

# “Having Our Say”

Voices from the Cape Verdean Community

Anna’s grandfather was once the captain of the Charles Morgan. During the Great Depression he would make a living building models of the ship:



“He made them- and I guess people wanted to buy them. They bought them, and then, you know it was bad times, and he had to sell the last one”

– Anna Rozario

Anna Rozario  
September 17, 2010

Interview with Anna Rozario  
Conducted September 17, 2010  
By Ann Marie Lopes

## *Beginning of File*

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK, the interviewer is Ann Marie Lopes, and it is September 17, and I am here with Anna Rozario. And what's your date -- your date of birth?

ANNA ROZARIO - July 30, 1920.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK. And the interview is taking place at Southeast Massachusetts Health and Rehabilitation Center.

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah, right.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So -- how did he -- did your father get involved in whaling in Cape Verde?

ANNA ROZARIO - His father was real Portuguese, you know.

ANN MARIE LOPES - From Portugal?

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah, from Portugal. And he married my grandmother who was Creole, and he said... No, he had done something and they sent him away from there, so he said when he got to the Cape Verde Islands, that the first woman he saw, he was going to marry. So that's who he saw, my grandmother. So he married her, and they had about, what, seven kids or so.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So it was a happy marriage?

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - They stayed together a long time.

ANNA ROZARIO - They came to America, both of them.

ANN MARIE LOPES - And so how did he get on a whaling ship? Did he decide --

ANNA ROZARIO - Oh, he had a -- a ship of his own. And he taught his -- all his sons how to work -- (break in audio)

ANN MARIE LOPES - -- OK, the interviewer is Ann Marie Lopes, and I am here with Anna Rozario, and it is September 17. And if you could just tell me your birthday. What's your birthday?

ANNA ROZARIO - July 30, 1920.

ANN MARIE LOPES - 1920, OK. So we started talking a little bit, so I want -- I might have to have you repeat some of that. But I understand your father was a captain on the Charles Morgan?

ANNA ROZARIO - Yes.

ANN MARIE LOPES - But let's start with him and his -- he was in Portugal. He started out in Portugal. Was he born there?

ANNA ROZARIO - He was born in the Cape Verde Islands.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh, I'm sorry, born on the Cape Verde Islands.

ANNA ROZARIO - Because I told you, his father was from Lisbon. He went to the Cape Verde Islands he met his wife. He said he was going to marry the first woman that he saw, and he did. And she was Cape Verdean.

ANN MARIE LOPES - And that was your grandmother. So why don't we say what your -- what your -- OK, go ahead. What's your grandmother's name?

ANNA ROZARIO - Aye!

ANN MARIE LOPES - It's OK if you don't remember.

ANNA ROZARIO - I don't remember if it was Amelia or what. That's one thing I never asked.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Your grandparents had how many kids?

ANNA ROZARIO - My grandparents had about -- at least seven.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK. And your father -- do you know where he was in the list -  
- was he the oldest, the youngest...

ANNA ROZARIO - No, he was in between. In between. The oldest was Lydia's father.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK.

ANNA ROZARIO - Lydia Gomes' father.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So how did he get involved with whaling?

ANNA ROZARIO - Oh. My grandfather had a boat of his own. And they used to do -- you know, go on the boat and stuff like that. So he started his own -- he had all these kids so he wanted them to have something to do. And he took them and he taught them all the things that you do on the ship. And then he moved to America, and that's why he used to come from New Bedford and go -- my mother used to be at home bringing us up. Hard times.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So let me just say -- your father's name?

ANNA ROZARIO - Francisco. Francisco -- his name, we'd call him, is Frank. But his real name is Francisco.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Last -- Freitas.

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - And your mother --

ANNA ROZARIO - My mother was Mariana Silvia.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK. And how many kids did they have?

ANNA ROZARIO - Who had?

ANN MARIE LOPES - Your parents.

ANNA ROZARIO - Oh...

ANN MARIE LOPES - There's you.

ANNA ROZARIO - Oh, my parents?

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yeah.

ANNA ROZARIO - There was four.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK.

ANNA ROZARIO - I think there was another one, that died, though.

ANN MARIE LOPES - But you're the youngest.

ANNA ROZARIO - I'm the youngest, yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did your father ever tell you stories about what it was like on  
a whaling ship?

ANNA ROZARIO - No. My father was tough.

ANN MARIE LOPES - How was he tough?

ANNA ROZARIO - These men on the whale ships. You know, they're just -- they

come home, and -- I don't know, we couldn't even go out roller-skating.

ANN MARIE LOPES - He wanted you to be home?

ANNA ROZARIO - Roller skate -- girls don't roller skate, they don't ride bikes...  
(laughs)

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did the boys have more freedom?

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yeah, they could do stuff girls couldn't do.

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Your father was strict.

ANNA ROZARIO - Oh boy, yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - What about your mother?

ANNA ROZARIO - My mother was a -- my mother was a saint. She was a lovely, lovely lady. You couldn't find a better one. She was so, so nice. I used to -- I always was behind her. When she'd go cooking, or she'd go clean, I'd always be holding on the back of her.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Her skirt?

ANNA ROZARIO - And when she went to take a nap, I had to go lay down in the back. Yeah, I loved my mother.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did your mom work outside -- outside the home? Or did she take care of you guys.

ANNA ROZARIO - Oh no. No, she -- well, she did, yeah. She did after we got older. We used to go with her and she used to pick strawberries and stuff -- during the... what's that.

ANN MARIE LOPES - During the -- talking about the depression?

ANNA ROZARIO - Depression time.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK.

ANNA ROZARIO - So we moved from there to her -- her brother had a farm out there, with strawberry pickers and stuff, so. We went out there and we stayed with them and picked strawberries and go out and pick blueberries, and pick cranberries.

ANN MARIE LOPES - That sounds like hard work.

ANNA ROZARIO - That was hard work.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yeah, it sounds like it was. So your father was the captain of the Charles Morgan.

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - He worked his way up, like he was...

ANNA ROZARIO - Well, I don't know if he worked his way up, but he knew everything because the captain, which was his oldest brother, was -- you know, he was the captain. You know. And then he got sick. 'Cause he had -- I think he got TB or something, that rough living they had, you know? So my father took over.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So did he take over while they were out on the water?

ANNA ROZARIO - Oh yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - That's what happens -- OK, so, so -- his brother got sick while on a voyage?

ANNA ROZARIO - I guess so.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Wow.

ANNA ROZARIO - Well, my -- I think Mary Louise would know more about that.

ANN MARIE LOPES - And who's that, your sister?

ANNA ROZARIO - Mary Louisa's -- did you know Geech? Geech Gomes?

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh yes.

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah, Geech Gomes is Mary Louisa's father.

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

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah, she's -- they're my first cousins.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK. So your father never told you stories about what it was like whaling?

