

**Oral History Interview**  
**Shirley Ann Gursaly Nagy**  
**and**  
**Andy Nagy**  
**WH027**

(written transcript and digital audio)

On January 23, 2009, husband and wife, Shirley Ann Gursaly Nagy and Andy Nagy were interviewed at the Main Library in Woodbridge at 11:00 A.M.

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

*Brenda Velasco:* We are doing a dual interview, so Shirley we will start off with you, and then Andy we will throw it to you.

*Shirley Nagy:* My name is Shirley A. Nagy. I was born October 27, 1935. I'm presently living on Caswell Avenue in Fords.

*Brenda Velasco:* Did you always live there?

*Shirley Nagy:* No, but always lived in Woodbridge Township with the exception of two years when Andy was in the US Army and we left Woodbridge to live in Virginia.

*Brenda Velasco:* Alright, and what other areas of Woodbridge did you live in?

*Shirley Nagy:* I lived in Woodbridge and I was born on Fulton Street. My mom and my dad were both born on Fulton Street in Woodbridge.

*Andy Nagy:* She didn't go far.

*Brenda Velasco:* I know.

*Shirley Nagy:* I lived many years on Fulton Street, not always in the same home, because where I was born, in the house I was born in, they had to tear it down to elevate the railroad and I moved further up Fulton Street. Then I moved to Bamford Avenue in Woodbridge.

*Andy Nagy:* Was the second place, on Fulton Street, the tenement house?

*Shirley Nagy:* I didn't live in the tenement house; I lived next to the ice house. There was an ice house on Fulton Street.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay, so that was one of the houses you lived in, next to the ice house.

*Shirley Nagy:* Then I moved to Bamford Avenue and that house we lived in for a few years. Interestingly enough, that house got struck by lightning twice.

*Brenda Velasco:* Was anybody hurt?

*Shirley Nagy:* No.

*Andy Nagy:* Only the chimney.

*Shirley Nagy:* But the able firemen came and took care of everything. Then I moved to New Street, 76 New Street in Woodbridge; from there I moved to 76 Main Street in Woodbridge and lived over Miriam's Dress Shop - actually we lived over the beauty salon. Right now those two stores are the skate shops on Main Street, 76 Main Street. From there, after about four or five years, we moved to upper Main Street and I lived there until we married and moved to Hopelawn.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay, that was only for a little while.

*Shirley Nagy:* That was a little while and then we left Hopelawn for Virginia, came back from Virginia and moved back to Hopelawn. Then in 1963, we moved to Fords and we still live there today.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay, Andy? I don't know if you've traveled as much as Shirley but let's hear.

*Andy Nagy:* My name is Andrew J. Nagy, Jr. I'm 73 years old. I was born on September 23, 1935. I've lived in Woodbridge Township for approximately 69 years. We moved to Hopelawn from Perth Amboy from the Hungarian Budapest section to Howard Street. Why did we move to Howard Street? We went from a very small house to what we thought was going to be a larger house on Howard Street, that was 45 Howard Street; and for some reason or other, we were asked to leave this larger house, so we moved next door into a converted barber shop. My mother, my father, my three sisters and myself, moved into two rooms.

*Brenda Velasco:* Oh, my gosh! How did you do it?

*Andy Nagy:* Well, one room was the common kitchen/dining room/living room/family room, that was the former barber shop; and then the back larger room was the dormitory/bedroom.

*Brenda Velasco:* Things were different back then.

*Andy Nagy:* Yes, sir.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay.

*Andy Nagy:* No central heat, a bathroom with a commode and a wash basin and no tub. Do you want to get into details like that?

*Brenda Velasco:* Oh, yes.

*Andy Nagy:* Saturday night baths were held in the kitchen where a large galvanized tub was placed in the middle of the floor, water was heated on the stove, the wood stove, and it was poured into the tub and one child after another got to bathe. Somebody always wanted to be first.

*Brenda Velasco:* Right, clean water then.

*Andy Nagy:* Right. We lived there for a couple of years at 45 Howard Street, and then moved to 47 May Street. We lived there a couple of years and moved to 103 Luther Avenue and at this time, my dad finally decided that we needed our own home and he borrowed some money from my grandparents. He finally built a house at 94 Luther Avenue, where the family completed their stay. My mother and father both died in 1994, so they lived there that entire 40 some years at that residence.

*Brenda Velasco:* They lived a long time.

*Andy Nagy:* Yes, my dad was 84 and my mom was 78. Then I got married. We married when we were 18 years old, Shirley and I, and I didn't move far. I moved up the street to Florida Grove Road. We rented an apartment from a Mrs. Possick.

*Shirley Nagy:* Furnished apartment.

*Andy Nagy:* A furnished apartment for \$60.00 a month.

*Brenda Velasco:* Wow!

*Andy Nagy:* We lived there for, I guess, four years until I was drafted into the United States Army in 1958. Like Shirley said, I served in the Army for two years at Arlington, Virginia and had a very interesting job there on a top secret military post called Arlington Hall Station where they broke the codes of World War II. Then Shirley got a job on the same post, and she also had to get a clearance to work there. So we were there for two years and then we came back to Hopelawn, to the same house. We had our first child, our two children were born on Florida

Grove Road. And like Shirley said, oh, the rent changed from \$60.00 a month to \$100.00 a month.....

*Brenda Velasco:* It went up \$40.00.

*Andy Nagy:* From '58 to '60 and then by 1963 we had had it and we built our own lovely little home on Caswell Avenue in the Fords section of Woodbridge. We've been there ever since; 1963. That's 46 years.

*Brenda Velasco:* Long time, long time residents.....

*Andy Nagy:* Yes

*Brenda Velasco:* Of Fords and Hopelawn and Shirley, you're Woodbridge Proper. You've been in a couple of our sections.

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

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay, Shirley we found out why Andy's parents moved to Hopelawn and you said your parents were born....

*Shirley Nagy:* My parents were both born on Fulton Street in Woodbridge.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay, and you grandparents then.

*Shirley Nagy:* My grandparents, on my father's side, emigrated from Hungary.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay.

