

059 Felicidade Fernandes

[0:00:00]

**Interviewer:** Today is the 24th of May, and I'm at 104 Major Street with Felicidade Fernandes. I just met her son a few days ago, and before I turned on the recorder, she was telling me how many years she's been here, how wonderful Mort Greenberg has been.

**Respondent:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** So we're turning it on so we could capture all your wonderful stories.

**Respondent:** Yeah. The Morton very, very good neighbour.

**Interviewer:** In what ways?

**Respondent:** Was very [0:00:30] very good neighbour, and this side, the north side, for the Portuguese too, I live on forty, these people live on forty-seven.

**Interviewer:** Oh.

**Respondent:** And the next one is still the Portuguese.

**Interviewer:** So maybe I have to meet some of them also.

**Respondent:** Maybe the son because the mother passed away, passed away last September. Eighty in October, eighty years in October. In [0:01:00] September, in three weeks, because feel good, nothing wrong. In three weeks something wrong for her. Now the son lives on the second floor and his mother lives on the level down.

**Interviewer:** So you've been living at 104 Major for forty years.

**Respondent:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** But you were telling me just before I turned this on about the people that lived on the block from Portugal. So tell me about [0:01:30] that. Who was living here all those years?

**Respondent:** Well a lot of Portuguese, but now not many Portuguese here. The people moving, you know, because the kids are grown up, married, move away. Some go north, some go to Mississauga, another one lives in Brampton. The people move. The parents think [0:02:00] oh, my children move, I'm alone. Sell the house, I move too.

**Interviewer:** So do you think that you'd like to move?

**Respondent:** No.

**Interviewer:** No.

**Respondent:** I don't think my husband and I want to think for moves. Sometimes I play, I say, oh, maybe put this house for sale, you buy another one. My husband say, "No. I now the house I have. I don't want to buy another house." [Laughs] He's fully joking, you know?

**Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah.

**Respondent:** So I don't like change because this house [0:02:30] good area.

**Interviewer:** Oh yes, I agree.

**Respondent:** A very good area. I not good for a car.

**Interviewer:** Mm-hm.

**Respondent:** I'm not good for car. I have everything too close here. You know...

**Interviewer:** So what do you mean? I'd like you to be more specific. When you say you have everything, what do you have?

**Respondent:** I have, you know, the Kensington Market, before all Portuguese. Oh my god.

**Interviewer:** Which market was that?

- Respondent:** You know the Kensington?
- Interviewer:** Oh, the Kensington Market.
- Respondent:** You know [0:03:00] the name Augusta?
- Interviewer:** Yes.
- Respondent:** And Augusta. The stores all Portuguese.
- Interviewer:** So you did a lot of shopping...
- Respondent:** Oh a lot of shopping.
- Interviewer:** ...in Kensington Market.
- Respondent:** Now closing. The Portuguese closing. Just have, I think, three fish stores on Baldwin. You know? One Portuguese on the [0:03:30] corner, the Portuguese – the Baldwin Street for the Portuguese, for – you know, where's the coffee. Not the coffee. Sell – you drink coffee, but sell flour, pistachios, coffee grounds, flour, lots of stuff.
- Interviewer:** And candy.
- Respondent:** And candy. You go there maybe...
- Interviewer:** I like the candy.
- Respondent:** Yeah.
- Interviewer:** And nuts. Lots of nuts.
- Respondent:** Yeah. That's the Portuguese.
- Interviewer:** [0:04:00] Oh. I shop there a lot.
- Respondent:** Yeah. One Portuguese restaurant called Amadeu, and too close the park. Very, very – and right – and I don't remember the name of

the little street. You go south of Augusta, you turn right, you're on the little park there?

**Interviewer:** Yes.

**Respondent:** Okay. On the corner for the restaurant, how many years called Amadeus?

**Interviewer:** Yes. I've seen it.

**Respondent:** You know, this is the Portuguese. I don't know more Portuguese **[0:04:30]** there now. Everything close.

**Interviewer:** So you're saying the market has really changed a lot.

**Respondent:** Oh yeah. Lots, lots, lots. And billiard and Augusta, billiard on the right side, when you go south of College and Augusta, on the big street, a big billiard. Lots of men go there. All the time you see the Portuguese men there.

**Interviewer:** Yes.

**Respondent:** You know? Now closed. Next one, **[0:05:00]** for a Portuguese guy, for right now, for even the food for poor people's there. I don't know the name. Kensington something.

**Interviewer:** Did your husband sometimes go and sit with all the Portuguese men at that place?

**Respondent:** Oh before, yes. But now...

**Interviewer:** So it's changed.

**Respondent:** Now it's changed a lot, lots.

**Interviewer:** Where do you shop for food now?

**Respondent:** Now I'm shopping at Bloor and Ossington.

**Interviewer:** Bloor and Ossington.

**Respondent:** [0:05:30] Bloor and Ossington for a Portuguese store.

**Interviewer:** So you like Portuguese stores.

**Respondent:** Because, you know, I understand better, and the Portuguese have a Canadian grocery, Italian grocery, Portuguese grocery. You know, you buy – say I like this or like that, you have meat, fresh meat. You know? Lots of kind – the Portuguese like it.

