

Ksenia Dubinsky

Karen Dubinsky, interviewer.

Inter.: I'm going to start off by asking you what you felt like when you arrived in Canada.

K.S.: First time I come to...First time I come to St. John - New Year Day in 28, New Year Day in the morning. We eat Breakfast and we going to the ladding and that. After that we coming to ..I don't know what place. Then we spent lots of time in the office with paper and everything because it's not one person coming. And I coming in a boat called Mount Rose(?) , English boat (Mount Rose)? In war time that Mount Rose going to and I watch him because German destroyed that. Yhh. I hear that. In fact that day what happened to that boat. You know. In 42. And after that we spend lots of time in that office before x everything else. After that we going to some place. I don't know what place because it's hard. You don't know nothing. And we stayed to wait. One time for another train - coming in a train. We wait for other train so long. After we going. And I see Canada. And that make me scared because I see bush and I see big big mountain. Something like that. And that scare me because I coming from really nice place - like Saskatchewan - this (was) really nicer because we got bushes and lots of villages and (the) villages got lots of trees. Beautiful, you know. Something else. And that make me scared. Really scared. And I believe that after that we come into Toronto and I see people through the window, through the train window, you know. Stopped. Just looking. I see nice. Nice. Look to me like better. Before I don't know places. I od
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don't know nothing. After that we coming to Fort William

Inter: ~~You mean from Toronto...~~ Omit. You took the train up...

K.S.: huh?

Inter: You took the train up from Toronto to Fort William?

K.S. Yes. We going through. And I don't know what (where) we going. We going. Train take us. We got piece of paper. Everybody got piece of paper, address and everything right here...your address, your name and what (where) you stopped. ...Because we don't know nothing to speak. We don't know nothing...I guess we passed Port Arthur and someone say pretty soon we coming to Fort William. No man coming who's working on the train and say, we coming to Fort William. I think maybe we go 'nother hundred or thousand miles. How (did) I know. And I was think I got something to eat. I no got much because I no got no money. I no buy nothing. And I no got. Everybody got some parcel in the new year. Some people give to people parcel. Something. Some candy, something. Some people give to some. Nobody give to me nothing. I no get nothing. I no got money. Got nothing. Some lady got something. I just think - one man, he travelled from Russia. And he's give me some, I remember, he's give me cheese, and I like cheese. Some people no see cheese in the old country.

That's all. You know. Got that system. And I live little bit in the big city. I know. I eat and I liked cheese very much. And he's given me cheese and something. And man coming, that who's working on the train and say to me, and take my hands and say "Come in, that's Fort William." And I coming to Fort William. I coming. He's take me to the station. He coming and say, "sit down here, and o.k., I sit down. And after woman coming and looked in my office and say, "come in". Take my suitcase and take me to that ... to that place. I coming to MacMillan Street, 328, - I coming early in the morning. It's early in the morning. I coming here and some girl going to Murillo, That woman say, if you going to Murillo, come on with me, We going too, I take you to the station. And asked that people, that people take me That people give me eat, keep me, give me everything and that people say yes. And I no see that people xxx... I see maybe that man. He's married to my cousin what I show you and say it's here, our son, and he's married to my cousin and he's in another village and I don't know him. he's an older man that family, that people say yes....

And that's all. I stayed about two, three weeks. And after I asked that people, I see he's working. I say right away I liked to find some kind of job. I can't stay (while) somebody works. You know. It's extra some money. And I get job. First time I get job in Westfort. Ukrainian people. He's from Russia and she's from, Polish woman from Poland. ...Both talking Ukrainian and some..and I find, somebody find it... that going for \$20.00 for month.

Inter-What kind of job?

K.D. In a house.

Inter-What, cooking?

K.D. Working in a house. Just working in a house with that woman. And I working three weeks. And that was when we got with us Peter, that nice young boy, in Toronto. Because I coming to his father, and he's already here. And he's coming and say to me, if you want, we got better job for you. Not better job. Just little more money. Cloer. You closer to us. Because less work and more pay ... It's right by the bridge on Simpson Street. It's closer here. And he say that, if you want \$25.00...his house...uh, wife sick in Toronto hospital, Toronto, she sick in the head. And he's got three children, one just 9 months and three boys bigger -one going to school, and one just little one. I say \$5.00 more. That's o.k. It's o.k. I quit. And that woman say to me, Kenia don't go. You know. It's \$5.00 nothing. Look at you take everything for your, you know, just taking our house in your hands. And we working, the two of us. We got two children and we got four women and her husband. And four roomers. And two of us. And she just not too, - I think at that time she pregnant. And she want somebody. And she like me right away. She like me. And she say, "why you go because you be sorry." You see. Too hard. And you know it's \$5.00. \$5.00 more. She think oh that's nothing. Lots of dollar in Canada. Yah, she say, \$5.00, it's nothing. Lots of dollar in Canada. And you know, we here, two of us, and if you go(ing) (there), you need to do everything. I say, it's still \$5.00.

Inter: This man wanted you to move into his house.

K.D. And I'm going working for that man. He's pay me \$25.00. I working three months, and in three months, I ^{quit} ~~leave~~ that. Because every time I coming home and I say, I don't know what that man mean, and he everything think, "god damn, son of a bitch".

