

Oral History Transcript

Interviewee: Ronald Moura¹

Interviewer: Rachael Binning

Location: 6 Mayfield Drive, Barrington, RI

April 7, 2008

Rachael Binning: Okay, hi this is Rachael Binning and I'm at Ron Moura's house at 6 Mayfield Drive in Barrington, Rhode Island on April 7, 2008 and Ron if you could say hi.

Ronald Moura: Hello Rachael.

Binning: Okay Great I'm going to do a test. [Stopped recorder, tested the sound, and started the recorder again]. Alright Ron, okay, so we are going to start the formal part of the interview and I explained the contract to you and at the end of the interview if you are comfortable you'll sign the release form.

Moura: Okay.

Binning: And I have a list of questions here that are kind of just guidelines for me, just to kind of, you know things that I've been interested in, Fox Point related questions but feel free to diverge and go in any direction that you want to. It's, it's all about you. And if you feel uncomfortable or need a break at any time just don't hesitate to let me know and we can stop, we can stop for the day, we can take, you know, a five or ten minute break, not a problem. Okay, so if you are ready.

First of all I think the way I want to organize the interview is kind of start from earlier memories and then kind of work to present day, if you are comfortable with that.

Moura: Okay, yes.

Binning: So, the focus of the interview is around Fox Point and the Fox Point neighborhood, but also your life. So first of all, do you, what actually what is your earliest memory growing up in Fox Point?

Moura: In Fox Point, which I think we moved in 1949 into Fox Point, being with my grandparents and my parents and going to the social club on Sheldon Street with my grandfather on Saturdays and watch the guys play pinochle and playing shuffle board and hanging with my brother Richard who is a lawyer in Texas now. Meeting lifelong friends, friends of mine that I still see quite frequently, having a dog, playing sports in the Boys Club when it used to be on South Main Street, going to my grandfather's cobbler shop, helping him out at the store. As a matter of fact I have a

¹ Ronald's father, John Moura, was interviewed on March 13, 2008 for the same project.

picture of my grandfather's store [takes a photograph from a pile on the table] at 117 Brook Street. That's my grandfather Nick Mace.

Binning: Oh, okay.

Moura: Nick the cobbler.

Binning: Wonderful.

Moura: And that was, that's, I don't know there's no date, but it's fifties vintage.

Binning: Right and this is your father...?

Moura: This is my mother's father, yes. I've also got a picture of my father's father and us somewhere here [looking through photographs]. There is one of the bars and this is my grand-, Zah, Jose, but Zah Moura and my brother Richard and myself and I believe this was, well I would say it's 1949 or fifty.

Binning: Wow.

Moura: And that's in front of 160 or 162 Transit Street where we moved into Fox Point.

Binning: Okay, so just to back up a little bit so where and when were you born?

Moura: I was born in Cranston but we moved, we lived on Pratt Street on the East Side until I was about six or seven.

Binning: Okay. And then the first residence that you moved into?

Moura: Was at 162 Transit Street in Fox Point, but at 23 I believe Pratt Street.

Binning: And do you know, why did your parents decide to move from more of the East Side to the Fox Point neighborhood?

Moura: For work. My grandfather lived in this neighborhood, he worked for the electric company, my dad was a bus driver. The bus route was more accessible to him because he had the Brook and Brown Bus run. He used to walk down the street, get in the bus and do his thing and he even drove a trolley. I've got a picture of a trolley somewhere here. [Looks for photograph].

Binning: Oh really? I'd love to see that.

Moura: That might be in my other stack. Oh here it is. This is, my dad did this way back. That's probably from the thirties or forties.

Binning: Is that, is that just, is that your father or just some person?

Moura: That's just a person that was moving that trolley, but dad when I was a little boy they had those wires and they used to pull up intersection and they would switch the wires from this track to that track and then go east or west or whichever way they were going.

Binning: Right. And was that the job that your father did mostly when you were growing up?

Moura: That was my dad's job just before the Second World War and just after the Second World War.

Binning: Right.

Moura: He came home from the service. He was in the navy. Matter of fact I've got a picture of dad in the navy. [Takes out a picture of his father, John Moura, in the Navy.]

Binning: Oh great.

Moura: 1944. That's dad.

Binning: Oh wow. Yes, he showed me a picture and he showed me a picture of a ship or a similar ship that.

Moura: He was on the U.S.S. Hancock. Yeah, aircraft carrier, yeah.

Binning: Right. And then I looked that up and I'm not sure if it was the same one that I googled, but it seemed like that was a pretty, was that, is this correct that it was a pretty famous ship?

Moura: Yes, yes they had done a, a lot of activity, a lot of action, kamikaze plane hit it and quite a few deaths.

Binning: Yes, he described the Japanese suicide bombers.

Moura: Yes, yes.

Binning: It doesn't sound pleasant at all. So what was it like living in your first house growing up? Did you live with other families or other family members?

Moura: We were on the third floor in a three-decker on Transit Street and on Pratt Street we lived on a third floor of a three-decker and we only had a bathroom on the second floor.

Binning: Okay.

Moura: And a tub on the second floor and we used to go down and the littlest one, my sister Phyllis, would go first because she was the youngest and the cleanest and then I would go and then Richard would go.

Binning: Okay.

Moura: In the tub.

Binning: Right

Moura: And just you put the hot water in the tub.

Binning: Right. So there was only one bathroom meaning one bathtub and one toilet?

Moura: One bathroom and one toilet on the second floor between the three levels, yes.

Binning: And who else lived in the other floors?

Moura: On the first floor was a Jewish family, the Rosenthal I believe was the name, and on the second floor I really can't remember the people who lived there. But the people next door the Garredo family, I still see Bobby Garredo, even when we I moved out of the Pratt Street to the Fox Point area we still had a connection between the Boys Clubs, the Fox Point Boys Club, the South Side Boys Club and the East Side had the place on Hope Street and we used to do a lot of sports together and swimming, naked swimming, all of the Boys would go swimming naked.

Binning: Yes, I've heard that swimming's a big thing. Was that something that you just did all summer long?

Moura: Everybody could swim.

[Ron's wife, Nancy, walks into the room.]

Nancy this is Rachael.

Binning: Hello.

Nancy Moura: Hi. How are you?

Binning: Good. Nice to meet you.

Nancy Moura: Memories.

Moura: I didn't, I never met a fellow who couldn't swim until I was on the Fire Department for about twenty years and we had to do a segment at the Brown University pool with the life saving unit and a kid Tom Capraro, who retired recently as a captain, we had to put the life saving unit on, there is a name for it I can't remember, and we had to go in the pool and he hedged on it and I said "Nick we've got to go," and I called him Nicky, "you've got to go in the water Nick." And he says "I don't want to go in today, I've got a cold." And I said "Nah Nick you've got to go in the water." And so one of the guys threw him in and then we found out he couldn't swim. And that, I just took it for granted that everybody could swim because we all swam. We swam on the rivers. We jumped off or dove off all of the bridges around including the Washington Bridge, the Jack Knife Bridge, the Black Bridge, the Red Bridge, that was about of the initiation also. If you could dive off it you were really good but most of them I just jumped off.

Binning: And was it only boys? Did girls ever swim?

Moura: Just boys. Boys only. Yes it was the, it was the Fox Point, or the Providence Boys Club, the Fox Point branch and then it became the Boys and Girls Club when they moved down to Ives Street. But there were, you know, woman and young ladies there that partook in stuff for the Women's Auxiliary and stuff but it was strictly guys, just the guys at that time, yes.

Binning: Oh, okay. So you mentioned the Boys and the Boys and Girls Club and I know you were active with that. If you could tell me more about what you did there and what role it, you know, it played in your life.

Moura: Most primarily swimming, basketball, outings, cookouts, movies Friday nights, serial movies with the *Lone Ranger* and Gene Autry Movies and cartoons and we used to walk to the Boys Club. It was about seven or eight blocks and we'd go by the haunted house on Wells Street and we thought that was great and climb fences and do all of those things. But we would pick up as we went along my friend Danny Vargas, who is the president of the Sheldon Club. He's on his way back from Florida as we speak. He would come by my house, he'd eat again. He'd have a supper at his house and then he'd come and eat at my house again, and we had a little name for him, he was on the chubby side. But, and then we would walk down and pick up Joey Cabral and then we'd go down and Johnny Reposa and then as we went along we get down with ten or twelve guys that was at the Boys Club for whatever was going on.

Binning: Right. And when did it become the Boys and Girls Club?

Moura: I believe when it went to Fox Point on Ives Street. I believe they incorporated them both. I think Fox Point Boys and it still is to this day Boys and Girls Club.

Binning: Right and so did that mean it made it change as far as girls participating?

Moura: Well you had to wear a bathing suit.

Binning: Right [laughing].

Moura: Yes, you had to start wearing bathing suits and there were activities for the girls and for the boys or they had, we had co-ed swims and stuff like that but it was. They would have a male lifeguard and a female lifeguard.

Binning: Oh, okay. Got it. You mentioned that you had a name for someone. Did you have a nickname? I know a lot of people did.

Moura: They did, RM. Everybody just called me RM. That was it, my initials, to this day.

Binning: And what about your friends or brothers and sisters, or sister.

Moura: Well, Danny or my brother Richard was Rich. Phyllis was Sis. That was it. She is in Florida as we speak. I had a brother Jackie, we called, you know we just JM. He passed away a few years back. But everybody seemed to have a nickname. All of the guys had a nickname of some sort, you know. And they weren't always kind. Some of the names, you know.

Binning: Your father told me that his nickname was Pinky.

Moura: Pinky, yes.

Binning: Which I thought was great. And he said that he wished that it was Jack. I guess he always wanted it to be Jack.

Moura: Yes, he was John, but he's John with no middle initial.

Binning: Right.

Moura: And so they never did Jacky with him. My brother John Jay was not a junior but he was Jacky also.

Binning: So, I got a lot of great stories and background about your father, but I'm curious to hear more about your mother. Her role as....

