

Oral History Interview
Lou and Fran Murzynsky Krasovic
WH035

(written transcript and digital audio)

On March 31, 2009, Lou and Fran Murzynsky Krasovic were interviewed at their home on 169 Old Road, Sewaren by Brenda Velasco.

Brenda Velasco: I just want to remind everybody that these people have been married 72 years this July.

Lou Krasovic: In July it'll be 72.

Brenda Velasco: So we congratulate them on their lifelong achievement.

1. Identify individual-name, section, date of birth.

Fran Krasovic: I was born in Jermyn, Pennsylvania in 1918. My full name is Frances (Fran) Adella Murzynsky Krasovic.

Brenda Velasco: Quite a name.

Fran Krasovic: Yes.

Brenda Velasco: That's a long one. Good Polish name there.

Fran Krasovic: Yes.

Brenda Velasco: We're going to go to you Lou.

Lou Krasovic: I was born in Little Falls, New York.

Brenda Velasco: And what was the year?

Lou Krasovic: Pardon.

Brenda Velasco: What was the year?

Lou Krasovic: Oh, 9/21/16.

2. How long have you lived in Woodbridge?

Lou Krasovic: 58 years.

Brenda Velasco: Okay, you both came at the same time?

Lou Krasovic: Yes.

Brenda Velasco: Did you always live in Sewaren?

Lou Krasovic: No, we came down from the dairy country in Pennsylvania and lived in Perth Amboy for several years. I worked at General Cable and was looking for a place to live where I could get a bus into Perth Amboy. They were building the homes in Sewaren and that's when we bought it.

Brenda Velasco: That's when you bought in Sewaren then?

Lou Krasovic: Yes.

Brenda Velasco: Okay, we're going to follow up with the bus and everything but that was one of the reasons you were attracted to Woodbridge because it was near your job.

Lou Krasovic: Yes.

Fran Krasovic: Yes.

Brenda Velasco: Where did you catch this bus?

Lou Krasovic: Right here on West Avenue.

Brenda Velasco: So there was a bus service. Do you remember the number of the bus?

Fran Krasovic: #62.

Lou Krasovic: They were all #62 out of Newark.

Brenda Velasco: And it took you right to Perth Amboy to General Cable then?

Lou Krasovic: Yes.

Brenda Velasco: That was great. So when did you get your first car?

Lou Krasovic: We had a car before we moved here but we had to sell it to get our mortgage and then we bought one soon after that, I guess.

Fran Krasovic: I don't remember when.

Brenda Velasco: Did both of you know how to drive?

Fran Krasovic: No, I didn't. I never drove.

Brenda Velasco: Okay, so Fran, you never drove which was very common at that time period.

Lou Krasovic: Yes.

Fran Krasovic: No, he was teaching me.

Brenda Velasco: Oh, and you're married 72 years?

Fran Krasovic: And he never drank but was painting a house and he had six cans of beer. I said, "if you have to drink to teach me to drive...". I tore up my permit.

Lou Krasovic: And never renewed it; and I smiled all the time. She got angry because I was drinking her beer because I didn't drink.

Brenda Velasco: Ah ha, alright. You took her six pack then. Then how long was the trip into Perth Amboy for you by bus?

Lou Krasovic: A few minutes, I don't know.

Fran Krasovic: Fifteen.

Lou Krasovic: Fifteen or twenty minutes.

Fran Krasovic: Fifteen minutes.

Brenda Velasco: Do you remember the cost of the bus fare at that time?

Lou Krasovic: No, I don't.

Brenda Velasco: What were the hours at General Cable?

Lou Krasovic: Well, I worked shift work.

Brenda Velasco: So that constantly changed then.

Lou Krasovic: Changed constantly.

Brenda Velasco: You worked during the day and evening?

Fran Krasovic: And at night.

Lou Krasovic: Well, I would change sometime with other men like work one shift for several weeks. Well, midnight I worked quite a few because I was a supervisor on the midnight shift.

Brenda Velasco: Then you would come home during the day and sleep. Then Fran, you had kids. How many children did you have?

Fran Krasovic: Well, five altogether.

Lou Krasovic: There were four when we moved in here.