ANNA ROZARIO - No, he used to -- they used to talk when his friends came over, they would talk with each other in Creole.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did you speak Creole?

ANNA ROZARIO - Huh?

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did you speak the language?

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah, yeah -- my mother and father spoke it, yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - And they taught you.

ANNA ROZARIO - They taught -- yes.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So you can speak two languages?

ANNA ROZARIO - My kids don't know anything because we didn't talk one thing, and I'm sorry now because they wish they could.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh, me too. Me too. My parents -- my parents spoke it but didn't teach us.

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah. Uh huh.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So it makes it hard. So what did your father do after he stopped whaling?

ANNA ROZARIO - Oh, he used to work on the streets, and you know. They used to do things on the street, that's what mostly all the men used to do that. I don't know, they'd put pavement down or whatever it is, anyway. That's what they did.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh, like construction?

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK, but -- on -- OK. So he came from the -- he did the boat thing, then he came -- so he's doing construction. Did he work as a fisherman at all?

ANNA ROZARIO - I guess they used to fish -- they did fish, and take home, you know, so you could cook and stuff. But that's about all I know -- I really don't --

ANN MARIE LOPES - That's fine. Did -- did your father cook? It was mostly your mother.

ANNA ROZARIO - No. My father's -- my father didn't cook. My mother did everything.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So when your father was out there on the ship, what did your mother do besides run the house and raise the kids, and...

ANNA ROZARIO - That's what she did.

ANN MARIE LOPES - That's what she did?

ANNA ROZARIO - Nothing. Nothing but bring up her kids and take care of them. And wait for her husband to come home about every six months, or what -- sometimes longer than that.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did his family own the boat?

ANNA ROZARIO - Huh?

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did they own the Charles Morgan at one time?

ANNA ROZARIO - No, no, no.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK, they just were --

ANNA ROZARIO - No.

ANN MARIE LOPES - They just were the captains.

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - And first mate. So did your mom have any fun?

ANNA ROZARIO - No, I don't think so. No, she didn't have no fun. (laughs)

ANN MARIE LOPES - I've heard that before, from other people.

ANNA ROZARIO - Yep.

ANN MARIE LOPES - That their parents --

ANNA ROZARIO - It's just work and take care of the kids, and wait for the husband. You got to do the husband's work, and you got to do your work, and you got to take care of the kids. And... and she died, she was about -- in her 50s.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh wow, that's young.

ANNA ROZARIO - Very early.

ANN MARIE LOPES - That's young.

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Now you said that you -- were you born in Fairhaven, or were you raised --

ANNA ROZARIO - I was born in East Fairhaven, yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK. And your parents have lived in New Bedford and then they moved?

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah, the -- the other three were born in New Bedford. And then they moved to Fairhaven -- they bought this cottage. And that's where

I was born.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So what was it like growing up in Fairhaven?

ANNA ROZARIO - It was nice. Yeah. I liked Fairhaven.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did you ever move back to New Bedford, when you were --

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah... I mean, and then... we went down the Cape. Then we came back. And we went back to our little cottage there. My father probably paid the thing, and we lived there for a while. My mother died while I was down the Cape.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh.

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So you weren't with her. Was it sudden?

ANNA ROZARIO - She had pneumonia, from -- you know, she used to work in those damp things, and her -- she had legs like that from swelling. And stuff. Yeah. She didn't -- she wasn't well enough to be doing that, but she had to do it. And I'd go and help her, while my other kids would be going to school, and I'd be, you know, with her. That's about it.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So tell me your siblings' names. How many brothers -- do you have brothers?

ANNA ROZARIO - I have one, one brother.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK.

ANNA ROZARIO - His name was Manuel. He was named after my grandfather -- my father's father.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK. So it was Manuel Freitas?

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK, and then your sisters -- what are your sisters --

ANNA ROZARIO - My oldest sister was Marian -- I guess it was... they probably said Marianna something, but they -- they called her Marian. You know how they couldn't talk good, you know. But her name was Marian. And my middle sister was Alice.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK, then you -- you're the baby.

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So were you spoiled? I know you used to follow your mother all around -- but you know, they talk about, the baby's always spoiled. Were you spoiled? See, I --

ANNA ROZARIO - No... my mother was good to all of us, but I wasn't spoiled.

ANN MARIE LOPES - How about -- how about your father. Did your father have a favorite?

ANNA ROZARIO - He was a man. (laughter)

ANN MARIE LOPES - So his son was probably his favorite -- if he had a favorite, it was probably his son.

ANNA ROZARIO - He didn't bother with my brother too much, he's a...

ANN MARIE LOPES - Really? So what did he do? When he came back from --

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah, they used to drink all that -- homemade whiskey and all that kind of stuff.

ANN MARIE LOPES - You talking about grog? You talking about grog?

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah. Grog, yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did he make it?

ANNA ROZARIO - He made the wine.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh, he did.

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah. Made wine, because we used to have grapevines, you know. And some -- another kind, a little tiny berry. I forgot what that was.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Like, raspberries, or... blackberries?

ANNA ROZARIO - It wasn't a raspberry, no. They were small berries, I can't remember what they were. (laughs) Sorry.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh, no big deal. That's no big deal. So he -- so his, his friends would come over. They'd be drinking. Did they do music, did they play cards?

ANNA ROZARIO - Oh, they played cards. Yeah. Yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - At the house? At your house?

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah, once in a while. We didn't have too many rowdy people. It was quiet. Like I told you, my father wouldn't let us go skiing or doing nothing. I mean, riding a bike, or...

ANN MARIE LOPES - What did he expect you to do? Work?

ANNA ROZARIO - Work on your feet. (laughs)

ANN MARIE LOPES - Be standing up and working, in the kitchen... and cleaning the house.

ANNA ROZARIO - Of course, we all did that. That's what we all did. And I brought up my kids doing that, too. They had to wash the stairs down, and they all had their duty to do. And they're not sorry that I taught them that, you know.

ANN MARIE LOPES - What island was your father from? I can't --

ANNA ROZARIO - St. Vincent. I mean, Sao Nicolau.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK. And your mother?

ANNA ROZARIO - My mother was the same.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK. And that's where they met?

ANNA ROZARIO - I guess.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK, because --

ANNA ROZARIO - I guess.

ANN MARIE LOPES - I know he fell in love with the first woman -- he said he was going to marry the first woman he saw. She was the one, and then.

ANNA ROZARIO - Not my mother.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Not your mother?

ANNA ROZARIO - My grandmother.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh, your grandmother.

ANNA ROZARIO - Married my grandfather. He was the one that came, and that was the woman -- first married -- first woman he saw, he married.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK. All right.

ANNA ROZARIO - No, it wasn't my father.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So how did your parents meet?