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And I no understand those words, what that mean. ~~He~~ coming home
I say, home, because, what else? I coming home, I say, that, that woman
say to me, listen, leave that that everything. And I say, he says
something, he want business. What's that mean, business? And he
want business, and she saying, his wife sold before, wood liquor.
Maybe he wants you to make the same thing. Wood liquor, or maybe,
like, something else. Leave that and that's all. I just left one
day, and another day, woman came from Port Arthur. Big car. Nice
woman. Talking Ukrainian. Born here. Canadian woman. And say, I
hear you know how to cook. I say yes, I know how (to) cook. Because
I know cooking. Cooking. Lots of cooking, I know. Cooking, old
country. Really good. No just something. And she say, I give you
\$35.00, if you going to my restaurant and cooking, with my husband.
And I help, and we got girl and everything. Mostly you working
with my husband. He show you everything. And you sleep with us
and everything. I'm say, "pretty good". You know. \$35.00.
And I going to that. And this woman, what I coming to, this
people, that people expecting - that woman, expecting baby.
I say ..?... She say she's going to hospital. That time not
everybody going to hospital. She saying she going. I say,
if something happen, I coming home and stayed here and helping
because I no paying to that people nothing, and I just think
it's something for me, to do something for that people too. And
one morning, that one coming, early in the morning, and say,
you coming home or not, because, He say, are you coming, and I
say yes. I going. And I working in that, and after, I
coming home, and stayed home a few weeks, and after she's coming
help, eh, going back to work, I going cook again, not same.
I going to another. And meet Didi. And married. Right away.
That's why is Linda. And Karen too. (Refers to her grand-
daughters) (Means they should get married too.)

Inter: (Karen) Not me. Not me.

K.D. That's right.

And we married. And Didi going to bush. A few weeks. So I
think he's going to bush. In the bush, no camp. No nothing.
He's going with ~~xxxxx~~ few people to build camp and everything
else and ~~xxxxx~~ saying, "I write you and you coming and
working, like cookee". You know those people not called
'waiters' (but) 'cookees', you know.

Inter: Where did you live? With Didi? =When you first got married?

K.D. We lived in the same house. And after(wards), that woman
started something. I don't know. Started (to) make trouble.
She saying something. She saying something. It's not right
anyway. To today, anyway. I don't know nothing about that.
And she saying I took to her husband. About old country.
That wife. She lived in the old country. (She was) my cousin.
You believe me now. I no talk. Because I say I coming here.
It's not my business. And she talk. She give me her new
coat if I going to work. She give me everything. How (did) I
mix with something crazy like that? It's not my business. My
cousin, ~~of that~~ husband, in the old country and he's married here.
He's got one baby, another coming. I would be crazy if I do that.
And she started that. I moved from that house. I no do nothing.
I don't know nothing. I just...and she say, yes. She hear
me talking. I say, no, it's not right to (until) today. I
would like to see her today. You know, because I just thinking
that I owe to these people something. I go lived. (there)
And they be good to me and everything else. And, we married,
and going to bush. And working to bush ~~three~~ ^{few} months. In
March time, we working to winter (through the winter).
In March time, we coming home, and take (bought) that restaurant.
And stayed in that restaurant ten years. In one room. Five
people. Five of us. We stayed in a little room. (Beds) That
one big one. One small one. Little table. And something else
and something else. And I got dress right on the wall (hung)
and coat, and something like that, because nothing else.
And coming that depression. That depression coming. We take
restaurant in '28, - in '29. Because I coming '28 and married
'28 and in '29 in spring time, 3rd of March, we take restaurant.

We started to working ready restaurant in the 3rd of March. And we can't make one copper, - we can't make money nothing. Because meal coming to 20¢ and you can't pay rent because you no got no money and Didi going to Murphy and say we can't pay rent and we want sell that. And Mr. Murphy say, "don't do that -what (why) you going? Who asked you for rent?"

Inter: You rented the restaurant?

K.D. Yes. Yes.

Inter: And you lived in back of it.

K.D. Yes. We got kitchen and little room. You know. Kitchen here ..?..dining room here, big one, and living room on the other side of the kitchen. And we lived in that. And we got kitchen. We got everything you know. And, because we lived so poor. Because in one room. After all, four people, three kids and I slept in one bed. Not too fun. And we stayed until '27 like that. '37. And '37 we ~~built~~ built house on Alexander Street, and we moved in war time. And we moved. Still we stayed in the restaurant to '39. In '39, first of April, we sell that restaurant. And we no got no money because we build house. And maybe we make little money from fifty. '35 come a little better because that depression coming. That Bennett Government. And so poor people. So poor everybody. And after that, this little passed, and we made a little money and we bought that lot and built that house and moved to that house. That house not finished. And we just moved. Finished the house. Everything. Just inside not (finished). We moved there. And we no ..?.. no money and Didi no working. And what we do? And Didi got some job on highway. He working on the highway, come summer. He started working on the highway on Nipigon (highway). And after he's working twelve year in the bush. And after war coming. People started asking, who's going to Canada Car working (to work)? And plane because Canada Car made planes for the war. And somebody want going. Married man, go to school, he got \$12.00 for week paying for that and single man \$9.00 for week. Yes. People here in Port Arthur started. That people who started that elevators. People built lots and lots of elevators. I don't know why. Some boat elevator. For some time. You know. Not for ~~every~~ every time. And lots of people coming to Fort William. And I put, in that store what we got that store in the front, I put four beds. I put two people in one bed. Two people. Four. Eight people. Or ten people. Upstairs, five people. Something I put in the house for ~~five~~ people besides us. Trapped in that store.