*Shirley Nagy:* And my grandfather, interesting enough, worked in the clay banks digging the clay. There were many Hungarian immigrants and they really didn't have any other work, since Woodbridge was big with clay banks and sand banks. My dad used to take his dad's lunch up there, some of the days off of school, so he remembered and he used to tell me about working up there.

*Brenda Velasco:* Where was it, where Woodbridge Center is, those clay banks?

*Shirley Nagy:* No, my grandfather worked in the Cutter clay banks which were on the other side of Amboy Avenue on the other side where the Cutter house used to be which now is St.

Joe's. (Strawberry Hill)

*Brenda Velasco:* Right, Cutters Dock Road is in that area too.

*Andy Nagy:* Right.

*Shirley Nagy:* Right and they had clay banks there. So since they lived on Fulton Street it wasn't very far for them to go over there.

*Brenda Velasco:* No, no, no.

*Shirley Nagy:* And to find work. Then when I was a youngster my dad took me to the clay banks and we called it the sand banks because we would get sand for my sandbox and that was where Woodbridge Center stands today.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay.

*Shirley Nagy:* And we used to ride out on the old road there, they had, which was just gravel but it went out to Route #1.

*Andy Nagy:* That's Metuchen Avenue.

*Shirley Nagy:* On the little road we used to pass the Maple Hill Dairy Farm where they still milked the cows and still delivered the milk. It was a fun place, to go up to the clay banks.

*Brenda Velasco:* I think we've about answered Questions 1 through 3. Let's go to Question #4.

### ***4. What physical changes have occurred over the years in the area you lived? -houses, streets, services, stores, house of worship, schools etc.***

*Brenda Velasco:* For Shirley it's going to be, you pick your area because you've got Woodbridge Proper and eventually you end up in Hopelawn, but we'll start off with you.

*Shirley Nagy:* Well in Woodbridge, of course, on Fulton Street, the Turnpike came through. Unfortunately, with the train wreck in '51, I was there because we were practicing our sophomore variety show on that particular day and we heard about the train wreck. That train wreck was right on the corner where I was born: on the corner of Legion Place and Fulton Street. The Turnpike was a big addition in Woodbridge, the Garden State Parkway and they changed Main Street. I was able to see that and, of course, I was in Woodbridge when the Woodbridge football team played on Berry Street where the Woodbridge Legion Hall is right now.

*Brenda Velasco:* And that's where they played football?

*Shirley Nagy:* The Woodbridge Legion Hall was the locker rooms and behind there was the stadium. My dad used to take me and we'd sit on the wooden bleachers and watch Woodbridge play Perth Amboy or whoever they played that day. That's where they played until the new stadium came in and then that was when I was in the 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade, the new stadium was built. That was the Woodbridge Stadium, so I was able to see the new stadium and that was quite wonderful compared to the old stadium. There were many physical changes which happened, probably seeing St. James Church, the old St. James Church, taken down; the new one being built on Amboy Avenue.

*Brenda Velasco:* And where was the old St. James Church, do you remember?

*Shirley Nagy:* It was right across the street from where it is now. It was part of the parking lot where the St. James School is. But it was a wooden structure and they needed a bigger church so that became the parking lot for the school.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay.

*Shirley Nagy:* As a young girl I remembered there was a hotel on the corner of Amboy Avenue and Main Street, the Middlesex Hotel. My girlfriend, Rosemary Galeta's parents owned that. Unfortunately, it burned down. It was next to the Reo Diner. There were many changes on Main Street with the post office coming from Pearl Street to Main Street; I remember the post office being on Pearl Street. I also remember the State Theatre which was on Main Street which is no longer there.

*Brenda Velasco:* And where was the State Theatre?

*Shirley Nagy:* The State Theatre was where Quick Chek is by the Town Hall. Of course, it was by the old Town Hall and there were a couple of stores, one on one side of the theatre and on the other side of the theatre. That was there for many, many years.

*Brenda Velasco:* You've seen radical changes then.

*Shirley Nagy:* Oh, yes, and Woolworths coming down; that was destroyed by a fire. And the A&P, but Main Street was a wonderful, wonderful area. You could buy anything on Main Street when I was a kid.

*Brenda Velasco:* Alright, and you lived in Woodbridge Proper so this was your main shopping district.

*Shirley Nagy:* Yes, this was our main shopping district. If we wanted more, we took a bus to Perth Amboy and the buses came regularly, every ten minutes, because they came from Carteret and Rahway; and Perth Amboy was the big shopping district.

*Brenda Velasco:* I didn't realize that the buses ran so frequently.

*Shirley Nagy:* Oh, yes, they ran very frequently because not too many people had automobiles then. So the buses were always crowded. People took the bus to work. It was a very popular mode of transportation. My mother had a small stroller for my sister who was, at that time,

about 2 or 3 years old and we would get on the bus and fold up the stroller and put it on the front of the bus and when we got to Perth Amboy we'd take it off. That was our basic method of transportation because cars were not very plentiful. This was during the war when, even if you had a car, you couldn't buy a tire for it.

*Brenda Velasco:* Right.

*Shirley Nagy:* You couldn't buy gas for it. So people were forced to take other modes of transportation. But in Woodbridge, every store was occupied, and you could do your Christmas shopping on Main Street if you wanted to. There was a 5&10, there was a clothing store for ladies, and then there were shoe stores.

*Brenda Velasco:* And Christensen's was here.

*Shirley Nagy:* Christensen's and Chopper's butcher shops, the A&P, and there was an ACME.

*Brenda Velasco:* So you had two.

*Shirley Nagy:* So you had a choice.

*Brenda Velasco:* You had two.

*Shirley Nagy:* You had a choice. We had an optometrist on Main Street, we had dentists on Main Street, and we had doctors on Main Street; Dr Spenser and Dr. Walters. It was really a focal point of the town.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay, and we're going to go to Andy because he didn't grow up in Woodbridge Proper; it was Hopelawn.

*Andy Nagy:* I grew up in Hopelawn and, like I said, we moved to Hopelawn when I was 4. And like I told Shirley, Hopelawn was kind of like in a deprived area of the Township. Poor Shirley, she had to go to kindergarten because they had kindergarten in Woodbridge.

*Shirley Nagy:* In School #1.

