

NAME OF PROJECT: *Italian Canadians as Enemy Aliens: Memories of WWII*

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LOCATION OF INTERVIEW: Montreal, QC

NAME OF INTERVIEWEE: Teresa Pateras

NAME OF INTERVIEWER: Joyce Pillarella

NAME OF VIDEOGRAPHER: Adriana Rinaldi

TRANSCRIBED BY: Emily Rondel

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Please note that all interviews have been transcribed verbatim. The language in this transcript is as it was provided by the transcriptionist noted above. The project staff has not edited this transcript for errors.

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Salvatore Pateras, Montreal, Mile End, tailor, Facetta Nera, Giovinezza, Clark Street, Casa D'Italia, Dopolavoro, Saint Denis Street, Petawawa, Jean-Talon Market, Notre Dame de la Defense, Madonna della Defesa, Mussolini, Saint Philip de Benizi, Holy Family School, Saint Catherine Street, Tortalenna Natalina, FLQ crisis, Dieni Gentile

ABSTRACT

Teresa Pateras was born in the Montreal neighbourhood of Mile End in 1929. She was born to Salvatore Pateras, a tailor who was born in Italy, and his wife, who was born in Montreal to Italian parents. Teresa's early life was centered around her large extended family. Her grandparents had 12 children, and some of her aunts and uncles were her own age. She herself had two younger brothers. Her father worked as a tailor, and eventually he operated his own clothing manufacturing business which Teresa worked at as a bookkeeper. Teresa's father took care not to be involved with any of the fascist organizations that sprang up around the time of Mussolini's rise to power. He was adamantly non-political, but was nonetheless implicated as a fascist when he happened to pose for a photograph at a church feast day with some men who were known *fascistas*. The RCMP arrested Salvatore from his workplace on June 10th, 1940 and later

came to search his home. He was interned for nine months at Petawawa. Although he had been the main breadwinner in his family, his wife and children managed well financially in his absence. When Teresa thinks about that time, she is not sure how her mother was able to maintain the family's standard of living during that year. She speculates that her grandparents helped. She also relates that her grandfather bought her mother a house after she and the children were evicted from their apartment after Salvatore's arrest. In terms of her father's internment, Teresa believes that the men were well treated. However, she also thinks that the Canadian government shirked its responsibility by wrongfully arresting men who had nothing to do with fascist organizations, and that it should have researched its arrests more carefully.

INTERVIEW

JP: Joyce Pillarella, interviewer

TP: Teresa Pateras, interviewee

AP: Antoinette Palmeri, spectator at interview

GL: Gloria [last name?], spectator at interview

[?]: Unknown speaker

JP: Okay, it's June 28th, 2011, and my name is Joyce Pillarella, and I'm interviewing T-Teresa or Teresa [anglicized pronunciation] Pateras Ventura.

TP: Yes, that's correct.

JP: That's correct okay. So why don't we start-Teresa why don't we start-tell me when you were born and where?

TP: I was born in Montreal, at the Royal Vic hospital. The ni- uh the third of February 1929.

JP: And your parents? Were they from Italy or were they born here?

TP: My mother was born here in Montreal. My father was born in Italy. Um, he's-really-
his place of birth is um Montorio nei Frentani, *Provinche de Campobasso*.

JP And he came here-

TP: He came here in um-uh I think it was in 1925.

JP: Mm.

TP: And uh, he uh met-my mother and my father were married in 1927. My mother was
then, not quite 18 years-18-no 16 years old, and uh I was born two years later. She
wasn't 18 when I was born. So we had-had two weeks difference. She was born on the
um 11th of February, uh, the year I don't uh I don't know the year, 19-1911.

JP: Where did they get married? What church?

TP: Uh-Madonna Della Difesa.

JP: And um, where did you grow up after your um-

TP; Uh, well I grew up in-in the district of like-of-I mean most of the time were between
uh uh Saint [unclear] and Rue Jarry. The-the whole of our-my youth, was spent along
there, but different streets, like Casgrain, Saint Denis, we were on Saint Denis a few
places. Then we went to Casgrain. Saint-Dominic. And this is the place where I lived.

My grandmother lived in the-on Clarke, near Rue Beaubien, and we were there more than in my house.

JP: Uh, so that area that you described is Mile End in Montreal.

TP: Is?

JP: It's Mile End. It's called.

TP: Ah, yeah.

JP: In Montreal.

TP: Yeah, they call it Mile End but the now, the Mile End that they call is further than that, it's further South.

JP: Mmhm.

TP: Sometimes, you know, when I talk to the older people, they say uh Mile End, but it's more like the Rosemont [?] section-

JP: That's right, that's right.

TP: -maybe they changed it you know? I don't know. Yeah. It-it was at the time, it was known as the Mile End when we were small.

JP: So your father, when he came here-

TP: Yeah.

JP: Do you know what kind of work he did?

TP: My father always was a tailor, from when I know him. So when he came here he started working as a tailor and he was a tailor all his life.

JP: Did he work for somebody else?

TP: He worked for somebody else when um-there was arrested, they went on his job to take him. He was a full man, of a big fat frame, that's while he was there. When he came out he went back to the factory uh continued-uh-um working, but after a while bought his own factory. With two other associates, the factory was on Jarry near Saint Gerard. There a long time. Then um, he started getting um, what do you call it? Alzheimer, and they sold the com-the company. And you know, he was home, he was in a hospital for more than two years with the Alzheimer, and he died. He died May 20th, 1974.

JP: [clears throat] We're gonna come back and talk more about your father.

TP: Yeah.

JP: I just wanna continue first in terms of setting up-

TP: Uh huh, uh huh.

JP: -the neighborhood is like and what it was like at the time. Oh did your mother work when you were little?

TP: Never. She never worked.

JP: She never worked.

TP: Never, never.

JP: She stayed home and she uh-

TP: She got married at 16, so you know. What she worked or for-when I was born-my mother would always tell me, "I used to put you"-I'm sorry. "I used to put you in the carriage, cause they lived on-on Saint-on Saint-uh Sixth Street [?] you know?" And walked to my grandmother's which was on Clark, pick up two of my aunts, one aunt and an uncle who were younger, and she said, "I'd leave the three of you, when we were walking", because my grandmother was then expecting a baby. [laughs]

JP: Wow. I'm sorry, your grandmother-when did-when did your grandmother come here?

TP: Oh boy, my grandmother must have come-from what I know, they were born in 1885, both my grandmother and my grandfather. They came-my grandfather came here before, okay? Then in 19-when he came, he left his-they got married in Italy. He left his wife in Italy, came here. My grandfather, this is many, many century ago. Um and he-he worked quite hard then he called for his wife who was then, who had a son. When they-when she came with his son, the son was three years old. I think it was

1909, when the grandmother came. Because the first child after that-of my grandmother, um, was in 1910. And I uh-my mother was born 1911. They worked fast in those days. [laughs]

JP: Yeah [laughs]

TP: No, my grandparents had 12 children.

JP: Twelve.

TP: Yeah, yeah. And today, there's none left, except one, one is still alive. She's 87 years old, but uh-then my grandmother came. We have a very, very, very close family. Very close family.

JP: When you um, grew up-

TP: Yeah.

JP: -were you always in your own apartment, or were you ever living as uh, [Italian word] like boarders in somebody else home cause-

TP: Nope. We were al-when my mother got married, they-she had-they rented a beautiful home, there's a seven room apartment. Uh, and -from then on, we always had-we rented, we didn't you know you didn't own a house. But we always rented the homes. Most of the time-I think I can remember three space-three place-three homes, on Saint Denis Street. Three different-one on [unclear] one on Saint [unclear], and one on Jean Talon, you know, three different homes.

JP: Was there a reason why you were always renting as opposed to buying?

TP: Well, because I guess they didn't have the h-they didn't have the money. This on top they were very very very young. I'm wondering, I don't think I was going to school, but-but just-this session here. Maybe, I could have been uh maybe six years, seven years. You know? Then-

JP: So what school did you go to, what grade school?

TP: Mm, I don't remem-Notre Dame de la Defense.

JP: Do you want to tell me about school? What it was like?

TP: Yeah, I liked school. I used to walk uh-we started to go to Notre Dame de la Defense, and then we-my mother rented on Congrave-well it's another story but-on Congrave, we used to live on Congrave, I used to walk to the Jean-Talon, cross the Jean-Talon market and go right directly inside the school. You know, it's on Henri-Julien. I did that nine years.

JP: And what was the school, like were the classes mixed or girls only-

TP: No, no, no. Girls only. We didn't have no mixture in those days. [laughs]

JP: [laughs] And uh-

TP: There were nuns teaching us. That's it, you know. Maybe we had one or two teachers, one I remember, any-anyone else I don't remember the details.

JP: And um, were the-the-the classes were bilingual. They were trilingual.

TP: When I went in-I went the first year, I was six years old, the first two years I'd say- was Italian. They taught us Italian. Because they were preparing us for the first communion, which was-you know and uh [unclear] eh? And then from the third grade to the ninth it was bilingual. Uh half a day English, half a day French.

JP: When you started and it was the first two years Italian, are we-are we talking like we're early thirties right? It would have been in the thirties-

TP: Five I think. I was born '29,

JP: So-

TP: Yeah,

JP: Thirty four-thirty five-

TP: Yeah.

JP: Thirty six-thirty seven that the school had this program.

TP: Mmhm, Yeah.

JP: For the first two years.

TP: Yeah.

JP: Italian.

TP: Yeah.

JP: And uh-

TP: But when they were teaching you the Italian really, it was like, poetry, little songs, the prayers, you know they didn't teach you how to write. I don't remember them even teaching us how to-to read, but they didn't in those two years. That was exclusively uh, religious thing. You know, it prepared you-in those days the first communion and the what do you call it uh-

JP: The confirmation.

TP: -the confirmation was done in one day. Yeah. I did the first communion in the morning and the confirmation in the afternoon.

JP: Did you, did they wear little white dresses?

TP: Oh yeah, yeah.

JP: In those days, they're so adorable.

TP: Yes, yes, they didn't have long dresses I don't think. I don't remember that, but everyone had beautiful white dresses.

JP: Did your mother sew it for you?

TP: No no, we went to buy it. It was all frills, all frills. [laughs] I wouldn't wear it today.

JP: [laughs]

TP: No, it was nice for the time.

JP: And um, did you walk in the procession, with the-

TP: Nope.

JP: -communion dress.

TP: That is something that was completely prohibited for me. Could not walk in a procession.

JP: Who prohibited you?

TP: My father never allowed me to walk in the procession.

JP: Even as a communion girl?

TP: As a communion girl?

JP: Yeah, because I remember-I don't know if-

TP: Yes, some [unclear] No no no no-

JP: -[unclear] communion dresses.

TP: That was a-a church thing. Hey? So he-he didn't want. Now that, and then a little later, there was the fascista here, they had that daycare for the kids, I never went there.

JP: What was the daycare about?

TP: I don't know.

JP: No, but I'm just saying, uh it was a fascista daycare?

TP: It was sponsored by the fasciste,

JP: Okay, where was it?

TP: [unclear] It was in church.

JP: Oh it was at the church that they had the day care.

TP: Oh, th-they had-well look. We're talking many years. I think it was disbanded for a while and now I think they still have it. But at that time, the dif-the-the-the party, the fascista party introduced this day care, that the kids would go to. It was more like a-it

wasn't like to keep the kids from the parents, it was I think they probably saw each other-they probably ate-to [unclear] at the daycare?

AP: No.

TP: No, no, I don't think.

JP: [to AP] Did you go Antoinette?

