

124 Ron Kashin

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

**Interviewer:** The date today is the 24th of July, 2013, and I'm sitting with Ron Kashin who lived at 262 Brunswick from 1938 to 1955. The ages – approximately ages three to twenty years old.

**Respondent:** Okay.

**Interviewer:** The first thing I want to say, Ron, is thank you very much for coming to speak with me to share [0:00:30] your stories.

**Respondent:** Good. [Laughs]

**Interviewer:** Okay. Your family moved here in 1938. Were your parents renting, or were they buying at that time?

**Respondent:** They were renting.

**Interviewer:** They were renting. And did they rent all of those years? Or did they eventually buy?

**Respondent:** No. Yeah, they eventually bought after they moved, yes.

**Interviewer:** Uh-huh. But when you were living at 262 Brunswick, did they...

**Respondent:** Right. That's a rented premises.

**Interviewer:** And then they bought another place in the same neighbourhood?

**Respondent:** No.

**Interviewer:** Oh. Then they bought the house that [0:01:00] you were renting.

**Respondent:** No.

**Interviewer:** Okay. Please explain. Yeah.

**Respondent:** They bought – the population was moving north and they bought a house at Sheppard and Bathurst area.

**Interviewer:** Okay.

**Respondent:** Bathurst Manor, which was...

**Interviewer:** But that was in 1955?

**Respondent:** In around that time, yeah.

**Interviewer:** Around that time. So all your years at 262 Brunswick, your family was renting.

**Respondent:** Yes.

**Interviewer:** Uh-huh. How many of you were living at 262 [0:01:30] Brunswick?

**Respondent:** My mother and father.

**Interviewer:** Uh-huh.

**Respondent:** My brother and myself.

**Interviewer:** Mm-hm.

**Respondent:** Plus.

**Interviewer:** Plus?

**Respondent:** Tenants. Because they were not going to live there alone. They rented the second floor flat, as we called it. Second floor, you know, the people. And one room on the third floor. My brother and I shared a room on the third floor.

**Interviewer:** So your parents were on the first floor?

**Respondent:** There's – you walked in the door – get this straight. [0:02:00] Walk in the door, there was a hallway. Living room on one side, and you

walked down further. It was a dining room. The dining room was their bedroom.

**Interviewer:** Yes.

**Respondent:** Off their bedroom, off that, there was a butler's pantry.

**Interviewer:** Mm-hm.

**Respondent:** It was nice to have, mind you, with all of it. And then the kitchen, which is a very large kitchen. And off the kitchen, **[0:02:30]** there was steps going down to the basement and sort of a little bigger. It's not like a summer kitchen, but it was just, you know, storage. And that was it. And the second floor had a washroom, bedroom in the back, kitchen, front room. Okay? And that was rented to people. And then the third floor had a bathroom, **[0:03:00]** two-piece bathroom, a bedroom, and a front room for another front bedroom. My brother and I stayed in that bedroom.

**Interviewer:** Mm-hm. So you had a bathroom up there too then.

**Respondent:** Yeah, yeah, yeah. It's not the way people live today. [Laughs]

**Interviewer:** And that's kind of – so at what stage did you and your brother move upstairs, because you must have been...

**Respondent:** We were upstairs from day one.

**Interviewer:** **[0:03:30]** You mean as a three-year-old...

**Respondent:** I guess so. I would think so. I can't remember, but I know...

**Interviewer:** Yeah. And to go to your parents, you would walk through this other person's floor. The other people who lived on the floor.

**Respondent:** Yeah, yeah, yeah. That was fine. That was very, very acceptable. They were nice people. They lived there. I remember the only – remember a couple of people that lived there, and they were okay.

**Interviewer:** Mm-hm. Mm-hm.

- Respondent:** I'm just wondering if my brother was there. I hope I got those dates straight, but I think I did. **[0:04:00]** Anyways, yeah. They – that was fine.
- Interviewer:** Who made up the population at that time from your recollection? Because you lived here ages three to twenty. Who else lived here? What kinds of people?
- Respondent:** In that section?
- Interviewer:** The neighbourhood. Say Bloor to College.
- Respondent:** It's a lot of Jewish people.
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh.
- Respondent:** There were a lot of non-Jewish people, but I would say more of a ghetto type of thing.
- Interviewer:** Mm-hm. So you're saying...
- Respondent:** I mean, **[0:04:30]** I wouldn't say fifty percent, but you know, at least forty percent, for sure. That's that picket of your house all the way down. It was no different over here, I don't think. It was maybe more so closer to College. It was the Market. But yeah. I'd say yeah. At least that.
- Interviewer:** When you were growing up, was your sense that it was a safe **[0:05:00]** neighbourhood?
- Respondent:** Very safe. The only problems we would have – it wasn't really a problem. We had the Brunswick Hotel at the corner, and a lot of people – you know, that was their escape. They loved to go there and drink beer and stuff like that, and sometimes they'd wander down the street and walk into the wrong house. No one locked their doors pretty much.
- Interviewer:** That's interesting. Talking about safety.

**Respondent:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** People would have locked their doors if they had been scared.

**Respondent:** No, no, no. Just – I remember one incident and somebody came **[0:05:30]** up in the screen door and sort of walked in, my father walked out. Said, "What are you doing here?" And the guy started – my father picked him up and threw him off the porch. [Laughs] And he wasn't a violent guy. No really violence. And everyone looked out for everybody else.

**Interviewer:** Well that's saying a lot about it.

**Respondent:** I had – my grandmother lived – that's three doors south of us.

**Interviewer:** Mm-hm.

**Respondent:** At 256.

**Interviewer:** Mm-hm.

**Respondent:** And in that house, it was **[0:06:00]** my grandmother, my aunt, and two of her kids because she was a widow, and I had an uncle. Very carefree guy. He's always – a favourite-type uncle. They're all great guys, but he was one of these – he was a nice guy. Connected guy. [Laughs] And so no, you know, they – we were fine. **[0:06:30]** And my other uncle lived across the road.

**Interviewer:** So your family was all living very close to each other on Brunswick.

**Respondent:** Of course. Yeah. No, no. Yeah, yeah. And that was on my mother's side of the family.

**Interviewer:** Mm-hm.

**Respondent:** My uncle's wife had passed away and left with two kids, and he remarried. So I remember this. And then he moved over across the road and eventually moved over to Robert Street.

**Interviewer:** But still in the neighbourhood.

- Respondent:** Yeah. And then he went up to Lawrence Avenue. Yeah.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** And yeah, so it was [0:07:00] that type of thing. And my other – my uncle, he was kind of a character guy. The only guy with a car with a rumble seat. I'll never forget that.
- Interviewer:** A rumble seat?
- Respondent:** A rumble seat in the car. I remember. I'll never forget that.
- Interviewer:** And that was in the...
- Respondent:** And then he had a DeSoto. Yeah. Well what would happen is he was connected with the – I shouldn't be saying this. I'm not going to...
- Interviewer:** Oh, it sounds good.
- Respondent:** No, no. Not on tape.
- Interviewer:** He was connected. Okay.
- Respondent:** Yeah, but I mean he [0:07:30] would usually wake my father up in the middle of the night, and they had to go on a little mission, you know, here and there. Yeah.
- Interviewer:** So he was the, quote, interesting brother.
- Respondent:** He was a great guy.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** Fantastic guy. Fantastic guy. Yeah. He was okay.
- Interviewer:** So your mother's family lived around Brunswick and Robert. Your...

**Respondent:** Yeah. Robert. Some of them were over on Robert Street, and of course, Marion's parents, Marion's grandmother and that were over off [0:08:00] Robert there on Russell Street.

**Interviewer:** And that's your wife.

**Respondent:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** So, so did you know Marion when you were a young child?

**Respondent:** I knew her – I guess I noticed her when I was about sixteen, seventeen, eighteen. Who knows? She lived down the street.

**Interviewer:** Uh-huh.

**Respondent:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** But you grew up in the neighbourhood.

**Respondent:** Yeah. But that was south of Sussex, and you never really – you knew who was there, but you never really – everyone pretty much – all the friends – like they're groups of – there was [0:08:30] who knows how many guys, like, we horsed around with on our part of the street. And my brother had the same thing. It was like, you know, you have the guys live on Major or Robert north of Sussex, or wherever. They're all together, and they married all the gals in the area for some reason. My brother married a gal who lived across the road and down the street.

**Interviewer:** So it sounds if there [0:09:00] was quite high-density, lots of children.

**Respondent:** Yeah. High-density. No question.

**Interviewer:** And you hung around in groups and gangs.

**Respondent:** Yeah. Friends.

**Interviewer:** Right. But then you married within that same...

- Respondent:** Well...
- Interviewer:** You did and your brother did.
- Respondent:** Yeah. My brother did. And a lot of other people.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** Gosh, thinking about it, yeah.
- Interviewer:** Okay. So since we're talking about getting married, and you all got married quite young, what was the dating like at that time, say, when you were fifteen, seventeen? What kinds of practices did **[0:09:30]** you have?
- Respondent:** Okay. We – myself, we had a club.
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh.
- Respondent:** And we nominated two clubs actually. We had two clubs. A bunch of guys hanging around.
- Interviewer:** Mm-hm.
- Respondent:** So the – one of the guys were living at 270. That's the old – you know Wiener's Hardware? That's where they lived.
- Interviewer:** On Bloor Street?
- Respondent:** Yeah. **[0:10:00]** The Wiener's Hardware on Bloor Street. Lived at 270.
- Interviewer:** Oh, the Wiener's family who started...
- Respondent:** Yeah. The father. Not the – yeah. The father...
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** ...the mother...

