

**047 Marsha Ginsberg**

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

**[0:00:00]**

**Interviewer:** It's turned on. Okay. I'm sitting in my kitchen with Marilyn Ginsberg.

**Respondent 1:** Marsha Ginsberg.

**Interviewer:** Marsha. Marsha. Sorry. [Laughter]

**Respondent 1:** Take two. [Laughs]

**Interviewer:** I'm with Marsha Ginsberg who grew up on Major Street, and her friend, Marilyn, who didn't grow up right here, but would like to make some contributions because you went to the JCC, which was the Y, and you went to the school around – so you're welcome to make some contributions.

**Respondent 2:** Okay.

**Interviewer:** **[0:00:30]** Whatever was really relevant to this neighbourhood.

**Respondent 2:** Okay.

**Interviewer:** So what I'd like you to start with, Marsha, is just to tell me where you lived, the street you lived on, and the ages that you were, and the years.

**Respondent 1:** Okay. I was born at 169 Major Street, and I lived there from 1942 until we moved. I was about sixteen or seventeen.

**Interviewer:** In 1942 you were **[0:01:00]** very young.

**Respondent 2:** I was a baby.

**Interviewer:** You were. So you were born on Major.

- Respondent 1:** I was really born on Major Street.
- Interviewer:** Right, right, right. As your family grew, how many of you were living in that house?
- Respondent 1:** There was eight of us, and we had tenants living upstairs. [Laughs]
- Interviewer:** Okay, okay.
- Respondent 1:** One bathroom.
- Interviewer:** So there were ten of you living there...
- Respondent 1:** And one bathroom.
- Interviewer:** And how many – who did you share a room with?
- Respondent 1:** My two sisters.
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh.
- Respondent 1:** And my three brothers lived in – shared [0:01:30] a bedroom in the attic.
- Interviewer:** So three children in each room. There were ten of you, and one bathroom. What are some of the memories you have of that?
- Respondent 1:** [Laughs] Oh god, I don't know. I really don't remember a lot. I just remember it was fun, you know? It was a very busy household because I was the second-youngest, so my three brothers and my oldest brother is thirteen years older than me, so there was a lot of kids at my house. [Laughs]
- Interviewer:** [0:02:00] Yeah, yeah.
- Respondent 1:** Yeah.
- Interviewer:** Busy place. Right. Do you – I mean you were born there, but do you have any idea what made your parents choose this neighbourhood?

- Respondent 1:** Well my grandparents lived on the street too. My grandparents lived at 85 Major Street, and my parents lived with them, and then they moved to 169.
- Interviewer:** Do you have any idea how long your grandparents had been there? Five years? Ten years?
- Respondent 1:** **[0:02:30]** Oh god. Ever since I can remember. Like, you know, ever since I can remember. They were there a long, long time. My grandmother actually – my grandparents died in that house.
- Respondent 2:** Can I say something?
- Interviewer:** Please.
- Respondent 2:** Her mother went to Lansdowne Public School.
- Respondent 1:** Yeah. My mother did.
- Interviewer:** So your grandparents were there a long time.
- Respondent 1:** Yeah, yeah.
- Interviewer:** They probably bought the house for five thousand dollars. [Laughs]
- Respondent 1:** My mother sold it for nine thousand dollars when I was a teenager.
- Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah.
- Respondent 1:** Nine thousand dollars. Yeah.
- Interviewer:** Yeah. **[0:03:00]** So your family has a very long history...
- Respondent 1:** Yeah.
- Interviewer:** ...in this neighbourhood.
- Respondent 1:** Oh yeah.

**Interviewer:** Yeah.

**Respondent 1:** I mean you talk about anybody that lived on Major Street, the Bronsteins, I mean everybody knew the Bronsteins. And that was my maiden name, yeah.

**Interviewer:** Were there a lot of families that had six children? Or what was the average size?

**Respondent 1:** I don't think so.

**Interviewer:** Mm-hm. So your family was bigger than most.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah. Because my grandparents had six children too, yeah. So...

**Interviewer:** [0:03:30] So you had a lot of cousins, I'll bet.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah, yeah.

**Interviewer:** Did they live in this neighbourhood?

**Respondent 1:** No.

**Interviewer:** No?

**Respondent 1:** No, they didn't. No. One of my aunts moved to California. I don't even know where the other...

**Interviewer:** But as children, when you were two, and four, and six, and eight years old, were your cousins – some of your cousins living in this neighbourhood?

**Respondent 1:** No, no. But they used to come and visit my grandmother all the time, you know, because my grandmother lived there.

**Interviewer:** Right. So you saw [0:04:00] them.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah. Oh yeah.

- Interviewer:** But they chose to live obviously north. [Laughs] You can't go too far south.
- Respondent 1:** Yeah. No. [Laughs]
- Respondent 2:** North wasn't that far though in those days.
- Respondent 1:** Not in those days, yeah.
- Respondent 2:** St. Clair was north.
- Respondent 1:** Yeah, yeah.
- Respondent 2:** I think there was four hundred thousand people in Toronto when I was about nine years old.
- Interviewer:** Yeah, so it's grown a lot. Where is your family from originally?
- Respondent 1:** My grandparents emigrated from Poland, and they came [0:04:30] to Ellis Island, and my mother was actually born in Brooklyn, and then my grandparents came here.
- Interviewer:** And your father?
- Respondent 1:** My father? My father's parents were from England, and then they came here and had my – I'm not sure if my father was born in England, or he was born here, and then my mother obviously met him here. [Laughs]
- Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah, yeah. So you never – your family – you had a [0:05:00] busy home, but you didn't live with your grandparents from the time you were born.
- Respondent 1:** No, when I was born...
- Interviewer:** And who were the other people? I mean you had a big family. Who were the extra people that brought it up to ten?
- Respondent 1:** The tenants. We had tenants that lived upstairs.

**Interviewer:** Yeah.

**Respondent 1:** Joe and Ida Singer. I still remember them. Yeah.

**Interviewer:** How many kitchens did you have? Did they have their own kitchen?

**Respondent 1:** Yeah, they had a kitchen upstairs.

**Interviewer:** Ah.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah. And we had a – picture of my kitchen is there, yeah.

**Interviewer:** Yeah. [0:05:30] And as I said, I'm going to take a picture of that.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** Who made up this community at that time? What religions...

**Respondent 1:** Everything.

**Interviewer:** ...what ethnic groups?

**Respondent 1:** Everything. There were black, there were Chinese, there was Japanese, there was – like we grew up with everybody.

**Respondent 2:** There weren't that many Chinese, Japanese, and black at the time.

**Respondent 1:** No, but there were. They were, like, Normie Cook, there was the Marshalls, there was the Nishimodos. No, but I'm saying on our street, well it was [0:06:00] a small street, you know, but there was – we grew up with everybody. There was no prejudice or anything. It was, you know, nothing.