Fran Krasovic: We had Frannie after we moved here.

Brenda Velasco: Okay and we're at 169 Old Road so you had four kids when you moved in here. What were the houses going for at this time? Do you recall?

Lou Krasovic: Because we had the corner lot I believe we paid \$9,950.00. I think that's what it was or \$9,850.00. Because it was the corner lot we paid more. I think the others were \$9,500.00.

Fran Krasovic: I know the mortgage and the gas we paid \$67.00 a month.

Lou Krasovic: At the beginning it was much less, honey.

Fran Krasovic: Yes, that was it.

Brenda Velasco: That was the mortgage and the gas then?

Fran Krasovic: Mortgage and the tax.

Brenda Velasco: Okay, not any more today.

Lou Krasovic: No.

Fran Krasovic: Oh no, right.

Brenda Velasco: So how many rooms did you have when you first moved in?

Fran Krasovic: We didn't have this room. (sunroom)

Lou Krasovic: We had the four rooms and then I fixed the attic there for the kids to sleep in. Then a couple of girls didn't want to sleep up there so we slept in the little room and let the girls have the big room and the boys upstairs.

Fran Krasovic: We managed.

Brenda Velasco: You sure did. This was a new development then?

Lou Krasovic: Yes.

Fran Krasovic: Ours was the first house here.

Lou Krasovic: Sold.

Brenda Velasco: Do you recall who was the contractor or anything? Who built these homes?

Lou Krasovic: What was his name? It was an Irish name and I can't think of it now.

Fran Krasovic: Cannavic?

Lou Krasovic: No, I can't recall now.

Brenda Velasco: So yours was the first house built then?

Lou Krasovic: This was the first and this was.....

Fran Krasovic: The model.

Lou Krasovic: The model house and we bought it because it was ready and then sometimes the gentleman that was building them would wake us up in the morning because he had people to look at the house.

Brenda Velasco: Oh my God, your poor kids.

Fran Krasovic: But it was fun.

Brenda Velasco: Were the streets paved.

Fran Krasovic: No.

Lou Krasovic: No.

Fran Krasovic: They were dirt streets.

Lou Krasovic: And one of the big improvements.

Brenda Velasco: Did you have garbage pickup and regular water?

Lou Krasovic: We had garbage pickup, yes, and we had the regular water but the post office was in the railroad station at that time and we had to go there to get our mail.

Brenda Velasco: Okay and where was that railroad station?

Lou Krasovic: Right at the corner of Woodbridge and West.

Fran Krasovic: Right near the railroad tracks there.

Lou Krasovic: Right on that corner.

Fran Krasovic: Then somebody built this building and the post office moved into it. It doesn't belong to the post office.

Lou Krasovic: They don't own any of them.

Brenda Velasco: So when it was built on Woodbridge Avenue then it moved.

Lou Krasovic: Yes.

Fran Krasovic: Then I don't know how long after that we got mail delivery.

Brenda Velasco: To your house?

Fran Krasovic: Yes.

Brenda Velasco: Regular mail, okay. How many homes were originally built in this development? Do you recall?

Lou Krasovic: I think there was eleven or twelve.

Fran Krasovic: Sixteen.

Brenda Velasco: So about sixteen homes in this development.

Lou Krasovic: Yes.

Brenda Velasco: Were there other houses in Sewaren at the time?

Lou Krasovic: Yes, the big house on the corner here was the only one here when they were building these. Oh no, Slim's house, the big brick house.

Fran Krasovic: And then that red house was a store when we moved here.

Lou Krasovic: There were a couple of homes scattered.

Brenda Velasco: Did you have a septic tank?

Lou Krasovic: No, we were good.

Brenda Velasco: You were really good going back fifty-eight years because I interviewed other people and they had well water and septic tanks when they originally moved: not Sewaren but Colonia.

Lou Krasovic: We had city water and city sewage system.

Brenda Velasco: So that was a good attraction for you then too naturally. Alright, what about the stores?

Lou Krasovic: There was a grocery store right down here about a block down.

Fran Krasovic: A mom and pop store.

Lou Krasovic: A mom and pop it was, they didn't have much.

