

“Having Our Say”

Voices from the Cape Verdean Community

Sisters Elizabeth Burgo and Mary Soares did not mind growing up without some of the luxuries kids have today.



“They gave us love, and that was more important than everything else in the world.”

– Betty Burgo & Mary Soares

Betty Burgo & Mary Soares
October 8, 2010

Interview with Betty Burgo & Mary Soares
Conducted October 8, 2010
By Ann Marie Lopes

Beginning of File

ANN MARIE LOPES - The interviewer is Ann Marie Lopes, and it is Friday, October 8th, and

I am here with...

BETTY BURGO - Betty Burgo.

MARY SOARES - And Mary Soares.

ANN MARIE LOPES - And Betty, what's your date of birth?

BETTY BURGO - June 16, 1929.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK. And Mary?

MARY SOARES - January 18, '24.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK. So basically, as I said to you, we just want to have a conversation, talk to you about what it was like growing up in New Bedford. Now,

first thing we should probably say is that you are sisters.

MARY SOARES - Yeah.

BETTY BURGO - Yes, we are sisters.

MARY SOARES - We are sisters, and we came from a fam --

ANN MARIE LOPES - How many apart are you?

BETTY BURGO - Five.

MARY SOARES - Five years. We came from a family of ten children.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Where are you?

BETTY BURGO - I'm the middle.

MARY SOARES - I'm the oldest girl. I'm the third one.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK. One thing that I'm going to do that I find helpful -- because I send this to somebody else to transcribe it -- so I'm going to say your name or you say your name when you speak so that they can get an idea of the different voices. OK? All right, so Mary, go first, please.

MARY SOARES - OK, as I said, my -- I came from a family of ten children. I had six brothers, and we were four sisters. And my father worked in the cotton mill, and my mother stayed at home.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So where are you in the order of siblings?

MARY SOARES - I am the third.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oldest or the third-youngest.

MARY SOARES - From the -- oldest.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK, and Betty?

BETTY BURGO - I am the fifth, the second daughter, the middle. There were ten of us, and I was the fifth one.

ANN MARIE LOPES - As close to the middle as you can get with ten.

BETTY BURGO - That's right.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Why don't we start -- who was the first one from your family to come here from Cape Verde?

MARY SOARES - My father.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK, and where did he come from?

MARY SOARES - He came from the isle of São Nicolau. My mother followed four or five years later.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did they know each other in Cape Verde?

MARY SOARES - I think he said he had seen her when she was small. He had his eye on her. (laughter)

ANN MARIE LOPES - And your father's name?

MARY SOARES - Manuel J. Ramos.

ANN MARIE LOPES - What does the *J* stand for, just out of curiosity?

MARY SOARES - His father's name, Manuel Joseph Ramos.

ANN MARIE LOPES - And your mother's name?

MARY SOARES - Carolina Santos.

ANN MARIE LOPES - And how close were they in age? If he saw her growing up...

MARY SOARES - Thirteen years apart.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK, all right. That's not uncommon; I've heard this before.

Actually, I've heard that the woman was seven years older than the man. The man's family had a fit.

MARY SOARES - I bet they had a good marriage.

ANN MARIE LOPES - It seems that a lot of Cape Verdeans, particularly -- who was it yesterday? -- someone I talked to, I guess last week -- Marie Sparks. Do you know Marie Sparks?

BETTY BURGO - Oh, yes, of course.

MARY SOARES - Oh, yes.

ANN MARIE LOPES - I spoke to her, and she said that people of her generation tended to stay married a long time.

BETTY BURGO - Mm-hmm.

MARY SOARES - True.

BETTY BURGO - True.

ANN MARIE LOPES - You find that true?

MARY SOARES - Mm-hmm, that's true.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did you --

BETTY BURGO - That's true. Yes, that's true.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did you both marry?

BETTY BURGO - Yes.

MARY SOARES - Yes.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK, Betty.

MARY SOARES - I was married in --

ANN MARIE LOPES - Whoop, Mary.

MARY SOARES - -- 1947. My husband died in '94. It was almost 47 years that we were married to one another.

ANN MARIE LOPES - That's a long time.

MARY SOARES - It sure was.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Now, Betty.

BETTY BURGO - I was married in 1950. My husband died in 1998, so we were married quite a few years. (laughs)

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yes, 48?

BETTY BURGO - Yeah.

MARY SOARES - Thirty-eight.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Thirty-eight?

BETTY BURGO - No, 48.

MARY SOARES - Forty-eight?

ANN MARIE LOPES - Well, '95, and if you married in 1950. And I know I'm not really good in math, but I'm not that far off, right?

BETTY BURGO - Mm-hmm. (laughter) You can knock that part off --

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK, so tell me about your parents. They came here, why? Anybody know?

MARY SOARES - Of course they usually come here --

ANN MARIE LOPES - That's Mary.

MARY SOARES - -- to seek a fortune, like they say, for the money. My father was a baker in his country. He supplied everybody. In fact, they weren't too happy to see him leave, but he had heard about the money out here and all of that, like everyone else.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did he open a bakery here?

MARY SOARES - No, no. He worked in the cotton mills out here.

ANN MARIE LOPES - When did he come over? What year was it?

MARY SOARES - I think it was 1917 -- something like that, yes.

ANN MARIE LOPES - And your mother?

MARY SOARES - My mother came -- she was two years (inaudible). Let's see, 19... 1915.

BETTY BURGO - Uh-uh.

MARY SOARES - She said that -- no, I'm wrong, she was 13. She said she was in the -- had a birthday on the middle of the ocean coming over here.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Well, that's kind of nice.

MARY SOARES - She turned 13. Yes, yes.

ANN MARIE LOPES - And so they both came to New Bedford?

MARY SOARES - Yes.

BETTY BURGO - Yes, they did.

MARY SOARES - Well, they hear about the work out here, where there's plenty of work for everyone, cotton mills and different place -- of course, years previous to that was the whaling, because they did do a lot of whaling in Cape Verde, around Cape Verde Islands.

ANN MARIE LOPES - But your father didn't do whaling in Cape Verde.

BETTY BURGO - No.

MARY SOARES - No, he did not.

BETTY BURGO - No, my father came -- and why he really came, too, was because he wanted to support his family back there.

MARY SOARES - Back there, yeah.

BETTY BURGO - You know, he came to work so he could send money to them, which he and his brother did all the time.

ANN MARIE LOPES - His brother came over, then. Did they come over at the same time?

MARY SOARES - I think they did.

ANN MARIE LOPES - (coughs) Excuse me.

MARY SOARES - I'm not too sure. But they never spoke about that. His brother was -- you know Mary Galvin?

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yes.

MARY SOARES - Her father and my father were brothers.

BETTY BURGO - I think Uncle Jack came later, because Uncle Jack went to Brazil first --

MARY SOARES - Oh, that's right.

BETTY BURGO - -- and then he came over. I'm not sure which year.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Why did he go to Brazil?

BETTY BURGO - He went to -- he had a job offer out there, (laughs) so he went to Brazil.

ANN MARIE LOPES - He was in Cape Verde and got a job offer in Brazil.

BETTY BURGO - Brazil, yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - That would be -- that would be kind of nice.

MARY SOARES - My sister Dottie's been there a couple of times. She says it's beautiful out there. Like you were saying, I'd stay there. (laughs)

ANN MARIE LOPES - All your life you stayed here?

BETTY BURGO - Yes.

MARY SOARES - I'd stay there if I went to Brazil.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh, you'd stay in Brazil? I'm sorry, I misunderstood you; I thought you said you'd stayed here. So your parents come over -- how old is he, 17, did you say?

BETTY BURGO - Oh, my father?

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yeah, when he came over. How old was he?

MARY SOARES - He was 21.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK, so he's 21; she's 13.

MARY SOARES - Yes.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did she come over with her family, since she was --

MARY SOARES - No, she came by herself.

ANN MARIE LOPES - A 13-year-old by herself?

BETTY BURGO - Yeah, she was sent to my grandfather here.

MARY SOARES - See, her grandmother brought her up, and she kept begging him to send for her, because she was getting old. So finally he sent for her, and she came. Like I said, she left the country when she was 12, and when she got here, she was 13.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Do you know how long the voyage was?

MARY SOARES - She says it took a long time. She said they were in one spot for almost a month because there was no wind. See, it's the wind that makes the vessel go. She said she remembers her and this other girl that came with her. They used to play hide and seek and play all kinds of games, but they were in one spot. They thought they'd never get here, but finally the wind arrived, and so they were on their way.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did she talk about that a lot, the journey over?

MARY SOARES - She used to tell me about it, yes.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So tell me one of the stories she told you.

MARY SOARES - When she was on the ship?

ANN MARIE LOPES - Mm-hmm.

MARY SOARES - She says that everybody was bored but her and her girlfriend. They found all kinds of things to do. She said they used to play hide and seek, and they used to make up other games, and she said they entertained themselves.

ANN MARIE LOPES - The others were too old to figure out how to entertain themselves.

MARY SOARES - They were kids, and the others were grown-ups.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did people watch out for them, since they were kids?

MARY SOARES - Oh, yes. Oh, they had to. You know, some of the -- especially in those days, the grandparents -- "You better take good care of my granddaughter" and all that. So her father was the one that picked her up, and when she got here, she went to live with her stepmother and her -- and my grandfather and her father.

ANN MARIE LOPES - How long -- you said she didn't know exactly how long it took.

MARY SOARES - To get here?

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yeah.

MARY SOARES - She says over 30 days.

ANN MARIE LOPES - They didn't run out of food.

MARY SOARES - Oh, they never ran out of food. She would have told us about it. They bring their own stock and everything. I don't know how they did it, but it lasted.

ANN MARIE LOPES - And your father -- did your father ever talk about what it was like coming over?

BETTY BURGO - Mm-hmm. My father --

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK, that would be Betty.

BETTY BURGO - My father talked about coming over and how they had a hard time, that the ship, one day it -- the water went completely over it. And he says, but before it happened, he says something was telling him to get -- like, they had these furnaces, you know, like these stoves, to get in it. And he and another fellow got in it, and when they got in it, the fellow that stayed on top where they were got taken by the water, and he says it was very, very bad. He says he was sick all the way. My father was sick all the way from the old country.

ANN MARIE LOPES - And how long did it take him?

BETTY BURGO - Mary might know, I don't know that part...

MARY SOARES - Well, I know about Ma, but I don't remember.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So did your mother talk to you about this, and then your father talk to you about this?

BETTY BURGO - Yeah.

MARY SOARES - Separate times, you know.

BETTY BURGO - Yeah, because when --

MARY SOARES - No, he used to talk about it, but she's got to remember something.

(laughs)

BETTY BURGO - He used to talk to all of us, yeah. But I used to sit on the porch with him every day, and he'd tell me the same stories over and over again, and this was one of them. He told me how the water was so bad and how he was sick all the way, (laughs) and how he got saved just by something that...

MARY SOARES - He kept saying that he repents. He would never come back here again, and they named him --

BETTY BURGO - On the boat.

MARY SOARES - -- *Repentement*, you know, that's my story, that's Mr. *Pendement* over there. And he says they would never go back because the trip that they had was so bad. Maybe Ma's was, but --

BETTY BURGO - Yeah, but she never --

MARY SOARES - -- kids, you know. You're playing, you know, you don't know what's going on.

BETTY BURGO - But, you know, it's so funny when you're young and you sit out -- you get old and you sit out there with your father on the porch. You -- like my sister-in-law would say, "Oh, he tells you the same stories over and over again." And I'd say, "Some day he's not going to be here and I'm not going to hear those stories, and I'm going to feel really sad." And it's true. He told me the same stories, but I enjoyed it. And I laughed like I'd never heard it, you know, to make him feel good.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So tell me another story. Tell me another one of his stories.

BETTY BURGO - Oh, my father used to tell me how they would go to the bakery late, late at night.

ANN MARIE LOPES - This is in Cape Verde?

BETTY BURGO - Yeah, in Cape Verde, and they'd have to go late at night to make the bread and whatever they did.

MARY SOARES - You mean, early in the morning, around 3:00.

BETTY BURGO - Yeah, and he'd say he'd be outside while things are baking, he'd be outside playing in the dark, (laughs) but he enjoyed it. And he says that they would have different -- like the sugarcane and things that they would take to eat while they're playing. But it must have been interesting.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So it was his father's bakery, or his parents' bakery.

BETTY BURGO - His parents, yeah.

MARY SOARES - His parents, yes.

ANN MARIE LOPES - And then he just kind of took up the family business.

BETTY BURGO - Yeah, he came here, and he went -- well, we didn't have really bakeries, too many bakeries, here, and he went right into the cotton mill. But he and his brother both supported their mother and father.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Only two? That was the only two?

BETTY BURGO - Only two that came here.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK, he had more.

BETTY BURGO - Yeah, they were in the old country. They never came. They stayed in Cape Verde Island.

MARY SOARES - One came, but he was sick all time.

BETTY BURGO - Yeah, so he went back.

MARY SOARES - So he went back.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did your parents ever go back to visit?

MARY SOARES - No, no, not my father. (laughs)

BETTY BURGO - My father -- no, my father was going to go by plane with my brother Louie about a year or two before he died, but it just wasn't meant to be. But he would never go by boat. He told us that; it was terrible. But he says the only reason he came to this country was for the money part, because he loved his country, and he says it was so much better (laughs) there in that respect, but they really didn't have much money, so.

ANN MARIE LOPES - What do you mean, it was better?

BETTY BURGO - You know, the way they were brought up, the way the people were, the families were. Well, it's like he -- well, when we were children, our families were like -- the whole neighborhood was like your family, you know. That was the one thing. But out there, you know, everyone took care of them.

MARY SOARES - Well, he was kind of disappointed because prejudice -- he says when he came out here, there's the white man and the black man and this and that --

BETTY BURGO - Yes, I can believe that.

MARY SOARES - He says, "In my country, if you had a lot of money and you were darker than anything, you were the white man." There wasn't any such thing as the white man and the black man; as long as you made your money -- oh, but they treated everybody alike. But he says that he got along good with his parents, and his mother, he was so close to her. They wouldn't tell him where they buried her (laughs) because he would be down there every day weeping, and maybe he was a little kid, (laughs) you know. And he says they wouldn't tell him.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So he was a little kid in Cape Verde when his mother died?

MARY SOARES - Cape Verde. He was. He was very close to his mother, very.

BETTY BURGO - He'd tell us how, you know, when they died and how they had to bury them the same day --

MARY SOARES - Same day.

BETTY BURGO - -- because they didn't have that embalming and all that. It was interesting, you know.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Why, was it for religious purposes? You said the embalming?

BETTY BURGO - No, that was --

MARY SOARES - No embalming.

BETTY BURGO - That's the way, because there was no embalming, so they buried them the same day.

MARY SOARES - They had to.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did they have any of the traditions that came over here, like covering the mirrors or any of that, that he talked about?

BETTY BURGO - About what? I'm sorry.

ANN MARIE LOPES - When people died, you know, sometimes they -- this was before -- people used to cover the mirrors.

MARY SOARES - Not when we were kids.

BETTY BURGO - No.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Not any of that?

