

Oral History Interview
Steven Simon
WH017

(written transcript and digital audio)

On Thursday, September 4, 2008, Steve Simon was interviewed at the Woodbridge Main Library by Brenda Velasco at 1:00 P.M.

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

My name is Steve Simon. I live up in Woodbridge in upper Main Street. I was born on July 15, 1931.

2. How long have you lived in Woodbridge?

I have lived in Woodbridge for 77 years.

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

Well both my parents were from Hungary. My mother was 13 year old when she came out and my father was 17 years old. They moved her and just settled down.

Brenda Velasco: Alright, was there another group of an Hungarian enclave in Woodbridge already?

Steve Simon: Our entire area was all Hungarian. Most of our relatives and people in our church downtown, they were all Hungarian.

Brenda Velasco: Alright, and what church were you talking about?

Steve Simon: The Hungarian Reformed Church on School Street in Woodbridge.

Brenda Velasco: Is that still in existence today?

Steve Simon: It still is but it's dying very, very slowly.

Brenda Velasco: Alright, because there's another Hungarian church on Amboy Avenue.

Steve Simon: Oh, it's Mount Carmel.

Brenda Velasco: Yes and the demographics have changed also.

Steve Simon: Yes, we're down to the last 30 people, I think.

Brenda Velasco: Wow!

Steve Simon: Before, many years ago, it was hundreds of people.

Brenda Velasco: So, there has been a big decline?

Steve Simon: Oh, yea, definitely.

**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: I know you said you lived in upper Main Street, is that at the same address?

Steve Simon: At the same address, yea.

Brenda Velasco: Could I have that address where you live?

Steve Simon: 272 Main Street.

Brenda Velasco: Alright, so what were some of the changes that you've seen in your 77 years of living in Woodbridge?

Steve Simon: Many, many changes. When we were children we had two grocery stores in the area; one up the street about a block up and then on the other street we had another grocery store.

One was Zilli's and one was Dobos's. When we had to buy any kind of cold cuts or whatever, those are the places we went. We didn't have any downtown stores at that time.

Brenda Velasco: Alright, so you're talking about Mom and Pop stores?

Steve Simon: Right.

Brenda Velasco: And these were on Main Street?

Steve Simon: One was on Main Street and one was on Oak Avenue.

Brenda Velasco: Okay, Dobos's was on Oak Avenue?

Steve Simon: Yea, right, and at night we used to sit outside in the summertime and go up to Zilli's and buy potato chips, but in those days they weren't bagged yet. They had a big can and they would put them in brown paper bags. For 10 cents you got a big brown paper bag of potato chips.

Brenda Velasco: Wow, you don't see that anymore.

Steve Simon: No.

Brenda Velasco: So they were sold loose then?

Steve Simon: Yea, they were sold loose.

Brenda Velasco: Okay, how did they taste?

Steve Simon: Terrific.

Brenda Velasco: I'm sure you enjoyed them.

Steve Simon: And there was a place across the street from us, it was called Bulgus Tavern, the only tavern in Woodbridge on Main Street, and they were there for about 60 years. Now it's some kind of a business but we still call it Bulgus corner. They've been gone for about maybe 20 years already.

Brenda Velasco: Where exactly on Main Street was Bulgus Tavern?

Steve Simon: On the corner of Main Street and, I think it's, what do they call it, St. James Avenue or James Street. I'm not sure what the name of the street is. (St. James Avenue)

Brenda Velasco: Was it near the Reo Diner?

Steve Simon: No, no, no. It's up upper Main Street.

Brenda Velasco: Upper Main Street, okay. Did you know were there any other stores around there?

Steve Simon: No, those were the only stores; the two stores, the tavern and that was it.

Brenda Velasco: Was there a theatre there?

Steve Simon: The theatre on Main Street: the State Theatre.

Brenda Velasco: Okay.

Steve Simon: And it was 10 cents. Every Sunday we went at 1:00 P.M.; they had two movies, a news reel, cartoons, and then after that we had vaudeville.

Brenda Velasco: So there was vaudeville at the State Theatre.

