

NAME OF PROJECT: *Italian Canadians as Enemy Aliens: Memories of WWII*
DATE OF INTERVIEW: July 9, 2011
LOCATION OF INTERVIEW: Montreal, QC
NAME OF INTERVIEWEE: Elisa Visocchi, Josee Visocchi, Rosetta Visocchi (Pistilli)
NAME OF INTERVIEWER: Joyce Pillarella
NAME OF VIDEOGRAPHER: Adriana Rinaldi
TRANSCRIBED BY: Lucy Di Pietro & Krystle Copeland
DATE TRANSCRIBED: October-December 2011 (multiple dates)
ACCESSION No.: ICEA2011.0058.0001

PROJECT NOTE:

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

TRANSCRIPTIONIST NOTE:

[LDP]: The video presents some significant challenges for transcription. The three sisters appear on screen at the same time; one does not have a microphone. We also have the voice of the interviewer. All speak mostly in English, but there is a significant amount of French and some Italian used. There is simultaneous talking, resulting in indistinct or unclear speech, more than in the other interviews forming part of this collection.

KEYWORDS/TAGS

[LDP]: Montreal; Giuseppe Visocchi; War veteran; Ex-Combattenti; internee; internment; Petawawa; Bordeaux Jail; Catholic Church; education; Mile End; Jean Talon Market; farmer's market; Pietro Garbarino; redress; compensation; fascism; Casa d'Italia; Father Maltempo; informant

[KC]: EnemyAlien, Internee, Internees, Interned, Internment, InternmentCamp, Camp, ItalianCanadian, ItalianCanadians, Petawawa, WorldWarTwo, WWII, Apology, Mussolini, Fascist, Guards, ItalianCommunity, ItalianCulture, Italy, ItalianSociety, SonsOfItaly

ABSTRACT

[LDP]: The three Visocchi sisters (Elisa, Josee and Rosetta), all Canadian-born, speak about their experiences growing up in the Mile End neighbourhood of Montreal from the 1930s-1950s.

They note the community events, their education, and the role of the Catholic Church in their early childhoods. Comprising a large family of seven children, the family was poor, but the women always remember having food on the table and the love of their parents. Their father, Giuseppe Visocchi, was one of the Italian Canadian men interned in June 1940. He was an Italian veteran from World War I, and the president of the Caserta Club. His daughters do not know of any involvement on the part of their father with fascism and instead suspect the role of an informant. As the only breadwinner for his large family, Giuseppe Visocchi's internment of about two years was devastating to his wife and children. The women's mother, Antoinetta, struggled at first with her husband's absence. Her daughters recall her breakdown at his arrest, and her weakest moment when she contemplated ending her life and those of her children. They note that she did manage to adjust and with the help of neighbours, the family survived until Giuseppe's return. However, they note that their father was also affected by his internment. He seemed quieter and did not speak with his children about his experience. After his return, he did manage to find work and to continue to support his family.

INTERVIEW

EV: Elisa Visocchi, interviewee

JV: Josee Visocchi, interviewee

RV: Rosetta Visocchi (Pistilli), interviewee

JP: Joyce Pillarella, interviewer

[LDP: Lucy Di Pietro, transcriptionist for the first part of the interview]

[Title screen]

[Fades in at 00:00:10; three females seated behind a wooden table]

JP: Uh, it's July 9th, 2011. My name is Joyce Pillarella and I'm interviewing from left to right Alice [Elisa] Visocchi, Josee Visocchi and Rosetta Visocchi. So, hello ladies [laughs]. Ok so...

RV: Hi.

JP: Tell me first of all uh where you were born?

EV: We were born in Montreal, all three of us.

JV: We were born--

JP: Ok. And uh, you grew up on which street and what neighbourhood?

RV: Mozart, in the Little Italy. They call it, my land.

JP: You called it my land?

RV: My land back then, yes.

JP: Yeah, and uh, do you want to talk about what the street was like, what your house was like?

RV: --With seven children, the house is a little crowded, but we managed. There's a lot of love, so we managed with everything.

JP: So there were seven kids, your parents—

RV: Were nine.

JP: [Unclear] grandparents—

EV: No we didn't [speaking at same time as RV]

RV: No, no. we never met them. They were in Italy [speaking at same time as EV].

JP: And, what was uh, was it a duplex? Was it a cottage?

RV: [Shaking head] Just a ... [flat hand gesture indicating a level]

JV: ... two floors, first and upstairs. But we lived downstairs.

JP: So there were nine people living downstairs.

JV: Yes.

RV: [Nodding head] That's right, on the main floor.

JP: How many rooms?

RV: One, two--

EV: Seven.

RV: --three, four...[Rosetta and Josee look at Elisa]. [Unclear – seems to ask a question of her sister Elisa].

EV: *Un, deux, trois, quatre, cinq, six* [last two counts in unison with sister RV]

RV: [Looking up] *cinq, six*. Six with the kitchen, yeah.

JV: But we used to sleep four in one room.

JP: Oh yeah.

RV: Three in one bed.

JV: And an extra bed.

RV: Three in one bed.

JV: And an extra bed next to it.

RV: That was a lot of fun.

EV: A lot of love.

RV: Yes.

JV: We were poor but there was a lot of love.

JP: And uh, was the, did the house belong to your father?

JV: [Shaking head] No.

RV: [Shaking head] No. He was renting it.

JV: Renting it [said same time as RV].

JP: You were renting it. And uh, did you have a backyard, did you have uh animals—

EV: Tremendous back, backyard. And we lived, we had the market and my mother was a very good lady, [RV: Jean Talon] and she was friendly with everybody. So one day, somebody would come in and say “Can we put our container of apple or can we put our chicken or something in your backyard?”. Mom would always say yes. Everybody was always welcome.

JP: You had a big rock[?] eh Josee?

JV: [All nodding their heads] Yeah.

EV: [All nodding their heads] Yeah, we did.

JP: And uh, did, did your mother have uh, did you have animals also uh?

JV: No, no. [Looking at Rosetta]

JP: Chickens or ...

RV: Later on we had a black cat.

EV: Yeah, later on. [Speaking same time as RV]

JP: Oh. Ok.

RV: Blackie, yeah. That was later on.

JP: And um, tell me about your father Giuseppe. He came from Italy, when?

RV: After the war.

JP: After the war--

RV: After the war.

JP: After First World War?

RV: That's right, First World War.

JP: Did Giuseppe Visocchi, did he serve in the uh First World War?

JV: Yes, he did.

JP: Ok and uh your mom was, were they married in Italy?

JV: [Nodding her head] In Italy. Yeah, they were. Yes [unclear] she got married in Italy.

JP: So when they came here—

JV: And then my father came and work here and then after three years my mother and my kid brother came here, my older brother.

EV: He was four when he came back then.

JV: [Nodding her head] He was four yeah—

RV: [Nodding her head] Yeah.

JV: --when he came here.

EV: This was in Ottawa. They arrive in Ottawa.

JP: They arrived first in Ottawa?

EV: Yes, they did. And then my mother, we had, they had a restaurant, a grocery store—

RV: [Nodding her head] Grocery store.

JV: [Unclear]

EV: And my brother, the youngest one used to pick, well there was only one, he used to pick up all the cherries and the candies on top of the cake and my mother could speak nothing but Italian, which was English there, so my father sold the place and this is how we got to Montreal.

JP: I, cause you said there was seven children so there were, there were how many girls, how many boys?

RV: Five girls, two boys.

JP: And the boys were older or younger?

JV: One young and one older.

JP: Ok, and when you grew up, so you grew up in Montreal and what are some of the memories you have of your street? Were there a lot of [unclear] homes there? Were there a lot of [unclear]? You were right near--I guess it was Shamrock Market at the time?

JV: [Nodding head] Yes. Shamrock Market.

EV: [Nodding head] That's right.

JV: There was a lot of Italian. There was some French too.

RV: There's a few.

JV: But it was mostly Italian people.

EV: And we we're friendly with all the kids and we played 'til late at night on the street. We had nothing to worry in those days. And our parents they wouldn't say anything to--to us. I guess we were too young in those days.

RV: Cause it was safe.

JV: It was safe.

RV: Yeah.

JV: Yeah. And we had the school near. We had the church near. My mother was very Catholic. So we were always in church, every morning, every Sunday...It was nice--

JP: What school did you got to?

JV: Notre Dame de la Defence.

JP: Ok, so are you, that school was bilingual?

JV: Was first, the first two years was Italian—

RV: Italian.

JV: Then was French, and then on the seven, seven years was uh English.

EV: It was bilingual yeah.

RV: Yeah.

JV: One, one, one afternoon English.

EV: Yeah.

JP: So the children of the Italians really ended up speaking three languages at the time—

RV: That's—

JP: -- they lived in uh [Unclear].

JV: [Unclear]. But all my father want us to speak only Italian. Outside he said speak French, English, the way you want, but in my house it's Italian. Cause he wanted us—

RV: to learn, that's right.

JV-- to speak later on to our children or we could understand the people—

EV: and traditions—

JV: that they were Italian.

[TIME: 5:16]

JP: So at home at the dinner table it was Italian?

JV & RV: [Together] Always.

RV: Always.

JV: Always. Always in the house too. Between us sisters we used to speak French or English if we didn't want my little sister [points to RV] to understand [laughing].

EV: ...to understand [said at the same time as JV; also laughing]

JV: We used to do it and that's ok but it was Italian. Although my father was—for that he wanted us to strict [?].

RV: [Unclear]. Yeah.

JV: He said we were Italian. We had to speak Italian. But you, we, you, he was, he was happy that we learned French and English, but outside, not in our house.

JP: Did your father speak French and English?

EV & RV: Yes.

JV: Yes. He was smart.

JP: And your mother?

JV: My mother no. Italian, and a bit of French [RV and EV shaking their heads].

RV: A bit.

JV: Because we always used to talk to her, Italian with her.

EV: And at the end when the neighbor was, what was she, Polish?

JV: Polish.

RV: Polish [smiling].

EV: And she used to tell my mother come for coffee. I don't know what language, but she used

to understand.

JV: Yeah.

EV: They make friend and they used to speak what language I don't know but they make the best, they...

RV: That's when we moved in uh Sainte Rochelle[?].

JV: Sainte Rochelle.

EV: Yeah. That's right. That's true. I went ahead a bit now.

JP: Did you have um, did you have a ice bucket, box in those days? Like what was the kitchen like? Can you describe the uh...?

EV: It was nice for those days.

JV: We had a little kitchen nest, not much.

RV: It wasn't very big and we had a dining room next to it [points with her fingers].

JV: Dining room.

RV: That's right.

EV: Sunday was in the dining room.

RV: Yes. That was special. [Laughing]

JV: On a Sunday and on, when it was a birthday and Christmas.

EV: We had no fridge of course but we had a—

RV: [Laughing] ice box

EV: a ice box and it was in the virtreux[?] right

JV: Virteux[?] [unclear]

RV: In the solarium yeah.

EV: And we had to take care of the ice. So it doesn't leak.

JV: But the ice guy used to pass all the time. It was [unclear]. You know, it's long time ago now.

EV: Oh, one day, we used to have, we used to call them [unclear]. [Unclear] is [unclear]. And he would go by, behind the uh, my mother's house. And one day my sister Rosetta, she was adorable, she had gorgeous uh hair, and she was all dressed up, so I said, she was next to me, I says to De-guenilles[?] "You want to buy my sister?"

RV: 25 cents, yeah.

JP: The De-guenilles [?] was the guy who bought the rags.

RV: The rags, yeah, with the horse buggy.

JP: [Unclear in background].

EV: So imagine how stupid I was in those days.

JP: Hm. Hm. That's funny.

EV: But I was young. We were young. So I mean, and we had, a, uh, baseball park in the back and we used to love to go, but my father if he said no, it was no. And we had a fence, the door—and if he would look at us to see if we were doing something [unclear]. You could see just the tip of his eyes [pointing to her eyes], right [looks at her sisters].

RV: And just the whistle.

JV: Yeah.

EV: Oh Yeah, that's right.

RV: When he whistle that means you know you have to come home.

JP: You had to come home.

RV: Oh, famous whistle.

JV: He was very strict you know [unclear]--

EV: He was a good father.

JV: He had to be strict too, in those days—

RV: [Looking at EV] Yeah, but tell them also about the uh fashion show, mm hmm. How can you forget?

JP: [Unclear] what happened with the fashion show?

RV: Yeah, Alice what happened?

EV: I don't recall.

RV: Yeah, you dressed me up.

JV: [Unclear] dress her up and then we, we burned her, remember?

RV: *Non, non, cause a jetè toute sale[?] a ma belle robe.*

JV: *Ah, oui, oui.*

EV: *Ah, oui* [unclear]

JV: [French]

EV: *Ah oui, oui* [French]. Yeah, you're right. Yes we dressed her up. [RV laughing]

RV: Oh, we had a lot of fun, that we did--

JV: Yeah, that's what we said, we were poor but we had fun.

RV: That's right.

JV: We had love between us, with our mother and everybody around us.

EV: Right.

JP: Did you realize uh you're looking at it now and you're saying were poor um, I'm wondering if at that time -- did you realize you were poor-

EV, RV, & JV: No. No.

JV: [Looking at RV] But there was some rich people on the street—

EV: No, but at the time.

RV: No, no, but I think we didn't realize we were poor.

EV: We always had good food on the table and enough for our friends—

RV: That's right. That's right.

EV: Our friends would come over at night for coffee and cake, right?

RV: That's right.

EV: We used to [unclear].

JV: But we had good food—

RV: Open house.

EV: But of course.

JV: My father used to say serve the kids, he used to eat at the end. After, after that she served everybody, then it was ah—to him.

JP: Really?

JV: Oh, yeah. All the time. All the time.

EV: We were—we had very good parents. We didn't—Christmas time we used to put a, a letter under the [desk] of my father and mother--

JV: Oh my god, who would put it first [smiling]—

EV: And we would argue who was gonna get it the first one –

JV: And we had to read it—*la poesie*.

EV: Yeah, yeah, there was—it was only a quarter in those days, so imagine [how it was]. But it was nice.

JV: And five cents.

EV: And five cents too, yeah you're right.

EV: But I'm going to say something that it's--was very sad. When my father was in the camp, my mother she couldn't take it anymore, because uh she didn't have enough money and the food to uh feed us. My brother was in the army. So my oldest sister used to take of us when mum used to go to church. So that night mum didn't go to church and after we went to bed she had lit all the uh gas, the stove. And if it wasn't for my sister, we would have been all dead. But she did that because she was desperate. We had no money, and no food. Something we can never forget [becomes emotional – RV crying]. It's part of life, [but not for us], it wasn't. But thank

god she had so many good neighbours and good friends that they help us. And we used to have to [say this one point], we would come home, my mother would take a few things for us and the rest she would send to people that was worse than us. We used to share it.

JV: [Unclear] But we didn't have enough for us.

EV: No she should share with everybody.

[TIME: 10:45]

JP: So this was after uh your father was uh interned?

EV, JV, & RV: Yeah, yeah.

EV: While he was there, while he was interned.

JP: Your father what did he do for a, a living? What was his job--?

RV: A brick-layer.

EV&JV: [Unclear]

RV: A brick-layer, *après la* [unclear]. He was trying to do all different—you know, trying to make--

JV: [French] *chauffeur privee(?)*

RV: Anything to make money. You know, extra money for his family.

JP: Your father, did you see him working on, like was he working—Did, did he spend time with, did he have time to spend with uh family?

EV: Yes.

JV: Oh Yeah.

RV: Oh yeah, at night always.

EV: At night, always.

RV: Always.

JP: But I asked you [unclear], because in the 1930s in Montreal in Canada we had the Depression so from what it sounds like to me, these different jobs that you mention that your father did [clears her throat] uh it sounded like he would just do any job that he could get just to make sure that—

RV: He would, he would, to make sure--.

JV: Anything.

JP:--to make that money, right?

EV: That's right.

RV: --to make sure that his, his family had something to eat, yeah.

EV: We had food on the table.

JP: And your mother, I imagine wasn't working, if she had seven children to take care of—

RV: No. No.

EV: She work enough in the house.

JV: She used to cook, she used to do everything.

JV: [Unclear] cook—tomato—do everything.

EV: She used to --Yeah, well done—She used to—Yeah, that's right.

EV: And we had a basement, and it was very low, and we never body--the three of us, we didn't

want to go in the basement. We were afraid in case there be a mouse or a rat. There was always my other sister, the oldest one that she had to go but Rosetta I think she went—

RV: Yes. I used to go get the potatoes, and I'm claustrophobic even today so can you imagine? It's not very high and you had to sorta bend and go under. My sister at the end she would do the coals, to get the coals for the stove and I had to get the potatoes—

EV: You were lucky [?]. You and I, we never went.

RV: Ah terrible. But it's ok.

JV:[Unclear].

RV: But we made it.

EV: Yeah, we did make it.

JP: Uh, did you family make, uh [unclear] stuff for the winter—

JV: Oh yeah.

JP:--stuff from the garden—

JV: We used to make tomatoes, sausages--

RV: [all speaking at the same time] tomatoes—

JV: [all speaking at the same time] [unclear] basement, because basement was full—

EV: [all speaking at the same time] tomatoes, pickles, any kind of pickles, yeah

JV: [all speaking at the same time] my mother used to do everything—

EV: [all speaking at the same time] store berries

JP: Where did you do it outside because you didn't have a basement obviously?

RV: *Le vitreux*[?] [hand gesture], *on avais un vitreux*, a solarium.

JV: Solarium, today they call it a solarium.