ANNA ROZARIO - Who knows. I wasn't here. (laughter)

ANN MARIE LOPES - And they never talked about it.

ANNA ROZARIO - No.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Why did -- were they married before they came to the United States?

ANNA ROZARIO - No, I think they got married here.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So they knew each other in Cape Verde. They came to New Bedford, and then that's where they --

ANNA ROZARIO - Mm-hmm. I think. I'm only thinking. But I know that -- I had a paper with the marriage, but I... I don't know where it is now.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did your mom have any friends here?

ANNA ROZARIO - You mean in America?

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yeah.

ANNA ROZARIO - Oh yeah, everybody liked my mother. My mother was a -- was a -  
- she was a queen. She was a lovely person. You couldn't find a better one.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So tell me more about her. Must have been a little hard for her.

ANNA ROZARIO - I don't think she -- she had much fun in life.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Mm-hmm, it must have been hard with her husband gone all the time.

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah, yeah...you know.

ANN MARIE LOPES - And four kids. But you said she had friends --

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah, all -- everybody liked her. All her friends liked her.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Was her mother in Cape Verde, or did her mother come over?

ANNA ROZARIO - I don't know anything about my mother's family.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK.

ANNA ROZARIO - Don't -- don't -- I don't even know who they were.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh. She didn't talk about them.

ANNA ROZARIO - But I know she had a couple of brothers, that were my uncles. That were here. That's all I know, I met them.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Would they come visit?

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Were they protective of their little sister?

ANNA ROZARIO - One used to live in New York, and the other one... lived in Pawtucket.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Mm-hmm. I guess this is a busy little room -- who knew?

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah, this room -- every time -- I go around, you know, to walk, and so I can keep walking, because I'm supposed to walk a lot, to keep myself going. And every time I go by here, it's always full of people, here.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So tell me what it was like for you growing up. What were some of the good things? Were you teased by your brother and your sisters? I know you worked hard and you loved your mom and you walked around with your mom. But -- tell me -- tell me a story about --

ANNA ROZARIO - No. My brothers and sisters -- my brother was a good, good guy. And my sisters were good -- they were all quiet, on -- you know, they were all quiet on -- on the quiet side.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So what did your brother do? What did he do for fun?

ANNA ROZARIO - Play with the kids. Ride his bicycle. Help my father cut the wood for the fire, and get the coal, and all that kind of stuff.

ANN MARIE LOPES - But he used to get to ride his bicycle.

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah, he -- yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did you ever sneak out of the house to go ride your bicycle and go play?

ANNA ROZARIO - No. I still don't know how to ride a bicycle.

ANN MARIE LOPES - (laughs) It's not too late to learn.

ANNA ROZARIO - Are you kidding?

ANN MARIE LOPES - They say once you learn, you never forget.

ANNA ROZARIO - I ain't looking to learn.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Now you told me --

ANNA ROZARIO - Because I'm not going to go falling down. (laughs)

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yeah, there's that, too. That's why people wear helmets,  
now.

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - But you told me a story about your father making models.  
Ship models.

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah. He used to make them down in the cellar. He used to be  
down cellar. Sometimes half of the night he'd be down there, working.  
And they were -- they were very... you know, very petite little things. Like,  
you know, the strings for the whatever you --

ANN MARIE LOPES - For the mast?

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah. All the -- they put everything on it. They were beautiful.  
Everything.

ANN MARIE LOPES - And he made them to sell?

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah, he made them -- and I guess people wanted to buy them.  
They -- they bought them and then, you know, it was -- bad times, and he --  
he had to sell the last one. I think he didn't want to sell it, but he had to.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So how old were you during -- when the depression started?

ANNA ROZARIO - Oh, I... I think I was about seven or eight, I guess.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK. Do you remember it at all? Do you remember what you -

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah, I remember.

ANN MARIE LOPES - What do you remember about it?

ANNA ROZARIO - It was bad times for everybody. Then we had to -- like I told you, we had to move down the Cape, so we could -- my parents could try to get work. And there was no work. My mother wasn't going to go -- you know, we were all -- but she went and picked berries and stuff. That was the style then. All the women -- we used to go in the truck.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Down to the cranberry bogs?

ANNA ROZARIO - Uh-huh.

ANN MARIE LOPES - And what were the men doing while you were picking cranberries?

ANNA ROZARIO - Supposed to be working on the streets. I don't know what they did. Working for the city -- you know.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Like the WPA?

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah, yeah. I remember that.

ANN MARIE LOPES - What, the WPA?

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - I just -- I know it because other people have mentioned it. That's how they -- their father survived, during the depression. Did your brother work, too? How old was your brother?

ANNA ROZARIO - No, my brother wasn't working, he was going to school.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK. Did your mom graduate from school -- did she -- did she go --

ANNA ROZARIO - I don't know -- no, I don't think so.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did your parents speak English?

ANNA ROZARIO - They understood, you know, some things. But --

ANN MARIE LOPES - Primarily they spoke Creole?

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Are you getting tired?

ANNA ROZARIO - Hmm?

ANN MARIE LOPES - Are you getting tired?

ANNA ROZARIO - No.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Trying to remember, huh.

ANNA ROZARIO - I'm -- all I do here, I'm here, sit down and... and I walk around here, about three times a day. But I go for exercise. And I try to keep myself going. Otherwise it's just sit down and look at each other.

ANN MARIE LOPES - (laughs) That gets boring, huh? That gets really boring. So tell me what --

ANNA ROZARIO - You never know until it comes around to you, how sad it is.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh. So what was your life like, after -- you went to school.

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did you graduate from high school?

ANNA ROZARIO - No, I went up to 9th grade. My mother died -- I was 14.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK.

ANNA ROZARIO - So... when she died, I had to go work and get some money because my other sisters had to work, you know.

ANN MARIE LOPES - And what did you do? What type of work did you do?

ANNA ROZARIO - House cleaning. Washing clothes. Hanging clothes out in the cold. Taking care of kids. Cooking.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Mm-hmm. Whatever you could get.

ANNA ROZARIO - At that age.

ANN MARIE LOPES - 14. Did you learn how to cook from your mother?

ANNA ROZARIO - No, I don't think so. I don't remember my mother teaching me how to cook. I guess I just... picked it up, I don't know.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did you cook Creole dishes, or did you cook American --

ANNA ROZARIO - No, American. American style, yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - You didn't make manchupa, or cachupa, or...

ANNA ROZARIO - No...

ANN MARIE LOPES - No goofong?

ANNA ROZARIO - I did. You know, for my family, yes. I did that. All that cachupa and that stuff, sure. I always did.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did you have any fun when you were a teenager?

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah, some -- somewhat. No, not much.

ANN MARIE LOPES - You weren't one of the --

ANNA ROZARIO - I had to be home all the time.