Steve Simon: Vaudeville, yes. They had all these acts with the band and we were there from like say 1:00 P.M. until about 6:00 P.M. It was unbelievable.

Brenda Velasco: You really got a bargain for 10 cents and where was the State Theatre located?

Steve Simon: It was right on Main Street right near the Town Hall. Everybody went there, all the young kids.

Brenda Velasco: Was St. James.....

Steve Simon: St. James Church, the original church, was located next to our building; which was the priest's home years ago.

Brenda Velasco: Okay, so your house.....

Steve Simon: Was a priest's home and next door was St. James Church and next door to that was my cousin, Iszo's, house, and they had the nun's house. But, about the 1920s or early '30s my grandfather helped move that church down to Amboy Avenue. It was there for a while and then they tore it down and built a new church.

Brenda Velasco: Alright, so while you belonged to the Hungarian Reformed Church, you were also involved with St. James?

Steve Simon: Right.

Brenda Velasco: The physical structure, the physical structure.

Steve Simon: Our property was bought from the church.

Brenda Velasco: Not many people recall that that's where St. James originally was.

Steve Simon: I think they have a little plaque; while the doctor is there now, Dr. Boyd, in that place and I think he has a plaque in the front of the property. It says that it is the original home of the St. James Church. I believe that's what it says.

Brenda Velasco: Now how was your grandfather able to move this church?

Steve Simon: They had many, many men working on it. It was a big, big project. My grandfather, by the way, owned a farm two blocks in from Main Street and it was a huge farm and that James Street that I was talking about, it went down to, what's the name of that other street, I can't think of the name of the street, but the street stopped on his property where his farm was. He had a corn field, a grape vineyard, he had cows, pigs, chickens, fruit trees and we grew up in that environment. It was absolutely unbelievable. Every night we would walk 2 or 3 blocks to the farm and we took home two quarts of milk which my grandmother milked the cows and we took them home. It wasn't pasteurized; it was just raw milk. Once a year we had a pig roast. We killed a pig. My job was to hold the pan to hold the blood when they stabbed the pig. It was horrible and with that we made, what they called, blood sausage. In Hungarian it's called hurka. Then we had a big feast for the family and for the surrounding area.

Brenda Velasco: What time of the year did this occur?

Steve Simon: In the summer. It was a big, big day for everybody.

Brenda Velasco: Alright, so it was just your family or was it also the neighbors that came?

Steve Simon: It was our family that did everything but then they sold like meat and sausages to the neighbor and neighborhood.

Brenda Velasco: What a difference from 2008.

Steve Simon: And yet that thing was that the farm was so close to Main Street. They had an empty lot just off of Main Street and we used to get this big wooden cart and pull it out to Main Street and we used to have the sickle or a scythe and cut they hay down and then bring it back to the farm. It was a wonderful, wonderful life.

Brenda Velasco: And what is this property now?

Steve Simon: He sold it years ago and now it's all houses. The street goes all the way out to Bunns Lane. There's a street there now. It's right through there.

Brenda Velasco: Fulton Street.

Steve Simon: Bunns Lane.

Brenda Velasco: Okay, it goes out to Bunns Lane?

Steve Simon: Yes, you know I can't think of the name of that street. Is it St. James Avenue or James Street.? I think its St. James Avenue then Street. I should have really checked it. I lived there all my life; I should know.

Brenda Velasco: But it sounded like a great place to grow up.

Steve Simon: It was wonderful.

Brenda Velasco: Did you have other cousins then?

Steve Simon: We had very close cousins. In our family, there were two girls and a boy and my cousins, there was another two girls and a boy. The only ones left are one of my cousins and my sister and myself; the three of us are left out of the family.

Brenda Velasco: Do they all live in Woodbridge?

Steve Simon: My cousin lives in Woodbridge and we still live in the house. My mother died a year ago at the age of 100.

Brenda Velasco: Wow!

Steve Simon: We took care of her for 11 years.

Brenda Velasco: So she lived with you then?

Steve Simon: Yes, she lived with us. We took care of her

Brenda Velasco: That's great, but she died at age 100.