Moura: My mother was a performer. She was a, I have her, one of her brothers is still alive. He teaches voice and music in New York. He's got his own studio. He's in his, about eighty years old. He taught at Julliard School of Music, piano, did recitals, but mom could sing, dance, do anything. She was quite the performer and a ham.

Nancy Moura: She was a ham.

Moura: She was a ham, yeah. Philomena was her name, but they called her Phyllis. I would call her Philomena when you know when I wanted to get her going.

Nancy Moura: She hated it.

Binning: Did she have a job outside of the house growing up?

Moura: Mom worked for the City of Providence Recreation Department and she was the assistant manager of the East Street Rec, Recreation Center on the corner of East Street and Transit Street, which was a block and half from our house so we were, that was our thing from school, we would go to the Rec.

Binning: Oh, so it worked out well.

Moura: Had outdoor basketball and there are condos there now, but she worked there and they they, when they sold that property they opened the Rec at the Fox Point School, which is now Vartan Gregorian I believe it is, yes. And we danced and sang and played basketball and did outings and all of those things, but mom was the athletic director for the young ladies and also the drama coach. We would put on skits and do stuff, yes.

Binning: Do you know, was that common for parents at your time when you were younger to have jobs, or was she kind of the exception?

Moura: I think mom might have been the exception. Because she had an opportunity to work within walking distance and then money was tight. You know I mean, other of my friends their parents both worked too, but there were a lot of at home parents, you know. We could always get a free meal at Joey's house or Johnny's house if my mom was working or whatever, anytime. Went next door to Mrs. Fortes's house and eat anytime, you know.

Binning: Right. Who, who were, I mean you were mentioning all of these names. Who were they people that you mostly hung out with? Were they mostly Portuguese or did you hang out with Cape Verdeans or Jewish people or Irish?

Moura: There were Irish, Jewish, Lebanese, Portuguese...

Nancy Moura: Italian.

Moura: ...a lot of Irish. It was an Irish neighborhood. Portuguese and Lebanese moved in and the Cape Verdeans came in and mostly went to work on the waterfront, but just about everybody at one time or another had a job on the waterfront. Worked with the longshoreman or the stevedores you know. My Uncle Eddy happened to be a big boss down there and it was a Fox Point connection, you could get a day's pay working on the

waterfront. And everybody seemed to gravitate toward that sometime in their life. Guys still do. Still work there, yes.

Binning: And so were your friends from all different groups or did you feel like you hung out with mostly Portuguese or?

Moura: No, just anybody that was around. You know I mean we would hang around the corner on Hope and Transit and the Clarkin family lived there and I still see them until this day, he went to. Matter of fact Danny Vargas's daughter, ah son Steven just married Billy Clarkin's daughter, Susan. They were lifelong friends from the CYO [Catholic Youth Organization]. We went to their wedding two years ago. The lived on at 74 Hope Street and Danny lived at 72 on either corner of the top of my street and we'd sit on their stairs and play cards or do stuff and then we'd all get together and go either to Gano Street Dump and play and then they made a softball field or we'd go to the Rec.

Binning: Was it actually a dump or?

Moura: It was a dump. Gano Street Dump.

Binning: Oh, okay.

Moura: Yes. That's where the Local 57 had a softball team, fast pitch. They were world renowned, they had a big, big softball team and then we all worked for Jack White, who was the president of that, that union and he used to give us fifty cents a day to go down there and kill rats and scrape, and rake and do stuff as they were filling in the, he had the heavy duty equipment and stuff to do some of the work but we would go down and work on the field and stuff and he would give us a fifty cent piece and we would go off and that was, that was big dollars.

Binning: Yes really.

Moura: I'm talking about early, early fifties.

Binning: And how old were you?

Moura: I was probably thirteen or fourteen years old. That was probably '53-'54 at that time, when they were doing that field.

Binning: So you mentioned your grandparents.

Moura: Yes.

Binning: They were living with you in your house?

Moura: My grandfather Nick lived with us on Pratt Street until after the war and then people started getting married and my mother had five brothers and I was fortunate

on Pratt Street as a little boy after the war four of my uncles and my grandfather lived with us. My dad didn't come home until a little later from the war. He was on the, in the Guadacanal or some darn place. But my Uncle Frank and Al and Uncle John, they hung with us and I was like one of their buddies.

Binning: And they weren't married when they were living there?

Moura: Not at that time. They married right after to war. They all seemed to gravitate, find wives and move, and then they moved to Federal Hill and a couple of them went to East Providence and we still hung out. My cousin Kenny and we would hang out and do our family things.

Binning: Did you father, or does your father ever tell you stories, significant stories about the war or fighting?

Moura: No. No, he would never talk about it. Just, you know through history. As a matter of fact I was watching the History Channel a couple of years back and I saw this, some battle in the, in some ocean somewhere in the Pacific whatever and I remember that dad's ship was nineteen aircraft carrier and I saw it get hit by a kamikaze pilot and I didn't think, that's dad's ship and he had talked about that way back but then I never brought it up again. He didn't like to talk about it.

Binning: Oh okay. But did your parents ever tell you any stories about when they, you know, when they first got married or early life in Fox Point or anything that stood out or?

Moura: No. I was just a part of it. We were all a part of it. We did everything together. We had, we'd all get in the car and make a day trip to Olivos down on Narragansett and we'd put four or five cars in a row and open the doors and put blankets between the cars for shade and they'd cook the macaronis or the linguisa or whatever they had and we'd just play in the field all day.

Binning: Sounds fun.

Moura: It was a journey. It took us hours to get there and we would all fall asleep on the way home and they would carry us in the house, but it was all the aunts and uncles and cousins and everyone went down to the beach.

Binning: Okay. And your grandparents, did they ever tell you about coming, moving to Fox Point? They were born in Portugal I believe?

Moura: All, my dad's parents were born in Portugal and my mom's parents were born in Italy. My mom as a young girl her mom passed away when my mother was four or five and grandpa couldn't keep the seven children so he shipped the girls out to cousins in Massachusetts and the boys kind of stayed around close to him and then the war happened and they went through the war, but we were all living in the same house.

Binning: Oh, okay.

Moura: That was after mom got older, met my dad. They married and then we all kind of lived in the same house until they took their turn to leave.

Binning: Right. Interesting. How about school? I'm curious, your elementary school you went to?

Moura: John Holland was a elementary school on the East Side. I believe it was on Cole Avenue. Right around the area where Nathan Bishop is now and then I left there at sixth grade and went to Cleary School which was only, I could go through jump my fence in the back, walk one block, half a block and go to school and I went there until the, through the ninth grade. I've even got a picture of Cleary School graduation [looking through photographs and chuckling].

Binning: Oh great.

[Nancy Moura says something, which is indiscernible on the audio recording.]

Moura: There's, I'm over here. And I can name all, just about all these people.

Binning: Oh, so this is your class picture?

Moura: Yes.

Binning: And Cleary School is that a private school?

Moura: That was a parochial school. You know a private parochial school in Saint Joseph's Parish, which I was a member of Saint Joseph's Parish, but did my first communion and conformation at Holy Rosary because that was my grandparents' and my parents' church.

Binning: Right.

Moura: For the Portuguese side of it.

Binning: Yes. So do you still go to Holy Rosary today?

Moura: On occasion I go to Holy Rosary, yes. I'll be there a week from Friday for a Boys Club reunion and macaroni dinner.

Binning: Oh really?

Moura: Yes.

Binning: So actually I'm curious more about holidays and participation with the church and what that was like. Can you describe to me I guess first what was it like going to Holy Rosary Church? It seemed like a very big community gathering place.

Moura: Once again we would pick up guys as we walked down the street. It was about four blocks from my house and we'd walk down Transit and pick up a couple of people and walk down Brook Street to the corner of Wickenden and there would be a couple more of my friends hanging there and we'd go to church or we'd maybe bunk church or whatever you know.

Binning: Right.

Moura: Make believe that we went to church but most of the time we went to church and then hang after that and depending on the weather play ball or play football or go to Brown and jump the fence at Brown field, which is now the graduate center. There used to be a big football field there.

Binning: Oh really? Interesting.

Moura: Yes sports. It's a grad center now, that whole area was a, a playing field that we weren't allowed to, but we jumped the fence and played.

Binning: So did you, did you walk around the Brown campus a lot? I mean I know when you were doing that.

Moura: Yes. We spent a lot of time on it. We used to shine shoes and make some money on the Brown campus and have a lot of fun there, yes.

Binning: Really? So shining shoes, would that be students or?

Moura: Students, yes.

Binning: Really?

Moura: You get some hot shot who is going out on Friday night. You go up there and shine his shoes for a dime and maybe a nickel tip and we make money.

Binning: Interesting. Thanks [to Nancy who put down a pitcher of water]. Wow. What did you think of the university at the time? I mean did you have positive feelings or negative?

Moura: I always had positive feelings until they kind of encroached upon our neighborhood.

[Nancy Moura puts down cups.]

Binning: Thank you.

Moura: We just thought that they came too far east.

Binning: Right. [Nancy Moura waves and leaves the house]. Bye. Thank you. Let me see here. So what about, back to holidays and family life. What was the most important holiday to your family?

Moura: Christmas.

Binning: And how did you celebrate?

Moura: Christmas we did the Italian side of Christmas with the fish and the spaghetti and the artichokes and all the aunts and uncles would come even my Portuguese side, my Uncle Ed, my Aunt Hilda, some years back she passed away, but we would all get together at whosever, whoever's house and we would have this big meal and all the cousins and they'd be stacked up.

Binning: Right. And did you decorate at all? Were the houses?

Moura: Yes. The, you know just the tree. We would go cut down a tree and just decorate with cotton. I think most of it was, you know, we made our own stuff. The popcorn and strung the popcorn and those things, you know. And the colored lights and you not like now a days, everything is just white.

Binning: Right. Actual color.

Moura: Big colored lights and stuff yes.