**Interviewer:** Okay. So whoever else was there – are you saying it was predominately Jewish?

**Respondent 2:** It was predominately Jewish.

**Interviewer:** Okay.

- Respondent 2:** But I had a splattering. Listen, when there was holidays at – the holidays came, Lansdowne school – how many kids were – they closed the school I think pretty well.
- Respondent 1:** Yeah.
- Interviewer:** Okay.
- Respondent 1:** But there still was other...
- Interviewer:** There were others.
- Respondent 1:** There were others.
- Interviewer:** And – [0:06:30] but you're saying you lived together. You lived well together.
- Respondent 1:** Oh yeah.
- Interviewer:** All the kids played in school.
- Respondent 1:** Yeah.
- Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah, yeah. What about languages? What languages do you remember?
- Respondent 1:** I only remember English.
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh.
- Respondent 1:** The Japanese family, they spoke in their family, they spoke Japanese, but the kids spoke English.
- Interviewer:** Mm-hm.
- Respondent 1:** The Nishimodos, Kenny and them, yeah.
- Respondent 2:** In my area, my mother and father spoke...
- Respondent 1:** It was Jewish more.

**Respondent 2:** ...more Yiddish. Yeah.

**Respondent 1:** More Yiddish. Yeah.

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

**Respondent 1:** Well my grandparents [0:07:00] spoke Yiddish.

**Respondent 2:** Yeah. But you're third-generation.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** Yeah. Do you know who lived in your house before you?

**Respondent 1:** No, because I was born there, so I...

**Interviewer:** No folklore. Yeah.

**Respondent 1:** No, no, no.

**Interviewer:** The school that you went to.

**Respondent 1:** Mm-hm.

**Interviewer:** You said it was mainly Jewish children.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** Yeah. But you said then that on the Jewish holidays the school was quite empty.

**Respondent 2:** Oh yeah.

**Interviewer:** Yeah. [0:07:30] Yeah, yeah. Where did people hang out?

**Respondent 1:** We played on the street.

**Respondent 2:** Garden Theatre. [Laughs]



**Respondent 1:** Yeah, we did – the show. We played in the schoolyard.

**Respondent 2:** Yeah, schoolyard.

**Respondent 1:** We used to play baseball in the schoolyard. But we played on the street, you know? Like the kids can't do that today. You know? I know when my daughter – she says if I take the kids for a walk, "Make sure you come in the house and nobody sees." You know? But we used to play on the street. Nobody watched us. We just played.

**Respondent 2:** [0:08:00] Until they called you in. [Laughs]

**Respondent 1:** Yeah, yeah.

**Respondent 2:** And then...

**Interviewer:** And what did you play?

**Respondent 1:** We played hide-and-go-seek.

**Respondent 2:** Spin the bottle.

**Respondent 1:** Spin the bottle.

**Respondent 2:** [Laughs] Buck how many fingers. [Laughs]

**Respondent 1:** I remember when I used to hide we had a – you know where they put the coal in the...

**Respondent 2:** Oh the coal bins. Yeah.

**Respondent 1:** The coal bins? There was a little well there. I used to hide in there, and my husband used to hide with me. [Laughs]

**Interviewer:** Oh my god.

**Respondent 1:** When we were kids.

**Respondent 2:** Yeah, that was the days of the coal man.

**Interviewer:** You know, since you just mentioned your husband, [0:08:30] just talk about how long you knew each other and when you got married.

**Respondent 1:** He moved on the street when I was four years old, and he was six, and we played as kids, and then as teenagers we started going to the drive-in, and started getting closer and closer, and then we got married. [Laughter]

**Interviewer:** At what age?

**Respondent 1:** I was twenty and he was twenty-two.

**Interviewer:** Wow. And when did you have your first child?

**Respondent 1:** I was twenty-two.

**Interviewer:** Wow. [0:09:00] Yeah, so you did everything young.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** But you were friends with your husband from age...

**Respondent 1:** Four.

**Interviewer:** ...four, and he was six.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** Wow, that's an amazing story.

**Respondent 1:** And we would have been married fifty years this year.

**Interviewer:** Mm-hm.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** That's sad. That is sad.

- Respondent 1:** Yeah. And like I told you, his sister married my brother.
- Interviewer:** Oh my. That's fabulous. What about since we're talking about language and all that, what about synagogues? What about shuls in the neighbourhood?
- Respondent 1:** The [indiscernible 0:09:29] [0:09:30] shul.
- Respondent 2:** That was – the [indiscernible 0:09:32] was on College until it burned down.
- Respondent 1:** Yeah. But I think that's...
- Interviewer:** So that was on College?
- Respondent 1:** I think that's where my brother got married.
- Respondent 2:** Next door to me on Cecil Street was the [indiscernible 0:09:41], and I've got the booklet from way back then.
- Interviewer:** Yeah. I want to stick to our district.
- Respondent 2:** Okay. But that's where the synagogues were.
- Respondent 1:** Yeah. That's where my brother got married.
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh.
- Respondent 1:** Yeah.
- Interviewer:** was the Narayever here? The Narayever is here right now. It's on Brunswick just north of Harbord.
- Respondent 1:** What is it? I don't know.
- Respondent 2:** The little one.
- Interviewer:** It's a little one.
- Respondent 2:** [0:10:00] Yeah, I don't think so.

**Respondent 1:** I never heard of it.

**Respondent 2:** Yeah, I know the one she's talking about.

**Interviewer:** What about – okay, so you lived on Major. Just describe where you lived on Major. Between what and what? What was the main street?

**Respondent 1:** I was just south of Harbord, and as a little girl I used to play ball against the Fish Market. It was the Fish Market, there is a restaurant there now, but it used to be the Harbord Fish Market, and I used to play ball against the wall. And I thought the place was huge, and now when I go there it's like [0:10:30] it's so small.

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

**Respondent 1:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** So talk to me please about the stores. So if you were closest to Harbord, that's what you would know the best.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah, the Fish Market and the Harbord Bakery. My mother used to give me a nickel and I used to buy cookies, a whole bag for a nickel. Yeah.

**Interviewer:** Boy. You wouldn't...

**Respondent 1:** Now you can't even get a cookie for a nickel.

**Interviewer:** No, you couldn't get a quarter of a cookie for a nickel.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** So Harbord Bakery and the fish – where was the fish store?

**Respondent 1:** Right at [0:11:00] the corner, but there's a restaurant there called Lori or something?

**Interviewer:** Loire.

**Respondent 1:** Loire?

**Interviewer:** Yeah.

**Respondent 1:** That was the Harbord Fish Market.

**Interviewer:** Kosher or not kosher? Oh I guess fish doesn't have to be kosher.

**Respondent 2:** Wasn't his name...

**Respondent 1:** Tony Fisher.

**Respondent 2:** Yeah.

**Respondent 1:** Tony Fisher. Yeah.

**Interviewer:** Okay. So the Fish Market and Harbord Bakery. Any other stores?

**Respondent 1:** Yeah, across the road from the Fish Market was Orloff's Grocery Store. Whatever that is at the corner now, I don't know what it is, but it was...

**Interviewer:** That has had a number of different...

**Respondent 1:** Well it was Orloff's [0:11:30] Grocery Store.

**Interviewer:** Uh-huh. So did your family shop there?

**Respondent 1:** Oh yeah. Of course. Yeah. And then across the road at Harbord on the other side was Eisenberg's – was like a confectionary store. And then across from that was a gas station. I don't think there's a gas station...

