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ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION**

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**INFORMANTS: MANUEL FIGUEIRA & UMBELINA FIGUEIRA  
CONDUCTED BY: BARBARA FERTIG  
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**MF = MANUEL FIGUEIRA  
UF = UMBELINA FIGUEIRA  
F = FERTIG**

**LFP BF-A008**

MF: I been eh, since nineteen thirty-four I been using my garden here. Before we used to use, use my own, my own. (F: Uh huh) I plant trees. So I couldn't plant it. They let, let me use the place. (F: Uhhuh) I had a man, used to be the foreman some years ago. And uh I spoke with him. And uh, he told me he was going to see what he could do for me. And they, the electric light had the office on, on Market Street right across where the gas people is upstairs, in that building upstairs. (F: Umhm) And he spoke with him. When I went in there they uh, they knew about it already. Then they uh, they says I could use. (F: Umhm) And ever since that [unclear] becoming friends with them was just like a family. They been good to me. (F: Uhhuh) And I been trying to good, be good with them. When I get these, this garden here, when they were putting the electric light poles for the, for Wang and for the hotel, wire the (--). I, they had a man from the electric light eh, what you call it eh, check and see if the work was right, going right. And I had a, a wooden fence in the front was all broked up and everything, I spoke with them. And he managed to, to get people with the electric light company, they put me a, a fence there. They had that fence in the yard, was their own helpers there (F: uh huh) that put that on for me. And I spoke with them, eh, the same fellow and ah one time I was asking for something else. I was (--). Then uhh, he said, "would you do, try to do for, find out for me?" Says, "Yes, I will." When the next time you come around, came [unclear] from the office. And he says uh, he asked him "what are you going to do with this?" Before I could say a word that man that I asked [unclear] says "we're just going to beautify the yard." Make a new lawn. We been using this for about forty years or so, or more. And he just want to beautify the yard. And I thought, figure what I to do to make that man spoke for me, before I could say a word. (F: Uhhuh) Make that word, that man's word as good as gold. (F: Uhhuh) I said to myself, "what's more beautiful there as roses." And then uh, I put the roses on 1880. I start digging it, (F: Uhhuh) put roses there. Even one of the school teachers says, did you see that in the Lowell Sun? Yesterday come out in the Lowell Sun? They're trying to make the prettiest flower on the

national, a rose that pasts through the senate. "No, I didn't notice it." "[Unclear] a white lie." [Both laugh] I knew her. I know she was a great person. She retired. She thinks she may come back. I hope she does. She say, I looked at her, "You didn't see nothing yet. Wait till I get through." Second year I plant more. And this year I put that row in here and go in there to make it (--) I want to put that and make it better. Nice eh, that's a driveway. (F: Mmhm) If ah, it's all in one piece, if they drive with a truck and they back, they'll spoil the whole yard. So I'll put a row of roses from there over, it's all private yard, looks good. (F: Mmhm) If they spoiling that grass, that's a driveway, that's natural. See? (F: Mmhm) But that was an excuse. So they made me put the rest of the roses that I wanted. (F: uh huh, uh huh)

F: Now tell me what you can about the Conne, the Connector?

MF: About the Connector.

F: Where was it going to come?

MF: They were coming right through here. Electric lights, the school and everything. (F: ohh) Oh, the (--) (F: Right through this property here?) That's right. The last one the, that, this road and that road, the side, on the other side was going, going right through. (F: Uhhuh) Was going take the Armenian Church. To go (--) See. And that's what they want. They didn't mind you see, but uh, we didn't want it. So ah, we had a meeting over, first time we had a meeting at Rogers School about it. And they had the, the banks there that uh built that new bank from the Merrimack, where the Merrimack Mill used to be. They moved from there. (F: Oh yeah) They're not there now. They want it. And eh, we have quite a good crowd there. And then after that following week, that's when it come out in the Lowell Sun. That, that wasn't mentioned there at all, but it come out on the Lowell Sun that should be decided through the registered voters (F: Uh huh) all over the city. (F: Uh huh) So for the Lowell Sun to put that, they must have had a, some meeting with somebody higher up, I don't know. We, see. But that's the way it was. (F: Umhm) That should, that should be decided through the registered voters all over the city. So a lot of people they couldn't vote. They wasn't American citizen. (F: Ohh) Lot of people just came from across, they had their home, paid their taxes, they couldn't, they couldn't vote for their own homes! (F: umhm) Trying to better themselves. (F: umhm) That's why I say it took the people, the good people over the city to help us! (F: umhm) [person speaks in the background] We get together, see. But it was the whole people all over the city to help us. Course we had the, after we had the last meeting on the [auditorium] to be decide, uh we had over, pretty sure we had over double votes. That's when the councils vote for us. When it came to the, for the councils to vote, we had the majority there. (F: Uh huh) And eh, they gave it to us.

