

“Having Our Say”

Voices from the Cape Verdean Community

Henry was the co-founder of the Cape Verdean Recognition Parade.



“We wanted people to recognize who the Cape Verdeans were and we had organizations almost everyone in the city plus many of them from Providence and Connecticut they could come down, obviously, with their banners and signs so you knew that they were Cape Verdean organizations all around the East Coast.”

– Henry Barros

Henry “Ricky” Barros
August 5, 2010

Interview with Henry Barros
Conducted August 5, 2010
By Ann Marie Lopes

Beginning of File

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK. It is August 5th, 2010. The interviewer is Ann-Marie Lopes and I am talking to --

HENRY BARROS - -- Henry Barros. Known to most people as Ricky and I am 77 years old.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK. And we are at Mr. Barros’s home and it is 6:50 and so I’ve explained what the project is and I just want to have a conversation with you. Just talk about -- let’s start with your childhood. And what we’ll do is start with your parents.

HENRY BARROS - My parents?

ANN MARIE LOPES - Your parents. Were they born in Cape Verde?

HENRY BARROS - My father was born in Cape Verde. Some section of Brava. I forget the technical name. Born in Brava.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK. Was he the first one in his family to come over?

HENRY BARROS - Yes. At an early age. He came here in 1905 I believe.

ANN MARIE LOPES - With other family members or --

HENRY BARROS - -- No. By himself with, I think, seven or five or seven dollars in his pocket.

ANN MARIE LOPES - How old was he?

HENRY BARROS - That's all he had. He was a teenager. An early teenager.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Do you know why he came here?

HENRY BARROS - He -- for a better life. He did have a cousin, I believe, in Brockton, so he did have somewhere to go for awhile. But at the beginning he did say it was tough. He was a chef -- a very good chef all his life. He was a nice man. He was strict, but we knew it because we challenged it and he put us in our place. Very nice.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So how -- how many -- how many kids? How many siblings?

HENRY BARROS - Four sisters and three brothers. There was one more, but she was born when I was in the service and she passed away five days, so I never got to see her. So there were eight that I remember.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So did your father treat the boys differently from the girls?

HENRY BARROS - (laughter) My father had a nice saying. Every time he wanted someone to do something, he would say, like, he would want my brother Junior to be the only one to go downstairs early in the morning and make a fire. In those days you had to build a fire with wood and coals and he would always yell, "Junior!" He says, "Yes?" "One of you boys get up and go make a fire!" And as long as he said Junior first, Hector and I would just turn around. (laughter) You know, so he was good for that. He was a nice man. He was nice to talk to. Nice to listen to. He would listen to us and in his own way, he would give us good advice. Now if you want to include in childhood my junior high and high school days. When I was in Junior High, I wanted to be a carpenter. So I says, the only place to go is vocational high school. So I tried my best to get the high marks and my last name being -- starting with the letter B I obviously would be at the beginning of the line for an interview. So I worked and I got good marks and in a long line to be interviewed and I was happy until I got to the director of vocational and he only asked one question. "Do you play sports?" I says, "No, I like it but I don't play." "OK. We'll contact you." Never heard from them. Of course as I grew up I found out that was the era in which the famous and the best sports players in the city were black. So there was no competition even if I did play sports. But I

went to high school. My brother Hector had already quit. My brother Junior had already quit school and they were working. And I was the only one left. My father had another good saying. "One of you boys have got to go through high school." (laughter) You know. Never picked on anybody direct. But I went to high school. Then I quit school. I wanted to go to Voke so badly I was angry. I just quit school and my father didn't punish me, didn't hit me, didn't yell at me. He just said let's go for a walk. So he took me for a walk. The only thing I remember is he took me for a walk all the way up County Street and my father stopped and he looked at this big white house and he took me, knocked on the door, and went inside. You know, he just told the man, I just quit school and I just thought maybe you could talk to him. I have no idea where it was or what the man said. But I went back to school that afternoon and because I wanted to go to Voke and so forth, a woman named Mary Carroll was a guidance counselor, so she enabled me to choose the course in the subjects I wanted because in those days there was the college course, and business course, and general course. And you can tell by the names which was which.

ANN MARIE LOPES - What do you mean?

HENRY BARROS - College course the students took the subject to go to college and beyond. The business into that field and the general you just going to get a high school diploma and go to work. So she allowed me to choose subjects that I wanted because she thought I wouldn't go any further than high school and at that time, I didn't think I was going any further than high school either. My parents weren't rich, so I chose a couple of subjects in a college course and I mixed it with a business course because in the business I had salesmanship, marketing, typing. They were not given to those students in a college course so I had a mixture. It was to my advantage and almost to my disadvantage, but I worked hard and it was enough to get into the Honor Society at high school and then, of course, after that I worked one year, one or two years in a sweatshop. Handbag place and a place where they make bed sheets and pillows. Allied Embroidery. Right next to the beach. The Rodney French Beach. Then I got drafted and the Korean War was on. I got drafted in 1953. Of course, in those days the Korean War was a tough war even though they call it a peace action, so you -- you had no idea if you are coming back or not. So I went into the service. I liked it and the Army gave me a small shovel, about 24 inches in height, and he said, "Dig a hole that you can stand in." And while digging a hole I says, "I am not going to do this for a living. No way." Then a gentleman -- a young boy, who shared the barracks with me he was doing his homework and I said, "What are you doing?" He says, "Oh, I'm going to college at a correspondence." And he was doing math problems that looked like something I saw in the movies by Einstein. You know kind of letters and numbers all over

the place. I said, "What is that?" He said, "That's calculus -- integral calculus and so forth." I said, "That looks interesting. That's what I'm going to do when I get out of the service. So I had to make a choice. I wanted to switch to the Air Force, stay in 20 years or get out and go to college. So I decided to get out and go to college. Did well. I applied for it and at that time you could go to any college you wanted to. The government gave you money to pay for it and they could not refuse you because you were a veteran. So when I went to UMass now -- then I think it was New Bedford Institute of Textile and Technology -- many years ago. A lot of the things I learned from there -- still being young -- graduate -- I'm graduating as a mechanical engineer, which supposedly is the top students. It's supposed to be easy to get a job. I tried every industry in New Bedford. They refuse -- you don't mind if I tell you this part of it, though, about prejudice?

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh, sure.