Inter: That was because people were moving here to work.

K.D. People coming here to work and people needed some place to live. And I take 10 people to eat in my house. 10 people. And pay me \$30.00 room and board. 10 people. I make \$300.00 for month. You know. A family from that will eat. I washed for that people, ironed, and made meals. Three meals. If I not make meal, it's because everybody go to work and supper, good supper. and lunch. Everybody got pail, lunch, and I give that everything. And that time, and Didi started school. He's going to vocational. And for three months, coming three, for six weeks, I forget how come that. That school be started and finished. And he's finished that school. And people, somebody saying, government saying, no, still no job in Canada Car. Somebody want to leave that and going to work, some other places for a little more money,

It's O.K. If somebody wants to stay longer, we'll be paying (refers to the school, I believe) and after if some job coming, we give you a job. And Didi stayed longer. Didi no going no place.

Inter: He stayed at school.

K.D. \$12.00. It's helping, you know. He's make \$48.00 for four weeks. And I make \$300.00. I maybe spend \$200.00 and we eat and everything else and still I make \$100.00, clear money.. You know. .. And four people not eat. 10 people eat, you know. And I got for Finn people at that time. I work.

Inter: Were you running the store?

K.D. No. I got chickens. I got garden. I do that everything. Everything. And I believe at that time I buy a machine. (I believe she refers to a washing machine at this point.) And still we no got no - no - just toilet, in the house. No bathtubs. No nothing. And people coming. Everybody washed face here. I breakfast make here for 10 people. Breakfast. And people washed face right here, in the kitchen because nothing else. And that's eat here. And use pail. And going to work. And after, people move, I finished everything. Didi going to school. And I stayed with kids. And get kids. And it's coming '40, '41, something like that, you know, before that, people working in the bush. Working on the highway. And, after that, we started working in the Canada Car, and we got, make little money, and we know, war coming today, tomorrow started to army, we no got nothing. And we build that house, and thinking, we build that house, you know, and that corner store and everything. We just built for store. We just thinking right away, we built house. We make a little store. Because what we doing. Didi older, and he's not working no place. Because we stayed in that restaurant ten years. And after this and that. And there's nothing else. We just thinking...?....And uh, after that, this coming later. I say, it's o.k. We got little money. We start a store. And I started that store. Didi still working. I started that store. Still I today not talking very good. I today no understand very good. ..?.. First time, I make little. I make little money. Not much. They tell me. Did you bring a cheque? I no cash that cheque. I got my own money. Because I got few people in the room. And I got that store. I make that what we eat and what we need for every day. I got my own for that everything. Because I know one time Didi coming to work and foreman coming to him and ask him, hey, Mr. Dubinski, what you do with cheque? Your cheque. Six months already your cheque not coming back. And he's coming home and say, "go and cash that cheque". Because we got trouble and that coming and ask why he no cash it. And that's all. After that, DIDI, after a while, Didi changed everything. And Didi so good, you know, he's got even that piece of paper. He's so good on the job. You see that. And war stopped. And have to change from bomb to buses. In Canada Car. You know. And Didi started working on the buses. He's working on the buses year or maybe more, or something. I don't know. And that's all. And we no got so sweet. We got so sour everything. Because we working so hard. Now look my hands just look like hands, and my hands just like nothing. And my hands, everything look o.k. And something, yesterday, I was sewing. I can't sew. I sewing. I push here under machine. I need this one to push little bit. Pull little bit material and I can't hit that one. (Demonstrates on sewing machine). I just like catching, catching, catching and that machine, something happen. I can't do. I say, "oh, oh". And that's my life like that coming. And after we bought this, and after Wally (son) going to school, Sonny finished, and Lydia want going for teacher to North Bay because we no got in that time here. She want going to North Bay. I say no. You can't. Because we no got no money. Wally going and you can't. And Wally going by himself help because he's working, for that and everything. And we say no, you can't. Wally's making little and too, going to school, going to work.

Inter: Was that because, he was a man and- she was a woman, or it's just because he came first in the family?

K.D. What?

Inter: The reason Wally went instead of Lydia.

K.D. No. No. Because. No. Because Wally liked to going and Lydia, after that, Lydia wanted to go. And we no got no money.

Inter: So it's just because she came after him.

K.D. Yah. Yes. And after that she's going to work and she' make a little money. And started ~~working~~ talking and saying, it's coming little different, everything and she's going away. And after she's going to work, to working, and she no spend money and she say she's going to, I'm a little scared. I just thinking that she no passed and she spend money, and spend time. I just thinking about that. And not coming after all. Not coming too bad. Not coming too bad because she's finished and coming and now working ready 20years (at the age of 20), After 20 years, then she married...In fact, on August 30. She's got married on August 30..

Tape I Side II

Inter: During the depression, did you, did the different ethnic groups mix with each other much? Or did the Ukrainian people stick together, the Italians stick together?

K.D. Same like now. I don't know. It's not because (of the) depression. Yes, People stick.

