

# “Having Our Say”

Voices from the Cape Verdean Community

Bill's grandfather had a unique start to his whaling career:



“As a young man, he was on the dock where the whaling ships were, and he was curious—as a young boy, he was about twelve or thirteen years old. And he asked them if he could go on board to look at the boat. ...so he went on board, and lo and behold, the ship left...And he sailed out; he was out to sea for about three years.”

– William do Carmo

William do Carmo  
August 19, 2010

Interview with William do Carmo  
Conducted August 19, 2010  
By Ann Marie Lopes

## ***Beginning of File***

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK. It is Thursday, August 19, 2010. The interviewer is Ann Marie Lopes, and I am here with –

WILLIAM DO CARMO - Bill DoCarmo. 41 Alva Street, New Bedford, Massachusetts.

ANN MARIE LOPES - And your birth date?

WILLIAM DO CARMO - 9/11/29.

ANN MARIE LOPES - 9/11.

WILLIAM DO CARMO - That infamous day.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yes, that was.

WILLIAM DO CARMO - Not only was it the time of the Depression for the country, but following that, we had the 9/11 destruction of the World Trade Centers.

ANN MARIE LOPES - But the most significant part of 9/11 was that you were born.

WILLIAM DO CARMO - Right.

ANN MARIE LOPES - You were born.

WILLIAM DO CARMO - Yup. Mm-hmm. I am a Virgo.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Now. As I mentioned to you, I'd like to talk to you about your family, and your family's extensive connection with whaling. I know you have some really good stories about meeting people all across the country. So wherever you want to jump in there, and I'll just ask you questions as we go along. How's that?

WILLIAM DO CARMO - Well, I grew up in a family that was connected with the sea. They came over here from Brava, Cape Verde. Somehow or other they landed in Nantucket as whalers. As a matter of fact, my grandfather on my maternal side was struck by lightning and killed in Nantucket. The only person there.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Sheesh.

WILLIAM DO CARMO - He's buried in St. Mary's Cemetery. So his lifespan was very short. He had only been married about three years when this happened. But other members migrated here to New Bedford as part of the whaling industry. From there they, you know, went on as long as they could, and then found -- other workers, the whaling industry began to die out, phase out, and they went on to other industries up there. But the interesting part that I found about their connection with the sea was that when I was a young man, or child, I was very close to my parents, ah -- grandparents especially. Because we had a farm in Dartmouth, and of course we had two homes in New Bedford, so we had like three homes in the family. And I spent a great deal -- about ten years on a farm in Dartmouth with my grandparents, who didn't speak English, didn't write, or know anything about -- you know, they only spoke Crioul. That's how they got by. But they were very, very knowledgeable. And my grandfather used to tell me stories, as we got through working on the farm, about whaling. About the sea, and all these things here. And how he was -- I guess not kidnapped, but I guess something similar. As a young man, he was on a dock where the whaling ships were, and he was curious -- as a young boy, he was about twelve or thirteen years old. And he asked them if he could go on board to look at the boat. And so they invited him on board. So he went on board, and lo and behold, the ship left. And so he was, like, hijacked or -- (laughter)

ANN MARIE LOPES - Is this in Cape Verde?

WILLIAM DO CARMO - Yeah. And he sailed out; he was out to sea for about three years. And while he was out there, he was like a cabin boy -- he got close to the captain of the ship, or the master, and he sailed with them for many years, to Hawaii and other places. And they finally landed in New Bedford.

ANN MARIE LOPES - What was his name?

WILLIAM DO CARMO - John DoCarmo Senior.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK.

WILLIAM DO CARMO - Subsequently he met my grandmother, whose name was Ethelvina Rocha DoCarmo --

ANN MARIE LOPES - Here in New Bedford?

WILLIAM DO CARMO - Here in New Bedford, and they married. Now, she came over on a schooner, so I don't recall the name of the schooner she came on. But they started a life here. And then my other uncles, they were all whalers too. It was Amancio -- we used to call him Amos. There was Henrique; we used to call him Henry. And then there was Antone, and Antone was the one that ended up in Hawaii.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So let's back up just a little bit and talk about your grandmother.

WILLIAM DO CARMO - My grandmother -- like I said, she always worked the farm. Both she and my grandfather, after he left the whaling industry, they both worked the farm. And they produced all the food we needed for us to subsist on. But it was just wonderful, you know. So I was very, very close to them, listening to these stories that they were telling me about the old country and other things. It's really a treasure trove that you have in your grandparents when you get close to them and listen to them, you know?

ANN MARIE LOPES - Mm-hmm.

WILLIAM DO CARMO - So -- and I was the only child out of ten children that was that close to my grandparents, and very, very close to them. It was a wealth of information and knowledge. And over the years, out of curiosity, I kept digging into the family past and finding out about them. And I came across a fellow in Nantucket -- I was doing some research in Nantucket, and this fellow owned a place, a business, named the Four Winds. A Jewish fellow. We got to talking, and he says, "You know," he says, "I may be able to help you." And so I says, "Yeah," thanked him and all that. Because I met him at the museum on Nantucket, the whaling museum at Nantucket. I had given him my name, and so he decided to do some research. A few weeks later I get a package, and it's all about my uncles. The ships that they were masters on, the ships that they sailed --

ANN MARIE LOPES - That's great.

WILLIAM DO CARMO - My uncle that got lost at sea, he was a master on the Pedro Viella, and he and his old crew, they lost their lives at sea. My other uncle, Henrique, the *Standard Times* interviewed him, and he tells about his life at sea and all these things that he talks about. And I have the articles all in here. I have the records, the log book, and the photographs of them as well.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh, that's great.

WILLIAM DO CARMO - So it was very, very interesting.

ANN MARIE LOPES - That's great. Tell me some of the stories that they told you.

WILLIAM DO CARMO - Well, they were telling me about, you know --

ANN MARIE LOPES - "They" being your uncles?

WILLIAM DO CARMO - Yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK.

WILLIAM DO CARMO - They would tell me about how, you know, lonely it was at sea, and how dangerous it would be. And how they would go out on these small boats, you know, to get the whales, capture the whales, and how at times, you know, the whales would destroy their boats and the men would die. They'd kill them. Or they would -- the whales would come out of the water and toss the boat over and things like that. And they suffered a lot of casualties while they were out at sea, you know, because it was very dangerous work. And, of course, they felt they had to do it because they had to support their families and a livelihood. But, unfortunately, they talked about, you know, how they were taken advantage of, because oftentimes they would come into port. And some of them wouldn't even get paid.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Not paid at all?

WILLIAM DO CARMO - No, not paid at all. And they'd been out to sea two or three years. And this is why they ended up leaving after, because the people that owned the boats were taking advantage of them. You know, the master of the boat always got paid, and they took out what they called, I guess, the ship's portion of whatever the profits were. And the seamen were the last ones to get paid, if there was anything left over.

ANN MARIE LOPES - The worker bees.

WILLIAM DO CARMO - Right.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yeah.

WILLIAM DO CARMO - So like I said, after awhile, they got discouraged and just decided to leave. And they ended up, you know, going into the textiles and farming industries and that there --

ANN MARIE LOPES - So was your father a whaler, too?

WILLIAM DO CARMO - No, my father was a merchant seaman.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK, yeah.

WILLIAM DO CARMO - But he wasn't a whaler.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Merchant seamen -- they have to do a dangerous job without any way to protect themselves.

WILLIAM DO CARMO - They did, right. Because they did that during the wartime and all of that, which was -- and they got no credit at the time. They weren't recognized by the government as being veterans or anything like that.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Right.

WILLIAM DO CARMO - But man, there were thousands of them died because the German vessels were submarines were just torpedoing them, you know, and things like that. It's just awful. And so it's unfortunate what they went through, but they didn't have much choice at the time, you know. And it's like, when I'm working with my grandparents on the farm, you know, you worked from sunup to sundown. There was no nine-to-five job. You know, you worked as long as you could, take advantage of and try to get as much productivity each day as you could. Between planting and then harvesting and things like that. And so it was constant laboring all the time. But getting back to the whaling, when I'd ask my grandfather "What did you do when you didn't have much to do?", you know, they said they would do scrimshaw. They would carve all these whalebones with ships and other drawings, things like that. And he made quite a few. I know we had over a dozen pieces that he had carved. Unfortunately, later we found out what was happening, but it was a little late. As they passed on, you know, at that time you had the funerals at home. The wakes were at home. So people would come and visit, and they would steal these things, you know. Because they weren't that large a piece, you know, like a whale's tooth or something like that. And they just started disappearing. And you know where they ended up? They ended up in the whaling museum. The whaling museum was buying this stuff from them, from the thieves that were stealing them. So the whaling museum was complacent. They were technically involved with the stealing that was going on.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Well, at least it ended up in the museum. I don't like how it ended up there, but --

WILLIAM DO CARMO - Right.

