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EVELYN HERSHEY: My name is Evelyn Hershey. We're at the American Labor Museum - Botto House National Landmark in Haledon, New Jersey today, which is November 13th. This morning we have the pleasure of spending some time with a special New Jerseyan and Italian-American, Josephine Milano Hahula. Josephine was born in Somerville, New Jersey on November 29, 1922, on her uncle's farm which was just on the border of the famous Duke Estate here in New Jersey. In the Spring in May of 1922, when she was an infant, her family moved to Bellville, New Jersey. She has been a resident of Belleville, New Jersey ever since. She lived on a farm, a truck farm, with her family to the age of 16 and then moved into the house where she currently lives. The farm house where she currently lives is over 100 years old. She grew up with seven siblings in that environment. Mrs. Hahula was baptized at St. Lucy's Church in Newark, New Jersey in 1940. She graduated from Bellville High School. She married Theodore Hahula in 1945 and raised her two sons, Theodore, or Teddy, and Michael Hahula in Bellville. She is the last living sibling of the Milano family. She learned the ways of an Italian-American agricultural farm life in New Jersey and at the age of 91 -- almost 92 -- continues that farming tradition. We're very happy to be able to preserve, through this recording, her recollections of her life and history here in New Jersey.

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So, it's a pleasure to be with you. JOSEPHINE HAHULA: Thank you. EVELYN HERSHEY: We have some photographs from your -- a few photographs -- from your family and from your story. And maybe we could just start with how your family came to Belleville and maybe you could tell us a little bit about your parents. JOSEPHINE HAHULA: Well, my father

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and his nephew. Well, his nephew had a farm. He always farmed, so he decided to get a farm in Somerville and my father went down there to help him out. He was my father's nephew [and he] was teaching him how to drive and while his nephew went out to work, my father took his truck and he went by Duke Farm and he hit a tree with the truck. So, he took the truck back and before they got into it -- they were both hotheads -- my father put us in a horse and wagon, my mother my sister and I. I was just a baby then and [he] put our goat on the wagon with the hay in the back and our belongings and we traveled to Newark. So, we ended up in Newark -- on North Fifth Street -- to Phyllis's grandmother's house and she says, "I can't keep you here because I have eight children of my own". So, we traveled to Belleville to my mother's uncle's farm.

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We had to sleep in the barn because he had no room in the house. Within a week's time we did get rooms not too far from there and we lived in that house for 16 years. And they were Polish people. [They] were good to us, you know, and they had all the fruit trees and vegetable garden and all. My father made wine there with them and they would make this liquor, which you [sic] wasn't supposed to do at the time. And the man made handles for suitcases and my father helped him. Then we went to this farmhouse that the people were losing the farm, but the elder people were godparents to my brother and sister.

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So, before they left the farm they [sic] says, "Do you want to buy the house?" So, my mother and father didn't have money, but they had a little bit, but they didn't have enough. My mother's brother loaned them some money and my parents took a loan out. When we got the farm house, I think at that time it was four thousand dollars. So, we have lived in there ever since. And my mother had her own little farm, truck farm there, and she did all the canning.

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She had canning tomatoes and fruit trees. She made jellies and all. And come winter time, she would dig a trench in a garden and would buy these heads of cabbage -- like the Savoy cabbage at the time -- and she would line this trench with paper and stuff and put the cabbage in it and covered over with a tarp and all and cover it over with the dirt. And in the winter, if she wanted a cabbage she'd go pull the tarp up and take a head of cabbage out and she would have her cabbage. She'd have all of her canned tomatoes and she would buy [sic] spaghettis in big boxes -- maybe 25 pounds of spaghetti -- and she would buy sacks of potatoes for the winter and put them in the root cellar. Because nobody drove at that time, so she had everything, you know, that was there for us. I mean we lived frugal because my father was a laborer and in the Winter time there was no work in the Winter. EVELYN HERSHEY: How old were your parents when they married? JOSEPHINE HAHULA: My father was 85 when he died and my mother was 101. EVELYN HERSHEY: And his name was Angelo Milano and her name was? JOSEPHINE HAHULA: Her name, really her name was Angela Maria, but they called her Angelina.

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We don't know why. But she was born in South America, my mother. She was born Montevideo in Uruguay and her mother stayed in Italy. Her mother did not like South America. I never met my grandmother or my grandfather. And my mother had a sister that liked some man that was -- -- I don't know if he was from Italy -- but he had a winery in South America. And my Aunt Rose at the time, that was her, she liked this man, so, so my grandmother [sic] says, "Well, if you like him, you marry him." Because my grandfather didn't want her to marry this man. So, when he went somewhere, well my grandmother says to her daughter you marry him and you go. So, she went to South America and that's where she lived in South America. Then I had an uncle that I never knew; he went to South America. He was never married and he died from, I guess, a horse. He was on a horse that bolted and that was, you know, and then he died. He was buried down there too. So, my father knew this captain of a ship and he used to take my grandfather back and forth, you know. It was It was a free ride for him. EVELYN HERSHEY: Sure. A friend.

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JOSEPHINE HAHULA: So, that's where he met his daughter down there, finally she was married. And she never [sic] come back to Italy. The only time she [sic] come back to Italy was when my grandmother -- I guess after my grandfather had died -- -- she was alone because all the other children came to the United States. So, they took her down there and I think she was 95 when she died in South America. That was during World War II. And like you say, we grew up frugal. I mean we didn't have linoleum on floors. We didn't have dining rooms. We did have a dining room, but we had no living room because we had to use the living room for beds for the boys, you know. The girls slept in a big bed; three girls in one bed, you know. But we didn't have toys, but we made toys. We used to play Kick the Can, King of the Hill.