F: And that happened ag-again? There was a second time [unclear]?

MF: Now that was, this happened a second time. (F: Uh huh) First time it was through just the councils. (F: Uh, huh) See. (F: Oh I see, uh huh) First time was the councils. And they vote for us. We win it by one. (F: Uh huh) The only one was in, the only one was in and [both Connector] was Mr. Howe. And both times he gave the Connector for us. (F: Uh huh) And vote for us. I was proud of it. I'll never forget it. So uh, you see, that's why I'm so happy. And I

done it, and now I must think to do, I had to get them people. That's why I'm not going to mention this on the tape what I'm going to do. But you know what I want to do for them. (F: Yes, uh huh)

F: Um, would you tell me a little bit about growing up in Madeira?

MF: Well where I come from, I come from as well up the country, a farm. (F: Uh huh) And she comes on the village by the side of the ocean. (F: Mm-hm) Come from class people altogether. That's where they get the airport, and they built a new hotel right aside of where the land they belongs to, they selling it. (F: uh huh) They develop that, all that up place there.

UF: The house (--)

MF: [Interrupts] And I happened to meet her.

UF: It's a house and a hotel. They built it on, my mother house in the top of the cliff. (F: Uh huh) That's the house there.

MF: See the house, little house there? (F: Oh that's the house!) George Duncan, (F: ohhh!) George Duncan the banker, the daughter painted, took that small picture, and he made that picture big, (F: uh huh) and he painted and he gave that to us.

UF: And uh, and after they, there's the cliff. The cliff go to the ocean. Now we have a place that day. And they have the, the hotels. Half the hotel is in the ocean. They make a wall around, (F: I see, uh huh) and around the wall you can see the, the ocean bank one side there and they make the hotel, the hotel inside, more inside. (F: Uh huh) All together there. They stopped over, almost two years. They started now. (MF: Yeah) The government get in (MF: right) and they going to build it.

MF: [Interrupts] I send out, she mailed a letter today to her, to her cousin. We send her every month. (F: Umhm) And uh, something. And I ask about uh, how is the hotel going? See she's the one that handles everything, the state there and everything. When she (-- (F: Ohh) Well, I know. That's going to go on the tape. I don't want. (F: no, okay) So ah, she's doing eh, she has all the rights and controls everything. And [unclear] It was about, she controls three or four other parts from [unclear]. So uh, you see eh, they building lot of different (-- People that live, go up there they build all the more houses in on the ledge right aside of the ocean. See people used to work the farms. There was, they couldn't plant anything but grass for the, to feed the cattle, you know. (F: Mmhm) The cows, you know. They build hotels. Tall eh concrete, just like here, steel. (F: Mm-hm) They do the same things we do here. They, they got quarries there, they got everything. Now. And they get a swimming pool, and they pump the water from the ocean right into the swimming pool. [Interviewer laughs] They're swimming in a pool of salt water. (F: Uh huh) All the, all that land, all like that, they're all building, it's worth a lot of money. (F: Uh huh) They build all different nationalities, they're going up there. All model homes.

F: So now it's become an international resort.

MF: That island there, it's all model homes now. (F: Uh huh, uh huh) Uhh, her cousins was, they always had a good home, better living than we. We used to live out in the country, you know. And uh, they have all beautiful homes up there. (F: Uh huh) What we have is not to what we, they have there. It's all over. They're [unclear] all over. Well, way out the mountains we used to go eh, used to raise sheep, stuff like that. It's all highways. All trees on each side of the roads. (F: Oh really) All high wall, hotels. On a Saturday and it's [unclear] on the capital Madeira, on a Saturday there work. They go out, they go camping up there. (F: Oh, they go up in the (--)) Uh huh) See. They ain't got the machines, the got busses. They go, they go camping for the, for the rest of the day. [Unclear] (F: uh huh) hotels there. (F: Umhm) In time it'd be much better to go and live there than it is going to Florida. Flo--Florida today, was once quite private see, but it's no more privacy. (F: Oh no) And eh, and over there it's cheaper to live on that island than it is in Florida. And eh, and they're different people altogether.

F: Now do you still have family over there?

MF: No. My family's all dead, but she has.