ANN MARIE LOPES - You know.

WILLIAM DO CARMO - Yeah, but it was hot stuff.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Mm-hmm.

WILLIAM DO CARMO - (laughter)

ANN MARIE LOPES - So -- it's good that it's been preserved.

WILLIAM DO CARMO - Yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So your grandparents were here, and then how many kids did they have?

WILLIAM DO CARMO - They had... on my paternal side, there was two. My father and my Aunt Aurora. On my mother's side, there was one. She was...there.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So the uncles that you were talking about -- those were your grandfather's brothers?

WILLIAM DO CARMO - My grandfather's brothers, yeah.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - Did they come over here and got involved in whaling, or were they in Cape Verde when they got involved in whaling?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - One was in Cape Verde -- the second one was in Cape Verde when he got involved; that was Amancio.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - And did he want to get involved, or was it one of those "Let me look at the ship..."

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - No, it was -- no, no. He volunteered --

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - OK.

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Volunteered to go. And then there was Henry, who also was on a ship; he came to America on a schooner, and then he joined the whaling industry. And he went out to sea for several years. I have a nice article on him being interviewed by the *Standard Times* where he talks about his adventures and things like that. And then on my mother's side, my uncles on her side were masters of whaling ships. One owned a large portion of a whaling ship, and the other one -- that Louis Frank -- Frank was a master of the *Pedro Viella* that's the one that sunk in the storm, and ship that lost a whole crew. They died. And Lewis, I think, had three or four ships that he was master of.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - Can you explain what "master" is?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - A master was like the equivalent of the captain of the ship, in other words. He was a top.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - Why did they call him master and not captain? That was just the term?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Well, that was just the term used in the seafaring industry. You know, that -- I think the term may have come from the English or, you know, way back there when they had all these ships that were chasing pirates or things like that.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - Mm-hmm.

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - So the person that was like the captain was called the "master" there. And everybody had to kowtow to the master, because he called the shots. You know, he was the person -- he did the navigating and everything else to take them from port to port.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - Did your uncle do other things?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Oh, yeah. They did what they called the try pots, where they melted down blubber, (inaudible) to get the oil. They did carpentry work, on the -- what were they called? -- shipwright work. They learned to fix the boat when things happened or they got damaged, stuff like that. They learned to do repairs. They

learned to repair sails. They learned to prepare the rigging on a ship. They were very proficient seamen when they were out at sea, because they had to learn all these things, because they couldn't just allow one person to do it. You had to have -- everybody had to know it, because if something happened to one or the other, they had to have somebody that knew what to do to fulfill those roles.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - Now, were any of them involved with anything to do with the water in Cape Verde?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - With the water in Cape Verde?

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - Yeah, like -- well, I know the whaling ships came from New Bedford and Nantucket and stopped there --

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Yeah, they went over to replenish their --

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - Would stop there.

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - -- their supplies, right. They took on water and in some cases food products to sustain them while they were out at sea. And they would go island to island when they were running low and see what they could get. You know, some places they'd go looking for turtles and other things. Anything that would keep them alive and keep them going. Because, you know, they didn't have no grocery stores.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - (laughter)

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - So they had to go to Mother Nature, rely on Mother Nature to get their food supply. And a lot of the islands provided them things, like Hawaii and other places provided them with everything they needed. With fruit bread and pineapples and things like that that kept them going. You know, they filled their caskets, you know, these are like barrels that they made -- they filled those with water, you know, this was what kept them, you know, with the fresh water and the cooking and all that. Whatever they needed.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - Do you have a favorite story that your grandfather told you?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Do I have a favorite story? He told me so many stories. (laughter)

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - You're very lucky. You're very fortunate to have been able to talk to him.

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Yeah. The story that I found interesting was the one when, as a child, when, you know, he was -- not hijacked, but, you know, when he went aboard the ship, what happened. Because it a (inaudible) that his curiosity was piqued by these ships when they pulled into port. And so all the kids would run down to see these ships when they'd come in. And so in a way, they didn't realize that they were being kidnapped, when you come down to it. But it was being done in a very nice way, so to speak, where, "Yeah, you can come on, boy. You can both come on." And they didn't know any better. Matter of fact, it was one of the things that always

bothered my grandfather, was that after he got to this country, like three years later, and his father thought he ran away.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yeah.

WILLIAM DO CARMO - His father would have nothing to do with him --

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh.

WILLIAM DO CARMO - -- because he thought he ran away. For years -- it must have been maybe fifteen years -- his father would have absolutely nothing. He just cut him off. And it bothered him tremendously.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yeah, that -- that must have.

WILLIAM DO CARMO - So -- as a matter of fact, he went to his grave with that. Because he never saw his father again. And so it was a sort of a sad, touching story. Very emotional.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Mm-hmm. That's very sad. What island is this?

WILLIAM DO CARMO - From Brava.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Your mother's side's from Brava too?

WILLIAM DO CARMO - My mother is also from Brava. Same with my uncles Louie and Frank. They were all from Brava.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did your grandmother and grandfather on your mother's side -- when did they come over?

WILLIAM DO CARMO - I've been trying to find that out, because I've been trying to find out what this... They came over on a schooner, but I haven't been able to find the name of the schooner that they came over. But my mother, she came over when she was five years old.

ANN MARIE LOPES - With her parents.

WILLIAM DO CARMO - Yeah, with her mother and father, right. Landed in Nantucket. And then they migrated, like I said: after my grandfather got killed, they came to New Bedford. And then my grandmother remarried, another man from Brava, and she had three additional -- she had four children. She had three daughters and a son.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did they know anybody when they came over?

WILLIAM DO CARMO - No. No.

ANN MARIE LOPES - They just decided to come over because things were rough over there?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Yeah. And one of the other interesting things is when people came over, my grandmother used to put them up, because she owned three houses. You might say that the DoCarmos were wealthy, because they owned all this real estate, but that was my grandmother. She was a very smart woman. She invested her money in real estate. Like, she bought the farm in Dartmouth, and she bought a house... My father built the house in Dartmouth on the farm -- it was just vacant land. And then she bought two houses in New Bedford, side by side.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - Where in New Bedford?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - On First Street, right where the Gomes School is.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - Oh, OK.

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - As a matter of fact, one of the trees is still there that was on that property -- it's still on the Gomes School lot.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - Oh, that's neat.

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - And then Judge Leighton lives right around the corner from us, on Howland Street. And so Judge Leighton and my mother and the Judge's sisters were all very close. They were, like, maid-of-honors in their weddings and all of this other stuff here too.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - So how did she manage to get all this money? What did she do?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Well, my grandfather, like I said, after you got out of the wilderness, if you work for Kelley's Boatyard in Fairhaven, and he became like a skipper on fishing vessels. And so that's where he earned his money there. And then they were out to sea one time, and this is a story my grandfather was telling me: they were in a storm, and the mast broke and fell on top of him and broke his legs. And so that ended up his fishing career. So from there, he ended up going into Quisset Mill, which is down on Prospect Street, and it was a cotton processing/manufacturing plant where he worked there for the rest of his life part-time. And then the rest of the time was on the farm, until he died. He died on the farm; he had a heart attack right after President Roosevelt. Because I remember I was coming from school, and I remember crying going on in the house, and I didn't know what it was. And so when I went in, my mother told me, "Your grandpa just died." So...

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - But you said it was your grandmother that bought the houses.

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Yeah. Well, she handled the money.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - Oh, so she saved the money.

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Yeah. Well, she handled the money.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - I see.

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - And so, like I said, she was very wise woman. You know she was the controlling person in the house. She was the matriarch, is the term they use, where everything my aunt -- I mean, my grandmother said, everybody jumped.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - (laughter)

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - (laughter) She was the boss. And I was the pet.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - You were her favorite?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Yeah, I was her favorite.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - Oh, that's nice.

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Because I'm the only one that spent time with her on the farm. Everything she wanted, "Yes mamai," I'd go and I'd help, because that's what we called her -- Mamai. Her name was Ethelvina, but it was always "Mamai this," and my grandfather was "Papai". And my grandfather, now, is white. He's from Portugal, from Lisbon. And also from Braga, Portugal.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - This is your mother's father?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - No, this is my father's parents.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - Oh, OK. OK. I'm a little confused.

