

Postcards from Falmouth Oral History Transcript

Recorded: July 5, 2023

Oral Historian: Miguel Moniz

Interviewer: Phoebe Acheson

Topic: Personal Memories and Portuguese and Cape Verdean Life in Falmouth

Note: The right column references postcards by identifiers searchable in the Digital Commonwealth online collection.

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| 0:14 | [Music] | |
| 0:45 | well thank you so much for the invitation for me to talk to talk about this community and about some of these wonderful postcards in this collection I'm a huge fan of this of this project | |
| 0:54 | and and of the of the Falmouth Public Library really what they've been doing over the over the | |
| 1:00 | years to help promote some of these community histories that we have and um you know I'll | |
| 1:07 | be talking a little bit about some of this today but um if you want to take a deeper look at some of these there's a whole series that I that I did for Falmouth Public Library's Joy of Learning | #joyoflearning |
| 1:16 | about Portuguese community history I'm going to try and not repeat anything that I that I said in any of those and try and come come up with today with all brand new things that I haven't talked | |
| 1:24 | about before in some of these uh with some of these great postcards that that you have but um yeah as you say um some of the postcards and most of the postcards that people | |

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| 1:34 | um are are talking about are representative of specific communities are represented by specific communities in some of the images and um when I got invited to do this project or to | |
| 1:45 | do this interview I um I went through the whole collection just beginning to end and tried to | |
| 1:51 | find some some of those what are those postcards about about uh the Portuguese and Cape Verdean | #portugueseamericanhistory #capeverdeanamericanhistory |
| 1:57 | communities in Falmouth and I found that there weren't really a whole lot you know there's a one postcard of Saint Anthony's Church which is a was a Cape Verdean or is a Cape Verdean | #saintanthonyschurch |
| 2:07 | Portuguese community founded a church um but but aside from that there really isn't a whole lot | |
| 2:16 | um if you look at a one of the postcards of Main Street for example um what you don't see in this | Shown in video: Hunt_Teaticket_Sts_362 |
| 2:24 | postcard it's this one is um if actually if I have one complaint with the the postcard | |
| 2:29 | project it's that there aren't really a great dates on the postcards I don't know if that's something you're trying to uh yeah they they mostly aren't dated unless they were mailed and have a | |
| 2:38 | postmark on them so we can really only ballpark it by the styles of cars and that kind of thing right | |
| 2:44 | right that well you need to maybe crowdsource this because I'm sure there's people in town that can take one look at this and and you know know exactly where it was and when it was photographed | |

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| 2:52 | but this this image you can see in the background here um an image of what was the old East Falmouth | #eastfalmouthvillageschool |
| 2:58 | Village School and you know what you don't see to the sides of this are the Portuguese farms and the | #agriculture |
| 3:06 | Cape Verdean farms that were interspersed around and about some of these buildings as you as you go | |
| 3:11 | down Main Street and some of the other postcards also of Teaticket they they are kind of in the | #teaticket |
| 3:16 | margins and not really not really quite seen um and this is interesting most of the Portuguese | |
| 3:22 | were came here to work as farmers and the one the one kind of farming photo that you or a | |
| 3:28 | postcard that we have is the of the Coonamessett Ranch which was an important large agricultural | #coonamessettfarm |
| 3:34 | farm that employed a great number of workers many of them Portuguese as it turns out as happened | |
| 3:41 | in many cases though when the Portuguese and Cape Verdeans were working on farms for others | |
| 3:46 | they decided it'd be much easier and better for themselves to start their own farms which they did growing the most famous crop and Falmouth of this community is of course the crop of strawberries | #strawberries |
| 3:57 | but this was not limited to strawberries they grew yams they grew blueberries they grew all kinds of other all kinds of other other things as well as doing other other kinds of work in | |

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| 4:08 | town as well in Woods Hole but also around the rest of town they ended up moving into the eastern | |
| 4:15 | what was then euphemistically called the eastern part of town which was this kind of area of East | #eastfalmouth |
| 4:21 | Falmouth and further over into Teaticket towards the Coonamessett River that was largely abandoned | |
| 4:27 | farmland nobody really wanted it nobody wanted to live there there wasn't really a lot going on and so these communities moved into these uh started farmsteads and and some of these um in some of | |
| 4:37 | these plots of land that they had bought built houses um and you know you can see here again that | |
| 4:43 | you've got this great image of Coonamessett Farm not a lot of postcards of some of these other places | |
| 4:49 | um this isn't necessarily nefarious intent it's just that these communities were were largely | |
| 4:55 | invisible I think to a lot of the people that were coming and also why are people buying postcards you're buying a postcard because you visited a special unique beautiful place and you want to | |
| 5:04 | write home to someone and tell them you know all about this this fantastic place that you've seen and um you know East Falmouth in these areas they didn't have a lot of tourist attractions in them | |
| 5:14 | you know so they had it was um an area that that was largely relegated to the people that | |
| 5:23 | live there and the farmers that live there most of them immigrants but some other | #cranberrybog |

