

038 Ella Wolfish

Please note that any items that were difficult to transcribe are marked with an [indiscernible] tag.

[0:00:00]

**Interviewer:** Okay. I wasn't recording. I'm so glad I noticed it. Okay. So I'm going to – I just want to thank you, Ella Wolfish, and I want to thank you very much for agreeing to be interviewed.

**Respondent:** It's my pleasure.

**Interviewer:** So we'll start with whether you had any idea what prompted your family to move there.

**Respondent:** I have absolutely no idea, but I do know the story that my family – my grandmother and grandfather, my father's parents – came from England, and every time [0:00:30] people came from England, they went to Pop and Mom Cohen's place on 35 Major Street, and there was always extended family there.

**Interviewer:** Now Pop and Mom, those were your parents?

**Respondent:** These were my grandparents.

**Interviewer:** Your grandparents.

**Respondent:** They were quite well-known in Toronto. Grandpa was in a little bit of politics, or backing the politicians, and...

**Interviewer:** What was his name?

**Respondent:** His name was David Cohen. He and my uncles, including my [0:01:00] father, owned the first – called Speedy Service System – the first parcel service in Ontario.

**Interviewer:** Okay. Now you were born, you told me, in 1923.

**Respondent:** '27.

**Interviewer:** Oh, '27. Okay. And you moved into that neighbourhood at some very young age, you're not sure.

**Respondent:** Not sure.

**Interviewer:** Okay.

**Respondent:** At one time, [0:01:30] all the sons and their wives lived in the same house. Big house. Three storeys.

**Interviewer:** And as far as you know, how long did you live there generally speaking?

**Respondent:** Well I would say I lived there and visited there, let's say, 'til I was about thirteen. My mom died and I lived with my maternal grandparents then, but I had a million mothers. [0:02:00] I wandered all over. I used to live at 35 Major when I was a teenager because Chucky and I used to do things together. We were like brother and sisters, not like cousins.

**Interviewer:** And who's Chucky?

**Respondent:** Chucky is one of the Major Street Boys.

**Interviewer:** And who was he to you?

**Respondent:** My first cousin, but we were called brother and sister.

**Interviewer:** Okay. So Chucky – of course you know that we're naming a name after...

**Respondent:** Of course. That's why I'm [0:02:30] interested in this.

**Interviewer:** ...the boys. Right, right.

**Respondent:** And I knew all the boys.

**Interviewer:** As far as you can remember, if you can think of the number of people in the house, how many people were living there?

**Respondent:** In this particular house?

**Interviewer:** At 35 Major.

**Respondent:** Okay. There were four brothers, my aunt, so that's five children, so that's ten. My grandmother and grandfather is twelve. And then Chucky and I were the eldest, so thirteen, fourteen, and then **[0:03:00]** other children came along, and there were [laughs] two, three, four, five grandchildren, other grandchildren.

**Interviewer:** All living in...

**Respondent:** Yeah. Well there were three floors, and the second floor had one, two, three, I think five rooms, and the third floor had two or three rooms, and then there was a huge dining room, a huge kitchen, and even a little **[0:03:30]** living room.

**Interviewer:** So those numbers climbed. There was space. And how many bathrooms? Do you have any recollection?

**Respondent:** [Laughs] There was one, and then there was one built downstairs in the basement after many, many years. I never used it. [Laughs]

**Interviewer:** But still. So there were about a dozen people sharing one bathroom.

**Respondent:** Yeah. Oh yeah, but that – it's not unique in those days.

**Interviewer:** Yeah. And that's a change to what things are like today.

**Respondent:** Indeed.

**Interviewer:** People want more space, and sometimes you can have three people **[0:04:00]** with three or four bathrooms.

**Respondent:** That's right.

**Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah, yeah.

**Respondent:** Anyway, one thing I remember from the time you phoned me, and it's so vivid in my mind and I don't know why, when you called and told me about this interview, I suddenly remembered a lamppost on the street, almost in front of our house at 35. I think it was more in front of 33 or 31, and we used to take chestnuts off the tree and rub them against the cement of the lamppost [0:04:30] until they were muck, and make them in a square or a circle, and bake them into the oven, and we thought they would make pencil erasers, which they didn't. But it's still stands out in my mind. [Laughs]

**Interviewer:** And you did it more than once obviously.

**Respondent:** Oh yes. And I also – I don't know whether I remember it or it's just there. I had my tonsils taken out across the street at the hospital. That was a Catholic hospital then.