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We used to play Cattie (sp). Well, with Cattie (sp), you would get a broomstick and cut maybe a 3' handle and then you'd make a little peg and at the two ends you would make points on them and you hit them and see how far you could hit them. That used That to be Cattie (sp). So, we had a good time, you know. EVELYN HERSHEY: Can you tell us about your brothers? Here they are in this picture.

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JOSEPHINE HAHULA: Now my brothers. Yeah, that was during World War II. EVELYN HERSHEY: Four brothers. JOSEPHINE HAHULA: Four brothers were in [the war]. EVELYN HERSHEY: Four brothers and they were younger than you? JOSEPHINE HAHULA: Oh yeah. No, they were older. One was younger than me. Yeah, one was younger. Angelo was the youngest. Now. We had Rocco and Dominic were conscripted into the war. And they were both in the European war. Then Ralph, Ralph was the oldest, but they took him anyway. At the time my father decided to go to work to help out with, you know, the bills and stuff. So, the first day he went to work in this rag factory he went in and he went to clean the machine that ripped the rags apart and at that time they didn't have OSHA like they have today. But the switch to this machine was in another room, so one of the workers came in and turned the switch on and got my father's hand caught in the switch and took his arm off to the elbow. to the elbow. So, then that was the end of his working. T hen the oldest boy had to go into the service. He had just got in when this happened with my father and we had, well we got him home at the time, but he still had to go back anyway because he was already in. And then my younger brother, he volunteered to go into the Army. He was 18. He was in India. Now the three boys --the three oldest boys -- were in the European war and the youngest was in India.

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EVELYN HERSHEY: They looked like they were a lot of fun. What were their personalities like?

JOSEPHINE HAHULA: Personalities? They were different personalities. Two were mild. Three were mild. The youngest was a little, you know, a little "roughie".

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Yeah. EVELYN HERSHEY: And then at home. You went to school when you were kids. You went to school. JOSEPHINE HAHULA: We went to school.

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EVELYN HERSHEY: What was your day like? Did you have chores to do at home for your parents? It was a big job to take care of [the farm].

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JOSEPHINE HAHULA: Well my mother helped on the farm of the house that we are living in now. And she went to help there and my older brother helped them too there. But my older sister had to do the cooking. She had to get the cooking ready. And my mother used to come home and do, you know, the chores she had to do. Wash clothes with the washboard. We didn't have a washing machine then. then. She would wash clothes and we would have a good set of clothes to go to school, take them off when you come home, put your dirty clothes on, you know. And she would wash them and have them ready for the next day. And she did all the

canning. She made her own [sic] macaronis. She did her own, you know, roll them with a big roll stick and made her [sic] raviolis at home.

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EVELYN HERSHEY: And did you have radio or TV? Do you remember getting TV? What did you listen to? JOSEPHINE HAHULA: We had a radio, but you could only have it on to a certain hour. That was it because you don't use a lot of electricity, you know. And then we finally got a Victrola, like this one that is here. EVELYN HERSHEY: What did you listen to? Do you remember? JOSEPHINE HAHULA: Amos and Andy. I remember Amos and Andy, but you had to shut off the radio at a certain hour because, you know, we were in bed by nine o'clock too.

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EVELYN HERSHEY: What was it like to go to Newark to see your family in Newark? Belleville was so different than it is today. Newark must have seemed...

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JOSEPHINE HAHULA: The only way I remember them getting to Newark is one of Phyllis's uncles had a car. Sometimes they would come and pick us up and take us. And then finally my mother's cousin had passed away. He had a car and we got the car and my brother Ralph was I think 18 at the time. He finally got his license and then he would take us, you know, back and forth. And then my mother had a sister that got cancer. Then she had three children, but the children died because they had that RH-Factor years ago. My mother used to go two or three times a week. My brother would take her she would take the clothes home to be washed. Then

my brother would take my uncle down to Newark to get all the medicines that she needed like, you know. And my older sister stayed with her. She was 18 years old. My sister went to stay with her for two years until she passed away. We W didn't have nothing, but we had a good time. We made fun time. EVELYN HERSHEY: It was nice to have one another. JOSEPHINE HAHULA: We didn't fight. You know we didn't fight with one another. It was good, you know? EVELYN HERSHEY: W ere there times of the year, you know, the seasons of the year when there was a lot of work to do on the

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family's farm? JOSEPHINE HERSHEY: Yeah. Because of canning. She did canning tomatoes. She did canned peaches. She canned pears and she would get these cabbages and put them underground you know. She dry tomatoes in the summertime. She would have these big sheets of metal with the white coating on it and she would get the tomatoes and sift them, you know, so they would be a sauce and put them out in the sun and keep turning them. E very day that would go [on]. She would take them in at night and put them out the next day until the sun dried all the water out of them and she made tomato paste.

