

# “Having Our Say”

Voices from the Cape Verdean Community

Donald describes “Cape Verdean Grapevine,” one of his memories of growing up in New Bedford.



“You couldn’t do anything wrong, because if you did – the neighborhood’s adults — the other parents – got on your case, and then they let your parents know”

– Donald Gomes

Donald Gomes  
October 4, 2010

Interview with Donald Gomes  
Conducted October 4, 2010  
By Ann Marie Lopes

## ***Beginning of File***

**ANN-MARIE LOPES** - Ok. The interviewer is Ann-Marie Lopes, and I am interviewing Donald Gomes. If you could just tell me your age or your birth date, just so that they get an idea of what –

**DONALD GOMES** - My age?

**ANN-MARIE LOPES** - Yeah, we just –

**DONALD GOMES** - That's kind of personal, isn't it?

**ANN-MARIE LOPES** - (laughs) Wait 'til you hear the other questions!

**DONALD GOMES** - June 2nd, 1940 -- that makes me 70 years old.

**ANN-MARIE LOPES** - Oh, well good. Now, you're still working -- you gonna retire soon?

**DONALD GOMES** - Probably.

**ANN-MARIE LOPES** - Good, good. Cause I don't like –

**DONALD GOMES** - Yeah, very soon. Not very soon, but yeah, soon. Within a year, I think.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - Is that a scoop? Like, no one else knows, and so –

DONALD GOMES - No one else knows.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - Oh, boy. I got a scoop, I'm excited.

DONALD GOMES - (laughs)

ANN-MARIE LOPES - So, what I wanna do is basically just have a conversation with you. I'm interviewing people -- Cape Verdeans, Cape Verdean Americans -- about what it was like growing up in New Bedford. Now, since this is for the National Park, we go back a ways, but we may skip forward. Did –

DONALD GOMES - Sure.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - Who were the first people in your family to come to this country?

DONALD GOMES - God...

ANN-MARIE LOPES - Do you know?

DONALD GOMES - I don't know, probably my father.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - Yeah, OK. Where -- from where?

DONALD GOMES - And my grandmother. From Brava -- my father -- I guess from Brava. I guess my grandparents too, on my mother's side. You know, you're asking me all those questions, and I think your brother probably has more answers about my --

ANN-MARIE LOPES - That's genealogy stuff.

DONALD GOMES - Yeah, but he probably has that --

ANN-MARIE LOPES - My brother can't --

DONALD GOMES - -- About who came, and when they came --

ANN-MARIE LOPES - But I wanna hear it from you.

DONALD GOMES - Yeah, I know.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - See?

DONALD GOMES - But what I know -- I think my grandfather and grandmother, on my father's side -- and my father, of course. And I didn't know my maternal grandparents, but I suspect they came over, 'cause my mother was born here. So they must have been the first to be -- my mother was born here, my aunt Mary was born here, my Antónia was born in the Cape Verde islands. And they had some brothers, too, who passed away way before I was born --

ANN-MARIE LOPES - So, let's --

DONALD GOMES - So, I don't know. Some of them were born -- so I would say my grandparents came back and forth. 'Cause yeah, my grandmother -- my aunt Mary -- was born here, and she

was the oldest of the girls. And then they went back to Cape Verde islands. And Antónia was born over there, I think, in Brava. They came back with them and brothers -- of course, I don't know where they were born, because like I said, they were all deceased by the time I came along. And then -- but my mother was born here, that I know.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - OK. So, your fraternal -- paternal --

DONALD GOMES - My paternal parent -- my paternal grandparents were born over there, and came here.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - So, what --

DONALD GOMES - So, I guess both sides came with the first people that came.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - So, your grandparents -- you wanna tell me their names? Your father's parents?

DONALD GOMES - My father's father was Jules Gomes, and his mother was Maria Correia.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - Gomes?

DONALD GOMES - No Gomes. 'Cause I don't even know -- to tell you the truth, Ann-Marie, I don't know if they were married. They might have been, 'cause she had took -- no, they might not have been married.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - That -- I've heard that before.

DONALD GOMES - Yeah. I mean they had -- my father had two brothers and two sisters that I can remember. One of the sisters died when I was young. Three -- it might have been three sisters, now that I think of it. 'Cause I can't remember the other one's name, 'cause there were two -- one of them died before I was born. And one moved to Idaho, or some place -- I don't even -- honest to God. Iowa, Iowa -- either Iowa or Idaho, I don't remember.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - To start her own Cape Verdean community?

DONALD GOMES - I was a kid. Yeah, I was very young. But I remember them coming over the house. And the other sister just died last year, Angie. Angelina.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - OK. And your father's name?

DONALD GOMES - August. Augusto.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - Augusto?

DONALD GOMES - Yeah.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - Middle name?

DONALD GOMES - Gomes -- no, he didn't have a middle name.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - OK. Now your maternal parents -- maternal grandparents, I guess they would be to you.

DONALD GOMES - I don't know if my -- you know something, it's strange. I don't know my maternal grandfather's name.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - OK.

DONALD GOMES - But her grandmother's name was Catherine.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - Oh, that sounds very Creole.

DONALD GOMES - Yeah, Catherine yeah. (laughs) And my mother's name was Julia.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - Julia?

DONALD GOMES - Oh, she knew everybody's -- if you said to people out on the street -- Julia Teça, Maria Teça, and Antónia Teça -- they'd know who it was.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - Spell the last name.

DONALD GOMES - To all the people. Their last name was -- maiden name was Monteiro.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - But what's -- you said

DONALD GOMES - Yeah. Teça, with a little thing over the "C." Teça.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - Oh, wow.

DONALD GOMES - Yeah.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - OK. Well, what are the grandparents -- that you know about -- come here for?

DONALD GOMES - To work, I suppose. I mean, what does everybody come here for? To work, or get a better -- make a better for themselves. I mean --

ANN-MARIE LOPES - Do you know what they --

DONALD GOMES - -- As you know -- I'm sure you know -- the Cape Verde Islands are very poor.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - Yep.

DONALD GOMES - And they've been poor for generations. And they're just starting, I guess, to do some things with tourism, and education, and everything else. Ask most of the people who come over, they didn't have any education -- on top of that, on all of that stuff. You got; for instance, Brava -- as far as I know -- only had one elementary school. Now they've got two.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - For the entire island?