Brenda Velasco: So that was on Woodbridge Avenue?

Lou Krasovic: No right here on Old Road.

Fran Krasovic: The next block.

Brenda Velasco: Oh, one block from your house?

Fran Krasovic: Yes.

Brenda Velasco: That's great for the kids to get the bread and.....

Fran Krasovic: For candy and ice cream.

Lou Krasovic: Toilet paper.

Brenda Velasco: Milk and whatever you needed.

Lou Krasovic: Could you imagine kids had to run for that. There were no other stores.

Fran Krasovic: On Woodbridge Avenue there were stores but we never used them.

Lou Krasovic: They were mom and pop stores we didn't use like a butcher shop and, of course, then there was a diner there. It was called the Superior Diner. Mrs. Superior owned it and did the cooking.

Brenda Velasco: Where did you go food shopping?

Fran Krasovic: To Woodbridge.

Brenda Velasco: Woodbridge Main Street?

Fran Krasovic: Yes.

Lou Krasovic: **A&P** primarily.

Fran Krasovic: The **A&P** store, before it burned.

Lou Krasovic: Yes, after it burned we didn't go there.

Fran Krasovic: No.

Brenda Velasco: How about the houses of worship?

Lou Krasovic: St. Anthony's, we always went to St. Anthony's on Port Reading Avenue.

Brenda Velasco: They just celebrated their 100th Anniversary.

Lou Krasovic: Yes.

Fran Krasovic: And we're the couple married the longest in the parish.

Brenda Velasco: Wow! And it will be seventy-two years now.

Lou Krasovic: For our 70th Father was surprised that the church was jammed. We had forty some of our family.

Fran Krasovic: They came from all over: California, Georgia and Florida.

Brenda Velasco: What a celebration! What a great way to have an anniversary!

Fran Krasovic: Pennsylvania.

Lou Krasovic: Connecticut, Michigan, Western PA and Eastern PA.

Fran Krasovic: Well they had a 50th anniversary party for us, you know, when it was the 50th, a big evening thing and I said I didn't want another one so they had just a luncheon. But they had everything to eat there.

Brenda Velasco: That was great and your family got together because it's so large now.

Fran Krasovic: Yes.

Brenda Velasco: So you said there were about forty members from your family there?

Lou Krasovic: Yes, there were over forty members there from Michigan and Western PA.

Brenda Velasco: All over the United States.

Lou Krasovic: Colorado.

Brenda Velasco: Wow! That included your grandchildren?

Fran Krasovic: Great grandchildren.

Brenda Velasco: As well as your five.

Fran Krasovic: Yes, they were all here.

Lou Krasovic: The great grandchildren, some are getting quite large because Alla's girl is starting college this fall.

Fran Krasovic: Pat's daughter is going to college.

Brenda Velasco: Okay, Pat Dowling's daughter then, okay. Were there any other churches in this area?

Fran Krasovic: St. John's the Episcopal.

Lou Krasovic: Yes, that's the only one I can remember, St. John's the Episcopal.

Brenda Velasco: And they're both still here.

Fran Krasovic: Yes.

Lou Krasovic: Yes.

Brenda Velasco: How about the schools?

Lou Krasovic: Where the black church is now that was the school. I can't recall the name of it but that's where our children went. (School #12)

Brenda Velasco: Okay, where the Baptist Church is of Sewaren. So they attended that school. That was there elementary school then?

Lou Krasovic: Yes, that was the elementary school and then from there to Barron Avenue where the high school was at that time I believe.

Brenda Velasco: Yes.

Fran Krasovic: Now we got the new school up.

Brenda Velsaco: Matthew Jago?

Lou Krasovic: Matthew Jago is right here.

Brenda Velasco: The school in Sewaren for your children, did it go up to 8th grade?

Lou Krasovic: Yes it did.

Fran Krasovic: At one time it did and then it went down to the 6th grade. Now this one too, I think at the beginning, it was eight grades. I'm not sure.

Lou Krasovic: I don't know.

Fran Krasovic: Now it's up to 6th, I think, and then they bus.....

Brenda Velasco: To the Middle School.

Fran Krasovic: But up at this school they have the special children.

Brenda Velasco: Special needs.

