

MSFC History Project  
Herta Heller  
Conducted by A. Dunar  
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HELLER: ... Being together [with] people from different countries. [They were] experienced to a certain extent with Germans, in Europe, [and] they were to my opinion, understanding, very helpful and also told us that we should just try not to be conspicuous, [but] to blend in. That was very important too. We tried to blend in and not attract attention, [but] we did not go into hiding. All of this personal advice, the family received as well as the men. That was very important.

DUNAR: You had briefings even before you came to the United States?

HELLER: No. In Germany, it is a long story, when the men left for the United States, they did that in different groups. Von Braun and a few very close co-workers were brought over first. Then there was a large group taken second on the army boat. That was a used for the transport for military personnel. We were assigned to that and went with all the American officers and soldiers to the United States. We were what we call today "wards" of the Army. At that time General Toftoy was very instrumental in actually negotiating that the von Braun group came over here. The number was first reduced from what he had suggested down to 100. Then my husband came with the group called Second Boat

that was because some of the men were assigned to restore one of these V-2"s and my husband was a part of that group. We went a little bit later, but still before Christmas of 1945. We arrived here at one of the army post in the Northeast before we were taken to Texas. We came to Texas after Christmas.

DUNAR: That was in 1946?

HELLER: Yes. We came over here in 1945 with the second boat. The first boat came over I would say perhaps four to six weeks before that. These people that worked in ....[tc 38] at least two months maybe three months at the most. They were taken to Fort Bliss, TX and were told when they were to sign a second contract after the first year. Then the families could come over or they could return to Germany. This is when we came over also at different times also on army boats. I came over and still have to laugh about that ..[tc46] and it was room enough for one I think and I was told, if I am not wrong, that even was even under German direction, I am not sure because the name sounded French. It took us 16 days to come over to the United States. We were treated extremely well. The boat was called a "Hospital boat" and had doctors and nurses. They did that in order to take care of the children. If they put them on a regular boat and the children became ill, it was difficult, so they provided us one of

those boats, so if children became ill, it would be easy to treat them.

DUNAR: Did you have children?

HELLER: Yes, I had a three year old daughter and my son was four and a half. We had very nice nurses that visited us everyday and took care of anything. One I remembered was from Pennsylvania, an older nurse and even spoke German in the Pennsylvania dialect. But they were still very helpful because some of the mothers were not that efficient, even if they knew English, in communicating. The nurses called on us to make Easter Baskets for the children on Easter Baskets, so they could introduce us to the American habits. We met with them once upstairs about a week before and made Easter eggs for all the children. A lot of the mothers were also seasick and it was quite a thing. The children don't get seasick up to after a certain age. The mothers were feeling very ill. I fortunately do not get seasick. For that reason I was often helping them and communicating with them, but because I felt well that was an advantage.

DUNAR: You spoke English?

HELLER: Yes. We have in high school, at that time, you had to take

the system of high school that was available. I come from a little town, today it is about 30,000, and there was at that time only one high school that liked to graduate. The other two were boy's school. The girl's school closed with the tenth grade. I went for 10 years to the girl's school. They had a preschool that you entered and you didn't have to go to any other farther, they go up to the tenth and graduate from there. Then I had to take an entrance examination for the boy's school. I finished up at the boy's school. There were very few girls there. They formed a class depending on the size. You asked me about the English. When you went 9 years to high school as I did, at that time you had 3 or 4 years of preschool, then 13 years, you then had three languages. You begin with your languages in the grade in which the high school began, the fifth grade. Then after you have one language for 2 years you picked up another language, but you continued in the first one. My second language was English, my third one was French. I know better French than English, (not today, but I used to know). In tenth grade you had had four years of language. Each one had usually three languages when they went up to the finally graduation for college. But today these systems are different. They used to be called audigymnasium[tc108]. It used to be Humanistic gymnasium with the emphasis on old languages. Some of my brothers went there and took just Latin, Greek and maybe towards the end an optional language or French.

But in my case we had modernized the program and we started two modern languages, but we still had Greek. There was a lot of emphasis on humanities, but since we were of the form of an audigynasium, that referred to the natural sciences. We had a lot of mathematics and the natural sciences like biology, natural science. So, I had English, but I did not suspect I would be going overseas. I have no problem in understanding my own speaking. I had a book of English, but I had to learn by conversing with other people to learn what the common language was, but I had no problem in understanding.

DUNAR: When you arrived, it was in New York? Did you take a train to Fort Bliss?