BETTY BURGO - No, I don't think so.

MARY SOARES - Maybe previous to that, you know. Because they were in America; they had to learn the traditions out here. But there's a lot that they don't do now that they used to do before.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Like what?

MARY SOARES - Well, when a man, the husband, died, the wife wore black for a whole year, and when that year was over, she wouldn't take that black off so people wouldn't say, "She's taking it off." She had to have somebody tell her, "Isn't it time

you took that black off?"

BETTY BURGO - Not only the husbands, because Ma wore it for almost two years when her father died.

MARY SOARES - No, a year.

BETTY BURGO - It was almost two years.

MARY SOARES - No.

BETTY BURGO - Yeah.

MARY SOARES - When we were kids, everybody died, you know what I mean? My father's father, my mother's grandmother, my father's brother or sister. As soon as you take the black off, somebody has died. That's why --

BETTY BURGO - Oh, so that's why they had it on so long?

MARY SOARES - -- they always wore black. And the men wore a black ribbon on their suit or whatever they had, coat, to show that he was a widow.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Does that mean --

MARY SOARES - Stay away.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh, stay away because he's a widow, or --

MARY SOARES - I don't know. (laughs)

ANN MARIE LOPES - -- come on over, and he's available. (laughter)

MARY SOARES - Not in those days. You stayed away.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Really? Why?

MARY SOARES - Because he was a widow.

ANN MARIE LOPES - And so he was in mourning?

MARY SOARES - He's supposed to be mourning for a whole year, too.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh, for a year. But for the rest of his life, he could -- OK.

MARY SOARES - Oh, well then the door is open.

ANN MARIE LOPES - All right. That's what I meant, the sign. OK, so we watch him; when the band comes off.

BETTY BURGO - Off, we know he's ready. (laughter) Let's take him. (laughter)

ANN MARIE LOPES - Exactly.

MARY SOARES - The women will be watching him, yeah.

BETTY BURGO - You know, it's something, though. My mother and father were 13 years apart. My mother and father died 13 days apart. My father and father -- what was the other thing that's 13? They died 13 years apart.

MARY SOARES - Apart, yeah.

BETTY BURGO - Everything with my mother, the one and three surrounds them, no matter what it was.

ANN MARIE LOPES - That's interesting.

BETTY BURGO - Isn't it something? I couldn't believe it. You know, my father -- my parents are the best. I mean, everyone's parents are the greatest, but ours were the greatest. And (laughs) they were something else. And my father, he used to tell us every time, like when he started to feel a little sick -- my father was very rarely sick. You never really -- my father never had a headache --

MARY SOARES - Never.

BETTY BURGO - -- all his life, and he died at 92, going on 93.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Wow.

BETTY BURGO - And he used to tell us, when March came and ended --

MARY SOARES - Every year, he would --

BETTY BURGO - -- if April first came --

MARY SOARES - -- tell us that --

BETTY BURGO - -- he was going to live another year. My father died March 30th.

March 31st.

MARY SOARES - March 31st. But he always told us that if he makes it through the year -- through March, he'd have another year. He told us that for years.

BETTY BURGO - For years, since we were kids.

MARY SOARES - And then he died on the 31st of March.

BETTY BURGO - It was like, you know, what did he know? (laughs)

MARY SOARES - But he used to make me laugh when he and my mother were going someplace, or if my mother was going someplace and she was dressed up, he'd make her turn around, see if there was any cotton or whatever on her or a little hair, and he'd brush it off. He always did that, and of course, he'd tell her, "How do I look?" They always did that, because she wasn't going to walk out that door unless she was -- everything was perfect. And I always enjoyed -- remember that?

BETTY BURGO - Mm-hmm, oh, yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So your parents had fun --

BETTY BURGO - Oh, yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - -- did things for fun.

BETTY BURGO - Oh, my parents --

MARY SOARES - We were very close.

BETTY BURGO - We were fortunate to have such good parents.

MARY SOARES - Very close.

BETTY BURGO - We were fortunate to have my father. My father -- my mother too, I mean (laughs) -- but my father was into education, so there was no such thing as saying, "I'm not going to school" or something; "I want to leave early." No, you had to go to school. Because I remember when I was 16, all my girlfriends were out, they had jobs, and they're gonna have extra money, and I told my father, and

he says -- it was summer -- he said to me, "OK. There's no school in the summer. You go to work, and you tell me when it's time to go back to school how you feel." I went to work. I worked at Aerovox for two weeks and stopped working, (laughter) stayed home for the summer, and went back to school. Never wanted to go back to work. I couldn't believe, you know. Because work -- we all think it's a great thing to get a job and make money, but not --

MARY SOARES - But my father was for education. He won a scholarship in his country.

ANN MARIE LOPES - For what?

MARY SOARES - But he couldn't go -- for further -- they go up to a certain grade -- I don't know how high the grade was -- so he was going to a college, a seminar, they called it. And he says his brother wouldn't take over the shop. That's how the money was coming in. He was the provider. And he says his father used to cry all the time because he said that his son -- his brother was too lazy to take over so his son could get an education. My father always believed in education. He pushed all of us that way.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did your mother go through school?

BETTY BURGO - She went to school -- she came here and went to school.

MARY SOARES - Yeah, she went to school.

BETTY BURGO - But she didn't go and graduate from high school or anything like that.

MARY SOARES - Well, in those days --

BETTY BURGO - In those days it was different.

MARY SOARES - She got married when she was 16. See, she was -- in June, she turned 16; she got married in September. That's how it was in those days, you know? When you're 16, they're ready to -- they already have somebody for you. But my mother

and father, they used to see each other at his uncle's house, and they'd talk to one another and everything, he said, and when she turned 16, they decided, you know, the date, because he knew that his cousin, which was her stepmother, had already started to pair her off with somebody else. That's why she got married so young.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh, OK. Their wedding date wouldn't happen to be a 13?

BETTY BURGO - No, that was the only thing that wasn't, huh? You know what? We never stopped to think of that. She got married September 27th?

MARY SOARES - September the 29th.

BETTY BURGO - Oh, 29th.

MARY SOARES - I got married on the 27th.

BETTY BURGO - You're the 27th. But, you know, we couldn't ask for better parents, because they made sure we went to school, (laughs) because it was so important to my father. My step-grandmother would tell my father to take my brother Joe out of school, Jigs, and put him to work because he -- we were so many that we needed the money, and my father told her as long as he could put bread and butter on the table, he was going to school. So he was, you know...

MARY SOARES - Jigs was a smart person. He was an "A" student.

BETTY BURGO - You know, the thing about it is they amaze you. You know how they talk and they talked in Creole all the time. My mother spoke English, but my father -- of course, because they didn't want us to know what they were saying sometimes, I think -- but my father -- when I was in school, I disliked algebra, and I'd say, "I don't want to do it. I hate..." He could do it all. He'd help me with it.

MARY SOARES - Yeah, he was a very smart, intelligent man.

BETTY BURGO - And I'd say, "Oh, my God." I'd say, "Can you imagine," I said to my brother Johnny, "Pa knows algebra?" (laughs) You know how you're surprised,

because you don't think they know those things.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Right, especially algebra.

BETTY BURGO - Yeah.

MARY SOARES - I know when I came home and I brought a paper home or something, he said, "Let me see these papers." He says, "This what they're teaching you?" Which, they held us back. I guess you know that.

ANN MARIE LOPES - No, what do you mean?

MARY SOARES - The books and the learning that we got in school, we were held back. We had the -- you tell her what happened to you.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Who's "we"?

MARY SOARES - The children that went to the schools in the South End.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK.

MARY SOARES - Now, they would have a book -- I don't know if you ever read it -- "This is Tom. See Tom run. Tom can run. And this is Sally" or whatever, "See Sally run," over and over in that one book. And we were -- they did their best so that we wouldn't get a full education. I'm sure you knew about that. To keep us down.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yeah, that's why they had busing eventually.

BETTY BURGO - Yup, that's right. Well, when my son was in school -- well, my son's an asthmatic at that time, and of course when you're an asthmatic, you're out of school quite a bit. So I went to the school to, you know, see what I could do to help him at home, what books, and she says to me -- well, she showed me the books, so she says, "Well, they sell them at Saltmarsh" -- it was called Saltmarsh at the time. And so I went there, and the girl that worked there, I knew her, and I asked her for his grade -- he was in the third grade. She says, "Betty, but what school does he go to?" And I said to her, "What are you talking about, what school does he go to?"

He goes to New Bedford Public Schools." She says, "No, no, what school does he go to?" And he was going to the Green School at the time, and she says, "Well, they have different books from the Winslow School and the other..." I don't know what the other school was -- I don't even know what school it was. And I said, "What are you talking about?" She says, "Oh, yeah, down in your area, this is the type books they have." I was astonished. Really, I couldn't believe it. And I says, "You must be kidding me." And so she says, "No." So I said, "I want to buy both books." So I took both books, and I went home, and I told my husband, and he says, "Well, we're going up to the superintendent of the schools to see what's going on." Well, I went up there, because Joe gets very excited, so I knew that it was best that I went alone. So I went up, and the girl said to me, "Well, you have to make an appointment." I says, "I'm sorry, I took this day out of work, and I feel that I need to see him." And she says, "Well, I'm sorry, he's so busy." So then just so happened he came out of his office to get something and I saw him, and I says, "Excuse me, I need to speak to you a minute." Very indignant with me. "What do you want?" And I says, "I just need to speak to you. It's only going to take about five or ten minutes." He says, "Well, come in the office." So I went in and I showed him. He says, "Well, that's only because we didn't have enough money to get all the new books for his school." I says, "What are you talking about, you didn't get enough money to get all the books for his school?" I said, "That doesn't make sense." I says, "Well, we got to do something, because I'm very upset about this." And I says, "And I will" -- there was this guy, Stan Lipp, that used to be on the radio. I says, "I'm going to go on there and tell him about this." I did.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Good for you.

BETTY BURGO - And he was so upset. He says, "I knew that was going on," and he

really went into it. Well, within the month, we had the same books that the other school had.

MARY SOARES - Stevie was in Dartmouth, though, wasn't he?

BETTY BURGO - No, no, that was in New Bedford. No, no. And I couldn't believe that they were teaching --

MARY SOARES - What they were doing to us.

BETTY BURGO - And then the principal that was there at the time, I went and spoke to him. He was Cape Verdean, and he said to me, (puts on accent) "Oh, you're lucky they're here teaching them." And I says, "Excuse me, I pay their salary. I'm not lucky that they're here teaching me. I wish we didn't have you. You're supposed to be here helping us." And, ah, it was terrible. It was really awful. I feel they -- they held our kids back.

MARY SOARES - Yes.

ANN MARIE LOPES - What year -- what year are you talking about?

BETTY BURGO - He was in the third year; he was in the third grade.

ANN MARIE LOPES - No, no.

BETTY BURGO - Oh, what year?

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yeah.

BETTY BURGO - OK, Stevie was born in 1951, so he had to have been about ten.

MARY SOARES - He had to be -- the third grade is eight.

BETTY BURGO - Eight, OK.

MARY SOARES - Fifty-nine.

BETTY BURGO - About '59, 1959. They were terrible. Like, Mary -- Mary's son Anthony, he is intelligent.

MARY SOARES - Brenda told me about Anthony.

BETTY BURGO - Let me say this. Anthony is very intelligent. He was graduating from junior high to high school, and he wanted to take the engineering program at the high school, you know, going into that, and the guidance counselor said to him, "Oh, you don't need to take that because you won't get ahead. They won't hire you." He said to him, "They won't hire you. You should take" -- what was it? Civil? Civic, something like that. And I couldn't believe it. He came home and told his mother. Well, we went to the high school -- I mean, to the junior high school -- that next -- like, maybe that happened on a Friday; we were there on a Monday to straighten this out. She says, "Well, I'm just trying to explain to him that they won't get the jobs even if they have the -- they take the different programs. They won't get the jobs because they're not going to give it to them." New Bedford schools were terrible. And see what happened, a lot of our people, they didn't understand; they thought, you know, this is how kids go to school and this is how they learn, and they really didn't check into it.

MARY SOARES - Well, the parents didn't, you know.

BETTY BURGO - That's what I'm talking about, the parents.

MARY SOARES - I remember I used to get all C's, every year, all C's. I loved math; I loved English. I knew I should have got at least a B or a B-, you know. But I loved that. Every year, all C's. So this one year, I was in the second grade, and I was in Ms. Sullivan's class, and the principal comes in. Remember her, Mrs. McCreedy, was it?

BETTY BURGO - No, I don't remember.

MARY SOARES - Or Ms. Savage, one of them. And they're talking about looking over, because the class the next year, the following year, was going to be -- there would be too many kids in that one class, so they had to keep one back. So she's looking around, and she said, "Mary, you like it here?" I says, "Yeah." "Ms. Sullivan good

to you?" I said, "Yes, she is." So I didn't realize that. In June, they put all my grades down, D and E, E, E, E, E. Ma never questioned it ever.

BETTY BURGO - At that time she didn't, but she did later.

MARY SOARES - They put me back. I lost a year that way. I'll never forget that as long as I live. So I figure they're not going to do it to my kids.

BETTY BURGO - That's because she was quiet.

MARY SOARES - I was very quiet, now you can't shut me up. (laughter) But I was. She did all the talking.

BETTY BURGO - That's right, because, I'll tell you, by the time I came around, I knew what was going on in the system.

MARY SOARES - But I'll never forget that, never, and Ma and Pa never questioned it.

BETTY BURGO - No, because they thought that this is America, and you go to school, and they're teaching your children. They didn't know to go check out the books.

MARY SOARES - Yeah, but how can you do that in one semester? I mean, the last report card I got said, "She's a very good, intelligent," blah-blah, this. I never got the B and A's, you know, never. Spelling -- I loved spelling. Never got that. It was all C's. They would never give me a higher grade. And then for them to say that I was staying behind? I would question it.

BETTY BURGO - Yeah, but our parents -- they thought that they were doing the right thing, until the others -- we came along, and we knew what was more or less happening in the system, because I'll tell you, the system in New Bedford stunk.

MARY SOARES - Yeah. And I was quiet; I didn't bother anybody. I sat there like a little "mamou," fold your hand, and all that, and I was the one that was kept back.

ANN MARIE LOPES - And you think that was racially motivated?

BETTY BURGO - Definitely.

MARY SOARES - Of course. No, because it was all Creoles at that time.

BETTY BURGO - Yes, it was racial.

MARY SOARES - But -- oh, well --

ANN MARIE LOPES - Because of the part of the city?

BETTY BURGO - That's right, the new --

MARY SOARES - No, the next class would be overcrowded. It would have been one too many.

BETTY BURGO - Mary, that's not what she's saying.

MARY SOARES - Oh, yeah, that happened all the way, yes. All the way, yes.

BETTY BURGO - It was very racially...

MARY SOARES - And they know that the parents -- most of the parents didn't speak English, so they weren't going to fight it. In those days, they never fought anything like that. As uh you know, we got older and we began to see what was going on, but in those days, they didn't question anything. So if they kept you back, it's because you weren't listening, you know what I mean? That's the way it was in those days.

