

March 11, 2008.

11:15am

Warwick, RI.

Interviewer: Liza Littenberg-Brown

Interviewee: Jean Rose Correira.

Liza Littenberg-Brown: Hi this is Liza Littenberg-Brown and I am here interviewing Jean Correira. It is March 11 at around 11:15am in the morning. And I just wanted to remind you that at the end of the interview we are going to sign the form that releases the interview to Brown University as part of their property.

Jean Rose Correira: Okay.

Littenberg-Brown: And also if you feel uncomfortable at any time during the interview you can say you don't want to answer a question, if you need to pause we can pause the recorder for us to take a break.

Correira: Okay.

Littenberg-Brown: So I wanted to start by asking you what your earliest childhood memory is.

Correira: I think walking up Benefit Street to the water fountain. My cousin and I used to jump over the fence where we lived. I mean a gate. Our mothers had a gate. And we'd jump over the gate and bring our bathrobes up to the fountain and wash them in the fountain.

Littenberg-Brown: And was this a public fountain?

Correira: No the fountain on the top, across from the Superior Court.

Littenberg-Brown: Okay

Correira: On Benefit Street.

Littenberg-Brown: Isn't it open anymore?

Littenberg-Brown: I am not sure

Correira: It is a little, little fountain. A little water fountain. It was. It used to have the water coming out with the little basin. And we'd put our bathrobes in there thinking we.

Littenberg-Brown: And how old was your cousin and you?

Correira: Oh God, we were the same age. So we weren't in school yet. So we had to be really young. And our mothers always knew where to find us when we weren't in the back yard. Because at that time I was living at 419 Benefit street. It was a four apartment. four apartments in it and we had 1 toilet on the first floor in the hallway that was shared with the first, no one toilet on the second floor which was shared with the other person and that was my aunt and my mother. And then one toilet on the first floor which was my other aunt and that was a rental on the other side. Theirs was under the stairs but that toilet was like up and down.

Littenberg-Brown: Okay.

Correira: And it was just a toilet.

Littenberg-Brown: Right and you said before that you went to your grandmothers to.

Correira: To take a bath, yes.

Littenberg-Brown: Yes.

Correira: Or else we had these big galvanized tubs. My mother would put beside the stove and then heat up the water and put it in the tub but that was a lot of work because then you had to dump it you know.

Littenberg-Brown: Right

Correira: And we didn't have a bathroom to dump it in so

Littenberg-Brown: Right

Correira: It was easier to go over my grandmothers to take a bath.

Littenberg-Brown: Where did your grandmother live?

Correira: 23 Sheldon Street.

Littenberg-Brown: Okay and when did she move to Fox Point?

Correira: My grandmother lived. She bought 23 Sheldon Street when my aunt was six months old my aunt was born in, god. Oh shoot. It was eighty some odd years anyway. They had first rented the place and then my grandmother bought it when my aunt was six months old. I can give you her birthrate after I'll look it up.

Littenberg-Brown: Okay.

Correira: So it was in our family, the house, a long time. And there's a little cottage in the back that after my grandmother died, my mother bought the house with my aunt and my aunt lived in the big house and my mother lived in the cottage in the back.

Littenberg-Brown: Okay. And then your mother bought the house?

Correira: After my grandmother died.

Littenberg-Brown: And then on benefit Street, did you?

Correira: My grandmother owned 419 Benefit Street.

Littenberg-Brown: Okay.

Correira: So when she died, but when she died, it was all rentals.

Littenberg-Brown: Okay.

Correira: But one family didn't live there they just used it as storage for their things.

Littenberg-Brown: Okay.

Correira: At that time we had moved to 16 Sheldon Street because my aunt had bought that property. I was about 15 so we can figure out that year cause by the time I went to work when I was 16, I was living there. Let's see. What else cause my mind went blank?

Littenberg-Brown: That's okay. Can you tell me a little bit about your parents?

Correira: My father was a truck driver, worked for the Outlet Company. My mother worked in a place downtown. No Campus Jewelry I think it was up on Charles St somewhere, yeah something like that. My mother never worked as a child. She had to stay home and help my grandmother cook. She was the help because the other kids were all older. My mother was the youngest girl.

Littenberg-Brown: Did she have many siblings?

Correira: One, two- Lina, Julia, Beatrice, and my mother. Four girls and the boys were Joe, Johnny, Eddie. I guess three boys and four girls. Seven, oh god...

Littenberg-Brown: Was that. Do you know if that was pretty common to have that many?

Correira: I, I well I think so, I think, I'm not sure I don't really remember cause you know I was sort of a little kid so I didn't pay attention to things like that. But yeah people usually had four kids five kids something like that. maybe she had a little more than usual I don't know I really like I said I never paid attention back then.

Littenberg-Brown: And do you have siblings?

Correira: I have two sons. I thought I wanted a large son till I had one son and then I decided one was enough but then I got pregnant the following year.

Littenberg-Brown: Okay.

K: So after that I made sure I didn't get pregnant again.

Littenberg-Brown: Okay.

Correira: I think around that time Planned Parenthood came about. I went down there.

Littenberg-Brown: Okay. And did you have siblings growing up? Or were you an only child?

Correira: No I have a brother who lives in NY.

Littenberg-Brown: Okay.

Correira: He went to school at, we had 3 schools at the time. We had Arnold St School first. I forget, I think it was like kindergarten to maybe the third grade. Then there was Thayer St School for a few years. And then we went to Nathan Bishop Junior High and then from Nathan Bishop you went to Hope High. I never went to Hope. I transferred and went to Central. I had to be different.

Littenberg-Brown: Why did you transfer?

Correira: Well because my father and mother were divorced by the time I was ten I guess. Or earlier than that, my bother must have been ten, I was about eight. They divorced and my father was living with a woman in South Providence. So I got to know her daughter and I became friends with her daughter and her friends so I knew a lot of people. So, plus I was, I don't know, I gave their address and I went to school there.

Littenberg-Brown: What was that like going to school not with the kids from your neighborhood?

Correira: Actually I liked it. I made a lot of friends over there.

Littenberg-Brown: Was there any difference between Fox Pointers and then people?

Correira: Oh yeah those people, they were nice people but the people at Nathan Bishop and Hope they were mostly from, a lot from the East Side. Some of them from Camp Street, which was the lower, you know, it was a black community, mixed. But the people from the East Side they were young, a lot Jewish, and more, how would you say, affluent, you know. Where, I was more comfortable with the lower class crowd.

Littenberg-Brown: Okay.

Correira: I mean not that they, you know, I had a lot of friends, but the girls from Fox Point, I had a girlfriend Honey and Marie Ferreira from Ives Street. But I was more drawn to the South Providence.

Littenberg-Brown: Okay. And going back to, your childhood, can you describe your house? What it looked like it inside and what you remember about living there?

Correira: Okay. I lived on the second floor of 419 Benefit Street. The woman, the last I know she was still living in the house. In fact she used to go up to Brown to rent out her house. She lived on one side. I don't know who lived upstairs and she used to rent the second side out to students I would imagine. I lived over, oh Yeah I forgot I lived at that, I lived in that apartment at one point. But anyway, we had a small place it was one large bedroom one large kitchen and then this little dinky bedroom which, after my mother got divorced, I think I had my bed was in my mothers bedroom, my brother had the little bedroom, and we didn't have a living room we lived in the kitchen we had a big couch in the kitchen. Let's see, my aunt lived on the other side that you could see Benefit Street down to Wickenden and after my aunt bought her Sheldon Street property we moved over on that side and they rented out the backside. The windows were really low; I remember they used to have had a board so that when us kids went to the window we couldn't fall out. Of course, when I was an adult we could take them down. But they were small, you know, we had a closet where they put the sink in. Then you had this dark room that was another closet with a light in the middle because I mean, you know, they made the room, it was a one family house and they made tenements out of it. My grandparents owned a lot of property.

Littenberg-Brown: Okay.

Correira: But then after my grandfather died it was too much for my grandmother. Her sons would take care of it. In fact they used to, my brother used to have to help my uncles. And, he became pretty good at it because well he graduated from Hope High. He went to URI [University of Rhode Island] and after graduated URI he went to New York and he lived with some friends until he got a job. And he worked for. What is that store? He worked for Saks of Fifth Avenue as a window designer and then he moved onto Bergdorf Goodman where he became a VP window designer. So he did well. And, I guess he got the talent from you know helping them. I guess he got into that although.

Littenberg-Brown: Okay.

Correira: He was very, very, he still is very, very creative. In fact, that's who gave me that table, the chairs, the mirror. Anything nice I have in my house my brother is...that was bought at a yard sale though. But the houses were all small, like I said, when my aunt bought 16 and 14 Sheldon Street, I was a teenager then so we moved over there and my aunt had a closet that she made into bathrooms and we had our own bath, our own shower, this was like a big deal.