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| | people that also owned other cranberry bogs for example and which many Portuguese and Cape Verdeans worked at | |
| 5:32 | and actually also owned a number of cranberry bogs as well but you don't really get to see some of these um in in in in the postcards um although on this on the sides of the postcards | |
| 5:43 | are all of these are all of these communities um the one postcard that we really have of | |
| 5:49 | um of a prominent Portuguese institution community institution is of Saint Anthony's Roman Catholic | Shown in video: Gunning_Menauhant_Bldg_0493 |
| 5:55 | Church in East Falmouth and um this uh Catholic Church was built in the 1920s it's famed everyone | |
| 6:07 | or most people know the story of the the "the church that strawberries built" as it's been called | |
| 6:13 | um with members of the Portuguese and Cape Verdean community tithing uh parts of their their | |
| 6:18 | strawberry profits to give to the building of this church what's lesser known are the many many other | |
| 6:25 | community buildings that didn't get postcards most of them much older including for example | |
| 6:31 | um the many the the sa- the Holy Ghost halls that the town had one of these still stands today it's | #holyghostsociety |
| 6:37 | the Saint Anthony's Club on Brick Kiln Road this was a building that also served as an important | #brickkilnroad #saintanthonysclub |
| 6:42 | community center as well as the the actual hall itself that got moved next to the church and | |

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| 6:51 | um has since I believe been reconstructed but it was um originally also a Holy Ghost hall and then | |
| 6:57 | of course there's a Falmouth's most well-known Holy Ghost hall which is the um the Fresh Pond Holy | #freshpondholyghostsociety |
| 7:03 | Ghost Society on um on Carriage Shop Road and this is a building also that um you know was a very | #carriageshoproad |
| 7:09 | prominent community center they had there were political meetings at these some of these places | |
| 7:14 | they had senators coming down the U.S. U.S. Senators coming down governors coming down I talked to | |
| 7:21 | um to give talks and these kinds of things it's where a lot of the Mass Agricultural College | |
| 7:28 | um scientists would come to talk to the Portuguese community as a result of people like Bertrand Tomlinson who brought them in to try and help Falmouth's strawberry crop yield and | |
| 7:37 | protect it against various blights that uh that the that the crop often oftentimes had to face | |
| 7:44 | um so Saint Anthony's Church of course a very important central central cultural institution | |
| 7:50 | but again there's all these other other places that would have would have made great great postcards if I was visiting Falmouth I would have loved to have written a postcard at home | |
| 7:58 | if I wasn't from Falmouth of course of the of the Holy Ghost one of the Holy Ghost halls in | |

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| 8:03 | town it's not too late anyone wants to make a postcard they're still there so we also have | |
| 8:09 | um the back of this card is actually something I'd like to talk about a little bit um you know on the on the card it says that you know the Saint Anthony's Roman Catholic Church is | Shown in video: Gunning_Menauhant_Bldg_0493 (back) |
| 8:17 | Falmouth and then it says a Portuguese National Church which contains a famous painting of Our | #ourladyoffatima #portuguesenationalchurch |
| 8:23 | Lady of Fatima so anyone who's ever been inside of um of Saint Anthony's Church knows of this | |
| 8:30 | this well-known beautiful painting of the version of Fatima there's a great story behind this which | |
| 8:37 | I'd like to tell a little bit of if I can um with uh while looking at this at this at this postcard of the church I'm fortunately there's no postcard actually of the the Nossa Senhora de Fátima but | |
| 8:48 | you'll have to stop by the church sometime to take a look at it if you're if you're curious um but what's interesting about this is that it it says right off the bat that this is a Portuguese | |
| 8:57 | National Church and this was an interesting kind of a a political arrangement that this church had so most churches are arranged as parishes as when you live in a certain | |
| 9:06 | geography and you go to that church because you uh you live in that in that in that parish that | |
| 9:11 | that geographic parish territorial parish and in the case of Saint Anthony's church this was not | |
| 9:17 | um how people belonged you belong to it if you were Portuguese so um this is something that | |

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| 9:23 | many of us have known in town for a long time especially those of us who you know were baptized | |
| 9:28 | and had First Communion Confirmation in Saint Anthony's church as I did and um you know it's | |
| 9:33 | a place that um was always known as a Portuguese church and what's interesting about this is that | |
| 9:41 | this and the painting itself was part of a broader effort on the part of Portugal's Estado Novo | #estadonovo |
| 9:50 | dictatorship the fascist dictatorship to promote cultural diplomacy in the United States by relying | |
| 9:58 | on working with immigrant communities in order to gain political advantage in the places where | |
| 10:03 | they were this doesn't mean that the people you know some people were actively involved in this consciously involved in this the vast majority of Portuguese in New England of course had no | |
| 10:14 | idea this was going on you know they were just participating in you know in these power processes | |
| 10:19 | that really didn't have anything to do with their conscious awareness of what they what they were participating in certainly you know the case of the of of the parishioners of Saint Anthony's | |
| 10:28 | Saint Anthony's church but some of the operatives that were working on this was a good friend of | |
| 10:35 | the parish priest at the time of um in in the 40s Father Avila no relationship to the current | [Jose M. Bettencourt Avila] |

