

GINA BERTONCINI

29TH December 2015 at 12 Front Street Mossman upstairs

G My name is Gina Bertoncini (*pron Bert on sea nee*) born on 18th of the 8th '41
I used to be a Contarino.

P Your Dad came here

G My Dad came out here must be at least 5 years before. My mother was a proxy bride. But she knew Dad over in Italy. Knew the family. In those days there used to be a lot of proxy brides. A lot of her friends re all proxy brides. They ended up in Babinda. Dad used to have a boarding house in the early early days and then I think the World War started or something and Dad was interned, sent him to Melbourne somewhere an internment camp and Mum had me, I think she'd just had me and he never came back for 18 months but then he had to fake it that he was sick. Had a sore back. (*laughs*) So it took him 18 months to get out of that camp. So he came back to Babinda. Lucky my mother had a lot of her friends there, her brother in law and a lot of other ladies that were all there, they had their husbands there. I don't know why they interned Dad but anyway they did. And then after 18 months he came back and then one fellow said to my Dad Hey Joe I'm going up to Mossman would you like to come for a ride? He said Oh yeah I'd love to. Come to Mossman. He says Quite a nice little place. When he came back he said to his wife, Do you know what Nellie we're going to go to Mossman. What's in Mossman. Nice little place. So they ended up coming to Mossman, so that's the way we ended up here. Then, I don't know, they rented like a house, more of a shop, in those days everything was closed. There was nothing going. I remember there used to be Chinese where Peter Verri was, they all closed down

P Was that during the war

G This would've been after the war, war finished in '45. Yeah well then they'd all gone, there was nothing much in town, just one track road, everything was dust, we had those big trees in the middle of the street they were all there. We used to have the army trucks, they used to go up to Daintree, training. They used to come through. I used to have a poster on my door. The Army, the WAC, photos of, I want to be a WAC (*laughs*) but no, never happened. So then Dad decided there was, it was big enough for a shop so he decided to do a grocery store. So we lived in one half of the building and made a shop out of the other one. That was where Verris [*she corrected it to Lemuras*] used to be but Mrs Lund owned that. Mabel. She owned half the town. She was a wealthy lady. So we were there for, I don't know for how many years. Mum used to grow flowers and sell them to the hotel

4.41

P What number in Front Street, if this is 12

G Find out. One door away, no two doors away

P about number 8 or something

G Eventually where we are now, Joe Johnston used to have, used to be an old bachelor on his own I think, I don't know whether he had family or whatever, he wanted to get out so eventually Dad bought. Another fellow offered it to him, he said Joe why don't you buy Joe Johnston's he wants to sell. That way you've got your own premises. I don't know whether he had enough money though. I'm sure this other fellow offered to help him, he paid him off. I not quite sure of that because I was still young. So we did that but then when we bought it, we couldn't find anyone to build anything

It was an old wooden shack (*phone rings*) that was the building,

P So it was the smallgoods shop. Just a minute, the phone's ringing.

6.05

GINA #2

G It never used to have that [*sign*] on, smallgoods, we put that on, he used to have Peters Ice Cream. We used to be a general cash store.

P It's a lovely wooden building with a verandah

G Front verandah. That's my Dad outside and this must be a couple of cane cutters, workers.

P Dad's got his hand on his hip. When would that have been

G That's would have been taken, shucks, I don't know what year, he'd bought it. I don't know how long we were here for. Must've been here a few years before he got sick. Next door is where de Bartolos is, but that used to be Bill Bruntons, that used to be a garage. With the hoists, used to be bowers in the front, like a service station and eventually he sold out to, we're all getting too old. We used to play shuttlecock down the laneway when there was nothing to do. Good old days.

P That's a wonderful photo. I wonder who took that

G One of me old friends. He's dead too

He bought it as is, like that, but there was no living quarters at the back. All there was no living quarters all there was, was part of a shop, they just had a bit of a section here, like a verandah and that was about it. So then because we didn't know, before then when he bought the shop, I don't know what happened because he bought stuff to build the house at the back. He must've, I don't know

It was a big block because it went right down the back there, to the back of these flats here, where this house is, that's the block there

P So it's very long. It's got a big house and shop and flats behind it

G Big raintrees at the back, big raintrees all the time. There used to be sheds. I'm sure the White Car used to park in the back shed. But there used to be sheds at the back there and I remember the big raintrees and to get them out of there was a big job.

P Were they like the raintrees at the church.

G Yes it was a big one like that

P Were they planted by Rev Taffs

G I don't know. Joe Johnston just had Peters Ice creams and lollies, just little nicky nackies, like a milk bar but he didn't make sandwiches or anything like that, a few biscuits I think, but the ice cream was the thing because I remember we used to have Polar Star ice cream and they had Peters ice cream and I used to want to buy Peters Ice cream because I wanted to try that one. They used to be thrippence. [*threepence*] Thrippence for an ice cream!

P How long had Joe been there do you think

G I'd say he'd been there for a few years too

P Was he local

G I'd say so. See I don't know. I was only little then

P Did he leave town when he sold it

G Yeah. They just moved on. I think he was getting older anyway, he was an old man. Used to, a bit of money to survive. Apparently this place here before he had it it was a butchers shop. Used to be a butchers shop so they tell me because there was a big cold room there but I don't know much about it.

P It was a butcher before it was Johnston's

G Yeah

P And was it Chinese as well

G I wouldn't know. Don't know

P Because the story goes that your Dad found [*Chinese*] coins

G Coins (*laughs*) yeah when he built those flats there, they're the flats that are like this

P Not straight walls

G oh no. They were terrible. They didn't have enough battens in them. They didn't use fibro, they used 3 ply. And 3 ply was only timber and of course they warped with the weather we have here, they all warped. And a few years back I got them fixed up. I said No rip those walls out and put some more battens in and fix it up. They put some fibro I think there and paint it all and get it all fixed up so that's what we did. Otherwise what are you going to do you know. Knock it down. You can't rebuild, so I fixed it all up. At least the bottom I use for storage and the top, I've only got a couple of pensioners in there. This is what we've done there.