TP: They-they would keep the kids on weekends. Teach them a little Italian, you know. And-but the thing is that when there was a procession, these kids would group in the procession, they would follow the procession, but uh I was not allowed to do that. My father just said no.

JP: Did he ever tell you why he said no?

TP: No because he was against uh any political party, not because they were fascista or anything like that but-uh he was not in interested in political things. He wasn't interested it even much later. He never belonged to p-uh a party. He ne-he didn't want. But when we were small, he did one, he said, he was saying that because these kids used to dress in uniform or the fasciste. He says, "You're not gonna wear that thing." You know. So he was against the-the-the party really, that's what it was. But we never went in the processions.

JP: I didn't know about the daycare, was it help at the church or was it at Casa D'Italia? Do you remember?

TP: Who?

JP: The-the daycare? Was it at Casa D'Italia?

TP: The daycare now was not at the Casa D'Ital-no. It wasn't at the Casa D'Italia.

JP: It was in a private place or-

TP: It was in the church, like a-

JP: Oh, like a-

TP: -[unclear] or some-like a place for the kids you know when, maybe downstairs they had to have-they had a hall at one time at the church, you could event rent for weddings, but maybe that's were the kids were, I can't tell, because I had never never went there.

JP: Did you have any friends that had gone?

TP: Well, I think I had some friends yes, that used to go-

JP: Did they ever talk about it?

TP: No, no, you know the kids, we didn't talk about that.

JP: No, you didn't talk about it.

TP: No, no. No, we didn't talk, maybe um, there was a couple of friends, uh, my parent's friends the the kids went, you know, that had different ideas, that they sent the kids to the uh-they were thinking that they were gonna learn, you know we had those-I don't know if you would remember, but when my kids were small, the schools here were teaching uh Italian to them uh English to them, you know. So uh it was in that same sense when-when these young-except that these kids that I'm talking about for the fasciste they-they were young, they were five years old, you know, you were not-it was more of a [unclear] than anything else-

JP: Yeah.

YP: You know?

JP; That's what it sounds like.

TP: But, it's not like the [unclear] today, you know today they have teachers and things like that.

JP: But those uh were free at the time-

TP: Yeah, yeah, yeah. I think it was free. It was um a community thing you know.

JP: And you said there was also a camp?

TP: A what?

JP: That was-was it uh there was the [unclear] that they did, the-the fascist [unclear]-

TP: Mmhm.

JP: -and was there also uh-uh a weekend activities-

TP: No, no.

JP: -or anything like that that they organized?

TP: No, no. They-for the kids, no. The kids only went to this [unclear] and as I tell you I think they were teaching them-they were playing-they must have-you see what I think what my father was uh was so much afraid, was that they would indoctrinate them. You know? You know, they do that sometimes, the parties. They have the kids they indoctrinate. But at five years old, who wants to be indoctrinated? You know? So, no that's what my father I think was afraid so wouldn't-we were not allowed to go there, you know. He said no. We make our own minds. We don't make-you know they tried to teach children. They did it here sometimes, and so some of the authorities try that sometimes, but when you're older you know what they're doing, but when they are kids, you don't.

JP: Yeah.

TP: So my father, that-that's why we could never-and we were-every feast that the church did, we were there, we were at the feast. But we were-no, we didn't belong to any of the processions or something like that.

JP: Were you parents religious? Did they believe in God, were they religious?

TP: My father was not religious, my mother was more religious yeah. My father, well he would come to church with us-

JP: Okay.

TP: -but he was not a man that would leave the house to go to church alone. No. He would come with us. You know? Yeah.

JP: Uh-

TP: My mother went to church-

JP: The um, I'm curious now, uh the first two years of school, at uh-

TP: Yeah.

JP: -that you did in Italian at that school.

TP: Yeah.

JP: Uh, cause it uh-like you said, I mean I guess you're five six years old-seven years old. They're not teaching you how to read and write in Italian, they're doing songs. Were they singing *Facetta Nera*, *Giovinezza* with the kids? [unclear].

TIME: 0:36:17.6

TP: No, not that song [laughs]. No we would have psalms, we have poetry, Italian poetry uh and the teachers were talking to us in Italian, you know it was more a way of learning your parents' language than anything else you know?

JP: And you did culture? Uh where they talked about like geography? They would teach you about Italy?

TP: Not when on the uh-

JP: Grade one and two.

TP: No, not in the first uh year. No, no, no, no. First year was uh-now I'm wondering. I don't remember it, but I'm wondering if we were going for a full year-uh full day. I'm not sure, you know. But uh the idea there was they taught you prayers, um, we used to go to church. You know. And then they taught you how to do the confessions, you know, these things, to prepare you for the day that you had your first communion in there.

JP: Who was the priest at that time? Do you remember?

TP: Uh, oh God, oh oh. Padre [unclear]. That was the-the one of them. There was a lot of them that I don't remember. [unclear] I remember because he was like the [French phrase].

JP: Yeah.

TP: Yeah.

JP: And how um, how often would you see like the priests and the nuns in the neighborhood? Were they integrated into the neighborhood?

TP: Oh yeah. Well, do you mean amongst friends?

JP: No, like you would see them, like they-they really had a part-a part to do in the community. Did they help bring people together? Organize activities?

TP: Oh-

JP: Walking around the streets [unclear].

TP: I think in the very beginning they did. [laughs] Yeah, and they would go and visit uh a households, you know. At least once or twice a year they had a tour to do. They-they would uh-

JP: Oh, is that for the blessing of the homes?

TP: The blessing of the...host. No.

JP: No, no the homes. You know how sometimes you see the-

TP: Oh, yeah yeah, yeah. Well yes, around Christmas-[to herself] Christmas. Around Easter, they would do that, they would come to everyone you know. At the same time they would ask for-for-for the [Italian]. The money for the church-

JP: Yeah.

TP: -that each family was supposed to give. You know, the [unclear]. But uh first the beginning, you had to give 10 dollars you know for the family. Then the-as they grew, they changed and they would say it's gonna be now five dollars a member. You know, if you're five in the house, it's 25 dollars. I think it's still exists, except they asked for it in another way, they sent you mail. [TP and JP laugh]. I-I get the mail. And that's it-that's it. I went to school nine years.

JP: Were your friends uh-when you were growing up-

TP: Yeah.

JP: What nationality were your friends?

TP Oh, uh-uh most-[laughs]-were Italians. Uh most of them were Italians. Because they were friends of my parents, you know. On my street, there were some French. On the street, you know, friends that you play with on the street? They were always-no there was a mixture. There was uh bunch of Italian.

JP: Did the French girls get along with the Italian girls?

TP: Oh, we got a-oh yes. Yes. Who did-I never had uh like-the arguments was-was my brother with the guy next door uh with the brother next door, and these were Italians. I remember you-you know there's the lane? And we would meet-play in the-in the lane. So my younger brothers were playing-this other-and these kids too. That the name was Ameddeo[?]. Ammede-I can't remember his name anymore.

JP: It's okay, it doesn't matter.

TP: And they would argue you know? They kids would argue, but uh, we-

JP: Were you allowed to go out at that time with-did parents feel comfortable letting the kids out of the house? That other neighbours would be watching you? In other words, you just brought up the fact that you played in the lanes. So-

TP: Yeah.

JP: -would your parents let you ho out and run around for a few hours-

TP: No.

JP: -without supervision?

TP: I think I was 18 when they allowed that.

JP: Your friends are saying-shaking their heads saying no [laughs].

TP: [laughs]

JP: It sounds like the girls were under uh [unclear, talked over]-

TP: Oh yeah we were on the-under-under watchful eyes. Yeah uh we used to go to Gloria's you know. This was it. One day, I had the-my cousin-that was in 1950 though, I

had my cousin who came from Italy. He was my age, 18. That was really something. And he was living at my house. One night we went to Gloria's-I went Gloria's-I used to go to Gloria's all the time. It was just right nearby and he came with me. When I got back home, my mother said, "Where did you go?" I said, "I went to Gloria." "Your father is really mad." Now my father never gets mad, you know? "Why, why?" "You went with Tomas." You remember that story? And I said, "Yeah, I went with him." She said, "No, no." Apparently. My mother says, "You're not supposed to go out with your f-with your cousin." "Oh." "So sh-be careful-no more" she said, "No more, no more." So, you know, that's how strict they were-

JP: [unclear]

TP: so afraid-huh?

JP: Is that also part of it? Um uh [Italian phrase]. Was that part of that time do you think or?

TP: No, I think so. Yeah.

JP: This is all based on real fear.

TP: Yeah. Mmhm. They wanted you to be proper you know? They want you to be polite, to be with them, not to scream. You know if you have company, how to-to uh enjoy your company. Uh, and there was some of that. Yeah. Uh-

JP: What kind of um socializing did you do as a family at the time in the thirties?

TP: Oh-

JP: Like did you do things like *la visita*, did you do picnics, did you do-

TP: No, no-you know, I'll tell you frankly. My grandparents-my grandmother had 12 children. That's where we lived. Because we were there continuously and we all met an uncle or aunt um um talk. That's what it is. Or they would come to our house. And we get all together. But we didn't have uh lots of-the friends came a little later, you know. The friend is-did come later. But uh, when we were young, it was my par-my grandparents. I still talk about it today. I go to a circle, to-to-a [French phrase] there. For the-that's maybe, that's [French phrase].

JP: [laughs]

TP: That's how I call it. [laughs]. And what they make you do, they make you go back to your youth and you-you remember things which you had forgotten. For me 50 years, you know. But un, we-w-w-that's what we see the difference, in the things-in the time-the way we lived. When we were kids um-I always talk-because when they ask me to talk, that's-you know-I lived with 12-12 uncles and aunts. They were married. They had children. We were always got together. Now my-these 12 people are all dead. And-and their-their-their hu-their wives too. They only have this one Anne that is left. And still you know, every time I pass on Clark Street and I see the house, I remember all these things and I-I happen to go often by there, but uh-it was nice. It was a nice life.

JP: What language did you speak in the house, with those 12 aunts and 12 uncles and kids?

TP: Mostly, was Italian, because my grandparents were there.

JP: Your grandparents. Did they ever learn English or French, or did they only speak Italian?

TP: My grandmother may-uh yeah well you see, my grandfather already knew English because my grandfather was um-I always thought as my grandfather as very intelligent person. Because he came from Italy with nothing, and he started to work for the Bell East. And he was the one who would install all the lines, for the Bell, at the time. I mean I don't know, that was before I was born-under the earth.

JP: Under the ground.

TP: And he al-he would always had my-my grandfather had those you know, engineering you know, rulers and stuff they gave-he was always with his blue paper, and I-I always wondered where he got that, because he didn't go to school. But he learned it, you know, from the Bell. He died-when he died-he really died on the job, he was on the job when he died. He had a heart attack in 1944 I think. He al-he lived all his life there. And the first son, was also living there. [correcting herself] Uh-living there. Was working there, and uh, he started to work, when he was seven-eight years old at the Bell. He was going with my grandfather-my grandparent-my grand-to bring the water-uh in those days, there was no water and so they-they would call the water boy. And the water boy, he was a water boy, was going around to the employee, so they could drink their water. They were outside, it was hot. You know, that was it. But when he died. My uncle-the first one was 96 years old, he had just-like five years before he had stopped from the Bell. He worked something like uh-uh I think 80 years for the Bell telephone.

JP: Oh wow.

TP: Yeah.

JP: And with your parents, what language did you speak at home?

TP: At home we spoke Italian.

JP: So-

TP: Until they started school, when the boys started school, we-we started uh-we went to English.

