

**Joanne Brasil**

**Interviewed by Jasmine Utsey**

**November 9, 2010**

**Interview took place at the John Nicholas Brown Center, Providence, R.I.**

---

**Jasmine Utsey:** This is Jasmine Utsey interviewing Joanne Brasil on Tuesday, November 9, 2010 in the John Nicholas Brown House, the front parlor, and we're going to be talking about Fox Point today.

**Joanne Brasil:** Ok

**Utsey:** Alright, so, um could you tell me about your life in Fox Point?

**Brasil:** Well what do you want to know?

**Utsey:** How long have you lived there?

**Brasil (0:00:29):** Pretty much my whole life, pretty much. There's a year I got married where I, I really never moved out but moved to my husband's house. And then shortly thereafter I was back because I didn't like it there, or we didn't like it there, or I said we didn't like it there and um we're back on Arnold Street where I've been pretty much, with that little tiny gap, pretty consistently.

**Utsey:** So when you weren't living in Fox Point what part of ah Rhode Island were you in?

**Brasil:** It was up in Smith Hill, still in Providence.

**Utsey:** Ok

**Brasil:** A mile away.

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** But it wasn't home.

**Utsey:** So what was it like when you were younger, as a child growing up?

**Brasil:** When I was younger, um I'm the youngest of four children, I am the only one that still lives in Fox Point. The other ones still in Rhode Island, ...my accent, but I'm the only that still lives in the Point. So I was born in 1963, I'm 47, um did not go to Providence Public Schools, we went to Catholic School from kindergarten through high school. Um, it was, a... I won't say a different neighborhood, but more kids on the street, more um.. you know everybody on the bus going to school, ah most of the kids in the

neighborhood went to the same Catholic School. I went to Holy Name of Jesus up on Camp Street. And um--- you know you had five, six friends on the street and you kind of clustered, and you were in this yard and you were in that yard, and you were outside, and you know

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** street lights came on, you knew you had to be in the house. If my father whistled, you were in trouble.

**Utsey:** So what parts of the neighborhood did you play in?

**Brasil:** Um, mostly Arnold Street, Transit Street, and then when we got older we were allowed to go to the Wickenden Street Pool, which is now the water park, where the park was, where the park, water park is now, used to be a pool. And as we got older, my brothers were allowed to take us, my mom worked, my grandma lived at home with us, so. I should... I should say my vavor. Um.

**Utsey (0:02:53):** What does that mean?

**Brasil:** vavor is just grandmother in Portuguese. Its like mimay, or you know grammie or whatever, it's just the. I...I had a vavor and I had a vordie, which is a different version of the same thing but to distinguish which one you were talking about, because vavor and vavor are confusing

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** so.

**Utsey:** Thanks. So describe your home, as a child.

**Brasil:** We lived in, well my mother still lives there first of all, she's 91. And it's a little cottage on one--- We lived in the cottage, the front cottage on this tract of land, or this parcel of land there are three houses. One is a triple decker. Behind my mother's is a smaller cottage, and then my mother's cottage, which has 1-2-3-4 pretty much four rooms and a bathroom downstairs in like a little, had a little den that they made into a clos... a big closet. Um and upstairs were three bedrooms and a storage closet.

**Utsey:** What year were the cottages built in?

**Brasil:** Oh, I want to say 1851, I think

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** but I'd have to look at the plaque.

**Utsey:** Did you father uh.. not your father, I'm sorry, did your family build the cottages?

**Brasil:** No, um my grandmother purchased the properties, the different ones, and my mother bought it from her, when.. or bought it from her estate when she passed away, they

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** they took it over basically. But it was my grandmother who bought it. She used to own a um a two parcel, nine-unit tract down on East Transit Street, and after that. that was in the '30s, I want to say 1938, they moved to Arnold Street. And my mother's lived on Arnold Street since

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** 1938, but she was born on East Transit Street, I believe.

**Utsey:** Where were you born?

**Brasil:** Lying-Inn Hospital in Providence.

**Utsey:** Were your brothers and sisters born there as well?

**Brasil:** Yea, yea. None of us were born at home, I know. But its now um I think its now the Phillip Holster Hospice Center, up there

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** off of Smith Street is where it is so.

**Utsey:** Could you define Fox Point?

**Brasil:** Could I define it?

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** Um---To me its home, family, neighbors. I remember, um just weird you... not weird things, but um, I remember like the blizzard of '78, like vividly.

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** And walking around and you know you were worried about your neighbors, and you went and checked, and you made sure and if you had a gallon of milk and they had none you poured it in a pitcher and you took it over and until everything---cause it was oh I don't know, a good ten days before any vehicles could get through or anything like that, so its um to me it's just, I don't know, it's home.

**Utsey:** Mhmm. What streets would you say um actually make up Fox Point geographically?

**Brasil:** To me? Um, Pittman

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** to Benefit, to the water.. um India Point Park, and down to Gano, on that, that's to me, in my head what the actually definition of it is I don't know, but in my little crazy brain that's what it is.

**Utsey (0:06:54):** So in the 1970's um was there a big difference in the neighborhood between the 1970's and the 1960's that you can recall?

**Brasil:** I---other than the clothes, probably not to me. Um no the neighborhood was still pretty much the same I don't think a lot of the people had... had moved and changed. There was a while there I think when people didn't want to live in the Point and it was you know everybody kind of did the great exodus and then it... it spun around, and then it was the hot place to be

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** and the properties just went through the roof and I think that priced out some of the next generation coming up, so like the like---like my neighbor's children that would have bought or whatever they, you know, to get a small parcel with no land with a little I call it a postage stamp back yard

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** you know they could get the same thing in Warwick with a huge yard and whatever, granted they had the commute which I don't like but um.. so,. I want to say that probably happened, in my head in the late 80's early 90's probably..

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** but I think that's--- that's when it mostly changed for me.

**Utsey (0:08:24):** You described an exodus ah who would you define as the residents that were leaving?

**Brasil:** I mean...I mean just mean like the the ne... like the the families that had lived there all along like their children I think were priced out

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** so like in terms of like my siblings that are now in Warwick or Cranston or here if they went to try to find a property in the Point proper here not past Pitman Street or not you know past Waterman Street or wherever or up the East Side a little bit

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** in the Point proper, what I consider proper, um you know the prices were in the \$400,000 range or you know for a triple decker it was you know \$300,000 so and you're going to live in a tiny, well not a tiny apartment---but an apartment

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** with people above you and they could go somewhere else and get a bigger parcel of land maybe not bigger square footage in a house but um so that's just what... that's what I considered happened.