P So he didn't find any money

G No, he used to go to the pub and tell them. Hey Joe. Because when he built them, flats, he was the first one I think to build flats in town. 'Hey Joe, where did you find the money for that'. 'Remember the Chinamen that used to live here, I found some kerosene tins full. How do you think I got them'. Dad was, when he told stories, he could tell them. He was very dry and very serious. Like I said my Dad was a happy go lucky type of fellow. He'd tell jokes. 'Here boys, have a shout'. He'd shout them if he had to shout them. But he considered, especially the new Australians because it was so hard, when they didn't know the language, they were away from home. He felt very sorry for them. He used to pick them up like his own kids. 'Come on boys, come round, if you need anything, come round', he says, 'I'm always there. And if you want a feed, come round'. Because Mum used to cook then. See when we used to have downstairs we used to have boarders, the cane cutters used to live there

P In the flats

G Well downstairs, because we used to have rooms downstairs and Mum used to cook for them. Make their cribs and things like that. That's when I started to help. because I'd have to help cooking, this is where I learnt to do a little bit of cooking and remember. My sister, she was 5 years younger than me, and she's errr, she doesn't know how to cook either (*laughs*) but she's getting better. Over the years. Because I used to always help Mum.

P What did she make

G She'd only have sandwiches, they'd only have sandwiches. Because they used to take their big water bottles, flasks, coffee whatever they wanted. See they all worked out of town so they couldn't come back for lunch.

P What did she make them for dinner

G We used to have our pasta dishes, crumbed steak, chicken, stews, every day. Italian meals whatever they used to cook in those days, I don't know. Always salads. I remember I'd always do the salads.

P Where did you get everything from

G Because we had the shop and we had fruit and veggies and groceries, so

P Where did you get your stock

G The stock from Cairns. Dad used to go to Cairns. Used to drive to the Tablelands and find his bulk tomatoes, all his fruit and veggies whatever he could find up there from the growers. He used to have an old ute, wooden whatsaname. Yeah it had a wooden tray, we used it for Cobb and Co one year. All the boys got dressed up in Cobb and Co, they had a parade or something, we did that, I've got photos of that somewhere too. That was good. I don't know where all the boys went to from there. I only know one in Brisbane. I don't know where they went to.

He used to do deliveries way out to Mowbray. Up the Daintree. Because every now and then I used to go with him, I said Come on Dad I'll come with you. I used to drive with him. He didn't fly, in those early days, because you couldn't find anything, in Cairns there was nothing. I think Fiorellis came later. He used to fly to Sydney and that used to cost him an arm and a leg just to go and find some Italian products you know, to bring them in store. And Salamis, cheeses

10.47

a lot of imported food that, in Cairns there was no warehouse, so they came in later. I think after Dad died they started, a couple of shops in Cairns. He died, I was 16 so work that out. (pause) I was born in '41, 1957. He died young. He died at 49 years of age. It was terrible. So then of course it was me, me, me. I thought aw shucks I've got to run this show. How am I going to do this. It was hard, luckily I had an uncle, he was pretty smart and he'd help me follow stuff. I was lucky because I had Bill Brunton, all down here, there was butchers, the bakers they all volunteered to help me. They said Gina if you need anything just sing out, we're here to help you.

P what were the butchers called

G I think it was Simpsons butchering and I think was Fotia's bakery at that time F O T I A. They were Italian. And who else was there. Then was Lemuras, they were too busy, they had their own carrying company so they were too busy. I can always remember I'd go up to the butchers shop and there used to be a girl in there and I'd say Hey how can you spell this word. Because I'm writing a letter. She'd write it down for me. She was good old Barbara I went to school here but I only went to grade 12 which was scholarship in those days. I played up (laughs) it was just, what I learnt I learnt but I didn't learn I didn't learn. English and parsing and all that, it was all double dutch to me, I never. That's why I don't read too much. I should do more reading because it helps you. Helps you all over.

P did you speak Italian at home

G Not much. I spoke, when my grandma and my aunts come out, then I did, I had to learn because they couldn't speak English. A word here and a word there. Then I learnt the Sicilian. I could learn the Sicilian.

P Where was your family from

S Sicily. Jardy G A R R I E [really Giarre, in Catania]. and [her] dad was from Saint Alfia [really Sant'Alfio in Catania] which is still in Sicily but they come out when they were in the old shop because I remember there used to be a little shed, fair dinkum, it was no bigger than,

P about 3 x 3

G It had a window there and a single door there, it was just like a storage shed, keep stuff in there but it had a window. Anyway we dressed it up, curtains, dressing table, actually my daughter's kept and her mother in law has polished it all up, loved doing antiques, she's got it at her place. We don't want to give that away, it's over 100 years old. We bought it second hand then. Did it all up and they were quite happy. They'd live in the house, the shed would be where the flats are, and then they'd come to the house and have breakfast. My mother's mother and her two sisters. And they come out because [her] Dad had died years ago, this is why my mother I think come out to Australia, because [her] dad lost everything in Italy, they got sick, they had a little farm and they lost everything

P Her Dad, your grandfather

G Yeah. From what my Mum told me. Coming to Australia, marrying Dad. I don't know about love, you know how they talk about love (laughs)

P How old was she

G I don't know, this is what I don't know, I don't how old she was. My mother was very attractive. Everyone said your mother was beautiful. She come out to Australia and she had this nice wavy hair. Her name was Nellie. Some of the photographs of her, I used to always set her hair up, especially if there was something on, colour it up. Because I used to love hair dressing. I used to always set her hair up, make her really, she looked really nice. A lot of the older fellows'd say I can remember your mother, she was beautiful when she was young. Skin so lovely, her wavy hair.

P But she didn't want to take over the shop when your Dad died

G She was there, she was with us because she spoke the broken English she had to help just the same, but she couldn't, you'd have to be out there all the time. So I got another girl to work and then I got, I had a couple of girls, a couple of girlfriends of mine used to come in on Saturday morning and help me. Sometimes they'd come in on Friday. A lot of them were going to school too. We had groceries, we had all sorts of, a lot of macaroni and salami, some stock fish, there's a picture here of, Stock fish is a dried fish. That's not a very good one that was in this older shop

P Is was always called Contarinos

G Yeah it's was Contarinos. Only when my son in law took over, it's turned out to be Temptations, been a few years

P It's always been Temptations since I've been here

G Yeah it's about 20 years. When we first, when we come over here, I had the grocery store here, where's the grocery store, where's Annie, this was the new shop over here before we renovated.

P This is the shop that we saw in the big picture

G No, that one there is

P Is that your Dad

G No that's an old man Mr Cardillo, he's an old identity from here too, but he died. Where's all my pictures. *(pause)*

P Which shop's this one

G This is the one we're in now, that's when we first did it up. It's had a few renovations. That used to be the check-out where I was out the front check-out

P That's good, is that before the renovations

G Shucks, it's not in here. These kids they take, touch everything. It's missing. You could see all the salamis hanging up. You can still see them but you've got to be. And I think that's the dried fish but you can't see it. I had a better one. It's not in here.