EV: And believe me we made a lot of tomato, [sighs] you bet we [unclear]

RV: And we all had to learn because we were all in line. Everybody had their own job to do.

JV: She did do a lot, my god.

JP: Did your father make wine?

EV: Yes.

JV: Yes he did.

EV: Not at our house though.

JV: No. [Unclear]

EV: With some friends. *Uzagnio*[?]

RV: *Uzagnio*[?] yeah.

EV: It was your godmother [looking at JV]

JV & EV: [unclear – mumbling at same time]

EV: And one day it was I don't know Christmas or the holidays, we had a *barouette*[?] [RV]

crying]. For once my father says yes we're invite[?], we're all going to go. We're all sitting in the *barouette*[?] and somebody was falling and pick us up but what he had advised us -- you make sure you don't touch anything and you don't eat nothing and you don't ask for nothing.

JV: You just look at me and if—

EV: If I go like this [very slight nod], it's ok.

JV: Once [unclear], no more after. Because we were seven. He never wanted us to take much to our end, because he used to say we were seven/eight and then plus him, how many chair did they have. You know.

EV: Yeah. Yeah. That's right.

JP: Oh so when you did *la visite*.

EV, JV & RV: Uh huh

RV: We didn't do it all [smiling]—

EV: That was rare.

JV: Rare [hand up and facing out], Christmas—

JP: You didn't do much *visita* because you were too many people?

RV: [noise suggesting no]. That's right.

JV: Too many people.

RV: At his sister's house. Zia Mariuch[?].

JV: Yeah.

RV: There was ok.

JV: [unclear]

EV: But that was, that was later, that was later. After he came back.

JV: [Unclear – because we were too much children]

RV: But still, daddy worked[?]-

JP: But your father would say, you can't touch like the food or anything else there that was there unless—

RV: You have to ask – yeah.

JV: He have to look at us. You can have one, but that's it.

RV: You just look at him, my father, and that's it. He would give you the sign [nodding], it's okay.

EV: [Unclear] --very polite.

JP: To take uh-

RV: That's right.

JP: Food. A biscuit, whatever—

JV: Anything.

EV: I'll tell them about the way we go to bed at night.

JV: In winter?

RV: The blankets. Ahh. He always made sure, because I guess the, the heating wasn't that great.

He used to take any coats that he found in the house. My mother's coat, my dad, my brother.

He would cover up the girls to make sure that we weren't –

JV: We were okay.

RV: We were okay.

EV: Before we go to bed.

[TIME: 15:06]

JP: Right, because the, the temperature at night was not the same as in the morning.

RV: That's right. That's right. And he would make sure –

JP: It would be colder and –

EV: We only had the small stove pot yeah.

RV: Coal[?], yeah.

JP: The coal.

JV: *charbon*[?]

EV: And the older sister she had to take care of it. She knew when it was okay and when it was—

RV: --and that's why we used to bug mamma when we were older because we had that stove and papa used to put the coals or whatever and they used to say "*spegachi la cena*"[?] and my mother's maiden name is Spregacenare[?] and so we used to make fun of her all time and say "*Guarda a papa che sta facend'*"[?].

EV: Hey great you remember that.

RV: Yeah.

JV: [Unclear]

EV: Five girls in one room, could you imagine?

RV: Yes.

JV: Five girls in one room.

JP: How many beds, one or two?

JV: [RV hold up left hand showing two fingers] One bed and then [JV looks at EV] the bed at the side--

RV: Double bed.

JV: Yeah the sisters used to sleep—

RV: Can you imagine?

EV: And the boys were—they had their own.

JP: Did you have like a-a good pair of shoes for Sunday?

EV: Oh yeah. Yes.

JV: [Leans in] My mother used to go to uh Eaton's.

EV: Eaton's, yes.

JV: She used to buy 10 pair of shoes. But sometimes we didn't like the shoes much. We used to say "They don't fit".

EV: Well that was rare though.

JV: If we like, we used to put the wet [Looks at RV] the wet

RV: cotton band

EV: yeah, yeah.

JV: cotton at the end, and we'd say "Oh yeah, it fit." But if we didn't like it "*O no mi fanno male i piedi* – it hurts my feet". Well we were too much you know.

RV: [fingers her lapel and mouths sorry to camera – meaning movement of microphone]

JP: So you had a lot of hand-me-downs also?

EV: Well yeah. That's for sure. Of course.

RV: We had these [motions to her chest area and looks at EV & JV]

EV: Well her [unclear] a bit easy, she used to go in my sister's drawer and she used to take the new bra[?] or the new dress. But then my oldest sister, the oldest one, she used to get mad. Well they were good days, there's nothing wrong with that.

JP: And uh, did anybody work? Like we're just going to talk about the [thirties?] before your father was arrested. Right were any – were the boys working or did your girls do any work, like in terms of chores, or anything that help out—

RV: My sister Tommasina[?] she started at 13.

JV: Tommasina[?] she start at 13.

JV: Because it was our Uncle[?] Marazza[?]

RV: [Nodding her head] Marazza[?].

EV: Marazza[?]. I went there too at 13.

JV: Yeah but you were older no?

EV: No.

JP: What's Marazza[?]?

RV: Music store.

JP: Oh [unclear] yeah.

JV: Music store.

RV: On Ste. Catherines and on St. Lawren-- uh St.Hubert.

JV: [Unclear] my father. He was cousin with my father. That's why he came here in Canada.

[Unclear] in Italy.

JP: So your sister, your older sister-

RV: Tommasina.

JP: Worked for the music store in town.

RV&JV: Yeah.

JV: In town.

RV: Yeah, she started early.

JV: At 13.

EV: I did it too.

JV: She did it too.

JP: You also.

EV: Yeah.

JV: A bit older no?

EV: Yeah, when she left she started to go to Steinberg and I did it, at those days.

JP: Did you- did anybody do chores like in exchange for uh services like not for money but uh – did you ever have to do chores for anybody just like –it was a way of paying off your service or—

EV, JV & RV: No, no.

RV: And when we used to have ...

JP: Sorry there's some noise outside. Can you still hear? Okay we'll keep going.

RV: And my father was the type, you worked, you make sure you bring the pay at home. You weren't allowed to buy anything. My sisters okay they are older than me, but one year I was old enough, 19, 20, and he had said – Murazzo Music store was about a block away, and I always, I had my pay, I had to bring it to my dad. But that day I was paid. My lunch hour I went downstairs and I like the sweater, it was five dollars. I bought it. I brought it – I told my father. I said Papa, "*Per la paga, mi sono comprato una maglia*". Didn't like it very much. But do you know that I still have that sweater today.

JP: Really?

RV: My daughter they say get rid of it, no, I just can't [teary-eyed].

JV: We have, we have to give our pay to our father [unclear]

RV: To help-

EV: He used to give us, me anyway, three dollars[?].

JV: [Unclear] to pay for the bus.

RV: But then we got married, but then when you got married—

JV&EV: [Unclear]

RV:--they used to buy the *bianchiera*, they used to buy the sheets, whatever we needed, everything for us. So you see it's one side, it was, it was hard for us but then when we got married he was always there to help.

JP: Did your mother do any of that stuff, uh the embroideries—

JV: Oh my god, yeah.

EV: Yes.

RV: Yes. Knitting.

EV: She made the dress, everything.

RV: Knitting, knitting, knitting. In Italy too, she was —

JV: Embroidery, also *la broderie*[?]

RV: *La broderie*[?], yup, she used to teach us embroidery, yup.

JP: [Unclear] You learned to do all those things, to make the trousseaus also, for the girls?

EV: [RV nodding her head] Yeah.

RV: My mom was really super.

EV: And it's funny because we had washing machines like everybody. Today we wash two or three times a week. My mother one day and we'd stay there all day. And they would do the wash and everything was finished. And they used to work--they had no rooms, so in the bathtub, she would make the *javel*. It was different.

[TIME: 20:07]

JP: She made her own *javel*?

EV: No, no. She, she would put hot water and *javel* in the hot tub, you know. But it was worth—
when you think of it, and today, we criticize for nothing.

JV: Today we have everything and we still are not happy. In those days we had nothing,
nothing.

EV: But we didn't know nothing better.

RV: That's it.

[[also community life]]

JP: Do you guys, as, as little girls, uh you're on Mozart Street, the market is there and uh there's
uh the *Madonna della Difesa*, what, what were your boundaries, like how far would you go?
Where would you—

RV: On Mozart Street.

JV: Mozart.

JP: [Unclear]

RV: On Mozart Street. That was it. Our friends were there. And uh—

JP: You stayed on the street. You didn't really wander.

RV: Yes. Yes. No.

EV: We had a lot of friends upstairs, next door—

RV: That's right. So that's what—we stayed around.

JP: Your friends were English, French, Italian?

JV, EV & RV: Italian

JV: French. [Looking at RV] and French.

RV: [French name – unclear]

JV: There was some French.

RV: The *Grochans*[?]

EV: [Unclear]

JV: There were some nice French people. But there was some hmm [said with a little distaste] ...

JV: They couldn't uh—the Italian, *les WOP*[?]. *Nous jamais appartenons*.

EV: My name—

JV: That's too bad though when you're young—

EV: Yeah that's right.

JV: And you knew they called you names, you know. When we're old, you can uh, defend yourself. But when you're young, [*regard le WOP, le spaghetti*].

JP: Did you know why – when you were a little girl? Did you know why they were calling you that?

JV: That's because we're Italian. They knew we were Italian.

EV: My name was Elisa. That's my name on my [birth register? - unclear]. But one day I came home and I was crying, I says to my mother, "They all call me Lisa and I don't like that name".

But one thing I don't understand --

JV: She call Alice.

EV: --even today, my mother I guess she must have said take your name Alice, cause Alice was my godmother's name. So that's why I got Alice as a second name. But my real name is Elisa because the French people say "E-lisa".

JP: You didn't like that.

EV: No I didn't like it because it really sound – *quebeçois*, so.

JP: And –you, you say Josee. Your name is Giuseppina.

EV: Giuseppina, yeah. I changed to Josee.

JP: Why?

RV: Pippinella.

JV: Because it-I don't know. Giuseppina, Giuseppina, Italian? Yeah, I'm Italian. *Je m'appelle Josee Chanee[?] Simon[?]*. I said. All Italians [unclear] *aux Canada. Je suis Canadienne, comme vous autres*, with the French people, but with the Italians, I was Italian, I was proud. My parents were Italian, sure I was proud. But with the French, you know, to make, even when you're young, you want to make friend with them, you know, you have fun with other girls, "*Oh je Canadienne m*[?]. Je suis né a Montreal comme vous autres.*"

JP: But you, even when you're speaking now, you're speaking with a very *quebeçois* accent. At that time you must have spoken—you learned your French here, so you had that same accent?

JV: No. No.

EV: We learned in school.

JV: *On [unclear] parle la francais [unclear]*.

EV: Yeah, we learned it in school.

JV: [Unclear]

RV: It's the United Nations when we all get together.

JP: And Rosetta, did you just—did you, did you francocize [francize] your name, anglicize your name when you were a little girl?

RV: No. It was always—

JP: Did you go with Rosetta—

RV: It was always Rosetta. Rosetta. I always ask my mother “Why did they call me Rosetta instead of Angela or Rosa?”. I have the name of both my grandparents, my grandmothers. No, it was just always Rosetta, Rosetta, Rosetta. And there was another cousin that was Rosetta Visocchi. But I don’t know why they call me Rosetta. Today they call me Rose or Rosetta.

JP: But it’s interesting, like for Josee and also for uh Alice—

EV: Elisa.

JP: Right. Elisa, yeah. Right. It’s interesting that one of your first memories of wanting to fit in is through the changing of your name.

EV: I really don’t know, sometimes I think of it.

JV: Me too.

EV: I’m surprised that my mother did say, “Well take Alice. It’s on your papers. Your godmother.”

JV: Because it was your godmother.

EV: I can’t remember. It’s funny, eh. And I took Alice, that’s all.

JP: But there was definitely something attached to being Italian then in the 30s. Even as little girls, cause obviously you were young girls.

EV: Yeah. In the 30s. Cause I was born in 33. So that must have been in the 40s.

JP: Okay, so in the 30s, in the 40s there was something attached to being Italian—

EV: The minute that we go to school.

JP: Not being considered Canadian in other words like.

EV: The minute that we went to school--

JP: That's when it was—

EV: The minute that we stepped in school that's when it really hit us.

JP: Why? In what way? But you went to a school, there were a lot of Italians.

EV: Yeah. A lot of French too.

JV: But there were the French too.

EV: Cause-you know, St. Denis, on St. Denis and if you keep going east it was all French people.

JP: And this is the Madonna De La Defesa?

EV, RV & JV: That's right.

JV: Madonna De La Defesa.

JP: So there were also French uh students.

EV, RV & JV: Yeah.

JP: So when you went to school what was it like? Did the Italian girls tend to stick with each other and the French girls stick with each other-

EV: No.

JP: Or they all mixed.

JV: No we used to mix.

RV: No, no, we mixed. Yeah

EV: Yeah we used to mix in school-

RV: Well the nuns made sure. I mean, they were very strict.

JV: The nuns were strict yes.

RV: And they liked to have- like people get along together.

JV: And then older there was a teacher, we had.

RV: Mademoiselle, yeah.

JP: So did um, I guess the sense of who you were um started forming in school and then on the street and then did you feel Canadian or Italian or both?

JV, RV & EV: Italian, Italian, Italian.

EV: I always felt Italian. I guess we didn't understand enough in those days. It was always Italian.

JV: Italian cause Daddy always say we're Italian. We have to speak Italian.

RV: That's it.

JV: So we're really Italian. We're still Italian [laughing].

RV: Yeah.

JP: No cause you were [unclear] a choice—

JV: [French] So they don't like [with us?]. [French]

JP: And even today?

JV: [French]

JP: What um, what feasts do you remember growing up in Mile End whether it was [unclear].

RV: San Antonio procession.

JV: San Antonio. We used to be angel. We used to [unclear]. And my mother used to give out [hand gestures] a big flower—

RV: That was the *Corpo Cristi*[?], *Corpo Cristi*[?]

JV: [Unclear] Santa Madre de [unclear].

EV: We were angels.

JV: We were angels.

EV: I did San Giuseppe.

JV: My mother was very Catholic.

EV[?]: Oh yeah.

JV: Very Catholic. We have to go to church.

RV: She was always the first one in the front of her. [unclear - French?]

JV: In the morning. On Sunday. Sometime on Sunday [unclear]

EV: The position. Oh yeah.

JV: [French?]. And my father used to say “Well, if you’re not going to go out all day”. So then the next, the next Sunday, we say “We’d better say that we’re okay”. Cause we have to go to church. We had to go to church.

EV: But we had no choice, even with the nuns.

RV: That’s right.

EV: We had to go to church with the nuns.

RV: Oh my god, yes.

JV: And we had to say the rosary every night.

EV: Oh yeah.

JV: *Al ginocchio*

EV: At the house.

JV: At the house.

EV: When it was Saint Joseph.

JV: *Non, meme la toute la semaine*[?]

EV:[French]

JV: [French]

RV: *Non, non c’est Saint-Joseph*. And can you imagine—

JV: Up to 13 days.

RV: The five girls and mama, were six—

EV: And my brother Frankie was there.

RV: Non, non [unclear] *Frankie n’etais pas la, lui*. He wasn’t uh – Frankie and Louie weren’t there. So there was six chairs lined up. We had to kneel in front and we had to say the rosary. And we had to go through it. My dad would walk in the back [hand gesture].

JP: Around the table?

RV&JV: No.

JV: Because he didn't want us to laugh. We had to pray and be quiet.

RV: Like let's say against the wall, you would put like six chairs and we would face it and we would listen to all the prayers [hand gesture]. We would answer with my mother.

EV: And then once in awhile—

RV: My father would walk around. If he see—because you know when you're young,

JV: You like to have fun[?]

RV:-- you don't want to do. And we use to laugh,

EV: Once in awhile, yeah, when we started[?]

RV: --especially when her and I were close together. He would go in the back and "Tskk"
[motion of slap against the back of her head], that means pay attention to what your mother is saying.

JP: Oh, cause this was in the house [unclear]

RV: It's in the house. Yes.

JV: House. In our house.

EV: My mother was very Catholic.

JV: Very Catholic. We used to pray all the time, to make us pray. That's why today we're Catholic too.

[also religion]

JP: And what do you remember about the processions and the feasts from the church?

JV: The church—

JP: Remember the band outside the—

JV: The band—

RV: Yeah the band, Gentile[?]

RV, JV & EV: [Nodding their heads] The band, Gentile, Gentile.

JP: And the music and the—

RV: It was beautiful.

JV: *Che tomballare, tombola*[?]

EV: [unclear] *tombola*[?]

JV: We used to call *tombola*[?]. We used to go with mommy all together.

EV: And then they had that uh that [Italian – *portuchi vecchi tengi occhi in – bocca*].

JP: Oh. The grease pole.

RV: Oh. The grease pole.

JP: *Da Italia. Da Italia.*

EV: They had that.

JP: They did that, in Montreal?

EV, RV&JV: Yes. Yeah. They did.

JV: Sure. They had the *tombola*. They had everything. Was nice, when we used to go to [unclear]. [French-unclear].

JP: You used to watch the boys climbing the grease pole?

RV: Yes. Yeah we were young, I mean.

JV: [Unclear]

EV: [Unclear]. At night it was different. Yeah. And we were not allowed to go dancing there. Oh my god.

JP: Where at uh Casa D'Italia?

EV: No at the dancing, when it was the feast.