- Interviewer:** Uh-huh.
- Respondent:** ...and the two sons.
- Interviewer:** So they started Wiener's on Bloor Street, but they lived on Brunswick near you.
- Respondent:** They were already in business. Yeah. They were very successful. And then they sold the house, moved up to Lowther.
- Interviewer:** Oh yeah. Different part of the city. Yeah, yeah.
- Respondent:** Between Madison and Spadina.
- Interviewer:** **[0:10:30]** Yeah.
- Respondent:** On the north side of the street.
- Interviewer:** Right. But you're talking about these groups. These groups of guys.
- Respondent:** Yeah, yeah, yeah.
- Interviewer:** And the two groups combined and joined forces.
- Respondent:** What we did was we joined the B'nai Brith...
- Interviewer:** Mm-hm.
- Respondent:** ...called the AZA, and they were on Spadina next to the – oops. I'm sorry. Next to the Waverley Hotel...
- Interviewer:** Mm-hm.
- Respondent:** ...which is part of B'nai Brith.
- Interviewer:** About what age? Seventeen?
- Respondent:** **[0:11:00]** No. I'd say about – yeah. Fifteen, sixteen.
- Interviewer:** Mm-hm. Mm-hm.

**Respondent:** Yeah. Fifteen, sixteen. And that was social. We threw parties. All we were good for – culturally we weren't that great. We were athletic, and dances, and stuff like that.

**Interviewer:** And where would these be? At homes?

**Respondent:** No, no. [0:11:30] Okay. They had a club. They had a building on Spadina just as you come out of the crescent when you go south. At the corner now, I don't know what's there now, but it used to be Benjamin's. It used to be there. The funeral home.

**Interviewer:** Mm-hm.

**Respondent:** And I think it was next – no. It was the Scott Mission was there.

**Interviewer:** Yeah. Okay. So going towards College, but north of college.

**Respondent:** Yeah. On the west side of the street.

**Interviewer:** Yeah. Okay. So that's where you had dances.

**Respondent:** We used to have [0:12:00] dances there, then we used to have our own social events, and we could have it there if they allowed us. If not, we rented a spot, but maybe on top of a store on College Street that had a big opening that we catered ourselves, and then we put on shows. Like we – you know, guys would get up and sing, and we'd do skits, and oh yeah, it was like a whole – and we used to have a lot of fun. It was different. You actually created your own entertainment. [0:12:30] You did all that stuff, and...

**Interviewer:** And were girls involved with this at all?

**Respondent:** We used to invite girls, of course. That was the whole thing. Everybody wanted to come to our parties. Are you kidding?  
[Laughs]

**Interviewer:** Did you use the Y at all? The JCC? The Y at that...

- Respondent:** I used it as a place to play squash, and play, workout, or whatever at that time. Not much of it. Not much. There were a lot of Ys and clubs that were at the Y as well.
- Interviewer:** Mm-hm.
- Respondent:** But not really until – I forget when the new one was built. **[0:13:00]** It was older.
- Interviewer:** Sixty years old. 1953 is when they moved up to Bloor and Spadina.
- Respondent:** Yeah. Yeah. Because I used to go down to – it wasn't a major part.
- Interviewer:** Did you use it on Brunswick for a while?
- Respondent:** On Brunswick for a little while as a kid, yeah. Go on down. And there was nothing for me there. We used to go to 44 St. George. 44 St. George was part of the Y. They had a basketball court in that building.
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh.
- Respondent:** And we used to play a lot of basketball.
- Interviewer:** **[0:13:30]** Yeah. So this AZA B'nai Brith, that was a strong group for you.
- Respondent:** Yeah. Yeah.
- Interviewer:** In your late adolescence.
- Respondent:** Yeah. We still get together. The odd time – we haven't had a reunion now. We had – the last one was about two years ago. Some of the guys – yeah. Well, we still go – fourteen guys.
- Interviewer:** Isn't that amazing? That's a lot of years later and you get together.
- Respondent:** Yeah, yeah. Well last time, one of the guys made jackets for everybody. [Laughs] Club Garnett. No, no. We all **[0:14:00]** chipped

in, but he looked after Club Garnett. That was the name of the club. Yeah.

**Interviewer:** And when would that have been, that he made those jackets?

**Respondent:** About five years ago maybe it was.

**Interviewer:** So all of you would have been in your seventies at that time.

**Respondent:** Yeah. Late sixties, seventies. Yeah.

**Interviewer:** Late sixties, seventies, and...

**Respondent:** Some guys older. Yeah.

**Interviewer:** Yeah.

**Respondent:** A lot of guys, you know, and a couple passed away. Yeah. They had the Richmond brothers there, and they were – their dad owned Crown Bread, which you – I don't know. Crown Bread [0:14:30] was a bakery on Augusta.

**Interviewer:** Oh yeah. So that's out of this neighbourhood. Right.

**Respondent:** College. Yeah. They were very – at least did delivery. Oh, there were different things.

**Interviewer:** Okay. You mentioned home delivery. Would you try to recall what kinds of foods were delivered? Were some foods delivered to your home while you were growing up here as a child?

**Respondent:** Yes.

**Interviewer:** What foods?

**Respondent:** Okay. Kosher chickens.

**Interviewer:** Were delivered to you?

- Respondent:** My mother would [0:15:00] call this place on Baldwin Street or down the Market. If I remember the place, it was called Seaton's or something there. They have the people there. And she'd order a chicken or two, whatever she – you know, chickens.
- Interviewer:** And they were...
- Respondent:** She would buy the chickens at the – down the street, we had this place called Tenenbaum's who were strictly poultry dealers, and there was a – at the corner of Harbord and Brunswick there was a butcher shop there. Two of them actually. [0:15:30] Greenspan on one corner, Willy Martin on the other corner, but she...
- Interviewer:** She'd call the Market. The person in the Market.
- Respondent:** It was her mother, my grandmother who lived in – that was it. That was the place.
- Interviewer:** And they would...
- Respondent:** You'd get delivery on Thursday.
- Interviewer:** Dead and kosher.
- Respondent:** Yeah. [Laughter] Dead and kosher.
- Interviewer:** Right.
- Respondent:** Dead and kosher.
- Interviewer:** Would he have taken the feathers out, or did your mother have to do that?
- Respondent:** She still had – they'd burn them off, but she would still have to...
- Interviewer:** Pluck them.
- Respondent:** You had to clean them out. [0:16:00] That's the way you did it. And Marion's mother, she used to get it in the Market, in Kensington.

Her aunt used to go down there and get it. She spent a lot of time there as a kid.

**Interviewer:** And thinking about delivery, so...

**Respondent:** What else?

**Interviewer:** ...any other kinds of food?

**Respondent:** Milk was delivered.

**Interviewer:** And was – are you talking about trucks, or are you talking about horses?

**Respondent:** Horse and wagon, I remember. I remember ice.

**Interviewer:** [0:16:30] So you had an icebox.

**Respondent:** It was this Jewish gentleman, Mr. Young, who used to deliver ice, and he pulled it with a horse.

**Interviewer:** Oh.

**Respondent:** We used to jump on the back, look for little chunks. That was a big treat for us.

**Interviewer:** Little slivers of ice.

**Respondent:** Yes. You know? [Laughs]

**Interviewer:** So he was good-natured.

**Respondent:** He'd come – yeah. Bring in a block of ice into the house into the icebox, chip away and make sure it fit...

**Interviewer:** Yeah.

**Respondent:** ...and sometimes my mother had the money to pay him, sometimes not, and he'd pick it up [0:17:00] the, you know, as time...

- Interviewer:** So there was credit at that time. If your mother didn't have two dollars...
- Respondent:** Well, well it wasn't – order. Whatever. Whatever it was. I mean...
- Interviewer:** But if she couldn't pay him today...
- Respondent:** Well maybe it's the arrangement they had. I don't know. The milkman was that type of arrangement, and yeah.
- Interviewer:** So milk, ice, chicken.
- Respondent:** Chickens were, yeah, once a week. And if you wanted this Crown – there's independent drivers [0:17:30] that were working for this Crown Bread.
- Interviewer:** Mm-hm.
- Respondent:** And they would – if you ordered, tell them what you ordered, you know, and they're looking for business, and the guy would deliver four bagels and some silly thing like that or whatever. But he didn't do it – she did it for a while, but not too often, because we had all the bakeries around the corner.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** We had two bakeries right on Harbord here.
- Interviewer:** Where did your family do the majority of its [0:18:00] food shopping?
- Respondent:** Okay. Green grocer around wherever. There's no...
- Interviewer:** So the little stores. Whatever little stores were around.
- Respondent:** Yeah, yeah. There was lots of little grocery stores and little better green grocers on Bloor. Bloor and just on Borden actually. Just south of Bloor there was a guy.
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh.