Inter: Well I mean at that time period.

K.D. *That's right. That's right* And you know why. Because people can hardly mix if we can't talk one to another one. You know, when I working at that restaurant. To one year, I just, one year in Canada, and I working in the dining room. Boss. I'm boss. Even if somebody help me. You know I'm boss and I no understand nothing. I can't talk. I can't even write order from the man who's know how order and something like that. Because every day something else. Didi make it (for) me. He's write everything what we got today. And lots of time I no understand what's that mean. I'm saying it's O.K. if Russian, Ukrainian, Polish coming. I understand him. And if somebody else come, and want something, lots of time I no understand. And it's hard for me. And I worked in the dining room in the front. Didi working in the kitchen. I working in the front. Lots of time I come to kitchen. I say, "where's my order?" I give you this one first, and after I give you this second, and third one. I got this one. I give you that first one, third one, and he give me that one, you know, that one. Because he no going. He say because you no going to bring me eat from the other room. You know, you got little ice box, you know. Nobody got in that time freezer, fridge or something like that. I don't know. What people got, I don't know nothing. And we got lots of time something like that. (Like the situation she described.) Even now. Talking with Mrs. who washing. She speak all different languages. Because lots of time she's coming. She's got nothing to do. Coming to our place. And if ~~he~~ be sick, she help ~~me~~. She bring ~~me~~ soup, and asking, what you want. Second, what you want to eat. He saying something and she no understand. And she tell me "I don't know what he wants". And I going to him. I understand. "Oh, I don't know what to do. I going to my husband." I say, go and ask him, because I don't know what you want.

he=Didi?

Inter: Didi understood English, then. That happened to a lot of immigrant women, when they came over. Their husbands would learn how to speak English because of their job and their kids would learn because of school and usually it was only the women.

K.D. That's true. And one time. And no talking. And don't know nothing. That is speak both sides and across the road, Ukrainian, ^{people} and here, ~~are~~ or Italian, or somebody else, you know. Here, Italian, here Italian, here Italian, - I going to Italian church, I going all over. Ineed Italian because I'm Italian. I talk Italian. I no going. I no working. Coming with husband, or coming to husband. Husband going first, and after he's make a little money and bring wife and kids or something. And woman, and woman don't know nothing. Don't know nothing.

Inter: That must have been really lonely.

K.D. Yah, it's really hard. It's really something. I live in that hard (times) everything. I'm really passed that everything. You know. First time, I think I, man say, "pork, steak and eggs". He's want to eat pork, steak and eggs. It's my best meal. I just saying now. I just figure. It's ..?!.meal, what you eat. In that time, poor people, You know how people (were) hungry. People eat. You give six pieces of bread. Eat that and asking more. You see what I mean. And he say, "steak, ~~pork~~, steak and eggs". Two eggs and piece of steak like this one. And he's got really something to eat. You know. And I know we going for that, 'pork, steak and eggs'. Two eggs, you know, and that steak. And three of us going to ask him what he wanted. Because Miss ? asking first,.....?.....

Inter: How many people could afford to eat in restaurants?

K.D. What you mean? How many people?

Inter: Well I would think that during the depression, most people couldn't afford (it). They would rather stay home.

K.D. People can't eat home because he's not...Can't eat home. Gouvernment helping city. Helping to poor people who got nothing to eat. You know how much people got for one week's...no government... it's city, -that we calling relief or... We calling in that time relief. You know how much people got for week? \$1.75

Inter: What for everything? Or just...

K.D. For one week for you to use it. What you doing.

Inter: So it was cheaper to eat in a restaurant?

K.D. No it was not cheaper. Got piece of paper exactly like I show you. Here. This paper. Piece of paper and say \$1.75 and if you get that, few apapers from city, you paying that to house, to store or something because it's city..It's like Chapples, something. And that man he's got one meal paid, and 'nother meal he's got credit. And he eat just two meal. No more coffee. No more coffee. And he's eat home. Who's want (to cook his meal)? At that time he went home, you couldn't afford woman to make work. He's no got no home. He live in a room. Who's got it for him to make for \$1.75 for him meal and need a little fat and salt and everything, else, you know.

Inter: He would give you the ticket.

K.D. UH huh.

Inter: And it's like paying for it.

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K.D. Yes. Just bring it Monday that piece of paper. He's going to city hall to get that. To city hall. To police station or something. And he get that piece of paper. And you punch it. You got cards. And still I got cards. And you punch it for him meal. 25¢ you got two 25¢, two 30¢. ~~I take it~~. And you punching him ticket.

in your ticket.

Anyway. He's coming another time (to) eat, and he's got 25¢ saved and still we got lots of people to today. That people. Lots of people. Ready die. Old people. And we lost that people. We sell restaurant. We lost that people.

Inter: You gave a lot of people free meals?