Binning: Sorry, I'm jumping around a bit, but I guess back to school.

Moura: And.

Binning: Oh sorry.

Moura: Yes or and Easter was a big one. Easter Sunday everybody got dolled up and we went to church and then we had whosever house we would go. They would alternate year to year. My Aunt Vi or my Aunt Teresa or we would go with the family and do a big Easter Feast.

Binning: Right. And was that mostly in Fox Point or around?

Moura: That would be we would go if it was in Fox Point or we would go to Federal Hill with Uncle Frank or we'd go to East Providence with Uncle Al or Aunt Teresa. We would go around. But we never went too far though. We were always within walking distance.

Binning: Right. Growing up did, did your parents have, have a car or cars? Did you need one?

Moura: My, well dad had a car. Dad always seemed to have a car well he had a, he drove a bus or he did the trolleys. He had his license way back so he had a car. I can remember some of the cars. A '47 Ford and a '49 Buick. Some of the cars that I always wanted to drive and when I got of age I was able to drive you know. I even drove the '49 Buick when I first got my license in '56 or 7. He still had that car and I drove that around because it had an automatic drive. A hydromatic they called it.

Binning: Oh really? Wow.

Moura: Yes.

Binning: That seems unique or special.

Moura: But there weren't a lot of cars around. There was no traffic like we see now a days.

Binning: Right.

Moura: There were no three cars in a household like, like [...] I have three vehicles and a motorcycle. I mean I need all of those things, but everyone seems to have that.

Binning: Right. So most as a child were your boundaries Fox Point? Did you ever leave and go to other areas or were you mostly walking?

Moura: Yes. We would go to South Side for, to play ball or go up to East Side to play ball up there and we would walk. We walked everywhere.

Binning: Oh you would?

Moura: We walked everywhere. And on occasion there would be a bus that would take us somewhere but most of the time we would just walk. Go to South Side Boys Club. Walk down across the Point Street Bridge and up Prairie Avenue to the South Side Boys Club. Or right up Hope Street to the East Side.

Binning: Right. It seems nice.

Moura: Very nice. And walk and never, never thought about the walk. It was never that, you know, up hill all the way. They always say I walk to school it was up hill both ways stuff.

Binning: [Laughing)] Yes.

Moura: But you know. Snow, sleet, hail, better than the mailman. We would go if we had something to do.

Binning: Right. Were there ever any parts of the neighborhood or areas that you felt were unsafe or that you weren't supposed to walk in.

Moura: Never. Never ever had a fear in, in Fox Point. Never from the whole area which we considered Fox Point. From Power Street east to the river and from river to river that was Fox Point in our mind and Boys Club was on Power Street. Never in my mind I ever thought that we had a problem walking alone or walking with a couple of friends.

Binning: Right.

Moura: Never ever feared or was afraid. And even walking to the South Side. Never feared walking up Point Street to go to South - now I won't even drive my car over there now. Just because you know, so much going on, you know.

Binning: Right. But it wasn't a worry.

Moura: Never. Never a worry and mom would never worry about, you know "stay with your brother" or you know. My brother, Richard, and I went together like he had to babysit me. He was a few years older than me, you know. But there would be times that we would just take off and he would go his way with his older friends and I'd go my way with my friends. Never ever feared.

Binning: Yes. That's great. I know, I wish that we didn't have to worry today. So back to school. When you were going to school. I guess in elementary and middle school or even in high school. Was there ever any segregation as far as sexes or groups? Was it integrated? I know.

Moura: Cleary School we had one black woman. Very very dear friend of mine. Anita Soares. Married a good friend of mine, Zacky Fernandes. We called her Pat. That was her nickname, Anita. She's still around. I still see her on occasion. And we never even knew she was different and you know we never thought of it. And I, I hope you can print this. I determined years ago that we never saw a difference because we swam naked in the Boys Club pool. And we never distinguished about anybody being different color or anything because we were all the same. [Interviewee and interviewer laughing.] We all naked through the corridor and got the towel slapped on our butt and I, and I say that and people look at me funny, but I mean it. I never, color, I never saw a color until I went to high school. I went to Hope High School. There was another class of people up there and we didn't realize how poor we were until we had to walk to school and they were driving their Thunderbirds and their cars to school.

Binning: Interesting. And who was the other group of people coming in?

Moura: The Jewish and the Yankees from the East Side and stuff that their children went there rather than go to private schools, they put them in those schools and we saw the little class difference. You know, we wore corduroys which was not big back then but you could hear us coming, the crunch crunch [replicates noise that the fabric made] of the noise as your corduroys so we used to hate corduroys for that reason. They knew we were poor guys.

Binning: Right. That's interesting. So in high school were there lots of different cliques? Like you hung out with your Fox Point buddies?

Moura: Yes. Oh yes.

Binning: And they hung out with themselves?

Moura: Yes. And nothing I can say until this day I have friends that were from South Side and from the East Side and from Mount Pleasant and from Smith Hill that all went to Hope High School with us and until this day they all still come to Fox Point for our fundraisers or, or for charity things that we're doing. They will always come down to Fox Point for our reunions. But they never go to their neighborhoods anymore. Guys from Smith Hill don't go to Saint Patrick's Church for Easter anymore because it's changed somewhat. Guys from Saint Michael's Parish, judges, lawyers, politicians, they have to have armed guards to go to Saint Michael's for their annual reunion. Fox Point we just go and do our thing and no one bothers us.

Binning: So their neighborhoods have changed in a pretty negative way?

Moura: They have changed. Yes. They have changed. And Fox Point. The only thing I can see changing in Fox Point is us going upwardly mobile. Yuppies or whatever, you know that came in put the big price tag on the home.

Binning: Yes.

Moura: Drove some of the other people out. Like my parents couldn't afford the taxes. They had to move to East Providence.

Binning: Right.

Moura: And they sold the house and got big money at that time, you know. Yes.

Binning: Yes. How do you feel about that? About the kind of gentrification and the changing population?

Moura: Things happen. Things happen, yes. And I, I said early about the encroachment of Brown University. It wasn't that. But you know it's just that they came down and their professors bought these buildings and they couldn't, they didn't want to live in Boston so they started and they, the prices on the houses went up and the taxes

went sky high and a lot of the people from Fox Point moved to East Providence. Or just out, you know.

Binning: And your, your parents they were moving out at the same time that a lot of people were?

Moura: They moved, oh yes. Well they were kind of, they held out. They moved to East Providence in the '70s I would say. They've been in this house for thirty years or so and they held out until the '70s until finally they moved out. Yes.

Binning: Did you ever live with them in that house in East Providence?

Moura: In East Providence. No, I never did, no. I lived with them for many years in Fox Point until I got married, yes.

Binning: Oh, okay. And then what about the highway. I mean how do you, what's your opinion and take on that?

Moura: I'll tell you a fast story. I had a paper route in Fox Point before they put 195 through there. Used to be George M. Cohen Boulevard. It was two lane with a median and another two lanes on the other side, east and west. And my paper route took me from Holy Rosary Church area, up Pike Street, which is now called Alves Way because Mrs. Alves, Mamira [?] was her name. She was the matriarch of many of the people that lived on that street. It was all, almost all black along the Pike Street and then it went up Armstrong down Thompson. I had cross the boulevard from Panky [?] Shell Station and cross the boulevard and watch the traffic coming both ways but the speed limit was probably fifty and well a lot of trailer trucks that would go there and we had to be very careful and then I delivered newspapers on the other side. The other side of the where the Shooters is now and a lot of things that all those highway changing. There were homes and people who lived down there. The Mellos family and the Tavares family and these people and I was a paper boy and then I would have to go and come over from the mobile station and run across that highway again. I saw a dear friend of mine get hit by a truck. I witnessed the whole thing. I think he was paying more attention to me. He had his bicycle. Gene Josephs. He survived, mangled. I think he was watching me cross and not paying attention and he got hit by a trailer truck and mangled him pretty good and I witnessed the whole thing and I was probably fourteen and he was a year younger than me. I still see Gene on occasion.

Binning: And he's okay?

Moura: He walks with a limp. Yes. Big, big fellah. His brother Ronny used to sing with us in groups and his brother DJ [?] they all worked on the waterfront. But that boulevard that went right down by South Main Street, which is now where the International Laborers Union is, used to be the Salvation Army was down there and the Volunteers of America was down there and businesses and Jafar's Variety Store and that's the route we would take to go down by Cohen's Gas Station and walk right down

South Main Street to go to Boys Club. That's all changed because of Route 195 just took all that apart.

Binning: Right. Split it.

Moura: Yes. It just changed that whole, the whole scene down on the Fox Point area, yes.

Binning: Right. Yes. It seems like it definitely had a major influence on the.

Moura: A major impact on that area that had housing, homes on the other side. They're all gone. There are no more homes over there anymore. That's all, that all, probably ninety percent of it went out when, 195 and there were a few stragglers down there but they've since, those have probably been taking and the I-Way is going through there now. Yes. Changed quite a bit down there, yes.

Binning: So you just mentioned that were a paper boy.

Moura: Had a paper route, yes.

Binning: Was that your first, first job?

Moura: That was my first job, yes.

Binning: And how old were you?

Moura: I was probably twelve. Yes. Probably twelve. I would say yes probably '52 or so and they had the local route. I just did that little Fox Point area and somebody else had the route that went from Thompson Street up as far as Hope Street or probably Governor and then another guy had the route from Governor down to Gano Street and the blocks in between. Probably sixty or seventy papers. The paper was thirty cents a week. Now it's seventy-five cents a day. Which is a heartbreaker. But I would eat and hang with all my friends. Blacks and whites alike. The guys I knew from the Boys Club and from schools and stuff. They lived a long this route and I would collect the route and I'd make big tips in those days because all of the families took care of me and if I was hungry and I would just knock on the door and "here's your paper" and then look in the kitchen and somebody would give me a little bite to eat.

Binning: Was that a summer job or a weekend job?

Moura: It was year round.