JP&JV: [Talking – unclear]

EV: At the church.

JV: Near the church.

JP: They used to close off the street?

EV: No we had a park.

JP: Across the street.

EV: Near the park.

JP: Like at the church.

EV&JV: Yeah. Yeah.

JP: Oh so they would do the dance there.

RV: Yeah.

JV: On the street, they used to do dance and everything. But us, no.

RV: They used to—yeah [fingers moves across body]

JV: We had to stay quiet.

RV: --barricade it sometimes.

JV: Just to look.

JP: Do you remember any processions with the men wearing the black shirts, like with the uh—

RV, EV&JV: No. No. Not at all.

JV: [Unclear] Like see the black shirts on the street at all—

RV, EV&JV: No. No. No.

RV: Papa doesn't even own one.

EV: [Unclear] in those days.

JP: No, eh?

EV: No. I remember only when I start to going to work with friends or something that I learned or else family, dad did not want to mention anything to us.

JV: Maybe it wasn't the style, you know. I don't know.

JP: But, so you don't remember that just as young girls like in the procession the black shirts or do you remember the band ever playing like *Giovinezza* and uh um[keeps talking—unclear]

EV: That I remember. They did play that, yeah.

RV: That uh, no. Me, I don't remember.

EV: What?

JP: [Unclear]

EV: That I don't remember. That I don't remember. Maybe they did, but I don't remember that.

JP: But you remember uh—what you were saying about the uh, the older man that some—

JV: There's an older man that uh I won't say the place anyway—

EV: Oh where my sister is—oh yeah.

JV: At Dante, and uh they spent some time. He's 103. And he always used to say it – say "*Facista bianca. Facista*". So I said, you know we don't sing that one. I said we sing the Italian one [singing] "*Fratelli di Italia*", and he said "No, no, no".—

RV: [Unclear]

JV: With the other one and he used to sing it. They said that's what they used to sing in Italy. I don't know.

JP: Well if he's a 100, over a 100 years old.

RV&JV: 103.

JV: But the other one was 100, eh?

RV: 103.

JP: [Laughing]

EV: Is he dead now, or he still live?

JV: He still live, the guy.

EV: He's still living. That's where we saw him at the—

JV: That's right. And we went together uh. And I said to my sister I have to learn that. What "*Facista Nera, Fascista*" [confused expression on face]. And he say, "*Oh. Fa la ancora*". And he, and he used to redo it again, the man. And he used to be happy to do it. "*Comme mai che tu no lo sai*", *mi dice a me*. And I used to say "Well no. I know *Fratelli di Italia*", but, uh.

JP: So at that time, like uh you were in school in the 1930s before the arrests and the war broke out, World War II, um, did you—was there any presence, um, from your point of view as, as young girls of Italian activities or fascists or uh government people noising around—

JV: No I don't remember.

JP: --even as young girls, did you see anything because you were on the street. You were playing on the street. You were very, you were on that street.

RV: [Laughing] Street. Yeah.

EV: Yeah.

JP: You know what I mean. It belonged to you.

RV: We did.

JP: If a stranger popped on that street, you would have noticed it, I'm sure.

RV: That's right.

JP: Right? Cause that's—you wouldn't be playing at all—

RV: That's right.

JP: Nine people in that house right? So [unclear], did you ever pay attention or would remember [unclear] or it's also very difficult.

RV: That's it.

JP: Do you remember of any uh—Did you go to Casa D'Italia for any dances or—

JV: Yes. More than once.[?]

RV: Dances, yeah.

JV: That's-my father was there[?]

JP: Like with your parents as kids, and—

EV: Yes. Yes. We did.

JV: My father was the president of the Casa D'Italia.

RV: So we used to go there.

JV: La Caserta[?]

EV: La Caserta[?], not the Casa D'Italia.

JV: *Alla Casa D'Italia* [unclear]

JP: This is the Caserta Association.

JV: In the Casa D'Italia.

JP: And their office was in Casa D'Italia.

RV&JV: That's right.

JV: So they used to make dance and we used to go with my father. He used to take us, all the time.

JP: There's other families and children. Most of them—

JV: Most was the Italian people.

EV: Yeah, a lot of people that we knew. People that we used to go to school and, and—

RV: A lot of friends today, yeah.

EV: There was a family.

JV: Cause in those days, everybody knows the child.

EV: That's right. Yeah.

JV: especially us, cause we were five girls, in that day—

EV: Yeah.

JV: We go to school and they know us.

RV: That's right.

JV: The Visocchi girl. They know everybody.

JP: And did uh—Tell me about some of the -- what you remember of *l'associazione di Caserta*.

Cause you said, you remember that they used to put on dances.

EV: Yeah.

RV: uh-huh.

JP: Do you remember anything else that uh?

JV: We used to go at the Bel-bel-

RV: Belmont Park. They used to have—on a Sunday.

EV: They used to make a picnic too.

RV: They used to—Italian day.

JV: Picnic. Italian day.

RV: They used to-Italian day. They used to do it once a year.

JV: [Unclear] We used to go. My father used to take us.

RV: A Parc Belmont. That was a lot of fun.

JP: You remember that Rosetta—

RV: Umhmm. I do. I do.

JV: Oh yeah. We do remember.

EV: [Unclear]

RV: That was a lot of fun.

JP: Did they do any other picnics during the year—

EV: Yes. They used to take us to that Pagioli[?]

RV&JV: Pagioli[?]

RV: Those are the three things that we used to do. Yeah.

JV: Cause was a band there and music at night.

EV: And my poor sister Tommy she had a boyfriend from the States coming over, and she was about to kiss the guy. She would hide sometime, some place, and but my father was wa—not too far, so she couldn't do it.

JV: It was to protect sometimes. Well the days were like that.

EV: Well today when we talk about it, it's funny. But it was part of life.

JV: Those days was like that you know. We said he was too—

RV: Five girls.

JV: He was a good father.

RV: That's right.

JV: But he was too strict. But in those days was like that.

RV: That's right.

EV: He gave us every—

JV: Compared to now. Today is—

RV: Everything is open.

JV: Everything is open. They do what they want. They're twelve[?] years old, uh?

EV: No respect. They have no respect today. Yeah.

RV: Today? No.

JP: I get the feeling though that even if it wasn't your father watching, it would be somebody else, cause it was everybody—

EV: My brother, my brother Louie—

RV: Yes. My sister Tommy was the same thing right? She had this guy that she really liked next door and uh, no way, he was trying to flirt with her. And my brother-in-law, not my brother-in-law, my brother Louie gave her a kick once.

EV: And when she would walk at the corner of, at—

RV: She said "Oh my god". But it was worth it.

EV: At the corner of Belanger and St Denis there and she wasn't allowed to go there, at the Chateau. Not even outside to speak to a boy.

RV: No, no, no, no.

JP: It was very strict times.

RV: Very, very.

JP: Where did, where did your uh mom go shopping for food, or for goods.

JV: Well there was only one Italian place that used to go.

RV: Azou-a-lou[?]

JV: Azou-a-lou

EV: Yeah

JV: [Unclear] the other one on St. Lawrence

RV: Maurice. Yeah.

JV: [Unclear - French]

EV:[Unclear - French]

JV: [Unclear - French]

RV: *Non. Milan-non.*

EV: *Milan-non, [unclear]*

RV: *Non, non, elle—*

JV: *Non, Milan, non.*

JP: Was that, was that the grocery store on St. Lawrence [unclear]?

RV: Yeah.

JV: Yeah. Azoulou[?] on St. Lawrence, uh, St. [Unclear].

RV: St [Unclear]. Azoulou[?]

EV: Yeah. Yeah.

JP: Did these stores give credit, for when uh people—

RV: I don't think so.

EV: I don't remember. No.

JV: I don't remember. No. My father never went to buy credit. My god, no.

EV: I wish—

JV: He said what are we sitting on a chair. It belong to us, the chair.

RV: That's why we learned today. We don't. Yeah.

JV: But we never credited.

RV: Always—Never. Never.

JV: Always. Never.

RV: Papa never wanted that.

JV: That's why we didn't do nothing after married. I said to my husband, "But these French people. They have everything. They look right away". He said "No, when we have the money we'll buy it," and that's it. It was that.

RV: That's how we were brought up. So that's how--

JV: So for me it was easy because I was bought up like that. Cause the French people, not because I want to talk about the French, but they have everything.

EV: In those days.

JV: And they don't pay, borrow—

RV: In those days, yeah.

EV: Cause today it's the same thing for the Italians.

JV: Credit, credit, all the time.

EV: Yeah

JP: You grew up without credit. It was like you bought it when you had the money to do it.

RV: That's right. That's right.

EV: [Unclear] my father used to do it.

JP: You had no debts.

JV: No debts. Nothing. No debts.

RV: "Ncht. Ncht." No debts. He always said. No. No.

JP: When did you eventually have—did your father, did, was your father able to have his own house?

RV: Yeah. On Saint-Michel

JV: Saint-Michel.

EV: On the, on the left[?] street.

JV: I was 15. [Unclear]

JP: So that was circa what year?

EV: I got married.

RV: That was uh 1951.

JV: [unclear-French]

EV: [unclear-French]

RV: It was 19-

EV: We didn't stay long there.

RV: 1951

JV: Are you sure.

EV: 1951

RV: [French]

EV: *Oui*

RV: *Mais, oui c'est ça. En 51, qu'on a déménagé.*

EV: Okay. We moved there. Okay.

RV: That's why she was asking.

[TIME: 36:15]

JP: That's—so your, so your father was eventually able to buy his own house in '51.

JV: [Unclear]

RV: Yeah. It was a one single home, like a-a cottage, but he had it built, cl-close the second floor so we, you know, we, we could rent that and that's what we did. That's the way at least he could manage and have a little extra money.

EV: But we were, we were tight too, to sleep there.

JV: [Unclear]

RV: [makes an exclamation sound]

EV: I guess he figured, all girls, makes no difference two or three in a bed. Makes no difference.

RV: And there was only two bedrooms downstairs when he closed the upstairs.

EV: That's right.

RV: Two bedrooms and a living room—

EV:--small rooms—

RV: Yeah.

JP: When um 1940, June 10th, Giuseppe Visocchi was picked up by the RCMP, and arrested.

RV: Right.

JP: Uh, do you remember that day? Do you remember, the, the week before? Do you remember—somebody can, can describe what happened that day to me?

JV: I was too young. I was only six years old.

RV: I was two. I don't uh—

EV: All I remember, me is that uh, when they came at the door, my sister with my father and two RCMP. That's all I could remember. And we didn't know why. My mother didn't know why cause she was screaming too.

JP: Did uh, it was your older sister that [unclear]—

JV: Yeah 13. She was 13. And she was at a wedding with my father because there was a wedding and my mother couldn't go cause we were young. So my sister, she sent with my father.

EV: That's right.

JV: And then those two guys from uh —

RV: RCMP

EV: RCMP [unclear] Dante Street, Dieni[?].

JV: And they said to my father to follow him. So they followed and they said "We're going to go home". But on the street, my sister--they, they didn't talk much [unclear]. And when they arrive home, and then uh the guy said "We're going to take you". But no *valise*. Nothing, you know.

And then her [indicates towards RV], and my brother and sister Rosetta—

EV: "We'll come back", he said.

JV: She was three. She's holding my father's legs and say "Don't go. Don't go." And the man said [crying]—

EV: "We'll come back. We'll be back"

JV: "We're gonna come back." But he never came back. After two years [crying]. And my mother was screaming, my sister said.

RV: Yeah.

JV: But we were all around, but we were so young.

EV: And it took quite—I don't remember how long it took my mother to understand that he was uh at Petawawa.

JV: Because maybe she thought that he would have come back. Because they didn't say nothing about that--

EV: At that time, no.

JV: *Parce'que* she was crying. They said "We're going to come back."

JP: Your father was at a wedding.

JV: My father was at a wedding—

JP: With your sister.

JV: With my sister of 13 years old.

JP: And you were at the house.

JV: We were at the house with my mother.

JP: The RCMP came first to the house to look for him?

EV: No.

JV: I don't remember that.

JP: [Talking – unclear]

EV: He went—he went at the hall.

JP: So they knew he was at this hall. The hall is on Dante.

JV: At Dante/Dieni.

EV: But apparently--

JP: Okay the hall there.

RV: They picked somebody else there too I think.

EV: I was just going to say apparently he was not the only one there.

RV: Yeah. He wasn't the only one picked up there.

EV: There was quite a few.

JV: But it-they were, they said we're going to go home but I told my sister—

JP: So they let him come home.

JV: Yeah.

JP: Sorry. I just uh going over it just so I, you understand me. That, they went to the wedding, to the hall. They picked him up. They brought him to the house.

EV: Yeah. At the door only.

JP: At the door. He didn't come in.

EV: No. At the door. Well actually they did that—

JP: [unclear] sister—

EV: cause they had to take my sister back home.

JP: Oh cause your sister didn't--wasn't accompanied – she was dropped at home.

JV: No my sister was with my father.

JP: But when, when the policeman, when the RCMP picked up your father, did your sister come along with the RCMP back to your house—

JV: Well yeah, with my father.

EV: That's why they had to take them home because my sister—

JP: Oh. That's, that was the only reason cause otherwise—

EV & JV: No, No [Unclear]

JV: That's why they didn't, they didn't take nothing.

JP: So they dropped off your sister at the house. Your father was at the door.

EV & JV: Yeah and then.

JP: You were in the house.

JV: We're at the house and she was screaming [pointing to RV]. She was crying, holding my

father's legs.

JP: You came to the door Rosetta. You saw your father where?

RV: I don't remember that's why. That's what they say.

JP: Okay. [Unclear]

RV: They told me.

EV: [Unclear-French]

JV: [Unclear-French]

JP: Oh and they didn't even let him come in the house.

JV: No. No. They didn't let him in the house.

EV: No. No. At the door. At the door.

JV: My sister said, no. At the door. That's why my sister she hold my father and he said "We'll come back". Tommy said.

EV: Yeah, he did say that.

JV: But they never came back, but.

JP: Who said "We'll come back". The police?

JV: The police did. The guy said—

EV: The RCMP.

JV: Maybe because we were crying. I don't know. Her she was crying terror. She was holding my father's legs. She didn't want my father to be—

JP: And your mother?

JV: My mother was, my sister said was terrible.

EV: Yeah. Well she was screaming. And then—

JV: It was terrible.

EV: The people across the street – Zia Congetti[?], came over.

JV: Came to see—

EV: To see what was going on.

JV: She came over. Cause she was hearing my mother scream. She must have say "Something

happen" [crying].

JP: So and then he left.

EV: Yeah. And we didn't know where he was going, nothing.

JP: They didn't—Nobody told anybody in the family—your mother didn't find out who took him, where he was going, why he was picked up, when he would be back—

EV: Nothing at all.

JP: Was there any information given at all to your mom?

EV: Nothing at all. After so many months or whatever, I guess she find out. I don't know from who—

RV: Some friends probably, yeah.

JV: But mommy was screaming, she said she was crying with mommy.

EV: And we had— my mother she lived downstairs and the landlord upstairs, the stupid Jewish there, he says "If you don't sleep with me, you--I'm going to throw you out". So that's when my mother went to see uh what's the name of the lady?

JV: Madame Garbarino [?].

EV: Garbarino [?] and she took—

RV: Garbarino [?].

JV: That's the lady that really helped us.

EV: That helped my mother.

JV: If she wouldn't have helped us, I don't know – where we were.

JP: Cause they wanted to throw you out?

JV: She used to bring groceries.

RV: Yeah.

EV: Because he wanted my mother to sleep with him.

JV: *Ma, son marie et'elle la aussi, non?*

EV: Non.

JV: Madame Garbarino.

EV: Oh that I don't think so. I don't remember.

JP: That was the man upstairs.

EV: Yeah. No. He owned the house. He was not the man upstairs

JP: He owned the house.

JV: He was a Jew.

RV: The owner.

EV: Upstairs there was two Italian families. He owned the house but I guess it was time for rent and he came to mother and he said, he gave her a suggestion –

JP: Oh, cause she had to pay rent.

EV&RV: That's right. Yeah.

JP: So at that point was your mother able collect the money or did you have to move?

EV & RV: No, we never moved.

RV: The nuns, they helped a lot.

EV: Yeah.

JV: This lady helped us.

RV: Garbarino. She did.

EV: And no, and but the nuns at that time too. They helped out mommy.

JV: But Madame Garbarino—

JP: She was a-an Italian woman that you knew?

EV: Yeah.

JV: Her husband was there, non?

EV: Garbarino [unclear-French]

RV: *Oui, oui*. That's it. We knew yeah.

EV: But she had the nuns that helped her too.

RV: Yeah. Oh my god. God bless them.

JP: So cause you went to school after that following, following your dad gets arrested, you go—
what happened after that? Did neighbours come over? Did—

EV: Oh, we always had the house full. There was always somebody at the house.

RV: Yeah.

JP: Did you, at that, like the next few days, what happened after June, the next few days?

JV: Well we were young. I was six years old, she was three.

EV: I don't remember. I think—

JV: My sister remember everything that day.

JP: We'll talk to your sister.

EV: But my mother, I remember my mother saying "*Meme moi, di papa viens, viens, papa
viens*" that's all.

JV: She used to tell us that papa return.

RV: Because her [indicates towards RV] she was crying so much, but she was young.

JP: You went to school. Did they, did they say anything at school?

EV: No. Not that I remember.

JP: Do you remember anything else?

EV: No. I don't remember.

JV: *Non. Non plus.* [unclear-French]

RV: The nuns, I'm sure the nuns knew about it.