UF: You have cousins. You have cousins here, there. (MF: No, I don't think so) Cousins are all over the, yeah, yeah. [speaks in Portuguese]

MF: Yeah, but I don't remember them. (UF: yeah) I don't remember them.

UF: Yeah, but you're still family, you know what I mean.

MF: [Interrupts] We're still family, [both talk] but her, her she has cousin. She has, she has her aunt who's still living. She's about eighty-six. And eh, then the cousins that were here. The daughter, and the mother came after for two, she had her for two weeks. She was here for two weeks. She, they live in Lisbon.

UF: They used to live in Madeira, too.

MF: They used to live in Madeira.

UF: But uh (--)

MF: [Interrupts and both talk] When she had, when she had a bunch (--)) She had about a, she had about six or seven children. She wouldn't have let, let a, give one of the daughters they name uh, after the wife, to bring it up here (F: Umhm) for ten days [few words unclear]. So today I told them, I says, "you got a home. If you want to leave your daughter here to go to school, (F: uh huh) or after she graduate if you want to send her over here, she has a home for rest of the days if she stay here." She could go to, she could go to college here. (F: Umhm) Or if you want to, she comes to eh, this country and then the government she, she's going to try it. She have a home for the rest of the days. (F: Umhm) [Few words unclear]. The mother [few words unclear] knew she was going to have a good home. But them days, it ain't like today.

F: When did you come from Madeira?

MF: I came in 1917. I'm here over seventy years (F: ohh!) in this country. (F: Uh huh) I been in this country before you were born. (F: Uhhuh, uh huh)

F: Did you come here to work in the mills?

MF: That's right. We (-- My father was here before and they went across. His friend told him come from a family over there well off. He says "Figueira, why don't you go back to America and take your family over there? [Unclear] show American how it is, and then come back if you want to." (F: Umhm) That's the way it was. He ahh, he built a new home there and ever they went back. He got back here. After, when I went to work I was about eighteen years old, nineteen. I decided this was my country, not back. And eh, my sister get married here. Then I come to know every time she used to come. She used to come up the house, pay us a visit. I used to stay [unclear]. [Both laugh] I live all my, all my life in the south end.

F: You lived all (MF: [interrupts] all the south end) your life in the south end.

MF: All the, for seventy years all over. (F: Uh huh) I'm proud of her, and I fight for her.

F: And when did you get this house?

MF: I bought it 1934. It was condemned. It was to be a (F: Mmm) shed like downstairs. (F: Ohh!) [Both talk] (F: And everything you've done [unclear]) When I was, I had another house there. (F: Uh huh) And I uh, when she came back here, sent for her in 1934, she wasn't, house wasn't lived in, wasn't good enough here. She had to go and live over [unclear]. A woman used to mind our boy, our son. It was three months old she went to work. And after a week she says, I had a fellow that time was living with me, friend. And she says "Jack, I says, "find a room and you can come and eat. I'm going to live in here." And it was raining. Pans here, pans over there. [Interviewer laughs] I didn't want us fix the place because I want to, I didn't know what to do. (F: mm-hm) See, I had a people living next door. House where my son lives. I didn't want to tell them to move. One time she come over and pay the rent, it was raining. She says "Manuel, you can't live in there." Give me a chance to find a house around here for the children to go to school, I'll move with her. She move over a block. And we move. Then we move over there. I didn't want I tell them to move. (F: Umhm) And uh, [a few words unclear]. And I decides to fix this. They want me to fix a two tenement house over there. But I want to get this done first. I knock this place down. I made--used to be a store here, old one. Every time used to come in here used to rain. [Unclear] So we knock that down, reinforced that cement, made that cellar. I fixed this up. We live in here, made a decent place here. Made a place for my son. Was, he got married, was living here for [unclear] about a year or two. Then he decides to put up a house somewhere where he was going to live, was living there, they were going to buy a house. (F: Um hm) So uh, I told them, I says that uh, they [unclear] buying a house soon as they, they [unclear] it. My son was thinking, you know. (F: Um hm) So that's why the family, four generation living here. I went to that school. [Unclear].

F: You went to that school?