HELLER: By train. We came to New York, and I will never forget this, we arrived in the harbor the boat was full of military personnel and I had to make one of the officers because my son had always paid me his paperbound books that he was reading because they had such interesting title pages and the pictures and he was four and a half, so I was to watch that he didn't snatch that book away, because the officer was seated in the vicinity. We had a large blanket reading. I had dropped the book, there was a big stairwell, so I went down with him to retrieve the book and we couldn't find it. But on every floor was a trash can, but I was desperate, that he took the book and dropped it down the stair-

well. Then we came

down to the last floor and that was the jail. So I went up again, there were bars and people in them! It was a military jail for anyone caught on penalty. So we went up again and there was the officers and he laughed and said "Oh, I have finished it anyhow". I said "We cannot find it and I have looked in trash can and everywhere." Someone might have taken it and continued reading it. But then he offered when he came to New York to go on deck with us and show us the sights. That was very helpful because I have seen the silhouette on pictures, but I had no idea what everything was. So he took some of us with him and then he explained the whole New York area. We had to stay on the boat, so all the military personnel were leaving first and we had to stay to the end. Then we were taken to Grand Central Station by bus. When our guides explained to us that we should just avoid talking too much to the people there in Grand Central Station and to stay together, because these things were not known and we needed explanation, so we should avoid saying anything. Some of them had suggested that we should say that we were war brides, but this was difficult and kind of ridiculous too, because some say said it, and then the American answered, "My goodness, we have really hurried up here," because the children - some went up to 14 [years old]. That didn't work, so we didn't use it. Of course they still could guess who were because some of the children wore the umbrel[tc166] or leather pants and so on and the hats that were Germans and other costumes of Bavaria. Someone

could immediately guess where we had come from. Then we traveled by train from New York to Texas. That was a long strained journey, we had Pullman so that we could sleep at night. I remember the next morning I raised the shade on my Pullman bed and "Oh my goodness, my husband had written to me and then it just looked like a moon landscape. We were in the desert already and there was sand and these rocks, tumbleweed that looked just like the moon to me at that moment. But my husband had written to me about it. He had also written it was just raining once or twice a year. We arrived in El Paso and it poured [rain] and we had all rented taxis and also had military vehicles so that we could be transported from the El Paso station to the Fort Bliss post, so the Army had furnished buses and some had rented taxis to pick up their families, if there families were too large. We were living in the quarters of the nurses, so this was part of the post that was the hospital region. Some of these wards were given to us. Each family got according to the size of and number of rooms. We had three: a living room, a bedroom for the children, a bedroom for the parents and then we joined with our four families [to share a] large bathroom with showers. Later on we changed to big wards that were the wards for the injured military personnel to four apartments that were already under construction. We then each got an apartment. So we had a two bedroom apartment and the furniture was furnished by the Army so we didn't need anything else but our laundry and personal belong-

ings. We had two children in a two bedroom apartment with kitchen and bathroom. We had a living room with a dining room area.

DUNAR: Did they have any schools set up for the children?

HELLER: Yes, that was very good. Everyday we had a lady, who was provided by the Army, who was responsible to see that the children got to the right place. In the morning school buses would take the children. Where we resided, Officers also lived. There were also American families that had children. We were taken to the El Paso school. There was no difficulty. There were a lot of Spanish speaking children that knew little English. The teachers were used to them. In my opinion they went much too slow, but that was because of the Spanish-speaking children. So they went very slow and I had the feeling that they should go faster. The children had no problem. Mine had to go to kindergarten. He was born in the fall and he was getting five so he had to go to kindergarten. My daughter was 3 years old then. One of the German mothers opened a preschool and she went there for half days. She learned her English there. This lady also [tc 234]

helped us if we wanted to attend church or get acquainted with churches and giving us a choice of where we wanted to go.

DUNAR: You were at Fort Bliss from 1946?

HELLER: 1947. My husband came over the end of 1945 and practically he started I think at Fort Bliss in 1946. Then after a year he was offered a contract and then he was transported in another boat. My husband was on the second boat. I was also on the second transport.

DUNAR: Some of the families were already at Fort Bliss when you got there?

HELLER: Yes, not many. He left in March 1947 and arrived here in April 1947, because it took 16 days. It was a slow boat.

DUNAR: When did you come to Huntsville?

