

# FORT BEND COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

## *ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE*



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### Abstract: **Inge-Ruth Sachs Fletcher**

In 1938 Inge-Ruth Sachs was a ten-year-old living in Breslau, Germany, when her uncle, Ernst Prinz, was arrested by the Nazis and sent to a concentration camp. In this interview she relays his story of rescue and eventual immigration to Sugar Land, Texas, where he worked for Imperial Sugar.

Ms. Fletcher's family escaped on the last ship Jews could take out of Germany in 1939. They immigrated to Shanghai which was the only port still open to Jewish refugees. She tells her story of living in Japanese-occupied Shanghai for 10 years before immigrating to the United States.

22 Pages

⇓ *Scroll down for Key Words from the Interview.* ⇓

## Interview Summary

### People (in order mentioned in interview)

James Allred – former Governor of Texas  
 Lt. Carl Fletcher – spouse  
 Susan Fletcher – daughter  
 Julia Gerstel – maternal grandmother  
 Julie Fletcher Hilderman – daughter  
 Ben Love – President, Texas Commerce Bank  
 Mona Moser – Ernst's sister  
 George Muller – Imperial Sugar Company  
 John Pirtle – Sugar Land neighbor  
 Ernst Prinz – uncle  
 Kate Gerstel Prinz – aunt  
 Alfred Sachs – father

Edith Gerstel Sachs – mother

Ursula Sachs – sister

Weth Family – friends

### Places / Businesses

Books, Inc, Houston TX

Breslau, Germany

Imperial Sugar Company

Shanghai (Japanese occupied)

Strehlen, Germany

Sugar Land Heritage Foundation

Sugar Land, TX

Theresienstadt Concentration Camp,  
 Germany

### Events

Inge Sachs Ruth Fletcher was 10 years old when her uncle Ernst Prinz was arrested by the Nazis and placed in a concentration camp. He and his wife Kate left Germany upon his release a year later in 1938 and moved to Houston.

She and her family left Germany in 1939 on the last ship that Jews were allowed to board and arrived in Japanese-occupied Shanghai, the only port opened to Jewish refugees.

Ms. Fletcher married an American lieutenant while in Shanghai. As a war bride and due to the imminent arrival of the Communists, she and her family were allowed to immigrate to the United States in 1947.

Her husband worked for Texaco, so she moved to Houston to be near Ernst & Kate. Her family joined her later.