**Interviewer:** So what are some things that Portuguese...

**Respondent:** I like lamb, [0:06:00] I – you know, goat, lamb, lots of stuff for the salamis. Portuguese, Portuguese sausages.

**Interviewer:** Those are good.

**Respondent:** Homemade, you know? This way I like to go to the Portuguese because I'm shopping now forty – I come to Canada the first time 1968. But I'm here twenty-two, twenty-three months. I go back to Portugal [0:06:30] because my old son born here, five months later I'm pregnant again with Paolo.

**Interviewer:** Uh-huh.

**Respondent:** My husband say, "Okay, better go to Portugal, build the house, we have the baby in Portugal" because here I have two babies, I can't work, you know? Very difficult for give the babysitter two babies. I don't have the car for transportation the babies, and say better you go [0:07:00] there. I stay here, my husband stays, go with me. But stay, go back, I go to Portugal every year. Anyway, I go there, I stay there eighteen months. Paolo's born there. I stay there eighteen months. After eighteen months, my husband thinks – changed the mind and says it's better you come back.

**Interviewer:** So your older son was born in Toronto, then you went back to Portugal, gave birth to Paolo there?

**Respondent:** To Paolo there.

- Interviewer:** And lived there [0:07:30] for eighteen months and came back.
- Respondent:** And come back.
- Interviewer:** Is that when you bought the house, when you came back?
- Respondent:** Yeah.
- Interviewer:** The second time.
- Respondent:** Yeah. Yes. I come back in May 28 '71.
- Interviewer:** 1971.
- Respondent:** 1971.
- Interviewer:** 1971.
- Respondent:** In December 15 in '71 I come to this house. A few months. Because when I come back, bring Paul and Carlos, [0:08:00] I go live on Lippincott on the flat, you know? On the second floor.
- Interviewer:** So you rented the second floor from somebody else.
- Respondent:** Somebody else on the second floor, and the Lippincott. I have two children. The children are running in the place. Never stop because they're kids.
- Interviewer:** So the neighbours downstairs didn't like it.
- Respondent:** The people downstairs were Italian people. The Italians say to me when the day I pay the cheque pay the rent, [0:08:30] the guy said to me, "You know, please, you watch your kids not running downstairs because my wife starts to be pregnant too." He say he feel bad when the noise upstairs. Say oh my god.
- Interviewer:** Can't keep two – yeah.
- Respondent:** Because in the wintertime in November, say to me, you know, in November what am I going to do in the winter? I can't come out to

take the kids out, not running in the house. [0:09:00] I can't tighten the leathers for my kids.

**Interviewer:** [Laughs] Yes, I agree.

**Respondent:** Oh my god. I'm crying. My husband comes home from work he says to me, "What happened?" I say, "Oh, Rocco said watch the babies don't running upstairs because bad for the wife." Oh. My husband say, "Oh my god." Say, "Okay, I talk with Mr. Silva," because for the salesman – you know.

**Interviewer:** [0:09:30] So he sold houses.

**Respondent:** Yeah. For the sold houses. I say – my husband say for a friend, my husband say, "Oh, I talk to Mr. Silva for find one house." Okay. Call right away this man, and the man say, "Oh, I have one house on Major Street. I have one on Robert. You want to go see?" Okay. Go see the Robert one. I like it. [0:10:00] Big, big house. Old, old, old. Oh my god, needs lots of work this house. It's too big. I said, "I don't need the big house. I like this." Anyway, I have a – show house, this one.

**Interviewer:** Mm-hm.

**Respondent:** I come here, this house too, the door, the front door now over there, the front door at the corner of the driveway.

**Interviewer:** Oh okay.

**Respondent:** Because my living room before, [0:10:30] my house was a little store, grocery store.

**Interviewer:** This had been a store before?

**Respondent:** The living room. My living room for a store.

**Interviewer:** So a family lived here and they used the front room as a store.

**Respondent:** Yes. Family live here, but the living room for a store. This is why the door there. The steps go the second floor. The people need. Come

in [0:11:00] the driveway, you know, the door to the driveway, cross this – where my fridge – cross the kitchen, go this door because now my husband makes a closet there. My grocery closet. The stairs go like this upstairs. So the people need to cross this kitchen to go upstairs.

**Interviewer:** And the family lived upstairs?

**Respondent:** Yeah, for two sisters. One sister lived in the house for the one sister, the other sister lived [0:11:30] on the upstairs.

**Interviewer:** Oh, this is wonderful. So this was a house, the family lived – one downstairs one upstairs.

**Respondent:** One upstairs.

**Interviewer:** And the front was a store.

**Respondent:** And the front for a store.

**Interviewer:** Oh, that's very interesting.

**Respondent:** Yeah. This is a small house. See? Very small. Somebody say, I don't remember now, somebody say, "This my bedroom," for independent – the house. Build this bedroom after the house.

