

Woman recalls childhood spent hiding from the Nazis

By JUDITH BERNE

Irene Einhorn reveals in the fact of being "a typical, normal housewife and mother."

The West Bloomfield resident is reluctant to work while her children — Derek, 8, and Erin, 7 — are young. She is also hesitant to leave them with baby-sitters for an evening out and will only take a trip if her in-laws can stay with them.

Overprotective? A waste of a Wayne State University graduate? Maybe so.

But also understandable. Mrs. Einhorn is a product of the Holocaust.

This past weekend was designated to remember the Holocaust by President Jimmy Carter. Sermons in churches and synagogues throughout the country dealt with the period of world trauma. It was recalled in the media.

Mrs. Einhorn agrees it should not be forgotten by the world. But she finds the subject extremely painful and avoids reading or viewing anything related to it.

"I don't watch anything like that. It is too frightening to me. All my life I've heard these horrible stories. I've just had enough of them. I know people have to remember. But I don't."

BORN IN Bedzin, Poland in 1942, Mrs. Einhorn's birth was kept a secret, she explains. "The Germans had no need for infants. When I cried, they'd put a pillow over my face."

As a baby she was left alone during the day while her father and mother left the ghetto to perform work for the Germans. By the time she was becoming mobile — around six months — her parents determined it was too difficult to keep

her identity secret. Her father found a Christian family willing to keep her and another to keep her baby cousin.

Her father paid the families and promised them the apartment and factory he once owned before the war would be theirs when the war was over.

"This baby cousin of mine was killed," Mrs. Einhorn says. She was traveling on a bus when her foster mother when the passengers began pointing the baby out as "a Jewish child."

The woman became so frightened she abandoned the baby on the bus. Later reports were that she was killed.

Mrs. Einhorn is grateful that she received good care. As the Germans pressed harder, she was sent out of the city by her foster family to her grandmother's farm.

"I was fairly light complexioned," the freckled red head said. "People apparently didn't suspect that much."

OU prof leads water study

Paul Tomboulion of Rochester has been named chairman of a regional task force studying groundwater contamination in southeast Michigan.

Tomboulion heads the chemistry department at Oakland University.

A member of the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments' Areawide Water Quality Board, Tomboulion was named by the board to lead the special task force.

The water quality board monitors water problems in a seven county area, including Oakland, Wayne and Macomb.

The task force plans to establish regional priorities for cleaning up contaminated groundwater sites.

Late last year, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources listed 268 sites of known groundwater contamination in the state, including 36 in southeast Michigan. A number of landfills statewide have been storage and dumping areas for toxic chemicals.

Her father gave anything he still had to the family which had cared for his daughter.

Then without money or food, he looked for a way

to join his brothers in the United States.

"A lot of people got help through Jewish Social Services," says Mrs. Einhorn. "He is a proud man. He didn't want any charity."

This country wasn't allowing any more eastern Europeans in, Mrs. Einhorn said. But across from northern Europe was still open. So, leaving his small daughter in an orphanage, he headed for Sweden.

He returned for Mrs. Einhorn when he had secured a job. In the meantime, it became more and more difficult to get into the United States.

Needing to work, he placed Mrs. Einhorn with a Jewish foster family in Sweden — with whom she remained for nearly four years. Even after her father married another Polish survivor, they determined she should

it. It's kind of tainted our relationship through the years."

Mrs. Einhorn left Poland speaking fluent Polish and lived in Sweden. When she left Sweden for America "nobody ever spoke Swedish to me again. My parents spoke

Yiddish. Within a month, I was speaking English. I guess I'm very adaptable."

For her father, America's streets were never paved with gold. A tool and die maker, he worked in Detroit shops supplying the auto industry.

When times were bad, he was laid off.

Mrs. Einhorn, who describes herself as "very strong willed," never worked up the relationship with him she would have liked.

Now, retired to Atlanta, Mrs. Einhorn de-

scribes her dad as "happier than he has ever been in his life." She hopes she can gain courage to ask him more about her real mother, of whom she has not even a picture.

"I keep thinking some-

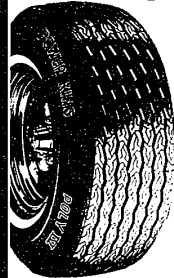
part of you that's missing. It's just a complete blank. All I know is what my father told me. But he doesn't talk about it very much. I know nothing about her family. I'm the sole survivor as far as I know."

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