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So, I mean it was, you know, it was a lot of work. They did a lot of work, you know. EVELYN HERSHEY: All year round. JOSEPHINE HAHULA: All year round it was always something. EVELYN HERSHEY: And wine- making? JOSEPHINE HAHULA: Well my father made wine. Yeah, and we weren't allowed down there when they were making more. You know. EVELYN HERSHEY: So, you would buy the grapes? JOSEPHINE HAHULA: Oh yeah, they would buy them. EVELYN HERSHEY: Where would you go to buy them, area farms? JOSEPHINE HAHULA: I think they

would go to the I think it's a train station in Newark where they would bring all the boxes of grape and then somebody would, you know, deliver them. Yeah, and he would make his wine, but we weren't allowed down there when they were making mine. I mean, we never took to even drinking. N ever took to drinking wine and to this day I don't even drink wine or liquor.

EVELYN HERSHEY: So, who would drink the wine?

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JOSEPHINE HAHULA: My father. EVELYN HERSHEY: Or it would be given as gifts or something?

JOSEPHINE HAHULA: He would drink and then he'd say to my mother, "You know, put a lock and key on the spigot

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so, this way I don't touch it."

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But he knew how to take the cork off the top and he would put the hose in. Then when he went to open it there was no wine in the barrel. [laughter] EVELYN HERSHEY: It was all good wine. A good year. JOSEPHINE HAHULA: Yeah. But we were kept strict thought. We learned. You had to mind your manners and all. And we had a strict life, but we were happy though.

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EVELYN HERSHEY: Did you, I'm sure, you know, you went to school five days a week and then Saturday could be sort of a chore day. Did you have like a Sunday where Sundays were the day you went to see family or you didn't... JOSEPHINE HAHULA: No. We had no car, you know. We had to go to church. We had to go to church and get our sacraments, you know. That was a must. We just played. We had friends and, you know, you played around. There [sic] was dirt roads -- like today they are all paved -- but there were dirt roads. It would rain and we'd take our shoes and stockings off and [sic] schlop in the mud. EVELYN HERSHEY: Were there neighbors? Do you remember any neighbors besides the landlord. He was Polish you said.

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JOSEPHINE HAHULA: Well yeah, and then there was a Polish neighbor next door. I don't know who lived in... they owned two houses. There were two families apiece and we were friends with them. We were all friendly. But when it [sic] come to holiday, everybody was in their own house, you know, and the Polish --

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well he was I think a Russian Polish -- and he would have a Christmas holiday a different day than us. And then they would have a big to-do and then they would ask my father or mother, not all the kids you know. The grownups.

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So, I mean it was, you know. PHYLLIS SALVATO: They were coming from Newark. JOSEPHINE HAHULA: From the farm,

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my mother still did gardening. She did gardening and then my older brother took over gardening. He did gardening all the time until the squirrels got his stuff then he said, "That's it. No more." EVELYN HERSHEY: It was a lot of work. Now the family kept in touch with -- close touch -- with your family in Newark even though you couldn't stay when you were a baby, you couldn't live there. JOSEPHINE HAHULA: We kept in touch. EVELYN HERSHEY: And would they come and see you?

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JOSEPHINE HAHULA: Yeah. My mother's brother would come from Newark. And my aunt that had died, she would come. Phyllis's family always came and my mother's other sister, she would come. They would all come to the country because they lived in the city. EVELYN HERSHEY: They thought of it as the country. JOSEPHINE HAHULA: Yeah, they called that the country.

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EVELYN HERSHEY: And what would you all do together? Have a meal and play?

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JOSEPHINE HAHULA: Yeah, my mother would always cook. It would be [sic] macaronis all the time; that was the cheapest you know. And if it was a holiday, you maybe had chicken on a holiday and you had ravioli, you know, and stuff like that. EVELYN HERSHEY: So, about how many family members were together at one time? Fifteen? Twenty? Ages, old, young?

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JOSEPHINE HAHULA: No, no, no. We were seven. So, seven and [with] my mother and father, it was nine so, you know. And actually, the rooms weren't that big where you could have a big [gathering]. Yeah. EVELYN HERSHEY: Maybe we could take a look at this picture because I really like this picture. JOSEPHINE HAHULA: That was taken in Bellville at my mother's uncle's farm off of Jerome Street in Belleville. That was called Charlie the Horse. EVELYN HERSHEY: Charlie the Horse. Who named Charlie? Charlie the Horse? JOSEPHINE HAHULA: I don't know. That I really don't know. EVELYN HERSHEY: And Charlie was a working horse? JOSEPHINE HAHULA: He was a working horse, yeah. EVELYN HERSHEY: And the wagon belonged to whom? JOSEPHINE HAHULA: I really don't know because when we were children we didn't question my parents much. My mother would tell us more what went on, you know, but my father was more...My father was an orphan when he was small. EVELYN HERSHEY: Oh. He is in the picture, right?

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JOSEPHINE HAHULA: Yeah. That's my father. EVELYN HERSHEY: And your mother is seated?

JOSEPHINE HAHULA: Yeah. She has my sister. EVELYN HERSHEY: Who else is in the picture? Can

you tell? JOSEPHINE HAHULA: I really don't know. No, I really don't know because. EVELYN

HERSHEY: Hard to tell. JOSEPHINE HAHULA: Yeah. Then when my father passed and my mother, you know, they didn't really realize who was there either at that time. I know this lady.

