

104 Joe Santos

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

**[0:00:00]**

**Interviewer:** The date today is the 9th of April...

**Respondent:** Mm-hm.

**Interviewer:** ...and I am in the home of Joe Santos at 331 Lippincott. Joe, would you tell me – first of all, I want to say thank you...

**Respondent:** Yeah. Right. Yeah.

**Interviewer:** ...for being willing to speak to me. What year did you move? What year did you buy this house?

**Respondent:** I bought it in October '69.

**Interviewer:** 1969.

**Respondent:** yeah. In October. Well end of October, begins November.

**Interviewer:** Yeah. Now, **[0:00:30]** you know, before I turned the tape on, you were telling me that somebody wanted to buy a lot of property here. Would you talk about that please?

**Respondent:** Well in 1969, 1966, it's come a company here. He wants to buy between Spadina and Bathurst and between Harbord and Bloor. They want to make big, high apartments in this area.

**Interviewer:** Whoa.

**Respondent:** And I still have a copy of that that I can give you **[0:01:00]** – somewhere in my basement. They even send the other form if we want to sign it to sell our property.

**Interviewer:** So they were going to every door asking...

**Respondent:** Yeah. They go to every door and they sent a letter to every people here to – they're interested to buy this land here. That block between Spadina, Bathurst, Harbord, and Borden.

**Interviewer:** So they could have put up a lot of very tall [0:01:30] buildings at that time.

**Respondent:** Yeah, yeah. That time.

**Interviewer:** What did you do when they asked you...

**Respondent:** Well everybody said no. Well at that time I rented. I wasn't living in this area, but I rented at that time. But this was my neighbours and I was here when that – rent too, eh?

**Interviewer:** You were renting this house?

**Respondent:** Yeah. I was renting this house before. Yeah. And I live on Major for about two years on Major just south of Harbord. I lived [0:02:00] on 137 Major Street. Yeah.

**Interviewer:** When did you come to Canada?

**Respondent:** I came here in '59.

**Interviewer:** 1959. And where did you live as soon as you came? Where did you come from?

**Respondent:** I came from Portugal.

**Interviewer:** Yeah.

**Respondent:** Yeah. And then I went to Sault Ste. Marie when I came from Portugal. I worked in Sault Ste. Marie for two years, a year, year-and-a-half. Then I moved up to north [0:02:30] in Kapuskasing. Going north of Ontario. And my son, he born up there in Kapuskasing, and I start to work with Ontario Hydro in 1961 and I worked there for forty-one years.

**Interviewer:** Oh. Good work. Quite good work. Excellent.

**Respondent:** Yeah. I worked there. But I've been all over the place. I was in the Niagara Falls, I was in Pickering, I was in Darlington, I was in Lakeview, I was in Niagara Falls. That jobs up north. Anywhere they get [0:03:00] job, they move me around.

**Interviewer:** So they moved you.

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

**Interviewer:** I see. But then you came to Toronto. You lived on Major Street.

**Respondent:** I came here in Toronto in '64.

**Interviewer:** Uh-huh. And is that when you lived on Major Street?

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

**Interviewer:** So you've been in this neighbourhood since 1964.

**Respondent:** Yes, yes.

**Interviewer:** Ooh, you have a lot of information for me.

**Respondent:** Yes. Then I rent the house on Major Street, I think it was [0:03:30] about two years. My daughter, she was born in – well, she was born in Brunswick Hospital at the time.

**Interviewer:** Brunswick Hospital.

**Respondent:** Yeah, yeah, yeah. And my son born in Kapuskasing way up north. Close to Fort William. Before it was Port Arthur. They took out Port Arthur and put Fort William. Before was Port Arthur and Thunder Bay. Now they call it Fort William. It's way up north.

**Interviewer:** Yeah.

**Respondent:** [0:04:00] North Ontario. So then I moved here. I lived about two years on Major Street, then I used to go to the church on St. Peter's, eh?

**Interviewer:** Where is that church? On Bathurst?

**Respondent:** Yeah. On Bathurst.

**Interviewer:** Just north of...

**Respondent:** Across the subway. Across the subway.

**Interviewer:** Of course. Right.

**Respondent:** So then I come here, I came to the church on Sunday. I saw that house for rent. Then I come over here, I stay there, then I been about a year or so, eight months. [0:04:30] Like he was going to sell it. I say, "I buy it." And then it was a lady over here. She was a teacher on that school for four years, and she get about a year, a year-and-a-half to retire.

**Interviewer:** Who was the teacher?

**Respondent:** The teacher get in the school, she was a French teacher.

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

**Respondent:** And then she was here and she was renting because I got a big room up in the attic, so she lives up in the attic. Then [0:05:00] she asked me if she can stay in the attic because she says, "I've been on this school for over four years or thirty-five years," or something. She was here for a long time, and I have for one year, just over a year to retire. And she asked me if I can let them stay.

**Interviewer:** Oh. So you bought the house, but you kept the tenant.

**Respondent:** Yeah. She asked me to – if I can stay because she says she likes to get until she's retired. I say okay, stay. So [0:05:30] she stayed until retired. And she – then she one day took my kids to the bank and opened an account for my kids, and put ten dollars in.

- Interviewer:** Oh.
- Respondent:** Yeah.
- Interviewer:** So she opened their first bank accounts.
- Respondent:** Yeah. She's a French woman. She's from Quebec, and she was a teacher, French school here from this school, and she was here for four years anyway.
- Interviewer:** Yeah. After she left, did you rent that [0:06:00] top floor to somebody else?
- Respondent:** No. I never rented. No.
- Interviewer:** So you just did her a favour.
- Respondent:** I just did a favour, yeah, because my kids is gone. So my son is gone, my daughter is gone, so I'm just alone here with the wife now.
- Interviewer:** Right.
- Respondent:** Yeah.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** I never rented. No.
- Interviewer:** But that's a lovely story that she took him to the bank and she went and opened their own account. They were young children at the time.
- Respondent:** Well, my son was about three years. Well, my son was born in '65, [0:06:30] my daughter born in '68...
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh.
- Respondent:** ...so they are about three, four years.

- Interviewer:** Oh, that's a lovely story.
- Respondent:** Yeah.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** My daughter was less, but maybe two years, my daughter. And she put ten dollars down and says, "From now on, any money you get, you put it there." So same as like birthday, Christmas day, we put the money. When they move out from the house, I give them the – because I wasn't trust of the kids, eh?
- Interviewer:** Yeah. Right. Of course.
- Respondent:** Yeah. And then I give them the book. I [0:07:00] said, "Now it's yours."
- Interviewer:** Oh.
- Respondent:** They kept over thirty thousand dollars at that time in memory.
- Interviewer:** That's a very nice memory. Yeah, yeah.
- Respondent:** Yeah. And then, you know, that's the way it goes.
- Interviewer:** And Joe, when you bought this house all those years ago, were there a lot of other Portuguese people here? Who was living here at the time?
- Respondent:** At that time was guys from Polish people.
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh.
- Respondent:** Yeah. That time, the house was Polish. And here is a – my [0:07:30] neighbour here was four brothers over here. Their father bought the house in 1907.
- Interviewer:** Whoa.

- Respondent:** And no one is married, and everybody dies and the last one the government take the house. And that man was on the Second [0:08:00] World War, and I have his hat, I have his badges, and I have his medallions.
- Interviewer:** So all those things, he gave them to you.
- Respondent:** Yeah. He gave it to me. He says, "Joe, I'm going to pass away. I got nobody. Might as well keep the things." Then it was one sister. It was one sister. There was the last time the sister. Everyone is over. They pass away over around ninety years old. Ninety, [0:08:30] ninety-five. Two was ninety-five. They kept – it was two sisters and two brothers.
- Interviewer:** And they never got married?
- Respondent:** Never. No one has got married. And one sister, when they built the Central Technical school, the sister did play – the kids, when they built the school, the sister, they go play hide – see and hide it.
- Interviewer:** Hide and seek.
- Respondent:** Hide and seek. Yeah. [Laughter] And one sister, [0:09:00] I think her name was Margaret, she was played on there and she fall in the hole. She – after she was almost crippled.
- Interviewer:** Oh. So that was during construction.
- Respondent:** The construction of the school. The Central Tech.
- Interviewer:** So she was damaged forever after.
- Respondent:** Well she got the – she was really very bad walk.
- Interviewer:** Oh.
- Respondent:** She was a very bad walk. Then she was a young kid, then she – I think the contractor protect the holes...
- Interviewer:** [0:09:30] Whoa.