Binning: Oh, it was?

Moura: It was year round, yes. And the hurricane of '54. I, my mother, mother and father wanted to kill me. I went out and did my paper route.

Binning: Really?

Moura: It was a hurricane. Yes. I delivered all my papers. I was the only guy I think in the, around that did all his papers. But I was having fun watching trees get knocked down and stuff, but I did my whole paper route during the hurricane.

Binning: Right. Actually can you elaborate more or talk more about the hurricane. I know, I know that there has been quite a few, but what was that like? The hurricane of '54 I guess.

Moura: It was scary. I mean the water level was outrageous. I had to cross that boulevard to go on the other side and the water was up over the streets. I couldn't deliver down Traverse Street. It was all under water. The wind was blowing. Cars under water and stuff. I remember that vividly. But trees breaking and my mom wanted to kill me when I finally got home.

Binning: And, wow that, it seems scary. Was there always a hurricane barrier?

Moura: Nope. That came after the '54 hurricane.

Binning: Oh, okay.

Moura: Yes. I think after the '54 hurricane. Maybe, maybe much more after. No because it was there when I came out of the Fire Department in '65 so maybe the '54 hurricane they started drawing up plans. It's never been used for, for any hurricane purpose but they knew it's there if there is ever a need for it, but I remember going downtown and watching and seeing the marks on the buildings from '38 and then they measured for '54 hurricane how high the water went.

Binning: Wow. And since then has there been?

Moura: There have been some, but not as devastating. Not as devastating. Along the coastline there has been I think in the seventies and eighties there's been some violent storms that have trashed the coastline and moved houses and stuff, but I don't remember anything that powerful hitting. I guess the '38 before I was born was a monster and the '54 was the next big thing. They've had some large hurricanes since that time, yes.

Binning: So in the '54 hurricane were houses actually destroyed and moved?

Moura: Down along the coastline?

Binning: Yes.

Moura: Yes. Gone. Gone.

Binning: Wow. Did you know anyone who was personally affected?

Moura: No, but I know a friend of mine that owns a house that was placed back on the, the they put up cement pilings and matter of fact Nancy is going down with the girls this weekend for weekend in his house in Narragansett. That house was blown a quarter of a mile away and the people that owned it way way back. I don't know their name. They had three houses and they were only able to put two back.

Binning: Wow.

Moura: They combined the lots and put two bigger lots and put two houses there. And my friend Paul Anthony just happened to buy one a couple of years back, yes. Gorgeous, gorgeous property, yes.

Binning: Interesting. So after your paper route job did you have another job, what was your next job, if any in high school or younger?

Moura: Paper route during high school. I think my senior year I didn't do any paper route. We were just bumming around. Then I joined the National Guard when I got out of school and did six months, came home and then bummed around, worked on the waterfront, did some stuff. Got a job like just about anybody else could of at the time at Davol Rubber Company because Mr. Arthur Souza from 70 Hope Street, I was with his son Kenny the other day, he does the taxes, and he was like the general foreman in the place and he they needed help, he would say who needed help. I needed the job and I started working down at Davol for a couple of years.

Binning: And what did you do there?

Moura: I was a floor boy.

Binning: What is that?

Moura: You know, delivered articles and catheters. They made travel folders [?] all kind of stuff and as a matter of fact another fast story. The lady right next door, Mary Laverne, I worked there in I would say '63-4 because I went on the Fire Department '65 and when I left Davol I never saw her again and my friend Al Souza worked there with me and we went to a funeral for my friend's dad and I bought this house in 1981 and around January or February of '82 my friend's dad passed away, Panky. Went to the funeral in Holy Rosary Church. Went to Gates of Heaven and I had just moved here in December and I said to "Fat Cat" Danny Vargas and Al Souza, "lets go to my house. I'll let my puppy out. You'll see my new house. And then we'll go down the club and have some drinks with, you know the collation after the funeral." And as I came down 114 and then made the turn onto Primrose Hill, Al Souza in the back seat said "Mary Laverne lives over here." I said "no kidding." And I took a right onto College Lane and he said "Mary Laverne lives over here." And I took a left onto Mayfield Drive and he said "Mary Laverne lives on this street." And I pulled into the driveway of number 6

Mayfield and Alfred said to me “Mary Laverne lives in that house.” And I said, you’ve got to be kidding me. I says the guy I bought the house from said she was just a cranky old widow, don’t bother with her. And I remember she was very cantankerous at Davol and in the Spring I was out in the yard and she came out, I never bothered with her. She come out of her car and I walked over and I said “are you ever going to talk to me?” and she said “what for?” I said “Mary it’s me” and she looked at me, she said “I saw the name Ron Moura. It’s not the same. My Ronny.” Big hugs and kisses. I’m her favorite friend now and I’m in her will and everything because she had missed me as a young boy, but Alfred used to do work for her. I was here for five our six months before I ever knew she was living next door.

Binning: How funny.

Moura: But she was the, they did piece work. They, they burnt holes in catheters and Al and I would bring the stock to them and they would call out for us and we would bring stuff back and forth. Al and I worked in a room with about 120 women and they cackled. Oh they were characters you know and the Portuguese and Irish and all the different people from neighborhoods. A lot of Fox Point people worked in Davol rubber, yes.

Binning: And what were the women doing in that room?

Moura: They were burning the holes in the catheter. Piecework to do whatever they do. They had certain brands and we would bring the stock to them and they would do them with punches and stuff and then we would clean them and they’d go to the next department, cleaning and then shipping and then sent out and whatever, yes. They had a pretty good setup that they did. They were world renowned, Davol, Davol Rubber Company, yes.

Binning: Right. Yes I actually I was doing some research, just background research and for my class on different industries and that was one of the big ones that came up so it’s really interesting.

Moura: Yes they were really big. But Arthur Sussa was the general foreman or whatever and he would get, if you needed a job you see either Davey or Kenny and “yeah, there’s not much work on the waterfront, I need something.” And he’d say “Dad do you got any help.” “Yeah we could use someone here.” And many many many people worked there.

Binning: Right. And where was that company located?

Moura: That was on the corner. It was Davol Square on the corner of Point and Eddy Street.

Binning: Oh okay.

Moura: Big [...] is still there. There's a nightclub in there now.

Binning: Oh, interesting.

Moura: Some sort of nightclub, not Tribeca, oh they do a lot of shows. I can't think of the name of it, but that was their whole property. And the opposite corner there was a, they had another big factory. There's all boutiques and stuff in there now across from that Merriton (?) Station or [...] Station down on that corner. They had those two corner buildings, yeah.

Binning: Oh okay. And what made you leave that job?

Moura: Security. Talked about the Fire Department. My friend Danny Vargas had gone on. His Uncle Manny had been on the Fire Department and we knew a bunch of guys that were on the Fire Department and I heard about a steady job. Not much income at the time, but great hours for a single guy and I was single so I signed up for it and I wound up getting on. It was, you know, nights, weekends, holidays and stuff but it, you know, made a lot of friends. I wound up thirty years on that job.

Binning: And yes actually I'm really curious about your job as in the Fire Department. So what was it like in the beginning and what made you become so successful and rise up?

Moura: Probably a lot of luck. You know openings at certain times when you would take a test and stuff, but I worked I went in '65 and there were riots in '67 and I was at the Point Street Fire Station which is no longer there. Was Engine 9, Ladder 10 and the chief's car, Car 22 and we got shot at and we got ridiculed and bombed with rocks and all kinds and they had riots on Willard Avenue Shopping Center in '67. I forget who met their demise. If it were Martin Luther King, I'm not sure at this time. I think it might have been his demise. We just did his fortieth anniversary.

Binning: Yes.

Moura: I think it was the '67 after Martin Luther King. I wouldn't want to be quoted but I think it was around that time. And they burnt Detroit down. They burnt down half the cities and they tried to burn Providence down but we kind of held them off. But shots fired and diving under the trucks and stuff. Yes and there working at Point Street was a very mixed neighborhood. Which we got South, South Side. A lot of black people lived right along the streets on West Clifford Street and the whole neighborhood. There was a [...] was across the street. We used to go drinking there and white people. But we used to, they used to, we had the first color TV in the neighborhood in the Fire Station so on Saturday mornings when we had the trucks out to wash the trucks and floors and stuff we put the cartoons on for the kids. We'd make popcorn for them and they'd have a blast. And I still see some of these kids and their kids and grandchildren until this day. That used to hang around the fire station, yes.

Binning: Oh really? And so what areas?

Moura: That was on the South Side. That was right up on Point Street. Right across Point Street Bridge. Actually I go back and forth on my motorcycle. It was a quick drive and then they shut that building down some years ago and we went to Brook Street and about twelve years into my career my lieutenant at the time, we were having a great time with jacks [?] and he said I'm taking a captain's test so someday you might have to work for a jerk so you might as well be the jerk.

Binning: [Laughing] Yes.

Moura: Because other guys were studying so I decided to study and wound up, I took the lieutenants test and came out first on that and got promoted and went to the West Side on Engine 8, which was the busiest truck in the city until this day. In the west Elmwood, West End area. On Messer Street, Cranston Street, all that area. It's still wild. I did ten years there as a lieutenant and then I got kind of tired of the craziness. I mean you are two, three, four fires a night. You know never seeing the station. Beat up and brutalized, you know and then I took a captains test. Happen to come out first on that and went to Brook Street. Which I had been for a few years. I went from private. I went back as a captain and then I went and got into a ladder truck, I needed a break in the action and went to North Main Street, Ladder 4 and then a couple of people were leaving the chief's job and I happened to have some connections, which you needed. And now there's a test for chief, which I always thought there should have been a test. At that time it was a political thing and I wound up getting the chief's job.

Binning: Was it, was, who decided that you got that job? Just kind of the higher ups or was it a vote or?

Moura: Vinny Cianci.

Binning: Oh, oh okay.

Moura: He was there. You had go through Vinny Cianci and his other cohort. I can't think of his, he just got, Frank Corrente. They just did five years together in the Federal Pen.