That's her husband who had died and he's the one my brother got the car from. EVELYN

HERSHEY: The horse is really well-dressed. JOSEPHINE HAHULA: Yeah, they have all kinds of

raiment on him. I don't know how else to put it. EVELYN HERSHEY: I can tell that there's, you

know, a good management of the family's possessions and farm. That you have to take care of,

work hard and take care of your things and then they'll take care of you: your horse and the

wagon. A very nice wagon. It must have been a fun day for them. They got to pose for a

picture. JOSEPHINE HAHULA: Oh yeah, they would get together. I see, I guess my sister and

brother, but they were the only two ones born. The other three weren't there yet. [laughter]

EVELYN HERSHEY: You're not there yet. You were "to be". Now when everyone got together

or even at home, did you grow up speaking more than one language. Did you speak a little bit

of other languages?

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JOSEPHINE HAHULA: My older brother knew a little bit of Italian. My sister did. And I never

spoke it. None of us to ever spoke it, because we spoke to my mother in English.

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Now she understood pretty good English, but my father, you know, he went out to work so, you know. But they spoke Italian --the both of them -- but he managed English too. EVELYN

HERSHEY: They could probably understand it, but they didn't use it every day. Right. JOSEPHINE

HAHULA: And sometimes I could understand a little bit. See, in Italian there's different dialects and they speak different. Yeah. So, I think we were rough Italian language. PHYLLIS SALVATO:

Well they spoke a "duadaize" (sp), but my other also, the theme was acculturation and they came from... You know my mother's family was the urbane -- the urban component -- a -- and of course they were the rural. But my mother also, my mother was bilingual. My mother was the youngest of, next to the youngest of eight siblings. And Aunt Angie, had his children trained in standardized Italian. He would bring a tutor to teach them how to read standardized Italian. So, Aunt Angie,

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but the goal was to -- as Jose points out -- to speak English can become Americanized.

JOSEPHINE HAHULA: Yeah. And we learned. We learned, like my mother with the Polish women, learned how to do Polish, some Polish cooking. [unintelligible] I married a Polish fella, so. I did Polish. I like Polish food. PHYLLIS SALVATO: They can cook. JOSEPHINE HAHULA: We've got...

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And I just lost my last brother in January. He was 93 and he married a Canadian. His first wife was English or Irish and then the second wife is a Canadian, French something and we were all mixed.

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EVELYN HERSHEY: And then how did you come to be the last person living in your family's 100-year-old home?

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JOSEPHINE HAHULA: I don't know how it worked out that way.

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I do a lot. I do a lot of chores. I do a lot of chores around. I was telling Phyl the other day, I'm raking leaves like crazy and the minute I rake them, they are back down. I rake them again. I took seven bags, big bags out and you know, I don't carry them out. I got a hand-truck and I pull the hand-truck, you know? I cut bushes, I cut hedges. You know, but as far as I'm always out.

PHYLLIS SALVATO: The farming has stopped. JOSEPHINE HAHULA: I'd rather be out. I shovel snow. PHYLLIS SALVATO: We are good, strong farming stock. JOSEPHINE HAHULA: You Y don't lose the traits when you get older.

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EVELYN HERSHEY: Now you graduated from high school? Belleville High School. And, you know, your parents -- how much schooling [did they get]? Do you know how much formal schooling they may have had?

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JOSEPHINE HAHULA: I don't think they had any. My mother was being taught by a nun in Italy and then I don't know what happened after that. But my father was an orphan so he just was, you know, there was a sheepherder that was trying to take care of him. And then somebody else was going to teach him to be a stonemason, but that never panned out. Then somehow, he came to this country and met my mother. They got married in this country. They got married in Newark and they lived beyond 50 years married. And I was married 49 years when my husband passed.

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You know, we just, you make due with everything that you had. EVELYN HERSHEY: You and your siblings all graduated from high school. JOSEPHINE HAHULA: No. No.

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Two of us did. Yes. My brother Rocco and I graduated. And my younger brother, he, I think he was starting vocationally. He never finished, but then he became a master carpenter. He made cabinets and everything. Furniture and all. PHYLLIS SALVATO: And an artist. JOSEPHINE HAHULA: He did that and the other two boys were -- one worked in shipbuilding and then he went to Bamberger's as an elevator mechanic and the other two were truck drivers. They worked as truck drivers.

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I mean they all, you know, they all had good, all made good money at the time. After they came out of the service you know. EVELYN HERSHEY: And your sister? JOSEPHINE HAHULA: And my sister and I worked in the factory making radio tubes for the war.

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And then I got married. My husband wouldn't marry me until the war was over. So, I was engaged for three years. EVELYN HERSHEY: How did you meet? JOSEPHINE HAHULA: We had neighbors across the street from us and she came originally from Pennsylvania. And she used to take her siblings out because Pennsylvania was only coal mines. So, she took this one brother out and then he, we [sic] got friends with him. [He'd] come over and, and, you know, you lived across the street and all. You come [over] and you have coffee sit at the table and talk. Then Phyllis's mother would come and she'd be winking her eye at me. "He's nice looking. He's nice." PHYLLIS SALVATO: He was nice looking alright!

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JOSEPHINE HAHULA: So, I might just start going out with him and then we got married

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after the war. We had two children and then I got three grandchildren. It was a fun time. We had nothing, but we make fun with whatever we had, you know? We made our own kites. We didn't have money go out and buy kites.

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We made our own kites, you know. EVELYN HERSHEY: Did anybody in the family do any sewing or needlework? JOSEPHINE HAHULA: My sister. My older sister. She sewed. She knew how to knit. She knew how to crochet. I do a little bit -- not knitting -- I know a little bit crochet, but not to make anything. I know the basics of it. I love to read. I read anything and everything.

