

**070 Doreen and George Tripp**

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

[0:00:00]

**Interviewer:** Today is the 16th of August, and I am in the home of Doreen Tripp and her father George at 226 Lippincott. Doreen lived here her whole life. Her father moved in when he married into this family, and your mother lived here pretty much her whole life.

**Respondent 1:** Yes.

**Interviewer:** Okay. So I would like the two of you – just introduce yourselves [0:00:30] and tell me...

**Respondent 2:** I was married before I went overseas.

**Interviewer:** You were married to Mrs. Tripp...

**Respondent 2:** Yes.

**Interviewer:** ...before you went...

**Respondent 2:** Before I went overseas. My oldest daughter was born when I was in Holland overseas.

**Interviewer:** And what year was that?

**Respondent 2:** She was born in – well let's see.

**Respondent 1:** A year-and-a-half older than I.

**Respondent 2:** All right. We were married in '44, [0:01:00] so it would be '45.

**Interviewer:** Your daughter was born in 1945.

**Respondent 2:** Yes.

**Interviewer:** Okay. And Doreen, what year were you born?

**Respondent 1:** 1947.

**Interviewer:** Okay. And you've been here since 1947. Now you were saying earlier, you said, George, that your wife's family lived here and you got married in 1944 and you moved in here.

**Respondent 2:** Well I was in the army...

**Interviewer:** Right.

**Respondent 2:** So I didn't really move in here until I come home from overseas.

**Interviewer:** **[0:01:30]** And tell me what you know of when your wife – when your wife was a child, and she lived here with her family, who built the house? Who lived in the house?

**Respondent 2:** Mr. Smith....

**Respondent 1:** Mr. Smith was...

**Respondent 2:** ...built these – 24 and 26.

**Interviewer:** What year?

**Respondent 2:** In the middle teens.

**Interviewer:** So about 1915?

**Respondent 2:** It would take about 1915, somewhere in that bent.

**Interviewer:** Wow. Your family has a very long history in this **[0:02:00]** house.

**Respondent 2:** Yes.

**Interviewer:** I just want to interrupt briefly because I think we should have it on tape. Would you please tell me how old you are now?

**Respondent 2:** Me?

**Interviewer:** Yes.

**Respondent 2:** [Laughs] Ninety-seven.

**Interviewer:** Ninety-seven.

**Respondent 2:** Ninety-eight in the 20th of January next.

**Interviewer:** Beautiful. Okay. I just think that should be on the record. Doreen, did you want to say something?

**Respondent 1:** No. I just got to tell him how [0:02:30] sharp he is, and he does a lot of things around here.

**Interviewer:** Yeah. Certainly your mind is beautiful.

**Respondent 2:** Well I've slowed down an awful lot. [Laughter]

**Respondent 1:** He always says that, but I just admire him because he planted – we just had a fresh tomato for supper that he pulled from the garden.

**Respondent 2:** We had a few beans that I brought in from the garden. The squirrels eat [0:03:00] the bean plants – all up but two, so we just had a few beans left.

**Interviewer:** That's annoying. [Laughter] That's annoying.

**Respondent 1:** But for him to, you know, plant it...

**Interviewer:** Right. I agree with you. He's a fabulous ninety-seven-year-old.

**Respondent 1:** Yes.

**Interviewer:** Can you hear me? Am I speaking loud enough for you?

**Respondent 2:** Hm?

**Interviewer:** Am I speaking loud enough for you?

**Respondent 2:** Oh yes. Yes.

**Interviewer:** Thank you. Okay. So if you can tell me a little bit about what you know of the early years, approximately 1915, [0:03:30] what was happening that your wife told you about her growing up here?

**Respondent 2:** Well no, she didn't tell me much about growing up here, no. So I can't tell you too much about things back then. All I know about on the street was when I come home from overseas.

**Interviewer:** And that was 1945.

**Respondent 2:** Yes. Just before Christmas.

**Interviewer:** Uh-huh.

**Respondent 2:** [0:04:00] And I've been here ever since.

**Interviewer:** Can you tell me a little bit about – Doreen, please, I'm speaking to both of you.

**Respondent 1:** Well I do remember – I do remember a guy ringing a bell and going down the street to cut our knives.

**Interviewer:** Oh yes.

**Respondent 1:** And the ragman, I think they called him. I remember that. I remember the bread being delivered door-to-door, and it was Wonder Bread, and I remember milk [0:04:30] being put in the – and the cream was on top of the milk and it was in glass bottles, and it was delivered in the door before grocery stores, and it was fresher. I remember that.

**Interviewer:** And how were these people getting – moving through the streets? What were the vehicles of you...

**Respondent 1:** Was there any horses when we had the milk delivered?

- Respondent 2:** Yes. There was three ice people [0:05:00] delivering ice on this street when I come home from overseas. One was with horse vehicle, and two was with little trucks.
- Interviewer:** I would think that using horses to deliver ice, it could really begin to melt.
- Respondent 2:** And then of course the milk was delivered by a horse-drawn vehicle.
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh. Uh-huh. And where [0:05:30] – where were the horses kept? Do you know? Somewhere around here?
- Respondent 2:** Oh, well Mrs. Smith had a – Harvey. Harvey had a horse that...
- Respondent 1:** It was in the back.
- Interviewer:** So the horses were in the back here?
- Respondent 1:** Yeah. My mom's brother, I didn't know this, had horses in the back in where they keep – where [0:06:00] you normally keep a car.
- Interviewer:** So those horses were the delivery horses as far as you know.
- Respondent 1:** Well maybe not for delivering milk, but whatever mom's brother did, they kept horses in the back. So I didn't even know that. I'm finding that out today too because dad doesn't talk a lot to me, so I don't know.
- Interviewer:** Yeah. So that would have been – we are now on Lippincott.
- Respondent 1:** [0:06:30] Yeah.
- Interviewer:** On the west side, and we're south of Harbord.
- Respondent 1:** Uh-huh.
- Interviewer:** And that's where your uncle had horses.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah. Well he must have did some deliveries and something that he had a horse or horses.

**Interviewer:** Mm-hm. Mm-hm. Well those are some very interesting memories that you have. Anything else? So you talked about deliveries. What else are some – what are some of the other memories that you have of your childhood in this neighbourhood?

**Respondent 1:** Well what I liked is the different cultures. Like, it started off with the [0:07:00] Jewish culture. I like different cultures, and of course I'm very in favour of Jewish. We have the rabbi that lives across the street, and oh, they're so good to me. And of course I'm really interested in the Jewish, well, culture. And then of course it was Jewish, and then it was Ukrainian. Jewish, Ukrainian, Polish – no, Italian, Polish.

**Interviewer:** Now were all these at the same [0:07:30] time? Or one followed the other?

**Respondent 1:** No. It was – well mainly a Jewish culture first, and then Ukrainian, because they bought the house next door. They were Ukrainian. And Italian, and then Portuguese. So I don't know what it is now, but I think it's Vietnamese a lot, but that was the main culture that I remember.

**Interviewer:** On Lippincott Street.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** South of Harbord.

**Respondent 1:** Yes.

**Interviewer:** [0:08:00] Okay. And what's your family heritage?

**Respondent 1:** Well I just know that mom came from England and...

**Respondent 2:** Mom's father. Your mother's father came from England.

- Respondent 1:** Yeah. Mom's father came from England, and mom's mother, I know, was – what was it? Kitchener? Or?
- Respondent 2:** Chesley.
- Respondent 1:** Chesley.
- Respondent 2:** She was born up in [0:08:30] Chesley. That's up not far from Owen Sound.
- Interviewer:** Mm-hm. Mm-hm. And what's your heritage? Where did you grow up? Where did your parents grow up?
- Respondent 2:** Oh, my parents – if you know Simcoe County, Tiny Township.
- Interviewer:** Yes.
- Respondent 2:** All right. We farmed in Simcoe County in Tiny Township.
- Interviewer:** And you grew up on the farm?
- Respondent 2:** Yes.
- Interviewer:** What kind of farm was that?
- Respondent 2:** [0:09:00] Well it was actually a dairy farm because that's before the Hydro came in. We milked cows by hand.
- Interviewer:** Oh, of course.
- Respondent 2:** Then we got into the ice business. My brother...
- Interviewer:** That's the picture. Dad developed that ice machine.
- Respondent 2:** That's me behind the machine, cutting ice off in Georgian Bay.
- Interviewer:** Oh my god. [0:09:30] I'm going to make a copy of that picture before I leave.
- Respondent 1:** But he developed that himself.