K.D. You know if you give him one meal. He's coming before 12:00, - then people ready coming for dinner, you know. And you give that meal for that people. And he eat one meal. And he's got ready 25¢. Maybe you just take that one day 20¢. Because he got meal. 20¢, 25¢, 30¢. Some days we make chicken, chicken, you know. And I just take chicken, maybe, maybe sometime I just say, I believe it's 35¢, you know. Poor people no take chicken. Just hamburger, sausages, stew, something like that for 20¢. ...?...He got soup...I no got (She's searching through her cupboards for a bowl.) two times bigger than this one. Because it's(not) same dishes. That's small one. And lots of time some men asking, "oh, soup so good, please you give men'nother bowl." Your profit ready gone. You make just one copper. And what you do? And he eat. We give three pieces of bread rye and three pieces of bread, white one. He eat first time - after I find out that - he eat first time that rye, then say, "oh, I like rye bread". "You got more rye bread?" He saying, you know. Like now people count that everything. Not that time. And you bring him three more rye bread, three more rye bread and you coming back. No bread. No white. No rye. He eat all because he's hungry. You know. And people eat and he's not. He got no good meal. Maybe he's coming after for supper, and after supper, I bring a cup of coffee and you believe me,.....?.....10¢ and he say, "please give me another because .. another cup of coffee". It's 10¢. That..3, 4 buns cost 4¢ and two cups of coffee and your profit, everything going for 10¢. What did you make? Nothing. Nothing.

Inter: Did you ..?

K.D. We work for nothing. Ten years for nothing.

Inter: Your family didn't have to go on relief though?

K.D.: No.

Inter: You always had enough to eat?

K.D. Always have.?.....
After Christmas, New Year and that time was so hard because so (few) people working and who's not working, that people coming just with that 35¢ relief and that rest on credit. What you do? You can't speak and you just say, I going try someplace to work. Maybe I going to work. ~~was~~ going to Port Arthur. I go too (rem-
inisces) Who's that in Port Arthur? And he's coming home and say Hurry up. Push my ~~wash~~ and everything else because I got job. How that job? How that coming? Wash. Hurry. Hurry up because I going to work tonight. How far you going? He's telling me on highway, you know how far your father('s) came (is) - He's going to that highway. \$50.00 a month. Cook. \$50.00 a month. He leave me not much wood under house. You know. Not much wood. Not much money. Three kids. And Lydia just born. Leave for few months. Two months. Montha and a half. I don't know. And he's going. With Joseph, my dog. And he's put in the kitchen some kind of curtains, drapes or something. I put up blanket and just make a fire in the kitchen and not in the dining room. Because in the dining room we got different. And my friend. Most ladies saying my friend because he's in my place and he bring his family lots of times. And we ask him for (sand)?
and he say, no, no.....and this and that... and
and need to split the wood and got three kids, Sammy, not three, ?
and Lydia just two. Sammy exactly like that month. Today, give to that Susie third one. You see what I mean? And he's going to that back yard and split that wood and bring me full kitchen.
....?...(he hauled)? that wood. He's not rich too because it's nobody rich. And few days, it's coming few days more and wood would be gone. What I do? And coming another my friend to my place and I talk to him and he's coming and say he's no got no

he = Sammy?

one cent. ~~xx~~ He coming from the farm. He just thinking maybe he's get from us money. And I say I no got no money. I can't give you. I got everything welse in the house. I got milk. Milkman bring it and bread I got. I got meat. I no hungry. Family. No money. And he say I going to order wood for you in the wood yard. We got wood yard not too far from us, you know. I say I no got no money. I can't pay. And that people- nobody trust you because everybody want money.?....for quarter, what he do? Or \$4.00 or something then what he do? And he say, you, you need that. You need because you be in prison here with your kids. And he's going... no and I say, we got one friend that Didi goes, friend to Didi, like to me, And he say, go to my (brother)? and ask him for \$5.00. Maybe he borrow. Because he's working. He's working in the brewery. He's working solid, like every time. And I just think. It's o.k. We going to Mike (friend) and I know he's coming home to dinner. And that man say, "I stay with the kids and you go to Mike", and I see if Mike would borrow me \$5.00. And after that I going, and order the wood, because you know at that time telephone was something people, even wood yard, not wood yard got telephone. And I going and his wife said, come on, sit down. She's English woman. I say I want see Mike, you know. And Mike coming home. For dinner. And I say, Mike, I coming....?.....I coming to (see) if you borrow me \$5.00. And he no borrow me.

Inter: Nothing?

K.D. I just can't forget that. And he going to 'nother room and he bring me his tooth and he say I going, last few days, I going to dentist and look at this. He pull my tooth. He pull me that one. He's find one he's no got no money. He's working and we know he's got money. He's no got thousands. Got few hundred maybe, maybe in bank, because he's working. He's working everytime. And I coming to that place, just thinking, I going to very close friend. There's no closer friend. Not like that. That who split that wood and that who stayed in my house that night. That's three friends we have. Because we got nobody. And I just coming and thinking, "what I do now?" Still I need wood. And I going to -I going home. I just passed my door and I going to store. I going to store and to butcher shop. and We got mostly butcher shop. And I coming. I say, "oh boy", Canadian born. Polish. I coming to him and say, "Mike, for me \$5.00, and he say O.K. Just like this. O.K. And he gave me from the register this \$5.00 He give me \$5.00. I coming home. And I coming home and that man he going to get me wood, 2, 3 blocks, maybe even more. He going to order that wood and right away bring it. Bring it right away. I just thinking. He's help me. Oh, because he's ordered - that man who cuts that wood - because it's coming 4 foot, 8 feet long. Something like that. I forget. And he's going to catch those people who cut wood and I know that people who cut it.....?.....How I catch (cut) it? I got three kids small in the house. And that everything, ordered, ordered that wood. That wood coming. And that man coming too. -two men. Mike again. Mike and Jack coming and cut that wood. Just finished that wood. Not coming in the house to us. That's not coming. Just finish the wood and leave it and that, and I see Didi coming ..?...Three weeks. He working for three weeks. And you know why? He's working - somebody -company called - I forget, no - and that company got long, long time people working for that company and that who's working for that company, that cook, he's working long and he's going to CP, and he's got lots of money and he's drinking it. Now coming back to work.