Steve Simon: Yep.

Brenda Velasco: That was quite a feat. Good genes then.

Steve Simon: Yes, my other grandmother died at 96. We never knew her family, her side, because when she came out she was only 13 years old and she never really talked about them too much.

Brenda Velasco: Okay, so she was from Hungary too then?

Steve Simon: Hungary, yes.

Brenda Velasco: Okay, your whole family then.....

Steve Simon: Were all Hungarian.

Brenda Velasco: Maternal and paternal?

Steve Simon: Yes, our big thing, when we were small, the church was our life. We had big dinners, we had socials, and we did Hungarian plays.

Brenda Velasco: In the Hungarian language?

Steve Simon: In the Hungarian language. Reverend Egree was our minister and during the summer when our school was out, we had to go to Hungarian school and he taught us how to read and write in Hungarian, which the kids don't even want to do now.

Brenda Velasco: It's too bad because a second language is very.....

Steve Simon: It's always good.

Brenda Velasco: Yes, yes, especially with all the global traveling right now. Were the Hungarians attracted to Woodbridge other than where other Hungarians were living?

Were there job opportunities? Was there someplace where everybody worked?

Steve Simon: I don't know it just seems as though that they all gravitated to the only area. I don't know why, because it was during the Depression and jobs were very, very few. My father was making \$3.00 a week and he worked in, I believe, the brick factory and also in the pottery - Woodbridge Pottery.

Brenda Velasco: Alright, so he did work because this was a main stay of Woodbridge for a long time, the brick factory and making bricks or terra cotta.

Steve Simon: During the Depression, we were very poor. When we were kids we had to put cardboard in our shoes when we got holes in the bottom of our shoes; you had to put cardboard in it. But everybody did, so we didn't think it was even anything different.

Brenda Velasco: Did you have a car?

Steve Simon: Never had a car except for many years later. We walked every place.

Brenda Velasco: Ah, that's what I want to find out. Okay, now did your dad walk to work or take a bus?

Steve Simon: I believe he went with my uncle. They worked in Shell Oil, for many years together and he used to ride with him. But the children, all of us, we walked to every school we went to. We just walked.

Brenda Velasco: What schools did you attend?

Steve Simon: School No. 1, on School Street, it was, then School No. 11 on Ross, and then we went to Woodbridge High School on Barron Avenue.

Brenda Velasco: And you're having a class reunion very soon.

Steve Simon: In October, yes, at the Forge.

Brenda Velasco: What year is that?

Steve Simon: Oh, God, 60.

Brenda Velasco: How many people do you think will attend?

Steve Simon: I would say there's maybe, we had a big class, so I would say maybe 50.

Brenda Velasco: Well that's good.

Steve Simon: Yes, about 50.

Brenda Velasco: Do most of these people still live in Woodbridge now?

Steve Simon: A lot of them do. I know a lot of the people I graduated with.

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

The post office was always on Main Street and they used to have post office boxes, what do you call the, where you could put your mail. They had them all over. Now there's none.

Brenda Velasco: Alright, where the mailman would pick up in a sack or something?

Steve Simon: Right.

Brenda Velasco: Okay, right, they've eliminated them.

Steve Simon: Yes, they've eliminated that completely almost. There's one on Elmwood Avenue today and that's the only one in the whole Woodbridge area.

Brenda Velasco: Alright, now how about library, where did you go to the library?

Steve Simon: The library was, now it's the Barron Arts Center. That was our place we went for books and it's changed quite a bit. In fact, I take, we have art lessons, not lessons, we have art classes there every Tuesday, we have life drawing, and I attend there at the Barron Arts Center.

Brenda Velasco: So that brings back memories.....

Steve Simon: Oh, yes.

Brenda Velasco: When there was stacks there instead of bodies.

Steve Simon: And I look there and upstairs used to be like a winding spiral staircase going upstairs to the second floor. Now that's completely gone. But me, my sister and my cousin always went down there for books; walking of course.

Brenda Velasco: Well, that was quite a distance from your house?

Steve Simon: Yes, sure.