**Interviewer:** There's a gas station on Major...

**Respondent 1:** And Harbord?

**Respondent 2:** Mm-hm.

- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent 2:** On the northeast corner.
- Respondent 1:** Yeah. It was a gas station then.
- Interviewer:** Oh, so that's been a gas station for a long time.
- Respondent 1:** Yeah, yeah, yeah.
- Respondent 2:** Wasn't there a kosher butcher?
- Respondent 1:** Greenspan's. That was...
- Interviewer:** Where?
- Respondent 1:** ...at Brunswick. **[0:12:00]** Greenspan's was on Brunswick.
- Interviewer:** Brunswick and where?
- Respondent 1:** And Harbord.
- Interviewer:** Oh, so there were quite a few stores.
- Respondent 1:** Yeah, oh yeah.
- Interviewer:** A fish market, and Green...
- Respondent 1:** Greenspan's butcher. Yeah. Yeah. That's where my mother used to get her meat until my dad opened up a butcher store on Bloor Street.
- Interviewer:** Oh. On Bloor near where?
- Respondent 1:** You know what? I don't remember.
- Interviewer:** Was this between Spadina and Bathurst?
- Respondent 1:** Yeah, yeah, yeah. Yeah.

**Interviewer:** Your father had a...

**Respondent 1:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** Oh my god.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** Did you work there?

**Respondent 1:** No.

**Interviewer:** Did you spend time there?

**Respondent 1:** No. I was [0:12:30] a kid.

**Interviewer:** Yeah.

**Respondent 1:** I was a kid, yeah. Because my dad originally was a dress cutter. Like he was, you know, he made – he used to make my mother clothes. He worked on Spadina.

**Interviewer:** So what a change for your dad. From a dress cutter to a butcher.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah. Well he wasn't really a butcher. He just...

**Interviewer:** He had a butcher shop.

**Respondent 1:** ...he just had a – yeah.

**Interviewer:** But he made a big, big change in his work life.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah, yeah. Yeah.

**Interviewer:** Hm. Well that's...

**Respondent 2:** I didn't know your dad had a butcher shop.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah. [0:13:00] Oh, something you didn't know.

- Respondent 2:** No, I didn't know that.
- Respondent 1:** She knows everything, this one. [Laughs]
- Interviewer:** Wow. Any other stores that you can remember in the neighbourhood?
- Respondent 1:** Serlins.
- Interviewer:** What's that?
- Respondent 1:** At Ulster, Ulster and Major.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent 1:** Serlins.
- Interviewer:** A corner store.
- Respondent 1:** No, it wasn't at Ulster, it was just up from Ulster where Muttie Greenberg lives.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent 1:** There was a laneway, then there was a little store there called Serlins.
- Interviewer:** Another corner store kind of place.
- Respondent 1:** And then at the corner of Ulster there was another store. I can't remember what the name [0:13:30] of that store was, but it was also a little grocery store.
- Interviewer:** So there were lots of little grocery stores.
- Respondent 1:** Oh yeah. Yeah. I don't see any of them. I'm sure they're not there.
- Interviewer:** Yeah. There are just a few. What about Kensington Market? How did that factor in?



- Respondent 2:** That was my area. [Laughs]
- Interviewer:** No, but people often went there from here.
- Respondent 1:** Yeah. Well we still go for a walk.
- Interviewer:** But so your parents – your family used mainly these little stores.
- Respondent 1:** Yeah.
- Interviewer:** Did they use Kensington Market at all for shopping?
- Respondent 1:** Yeah.
- Respondent 2:** [0:14:00] Did your mother buy her chickens there?
- Respondent 1:** My mother might have. My mother might have. I really don't remember.
- Interviewer:** Do you remember that the market had any impact or meant anything to you, or your neighbours, or your family?
- Respondent 1:** Not really.
- Interviewer:** Okay.
- Respondent 1:** Not really.
- Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah.
- Respondent 1:** But there were a number of butchers here, you know. You mentioned butchers are chickens, but there are a couple of fish store and – and then your father had his own, of course...
- Respondent 2:** Because people used to go – [0:14:30] I remember to the – they used to buy their chicken and then take it to the [indiscernible 0:14:30].
- Interviewer:** Yeah.

- Respondent 1:** Yeah. My grandmother had chickens in her backyard on Major Street. [Laughter] And she used to kill her own chickens.
- Interviewer:** Oh, tell me more about that.
- Respondent 1:** Yeah. I remember. I remember the chickens running around in the backyard. [Laughter]
- Interviewer:** And then were you ever with her as she plucked them...
- Respondent 1:** No.
- Interviewer:** ...and took the feathers out?
- Respondent 1:** No.
- Respondent 2:** No goats. We didn't have goats.
- Respondent 1:** No, no, no. No goats. [Laughter]
- Interviewer:** But your grandma – and what did she do in the winter? I guess she just killed them all and you ate them.
- Respondent 1:** Yeah. [Laughs]
- Interviewer:** [0:15:00] Yeah, right. So you didn't name them because...
- Respondent 1:** No. [Laughter] They weren't pets. [Laughs] No, but that's what they did, you know? Because she was kosher. She was like – she was religious. She wouldn't eat at our house. If she came, she brought her own dishes, my grandmother.
- Interviewer:** So she was kosher, but your family decided that you weren't going to do that.
- Respondent 1:** Yeah.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.

**Respondent 1:** My mother was to a certain extent when we were little, but then she never kept it.

**Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah. Talk about playing on the street. Did you use the front [0:15:30] porches? Did anybody use the front porches?

**Respondent 1:** Oh yeah.

**Interviewer:** How?

**Respondent 1:** Yeah. We just used – we just sat – well you saw my parents sitting on their front porch. We just used the – you know, it always seemed like it was so big, yeah, but it always seemed like it was so big, [laughs] but when you look at it, or when you go by it now it's so little. I don't know how – you know, with so many kids [laughter] I don't know how. [Laughs]

**Respondent 2:** You did what you had to do.

**Respondent 1:** You know? We had this big chestnut tree in the front, and my mother used to tie me up to the chestnut tree. [Laughs]

**Interviewer:** [0:16:00] To make sure you wouldn't go on the street.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah, yeah, yeah.

**Interviewer:** Oh.

**Respondent 1:** And she used to tie, like, knots, like knots. And I used to undo the knots. [Laughs] But yeah, she actually tied me to the tree on Major Street.

**Interviewer:** I'm sure with all the kids around you you weren't deprived because there were kids to play with...

**Respondent 1:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** ...even though you were...

- Respondent 1:** Yeah. But if she – like my sister was younger than me, so I guess when she would put her to bed or do whatever with her, she would tie me up to the tree.
- Respondent 2:** And leave you there. [0:16:30] Nobody's there. [Laughter] In those days, nobody cared.
- Respondent 1:** Nobody took me.
- Interviewer:** What about the back of your house? Was there a...
- Respondent 1:** Oh we had a backyard. Yeah.
- Interviewer:** ...piece of land? And what was in the backyard? And did your family use it at all?
- Respondent 1:** What did we use it for? Well we had – when you went in the backyard, we had a summer kitchen, like she was saying.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent 1:** And then out in the backyard we had trees, and we used to climb the trees, and we used to – oh, you know, we just played. And there was a laneway, and we used to, you know, just play.
- Respondent 2:** Hide-and-go-seek.
- Respondent 1:** And just play. [0:17:00] Yeah. But we climbed trees all the time.
- Interviewer:** And what kind of trees did you have? Do you remember?
- Respondent 1:** Chestnut. We had a chestnut tree in the front.
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh.
- Respondent 1:** The back was just, I don't know, just a tree.
- Respondent 2:** A junky tree.
- Respondent 1:** Just a tree.

