

“Having Our Say”

Voices from the Cape Verdean Community



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– Diana Duarte

Diana Duarte
August 28, 2010

Interview with Diana Duarte
Conducted August 28, 2010
By Ann Marie Lopes

Beginning of File

ANN MARIE LOPES - The interviewer is Ann Marie Lopes, and it is Saturday, August 28th, and I am here interviewing --

DIANA DUARTE - Diana Duarte.

ANN MARIE LOPES - When’s your birthdate?

DIANA DUARTE - July 31st, 1939.

ANN MARIE LOPES - I wanted to start with your grandfather. I’ve been told that your grandfather was a cabin boy.

DIANA DUARTE - That’s what I understand.

ANN MARIE LOPES - When did he become a cabin boy? Was he in Cape Verde and got on a ship?

DIANA DUARTE - He had left home. He was on the island of Fogo.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK.

DIANA DUARTE - And from my mother's telling, he went down to the docks, and he lived with his father and a stepmother. And he was fourteen years old... thirteen years old. He was thirteen years old. And he just got on the whale ship in Fogo, and ended up in New Bedford a year later.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did his family know what he did?

DIANA DUARTE - Not at first, from what my mother said. They didn't know what he had done. But he was taken aboard the ship. And they later learned that, you know, he had taken off on the whale ship. But I don't know what happened. In those days, I don't know what took place. But he left willingly.

ANN MARIE LOPES - What was his name?

DIANA DUARTE - His name was Gregory Monteiro.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So once he was here in New Bedford, what did he do? Do you know?

DIANA DUARTE - My mother was told that he was dropped off in New Bedford; a Cape Verdean man, I don't know his name, he asked him if he wanted a boy. And he took him in.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So took him in kind of as a --

DIANA DUARTE - Sort of as a --

ANN MARIE LOPES - Surrogate father?

DIANA DUARTE - He was. He became a surrogate father to him.

ANN MARIE LOPES - How does this family back in Fogo know what happened to him? Did he send word after he got home?

DIANA DUARTE - The only thing they knew what had happened to him is that when the people in Fogo -- on the island there told him what he had done, and there was -- my mother didn't know about any contact after that.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did your mother tell you what he told her about being a cabin boy on a whaling ship?

DIANA DUARTE - We didn't listen too much then. But she was saying how he didn't speak any English. And the sailors there, they nicknamed him "Captain O.G.", because he heard -- listening to the sailors, the word he picked up -- the English word, I guess -- was "oh, gee." And that's all he said, all the time.

ANN MARIE LOPES - (laughter)

DIANA DUARTE - And she said that they -- that the story was that that's all he ever said, was "oh, gee," so they just named him Captain O.G. (laughter)

ANN MARIE LOPES - (laughter)

DIANA DUARTE - And that's how that happened. But he didn't say too much; she didn't tell me too much about what happened here, except that he ended up, at the age of fourteen, in New Bedford.

ANN MARIE LOPES - I'm just curious. They went around the world, and they stopped at different areas. Why did he come to New Bedford? Do you know?

DIANA DUARTE - I don't. I don't know.

ANN MARIE LOPES - What else did your mother tell about him?

DIANA DUARTE - Well, only that he was -- she said he was the handsomest man in the world. That was all my mother ever said.

ANN MARIE LOPES - (laughter)

DIANA DUARTE - But she loved her father to pieces; she really did. She talked to him all the time. And... only that she loved him so much. And she would walk around holding his hand. He died when she was only nineteen years old.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Do you know how?

DIANA DUARTE - Yes, I found the obituary.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh, great.

DIANA DUARTE - So I have the obituary. He died of a heart attack at the age of sixty.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Does it say what he was doing at the time?

DIANA DUARTE - Yes, it tells... it was the captain -- Gregory was on the... hold on, let me get that obituary.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK. Now, the obituary is from where? Oh, that's an old paper. It doesn't say which one. What I'm going to do is --

DIANA DUARTE - New Bedford.

ANN MARIE LOPES - What I'm going to do is I'm just going to read this so it can be on the recorder, OK?

DIANA DUARTE - OK.

ANN MARIE LOPES - It says, "Lightship Tender Dies in Hospital. Gregory Monteiro, 60, 225 Acushnet Avenue, died yesterday at the U.S. Marine Hospital in Vineyard Haven. Death was attributed to heart trouble. Mr. Monteiro was employed on Pollock Rip lighthouse."

DIANA DUARTE - Light ship.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Maybe you should read it. (laughter) "Light ship, number ten, until three months ago, when he was sent to the hospital by the captain of his ship with severe pain in the back and chest. Mr. Monteiro was born on the island of Fogo, coming to this country 46 years ago. He lived in Harwich 15 years. He then came to New Bedford and has made his home here ever since. He was a communicant of the Church of Our Lady of Assumption. Besides his wife Constance, whom he married 35 years ago, he is survived by four daughters: Miss Dorothy Monteiro of New Bedford, Mrs. Margaret Alves of Osterville, Mrs. Mary Robbins of Nantucket, Mrs. Martha Fermino of Marston Mills, and a son, Barney Monteiro, of this city." Wow, you're very lucky to have this. This says so much about him.

DIANA DUARTE - Mm-hmm.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So let's see if we can piece some of this together with what it says here and what your mother said.

DIANA DUARTE - Right.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Because it looks like...

DIANA DUARTE - That's what I was trying to do, but trying to figure out when he was born and what -- by doing that, with what was done, see? That's what I was piecing together.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK. So he died in 1929 --

DIANA DUARTE - She was 19. Mm-hmm.

ANN MARIE LOPES - She was 19. So that means your mother was born in...

DIANA DUARTE - 1910.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK, 1910. Now, it says here that he was on a ship --

DIANA DUARTE - A light ship.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So do you know what happened between... this and...

DIANA DUARTE - Yeah, I found this last night.

ANN MARIE LOPES - ... being on a whaling ship and --

DIANA DUARTE - I found this last night, in my mother's... Mr. Gregory Monteiro, he lived on Chancery Street in New Bedford, back in 1926.

ANN MARIE LOPES - That's a letter?

DIANA DUARTE - Yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - In the original envelope?

DIANA DUARTE - In the original envelope. It's coming apart, but there it is. It was a 1911 letter.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK.

DIANA DUARTE - It was a reference. "To Whom It May Concern: The bearer, Mr. Gregory Monteiro, has been in our employ as a scowman for the past five years. We have always found him to be sober, efficient, industrious, and faithful, and we cannot recommend him too highly to anyone requiring his services. Very truly yours, Maryland Dredging and Contracting Company." Signed by the manager, H... Sanders? I can't make out the name -- manager.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So he left there...

DIANA DUARTE - Well, he worked in... this is a Boston... Andrew -- this man was Andrew. Harold Andrew, Manager, Marilyn Dredging and Contracting Company. So he worked there. The letter was dated 1911.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK. So piecing together...

DIANA DUARTE - Or '17... I can't get it. Maybe you can see it. It's so difficult.

ANN MARIE LOPES - It's hard to... it's so fragile.

DIANA DUARTE - I know. I know, I know.

ANN MARIE LOPES - But this is great.

DIANA DUARTE - This was mailed to Greg -- I don't know, maybe this, this— It looks like 1926. And it was sent to him -

ANN MARIE LOPES - The envelope says 1926?

DIANA DUARTE - The envelope says 1926.

ANN MARIE LOPES - But this letter is dated August 27th, 1911.

DIANA DUARTE - I know. That is '11, but this here is something that he's -- this was mailed to him from someone. From John Belmas, from East Wareham, Mass.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So he might have needed another reference.

DIANA DUARTE - He might have needed a reference.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So it looks like he -- this is dredging, so again, that's the water.

DIANA DUARTE - That's where he always --

ANN MARIE LOPES - He was always near the water?

DIANA DUARTE - And I wanted to tell you that that's 1911, so if he came here in 1883, right -- he landed in New Bedford, ended up in Harwich, where he bought land. We just went through all that. I have papers on that, where he bought land in the 1920s in that area. He bought land in Harwich. And he moved on, and my mother

said -- this is what she told me, and that's why I can't find any of it except for that. But she said that he had a little tugboat -- he ran a tugboat in New Jersey for awhile. And he named it the Captain O.G., because it was his name on the whale ship. I don't know the whale ship. But now that I've found this, I've dug this up, I want to go find him if I can. If they ever mention a cabin boy.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So he came to New Bedford, and then -- when he was fourteen, and somehow he...

DIANA DUARTE - He married at 25.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Do you know how he met his wife? Was she here?

DIANA DUARTE - My grandmother was a very, very bright woman who used to help immigrants. She spoke good English, my mother said, and she used to -- she was very -- I have no idea how they met, because she was young.

ANN MARIE LOPES - How old was she, do you know, when they met?

DIANA DUARTE - They must have been the same age. Oh, I know, she was 75 when she died in 1949... what would that make her? Because I was ten.

ANN MARIE LOPES - You want me to figure out math?

DIANA DUARTE - No...

ANN MARIE LOPES - 75? I'll do it. I'm just teasing.

DIANA DUARTE - I have a calculator.

ANN MARIE LOPES - 75 years when she died, in what year again?

DIANA DUARTE - 1949.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So she was here. Do you know what island she came from?

DIANA DUARTE - Brava.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So they met here in the United States. Did they meet in New Bedford?

DIANA DUARTE - Yes.

ANN MARIE LOPES - She was born in 1874. So they met in New Bedford. What's her name?

DIANA DUARTE - Constance.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Her last name?

DIANA DUARTE - She was a Gomes, and connected with the Barros I don't know how that came in. But she was Constance Monteiro. **(audio wavering)** Constance Barros Monteiro.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Constance Monteiro.