**Utsey:** Were these mostly Portuguese families?

**Brasil:** A lot of them but not not necessarily all Portuguese. It could be you know like I have a lot, there were a lot of Irish neighbors, you know, a lot of Portuguese neighbors um, Cape Verdeans um, a lot of the, a lot of the Portuguese went to East Providence

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** ---because it was close but yet the the the property prices were different---were were lower and they got, in their head they got more for their money.

**Utsey:** Mhmm--- and so the late 80s and 90s saw a different I guess generation of residents in Fox Point?

**Brasil (0:10:05):** Yeah, a lot of the um I think a lot of the properties became rental properties with a lot of the students and I don't know if that's when Brown went off campus and allowed off campus, whatever and with Brown and RISD and Johnson and Wales it turned you know some of the streets, you don't know your neighbors. Like Arnold Street is one of the last ones that I can honestly say I know like six to eight older families that are still on Arnold Street

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** ... that I can name--- that still live there. Other streets used to be I could go down the street and name, every street, people lived on and I can't now.

**Utsey:** Does that affect you negatively at all? How do you feel about that?

**Brasil:** I just think it's changed you know an..an... and to me it used to be you I mean I, I can't say I don't know my neighbors now cause I do know my neighbors but it's not the way I used to know my neighbors.

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** You know what I mean? I grew up with, I lived between my neighbor--- her son is my age so I've known her since I was born and on the other side is my mother so---and above her used to be Mr. Kelly and that's now, somebody bought it and it's a total rental property. It's it it changes every time. It changes every year you, you know. And it used to be that your---you. I don't know. As an example, the tree in the backyard needs to be cut down. It's not a big deal it's not you know you don't have to call you know someone's lawyer to get the tree cut down. You went over and you said "Johnny" over the fence and Johnny said "Ok yea I'm gonna to get the guy" and before you knew it, it was done and now its just turns into more of a .. to have something happen so

**Utsey:** Mhmm. What are some of you favorite memories of Fox Point?

**Brasil:** Riding my bike up and down the hill. Um. Just playing in the backyard we we didn't really you know the kids today mine are driven everywhere and... to go do something that's 45 minutes or whatever and we um---would just ride our bike. My my mother's yard has raised, almost like raised beds in it and it's paved so we would open the gates and you would ride in circles and around, and and I just remember doing that for hours

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** and it was I think personally much simpler than it is right now or today.

**Utsey:** Mhmm. So what would a typical day have been like for you in Fox Point?

**Brasil:** In my early years?

**Utsey:** Mhmm early years..

**Brasil (0:12:56):** Like say you know like elementary school. You'd get up, shower, get ready for school, walk up the hill, take the bus, school all day, come home, and my grandmother was home so someone was in the house when you got home. Um we would usually do homework. We used to have to start dinner to whatever degree that you know depending on the age and how old we were, my sister and I. Early on it wasn't any cooking part of it you know what I mean it was just was like the prep work or or get everything out and set the table and all of that and then--- oh gosh we used to on Sunday nights sit around and wait for the um--- oh what was it called--- the Disney on every Sunday night cause you got ti remember there was no cable so you couldn't watch whatever you wanted whenever you wanted you planed your life according to, I'm going to say Lawrence Welk, but it wasn't Lawrence Welk, um "The Wonderful World of

Disney” and whatever show was on that week that you were waiting for. Um and then usually it was you know depending--- I was the baby so I was supposed to be in bed first and that never worked and always aggravated everybody else cause I pretty much went to bed whenever they went to bed

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** and I never really had a set bedtime.

**Utsey (0:14:34):** Was Fox Point an ethnically diverse neighborhood?

**Brasil:** At the time yeah, yea I mean there---yeah. I don’t think our schools weren’t so so much. Maybe a third, not as ethnica... ethnically diverse as it is now. Um I don’t remember in school, I don’t remember like say any Asian children in my in my class.--- actually in the school for that matter, African Americans yes, um but yeah in the neighborhood yeah.

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** But a lot of Irish a lot of Itali.. not really Italian. A lot of Portuguese, a lot of Cape Verdeans, African Americans, um so

**Utsey:** Were there places in the neighborhood, um within Fox Point, where the groups the different ethnic groups would associate or hang out?

**Brasil:** Well there’s--- there was a lot of social clubs and different ones. I don’t remember going to them when I was little, I know my father was a member of the um there was a Democratic club that was active and they had a building and they had a hall, and it wasn’t like ok you’re going to rent a facility like it is now like a lot of times when-- -you know if there’s a a Democratic group or something that is active, there’s they don’t have a hall at that time they did so like I think pretty much every Friday night they had a I’m going to say a turkey raffle or a, you know a dance or something and that was how everybody kind of got together.

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** Um but they I think they sold off that building or something. I know which one it is but I don’t know when that happened.

**Utsey:** Were there associations for women?

**Brasil:** Not that I know of.

**Utsey:** So no social clubs for women?

**Brasil:** Not that I know of, no. There are like, there's a, there still is a Portuguese Soc...Sporting Club down on Gano. There used to be um Fox Point Social Club but that's actually---it used to be over near where Al Forno is now, there was another building beside Al Forno

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** and I believe it got bought out by Al Forno or something or one of those, one of the Corliss properties down there and then it basically kind of, they didn't have a building and then it just kind of went away but that was I remember going there.

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** Which is across the street from the Hot Club when I was in my early 20s--- ish.

**Utsey (0:17:31):** Did you spend a lot of time outside of the Fox Point neighborhood?

**Brasil:** You mean when I started driving and stuff like that or just---? Yea... We when I was younger we never, I shouldn't say never um, but it wasn't--- my parents were working so you didn't get driven to Suszy's house or Sally's house or whatever. If you were to do something it was after school and you went right from school and then your parents picked you up after work do you know what I mean?

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** It wasn't um, but I, I use this example all the time my parent... my grandmother had a beach house in Jamestown, we...my parents still have that, my mother still has the house, and we had friends that we saw in the summer, and they lived out--- right at the line of Seekonk, like East Providence, Seekonk, right at that border there and when it was not summer we did not see those kids because they lived too far away and we just didn't see them.