- Respondent 2:** Junky trees.
- Interviewer:** And did they plant anything in the back? There was a tree, grass, and no...
- Respondent 1:** Yeah.
- Interviewer:** So you don't remember any planting.
- Respondent 1:** No.
- Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah.
- Respondent 1:** My mother didn't have time.
- Interviewer:** I'll bet.
- Respondent 1:** You know, she had a lot of kids and, you know, she didn't have an automatic washer. She had a ringer [0:17:30] machine.
- Interviewer:** I remember those.
- Respondent 1:** Sure, you know? And with six kids, that's a lot of laundry.
- Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah, yeah. And a lot of cooking, and a lot of everything.
- Respondent 1:** A lot of cooking, yeah.
- Interviewer:** What about the back lanes? You mentioned it briefly, but talk to me more about how everybody or anybody used the back lanes.
- Respondent 1:** We used to play. We used to play.
- Interviewer:** Was it paved? Was your back lane paved?
- Respondent 1:** No.
- Interviewer:** No. Okay. Some were, or some were semi-paved, and some were not at all. So yours was more kind of hard mud.

- Respondent 1:** Yeah. Yeah, I think so.
- Respondent 2:** Did you have any drunks hanging out **[0:18:00]** in the back lanes?
- Respondent 1:** Drunks? No. Not in our area. Yeah, in your area you did, not in mine. [Laughs]
- Interviewer:** Okay.
- Respondent 1:** No, it was...
- Interviewer:** And when you played in the back lanes that was more hide-and-seek? Or tag? That kind of thing?
- Respondent 1:** Well we used to go down the lane to go to school. We walked down the lane to go to school.
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh. So there were lots of kids walking down the lane, I guess, because it was quite high-density.
- Respondent 1:** Yeah. Yeah.
- Interviewer:** What was the situation in terms of people having cars or not having cars?
- Respondent 1:** Well **[0:18:30]** after my dad – he went into the salvage business, so he had a truck.
- Interviewer:** The salvage – that was after the butcher business?
- Respondent 1:** No, that was before. He went before, yeah.
- Interviewer:** Okay. So first it was the truck business...
- Respondent 1:** It was the dress business...
- Interviewer:** And then...

- Respondent 1:** ...and then he went – yeah. And my brother went in business with him, my brother Harvey, and yeah. They picked up salvage, you know?
- Interviewer:** What does that mean?
- Respondent 1:** Like junk, you know? And they sold it.
- Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah.
- Respondent 1:** People used to leave it out [0:19:00] on the street, and they would pick it up and sell it, so he had a truck.
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh.
- Respondent 1:** Yeah. And then we used to get everybody on the street and we used to go to – in the summertime, we used to drive up to Lake Wilcox. Do you know where that is?
- Interviewer:** No.
- Respondent 1:** Just straight up Yonge Street.
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh.
- Respondent 1:** Just keep going way up Yonge Street, and there's a lake there. You didn't know that?
- Interviewer:** No.
- Respondent 1:** Yeah. Lake Wilcox. We used to pile into the truck.
- Interviewer:** So like a half-hour drive?
- Respondent 1:** Yeah, about a half-hour. Yeah.
- Interviewer:** So the kids would be in the back and the parents...
- Respondent 1:** Yeah. We'd sit in the back of the truck. Yeah.

- Respondent 2:** I think you could at one time take **[0:19:30]** a bus up there. You could take the street car until the end, and then got on a bus...
- Respondent 1:** That's possible, but we used to go in the truck. Did you ever come with us?
- Respondent 2:** No.
- Respondent 1:** No?
- Respondent 2:** No. I didn't come with you to that.
- Respondent 1:** I know a lot of kids used to pile in the back of the truck. We'd just sit there.
- Respondent 2:** Yeah.
- Respondent 1:** You know? No seatbelts, no nothing, and just sit at the back of the truck.
- Interviewer:** Yeah. Yeah.
- Respondent 1:** It's amazing that we all survived. [Laughter]
- Respondent 2:** There weren't as many cars on the road.
- Respondent 1:** Yeah, true. True.
- Interviewer:** Did your father park in front? Or was there...
- Respondent 1:** Oh, right on the street.
- Interviewer:** Right on the street?
- Respondent 1:** **[0:20:00]** There was parking on both sides of the street, and it was a two-way street. Okay? And my little sister, she ran out from the car, she was running across the road, I was on the street and my sister was there, and she got hit by a truck. She went flying, and after that, my mother-in-law, she went to the city and she had it changed to one-way and parking on one side.



- Interviewer:** Your mother-in-law did that?
- Respondent 1:** It was my mother-in-law that did it.
- Interviewer:** Whoa.
- Respondent 1:** [0:20:30] After my sister got hit.
- Interviewer:** And was your sister eventually...
- Respondent 1:** Yeah. She was okay.
- Interviewer:** ...okay?
- Respondent 1:** But I mean she's since passed away, but my mother-in-law actually went and had that changed. And my sister was like maybe three when she got hit. Three or four.
- Respondent 2:** Is this Sharon?
- Respondent 1:** Sharon. Yeah. Do you remember when she got hit by a car?
- Respondent 2:** No.
- Respondent 1:** You don't remember? No. But...
- Respondent 2:** No, I wasn't here.
- Respondent 1:** Oh right. True, true, true.
- Interviewer:** Boy, that's quite a story about your mother-in-law, was a [0:21:00] strong woman.
- Respondent 1:** Yeah, yeah.
- Interviewer:** She wasn't afraid of the authorities.
- Respondent 1:** No. Oh no. Are you kidding? Yeah. Yeah.

**Interviewer:** Yeah.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah.

**Respondent 2:** I'm surprised with your mother-in-law. Thought it was your mother.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah, no. It was Allan's mother. Yeah.

**Interviewer:** What kind of education did you have in terms of...

**Respondent 1:** I went to Lansdowne.

**Interviewer:** Uh-huh.

**Respondent 1:** And then I went to Central Commerce, and I took business, you know?

**Interviewer:** And what about any Hebrew education or bar mitzvahs for your brothers?

**Respondent 1:** Yeah. I went to – my brothers all have. My mother was pregnant with me at my oldest brother's [0:21:30] bar mitzvah. [Laughs] She was like out to here. He's thirteen years older than me. Yeah. My brothers all – they went to the Talmud Torah on Brunswick.

**Interviewer:** After school?

**Respondent 1:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** Okay. So it was later.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah.

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

**Respondent 1:** I went there too. Yeah.

**Interviewer:** So all the children had some kind of afterschool [indiscernible 0:21:46].

- Respondent 2:** We all did.
- Respondent 1:** Yeah, yeah.
- Interviewer:** Yeah. You talked about the traffic. I mean in terms of...
- Respondent 1:** It was awful.
- Interviewer:** ...both ways, [0:22:00] and parking on both sides.
- Respondent 1:** Yeah. It wasn't that many cars, so you know.
- Interviewer:** So what percentage of the people would you say at that time...
- Respondent 1:** Had cars?
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent 1:** Not very many.
- Interviewer:** Really? So that's a big change.
- Respondent 1:** Yeah. Yeah.
- Interviewer:** While you were living in that house, were there any renovations that were done? [Laughter]
- Respondent 2:** Oh yeah.
- Interviewer:** Do you see any changes now [0:22:30] when you come to the neighbourhood now?
- Respondent 1:** Oh yeah, we took a walk up down Major Street and they were selling the house that I lived in.
- Interviewer:** Right now, you mean?
- Respondent 1:** No, no, no, no. When was that? A couple of years ago.
- Interviewer:** Okay, yeah, yeah.