JP: So how many brothers and sisters did you have?

TP: I have two brothers. That's all.

JP: Did-okay two brothers. When they started school, they went to English school and that's when you started speaking English at home.

TP: Rober-you see, when I-um you're talking about my brother now.

JP: Yeah, your brother, in your family, like just the closer-

TP: Cause I'm remembering, you see-my brothers went uh-they went to the same school Notre Dame de defense. They went to-

[?]: Saint Philip de Benizi.

TP: Saint Philip de Benizi.

JP: That was the boys' school?

TP: Yeah, that was a boys school, and-and we were right across from them.

JP: Okay.

TP: Like the second- my second brother-uh my second-was it my brother? Yeah, my second brother, um was four-six...uh was born four or five years after me, I used to go and pick him up at the Belizi [?] school to bring him home. Because we had to cross Jean-Talon, my parents, you know.

JP: It was called Denisi?

TP: No, it was Saint Philip de Benizi.

AP [?]: Saint Philipe de Benizi.

JP: Benizi, B-E-N-

TP: It's still called like that, I think.

AP [?]: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

TP: And um-

JP: but, was it um, was the neighborhood safe for a young boy in the thirties?

TP: Yeah, no. The many neighborhood was very safe.

JP: You didn't feel threatened, you weren't scared walking down the street, playing in the lane?

TP: No, there was no such thing.

JP: Going back and forth from school, going to the-the shop-

TP: No-no kids got kidnapped, uh-uh-we didn't have those-those worries. No we didn't have-but uh you know, the families were kept very close just the same you now. The parents didn't want the girls to go far away because they're afraid they're gonna get lost or something like that. Not because they were afraid of them being taken.

JP: So, it sounds like, when you grew up, in the thirties, um the neighborhood felt very safe.

TP: Yep.

JP: And uh um-

TP: We-

JP: -everybody felt that like they were able to send out-you can go out-

TP: Oh yeah.

JP: -visit the store, they were okay, sending their child-children to the store. Were-did you ever get the feeling-now as you walked down the street, that the *pisans* and the other neighbors were being on balconies watching you and that you were watched by other people-

TP: Uh no. no-

JP: You know? That you had this neighborhood.

TP: -that came later. We were older when that come. Because uh when the war started, it seems quite a better thing, you now?

JP: That's what I'm just trying to understand before the war, before we talk about the- what I mean, by like watching it uh-you know sometimes you just feel like cause everybody's watching it's like when *paese*, that uh you're on the street-you ok-you know this one and that's the [unclear]-

TP: Ah, well-

JP: So you can feel-

TP: We probably knew some, you know, but it wasn't-

JP: You didn't know that many people though.

TP: No, no, no, no.

JP: Why is that, is it because the houses were too separated?

TP: Yeah, I well, well there was some-the French-French, the kids who went to French school, you know, were separated in a sense. We uh-no-if we went to um English school, [unclear name, to someone other than JP]. What's the name of the school?

[?]: Holy Family.

TP: Holy Family, you know, then you gather with the Holy Family kids, but-but there was no uh-no-no fighting among if you're French and you're English. That came much later. Yeah.

JP: Did you feel that, when you grew up-

TP: Yeah.

JP: -that-that the the neighborhood was very much a unit, like it really felt like a little community?

TP: Yeah, I could say-yes, yes, it did feel-

JP: What would give you that feeling?

TP: -when we were-were on Casgrain-what?

JP: How would you, as a young girl-what-

TP: What?

JP: -what made you feel that you lived in a community.

TP: I will answer. Let's see, when we lived on Congrave Street, our next door neighbor was an Italian family okay? But the, a few doors later, there was a French family, and he I think he was a dentist. But, uh we felt-we felt like one family. You know? It was then that you realized, some one. If you-you really wanted to describe it, you'd say, well my family next door was Italian, but then there was also the French speaking a little further down, it was very nice.

JP: And did-would you talk amongst each other?

TP: Oh yes, yeah yeah. That's uh-that was-but my mother-

JP: So if you needed something would your mother uh go to an uh to a French household.

TP: No, no-you mean to visit? No.

JP: You wouldn't visit. You-if-

TP: No, we would.

JP: -she needed-were out of sugar or something, just as an example-

TP: Well, maybe that. I don't know, maybe that, but we wouldn't visit like they do here. This street here is all Italians okay? And they go from one house, to another house to another house, next door, uh across the street, we knew-we knew all the kids. I knew all the kids, all the grandkids. At-at Sainte Therese, I'm an aunt many many times. But, I'm saying, we didn't do that in those days. Oh no, no. we were all-no-I don't remember. We had some friends come in sometimes, just, it was a party. If it was my birthday, we'd invite the kids around the house. You know?

JP: How would you celebrate your birthday?

TP: Well, I have cake. Nice uh birthday cake, and a gift, that was important. The gifts. [laughs]. You know I had the boys and everything. Yeah, that's it.

JP: So, what we'll do it, we'll take a break. We'll have lunch.

TP: Yeah.

TIME: 0:52:56.3

JP: And then we'll continue, is that okay?

TP: Okay with me.

JP: Okay, that sounds good.

[BREAK]

JP: Okay, Teresa, earlier we were talking about languages-

TP: Yes.

JP: -and you told me how you went from speaking Italian in the home-English and French and Italian at school. Can you tell me some more about languages, how it-how it went on with the family and friends?

TP: Okay. Yeah, well with my grandparents, I'll start with that, it was Italian, you know because my grandparents were really uh except my uh-my grandfather, uh he was working for the Bell so he learned English, he was good you know? My grandmother was always Italian. With my pa-my-my parents. My parents um, we spoke French at home, uh until uh my father-uh. When the school started, we spoke-spoke French, but before, it was Italian. The tr-the whole family was speaking Italian-Italian. And the-what I was talking about that the difference is, that in 1950, when the immigrants started to come in, we had the young people coming in. They're my cousins who were 50, [to herself] uh 50, 1950. Um, you know, we-we used to go-I used to go to Gloria's uh summer home, and one time we were there with her cousins, of one house and the cousins of another, who had visitors. Wha-what these visitors do, Italian young people about-we were 18-2- dollar, So we were outside having a good time and we were laughing and thinking and speaking among ourselves. But when we were among ourselves we spoke either French or English. Yeah. Then one of the guys says, "Well wait a minute." After a while. He said, "We don't understand this, how can you mix up your languages like that?" Well, I said, "We don't notice." Well somebody answered, "Well, we don't know it." We go [French]

and all that friend down there do this, we would [French phrase]. You know? I says, "We just switch, very easily." So then, we decided, Okay, we might as well speak Italian, because these people couldn't understand a word. And that's what we do. And we used to do that at home too. Well, as we grew up, that's what we did. I think-

JP: When you were growing up, did you feel Italian or uh Canadian?

TP: Oh, I felt Canadian, I didn't feel Italian. Well, I might have looked and felt like Italian to-to some people, but I didn't know. You know what I mean? I felt-

JP: Inside you felt Canadian?

TP; -Canadian and that's it. You know my mother was Canadian, you know, she was born here. And all her family, was speaking French, be-because they spoke Italian for the grandparents, but amongst themselves, um my-my aunts and my-like the other day I was at the [French name], the other day, I was at the circle, and um I dunno how come we started to speak a language, and then we twisted, you know, and then the lady she didn't feel Italian, I said, "Well, I don't know what it is to feel Italian." You know, I said, "I was among uh Italian people, I knew their culture and everything." But she says, "I didn't feel any different than being French."

JP: Were you ever treated-

TP: [unclear]

JP: -were you ever treated differently before the war?

TP: Before the war?

JP: Before the war.

TP: No, no, no, no. As a matter of fact, when my father was arrested, there was friends with little children, neighbors, a little more further than what we lived, and they came to see us to say they were sorry that and that their kids were playing with us. I didn't feel any different.

JP: During-during the 1930s, you father was working as a tailor, with-did he have steady work or-

TP: Ah no. My father worked from the day he came from Italy. And he stopped when-when we made him stop because he was sick. But uh no no my father worked all the time, all the time.

JP: He was never without a job?

TP: No, no. He was never without a job, and he used to take the-the-he used to work on Saint Catherine and uh in the West end of Saint Catherine-

JP: Downtown Montreal.

TP: Yeah, and he would go by uh-uh tramway.

JP: Tell me something, your father left in 192-well he arrived here around 1920-

TP: Five. When he came here.

JP: Right, when he came to Canada.

TP: You see, he came because the last years of the other war, which was 19-uh 1914-to '19, okay, uh '20? Canada allowed-uh because of that war, in 1922-'23 I think I don't know the exact dates, uh Canada allowed immigrants from Italy to come in. And they gave-they gave them rules, naturally. So my father, had been in the war in the last year or two, because he was too young to go at the beginning of the first war, you know, when he-he was called in a the end of the second war.

JP: At the end of the first war.

TP: At-at the end of the first war. Yeah. And uh, because of that, he asked to come to Canada. He said, "I have an id"-he said, "I have an occasion to got to Canada." In those days, you-they-they everybody they wanted to come here, because in Italy, it wasn't so good. So-

JP: He came here-

TP: Yeah. Al-alone.

JP: He came alone, did he uh-who paid his trip? Did he come, do you know by any chance?

TP: Who?

JP: How did he-how did he have the money to come here? Do you know by any chance?

TP: Uh, I don't know if it's the government. Maybe the government paid, in those days since-oh maybe he borrowed the money. I really never found out. I don't know that. I know my son-my father-my-my husband, his brother paid for it, but I can't tell you that my-my uh my husband came a generation later, you know.

JP: So-

TP; Well, so my father came in 1925, and he went to board with uh a-a friend of my grandmother's. Okay? Who lived on the same street on Clark Street. So, not because he was an immigrant, and this, when this friend used to visit my grandmother, which was almost every day, he would take along this-this young man-this young man, you know. well he was in his twenty-25-he was 27 years old at the time, my gr-my-so he would go. Because he came from Italy he was afraid that to-you know he didn't know the country. He didn't know even the streets where food [unclear]. And that's where he saw my mother. Because at my grandmother, and this lady were friends, they would see each other during the day. And almost every day And he started, you know, he went once, he saw my mother, and that's when he decided he was going to go all the time. You know, she was uh 16 at the time, uh 14 maybe 15. You know, was a young girl. But uh-and so [unclear], every time she would go, he would go. You know. And then-

JP: Your father was in Italy uh at the beginning when fascism was starting to um unfold.

TP: Yeah.

JP: How do you think that shaped him? Shaped his-

TP: Well, from what I can see,

JP: -perspective on [unclear].

TP: You know from what I can-my-my father um, did not want to belong to any party. He never belonged, I think like he was relieved that he was coming to Canada, you know, thinking the party's not gonna be there. He really did not like the party.

JP: So, do you think his experience those few years of experience he uh of seeing what was going on in Italy, when he came here, do you think that somehow shaped his experience and why-like you said too-sorry.

TP: Well I think-

JP: Truck. Okay, so we're just waiting for the truck to go by. [truck noise in background].

TP: I think it must have been um um a-a way of you know, of shaping him. Because first of all he had gone through a war. You know the first war, he started in the-in the full war. When uh-when they started. I don't know if the fasciste as there in the first war. It was the Germans.

JP: No, no. It didn't start taking shape-

TP: No there were Germans that were twice. Yeah?

JP: The fascismo started taking shape after the war.

TP: Oh.

JP: I-I guess I'm-I'm what I'm trying to understand here is that-

TP: Yup.