- Respondent:** And then on Bloor next to – the second store in, [0:18:30] third store in from Borden, there was a guy. Yeah. Kinsella's. Geez. Bring back all these memories.
- Interviewer:** Amazing, eh? Yeah. Yeah.
- Respondent:** Kinsella's. Yeah.
- Interviewer:** Yeah. So...
- Respondent:** They'd pick up what they need daily, and nothing was really – not much you're going to the supermarket and...
- Interviewer:** Well those iceboxes were not the sizes of the refrigerators now.
- Respondent:** No, no.
- Interviewer:** They're much smaller.
- Respondent:** Yeah. Yeah.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** Yeah. So they picked it up, and the meat. Yeah, the butcher shop at the corner. Go down there, pick up this, or go to the grocery store.
- Interviewer:** So a lot of shopping was done. This was what we'll eat today, and this is what I'll buy today. Not storing [0:19:00] it the way we do.
- Respondent:** No.
- Interviewer:** Not to that extent.
- Respondent:** No, no, no.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** It was very simple.

**Interviewer:** Yeah. Did you eat at restaurants much, or at all?

**Respondent:** Ah, the only time as I kid I remember a restaurant would be there was a fish and chips store on Bloor Street. The odd time I could go there and pick it up for a treat of some sort. Pick it up. Or when my father used to walk me [0:19:30] down to see my grandfather, on the way back, he'd stop into the deli for a hotdog. It was a nickel a hotdog or something. It was called Weltz Delicatessen. I don't know if you got to that part of the laneway...

**Interviewer:** And that was on College?

**Respondent:** On College. He knew this guy from the old country. He had the big steamers and steaming the hotdogs.

**Interviewer:** Oh yeah.

**Respondent:** And the marble, you know, the white-topped tables and ice cream. Yeah. I remember that place. Yeah. Yeah. He was a nice old guy, and that's what we used to do. And we [0:20:00] used to go to the Talmud Torah, so we used to sneak out, put our hand up to go to the bathroom and go out right around the corner and get a hotdog. [Laughs]

**Interviewer:** Oh, that's too funny. Now just – let me just for the tape say the Talmud Torah was a local Hebrew day school.

**Respondent:** Hebrew school. Not day school.

**Interviewer:** Hebrew school. After school.

**Respondent:** I went at night.

**Interviewer:** So you went to cheder. You went to school at four o'clock or four-thirty.

**Respondent:** Six-thirty.

**Interviewer:** It started at six-thirty?

**Respondent:** Yeah. I used to go to the class earlier and later. Six-thirty until eight o'clock or...

**Interviewer:** So you would put up your hand, "Can I go [0:20:30] to the washroom?" and run out and buy a hotdog.

**Respondent:** Yeah. [Laughter] That's what we would do. And if we were bad, they made us stay in. We always got into trouble. And they used to have a guy who used to – not like a – I don't know what you would call the guy. The custodian there. The teacher would go home...

**Interviewer:** Oh.

**Respondent:** ...and he'd put us in the room. And so you've got to stay here for an extra half-hour, and you've got to say the – turn the key on you.

**Interviewer:** Oh my god.

**Respondent:** Yeah, no. It was fine. And what we used to do, [0:21:00] we used to open up the window and go down the fire escape and go home. Nobody ever said anything. You would be on your – the old guy was pretty happy you got it, you left. [Laughs] Nobody's going to stop you, you know? They were pretty liberal. The best part of that place, I used to have to go Sunday.

**Interviewer:** Sunday school.

**Respondent:** And I had to be there. I had to be there. I forget if it was nine or nine-thirty, and so I'd walk north of Sussex down. Now, [0:21:30] when you get to the corner of Sussex and Brunswick...

**Interviewer:** Mm-hm.

**Respondent:** ...there was a synagogue there called the Shomrai Shabos, whatever it was. Still, they have it up there up on – just north of...

**Interviewer:** Glencairn.

- Respondent:** Up that way. Yeah. Now you kept on going down, between Sussex and Harbord, there's that synagogue which is still there.
- Interviewer:** The Narayever.
- Respondent:** Yeah. Terrific guy, that guy. Yeah. And then when you kept on [0:22:00] going down, there's all these shteebles.
- Interviewer:** Oh. So there were all these little synagogues.
- Respondent:** Yeah. Little shteebles. Yeah. And they always needed a minion. So now either you'd walk out the door – so you know, I just – if I crossed the road, never got em at the Shomrai Shabos. That was okay then. But they got down to the Narayever. The guys would stand outside. And you know, they would grab you, you know, need a tenth person – [0:22:30] the kid, but they took you in because...
- Interviewer:** Because you were male.
- Respondent:** Yeah. Exactly. And he'd say, "But I've got to go to"...
- Interviewer:** To cheder.
- Respondent:** Yeah. You know, this is not good. I'm going to be late. "Ah, don't worry. Don't worry. Don't worry. Tell him you'll make up the meeting. You'll be fine." Every time. You know? So anyway, I'd go in. Now I'd look around and I looked at the table. You always had a table there. Now if they have a bottle of schnapps on the table [laughs], [0:23:00] you know you're not there more than ten minutes. [Laughs]
- Interviewer:** Because they could go through it more quickly?
- Respondent:** They'd – okay, you can go.
- Interviewer:** But they didn't share the schnapps with you.
- Respondent:** They asked me if I'd want one. I wouldn't take one, but I wouldn't ever drink schnapps because these guys would put it right back, you know? Straight up.

- Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah.
- Respondent:** Piece of honey cake and they're done, you know? Sit there until they kill the bottle, and then...
- Interviewer:** But if you wanted to, you could have stopped at about half a dozen different shteebles and had a schnapps and honey cake in every one of them.
- Respondent:** Yeah, yeah. I was a kid. **[0:23:30]** I knew to stay away from it. And I'd take a piece of cake, you know? I'd keep going, but yeah. Normally on a Sunday, I got stopped twice for sure.
- Interviewer:** So Brunswick had the Shomrai Shabos and...
- Respondent:** The Shomrai Shabos around the corner.
- Interviewer:** That was closest to you.
- Respondent:** Northeast corner of Sussex. Yeah.
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh. And then the Narayever.
- Respondent:** And then the Narayever. Then as you got south at Ulster on the far – there's a big house there. Then there was, I think, two there, and then one **[0:24:00]** on the other side.
- Interviewer:** So another three shteebles.
- Respondent:** Right. At least two. Yeah. They were there. Yeah. I mean, you know, but they're – yeah.
- Interviewer:** And each of them...
- Respondent:** North of our house. Yeah.
- Interviewer:** Yeah. And each one needed a minion...
- Respondent:** Yeah.

- Interviewer:** ...which means ten men. Yes.
- Respondent:** Ten men. Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.
- Interviewer:** Well Brunswick was an interesting street just in that respect.
- Respondent:** Well kind of. Yeah, it was – you know, we never saw it as that, but you know, we just had to be there, we went there, and that's – a lot of yeah. I can't remember where all the people used to be down there, **[0:24:30]** but it was good. I loved that old synagogue, eh? They should never have sold that thing.
- Interviewer:** You know, I never saw that one. I mean the Narayever's still there, but I never saw the Shomrai...
- Respondent:** Yeah. Just like the Narayever with the basement, and they doved down the basement, they doved on the first floor. It was Orthodox. And my grandmother's, my mother's family, belonged there. One of the original people there.
- Interviewer:** I wonder what that is now. Do you know? Is it a house?
- Respondent:** No. It's a – I don't know. **[0:25:00]** It's something else. I don't get over as often as I should.
- Interviewer:** Yeah. Well...
- Respondent:** It would have been a great place to live as a house. Oh my god. I would kill to live there. I'd move back in ten minutes.
- Interviewer:** [Laughs] Yeah, yeah.
- Respondent:** You know, it was a lovely, lovely – yeah.
- Interviewer:** And when you left this neighbourhood, did you leave because you were getting married? Or did your family move north?
- Respondent:** No. It was time. Everyone was striving to leave the neighbourhood, not to stay. The only people who really stayed were **[0:25:30]** –

well, probably still there actually. Schwartzie. There's some gal you should talk to.

**Interviewer:** Rosie.

**Respondent:** Oh, you know Rosie?

**Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah. [Laughter] Okay. So there was some significance in leaving. What did it mean to people to leave?

**Respondent:** It meant that maybe you were stepping up a bit. Don't forget the Depression in the '30s, whatever. It's more and more conveniences.

**Interviewer:** [0:26:00] Mm-hm. Mm-hm. So that was a measure of success.

**Respondent:** I would say it was. I mean success or not, my father worked – was a factory worker, but he still – they made the move.

**Interviewer:** Yeah.

**Respondent:** I mean you could buy the house for, what, fifteen thousand dollars at that time.

**Interviewer:** Which was a lot of money at that time.

**Respondent:** Yeah, but you know, if you're making a hundred and twenty-five dollars a week, you managed.

**Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah.

**Respondent:** And you know, put away a few bucks and that's what you did.

**Interviewer:** What were the majority of men – what kind of work were the men doing [0:26:30] who lived in this neighbourhood?

