

August 9, 2002

Austrian Banks to Begin Paying Survivors

About 1,000 Holocaust survivors and their heirs whose accounts or assets were lost when two Austrian banks were seized by the Nazis in 1938 will begin receiving money this month as part of a \$40 million settlement approved by a Manhattan federal court more than three years ago. Bank Austria and Creditanstalt entered into the settlement.

Evelyn Karfiol of the Bronx said she was informed that her claim—one of 58,000

filed—would be honored but she said she was not told how much she would receive.

“I think the Austrian government is culpable for not only stealing my father’s livelihood but for ruining us and throwing his family into poverty,” said Karfiol, who was 10 when her family was forced to flee the Nazis in 1938. “I did this because I wanted to somehow rectify the terrible wrong done to all of us.”

Steward Ain