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Yeah, so there was like intermarriage right there, way back then. You know, and this is like in... I think it was in early nineteenth... 1902 or something right there, way back in that time. And so it was interesting, because they had a beautiful marriage. No problem.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - It was probably less of a big deal back then than it was in the sixties.

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Yup. Because the laws prevented it -- in this country did, you know, not permit that, because there was all of these problems. But they didn't care. They didn't know anyways. They never became citizens of this country. They were here as immigrants, and never became citizens. Because they didn't know how to write, read, or speak English.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - Did they go back home at all?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - No, they stayed here until they both died, in this country. Yeah. They were property owners. And also one of the interesting things was as people came over from the old country, my grandmother used to put them up until they found a job or a place to stay. So she has, like, a little like a rooming house. We had one house she used as a rooming house, and she would put them up.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - Did she run the rooming house, or did she have someone else run it for her?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - No, she just -- like, if you came in, you needed a place, she'd say, "OK, there's a room over there, you go, you take it, and you get a job." She didn't charge them anything, she just let them live there.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - Oh, that was nice.

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - She helped them. Sometimes she'd give them money, or would help them financially, things like that. And people just loved her. Because she was a very good-hearted person.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - She sounds like it.

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Yeah. But, yeah, she was stern in several ways, you know that she was a disciplinarian, and she expected certain things. And that was it. And she always taught me that hard work will never kill you, and that if you keep working, Billy, like you work here on the farm, one day you'll be a rich man. Parents -- as I say, grandparents were a treasure trove right there. And I was the only child to benefit from all that from out of the whole family.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - That's kind of sad.

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - It's because they were so close to me. Well, but I volunteered to work with them. The other kids all ran away from work.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - Yeah. (laughter)

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - (laughter) I was the only one that would work all day long and things like that, you know, with no shirt on, just in my trousers or shorts, and out on the farm. I'd be shoveling manure, doing all these things here. We had cows. We had chickens. We had goats. We had several produce trees -- you know, apple trees, pear trees, peach trees. And we planted everything, from cucumbers, lettuce, you know, you name it. Potatoes. We did it all. And did it so much that local stores, you know, Cape Verdean stores in New Bedford here, and a lot of the Jewish merchants would come to the farm and buy all our produce. So that's how she made money. And of course, I was the one lugging all these bushel bags of potatoes and things. And they would come and I'd load them on their trucks. And of course they had a horse and buggy. That's the way it was, too. A lot of people didn't have cars: they had horse and buggy. They'd come and put it on the wagon, and they'd bring it into the city. Like Mr. Pildis, Mr. (Kurahan?), Ziemens, all these people, all these Jewish people used to always be over at the house, dealing with my grandmother. Remember, she was -- my grandfather just stay there smoking his pipe.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - (laughter)

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - And my grandmother used to smoke pipe too. She had a parrot that used to stay always on her shoulder; a little green parrot, I think it was some kind of African parrot. Small, little, cute. The parrot was so close to my grandmother. She'd fall asleep, the parrot was still there, and then the parrot would go into its cage, eat, come back out, sit on her shoulder. And she'd pet with the parrot. It was so

interesting, you know, to see the love and the caring that was always part of her. Very interesting.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - What did they do for fun? They were hardworking people. What did they do for fun?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - They didn't do anything, because we didn't have any radio. We didn't have telephones. We didn't have anything. So all we'd do is that my father used to play the guitar. I played the guitar. And we would sing. Most of the songs that we would sing is songs from the old country; I don't even remember them now. But, you know, there was little songs that we would sing. And we would have a nice time. We'd dance up there. We had our own little entertainment center - the family. When we ate, everybody was at the table, and so you'd be talking and everyone would be pitching in with what they did and stuff like that.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - So you ate together.

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Yeah. We ate together, talked together, you know, and everybody slept under the same roof, and we had a wonderful life.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - Who cooked?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Well, my mother and my grandmother. They both cooked. My grandmother would teach my mother how certain dishes were made and stuff like that. Because we didn't have any gas in the house. We didn't have any electricity; it was all candles. I used to have to burn wood to heat the house in the winter, it was freezing; we'd be burning wood. I would be the guy chopping the wood. And the funny part is that we had a barn in our house in New Bedford, too. In the backyard. We'd bring two cows from the -- (laughter) and we'd keep them in the backyard. So every morning I'd go out and milk the cows and get milk. We didn't have any pasteurization then, and so you just drank the whole milk. And it was good. And then we had chickens: we had a chicken coop in the backyard, too, and we'd have maybe about a couple of dozen chickens in there, and in the morning I'd go out and get all the eggs that there from chick. And so it was wonderful, like I said. We had our own way of producing food.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - Mm-hmm.

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - And then when we would harvest the food, like in September or October, we'd bring a lot of it to New Bedford. We'd put it in the basement, where it was damp. And when my mother wanted cucumbers or something, she'd go down there and get whatever she wanted: carrots, that there... Food was right there, always in the house.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - Mm-hmm. So that saved a lot of money, because --

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Yeah. And then the other stuff, like I said, all these other merchants would come and buy all this stuff here. And we used to make our own wine. My grandmother used to make her own. We had a Concord grapevine -- a big one, bigger than this house here. I'd go pick all the grapes out there and bring it and

my grandmother would mush it, go up there, squeeze it. We'd put it through this fine cloth to get the fluid out of the grapes up there, and we'd make wine. Come Thanksgiving Day, my grandmother had all these jugs, like, gallon jugs. She'd give them to all the neighbors up there for Thanksgiving Day.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - Oh, that's nice.

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - The wine she made. Yeah. And she used to make sarsaparilla soda up there.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - How do you make sarsaparilla soda?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Oh, I don't know. (laughter) But she used to make that. And like I said, we were self-sufficient. Like, almost like, say, at least 99% self-sufficient. We didn't depend on having to go to the store or anything. When she went to the store to get something -- well, she didn't even go. She called the owner -- But she'd say "I want a bushel of sugar." He'd bring a whole bag of sugar up there. She'd have a barrel --

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - A bushel is a lot of sugar.

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Yeah. Yeah. And she'd put the sugar all in the barrel, put the cover on it there. Rice, the same way: they say "arroz". He'd bring a whole bushel bag of rice, put it in one of these big containers looked like a garbage can, and that's where they had all the stuff. So all winter long they had food.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - I think that I'd like to have met your grandmother.

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Mm-hmm. And she was a beautiful woman, and smart as a whip. With, you know, no education. None at all. And my grandfather, same way. But they were survivors. They knew the important things: how to survive.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - Hard workers.

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Yeah. They'd have their camorça, you know, that they would use, put it in their coffee --

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - What is that?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - It was like a fine powdered substance that -- I don't even know how they made it, but I don't know if it came from Majorca or what, but they got it the ground and all that, they would put a couple of teaspoons in their coffee, and it would make it, like, thick, because I tried it several times. And that's how they used to do it; that was like one of their drinks that they drank. They knew how to make, like, moonshine, they knew definitely how. (laughter)

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - Grog? Was that grog?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Yeah. The stories go on, on, and on, you know, until they passed away, you know. It was very, very interesting -- it brought the family close together --

kept the family tight. I had a very, very good childhood. Hard childhood working, but other than that, it was a good childhood.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - You learned a lot.