JV: Maybe.

RV: But the others, no, I don't.

JP: And the kids didn't say anything amongst themselves?

JV: No.

JP: Do you remember Alice, cause [unclear]

EV: [Unclear - shaking her head]

JV: Maybe there was nobody from our street.

JP: Like on the street, did the kids say, “Oh what happened to your father?”

EV: I don’t remember.

JP: Your father’s –

EV: I don’t remember.

JV: I don’t know. No. Me neither.

EV: No. I couldn’t tell you. Because we were friendly with the kids not with their parents, so.

JP: Right. That’s why I was wondering if the parents—the kids were aware of what was going on—and then kids—

EV: Just, just the people upstairs from us knew – the Dorabbia[?], that’s the only one, that they knew—

JV: But they knew mommy was so good, so maybe they didn’t say anything around—

EV: To make her nervous.

JV: To make, to make the kid – us, I don’t know.

JP: So at this point your father was he the only breadwinner or was there your sister who was already working at the music store?

EV: No. He was the only one.

JV: No.

JP: He was the only breadwinner.

EV: Yeah.

JP: He was supporting seven children and his wife.

EV: Yeah that’s right.

JP: Nine people in total. So the breadwinner is removed from your family. There are eight people left here in Montreal on Mozart Street.

EV: But my mother she was such a good woman, like as I mentioned before, so people from the

market would give her leftovers—

RV: That's right.

EV: after leftovers—

RV: That's right.

EV: and my mother she would make the world out of it. And we never had food missing, never.

JV: Never. No.

[TIME: 45:05]

JP: So she was able to find the goodwill of the people from the market.

EV: With the chicken huh?

RV: The chickens everything. Yeah.

EV: She used to kill the chicken. And it something --that I remember.

JV: [Unclear-French]

EV: Out of the chicken she would make um [unclear] with the blood, and then she would burn the uh, uh the nails of the chicken, and with the foot she would make soup. So she would do a lot of stuff with nothing.

RV: And I remember also I used to go and sell corn.

EV: Yeah. We all did that.

JV: Me too, huh.

RV: My brother and I. So—you know 10 cents a corn and we used to bring our own butter sort of, butter, and salt. And we used to go—we used to do that every Friday and Saturday.

JP: You used to collect corn and go and sell—

RV: Mamma used to – yeah – we used to buy corn. Mamma used to boil them and we used to go and sell them. 10 cents.

JV: [French - [?]] *Mais la madame les on donne aussi, uh*

RV: [French- [?]] *Oui. Oui. Lucien ha donne mais je dis*

JV: [French - unclear]

RV: Yeah.

EV: And we used to collect the paper too. We used to sell the paper...

RV: Oh and roll, because you know the farmers at the market to wrap things they wanted newspaper, so we used to collect wherever we could.

JV: 25 cents.

RV: We used to wrap them up and we used to sell them a bunch.

EV: [Unclear]

JV: 15 cent [?]

RV: Yeah. We used to sell them. Anything to make money.

JV: We used to sell things to make money. We had no money.

EV: Thank god, we got our way out.

RV: [Whispering] That's right.

EV: Thank god.

JP: See you found odd jobs here and there.

EV: Yeah.

RV: Little things like that. Yeah.

JV: To help.

JP: Did anybody have to leave school? Any of the children have to leave school--

EV: No.

JP: You all managed to go to school and find odd jobs.

EV: Yeah.

JP: What other odd jobs would you do? Do you remember?

EV: [Unclear] when I went to school.

RV: If they would allow us. No that's the only thing we were allowed to do. Yeah is to sell--

EV: I used to go babysit. Now I remember [unclear]

JV: Me too. Upstairs.

EV: And you too--

RV: Yeah. People, people that we knew, that's it.

EV: Yeah and we used to fight to see who's going to get the first one home after school because the lady on the third floor she would send you to go, go do a message. And guess what we had – a maple leaf cookie. And we used to be crazy for that cause we never had it at home.

RV: She was deaf [Unclear]

JV: [Unclear]

RV: Deaf. The lady upstairs.

EV: *Ah, oui.*

RV: A penny or two to go buy a quart of milk. But--

EV: We used to argue who would go.

RV: We were happy. A penny, two pennies – wow. We're rich.

JV: One penny.

JP: And a cookie.

RV: Oh yeah.

EV& JV: [Talking simultaneously - Unclear]

EV: A good cookie. To the third floor, to go, to the third floor [pointing up].

JV: [French] We used to go next door, me and my friend. We say, “Oh we have a penny let's go”. They used to give us two, three candies for a penny. Not even [French?]...

RV: But in those days, you used to have a lot of candies for a penny.

JV: And I said my friend “Come. I'm going to pay you a treat”. “Yeah, what do you have?”. “One penny”. Okay [RV & JV laughing]. We used to go to the res—the restaurant for, for a penny and pick you know some candy. It was like you know [RV says something briefly in French]. I don't know what it was. My god. Candy eh? And now, that's why today we like to spend [RV says

something in French?].

RV&JV: We like to spend.

RV: Today, if we can. Oh boy.

JP: And what about um your mother was she—what did she do? Did she find herself any odd jobs or did she have to just--[JV unclear]--buckle down and take care of the house--

RV: She--exactly. Exactly.

JV: She had to cook.

RV: That's right.

JV: And do that—a lot of cooking. [RV unclear]. With a-a small thing, she used to do so many things. [Unclear]

EV: No. She did everything: cook, sewing, cleaning. She did everything.

JP: And um, what other odd jobs did you say – you used to also clean homes.

RV: At the Marrat[?] um...

EV: Mancuso.

RV&EV: Mancuso.

RV: Dr. Mancuso. We used to go.

JP: Because, was that—because he was your family doctor and was [unclear]...

RV: Yeah. And that's the way, but we never used to get paid.

EV: No. [Unclear]--

RV: But he used to take us to the ice cream--

EV: She did give something. But I don't remember. To my mother. She did give something--

JV: Yes. She did pay me [unclear]--

RV: You maybe. But not me--

JV: Not much but [unclear]--

RV: He used to take me to the corner store to buy an ice cream. Back then, it was a lot. Get an ice cream cone.

JV: She used to give me chocolate. And I say, "I want to keep for my sister". And she used to give me more.

EV: But she used to say, "*Bambini. Vieni qui bambini*". "*Adesso polische qui ce che troppo polvere*". And she would—I would start cleaning...Oh, and there would be a penny but I would just push [makes a hand gesture]--

RV: Never.

EV: She would do it on purpose.

RV: Yeah.

EV: Further on, another penny. She would do it on purpose to see if we would pick them up. Because she mentioned it to my mother.

RV: We never, never touched. And we would tell each other, you know, she leaves money around. You don't touch. *Mama pure dise "Non tocca"*.

JV: And we—I used to see big box of chocolate.

RV: Oh yeah.

JV: Oh my god. If we would have that at home. And she used to give me a few though. And I used to say "*Okay. No. Non lo maggio. Porto a casa*". "*Oh. Okay. Bambina. Ti lo do di piu*". She was nice though.

RV: She was really--

EV: [Unclear – French]

JV: [Responds – something to do with *biscuits*]

EV: Yeah. We never had any of that. I remember one day, my poor mother. She took us for—to have that, our uh [pointing to her throat]--

RV: tonsuls

EV: tonsuls out. Her [pointing to JV] and I. And Daddy was I think [French talking to JV – asking if he was interned at the time, to which JV agrees?]. So we went to the hospital. And me, I sort of

got nervous because I can see the thing that he remove it [points to her throat]. It looked like a punch that you would make a hole in the paper. And I would see the blood. So when he got to me. He puts his hand here [hands in her lap], and he says “Oh my god. What's wrong with her?” I had a temperature. So they couldn't do nothing with me. But they did it with her [pointing to JV]. And then she stayed in the hospital--

JV: I was crying.

EV: My poor mother had to take me home. But then did I get na' [?] [makes smacking gesture with hand], because anyway, she had to take me home. So the following day, we had company. And the company would come and bring candies and chocolate and I said--

JV: No. Ice cream.

EV: Ice cream.

JV: Lots of ice cream.

EV: And I told them I couldn't get it. My mother used to say “*Perche non se—tu sei...*”

RV: *Rimast'*

EV: Yeah. That's right. So that's why she—I didn't get any. So I used to get mad. So one day, I was so mad that I sat instead I stand in front of the stove and my mother's room was there [points to the right of the camera]. And I said “Oh it's hot”. And my mother said “*Che sta fa. Levite di la.*” And I went next to her [French], I open the, the drawer and I find chocolate. Oh god. I picked it up. So I went to the washroom and I had a few pieces. But my mother didn't see it. And then the following day – “*Tu, che chai? Comme mai va sempre alla toilette.*” I had the diarrhea. That was exlax (hand to mouth as if sharing a secret) that I was eating. [All laughing].

JV: [French?]

EV: Imagine. I thought it was chocolate. I was all excited. So I picked it up. Did I get na' [?] [makes smacking gesture with hand] because my mother—my poor mother, today when I think of it...she had take the bus to take me back to the hospital. That was awful when you think of it, eh. Uh we were kids.

RV: Uh. Those weren't bad things [shaking her head].

JP: Did your mother explain to you as the, as the days went on and as uh your father wasn't coming home like the policeman had promised – did your mother explain to you [Where is daddy? – unclear-trails off]

JV, EV & RV: [talking together] No. Never. [Some French]

EV: The only time she told us was when it was our turn [hand on her chest] to go and see him, she would say we have to go to she dad-- no she didn't even say daddy – we go see somebody. [Addresses her sisters in French?] What was the name of those people?

RV: Sadore [?]

EV: Isadore [?]

RV: Sadori[?]

EV: I think that's what she mentioned. So we, we left by bus or whatever it was and it was pouring and she said to me...she gave me a kerchief. It was red. "*Vi quel'uome de sopra. Fa la manna. Mandi la manna* [waving her hand]". *Mandi la manna, mandì la manna*. I didn't know who it was but it was only after, and after, and after [hand gesture] that she told me it was my father.

JP: And where did you go?

EV: Petawawa.

JP: You went all the way to Petawawa?

EV: All the way to Petawawa.

JV: *Avec mamma?* [seems surprised]

EV: *Mai oui* [continues to answer her sister in French]

JV: *Mamma avez la droit d'aller?*

EV: *Mai oui da...out...outside*

JV: Ah, outside.

EV: Outside, outside. But Tommy and Joe...Mimmi went. That I know. Tommy I don't know but

Mimmi went before me.

JV: Well I never went.

EV: Yeah.

JP: And that must have been a long train uh by bus you went—

EV: I remember it was by bus, yes.

JP: That must have been a long bus ride—

EV: I don't know but I remember it—

JP: And you never actually saw your father?

EV: I saw a man but I didn't know who he was. He was way up [raises arm in air and looks up] maybe on the sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth floor. And all you can see is somebody waving [waves her hand]. So I-I really don't know. But mommy and daddy they used to write, that I remember so probably she—he must have mentioned uh that he was going to go up the window when he was allowed [to bring somebody]— I don't know.

RV: Probably, probably.

JP: Is that shortly after he was interned? Or was that a long time after?

EV: I don't remember.

JP: Because you're saying six, seven floors. Is it possible that they went to Bordeaux Jail?

EV: That I never heard it, so I really don't know. I couldn't tell you.

JP: Cause you didn't hear about Bordeaux Jail. Or maybe St. Jean—

EV: No. No.

JV: That would be mom. But she never said nothing about that [unclear].

JP: It was up six, seven floors?

EV: Yeah. It was up high enough. It was a big, big building. All you could see was windows [hand gesture]. That's all.

JP: And it was either—It sounds like it was either Bordeaux or St. Jean – I'm not familiar with but—

RV: Yeah it could be.

JP: But one of those places because uh Petawawa was barracks.

RV: *Les barracks.*

JP: And it also makes sense because your father went later to Petawawa. It makes sense.

EV: I couldn't even remember how old I was so I don't know.

JP: WOW. Did uh ... you must have needed relief, also, some kind of assistance because at that time there was no social assistance from the government right?

RV: Hmm. Hm.

JP: Were agencies – like did you have say [unclear] or uh what was the other one—

JV: No. [Unclear. In French addressing RV – something about her mother going to the church for help to a Father Evangeliste]

EV: [responds to JV – something about not knowing]

JV: [In French notes the church/priest gave the mother nothing, and that she went to the church to get help for the family]

[Time: 55:00]

JP: She did try with the-the church.

JV: the church—

JP: And they didn't get any help with the church for whatever reason.

JV: [Shaking her head] Was Padre Vangelisti(?)

EV: The only thing that we had was [unclear-French?]

JV: [Unclear]

EV: that I remember.

JP: I brought you this document that you looked at earlier. It was a letter from your mother.

JV: I know.

JP: And I found it in the archives. Do you want to read it or--?

EV: Sure.

JV: [Unclear – French; motions to RV who picks up and looks at papers]

EV: [French]

RV: Do I have to read it?

JP: Are you okay. No, no, if you're not okay then don't read it aloud, that's fine. I'm just—

RV: No, it's just—[reaches for her glasses]

JP: If you want to read it just for the record or – it's up to you [unclear as RV begins to read]

RV: Dear Sir, In reply to your letter about my relief money, I want – I went to the relief office and they told me that they were waiting for information from you and as I have a big family [RV pauses] and no money, I need it badly [RV begins to tear up]. I wish you would inform them as soon as possible. Your's truly, Antonietta Visocchi. [RV flips the pages] This is hard.

JP: That's your mom's signature right?

RV: Yes. It sure is. That is why I recognize it right away cause we-we used to imitate, when we used to go to school. You know we had the note from the teacher or something [takes off the glasses]. We used to [makes signature gesture with her hand] put my mother's name. [Shakes her head] Poor mother. It was tough. So I guess that the help that she had from this uh Signora Gabarin [Garbarino]

JV: [Unclear]

RV: It must have been, must have been her that wrote it.

JV: She was a nice lady though.

JP: The documents are full with—from the correspondence from the uh government and the uh they said they were looking into the case but I didn't find anything that they actually came through.

RV: [Looking at the paper, waves her hand] The counsel of the Custodian ... Mrs. Visocchi has again written me under date of July 30th stating that the relief authorities of Montreal were waiting for information from this office and that as she has a big family and no money she

would like to have her application for relief disposed as soon as possible. Your's truly, the councilor, Custodian.

EV: I wonder if we would have had all these notes, if that would have helped us, when—when I went to the Immigration to try to have some money.

JP: You went to the immigration—

EV: Italian Immigration. I think I went 10 times.

JP: You mean at that time in the forties you're talking about—

EV: No.

JP: No.

EV: After my parents died. After my father died.

JP: You wanted to have uh—

EV: Well we never had help. So I wanted to know why? How come we never did? But [lifts her shoulders].

JP: As a family you mean like as a result of the internment.

EV: That's right. They didn't find anything. And it was—they couldn't--they didn't find anything. Whether or not, I don't know—

JP: They didn't find anything. Was it the Italian government that didn't find anything or was it?

EV: Immigration. Italian Immigration.

JP: Oh Italian.

EV: Yeah. Yeah. Italian immigration.

JP: Italian government.

EV: Yeah.

JP: And you go? I mean the years now if, but uh I don't know.

EV: It's past. It's a long time ago.

JP: How do you feel about that? The fact that [unclear]

EV: I feel bad because the uh the Jewish—

RV: Chinese. Chinese

EV: Chinese got an awful lot of help and my father, he never had nothing but what made me, the worst thing that I think it is I had asked the men, I had asked many times, why don't you make something with all the names [indicates a table with hands], and everything that they went through. Just their name that they went to Petawawa for nothing. Not even mentioning if he was Catholic or Protestant or whatever.

RV: No but the Italians a lot of them wanted their name erased.

EV: That too. That's the first one.

RV: In Petawawa. That doesn't appear that they were at the concentration camp.

JV: That they should.

EV: That was the first thing.

RV: That they weren't fascist, but they wanted their name, there's quite a few of them that they -- that's what they wanted -- their name erased completely.

JV: They should.

RV: They won't.

JP: You think they should erase their names, Josee?

JV: Their names. Sure. Why not?

RV: That's what they said.

JP: Well. Um. Your father. Let me ask you a question. Your father, did he have a blackshirt?

[KC: Krystle Copeland, transcriptionist for the second part of the interview, beginning here]

EV, JV, RV: [answer all at once- unclear] RV: ...never existed. Never, never.

JP: Your father uh, he, he was the president of the—

[all three nod in unison]

RV: Of the Italian Society. [Caserta]

JP: [Asserta Caserta] Okay.

JV: Of the Casa d'Italia.

[1:00:10.0]

JP: At the offices, were at the Casa d'—

[multiple speakers- unclear] RV: That's right, that's right. [nods]

JP: It was like uh, a paesan uh...regional association.

EV: Right. [nods]

JP: And they also continued to run after [your dad had come back?]-

JV: There's still doing it I think eh?. [says to RV]

RV: Yeah, oh yeah. [nods] Oh yeah it was yeah— EV: I don't think so—[unclear discussion with multiple speakers- French]

RV: *Mais oui.*

JV: Oh yeah. [unclear]—

RV: That's right. [nods] That's right.

JV: [*C'est un prisonneur*] [unclear]—

JP: And uh—

RV: [Mom] tried to pick up— [the dates]

JP: Your father we discovered also was uh in the Italian War Veterans Association—

RV: Yeah— [nods]

JP: [Ex-Combattenti.]