Littenberg-Brown: Right

Correira: We had a nice little kitchen. I had my own bedroom and there was a little room in between my mother made a den and at the front my mother had her bedroom.

Littenberg-Brown: Okay. And you mentioned that your grandparents owned a lot of property. How did they acquire it all?

Correira: I don't know. I found a lot of the receipts when looking cause we're going to have a family reunion this summer.

Littenberg-Brown: Okay.

Correira: And, I had this safe where my grandmother's, all my grandmothers papers in it, and, but most of it the property they owned with the exception of Benefit Street it was all in South Providence. She had places on Blackstone Street, which my uncle lived in with his wife. Lockwood Street, you know she had about four, five pieces of property. Blackstone Street. And, they were all rentals.

Littenberg-Brown: And did your grandparents, were they immigrants?

Correira: Yes. My grandmother came from Brazil. My grandfather came from, I forget, Cape Verde, Cape Verde Islands, or something like that. No, oh God, I can look that up and tell you I think. I might have the papers. No I don't have them. They're at my son's house. I forget. But they came from two different places.

Littenberg-Brown: Okay.

Correira: Oh God, I sound like an idiot cause I can't remember a lot.

Littenberg-Brown: Do you know how they met?

Correira: No.

Littenberg-Brown: No.

Correira: No, my grandfather, I don't know exactly what he did; I know he was a night watchman. And he had a gun. But I never saw the gun. It was in my grandmother's house, but it disappeared when my aunt went in the hospital and I never looked for it until my aunt passed away. But in the meantime somebody that knew it was there took it, so. But he was a night watchman that much I know. That's about I know about his work. But he died young. In fact when he did die, you know how they have the funeral parlors, well back then my grandfather was laid out in the living room.

Littenberg-Brown: Okay.

Correira: In fact my brother and I were talking about that not too long ago. He said, "Can you imagine, I was a little kid, I saw this dead guy and they told me to go upstairs." He said "With a dead man underneath." Well you know things like that are traumatic for kids.

Littenberg-Brown: Yeah

Correira: You know, you don't realize it, but. Yeah cause we've been talking about the past, well mostly because they're doing the family reunion thing.

Littenberg-Brown: And do you know how they came to live in Fox Point? Or in Providence?

Correira: Well, like I said, I think they originally lived in the top half of the house and the owner lived in the bottom and then they bought it.

Littenberg-Brown: Okay.

Correira: So. Let's see my mother was born in 1917. So my aunt was born 1907, something like that. And that's when they had already; they bought the house when my aunt was six months old. I remember her telling me that. When I was six months she said...bought this house. I said oh ok. Cause we used to talk about the past sometimes, but sometimes you forget and you get mixed up because what I remember sometimes my other people don't remember it like I do.

Littenberg-Brown: Right.

Correira: Like they say, the only thing you truly remember are things that made an impression on you. And what makes an impression on me doesn't on other people.

Littenberg-Brown: Right.

Correira: So, I remember going on going on trolley cars. My cousin, Ken and I were, I was born in July, he was born in June so we're like a month apart so we were like buddies and we used to go, like the trolley cars didn't turn around. You go from one end to the other so the guy would be driving this way and we'd go in the back and play with the thing, raise hell. And, then I remember the electric busses. Electric busses used to go under the tunnel. Now just the regular buses go under the tunnel.

Littenberg-Brown: You mean the tunnel on Thayer Street?

Correira: Yes

Littenberg-Brown: Ok

Correira: That's where the electric busses used to go through, under there. What else. In fact, when I was young and my mother was working she used to buy a bus pass, and that was good for the whole week, and on a Friday she would give me her bus pass and some, my friend, I forget, I don't even remember who it was at the time, but somebody's else's bus pass and on Traverse Street there was a bus that used to go through, I guess it just serviced the East Side. But not when I was going to school. It was just a regular bus. I forget exactly the route but I know we used to take that bus and go around cause it was free.

Littenberg-Brown: Right.

Correira: I think you paid like fifty cents for a bus pass. Oh my god, can you imagine? What else. Ask me cause I can't, my mind.

Littenberg-Brown: Can you tell me a little bit about your speaking of your friends. About, who your friends were?

Correira: Well, when I was little, the friends lived around the house. There was Dorothy, and Vivian Pelmento, Vivian was older than me. My cousin Lorraine was more Vivian's age, my brother's age. And there was Bernice Cobbs, no that's her married name, Bernice Cabral. But we weren't friends until she got to be an adult cause she was sickly but we, you know, when we would see her we weren't allowed to, she wasn't allowed to play with us cause she had a bad heart, or a pneumatic heart, or something like that. So I guess my friends were just who lived in the area. Then there was an Irish family. We were friends but you know it was Irish and Portuguese. They had their own church, we had our own church. So they really liked their kids to stick together but, we were friends, but we weren't bosom buddies you know.

Littenberg-Brown: Right, did your parents, was your mother, your mother also want you to stick with, together?

Correira: No, no but see and then at one point too my mother was divorced and divorce was unacceptable back then. You know, I was like a black sheep. I think always a black sheep that's why, I don't know, I just feel like I was always the black sheep. But yeah, I think a lot of it was cause my mother was divorced, or I felt that, you know.

Littenberg-Brown: So there was a lot of, was there a lot of tension about her?

Correira: Well, not tension, but it's just that you know, the Portuguese people didn't see to mind.

Littenberg-Brown: Okay.

Correira: Or if they did, the parents never said nothing or they never made me feel it. Because even though the other, the Irish girls which were Kathleen and Mary Ellen, they didn't have a father but they're father had died so, you know, there's a difference, that

there's was prestigious. And we used to hang on their steps, which they didn't like neither.

Littenberg-Brown: Okay.

Correira: Then we'd sit on the other one's steps. Our steps were on Benefit Street so nobody wanted to sit over there because the traffic goes, coming up and down. Okay, what else?

Littenberg-Brown: What did you, what were kind of your activities that you did together?

Correira: Well, I used to go bike riding a lot. Walk the streets. You know. It was safe back then believe it or not. I remember as a small kid, and I was a brat and I admit it. I know I was a brat. I walked downtown to the Narragansett Hotel because in there, on I don't remember the floor, but they had a radio station and was a kid's program and I walked up there and I went on the radio all by myself. I don't remember how old I was. But I was a little brat like I said because I remember talking on the radio and saying something about my friend cause I was mad with her. I called her Snookie that was her name but the way I said it or whatever. Like I said I was a mean little kid. Maybe I was jealous cause they had fathers, or, you know? Maybe it was me, and I thought it was them, who knows, I don't remember.

Littenberg-Brown: Right.

Correira: You know, I just remember that I was difficult. I gave my brother a hard time till he come after me one day then I would cry. And I would provoke him. Like my mother would be working so my brother would start the meal. When I was old enough I would start it, but he would be the main one starting the meal. And I was bugging him one time and he hit me over the broom and the more he hit me the more I laughed. And then I make believe I was crying and he'd leave me alone. And I'd go "Haha, haha."

Littenberg-Brown: How did your mother?

Correira: I don't remember how she handled it.

Littenberg-Brown: Yeah.

Correira: I know, she must have yelled at him, I guess I don't know. But, I guess my mother had enough brains to know that I was the trouble maker.

Littenberg-Brown: Right.

Correira: In fact when I lived on Benefit St, now I had to be real young. We had a backyard but we had it all cemented and we had this shed in the back. And we had a barrel in the middle we used to burn our papers. So, I picked up a cigarette butt and I was

about to put it to mouth when my father looked out the window. "What are you doing?" I said, "Nothing." He said "What you got in your hand?" I said, "Nothing." He said, "Stay right there, Don't move." So I took the butt and I threw it in the trash and I picked up a piece of paper. And he said, "What's in your hand?" and I said "Here" and I gave him the. Cause I used to buy cigarettes and blame the older girl cause my mother found them in my coat pocket. I think you could buy a pack of cigarettes for like a nickel. Seven cents at the most and we would chip in and buy cigarettes. My mother went in my pea coat pocket and found them. And I said, "Those ain't mine, those are Vivian's." They were mine, I just, you know.

Littenberg-Brown: Right.

Correira: So my mother, like I said, I was a little brat. You know I always blamed other people for what I was doing. It was easy.

Littenberg-Brown: Right

Correira: You know, cause I was the little good girl, you know. Or so I made believe. What else?

Littenberg-Brown: Did you have friends who were boys or were most of your friends?

Correira: Well my cousin was my friend and he was a boy. No I think I was older before I had male friends that were just friends. Excuse me [coughing]. I think this is an allergy.

Littenberg-Brown: Do you want to go get some water?