HENRY BARROS - OK.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Your experience --

HENRY BARROS - -- I tried every industry in New Bedford. Morse Twist Drill, the man there in charge of the one department was very good friends with my -- one of the instructors I had. And, of course, he called and told the instructor "I have the top student candidate in engineering here. He'd like a job. Any positions?" "Oh, yeah, we're looking for one. Send him down." So I went there and the man looked at me. He says, "Oh, I'm sorry. The position is filled." I says, "Oh, OK." So I went back to the college and I told the professor and I told him why I thought he said that. So he called him up and actually gave him hell on the phone. He says, "As a good friend he's very disappointed." I went to a Acushnet Process. I figured they gave me a scholarship, no reason why they shouldn't hire me because they were asking for mechanical engineer.

ANN MARIE LOPES - What years are we talking about here?

HENRY BARROS - I worked in '59 in Connecticut and I graduated in '58, so this would be '54 to '58. About '55 to '58 I think because I got out of the service in '55. That would be early '59. I'm at Acushnet Process and I happened to meet a friend of mine who was in my room. A Frenchman and I helped him along with the math and so forth because I used to -- it was three or four near in there -- Dick Stevens, Butch Silver and a few -- couple of others were having problems in there with the math. That was -- I was lucky. Math was easy for me. So I used to tutor them and help them -- I helped them get their degree. So when we met at

this office, Gene Bisaylon was his name, he says "If you're applying for the jobs I may as well go home. I said, "No, no. Stick around. We'll go for coffee." He said, "OK." So I went up there and the man says, "Gee, I'm sorry. The position has been filled." I says, "OK. I was walking out Gene is coming in, "Where are you going?" He asked "What happened up there?" I said, "He said the position was filled." He says, "Oh, I may as well go -- let's go get coffee." I said, "No, no, you have an appointment. At least keep it." He says, "OK. So I waited for him." He got the job. And he came down he said, "Are you sure that's what he told you?" I said, "Yes." I told him why. Now he literally got angry and wanted to go back. I told him no, you can't do that because you're a married man with children. You can't do that. It's a -- I'm quite used to it. I went to Connecticut after I went to Revere Copper and Brass. They were not asking for an engineer, but the last industry to go to so I went there. The man said, "No, no, we're not hiring," he says, "tell you what, though, can I give you some advice?" I said, "I sure could use it." He says, "Leave New Bedford."

ANN MARIE LOPES - I just want to go back.

HENRY BARROS - Go ahead.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Let's go all the way back to growing up in New Bedford. What was it like growing up in New Bedford? Were -- were you born here?

HENRY BARROS - Yes, I was born in -- they tell me I was born on Acushnet Avenue, but I don't remember, obviously. The only place I remember is the corner of Sixth and Grinnell. Most people know it by a store with Mary's Drug Store, Pildis was there for a while, an ice cream place was there and that's where I was born. We had fun.

ANN MARIE LOPES - You were born at --

HENRY BARROS - -- Three bro --

ANN MARIE LOPES - -- born at home?

HENRY BARROS - Yes. In fact I think everybody may have been born at home except Junior. My mother was carrying my brother Junior. She had appendicitis and it burst and no doctor would operate on her, but Dr. Balla had just come into the city, the Cape Verdean doctor, he had just come into the city. He says, "I'll operate." He obviously did, took the appendix out --

ANN MARIE LOPES - -- They wouldn't operate on her --

HENRY BARROS - -- that's why --

ANN MARIE LOPES - Go ahead.

HENRY BARROS - Because she had peritonitis. It was inflamed. It's a very tough operation even if you're not pregnant. My mother was almost due to have the child and they didn't think the child would live, but that's why my brother Junior's middle name is Ernesto because Dr. Balla first name was Ernesto. You know, he just put it there because all the others like Hector was Hector John, I'm Henry John, and my younger brother is Manuel John. We all had John. My father's name his middle name, but Junior was named John, so Dr. Balla put his name in the middle. But it was nice. We all got together, though, it wasn't called a clique. We had quite a few -- my brothers, couple of people around the corner. They were Indian, the Mardens. Donald Marden, Lloyd Marden, we had a couple of people down the street Joe Lunny and John Lunny. Brothers. Then we have Claire Leighton, Nita Alves at the time, Nita Birdow, Nettie. It was one big group. All we wanted to do was sing and dance. We didn't go around different places doing any damage. We always sat in a corner there and we would sing, harmonize, and we would dance. We also on our group was Haughtmans, but Haughtman fantastic dancer and he used to dance and those days jumping off stairway and landing in a split, he was the only one who could do that. It was beautiful. We got along, you know, and went in anybody's house. No doors were locked. They treated you like their own kids.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So where does the neighborhood go? You're talking about --

HENRY BARROS - -- This is -- no, this would be in Madison Street where we moved. Back to Sixth street --

ANN MARIE LOPES - -- How old were you at Madison Street?

HENRY BARROS - I left Sixth Street, I think, I was seven years old. Born in '32. Eight years old. Eight -- maybe a little over eight because I remember after we were there for a short time, the second World War started and I remembered a kid on the corner yelling, "Extra! Extra! Read all about it!" You know? About eight years old, a little over.

ANN MARIE LOPES - When you lived there, you said Pildis was there and there were other markets. Was there --

HENRY BARROS - -- Well, no, eventually. Not when I lived there. When I lived there it was Millie's -- Millie's Drugstore most of the time. Almost all the time. It used to be a drugstore.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So there was a store underneath and you lived upstairs?

HENRY BARROS - Yes. It's a -- if you go by the house now on top of the apartment where we lived was a roof and the roof was where we played. We didn't have a yard. There was no yard. This is where we played and the railing is only about that high. It never dawned on us we could fall. (laughter)

ANN MARIE LOPES - Of course not. It's like you never wore --

HENRY BARROS - -- In other words, in fact, you've seen a picture of your grandmother -- she has a black dress on -- standing up. That was taken on the roof.

ANN MARIE LOPES - I didn't realize that was on the roof.

HENRY BARROS - Yes. I remember when I broke my leg -- I didn't -- I guess you'd call it -- they used to hold carnivals where the Kennedy Center is --

ANN MARIE LOPES - -- On County Street?

HENRY BARROS - Yes. They used to hold carnivals there. So rather than walk all the way around the fence and so forth, we would climb the fence and just jump over and go, you know. We weren't skipping in; it was free. We were too lazy to walk another block, I guess, but meanwhile the fence were iron bars and at the top bars is like a spear. It formed the loop. So you had to put your feet there. Then you had to kick your feet backwards the same time as you jumped forward. So I tried that and it worked a few times. The one time it didn't work my foot got caught and there I am hanging over the other side yelling on top of my lungs. This is the interesting part. Right next to me was this man and woman talking and they didn't hear me.

ANN MARIE LOPES - They didn't hear you?

HENRY BARROS - Would you like to know who the woman was?

ANN MARIE LOPES - Sure.

HENRY BARROS - Your mother.