**Respondent:** So she falls on there. Then after, her father...

**Interviewer:** Yeah.

**Respondent:** ...who after the contractor...

**Interviewer:** Yeah.

**Respondent:** ...so they give him a lot of money. But their father was a smart guy. Their father, he bought seven cottage on Lake Simcoe, eh?

**Interviewer:** Yeah.

**Respondent:** He put it on her name.

**Interviewer:** Seven cottages...

**Respondent:** Seven cottages.

**Interviewer:** ...on her name.

**Respondent:** Yeah. And then they – every weekend when the brother was driving, every weekend, all [0:10:00] – there was four people, two brothers and two sisters. And the one of their brothers was on – he was on the army too. He was a mechanic on the army, and on this garage here was a two-storeys garage, and her father, he was a mailman. One day, he's got a horse on the barn, and the [indiscernible 0:10:27] is on the barn, and hay on the [0:10:30] top on that garage.

**Interviewer:** Yeah. There was a barn right here you mean?

**Respondent:** Yeah. The barn. And one day, the people – nobody liked to take the barn down. That barn was two storeys barn. They keep the horses. The barn is about fifty by fifty, by fifty. The wide the lot...

**Interviewer:** Yeah.

**Respondent:** And when I built my garage and my neighbour, there was a well on the garage right in the middle of the garage. Was a well. We got to put a lot of [0:11:00] cement to close that well.

**Interviewer:** They had a well. A very deep well.

**Respondent:** A deep well. I think it's to take the water for the horse. And her father, he was – delivered the mail. One day, he goes far, Oshawa. The other way, far away on Milton on the horses.

**Interviewer:** Oh. That's far.

**Respondent:** Yeah. Yeah.

**Interviewer:** By horse.

**Respondent:** The horses in the – they get two wagons, [0:11:30] and the horse, when they move in, they're still there. Part of the wagons...

**Interviewer:** Okay. So we're talking about 1969. He was delivering mail.

**Respondent:** No. Not – this is what they – their kids told me. I never knew.

**Interviewer:** Oh, the kids told you.

**Respondent:** Yeah. The kids told me.

**Interviewer:** And there was a barn.

**Respondent:** The barn was there because I still use that barn. The barn – because that house gets no garage. Now no basement. This house has no basement.

**Interviewer:** Yeah.

**Respondent:** Yeah. Then [0:12:00] this house get – before, his father bought that house. Was a milk factory. A milk factory on this house.

**Interviewer:** So you're talking about Lippincott just south of Bloor.

**Respondent:** Yes. Yes.

**Interviewer:** Okay.

**Respondent:** And here, between my house, you can see on my brick wall, was a seam where they put caulking to keep the water off from the roof to the water not go inside. So it was a milk factory here, [0:12:30] and when do they take this house down, the grandsons of the people at the milk factory was here. He was a doctor on Western Hospital, and he passed by. He saw the demolition. They want to demolition the house. The doctor he comes here, his family lives up close to Lake Simcoe, but he was a doctor [0:13:00] on the Western Hospital. When he sell the house, he come down, he was here all the time collecting milk bottles from her father. And when I moved over here, I found in my basement because I dig my basement – I find coins that says, "You entitled to one quart of milk."

**Interviewer:** Oh. [Laughs]

**Respondent:** And I find them coins. I give him three or four, and I find another one late. I still got one, and I don't know if he's still north or not. [0:13:30] So then he call, he come here, collect another bottle from his grandfather.

**Interviewer:** So his great-grandfather...

**Respondent:** Great grandfather.

**Interviewer:** ...had this milk...

**Respondent:** Milk there. Yeah.

**Interviewer:** And then – and so the great-grandson was a doctor at the Toronto Western Hospital.

**Respondent:** Yes, yes. Yes.

**Interviewer:** But – so do you think he had visited his great-grandfather at this house, that's why he was upset when they were demolishing...

- Respondent:** No. His great-grandfather, he knows he's – his father...
- Interviewer:** Right.
- Respondent:** His father told [0:14:00] him...
- Interviewer:** I see.
- Respondent:** ...you know, because his father probably is born here.
- Interviewer:** Yes.
- Respondent:** You know what I mean? That guy is about fifty years old now. The doctor.
- Interviewer:** So he had not been in that house. Oh, his father was born here, you said.
- Respondent:** I believe the father because the father told him – they lived there, and then one day, I was cutting my grass, and that house was ready to come down...
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh.
- Respondent:** ...because the government sold that house. Then they go to sell this house, [0:14:30] then I pass by. I said, "The guy look around, look around." Then he says, "They're going to take this house down." I says – so they told me, "You know, that was my grand-grandfather's house, and there used to be a milk factory here." And I says, "I know because we can find a lot of bottles on my yard and his yard." Then he says, "Well if you don't mind, I'm going to come down. [0:15:00] We'll get four bottles because I'd like to keep the milk bottles." And I still got a couple there underneath my porch. I still got that wall – milk bottles. Then he takes some. With the shovel, take it, you can find lots. And I find some deep in my garage and his garage.
- Interviewer:** More milk bottles. Not broken.
- Respondent:** No. Some is not broken. I still get two or three...

- Interviewer:** Of the milk bottles from such a long time ago.
- Respondent:** Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. And I still have one coin, [0:15:30] it's an aluminum coin, it says, "331 Lippincott entitled to a milk," because before, they didn't use no money.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** You buy – like say you buy ten coins, you get ten bottles of milk. Anytime you come, you bring one coin, you give him the coin, and they give you milk.
- Interviewer:** Oh. So you bought the coins, and that's how you paid...
- Respondent:** That's how they told me. That's how they tell me. And I find the coins here. I say, "When I find, some look like coins." He says, [0:16:00] "Yes, because my father told me that that time they used no money. They used coins, and so the people come over here. Like say we buy TTC tickets."
- Interviewer:** Yes, yes.
- Respondent:** Same thing.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** Then I say, "Oh, I've got some because I find – that time I find them around, and then I give them to you for – they're no good to me." And after that, after that house, I was working in my garage, doing something there, and I saw another coin there. [0:16:30] Another coin. [Laughter] I still got somewhere.
- Interviewer:** Do you have some?
- Respondent:** Yeah. I have one because I give another three or four to the doctor, eh?
- Interviewer:** Well maybe when we finish speaking today, if you can show me one...

**Respondent:** Yeah. I have to look.

**Interviewer:** You don't know where it is.

**Respondent:** I know it got it somewhere, but I – and I have lots. I find over here lots of them. One **[0:17:00]** cent, one cent, 1800s – on the garage. Then I use the garage in that time. My son and my daughter was here. They let me the garage – I used that garage for about, I don't know, fifteen years. And if – what they give to me...

**Interviewer:** Shall I come with you?

**Respondent:** Yeah. I'm over here.

**Interviewer:** Okay. I'm coming.

**Respondent:** This was his father's **[0:17:30]** clock. It's over a hundred years old. This piano was a – this, give it to my daughter.

**Interviewer:** So the neighbour gave it to you?

**Respondent:** Yeah. That people live here.

**Interviewer:** Yeah.

**Respondent:** Because the last lady, she died with – she born in 1902.

**Interviewer:** Uh-huh.

**Respondent:** And she says, "Joe, this thing, I'm going to give it to the Salvation Army, but if your daughter want it, take it because I'm not going **[0:18:00]** to be here forever." And I think she knows because a week after, they take him to the hospital, she never been back. And her brother says, "Joe, my father giving, that was my father's clock. And I'm going to give it to you." And this piano, her father married in 1917, they married.