**Interviewer:** [0:12:00] You built it? Or the people before you?

**Respondent:** No, no. The people before. I don't know – the houses, when I buy for the Portuguese too.

**Interviewer:** Yes.

**Respondent:** But I don't know. I don't ask. You know, for the Portuguese do the bedroom there or somebody before.

**Interviewer:** So you bought the house, it already had the bedroom...

**Respondent:** Yes. Yes, yes.

**Interviewer:** ...off the kitchen.

**Respondent:** Yes. After the kitchen. Yeah. This is different. When I buy my house, my husband say, "Okay, I'm looking. I have [0:12:30] a place which moved the door, the driveway to another side." He changed the stairs for to up.

**Interviewer:** So you had to do a lot of work.

**Respondent:** Yes, because my husband and the winter in December, in the winter, stay in unemployment because not working much in the wintertime.

**Interviewer:** Oh so that was convenient.

**Respondent:** My husband say okay. Maybe I have a time I'm [0:13:00] doing – my husband forced open this door before closing this one. When opened this one, closed this one.

**Interviewer:** So your husband's very handy.

**Respondent:** Oh yeah, very. Change everything, change the living room because the hallway there now make a doorway this way.

**Interviewer:** Do you have any pictures that – did you take any pictures of the house the way it used to be?

**Respondent:** I don't think so. I have pictures.

**Interviewer:** [0:13:30] The way it was before.

**Respondent:** Yeah. Because before, the wood – the house, the wood outside, wood. My husband make a contract with a guy to put the brick.

**Interviewer:** So you changed the house. You changed the interior, you changed the exterior.

**Respondent:** Interior, exterior, the garage. The garage, I think, Paulo showed you the pictures.

- Interviewer:** Yes. I made copies of the pictures.
- Respondent:** The pictures. Very old in wood [0:14:00] garage. All wood. Very, very old. Everything very old. And my husband make it different. Now all garage for sheet metal.
- Interviewer:** So he changed it from that wooden to a sheet metal.
- Respondent:** To sheet. Made – and the fence, you want to see, you see the fence.
- Interviewer:** You know what? We'll talk now and then after I'd love to see...
- Respondent:** Yeah, you will see.
- Interviewer:** And maybe I'll take a picture of it because I have the picture of the old one, and then [0:14:30] I can take a picture of...
- Respondent:** Yeah.
- Interviewer:** I would love to do that. Okay. So before I leave we'll do that.
- Respondent:** Yeah. Before the fence for wood, too old. When buy house, everything too old.
- Interviewer:** What year was your house built?
- Respondent:** This house was built, I think...
- Interviewer:** 18-something?
- Respondent:** No. a hundred and nine years.
- Interviewer:** A hundred and nine years ago.
- Respondent:** Yeah. I think. I think years ago my sons take the [0:15:00] history of the house. He say a hundred and nine or something.
- Interviewer:** Yeah. So at least a hundred. A hundred.

- Respondent:** Yeah. A hundred and ten years old, but I don't...
- Interviewer:** Did you have any other family living in the neighbourhood when you came here?
- Respondent:** No, no. I have my family, but nobody lives around too close to me.
- Interviewer:** So nobody lived in this neighbourhood.
- Respondent:** No, no. I have – before, before no. My sister moved [0:15:30] after I buy this house. When my sister lived in Sussex.
- Interviewer:** She was living on Sussex when you bought this house?
- Respondent:** When I buy this house my sister lived on Sussex.
- Interviewer:** And who was living with your sister at that time?
- Respondent:** My sister lives alone on Sussex. I live together before – when my first son born, I lived there.
- Interviewer:** So you and your husband and Carlos.
- Respondent:** My sister, me, my husband, and Carlos, [0:16:00] my sister, my brother-in-law lived on Sussex.
- Interviewer:** Okay. Okay. So both families lived together.
- Respondent:** Lived together.
- Interviewer:** And then you went back to Portugal.
- Respondent:** When I go back to Portugal...
- Interviewer:** And then you went to Lippincott, and then you bought this.
- Respondent:** Yeah. I buy this house. My sister's still there.
- Interviewer:** You've lived in this neighbourhood...

- Respondent:** My sister – and this time I buy this house, my sister still lived on Sussex because after, maybe one year or two years, my sister sell this house and buy in [0:16:30] Mississauga.
- Interviewer:** Oh, far away.
- Respondent:** Move the house for Mississauga.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** I have another sister, my older sister lived in St. Clarens. You know St. Clarens?
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** Okay. My sister lived on 175 St. Clarens at College.
- Interviewer:** So that's not so far.
- Respondent:** Not so far. Sometimes when it's good weather I go walk there.
- Interviewer:** It's a nice walk. So you're a strong woman.
- Respondent:** And my young sister lived on [0:17:00] Parkman. This – you know Perth?
- Interviewer:** I don't know where that is.
- Respondent:** You know Symington?
- Interviewer:** I've heard of it, but I don't know where it is.
- Respondent:** Symington?
- Interviewer:** Symington, yeah.
- Respondent:** Symington. Okay. West of Lansdowne.
- Interviewer:** Oh, west of Lansdowne.