ANN MARIE LOPES - My mother!

HENRY BARROS - Yes!

ANN MARIE LOPES - She didn't hear you?

HENRY BARROS - No.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Who was she talking to?

HENRY BARROS - I don't know. I can't remember the man. I remember in order to get back home Hector and a friend of ours, they called him Popsicle, I don't really know his name.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Fudgie's brother.

HENRY BARROS - Fudgie's brother, yeah, I don't know his name. But he -- they were in Boy Scouts. They had their hands interlocked and I had to sit on it and they carried me all the way home and at that time I broke every bone in my ankle.

ANN MARIE LOPES - And my mom's still there talking?

HENRY BARROS - (laughter) Yeah. Never heard me. So I was on crutches for awhile. When we lived there during the second, I guess, prior to the second World War, there were no jobs. I guess, in late -- mid -- late '30s, I guess, was the end of the Depression era. No jobs so two uncles, Tony and Joe, they are the ones I remember most, they were in the service, but I think prior to that the government formed a group called WPA, Workers something or other --

ANN MARIE LOPES - -- Progress Administration.

HENRY BARROS - They made jobs for them because things were pretty bad. They even had such a thing as CC camp.

ANN MARIE LOPES - What's CC?

HENRY BARROS - In CC they used to go -- the government would go out and -- something to do with forests, conservation I guess, but the technical name I don't know. But it's a job that was created to have people work for money because there were no jobs.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Conservation Corps.

HENRY BARROS - Could be. I think Joe was the one that was in there.

ANN MARIE LOPES - How old were you at this time?

HENRY BARROS - Maybe a little mixed up. If this all took place on Grinnell Street, I can't be any older than eight-and-a-half because 1941 I was on Madison Street and we had already moved. And I was born in '32, so, you know, and I remember they were digging on Grinnell Street and I don't know -- I don't know if they knew what they were digging, but it's like a tunnel, you know, circular and the walls are all brick and a grown man could stand up straight in there all the way up Grinnell Street. It's still there I understand, but I don't know what the purpose was.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Like an underground tunnel?

HENRY BARROS - For what I don't know.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Water?

HENRY BARROS - They may have just created it just to give a job. I have no idea. It's a lot for water. I mean, if a man can stand that's at least five or six feet in diameter. That's a lot of water. Pipes are not that big.

ANN MARIE LOPES - And they built it when you were a kid, so it wasn't like it was --

HENRY BARROS - -- If I can remember -- if I remember right, yes.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So it wasn't like for the Underground Railroad or --

HENRY BARROS - -- No, no, no. --

ANN MARIE LOPES - -- Shanghaied whaling ships.

HENRY BARROS - No, I think it was done just to give them a job.

ANN MARIE LOPES - When you lived on Madison Street -- I keep asking everybody about this -- Madison Square Garden, was that still in existence?

HENRY BARROS - The one in Boston or New York?

ANN MARIE LOPES - Well, there was -- I'm told -- well, there's the Madison Square Garden in New York, but there wasn't a club a Madison Square Garden Club, but they said that the guys boxed and then on the weekends they had dances there.

HENRY BARROS - If they did I don't remember the name. Do you remember Cove Mill -- where it

used to be?

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yes.

HENRY BARROS - That's where we used to go to fights -- go to see the fights. It was a -- I could be wrong -- I think it was called Page Arena at the time. That's where they had boxing matches. Madison Square Garden. I don't think that -- they probably just called it that because, I guess, the big professional fights must have been at Madison Square Garden in Boston.

ANN MARIE LOPES - I guess it was early, early because a lot of the people that I have talked to don't remember it. They had heard of it, but had not seen it.

HENRY BARROS - I don't recall that at all.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So when you were -- when you were growing up was there like a neighborhood that you stayed in?

HENRY BARROS - Yes.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Like a street you couldn't go past?

HENRY BARROS - Right now it's the Pace building on Purchase and Madison. That's where we sat all the time. A block down is Russell and Acushnet Avenue. That's Monte's playground. For some strange reason, we never went there, you know. I guess our folks told us not to wander too far and we just didn't.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Was the T.A Green school there?

HENRY BARROS - Yes. That's where the T.A Green school was.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did you go to school there?

HENRY BARROS - No, I went to a Acushnet Avenue school, so I guess that's because we lived on Grinnell Street at the time because that would be six, seven, and eight years old. And then from there I went to Allen F. Wood school.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Where was that?

HENRY BARROS - If I had stayed on Grinnell Street, I would have gone to Donaghy but instead

from there we went to Allen F. Wood because we moved to Madison Street. That's on Russell and Purchase and Sixth. Parking lot now. On the corner they have the stone in remembrance of Antone "Sunshine" Ramos. But the Allen F. Wood school was there. It's too bad they tore it down because it was a good school in good shape. It was the first school to fly the American flag in this country.

ANN MARIE LOPES - I'm glad you said that.

HENRY BARROS - You know, that didn't faze anybody at the time, but that's where I went to school.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So what did you do for fun? I mean, you did the dancing and the singing and did you have jobs when you were kids?

HENRY BARROS - At what?

ANN MARIE LOPES - Had any jobs? There were -- there were, from what you said there were seven of you?

HENRY BARROS - As an early teenager, I worked in a store in a little building next to the Salvation Army on Purchase Street. It was called Roderick's Market. I worked there for quite a few years. Hector worked there. I worked there and we used to deliver orders all over the city. Way up north, way down south on a bicycle. It's a bicycle I don't know if you are familiar with it, it had the regular sized wheel on the back, a very small wheel on the front with a large basket above it. And that's where you put the box of food that the people bought. We would actually put it there and go up north, delivering orders up north, west end, all over the place. I did that for a few years. After awhile you get to work, you wait on the customers. It was interesting because the name of the owner was John Roderiques. He didn't mind because I liked math, Hector was very good at math, but a different math as in accounting or bookkeeping. Mine was just analytical math, but we both loved numbers and we would do it in our heads, you know, at that time it was pretty good. So it was an advantage to John. He didn't bother to check all our figures. He knew we wouldn't make a mistake and it was good experience working at a small store. We worked there -- you are too young to remember during the second World War they had rationing. You couldn't buy some food unless you had stamps that the government issued. Margarine was one and meats but John Roderiques gave it to his customers whether they had stamps or not. He was very good that way and his meats were very, very good. He didn't cheat on it or, you know, like adding more fat to the hamburger. Things like that. He would never do that.