**Interviewer:** Uh-huh.

- Respondent:** Now, [0:18:30] he married. When he had the first-year anniversary, they give that piano to the people, their mother. So they are – she died with ninety-two years old, and they – he says, "This piano, my father give to my mother on the first anniversary." And that...
- Interviewer:** So that's 1918.
- Respondent:** He – her father [0:19:00] died in 19...
- Interviewer:** They got married in 1917.
- Respondent:** No. They – 1917. Her father died with a big flu, 1917 when the father died.
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh.
- Respondent:** And then the mother died a few years later. Then she says, "Oh, that piano was from my mother. If you want it, your daughter can use it." And the – [0:19:30] brother says, "My father's clock, I give it to you." And this one, she says they give me this one too.
- Interviewer:** So all this furniture, I mean the clock is a beautiful, beautiful piece of furniture.
- Respondent:** Yeah.
- Interviewer:** And it's tall. It must be like...
- Respondent:** Seven feet. It's seven feet. All it needs is fixed it up.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** That clock is over a hundred years old too, eh?
- Interviewer:** And it's still working?
- Respondent:** Yeah. Oh yeah. It's a hundred percent.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.

- Respondent:** And see that? [0:20:00] That is a...
- Interviewer:** Nice painting.
- Respondent:** ...Group of Seven.
- Interviewer:** Oh really?
- Respondent:** Yeah. It's a Group of Seven.
- Interviewer:** It was there also?
- Respondent:** Yeah, it was there.
- Interviewer:** So they gave you a lot.
- Respondent:** Yeah.
- Interviewer:** Which artist, I wonder.
- Respondent:** Frank Johnston.
- Interviewer:** Oh.
- Respondent:** I have a – they brought – I have the paper from that. They brought that one on me to 1947. They paid a hundred thirty-five dollars. I have a paper. I have the paper.
- Interviewer:** What do you think it's worth now?
- Respondent:** I don't know. And only one thing, this thing, the thing broke and they got – and this [0:20:30] thing fall and take the...
- Interviewer:** Yeah. But that's just the frame. That's not the painting.
- Respondent:** Yeah. That is the Group of Seven. Yeah. Yeah.
- Interviewer:** Okay. That's beautiful furniture.
- Respondent:** Yeah, yeah.

- Interviewer:** And very nice from your neighbours. Part of your story of the neighbourhood.
- Respondent:** And you see, this one is from...
- Interviewer:** Oh, I know. Those vases have a lot of value.
- Respondent:** Yeah. This **[indiscernible 0:20:54]**.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** This is a **[indiscernible 0:20:58]** vase.
- Interviewer:** **[0:21:00]** And you have four of them?
- Respondent:** I think it's two more over here.
- Interviewer:** Oh. So you have six of them. Oh my god.
- Respondent:** I have two of them. **[Indiscernible 0:21:09]**.
- Interviewer:** Oh, these are beautiful. I have one of these from my mother's house, Joe.
- Respondent:** Eh?
- Interviewer:** I have one from my mother's house. They're beautiful.
- Respondent:** You see that lamp? It's the same.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** Same as this one. **[Indiscernible 0:21:23]**.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** See, sign it and it's printed.
- Interviewer:** So you have six **[0:21:30]** vases, and the lamp.

- Respondent:** And the lamps. And this is a big...
- Interviewer:** Oh, that is gorgeous. Yeah.
- Respondent:** **[Indiscernible 0:21:40]**
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** They're in England.
- Interviewer:** But this you bought. This isn't from the neighbourhood.
- Respondent:** Yeah. Well it's from there too.
- Interviewer:** From the neighbour also?
- Respondent:** Yeah. Yeah because they say, "Take everything." I'm very sick and they're going to be here forever."
- Interviewer:** Oh. So they had a lot of very beautiful furniture and objects.
- Respondent:** Yeah. **[0:22:00]** So then that piano was over a hundred years old. Then like I say, then when I rent the garage when she pass away, she – I got a paper signed by her. I got a paper signed by her because the government – she take it – it says I take **[0:22:30]** the stuff. I says, "Sign it here." And so I got the – they tell me the piano is for your daughter, and the father's clock is for you. And I have the sign over there. Like, and then they says, "Anything on the garage, this is yours." I have the paper signed too, so was a lot of postcards from 1900s, 1906, 1907, **[0:23:00]** 1908. I have lots of them. Lots of them.
- Interviewer:** But that was smart to sign because twenty years later, somebody could come and say, "Oh, you took it and it's my great-grandfather's," or something like that.
- Respondent:** They get nobody.

- Interviewer:** Sure. But you never know when somebody might come out of the woodwork.
- Respondent:** Yeah. But I tell them to sign it even on the garage. So then it was a lot of stuff in the garage. The – something is good, something no good. Well, if anything was good, I keep it because the government is going to take it, you [0:23:30] know what I mean?
- Interviewer:** Sure. Joe, when your children were growing up, what language did you speak t home with them?
- Respondent:** Oh, we speak Portuguese, but they – because I want him to keep my language, you know what I mean? But they are okay. My son is a captain on Air Canada.
- Interviewer:** Oh, that's right. He works for Air Canada.
- Respondent:** Yeah, yeah, yeah. And my daughter, she's a – what do you call it? A company over there.
- Interviewer:** [0:24:00] She works at the airport?
- Respondent:** She's – yeah, by the airport. One company. She's a director. Director from that company.
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh. So she has a big job too.
- Respondent:** Yeah. She got a good job. She was working for one company again downtown, then she got the one kid, so then she take a year off. Then it was on the company for about twenty years. Then the company [0:24:30] really need. My daughter said, "Well I'm going to take time off." Then okay, they have to give them the time off one year for...
- Interviewer:** Maternity leave.
- Respondent:** ...maternity. Yeah. Then after that, less than another year, she got pregnant again, so she have to take another year, almost – so it only work about three months between and the company don't like it.

- Interviewer:** Oh.
- Respondent:** After, the company – when she got to take another year, [0:25:00] she want to go back, they say, "No, we're going to give you a package because you take too much time."
- Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah.
- Respondent:** So then she said, "Okay." And then she applied for that job. They take them for interview. Then they interview. Then she wasn't for about half an hour. They call him right away, "Come and start."
- Interviewer:** Oh, they liked her.
- Respondent:** Then they asked him, "How much you earn on [0:25:30] that company?" She told them. Then he says, "I want so much." They give ten thousand more than what she asked.
- Interviewer:** So they really liked your daughter.
- Respondent:** Yeah. They like her. They like her.
- Interviewer:** Joe, when your children – when you were raising your children here, what schools did they go to?
- Respondent:** Well they go – my daughter, she goes – first school they go is on King Edward.
- Interviewer:** Yes.
- Respondent:** The one down there. They went there. Then after, my son [0:26:00] went there too. Then they stayed until grade seven or grade eight, eh?
- Interviewer:** Yeah. Yeah.
- Respondent:** Then my daughter – then they come on this school here on...
- Interviewer:** Central Tech, Harbord Collegiate?

**Respondent:** No. That's where they build the building now. St. Dominic.

**Interviewer:** Oh.

**Respondent:** Just across the...

**Interviewer:** Oh, that's right. That's the Catholic school.

**Respondent:** The Catholic school. Yeah.

**Interviewer:** And they both went to that school.

**Respondent:** Then they both went to that school.

**Interviewer:** For high school.

**Respondent:** For high school. Then after that, **[0:26:30]** my son went to George Brown school. My daughter went to Loretto school. You know, that Loretto on Brunswick?