- Respondent:** Dupont.
- Interviewer:** Okay. It sounded familiar.
- Respondent:** A little street. My sister lived there, just have a house on the north side, now houses the south because for a park.
- Interviewer:** Well that's nice.
- Respondent:** Yeah. Just [0:17:30] houses. The north side. My sister lives this – the name – called Parkman. My young sister.
- Interviewer:** Yeah. Did you go to a church in this neighbourhood?
- Respondent:** The church sometimes – I don't know much because I don't have a car, this way I – I like go, but I go – I need – get up too early.
- Interviewer:** And you work all week.
- Respondent:** I work all week, I need – sometimes I go [0:18:00] to Dundas and Grace called St. Ines for the north-side church. And sometimes I go to Bathurst Street, St. Mary's.
- Interviewer:** Just north of Bloor?
- Respondent:** No.
- Interviewer:** No?
- Respondent:** No. South of Queen and north of Adelaide. You know Adelaide?
- Interviewer:** Yes, yes.
- Respondent:** Okay. When you go south of Bathurst on the right side, you have a big church there.
- Interviewer:** [0:18:30] Mm-hm. Were there lots of churches in this neighbourhood that you remember? Were there churches?

- Respondent:** A few churches, but now the Portuguese people is going to this churches.
- Interviewer:** Any synagogues that you remember?
- Respondent:** I have one on Bloor and Robert.
- Interviewer:** Oh, there's one on Brunswick.
- Respondent:** Have one on the Brunswick. I think it's Jewish.
- Interviewer:** Yeah. That's still there.
- Respondent:** One north on Harbord.
- Interviewer:** [0:19:00] Yes, yes.
- Respondent:** One north of Harbord.
- Interviewer:** Right.
- Respondent:** You have one on College, College and Palmerston.
- Interviewer:** Okay.
- Respondent:** There's a church there.
- Interviewer:** Yeah. That's right. Big church.
- Respondent:** Palmerston – big church there. College and Palmerston. And...
- Interviewer:** When you were living here, it sounds that your block was mainly Portuguese people. When your children were playing, did they play [0:19:30] only with Portuguese children? Or did they...
- Respondent:** Oh no, no, no. Work together.
- Interviewer:** So who else did they play with?

- Respondent:** Before, Paolo and Carlos play much for the one – like Chinese boy for a very friend with my sons.
- Interviewer:** Anybody else?
- Respondent:** And one Jewish guy, still friend. Forty-four now. **[0:20:00]** Never married. Very friendly. Go to Portuguese many times together with my children.
- Interviewer:** And who was that?
- Respondent:** Called John Nellard.
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh.
- Respondent:** The parents live there. I don't know the number.
- Interviewer:** Okay. It doesn't matter. Yeah.
- Respondent:** I know the house, they live there.
- Interviewer:** And so the Chinese children, Jewish, what else?
- Respondent:** Well no matter, no matter. I remember Chinese and English, you know?
- Interviewer:** They all played well together.
- Respondent:** All together. All kind. **[0:20:30]** And the street, now I can't because of the cars. Oh my god, they're so crazy.
- Interviewer:** Yeah. But the children played with everybody.
- Respondent:** Everybody. Now no racism. Play together no matter white or black...
- Interviewer:** Yeah, no racism.

- Respondent:** ...or Chinese. No racism. No matter. Black, white, Chinese, or Portuguese. No matter. Stay together for friends because stay in school for – for Lansdowne school.
- Interviewer:** [0:21:00] Mm-hm.
- Respondent:** You know Lansdowne school?
- Interviewer:** Yes.
- Respondent:** There? The kids...
- Interviewer:** Was that okay with you? Were you...
- Respondent:** Oh yeah.
- Interviewer:** That was good for you
- Respondent:** I'm happy. I'm happy because I liked my sons type of friends.
- Interviewer:** Yes.
- Respondent:** You know, because when I buy the house, my husband put all concrete in my backyard. Too small. And my husband say, you know, I'm doing – if I put all backyard in cement...
- Interviewer:** [0:21:30] So when you bought the house he put cement there?
- Respondent:** Cement there because for the children to play there.
- Interviewer:** Okay. So he wanted the backyard to be a playground for the children. And what did they play there?
- Respondent:** You know, sometimes ball, bicycles around, you know. The friends come in.
- Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah.
- Respondent:** The friends have a – one next door for a girl, about three girls. One little – same age as my sons, [0:22:00] and the next house have

two boys, and the next one have another boy. You know, lots together.

**Interviewer:** Every house, most of the houses had children.

**Respondent:** Children. This one just have one, older than my sons. Crazy play together because just one. Now a bit older than my children. Just one. Come in, my son open the gate, [0:22:30] and the...

**Interviewer:** So all of the children were welcome.

**Respondent:** My son say, "Come on, come on. Come on and play, play." I like it. You know why? Because I don't like my children to go outside and play. I'm scared. You know, I'm not saying I don't like it. I'm scared.