Fran Krasovic: Yes.

Brenda Velasco: Special education. Okay, I think we have covered that question, Question #4, so let's go to Question #5.

5. What public buildings/property were there?-post office, library, parks, firehouse, schools, etc.

Brenda Velasco: We mentioned about the post office and you had to pick up your mail. How about a library?

Lou Krasovic: The library was on Woodbridge Avenue right next to that big office building now; it was a gas station for years.

Brenda Velasco: Okay and that's the Sewaren.....

Fran Krasovic: Free Public Library now.

Lou Krasovic: It did not belong to the Woodbridge system. We still have a separate library.

Brenda Velasco: You were independent.

Lou Krasovic: Yes and we still are.

Brenda Velasco: And you have a separate Board of Trustees.

Lou Krasovic: Yes.

Fran Krasovic: Yes.

Brenda Velasco: Because I know when they were closing Sewaren, it had its own Board of Trustees. So Sewaren is a free library but it is independent of the libraries. So all the time you lived here that was there.

Lou Krasovic: Yes.

Fran Krasovic: Yes.

Lou Krasovic: It moved from Woodbridge Avenue. It was a Pentecostal Church of some kind where the library is now. (First Church of Christian Science – 1920)

Brenda Velasco: So they relocated there?

Lou Krasovic: Yes.

Brenda Velasco: And that is West Street then, right.

Fran Krasovic: West Avenue.

Brenda Velasco: West Avenue.

Lou Krasovic: What the heck was the name of that church?

Fran Krasovic: Oh, I don't remember.

Lou Krasovic: Science something.

Brenda Velasco: Was it a Christian Science? (First Church of Christian Science)

Lou Krasovic: Yes something like that. I'm not positive.

Brenda Velasco: Okay, alright, and what about parks?

Lou Krasovic: Parks?

Brenda Velasco: Parks?

Lou Krasovic: There was open ground so we didn't think that much of parks but we still had where the boat launch is.

Brenda Velasco: Yes, the marina.

Lou Krasovic: There's a park down there. They're working on it now.

Fran Krasovic: And then the new park.

Lou Krasovic: Well that's the county park. Oh, this was a park up here where they built the school now. That had been the park.

Brenda Velasco: The Matthew Jago School.

Fran Krasovic: Yes.

Brenda Velasco: That used to be a park.

Lou Krasovic: They had a couple of baseball diamonds and stuff.

Fran Krasovic: Yes, but what about this new park that we have now?

Lou Krasovic: Well that's a county park; we're talking about the older ones.

Brenda Velasco: When you first moved here, when you first moved here fifty-eight years ago.

Lou Krasovic: We were traveling up to the farm almost every weekend so we didn't use the local parks that much.

Brenda Velasco: Okay and the farm was in Pennsylvania then, right?

Lou Krasovic: Yes, northeastern P.A.

Brenda Velasco: Because that's where you originally came from, right Fran?

Fran Krasovic: Yes, originally.

Lou Krasovic: We were both orphaned when we were young. I was born in Little Falls and my father was a carpenter. He moved to Pennsylvania where my mother's parents lived. That's where I was until I was five. My younger sister was born February 9th, 1922 and I became the oldest of four and I was still five; I wasn't six until September. Then I stayed with my father and he boarded the other kids out.

Fran Krasovic: They separated.

Lou Krasovic: Then when I was ten we lost him and I ended up in Scranton in the orphanage. The four of us did. I was there a year and a half and a foreign family took me out in the boondocks and that's where we grew up.

Fran Krasovic: That's where we met.

Brenda Velasco: In the boondocks and look at how long you stayed together, 72 years.

That's quite an achievement and you had a rough beginning; both of you had a rough beginning.

Lou Krasovic: Fran was two when she lost her mother and ten when she lost her father but her oldest sister was married at the time and she stayed with her until I rescued her. But her sister's husband worked in the coal mines and he was told to get out; and then he bought a farm up near where I was and that's where we met up there at a square dance.

Brenda Velasco: Okay at a firehouse, you don't have a firehouse in Sewaren?

Lou Krasovic: No we don't and it's odd we were with the Woodbridge Fire Department and not Port Reading which is right up the street here.