MF: Four, four generation went to that [Coburn?] (F: oh) School. (F: oh, oh) I'm proud of that school. That's why I say I'm proud of that school. And I left the fourth grade when I was fourteen years old to go to work. The first school that I went to when I came to your country was on Shaw Street where they built the church there now. That used to be a school there. That was the (F: Uh huh) [unclear] School. When I knock it down I bought some lumber [for that school right over there]. [Interviewer laughs] And I built it. See I was trying to get them, somebody to buy that, to clean that out. That was the only piece of the South End they used to call the slums. South End. (F: Oh) Old houses. (F: Uh huh) Old [unclear]. Nobody wanted to take because thought the highway was going through. They didn't know what to do. And eh, we had every, most everything all set but that place there. They used to throw trash, they use to throw everything in there. And uh [Rodriguez?] was supposed to buy that and they back out of it. City took it back. So they, other people bought that church. And that was built all of [unclear] labor. That (F: really!) group, they go around and help one another church. (F: Um hm) [Unclear]. That was all donated lumber, I mean ah, labor. (F: Uh huh) I don't know about the material, but it's beautiful. You should see that inside. [both talk]

F: Now which church that is? Which church is it?

MF: [Unclear] the Portuguese church. [both talk]

F: The Portuguese church? (MF: yeah) Oh.

MF: But it's Protestant. Oh dear. (F: That's all right. [laughs]) Well anyways that is no lie. (F: Uh huh) And uh, I'm so proud. I went up there and see them, talk to them. I tell them the true. I says, "I'm so proud. Regardless of who bought this," I says. That was here. I could never say the South End was in the slums. Because they used to throw trash here, throw everything in there. And eh, but now, I'm proud to say there's, there is no more slums. And I have something to represent the South End. And that people that they help us. They save my home and the school in the South, homes of the people in the South. They're roses. There ain't a place in the city that has a better looking yard than I have. (F: No, that's true) And, but they, but they ain't got the yard that I have, all roses. And I'm proud of it. They can't call it slums (F: no) no more. (F: No) And I'm so proud I live to, to (F: uh huh) be able to do it. And I was eighty years old when I started, and I'm eighty-three today.

F: Today? Is today [MF: well, I (--)] your birth (--)

MF: No. (F: oh) Already, already I was eighty-three in September, (F: oh) twenty-seventh (F: uh huh) September. (F: uh huh) I'm going on eighty-four. So I'm proud. Ah, not only this place here, but the South end. (F: Umhm) No more slums. They can't call the South End, (F: slums, no they can't) there's no slums. (F: No, it's very beautiful) And I'm proud of that school. I tell them, everyone, I tell them we may be working for the city, but you're not any prouder of that school than I am. (F: Uh huh) Because I have reasons. There was four generations going to that school, I'm the oldest. (F: Umhm) And we're all living next to the school. Can you tell me who should be more proud than me? (F: No I couldn't) And I had them over there. (F: umhm) I've represent the school. (F: Umhm) Represent, that represent the South End, represent

all the people in the city to help us. [Unclear statement]. You work is been, that's right, but they gave me that. They're responsible. Them people are responsible (F: umhm) for what I done here. (F: Umhm) What I have here. (F: Umhm) I got this as a gift. I said once, they call and I say I was going to plant some grapes. When I have grapes [unclear], ah when I have some wine to take with some friends. And if I like a person I'll give them a bottle of wine as a gift. Thanks God I been doing [you] today. And I'm proud to say it.

F: When did you start?

MF: He came through.

F: When did you start bottling wine? How many years you been doing it?

MF: Nineteen thirty-four I was here. (F: Nineteen thirty-four) This was condemned. (F: Uh huh) This was condemned, complete all these walls, all that. I can't save the rest of it. You know (F: yes) it wouldn't be right. Uh, this was condemned, would have been condemned. Were some people living there but, but if it wasn't they(-- I had a family, Dumais. Husband died. It was an old lady. She was a woman, she was French. She was French. She was a great lady. She want to see me pull this through. (F: Umhm) She was a great woman. Daughters, too. But, but she was a great lady. So that's why I says I'm proud, [unclear] she was a woman of my heart. (F: mmm) She fight [unclear]. She fights for the city and welfare of the city (F: umhm) and for the people she represent. She wouldn't let nobody tell her what to do. (F: uh huh) She, she was the [mayor?] the city. And after she help us, she went for the dream of her husband to make it come true. That's Connector. I heard that was (-- I was working ninety-five Bridge Street one Saturday, (F: uh huh) and I was going to my shop and he was on the radio. And he mentioned about that Connector, the highway going through there. (F: Umhm) He pass away. He couldn't do it. (F: Umhm) But God rest his soul now. But he had a wife behind, left a wife behind. He fight for us, and she went after the dream, to make a dream of her husband come true. (F: Umhm) That's why [unclear] Sampson Connector. (F: Uh huh) That's why I says I'm proud of that one. I should have a reason. Everybody should have a reason. She helped the city. She helped the people she represent. And then afterwards she went after the dream of her husband. That woman. That's something, that's something everybody should be proud of. (F: Umhm) That's why I'm going to put that, that on there. And I hope the city, I can't say anything about that.