P When your Dad died, did you have to go to Sydney

20.59

and get the salamis.

G No by then they'd opened up in Cairns and we used to get them from Cairns. So we'd just place an order or go to Cairns and place an order and get whatever we wanted. Dried beans and chick peas and spaghetti. Fiorellis and then they sold out and they then went to Garozzos. That's where we used to buy the bulk Italian, the olives and things. There was lots of Italians here, you can just image six and seven hundred cane cutters. They'd have 6 to a gang, smallest gang would be four I'd say and some of them had 8 or 10 to a gang. Even though there was J & N in those days they were the biggest, they were like Woolies,

P But they didn't have the Italian stuff

G They kept a few but not as much. The Italians would, you know how it is, they stick to the Italians *(laughs)* but Dad was very good he was a very good businessman and like I said,

they'd always come to him. He was good hearted and he'd deliver he said 'I'll deliver out to your place', so on Saturday afternoons he'd go out and deliver.

P And he gave them credit

G Oh yeah he used to give them credit, pick out what you want and at the end of the week or the month, the cane will pay for it. Other words you paid for it when you get paid.

P So you must've been a pretty good businesswoman yourself

G Well I pushed along. I had to work hard, long hours, I used to open up at 8 and close at half past 10, 11 o'clock because in those days we used to have a picture theatre, especially on a Friday and Saturday night. But I wouldn't close before the pubs closed. We would be open till 10 o'clock every night. And that's where I sort of taught myself to fancy work, to sew, I always used to cut out a new dress every week I think I used to have a new dress, and listen to Dad and Dave on the radio because it used to be just behind me.

P What did you sell to the people from the pubs, hot food?

G No, no we didn't have hot food it was just a milk bar, milk shakes and ice creams. We probably had pies, we had pies in those days. Get a pie. What else is there, check my mind, I had it all set up. Good ay

P And you've still got a bit of trellis inside haven't you
Look at all the cigarettes

G Now they make you hide them all. Don't know why, display it. This is the new shop of course.

P can you remember when you had the old shop and the new shop. When was this present shop built

G Now. I should have that. I can't remember. My husband could, he's got a better memory than me. It'd be more than 20 years. Stephen's boy is 22. *(pause)* Ask Victor. I'm not sure

I met him here in Mossman. He came, one Anzac Day on his motorbike with his friends, I was only young 16 wasn't interested, and this fellow said to my dad 'Hey Joe, I've brought your daughter a man here'. He said, 'Oh yes alright Fred we'll see about that' *(laughs)* and that was that. Wasn't arranged. He just said that. His uncle or something said that to my father. Victor's got, what's he saying I don't even know the person. I've just met him and here he is saying this.

P Did he say he wanted to marry you

G No he didn't say it, Vic didn't say anything but the uncle said to my father I've got a man for your daughter. Plenty of time for that, don't worry about it. I was only 16. Didn't marry Victor till I was 22 so I hung him around for 7 years. I wasn't going, I just didn't want to get married and you know what, in those days Sicilian fellows were very jealous. Couldn't wear make-up, couldn't wear lipstick if you put a bit eyeshadow on. Oh you're a little tart. It was hard those days. You couldn't go talking to a young fellow down the street.

P Was he like that

G No, the north Italians are a little bit more freer. They're not so under the thumb as Sicilians are, the Sicilians were very tough and knowing, he used to be a taxi driver, and he was so strict with his girls. I said Let them put lipstick on for heavens sake. You're coming down from the old days, I said They're young, not be old fashioned any more, for heavens sake. Oh and I said, that put me right off Sicilians, I don't want to marry Sicilian. *(laughs)* But I looked at a Yugoslav and I thought No he plays cards too much and I don't like that either. And they used to gamble. Yugoslavs gambled a lot. Australians are, oh, there was a couple of Australian fellows but Nah, they were too plain *(laughs)* anyway my old man used to come in and always help me. Do you know how any milkshakes he used to have? Victor? He used to drive a truck, a hauling truck, haul cane. So he'd come into town, pass by, come in and have

a milkshake or box of matches. Box of matches only cost two cents (*laughs*) But anyway he drank so many milkshakes and so many boxes of matches he must've had so many stored up. (*laughs*)

P just to see you

G So he told me, I don't know. And he said A chance for me, because he could see all the admirers, All these here, I'm down the bottom of the line now. (*laughs*) It was so funny because the all the Sicilian ones, as soon as he'd come in, they'd come in and then tease him Ah boys you got any chocolates. In other words give him a chocolate and make him happy with that. One day I got real cranky and said For heavens sake, just shut up. Mind your own business. I treat him like I treat the rest of yous. He doesn't tease you and I don't want you teasing him either. Alright if that's how you feel, so they stopped it then.

V/O Morning! ooo oo.

P just have to stop for a tick

30.21

GINA #3

P So where was Victor from

G He's from the north of Italy. He's from Tuscany.

P why did he come here,

G Well because his brother was here, cane cutting. And he told his mother if she didn't send his brother out, he wasn't going to go back to Italy any more. So the brother came out, because he was 17 I think he was, young and tender, I have to cut this cane. They put me in line and said Right mate we'll help you for the first three lines and after that it's all yours. (*laughs*) Blisters. He said I had pieces of material around my hands because they were bleeding. He finished a bit earlier because he'd go and put the water on for baths and start putting tea on. I don't know, he used to cook in those days he reckons. The shack where they were was just sandy floor and outside I suppose it was all shield? and that but he said you'd have to watch out at night time because there'd be snakes. And in the morning you'd see the snake slithers where they'd been. No way in the world you'd get up in the night to go and do a pee because you'd be too frightened.