**Interviewer:** [0:05:00] Did that become the Doctor's Hospital?

**Respondent:** That became the Doctor's Hospital. Yes. Now the Kensington Clinic.

**Interviewer:** The nursing home.

**Respondent:** It wasn't a nursing home.

**Interviewer:** Yeah. Now that's what it is. It's the nursing home.

**Respondent:** Oh, no. My husband had his cataracts done there.

**Interviewer:** So it's had a lot of different...

**Respondent:** Oh yes.

**Interviewer:** ...transitions.

**Respondent:** That's right.

**Interviewer:** Yeah. Yeah. And anything else that pops into your mind, or shall I ask you questions about...

- Respondent:** No. Just ask questions. If something happens, I'll let you know.
- Interviewer:** [0:05:30] So you told me where your family came from. Your father's family too? Were they...
- Respondent:** My father's family came from England.
- Interviewer:** And your mother's family?
- Respondent:** Galicia.
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh. What's your recollection of – I mean you were quite young when you were there – the different groups of people who were there. Religions, ethnic groups...
- Respondent:** Well I mean Major Street was almost all Jewish, I would think. I [0:06:00] knew many of the families. I remember right next door, Susy Sky's family, they had a wonderful black man living there called Charlie, and he just was their handyman, and he did everything for them, and he lived with them for so long he, as I say, became a member of the family. Spoke Yiddish better than anybody I knew. [Laughter] [0:06:30] He was a wonderful man.
- Interviewer:** She spoke about him with affection.
- Respondent:** Oh yes, oh yes.
- Interviewer:** But I love that line about speaking Yiddish.
- Respondent:** Really he was great. He was great.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** But it was a very happy household. It really was.
- Interviewer:** And what about the neighbourhood?
- Respondent:** It's great. I loved it. I remember going down – there was a family by the name of Grastain. I think [0:07:00] that was their name. And that's where the lane to the back lane went. I believe they had five

daughters. I think one of their names was Chippy. I think she played drums. I think they had an orchestra. I'm not sure. However, I remember walking through this lane, turning left, jogging left a little bit, and then jogging right, and we walked through to Robert Street right beside Ban's Grocery, and then across the street was Lansdowne School, and that's where I spent my very young years, at Lansdowne School, as did Chucky Mills.

**Interviewer:** You mentioned the grocery.

**Respondent:** Mm-hm.

**Interviewer:** I'm just going to kind of transition as to that. What do you remember about the stores near you? What were some of the stores that you...

**Respondent:** Well down at the corner of Major and College was a drugstore. **[0:08:00]** I can't remember if it was called Koffler's or not then. I'm not sure, but there was a drugstore. Then as I say, behind us on Robert Street was Ban's Grocery Store, where of course we always went at noon hour and tried to steal as much as we could.

**Interviewer:** [Laughs] Did you succeed?

**Respondent:** Oh yeah. Many times. Many times.

**Interviewer:** [Laughs] So what were some of your favourite items?

**Respondent:** Who knows. Probably some kind of liquid. Whatever candy you could get. [Laughs] You know, you **[0:08:30]** used to go in there to buy penny candies.

**Interviewer:** That's right. So you would buy a penny's worth and take...

**Respondent:** That's right.

**Interviewer:** ...four more pennies worth.

**Respondent:** That's right. Yes. But I mean you knew the mailman. I remember my grandfather used to sit and talk to the mailman, and you knew

the milkman. Everybody was your friend. It wasn't like today where you didn't know anyone and just bypassed them.

**Interviewer:** So the neighbourhood was like...

**Respondent:** Oh it was a neighbourhood.

**Interviewer:** ...an extended family.

**Respondent:** Oh yes, indeed. Indeed.

**Interviewer:** And it was a community.

**Respondent:** [0:09:00] Indeed. Indeed.

**Interviewer:** Now you say your grandfather, he was there, and I think you had – before I turned on this recorder, you said that you visited your grandfather there until he died.