JP: -uh his wanting to keep you out of the uh [French word] for example. Okay? Um, his opinions may have been formed by something he felt or saw or knew about-

TP: I don't know. The only thing-th-uh I think is because he was like um-he was a no party man. You know what I mean? There was no party that he um-that he was crazy for. You know some-some pe-people like around here, they say, [French phrase].

[?]: Quebecois.

TP: Quebecois is one, but uh, Liberals, le Liberal, la Liberal, la Liberal. But him, he knew about-he would read it in the papers, but take no part. He didn't want to belong-

JP: So-

TP: -I think he was afraid. I-I-I say afraid, he may not be afraid, he was disinterested. Because I see the young people here. I have two grandsons, okay. I can't get them interested. I say, "Jonathan, what do you think." [unclear]. And that's it you know? They're not interested. Yeah. So I think he probably was not interested uh any party. Uh they didn't grab him. So when the party's work is to try to get some people to follow them see? But he didn't follow.

JP: Was your father involved in any Italian organizations-

TP: None.

JP: -in Mile End?

TP: None, at all.

JP: The Sons of Italy, or the Church

TP: No Sons of Italy, no *pas fasciste* [?] nothing.

JP: Dopolavoro.

TP: Dopo-no. No. Dopolavoro he didn't go. Uh they used to play, no he wouldn't play, he doesn't-he didn't play.

JP: Oh do you remember the Dopolavoro club in Mile End?

TP: Yeah, yeah I remember.

JP: Where was it? What would they do?

TP: On Belanger[?] they had some. On Belanger [?] Street.

JP: What would they do?

TP: Yeah, well, they would play pool.

JP: Oh.

TP: And get together. Drink a beer. It wasn't-they weren't bad. They weren't bad guys-
except that it makes a group. And sometimes governments don't like the groups. You
know. They don't want groups like that. You know because it-it can bring-it can bring
problems.

JP: Do you remember um, when they were collecting gold for Ethiopia in the 1930s?

TP: Yeah, that I remember, because-

JP: How did that affect your family?

TP: No, well uh she never sent any money. She never sent any gold, she never-what we
did, uh mostly is uh, the family in Italy, like my father's sisters, they had daughters, that
when they got married, around that time, the-we sent wedding dresses and mon-you
know, to have a wedding. And uh I remember very closely because we sent the dress to
one, which cost us at the time quite a lot of money, we didn't have any money, but that
we sent with a nice pack because she was getting married. In about a year and half
later, the second one got married. And she said-hmm-and she send um she-she asked
for a dress. So my mother got mad, she says, "No, we send you a dress, to your sister."
"Well, I would like one of my own no." So my mother says, "No, you use your sister's
dress for your wedding." That's what I remember, you know? But uh-but uh the people

down there would write in, wa-wanting so-something, we usually would send it to them. But he never contributed anything to parties, or anything extra. No.

JP: Were the *fascists* present in the neighborhood, like as a young girl when you walked around did you see them like whether it was in parades, or attending clubs, or were they- did you ever see men walking around with black shirts?

TP: Here?

JP: Yeah, here, when you were growing up as a young girl.

TP: Oh, well yeah. Everybody-well don't say that they would bl-I saw a man, yes. I saw some people because some people were very uh uh intent on the fascist uh-uh party.

JP: Would they actually walk around the neighborhood with black shirts.

TP: Yeah, well, you know, the black shirt was the idea here, nobody else would wear a black shirt unless you were a *fasciste*, you know?

JP: They didn't have a problem with that, wearing the black shirt on the street, that was common? To see some-not necessarily common but it didn't shock anybody I guess is what I'm asking.

TP: No, no, no. It wasn't shocking, you knew, oh he belongs to the party. You know, that's it. We weren't afraid of the party. You know. That-the-uh-um-what we got-when people got afraid is when the second war uh came in.

JP: But up until that point there was no fear of the [unclear].

TP: There was no fear, it was an association like they have in Saint-Jean Baptiste today.
You know.

JP: That's true.

TP: People would belong to the Saint-Jean Baptiste, there's so many people, there's so many clubs like that to belong. Then they were-hey it was small, because it was a young-a young-young thing you know?

JP: And-

TP: And then the club itself it got involved in like-into war in Italy, you know. People starting to scream that the c-the com-then the communists became power in Italy. That's when they started to have-

JP: Were there communists present in Little Italy when you were growing up in Mile End?

TP: No.

JP: You didn't see any-

TP: No, no.

JP: There were no fights between communist and-

TP: No, the only thing I could tell you would be the church, you know at that time. Um it wasn't the church, it was that they were taking care of the kids. There was a lot of uh-uh people who had no money at that time. Don't forget there was a world-

JP: Depression.

TP: -crash. Yeah. So there was a lot of people that had no money, so they would do anything to get something. I remember like when they would p-pass door by door, with a priest with them. See that's why the church was involved, and they would ask us, we were heating with um coal at that time, you know. The furthest thing they would ask, would you be willing to give a brick of coal, you know. Uh, I don't know maybe uh a little pail, we would give it to them, so the priest would bring it to somebody of the poor who could at least heat their home. You know.

JP: Did um, did the church give out any kind of relief during the depression to the Italian families?

TP: Well-

JP: -in Mile End?

TP: -not that I know of. I didn't know. I think myself, I think that they did. But we didn't know about it.

JP: Right because you would have been younger at the time.

TP: Yea, I was too small. Well, I was really-really too young. First of all you know I was uh nine year old when my son-my father-uh nine-ten years old when they arrested my father. Uh, and you know the nine-ten that I was, is not the nine-ten of today.

JP: How was it different? The nine-ten back then?

TP: I was-well I say uh 1940 was the war.

JP: Yes.

TP: They arrested these men eh? And I was born 1929, I was 11 years old.

JP: So how is a 10 or 11 year old different in 1940 than a 10 or 11 year old today?

TP: Did you ever talk to a 10 or 11 year old girl today? They know more than what I know. They know more than what I know, they know more-uh you know when I got married, I was a virgin. And uh okay, 11 years is really young, but how many 18-20-19 girls do you find today virgins? They're not there, it's not the same people. Not the same people. But when I was 11 years old, probably I was the equivalent of seven-eight years-

JP: Mhm.

TP: -today. You know.

JP: Is it-is it fair to say that a 10 year old girl in 1940 worked a lot harder and had less of a childhood than a girl today who's ten years old?

TP: I would say she had more of a childhood.

JP: More of a childhood.

TP: Oh yeah. They knew. You know, they didn't have-did –their mind was not expanded like today. Ten year-who-who my niece, her son who's 13 years old, 12-he's 12 years old. He finished um school, um first years-

JP: Yes.

TP: Seventh grade. So they gave a party, the school, you know? The gave a-a-a party. She went, she-she came back, she was mad, she says, "did you know, if you would see the girls." She says, "There was one girl, she had a dress half her breast out." This is an 11 year old girl."

TIME: 1:11:07.2

JP: That's crazy.

TP: She said, "and the-the-the way they were dressed, the little girls." The boys were dressed, ok they're boys, you understand? But the goy-the boys go after these girls. You know? So-

JP: Did you enjoy your childhood?

TP: Who thought-huh?

JP: Did you enjoy your childhood? Did you consider it-

TP: My childhood?

JP: Yeah, you had fun as a kid?

TP: I really, really liked it. But I was always with my aunts and my cousins. I was with a family, all the time. But they were my age though. I must say that, you know. Me, I had uncles younger than me. My grandmother had children after I was born. So. You know I had-we were a group, we had a lot of fun when we were young. Then I remember all the weddings of my uncles and aunts. I remember like it was yesterday.

JP: Where were the weddings held, in a hall, in houses?

TP: Some of them were a hall. One I remember I even told at the circle, I says. The day before they made a serenade. I don't think you know what it is.

JP: I do.

TP: A se-serendade? Serenade?

JP: You want to explain what it is?

TP: Yes. The night before the wedding, the groom brought a band, which played outside the house of the-my-the groom-of the-the-

JP: Of the bride?

TP: -of the bride. Beautiful songs, they were singing Italian songs. Dancing. The parents were inside. Her, she wasn't allowed to come out. You know, this was her-her boyfriend who-who gave her a serenade. He was serenading her. Beautiful songs anyway, some of the songs were nice.

JP: And go to the house

TP: And then, when he was finished, the parents said, "Okay, come on in," and they had prepared a big table with all kinds of sweets. And um then th-the saw the bride, you know, it was-it was my aunt. That-that was one of the weddings I remember.

JP: That was an Italian tradition, the Canadians wouldn't do that.

TP: It was an Italian re-pr-tradition. Her, the -the girl was-the other was Italian, but the father was another-he was more English. Her name was Skeena, S-K-E-E-N-A. That's not Italian.

JP: No.

TP: So-but they did the-the Italian tradition was done by my uncle, he was Italian, so he made the serenade. You know. But the parents received us and everything, it was really nice. So, I remember every wedding.

JP: Do you remember any of the processions with the bands going up and down the street? Whether it was for religious feasts or for even political-

TP: Oh, well the processions was the same thing as they do now. They had the Virgin Mary, the-the-coming out, and the processions the-the groups were-er-uh just walking behind. Some of them are collecting money you know, while they walk. And I don't- there was nothing. I-I met my husband in front of the church.

JP: Really.

TP: At the dance. A dance, of-the feat of Madonna della Defesa. August the eighth, I can tell you.

JP: How nice.

TP: Yeah, I met him there. Uh, we were uh-see I was about oh 20-I-I forget-I forget my [unclear]. We were about uh oh 21, 22 eh Gloria? [unclear]. And the uh-I went with another friend. Tortalenna Natalina [?]. She wanted to go to the party, because there were dancing. Uh my mother wasn't too keen on it, but we went. We-I took the bus to get there. And I met my girlfriend, and we were walking, and she met this young man. She went dancing. Okay. Then uh-well I was alone. I was waiting for her. So then came this other young man, and he asked me to dance, I danced, but then he said, "We're going home." So m-my friend, said um, "Are you coming to m-overnight." Because he had asked, her friend that he had just met to come the night after, that was the Sunday night, we went the Saturday. So I said, "Oh, I don't know, I have nothing to do." She says, "Oh." So she told her boyfriend she said, "I have to asked my friend if she's coming. I-you know, if she's coming, I'll come too." The Sunday, she called me, she said, "Come with my, because you know otherwise I'm not gonna be-if he doesn't show up, what am I gonna do?" I said, "Oh, I don't know, myself." But I went with her. And I

told her, I said, "The minute you meet him, I take the uh I go down and I go to take my bus." She said, "Okay." That's what happened. She met fr-her friend, and I walk t go and get the bus and I see the guy that met last night running behind me. You know? He says, "Hey, don't go, stay here, we're gonna dance." And I stayed a bit more. The he came to bring me home, and that's how I met my husband.

JP: How nice.

TP: Then he took my phone number and he called. Then after, it was another thing eh? I had to tell my father. [laughs].

JP: [laughs].

TP: I met him and, "I wanna meet him. I wanna see him." Uh, he was a-such a nice man. Uh and Natalina, she married the guy too. Mmhm.

JP: Wow.

TP: So that's where I met him.

JP: Did you ever go to the dances at Casa D'Italia?

TP: We made arrangements to get married there.

JP: Oh, you got married there.

TP: And then when my father went to sign the last papers, the guy told him, by mistake the rented to two persons. And we were left with nothing-no hall. So then we went to the Ro-Rochester, and uh the name. It was um, like a-a club, but it was downtown. Someplace.