Binning: Right.

Moura: But they were the go to guy and I happened to have little connections and everyone was doing it and I happened to catch the right timing and there was an opening coming up and he said "we'll see you, Merry Christmas." And I think December 21st we got sworn in, which was a big jump because I went from being in charge of just like a truck or a company to having, you know, a battalion. From having three or seven guys under me, I had ninety guys under me.

Binning: Wow. So what responsibilities did you have?

Moura: I was overseer of all those other trucks.

Binning: Right.

Moura: I up at the Branch Avenue Station. I had the Admiral Street and the Rochambeau Avenue, Humboldt Avenue, Brook Street, Branch Avenue Station and all those trucks, all those guys, the rescues. And I was in charge of that area. Anything happened in that area we would go along or if there was a fire on the West Side and Chief 222 was out they'd send Chief 3 and I would go cross town and take over that fire and vise versa, if we were out they'd do it. So we had the run of the city. We did a lot of stuff all over the city.

Binning: Right. And how long were you serving in that position?

Moura: I, three years as a chief. Yes, I did my last three years as a chief and retired in 1995.

Binning: Great. And before that you were working as a longshoreman directly?

Moura: I worked on the waterfront, yes. I drove a lumber carrier. Big, high rig that you sat way at the top and you went and scooped the lumber underneath and moved it around and then we'd set up, make pallets for the forklifts to load onto trucks and we would unload the lumber boats. And I did mostly lumber boats. On occasion I would get hired as a stevedore. Stevedores worked in the ships longshoreman worked on the dock. Once in a while they would be, you know, they got more money on the ship so once in a while I would get a ship job, but it was usually cement boats and stuff, which was not good and the only reason we got to go is because nobody else wanted them.

Binning: Right.

Moura: They take the iron, ore, or the lumber, which is an easy job, but the big bags of cement you had to move by hand. You get those once in a while, but there was a little more money so we did that too, yes.

Binning: Right. And how did you get that job or decide to go that way?

Moura: It was another thing through Fox Point that people that were down there were from Fox Point. Big John Silva was the president of the ILA and he would hire people, you know, I guess you can't do it nowadays, nepotism and favoritism or whatever, but back then it was automatic. If you knew somebody, you know, you recommended that person and you did the, if you did the job you get hired again. If not you know you wouldn't get another job.

Binning: Right. And so how long were you working there?

Moura: I did that for a few years. I did even did it on the Fire Department. I would, you know, shape up they called it. They needed help on a ship and you go in the morning. They say, ok we need six gangs and they'd point out their fingers and they get X amount of guys and then you go down and work the boat. And I would do it on my days off from the Fire Department and work with guys, Sid Lima, who retired from the Fire Department, a black fellow, who was, he retired from the stevedores also. He's probably eighty years old now. I, he's still around. I still see him. His brother, Winston and I were best friends and his brother Willy was a firefighter. Sidney was the first black lieutenant on the Fire Department. He's on the Fox Point Boys and Girls Club Alumni Association also.

Binning: Interesting. So when you were working on the kind of waterfront, was there a division between who was working where? Like stevedores versus longshoreman. Was it Cape Verdeans tended to be one?

Moura: Yes. Cape Verdeans, mostly Cape Verdeans, they were the stevedores. They worked the whole of the ship. They worked the lines on the ship. They did the cranes. It just happened that was their gig. They got that sewed up for whatever reason and it just seemed that the, the majority of them were Cape Verdeans. And the longshoreman happened to be all the other guys, you know, who go to that union, that worked the docks.

Binning: So were you in a union, in that union?

Moura: I never got in. I was a dollar a day hire. That they call us "a dollar a day guy." You paid a dollar out of your salary to, to make, to get a job for the day, but you might make fifty dollars in a day, where as they were making ten cents an hours in Davol Rubber or twenty cents an hour in Davol or something. The money was good, yes.

Binning: Right. Was there ever a problem that you weren't in the union or was there tension between union members?

Moura: No. They had "a dollar a day guy." No there was never, until this day they still do that. Hire them. There's not enough steady work. There was never enough steady work. Like some of the big ports. They are trying to make a big port out of the Port of Providence and/or Quonset Point, but they people, the NIMBY [not in my backyard] people don't want to do that. They're missing an opportunity to have steady employment for a lot of people, but it was always kind of hit and miss and if they had, if on occasion a couple of ships would come it. There would be a ship at Quonset and Quonset paid more because it was a military thing, there was more money there, the guys from the Providence local would go down there and work that and then we'd get more work here. Yes.

Binning: Got it. And so before you were working as a longshoreman, you were in the Nat- or you were sent to the National Guard?

Moura: I did the National Guard. Six Years in the National Guard, yes. Six months of active duty and then five and a half years of weekends and nights and weekends, yes. One weekend a month and a Tuesday night drill.

Binning: Right. And what inspired your, what made you decide to go in that direction or join the National Guard?

Moura: Vietnam was heating up and I wasn't going to go to Vietnam so we joined the National Guard.

Binning: Right. And because you joined did that prevent you from being?

Moura: Back then they weren't sending the National Guard. Now they're sending everybody unfortunately. You know anybody can go now. Back then they weren't sending. I think in toward the latter part of it I think a couple of the Air National Guard people might have gone to Vietnam to fill in and stuff but I don't think, none of the Rhode Island people ever went. They had gone to Korea before that, but in Vietnam they didn't. And I wasn't to go, I didn't want to go, you know. I wasn't anti-war, but I'm it wasn't something to go to war for. I wanted to get a job and do my thing here, you know.

Binning: Right. So that was directly after high school?

Moura: Yes.

Binning: Oh, okay. What did most of your other friends do after graduating from high school?

Moura: Most of them the same thing. A lot of, some of the guys were in the regular military three or four years and a couple of guys made careers of it. Al Lopes is a, I think is in line to be a general. He's in St. Louis I believe, he's a lawyer in St. Louis. I'd love to have you interview him. He's was a big, his brother Tooty [?] and his brother [snapping fingers], oh I forgot, Al, not all, he's Al, another brother, I can't think of his name.

Binning: It's okay.

Moura: They were both on the Fire Department. Black guys, Cape Verdeans and their sister Elizabeth's got a wonderful job at the Electric Company and Theresa works for the phone company. I mean they're just people that I grew up with. But he's probably the guy that went the furthest. Al went into the regular Army and then he stayed in, married a girl in St. Louis. He still lives in St. Louis and I think he's like on board to be a general, which is not that easy to be a general, yes. I saw him not too long ago. He was here for something or other, a funeral or a wake, but a lot of the guys went into the National Guard. Did that and just came out and got jobs.

Binning: Right. Did any of your friends, they, did they go onto college or go to Brown at all or is that not common?

Moura: None of my friends went to Brown. Nope, none of my friends went to Brown. Providence College, URI, a couple of guys went on to become CPAs and teaching and you know got their masters degrees for your teaching credentials I guess you want to go up on the ladder you have to get your Masters, you know. I'm trying to think of who's, somebody made, got his doctorate and I can't think off the top of my head, but one of the guys got his doctorate in horticulture or whatever he did, you know, but one of the guys from the neighborhood here.

Binning: Right. Was that more of the exception than the rule though? Were people...

Moura: We went to work. It wasn't, we weren't college bound. It was, you know, get out, go to the army, go whatever you've got to do and then go out and get a job.

Binning: Right. Actually get a job, make money.

Moura: Yes, yes. That was, you know what we had to do, yes.

Binning: Right. So kind of backtracking more towards childhood. As kind of a young adult/teenager where did you like to hangout within Fox Point. Were there certain bars or certain areas?

Moura: We were too young to drink, but we went to Sheldon. We went down there because my grandfather was in there. My Uncle Eddy was the president at the time so we could, we never drank, but we'd go down there. I started going as a four year old, five year old child so we'd go down and shoot a little pool. Couldn't make any noise, didn't bother anybody and we would take care of business, just having fun. But it was mostly Boys Club or we'd go to clubs and whatever was going on at the time, yes.

Binning: What about once you could drink. Where would you hang out or where would you go?

Moura: Sheldon Street Club or the Braga Club it was on Ives Street, which is no longer there. It's over in East Providence there. Still there. Theo Phileo Braga Club now the Portuguese Club that my dad told me the other day that the Braga Club started on Wickenden Street, which I never knew that but just one of those things, you know. We would do those couple and then we would go out night clubbing. We would go to Warwick or East Providence, the Green Manner had dances and stuff like that or the Roseland Ballroom for dances and stuff.

Binning: When I was talking to your father he was saying, I was asking him about girls and dating when he was younger and he was kind of laughing because he was saying

that he would never date any, any girls in Fox Point because they were like his sisters. Was that the same thing for you?

Moura: Same thing, yes.

Binning: So you would just go to towns or cities over?

Moura: We would go out different places but a lot of guys married girls from Fox Point. After they sewed their oats or whatever and did their thing and came back and a bunch of my friends that are married to girls in the neighborhood. And we'd go places like being with two of your classmates, but they were, you know, we grew up together and they married each other, you know. And now we see their children.

Binning: Right, right. How about your, I'd like to hear more about your brother and sister. Did you interact with them a lot as like, you know play with them or hang out with them when you were younger?

Moura: My sister, not much. She was three years younger, Phyllis is three years younger than me and she was the little girl that didn't hang with us because she had her cousins and she stayed with mom quite a bit. When Richard and I would go out and play she was a little younger and mom went to work, mom would take her to the Rec. So she would get into the plays and she was very musical also. She did dancing and singing and the whole, you know that type of stuff. Richard and I would hang hang, but my brother Richard left home at, he was eighteen. He graduated from Hope High School in '57, joined the army and we just about never seen him since. He's lived, he came back here, he graduated from American University at forty-nine years old and got his J.D. and now he lives in Texas, but he had come back to URI just prior to the Berlin Crisis. He was still in the military. He did nine years in the Green Berets and he was still in the military and he came to get his electrical engineering degree and one day he got the call and he never came home again. He went to Berlin or whatever he did. I don't know if it was the CAA, CIA or whatever he was but he went and he, he married a girl and he lives in Texas and he loves it. He comes home on occasion. On business and stuff, but he retired twice already.

