. Says he went me, he wants kerosene, he don't want no electric in the. You know, see, he's afraid he couldn't afford to, you know, to pay the bill. So, well, we didn't put it in. He didn't want it. I couldn't force him, you know, that's what he want. So we got, but the funny part of it, the first day all the people, these poor people found out I came from United States. One, one come along with one shoe. And he hadn't got no money for the other shoe. A woman. And then the other one would come along. She wants to get paid to get a horse and she can't afford to buy it. So I had to give her a little money for her to buy the horse. And a lot of people come down from different little towns, poor people. You give each one ten cents or something, it was a lot of money for them. But, uh, and, the friends before came over and stuff like that. And when I come back, we come back here on the Europa, on the Bremen. We went there on the Europa and come back on the Bremen.

We come back, the agent, the immigration agent says, "Charlie, you're back. Your bank is broke." It's a good thing I took the money out, I wouldn't have any money no more there. So they did go broke. We lived in Long Beach that time.

APPLEBOME: And the bank had collapsed while you were away?

LEHRER: Collapsed. They didn't pay nobody. They didn't have any money. But, but I was crying to see my father for a long time. And I was pretty busy at the time during the depression, you know. And a fellow offered me to pay for the whole trip if I do his job. I says, "I can't do that job for you because I, I disappointed my father three times already," that I couldn't leave other people were saying. Finally I didn't took this job and I went, come here to see my father. It was about twenty-two years the first time I saw.

APPLEBOME: And then you went back to the United States and you didn't return again?

LEHRER: Oh, no, I didn't return. I couldn't. My wife was crying every time we went. She had a little trouble with her arm. We went to different

doctors, you know, and nobody knew what to do about it. They did this and this kept coming back. So, and we come back to United States her sister says, "Go to the Bellevue Hospital, they'll give you an injection and everything." And they did. The Bellevue, they give her some injection and that sickness disappeared.

APPLEBOME: Okay. Thank you very much, Mr. Lehrer. Well, I did all I can. I'll be honest about it. I give you everything I know.

APPLEBOME: Right. Thank you very much.

LEHRER: You're welcome. Okay. I'll let you people talk.

APPLEBOME: This is the end of side two of interview number 024 with Mr. Charles Lehrer.