**Respondent 1:** And we went in, and on the first floor there was a living room. Like in that picture, the wedding picture, you can see it was a living room, and then my parents' bedroom was in the middle, and then there was a kitchen, and then a summer kitchen. And when we went in, they had – like the whole place was like all one big room.

**Interviewer:** [0:23:00] Oh yeah.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah, they really changed it. Yeah. Because they were small, the rooms. You know?

**Interviewer:** Well the houses are – this house that we're in now is seventeen feet wide, and some are a bit wider, and some are a bit narrower.

**Respondent 2:** This is wide compared to some of them.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** Yeah. And narrower. When I lived on Robert Street, our house was a bit wider there and here it's seventeen.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah.

**Respondent 2:** Excuse me, was the Fuss store across – was it on Robert Street?

**Respondent 1:** What store?

**Respondent 2:** What was the name...

**Respondent 1:** [0:23:30] Oh, Goldhar.

**Respondent 2:** Goldhar, yeah.

**Respondent 1:** That was across from Lansdowne. That was on Robert Street.

**Respondent 2:** Robert Street, okay.

**Respondent 1:** A little store.

**Interviewer:** So there were lots of little stores around.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah. This one was right across from Lansdowne Public School.

**Interviewer:** I remember that store. With wooden floors.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah, yeah.

**Interviewer:** I think they just closed that maybe six or eight years ago, maybe less.

**Respondent 1:** I just saw a Goldhar.

**Respondent 2:** Yeah, yeah. What's his name?

**Respondent 1:** Morty Goldhar. I was with my girlfriend. We went in – he's working in a furniture store. [Laughs] Yeah.

**Interviewer:** [0:24:00] That store lasted a long time.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah. A long time.

**Respondent 2:** They used to sell all the penny candies...

**Respondent 1:** Penny candies. We used to buy them.

**Respondent 2:** ...when we were kids.

**Respondent 1:** We used to buy our candy.

**Respondent 2:** That's where we used to go.

**Respondent 1:** We used to hang out there.

**Respondent 2:** Oh yeah.

**Interviewer:** It must have been filled with Lansdowne kids.

**Respondent 2:** Oh yeah.

- Respondent 1:** Oh yeah. It was directly across.
- Interviewer:** I know.
- Respondent 2:** So if you had a nickel...
- Respondent 1:** But the school that's there now is not the school that we went to.
- Respondent 2:** No.
- Interviewer:** Oh that's right.
- Respondent 1:** That's the new school.
- Interviewer:** Yeah. Right.
- Respondent 1:** Yeah. That's a new school.
- Interviewer:** When did they – any idea when they...
- Respondent 2:** Yes. My sister was in grade eight. Her last year of **[0:24:30]** public school was in the new building. They tore it down. So...
- Respondent 1:** All I know is Lansdowne. When did we go to the reunion? It was...
- Respondent 2:** In the new building.
- Respondent 1:** ...a hundred years old Lansdowne public – because my mother went there. Yeah.
- Respondent 2:** Okay. So she...
- Interviewer:** There's a lot of history in this neighbourhood.
- Respondent 1:** Oh yeah.
- Respondent 2:** Sheila was grade eight, and she was, I think, eleven.

**Interviewer:** Okay. You know what I want to come to talk about? The dating. What happened with dating, say, when you **[0:25:00]** were – beginning twelve, fourteen, sixteen. What were the dating patterns?

**Respondent 1:** [Laughs] I don't know. We used to go to the drive-in.

**Interviewer:** Uh-huh.

**Respondent 1:** We used to go to the drive-in.

**Interviewer:** But you mean a group of you?

**Respondent 1:** No, me and my husband. [Laughs] Yeah.

**Interviewer:** And what ages would that have been?

**Respondent 1:** Well he had to be sixteen to be driving. [Laughs] Yeah.

**Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** And just generally speaking...

**Respondent 1:** A '55 Chevrolet. [Laughs] A '55 **[0:25:30]** green Chevrolet. [Laughs] I still remember the car.

**Interviewer:** Where was the drive-in?

**Respondent 1:** Where was the drive-in?

**Respondent 2:** Dufferin?

**Respondent 1:** Dufferin drive-in. Yeah.

**Respondent 2:** 400 and somewhere there was one.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** Okay, so it was quite far.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah. So do you remember anything – you can talk about this too – about dating, say, around 1955? That time. Any comments?

**Respondent 2:** '55 I was fourteen. [0:26:00] It wasn't really dating.

**Respondent 1:** It wasn't really dating. We used to go to the show. Like there was the Garden show on College.

**Respondent 2:** And the Bloor...

**Respondent 1:** And the Bloor theatre.

**Respondent 2:** And the other one.

**Respondent 1:** And the Alhambra.

**Respondent 2:** Yeah.

**Respondent 1:** We used to go and hang out at the show.

**Interviewer:** With a group of...

**Respondent 1:** Yeah.

**Respondent 2:** And I was involved at the Y, so there were Y dances. You didn't go to the Y that much.

**Respondent 1:** Not that much, no.

**Respondent 2:** I was involved, I was in the club, I was – you know, so we used to hang out at the Y. That was...

**Interviewer:** What did you do at the Y? What were the activities [0:26:30] you did?



- Respondent 2:** There were club rooms, so we – you know, we formed a club, a group of girls, and they had dances, they had junior dances, high teen dances, and they...
- Respondent 1:** Yeah, I used to go to the dance. Yeah.
- Respondent 2:** Yeah. So there were the dances. Usually what...
- Respondent 1:** Nobody really went on dates. That I don't remember really going on dates.
- Respondent 2:** No. Not until, well older. I was sixteen. [Laughs]
- Respondent 1:** You know, we got married young.
- Interviewer:** Yeah, you did.
- Respondent 2:** I was seventeen.
- Respondent 1:** She was seventeen when she got married.
- Interviewer:** You got married at seventeen?
- Respondent 2:** [0:27:00] I've been married fifty-three years.
- Respondent 1:** Yeah.
- Interviewer:** Oh my god, so you got married at seventeen. You got married at twenty.
- Respondent 1:** Yeah.
- Interviewer:** Wow. You did get married young.
- Respondent 1:** Yeah.
- Respondent 2:** But in those days it wasn't. It wasn't young.
- Respondent 1:** How old were you when you got married?

- Interviewer:** Well I got engaged when I was twenty, and then I got married a year later.
- Respondent 1:** So not that much.
- Respondent 2:** Yeah, and you know what? They figure that the twenty-two, twenty-three you were an old maid. [Laughter]
- Interviewer:** If you weren't married.
- Respondent 2:** Really.
- Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah. So the Y was for you, Marilyn, it was an important place because it was a social place.
- Respondent 2:** Yes.
- Interviewer:** [0:27:30] Okay.
- Respondent 2:** Yeah. It was a home away from home for me.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent 2:** It was.
- Interviewer:** And you didn't use the Y very much other than for the dances.
- Respondent 1:** No, because – yeah. Because I was involved with my husband.
- Interviewer:** Right, right.
- Respondent 1:** Yeah.
- Interviewer:** There are just a few more questions.
- Respondent 1:** I don't know what happened to...
- Interviewer:** Yeah. Too bad. It'll come. Anything more about any stores that you remember at all? Or have you pretty well covered...