He was very, very good to them. One thing I could never understand -- large families like my family or Tony "Geech" Gomes family and a few others where there are a lot of youngsters, father would be the only one working and, in those days, you didn't make too much money. But the food bill was 80, 90 100 -- over \$100. They didn't make that much a week and yet they paid their bills. I am still trying to figure out how they did it. They were able to handle money in a way that I don't know if anybody can do that today. The only thing I can say is we had salesmen come to your house everyday -- every week. They would pick up your clothes, clean it and bring it back. It wasn't that expensive. We had a couple of -- a man and a son -- Cohen brothers. They sold clothing. So that's where my mother bought stockings, underwear, shirts, pants and you pay them a quarter a week, fifty cents a week, you know, whatever you had. They accepted it and came every week. So things were quite different. I worked in a store. It was nice to work there. You'd learn a lot about people.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yeah, I would think.

HENRY BARROS - Quite a bit. Oh, yes.

ANN MARIE LOPES - What did your mom do? Did your mom work outside of the house or --

HENRY BARROS - Oh, yeah, no, she worked.

ANN MARIE LOPES - She worked at home I know.

HENRY BARROS - She worked in a factory. I don't know if it was Aerovox or not. I know she worked in a factory for awhile. I don't know how long or the brothers were one year apart and after I was born it was three years to Lucille, then three years to Mary, then three years to Charlotte. Then she relaxed for, I think, 15 years (laughter) and then Carol and Butch. It's -- one good thing about it that, with our cousins, like you, your brothers and sisters, we could hold a family affair and not worry if anybody else came. We had a large group of our own and we all got along. It was fun. You know. Most people ask why do I play the keyboard. I said, "Well, there was a piano in the house. What are you supposed to do?"

ANN MARIE LOPES - Self-taught?

HENRY BARROS - Yeah. The piano just sat there. It was one of those pianos where you can put a pedal and it had the rollers on there, but that was very nice but that broke, but the piano was still good, so Junior and I just used to sit down and as we listened to Creole songs or any other song, we would go home and keep trying to find out how to play and eventually

we did it.

ANN MARIE LOPES - You have a musical family because I remember Hector in his band and I told him this, but when I heard "Besame Mucho," that was Hector's song. I didn't know anyone else recorded it. That was Hector's song.

HENRY BARROS - (laughter)

ANN MARIE LOPES - He laughed.

HENRY BARROS - I think he -- I think he tried to sing it like Billy Eckstine did. Billy Eckstine was his favorite. We had a cousin -- my father's cousin called Chief, Mr. Roderiques and for some reason or other I guess we were talking about musical instruments and asked Hector what he wanted and I guess Hector must have said a saxophone, so he is the one who went out and bought a sax for Hector. Then he took lessons, of course, and he had the band. Junior never had lessons, but he played all the Creole songs and he played with Hector's band for a long time. I never did.

ANN MARIE LOPES - But I remember him playing the accordion.

HENRY BARROS - Yes, he played the accordion also.

ANN MARIE LOPES - You know, you are not talking about your sisters.

HENRY BARROS - They were part of that group of singing. We used to have fun with them, but our cousins that don't live here anymore, the Lowreys and the Marie Costa they were very close to us at the time. That's from my uncle Manny and his wife Philomena. They used to come. We used to play games. Where my brother Butch lives now is a small yard. When you look at him, you say, my God, we used to play baseball in this yard. But we did as kids and never broke a window but, you know, we played baseball there, we played dodgeball there, we used to have fun. My sisters and other names I mentioned earlier, playing these games. I forget the name of them. Red light, kick the can, games of that nature that I can't remember the name because no one plays it today and no one mentions it, but we had all these games that we used to play in the park.

ANN MARIE LOPES - What did your parents do for fun? They were working, they were taking care of you guys?

HENRY BARROS - My father worked odd hours. When there was entertainment he was working

for instance -- and holidays. He worked holidays because most people -- a lot of people go out and eat on holidays.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So he was a chef in restaurants.

HENRY BARROS - Oh, yes. There was a famous restaurant in New Bedford, Smith's Grill, that was there for 18, 20 years. After it was no longer a restaurant, it became the Piccadilly, a night club spot famous entertainers.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Someone mentioned -- I've heard that mentioned, the name.

HENRY BARROS - Yes. Ever hear of the Rhoda Scott Trio?

ANN MARIE LOPES - Nah-uh.

HENRY BARROS - She was an organist that used to go there often.

ANN MARIE LOPES - I heard there's a story with "Down to the Sea in Ships?"

HENRY BARROS - Yes, I believe it was Richard Widmark. My father at the time was working at the Quickersham Club -- not the Quickersham -- I'm sorry the Wamsutta Club on County Street and I guess that was famous club so that's where they went. My father -- I don't know if it was clam chowder or whatever he made and whatever it was Richard Widmark loved it. I guess he made the comment -- I think it was Richard Widmark -- and Gregory Peck I think was down there as Captain Ahab.

ANN MARIE LOPES - I heard the story --

HENRY BARROS - -- My father was artistic in his cooking, too.

ANN MARIE LOPES - I heard a slightly different version of the story. I heard that your father made monchupa and that whoever the actor was said that it was the best chowder he ever tasted.

HENRY BARROS - Maybe that's true. Maybe I forgot that, yeah. I can't say yes or no to it. I don't think I've ever heard that one. It wouldn't surprise me because I remember when it was hard to get meats or turkeys for Thanksgiving, my father had a fish and he baked the fish and he dressed it up like you would a turkey and did such an impressive job that the *Standard Times* took a picture on the front page if I remember right. He had a sense of humor. You may not have thought so, but he had a good sense of humor and every time

we had people as guests, his friends, he would always make us -- introduce us and make us dance or play the piano for them and he was proud of whatever accomplishment we did, you know, which was nice. We appreciate it now more than we did then. "Oh, do I have too?" But now we know why, you know. We really appreciate it now.

ANN MARIE LOPES - One of the things -- one of the areas that people talk about is drawing a family together is food. Now I know your father was a chef, did he cook at home? Did you eat meals together?

HENRY BARROS - Not too often.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Well, I would think that you would --

HENRY BARROS - -- My mother did all the cooking at home, believe it or not, but my father, when he did, you would remember it. It was unique in quahogs things of that nature, things that most people or very few would cook as a main dish every week or every month. It's something you -- once in a great while you would taste it, but my mother did most of the cooking as far as I can remember.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Was there a specialty?

HENRY BARROS - My mother?

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yeah, special like every Sunday you had something or --

HENRY BARROS - -- Not that I can remember, no.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did you all eat together? Was it a family meal, dinner?