- Respondent 2:** That's the first ice-cutting machine that I made up for cutting because before that you had a big saw and you drove it up and down by hand, so...
- Respondent 1:** And he developed that himself.
- Respondent 2:** So I...
- Interviewer:** So you were an inventor.
- Respondent 2:** Well, as everybody said, I was the lazy one in the family. There was five boys in our family. My [0:10:00] sister was the oldest, and then there was the five boys. I was the third in the family, and I'd done anything that nobody else wanted to do because it was always easier.
- Interviewer:** Or maybe because it was harder. Why would they not want to do it? You were probably doing the hardest jobs.
- Respondent 2:** No, I used to do all the – when the boys went out to do the morning chores, I sit in by the stove [0:10:30] in the wintertime and I'd darn socks. [Laughter]
- Interviewer:** I'll bet your mother appreciated the help.
- Respondent 2:** Well, of course she was – five boys, she had too many socks to darn, and I was able to sit by the stove and while they'd done the morning chores before breakfast, and while she was – my mother was getting breakfast ready.
- Respondent 1:** See, and that motor that he made, that's from a car motor. Dad invented that himself.
- Respondent 2:** Well no. I just [0:11:00] stuck it together.
- Respondent 1:** But still...
- Respondent 2:** I made a better outfit after that, but I haven't got a picture of it. But it was to save work that I – and...

- Interviewer:** That's right. To make it more efficient for you.
- Respondent 2:** Yes, it was.
- Interviewer:** Yeah. But you created it. You invented it.
- Respondent 2:** Well there was other people had ice-cutting machines. I had saw one that a fellow had made at Wasaga Beach.
- Interviewer:** [0:11:30] Mm-hm.
- Respondent 2:** And so that's why I made up this one. Anyway, that was – my brother delivered ice, and my sister – brother, that's next to me, younger than me, when we first put in an icehouse at the beach at Woodland Beach for – they delivered ice and milk. We had thirty – we had milk cows.
- Interviewer:** [0:12:00] Oh, so it was a big far.
- Respondent 2:** And my mother could milk three cows while I was milking one.  
[Laughs]
- Interviewer:** So she was a good farmer.
- Respondent 2:** Oh yeah, she was a good...
- Interviewer:** Let's come back to our time here. I just want to ask one more question. Where did your family come from before that? Do you know?
- Respondent 2:** Oh, now I'm not sure whether they came up from New York State, or [0:12:30] whether they'd come up from Pennsylvania.
- Interviewer:** Okay. So quite a few generations were in North America is what you're saying, because if you're ninety-seven and the older generations were already in North America, is what we're talking about.
- Respondent 2:** Oh yes.

- Interviewer:** Yes. Okay. That's what I was wondering.
- Respondent 2:** Yes. They had farmed – well, my father was born in **[indiscernible 0:12:54]** Township. That's in Simcoe County.
- Interviewer:** Okay. Now, while you were **[0:13:00]** answering the door, Doreen was talking to me about the different waves of people who lived in this neighbourhood.
- Respondent 2:** Oh yes.
- Interviewer:** So I'd like to ask you the same question. When you started living here and what your recollection is of the different groups who lived here and then moved away.
- Respondent 2:** Well, right across the street where there's a Jewish family now, there was a Jewish family **[0:13:30]** lived there, and next door was the Silvers. There was the old parents, then there was three daughters. They were grown up, my age I guess, and one brother. He worked for the Silvers downtown at – oh, they were in the – if you want to rent suits and that.
- Interviewer:** Oh okay.
- Respondent 2:** **[0:14:00]** And he would – Silver, man there – worked for **[indiscernible 0:14:04]** downtown, and down there.
- Respondent 1:** Sid Silver? There was a...
- Respondent 2:** Sid Silver.
- Interviewer:** There was Silver's Rental and they rented a lot of them.
- Respondent 1:** Yeah. Sid Silver. I remember that, but I didn't...
- Interviewer:** Formalwear.
- Respondent 1:** Yeah, but I didn't know they were related. I never thought they lived across the street and they were related.

- Interviewer:** Yeah. Okay. So instead of going into the specifics, if you could just think of generally, so you're talking about you had Jewish neighbours.
- Respondent 2:** [0:14:30] Yeah.
- Interviewer:** And the different groups. Can you recall that?
- Respondent 2:** All right. The woman two doors down, she was a black lady. She was a midwife.
- Interviewer:** Oh.
- Respondent 2:** And she had two daughters that are – I guess it was two daughters and a son, but I just knew the two daughters when I was working, after I'd come home from [0:15:00] overseas. I just was home about a month when I started working for the TTC.
- Interviewer:** Is that what you did for many years?
- Respondent 2:** Thirty-one years.
- Interviewer:** Oh.
- Respondent 2:** First fifteen on night shift, eleven until seven-thirty in the morning.
- Interviewer:** And what did you do for the TTC?
- Respondent 2:** I was – first year, I was sweeping cars. Sweeping streetcars.
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh.
- Respondent 2:** And then [0:15:30] I got on to night emergency where anything that tied streetcars or, at that time, they had trolley coaches or trolley coaches up. We had a truck and we'd go out and get things cleared, or the best we could. Or if the streetcar – it wasn't fit for an operator to operate it, I could either fix it on the road, or I could operate it into the [0:16:00] division to...

- Interviewer:** So you were good mechanically.
- Respondent 2:** Well I was mechanically-minded, yes.
- Interviewer:** Yes, yes.
- Respondent 2:** So...
- Interviewer:** So is that what you did your entire working life, working for the TTC?
- Respondent 2:** Yes. I was thirty-one years with them. The last fifteen years I was on electrical work on the subway cars out on Greenwood. So.
- Interviewer:** So you were there for three **[0:16:30]** decades, but you had variety in what you were doing.
- Respondent 2:** Oh yes. Very much so. Yes.
- Interviewer:** Yeah. How old were you when you retired?
- Respondent 2:** I was – let's see. I guess I retired when I was sixty-two. Yes. I'd be sixty-one or sixty-two because at that time, I had poor health.
- Interviewer:** You had poor health and you're ninety-seven. [Laughs] Seven-and-a-half. **[0:17:00]** [Laughter] Oh my god.
- Respondent 2:** Well I had a hernia, and I always had diarrhea. [Laughs]
- Interviewer:** Oh, that's...
- Respondent 1:** Don't want to put that in. [Laughter]
- Respondent 2:** I shouldn't put that on tape.
- Respondent 1:** Too late. We have it. We have it. [Laughter]
- Interviewer:** But you've lived a long life, and you are living, and you're in good shape.

**Respondent 2:** Well...

**Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah.

**Respondent 2:** I just take one day at a time.

**Interviewer:** Yeah, well.

**Respondent 1:** He said his breathing was bothering him today, [0:17:30] so he does have – some problems, but he does really well for some problems.

**Interviewer:** Yeah. Since you've lived in this house, has it been the two of you and your two daughters? Were there any other people, whoever lived here with you?

**Respondent 1:** Yeah, when mom – that was before you got married. We had a roomer.

**Respondent 2:** Oh no.

**Respondent 1:** No?

**Respondent 2:** Your mother and her sister had roomers after I got married.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah?

**Respondent 2:** Yeah.

**Respondent 1:** Can you [0:18:00] imagine this?

**Interviewer:** Whoa.

**Respondent 2:** They rented the flat upstairs out.

**Respondent 1:** And there was only one bathroom.

**Interviewer:** So four of you lived on this level...

**Respondent 2:** On the third floor.

- Interviewer:** And wait a minute, your mother's sister was also living here.
- Respondent 1:** Yes.
- Respondent 2:** Yeah. She was the oldest. Eva was the oldest, Hilda was the youngest, and Eva was the oldest. Two women lived together.
- Interviewer:** Okay. So the four of you – your mothers...
- Respondent 2:** Yeah. I had three daughters.
- Interviewer:** Oh, [0:18:30] three daughters?
- Respondent 1:** Yeah.
- Respondent 2:** The one daughter, my oldest daughter lives in Midland. Mrs. Smith.
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh.
- Respondent 2:** She went back to Smith name again, and my youngest daughter, Mrs. DeRush, lives in Cambridge.
- Interviewer:** And you're the middle daughter.
- Respondent 1:** Mm-hm.
- Interviewer:** Just the way he's a middle son.
- Respondent 1:** Mm-hm.
- Interviewer:** Yes, yes.
- Respondent 2:** Yeah.
- Interviewer:** So you were a lot of people living under this roof.
- Respondent 1:** Mm-hm.
- Interviewer:** As you say, Doreen, with one bathroom.

- Respondent 1:** Yes. Still one bathroom.
- Interviewer:** [0:19:00] There's still – and what about kitchen? Did everybody use this kitchen? Or was there a separate...
- Respondent 2:** No, the second floor. The people that – they had the kitchen on the second floor.
- Interviewer:** Okay. So you used one bathroom but they had their own kitchen.
- Respondent 2:** Yes, they had their own kitchen.
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh.
- Respondent 2:** The bathroom for everybody was on the second floor up here.
- Interviewer:** Do you remember it feeling crowded or difficult? Or not?
- Respondent 1:** Well I – you don't remember those things when you're younger because you're so [0:19:30] resilient when you're younger, so you just take it in stride, especially when we had a cottage that had a water pump, and we had to heat everything up on a wood stove and have coal oil lamps.
- Interviewer:** Is that what you had here?
- Respondent 1:** We had coal here. We had to shovel coal here at one time.
- Respondent 2:** Yes.
- Interviewer:** So they would put it into a big bin and you had to shovel it into the furnace.
- Respondent 1:** Well they opened...
- Respondent 2:** One section of the [0:20:00] basement here, that when we got the coal in in the fall, we'd get eight tons put in the basement.
- Interviewer:** Eight tons?