JP: But before uh in the 1930s would you ever go to the Casa D'Italia with your family for any kind of dance or thing.

TP: No, I don't think. No, oh no. Not with that, not with my father, no.

JP: Um-

TP: I didn't go after either. I must tell you just this. Last uh-three weeks ago about a month, you know I go to the circle for the daycare okay. There, we're all the same age about. And we're all a mixture. We-we form groups. All of a sudden this girl comes in and you know everybody looks because it's new. Like oh, we-we have a new friend. Yes. So I says, "what's her name." Uh, the-the-the-nurse come in and she introduces her, "This is Mrs. Trubiano [?]" I said, "What, Trubiano." So I said, "Oh, I want to see the lady." I said, "Mrs. Trubiano, what's the name of your father in law?" She told me a name it didn't-didn't sound good, didn't sound like somebody I know. She said, "Why?" I said, "because my mother in law is a Trubiano." You know, I said. She said, "Oh." I said, "Would you know anybody"-I asked her, "Would you know anybody in Casa D'Italia?" She says, "Well." She says, "My husband is the cook there." I said, "Well your husband and my husband are cousins." She says, "What?" "Your husband is-and my husband are cousins." I said, "Your husband's name is Johnny?" "Yeah, yeah." He has this brother-I had-I had met her uh with all her brothers ad sisters whatever, and uh I uh this is now, don't forget, this is three-four weeks ago. She's 90 this woman.

JP: Wow.

TP: So I said, "After 90 years, I met you." I says, "I know because-by the name, my-my mother in law was Trubiano." I never met my mother I law. But that's to say, that so many yo-so many years later, I told her, I said, "You don't remember my husband, his name is Imedio [?]" "No". she said, "Well, we went to Casa D'Italia many times. You should go for supper." Talked to his cousin and everything and we can see that he never met the wife you see. I said, "No, he-he died the husband there." But anyway, it-it was so surprising to-to meet a cousin like that you know?

JP: What do you think made it s string, the community? Like even your links today I'm seeing-

TP: Cause I think that the Italian-the Italian people are strong in um in-in friendship and in family-family. Very strong.

JP: And that extended to the friendship? Because-

[?]: [French phrase].

TP: Family is very strong in Italian-

JP: I'm seeing that even today with Antoinette and Gloria, like you-you haven't seen her- seen each other in-in 50-60 years or something? And your-your ties are very strong.

TP: Yes, yep, like you see with Gloria we knew from-from Grade 1. We went to school together. Then her father was a tailor, my father's a tailor. Her father had a factory, my father, after a while had a factory. While we went to [unclear] they met my father in front. They used to meet, there was a corner difference. Oh, I'm sorry. [laughs].

JP: [laughs] It's her microphone.

TP: Huh, So, um just before we get to June 10th 1940, I'm just curious uh um-did the fascists ever do parades up ad down the street?

TP: Yeah, they did. When-

JP: On their own, like not-like they weren't part of the [unclear].

TP: Well, maybe-maybe on a-a certain day, but they wouldn't come here. The would go around the church. You know-

JP: And they played the music?

TP: Yeah, yeah.

JP: The fascist tunes or?

TP: Yeah yeah. The band was always there. You remember Gloria, the band uh? No? Dieni, Dieni, he used to play so man-you see he played the-in all of the um-um feasts, he was there. Dieni's band.

JP: And did he play also-like did they-did the black shirts ever go and do parades on the street? Like with music?

TP: Who the band?

JP: No the black shirts.

TP: Oh, yes. When they were there, yeah. Yeah.

JP: And would they-would they [unclear].

TP: They wou-they were they in the-they were just walking in their uniforms. It was a club.

JP: And they walked and they played music.

TP: yeah, they would do the route of the church. The-the-you know you had the saint. The Saint Mary's, and they gonna have one now for the [unclear]. Uh August the eighth, they do the Madonna della Defesa. They gonna have the procession at least this year they don't make it, but they usually have one.

JP: So their-their participation was connected to religious feasts of the church, that you remember?

TP: It was like a charity thing for-that's what they were running, like a charity for the-for the Italian community, and they lived the club was-no their club was at the church in the basement I think it is-it was. They had a club, you now.

JP: They had a club, they would meet there, the men.

TP: Yeah, and the people who-like people who probably needed something could go to them. They would help them.

JP: Okay, they would give relief?

TP: But it was in the party, you see uh it was a party of um Mussolini. Mussolini lost his uh-his force, okay, his uh-so-th-they became not too good, you know? Because the government started to look at the party to see uh if there any agents around here or something you know? Because Mussolini was not liked at the end of the war, you now he was not liked.

TIME: 1:23:31.5

JP: What do you mean agents, like the government was looking if they had agents?

TP: Well, I would imagine that was it. The the-the-the govern-they were on the suspicious. I-I don't say-

JP: Yeah, but why do you think Italians were-

TP: Because they were in the club of the fasciste after-when [unclear] Mussolini fell from the grace, you know huh? So they start to look at the club. They said, let's see if-if they can be um-uh you know, a spy in between them you know. For what, I don't know. But these what countries do, usually. They did it they do it between themselves here.

Yeah. If they uh, you know, if let's say, well I don't know, w-w-w-w-uh we have a communist country let's say okay? We have a communist party. Well, the government, if they're worried about something, they're gonna go and check the communist country. Yeah. That's what I mean. You know. It's not uh-

JP: That started happening before 1940 though. That they started to check right? Or was it just before the-the war?

TP: When did the war finish?

JP: Well, no I'm just saying like, because if 1940 is when the-when the-uh-when the arrests were made-

TP: Yeah, May ninth[?].

JP: But, did you get the feeling that-

TP: Uh-

JP: That people were coming to check what was going on-

TP: No, no, no. Ah, no, no, no.

JP: -in the neighborhood. You wouldn't see like RCMP, [Royal Canadian Mounted Police]-the police-

TP; The people who belonged-

JP: -watching-

YP: No, the people who belonged to them, they didn't belong for-for political [unclear].
They didn't belong-

JP: They belonged for what.

TP: They belonged that-to belong to something and they wanted somebody to take care
of their kids, as um a club to play. You know if you-if you belong to a uh club like a
snooker club.

JP: Yeah.

TP: Things like that. You go there, but uh, you know, even somebody, a-a-a club that
holds on together like-uh like they had-the um-with the motorcycles there.

JP: Oh, like Hell's Angels.

TP: When there was a-see that's a club. That's a club. So they-they don't disturb you the
government. The government don't disturb you, but if they're looking for something
they might check. To see, let me see if there's somebody you know that-that could
belong to the club. You know that could belong to the to these things. That's the way it
is. Well, then when there was the war, the war started in '39. You know it was uh-
everybody was uh um afraid of the other. Germans and-

JP: Yeah.

TP: -get scared. But we were scared. Uh, I don't think we ever were scared here.
Because we would never expect it-the war to be here. You know. The whole war was
on the Europe.

JP: People weren't expecting to have fear.

TP: No, you-you did-well, you know, we didn't have planes.

JP: You were separated geographically by an ocean.

TP: Yeah. And they-you know, there was no plane that would carry bombs at those time.
They did carry bombs but they would went from one country to another in Europe. But
they would never come, they never came here. You know, we never had. Those were-
today we would have. Don't forget that.

JP: So-

TP: Today would be dangerous.

JP: Is it-

TP: If they decide.

JP: It's true, cause what you're saying is that at that time, even if it was written in a
newspaper that there may have been a war coming. The-the distance didn't make-

TP: Well-

JP: -people fear that they could-physically-

TP: Some people-

JP: -at risk of bombs.

TP: Yeah.

JP: That was it.

TP: Some-some people would –you know what they would do? When there was a war, when the war was on, they would close everything, they had those radios with lo-um-microwaves-

JP: Shortwave.

TP: Shortwave. Locked, closed all the windows, close all the lights, and uh the radio on, because you wanna listen the news, from Italy, or from Germany. That’s because they would say, Well-they’ll tell one end of the story and here they would tell another end. A lot of people used to do that.

JP: You were afraid-

TP: Not, no. Not me because I was too young.

JP: No, listen just in case, even to listen to the radio they would lower the blinds.

TP: well yeah, they wouldn't want anyone to know that you were listening to the uh shortwave radio about Italy or German or wherever other country that was there. But what they did, they did it to get news. You know what I do? I put a French news, and uh right after that I always put an English news. Many times they're different. It's because the people who write the news are uh-they write the news, you know, for their side to look good. And the English do the same thing. So if you wanna know the truth, you have to listen to one, listen to the other, and then we judge. That's the way I-

JP: June 10th 1940. Was Monday June 10th 1940. What happened that day in your life?

TP: In June 10th.

JP: June 10th 1940.

TP: June 10th, 1940-

JP: Was a Monday.

TP: Mussolini declared war.

JP: That's right.

TP: To, the United Stat-not the United States. I wonder who?

JP: The uh Allied-

TP: Because he was with Germany. He was with-

JP: Yeah, he aligned with Germany and went against the [unclear].

TP: That's it, yeah. Then I know what happened. It was the 10th, was that when-

JP: That was the day that your father was arrested.

TP: Yeah.

JP: But do you remember that day in your life?

TP: That day I remember because my aunt called me, called my mother, said, "Look, they just arrested, Dimi-Salvatore." So my mother said, "[makes high pitched yelling sounds]." Cause, me, I didn't know. I was nine years-oh no, I was born-I was 11 at the time I think.

JP: Were you in school, like can you-

TP: No, I was home. I was home. I don't know why I was home. They-well no I think she called around four of five o'clock.

JP: In the morning or at night?

TP: No at night.

JP: Who called?

TP: My aunt. Because we find out before the police came, at home. Because my aunt who was working, with my father at this uh factory. You know? She was working the same place as him. When, they left, the police, she went on the phone, she called my mother, she says, "Look, the police came, they took uh-uh Salvatore." But it was the day that Italy declared war and uh you know, there was a lot of Italian and a lot of talking amongst the Italian, anyway.

JP: You remember that day?

TP: I remember that day, and I remember when the bell rang I started to cry, because I got scared, I said, "The police, the police." My mother went to answer. It was the police. It was the RCMP. And-but they were really gentlemen, those men. Yeah, there were two men. They said, "We have to visit the house." [laughs]. My mother says, "You can visit the house." You know. So they went all over. They looked, she-she says-well I don't know what they were looking for, but they didn't find a damn thing. Not one thing. They found they-they-they excused themselves and uh-um, they left. You know. And-and my mother said, "I don't know what they were looking for." But they were looking maybe to see if he had some uh-um I don't know, some guns, or me, that's what I think, or some papers. Maybe to see if-if he belonged to the-to the country-to the party he would have some. Because you know they were looking like the pictures. You know, they were looking, so and my father, after when we found out that-because my mother went right away, my uncles helped her you know. For-to defend him. She told [unclear], "Why did you arrest him?". Because he's Italian, but that's not a reason. They-they-they arrested everybody whom they thought they were fasc-uh they belonged to the club. Fasciste, but uh the political club. And then they said, "He was on

the picture.” Well, which picture? My mother said, “Which picture?” My father was, you know, would not go to a picture. But there’s one picture, it’s a group picture in front of the church, Italian. Italian church, and the last step away on top, where was my father. With the group, very longish group of people. So my mother says, “This could have been a church uh-uh you know, feast.” They took a picture, and he was there, and they arrested him.

JP: Were there any black shirts in that picture?

TP: No, they were all men dressed in-it was a party. It was a picture taken before uh I suppose. It was a picture taken like that.

JP: It was a party.