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Yeah, learned a lot, you know. She always pushed me, she always told me even though she never had an education, "You got to go to school, you go to do this, you..." She was all for education, realizing that she never had that chance. I always listened to her. You know, she used to tell fortunes. Yeah, she'd call fortunes with the cards. Yeah, she laid them all out -- I don't know how to do it -- but she used to do all this, like gypsies or something, you know? (laughter) Knew how to read the cards, the tea leaves, and those *contatorg* you know, those little black pins with the white spots on it, she had stuff she would do with that.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - She didn't make them, but she had stuff that she could do with them, like...?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Yeah, to tell fortunes and all this stuff. (laughter) She was always like a fortune-teller, yeah. She was very, very interesting. My grandfather on this side, he was kind of quiet -- his life was centered mostly around the sea and farming, and so you know, he didn't have too much to say. After the sea, you know, he told me all the stories about Schrimshaw, about whaling, and all these things, the hardship they had, tremendous, a lot of hardships, and how they got along out there. And at that time, there was a multiracial, the crews, so it wasn't like, you know, it had been a few years ago, but everybody got along because they had to get along -- they had to depend on each other, you know, because they were all on the same ship, they all slept on the same bunks and all the stuff here, 'cause they'd have to exchange bunks when they're on watch and stuff like that, they'd have to steer the ship, and things like that.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - Did he ever talk about how it felt to be on something that was so close all the time?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Well, it was congested, but like I said: they accepted things as they were because they didn't have much choice, and they thought they were heading for a better life. So, for the time being, they just accepted it, you know? They made the most of it, right their, their life. And then when, you know, got to this country, they'd heard about, you know, it's a new country and opportunities, and all this and this is what attracted them because on the islands, there was so much famine and other problems were going on in all the Cape Verde Islands. People wanted to leave there because the ones that were staying were dying off young, so they just had -- matter of fact, my mother's family still owns land in Brava, but I don't know if it's still -- I know it's in their name, but I don't know if they still have ownership. Where she's never gone there to claim it, you know? So the government might have taken it over; I don't know.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - So when your grandfather was on a whaling ship, he would stop -- or the ship would stop -- in all these other places?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - All these other islands, yeah.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - Not only the islands, but other places around the world, right?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Yeah.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - So, why didn't he get off at any of those other places?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Well, because now he's learning something. He was like the cabin boy, and so he was learning navigation, he was learning, the captain treated him well, and he had food, and he had these things that he never had before. And then a young man - the -- excitement of going out, catching whales, you know. It was an exciting life for them, despite the hardship. But they were taught that in order to get ahead, you had to work -- work hard -- and so they accepted that life. Today, we look at it and say "You're out of your mind." (laughter) But if you find yourself in that same situation, you wouldn't go along with it? You didn't have much choice. You had a chance to leave the islands and prosper -- at least, you had a lot of hope -- or stay in the islands with the chances that you were going to die early in life, or, you know, you weren't going to have a good life. It was sort of an escapism for them to go, and the islands being a great stop for all these whaling ships to get water and other produce attracted a lot of Cape Verdean men to the industry of whaling.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - I bet they heard stories about the United States, too.

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Right, yeah, that's right. And the people, of course, that profited from it were the people that owned the ship -- you know, all the Rotch's and all this other stuff there -- they're the ones that made the money off the backs of these poor guys, but eventually, you know, they all started leaving, too. They got wise to what was going on and they didn't want any part of it, and that's when the whaling industry -- Of course, the oil was found in Pennsylvania, but the whaling industry has started to peter out, anyways, because the men were getting tired of it and they didn't want anything to do with it.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - And your family made the transition to the textile industry?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Oh, he went to the fishing industry first. He was on a fishing boat, on schooners, out of Kelley's Boat Yard, he worked for them for a few years. Then, when they had that storm where the mast broke and fell on him, that ended his fishing career, and he ended up working in the cranberry bogs in Wareham, Carver, and Rochester and all that. But that was more seasonal, and then they worked to get a job, and he had an opportunity to get a job at Quisset Mill, which is only about three blocks away from the house. They all jumped and took a job. You know, the people there trained them on what to do, and they did a good job, and they worked there until the -- well, he died in 1945, so '44, and he still had been working at Quisset Mill when he died, but he died on a farm. Because when they weren't working at the mill, they would go to the farm. The evening or weekends, you always worked the farm, except on Sundays, we all went to church, Our Lady of Assumption Church on Water Street; that was mandatory of the whole family went.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - It was required.

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Right.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - Did you do anything -- activities -- with the church when you were a kid?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Oh, I made my...

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - First Communion?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Communion, my catechism...

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - Confirmation?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Confirmation and all that at the church. I used to be like an altar boy, and that was basically it with me. Oh, boy scouts. I used to play a little bugle. (laughter) I didn't play any basketball, I think, because at that time there was no CYO and all that stuff, you know? That came a little later.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - Tell me about your father.

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Well, my father, like I said, he was a merchant seaman, and then he got tired of being away from the family on these trips and where they go out for months at a time...

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - So, he was married to your mother when he became a merchant -- how did they meet, I guess is the question?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Before. They met on a cranberry bog. (laughter)

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - Working?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Yeah, working. Yeah. As a matter of fact, I have pictures of that. She was, like I said, her father had died -- got killed by lightning on Nantucket -- so she was just with her mother, and they lived with her grandmother, and then eventually her mother remarried, and she stayed with her grandmother until her teenage years. So, when she was, I think, seventeen, that's when she got married. At that time, the women and the men would go to the cranberry bogs during the harvesting season, like, say, September/October and up until November, scooping cranberries. I did it too, later. And that's how she worked. My father had quit the ship, shipping out, and he went to work for this company in South Carver that had several cranberry bogs in Rochester, Wareham, all over the place -- Plymouth -- and my father became like a foreman, and he was very mechanically-inclined, and they were just coming out with these cranberry picking machines, and he made it his business to learn all about it and repaired them, fixing it there so they liked, you know, that he did. So, they made him like a foreman, and he liked it too because he loved fixing things. They made him like the head of the cranberry operation -- like say the facilities or maintenance, he took care of all the equipment and stuff like that, and the trucks and all that, that was his job. As a matter of fact, the owners used to come to my house on First Street, they liked my father so much. Both the owner and his son used to bring him, and then when the owner died, his son took over the business and his son still used to come to my father's house all the time (laughter). They were good people, and like I said, that's how my father met my mother because she was going with a group of other women,

they were all picking. My father tells us when we were kids, he says, "Oh, your mother was a good-looker," he'd say, "I couldn't let her get away, no sir." (laughter) They had a good life, too. That's how they got married -- she was the only child and he was the only son. He had a sister, but you know, there's no brothers. And they ended up marrying. When she married, I think she was about seventeen or eighteen, and he was two or three years older.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - And how long were they married?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - All their lives they were married. Oh, jeepers...oh, 60 years.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - Wow. Did you tell me their names?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - John DoCarmo and Alice DoCarmo.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - When did they die?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - My father died around '85, and my mother died, I think it was '92. But this is a photograph of my grandfather, the one that was a whaler -- John -- this was my father, this is my father's sister, Aurora, and this is my grandmother, Ethelvina. And then this is the young man that my grandmother raised because his parents died -- he's a foster child, and so she'd raise him, and he knows he was in the family forever until he died. Died, he was 90-something years old.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - That's a long life.

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - This is a picture of my father.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - Handsome man.

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Yeah. This was another picture of him.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - Very handsome. Would it be possible for me to scan these pictures?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Hm?

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - Would it be possible for me to scan them?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Oh, you can take these pictures with you. When you get through with them, whatever you want to do with them, you can return it.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - I'll scan them -- I have a scanner in here -- and then I don't have to take them anywhere.

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Oh, all right. Well, that's fine.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - I would rather do that.

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Yeah. This is a picture of my other uncle, Antone, this is one your brother helped me research. These are all his kids in Hawaii, and his wife over here.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - So, tell me about Hawaii.

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Well, (laughter) Antone, well, they were all here in New Bedford. And the story goes – that is, I can't validate this or anything, but these are the stories that I heard from my mother and my Aunt Aurora -- that Anton was a ladies' man, so he got a young lady pregnant, but because the laws were so – you had these blue laws here in Massachusetts, but he thought he was going to go to jail because he didn't want to marry her. He just got her pregnant. (laughter) So he took off -- he jumped on a whaling ship and ended up in San Francisco, and then from San Francisco to Hawaii, and he changed his name, (laughter) but what he did is he kept the name -- he put DoCarmo in the middle, and he took his mother's maiden name, Baptiste! (laughter) So, we couldn't find him because he did that, and so after he was there two or three years, he wrote a letter to my Aunt Aurora and my mother, and to tell them that he was in Hawaii. Now, they didn't know anything about Hawaii. They're "Oh Hawaii, that's another country." They didn't know it was a series of ten islands. (laughter) All they knew, Antone was in Hawaii, so nobody could find him, they just said, Antone's in Hawaii. Everything's Antone. So, he became a farmer, like a dairy farmer, on the island of Kauai, and became very prominent. And then, two of his sons ended up becoming mayors of Kauai. The last one just died in 2008 -- his name was Brian Baptiste -- Brian DoCarmo Baptiste.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - They kept DoCarmo?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Yeah, so that was interesting.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - So, is this his family? All of these...?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Yeah, twelve kids, and then he married a second time and he had six more kids.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - So, he had eighteen kids?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Yeah, no, and then he married a third time and had two more -- twenty kids!

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - Plus the kid that he left here, that he didn't even know about.

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - We don't know who that kid was! (laughter) It's funny...

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - So, he married three times or two times?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Three times. And so, I have a letter from his granddaughter you're going to laugh at; I'll let you read it. Out of all these children here, they produce over 100 more kids!