**Respondent:** Yes.

**Interviewer:** So he lived at 35 Major all those years?

**Respondent:** All those years.

**Interviewer:** Oh.

**Respondent:** I believe I have a picture of a welcome home group, which included my mother, for my father coming home from World [0:09:30] War I, and I have a picture of this. Now at the time it was an open verandah, but at some time, which I can't remember, Grandpa had enclosed the verandah and the last time I saw it it still had that verandah on it.

**Interviewer:** But you remember the return home after the war.

**Respondent:** Well I have a picture of it. I don't remember it. I wasn't born then. I don't even think they were married then. [0:10:00] Yeah. I have wonderful pictures.

- Interviewer:** Well we're going to ask you probably to it, because somebody will be coming around in some months. I think they were hoping to do that.
- Respondent:** Great.
- Interviewer:** Then maybe we can make some copies. We're not taking anything and returning.
- Respondent:** No, I realize. Of course. I realize that.
- Interviewer:** Yeah. What do you remember about the food at that time?
- Respondent:** I don't know. Well my aunt, **[0:10:30]** the one sister of the Cohen family – Chucky's mother, as a matter of fact – was married to – now where did he come from? Not he, his parents. But I know she used to make puddle of jelly, it was called. Something where she used a chopper and a wooden bowl, and she used to chop up purple eggplant, and garlic, and olive oil, and this was one of his **[0:11:00]** most favourite dishes. I don't know what my grandmother used to make. I can't remember. Everybody sort of cooked something or other. I know we had a lot of corn on the cob, which for us was a meal then; it wasn't a side-dish.
- Interviewer:** So people didn't have to have five or six different things to make up a meal.
- Respondent:** No, that's right. Exactly.
- Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah.
- Respondent:** So I remember that well. Corn on the cob. And it was a huge kitchen table because there were so many of us.
- Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah. And you ate together.
- Respondent:** **[0:11:30]** More or less. Yeah.
- Interviewer:** You talked about this person who lived with Susy Sky speaking Yiddish. That he spoke...

- Respondent:** Oh, Charlie Banes. I think his last name was Banes.
- Interviewer:** What languages were spoken in your home?
- Respondent:** English.
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh.
- Respondent:** At my other grandparents' they spoke Yiddish to each other, but not to the children. It was mostly English.
- Interviewer:** Mm-hm. And in the neighbourhood, do you remember...
- Respondent:** English, I would say.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** Yeah. But [0:12:00] I remember lots of names. Himmelstein, Rotman, Book, Schuster.
- Interviewer:** And those were Jewish names?
- Respondent:** Yeah, oh yeah.
- Interviewer:** What about – what kind of work were the men doing? Do you have any memory of that? And the women – were the women working out of the home? Or working at home?
- Respondent:** Those that I knew, my grandfather [0:12:30] never worked. I don't know. He was always home. My grandma didn't work. Of course, they owned this business for a while, this Speedy Service parcel business, but an accident happened and the business had to go.
- Interviewer:** But he was a pioneer in that kind of delivery.
- Respondent:** He was indeed. He was indeed. And after that, I don't know. There were some bookmakers. By that I mean with the horses, not making [0:13:00] books.

**Interviewer:** [Laughs] Lovely.

**Respondent:** [Laughs]

**Interviewer:** Do you remember the mothers working outside of the home?

**Respondent:** No.

**Interviewer:** Uh-huh.

**Respondent:** No, I don't.

**Interviewer:** Uh-huh. And any of them having any kind of work at home other than taking care of the family?

**Respondent:** No, not at all.

**Interviewer:** What about the – you had a lot of people living under your roof, and you talked about somebody enclosing a front room. What about people using [0:13:30] the front porches?

**Respondent:** Well this is what was enclosed. The front porch. Oh yes, it was all used. Always. And I remember my grandfather, whenever he watered our grass he always watered the Sky's grass. I remember this just went long. You did this.