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| 10:43 | Father Avila that's Steve Avila that's now the the parishion- or the um the the priest of | |
| 10:48 | uh of the church but Father Avila was involved was good friends with someone named Abecassis who | |
| 10:56 | was one of the individuals involved in trying to create some of these cultural diplomacy efforts and what they were doing was one of the things they did was to try and send artists and | |
| 11:06 | um and and literary people into communities in the U.S where they could become friends with some | |
| 11:11 | high high level people one of the people that they sent to to do this was a man named Henrique Medina | #henriquemedina |
| 11:17 | Henrique Medina was the painter of the Virgin of Fatima painting at Saint Anthony's church | |
| 11:22 | now Henrique Medina was a well-known he was born in 1900 uh 1901 something like that died in 1988 | |
| 11:30 | but he was a well-known portraitist and a portrait artist and one of his activities working on behalf | |
| 11:38 | of the Portuguese Estado Novo was to try and get a film made in Hollywood about the Virgin of Fatima | |
| 11:43 | so the Virgin of Fatima was this apparition of the the of the Virgin Mary to these three pastor | |
| 11:49 | children in a field in Fatima Portugal there's a huge cathedral and shrine built to this to this | |
| 11:57 | apparition and um in in any case the painting was designed um for it was it was painted so that it | |
| 12:06 | could appear as a promo for the making of the film so the painting was made ahead of trying | |

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| 12:12 | to promote the film or get the film made the film eventually did get made but not for many years later but while Henrique Medina was in Hollywood he actually was asked to paint the | |
| 12:23 | famous painting in The Picture of Dorian Gray this film that that was that was made I think | |
| 12:30 | it came out in the 30s or for 40s I think it was like 45 or so but this film came out of Hunt was I | |
| 12:37 | believe the actor his his painting was the before picture not the after Picture of Dorian Gray but | |
| 12:43 | um because he was a skilled and gifted portraitist but you can look it up online and see Henrique | |
| 12:48 | Medina's Picture of Dorian Gray but in any case um I was in an alfarrabista in um in Lisbon and | |
| 12:55 | an alfarrabista is one of these old ancient used bookstores where you can find things that go back you know hundreds of years uh and uh you know if you're if you're looking carefully and | |
| 13:05 | I came across a silkscreened print of the Virgin of Fatima this painting by Henrique Medina that's | |
| 13:11 | had that you know hung in this church that I went to every Sunday since I was a little kid and um I | |
| 13:17 | was astonished that this was there and I looked at it excited to see uh whenever I'm in Portugal I like to run into people from Falmouth or see things from Falmouth so I got very excited to | |

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| 13:25 | read “Saint Anthony's Church, Falmouth, Mass” when I read where it was it was in a church in California | |
| 13:31 | um and I was very surprised by this because the story that I had always heard about this | |
| 13:36 | painting was that Father Avila had a commissioned directly from uh Henrique Medina as it turns out | |
| 13:42 | not really quite the case um once the painting was made it was actually given to a Portuguese | |
| 13:47 | church another Portuguese National Church in California um and uh and then eventually when | |
| 13:54 | um when Father Avila was looking for this painting and trying to find one he ended up getting the | |
| 13:59 | painting that had already been made and and was and was brought to him from um you know from from California so it's a kind of an interesting story about how this painting got to this got to this | |
| 14:09 | church and more interesting even for my own work and research is how these kinds of of activities | |
| 14:15 | promoted the sense of the Portuguese community here I mean this is a very famous painting people are very proud of this painting also in in town and um it also speaks to how sometimes how | |
| 14:26 | um the reasons for something creating a community is not necessarily as important as the creation | |
| 14:32 | of the community itself that the creation of the community has a life of its own beyond sometimes beyond beyond the the actions of | |