- Respondent 2:** This place isn't very well insulated.
- Interviewer:** Yeah, I'll bet. Yeah.
- Respondent 2:** And so it takes quite a bit of coal with that. Now of course with the gas heating...
- Interviewer:** Do you remember when you changed it over?
- Respondent 2:** **[0:20:30]** It was changed over just about the time you were born, I guess.
- Respondent 1:** 1947.
- Interviewer:** 1947. So you have no – you didn't see the coal.
- Respondent 1:** I remember. I remember a little bit about the coal. I don't know whether – yeah. I remember though because I remember the shoveling and Eva having to – oh, we have to get ready for the coal. Even at that young age, I don't know what age, **[0:21:00]** I remember all about the coal.
- Interviewer:** But that was a big transition time then when you changed from coal to gas.
- Respondent 2:** Oh yes.
- Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah.
- Respondent 2:** Yes. Yes, we have the three units on gas now here. The hot water, the furnace, and the stove.
- Interviewer:** Mm-hm. And who's living here? Now it's the two of you.
- Respondent 1:** Just the two of us.
- Interviewer:** Okay. And you're not rattling around. It seems to me that **[0:21:30]** you use it quite comfortably.

- Respondent 1:** Yes.
- Interviewer:** The two of you.
- Respondent 1:** Yes.
- Interviewer:** You talked a little bit about the different ethnic groups. What about languages? Did you hear different languages on the street?
- Respondent 1:** Yes. I would pick up, like I'd say, "I don't want any gefilte fish."
- Interviewer:** Oh. [Laughs]
- Respondent 1:** "No more gefilte fish." That would be – that was my...
- Interviewer:** That was your Yiddish.
- Respondent 1:** Yeah, this was my Yiddish. And then Ukrainian. **[Indiscernible 0:21:55]**.
- Interviewer:** So you picked up phrases **[0:22:00]** from different languages.
- Respondent 1:** Yes.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent 1:** Yeah. And of course, my hands were Italian. Oh, my goodness.
- Interviewer:** Oh that's – and what did you just say in Ukrainian?
- Respondent 1:** I think – I'm trying to remember now. I don't know.
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh.
- Respondent 1:** In Ukrainian.
- Interviewer:** But it's funny how you use your hands to – that's how you spoke Italian.
- Respondent 1:** Yeah, yes. With my hands. Yes.

- Interviewer:** So you're saying that through the years, you did hear a lot of – [0:22:30] you heard other languages.
- Respondent 1:** Yes, yes.
- Interviewer:** And what schools did you go to?
- Respondent 1:** I went to King Edward, but I also went to a special school, Sunnyview for people with disabilities.
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh. Uh-huh.
- Respondent 1:** Yeah.
- Interviewer:** And did you play with the children in the neighbourhood at all?
- Respondent 1:** Not so much because at that time, they weren't versed to disabilities, so no.
- Interviewer:** Can you tell me what your disability is?
- Respondent 1:** There's eight forms of [0:23:00] cerebral palsy and I have one form. Mine isn't as bad as some, but there's eight forms of cerebral palsy and I've got one of the forms of cerebral palsy.
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh. So you're saying that that prevented you from just going onto the street and playing with the other kids.
- Respondent 1:** Yes, yes. Because, you know, people didn't – they don't understand it that well now, but they really didn't understand it then.
- Interviewer:** Right. And are your sisters in [0:23:30] good health without something like cerebral palsy?
- Respondent 1:** Oh, they seem to be. I mean, Cathy doesn't like getting older, and I think part of it is – but it's just like everybody getting older, right?
- Interviewer:** Mm-hm. Mm-hm.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** And did your sisters bring friends into the house? Or was this house too crowded?

**Respondent 1:** I don't – well I think Barb did. I don't think I did as much because I didn't have that many friends at that time.

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

**Respondent 1:** So I remember trying to play hopscotch, [0:24:00] you know? [Laughs] As a kid. You know, that's the beauty, you know, where TV didn't interfere because there wasn't any.

**Interviewer:** That's right. Yeah.

**Respondent 1:** And so you made up your own games, you know, and all that sort of thing, so that was an advantage.

**Interviewer:** Yeah. The children that your sisters played with, or the neighbours, my question is how did people get along? People from different backgrounds and ethnic groups.

**Respondent 1:** [0:24:30] I think they got along better than they do today. That's my – because I don't know. What do you think, dad?

**Interviewer:** Yes, yes they did.

**Respondent 2:** Yeah. Nobody got angry and ready to hurt someone, you know, when I was growing up.

**Interviewer:** And did you feel that way? People got along better at that time than now?

**Respondent 2:** Oh yes. Oh yes. Well, people back when I was growing up, [0:25:00] they depended on each other more.

**Interviewer:** Oh. Can you go into that in a little more detail? In what ways?

**Respondent 2:** Well, like when I first came home from overseas, there was a Scotsman lived next door, and one time his – I had the car here from – a family car from up north, and his car wouldn't start, [0:25:30] so I told him to get him started, and when I told him to get him started, when it started, he said, "All right, how much do I owe you?" I said, "We're next door neighbours." I said, "Maybe someday I'll have to get you to tow me to get me started." "Oh no," he said, "I'll pay you now." And he says, "If you need a tow sometime, you'll pay me."

**Interviewer:** [0:26:00] Oh, so he wanted it to be a business deal.

**Respondent 2:** Yes. He was a Scotsman. [Laughter] Nice fellow, but people were like that, you know? It was – when I grew up, you see, I grew up on a farm and for all of the year you went to different people's places thrashing.

**Interviewer:** Mm-hm. The farmers. You helped each other.

**Respondent 2:** [0:26:30] Yeah, you helped. You went into the help with the [indiscernible 0:26:35], the syndicate, they might say, and a stream tractor to – the cleaner for cleaning the grain and that, and of course I didn't get much education because I said I didn't need an education for following a team of horses [0:27:00] behind a plough. So I only got part of a public school education.

**Interviewer:** But you learned to read and to write.

**Respondent 2:** Yes. I do a bit of it.

**Interviewer:** And to do some arithmetic?

**Respondent 2:** Yes.

**Interviewer:** Yeah.

**Respondent 2:** And then of course, I worked part-time at a garage in Elmville as a mechanic, learning mechanical work, and worked on the farm, and [0:27:30] so I got a bit of education from working there.

**Respondent 1:** But see, he got his skills from doing it. See, too many people put what the degrees they have – they don't put on the knowledge of what they've learned. Like he learned more mechanical skills and he got his degree in the army. They taught him the mechanical ways and means, and that's where he gets it wrong. See? **[0:28:00]** Because even my mother, she didn't value a lot of things of what they've learned and what they were taught to do because nowadays it's everything what's your degree, not on what you learn and what knowledge you have, and you know, you might have gone to a trade school or not just university, and that's a misdemeanor as far as I'm concerned because there's – I mean his knowledge, you know, it – when **[0:28:30]** he dies, it's going to go and he's got a lot of knowledge. I mean, he's done a lot for the city nobody knows. He was the supervisor for when we have the hollow – I forget what you call it. You know, where they had a big flood?

**Respondent 2:** Oh.

**Respondent 1:** Well he took charge of that. My dad did.

**Respondent 2:** No, just a minute.

**Respondent 1:** Okay. Well that's what I understood.

**Respondent 2:** That's the time when Hurricane Hazel is what she's talking about.

**Respondent 1:** Oh yeah. I couldn't remember.

**Interviewer:** What year was that?

**Respondent 2:** **[0:29:00]** Eh?

**Interviewer:** What year was that?

**Respondent 2:** Not sure what year that was, but all right, I was working the night shift at Roncesvalles and when Hurricane Hazel come along, the night foreman was off on his off days, and I swung for the night foreman. Like I'd done emergency work, but also on his off days I looked after **[0:29:30]** things around the barn. And so that's what

she's getting into, but it was just – I was in charge of things there right at that time, and that was quite a flood.

**Interviewer:** And quite a challenge to be in charge of.

**Respondent 2:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** Yeah.

**Respondent 1:** See, he doesn't realize how important – I try to tell him, you know? I just love listening to – he's got a lot of stories. **[0:30:00]** You just got to pump him to get his stories, but he's got a lot of stories and a lot of knowledge.