Correira: It isn't going to help I'm going to get a throat lozenge.[Pause Recorder] But mostly I was afraid of, you know, cause if you want to be a tomboy, you know they treated you like a tomboy so I more or less you know kind of reserved...just like my cousin Kenny and I we used to go roller-skating at East Providence Roller Rink, it isn't there no more. And we just drive around and knock each other over. Well, so sometimes I would say "Oh come, lets knock other people over not us you know, we do it to other people, I mean I don't want to get hurt anymore."

Littenberg-Brown: And what did he say?

Correira: I don't remember. But I was always trying to do something so that I wouldn't get hurt. But I remember going down the sled. Okay, you know Sheldon Street you know as you come up Traverse. Oh see, you can't even come up Traverse anymore. That's just recent. When you come up Traverse and you took a left. There's the Portuguese Social Club, okay. That was, was that always a club? Yes. I believe that was always a club. But that little hill going up in the back, that hill and next door they have a driveway that was all one big hill. And that brick building there was the soda fountain place, I mean a soda place, Moosehead Soda. And we used to slide down that hill. I fell off the sled and whacked my head and I just remember going "rrr, rrr, rrr." Oh god. Want to turn that off?

[Coughing- Paused Recorder]. My cousin Kenny and I used to do a lot together, until we got older. We always hung out together. What else?

Littenberg-Brown: What kind of music did you listen to? Did you listen to music?

Correira: Oh god, yes. We used to listen to all the Andrew Sisters. I remember my aunt would take us out over to her girlfriends house and they would let us play records. We played all the old songs. You know they used to play the records. I can't remember all the songs now, but it was mostly, we only had popular music back then. Or Western Country and Western and as a kid, they didn't play it so we didn't listen to it. I liked it more as an adult. Yeah it was mostly the latest songs that we would play and listen to. Cause we didn't have TVs back then we just had radios. I remember listening to "The Shadow" and Bobby Benson from the "Bebop Bee" and, what else? Mr. and Mrs. North. I mean, you know as you grow up you get listening to them and actually still today I like mysteries, cop shows, lawyer shows. Like Mr. and Mrs. North were detectives so I guess that's how I got a likening for them and The Shadow. You never heard of that right? The squeaky door was open. Excuse me. [Coughing]. Let me see if I can get rid of this, hold on. [Paused recorder]

School itself I don't remember a lot. I remember we went to three different schools. I think Arnold Street was the first school and I remember they had a boy's side and a girl's side. And then Thayer Street School, that was way up near Brown. In fact, the little Brown Jug is still there. We used to go over, I don't know, it must have been next door to the little Brown Jug. There used to be a little Delicatessen. Oh know, I'm sorry I'm getting them mixed up. It was Arnold Street School; there was a little variety store. We used to go buy penny slices of pickles. She'd cut the pickles up and we go in and stand in line and for a penny get a slice of the pickle. For a nickel you could have the whole pickle. Yeah, Thayer Street School was for when we were older because we were around the college kids. In fact, where they have the Brown University parking lot now they used to have tennis courts there. I think where they have the hotel too, I forget. And, shit [coughing]. The new quad, not the new quad, the, I'm trying to visualize it cause it's been a while. [Paused recorder].

Correira: Oh they named it that. What was it before,

Littenberg-Brown: Thayer St. on the corner of Thayer St. and

Correira: Power?

Littenberg-Brown: Between Charles and Power, Charlesfield and Power. There?

Correira: Oh they named it they changed it, the name because that was what?

Littenberg-Brown: It's called the, now it's called the Vartan Gregorian Quad.

Correira: But what was it before? [Paused recorder].

Littenberg-Brown: So we were talking about your schooling and you mentioned that at the Arnold Street School they had separation for boys and girls.

Correira: Oh yeah at most of the schools didn't till you got to junior high.

Littenberg-Brown: Okay, so all your classes were separate?

Correira: Oh no we were with the boys in classes but the boys went in, went one side and the girls went in on another.

Littenberg-Brown: Oh, do you know why?

Correira: It had...nope. Even the Boys Clubs, they used to have a Hardgmen Pool or whatever the name of it was. And that was that at the beginning of Power St, I believe, close to South Main and you head halfway up the hill. Did you know it was there? Okay. We were allowed to and we were allowed to go the Boys Club on Friday nights for movies.

Littenberg-Brown: Okay.

Correira: And, the boys would go in through they had an underground tunnel and we had to go in the bath house way.

Littenberg-Brown: Okay.

Correira: Cause we used to go swimming there too, I guess it was Saturdays. And Friday nights we could go the Boys Club for the movies. Everybody sat around on the floor watching the big screen.

Littenberg-Brown: That must have been fun.

Correira: My sons did the same thing. They still had it. I'm trying to think fast, but you know. That's why maybe turn it off give me a chance to put my thoughts together.

Littenberg-Brown: It's fine.

Correira: All right.

Littenberg-Brown: It's fine if there's a pause.

Correira: I used to like going to the swimming pool.

Littenberg-Brown: Did a lot of kids from the neighborhood go? Was it a big, social event?

Correira: Yeah, most of the young kids went. Not the kids from Ives Street because it was too far for them to go

Littenberg-Brown: Okay.

Correira: You know just the kids in our area, which would have been. I'm most sure they were welcome to go, but it was just too far for them to walk. We were lucky in that respect.

Littenberg-Brown: Now was there a difference between the kids who lived over on Benefit St and the kids who lived on Ives? Were those?

Correira: No.

Littenberg-Brown: No?

Correira: No, unless you lived was up on Benefit, No.

Littenberg-Brown: So it was a mix of, you mentioned there were some Portuguese and some Irish and.

Correira: Yes.

Littenberg-Brown: A whole mix of everyone.

Correira: And then, in the middle of Benefit when you got up closer to the college there were big homes around there where they were, bigger kids. Because I'm remembering one in particular, Richard Price. And I think he, I'm not sure, but I always had the impression that he was from, you know, a family of good means, you know, not like my mother and my father, they had to both work where his mother was a home mother I believe. I could be wrong but. It's hard to remember some of things some of them popping into my head now like about my pool. God, I haven't thought of that in years.

I loved living there. The only reason I moved out was because I was alone. I owned 23 Sheldon. And I was renting out the cottage. And I made two apartments out of the front house. And I couldn't deal with it. I was trying to rent it to people from Brown, not students I got some students asked for it and I said "No." And one of the girls said "Well I'm going to be a doctor." I said, "I don't care what you going to be, I work at Brown and I know what you students do, you're not renting my place." So anyway I had, a professor up there for a while. And then most of the time it was empty.

Then I rented the cottage out to a young doctor coming in from France. And he came in on bicycle and at the time, you know, one of the doctors called up and made the arrangements and I forgot to ask for a deposit. Anyways as it turned out I approached him after, I said, "I forgot, your supposed to give me a deposit." He said "Oh well now you're going to have to trust me." I said, "Okay." My mistake I won't make it again. Then I had a plug out in the outside my house. He's using my plug, he's got people coming and going all the time and then he had two students living there with him. And when I rented it, I specifically told the doctor, I said, "You have another bedroom," that's not for him,

you know I'm renting it to one person, that's all I want staying there. But see I didn't have a lease so they gave me a hard time about it.

So the guy tells me he's going away for a few days. And I seen that he left the kids there. So I called the police. I said, "My tenant's away and I see two people over there. You know I didn't rent it to these people, I don't who they are." So the police came and talked to them. He said, "Well they got a key." I said, "I don't care if they has a key, I didn't rent it to them." He said "Well maybe the kid wanted his stuff safe." I said, "Nothing in there belongs to him except his bike and his clothes. Everything else is mine. The pans, the dishwasher, no, the pans, the stove, the dryer, the washer, everything in there belongs to me. The dishes, they're all mine. There's nothing in there except his clothes and his bike." So the cops said something and then he said, "Oh you'll be lucky if they don't destroy it." Well, a week later my house was on the market cause I wasn't going to tolerate that. I just wasn't going to do it.

Littenberg-Brown: And you moved here?

Correira: No, I moved with my son, my son had a house in Cranston and then he bought a house in Coventry so I moved to Coventry with him I had my own apartment. I had my own apartment in Cranston too. And then they had another baby so that's when I bought a condo. Then they bought another house and sold that one. I was living at the condo and my friend was living here and I put my name in and after three years I got called so I came. I figured it would be easiest for me to handle living here but I got stuck. I have my condo and I was here and I've been paying rent for a year. Plus I had to pay all the things at the condo. So I mean it just took all my savings and now, I luckily, I got somebody to move in, but I gave her real cheap rent cause she's a friend. You know and at least it covers the bills you know cause because I have to pay the mortgage and I have to pay the insurance, not the insurance, excuse me, the condo fees and the taxes. So that's what the rent's going to cover. But, no, I've moved a little bit.

