

**Oral History Interview**  
**Margaret Szabo Lomonico**  
**WH021**

(written transcript and digital audio)

On October 25, 2008, Margaret Lomonico was interviewed at her home in Woodbridge Hills by Brenda Velasco. Her daughter, Judy Lomonico Kazimir, who lives in Colonia, was also present for the interview.

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

*Margaret Lomonico:* My name is Margaret Szabo Lomonico. I was born on December 30, 1920.

*Brenda Velasco:* Just before New Year's Day.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes.

**2. How long have you lived in Woodbridge?**

*Margaret Lomonico:* Well I was born here.

*Brenda Velasco:* Yes.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Well I lived in Fords and I lived in Hopelawn. I was born in Hopelawn and all New Jersey. I was right around Hopelawn and Fords and Woodbridge.

*Brenda Velasco:* Alright, and now you're in Iselin at Woodbridge Hills.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Woodbridge Hills, back in Woodbridge.

*Brenda Velasco:* You're back in Woodbridge, right.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes, yes.

*Brenda Velasco:* Alright, so when did you leave Woodbridge?

*Margaret Lomonico:* I was here a long a time. I moved to Toms River 32 years ago.

*Brenda Velasco:* So most of your time though was spent in Woodbridge.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes, Fords, Woodbridge.

**3. Why did your family originally move to Woodbridge?**

*Margaret Lomonico:* Oh well I'll tell you, my family had a farm in Princeton and we sold that farm for two brand new houses. They were in Fords. Two houses were brand new and we lost both houses because of the Depression. We had to go on relief. The two houses we lost and then we went into a one family house there.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay, when you bought those two houses, do you remember the street or the section that you lived in?

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes, Gordon Avenue, we lived off King George Road. I used to walk to school from Fords.

*Brenda Velasco:* What schools did you attend?

*Margaret Lomonico:* No. 7 and, what is that, 14?

*Brenda Velasco:* That's right. Now after you lost the houses, was your dad able to get a job?

*Margaret Lomonico:* I'll tell you, he worked in a Bakelite factory and he had caught his finger in a machine. He had one finger cut half way so he couldn't work so he ended up working in the park with the CCC.

*Brenda Velasco:* The CCC, Civilian Conservation Corp.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes, yes that's where he worked in the park like in the trees, him and my brothers too.

*Brenda Velasco:* And where was the park?

*Margaret Lomonico:* We were right there, in fact, we lived one block off it on Gordon Avenue.

*Brenda Velasco:* Was it by Fords Park?

*Margaret Lomonico:* Gordon Avenue and then Jensen Avenue and that was the park, it was right there.

*Brenda Velasco:* How many brothers and sisters did you have?

*Margaret Lomonico:* There were eight all together, four boys and four girls. They all passed away except for one brother.

*Brenda Velasco:* And where does he live?

*Margaret Lomonico:* In New Jersey here, but I just can't think of the town right now.

*Judy Kazimir:* Up north, about an hour away.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Do you remember, Judy, where?

*Judy Kazimir:* No, up by Philipsburg.

*Brenda Velasco:* Oh, by Philipsburg, okay.

#### ***4. What physical changes have occurred over the years in the area you lived?***

***-houses, streets, services, stores, houses of worship, schools, etc.***

*Brenda Velasco:* Should we go to Fords or Hopelawn first?

*Margaret Lomonico:* Hopelawn is where I lived first and I had a sister that passed away there with diphtheria, when we lived there. That's where they were born, in Hopelawn. That's where I was born in Hopelawn. They had that diphtheria epidemic and that's why she passed away. She was only 8 years old.

*Brenda Velasco:* Do you remember what year that was?

*Margaret Lomonico:* Oh, and I had a brother that drowned.

*Brenda Velasco:* Wow!

*Margaret Lomonico:* He was a twin. I had twin brothers, John and Alex; Alex went to the clay banks there and you know they had water there and he went with a friend of his. He asked my mother if he could go swimming and my mother said, no, you can't you don't know how to swim. But he went anyhow and he drowned. Never came back. Him and a friend.

*Brenda Velasco:* His name was Alex?

*Margaret Lomonico:* Alex, yes, he was only 8 years old.

*Brenda Velasco:* Too bad he didn't listen to your mother.

*Margaret Lomonico:* He didn't listen to his mother, so I guess it was meant to be. It's a shame, he was such a cute kid too. That's the shame, but his brother is still living.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay.

*Margaret Lomonico:* He's a twin to John, and John is still living.

*Brenda Velasco:* Alright, so you've seen the clay banks where Woodbridge Center was?

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes.

*Brenda Velasco:* Alright, and how was Hopelawn at that time, were there a lot of houses?

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes, there were enough houses, yes.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay, were the streets paved?

*Margaret Lomonico:* I really don't remember that.

*Judy Kazimir:* You used to walk to school right?

*Margaret Lomonico:* Well, I walked to school in Fords, when I lived in Fords.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay, where did you live in Fords? That was Gordon, no.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Gordon no, that was Woodbridge. Fords, I lived on Washington Street.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay, and then on Washington Street you were able to walk to school?

*Margaret Lomonico:* I walked, no let me see now that was Washington Street. Yea, I used to walk to school.

*Brenda Velasco:* So you went to School #7?

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes, and #14.

*Brenda Velasco:* And #14, and where did you go to high school?

*Margaret Lomonico:* I didn't go to high school. I had to go to work because we didn't have no money so I went to work. My cousin used to work in a shirt factory and that's where I got a job, in the shirt factory. So I just went up to 8<sup>th</sup> grade and that was it.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay and where was this shirt factory?

*Margaret Lomonico:* In Perth Amboy, on New Street, Merritt Shirt.

*Brenda Velasco:* My mom, also, didn't go to high school. She worked in a bakery because we're talking about Depression and those were the bad times.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Bad times when there are eight children. Not easy.

*Brenda Velasco:* And how did you get to Perth Amboy?

*Margaret Lomonico:* Bus.

*Brenda Velasco:* Alright, so you took a bus.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes, I took a bus. One time we had so much snow that I had to walk home, you couldn't drive a car. The snow was so deep from where I was working. I walked home. I had to leave my car.

*Brenda Velasco:* Oh, by that time you were driving then?

*Margaret Lomonico:* I was driving then.

*Brenda Velasco:* And how long did you work at the factory, Marge?

*Margaret Lomonico:* Oh, I don't remember.

*Brenda Velasco:* Before you were married?

*Margaret Lomonico:* No, this was when I was married already.

*Brenda Velasco:* So you worked there a long time then?