**Respondent:** I guess it depends on who they were. My father-in-law was a mechanic.

**Interviewer:** Uh-huh.

- Respondent:** He was a grease-ball guy, you know? Nice guy.
- Interviewer:** Repaired cars.
- Respondent:** When he wanted to work, yeah. Yeah. He was a great guy.
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh.
- Respondent:** He was a character. She probably told you enough about her father. [Laughs]
- Interviewer:** And your father was?
- Respondent:** He worked in a factory. He was a cutter. As they say, a schneider.
- Interviewer:** A schneider. Right.
- Respondent:** And he used to grade patterns, and better **[0:27:00]** quality ladies' dresses, and stuff like that.
- Interviewer:** From what you recall, were mothers working at that time?
- Respondent:** Not really, no. Some did. If their husband had a business, maybe they would, yeah.
- Interviewer:** So they might have helped in their husbands' businesses.
- Respondent:** Yeah. Most of them were homemakers. They stayed home and did what they did.
- Interviewer:** Mm-hm. Mm-hm.
- Respondent:** Maybe it was a sign that you shouldn't be working, and he's doing okay. You know? I don't know. Maybe some were...
- Interviewer:** I think you're right. I think you're right.
- Respondent:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** I think at that time, the men would have [0:27:30] felt, "My wife has to work, it would look bad for me that my wife is working."

**Respondent:** Well I don't know. My father wasn't that kind of guy, but I think my mother was that kind of person, you know? He wasn't – yeah.

**Interviewer:** As a child when you were three, four...

**Respondent:** They would work in their family business. If you had a family business, they would participate.

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

**Respondent:** That's the way I see it.

**Interviewer:** Yeah. When the children played, where did you play?

**Respondent:** Where did you play? In the street. [0:28:00] You know? Baseball on the street, hockey on the...

**Interviewer:** On the road.

**Respondent:** Road hockey. Yeah.

**Interviewer:** Uh-huh.

**Respondent:** And oh yeah. I remember I used to walk and go around the corner to Central Tech, the playground, but only if you're playing a ballgame and you've got guys from south of Sussex or Major Street, or whatever, you played against each other or something. You needed, you know, a ballpark for that. But mostly on the street.

**Interviewer:** Right on the road.

**Respondent:** Yeah. Road hockey was fun.

**Interviewer:** Yeah. [0:28:30] What about the back lane? Did you use the back lanes in any way?

**Respondent:** No, no.

- Interviewer:** Uh-huh.
- Respondent:** Shortcuts. That's about it.
- Interviewer:** So shortcuts to go to...
- Respondent:** Yeah. Up and down, or to get around, you know?
- Interviewer:** So it was just a walkthrough.
- Respondent:** Or a drive-through. If you had a bicycle, if you were lucky enough to get a bicycle that wasn't too beat up. You used to have to have bicycle licenses in those days.
- Interviewer:** Oh.
- Respondent:** The police would stop you regularly. That's when you went to the back lanes. There was one guy who used to catch me every time. **[0:29:00]** I'd come out the lane, he'd be waiting for me. [Laughs]
- Interviewer:** So he would stop you because you didn't have a license.
- Respondent:** A warning. It was a joke, you know? He'd give you a warning. Yeah. Yeah. They used to knock on the door for pet licenses and stuff like that. Yeah. If I remember correctly.
- Interviewer:** Knock on a door for what?
- Respondent:** License. Your dog licenses and stuff like that.
- Interviewer:** Oh, dogs had to have licenses too.
- Respondent:** Yeah, yeah.
- Interviewer:** Did your family have a dog?
- Respondent:** Yeah. We had a dog when I was a kid. Yeah.

- Interviewer:** Was that quite common? Did [0:29:30] lots of families have animals?
- Respondent:** I don't remember that. We did. You know, it was fine.
- Interviewer:** But the bicycles on the dogs had to have licenses.
- Respondent:** Yeah. Well apparently, yeah, at that time.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** I remember that because they used to chase us.
- Interviewer:** What did you call your dog, do you remember?
- Respondent:** That dog was called Daisy.
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh.
- Respondent:** That's it. Yeah.
- Interviewer:** So it sounds if you had [0:30:00] more than one dog, if you said, "That dog was called Daisy."
- Respondent:** Well we had a dog personally. Not when I got – after, you know? At our house, we...
- Interviewer:** You mean you and Marion had a dog.
- Respondent:** Yeah, yeah, yeah. We had a pet. Yeah. But yeah, that was interesting. My kids had dogs. My daughter has two or three of them. My son has one.
- Interviewer:** Oh.
- Respondent:** And the guy in Winnipeg, he's got one dog. He's got two now.
- Interviewer:** So your [0:30:30] family likes dogs.
- Respondent:** Yeah. My young guy, he hasn't got a dog yet.

- Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah.
- Respondent:** Yeah. So it's – I don't know.
- Interviewer:** Do you have any particular memories of dramatic events while you were living in this neighbourhood?
- Respondent:** Dramatic events?
- Interviewer:** Yeah. Anything that kind of – stories that had a strong impact on you?
- Respondent:** No. We had lots of stories, but impact? Every day was – **[0:31:00]** my two cousins would have to – the odd time would stay over in our place because they lived across the road with – the father was widowed. Yeah. Their mother had passed away before. And they stayed at my grandmother's, or they stayed at our place. And yeah. Get up in the morning. If you're the last one up and out, you got the knickers with the holes. **[0:31:30]** [Laughs] It's like, you know, that type of thing.
- Interviewer:** So you shared clothes.
- Respondent:** We did. We did what we had to do.
- Interviewer:** You shared clothes, and you didn't have very much money is what you're saying.
- Respondent:** No, no. We didn't.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** Money was like if you earned it. I used to go and – Varsity Stadium was close by. I used to work the football games.
- Interviewer:** Selling?
- Respondent:** I'd sell newspapers before the games sometimes. Make a buck or two. Or you'd sell inside the stadium, **[0:32:00]** hotdogs. Yeah, you

walk around with a steamer on you and maybe made five bucks for the day.

**Interviewer:** How old were you when you were doing that?

**Respondent:** I started doing that when I was ten or eleven.

**Interviewer:** Uh-huh. And could you keep that money, or did you have to give it to your mother?

**Respondent:** No. They didn't want it. They didn't want it. Whatever I did, I did, and that was that. And yeah. And we sold team colours, ribbons.

**Interviewer:** Uh-huh.

**Respondent:** That was our biggest thing. We used to make good money doing that for Varsity.

**Interviewer:** So you were entrepreneurial at a [0:32:30] young age.

**Respondent:** Yeah, yeah.

**Interviewer:** So you could afford some little luxuries of life.

**Respondent:** We worked the university games, and I worked for somebody, and I found out how it worked, and we went out and did it ourselves. So we went downtown to Spadina Avenue and say it was University of Toronto was blue and white, yeah, blue and white. And say McGill University is red and white, they're playing McGill, and Queen's, I forget whatever colour. Yellow something. Anyways, and we would buy [0:33:00] the rolls of ribbon...

**Interviewer:** Oh, so you...

**Respondent:** ...and we cut them out, cut them out, and then we went to a small wares place on Church Street, and buy little miniature footballs, and put them on, and...

**Interviewer:** So you created these.

- Respondent:** Like the rest of the guys. We were all – there's all kinds of guys would do it.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** And I used to work with a friend of mine, a buddy, you know, a close friend, and we used to do it together.
- Interviewer:** At young ages.
- Respondent:** At young ages.
- Interviewer:** Very resourceful.
- Respondent:** And newspapers. See? And I **[0:33:30]** started by – one day, we were – myself and my buddy across the road, he's a doc now. Harvey Moldofsky. I don't know. He's a sleep specialist.
- Interviewer:** I know Harvey very well.
- Respondent:** Okay. Well that's – he used to play the violin, and I don't know if he still does. The same guy? Yeah?
- Interviewer:** Well, I know Harvey Moldofsky the sleep specialist.
- Respondent:** Yeah.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** He's a very, very smart – as a kid.
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh.
- Respondent:** **[0:34:00]** The brightest, brightest guy in the world.
- Interviewer:** I used to work in the Department of Psychiatry. He was my boss. [Laughs]
- Respondent:** Okay. Okay. So he – we'd walk over to – he was an intellect this guy. He'd say, "Let's go to the museum," so we'd walk over to the

museum. And on the way to the museum, there was a football game going on. Some guy was selling ribbons. Said, "Kid, do you want to work?" So the two of us decided to – just did it and made a few bucks, and that was it. But he [0:34:30] never continued on. I don't remember doing much more with him with that. The other Harvey lived next door to him. He'd come with me and he'd help me out, and we'd work together. And yeah. So we used to make a few extra bucks.

**Interviewer:** That's fantastic.

**Respondent:** Yeah, yeah.

**Interviewer:** But – and it was out of necessity. I mean if you wanted a couple of bucks...

**Respondent:** If we want anything, yeah. That's the only way it was going to happen. And we used to sell newspapers, and at the corner there at the Varsity Stadium. The [0:35:00] guy who had the stand, the Jewish guy, he had the – he was a newsy. That's what he was.

**Interviewer:** A newsy.

**Respondent:** A newsy. Yeah. And he'd give you a gate. "Okay, Ron, go you and work that gate over there. Georgie, you work that." So we worked the gate and sell newspapers to people going in. But the trouble is you never sold too many going in, because they're not going to read a newspaper. But the only time they bought them is when it was raining, if it rained. So that they [0:35:30] wanted to sit on them. [Laughs] Okay? So it was the Toronto Star. You had the Star and you had the Telegram. Three cents a newspaper is what we sold them for. So, we decided – I got fired over it, but anyway, we decided, well, you know – we decided that I had everyone collecting, leaving and collecting the newspapers. My grandmother and my mother. And I'd take the newspapers [0:36:00] over to the stadium with me, and then I'd split the – I'd take two sections outside, and the second section.