And Didi come to office and people saying to camp we need cook. Didi coming to office and people say, heh, we need cook. And sent Didi there. After that man, he drink (drank) all his money. He want back his job. He's coming to company and say I want back my job. O.K. Go. And he coming to camp and that boss in the camp say I'm sorry because we got you. I no say nothing about. (I've got no say in the matter). And anyway old cook company send me I take him because it's company (that) laid (him) off. And Didi made \$35.00 at that time. And Didi coming. I so happy. I just. And he say, it's o.k. He signed debts, to Jack. And I tell him about that wood, about that Mike, about that Pete, about everything, and he say it's o.k. Take that cheque and go to Mike to butcher shop and give him \$5.00. He cashed this cheque. All right. I going across the road to Mr. ? He cashed the cheque. I going to....?....Mike and give him \$5.00. Mike don't know even what coming and everything- and that man who coming lots of time to our house, especially Mike?.... coming night time to talk to us....?....

Inter: Did you have time for any kind of social activities?
When you first came?

K.D. No. No.

Inter: What did you do? For entertainment..did you...?

K.D. Nothing.

Inter: Nothing?

K.D. No going no place.

Inter: No I don't mean going out, but did friends come over?

K.D. Heh, who's got friends?

Mrs. ? (Tuarson) started coming from over there. Didi coming from the bush. Because Didi know Mr. ??.....
We just bought restaurant and he just married in that time before we coming. From camp. We just married. And we coming. And that people married. I believe this year we got restaurant. And he's coming with new wife - young woman - really nice one, little one. That's all we got friends. We no got no friends.

Inter: Well how about going to...were there halls?
Were they built then?

K.D. Yah. We wasn't home much to going. After our kids started growing and we started some. Oh yes. We going. We going. To Ukrainian. We going Sunday for concert. One Sunday, I going. Maybe second, third concert, Didi going. And after our kids growing and kids going to started playing. Started going to school and started going dancing. Oh after that, we going...?..kids going..O.K. That's family. If you coming and I coming late. Working too late. Kids going to play or something, you know. Because lots of dancing and they play mandolin and then I coming later. I work in the bushes and I sit down and I'm so tired. Because we got some time lots of people. Lots of people. And 'nother time because it's season. In that time we got that restaurant. Season coming. People coming from bush. People coming from highway. Who's working on the highway. We got business in that time and people going to work. Good weather.

People go to work. We no got nothing. We got just let people who do 75¢ for week and they just going to broke with that people. That's all. And if I going and sit down in the front, to that ...?..., or play or go to where they play baseball because I sit close to that on the bench, or on the chair because no room. That time people come all around. People sit one to 'nother one. And all are under hall. Under hall. Just people stay by this one in that hall. Not now. Nobody now. Nobody now no. How concert coming nice and everything. And that time. that's all going. Sometime playing BINGO, play BINGO something 5¢. I going BINGO and some times younger and older coming and say if you give something for BINGO. You know what we give. Give pie. Give pie. Eat. Nice pie. Lemon pie. This one O.K. Give pie and I give something like that, you know.

TAPE II
BLUE SIDE

K.D. Smith. Tim Buck.

Inter: Tell me about Tim Buck.

K.D. Yes few times is coming here. We going. I like to go. The family. I no speak ...I don't understand much.

Inter: Tim Buck would come up to speak?
Lots of people go to hear him?

K.D. Yes lots of people. And Smith too.

Inter: I never heard of him.

K.D. Don't say that.
(Laughter)

You going to picnic. Was there picnic and Port Arthur Bush Woman Lake. And 'nother side you got really nice. Women make something to eat, something like that, some dinner, something and we going to that and kids growing little bigger. Kids like it. Buy something. We buy something. And lots of times some people coming and 'specially whose people coming to that picnic, I even see now. That people got money. Because husband working. I know one working Port Arthur Shipyards. I know one working in elevator and woman bring for picnic, for kids, sandwiches. I just say, ah. You know. You going to picnic. People sell something. Some weiners, hot dogs and some pyrogies, something like that. You know, I just feel how people make that? Kids want something. "I want a hot dog! I want a hot dog!" Shut up! Eat that what I brought.

Inter: Were there times where you just thought that you'd never make it? Did you have time to think about it?

K.D. Why?

Inter: Were times that you were so poor that you just couldn't face another day?