HELLER: In 1950 in the Fall right before school began. They had arranged it in such a way that the families would move also in a staggered departure and the families with school children should arrive before school began. We came in late summer in 1950. Some families had already come in earlier summer. But that was usually according to the tasks the husbands were working with. They selected only 50 families with school children were there [tc 256] the school beginning.

DUNAR: Did all the men come first, or did the families stay together?

HELLER: No we came as families. My husband bought a second-hand trailer and put all our possessions on there and got into the car. Actually we didn't need the trailer, but we had heard that prices were very high in Huntsville and we did not have any furniture. Then we suggested to the other Germans that maybe we should buy a refrigerator and a stove in El Paso. So we did this and we needed some means of transporting it so we bought a second hand trailer and put the refrigerator and stove in it and our cat.

DUNAR: What was your first impression of Huntsville?

HELLER: We liked it very much. I missed Texas too and I am very grateful that we started in one of the countries in the Southwest because I would never have gotten to know the typical traits of the western area of the United States and that is so important. When people visit and just see the East there is a great similarity to Europe not in the west. I am very grateful that I could live in Texas and later on, when I had a car could take weekend trips and camp out. It was wonderful with all the national parks. They didn't exist like that in Germany. Oh he enjoyed those to camp there and have our vacations there. For many years

we have never used the hotel or [tc285] anything. First to save money and then secondly it became a habit. We liked Huntsville, because it was green and reminded us of Germany. And also he liked very much that there was a mountain, Monte Sano, because it reminded all those people that were coming from the mountains. He had fears, we were told ranked about 48-47, the expenses [funds] for the schools, and that worried us. But we were actually pleasantly surprised, the schools were very good. My children went to East Clinton. They had older the teachers who were very traditional in their approach in teaching. They taught and they learned much more than they had in El Paso. In Texas, everything in school was free, textbooks and extra books. Then when Werner was in Kindergarten they had (to my opinion) a free lunch there because they had to stay longer because the bus transported them and they took naps there and had equipment for the children, blankets and so on. The school system [there] had a lot of money to my opinion because everything was practically free. In Huntsville, they had very little money and that was the statistics, that we received that it was in such a late spot on the scale, but it had excellent teachers. The first two teachers that my children had, Mrs..... [tc314] later on who worked also on weekends and Mrs. Lively, she was very well-known here, she was the wife of a medical doctor her. They couldn't have been better. They were both teachers, older and very traditional. They taught phonetics. Which [the children] had not learned in

Texas. They learned reading there like Chinese, ...every word [322]. I was, of course, familiar with that method. It was a better way for the children. We started out with the whole word method. In Germany, we split it up into syllable and letters and that was prescribed in the first for a teacher, so you were obliged after 6 weeks to have a program to have the words broken up into syllables. After something like 8 to 10 weeks you had to be down to the letters. Here I didn't see that because they patterned that approach but they didn't get down to the letters. My daughter went to a private school in El Paso, because I had the feeling that maybe they should go a little bit faster. The private school would accept her even if she wasn't quite 6 yet. So she entered a half a year earlier while the public schools would not accept her, because you had to be six or closer to six. So she went for half a year to a private school and she was placed right away into second grade here. They accepted her knowledge completely. I thought the schools were very good here and they did take good care of the children and help them in every aspect that they lacked because of their language problems.

DUNAR: You mention before about the things that the Army had done to prepare you for what you could expect [when you got to Texas]. Is that true when you came to Huntsville, or just when you came to Texas?

[351]

HELLER: On the trips they would prepare us and I think mainly they probably prepared the husbands for these things because they had more contact. We had Mrs. Godfrey that was for all of these questions available; school questions and other questions about the churches and any interests. I remember we usually went on Saturdays shopping. We had no car and it was quite different from El Paso, we had to go on the bus. One of my first requests was to go to the public library. So we did and my husband said for me to look for my books and I will read my newspaper. The men had access to the library on the Post that we didn't because it was mostly scientific and also had availability of other books, but we didn't have that access, and we had to go to the public library. Then my knowledge about American authors was very limited, so when I told the Librarian, I would very much like to read some good American authors. I was familiar with British authors more. Of course I knew Margaret Mitchell and Gone With the Wind, but I wanted more to read. So she took me to the children reading room! Oh yes, I had an accent. People that had an accent usually came from Spanish speaking and they had problems in English, so she thought I would need easy books. So she took me to the children's reading room. My husband was sitting behind me and just started laughing and laughing! I said "Oh no, I can read anything, because I had had 16 years of English. My speaking is not very good, because I have not had enough experience." We had not had the most modern language instruc-

tions, not a great deal spent in conversation, but we had [388] more traditional approach of reading and learning more or less in grammar and writing also. Then she took me into suspense and then to all the books about the War between the States, House Divided and so on. I said, "Oh no, I just come from a war, I don't want to read anything about a war!" She said, "Then you look for yourself!" I wanted typical American authors, but I must not have expressed myself. I took Willa Cather and some of the authors I had heard about and knew that they were good American writers, but I had never had a chance to read them. We had mostly books that were based on English authors and we learned also the English phonetics and pronunciation of the British English. But, I will never forget that! My husband got a kick out of me being taken to the Children room, too!