BETTY BURGO - Well, the difference in those days, I found, we were like the only Cape Verdean family on our block, and we never had anyone calling us names. You know, everyone treated us --

MARY SOARES - We had -- we called that the League of Nations. On this side was Italians, on that side was --

BETTY BURGO - Jewish.

MARY SOARES - -- yeah, Jewish, Polish, those two Irish teachers, and on this side was the English teachers.

BETTY BURGO - And then the Cape Verdeans.

MARY SOARES - And the Shavs, and Mrs. Kaplan, the Jewish woman. Everybody without -- our house was the only one that had Cape Verdean in that whole block.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So you're talking about when you were growing up? Just so I get the time right. Where was this?

BETTY BURGO - On Pleasant Street.

MARY SOARES - On Pleasant Street.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Pleasant Street, near --

MARY SOARES - Between -- your mother lived around the corner. Between Grinnell and Wing.

BETTY BURGO - Wing, yeah.

MARY SOARES - And it was 116. The house was in the back.

BETTY BURGO - But you --

MARY SOARES - And everybody was saying my mother had a lot of kids, but we never bothered anybody. They always said that.

BETTY BURGO - But I found when I went to junior high school is when I found out about prejudice.

MARY SOARES - Oh, yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - And that was going to Roosevelt.

MARY SOARES - Roosevelt.

ANN MARIE LOPES - And that's when all of the kids from the South End, far south, started coming in.

BETTY BURGO - Yup, and they were --

MARY SOARES - Portuguese people.

BETTY BURGO - They were very prejudiced.

MARY SOARES - Oh. They have nothing to be prejudiced about, but they were. But of

course, it's all in the way that you're brought up. Now, when you walk down the street before, this one would call you "nigger" or whatever. You don't see that anymore. You can get in a restaurant and see these cute little blond kids, you know; they're so nice to you. It's the way you're being brought up. They were brought up to say that we were nothing.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So, let's backtrack, because we missed -- we jumped from your parents all the way up to your kids. There's you guys in the middle, growing up.

BETTY BURGO - Growing up.

MARY SOARES - And we noticed all that --

BETTY BURGO - I didn't notice it, like I said, when we lived on Pleasant Street. When we moved up to 7th Street --

MARY SOARES - Well, when we were kids...

BETTY BURGO - -- it was different. I didn't notice it, because the girl that lived in back of me was French, and then the people that lived next door to us are Italian... But I think we were only the younger ones there. You know, there weren't that many young kids for us to play with. And the thing about Cape Verdeans, I find, my parents and my uncles, my cousins' parents, we had to play together, so you didn't go out to look for other kids to play with. My cousins came to our house to play. That's where your friendship was when you were small; you played with your cousins. So you didn't go down the street or across the street. We had a big yard, so we had to stay in the yard.

MARY SOARES - I wasn't allowed on Acushnet Avenue. Are you kidding?

BETTY BURGO - Oh, we never were.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Let's talk about where you lived. Where was your family living when you were born?

MARY SOARES - On Pleasant Street.

BETTY BURGO - We were both born on Pleasant Street.

MARY SOARES - One sixteen Pleasant Street.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK. Is that considered part of the Cape Verdean community?

BETTY BURGO - Yes.

MARY SOARES - Now it is.

ANN MARIE LOPES - But then?

MARY SOARES - I don't know, but it was all different nationalities.

ANN MARIE LOPES - International.

BETTY BURGO - Yeah, because if you went --

MARY SOARES - We were the only Cape Verdeans in that block.

BETTY BURGO - On Pleasant Street, but if you went down the block and you went up Purchase Street, there were all Cape Verdeans. You know, there were all Cape Verdeans.

MARY SOARES - In that one block, in that one section, we were the only ones.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Where did your family do their shopping?

MARY SOARES - We used to go the Public Market.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Public Market was where?

MARY SOARES - Oh, wait a minute. We had these little stores first. There was Pildis.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Everybody talks about Pildis.

BETTY BURGO - Yeah, and Xavier's.

MARY SOARES - That's where my mother did all her shopping. And Xavier's, yeah.

BETTY BURGO - That's where they did their shopping.

MARY SOARES - We used to buy food and charge it, and then at the end of the week, on payday, my mother would go and pay for the groceries for the whole week, and

then we'd start again.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Was Water Street still big when you were growing up?

MARY SOARES - Oh, yeah.

BETTY BURGO - Well, Water Street was the main part of the city, I thought, when I was growing up.

MARY SOARES - My father says they had fun on Water Street. It was all Creoles, they'd all come out, and come down there, and that's where they lived. He said it was so nice down there.

ANN MARIE LOPES - You don't remember it?

MARY SOARES - No, they -- because he bought a house on Pleasant Street. That's where we were all born. But I remember Water Street.

BETTY BURGO - Mary would remember it more.

MARY SOARES - I remember your mother and I coming down from Roosevelt, and we'd walk home from school. They had all these nice stores down there. They had some nice shopping areas there. And we'd look at the windows, and if I saw something, I'd say, "That's my outfit." (laughter) I mean, they had all kinds of shops down there then. I guess the hurricane had a lot to do with it.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Hurricane of '38.

MARY SOARES - Thirty-eight, yeah.

BETTY BURGO - I don't feel that. I feel that they came and took away from our area and took it up -- brought it more uptown. Because I remember my brother Manny fighting one time, they got a group, because they were taking the cobblestones. Because we used to have -- we didn't have cement sidewalks, we had cobblestones, and they took that and brought it uptown and told the people -- they were telling the people, "We're going to put you nice cement sidewalks," so no one complains.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Because it's new.

BETTY BURGO - Yes, but they took away the --

MARY SOARES - But they could have the --

BETTY BURGO - That really is a historical area. That's a historical area, not uptown.
Not uptown.

ANN MARIE LOPES - But now with Route 18 and all of that building, you still think it's historic?

MARY SOARES - Well, they just ruined everything there with that Route 18 -- I'm getting mad. (laughs)

ANN MARIE LOPES - So you're saying basically, in your opinion, that Water Street area was the vibrant part of the city.

BETTY BURGO - That's right.

MARY SOARES - That was a fun area for all of them.

BETTY BURGO - The stores were there, the markets were there, the shows were there.

MARY SOARES - If you wanted to go shopping, that's where you went. They had shops downtown, but we preferred going down to Water Street.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did you ever go uptown? Downtown?

BETTY BURGO - When I got older.

MARY SOARES - Oh, after, you know, because --

ANN MARIE LOPES - But as kids you'd go down...

MARY SOARES - -- the stores were moving out, you know. But we always went downtown. We went to the library. That was our favorite place. We didn't have any TV in those days, which the kids still can't understand. We'd have one radio. Remember that radio?

BETTY BURGO - No, I don't.

MARY SOARES - A little radio, and my mother -- you know, they used to have these little shelves. You put it there. And we all listened to that radio. Like, they'd have stories about *The Inner Sanctum*.

ANN MARIE LOPES - That's the name of a show?

BETTY BURGO - Yeah, *Inner Sanctum*.

MARY SOARES - Oh, yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - What is...?

BETTY BURGO - It was so scary.

MARY SOARES - The door would open and squeak, (makes creaking door noise) and you hear all these noises -- chains, you know, with a guy walking and all that. And so we -- You want to see a quiet house? You can have 10, 20 kids -- walk in when we're listening to one of those stories. Like one time, remember our cousins?

BETTY BURGO - Oh, yes.

MARY SOARES - It was *The Witch's Tale* they were watching. The woman --

BETTY BURGO - Listening to.

MARY SOARES - Listening to. Their mother was at our house. So anyhow, they decided against her will -- you don't put the radio on when she's not home; you just sit there or you go to bed or whatever. So we heard this thunder on our porch, (makes sound of many fast footsteps) running in that door like something terrible happened, screaming and everything. It was -- they were watching one of the stories.

BETTY BURGO - Listening. (laughs)

MARY SOARES - I keep saying it. TV, you know. They were listening to one of the stories.

ANN MARIE LOPES - I inter --

MARY SOARES - And the minute they -- huh?

ANN MARIE LOPES - I interviewed my cousin Ricky. He said they used to watch the radio
like as if they could see it.

BETTY BURGO - Yeah, like they can see it. (laughs)

MARY SOARES - It's a bad habit, you know.

ANN MARIE LOPES - No, he said they'd sit there and stare at the radio.

MARY SOARES - And we did!

BETTY BURGO - Well, you would, because you -- you would.

MARY SOARES - We would stare at that radio.

BETTY BURGO - I would think that the monster was coming out of the radio.
(laughter)

MARY SOARES - You know, they left the door wide open --

BETTY BURGO - I didn't watch it so much; she did.

MARY SOARES - -- they came running to our house, because they lived right around the
corner. And the mother said, "What happened?" One of them's ready to pass out.
"What happened?" And they were watching the story.

BETTY BURGO - Listening.

MARY SOARES - I think it was *The Inner Sanctum*.

BETTY BURGO - It was *Inner Sanctum*.

MARY SOARES - That was scary, ugh.

BETTY BURGO - Because they heard the door going (makes creaky door noise) and
thought it was theirs.

MARY SOARES - (makes creaking sound) That's when they ran out. (laughter) Oh, I'm
telling you, my aunt grabbed them and took them home. Boy, did they get a
beating that day. (laughs)

BETTY BURGO - No, but something else happened on that day.

MARY SOARES - Oh, yeah, as they --

BETTY BURGO - They ran down, and it was icy out, and when they got near our corner, one of my cousins fell down and hurt her ankle. And they came to the house and she's crying. My aunt was so upset -- my Godmother -- so upset with them because they left the door open and everything, came running. She gave her a little strapping on her legs before she took her to the hospital.

ANN MARIE LOPES - (laughs) Oh, geez.

BETTY BURGO - She had broken her ankle, but because they had not done what she asked them to do, they got a spanking. (laughs)

MARY SOARES - I also will never forget the day that we had the radio on and they said that the Japanese had bombed Pearl Harbor. Oh, that was horrible. My mother and father, tears coming down their eyes and all that. I'll never forget that one.

ANN MARIE LOPES - They were that upset.

MARY SOARES - Yes, yes. That's how, you know, the war started. And I'm saying, "Why are they crying?" and then I realized they were saying, "You know, that's our territory. They came over here..." and then we all started crying.

BETTY BURGO - Yup, yup. But the thing was, people were dying unnecessarily, you know, which is --

MARY SOARES - To us it's news. When they said that they bombed Pearl Harbor, well, it was news. Where's Pearl Harbor, (laughs) you know what I mean?

BETTY BURGO - Yeah. At that time, yeah.

MARY SOARES - At that time. It was sad. We went through five years of the war. They called all the young guys -- there were no young guys in New Bedford; they were all in the service. They were drafted and everything.

ANN MARIE LOPES - We have a nice picture of my father in his uniform on Pleasant Street.

MARY SOARES - Where did he live on Pleasant?

ANN MARIE LOPES - My grandfather had a house on Pleasant Street. It's the other side of Wing Street. It is between Wing and Grinnell.

MARY SOARES - He must have bought it after we moved out.

BETTY BURGO - Yeah. But Tillie did live near you.

MARY SOARES - Yeah, around the corner, where Pildis was, upstairs.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yeah, because she lived there as a kid.

MARY SOARES - As a kid. I used to pick her up or she'd pick me up, and we'd go to school, walk to school together.

ANN MARIE LOPES - But my parents lived -- I think it was actually my grandfather's house. So did you -- you said you weren't allowed to go out on Acushnet Avenue. Did you mean you couldn't --

BETTY BURGO - No, no, no.

MARY SOARES - No, no. I lived on Pleasant Street.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Right, but Acushnet Avenue is, what, two blocks away?

BETTY BURGO - Yeah.

MARY SOARES - Yeah.

BETTY BURGO - The reason why, because they had Monte Park.

MARY SOARES - Boys.

BETTY BURGO - You'd have to walk up to Monte Park, and that's where all the boys were.

MARY SOARES - And when my cousins moved to Acushnet Avenue, I was the happiest person on earth, because I could go to the Avenue to their house.

BETTY BURGO - I never went.

ANN MARIE LOPES - You never went?

BETTY BURGO - No, because I was younger than them, you know, so I didn't -- my --

MARY SOARES - You went after.

BETTY BURGO - Oh, when I got older, but I mean at that time, I never went --

MARY SOARES - I don't care what age we were.

BETTY BURGO - -- because my girlfriend was right on the same street as me, so I never had to go look for anyone. And at that time, you weren't interested in boys like the kids are at 13 and 14 now. Before, you were more interested in being with your friends and having a good time. That's how I felt.

MARY SOARES - I used to be like that too, yeah.

BETTY BURGO - But I remember going to (laughs) -- we lived -- when we moved to 7th Street, I was going uptown, and I had a girlfriend that lived on the corner of 7th, where Lucille Ramos lived, right on the corner there, and we'd go uptown. And we were walking down the street -- now, we were on 7th Street, then it's 6th, then it's Pleasant, then it's Purchase, then it's Acushnet Avenue, but we want to go by Monte Park. So --

MARY SOARES - That's it. (laughs)

BETTY BURGO - -- we would walk down Bedford Street. And it never failed. I'd get down to the end of Bedford Street, and there would be my brother Manny.

MARY SOARES - We had six brothers, OK?

BETTY BURGO - Yeah, and he'd come over and grab my hair by the back. "What are you doing down here?" "I'm going downtown. We're going downtown, Manny." "Why, did it move? (laughter) I didn't know it moved." I says, "No, we're just going this way." "No, you're not." That ended my trip downtown. Because I was

doing something that my mother had told us -- we were going uptown, and she allowed me to go uptown but not to go way down the Avenue to where the boys are.

ANN MARIE LOPES - You thought you were being clever.

BETTY BURGO - Yeah, but you weren't, because -- you know, the only thing I couldn't understand in memory. You lived -- and we didn't have phones in those days, and I'll tell you, if you went somewheres, when you came home, your mother already knew where you were. They knew what you did and where you were.

MARY SOARES - They didn't need the phones. (laughter)

BETTY BURGO - Because our aunts and uncles and cousins and my mother and father always kept them informed on what we were doing. And, oh, I hated that. I'd say, "But I wasn't down there." "Your grandfather told me he saw you on the corner talking to a boy." What do you say?

ANN MARIE LOPES - You can't say your grandfather lied.

BETTY BURGO - No, I did that once.

MARY SOARES - You wouldn't dare say he said anything.

BETTY BURGO - I says -- "No, I said to my mother, "He was telling you stories; that's not true." *Plow*, you know? You don't do that. That's disrespect. And that's what we're missing today, respect. I'll tell you, living with the Cape Verdeans in those days was beautiful. No matter how much prejudice there was around you, in your area you didn't feel it because the Cape Verdeans were so close. You know? We were very close to each other, and everyone watched out for us. So it was nice, because I remember going to parties, over to my aunt's or cousins' houses -- this was my mother and father -- and we were little kids. We would have a room where we would stay, and they'd have their party, and we'd be so happy because we're

not part of the party, but we're all together as kids. That was the difference in those days.