In the barracks. Everyone used to live in these barracks. He said no way in the world, the boys would go to bed with a big bottle of beer and they had where they pissed in the bottle (*laughs*) he said You wouldn't get out of bed till it was daylight, in the morning you'd wake up Oh shucks there'd been a snake here this morning or during the night or whatever. I'd hate that. But there's nothing. Just kill them, get rid of them. So it was a hard life, he did that for a couple of years and he thought no, so he bought himself this old bomby truck and started hauling cane. He used to haul till all hours of the morning. He used to smoke like a Turk, one cigarette after the other. He's given that up now, he doesn't even touch it. I think it was the hard work. He worked on council, with trucks and things like that, he bought himself a big truck later on, and then that come to a halt too. And then he decided to buy the taxi service. My uncle had a taxi and he said Oh I've been married now. He bought the taxi service and he used to do the taxies and help me in the shop

P Your uncle was that the first taxi service in Mossman

G No it wouldn't have been the first taxi service. There used to be a Blain, I don't know who uncle Vito [*Parisi*] bought it off. But he had a taxi service there. One car. So

P When did Vic buy that

G He bought that after we got married. But he said to my uncle Uncle Vito 'No Uncle Vito you have to work it because I'm going home to Italy and then when I come back, I'll take it over'. So we did, we went over but then he had a car accident so we had to come home

early. That's where he died. My uncle Vito. He died up here, you know where, that big creek about where Gullivers is, around there. Apparently two cars collided there and of course they didn't put him in an ambulance, they thought he was the less hurt one, and I don't know how they carried him but one of these ribs pierced his heart and that's how he died. He was driving the taxi at that time. But he wasn't married, he was on his own.

P Vic used to drive the taxi as well

G he bought the taxi, he did that for a few years, then next door they had opened up a, they'd had a lawn mowing not a lawn mowing business but they had mowers and he wanted to get out because he wanted to move to Cairns because his girls were all getting older and he wanted to go to Cairns. So he'd had a big sale and he said I've got 5 mowers left and a few spare parts, he said to Vic, Vic said 'How much do you want for the lot and made a deal, he had a second sit down lawn mower and a couple of other things. So he bought them. He said Alright I'll take it on. So he started, when he moved out then he rented that place, Bill Brunton, no it wasn't Bill Brunton, what's their names, Josefoskis had lawn mowers, Bill Brunton had sold out years ago and they'd put this mower shop in there. This Josefoskis had it, and Josefoskis then wanted to sell up and get out of town, so they moved out of town and we moved in where they were, next door to the shop. It was handy for us because we were fixing up lawn mowers there, we just started off with a little thing like that, now look what he's got.

P He's got a huge workshop out at Sawmill Rd

G Too much, I tell him he's got to reduce his stuff, he's got too much stuff but he growls every time I mention it. I say Vic you've got to reduce it.

P How long he been out there

G it's been a few years too

P So you sold the lawnmower shop in the end

G No we didn't sell because we were renting that property, but **don't know whether I should put it on there, [the recording]** but then because my neighbours did a dirty on us, we had made plans to buy it, we'd made the offer and they said Yes and then my neighbours went over and offered them more money and did the dirty. And I said to them, had it been next door to you, I would not have done that. What benefit is it to you. It's no benefit to you. But anyway karma comes to those to wait, that's all I'll say (*laughs*)
So we ended up, then we didn't buy that, we bought down the road, we bought Quaid's building where the shops are, where the paper shop is. There was a big house there and a big yard, a big allotment so my mother decided to buy that.

P Who lived in the house

G In those days it used to be George Quaid, it was his house and

P On the corner opposite the bakery

G Yeah, so then my mother built there, we built the shops, my husband built them, sub-contracting, poor old Vic he worked hard. He worked hard here too, he did this all sub contract. We had a supervisor here with this one, this was a big job. We had a supervisor but Vic did a lot of the prep work, used to bring all the bricks up and make sure the mortar was ready, and the power, he used to help the electrician put all the wires through, he worked hard, and did the taxi, then I did taxi driving as well, I did taxi driving for years. I've got a bus licence, I used to take the school, I did a lot of things. I used to take the school kids to school on the bus.

P Was it your bus

G Yeah. Victor had a half share with Vince Brischetto. In those days they bought this, I think they started off the bus run from Mossman to Cairns because the White Cars stopped it. I'm just not sure on that, have to ask Victor, he can tell you a lot more on that. Because

Victor and Vince had the mail run. They used to have to get the mail and deliver it all the way from here to Mowbray, through there, take the mail to Cairns, then from Cairns bring it all the way through. Mind you if there was floods they still wanted the mail to go through. Because I know I went one day, they sent it with me in the car, luckily I found this friend that had a ute or a truck, so I put I on the truck, we had to cross, you know the floodways in Cairns that always used to go under water there, used to be Lemuras Flat they used to call it, Tomatis Creek, around that way. Anyway we just got through but had to make sure the delivery was, they used to go all the way up the Tablelands, up to Atherton, up that way, go right round just to drop off the mail. Today if there's blockages they say Can't get through, you'll have to wait till tomorrow. But they used to go through flood waters and all just to deliver the mail. I can't see them doing it today. In a big truck, that was me. Because the boys had to work, they had to work here, they were on the taxi and Vince was on taxi too, Vince had bought a taxi as well, he bought Blains out.

P So there were two taxies

G Yeah there were two taxies

P Then you amalgamated did you

G No then we sold, then Vince's son bought the first one off us, no, the son bought his, bought his father's and then eventually bought me out. We actually gave it away because we thought it wasn't working. Take it. Do what you want. Wasn't worth it. Wasn't working. Been a good while now, I suppose it's 10 years ago.

P You've done lots of things here

G Mmm. Tried everything.

P What's the best thing about living here in Mossman

G I don't know. I just like the open, driving is lovely with the beaches close by, we've got the creeks. It's just open, it's not cluttered.

P Have you ever lived in the city

G Not lived lived, but I don't like the city. Everybody to themselves there. Nobody says hello, g'day. If you say g'day they look you a bit strange. I've been to Brisbane my sister in law doesn't talk to her neighbours, ugh, that's not my cup of tea. I love talking, it doesn't matter who they are, I'll go anywhere and introduce myself, where are you from, ask questions, too hard. But some people

P And your family live here

G All my kids live here, I think if they lived away it I'd think about it. Stephen and Pia and Nella. Nine grandchildren.

P Just as well your Dad came to Mossman

G It's a long time to be here in one place. I've seen lots of changes. I don't know, they could do better, they could do more things.

The town needs, I reckon it needs sprucing up. All these shopkeepers they need a bomb under them. They can't afford it. This is the trouble. They don't understand it. You've got to shop in your own town for people to benefit, for people to improve their business. They can't do it otherwise because everything's so expensive. They don't realise, people who haven't run a business don't know what it's like, all they wait for is their pay at the week and that's it. They've got to do an honest day's work for an honest day's pay and you see it over and over again, I look around, that one's hiding behind the wall, that one's dodging. I see it here, I go down stairs. Acknowledge the people please, they're just out with the fairies. I told one school teacher What do you teach these kids at school because, you don't teach them the outside world, what you're expected when you go to work from the bosses. They come, oh yeah five minutes late but not five minutes early. Things like this. No. Business is too hard and money is too hard to make. So what do you do. We stick it out because we stick it out

but everything's too dear. Expenses are too much. When you've got to pay pay pay, I'm sick of it.