*Andy Nagy:* And if she lived in Hopelawn, they didn't have kindergarten, so you had to go right into the 1<sup>st</sup> grade. So that's why I graduated a year before Shirley did.

*Shirley Nagy:* Andy was 16 when he graduated.

*Brenda Velasco:* He was really young.

*Shirley Nagy:* That's good but then he couldn't get a job.

*Brenda Velasco:* No, right.

*Andy Nagy:* But, anyway, Hopelawn was relatively developed maybe 50 percent. There were many empty lots in Hopelawn. There was a large area behind Hopelawn School which was just a large open field and it was like a meadow. So there were lots of prime places for kids to play and you talk about sandlot baseball, that's what it was. We'd play in every empty lot that you could get your hand on and you had your choice. So kids would get together and we'd play baseball in the spring and summer and early fall when the weather was really pleasant. We would stay on after dark in front of our homes and play kick the can across the street. It was all a neighborhood thing. These boys that you see in this picture, they were all part of the gang. These folks had another group; they all would go home together. Anyway, but over time, as I continued to grow up, during World War II, there was not too much building; but after World War II, after 1948, after I graduated from 8<sup>th</sup> grade, money got more available and people started to build.

*Brenda Velasco:* Yes, the GI Bill.

*Andy Nagy:* And slowly these vacant lots disappeared and homes were built. That beautiful big meadow behind Hopelawn School was developed and it became a development for people who wanted new homes. The Majestic Lanes, which was in Perth Amboy, moved out to the country

and came to Hopelawn. So that was a development in Hopelawn and it became a real place of bowling recreation.

*Brenda Velasco:* Is it still there?

*Andy Nagy:* It's still there.

*Brenda Velasco:* And you know what, I just want to stop you now because people who will be hearing this interview, they may not know where the Hopelawn school was that you attended; the Hopelawn Elementary School.

*Andy Nagy:* The Hopelawn Elementary School was on Clyde Avenue.

*Shirley Nagy:* The building is still there.

*Andy Nagy:* The building is still there but we'll talk about that in Question 5 or 6.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay.

*Andy Nagy:* Other things that were prevalent in Hopelawn were mom and pop grocery stores. We had four in Hopelawn, but over time, they too started to disappear when the shopping centers and the larger food stores came in to being: the A&Ps and the ACMEs. So our little local food stores kind of disappeared. Over time, Public School #10 closed. There was a realignment of the public school system in Woodbridge Township and a number of the older schools were sold off and new schools were built. Hopelawn School became, over time, it was purchased by a Korean church so it is now a house of worship. The Holy Spirit Roman Catholic Church was built right across Florida Grove Road in Hopelawn, actually in Perth Amboy. Then there was another large church built in Hopelawn called Holy Rosary Church on Florida Grove Road. What else can I tell you about development? It changes. The first that came through was the New Jersey Turnpike. It came right through Hopelawn: crossroads of the world.

*Brenda Velasco:* And we are.

*Andy Nagy:* Then the Garden State Parkway came through Hopelawn, so Hopelawn got cut up quite a bit between the Parkway, the Turnpike and the realignment and widening of Route #9. As Shirley mentioned, when we were children, we played in the street because there wasn't very much traffic. But after World War II, cars became much more prevalent so you had these large interstate roadways being built.

*Brenda Velasco:* And we are the crossroads.

*Andy Nagy:* Yes.

*Brenda Velasco:* Our traffic seems that way too. Okay, did you have a post office in Hopelawn?

*Andy Nagy:* No, you want to go on with public buildings.

*Brenda Velasco:* Yes, yes.

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

School No. 10 was the major public building in Hopelawn. They started a library on Howard Street in Hopelawn in a little building. It became the first lending library in Hopelawn during the war, during World War II. It was right across the street from my house on Howard Street. It was in a small building that belonged to this young fellow, Richard Holadick's mother and father and they donated it for use as a public library. The name was Holadick. Before the library, the building was used as a locker room for the Hopelawn Greyhounds, which was a semi-pro football team. These guys were really hot shots. They played all the local semi-pro football teams. There was the Woodbridge Golden Bears and there was the Perth Amboy Alumni. I was very young at that time. I was just a young kid, maybe 7, 8, or 9 years old.

*Brenda Velasco:* So this was in the '40s then?

*Andy Nagy:* Oh, yes, it was right in the middle of the World War II era (1941-1945). So we had that library and the semi-pro football team. That's pretty much it. Oh, we had a firehouse.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay.

*Andy Nagy:* We had a two bay firehouse on May Street. It was all volunteer firemen from the area. We had no park in Hopelawn; no public park.

*Brenda Velasco:* Wow!

*Andy Nagy:* So you played on the empty lots and the streets.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay, where as Fords had Fords Park.

*Andy Nagy:* There was Fords Park, right.

*Brenda Velasco:* Alright, but Hopelawn had no park.

*Andy Nagy:* Hopelawn had no public park.

*Brenda Velasco:* Alright, Shirley, we're going to go to you as far as public buildings in Woodbridge. You mentioned the Town Hall, the old Town Hall.

*Shirley Nagy:* Probably the one that stands out in my mind the most is the Barron Library because I went there many, many days looking for the Nancy Drew books and I still remember where they were in the library even though today it's not a library anymore. I can still go to the same corner and see those bookshelves and the Nancy Drew mysteries there. Interestingly enough, when our children were old enough, I took them to the same library because that was the only library we had in Woodbridge. As a young girl I belonged to a Brownie troop and that Brownie troop met in the old White Church downstairs in the basement. I remember walking to that church, after school, for my meetings and they had a parish house at that time where the senior citizen's home is now housed on Rahway Avenue.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay, Finn or Adams?

*Andy Nagy:* Adams Towers.

*Shirley Nagy:* Right.

*Shirley Nagy:* And we put on some programs there. Of course, that's gone, but the old White Church is still there. Interestingly enough, I've come a long circle, round circle, because now I belong to that church and still remember going down to that basement to the Brownie meetings. Also the church came into play a lot in my remembrance. We were in the Memorial Day parade as Brownies and Girl Scouts. We had a wonderful Memorial Day parade every year. Everybody came out and it always ended at the Woodbridge White Church. At that time, they didn't have the Fellowship Hall. It ended in front of the cemetery. They had their reviewing stand and they always had two people from Woodbridge High School, seniors. One would recite *The Gettysburg Address* and one would recite *In Flanders Field*. It was very memorable and a very, very nice day. Then later, the parade ended in the Woodbridge Park across from School No. 11. We would always get free hot dogs at the old firehouse and they had a big beer truck come in so everybody.....