MARY SOARES - I remember my mother's house. All you needed -- especially the one on Pleasant Street, the house was in the back, there's a porch there -- Judge Rogers and his brother Lalla. I don't know if you know the Rogers family.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yeah.

MARY SOARES - And Lalla, and who was the other one?

BETTY BURGO - And Jicky.

MARY SOARES - Jicky didn't play anything.

BETTY BURGO - No?

MARY SOARES - Boy. Boy Rogers. They said, "Let's go to Carrie's house. We're going to have a party; we're going to have a good time. They get on the porch outside, start playing, everybody's dancing. Everybody comes from all over, and everybody -- the Italian people next door, their music's a lot like ours. And they used to say, "When are they coming again? When are they coming again?"

BETTY BURGO - It was fun.

MARY SOARES - But when we moved to 7th Street, that was -- you know where that is. Lucille, your cousin -- she's your cousin --

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yeah.

MARY SOARES - Yeah. When we moved --

ANN MARIE LOPES - It was that little -- you lived on that little 7th Street.

MARY SOARES - Yeah.

BETTY BURGO - Yeah, that little street, yeah, South 7th.

MARY SOARES - You'd just go there, you bring a guitar, and everybody's dancing. And we always had a lot of fun, always had some kind of party. My mother wasn't

expecting any party. Before you know it, the pot of *canja* coming out, and everybody's enjoying themselves. We had a good childhood. We can't complain. And we're very close.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Still.

MARY SOARES - And my mother always sat us together. If she and I had a fight over a girlfriend, oh, boy, my mother would sit us together and says, "Look, your sister will always be there for you. Your girlfriend could always go the other way." So we couldn't -- I'd be looking at her, and she'd be looking at me. (laughter) "You're not going anyplace until you talk to one another and say you're sorry."

BETTY BURGO - You know, I can truthfully say that I don't ever remember ever getting hit by my sister or my brother Manny, yes, because I would sneak down to Acushnet Avenue.

MARY SOARES - She was more nervy.

ANN MARIE LOPES - And he was like your father, second father, maybe?

BETTY BURGO - Yeah, my brothers all were --

ANN MARIE LOPES - Protective.

BETTY BURGO - -- protective. They told you something, and you went. You know, you didn't say, "But I don't want..." You didn't do that, because you knew when you got home, it was going to be worse. So you had to do -- they told you what to do in that area. Because they were older, you know --

MARY SOARES - Yeah, and they're protective of you.

BETTY BURGO - So they were very protective.

MARY SOARES - Me, I'm a goody two-shoes. I missed all that. I didn't sneak or anything, you know. My oldest brothers, Jigs and Cee, they were older than me; they were always looking out for me, you know. So we never did things like that.

ANN MARIE LOPES - It sounds like you had more fun. (laughs)

BETTY BURGO - I did.

MARY SOARES - Well, we had fun, we really did.

BETTY BURGO - I would have fun because I would go with my girlfriends, and when my brother wasn't around, I knew that I could walk up the Avenue and feel like, oh, like a million dollars, because you're seeing all the boys and everything. Till one of them caught you.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Were your brothers in the service? Did they go into the service?

BETTY BURGO - Yeah, my brother Jigs did.

MARY SOARES - Yeah, we had three of them.

BETTY BURGO - My brother Manny.

MARY SOARES - Manny, and Johnny --

ANN MARIE LOPES - Which branch?

MARY SOARES - -- and Louie was in the Merchant Marines. Johnny was in the Navy, Mannie was in the Army, and Jigs was in the Army.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So the Merchant Marines. You said it was --

BETTY BURGO - Louie.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Louie?

MARY SOARES - Louie.

ANN MARIE LOPES - ... was in the Merchant Marines during the war, but was he before as well?

BETTY BURGO - He was in the Merchant Marines at the end of the war.

MARY SOARES - Well, he's younger. At the end, yeah.

BETTY BURGO - But when he was in it after.

MARY SOARES - He was ten years younger than me.

BETTY BURGO - And he was in -- you know, they went to all these different countries, but at that time, the war was over.

MARY SOARES - How about my son Anthony? He's been to Iran about five times or more.

BETTY BURGO - Iraq.

MARY SOARES - Desert Watch. What's the other one?

BETTY BURGO - Iraq, Iraq.

MARY SOARES - I keep saying -- Iraq. And I says, "Do you get into -- is there any action?" "Oh, no, Ma, you don't think I'd be in that." But I heard him talking one day he didn't know I was around, and he said, "Well, this time, I didn't lose anything." I said, "You didn't lose what?" He said, "Ma, I didn't see you over there." (laughter) He's been in the service 38 years. He's getting out this month, the end of this month.

BETTY BURGO - But, you know, it was, I think no matter how much prejudice there was, this is how I felt: that we had so much of our own culture, our own people were there for us, so it's sort of you didn't notice it. I noticed it when I went to Roosevelt, but I think I noticed it once I went to work in the courts. That was the first time I really, really felt --

ANN MARIE LOPES - Well, tell me about that. You worked for what court?

BETTY BURGO - The district court.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK, and you were doing...?

BETTY BURGO - And I was -- like, when you're the last one in, you have to take care of the counter when people came into the court, into the office. And I got up one day (laughs) because it was my job and I went to the counter -- never so embarrassed in all my life -- and I asked the lady if I could take care of her, and she says, "No." And

I says, "Oh, is there someone you want to see?" She says, "I don't want to see **YOU.**" She says -- this white girl, woman, was sitting there, and she says to me, "I want to see her." So I figured maybe she had seen her before, so I said to her, the girl, I says, "Emily, you know, this woman would like to talk to you." And this person wasn't, you know, a person that liked to get up or do anything, so she turned to her and says, "What do you want?" And she said to her, "I don't want **HER.**" And I'll never forget it, because Rose was in charge of our office, and she said to the lady --

MARY SOARES - Rose Vermette.

BETTY BURGO - -- she says, "What are you talking about?" "I don't want anyone **BLACK.**" Oh, I was devastated. So that was the first time I felt, you know, thrown at me. I could feel it other ways. And I was so upset, and oh my God. And Rose told her if I couldn't take care of her, no one could, so she walked out. But I was leaving. I was leaving. I'm walking out. I said, "I'm not going to work here," because I was embarrassed. And I didn't know, knowing it's a court, that they could, you know, be like that. But then I found out that that's what it really was in life. See, our parents kept us so close, so we didn't feel a lot of that. That was the difference, I think. Don't you think so?

MARY SOARES - Yeah, because we had that bond. Even today, if she's very sick or I'm very sick in the hospital, all I have to do is call her. She'll call everybody in the family, and before, you know, you know it, they're all around my bed. It's always been that way. We've always been close like that.

ANN MARIE LOPES - What's it like growing up with all those brothers?

BETTY BURGO - Oh, I liked it.

MARY SOARES - We got along fine.

BETTY BURGO - Because I was a tomboy.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So you were one of the guys.

MARY SOARES - I was a tomboy, too.

BETTY BURGO - I used -- we had -- now, mind you, we had a pear tree, an apple tree, we had grapes in the backyard.

ANN MARIE LOPES - This is all on Pleasant Street?

BETTY BURGO - No, this is on -- when I got about 13 --

MARY SOARES - Seventh Street.

BETTY BURGO - -- on 7th Street. And the people across the street from us had the same thing we had. Well, my brother Johnny and my brother Louie and a few of their friends, we'd go over and take theirs. And a couple of times I got caught -- you know, the man would grab me by my shoulder and take me over to my father - - and he'd say, "I know they're not doing it because they need it, because you have it, (laughter) but they're over there and they're stepping on my plants." And my brother Johnny's behind a tree laughing, you know, because he didn't get caught but I did.

MARY SOARES - That's Johnny.

BETTY BURGO - And my father would get so upset at us. But just the idea, you know, that you're taking something.

MARY SOARES - It's just that you (inaudible).

BETTY BURGO - You didn't need it, but you're having a good time. It was fun, because I played kick the can and all that on that hill, because that hill was a dead end. We used to ice skate on there; we used to go sledding on that hill. Oh, it was beautiful. The kids used to come down from Purchase Street, some of our friends, to play with us up there. Ooh, that was nice. It was. It's all changed.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yeah, it's a different neighborhood up there.

BETTY BURGO - Yep.

MARY SOARES - Who lives across the street there?

BETTY BURGO - The Jasons.

MARY SOARES - Yeah. They're still there?

BETTY BURGO - No, somebody else.

MARY SOARES - No, because they died. They must have died.

BETTY BURGO - No, the daughter, one of the daughters lived there, but she got very sick, so she moved to Florida. One of the Simmons, so they moved to Florida. So then this -- another family that I don't know who they are.

MARY SOARES - You know that 7th Street is all Ramoses. When we moved there the first time, there was a man that -- we lived at 114, and the man upstairs was Manuel A. Ramos; my father was Manuel J. Ramos. They used to put the mail in the slot, you know, the door, and it used to get mixed up a lot. So they were Ramoses there, and then that's how we got to know 7th Street. My father loved that house in the back. He said, "Someday I'm going to own that house," so when it was in the paper, we bought it. But after we moved out -- remember Bob Ramos, Big Bob? No, you prob --

BETTY BURGO - I don't think she knows him, no.

MARY SOARES - I don't think she knows him. After we moved out, there were Ramoses; they moved in. And next door was Jackie and Lillian Ramos. You know, Jackie owns that children's thing on --

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yeah, Sunshine.

MARY SOARES - Sunshine.

ANN MARIE LOPES - I interviewed her too.

MARY SOARES - Yeah. She lived on the corner. They were Ramoses. And my brother Raymond bought that house next door, Ramoses, even now, and Lucille's house, Ramoses. And that's how it's been since --

BETTY BURGO - We were all Ramoses --

MARY SOARES - They should have named it the Ramos --

BETTY BURGO - -- except the house across from us.

MARY SOARES - Yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Ramos Street.

BETTY BURGO - Yeah.

MARY SOARES - Yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Who needs 7th Street? That's just so boring. Ramos Street would be better.

MARY SOARES - Yeah.

BETTY BURGO - Yes, of course.

MARY SOARES - But the Jasons were the only ones, the Jasons, they were.

BETTY BURGO - The only cows on the farm.

MARY SOARES - And then the Alors. I don't know if she -- you don't know who they were?

BETTY BURGO - Yeah, they lived way in the back.

MARY SOARES - They lived in back.

ANN MARIE LOPES - The Jasons didn't want to change their name? (laughter)

BETTY BURGO - No, they should have changed it to Ramos. Yeah, because it was a Ramos street.

ANN MARIE LOPES - I mean, you know, to be part of the group.

BETTY BURGO - Yep. And it was so funny -- as the years went by, it stayed like that,

you know? The different Ramoses --

MARY SOARES - There's still a lot of Ramoses there.

BETTY BURGO - -- would -- you know, like next door, Robin lived on the first floor, and Caroline -- they were Ramoses. And then Lucille was there, my brother Raymond was there, and my brother Cecil, so it was all Ramoses.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Well, Lucille's son lives across the street.

BETTY BURGO - Mm-hmm, yep, yep.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So the Ramos -- I don't know who they sold the house to.

MARY SOARES - She has one son? Two?

ANN MARIE LOPES - No, she has three.

BETTY BURGO - No, she has three.

MARY SOARES - I know I meet one in church that looks just like Tony, just like his father.

ANN MARIE LOPES - When?

MARY SOARES - I met him a couple of weeks ago with Ricky. Twelve o'clock mass.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK. You sure it's his son?

MARY SOARES - Lucille's son.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yeah. You're sure it's the son and not a grandson?

MARY SOARES - Yeah. I told him, I says, "I know who you are. You're a Ramos."

ANN MARIE LOPES - It must have been Sonny.

BETTY BURGO - Yeah, it had to be Sonny, yeah.

MARY SOARES - Because he looked just like his father. Tony was always in our house.

We knew Tony for years, when they lived in Dartmouth.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Growing up.

MARY SOARES - Growing up, yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So we're out of the climbing tree age and all that kind of stuff and

you're getting into your young teens and you're starting to get ready to date.

What are you doing other than cruising the Avenue?

MARY SOARES - Well, we'd go to the movies or we'd go to a dance. That's what we used to do, right?

BETTY BURGO - Yeah.

MARY SOARES - I don't know about you.

BETTY BURGO - But you didn't go to a dance, you know, with your girlfriends; you went with your brothers or your cousins or your mother in those days.

ANN MARIE LOPES - For protection?

BETTY BURGO - Yes, I guess.

MARY SOARES - When we first started to the dances --

BETTY BURGO - She went, not me.

MARY SOARES - -- it was always with my mother, you know. Well, that was my way into the Avenue and the halls. And then after that, we waited about five years, then -- I used to go to Lincoln Park all the time. They had all the big-name bands there. I was lucky; my mother wasn't strict with me. Being the oldest girl, they usually are strict. But I used to see all the big-name bands there. And all the boys were away, and then when they came back and they had all these dances and everything, I used to go sometimes by myself, or I'd go meet Tillie when she was single. When (laughs) she got married, she didn't go anywhere. She was always home. So that's why we kind of -- because it wasn't the same.

BETTY BURGO - But I found when I was coming up, I didn't go to dances because I didn't like them.

MARY SOARES - Oh, I loved dancing, I loved it.

BETTY BURGO - I mean, I liked dancing, but my girlfriend that lived in back, her father

used to play in a big band, so we'd go to Lincoln Park or some of those places with him, not because we were going to dance, just so we can sit there and listen to the music. Which was fun. That was a difference in -- Mary loves dancing. I like to dance, but I wasn't used to it.

MARY SOARES - My mother loved dancing, too.

BETTY BURGO - And when she says that my mother wasn't strict with her, she didn't have to be, because my brothers were so strict.

MARY SOARES - But they didn't go to those dances.

BETTY BURGO - No, but they were -- the older ones were strict.

MARY SOARES - But I'll tell you -- I'll tell you one thing, though. She let me go. She knew what time I took that bus. She knew what time it comes back. So she would time me from the time it hits the bus station home.

ANN MARIE LOPES - She had a curfew.

BETTY BURGO - Yeah.

MARY SOARES - Into the dance hall and back, she knew.

ANN MARIE LOPES - My mother talks about her brothers and how protective they were.

BETTY BURGO - Yeah, they were very protective.

MARY SOARES - They always -- brothers always are.

BETTY BURGO - Because they know what's going on out there, so they're going to protect you, so they say.

MARY SOARES - Always.

ANN MARIE LOPES - (laughs) "So they say." I love that.

BETTY BURGO - Yeah. But my brothers are very protective, and where I was the middle one and I had all these others on top of me, oh, it was -- sometimes it was a little too much. (laughter)

MARY SOARES - But I had two brothers for years, and then Manny was born after me -- all boys. Finally she was born, you know? But then Betty had her own way, you know. She was the baby girl, and she was the baby girl for years and years and years.

BETTY BURGO - It was nice.

MARY SOARES - Until Dottie was born. But for years.

BETTY BURGO - I'll tell you, my brothers spoiled me. Yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - You probably weren't too happy when Dottie was born.