**Interviewer:** Yeah. So the families really were there...

**Respondent:** Oh yes.

**Interviewer:** ...for each other.

**Respondent:** Oh yes, indeed.

**Interviewer:** Yeah.

**Respondent:** Can you turn this off?

- Interviewer:** While you were living there, were there any changes that you [0:14:00] noticed? I mean you were there for just a short time relatively.
- Respondent:** Changes?
- Interviewer:** In the neighbourhood, in the people who were coming and going, the stores.
- Respondent:** No. The stores, I had nothing much to do with the stores, I mean other than the drugstore down the corner or Ban's behind us. But no. Maybe the hospital changed while I was around. I can't [0:14:30] remember.
- Interviewer:** Yeah. But you know, I don't expect that there would have been because you lived there during one certain era, so I'm not surprised that you don't remember those changes.
- Respondent:** No, no.
- Interviewer:** When the kids played together, where did you play?
- Respondent:** Schoolyard, or on the street, or by the hospital across the street there was a broad band of earth and you could play there too.
- Interviewer:** Right. Right. Yeah. Yeah.
- Respondent:** But I mean we played on the street. I have a picture of myself in a little car [0:15:00] on the sidewalk.
- Interviewer:** Yeah. So that's a way that it's different because there's much less of children playing on the street.
- Respondent:** [Laughs] Indeed. Yeah.
- Interviewer:** What about the back lanes? Was your back lane paved or not paved?
- Respondent:** I don't remember, but I don't think so.

- Interviewer:** So that was not a place that you played.
- Respondent:** No, no, no. And one of them, again, I don't know whether it was the Grastain at that – not the corner but in the middle of the **[0:15:30]** houses from College Street up to 35 – he might have had a horse.
- Interviewer:** Mm-hm.
- Respondent:** And a stable back there.
- Interviewer:** Yeah. Certainly I've heard about those.
- Respondent:** Yeah. I think so.
- Interviewer:** So you knew one person who had a horse.
- Respondent:** I believe so.
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh. Uh-huh. What about delivery of food? Do you have any recollection of how people got their food, or how it came?
- Respondent:** No. I think they went to Kensington and College Street and bought **[0:16:00]** and carried.
- Interviewer:** Yeah. And when I'm interviewing people I'm noticing that their cross-street was very significant, and of course your cross-street was College.
- Respondent:** College. Oh yes.
- Interviewer:** And you were on Major, so you were very close to the Market.
- Respondent:** That's right.
- Interviewer:** So did your family do a fair amount of shopping?
- Respondent:** Not that I know of. Mrs. Sky did, because I always used to see her going, but...

**Interviewer:** So would your family have shopped at that corner store? [0:16:30]  
Where would they have shopped?

**Respondent:** I don't know. I really don't know.

**Interviewer:** Well you were younger.

**Respondent:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** Now before I turn this on you told me how you met your husband.  
[Laughter] Do you want to talk about that? It's charming. Yeah.

**Respondent:** Yeah. Well I believe we – my Bubby found her family in New York after many, many years. A brother. And it was during the war, [0:17:00] and so Bubby and one of the aunts went to New York, and the aunt came back with three or four addresses of boy cousins who were in the army, who would like to have letters written to them, which I did, and then on one of the next trips I went and my husband was home on leave, and we fell in love immediately. We truly did. As a matter of fact, there was no place for us to neck or anything, so we used to go to Grand Central Station where everybody was [0:17:30] kissing and leaving, and that's where we would kiss each other. [Laughter] And I came home to Toronto and told my friend, Reva Malinsky, "I'm going to marry him."

**Interviewer:** That's a charming story.

**Respondent:** And we did.

**Interviewer:** What year was that that you met him?

**Respondent:** I guess '45 or '46. '45 it must have been, and he went to Hawaii from the army. And when he [0:18:00] knew he was coming home, I flew to New York, and I was going to live there, but his mother was a nut-nut, so he came back here and we got married in '47 because my family didn't think it was very healthy living in the same house together without being married. [Laughs] It's not like these days. [Laughs]

- Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah. It certainly is a change. And before that, how did the [0:18:30] boys and girls, adolescents – what was the kind of dating code? What was that about?
- Respondent:** Oh okay. All right. Well I don't know. My life was maybe very different from some other girls. I knew a group of boys, and they had a club called the Cotton Club, and they had rooms up in the Avenue Chambers at Spadina and College, and they played records, and they danced. This is how they all learned how to dance. And they used to take the shiksas up [0:19:00] there [laughter] at certain times, and at other times we would go up there. And so my husband and I were just talking about this the other day. There was one man I dated for many years, and we were good friends, but we just dated.
- Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah.
- Respondent:** I don't think the guy ever kissed me 'til on my wedding day.
- Interviewer:** So he went to your wedding?
- Respondent:** Yes, he was at my wedding.
- Interviewer:** So you're saying that for some of you [0:19:30] there was really...
- Respondent:** We were groups. We were groups. And then in those days I remember the teenage girls of maybe sixteen and seventeen made social clubs. We used to put ads in the paper advertising for girls who wanted to join a social club, and we'd have meetings. It was ridiculous. So many people did it then. It was very funny when I think about it now. I don't know what we did. We wanted to meet boys.
- Interviewer:** So then how would [0:20:00] you translate that into meeting boys?
- Respondent:** Oh I don't know. We figured, I guess, the boys we knew and they knew some boys, who knows.
- Interviewer:** So groups of boys would get together with the group of girls.