**Interviewer:** Loretto.

**Respondent:** Loretto. Yeah.

**Interviewer:** Right.

**Respondent:** She went there.

**Interviewer:** Uh-huh.

**Respondent:** She take all the courses there.

**Interviewer:** But your son went to George Brown?

**Respondent:** George Brown, and he was there on that school. Then he liked mechanic engineer.

**Interviewer:** Yes.

- Respondent:** Then after that, he says he likes to fly, so he's with Air Canada for what? Fourteen years now?
- Interviewer:** [0:27:00] Yeah. And I know you do some nice travelling because of your son.
- Respondent:** Yeah, yeah. So both are okay. Both are okay.
- Interviewer:** You moved into this neighbourhood in 1969, no 1967.
- Respondent:** I moved here – I come here in '65 on the end of '65. Then I rent a place and I bought this in October '69.
- Interviewer:** Right.
- Respondent:** Or November [0:27:30] '69. I don't know.
- Interviewer:** So you've been in this neighbourhood for about forty years.
- Respondent:** Forty-five years. Forty-five years this October.
- Interviewer:** Right. What are some of the biggest changes that you've seen?
- Respondent:** Well, the big change I see here is on Bloor Street.
- Interviewer:** How?
- Respondent:** A lot of cafes, a lot of – you know, a lot of things around here. Bloor Street, even on Bathurst Street too, eh?
- Interviewer:** But what? Can you tell me specifically some of the changes?
- Respondent:** Like when I was – it was [0:28:00] mostly clothing stores on Bloor Street. Now it's all cafes and take-out meals, you know? And before, here on the corner was – they sell nice heavy coats that people here...
- Interviewer:** On the corner of Lippincott and Bloor?

- Respondent:** Yeah. Now Borden and Bloor was like selling big coats, mink coats and everything.
- Interviewer:** Fur coats.
- Respondent:** **[0:28:30]** Over there, yes. And another one over here, what is the Second Cup...
- Interviewer:** Yes.
- Respondent:** ...because my – and where is the Second Cup is coats there. On the other side where there is Starbucks, there is another coats...
- Interviewer:** You mean fur, all fur?
- Respondent:** All furs.
- Interviewer:** Oh.
- Respondent:** Two furs. There was a fur on this side. I think it's the same company, but I'm not sure. But different people. Where is the Starbucks and where **[0:29:00]** is the Second Cup. And over there is, like, a woman and the man, clothes in the – what is that called? Like sell, like, right on the corner of Borden on this side. Where is the café now, they call...
- Interviewer:** Menchie's?
- Respondent:** Menchie's. Yeah. Yeah, yeah.
- Interviewer:** So that was clothing. Nice clothes.
- Respondent:** It was coats too. There was nice clothes there too. And same as that building, they knock it down and they build one **[0:29:30]** on the other side. Over there was like a laundry room. Now...
- Interviewer:** A Laundromat?

- Respondent:** A Laundromat, yeah. Then that building was very old, they knock it down and build it up. Now it's a café on the top and on the bottom is like books, I think.
- Interviewer:** Yes.
- Respondent:** Yeah. I think it's books. Yeah.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** Same as the one across the street. Is a big drugstore, and now it was clothes there too.
- Interviewer:** So there were a lot of [0:30:00] clothing stores.
- Respondent:** A lot of clothing stores. Closed. Now it's a restaurants, café, restaurants, café.
- Interviewer:** Oh yeah.
- Respondent:** Yeah. That's all they got there. Yeah. Same as on Brunswick. Down on Brunswick it's the same thing. There was a bakery on that corner.
- Interviewer:** On Brunswick?
- Respondent:** On Brunswick where is that – where the tables there on the back was a bakery. And on the front was something like a corner store, and now it's – they put tables outside.
- Interviewer:** [0:30:30] Yeah. That's right.
- Respondent:** Yeah.
- Interviewer:** I can't name the place.
- Respondent:** And later when you go on Brunswick, Brunswick tavern, it once closed that Brunswick Street. They don't want nobody get exit from Brunswick to Bloor.

- Interviewer:** So it was closed off? They didn't allow cars to come in?
- Respondent:** Yeah. You know where is the laneway on the back? Bloor – [0:31:00] they got the houses on Bloor Street and the business. Then it's a laneway goes through...
- Interviewer:** To the parking lot.
- Respondent:** No. Like from the parking lot right through. To the Brunswick, then goes to Major Street. That laneway finished on Major Street.
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh.
- Respondent:** They want to close on the laneway, so they want to put tables right on the middle of the road. Like in Europe.
- Interviewer:** Oh.
- Respondent:** But the people, they don't want it.
- Interviewer:** [0:31:30] Uh-huh.
- Respondent:** Yeah.
- Interviewer:** So they didn't want to close off the street. They wanted to...
- Respondent:** Close off the street. They want to go in and go out.
- Interviewer:** So they wanted like a gigantic patio, but right onto the...
- Respondent:** Yeah. They want to close the Brunswick completely. Brunswick and probably the business on this side.
- Interviewer:** Was that Dooney's that wanted to do that?
- Respondent:** I think the Dooney's. I don't know who was – they sent a letter to us if we can close it.
- Interviewer:** No, but the neighbourhood [0:32:00] turned them down.

**Respondent:** They turned it down. They don't want to close the whole thing. They want to close it just from the laneway up.

**Interviewer:** Yeah.

**Respondent:** There was about what, fifty feet maybe. They want to put the tables there.

**Interviewer:** Sounds lovely to me.

**Respondent:** Yeah, yeah. [Laughs] For the people, if they're on the summertime, you know, everybody...

**Interviewer:** Loves to be outside. Yeah.

**Respondent:** And I was talking about the garage, the big garage then. The two brothers, both was in the army. I don't know the other brother. **[0:32:30]** The other brother was in the army then was a mechanic. I still have a letter over here. They saved that too. Then when he comes, he was a mechanic and no more horse, no more factories. They want to build a mechanic garage over here on the laneway.

**Interviewer:** So right here on Lippincott behind?

**Respondent:** Yeah. Right there on – see, that is my garage.

**Interviewer:** Yes.

**Respondent:** My garage **[0:33:00]** same as his garage, but before it was a double-garage, double-garage. So when he comes from the army, he's got no jobs. Then he was a mechanic in the Army. He put application. I still got the application because he was in the garage when I cleaned the garage. Then the application, he send them to the government to the City Hall. He wants to put a mechanic garage there, and he turned him down and says, "No, this is a residence area. You cannot put a **[0:33:30]** garage." So then he went to work on a taxi. He went to work on taxi driver, get on Dupont. I still got something there from the taxes because it was in the garage there too. Then it was there. The taxis. Then he played on horses.

- Interviewer:** Oh yeah. Gambling.
- Respondent:** Gambling. Then the racehorse now was on Woodbine, but before, **[0:34:00]** the horses were – what was on Woodbine, the horserace was where is the Dufferin Mall. Do you know where the Dufferin Mall?
- Interviewer:** Dufferin Mall.
- Respondent:** Yeah. Dufferin Mall. Then it was where they played horses. There was a horserace there.
- Interviewer:** You mean there was a – where the horses ran?
- Respondent:** Yeah. There. Where is the...
- Interviewer:** A track.
- Respondent:** The track between College and Bloor. There was the track. Like what is on Woodbine now...
- Interviewer:** Yes.
- Respondent:** ...was there, then after that, **[0:34:30]** they knock all the things down and they build that plaza. But was a racetrack there.
- Interviewer:** A racetrack at Dufferin.
- Respondent:** So that guy was there. He went there, he played the horses...
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** ...he lose six thousand dollars, and one night, he comes home, he died with a heart attack.
- Interviewer:** Oh. He lost six thousand dollars and died that night?
- Respondent:** Yeah. So his brother told me. "My brother is crazy. **[0:35:00]** Any money he's getting, he plays horse." He go play horse on – there

they call it – they told me what they called at that time, but they said it was where is the plaza. And he come home, he lost six thousand dollars, then he passed away.

**Interviewer:** Oh.

**Respondent:** Yeah. One of the brothers. Then was three brothers. Even the taxes on the house. I still have the paper from the tax from that house that – the taxes says [0:35:30] here – the father was Alfred Hill. Her mother was Margaret something. Another daughter was Margaret. Then that is that – that is died with the heart attack.

**Interviewer:** Yeah.

**Respondent:** The sister, that one was crippled, one that fall on the hole in the street...

**Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah.

**Respondent:** She – the one that makes the coffee, the one who's the cook is [0:36:00] the Margaret. The one is crippled is the one that was the cook. The brother and the sister, no one's cooking. No one is cooking because when her father passed away in 1917, she was graduated on Harbord College. Then when her father passed away, the mother told them, [0:36:30] "Now you have to come out from the school because we have no income. I have to put you back to work. So they find him working in Metropolitan Life Insurance.