BETTY BURGO - No. Well, it didn't bother me too much because I was already spoiled. My brothers are always good to me. My brother Jigs, I was like his little princess, which was great. You know what was nice about it? We'd go to Roosevelt -- when we were in Roosevelt, I'll never forget it, and I -- you take -- girls take the bus more than the boys do, so you had a week's supply of tickets, and if you used them all, you're stuck. And I'd go to my brother Manny, "But Manny..." I'd cry. (laughs)

MARY SOARES - She was good for that.

BETTY BURGO - "It's raining and it's horrible out." So he'd walk home and I'd take the bus.

ANN MARIE LOPES - See, that's a nice brother, though.

BETTY BURGO - Yeah, yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - That's a really nice brother.

MARY SOARES - But you could have gone to the office. When there's a storm they give you a free ticket.

BETTY BURGO - Well, I never knew that.

MARY SOARES - In the school.

BETTY BURGO - When I was in school, I don't remember them ever doing that.

MARY SOARES - Oh, I had to know that, because I had a jacket up to here. At that time, our skirts were up to here, and we had saddle shoes with the bobby socks, and every time I walked -- I walked all winter long --

BETTY BURGO - Not me.

MARY SOARES - -- through the school year, because my mother didn't have the money. Eight tickets for a quarter, and she didn't have the money to pay for those tickets. So when I got home, my legs were -- when I got to school, my legs were frozen, my feet were frozen; that's the way it was. We had to walk to school, or there was no other way of getting there. But she always managed to chisel money --

BETTY BURGO - No, the thing is, when I came along --

MARY SOARES - -- because she was -- I was older, you know.

BETTY BURGO - Yeah. There was more money in the family because the brothers worked, so I got my tickets, and when I used it up, I had brothers that I could depend on to have their tickets.

ANN MARIE LOPES - See, you were too quiet.

MARY SOARES - We were all kids; where would they get the money? My brothers, you know how they'd get money? They used to shine shoes, or they'd go around collecting bottles.

BETTY BURGO - Or they would take cigarettes off the --

MARY SOARES - No, no, that was Agnes.

BETTY BURGO - No, wait, wait, wait. They would get the cigarettes, the butts, you know, people who throw them away big, and they'd put them -- they'd go buy that tobacco paper and roll it and put it in the packet and sell it to one of my uncles. You know so they made money that way.

ANN MARIE LOPES - They were entrepreneurs.

BETTY BURGO - Yeah, they were. At that age, yeah. And my brother Cee always knew how to make things and sell it, you know, so we were kind of fortunate, I think.

MARY SOARES - Yeah. My sister-in-law Agnes, oh, she was a smoker. She'd have a cigarette hanging out of her mouth as she's mopping the floor or whatever she is doing -- there's a cigarette. So she sent for one of those machines, and she'd get the cigarette butts out of the ashtray, cut off the part where you had your mouth and cut out the part where it's lit, so she'd get the good tobacco in the middle, put it all in a pile.

(break in recording)

ANN MARIE LOPES - Why?

MARY SOARES - When we worked at the school, the next day. We hated Halloween.

BETTY BURGO - Oh, I don't like Halloween.

ANN MARIE LOPES - You don't like Halloween?

BETTY BURGO - No.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Why?

BETTY BURGO - Because there's too many wise kids now.

MARY SOARES - Oh, now, but we enjoyed it.

BETTY BURGO - My brother Louie and his wife were at my house about two years ago, because I live in Dartmouth, and they went by, and they threw a rock right through her back window.

MARY SOARES - Well, the kids now are vicious.

BETTY BURGO - And I live on a very quiet street, but these were kids that were coming from New Bedford area to go trick-or-treating. It was awful.

MARY SOARES - Reminds me of my brothers. They used to go trick-or-treating (laughs)

on Hawthorn Street.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yep, it's where the best candy was.

MARY SOARES - All those rich people --

BETTY BURGO - That's where you got all the candy.

MARY SOARES - Yeah. And they're saying, "Where are all these kids coming from?"

(laughter) So each year they'd buy a little more, a little more. But I know my kids were going there, too, my brothers.

BETTY BURGO - I know, because I can look out the window, and I see parents parking their car at the end of my street and dropping their kids off. And I don't say anything, because I remember when we used to go up on Hawthorn Street, you know?

MARY SOARES - Oh, we had fun; we had fun.

BETTY BURGO - Because that's the areas where you went.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Were you involved with the church?

BETTY BURGO - Very much so, yes.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK. OLOA?

BETTY BURGO - Mm-hmm, oh, yes.

ANN MARIE LOPES - I should say Our Lady of the Assumption Church.

MARY SOARES - She's into it more than me. I used to be in --

BETTY BURGO - Always have been.

MARY SOARES - -- all, you know, the St. Martin de Porres Guild and things like that, but she's more with the children.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So when you were kids, though, were you involved in the church --

BETTY BURGO - Oh, yes.

MARY SOARES - Always.

ANN MARIE LOPES - -- as kids?

BETTY BURGO - If you didn't go to church, you didn't go out. If on a Sunday, and you says, "Oh, I don't feel good today," fine, you stay in, stay in bed or stay in. When it came -- after church hours and now your friends come over, you couldn't go to church; you can't go out.

MARY SOARES - That's how we were brought up. Most of the parents did that.

BETTY BURGO - Yep. And I -- you know, and after I thought about it, I says, "Well, we're not going to church because we want to, we're going because our parents are making us," but that's not true. You know, if more people sent their children to church today, a better world it would be.

MARY SOARES - If more people spent time with their children, too, you know, and showed them right from wrong. They have no respect for the teachers.

BETTY BURGO - They have no respect for anyone.

MARY SOARES - They don't have respect for anyone. But I get along good with them because I used to give them those Creole eyes. When I looked at them, boy, they flew. (laughter)

BETTY BURGO - But you know what I found, that our church was our backbone.

MARY SOARES - Yeah.

BETTY BURGO - Our church.

ANN MARIE LOPES - What do you mean?

BETTY BURGO - Well, you went to church. They -- everyone -- you learned about God, and everybody treated you like you were special when you were in church. And the priests were -- to me, in my time -- they were very good to you.

MARY SOARES - They're good now but not before.

BETTY BURGO - The only ones who weren't good were the nuns. The nuns were

strict.

ANN MARIE LOPES - That's what I've heard.

BETTY BURGO - Yeah, the nuns were very strict. And not only that, not even the nuns, the older folks that went to church -- there were a few older women that were always there, and you did something wrong, you got in trouble. There was one that -- Mrs. Cruz, she'd have, like -- you know the pointer like the teachers have for music? And she'd go on your back like this, and you know that you shut up. You didn't talk in church then.

MARY SOARES - No, never.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Was the Mass in Latin?

BETTY BURGO - Yes, it was. Can you believe that?

MARY SOARES - The Mass for the -- not the eight o'clock mass.

BETTY BURGO - The Mass was in Latin when we were kids.

ANN MARIE LOPES - When you were kids.

MARY SOARES - Oh, yeah, that's right, that's right. But not now, yeah.

BETTY BURGO - It was Latin. But you got so used to it that you knew what they were saying. That's how I felt, because we sang in Latin.

MARY SOARES - I know I complained to my father one time. He says, "Look, you go to church." He said, "You don't have to know what they're saying," you know. But he knew, but --

ANN MARIE LOPES - He knew Latin, or because he knew Creole?

MARY SOARES - He understood it. Yeah, he understood.

BETTY BURGO - But it's funny -- you went to church, you knew what they were saying because after a while you got so used to it. Latin Masses, there was more -- there was more reverence when it was in Latin. It was. The church was quieter...

MARY SOARES - Yeah, but I remember going to church. Father John Steambick (sp?) – not Steambick (sp?).

BETTY BURGO - No, Father John --

MARY SOARES - Vaselair (sp?).

BETTY BURGO - Yeah, yeah.

MARY SOARES - He used to bang on that pulpit and bang, "And you will go to hell..."

BETTY BURGO - Oh, I don't remember that.

ANN MARIE LOPES - He just passed away.

MARY SOARES - I was scared. I was scared.

BETTY BURGO - Father John?

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yeah, there was a Father John that just passed away.

BETTY BURGO - No, no, this one's been dead a while.

MARY SOARES - No, this one...

BETTY BURGO - He was a German priest, and no one liked him, but I did, because he was always nice to me. He was, he was nice to me.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did you (inaudible) --

MARY SOARES - Well, I never spoke to a priest, you know. I was too scared.

BETTY BURGO - Not me.

MARY SOARES - Oh, boy.

BETTY BURGO - I was into church.

MARY SOARES - Now they're your buddies.

ANN MARIE LOPES - You're almost opposites, almost complete --

MARY SOARES - We are.

BETTY BURGO - Yeah. When it comes to church, Mary didn't go as much as I did. You know. You didn't --

MARY SOARES - I went a lot.

BETTY BURGO - Yeah, but after, when you got married, you didn't go as much at first.

ANN MARIE LOPES - When you were -- she's talking about being grown up, not as kids.

MARY SOARES - When my kids were little, you know, but I always took them to church.

That's how they made their first communion and everything. I may have laid back a couple of years, but I was always in church.

BETTY BURGO - Well, the family all went to church. The family that prays together stays together.

MARY SOARES - Because I don't remember staying away from church for a long time.

BETTY BURGO - Not when you were young.

MARY SOARES - When I was young I was always in church!

BETTY BURGO - I says you didn't stay away then.

MARY SOARES - No.

ANN MARIE LOPES - She's talking about when you're older.

MARY SOARES - Yeah, and when I got married, of course, I had the two babies 11 months -- no, 13 months apart, and I would stay home, but as they got old enough to go to first communion, to make their first communion, I went to church with them.

BETTY BURGO - When it came my time, we had record hops and all that, because next our church on Water Street, they had that little canteen-like, so it was -- so you were at church. You know, it was something --

ANN MARIE LOPES - Do you know -- you know Minnie Senna, then.

BETTY BURGO - Yeah, of course, she's my cousin.

MARY SOARES - Oh, yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh, OK. Yeah, because she was talking about the canteen.

BETTY BURGO - Oh, yes. My brother Manny used to be one of the top ones there, and so you could go because my brother was there, so I didn't have to worry about it. And it was fun, because that's where you met your friends and everything.

MARY SOARES - Especially this new church -- that's the new one. I was in it all the time. I joined the St. Martin de Porres Guild. We did everything there. We were the one that had fundraisers and all that. We had all kinds of functions to bring in church -- money to the church. I was in everything.

BETTY BURGO - I love the new church.

MARY SOARES - Even the shows, I was in there.

BETTY BURGO - Yeah, she was in minstrel shows.

MARY SOARES - Minstrel show.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK, explain minstrel to me.

BETTY BURGO - Minstrel is when they dress up --

MARY SOARES - It was a money-maker.

BETTY BURGO - Minstrel show, they dress up --

MARY SOARES - We never blackened our face like, who was it, Al Jolson?

BETTY BURGO - Yeah. They didn't do that, but they --

MARY SOARES - No, no. It was just like a variety show.

BETTY BURGO - Yeah, they danced and sang --

MARY SOARES - You danced, yeah.

BETTY BURGO - -- and different things. It was nice.

MARY SOARES - No, we never did anything like that.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yeah, that's what I wanted to make sure.

MARY SOARES - We knew better, yeah.

BETTY BURGO - No, (inaudible).

MARY SOARES - In this day and age you do that? Are you kidding?

BETTY BURGO - But I'll tell you, I liked -- as I said, I love my church, where we are now, but I loved Water Street because it was -- it was even more closeness, you know, because you had the canteen next door, and we had all different things down there at that time, when we were younger. As you got older --

MARY SOARES - Well, they didn't have that when I was younger, you know.

BETTY BURGO - But as you got older, things started to change. You know, when we came up to what's the name, to 6th Street, it was nice; the priests were different, you know.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So were you involved in the activities?

BETTY BURGO - In our church? Yeah. I was a --

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yeah, when you were a kid?

BETTY BURGO - Yeah, mm-hmm. I loved it, you know? I would go to the different things they had.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Minnie Senna told me she was part of the choir.

BETTY BURGO - Yes, she was. I sang in the choir.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did you really?

BETTY BURGO - Yeah, I sang in the choir.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Well, she told me in the course of the conversation that you didn't really -- because Marie Sparks said she couldn't sing, so she wasn't in the choir, and Minnie Senna said you didn't have to be able to be able to sing to be in the choir.

BETTY BURGO - No, you didn't. You didn't.

ANN MARIE LOPES - (laughs) Really?

BETTY BURGO - No, because we were so many of them, so you weren't singled out.

ANN MARIE LOPES - You didn't have a solo.

BETTY BURGO - No. Oh, I did.

ANN MARIE LOPES - You did?

BETTY BURGO - I used to sing "Agnus Dei." Now what was it? I've forgotten. But I used to sing.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So there were some people in the choir who could sing.

BETTY BURGO - Well, the best singer in our choir was Minnie.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh, really?

BETTY BURGO - Oh, my God, that girl had angel's voice. No, she had an angel's voice. Oh, Minnie was great.

MARY SOARES - Oh, Minnie? Oh, what a voice.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Thank you.

BETTY BURGO - And then came Rosemary Sanchez in this church. They even sing at the synagogue at different things.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh, really?

BETTY BURGO - She has such a beau -- she went to school for singing. She had such a beau --

MARY SOARES - Is that Minnie?

BETTY BURGO - No, I'm talking about Rosemary Sanchez.

MARY SOARES - Oh, well, one time they wanted Minnie Senna at the synagogue.

BETTY BURGO - Yeah, well, I told her, Minnie had a beautiful voice. Oh, I used --

MARY SOARES - They wanted to sing at the school --

BETTY BURGO - -- to love to hear her sing.

MARY SOARES - -- but her father said no.

BETTY BURGO - But I'll tell you that --

MARY SOARES - In the Jewish synagogue. They wanted to send her to school.

BETTY BURGO - To school, yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh, yeah, because he was very Catholic.

BETTY BURGO - Oh, very much so.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Raised by a priest.

BETTY BURGO - Yeah, he was very, very -- he was one of our backbones in our church, always, always. And that's why, you know, his kids were very much into church.

MARY SOARES - Well, her and I, since they opened up the church, we've had St. Martin de Porres Guild, and everything we've done -- in fact, we've got a penny sale coming up, and then we have our annual bazaar coming up, and we always have all kind of functions to help pay for the church.

BETTY BURGO - Help the church, yeah.

MARY SOARES - But the church is almost paid for, isn't it?

BETTY BURGO - The church is paid for.

MARY SOARES - It is paid for, that's right. I remember when we had our celebration.

BETTY BURGO - But there's so many other things that have to be done.

MARY SOARES - But electricity and all that.

BETTY BURGO - The heat. You know, that's -- see, the youth of today don't realize that we're really responsible for our churches, because they don't get much money, and we have to heat it, the electricity, you know.

MARY SOARES - Right now they need a roof.

BETTY BURGO - No, we don't need at our church. You're talking about --

MARY SOARES - It was in the paper.

BETTY BURGO - That's St. John's, not our church.

MARY SOARES - My pocketbook, I've got everything on it that they're fixing.

BETTY BURGO - Mary, we don't -- well, they're putting new shingles --

MARY SOARES - Shingles.