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** So every summer you kind of looked forward to going back to the beach because you could catch up with the Macintosh's you know the whoever's that you only saw on the island in the summer.

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** And it was different because you know you just, down there you just didn't, you kind of stayed on the Island you didn't really go... now people venture to Newport and go... like if we went to Newport once a summer that was big. But---

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** so it was just different.

**Utsey:** Within um the city of Providence were you aware of any type of reputation or thoughts that other residents of Providence might have had of Fox Point?

**Brasil:** Not when I was growing up. My um husband's---his father, earlier um he his father used to use an example of, he lived in South Providence and he used to say they used to send people back over the bridge like from the Point

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** ---in South Providence, the Point Street Bridge there. Like they used to chase them back over the bridge that's the only reference that I know of, but it was before my time. But when I met my father-in-law who has passed away, um that was the... that was his first reference, that's the first thing I remember was "Oh you live in the Point? We used to chase them back over the bridge." I said "Ok. Hi nice to meet you".

**Utsey:** He was referring to any resident of Fox Point?

**Brasil:** Pretty much.

**Utsey:** Do you know why why the...

**Brasil:** I don't. I don't. It was you know I don't know whether it was at that point you know he's probably was talking--- when he was growing up in the '30s or the '20s or something, so it was probably a reference to the Irish are over there and the Portuguese were over here. Back, way back then I don't know?

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** That's all I can imagine. I took it and in a not too nice way um but bit my tongue and waited til I left and said "What was that about?"

**Utsey:** Right, right.

**Brasil:** So, but I don't know.

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** But other than that no.

**Utsey (0:20:37):** Do you remember um any types of stores or any popular shops that were present in the Fox Point area?

**Brasil:** We--- in the Point or in Providence in general where we would shop?

**Utsey:** In the Point.

**Brasil:** In the Point my mother would go to Lisbon Dry Goods on Wickenden Street, we would go to Pedrosa's Market on Brook Street. Um I just I remember Lisb... having conversations about Lisbon Dry Goods and getting things at Lisbon Dry Goods but I--- I don't know that I ever went cause it may have been when it was phasing out. We shopped a lot. Like a big day was going downtown to Sheppard's, or the Outlet or something back in the day---

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** but um, marketwise I remember my mother um she shopped at Almark's on Waterman Street for groceries as I got older before, that I don't know um.

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** And I'm trying to think, Eagle Market down on Ives. We had a penny candy store that we went to because it was on our block. On...it's on, it was on Brook Street and its where the Lion's Eye is

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** between Brook and Transit was Mr. Anthony's Penny Candy Store and we enjoyed that.

**Utsey (0:22:10):** When you were young were there any parts of the neighborhood that you weren't allowed to go near?

**Brasil:** We couldn't go down to Ives Street and and like below that we couldn't go to Gano we couldn't go to Ives um when we were little---um

**Utsey:** Why was that?

**Brasil:** I think pretty much just cause it was too many streets to cross, you know what I mean

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** and they my grandmother you, you have to realize my mom was at work so my grandmother kept you under her thumb and she was responsible so she wanted to be able to see you and she wanted you within kindof calling distance

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** because she didn't speak English, that well. I mean she she she had some words as time went on and and phrases and she understood but to say that she wanted to go

outside and call you she wanted to know where you were and if you were going from one house to another house or one yard to another yard you came back and you checked in “I’m gonna go over to” you know “over to Mrs. ... yard” or “I’m gonna go down to the Gorman’s yard” you know.

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** “I’m going over to the Izzy’s but I’m going be in the back yard so you won’t be able to see me.” So you need to like, you know and we needed to come back in an hour and just like check-in

**Utsey:** Right

**Brasil:** And that’s the way it was.

**Utsey:** As a pre-teen or adolescent were there any parts of Fox Point that you weren’t allowed to go?

**Brasil:** I don’t remember, um by that point ---I’m trying to think, um probably the same down on Ives Street I don’t know just because it was---a little bit shadier so to speak or that was the impression of it.

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** Um so probably just that. Other than that [shakes head to answer “No”]

**Utsey:** What stories had you or your family heard about Ives Street to give it that connotation?

**Brasil:** Just, you know there were a few bars down there and it was kind of rowdy and so you know if I was out my mother didn’t want us down that way, you know and a lot of times we weren’t really even allowed to stray that far you know what I mean, so that wasn’t even, you didn’t even think about “Oh I wasn’t allowed to go there” because it just wasn’t on the radar screen. You could go like, the Lima’s lived up at--- the Limas and the Cadutos up at Arnold and Governor so that was kind of as far, Caroline Brassil lived up on Governor. I had friends that lived on East Manning and I was allowed to ride my bike there. Um but as I was you know probably like eighth grade, but you never rode you always went... somebody was with you even my sister or I could ride to someone else’s house and pick someone up and then we would all go, you know what I mean

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** on our bikes and stuff like that but um that’s what I remember.

**Utsey (0:25:10):** Was there any crime at all in Fox Point?

**Brasil:** Crime how so?

**Utsey:** Um, just...

**Brasil:** Just break in's and stuff like that?

**Utsey:** in general.

**Brasil:** No. I I think I remember twice in my lifespan any like you know little snippets there was a, you know someone loose, not loose...loose. Um someone like targeting Fox Point and then some of the residences and on the East Side and and one was probably in the last five years and they dusted and did all the thing and found out he was like a career criminal and he just he wasn't a Fox Point person, he just kind of targeted um this area and maybe one time before that but other than that no it's very it's you know everybody takes care of their neighbors and you know, if you see you're barr... their barrels blowing in the wind you go get it and you put it in their backyard and... nobody tells you to do it and nobody asks you to do it you just do it.

**Utsey:** Mhmm. What's your definition of a Fox Pointer?

**Brasil:** Oh---To me, um I just think a lifer, like someone that's been there and and grew up there and is still there and, you know, to me.

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** But I know like my brothers have moved away but they consider themselves---they're Fox Pointers and you know you get a lot of the families that still come back you know if we if if somebody's sick and one of the the old time families if someone has you know something wrong and and they run a a fundraiser you will see people come back that you haven't seen in years. But if they hear about it they're there. I guess that's it to me.

**Utsey (0:27:09):** Mhmm. So how did your family, the Brasil's, how did they come to Fox Point? The first generation of Brasils?