DONALD GOMES - Yeah. So you walked -- if you lived on the other side of the island -- you walked. And the school, as far as I know -- but yeah, I suppose everybody came over here to make a better life. Work, and make some money -- survive.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - How did your parents meet?

DONALD GOMES - My father and mother?

ANN-MARIE LOPES - Yeah.

DONALD GOMES - I have no idea. Honest to God, I don't know.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - Most people don't know.

DONALD GOMES - I don't know. I have no clue.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - OK. Well, did your father ever talk about his -- what it was like for him growing up?

DONALD GOMES - No. Not that -- my father passed away when I was 11 years old.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - Oh, OK. So you didn't --

DONALD GOMES - Actually, he was -- I was 10 -- actually, when he died, I was 10; I turned 11 when he was buried.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - How did he die?

DONALD GOMES - He had cerebral hemorrhage.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - Oh, wow.

DONALD GOMES - Yeah. He worked hard, though. And I don't remember when he worked in one of the factories -- I guess it was cotton factory -- you know, like, textile factory like everybody else. I mean, he wasn't a weaver, or any of those things like Hathaway, he worked in. And I can't even remember -- Fisk Mill, I think, or Kilburn Mill -- one of those things, one of those. Like I said, I was 10 years old. I mean, what 10 year old worries about what your parents do, I mean - - not very -- rarely. I mean, now they do, because there's a whole emphasis on people being role models, and all this other stuff they teach kids in school, and things are a lot different now than when I was growing up. I mean I'm -- people worked hard, and they didn't worry about that kind of stuff, you know. If your father worked in a -- most people I knew, father either worked in a mill, they were seamen, fishermen, or they worked in the cranberry bogs, they worked at Ocean Spray, or whatever the hell that place is down there.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - Do you know anyone in your family that was a seaman, or a longshoreman, or...?

DONALD GOMES - Well, yeah. My younger brother Paul's a longshoreman. But my mother had several brothers who were seamen who, as I understand, died in an accident in either -- I don't know, exactly, where the accident was. It was two boats colliding; a tanker and another boat collided. And I'm not sure whether it was in the canal. And that was all -- all that stuff happened -- Jesus, way before I was born.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - So, is that -- are you talking about, like, the Lightship Nantucket? Because there was a huge accident with the -- I believe that the ship was named the Lightship Nantucket. And the entire crew was lost, and five of them were Cape Verdean.

DONALD GOMES - It might be.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - Oh.

DONALD GOMES - Might be. You see that my -- the keeper of all that information was my sister, Louise. And my brother Joe knows a little bit about that, but most of -- Louise had all that information. But I remember -- God, forget that the -- I know that just in conversations, "Yeah, you had two uncles," -- I was to believe it was two uncles, they didn't even tell me their names -- that died in the boating accident, a shipping accident. I think they said the Cape Cod Canal, but I'm not sure.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - Oh, it could've been. Maybe -- what year were you born again?

DONALD GOMES - I was born in 1940.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - World War I, maybe?

DONALD GOMES - Could've been.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - 'Cause people talk about the German submarines off the coast of Cape Verde.

DONALD GOMES - Could've been, but no, I think this was a collision between the tanker and another boat.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - OK.

DONALD GOMES - Another ship, another boat -- or ship.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - Yeah, that --

DONALD GOMES - Two ships, one of them being a tanker. I guess that's my memory. Course, you gotta remember that this, I'm hearing when I was like 12, 13, 14 years old.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - Yeah, but that's the kind of stuff --

DONALD GOMES - Which is a long time ago?

ANN-MARIE LOPES - Well, yeah.

DONALD GOMES - (laughs)

ANN-MARIE LOPES - Just like, what, three or four years, I'm sure.

DONALD GOMES - Yeah. (laughs)

ANN-MARIE LOPES - What -- what did your mom do?

DONALD GOMES - My mother worked in factories, she worked at -- she did a lot of different things, I think. But I remember she worked at Cornell for a little while, and then she became -- of course, my father passed away, she had eight of us still at home when he died. So, I mean, she became a stay-at-home mom, and the oldest of those kids at home was Joe, and he was 20. The next would've been, like, 17. 'Cause most of us -- 18, maybe -- yeah, 18, I suppose. 'Cause Joe was in -- when my father died -- Joe was actually in the Navy, in '51. And he got out on hardship, 'cause my mother had all these kids still at home. I mean, I was 11, my sister Mary

must've been -- 11, I was 11 -- Mary was 13, Ramon was 15, Kay was probably 17, Joe was 19, I think, the -- not 20.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - But you say eight at home. Were there others?

DONALD GOMES - My brother Paul. And I had a brother, Butch -- between myself and my brother Paul -- had a brother, Anthony -- "Butch," we called him. And after him was Paul. So there's Paul, Anthony, Donald, David -- that's four -- Mary -- five -- Ramon -- six -- Catherine -- seven -- Joe -- eight.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - That's a lot of kids.

DONALD GOMES - Yeah, we had 11 -- 11 in the family. We had --

ANN-MARIE LOPES - That's a lot of kids.

DONALD GOMES - August Jr., Arthur, and Louise.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - How old was your mother when her husband died -- your father died?

DONALD GOMES - Oh, God. It was '51? Oh, God, I don't know. She died in, let's see -- I have to figure it out. My father was -- in 1951, and my mother died in '69. In 1969 she was 50.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - She died when she was 50?

DONALD GOMES - No, she was 59. I'm sorry, I'm talking to myself. (laughs)

ANN-MARIE LOPES - Oh, OK.

DONALD GOMES - She was 59, in '69. So that's like, 18 years, right? Eight -- 18 -- so, 59, 18, 41? She would've been 42 years old. My father was seven years older than her, I guess. She would've been 60 in February -- she died in January. So she would've been 60.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - OK.

DONALD GOMES - In '69, so --

ANN-MARIE LOPES - Did she remarry?

DONALD GOMES - No, never remarried.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - What did she do for fun?

DONALD GOMES - For fun? You mean, fun fun? F-U-N?

ANN-MARIE LOPES - (laughs) Yes.