BETTY BURGO - -- on our rectory, not on our church. Not rectory, our house, the center, that's where they're -- not on the church, on the center. Next door. That's where they're putting the new roof.

MARY SOARES - Oh, yeah, shingles, that's right.

BETTY BURGO - Yeah.

MARY SOARES - Yeah.

BETTY BURGO - But we've got to realize that the church is ours, and we have to keep it going by supporting it. You know, we don't have a lot of money to support our church, but whatever you got, I don't know. Well, to me, church is very important.

MARY SOARES - I know I go out of town a lot. In the winter, I'm out of here; I'm in Florida with my daughter. I miss the church; I really miss it. I miss going to that church.

BETTY BURGO - I feel when -- you know, a lot of people -- a lot of people look at me like I'm crazy, but when I walk into OLOA, I feel Jesus the minute I walk in the door.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Really? That's great.

BETTY BURGO - Yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - I like that church, too.

BETTY BURGO - Yeah, the minute I walk in, I feel he's there with me. You know? So. And then Joe was sick for a long time, but I'd still -- like on a Sunday, I'd still go to church. One of them would stay so I could go. I would still go to church. I taught for 25 years, religious ed, and I loved it, and I still love my church, and when Joe died, my dedication was to my church, that I would do as much as I could. But now since I've had these few heart problems, I had to, you know, drop a lot of things.

MARY SOARES - That's like me. I don't have a car now. I really miss it. But we would

have had a snack or something over here while you were here, but I just didn't have time to run down, you know, to get in the car to get something.

ANN MARIE LOPES - That's -- the water -- water's fine. You bring up something I want to talk about: Cape Verdeans and food!

BETTY BURGO - Oh, tell me about it.

MARY SOARES - Oh. They are a very poor people, but they're always there with the food.

BETTY BURGO - You always had food.

MARY SOARES - Always.

BETTY BURGO - Because I can remember as a child, there'd be so many people that would come over to our house, and they'd be sitting there eating. I'd be saying to myself, selfish, "Is there going to be anything left for us (inaudible)?" You know?

MARY SOARES - My mother had a bottomless pot.

BETTY BURGO - Yeah, but I can remember my mother, she would give everyone, and she'd go with very little because she's going to, you know, give to the people. And this is the one thing about our parents. No matter whose house you went to, they fed you. They always fed you. They were big believers on feeding us.

MARY SOARES - And if you didn't eat, they'd get mad.

BETTY BURGO - Yeah. No, you had to eat something or else you'd be insulting them if you didn't take it. But I remember those days. It was so nice, you know? It was nice for us because they used to come over to our house, because we were so many of us, so everyone would come over to our house. And Thanksgiving, oh, I will never forget it. All my brother Jigs's friends would come over, and they all loved my mother's stuffing.

MARY SOARES - The stuffing.

BETTY BURGO - And then she'd be -- you know, she'd give this one that much and this one, and I'd say, "Don't they have a mother and father?" (laughter)

MARY SOARES - But that was special.

BETTY BURGO - And I'd say, "We're not going to have any left for tomorrow."
(laughter) I was selfish that way because I wanted it for me. But everyone would come to our house, and what was nice about it, they'd come there to eat, and all these fellows, my brothers' friends, they worked at the fishing down at those -- where they work doing fish --

MARY SOARES - Fish houses?

BETTY BURGO - Huh?

MARY SOARES - The fish house.

BETTY BURGO - The fish houses, and they'd bring us scallops and fish all the time. So, you know, you get paid back. No matter what you do for people, you get it back. You know, people seem to think they keep it to themselves. No, you help others, you get it back in return. My father always told me, "You get it in twofold," he says. "You help others, because you get it in twofold." And it's true. It's true.

MARY SOARES - My mother always told us that.

BETTY BURGO - We never went without.

MARY SOARES - You know, during the Depression you figured, uh-oh, like one day Ma says, "I don't know what I'm going to cook today; I don't have anything," and all of a sudden she had food, you know?

BETTY BURGO - And my father used to bake, and of course --

MARY SOARES - He was a baker, yeah.

BETTY BURGO - -- all the neighbors would smell it. He had to stop, because he thought he was helping by baking. They'd come over, (laughs) and all that money

that he spent to make bread for us, they came over, and he couldn't say no, and he'd give them. So it was like he was wasting money, but it was great. My father used to bake, and I used to love the...

MARY SOARES - Even the Italians next door, the Batistellis (sp?), anything we made, but they would smell, because their window was right there. You know how that – the house goes in the back? It was right there. "Oh, Manuel is making bread," and they were right there. And he'd better give them some because they would tell, "I could smell your bread," you know, like maybe once, you know.

BETTY BURGO - Yeah, you couldn't say you weren't making it. But Pa was good that way, but he finally stopped because it was costing too much money. We were -- you know, he wasn't saving money by making our own bread.

MARY SOARES - Yeah, but that bread was the best.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Do you have any favorite food, favorite Cape Verdean dishes?

MARY SOARES - Well, my mother's *jag* was the best. (laughs) She made some good *jag*.

BETTY BURGO - My mother's *cachupa* was the best.

MARY SOARES - Yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Do you still make them?

MARY SOARES - She was a good cook. Yeah.

BETTY BURGO - She does.

ANN MARIE LOPES - You cook Cape Verdean dishes?

MARY SOARES - Yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - You do, but you don't?

BETTY BURGO - She does -- no, I don't -- I do *cachupa*; that's the only one.

MARY SOARES - She wasn't into that stuff.

BETTY BURGO - No.

ANN MARIE LOPES - *Cachupa* is one of those that everybody's is different.

BETTY BURGO - Yup, everyone's is different.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Everybody is -- and there are only certain people that I can --

BETTY BURGO - It's not everyone's I can eat.

MARY SOARES - I don't like the ones where they throw all that *linguiça* in there. My mother never threw *linguiça* in there. It was mostly pork bones, neck bones, and stuff like that.

BETTY BURGO - I met someone that made *monchupa* about three or four weeks ago, and she gave me some. She had string beans in it.

ANN MARIE LOPES - String beans?

MARY SOARES - What?!

BETTY BURGO - String beans, yeah. I have never --

MARY SOARES - She was emptying her fridge. (laughs)

BETTY BURGO - Must have been, because I've never had --

ANN MARIE LOPES - Isn't that garbage stew?

BETTY BURGO - Yeah, that's what it was...you know? I says, "Oh, this is awful." And she had black beans in it, so the *cald* looked a little dark. No. I took one taste, and I said, you know, this is it. But it's not everyone that can make it.

MARY SOARES - No.

ANN MARIE LOPES - That's true for a lot of things.

BETTY BURGO - Yeah. Like the dressing my mother made -- best dressing, as far as we're concerned. You know, and everyone would come --

MARY SOARES - And we all have the recipe.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh, good.

BETTY BURGO - Yeah, and everyone would come, you know, to have her dressing.

And my younger sister that passed away, Kitty --

MARY SOARES - Kitty, yeah.

BETTY BURGO - -- she cooked just like my mother, but she didn't live long enough.

MARY SOARES - She was right there with her all the time.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did you have family meals?

BETTY BURGO - Yes. We never sat in the parlor or the dining room or in the TV room,
no. We had to sit at the table.

MARY SOARES - Dining room.

BETTY BURGO - And my father was a big believer when we were young, a big
believer is when you're on the table, when you sit down and my mother puts the
food, you sit and eat. You can talk after, but God's in the center of our table, and
you don't talk while --

MARY SOARES - I brought my kids up like that, too.

BETTY BURGO - -- they're eating. We talked after.

MARY SOARES - I would never feed them unless they were all there, so they were always
on -- and if one was late, by the time they sat at that table, there's the eyes --

BETTY BURGO - They'd be given dirty eyes.

MARY SOARES - -- giving them dirty eyes. But that's the way I brought them up. We
would not eat alone; we would eat together. And they'll tell you that to this day.

BETTY BURGO - No, I think it's great that we ate together, we all -- the only one that
ate last mostly was my mother because she's putting the stuff on the table, and
then she'd come and sit. But my father had that rule. We were to sit around the
table and talk after we ate. Then we'd talk about school and different things --

MARY SOARES - Whatever, yeah.

BETTY BURGO - -- after we ate, but while you were eating, God's in the center table;

you're not supposed to disrespect him. You eat your food, then you can talk. Then you'd be looking, because she ate slow, and I'd go, "Ugh, she's taking so long."

(laughter)

MARY SOARES - Well.

ANN MARIE LOPES - You were enjoying your food.

MARY SOARES - I enjoyed my food.

BETTY BURGO - But we all eat slow, but I don't eat as slow as her. I eat slower than most.

MARY SOARES - I don't eat slow anymore.

BETTY BURGO - No? Well, I still do. But I loved it, because you got to know what was going on with each one of us because we talked about it at the table.

MARY SOARES - Like Johnny would say, "OK, I want a report." He used to work out of town. Especially when he'd come in for the weekend, whatever happened -- during the weekend, he would work on these construction jobs, and he'd go to New York or Connecticut, and when he came home on the weekend -- but it was always that way, even when he was working in the area. You never sat down without everybody being at that table.

BETTY BURGO - If you came home late, you were punished, because you knew that supper was at 5:30, and so you're home.

MARY SOARES - They were all there, because just those eyes were killing them.

BETTY BURGO - Yeah. We sat there and we ate, and it was great. And this is what I say is missing today: people don't sit around the table anymore and people don't respect one another.

MARY SOARES - No, I don't like it when they don't sit around the table.

BETTY BURGO - Like you go to some houses -- this child's in that room, the other

one's in that -- no. If they sat together, that would be so much nicer. And you know the funny part about it, Ann Marie? My young -- the grandson that's coming now, when they moved here from Texas, you know, when they were home, they sat around the table, they always prayed before they ate, so there was no such thing as you would eat your food before... And he came to my house one day and we're sitting there and we're getting ready to eat, and I don't know which one of the kids started to eat. "Grandma." I says, "What's the matter, Marquise?" "They're eating, and we haven't said our prayer yet." But this is what they did in Texas. They used to pray together on the table. But do you know, after, say, a couple of months and hanging around with the other kids, he started to lose that.

MARY SOARES - No. I mean, you do it now, you know. Like me and my grandchildren and them, we pray at the table.

BETTY BURGO - Yeah, but that's when you're with your grandchildren, but I'm talking about like Dominique and Blaine and Rene's kids. When they sat at the table, they prayed before they ate, but now they've become "New Bedfordized", Massachusetts, because, you know...? And when I say, "Marquise, you're not going to pray?" he says, "I already did, Grandma." He did himself, but he didn't -- you know. But it's funny how different areas do different things and different families do different things.

MARY SOARES - Even though we were religious, the only time we prayed was Thanksgiving and Christmas.

BETTY BURGO - Yeah, as a family.

MARY SOARES - At the table, as a family.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yeah, that's true for us, too.

MARY SOARES - Your mother ever have those Creole eyes? She ever give you the Creole

eyes?

BETTY BURGO - Tillie did, yes.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yeah.

BETTY BURGO - Yes, she did.

MARY SOARES - I remember this kid next door to my room, he came running out. This girl's always crying -- bit her on her leg, he kicked her, he'd punch her in the stomach. This is a special needs class. So one day he's running out of the room, and I said, "Hey, where you going?" He looks at me, he says, "You know something? I can bite you; I can kick you; I can do anything I want to because my mother says I can." I said, "Well, you go get your mother right now." (laughter) That kid screamed and yelled and went right back in his room. They're saying, "What happened to you?" (laughs) The way I talk to him. I said, "Go ahead, kick me, punch me." He went running back in that room; they couldn't figure out what happened to him. (laughs) You just show them you mean business.

BETTY BURGO - But, you know, didn't you, as growing up, the difference in today growing up? If your mother -- if you had company -- company came in, all my mother had to do was look at us --

MARY SOARES - Yeah, me too.

BETTY BURGO - -- and we knew that we had to go into another room.

MARY SOARES - Absolutely. I'm sure your mother did that.

BETTY BURGO - You know, you didn't stay there and listen between them, listen to what they were saying. No, you went to the other room because they had company. Today, kids are in the conversation.

MARY SOARES - Oh, yeah. And I had one say, when I went to see her mother, because her mother said -- "Ma, you're lying. It doesn't go like that." If it was my kid, I

would have whopped. (laughter) You know?

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yes, I do know. My godson called me -- well, I called him. He lives in New York. And he said -- he comes to the phone, "Yo, dude, what up?" I said --

BETTY BURGO - No.

ANN MARIE LOPES - "Excuse me?"

MARY SOARES - Dude?

ANN MARIE LOPES - "Yo, dude, what up?"

BETTY BURGO - "Yo, dude, what up?"

ANN MARIE LOPES - And I just said, "Excuse me?" and he said, "Hi, Dinha, how are you?" "Yo, dude, what's up?" -- I don't think so.

BETTY BURGO - No. Uh-uh, no.

MARY SOARES - That's where you stop it, when they're small. You don't let them get away with it.

ANN MARIE LOPES - He's never done it again.

BETTY BURGO - No, no, because -- you know, like I would say -- I'd say to the kids, you know, my son, I brought him up the best way I can, the way my mother and father brought us up, and I would say, "I never heard my son swear," never heard him swear.

MARY SOARES - No, you never did either.

BETTY BURGO - Because I didn't allow it, you know. And one kid says, "Oh, there's nothing wrong --" there are some words that I don't like even though they're not that bad, but he never swore. And guess what? My son brought his children up the same way. One day one of the kids said something about hell, and Stevie came, and he says, "Oh, Ma, he said -- he swore." And I says, "Well, what did he say?" I wanted to laugh. He says something about hell, I don't know what, "Go to hell" or

something. And, you know, because, hey, everybody says that today. But I says, "Oh, my goodness." I says, "You're right, he shouldn't have said that, but guess what? If he says it, it's his business; you just don't say it."

MARY SOARES - My kids wouldn't dare say that.

BETTY BURGO - Yeah, "You have to do what we brought you up with?"

ANN MARIE LOPES - Wouldn't dare say "hell"?

MARY SOARES - "Go to hell"? No.

BETTY BURGO - No, not when they were small. "Go to hell"? No.

MARY SOARES - Uh-uh. Now --

BETTY BURGO - In your generation, yes.

ANN MARIE LOPES - I don't --

BETTY BURGO - Not so much ours.

ANN MARIE LOPES - I don't know about that, because I'm listening to this and I'm thinking my godson calls his teacher, like, Patty. To this day, I have a junior high school teacher that we're friends -- she's only ten years older than I am -- I still call her Mrs. Nowell. She has a fit.

BETTY BURGO - That's respect.

MARY SOARES - You never call them by their first names, never.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Right, right, because -- and that, I think, when you were having that conversation about schools, if people just respected, so they just assume that the professional knew what they were doing, that might be some of it with your -- with your mom.

MARY SOARES - Well, I had it made in school, because if this little kid was out of line, I would just say, "All right. I see your mother every now and then. You want me to talk to her?" "Oh, no, no, no." So I had it made. I knew the mothers, the

grandparents, and all. So they respected me. I retired seven years ago, and everybody said, "You retired at the right time."