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EVELYN HERSHEY: How about your parents? Did they look at the newspaper? Were they readers?

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JOSEPHINE HAHULA: No, they never. No, no. My mother never did any of that. I mean she had seven kids. Well we had a sister that had died at seven months old. That was the oldest one, but we never knew her. At the time, I think when she was born she had legs that weren't straight. They must have put them in casts too [tight] and she got gangrene and she passed away. But she's buried up in Newark cemetery somewhere. [unintelligible] Yeah,

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she's buried somewhere with somebody. PHYLLIS SALVATO: Is she buried in grandpa Lardier's grave I think? JOSEPHINE HAHULA: Somebody's grave. PHYLLIS SALVATO: I think Aunt Angie told me that he opened his grave to a child. JOSEPHINE HAHULA: Probably that was my sister. My older sister. Yeah. PHYLLIS SALVATO: She was buried there before him. JOSEPHINE HAHULA: My father's arm was buried in somebody's grave too. PHYLLIS SALVATO: Probably grandpa Lardier.

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JOSEPHINE HAHULA: At the time, you know, when your arm was amputated, they had to bury them. So, his arm was buried somewhere. But the prosthesis was buried with him

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when he was laid out. Yeah. But like they say, we had nothing, but we had a good time. You know? I think that's why today I don't throw [sic] nothing out. I don't throw [sic] nothing out, even as far as cooking. I'll make due. I'll do something with it. My daughter-in-law says,

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"How could you do that?" I say, "It's food. It's food." I don't waste [sic] nothing.

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EVELYN HERSHEY: About how big it was it at its largest? About how big was the property that your family cultivated and what did it look like?

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Did it have a creek there? Was it hilly? Was it a lot of trees? JOSEPHINE HAHULA: It was...

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This farmhouse that we're in now, it was hilly. It had a barn. But they took the barn down and the wood from the barn they made a two-car garage out of it.

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Well that eventually came down and then they built the three-car garage for my brother that was a carpenter and he did work there, you know. And then my brother did the stonework. He'd get stone and built walls up and like and make a terrace, you know. It just, but then my husband did a lot of cement work around, but now everything is falling apart.

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There's nobody around and it's too much money to have somebody come and do the work, you know? EVELYN HERSHEY: What types of fruit trees are on the property?

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JOSEPHINE HAHULA: We had a peach tree, but that's gone. We had two pear trees and you don't get anything now because the squirrel gets them before they're even ripe. They just get the seed, you know, and that's it. So, there's just a pear tree left. The grape arbor is there and the birds are getting it because I don't know how to trim a grape arbor, you know? And the fig tree. The fig tree is humungous.

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So now I think I have to have it cut this coming Spring because you can't -- it's so big -- that sometimes you can't get up to the top of it. EVELYN HERSHEY: How old do you think it is? The fig? When was it planted?

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PHYLLIS SALVATO: Older than me. JOSEPHINE HAHULA: Must be older than 25 years old or something there. EVELYN HERSHEY: And you grew herbs? Herb garden. JOSEPHINE HAHULA: Well we used to have. Oh, my brother had... He had everything. He had carrots, beets, cucumbers, string beans, corn. He had arugula. He had parsley. He had basil and it was just, it was just everything. EVELYN HERSHEY: Everything. Did he save seeds? Do you save the seeds or do you buy seeds. JOSEPHINE HERSHEY: He, he would...

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My sister was very... She didn't like him farming. You know. He used to give me the list to send away for the seeds and I would send away for the seeds. He would give me the money you know. EVELYN HERSHEY: You were the accomplice.

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JOSEPHINE HAHULA: Yeah, I was his accomplice. Then I would get the seeds and if a catalog would come, I'd just cross my name out on it and give the catalogs out.

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But in the end, he didn't do anymore because it was costing a lot of money. And when they built all these houses around us, they took all the territory that the squirrels had. So, the squirrels would come and eat everything that was in the garden. The tomatoes, the eggplant. You know. EVELYN HERSHEY: They're desperate. JOSEPHINE HAHULA: When he saw one eggplant in the hole of apple tree, he said that's it. He said no more. That was the end of the farming. EVELYN HERSHEY: And what about the picture, you know, with the eggs. There were chickens and you mentioned a goat that traveled with you in the hay. JOSEPHINE HAHULA: Well we had a chicken coop. But I don't recall what happened to the goat. I don't know what happened to the goat. Probably they killed it for food, because they used to kill pigs for food too, you know? And the eggs, my mother had a coop. We had chickens and every day you'd get a couple of eggs and bring them in. You wouldn't eat them every day. That's when I got the ball and took him out and he took a picture with the eggs. EVELYN HERSHEY: Do they taste differently than the ones you get in the store? When they are fresh. Just wondering. JOSEPHINE HAHULA: I really don't know. EVELYN HERSHEY: I never had ones this

way. JOSEPHINE HAHULA: To me, you know, an egg is an egg. [inaudible] The only way they say if an egg gets old when you boil it, it comes to the top of the hot water. You know that it's an older egg. I don't know. PHYLLIS SALVATO: They grew up eating organic right? We laugh over that. Remember, we laughed over the fact that the whole Milano family and the Lardieres (sp) all grew up eating organic.

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JOSEPHINE HAHULA: Oh yeah [laughter]. We never used [sic] no fertilizer. Only my brothers started using different things to get, you know, for growing. PHYLLIS SALVATO: Yeah, later on, but early on. Early on this was all organic. JOSEPHINE HAHULA: Yeah, yeah.