K.D. No. Just coming.. I don't know how to say that. It's different everything. Too explain that. You know. It's..I don't know how to say that. You know a few..Now this is.. I don't know how that even to...to say that. How people so..people poor. People really.. You see, even now that people, even now. Now we got..we live on that government pension.Lots of people got some little money. People not. Nobody got money because in that time people working for little money. That money gone. Because if he working for that ten dollars, that ten dollars today nothing. Even if he's got. If he's no got thousand, thousand, he's no got no money. You know. And that time we cannot make money. Nobody made money. And even now these crazy people, old people still crazy. Because still people, people got \$250.00 just like that and people still looking for loaf of bread, going on sale for 20¢ because it's ready stale, it's ready smell, it's ready green over, all over in that bread. And people do that. I say how you crazy. And why? Because we coming here and we got

bad everything. People know that and people can't forget that. That time you know. And sometime I thinking it's crazy and 'nother time I think we used to that. We used to that. We used to that but we something, -little crumb falling, we pick that and eat that, because it's something. That's not right now. You know.

Inter: But you still do it.

K.D. Because we got now not much. It's anyway not nobody hungry. People thinking how we lucky in Canada. Sure lots of people poor, lots of people (pause). You, 'specially you, you need car you need something more like you got. ...If you really, really smart you be no hungry, because if you really smart, if you no got nothing else you going to city and city give it to you and that time not. That time we got in Fort William man called Blake. He is boss to that all kind relief. And everybody know whose that Blake. I don't know. I no see him. I just know he's big man. And he's like this one and big man. I hear that and I know that. That's Englishman. And we got after that, Ukrainian people, we got Chihowie, Mr. Chihowie, and Mr. Chihowie he's going to that hall what I going. He's going to 'nother hall, to Prosvita Hall. And people going to Prosvita, Ukrainian people going to one hall and the other hall.

Inter: Was the halls were, sort of different politics?

K.D. Yes. And he's coming to your house, Ukrainian. You can speak. Nobody going to you and he's going investigation. To you house. You know. And he's going to investigation. And if he's find that you no got nothing in your house. You need relief because you got kids and husband not working and you got in your house you got brother or some 15, 16 years old, people tell you throw him away. Because we no give him. He going to work. Must he's get work. Father not working and neighbour not working. And nobody working and he's coming like that. And Mr. Chihowie going under basement, under floor, because at that time people no got no basement. We got now basement, cement basement. That time just on the post (was the) house. And he's going under basement and he see if you got potatoes and maybe beef and meat or something else, from your garden. And he saying, that's one woman tell me about that, Mr. Chihowie, come into my house (came), Ukrainian woman from across the street, I saw her at Midnight Mass. And he's going to under my house and find potatoes and beets and he say, oh you no hungry. You got potatoes and you got beets in the basement, under house. You see what I mean. How that..And that people today even thinking about that and still is terrible that And still got that money. That people got hundred dollars to spend. That people got hundred dollars keeping hundred dollars. I don't need keeping maybe dollar now. I just thinking 'nother coming tomorrow, after tomorrow. I don't need hundred dollar. Right or not?

Inter: Do you think the depression made people angry or just made them afraid?

K.D. It's something, you know. Like I saying, I got depression two times in life. One, the first time, in the old country. Was depression because I'm too small. (because = when) You can't do nothing. Just you know. Before we growing.

Wegot really depression. That was depressing because was depression for us. And after I coming here. I no find it so bad. I no find it. Just one thing. And we got everything what we need. We got shoes. We got dress. Igot coat. And I got everything what I need like everybody else. You know. If I working in a house, working in this house or if I going uptown, I change that because I got another dress. I know one woman. She's still here and she still nice woman, and ...I know she's got that time one little girl, and I don't know that. That's ..?..., her neighbour and she know better, and she told me of husband going uptown, and that people got one sweater in the house. One sweater. When he's got that sweater, she no going outside because she no got nothing else. And if she's got sweater, he stay at home. And Mr. (Warson?) say, O.K. come on with me, in a bush and he say no. I no going to bush. Because I lost (will lose) my relief. Because I think he's lazy or something. And I don't know how working in a bush and I don't know how make that everything. And Larson? say yes and I help you everything. And you make it because Mr. Warson/? working every time, every time he's going to the bush. Work is work and he's working and he's got every time little money. Not much. Just that what I save. Pet (five) dollars, family income. And he's say no he's no going. And you know what happen after all? Mrs Warson? tell that. She's saying we sitting in Minnesota Park, that woman, another woman and Mrs. Warson, . And one man coming, hello, hello, women, what you doing? And he's going to store and bring ice cream everybody for that three women. He's working. I Know that man too. And Mrs. Warson, everytime she's got money. Because she's no got first few years, kids, and he's working and she's got every time few, few dollars, You know. Not suffer. And she's saying, oh we so happy, nice, we sit in the park and enjoy and nice and warm. And he's bring pop and ice cream. And after that she's saying, O.K. we going home. And he's going. With this woman, talking, man, just..... that's all. And she's saying, 'nother day, he's coming, same man and he's got two baskets in the hand. One apples, one prunes or something. Peaches or something. And she looking. Oh he's going to Ann. And after that she saying, oh Ann got already dress. And after that she's got coat. And she say, Mrs. Warson, say once, I going to Zeller's store, In Zeller's store, sell something. Sell material. 10¢ a yard and I buy ten yards and give to that Ann. Ann, make for kids dress and make for that window curtains. Because she's no got even curtains, in the house. And after that, she's saying because we talking all that, that woman and that man, and she's saying I no going. I say I no blame that woman what she doing something else. What you do if you hungry! What else? And lots of woman I believe some woman, for 'nother dress, because husband working and woman thinking I got two dresses, from husband and boyfriend. And like I saying about that Ann it's nothing home. If she's no got no dress or she's no got no ~~XXXXXX~~ coat or she's no got nothing and that man, what I saying (that I mentioned), he's working ready in a ...?.... He's got little money. And he's want woman. That's O.K. He give it to her. Because I talking and Mrs. Warson say that's first time I see how that coming. I no blame her. I no blame her. Because no got nothing. And now I believe she's got the pension and he's die, husband die and she, she's still nice. She's still not too...she look nice. Not too old. I don't know how she's look. She look really nice.