DUNAR: When you were back in Huntsville, could you elaborate on how the German community helped to build the library here.

HELLER: There was a library, the Carnegie library. The old one. Now the city garage is there. That was facing when you come from the Square, Madison St. There used to be funeral home catycorner, from the old Carnegie Library. It had a basement that was used for administrative purposes and also the children's reading room and for such purposes. I was very honored because they founded the Friends of the Library in the early '50's and they were really sharing everything with us. They wanted to have a

member of the German group on the Board. They selected Dr. Martin Shilling, who later on went to Boston. He could not serve for a very long time. When he left, they asked me to join. At that time it was 1950, I had been on the Board of the Friends. From that time on we had always worked on getting a new library, that was the library that was now used by the city administration. So our main purpose was to make it possible to support our own movement into the direction of a larger new library. Then when we were in there, soon, a plan for a new library. So, we had worked for two new libraries. What they didn't have in Huntsville was a bookstore. That surprised me because I compared it almost with my hometown, it was almost the size of Huntsville, between sixteen and twenty thousand. I was used to having two bookstores. In Germany you had to buy your school books, so the bookstore had not the task of supplying the books, there was a bookstore in Huntsville that you could buy textbooks, they were not furnished by the school then. There was no real bookstore except this textbook outlet, that was used before the schools started.... The only books you could buy was at the Hotel Russell Erksine, there was a magazine stand with a few paperbacks. Soon they opened next to the Russell Erksine, the Burkett Book Store because there was so much demand for a bookstore. Groups that are today active in musical performances like the symphony, that was founded then, and a lot of those founders were of the German group.

DUNAR: Most of your contacts with Huntsvillians when you got here, were through the schools, or the library. What other [ways did you meet people?]

[485]

HELLER: Yes, through the children and my neighbors. I have to tell (I don't know if this is very important) how kind the people were here. At first, there was a terrible lack of housing when we came to Huntsville. They had only two areas where there were a complex of rental units. The Neugent apartments on Church Street and then another one was in the vicinity of the medical department area of UAH. That is still there it has been renovated and is behind the old Kroger's store. These were already rented when we came because there were renter's here. The one's who weren't taken were already rented by German's that had come earlier. So we had a problem. A good friend of ours that had come a little bit earlier, looked around for private housing in the Northeast and found a little house for us. It was really a tiny little house, all we had was a living room, a kitchen corner and one large bedroom. We had looked for something larger if we could get it. Then the idea came up that we all should perhaps get lots and build houses. That was good, so we looked for some property where we could build a house. Many were interested in the mountain area, because it was a beautiful area. There was also a large tractor area on that. One of the Germans that had

for some reason some inheritance, I think, some money available had bought it and sold some plots to others. We had bought at that time a lot up there and built our house there. We could not get a large enough FHA commitment, because it was on an unfinished road. You could get a larger commitment on a lot on a paved road. We ended up building up in downtown Huntsville, because there were all these reservations that you had to observe. I think a lot of the houses were by Americans that worked with our husbands or were neighbors. I remember when we lived in the house the first year, it was very sparsely furnished, because we didn't have any furniture at that time, except for the refrigerator and stove that we had brought along. My husband built a lot of the things, bookcases chairs and things like that. Unfortunately, the second year we were in the house before Christmas, we started a fire on the Sunday before Christmas (we light in Germany an Advent wreath) I had made an Advent wreath that was sitting there, but it was the last Sunday before Christmas, so it was dry and my husband asked me to look for some documents he was suppose to bring to the office the next morning and had them all in the suitcase (we kept them in a suitcase in Germany in case of an air raid). I went to the bedroom where we had it in the closet and looked for the documents to put them together. In the meantime he had lighted the Advent wreath and I had called for him to come and see for himself what he needed. He came for a moment to the bedroom, and in that moment the candles caught