*Brenda Velasco:* Not you.

*Shirley Nagy:* Not me. I was too young. So the White Church and the Barron Library are buildings that are very fond to my memory. Even the old firehouse, because we had our Girl Scout meetings up in the old firehouse upstairs and School No. 1, which I attended, which is now the Board of Education building. I remember that very fondly. Of course, it was my first school and during the war, when we had the air raid drills, we would all huddle in the basement of that school. So those buildings and I would say perhaps the State Theatre because every Saturday we would be in line waiting to go in for 12 cents.

*Brenda Velasco:* I was going to ask you, do you remember what you paid?

*Shirley Nagy:* 12 cents and we would see two movies, we would see a newsreel, we would have a cartoon, and we would have the coming attractions. We'd usually be out by 4:30 P.M. because the movies, in those days, were quite short. Cowboy movies, and then of course, during the war they would have newsreels of what was going on in the war. And at that theatre you could go every Monday and Tuesday night and they had dish night and for going into the theatre you could get a dish. As many weeks as you wanted to go, you could have a complete set of dishes at the end of the time.

*Brenda Velasco:* And have entertainment at the same time.

*Shirley Nagy:* Yes and there were one or two times when you could get into the theatre if you had a piece of scrap iron: that was your entry during the war. They were trying to collect scrap and this was one of their methods of doing it. Those buildings, very fondly, I remember.

*Brenda Velasco:* Some of them are still here though.

*Shirley Nagy:* Yes, but the State Theatre is gone. Also, I fondly remember the independent Leader Building which was on between Green Street and Rahway Avenue where Woodbridge had its own newspaper published and that was an interesting building, as well as the old Town Hall. The old Municipal Building was very dear to my heart. Andy had Zoning Board meetings before it was taken down.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay so Andy you go back a long time with the Zoning Board then.

*Shirley Nagy:* Oh, yes.

*Andy Nagy:* 14 years.

*Brenda Velasco:* 14 years.

*Shirley Nagy:* But they were interrupted for a couple of years, right?

*Andy Nagy:* Well, yes, first I served for two years, then I went off for a while, but then I went on for like 12 years.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay.

*Shirley Nagy:* By that time, the Municipal Building was gone.

*Brenda Velasco:* Yes.

*Andy Nagy:* Yes.

*Brenda Velasco:* 1996 was the new one.

*Shirley Nagy:* They met in the Iselin Library.

*Andy Nagy:* We met in the library for a long time.

*Brenda Velasco:* Right, I remember going to a meeting there one time. Okay, Andy did you want to add anything there?

*Andy Nagy:* Yes, she was talking about recreation.

*Shirley Nagy:* We haven't gotten to that yet.

*Andy Nagy:* Oh, we haven't gotten to the recreation.

*Brenda Velasco:* Alright, but I think we've covered, pretty well, Question 5 with the public buildings, post office, library, and parks.

*Shirley Nagy:* I have lots of recreation.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay, good, so let's go to recreation.

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

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay, who wants to take the ball?

*Shirley Nagy:* Do you have any other public buildings?

*Andy Nagy:* No, no other public buildings.



*Shirley Nagy:* The recreation, as a young child in Woodbridge, we had the Woodbridge Park and it was great. All the kids would meet there. We'd have checker tournaments and we'd have sand building tournaments in this huge sandbox. Of course it seemed huge then; it may not be so huge now. We'd play marbles and have marble tournaments. We'd play volleyball. We had enough kids to get together and it was just a grand time. We'd all come down in the summer and ride our bikes. That was probably our main recreation point, but we also had a wading pool, which is now the basketball court.

*Shirley Nagy:* This was at Woodbridge Park. Woodbridge Park and it was a very shallow wading pool and it had a sprinkler system in the middle; and you couldn't swim but you could get wet, by the sprinkler system, and the water would be about maybe six inches so you could wade in the water. That was a fun place when you were really young. Then, in the park, we'd do things like jumping over the brook. At that time it was Heards Brook. It was about, maybe, 2 feet wide and, you know, that was a game: how many times could you jump the brook. And in the summer, the Woodbridge Recreation Department would take us to Rahway Pool because we had no pool in Woodbridge. Once a week, we'd wait by the Woodbridge Park and the bus would come and for two hours we'd go to the Rahway Pool. I think it cost us a quarter to go. (Rahway Pool was located in Rahway Park on Route 35/27.)

*Brenda Velasco:* That was a buy.

*Shirley Nagy:* Oh, yes, and if you didn't have the quarter you could probably go anyway. We had block dances at Woodbridge Park in the evening and sometimes we had live music; the young boys from the high school that had a band got together. We had carnivals. The fireman had a terrific carnival and Knights of Columbus and St. James had carnivals. Across from the American Legion building, the open field on Berry Street, we had a circus come to town for many years in a row.

*Andy Nagy:* Do you remember whose circus it was?

*Shirley Nagy:* I don't remember whose circus it was but it was fun.

*Andy Nagy:* Was it Clyde Beatty?

*Shirley Nagy:* I don't know and as we were growing up we had Jackson's Pharmacy and Publix Pharmacy. We'd go for ice cream, a 5 cent ice cream cone with sprills; or stop on the way home from school and get a coke or a milk shake for 12 cents or 15 cents. We had Friday night recreation in School No. 11 where they had a dance for everybody, but it was mostly records. Down in the basement they'd serve hotdogs; we'd play shuffleboard and this was on Friday night. Everybody really looked forward to that because at that time we didn't have a YMCA; we had none of those things.

*Brenda Velasco:* There was a lot for you to do.

*Shirley Nagy:* If you lived in Woodbridge.

*Brenda Velasco:* Which you did and you did not live far. You lived on Fulton Street or New Street.

*Shirley Nagy:* Everything was around me.

*Brenda Velasco:* Yes, and poor Andy.....

*Shirley Nagy:* He didn't have that.