HENRY BARROS - Yes. Definitely. Thanksgiving no one ate until my father came home and that was about 5 o'clock or after. Hungry all day long. We had to smell the turkey all day long until my father came home. But, you know, that was our life. We didn't mind it, you know.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did you go to --

HENRY BARROS - -- That's -- it was a good life. I miss them. They would talk to us, you know. In those days TV was never even heard of but we would sit in front of the radio as if we were watching something. Why would you have to sit in front of a radio and watch it? But that's what we did, you know. And I remember all of us sitting there watching Joe Louis and another boxer named Billy Caan and I think Joe Louis won that fight. But we were all

sitting staring at the radio like we were going to see something, you know, but the point was it was my father and all the sons. We did a lot of things together.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So did your mom do things with the girls?

HENRY BARROS - Yes. It's amazing how the work in the house was divided. Anything that was, like, physical or hard the boys did and the girls did so-called dusting or light work and changing the curtains and things like that. In those days "That's a woman's job. That's a man's job." But we didn't mind it. Like I said it was a big family and we got along all the time. We would very rarely ever fight. I am quite sure as youngsters we did, but we also stuck together. I remember my brother Junior broke a tool of my father's called a planer. My father walked in the door, "Which one of you boys broke it?" And we all said the Green Mountain Boys don't talk. We don't even know what the Green Mountain Boys are, but that's what we said. So he took us upstairs. He gave us all one or two whacks with his belt upstairs. We cried, went downstairs, and we laughed like heck. He wanted to come back up and my mother stopped him, you know. At that point he was angry, so my mother stopped him. It was nice being disciplined by my mother, by the way, because my mother hit us with a belt but the belt was made out of some soft cotton or cloth. Well, she did hit us with a belt (laughter) except it wouldn't kill a fly, you know, my mother, she couldn't hurt anybody.

ANN MARIE LOPES - You guys lived on Madison Street, which isn't too far from downtown New Bedford. Did you ever go downtown? Go to the stores or --

HENRY BARROS - -- Yes. --

ANN MARIE LOPES - -- or go down to what is --

HENRY BARROS - -- Mostly the movie -- mostly the movie theaters at that time. We had one, two, three, four theaters downtown for movie theaters.

ANN MARIE LOPES - (inaudible) was it the State --

HENRY BARROS - -- State theater --

ANN MARIE LOPES - -- the Olympia --

HENRY BARROS - -- Olympia and Empire.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Empire.

HENRY BARROS - And from the State theater, they used to have movies one maybe two weeks and after that it would go to the New Bedford theater, which was on Union Street. The same movies that I believe were owned by the same person and he just moved it up there, so the people who didn't see it at the State could see it there. The New Bedford Theater was a three-decker -- two balconies and a main floor. Empire and Olympia was just one balcony, but we used to go to movies quite often. We used to go uptown. We used to be a store where they sold coffee called Lorraine's. Like an open place. The seats were like the seats you had in school where you had an arm that you write on. Same seat. That's where they put the coffee and whatever donut or whatever you were having. And you could smell it because the door was open. You could smell the coffee a mile away.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did you mainly socialize with other Cape Verdeans? I know you have your family.

HENRY BARROS - Yes, the Haughtmans were Cape Verdeans, the Madens -- Lloyd and Donna Maden were Indian. Joe and John Lunny I don't know what they were. They were not Cape Verdeans. They were Caucasian, but what nationality I don't remember.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So whoever was in the --

HENRY BARROS - -- I remember they had a very pretty sister and I used to be at their house -- she was much older than we are and the sister's name was Honey and, of course, I was at their house quite often so I knew her well, you know, and so forth and then one day she was coming up and I just happened to be on the corner of Madison and my uncle Joe was there and as she walked by I said, "Hi, Honey." She says, "Hi. How are you?" I says, "Fine" and so forth. My uncle Joe couldn't wait to tell my mother. But it's things like that that we remember. I don't know why, but it's cute. What else did we do?

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did all of you have to work? All of your siblings end up working --

HENRY BARROS - -- We all did --

ANN MARIE LOPES - -- to support the family?

HENRY BARROS - Well, we knew money was tight when you have a family of six at that time with six and mother and father. And in Madison Street I think every one of our relatives, if not them, their mothers and fathers at one time lived there. That's why the house is so important to us, you know, because Joe lived there, Tony lived there, Manny and Tilly lived there, my grandmother lived there, Jack, of course, lived -- my uncle Jack lived in Boston but

when he got sick he came to Madison Street and was -- he stayed there until he died. So --

ANN MARIE LOPES - -- Did you say Uncle Jack?

HENRY BARROS - Yes.

ANN MARIE LOPES - I have a story about Uncle Jack but go ahead.

HENRY BARROS - Yeah, he had cancer. It's a very good friend of Dr. Balla by the way. They graduated -- they should have graduated but I don't know what Jack did exactly but he couldn't go to become a doctor but Dr. Balla always said that you think he's smart, Jack was much smarter. He would always tell us that. They were very good friends. But everyone had a tie to 36 Madison Street, you know, if not now but their folks lived there at one time or another, so the house was always full. When I was going to college it was full and I used to go to third floor in the bedroom and try to do my homework. I couldn't. Too quiet. So I had to go downstairs and I sat at a dining room table and got all these people running around having fun, you know, but if there's noise I can close it off and concentrate, but there's no noise than I'm trying to hear noise and see what are they doing. People don't understand that but that's the way it was.

ANN MARIE LOPES - That's usually how people with big families are. They can just shut it off.

HENRY BARROS - Yes. Definitely. Well, you have to.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Or moms -- moms can do that, too, I've learned.

HENRY BARROS - Yes.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So were you active in the church?

HENRY BARROS - I don't remember. I don't remember if I was active in church when I was small.

ANN MARIE LOPES - But you did go to Our Lady of the Assumption?

HENRY BARROS - Yeah, I remember going to Our Lady of the Assumption when it was on Water Street for a while, but I honestly do not remember going there. I was never an altar boy and I must have taken all the first communion and so forth. I had to to get married. I don't even remember that. That's rather ironic because now I won the award from the church -- Marian Award they call it. Dedication and all the work.

ANN MARIE LOPES - But you still had ties to it?

HENRY BARROS - Yes, but it's changed. A lot of stories about the church. People think it burned down, it did not burn down. It was torn down for the construction. That's when urban renewal had big ideas and they destroyed about 300 -- over 300 blocks in the city from what I understand.

ANN MARIE LOPES - For -- to put in Route 18.

HENRY BARROS - Yes, the highway to nowhere. That's what I call it. That's what it is.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did you ever work on the waterfront?

HENRY BARROS - No.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Or did any of your -- any of your siblings work on the waterfront?

HENRY BARROS - No.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Not at all?

HENRY BARROS - My mother had a fear for water. She wouldn't even -- wouldn't think of the idea of letting us go down there.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Do you know why she was afraid of water?