**Interviewer:** Well Doreen, I agree with you that people can be – possibly they didn't have a lot of education and they can still be very intelligent and very knowledgeable.

**Respondent 1:** That's right.

**Interviewer:** You don't necessarily need university education or major credentials. You ended up being a mechanic, you invented this wonderful ice cutting machine, and you have thirty-one years of working for **[0:30:30]** the TTC. So it's a different kind of education.

**Respondent 1:** Yes, because in those days they didn't have university anyway. I mean, you know, they figured the factories would always be there and the jobs would always be there. We wouldn't get so fast with technology as we have now.

**Interviewer:** No.

**Respondent 1:** And see, I want people to value who they are and what they've done, and not what they could have done or what they don't have.

**Interviewer:** **[0:31:00]** Yeah.

**Respondent 1:** I like to see what they have.

**Interviewer:** Well, I'm certainly seeing that in your dad.

- Respondent 1:** Yes.
- Interviewer:** What he has accomplished and...
- Respondent 1:** Yes, yes.
- Interviewer:** ...much to be admired and respected.
- Respondent 1:** Yes, and that's what I would like to see people, no matter what their age, is what God has given them now, you know?
- Interviewer:** Yeah. And what they're doing with it. How they're using it.
- Respondent 1:** Yes, yes. How they're using it.
- Interviewer:** I'm coming back to our neighbourhood.
- Respondent 1:** Okay.
- Interviewer:** In terms of who lives here, who **[0:31:30]** has lived here, the kinds of work people have done, we were talking about education now.
- Respondent 1:** Mm-hm.
- Interviewer:** So your father had this very stable job and work life for many years. I'm talking about the socioeconomic makeup of – well Lippincott is the street you know the best.
- Respondent 1:** Mm-hm.
- Interviewer:** So who has lived here in the past? You said that there's the rabbi across the street now **[0:32:00]** and they've been very nice to you.
- Respondent 1:** Yes.
- Interviewer:** So who, from your recollection, who lives here now and who lived here twenty and forty years ago?
- Respondent 1:** Well, my mom's brother lived next door.

**Interviewer:** Yes.

**Respondent 1:** And as I said, the Ukrainian people next door there.

**Interviewer:** And what kind of work were they doing? Who were they?

**Respondent 1:** What kind of work did the Horyluk's do? I don't know.

**Respondent 2:** Well, Bev Smith...

**Respondent 1:** Well he was a [0:32:30] – he did...

**Respondent 2:** Oh yeah, but before I knew him...

**Respondent 1:** Yeah.

**Respondent 2:** ...he worked for Arnold's up the street, the butcher.

**Respondent 1:** Oh yeah, at the corner there was a butcher.

**Respondent 2:** On the other side of the street, the second door down from Harbord Street was a butcher shop, and before he went in the army, he worked for Arnold's the butcher, and then – when the war broke out, he went in the army. [0:33:00] He went overseas just about the time that I went into the army, so back in the mid-'30s, right there.

**Interviewer:** So he was a butcher.

**Respondent 2:** Would have been the '40s, I guess you'd say.

**Interviewer:** Uh-huh.

**Respondent 2:** Yeah, see, I never met him until I was in Holland, and he come up – he was in Belgium just when the war ended, [0:33:30] and I was in Holland, he come up to see me in Holland, and that was the first I'd met my brother-in-law.

**Interviewer:** Oh.

- Respondent 2:** Except the other brother-in-law that had a bookstore down town, he used to visit him quite often when I was in the army here because I put in part of the time in the army down on Nassau Street in an old schoolhouse there. **[0:34:00]** We had trucks, army trucks there.
- Interviewer:** So that was part of your serving...
- Respondent 2:** That was part of my training before I went overseas.
- Interviewer:** Right, right. From years ago during your childhood, or many years ago when you were here, do you remember anybody having any businesses at home inside their homes? Any kind of work?
- Respondent 2:** Well I think Mr. Smith had a business here.
- Interviewer:** That's your father-in-law.
- Respondent 2:** Yes. **[0:34:30]** He – a bigger shop back on 228.
- Interviewer:** A what shop?
- Respondent 2:** Bigger shop. He used to make up his designs for flooring.
- Interviewer:** Oh.
- Respondent 2:** Like in the front hall, you'll see that his design of flooring...
- Interviewer:** So he had a shop of making designs.
- Respondent 2:** Later years, he made up his own.
- Interviewer:** And he worked from the house.
- Respondent 2:** Worked from here. Yes.
- Interviewer:** His home was his business.
- Respondent 2:** Earlier years, **[0:35:00]** he worked for Mr. Eaton. T. D. – Timothy Eaton.

**Interviewer:** Oh. Yeah, yeah. So can you think of other people who had any kind of – that's one good example. Any other kinds of work that people did in their homes from their homes?

**Respondent 2:** I don't know.

**Respondent 1:** Oh, mom's brother had a cartage business next door.

**Respondent 2:** That was later years.

**Respondent 1:** Later years.

**Interviewer:** Yes?

**Respondent 2:** Yes.

**Respondent 1:** And he worked from his house.

**Respondent 2:** Yes. Yes.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah?

**Respondent 2:** He had a [0:35:30] small cartage business and three trucks.

**Interviewer:** Uh-huh. Uh-huh. And so his home was his office.

**Respondent 1:** Mm-hm.

**Respondent 2:** Delivering from his home.

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

**Respondent 2:** Yes.

**Interviewer:** Anything else you can think about that?

**Respondent 1:** Hm.

**Interviewer:** But those are two very strong examples and that was right within your family.

- Respondent 1:** Yes.
- Respondent 2:** I used to drive one of his trucks in afternoons. I'd work nights, then I'd sleep before noon, and afternoons I'd take one of the trucks with just a [0:36:00] small load and deliver around the city, so I...
- Interviewer:** So you were a hardworking man.
- Respondent 2:** Well I liked to fill the time in.
- Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah, yeah. I know now in 2012 these streets are all a maze, you know?
- Respondent 1:** Yes.
- Interviewer:** This north, south – what was it like many years ago? Sixty years ago, [0:36:30] fifty years ago?
- Respondent 2:** What? The...
- Interviewer:** Streets. People going...
- Respondent 2:** Oh. This street wasn't a one-way street.
- Interviewer:** It was a two-way street?
- Respondent 2:** It was a two-way street. Yes. And you see, there was all houses where the playground is at the Central Tech. That was all houses up Lippincott on the west side of Lippincott right up through [0:37:00] there.
- Interviewer:** So the whole way up – so they took down a lot of houses to put Central Tech in then.
- Respondent 2:** Oh yes, they did.
- Interviewer:** A lot of houses.

- Respondent 2:** Yeah, they took down a lot of housing because they took down the houses on Bathurst Street as well as on Lippincott, you see? When they made that playground there because Central Tech back in them years didn't have a playground.
- Interviewer:** So you remember those houses while they were there.
- Respondent 2:** Oh yes, because...
- Interviewer:** Did [0:37:30] you ever – sorry.
- Respondent 2:** Oh, quite a few of the families.
- Interviewer:** You knew people living there.
- Respondent 2:** I knew them. I knew quite a few of the people on this street too.
- Interviewer:** What was it like for them? They were kicked out of their homes?
- Respondent 2:** Well, I guess the city must have – or they confiscated them, I guess you'd call. That's about the size of it.
- Interviewer:** That's how – that must have been how they felt. They were living there, and happily probably.
- Respondent 2:** [0:38:00] Yes. Yes. I forget where the Oakes's moved to. There was two families of the Oakes's up there. They were plummy people.
- Interviewer:** But you remember – you knew some of those people...
- Respondent 2:** Oh yes.
- Interviewer:** ...and you remember when they were forced to vacate.
- Respondent 1:** Yes.
- Interviewer:** Even if they were bought, they still had to leave their location.
- Respondent 2:** Yes.

- Interviewer:** Do you remember some of the things that they said about it?
- Respondent 2:** What?
- Interviewer:** Do you remember anything that they said when they were told that they had to move out?
- Respondent 2:** No, I don't remember.
- Interviewer:** You don't remember that.
- Respondent 2:** [0:38:30] No. No, it was kind of a hush-hush thing when that...
- Interviewer:** I can imagine they were not – maybe it was nice to get paid, but...
- Respondent 1:** That's just the clock.
- Interviewer:** Oh, that's your clock. I thought you had birds.
- Respondent 1:** No, that's a clock.
- Respondent 2:** That darn clock out there. I think it's not the right time. [Laughter]
- Respondent 1:** We've had it for years. He won't get rid of it. It's nothing like...
- Interviewer:** Oh, but I thought you had birds in the kitchen.
- Respondent 1:** No. No, [0:39:00] mom loved birds.
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh. So you had a clock that sounds like birds.
- Respondent 1:** Yeah.
- Interviewer:** But it doesn't tell the right time.
- Respondent 1:** No.
- Respondent 2:** No, that clock has – but anyway.