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yeah, it's tough right now.

MARY SOARES - But I still miss it, you know?

BETTY BURGO - I wouldn't teach right now. You know, there are a lot of good teachers, but there are a lot of bad teachers in the school system. And I feel sorry for the good teachers because they have a hard time with these young people of today, because if I say to you, "Don't do that," "Well, my mother says I could do it." And if this kid goes --

MARY SOARES - That's what that kid told me that day. I told him, "Go get your mother."

BETTY BURGO - This kid goes and tells the mother and the mother comes and starts yelling. That didn't happen in those -- you know that so it was wrong, our parents.

MARY SOARES - No, you never -- they -- those kids lie a lot. They will say, "Well, my mother said..." I said, "OK, I'm going to call your mother." "Oh, no, don't do that. Don't do that." They lie.

BETTY BURGO - Oh, well, children lie.

MARY SOARES - All right, so you don't believe them. That's why they all respected me.

BETTY BURGO - Yeah, some of them you have to believe.

MARY SOARES - Yeah, well. I just want -- their mothers always spoke to me when they brought the kids in --

BETTY BURGO - Oh, you were just fortunate.

MARY SOARES - -- and the fathers and the grandparents.

BETTY BURGO - No, because I had some bad kids in catechism.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So let me ask you the question I usually wrap up. OK, so obviously your generation was very proud to be Cape Verdean.

MARY SOARES - Yes.

BETTY BURGO - Oh, definitely.

ANN MARIE LOPES - You raised your kids to be proud to be Cape Verdean. Now, this next generation, do you think they feel the same way?

MARY SOARES - Very few of them do. You -- you work at the church so you know.

BETTY BURGO - No, there are still --

MARY SOARES - But they're --

BETTY BURGO - I would say --

MARY SOARES - Well, now, they're mixed. Some of them are not married to Cape Verdean -- they don't have a Cape Verdean father, so that makes a lot of difference. Although some fathers are strict, you know.

BETTY BURGO - No, I feel your generation, there's still a lot of them in your generation that's proud to be Cape Verdeans --

MARY SOARES - That's what I was saying.

BETTY BURGO - -- because I know a lot of them. But the generation of now? Like, you take my grandson Blaine and Dominique, and they change things, you know. Things change them, because they go off to school, and everything is different.

ANN MARIE LOPES - How did that happen? Your parents came here, OK, they really loved America, but they brought --

BETTY BURGO - Their own culture.

ANN MARIE LOPES - -- their "Cape Verdeanness" here. They give that to their children, OK. Your generation still has the Cape Verdean music and Cape Verdean dances and all that stuff.

BETTY BURGO - And all that stuff.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Right. You passed that on to your children, which, say, is my

generation. We still remember the Cape Verdean music and all this stuff --

BETTY BURGO - But there's a lot --

ANN MARIE LOPES - -- but there's -- I see the next generation isn't (inaudible).

BETTY BURGO - Yeah, there's a gap.

MARY SOARES - This generation, they question everything. They don't have to do it.

BETTY BURGO - No, I find.

MARY SOARES - Just because we did this and that, that's where it started. They don't have to do what we did.

BETTY BURGO - No, I don't think it's mostly that. I find that we were sort of a little lax because our parents gave us the most important thing.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Which is?

BETTY BURGO - Love. Not gifts, not nice clothes. They didn't give us -- they gave us love, and that was more important than everything else you get in the world. You have to have that love and respect. We came along and we felt, well, our kids, we didn't have this; we need to give them a little more. You know, my mother and father never gave us a car. You had to work for what you got.

MARY SOARES - When it came to --

BETTY BURGO - Not even have a car. No, but it's true. I'm talking about what we gave our kids. We gave our kids --

MARY SOARES - Well, that's why they're spoiled rotten.

BETTY BURGO - -- more clothes because the kids wanted to have these clothes because the other kids have it. That's the difference.

MARY SOARES - That's where it started.

BETTY BURGO - Yep, that's where. We started it; my generation started it.

MARY SOARES - Yeah. It's like this little kid was talking about he was going to get a pair

of sneakers. They're a little kindergarten thing. Seventy-five-dollar sneakers. And the kid says, "Your mother's not going to buy that for you. That's a lot of money." They're talking amongst one another. So the kid says, "If my mother doesn't buy it, my grandmother will."

BETTY BURGO - (laughs) Which is true.

MARY SOARES - OK, so the kid got the sneakers.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Mm-hmm, \$75 sneakers for a kindergartener who's foot is going to grow.

MARY SOARES - A little pipsqueak, you know?

BETTY BURGO - Yeah. But don't you think that our parents gave us more by giving us the love? I can remember at the end of the week getting a penny and I thought I was rich, because you had penny candy, you know? Today it's different. They want everything. It's a different world, it is.

MARY SOARES - And they get it because the grandparents will get it.

BETTY BURGO - But it's all because the generations did that.

ANN MARIE LOPES - My big --

BETTY BURGO - Television.

ANN MARIE LOPES - My biggest thing is the respect.

BETTY BURGO - Oh, that is the biggest.

MARY SOARES - That is the biggest thing, respect. If you have respect, you have no problems with that child if they have respect.

BETTY BURGO - That's what I told Father. I says -- it was Father David at the time -- "The younger people today have lost respect, because you would never think of talking back to an older person." You know, you might have felt it in here, you know, but you never said anything.

MARY SOARES - But these kids come to school, like I told you about that little kid and "My mother says." Lots of things their mother has told -- "Don't let them do this to you" and "Don't let them do..." You know, this little kid was hiding outdoors when they called everybody's name to come in. He skipped school, in other words. So an hour after class they brought him into the classroom, and we were saying, "Where were you?" "I was hiding." "Why?" So the teacher I was working with put her finger in his face like, "Don't you ever do that again. You don't know what could have happened to you if somebody came and grabbed you and took you with them." So you never saw the mother. You'd call the mother and tell her that you want to talk to her about her son failing and this and that. She came in the very next day, and the teacher was telling her what happened. "Well, why did you point your finger in my son's face. I never point my finger in my son's face." So she says, "Well, I wanted to show him..." "You don't show him anything." She didn't even know what happened, OK? She was so busy yelling at the teacher she never found out why.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did either of you leave the city? Did you live somewhere else?

MARY SOARES - No.

BETTY BURGO - I went from New Bedford to Dartmouth. That's leaving the city.

(laughs)

MARY SOARES - I've always lived here.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Why? Why do you stay here?

BETTY BURGO - Because I love the Cape Verdean people, and I love -- we have a closeness here. No other city has what New Bedford has when it comes to Cape Verdean.

MARY SOARES - The church and all that, uh-huh.

BETTY BURGO - We have our church --

MARY SOARES - Togetherness.

BETTY BURGO - -- that keeps our togetherness, which is true. And I just love being around.

MARY SOARES - I told you I go to Florida. I go to church with Janice every week, but I miss my church.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Because of the community?

MARY SOARES - Yeah. And the people at her church are very friendly.

BETTY BURGO - But it's still different. I -- you know, we may have problems in our area, but we still have a community regardless. You know what I mean? The church and everything that goes on around that, it's still -- there's still a lot of good. We have some bad apples, and that's sad.

MARY SOARES - Well, that's good and bad everywhere.

BETTY BURGO - But this is because of all this television, all this different stuff, and all this disrespect because adults don't respect kids also.

MARY SOARES - They don't respect their own kids.

BETTY BURGO - No. There's a lot of disrespect in this -- and they've gone through a lot. You know? They've gone through a lot because of everything being brought out and noticing about the racial stuff. We didn't know a lot of it, you know?

MARY SOARES - We had this cute little kid in school. He was the cutest -- cute as a button. And he was always falling asleep in school. And the teacher said, "Why don't you go to bed early?" He says, "I do." She says, "Oh, no, you can't be going to bed early." And so she'd watch him, and he'd be reading, and he'd be popping his eyes open like that so they can stay. Well, he went into the first grade and they discovered that his mother was giving him drugs at night so he could pass out and

she could do whatever she wants. OK? Now, this is the difference that parents -- this is what's going on.

BETTY BURGO - Well, why are the parents like this? Because the other -- you know, just --

MARY SOARES - They want to be out there with the other parents. They want to do their thing.

BETTY BURGO - I feel that there's a lot that's happening that's noticed -- that things that we didn't notice, even though it was going around us, you know, there is a lot we didn't notice. We didn't notice the prejudice because we just thought it was all right for these different things to be happening. That was the difference. Today it's all been brought out. You know? So, kids rebel today. They rebel today.

MARY SOARES - Well, it's the generation. Because, like, I heard some girls talk about they got their babies, or they're having a baby. Who's going to take care of the kid? The grandmother. They just go about their business and, I mean, back to their having their good time because the grandmother's going to take care of that baby. That's the way they're thinking now.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Is there anything that I haven't asked you about that you want to talk about in terms of growing up, being Cape Verdean in New Bedford, and...?

BETTY BURGO - What I can say about growing up, being a Cape Verdean in New Bedford when I was young, it was --

MARY SOARES - I enjoyed it.

BETTY BURGO - It was the greatest thing because we had good parents and good neighbors, you know.

MARY SOARES - We had togetherness.

BETTY BURGO - There was togetherness, and that -- being a Cape Verdean was --

MARY SOARES - And, of course, respect.

BETTY BURGO - Yeah. Being a Cape Verdean was a great thing. It still is, you know?

MARY SOARES - I was proud to be Cape Verdean.

BETTY BURGO - Yup, because we had our parents and our grandparents and godparents and neighbors and friends, you know, and so you had a lot of love then. I told you, there's no respect and love anymore.

MARY SOARES - That's because the parents don't have time to talk to their kids. You ever hear them talk to -- the kid's asking them a question, and they say, "Don't bother me." You should always answer their questions, always. They don't.

BETTY BURGO - But some parents really don't have time today. Believe me, some parents I've seen --

MARY SOARES - But you find some time. That's your kid. You brought that kid into this world.

BETTY BURGO - Yeah, at night you find time, yeah. But it's tough today. It's tough bringing up children today. I wouldn't want to be a young parent right now.

MARY SOARES - Why? Because they got their eye on -- out there.

ANN MARIE LOPES - I never asked you how you met your husbands.

BETTY BURGO - Oh, OK. I met my husband -- well, tell her first how you met your husband.

MARY SOARES - My husband was always in and out of my house -- my mother's godchild.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh, OK.

MARY SOARES - He used to ask me to go out with him; I said, "Get out of here. Go back to Dartmouth." And he was two years younger than me, although he was older than me in -- I mean, he --

BETTY BURGO - In mind.

MARY SOARES - -- quit school when he was 14 to work for the construction business, and he got away with it. He was always a little older because he did things as an older person, like an older person. So he kept telling me, "Aw, come on." I said, "No, go." And then one time, (laughs) remember when he came in, as short as he was. He had this zoot suit with a big hat, the chain hanging down there. Now, he --

BETTY BURGO - He thought he looked handsome.

MARY SOARES - -- it made him look like a stump. It made him look like a stump, you know. It'd shorten you because it's... So he's all proud, and I said, "Where are you going?" He said, "I came to pick you up to go to the movies." I said, "You go pick your old girlfriend." I said, "I ain't going nowhere with you." You know, he never wore that suit again. (laughter) Two of them he bought, a black and a gray suit, and did that to his pants, and then a hat with a big brim, he was cool.

BETTY BURGO - Not for us.

MARY SOARES - As time went on, you know, he asked me to go out; I said, "Oh, I might as well go out with you."

BETTY BURGO - Might as well. Yeah, sure.

MARY SOARES - And that's what happened.

BETTY BURGO - I met my husband at a basketball game, because I knew he played for OLOA, so I'd go to all the games.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh, so you had him scoped out.

BETTY BURGO - Yeah, I scoped him out, but he had been scoping me out before that, he said. And he'd send the ball -- he'd roll the ball, make sure it'd go near my foot. (laughter) That's how I met my husband, was at church functions, basketball games. That's why we had more than they did, because we had the basketball.

MARY SOARES - Mm, you did, yeah.

BETTY BURGO - You went to the games, you went where they were practicing, you know. So the church was always there. It was a big part of our lives.

ANN MARIE LOPES - And remains so, right?

BETTY BURGO - Yeah. Oh, yes, church --

MARY SOARES - And with us, it was all dancing and parties and stuff.

BETTY BURGO - If I don't go to church, I feel like a void is in me. You know, because I'm always there, you know, and it makes me feel good. Going to church makes me feel good.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did you do the -- christen the doll? Did you --

BETTY BURGO - Yes. Yes. They used some --

MARY SOARES - Who did?

BETTY BURGO - [Tiaia?]. Remember they used to christen the doll, and they'd have a big party, the whole weekend.

MARY SOARES - Anything for a party.

BETTY BURGO - Yup, and we'd be over at their house. It was so much fun. Kids all had the room where they were, and the grown-ups would be having their party. Yes, they used to christen dolls.

ANN MARIE LOPES - The adults used to christen the dolls.

BETTY BURGO - Yeah, not the kids.

MARY SOARES - No, no, it was the adults.

BETTY BURGO - It was the adults, yup.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yeah, my mom used to tell me about that.

BETTY BURGO - Yeah, that was fun because you got to go out, and you'd go -- everybody made food so that person that was doing it didn't have to do it all by themselves. Everyone brought a little food. See, that was the thing about Cape

Verdeans --

MARY SOARES - And, you know --

BETTY BURGO - They shared, and they still do.

MARY SOARES - Yeah, they still do. You know the club they call the ""Cocoo"" Club?

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yes.

MARY SOARES - You know how that was named ""Cocoo"" Club?

ANN MARIE LOPES - Actually I do, but if you want to share it, that'd be great.

BETTY BURGO - (laughs) Go ahead.

MARY SOARES - You do?

BETTY BURGO - Go ahead.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yes, please, share it with me, because the --

MARY SOARES - It was the husbands. They'd come in the house; the wife's always there.

And one of the women was a Lopes woman, Nha Barbara Tilde, and she said, "We got to do something." All they do is sit in the house. The husbands come in and out five or six times; she's right there. He wants coffee or whatever, she's right there. So she decided to have a group come to her house, they got together, and that's how the club started. Before you know it, they got more people and more people, and they started to have it at the Band Club. But it's because you're supposed to be behind that stove or whatever. Women weren't supposed to go out there.

BETTY BURGO - And that's why they called it the ""Cocoo"" Club. One of the men -

-

MARY SOARES - The men. The men named it.

BETTY BURGO - Named it the ""Cocoo"" Club.

MARY SOARES - Is that the same story you have?

BETTY BURGO - Yeah, that's right.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yeah, Theresa Almeida told me -- I was told that his wife was getting ready to go out, and she said to her, "Where are you going?" and she said, "I'm going to my club," and he said, "Oh, if you women think you can do -- have a club without men, then you're ""Cocoo""."

BETTY BURGO - Yeah, and that's how they got the name.

MARY SOARES - She was the one that started it.

ANN MARIE LOPES - And Theresa Almeida told me that story.

MARY SOARES - Yeah, it was her mother.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yeah.