F: Yes, I understand.

MF: You know I told you (F: yes, uh huh). But there shows you a great lady and everyone in the city should be proud of her. And I hope we have someone as good as her again. I'd like to say something, but I can't because it will be you know, you know what I've been trying (--)

F: Well I can, I can turn if off. I can turn if off for a minute.

MF: I was eleven years old. [Few words unclear] she went for a visit lately.

F: Umhm. But tell me when you came to this country?

UF: I come in 1920.

F: In 1920.

UF: Yeah. I'm, I was fourteen. And I went to school down the Charles Street there.

MF: Same school as I did.

UF: And I come back to, to live up here. But my mother moved. We, I went to Edson. Used to be Edson School there. (F: Uh huh) On the common. I don't know if you remember what been here.

F: No. No.

UF: There was a school. It was just on the corner, almost the corner to come for the back door, the church, the Saint Peter. I went to that school, but I went to work. I was fifteen years old.

F: And where did you go to work?

UF: I worked in [unclear] Hosiery. You know, in the hotels, hotels? (F: Yes) Used to be a Hosiery there. (F: Oh!) Make stockings. (F: Uh huh) I worked there. There used to be a wool, wool mill there too. There used to be make mattress there too. It was a big yard. I went over there. (F: Umhm) And after, I worked there for probably a year or so. And I come to work at the Appleton, weaving, weaving. (F: Umhm) I've been weaving all my life. (F: Really?) Yeah.

F: When did you retire?

UF: I retire '62, because I couldn't work anymore. I was sick. I couldn't work. And I worked in Appleton Mill, the [unclear] looms. And I come in, after that I went to New market.

F: Umhm. New Market's Mill?

UF: The Market Mill. Yeah. I was in the Boott till a month when he went to Portugal. I went to work, I was out of work. I went to the Boott Mill for a couple of months. But I couldn't. It was so deadly over there I couldn't work there. (F: Oh) (MF: Chuckles) [Comment unclear] My sister, one sister work in the Appleton in the spin room, the one that's in California [bakeries?]. My sister Mary went to learn to weaving in the Appleton. I was one year she go everyday there. Stay with a woman to teach her. And she went (--) One day she have one day work. (MF: In one years time).

F: In one years learning she got one days work.

UF: And she (--) Well a lot of people come home, but she stay in. She stay in because, what she come home for? Everybody, my mother was weaving in uh, Hamilton. My mother went to



work. No, yeah, she went to learn to weaving in the Hamilton. And uh, (--)

MF: In the Appleton, wasn't she?

UF: Hamilton.

MF: Hamilton?

UF: Yeah, my mother never worked in the Appleton. He worked in the Appleton, yeah, with me. Uh, I was running uh, [Graper's?] loom. I got about twenty, twenty-five looms. See I was too young. The boss called me in. They're going to change, give more work to the, to the people. (F: Uh huh) To put on one other person who may take the cloth and fill the batteries. (F: Umhm) So like there they, they have more looms they can run and they don't have to bother a thing. But he called me to pick what I want. There's twenty-eight, there's twenty-five, there's thirty. I picked the twenty, twenty-five. (F: Umhm) So my mother went to work for me in battery. But I was to do the work for my mother and help here take the cloth, because she worked too hard all her life. (F: Oh) She couldn't do that. (F: Umhm) So my, I'm the one help here out all the time. (F: Umhm) You see? (F: Umhm) So after that I was in the silk mill. I went back to the silk mill and uh, Manual, that's when we got man.

MF: She went to JoAnn. She went to [unclear] Mohair, plus JoAnn.

UF: After that. After.

MF: After that. And then after that she went to Littleton Weaving, United Elastic.

UF: I was [unclear] in Littleton. (F: Umhm) And then United Elastic. (F: Umhm) So. And after that I, they didn't want me to quit, but I retired because I was very sick and I couldn't come to work. (F: Umhm) So.

F: You, you mentioned as we were getting in the car when we were here last week, it took you a long time to get to this country? You had a long trip?

UF: When, last year I went to the (--)

F: No, I meant when you first came here.

UF: Oh, coming in. See we come in, those years we don't have no, no airplanes. No, no, big ships.

MF: All the most ships, the car, it was just like a cargo.