RV: [Ex-Combattenti.] Yeah that. [nods] [JV speaks unclearly at the same time]

JP: Your father as you said he, he served in World War One.

RV: That's right. [nods and everyone else nods and answers at the same time.]

JP: And he only came to Canada after—

RV: After World War One. Yeah.

JP: He was a board member.

RV: [nods] Yup.

JP: And that was uh legal from the documents that we looked at.

EV: Right.

RV: That's right, they did everything legal. Yeah. [unclear response from other two speakers]

JP: Okay, so why do you think your father was interned?

RV: This is what [looks up and pauses]—

EV: I'd like to know.—RV: After all these years we'd like to know— [nods]

EV: He was a hell of a good husband, a provider, a good [caregiver]—

JV: [unclear]—

EV: Everything so we don't know.

RV: Cause they said he was a fascist. But he wasn't.

EV: That's what I said. I know we don't know.

RV: I'm sure papa would have told us, you know his family, whatever his wife, the kids, never,

never, never. Like you said before, black shirt never existed in our house. [others respond saying no] Colours yes but black no. Never. [shakes head no]

JP: Do you think if the RCMP was looking at the case of your father and they said, well here's this man. He's the President of the uh, Reg— Regional Association. Uh, he, he was I'm not sure what year he stopped...but he was at one point uh, on the board of the uh Veterans Group—

EV: Yeah.

JP: Um...both groups are legal. They both had their [information]—

RV: Uh hmm.

JP: Do you think that the government is saying, "Well you know what he's in, he's in these two associations, he's probably or could be a threat to Canada."

RV: But in what way?

JP: What?

RV: In what way? He would be a threat?

JP: No, I'm just, I'm just—

RV: Yeah, I know, yeah. [nods]

JP: If we follow the other logic and we say—

RV: Yeah—

JP: ...we say well, if the RCMP is looking at this and that's the only two things they have to go on, we have to say—

[EV and RV begin speaking at the same time.]

JP: ...[unclear] how to prevent—

EV: I wish they would have, they would have asked us in those days. We would have known what to answer. But they didn't, so..[says with a shrug].

RV: They could have done—

JP: Your father— [says at same time as RV speaking] RV: ...done more research—

JP: Was he given a trial?

RV: No.

JP: Was he given a trial at all?

EV: No. [RV shakes head no] He didn't get any at all—

RV: Nothing, nothing. That's why today we're still wondering. After so many years—

JV: We're still wondering, yeah.

EV: That is something that I'd like to know.

JP: And if somebody were to tell me—

JV: Like why did they believe that man that gave all the name? Who he was that man?

JP: 'Cause—

JV: I don't understand.—

JP: You heard that there—

RV: He was— [nods]

JP: [unclear] with lists right?

EV: Yes.

RV: Yeah.

JP: Did you hear that from your father afterwards or did you hear that on the street—

EV: No, I didn't. [RV shakes head no]

JP: No, no, but the people who were making lists. Who told you that people made lists?

JV: Well I heard [unclear] that says— EV: From somebody that the father was in, was in there—

JP: It was like through your father or through friends— EV: None, through friends.

JV: Through friends. [French]

EV: [unclear] *maintenant*.

JV: [unclear]

EV: Yup. [unclear]

JP: But those, your father believes that he was probably put on the list. Did your father ever talk about that—

JV: Not— RV: Never— JV: *Non*. Daddy never spoke about—EV: Never to us— JV: He was a very quiet person on the side. Never. Very quiet huh?

RV: [nods]

JP: So during the two years that he was gone, how did your mother man— because she obviously tried to make an effort to get some kind of relief. Some kind of institutional help. You, you're telling me that there was no relief coming from the church—

JV: No.

JP: There was no assistance coming from the church? [everyone shakes their head no at once] It

came through friends?

JV: Friends, and madam this lady was rich, madame [De Gabarinio] –

JP: [De Gabarinio] family—

JV: [Rich] [nods]—

JP: Um—

RV: [Sadori] aussi.

JV: [Sadori] [unclear- mumbles quietly]— EV: [Who's] Sadori— RV: Madame [Sadori] she was uh...

JP: And the kids made through by getting odd jobs you were saying, selling corn or—

RV: Papers [nods]— JV: Paper, corn—JP: At the market— EV: And working for the uh, uh, farmer at the market. Selling apples. RV: Oh yeah. [says with a smile. JV: Yeah. EV: Even that. JV: We used to sell apples *oui* [unclear]— EV: [unclear] Shabot. JV & RV: Shabot. JV: Madame Shabot.—RV: Shabot, they used to put their boxes their tables in our backyard— JV: Used to sell 'cause we used to speak French and—RV: And then we were lucky because we used to find a dime or a nickel that they dropped. We kept it. [laughs] JV: *Mais* [unclear]—RV: Ah, *oui*. JV: We were rich. RV: [laughs] EV: I didn't hear what you said. [leans in close to hear] JV: We were rich. [RV and EV laugh] JV: [unclear]— EV: Can you dream [in those days.]— RV: [unclear] Josee.

JP: Two years is a long time. Like when it got to your birthday and your father wasn't there...

[1:05:29.3]

JV: I don't remember that.—

JP: At Christmas—EV: Well he had people upstairs— RV: He came out...two days before my birthday. EV: Yeah. RV: He came out June 1st. And my birthday is June 3rd so— JV: Tell her about that— RV: So I was there— JV: You went with mommy to pray at the shrine. That day.

RV: Um, momma was a strong believer. My mother is a...very Catholic. And Brother Andre today, is Saint Andre; she used to go every week to talk to him. And I used to go with her, because I was the youngest one. And then we used to go...first we used to go pray in the church and I'm sure you know that St. Joseph is there, the statue and he has a little baby in his arm. And the baby has a two fingers like this. [motions a V shape with two right fingers] And then my mother was praying so I kept on poking her and I said, "Mama [unclear] *ha due dita* [unclear]"—

JV: She still [unclear]—

RV: [Shakes head] My mother, she used to, she would cry. She would continue praying. Two days later my dad came out. [nods] Out of concentration camp. [says emotionally]

EV: My mother knew because I remember, we, she used to say [unclear-Italian].—

RV: I remember her saying that yeah.—

EV: We used to clean the house we were good. We were [unclear] yeah—RV: [unclear]— EV:

That I remember saying that. RV: [unclear]— JP: She said it was a visitor coming over? EV: Yeah. She never said it was my father—JV: No.— EV: We were having visitor so we have to go and clean the house and do everything and wear nice clothes and—JP: She was in a good mood?

EV: Well my fa— my husband—uh the husband was coming home.-- JV: [unclear]— JP: So, but she didn't tell you so she could [keep it as a surprise]— JV: But we didn't go around near to him. [*N'est pa?*] [unclear]— EV: Especially her, she didn't want to see him. [points to RV] RV: Yeah. JV: She didn't want; she was [unclear] eh? [unclear] RV: [nods] JV: So we were everyone, part *il prend de son* [unclear]— EV: We didn't know who he was. JP: You didn't know him. EV: No because he had changed. He had a long beard. [touches chin] JV: A long beard and I don't know, we were young— EV: I remember that he had the long beard. JV: I know that we didn't go near like *maman*. EV: No. JV: He said, come on *bambin*— [unclear] *papa e qui, papa*. But...[shrugs] *non*.— EV: So no we don't wish that to nobody. Cause nobody deserved what we went though.—

JP: Cause your father was gone for two years. You were children. When he came back he had the beard.

JV: He wasn't the same. He was pale—RV: [unclear]— JP: He was pale? RV: I don't remember. EV: [unclear] that's all. RV: He was skinny I'm sure— EV: I do not remember too— JV: [unclear] [points to EV]

JP: It was June 1st when he came out in '42.—RV: '40. No, '42 yeah. [EV and JV speak quietly together- unclear] '42 that's right. [nods] JP: June 1st, 1942— RV: That's right, that's right. [nods] JP: And... RV: The thing that I remember my dad I remember, I don't know if you remember that [says to other two sisters] I'm sure he used to say where he was. He [said] we used to wear these outfits that they had to wear. And they had a red ball in the back. A red

circle. [makes a round shape with hands] And he said if you tried to get out [becomes emotional]—JV: Oh yeah. RV: They would shoot him. [says with tears] JV: Right. RV: That I remember— EV: And we saw [that] in the play. [unclear]— RV: That was later on he said, he didn't say when I was—EV: Is that—RV: I guess when I was of age. EV: We saw that in the play too, didn't we? [asks RV] RV: Yeah. Oh, way back too. And he used to say "[unclear-Italian]". "If we would have tried to get out or get away or something— EV: Yeah, I remember that. RV: He says that was where they had to shoot. [makes circular shape with hands] So you know, that's always in the back of your mind.

JP: And, and I'm thinking of that day your father came through the house. Your mother must have been in ultimate joy— it sounds to me, I'm, I'm guessing that she must have been told that he was going to be released. Which is probably why she [had you clean the house]—EV: It could be, [she] could have found out yes that he was going to be— JP: Maybe she kept it as a surprise for the kids— but so all the kids were there, present when he came? EV: Well I know us we were but I don't remember about the boys. JV: I don't know— EV: Frankie and Louie— JV: No. [unclear]—EV: I don't know— JP: They didn't approach him? EV: No. RV: I guess probably to us, not me, I don't know, I can't say, probably was a stranger, who knows. [JV says at the same time: I remember] RV: You know after two years, when you're young like that. JV: [unclear] says "papa, papa" EV: No, I don't remember that, no. JP: Did he come to you? EV: I don't remember.— JV: I— JP: Your mother pushed you? RV: I guess she must have poor mama.

JV: [unclear- French]

EV: I don't even know if he came— he walked home alone or what. Somebody drove him? I don't know. [shrugs] I'm sure he had no money.

JP: That must have been difficult for your father.

EV: My father and my mother.

JV: Father—

JP: But for him to come in the house cause—

RV: [points to something motioning to be quiet, and everyone pauses quietly]

JP: It must have been difficult for him to come in the house and—

RV: I could just imagine—

[1:10:27.7]

JP: I you could like—I can understand you being—

RV: Reluctant to go—

JV: [unclear]—

JP: Because you're children, right. It's not like...

RV: You know, for two years you say, okay he's your father. But when you're little... [shrugs]

You know you don't see him for two years you say, "Who's that stranger?" [shrugs]

EV: But we had the best father in the world—

RV: The best—

JV: Best, best mother, best father—

EV: Yeah.

JP: How did uh, like when you came back then like he must have, God it's so hard to ask you these questions 'cause I know you were young but I guess he must have tried to find work right away— did you ever find out later, what it was like for him to come back? To re-find work and uh...

EV: No, he used to talk to us, he made this beautiful boat. Do you remember the *batteau*?
[unclear] *c'est beaux*. And we were all interested to see that I mean because we had—JV: The boat yeah, well we were young. [laughs] EV: Young. [shrugs]— RV: There were two tables that he made—JV & EV: Yeah.— EV: And the little [unclear]— RV: Oh yeah. EV: Those were all things that he made when he was there. That he brought home. RV: Yeah. EV: He brought home.

JP: At camp—

EV: Yeah, and he brought home—

JP: He brought home some gifts, the wood—

EV: Yeah—

RV: Two tables and I have the two round tables, and half a moon table.

EV: Yeah—

RV: [*Je les garde dans mon coeur*]. Yup.

JP: Did he—

JV: After so many years to have to go back to [us].

RV: [laughs]

EV: Yeah to do something to keep busy— JV: You [they] have to do something. [says while shaking head] The government. RV: [rolls eyes] You think they'll— they won't do anything—JV: Yes. [unclear]— RV: Me, all I want to see—and I'd love to see—JV: Erase the name— RV: No, erase the name, no— I'd love to see a plaque and put the names of—EV: That's what I said.— RV: Of all the men that were interned—EV: And the army, [when daddy] was in the army too.— RV: That would be so, so nice. At least when you look at it you say at least they were recognized— EV: That's what I asked— RV: They erased—JV: Oh, you're not going to— RV: Their names—JV: Money, we don't need money. RV: No. JV: Cause that's what I— EV: I asked a man and I mentioned who and they never did anything—

JP: But Josee, you're saying 'cause uh, there's like two different stories here, 'cause Josee you're saying you want to erase the fact that he even existed in the camp. Or—

JV: Erase the name—

RV: The files, they must have files in the Petawawa I'm sure. JV: They must have files— EV: No,

but the court, the court they wouldn't, the court because—

JP: What would you want the name erased for what reason?

[all three women answer at once- unclear]

RV: That's right—

JV: *C'est*— those poor people they had, they wanted— internee for nothing. There must have been a mistake, there must have been something. But why they did that, [if you could] read it one day before we die. I don't know?

JP: You're doing it right now though. That's what you're doing right now. Now Josee.

EV: We're not going to find it—

RV: We'll never find it.

JP: But you're, you're actually saying it. You're recording it.

[JV and RV look at one another]

RV: I don't know if they'll ever do that Josee.—

JP: No, but you're, your voice now, your stories are telling us that—

EV: Yeah.

JP: That's exactly what you're doing. And you also mentioned— 'cause there was also this conflict because I understand I think what you're trying to say Josee is like, you're upset that these men were pointing at as being guilty. When in fact, to this day, you still don't know why he was interned—

RV: Exactly. Exactly—

JP: He was interned and uh—

JV: That's right. [nods]—

JP: I'm going to ask you a question, just because I'm going to see for the record—was your father ever uh, do you think your father could have imposed a threat to Canada?

EV: I don't— RV: No. I don't think so— EV: No. RV: No way! No way. Probably they thought, but—

JP: Okay and do you think uh, your father uh was able to be a good Italian and a good Canadian at the same time?

EV: Yes-- RV: Sure he could— JV: Sure, why not—RV: Definitely. Definitely—EV: I never heard my father arguing with nobody—JV: [unclear- at same time as RV]—RV: [That's right] EV: French, or Italian, Greek, any nationality, never. [says while shaking head no. RV: That's right— EV: [unclear] senior [Visocchi] no— JV: [unclear]— EV: He was so loved, imagine, even by the cat. We had a cat, right? My father would leave from the front to go to work, and the cat would leave from the back and he would get to where he take the train—RV: The bus?— EV: No, the

car— JP: Travel—EV: At the corner of Belanger and uh...Belanger and St.— RV: St. Denis— [says St. Denis at same time as EV] EV: The cat would be there waiting for my father. So just, just imagine how good he was. Even the cat. RV: And the chair, nobody was allowed to sit in papa's chair. EV: Oh, if we would sit there the cat would kill us— RV: 'Cause he would [motions having claws out] yeah—

[1:15:01.0]

JP: The cat didn't want; the cat protected your father—

EV: That's right— RV: Oh yeah, oh yeah. Oh yeah— JV: [She] must have been good— JP: Animals know eh? RV: [nods] JV: [Oh they know].

JP: Did you ever come into situations where you met people who have had uh, a father interned and there's been any kind of discussion or debate or like when people say—some people say uh, oh their fathers were interned or they weren't interned. Like for example, when your father was interned and all we know is that he was, he had this association—

RV: Right.

JP: Regional association. For the people who came from [la paese] and he was also at one point an—

RV: Ex combatenti.—

JP: A member of which, he did—

RV: Yeah.

JP: During the war—

RV: That's right. [nodding]

JP: Through the years as a veteran. Um...[I forgot my question]...oh yeah. [laughs] Uh, and your father wasn't a fascist. Did you ever meet children of men who were fascists?—

RV: Yes—

JP: Who weren't interned?

RV: Yes— JV: [unclear]— JP: Without giving names— RV: No, no, no— JV: [unclear]— JP: We're talking about the situation— JV: I was—RV: They're so proud! Which is sad because we happened to call...we were going on a trip [points to JV] with the club— JV: [Trip one of us]— RV: And we were talking about it and somehow that came up, that [we're] fascists yeah.— JV: 'Cause they were singing some Italian songs—RV: and I said, oh my God, my father was interned. How come? You know are there people who were saying "how come?" We don't know. We still don't know to today. They thought he was fascist. And the other one says, "my father's fascist—JV: My father's fascist. Don't say nothing!—she was saying to me because I said, "your father was fascist?"— RV: I said, "don't be proud to say that he was fascist, okay, my father spent two years away from his family. Seven children. And with my mother we went through hell. Don't you dare say that in front of us." JV: And she "shut up, shut up"— RV: She was telling us to shut it because there was other people, but we didn't mention no names. We didn't say nothing. We just said fascist. My father wasn't a fascist. But that's why he was interned, for something that he was wrongly in—uh put in jail for that. So you know, oh they're

so proud to say oh fascist, but what is it?

EV: They're not going to say the word in jail. No.

RV: Yeah...

JV: But his father was fascist and he wasn't in there?

RV: No.

JV: But he wasn't in there and us we're—

EV: There's a lot of people that—

JP: That is the perception that the people that weren't—

RV: Oh yeah, oh yeah—

JP: Some people that were believers in that—

EV: Believe me, on dad's street there was an awful lot. – RV: The fascists, yeah—EV: I'm not naming names but—

JP: But what are you thinking it meant to people in those days? Like looking about it back now, now I'm asking you as adults—

EV: I couldn't tell you— JP: Today, okay. [EV muffles mic sounds by touching her collar] JP:

Looking back, at today, because obviously as a young women, young women there was no way you could know. But looking at it today, what do you think it meant to those Italians to be fascist?

EV: I couldn't tell you because— EV & RV: I don't know [together] RV: I don't know why— JP: If it wasn't today...you're looking back and I'm just asking you to reflect on everything. [clears throat] Cause through the experience of having lived it and you know having your father interned. Coming out of that, living a very difficult time what do you think that meant back then? Do you have any...idea?