DONALD GOMES - Oh, she -- well, she didn't have a whole lot of things, I mean, to have fun -- after, you know, with eight kids. She went to the United Social Club on weekends, like anybody else. Her fun was that -- in those days, when they went out at night -- on a Saturday night, if they went out to the United Social Club, or the Crystal Café -- where most of those places had -- were places that had Cape Verdean music. Always, always. United Social Club, Crystal Café, the Bomb Shelter. The Band club -- that's all we had in those days. Those clubs. And if she went to one of

those places at night, she -- with her girlfriends, with her friends -- they usually, at the end of that night, twelve o'clock, one o'clock -- whatever time the places close -- they went to somebody's house and continued the party.

**ANN-MARIE LOPES** - Oh, that's nice.

**DONALD GOMES** - So, a lot of times they came to our house. A lot of times they came to my house on Saturdays, Fridays -- yeah, Saturdays -- not Sundays, usually Saturdays. They'd cook breakfast, and they'd have food -- the guys would bring booze, and they would continue the party, so to speak. That went on even when we were on South First Street, and when she -- even when she moved into Bay Village, I can remember that. A lot of times we went to my aunt's -- Antonia's house. So, you know, it was a tradition for them, I guess. So her and her girlfriends -- she had several girlfriends that went out on Saturdays and Sundays.

**ANN-MARIE LOPES** - So, she did have fun.

**DONALD GOMES** - Yeah, yes. She was not young, you know, struggling to make -- you know, I think we were on welfare too, I think. I'm sure, well 'cause --

**ANN-MARIE LOPES** - I don't know when that started.

**DONALD GOMES** - Some kind of welfare, she must have been. It was the --

**ANN-MARIE LOPES** - Maybe a widow's --

**DONALD GOMES** - Yeah, some -- they had some kind of program for widows. I think they had -- no, I think it was a welfare program that the cities, at the time, used to contribute money to it. The states ran it, cities used to contribute money to it. 'Cause I remember the War Leader was the guy named Tay Ennis on South Circuit Street, and he was on the Welfare Committee -- it was funded by the state, I guess, run by the city. Local -- local control. But yeah, they had some kind of welfare program in those days that I can remember, in the 50's -- late 40's and 50's. But, I'm sure she was on some kind of welfare. 'Cause I can't remember her getting vouchers to go to buy shoes at Thom McAn.

**ANN-MARIE LOPES** - Where --

**DONALD GOMES** - They didn't give you money; they gave you like, a voucher. You brought it to the store, and you'd buy shoes, and then they -- the store would take it to the place -- wherever it was -- and they'd get paid.

**ANN-MARIE LOPES** - Where is the Thom McAn's -- downtown?

**DONALD GOMES** - Was over here, I think, on --

**ANN-MARIE LOPES** - Union Street?

**DONALD GOMES** - On William Street. On that lot that's over there, in the corner of Union and the Avenue?

**ANN-MARIE LOPES** - Oh, yeah.

**DONALD GOMES** - It was a -- it was either Thom McAn's or Self Service. I can't remember -- I think it was Self Service Shoe Shop.



ANN-MARIE LOPES - That's the name of the place? Self Service?

DONALD GOMES - Self Service Shoe Store.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - So, they have no sales people?

DONALD GOMES - Oh, no, no. They had sales people, but yeah -- they called it Self Service -- I think that they --

ANN-MARIE LOPES - That was a strange name.

DONALD GOMES - Yeah, no. Thom McAn was on Purchase Street. It must've been Self Service, 'cause I remember going there. I think that was the name of it, on the corner -- right near Cherry -- the old Cherry's building, but on William Street side. There was a Chinese restaurant upstairs. Used to make great Chow Mein sandwiches. Ten cents, I think, 15 cents on a Saturday night -- you go by and [milk 'em?] up and down the street. Thursday nights, yeah. Like Charlie Wong's up the street, up --

ANN-MARIE LOPES - Oh, boy. Mrs. Pina -- do you know Colleen Pina's -- Garron's mother?

DONALD GOMES - Yeah. Julia.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - She talked about --

DONALD GOMES - Julia.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - -- She talked about going in for Chow Mein sandwiches at, um -- what'd you call it?

DONALD GOMES - Charlie Wong's.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - Charlie Wong's -- she talked about that.

DONALD GOMES - Yeah, it was upstairs.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - Right, after going to the movies.

DONALD GOMES - Yeah, I did too. We all did Charlie Wong's upstairs, and China Clipper was another Chinese restaurant. It's where the Bamboo Garden is --

ANN-MARIE LOPES - Yep.

DONALD GOMES - -- Somewhere around there was the China Clipper.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - That was around for a long time.

DONALD GOMES - Yeah, yeah. Then the back -- later they changed their name to Bamboo Garden.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - We can -- I --

DONALD GOMES - But around the corner, on William Street, where the store was -- right on the corner, or across -- there used to be a NP Hayes, the hardware store, on the corner of William and the Avenue.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - OK.

DONALD GOMES - Was a hardware store called NP Hayes, across the street was Carter's.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - Carter's is still there.

DONALD GOMES - Yeah, Carter's is still there, but this was NP Hayes. But, right across the street from that was the shoe store on the first floor, and the Chinese restaurant upstairs.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - Oh, so -- so, basically, that's the park. That's the National Park now.

DONALD GOMES - Yeah.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - So you -- that's -- so you spent some time over there.

DONALD GOMES - Oh, yeah. Spent a lot of time downtown.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - Oh, yeah? Doin' what?

DONALD GOMES - Cruisin'. (laughter) Walkin' around, you know. The movies, the theaters --

ANN-MARIE LOPES - Which theaters did you go to?

DONALD GOMES - Olympia Theater, State Theater, Empire Theater -- went to all of 'em. It was -- well, State Theater's now the Zeiterion. And, interesting -- the Empire Theater, Zeiterion -- State Theater, Zeiterion -- now Zeiterion, I should say -- Empire, and I think the New Bedford Theater -- were all owned by the Zeitz.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - Really?

DONALD GOMES - I believe so.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - That's a lot of theaters.

DONALD GOMES - And the Olympia Theater was not owned by the Zeitz brothers. They were -- I don't know who owned them.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - What about the theaters --

DONALD GOMES - This was downtown. Huh?