fire with the dry leaves, and our house burned down. We were very fortunate because the children were already in bed. The boy ran immediately out of the house, the girl was a bit slower. We went in again to look for her and we couldn't get through to that room. We then went in from the outside, through a window and got her out. It was unbelievable! All our neighbors wanted to do something, and since it was winter they brought clothing for the children. [605] They gave us their clothes, jackets against the cold so we had something else to wear besides what we had on. We were burned on the hands and faces so they offered to help to save what was in the house. Then they collected money together on our street and bought us a dining room table and chairs so we would have furniture. Then our church, the Lutheran Church, had some people that were going away over Christmas and offered their apartment for us to live in until we could find a place to rent. The generosity was unbelievable. I think that is more spontaneous than you would find in Germany. Americans are extremely generous and start immediately. They are "action-pushed" in American. "Let's do something!" For this reason I got to know many people very well. I felt very much at home, [even though] we were strangers here, having just been here a year. We had been in the house just about a year and they poured out love and shared with us and tried to help us. There I made very many friends with my neighbors. They have moved out of the neighborhood, I still live in that house, but we still have contact.

DUNAR: Did you rebuild that house?

HELLER: Yes, it was mainly in the inside. They had to rebuild the inside, the shell was still there.... We lost everything else that we had in furniture, because we had no insurance. But the house was insured and it was restored. You wouldn't believe how that made you feel, we had these burned hands and could do nothing and helping us with the necessities of life. I have never forgotten that.

DUNAR: Did the army help too?

HELLER: Oh yes, at work my husband's [co-workers] came in a group and ....helped.

DUNAR: In other things too, was the Army concerned about the family? Did they help in terms of finding housing?

HELLER: Yes. We had at that time another German family who was building a home and lived in an apartment, that was also an apartment. They told us we could use that. They had actually acquired that house and were going to sell it and build a larger house. They said we could stay there until we had renovate and restored our house. ...So we had the German group that immediately helped too. Colleagues of my husband, neighbors and mem-

bers of our church helped. That, I can never repay, so when something like that happens, I like to donate something. ....

DUNAR: During that time did you teach?

HELLER: Well, it was more or less just accidentally getting into [722] that. I was teaching school in Germany, a professional teacher. The Germans in the group found out about it, so they asked me if I could teach the children on Saturdays, so they could learn to speak and write German. I said OK, so I would teach them with my children. But there were so many that I had about four groups that I taught on Saturdays. According to age, I took the children from two years of age [on up] so that I had about four groups, the beginners, intermediate and then an advanced group.

DUNAR: This is one dimension we want to bring out. How the families lived....

HELLER: We were helped very much. That is good that you reminded me of how the working colleagues helped very much because they came always on the weekends and helped with the house while it was being redone. They tried to keep as much of the furniture as could and sanded and refinished it. There were a few pieces that

could be saved. Since the fire started in the living room, the doors were closed to the back so that helped. They helped on the weekends especially, since we had these burned hands. We never could have done it then.

DUNAR: Was von Braun a community leader as well as a leader in the space program?

[757]

HELLER: I would say in respect to the University he was because very early, after we had come here, he was interested in getting the Research Institute established and went to the legislature and held a speech (he was a very good speaker). [This was to] get funds to build a Research Institute. Apparently, his speech was fantastic, since they unanimously voted the amount that he had requested. ....He was very interested in the University itself, not only in getting the Research Institute so that research contacts could be shared by the group at Marshall and the University. Then his coworkers, the German Engineers and Scientist to teach at the University on the Graduate level. For example, my husband was a specialist in German dynamics.[775], so he was told by von Braun that he had better teach German dynamics at the University. He asked other people to teach chemistry, physics, whatever their special knowledge was. He was still building the house and my husband built it himself to save money

and at that time, I think it was in '52, he was asked to teach German dynamics. He, of course, had to prepare for University lectures and graduate seminars. He liked to do it and did it for two terms. It then became too much for him because he had so much work at the office and he felt also that the students had gotten the basics for further studies for themselves. For at least one to two years people taught graduate courses and out of that came the new career of the graduate school of Natural Science. Then other professors came in who were Americans and they were hired. There was more money existing and these were [793] all part-time teachers. Most of those that came in were also part-time, we had very few full-time teachers in the early part of the University in 1967. He was very instrumental so that the graduate school in the natural science goes back to von Braun. An extension of that was meeting at Butler High School, the old Butler that is now Stone, and he met there in the evenings from 6 to 8 and 8 to 10. I cannot recall that we had any Saturday classes then, we had only evening classes. But very few full-time personnel at that extension. We had Dr. Frances Roberts as full-time, Hutchins was a full-time in English and in History. He had for political science Dr. ....[807] and for the graduate school ....[808] he was there for several years. They all took care of the graduate courses.