Littenberg-Brown: Yeah.

Correira: Too much for me.

Littenberg-Brown: Do you miss living in Fox Point?

Correira: I do.

Littenberg-Brown: Yeah.

Correira: When I lived in Cranston I didn't so much.

Littenberg-Brown: Why do you think?

Correira: Well because I was free. I didn't have to worry about, I mean I'd go to work in the morning and if it was snowing I would shovel my walk before I went to work and then I would come home and if snowed all day I had to go shovel my walk after working

eight hours sometimes ten hours. My neighbors didn't do it but I did. You know, it was just a relief that I didn't have to worry about property, I didn't have to worry about taxes, but then you know, the house was in my family for so long I felt bad.

Littenberg-Brown: Right.

Correira: But I didn't have the nightmares I thought I was going to have. But in all honesty, I dream about that house a lot I really do. When I'm dreaming about past, I lived there and it's weird, you know, I've been out of there for so long.

Littenberg-Brown: Right. Do you have any other memories of places in Fox Point that have a lot of meaning to you?

Correira: Oh yeah the Tockwotton Pool, we used to walk up there. Tockwotton Park. In fact the nursing home is still there, I know noticed. You had to be rich to be there though, that's why I'm here. The one thing that I really liked about living in Providence was my car insurance was almost due and when I moved to Cranston, believe it or not, I got a rebate when I changed my address. Do you believe it? So you realize how high the taxes are. And I had a house that I was paying taxes on. They valued my house at 250,000 dollars now this is a while ago, before the, everything was all fixed up. Some of the places were fixed up but not all of them. And, I told the guy, I said, "Well give me 250,000 dollars and you can have it." When I sold my house, and it was two houses with a garage, and you know how parking is in Providence. I sold it for 135,000 dollars because that's how bad I wanted to get out of there.

Littenberg-Brown: Right.

Correira: Like me son said, "Ma you either take the money and invest it or you wait until the property rises." And I just couldn't afford to do that. It was too stressful. So that's why I know it was '95, no it was '94 because I bought my new car in '95 shortly after I moved to Cranston.

Littenberg-Brown: Okay.

Correira: No I liked living there. Because you get used to everything, I mean I could walk downtown. I could walk anywhere I wanted to go. And believe it or not, I still haven't been down to see the fires.

Littenberg-Brown: The water fire?

Correira: Yes. I could walk when they first started and I never, never went there. In fact when they were building the highway, I quit school at 16 and I worked in South Providence and I used to walk to work over the bridge. But when they started building the highway you couldn't walk that way no more. So I had to go through downtown. Yeah I think I had to go through down, no, I, how, how did I get there? I don't remember. I don't remember walking to work; maybe I took the bus downtown. I really don't

remember. I only remember walking home maybe cause I was tired. You know, oh god and then I had to walk up college hill

Littenberg-Brown: Where did you work?

Correira: On Stuart Street.

Littenberg-Brown: Okay.

Correira: Behind the YMCA. And then when it, when it started getting a little better there was a little pathway I could walk through and when I found that out I started going that way but there was a time when I had to all the way around. That's right I don't remember walking to work.

Littenberg-Brown: When they build the highway did it change a lot in the neighborhood?

Correira: Not really. But then again it did, yeah because people started going up Traverse Street and cutting through Sheldon Street instead of waiting for the red light, yeah cause, I don't remember. And when I was a kid I used to walk over the highway to a bowling alley, but once they put, we had a regular highway, you know, and then once they put the freeway in, you couldn't walk through anymore. I think the bowling alley still there but it's something else now. It used to be parks. In fact I worked in it for a while, in the fountain area.

Littenberg-Brown: Do you remember much discussion about the highway when it was coming? People in the neighborhood talking about it?

Correira: Nope I don't remember any of that because I only paid attention to things, I only paid attention to what interested me. And that's a shame because if I had used my brains I could have had a decent job, you know, and with a decent retirement but, hey you know, you don't think in the future when your young. I mean my thought was 'eh what do I need an education for I'm going to get married and have kids. Who thought about when the kids grow up? I never did, I never gave it any thought.

Littenberg-Brown: So you say you quit school at 16?

Correira: Yes, but then.

Littenberg-Brown: And went to work.

Correira: Yes. But then, I got my high school equivalency and I took a couple of college courses.

Littenberg-Brown: Where did you do that?

Correira: When?

Littenberg-Brown: Yeah.

Correira: Oh I don't remember. It had to be in the late sixties, early seventies, no in the seventies sometime. And then I went to Rhode Island Junior College. When it was and you know, it was up in Warwick. They hadn't built the one in Lincoln, yet, and then I started going to the one in Lincoln because it was built. Oh god. I liked it but I copped out as usual, it was tough and I had a second marriage at the time and it was a bad marriage so I just dropped out. But I did like going I really did. What I loved the fact that our psychology teacher couldn't spell for beans. And I said to myself, well now I don't feel bad because he's a college graduate and he's a teacher and he can't spell so hah. I'm learning to spell better now than I did back then. But sometimes my mind just goes blank, totally blank. Even spelling my own name. Do you believe it? If I'm writing my own name and you start talking to me and I get distracted, I have to go "C-O-R-R." It's bad.

Littenberg-Brown: So did you, were you studying psychology when you went to, to school?

Correira: I wanted to. At that time I wanted to be a social worked yeah.

Littenberg-Brown: Okay.

Correira: Yeah. I wasn't good in English though. In fact they had counseled me that I would have to take extra courses or you know, get a tutor or sometime like that cause I needed help. And like I said I just copped out because I was having problems and it made it easier so I just quit.

Littenberg-Brown: Was it common for people to drop out of school at 16 and go to work?

Correira: It depended. It depended. No I always wanted to work cause my friends worked. Like "Anna the Greek" was living around at the time and she was working. In fact she was the one that got me the job. Like my cousin graduated high school she didn't go to college though, and my thought was, "What do I need a college, or what do I need a high school education for, you know, I can go out and make money." I was more interested in making money. Like I said that was stupidity on my part and I guess, and I'm not blaming her, but my mother didn't know enough to emphasize that you needed an education. But there's where my brother was smart cause he clicked with the other people and he realized that you needed an education. And he was smart and he got it, but then in my opinion a man needed an education not a woman, but that was my backwards thinking. And you know, like I said, I didn't get encouragement but then my brother didn't get encouragement either he just did it on his own so no one's at fault but me, me, me, me.

And there's so many places that's different. Like on the corner of Wickenden and Hope Street, I forget what's there now, there was a hair dresser there at one time. That

use to be Cornell's Drug Store. And then as you go down Hope Street and you come to Power, I think it was the corner of Hope and Power that used to be Turney's Drug Store. And then a couple of those houses on Hope Street were my doctor's office. I think it was Doctor Rico.

Oh, and you know on Wickenden Street past the school like as you go past the school, there's a little garage on the left? Either that or there was a building there that this woman that I thought was so wonderful I made her my godmother when I received confirmation, she used to kill chickens there. I remember her taking them in the back, they had all the chickens in the coops and then she'd take them in the back and cut their head off. And I was there one day when she did it and I just thought about her and I said, "Well I don't know if she's that's nice a lady. How can she kill an animal for somebody to eat?" I just remember that, you know, that the chicken place was there. I'm not sure where it was now. And that rug place that's there, Rustican Rugs. Is that the name of it? On the corner. They used to be on Benefit St. They had a beautiful house over there, was their business there.

Oh and you know the playhouse, Barker Play House. That little slant, we used to run up that. I look at it now and I say "That seemed so big when I was a kid." But I bet I can't do it today. We used to run up to the top, hold onto the building and just stay there for a minute and then run back down. Crazy things kids do. Prospect Terrace. We used to walk out on the foot. I mean, you realize you could have got killed? I guess we were daring. Let's see. What else do I remember about Fox Point?

Okay, on Hope Street. Is it Hope? Or Governor? There's buildings there that used to be little stores. But the place that's the box place, where you mail, what do they call that? If I'm not mistaken that used to be an A&P. What else? I'm trying to think. I told you there was a fire station on Wickenden Street where that building is now, where that artist place is. That was a fire station there. The Church on Sheldon Street stills there.

Littenberg-Brown: Is that the church that you went to?

Correira: No I went to the Holy Rosary.

Littenberg-Brown: Okay.