ANN-MARIE LOPES - What about the theater in the North End?

DONALD GOMES - Capital?

ANN-MARIE LOPES - Yeah.

DONALD GOMES - I don't know who owned that -- didn't go up the North End much. Went up there a few times -- there was a skating rink that was up there, I don't even remember where it was, but --

ANN-MARIE LOPES - Were there boundaries? Like, not saying -- not like, you know, with barriers and stuff -- but were there areas --

DONALD GOMES - No.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - -- That you stayed in?

DONALD GOMES - No.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - No? You just --

DONALD GOMES - If we did, it was by choice.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - Yeah, that's what I meant.

DONALD GOMES - Yeah, but it was -- not that I can remember. There might've been and we just didn't pay attention to 'em. But I remember going to the North End a few times to the skating rink. I went to the -- I can remember going to the Capital Theater to see some movie, but I can't even remember what that was. That was when I was like 14, 15 years old. 14, 15 years old you're indestructible -- you go everywhere,

ANN-MARIE LOPES - (laughs)

DONALD GOMES - -- You can go anywhere, you know, 16 years old. You go anywhere, no -- you can't tell me to go -- I can't go here, go there. It's like, I lived in the South End -- I went to the South End, I went to the West End. We didn't have no problems. This crap about the West End, and South End, as a long animosity -- I never had it, we never had it. And if it was, the animosity was only in sports. Basketball, and baseball, and softball.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - Which is natural.

DONALD GOMES - Yeah, which -- in the competitiveness in sports, the way they talk about it now is like -- everything. Nah, it wasn't like that. I don't remember it ever being like that. You know, I went all over the place.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - Where'd you grow up?

DONALD GOMES - Me?

ANN-MARIE LOPES - Where?

DONALD GOMES - South First Street.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - South First Street. I know the -- one of the things --

DONALD GOMES - It's no longer there, of course. The Urban Renewal came and destroyed that whole area, then built the South Terminal. And my house is probably somewhere in the middle of where the school is. You know, the Gomes School? (laughs) My house was the last house standing when -- during the Urban Renewal phase. I guess they couldn't come to an agreement with the owner at the time, but -- 'cause it stayed up for a long time. They were doing stuff all over the place --

ANN-MARIE LOPES - All around it?

**DONALD GOMES** - -- Knocking down stuff all around it, and you looked, and it was the last house there. Course my mother had already moved out. She was already in the Bay Village. When I went in the service, I went in the Service in '59, and I was in boot camp. When I came home -- I went in July, came home in like, December. Was on South First Street -- I went away for two years, when I came home my mother had moved to Bay Village already.

**ANN-MARIE LOPES** - Well, some of the people -- it's been suggested to me that the hurricane of '38 came in -- it was a big catastrophe -- and left that part of the city, and houses, in disrepair. And then the city came in, and didn't want to repair them, because Urban Renewal came in and knocked them all down.

**DONALD GOMES** - Yeah, but Urban Renewal didn't come in 'til like, the late 50's -- early, or actually, not late, early 50's -- the early 60's. Everyone knows they'd come to New Bedford 'til Mayor -- 'til Eddie Harrington became mayor, I believe. And that was 1960, he got elected.

**ANN-MARIE LOPES** - Well, they said that Bay --

**DONALD GOMES** - Or '59, he got elected. Took office in '60, so, everybody knows they didn't start 'til at least 1960. That I know of -- probably later.

**ANN-MARIE LOPES** - People said -- they have told me that they thought that the end of the neighborhood happened, in part, because of that, and because of the building Bay Village. So, people moved to Bay Village.

**DONALD GOMES** - Well, that -- you know, the building of Bay Village probably makes more sense now. Bay Village was started in 1938, and finished in 1941 -- I believe it opened in 1941. So that makes sense. I was a year old, so I can't really tell you anything about that. But I was -- I -- interesting enough, one of my jobs -- (laughs) -- was manager at Bay Village. Back in -- Jesus, I can't even remember now -- I would say '70 -- '70 to '74 -- oh, no, maybe, no -- yeah, 1970 to '72, I worked in Bay Village, at the New Bedford Housing Authority. I was assigned -- first I started in Leased Housing Program, which is now the Section 8 Program. And then I went to work in the office -- the office manager was getting transferred to a smaller project so they asked me if I wanted to go to Bay Village, and I said, "Sure, why not?" You know, I lived up the street; I'd roll out of bed, and head down Russell Street. I was married, and lived on Russell Street -- roll out of bed and I was at work. But --

**ANN-MARIE LOPES** - But you could --

**DONALD GOMES** - Yeah, I think that's what -- in 1930, yeah -- when you say it -- when they say it that way, I would imagine that's somewhat true. Because there had to be houses there. I mean, think about it. I mean, we're talking about Grinell Street, to what, Walnut Street?

**ANN-MARIE LOPES** - Mhm.

**DONALD GOMES** - It's housing -- a lot of housing, 200 units. And down -- and the other block, yeah. I mean, it make -- makes sense -- there were houses there, so they probably took those houses, knocked 'em down. Oh, there was a school there too, in that block, somewhere in that area where the Bay Village is. There was a school -- I don't personally remember that, of course, that was in the '30s -- I wasn't even here. Yeah, it makes sense. But see, I don't see that as being the demise of that neighborhood. The Cape Verdean neighborhood. I mean that's -- you know, the Cape Verde islands were right there, and that whole general area, right --

**ANN-MARIE LOPES** - Water Street?

**DONALD GOMES** - Water Street, South First Street, Second Street, Purchase Street, all the way up. And that general area -- I mean, you had Cape Verdeans there, in that whole general area here. You know, up from -- God, from -- I would say from South Street all down to the water. I mean, it was a mixed -- I mean, not just Cape Verdeans. I mean, there was a whole -- the United Nations lived in that block, you know? From South Street West, to County North, to Walnut Street. I mean, in that was the majority of Cape Verdeans. My thoughts are -- thinking about it now -- the majority of the folks in that area were probably Cape Verdeans, but you had everything in there. Portuguese, some Hispanics -- not a whole lot -- there was only like, maybe -- when I was growing up, I could remember like, maybe five Hispanic families from Puerto Rico. I mean it was almost all Puerto Rican. Maybe one from Dominican Republic. But mostly -- but, no, Hispanics that I could remember were five families in that area. And a lot of French folks. I mean, it was a little United Nations down there. Call that, you know -- and, you know, I remember like the Verdean Vets was started in what, '47? And they started, I believe, in a little storefront on Wing Street. Then they went from the storefront to the -- I believe they went to the -- Acushnet Avenue, there's a little building there that belongs to the international longshoreman's now. Near the Band Club.