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| | others to you know to try and create this these efforts | |
| 14:42 | to help the Estado Novo and in the end maybe maybe didn't didn't quite quite do what they what they wanted to set out and wanted to do um but everybody should go to take a look at that | |
| 14:51 | go to a Mass sometime at St Anthony's Church and and you can see the the painting hanging above the altar it's really a really a masterwork a beautiful beautiful piece of piece of art | |
| 15:01 | um another thing I'd like to talk about when we talk about the Portuguese community is also is | |
| 15:06 | um there are a number of mythologies that get spoken about saying that Portuguese and Cape | |
| 15:12 | Verdeans weren't very politically active um and there's a great um a postcard here of the | |
| 15:20 | um the what's now the school administration building uh that got built in I believe 1920s | Shown in video: Gunning_Village_Bldg_0233 |
| 15:27 | I want to say 1927 um but it was thereabouts after the old um Teaticket Village School burned | #teaticketvillageschool |
| 15:35 | down uh then was briefly rebuilt if I'm not mistaken it's where the VFW Hall is now | |
| 15:40 | um you also have a postcard of the old Village Teaticket Village School as well | |
| 15:46 | um but um I I bring this up this postcard up because when Portuguese and Cape Verdeans started | |
| 15:52 | to get politically active it's really interesting um another very important community institution that I haven't mentioned | |

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| | are some of the other clubs in fact one of the oldest in Falmouth the | |
| 16:01 | oldest civic and immigrant civic club is the Cape Verdean Club of Falmouth this actually started off | #civicclub |
| 16:06 | as a as a political club where they used to have meetings at Frank Rose's barber shop on Sandwich | |
| 16:12 | Road there isn't a postcard of that either and and then eventually they moved their meetings | |
| 16:18 | bi-weekly meet or bi-monthly meetings rather to the school administration building where they held them from the 30s they also sponsored candidates' nights sometimes they would hold them in some of | |
| 16:28 | the other Portuguese community halls like Saint Anthony's Club sometimes they would hold them at the uh the Teaticket building eventually they built their own club starting in 1941 changed | |
| 16:38 | the name of the political organization it was all the same people that were that were the the board members but they just re-changed the name to a to a civic club which is a Falmouth | |
| 16:48 | Cape Verdean Club another extraordinary Falmouth institution that still is going quite strong today | #falmouthcapeverdeanclub |
| 16:54 | and has a great a great number of wonderful activities that's on Sandwich Road as well so um why did they start getting involved why the school um you know the school administration | #falmouthgovernment |
| 17:05 | building well it was very difficult for Portuguese people and Cape Verdean people to get elected to office townwide people | |

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| | wouldn't vote for them however school districts were based | |
| 17:16 | on geography and they were smaller so the very first successful political campaigns that were | |
| 17:21 | waged and won by by Portuguese were first in the school board and so this is uh this is a great | #falmouthpublicschools |
| 17:28 | postcard to kind of to bring that all home also it's because it's located really at the kind of | |
| 17:35 | the crux of of what's a major thoroughfare of the Portuguese community so you have um you know Route 28 or Davis Straits turning into Route 28 and going off towards through Teaticket | |
| 17:44 | and then into East Falmouth and you have Sandwich Road shooting up to Hatchville | #hatchville |
| 17:49 | um and um both of these streets were lined with Portuguese and Cape Verdean farms strawberry farms | |
| 17:55 | mostly as you got further in there were cranberry bogs where many Cape Verdeans and Azoreans especially were working on those cranberry bogs as you got further out you know towards | |
| 18:06 | Waquoit you also had some Cape Verdean cranberry bogs and Portuguese-owned cranberry bogs but | #waquoit |
| 18:12 | um you know this this school administration building is really kind of in the in the smack in the middle of where the Portuguese community started to really grow and it's | |
| 18:21 | almost a monument to that that community in some ways I also feel fondly about it because my mother also worked when she was a young she was the salutatorian of Falmouth High School | |

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| 18:30 | there were I think limited opportunities for young Portuguese American girls at that point to go to go to university which she certainly would have done if she was born in my generation | |
| 18:40 | um but she became a secretary in the school admin building so my mother worked at this building | |
| 18:46 | um you know for for many years I don't know if there's one of of of the um of the uh the | |
| 18:52 | fire department but if you had one you could show that now because that's where my my dad worked for for his whole life he passed away in 2017 but but he was he was a fireman there from for his life | |
| 19:03 | and also it was a was a captain um I would also bring up some of the other political activities | |
| 19:09 | that took place with some of these communities by looking here at um Terrace Gables um what Terrace Gables and the Heights has to do with the Portuguese community is kind of another | #terracegables #falmouthheights |
| 19:17 | small little story that um that doesn't really get talked about a lot but um there were two a | |
| 19:22 | couple of really important civic organizations in Falmouth that that arose out of the movement | |
| 19:28 | to "Americanize the immigrant" which was this post-1920s Progressivist movement and the idea | |
| 19:33 | was that immigrants in America were not suitable for citizenship this was the the argument from | |
| 19:40 | um from from certain quarters that they immigrants shouldn't be allowed to have citizenship because | |