Binning: Retired twice and then?

Moura: Retired twice and he's just "I can't retire" and he works for another concern. He's a patent attorney and right now he just started, he'd doing immigration law, which is a big thing in Texas.

Binning: Oh. Yes, seriously.

Moura: So he started a whole new career.

Binning: Wow that's great though and how about your sister, what is she doing?

Moura: Sis is, she retired from BA Ballou, she worked in the office in purchasing or something or other, it was jewelry company in East Providence here. She's retired, she's in Florida for the winter months. She went down with her boyfriend, Jack. She had two daughters, Kimberly and Bethany, they are wonderful girls. Kimberly was Miss Rhode Island Junior Miss at one time and Bethany she works now for Delta Dental. Yes, I love them both dearly.

Binning: Yes I saw pictures of both of them and their, I guess, Kimberly's kids.

Moura: And the kids, yes Kim's got the twins and Isabella.

Binning: Right. They're very cute.

Moura: Yes, I love them dearly, yes.

Binning: Yes. And how often do you see your family?

Moura: Not as often as I, I would like. I see Lisa, she lives in East Providence, I see her a lot. I'll go by and see dad and call her up and bring her a coffee. Susan lives in Chepachet. She teaches in Providence. Her husband's a North Providence firefighter. They're busy. Katherine's five and Mark's eight and he's in scouts and she's at tap and so you don't see each other that much. On the phone, talk, you know. Holidays yes. Christmas here, Thanksgiving here, Easter at Kim's, you know we try to keep those traditions alive, you know.

Binning: Right.

Moura: But it's not like I see them all the time.

Binning: Right. And how about your father?

Moura: My dad. As often as I can I go see him. But he won't leave the house anymore. He'll go out and do his errands, he wouldn't go, he wouldn't come here for Christmas. He felt bad because he misses mom and Easter he felt bad, he didn't want to spoil anyone's fun. He didn't come on Easter and I say you know you spoil their fun more because the kids look forward to seeing you.

Binning: Right.

Moura: But yes I'll get him moving.

Binning: That's good.

Moura: I'll get him. Yes.

Binning: So, so Nancy is your second wife.

Moura: My second wife, yes.

Binning: So maybe if you don't mind talking about when you met your first wife. Was that, when was that?

Moura: I met her in high school.

Binning: Oh, okay.

Moura: She lived right near Hope High School. I met her and we married young. Had two daughters. Things didn't work out. We've been divorced for some years, yes.

Binning: And what your two daughter's names?

Moura: Lisa and Susan.

Binning: Okay. And what are they doing right now?

Moura: Lisa is unemployed. She had a accident at work. She broke both of her arms. She's still having surgeries, but she worked for the state in the general treasurer's office but she hopes to go back soon and Susie teaches in Providence.

Binning: And so do they, where do they live, in Providence or?

Moura: Lisa is in East Providence and Susan's in Chepachet.

Binning: Oh, okay. And then and so did you get, what were you doing at the time that you got married to your first wife? Like what job?

Moura: I was working on, between the waterfront and Davol and then I had just gone to the Fire Department when we kind of split.

Binning: Oh, okay. And then when did you meet Nancy?

Moura: I met Nancy in 1969. She was at a bar across the street from the fire station on North Main. I was there. She came by for directions. Next thing you knew.

Binning: Then it happened.

Moura: Somebody knew her friend Rosemary and we made a date. Been together for some years.

Binning: Is she from the Providence area?

Moura: She's from Taunton, Mass.

Binning: Oh okay.

Moura: Yes, she's from Taunton, Mass yes. She graduated from Taunton High School. She went to Johnston and Wales for a couple of years and then she wound up getting involved and she, she started working for the State of Massachusetts in, in institution and then she left that and went to Meeting Street School to work with handicapped and she just retired from Barrington Schools as a TA working with special needs.

Binning: Oh really? That's great.

Moura: Loved it for thirty some years, yes.

Binning: And then you have one daughter with her?

Moura: I have, no I have a daughter out of wedlock.

Binning: Oh, okay.

Moura: Ronique. She is a, she's in school for nursing right now. She's forty. She's still going to school. She works for Dr. Gibbons in North Providence. She lives right near the job. She's a secretary for him while she's going to school. He's a podiatrist. Nice man.

Binning: Oh okay. Great. So you retired in what was it, 1995?

Moura: '95 I retired, yes.

Binning: And so what have you been doing since then with I guess your extra time?

Moura: I had a couple of different jobs. I tended some bar at Sheldon, which is a voluntary, there's no money there but you know, you make a few bucks in tips, but I would tend bar Monday and Tuesday night and there would be a football game or there's a dart team and we would have a few beers and have a good time and then I had a job for a couple years at Trinity Theater. I loved the job. As fire security, we called it, but that was like a security job and we had to be there for all shows and when that station fire happened they changed some of the things and they needed. The Fire Department had to get their hands involved and get their people and so they kind of let us go, the retired guys. We had a nice little gig going on down there and the union stepped in and took the job back from us, which is okay. But I haven't done anything since last September.

Binning: Okay. Well it seems like you are really involved with a lot of different social clubs.

Moura: There's a lot going on, yes.

Binning: I'm interested to hear about the Portuguese American Social Club. What's your role and actually what does the club do?

Moura: I'm the treasurer. I've been the treasurer for about, since I retired. If I can think of how the charter reads for the betterment, for the social wellbeing and betterment of Portuguese decedents and whatever in Providence and my grandfather and Mr. Escobar, there are a few people on here who that were on the original charter in 1938 our seventieth anniversary is coming up.

Binning: Right. I knew that.

Moura: And it was a place to hang out, socialize, speak the language if you so choose, so chose. I never did learn the language. I could swear and do a few things. I can understand if I'm around people long enough. If I'm in an environment, we went to a, a party at a Portuguese Club in, an installation of officers at a Portuguese Club in Pawtucket and Danny Vargas and I went and we both sat at a table and they happened to have an interpreter for us there, Mrs. Labanti, nice woman, but after while we knew what they were saying because we knew the language and they would, she would explain to us and after a while she knew we were getting a lot of the, what was going on there and she didn't have to do it much anymore, you know. We knew the gist of the conversation from having heard our parents and all, years ago. Growing up, you spoke English and I says I want to learn a language and it was no, you speak English and that was it so they didn't want, you know, unfortunately I should have learned Italian, I should have learned Portuguese but didn't do it. It's sad because I wish I knew more now you know.

Binning: Right. Yes, it would have been nice to pick it up as a child because it's easier.

Moura: But yes, yes, it's the easiest part of it. My brother Jackie, God rest his soul, was fluent because he, mom worked and he was with my grandparents. He was fluent in the language yes. But the club was always a place to, to just be able to hang. No trouble I mean there would be an argument once in a while, but never fistfight, no troubles. All friends, cousins, and relatives. Play pool, shuffle board, drink a few beers, the price was right, get a little buzz going there and then go out to the night clubs, you know.

Binning: Right. And so today is it the same thing, just a place to?

Moura: Still the same. Today it's more open to the public. It was always open to the public, but people just treated as a private club because there's no advertisement because they Historical Society or the Hysterical Society won't allow us to put signs and with the, were allowed to put the flag out in front, the Portuguese American, the Portuguese and American flag, but you can't do anything that they don't allow.

Binning: Why is that?

Moura: Well no signage on certain areas, you know too much to do so it was just the 32, tres dois is 32, that's the address or the brown door. Where you going, I'm going down to the brown door or I'm going down to dois, tres dois that was the thing but there are only a few people who live in Fox Point still that are members that go down there. Of the other, close to fifty of us I don't think, there's only two that live in Fox Point the others live in Barrington or Cranston or East Providence or North Providence. We still go to the club.

Binning: Right. Well I guess you kind of just answered this, but most of, so did most of your friends, they've all moved out from Fox Point?

Moura: Just about all of them, yes.

Binning: Oh okay.

Moura: Just about all of them. All the guys I grew up with yes. But close by.

Binning: Right. Still stay close and I guess, how often do you go back to the area, whether it be for that or just to visit?

Moura: Of a seven day week probably five or six.

Binning: Wow, a lot.

Moura: I'm down at club, I do the books, I go down for different meetings and stuff. I spend a lot of time in Fox Point. I'm also a partner in a bar on Governor Street.

Binning: Oh.

Moura: There are thirty-two of us, we took over a bar. It was the first thirty and it was the Corner Café years back and then they got out of that they became the First Thirty, thirty guys bought it. And then they were all getting older and not drinking and sick and they decided to sell it so we gave a proposal and we knew how much money we needed so we got thirty-two people to come up with such dollars and we bought the place. So I spend a lot of time there.

Binning: Okay, and what's the bar?

Moura: It's called Round the Corner. It's at 12 Governor Street.

Binning: Oh okay.

Moura: There are thirty-two of us, men, women, whites, blacks, Irish, and Portuguese. Just all neighborhood people that said lets save the place for the neighborhood.

Binning: Great.

Moura: It's a neighborhood bar yes. We do a lot of fundraisers for the Fox Point Boys and Girls Club, the Fox Point Senior center and/or any other darn thing that comes up. Somebody gets a hangnail, we have fundraiser for them, you know. Just about.

Binning: So you were saying, it's a neighborhood bar so the people that mostly go there are locals?

Moura: A lot of Brown.

Binning: A lot of?

Moura: A lot of Brown students.

Binning: Oh really?

Moura: You would probably walk in and say "I know that person!"

Binning: [Laughing] I actually probably wouldn't because I don't know that many people, but.

Moura: But a lot of, believe me. Stop in and if I'm not there just tell them you know Ron.

Binning: Okay.