**ANN-MARIE LOPES** - That's a small building.

**DONALD GOMES** - Yeah, but that's where the Vets went from a storefront on the corner of Wing Street -- there was a little bigger for the Vets, and then just bigger for them. From there, they went to -- oh, God, I can't remember the name of the street. It's off of County, though. They had a building there, but they didn't stay there long. And then they went to where they're at now. And have been there for years, and years -- when I -- years. I mean, I think your parents got married outta there.

**ANN-MARIE LOPES** - Out of the --

**DONALD GOMES** - Verdean Vets. Yeah, well, they got married at Our Lady of Assumption.

**ANN-MARIE LOPES** - And had the reception there.

**DONALD GOMES** - But the reception was at Verdean Vets hall.

**ANN-MARIE LOPES** - Yep.

**DONALD GOMES** - Wasn't it?

**ANN-MARIE LOPES** - That was before me.

**DONALD GOMES** - It was the Eastern --

**ANN-MARIE LOPES** - That was before me.

**DONALD GOMES** - Eastern -- yeah I know that was before you.

**ANN-MARIE LOPES** - (laughs)

**DONALD GOMES** - I was -- if I was in there, when? I was seven, eight years old -- I know it was before you!

**ANN-MARIE LOPES** - I'm just sayin', you know -- I'm just sayin', I'm the youngest. So, they were married -- it sounds like it would make sense that it would be there.

**DONALD GOMES** - Yeah, I think the reception was there. But I think it was Eastern Star Temple, that they called it -- the Eastern Star Hall, or Eastern Star something or another. I don't think the Vets had owned it then.

**ANN-MARIE LOPES** - Well, I don't know that -- where they had their reception.

**DONALD GOMES** - I don't think it's -- yeah. I think that was the --

**ANN-MARIE LOPES** - Do you remember that neighborhood? I mean I know that -- or had you moved out?

**DONALD GOMES** - The Vets?

**ANN-MARIE LOPES** - No the other -- the whole Water Street area.

**DONALD GOMES** - Where I was? Yeah, I remember it vaguely. Yeah.

**ANN-MARIE LOPES** - Did you go shopping there, did your mom shop there --

**DONALD GOMES** - My mother shopped --

**ANN-MARIE LOPES** - -- Or did she shop down --

**DONALD GOMES** - -- At Pildis' Market. Like almost every Cape Verdean in that area -- in that area of New Bedford -- South First Street, South Water Street, Grinnell Street, Griffin Street -- maybe -- Howland Street, and that South End -- all that corner there. Most Cape Verdeans shopped at Pildis' Market. Or, across the street was Kurhan's Market. And you had a butcher shop up the street. You had the bakeries up the street. You know, there was a lot of stuff. You didn't have to leave that block. You'd get anything you wanted. A clothing store -- if you wanted something you'd go to Wantmann's stuff over there. I mean there's stuff wherever you want it. There were a couple of bakeries, we had Carver's Bakery, we had Sacco's Bakery up on South Street and South Water. We had a couple of butchers, we had Kurhan's Market, yeah it was -- there was a lot of stuff going on. Couple of restaurants -- Cape Verdean restaurants. There was two fish markets. One on Grinnell Street and one on Howland Street. One was owned by Cape Verdean, the other one -- the one on Grinnell Street was owned by a Portuguese guy. The one on Howland Street was Cape Verdean.

**ANN-MARIE LOPES** - Sounds like there was no reason to leave.

**DONALD GOMES** - None. No. It reminded me of -- I did it, when I was in school, I read this story about a little village in Brazil. And that's what this little conclave reminded me of. This little -- when I went to school, and I read this story, I said, "God, that sounds just like South First Street neighborhood." (laughs)

**ANN-MARIE LOPES** - What was it like for you as a kid?

**DONALD GOMES** - Like any other kid growing up in the 1940's, I suppose. You know, I mean...

**ANN-MARIE LOPES** - What'd you do for fun?

**DONALD GOMES** - Kick the can, red light. (laughs)

ANN-MARIE LOPES - One, two, three, red light.

DONALD GOMES - Hide and seek -- yeah.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - Did you go to OLOA?

DONALD GOMES - Oh, yeah.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - Did you do the first communion --

DONALD GOMES - I did first communion, confirmation, yeah. I was an altar boy for a little while. Belonged to the Boy Scouts troop from -- Troop 20, from Our Lady of Assumption. Oh yeah, I did all of that stuff.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - When it was on Water Street?

DONALD GOMES - On South Water Street, yeah.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - Were you part of the activity center -- wasn't there...?

DONALD GOMES - There was a community center right next door, yeah. That's where the troop used to meet. Boy Scouts. On Friday nights, if I remember correctly, yeah. Joe Souza was our only Eagle Scout, I believe, yeah. I think Joe Souza was the only Eagle Scout.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - What's your favorite memory as a kid?

DONALD GOMES - Oh, God. I don't know.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - Looks like there's lots of good ones, though.

DONALD GOMES - Oh, yeah. I have great memories of -- you know, one of the things that stands out in my mind was the fact that we could leave the house, and leave the front door unlocked. And just go anywhere, and come back hours later and not worry about things being missing, or people being in your house stealing stuff. You know? You couldn't do anything wrong, because what you did -- the neighborhood's adults -- the other parents -- got on your case, and then they let your parents know.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - Yeah. The Cape Verdean grapevine.

DONALD GOMES - Exactly. By the time you got home -- prepare yourself.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - (laughs)

DONALD GOMES - My father never hit us, though. I can't remember getting spanked or whipped by my dad, but you wouldn't go out after school -- you'd come home, you got punished. You couldn't go out and play, you stood in the window watching everybody else play outside. You know, that kind of stuff.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - So, he was the disciplinarian?