Brenda Velasco: With that spiraling staircase, did it go into the office part of the Barron Arts Center, the foyer, as you walk in or was it in the gallery, do you recall?

Steve Simon: I don't really remember. All I know is, there was a stairway going around and you went upstairs to get your books upstairs, but that's all I remember.

Brenda Velasco: Okay, because I know there is a lot of room in the attic.....

Steve Simon: Yes, right.

Brenda Velasco: Which they don't utilize right now.

Steve Simon: They just used it just recently for the arts show we had. They had these mannequins up there and they took that down and used the mannequin for the arts show.

Brenda Velasco: Okay, so they use it for storage.....

Steve Simon: Storage.

Brenda Velasco: Just right now.

Steve Simon: And beautiful stained glass windows too.

Brenda Velasco: Yes, and the fireplace with the biblical scene, it's a work of art.

Steve Simon: It is.

Brenda Velasco: It's one of our architectural treasures in Woodbridge Township.

Steve Simon: Yes, it's really nice.

Brenda Velasco: So, that was quite a place for you to go to the library and now you're taking art classes. How about parks?

Steve Simon: We had a couple of parks in town and they had, like, swings, see saws, and stuff like that, but nothing really spectacular.

Brenda Velasco: Alright, and this was along Heard's Creek (Brook)?

Steve Simon: This was like downtown, I believe it was near School No. 1, I'm not too sure about that and, oh, we had one major trip from our church every year. This was a big event. All the young people, the kids, hiked to Roosevelt Park and we planned it for months: what we're going to do and how we're going to go. Now the people jump in the car and they're in Roosevelt Park in like two minutes. But that was a big trip for us. We had the swings, we had the barbeques. Oh, it was just unbelievable and we walked all the way.

Brenda Velasco: Wow!

Steve Simon: There was about, maybe, 30 or 40 people.

Brenda Velasco: You had a pond there too at Roosevelt Park?

Steve Simon: Yes, yes.

Brenda Velasco: So you had a lot.

Steve Simon: It was an unbelievable trip for us.

Brenda Velasco: And it was done during the summer, I assume?

Steve Simon: During the summer, right.

Brenda Velasco: Okay.

Steve Simon: We walked all the way. I think we even walked on the railroad tracks for a certain part of the trip.

Brenda Velasco: So Roosevelt Park was one of the focal points for you for recreation.

Steve Simon: Oh, yes.

Brenda Velasco: That one.....

Steve Simon: That one day of the year.

Brenda Velasco: Were there any other parks that you used?

Steve Simon: Ah, I really don't recall any more.

Brenda Velasco: Okay, how about the firehouse?

Steve Simon: That was always there.....

Brenda Velasco: Okay.

Steve Simon: Where it is now, on School Street.

Brenda Velasco: Then you had School No.1, which is now used for the Administration Building.

Steve Simon: Right.

Brenda Velasco: What grades did you attend at School No. 1?

Steve Simon: I believe 1, 2, I don't know, 1 to 5 and 6 to 8 in the other one, School No. 11 and then we went to high school, 8 to 12.

Brenda Velasco: So you were on split session then at the high school?

Steve Simon: Yes, right.

Brenda Velasco: Did you have a job afterwards?

Steve Simon: I got a job at the age of 14. I was stock clerk in Jackson's Drug Store and I still know the pharmacist today who worked with me.

Brenda Velasco: And what was his name?

Steve Simon: Kenny, I know his name, I just can't think of it.

Brenda Velasco: And you would recognize his face?

Steve Simon: Oh, yes.

Brenda Velasco: Does he live in Woodbridge still?

Steve Simon: He lives in Colonia. In fact, his wife is one of the people who helps out with our art classes on Tuesday nights and that's his wife.

Brenda Velasco: Small world.

Steve Simon: Yes, it really is and he knows me when he sees me. He says, oh, I can't get over it. I was 14 years old and the thing was that you get these big boxes of all this stuff that came in and I used to always draw on them so they laugh at me now because I'm still in art.

Brenda Velasco: Yes, you are. You're going for the art classes.