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PHYLLIS SALVATO: And then they would have used this natural seed. She's speaking, Joe is speaking of, you know, post-World War II.

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JOSEPHINE HAHULA: Yeah. PHYLLIS SALVATO: With her brother Ralph who was -- his vegetable garden was a lot like the Botto layout here, but unbelievable.

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JOSEPHINE HAHULA: And books, he loved books. He loved books and tools. Books and tools.

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PHYLLIS SALVATO: And you too. Tell Evelyn how many books. We can't keep giving you enough books to read.

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JOSEPHINE HAHULA: No. EVELYN HERSHEY: You have a library? JOSEPHINE HAHULA: No.

PHYLLIS SALVATO: How many books do you go through in a week? You used to go through in a week. JOSEPHINE HAHULA: No idea. But now you know why my eyesight is not good at 91. You know one eye is bad anyway, but. PHYLLIS SALVATO: In your heyday though. JOSEPHINE HAHULA: Oh, my heyday. Yeah. PHYLLIS SALVATO: What, about four books a week would you say? JOSEPHINE HAHULA: Yeah. PHYLLIS SALVATO: Maybe more? paid. JOSEPHINE HAHULA: Yeah. Papers. If I don't read my paper today I keep it for tomorrow. Sometime I got three days of paper, but I will still go through them. I don't want to miss anything that happened. EVELYN HERSHEY: And then did everybody at home talk about current events?

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Do you remember any discussions? But you just want to know what's going on.

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JOSEPHINE HAHULA: No, no. Because during the war, the night, I did all the writing to all the boys. I did it for four boys. I did my husband and I did other ones. Their friends.

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I used to do and then we'd send the Christmas. You know, I would make fruitcakes for Christmas and as long as my mother could cut the nuts up, she just loved that. As long as she knew it was going to the boys, you know. And she used to make pizzas and send it to my nephew too when he was in the service.

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Yeah.

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She always, she worked hard.

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My mother worked hard. EVELYN HERSHEY: And they all came home? JOSEPHINE HAHULA: They all came home. Just one brother had a nervous breakdown while he was there, but all the other ones came home, you know.

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PHYLLIS SALVATO: What did Rocco receive recently? JOSEPHINE HAHULA: The French Medal of Honor. French Medal Legion of Honor. My brother just got, you know, was about last year, I think. They had the French ambassador come to West Point and his outfit gave them all these big medals, you know. So.

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Then I have calendars that his daughter-in-law made of all -- you see I saved all the pictures that they used to send me. Well, the one brother anyway and his daughter-in-law took all these pictures and made calendars for, you know, each day with a notation of what happened: if they got Coca Cola; if they got paid; whose birthday was that day. EVELYN HERSHEY: Yeah. A little snapshot of their year. So what kind of reading besides newspapers would you do? Novels?

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JOSEPHINE HAHULA: I do crossword puzzles. That's the first thing I do in the morning. I take it out of the paper. I do my crossword puzzle and if I don't get somewhere, I keep it for the next day and see what I missed. And I read novels. Any, any kind. I read [unintelligible] magazines that my son sends me.

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I read anything.

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That's why I'm so far behind [laughter].

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You know. But it's like what they say, you do what you [sic] gotta do and... I mean, I'm 91, I'm on a lot of medication, but I figure, hey, the doctor gives [it to] me, I'm going to live longer, so I'll take it.

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So. EVELYN HERSHEY: And the secret of longevity, according to your parents or your older family members?

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JOESPHINE HAHULA: I think my parents and I guess my family members too, because my younger sister died in her early 50s, I think. But she got emphysema. She smoked a lot. And none of us smoked. You know, none of us are drunkards in the family.

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But I don't know, I would just go day-by-day.

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EVELYN HERSHEY: You go day-by-day. And hard work. JOSEPHINE HAHULA: Hard work.

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Yeah. EVELYN HERSHEY: I will just go back to the family farm, because I was thinking about Charlie the Horse. [Laughter] I mentioned that sometimes,

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that pigs were slaughtered too. JOSEPHINE HAHULA: They used to buy a pig.

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EVELYN HERSHEY: They would buy it, but not raise the pig. But they would buy the pig. JOSEPHINE HAHULA: No. To buy it. Yeah. And then my mother would make sausage, you know, and she'd render the fat, you know, to have fat to cook [with]. And then after the rendering was done, that skin part, she would cut, you know, would fry it and then she would make bread with it. Put it in bread. Bake bread.

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And that was it. There was nothing wasted. And our neighbor had a cow. She had a cow and then they would get milk from the cow. They had chickens too and she had ducks. This Polish woman had ducks too. And then they would buy all these hard rolls from the bakery, you know. Well, we never got hard rolls, but you know, they say hard rolls but it could be a day old, you know. They would get [them] and then we would go into the cow barn and get these rolls and eat some of these rolls.

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EVELYN HERSHEY: I imagine at your house there were very little like packaged goods that you would buy from a grocery store like boxes of cereal. JOSEPHINE HAHULA: Oh no. EVELYN HERSHEY: You know, jars of tomato sauce. You didn't need that. JOSEPHINE HAHULA: No. My mother.