*Brenda Velasco:* He lived in a deprived area, as he said.

*Shirley Nagy:* And the State Theatre was, you know, a great place. So, we had a great choice of places to do things in as a kid.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay Andy, your recreation in Hopelawn.

*Andy Nagy:* Our, as I had mentioned before, we played on the empty lots and, as Shirley had mentioned, the State Theatre, we'd walk from Hopelawn to the Fords Theatre. Our prices weren't as high as they were in Woodbridge. It was 10 cents to get into the theatre on Saturdays, the matinee, and that was almost an every Saturday thing to go to the movies. I remember, as in this picture, Shirley mentioned of getting into the theatre for free if you could bring a piece of scrap metal. I remember the owner of the Fords Theatre built this huge compound and we just filled that thing with scrap metal for a metal drive. There was not a piece of scrap available anywhere, I don't think, in Fords and Hopelawn for the kids wanting to go to the theatre. But, you know, Hopelawn was kind of an area like off to the side of Woodbridge Township and was very rural. I never got to go to Woodbridge until I went to my first year of high school: 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

*Shirley Nagy:* There was no bus that ran from Hopelawn to Woodbridge.

*Andy Nagy:* There was no bus that ran in that direction. All the buses ran toward Perth Amboy. When the bus came they established a new route from Fords through Hopelawn into Perth Amboy. That opened up, like, a new era of our life and we rode the bus to Perth Amboy. But, never the less, Shirley mentioned the Friday night recreation. Boy that became such a boom to us kids.....

*Shirley Nagy:* You had that.

*Andy Nagy:* In Hopelawn. You had a place to go to on a Friday evening. We were already, like maybe, 10, 12, or 13 years old and as Shirley mentioned they had a jukebox, they sold candy, hot dogs and we played volleyball. Kids who were brave enough to dance, they danced.

*Brenda Velasco:* Where was it held?

*Andy Nagy:* It was in Hopelawn School.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay, School No. 10.

*Andy Nagy:* The auditorium of School No. 10 and I remember this one gentleman that worked for the township. He would run from one recreation place to another with this reel of film. And everyplace that had a movie projector, probably went from Shirley's place in Woodbridge, and drove it to Hopelawn, all on the same night. This guy, he did a great job for us kids. That's pretty much the recreation for us in Hopelawn.

*Shirley Nagy:* One of the things that I failed to remember was the crabbing in Sewaren with my dad when I was young. We'd go down to Smith's Creek, rent a row boat, sometimes it had a little motor, and as we went along you could just take the crabs off of the weeds with a net. It was a great thing to do on a Saturday. I really enjoyed the crabbing. I still see people crabbing off of the bridges but I don't see anybody grabbing.

*Brenda Velasco:* There are signs posted "Don't take the crabs".

*Shirley Nagy:* Well in those days it was a little different.

*Brenda Velasco:* Yes.

*Shirley Nagy:* It was a little less.....

*Andy Nagy:* It was a little cleaner.

*Shirley Nagy:* Yes, it was cleaner and everybody crabbed in Sewaren.

*Brenda Velasco:* You had a variety of activities, though, opened to you. Sorry, Andy, you were somewhat limited. So Andy, buses ran to Perth Amboy as frequently as from Woodbridge?

*Andy Nagy:* Ah, about every half hour, about every half hour, every thirty minutes. So that opened up a whole new area because there were five theatres in Perth Amboy and shopping was a major thing in Perth Amboy.

*Shirley Nagy:* It was wonderful, three 5&10s.

*Brenda Velasco:* Perth Amboy was the shopping mecca.

*Shirley Nagy:* Oh, yes, Perth Amboy was everything.

*Andy Nagy:* It became the central place in our whole area.

*Shirley Nagy:* Yes.

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

*Shirley Nagy:* I would have to say, probably, Main Street was the focal point because everybody did their shopping there. There were no senior clubs or anything of that nature for the older people. If they belonged to maybe the VFW or something like that, that might be their recreation but I would have to probably say that Main Street was the focal point when I was growing up anyway.

*Brenda Velasco:* And Andy how about you?

*Andy Nagy:* Hopelawn School was the focal point for our community. I remember Mary Fee, the principal, and her teachers that worked for her. They worked hard in putting programs together and there was a program for Christmas, there was a program for St. Patrick's Day and they would somehow get these costumes and dress the kids up. We'd have choral groups and all the parents of the kids that went to the school would come to the school and put on these programs. It was a great night of entertainment and they saw what their kids accomplished in the school. So they had a great time. These were the warriors when I was going to elementary school.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay, and we have to keep this in mind, you were both during the war years.

*Andy Nagy:* You had these bond drives. It was all part of the school. One class competed with the next class.

*Shirley Nagy:* You had stamps, remember, stamp books.

*Andy Nagy:* Yes. This young fellow's parents owned a store, Guttwines Store, so they had a little bit more money than other people. So whoever's class this kid was in, they won the contest of buying the bonds.

*Shirley Nagy:* And we had books you filled, didn't we?

*Andy Nagy:* Yes, stamps.

*Shirley Nagy:* Stamps.

*Andy Nagy:* You bought stamps.

*Shirley Nagy:* You bought stamps until you had enough to buy a bond.

*Andy Nagy:* See, "Buy More Stamps".

*Brenda Velasco:* Yes.

*Andy Nagy:* We had 10 cent stamps. What else did we do? Oh, we had variety shows. I don't know where these variety shows came from, but they would come to the school and there would be this one person. He'd be playing the piano and there would be a girl up there she'd be doing the hula dance and there'd be a comedian and then there would be a magician. I think the variety show cost a dime.

*Shirley Nagy:* Yes.

*Andy Nagy:* The place was just jammed. It was the gathering place for the town, Hopelawn School, in the auditorium.

*Brenda Velasco:* When did it close, Andy?

*Andy Nagy:* When Fred Buonocore, Dr. Buonocore, consolidated and took away the neighborhood school system and they started consolidating different grades in different schools; that's when it closed. But Hopelawn was a real neighborhood school for that particular area.

*Shirley Nagy:* They had dances for polio, remember?

*Andy Nagy:* They had school dances....

*Shirley Nagy:* For adults.