DIANA DUARTE - This is her at the age of 50.

ANN MARIE LOPES - That's a very nice picture.

DIANA DUARTE - Her father was Hawaiian, and I don't know how this came about. Her mother was Mary.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Just want to make sure we're talking about your grandmother, OK? Father was --

DIANA DUARTE - This is Constance Monteiro.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Father was Hawaiian.

DIANA DUARTE - Yes.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK.

DIANA DUARTE - One of... one, two, three, four brothers and a sister, she had. And they were amazing, because I can remember as a child, I didn't know my great-grandmother. Her name was Mary. She had died. But she had met a Hawaiian whaler on the island of Brava, and she had Constance, born in Brava, Manny, Tony, Harry, and Johnny -- brothers. They were handsome; they looked Hawaiian. They were beautiful men. And Lena was her sister.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Now, were they born in Brava, or in --

DIANA DUARTE - In Brava.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK. Your mother was born in Brava.

DIANA DUARTE - Was born here.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh, your mother was born here.

DIANA DUARTE - My grandmother was born in Brava, and then she came to New Bedford. My mother was born in New Bedford.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Because we're talking about your grandmother --

DIANA DUARTE - My grandmother Constance that married Gregory.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Is that who we're talking about?

DIANA DUARTE - Gregory was.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK. Now, what was --

DIANA DUARTE - And they met in New Bedford.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Was her mother Cape Verdean?

DIANA DUARTE - Mary was Cape Verdean.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK. And how did she end up coming to New Bedford? Did she come with her...

DIANA DUARTE - She had --

ANN MARIE LOPES - ...four -- let's backtrack.

DIANA DUARTE - -- those children out there on the island.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Was she married to the --

DIANA DUARTE - She wasn't married -- not that I know of. His name was Kulai -- that's the only thing I got. From Oahu, or something.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oahu? Can you?

DIANA DUARTE - They called him Kulai de Oahu.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Can you spell Kulai

DIANA DUARTE - I never asked the question, because you just hear the stories. You just -
- my mother said her grandfather -- he died on the water during his whale ship
trips.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK, so he was a whaler that went from place to place --

DIANA DUARTE - From Hawaii to Cape Verde.

ANN MARIE LOPES - -- and he had this woman in -- who was your --

DIANA DUARTE - My great-grandmother.

ANN MARIE LOPES - -- your great-grandmother, with whom he had three children.

DIANA DUARTE - No.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Four.

DIANA DUARTE - Five. She had three boys and two girls. Oh, that makes six. Four boys
and two girls. Six. Six children.

ANN MARIE LOPES - With this man.

DIANA DUARTE - Mm-hmm.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK. So she had six children. He continued on his voyage--

DIANA DUARTE - On the whaling ship, and died.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh, he died at sea.

DIANA DUARTE - And she ended up in Cuba with the four boys.

ANN MARIE LOPES - (laughter) How did she end up in Cuba?

DIANA DUARTE - I don't know. I don't know.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK.

DIANA DUARTE - But I know that, because that's where we used to get sugarcane, and they used to come visit all the time, these beautiful men. They spoke good English. It wasn't even broken English. They spoke good English. I don't know what they did in Cuba, but they were all in Cuba.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So the four -- your mom's four brothers were in Cuba. Did they stay there?

DIANA DUARTE - My grandmother's four brothers.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Your grandmother's four -- I'm getting so confused.

DIANA DUARTE - I know.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Your grandmother's four brothers -- that's right. Your grandmother's four brothers lived in Cuba.

DIANA DUARTE - Well, actually, I think -- they ended up in Cuba. She did, too, the mother.

ANN MARIE LOPES - For awhile.

DIANA DUARTE - Yeah. And they were there. And I don't know about -- two of them just stayed in Cuba, because when I was a little girl -- they'd come visit in the Bay Village. Come visit from Cuba. Bring sugarcane to us. (laughter)

ANN MARIE LOPES - Do you know how they got to Cuba? Was it on another whaling -- whale ship?

DIANA DUARTE - I have no idea.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Interesting.

DIANA DUARTE - They had to do something special, but they must have worked there. Because they were handsome, well-spoken. Good English. That was amazing.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK. So from Cuba, your grandmother came to New Bedford?

DIANA DUARTE - My grandmother came from the Cape Verde Islands here. She didn't go to Cuba. The boys did. And Aunt Lena went down to the Cape, in Onset. That's

her sister. She had one sister and four brothers. And Mary had them with a Hawaiian man.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Gotcha. Now I'm clear.

DIANA DUARTE - His name was Kulai. I don't know how to spell Kulai.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Well, we'll do it phonetically for now. Kulai. OK.

DIANA DUARTE - And if you saw the boys, you'd know. Because they were -- the men were dark-skinned, and straight hair when I saw them, they had almost white hair, some of them, you know? But they were just different-looking, you know? They were different, the men. One man -- one looked white, and that was Uncle Harry, I think. I think I've got a picture of Uncle Harry.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Was he the oldest?

DIANA DUARTE - Uncle Harry, Uncle Manny, Uncle Tony, Uncle Johnny. I don't know. I couldn't tell you their ages, except they were all close. They all visited my mother in Bay Village. Caused quite a stir when they did, because they were different, you know what I mean? (laughter)

ANN MARIE LOPES - Mm-hmm.

DIANA DUARTE - Handsome men.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK.

DIANA DUARTE - So this is my grandmother's story, and I don't know how it happened, except her father was a whaler. That much I know. And my mother's father was a whaler. Only because he was just a boy, but a cabin boy. And I didn't -- I wish I had learned more about it. But it's not... of course, you don't ask those questions; You just talk -- conversations. I wish I had.

ANN MARIE LOPES - One of the things I've found doing these interviews is that people just didn't talk about their work, just like my parents didn't talk about their job. It was just what they did.

DIANA DUARTE - Yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - It was just what they did.

DIANA DUARTE - I just had no idea. And I never heard of any of this until you called me up.

ANN MARIE LOPES - (laughter)

DIANA DUARTE - Really. To know more, and to look into this and see. And I just -- this is my father. I'm getting a kick out of my father, giving my mother the most beautiful card in the world and doesn't even sign it.

ANN MARIE LOPES - (laughter)

DIANA DUARTE - I had a boyfriend like that. (laughter)

ANN MARIE LOPES - (laughter) So you could use it again. You could send it to somebody else.

DIANA DUARTE - That's him -- Gregory -- too. And he looks like an older man, but he died at 60. That was her father. I found that in there last night. That's Gregory.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So now, your grandmother --

DIANA DUARTE - Came from the Cape Verde islands, to New Bedford.

ANN MARIE LOPES - To New Bedford. And you said she helped immigrants.

DIANA DUARTE - But not -- I don't know what age that started, but she was very important, my mother said, when she was younger. And my mother was just a teenager. At that time, her mother was very busy helping immigrants. She would be the one that would go to the docks and stuff and do things and go -- she spoke English.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So she would go to the docks and if immigrants came off, she would --

DIANA DUARTE - My mother said she would -- oh, something to processing people. She was -- people would come to her to help people out.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did she own a house?

DIANA DUARTE - She owned a house on Chancery Street. She owned a house down the South End of New Bedford. She owned property, which she lost to Peter Hayes during the crash, I guess, all that stuff. She lost her property because of the slick

people buying up property when people were having a hard time. But my grandmother had a few properties, I understand.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Now, Chancery Street, that's a little bit --

DIANA DUARTE - West End.

ANN MARIE LOPES - West End.

DIANA DUARTE - My mother went to school in the West End.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Now, why did your grandmother choose the West End?

DIANA DUARTE - Strange, huh? And I know...

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yeah, it's away from the Cape Verdean community.

DIANA DUARTE - Because that's -- maybe she was one of those progressive people that thought you could do better going West, because she was more advanced? She was. My mother was like a -- she was a high school graduate, which that didn't happen amongst them, you know? But her grandmother put her up there, the West End, and she went to school there, and she graduated from high school, and -
-

ANN MARIE LOPES - Wow.

DIANA DUARTE - And the West End -- yeah. She graduated. And my mother can remember, at sixteen she had her own car. That's unusual.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh, extremely unusual.

DIANA DUARTE - Because Uncle Barney was involved in politics. Very politically connected. If you talk to any old-timer, they'd know Barney Monteiro.

ANN MARIE LOPES - How is he --

DIANA DUARTE - Very politically connected. And I'm not sure what the connection was, but they might -- I don't know what the heck he did, but he was -- he got people jobs, back during the WPA, what they called it when the government was giving people jobs, he was the one to go to. He was the one that got people working. Everybody all over Rhode Island and here knew Barney Monteiro. He put people to work. He got people jobs. Very connected politically.

ANN MARIE LOPES - I just want to go back to your grandmother for a little bit, because she owned --

DIANA DUARTE - And I think that at this time, she owned property.

ANN MARIE LOPES - And did she have people come in and stay at the property?

DIANA DUARTE - She did have it, and sometimes she had a boarding house. She did have boarders there, to help people coming into the country.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So she used one house for boarders.

DIANA DUARTE - I think so. I'm not sure exactly what. But I do know that I can remember all that conversation in the house.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did people pay rent to her?

DIANA DUARTE - I bet she did. (laughter)

ANN MARIE LOPES - So what did she do primarily? Sounds like she was kind of busy with helping people. And did her husband support everybody through whaling?

DIANA DUARTE - Well, I think Gregory wasn't through whaling, because he was -- boy, he bought land in Harwich, he came, he worked. He must have made pretty good money working the ships. The kind of work he did for that time, day and age. And whatever she did -- and she might have taken in boarders and...

ANN MARIE LOPES - To supplement.