*Margaret Lomonico:* A long time, different jobs I had. I worked in the handkerchief factory, too, and I worked in the shirt factory. What else? Those were the factories I worked.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay, and what did you do in the factory? Did you sew or .....

*Margaret Lomonico:* I used to press collars on the men's shirts. This was a men's shirt factory. I used to roll the collars in those days. They had these steam irons; with the steam, they used to heat up with the steam and have these long holes like and it put steam into the iron. My aunt used to fit the men's shirts and she would press with the big machine. Then she would fold it down and on to the collar and press the collar; and I had to go get those collared shirts and fold the collar and then get my iron and go like this with the steam iron.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay, so your aunt worked there, you worked there and did you have a cousin working there too?

*Margaret Lomonico:* No, just my aunt and I.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay, how many hours did you work?

*Margaret Lomonico:* A full day, until 5:00 P.M. or something. I don't know, from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

*Brenda Velasco:* From 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

*Margaret Lomonico:* To 5:00 P.M., or something like that.

*Brenda Velasco:* And did you work Saturdays and Sundays?

*Margaret Lomonico:* Sometimes we had to come in.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay.

*Margaret Lomonico:* According to how busy we were.

*Brenda Velasco:* Were you paid overtime?

*Margaret Lomonico:* I don't know, I got \$7.00 a week, a dollar a day, that's about all we used to get.

*Brenda Velasco:* \$7.00 a week.

*Margaret Lomonico:* A dollar a day is what we got.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay, how about churches, were there any churches?

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes, one or two. What was that Saint.....

*Judy Kazimir:* St. James.

*Margaret Lomonico:* What?

*Judy Kazimir:* St. James.

*Margaret Lomonico:* St. James that was after I was married, St. James. The other one was.....

*Judy Kazimir:* Oh, Our Lady of Peace?

*Margaret Lomonico:* Our Lady of Peace.

*Judy Kazimir:* In Fords?

*Margaret Lomonico:* In Fords. I always had to walk everywhere. I remember, at that time I wasn't driving.

*Brenda Velasco:* Well, you're 87 years old now.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes.

*Brenda Velasco:* It seems to have helped you. You're healthy.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes, I guess.

*Brenda Velasco:* You're very healthy. Okay, what about the stores there?

*Margaret Lomonico:* Stores, we didn't have too many stores. We had a Mrs. Toth store where we used to go and there was the butcher shop.

*Judy Kazimir:* Where was Toth's at? Was it upper Main Street by Aunt Tessie's or?

*Margaret Lomonico:* No, this was not by Aunt Tessie's at the time, this was, I'm talking about a long time ago.

*Judy Kazimir:* New Street?

*Margaret Lomonico:* It was on, I don't even know what the name of that street was. We used to have a, is that where we had a farm, we had farm there or what the heck did we have. I can't even remember. We had to walk to stores. We walked all over.

*Brenda Velasco:* Alright.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Didn't have no cars then.

*Brenda Velasco:* When did you first get your car?

*Margaret Lomonico:* When did I get my first car, oh, that was after I was married. I never had a car before. I never drove before. After I got married, I drove.

*Brenda Velasco:* And who taught you to drive?

*Margaret Lomonico:* My husband.

*Brenda Velasco:* And you didn't have any arguments?

*Margaret Lomonico:* No. My kids were in the back seat and they said, Ma watch out the cars coming. That were the back seat drivers I had. I don't know if you remember Judy?

*Judy Kazimir:* When she got married she had twins right away.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yea, well, Judy's a twin.

*Brenda Velasco:* Then you're a twin?

*Judy Kazimir:* Yes.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes, she's a twin.

*Judy Kazimir:* She lived on one street, either Coley or Second.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes, her brother, Robert, he's still alive, yea. Robert's got a store now.

*Judy Kazimir:* What street is that Coley or Second Street?

*Margaret Lomonico:* When you were born? That was, what street were you born on Judy?

*Judy Kazimir:* Coley or Second Street.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Coley, we didn't live on Second Street.

*Judy Kazimir:* There was an apartment named by that street.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Jean Court, Coley Street.

*Judy Kazimir:* Jean Court, Jean Court was where we had a house, the first house was on Jean Court.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes, that's where you were born.

*Judy Kazimir:* That's right behind Town Hall.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Jean Court.

*Brenda Velasco:* Right, right, right, right.

*Judy Kazimir:* Then my father built a house on New Street.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes, on New Street. Let me see, where were you born? You were born on.....

*Judy Kazimir:* Coley Street.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Coley Street. New Street, Coley Street and Jean Court we lived on in Woodbridge here.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay, so you lived around three different streets then?

*Margaret Lomonico:* Three different streets? Gordon Avenue.

*Judy Kazimir:* Right by the 5&10, right?

*Margaret Lomonico:* Gordon Avenue, New Street, Coley Street and Washington Street.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay, Washington was in Fords then, right?

*Margaret Lomonico:* Fords, yes.

*Brenda Velasco:* Yes, yes, yes. How did you like moving to Woodbridge Proper?

*Margaret Lomonico:* I liked it, I liked it here. I didn't mind.

*Brenda Velasco:* Did you have more stores?

*Margaret Lomonico:* More stores?

*Brenda Velasco:* Alright and where did you meet your husband?

*Margaret Lomonico:* Where did I meet my husband? At a dance, we had a ballroom like or something where they had dancing.

*Brenda Velasco:* Was that in Woodbridge?

*Margaret Lomonico:* That was in Perth Amboy.

*Brenda Velasco:* Ah!

*Margaret Lomonico:* The Raritan Ballroom, do you remember that?

*Brenda Velasco:* No, no.

*Margaret Lomonico:* The Raritan Ballroom, yes. We used to go with some of my neighbors who used to drive and they used to drive us there.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay and that was in Perth Amboy.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes, and I used to roller skate in the roller rink in Perth Amboy. That was a lot of fun. We used to roller skate when we lived on Gordon Avenue I used to roller skate down Liberty Street there. We used to roller skate. The only thing that I used to own was the roller skates.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay, we've got the schools you attended and we know the streets that you lived on, what about the services of the Township? Were there any services? Did you have garbage pickup?

*Margaret Lomonico:* I guess, yes, I guess they must have had it. Well, gee, I really don't. I know we had a cow. I used to have to walk the cow down the street, down up to the hills so they could graze there. I used to have to walk it.

*Judy Kazimir:* That's funny.

*Margaret Lomonico:* We had chickens.

*Brenda Velasco:* Where did you have .....

*Margaret Lomonico:* This is in Fords.

*Brenda Velasco:* Ah!

*Judy Kazimir:* Yea, in Woodbridge they had chickens.