ANN MARIE LOPES - You weren't one of those wild women running around?

ANNA ROZARIO - No, indeed. No, indeed.

ANN MARIE LOPES - You didn't go to the clubs?

ANNA ROZARIO - Huh?

ANN MARIE LOPES - You didn't go to the clubs, listen to music?

ANNA ROZARIO - No, no. Are you kidding? I couldn't ride a bike, nevermind go to a club. (laughs)

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did your father remarry?

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah, he -- he remarried.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Who did he marry -- did -- some --

ANNA ROZARIO - Remarried a lady named Mary Gonsalves.

ANN MARIE LOPES - And how was she as a stepmother?

ANNA ROZARIO - She was a -- she used to do housework, too. And she was all right. She wasn't bad to me. I was the only one that was with them. You know, I'd work. And stay in. But on Thursdays I'd be off.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did she bring any children with her?

ANNA ROZARIO - She -- she had a son.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK.

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - You don't look like you liked that man.

ANNA ROZARIO - No, he was -- he gave me trouble. He thought he was a wise guy, but I fixed him.

ANN MARIE LOPES - How did you fix him?

ANNA ROZARIO - Hmm?

ANN MARIE LOPES - How did you fix him?

ANNA ROZARIO - I'd just push him away and get out. You know, he was a -- that type, you know. I'm alone and I don't have a mother, and, you know -- and his mother wasn't there, my father wasn't there. So we -- you know, trying to be smart.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Mm-hmm. How old was he?

ANNA ROZARIO - Oh, he was older than me.

ANN MARIE LOPES - He needs to be out working, then.

ANNA ROZARIO - And he was married.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh...

ANNA ROZARIO - He lived down the Cape.

ANN MARIE LOPES - But you gave him what for, you took care of that.

ANNA ROZARIO - Yep, they didn't play with me.

ANN MARIE LOPES - You look like you defended yourself. Yeah.

ANNA ROZARIO - I did...

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yep. Did you ever -- did you have any friends?

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah, I had friends.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Like who?

ANNA ROZARIO - Friends -- girlfriends from school. You know.

ANN MARIE LOPES - And what did you like to do with them? Did you go to the movies?

ANNA ROZARIO - No, we didn't have money to go to the movies. (laughs) We didn't have no money to go -- we played. Play house.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh, OK.

ANNA ROZARIO - Play hopscotch.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Hopscotch is fun.

ANNA ROZARIO - Jump rope.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Mm-hmm.

ANNA ROZARIO - Hide and seek. (laughs)

ANN MARIE LOPES - But you didn't ride a bike.

ANNA ROZARIO - No...

ANN MARIE LOPES - Didn't ride a bike.

ANNA ROZARIO - Nope. None of us ride a bike. Just my brother.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So what did your brother end up doing?

ANNA ROZARIO - He finally went to New York and stayed with my -- my mother's brother. And he used to work on stoves. And then he got married. And... he's a nice guy, too. He was a nice guy.

ANN MARIE LOPES - And your older sister? What did she end up doing?

ANNA ROZARIO - She got married, too. And she had trouble with the -- they like them push her around and stuff like that, because my -- my -- we were all quiet, you know. We weren't that type that likes to fight and stuff like that, so -- you know, they take advantage. So, that's what it was.

ANN MARIE LOPES - And your other sister?

ANNA ROZARIO - She was... the same way. Just working.

ANN MARIE LOPES - How did you meet your husband?

ANNA ROZARIO - I used to live with the -- I don't know if you -- do you know Guy Oliveira?

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yeah.

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah. Well, I used to -- his mother's mother and my parents were very good friends, and godfather to this one, and godfather to that one. So after we didn't have nobody, she -- she was -- she used to let us stay there on our day off, you know. And... until I got married, you know.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Well, how did you meet your husband?

ANNA ROZARIO - I met him over at somebody's house.

ANN MARIE LOPES - You were over there visiting, and --

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - He was visiting, and --

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - That's how you started talking and that's how it worked.

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did he take you out on dates --

ANNA ROZARIO - I had a -- huh?

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did he take you out on dates?

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah, he used to walk me home to Fairhaven, to go to work.

ANN MARIE LOPES - All the way to Fairhaven? From where, from New Bedford?

ANNA ROZARIO - But I left a nice guy --

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh, you did.

ANNA ROZARIO - I left a nice guy -- because he was always talking about these people. He lived in Fall River. And he never came to New Bedford until he had a day off, you know, so -- and he would be telling me about this girl and that girl, all this dancing and this and that, and I would say, what the heck. I says, "No, I don't think this guy is for me." So I left, and I went with this one -- and that's what happened.

ANN MARIE LOPES - And you don't regret it at all.

ANNA ROZARIO - I regretted it because I knew the other one -- is the one that --

the one that I left, crying, he's the one I should have stayed with.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh boy.

ANNA ROZARIO - Because this one was a huh. Everybody knows that. He went with everybody and his aunt.

ANN MARIE LOPES - You're talking about your husband or the other guy?

ANNA ROZARIO - My husband.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh yeah? Mr. Rosario?

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK.

ANNA ROZARIO - (laughs)

ANN MARIE LOPES - He was a ladies' man.

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yeah, well, he's certainly handsome --

ANNA ROZARIO - But I stayed with my kids and I brought them up, because I wasn't going to let them be like me. You know, went from one to another, and you know, that kind of life I didn't want for my kids.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Mm-hmm.

ANNA ROZARIO - So I took it all. Everybody used to think I was nuts, I guess.  
W1: (door opening) Oh, sorry about that.

ANN MARIE LOPES - That's OK.

ANNA ROZARIO - What was that, the tenth one?

ANN MARIE LOPES - That door scares me, too. Every time it opens I jump. It's like, I don't know, maybe we should have just stayed in your room, you know?

ANNA ROZARIO - No, it's all right. This is bothering you, don't bother me.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Doesn't bother you? Well you can see who's coming in, I have my back to the door.

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - But you'll tell me. So what's your -- what's your favorite memory. Of either your mother, your father, or growing up -- what's your favorite memory?

ANNA ROZARIO - My mother. How much I loved my mother.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did you two have special things that you did together?

ANNA ROZARIO - At home I used to run around after her, and always -- (laughs) that's all I did, then. After she died, of course I was working. I worked and took care of myself.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Hold on one second, let me just -- well, the point of this is to let people know what it was like to be Cape Verdean, and -- and growing up. Now, I asked you about your father. Because your father was involved in whaling. If you want to keep it -- just talking about the whaling part. And I don't ask you about the family stuff, that's fine with me. But I'm just trying to get a sense of what your story is.

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah...

ANN MARIE LOPES - So what is it -- what is it that you want people to know about your life? That's -- you know, that's what I'm trying to get to. You had a father who was in whaling. You had an uncle who was in whaling.