DIANA DUARTE - Yeah, for that -- for the income. Maybe that's how they could buy property cheap then, I guess.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Do you know how far your grandfather got? I mean, he was a cabin boy.

DIANA DUARTE - Yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So do you know how far he got?

DIANA DUARTE - Education?

ANN MARIE LOPES - No, I just meant, did he become -- work on other sides of the ship? Did he eventually work himself up to a first mate or any of that, that you were aware of?

DIANA DUARTE - All I can say is that he must have made money doing towing or something. You know, tugging. He must have made money in New Jersey, because -- and I don't find any evidence of that. But he must have made money, doing what he did on the water all the time. It always seemed to be water-connected.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yeah. It seems like...

DIANA DUARTE - And he even died on a boat.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Right, right. Because he was working on the boat. OK. So let's get to your... did we do your father's father?

DIANA DUARTE - My father came to this country when he was 14.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Right.

DIANA DUARTE - And I don't know... Paul Fernandes Centeio. And he left the island and was raised by his uncle, John Fernandes Centeio, who had a store in New Bedford. A little variety store on School Street in New Bedford. That's who -- my father was raised by him. John Fernandes Centeio.

ANN MARIE LOPES - He's the one that the captain asked if he wanted the kid.

DIANA DUARTE - No, that was my mother's -- we're talking about -- you're talking about my mother. So far you haven't talked about my father at all.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK. Let's --

DIANA DUARTE - Just my mother's grandfather. And he's the connection with the whaling. My father had nothing to do with the whaling.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh, OK, so --

DIANA DUARTE - He just came over on a boat. (laughter)

ANN MARIE LOPES - From where?

DIANA DUARTE - From Brava.

ANN MARIE LOPES - And what's his name?

DIANA DUARTE - Paul Fernandes Centeio.

ANN MARIE LOPES - How old was he when he came over?

DIANA DUARTE - Fourteen.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So both your grandfathers came over --

DIANA DUARTE - Came over at the age of fourteen. Mm-hmm.

ANN MARIE LOPES - I wonder if there's a significance to that.

DIANA DUARTE - No, I... They didn't know each other.

ANN MARIE LOPES - No, I just meant the age of fourteen. Maybe that was the time they had to go out and work or something like that.

DIANA DUARTE - Yeah, because why would you let a kid of thirteen go --?

ANN MARIE LOPES - Well, it looks like he just went down. And if they didn't know where he was --

DIANA DUARTE - Yeah, he just took off on the boat. But how could they just take a child? I guess that wasn't a child then, in those days.

ANN MARIE LOPES - It was time for him to work.

DIANA DUARTE - Yeah, that's what I wondered. I thought of that. You know, when you hear the talk of slavery and all, and you think, "Did they steal him from the island?" That's my thought, was "Did they pick him up?" But I don't think they did that in the Cape Verde Islands.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Well, that would be --

DIANA DUARTE - They took them from Africa to Cape Verde, but I don't think they stole Cape Verdeans.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Well, it would be different. It would be -- there's something that they used to do in California called shanghai, where they would just take people and put them on the --

DIANA DUARTE - A boy?

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yeah, put them on -- well, I don't know the ages, so I don't want to venture into that. So he came from Brava, and your grandmother on that side -- was she born in the Cape Verde Islands?

DIANA DUARTE - He came from Fogo -- Gregory. Gregory came from Fogo.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Right. We're talking about the other side.

DIANA DUARTE - My father came from Brava.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yeah. So his father was on the island.

DIANA DUARTE - Yeah, and I didn't know --

ANN MARIE LOPES - And he came over --

DIANA DUARTE - And I didn't know his father, except his name was Manuel. And his mother was Catherine. That's what I know.

ANN MARIE LOPES - All right. Now let's get to your parents, because we've done grandparents. Let's see your parents. Now, so your father came when he was 14.

DIANA DUARTE - 14.

ANN MARIE LOPES - And what did he do? Did he come on and did he end up on a whaling ship, or did he --

DIANA DUARTE - No, no.

ANN MARIE LOPES - He worked here?

DIANA DUARTE - He came over and came to live with his Uncle John.

ANN MARIE LOPES - In New Bedford.

DIANA DUARTE - In New Bedford. Uncle John ran a variety store on School Street. Had a variety store. Actually -- now, go back. When he came here, I don't know how they got to Nantucket. They lived in Nantucket.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh, when they first came, they all lived in Nantucket?

DIANA DUARTE - John. My father came in, and how they landed in New Bedford I don't know, but he ended up on the island of Nantucket. We have -- this is crazy. Because Holly was born in Nantucket, my sister. My father came in, and his -- I'm not sure; I'd have to check with Irene to see if Uncle -- whether John Fernandes had a store in Nantucket first or not. I have no idea now. I have to ask Irene.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So how did your mother meet your father?

DIANA DUARTE - My father came here -- he's older. He was fourteen years older than my mother; that's another thing. And he had been married once before, to Phoebe, who ended up marrying Jack Custodio's father. (laughter)

ANN MARIE LOPES - So they got divorced.

DIANA DUARTE - My father was married to Phoebe, because I have two half-sisters... well, Catherine's dead now. And Dorothy's still alive. But Catherine -- he was married to Phoebe. He had three children, a boy and two girls. And the boy died young, but my father divorced Phoebe. And his children -- I don't know. They didn't give the children to the father then. I don't know the two daughters ended up in St. Mary's Home. But I know my father ended up marrying my mother when he was around 33 years old... 30... or older than that. My mother was -- let's make it fourteen years. She was 23, he was 37.

ANN MARIE LOPES - He would be 36.

DIANA DUARTE - Fourteen years older than 23?

ANN MARIE LOPES - You're right.

DIANA DUARTE - I'm a financial person. (laughter)

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yeah. I think on the other side of my brain, what can I say? Numbers are foreign. So they met...

DIANA DUARTE - My mother was working as a dental technician for Dr. Parem, and I don't know -- she fell in love with my father.

ANN MARIE LOPES - What year was this?

DIANA DUARTE - 1932.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh, OK. There's a block you need to go back and cover. Do you know about the block in between?

DIANA DUARTE - When my father came here, I know that they met -- OK, New Bedford. John Fernandes Centeio had the store on School Street, and this goes way back, and that's where he was. And he took my father in. I don't know how my father got to Nantucket, but he and my mother lived out there. I don't know how that happened. So come back to New Bedford. Because he met my mother in New Bedford, and they married. They had Pauline, and they had six children. But they had to leave... They left New Bedford in 19... I guess... OK, he was in New Bedford, and he left in 19... he worked for his Uncle John. And then he worked... he did all kinds of things, because he's in the paper when the Padnarum Bridge first opened, I said, "I've got to tell my family." My father was one of the special policemen that, when the Padnarum Bridge first opened, it was one-way traffic, and when they first did this, they had a big old thing where they had all the names of the people, and the special policemen were mentioned, and my father was one of them. So he worked -- Uncle Barney gave him work. He worked -- when the WPA -- during the war. I don't know -- I don't know...

ANN MARIE LOPES - During the Depression.

DIANA DUARTE - But Uncle Barney --

ANN MARIE LOPES - Was politically --

DIANA DUARTE - Gave him work, yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - And, yeah. Was politically influential.

DIANA DUARTE - Politically correct and gave him work. So he worked. But my Uncle Barney gave him work, so he worked for Uncle Barney, and did work, that's all.

ANN MARIE LOPES - And your mother worked too.

DIANA DUARTE - My mother worked -- after graduating from high school, she worked for Dr. Parem as a dental technician -- a dentist. She worked in the dental office.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK.

DIANA DUARTE - But that's how they met, through that, through working for Uncle Barney. And I think Uncle Barney was very upset with him for making my mother fall in love with him.

ANN MARIE LOPES - (laughter)

DIANA DUARTE - Because, yeah, that was a bad thing for that, because you're not supposed to -- my father -- Uncle Barney called him a greenhorn, all kinds of things. I remember that. They didn't get along. But I knew that.

ANN MARIE LOPES - He called him greenhorn because he came from the islands?

DIANA DUARTE - Well, he was angry because his sister, who had her own car at 16, who - a spoiled brat, she was; a beautiful lady -- and what happened was, was she going to marry this man who had two kids and everything? And everything like -- it was just so unusual. I even asked her that when he was sick in the hospital, and I was staying with her. And I said, "I just have to ask you, because you were a beautiful young girl who had everything in the world, who had an education and everything at the time. And you married Daddy." I said, "Not that he's not the best father in the world, and I love him to pieces, but I just wondered why -- how -- because he had been married, he had children, they had divorced, and he was older -- 14 years older than you. And Uncle Barney was a tough guy. And you married Daddy, and I find that unusual." And he spoke broken English. (laughter) You know? And so she said, "You want to know why?" She had that weird talk of hers. She says, "Because when you know in your heart -- you know if you want a man, and you find all the qualities -- you find a man, a good man, an honest man, a man with a sense of humor--" she said, "when you find all the qualities you want in a man all rolled into one man, you grab him. It doesn't matter how old he is." That's what she said. (laughter)

ANN MARIE LOPES - Doesn't matter what --

DIANA DUARTE - So she answered my question. But I said, I love him, and I can imagine you being -- he was so special. I said, so I just can imagine -- I just wanted to know how that came about, when everybody was after you, because I hear all your old-time friends, those men, like Jimmy Martin and them, were saying "Your mother is beautiful." I hear all that talk, and I says, "And then you married Pa... Pa." And it sort of -- found it strange, so that's what the question was. And she answered my question. And said, "Well, you just have to know." I should have asked her more about the whaling part, huh?

ANN MARIE LOPES - See, how would you know?