**Brasil:** Oh---My grandparents all, I didn't bring my notes, um came from different islands in the Azores. I want to say four of my grandparents came from 3 different islands, two of them were from one island and the other two were from different islands. Um and they came through India Point. I guess there was an immigration port there, that's what my mother says.

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** I always thought you had to come through Ellis Island so I was very confused when I first heard it, but um---that's the way I understand it so they came over on the boat to---India Point, Fox Point and got off the boat and started their lives. And my

grandfather---my mother's father he was a Paiva, he was a longshoreman. Her mother was a homemaker they had seven---eight children, one died very young. And my father's father ran a store for years um---but you know what's weird, I when you asked me about the stores not I never, I didn't know my grandfather he wa... he was---he passed away before I was born but he had a little market store on Governor Street, so I don't remember that phase of like the market thing.

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** But my father I guess I remember him talking about working there growing up and he wou... they would you know go and um--- he would go down to the wholesale, and he used to tell a story about getting a a crate of cantaloupes and then he would go door to door and sell those cantaloupes and I think you know he'd buy the crate for \$1 or \$2 and in the end he'd make \$6 or \$5 or whatever and in that day that was a lot of money

**Utsey (0:29:32):** Was the wholesale in Fox Point?

**Brasil:** I think the wholesale was downtown but he would either get a ride down there or somehow he'd finagle a way to get down there and get back with his crate of melons or whatever it was.

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** Um---and then he would you know pretty much kind of go around to people he knew hawking his melons or whatever it was that they had on sale that day or whatever he could get the crate for whatever he had.

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** So.

**Utsey:** Did your great-grandparents um immigrate to Fox Point because they were looking for work?

**Brasil:** I...I don't know you know I don't remember I don't know that that's a good question for my mother she would be better at that one.

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** I..... don't know.

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** I'm trying to think if I could come up with something but not really sure I don't think---it wasn't like the Great Potato Famine like when they were leaving Ireland or something like that that I don't k know I mean I think it was just probably just to...a

different life or a new life and my father's mother was one of five sisters---and like ran a farm over there so I think she was done with running the farm and didn't want to be the you know the--- the farm worker anymore so she came over here and and

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** got married and did her own thing but God bless her she'd still get up at 4 o'clock in the morning every morning.

**Utsey:** Was Arnold Street the first street that your family had um had lived on in Fox Point?

**Brasil:** No, um my mom's family---you mean my family proper, that's the only place I've ever lived

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** is Arnold Street. My mom's family was on East Transit and then they moved to Arnold. And my dad's family um is on Williams the corner of Williams and Governor. But my cousins there are older than I am so they weren't in school with us so you know it wasn't---we didn't like go to the same schools so we didn't---and like I said she's, they were all um---older than I was so I don't remember like hanging out with them although they were in the neighborhood we didn't hang out because they were, she was probably six or seven years older than I am

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** so it was a little bit different---difference in age.

**Utsey:** Where did your mother and father work?

**Brasil (0:32:01):** My father worked at the *Journal, Providence Journal* Company before it was bought out by Beelow um for 38 years. So he started "peddlin papahs" as he used to call it, and then---he drove a truck, and then--- he just kind of worked his way through management and in the end, at one point he was traffic manager, which I think I remember it he was in charge of all the truck routes for all of the deliveries and all that um and then---right before he retired he was kind of buildings and maintenance all the satellite offices that were starting to pop up you know the East Bay office and the West Bay and down in Newport, they would um---rent properties and---um---maintain those properties and and all the the furnshings in them and so he was responsible for getting them furnished and making sure they were cleaned and getting you know everything set up for them and just---keeping track of that stuff in the end. And then he retired from there I believe in 1992 and---he passed away in 2007. My mother um---lived with her mother all her life and they,...when they got married, my father moved in with them so my father lived with his mother-in-law and she--- at different times before I was born I've... I know that she worked in the Mayfair Laundry down on Brook Street, I know she

worked at Spidell. When I was in school she worked a lot of um---different like factory kind of jobs because it was the---I think it was more for like the mother's hours ability of it sort of thing um but she worked at a fact...at a jewelry manufacturing place up on Westminster Street I believe, called Crest Craft---um and that's the last one I remember her working at and then she stopped at some point and I don't remember when and I don't really remember why she just kind of didn't---I don't know whether its cause they laid-off and she just didn't go anywhere or whatever---or look for anything else, oh she may have worked for a place called Highland Manufacturing too at one point. That one pops in for some reason

**Utsey (0:34:57):** Mhmm

**Brasil:** ---so.

**Utsey:** Was there a difference in the jobs that were available to men um as opposed to the jobs that were available to women?

**Brasil:** For my mother?

**Utsey:** Yes.

**Brasil:** I think so but I mean not that you know we didn't have that conversation like

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** like "They're not hiring me because I'm a woman" an... and that type of thing um I know that one of them, she went to work there cause her sister worked there so she had an "in"

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** So to speak um or, you know---And it was---I... I think I mean I don't, I don't remember asking her this question but I think she pretty much went to work because we were in Catholic Schools so it was that little bit to help pay for the you know it's what you do to be able to do that

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** or it's what she did or what they did, you know, so. And I remember---[clears throat] excuse me--- um we all got jobs starting at 16 or whenever, you know once you started driving you got a job.

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** And my brothers um we all pretty much worked for the *Journal* because my father had worked there for so long---um I went and I became a---one of the satellite

offices was *East Side News* up on Hope Street and I became a counselor quote unquote which you supervise the newspaper delivery kids in high...so I was in high school so you're supervising all these little guys that are on their bikes

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** pitching papers at houses and making sure that they've done their routes.