*Andy Nagy:* At the school and in the evening they'd had dances. You'd have a jukebox dance, I don't ever remember an orchestra coming, but Shirley mentioned the block dances in Woodbridge and I think I went to one after I met Shirley and we had orchestras like Walter Cross' Orchestra. Who was the other guy that had an orchestra?

*Shirley Nagy:* Was it Gross? No.

*Andy Nagy:* Walter Cross.

*Shirley Nagy:* I don't remember.

*Andy Nagy:* But, I mean, you went to one of these things and there was like a 17 or 18 piece orchestra there and it was just terrific.

*Brenda Velasco:* Wow!

*Andy Nagy:* It was the era; the latter part of the Big Band Era, so they were imitating the big bands. So it was like, you know, really stepping out.

*Brenda Velasco:* Yes, okay.

*Andy Nagy:* That's pretty much it.

*Shirley Nagy:* Well the other thing that we did in Woodbridge for recreation, when I was in high school, second and third year, a group of us started WYO which was the Woodbridge Youth Organization. Our purpose for organizing was to try and get a building for the youth to have recreation - the building which is now on Amboy Avenue across from the new Medicine Shoppe, used to be an old bowling alley and then they went out of business. But before that, it was empty, and so a group of us tried to get someone in the town alerted to the fact that we had nothing as young people, no inside place to go in the winter and we ran dances at the American Legion on Berry Street and different things to try and raise money for our cause. There were a few adults that kind of went with us and tried to help. We had our picture in the *Independent Leader*, you know, trying to get other people interested and it went on for, I would say, a couple of years. We had meetings.....

*Andy Nagy:* That's where I met Shirley.

*Shirley Nagy:* And we had dances for the youth, we put on our own dances. But it kind of fell by the wayside because nobody really took that much interest in stating... Oh, well, you know, it cost too much money to do this, we can't do that". So it just kind of fell apart, but it ran for about three years and we tried very hard to get people interested. They said, you know, oh yes, we're going to do this or we can do that but no building ever came forth.

*Brenda Velasco:* Yes, yes, yes and today we have the Community Center.

*Shirley Nagy:* Today you have the Community Center, you have The Club, and you have bowling.

*Andy Nagy:* You had Bally's.

*Shirley Nagy:* Right, but we bowled in the basement of the Craftsman's Club, at that time. Then there was the Bowlmore, a small bowling alley there on Amboy Avenue.

*Andy Nagy:* Bowlmore.

*Shirley Nagy:* Was it called the Bowlmore?

*Andy Nagy:* Yes.

*Shirley Nagy:* But, yes, we had a nice group of students that very much wanted to get something going as a recreation place, point, for the kids, because in the winter you couldn't go to the park.

*Brenda Velasco:* No.

*Shirley Nagy:* You couldn't have a block dance.  
*Brenda Velasco:* No.  
*Shirley Nagy:* There was not much to do in the winter.  
*Brenda Velasco:* Except for the State Theatre and what was happening at school.  
*Shirley Nagy:* The theatre, but not everybody lived close enough.  
*Brenda Velasco:* No.  
*Shirley Nagy:* And you couldn't get there.  
*Brenda Velasco:* You had the ideal location, Shirley.  
*Shirley Nagy:* Yes, yes I did.  
*Andy Nagy:* Right in the heart of everything.  
*Brenda Velasco:* Yes.  
*Shirley Nagy:* And they had minstrel shows at the State Theatre. St. James put on minstrel shows and they were delightful; they were wonderful. That was something you could go to. They put on one a year, I believe. When the theatre was taken down then they used their own auditorium.  
*Andy Nagy:* People had a lot of talent. You had seniors, local people, who played instruments and dancers.  
*Shirley Nagy:* Yes.  
*Brenda Velasco:* These were more participatory than spectator.  
*Andy Nagy:* Yes.  
*Shirley Nagy:* Right.  
*Andy Nagy:* Now it's all spectators.  
*Brenda Velasco:* Yes.  
*Shirley Nagy:* Yes.  
*Andy Nagy:* Nobody takes instruments anymore. Today, the band is a guitar, a drum and a keyboard. There are no more clarinets, trumpets or violins. Who plays the violin anymore? And accordions?  
*Brenda Velasco:* Yes, the accordion was big when I was growing up too. But you're right. Very limited.  
*Andy Nagy:* We go to a thing once a month over in South River. It's called the.....  
*Shirley Nagy:* Imperial Ballroom.  
*Andy Nagy:* Imperial Ballroom. Ever hear of it?  
*Brenda Velasco:* Yes, I have.  
*Andy Nagy:* Hank DeAngelo from Grove Street.....  
*Brenda Velasco:* Yes.  
*Andy Nagy:* Kind of.....  
*Shirley Nagy:* Runs it.  
*Andy Nagy:* Runs it and here's all these old guys, right, and.....  
*Shirley Nagy:* There are a few young kids too.  
*Andy Nagy:* You have a 20 piece band.  
*Shirley Nagy:* They play all the old music.  
*Brenda Velasco:* That's huge.  
*Andy Nagy:* Oh, yes, yes.  
*Shirley Nagy:* Yes.  
*Andy Nagy:* They have a great sound.  
*Shirley Nagy:* They have dances a couple of times a year.

*Andy Nagy:* They have dances four times a year.

*Shirley Nagy:* When we were kids.....

*Andy Nagy:* They have people in their 90s.

*Shirley Nagy:* There is nobody there under 60.

*Brenda Velasco:* But that's good, they get out.

*Shirley Nagy:* Yes, yes.

*Andy Nagy:* Oh, yes. I said to Shirley, do we look that old?

*Brenda Velasco:* That's great that they can still get out.

*Shirley Nagy:* Yes.

*Brenda Velasco:* And they want to walk on the floor and dance?

*Shirley Nagy:* Right, right. In our growing up days, there wasn't anything like that for the older people.

*Brenda Velasco:* No, well, because we have a large number. We're living.

*Shirley Nagy:* And also a lot of the younger men were in the service.

*Brenda Velasco:* Right.

*Shirley Nagy:* You know, so churches were full. I need to say that, the churches were full during the war and for many people's lives the church was the focal point.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay.

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

*Brenda Velasco:* Andy, we're going to go to you first this time.