DIANA DUARTE - I'm just saying. I know. But that's --

ANN MARIE LOPES - You were asked about --

DIANA DUARTE - I just needed -- and he was dying at that time. He was in the hospital, and I was in bed with her, talking to her. And I lay -- just lay down in bed with her for awhile, talking to her, and she was telling me that. But she was bright. She was a smart lady. She was quite a leader in the community, so. But her mother was. She came from that, because her mother was that kind of person.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Do you know any more about her mother? Do you know -- I mean, she --

DIANA DUARTE - Well, that's a --

ANN MARIE LOPES - She did a lot of the business stuff.

DIANA DUARTE - She did.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did she help to get people -- did she talk about what she did for fun?

DIANA DUARTE - My grandmother?

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yeah.

DIANA DUARTE - I don't think she had fun.

ANN MARIE LOPES - They worked hard.

DIANA DUARTE - No, and she lost three children in the -- that 1918 epidemic -- the flu.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK.

DIANA DUARTE - The flu epidemic. She lost three children that week -- in a week.

ANN MARIE LOPES - In a week.

DIANA DUARTE - Yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh.

DIANA DUARTE - And my mother hollered at me about that one time, because my father used to make fun "Your grandmother, yeah, she was so stern and serious all the time, urrr." And my grandfather used to -- and she probably didn't like him either. (laughter)

ANN MARIE LOPES - (laughter)

DIANA DUARTE - But anyway, so my mother would tell me -- you know, she would listen, and my father -- she was getting older, and losing it a little bit, and my father was laughing, and so one day I was laughing with him about my grandmother, and she

says, "Don't you side with him. Don't you dare." Because she said, "You don't know the history here. If you lost three children in one week you wouldn't find too much to smile about either." And set me back. And that was late in life, because I was all grown up (laughter) and married myself then. I said, "Oh, I'm sorry." So she told me the story about the children, and the that -- for my grandmother. It was -- but she worked hard. When they had cranberry picking, and they used to have -- I lived in Bay Village. My mother lived there, my grandmother lived there too.

ANN MARIE LOPES - In Bay Village?

DIANA DUARTE - In Bay Village. We lived in Bay Village. This was --

ANN MARIE LOPES - Even -- she owned two houses --

DIANA DUARTE - Even though she owned two house, and she had all of that -- during the crash and during all this time, my grandmother's house is -- Peter Haste was the Haste Building downtown, and all Peter Haste -- I told them that one day, too. Poor Peter, he's gone. But Peter Hayes was one of those people that took advantage of the bad times, but he had money, and he bought up property at almost for a song from people, and that's how my grandmother lost her properties.

ANN MARIE LOPES - And she sold it so the family could survive.

DIANA DUARTE - For survival.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Mm-hmm.

DIANA DUARTE - And that was it. And that was at that time. And Peter Haste scooped up property like people do at times, grab it at a song. I told him, "You stole my property from my grandmother." (laughter) And I heard that story so many times.

ANN MARIE LOPES - And did he ... ?

DIANA DUARTE - He laughed at me.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh, he just laughed?

DIANA DUARTE - (laughter) Because he was a big flirt, and I'd been at the bank -- I was a young girl, a secretary in the office, and he was chasing me around all the time. He was -- so he wanted to -- he was upset with me one day, and he wanted to talk to me. And I said, "What?" so he wanted to go and take me for coffee, and I said, "You can talk to me at the bank," and he said no. So when we went -- I agreed to

go for coffee with him, and he was -- he wanted to hold my hand on Purchase Street. And I said, "Get out of here!" (laughter)

ANN MARIE LOPES - (laughter)

DIANA DUARTE - That was Peter Haste. But, yeah. But he talked to me. He remembered Constance Monteiro. Everybody did. I have to tell you, because everyone knew Barney Monteiro. The politically corrected -- connected Barney Monteiro, right. Because the little girl -- we went to Boston with him, and we sat in the mayor's office -- Mayor Curley. Those criminal kinds of people at that time, I guess. But he was connected, even to the governor. Irene and I can remember, as little girls, running into the office. That's because he was connected. I know a lot of people know a lot about him. He had a club on the Avenue called the Cape Verdean Political Club. He organized -- he started Democratic party. I was a little girl.

ANN MARIE LOPES - When was this?

DIANA DUARTE - Back in 19... he owned the two--my grandfather, I didn't know, lived at 225 Acushnet Avenue, but Uncle Barney bought the house later at 223 Acushnet Avenue.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK, so it's probably the house next door.

DIANA DUARTE - Next door.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Mm-hmm.

DIANA DUARTE - Mm-hmm. And he owned 223. And that was back in the forties. I don't know how... yeah, back in the forties. And -- when Reverend Chavier came to town later on. But I can remember in the forties he owned that house, and the top floor -- he had a gambling -- I don't know what he did in the basement, but the first floor... the second floor was a pool hall, a gambling hall. And the first floor was a political club. It was a Democratic club. There was a sign on the thing: it was a Democratic -- he organized people, the Democrats. He actually went to jail for the party, because he got everybody to vote after the ship went down. In '20 (laugh), you know, that's what he did. He did that. This is -- it's all in the books and papers. But Uncle Barney organized a political party of Democrats, and he got people registered. He had a lot, and he had a club. He had a name on it, and the top part was the gambling hall. That's what he did. He did that kind of stuff.

ANN MARIE LOPES - What made him get involved in that? Do you know? Was it something that --?

DIANA DUARTE - Politics. He had always been political, Uncle Barney was.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Was it something that his father instilled in him?

DIANA DUARTE - His mother, I think.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh, his mother encouraged him to go into politics.

DIANA DUARTE - I really think she was very -- the one. She was the one. Strong woman: that's what my father would say. She was, and she was very businesslike. And this Barney Monteiro was quite something. And he had that political club. He also owned -- he lived in Providence. He was active in the longshoremen. He did a lot with that. He organized union -- he organized the union. He was the one with the international longshoreman when -- he was one of the top people that organized it then.

ANN MARIE LOPES - That started it.

DIANA DUARTE - Yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK. Do you know anything about that?

DIANA DUARTE - People do, but he -- that's what Barney did, and that was Providence, and here, he worked the docks in both places, even though he was quite a dapper man. And he owned a club in Fall River called the Bluebird Inn, which is mentioned in the book, *Sacco and Vanzetti*. Because they were there in his club. He knew a lot about that, too. Uncle Barney. He was mentioned in the book. He was mentioned in that book.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So it seems to me, and stop me if I'm wrong, but your grandmother seems like the powerhouse in the family.

DIANA DUARTE - Yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Now, your grandfather was out making a living --

DIANA DUARTE - He was out making money.

ANN MARIE LOPES - He was out making a living, taking care of...

DIANA DUARTE - And he died at sixty.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Working on the water in different capacities. He moved up as the -
- like, the whaling industry died, he moved into the next industry --

DIANA DUARTE - The next one, yeah. Yeah, all the work he did here, and then he went to the light ship Tender, he worked there.

ANN MARIE LOPES - And then it sounds like your Uncle Barney was a combination of the two.

DIANA DUARTE - Yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - He was strong-willed and smart --

DIANA DUARTE - Oh, yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - -- like your grandmother, and did things on the water like your grandfather.

DIANA DUARTE - Mm-hmm. Oh, yeah. He did.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK.

DIANA DUARTE - And he was a powerhouse. He really was. He was just a powerhouse. And very, very strong. John -- my brother John has a lot of his tendencies. He can talk his way into anything. He can do anything and talk his way into anything. And John still -- what's now? John's president up at the West End stuff -- I don't know how he ended up being president of something, one of those construction things, one of the contracts that they got for the United Front and all this stuff. John's, right now, (laughter) he's in the -- he's president over there. (laughter) But that's John.

ANN MARIE LOPES - What do you supposed it was about, um --

DIANA DUARTE - They're very...

ANN MARIE LOPES - Talk about your mother's childhood at... Because I'm fascinated by your grandmother being a strong businesswoman way back in the time that she was --

DIANA DUARTE - Because my mother felt very secure, confident; she could do anything, and she was a beautiful lady. She was a beautiful girl. She used to get teased a lot, but her mother made her feel good because she got teased because of her color. Because she was light, and her father was light; my mother was brown. Real brown. But her uncles were all that brown, too, but they had the Hawaiian look. My mother was a Cape Verdean, with that brown color. And so she got teased a lot, and he would hold her hand, because they were teasing her, and say "Don't pay them any mind," he would tell her. She used to say that to me: "Don't you pay

them any mind: you're the prettiest one of all," and all that stuff. And her mother made her feel good about herself. And she was smart. She was just a smart girl. She spoke three languages. She -- high school education, and that's all. But she did a lot of things. She was the leader in the Bay Village -- talk to Tommy Lopes; he'll tell you. He loved my mother. She'd fix his head up every time he fell.

ANN MARIE LOPES - (laughter)

DIANA DUARTE - She was the nurse and the doctor in the projects. The Bay Village people that ran the places, they depended on her. She was the one you'd have to go to to get the stuff for the park, for the rides and all. She'd keep the keys to everything. She ran the Red Cross -- the first aid kit thing in there, in the hall there. She was -- everything. She really...

ANN MARIE LOPES - What language was spoken in the house?

DIANA DUARTE - She spoke English and Cape Verdean. She and my father spoke it so we wouldn't understand. But we learned it a little that way. But it was English and Cape Verdean in the house. She spoke -- she could speak Spanish and French. She was strong. She really was quite something, herself. Like her mother. And the father, who made her feel like she was a princess. That's what she said. She was devastated. She talked about how the loss when he died. Barney took after them, but like, he was his mother's son. And they called him the gangster, but I think he got things done, and I don't know how much gangster it was, but he did have that Bluebird Inn, and it was an infamous club in Fall River.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Infamous how?