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** My sister um---worked at the *Journal* as an inserter all of the um---I call em fliers---circulars that they put in the Ann & Hope---um Target, Wal-Mart fliers that they do in the Sunday paper they would insert them into the paper and uh my brothers both drove trucks all through high school though so they would work nights come home get their homework done, go to work, do their route, come home shower change and go to school the next day

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** And sometimes I don't remember um they may have done it where---they kind of focused more on like they had more weekend routes I'm not really sure I don't remember I just remember them working in in in you know coming in shower fast to get changed to go to school

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** And you don't hear about that with kids nowadays

**Utsey:** No you don't

**Brasil:** So and so pretty much from when we were 16 I don't remember ever asking my parents for like say gas money or um money to go out or whatever cause you had your job so your clothes you purchased you're your, so you know what I mean

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** You kind of had your own little slush fund and you used that for whatever you did

**Utsey:** Right

**Brasil:** And---like my parents paid for school and stuff like that but everything else everybody had a job so

**Utsey:** Was it common for Portuguese children in Fox Point to attend private Catholic school?

**Brasil:** Yea.

**Utsey:** Do you know why?

**Brasil:** I don't know why I mean pretty much everybody I know that I can think of they're...they a lot of them were in it, in like the same school as me

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** But I'm sure there were...are ones that went to you know Fox Point Elementary and then up to Bishop and then to Hope like my cousin is one of them---but I don't know why we went the strictly Catholic route and they did not I don't know

**Utsey:** What churches did you attend in Fox Point?

**Brasil:** Um growing up---Holy Rosary, Our Lady of the Rosary down on Traverse Street

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** Um and now because I, we go to St. Joe's---it's across the street...the commute time

**Utsey:** Have you noticed a change in the congregation at all---in either of those churches during those times that you lived in Fox Point?

**Brasil (0:39:35):** I don't---I don't think Holy Rosary has had any decline I don't know whether its---I think their population, their congregation is more um because its a Portuguese church I think they drive in from East Providence and down at Fall River and and wherever and come from, wherever they are they go there

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** ...and they come in for it to say it's a neighborhood church anymore I don't personally think it is. They come over from the shipyard or Allen's Avenue area um. But my parish, yea I think the congregation has declined in the last fifteen years or so you know you go to a mass and you see that there's only 40 people and and depending on which mass it is and we've had um masses eliminated you know like we don't have a Saturday night mass anymore no I'm sorry Sunday night at 5 we do still have Saturday night at 5 I went last week um we don't have Sunday night at 5 because he was finding that there wasn't enough parishioners or or---members of the congregation that it was you know he was having a mass and scheduling people and altar servers and readers and lectors and everything and the church was open and the heat was on---no air conditioning in the summer because there isn't any um but the heat was on in the winter um, for you know 10 or 15 people on a Sunday night and I don't know whether it was because it was

cold and so people weren't coming out---there are weeks that I wish there was that last Sunday night mass at 5---but it's not there anymore, so I do think its changed

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** um

**Utsey:** --- and do you know do you know why it's changed?

**Brasil:** I don't

**Utsey:** You don't

**Brasil:** I don't. I mean---

**Utsey:** Yea. Ok well going back to your parents when you were growing up you said that your father moved into your mother's home

**Brasil:** Yes

**Utsey:** was that common?

**Brasil:** I don't know. I I I just know its what they did and my mother was the youngest and she was a female and my grandmother was widowed---widowed

**Utsey:** Yes

**Brasil:** It's very weird the way my brain works, I apologize. You should be videotaping I make some really good facial expressions—I do

**Utsey:** I'll draw pictures on the transcript

**Brasil:** I'll be like the criminal on the the news with the sketches--- Um so I think my mother was the last one left in the house and it just fell to her to take care of her mother because my grandmother was alone and she I mean she had seven surviving children I I'm pretty sure I'd have to go through my head and think for a second sometimes I get my father's brothers and my mother's brothers confused I there. Um and I just think it was the way it was to say you know my grandma would have been in this---I wont say big house because it was a cottage we already went through that, but to be alone in a house to try to run it on her own I just think that it was--- more convenient and cost effective that they kind of moved in and then chipped in and I I don't to say that I remember my mother saying oh we took over the bills we got married and da-da-da-da or your father I---don't remember her ever saying that and I don't know if I know it was my grandmother's property and she owned it but to say I know that my mother and father paid the electric bill and the tax, I don't know I I'm pretty sure my grandmother paid the taxes and stuff on it but to say that the household bills and stuff I'd... assume that once

the kids came my parents did it, but when my mother... like the story of her working at MayFair Laundry her money went into the house when she worked at like Mayfair laundry and Spidel before she was married I think those jobs were before she was married--- um and it went to run the household and and it just got kind of put into the household money to pay the taxes and I don't even know if there was a water bill back then technically, I don't have any idea but those type of bills

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** So but I don't I don't I don't know if it was common I'm trying to think of other families that I knew of that their grandmothers or vavors lived with them um---I don't really know anybody else I know of other grandmothers that like at the time lived in the neighborhood--- and they were grandparent they... so their grandchildren lived on another street or in a different house or down the street and then gra.. meh their grandparent lived up the street but I think we were pretty much the only ones that had our vavor with us—But that's just the way it was

**Utsey:** Why did you family stay in Fox point--- for so many years?

**Brasil:** I don't know I guess I guess it's just home I don't think that you know

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil (0:45:00):** I always like to say it's because I'm a city rat and I like everything close to where I am you know. If we go on vacation and then it's you got to drive you know an hour to get to--- a mall or a store or a store or a something, I just don't, I, I'm not one of those people

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** and to say that I'll ever move to like South County--- not going to happen.

**Utsey:** If there was one thing you could change about Fox Point what would it be?

**Brasil:** Hmm that's an interesting one you should've given me that one a couple of days ago so I could have prepared that one. That one would have been good um--- oh on the fly--- I don't know umm---if there's one thing I could change what would I do--- I would make sure that all the open space that's created by moving the highways goes on the tax rolls--- um that was just a joke---ah I don't know I think I would like for more of the I'm going to say old-time families to still be around more--- you know cause I mean growing up we had the Brassils up on um Governor Street and there were five kids and not one of them lives in the Point anymore, you know, so you might see them at Christmas time at you know 'Santa's Coming to the Corner' or something so... we'd all go up and or you'd go out for a beer or something and you might run into them once maybe twice a year weddings and funerals um so that's what I miss that's what I wish was the same--- seeing the you know--- some of the old-time families

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** still around.

**Utsey:** So Brassil..they...

**Brasil:** Brassil's are not Brasil's. Brassil's are um an Irish family, were an Irish family, um still are cause they're around but they're not in the Point anymore. Caroline Brassil was a longtime Councilwoman from the Point.