**Interviewer:** But you were worried. You worried.

**Respondent:** I worried all the time.

**Interviewer:** So you were happier if they played in the back?

**Respondent:** On the back.

**Interviewer:** What about in the lane? Did they play in the lane?

**Respondent:** Play in the lane, but before, it's funny because the lane not concrete.

**Interviewer:** Oh, it wasn't paved yet.

**Respondent:** [0:23:00] Because say this private laneway, I say, "What do you mean private?" Because all cars pass on the front, on the back, you know? So many cars parked – nobody said nothing. One day my husband make order, the few meters of sand or something for [0:23:30] when we fix the garage. Put – the guy came, the truck, he put in the driveway. The neighbour, the northern side corner, her husband called the police because my husband put this all in the driveway. Police came. My husband have the papers, the house, he say the driveway's private.

- Interviewer:** You – but it belonged to you. Private belonging to you.
- Respondent:** Yes. For the [0:24:00] private – all people's live here have garages. The people have the garages. Police came, he talked to my husband. "Why you put this here?" My husband say, "Well I don't have a space inside. I need to put here." "You can't." You know? "You can't put there. You can't block the driveway." My husband tell to police, "This is a private [0:24:30] driveway." Police say, "No. Why you say to me for private driveway?" My husband say, "Okay, one second. I show you." My husband come in, picked up the papers, give the papers to police. Say, "Read." Police started reading the paper. Say, "Oh my god. I'm a policeman here. This is the first time I know it's the private [0:25:00] driveway."
- Interviewer:** So the neighbour phoned the police and the neighbour was wrong, and the policeman was wrong.
- Respondent:** Yeah.
- Interviewer:** It was your property.
- Respondent:** Because, you know, the police say to my husband, "Fine. Drive into the driveway. Fine. You leave, I can't say nothing. I came because somebody called."
- Interviewer:** Yeah. So he had to respond.
- Respondent:** The police say, "I came because somebody called for coming." [0:25:30] Okay? Now forty years ago, for this – I live here for forty years. Forty years ago, you know, the cars passed there, I can't hang my clothing outside.
- Interviewer:** Because of the...
- Respondent:** Oh my god. The car, vroom, vroom...
- Interviewer:** Oh yeah. So all the dust – your clothes dirtier.

- Respondent:** The dust come up. I say I can't, I need my dryer. I never buy a dryer. I need to buy a dryer for the clothing inside in the summer too [0:26:00] because I can't put outside.
- Interviewer:** Oh, and it's a shame to not be able to hang it in back.
- Respondent:** On the back I'm so nervous. The neighbour would say speak to the City.
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh.
- Respondent:** Give the driveway to City to fix the driveway. They need my signature. When people live out there, take the signature for the City, [0:26:30] everybody give – say like the driveway fixed.
- Interviewer:** Whoa. So you're talking about the back lane is what you're talking about.
- Respondent:** You know why? Because I can't say private, and the paper say private. But you can't say private because you don't have a gate. This side and then another side, the people came to measure, turned the driveway, go straight to Brunswick. Came to Brunswick, come straight to the driveway, go to measure.
- Interviewer:** [0:27:00] It's really public property. It's a laneway for everybody.
- Respondent:** And the City say it's private. And the people say better give it to City. Now nice.
- Interviewer:** So you started this. It was a petition and you got the neighbours to sign it, and you got it paved back there.
- Respondent:** Yeah. Nobody pay nothing. The city fixed, no pay nothing.
- Interviewer:** This is a wonderful story. So you got the lane [0:27:30] paved.
- Respondent:** Yeah. Now okay, no problem. I put clothing outside [laughter] no dusty.
- Interviewer:** [Laughs] Wonderful.

**Respondent:** No dusty. Before, oh my god, and the water. And snow, lot of snow.

**Interviewer:** Yeah.

**Respondent:** The snow in spring, the water go into my basement because for the soil. This is an old – the water go in the soil after coming in in the walls [0:28:00] for my basement.

**Interviewer:** Oh, so you had a flood in your basement.

**Respondent:** You know? Not a lot...

**Interviewer:** But it was wet.

**Respondent:** ...but it was musty. Wet, wet. All the time.

**Interviewer:** And everything gets moldy.

**Respondent:** Yeah. Now for years everything nice.

**Interviewer:** So when they did the lane, that changed it? Or did you have to do something to your house so that it would...

**Respondent:** No, no, no.

**Interviewer:** Just when they paved the lane.

**Respondent:** Fix the lane, I do nothing. I'm in Portugal on the time they do the lane.

**Interviewer:** So you must have been – oh.

**Respondent:** I'm happy [0:28:30] when I come back. I say, "Oh my god, there's a new lane."

**Interviewer:** Oh that's a...

- Respondent:** Paolo called us from Portugal. He say, "Oh, the people make a new" – now Paul say, "You have a new street." Say, "Yes? Where?" "Beside your house. The City make a new laneway."
- Interviewer:** And then you could hang your laundry outside.
- Respondent:** No, no. Oh yeah. Now the cars – I don't care the cars pass.  
[0:29:00] No disturb me. Never say nothing.
- Interviewer:** But good for you. You made it happen.
- Respondent:** Never say nothing. It's just I'm happy because everything's clean.
- Interviewer:** Yes. It's much cleaner. The other is filthy.
- Respondent:** Oh. People's crazy.
- Interviewer:** And did the children – when they played in the lane, what did they play there? You said they played in this concrete back...
- Respondent:** Now? Now? Oh...
- Interviewer:** When they were children what did they play?
- Respondent:** When children play the street, too close to my garage, this  
[0:29:30] way – because I don't like my sons pass over my garage for play.
- Interviewer:** Oh, you wanted them on your property.
- Respondent:** Yeah. My property and my neighbour, and I like because of the people, this man who live there all the time see the children play, make fight for the children.
- Interviewer:** Okay. So the men would...
- Respondent:** The man called the police, called the police for when put the soil on the garage.
- Interviewer:** So he was a [0:30:00] troublemaker.