TP: And that’s-that’s what made him come out then. You know then he took a while and then and uh, the judge said, “There’s no proof of anything. He’ll-you’ll have to let him go.” So he came back home.

JP: When you were in school that day-

TP: Yeah.

JP: -and you came home, di-did the neighborhood feel different that day, if there was RCMP if there were arrests going on?

TP: No, I was in school when I came home, you’re talking about?

JP: Yeah, cause that day, I'm just curious, what did it feel like? Because if there were police going around, arresting people or checking people's homes. Did you notice that as you were walking home?

TP: No. no, no, no, no, no. They no touch nothing. To come home, I knew because my aunt had called and had told my mother. Okay? She said, "Oh the police went to get daddy." You know, so that's when I started to cry, because I was nine years old so [makes crying noise]. She said, my mother, she said, "Maybe the police is gonna come." Because my sister, my aunt, must have told my mother, says, "Look, prepare the kids, because they're gonna send these big guys here you know." It happened. It rang, the bell, and I started to cry uh when I heard the bell.

JP: Were they in uniform?

TP: Yep. They were policemen uh uh, the Royal, the Mounted police, they were.

JP: What colour was their uniform, was it-

TP: Oh, you know, the uniform, I think they had the-I don't know what kind of pants, if they had the long pants or not. But it's um, it was already uh bright, their top.

JP: It was bright.

TP: Yep. It had the hat there, the-the usual hat. They come in. But when they saw that there was three kids they were really nice. You know, they went down, they would speaking to my-the youngest, my brother. And they said, "No, no, no, we just wanted a tour of the house. We just want to do-" You know they were going-but they had a job to

do, naturally. So they did the job, the like my mother said, they looked in the drawers to see if there was something, and there was nothing.

JP: Did your father have any-did your father have anything in the house that was Italian or, fasciste?

TP: It was an Italian house.

JP: But, you said they-

TP: What they were looking for I think what they were looking for were maybe uh like uh an emblem, you know sometimes, emblems you hang them uh in the homes? We never had them you know. We never had the emblems. My father was not involved in it [unclear] you know? So-

JP: So how did your mother find out where they took your father? Uh like what happened right after?

TP: Well, she found out where they took him because he-it was a picture in a newspaper, and they were saying that they were bringing the prisoners to Petawawa, Ontario, and she knew that. But-but my aunt uh-my mother then with my uncle who were, you know, her age uh they started right away to go to a lawyer. I dunno which lawyer or anything of the kind. And then uh one day, a few months later, um I was-was in church. We were in church when he-that's why I can't remember what it was. I was in church, and then somebody came and made a sign to me-one of the nuns or the teachers, she says, "You have to go home."

JP: She waved her hand?

TP: Yeah, she called me. I was in-I was on the-on a bench.

JP: And she waved her hand to you.

TP: Yeah, she said, "Come here." So I went, and then she said, "Go with the gentleman."
But I think it was my uncle there, because I don't think I would have gone otherwise,
you know?

JP: Right.

TP: She said, "The man says he wants to take you outside." I said, "Okay." SO I went
outside, and when I went outside, he told me, "We're gonna go home, you have a
surprise." He said. So I went home, I went inside, and then I saw my father there. You
know, and that's it. That's how he came home. And maybe two-three days later he was
back at his work.

JP: How long was your father interned for?

TP: Nine months.

JP: And during that nine months, how did your mother uh-

TP: That I wondered many many many times. I'm wondering that, because my mother
didn't work. So I'm wondering where she took the money. Where she got the money.
The only thing I can say, it must have been my grandfather you know? Because what

happened, also, when he was arrested, where we were living, um, the-the lady upstairs was the owner, and I don't know-I don't know exactly when if it was the same day or a couple of days or a couple of months later, she came to my mother and she says, "You know, sorry, but your husband has been arrested, so I uh assume you won't be able to pay the rent." So my mother said. "Well, I think I'll arrange something." She says, "No, I would like you to leave." The house, so my mother called her mother-her father, and she said, "You know, they want me to leave." Now, we were out then, there was nothing else we could do. So after about a mon-a little while later, my grandfather called my mother, she says, "Come here." So he went, and he said, "I just bought the house next door."

JP: He bought?

TP: He bought the house next door to where we were living. It was on sale, my mother says, "I knew it was on sale, but you know, I knew I couldn't buy it." You know. He says, "I bought it." He says, "From now on," he says, "You tell your lady upstairs that you're gonna move, not a word." He says, "When the day comes to move, we move from one house to another. She asks you anything, you tell her you bought the house."

JP: Oh wow.

TP: And exactly that happened. She came outside and she saw my uncles moving the furniture from one house to another. So she told my mother, she said, "Oh, did you rent the house next door?" So my mother said, "No, I bought it." So she said that the girl-the woman turned around, and went back inside, closed the door, she never saw her again.

JP: Was the woman Italian?

TP: No. She was not Italian. But, that doesn't mean anything.

JP: No, I'm asking because I'm wondering, was there um-

TP: No, but she was scared, in a sense she was scared. Who knows if she had you know, she was waiting for the rent to pay her house too, you know. Like I'm doing upstairs. [laughs]. I wait for her rent, and uh you know, it's paid my house, but I still wait for the rent, you know? Uh, but um, maybe my mother, you know, was waiting for the rent. We were there a good while in that house. If I'm not mistaken I might even have got married in there. No I was too young. No I was too young. So uh-but the house, its still on the succession to my grandparents.

GL: I used to live upstairs-

JP: Oh.

GL: When I got married I live upstairs over her house.

JP: So Gloria lived upstairs from your house.

TP: Oh yeah, I forgot, but that's uh-yeah after-yeah, that was-

GL: [unclear].

[TP and GL speak Italian and French to each other].

TP: Yeah, you see then, we went-my-my father-my father uh [speaks French to GL]. Uh then my grandfather bought another house on Casgrain. And we moved there, when I was younger. And when Gloria got married, she lived upstairs. [to GL] Did I get married-you got married before me?

GL: Nah, one year before.

TP: Yeah, that was Julio too. Julio-my aunt-my uncles lived up there. [unclear].

JP: So after, after your father got arrested. Your mother-you think-was get-was helped by her-her-

TP: By my uncles. She-she would go walking, she would go on meetings but I never knew what it was. I never know. I assume, I assume they would be maybe uh um um a lawyer, that's-that's what I-

JP: Did your mother ever go to Petawawa to see her husband Salvatore?

TP: No, no, no. They wouldn't let her in anyway if she went. You know, it was a prison, it's not a-but like my father when he came home we uh-when we um we asked him, and he said, "It was a holiday for me." He did. He always had a holiday, he had gained a lot of weight.

JP: Oh really.

TP: He never worked. He said there was a lot of people that had to work. He said, "I couldn't work." He said, "I could fix the pants of somebody, I would fix it." You know, if

somebody came, but let's say the farmers or things like that, they would make them work outside. They grew food, you know. He says, "But they were not-there was no maltreatment. Nobody-everybody was you know happy." He says, "It was really like a holiday." The trouble was that they were all you know, they were thinking of their families. Because of the-the children, the wives. Some of them had more than-than-we were three. Some of them had big children, you know. I don't know if anybody really really suffered. We didn't feel that we missed something. We were ok. I mean I did-I don't say that uh-you know it was a happy occasion, it wasn't. He wasn't there-we were you know, we always were lonely for him. I think after a while she started to write, my mother. They tried-

JP: Did your father write any letters? While he was in the camp?

TP: Yeah, yeah, he used to-he used to write us letters.

JP: Did he write letters to-to you, the children? Did she give you news about your father?

TP: After a while, she would say, "Daddy wrote." That's it. She wouldn't tell me what's on the letter. I think they probably wrote some, you know, they understood each other. You know what I mean?

JP: Yeah. And when your father came back-

TP: Yeah.

JP: Um, did you notice any difference in his personality?

TP: No. I didn't notice nothing. He was exactly the like he was, except he was bigger, he was-he had gained weight. Then he went back to work, and he lost all his weight. And he went back-it made me forget-it made us forget us. Forget everything. Then when the war finish, then we were happy, and um, that's it. But uh otherwise, no. Otherwise, uh we had very happy life. As a child I'm talking to you about it.

JP: Were you curious-did your father talk about Petawawa, like when Salvatore got together with-

TP: Well uh, what uh-what uh-

JP: No, but with his friends, when he came out?

TP: What he talked about, was that he made friends in there, naturally, they were all- and um he made like spoons, like you know the little wooden spoons?

JP: Mmhm.

TP: They made-they do the same thing at the circles, the-the men, that's what they do, as a recreation thing, to-to make them move you know?

JP: Yeah.

TP: He says they made spoons and like my father was a tailor, so he says, "If there was anything a suit or something, that wasn't working" he says, "I would fix it for them."

Although there were those who were barbers, they would cut the hair, he said, "We all had them cut, they cut our hair." The-the uh guards were very nice. They said the guards were not uh mean guards you know, they were very very nice people. They were well treated. They had nice food. There-the-the –the thing it was, that it was they were away from home.

JP: Did he talk about-did he um-did he have friends that after the war, uh that had been released from Petawawa that he met up with and they would-

TP: Well, I think he had some, but I can't remember them.

JP: No, but would they talk? Would they-would you go to-

TP: No-

JP: -over to the house?

TP: -after that, it got-got uh forgotten. It got forgotten among the friends. They would get, maybe like if they had-my father loved to do the oysters, the oyster parties. You know, with buy a barrel of oysters and invite all his friends. Maybe if one or two of them went to war, they would talk a few minutes about it, you know? What they did then, or something like that but uh they never-

JP: How did you learn about it? Did you learn about it through stories from him, or from other people?

TP: Eh, what I learned is what I heard them talking about, they never told us anything.

My father-

JP: Just overhearing his stories.

TP: Uh no, he didn't-didn't uh-no he didn't want to invi-to impress us in anything. Yeah. But I heard after-I heard after like with my mother ask, I would ask her what happened. And you know and she would tell me. But there's-I'm sure there's a lot things she didn't tell me. Because I always wonder how she was nine months no money, we never missed anything in the house. You know we were eating had breakfast, had dinner. Okay, I had-we had my grandfather-my grandparents, I'm sure the grandparents helped, but she never told us. You know?

JP: At school did you have girlfriends or that would ask you, "How's your father? Did you hear any news?"

TP: No, I don't think so. She-she-she was Gloria here. I don't know if she asked me [unclear] so-

JP: And Antoinette, uh-

GL: Antoinette was [unclear].

JP -cause both of your fathers were-

AP: Mmhm.

JP: -like, did you and Teresa-

AP: No, no, no, no.

JP: You never talked?

TP: I don't think we ever talked about that in school.

GL: No, not at all, not at all.

JP: Not even when your father came back and lets say other-

YTP: No.

JP: -had their dads still there?

TP: You know, some people were long. Some people stayed there three years.

JP: Nah.

TP: Throughout the war.

JP: I can't-I find it-I'm trying to understand like it's-I guess its something you can't ever answer, but if it was the time period, if-if it was the-I'm trying to understand the silence.

TP: The what?

JP: The silence. There was a silence. There was a silence-

GL: Nobody would talk.

JP: -between the parents and the-the children. The mother and the children.

TP: Ah, yeah. Ah-

JP: There was a silence amongst the friends.

TP: Oh yeah.

JP: I'm trying to understand that silence. What was it based on?

TP: Look uh in those days. I'm sure there's a lot of family like ours. The parents would discuss with the children what the children would understand. But-

JP: Right.