Good times were 30, 40 years ago I reckon, they were the best. We used to have dances every Friday night, we used to have the picture theatre, there used to be a lot of social things on in town. Now you can't do nothing, You've got to pay for this and you've got to pay for that, if you have a cake stall out the front, you've got to pay to have a table out the front. This is shit, pardon my expression but it is

P Do you think it's because a lot of young people are moving away

G I think myself there's a lot of outsiders that are coming, years ago people that come here, stayed here. Where today they move, the teachers they move from place to place all the time, there's a lot of those. Young people of course they move to where the better jobs are. So what have you got left. Mossman's built up on older community where Port Douglas has got a lot of younger people but they flitter in and out all the time too so it's not, in the olden days people used to be more loyal. You were closer knit, where today I don't know whether it's the money, I don't know what it is, everyone for themselves. There isn't that closer bond to say Oh look, I'll go and help or I'll go and visit her. It's lovely. Ladies come in, sit down, have a cup of coffee and things like that. What does a cup of coffee cost you. Nobody does it. It's sad.

P It's all Facebook now isn't

G I hate it, and texting. I can't stand it. I don't want a phone, I don't own one.

P What do you think is the most exciting thing that's happened in Mossman

G Exciting? I used to have more fun when I was younger (*laughs*) there's nothing for the oldies. I suppose I shouldn't say that. The old, whatsername puts on a pretty good show. What do they call themselves? At the Bowls Club, they have that every Tuesday. The Seniors. They do a very good job. I don't go but they do, they entertain, they've got the indoor bowls, they have the bingo, they have this, they have that. I think she does a marvellous job really. At least these older people have got somewhere to go, an outing for the day. I know what it's like at home all day every day. I get the car and go, choof off to Cairns for the day, even if I've got nothing to buy I just look around.

P When did you retire

G 3 or 4 years ago. [*really 8 years ago*] Peter took over the shop. He's got enough staff there. I pitter patter downstairs when I want to, if there's something to do, I'll do it. if there's dishes to wash, I'll wash. I'll bake biscuits for them, I help where I can. He's got enough staff if I do it, they don't do nothing (*laughs*) they're getting paid to work, so you work. I don't mind helping out. I like to say I help, I do the books, forks and knives, afternoon because they want to clean up so I give me the forks and knives, I'll do them for you. They're happy. One job they don't have to do (*laughs*)

P They don't stay open late at night

G No, 5 o'clock they're out of there, 4 o'clock depending. We used to open till 9, then went to 6, now 5 o'clock because there's nobody in town, there's nobody in the pubs even. So I don't know what's happening really.

P Your Dad used to go to the pub

G Oh Yeah, Every night, 5 o'clock, shower, perfume, then over the pub [for Happy Hour]. I've done my day's work I'm going over there for an hour. So he'd go over there for an hour I used to help Mum cook and mind the shop at the same time. Royal Hotel was just across the road so it was easier for him. Never forget old Dad. He brought me this old dressing table when I was 16, for my 16th birthday because he come home, he was home for my birthday and he died in September, he was home for August and he died in September. He bought me an old dressing table with a stool and I thought I was Queen Mary. I really did.

Oh Connie, my sister, put it in our room, we'd do our hair, we thought we were Queen Muck. I've still got it, it's in the end room with Mum's old bedhead with the old valancing, kept that one. She's been dead now over 15 years I think. I'm a bit of a hoarder you know. My kids say Mum you've got too much stuff in here. I love living in it darling. I know where everything is.

P Having a look to see other things. You would have had dealings with the Aboriginal people when you had the taxis

G Yeah. Actually the aborigines, the old aborigines were lovely people, don't know about the young ones today but the old people used to come to town, I can always remember they'd come in and he'd say Good morning Mrs Contarino and he'd take his hat off, or Mr Contarino. I can always remember that, I'd say How nice that is. He was a Bamboo. He was a real gentleman. Mum used to sew dresses for them, for this particular Bamboo, she used to sew dresses for them. They were up at the Gorge. They used to live up at the Gorge. But there were a few nice old people in those days, there used to be a Davis, he was a bit educated too. I can always remember them, because they'd always come in and he used to take his hat off. He was a tall man. For an aborigine he was tall. They're not all like that today, they're all like hobos. They don't know manners, say good morning, I don't know. None of that's around. And I love to see old people when they walk holding hands. I think that's so lovely, or helping them across the road, I think how nice that is. I don't know if I'm too sentimental.

P Manners are different now for everybody aren't they

G Find a man to open the door. Open it up yourself. They don't teach them these things any more. At home or is it the school. They're all lax. I miss all that. I think it should be passed on to the younger generation. I try to drum it into my kids and my grandchildren. They come in Are you cranky today, No I'm not cranky, I just keep hammering so you'll remember. Nonna used to say this. Get cranky about it (*laughs*) maybe I'm too bossy I don't know.

P Did you ever hear any stories about Japanese people working at the mill

G No.

P Long time ago. What did they used to say about the Chinese people

G No I can always remember as a little kid there used to be one fellow with a stick and a basket used to come into town with fruit and veggies in there. We used to have one living at the back of the old shop. He had an orange tree, used to go and pinch the oranges. (*laughs*) Didn't know his name. we were frightened of him. Because we were only kids. Frightened, the Chinaman's over there, he might pick us up.

P There used to be a lot of Chinese here once

G Yeah.

P What about when you went to school, do you remember any teachers

G Can't remember any teachers, no, we had all the (*noise*) nuns

It's OK it's my two-way (*taxi two-way radio*)

28.29

GINA #4

P So your girls have got the bus company

G Yes, they've got the bus company they've had that for about 11 years since Mario died. [*Coral Coaches Sold in 2018 to Tropic Wings*]

They're my daughters. They work very very hard because they're late at night, that's why I cook tea for them all every night because they don't finish till 7, half past 7, 8 o'clock sometimes 9 o'clock, they're still there doing all their paperwork because they've got to allocate to the boys what they've got to do and what they don't have to do and people ring

in late and there's always that many changes. So I decided, I said Look I will cook tea every night for you and just help clean up and then all go home. Because otherwise they wouldn't eat. Saturday nights I have free because they do their own but that's about the only night I have free.

P How many of them come

G I don't know. Lately I've had too many, (*laughs*) 10 at least. 10 fits on the table but sometimes on the weekend like on a Sunday night I can have 14, 16 depending.