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - Oh, no! Oh, wow. (laughter)

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Now, this is a picture of Brian Baptiste, who was the mayor of Kauai, and his family, but he passed away in 2008.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - Well, that's too bad. So, you never got to meet him?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - This here -- me and all my brothers, and then here again --

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - Very nice-looking family.

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - And here again is my grandparents again.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - This one doesn't have the names on it -- you need to make sure you keep it...

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - If you want this you can have this because I have extras on the boat.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - Oh, this is a great article.

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - And then this is the maps where we lived, where all the family lived -- my uncles and all them. This is, you know, Water Street, you know, First Street, and these are the houses we lived in, where they have the little dot. This was 323 South First Street, that's where I grew up, in here. Between here and Dartmouth. Now, we owned this other house over here, right beside it. OK?

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - OK, so that's between Howland and what's the other one?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Yeah, and then Judge Leighton lived over here.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - Oh, he lived on Howland Street, Judge Leighton lived on Howland Street.

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Yeah, and then the Jewish synagogue was over here, too, so Judge Leighton, the Jewish synagogue was here, which later become Daddy Grace's church.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - Where was the church? Where is OLOA on this map?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Our Lady of Assumption Church was down here. And then this was like Maiden's Lane, like, you had Jewish people living all in here, all here was Jewish people. There was also another little synagogue over here because they used to help the rabbi bring the caskets into the synagogue right there, into the basements. Over here and over here, and then Water Street, where all the stores were here. I used to work in the bakery over here -- Kroudvird's Bakery, coming out of Junior High School, Roosevelt, I'd go straight here. I had to grease the pans and all that, just like, twelve, thirteen years old, doing all stuff here.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - The recorder can't see, so you're saying that Second Street, there was a Jewish neighborhood, and First Street was also a Jewish neighborhood.

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Yeah, also Water Street.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - And Water Street, you said, there was the stores.

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Yeah, all over to Brownell Street, and then this is where my uncles lived, over her -- Armance lived over here, and then Henry lived over here.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - On South Front Street.

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - And the waterfront was right over here.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - Were you living on First Street when they had the big -- the hurricane?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Yeah, 1938. Yeah, 1938. I was right there. Matter of fact, when the hurricane come, we were -- my father didn't want us to leave the house. We all stayed here because the house is up high, so we stayed up to right there on the porch - - we had a long porch on the front. As my mother screaming, "Oh, we got to go Johnny, we got to go in!" He said, "Oh, you don't have to go, you're not going to drown!" (laughter)

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - And so you stayed, you spent the whole day and the whole hurricane there?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - The whole hurricane there; we were swimming in the water. (laughter) Kids and boats were floating on the street, ice chest, you know, from stores were floating up. All kinds of things, boats, everything was going.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - But you were fine?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - We were kids, we were having a good time! (laughter) We were having a ball!

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - You were fine.

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - We thought it was the greatest thing. But everything was flooded, everybody's basement was flooded.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - One lady was telling me that the water went up to her third floor; she had to come out in a boat.

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Wow, I don't know it went that high, but I know it went up just below our first floor because we were the first floor to get wet. It filled the whole basement, right to the bottom of the floor, but it didn't go up any higher. And the water went all the way down there, all the way up here

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - Allen Street.

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - All the way up to Purchase Street, and then over here was St. Mary's Home -- I mean, St. Mary's school, over here. And over here was a Band Club and all that.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - And what's that street?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - There was Bedford -- Griffin Street over here, and then you had the Band Club up here, and you have Monte Pio dance hall over here.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - On Second Street.

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Yeah.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - Is this most of the Cape Verdean Community? So, you're saying, like, it's from Front Street to Purchase Street?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Yeah, this is all the Cape Verdean Community. Yeah, it's mostly the Cape Verdean Community.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - And then Grinnell until the water?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - The water's over here. I'll show you the water -- there's another drawing here of the water. This is Acushnet Ave this goes above here, yeah. And then here's Morse Twist Drill over here and those two buildings here. This is St. Mary's school here, over here, and then this was, like I said, Daddy Grace's building, and Orpheum. Over here's Central Kitchen.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - On Acushnet Ave, Daddy Grace's building, is that the Bisca Club?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Yeah, where the Bisca club is now, yeah. Right beside it here was the dancehall, the Monte Pio dancehall. Used to be owned by the Portuguese but we used to have dances there. Then, you have trolley cars going all along these streets, here. Trolley cars because I used to take trolley cars, run and hang on the back of them. Then, this is Brownell Street, this is...

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - Cottonmill, it says.

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Cottonmill Gym. And then here you have -- oh, yeah, see, here's the water, here. And this is -- You had the Quisset Mills and you had Pairpoint Glass, so we -- us kids, we would go down there and watch Pairpoint Glass making geese and all this other...

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - OK, so this is Prospect. Which street is this one?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - That one was...that one was Prospect, I think that was Howland Street.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - So, the Pairpoint was on Howland Street, Howland and...Prospect.

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Yeah, and over here was -- the Our Lady of Assumption Church was over here.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - OK, so this is Water Street.

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Yeah.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - OK, yeah, a lot of people talk about Pairpoint.

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - We used to go swimming over here, where South Terminal is, because this is the water. All along here is the water; waterfront.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - It's South Terminal.

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Again, Quisset Mill, Cottonmill, and this was like this here, Prospect Street in the mill. I used to come as a kid, I used to come all the way from First Street every day, run down Howland Street, run up here, run over to the Quisset Mill, run up three flights of stairs, then take my grandfather, my father, and my Uncle Henry lunch because they had to have a warm lunch every day. (laughter) And then from there, I had to zoom down there, run out here, run to the Donaghy School.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - Oh, so you'd go back to school.

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - That was another one of my jobs, so...

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - Did you have a warm lunch though?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Hm?

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - Did you have a warm lunch, too?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Me, I didn't even have lunch. Now, this is the same area, Prospect Street, and you can see the line here where all the water is, and we used to call this the Portugee Navy Yard because they used to have these little boats -- skiffs, they call them -- over here, and we kids used to go over there. We were poor; we'd go swimming naked over there, we'd steal their boats and go out on the water, fish and dig, come through the rocks -- . (laughter) So, they'd call the cops, the cops'd come down, they'd tie all our clothes in knots with our shoes, and so now we're out there naked, trying to untie our shoes with other stuff, and they'd all be laughing that there... And so... But we always used to play over here, used to play, you know, baseball and that there because we didn't have anything. We were poor as church mice -- this was our playground, where they knocked down a building. (laughter) That's where it was our playground; that was it.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - So, that's Potomska?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Yeah. Right. This is my grandfather and this is his brother Amos, right there. Then, over here, you have another one of my uncles over here. Oh, no, this is my grandfather John again, this is him when he was younger when they married, then this is another uncle of mine over here, this was Henry. Then, over here, you have all these things about the ships, so you can read that.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - OK. Oh, your granduncle, Louis Lopes.

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - You and I may be related.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - I bet we are. I want to read this out loud, OK, because this is enclosed two photographs: with three ships, your granduncle Louis Lopes was master of, which I'm sending you with my compliment, the *Bark Bertha* of 1910, Schooner *Margaret*, on which he sailed in 1917, 1918, 1919, and the *Cameo*, of which he was master in 1920. I do not have a picture of *A.E. Wyland* -- I've heard of that one -- 1912 and 1915, or the *Claudia* of the voyage in -- it looks like A.A. I was pleased to meet you and your wife, and hope you return to Nantucket. With kindest personal regards... That's nice.

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - And then this is the log.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - Oh, he sent you the entire log?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Yeah.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - Oh, that's nice! Allen Lopes, uncle of Alice Lopes DoCarmo. Who was Alice?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Who?

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - Alice Lopes DoCarmo.

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Oh, Alice Lopes, that's my mother. These were her -- this was --

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - Your mother was a Lopes?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Yeah.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - Oh, I didn't know that part of it.

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Yeah, this --- These are all her uncles -- this is my grandfather's brothers.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - From which island? From Brava? So, her family's from Brava?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Yeah, that's when she was born in Brava. She came over when she was five years old.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - My father's father was born in Brava, I believe. Yes, we really might be related. My brother will find out. This is very nice to have -- have you been back to Nantucket to talk to him at all?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Well, I went there after my mother told me the story, and I went because he never had a monument, so I had one made and put there for him. And then, this is Henry who we talked about earlier, and then this is Armance -- Amos, another one of my uncles. He lived on Prospect Street.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - You have a very handsome family, but it's -- they carry yourselves a certain way. It's very --

WILLIAM DO CARMO - They were very, very, very proud old-timers right there.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yes, and you can see it.