TP: -you know like today um, I have to say something to my son in law I'm not gonna wait till his sons leaves the house. I'm telling him, you know what I mean? Today everything is opened. But that was not the case. Like the family, it-it was nice. It was a- I liked it better then, than today-today. Because uh many things that the kids know today, it's never been their business on the first place.

JP: They're too young.

TP: They're not the one to take care of it. You know. So my mother took-that's why I say I don't know what she did. She took care of what she had to do, but she never consulted us. She never said, "Oh, you know your father's in [unclear, and now I have no money." Never. Today they would do that.

JP: So the silence in a way was a bit of reflective of that era, that time. That's how people were at the time.

TP: Yeah, it was the same thing.

GL: People kept to themselves yeah.

JP: What's that Gloria?

GL: Yeah.

TP: Yeah. Yeah. And like today, uh you know when we got to the daycare-

JP: [laughs]

TP: -they ask us, they say, "What do you think, is it better today or when you were small as kids?" Everybody says, "Not today." Says, "Today is no good for the kids." But maybe in 20 years, we're gonna say-they're gonna say the same thing. That-you know? The-it-it changes. Um-

GL: [unclear].

TP: Yeah, like in New York, they made a law, last weekend-

GL: Mmhm.

TP: -so homosexuals can-can-

JP: Get married.

TP:-get married. So me, I've come to realize that-I cannot understand that. Because me, my marriage, is not two men, is not two women. Marriage is a man and a woman, and marriage was made to propagate the family. Now, how you gonna do that now?

JP: I guess what you're saying is that-

TP: Okay, not everybody is the same. But I said, but the understanding of it, I don't understand it, you see? I don't understand.

JP: No, but it a good analogy because what you're saying is that every time period had it's own-

TP: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

JP: -values and everybody has to-you're looking at things differently. Values change and like you have-I asked you about the silence, it was just-that's what the time period was.

JP: So your father didn't have any problem getting a job afterwards. You said he-

TP: My father I never knew if-

JP: -started a factory also? Salvatore started a-

TP: My father-I never knew him not working. Uh he worked from seven in the morning to about five or six at night. He was home at seven every night. After a while he bought the-the-uh-

GL: Company.

TP: -manufacturer. It was large enough, we had 40 employees. I know because I was making the payroll.

JP: [laughs]

TP: And we had 40 employees, and I just came out from school, so I went in his office, and I-I did all the office work. It was pretty tough. You're talking about crying sometimes. I don't how many times I cried on Friday night. You know, my mother would say, "Why are you crying?" I say, "It doesn't balance, the payroll doesn't balance."
[laughs] And you know we didn't have-I didn't have adding machine. I didn't have a computer-much less a computer-

JP: How [unclear].

TP: I didn't have an adding machine, I had to do it by hand like this, you know? It took me I don't know how long to learn, how long. But I did. But then I-I was saying well it

wasn't bad that they, that time you took the pay, took off, unemployment insurance and federal income tax. It was nothing else.

TIME: 1:51:34.2

JP: Mm.

TP: Then later on in the years oh it was the insurance, the union, the-the-uh-pr-uh provincial uh-uh-

JP: Tax.

TP: -tax, that-that-that you needed-you needed a machine by that time. Because-but I did all that-no what I had to do at the time, by hand. The computer I only took it uh- when I was with my-my-when I was working at the other-with my brother. Uh, he was a lawyer, but he didn't want a computer. Okay, and that's it I think. But after-after a while we had to buy one, but uh, that's how I learned the computer. Hmm.

JP: How did your father get out of Petawawa? Was there a court case that you know of? Uh-

TP: No they went o-I think it was-yeah-it must have been the court. I can see uh a lawyer, or uh an arrangement between two lawyers, you know, the government lawyers ad the-yeah I don't know how he came out. I tell you it was a surprise when I got home. They didn't tell me. I never had it.

JP: Do you-do you have that picture that uh-do you have that-do you still have a copy of that picture that uh-

TP: Which picture?

JP: The RCMP bust?

TP: No. When they came and then-

JP: Wa-the reason they arrested him-

TP: No it was in the newspaper uh-

JP: Oh-

TP: It was a newspaper, a-a photograph taken of them going into the bus, you understand? And it was my father there.

JP: Oh, he was the-Your father in the picture in the newspaper of the people going to Petawawa.

TP: Yeah. And there were going into the uh-uh-

JP: The bus.

TP: Sure, that's how we found out that he went to Petawawa.

JP: Cause you saw his actually picture. It wasn't just that you read the article about men going to Petawawa.

TP: No, it was a photograph taken by uh-

JP: And your father was in that picture.

TP: -a reporter, a reporter.

JP: Was it in a English or a French newspaper?

TP: Oh uh maybe I'd say French just because I don't think we had English papers. I don't know. Uh-

JP: I'm going to look for that for you.

TP: Oh, I don't know. Look it up, because we never got it. Sure my mother saw-

JP: But it was actually him in the picture.

TP: Yeah. And I don't have any pictures. Wh-I don't have one picture of him that time. No, we didn't have any pictures.

JP: What about the picture then that you said he was in that picture in front of the church?

TP: I didn't say-I don't-I never saw that picture. But that's what my other was, you know was given as um-um-

JP: As the reason?

TP: It depends, you know, she says uh-especially you took, we didn't know because the picture had a lot of these men that were taken prisoners.

JP: Okay.

TP: So [unclear]. You decide they had some people says, "Yeah, this is Italian, this one's Italian, this one is-", and they went and they arrested them. You know?

JP: Do you think that there were people that were being uh making lists at the time?

TP: Uh, they found out that there were people. But, they were Italians, the people.

JP: Were they paid?

TP: Aw, they must have been paid. I don't know. We, you know I didn't do anything about them. But we learned later on, that oh no, that was-my mother knew the names, but I don't know them. She says, "Those are the ones that uh identified the-the picture." But the one that talked then that was just a snapshot [unclear] and they put-they published it in the paper, and it just happened to be there. We often wondered, because listen my father, he used to be-he was always you know, in a picture-he never takes pictures, my father. I says its funny he's there all the time when they take these pictures.

JP: [laughs]

TP: Probably he goes there, he says, "You're gonna look at me, well you know, maybe my wife will see it or something." That's it.

JP: That's strange, for a man who doesn't want his picture taken he happened to be-

TP: Yeah, he was in the middle of it all the time.

JP: it was a picture that did him in, and it was another picture that-

TP: And he really didn't like the pictures. That uh-ah.

JP: And afterwards, how did it affect um, your fa-your-your father-did he still-do you think your father-

TP: Yeah.

JP: -how he felt towards Canada and living here after this country had arrested him falsely for nine months-

TP: Yeah.

JP: How did he feel about the Italians, the-the Canadians.

TP: Oh, I-

JP: -afterwards, did he ever-

TP: You know, I have to tell the truth to you, he really continued the life the way we dad-we had. We didn't change anything. We didn't change. My father didn't-well I know, there was no more fascistes okay. You know the war was over, that was over. But um, the boys and I we got-went and continued our schooling and that's it. I didn't do too much schooling, and my brothers did a lot of schooling. Yeah.

JP: In your opinion, do you think it was possible at that time, for an Italian to be um loyal-or to be sympathetic I should say-to the fascist cause in Italy-

TP: Oh-

JP: -and be loyal and as a-to the King and Queen of England and Canadian? Like were they able to do both at that time. I know this is just a guess-

TP: Probably. I don't know. Probably. But, um these things I don't uh-I find that its more like people looking for things that they-that they wish, and the club does it.

JP: They were following you mean.

TP: You know, uh for instance, I'm gonna vote tomorrow, let's say for the party, for the Liberals okay?

JP: Yeah.

TP: Uh why? If you ask me, I say, "I don't know." Some say it's that they promised to give us five dollars, I remember one year, [unclear] to give us some money, less tax, okay. You vote for them. There goes, they win, and you wait for the tax.

JP: Yeah.

TP: You can wait till the next election.

JP: Yeah.

TP: See? You don't get it. You might get it, they promised 10 percent they give you one percent. So I say that a lot of these people, they do it for their own good, they want- they want what is promised them. You know. So Musso-see club-the Mussolini's-[to herself]-see Mussolini-

JP: The fascists.

TP: Mussolini wasn't bad until he was-he became bad. [laughs].

JP: Did they ever teach you about Mussolini in school? About did they ever teach you about that-

TP: No, uh no.

JP: No, eh?

TP: No, school, no, no, we didn't have anything-

JP: No, in terms of like what he was doing in thirties, because there was a lot of social-

TP: No.

JP: -programs.

TP: No, it was-

GL: If anything there was a [unclear].

TP: I think if anything they might have had-

GL: There was a picture in his [unclear].

JP: Oh yeah.

GL: That's the only thing.

JP: Do you remember that, what Gloria's talking about that there was the painting of Mussolini on the top.

GL: And the picture of Mussolini on the top-

TP: Oh, in the church, but you cans see it now.

GL: It's still there?

TP: It's still there. Yeah.

GL: [unclear]

TP: [unclear, French]. See everything passes. This is what I'm saying. And as the time pass, the population changes because they have different ideas.

JP: Did you-did-

TP: My life, in a way, was great. I'm telling you. It was great as a young girl, as a young child. Until I got married, then I had children, and then I started having those sicknesses. I-uh-I was very sick. And um, you see, now at my age sometimes I start to think this is because-when I was in school, we never thought of the year 2000. We thought of the year 2000 as being, I don't know, in the Neverland. You know nobody believed the year 2000.

JP: Yeah.

TP: When we were in school, we passed it, and we were at the 10 year of the thing

JP: That's true,

TP: Yeah, it is. You know? And uh-

TIME: 1:58:47.4

JP: Earlier, you were talking, when we were in the kitchen, uh eating-when you were talking about uh your husband and uh about when the Parti Quebecois came into power.

TP: Yeah.

JP: You wanna talk about that on the uh tape?

TP: Yeah, well you see my husband was scared because he had gone through the communist-communist country. Okay? And he had uh gone through the beginning of the war, the second war, the Germans-

JP: In Canada or Italy?

TP: Eh?

JP: In Italy?

TP: Yeah, we was in Italy, he came after the war yeah. So the Germans, was in his country-in his place, and uh he had-he was 19-1940 let's say, he was uh, what uh 14 years old. Something like that. He had to run away. Because his brother, older. Seven years older, was in the army, for Italy-in the Italian army. Okay? So, the mother said, "You'd better got and hide because if they come, the Germans, you're gonna break-they're gonna take you. You better go." And he run away, up the mountains, and he stayed there for a long time. The younger brother, these were three boys, they each had seven years each apart. She had one every seven years. The mother. So, uh they each take-the little one was walk-was going uh up the mountain where he was hiding to

bring him food everyday, but that's-that's a tough thing to do to a child. This was 1940, he was born in-he was 13 years old. It was hard. So, you know he was afraid-when he saw Quebecois he imagined the same thing. He said, "They're gonna do this."

JP: Meaning what?

TP: See, they-they're gonna come and take us because we're Italian. They gonna want to do everything in French in those-you know when this happened, people were mixed up a bit. But um, and I had to calm him down, I said, "You know, they're not gonna do that, we're not in Italy." "Yeah, but they did this and that." "Yeah, but that was war, this is not war. This is just a member of the parliament." They throw him out, you threw them out after four years if you don't like them. You know, but um-

JP: So that-that [unclear].

TP: But he was-he was afraid-he was really, and I kept telling-give them 20 years and it's gonna be over. I kept telling him that. Give them-he didn't make I think those 20 years him.