UF: Listen, wait. I come in in a ship. It was the name of Roma. I was the last trip to make the United States. He [unclear], you know, a place to bring cows and things like that, it was better than [unclear]. And in the middle of the ocean, before we get to the United States some boiler made too much heat in the boiler. And the, the screws were starting to jump out of the thing. (F:

Oh boy!) Thank God are we going to blow up before anything else? When do we get to Providence? I was [unclear], because they couldn't come in. Some kids have some [unclear], or they pop, little blisters all over the [unclear] (F: Oh, oh) Yeah.

F: Chicken pocks.

UF: It was chicken, no, not chicken pocks.

F: Measles?

SIDE ONE ENDS

SIDE TWO BEGINS.

SIDE TWO BEGINS WITH INFORMANT IN MID-SENTENCE:

UF: An island someplace there. I know before we went to the island was there was a colored man, was the boss, the direction thing. And we never see a Black man boss anybody white. (F: Oh, uh huh) See. In Medeira, the years I lived there, fourteen years old, I come back up here, I only know one colored girl (F: Umhm), was a maid. They bring [unclear] there. But I know, we go to [unclear], we go all over the place, we never see a color people. See. For me it was something uh, the other world. (F: Uh huh) The man, he was had a boots, and a strap like he was a bunch of horses over there, you know, the way he was dressed up. (F: Oh, uh huh) But for us he was very good. Some people, it was kind of all kind of people. Russia. I can't tell you [unclear]. All kind of people. (F: Uh huh) We have a pretty good meals. Not very good the way we like, but it was, it was all right. But some people, they give the raw fish like um, to eat. They suppose to make a little bon fire and cook like, you know. (F: Uh huh, uh huh) Oh, they, the people take that and look at it. They couldn't eat that you see. (F: Oh!) It was very, very bad. (F: Uh huh) Because other, they think because people sent to Africa, or certain countries they eat different foods like uh, anything else. (F: Uh huh) But those people have poems and food the same thing like what be in the United States and different places. (F: Uh huh) But they didn't treat them right. And after we had to march everyday. We have to get out and make exercise. And uh, it was a mess. So after that time we come back to New York. (F: Uh huh) After New York we put, there's a ship come in Italy with all nuts and uh, [unclear], and everything there, bags. They put us there for day until we going to get out. (F: Umhm) So we there, we get a feast there. We get all the nuts you want to eat. [Both laugh] So after that we have to come in to the dock. They see the passport and things like that [unclear]. And they put us in a ship, in a cruiser like and they come around. Beautiful ship and all. (F: Umhm) We sleep, come one night there to come to Providence.

F: And so you came into Providence?

UF: Yeah I come in. So [few words unclear] for Providence. I think for Providence, for Boston, we come into Boston.

F: Oh, okay.

UF: And after that we just come in. Somebody was there wait for the uh, for his wife. We all come in. They bring him us together. (F: Uh huh) Have to get to Lowell. When I get to Lowell, get out there in the depot, you see, there used to be a big depot there. (F: Umhm) I don't know if you remember or not. (F: No) No. They used to have a big stairs coming down all in wood. (F: Oh, uh huh) Come up here to this the things that come to [unclear]. We come in. I look that. Is all rusty and thing come in and up here in the [common]. And I looked at those houses, was black, was a wind, it started fall and all the leaves and everything, all dirty. (F: Umhm) And I told my mother, "Ma, do you think we can go back?" [Both laugh] "I don't want to stay up here." Oh, but we get along and we (--)

MF: Them olden days we, people today don't realize what we had to go through when we came across.

F: No. I think, I think not.

MF: They wouldn't believe it.

UF: You know we, no matter if we need a help from the city, they didn't give us. (F: Yeah) See, we was not citizens. We not going to pay. Did nothing at all.

MF: There's one thing about I can say, thanks God, never, never, never had to go to the city town. [voice weakens]

UF: You better lay down.

MF: Now I got uh, what I wear now it really belongs to me. And I fight, and I take it away. That's when my old age. This house here, we don't pay no taxes. That's the law. (F: Umhm)

UF: Well [unclear] my age. I have eighty, have eighty-three [unclear].

MF: I would say this half I live, I don't pay, but I pay for the two, the other and that piece of land, it was a lot. I pay for that.

UF: Go lay down. Lay down, lay down, lay down. Sit. [Must be talking to dog]

MF: Because my son lives there. I pay for that. But for this part. But they wanted to take it away from me. (F: Oh oh) They did, yeah! They did. And I got uh, and uh,

UF: [Unclear] so it's all right now, he can talk.