*Margaret Lomonico:* On Gordon Avenue.

*Judy Kazimir:* Grandma had chickens in the backyard.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes, chickens.

*Brenda Velasco:* So it was basically almost like a farmland for you.

*Margaret Lomonico:* A little farmland. Yes, well we were farms.

*Brenda Velasco:* But not like the one in Princeton?

*Margaret Lomonico:* No, no, the farm in Princeton was big. We had orchards and everything there, in Princeton.

*Judy Kazimir:* Remember you had the milk delivery?

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes, my mother used to milk the cow. We had a horse, I think one horse, or something like that. We had gardens, potatoes we grew, every kind of vegetable and fruit trees. We had cherry trees and apple trees and pear trees.

*Judy Kazimir:* What town was that?

*Margaret Lomonico:* In Fords.

*Judy Kazimir:* Fords.

*Margaret Lomonico:* No, wait a minute, let me see, that was Princeton.

*Judy Kazimir:* That was Princeton.

*Brenda Velasco:* Yes, that was Princeton.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes we had the farm in Princeton.

*Judy Kazimir:* That's when they had the farm there.

*Margaret Lomonico:* I used to go to school there. They had a one room schoolhouse. I used to go there.

*Brenda Velasco:* Wow!

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes, the first row was 1<sup>st</sup> grade and the second row was 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. Yes, I went to this one room schoolhouse.

*Judy Kazimir:* My mother is very intelligent for the amount of schooling she had.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes, I became pretty smart.

*Brenda Velasco:* Yes, you did.

*Margaret Lomonico:* You know we had one classroom, the first row was 1<sup>st</sup> grade and the second row was 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and this is the way I grew up. From the farm we had to walk to school. We were miles and miles, I don't even know how many miles. Houses were so far apart. Everybody had farms.

*Brenda Velasco:* No longer.

*Margaret Lomonico:* No, we had wagons, we had apples trees and we'd take the apples and go make cider. My father would take them on the wagon, you know. We had a winter cellar, winter thing in our basement, in the cellar. Where we would put all winter, you know, my mother would cook things and jar things.

*Judy Kazimir:* Storage.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay, canning. She did canning.

*Margaret Lomonico:* She did canning, like that, yes, and put it in the cellar there. It was cold out there and grew things like parsley and carrots and stuff like that in the winter cellar, it would be like a cellar and that's where we actually lived was downstairs. Downstairs was the kitchen, sort of like in the cellar almost. Then we had upstairs (which) was the bedrooms and a dining room we had.

*Brenda Velasco:* How many bedrooms did you have in that?

*Margaret Lomonico:* I think we only had two bedrooms, as far as I remember. Yea, one was my mother and father and the other ....

*Brenda Velasco:* Were the kids.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Wait, I think maybe three bedrooms. There was one for the boys and one for the girls, yea. We even had chickens and a rooster. The chickens were in an incubator.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes, yes and my mother put the eggs in. Yes, we had an incubator in the bedroom, one of the bedrooms there.

*Brenda Velasco:* So you didn't even have to go to the store when you lived down in Princeton?

*Margaret Lomonico:* Well we had eggs and we had milk and my mother would make cottage cheese and butter she made. We used to churn the butter. We had one of those things that you had to sit on, a bench, and turn and turn and turn this handle until we had butter. We made cottage cheese. My mother canned stuff all the time. Peaches, we had an orchard. We had everything growing, even strawberries. Cherries, apples, pears, peaches, a walnut tree, we had walnuts.

*Brenda Velasco:* Walnuts?

*Margaret Lomonico:* We had walnuts growing, yea.

*Brenda Velasco:* Wow!

*Margaret Lomonico:* All kinds of nuts.

*Judy Kazimir:* It had to be very different living with the farm though and then without the farm.

*Margaret Lomonico:* We had to take the bugs off the plants, you know, like the tomato plants and stuff.

*Brenda Velasco:* Yes, because otherwise the bugs would destroy it.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes, and the potatoes. Yes, you had to take off the bugs. That's what we had to do.

*Brenda Velasco:* Well there were eight kids though.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Eight kids, yes.

*Brenda Velasco:* You had a lot to do.

*Margaret Lomonico:* I had a lot to do. Yes, I don't know how my mother ever did it. We didn't even have no carpeting. When we went into the houses in Fords, we lost the two brand new houses. She had a tablecloth, that's what was our carpet. She put it on the floor, the tablecloth. Two beautiful brand new houses and we had to lose it all. You know, that was because my father lost his job with getting his fingers cut.

*Brenda Velasco:* Right, right.

*Margaret Lomonico:* And he couldn't work no more then in the Bakelite factory.

*Brenda Velasco:* Oh, he worked in the Bakelite factory?

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes, he worked in the Bakelite factory and that's where he had his finger cut. In the machine, he was working the machine.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay, where was the Bakelite factory, in New Brunswick?

*Margaret Lomonico:* I don't even know. I don't know where it was.

*Judy Kazimir:* Probably, if they were in Princeton.

*Brenda Velasco:* Because they were there, they were there.

*Judy Kazimir:* Yes.

*Brenda Velasco:* Because that was one of the big factories, the Bakelite.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Well that's where it was. I don't know how he got there but. I don't know how he used to travel, I was only a little kid then. Who knows?

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay, so there was no disability back then either.

*Margaret Lomonico:* No, no, no.

*Brenda Velasco:* No, nothing.

*Margaret Lomonico:* No, he lost his job. He just didn't work no more. Then he had to work for CCC in the park, whatever he could do and then he would get money from the government, I guess, for working in the park. My brother worked there too.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay.

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

*Margaret Lomonico:* I'll tell you something, I saw the train wreck. Yea, there was this one street and I was going to make my supper, my husband was coming home from work. This was after I was married. I lived on Jean Court. No was that Jean Court? Yes (1951)

*Judy Kazimir:* Yea, Jean Court.

*Margaret Lomonico:* And I could see, there was just an empty lot, and there was a street that went down, now I can't remember what the name of the street was, but I could see the train, and I went to go make my husband dinner and I looked out the kitchen window and I'm seeing these trains are toppling over like toys.

*Brenda Velasco:* Oh my gosh!

*Margaret Lomonico:* I saw it and I called the emergency right away and my neighbor across the street, he saw it too, and he did the same thing. They said yes, yes. You should have seen, my husband went over; they were all going on to Fulton Street.

*Brenda Velasco:* Right.

*Margaret Lomonico:* The train toppled over to Fulton Street, but I saw them toppling over like, you know, like toys going over.

*Brenda Velasco:* So you were an eyewitness?