- Respondent:** Oh this a troublemaker. Nobody like him. [Laughter] Still there.
- Interviewer:** He's still there? [Laughs]
- Respondent:** It's an old – many years, about forty. I don't know how many. Maybe fifty or forty-five, or fifty, live there. I don't know how many years this man...
- Interviewer:** But he wasn't friendly to the children...
- Respondent:** No.
- Interviewer:** ...or to you.
- Respondent:** No, no, no.
- Interviewer:** He liked phoning the police, is what he liked to do.
- Respondent:** Yeah. Nobody like him. No talk to us, no – never say nothing, the neighbours. You know? **[0:30:30]** You know, some people...
- Interviewer:** Is that your sister visiting?
- Respondent:** My sister. My older sister.
- Interviewer:** Can we speak a few more minutes? Are you okay?
- Respondent:** No, no, no.
- Interviewer:** Are you okay?
- Respondent:** That's okay.
- Interviewer:** Okay. So you talked about changing the lane, but you said in the front it's also quite different. There are more cars now.
- Respondent:** In the front?
- Interviewer:** Yeah.

- Respondent:** In the front, I tell you don't have a verandah.
- Interviewer:** You didn't have a verandah.
- Respondent:** No. My husband make a verandah.
- Interviewer:** When did he do that?
- Respondent:** **[0:31:00]** When change the door. Need to make a verandah for come in because when the door there, came in just one step beside the driveway. When make this door, you know, need something – my husband say, okay, I have a permit to the city for make a verandah. My husband make a verandah.
- Interviewer:** Do you sit out there? Do you like to sit out there?
- Respondent:** Oh yeah, oh yeah. In the night. **[0:31:30]** Not in the daytime. Too hot.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** And the hot – sometimes I sit out on there not much because I'm working. I need to do the things inside because I'm just one woman.
- Interviewer:** Yeah. Yeah.
- Respondent:** You know? Now it's just me and my husband. Not too much work.
- Interviewer:** I know we have just a few minutes because you have visitors. What were the stores here at the time? I know you went to Kensington Market a lot.
- Respondent:** Oh yeah. I have one – **[0:32:00]** have many years, one on the corner Ulster and Brunswick.
- Interviewer:** Yes.
- Respondent:** One.

- Interviewer:** What store?
- Respondent:** Right, right on the corner. When I buy this house, I – when I buy this house for a Portuguese owner, this store, see? See, I tell you.
- Interviewer:** Yes, yes.
- Respondent:** A Portuguese owner start, you know, the – [0:32:30] change. Say – sell. Sell the business because have a store on the bottom, you live on the top on the apartment. Sell everything, move to Scarborough.
- Interviewer:** So that was another Portuguese store.
- Respondent:** But still, but still – not Portuguese, Chinese all the time.
- Interviewer:** Oh Chinese.
- Respondent:** Chinese. Oh, or Korean. I think Korean, not Chinese. Korean.
- Interviewer:** So they were here forty years ago.
- Respondent:** He's still there. That store's still there.
- Interviewer:** [0:33:00] Where is that?
- Respondent:** Over there on the corner, on the right corner of Brunswick. You know Brunswick?
- Interviewer:** Yes.
- Respondent:** And Ulster.
- Interviewer:** Okay. Okay.
- Respondent:** Right on the corner. The door, the door – like this.
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh. Uh-huh.

- Respondent:** Yeah. The store. The store's still there. Have another one how many years, but this one never Portuguese. And the corner of Harbord and Robert.
- Interviewer:** Yes. There's a corner store. It's been there a long time.
- Respondent:** Many years.
- Interviewer:** **[0:33:30]** Changes. Sometimes the owner changes, but the store stays...
- Respondent:** But this guy he – likes see me now. I'm shopping in this store more than forty years.
- Interviewer:** That corner store?
- Respondent:** No.
- Interviewer:** Which one?
- Respondent:** On Kensington Market.
- Interviewer:** Oh in Kensington Market.
- Respondent:** Augusta. Augusta.
- Interviewer:** Yeah. Augusta.
- Respondent:** This why now I'm shopping at Bloor and Ossington. Too far for me. Need to take a bus for shopping. Before I walk to **[0:34:00]** Augusta.
- Interviewer:** Right. Because you're most comfortable going to the Portuguese stores.
- Respondent:** Yes. But this has turned out close.
- Interviewer:** Mm-hm. Mm-hm.