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The only thing she bought was [sic] spaghettis, but she made other [sic] macaronis at home. EVELYN HERSHEY: She made her own pasta. JOSEPHINE HAHULA: In fact, I still got the board that she used to make [sic] macaronis on. Now, I don't know who made that board for her, but it's a big, big thing, you know. And when she'd make the [sic] raviolis, she get the dough and roll it on this, you know, this broom handle and then have a sheet on the bed and unroll this dough. So, she'd get the other cover, you know. EVELYN HERSHEY: Right at the top layer. JOSEPHINE HAHULA: And then she'd put all the pot-cheese in and then get that top layer and then cut all the [sic] raviolis up and. And, you know, beans in a can. She'd get dried beans and dried peas. Everything was, you know. EVELYN HERSHEY: Did she ever learn to drive a

car? JOSEPHINE HAHULA: No. No. No. In fact, I was the only one out of the girls that drove when I was younger.

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And then when I got married, I figured I had my husband to drive. I didn't drive, so I never drove no more. Then he died. EVELYN HERSHEY: Who taught you to drive? JOSEPHINE HAHULA: My brother did. My oldest brother. And then my older sister got a little annoyed she said because she was older and he didn't teach her [laughter].

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EVELYN HERSHEY: Now, did you ask him to teach you? How did it come that you ended up with the driver's license? JOSEPHINE HAHULA: When I was 17 I guess,

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you know, I just. Yeah.

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EVELYN HERSHEY: How about your father?

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Did he know [how to drive]? JOSEPHINE HAHULA: After that truck incident he didn't drive no more. Once he hit that truck, he went into a tree with that truck, that was it. He drove a horse.

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No, he didn't. No. EVELYN HERSHEY: And then he lost part of his arm. His right arm. JOSEPHINE HAHULA: It was his right arm too. Yeah. EVELYN HERSHEY: Which was disabling I'm sure for him. JOSEPHINE HAHULA: Yeah.

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And then my sister had to alter all his pants like, you know. If there was a zipper he couldn't zip, you know? And she had to put button holes like for, you know.

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EVELYN HERSHEY: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

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JOSEPHINE HAHULA: He loved his grandkids. My oldest son, that was his first, no, that was the second one born. But I lived with them for five years while he was, when I had my first son.

EVELYN HERSHEY: Oh. As a newlywed?

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We [sic] was a newlywed because my husband was in the Army, the Navy at the time.

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And then I lived with my mother until we got rooms. We went back to our old house that the Polish people [owned]. They gave us rooms. And then I had the second boy there too and then then they took the houses to build the school. The town took all the houses to build the school, so we had to [move]. And at that time if you had children, you couldn't, you know, nobody wanted to rent a room to you if you had children.

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So, we finally got this apartment over four stores. There [sic] was two apartments above and we got this apartment. I had the two boys then and I lived there, I think, for 36 years before I moved out. Until I had to come to take care of my brother that had -- my oldest brother that had Alzheimer's. So, my parents were gone at the time and my sister says to me, "I need help." So, I packed this shopping bag with some clothes.

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I left my apartment and I went to stay with them. I paid two years to my apartment, I thought I was going to go back home and then he died and then I couldn't leave her alone. I stayed with her until she died then I gave up the apartment

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after two years. EVELYN HERSHEY: It sounds like you all very easily were there for each other. You helped one another. JOSEPHINE HAHULA: Yeah.

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EVELYN HERSHEY: Which must have been a very special part of your family. That, and that you could support one another. And that,

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you know, physically and emotionally you all were there for one another. JOSEPHINE HAHULA: Yeah, when my younger brother had his wood shop there, when they built that three-car garage for his wood shop, I was there every day helping him. I was doing drill work with a drill-press

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Helping him. I pushed my son in a stroller and then I'd go home for lunch to get my husband's lunch. He would come home for lunch. Give him lunch and then go back again and at 4 o'clock I'd be home getting my supper.

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EVELYN HERSHEY: Wow. That's really pretty remarkable for a woman at that time, [unintelligible] because there are, you know, for that time it wasn't what a lot of women would do, but in your family, it was comfortable. JOSEPHINE HAHULA: I was always over my mother's house even though I moved out, I was there every day. Every day and every weekend. When I moved to the apartment, I was there every day.

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My husband took me there at lunchtime when he went back to work and picked me up at 4 o'clock. He would have supper. We'd have supper, wash the dishes go back to my mother's again and we'd be there till maybe 9 o'clock and go back home again. And weekends, were always there weekends too. I mean, I had in-laws in Pennsylvania. Well, we'd go there occasionally, you know.

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Holidays we would go there and I was always over my mother's all the time. EVELYN HERSHEY: Did you ever have...

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Do you remember vacations? Were there vacation times, long weekend, Memorial Day weekend, Fourth of July?

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JOSEPHINE HAHULA: No. The only time I think... I went maybe to Pennsylvania. My husband was in the service then and my brother would take us. My oldest brother would take us there. We would stay a weekend there and come back home, you know.

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And he was great. My brother was great for taking us to see different, different places.

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He would take us to New York to see the ships, you know. Or he'd take us to Morristown, New Jersey to see where Washington was or take us to Sleepy Hollow. Take us for hot dogs. PHYLLIS SALVATO: Take us swimming. JOSEPHINE HAHULA: He was great.

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EVELYN HERSHEY: What about birthdays? I think, you know, some families, [unintelligible]. Traditions. JOSEPHINE HAHULA: No, no. We didn't celebrate birthdays. EVELYN HERSHEY: You'd just wish one another happy birthday.