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** Um she passed away probably about 11 years ago I want to say could be longer than that um but the park at the corner of Arnold and Brook is named for her um and she was the first city Councilwoman in Providence, at least that's what I was led to believe and told--- um and she had five kids and they owned a house on Governor opposite the little dog park there, you know the little dog park at the top of Williams Street and.... She lived across the street from that um but they had two 's' and we had one--- and there were Brassil's and there were Brasil's

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** And we've got... I've gotten this question for years and actually at her funeral they mispronounced my name when they called my car and they said "Joanne Brassil" and everybody in the room started laughing because it had been at the time 30 years of Brasil's or Brassil's and you know and they get the same question. They get "Are you a Brasil?" and we get "Are you a Brassil?" no we're very good friends but were not related so

**Utsey (0:48:34):** Could you define an old-timer?

**Brasil:** Oh I don't know I guess it's one of the families that were you know--- the Vieira's, the Brassil's, the Murphy's, the Brasil's be there with and 's' or a 'z'.

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** My uncle spelled his with a 'z' we spelled ours with an 's' I don't remember why but it is what it is.

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** Um I... I don't know I guess just you know a family that's been there for the last 50 years or had been and

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** you know for whatever reason they're not around anymore so

**Utsey:** So a family that would not be considered an old timer would be someone who entered Fox Point during what year?

**Brasil:** To me, probably the 90's, late 80's

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** and stuff you know it was like people that were there before the you know the 80's to me is the the, the families that I went to elementary school and high school with, you know that you know the Lima's, the Caduto's those people that are, they used to live in a tenement and then when they worked and saved up their money to buy a house they were kind of either priced out of it or choose to go somewhere else. I won't say that everybody was priced out

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** I don't know that for a fact

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** but I just think that they were and and I think it was just a um--- idea of you could get a bigger parcel somewhere else you know what I mean like I said I said before if you went to East Providence you had a big yard and you had as opposed to a tiny little stamp like that **[holds up hand to represent small size of yard]** it works

**Utsey:** Mhmm. What changes came to Fox Point after I-95 was developed?

**Brasil:** I-95 developed or I-95 moved? Now I wasn't there when I-95 went through

**Utsey:** Ok

**Brasil:** that was pre-me you'd have to ask my mother that one.

**Utsey:** Ok well when it moved let's go with that question.

**Brasil:** Now when it's been moving in the last few years? um--- I just--- what change is happening now?

**Utsey:** Yes.

**Brasil (0:51:03):** Um--- I just think there's an opportunity with all of the open space and and the land that's going to become available that you know I think our city is in such hardship right now that we need to make sure that it becomes---some--- the usage is such

that it's somehow on the tax rolls it needs to be--- a corporate office or something I... I live with Brown, I live with RISD, I live with Johnson and Wales. I enjoy the fact that we're all here together. um I just don't know that we as a neighborhood and as a city can take anything more not on the tax rolls. I don't know how you can have the residents of the city bear the entire burden and I know that, you know--- institutions of higher learning have their purpose and I agree with that but I don't know how you can have it be such that it's totally off the tax rolls. And I just think it changes the the character of the neighborhood and and... I just can't, I don't want to see all this land that's going to open up when they you know finally finish the final phases and move everything I... don't want to see it be another dorm and another building that's you know Brown or the Hospital you know we have we have all of them and in this area you know there's a lot of---um universities, colleges, hospitals, things that are off the tax rolls and you don't find it in other neighborhoods. You don't find it up in Elmhurst you don't find it in you know even up the East Side a little bit, you know what I mean. Its it's all centered here and even if you go over the bridge into the Jewelry District it's all within a quarter mile it's all within a half mile

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** you know and it all impacts on us so I just--- I don't know I guess I just hope that it's it's all still happening now um I... like the fact that they moved the highway. I like um---the traffic pattern. I don't necessarily like all of the changes that they did with it. I liked my on ramp and I liked my off ramp and I don't have em anymore.

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** So um but you adapt and you change and it's you know my mother was talking about when it first went in when the the last couple of years with the changes going on and "Oh I remember" you know, whatever her story was and um and I'm sure someday I'll be saying those same things "Oh I remember when the big blue bridge was floated down" you know the Bay

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** from Quonset and I do but um so but I digress into my diatribe

**Utsey (0:54:27):** So you witnessed the bridge arrive to Providence?

**Brasil:** I did I did wit... I wasn't, it was in the summer um I wasn't here in the Point I was at the beach but I did---

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** read about it in my *Pro Jo* and I saw it on TV and I wa.. they they floated-- Were you there?

**Utsey:** I just moved here. What year did the bridge arrive?

**Brasil:** You're a newbie. Ah man you're not a lifer

**Utsey:** I'm not an oldtimer

**Brasil:** Ah--- they built the blue bridge, I call it, with all the lights

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** I don't even know what it's called anymore um down in Quonset which is down in North Kingstown

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** and there was you can Google it I'm sure it'll come up, cause that what we do nowadays. Used to be we used to have to go to the library and get an encyclopedia and not anymore um--- and they waited for the tides and they waited for the moon to be a certain phase and they floated it on barges upriver from Quonset and it had to arrive at a certain time of day with the tide and then it went and they floated it right in place and it was like it was meant to be. It was a very I won't say once in a lifetime type of thing but it was a very unusual occurrence and it had gotten postponed several times. It was supposed to be done and then it was put off... but the day that it happened it was like clock work and it [snaps fingers 3 times representing efficiency of installing the bridge]

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** everything fired and it went right in and that was it.

**Utsey:** What year was this?

**Brasil:** Oh, probably three year ago now--- four I lost track but it'll come up on Google.

**Utsey:** Um, do you remember um, the Vietnam War did it have any effects on Fox Point?

**Brasil:** I remember it on the news I... to say that I say that I remember somebody that passed away from the Point um I personally don't my brothers who are a few years older may because um--- I know that there's some remembrances like in parks and things but my... I know that my parents know who that boy was or my brothers new that boy because they knew his brother or something but I personally don't.