WILLIAM DO CARMO - And this one talked about Henry and his voyage. This was the article of *Standard Times* and he talks about harpooning and all the stuff, so you can have this.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh, thank you.

WILLIAM DO CARMO - Yeah, this was a picture of him over here, you can have that as well. Then, this is my father and his sister, in his old age. He was beginning to go blind here. This is the letter I told you you might find it kind of funny. This was from your brother, but this is from the cousin he found, the brother Tom.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK. Is it OK if I read it?

WILLIAM DO CARMO - Yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Well, I'm going to read it out loud.

WILLIAM DO CARMO - No, that's fine. (laughter)

ANN MARIE LOPES - Let's see. I was delighted when Jim Lopes contacted me about Baptiste-DoCarmo family. I had reached a roadblock in my genealogy research, and it was awesome to get so much information from him. My parents divorced when I was pretty young, so I didn't grow up with my biological father, and only had brief contact with that side of my family. Now that I'm older so many of my older relatives have passed, so it's been challenging to get the information I've wanted. My great-grandfather, Antone "Tony" Baptiste -- OK, is that supposed to be DoCarmo? -- DoCarmo-Baptiste's son. See, Antone, that's your uncle, right?

WILLIAM DO CARMO - Antone DoCarmo, yeah. She didn't put the "r" in there.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK. Baptiste's son was, in essence, the first mayor of the island of Kauai. His official title was Chairman of the County Board of Supervisors, 1950s and '60s. My grandfather Stanley was a county councilman, and his youngest brother Bryan served as the mayor of Kauai for two terms, until his death in 2008. Wow. My great-grandfather Tony was married twice, but had children with three different women. (laughter) He was a bit of a scoundrel. My great-grandmother, Eva Gomez, she was ¼ Hawaiian, ¼ Chinese, and ½ Portuguese, was his first wife. They had five children: Arnold, Teddy, Stanley, Bryan, and one girl -- I'm sorry, I can't remember her name. I can ask one of my aunties. While they were married, he had an affair with a woman named Gussie Schumacher. They had two children: Koola and Karen Schumacher. My great-grandmother died in her later-40s of a heart attack. After her death, he married a woman named Josie. Can't remember her last name, and they had two daughters: Toni Joy and Irma Mae. My grandpa Stanley was married twice: his first marriage was to my grandma Diane, née Zumack, and they had Stephen and April. After the divorce, he married Linda, and they had Kira and Eva. My parents, Kila -- Kivo -- and Stephen Baptiste had me, Mahina Jean, and my brother, Kaimi Terry Tahi. After they divorced,

both my parents remarried, and my father had three more children with his current wife, Demorah Santana, from Puerto Rico. The children were: Stephen Kamal, Kamalani Kiana de Maras, and Isaiah Kamalay. Whoa, that's a lot!" Yeah, I think so too! "There are a bunch of Baptistes living in Hawaii -- most of us still on Kauai, but a few moved to Oahu, California, and Washington. So, other than that genealogy stuff, I'm happy to know I have relatives in Massachusetts. My husband Todd and I have never been to the East Coast, so when we finally do plan a trip, we definitely need to get together." Wouldn't that be nice?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - I got a picture of them on the next page.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - "I can't wait to tell my aunties, my dad's three sisters, that we've got more family outside Hawaii. I attached a couple of pictures of myself and my brother. The picture of my brother, the young man wearing a Hurley shirt, is with a family friend." Oh, OK.

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - That's her brother, and that's a friend of his. That's her and her husband.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - Oh, OK. Boy, your uncle! (laughter) And you know what, everybody knows what he did, right? That's quite the history here.

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - And then this was a letter from she and your brother were communicating.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - So, you need to go to Hawaii.

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Now, this is a picture -- old picture -- of Antone in Hawaii. (laughter) So, he was a -- like my mother says, he was a ladies' man.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - He was an adventurer.

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Yeah. All the girls liked him.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - This is your uncle?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Yeah.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - And this is a friend of his?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Yeah. Then, these are their birth certificates -- death certificates, and you'll find this interesting: down here, it tells all their mother and father, OK? But you're going to see them -- well, you look at it, you'll see.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - Oh, he was a chef. Now, who is this? This is your...your uncle?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - That's uh... Joachim Baptiste, yeah. That's one of my uncles.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - He was a chef.

WILLIAM DO CARMO - Hm?

ANN MARIE LOPES - It says here he was a chef.

WILLIAM DO CARMO - I don't know what he was.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yeah, it said he was a chef.

WILLIAM DO CARMO - Oh, is that what it is? OK. That was later.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh, so he was only 59 when he died. OK, and this is Armance DoCarmo... And this is Henrique. This is your father, right?

WILLIAM DO CARMO - Yep.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh, so they couldn't find it out but you found it out, the maiden name cristoff, that's --

WILLIAM DO CARMO - And this is me when I was in the Navy, and then this is me when I was in the Air Force.

ANN MARIE LOPES - You did both?

WILLIAM DO CARMO - Two time veteran, Navy and Air Force.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Which did you do first?

WILLIAM DO CARMO - Navy.

ANN MARIE LOPES - One for different wars?

WILLIAM DO CARMO - No, it was --

ANN MARIE LOPES - Same war?

WILLIAM DO CARMO - -- what it was is that after World War II ended I joined the Navy right out of high school, seventeen, and you know, because there was no work for -- especially us -- out there, and so all the guys were joining the service, and so then I was on a destroyer on the Caribbean. And then I wanted to be a pilot, but if you were colored, you couldn't fly. There was discrimination and the military was segregated. And so, then I left the Navy when I got my discharge and I joined the Air Force, trying to fly again. Same thing -- they wouldn't let you fly. Then, when I was in the Air Force, then the Korean War broke out, so then I went to Korea. I was in Korea and Japan over a year during the heavy combat and all the killing and all that. And while I was there, for five years, nobody spoke to me.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Nobody spoke to you? Wow, five years?

WILLIAM DO CARMO - It was horrible. Horrible.

ANN MARIE LOPES - I would think!

WILLIAM DO CARMO - Still pains me, to this day.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh, yeah, that must have been painful, you know?

WILLIAM DO CARMO - Yeah. Nobody to talk with me there.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh no, and you couldn't get transferred out of there?

WILLIAM DO CARMO - Nope. But when I complained to the commanding officer, you know, he says, "This is part of war."

ANN MARIE LOPES - No, not with your own people, not with your own --

WILLIAM DO CARMO - That's the way they treated -- this is why men in Korea said that was the forgotten war, we didn't come home to any parades or anything. We were vilified, I was (inaudible), and here we were and put our lives on the line, killing or getting killed for the United States and then we come home to get treated -- and then discriminated against. I was the only back person in an all-white outfit, and that's how I was treated. This is why today, my wife says, "What is wrong with you?" I said, "What you mean?" She said, "You don't like to go places with a lot of people." I says, "No," I says, "I just," I said, "I'll go for a little while and I got to leave." I can't stand crowds. If I happen to be someplace, I shut things out, you know because it was so painful, being there, like, Christmas, Thanksgiving Day, and nobody talks to you? That's awful. All that time, it was very painful. So.

ANN MARIE LOPES - That's a long time.

WILLIAM DO CARMO - Yeah, so here you go, you get into periods of depression and all that, and then sometimes just being sleeping, you get these flashbacks of bombs going off and shooting at -- people shooting at you. It's just, you know, combat soldiers don't get over these things. It stays with them for life. That's why I always said, "Nobody wins a war. What war does, it destroys people." You know, even the ones that come home.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yeah, I never understood -- I know that there are people who fight -- women who fight to be in combat, and I don't understand that.

WILLIAM DO CARMO - These are the planes that we had in our outfits. These are the bombs.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh, boy.

WILLIAM DO CARMO - The 1,000 pounds. When those falls on you, you know, kill everybody near it.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yeah, I would think. That's huge.

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - You know, and we had to drop these bombs on people. When you come back, you have your debriefing sessions. You see the carnage, make you sick to your stomach.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - What did you do?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - I was part of the crew, but they still didn't bother with you. You just knew what you had to do, they got over the target, they told you, "Drop the bombs," so under the bomb bay, of course, and drop them. You just did what you were you told to do. At least when you're up in the air you don't see it, but when you come back, you look at the films.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - Yeah, you don't want to see that.

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - It gets embedded in your mind, you know? You see kids butchered, you know, just, you know, bodies, just eerie feeling. Terrible.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - Well, let's get back to something good. (laughter) Let's talk about something good here, OK? You said you had a really good childhood.