HENRY BARROS - No, I don't. I have no idea why. I know it probably had to do with an incident because I know I never went swimming. When I was very young there used to be three rafts down the beach. First, second, and third and, obviously, first was closest, second, further, and a third for good swimmers and so forth. And we went down there. We were all playing and we swam to the first raft, you know, bunch of friends of ours, brothers and friends. And I guess they all thought they'd pull a stunt on me or thought it would be cute. They swam to the first raft and were sitting on the first raft and they know I couldn't swim. But we talked until the tide came in. When we went there it was low tide. They kept talking until it became high tide and then they all swam back to shore and went home. And they left me there and so I figure, well, it can't be that deep, so I jump and all of a sudden I'm going down, so when I got to the bottom I had to jump up, take a breath, jump up and as I'm jumping I'm hopping towards the shore, you know, and I never went back to the beach.

ANN MARIE LOPES - I could understand it.

HENRY BARROS - Never went swimming and never went back to the beach.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did they get in trouble?

HENRY BARROS - Not that I can recall. In those days everybody had the foolish idea if they threw you in a river you automatically could swim. That's what Tarzan did to Boy in the movies. Well, it's true. They literally thought that was true. You could throw a kid in the water and he would automatically become a swimmer (inaudible).

ANN MARIE LOPES - I've heard from several people that your parents' wedding was a major social event in the Cape Verdean community.

HENRY BARROS - Did it last a few days? I heard it lasted a few days.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Everyone was so impressed with the way the people were dressed and it was just one of those -- I don't want to say ritzy -- but, you know, it was a very high-class affair and people hadn't seen it. Did they talk about it?

HENRY BARROS - No.

ANN MARIE LOPES - They didn't talk about their wedding?

HENRY BARROS - No. I have pictures, but I don't remember them talking about it. I -- I heard similar stories (inaudible) it was a celebration that nobody would ever forget.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Your father played the mandolin or the ukulele?

HENRY BARROS - We never heard him or saw him. But he did. It's upstairs.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Someone told me that that's how he courted your mother.

HENRY BARROS - It could be because -- I forget the song -- supposedly it had something to do when he was walking my mother to West End. There's a street in West End, Ocean Street, and supposedly, I guess, he made up a song "Ocean Street, Ocean Love," you know. That's a -- we asked him that at one time. He just laughed and said no, but we don't know if that's true or not, but it's something we've always believed, you know.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Why did they go to the West End?

HENRY BARROS - I have no idea.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Because it seemed that people generally stayed in their neighborhoods.

HENRY BARROS - Yes. Definitely.

ANN MARIE LOPES - You say that so strongly.

HENRY BARROS - Well, I've been talking about it to other people in church this past week and when we grew up the communities were congested in one area. The West End had the West Enders, the South End was the Portuguese. Right here around here was the Cape Verdeans and you didn't cross -- no one told you you couldn't but you just didn't go there. No one told us we couldn't go on Hawthorne Street, but we all knew we can't go on Hawthorne Street. We don't even know why we can't go there. But we can't go there. All we know it's full of doctors and Jews.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Big houses.

HENRY BARROS - Yeah. Oh, yeah. The only time we went there is Halloween because we know you get a lot of food.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Get the good -- you get the good candy up there.

HENRY BARROS - Yeah. But we never would go up there to play, walk, or do anything. Stay in your own neighborhood and we never was much for going anywhere anyway as I said. We were happy to be out on the corner there singing and dancing and whatever. Sometimes just drinking milk and eating cake. And those of us who are still alive, we remember it quite well. Most of them of course have passed away.

ANN MARIE LOPES - What -- what's your favorite story about when you were a kid?

HENRY BARROS - I don't really have one.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Do you have a story about your siblings that's, like, kind of funny?

HENRY BARROS - Well, I remember Junior and I we used to play catch football and if you took pictures of us, we'd probably look like poor kids because the clothes would be raggy, dirty because we were rolling on the ground and we needed a haircut, but Hector always had -- Hector always seemed to be dressed in a suit. He always seemed to be dressed up, you know, what's wrong with him, you know, it's movie theaters. We would deliver papers, of

course, in the Cape Verdean area and Bay Village and in those days -- it still is now, too -- the *Standard Times*, for instance, if you had 100 papers to deliver, you bought 100 papers from *Standard Times*. You paid for it. If the people you delivered it, didn't pay you that's your tough luck. The *Standard Times* would not let us stop delivering a paper to 122 Bay Village. They would never pay us. And the "Standard Times" would not allow us to drop them and yet my father paid for those papers all those years just to give us the experience of delivering papers and so forth. And we used to do it and, of course, we were never asked or never told to pay rent or do anything, but every one of us, as we got a job we would give our entire pay to my mother and she would almost always give us half of it back, but it was never said that you have to or you must or whatever. It's -- don't know why we just felt this is the way it should be. They have a large family. She needs help. And, of course, most of us started working at 13, 14 years old. I was a mere teenager when I got my first credit Janson's Men's store right next to the Orpheum theater.

ANN MARIE LOPES - What did they sell there?

HENRY BARROS - Men's suits. We used to buy suits there, buy shirts, and whatever. And we were kids but they -- they gave it to us. But at the time we had a job. I was working at Roderiques Market so we had a job. My mother would always give us half of the money back and so forth. But when we were delivering papers we never made money, so they had to give us a quarter to go to the Orpheum Theater. We went to the Orpheum Theater every week because they had a cowboy movie. They had a cowboy movie, then they had another movie and in between the two they had what they called a chapter. A chapter would be a serial they called "Today" that would last 10, 12 weeks. So you had to go every week to see what was going to happen and these were people like Captain Marvel, Captain Marvel, Jr., the Masked Rider or Jungle Gym. Things like that. And it would be a story that's continuous for 15, 10 to 15 weeks. So we went to the Orpheum theater every Friday. It cost about a dime and sometimes it would just cost maybe a nickel and a can of soup.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So you'd walk -- this is the one in South End?

HENRY BARROS - Mmm-hmm. Yeah. We walked. There was nobody to give us a ride. There was nobody in my family had a car. We were all in late 20s I guess. My brothers and I got a car. My father got a car late in life, but we walked everywhere and there was no problem walking anywhere though.

ANN MARIE LOPES - What do you mean?

HENRY BARROS - Well, I wouldn't walk -- I don't leave here at night. Every now and then you -- it sounds like firecrackers but, you know, they've had their shootings here, down by the corner and whatever. Most of my life was teaching. I loved it. I couldn't do it today but I loved teaching at the time when I was teaching. Greatest profession in the world.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Let me ask you something along those lines. You taught so you were here, why did you stay?