Brenda Velasco: Yes, the way they districted it. You're right. Okay, so that took care of that one and we've already discussed the schools. You just had the elementary school and that was eventually sold to the Baptist Church on Sewaren Avenue.

Lou Krasovic: Yes.

6. What did you do for recreation?

Fran Krasovic: Well, we like to travel so we went cross country at least twenty times.

Lou Krasovic: Well, in the beginning we were running up to the farm to visit her sister and family and I told her I had to go up there and help on vacation and all. But once we got settled down then we began traveling. We subscribe to the National Geographic and I look through there and I see a place I want to see. The first trip we took was up to the Bay of Fundy. (Canada)

Brenda Velasco: Oh then you saw the receding waters and everything.

Lou Krasovic: Yes, we went up there and saw the reversing waterfall. Then we went to Wyoming to see something and then after that we were going to California and then our oldest son was in the Navy and he settled in California. We used to visit the different parks there and the Bryce Canyon.

Brenda Velasco: How did you travel across country? Did you have a camper?

Lou Krasovic: No, just a car and a tent.

Fran Krasovic: A tent and sleeping bags. We never stayed at a hotel or motel or anything.

Brenda Velasco: And you brought your children?

Fran Krasovic: Two.

Lou Krasovic: The two of them. The others were old enough so they didn't want to go. Then one year we did go to Alaska and we only took our youngest one because the other one didn't want to go. But we traveled. My brother lived out of Palms Spring in California and we'd drive out there and visit him.

Brenda Velasco: So you kept in contact with your family.

Lou Krasovic: Yes, they did. We were fortunate some people who, they didn't adopt but they took my two sisters out of the orphanage, the little ones, and they grew up together and went to school together and all. But they kept in touch with us.

Brenda Velasco: That was good

Lou Krasovic: So my youngest one is out in New Mexico and I'm the oldest and I'm here. The other two, in between, are gone.

Brenda Velasco: And you're alive and kicking. You're doing good. Did your children have any recreation here?

Lou Krasovic: None of our kids were involved in athletics.

Fran Krasovic: When we first moved here, of course, the summer was empty and a couple of kids were in high school so they used to have parties here every Friday night. They were well chaperoned because the smaller kids sat on the steps and watched everything.

Brenda Velasco: And would tell you if anything was wrong.

Lou Krasovic: And the thing was our two oldest had ordered non- alcoholic beverages because if you did, you'd be kicked out; so they didn't. Todd Howell used to come here. I don't know if you knew Todd.

Brenda Velasco: Oh yes, I interviewed Todd.

Lou Krasovic: Well, Todd used to come here and Cappy Boehm (Casper), the judge from Sayreville or wherever.

Fran Krasovic: Yes, we had his 16th birthday here. His parents came to help.

Brenda Velasco: So this was the party house.

Lou Krasovic: The kids had no place to go so they came here.

Fran Krasovic: One mother sent me a box of candy. She said, "you need the energy" because there was no place for the kids to go.

Lou Krasovic: That's what we did with our kids. Of course they had their weekends up at the farm. They learned about cows.

Brenda Velasco: That was a good experience for them.

Lou Krasovic: Oh yes, they remember it.

Brenda Velasco: Because this was building up at the time so you didn't have the cows anymore.

Lou Krasovic: No.

7. What was the focal point of your community at that time?

Lou Krasovic: I guess the church.

Brenda Velasco: Okay, St. Anthony's Church.

Lou Krasovic: St. Anthony's, they had things going on.

Fran Krasovic: Yes, I was in the Rosary Society.

Lou Krasovic: So you're active in the church.

Fran Krasovic: And the kids had their communion and confirmation.

Brenda Velasco: All their milestones.

Lou Krasovic: All that stuff.

Brenda Velasco: Baptism and communion.

Fran Krasovic: Just Frannie was baptized here. She was born after we moved here.

Lou Krasovic: She was born in 1954. She lives down out of Atlanta. Our kids are spread around.

Brenda Velasco: They sure are. They're all over.

Lou Krasovic: Our oldest is a boy; he's out in California.

Brenda Velasco: Except for Kathy. She's in Woodbridge Proper.