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Yeah.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - Were you an only child, you said?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - No, I was the only one that - the only child that spent time, you know, on the farm and all that with my grandparents.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - And so how many were in your family?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Well, there were ten children. I'm the oldest of ten: there was seven boys and three girls.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - The oldest of ten? Oh, wow. What was that like?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - So I had, you know -- I was always told by my grandparents and my parents that I had to be the model, I had to be the one that showed the young ones coming behind me, set a good example for them to follow, by going to church and doing all good things -- working and giving my mother all the money I earned. Stuff like that, and doing all the things that, you know, a good boy or girl's supposed to do. And then we all had chores to do, like I had to wash the kitchen and bathroom floors and clean the bathroom. I had to rake the yard because we had a couple of dogs, I had to go out there every week and clean up the whole yard. Besides working on the farm, I used to go pluck chickens for the Jews on Water Street because they only wanted kosher chicken, so we had to take the chickens, the rabbi would cut their throat, and we're plucking the chickens while they're still alive and blood is flying all over you. I used to work in Kroudvord's? Bakery, greasing the pans, making bagels and rye bread and all the stuff here. I used to work in Zieman's, delivering orders that people would call in, especially the older women would call in, take whatever they ordered to their home. So, I was always working. I used to shine shoes, I used to sell what they used to call *The Morning Mercury*, in New Bedford and I used to sell the *Standard Times*. I used

to sell *The Boston Herald* at times, but I forgot whether it was another name. I used to sell all those newspapers. I was always working, seven days a week.

ANN MARIE LOPES - That's what it sounds like!

WILLIAM DO CARMO - And then I used to clean up the Bomb -- not the Bomb Shelter, but the Howland Street Club. After church on Sundays, I'd go home, take off my clothes, put on some jeans, go over to the Howland Street Club, mop up the floors, clean up all the tables there, all the money I found, I could keep. (laughter) That was the deal we cut.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did you find a lot of money?

WILLIAM DO CARMO - A lot of money. (laughter) Because Friday and Saturday they were the nights when they were having a big blast over there, and people would drop money and they didn't bother. Sunday morning I'd pick up all the money and Hoxie Tavares, he ran the club. They always took good care of me. (laughter)

ANN MARIE LOPES - Sounds like a good deal to me.

WILLIAM DO CARMO - Yeah, but it was work, work, work. So, all my life, all I've known is work. Work and school.

ANN MARIE LOPES - What'd you do on the two hours a week you had, for fun? (laughter)

WILLIAM DO CARMO - Not much.

ANN MARIE LOPES - No? Well you did -- you played the guitar. You took music thing with your family.

WILLIAM DO CARMO - I still have my guitar, but I don't play it anymore. There's just, you know, you lose -- over time, you lose touch, you know. You sort of -- there's a disconnect, you know?

ANN MARIE LOPES - And then you went into the Navy at seventeen, wow.

WILLIAM DO CARMO - Yeah, that was the Air Force at nineteen.

ANN MARIE LOPES - When did you come back?

WILLIAM DO CARMO - I was 21 when I came back.

ANN MARIE LOPES - What was it like for you to come back to New Bedford?

WILLIAM DO CARMO - It was terrible. No work. I would have made the military a career, but they were so discrimination, all that, you know, you'd be sleeping in your barracks and the guys would be saying, "Well, let's go out and kill a nigger tonight, or let's drag one behind a car, or let's do this." And so, you were the only one of color in there, and they're calling you all these names. You always were in fear for your life -- you didn't

know if you're going to wake up. They'd come by, they'd kick your bed and stuff like that there, and so, you know, it was just horrible.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - And then it was hard for you to come back to New Bedford, even after all that? You didn't think New Bedford --

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Yeah, it was difficult. What helped, I think, is that I immediately started in college, you know, work. My mind was preoccupied with that, but whether I was going to call just working too for Westinghouse in Boston, on nuclear submarines.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - What were you doing?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Wiring nuclear submarines panels stuff for the first submarine that went under the ice pack, the *Nautilus* and the *Skate*, wired up all the instruments for that, and they liked me -- the Westinghouse people liked me, so they made me a boss or their foreman, so whatever, I was on eleven to seven shift, and right from there I'd go to school, so it was tough. At night, I had to walk from South Boston to Boston, in the winter, freezing to death, and when it was raining, soaking wet. It was just horrible. Tough times, but I did it, got my degrees and I ended up earning three degrees over the years, and it was all part-time study, but I ended up doing it. I went to school and got my degree in education to teach -- couldn't even get an interview here in New Bedford.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - When was this?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - This was back in the '60s and '70s. So, I said, "What am I going to do?" So, this guy was advertising for someone with architectural experience; I applied for it and it was called Reliable Homes. They were just starting a company -- it was New Bedford Lumber, north end, it was owned by some Frenchman. So, I went for the interview and he liked me and immediately gave me a job, so I started designing. So, I designed Pine Hill Acres up the North End, and I designed a couple others off Church Street, near Wellby Park. I designed the whole southern end, another one at Dartmouth, and then I left him -- Jerry Girard and his family -- because he was working seven days a week, Saturdays and Sundays. He'd come to the office, pick me up, take me home to his house, and I'd have dinner with him and his family. They treated me real well, but he don't like to pay you with money. (laughter) I said, "I can't keep working all these hours for, you know, everything over 40 you're supposed to get time-and-a-half on!" He gave us straight time. So I says, "No, I got to make more money." So, he didn't believe me. When I left him, he had to hire three guys to replace what I was going, so he says, "I made a big mistake," but we stayed friends until he died just last year, we really stayed friends. He always said after, "Bill, that was stupid of me," he said, "I made a big mistake." We do those things, you know? So, like I said, so then I decided, well, "What am I going to do?" I'm designing all these houses; people that were coming into the office were asking me if I would design homes for them, custom homes, so then I started designing custom homes, but then they started to ask me if I'd build them, so I said, "Why not?" So, I started my own construction, DoCarmo Construction Company. I started buildings hundreds of homes -- I had all Creole guys working for me, and when things started getting shaky over here in New Bedford, I started getting offers to go to the Cape. So, I started working for AT&T Ma Bell,

building telephone buildings on the Cape, on the Islands, I started building all these large condominium complexes, apartment complexes, medical buildings. So, for almost 20 years, I was on the Cape just building -- making all kind of money, I had my own airplane and everything. I used to fly from here, there, all over the place because there's no way I could take the boat to get to each place so I'd fly over the job, foreman would see me, come to the airport, I'd give him the payroll, jump back in the plane, take off, go to Hyannis, same thing, or go to P-Town, same thing. (laughter)

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - So, you did get to fly?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Oh, yeah, yeah. Oh, yeah, when I was in the service, I took my own lessons. I went and learned to fly privately, and there I found this old farmer who had a couple of airplanes. He had what they call a J-3, a couple of old yellow planes that you sit tandem, one in the front, one in the back. He had a little sign that says, "Flying lessons." That's all it said. So, I says, "Let me stop here." So, I went just out of curiosity, I thought he was going to tell me to get the hell out of here, you know, because I was colored. And so, no, he says, "Come on," he says, "yeah, boy, you want it," yeah, boy, this -- you know, I was still in the military, of course, and he says, "Yeah, we'll teach you, boy, how to fly," and he did! (laughter)

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - Well, that's what matters, is you got to learn how to fly. That's the important part. You sound like you're very tied to your Cape Verdean identity.

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Well, I love it -- I get angry with some of our folks, I'll tell you, because they're stubborn and they're always, you know, don't follow the right path because, you know, I used to be very much involved with the Verdean Vets, but we had our arguments about different things. Do this, you do that, don't do this, do that, and we're very overly-conservative, They want to stay here. Like, you know the Jewish synagogue up near Our Lady of Assumption Church?

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - Yes.

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - I was going to buy it for them -- they turned it down.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - They turned it down?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - For \$12,000, I was going to buy it, yeah.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - Oh, wow. Why?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - They turned it down. I couldn't understand it. "Oh, no, we don't want to go over there -- near the church, we want to be out here, they don't want us to have a license for drinking!" I says. "You're worried about a license for drinking!" (laughter)

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - That's a nice building.

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - That's right! (laughter)

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - It's a really nice building.