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JOSEPHINE HAHULA: You know, there wasn't money like to spend. That was a frill thing to spend for cakes, you know? Yeah. When we graduated grammar school, we had ice cream and a cake and stuff like that, but, you know, that was our treat. You know? Today they have big parties, you know.

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EVELYN HERSHEY: And how, to you, is Bellville different for you?

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JOSEPHINE HAHULA: It's so different from when I... so many houses. Every little spot there is a house. Now we're surrounded by houses, you know, and we were all open then. Everything was open. You know, we had what we called the woods across our street in front of the house. And well we would call it the woods, but there was trees and, you know, vines and everything growing. That's where we used to go for spring water. We had to go for spring water every night. We had to bring two gallons home for my father. He loved his spring water.

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And now they built the big stadium there. They built the high school there and took the houses away, you know. And there's apartments and it's just so built up now. EVELYN HERSHEY: Did people move away?

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Do you find that people who lived there when you lived there, did their children move away?

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JOSEPHINE HAHULA: Oh yeah. They moved away. Everybody there's all neighbors and they don't... Today, the neighbors are not friendly like years ago, you know? But it's a few we have there that helps me out a lot. And the town is getting where there's a lot of Latinos. A lot of Latinos and Indians, a lot of Indians and the Colored, you know. EVELYN HERSHEY: New immigrants. JOSEPHINE HAHULA: They have to live somewhere too, you know? The schools [sic] is mostly Latinos now. The high school is mostly Latinos. And even when my son was teaching, when he started teaching at Belleville High, he said, "Ma," he said, "these kids are not like when I went to school." I said, "I know they're different now." You know? I guess maybe the parents had to work. Two parents had to work and the kids are on their own, you know? EVELYN HERSHEY: Is your son still a teacher? Does your son still teach? JOSEPHINE HAHULA: No, he is retired. EVELYN HERSHEY: He's a retired teacher. JOSEPHINE HAHULA: And my other, younger son who went to Steven's Institute and then he went to New Brunswick -- Rutgers in New Brunswick -- for a while. Then he went down to Georgia State.

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He was going for his doctorate and almost got it.

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I guess he just had to write his thesis when his wife went into hospital and had the second baby and they came home. That was the end of that.

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EVELYN HERSHEY: Well your sons must like books. Maybe they get that from you. JOESPHINE HAHULA: The one. The young one. PHYLLIS SALVATO: Genius. JOSEPHINE HAHULA: [Young] one is a book fiend. Book fiend. PHYLLIS SALVATO: Genius. JOSEPHINE HAHULA: And the older boy is more mechanically inclined with

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everything, you know. PHYLLIS SALVATO: Pretty smart. JOSEPHINE HAHULA: He could do woodwork and anything, you know. Yeah.

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EVELYN HERSHEY: Well you know we really appreciate that we could spend some time today and very happy to have Phyllis Salvato, Milano family member here to add some comments. JOSEPHINE HAHULA: Oh yeah. They were always around. They was always [coming] to the

country. EVELYN HERSHEY: To the country in Belleville. You don't think of Belleville as the country today. So, it's important. JOSEPHINE HAHULA: Everybody had a little farm.

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EVELYN HERSHEY: So many farming families. JOSEPHINE HAHULA: Everybody had a little farm. In fact, we have a florist up the street from us. And the fella, I says, "You know,

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I graduated with your father from grammar school." So. And I says, "And your grandfather, your great-grandfather and my father used to sit on the patio." I says, "And you know, they would have their beer and my mother would make a sandwich and you know." And then I brought the picture from school that we graduated. He was so thrilled to see that picture that he said, "Can I make a copy?" I said, "Yeah,

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make a copy of it." Yeah, it was, you know. But we found fun time. You know, we didn't have everything, but we found something to do to have a good time.

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It's not like today. Today you're so surrounded by houses and everything that nobody bothers one another. You know it's just a different area now.

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EVELYN HERSHEY: Well, we thank you for sharing.

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If there's anything else that you like to add? But I think we had, we got

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a lot of good memories recorded from you this morning and we could always return and you know other things come to mind. But oral history is a snapshot and I think we have a really nice snapshot. So, we can end there unless there's anything else that you feel to add right now. JOSEPHINE HAHULA: Cousin Phyllis, is there anything

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you want to add? PHYLLIS SALVATO: I just think it's just so remarkable that you have these two really extraordinary families. You really did. I mean, the Lardiers (sp) and the Milanos and they each had eight siblings and their lives were just interwoven in the most incredible fashion and produced these incredible people. And they had such a sense of fun and commitment and caring and they really had a great respect for the land and for animals.

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Yeah, they practiced very sane husbandry. I mean, you know, I remember Ralph telling me about how when he was a little boy he was sent off to help at one of the other farms and he was appalled by how cruel. JOSEPHINE HAHULA: Oh, that he was. Yeah, the owner with the horse was so hard. PHYLLIS SALVATO: Was so cruel to the animals. Yes, and you made that observation, which was so brilliant. How well Charlie was cared for because that's the tradition that these people came from.

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A real respect, not only for the land and for animals, but for their children.

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JOSEPHINE HAHULA: And then my three grandchildren: my oldest one is 20, and the other one's 18 and the girl is 11. So, I mean they, you know. PHYLLIS SALVATO: And they still come to the farm. EVELYN HERSHEY: And they still come to the farm.