ANNA ROZARIO - All my uncles were in the whaling. They all went -- every one of them.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK. So they started in Cape Verde -- with -- their father had a boat. And he took them out and taught them how to whale, or --

ANNA ROZARIO - He taught them, yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So they were whaling when they were in Cape Verde.

ANNA ROZARIO - Mm-hmm.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Or were they -- or were they fishing.

ANNA ROZARIO - I don't know if they were whaling in Cape Verde, but, I mean, he taught them. And then they used to come -- to New Bedford, back and forth. You know, because that's a whaling town.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So what happened is they went to all these places, and they liked New Bedford? Or they knew people in New Bedford, and that's how --

ANNA ROZARIO - New Bedford was the whaling city.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So that's why they came to New Bedford.

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Now, did they all settle in New Bedford?

ANNA ROZARIO - I don't know... I don't know, I guess they did. They were New Bedford people.

ANN MARIE LOPES - And your uncles -- how many uncles did you have?

ANNA ROZARIO - It was about seven of them.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Wow. Any aunts?

ANNA ROZARIO - Mm-hmm.

ANN MARIE LOPES - How many aunts?

ANNA ROZARIO - There was Margaret, Gertrude... Mary. And Jenny. I think that's it.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So your father was one of 12?

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah, they had a lot of kids.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Do you know where he was in the line? Was he the -- the

youngest, the oldest, or --

ANNA ROZARIO - No, he wasn't the youngest, and he wasn't the oldest.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So he was somewhere in the middle.

ANNA ROZARIO - He was in the middle --

ANN MARIE LOPES - Somewhere in the middle, OK. So what did the women end up doing? Did the women come to New Bedford, too?

ANNA ROZARIO - Oh, I guess they married some of -- from New Bedford. You know. I don't know. I know my father and mother got married in New Bedford. I don't know about the others.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK. And your father liked whaling enough to stay with it, while he was here?

ANNA ROZARIO - Hmm?

ANN MARIE LOPES - Your father liked whaling enough to stay with it while he was in New Bedford.

ANNA ROZARIO - Oh yeah, of course he liked -- that's all he talked about.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Really?

ANNA ROZARIO - And you know, he went -- he was making the ships -- he's got to like them.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Mm-hmm. So what did --

ANNA ROZARIO - Because that was a tedious job.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Mm-hmm. The ships he made during the depression.

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So what did he -- what did he talk about when -- you said that's all he talked about, what did he say?

ANNA ROZARIO - He used to talk with his men friends when they'd come over. They'd talk about it, I don't know what they said. Because I wouldn't -- I couldn't come over there and listen to them.

ANN MARIE LOPES - You couldn't?

ANNA ROZARIO - No.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Because you were a girl?

ANNA ROZARIO - That's not polite.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh, it's not polite?

ANNA ROZARIO - No.

ANN MARIE LOPES - But he didn't want to tell you any of the stories of his adventures?

ANNA ROZARIO - I wasn't interested in asking that.

ANN MARIE LOPES - You were more interested in what -- what were you interested in, your mom?

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - And learning about the -- the cooking and the cleaning and how to take care of a house?

ANNA ROZARIO - Mm-hmm.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK. Are you OK? You sure?

ANNA ROZARIO - So you haven't got much to say -- (laughter)

ANN MARIE LOPES - Well, I thought we were -- I thought we were going well, but you didn't want to --

ANNA ROZARIO - No, I don't want people to know all my -- what's gone is gone.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Have people asked you before about your father and the whaling? Have they talked to you about that before? Really? The National Park is -- they're collecting stories about Cape Verdeans and African Americans and West Indians and --

ANNA ROZARIO - Oh, I read that in the paper, yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - And so my idea was, the men can talk about the whaling and what they were doing out there, but nobody talks about the women, and what they were doing back here. And had the women --

ANNA ROZARIO - What could they do?

ANN MARIE LOPES - The women? The women were building the community. Because if the women weren't here taking care of stuff, the men would have nothing to come back to.

ANNA ROZARIO - Mm-hmm

Q: Right? So if they weren't women like your mom, working hard -- did your mom take in boarders?

ANNA ROZARIO - No.

ANN MARIE LOPES - No? Just you guys in the house?

ANNA ROZARIO - No. She had -- you know, that was enough work.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh, that's plenty of work. But I was thinking of other ways to earn money, while your -- while your father was away.

ANNA ROZARIO - No, she wouldn't leave us in -- she wouldn't leave us -- she had her job to do and she did it.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK. Anything else you want to talk about? You didn't say anything to feel bad about.

ANNA ROZARIO - Hmm?

ANN MARIE LOPES - You didn't say anything to feel bad about. Are you feeling bad?

ANNA ROZARIO - No.

ANN MARIE LOPES - I don't have to use this, this is fine.

ANNA ROZARIO - Huh?

ANN MARIE LOPES - I don't have to use the interview if you don't want me to.

ANNA ROZARIO - You don't know what?

ANN MARIE LOPES - I don't have to use the interview if you don't want me to.

ANNA ROZARIO - (laughs) It's all right, as long as I don't talk about my father and his ways and stuff.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK. OK.

ANNA ROZARIO - He was alright. (laughter)

ANN MARIE LOPES - Do you think -- looking back, do you think you had a happy life?

ANNA ROZARIO - As happy as I could make it --

ANN MARIE LOPES - Are you hot --

ANNA ROZARIO - It was -- it was tough.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Why was it tough?

ANNA ROZARIO - Well, I was 14 years old, I had to get out of school and go to work, and you know, that's not fun. At 14.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Right. So you worked from the age of 14 -- and then after you did the house -- the housework --

ANNA ROZARIO - And I went to the -- when I got married, I went to the factories and worked. Worked in the Aerovox, I worked -- in Cornell, and I worked cooking. I did my share.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did you have any fun? Did you join any of the -- the women's clubs, or were you part of the auxiliary or anything?

ANNA ROZARIO - No, I wasn't doing anything in the women's club, but I -- after -- when my kids were gone and stuff, I joined the Catholic Women's Club, and stuff like that. A few of them.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did you go Our Lady of the Assumption Church?

ANNA ROZARIO - Yes.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did you go to it when it was on Water Street?

ANNA ROZARIO - Yes.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK. Did you go to it when you were a kid? Yeah.

ANNA ROZARIO - Well, big kid.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So did you make -- I was just wondering, like, if you took part in the activities there. Were you part of the choir?

ANNA ROZARIO - No.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did you do First Communion there?

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK. And did you do your Confirmation there?

ANNA ROZARIO - Mm-hmm.

ANN MARIE LOPES - You were born in 1920, you said?

ANNA ROZARIO - Mm-hmm.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Do you remember the hurricane of '38?