F: Okay.

UF: But [few words unclear], but I like him and (--)

F: Oh, let me ask you to tell again because on the record, more on the record about your father and the sugar cane.

UF: Yeah. My father come to the United States before we come in. (F: Uh huh) See, we work in the, it was in the bathtub and they get, all the time drink. My grandfath...my father was a, started to drink. (F: Umhm) So nobody couldn't live with him. And uh, he was up there [unclear]. We come back. My mother never get together with him. They help him. [Unclear] anything they want. And my cousin [MF: he used to live with us], my cousin's in the bathtub saying how they used to, in the prohibition they used to make the whiskey. You know? (F: Umhm, umhm) My father used to put the money in [unclear] bucket, in place he do for himself, he did for the other one. The other had, the man, the money and they give the drinks for him to drink. (F: I see, uh huh) And he went if it was [unclear]. And uh, and he went to jail for six months, my father. And my other cousin, his cousins all with the beautiful homes, and we have to, to work up here [unclear]. (F: Uh huh) You know we struggled, believe me. (F: Yeah) We struggle to be in the United States. [Horn beeps in background] (MF: See he used...) But we never give up. We worked (--)

MF: You got that opened?

F: Yeah. You want me to turn that off? I can run it backwards actually.

MF: No. Is that opened?

F: What? This? Yeah. I'll take it back.

UF: That's all right, no make a difference. Don't make any difference, I'm not tell anything, lies.

MF: She don't lie.

UF: [Comment unclear]

MF: See, they used to pay, pay him, but he used to spend the money with his friends. (F: Umhm, umhm) It was, well it was like a sickness he had. (F: Umhm) And uh, then he moved to, to Lowell.

UF: He moved to Lowell. He move, he was living in New Hampshire with my brother. And after my brother married, and he would live over there he was there. When I got married my sister-in-law sent for him to come up here for the wedding and talk. You know what it is? [All laugh] He was drunk and (-- [MF: Her mother hide herself?] (F: No) And after that he would he was uh, he was in the Bedford, he worked for the government. (F: Uh huh) On those boats, [covered?] boats.

MF: In the white house. On that lighthouse.

F: Oh yes!

MF: In that uh, lighthouse.

F: Oh, uh huh.

MF: He used to work for the government.

UF: Yeah, he worked for them. When he, he died, or he was suppose to have a pension, they deny everything to him because he was not citizen.

F: Oh, oh dear.

UF: You know that? (F: Yeah) But it was good, no war. He worked, he worked for the government. I know somebody find, they got his name and everything then in Washington, but we couldn't complain. (F: Oh)

MF: We didn't have the right people to pull for that.

UF: No, we couldn't.

MF: That was the whole trouble. I didn't understand that.

F: But, but you were telling me downstairs about, about your father doing things for the sugar cane. Giving you the pieces of sugar cane. That was back in Madeira.

UF: Yeah. In Madeira. That's in Madeira. He worked in the mills. He worked for somebody else. In that time he was good. He was a good man. I don't know what happened between, because he changed a lot and we couldn't live with him. (F: Uh huh)

MF: See, when he used to come to Lowell, come to Lowell.

UF: Hey, you going to talk, you talk.

MF: Come to Lowell, he lived with his son. His son was well known.

UF: [Calls dog] Do you want to go out?

MF: Among the Portuguese neighborhood and everything. (F: Uh huh) Well known. And uh, use to keep him, but most of the time he used to come and live with us. On the winter come and live with us. (UF: [on phone] Hello, how are you) He was a handyman. He couldn't do anything perfect. [UF: Holding conversation in background-apparently company dropped by] Well [few words unclear]. (F: Uh huh) When come spring a lot of people had a little work to do in the house, [rest of comment unclear]. We used to keep him all winter here. It was great to talk with him. He used to talk about the olden days across. He knew my father.

F: He knew your father?

MF: And we used to talk. (F: Uh huh) They winter he was here with us was great to talk to with a person like that. [Comment unclear] [Children are talking in background loudly, makes it difficult to transcribe what informant is saying] When he had a dollar or two sometimes he used to [few words unclear]. [Too much noise in background-cannot transcribe informants comments]

F: Did you have brothers and sisters?

MF: But that was a sickness. (F: Yeah) When he start drinking, when he had a few dollars he thought it was, he had something while it last. After that (--) But that was a sickness. He couldn't, couldn't get out of it.

F: Did you have brothers and sisters here?

MF: What?

F: Did you have brothers and sisters who came here.