RV: Why does it give me more—EV: [answers at same time as RV— unclear]—RV: More power than we have? Or what? I don't know. [shrugs] JP: No I'm just— RV: Like today I told— EV: [unclear]— RV: That's why I say, today there are French Canadians or English or if you do something wrong, we always come back to that. Oh, don't, don't fool around with her, or with him because the mafia is behind—JV: Mafia— RV: Why, because we're Italian, it's always mafia behind? Why? Why?— JV: Why do [they have to act that way?] RV: So maybe them, who knows...fascist they were. I don't know— EV: It was the prison—RV: That was terrible to always—you still hear it today. JP: That's a really interesting comment though, Rosetta because it, it's a comment I guess that comes out of ignorance. RV: Thank you. Yeah. EV: Yeah. JP: When somebody says, "oh, you're Italian, oh you must be connected to the mob right?" EV, JV, & RV: Yeah [at same time] JP: Which is an ignorant comment. RV: And then they say, "oh, well don't go out tomorrow morning you're going to have to watch under your car to see if there's a— JV: Yeah. RV: I said, "oh, my God." What— EV: They're not Italian those people—RV: No. But that's what I'm saying.— JP: Wait, wait, wait—what Rosetta I think is saying Alice is that maybe in the same way we hear those remarks today—EV: Yeah. RV: that's right— JP: Perhaps 70 years ago in— RV: In those daysssssssssss— JP: That's what the fascists [thought passed on] to those people that [weren't] fascists. Similar to today when people would say, "Oh, you're mafia but

you're not." RV: That's it, that's it. [nods] JP: So it's, I think— RV: But it hurts when you hear them say that, oh you know, "*attention*. Be careful because uh, she's Italian." So. You know, I look at them and I say "so?" Oh "the mafia". "No, I'm not, I don't have any. If I was in the mafia I would be here today, I'd be rich; I'd be on a hill somewhere beautiful." [EV laughs] I'm sorry, I don't like it when they say that. JV: No.

[1:20:05.8]

EV: No— RV: That hurts. You know they— you've got that, you're Italian...mafia behind. [rolls eyes] JP: You think they, you see a similarity with that and what happened back then? RV: Oh yeah, phff. Definitely. Definitely. [nods]

JP: In school did they ever teach you about any of this stuff in your—

RV: Nnnn...[shakes head] EV: Never—JP: In the school there at uh, at that time like even after did they say, look this is what happened—JV: No, I never heard nothing— RV: Never, never. JP: Never questions— JV: That was like a [unclear] RV: It was [unclear] it's true. JV: I don't know. *Ne personne a jamais*. Nobody ever told us that— RV: Never told us about that day. I don't— JV: Never, never. JP: How, then how does it feel growing up, knowing that there's this secret in your family. Which was the internment. And not because—I'm using that word in the sense that, like you said it was cache at the time. People didn't talk about it—EV: Yeah it was—JP: And that's a really common uh remark. So, so many of these families, families of the men who had a man interned, all grew up with this secret in their lives. How did that make you feel that you know you had this story about your dad being interned and your family didn't talk about it. People didn't talk about it so...how did you deal with that? [EV & JV answer at the same time—unclear] EV: And we, we couldn't deal with that because we didn't, we didn't know about it— RV: Well not that much— EV: Yeah. Today we hear what happened, but then— today nobody

spoke about it. Nobody would mention anything, even when—RV: I'm proud to say my father was interned but wrongly, and very, I'm very proud to say they put him in jail for something that he wasn't— EV: Not in jail— RV: Fascist but in uh, concentration camp. JP: Why, what is it that makes you proud of that now? JV: Well at least we were with the...[laughs and looks at RV] RV: Go ahead. JV: *En volle [unclear]. Sont, Il n'était pas un fasciste [unclear] deux*— two years for what? RV: Out of their lives. JV: Why, why? Why they had to pay two years? They didn't do anything those poor people.—JP: Well they paid, and your family paid too. Your mother paid— EV: Yeah sure—RV: That's right, that right everybody—JV: And they didn't even help us, the family that we need to eat. We needed things. We had to now uh— RV: We needed help. [nods] JV: Those people that come [unclear]— EV: Well like the letter says right here they refused to give money to [unclear]—RV: That's right. JV: They helped [unclear] They go there they have money they have everything— EV: They have everything...they have an open door! JV: They have everything and us— EV: They have an open door.—JP: [They don't] have the [medical] bills paid either in those days did you? EV: Pardon me? JP: Medical bills—RV: Medical— EV: No we didn't no. [JP speaks unclearly at the same time] RV: No, no that's right [JP continues to talk unclearly] JP: [unclear] there was no uh— EV: When we went to the hospital but we didn't pay. JP: Oh you didn't? EV: No. JV: [unclear] EV: No, we didn't pay in those days. [unclear- multiple speakers]

JP: Was your father a Canadian citizen uh, naturalized uh...

EV: Yes, yes.

JP: He was. Okay—

EV: My mother too.

JP: Your mother too?

EV: Yeah, my...

JP: And when he came out, how do you think that affected him? This, this—

EV: He was uh, he was uh [unclear]—JV: Very [unclear] yeah—EV: And he was sad. JV: Very [unclear] RV: My father was very closed in. [nods] He's the type of person— EV: It took, it took a while before he would uh—RV: Even later on we always used to say, oh papa...when you were finished eating, papa would go in the living room and listen to the music. JV: [unclear] RV: To opera, by himself. JV: Opera. RV: He was a loner. JV: A loner, yeah. RV: Really, we have to say his was a loner—because my mother in the back, we were with all the girls laughing and my father used to go in the front. So who knows what went through his mind. EV: Yeah because— JV: All the same years— EV: Yeah because he was not the same man as when he went in there. No, no. RV: Right.

JP: But I would imagine I'm guessing, I don't know your father, but if he had been president of uh, [l'assazione]—

RV: [La Casetta]

JP: [La Casetta] he was probably an outgoing man, right. If he's president then—

RN: Oh yeah. EV: Yeah. RN: But that's—

JP: He would have talked to uh people. JV: I think that must have helped him a bit— EV: In the park and playing ball in with those guys— JV: I think that must have helped him a bit uh—RV: When he came back to yeah, [l'assazione] he did—

JV: He used to like that too— RV: [rolls eyes]—

JP: How did—he went back to the association—

[all three women speak at once saying yes but unclear] RV: Oh yeah, for years.—

EV: He had nothing to hide, hide. He was back to uh President of the [unclear]—

JP: And then did you see his personality more—JV: Sad, very sad. He was—RV: But no he was still— [JV and EV speak at once] RV: Still [nods and points to chest]. JV: [unclear- French] That he couldn't bring it out—EV: And I could never, myself, I could never sit next to my father and say papa [unclear] I couldn't do that. JV: Me too. EV: I thought it was time but no—

[1:25:02.3]

JP: Oh you actually thought of asking?

EV: Yeah.

RV: Yeah. [both nod]

JP: And you were stopped in your—

JV: I couldn't— me too—

JP: Why? [All three speakers begin at once] RV: Because that would bring back— EV: I was afraid—JV: I was afraid— RV: Bad memories— JV: When he was quiet [I would] have liked to go there and say— RV: No he doesn't—JV: What did they do to you? What uh—RV: *Qu'est que fait* [unclear]— JV: Yeah. RV: But he would sit there and—JV: Quiet— RV: Very quiet— JV: I would

have loved to know, come out of him you know— RV: No, he wouldn't uh—JV: No— RV: No.

JP: Do you think he told your mom?

EV: He must have.

RV: Probably with mama, I'm sure, but mama never said a word.

JV: Never said a word.

RV: No. Never.

JV: Never.

RV: No.

EV: And my poor mother what she had to, what she went through, she went through hell before she died. And that's something that I had a hard time to swallow.

JV: Me too.

EV: She didn't deserve it. [Says emotionally]

JP: When uh, um, after your father came back...he started working right away or did, did it take a bit of time—

EV: [No.]—

JP: Did it take a bit of time then [unclear]—

EV: I don't know.

JP: But—

RV: It must have taken a little bit of time to—

JV: *Oui.*

RV: *Il travailler* at Carona. What's...

JV: [unclear] Belanger.

RV: Yeah, Belanger...

JV: Contstruction—

RV: Construction—

JP: After or before?

JV & RV: After.

RV: After.

JP: But it was it wasn't like a consistent job—

RV: No, he would yeah. [nods]

JV: No.— RV: He was a bricklayer— EV: He would take anything that was offered a little more money—RV: Yeah. Brick layer...at Carona. Uh Margherita Pizzeria.

EV: And we never missed anything. Even clothes after. Never—

JV: Never—

EV: He used to say to my mom, mother [*unclear*] *besoin de*...she would go to eat and then she would come back with either a coat or anything—

JV: Pair of shoes—

EV: Yeah—

JP: [pause] Did he ever uh—

JV: [Very] provide eh? [says to RV with a smile]

RV: He provided yeah. [nods] For us very good yeah. [JV speaks unclearly at the same time]

EV: Even with the—JV: -- He had a take uh [*unclear*- French]— RV: Papa didn't show no.—EV: That's right—JV: He couldn't—RV: There's a reason— JP: But do you think that was considered [*unclear*] or was it, was it a man thing, was it a generation thing? Was it because there was

shame maybe he felt sad? EV: I don't think that he was—[JV & RV speak unclearly at the same time over EV] JP: He was a machine then? EV: No, no I don't think it was just inside, what he went though, maybe he didn't accept. It was hard for him to have a smile all the time. JV: *Pense* [unclear]— JP: Yeah, eh? RV: Very seldom you'd get a smile out of papa. JV: Well they destroyed him— RV: Yeah. JV: They destroyed him. EV: And my mother, my mother she was always happy. [unclear-Italian] So we used to laugh. RV: Ah, God bless. [says with a smile] JP: Do you think your mother compensated? To try to make the children feel more—RV: I'm sure she did— EV: [unclear]Yeah I'm sure— JV: Sure, she did.— RV: Yeah. I'm sure. EV: Yeah. But every time we wanted to do something, go somewhere, [*demandez*] papa, papa.— RV: [laughs] JV: It was like that. He was strict like that but—RV: With five girls. JV: I know—EV: And we're lucky that he never touched us. Never. JV: You know—RV: Never laid a hand on us. Never. JV: Now we're old but we were beautiful girls. [laughs] EV: He used to cut our hair. RV: *Tu si* [unclear] [laughs] EV: He used to cut our hair—JV: Yeah I know. He used to cut our hair. RV: Oh. [makes shape of hair around face] EV: He used to be a [unclear]— JV: [unclear] yeah. He used to do, he used to do [unclear]. He used to do everything. RV: [laughs]— JP: Your father—JV: Papa did everything— RV: Oh [laughs] JV: It used to be a big bang and all the same cut we used to have. RV: [continues to laugh] JV: But he had no, we had no money. At the beginning. That's why— EV: Yeah, I know. That's right. JV: He had to, he had to do all these things. We went uh— RV: He was a jack of all trades. When you think of it. He was a good provider, God bless him— JV: Yeah— RV: He, he would do anything. JP: It's sad— JV: Yeah, well I would be happy if this guy that did that they would go to Petawawa for two years. That would be, that would satisfy me.— EV: Yeah, but not him, our dad don't forget— RV: They're gone Josee just say [says while touching her hand.] JV: [unclear] It doesn't matter—RV: Let God take care of them. EV: [unclear]—JV: [unclear]—RV: No.— JV: Let them see what those guys when through for nothing. If they had to pay okay, but they went though for nothing. RV: Well— JV: For nothing—JP: What should they have done? To compensate the families?

JV: *Non*, [unclear]—JP: No, back then—

RV: No, but like—

JP: What should they have done? How should they have handled the thing? They caught—they grabbed— did your father ever have um, um, uh...present himself in front of a court? And was there a case—

JV & RV: [both] Never, never.

JP: Was there, did they— did they ever produce—

EV: To defend no—

JP: Produce evidence?

EV: No, never, not that we know.

JP: Okay, fine.

EV: Not that we know. No.

JP: Did, did uh, they never when he was picked up did—you didn't even know where he was going right?

RV: No— JV: We didn't even know where he was going. He said [at home] he said, [unclear] you were crying a lot [says to RV] uh, "your father's going, we're going to come back" EV: I

remember that man said that. JV: We're going to come back, yeah.— EV: We'll be back. JV:
That's not fair neither. EV: Yeah but—

JP: I wonder what your mother ever found out after? Cause obviously you went to, uh you
were saying—

EV: Yeah—

JP: Alice, you went to visit—

EV: Yeah.

JP: So your mother must have found out where he was? And—

[1:30:21.9]

EV: I guess it must have been either madame uh [Cavalliero] or—

JV: Do you know madame [unclear]—EV: [unclear], *oui*.— RV: [unclear]—JV: [unclear]— EV: The
least I know— RV: [unclear] JV: [unclear]— RV: [unclear]—JV: Madame [De Felerito]. EV:
Madame [De Fleury?] JV: Oui, madame [De Fleurito] oui.— JP: She helped also? EV: I don't
remember that name. I don't recall— JV: Oui. [nods] [De Fleurito] did you know [unclear]
comme Germaine.— RV: *Germaine. Germaine*. [unclear] JV: *Trois ou quatre hommes, que*
[unclear] il a été arrêté.—

JP: Was your father—socialize with other men after that you know of? [All three women begin
speaking at once] JV: That we don't— RV: *Oui mais* EV: Well once—JP: Like after, no like he, like

it sounds like he was very quiet and he was very— that he internalized all his— RV: Yeah. JP: his feelings. Did you ever uh remember like [la visita] uh, men coming over just to talk with your dad. Like [unclear]— EV: No.—JV: *No, pa boucoup— no. Maman oui.* RV: No he used to say papa used to go play bocce— EV: Yeah, but that yeah at home, but then after— JV: *Oui mais [unclear] la visite papa na pas [unclear]*—EV: But then after...*na pas pa des visite, n'est pa de visite des amis que n'est de [unclear] toujours quatre.* JV: *Toujours quatre, non.* EV: But he would go and uh, bocce? RV: Play bocce. [nods] EV: Bowling. RV: Bowling. [nods] JV: [unclear] *va, va, va.* EV: Come back with those chocolate bars.

RV: To a movie once and a while. EV: Oh yeah, he used to go to movies.

JV: He used to bring a chocolate bar to us—

EV: The baggie would go [motions pulling up a long string or bag of chocolates] the manufacturer and he would take them out. RV: That's why we like chocolate today [says with laugh]— EV: [Like it was a chocolate string] That and the ice cream, I can't forget. JV: Me too. We— EV: No, we used to go and he used to buy the big, big brick. [makes the shape of a shoebox with hands] like *glace* uh [unclear] put in the tub. [unclear] *que manger.* [unclear]— JP: Did uh, the uh ice— JV: [unclear]—JP: [unclear]—RV: No the, that was the frozen, the ice. JV: You know [unclear] used to pass. For the ice? RV: Who? JP: Oh, you mean the ice box you mean? JV: Yeah. EV: Yeah but that was not the ice, no it was something else when you used to buy the ice cream, they would give you this uh, it would burn your finger if you would touch it. RV: Oh, what do you call that? The yeah. EV: Oh, I was trying to figure it out. The name uh... RV: The *glace oui, oui [quel était-il?]* EV: Trying to remember the name— JP: It was so cold but yeah I know what you—RV: And that would keep it uh— EV: Yeah. JP: Oh you would keep that for the uh, uh... EV: For dessert or I guess we had to have something in the afternoon if we were good. RV: [laughs] JV: But we— RV: If we were good. [says with a laugh] EV: We were, mom

used to say all the time, [unclear] RV: [laughs] EV: Yeah all we had to do, we used to play in the backyard and when it was raining we were happy. We'd get in a bathing suit and we would go outside and get wet. And today it's awful eh? JV: Today uh, the *piscine*. EV: Today the opposite the piscine that they have [unclear]—JV: [unclear]—we were poor but we were so happy— EV: Yeah. JV: So happy between us. And friend— RV: But back then you didn't know you were poor you didn't say [unclear] EV: No because [unclear]— RV: No, we were all the same. *Quand les jeunes* they don't think of that-- JV: Yeah [unclear]—EV: [unclear]— JV: [unclear]—RV: No— EV: [unclear]— JV: [unclear]— EV: [unclear]—JV: [unclear]— RV: Non.

JP: But in the, in the area did you feel a strong sense of community there?

RV: Oh yeah—

JV: Oh yeah—

EV: No. [shakes head]

JP: You didn't feel poor or—

RV: No. EV: No JV: no.

JP: Everybody more or less.

RV: More or less were the same, that's right.

JP: So, did you feel ever a strong sense of community, like you belonged?

EV: Yeah we did— RV: Oh yeah, oh yeah.— EV: And everybody had a big family, on top of it. The only thing there was two doors on the way to [unclear] there was ah boot uh... RV: Bootlegging. JV: And then there was 213, and us we were 231. So sometimes they would come and—JP: Oh, people would mix them up. RV: In the back, by the back. EV: Uh hmm. And tried to make sure that he, he would [unclear] Oh, we had nice, nice people on our street.

JP: I wonder how, afterwards like after your father internalized a lot of [unclear while JV coughs] I wonder how he was able to [unclear]?

EV: I'd love to know. I would love to know. RV: I would, and we'll never find out. Yeah.