*Judy Kazimir:* My father was on the First Aid.

*Margaret Lomonico:* An eyewitness, I saw it. Right away I called emergency.



*Judy Kazimir:* He was a first aider in Woodbridge.

*Margaret Lomonico:* My husband was a first aider, yes he worked for the First Aid so, I mean, then he went over there. He wouldn't let me go over there. I wouldn't go, it was wintertime, it was very cold. Eighty people were killed in that train wreck.

*Brenda Velasco:* Yes, that was in 1951, I think.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes, I can't remember what year it was but it was unbelievable. I have pictures of it. Judy, do we have any pictures?

*Judy Kazimir:* Yes, we have pictures of it.

*Brenda Velasco:* That was the worse train wreck in American history.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes, I guess it was because I think it was eighty or eighty-one people, I think, that were killed.

*Brenda Velasco:* I think about eighty-five. The plaque in front of the train station right underneath the railroad trestle now has a.....

*Margaret Lomonico:* Has a picture?

*Brenda Velasco:* Just has a commemoration plaque. Alright, so we had a train going through Woodbridge that was one of the public facilities.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes, down Fulton Street and the train fell over on to Fulton Street.

*Judy Kazimir:* It was called The Broker or something like that?

*Brenda Velasco:* You're right, Judy, it was called The Broker.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Broker, it sure was. The Broker, that's what it was.

*Judy Kazimir:* People coming in from New York going home

*Margaret Lomonico:* No, they were coming from the Shore.

*Brenda Velasco:* Well, that was the Shoreline that was the Shoreline.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes, the Shoreline, yes.

*Judy Kazimir:* They were going back down the shore from New York?

*Brenda Velasco:* Yes.

*Judy Kazimir:* Yea, that's what it was.

*Margaret Lomonico:* They were coming home from the Shore.

*Brenda Velasco:* They were coming home from.....

*Margaret Lomonico:* People that worked down the Shore. There was a lot of people that worked down the Shore. They took that 81 train, whatever it was. Not 81, that was the number of people that died.

*Judy Kazimir:* That was The Broker, it was called The Broker

*Margaret Lomonico:* The Broker, yes it was, and we had that trestle, it was only made out of wood.

*Judy Kazimir:* Yes, yes.

*Margaret Lomonico:* That was the problem and it fell in. That's what happened and the train fell over because it fell in.

*Brenda Velasco:* Oh, it was a temporary.

*Margaret Lomonico:* It was a temporary trestle or whatever you call it.

*Brenda Velasco:* Did you see that Judy?

*Judy Kazimir:* I was home at the time.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay.

*Judy Kazimir:* I was like 11 years old. I remember all the excitement.

*Margaret Lomonico:* I heard they said there were arms and legs and parts of peoples' bodies all over Fulton Street there.

*Judy Kazimir:* Yes, that was a real tragedy.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes, that was really bad, really the worst. I couldn't go over because, well, it was wintertime and the kids were home here and I had to be home with the kids. My husband just went but he was with the First Aid at that time so he was helping. But he came home from work, he worked at Shell Oil and he just came home from work. It was around 5:00 P.M. or something when he got home from work.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay, so how about the Town Hall?

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes, we had a Town Hall.

*Judy Kazimir:* Right behind you.

*Margaret Lomonico:* It was right by the theatre there, the Woodbridge theatre.

*Brenda Velasco:* That's right.

*Margaret Lomonico:* And I lived right behind it.

*Judy Kazimir:* You were like a block behind it.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay, St. James, was St. James.....

*Margaret Lomonico:* St. James, let me see, was it there yet, I don't know?

*Judy Kazimir:* Yes, it was there.

*Margaret Lomonico:* It was there, yes.

*Judy Kazimir:* The old St. James Church.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes, well I got married there so.

*Brenda Velasco:* Alright, so you were married at the old St. James Church.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes, Father McCorrison married us.

*Brenda Velasco:* Father McCorrison?

*Margaret Lomonico:* McCorrison.

*Brenda Velasco:* Oh, McCorrison Hall.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes, McCorrison.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay, Father McCorrison and you said your mother chased you with a wooden spoon. He married you and your husband.

*Margaret Lomonico:* I said, Mom you married who you loved and I'm marrying my husband, so we ran away. We went to Father McCorrison, I had to go get lessons in First Communion and what not, I had to receive and Sister Mary Jude who taught me my catechism and everything. She was so nice to me.

*Brenda Velasco:* Now your husband was from Woodbridge then too?

*Margaret Lomonico:* No, he was born in New York.

*Brenda Velasco:* Oh.

*Margaret Lomonico:* He was born in New York. They lived on New Street for a long time.

*Judy Kazimir:* Was that behind the 5&10?

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes.

*Judy Kazimir:* Yes and he was a member of the Knights of Columbus.

*Margaret Lomonico:* The A&P was there and the 5&10.

*Judy Kazimir:* A volunteer First Aider, worked for Shell Oil, he cleaned the coils in the bars.

*Margaret Lomonico:* On Sundays. We didn't have no money, so one day we didn't have a cent in the house and we had twins, we had babies. They were babies, and my husband said wait. My husband got a coil cleaner machine from my brother-in-law, he gave him it. He would go on Sundays and clean the coils for I think \$5.00 or something like that. He said, wait Marge, I'll go over and clean the coils a day earlier, so he went on Saturday instead of Sunday. We didn't have

no food and I had no money to buy food and I had the twins already so that's how my husband got this job. Then he would clean coils and then he would work for LaPenta Oil Company. Yea, he even got friendly with Sam LaPenta and his wife and son. He did work on the radiators and stuff like that and baseboards and put in the heat.

*Judy Kazimir:* Yes, he used to put furnaces in.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes, he worked with Sam LaPenta.

*Judy Kazimir:* And then with all these people he knew, they helped him build the house on New Street.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes, one friend would build a house, let me think of what their name was, Travestinos, they built a house. About three or four men, I think, friends, they all got together. They each built a house for each other, you know, they helped build a house and they each built a house. Travestinos and what was the other ones name? Mary and Charlie....

*Judy Kazimir:* Geiss.

*Margaret Lomonico:* The Geisses, John and, what the heck was her name?

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay, so it was your husband, the Travestinos and the Geisses.

*Judy Kazimir:* They were all in the business and they all helped each other build their homes.

*Margaret Lomonico:* They were all friends, Charlie and Mary, what was their name?

*Judy Kazimir:* You'll think of it.

*Margaret Lomonico:* They all died, except the Geisses, the Geisses are still living. We send cards to each other.

*Brenda Velasco:* Do they live....