Correira: That Church was, I don't know, what kind of church it was, but mostly the black people went there. I guess it was more or less Baptist, I don't know, I really don't know because, but no. Okay, you know where the market, Friend's Market is still there? That was there when I was a kid. That's always been there. And across the street where the liquor is, that was a Portuguese market. Across the street was Joe's market. And he was Irish. So we shopped at the Portuguese market and the other people shopped at Joe's Market, but sometimes we would go to Joe's Market too if the Portuguese Market didn't have what we wanted. In fact, when my father was sick, I went to the Portuguese Market and just on a whim. I said, "Would you happen to have a gold crucifix with the I.N.R.I over the head?" And they said, "Yes." My sister, my step sister had been all over religious stores, everywhere she could think of try to get this little, fourteen caret gold cross for my father. I walk in there and I walk out with it. I think it was like forty dollars. Cause my father wanted it cause he was dying.

Littenberg-Brown: What's the significance of?

Correira: Well he had a, had a medallion he wore and it was Mary, the mother, so he decided he wanted to Son too on the Cross. But it had to have the I.N.R.I on the top. I forget what that means. But he wanted that so. In fact, I have my father's thing here because my son was wearing it and he broke the chain, I got to get him a new chain and Kevin is wearing the cross. My two sons I gave it to.

Littenberg-Brown: Did your father stay after your parent's divorced? Did he stay in Fox Point as well?

Correira: No, he moved to South Providence. And, actually he married a girl in Fall River, but he was living with one in South Providence, he was seeing her too. And then he married her. When the one in Fall River found out he was cheating on her, she divorced him and he married my step sister's mother, they finally got married. But no, once he moved out, I don't know where he moved to.

Littenberg-Brown: And did you see him often after?

Correira: Yes, when he lived in south Providence I used to walk over to visit him. I said, "Dad I need a dollar to buy some shoes." You know the ballerina's they have out now? We used to buy them at John's the Shoe man, downtown for a buck. Whatever they now, ten dollars? Unbelievable. And I mean well they had that very thin, thin sole so you wore them out fast. But I'd always went to my father and tell him I needed something. And he'd always give me the money, or mostly always. Sometimes I was lying, I just wanted the money.

Littenberg-Brown: You talked a little bit about Church, and were you very involved with Holy Rosary?

Correira: No, I just used to go to Church.

Littenberg-Brown: Weekly?

Correira: Yes, but then I got smart one day. And I said to my mother, "Hey how come I have to go to Church and you don't? You stay in bed and I have to go." Well she just looked at me. So when she'd send me off to Church, I would sometimes make believe. In fact, I started bunking school in kindergarten. Would you believe it? I told you I was a brat. But I mean I didn't walk the streets then. I would bunk school and I would sneak home and go up, cause we never used our front door, front doors were only for doctors. I walked up the stairs I had to unlock the door to house and I'd go to bed and when I heard the twelve noon whistle I'd sneak back downstairs and come home.

Littenberg-Brown: Wow.

Correira: See now I had a brain. I knew enough what to do. But I just didn't work it in the right way. I don't know, it's too bad.

Littenberg-Brown: Were your teachers ever encouraging or you just?

Correira: There was one teacher that was a real bitch. And I usually didn't let teachers intimidate me. But, I forget what she said, and I know I got really mad with her. There were some teachers that I really liked. There was this one teacher. I can't remember her name, I could be getting names mixed up, but. I said to her something about my mother. Oh, cause see I didn't tell my mother when I got bad grades or anything. And, I said, she wanted to know what my mother had to say and I said what she had to say she goes, "Duh." I said, "What do you mean "Huh? Who the hell do you think you are?" And you know, right away I'm in trouble. Guess I always had an attitude. That's the only times I ever got in trouble, in school because I would mouth off.

In fact, even in, shoot, when was it, Central High School, I would had a math class. The teacher actually threw me out. Cause I was doing something, I was writing on, there was a girl and she could anything and he would never say anything to her. So I said, "Eh, if she can go write on the board, I can go write on the board." So I went up and he grabbed me. And I said, "Don't you put your hands on me. Who you think you are?" And, he threw me out of class, and I wasn't allowed in his class anymore. And that really infuriated me, how come she could do and I couldn't? Cause you know, that doesn't go with me. But that was South Providence so that doesn't count. Let's see, what else about Fox Point?

Okay, so when they had the hurricane. It must have been the '54, no, how old would I be in '54. No cause I got married in '59. '38? Nope couldn't have been '38. We had to have another hurricane in there somewhere when we were small. Cause my cousin Kenny and I went walking down South Water Street and the cops came by and made us go home. Cause we wanted to investigate to see if the water was going to rise or whatever but they made us go home. I know it was a hurricane. Maybe it wasn't cause I know we were little. And Kenny and I kind of went our separate ways once we got to like Nathan Bishop, you know. Before that we were buddy buddies but then he had his own friends after that and then I had my own.

Littenberg-Brown: Were his friends, was he was mostly hanging out with the guys and you with the other girls?

Correira: I guess so, I really, I really don't remember that much. I have to admit I was totally focused on myself and nobody else. I never gave any thought to my future. I lived for the here and the now. And it amazes me that I had that attitude. I never thought about my future. Never gave it any thought at all. I don't know why. I always thought I would be a bagless lady or a bag lady. That I don't know. How did my hair get in here [her cup]. I can't think of anything.

Littenberg-Brown: Well you mentioned before that you worked for, at Brown and that your friend, can you repeat that story so that we?

Correira: Where do we, I forget. Oh, I worked at Brown. At first I worked the night shift.

Littenberg-Brown: What were you doing on the?

Correira: A custodian.

Littenberg-Brown: Okay.

Correira: I liked it, you know it was something different, something I never did before I always worked in the factory. And the money was better and the benefits were awesome. But then my aunt got sick shortly after I was working there so I had to leave to take care of my aunt. My mother had already died. But anyway I worked as a custodian on the night shift.

And then when I wanted to transfer onto days. I worked in the Arnold Lab, is it Arnold Lab, the Arnold building, that big, big building four stories high. I used to take care of that building and a few other buildings before I got there. And they didn't want you taking your car from building to building. They wanted you to walk. Well that's why after a while. No I used to walk. I did have like four buildings. Then they gave me that building so I wouldn't have to keep walking.

And, I got stuck in the elevator one Friday night. I put my cart and everything in the thing and I went up the elevator. I got between floors, the door opened, I couldn't go up, I couldn't go down, I couldn't do nothing. I ring the bell; all it did was make me go death. And I'm saying, "Hello, Hello?" Well I got so shook up. At seven o'clock I heard a noise and I said, "Somebody there?" And this guy said, "Yeah." I said, "You in the basement?" He said, "Yeah I'm at the soda machine." I said, "Do you me a favor, walk up to the first floor." I said, "If the door is open to the elevator would you close it." Well he walked up and he closed it. I was so shook up I called my boss. I said, "I got stuck in the elevator, I'm a nervous wreck, I didn't know what to do." I wanted to go home.

Littenberg-Brown: Yeah.

Correira: I mean, I, if, if that guy hadn't come up and they showed him where the soda machine was I would have been there until the next day or until one of the security guards finally checked the building cause nobody was in the building but me. He was in the other building you know where they have the walkway to go through with the labs were. Yeah that's right, cause I was on the front side and he was in the other lab on the other side where they did all the animal testing and everything. A couple of times I had to cover for him and I looked as I said, "Oh my god, what the hell are they doing here?" So I didn't want to go over there too often.

But, yeah I liked working at Brown. And then I went on the day shift. So when I went on the days they had the visiting scholar houses. You know, Cushing Street and where's the other one? Angell. Angell and Cushing, I had those two houses. And then before that, I used to go to the swimming pool. I used to have clean out the showers and all that stuff. And then I'd go to one house and then I'd go to the other. But all I did was, if somebody moved out I would clean the room, and make the bed, you know, change the laundry and everything and then just take care of the rest of the house. Like the stairs, the

windows, all that stuff. And the kitchen because they had the kitchen in each house. And I'd take care of the kitchen. So like I said when somebody moved out. I got to meet some nice people there.

I met, an author, I can't think of his name now. I got very friendly with this woman. Oh I don't remember her name either. But when I found out she was an English professor, I almost died. I said, "You know, what am I doing being friendly with this lady?" In fact, she had a, a dinner party at the house. And I said, "Well I have some stemware I'll bring it over." I took her to the market and then after work I brought her over my glasses. And she said, "Well why don't you join us." I said, "No." I said, "You know, you people, it wouldn't be right for me to be there." She was being polite inviting me, but I said, "No, no, thank you." But then we did go out to lunch one time, and that's when I found out she was a professor and I almost died. So anyway, but she was really nice, down to earth. That's why I didn't realize she was so educated because you know, I. Not having an education, you know, I felt funny, but she was really nice, it didn't matter to her. And then another, I met another screenwriter who did a play at, you know the school there? What is it?

Littenberg-Brown: At RISD?

Correira: Nope at our school.