- Interviewer:** At that time, or through the years since you've been here for so many years, how did people get around? What were the different means of getting from...
- Respondent 1:** Walked a lot.
- Interviewer:** Okay.
- Respondent 2:** Walked a lot, and then of course there was the Harbord streetcar.
- Interviewer:** And [0:39:30] where did that take you?
- Respondent 2:** It had come up Spadina. Yes, it'd come up Spadina, went along over to Ossington, up Ossington along Bloor to Dovercourt, and up Dovercourt to old Hallam Street.
- Interviewer:** To what street?
- Respondent 2:** Hallam Street.
- Respondent 1:** Hallam Street.
- Respondent 2:** Yeah.
- Interviewer:** So it was a good route.
- Respondent 1:** Yes.
- Interviewer:** Quite a long route.
- Respondent 1:** Yes.
- Respondent 2:** Yes. There was a [0:40:00] streetcar run on Harbord.
- Interviewer:** Okay, what else?
- Respondent 2:** And then, of course, when they started cutting down on streetcars, they'd done away with that line.
- Interviewer:** So there were streetcar tracks also on Harbord.

- Respondent 1:** Mm-hm.
- Respondent 2:** Yes. The tracks are filled up. They've just paved over them.
- Interviewer:** Mm-hm. Mm-hm.
- Respondent 2:** On Harbord. In fact, before there was lights there at Harbord and Bathurst, **[0:40:30]** that's before I started working for the TTC really. There was a bit of an accident up there and it took the handrail off the middle doors of a streetcar, and a couple of days the handrail was leaning up against the house there, so I took it and I have it for a handrail.
- Interviewer:** Oh. [Laughs]
- Respondent 2:** But that's before I ever worked for the TTC.
- Interviewer:** Oh, that's a good one. And where do you have **[0:41:00]** it?
- Respondent 2:** For the handrail going up the stairs.
- Interviewer:** Oh, I'll have to look at it before I leave. Or maybe I'll take a picture of it before I leave. That's good.
- Respondent 2:** Yes. It was.
- Interviewer:** Were there a lot of bikes at that time?
- Respondent 2:** Not really, no.
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh. There are a lot of bikes now.
- Respondent 1:** Yeah. I don't know what handrail he's talking about because the handrail going up the stairs I thought he got that from a door. Is that the handrail from there?
- Respondent 2:** Yeah. That's...
- Respondent 1:** Oh.

- Interviewer:** So look how much you're learning today.
- Respondent 1:** See, the thing is he's so smart.
- Interviewer:** [0:41:30] Yeah. And has a lot of life experience.
- Respondent 1:** Yes. So as you start the stairs, that handrail that I thought was a door was what he got from the accident, and that's a lot of years ago and it's sitting there.
- Interviewer:** Well, I want to see it.
- Respondent 2:** Yeah, well my sister-in-law was a fairly hefty woman and she needed a handrail on the stairs. So [0:42:00] that was the handiest thing to put there. [Laughter]
- Interviewer:** Very, very practical.
- Respondent 2:** Yeah. Then after, I'd get working for the same company. [Laughter]
- Interviewer:** I don't know what you have behind the house in terms of a lane because I haven't – I didn't walk around.
- Respondent 1:** Yeah, there is a lane in the back.
- Interviewer:** Okay.
- Respondent 2:** Yes. It's a dead-end lane.
- Interviewer:** Oh, it's a dead-end.
- Respondent 2:** Just opens onto Harbord Street. Doesn't go on to Ulster.
- Interviewer:** Okay. So it's not a through-lane.
- Respondent 2:** No.
- Respondent 1:** No.

- Respondent 2:** [0:42:30] No, it's a – when I came here first, it just came down as far as 224.
- Interviewer:** So just next door to you.
- Respondent 2:** Yes.
- Interviewer:** It was extended then.
- Respondent 2:** Later when the city took it over, then they extended it down so that the people all the rest of the way down has garages on it now.
- Interviewer:** And is it used much now?
- Respondent 2:** Is it used much?
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent 2:** [0:43:00] Used a lot.
- Interviewer:** In what ways?
- Respondent 2:** Well, the people that go to work use it for – and they have their garages to put their cars in. There's an old shed at the back here that I put my car in because I still drive.
- Interviewer:** Oh yeah? [Laughs]
- Respondent 2:** Well I got my license this year for another two years.
- Interviewer:** Oh my god, so that'll bring you to...
- Respondent 1:** But he doesn't drive. He only drives [0:43:30] to go grocery shopping because he can't lift the – he can't carry the groceries to go up to the cottage.
- Interviewer:** Mm-hm.
- Respondent 2:** Well I go every two weeks. I go up to the cottage.

- Interviewer:** You drive to the cottage?
- Respondent 2:** Oh yeah. I like driving on the highway.
- Interviewer:** Oh my god. So you have your license now that'll take you to ninety-nine-and-a-half.
- Respondent 2:** Yeah.
- Interviewer:** And you drive on the highway?
- Respondent 2:** Oh yes. I love [0:44:00] driving on the highway.
- Interviewer:** Fabulous.
- Respondent 2:** I've had a license for over eighty years.
- Interviewer:** Oh. So you were quite young when you got your license.
- Respondent 2:** Eh?
- Interviewer:** Yeah. You were young when you got your license.
- Respondent 2:** Sixteen.
- Interviewer:** Oh.
- Respondent 2:** Yeah. Yeah.
- Interviewer:** So the back lane, people use it for their cars. Was it ever used in [0:44:30] any other ways in your recollection? The back lane?
- Respondent 2:** No.
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh.
- Respondent 2:** It's always used...
- Respondent 1:** Well what about the horses you were talking about?

- Respondent 2:** Well, you see, the people down there, I don't know whether they had a horse or not, but Harvey Smith had a horse here because he took his flowers around with a horse, you know?
- Interviewer:** Oh, so that's another thing that was being delivered. Harvey delivered his flowers with his horse and buggy.
- Respondent 2:** Yes. Yes. [0:45:00] He had a horse.
- Interviewer:** That was your brother-in-law?
- Respondent 2:** That was my brother-in-law. Yes.
- Interviewer:** Did the horse have a name? Did the horse have a name?
- Respondent 2:** Oh gosh, I wouldn't know. I don't know. [Laughter]
- Respondent 1:** Dad doesn't like horses too much because the horse kicked.
- Respondent 2:** About the time that – shortly after I got married, when I'd come home from overseas, he had gone out of the flower business and he was into the bookstore business. And he [0:45:30] had his own place downtown. But before that was when he had the horse, and of course we always had horses on the farm because we had five horses.
- Interviewer:** So they were working horses.
- Respondent 2:** Working horses, yes.
- Interviewer:** It wasn't for going for a ride or jumping.
- Respondent 2:** No.
- Interviewer:** Yeah. Your back garden, how have you used it through the years? What have you had in your back garden [0:46:00] through the years?
- Respondent 2:** Well I usually try to have a little – a few – I tried carrots one year, but the animals eat the carrots off so they weren't any good. Last

year I had good beans, but this year, of course, part of them didn't come up, and the other part except two – the squirrels eat them off.

**Interviewer:** That's annoying.

**Respondent 2:** You know, I guess the racoons did [0:46:30] too, but I just saw the squirrels eating them all and they'd come up with their head. And of course, I have quite a few tomato plants. We had a few beans for summer often.

**Interviewer:** And are you the person that does the gardening? Or do you share that?

**Respondent 1:** I can't do it.

**Interviewer:** So he does all the gardening.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** Planting, weeding.

**Respondent 1:** Well, George next door cuts our grass. George next door is really good to us.

**Interviewer:** Okay. But in terms of...

**Respondent 1:** Yeah.

**Respondent 2:** [0:47:00] I can't put my head down very much because if I put my head down, I...

**Interviewer:** You get dizzy.

**Respondent 2:** ...fall over.

**Interviewer:** Oh okay.

**Respondent 2:** I'm not too stable on my feet, but I get by.

- Interviewer:** You certainly do. I notice after I rang the bell and I was waiting outside that you have a lovely, large front porch.
- Respondent 1:** Mm-hm.
- Interviewer:** Is that something that you have used [0:47:30] much, or not at all? Your front porch.
- Respondent 2:** Oh. Yes, I sit out there once in a while, that's why you see the chair out there.
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh.
- Respondent 2:** I sit and watch the people going by.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent 2:** Used to – before television come along, we used to sit out quite a bit because you knew the people up and down the street and some would stop and have a couple of words, and with the wife growing up on the street, she [0:48:00] knew the older people than I did, you know. Quite a lot of people.
- Interviewer:** So did you sit out with your wife sometimes? Did both of you sit out there together?
- Respondent 2:** Sit out there, yes. We had a couple of chairs. In fact, now I have one there and one out the back. We had two chairs out the front then, and so we'd sit there and watch the people go by, and...
- Interviewer:** And sometimes have conversations with them.
- Respondent 2:** Oh yes.
- Interviewer:** Yeah. [0:48:30] Do you ever use the front porch, or not?
- Respondent 1:** Well I get up at three-thirty in the morning and I usually am out the door at six-thirty, so...
- Interviewer:** To go to work?