**Interviewer:** Mm-hm.

**Respondent:** Here. I still got the – she worked for thirty years or something, and I still got some papers here where she works there because it was – the things was in the garage. [0:37:00] So then they put her back to work to get income in the house because the father passed away in 1917, so she finished the school, she took, like, not bookkeeper. Like accounting or something. But she writes very good. She was very nice write. So then she worked on that company for a long, long time until she retired.

- Interviewer:** [0:37:30] I just want to come back. So you said one of the – the two brothers came back from the army.
- Respondent:** Yes.
- Interviewer:** And one of them wanted to open...
- Respondent:** A garage.
- Interviewer:** And that he wasn't allowed to. That would have changed all this. You would have had a lot of cars coming and the noise.
- Respondent:** Well, that was not – I never know his brother. That is – his brother, he told me, the one he passed away because that brother was the youngest one.
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh.
- Respondent:** Yeah.
- Interviewer:** But it really would have changed this street...
- Respondent:** [0:38:00] Oh yeah. Yeah.
- Interviewer:** ...to have this big business.
- Respondent:** Big business. Yeah.
- Interviewer:** Right.
- Respondent:** So the government didn't allow him to, but I still have a letter here somewhere. Someday if you want to see it, I can look on that. I still got the letter. They applied for a business here on the garage. The government said no because this is a residential area; you cannot do it.
- Interviewer:** Excellent. Excellent.

- Respondent:** So then her sister, the brother, he cannot cook. The sister, she cannot cook, the one that was on the school, so the crippled [0:38:30] woman is the one who is cooking.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** So one day, it was the sister, the crippled one, is the one who comes forced down to do the cooking. And then when the brother come down, then the other sister come down, then he says, "Where is Margaret? No come down? Why? Something wrong with Margaret? They no come for coffee? Let's go see up there." [0:39:00] See, she was sitting on the – she was dead, sit on the bed, and got one sock on and one sock off.
- Interviewer:** So she was just in the middle of getting dressed.
- Respondent:** Yes.
- Interviewer:** And she died. And she was still sitting?
- Respondent:** Yeah. She's still sit on the bed dead with one sock on and another one on the hand.
- Interviewer:** Oh my god.
- Respondent:** Yeah. It's what happened. Then she died there on the bed. In this one here, that lady, she was living alone. [0:39:30] She died on the bathtub. She was a week on the bathtub before they find them.
- Interviewer:** Oh, so she was living by herself at that time.
- Respondent:** Yeah. And even by self. Yeah.
- Interviewer:** But what's interesting, Joe, is you had these neighbours, and they told you a lot of stories and you remembered the stories.
- Respondent:** Oh yeah. See that one there, that lady, she always comes late, comes late on bed at night and never comes before ten o'clock when she wakes up. In the morning, [0:40:00] I went to work, I saw the lights on the – she had – that house was no basement. Very,

very bad, bad house. It was in bad, bad shape because she was Jewish and she didn't want to spend no money.

**Interviewer:** Oh. [Laughs]

**Respondent:** She got kids on the street, "Can you cut my grass?" Then they cut the grass, and then, "I give a dollar to cut the grass." Then they cut the grass, the kids cut the grass, then she says, "Oh, no good. Cut. I only give you [0:40:30] twenty-five cents."

**Interviewer:** Oh.

**Respondent:** She didn't want to pay nothing. And then the kids – after that, it was no – take the grass. And so then, I went – one day I went to work. I saw the lights on on the washroom. I says – the name was Anna. I says, "Anna's wake up early today because the lights is on, and I never see the lights on on that time." Then the [0:41:00] light was on for a week.

**Interviewer:** Oh.

**Respondent:** Then I told the neighbours, "Did you see Anna?" "No, no." I call the police. I call police. I says, "Something wrong because nobody sees Anna. Must be something wrong."

**Interviewer:** And the lights are on all the time.

**Respondent:** And the lights on all the time, and they never – then the police come, the door was locked. The door was locked. Then police says, "Ah, maybe she goes out [0:41:30] and you no see it." And I says – because she had the back door here. And he says, "She goes to the back door and probably never see them." I said, "No, she never used the back door. Never, never used the back door. She always uses front door." "Oh now," you know? So then the other day, I told them again. "No, something wrong there." Then they come, they know – then they come. I says, "See that light up there on the second floor?" He says – the [0:42:00] bathroom. And the light is on, it never comes off. Then I give him a ladder. They jump on my fence, go – there was a porch over there.

**Interviewer:** Mm-hm.

**Respondent:** They put my ladder on top of the porch. They look on the window, but they got a little curtain. They cannot see very well. Says, "Okay. We can see nothing there." Then they run away. They tried the door, they tried everything. Was locked. Everything was locked. So then they go away. The next day I told them again. "No, they're still" ...

**Interviewer:** [0:42:30] Oh, they really resisted.

**Respondent:** For a week. They come two, three days. So then one day, they come, says, "We're going to break the door." Then they come, they bring a master key.

**Interviewer:** Yeah.

**Respondent:** They opened the door, but then she had a [indiscernible 0:42:45] underneath in back. [Laughter] She's inside because she never used other door, and she had the [indiscernible 0:42:58] and she never used the back [0:43:00] door. So then they went up there, she was dead on the bathtub. So that light was on for a week, or over a week. At least eight to ten days, and she was dead on the bathtub.

**Interviewer:** Wow. But you were right, and they...

**Respondent:** Yeah. I told them to come so many times, so she was on the bathtub. Yeah. And then they got to one daughter, they got one daughter and one boy, crippled, but she [0:43:30] never goes because the daughter – I think she was taking drugs before. And she no like...

**Interviewer:** You think she was what?

**Respondent:** She had – that late Anna...

**Interviewer:** Yes.

**Respondent:** ...she got one daughter...

**Interviewer:** Yeah.

**Respondent:** ...and one son.

**Interviewer:** Yes.

**Respondent:** But the son is on the crazy hospital. The son is retarded.

**Interviewer:** Oh. Crazy hospital.

**Respondent:** Yeah. And the...

**Interviewer:** Oh.

**Respondent:** ...daughter...

**Interviewer:** Yeah.

**Respondent:** ...she never work, and she says, "My daughter is a bum. She no want to work. She's only on drugs, and"...

**Interviewer:** Oh.

**Respondent:** Then the daughter [0:44:00] is get two daughters. Her daughter, they had two daughters, and she's Jewish. And that woman, the other Jewish. Then when their granddaughter married a guy from Greece. Greek.

**Interviewer:** Greek. From Greece.

**Respondent:** He says, "You" – because the Jewish no like the people marry the other.

**Interviewer:** Oh, so the man wasn't Jewish.

**Respondent:** No Jewish.

**Interviewer:** From Greece.

- Respondent:** She says, "You're not my granddaughter no more. I don't [0:44:30] want to see you no more." Then the pictures and everything, he ripped everything off.
- Interviewer:** Oh. Oh my god.
- Respondent:** Yeah.
- Interviewer:** So she just said to her granddaughter, "I'm finished with you."
- Respondent:** No more. No more. She says, "Because you married." With the other daughter, I hear she was killed in BC or Alberta somewhere. Another granddaughter.
- Interviewer:** So one daughter was – granddaughter was killed in BC and the other granddaughter, she said go away because you're not...
- Respondent:** Yeah. You not be my granddaughter anymore. [0:45:00] Then that daughter run to BC. I don't even – one day I hear she's back because their daughter or their mother, sometimes they phone me. But he says, "I want nothing with my daughter. Even all the pictures I got from my daughter, I burn everything." She's really crazy.
- Interviewer:** Yes, she was.
- Respondent:** She's in a welfare up north. Says, "I only have one room, [0:45:30] and I do welfare to give me at least one more room. They don't want to give me more room. I live on a small room with a – smaller than a washroom." And then her mother says, "Before she can work, she quit. And we find them work, she quit. She don't want to work. So it's not my daughter. Not my daughter. I got no daughter, I got no granddaughter, I got nobody."
- Interviewer:** She certainly made her life unhappy.
- Respondent:** Yeah, yeah.
- Interviewer:** I want to ask you about the [0:46:00] roads here.
- Respondent:** The roads...