- Respondent:** Exactly. Exactly. And I remember once there was an AZA, whatever that meant. It was a Jewish organization for boys, and they had some kind of convention here, and there were some girls invited, and I remember I dated – I went to one dance, and that brings to mind that [0:20:30] I was a member of the – on St. George, for the soldiers – oh, what the heck was it called? I can't remember. The Canteen for the soldiers, during the war. And we used – first of all, you had to be interviewed, and some people didn't get in. I did. I was very proud. And I used to go Saturday nights, and we used to serve them coffee, and ask them to dance, and you [0:21:00] couldn't date them, and you couldn't go home with them, and that was fun. But I remember one of my dear friends – again, he married my girlfriend – but again, a friend. He came one night and I was so excited to see him because he had been away for so long, and I went up to the lady in charge. I said, "My brother just came in off his ship. I've got to go. I can't stay any longer." Well he wasn't my brother. He was my friend. [Laughter] But she believed [0:21:30] me and so we went out. [Laughs]
- Interviewer:** So you lived through a time – of the boys going off to fight...
- Respondent:** Oh yes.
- Interviewer:** ...and coming back.
- Respondent:** And some of them not coming back.
- Interviewer:** Right. Yeah.
- Respondent:** Like the Boys of Major.
- Interviewer:** You knew all these guys?
- Respondent:** I certainly did.
- Interviewer:** Yeah. So they were your friends, or cousin.
- Respondent:** My brother. He was more like my brother.

**Interviewer:** That's right. That's right. Right. Because you lived under the same roof.

**Respondent:** Not only that. We just had so much in common.

**Interviewer:** [0:22:00] Yeah. So you've had some hard times.

**Respondent:** And as I say, when I lost my mom at thirteen and when I heard about him, I was devastated.

**Interviewer:** So you must have been young when that happened.

**Respondent:** Well I was about seventeen, I guess.

**Interviewer:** Oh my god. So that's two devastating losses both at young ages.

**Respondent:** Oh yeah.

**Interviewer:** Yeah.

**Respondent:** Yeah. I mean that broke my heart.

**Interviewer:** But you have some pictures, you said?

**Respondent:** Oh, I have lots of pictures of them.

**Interviewer:** Well we're going to want to have some copies.

**Respondent:** Yeah. [0:22:30] Sure. Of course, of course.

**Interviewer:** Yeah. We would treasure those.

**Respondent:** Yeah. Yeah. He used to be a tap dancer, and I did ballet and elocution, and I have pictures of us in our costumes, and pictures standing with Grandpa. Yeah. I've got lots of pictures.

**Interviewer:** Good. Okay. We will certainly – we want to have. I wonder if you might talk about some of the larger institutions like [0:23:00] the university. Do you remember the University of Toronto being of anything interesting or important to the neighbourhood to you?

**Respondent:** Nobody I knew ever went. No one I knew went to university at that time.

**Interviewer:** I guess they were going off to war.

**Respondent:** Well it was the war, yeah. I mean I just knew one professional who happened to be a very dear friend of my cousin's, Sauly Rotenberg, who became a pharmacist and worked down at [0:23:30] the corner drugstore.

**Interviewer:** Yeah. So you're saying that they went off to the war and came back, or didn't come back, and then a lot of them – even if they – did not go to university, the girls or the boys.

**Respondent:** Yeah. Not that I know of. Right. Not that I know of.

**Interviewer:** Uh-huh. You said that Kensington Market was significant for some of you.

**Respondent:** Yes. Yes I sometimes – well I sometimes went with my Bubby. That's my maternal grandmother. [0:24:00] And she used to go to the [indiscernible 0:23:58] to grab the chicken, killed, and she used to take the feathers out, pluck the chicken there, used to stink, and it used to itch, but it was fun watching. And getting the pickles, the dill pickles out of the barrel. That was fun and tasty. And then she used to take me to, I think it was Daiter's, for buttermilk.