**Respondent 1:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** What is your work?

**Respondent 1:** I work for the City of Toronto.

**Interviewer:** And what do you do?

**Respondent 1:** I'm a general clerk.

**Interviewer:** Uh-huh.

**Respondent 1:** Thirty-seven years. November 24th, 1974. I was the first disabled person to work for the city. It hasn't been easy, but I [0:49:00] do it.

**Interviewer:** Tell me what you mean when you say it hasn't been easy.

**Respondent 1:** Well because I have a disability...

**Interviewer:** Yes.

**Respondent 1:** ...people label you when you have a disability, and you have to work harder because you have to be perfect, and it's really hard because you can't be perfect because nobody's perfect. Only God is perfect, so it makes it hard because you have these perceptions that you have to live down, and if you started to work where you work really hard, you have to continue it all the time because there's [0:49:30] no in-between at all, so it's really hard. So – but I like my work, and...

**Interviewer:** And you – sorry.

**Respondent 1:** But as I said, it just means – the doctor told me a long time ago, "If you decide to work for a living, there's certain things you can do and certain things you have to give up," so that was the choice I made.

**Interviewer:** And was it the right choice for you?

**Respondent 1:** Oh yeah. I enjoy my work, and I'm a labour activist, you know, trying [0:50:00] to instill into people that we are people; we just have – we just do it differently. That's all.

**Interviewer:** When you applied for the job, what were the circumstances?

**Respondent 1:** Well it was God-given. What happened was there was a main office on Dovercourt and College, and they had a twelve-plug switchboard. Of course, they don't have it now.

**Interviewer:** Yes.

**Respondent 1:** [0:50:30] And the lady that was on the switchboard got up and just left. And now they don't do it today, but she just got up and left the job. She didn't say goodbye, she didn't give in her – she walked away. And I was learning to work in an office, and so they called me in and said – so I taught myself how to do the switchboard. I'm like dad. If I'm going to learn something, I try to learn it well, and the Bell repairman at the time [0:51:00] showed me everything there is to know about the switchboard, and why it breaks down, and how to work it, and I learned from the Bell repairman. And when it broke down and why it broke down, and – because I always ask questions. Well how can I fix it? How can I make something better? I still work that way where if I'm working with something, well how can I make it better? Where can I put my ideas in? And that sort of thing.

**Interviewer:** And you do have a lovely work record, as your dad has.

**Respondent 1:** Yes.

**Interviewer:** And you have a [0:51:30] similar...

**Respondent 1:** Yes.

**Interviewer:** Very, strong work record.

**Respondent 1:** Yes, yes.

**Interviewer:** And when you applied for the job, was it more difficult for you because of...

**Respondent 1:** My vision? See, I had a retina detachment, so I lost most of my vision out of this eye. I've got lenses in my eyes at the moment because I had them put in because I had cataracts, so I can see without my big, heavy glasses. I had [0:52:00] big, heavy glasses at the time, but it was all a learning – everything's a learning process.

**Interviewer:** And you're willing to learn and to work hard.

**Respondent 1:** Yes. Yes.

**Interviewer:** Well congratulations. Good for you.

**Respondent 1:** But the thing is – but it also means you don't have too many other – what should I say – play areas to do, for lack of trying to – you know, usually you go to work, you do some kind of social activity, and I [0:52:30] do a little bit, but mostly it's – I prioritize what I'm going to do, and it's not always, well I'm going to – you know, the show or whatever because I don't usually like going to the show by myself, so.

**Interviewer:** Mm-hm. So your social life is a little bit limited.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** Yeah.

**Respondent 1:** But that's okay.

**Interviewer:** Yeah.

**Respondent 1:** That's okay.

**Interviewer:** Well I can see that your – I mean I think it's wonderful, the work that you're doing, and I can see that you're proud of what you're doing and you have every right to be.

- Respondent 1:** Yes.
- Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah. I'm [0:53:00] going to come back to your house again.
- Respondent 1:** Yes.
- Interviewer:** Do you have air conditioning in your house?
- Respondent 1:** Yes. We got it on now.
- Interviewer:** Okay.
- Respondent 2:** I just put it on low, so it just takes the heat away, and so...
- Interviewer:** Well you didn't have it in 1945. I'm sure of that. [Laughter]
- Respondent 2:** No.
- Interviewer:** So when did you put it in?
- Respondent 2:** Oh.
- Interviewer:** I mean not specifically. Ten years [0:53:30] ago? Twenty years ago?
- Respondent 2:** About twelve years ago.
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh. Uh-huh.
- Respondent 1:** And I'm really glad. [Laughs]
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent 2:** Well, I was buying a new car and it had air conditioner in it, and so I said, well, I can't have air conditioner in a car if they don't have air conditioner in the house. So at that time, I put the air – got the air conditioner in the house.
- Interviewer:** So you bought a new car at [0:54:00] that age, twelve years ago?

- Respondent 2:** Well I change cars quite often because I don't take care of them. They rust out. [Laughter] They don't wear out; they rust out. [Laughter]
- Interviewer:** Do you remember anything about garbage collection? Anything noteworthy is what I mean. Anything we should talk about.
- Respondent 2:** It's funny when you mention that because that's what the guy was – called me to the door when the doorbell – [0:54:30] he was saying something about the garbage collection, and I couldn't understand too much. "What are you saying?" That's what he was there to find out, what I found out about the garbage collection. I said as far as I'm concerned, it's okay, so that's...
- Interviewer:** That's funny. So you've already talked about it today.
- Respondent 1:** Mm-hm. Well I do know privatizing garbage isn't a good idea because the people who have privatized way up there, they didn't even get delivery. They didn't come, [0:55:00] so a lot of people lost out on their garbage and it really smelled really bad. So there is something to say about public garbage. Mind you, I'm a union activist, but what I've heard from – because I'm on the board of our local, and what I've heard happening isn't very nice. So – I mean we've lost – we were really special growing up. We had a lot of privileges growing up.
- Interviewer:** What are you [0:55:30] referring to?
- Respondent 1:** Well, like there was garment factories, and clothes were made really well at that time. You didn't have things wear out as fast. The appliances were well put together, they were made here, they lasted a long time. We've got a pot here that mom had that's real iron, and it has – the handle hasn't come off, and it's still – we do our [0:56:00] potatoes in it, and that's from, I guess, what? 1945, that pot?
- Respondent 2:** I don't know.
- Respondent 1:** But it's – I mean I just...

**Interviewer:** It's strong.

**Respondent 1:** It's strong. And it was made here, you know? And you know, my mom worked for Nielsen's chocolate factory that was on Gladstone.

**Interviewer:** Yes, yes.

**Respondent 1:** You know? And I just – I don't know. There was just something nice about, you know, you sat around the table and you – [0:56:30] mom made things homemade, and you know, not pies from the store. She made them right from scratch, and pies, and cakes, and she cooked every day. She worked really hard also, you know? And it was hard. It was hard work, you know. Dusting, because you had to dust – when you had coal there was a lot of coal dust, so she did a lot. She worked really hard in the hard. Really, really hard. And you know, that – [0:57:00] and also, they had a conscience is the only thing I can think of of what you did, you know? Like you took interest in doing a job well, you know? Even if it was sweeping the floor, or cleaning the toilets, you know? That wasn't something to be ashamed of. That was something you did, and it was really important. And today, people are choosy and a lot of the younger [0:57:30] ones – I'm not saying a lot. I don't know. But it seems to me they don't understand about , like, pulling a file out of a filing cabinet. And you know, just having the work ethic that we were brought up on.

**Interviewer:** And they're being fussy.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** Yeah.

**Respondent 1:** But I just find that there were so many beautiful things that we took for granted, you know, that was right here.

**Interviewer:** Yeah. Yeah.

**Respondent 1:** You know? [0:58:00] And Borden, you used to have Borden milk place right at Spadina. The Borden. And you used to have

milkshakes, you know, there, and they made their milk and dairy, Borden Dairy right at the corner of Spadina and...

**Respondent 2:** Just north of College.

**Respondent 1:** ...just north of College, you know? Like...

**Interviewer:** Talk to me a little more. You've just transitioned, and I'd love to spend a few minutes, the two of you, telling me about stores in the neighbourhood.

**Respondent 1:** **[0:58:30]** Oh. I just – oh, I'm telling you. Like Harbord Bakery, they've been here since I was a little kid and I just love their soup. They make it right there, and their bread, and their cakes, and their pies, you know? Just wonderful. And of course, I remember the butcher store that dad talks about at the end of the street, you know?