- Interviewer:** The traffic. What's it...
- Respondent:** The traffic. Before...
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** ...before they transfer the parking lot, here was the entrance, and over there in Borden was exit. Was exit. It was a one man over here collect the money, and over there, there was one let the people go.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** [0:46:30] Then they put a wall over there. They put an exit there, and they put just one people – for was two people. They put just one for a long, long time. Now about what? Seven, eight, ten years they have to put the...
- Interviewer:** The machines.
- Respondent:** They take a – even the...
- Interviewer:** So this parking lot, you're saying, first had two people there.
- Respondent:** Two people. Yeah.
- Interviewer:** Then one person.
- Respondent:** But then one person. Then now, nobody.
- Interviewer:** Oh. Oh. Automated.
- Respondent:** Oh yeah. And before, it was [0:47:00] exit on the – this street was one-way. This street was one-way up and that street was one-way down.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.

- Respondent:** And they – now the entrance was over there, the exit was here, and that's why. Then they closed on there, they put a wall there right through, and they put just one exit there. Entrance and exit.
- Interviewer:** Exit. So it's all on Lippincott for – one was on Borden.
- Respondent:** Yeah. And they made it a shed, [0:47:30] and they put the people in the shed. Now that shed, they moved about a year ago, two years ago. You remember it was a little shed over there.
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh.
- Respondent:** Then they remove it, and so then now before, this street was one-way down and that street, Borden, was one way...
- Interviewer:** North. Going north.
- Respondent:** Yeah.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** Now it's a different way. Down until there, north until there...
- Interviewer:** So they changed the directions.
- Respondent:** They changed it. Yeah.
- Interviewer:** Right.
- Respondent:** But [0:48:00] after they put the thing over there, it's more traffic because this was only one-way down, now it's both two ways.
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh. So there's more traffic on your street.
- Respondent:** More traffic. And another thing, a lot of people, they cannot turn, and they make a left-turn on Bathurst. They come down to the light and make left to – like I said, the people want to go east...
- Interviewer:** Yeah.

- Respondent:** ...they come on Bathurst.
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh.
- Respondent:** They want to go east, and they cannot make **[0:48:30]** turn on Bloor. They come down there, then they come on up in the – then they go east.
- Interviewer:** Oh, so you have a lot more traffic because of that.
- Respondent:** More traffic. Yeah, yeah.
- Interviewer:** On your street.
- Respondent:** Yeah. Or people like, say, come, like, from downtown, come on Borden, and from here they catch the – give the subway. Another thing too, a lot of people – now it's a lot of – before we find parking all over the place. Now, people come **[0:49:00]** on the cars, park the cars here, and you find no park here at all. They parking their cars, then they take the subway to downtown because they don't want to take the car downtown. Too expense.
- Interviewer:** That's right.
- Respondent:** And here, they're not parking, but that's why we all the time – hard to find parking here.
- Interviewer:** Do you have a garage?
- Respondent:** I have a double-garage, yeah.
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh.
- Respondent:** Yeah. But I got no problem. But, like, say, my kids come here, very hard to find a parking because most of the people here is teachers, **[0:49:30]** people who work in the office in downtown. You know, the parking lot downtown is very expensive, so they come with the car, park on this area here, and now they take the subway here.
- Interviewer:** And they use all the parking spaces.

- Respondent:** All the parking spaces.
- Interviewer:** Because it's cheaper to park here than downtown.
- Respondent:** Well they no pay here. They no pay because they are allowed to park here, eh? Now then they get the subway, they take the subway, they can change here on Spadina, and they can change, you know, on **[0:50:00]** University, or they can go to Yonge Street.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** Then it takes five minutes to get them downtown.
- Interviewer:** Or you can just walk to Bloor and Spadina and take every subway.
- Respondent:** Yeah.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** But I think they take it over here...
- Interviewer:** Yeah, Bathurst.
- Respondent:** ...because I see people park the car there, and take a briefcase, he came, walk down there. Sometimes – a lot of times I see people park, and if I have to go sometimes I go on the subway.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** I follow the people. I no follow by – they were ahead of me. They **[0:50:30]** go down the subway, then the people can go. Either way, north, east, and west.
- Interviewer:** Yeah. Sure.
- Respondent:** Yeah. That's why it's hard to find parking.
- Interviewer:** So that's bad for the neighbourhood.

- Respondent:** Yeah. We pay the taxes here.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** You know what I mean?
- Interviewer:** And they use up the parking spaces.
- Respondent:** And about the school, when I come here, the school was clean and nice, but...
- Interviewer:** King Eddie.
- Respondent:** Yeah. No, the Central Tech.
- Interviewer:** Central Tech.
- Respondent:** Central Tech. Before it was okay, but the government close a lot of schools [0:51:00] and put all the people – there mostly is Chinese, coloured people. I got nothing to say. I can't stand. But then they put a lot of people there, and then it's more they're right on the garage. Like let's say, most of the time they stop in the middle of the sidewalk, talk, and talk, and talk. You pass by, you have to go on the road.
- Interviewer:** Yeah. They don't...
- Respondent:** And they no move.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** They no move.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** The other day, I saw a lady come with a [0:51:30] baby on a carriage, and she had to go in the street because they never move.
- Interviewer:** Yeah. That's really rude.

**Respondent:** That sidewalk over here on this side, you can see there is a curb. That curb is about this high.

**Interviewer:** Yeah.

**Respondent:** So they sit over there. Even teachers too. They sit over there, smoking with their legs straight up on the sidewalk. The people – why you have to go on the street? Because they no remove from that. They smoke over there because my son [0:52:00] get – what he's said – sitting there...

**Interviewer:** Yeah. But they're not polite.

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

**Interviewer:** They take up all the space.

**Respondent:** They take all that space. Yeah. But if you tell them something, they assaulted you, you know what I mean? But it's no problem. No problem.

**Interviewer:** When your children were little, where did they play? If they weren't in the house, where did they go?

**Respondent:** They get on the field.

**Interviewer:** Oh, Central Tech.

**Respondent:** When they come here, [0:52:30] that street go straight now and there was houses on what is the track and field.

**Interviewer:** Yeah.

**Respondent:** There was houses to the Bathurst. It was houses on Harbord. And that street go straight, and then they'd be at that school over here in '66 when they built this part here. They built in '66. Then the Central Tech close the Lippincott. They close it on Harbord. But when [0:53:00] I come here, I still can drive right through.

**Interviewer:** So while you were here, all that changed.

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

**Interviewer:** Yeah.

**Respondent:** See, that street was not in '65, '66 when the...

**Interviewer:** They closed it off to be part of Central Tech.

**Respondent:** Central Tech. Yeah.

**Interviewer:** Do you and your family use the Market? Do you shop in the Market?

**Respondent:** Yes. Yeah. Well my wife goes there every week. Yeah. She buys there every week. Like for [0:53:30] vegetables. Vegetables. Yeah.

**Interviewer:** Yeah.

**Respondent:** And it's good for us that there's shopping here because everything is fresh, you know?

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

**Respondent:** Yeah. And the – anyway, we would be here – I tried twice to move away from here, twice, but let's put it – my wife, when I was working with Ontario Hydro, I was – because I work in Pickering and I work in Darlington. Where is Darlington? It's east of [0:54:00] Oshawa.

**Interviewer:** But you worked for Ontario Hydro.

**Respondent:** Yes.

**Interviewer:** And you worked in Pickering, and you went from here to Pickering?

**Respondent:** Yes, yes, yes. Pickering and Oshawa too.

**Interviewer:** Oh, far.

**Respondent:** Yeah, yeah. But that's what I told you. At that time, I went over there looking for a house, looking for a house, and my wife and my kids.