**Interviewer:** Mm-hm.

- Respondent:** So we'd stuff – take it apart and stuff each section with the old newspapers.
- Interviewer:** [Laughs] To make it thick enough.
- Respondent:** To look like a regular newspaper. Yeah.
- Interviewer:** Oh my god. So you took old newspapers, shoved them in between.
- Respondent:** In between to make two newspapers, because it's three cents a paper, you know? And if you're lucky, they gave you the – you didn't have to give **[0:36:30]** them two cents change.
- Interviewer:** Oh. They'd give you a nickel and you could...
- Respondent:** Yeah. Because you're only getting a penny or something for selling a newspaper, if that.
- Interviewer:** So this way, if they didn't ask for the change you would keep more of it.
- Respondent:** Yeah. It was a – it was fun. And then, we'd wait for after the game. People would buy newspapers after.
- Interviewer:** To actually read them.
- Respondent:** Yeah. The Star came out four times. Who knows how many times a day they used to come out? And the Telegram. So what we'd do, to occupy our time, we'd go into the **[0:37:00]** game, or we wanted ticket stubs. See, you could sell the ticket stubs. Argonaut games, eh? You'd rip them in half at Devonshire and Bloor, and people would come out at halftime and they'd go across to the Park Plaza Hotel for a drink. And a lot of them never came out. [Laughs] Go back to the game. We used to ask them for their stubs.
- Interviewer:** And then sell them to other people who **[0:37:30]** were just going for the second half of the game?
- Respondent:** We'd try and sell them. If we couldn't sell them, we'd go in ourselves.

- Interviewer:** Oh. So you would get to see some of the games, or sell the tickets.
- Respondent:** Yeah. And what we would do, if it's close to the start of the game, it was one skinny kid that hung out with us. A guy name Herbie. And we'd – there's a stone fence. He'd step into our hand, and we'd throw him over the fence because he could go over. And then he'd go around and ask them for **[0:38:00]** ticket stubs, or trying to collect them, and then bring them out. That only happened twice because one day, we threw him over and he came back over the fence. [Laughs]
- Interviewer:** So he got thrown out.
- Respondent:** He stepped on a policeman's shoulders.
- Interviewer:** Oh. [Laughs]
- Respondent:** He was standing there. Yeah. Crazy stuff like that, you know, went on. Yeah. Those were fun days. Yeah. Like you had to be street-smart and try – you weren't cheating anybody. You were just...
- Interviewer:** Yeah. But you were hustling a bit.
- Respondent:** You had to hustle. You had to do that. **[0:38:30]** That was the – and everybody was in the same...
- Interviewer:** So you're saying people were poor and they had to get some money one way or another.
- Respondent:** We were poor in one sense, but we were very rich in another, you know? We educated ourselves, we learned how to live in the times. Yeah. Survivors, I guess.
- Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah, yeah.
- Respondent:** Yeah. There was anti-Semitism down here at that time.
- Interviewer:** So describe some of that please.

- Respondent:** [0:39:00] Not much. There were the odd people who didn't like us. It's band-wagoning, you know? Band-wagoning, I guess, but because of what was going on in Europe and the Holocaust, and all that sort of stuff. So listen, the government wouldn't let people in.
- Interviewer:** Oh yeah. None is too many.
- Respondent:** Yeah.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** So.
- Interviewer:** So you had that experience.
- Respondent:** We experienced that, and actually this weekend, you should know this, is the anniversary, [0:39:30] eightieth anniversary of the Christie Pits...
- Interviewer:** Oh really? This weekend?
- Respondent:** Yeah. I saw it in the paper today. Did I see it today, or did I see it yesterday? Yeah.
- Interviewer:** Oh.
- Respondent:** Or is it this weekend, or is it in August? Anyways, you'll check it out.
- Interviewer:** Eighty years. So it's been a long time ago.
- Respondent:** Yeah. So what year was that? Eighty years? This was the '30s.
- Interviewer:** 1933?
- Respondent:** Oh, I don't know. Whatever.
- Interviewer:** I don't know.
- Respondent:** Could be. Yeah.

- Interviewer:** '43. '43. '23. [Laughs] I don't know.
- Respondent:** Yeah. '33.
- Interviewer:** [0:40:00] Yeah.
- Respondent:** '33. Yeah. Yeah. That was going back. Yeah. So anyways yeah, so that was happening, you know? But that didn't bother us. I went to Huron Street Public School.
- Interviewer:** Huron Street?
- Respondent:** Yeah.
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh.
- Respondent:** Yeah. I went there. And at Huron and Lowther there was, like, a quarry. Like a little excavation.
- Interviewer:** Mm-hm.
- Respondent:** [0:40:30] Which was like a little park. And of course, if anybody gave you any rough time, rather than fighting there, "Meet me at the corner." And we'd battle, you know? Punch ourselves out, I'd go home bloody or he'd go home. Whatever the case may be. It was kind of living. It was fun.
- Interviewer:** And a lot of the children in this neighbourhood went to King Eddie or...
- Respondent:** Or Lansdowne.
- Interviewer:** [0:41:00] ...to – yes.
- Respondent:** No. We didn't. That was Bloor – Huron Street school because I guess we were north of – I don't know why, the reason.
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh. So you went to Huron Street. And what about high school? Where did you go?

**Respondent:** Harbord.

**Interviewer:** Uh-huh.

**Respondent:** Harbord Collegiate. Yeah. Used to walk to school in the morning, come home for lunch, and walk back.

**Interviewer:** And how did you choose Harbord over Central Tech? Because Central Tech was closer.

**Respondent:** I don't know. It was probably a mistake. [Laughter] Yes, Central Tech was right in our backyard.

**Interviewer:** [0:41:30] Yeah, yeah. But you did...

**Respondent:** It was probably a mistake, but that's – I guess my parents dictated. My brother went to Harbord and he became a pharmacist.

**Interviewer:** Uh-huh.

**Respondent:** So I guess they had high hopes, which I didn't – yeah. And walking to school and back for lunch, and back again, and you'd do a chore too. Like my grandmother would always say to me, like, at this time of year, or August or September – September, I guess I should say, September, October – she'd always [0:42:00] tell me to go into the – see the bank manager. They had to put coal. They had to buy the coal. She never had the money, so she'd borrow the money from the bank. My grandmother. And there was the bank. I'll never forget. The Bank of Nova Scotia, Spadina and Bloor.

**Interviewer:** So your grandmother had you go and negotiate with the bank?

**Respondent:** Not negotiate, because it was only that my cousin would do it or I would do it, [0:42:30] because he lived across the road. But no, it was preconceived. Like it – when I was doing it, it was already done.

**Interviewer:** So you just had to go collect the cash.

**Respondent:** No.

- Interviewer:** No.
- Respondent:** No, no. I'd go – no, she'd write the cheque, I guess, or somebody would write the cheque. Go into the bank, and this is her talking to me in Yiddish.
- Interviewer:** Yes.
- Respondent:** Go to the bank. My mother translated, [laughs] but she – "Go to the bank, as for the [0:43:00] manager, Mr. whatever. Tell her your grandmother, Mrs., has to buy coal." I said, "Okay. Fine." So I'd go into the bank and my grandmother has to buy coal, and tell them the name, the address, and he says, "Uh-huh." He says, "Okay." And he goes into his drawer and he'd take out – now which I know what they were now, promissory notes.
- Interviewer:** Mm-hm.
- Respondent:** [0:43:30] He'd take out three promissory notes and he says, "Give this to your grandmother," and he put an X. "Tell her to sign here." Okay. So lunchtime – and I enjoyed that, because my grandmother made me lunch that day.
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh. Made better lunch?
- Respondent:** Yeah. It was okay. At least I'd go there, okay, I'd give it to her. My mother would come in, of course, and says, "You have to sign here." So she'd look at it, and I guess he had some amount in there or whatever, [0:44:00] and she'd look at it, and you have to sign by the X and take the pen, and she'd put another X because she couldn't...
- Interviewer:** Oh. So she couldn't read or write English.
- Respondent:** Put an X. No. Because she used to read the Foreword, the Jewish newspaper.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.

- Respondent:** Put an X, I'd walk back afterwards to go back to school. I'd walk into the bank, "Hello there, young man. Pat me on the head and all that sort of thing." I said, "This is from my grandmother." He looks at it, "Oh, that's fine. That's fine."
- Interviewer:** Her X.
- Respondent:** [0:44:30] "Tell her." "Okay, go do what you have to do."
- Interviewer:** So his X showed where she should put her signature, which was another X.
- Respondent:** Exactly. Because she couldn't do anything.
- Interviewer:** But she could read Yiddish.
- Respondent:** Yeah. The Yiddish newspaper. Yeah. The Foreword came.
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh. Did you – you said your mother interpreted for you?
- Respondent:** My mother was born in Canada.
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh. So did you learn any Yiddish?
- Respondent:** I can't speak it too well, but you know, I can [0:45:00] understand it.
- Interviewer:** But your grandmother spoke Yiddish to you.
- Respondent:** Yeah. She spoke Yiddish. We would make it out. My grandfather spoke Yiddish to me. He was a character. I remember he died when I was ten.
- Interviewer:** But there was Yiddish in your home because that's what your grandparents spoke.
- Respondent:** Well yeah. And when the – my father, he spoke – he's from Russia, you know?
- Interviewer:** Mm-hm.