Littenberg-Brown: Oh, at Brown?

Correira: Yes, you know they have the show over there.

Littenberg-Brown: In one of the auditoriums?

Correira: Yes I forget which one it was.

Littenberg-Brown: Stuart or Leeds?

Correira: I think it was Leeds. She wrote a play and I met her and she used to like to go walking. And I said, "Well you know its not safe walking these streets." And I told her how to get tom the gym so she could walk up there and we'd get to talking when I'd had some time and she'd been around and I'd tell how to where the different places to go. And, well anyway when her play was playing, this guy and I that worked at Brown and this student came with us, we went to the play together the three of us. She was a black girl, but she was really, really nice. So then I saw her name at the Gardner House so by then I was working in the Gardner House cause when that lady retired they offered me that job so I took it cause it was a better job. And, well it was one house period and you had to take care of it. Plus, you had, I had the school, on, what's that street. I don't know. They have all computers on the first floor, behind, near the Gate, oh god, if you say the name I'll know it. You know how you go to the John Hay Library? You go down the street and then you take a right, well this building's on the left.

Littenberg-Brown: Down College St?

Correira: No, it wasn't as far as College, was it college? No it's the same street the Gardner Street is on. George.

Littenberg-Brown: Oh George Street.

Correira: George Street. I couldn't think of it. I worked in a building over there then I'd go over the Gardner House for the rest of the time. But I loved working at the Gardner House. I really loved it there. And I got to meet a lot of people there. I met Jane Fonda. I walked in on Ted Turner with no underwear on and he pushes his pants down. In fact, he did a talk that night, and the woman that I took her job at the Gregorian's House, she said he mentioned about the house keeper where he was staying cause I keep all the lights on for all the people so you know, you're going into a strange house you don't know your way around so I would light, light in the room or something like that and he go around closing all the lights. But I didn't know cause I wasn't there. I met Jane Robinson, the president of Ireland. [Mary Robinson].

Littenberg-Brown: Wow

Correira: I was sick when the Russian came. What was his name? Oh God. I can't think of it now. Well anyway I was sick so you know the F.B.I. came and everything and they did a check on me, but I looked at my boss and I said, "Ilene, you know." I said, "I don't think I should be around these people." So she said, "Yeah, you better take the day off." So I did. I told my boss, I told my boss I said, "I'm sick, I can't be around these people." So he didn't give me any trouble. But my boss was good. He was really good.

And you know, I was, I always tried to be fair to people you know once I got older and realized you know. In fact I tried to get a supervisors job at Brown but some people bad mouthed me. And I said, well you know, they don't really know me cause like I said, I'll tell what I got to say right up to your face, but when your in that position you have to have more finesse about it and I could very well do that but I didn't have to at my level so. I mean, I even argued with a boss one time. He said, "I'm coming to take some sheets." I said, "You think you are. I don't think so." He said "Your boss told me." I said, "Well if my boss told you." Then my boss walked in. He said, "Jean, let him have the sheets." I said, "Fine." I said, "Okay." You know, once my boss said it, but you're not going to come in to me cause I don't know who you are. Well I found out he was a supervisor in the other quad and I said "Okay." But like he respected me because I didn't care who you were I would tell you what I thought. Just like my supervisor, I wasn't mean about it, I mean I was mean to him cause he was going to take my stuff and I said I don't think so.

But, you know, like my boss if you gave him a valid reason why you wanted something, he'd be fine with it. Like I said to him one time I said to him "Well Peter, instead of us working at night. You know, we got to do the third floor dorms." I said, "Why can't we come earlier in the morning when it's cool especially up on the third floor."

Littenberg-Brown: Yeah.

Correira: You know, let us work the overtime in the morning instead of at night. And he looked at me and he said, "Well okay." So we go in six o'clock in the morning instead of staying at night, you know after three o'clock, I mean you know how hot it is then, especially you going up to the third floor cleaning out those dorm rooms, getting ready for commencement. That I don't miss. That I don't miss. I liked it when I didn't have to go clean the dorms. But, you know, I mean pulled the whole Gardner House all apart. I take the, well they used to do the windows, but I would take the curtains down and throw them in the dryer, I mean I did everything so I wouldn't have to go in the dorms. Cause the Gardner House was air conditioned. I mean I'd actually wiped light bulbs, I took the drawers out and waxed the things. I mean I did anything so I could stay in the house and not in the dorms.

And I didn't mind. I really enjoyed it. But it did take its toll on me. That's why my house is so messy today. I just don't have it in me to really get into it. It took me all day just to clean my bathroom yesterday and I vacuumed over here a little bit, but not like I should have done. And I said, Eh, it will do. But like, in the Gardner I really enjoyed it. Well I mean that's a, one of the guest's said to me, "You're are" what do you call them, you know when somebody takes care of a museum, curator.

Littenberg-Brown: Curator?

Correira: And I said, "No, I'm a housekeeper." He said "No, you're a curator." Because there were all antiques in the house. In fact I took pictures of it. And Ilene said, "Jean you shouldn't, you know." I said, "Well okay." I mean I was just so impressed with the house, I just loved it. And I enjoyed cleaning it and I used to get, like I had chairs like this in the bedrooms and people would take a wet towel and put it over the chair. That would, I mean, come on, you know, it's not just a regular. These are antique chairs my brother gave me.

Littenberg-Brown: Right

Correira: They're all different. One's from Baltimore, one's from New York, one's from Pennsylvania. But don't ask me which ones now cause I forgot. And, it just made me mad when they did that. And then when Ilene Conforde, who was my boss, she was taking care of the Gardner House at the time and the visiting scholars houses. When she retired and this younger guy took over, they took a three-quarter bed and made it into a queen size or a king I forget which, queen. And Ilene would never let them do that, but once she was out, you know, because he was a younger man and he didn't know how to be forceful. I flipped. How can you do that, your, your wrecking a piece of American heritage? What're you doing? But they did it and they got away with it. Cause I mean it said in the will they weren't supposed to do that. But this person whoever this guy was that had some pull wanted the comfort of the guests. But my thought is if want comfort put them in the hotel. You want them to be in a guest house then they have to be comfortable in what's there. So anyway he made it a big bed and it's not like we didn't have them, you know, we had a big bed. But I guess there wasn't enough for all his V.I.P.s. But, it just made me mad to think that they could do that, you know cause you I

loved that house. I really enjoyed working there, I really, really did. I even used to clean the cellar. But then they had times in the basement, you know. They had one big room open with slate floors. I'd go down there and wash the floor. You know.

Littenberg-Brown: Yeah.

Correira: Wax it, or whatever I had to do. Dust all the old stuff, cause down there they had a lot of old stuff too. Especially on commencement time they would use it. I'd clean out the step because when you walk through that little alley way to cut through near the Church that used to you know, you step down into it so you would get a lot of dirt on it. So I'd get the alarm key, turn the alarm off open the door, sweep that all. I enjoyed my job over there cause I loved being around all those nice things. It was like my home for six hours a day. I could never live like that.

The kitchen was gorgeous. It was huge. You know, it had this nice big; the stove wasn't all that great. And then I used to have to do the laundry there too, which was nice because that gave me more time. You know, if I didn't have time to do the laundry I could always do it the next day. Cause everyday they got clean towels, and, if they only like stayed there one day they got their sheets changed. We were supposed to change it everyday, but I said wait a minute this person's going to stay here for three or four days why am I going to change their bed everyday, that's stupid.

Littenberg-Brown: Right.

Correira: So that's what we did. And I really enjoyed doing that. I really, really did. I like Brown University. I liked working there.

Littenberg-Brown: Do you remember any relationship at that time that Brown had with the Fox Point neighborhood?

Correira: No. But I do know that they named a school after Vartan Gregorian. And he was a good man and his wife was a good woman, but she had a tough personality, but she was good to me. I mean a couple of times she got a little uppity, you know. Not uppity, that's not nice to say. Well, she insulted me in a way. Do I have it here? I do but I can't put my finger on it right now. I have a picture of me with two pots of flowers in my hand from Christmas. She had all these beautiful, what do they call them? They're red flower.

Littenberg-Brown: Oh, I don't know the name of them, but I know what you mean.

Correira: Okay I had two pots. I think a red one and a white one or whatever. And, cause she thought she was allergic, so she wanted to get rid of them because Christmas was over. So I'm walking down the street and I'm walking towards the parking lot because at that time I used to park in the parking lot and this women. I saw this car and I said, "Look at that S.O.B she's blocking my way to get in the parking lot." And then she starts walking toward me. She was a reporter. She took my picture and I said...she said, "It is alright?" I said, "Yeah, wha, you know, what's that for?" She said, "Well I saw you walking with the plants." I said, "Oh well Mrs. Gregorian gave me them because she thinks she's allergic," so that's what they in the caption or whatever it was, I don't

remember. And it was on the front page bottom half. Well I go to work and everybody's telling me, "Boy, excuse me." Well she seen it in the paper. She goes, "Boy they got nothing better to do, do you believe that?" She said, "I wonder where they got that from?" I said, "From me." And I felt, you know when you think about what do you mean they got nothing better to do like I'm a nothing. You know.