- Respondent:** I'm shopping there because I like there, because they have everything there. Groceries, fruit, meat, there's everything there.
- Interviewer:** Convenient.
- Respondent:** That's close.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** A big store for close.
- Interviewer:** And what about the schools? Where did your sons go to school?
- Respondent:** Oh the school, the schools my sons [0:34:30] go? For the Robert...
- Interviewer:** Lansdowne?
- Respondent:** Yeah, Lansdowne. Lansdowne. After Lansdowne, go to high school for Mount Pleasant and – I forget the name.
- Interviewer:** Oh.
- Respondent:** Mount Pleasant and north of Eglinton.
- Interviewer:** Okay. So they went quite far.
- Respondent:** For the high school.
- Interviewer:** Yes.
- Respondent:** When they leave this, the Lansdowne, go to high school at Mount Pleasant.
- Interviewer:** Mm-hm.
- Respondent:** After that, Carlos [0:35:00] take the photography course, go to Sheridan.
- Interviewer:** Mm-hm.

- Respondent:** Paolo take the printing. Go to George Brown.
- Interviewer:** So they both...
- Respondent:** Both.
- Interviewer:** ...got good training and good education.
- Respondent:** Yeah. Paulo, after take the painting, after go to the firefighter.
- Interviewer:** Yeah, but he likes his work. He told me he's very happy doing that work.
- Respondent:** Yeah, yeah. The wife a teacher, him for a firefighter.
- Interviewer:** And two little **[0:35:30]** children.
- Respondent:** Have two little – oh my god. You see the pictures? Paolo no show you?
- Interviewer:** No, no. But you'll show me.
- Respondent:** I show you. I show you.
- Interviewer:** Okay. I'll turn it off. So you've lived here for forty years. Is this a safe neighbourhood?
- Respondent:** Beautiful.
- Interviewer:** It is.
- Respondent:** Beautiful, beautiful. I'm never complain about that. I'm never scared in the night-time. One time somebody **[0:36:00]** assaulted my house.
- Interviewer:** You mean they broke into your house?
- Respondent:** In the basement. '79? Yeah. 1979. My husband had a big accident in May, and September had a problem. The doctor say you need to come to hospital, make a few tests. Say, **[0:36:30]** "You need a

little operation. You leave hospital. You don't need an operation. You go home."

**Interviewer:** Mm-hm.

**Respondent:** Because the operation is just stay one day or one night there. Okay. My husband goes to the hospital, Paolo and Carlos go to school. I'm working in the Windsor Arms Hotel.

**Interviewer:** Mm-hm.

**Respondent:** When I came five o'clock I finish work at four-thirty [0:37:00] when I came, Carlos running for the sidewalk waiting for me there. Say, "Mommy, mommy, mommy. Somebody stole the house. Somebody stole." Say, "What?" "Somebody stole in the house." Police stay there waiting for me. Police stay with my children and wait for me. Oh, I'm crying because I'm nervous because my husband is in hospital and might need an operation. I come home.

**Interviewer:** So you were alone with the children.

**Respondent:** [0:37:30] I'm not sleeping in this night. All night wake up because the door broke downstairs. And police say to me, "Oh don't cry, don't cry because you're lucky. You're lucky." I say, "I'm lucky? Stole my house." Say, "I don't know stole for you. You need to go and see." My gold, stay whole counter. And my counter, all my gold there.

**Interviewer:** [0:38:00] What was there?

**Respondent:** Gold.

**Interviewer:** Gold.

**Respondent:** All my gold.

**Interviewer:** Was on the counter, but they didn't see it?

- Respondent:** See? The people came, this is a story. My husband, before he goes to the hospital, put the box of the gold – the gold box on the back of the plates in there.
- Interviewer:** So when they came...
- Respondent:** The people came, look, look, find the box of the [0:38:30] gold there.
- Interviewer:** They found it behind the plates?
- Respondent:** Yes. Open everything. Take everything. The doors, take everything on the floor. Shook everything, oh my goodness. And the people who opened the box turned all the gold on the counter, just take one chain, ten karats gold chain.
- Interviewer:** So they didn't take it all. They just took one?
- Respondent:** Just take one for a watch...
- Interviewer:** [0:39:00] Yeah.
- Respondent:** ...and the chain. But it's cheaper. Maybe a hundred dollars because I found new in the box. Somebody lose it, but found new. And take this one, take under two hundred dollars.
- Interviewer:** Cash.
- Respondent:** Cash. Take Portuguese money. Not much, but it's the Portuguese money you have together. Take one of my watch, that's [0:39:30] it.
- Interviewer:** So you're saying there was much more that they could have taken.
- Respondent:** I think. I think take much. When I came police say, "You see the gold there? You don't touch because somebody came to take fingerprints."
- Interviewer:** Fingerprints.
- Respondent:** Okay.