HENRY BARROS - New Bedford?

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yeah.

HENRY BARROS - You mean, after the -- after the Olivetti Research and Design engineer -- when I came back?

ANN MARIE LOPES - Well, yeah, because a lot of what's happened is the kids go to the high school, they go to college and they are gone.

HENRY BARROS - Yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Why did you stay in New Bedford or come back to New Bedford?

HENRY BARROS - I don't know. It's -- I looked for other jobs in New Bedford and when I couldn't find it, I was willing to move out. I went to -- I started in New York -- Long Island -- visited a couple places and the airport there. New York City. I stayed a few days there being interviewed. Connecticut. A couple of cities in Connecticut. Boston, Providence. I just made one big circle. When I got the offer from Connecticut it was good so I took it. My wife was homesick I guess. She came from a large family also. She was a little homesick. She would have gone anywhere I went. They want engineers in New Bedford, they pay engineers fairly well, so why not come back. So I did. Didn't get the jobs, but I stayed teaching. I don't think about it anymore. Maybe for a short while I thought how would it be if I had gone somewhere like the Dick Stevens that I helped. I'm not sure if he went beyond four years or not but anyways he got a job as an engineer. He loved it and he ended up being one of the top 12 black engineers in the country. But, you know, I would have gone if I had to but everybody I knew, all family, all friends, all in New Bedford. At that time you figure it is going to get better not any worse, but I'm not sorry I stayed here. Again, I love teaching. I have met a lot of people. I still meet a lot that I had as students. They are students who are now in school, so now they come and thank me for what I did to them. Now they are finding out what it is to be a parent.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Why don't you talk about your involvement with the Cape Verdean -- the parade?

HENRY BARROS - Eddie Livramento and I ran it for 18 years. I would love the --

ANN MARIE LOPES - -- That would be the Cape Verdean Recognition Day Parade?

HENRY BARROS - Cape Verdean Recognition Parade, yes. Yeah. Eddie and I ran it for 18 years and I loved doing it. We got to meet a lot of people. Eddie took the financial aspect. He was good at -- because of his previous jobs he knew almost any politician in the city, including all the mayors that we had during that span of time and I didn't, but I was able to write letters, keep a record of it, coordinate things with no problem. So that was my job. He was wanted in the financial aspect and I was so-called coordinator and as I write to them, that we sit down decide how much money we can spend, which one to get and so forth, so I used to draw diagrams of Rockdale Avenue and Buttonwood Park and I used -- put this position of all the vehicles in order so there would be no confusion. We could use Buttonwood Park. I would line-up the divisions in order and I would use a hand mic if I had it or a megaphone and just yell out the unit and they would leave the park.

ANN MARIE LOPES - What was the purpose of the parade?

HENRY BARROS - People ask that and I told them the name should tell it to you. Cape Verdean Recognition. We wanted people to recognize who the Cape Verdeans were and we had organizations almost everyone in the city plus many of them from Providence and Connecticut they would come down, obviously, with their banners and signs so you knew that they were Cape Verdean organizations all around the East Coast. That was the main purpose. Just to recognize. Get the people to recognize who and what Cape Verdeans were. We had problems. For instance, politicians. You can march in my parade, but you will not carry a sign, a banner, if you want to pass out anything, get a friend to walk on the sidewalk, not in the parade. You put a button on that's something on your outfit, your jacket, I can't stop you from wearing whatever you want to wear, but you will not carry anything in your hand. Everyone of them agreed. It's a beautiful rule. Some of them probably too cheap to buy a sign or banner anyways, so now everybody does not have one. I wish I could remember this politician's name. He agreed it was a good idea. By the time he got in front of the vets he had about 10 people holding up signs in the parade. So Eddie -- I wish I had the guts to do it, but Eddie Livramento stopped them. Stopped the parade. He said, "Hold it right there." And he told everybody, "See this politician so-and-so?" I honestly cannot remember his name. He said, "We told him at the park they cannot carry

signs in our parade. He told us that he thought it was a very good idea. Look at the signs he is carrying in our parade. If that's what his word means, don't vote for him." (laughter) In the next couple of days the letters to the readers, people heard that they thanked us and complimented us. He says, "That's what makes your parade a good parade. No politicians with all these signs. And seeing that they knew it and the broke the rule, you did the right thing." But there weren't too many instances like that, though. The parade was very enjoyable, especially the year we had John F. Kennedy High School from California. I wish somebody had taken movies. I'd love to see it because I was unable to take movies. I coordinated -- I had to make sure they leave Butler Park in order and so forth. Then I'd have to drive all the way down. By the time I got here the first unit is probably getting to the vets. So I had to go on a reviewing stand or I had to go on Walnut Street. Most of the time on Walnut Street because I paid to cause the bands -- as soon as they passed the reviewing stand, I thanked them and I would give them a check. So I had to be out there so I could never take movies of those 18 years I ran it. It's too bad because, you know, I like parades. I love parades. There's no such thing as a bad parade. If people are willing to stop what they are doing and march, the least I could do is stand there and watch them. You know, the Standard Times everybody would ask, "Why do you do this? What for?" I said, "Because we are all kids at heart and every child should have a parade to remember." And I base the things in our parade that satisfy the kids. Once you satisfy the kids, you automatically satisfy the grown-ups.

ANN MARIE LOPES - And wasn't it a source of pride to have the vets marching at the front of the parade?

HENRY BARROS - When we started they marched in the back. Then we had a meeting. We says, "Why? Don't you know that's where they always put us in the back." I says, "And furthermore, you belong in the front because when you get there the members should go along the sidewalk to keep the people, you know, keep them on the sidewalk not to interfere with the parade and the command and the officers should be on the reviewing stand. And how are you going to do that if you are last in a parade?" So I think it was after the second parade or something they always first. They led off the unit. They weren't technically when I wrote it down it was the Vets then it was the first division, second division and so forth. Every parade in the city the cops used to march first and so when I put the Vets in front then they had heard about it and one year they came to Buttonwood Park. This was the only year we lined up in the back of Buttonwood Park - Brownell Avenue. So they gave us a letter -- gave me a letter. What's this? He says, "Policeman all signed it." He says, "We're usually first in every parade. You are not putting us first on this parade." I

said, "This isn't a city parade and it's not your parade. It's my parade. You will march where I put you. I said the Cape Verdean veterans, they are the ones who organize the parade they are first. It's their parade. You are leading the first division. If you don't like that, go home." So they marched in protest. Fine. March anyway you want. They wanted to be first. They thought they should lead everything. No problem after that. That's why I liked working with Eddie. Whatever I said he backed it up, whatever he said, I backed it up because it's usually the same thing. No one's going to tell us how to run the parade. How to put it together.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Do you miss running the parade?