DONALD GOMES - Yeah, when he was alive. And after he died, my brother Joe became the disciplinarian, because he was the oldest one in the house. "Wait 'til Joe gets home," was my mother's favorite line. (laughter) But it didn't hurt us. I mean, none of us got into any real,

serious problems. And you know, didn't hurt -- that discipline. We all got very close -- I mean, we're a close-knit family anyways. I mean, my brothers and sisters, as siblings -- that's probably due to the way my mother brought us up when we -- after my dad died. And then after she died, well, we were all adults then, and I was 29, so -- Paul must have been 22, or 23, and he's the youngest. We lost a brother between the two of us -- it must have been like 12, 'cause he was 9, he would've been 10, so. I guess it made us stronger, and closer. You know, all the deaths. 'Cause there was a period of time where we had -- it seemed like we had death every year in the house. First my father, couple years, my brother, then -- not even a couple years later on. My father died in '51, May 30th, he died like towards the end of '52 -- rheumatic fever, or rheumatic hives, or something. All that stuff made us closer, I guess. In those days, bodies were in the house, too.

**ANN-MARIE LOPES** - Yeah.

**DONALD GOMES** - Yeah, so my father was in the house, my brother was at the house. My aunt, Antónia, lost a daughter -- and her daughter, her granddaughter -- in a fire in Boston. And their bodies were at our house. My uncle died, his body was at our house. 'Cause the house was deemed though as a tenement. It was a BIG house. The rooms were huge.

**ANN-MARIE LOPES** - In the three-deckers? Yeah.

**DONALD GOMES** - Yeah. The rooms were huge. The living room, and the kitchen room, and there was only like four bedrooms -- three bedrooms -- or four bedrooms in that house, and they were huge. So, that's where the bodies went in my house -- the second floor, on top. Then, of course my grandmother died -- she was in the house too. So, it seemed like every year somebody was in that -- we had a wake or funeral.

**ANN-MARIE LOPES** - So --

**DONALD GOMES** - But it made us all closer.

**ANN-MARIE LOPES** - There are traditions around death, since you brought it up. Did you have the tradition where you didn't leave the body alone?

**DONALD GOMES** - You know, I -- as I said, I was 11 when my father died, but there was always somebody in the house. I mean, in the room. Yeah, so -- yeah, I suppose your -- I don't, and of course I went to sleep, so I don't know if anybody stayed up. You know, I would think -- yeah. I mean, that was something that they did. Or heard they did, anyways, so --

**ANN-MARIE LOPES** - Yeah, I heard that too.

**DONALD GOMES** - Yeah, I don't know if I -- I don't remember actually seeing it, but I mean it's -- if that was they way things were, they probably did it in my house then. 'Cause that was early, that was like '51. I mean, it was -- they were doing -- a lot of the old Cape Verdean traditions were still around. And people were still doing them in them days. Now, bodies go to funeral parlors, so...

**ANN-MARIE LOPES** - So, what did you do for fun? You, growing up. Well, I know you did kick the can and all that stuff, but let's make you older.

**DONALD GOMES** - Oh, when I went to high school we got involved, you know, with sports at the high school. And sports outside the high school -- CYO sports, mostly. But, played basketball, we ran track, went to the movies, dated. Doing that kind of stuff. Same kinds of stuff everybody



else did. I went around with the guys. Mostly at Monte Park, 'cause we could hang around. And it got a bad -- it's got this bad rap now, but -- hung around the playground.

**ANN-MARIE LOPES** - Someone told me that Acushnet Avenue was -- her word was "booming," at that time.

**DONALD GOMES** - You had, of course the Band Club -- I was too young to go to Band Club in those days, you know, as a teenager. But you had Lala's store, you had the restaurant -- J&J's Restaurant. It was owned by a guy named John Pina, and Jack Pimentel -- Carol Pimentel's dad -- owned J&J's Restaurant. Right on the corner where the Cape Verdeans Gardens -- across the street from the Band Club.

**ANN-MARIE LOPES** - OK.

**DONALD GOMES** - And there was another restaurant up the street, and it was down near where the Bisca Club is now -- there was a restaurant on the corner there called Snapper's. It was a store, not a restaurant -- it was Snapper's. We went there -- just played jukebox, and listened to the jukebox, and drink sodas, and that foolishness. Yeah, and that's about it. Hung around, go to movies on weekends, or in some strange circumstance, go roller-skating.

**ANN-MARIE LOPES** - (laughs) You didn't like roller-skating?

**DONALD GOMES** - No, it wasn't my cup of tea. It was not my cup of tea.

**ANN-MARIE LOPES** - But you'd go with the guys, or you'd go --

**DONALD GOMES** - Oh, I'd go because the girls were going!

**ANN-MARIE LOPES** - Yeah.

**DONALD GOMES** - Whadya mean, 'cause the guys --

**ANN-MARIE LOPES** - Well, I was --

**DONALD GOMES** - -- Didn't care about the guys. It was the girls! Follow the girls.

**ANN-MARIE LOPES** - (laughs) Wherever the girls went.

**DONALD GOMES** - Wherever the girls went, we went. Kind of dictated where we went on Sundays too. "Oh, we're going roller-skating. Well I guess -- hey, guys, I guess we're going roller-skating." "Uh, we wanna go to movies. OK, we'll go to movies." And when Lincoln Park was opened, we'll go to Lincoln Park. Lincoln Park was opened.

**ANN-MARIE LOPES** - Lincoln Park, the amusement park?

**DONALD GOMES** - Yeah. Went there a lot. But, mostly we hung around.

**ANN-MARIE LOPES** - How did you meet your wife?

**DONALD GOMES** - My wife?

**ANN-MARIE LOPES** - Mhm.

DONALD GOMES - My sister, Louise.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - Oh, introduced you?

DONALD GOMES - Yeah.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - So, she was a friend of Louise's.

DONALD GOMES - Louise, yeah. Louise, actually, was a friend with the lady she was staying with, so they used to go out together drinking, and socializing. And that's how I met her. I just got out of - uh, well I was in the Service, and came home. Just hanging around, in between jobs. I don't think I even was looking for a job at the time. And my sister introduced her, and that's what happened.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - And how many years have you been married?