**Interviewer:** Mm-hm.

**Respondent:** My wife and my kids, my kids say, "Daddy, did I lose my friends?" I said, "Oh, you can get friends over here." Wife says, "Well, I don't [0:54:30] like to come over here." Then I say – then my kids at that time was here on school. Then I says, "If I'm moving to Ontario, then my kids they have to come up."

**Interviewer:** Oh, they would have stayed in the same school.

**Respondent:** They want to stay in the same school.

**Interviewer:** So somebody had to – it was either going to be you or them.

**Respondent:** Yeah. Yeah. Then I say, "Well, if I no want to travel, then I have to be to travel." Then, like say, if my kids be [0:55:00] home, like say, if I leave them there – if my kids be home five o'clock during the week. And one day if they don't come five o'clock, my wife start to worry about. You know, then another thing. Hydro paid me the travelling time, and for my kids, nobody paid the travelling time. [Laughter] So then I say to my wife, "Well, we're going to stay here." Then my wife, she never drive, eh?

**Interviewer:** Mm-hm.

**Respondent:** And any place she goes, she get [0:55:30] the subway here, can go east, west, and she likes this area here. She says – I say, "Well, we stuck here until now, might as well stay."

**Interviewer:** But that's interesting that they pay you for the travelling time...

**Respondent:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** ...but still you did a lot of commuting to Oshawa.

**Respondent:** Oh yes. It's fifty miles. Fifty kilometers.

- Interviewer:** Oh.
- Respondent:** Yeah, yeah, yeah.
- Interviewer:** So from a few decades, you went back and forth.
- Respondent:** Oh yes. I was a – I was in Darlington, I was in Pickering. I – when I come the north, **[0:56:00]** because I got transferred from north, when they build the Lakeview in that – they closed down Lakeview.
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh.
- Respondent:** They call – it's a **[indiscernible 0:56:11]** station, and then they close the **[indiscernible 0:56:12]** because it caused too much pollution.
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh.
- Respondent:** Then I come to Lakeview. Then Lakeview, there was mostly finished. They sent me to Pickering because they built two plants in Pickering. I come in Pickering. I start there in '65, **[0:56:30]** '66, on '65, and I stay in Pickering since '65 until '72. Until '72. Then Pickering finish. Then it starts Pickering, starts Bruce. You know Bruce Peninsula?
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** They start another because we built atomic plants. Everything is atomic. Nuclear. Then **[0:57:00]** Pickering is finished. I've come there in – begin '66. I stayed there until '72. '72 the Pickering finish, and then they start build a nuclear plant in Bruce Peninsula close to Kincardine. They send me over there.
- Interviewer:** Oh my god.
- Respondent:** They send me over there. I only come home on the weekends.
- Interviewer:** Oh.

**Respondent:** I only come home on the weekends. Then – [0:57:30] but they told me soon Pickering – because they announced they're going to build another plant, and Pickering A and Pickering B is finished. He says, "We're waiting for approval to do Pickering B. Then soon as the Pickering B start, I send you back down here." So they did that, but not the way they say.

**Interviewer:** Not as fast.

**Respondent:** Yeah. No. Then Bruce starts. They send me up there. I [0:58:00] went there in '62. I stayed there until '75. '72 until '75 because what happened, Pickering B starts, and I says, "Pickering B starts now. You promised me to send me down there, and you never sent me. You keep me here. If you don't send me there, I'm going to quit and I'm going to try down there," because what happened, down there is way [0:58:30] up in bush. They get nobody to want to work up there.

**Interviewer:** Mm-hm.

**Respondent:** And over here, they get many people they wanted.

**Interviewer:** Mm-hm.

**Respondent:** So they want to keep me up there.

**Interviewer:** Yeah. Sure.

**Respondent:** Yeah. Because they don't want to send me down there. I says, "Well, if you don't send me down there, I quit and I'm going to find a job down there."

**Interviewer:** And so?

**Respondent:** So then they – "Okay. As soon as we get the chance, we send you down there." Then two or three months later, then they finally send me here in Pickering B. Then I stayed in Pickering B since '75 [0:59:00] until '82. Then they send me in Pickering B from '75 until '82. Then '82, Pickering B's finished, they start Darlington. It's east

of Oshawa. So I was in Darlington from '82 until '89. '89 they send me back again to Pickering until I retire.

**Interviewer:** Yeah. Yeah.

**Respondent:** Until I retire. [0:59:30] Yeah.

**Interviewer:** So you have a good work record.

**Respondent:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** But you had to travel a lot.

**Respondent:** But like, say, but I never collect one penny on unemployment. I never been in the compensation. I never miss one day's work.

**Interviewer:** Excellent.

**Respondent:** But – because I moved away, they want, I move. If I don't want to move, then I have to go on unemployment or without work.

**Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah.

**Respondent:** You know? But Hydro was a good company to work.

**Interviewer:** And you were very good.

**Respondent:** Oh yeah.

**Interviewer:** And you were a very good worker.

**Respondent:** I got some [1:00:00] things – I show you.

**Interviewer:** What changes have you made in terms of heating the house? How was the house heated in 1969?

**Respondent:** Well when I come here, it was oil.

**Interviewer:** Oil.

**Respondent:** Oil. Then I already put two furnace, three – I put one, two, three furnace I put it on. The first one, I take the oil because it smells and you get the big tanks down in the basement. And then [1:00:30] I changed it. Then I put another one. The other one no work too good, then I put another one. Then I dig my basement and my furnace used to be over there in the corner. Now my furnace is here. Then I change them again.

**Interviewer:** Uh-huh.

**Respondent:** Yeah. But when I moved in, it was oil. With that big pipe, you know, in the basement. All the old style.

**Interviewer:** Did you put in air conditioning?

**Respondent:** Yeah, I got air conditioning.

**Interviewer:** And when did you do that?

**Respondent:** When I build the renovation because [1:01:00] before, my kitchen was here.

**Interviewer:** Much smaller.

**Respondent:** Much smaller.

**Interviewer:** Half the size.

**Respondent:** Yeah, yeah. My kitchen was up to here. Then I built and I dig the basement, and I make extra room up above, and a little wider, and then I did it. And then I changed the air condition. I put the central vacuum, everything.

**Interviewer:** Oh, central vacuuming.

**Respondent:** Yeah. They get a hose. [1:01:30] I plug it over here. The hose is fifty feet, eh? I plug it over here, the central vacuum...

**Interviewer:** Yeah, and you can do this whole floor?

- Respondent:** It reach everything.
- Interviewer:** And do you have another outlet upstairs?
- Respondent:** I got another outlet up there.
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh.
- Respondent:** I got another outlet.
- Interviewer:** So your house has all the modern conveniences.
- Respondent:** Yeah, yeah.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** And I put it – when I did this, I put air condition. I put everything. TV, cable, telephone in every room. **[1:02:00]** Every room.
- Interviewer:** So you've made some big changes since you've lived here.
- Respondent:** Yeah. And over here, if you want to see the basement, see my furnace was where is that fireplace here before. I got stuff.
- Interviewer:** Do you make your own wine?
- Respondent:** Yeah, yeah, yeah. I made my own wine, yeah.
- Interviewer:** And do I see peppers over there?
- Respondent:** Yes. Peppers.
- Interviewer:** Peppers?
- Respondent:** Yeah. I...
- Interviewer:** You make those? Your wife makes them?
- Respondent:** Yeah, yeah. I make them, yeah. Yeah. Everything, **[1:02:30]** everything is in here.

- Interviewer:** It's a nice cold room in here.
- Respondent:** Yeah. Yeah. Our food. I got everything here.
- Interviewer:** Yeah. And the fur?
- Respondent:** Yeah. That fur was on the garage – the one I told you that – from the people. Because there was a big coat, but that coat was loose, and this thing was on – [1:03:00] I don't know what this is. See, this thing was hung on the coat.
- Interviewer:** It looks like a face. A fox face or something.
- Respondent:** I don't know. This thing was a coat, but that coat was hung up on the middle and been there for, I don't know, maybe ten, fifteen years in the – it was a thing – falls off.
- Interviewer:** I think women would wear those around their neck and that would snap it shut.
- Respondent:** No. This thing wasn't on the coat like this. [Laughter] See? [1:03:30] [Laughter] I don't know what is this.
- Interviewer:** Oh, that's funny.
- Respondent:** Over there, anyway.
- Interviewer:** Well it looks like a fox face to me.
- Respondent:** Yeah. Something like...
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** I got the – see the eyes?
- Interviewer:** Yeah. Oh my goodness. That's a – [laughs] that's spooky. [Laughs]
- Respondent:** Yeah. You see that? Postcards [1:04:00] along...