*Andy Nagy:* What I liked about living in Hopelawn was that it was a small close knit community. The neighbors were close. I mean, you knew everybody relatively intimately in your neighborhood because we didn't have all these distractions that you have in Woodbridge. I remember like it was yesterday. I was about 5 years old and my sister had contracted polio. She was only 18 months old. I guess it was in the afternoon she had come down with a severe fever and she was crying and the neighbor lady came from down the street and they were giving the little baby girl an alcohol rub trying to give her some relief from the fever and her body was stiffening and she was writhing and it was just so sad and she died. That was the scourge of polio. She died the next day.

*Brenda Velasco:* That was.....

*Andy Nagy:* That was 1941.

*Brenda Velasco:* Yes, before all the vaccines came in.

*Andy Nagy:* Yes, there was nothing you could do.

*Brenda Velasco:* The Salk and Sabin vaccine.

*Andy Nagy:* Beautiful little baby.

*Shirley Nagy:* Wasn't that the day of the tornado?

*Andy Nagy:* That was near there, yes.

*Shirley Nagy:* It was near that time?

*Andy Nagy:* It was near that time.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay, was that your sister?

*Andy Nagy:* My sister, yes.

*Brenda Velasco:* Oh, your poor parents. Okay, I know my brother-in-law had contracted polio but he.....

*Andy Nagy:* Survived but didn't get crippled?

*Brenda Velasco:* Yes, we're very fortunate. He didn't get crippled. It must have been a mild form. Okay, so Shirley would you say the same thing about Woodbridge that Andy said about Hopelawn?

*Shirley Nagy:* Even though I lived on Main Street in an apartment over a store, I did have many close friends around the corner and I guess our gathering place was the park and the school. You met the same people and you kind of did the same things together. I really enjoyed where I lived.

*Brenda Velasco:* And I think that you're conveying that throughout this whole interview.

*Shirley Nagy:* Yes.

*Brenda Velasco:* You've been very happy.

*Andy Nagy:* She's a Woodbridge girl.

*Brenda Velasco:* She sure is, she sure is.

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

*Shirley Nagy:* Yes, the train wreck.

*Andy Nagy:* We had the tornado.

*Brenda Velasco:* You had the tornado?

*Shirley Nagy:* You had the tornado.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay.

*Andy Nagy:* We had the tornado in Hopelawn in August of 1941. It came so suddenly and it went right down the street that I lived on, Howard Street, and it landed at the end of Howard Street. I was just reading Ruth Wolk's *History of Woodbridge* last night and it said that 57 houses were damaged, 18 people were injured and it was so bad that they got the prisoners out of the Middlesex County workhouse to come and help with the cleanup in the aftermath of that tornado. I remember that tornado like yesterday. I didn't see it but just everything went black.

*Brenda Velasco:* Which was very frightening?

*Andy Nagy:* Yes.

*Brenda Velasco:* Because you were young at that time in 1941.

*Andy Nagy:* Yes, I was like 5 years old.

*Brenda Velasco:* Yes, yes, yes. How many houses were damaged?

*Andy Nagy:* 57, in some form or another. I know two were absolute destroyed. What else happened? I remember, I don't know if this belongs in here, the World War II Victory Garden that my dad dug. There was an empty lot next to our house and it was 50 X 100. He dug that 50 X 100 lot by hand and made a Victory Garden out of it to provide, you know, vegetables and all of those things that he could grow during World War II.

*Brenda Velasco:* Wow!

*Andy Nagy:* I remember the school, here again, the, school. Every town had their Roll of Honor for World War II soldiers and we had one. This huge Roll of Honor was built like a big book that one of the artists in Hopelawn, one of the Fedor boys who was a very talented painter, painted this big open book and it had all the names of the soldiers in it and the first soldier that got killed they had a memorial and all the kids got together at school and we marched down the street from the school all the way down to the firehouse which was about six blocks. People were just in tears because this kid had graduated from Hopelawn School.

*Brenda Velasco:* He was one of theirs.

*Andy Nagy:* Yes.

*Brenda Velasco:* And they had the memories.

*Andy Nagy:* And we had talked about the Turnpike, the Parkway, 440 was built. It went right through Hopelawn. It realigned Florida Grove Road. That belongs in there someplace.

*Brenda Velasco:* Because Florida Grove is cut up; today it's cut up.

*Andy Nagy:* Yes, so they had to realign Florida Grove Road because of the Route 440. I have a sugar story but it doesn't belong in there.

*Brenda Velasco:* Well, we'll get back to that one, let's go to Shirley.

*Shirley Nagy:* Well, I saw the train wreck in 1951 in February. It was just a horrible, horrible site to see. I was down there very quickly before help was coming.

*Brenda Velasco:* Wow!

*Shirley Nagy:* Because the mothers came running into the Barron Avenue High School at that time. We were double session so we were having our rehearsal at 5:00 P.M. and she came in and said that there was a train wreck. I put up my books, ran down and just witnessed what was there. It was eerie because it was quiet and still. The people hadn't got there yet to help. Nobody was getting out of the wreck. Within minutes, though, people were coming down. My uncle had lived right on Fulton Street in a tenement house, and he had been in the Marines and I saw him going up the hill to try and help. A lot of the men lost their shoes because it was very muddy, which may have had something to do with why the engineer didn't make it over the trestle. He was only the third train to go over that trestle. Interesting enough, the train was very, very crowded; people were standing. One of the reasons that train was so crowded was because there was a strike of the switchmen on the Pennsylvania Railroad, so some of the trains were not running. Now evidently, many people got on this train that was coming through Woodbridge, and as a result, because it was so crowded, the injuries and the deaths were very, very high. I stayed there for maybe an hour or an hour and a half and they started roping the area. The fire trucks and the ambulances came: whatever help was available. People that could get out of the train were running into the homes across the street, Fulton Street. People were helping them with blankets and towels and letting them call home. I left there and I had to go to a babysitting job up on Main Street and when I was up there that night, I just heard the ambulances, the sirens, all night long, the reason being that after they filled up Perth Amboy Hospital, and I guess also Rahway, they started going into New Brunswick, which they had to go up Main Street. But it was just so sad. It's something that you never forget and you hope never happens again. That was probably the worst experience I've ever had in Woodbridge.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay, and that is one of the worst train wrecks in the United States; it still is.