But, but she was good to me when I was, when she saw me sitting on the back stairs one time. I was sick as a dog. And I didn't want to tell her I was sick, so I'm sitting there moaning. She's said "What are you doing?" I said, "I don't feel good." She said, "What's the matter?" I said "I have pains." She said, "well you got to go to the..." what do you call it?

Littenberg-Brown: The infirmary? Health Services?

Correira: Health Services, yes. So I said, "Ok, I'll walk up." "No you're not walking, get in my car." I said, "No I can walk," "Get in my car, now." I get in the car, she pulls up front she double parks. "I want somebody to see her and I want somebody to see her now." And I'll tell you I'd never forget that day in my life. The next minute I know, they, they checked me and I guess, I don't know if they knew what they were, but I was in the ambulance going to Miriam Hospital. I said, "Oh my god."

I don't know if, cause I thought I was having a kidney stone cause I had pain like that once before. But they said it was a urinary tract infection. So I don't know, but it felt like a kidney stone to me because I know what a kidney stone feels like. But then I was fine. Because I know shortly after that I had to go the hospital to have the kidney stone removed because it didn't dissolve so they had to remove it through an operation which was fine. I hurt but it was okay after. In fact I said to them, "Why did you wake me up" from the drug that they give you. I said, "I'm in pain, okay you got something for the pain." She said, "No." I said, "Then why did you wake me up?" They oughten have let me sleep it off cause the pain was as bad as having the kidney stone because you know they go into your kidney and pull it out. But anyway.

But I really loved working for Brown. The only reason that I retired was cause I was tired. And not only being tired but then I had a new boss that took over. And she had a friend that she wanted for that job. So I was afraid she would try to find fault with me. And plus the guys kind of disliked me because Mrs. Gregorian would say to me, "Call Dorothy now and tell her this or that and the other." And when she tells me to do something I had to do it. Cause Dorothy was the head at Risk Management there. So they said, "Why didn't you call us." I said, "Because she told me to call Dorothy. what do you want from me, I have to do what I'm told. I can't just do what I want." So they got mad with me.

Littenberg-Brown: Right.

Correira: So then when I wasn't working for them anymore he said, "Oh, you haven't got her protecting you anymore." So you know, I like I said, I was leery, I didn't know what was going to do down cause I knew they were ticked off with me and I knew she wanted to get her friend in so I figured it was safe for me to retire. It was time. And then she kept asking me, "When are you going to retire?" And I said, "I don't know." "When

are you going to retire?" I said, I think I better go. But I could have lasted longer. Even though I was tired, I could have really dragged through it but I couldn't take a chance because like I said between the guys, and then you know what happened, the guy that was giving me the hard time, he ended up getting stiffed. And I was so happy. He didn't stay as long as he had expected. Excuse me, I have to go to the bathroom [recorder paused].

Correira: I was so happy...stayed at the Gardner House. And they brought a dog. So I told my boss I said, "Look their families over there" I said, "You know it's hard for me to do anything, I've got to leave." You know, let me do something over here. So he said, "okay, let them have their privacy." Who else?

Oh one of the Beatles stayed there, I forget who it was. In fact my son said to me, "You didn't tell me he was here." I said, "How do I know you like the Beatles, you never said nothing to me." In fact, he come in the kitchen and I would leave you know cause I mean I wanted to give people their privacy. I went in the parlor and I sat down for a minute. And then he come in there and he said, "Why you leaving?" I said, "Well you know I'm leaving so that you can be comfortable." He said, "You don't have to leave the room cause I walk in." I said, "No that's okay, you know, I mean you need your privacy." And then the guy from FedEx comes knocking on the door. "Hey I hear so and so's here, can I get his autograph?" I said, "No." Can't do that I said. And I called up and I told them, I said, "You can't be telling people who's over here." You know?

Littenberg-Brown: Yeah.

Correira: Jane Fonda was nice. She used to come downstairs and make a smoothie drink, she'd put avocado, mango and all the stuff and that's what she would drink. She was so skinny. And I said, well me I like my, what do you call it, I like my fats. And I do and that's my downfall. Who else, I'm trying to think of who else was there. But I really, really enjoyed working at Brown. There were a lot of nice people. A lot of, even the employees, a lot of them were really nice. I mean any office I worked in, they were really nice to me. And I didn't bother anybody you know, I did what I had to do. Like when I worked in the Arnold building, I was up on the third floor. Arnold Lab, cause it hadn't been done in years I washed all the woodwork on the third floor so the girl came by one time and saw me and she said, and I was on the night shift then so I guess she was working late. She said, "What are you doing?" I said, "I'm cleaning this." She said, "Oh my God I've never seen anybody clean that." But I didn't mind.

Littenberg-Brown: Yeah.

Correira: I didn't mind at all.

Littenberg-Brown: Now were there a lot of other people from Fox Point that worked at Brown or was it not common?

Correira: Actually there was a young man who lived in Fox Point that went to Brown. A Portuguese kid but he was older so I didn't really know him, but I know he got a scholarship to go to Brown. And, my son had worked for Brown originally. He worked

for Brown, but then this company took over so rather than him lose his job he went with this company and they were out of Connecticut. And so he stayed working there.

And, that's how I knew there was an opening in the custodian and he said, "Well, Ma you know if you want it, you know." So I had to go for the interview and all. So when I went with my friend she said, "I'm not going to be a custodian." I said "Big deal, what's the difference?" "Because that's a man job." I said, "Well, hey I'm not worried about, they're willing to hire me I'm willing to go." And I did my work. And I asked her, said "Do I have to shovel snow?" She said, "Yeah. She said, that's part of your job." I said, "Well I don't have a problem with shoveling snow but I don't expect it to have to be on piecework shoveling snow either." So she said, "No that's not a problem." And most of the time the guys wouldn't let me shovel snow. But when there were really, when we really had a storm and we were short of help, I said, "Ey I can shovel snow just like everybody else I don't have a problem with it." I mean I had a problem with my back, but you know sometimes, when I was working with somebody my back didn't bother me, I could shovel all day long.

Littenberg-Brown: Was it mostly other men who were working as custodians at the time?

Correira: Oh Yeah, oh yeah there were only a few women.

Littenberg-Brown: Okay.

Correira: Yes, and that's not that long ago, you figure, my mother died in '86 so it must have...it might have been, my mother died in January of '86 so it may have been the end of '86 or '87. And most of the custodians were men. And I guess there were getting some flack. I mean there were women then but they weren't a lot. And, and I have to say that your boss was usually easier on you.

Littenberg-Brown: Okay.

Correira: I know one time I was working overtime on a Sunday with this young guy. And I didn't know my way around cause we were working the dorms. And we had just cleaned up a flood. And he said, "Jeanie I got to go back and get something." I forget what it was he had to go back and get. He said, "So stay here." So I sat down in this telephone booth and this black guy comes up to me and he said, "What are you doing?" I said, "I'm sitting." He said, "What are you supposed to be doing?" I said, "Well I'm waiting for" you know, I forgot what the kids name was." I said, "He's getting a vacuum." So he comes by and he said, "What's the problem?" He said, "She's sitting here." He said, "Well she's waiting for me." He said, "We were just cleaning up something and he forgot something and he went back for it." He said, "Oh."

So when I went on days I ended up working with him. He was my boss. And he come by checking on me. He actually opened up the windowsills and checked inside them and he got fooled cause every single one was clean cause like I said, I liked my job I did what I had to do. Mostly they were good to me you know, I mean, I'm saying the bosses cause I did my job and I didn't, you know, if I had something to say I would say it

and I wouldn't be nasty unless it was a fellow worker and I thought they were trying to get over on me and that's the only time I really speak up. Or sometimes in the summer food service would work with us and they would slack off. And I'd say, "Hey, you're working just like I am, what the hell are you doing, get going." And they said, "You're not our boss." I said, "I know I'm not, but you're supposed to be working not sitting there." So I get into fights like that with people.

One time we had a student working with us. You know how in the Wrinston Quad they have to two offices and you have to go through the archway one on one side so I used to clean both sides and I'm on the second side and this girl is supposed to be washing the floor. And I said, "What are you doing?" She said, "Well I don't know how to wash a floor." I said, well let me show you and you wash it." Well this other guy comes by, who he was working with her not me, and he said, "What are you doing, she don't have to wash the floor." I said, "Why not? That's part of her job." And he got mad with me and then finally one day he really just told me off, "Who do you think you are, you're not the boss of me." Cause he used to be easy on the students and I mean I like the girl, I was friends with her you know, I mean she's the girl who came to the play with me and Donald. And I said, "Well you know, I mean what's right is right if she's supposed to be doing custodial work that's part of it and if she don't know how to wash a floor it's time she learned.