DIANA DUARTE - Infamous because they talked about a lot of stuff went on, gambling and stuff. And his daughter Connie was a singer. She was born -- she was about my mother's age. She was a singer. She worked there at his club. Vic Bowman was his wife at the time -- Vic was married to him. And she was his wife at the time, and she was a tough lady. She owned houses in Boston, on Mass General Ave -- Massachusetts Avenue. I would go there. 429 Mass Avenue, and the barbershop -- she owned that. I don't know how they did all that crap. Yeah. So it was kind of hard to understand, but not quite, because he was so connected.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Now, Gregory.

DIANA DUARTE - Gregory's my brother -- oh, no, my grandfather.

ANN MARIE LOPES - When he was on the ship, did he talk about what he did on the ship when they were waiting for the whales, and...?

DIANA DUARTE - The whales? No, because he was a boy. And then -- all I knew he was a cabin boy, and then he was dropped here. So when my mother said it was a longer time, I can't match it up with the dates. Because of the fact that they said he came at 14, so it doesn't make sense. If he came according to the dates it didn't make sense, because she said he was on the water a long time. He said he was on the water two years, and then he got dropped off in New Bedford.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Maybe she meant his whole life.

DIANA DUARTE - No. When they picked him up, he said he was on the water for two years --

ANN MARIE LOPES - Right.

DIANA DUARTE - But it comes out to just one year, according to the dates.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh, OK. Maybe it felt like two years.

DIANA DUARTE - Maybe it did.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So you're talking about your grandparents' generation. They didn't do anything for fun; they were hardworking.

DIANA DUARTE - She did not do fun.

ANN MARIE LOPES - And they came here with a purpose, which was to have a good life...?

DIANA DUARTE - You remember I started telling you about the -- she lived in New -- my mother helped get people into the Village when they started in 1942, whenever that came. She was the one that helped them -- she did all of that. And people -- she was the one to go to, my mother. And my grandmother lived at 105 Bay Village, she had the one-bedroom, and my mother lived at 115. And then they had... picking up people for cranberries. And even my girlfriend Vivi says she remembers my grandmother -- that they were afraid of her at the cranberry bogs. You know? They had somebody running the place; they had the shacks where the people... They'd pick up people in the village -- of course, I never worked the cranberry bogs. (laughter) But they would pick them up in trucks, and then take them through the Cape to go picking cranberries, and then bring them home. That's what they did, where they'd pick up the bog workers. But my grandmother - they had people on the bogs in shacks and stuff, and the girls that would go and stay there for awhile and come... well, she was the -- what do you call, house mother. She was the boss lady.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK. At the cranberry bogs, to watch out for them?

DIANA DUARTE - Down the Cape.

ANN MARIE LOPES - To watch out for the women?

DIANA DUARTE - Mm-hmm. She did. She watched out for the women. She was in charge. Because my girlfriends, who were older -- a little older than I, would talk about (growly voice) "your grandmother, mrrr". And everybody called her a witch.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Because she was tough.

DIANA DUARTE - Yeah, because she was tough, they called her a witch. We used to get - I remember -- "your grandmother's a witch, your grandmother's a witch."

ANN MARIE LOPES - She didn't do any stuff though, though. She wasn't known to do bells or read cards or...

DIANA DUARTE - Yeah, only with me. Yeah, she did. Her and Nha Mad did that. Not read cards, but they had herbs. They would do things to make people well. She was a healer, so to speak.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Mm-hmm.

DIANA DUARTE - And her and Nha Mad, the lady who lived on Purchase Street and Russell Street, she was an old lady -- she was their best friend, and they would go over there, and the kids would tease me because I limped. One leg was bigger than the other -- I don't know what the hell was wrong with me.

ANN MARIE LOPES - (laughter)

DIANA DUARTE - But (laughter) I limped. I had arthritis, but it wasn't diagnosed. I used to have high fevers, and they used to hurt -- nothing was diagnosed. Everything was fixed by your grandmother. So when she would call me in, she'd watch me, and then missed -- one of the old men that would come in sometimes would say "Something's wrong with her. Something's wrong with her leg." So she used to -- she had me go in the house with Nha Mad. They'd put this dust pan -- this metal pan with things in it on fire. I can remember being just in my slip that had buttons on the top -- my little cotton slip with the buttons; I can remember that. Taking everything off, and me in my slip, and standing in front of the fire, and they chanted while I stared into the fire. They were going to fix me.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Mm-hmm.

DIANA DUARTE - They were healing me.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did it work?

DIANA DUARTE - (laughter) Did it work. I remember being like this -- I remember being -
- staring at the fire while they chanted, (chanting) -- and my mother came rushing
up those stairs.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh.

DIANA DUARTE - Up the stairs 105 had -- the stairs going up. And my mother snatched
me up and grabbed my clothes, and said "I told you, you don't practice your
witchcraft on my child. On my children. You don't practice it --" And my mother
screamed at her and ran out with me. That I remember. But they used to say that
she practiced witchcraft. Maybe. I don't know. Maybe that's how she scared
people. But that was her and Nha Mad. I remember that very distinctly. And then
they'd try to heal me, because of the high fevers. Very high fevers. They didn't
know until later in life what was going on. Rheumatoid arthritis wasn't diagnosed,
or something, but rheumatic fever and things -- that went on. Because my
daughter was born with it, and I suffered with Dolly for eleven years -- we'd treat it
with aspirin and stuff. But I remember laying in bed with a fever so high; and her
and my Aunt Margaret had me laying on a bed, and they had potatoes or
something on me. They had something on my feet.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Potatoes on your feet or on your forehead?

DIANA DUARTE - They had something on my feet.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK.

DIANA DUARTE - And they had potatoes strapped on my head, I think. They had me
laying there, and they had water or something. I thought they were making a
stew, I swear to God. (laughter)

ANN MARIE LOPES - (laughter)

DIANA DUARTE - (laughter) And they were chanting.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Were they chanting in English?

DIANA DUARTE - They were trying to get rid of my fever. I don't know what they were
saying.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did it work?

DIANA DUARTE - Scary. (laughter) My mother let her do that.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did it work?

DIANA DUARTE - I think it brought my fever down.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Well, your fever could have been going down, or that could have helped.

DIANA DUARTE - They scared the hell out of me. (laughter)

ANN MARIE LOPES - (laughter) Interesting.

DIANA DUARTE - Yeah, it was. It was. They called her witch. She was funny. She loved me. She loved me. I had this -- out of all the children, I was the one with the long hair. She used to love to rub my hair. She was very -- because they all had nice long hair in her family. But my mother's children didn't, except me. So I had this hair -- there was a little long auburn hair at the time. I guess at the time, and then I had these long braids, and she'd always be rubbing my head. And she would call me "Little Constance." That's all her stuff. That's her china closet. She gave that to me.

ANN MARIE LOPES - That's nice to keep.

DIANA DUARTE - That's why -- she died when I was ten, and my mother ended up giving it to me later, because my grandmother told her to. Yeah. A lot of stuff in there belongs to her. Yeah. And her and my uncle Barney.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Mm-hmm. It looks like, from the tour you gave me around your house, that you have a lot of stuff that's been handed down through the generations.

DIANA DUARTE - Yeah, like that and the clocks -- the banjo clock, things that were from then. Because it was -- Uncle Barney, I was his pet favorite too. He called me Joe Rags. And oriental rags --

ANN MARIE LOPES - Called you...?

DIANA DUARTE - The house on Acushnet Avenue, he gave to me.

ANN MARIE LOPES - He called you...?

DIANA DUARTE - Joe Rags.

ANN MARIE LOPES - (laughter) Why?

DIANA DUARTE - Because I was a little tomboy. A little rugged one. I was the little Barney, I guess. So that's it.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So let's go back --

DIANA DUARTE - Back to the whaling. You want to go back to whaling?

ANN MARIE LOPES - Well, no, no. Let's go back to Gregory again. And I'm interested -- it said he was a communicant of Our Lady of the Assumption Church.

DIANA DUARTE - They lived in New Bedford.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did the church play a big role in your family?

DIANA DUARTE - As a young girl, yes.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK. So --

DIANA DUARTE - Did you see the picture that just showed up in the paper about that old picture with all the people in the church and back in then about...?

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yes.

DIANA DUARTE - Well, I can pinpoint that day. They said undated -- I can almost pinpoint that day, because of the fact that I'm in there. I'm the little girl in front with the white pocketbook and the big sleeves. I'm that little girl. And I didn't have my hair cut until I was ten. So it had to be in 1949 or '50 that..

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did you tell them?

DIANA DUARTE - I didn't tell anybody.

ANN MARIE LOPES - (laughter)

DIANA DUARTE - I put it in the -- Charlie Carmos; he did it on Facebook, so I mentioned it in there. And some guy wrote back to me and wants to know who's the lady on the side -- because I can name some of them. My godmother, people who are in there. My sister Irene, me, Pauline... But it was 1949 or '50, because my hair was cut. And I always had the long hair. And that's when you see the little girl with the hat. And the hair was like this -- that's me.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Back from your grandparents --

DIANA DUARTE - The church was -- my grandmother was not a church lady. No. But my mother -- my father was the one that was more... even though he was divorced and they wouldn't allow him to take Communion and all that stuff, he was the one that was really the real Catholic. My mother sent us to church because it was the thing to do; I don't think she cared. But she did make that point of us going to church; We all did.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So she didn't go with you, your mother?

DIANA DUARTE - But she was involved with the church, and we did go. I think Daddy took us.

ANN MARIE LOPES - She was involved in what kinds of activities?