- Respondent 1:** Stores, I think that's pretty much...
- Interviewer:** Or theatres. You talked about going to theatres.
- Respondent 1:** Yeah. There was the [0:28:00] Garden show.
- Interviewer:** Where? That was on College?
- Respondent 1:** On College.
- Interviewer:** And what was that?
- Respondent 1:** Movie theatre.
- Respondent 2:** Movie theatre. Next to the paint store.
- Respondent 1:** And there was – yeah, and there was the Bellevue near Brunswick.
- Respondent 2:** Yeah.
- Respondent 1:** The Bellevue theatre.
- Interviewer:** That was on College?
- Respondent 1:** On College.
- Respondent 2:** Mm-hm. And there used to be...
- Interviewer:** Also another movie theatre?
- Respondent 1:** Oh and Becker's delicatessen.
- Respondent 2:** Across the road. That was across the road.
- Respondent 1:** That was the best delicatessen ever.
- Interviewer:** And what were the favourite foods there?
- Respondent 1:** They had a sauce they put on their pastrami sandwich. [Laughs]

- Respondent 2:** Yeah, she still talks about...
- Respondent 1:** Always – nobody [0:28:30] has ever made anything like that.
- Respondent 2:** Yeah.
- Interviewer:** Oh.
- Respondent 1:** It was incredible.
- Respondent 2:** Mm. And there was a shoe store on the corner of Brunswick. What's the big shoe store?
- Respondent 1:** David's.
- Respondent 2:** David's. Yeah.
- Respondent 1:** David's. Yeah.
- Respondent 2:** David's was on the corner of Brunswick and College.
- Interviewer:** And College.
- Respondent 1:** Yeah.
- Respondent 2:** Mm-hm.
- Interviewer:** That very expensive David's.
- Respondent 1:** It started off down here at College. Yeah.
- Respondent 2:** Yeah. And his father used to buy meat from [indiscernible 0:28:52].
- Respondent 1:** Yeah.
- Respondent 2:** My husband is a butcher.
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh.

- Respondent 2:** So...
- Respondent 1:** He's a real butcher.
- Respondent 2:** Yeah.
- Respondent 1:** My father was a fake [0:29:00] butcher. [Laughter]
- Interviewer:** Pay the bills.
- Respondent 1:** Yeah.
- Respondent 2:** And next to – is it the Alhambra? No. The Blue – what's the one on College? Not...
- Respondent 1:** The Bellevue?
- Respondent 2:** The Bellevue. Next to the Bellevue, there was a place that sold hot dogs, and they went round, and round...
- Respondent 1:** Welch's.
- Respondent 2:** I don't know.
- Respondent 1:** Welch's? Was it Welch's delicatessen?
- Respondent 2:** Yeah.
- Interviewer:** So was that another kosher place? Or that wasn't another kosher...
- Respondent 1:** Yeah. They were.
- Interviewer:** Most of them were Jewish.
- Respondent 2:** [0:29:30] Yeah.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent 2:** And then my husband, there was a club room above there.

- Respondent 1:** Yeah, yeah. My brother used to go there, yeah.
- Respondent 2:** Baldwin Street seniors and Baldwin juniors were above there.
- Respondent 1:** Yeah.
- Interviewer:** How were the homes heated at that time?
- Respondent 1:** Heated coal.
- Respondent 2:** Coal.
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh, so do you remember the coal?
- Respondent 2:** The coalman.
- Respondent 1:** Oh god yeah.
- Respondent 2:** I remember the coal man. Oh yeah.
- Respondent 1:** Yeah. We had an icebox.
- Respondent 2:** Yeah.
- Respondent 1:** We didn't have a fridge. I remember Speedy the iceman, this little fat guy used to come and deliver ice to our house [0:30:00] and he used to put me up on t he truck. He was in love with me. [Laughs] You know how certain things just stick out in your mind? And I always remember him. Speedy.
- Respondent 2:** I remember Percy the milkman because Borden's Dairy was right over – or whatever it was that was...
- Respondent 1:** Yeah. The milk delivered...
- Interviewer:** Were these trucks?
- Respondent 1:** Yeah.
- Interviewer:** Were these horse...

- Respondent 2:** No.
- Interviewer:** Wait. Okay. So there are two of them that I'm hearing here. So you're talking, Marilyn, you're saying you remember...
- Respondent 2:** I remember Percy the milkman who delivered with his horse.
- Interviewer:** [0:30:30] Okay.
- Respondent 2:** Yeah.
- Respondent 1:** Yeah. We had milk delivered too.
- Interviewer:** Also the horses?
- Respondent 1:** No, it wasn't horse. It wasn't horse. He had a truck.
- Respondent 2:** [Laughs] We were old-fashioned.
- Respondent 1:** You were old-fashioned.
- Interviewer:** Okay. So you remember the horse-drawn, you remember the truck.
- Respondent 1:** Yeah.
- Interviewer:** But the ice – was that – that was a truck?
- Respondent 1:** Yeah. And he had ice on the back of the truck.
- Respondent 2:** Yeah.
- Respondent 1:** And he used to have these big picks.
- Respondent 2:** Big tongs.
- Respondent 1:** These big tongs and he would go like this and carry the ice into the...
- Respondent 2:** And my brother-in-law delivered ice.

**Respondent 1:** [Laughs] Very [0:31:00] sanitary. [Laughs]

**Respondent 2:** And then the pieces that dropped off on the road, we used to pick them up and eat them.

**Interviewer:** Isn't that wonderful memories?

**Respondent 1:** I know.

**Respondent 2:** Wait a minute. What about the tar man? When they tarred the roads? They did tarring, or the roofs or whatever, and they'd get the warm tar and you'd chew on it? You don't remember doing that?

**Interviewer:** One other person mentioned that. Picking up the tar and chewing on it.

**Respondent 2:** Chewing on it. Yeah. Like gum.

**Respondent 1:** I never did that.

**Interviewer:** So you didn't swallow it?

**Respondent 2:** No, no.

**Interviewer:** Just chewed it.

**Respondent 2:** You just chewed it, and then...

**Interviewer:** You'd get black tar from the road.

**Respondent 2:** Yeah.

**Respondent 1:** [0:31:30] That I don't remember.

**Interviewer:** Could you imagine people letting their children pick up black tar from the road today?

**Respondent 1:** My grandson would probably do it. [Laughs]



- Interviewer:** Yeah. But these are fabulous things that you're coming up with. Yeah. They're so different from today.
- Respondent 2:** And the schmatta man used to go down the street...
- Respondent 1:** Yeah, the schmatta man. Yeah.
- Respondent 2:** And get schmattas.
- Respondent 1:** You know, now that you say – Mr. Heimrich [laughs]. Yeah. He used to come to the house and sell, you know, like...
- Respondent 2:** Rags. The remnants. Things.
- Respondent 1:** We'd have linens and stuff come to the house.
- Interviewer:** He would sell those to you?
- Respondent 1:** [0:32:00] Yeah.
- Interviewer:** And your mother would sew things with that?
- Respondent 1:** No, no, no. Like pillowcases and stuff, you know? He just – he would come. He'd be in his car and he would sell out of his car.
- Respondent 2:** No, I'm talking about the rag man that used to go down the street, and then there's a truck – not his truck. He had a horse and buggy, and he used to collect rags. [Laughs]
- Respondent 1:** Oh. No, no, no.
- Interviewer:** To do what?
- Respondent 2:** I don't know what he did with them, but we used to call him the rag man.
- Interviewer:** And he would come with a horse and buggy, take the schmattas and...