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - So, the Puerto Ricans ended up buying it. So, after a few disputes, I says, "Nah," I says, "these guys, all they want to do is march and drink." I said, "That's not for me," I wanted to put more progressive, you know, I said, "I try to say we should have our own museum." "No, we don't want that, we don't really want to get into that stuff." I says, "We should pick up where the Band Club left off, giving kids music lessons, stuff like they did at the Ultramarine Band Club." "Oh, no!" I says, "No point in my hanging out here," I says. "You guys don't want to move in the positive." All they want to do, like I said, was have their dances, drink, and do what they want to do. Play cards and all that stuff, and I was more on a move to build the organization up, you know, and do more, you know? They just felt differently, so I parted company. I'm a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, my flight organization that I was with overseas in Korea. I'm a life member of all these places there, and I've paid all my dues -- Air Force association, I'm a life member of that -- I support them all, but I don't participate in any functions. If they need money or something, I always send them money, but I shy away because I'm tired of controversy, so I say, "I don't need it anymore." I said, "I'm getting too old for all this foolishness -- let the young people go fight."

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - Are there traditions that you carry forward from when you were a kid? Traditions? Like, I know in my house, jag was a big deal. OK, I'm going for food, but like, we'd have Manchup on Saturdays, church was, you know --

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - We did that for a long time, too, especially when all my children -- when the family was all intact, you know, the kids were all at home, house, they weren't married or -- we used to have all our dinners together and stuff like that, go to church every Sunday. Matter of fact, I was one of -- me and Frank Montiero and what's-his-name that died -- we were the first ones to raise the money to build the church on Sixth Street -- a lot of people don't know that.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - Oh, I didn't know that.

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Yeah, ask Frank Montiero. Frank Monteiro and Fermino Spencer, we had our little group that raised the money to build that church.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - Tell me about that.

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - And a lot of people don't know about that.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - Tell me what happened with the church, why it moved?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Well because of the -- you know, they were planning on taking that property for redevelopment, and so that's why the church moved.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - What year was this?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Oh, jeepers, this goes back in the '60s, late-'60s.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - So it was urban development?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Urban renewal, yeah, buying up all that property, you know, the lumber yard, everything. Rocha's Lumberyard because my father also worked for Rocha's Lumberyard as a salesman.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - Where did your family move after being on First Street?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - They moved to Madison Street, and that was it.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - Where on Madison Street?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - 37 Madison Street, the second house, right beside the club, down near the Verdean Vets.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - My brother remembers --

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - They were right across from your family, yeah.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - Yeah, my Aunt Louise and Uncle John.

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Yeah, because my father used to be sitting out on our porch and your aunt would be sitting over on her porch, and they'd be talking. (laughter) That's how it was back then! Everybody had porches and they would be --

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - I wish that was still going on. I mean, we do some of it, but --

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - I remember when you kids were going to school, and how proud we were, how everybody's talking about it, my mother, "Oh, you know, Mannie's kids are all going to school and they're going to college, they're doing this here, they're at Brown and Harvard," I mean, we were so proud because my mother was a stickler for education, like my grandmother. Like my grandmother because they didn't have the education at all -- my mother had very little education because she was pulled out of school. They were a driving force. The men weren't but the women were -- driving force, they were "you got to get an education.: Sometimes I felt like I just want to drop dead (laughter) I was so tired.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - You have three degrees. You have one in education...

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - I have one in education, two in law, and one in engineering -- it's four.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - You're a lawyer, or --

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - I never went to take the Bar, I just studied law.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - Why would you study law and not take the Bar?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - I wasn't interested in practicing it; I wanted to learn the business law and all the stuff because of being in business, you know, so that's why.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - Oh, OK. Friends of mine who have become lawyers say you don't go to law school just for --

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Just for a while I did work in that area but with the government, about eight years I worked for the Office for Civil Rights, the federal government, doing legal work, but mostly in research. But I got tired, and I found it very boring, to me. It wasn't exciting -- I was outdoor-kind because of the farm. I became acclimated to outdoors, and so even to this day, this is what I like, being outdoors, I don't like being closed in. I don't mind for a little while, but we always want to be outside. No matter what the weather is or whatever, it's just that longing for fresh air and all that.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - How old were you when your family moved to Madison Street?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - I was 23, something that there.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - Oh, OK. So, where did you go to school?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - First school I went to was Wentworth Institute, Boston, for architecture.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - Right. No, I meant when you were a kid.

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Oh, when I was a kid? I went to Acushnet Avenue School. I went to Donaghy School. I went to Roosevelt School, and then from Roosevelt School I went to vocational school. Again, I was the only person of color in my class, industrial design and architecture, and I took architecture, passed all the tests and went on to Wentworth Institute in Boston. And then from Wentworth, I went over to Fitchburg State College and got my education, Bachelor of Science, education over there, and from there, I went to University of Massachusetts School of Law -- they have a school of law in Boston and I finished that, I also went to Roger Williams School of Law.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - You have too much energy for me, too much.

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - What I did is I used to help a lot of people very quietly; people would tell me their problems, I would solve them, I would do research, else I'd refer them to someone else that I knew who was practicing law. In the civil rights area it was interesting because now I was dealing with my assignment with the civil rights group was all the Ivy League colleges -- Dartmouth College up in Maine, Brown University, Yale -- so I was handling cases, civil rights cases, and those were interesting because civil rights was just coming into its own, like Title IX and all the -- you know, and this other handicapped stuff that was all coming up on board. Nobody really knew much about it, so it made it very interesting because now, I find myself at MIT having dinner with Dr. Grey, who was the President of MIT, in his beautiful dining room, all these people waiting on us. (laughter) I met some exciting people, and I always worked alone, all by myself, all over Vermont, Maine, and New Hampshire. They sent me all these schools. Rhode Island, Brown University, and all. But after ten years, I said, "Nah, I don't need any more of this." So I left that. At that time I did that, I took a break away from construction when I did that. That was during 1976, when we had the oil embargo and cars had to wait in line to get gas out there. The construction industry just was going downhill because we couldn't get the jobs because

we couldn't get gas, and all these other problems. So, this John Biner who I had known because he was the President of the NAACP and I had been President, he said, "Bill, why don't you come work for me, I have some openings!" I said, "I've never done that kind of work." He says, "Yeah, but you got the credentials." He says, "You know, we'll send you to Denver, to the school in Denver, and they'll brush you up." And that's what he did, sent me to Denver, spent a couple weeks there in their law school over there, and they brushed me up on everything. All set, go, it was a nice experience.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - How many kids do you have?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Four girls and a boy.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - Where are they? What are they doing?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - One's a nurse, she's here, Carla. She works for the downtown health center. I have Vickie who works for daycare. I have Andrea who's in the office, she goes flying with World Airways, now she's modeling. Then, I have Robin who's in Fall River. Robin was in California, now she's back here doing real estate and taking care of her mother. Oh, and Billy, he's in California, in Sacramento. He's working in information technology, computers. He went to Wentworth also. So, that's it.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - And are they proud of their Cape Verdean heritage?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Oh, yeah.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - You passed that down?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Oh, yeah. Passed them all down. They know their roots. The only thing I find is that they don't do much digging on their own -- I do all the digging. I got Robin doing it now, you know, but the others always got excuses. "Well, dad, I don't have time." And all like that. But they want to read everything and see everything! They want to be a part of it, but they don't want to do the work! (laughter)

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - Yeah, they're interested, but yeah, if someone else could do the work, why not?

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Now, Robin's enjoying it, and so for Robin's reward, I'm sending her to Hawaii to go meet the family.

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - Oh, that's nice, now see --

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - And so now the others are mad, "I want to go, too!" I said, "Well, you didn't do anything!"

**ANN MARIE LOPES** - I'll work for a trip to Hawaii, yeah! (laughter) I can see how they're all ready to do that. Anyway... Well, I've enjoyed talking to you.

**WILLIAM DO CARMO** - Oh, I hope I've been helpful.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh, extremely helpful. What I'd like to do is scan some of these pictures.

WILLIAM DO CARMO - This is by the way one of *Ernestina*. You can have that.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh, thank you. Was there something I didn't ask you about you want to say?

WILLIAM DO CARMO - Yeah. I'm a member of the Descendants of Whalers, I'm on the Port Society, I'm on the Whaling Museum, I'm on the Manjiro Society, too, so these are all connected, and what I've been talk to your brother and I, I was talking about how the Whaling Museum, as the catalyst, should be involving these others in there, and not being separate and apart from these others. The Bethel Church is right across the street, the housing for the seamen is right across the street --

ANN MARIE LOPES - The mariners' hall.

WILLIAM DO CARMO - You have the *Ernestina*, which is on the waterfront, and you have the Manjiro, who Captain Whitfield, the one that rescued him, he was a whaler -- all those things should be tied in together, you know? Let's start dealing with some of this nitty-gritty stuff here. I said, "Especially Cape Verdeans, Indians, Native Americans, all the people that worked these boats just like the slaves." We got to deal with that. So he didn't know what to say.

***End of File***