DONALD GOMES - Last week was 46.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - Happy anniversary.

DONALD GOMES - Yeah, thanks. Yeah, September 26th was 46 years.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - Tell me what type of work you did?

DONALD GOMES - Oh, man. God, I worked at Cameo Curtains, packing. I worked at Goodyear, working on the Banbury -- which was mixing the rubber -- that's when they -- the batches -- experimental rubber batches -- not just experimental -- the tires. Tire rubber, we did a lot of stuff -- it was a dirty job.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - Sounds like it must have -- the smells must have been strong from the rubber?

DONALD GOMES - Yeah, but it was just -- yeah. It wasn't just the smell, it was dirty. 'Cause you used all that coal, black stuff. And took it -- doing dirty -- it would be -- they didn't require -- I don't remember OSHA, so requiring us to wear masks, I suppose if we do it now, they require the people to wear masks, 'cause that's stuff -- you sucked in that dust -- that coal dust, that black, and all that stuff. It can't be good for you. I mean, you'd go home, you'd sweat, and your towels -- white towels would turn black, from the water. Even when you took a shower, you sweat that stuff.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - Yep.

DONALD GOMES - And you're spittin' up yeah -- it was a mess. Anyway, I did that for six months. Oh, I worked at Quaker Oats, too, I don't know if you remember.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - Quaker Oats used to be here?

DONALD GOMES - We had a Quaker Oats factory -- they made cat food. Puss 'N Boots cat food, and Ken-L Ration dog food here.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - Where?

DONALD GOMES - Down where the freezer is -- the maritime freezer over here?

ANN-MARIE LOPES - Yep, on the --

DONALD GOMES - There used to be --

ANN-MARIE LOPES - -- Right on the dock.

DONALD GOMES - Yeah.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - Used to be Quaker Oats?

DONALD GOMES - Yep. Made Ken-L Ration dog food and Puss 'N Boots cat food.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - You know what that makes me think of? I hope Quaker Oats didn't get the two confused. (laughs)

DONALD GOMES - Oh, no, no, no, no. This was strictly cat food here, and the -- when you switch from one to the other, they did a whole steam cleaning of the equipment. So that it was totally different for cats, and when you went to the dog food, it was totally different for the dog food. I worked there for about seven months. Then I went to Revere Copper and Brass. I worked at Revere Copper and Brass on a plate saw -- I was what they called a plate saw helper, which is just cutting metal to different sizes that went over, and then it rolled. And they did some work for the US government when they had -- I don't know if you remember, -- and I don't think they still do it -- the coins look like, they do a triple metal in the coins. Do you remember that? I don't think they still do it. And you could see it in, in the coin -- in the like, 50 cents. Yeah, see, this is not -- this is the old one. But then you could see it -- they used, yeah.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - And you had lines so that you could see it?

DONALD GOMES - Yeah, no. You could actually see the different types of metal. Anyway, they used to do that at Revere Copper. I did that -- I was there for like, two years I guess. Two-and-a-half years. Then I went, worked for the Concentrated Employment Program, which was a Manpower training program. This was like, the grandfather of the old Cedar Programs, and all the Manpower programs now. And it was a part of -- as I said -- part of Onboard. I became the president of Onboard -- this was after I left, and I went to work for the Housing Authority. I became the director of Onboard, at some point. I was the executive director of Onboard, when I made the decision to go back to school to get my undergraduate degree, and I went -- I got into this program called the Resumed Education Program at Brown University. Which was designed for people who'd been out of school -- high school -- for five years, wanted to get an undergraduate's degree. So, that's how I wound up at Brown, which is --

ANN-MARIE LOPES - What'd you get your degree in?

DONALD GOMES - Urban Studies.

ANN-MARIE LOPES - OK. And that prepared you for this job?

DONALD GOMES - Uh, yeah, I guess. (laughs)

ANN-MARIE LOPES - That, and experience.

DONALD GOMES - Yeah, exactly. That and my life experiences out there in the world.

**ANN-MARIE LOPES** - So, after Brown, where did you work?

**DONALD GOMES** - After Brown, I ran a juvenile program for the -- what is it, the LEAA -- for the Law Enforcement Administrative something or other -- program for the City of New Bedford, for two years. Two-and-a-half years. Then I became a probation officer.

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

**DONALD GOMES** - Yeah. I worked as an adult probation officer for five years. Ron Pina recruited me -- he was the district attorney at the time -- recruited me to run his Victim Assistance Program, for the court in those days. In '85 he come up to Massachusetts, passed the Victim Assistance Law, and they started funding victim rights organization through the DA's. So I went to work for him, and we wound up having, like, 36 people. Started with five, and when I got fired by his successor, I got -- I didn't get fired, I got replaced.

**ANN-MARIE LOPES** - That's what happens.

**DONALD GOMES** - It's a political appointment, so I don't -- you know --

**ANN-MARIE LOPES** - Yep. Oh, I know about a political appointment.

**DONALD GOMES** - Yeah, exactly. I know you do. So, I got replaced. Anyways, when I started with five, and wrote some grants up -- several grants -- and increased the staff to 36 people. When I left there was 36 people still working, so I don't know what Paul Walsh did when I left. I don't know how many people are still there, or what that looks like now. 'Cause the funding, everything changes, you know. They were funded through the Victim Assistance board on the state level, through the Attorney General's office, and I don't even know if that's still in existence. (inaudible) I went to work for -- back home, so to speak, in manpower training. I went to work for J-Tech, and then when it became New Directions, worked for New Directions. And wound up coming back here, to the city, to be the director of Veteran's Services. Which I did for a couple of years, under Rosemary Tierney, when there's -- of course, again, politics -- when she lost, the new mayor wanted his own guy. Or his own guy wanted to come back, so...

**ANN-MARIE LOPES** - So, when were you out of New Bedford? I know you went to Brown, and which jobs were out of New Bedford?