- Respondent 2:** Yeah, yeah. He disappeared. [0:32:30] [Laughs] I don't know. I was a little girl.
- Interviewer:** He didn't buy them.
- Respondent 2:** No.
- Interviewer:** He didn't buy them. He just took them.
- Respondent 1:** That I remember.
- Respondent 2:** Do you remember flour sacks? Did your mother not make towels out of the flour sacks?
- Respondent 1:** No.
- Respondent 2:** Okay.
- Respondent 1:** No, your mother was a sewer.
- Respondent 2:** Yeah.
- Interviewer:** So tell me about that.
- Respondent 2:** Well when you bought flour, you bought it in a big sack, and it was like, I don't know.
- Interviewer:** That kind of woven material?
- Respondent 2:** Yeah, it was. And it was great for making towels. And I think just until a couple of years ago I still had towels that had [0:33:00] the flour labels on them.
- Interviewer:** Oh my god.
- Respondent 1:** Well her mother was a seamstress.
- Respondent 2:** My mother was a seamstress.
- Respondent 1:** Her mother sewed.

**Interviewer:** Uh-huh.

**Respondent 2:** On the Avenue.

**Interviewer:** What do you mean on the Avenue?

**Respondent 2:** Well on Spadina...

**Respondent 1:** My father was – the Avenue. Yeah.

**Respondent 2:** ...it was called the Avenue.

**Interviewer:** I never heard that before.

**Respondent 1:** And even when I...

**Interviewer:** College Street?

**Respondent 2:** No. Spadina, Spadina.

**Respondent 1:** Spadina Avenue. The Avenue. From Queen up to...

**Interviewer:** College?

**Respondent 1:** No, it didn't go that far.

**Respondent 2:** No. Queen below.

**Interviewer:** Okay. So it...

**Respondent 1:** Queen below.

**Interviewer:** [0:33:30] ...was downtown.

**Respondent 2:** Yeah. Down.

**Respondent 1:** Downtown. Yeah.

- Respondent 2:** All those big buildings that they're turning into condos or whatever...
- Respondent 1:** Yeah. They were all wholesale dress places. When I was fifteen I got a job, I worked at King and Spadina and I used to get paid thirty-six dollars a week, and I used to take my money, and walk up Spadina and go into the wholesales and buy clothes with thirty-six dollars.
- Respondent 2:** Yeah, of course. The schmattas...
- Interviewer:** So that would have been around 1950?
- Respondent 1:** I was sixteen. Yeah. That was my [0:34:00] first job.
- Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah.
- Respondent 1:** And then I sat at a switchboard, and yeah, I had the thing, and I did this.
- Interviewer:** Oh that was real old-fashioned switchboard.
- Respondent 2:** I worked on Barton Street in a – my – Pearl Godfried's brother had a cleaning store.
- Respondent 1:** You never worked.
- Respondent 2:** I did so. I'm fourteen years old.
- Respondent 1:** [Laughs] You never worked.
- Respondent 2:** I worked there until the landlord closed the place up.
- Interviewer:** What about animals? Did anybody have house pets?
- Respondent 1:** [0:34:30] Oh, we had dogs, and they were – I don't know how many we had, but they were all named Bambi. [Laughter] They were all named Bambi. And the last one we had, I'll never forget. She was on Harbord Street and a car ran her over and my mother

went running up there, and I remember her carrying her and the poor little thing died. It was so sad, but we always had a dog.

**Interviewer:** And did you ever have two or three at the same time?

**Respondent 1:** No.

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

**Respondent 1:** But we always – well they had puppies. [0:35:00] And my mother would deliver the puppies, and then we would get rid of the puppies, you know?

**Interviewer:** Okay. So whoever you had at the time, that was another Bambi, and Bambi, and Bambi.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah. They were always named Bambi.

**Interviewer:** Oh that's too funny. So you always had puppies and dogs.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah, we always had dogs. Yeah.

**Interviewer:** What about the rest of the people around?

**Respondent 1:** My husband had cats.

**Interviewer:** Uh-huh.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah. I don't know if I remember much else – no, I don't remember too many other animals, but we always had a dog.

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

**Respondent 1:** Yeah. [0:35:30] All the little Bambis.

**Respondent 2:** Elaine lived across the road from you.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah. Elaine and Bernie Zaons.

**Respondent 2:** Oh yeah, Bernie Zaons.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** I'm assuming from what you are saying, but I'll make a statement and then I'll ask the question, it sounds as if it was very safe.

**Respondent 1:** Oh yeah.

**Interviewer:** But I want to ask you about the safety of the neighbourhood.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah. Yeah, of course. Of course. Other than my mother tying me up in the tree. [Laughter] That was just so she didn't lose sight of me.

**Respondent 2:** Except for the Marshalls.

**Respondent 1:** The Marshalls. [Laughter] [0:36:00] There was a family, a black family that lived down the street named Marshall, and my brother was friends with the oldest one, and there was a young girl, and another couple of brothers in between.

**Respondent 2:** Wasn't it Muriel and Wally?

**Respondent 1:** Muriel, Wally, a bunch of them.

**Respondent 2:** Well Muriel had a...

**Respondent 1:** Anyways, they always treated us like I was their sister, you know? But one day my parents' bedroom was on the ground floor, and they always used to leave the window open, [0:36:30] and my dad would leave his pants with stuff in his pants. [Laughs] I don't know. And they came – one of them came and we knew it was them. They stole the pants out of the back...

**Interviewer:** Out of the window?

**Respondent 1:** The window [laughs] yeah.

**Interviewer:** So your dad had his wallet in the pocket?

- Respondent 1:** Yeah, yeah.
- Interviewer:** Or some money in the pocket.
- Respondent 1:** Yeah. Yeah. And we always knew it was them. I mean, you know...
- Respondent 2:** Well one of them.
- Respondent 1:** But still, they were our friends.
- Respondent 2:** But one of them robbed the place on College.
- Respondent 1:** Yeah, yeah.
- Respondent 2:** Yeah.
- Respondent 1:** The dental place.
- Respondent 2:** [0:37:00] Dental place. Yeah. Yeah. With a gun, I think.
- Respondent 1:** But they were our friends, you know?
- Respondent 2:** It was – oh no.
- Respondent 1:** It was...
- Respondent 2:** The twin. The twin black girls. Did they live in this area?
- Respondent 1:** I don't remember.
- Respondent 2:** The ones that had their picture, the nude picture. Do you remember that?
- Respondent 1:** I don't.
- Respondent 2:** Oh god.
- Respondent 1:** I should remember. It's the weirdest thing.
- Respondent 2:** And one of them got married. Was it Muriel?