P What do you cook.

G Just my plain spaghetti meal, and rump steak, and the salad, baked potato. Mainly that on Sunday night, that's enough. Or crumbed chicken, sometimes I swap it around, crumbed steak, the boys prefer the steak so I do the steak.

P That's a lot of work

G It is, to cook for 10. Last night I did a big pot of curry and rice, 7 cups of rice and it all went. 7 cups of rice, that's a lot but, because what did I have last night, who was here, I don't know but see they're all men and they can eat. I don't. I have a little plate like that. That's enough for me. And they pile it up. So what do you do, I try to stretch it out as much as I can, and meat's so expensive.

P Stop for a minute

2.57

GINA #5

P So now we're going to look at some photos. So who are these girls all in white in the shot

G That one is Jennelda Bartolo, she used to be the girl Pringle. This is Sylvia Noli and that's Pia Bertoncini. [*her daughter*] That was their uniform that's when she [*Pia*] opened up her little coffee shop in, when she first started, that's about 20 odd years ago. She started up her own little coffee shop. She made me cut the shop in half, that's why you see that lattice work. She had where the tables are now and I had the grocery on the other side and I had a big arch in the middle but about 15 years ago we demolished it and we did it up again and now we're on the verge of (*pause*) refurbishing everything again. So see what happens.

P Who is this one on the end

G That's Jennelda di Bartolo.

P So all the people with Italian names like Lemura and de Bartolo, and Verri, you were all very good friends.

G Yeah. Still are. Who else is around here, old identities. Angie Pringle, she used to be Leonardi. Parisi's were an old family that went out to Whyanbeel and then come and lived in town. Actually one of the girls put herself through and she's a school teacher, she's retiring now, she's a school teacher.

This one here when she first come here, she was skinny as a crow, now she's as big as me, this Ann Parisi. I said you get better with age my dear girl. Ann Parisi. She worked for me for many years. She was a good worker

P This is a good shot of the shop, I'll take a photo of them.

G That was the bigger one of that one. Same one. This was the dining area. Used to be in the room she had, partly partitioned off. I had a good one, the inside, I had my Xmas picture up here, I don't know where that one got to.

P How old were you here with this nice old gentleman

G God knows. Sam Cardillo. He was an old friend of the family. Known him for years. He was an old identity. Used to live next door to the cemetery. Used to own that, I think the

daughter's bought that now, one of the daughters has bought that. He died I suppose must be about, I don't know.

P Do you remember years ago there was an Australia Day parade, a big Italian celebration, people would dress up in Italian clothes and make cannoli,

G don't know about cannoli but they did dress up. We had one year, I forget what year that was

P Someone was on the back of a truck with an accordion

G I had some old photos, I'll have to go and look for them all. I should. I've got too many photos.

P They're good to have some of the old ones. What are the other ones.

G Not much there. Same as the other one. I had smaller ones and I don't know where they've got to.

P Everyone knew Contarinos didn't they

G Yeah. We've been here a long time and Contarinos, a lot of the, I suppose they're getting old too, like my age and they can still remember Contarinos.

See there's one of the parades.

They did a float, up

P So apart from Jack & Newells and you, were there any other shops like milk bars

G There was another grocery store, Reale [*pron: re -ah-lee*] which was the opposition to us.

P Where was that

G Reales was where the drive-in is now at the Mossman hotel.

P What happened to that

G The shop got demolished, the house got removed and went to Mt Molloy, it's up there.

P What happened to the family

G Family? The old people died. The daughter's in Italy and the son is in Sydney I think. Con Reale. I don't know what her name was.

P did they go broke

G No they just sold up. The boy, dad was very strict and the boy didn't have it in him, wasn't like the father. They didn't see eye to eye. Because Frances married this Italian fellow and then they moved over to Italy because his father was there and they were in the building trade. So they, she stayed over there. And Phillip, I haven't seen Phillip for ages, I heard he's in Sydney but he's not married.

Then there was Marano's, they're out at Miallo, Maranos had a little shop out there, they started up years later. I think they had groceries, I don't know if they were our opposition. (*laughs*)

Welcome Mart, that started up, Fischers used to own that you know. I think they did pretty good out of it. I don't know who owned it before Fischers though. Can't remember, years ago there were all those little shops. Used to be a fish and chip bar in there I think, down there, used to have a picture theatre.

P they had more than one shop there did they

G They had a couple of little ones then they knocked the whole thing out.

P Did you go to the pictures

G Yeah, I used to go to the matinees

P Do you remember when it stopped

G No. can't remember the year. Many moons ago darling, many moons ago. I remember the old picture theatre. It was good though. Now we've got nothing. The bands

are too dear. You want a band it costs you a thousand dollars now, just for a band. That's why people stopped having things on, because it's just too expensive. (*pause*)

See we used to have the soccer club, my husband and another bloke started the soccer club. My husband was also in Council for 15 years.

P What was the name of the man that started the soccer club

G There was Sam Brischetto and there was Bill, no Peter Hills.

It was the Mossman Soccer Club

P That's still going isn't it

G Yeah, it's still going. But they did a lot of work on that. Victor also got the grant to buy the, he organised the, where the pool is now. He negotiated the price for the land there and, negotiated on that.

P Who owned that

G I don't know whether it was, Raldinis, I'm not sure though. I don't know who owned that property. Negotiated with that and he also got the money for that indoor sports centre. That's in his 15 years of service to the community. For the council. Tell me what [Mike] Berwick did in his 15 years. I don't like that man. He is evil. What he put my uncle through, uncle Mario when he used to have the buses before we did. It's terrible what he did. But I would say, karma comes.

P What did he do

G He just made, pay pay pay and winge winge winge. You know they just find the loopholes. It was just like they had the office and he put a row of chairs in there. He said it's no more booking office, it's some other thing, finds another clause, and he says You've got to pay thirty thousand dollars for it. He bought that block of land up there where NQ buses are now. He was going to shift his thing from here, the sheds from here over to there, the buses. Oh no, can't do this and you can't do that and you can't do that. He packed it, he filled it in, he did everything, how it rains, you get the wash out, can't help it, goes to the drain. Oh you'll have to do something, clean up all the mud, some bloody thing. He was evil. I don't care. I hold it against him. He's just a bastard as far as I'm concerned. Not nice at all. But because he had the power and he'd just do it. Like he stopped Gordon [Pringle] out there with the, the feeding the cattle on that cane mulch, how it was a new thing, they were cutting the cane and feeding their cattle, it was a new thing they were doing. He stopped that too. He just doesn't want development in the town that's all. He just wants it to stay dying, it's dying anyway.