BETTY BURGO - I'll tell you something -- that was a nice club.

ANN MARIE LOPES - It's still going on.

BETTY BURGO - Yeah, but it's not like it used to be. I mean, well, things change.

MARY SOARES - Well, they're trying. I still belong to it.

BETTY BURGO - She belongs to it still.

MARY SOARES - Yeah. It's not the same.

BETTY BURGO - I belonged to it one year. One lady told me off, and that was it.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh, wow. Told you off -- what'd you do?

BETTY BURGO - Because I wouldn't do one of -- something they were doing and I didn't want to be involved, and she got very upset with me.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Are there younger women in that?

MARY SOARES - Now.

BETTY BURGO - Yeah, there is now.

MARY SOARES - That's what's keeping it going. All the others are gone. Maria Sparks is in it.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh, OK.

MARY SOARES - Yeah. And who's the president? Isabelle. I didn't know that.

BETTY BURGO - Yeah, now she is.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Isabelle...?

MARY SOARES - Tall Isabelle. They call her Bellana because she's tall.

BETTY BURGO - Isabelle.

ANN MARIE LOPES - What's her last name? I know her last name.

MARY SOARES - She wasn't born here. She speaks broken English. Your mother would know her. But she's the president now because the other girl quit.

BETTY BURGO - But it was a nice club. I enjoyed -- they used to have the balls that they dressed up in gowns.

MARY SOARES - And they did just like the debutantes.

BETTY BURGO - Yeah, it was so nice.

MARY SOARES - They had -- you'd wear the gloves if you had short sleeves, all the way up here, you know. And they did everything like they did.

BETTY BURGO - It was beautiful. I used to love to go to their -- it was New Year's, wasn't it, that you had that?

MARY SOARES - New Year's ball, yeah.

BETTY BURGO - I used to love to go to that and watch --

MARY SOARES - They used to --

BETTY BURGO - -- all the older women dressed up. They were so beautiful.

ANN MARIE LOPES - I love the hats.

BETTY BURGO - Yeah. And that was one thing when we were younger --

MARY SOARES - Oh, the hats were for the tea.

BETTY BURGO - Yup, and not only that, the hats were beautiful. Our mothers and

aunts, they wore them to church. You wore a hat to church before. That was the difference, too.

MARY SOARES - You never went to church without a hat.

BETTY BURGO - I used to wear a kerchief. But those days were beautiful because of all these different things, and all these things started to go to the wayside. Well, life is like that.

MARY SOARES - But like I told you, Betty, they're all gone. Now, what's happening now is younger people that are taking over. It's like our club, like Mary Galvin at one time was talking about, Well, the minutes says this, the rules are this... I told Mary, "Before you know it, you're gone, you know, and I'll be gone, and they're going to do what they want. Just let them run it, as long as they're doing a good job." But we had so many functions, money-making functions, for the church.

ANN MARIE LOPES - It's hard now, making money.

BETTY BURGO - Yeah. The difference between today and before was that a lot of the older people are gone, and the younger ones have been brought up in a different - it's like I said to --

MARY SOARES - They're trying.

BETTY BURGO - -- my sister Mary one day. I was laughing, and I says, "You know, I got up this morning and my back was killing me, ooh." And I said to her, "Remember those ladies used to come to Ma's house and they had a pain on this side --"

MARY SOARES - (Crioul).

BETTY BURGO - "-- and a pain on that side," and I used to say to my mother -- then we'd go to the Verdean Hall, which was the hall on Potomska Street, and they'd be dancing, and I'd say, "Ma, that lady, she was in the house this morning and she had

a pain." "Betty, when they hear music, the pain goes away." (laughter) But I said to Mary, "You know something? Those ladies, that's us now."

MARY SOARES - We used to laugh. We're not laughing.

BETTY BURGO - Now you understand why you got pains. Yes. It was something. I used to laugh at them.

MARY SOARES - Yeah, Halloween dan -- they used to have Halloween dances. They had bobbing apples. They used to have everything, that, you know, the modern people do. Everything. But the way they used to act, oh, my God, I -- oh, my God, look at them. (laughter) I was 16.

BETTY BURGO - I love the older people.

MARY SOARES - My mother volunteered my services. I wear a black apron with a white blouse and black skirt or sometimes a white apron, because we were the maids serving on them. And they go, "Hey, you, [makes "pssht" noise]."

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh, that noise, that noise. That's a Cape Verdean -- that's true Cape Verdean.

BETTY BURGO - Oh, yes.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Nobody else. It's that *pssht*.

MARY SOARES - That *pssht*.

BETTY BURGO - Oh, I hated that. (laughs)

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh, my father used to do it. He'd be on this side of the store; we'd be way the heck on that side of the store --

BETTY BURGO - And all he'd do is go *pssht*, and you knew your father was calling you.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yeah. That was a little embarrassing.

MARY SOARES - Ma and Pa never did that, though, that *pssh*. They were a little more modern. (laughs) But those old -- but they'd look at you if -- and hurry up. And

they'd yell at you. I told my mother one time, I said, "I'm not going to wait on these women. They yell at you like you're supposed to do it." I was a maid because my mother volunteered my services.

BETTY BURGO - You weren't a maid, you were a waitress. That's a different...

MARY SOARES - I called it a maid because the way they spoke to me.

ANN MARIE LOPES - And the way --

MARY SOARES - I was a waitress, right, but I say maid.

BETTY BURGO - Well, because you were much younger than them, and they wanted you to do things.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yeah, you know, respect.

BETTY BURGO - Yeah.

MARY SOARES - They expected you to resp -- well, we had to show them respect. They weren't respecting us. In other words, it works both ways.

BETTY BURGO - But it was all right because you didn't -- see, that's a difference. You didn't understand that. If this woman said to me, "Well, you got to do that or I'm going to tell your mother," you did it, because you knew that if it went to your mother, you were going to be in trouble. So you respected them and did everything. That's how I felt. Even though inside here, I would be saying, "Who do you think you are?" You know? (laughs) But, that was the difference, you know? I'll tell you, (laughs) I'd do anything to be back in those days.

ANN MARIE LOPES - In some ways.

BETTY BURGO - Yeah. Well, not in some of the -- you know, the outside things. I'm talking about in the love that the Cape Verdeans had together, how we all looked for each other. Today, if I smacked you, you go home and tell your mother, she's going to come after me.

MARY SOARES - She's going to come beat you up.

BETTY BURGO - Yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Well, and then we'd probably sue you.

MARY SOARES - And you know what's the worst thing?

BETTY BURGO - Yeah, but see, that's the other thing. That's a different...

MARY SOARES - The worst thing they will tell you -- even the grown-up, they'll tell you --

"My kid never lies." Imagine telling a grown-up that! Your little pipsqueak comes and made up a story, and you believed -- those are the ones that really get in trouble, because if they get in trouble and the mother sticks up for them and they're lying, they're going to do more and more, because Mom's going to stick up for them.

BETTY BURGO - Yeah, but do you realize that when we were young, if we did something wrong and somebody smacked us for doing it, one of the older people, we didn't go home and tell Ma or Pa, because we were going to be punished because we must have done something wrong, because they wouldn't have hit you if you didn't do something wrong. See, that's a difference of today. People think nothing of hitting someone else's child.

MARY SOARES - I would never do that, even in the school. I didn't have to. Just the way I stared at them, they stopped.

BETTY BURGO - But I think when they punished you, when Ma says, "You can't go out today," that was worse than someone hitting you. I never -- my mother hit me once in my life. Can you believe that? Once. I got a spanking from my mother.

MARY SOARES - I don't remember getting hit from my mother.

BETTY BURGO - Because I had gone out with my girlfriends --

MARY SOARES - Oh, just once. I remember. Me and --

BETTY BURGO - I wasn't like Mary, you know. I went out with my girlfriends and was supposed to be home at five. Well, I came in at quarter past, 5:30. And of course you're in trouble because you were supposed to be home at 5:00. And oh, gee, because all the other girls can do it. Well, she gave me one smack. She says, "The other girls don't live in this house. Do you understand that, Betty? They don't live here. You do. You have to do what I want you to do," she says, "because we worry about you when you're out." It's just like when my son was growing up. My husband always gave him a dime -- when telephones were ten cents -- and when he went with his friends -- because we lived in Dartmouth -- they'd go bowling or they'd go -- what was it? -- they'd go bowling and skating. And if you all go to a friend's house -- if you left this house or this place, you had to let us know, because if something happens over there, we'd say, "Oh, well at least I know Stevie was over at Paul's house." And Stevie was over there, and we really needed to get to him. And this is what I always explained to him. Or something happens to Daddy and I have to call you and you're not there... So we always did that. We gave Stevie a dime, you know?

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yeah, my mother used to do that, too.

BETTY BURGO - Yeah. As parents, coming up, my mother and father, they didn't give us a dime, they just said, "You be in this house at 5:30 because we're sitting down to eat." You knew you came (laughs) at 5:30, because that's the way we were brought up.

MARY SOARES - The day I got hit -- Mary got hit -- no, not Mary -- Charlotte, Louise. Louie was -- Caesar was painting his wagon, and we were helping him paint.

BETTY BURGO - Oh, you came full of paint.

MARY SOARES - And we had our Sunday clothes on. We had green all over our dresses,

you know. That's when I got hit.

BETTY BURGO - But my parents didn't hit. My father would say (inaudible) --

MARY SOARES - I don't know --

BETTY BURGO - -- and put his hand up. By the time it gets up -- never touched you.

MARY SOARES - My mother said when he went to hit, "He's dusting the air." (laughter)
My father hated to hit.

BETTY BURGO - My mother was the one that you had to watch -- see, it wasn't the hitting. To me, the worst thing was my brother Jigs would come in, she'd tell him, and he'd smack you on the back of the head or the back... My brother Caesar, my sister Mary, my brother Manny... So to me, that was worse than hitting me. Hitting, you can get it over with. She'd tell all of them, and they'd all go (hitting sound), you know. (laughter)

MARY SOARES - That was Dennis in school. Oh, he was Dennis the Menace, woo-wee. He'd say, "You want me to call your father again, or should we take care of it?" He said, "You take care of it. Don't call my father."

BETTY BURGO - Yeah, because it was funny. You know, wouldn't you rather get hit than get whacked five times by your brothers and sister? Yes. And I'd say, "Ma, just do something. Don't tell Jigs." Oh, she...

MARY SOARES - She didn't have to. She didn't have to give...

BETTY BURGO - Even if they came two hours later, she'd tell them, and I'd be so mad. I'd say, "Gosh, you got to tell all of them?"

MARY SOARES - But she was still a spoiled brat and got away with a lot.

BETTY BURGO - Oh, you know, it's funny. Life is funny, because as we grew older, she didn't get away with much because she was the oldest, then I got away with a little more than she did, but when my sisters Dottie and Kitty came, it was an entirely

different...

ANN MARIE LOPES - Different circumstances.

BETTY BURGO - Yeah, yeah, it was. It was entirely different, it was.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yeah, I'm the youngest, and it's like, you know, different financial circumstances, you have different -- parents have been more experienced --

BETTY BURGO - That's what it --

MARY SOARES - Money, yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - -- and, so, you know, I didn't get spoiled, I got raised according to that --

BETTY BURGO - That time, yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - -- where they were, where they were in that. That's what I have to say, but you know...

BETTY BURGO - Oh, yes. I find that that's what it is. As they got -- but you know, I was glad --

MARY SOARES - They got mellow. (laughs)

BETTY BURGO - Yeah, but I liked our generation, because my sister Dottie and my sister Kitty both smoke -- never in front of my parents. But my sister Dottie was smoking upstairs -- we had a bathroom upstairs -- Dottie opens the window, and she thinks that's it. My father came into the bathroom --

MARY SOARES - That wind blows it back in. (laughs)

BETTY BURGO - My father came into the bathroom right after her, and he said to her -- you know, he started scolding her, and he says, "As long as you don't smoke in front of me." He never said that to us. I was 16 before I could put lipstick on. The difference...

MARY SOARES - Yeah. But, you know, we never smoked because my sister-in-law Agnes

and my sister-in-law Mary, they both lived in the house --

BETTY BURGO - But that's not why we didn't smoke.

MARY SOARES - -- and they both smoked. With me, it was.

BETTY BURGO - Oh, you, yeah.

MARY SOARES - And I worked at the Goodyear at the time, so I would buy cigarettes for one one day -- that's the only way you could get -- you worked in a plant, you know, and that was the --

BETTY BURGO - That was during the war, yeah.

MARY SOARES - -- only place you could get it during the war. And the next day, I buy for the other. So one day, Agnes is coming to the corner like this, "You remember my cigarettes?" I said, "Yeah, here it is." Agnes never, never left the house. Never. She went to meet me at the corner. And so one time, it was a long weekend, it was a holiday, now the two of them are fighting over who --

BETTY BURGO - Was getting it --

MARY SOARES - -- I bought the cigarettes for last.

BETTY BURGO - Oh, that's so ridiculous.

MARY SOARES - So I says -- and I watched them with the shakes and everything, and so I says, "If that's the way I would be if I started smoking," I never started. They were a good example for us.

ANN MARIE LOPES - But weren't you the generation where smoking was cool?

MARY SOARES - Well, your mother called me chicken so many times. I says, "OK, I'm a chicken." I said, "You want to smoke, go ahead. That doesn't mean I have to." I said, "I can see what it does for you." It was cool in those days.

BETTY BURGO - It was cool.

MARY SOARES - But I was a chicken at that time.

BETTY BURGO - You know why I didn't smoke?

ANN MARIE LOPES - Why?

BETTY BURGO - Because my father told me that I couldn't, OK, and I always felt that if I did, one of my brothers would see me and go back and tell him, so I just didn't do it.

MARY SOARES - I wasn't interested in smoking. After watching them

BETTY BURGO - But it was so funny.

MARY SOARES - Imagine almost coming to blows, fistfight, over cigarettes!

BETTY BURGO - People still do that.

MARY SOARES - And then like Agnes used to get the shakes. Uh-uh, I didn't want to have that happening to me. I saw pro and con.

BETTY BURGO - No, I didn't smoke because I didn't want to get in trouble. In those days you respected --

MARY SOARES - But her mother was --

BETTY BURGO - -- what your parents said.

MARY SOARES - -- her mother was the one that always did it to me. "Oh, Miss Goody Two-shoes," (laughter) "Miss Goody Twos." She'd say "Aw chicken!"

BETTY BURGO - That was cute.

MARY SOARES - I didn't care. I didn't care what she called me. I says, "One day she's going to try to quit, and she's going to have a hard time." She smoked a lot.

ANN MARIE LOPES - But she didn't have a hard time. She quit cold turkey.

MARY SOARES - She did?

ANN MARIE LOPES - Well, I'm going to -- let me just -- (laughs)

BETTY BURGO - Yeah, just get off the...

ANN MARIE LOPES - Let me just wrap up the thing, because I only usually take an hour of

your time, so I really appreciate the fact that you have given me all of your time.

BETTY BURGO - But it's fun talking to you because we know you.

MARY SOARES - Yeah. (laughter)

ANN MARIE LOPES - So, thank you.

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