EV: You know we were brought up...we don't ask questions. So you wouldn't ask any questions to our father or our mother. It was out of respect. So we never did. JV: *Sait vrait*. That's true. RV: It wasn't respectful. Yeah. EV: That's why [we never fight] I never saw my mother and father in bed together. Never. RV: [laughs] EV: So...imagine. RV: [laughs]

[1:35:09.8]

JP: And afterwards would they um, were they still part of the Italian community—[JV & RV speak together unclearly] JP: The forties and the fifties— EV: Always. JP: Always...Josee do you want to put some ice on your uh, yeah, I was just—

[camera fades out at 1:35:23.7]

RV:...two, three, four.

JP: Now we're just talking about this whole issue right now, 'cause you're dealing with an issue

that has been sort of off the radar in terms of Canadian business. Your dad like you said it wasn't something he really talked about even though you both expressed a real desire to know—

RV: Right—

JP: What his experience. Your mom didn't really pass on the stories. Um, how did you find out? [unclear] Like how did you find out the, of what had happened and other people tell you did you get information from newspapers? Uh...um, how did you learn this story? On your own. Do you remember? How, did it come to you in bits and pieces? Uh...

EV: Well from mouth to mouth after many years after. That's how we— RV: Yeah—

EV: From mouth to mouth.

JP: It took time it wasn't— JV: No, it took time we were older right. EV: It took time, oh that's right it took time. JV: Very old.

JP: Do you remember yourself already living at St. Michele at the time, like just to put it in perspective here that would have been the 50s. So do you remember it more later on and people said, "oh yeah, we were interned" or hearing it from other people. RV: No that wasn't— EV: Some people no, we didn't hear that— RV: [clicks tongue] EV: No, no. Cause they won't say anything— RV: That was a no-no yeah. That was a no-no they wouldn't talk about it. EV: Cause my mother never did. But I never heard my mother talking about it when they were [unclear]. And they would come by, come by but that never. RV: That was—JV: [unclear] *les journeaux* in the the paper that was [unclear], no? EV: [unclear]— JV: There was nothing, there was everything [unclear]. But how it was [hide] why?

JP: They're great questions Josee—EV: That was government. JV: Government—RV: Government and [JV and RV at same time] they say yeah—JV: We can't uh—RV: Win with them Josee [makes tsk tsk sound]—JV: We can't ask questions—EV: Well you can try. You can always try. JV: Yeah.

JP: You never made an attempt to— EV: Yes, you can try. RV: [laughs looking up] JP: In the past there were some um...attempts made to uh...collect the story. Are you aware of anything? JV and RV: no [at same time] EV: No, nobody ever— EV: You're right, that's the first time we see [points towards JP]— RV: Yeah. JV: Thanks to you at least uh...we find out things and uh...RV: And we found pictures and— JV: Pictures my dad, my— JP: You get [unclear] when you see these things like I gave you today. RV: [sighs] uh hard. Hard. EV: You can't explain it. JV: First thing I had my— EV: It's touching it's hard, and we no, we never know how to thank you. To start with—JV: Never.

JP: But you're okay that, to see that, find that— JV: Sure. RV: That's the [unclear while EV coughs] keep on talking and talking— EV: [unclear] while my father was away— RV: Yeah, that's right. EV: We learned more today. JV: We have a surprise today, lots of surprise. Huh? RV: There's a lot of things—JP: But that's okay for you, like you're okay with getting the story. EV: Oh sure—RV: Yes you know what they say better late than never. [JV unclearly speaking at the same time] RV: Never— EV: Yeah, yeah. RV: And this is later but boy it's a heck of a story to find out—

JP: How do these things change now, what uh, or how do they affect you in terms of you've lived through this. These are just things in the newspapers, but you've actually lived this, this life, this experience. And now you know you've lived the documents, you've seen some of the things that my mother gave you with your father's picture with the [assazione] and these

documents from the archives. And uh, the newspaper things, clippings. How does that make you feel now? With this fresh information when you look back? Does it uh, contradict, does it go and support, does it fill in the gap?

RV: It, I have a relief, to me— EV: I was just going to say that—RV: To me, I feel relieved that we found out a few things exactly what they did or okay, we won't know everything but—EV: Not exactly but uh— JV: Exactly but— RV: Some of the things that we heard or we read it give us a sen—a relief a bit. That my dad never spoke about it, when we were older we still— JV: Never— RV: I don't remember daddy speaking about it— JV: Mommy either [shakes head no] RV: Never. It was a secret. JV: It was a secret— RV: I guess he didn't want to hurt us JV: Us, well sure— EV: Not even from our aunt, my father's sister— RV: Never, nobody, nobody— EV: They never say anything about it. Maybe that was his choice. That he mentioned maybe [JV whispers something, RV responds: It's okay] he didn't want nobody to know.— RV: [unclear]—

JP: Did you, did you ever, growing up with this thing, and knowing that it was meant to be kept quiet, did that give you any kinds of feeling of I don't know, like how does that...how do you grow up knowing that there's something in your family that is not discussed. What does that do to you? What does that, how does that make you....do you feel that, because you don't know it is it something like oh my God, is there something that I should be ashamed of? Is it embarrassing, is it just uh, a [correct] thing. Respect...how does, I don't know how to—

[1:40:25.4]

EV: The only thing I know is that they, whatever they did, they did it wrong. It was not the right person. And uh they shouldn't have done— I couldn't tell you.— RV: Not only daddy, quite a few of them—EV: Not only daddy—RV: All those people—EV: Everybody yeah—RV: Those poor souls, away from their families, for what? Something they haven't done. JV: They have to find

out. First. RV: We'll never—JV: And then uh we'll bring them down there where they [belong]—

JP: Well they felt that—RV: They found Josee. JP: The Canadian government felt they had to bring in these people to—

RV: Yeah because they must have been a threat.

JP: Uh yeah.

RV: They must have been a threat to them.

JP: Do you think your father; do you think Canada was more secure with your father being in Petawawa?

RV: I don't think— JV: I don't think so— [speaking at the same time] EV: No, no. Not [unclear]—

RV: I would have loved to see what went on after that though. EV: You know what I'm thinking of? Where daddy was picked up at the hall. The owner of that hall, he has a family— RV: Is a

[unclear]—EV: I wonder if we can ever get in touch with one of the girls. They're all dead? JV:

They must be dead. That man. EV: No, I said the family. The sister, daughter, the son— RV: The

family the [unclear]—JV: [unclear] St. Denis. EV: He didn't mention the name— JV: At Casa

d'Italia. EV: No, at Casa d'Italia couldn't tell us nothing. Casa d'Italia it's not a place where we're going to find [unclear]— RV: No, but like she said [unclear]— JV: No [unclear] *le Denis, est*

travaillier [unclear]— EV: *Est [unclear]*—JV: *A la Denis, oui.* EV: *On la [unclear] non, non,*

[persone le]—

JP: You wanted like a picture or something?

EV: No, I want to know uh, what the father said that they were taking people and they were bringing them away. Why?

RV: If their father ever said anything to their sons.

EV: Yeah, the son or the daughter.

RV: The daughters yeah— EV: He had three daughters.— RV: To see [unclear]—

JP: Well the operation was already under investigation from way before. It's not, it didn't happen that day—

RV: But we didn't get nothing that day— EV: No, no it wasn't that day, I'm saying well we got it today that, as of today— RV: We don't have no records that daddy has done anything. I mean we would have had come backs. Wouldn't we, wouldn't we? I mean with letters or whatever but we never had anything.

JP: You never had anything other than the wooden things that uh that he brought back—JV: Yeah— EV: Yeah just those things—JP: The photos, any sketches, any letters any uh— RV: No. [shakes head no] JP: Any paperwork from the, the uh, feder— uh... RV: No, that's why I say we never—EV: I think he did have something, me and uh, he had a white, a big white sheet and where he would draw the design of the boat. With the numbers. I think I remember that. Seeing that. [pause] JV: Not me. RV: Not me either. EV: I said [unclear] *je voix*. RV: Yeah. [unclear]— EV: *Non*. And [unclear]—RV: That was years ago, yeah. EV: Well I'm sorry I wish I could—

JP: And um, no for yourselves.— EV: No I wouldn't. I would love it, oh God would I love it. That's

why I said, I'd love to meet people by that name to see their studies exist and find out questions. Maybe they don't know that—JV: What about the people that were with dad? [unclear] *parle*—JV: *Josee les personnes* [unclear]—JP: You know, the, the people that uh...that's why I was curious who your father spoke with. If he had any friends who had been interned. JV: That's why I think. With their dad. Maybe their still alive and we could talk with them. My father used to say, what my father used to think. How did he feel— RV: Josee, they were all about the same age. EV: Yeah. [To me] they're all dead. RV: They're over a hundred Josee. JV: Yeah, daddy was a hundred and thirteen— RV: 13 today. God bless him, wherever he is. [looks up]

JP: Today would have been his birthday?

RV: The seventh of July. A few days ago.—JV: Seventh of July. [pause] RV: But no, you can't you, we don't know nothing really. EV: We're in the dark. JV: We're in the dark and there's not light until today— EV: Oh yeah because [unclear] yeah— JV: Today, today. After someone to tell me too.

JP: What do you think should be told then? What do you think, you have a chance to tell something or a lesson or something that if you're going to tell like the younger generations and the next, the people who are going to watch this. What do they have to know about this period? What do they have to know about what happened back then? What should they learn?

EV: What uh—

JP: What you want them to remember?

EV: Well I would love to see uh, like you mentioned already a book. Written on it. So this are

the people that are going to learn. Not only the other kind of nationalities, our, our family I would be very interested to find that out.

JP: And what, what, what lesson—

EV: Having a book published probably we would get a lot of connections with different people. You never know.

JP: What lessons should we learn from this? What do people have to know about that time, because you're saying like...you lived a period where your father was interned—

[1:45:03.8]

EV: Yeah.

JP: Your mother...

EV: I would like to know about my father, what happened.—

JV: What happened and why did they do that to my father—JP: What would that give you. Alice, what will it give you to, to know that [unclear]—

EV: A satisfaction—JV: A satisfaction—

JP: A satisfaction?

JV: Sure, a good satisfaction.— RV: Definitely. EV: Yeah [it's true]— JV: Why did they do that?

EV: No, I'm not asking about why did they do that, like—JV: Well it was why— EV: About whatever he said to other people, how was it inside and how they were treated— how were they treated?— RV: How were they treated and all that—EV: And did they ever heard anything about it that was going to, they wouldn't be...they were going to uh be, be released. Or if they knew about like the uh, no the fascists [says to JP] the other one you said uh...

JP: War Veterans?

EV: War Vet— yeah. [points to JP]

JP: Like Ex-Combatenti. EV & RV: Ex-Combatenti. EV: That I'd like to know, because we never knew about that. I know, I knew that he was in it, but I never heard about it. So we know these odds and ends there tying them all together you get— RV: From one to another yeah— EV: You get to the bridge.

JP: Do you feel like it's a part of your story that's just out there? That's...doesn't, it has to come back to you. It's like your story has to come back to you?

RV: [nods] Ummm. There's, there's so many... EV: Bits and bits. RV: Yup. There's a lot of things missing. That we would really, really would love to see— you know what happened, what did they do, why. And the government. What did they do, why did they take daddy, or other men too— JV: Why they took daddy— RV: Why, I mean don't they check when they put him in jail or follow their uh—JV: That's what I said— RV: Or follow their uh— JV: They have just— RV: Follow and see— JV: Follow, you're right—RV: if he really did do something wrong. And if he did [puts hand up]...God forbid he's my dad [looks up] they know what they have to do, but if he didn't do it, why did they wait two years to release him? JV: Yeah. RV: What did they find out in

two years?— EV: Nothing, that's why then they decided to release him. [JV speaks unclearly at same time]—RV: But it took two years to find out nothin'? JV: But they could write, they could have write something those guys who put him there, but [unclear] *faire [personne se]*— RV: No, but they have no proof. They have nothin' if they had proof—JV: No, nothing— RV: they would show—JP: Well if they, they if the Canadian government at the time felt that leaders of Italian associations needed to be interned, just in case their were threats... RV: through the—JV: Just in case—JP: Right. JV: Just! JP: I'm asking you now, I'm just playing the other side— RV: But does it take two years to, to see what it, they were a threat to Canada? I mean come on—JP: Well not without any evidence.—RV: Well that's just it. But it took them two years, to, to they kept them there two years— JV: Two years— RV: And after two years they released him. Why did they release them. There must be a reason why. EV: Because they didn't do anything— RV: There's something— EV: Because they didn't do anything [says over RV] RV: There [unclear]— EV: [unclear]— JV: [some reason] because they wouldn't have let him release, they would have kept them in. No? RV: That's right, after two years [JV speaks at the same time]—JV: [Why didn't they release them]—RV: Release—[unclear as EV and JV speak at the same time] EV: *Parce que* [unclear] *le public et [unclear] tu fait*— JV: How come they didn't release them, why didn't they tell us, why, why? [unclear] Why didn't they release— RV: *Le gouvernement*[looks up]— JV: *Pourquoi n'était-il pas sorti?* EV: We will never know because everything has been changed ever since— RV: That's right—EV: Uh the first one is bad too, you can't find out nothing. So I don't know about the rest of them... JV: What do you mean the first one [*que il va entre*]? EV: *Oui. [Qui fait sa]*. JV: Well, [unclear]—EV: [unclear]— JV: [unclear]—[EV and JV speaking over one another]

RV: *Oui parce que va dit*— JP: [The people that make lists]— [speaks over RV] The people who made lists...how do you feel about them?

EV: The people who—RV: Not very good right now, I'm sorry. If they were in front of me, I

would be, ask a lot of questions, I wouldn't do nothing, God forbid. But I would ask a lot of questions—EV: To who? RV: Why? JV: What kind of questions— RV: *La famille*. EV: *Quelle famille?*—JV: [JP and JV speak unclearly at the same time] JP: [unclear]— JV: [unclear]— RV: No names but just [unclear]— JV: No names— RV: the [unclear]— EV: I didn't get what he question that you said—

JP: How do you feel about the people—

JV: K. [nods]—

JP: Who made lists?

EV: Oh. Okay.

JV: Terrible.

RV: Of the people to be interned—EV: I know that— [JV speaks at the same time]—

JV: Inside of us—

JP: But you had already—

JV: I would like to see him in front of me though.— RV: No, no I would. Right up—[points in front of her]—

JP: He's dead now.— RV: Right up— no, no—

JP: He's dead. JV: But, [points to chest]—RV: No, no [JP speaks unclearly at the same time] JV: [I

would make a prayer for him.]—RV: No, no. I would, I would love to ask a lot of questions. Like I would love to see him— JV: Me too—RV: Her, or whoever, in front of me and I would ask some questions—EV: But this other— RV: Never— EV: People maybe that we can't find out from uh, I don't know who but let's say these people they had friend, they had people that they knew a cousin, uncle, whatever it is, I'm sure they would know. But how do we get to—RV: They were probably won't speak— EV: Today maybe they would cause it's finished— JV: Why they won't speak? It's something bad what they did. *Le gouvernement*— RV: I wouldn't like to speak if my dad was, was bad—EV: That's not what I'm talking about, I'm talking about the [unclear]— JV: [unclear]—RV: [laughs]

[1:50:00.2]

[all three women speak unclearly at the same time]

RV: ...no that's not what we're saying Josee.

JP: No, no but I think it's, it's fine but I think Josee is really angry because you're right, of course you're—

JV: Sure—

JP: [have questions]—

RV: We would love to, of course— JV: Sure.

JP: Of course—

EV: You have to find— JV: If they would do that to him, would he like it? You know to be here in two years and he didn't do nothing. And [have] a family who couldn't even eat. Us.

JP: And from what it sounds like when he came back... [RV sighs] the fact that he was jumping from job to job there was also perhaps some difficulty in re-adjusting—

EV: Uh, uh yeah—

JP: Finding a job when I'm even wondering if—

EV: And the shame—JP: The fact that he was Italian and— EV: [to see what people would tell him] [unclear as JP and EV speak at the same time]

EV: Shame with, what to see what people would say—

JV: What people would say—

EV: I'm sure that's what it was.

JP: Like and also, I don't know the fact that he was an Italian...he had been interned when, would that have changed...would that have made it any more difficult for him to have found, find a job afterwards? These are questions—

RV: If they found out that papa went to uh, in concentration camp they must have said, "oh he's a fascist." [JP coughs] He's a fascist.— EV: But not really because [unclear]—RV: Against daddy or some— EV: But not really because [you didn't know]— RV: You don't know how people think [Elisa.] EV: No? After there was [fascismo]—RV: No, no, between them I'm saying. I'm saying between them, the grown ups. EV: Oh, okay. RV: But, you don't know, you never know—

JP: Did your father ever feel like going back to Italy after all this time?

[all three women start to answer at the same time] JV: No— RV: He never wanted to— EV: Never—JV: He never wanted to go back— RV: Never, never. EV: During [unclear] and my mother— RV: Never, they always said that he never— JV: No, my mother went, but my father never went. See my sister, older sister went with my mother. My father, no, no, no.—JP: [unclear]— EV: But actually my father didn't go, I don't think it's because of this—RV: No he was mistreated by his step-mother— EV: That's right, that's why he left uh Italy—RV: That's right— JV: [unclear]— [everyone speaking at once] RV: No, no he didn't want to go because—EV: No, it was because— JV: Josee [unclear] The step-mother. Ninni went with mama, daddy said I'll never go back to see her. EV: No, that's it— RV: So there you are—

JP: It was for personal reasons it wasn't—

EV: At first no, it was nothing to do with— RV: [shakes head and makes clicking noise- tsk, tsk, tsk]—

JP: No, but you've [got] your father, was he happy to be in Canada?— RV: Oh yes. JP: He wanted to come to— RV: Yeah. JP: Was he miserable here, did he want—EV: Never—RV: Never, ever, I never heard my dad— EV: No.— JP: My [growing] years later— EV: My mother apparently at the beginning because she only spoke Italian, so they didn't have so many grocery and people, but then uh, it was a [peanut] for her.