Like I told one of the council ladies, I said Keep putting up the rates, it's cheaper to live in the city than it is here. I said You know you just can't have it. You pay through the nose. You're double dipping in the water. The rates are so high. The town, there's nothing there, beautify the town. They put that bloody guinea grass in the gardens I can't stand. The creeper, it's just a bloody creeper, put something decent in there. My friend and I were going to go round town and make a note, sent it in. They're putting those bins in now. They don't look very crash hot to me, but anyway. They made the parks that tight that every time you open the door you hit the next car which is not right. All these things. She's no better. She's manipulated by him anyway

P Julia [Mayor Leu]

G Yeah. Manipulating, she doesn't do anything without his consent. So that's my, that's me.

P Who started the buses, did your family

G When White Car gave it away, I think Vince and Victor started. I don't know, you'll have to ask Victor. My memory's not, but they started this and then Mario took it on.

Mario is Victor's younger brother. So he started it and he went on and took it over, then he got bigger and bigger and I think he got too big and course those Ockers used to give him merry hell. And then he got sick. He had cancer and still had merry hell. He never hardly slept. He used to do his own mechanical work because he was a fitter and turner by trade. Sometimes he used to just throw himself into bed dirty as he was and just have a few hours sleep and off again. It was just too much. He had too many employees too, I don't know how many.

My girls the way that my girls got this is because we lent him some money and he said No I'll put these three buses in your name and he'd work it. We don't know anything about buses. Just take the money and work it, No no I'll put those buses in your name. And lucky he did because when he gave it away because he just put himself in, he wasn't going to work any more, he owed money, he put himself into the, what do you call it

P Bankruptcy

G Bankruptcy. He could have got himself out of it but those bankruptcy people, they're crude too. They just sell everything for a song. They're terrible. We bought back a lot of stuff. We went to the auction. Just a steal so we bought what we could and that's how my girls started. But they work hard too.

P How many buses are there now

G I don't know, I think about 30. Between them. Big ones and little ones.

P That's a lot to manage

G We've got so many of them going to Cairns, so many of them doing the shuttle runs. School buses.

NQ and then they got, what's name over at Port Douglas, there's a few bus services. And the one up there at NQ, like I was saying, no pits, no wash bay, they're running. Then they come over here and they say Oh, something, Peter makes them run. Go and see them up there. Don't come running to me and telling me about my things. Go up there. Piss them off.

P It's two rules

G Yes. Exactly. And I hate that. I can't stand that. They say that these other people are being picked on, new Australians are always being picked on all the time. Doesn't matter, you're still a foreigner and they'll always pick on you. And because were hard workers and we carry on. Were the types we mind our own business, we put our heads down and bum up and do what we have to do and we don't want to know what Joe Blows doing and Mary thing over here. As long as I'm doing my right thing, doing what I've got to do, do it. But everybody else got to stick their butt in and have their say. And they make the hands, legs, everything and make it all walk. That's just not true. So.

What else Pam

P We'll stop for a minute

19.51

GINA #6

G I don't see any future in Mossman

P Do you think it'll just be a ghost town

G Not a ghost town but it's, I just don't see it, I can see it dying and dying from year to year. There's no, I don't know there's nothing for young people to do, there's nowhere to go. I just see it dying. Shops are closing, the pubs there's nobody in there. People must think business people make a lot of money but they don't. they don't make a lot of money because the expenses are more than what they make. And the only ones that are making big money is the big blokes. You know? Like Coles and Woolies, even Bunnings, Masters, and all these they're just doing, who's missing out. It's all the everyday people that got little small

businesses. I reckon the government should control that. Should be more controlled and I think too that, see years and years ago there used to be a price control, even on groceries. There's never been any more price control whether it was butter or tea or whatever it is. There used to be certain lines which used to be controlled but there's nothing any more. I think that's the way some of these businesses should be controlled.

Now with the transport department. You should see what's over in Port Douglas with the buses. Any Tom Dick and Harry can go and get a licence and start up. They got all these, what do you call them, not German, Indians. All these Indians. They're doing, they've got no timetable for their buses, they're supposed to have timetables. I don't know what the Transport Dept's doing. They're just letting them, and you know the taxi service is not doing anything over there. They've paid big licences. You've got to have big licences for taxis. Gotta pay big money and here they are running around with these chook chasers doing the bus run, the taxi run all in these chook chasers, those little mini buses, that might hold 10 or 12 people. They don't even have, not the coaches like we have 20 seaters or something, they've got these little chook chasers we call them. So where's the Transport. They're just letting them do what they want to do. Pia's having so much trouble. So she said If you can't beat them join them. I'm going to do the same, I'm going to get a chook chaser and do the same thing. It's like tating, [*touting*] they're not allowed to do tating. Tating's like 'here, come on my bus' there's a lot of tating going on. And phone me, here's my card, ring me when you want me. If it's a service, it's a service. If you're a taxi, you're a taxi. It's getting to be like they're doing in the cities there we're they've got these different taxis, yellow taxis. Something similar to this. I reckon it must be those bloody Indians. They pay them big money to come out here to Australia. I'll pay you if you employ them, so much money for two years. Big rort. Don't know what goes on. People don't know what goes on.

P There used to be fights between the buses in Port Douglas, the drivers fought each other

G Oh yes they'd get a bit niggly. But that's only natural, they work for different companies. Three different companies. Do you know how many buses there is there? (counts) 8 that I know of. Eight services a day. Eight buses going around town like this.

P There's yours, there's Coral Reef

G We have two, the Indian has 2, another Indian has 2
One's called Excellence, the other's called something else but if you want to do thing legally, you do things legally. To me that's illegal what's going on but I don't know.

P It would be good if we had a service Mossman to Port Douglas

G You get one in the morning. People don't want one. The free bus in town. Did you read the papers the other day. Do you know how much an electric bus will cost you. A million dollars. Who's going to subsidise that. He wants the council and everybody else to subsidise. They have those up at the gorge. They don't work. They had a free bus service going to rocky point and around here. They cut it out. 12 months trial. It didn't work. Do you know how many bus services there are to Cairns every day? Exemplar has one every hour. We have ours whenever. Who else.

P But they're expensive

G Because the government doesn't subsidise you. They won't subsidise you. That's all there is to it. You've got to pay and fuel costs money. Put our buses into the mechanic you can rest assured under two thousand dollars you get nothing back. For just a little thing. Otherwise it's 3 or 4 thousand dollars. It's just pathetic. You can't, you just can't. We tried to get concession for the pensioners. No they won't give it to you.