*Shirley Nagy:* Yes.

*Andy Nagy:* Yes, one of the worst.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay, anything else you want to mention? If not, we're going to go to Question 10.

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

*Shirley Nagy:* Well, I think about it, think about the old times and the old Woodbridge and I know things have to change. I see that, you know, the block dances are replaced with the concerts on Monday night and we really, really enjoy them. If we don't get to see them at the high school, we'll watch them on Channel 35. That is a real plus, especially the Duprees; which is our favorite. You can't crab anymore in Sewaren but they have the lovely park that they put up by the launch, where they launch the boats, and you can go down there and watch the big ships come through or you could go to the park on the triangle. There are no more carnivals but



they have the street fairs and they have the farmer's market. As a teenager in high school, I used to take the train into Elizabeth every week to go to dancing lessons, my friend and I. Now it is kind of sad that the old train station has changed so much because we had a real enclosure where you could go in and sit and you had a station master that sold you the ticket and you could stay warm in the winter. Today, that's all changed, but the station is still there, so you can still park your car and take a train into New York. That's something that is a plus for Woodbridge. The parks, I think, have multiplied and the equipment is wonderful that I see the children playing with, that they have today. They seem to be taking very good care of it. Of course, now they have the YMCA and they've done a great deal with Woodbridge. The population, of course, is what 98,000? (100,000+)

*Brenda Velasco:* Yes, we've gone up from when you were growing up.

*Shirley Nagy:* Oh yes, yes, and we still have the Reo Diner which is a plus. As a teenager, we'd go there and have a coke and a dish of French fries but we still go there now.

*Brenda Velasco:* Do you have the French fries?

*Shirley Nagy:* Not too much anymore.

*Brenda Velasco:* Our eating habits have to change.

*Shirley Nagy:* But that's all the money we had, you know. So, in spite of the change that Woodbridge has gone through, they still have replaced many of the things that I remember as a young kid we lost. I think that there's been a great deal of improvement in the roads and the programs and the services, like sanitation: things of that nature. We have many friends here.

*Brenda Velasco:* And that anchors you to this area?

*Shirley Nagy:* Pardon.

*Brenda Velasco:* That anchors you to this area.

*Shirley Nagy:* Yes, we have our only grandson in Virginia and we thought about leaving but we haven't gotten to that point. We have our plots in the old White Church cemetery so we'll always be back.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay, okay, but let's not think about that. You're here and you're dancing.

*Shirley Nagy:* Yes.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay, Andy.

*Andy Nagy:* I can only repeat what Shirley said, I love those Monday night concerts, especially the doo wops. Shirley mentioned the Duprees. They sing every concert a song that has become Shirley and my favorite. When we were single, Joni James sang it: *Why Don't You Believe Me*.

*Brenda Velasco:* Oh, yes.

*Andy Nagy:* And it was a big hit for her back in 1953 and it's still a big hit for the Duprees. So I love going to that Monday night concert. I love the library system. I don't use it as often as I should but I know it's here. That's a big plus for us. I can't go by Wegmans without stopping.

*Shirley Nagy:* Oh, that's wonderful.

*Andy Nagy:* I love Wegmans store. Shirley got very ill in 2003 and I'm not a great cook but when I found out all the prepared foods that they had at Wegmans, it saved my life.

*Brenda Velasco:* And they're delicious.

*Andy Nagy:* Yes, yes, so I was able to go there and get prepared food for us. Shirley was ill for a good year there.

*Shirley Nagy:* Yes, cancer. I didn't get to Wegmans. They were here about a year before I even got out to see them. But it's a wonderful store. It's probably one of the best.

*Andy Nagy:* I particularly like the First Presbyterian Church. I was heavily involved in the Heritage Committee and in the Cemetery Committee.

*Shirley Nagy:* You still are.

*Andy Nagy:* I'm superintendent of the cemetery. Shirley is now chairman of both the Heritage Committee and the Cemetery Committee. So it's kind of become a tandem operation for us.

*Brenda Velasco:* Great, we've got a lot planned for this year, by the way, coming up. So we're going to be involving the First Presbyterian Church and I hope you guys can help out.

*Andy Nagy:* Good, we will.

*Shirley Nagy:* And the Arts Center, the cultural center, is a real plus. They have some very good programs there and the train show and also Parker Press when they have the Civil War demonstrations. There are many things that Woodbridge has, revived I should say, and fixing the monument in front of the Town Hall is really a plus.

*Brenda Nagy:* That was Frank and Audrey LaPenta.

*Shirley Nagy:* Yes, he's another Woodbridgite.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay.

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

*Shirley Nagy:* I have a brother and his wife living in Fords and I have a sister and her husband and family living in Iselin.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay, so your sister and her family live in Iselin.

*Shirley Nagy:* Yes.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay, Andy.

*Andy Nagy:* My sister and her husband live in Port Reading. So, there is still quite a bit of family here in Woodbridge Township.

*Brenda Velasco:* Yes, even though your child has moved out and your grandson lives in Virginia.

*Shirley Nagy:* And our son lives in Edison so that's not far.

*Brenda Velasco:* Oh!

*Shirley Nagy:* But he takes the Woodbridge train every day.

*Andy Nagy:* That's the real reason Shirley won't move out of here.

*Shirley Nagy:* Well, he's a bachelor and he needs a lady first.

*Andy Nagy:* He needs a lady to take care of him.

*Brenda Velasco:* Yes, well, moms always worry about their sons. For some reason we don't think they can live independent of us.

*Shirley Nagy:* You're right. He's going to be 48.

*Brenda Velasco:* Yes, I have one that's 40. Okay, I just want to conclude the interview. Thank you both and I look forward to you at many of our historic events that are coming up.

*Andy Nagy:* We'll be there.

*Brenda Velasco:* And I thank you again for sharing your time and your personal memories.

*Shirley Nagy:* You're welcome. And if there is some time that we could get a copy, when it's finished, and when it's really finished, I like to hear everybody's interview.

*Brenda Velasco:* Oh, you will be posted at full completion. This is ongoing.

*Shirley Nagy:* It's a very big project.