RV: They never, never, never complained. Papa [shakes head no] he said "I would never go back there." He was more mistreated by his step mother, never.— EV: No. RV: He said to mama, "you can go back whenever you want."

JP: And even though he was interned here he still felt good about—

RV: Oh yeah, oh yeah, papa adjusted very, very well.

EV: Yeah.

RV: No, papa was good.

JP: And is did he have brothers and sisters here?

RV: Yes— EV: Yeah. EV: Step brother— RV: Step brothers and he had a real sister. Yup. [nods]

JP: And were they around when he was interned, or they were still in Italy? They only came after the war?

JV: [unclear] RV: Oh, they were in Italy they came back after but we [unclear]— [JV and EV speak unclearly to the side] RV: She came after dad. They came after, they're younger, *mais oui*. [RV and EV continue to speak unclearly] RV: They came back after. JV: [unclear]— RV: They were all in Italy, yeah that's right—JV: [he was alone there]—RV: Dad had no sisters, no brothers, no sister in law, nothing. EV: [unclear]

JP: And after the war, there, there was this huge wave of new immigrants that were arriving in Montreal—

EV: Yeah—

JP: And particularly in your neighbourhood. Did your father uh...make friends with the new people or did he basically stay with the old friends?

EV: No, if he, [unclear]— RV: No, papa was friendly with a lot of people— EV: Yeah, oh yeah.

JP: How did you find that when all these new Italians were coming in? Was it easy to approach them or did you still stay with uh...[friendly] with your old friends from before?

EV: No— RV: Well we adjusted with everybody, yeah, we were friends yeah— EV: [RV speaks over her response] Sometimes we would even, we would help them. RV: [laughs] EV: Which is normal. RV: That's right. EV: Yeah. RV: New people, you have to help them. EV: Uh hmm. RV: That's how we were brought up. You have to help them, so we did. And today we're still doing the same thing. EV: Right. RV: If somebody needs help there you are. JV: Sometimes we're too good. RV: [laughs]

JP: We mentioned uh...was it you Alice that mentioned about your mum getting some of the things from uh, uh... RV: St. St. Vincent— EV: St. Vincent— RV: Yes. JP: She [worked?] RV: Yes. EV: Yeah, she would take what she think that we need and she would share the rest with other people— RV: That's right. Mama was like that— [EV speaks at the same time] EV: She always did that. Always.

JP: So I guess that's where you learned it from.

EV: Well... RV: [nods] She would be baking, not only for us...around the neighbourhood. EV: Yeah. RV: And that's what we're doing today too. EV: I was just going to say that. That's how she had so many friends. Oh, it's unbelievable, you would go to church, oh no, when there was a feast, if there was a procession, the one that she would hear praying or singing was my

mother. From far away—

[1:55:05:09]

RV: She was the first one in the front—EV: And every time I meet people they say, "oh [unclear]" "Oh, I remember your mother, oh my God she was so nice." My mother was [I'm going to say like one of my niece] she was one of kind in the world. JV: That's true. RV: One in a million. That's right.

JP: And did, after when your father came back, after the internment, did uh...did your parents continue to participate in church events?—EV: Oh yeah— RV: Oh yeah, mama always— JV: More, even more[to] thank God—[all three speakers answer at once]

RV: Papa not as much a church goer, mama...

EV: He would go to mass but not with mama—

JP: Did your father continue to let's say, playing bocce especially—

RV: Oh yeah, oh yeah—

JP: [unclear] social—

RV: Integrated with them, oh yeah. Papa did.

JV: Mama [unclear] *parti* [unclear]— RV: Ah, [unclear]

JP: Did they go to like the Italian coffee bars for a coffee or go play bocce ball—

EV: No— RV: No, no. He would go just to play bocce or he would go to the movies once in a while. Yeah.

JP: At Casa d'Italia afterwards...would he go there?

EV: Only when they had meetings. RV: Yeah.

JP: Meetings for the uh...

EV: The society— RV: Yeah. They would have it a few times a week. EV: No, once— JV: They used to have it on Sunday.— RV: Sunday, [unclear] *papa aussi allés. Oui. JV: Oui. EV: [unclear] Dimanche que il parti [unclear] whatever—RV: [that's outside] yeah.*

JP: And in 40s and in the late 40s, 50s...would you meet people that were in the same position like yourself, who had their father interned?

EV: Not that I know of. RV: [shakes head no] JV: [unclear as JP starts talking] JP: Like you're in your 20s, your 30s, your 40s...

EV: No, I never met anybody—JV: Never met, you met that lady [says to RV] EV: No. RV: Which lady? JV: Uh [in the] [unclear] *tout les autobus*. RV: Oh the la fascist, that's the only one. JV: [unclear]— EV: Which one? JV: *La [unclear]*— RV: *La femme pour la [unclear]*. EV: [unclear]—

JP: *La femme*—

JV: [unclear]— JP: Trying to [unclear] a friendly uh...— RV: No, that was the only time—JV: That was the only time— RV: Really, yup.

JP: How did you feel about the Mussolini in the church?

RV: I think that's terrible I'm sorry. [exclaims quickly with hand up in the air] I don't go for that— EV: Me I'm [unclear]— RV: I said to my husband, during the war they covered it, they say and I said to my husband, "I'm sorry." He says, "yeah, but Rosetta they, you know he helped and he did— EV: That's what I said in the church too— [RV puts hand up to stop her] RV: That's what they said but me, I'm not for it. EV: Because he heard—he helped people so. RV: No, I'm sorry I'm not—JV: He helped people, he took all the [jewelry and everything]— EV: Well we don't know[unclear]—

JP: Oh you know— RV: [unclear]—

JP: Italian gold [campaign.]— RV: That's right [nods] JP: Yeah. RV: No, I'm sorry he shouldn't be there. It's a church. Catholic church, he should not be there. Put a picture in the back— EV: It's such a beautiful church— RV: [rolls eyes] Oh God. EV: [frowns]

JP: And uh, the gold campaign did you ever remember when they collected gold?

EV: No, I never heard of that – RV: No.

JV: The gold?

JP: For Ethiopia, for the Ethiopian war they were collecting, they were making a collection here in Montreal.

EV: Collection for money, but gold—JP: For gold— RV: No. JP: To send for the—JV: Gold, no. JP: To send to Italy. EV: Never heard of that. JV: To Italy, yeah— RV: Do you think it would get that far? [laughs] Huh, that's what they say today— EV: Only if you [unclear]— JP: [unclear]— RV: No, it's true [points at JP] JP: Got there and— RV: It's true, it's true. EV: Came right across the ocean.

JP: Did you know uh. [Father] Maltempi?

JV: *Oui*. RV: Yes. JV: [Father] Maltemp, *oui*.

JP: Yeah, what was he like? 'Cause he had been interned also. Did you remember?

RV: Maltempi I remember—EV: I say that's [unclear]— RV: *Oui, oui*.

JP: Evangelista?

[all three women nod at once and answer Father Evangelist]

JV: ...help us.—

JP: And now it was probably Maltempi— RV: Maltempi— EV: [unclear as EV and JP speak at the same time] Patriarch and [unclear]. Patriarch was a real [unclear].

RV: And Maltempi I remember that name. [nods] JV: [unclear]— RV: [unclear]—JV: [unclear]— Evangelisti was [unclear]—EV: He's married today kids. He's married today Evangelisti yeah. Somebody told me [unclear]— RV & JV: [unclear]— EV: No, Evangelisti [unclear]— RV:

[unclear]—

JP: And uh, yeah there was [unclear] de Maltempo. Antonino Spada he was from Ville Emard. He was a communist. Do you remember him?

EV: No. I don't.

RV: Spada [unclear] JV: Spada? RV: Spada. EV: Yeah, [unclear] they used to be right there on Belanger, De Gaspe and Mont, right on the second floor there. JV: The Spada, oui. RV: Spada, they're related.

JP: I don't know, I don't know. And [unclear]—

EV: They used to come to school with us, the Spada.

JP: Okay, the children.

EV: Yeah. But I don't know about the family—

JP: Did the um...did people socialize, like if you had, your father was uh...a labourer, and he did the general jobs at that time, when somebody was, who's father was let's say a labourer...would they be friends with someone who's father was uh a doctor or a notary, or somebody from...

RV: No, they didn't mix much.

JP: Or did they—

RV: They would stay to—

JP: Or they would generally stay within their class?

RV: Yeah. [nods]

[2:00:00.0]

JP: Labourers with labourers, and—

EV: Well—RV: No, papa wouldn't he wouldn't uh—

JP: [unclear]— EV: Maybe he did [unclear] it was then. We wouldn't uh [unclear] these people and I don't know if daddy meant to— RV: To help. JV: But [unclear] so far they didn't uh [unclear]—RV: To help though— EV: They had these letters, chair with the silver nail there [points down to the floor] and one day I don't know if it was me, but he would come back and the [man] look at me you should have seen my father. Cause you're not supposed to touch anything but I was sitting down. I was just sitting. To me it was new to see silver things just to show that even with the rich people he would[n't?] bend down to them. RV: Oh yeah, papa. EV: Because we needed the money so we couldn't do anything about it. RV: But they helped, they were very good. EV: Yeah, they were very good.—

JP: But it wasn't like the, the [unclear] the *Professore*—

RV: No, no.

JP: He wasn't playing hide and go seek with you guys?

RV: No, no. They were, they were down to earth people.

JV: *Oui.*

RV: Uh *il est un gentille le personne.* EV: *Très bien personne.*— RV: *Très bien*— [all three speak unclearly at once]

RV: Down to earth—

JP: You didn't, it wasn't—

RV: We didn't feel like you know, you were passed aside. EV: No.

JP: I'm just trying to figure out if there was like any kind of class, social class that was very evident at the time, cause there were a few people—

JV: But we were all poor.—

JP: [unclear] professionals—

JV: Everybody was poor. EV: Maybe [a professional]— JV: There was no rich people— EV: No, no [unclear]— JV: There was only [unclear]— EV: [unclear] even professional [shrugs]—

JP: Yeah but you kids were—

EV: The kids were okay with us. RV: Oh yeah. EV: We knew a lot of them.

JP: Yeah.

EV: Oh no—

JP: You mixed a lot at—

EV: We knew [unclear]—RV: Oh yeah, oh yeah. EV: Yeah. We really did.

JP: Is there anything uh, that I didn't ask you uh, that you want to add?

[everyone pauses and looks at one another]

EV: The thing is I would love to have more information [laughs]

JP: I'll do my best—

JV, EV, & RV: [unclear at once] RV: Yeah you did quite a bit— EV: And we don't know how to—

JV: You can't [unclear] at least we know thing and it's sad but still— RV: I'll be going home tonight and reading it over and over again. JV: Me too.

JP: And is there anything that you want to—

RV: So interesting [whispers]—

JP: Record for just like, that I didn't ask you that you want to mention.

RV: No, but if other people that you do, uh...how should I say?

EV: Connect— JV: They connect with—

RV: No, yeah, you know they, they could come forward and say their own story and see maybe from that we'll learn something else, who knows.

JV: Like the father you know—

JP: Yeah, from [unclear]—

RV: You know from one another, that you interview somebody else...and then we listen to them and we say, wow you know—

JP: Well it's like what my mother was saying when the father was—

RV: [gasps] yeah.

JV: What?

RV: *Quelle que la siniora la* [unclear]— EV: [unclear]— RV: [unclear]—

JP: Yeah, my grandfather came to your [house]—

RV: From Italy.

JP: Yeah, but through her you learned about—

RV: Yeah, yeah, that was fantastic. That's what I mean, from one person to—

JP: [unclear]—

RV: Yeah, yeah.

JV: Because to me, other families they have more, uh—

RV: Do you think we'll [ever] have closure?

JP: That's a great question.

EV: I was just going to say that—JV: [unclear]?—RV: I don't think so [answers JV] *savoir faire*
[unclear] *ne jamais*—

JP: What do you think would bring closure? Rosetta, what do you think? What would you need
to—

EV: Well if you come out with a book probably whoever's going to buy the book then really they
would find that there's something missing and that they know they would try to connect the
person that came out with the book—

RV: No, me I would like to know, why did they release papa after two years. If they have— JV:
[unclear]— EV: Well that's what I said if— RV: That would be closure for me—JV: Why they did
that and why [unclear]—RV: For me that would be closure—EV: Well that's what I said, maybe

we would meet people they would find out there's things that are in the book that is missing. Like the closure whatever it is they would find out. RV: But me, that would be the closure for me, is maybe I don't make sense, but to me I would like to know why—EV: Well you do make sense—RV: After two years they released him— JV: Me too [points to chest]— RV: Because they must have come across something that was say, oh wait a minute— EV: To me it's because they knew it took time before they had this man and this other man [points around the room] it took time and look through the papers, finally they came to the conclusion that they have nothing to do this poor man and so it's time for them to go out. RV: [sighs and looks around the room]—JV: Time to go out and [all the time]—EV: The only thing that I can see [says with a shrug]— JV: In there and they suffer, why?— EV: No, no but I'm saying then that's why they [unclear] closure. RV: Yeah, that would be it. To me that would be— EV: That's what I'm saying—

JP: So you, you just want to have some questions answered.

RV: Yeah. Yup.

JP: Questions that you've had all this time.

RV: That's right.

JV: Why?

RV: That's why I say, that would be closure for me, otherwise— JV: Why it would be written down, maybe on the tv [unclear]—EV: *ça va quoi?* JV: It's it can't be all [unclear]— EV: Oh— JV: Ouvre [unclear]— EV: Oh *oui*, [unclear]—

JP: I have to thank you because—

EV: We will never know—

JP: No, but you know what I, I'm the one that's supposed to thank you because really what you've done this afternoon is help fill in a gap that exists in our history and—

EV: [unclear]—

JP: And uh, in our Italian-Canadian history—

RV: History.—

JP: And your stories really, they answer questions and they open up a lot of new questions—

EV: Right, yeah, that's—

JP: And they're both valid, both sides—

[2:05:04.7]

RV: You know like say sometimes you open a can of worm—

JP: Yeah.

RV: A lot of things come out. But sometimes you, you want to know what, what's the answer at the end but you don't have it. And that's what, we, I think we all the three sisters, my four

sisters just would love to have closure. Are we ever going to have that? I hope to God that one day, we will have. Through somebody else that would probably come out with something and say this, but me, like I said before, I'm repeating myself. I would like to know why.—

EV: I wonder if they got paid for something like that, they must have in probably—JV: I don't think so— RV: No, no, but— EV: My father I wonder if he got some paper that when he was released. If he had to sign anything and if he had a copy for himself. But I don't know, we never heard about that—RV: But that's still doesn't say why he was released. EV: Well we don't know. That's what I said, maybe on that paper it was written. JV: I don't think so, [unclear]—EV: Tommi doesn't know— JV: Well she's older she would have seen the house— EV: I know but you didn't understand what I said. — RV: No, no— EV: When daddy was released, he had to sign something so when he signed that paper, maybe something was written on it, that's why we're releasing because you uh...didn't do anything wrong with Canada—JV: But daddy had that paper? EV: Well he, has to have a copy when you sign something— RV: When you sign paper probably— EV: We don't know Josee but probably when he got home he [unclear]—RV: You never know. EV: [unclear]— RV: Nobody yeah. EV: Right.

RV: Pour me, daddy, and there was no reason. EV: No, no. RV: No because— JV: He didn't have any felt like that—RV: That's it—JV: He shouldn't feel like that—RV: But that's it, that's why I say maybe that's how he felt. But we know deep down that uh, uh, daddy didn't do anything. —

JP: Because he felt dishonoured—

[All three speakers respond at once] RV: Oh, he must, my dad if you would have met my dad—

JV: Oh he was such a nice person—

JP: So not only did he suffer the two years there, but he also was given this, this sense of

dishonourment—

RV: Yeah, of course. Of course—

JV: And [no one to care for] two years—

RV: And they had to [meet his friends] and all them saying, okay you were interned but it wasn't your fault, you didn't do anything but still to him, he was there for two years. It, for my dad I'm sure it was a dishonour—

JV: *Oui*.— EV: Well, sure it was. RV: Definitely. EV: That's why we never saw that paper that he signed. RV: Probably.

JP: And he never showed you the picture of him from the camp.

EV: No, never. *Ne jamais*. JV: Nothing— EV: All we saw was wood and that's it. Never. RV: [laughs]

JP: Well, I want to just say thank you so much. Thank you Alice, and thank you Josee and thank you Rosetta. For this interview, um, we'll take a, have some coffee and then if there's something you want to add and you think of it we'll just come back.

EV: We got to thank you— RV: Thank you—JV: Thank you [all at once] EV: Thank you for what you've done—RV: Thank you my dear— EV: The research and everything— RV: You opened a few doors. JV: Yeah that daddy's going to be still in our heart—EV: And I'm sorry because a few times we didn't reach you because we always had problems, a sickness or something—

JP: No, no— EV & JV: [unclear]—JP: No, no, no please [unclear] it's just that you're here it counts. EV: And thanks to your mother too, [says to someone in the room] JP: [laughs] EV: Thanks to her. JP: [unclear]—

[Camera fades out at 2:08:20.2]

[End of Interview]