*Margaret Lomonico:* The Travestinos, Mrs. Travestino is still living, she was, anyway, I don't know and her family.

*Brenda Velasco:* But they moved out of Woodbridge?

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes, they moved out, yes. Geiss, I think, still lives in Woodbridge. John and Mary and Charlie, Ferraros, Mary Ferraro and Charlie Ferraro were very good friends of ours. I think they're both gone too.

*Judy Kazimir:* Ferraros?

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes, the Ferraro family. Remember the Ferraro family, Judy?

*Judy Kazimir:* Yes.

*Margaret Lomonico:* They had the, who was it, you were friends with?

*Judy Kazimir:* Judy Ferraro.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Huh.

*Judy Kazimir:* Judy Ferraro and John Ferraro and the Ungavarys?

*Margaret Lomonico:* Judy Ferraro, yes. Ungavarys, yes, we were friends with Ungavary?

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay, so, when your husband was on the First Aid Squad....

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes, he was.

*Brenda Velasco:* Where was the First Aid Squad back then?

*Judy Kazimir:* It's in the same place it is today.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Woodbridge? Woodbridge.

*Brenda Velasco:* On Brook Street?

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes.

*Brenda Velasco:* That's not there anymore.

*Margaret Lomonico:* It isn't?

*Brenda Velasco:* No, remember they're on Route #1, right off of Route #1, okay.

*Judy Kazimir:* Oh, okay.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Her husband is a fireman.

*Brenda Velasco:* Well, he's a fireman, that's different then.

*Judy Kazimir:* First aiders are different.

*Brenda Velasco:* Yes, yes, yes. Okay, so.

*Judy Kazimir:* What about the Presbyterian Church on Main Street had that big fire. (United Methodist Church)

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes, the fire, that burnt, we saw the church burning.

*Brenda Velasco:* The Methodist Church?

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay, so you saw that.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes, we saw that thing burning. Oh, that was sad. I had another thing happen, we had an apartment in the front of our house and this man came and shot this other man because this girl was living in our apartment and she was going with this guy and the other boyfriend came and shot him.

*Judy Kazimir:* Right in the road.

*Margaret Lomonico:* The other boyfriend killed him.

*Judy Kazimir:* In the front of the house on New Street.

*Margaret Lomonico:* I heard this bang and oh my God!

*Judy Kazimir:* Yes, that's true, that's a true story.

*Margaret Lomonico:* I didn't really see, I didn't see it, I wouldn't look, but that was a terrible thing too.

*Brenda Velasco:* And so he died.

*Margaret Lomonico:* He died, yes.

*Judy Kazimir:* When we grew up there were four bars around our house.

*Margaret Lomonico:* My brother-in-laws owned two of them.

*Judy Kazimir:* Yes.

*Margaret Lomonico:* We had Artie Finn and George ah....

*Judy Kazimir:* Kelleman.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Kelleman owned the bar across the street from us when we lived on New Street. We were surrounded by bars, four bars. One, two, three, four, five bars.

*Judy Kazimir:* Five actually.

*Brenda Velasco:* Oh, wow!

*Margaret Lomonico:* All around.

*Judy Kazimir:* We had the Blue Bird or something like that. There were five bars.

*Margaret Lomonico:* And what was my brother-in-laws? Two of them, one was Artie Finns and the other one was .....

*Judy Kazimir:* Joe Lomonico.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes.

*Judy Kazimir:* The House of Finn.

*Margaret Lomonico:* The House of Finn.

*Judy Kazimir:* Little Joes.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Little Joes, and it was Joe Lomonico that owned it, the tavern.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay, they're not there now though?

*Margaret Lomonico:* Oh, no. I don't know where they are now.

*Judy Kazimir:* No, I think now it is a dancing studio where one of them were there by

Il Castello's outside of them.

*Brenda Velasco:* Right, right.

*Judy Kazimir:* That was one of them.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Too many salons, my goodness!

*Brenda Velasco:* Yes.

*Margaret Lomonico:* And we were surrounded by them. One in the front and one in the back and one on the side and the other side, both sides.

*Judy Kazimir:* But remember when they moved the house from behind Publix, Aunt Grace's house, the two family?

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes, Aunt Grace's house.

*Judy Kazimir:* They actually moved it from that property up the road next to their house.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes, yes.

*Judy Kazimir:* It was a two family house.

*Margaret Lomonico:* See, you remember, Judy. We had an A&P there and we had .....

*Judy Kazimir:* Right behind Publix there was a two family house.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes, what was that, Amboy Avenue? Was that? No, what the heck. Was that Amboy Avenue, Judy?

*Judy Kazimir:* Amboy Avenue was a popular place, St. James.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes, that was, well St. James. St. James was, what was that main street? Route ....

*Brenda Velasco:* Route #35.

*Margaret Lomonico:* 35, yes.

*Brenda Velasco:* Route #35.

*Margaret Lomonico:* That's right where the St. James Church was.

*Brenda Velasco:* Aha.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes, we lived on Gordon.....

*Judy Kazimir:* No, that was before that.

*Margaret Lomonico:* That was New Street.

*Judy Kazimir:* Now we're talking about New Street.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Off, we had the bakery there. It was ah....

*Judy Kazimir:* Yes.

*Margaret Lomonico:* What was the name of that bakery, Judy?

*Brenda Velasco:* What was it called back then because now it's LaBonbonniere's.

*Judy Kazimir:* LaBonbonniere's, not it wasn't that it was.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Some kind of bakery. I can't remember. It was right across the street from the church there. We used to always go there, too. After church everybody would go to the bakery and get rolls and.....

*Judy Kazimir:* I'll think of it.

*Brenda Velasco:* You'll think of it after I leave.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Some kind of bakery, what kind of bakery. New Street Bakery?

*Judy Kazimir:* No.

*Brenda Velasco:* No, that would be too easy, Marge.

*Judy Kazimir:* They had a little Hungarian store, I think, right on.... What street was that, Mom, where the train fell over? Fulton Street.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes, Fulton Street, Toths.