P Bit like they won't give you more than 2 taxis. So you can't get a taxi in Port Douglas

G Port Douglas has got plenty of taxis

P Only two

G Are they? I thought there were 3 or 4. They've got bus taxis, they've got a couple of those and smaller cars. So. This is what's happening. I don't know.

P So do you think Port Douglas will go ahead.

G Yeah, Port Douglas will because it's a resort. Port Douglas has got all the high rises, the accommodation, it's on the beach, yes Port Douglas will go ahead in my eyes. Port is Port. Then they've got the markets which draws attention too. People want to go somewhere. Let's go up there for the drive and it's a beautiful drive from Cairns to there. But Mossman is just left out.

And another thing too.

8.23

someone pointed out the other day when they come into Mossman it says welcome to Mossman out there. They go through that part, just up to Woolies here and they might turn off to go to the Gorge and they might think is this Mossman township. Instead of saying South Mossman, then when they get to Woollies say Welcome to Mossman. That might be a better suggestion. So that's what they should do there.

And also they pulled out all those nice Poinciana trees there, they should replant them, or plant something and they haven't. you know there's all these things.

I reckon all the shops need a big spruce up of paint. Buy them a 20 litre tin of paint and tell them to paint it. All rainbow colours. Because it needs to be smartened up.

There's not a stool in town that you can sit on. You walk around town, you've got to sit at a coffee shop or somewhere. They can't just sit anywhere. They say, but the aborigines use it. And it's not the only aborigines, I can remember when they used to have, under the trees, other people used to sit there as well, eat a pie or sit there and watch, they didn't want to, where this way they've got to sit at a coffee shop. I don't mind, it doesn't bother me because it's the same price whether you have it here or take it away. But you look around town, and I hate places where you can't sit. I always reckon you should have some seating somewhere. Like over in New York you walk the streets and you can't even sit on the stairwells anywhere because the police come in and make you move. It's terrible. You can sit on the floor but not, they won't put stools or anything. It's terrible. That's the same thing here. There's not a seat around. There's only that one there for the taxis, turn the other way, that's alright. I think they should have some seating somewhere. They had one up here at the post office. What happened to that one. I think they took that away too. They'll sit on the steps.

P There's one at the post office where the Xmas tree is

G Are you sure it's still there because they we're working on it the other day. I didn't see it there. That would be the only place that there is a stool. Other than that there's no stools anywhere.

P Let's hope something happens

G It's like that block of land across the road there where the Royal Hotel was. They'd offered me that 30, 40 years ago I would've jumped at it. Now don't want it even for nothing. (coughs) It's the cheapest thing to buy. You try to get rid of it, you're

P Do you think someone burnt that pub down on purpose

G Probably did. There again council is to blame because they charge an arm and a leg. Like there. I pay about 12 thousand dollars rates. He's got to pay, he might have to pay 14 thousand dollars rates over there. It's a lot of money a year. Where if you've only got a block of land you only have to pay, I don't know 2 thousand dollars.

P Would've had some income

G No. because it was too old. Nobody wanted it. So it was cheaper for him to burn the bloody thing and pay his two thousand dollars rates a year. See it's like this fellow here, he bought it cheap, cheap buy, the block of land there, but now he's still up for the rates every year and if you want to put a building on there, it's going to cost you half a million dollars to start with. I know the butchers shop bought a block over there, was in a hurry, wanted to be in the main street. Doesn't think. I said Why don't you stay where you are. And he bought it but then he got the plan and everything, cost him too much money. I'm cheaper off buying the opposition out. So that's what he did. Mossman Butchering Company bought Sugarland. There again he paid for this one too. He had a butcher shop here in the arcade.

P Is that Sugarland

G Yeah that was Sugarland. And he bought Mossman Butchering Company because, there's a long story there, is this still on tape

P Yeah. Turn it off, I'd like to hear it

G You can hear it, what I heard was, they were in shares here with brother in law or some relation anyway, and they didn't hit it off. He told them he was going to sell his share and go on the farm. So this fellow bought his share, so that was alright, this is Sugarland. Anyway this fellow didn't go and buy the farm, he went and bought the Mossman Butchering Company. This fellow here. Anyway that was alright. Went on for a year or two whatever it was. Anyway they wanted to get out because wanted a Front St view, that's why he bought that block. Eventually that's too dear, I'd be better off buying my friend, my mate out here. *(laughs)* So he bought his out. he might be doing alright but the meat's so expensive.

P Is it all Sugarland now

G Yes. He bought it but he's got an awful lot of money to pay back. He's got that block of land to sell.

P Is that Aaron

G Yeah I think it is. You've got to think sometimes. Like I say to Pia just do things, not too much change in the shop. Just do a bit because the rents so expensive today. Just wages alone is too dear, too expensive. It's OK if they work. I've got a couple of builders they're really really good. They don't stop. They do what they should do. That's the way people should work. Not today. They just have a cigarette. Go to the toilet. They don't go once, they go a hundred times. I'd be a tough boss.

Nothing come easy for me. I had to work. And work hard and save. My mother said save your pennies, the pennies make your shillings and the shillings make your dollars. So you watch your pennies. If everybody did that, they'd be far better off. But today, spend it tomorrow, there's some more coming in.

P Did you ever borrow to make money

G Yeah, well we borrowed for investment, yeah. Dad did. We had to too. Actually when we built our first home we had to borrow two thousand dollars. In Mossman Street. We did it ourselves. Subbie. And we didn't have quite enough. We had a bank johnny wanted a house so said, Oh well, we'll lend you the money if you finish it off. We really need a house for this bank johnny. *(coughs)* So had it paid in no time.

P So you didn't live in it

G No. never lived in it. I lived in the flats here when I first got married. Two bedroom unit. That's where I lived and I had Stephen there, my first baby I had there. *(coughs)*

P And then where did you live

G And then we built this up, we built the shop up. When we built the shop, Mum said I'll put a living quarters for me and Connie and one out the back for you and Vic.

P So you've been here a long time
G Mmmm. Yes, Stephen's nearly 50, he'll be 50 next year.
P 50 in 2016, not long
G He'll be 50 in April. Time goes.
P It's been terrific talking to you, thanks for spending the time. You'll think of lots of things when I turn this off
G Oh no, I think I've covered everything. I could go on and on
P So thank you Gina
G It's OK

19.24

THE END