Steve Simon: Yes, I'm still in art and he says, remember when you were drawing on those big boxes in Jackson's, and I said, yes, I remember.

Brenda Velasco: Is there anything else we should mention about Question #5 there that you had notes on?

Steve Simon: That's about it.

Brenda Velasco: Okay.

6. What did you do for recreation?

Well we didn't really have money to do anything so what we did was, when we were kids, we'd go to the dumps and get things and have bingo games. When I was about 13 years old, I used to go to the clay pits; it was up the street, now where Woodbridge Center is.

Brenda Velasco: Right.

Steve Simon: And I used to get clumps of clay and I used to pound it out with a hammer to make like dust and I would sift it through one of our old screens and then I would add water to it and make statues.

Brenda Velasco: So you were still involved with art.

Steve Simon: Oh, art, yes, it's been my whole life and as a person who didn't know anything about art or was never taught anything, I was very surprised now to look back at it that I did something like that.

Brenda Velasco: Alright, so you just mixed it with water then?

Steve Simon: Yes, water, and made it into a paste and then I modeled it.

Brenda Velasco: You were creative.

Steve Simon: Oh, yes, all the time. Also, where Woodbridge Center is now, I took my two nephews, they were about 5 years old, and the other one was about, maybe, 12, I took them into the area which is now Woodbridge Center. I took movies of them and I made a film and it was called *Life* and it was the little one walking around in a cowboy suit and a gun and the other one was running away from him. So I did other movies with them also.

Brenda Velasco: Okay, was this when it was the clay pits or Woodbridge Center by this time?

Steve Simon: The clay pits; there was just nothing there.

Brenda Velasco: Could we have a copy of that film?

Steve Simon: I have to find it.

Brenda Velasco: Would you be able to find it?

Steve Simon: I'll look for it.

Brenda Velasco: Okay, this would be great because we have so little.....

Steve Simon: It shows exactly what was there. It's just hills and clay and everything.

Brenda Velasco: And he was in a cowboy suit so this was good guys versus bad guys.

Steve Simon: Exactly.

Brenda Velasco: And total freedom.

Steve Simon: Yes, so it was really great.

Brenda Velasco: If you can find that, I'd really, really appreciate that, that would be good. Any pictures you have of the clay pits as well, that would be helpful.

Steve Simon: As long as you're creating something.

Brenda Velasco: Okay and you mentioned about the hike to Roosevelt Park.

Steve Simon: Yes.

Brenda Velasco: And the church.....

Steve Simon: The church we had all kinds of big dinners. We did Hungarian dances. In Hungarian it's called sudabeh. We used to hang grapes on wires hung low over the ceiling and we had like a policeman who comes and if you steal the grapes, you got put in jail. So we had all kind of different things.

Brenda Velasco: And where were the dances held?

Steve Simon: At the hall at church which is now gone. There's a new hall now. That was a great building. It was almost, like, sound proof, and there was one time my mother and father were down there for some kind of a meeting and they were busy with their meeting and they came out they were shocked to see there was a storm outside and all the trees and everything was all over. We were home by ourselves, the kids, and we were terrified and we had this huge tree in our front yard and it went across Main Street and blocked traffic. When they saw what happened they were upset, but they saw that we were okay so everything worked out fine.

Brenda Velasco: And they were not aware of it?

Steve Simon: They weren't even aware that there was a storm. Yes, it was something.

Brenda Velasco: Anything else for recreation that you have? How about during the winter?

Steve Simon: We used to go sleigh riding and we used to go down, what's the name of that street, I'm very bad with names of streets, ah, Metuchen Avenue, and it's a real deep slope and we always went there to do sleigh riding. Also, we used to go to, what we called the fishing pond, off Oak Avenue in the back and we used to go ice skating there.

Brenda Velasco: Now that fishing pond, which was off Oak Avenue.....

Steve Simon: Yes.

Brenda Velasco: Was it down in the area of Bunns Lane or?

Steve Simon: It's off of Oak Avenue. It's in the back toward, I guess, toward the highway.