ANNA ROZARIO - I certainly do.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Would you tell me about it? Where were you living at?

ANNA ROZARIO - It was bad.

ANN MARIE LOPES - That's what I heard. Where were you living?

ANNA ROZARIO - I don't even remember -- I think we were -- I don't know if we were down the Cape, or if we were in Fairhaven. I really don't remember.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So what happened with your -- with your family. I've heard stories about people who were on Water Street who had to come out of their third floor in a boat. And then they -- you know, they went to higher ground, and then when the water receded, they went back, and their houses were a mess. And the bridge was washed out.

ANNA ROZARIO - It was awful. It was terrible.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So you were, what -- about 18, 17, 18?

ANNA ROZARIO - I guess, yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So what did your -- was your house destroyed? No? You were lucky then, right?

ANNA ROZARIO - Well, I know... we had chickens -- the chickens were all dead and stuff. We had a fire in the house, you know.

ANN MARIE LOPES - No, you don't want to --

ANNA ROZARIO - Hate to even think of it.

ANN MARIE LOPES - You don't want to remember it, OK. Did you ever live in Bay Village at all?

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah. When it first opened I went to live in Bay Village.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Were you married?

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK.

ANNA ROZARIO - There quite a few years.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did you like it?

ANNA ROZARIO - It was all right. It was OK.

ANN MARIE LOPES - I heard it was like one big family.

ANNA ROZARIO - Mm-hmm.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yeah, one big family. Is that where your kids were born?

ANNA ROZARIO - Mm-hmm.

ANN MARIE LOPES - And how many kids do you have?

ANNA ROZARIO - Four.

ANN MARIE LOPES - And how many girls, how many --

ANNA ROZARIO - Three girls and one boy.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Ah, that's what -- that's what my family is.

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah?

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yeah, three girls and one boy. So where's Norma?

ANNA ROZARIO - Norma's here and she ...

ANN MARIE LOPES - No, no, in what -- where is she, is she the oldest or the youngest?

ANNA ROZARIO - No, she's the third.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh, OK.

ANNA ROZARIO - My son's the oldest, then Phyllis is the first, and Chuckie is the second, and Norma is the third.

ANN MARIE LOPES - The baby -- oh.

ANNA ROZARIO - And the baby is Maria.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh yeah, Maria is the one my brother knows.

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK. So what are they doing? Do they go to --

ANNA ROZARIO - They're both nurses. Maria and Phyllis. She just -- she didn't graduate -- she stopped working, though. Phyllis. Sister's still working. We call her "Sister."

ANN MARIE LOPES - And Norma is a teacher. And your son?

ANNA ROZARIO - My son... he was -- he went in the Army, and he hurt his back and stuff, so he's not doing anything.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Do you have any grandchildren?

ANNA ROZARIO - Loads of grandchildren. My son was that type. Had kids with almost everybody. (laughs)

ANN MARIE LOPES - But that -- see that's nice, though, you have grandchildren. Do you have great grandchildren?

ANNA ROZARIO - I told them, I'm not buying -- I can't afford to buy every -- every time you turn around, one or two. You know, I was giving it to them all the time, but I can't now. (laughs)

ANN MARIE LOPES - Well no one expects you to, now, right?

ANNA ROZARIO - Wow!

Q: You're supposed to relax.

ANNA ROZARIO - Well, they kind -- they expect -- you know, they're kids!

ANN MARIE LOPES - So could your -- could your daughters ride bikes and skate and do all that kind of stuff?

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah, my daughters could -- yeah. I let them do what they wanted.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Now, people have told me that, like, during the Depression they would go down to the wharf in New Bedford, and the fishermen would throw fish off the boat. Did you ever do anything like that? No, you didn't have to do that.

ANNA ROZARIO - We'd throw fish at them?

ANN MARIE LOPES - Would throw fish to them.

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - You know, they would come in with their catches. And then whatever was left over, they would give it to the people who were on the wharf.

ANNA ROZARIO - Oh, no. I know when I was in the -- down the Cape there, we were in Wolcott, and there was a river there, and they used to be, all these fish would come through there. And the fast water -- fast water. And we'd get a hook -- not a hook -- the thing that you catch fish with.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Not a hook -- you mean, not a fishing rod? You'd get something that would scoop them up?

ANNA ROZARIO - It's got to be --

ANN MARIE LOPES - A net.

ANNA ROZARIO - A net, yeah. I'd put the net there and they'd come in there. Go, take them home, and eat them -- nice and fresh. It was nice, and it was so easy to get them because there was so many of them. You could go and -- you know.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Uh-oh -- well, they haven't kicked us out yet, so until they kicked us out. So see, you do have some fun memories of when you were a kid.

ANNA ROZARIO - Oh yeah, yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Those are the ones I want to hear about. I want to hear about fun things, fun things that you did.

ANNA ROZARIO - What?

ANN MARIE LOPES - Fun things that you did -- that's what I want to hear about.

ANNA ROZARIO - Fun?

ANN MARIE LOPES - Fun things, like the catching of the fish, that must have been -  
- I mean, it was work, but it was fun.

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - You know.

ANNA ROZARIO - Oh yeah, do a lot of jumping jacks and a lot of playing -- play  
catch this, catch that, and jump this and jump that. We used to have fun  
doing that.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Who were some of your playmates? Were they mostly Cape  
Verdean?

ANNA ROZARIO - No. When I was in Fairhaven, I used to do with this white girl  
that was good friends of mine. I think she died now, I don't know.

ANN MARIE LOPES - What was it like being Cape Verdean in Fairhaven? Were  
there a lot of Cape Verdeans in Fairhaven?

ANNA ROZARIO - There was -- yeah, there's -- there was a few. Mostly white  
people around there. But there were Cape Verdeans there, close to us.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Barbara DePina -- do you know her?

ANNA ROZARIO - Who?

ANN MARIE LOPES - Barbara DePina? She said her mother lived in on Sconticut  
Neck. Do you know --

ANNA ROZARIO - Barbara DePina?

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yeah.

ANNA ROZARIO - I know the DePinas, but I don't remember the name Barbara. One of them was my good girlfriend, she was Phyllis's godmother.

ANN MARIE LOPES - I don't know where she is --

ANNA ROZARIO - Her name is Mary. Barbara...

ANN MARIE LOPES - Well, right now she lives off of Chancery Street -- on Willis Street, in West End. She said that when her mother was growing up, she lived in Fairhaven, but on Sconticut Neck. Did you live there or did you live in the city?

ANNA ROZARIO - I lived near Sconticut Neck.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh, you did?

ANNA ROZARIO - But I lived on Washington Street, where the trolley car used to go by. On that side of the house, so there.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did you ride the trolley car?

ANNA ROZARIO - Oh yeah, plenty of times.

ANN MARIE LOPES - What was that like?