**DONALD GOMES** - None of them.

**ANN-MARIE LOPES** - Oh, OK. 'Cause you said "back to New Bedford," so...

**DONALD GOMES** - Back to the city, I meant. The City of New Bedford.

**ANN-MARIE LOPES** - Oh, the government.

**DONALD GOMES** - Working for the city, yeah.

**ANN-MARIE LOPES** - OK. Why did you stay in New Bedford?

**DONALD GOMES** - Oh, I like this city. I love this city.

**ANN-MARIE LOPES** - And you never felt a tug to go anywhere else?

**DONALD GOMES** - No, no.

**ANN-MARIE LOPES** - OK.

**DONALD GOMES** - I love New Bedford. I mean, even with all of its crazy problems -- this whole gang foolishness, and unemployment. Big thing for me was the unemployment; I don't care about that other stuff. That's somebody else's problem. But unemployment has always been a problem here. Always. I mean, for years and years -- keep fighting to change that. I mean, that's what the fight's all about, is to keep changing that. That's why it's important. You let the people who are sympathetic, and have the right attitude about things that are gonna improve the employment picture for us, and not say, "Hey we can't afford to do that." You know, "We can't afford to bring rail here." I mean, it's a stake in -- you know, they can afford to bring -- well, I don't even wanna get involved in the politics of this little crazy thing. But it's absolutely ridiculous, with these guys to be running for governor, talking about, "We can't do it" -- two guys saying -- "We can't afford to do it." And one guy's saying, "Hey, we can do it. There's ways, we'll have to find a way to do it." We spent billions of dollars on this stupid corridor up in Boston, which is supposed to ease traffic -- make it easy to get in and out of Boston. Which, to me, has done nothing to decrease the traffic problem.

**ANN-MARIE LOPES** - You're talking --

**DONALD GOMES** - If anything it's made it worse. Any day you wanna go to Boston, you're gonna get stuck in that stupidity up there. Any day. Boston's a nice place to visit, but I don't wanna live there. You know? So, it should make it easy for people like me, who just wanna go in, take care of their business -- they gotta go to the hospital, or whatever. Go in, take care of the business, and get the hell out as quick as possible. Driving up there is not the answer. Because that Big Dig doesn't solve the problem. Did not solve the problem. This guy running for governor talks about, he was -- and he touts it, too -- "I was in administration finance, and we took over the Big Dig." Yeah, you took over the Big Dig and hawked the state.

**ANN-MARIE LOPES** - Yep, and the budget kept getting bigger and bigger. Well, plus, it's not -- they should talk to that woman who was driving, and got hit by --

**DONALD GOMES** - On top of her.

**ANN-MARIE LOPES** - -- the ceiling.

**DONALD GOMES** - You know, I mean. That's -- I mean, that's the safety issue. I mean, that's the issue that -- and that's all because of inadequate inspections, and the corruption that was attached to projects that huge. That's the problem.

**ANN-MARIE LOPES** - One last question.

**DONALD GOMES** - But I don't wanna get involved in -- yes, dear.

**ANN-MARIE LOPES** - Well, one last question. It's about your Cape Verdean identity. You're very proud to be Cape Verdean, correct?

**DONALD GOMES** - Oh, hell yeah.

**ANN-MARIE LOPES** - And you've -- and it's gone to generations and generations --

**DONALD GOMES** - Oh, yeah. My kids are very proud to be Cape Verdean. There's no -- there's not an issue. The problem that I had wasn't in terms of identifying as Cape Verdean or not. The problem was getting people to understand how other people looked at us. They looked at us as being a part of the minority. And we are. And we had too many Cape Verdeans that didn't

wanna accept that. And that's the problem. 'Cause it was a problem, for me to say, "Wait a minute, have you guys been in the Service? You know how they treated you down South." They didn't care what you was. Hispanic -- whatever -- didn't matter. Cape Verdean didn't matter. If your skin was dark, you was treated as part of the "person of color." And we had people who didn't wanna admit that -- didn't wanna face that fact. That they were "people of color" -- and that's the only problem I had about -- no, I don't have a problem being Cape Verdean -- of course not. I'm proud to be Cape Verdean.

**ANN-MARIE LOPES** - Do you think the kids today know about their Cape Verdean identity, or are proud about their Cape Verdean --

**DONALD GOMES** - I think some kids know, and some kids don't know. I think a lot of it is families don't talk about it. The kids are Cape Verdean; they know they're Cape Verdean. But, do they really know what that is? I think not. (laughs) But I think part of it is because they got time. Time to relive that. It's -- because mom and dad are so busy trying get -- whether it's a single family or -- I mean, a single parent or dual parents in the house, double parents in the house -- you know, mother and father, two fathers -- it doesn't matter. Whether it's two parents, or one parent, they're so concerned about survival, and making sure there's enough food, and rents paid, and that they got a house. You know what I'm saying?

**ANN-MARIE LOPES** - Yep.

**DONALD GOMES** - That a lot of the stuff that they can be doing, they don't do. Because by the time they get to it, they're too tired. Just fighting, you know, and the struggle to stay -- survive. I mean, it's sad, but I think that's the reality. I think they have enough time to do it -- they won't make the time. It's not -- and it's no fault of theirs, it's just, the timing is all wrong. But hey, hopefully they'll -- things will get better. I mean, you just keep -- just gotta keep hammering at it, that's all. I mean -- it's up to people -- individuals -- to do it. To keep the word going out there. Whatever you do -- when you get identified, you make sure that -- if you -- in the -- if you're doing stuff in the public, that brings you in front of the public, and they identify you, you gotta make sure they identify you properly. You know what I'm saying? Yeah, I'm Cape Verdean. Yeah, you wanna say I'm a Cape Verdean American? Fine. 'Cause I -- that's what I am. An American of Cape Verdean descent. But I was born and raised here; you know what I'm saying?

**ANN-MARIE LOPES** - Yep.

**DONALD GOMES** - And that's -- a lot of that doesn't happen. Part of it -- so, is because we only have one newspaper. So, they kind of control what they want. And you can get on their case, and -- it's sad that you have to keep emphasizing stuff to them. You shouldn't have to do that. Once should be enough. But if you've got writers that are lazy, who don't the work, then you can't get the stuff done. That's the problem.

**ANN-MARIE LOPES** - It's 2010.

**DONALD GOMES** - Yeah, I know.

**ANN-MARIE LOPES** - But, thank you for your time.

**DONALD GOMES** - Not a problem, baby.

***End of File***