DIANA DUARTE - She was fundraising and all of that. She was very prominent in raising funds for the new church and all. She was very busy in that. We all belonged to the choir -- well, I did, and Irene, and Gregory was an altar boy. He's in that picture too, in front of Father John. That was important in our... And then we had a community center -- the center that was next door to the old church: that's where we, we had Girl Scouts there. And the activities that took place -- yeah, we spent a lot of time around there. We did a lot in the church at that time, Our Lady of the Assumption.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did your grandmother cook?

DIANA DUARTE - Yes, she did.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did she cook Cape Verdean food, or did she...?

DIANA DUARTE - Yes, she did. But it wasn't, like... I don't remember her doing. She cooked, but I can't remember the Cape Verdean dishes. I guess a lot of jag and Galinha (Crioul) was a big thing -- that's what we had more than anything -- I remember that. But she would sit in her house. I don't know what was wrong with her. Because when I think of how old she was when she died, I always thought she was old, of course, because she shuffled a lot. Her mother was crippled, in a wheelchair, from rheumatoid arthritis. Mary -- see, I seen pictures of her that was crippled in a wheelchair. Mary.

ANN MARIE LOPES - May have prompted her to try to treat you so you wouldn't end up in a wheelchair, too.

DIANA DUARTE - And she had -- she must have had some arthritis. She was shuffling. But she always walked -- he -- dad had the habit of doing the same damn thing later on. She walked with her hand like this --

ANN MARIE LOPES - Behind her back?

DIANA DUARTE - And she had those blue slippers, those blue felt slippers. She could walk from her house to my mother's house and --

ANN MARIE LOPES - With her slippers.

DIANA DUARTE - Almost shuffling, yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - And she was slouched over.

DIANA DUARTE - She was always like this. And then she was always shuffling. I remember her doing that. So to me, that wasn't right for a lady like her. But now I think about it, something was wrong. So she must have had arthritis. Because she would sit in her house a lot.

ANN MARIE LOPES - And she was -- probably carried herself very well before.

DIANA DUARTE - And then she was hurting, but didn't know that. But she would be at my mother's a lot, and she'd help with the kids, because my mother had six kids. And I would visit her a lot. And she made me come in, because I was hurting. I was a tomboy; I played hard. But then she'd call me from her window: "Come on, come in." And she would have me come sit with her. So she was probably giving me my break, I think. Because she knew I was sick. And that's why she was trying to heal me. She was trying to heal me. I didn't know I was sick, but I'd sit on the curbing a lot. Because I hurt. I remember that. So that's what she did. I spent more time with her than -- a lot of time, yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So what is this?

DIANA DUARTE - I found obituaries in here that go with -- that mention whalers.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh, really?

DIANA DUARTE - Uh-huh.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Careful.

DIANA DUARTE - I know.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So whose -- whose scrapbook is this?

DIANA DUARTE - My mother's -- look what it says.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh, wow.

DIANA DUARTE - And that's when they were doing the thing for Bay Village.

ANN MARIE LOPES - "Facts about our friends and acquaintances: whether they are humorous, criminal, merry or sad, years from now, when our memories grow dim, we can refresh them by scanning these pages."

DIANA DUARTE - Mm-hmm. That's my mother. 1934.

ANN MARIE LOPES - This is Bay Village.

DIANA DUARTE - Yup.

ANN MARIE LOPES - With the Federal Works Agency.

DIANA DUARTE - Yeah. How do you like that?

ANN MARIE LOPES - Wow, this is old.

DIANA DUARTE - That's my mother's. That's my mother.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh, so when she moved, this is probably the way it first looked, when she moved.

DIANA DUARTE - Well, that was 19-- we were the first tenants, in 1941 or '2, in Bay Village.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did you -- did you know Mrs. Pina?

DIANA DUARTE - Which one? Colleen's mother?

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yeah.

DIANA DUARTE - Oh, my God, she's Irene's godmother.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh, OK.

DIANA DUARTE - Very close. We were very -- I loved her to pieces. Look at these obituaries.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh, wow.

DIANA DUARTE - Whalers. I was amazed at this.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yeah, Mr. Ramos --

DIANA DUARTE - Mr. Ramos. Manuel Ramos died at home, and that was messed up. But he was -- St. Nicholas, Cape Verde Islands. Came aboard a whaling schooner in his youth. Another one, Peter Costa, came to Fairhaven years ago.

ANN MARIE LOPES - She was -- but he was a chef.

DIANA DUARTE - At the Louie's Diner. That's the chef.

ANN MARIE LOPES - 14 years old.

DIANA DUARTE - He died. 14 years old. Cesar Rogers -- there was a store, Cesar's Store, down on Acushnet Avenue. Jenny and Cesar had a store. They ran a variety store, right on Acushnet Avenue and Grinnell Street.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Mm-hmm.

DIANA DUARTE - OK. And that was their son that died when he was 14 and went to Wood school. Though they had that boy and he died. That's the only child they had.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Look at this one. This is J.A. Santos?

DIANA DUARTE - Oh, Santos. Santos' Burgo Funeral Home?

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yeah, that's what it says here.

DIANA DUARTE - That was Jack Santos. Mm-hmm.

ANN MARIE LOPES - He was a partner in the undertaking firm. Santos and Burgo

DIANA DUARTE - He died in 1941.

ANN MARIE LOPES - One of the only --

DIANA DUARTE - This boy. He probably died from burning -- died. The water. They burned him.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh, wow. This man, back to Mr. Santos, it says he attended the Boston School of Anatomy and Embalming after serving as an agent with the Boston Mutual Insurance Company. Graduated in 1930.

DIANA DUARTE - Mm-hmm. Yeah, so there was another whaler. You know, Johnny Pina, that lives -- is in the nursing home right now -- he was the barber? Johnny Pina? Here he is.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Is he Johnny Pena and the leftovers? Same Johnny Pina?

DIANA DUARTE - Nope, this Johnny Pina.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh, yeah.

DIANA DUARTE - OK. That was his sister.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK. So that's Mrs. George Amado.

DIANA DUARTE - Mm-hmm.

ANN MARIE LOPES - 25.

DIANA DUARTE - You'll know -- what's his name. Wait a minute. Her children --

ANN MARIE LOPES - She was 25.

DIANA DUARTE - Thurston Amado, Roland -- that's all her brothers. Roland, Kenneth -- those are the brothers. Those are her brothers.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Would you consider photocopying these, so you can keep them?

DIANA DUARTE - Oh, yeah. I can photocopy them. Because they're going to get messed up.

ANN MARIE LOPES - They're wonderful things to have.

DIANA DUARTE - Barboza.

ANN MARIE LOPES - George Barboza, Anthony Barboza.

DIANA DUARTE - This is Anthony Barboza. That's his son that's always in "Blink" the photographers -- those are his sons.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh, OK.

DIANA DUARTE - Amazing, huh? My mother had a fascination with Roosevelt. This is filled with Roosevelt, Franklin. There I am. (laughter)

ANN MARIE LOPES - What is this?

DIANA DUARTE - We were force busing our children. We were defying people by registering our children, when they didn't want the black kids up there. We were going up there. They didn't want us there. But we forced --

ANN MARIE LOPES - Transferred children from Parker to Lincoln school --

DIANA DUARTE - Mm-hmm.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Under voluntary busing. OK.

DIANA DUARTE - We had to go in. They didn't want to take our children. We put them in as visitors. That was news.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Front page, *Standard Times*, 1967.

DIANA DUARTE - (laughter) Diana Duarte. She got it into everything. That was that -- that -- these are recent things. So if we go back in time... Martin.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh, yeah. Father Martin.

DIANA DUARTE - My mother saved everything.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh, look, there's Abraham Lincoln.

DIANA DUARTE - (laughter)

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh, that's the whaling -- ah.

DIANA DUARTE - I was -- I mussed up his hair. I felt -- I was on the New Bedford Hotel steps and when he went by I went like this. There were thousands and thousands of people.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Right.

DIANA DUARTE - This was amazing, reading this story. They say that everybody was amazed at how many turned out for this.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Well, this was the...

DIANA DUARTE - 35,000 at the --

ANN MARIE LOPES - "35,000s Greet Houston, Peck, and Ledeber" -- who's Ledeber?

DIANA DUARTE - Yeah, I was there.

ANN MARIE LOPES - But this is -- oh, the mayor. No, Mayor Lawler. But this is the Moby Dick...

DIANA DUARTE - Moby Dick. But I was there. It was amazing, Moby Dick. But when I got up there on the steps of the hotel, and as he walked by, he was with his wife, I mussed up his hair, yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - You mussed up --

DIANA DUARTE - I felt so good.

ANN MARIE LOPES - (laughter) You must --

DIANA DUARTE - Yeah, because I was one of those that push yourself right up ahead. I've got a picture of Kennedy that I took when he came to New Bedford.

ANN MARIE LOPES - But you mussed Gregory Peck's hair.

DIANA DUARTE - I did. I loved that. (laughter)

ANN MARIE LOPES - You loved that. (laughter)

DIANA DUARTE - My mother had so many -- it's a lot of the President. Oh, and the hurricane's in here. All of that -- the 1938 was amazing.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Were you living at the time?

DIANA DUARTE - I was not alive in '38. It was '39 -- I was born in '39.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Did your parents talk about it?

DIANA DUARTE - Oh, constant--yeah. That was the, that was, like, the most shocking thing, I think, that '38 hurricane, now.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Is that the hurricane?

DIANA DUARTE - She had a -- she was living on Bonney Street and the water went up that high. And my mother had Irene in her arms -- Irene was a baby. And she had her in her arms. They had to get in a boat with my grandmother to be evacuated.

ANN MARIE LOPES - All the way up to Bonney Street.

DIANA DUARTE - Bonney Street.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Wow. Oh, here we go. The hurricane.