DUNAR: How did your husband like working for the Army? Did they give him latitude in what he was doing, or was the Army directing

HELLER: No, I think they worked very much in the way that von Braun wanted to have it done. Quite independently. They had a habit in Germany not to talk about such things, so it was very little known. I know he enjoyed his work and had different positions. He was for sometime a scientific writer on the staff of Dr. von Braun. He was involved there with other universities in research projects. Later on he was Deputy under Dr. Stuhlinger in the Space Science Laboratories at Marshall Spaceflight Center. Later [827] Director of the Space Science Laboratories. Dr. Studlinger became Director of Science and Hans became deputy. So he had always loved what he had to do. It was mostly the Space Science Laboratory that developing research projects. Then as I mentioned before he had worked very much with the dynamics. In Germany it was fuels and design of the tank for the fuel. Also the selection of fuels.....

DUNAR: When Marshall was founded and General Medaris was very reluctant to have the group leave the ABMA, what was your husbands feeling about that formation of NASA and Marshall separate from ABMA?

HELLER: I forget if he ever said anything about that. You had the choice to stay with the Army, and some people did, but very few. Most of them took the change to the civilian agency. [Since] von

Braun went in that direction, they all wanted to stay together since it was so successful. It was for them, it was an administrative change not a subject matter. But we have always been grateful to the way the Army has directed and helped us.

DUNAR: You also said that you might be able to recommend some people that we might talk to?

HELLER: Yes. In which area?

DUNAR: Everything since we are looking at the whole development of the center. Anybody who you can suggest at all.

HELLER: There are so many.

DUNAR: We are looking, not so much at the technological standpoint, but the development of the center itself.

HELLER: Men as well as women?

DUNAR: Yes

HELLER: The women would not know too much, since they [the husbands] had secret clearances and they could not discuss things.

DUNAR: You told me this morning exactly the thing I wanted in terms

of the development of the community of Huntsville because that's part of the development of the center as well. We want that part and of course we have to get into the part of the technological development.

HELLER: There are many that I can suggest. Dr. Aeussermann, Dr. Studlinger. Mr. Heinberg would be good. Dr. Hreszer. Dr. Rees.

DUNAR: Can you think of things that we might overlook in our studies, that we should consider in the writing of the history of the center?

HELLER: Mr. Weissman who works for the Chamber of Commerce. He knows some of the civic projects, so he has had more contact with the civic authorities here in town. Mr. Hiltent...[931], the architect. Mr. Weissman was the only one who was not a technical person. He was already in Peenemunde as a business administrator. So he had a position like that here and then took a job with a corporation and then the job at the Chamber of Commerce. Then I would suggest Mrs. Aurma.[948]. Her husband died early here. They came over later than we did. They came directly to Huntsville. She is from an aristocratic family. When her husband died very early, then of course, von Braun tried to give her an opportunity to have a position in professional work. She had

a professional background so he hired her at that time, I think as a cost controller or international mail. She worked directly under Dr. von Braun in the Arsenal for many years. Taking care of his international mail first. Later on, she was, especially when he moved away to Washington, she was mostly working in Public Relations. She's now the President of the Friends of German Culture. In that aspect you would get information there. You would also get information from her about the work in Marshall Spaceflight Center since she was directly under Dr. von Braun and then later on after he left in Public Relations. When groups came she guided and took care of them.

Maybe if you ask a person like Mr. Heinberg or Dr. Aeussermann, they would know more work wise which people to work with. Some are very old now, so I don't know if they would like to be interviewed.

DUNAR: Any topics or individuals, you think about, let me know.

HELLER: Mr. Maus, might talk to you. Mr. Teissman also worked in as the Lab. Mr. Michtener, Computer Specialist, I think. [continues to give names of former workers].....

We were pleasantly surprised about Huntsville. Von Braun wanted originally to go to the mountainous regions, perhaps getting a place in Colorado. But that didn't work out. But we were pleasantly surprised, we liked the landscape and many of the

Germans liked the lakes and built houses there to go boating and swimming. We thought also that the schools were better than we had expected, better than in El Paso. We had a great deal of money which was very essential. Huntsville had a very nice small town atmosphere.