- Interviewer:** So that's very strange. Instead of taking it all...
- Respondent:** Why no pick it up the box?
- Interviewer:** Yeah. [Laughs]
- Respondent:** This is why police said to me, "You don't cry because you're lucky."
- Interviewer:** Yeah. It could have been worse.
- Respondent:** Say maybe stole something, but your [0:40:00] gold's there. Oh my. I like seeing my gold, everything out because I can touch that gold.
- Interviewer:** Yeah. Because they were trying to get the fingerprint. But your husband had hidden it so well and yet they found it.
- Respondent:** He found there. Running all house. I have – no find other things. Go upstairs, my children sleep there upstairs. Have a piggybank for just pennies.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** The people [0:40:30] open, shoot all walls, destroyed walls for the pennies.
- Interviewer:** Oh, so they threw the piggybank against the wall to break it.
- Respondent:** The pennies. No, take the pennies. He shook the pennies on the wall. Crazy. Smoking, like lipsticks and cigarette. Leave one cigarette, leave a point of the cigarette with lipstick on the floor there. [0:41:00] Burn. Lucky no fire because it burned the wood.
- Interviewer:** Oh my god. So they were...
- Respondent:** In my living room, my husband needed to fix the living room. Break the back door and the basement for the cold room door. The people came. The post, the telephone post over there, up, and the roof of the garage, jump down, jump down, open the gate inside because

the gate close [0:41:30] inside. Open the gate in case need running, leave the gate open, break the door, come on the house. When my children came to school, the people stay here.

**Interviewer:** They were still here? The robbers were still here?

**Respondent:** Yeah. My children just running when – Carlos came first because they both have a key. But Paolo – Carlos forget the key when come for [0:42:00] lunch after go home, go to school again. Paolo closed the door, Carlos forget the key. Carlos came first. No have a key for come in. Carlos see the lights on, all lights on in September in the daytime. Carlos say, "Oh my daddy stay home." Carlos think that daddy stay home. Say, "Oh, my daddy stay home." Ring the bell. When ring the bell, the people running.

**Interviewer:** That's why they had [0:42:30] left the back door open for themselves.

**Respondent:** Yes. The neighbour see the people running in the back of the garage because have – between my garage, the neighbour's garage, have one laneway, small laneway, but this laneway to Ulster. The people running. Carlos waiting for Paolo, Paolo came, opened the door. When Paolo come, open the door, [0:43:00] see everything on the house upside-down, see the bedroom open, everything on the floor. Say, "Oh my god, my daddy put everything" – because the kids don't think...

**Interviewer:** They didn't think of that. It could be robbery.

**Respondent:** Robbery. Call daddy, daddy, daddy, daddy. Daddy no. Stay in the hospital. Daddy no talk.

**Interviewer:** Yeah.

**Respondent:** The kids don't think for robbery. The kids go the basement. [0:43:30] When they go to the basement, see the door broke. The fridge downstairs open, drink beer.

**Interviewer:** They drank some beer?

- Respondent:** The people drink beer because have beer in the basement fridge, leave the door open.
- Interviewer:** Oh. They opened the refrigerator, took beer, left the refrigerator, drank your beer...
- Respondent:** Yeah. Leave open. My children, when they see the fridge open [0:44:00] say, "This is strange. Daddy leaved – not here, everything upside-down, leave the fridge open." When I go back I see the back door break. When see the back door they scared. This type scared.
- Interviewer:** And then they understood.
- Respondent:** He running, he running up, ring the bell of the neighbour. He say to the neighbour, "Oh my god, maybe somebody called robbed my house. My parents are not here." [0:44:30] The lady say – just one lady say, "No." Say, "Yes. Come with me." The lady came. See everything upside-down, say, "Oh my god." Say, "I know somebody running in the back." The lady called the police right away, this way the police came.
- Interviewer:** So that was a terrible time for you.
- Respondent:** This was a terrible time.
- Interviewer:** You were working, your husband was in [0:45:00] the hospital after a terrible big accident.
- Respondent:** Yeah, yeah.
- Interviewer:** And your children came home and found this. But when I asked...
- Respondent:** Another – no problem. Nothing.
- Interviewer:** Yeah. So that was a very frightening time for you.
- Respondent:** Yeah, yeah.
- Interviewer:** But you're saying generally you feel safe. It's a safe neighbourhood.

- Respondent:** I feel safe. Paolo wife say leave before marry – you with me. He say, "I like [0:45:30] this area so much."
- Interviewer:** He told me he would love to live back here again.
- Respondent:** Yeah, yeah. Like to go back with me because for a big house, there's big houses, you know? Different. But not for teaching here, I don't know.
- Interviewer:** Well I know – it's your sister visiting?
- Respondent:** Yeah. Two people waiting for me.
- Interviewer:** Okay. Okay.
- Respondent:** My sister and this man...
- Interviewer:** Another friend. Okay.
- Respondent:** ...the store.
- Interviewer:** Okay.
- Respondent:** Yeah.
- Interviewer:** So I just want to say it's been a pleasure to meet you, and [0:46:00] a pleasure to listen to...
- Respondent:** Oh my pleasure.
- Interviewer:** ...your stories. You said to me, "Maybe I have nothing to talk about." You have plenty. So interesting.
- Respondent:** Oh it's not much. It's not much. [Laughs]
- Interviewer:** Yeah. Thank you very, very much.
- Respondent:** You're very welcome. It's my pleasure. You need something?
- Interviewer:** No. But I do want to see what you've done.

**Respondent:** Want to see? Yeah.

**Interviewer:** Thank you.

**[00:46:15]**

[End of recording]