Moura: Or Nancy and you'd be fine, yes.

Binning: Yes I should.

Moura: I was talking to [...]the girls there and they were playing darts, they were from Johnston and Wales, but there's a lot of Brown students that come in the place yes.

Binning: And how do you feel about that?

Moura: I love it.

Binning: You do?

Moura: All good kids yes. Love them. I never had problem with anybody from the university. Never thought they were above me or below me, just all good kids doing the right thing. Matter of fact I had gone to my dentist last year and he had his hand in my mouth on a Saturday morning and Saturday night I went down to the bar to have a few beers and there was a group there from Brown University. It was a graduation party and we just happened to be talking and a young fellow was quite inebriated he sat next to

me [slurring]. He said “where you from?” And I said “well originally from Fox Point and I’m one of the partners here, but I live in Barrington.” “Oh, you probably know Charlie. He used to live in Barrington.” I looked over in I knew the kid’s face. It was Charlie Enright. And I says “Charlie’s father had his hand in my mouth this morning!” And the kid looked over and I, he says “what?” And I said “your dad had his hand in my mouth this morning and I spoke with your mom, Lisa.” And you know to make a long story short he was hysterical but he sat with us for the longest time and we spoke and he you know, I said you say hi to mom and dad and I went to see them the next, for a follow up a short time after and they said “oh thanks for taking care of Charlie. He’s a wild man, but they had a good time at the place.” Dad, one of the dads was in charge of the party. Probably twenty, thirty guys and girls in the place, you know. And they were all drinking and dad had his checkbook and he wasn’t sure if they would take a check and dad thought like you know you guys are having a party and drinking jello shots and drinking all this stuff and there were designated drivers and parents were going to pick them up. No one was driving, they were within walking distance, a couple of kids lived right across the street from the bar and so the dad was kind of concerned how much this was going to cost him. So the party was going to go until one o’clock and at about eleven thirty he said to the, his son, I forget what his name. He says to find out what the tab’s running over here, you know. The guy said I got enough money for this thing you know, but the other parents are giving them money so they rang up the till and it came up to like nine hundred dollars for this whole evening and he said “that’s all! He said, I’ve got a couple of hundred of dollars to spend so he opened the bar for everybody for the rest of the night and he spent all his money because the prices are agreeable you know.

Binning: Right.

Moura: But the kids had a good time and some of the parents gravitated in. “You ready to go?” They’d grab a couple of kids and drive them home and maybe have one drink and take off, but it was a good time.

Binning: Yes.

Moura: But a lot of Brown students come in here. They come in and play darts, they come in and have their beers. A bunch in the students live right around on Fremont and Trenton because we are right near Trenton Street, at the corner of Trenton and Governor. On Governor Street. A lot of the kids from Brown.

Binning: Right. Yes I know, I know that that kind of the Fox Point area’s a popular place for a lot Brown Students. When you were growing up, did Brown students or faculty ever walk around the area or were they, did they stay away from there?

Moura: No, you know not really. We never saw a lot of people down there, no. As a really young kid, no I don’t remember seeing a lot of people. Brown at that point in time was at the Wriston Quad and that was Brown. The Wriston Quad, the sports field was there, some of the older places, they hadn’t started building a lot of the

high rises. They built the West Quad. I know these names mostly because of the Fire Department, going there and winding the fire alarm boxes a lot, you know.

Binning: Yes.

Moura: But they hadn't moved down that much. They were probably as far as Williams Street at that time. Graduate students or professors and stuff that were buying up some of the houses and stuff and then I would say in the probably the sixties you could see the influx of people moving and buying properties and Brown University buying and moving houses for student housing, different, you know.

Binning: How do you, I don't know if you know, how did that work if Brown wanted to buy a house would they just outbid whatever anyone else could pay and that's how they kind of forced themselves in?

Moura: I don't know but I wouldn't imagine that would be, I would imagine that might be the case. They had the money, you know sitting on the endowment so whatever they could do.

Binning: Right.

Moura: I personally think Brown University is a reality company. They don't pay taxes and they get a lot of places that they are charging students rent but they don't pay taxes. I don't understand how they get away with it, but that's for the politicians to understand, you know.

Binning: Yes, no it's true even where I live. I live I guess on the East Side on kind of like Lloyd and Brook and there's like a graduate, there's a graduate house housing monstrous right next to where I live and my landlord lives on they right and they own a bunch of properties but they are having that problem. Brown doesn't pay taxes and they want to buy up the property and they are paying monstrous taxes...

Moura: Big taxes, yes.

Binning: ...on all of their properties. So I know it's an issue.

Moura: It's been an issue with the Fire Department for many years. You know we provide quite a service to the Brown community and probably the highest rate of false alarms anywhere. It's a, it's incredible what they get away with over there, but that's just kids playing I think, you know. I don't like it too much because I was at the Providence College fire when ten girls perished.

Binning: Oh really? When did that happen?

Moura: That was in the seventies. Ten girls perished on a winter night. We went there and I took some bodies out then when I wound up going back to Brook Street as a

captain and I was going to Brown too many times I tried to instill some fear in them by telling that “you don’t know what you are doing here playing these games. It’s just, it’s not good. You not aware of the Providence College Fire. It was a two bit fire but ten girls perished.” And some people caught on to it some one were you know [...]. I had a student expelled from Brown University. He lit a body, an effigy or something or other on the door a body at one o’clock in the afternoon in one of the dorms. He thought it was funny that smoke detector went off. We went there and this thing was torched. And I says we’ve got to get some help in here. And I says this was a malicious act. Somebody set that on fire. You could tell it was set on fire and so the Brown security people came with Brown Fire Marshall was Walter Loiselle at the time, he was retired from our job. I said Walter this is not good. Somebody maliciously set this thing on fire. And somebody was joking about it and behind us over here and one of the kids said “yes he did it” he said “yes that body shit drives me crazy so I lit it on fire.” I said “get detectives over here.” He came in and they got a hold of this young man and Brown security got him first and said put your hands behind your back. They handcuffed him, read him his rights, and rather than charging with first-degree arson or second-degree arson he took the plea bargain and left the school.

Binning: Wow.

Moura: Yes. He was from Mis- Alabama. He must have been very nice when he went home to his dad. Yeah I got expelled from Brown, I had to leave Brown because I had burnt body. But they, some people took it very seriously because of that situation, you know.

Binning: Right, right. Were there ever any major fires or disasters in the Fox Point area or Brown besides that?

Moura: Some some big fires that were big three-deckers and that type of stuff. We had a lot of fires down there and they always happened in the winter for some reason. The cold months, you know. Electrical and stuff, but most of my fire fighting was in West End or in South Providence area. Yes. Some big buildings up, we had a couple of warehouses up on Federal Hill and over the years, but most of the fires in the South Providence West End.

Binning: Back to more of the social things that you are doing now. So you are still involved with the Boys and Girls Club.

Moura: Yes.

Binning: What do you do with them?

Moura: Not a lot. I just, you know, tend the meetings, pay my dues, send checks when there is a fundraiser. There is a thing a week from Friday at the Holy Rosary Church. Seven bucks all the beer and all the macaroni and meatballs you can eat.

Binning: Sounds fun.

Moura: And there will be four or five hundred guys that will come in from Texas, they will come in from California. That these guys come back for this fund- and as a matter of fact Louie Costa's going to put on a slide show.

Binning: Oh really?!

Moura: Yes. He's trying to find a, he needs a camera or projector or whatever. He is in the process of doing that and he wants to put on a slide show, just put it and let [...] thousands of slides. Let it run and the guys can see stuff and that's when we are having our beer in the basement of Holy Rosary Church.

Binning: Oh really?

Moura: Yes.

Binning: Sounds great.

Moura: The alumni association runs that, yes.

Binning: Oh okay. So it's the Boys and Girls Club Alumni Association?

Moura: Yes, but this is a boys night out and it's not sexist or it's just all the guys go. They just all get together and go. And half the boys will be at either the corner of Sheldon Street or wherever they go on that night and then we will all get together later on, yes. Half of them will go to Sheldon Street because you can walk right up the hill from Holy Rosary, walk out, walk and have a few beers and other guys will go to the corner.

Binning: And how were you inducted into the Hall of Fame?

Moura: It's usually after you retired or reached a pinnacle of whatever and they'll just get names and you know they're guys that have been inducted that have lived rather savory lives but they were part of the neighborhood, you know. They cleaned up their act. It's just, it's an honor to us, you know. And they'll have a meal and call your name up and give you a plaque and you say a few words but it's an honor to be a part of it.

Binning: That's great. And then what about, you mentioned also that you have a motorcycle and that you are part of it, is the Fire Department...?

Moura: American Firefighters Motorcycle Club.

Binning: Oh, okay.

Moura: Yes. There was a mother chapter is in Chicago and a bunch of fire guys got together, fire, I call them fire guys, firefighters, got together and they formed this club. We've got a bunch of guys from Providence and Lincoln and Cranston and happen to have motorcycles. Most of them are Harley Davidsons. It just happens that way and they had gone somewhere and there was a tournament of some sort and Tom Peckinhan met this fellow, he said "wow I like that, what's that?" American firefighters they've got their own logo and the colors and all that stuff and they told him about it so we wound up and we started a chapter with like I think 46 members here. We just, we'll do a torch run ride this year for the Special Olympics. We'll raise money for that and we'll go down and lead the runners and with the Rhode Island Motorcycle Association. We operate out of the Firefighters Hall on Printery Street. We have our union hall down there and bar and we all meet there and saddle up and go off and run the streets and go on weekends and take rides places, you know. Go up to the Berkshires or whatever, just get together.

Binning: Yes, it must be nice. I'm sure you're looking forward to better weather.

Moura: Yes this stuff is cold now, yes.

Binning: Yes.

Moura: But that's just a, it's were in our infancy. It's, this is our first year. But we've got out colors we've got our patches and we got our stuff and we were sanctioned by the Hells Angels, which you have to do to have an MC on your jacket. Be sanctions by the Hells Angles.