**Interviewer:** Was Daiter's in the Market?

**Respondent:** I believe so.

**Interviewer:** Or on Spadina [0:24:30] somewhere?

**Respondent:** I believe so. I think it was called Daiter's. I can't remember. But I – you know, big, cold glass of frothy buttermilk, and you used to put salt in it, and that was good.

**Interviewer:** You see, I never heard before.

- Respondent:** Yeah. Yeah, it was good. [Laughs]
- Interviewer:** I think I know the answer, but I'm going to ask it anyway. Did the neighbourhood feel safe? Was it a safe neighbourhood?
- Respondent:** Oh yes. Oh yes.
- Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah. So the kids played outside?
- Respondent:** All the time.
- Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah.
- Respondent:** All the time. Listen, even when [0:25:00] I lived on Acton Avenue when my children were small the doors were left open, and the children were off almost all day long at the neighbour's, and you didn't worry.
- Interviewer:** Do you remember the end of World War II?
- Respondent:** I surely do.
- Interviewer:** Can you talk about that a little bit please?
- Respondent:** Well I guess I cried first. And well, of course, Mike was [0:25:30] already here I guess. I can't – when did it end? 19...
- Interviewer:** '45.
- Respondent:** '45?
- Interviewer:** '44, '45, yeah.
- Respondent:** No. He graduated school in '44. He was in the army then. But yeah, I remember though. Everybody was happy.
- Interviewer:** Yeah. Yeah. No, I was wondering whether there was any kind of activity in the neighbourhood...
- Respondent:** Activity? No. No.

**Interviewer:** ...that you remember.

**Respondent:** Not that I remember.

**Interviewer:** You talked about **[0:26:00]** the hospital.

**Respondent:** Mm-hm.

**Interviewer:** What about the JCC? Do you have any recollection of that?

**Respondent:** Well that was over at the next street, Brunswick.

**Interviewer:** Uh-huh.

**Respondent:** And we called it the Y.

**Interviewer:** Uh-huh. Right.

**Respondent:** And yeah, as a matter of fact, my husband belonged to it for a while, and next to it was the – I can't think of the name of the place, but we called it the "call me" place because it was a socialist place. **[0:26:30]** I just can't think of the name of it. And they used to have a phone, and I know everybody used to go up there and use the phone. And that was fun. And then there was Shapiro's. Across from that, Shapiro's delicatessen. And then on the south side of College in between Major and Robert was another deli, a very well-known one; I just can't remember the name. And years ago we, **[0:27:00]** Susy Sky included, we used to go to a place on Beverly. We used to call it – oh, it was called the Nathaniel Institute. It was run by a Jewish couple who had turned Christian, and I guess they were trying to convert. So we all joined. They had a camp and everything, and we would sing, "Jesus Loves Me," and **[indiscernible 0:27:27] [0:27:30]** [laughter] and it was great. I remember only one person converted.

**Interviewer:** But you went there and...

**Respondent:** We went. We all went.

- Interviewer:** You still kept your Jewish culture.
- Respondent:** Oh yes.
- Interviewer:** And you enjoyed it.
- Respondent:** Yeah. But they also – they spoke Yiddish too, or would use a Yiddish expression. They were very nice people.
- Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah, yeah. But they were interested in...
- Respondent:** They were interested in converting you. Didn't work. [Laughs]
- Interviewer:** That's quite amusing, singing **[indiscernible 0:27:55]** and "Jesus Loves Me."
- Respondent:** Yes. Yes.
- Interviewer:** **[0:28:00]** Kind of one right after the other. Yeah.
- Respondent:** Yeah.
- Interviewer:** I think that I've pretty well covered what I was hoping to cover. Just one last small thing. The back gardens, or the back space, what we had behind the house – did your family use yours in any way?
- Respondent:** Oh yeah. I think they grew some vegetables.
- Interviewer:** Mm-hm.
- Respondent:** I knew we – Chucky again, and I – we used to crawl **[0:28:30]** out the third-floor window and sunbathe on the roof. But we used the garden too. The garden. It wasn't a garden. It was a yard.
- Interviewer:** Yeah. Yeah. And can you recall how any of the other families used theirs?
- Respondent:** Same way I think.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.