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** I didn't

**Utsey:** Um let's see so you mentioned that there are new shops on... I know that there are new shops on Wickenden and new restaurants now do you um you know

**Brasil:** Frequent them?

**Utsey:** Frequent them at all?

**Brasil:** We--- we go sometimes like I'm not a big um--- I know sushi is big. It's not my thing, so to say we go to Tokyo or any of those, no. Um we're a big *Pizza Pie-er* family. I have two kids so we do frequent there a lot

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** um we go to the um--- the little ones on Ives Street I think more because they're off the beaten path and it's not as um trafficky, so like we'll go to the ice cream shop on on on Ives Street. We'll go to the barbeque place on Ives Street um and the sandwich shop across the street, I don't remember the name of it but I've been there once or twice

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** But---

**Utsey (0:57:52):** How is the presence of college students effected the dynamic your neighborhood?

**Brasil:** Um it's had a big affect I mean I think I want to say probably say ten years ago it was more um unruly in my head or what I remember um I know that the last few years there's been a couple of meetings with the um--- oh what is it called now District Commander but and so they've been very um open to the concerns of the neighborhood residents as opposed to student residents

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** Um in terms of parties and such and things like that so I think that it's right now at a happy balance--- I understand the dynamic of you know--- you have a rental property and you I mean my mother has rental properties we we have some students we have some really good students. But you need to maintain and supervise your properties. I have an issue with people that buy them and they're absentee landlords and they put these kids in and they have no idea, they're not the ones being woken up in 3 o'clock in the morning as they're screechin down the street because they live in Brockton or somewhere or they live in you know Brookline or up in Massachusetts somewhere or wherever they live um. So that I have an issue with because I am woken up at 1, 2, 3 o'clock in the morning and Saturday night I was trolling at two because there was a whole crowd marching down Arnold Street toward Brook and but they went by pretty quickly you know it was loud enough that it woke me up

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** But um I too was a child once and a young adult I guess not a child

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** So I remember being “shushed” as I was going into my mother’s house being dropped off but I just don’t think there’s anyone there to shush them

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** So they do what they do and---or you do what you do

**Utsey:** Oh I don’t.

**Brasil:** Alright I’ll leave you out of that so ah so I think it’s an interesting dynamic I don’t think that the um--- I don’t think that the students interact with the residents to say that I you know my my mother’s tenants I obviously know them and talk to them and “Hey how ya doing” and “Oh”... the other day one of the girls was coming or going and I didn’t know what it was and she was unlocking her bike and I was walking by the fence and said “Are you coming out cause I’ll open the fence if you’re gonna be riding” --you know

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** “riding your bike out” and she said “No I’m goin in” so you know I interact with our tenants but to say that the tenants on the other side of them or across the street say “Hey how ya doin” or I don’t think they--- as far as I know they don’t interact with the residents--- with the families um---non-student population

**Utsey (1:01:14):** Has the relationship between and Fox Point and Brown University changed over the years?

**Brasil:** I don’t know--I mean not that... I don’t have any knowledge of the fact that it did or didn’t

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** um ah I...I remember um I’m trying to think what streets they are John Street and Williams Street there was--- some houses that were moved there I want to say 25 years ago because they were moved because a dorm was being built so instead of just demolishing the houses, the houses were in good shape so they moved them. So I remember when that happened I don’t know um I don’t really know whether that was good or bad I don’t remember feeling that was good or bad

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** I now to this like... now I don't know whether those houses are part of Brown or just moved I think they're I don't know whether they're under the auspices of some building or some whatever that they're property of Brown or whether they were moved and they were moved and they were bought individually I don't know that

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** but I remember them being moved. And I remember oh--- probably about 15 years ago there were some other ones moved and I don't remember where it went, to tell you the truth. I remember being on Hope Street and they were moving the house like at 6 o'clock on a Sunday morning. Because my kids were out there at you know four and three and four and one and who's on who's shoulders... cause they were um moving every set of wires on every pole across to get the house by so it would roll down and then the it was all perfectly timed between electrical workers and phone workers and city workers and Narragansett Electric, which no longer exists, National Grid workers

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** to move the house methodically down Hope Street and I don't personally remember where it went

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** I just remember being there with my kids cause Ryan loved um anything construction at the time so we were out there for hours.

**Utsey:** How old are your kids?

**Brasil:** Um 16 and 13.

**Utsey:** Do you consider Fox Point a good neighborhood to raise children?

**Brasil:** I do I don't... they don't have any um I won't say any um--- they don't have a lot of children the same ages and if they do now they're they all go to different schools so its harder to um, you know, like Ryan doesn't go out and go next door because there's a boy the same age that no, that doesn't happen so. They would like to move somewhere else and I am a lifer so you know Ryan goes "Can we move?" And "No I live here," um. And Erin plays a lot with um my neighbor's grandson who lives a block over he's three or four years younger than her but they get along well and they're, you know, the same temperament he was over there one night so they hang out a lot together, but um but it's there's not a lot of kids the same age for them right now

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** so and I... find that they gravitate towards the kids who are in school with where is at that time most a lot of the kids on our street or in or neighborhood were all in the same we all went to the same schools so that was I think part of the dynamic that happened back them.

**Utsey:** Mhmm would you ever consider leaving Fox Point?

**Brasil:** Me no. --- That was short, sweet, and to the point.

**Utsey:** Yea that was really short.

**Brasil:** You... may ask my husband or my children that question someday I don't know whether I'll be voted out or voted off the island I'm not sure

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** but for right now I'm pretty much in charge...

**Utsey:** So um just thinking about how your property has been transmitted through your family

**Brasil:** Generations

**Utsey:** Through generations is that something that you intend to continue with your children?

**Brasil:** I mean I hope to--- I hope to. It kind of depends on what they do and where they end up you know I don't I don't know. I only have two, my mother had four you know my... husband's mother had 11

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** so it's you know there's they had a lot more to hand it down to and I've only got two, so you know, if one goes to, I don't know, Notre Dame, and ends up moving to California I don't you know I don't know that to say that that'll be what'll happen but I would hope that one day it would be

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** My daughter's more of a homebody than my son so I'm thinking she maybe the one that hangs out and stays around

**Utsey (1:06:20):** Why did your siblings leave?

**Brasil:** I don't know I think it was probably um--- more... kind of like what I said the most--- I don't want to say that phrase that's in my head "more bang for your buck" so you could get for the this amount of money you could get that

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** You know so if they had the money to buy a \$250,000 house or a \$189,000 house at the time here you couldn't get one and if you did it was a itty bitty one you know what I mean so I think it was you know cost effective for them and they wound up somewhere else

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** And I really just think that's what it was unfortunately.

**Utsey:** Do you think they would ever move back?

**Brasil:** I don't know you know I never really asked them that question they always just know that I'm here and I'm next door to my mother and I do that part of life so

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** I think they like that part um they're all very good they all you know check on her and do what ever and but um I don't know whether they would.

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** I know they're here all the time they all come back but in our weekends their... down and they're in you know for me it's a no brainer you're here why don't you just come back here

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** so---but I don't know.