Lou Krasovic: She's right here. Our daughter Ann lived here for years but she lives out near Bethlehem, Pennsylvania which is by Nazareth. So she's there and then our other son lived in Piscataway when he retired and he had already bought land up in Pennsylvania so he's up there now.

Brenda Velasco: So what we're seeing is that some of your children are going back to where you guys originally met in northeastern Pennsylvania.

Lou Krasovic: Yes, he liked it and we have a couple of grandchildren now near Erie. The one girl's husband teaches law at the Edinboro University of Pennsylvania which is a satellite of Pennsylvania University.

Brenda Velasco: Oh I didn't know that.

Lou Krasovic: Yes.

Brenda Velasco: Very good. Alright you'd say the church then was a main focal point.

Lou Krasovic: I'd think so.

8. What did you like about living in Woodbridge?

Lou Krasovic: Well I like the waterfront.

Brenda Velasco: And Sewaren has it.

Lou Krasovic: When the fish started coming back in. I was a fisherman; I went all over the country fishing.

Brenda Velasco: Yes.

Lou Krasovic: Colorado and Wyoming.

Fran Krasovic: When we went to Alaska every little river we saw we had to stop and wet the hook.

Brenda Velasco: And you camped out in Alaska too with the sleeping bag?

Fran Krasovic: Oh, yes.

Lou Krasovic: Oh, yes. When we were there, before they went up to (inaudible) the oil fields, we camped right on the banks of the Yukon at Circle City. They thought it was at the Arctic Circle but it wasn't. Then my daughter and I flew up to Fort Yukon which was above the Arctic Circle and got our certificates.

Brenda Velasco: My husband had been there. It was out of Hudson Bay but he had gone up beyond the Arctic Circle. Alright and Fran what did you like about living in Sewaren.

Fran Krasovic: I guess I loved it because he loved it. A lot of women used to go down by the water and we'd be laughing so hard all the men would come over and see why we were laughing.

Lou Krasovic: Then we found out they were laughing at us.

Brenda Velasco: Why not?

9. Did you experience any significant happenings in Woodbridge-construction, accidents, sports events, riots, discrimination, etc.

Lou Krasovic: Well we were here when the train wreck occurred. Then, of course, the **A&P** burning.

Fran Krasovic: Then lightening hit that tank.

Lou Krasovic: The oil tank, one of the tanks down here.

Fran Krasovic: We could stand on Old Road and straight down you could see it burning.

Brenda Velasco: That was a few years ago. It was in the 1990s, late 1990s right? (1996)

Lou Krasovic: Yes.

Fran Krasovic: Yes.

Brenda Velasco: And that was at Shell?

Lou Krasovic: Yes.

Fran Krasovic: Then the barge that blew up right at the waterfront here across the.....

Lou Krasovic: Across Staten Island and that was only about four or five years ago.

Fran Krasovic: Some men were over here, where they have a gazebo built for the men and everything.....

Lou Krasovic: At the park.

Fran Krasovic: When that blew up the men said that it knocked them over and then they started running because they didn't know what was going on.

Brenda Velasco: Wow!

Fran Krasovic: Luckily he was home at the time.

Lou Krasovic: For some reason that's the first time in years that I wasn't down there in the morning.

Brenda Velasco: And he missed the excitement.

Fran Krasovic: Yes.

Lou Krasovic: Then I believe they just built Public Service after we moved in or, yes.....

Fran Krasovic: I don't remember that.

Lou Krasovic: They were building it, I think, when we moved in.

Brenda Velasco: The generating station down there.

Lou Krasovic: Yes and then, of course, they improved the boat launch area. They built a new dock there and the park.

Brenda Velasco: Yes, do you go there for the fireworks?

Lou Krasovic: No.

Fran Krasovic: We saw them right from our house; as much as we could see.

Lou Krasovic: It gets so crowded we can't enjoy it but that's where I live. I live there and I come to 169 to eat and sleep.

Brenda Velasco: So you enjoy the marina and the park, that whole area.

Lou Krasovic: Yes.

Brenda Velasco: That's great. It's so close to you.

Lou Krasovic: It is.