Binning: Interesting.

Moura: Oh yes. Very serious stuff.

Binning: How does that work? Do you just go over to them and ask?

Moura: They had, Tommy Peckinhan and another guy had to go but we were, we had a good rapport with the Hells Angels. They're clubhouse is on Messer Street and over the years they knew that fire guys were pretty good and they knew a lot of us rode motorcycles. On occasion they'd call us and ask us for help to put a motorcycle on the second floor window and we'd take our truck and over and help them and do different things and they were always good with us so when Tom when to meet with the chapter. He said we are trying to start this motorcycle club and they said [...] the American Firefighters and one of the guys said "oh I've heard of that, yes." So we're allowed to wear our colors but we can't have Rhode Island on it?

Binning: Oh okay. Because that's their, their thing?

Moura: You can't have three things. You can only have. If you have three things it's a big thing. Like outlaws, club, and the Rock of Rhode Island [?] you can't do that but we would have MC, American Firefighters MC.

Binning: Oh okay, got it.

Moura: We had to get sanctioned by them and it just, it's a fun thing. There were a bunch of us in Florida. Recently at Daytona we all wore our leather vests with our things on it and it was a conversation piece. Other guys said oh, see a firefighter patch they said "oh yes, I'm from St. Peter, I'm from here." And next thing you know we are having beers together and go on to their clubhouse and meeting different people, you know. It's a fun thing, yeah. Just an organization that we started. And I ride with a bunch of guys that are not firefighters, you have to be a firefighter or retired, paid professional firefighter to joint his thing. It's just one of the bylaws and but you know if I'm going somewhere and I call I guy and say hey we are going out next Sunday, we are going somewhere and they just go with us, they don't have to be a firefighter to ride, but we have a good time.

Binning: Yes. When did you get into motorcycles? When did you start?

Moura: Oh boy. I think I've been riding some fifty some years. I think when I was about twelve or thirteen. My dad used to ride motorcycles.

Binning: Oh really?

Moura: Way back. Yes he used to ride motorcycle and go to Keene, New Hampshire and races and all that stuff. My brother Richard rode Harleys, he still rides a Harley, and way back I think at some point he had come home with a motorcycle from the service and I was maybe fourteen-fifteen and I tried it and I got hooked. I had fifteen motorcycles.

Binning: Wow, that's impressive.

Moura: Fifteen different bikes at different times yes. The last five have been Harleys.

Binning: And was that just a family interest or is that something that a lot of people in the area were interested in?

Moura: There were a few bikers in Fox Point. Not a lot, maybe a half dozen. Now there's, everybody in Fox Point's got a bike, who lives in Barrington, Cranston, Warwick, they've all got bikes now, but back then no there wasn't a big, big motorcycle, there's no club in Fox Point of bikers, you know.

Binning: Right, right. So would you say as far as living in Fox Point you, sorry, lived in Fox Point until you went into the, left the National Guard?

Moura: Yes.

- Binning:** And then so after that then where did you?
- Moura:** I came back to mom's house and lived there a couple of years and then got married.
- Binning:** And once you got married, where were you living?
- Moura:** I lived on Gano Street. 169 Gano Street.
- Binning:** Oh, okay.
- Moura:** For three years, which is now a doctor's office.
- Binning:** Oh really?
- Moura:** Yes, it's a doctor's office, yes.
- Binning:** And is it still the house, but it's been turned into a doctor's office?
- Moura:** Nope. They took the house down and that address is a cinderblock building, they just kept the 169 Gano Street, yes.
- Binning:** So you mentioned before what you thought the boundaries of Fox Point were. If you wouldn't mind just telling me again what they were when you were growing up versus what they are now to you? Or if they've changed at all.
- Moura:** We looked at it from Power Street east to the river and from Gano Street waterfront to South Water Street or South Main Street Waterfront. That was Fox Point. Now Fox Point is almost no longer there because if you see the advertisement in the paper for the store on Wickenden Street on the East Side or the coffee shops on the East side so we kind of lost the East Side thing. You know we consider it still Fox Point but it's our bar on Governor Street. They say oh we'll go down to the East Side, no you're going to Fox Point to the bar, you know. We distinguish that, you know but it's kind of mostly East Side now. I think anything mostly to the east of Wickenden Street now might be considered Fox Point. Not much down there, just a couple of blocks.
- Binning:** Right. It's just much smaller.
- Moura:** Yes.
- Binning:** And the people who are living there now, would you say it's mostly Brown related people or who else is living there?
- Moura:** A lot of Brown related people but I think a lot of business people who work in Boston area and live in Providence because the housing is a lot cheaper there than the Boston area and the commute's an hour by train, you know whatever. I

know a lot of people who are lawyers or people who work downtown Providence that live on the East Side or the area there and as far down as the Sheldon Street and Wickenden Street and they just take the trolley or walk downtown.

Binning: And when you were growing up, who were the people who owned the businesses or ran the businesses in the area of Fox Point?

Moura: My grandfather at the cobbler shop. Joe Divine [?] had a candy store right next door and he was a bookie, he used to book all the action for the guys. You had Bond Furniture on the corner of Wickenden and Brook. Manny Almeida's Ringside Bar, which is now the Z Bar and a long the street there was Friend's Market and Cohelho's Market and some bakeries and a lot of bars. A lot of local bars here. Manny's Bar, Jose's Bar, the Braga Club, this club that was a bar on every other street corner, yes. Cohen's Gas Station. Adler's Hardware has been there since I was a child, a baby. Adler's has been there forever, as far as I know, yes. That was probably the biggest and the longest lasting. Dudley Hardware was across the street and then it became a, can't think of it, the printing place, but Adler's corner, that was a drugstore on the corner of Hope and Wickenden, Tierneys Drug on Hope Street. These were staples. I mean you would go there. Ruth's Variety on Ives Street. If you needed certain things you went to Ruth's Variety and certain people hung in front of the places too.

Binning: Right. Well I know, well I know some people like your, like there were some Portuguese people who owned the different bars and different places, but I also heard that there were lots of Jewish families that owned businesses. Is that seem true to you?

Moura: There were some Jewish people, yes. Along the South Main, South Water Street area. I don't recall the names on the top of my head. My dad would probably know by name, but there were some Jewish people in the neighborhood, yes.

Binning: Who, who ran the business?

Moura: Yes, well they I think there was a furniture store along, oh Bond Furniture was a Jewish guy along the corner there. I remember him, my friend Roger Valles worked for him for many years. He was Jewish. I could not think of his last name. But there were people, there's a couple of places along South Main Street. Different, what do you call them, junk store's, now they call them antiques shops. They were along there that area, yes. Up further up there weren't that many Jewish up that side, no. Up Hope Street and stuff it was Irish and then you got a little more Portuguese [...] town Ives Street and yes.

Binning: Right. Okay so I think, I've kind of, we've done a very good job of topics [looking through paper with prepared questions] that I really wanted to go through. Is there anything else signif- you know that stands out that you want to talk about or anything significant about Fox Point?

Moura: Jimmy Rattigan, Jimmy Rattigan, the retired chief of the Providence Fire Department has said many many many times, "Fox Point is a state of mind."

Binning: Oh okay.

Moura: Like I said earlier, we can go to Fox Point any day of the week and I know many many people, big time lawyers, supreme court judges that don't go back to the area because of the change. I think a lot to do with it might be the influence that Brown University has had on the neighborhood. They've kept the property values up. They haven't let it just go to the dogs. The people still own business there. People still own properties there. And we feel like I can walk the streets down there. I think and my wife Nancy will go to the corner and I think nothing of walking down to Sheldon Street if I happen to be there, and say I'll go down. Or the girls will walk the streets and go to the stores and look and don't think much of it. At night some of the street you're not sure of, you're not safe anywhere. I know guys that work in Brown security and that's not safe anywhere, that's why they are carrying guns, you know. Unfortunately you had to go to that route. But Smith Hill, South Providence, Federal Hill, you know have seen big changes, big big changes. West Elmwood area, way up to Washington Part, there are so many changes, but people don't, they don't have their neighborhood they Fox Point, they come from everywhere, they come back and see us. It feels safe, it still feels safe, yes.

Binning: Right. And I get, I mean it's hard to tell but you were saying that now today the boundaries, a lot of what was Fox Point is considered, you know East Side.

Moura: Yeah, a lot.

Binning: By certain people it is a state of mind, but in 5-10 years do you think that Fox Point is going to be gone or do you think it will?

Moura: I think it will be the same. I don't think it's going to change by much. I don't think there is much more they can do with it. But if you lived on Transit Street and somebody sold the house next to you for \$700,000 that's not Fox Point, that's East Side price. We always, you know, that was, that's, the way I gage things. It's like [whistles] that's a lot of money for a house from Fox Point, you know. There's houses a across from the Sheldon Street club. The condos are selling for 299 and you know one bedroom condos and the guy next, Larry, been looking for \$750,000 for a house that my God I wouldn't think much of it. It's got a plaque on it. It makes a difference you know, you put a plaque on it.

Binning: Right. It raises the price.

Moura: I know a lot of guys that slept in our building, but we didn't put their name on the wall. George Washington and stuff but I, I think it's going to maintain its ways. As long as, as long as the Fox Point or the Vartan Gregorian School is still operating down there. As long as the Holy Rosary Church is intact and St. Joseph's Church is still intact and Adlers and the bakery on Ives Street, the Silver Star Bakery, these people are

still doing it and our club's still running and I think they'll be fine. I don't think you'll see many changes, yes.

Binning: Right. It's still there. Okay great. Well thank you so much for...

Moura: Thank you Rachael.

Binning: No, thank you. It was really great with all of your stories and memories. Yeah it's going, it's going to great to have for future people to have to look back on.

Moura: I hope it works out well, yes.

Binning: Okay thanks. So I'm going to end the formal part of the interview and then we can talk and maybe look at your pictures a little more. Thanks. Okay