*Judy Kazimir:* That was it.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Toths, t.o.t.h.  
*Judy Kazimir:* Yes, you'd have to go in up the steps and get in by the counter.  
*Margaret Lomonico:* Toths, is that where Toths was or was that another one?  
*Judy Kazimir:* And by up by LaPenta's they had a store too.  
*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes, I think that was Toths that was Toths off of.....  
*Judy Kazimir:* No, I think Toths was on Fulton Street.  
*Margaret Lomonico:* You think so.  
*Judy Kazimir:* Either that or there was also one on .....  
*Margaret Lomonico:* No, I think Toths, no Toths was up by LaPenta's there.  
*Judy Kazimir:* There was also one on Second Street there. There was another store on the corner.  
*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes, yes.  
*Judy Kazimir:* They had these little neighborhood stores, you know.  
*Brenda Velasco:* Yes.  
*Judy Kazimir:* With their little specialties.  
*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes, a bakery here.  
*Judy Kazimir:* That you would like to have today.  
*Margaret Lomonico:* And a butcher here and a fish store we used to go to on a....  
*Judy Kazimir:* Yes, Handerhan's Fish Store.  
*Brenda Velasco:* Handerhan's.  
*Margaret Lomonico:* Handerhan's Fish Store. Man, we were very good friends with Handerhan. My husband, yes, was friends with Handerhan.  
*Judy Kazimir:* They had the bank right on Main Street.  
*Brenda Velasco:* You had everything there.  
*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes, we were right out of the house.  
*Brenda Velasco:* You didn't need any car.  
*Margaret Lomonico:* No, we didn't, we had Publix over there. Publix, is that what it was?  
*Judy Kazimir:* Publix and Jackson's.  
*Margaret Lomonico:* Jackson's on the corner, we went for ice cream and what not.  
*Judy Kazimir:* There was a little dairy....  
*Margaret Lomonico:* Then we went and had, there was, oh, Publix was the other drug store.  
*Judy Kazimir:* We really had a nice....  
*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes, we just walked to everything, you know, we didn't need a car, and the dentist was on the other corner there, we used to go to the dentist there.  
*Judy Kazimir:* Yes, the milkman that came and delivered.  
*Margaret Lomonico:* The milkman came and delivered milk.  
*Brenda Velasco:* Ah!  
*Margaret Lomonico:* We used to have a peddler that used to come around peddling vegetables and fruit. That was on, I think that was in Fords.  
*Judy Kazimir:* That's when we had May crowning.  
*Brenda Velasco:* Oh, May crownings at church.  
*Margaret Lomonico:* I used to make crowns out of flowers that I grew.  
*Judy Kazimir:* Yes, they gave me a little crown, a little crown you had to bring it home....  
*Margaret Lomonico:* And put flowers on it.  
*Judy Kazimir:* And get dressed up with flowers.  
*Brenda Velasco:* And that was in the month of May.

*Judy Kazimir:* It's kind of like a fairy tale growing up, you know.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes, yes.

*Judy Kazimir:* When you think about it.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Oh my God!

*Judy Kazimir:* God, today it's...

*Margaret Lomonico:* I think they still have the May crownings.

*Judy Kazimir:* Although, when they had the May crownings they had a statue that was the size of yourself. They had big statues.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Oh, yes, they had big statues.

*Judy Kazimir:* I don't know what our church is going to do this time when they do it, they renew it because in Virginia the statues are hard and it's only a little 12 inch kind of statue on the wall.

They don't even have a cross.

*Brenda Velasco:* Wow!

*Judy Kazimir:* Nothing like that.

*Brenda Velasco:* And who lives in Virginia again?

*Judy Kazimir:* My sister.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Sister Margie.

*Judy Kazimir:* My mother's youngest child.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes.

*Brenda Velasco:* So that's a fairly new parish then?

*Margaret Lomonico:* She's got another family there, oh.

*Judy Kazimir:* Yes, in Virginia they have like.....

*Margaret Lomonico:* It's so different there.

*Judy Kazimir:* It's very different.

*Margaret Lomonico:* The church is not really like the church here.

*Judy Kazimir:* We've gone to services there.

*Margaret Lomonico:* The altar and everything is like in a circle there and that's where the priest goes down into the circle.

*Judy Kazimir:* It's like a little gully even.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes, you go down the steps to go into the circle thing.

*Judy Kazimir:* There's nothing to look up to like.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Well they had the, they had a choir.

*Judy Kazimir:* Yes, they did have a choir off to the side.

*Margaret Lomonico:* They had a children's thing, school for children.

## **6. What did you do for recreation?**

*Margaret Lomonico:* Oh, God, we used to play baseball in the fields. We used to have a big field, when I was a young girl and my mother would be hollering that I'd be playing with the boys. I used to roller skate and, what did we do, we went in the park and we played jacks and they had all kinds of things in the park. There was a man there.

*Judy Kazimir:* Jump rope.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Mr., what the heck was his name? Yea, we used to jump rope, we did double dutch and all that stuff. Played jacks and played red light blue light, or something at night, under the lamps.

*Judy Kazimir:* Hopscotch.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Street lamp. We'd sit on the steps and play all these different games, tag and hide and seek. Then we used to play grocery store where we used to make believe stones were meat and potatoes and bread and make believe we're buying bread and potatoes.

*Brenda Velasco:* But that was imagination.

*Margaret Lomonico:* That was imagination, yes, it was just make believe. We'd pick up stones that were the shape of potatoes or apples or something, you know.

*Judy Kazimir:* You have that in your new house.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes and I've got blueberries along the side of our houses.

*Brenda Velasco:* Oh, wow!

*Margaret Lomonico:* All blueberry bushes. My mother would make blueberry pie. Yes, we'd go blueberry picking.

*Judy Kazimir:* Now when you moved on New Street to your new house you had a ping pong table in the basement.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Oh, that was way after, oh.

*Judy Kazimir:* You had a piano.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Oh, that was way after when you kids grew up.

*Judy Kazimir:* You'd play those wheels...

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes, how old were you then Judy?

*Judy Kazimir:* 10 or 11.

*Margaret Lomonico:* 10 something like that, yes.

*Judy Kazimir:* Or 12 years old.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes, we had a piano and we had a ping pong table and we had a fireplace my husband built in the basement.

*Judy Kazimir:* A beautiful fireplace.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yea, a nice fireplace. It's still there.

*Judy Kazimir:* Did you get the brick from.....

*Margaret Lomonico:* A nice porch, my husband built a porch on our house.

*Brenda Velasco:* He was handy.

*Margaret Lomonico:* He was very handy. You know what, they would help each other, Mr. Travestino and my husband and I don't know who else was.

*Judy Kazimir:* They used to go up to Newark and get the brick.

*Margaret Lomonico:* They used to build each other's houses, you know.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay, that was nice.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes.

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

*Margaret Lomonico:* Well the school.

*Judy Kazimir:* She used to go to church every Sunday.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Church, we went to St.....

*Judy Kazimir:* St. James.

*Margaret Lomonico:* St. James, but earlier we went in Fords, we went to St. Mary's, St....