**Utsey:** How did India Point Park affect the neighborhood?

**Brasil:** It was it's always been there for me I don't remember um more developed and more um prettier--- prettier

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** from when I was younger when I was little I don't remember um--- us going there as much um I remember being afraid of the... bridge over the highway for a long time um and I also remember standing on it during the blizzard and looking at all the

stranded cars. Do you even know about the blizzard? How old are you? Did I say that really in a bad way? Did it come out the tone I meant cause this is going to be on there for forever I don't even know.

**Utsey:** No it's... fine I'm... from South Carolina so I don't know much about snow firsthand

**Brasil:** Oh how was the other day to you---yesterday? [reference to a light snow fall the previous night]

**Utsey:** It was shocking, it was shocking.

**Brasil:** I woke my daughter up I say "Look at Poirier's roof, it's got snow" and she was like "I love snow" so it's a whole different mindset sweetheart.

**Utsey:** Yea so um I'm still getting adjusted and I'm 24 so I wouldn't know about the blizzard.

**Brasil:** Ok nope, no blizzard no blizzard of '78. Well the blizzard of '78 was--- a I guess a life changing event it started I don't know which day of the week but the storm started late in the early in the afternoon and by 5 o'clock there was gridlock everywhere in the state

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** I think it was a nor'easter technically and it just came up and started swirling and swirling you can Google that too.

**Utsey:** What month was this in?

**Brasil:** February 6<sup>th</sup> 1978.

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** And I don't I mean I want to say we didn't go back to school til around the 15<sup>th</sup> or something I mean everything was shut down highways were shut down cars on 95 you know like I said I stood on the pedestrian bridge over I-95---195 I'm sorry and cars were just stranded like everywhere you looked it was like it was a huge parking lot with just white puffs in between it

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil (1:10:13):** Um and--- people were stranded on buses people were stranded in their office buildings downtown um my aunt at the time lived in East Providence she was stranded on a bus on South Water Canal Street over here where Muldoon's Saloon used to be--- I don't know what's there now--- um and it was it came down so fast and so

furious that she who had lived in Fox Point for a large portion of her life couldn't find her way to Arnold Street from South Water Street

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** or Canal Street I don't know which one that is technically um but she couldn't walk up James Street Hill to Benefit to Arnold Street you know you would go down and walk up and cross over and keep--- and she couldn't find her way that she just sat in this bar I want to say probably at late 50's or something like that so much so that I think it was probably about 11 o'clock at night there as like a lull in the storm

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** And we went out and walked down and walked her, had to walk her home to my mother's house and--- she stayed there I want to say for four or five days and then we walked her home over the highway to East Providence all the way home and then we walked back home.

**Utsey:** Hmm

**Brasil:** Um but it was--- I mean in the end ultimately it was National Guard with um--- I call them big diggers, back hoes and excavators and you know, big huge trucks that... all that stuff had to be flown in from all over the place and different National Guard companies from South Carolina, Georgia wherever they were came up and dug us out. It was like something I've never experienced since.

**Utsey:** How many feet of snow fell?

**Brasil:** I want to say it was like between 3 or 4 feet I'll have to look it up

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** I... but the drifts were unbelievable because the winds were such that you'd get a part where the sidewalk had nothing but then the street because there had been a car there and everything piled up around it was over your head which for me I'm only 5 foot isn't too high but high enough um--- like doors back doors were barricaded on houses because the drifts were such that you know you just couldn't open the door--- and you would go out and you would shovel you know you know you think it's a storm ok I'm going to go out and get a jump on it's and you start shoveling and you'd come in and a hour later and it was like had never been there

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** It blew all back right where it was so ultimately in the end people just kind of hunkered down in their houses and waited and when it came time it was I want to say like 36 or 38 inches of snow I don't know

**Utsey:** That's a lot.

**Brasil:** and and it... a lot of it was because it hit at like rush hour traffic time when everybody was on the roads and to this day there's a blizzard factor in Rhode Island if there's going to be snow the market will be packed people will be stocking up on milk and bread it's people that made it through the blizzard

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** And they don't want to be caught without their milk and bread again and it's just a um--- something that I remember vividly.

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** But hopefully you'll never have a blizzard this year or any year.

**Utsey (1:14:10):** So what do u think Fox Point will be like ten years from now?

**Brasil:** Oh--- I don't know I guess a lot of it depends on that highway project um my pet peeve ah I don't know--- I hope I'll still be here and um--- it just I guess I just hope whatever changes happen um that they're--- this is going to sound hokey—for the better but I guess it depends on what your definition of better will be so um

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** I just hope it's a little bit.

**Utsey:** Fox Point seems to be getting the brunt of changes that are occurring in Providence do you have on thoughts on why that is?

**Brasil:** Like which do change you mean like the highway and all that--?

**Utsey:** Yea just the highway the park why do you think the city is not necessarily targeting Fox Point but focusing changes in the neighborhood?

**Brasil:** I don't know I just think there's so little space to like move the highway through you know what I mean its just, I I don't I don't remember those like plans and discussions of what was going to be happening but um--- I just think there's just been so much development that it's hard to... do such a massive project and with the bay there you have kind of the flexibility, you know what I mean there aren't that many buildings that you would have to move that it was the logical choice as opposed to say make it cut through South Providence and take a whole neighborhood out you know what I mean they had already I guess done that I guess when the initial one came through so the most likely option is to stay close to that and you know they kind of swung the design a

different way that you didn't--- the old design traffic used to be a nightmare at 5 o'clock I mean it was just brutal

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** You'd get on and sit for hours because there were so many sharp turns to it that you know the design now is such that it's--- not so many sharp angles so you know it's not so much traffic backing up um--- but I don't know why it... it does you know and I just think that when you do move the highway that does open up the other space so you know it's just a kind of natural progression, I just hope that our city leaders and state leaders are take us into consideration a little bit

**Utsey:** Mhmm

**Brasil:** in their long-range plans I guess.

**Utsey:** Right right so is there anything else you'd like to share about Fox Point any thoughts that might have come up during the interview?

**Brasil:** I don't think so.

**Utsey:** Ok

**Brasil:** I don't think so

**Utsey:** Alright well I have the consent form for you to sign and I can end the interview now if that's ok with you

**Brasil (1:17:31):** Ok I'll sign it.