Brenda Velasco: Oh, okay, where it abuts the Forge, there's a pond, yes, okay.

Steve Simon: Right, and in the summertime we fished there. We used to catch catfish. We found these rusty cans, put water in it, and we used to cook the catfish, I shouldn't even be here, I think I should have died already from some kind of poisoning.

Brenda Velasco: Oh my gosh!

Steve Simon: And we put a potato with this, we put this in the fire and we had potatoes and catfish. This was our life.

Brenda Velasco: It was a good life.

Steve Simon: Yep, it really was.

Brenda Velasco: Except for the rusty cans, it was a good life.

Steve Simon: Well, what happened one time we went and there was a guy who lived on Oak Street, Michael Gulics, and he was shooting rats up in the area. He was kidding around and he turned around and said, ah, I'm going to get ya, and he shot the rifle in the ground, hit a rock, it ricocheted and it hit me. So I got shot in the left buttock and I was walking home with it and everybody said you're going to get lockjaw; I said, "Oh God". So I got home and my mother and father ran over to his house and they told his mother what happened and by that time he had run away from home. So that was another sort of exciting thing. That happened the day before Christmas and when I got back to school they had all these different nicknames for me: get the lead out; bullet hole Simon. So I had all these different things but luckily, I still have the bullet in me; and when they take x-rays of my leg or anything they see that and they say, what's that. I say, "Oh, it's only a bullet".

Brenda Velasco: So when you go through a metal detector.....

Steve Simon: It sets it off.

Brenda Velasco: That's an interesting experience.

Steve Simon: I'll tell you.

Brenda Velasco: Did he ever return home?

Steve Simon: Oh, yes, he came back. We were friends for some years.

Brenda Velasco: Anything else you can think of under No. 6?

Steve Simon: Recreation, hum.

Brenda Velasco: I just think it was a great time for you.

Steve Simon: It was a wonderful time and, let's see, that's about it. I can't think of anything off hand. I'd like to really write a book about my life, I really could.

Brenda Velasco: Well you've had some really interesting experiences and very few people could envision Woodbridge with a farm right off of Main Street.

Steve Simon: That's right, people with these scythes, they were cutting the grass down with it, oh God.

Brenda Velasco: You can't, not the way it is today. It's hard to imagine. Oh, but the train station was there too, right?

Steve Simon: Yes.

Brenda Velasco: Okay.

Steve Simon: That was there.

Brenda Velasco: Alright.

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

Brenda Velasco: I think you alluded to it it was the church at that time?

Steve Simon: Yes, at that time, the church was everything. Sad to say, it's not going to be that much longer.

Brenda Velasco: It's an older group and the demographics have changed.

Steve Simon: Now we're the old ones and a lot of the ones that had children, the children had left the church and we're just dwindling down. In fact, our minister just left about two weeks

ago. He's retired. So I don't think we have a regular minister even. But it was one of the biggest things in our life.

Brenda Velasco: And you have many happy memories of it.

Steve Simon: Oh, many, many, many.

Brenda Velasco: And this is where you learned Hungarian then.

Steve Simon: Hungarian.

Brenda Velasco: The written as well as the spoken.

Steve Simon: The written, I speak and write.

Brenda Velasco: Okay.

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

I loved Woodbridge. In those days it was fine but today it's very, very bad. The traffic, I can't get out of my driveway on Main Street. It's just horrendous. But I liked Woodbridge. We walked to everything. Everything was far but we still walked every place. Everything was close by.

Brenda Velasco: But you had a lot of things to do in Woodbridge though. You had your theatre.

Steve Simon: Oh, the theatre, we always went every Sunday.

Brenda Velasco: Your church was nearby.

Steve Simon: The church, yes.

Brenda Velasco: You had a library nearby.

Steve Simon: Yes, the library.

Brenda Velasco: All your services were right here.

Steve Simon: Yes, yes, it was very nice. I had a wonderful life.

Brenda Velasco: Good.

Steve Simon: Like Jimmy Stewart, *It's a Wonderful Life*.