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| 19:46 | they were mentally psychologically inferior and they weren't civic-minded people and so | |
| 19:52 | the movement to "Americanize the immigrant" was a Progressivist movement that certainly had its uh its problems most definitely in its definitions of what it meant to be an American and what it meant | |
| 20:02 | to belong to a community but what they promoted was effectively the education classes in civics | |
| 20:09 | teaching people how to participate in political political processes teaching them English these kinds of activities and there were two organizations in town that were deeply involved in | |
| 20:20 | this one was an organization called the Portuguese Fraternity which was a insurance scheme like these | #portugueseFraternity |
| 20:28 | beneficent societies that were very common in the 20s there was no personal insurance there was no workman's comp right so you would belong to these insurance schemes that would help you to | |
| 20:38 | pay in every week and then you would get get it if you were sick or heaven forbid you died you | |
| 20:44 | would have money for a funeral or you would have money to pay for your you know convalescence while | |
| 20:49 | you got better so one of the more prominent in not only New England but in the the United | |
| 20:55 | States was one called the Portuguese Fraternity they had branches that were over 40 branches in its heyday 40 or 50 branches in its heyday and they had an annual retreat every year and in 1926 | |

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| 21:08 | they held their annual retreat with all their new officers the national officers at Terrace Gables in Falmouth and there's a wonderful article written in the Enterprise another great initiative | |
| 21:18 | of Falmouth Public Library that everybody should check out is the Enterprise digitization archives and um you know this this archive is uh has some really rich stuff in it and one of the they have | |
| 21:29 | a great description of this event and in it the Enterprise actually translated from Portuguese | |
| 21:35 | and into English and then printed this in 1926 in the Falmouth Enterprise an article describing | "Portuguese Fraternity Meets in Falmouth," Falmouth Enterprise, 6/12/1926 |
| 21:41 | the describing this event and the really beautiful way that people the the author described Falmouth | |
| 21:47 | sort of saying it was no doubt that people from the Azores were so interested in this beautiful place that was on the ocean and how could it not help but you know remind them of home so this was | |
| 21:58 | uh this was I thought a um there's a couple of great postcards you have in the collection from Terrace Gables this of course was a tourist attraction which is why there's a couple of great | Gunning_Heights_Bldg_1169 through 1206 Hunt_Heights_Bldg 229 through 243 |
| 22:07 | postcards about it but it wasn't just tourists going there obviously this was a place that um that | |
| 22:12 | that other people in the community were using and relying on in this case the Portuguese Fraternity | |
| 22:18 | um you know had had these great meetings there another one that I'd mentioned is the Portuguese American Civic League that also | #portugueseamericancivicleague |

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| | was another organization civic-minded organization highly | |
| 22:26 | involved and they did a number of activities at the Lawrence High School which you have also some great uh some great images of so these were sort of some of the you know there was a spread | #lawrencehighschool |
| 22:36 | of the you know we sometimes I think think about uh Portuguese history Cape Verdean history as if | |
| 22:42 | um that's something apart from or separate from Falmouth history but it's not you know it's um | |
| 22:47 | this is this this is uh Cape Verdean and Portuguese history is it is Falmouth history so um and the | |
| 22:53 | people that that belong to these communities were not limited to these you know to their churches and their social clubs um they were people that had a reach throughout town that participated in | |
| 23:02 | many organizations throughout town um that were Veterans of Foreign Wars and um you know that | |
| 23:07 | uh that also lived in many other places all over town um Hatchville was kind of at the outskirts of | |
| 23:13 | a lot of these Portuguese the Portuguese farming there were a great number of Portuguese farms in Hatchville spreading off towards North Falmouth as well but they bumped up against some of the | |
| 23:24 | some of the um the non-Portuguese or the the WASP I guess um Falmouth resident farms and | |

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| 23:34 | um personally I grew up I I did the math once and I did all the I kind of measured it all out and | |
| 23:41 | found out that I was almost equidistant where I grew up on I grew up on Turner Road from all | |
| 23:46 | the main Portuguese clubs like the Portuguese American Association from the Holy Ghost Feast | |
| 23:51 | from the Cape Verdean Club from Saint Anthony's Church so um but I was I was equidistant but I | |
| 23:57 | was kind of a little bit removed from them where I was on Turner Road now by my family | #turnerroad |
| 24:02 | um there's a great house actually just my my the house that my grandparents had their farm in uh was a home right on the corner of John Parker Road and Sandwich Road it actually just got bought | |
| 24:14 | recently I'm I I it's it's a gonna be a great tragedy one of the other things that that happens | |
| 24:20 | is a lot of these old Portuguese farmsteads because they're not in wealthier parts of town or in West Falmouth they don't get historical recognition the way that some of the other houses | #historichomes |
| 24:28 | do many of the these old Portuguese farmsteads are older than some of these other places have | |
| 24:33 | you know I don't want to say they have richer histories every family history is beautiful and important but you know they have they have histories that are important to the town's you | |