HENRY BARROS - Yes. I left the vets. I tell everybody I was thrown out but I wasn't physically thrown out. But they managed it somehow. They told me that we are going to get rid of you and the old timers and we are going to come in with a young Vietnam veterans with young innovative ideas. I says, "Fine. That's what we want. Young blood." But it took them -- we are going to get rid of you. It took them two years and finally they got enough Vietnam veterans to go to a meeting and there were more of them than there was of the second World War veterans and the Korean war, so naturally they could vote whatever they want. They made a motion, they voted on it. So I lost -- I was adjutant maybe about 18 years also. So they got someone to take that job, so I didn't have it. I used to run the Miss Ver Vet Pageant for same amount of time. They took that away from me and the parade took that away from me. I says, "Fine. OK. Good luck." And I left because I will not belong to any organization if I cannot work. It's a waste of time. I don't have that kind of time to waste. If I am going to belong to an organization, I want to work. So that's -- haven't been back since. They have last year or two since they had trouble and they are trying to -- when they try to reactivate they've -- I receive a lot of phone calls because most of the veterans my age have passed away and they knew I was historian for years, adjutant for more years, ran the pageant, ran the queen -- the parade -- and so forth. So now I'm the advisor. Or they think I'm their advisor. They call me for information and they think I have a room upstairs with nothing with vets information. I don't know why they think that but anytime they want something they are always told to see Ricky. He has it. So they call me quite often. I would tell them what I know and right now I am in the process of getting everything I have. I am going to give it to them. I wouldn't have before because they -- before they had closed the doors, the Vietnam veterans they threw away almost all the paperwork we did.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yeah, I know that.

HENRY BARROS - A lot of work of your father's for many, many years they were going to throw away. It's a good thing that somebody called James first.

ANN MARIE LOPES - No, they called me.

HENRY BARROS - They called you? It's a good thing that happened because otherwise a lot of the things that you see now in the library and whatever would have been in the garbage and I thought that was sad. I went up there a few months ago in the office. It looks nice but I said, "Where's all the bookwork?" Nothing. They threw them all away. The only thing they have -- some strange reason they kept all the albums I made each year of the Ver Vet pageant. Other than that, everything else is gone. And I would not give them anything. They want something I says, "Yeah, I will make a copy and give it to them." But now I am going to give them everything I have because let's face it, I don't have any kids. When I die, you think anybody is going through all the paperwork and books I have upstairs, you are joking. They are going to pick up the box and through it in the garbage. So -- it's true -- who's going to go through all that just to see if there's something important for the vets? No one cares about the vets like I do, so why should they. So I am giving it to them. They want to throw it away, let them throw it away. Don't bother me anymore, you know. So --

ANN MARIE LOPES - -- I would like to thank you for your time.

HENRY BARROS - I hope it's of some interest.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yes. (inaudible) Is there something you wanted to say that I didn't ask you about that --

HENRY BARROS - -- Why I'm working with the church maybe. If we have another five minutes or so.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK.

HENRY BARROS - I started going in there once a week, twice a week to help Lucille because she had lupus and it was affecting her fingers. Couldn't move this and she couldn't turn. She got to a point she couldn't turn a door knob, so you know, I helped her at home buying these gadgets. So I got to help here there and so forth. While being there she says -- we were just talking about things as we are now. I says, "Why don't we do something so that the people of the future can know what this church has done and so forth." I said, "What are you talking about?" She says, "Why don't we make an archive?" I says, "OK. I think it's a good idea." So I started an archive and that's the reason I started it and I'm still doing it

and there's thousands and thousands of pictures. Why? Not so much for the people today. You want to know what the church is doing? Go to church. This is for the people that I hope 50, 100 years from now, if the church is still here they can see these disks, slides, prints, albums whatever is still there. Just go through it. They say "Wow, this is what they did. Look at the fun they had or look at the terrible things they did." Whatever. But at least there's pictures and a history of what the church has done. Next Friday I have a show. Kids dancing. Most of the kids are 6, 7, 8, 9 years old. I wanted to show them the dances that I grew up with and the dances that they grew up with in Cape Verde islands but, unfortunately, no one from the city had their kids come apply for it. I have 14 youngsters but they are all youngsters of those who may have come from the Cape Verde Islands. So, you know, it's a little more difficult for them to learn the waltz and mazurka, you know.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So you are saying that you have mostly children of Cape Verdean -- newly arrived from Cape Verde that most of the kids who are, like, American-born Cape Verdeans are not turning out for --

HENRY BARROS - -- I don't know how to answer that, but I did find out today that a six year old girl two years ago couldn't speak English. If she spoke to you today, you would swear she was born here. Perfect English. Little mischievous cute little girl.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Do you think that kids are not as interested in their Cape Verdean heritage now as they were before. Kids born here who have been -- whose parents have been here for generations. When I was growing up Cape Verdean heritage was important, an identity. Do you think that's gone?

HENRY BARROS - They say it but I don't know if I can answer that yes one way or the other. I'd like to think yes, but first (inaudible) back to the dance. I did ask. I talked to parents and I found out that their kids in early high school, so they would be about 16 years old, 17, a few weeks ago they put on a show at the high school, showing -- I don't know who they are showing it to because I didn't know it was open to the public or not. If not, that is they showed the students the Cape Verdean dances. Now why didn't they come to the show here. Because I spoke to the parents. I told them great. If they come here now we have youngsters who can do the dances with no problem. Not one showed up. Why I don't know. I hate to say this but I called the dances Dances de Capo Verde. And underneath it means Cape Verdean Dancers. Now when they saw Dances de Capo Verde maybe in their mind they says well, we are going to give a show of the dances they do in the Cape Verde islands only, you know. And I don't know why they would think that, but that's the only --

it's the only thing I can think of why they did not come because some of them love to dance Cape Verdean music and why they did not apply I don't know. But anyways after that I'm showing slides. One hundred forty-six slides of anything related to the church on Water Street. Now if you are 53 years old or younger, you have never seen Water Street Church, so the only thing you know about it is what somebody said. Now is the chance to see the pictures of the inside, the outside, all the organizations that went there and all the things that they did. I hope to have that slideshow the same night. Just to acquaint the people with that.

ANN MARIE LOPES - That sounds great.

HENRY BARROS - I hope to do it in the future with this church, but it would take years. That's about 50,000 prints I have and God knows how many disks.

ANN MARIE LOPES - It sounds like you need an intern.

HENRY BARROS - It don't pay. (laughter)

End of File