Fran Krasovic: My daughter from Pennsylvania came and was talking to the men down there and they said, what do you guys do here and they said, well we watch the tide come in and out. So she went and bought a whole bunch of tee shirts and on the computer she had Tide Watchers of Sewaren.

Lou Krasovic: Tide Watcher Club, Sewaren, New Jersey logo and Reverend Horton from the Baptist Church up in Avenel has a boat, he fishes down here, and he's our chaplain. My daughter made, on the logo, chaplain for him.

Brenda Velasco: I'm glad you have a sense of humor.

Fran Krasovic: Now three different men had died from there and in the obits it said that they were members of the.....

Lou Krasovic: Tide Watcher's Club. I don't know if you know Jules Weber? The artist?

Brenda Velasco: Yes, he's done paintings.

Lou Krasovic: Yes.

Brenda Velasco: And he's even had an exhibit at the Barron Arts Center.

Lou Krasovic: He and I have a great time talking about that and the shirts and stuff. I don't know why it fell on me. Ann bought the first ones and then I bought another batch and had them made up for all the members.

Brenda Velasco: It's nice being retired then for you.

Lou Krasovic: I'm enjoying it.

Fran Krasovic: Well he's been on disability since '74.

Lou Krasovic: They gave up on me.

Fran Krasovic: He has a cow's aorta on his heart.

Brenda Velasco: Oh, okay, not the pig aorta then.

Fran Krasovic: No.

Brenda Velasco: The cow aorta.

Lou Krasovic: Yes they're bovine.

Brenda Velasco: Alright and it's keeping you alive.

Fran Krasovic: Yes.

Lou Krasovic: It's keeping me going.

Brenda Velasco: That's good.

Lou Krasovic: I have a fake hip, a hip replacement, and I get a kick out of the surgeon. He knew me from a couple of things. He came in and in three days I was up and around. He said, Lou I'm not sending you to therapy, he said, because I know you and they'd drive you bonkers. I came down here and I started walking and everything.

Brenda Velasco: That's great. Okay, anything else that we can think of. We mentioned some of the accidents. Sporting events, the Depression? How about the wars?

Fran Krasovic: When we lived in Perth Amboy, before we moved here.....

Lou Krasovic: Yes, because we moved here in '50 so.

Fran Krasovic: Our Ann was a war baby. She was born in '47.

Brenda Velasco: Okay, she's part of the baby boomers.

Fran Krasovic: Yes. He was in '45.

Lou Krasovic: The Army, yes.

10. What do you like about Woodbridge today?

Lou Krasovic: I enjoy the waterfront there and I meet the men. You know the old men gather and they talk. You know what they talk about don't you?

Brenda Velasco: What do they talk about?

Lou Krasovic: Girls.

Brenda Velasco: That never changes.

Lou Krasovic: No, you got to forgive me I can't help myself sometime.

Brenda Velasco: Alright, so you like that Sewaren waterfront then?

Lou Krasovic: Definitely.

Brenda Velasco: It's relaxing there though.

Lou Krasovic: Yes, in the summer the fish come in. Well the people are starting to fish now. They haven't caught anything but, you know, the people who have the boats will come and talk them and have a wonderful time.

Brenda Velasco: That's great.

11. Do you have family members still living in Woodbridge?

Lou Krasovic: My daughter and grandson.

Brenda Velasco: Kathy and your grandson.....

Lou Krasovic: Pat.

Brenda Velasco: Pat Dowling. Okay, most of your family has left this area.

Lou Krasovic: Yes and Kathy's a focal point now because for Easter our daughter from Bath and her family are coming here and our son from the northeast is coming down because his wife is going to Michigan because their son is having an operation. He's a pilot with Northwest Airlines. After 9/11 he joined the Air International Guard so right now he's with them for ten months flying all around the world.

Brenda Velasco: Wow! How old is he?

Lou Krasovic: 42 I believe.

Brenda Velasco: My goodness! Okay, so he's in the Air National Guard you said?

Lou Krasovic: International Guard. Well he was a Navy pilot when he came out of Annapolis. He became a Navy pilot and when his time was up, some of the guys said, you know, you're going to be shipped someplace overseas and you'll be away from home. So then he left and got the Northwest Airlines and, guess what he's away from home.