ANNA ROZARIO - It was OK, but I used to get sick to my stomach, sometimes.

ANN MARIE LOPES - On the car?

ANNA ROZARIO - Mm-hmm.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Because it went so fast, or --

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah, I guess -- it would shake up my stomach and I'd get -- you know -- but I like to ride, especially the ones that are open. The summer ones? Those are nice.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Where did you ride to? Did you ride from --

ANNA ROZARIO - To New Bedford -- to come to New Bedford to see my aunts, to

see my friends... you know, most people I knew was from New Bedford, anyway.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did you ever go down to Water Street, in New Bedford?

ANNA ROZARIO - Mm-hmm.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did you do shopping down there at all? What was that like?

ANNA ROZARIO - Shopping on Water Street.

ANN MARIE LOPES - What was Water Street like? I've heard there were lots of stores, and there were lots of people.

ANNA ROZARIO - I don't remember too much about Water Street. I didn't go down that end that much.

ANN MARIE LOPES - What about the downtown New Bedford -- did you go there?

ANNA ROZARIO - Oh yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Where did you go in downtown New Bedford?

ANNA ROZARIO - Went to the State Theater, I went to the 5&10, the quarter store, Cherry and Webb -- all those stores.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So you went -- did you get all dressed up to go shopping?

ANNA ROZARIO - You know, just... just my ordinary clothes.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Mm-hmm. So you did go to the movies.

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - At State Theatre.

ANNA ROZARIO - Oh yeah, I did -- yes. I used to go to movies. Had to do something.

ANN MARIE LOPES - (laughs) What movies did you see?

ANNA ROZARIO - Oh, I used to go see Shirley Temple. I used to see all these people that were up and going, but I don't remember their names. You – maybe if you name them, I'll tell you.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did you -- did you see Moby Dick? With Gregory Peck?

ANNA ROZARIO - I think so.

ANN MARIE LOPES - They had the big opening in New Bedford?

ANNA ROZARIO - Mm.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So when did you go to the movies? Did you go with your friends, or did you go out, like when you were older?

ANNA ROZARIO - I went by myself, and I went -- after I had a boyfriend, I'd go. And I'd go with my sister sometime.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did you ever go to the Orpheum?

ANNA ROZARIO - The what?

ANN MARIE LOPES - The Orpheum Theatre, did you ever go there?

ANNA ROZARIO - Where's that?

ANN MARIE LOPES - That's the one in the South End. It would be near --

ANNA ROZARIO - South End?

ANN MARIE LOPES - The South End, it would be -- it's right off of Route 18 now. Cove Road. You know, down near Cornell. Not quite as far south, but in that whole -- in that general area. Do you remember it at all?

ANNA ROZARIO - Oh yeah, I remember that. But I remember -- I remember the name of that place, too, but I don't remember if I went there or not.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK. Did you ever -- did you ever have coffee at Lorraine's?

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - That was the place to have coffee? 5&10 -- what'd you get at the 5&10?

ANNA ROZARIO - Everything and anything. (laughs) That's the best place to shop. (laughs) Oh, God.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did you ever go down to the wharf at all?

ANNA ROZARIO - The wharf?

ANN MARIE LOPES - Down to the water?

ANNA ROZARIO - Oh yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - What'd you do down there?

ANNA ROZARIO - Go see the people fishing, and -- I used to go swimming down in the South End.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Mm-hmm? At the beach.

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did you ever go to the wharf and wait for your father to come in?

ANNA ROZARIO - To what?

ANN MARIE LOPES - To wait for your father to come in -- did you ever go down to the wharf?

ANNA ROZARIO - No, when I got old enough to -- he had stopped already.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh, OK. Do you -- how old were you when he stopped?

ANNA ROZARIO - I don't know...

ANN MARIE LOPES - But you were young.

ANNA ROZARIO - My other sister and brothers probably could -- but I don't, I don't

know.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So see, you were holding out on me. You said you didn't have any fun. But you went to the movies, and you went shopping, and you went to the beach.

ANNA ROZARIO - Well, I didn't have any fun in the house, but --

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yeah, when you got -- you got out of the house.

ANNA ROZARIO - Oh yeah, I got out of the house. Of course.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Well, see -- you had me believing you were in the house working the whole time, but no.

ANNA ROZARIO - No... no, my mother didn't make me do all kind of work.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh, she said, go and have fun.

ANNA ROZARIO - I was her baby.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yes. So she said, go out -- go out. Especially when your father wasn't home, huh?

ANNA ROZARIO - Mm-hmm.

ANN MARIE LOPES - You get into any mischief?

ANNA ROZARIO - No.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Good hard-working person.

ANNA ROZARIO - There were some times there were some, some fresh kids, when we'd come out of school. Because we used to ride a bus down the Cape.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK.

ANNA ROZARIO - And there used to be some fresh kids there. When I got out of school I wanted to run home.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Hmmm.

ANNA ROZARIO - They liked to pull your hair, and all that kind of stuff.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Because you were Cape Verdean?

ANNA ROZARIO - Fresh -- fresh -- yeah. You know? I couldn't wait to get off that bus so I could run home.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So there was discrimination, even then.

ANNA ROZARIO - Yep.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yeah... yep, yep. People...

ANNA ROZARIO - Mostly all white people.

ANN MARIE LOPES - It would have been different if you were in New Bedford, right?

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Where did you go to school?

W1: I'm so sorry.

ANN MARIE LOPES - It's OK -- she's one of the nurses? She works here?

ANNA ROZARIO - Nurses -- she takes care of the patients.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh yeah, OK.

ANNA ROZARIO - That's Benny -- Benny Duarte's daughter.

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

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah. I didn't know until I came here, too.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So you went to school in Fairhaven, and when you had to leave school at 14, you were still going to school in Fairhaven. So you never

went to school in New Bedford. No. OK.

ANNA ROZARIO - I went to school in -- oh yeah, I went to school down the Cape. Yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - But not in New Bedford. When did you move to New Bedford?

ANNA ROZARIO - (laughs) I don't know...

ANN MARIE LOPES - Well, when you got married -- you moved to Bay Village right after you got married?

ANNA ROZARIO - No, I had an apartment near Grinnell Street. And then -- because his brother used to live there and they moved from that apartment. And I didn't like it that much anyway, so when they had built the Bay Village, we got in there. I had the end house. First house.

ANN MARIE LOPES - That's nice, to have an end house.

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - That makes it nice, that makes it really nice.

ANNA ROZARIO - And I moved again. Up further. Because I needed more bedrooms, so - I was there quite a while.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did you and your husband go dancing at all?

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - You listened to music? Where'd you go dancing?

ANNA ROZARIO - Band Club. And the place in... that dance hall used to be on the corner there, of -- what street is that?

ANN MARIE LOPES - Howland Street?