DIANA DUARTE - This is the '38s hurricane. And it's amazing -- to see what the devastation... That's my mother, keeping her records.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Well, that was a big event. Still --

DIANA DUARTE - Oh, it was.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Still talked about.

DIANA DUARTE - It was still talked about today.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yup.

DIANA DUARTE - Because of the devastation. Look at this, Fairhaven.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Shows what remains of the shore (Overlapping dialogue).

DIANA DUARTE - The shoreline.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Sheesh.

DIANA DUARTE - Near Fairhaven. I mean, it tore people apart.

ANN MARIE LOPES - I remember people talking about it, that water went to the North End, too, with some other factories that were closer to the North End.

DIANA DUARTE - What's that?

ANN MARIE LOPES - The water.

DIANA DUARTE - That's when Irene was born. Yeah, the water went so far.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yup.

DIANA DUARTE - My mother took a picture. I never saw this, but I know what she did.
My father's daughters?

ANN MARIE LOPES - Mm-hmm.

DIANA DUARTE - My mother, when they were -- when she started seeing him and all, she took them out to visit with them, to stay with them. His two daughters were in the St. Mary's home, and she's got the -- Catherine and Dorothy. She has these arrows pointing out the children.

ANN MARIE LOPES - That was when St. Mary's was an orphanage.

DIANA DUARTE - Yes, it was an orphanage. Etta and Edith were in the orphanage...

ANN MARIE LOPES - So why didn't your father take them in?

DIANA DUARTE - He was --

ANN MARIE LOPES - Because he was a single parent?

DIANA DUARTE - Well, this is what I -- why -- Phoebe, who was the party girl, they called her --

ANN MARIE LOPES - His wife.

DIANA DUARTE - She was a party girl. They were not together anymore, and when she was not taking care of the kids or whatever -- this is earlier years, because they were close to my mother's age, (laughter) and you can imagine... He was 19 when he married Phoebe. And -- my father.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yeah, I know. I'm just trying to get the ages. But go ahead.

DIANA DUARTE - He was, like, 19. And he was with Phoebe -- I don't know, they had these kids. And they were all young. And he was -- I don't know what the heck he was doing or where he was, but they were put in an orphanage. And she was the mother. And I don't know if they didn't give them to the father, or what happened; I have no idea, but they were put in an orphanage. But when my

mother and father got together -- because the age difference wasn't that great between his children and my mother. You realize that she was 14 years younger. So when he was, like, in his '30s at this time, these kids were -- when she got involved, they were older. So my mother would go and take them out and take them -- go stay -- they remember the good times. She would take them to Nantucket, because that's where my father lived with my mother. Pauline was born in 1933.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So these two were never adopted?

DIANA DUARTE - They were never adopted out. The kids stayed in St. Mary's home until they turned 18, years old. So my mother would have them out for weekends and stuff. They were still Phoebe's children; I don't know what she was doing at that time, but my father and mother would get them, take them to Nantucket then. And then later on, they spent time -- one of them got very close to my mother; the other one married early. Married Nunes -- Catherine. We stayed very close. She's got family -- a bunch of them, we were just with them last week, or two weeks ago. We had a nice big party with all the Nunes, and celebrating Patsy's 70th birthday. See, Patsy's 70; she's almost my age. That's my sister Catherine's daughter. So the age difference -- that's why my mother never took them. But that's what happened. This was amazing, this all of this. That's Pauline.

ANN MARIE LOPES - First prize winner.

DIANA DUARTE - Aggie Rose... This is all the hurricane. My mother did a lot of the hurricane. Now, see, Cuba.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Are they glued down? Yes.

DIANA DUARTE - I wanted to take it out.

ANN MARIE LOPES - But don't. You --

DIANA DUARTE - Because I don't know if her uncles wrote to her. I wanted to know that -- yeah, hurry up, if you will. No? OK, then.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Whasn't signed? Maybe when they came to visit, they brought the pictures.

DIANA DUARTE - Maybe brought the pictures then. We used to get the sugar cane. They could bring things on the planes before, you know.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Do you think that your family will throw it away?

DIANA DUARTE - No. I don't think the kids will be interested. I think -- I'm the one that has so much interest. Jackie Chung.

ANN MARIE LOPES - All the more reason for you --

DIANA DUARTE - To do something with it.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Photocopy and preserve it.

DIANA DUARTE - Who's interested? I can get some copies and then I can probably -- now, this is -- I knew him. John. John -- he went to jail on murder. I knew him. He used to come visit my mother when he got out of jail. You know the Lessas? Donald Lessa, that died not that long ago?

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yeah, I know him.

DIANA DUARTE - OK. That was his brother. His mother's brother, whatever the heck. But, yeah. That was Phi, Jean's son. Uncle Barney's in here. My mother worked for Dr. Parem when she got out of school. Oh, look. Barney Monteiro was found guilty.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Guilty of... oh, this is the union?

DIANA DUARTE - That's my uncle Barney. No.

ANN MARIE LOPES - It was assault.

DIANA DUARTE - And there was something else he went to jail for -- for having people vote twice.

ANN MARIE LOPES - (laughter)

DIANA DUARTE - I mean vote -- dead people voting.

ANN MARIE LOPES - (laughter)

DIANA DUARTE - But listen. And I knew this name, too -- that Walter Ennis.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So you assaulted Walter D. Ennis of South Water Street -- found guilty. Fined \$20.

DIANA DUARTE - Mm-hmm.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Ennis identified with the publication of the *Tattler*, a mimeographed Cape Verdean publication.

DIANA DUARTE - How do you like that? Did you ever hear about that?

ANN MARIE LOPES - No, I never heard about that.

DIANA DUARTE - (Overlapping dialogue)

ANN MARIE LOPES - Said that Monteiro struck him on the jaw in a South End restaurant. The blow came after the defendant resented publication of a communication signed by Joseph Senna and attacking Monteiro. The testimony indicates the complainant was assisted during cross-examination by Attorney George Helford -- that he was not pushed, but was struck. Attorney Bernie Kestenbaum appeared for the prosecution. Attorney Helford, in his summation, charged that Senna, an erstwhile --

DIANA DUARTE - Erstwhile candidate.

ANN MARIE LOPES - -- candidate for the legislature, was the man behind the scene. Mr. Kestenbaum termed the assault as "vicious" and asked for a substantial sentence. "I think this assault was more serious than was anticipated," Judge Durand remarked before passing sentence. "There was no malice, but anger. It does call, however, for a more substantial fine than a one-blow assault."

DIANA DUARTE - (laughter)

ANN MARIE LOPES - So \$20 was a substantial fine in 1939.

DIANA DUARTE - (laughter)

ANN MARIE LOPES - Ennis said that he suffered a jawbone injury, and his testimony was corroborated by Dr. Carl Pitta. Alfred J. Gomes.

DIANA DUARTE - When I first got out of high school, Uncle Barney wanted to pay for me to go to college. He wanted me to be a lawyer. But I was approached on graduation, because they wanted to hire a person of color to work at the Registry of Deed. They never had a colored person working in an office with the county. So they came in and they had him find somebody. So he found me at the high school graduation in 1957. And I went -- and he put me in his office for a little while to see how I would do in his office, so I did typing and stuff like that for him. Right after graduation, yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So this article says that he was sworn in -- Alfred J. Gomes, sworn in as lawyer by Justice Crosby in 1923.

DIANA DUARTE - Yup. And this was in 1957, he got me to go work for him. How about that?

ANN MARIE LOPES - Now, here's the bridge opening at Padnarum.

DIANA DUARTE - They named the school -- the school for him. There it is! My father's name in here.

ANN MARIE LOPES - "Special policeman appointed to direct traffic at the opening of the Padnarum Bridge." And... let's see. Where is he?

DIANA DUARTE - Paul Centeio.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Paul Centeio.

DIANA DUARTE - Of Purchase Street.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Of Purchase Street.

DIANA DUARTE - I, I, I --

ANN MARIE LOPES - 126 Purchase Street.

DIANA DUARTE - You want to know something?

ANN MARIE LOPES - What?

DIANA DUARTE - Here's something interesting, is that I was born in that house.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh, yeah?

DIANA DUARTE - I was born in the house in 1939. A year before that, Peewee was born. I married Peewee.

ANN MARIE LOPES - In the same house?

DIANA DUARTE - (Overlapping dialogue; inaudible) -- same house.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh, wow.

DIANA DUARTE - Yeah.

ANN MARIE LOPES - You were destined.

DIANA DUARTE - Yeah, we were destined.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK, but this isn't -- the Padnarum Bridge opening is 1935.

DIANA DUARTE - Uncle Barney was involved in getting people to work. Those are the years I was telling you about, that my father was doing things.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Your mother was good in putting all the dates (Overlapping dialogue; inaudible).

DIANA DUARTE - How about the debutantes? Cape Verdeans. 1941. I gotta tell Pauline her first teacher -- my mother put this in there.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Miss Hathaway.

DIANA DUARTE - Pauline's first teacher. James Burgo. Charles Bonner was a good friend of my mother's.

ANN MARIE LOPES - And here's all the Roosevelt stuff that you talked about.

DIANA DUARTE - Oh, she was so much of that. Junior mayor. I don't know what year this was; she didn't put that down. But Martin -- Cindy Martin?

ANN MARIE LOPES - Mm-hmm.

DIANA DUARTE - I have to (inaudible) him. Now, President Roosevelt -- this is -- you'll find so much of this. She took so many pictures. She loved him. I was alive when he died; I can remember that. I remember the end of World War II, and I cut up papers to make confetti that day. We threw it all over the place, because the sirens were going off, I was living in the Village. It was the end of World War II. I was little -- 1945. This is amazing.

ANN MARIE LOPES - She took the time out to cut these out, put them in a scrapbook...