- Respondent:** And he spoke Yiddish, but they spoke mostly English to us. He always said, "You got to speak English. You've got"...
- Interviewer:** So your parents wanted you to speak English.
- Respondent:** [0:45:30] He wanted to be a part of it. Yes. Not like we have today with people that are bringing – they want you to speak English because this is where we are.
- Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah. So it was important to them that you be part of the Canadian culture.
- Respondent:** To assimilate. I mean my grandfather, who worked at a factory, my father worked at a factory. My father got up in the morning, put on a suit and a tie, a shirt and a tie to go to work.
- Interviewer:** So he was a – yeah.
- Respondent:** And my [0:46:00] grandfather, the same way. And he had a bowler hat. Couldn't speak a word of English. Put the newspaper, the Foreword, whatever, under his arm and march up to take the streetcar. You could take the streetcar on Bloor over to Spadina and down, or walk down to Harbord and take the Harbord car and turn into Dundas.
- Interviewer:** So they had a lot of pride. I mean they wanted to look good.
- Respondent:** Everybody was like that. I mean we had the – I don't know if you talked to them yet, the Jackson family [0:46:30] living down the street.
- Interviewer:** A black family?
- Respondent:** Black family. Yes.
- Interviewer:** Yes. I've interviewed two members of that family. Yeah.
- Respondent:** Yeah? Okay. So – and even Mr. Jackson, he worked for – the company was Wall's Paper Products. He'd walk up the street with a

newspaper under his arm, hat on, suit, the shirt and tie. Everybody was – and they're part of that Underground Railroad.

**Interviewer:** Yes. You were aware of that at your young age?

**Respondent:** Oh yeah. Ronnie Jackson, we used to play ball together. He was a [0:47:00] great guy. He used to be – he used to go into my grandmother's house to – on shabbos there to take the ashes out of the furnace, stoke it, and put some more coal in. And my grandma – and get the stove in the kitchen because you had a coal-burning stove there, and yeah. My grandmother would leave him a plate of cookies.

**Interviewer:** Was your grandmother – she was religious then.

**Respondent:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** So she didn't want to do that.

**Respondent:** There was no other way.

**Interviewer:** Uh-huh.

**Respondent:** My mother was liberal, [0:47:30] but she kept a kosher house.

**Interviewer:** Right. But your...

**Respondent:** But she was, you know, as she got older she kind of got away from it.

**Interviewer:** Mm-hm. But your grandmother would not turn on the lights, or stoke the fire, or anything like that.

**Respondent:** No. Nothing like that. No.

**Interviewer:** So she hired people to do it and would leave them cookies.

**Respondent:** Yeah. Or they did it as – or they wouldn't – I mean, I'm sure maybe she gave them a quarter, maybe she didn't, but she always left them a plate of cookies there and...

**Interviewer:** So she thanked them.

**Respondent:** Favours. Yeah. Oh yeah. No, no. And they were [0:48:00] very glad to do it, because the front door's open. You walk in, do what you do. If she was around, she would stop – she had her bedroom on the third floor, so she was there. Fine. If not, not. Then he would sit there at the table. We had a table across the window and looking into the backyard, and we'd have some tea or whatever.

**Interviewer:** Is this Ronnie Jackson is it?

**Respondent:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** So he would join the family, but they also did some of the chores [0:48:30] on Saturday that your grandmother wouldn't do.

**Respondent:** He would join the family and...

**Interviewer:** You're saying have a cup of tea?

**Respondent:** Well no, not with them. On the Saturday. Get the furnace thing going, and the cookies there in the house. Then we'd go play baseball. I couldn't go out in the street to go to – I had to go over the fence and out the back lane. [Laughs]

**Interviewer:** Oh, because your grandmother didn't want you playing.

**Respondent:** No.

**Interviewer:** Uh-huh. Because she wanted you to be more religious, the way she was.

**Respondent:** And she was – we had to be at the synagogue on the holidays, the special holidays. She'd go in and [0:49:00] peek in between the curtains.

**Interviewer:** To make sure you were in shul.

- Respondent:** Yeah. Because your family – like my grandfather sat up in the first row. Her brothers, my grandmother's brothers, were in the first row of the – they'd walk standing and she'd want to be the – I don't know what it is. I'm looking for – and then after the synagogue, they'd come into my grandmother's house and they'd have lunch maybe, or whatever, you know? They'd talk, they'd sit on the porch. Had rocking chairs on her porch.
- Interviewer:** Oh. Was the porch a nice part **[0:49:30]** of their lives?
- Respondent:** Yeah. Oh yeah. Because they cut – yeah, they'd talk about everybody going up and down the...
- Interviewer:** Yeah. [Laughter] Right. Right. Porch living was part of...
- Respondent:** That was part of their life.
- Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah.
- Respondent:** It wasn't – the porch – the people have porches. They'd go. What else are you going to do?
- Interviewer:** Well and also when it was hot, nobody had air conditioners.
- Respondent:** No, no. Not at all. The air conditioning – yeah, at that time my uncle would gather his stuff, throw us in his car, take us down to the Lakeshore. Throw a blanket down in the grass and...
- Interviewer:** A picnic.
- Respondent:** At night.
- Interviewer:** At night?
- Respondent:** **[0:50:00]** No.
- Interviewer:** Oh, that uncle.
- Respondent:** Yeah, yeah. To sleep.

- Interviewer:** To sleep and get some – ah.
- Respondent:** Yeah.
- Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah.
- Respondent:** Different times. Yeah.
- Interviewer:** Very different times. So that's why it's so interesting for me to gather this information. These are amazing, interesting...
- Respondent:** Well everybody. A lot of people lived in different ways, but I think most of them were pretty much the same. They went through most of that stuff. I mean, yeah. So go ahead. Next question. [Laughs]
- Interviewer:** What about **[0:50:30]** transportation?
- Respondent:** Transportation?
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** Yeah? Your feet. [Laughter]
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** And if you're lucky enough, a bicycle.
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh. But even – that's already if you were lucky enough, so not – you couldn't take for granted that all the kids had bikes.
- Respondent:** No. Not my family, no. And the streetcar.
- Interviewer:** Mm-hm.
- Respondent:** You could go, you could walk down to Harbord Street and take the streetcar, the Harbord car took you all the way down to Eaton's at Yonge and Dundas.
- Interviewer:** So there **[0:51:00]** was the Bloor streetcar, the Harbord streetcar?

- Respondent:** Yeah. And oh, streetcars all over the place. Yeah. College. Everywhere. Spadina.
- Interviewer:** Who had cars?
- Respondent:** Not too many people.
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh.
- Respondent:** Not too many. That was in the '50s more.
- Interviewer:** Yeah. But in the '40s, very few.
- Respondent:** No. Gas. No, no. My uncle had one.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** Well, after he got out of the – and my other uncle had one. My mother's [0:51:30] brother-in-law had one.
- Interviewer:** Mm-hm.
- Respondent:** After he got – well that was – yeah. Before the war. Yeah. My uncle was in the war, so you know, he was in the air force and he got it after. Yeah. He had one. Yeah. He had a car. He liked DeSotos.
- Interviewer:** DeSoto. [Laughter] But in the '40s, you said very few, and that made it easier to play on the street because there weren't too many cars.
- Respondent:** Well, that's true. But you know, cars would – you know, not too many. Yeah. [0:52:00] Police would stop you. Yeah. So go ahead.
- Interviewer:** What's that? The policemen?
- Respondent:** The police didn't like you playing on the street.
- Interviewer:** Oh. Oh. Yeah, yeah, yeah. Where was I going with that? What was happening on the sidewalks? I mean you were saying there were a lot of people walking.

- Respondent:** Where? On the sidewalks?
- Interviewer:** All these – were the kids playing on the sidewalks? Or?
- Respondent:** [0:52:30] Yeah. You know, you see them maybe hop-scotch or something. Nothing...
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** You played wherever you wanted to play. No one stopped you. Yeah. Try to stay off everybody's lawn. A lot of people grew little gardens in the back, you know, growing some vegetables or whatever. That was...
- Interviewer:** I've heard people use the description of victory gardens.
- Respondent:** Victory. Yeah. That's exactly it.
- Interviewer:** So people would grow some of their own food.
- Respondent:** They'd try. Yeah, yeah.
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh. And that was another way to feed [0:53:00] your family.
- Respondent:** Well yeah. I mean, they weren't going to get a ton of stuff, but it was good. I mean you used to hang the laundry out on the lines at the backyard, and complain that there's soot on the sheets because of the – there's two laundries, right, that we were in close vicinity to us. We had Bloor and Brunswick just south of Bloor. Where that Tranzac club is?
- Interviewer:** Yes?
- Respondent:** That was a laundry. That was called the Puritan Laundry.
- Interviewer:** Oh okay.
- Respondent:** Yeah. They used to do a great job. And [0:53:30] up here at the corner, Borden and Harbord, northeast corner...