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| 24:40 | know economic life and and community life as well and um you know they will get torn down so | |
| 24:46 | this old uh you know a beautiful 1800 1800s farmstead um that you know was then purchased | |
| 24:53 | by my uh by my family when they came to America and then used as a as their base for their farm | |
| 24:59 | um uh which had land all across along uh Turner Road uh and then as each of one of their kids got married they just built a house on you know on the farmland and there was five of them and you know | |
| 25:09 | this is a very typical Falmouth story you know I know I know tons of family I was talking to uh to Mary Bishop who's a great Falmouth resident and she was telling me how a very similar thing | |
| 25:19 | happened to her family on Trotting Park Road and this is a very typical story that that people tell | |
| 25:25 | um growing up in a place like that I was very was not strange for me I think it was strange anytime I talked to people not from Falmouth about it or not from you know these Portuguese | |
| 25:33 | communities about it um but you know I had all my cousins and aunts and uncles all in one street and then eventually my grandparents left that house and moved across the street | |
| 25:43 | um you know um and and you know we had this great life there and it was a very family oriented and | |
| 25:49 | very fun um I mean at the time I think I probably was I felt a little restricted by it of course um | |

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| 25:54 | you know you couldn't like leave the house without 20 relatives seeing everything that you were doing | |
| 26:00 | um which made some of my you know the fun activities that I might have done a little a little more difficult to pull off but um my sister didn't seem to have any problems | |
| 26:07 | with it you know she she uh but this is always the case yeah the younger sibling always gets away with a lot more than the older one does um so but anyway uh you know growing up on on in | |
| 26:18 | this in this area my family also um you know we I went to the school district that I belonged to | |
| 26:24 | was not the Portuguese the school where all the Portuguese were most of the Portuguese residents went which was like Teaticket School or East Falmouth school I went to North Falmouth | #northfalmouthschool |
| 26:31 | and um this was you know it was interesting because there weren't a lot of there were a couple but there weren't a lot of Portuguese kids at North Falmouth School and um I don't really think | |
| 26:41 | I ever had a sense of myself as as you know being different until I went to North Falmouth School not not necessarily in a bad way I didn't I wasn't I didn't feel like I was left out of anything but | |
| 26:50 | I just I got a real sense of like that I was oh yeah I'm really from this Portuguese part of town that's a that's a really different part of town than this than North Falmouth and West Falmouth | |
| 26:58 | um and and anyway it was it was something that I was made very aware of as a result of um being kind of on these borders um | |

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| | but also you know quite interesting as well because it I think | |
| 27:09 | that it allowed me a facility to kind of move between some of these different worlds um a lot more fluidly um as a result but anyway um I spent most of my days as a young kid on the Old Silver | #oldsilverbeach |
| 27:20 | Beach in the summers um which was you know in that part of in that part of town my father was a real | |
| 27:26 | avid beachgoer in fact so speaking of postcards um there's a really famous like it's I think | |
| 27:32 | one of the most famous postcards in the world if you are over a certain age it's the famous "where the boys are" postcard of Fort Lauderdale Florida and it was a a postcard that came out right after | #florida #postcards |
| 27:42 | the film and as many people did who saw that film they immediately went down to Florida to | |
| 27:49 | um you know to go um to go go to the beach and go to Fort Lauderdale and these kinds of things | |
| 27:55 | um my father's family actually would go would go down there before during this time period in the winters they worked construction and were um you know were were people that you can't really dig | |
| 28:05 | in the ground when it's freezing out so they would sometimes go they would go to Florida um you know and uh and and and get away from the the cold uh but | |
| 28:16 | um my father is on he's he's the biggest person on the on this really famous postcard | |
| 28:21 | um and he sticks out like a sore thumb the poor thing he was a huge uh he loved going to the | |

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| | beach but in the picture he got a little bit of a sun exposure and so he's | |
| 28:28 | in in this jacket like zipped up and he was very embarrassed about this for the for his entire life being you know zipped up in this jacket and this really famous postcard that's all over you know | |
| 28:40 | I'm sure that uh that if any if anyone had a relative that went to Florida you know uh in | |
| 28:46 | Falmouth from you know basically up through the 90s so they they got they got this postcard sent to them by someone at some point uh anyway uh so there's Old Silver Beach my first job also actually | |
| 28:57 | that's not true my first job um was working as a uh a hawker for the Falmouth Enterprise | #falmouthenterprise |
| 29:04 | um they um Bill Hough um was was then the editor-in-chief and um they needed someone | #billhough |
| 29:10 | to walk around selling the Road Race supplement on Road Race weekend so he hired me to I think | #falmouthroadrace |
| 29:16 | I got like four cents a newspaper and I just went around to selling because they had the the edition had the program to the uh with all the uh the runners in the road race and other little | |
| 29:26 | interviews and tidbits and what have you so yeah so I would just take these things and they would um you know I sold them all over all over Road Race weekend and then I sold them also in town | |
| 29:36 | um walking down Gifford Street uh in front of the hospital extension and stopping traffic and | |
| 29:41 | eventually Mr. Griffin who was my social studies teacher at Lawrence Junior High School he uh | |