Inter: Did you come to Canada with high hopes?

K.D. Yes.

Inter: And I guess what you found doesn't really...You didn't find what you were looking for. Or did you?

K.D. I no speak.

Inter: Are you sorry you came?

make mistake.

First time I ~~no speak~~. I married too soon. I make mistake. Because I got like one man what I know from old country, ...he's find some day I'm here. He write to me. I'm ready married. And I ~~believe~~ believed that I'd be married to him, because he's calling me, he write to me, and calling to me, and I coming to...if I need money, to come. If I write to him, he send me. And I believed it. And he younger. You know. That's first mistake. And second mistake, I just thinking, I no stay in Canada. That's worse mistake. I no stay in Canada because I going to United States. I not coming to Canada. I coming to United States. Because I got lots of people in United States. I got my brother in United States. I just thinking I going to United States.

Inter: How did you end up here?

K.D. And after. I just thinking I coming ^{here} ~~here~~. And I find some better life 'cause I no got so good life in the old country. And I find it in United States, better life. And I not place here. And I know work I know. I know how to do lots of things in old country. I thinking if I not married, I know I be cook for somebody, I know cooking from old country, I be saying I no say that to nobody because I no want to say that. It's not right talking. You no do that. I just thinking I know how to do for somebody, for some, even rich people, and people pay me good, and I would stay O.K. and something like that. And first time that I coming here, In Fort William, I no like Fort William, because it's too small, I no like Fort William. I hate Fort William. I say, 'Stay here? Here nothing. You make good money. You can't make here good life.' And I O.K. I at that time O.K. because I thinking right because it's so small. Twelve thousand, 12,000 people we got that time or 7 or something, you know. If I started ~~thinking, I know~~ reading, or after that I know it's twelve thousand people. I say you can't make no... nothing...no factory, no nothing. What you do? You know. You need something. Stay just in the house. Or waiter. Or not waiter in the home, just peeling potatoes for Chinaman in the basement? I just see that right away. I just...first day coming, - I don't know how - I coming from station to MacMillan street I just think. We just going some place just to wait, and after that I hear a song, "I going to the city." I say Oh ho, ho. (Laughter) No. I tell you that. And 'nother third day that boy, my cousin, he's taking me to town, we going to town. He say, come on, we going to town. We going, we going, I believe, to ...?... store. I don't know. We going from MacMillan Street, we going to the May Street, we going to Port Arthur. After we coming back, Susan Street, and he say, you right in the middle (of the) city. I look at the map and say-, oh. I no say to nobody because, what you say? I just say, oh I hope something coming else. Bigger street like (than) that. Because you can't...you can't do nothing here. You know if you see now not, happy, you know nothing. Sure some people no thinking that now. I ^{lived} ~~looking~~ in the city and I know what city means. I know what city means because lots of girls coming from village to city. That girl ^{don't} know nothing. I lived in the city. I lived in other places. I lived all over. I lived (in) lots of places. And I know. And after Didi started talking to me and say something, I say no. Because Didi not believe in church. Didi not believe in marriage. He just thinking, O.K. we like now going and we just take licence, and we leave it like that. And I say no. I don't care for church. I don't care it's anyway working, going through, something coming, I want this make it that, in right way. You know. And after we going to church and take that church marriage.

We got that church marriage and didn't make no living, no nothing. First we got that man who's coming and send me for that wood and that man to whom I going to borrow \$5.00 and he's show me he's cheap. And his wife. After to that little apartment. Just in a house. And that people what you see stayed in the house. And after that woman got little baby and I, for that little girl, how was that calling, godmother. Yah godmother. And anyway, after I say to Didi, every time, we going some place, we no stay here. We no stay if we married. I say going some place, going some place. We going some 'nother place, make a little money. We can't make here money. And he going and buy that restaurant and coming home, what we stayed in the room, and say, I buy (bought) a restaurant. I say, I no want restaurant. I working one month in restaurant, Right close to that restaurant. And I see how that...you can't make money. Because it's poor restaurant. Poor everythi-ng. You can't make money. Oh we try it. We try it. And we tried it. To spring time, - we take it in March, I just saying first, - in springtime, and in springtime, coming here a man and he give us, I don't know. I don't know ~~really~~ what we apaying (apaid) (little more even)

for that restaurant, you know, and I say no and people coming. So people coming to our restaurant to eat because we know how cook. We know both how cooking good. You know. And people coming really good. You know. I say to Didi, no we'll stay a little longer. And we stayed a little longer and coming depression, -what we do that time? Nothing. Just nothing.