JP: The experience of-of fear that-you know-cause that was a period of fear in a community. A little bit before, and during, I can imagine. Um, afterwards-

TP: After-

JP: -because of this fear, did it- but did it any way separate people?

TP: No.

JP: Because you're talking about a very strong community before. Did communities stay that way or was-was there a bit of [Italian word]. Uh, because maybe somebody was afraid and maybe he was a spy and that one's a spy or-

TP: No.

JP: -but did it create-

TP: Do you remember the FLQ [Front de Liberation de Quebec]?

JP: Of course I do.

TP: Well, what did they do?

JP: The [unclear].

TP: Didn't they arrest all their own French people who were against them or something? The were actresses and actors they brought them-.

JP: Mmhm.

TP: -they brought them, the y took the, they censored them and everything, they didn't -after a while, they let them out. These people were not mean, they had an idea.

JP: Right, but-you're right, but that-I'm questioning-I want to learn how-what it did in the community, because we're a few streets, we're all friends, we're all talking to one another. Everybody's interested-it's more helpful-

TP: Yeah well, It was uh-

JP: -after when this happened, this created fear because you don't know-

TP: Yeah, it created uh-it did.

JP: And somebody's finding, this picture did him in-like in your case, you don't know. Um, in-

TP: Yeah.

JP: -as the time went on [unclear]-

TP: But it cre-it creates that, yeah, but for a very short while.

JP: Oh so you're saying it was there, but not long.

TP: No, no, the [unclear], it's not long because uh it still exists today, that-that thing. You know, look about the Jewish people that walk on Bernard sometimes, they get-they get all kinds of people yelling at them and things. Those people who yell. Why? Why are you telling at them?

JP: [unclear, talked over].

TP: they are quiet there, you know. But it's the fear of them, because uh it uh in Asia, in-in-in Israel and the Arab they don't go together. So they're afraid, uh it's fear, we all think it's fear, because if you don't have fear, I don't think you can hate someone. That's the way-

JP: That's interesting. You think hatred comes from fear.

TP: I think so.

JP: That's a good observation

TP: I think so. Uh you know. Like the FLQ, those it happened, it was French uh, a French country.

GL: [talking quietly in background]

TP: And all those, you know, they do that.

JP: What do-looking at it back-like right now. What do you think should have been done for the Italians who had somebody interned? Or should something have been done, or should it just have been left like that?

TP: Well, they shouldn't-the mistake was made at the beginning. Why arrest them, they're in Canada? They didn't belong to the party. Now some belonged to the party. If some-if they would have said, "Well, okay. Uh we'll-we're going to arrest uh-we gonna um-let's say-take the"-or I wouldn't have this-I wouldn't have arrested them, cause you

see they had to present themselves to the government and make sure that they not uh not following the party. The party was this big here. How big?

JP: [unclear, talked over]

TP: There's no danger. There was no bombs. We had the bombs later on. It wasn't the- the-

JP: The bombs you're referring to are the ones are the ones with the FLQ.

TP: Yeah, it wasn't Mussolini that did it. It was someone else eh?

Well I won't say their name.

JP: No, but that was after, you're talking about the FLQ crisis that we had in Quebec, that was well known, it was in the newspapers.

TP: Yeah, yeah, but that's it, but what I'm saying. These things are always, there's always a reason. What they did wrong is maybe arresting all these men, that were family-family uh-bread-uh-the-the-the pap-the people were depending upon them, because at that time the women weren't working too much.

JP: Mhm.

TP: You know? No, they should-if they have done something properly, they should have said, "Well, starting today you have to go to this place and present your papers." That's all. But the Italians would have gone, presented their papers, okay, go home, that's it,

because there was no danger. Those who were in danger then you can go and arrest them if you want, you know?

JP: Do-do you believe that there were men who were actually-

TP: No.

JP: -dangerous to Canada?

TP: Yeah, but they-that's why they arrested them, because they said, "You belong to the party, you made do something wrong to-to Canada.:

JP: But up until that point-

TP: Oh, they were a population. They were the most peaceable men in the world.

JP: But up until that point, their clubs were legal, cause they had-they were legal-their parades, they had permits to do the parades-

TP: Yeah.

JP: -they had-

TP: Those are pig-little things.

JP: Yeah.

TP: You know, you don't arrest people for-they have no permit, so you say, "Okay-

JP: No, I'm saying the did have permits-

TP: No.

JP: -they did have uh-

TP: They had all the things because everything was ok. It's only when he declared uh war, Mussolini, in Italy, that I Canada-

JP: [inaudible, low volume, and talked over].

TP: -they judged that then we were enemies.

[background speaking and a truck goes by]

JP: Wait, wait wait, there's noise.

GL: Sorry.

JP: Sorry, there's noise.

[BREAK]

TIME: 2:08:06.0

TP: So all in all, I think we you know, everything was pretty good, and if you wanna give me some money I'll take it, but-

JP: What do you think-what do you think um-should have been done or the Italians.
Like-

TP: Yeah, I think it shouldn't have been done at all.

JP: Yeah, but now that it's done.

TP: Yeah.

JP: Okay? What story has to be told?

TP: I don't understand. Why wait 70 years to do it? Everybody that's there, that was there, or eve if he was 20 years old, they're dead today.

JP: They're all dead today.

TP: Well-well yes, 70 eh? But there was nobody one year old in there? They must have had my father-my father I don't even know how old he was. My father died many-he died at-he was 113-[to herself] 113-he would have been 113 years today.

JP: Today is his birthday?

TP: No um April 7th 1911.

JP: Oh, this year, okay.

TP: Eighteen ninety eight. He was born. In 1898. So in '40 there, oh he eh-it shouldn't have been done. Period. What should have been din they should have punished the people who did it, if they want to do something.

JP: Punish the people who set out the arrests-

TP: No, those are-there's somebody who started this business.

JP: Yeah.

TP: And they should-because these men were regular men, although they were well treated that's one-one in their-in their garden, you know.

JP: Yeah.

TP: The men did not suffer, like you know, like the prisoners in Germany.

JP: Yeah.

TP: Th-that's it. Yeah. You know I had a brother in law, I was talking to my brother's uh brother, he was in the war of Italy, and they-uh-he was taken prisoners, as a soldier. You know? You know where they sent him? They-that's in Europe eh? They sent him to San Francisco. He spent the whole years of war in a camp in San Francisco. I said, "You were lucky eh?" He says, "And how." He says, "You should see the way we were treated." Cause the Americans treat you well. And there he learned the barbershop. He

came back, he went to Italy, because he had been in the war he was allowed coming to Canada. He came to Canada, brought his brother [unclear]. You know he's the one who paid for his brother, they married. But him, he be-he became a barber and he worked in um, the big [unclear, and then French].

GL: [French].

TP: He was making many more money than I-you can have. I said, "They made you prisoner?" Yeah, he said, "[unclear] prisoner. They helped me." See, that's because he was-in his-in the States as a prisoner. But those who were prisoners in Germany, they suffered.

JP: Yeah, and over here-

TP: H-Here they were ok-

JP: Do you think it was easy to influence these men? And become fasciste?

TP: No. When the war finished, the fascists finished.

JP: That's right.

TP: When the war finished, he was dead, Mussolini. It's on on-uh it exists today in Italy, the fasciste-

JP: Yeah.

TP: -the party. But they have one or two member you know.

JP: Yeah. Yeah.

TP: But, it stopped right there and then.

JP: Do you think it was easy to confuse fascism with nationalism and pride in Italy at the time? Do you think that that overlapped?

TP: The-the-the-

JP: They-they saw fascism but it was also a way of being proud o being Italian. Do you think there was any kind of overlap in that.

TP: Oh, you think, no. I don't-well-you know that's hard to answer.

JP: Yeah.

TP: Because I would think that Mussolini had that.

JP: Pardon?

TP: Mussolini had the-

[?]: Links.

TP: Yeah. The-the-the-the links, he wanted, he would have like to be over the people.
You know.

JP: Yeah.

TP: And to mix them out with the-well rich people. Why-why would he side for-with
Germany at-lost the first war anyway? Uh but-you know, the-these political head are
the same thing-like you see with the-like with you today, I'm gonna start a party. I want
a party of women. Okay? So what do you do? You try to reach the men-the women tried
to reach their men when there was in the States, well they're-they're working on that,
because they want a woman president. They're not far, but they're not there.

JP: Is there anything I didn't ask you that you would like to add-

TP: Mm.

JP: -or anything you want to clarify or-

TP: No I've been thinking of this for a couple of days, and the only thing I can say is I
myself did not uh suffer from it. I didn't suffer. I had everything, but don't know
because now I think I says, "I wonder what my other did." You know, me if I stay nine
months without having a cent coming in the house, I don't know what I'll do. But ok,
[unclear], but I don't know what my mother-we didn't have-own a home, but it didn't
disturb us children. If it disturbed our mother, she never told me. You know, but my
mother was the second daughter of 20 children, so I guess the children and the family
helped her. You know, I never knew though. I'm making this up, you know.

JP: But it sounds probable.

TP: They-they helped a lot of times, cause like my aunts would take me, you know, on a uh walk or something like that, uh if she could very well tell the other aunts something that happened that she didn't want me to know. You know. But she never told me. Uh I never realized that it was a bad thing. This is what I mean to say.

JP: Yeah.

TP: You know?

JP: What do you think, just to conclude-what do you think Salvatore Pateras, your father, would want people to know about this.

TP: That we're proud of him. That's for sure. You mean what would Salvatore-

JP: Yeah, what would your father want-want to be remembered?

TP: The family?

JP: Yeah, about this whole era, what-what lesson would he pass on?

TP: Ah well, he-he-the thing-we obeyed-I think he-we I think he did the right thing. I really really did think that they way he brought us up, your mother and my father, it was the best way. I think so. I would never regret-I wouldn't regret one thing that he said, the he did, you know. That he prohibited. Like-like I say you-you know I remember

among other thing, he never wanted me to wear pants, because I said, “Why not?”

“Because I have two sons.”

JP: Because of what?

TP: I have two sons. I have two sons.

[A lot of talking in background]

JP: Your father didn’t want you to wear slacks [unclear]

GL: She still doesn’t wear pants.

TP: I don’t wear pant, I never wear pants.

JP: You’re wearing a skirt now.

TP: I never wore pants. And-and he said he had two sons. One daughter. Don’t wear pants. I never wore pants. I went out the other day with my aunt to buy a pair of pants. I tried the pants and took them out I said, “No, I don’t want them.” I cannot wear pants. See? Well, that’s it. Well I think he was right. It’s ok, he was right, he had two sons, he didn’t want a third son. [laughs]. No, I think my father should be proud of himself.

JP: Yeah.

TP: He was a very good worker, and then, you know he made a good life for us. Well, you know. My-my good life is not the good life of today.

JP: Oh.

TP: Be-because my brothers, my sons are much better than me, and I don't miss them. I don't miss their-their way of life. They have big homes, a whole bunch of kids, uh two-three cars each. You know. I have nothing. I had my first car when I was 36 years old.

JP: Mm.

TP: And I was happy. So I-I think that they did a very good job. Despite-in spite of being in prison for nine months.

JP: He still went above it. He-

TP: Yeah, yeah.

TP: -he didn't let that take him down.

TP: No, no, this was really good. Really very good.

JP: And he still-he still was proud to be a Canad-cause he was Canadian when he went in-I'm sorry, when Salvatore went in, was he Canadian, a citizen?

TP: When he was arrested?

JP: Yeah.



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TP: Oh I think he was Canadian.

GL: They were all Canadian.

[End of Transcript]