The only time I did show some favoritism sometimes when we were working the dorms when the kids were coming for the summer classes. But I always made two people work together, you know cause one of the students complained that something was missing. And I said, "I have the main key and I don't unlock all the doors." Like some people go right down the hall and I don't do that. I lock one room at a time you know. I send you in there I'll unlock that room and then if that had more students then I'll unlock that room and then between the two I go back and forth and then when they're done I lock it and that one. But something happened and somebody said something was stolen and I said, "Well look there were always two people." They even had us down the security office, I one, I even cleaned the security office one time. They even had us down there interviewing us. And I told them exactly what I did. And I said, "I usually have two people together, you know cause I didn't want one, and I wouldn't go into the room by myself either because you know, they have their privacy, you know." Two people you're to go in and what were we, picking up garbage. I don't think we, did we make beds? I don't think we made beds. I think we just went in to get the trash and out or whatever it was.

And, actually my aunt worked at Brown too. When she worked at Brown, they actually went in and made the beds for the students. In fact, this table came from one of the students. He gave it to my aunt. When he left.

Littenberg-Brown: That was nice.

Correira: And the kids used to leave a lot of stuff behind and you know, but then after a while they wouldn't let us take it anymore. They said anything left at Brown is the property of Brown so we are you going to do.

Littenberg-Brown: Right

Correira: But I really enjoyed working there. And I like the neighborhood. I miss it.

Littenberg-Brown: Yeah.

Correira: I miss it. I don't mean the taxes and the high insurance rate, but I miss the house too. I liked my home there. You know it was in our family for a long time. Of course it doesn't look now like it when I had it. I mean when I had it, I did the essentials. I put new heating systems in, I put new roofs in and new chimneys. I didn't have the money to refurbish it you know. The people that bought it from me, they knocked the garage down, and they put a lot of money, I mean I've seen pictures of it online. It was gorgeous. They did a fantastic job. They really did.

And all the doors in the house were original. They might have had a crack in it but it was a original door with the old, they look like marble, I don't know what they were made of, handles. I always wanted to replace them and put the silver, not the silver, the crystal ones in, but I never did. So it was original, everything was original. Even the back door had a hook up like this; oh no that was my bedroom, my bathroom door. It was the back, no but my nephew busted my back door but because it was all one house, you know I didn't worry about it. You had to get in the house before you had to worry about that door.

But it, it's a nice neighborhood. I remember when it was a family neighborhood. One the apartments now there was Mrs. Gallosis' store on Sheldon Street. What is it now? I think it's just a home now. And then the house right on the end of Sheldon Street they have the big driveway going up and then they got the lot on the corner. That was all one lot cause years ago we used to park our cars there. In fact we have a picture when they were cutting down the trees. I have them close by cause I was going to show them to somebody. And, anyway, this woman bought it, young girl, smart. She invested in it and fixed it all up and then she sold it. I think it was sold a few times.

And then this guy that I knew bought it, well he didn't know me, his boy friend was my boss. But he didn't remember me, he had taken me through the house one time. And, he built a garage up at the bottom of the lot. He put a garage in, of course he had to get permission and all that stuff, and that used to be the Portuguese Club. See we had two of them, and my uncle and my girlfriend Bernice's' father owned it jointly. When they sold it, they sold it to the woman who divided it, bought a house in South Providence and had it moved onto the corner. That little, little house right on the corner there where she doesn't have much land, that house was brought in from South Providence. I forgot what year that was in, I guess when they sold the property. One of them clicked [the recorder].

Littenberg-Brown: Oh this one.

Correira: Yeah and then I got to go in that house, that house is a bed and breakfast. I don't see how. I mean she had it fixed it, the woman had talent in fixing things up, but you had to make a path through the house. Well she did fix it up really nice.

In fact she had an old wooden ironing board. And I just gave my mother's to my daughter in law when I moved here. My aunt started letting my tenant use, that's old but it's not as old as the wooden one. In the nineteen, on Benefit Street you can't go straight

through, but you used to be able to go straight down to the water there was a restaurant there names Tony George's but before that in the '38 hurricane, I don't know if anything was there but that's how my mother got this ironing board. It's all wood and it has three, it has like a notch thing underneath where you could put it on the three different settings. And my mother used that ironing board for years, but it came from the hurricane. I don't remember how long Tony Georges was there but it's not there now.

Oh, and then on Point Street Bridge, when you take a right, right off the bridge, did you know there was a fish market there? And then I used to walk over there all the time and buy fish. When my son was in Los Vegas I used to bring the lobsters on the plane and bring it to him. But we used to walk over there and then there was a boat there the, I don't remember the name, we used to just call it the "Boat." And somebody bought it, it was like a dinning and down in the bow of the boat or whatever they call it downstairs was it a bar but upstairs they had dining. And we used to walk down there on Friday nights sometimes. You called it the boat. "You want to meet at the boat?" "Okay." And then they sold the boat and they took it to Philadelphia or wherever Frank Sinatra came from that's where they brought the boat. But that was docked down there for a few years. And then all those other buildings were empty. And then all of a sudden now look at it, I can't believe it. It's like everything is so different. But it's a good different. You know it's a good difference.

Oh, we used to have a cobbler on Wickenden St. We had two cobblers. One on the bottom of Wickenden St and one on the top. I used to go to the one on the bottom. Was it Quell? I don't remember but I used to be amazed at watching him. You know, he'd sit right in the window and you see him doing his work. He had the foot and he'd be putting new leather on the shoes or putting new heels on and, back then that's what you did, you didn't go out and buy a new pair of shoes. This is the throw away generation, throw everything away. Well they don't make it to last so you have to do that. I think it's an office now, I don't remember cause I don't pay attention when I go there now.

And where that Shell gas station is, that used to be on the corner. And as you go up Benefit Street there was a place they called Jakes. That's when I was real little. They used to make beans. My mother used to go down there and buy stuff sometimes. But that was a well known restaurant that people used to go to all the time. And on that corner we used to wait for the trolley car and the bus. But then when they knocked down the corner, they knocked down Jake's first and then it was just the gas station and then they knocked down the gas station, I guess a while after the highway went up and then the gas station went across the street. I forget when it went there cause I know, I was a teenager when the gas station was over here. And I mean you had to pay to park your car because there was no parking. I mean my grandmother had the garage but I forgot who was parking; I think my aunt was parking there at the time. And then when they sold the parking lot we used to call it, when they sold that lot, you couldn't park there anymore because they put the house there years later. You know she had all that land. Then I was parking up in the back of, on, Sheldon Street and then we parked behind Solomon's Store. Is it still Solomon's?

Littenberg-Brown: It's not a Korean restaurant, but it's still called Solomon's Market.

Correira: Really? It's a Korean restaurant. Oh, my God. Oh, what happened to the market?

Littenberg-Brown: I don't know.

Correira: Oh, in fact my mother used to shop there. And I mean that's where we would go buy our stuff. Oh my God, I didn't know it was gone. I know there was a young man that was running it and he was making food to go you buy it to go. Cause I would go in there sometimes and I would buy American Chop-Suey and stuff and then I said, but what am I doing this for, I can make it. What am I paying this money? And then I would make it. And then when my son because he used to work down at PW Group he'd come over and he'd help me eat it you know for his lunch. But, oh I didn't know it was gone. I guess when I come down Benefit Street I don't have a chance to really look cause I don't drive that way too often. Usually I'm just going to go to the doctor and when I come home lately, I've been just coming down Wickenden Street cause it's easier, cause it depends on the time of day if I get on the highway. I find it easier to go over the bridge and up Eddy Street, less traffic to deal with. Cause sometimes the highway just makes me nervous. The only time I drive the highway is if I absolutely have to and I will. You know, I'm not afraid too, some people are afraid but I'm not afraid. God, I drive to New York. When I visit my brother and I usually go by myself. Okay, what else about Fox Point?

Littenberg-Brown: Well I think that's probably a good ending point we've been talking for a while.

Correira: Oh, okay.

Littenberg-Brown: I have a lot of information from you, which is wonderful.

Correira: I could, if I had time, if you call at another time I might be able to show you some pictures.

Littenberg-Brown: That would be wonderful. I also know there's a man, I don't know if you knew him, Lou Costa?

Correira: Lou Lou, yeah.

Littenberg-Brown: He's been collecting photos.

Correira: Well that's who I had those pictures for. For Lou Lou...whoops.