**Interviewer:** Where was that?

**Respondent 1:** It was a butcher. Arnold's Butcher Shop right at the corner where the Pizza Gigi is.

**Interviewer:** Oh okay. On Harbord.

**Respondent 1:** **[0:59:00]** Yes.

**Interviewer:** Okay.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah, yeah.

**Interviewer:** Oh.

**Respondent 1:** Right on the corner of Lippincott and Harbord, that was a butcher shop.

**Respondent 2:** No, it wasn't on the corner.

**Respondent 1:** Oh, it wasn't on the corner? I thought that...

- Respondent 2:** No, it was the second building down...
- Respondent 1:** Oh okay.
- Respondent 2:** ...from that corner.
- Respondent 1:** Okay.
- Respondent 2:** On Lippincott.
- Respondent 1:** All right.
- Interviewer:** But that's now a house, I think.
- Respondent 2:** Yes, it is a house now.
- Interviewer:** Okay. That was the butcher and it became a house.
- Respondent 2:** It was a butcher shop.
- Interviewer:** What was on the corner beside the butcher?
- Respondent 2:** I can't really think of what [0:59:30] was on the corner there now because they – most corners have changed. They weren't...
- Interviewer:** They weren't pizza shops.
- Respondent 2:** ...they weren't for restaurants back then. They changed in later years.
- Interviewer:** So what were some of the other businesses?
- Respondent 1:** Markham where Honest Ed's had – mom had always talked about Honest Ed's house that he had, you know? His bargain house on the – I think it was [01:00:00] on Markham. Now it's big Honest Ed's.
- Interviewer:** Right.

- Respondent 1:** And Honest Ed's was the first bargain place, and there always was lined up. It was full all the time. And...
- Interviewer:** And on this side, I mean I'm thinking mainly on our side of Bathurst.
- Respondent 1:** Okay.
- Interviewer:** East of Bathurst.
- Respondent 1:** Well I remember Woolworth's. You know, wood floors at Woolworth's?
- Interviewer:** Where was that?
- Respondent 1:** It was on Bloor Street. Bloor and Bathurst. The old Woolworth's. Woolworth's chain store, W-something Woolworth's. And it had wood floors. I remember the wood floors.
- Interviewer:** Yeah. [1:00:30] Uh-huh.
- Respondent 1:** You know, and the black bottle candies, and you know, different things like that. Like to me, it was just – and everybody was friendly. It wasn't over packed. People were good. I remember the Woolworth's store. And there was a Kresge's too. I think it was across the street. Kresge's was across the street from Woolworth's. But I think Kresge's was across too. And going downtown and there's a Kresge, and the Kresge's no longer in existence, but there was a [1:01:00] Kresge's, and there was a Woolworth's store.
- Interviewer:** And what other stores on Bloor or Harbord?
- Respondent 1:** I'm trying to think what was on Harbord besides that, but I do remember the Kresge's and I do remember Woolworth's, and I remember downtown there was a big Kresge's and Woolworth's besides Eaton's.
- Interviewer:** Did they all have wooden floors that you described?
- Respondent 1:** Yeah. Oh yeah.

**Interviewer:** As standard?

**Respondent 1:** Yeah. And you know, where you went to get maybe combs and that, I mean these [1:01:30] were solid wooden – well what would you call them? Just like a grocery store maybe. Things like bins, and I remembered barrels. Barrels, you know? Really strong barrels. Even the rain barrels. I remember the rain barrels, you know?

**Interviewer:** So would they collect the rain?

**Respondent 1:** Yeah, they used to have rain barrels out. I remember the rain barrels.

**Interviewer:** And people would collect the water.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** And what would they do with that water?

**Respondent 1:** I don't – I think [1:02:00] they probably did their gardens, I would think, but I just remembered the wooden – oh, it was beautiful. I loved it, and you'd get, you know, dresses, and they'd have, you know, oh and you stop at Woolworth's, you'd stop and have a soda or something. You'd sit on the stools and have a soda or something down at Bloor and Bathurst.

**Interviewer:** I remember – I'm from Montreal and I remember Woolworth's. I loved their birthday cakes that they would make. [Laughter] Very junky and [1:02:30] very tasty for my palate.

**Respondent 1:** Yes. Yes.

**Interviewer:** But you remember they have a counter with the swivel seats.

**Respondent 1:** Yes.

**Interviewer:** And you could get a soda.

- Respondent 1:** Yes. Yes. And well see, I wore special shoes and braces, and I could hear my feet on the wooden floors, you know? I loved it. I loved it. And you could get everything there. I mean five and ten cents, you know, you'd get things. You know, bubblegum, and – but that was the nice, you know – and especially when it [1:03:00] was here and people did it here. So much employment here through all the little things you did, you know? I just – I loved that.
- Interviewer:** You have lovely memories of the stores that were in what we call Harbord Village.
- Respondent 1:** Yes.
- Interviewer:** Any recollection of – do you have any recollection of the stores in the neighbourhood?
- Respondent 1:** No, not really. No.
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh. So Doreen, you're the one with the memories.
- Respondent 1:** Well probably Barb, my older sister, would have a lot more, and [1:03:30] she's got a lot more pictures. She remembers a lot more, but I do remember that, and to me that was very exciting.
- Interviewer:** I think there were some movie theatres.
- Respondent 1:** Oh yes. I remember at Bloor. They had the Bloor Cinema right beside Woolworth's and I used to go there. In fact, I got in there for twelve years old and I was in my twenties. I thought that was – because I looked so young.
- Interviewer:** [Laughs] And you saved money.
- Respondent 1:** Yes.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent 1:** [1:04:00] But that – as I said – oh, and there was a hat shop. There was a hat shop on Bloor too.

- Interviewer:** All in that same block?
- Respondent 1:** Yeah.
- Interviewer:** Oh. Those you don't see anymore, or very, very few.
- Respondent 1:** Yes.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent 1:** Yes.
- Interviewer:** Do you remember when they wanted to bring the Spadina Expressway south? Do you have any memories of that? They wanted to bring a highway right through.
- Respondent 2:** Oh yes.
- Interviewer:** Do you remember? What do you remember about that?
- Respondent 2:** [1:04:30] Well I remember that – what the heck was his name? Cut the ditch off at Eglinton Avenue. Hm.
- Interviewer:** But they wanted to bring it south and there was opposition.
- Respondent 2:** And I thought they should bring it south because as I tried to tell the guys when I was at work, we were talking about [1:05:00] they were cutting the ditch off, you know? And I said, "Well, Toronto, if it ever came a blitz that things were different here, there was no place to get out of Toronto downtown." I said, "If they'd run that through to Spadina, the ditch – like they did the subway, if they brought it through [1:05:30] underneath the Casa Loma stables, if they had brought through – and that all connected with Spadina, there would have been an opening from downtown out." All right. A fire. A big fire took in or anything like that. But no, it was cut off.
- Interviewer:** Oh. I mean there was a big, big battle around that.
- Respondent 2:** Oh yeah.

- Interviewer:** But you [1:06:00] feel that the fact that they stopped it abruptly at Eglinton was the wrong decision.
- Respondent 2:** I figured it's the wrong thing to do. When they were going underneath anyway with the subway...
- Interviewer:** Oh, so you're saying it should have gone underground.
- Respondent 2:** Yes. The subway went underground, see?
- Interviewer:** Yes.
- Respondent 2:** If it went and came across the park on the south side of Eglinton, down through under the park, [1:06:30] and all they had to do was just raise the ground up there and then go under Casa Loma stables, and then hook onto Spadina Avenue, it would have been a right through.
- Interviewer:** Right, right.
- Respondent 2:** A 400 for downtown.
- Interviewer:** So you do remember that, and you have a strong opinion about it.
- Respondent 2:** Yes. That was when I was working at Greenwood.
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh. Yeah.
- Respondent 2:** When that happened.
- Interviewer:** What [1:07:00] about the University of Toronto? Do you have any thoughts about what it's like for us to be just adjacent to the University of Toronto?
- Respondent 2:** I don't know much about universities.
- Respondent 1:** No, University of Toronto is part of Harbord Street.
- Interviewer:** Just being our neighbour is what I mean.

- Respondent 1:** Yeah, yeah. Because they have, you know, Spadina and Harbord is owned by the university now.
- Respondent 2:** Yes, I know that.
- Respondent 1:** Yeah.
- Respondent 2:** Over there. But I don't know what you put over there.
- Respondent 1:** I just don't – [1:07:30] well I don't like the university where they've got that, you know, at Spadina where they got that thing coming across. I like – what I like is the old masonry work. I don't like the – the same as where they ruined the ROM. They spent millions of dollars and it looks awful.
- Interviewer:** Yeah, the Crystal.
- Respondent 1:** Yes. It looks terrible.
- Interviewer:** So you love the old, beautiful...
- Respondent 1:** Old, beautiful mason work and the artwork that nobody knows how to do now. See, and they never thought before they pulled things down [1:08:00] that to leave it and be historical about it. They pulled it down too fast and didn't think.
- Interviewer:** So you're saying at Harbord and Spadina where they have the University of Toronto, that sign...
- Respondent 1:** Yeah, the grad house. It's an eyesore.
- Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah.
- Respondent 1:** But see, I'm old-fashioned. I like things, you know, that are creative and look beautiful with wood, you know?
- Interviewer:** There's much more design in all of these older...