- Interviewer:** Was a laundry?
- Respondent:** That was a Home Laundry owned by the Elias family.
- Interviewer:** Mm-hm.
- Respondent:** Jewish people. And they had a linen supply place. Yeah. I worked there one summer.
- Interviewer:** Boy, you did a lot of different jobs.
- Respondent:** Well, I think I worked there at fifty cents an hour. My god.
- Interviewer:** Now you said that people would bring the – they would hang the laundry, but it would have soot on it.
- Respondent:** It would get a little bit of soot. Yeah. **[0:54:00]** The odd time. My mother always complained about...
- Interviewer:** Well there was one woman who described to me that she eventually had the lane paved. I mean she was a woman from Europe whose English wasn't good, but she hated bringing in her laundry that had all the dirt from the lane that had never been paved, and she got the lane paved.
- Respondent:** Yeah. Well, I don't believe you get that. Well maybe back in that time there was – I don't think there's...
- Interviewer:** Yeah. But you're talking about soot, so that would have been from the coal furnaces.
- Respondent:** Yeah, yeah.
- Interviewer:** **[0:54:30]** Yeah. So you'd bring in your laundry.
- Respondent:** We used to rent the garage, put a car in the garage. Yeah. When I got a car when I was eighteen, '53, I remember putting my car in the garage. '53. The guy I worked with told me to buy a car, and got me a loan and everything. I'll never forget that. '53 Pontiac.

- Interviewer:** A 1953 Pontiac?
- Respondent:** Yeah. No, maybe it was older. No, it was older, [0:55:00] because I bought it in '54, '55. '54 or '55. Yeah.
- Interviewer:** Pontiac.
- Respondent:** Pontiac.
- Interviewer:** New Pontiac, or second-hand?
- Respondent:** Second-hand. I paid eight hundred and fifty dollars for it. [Laughs]
- Interviewer:** But that's a lot of money.
- Respondent:** It was...
- Interviewer:** But you had also been working for many years.
- Respondent:** I was getting fifty bucks a week.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** He wanted me to go out and sell. I was working inside with the nicest guy in the world. Oh. What a super man he was. And [0:55:30] we used to – he had sales crews across Canada knocking on doors selling – that's a whole story. Selling hosiery. Ladies' hosiery.
- Interviewer:** Mm-hm. Mm-hm.
- Respondent:** Under sort of the guise of some sort. You know, called the company something. Art Plastic Products, so people might have thought that the hosiery were made of plastic, or better than what should have been, [0:56:00] and anyways, that was it. So he would take me door to door selling them, and then I started making some money. I used to work until three o'clock, and at night I'd go and knock on doors in the afternoon, Saturdays for sure.

- Interviewer:** So you started working at a young age.
- Respondent:** Eighteen.
- Interviewer:** Yeah. And how old are you now?
- Respondent:** Sixty years I've been working. Seventy-eight.
- Interviewer:** Seventy-eight, and you're still working.
- Respondent:** Oh, I enjoy it.
- Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah.
- Respondent:** I enjoy it. Helping out. Yeah. Fun.
- Interviewer:** [0:56:30] Yeah, yeah.
- Respondent:** Keeps you sharp.
- Interviewer:** [Laughs] You remember the coal. Did your family change the way of heating the house? Or was – that was it? It was coal as much as you remember?
- Respondent:** We had coal. [Laughs]
- Interviewer:** Yeah. Yeah.
- Respondent:** Coal there, and oil when they moved. Yeah.
- Interviewer:** Do you remember the end of the Second World War? I mean was there anything happening on the streets, is what I'm asking.
- Respondent:** Oh yeah.
- Interviewer:** What do you recall?
- Respondent:** Well, just it was a lot of [0:57:00] noise, and everybody was very jubilant.

**Interviewer:** You do remember that.

**Respondent:** Yeah, yeah. And a lot of memories from that. Yeah. And Bloor Street...

**Interviewer:** Uh-huh.

**Respondent:** ...that's where the Santa Claus parade came on.

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

**Respondent:** And that was always a good time. But what we really enjoyed are the fights. See, at Brunswick and Bloor they had the Brunswick Hotel. They had a [0:57:30] special part for men only, and a special part for couples, men and women, okay? Now the entrance for the men only were off Bloor; couples were on the side on Brunswick right by the lane. There's a laneway there. On the other side of the street, there was the Apollo – right where the laneway is, okay? There were – right against the laneway was the Apollo Dance Hall, and the [0:58:00] Apollo Bowling Alley. Now the bowling alley was on the second floor, dance hall on the first floor, played live music.

**Interviewer:** Mm-hm.

**Respondent:** And of course, the other side of the lane was the Puritan Laundry. And they had a pipe fence, like a little fence, you know? As kids we'd walk down and we'd sit up, climb up on the pipe and sit there, and talk, and – but come Friday night, everybody would brown bag it. You know, [0:58:30] during the war it was – you know, they'd get some guys on leave, or some guys who were – whatever the case – and then they'd go in the dance hall dancing. It was very...

**Interviewer:** When you say brown bag it, what do you mean?

**Respondent:** They'd walk in, buy their own booze.

**Interviewer:** Oh, their own booze. Okay.

**Respondent:** Because it was...

- Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah.
- Respondent:** They wouldn't be – a little happy at – everything ended at midnight, and both places did it together. And you can – you were guaranteed to **[0:59:00]** see at least two or three fights every Friday night, or Saturday night, and that was like...
- Interviewer:** That was the entertainment.
- Respondent:** That was the entertainment. And of course, midnight, I'm a kid. I can go out at midnight, but we'd sneak out, me and our neighbour.
- Interviewer:** Sneak out at ten to twelve to go watch the fights?
- Respondent:** Yeah. Yeah. We'd crawl out. And it's pretty tough because, you know, on Saturday my aunts and uncles would come over, they'd have their **[0:59:30]** poker club or whatever. [Laughs] We used to – the houses were not too far apart. Third floor, go out the third floor window...
- Interviewer:** Oh my god.
- Respondent:** ...and shimmy down. Feet on our neighbour, yeah. So slide down.
- Interviewer:** Oh my god. From the third floor.
- Respondent:** It was nothing. It was nothing. And coming home it was easy because I'd go in through my neighbour's house...
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh.
- Respondent:** ...and go up to the third floor, out the window on the third floor, and pop in the window, our window on the third floor on the roof. **[1:00:00]** That was easy. Until I got caught. "Oh, did you sleep good last night?" My mother, you know? [Laughs] Get up last night. Someone told her that they saw me at the corner.
- Interviewer:** So she never saw you doing it, but you got reported by someone.
- Respondent:** I got reported. Yeah. Oh yeah.

- Interviewer:** And what was the result in your home?
- Respondent:** Well, I learned to duck pretty good. [Laughter]
- Interviewer:** You learned to duck. [Laughs]
- Respondent:** Because I was the baby. I was the youngest one. [1:00:30] You know, so she was kind of...
- Interviewer:** Was softer on you than on your sibling.
- Respondent:** Yeah. Well my brother, yeah. But that was okay. Yeah.
- Interviewer:** That's quite remarkable. Down from the third floor and then climbing from the neighbour across into your bedroom?
- Respondent:** No, no. You have to. From my neighbour, it was an attached house.
- Interviewer:** Oh.
- Respondent:** It was the same configuration as our house. It was a double house. So you go up to the third floor in his house, and then you go through – there's a window at the top of the stairs of the third floor, out the window, onto the [1:01:00] flat roof, walk from here to the fridge or – and open the window. It's always open anyway, it's the warm weather, and climb in. And there I was.
- Interviewer:** And you did that regularly Friday nights and Saturday nights.
- Respondent:** No, not regularly, but whenever – I got to make sure he was with me because I couldn't get back. [Laughs]
- Interviewer:** Yeah. Right. Yeah. So that was one of your forms of entertainment.
- Respondent:** Oh yeah. That was some of the stuff that you did. Yeah. You had to do what you had to do. We, [1:01:30] you know, I remember going with my cousin who lived at my grandmother's house, and he was always looking to make some extra money and was – and he'd get oranges at the medical – the guy – he knew somebody at the

terminal. So he'd bring – he'd get in a couple of cases of oranges, whether he paid for them or not, I don't know how he got them. Didn't really matter. And [1:02:00] he'd bring them up in his car. Okay? Then my cousin had a little wagon and he put a case of oranges on the wagon and go door to door...

**Interviewer:** Selling oranges.

**Respondent:** Yeah. Take me with him. "Ronnie, come and help me." "Yeah, okay." And so we'd go door to door, but he gave me the oranges...