Brenda Velasco: Still.

Fran Krasovic: He was in the hospital just three weeks ago; he had pneumonia. Then when he got home I got a bad cold. I didn't get pneumonia.

Brenda Velasco: Well, that's good. You can't get that sick.

Lou Krasovic: We just live and enjoy life. As I say, at our age, our two daughters get together and clean this up and put new curtains on.

Fran Krasovic: Then they have a lady coming. Now she's been coming every two weeks and cleaning the house and they pay for it.

Lou Krasovic: It's not because I'm dirty. Somebody else who lives here messes it up.

Brenda Velasco: You have to sit back and relax and you go to the Sewaren waterfront there and enjoy it.

Fran Krasovic: Well he goes down there every day when he's able.

Brenda Velasco: That's a nice place to visit. Water is always a calming influence.

Lou Krasovic: Yes.

Brenda Velasco: Well, can you think of anything else you want to add to this interview?

Lou Krasovic: We hiked down into the Bryce Canyon. We were there several times, in Utah.

Brenda Velasco: It's beautiful.

Lou Krasovic: We hiked down in there. They asked old man Bryce, who was a rancher up there they asked him, what do you feel about the place? He said, "it's a hell of a place to lose a cow".

Brenda Velasco: I could see that looking at the landscape there. Yes, Fran?

Fran Krasovic: Get that bottle from Chrome. Before the place (Chrome) was fixed up for the men there, on the window sill the big bottle from Chrome.

Lou Krasovic: I don't see a big one here.

Fran Krasovic: Way at the end to your left.

Brenda Velasco: There you go.

Fran Krasovic: No.

Lou Krasovic: It's not here honey.

Fran Krasovic: Well what did they do with it? He found a lot of bottles and brought them home and they had.....

Lou Krasovic: From Chrome and Port Reading.

Brenda Velasco: Oh!

Lou Krasovic: Here this must be it.

Fran Krasovic: Yes, that's it. It had a lot of ships in it.

Lou Krasovic: From Chrome, New Jersey: Shapiro. I found a lot of bottles that we had.

Brenda Velasco: From the Sewaren riverfront.

Lou Krasovic: When Weiner's had their beer place there in Woodbridge I found a couple...

Brenda Velasco: Okay, so this was Shapiro.

Fran Krasovic: It states from Chrome at the bottom.

Lou Krasovic: Is the date on there? Some of them had dates.

Fran Krasovic: He soaked them in Clorox water and it killed all the things they....

Brenda Velasco: Germs, yes.

Fran Krasovic: Then I put it up on the window sill; because if it has enough lead in it, the sun will turn it purple.

Brenda Velasco: Well it seemed to have turned it purple.

Fran Krasovic: It did. Get one of the tops up there that's purple Lou.

Brenda Velasco: Okay, Chrome, New Jersey was where Carteret.....

Fran Krasovic: Right here, up here by the.....

Brenda Velasco: The Chrome section of Carteret.

Lou Krasovic: Between Sewaren and.....

Brenda Velasco: Yes.

Fran Krasovic: Louis get the.....

Lou Krasovic: Yes these are turning purple. They were clear white.

Brenda Velasco: How do you like that? This is warm from the sun.

Fran Krasovic: We were out west and, where the wagon trains went and we could see the ruts, you know we went into different ghost towns.

Brenda Velasco: Yes.

Fran Krasovic: One young boy went along and picked up pieces of glass that were really purple and nails and things and sold it to the tourists. So I told Kay Burns, in fact I brought them in that turned purple. So she put one of her dishes in the window with the sun to see if it would turn purple.

Brenda Velasco: I wonder if it did.

Fran Krasovic: I don't know. I'll have to ask her.

Lou Krasovic: Its south past the city, we go in, and right out of there was the parting of the ways. You see the ruts going to Oregon or California.

Brenda Velasco: That was a center point then in that route. Okay, so I'm going to thank you both for the interview.

Fran Krasovic: There's a lot of nonsense in there that'll have to be cut out.

Brenda Velasco: I wouldn't worry about that, it was a good interview.