**Interviewer:** Okay we're straying.

**Respondent 2:** No, this is – but this is in this area.

**Interviewer:** They lived in this neighbourhood. So generally speaking [0:37:30] you're saying other than that family that had some very specific...

**Respondent 1:** Yeah, oh yeah. Yeah.

**Interviewer:** But generally speaking, you considered it safe.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah. Oh yeah.

**Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah. I never thought of them as bad, but they were. [Laughs] I never thought of them as that, you know? Yeah.

**Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah. I think I've pretty well covered the topics that I was hoping to cover. And I'm going to take some pictures because [0:38:00] they're lovely pictures that you got. I'll take pictures and then I'll put them on my computer. But I'm wondering if – when you knew you were coming, both of you, whether there were any things that you thought, "Oh, it'll be fun to talk about whatever." So is there anything that we haven't talked about that you think might be interesting for us to have when we're talking about the neighbourhood through the years when you grew up here? Either of you.

**Respondent 2:** Well there was the pool hall above the Garden Theatre, and a lot of the [0:38:30] guys hanged out.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah, my brothers.

**Respondent 2:** Yeah. I'll tell you a story about the club. [Laughs] You went to jail, you came home. [Laughs] They raided.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah.



- Interviewer:** What? It got raided?
- Respondent 2:** No. There was a – the boys, the older boys had club rooms above some of the stores on College.
- Respondent 1:** On College.
- Respondent 2:** College and Brunswick, that area, right?
- Respondent 1:** Yeah.
- Interviewer:** Okay.
- Respondent 2:** And they used to play cards, and god knows what else they did up there.
- Respondent 1:** [0:39:00] They didn't do anything dangerous.
- Respondent 2:** No.
- Respondent 1:** They never did drugs or anything like that. They just, you know, they just hung out.
- Respondent 2:** So you know, they played cards. So the police came and raided it while they were – oh yeah. [Laughs]
- Interviewer:** Sounds as if it wasn't very raidable.
- Respondent 2:** Well...
- Interviewer:** There's nothing much going on, I think.
- Respondent 2:** No. I mean it wasn't drugs or anything. You know?
- Interviewer:** Maybe betting a little bit.
- Respondent 1:** You know?

- Interviewer:** So is there anything else that, before you came, you thought would be **[0:39:30]** interesting to talk about in your years from this neighbourhood?
- Respondent 1:** I don't know. My mind's not going back.
- Interviewer:** Okay. Okay. Listen, you've had some wonderful stories and wonderful pictures that you've conjured up for yourselves and shared them very generously with me.
- Respondent 1:** Oh.
- Interviewer:** I just want...
- Respondent 1:** I just remembered when I looked at the banister, I remember sliding down the banister. [Laughs]
- Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah.
- Respondent 1:** We always used to **[0:40:00]** slide down.
- Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah. Banisters are there for sliding.
- Respondent 1:** Of course, yeah. [Laughter] Yeah.
- Interviewer:** No, but that kind of thing.
- Respondent 1:** Yeah.
- Interviewer:** It's so visual, and it's so much a part of our lives.
- Respondent 1:** Well I remember my brothers, in terms that they slept in the attic, and they didn't want us to go up there, so they told us that there was a ghost up there and his name was Charlie. [Laughs] And every time we would try to go up there they would say, "Charlie's there." [Laughs] They never let us come up in their bedroom. [Laughs] So the only time we could go up there – because **[0:40:30]** there was – out of the attic, out of their window was a rooftop and we used to go out on the roof.

**Interviewer:** So that was okay. It must have been very hot there in the summer. Yeah.

**Respondent 2:** That's where our heat collected from.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** Whoa.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah.

**Respondent 2:** It was awful in the summer.

**Interviewer:** Yeah. I'll bet.

**Respondent 2:** We had a little lot. We had a little balcony and we had a roof...

**Respondent 1:** Well we would go out on the roof. We could go out on the roof.

**Respondent 2:** You had a flat roof in the back?

**Respondent 1:** Huh? Flat roof.

**Respondent 2:** Oh okay.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah. The back of – [0:41:00] up from the attic it was a flat roof.

**Interviewer:** But people wouldn't sleep out there.

**Respondent 1:** No.

**Interviewer:** Yeah.

**Respondent 2:** I did.

**Respondent 1:** No, but there was no railing above or anything.

**Respondent 2:** Well there was around...

**Respondent 1:** No. Ours there was no railing. You couldn't. Yeah.

**Interviewer:** Well I think I'm – before I turn this off I just want to say thank you for both of you. Marilyn, you just shared some of your experiences because you did use the facilities...

**Respondent 2:** Facilities. Yeah.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah, yeah.

**Interviewer:** And Marsha, thank you very, very much. I really appreciate you schlepping down here...

**Respondent 1:** Oh, it was [0:41:30] my pleasure.

**Interviewer:** ...sharing the stories, and I'm going to copy your pictures.

**Respondent 1:** Sure.

**Respondent 2:** I have one more thing. Remember the paint store?

**Respondent 1:** Paint store? Or the hardware store?

**Respondent 2:** On...

**Respondent 1:** Wiener's?

**Respondent 2:** No. On College near with the laneway...

**Respondent 1:** Where the school...

**Respondent 2:** Yeah. Where you walked up to the school.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah.

**Respondent 2:** Do you remember we used to always go there, they'd give us the leftover books and we used to make covers for our...

**Respondent 1:** Oh yeah. [Laughter] Yeah.

**Interviewer:** Say that again? They would give you books?

**Respondent 2:** They would give us the leftover – the wallpaper came in books.

**Respondent 1:** [0:42:00] Wallpaper.

**Respondent 2:** It's the samples.

**Respondent 1:** We used to make covers for our books.

**Respondent 2:** So we used to make covers for our books out of that.

**Interviewer:** Oh.

**Respondent 2:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** So you had very nice book covers.

**Respondent 2:** Oh yeah.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah. [Laughs]

**Respondent 2:** We did, we did.

**Respondent 1:** Good quality too.

**Respondent 2:** Yeah, yeah.

**Interviewer:** Okay. So I do want to say to both of you thank you very, very much. It's been a pleasure, and it's been very helpful because...

**Respondent 1:** Did other people have...

**Interviewer:** ...we're getting more stories.

**Respondent 1:** ...as good stories?

**Interviewer:** You know, everybody has different stories...

**Respondent 1:** Different stories. Mm-hm.

**Interviewer:** ...so together we're going to have...

**Respondent 1:** Were they as young – lived there as young...

**Interviewer:** Yes, some yes.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah?

**Interviewer:** **[0:42:30]** Some yes, and really I don't want to be interviewing people unless they've been here at least thirty-five, better even forty years.

**Respondent 1:** Prior, yeah.

**Interviewer:** So I'm meeting some people who came...

**Respondent 1:** You know who lived on Major Street too? You know Harvey Brooker, the doctor, the weight doctor?

**Respondent 2:** Mm-hm.

**Respondent 1:** He lived on Major Street.

**Interviewer:** Oh maybe I have to get him too.

**Respondent 2:** Yeah.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** Okay. So I just want to say thank you. Thank you both...

**Respondent 1:** You're welcome.

**Interviewer:** ...very much.

**[00:42:52]**

[End of recording]