*Judy Kazimir:* Our Lady of Peace.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Our Lady of Peace. Our Lady of Peace Church there. Earlier, oh God, when we had the farm. Not the farm, we didn't even have the farm, no. When we were living in Fords we used to go walk to these different people that had cows and they had milk. We used to



buy milk from these people that had raised cows and things like that. After we moved away from the farm, we didn't have no farm then, we just had the two houses that we lost.

*Brenda Velasco:* Yes.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Because my father lost his job so we couldn't pay for the two houses so we lost them. Then we had to go end up getting another little old house that we moved into and we all slept in one room. We even had chickens hatching in one of the rooms. My mother used to raise chickens.

*Brenda Velasco:* Well with eight kids you had to have some food coming in.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes, yes she did it. She used to make cottage cheese.

*Judy Kazimir:* God love her, when she died, how old was she when she died, Mom? I don't even know that answer.

*Margaret Lomonico:* My mother was, what 80?

*Brenda Velasco:* She lived a long life too then.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes, she did too, she did. She lived a long life.

*Judy Kazimir:* She was very feeble looking.

*Margaret Lomonico:* But she used to have her flower garden and all kinds of vegetables and in the wintertime she'd put them in the cellar in the thing there.

*Judy Kazimir:* She worked so hard in those days

*Margaret Lomonico:* We had a cold part, you know, in the cellar there.

*Judy Kazimir:* She had that hunched back.

*Brenda Velasco:* Yes, osteoporosis.

*Judy Kazimir:* Yes, they didn't have no cure for that in those days.

*Margaret Lomonico:* She was also working in the garden pulling weeds and digging and planting. She made tomatoes and jelly and fruit and pies and everything under, apples and she'd can all this stuff too. She'd can all these peaches.

*Brenda Velasco:* She was busy.

*Margaret Lomonico:* She grew. She was unbelievable how she used to do this and make her own cakes and everything and bread. She made her own bread and cake. She made all kinds of, she made this, phyllo dough. She used to make that. She used to stretch that dough on the tablecloth on the table and make those phyllo cakes, you know.

*Brenda Velasco:* And they went.

*Margaret Lomonico:* With the cottage cheese and nuts, she would grind the nuts and make cottage cheese.

*Brenda Velasco:* They must have gone fast.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Huh.

*Brenda Velasco:* They were delicious.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Delicious, you said it. I'll tell you we used to have to stretch dough on the table. I don't know if you've ever seen anybody making the phyllo dough?

*Brenda Velasco:* No, that's a lot of work.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes, it's thin like tissue. You can see through it, that's how thin it was. She used to start out with the dough and you would stretch it. She'd put a tablecloth on the table and stretch that dough across the tablecloth and then she'd make cheese, cottage cheese and nuts, walnuts, grind walnut and poppy seed and lekvar.

*Brenda Velasco:* Oh, with the prunes, yes.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Prune filling. Oh, she baked, she baked, she really baked. She baked every week. Every week, every week she'd make.... She was a gardener and a baker and a

butcher and everything. My father had a butcher, he knew how to slaughter the cows and everything and slaughter the pigs and cows. No, well he didn't slaughter the cows, we milked the cows. She made cheese and everything and, what do you call that sour...

*Brenda Velasco:* Buttermilk?

*Margaret Lomonico:* Buttermilk, we used to churn the butter. We'd sit on the bench and with our hand we had to make butter.

*Brenda Velasco:* It kept you busy.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes.

*Brenda Velasco:* Kept you busy. So the center was either going to church or your family?

*Margaret Lomonico:* The church and the family play baseball, roller skate and go in the park and we'd play jacks.

*Judy Kazimir:* And they went to dances and stuff like that.

*Margaret Lomonico:* The park was right there, one, two streets away. We lived on Gordon Avenue and Jensen Avenue, the park was right there so we walked there. And the twins, they were babies, my twin brothers like I said.

*Brenda Velasco:* Alex and John.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Alex and John.

*Brenda Velasco:* Yes.

*Margaret Lomonico:* John's still living but Alex drowned.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay, alright.

*Margaret Lomonico:* On his 8<sup>th</sup> birthday.

*Brenda Velasco:* He was young.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes.

*Brenda Velasco:* That was tough for your mother.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes.

#### **8. What did you like about living in your section of Woodbridge?**

*Margaret Lomonico:* We were close to everything, yea. Well I walked to everything, so, in those days I didn't know how to drive or anything. We didn't have a car.

*Brenda Velasco:* So you were close to everything then?

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes. Not actually close, I had miles away, we were miles away from, you know, Ford Avenue. From Gordon Avenue to Ford Avenue we had to walk to school. Then we had School #7 and #11.

*Brenda Velasco:* 7 and 14, you walked.

*Margaret Lomonico:* 14, yes.

*Judy Kazimir:* Now when we moved on New Street, you were able to go on Main Street.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Oh, I was married already then.

*Judy Kazimir:* That was when you did everything on Main Street.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Main, yes, everything was on Main Street then. A&P and 5&10 and a drug store.

*Brenda Velasco:* All that you needed.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Jackson's, yes and Publix.

*Brenda Velasco:* All that you needed.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Is that what it was, Publix?

*Brenda Velasco:* Yes, there was Publix and Jackson's, you got it right.

*Margaret Lomonico:* 5&10, A&P.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay, so you described about the train wreck.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes, I had my twins and I had to push them in a twin baby carriage.

*Brenda Velasco:* So you had a twin baby carriage?

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes.

*Judy Kazimir:* Yes.

*Margaret Lomonico:* I pushed that and we used to go all the way from by the theatre, that's where we lived, to the A&P and the 5&10, I walked. We walked everywhere. Those days I enjoyed.

*Judy Kazimir:* They had Lomax on the corner. That's where you got...

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes, Lomax too.

*Judy Kazimir:* And a washing machine.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes, they had washing machines there. Town Hall was right there too.

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

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay, now you described the train accident and you described the fire by the Methodist church. (A more detailed description of the train wreck and the fire at the Methodist Church can be found on pp. 8-12)

*Margaret Lomonico:* That fire, yea, that was really....

*Brenda Velasco:* That made quite an impression on you then. So, you moved back to Woodbridge though?

*Margaret Lomonico:* I did.

**10. What do you like about Woodbridge today?**

*Brenda Velasco:* And, do you like living here now?

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes, I do.

*Brenda Velasco:* So you moved back to Woodbridge, it was about a month ago?

*Margaret Lomonico:* My daughter and my son live right here, 5 minutes away. Judy lives about 5 or 10. Bobby lives here, 10 minutes away.

*Judy Kazimir:* My brother lives in Plainfield.

*Margaret Lomonico:* I moved the 26<sup>th</sup>, of what, September?