ANNA ROZARIO - Oh my God. I didn't think I'd forget it.

ANN MARIE LOPES - People have mentioned, like, Picadilly's?

ANNA ROZARIO - And I used to go -- I used to go to the dances they had, with the Skyliners and that other place, out of town --

ANN MARIE LOPES - The Roseland.

ANNA ROZARIO - I used to like to go there, yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Roseland.

ANNA ROZARIO - Uh-huh.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did you know Frank Monteiro?

ANNA ROZARIO - I knew him very well.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Nice man.

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah he was, very nice.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yeah, he's -- I'm so glad I got a chance to talk to him, got to know him.

ANNA ROZARIO - You talked to him before he died?

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yeah, last year.

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - He was fun.

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah, he was a -- he was a quiet guy, but a nice guy. But he was pretty smart -- he, I saw in the paper, I didn't know he was president of this, president of that.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yep.

ANNA ROZARIO - He's so quiet. You know?

ANN MARIE LOPES - He was a musician.

ANNA ROZARIO - Huh?

ANN MARIE LOPES - He was a musician.

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah, I know. Skyliners.

ANN MARIE LOPES - He told me -- he told me that Duke Ellington told him that he liked to come to New Bedford because the women were so pretty.

ANNA ROZARIO - Oh yeah?

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yeah.

ANNA ROZARIO - (laughs)

ANN MARIE LOPES - He said, Cape Verdean women were pretty, so that's why he would come.

ANNA ROZARIO - Who told him that?

ANN MARIE LOPES - Duke Ellington.

ANNA ROZARIO - Oh, Duke.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yeah. Did you know Duke Oliver?

ANNA ROZARIO - Of course. I knew them all. Peter -- I know Peter.

ANN MARIE LOPES - You know these people --

ANNA ROZARIO - Peter, Zita -- I knew all of them.

ANN MARIE LOPES - You knew them as people, or as -- for their music?

ANNA ROZARIO - As people.

ANN MARIE LOPES - These were your friends?

ANNA ROZARIO - Well... we walked around everywhere, we went to the dance, and you know, we knew all of them there.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did they ever –

ANNA ROZARIO - In fact, Peter used to go out with my sister a while there. He was a nice guy. All of them -- all of (inaudible) kids are nice. They were all nice. Well-mannered.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did you ever have people over to house, like parties and stuff?

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah, birthday parties, yeah. Don't ask me when, I don't remember.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did you ever have one of those christenings, where they christened a doll?

ANNA ROZARIO - No. That's the old folks.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh, OK.

ANNA ROZARIO - (laughs) Old folks did that.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Then they had the mock wedding.

ANNA ROZARIO - I don't know about the mock wedding either. I never went to one.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh, OK. But you were holding out on me -- you really, you really had a party life there that you didn't tell me about.

ANNA ROZARIO - Oh well, of course, did you think I was just sitting in one place? When I was a kid, yeah, I didn't go nowheres. But when I grew up -- sure, I went to the dances, I went out. I went everywhere.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So you liked to dance?

ANNA ROZARIO - No -- did you know Adeline Lamba? Her and I were best of friends.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Mm-hmm?

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah, we used to go together and Edith Fonseca and Mary and Sabina, and all those girls were all my friends.

ANN MARIE LOPES - And you would go as a group.

ANNA ROZARIO - Mm-hmm

ANN MARIE LOPES - Go to these different clubs.

ANNA ROZARIO - Mm-hmm.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So you like to dance. You liked to go to movies? What else did you like?

ANNA ROZARIO - Dance, go to movies... liked to go out to eat. (laughs)

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yeah, me too.

ANNA ROZARIO - I don't know what else. Go swimming. Yeah. I liked to go swimming.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Is there something you want to tell me that I haven't asked you about? What's your favorite memory -- you've got to have a favorite memory. Favorite one when you were a little kid, you said that was spending time with your mom, right? Favorite memory -- what's your favorite memory as a teenager?

ANNA ROZARIO - I don't know. (laughs)

ANN MARIE LOPES - Is that a hard question to answer?

ANNA ROZARIO - To me -- to me it was all... a hard way to go. That's what I take it. I just had to take what came, and that's it. Yeah. (laughs) I wasn't the lucky type to be -- I had a lot of friends. I mean, friends liked me because I never did nothing to them, but... that was it.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Basically, you just lived. You just lived. You had a good life. You still have a good life.

ANNA ROZARIO - And I pray, pray, pray. I ask God, take care of me every day... that's what I do.

ANN MARIE LOPES - I think we're done.

ANNA ROZARIO - Why, can you think of anything else?

ANN MARIE LOPES - Well, is your brother still alive?

ANNA ROZARIO - No, they're all dead.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Your brother, and your sisters? Both of your sisters.

ANNA ROZARIO - Mm-hmm. I'm the only one that's here.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh, OK. You're the one that's carrying on the family history here. Do you have any scrapbooks or things like that, of your family? Anything that --

ANNA ROZARIO - I got a Bible. And I wrote everything, like -- one kid, had the leg broken, they had it fixed, and they did this, and this one was born, and that one was born, and the -- but it's in Colorado, with my daughter. I miss that. Because I've got everything -- I used to write everything.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Do you have anything from your father?

ANNA ROZARIO - No, my father's been dead quite a while. Not as long as my mother. My mother died loooong time ago.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yeah, do you have anything from her?

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah, every time I have to go -- I haven't been there. She was buried in Falmouth, so I have a hard time getting there. My daughter takes me sometime, though. And I like to go because I never forget her. But the rest of us are all in St. John.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Your father, too?

ANNA ROZARIO - Yep.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Your mother's in Falmouth because that's where she -- where

you were when she passed away?

ANNA ROZARIO - We were in Wilquoit. We lived in Wilquoit.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh, OK.

ANNA ROZARIO - That's after East Fairhaven -- I mean, what was I saying --

ANN MARIE LOPES - East Falmouth?

ANNA ROZARIO - East Falmouth, and then it's Wilquoit. Real country. I used to sit there and sell strawberries.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So you had a farm. You had a farm when you were in --

ANNA ROZARIO - My uncle had the farm.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh, OK.

ANNA ROZARIO - And I'd go and help pick, and then I'd go in the afternoon -- I'd sit on the side and sell the strawberries.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did you eat them?

ANNA ROZARIO - Not the ones that I was selling. (laughs) Yeah, I ate plenty of them. But today -- the ones they give you here? Are not even sweet, they're so sour. And they don't put -- they don't put sugar in it -- here, they don't. They just give you that and put a little topping on it. I always put sugar in mine.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Are you diabetic?

ANNA ROZARIO - Yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - That's why they don't give you sugar. Well, I don't usually like to take up more than an hour of your time, and it's been about that --

**End of File**