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| 29:47 | they they stopped me and said I couldn't walk down in the traffic anymore and eventually they they had to stop the program because it was um obviously a horrible you know horribly dangerous | |
| 29:56 | hazard but you know those were the days um uh so anyway um yeah we uh my first real job though uh | |
| 30:03 | real proper job was working at the Sea Crest uh in Falmouth and the Sea Crest is a really famed place there's a great postcard here of the Sea Crest Hotel um with a couple of images and this | #seacresthotel |
| 30:15 | is this is actually an image of the old one of the old the older version of the uh of the hotel | Shown in video: Hunt_North_Bldg_396 |
| 30:20 | um it's it's a place that that really has a great fame I mean originally there was a a theater there | |
| 30:27 | with uh Jimmy Stewart I think was part of this and Henry Fonda Margaret Sullivan also and then after | |
| 30:34 | that it was uh the site of a a music club called the Latin Quarter which was run by Lou Walters who | #latinquarter #louwalters |
| 30:41 | was Barbara Walters' father and then eventually um it was it was bought and purchased and tried they | |
| 30:48 | tried to turn it into a kind of a you know like the Cape Codder or some of these other places some of these other big resorts creating a you know creating a seaside resort in Falmouth and this | #tourism |
| 30:57 | was during this large push you know in the 40s and 50s when they when when Falmouth really started | |
| 31:04 | turning towards a tourist economy and they really tried to promote Falmouth as a place for | #1971 |

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| | tourism and eventually it was bought in 1971 and this is who I worked for by Red Auerbach who was the | |
| 31:16 | the you know the great coach of the of the Boston Celtics and a later general manager um Mr. Battles | |
| 31:22 | I think I always called him Mr. Battles I think his name was Ken Battles if I'm not mistake and then Steve Hill who who was an incredible uh incredible person who just he was an entertainer a performer | #kenbattles #stevehill |
| 31:33 | and what they really did was they tried to create almost like um like a Catskills at at the Sea Crest | |
| 31:40 | and um you know there are a lot of Jewish families that would come down for uh for holiday uh they | |
| 31:47 | had mahjong tournaments um you know where the whole place was just filled with um with | |
| 31:52 | um Jewish women playing mahjong it was just a lot of fun and um I literally had every job at this | |
| 31:59 | place I worked as a uh predominantly I worked as a waiter and a um and a um a busboy but I worked | |
| 32:07 | you know I also worked in the kitchen I worked on the line sometimes they'd hired me that I was in the I was in the pantry I was a bellboy I did I did so many things at this place I um you know I | |
| 32:16 | once waited on Sid Caesar actually uh was was a guest there sometimes and I waited on him a couple | #sidcaesar |
| 32:22 | times great tipper by the way um and um but one thing that they asked me to do um this is when | |

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| 32:28 | Steve Hill died shortly after I was only there for a couple years before uh before Steve passed away | |
| 32:36 | um but he had he created this place that was an incredible venue for live music and entertainment so they would have nightclub shows all the time with comedians and you know like uh | |
| 32:44 | bands like the The Drifters played there and you know these kind of older bands that that | |
| 32:50 | um uh that were very popular at the time um would come through and play in Falmouth and | |
| 32:56 | um they would hire me every every night or on the weekends to work the spotlight so I would like you | |
| 33:02 | know I was a young kid you know 14 15 16 years old I worked there from like 14 to 17 or 18 and | |
| 33:09 | um you know it just uh was was quite an eye-opening experience for this young you know Portuguese Catholic boy from a pretty strict family Catholic uh family uh Portuguese Catholic | |
| 33:19 | family to um you know to be put into this world of uh of of you know entertainment and | |
| 33:26 | um you know Steve Hill had some really crazy parties that we would we sometimes asked to work | |
| 33:31 | um and it was a real eye-opening experience for a you know for a young man to um to see this kind of | |
| 33:36 | world and possibilities and also the Sea Crest had so many people from all over that were working there as well you've had a lot of | |

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| | people coming down over the summers from outside of Boston and | |
| 33:46 | New York and other places you had a lot of people from Bourne working there again like these kind of different communities of people all coming together and it was a great experience to work | |
| 33:55 | there and and kind of um uh kind of come together with all these people and it really changed me as | |
| 34:01 | a person I think um I I won't say his name but a um you know there's a a a law enforcement officer | |
| 34:10 | let's just say on Cape Cod somewhere who was uh um who was a a great a great running mate | |
| 34:16 | there and was was someone who you know opened my eyes to a lot of things in the world that um that | |
| 34:21 | he's probably arresting for people now but um in any case uh it was a really dynamic and fantastic | |
| 34:27 | place to to hang out um and so and also yeah I was working there right so yes to work at as well | |
| 34:33 | um one of the things that we did um there's some pictures here the of the of the ballpark the Heights um uh you have the Heights ballfield there's three great great images that you have | #falmouthheightsballpark #baseball |
| 34:44 | um one that I'm um really shows the ballpark though as it looks out and I bring this up because | Shown in video: Gunning_Heights_Ball_1251, Hunt_Heights_Bldg_267 |
| 34:50 | you have one of people like in the early 1900s at the you know watching a ball game at uh you know at the ballpark and this was the set | #capecodbarleague #softball |