**Respondent 1:** Yeah. It's not just, [1:08:30] like, the cement is just cement. And not only that, it is ruined in a couple of years and it doesn't even look new. Like even the library at St. George and...

**Interviewer:** And Harbord.

**Respondent 1:** ...and Harbord, it – to me, that's my opinion, that it's very ugly, you know? There's nothing beautiful about all these new, modern buildings. And of course, putting all these condos up, it looks like New York. There's [1:09:00] no distinctness to Toronto with it being like that. Like in fact, I wrote a letter to McGuinty about wanting to build condos around the parliament buildings. That's terrible. So I wrote a letter saying this shouldn't be.

**Interviewer:** Good, good.

**Respondent 1:** You know?

**Interviewer:** Thank you.

**Respondent 1:** But that's – when there's certain things I'm strong about, I will write a letter regardless, you know? I will do that because I think it's important because we can't lose what we've got. Like [1:09:30] Collingwood, they built up a bunch of condos and all around there was beautiful. The birds are gone. And this was more than a couple of years ago I went through there because my girlfriend lives in Owen Sound, and they never thought, and it looks terrible. They could have spaced it out and made it still part of the country and they haven't. We don't want Toronto, especially the older part of Toronto ruined because we have something beautiful here.

**Interviewer:** Yeah. Well I know our residents' association is fighting for [01:10:00] exactly what you're talking about. We feel the same way.

**Respondent 1:** Yes. I'm not part of it, but I know.

**Interviewer:** I am part of it. [Laughs]

**Respondent 1:** Well anyways, that's good because I feel strongly about keeping the neighbourhood the way it is.

**Interviewer:** Yeah, well we're on your side, or you're on our side.

**Respondent 1:** That's right.

**Interviewer:** What about Kensington Market?

**Respondent 1:** I haven't been. I know it's really crowded at Kensington Market. I remember when it was the Jewish Market. It was – oh, yes. I remember that so well. [1:10:30] I loved the Jewish Market.

**Interviewer:** I notice it has been called that.

**Respondent 1:** Yes.

**Interviewer:** And has your family used it at all?

**Respondent 1:** I think mom did because she did a lot of shopping and stuff, so I think mom did a lot of shopping in the Jewish Market and around, you know, and downtown. But yeah, like to me, it'll always be the Jewish Market. Not the way it is. I mean it's a little overcrowded, but to me it's still the Jewish Market.

**Interviewer:** The Jewish Market.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** It's a nice way to think of it.

**Respondent 1:** Yes.

**Interviewer:** And do you have any [1:11:00] comments about Kensington Market?

**Respondent 2:** No. I should know a bit about it because when I was driving in the army, we're in a schoolhouse just on Nassau Street just west of Spadina, so I should know a little bit about it. I guess I was in there for about a year, truck driving for the army. [1:11:30] The old Grace

Hospital on Huron Street and College was the army headquarters at the time.

**Interviewer:** Whoa. Oh my god. Okay, slow down. The old Grace...

**Respondent 2:** Hospital...

**Interviewer:** ...on Huron and...

**Respondent 2:** College, on the north side of College right on the corner of Huron was the old Grace Hospital, and during the war, they had [1:12:00] officers and such.

**Interviewer:** Oh my god. I mean that's not part of our neighbourhood, but it's so interesting. I had to just make sure I had heard you correctly. What about currently, now, and over the past twenty, forty, sixty years – the safety of this neighbourhood?

**Respondent 1:** I always thought it was safe, but not the last couple of years, but I don't think it's safe anywhere really. [1:12:30] I think it's because the stability is gone. That's what it is. Like even the younger people, the stability and the work, and the stability of having a God in your life, that really is stable and they've taken a lot of things away. Like the nativity scene is gone from the old City Hall. Oh, my grandfather built the floors in the old City Hall, and then Eaton's. But the old [1:13:00] City Hall floors, hardwood floors, my mom's father built those.

**Interviewer:** Wow. Lovely.

**Respondent 1:** Yes. He put those floors – that was his work. But yeah, I think the stability has to come back, and stability of families have to come back and that's what's missing. Like really taking the time to – importance of having, like, dinnertime and where, you know, you're not, "I've got to go somewhere," but just stay and talk to one another, and talk [1:13:30] to how you feel and what you're doing, and that, that has to...

**Interviewer:** And listen to one another.

- Respondent 1:** Yes. And really listen, not just be polite.
- Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah. So when you attach that to the topic of security and safety in our neighbourhood...
- Respondent 1:** Yes. I think that's the only way it'll come back because, see, other cultures are coming in and they don't – I don't know if they have the stability of the family. It all depends on **[1:14:00]** how they've been brought up and what their ideas are, but if we can keep the stability in the Harbord neighbourhood, that's what it is. It could still be better if we work together and talk once in a while to each other. I mean I'm very blessed with George next door. I say hi to him once in a while, and Neil. Neil next door. He's really nice. And of course, my neighbours across the way, **[1:14:30]** so I feel really blessed because, you know, I can call them up and say hello, or if I see them, you know, George is going to work when I'm waiting for the bus, and you know, he says hi every once in a while.
- Interviewer:** And I'm very grateful to Neil because he's the one who gave me your names and your phone number, so I'm – it was Neil. I started doing these interviews a few months ago.
- Respondent 2:** Oh yes.
- Interviewer:** And I'm looking for people who have been here for about **[1:15:00]** forty years or more, and Neil gave me your names. So I'm very grateful to him because I am just enjoying our conversation.
- Respondent 1:** Yeah. Well dad is bringing up stuff that he doesn't think he has anything to say, and all of a sudden he talks about the Grace Hospital and different things like that.
- Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah. Well, I think we're reaching the end of our conversation today, but when you knew I was coming and when you might have wondered what I might be asking about, **[1:15:30]** did you have any thoughts about what you might want to tell me about because you've been here for so long?
- Respondent 1:** Well, I've never thought about it, to tell you the truth. Or I would have gone up and looked through the old photo album. I never

thought about it because I was just thinking all the experience and knowledge dad had, so it didn't go beyond that. So I didn't widen my thought process on it because I was just thinking about my dad's experience.

**Interviewer:** Oh. [1:16:00] So you were thinking he would be the spokesperson.

**Respondent 1:** Yes. Because I thought he had all – like I've heard stories from him and I just enjoy listening, so I just figured dad's got a lot of stories and I'm willing to sit and listen to his stories.

**Interviewer:** Well I'm glad that I encouraged you to speak up because you had a lot to contribute.

**Respondent 1:** [Laughs] Thank you.

**Interviewer:** Now George, what I just asked is is there anything that you think would be worthwhile for us to talk about that I didn't ask about today?

**Respondent 2:** [1:16:30] I don't think so. No.

**Respondent 1:** Well, what about Massey Ferguson had a big plant. Dad worked for Massey Ferguson. It's no longer in existence.

**Interviewer:** Where was that?

**Respondent 1:** It was on Spadina, wasn't it?

**Respondent 2:** No, no.

**Respondent 1:** Oh?

**Respondent 2:** Where I worked for them was down at just at King and east of Dufferin.

**Interviewer:** Okay. So that's not in our neighbourhood.

**Respondent 1:** No.

**Respondent 2:** [1:17:00] Massey Ferguson had a big company there that turned out farm machinery and that, and while I was on Nassau Street in the army, of course I was truck driving and that in the daytime, but most of the time my nights were free, so I worked for Massey Ferguson at nights.

**Interviewer:** You worked a lot. You worked a lot. [1:17:30] Yeah.

**Respondent 2:** Well I helped put combines together, such as that. So.

**Interviewer:** Well you're a very youthful ninety-seven-year-old man. You really are.

**Respondent 2:** As everybody said, I was always after the almighty dollar.

**Interviewer:** And you worked for it.

**Respondent 2:** They were hard to get.

**Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah. Well I would be interested [1:18:00] if you have the time – not at this moment, but if you could look through some old albums, if you have some old pictures, I would come back.

**Respondent 1:** Okay. I will do that. And I will see if Barb can send some old pictures of what the house looked like. I can ask her.

**Interviewer:** House and people. I mean the characters who lived in the house.

**Respondent 1:** Yes, yes.

**Interviewer:** So I'm about to turn this off, but before I do, I just want to say thank you. Thank you, Doreen. Thank you, George. It's been a total pleasure. Thank you very much.

**Respondent 1:** You're welcome. [1:18:30]

[01:18:32]

[End of recording]