**Interviewer:** Mm-hm.

**Respondent:** ...you know, each orange was wrapped in paper.

**Interviewer:** Yeah. I remember those.

**Respondent:** And my grandmother used to say, "Bring back [1:02:30] the paper."

**Interviewer:** Oh. And what would she do with the paper?

**Respondent:** In the washroom.

**Interviewer:** Oh my god.

**Respondent:** I'll never forget that.

**Interviewer:** So nothing was wasted.

**Respondent:** No.

**Interviewer:** [Laughs] So you sold the oranges, but kept the paper.

**Respondent:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** And it had a very good use after that.

**Respondent:** Oh yeah. Yes. See? Recycling was going on and we didn't know it.

- Interviewer:** You bet. Oh yeah, recycling is just – they've just renamed it, but certainly we all recycled a long, long time ago. But that's the first one I heard about the orange papers.
- Respondent:** [1:03:00] Yeah, yeah. You ever hear about going down to Grenadier Pond at High Park?
- Interviewer:** No.
- Respondent:** Fishing?
- Interviewer:** No. You fished in there?
- Respondent:** Fishing I never. But fish.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** Like my cousin would go down there, and I don't remember if he went down with my grandfather or my uncle. No, it had to be with my grandfather. And they'd use hang lines, and they put this [1:03:30] cornmeal or what they call – they'd use corn or they'd use cornmeal, called it – there's a Jewish name for it.
- Interviewer:** Mamelige.
- Respondent:** Exactly. [Laughter] Yeah. There you go.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** And they'd look for carp, and they'd take a couple of burlap bags with them and they'd go down to Grenadier Pond and they'd catch a carp or two. Most of the time, one. Then they'd go back home on the [1:04:00] streetcar with...
- Interviewer:** With their carp alive?
- Respondent:** Alive. Oh yeah. You'll kill it. And then they put it in the bathtub.
- Interviewer:** So what did they carry the carp in? Just...

- Respondent:** In a burlap bag.
- Interviewer:** So it...
- Respondent:** Like a coal bag. A burlap bag. You know, clean your burlap bag.
- Interviewer:** Right. So it would be kind of squirming around trying to breathe.
- Respondent:** Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.
- Interviewer:** And it would come on the streetcar with you.
- Respondent:** The carp come – yeah. And then they – eventually they take it out of the bathtub. My grandfather would whack it, or my grandmother would whack it and kill it, and then she'd clean it, [1:04:30] and she'd bake it. Bake...
- Interviewer:** So you had fresh carp.
- Respondent:** Baked carp, which is – today, you talk about it now, people are, "Are you nuts? You know, it's a scavenger fish," you know? But the way she made it, you would never know. It was the delicacy of delicacies. Oh, you put the garlic and all that stuff. Yeah.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** My mother used to make it too. Yeah. That was – boy.
- Interviewer:** Tasty.
- Respondent:** Yeah. Well yeah, in the streetcar. You took it right down to – I forget how we got there. Right down to the, you know, Sunnyside basically. Well, High Park, [1:05:00] but yeah.
- Interviewer:** So the carp could survive the whole time, like a half-hour to get to Brunswick Street.
- Respondent:** Yeah. Of course. Yeah. Oh yeah.
- Interviewer:** Just to get knocked on the [indiscernible 1:05:09]. [Laughs]

- Respondent:** Exactly. And I hear the same story from my friend Teddy. His grandfather, he used to go with his uncle. The same story. And his grandfather. The same story.
- Interviewer:** And was that legal? Or were you not supposed to be...
- Respondent:** I don't know.
- Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah.
- Respondent:** I don't know. No one ever stopped us.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** Yeah. No one was going to say anything. [1:05:30] You did what you had to do. Yeah.
- Interviewer:** But you know, all – so many of your stories are describing a close-knit community, families getting together, families being there for each other, but financially hard times.
- Respondent:** Kind of, yeah.
- Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah.
- Respondent:** Well that's how they came up with these organizations like the [indiscernible 1:05:51]. Did you ever hear of the thing called the [indiscernible 1:05:53]? It was like Credit Union.
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh.
- Respondent:** People, they formed their own Credit Unions. You'd borrow and pay back, borrow. [1:06:00] And then the profit, the interest is shared amongst the members. No?
- Interviewer:** That's really...
- Respondent:** Yeah. And do it on a handshake or whatever.

**Interviewer:** Yeah. Yeah.

**Respondent:** And yeah. They did that. What else did they do? Credit unions. Oh. Sick benevolence societies. My father belonged to one. Young Men's Hebrew Association, Sick Benevolent Society.

**Interviewer:** And how did that...

**Respondent:** And they retain a doctor...

**Interviewer:** [1:06:30] Uh-huh.

**Respondent:** ...and the doctor would – they'd pay him so much a visit. If he had to come to your house, you went to them, and they – you had to pay a dollar, okay? So we – the guy on Brunswick, the doctor, his name was Tepperman.

**Interviewer:** Uh-huh.

**Respondent:** And he was a doctor. I don't know what he got paid, but what they gave him – and for him it was a good thing.

**Interviewer:** So he was paid by the benevolent society.

**Respondent:** Yeah, yeah. He submitted the bill, they paid him. And when he came to us, we paid [1:07:00] him a dollar.

**Interviewer:** Mm-hm.

**Respondent:** Yeah. Call him up, and he came over, and he had an office on Palmerston. Yeah. Where all the Jewish doctors were. A lot were over there.

**Interviewer:** Mm-hm.

**Respondent:** Yeah. So that was good. So you kind of – you're looked after.

**Interviewer:** Yeah. It was a community that helped each other and formed some more formalized kind of institutions, like the benevolent society of the young – yeah.

**Respondent:** Yeah. It's – [1:07:30] I guess it's hard to do it now. I guess it's going to exist today, I guess. They still have members. That organization. I'm not part of it, but they still exist, and they have, you know, they have over four hundred funeral plots still. Money in the bank. They're doing it. They're helping. So it's still there.

**Interviewer:** Well I – we've had a wonderful conversation, and I think [1:08:00] I'm just going to say, Ron Kashin, thank you very much for sharing all your fabulous stories.

**Respondent:** Okay. Three o'clock.

**Interviewer:** You're talking about Borden Street?

**Respondent:** Borden Street, the corner – Borden and Harbord.

**Interviewer:** Yes?

**Respondent:** My brother is a pharmacist, and he was partners with a fellow of the name of Lou Grainer.

**Interviewer:** Mm-hm.

**Respondent:** And they worked, and that was their pharmacy right at the corner.

**Interviewer:** So your brother had a pharmacy.

**Respondent:** Where the Boulevard...

**Interviewer:** Where the Boulevard Café is...

**Respondent:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** ...your brother had a pharmacy there.

**Respondent:** With Lou Grainer. Lou Grainer [1:08:30] was the man. He was like the local – ah. He was a saint actually. I would call him that. He was really such a wonderful guy, and everyone used to congregate there.

- Interviewer:** So he was the other pharmacist with your brother.
- Respondent:** Yeah. He was the pharmacist, my brother was with him.
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh.
- Respondent:** How that happened? They both worked at Davidson's Pharmacy. There used to be a pharmacy on Bloor Street between Borden and Brunswick. It was called John Stein, was the original guy [1:09:00] that was a cousin of ours. It became Davidson's Pharmacy and they worked there as – my brother an intern, I guess? No. Yeah. Whatever. You know, it was pharmacy was the work and go to school.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** And then Lou Grainer opened up this place down here at the corner where the Boulevard is, and actually down the road, he lived up there for a while, and then the sister moved in upstairs. Yeah. [1:09:30] That was quite the – that was the meeting place. Everybody in this block...
- Interviewer:** You mean above the pharmacy?
- Respondent:** Well, his sister lived above the pharmacy, but the pharmacy itself was a meeting place.
- Interviewer:** Right. Uh-huh. Oh.
- Respondent:** They used to have the insurance men, they used to go around picking up, you know, [indiscernible 1:09:46]. You know, they had – you know, you wanted life you'd pay him a dollar a week, or two dollars a week, or whatever, you know, for insurance policies. Metropolitan Life. I don't know who else was – these guys would hang out there. All Jewish guys.
- Interviewer:** So you're saying – [1:10:00] you're talking about Harbord and Borden, the southeast corner was a pharmacy, but it was like a little community centre.

- Respondent:** Well kind of. Maybe there. At one point they had a – they did have a lunch [**indiscernible 1:10:12**] in there.
- Interviewer:** Oh yes.
- Respondent:** But then they took it out.
- Interviewer:** Yeah. But people would – on those swivel chairs?
- Respondent:** But they came – he was discounting. This was before OHIP. So Lou would discount, and people would come from all [**1:10:30**] over the city. They were very...
- Interviewer:** So he was...
- Respondent:** And the people around – you know, they had different guys. There was a guy, old guy, Harry Weiman across the road somewhere. The guy was – when I was around, he was close to ninety, and they called him the Mayor of Borden Street. [Laughs]
- Interviewer:** Oh. So Borden Street had a whole soul of its own.
- Respondent:** Yeah. It did. It did.
- Interviewer:** But especially at the corner pharmacy where he...
- Respondent:** Well people would come in there, they'd have problems or whatever it is. They were very benevolent guys.
- Interviewer:** [**1:11:00**] Oh. What a wonderful story. So we're going to stop again.
- Respondent:** I wish too – I don't know, but he's gone and yes, family's – yeah.
- Interviewer:** Right.
- Respondent:** My brother's gone. It's too bad. You would have got some...
- Interviewer:** More stories. Yeah.

**Respondent:** ...giant stories.

**Interviewer:** Yeah. Well Ron Kashin, for the second time...

**Respondent:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** ...I'm saying thank you, but...

**Respondent:** You're welcome.

**Interviewer:** ...this was a great add-on, so I'm glad that I hadn't turned this off yet. Thank you.

**Respondent:** Okay. Yeah. No, that's...

[1:11:24]

[End of recording]