- Respondent:** Or push junk into it.
- Interviewer:** Yeah. So it's not what people are doing today, which are making these...
- Respondent:** Oh no, no.
- Interviewer:** ...very, very pretty places and spaces.
- Respondent:** No, no.
- Interviewer:** Barbecues. Of course they didn't exist then.
- Respondent:** No. They didn't have barbecue then.
- Interviewer:** Right. So it was just another space, but – [0:29:00] and also for growing food.
- Respondent:** Right. And I remember our house at 35 Major had what was called a summer kitchen. It was a back part of the house where you could store things, and maybe she even had a small stove back there. I can't remember.
- Interviewer:** Mm-hm.
- Respondent:** But we called it the summer kitchen.
- Interviewer:** And I guess in the winter it was probably pretty cold. [Laughs]
- Respondent:** I guess you could say – yeah, because there was no fridge. There were no fridges then.
- Interviewer:** There were no refrigerators?
- Respondent:** Oh yeah.
- Interviewer:** Iceboxes?

- Respondent:** Yeah. [0:29:30] Icebox. Because even when Mike and I got married we had an icebox. We couldn't afford a fridge. Although there were fridges then, we couldn't afford it.
- Interviewer:** So when the ice was delivered, do you remember how it was delivered?
- Respondent:** Yeah. The guy used to have a piece of sack on his shoulder and he used to use a pick to get the right size, and heft it up on his shoulder, and bring it upstairs. And you used to have a shissel [laughs] under the thing to catch the water, [0:30:00] and we lived in a flat, Mike and I for a while. And if I wasn't going to be home I'd have to phone the landlady to empty the water, otherwise it would come down on her head. [Laughs] But this has nothing to do with Major Street. [Laughs]
- Interviewer:** No, but those were the times at that time, and that's how – so how would the ice have been delivered? Was it a horse and a wagon?
- Respondent:** Oh well...
- Interviewer:** Or was it a truck?
- Respondent:** ...probably a horse and wagon, and maybe then a truck. I'm not sure. I can't remember. [0:30:30] I remember on the street when the peddler used to come with his wagon and his horse, and "Watermelon, watermelon," you know? He was probably an Italian man selling fruits and vegetables from the truck, or the wagon rather.
- Interviewer:** So we talked about fruits and vegetables coming by horse.
- Respondent:** Horse and wagon. I just remembered that.
- Interviewer:** And the ice.
- Respondent:** Mm-hm.
- Interviewer:** Anything else that might have come with the [0:31:00] horses and wagons?

- Respondent:** Maybe with a truck there was a baker.
- Interviewer:** Mm-hm.
- Respondent:** You know, like Wonder Baker?
- Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah.
- Respondent:** The white sliced Scottish bread. [Laughter] I hope you cut some of this out because it's not very nice.
- Interviewer:** Well that's what you were living with. That was your life.
- Respondent:** Yeah. Oh yeah.
- Interviewer:** So I've gone through pretty well all the topics I was hoping to cover today, but I'm wondering when **[0:31:30]** you are – you wanted to talk about rubbing the nuts, but I'm wondering whether there's anything else that you had been thinking about that you might want to talk about.
- Respondent:** Not offhand, I don't think. I don't know. As I say, I had a million mothers, so I went from **[indiscernible 0:31:45]**, and dad finally married my mother's sister, who was single.
- Interviewer:** Oh my god.
- Respondent:** Which made it nice, you know? Well that's part of the religion, which we didn't **[0:32:00]** follow, but my Bubby was happy about that, and she was a lovely lady.
- Interviewer:** Were there any other children born to your mother or to your mother's sister, who was your father's second wife?
- Respondent:** Yes.
- Interviewer:** So there were other children.
- Respondent:** There's a guy named Chuck. He was named after him.

**Interviewer:** Oh really?

**Respondent:** Yes.

**Interviewer:** So Chuck – oh, that's very touching.

**Respondent:** Yes.

**Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah.

**Respondent:** Yes.

**Interviewer:** Well I want to thank you very much. It's been a joy [0:32:30] for me to meet with you.

**Respondent:** Thank you. It's my pleasure. I enjoyed this.

**Interviewer:** Okay. Thank you.

[00:32:34]

[End of recording]