- Interviewer:** So these are postcards that you took from a neighbour's house. That was left by the neighbours?
- Respondent:** In the garage.
- Interviewer:** Oh. And are these postcards of Toronto?
- Respondent:** Some Toronto, some England. I got them over here. See, they got here that...
- Interviewer:** These? So these are all old postcards.
- Respondent:** You know that woman...
- Interviewer:** Some of them are written on and some are not.
- Respondent:** Yeah. All postcards.
- Interviewer:** 1942 is the date [1:04:30] on this one.
- Respondent:** But some get in 1940...
- Interviewer:** This one says, "On leave, having quite a good time. Love to all." So not having a very good time; just quite a good time. What year is this? Can we see a date on this?
- Respondent:** What date is on this one here?
- Interviewer:** Let's see if I can see a date. I can't see the date. This card, Miss Ella Burke, and it [1:05:00] says, "August the 10th, '07."
- Respondent:** Mm-hm.
- Interviewer:** That's very old. And Canada Post. And the picture is the Crown Bank of Canada.
- Respondent:** Mm-hm.
- Interviewer:** Port Dover. Port Dover.

- Respondent:** It's all cards from there, see?
- Interviewer:** Yeah. So these postcards, this is to somebody at – Helena Burke, 182 Major Street.
- Respondent:** Yeah.
- Interviewer:** Helena Burke, 439 Spadina Avenue. [1:05:30] And this one is much later. This is 14th of January, 1940.
- Respondent:** Yeah. Some is later, some is – but they...
- Interviewer:** From Gord. This one is February 21st, 1906. Also to Helen Burke at 182 Major Street. But 1906.
- Respondent:** Yeah. Don't worry. There's lots of them 1906..
- Interviewer:** This person lived at 333 [1:06:00] Lippincott, next door to you.
- Respondent:** Next door. That's the one where there was the four brothers.
- Interviewer:** Right.
- Respondent:** And this one was in the army, and he get the government.
- Interviewer:** Yeah. And these are food stamp ration books. Ration books. And it says the law required that – okay. So all of these are food stamps. And these say, "Meat" on them, so these are for meat. And I don't know what those are for.
- Respondent:** Some are for meat, some are for the other thing.
- Interviewer:** Yeah. Then they had numbers C7.
- Respondent:** Yeah. I got [1:06:30] his picture in it somewhere too.
- Interviewer:** So this card is 1909. June the 28th, 1909.
- Respondent:** Hm.

**Interviewer:** And the picture is Bobcaygeon. These two medals, one says "The first open horse parade in 1909."

**Respondent:** 1909.

**Interviewer:** And this medal is what you're holding in your hand that you got from your neighbour.

**Respondent:** Yeah. Yeah. Well this is from the neighbour.

**Interviewer:** [1:07:00] Yeah.

**Respondent:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah, yeah. What did you pay for this house in 1969? '67.

**Respondent:** I paid twenty-seven.

**Interviewer:** Twenty-seven. [Laughs]

**Respondent:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** Yeah.

**Respondent:** This is between two glass. I don't know what is in there. His house is give – on that time, seventeen hundred dollars.

**Interviewer:** Seventeen?

**Respondent:** I got it right here. I show you. I don't know. The other day I was ready to throw in the garbage. It's, like, a picture.

**Interviewer:** Yeah.

**Respondent:** [1:07:30] Two glass and one sheet of news paper, 1925 on the middle. 1925 from the Globe and Mail.

**Interviewer:** From the Globe and Mail.

**Respondent:** From the Globe and Mail. But just one sheet.

- Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah.
- Respondent:** I show you when we go to the garage.
- Interviewer:** Okay. I think we're going to stop now.
- Respondent:** Okay.
- Interviewer:** You know, the university is very close.
- Respondent:** Yes. Very close. Yeah.
- Interviewer:** Do you think it has any effect on our neighbourhood?
- Respondent:** No. Well, I never get anything [1:08:00] about the university, no.
- Interviewer:** Okay. So my last question is what do you like about our neighbourhood?
- Respondent:** I like this neighbourhood. I like. Yeah. Well, you have to be familiar with everybody, you know? You have to be good with the neighbours, help what you can. I cut the grass on this once. I cut the yard. I clean the other day. She give me fifty dollars. Was like to this one. This one here, they sold it. They sold this house here in December, and [1:08:30] the people come get it once in a while. I think the people is from Korea or...
- Interviewer:** Korea. Uh-huh.
- Respondent:** ...Korea, or – it was Korea, so the man and the woman, then they left. They never move in here. I don't know. I meet the man one day. I ask him, "You live in Toronto?" "Yeah, I live in Lawrence and Yonge," or somewhere. I says, "You going to move?" "Yeah, I'm going to move beginning of April." He comes here twice, [1:09:00] then bring something to the garage, then left. I don't know when they're going to move in or not. Really, I don't know these people here.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.

**Respondent:** Because I was just sell it. And this one, she bought the house, knock everything down because this house was no basement, this was no basement. This one was finished, built in – they start in...

**Interviewer:** Do you plan to stay here for many years? What are **[1:09:30]** you and your wife – what would you like to do?

**Respondent:** Right now, I'm staying until I go the other side.

**Interviewer:** [Laughs] Well I hope you have more years, lots.

**Respondent:** And let's put it that way. [Laughter] When I can move, I can walk, I – my wife, she no want to move.

**Interviewer:** Yeah.

**Respondent:** Now, maybe another year or two I cannot drive. I cannot drive no more.

**Interviewer:** Uh-huh.

**Respondent:** You know? So if we need milk, I just go outside, I get milk. If I need bread, if I'm **[1:10:00]** go one place, then I no drive, and I will not get things around like we had over here. Only one thing bothers me is the way the taxes going up. The pension we get, we're not going to keep up with that, you know what I mean?

**Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah. So you worry about that.

**Respondent:** This is the one I worry about. Yeah. Because everything. Now I pay about six thousand dollars just on taxes. Six thousand just for the taxes. And then you get the electricity, you get the cable, you get the telephone.

**Interviewer:** So you **[1:10:30]** have a lot of expenses...

**Respondent:** You know, get a lot of expenses. Yeah. A lot of expenses.

**Interviewer:** That's a worry.

- Respondent:** And if you say – that is what I worry about because the way they kept things up, our pension...
- Interviewer:** Doesn't go up the same way.
- Respondent:** You only raise a few pennies a week, a month, you know what I mean?
- Interviewer:** But you're saying that it's convenient to...
- Respondent:** It's convenient. Yeah.
- Interviewer:** You can walk to everything.
- Respondent:** To everything. Yeah. I can walk anytime at night and nobody bother us. You know?
- Interviewer:** It's safe.
- Respondent:** It's quiet. Really I got no problem. [1:11:00] Like my – sometimes my sister stays. My wife's sister is in the States, or my people – I got some people in Montreal, some people up north. We come here, we go out, we not even close the doors. He says, "You don't lock the doors?" "Oh no." You know? And never bother to lock the doors.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** Like if now, I go to the store, I leave everything open.
- Interviewer:** Yeah. So you like the fact that it's such a safe neighbourhood.
- Respondent:** I got no problem. No, no problem at all.
- Interviewer:** Well, Joe, I want to say this has been [1:11:30] a pleasure for me. You told me wonderful stories, and you showed me very interesting old objects. And I think maybe Richard Gilbert will come and take some pictures, but I want to say thank you very, very much...

**Respondent:** Okay. Okay.

**Interviewer:** ...Joe Santos.

**Respondent:** Okay. And...

**[1:14:19]**

[End of recording]