*Judy Kazimir:* He's just like 20 minutes away.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay.

*Margaret Lomonico:* And I moved in here.

*Brenda Velasco:* Do you like living in Woodbridge Hills?

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes, I like it. I like it here. There are a lot of nice people here. They have the Clubhouse which is right here. I just walk up to it if I want to. They have bingo and all those different activities. Shows and dinners, we go to. Some of the ladies drive you different places and we all go. We just went to an Italian restaurant.

*Judy Kazimir:* The Garlic Rose.

*Brenda Velasco:* Oh, that's right. How did you like the Garlic Rose?

*Margaret Lomonico:* It was nice, very nice.

*Brenda Velasco:* That's in Cranford.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes, yes, that's where we went.

*Brenda Velasco:* Have you gone there, Judy?

*Judy Kazimir:* Yes, I've been there. It's really nice, really nice.

*Brenda Velasco:* As long as you like garlic, which I love garlic and if you're Hungarian you love garlic.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes.

*Judy Kazimir:* Yes, I love garlic.

*Brenda Velasco:* That's a nice place to go to.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes, it is, very nice.

*Brenda Velasco:* But your apartment that you have is so big.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Isn't it nice. Yes, it's perfect for me. My furniture fits in here perfectly.

*Brenda Velasco:* So you're happy with this apartment.

*Margaret Lomonico:* I'm happy, yes. I'm very happy, yes. Like the little porch I have out there?

*Brenda Velasco:* Yes.

*Margaret Lomonico:* It's nice, yes.

*Brenda Velasco:* And you can see people.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes, I could see people, yes right here. You just walk right in. The kids don't have far to go. Just open the door, the front door. My number there, they've got numbers so you have to.....

*Brenda Velasco:* Well we're not going to mention the numbers you have to punch in. We're going to keep that off the recorder.

### ***11. Do you have family members still in Woodbridge:***

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay, so Judy is your only living family member in Woodbridge now?

*Margaret Lomonico:* Well, Bobby lives in Carteret.

*Judy Kazimir:* No, no, wait, um.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Judy's the only, well no she's got my grandchildren, my great-grandchildren live here.

*Brenda Velasco:* Oh!

*Margaret Lomonico:* She lives right next door to Judy.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay, your great-grandchildren.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes, I got two girls that live here and Bobby's got, in Carteret, he's got but they live in, where?

*Judy Kazimir:* Plainfield.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Plainfield, he does, but his son.

*Judy Kazimir:* Yes, well, but she's asking about Woodbridge though.

*Brenda Velasco:* I just want to know about Woodbridge, so you still have people. You've got Judy.

*Judy Kazimir:* I have my cousin, my first cousin, on New Street still.

*Brenda Velasco:* Wow!

*Judy Kazimir:* Artie Finn.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Artie Finn still lives here, yes. I have my brother-in-law and sister-in-law used to live here on New Street.

*Brenda Velasco:* Does he still live in the same house?

*Margaret Lomonico:* His mother's gone, the father's gone, they're all gone. My sister-in-law too, they're all gone.

*Judy Kazimir:* I never see him anymore.

*Margaret Lomonico:* They all passed away.

*Judy Kazimir:* He worked many years for the gas company, no, the water company, I'm sorry.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay, um.

*Judy Kazimir:* Middlesex Water Company.

*Brenda Velasco:* Middlesex.

*Margaret Lomonico:* That's Artie Finn, put that down there.

*Brenda Velasco:* I will, because he's a Woodbridge resident.

*Judy Kazimir:* Oh, yes, and then the cousins were Manganaros, the Manganaro family.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes, they were a big family. The Manganaro family is a big family on New Street they lived on.

*Judy Kazimir:* They were our first cousins. No, I can't say first cousins, they were second cousins. They're my father's cousin.

*Brenda Velasco:* So you still have some family then. You go back a long way.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes.

*Brenda Velasco:* 87 years old.

*Margaret Lomonico:* 87 years old.

*Brenda Velasco:* With a sharp memory.

*Judy Kazimir:* Darn good memory.

*Brenda Velasco:* Yes, she does.

*Judy Kazimir:* That's why it's interesting to listen to her.

*Brenda Velasco:* Oh, yes, yes, yes.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Sometimes I remember, sometimes I don't.

*Brenda Velasco:* Oh, you did pretty good today. You did very well today. Now, is there anything else that we should add? Otherwise I'm going to conclude the interview and I thank you very much.

*Margaret Lomonico:* You're welcome.

*Brenda Velasco:* And I love your apartment.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes, tell them I love my apartment here.

*Brenda Velasco:* Yes.

*Margaret Lomonico:* I'm close to my daughter which is important, my son....

*Brenda Velasco:* Five minutes away compared to what it was before.

*Margaret Lomonico:* My son had the grocery store, you know, so he brings me food some times.

*Judy Kazimir:* My brother owns the Summit Food Market.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Summit Food Market, yea.

*Brenda Velasco:* Oh!

*Margaret Lomonico:* Summit, he has a food store there.

*Judy Kazimir:* So he brings...

*Brenda Velasco:* How nice.

*Margaret Lomonico:* And my other son lived in Lake Hopatcong.

*Judy Kazimir:* They moved like....

*Margaret Lomonico:* They're moving down the shore. They're building a house down the shore.

*Judy Kazimir:* Yes, my sister's in Virginia. That's where all the family ....

*Margaret Lomonico:* And I'm trying to sell my house. I have a house on, still. Ask anybody...

*Brenda Velasco:* Is it age restricted?

*Judy Kazimir:* 55 or older.

*Brenda Velasco:* Yes, that's age restricted.

*Judy Kazimir:* Yes.

*Brenda Velasco:* Yes, that's age restricted, okay. If I hear of anybody....

*Judy Kazimir:* \$126,500.00, very beautiful house. A little corner house. Ranch style.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes, I still love the place. It's too much for me. I don't need a big house anymore.

*Brenda Velasco:* No, this is perfect. This apartment is perfect.

*Margaret Lomonico:* And this is close. Judy would have to drive 2 hours to come and go every time she would come and visit me every weekend. It's too much

*Brenda Velasco:* No, this is good, this is good. And then you could see your great-grand children too.

*Margaret Lomonico:* Yes, my great-grandchildren.

*Judy Kazimir:* They're a big help.

*Margaret Lomonico:* You know, I got help; she used to come every week. Two hour ride, you know, with the gas now.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay, well I thank you very much, Marge Szabo Lomonico and then Judy Lomonico Kazimir. Thank you both.

*Judy Kazimir:* Thank you.

*Margaret Lomonico:* You're welcome.