MF: Yeah, well I had my sister. She got married, she went to California with her husband. Now I have a sister here, yeah. It's all the baby ones. (F: Uh huh) My mother after eighteen years she got her. She lives in Grove Avenue. Grove, that new school where just before you get to that, that park where they play football.

F: Oh, I know! Yeah.

MF: She lives right across, there's a new school there. (F: Yeah, uh huh) Right the opposite on the corner. (F: Uh huh) She lives there. She's got a nice home, built a new home [unclear].

UF: Okay Jimmy. That's my great grandson.

F: Your great grandson? Does he live next door?

UF: Next to the park. Not this one there, the other one. Not that one.

F: The other one, uh huh.

UF: So (--)

MF: And my son lives the next door and we live here.

F: It's nice to have your family here.

MF: Four generation. With me it's four generation living here.

F: Yeah, yeah.

MF: Since 1934.

UF: So that's, that's the way it is. My father was a very good man and he turned so bad nobody could live with him. (F: Hm) He lived up here.

MF: He used to be with us a lot of time. All the winter he used to stay here with us all winter.

UF: He was good. He don't drink [unclear], but (--)

MF: We tried to control him.

UF: But somebody asked him to go do this, and give a few dollars, he started drink the same.

MF: See it was the whole trouble his son was like I told you, well known. He was a great guy to do favors. He was well known. [Unclear] He was well known all over. And that was his father. He couldn't say, argue with him, don't do this, or don't do that.

UF: But I argue with him. (F: Yeah)

MF: He didn't look, he never looked for himself, he didn't look (--)

UF: I argue with him. He says, "oh, you are bad today." I started laughing and everything. (F: Oh) But uh, we all love him until he die. (F: Umhm) We, he come up here. If he was hungry he come up here and ask me if I have some for eat. When I eat I always have his table. [Unclear] to go change the clothes, because he got a closet full of clothes, he never changed. See, that's the way it was, you know what I mean?

MF: His was wasn't living. [Unclear] she used to take care of him all the time.

F: She always took care of him, huh?

MF: Clothes and clothes, even to the bed and everything. (F: Oh, uh huh) Uh, she was uh, and uh, to tell you the truth she bought a lot here. She used to live here in Lowell before. She bought here a lot, a double lot. We never knew anything about but my son, my grandson. (F: Huh!) Her brother. She bought a double lot with intention that uh, both of them were going to be buried in the same place.

F: Uh huh. And were they?

MF: And they, we didn't know nothing about it.

F: Oh you didn't know? Oh!

MF: Of course not. It was my son and his brother new at the time, they never would have told us. After he died they found out that the papers on the attic, (F: Uh huh) that they had it. That lot was paid by the mother. But it was too large. And even when we paid the expenses for them

to bury here, we pay for the lot and [unclear]. Nobody ever knew anything about but them. After they die we found out that she paid for the lot, two lots. And I think that she wanted to [unclear] both dead they bury in the same. That's quite a, that's quite a thing too. Every women would have wanted to do what she wished to do. But we didn't know nothing about it. If we knew about it we would have had it done, them together. We didn't know nothing.

UF: My father's up here buried up here. My mother buried in New York. Every, every year, she died the same month as Johnny, Johnny Kennedy. The same month.

MF: For twenty-two years she'd been going to New York every, never fail.

UF: 1962, or '63. (MF: And uh) And I go, go over there. Every year I go over there put flowers on my mother's grave.

F: In New York?

UF: [Unclear] Yes.

MF: If anything happens to her, to us, my son as long as he live, he'll go down there.

F: He'll go?

UF: Yeah. (MF: They were good to him) Is uh, is a part of Long Island. She buried in Long Island. (F: Uh huh) Yeah. It's on uh, (--)

MF: You go in the outskirts, safe about an hours work, a ride to where they go. (F: Uh huh) They don't go right in New York. In the outskirts like.

UF: Yeah, I take (MF: short cut), it take five hours from Lowell to go there, and five hours to come back.

F: It's a long trip.

MF: So to go to New York it's longer.

UF: Longer? It's the same thing.

MF: No, Umbelie, it's shorter. John always said. (UF: unclear) I used to go before. And John used to always say by going there on the outside, outside when you go to New York.

UF: If I drive it's the same way, (F: Uh huh) because we marked the clocks and the wrist watch, it's five house. We stopped one time for breakfast, that's all. (MF: unclear)

[Both are speaking at same time-cannot transcribe]

MF: When Johnny says from New York to go there it takes about an hour ride. [tape fades out]



[end of tape]