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

Yes, yes, we lived not upper Main Street now, on lower Main Street where the railroad is. There was a train accident that the train went off the trellis and 86 people were killed. All the homes in that area were made into morgues and we walked down there to look at everything. It was horrible. We were very young then. I don't when it was. (1951)

Brenda Velasco: It was in the 1950s.

Steve Simon: '50s, yes. We walked down there. It was unbelievable.

Brenda Velasco: Alright, you've seen a lot disappear as far as construction in Woodbridge such as the clay pits are no longer.

Steve Simon: Oh, yes, that's gone. My father used to work for that Woodbridge Pottery; that's gone. They used to make toilets and little figurines and stuff which I still have some of those.

As for sports events, nothing, really. Riots, no. Discrimination, not really.

Brenda Velasco: Okay.

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

Not too much. Taxes are too high. Traffic is horrible. All the people around us, we don't know anybody who lives around Main Street. Years ago, we knew every person. Today, I don't know my next door neighbors or across the street, nothing, nobody. The only one I know on Main

Street is one girl whose family used to live there and they're all gone. She's by herself. Her name is Georgette Schultz. The only person I know on Main Street. Unbelievable!

Brenda Velasco: Now I know I interviewed somebody on Main Street, 245 Main Street, I believe, or 215. Um, Judith Vince Quinn. (Judith Vincze Quinn)

Steve Simon: No, I don't know.

Brenda Velasco: Her mother had owned that house. Her father was Vince (Vincze) and then her grandfather was Elias. He built one of the houses there.

Steve Simon: Oh, yes.

Brenda Velasco: Where the Knights of Columbus. But, ah, she grew up in different places but she came back to her mother's house. But traffic on Main Street, I agree with you.

Steve Simon: It's horrible.

Brenda Velasco: It's horrendous. How about your friends?

Steve Simon: A lot of my friends are gone. In fact, I have two good friends and one lives in Edison and the other one lives down the shore some place. They're the only two left. Everybody else has passed away.

Brenda Velasco: Okay, and then you've got a reunion coming up.

Steve Simon: Yes, I can't wait to see who's going to show up.

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

The only ones are my cousin, Helen, me and my sister and my aunt and her children live in Woodbridge. That's Irma Sipa.

Brenda Velasco: And where does she live?

Steve Simon: She's my grandfather's daughter. They live in the same place where the farm used to be.

Brenda Velasco: Wow!

Steve Simon: And she's in pretty bad shape right now.

Brenda Velasco: Too bad.

Steve Simon: She's ten years older than me, so she's 87 now.

Brenda Velasco: And where does your sister live?

Steve Simon: With me in the same house.

Brenda Velasco: Okay and where does your cousin live, next door?

Steve Simon: No, she lives now, she sold the house a few years ago and she moved in the senior citizen housing in Avenel.

Brenda Velasco: Maple Tree Manor.

Steve Simon: Maple Tree Manor.

Brenda Velasco: Great place.

Steve Simon: She loves it.

Brenda Velasco: I'm glad to hear that.

Steve Simon: She loves it.

Brenda Velasco: Anybody who lives there.

Steve Simon: They all say it's good.

Brenda Velasco: Yes.

Steve Simon: She always praises the place. Oh, it's so wonderful.

Brenda Velasco: They have a talent show coming up.

Steve Simon: Oh, yes.

Brenda Velasco: Next week, yes. They do a lot of things there. Okay, can you think of anything else that you'd like to add?

Steve Simon: I just wanted to say that I really enjoyed my life. That's about it.

Brenda Velasco: You have very good memories.

Steve Simon: I do, I really do.

Brenda Velasco: And you're still going strong with your art.

Steve Simon: Yep, still going. We had an art show, just for about three weeks. It just went off on the 22nd of August and I still love it.

Brenda Velasco: Okay, that's one of the things that you like about Woodbridge. We still have some interest there and you're still going to the Barron Arts.

Steve Simon: Yep.

Brenda Velasco: But it's not a library. Okay, I thank you very much, Steve Simon for agreeing (to be interviewed) and nice meeting you.

Steve Simon: Thank you very much, same here.

Brenda Velasco: Okay.