DIANA DUARTE - She had them taped, I guess, at one time. I don't know what all, she just threw them in after awhile. She found time to do it with all these kids she had. Jackie and John were born in '45 -- the twins, Jackie and John, my brother and sister. The babies. Look, she even took one of the dog, Falla. Everybody loved the dog's name.

ANN MARIE LOPES - It's very fragile.

DIANA DUARTE - Yeah, I know. I know.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Look at that.

DIANA DUARTE - Introducing the staff.

ANN MARIE LOPES - "Editor-in-Chief, Frank Silva." This must be New Bedford High School, maybe? He looks familiar.

DIANA DUARTE - Jimmy Lomba.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh, OK. That's why he looks familiar.

DIANA DUARTE - Mm-hmm. What was this for?

ANN MARIE LOPES - He was music editor, looks like it must be -- probably within a newspaper.

DIANA DUARTE - Oh, OK. OK.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Social editor. Must have been the newspaper. High school newspaper.

DIANA DUARTE - Mom would just put papers in here for awhile.

ANN MARIE LOPES - A certificate of achievement.

DIANA DUARTE - Henry Barros.

ANN MARIE LOPES - My father signed it too.

DIANA DUARTE - Yeah, look at it. (laughter) Your father.

ANN MARIE LOPES - And Eddie Livramento signed it too.

DIANA DUARTE - Oh, OK. Why, daddy? (laughter) I loved him to pieces. He thought he was the mayor of downtown, you know. They called him the mayor. Because he always went downtown, and he would talk to everybody. Everybody was his friend. And we found out when he died that they were all his friends. (laughter) I never saw that funeral line to be so long -- thousands of people came through

there to come pay their respects; people we never heard of, they came by, because he was the mayor of New Bedford.

ANN MARIE LOPES - You know the area that the park is, right?

DIANA DUARTE - Mm-hmm.

ANN MARIE LOPES - The National Park, you know where it is, right?

DIANA DUARTE - Well, it --

ANN MARIE LOPES - Where the cobblestones are, downtown?

DIANA DUARTE - Yes.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Growing up, did you have anything to do with that area of town? Did you go...?

DIANA DUARTE - The historical area?

ANN MARIE LOPES - Yeah.

DIANA DUARTE - Yeah, my father worked on -- Wheaton's Package Store.

ANN MARIE LOPES - OK.

DIANA DUARTE - You know Wheaton's Package Store?

ANN MARIE LOPES - Is it still there?

DIANA DUARTE - No. That's on School Street, and that was down on School Street. They had a package store. But it was a soda. They manufactured soda. They made their own soda: Wheaton Soda Water. He worked there for years. He delivered to houses. Elliot Knowles, who had a house on Clinton and Cottage Street, after his father died, who was involved in the manufacturing cotton factories, his father, Joseph Knowles, was rich. And the Millicans and the Knowleses and -- and Joe Knowles died, and Elliot moved into his father's house. Elliot Knowles was the man who -- (laughter) who -- I worked for his wife. And Elliot Knowles lived there after his father died. And my father used to deliver to them, at Clinton and Cottage Street. It's now John's Bed and Breakfast.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh, isn't that funny!

DIANA DUARTE - Isn't that funny? When I told Betty about this crack in the leaded glass, and I was talking about my boss, Kim Mitchell -- he was having his family's house on Phoenix and Fairhaven, repairing this crack in this leaded glass, repairing the glass. Very expensive pane. And I said, he's foolish, because I told him that it might be a historical crack, like the crack that's in John's house -- they have a crack in the leaded glass. In John's house on Cottage Street. She said "What house on Cottage Street?" I said 124. She said, "124! That's my house!" I said, really? She said, "Yes. My son cracked that window," she said.

ANN MARIE LOPES - (laughter)

DIANA DUARTE - "My son Elliot cracked that window." So all of those people had been to John's house. And Betty was -- oh, she had been there -- the daughter goes there for Christmas, and she'll be the one to help people through it. Pat had to go there, her son Elliot. And the nieces, because it was their grandfather's house. The other Knowles family - Joe Knowles's kids, that live in Nonquit too. But Faith had her son's wedding, and she rented out John's whole house.

ANN MARIE LOPES - (laughter)

DIANA DUARTE - She rented the whole house so the family could go see it, their grandfather's house. Their great-grandfather's house.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Cool.

DIANA DUARTE - It was amazing. Yeah. So my father delivered -- when I was working for Elliot, I was at the desk in front in Merchant's Bank. It was Merchant's National Bank of New Bedford and became Bay Bank and all that. And I'd be in front, in the lobby and outside of his office, when I was secretary. And Daddy would come by. He didn't like to intrude, but he would love to see me sitting there. So he'd walk in there. And he wore a baseball cap all the time. And he'd walk by, very carefully, into the -- he didn't have any banking to do, but he'd walk through. And he'd walk just to look at me, and tip his hat, and...

ANN MARIE LOPES - (laughter)

DIANA DUARTE - (laughter) He'd tell me -- he even told me he did it, so I told Elliot one day. I said, "That's my father, just walking through, because he likes to see me sitting here," I says, "and he delivered for you." And so Elliot said, "Oh." So I called my father over one day. So he told him, "Mr. Knowles, I delivered soda to you. I delivered --" It was actually liquor, because they delivered... It was a package store and a soda factory. And Daddy used to deliver to that house all the time. And Elliot said, "Oh, yes, yes," and pretended to remember. But anyway, my father used to do that. And I used to go with him to the picnics and stuff. I'd be in the back of the truck -- you could ride in the back of the truck in those days. And he always worked there, and the kids in the village -- Tommy Lopes' family, and Julia

Pina's family. Julia Pina -- Colleen's mother? Harry was funny. He teased my father all the time, called him a bum. Harry Pena worked hard. They had been in the service, and they worked hard. And Daddy worked in a store, at the counter, most of the time.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Oh.

DIANA DUARTE - And they called him a bum, because he never worked hard. So he worked there for -- forever. And that's where he would be, in that package store. And he became the manager because when Jack Heron died, the big boss, he entrusted my father with everything. And his son was a wonderful guy, but he drank a lot. So it was pretty much left in my father's hands.

ANN MARIE LOPES - That reminds me. Did your family ever partake of grog?

DIANA DUARTE - No drinking in the house.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Really.

DIANA DUARTE - No -- Daddy used to have his friends... Meneline (?), Arthur -- he had certain friends that came over to visit. These are the Lombas. Many came from the old country. And he would have his friends, those -- Meneline, Arthur, and... what was the other one? They'd come over to visit, and they were all good friends. When my mother was having her babies and everything, Daddy couldn't cook, couldn't do anything. But Meneline would come over and help out in the kitchen and take care of us kids. (laughter) While my mother wasn't home. And what happened was, no drinking at all in the house. We had real sodas, or -- Tommy Lopes thinks we were rich. And I always wondered why he thought we Centeios were rich. We all lived in the village. But one day he told me why: because we had real soda. But I have things from Wheaton's Package Store, where it's -- Jack Heron gave up the stuff that he had. And the big desk ended up at... when Peewee and Chip ran the center for kids. You know, kids -- the desk ended there. But I got all the nice paperweights and this stuff. The inkwell and stuff. All the glass stuff. I have that from that.

ANN MARIE LOPES - What did your parents do for fun?

DIANA DUARTE - When we were a little bit older... because my mother was never there. We always had hot lunches for lunch -- that and supper. She cooked every day, and that was unusual. We found it unusual that people ate sandwiches. The kids in the village, you know? They ate sandwiches. But we had cooked meals all the time. My mother would cook in the afternoon, when we'd come home from school. Sandwiches were rare. That was unusual for us. My mother was a stay-at-home mom, and never went anywhere. And fun -- I know my grandmother never did anything or went anywhere. And my mother never did. And then when they got -- it was, like, unusual. They went to New York. And we were grown up later on.

And it was like a big thing, because my mother and father went out, and then when they first attempted that, there was trouble at home. Because we had one of those 16-millimeter projectors. We had little movies -- Woody Woodpecker and that. So when my mother finally went out and left Pauline in charge, she was 16. She said she could babysit that night. Pauline put a sheet up on the Bay Village fence. We used to have honeysuckle vines growing there. But Pauline tacked sheets up on the honeysuckle vine fence, and brought an extension cord, and projected it outside. (laughter)

ANN MARIE LOPES - Mm-hmm.

DIANA DUARTE - And we'd show movies in the village. (laughter)

ANN MARIE LOPES - (laughter)

DIANA DUARTE - Because there was a big crowd gathered around when my mother and father came home. They had gone to a movie. (laughter) And that was -- she got in trouble.

ANN MARIE LOPES - Sounded fun to me.

DIANA DUARTE - Yeah, but that was -- that I remember. That's what I remember was so unusual, because that's what they did. And that was supposed to be fun, I guess. But it wasn't until much later they went to New York, and that was a big deal. I got all kinds of -- I'll probably find it in the albums here, when she met Carol Burnett and stuff they went to something out there in New York.

ANN MARIE LOPES - It's noon.

DIANA DUARTE - Wow!

ANN MARIE LOPES - So I think that --

DIANA DUARTE - I'm sorry.

ANN MARIE LOPES - No, no. This has been a good conversation. I'm just saying that we probably should -- should end now, because we've been --

DIANA DUARTE - I'm so sorry. This is just --

ANN MARIE LOPES - -- we've been at this for a little while.

DIANA DUARTE - Yeah, I'm just -- I'm doing -- you got me talking. I'm sorry.

ANN MARIE LOPES - (laughter)

DIANA DUARTE - Turn the thing off.

ANN MARIE LOPES - So thank you very much, and --

DIANA DUARTE - Thank you.

End of File