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| | the scene of the uh what was called the Cape Cod Bar Leagues and | |
| 35:02 | this was a a really well known I mean it was it was we got tons of people to come out to our games | |
| 35:09 | um and it was a real you know it was kind of like you were you were drinking while you were playing of course like most softball is but with the added extra push that this was actually the bar and so | |
| 35:17 | all the all the big bars in Falmouth had fielded teams and it was a fairly big deal you know the the Enterprise would list um capsules of of the games you know next to the Commodores games they | Shown in video: “Yesterdays Fell Yesterday to Landfall,” from the Falmouth Enterprise, August 3, 1984 |
| 35:28 | kept uh listings of the standings you know they had photographs when teams won the championship | |
| 35:34 | um and you know I would always look we'd always look in the capsules and read them next day and see where we were in the standings but we played all over teams like a number | |
| 35:42 | of great Falmouth bars that no longer exist you know like the Yesterdays and the Casino used to have it used to have a team the the Towne Tavern actually had a very competitive team they | #casinobar #yesterdays #townetavern |
| 35:51 | were usually a real good team Captain Kidd had a team the Landfall had a team and then you know the Sea Crest also had a we had we had a team as well and yeah we played all over the place | #captainkidd #landfallrestaurant |
| 36:01 | um the one story that I would tell about the about the ballpark here um is um you know is | |

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| 36:06 | a uh it's it's uh we were playing a game and um I think it was Brendan McCarthy who who worked there | #brendanmccarthy |
| 36:14 | as a waiter as well uh his uh he was from North Falmouth his his dad was part of the McCarthy Ice | |
| 36:19 | Cream McCarthy Brothers Ice Cream which I think they that doesn't exist anymore but as a kid I | #mccarthybrothersicecreamcompany |
| 36:25 | used to think it was so cool that my classmates could just get ice cream whenever they wanted | |
| 36:30 | um but anyway he uh he must have it must have been all that dairy that that helped him because he he hit a shot uh in a game once at the ball field that went all the way to what was was then | |
| 36:40 | known as the Finish Line Tavern it was it's now no longer that it's and they rearranged | #finishlinetavern |
| 36:45 | the space there's like a bar over there now I think I think it was the a beer a beer joint | |
| 36:50 | for a while and that place went out of business because I don't it wasn't really good um and then there's a new place there now um but anyway he hit a shot and at that point the kitchen was | |
| 37:00 | on that side facing the ball field and the ball went rocketing through them it was it was just a | |
| 37:06 | rocket shot of a of a home run that he hit and it went blasting just smashing through the window and | |
| 37:13 | unfortunately just spread glass like all over the kitchen into all of the dishes everybody's food | |

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| 37:19 | right they had to obviously throw everything out basically shut down for the afternoon and the chef | |
| 37:24 | um you know I I mean we've all read Anthony Bourdain's book and you know especially in the 80s | |
| 37:31 | um speaking of all those all those early vices um you know the chefs were often times under the | |
| 37:37 | influence of of certain of certain things that made them a little agitated and excitable and the | |
| 37:42 | chef when his entire you know meal service was destroyed for the afternoon came running out of | |
| 37:48 | the the Finish Line Tavern with his largest knife and uh came chasing after uh poor Brendan McCarthy | |
| 37:54 | on the you know on the field fortunately cooler heads prevailed and there was there was no damage | |
| 37:59 | but when when we went back the next year for games there was an iron gate over the over the window of | |
| 38:06 | the uh you know of the Finish Line Tavern so you know those are the kind of some of the postcards | |
| 38:12 | I wanted to to talk about in and sort of also doing so I I would just like kind of say that | |
| 38:17 | um you know this community of Falmouth like we're talking about different communities in Falmouth but really it's one community of Falmouth it's um you know it's it's people that have they're | |
| 38:26 | all sharing their lives together that we're all participating in all these um you know fun | |

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| | activities together um in these different institutions um and um you know families that | |
| 38:38 | have gone back for generations independent if they were Portuguese or Cape Verdean or not and um and | |
| 38:43 | all these people living all their lives together in this in this really wonderful place um I really love these postcards and um you know it's a it's it's a great a great treat and pleasure to have | |
| 38:52 | been able to uh to talk about some of these uh some of these postcards with you | |