

# JOAN TOMASELLO AULETTO

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT  
INTERVIEW DATE: OCTOBER 28, 2022



HISTORICAL SOCIETY *of*  
**HAMMONTON**

EST. 1960

**Historical Society of Hammonton Oral History  
Joan Tomasello Auletto**

<b>Date of Interview</b>	<b>October 28, 2022</b>
<b>Interviewer(s)</b>	Janet Hasulak
<b>Interviewee(s)</b>	Joan Tomasello Auletto
<b>Others Present</b>	Deborah White, Historical Society of Hammonton

**It is October 28, 2022, and I am sitting here with Joan Auletto. I am Janet Hasulak, I am recording Joan for the Oral History project for Hammonton's Historical Society.**

**Question: What is your full name, Joan?**

My full name is Joan Tomasello Auletto.

**Question: Can you spell Auletto for me?**

A-u-l-e-t-t-o. My maiden name was Tomasella.

**Question: How old are you?**

I was 79 in September.

**Question: So, your birth date is?**

September 23rd, 1943.

**Question: Where were you born?**

Right here in Hammonton, I was born at the Esposito home, which is on 12th and Washington. There is a garage in the front, right across and catty-corner with Wawa.

**Question: The Wawa that is off of Bellview?**

Yes, on 12th Street.

**Question: I am going to have to take a closer look when I go by.**

Now in front is a garage, but in the back they still had part of the Esposito of which I think is a -

**Question: Is it a maternity home center?**

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I think it was a maternity home but now it is for people who are on welfare that need a home, low income.

**Question: A rooming house of some sort, it sounds like.**

Yes. I guess you would call it that.

**Question: So, you grew up here in Hammonton?**

Yes.

**Question: You were born and raised here as well. Did your parents ever move to any other states or cities?**

No. My father was born in Rosedale, and he had Tomasella's Fire Equipment. And my mother was born in Hammonton on 13th Street.

**Question: They have lived a good part of their life in Hammonton as well.**

Yes.

**Question: You go back generations. Can you describe your surroundings when you were a child? Do you recall the first home that you remember living in?**

The first I remember we lived on was Peach Street and my mother and father rented the house on Peach Street. Then from there, the gentleman, who was selling the house, I don't remember what his name was, that is why my father bought this house. It was close to the Fire House, which in case of a fire, he could run right up the street and that is what he used to do.

**Question: He was a fireman, obviously.**

Yes.

**Question: He could tell some stories about things that happened and rescues.**

Oh, yes. Like I said, I gave a lot of pictures to the Gazette that time. I was cleaning out the drawer and I was making up albums for my great niece and my great nephew, they are my sister's grandchildren. My sister was nine years older than me; it was just the two of us. My mother lost a child between my sister and me.

**Question: What is your sister's name?**

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Marie Mary after both grandmothers, but we used to call her Marie. She had a boy and a girl; the boy was married, and he had a boy and a girl. I was making an album up for them because they only remember my sister, the grandmother. So, I had a lot of pictures and I made duplicates, so each of them had the same book. This way they could see what the grandparents looked like on their father's side, on their mother's side, the family and whatnot. I was looking through the drawer and I saw there was a lot of pictures there that my father had from when he was a fireman. Also, years ago, if you were a fireman, you were also like a policeman, too. They would help one another. I am sorry, when I did a binder of them what I know now, I could have given the Historical Society those pictures.

**Question: As long as they are preserved and let's hope the Gazette is going to utilize them. They do print the one segment where they show the history of Hammonton, they show a picture every week. Maybe at some point in time, they will be utilized there.**

Only one picture that I remember giving them and it was called "The Young Democrat Men's Club." It was like a float around election time and that is the only picture I remember seeing. He had pictures of accidents, where I forget what kind of a truck, a baker's truck, or something, turned over. When a mob was in regime, he had a couple of pictures that was near the cemetery behind the Capella stone, they found a man who was murdered, and they threw lye on him.

**Question: That would help his body decompose, right?**

Yes. Then they had another picture, it was interesting. I thought maybe they could write something, but I don't know if they wanted to write something about it or not. It was history here in town.

**Question: Yes.**

They found another body in the middle of the woods, where it was I have no idea. Again, they threw lye on him.

**Question: Was your father involved in investigating any of that?**

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No. The firemen and the police, because I think then they had the State Troopers come in, I would assume. As far as the town, I don't think the Town police would investigate, it would be more the State police.

**Question: In your house, your girlhood room, maybe the room you would have shared with your sister, do you recall what that looked like?**

Yes.

**Question: It was here? It was this home?**

Yes.

**Question: Wow! You have a lot of memories in this house.**

Yes, I was five years old when I moved here. We moved here in 1947, '48, is when we moved in here. In fact, I had the deed from who they bought the house from. I also have the deed from Primatelli [Phonetic] was the last name. And Primatelli's bought it from Elvin's daughter.

**Question: How old would that make this house, approximately?**

I would say close to 100 years old or more.

**Question: Did you inherit the house?**

Yes, from my mother. In fact, Mrs. Elvin's lived here, and the house next door was her daughter's. The same thing across the street from us. That big house on the corner, which was a Swenson Nursing Home, but it also was a Maternity.

**Question: I have heard a few people say that is where they were born.**

Yes, Swenson Home. Then, after that, Mrs. Swenson turned it into a nursing home. I don't remember off-hand whose house that was, but then the daughter built right across the street. See, the parents had property.

**Question: And the children stayed and built on the property. That sounds like it would be the practical thing to do, plus it was keeping the family together.**

Next to them was Mrs. Miller and her husband used to be an officer at People's Bank because he was a banker.

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**Question: You have seen the neighbors come and go, but many of the families were here for a good long time.**

Yes, for a long time. Now that house was sold after Mrs. Miller died, the Romano's bought it.

**Question: Which house are you speaking about?**

Right across the street and one over.

**Question: I want to put on the recording that you are at 129 Horton Street.**

Right. It is right across the street from 127. Next to her was Mrs. Archetta [Phonetic] who was my teacher in – who was she, 3rd grade?

**Question: What school did you go to?**

Hammonton High.

**Question: The public schools. So, that was your 3rd grade teacher, do you recall any of the names of any of your other teachers?**

My kindergarten teacher was Mrs. Rice and Ms. Miller, and she lived up the street on the other side.

**Question: I live on Valley Avenue, directly across the street from the old Rice House. My good friends, Greg White and Deborah White, Greg is the President of the Historical Society and Deborah is another trustee like myself, and they are directly across the street from me. Interestingly enough, we both retired by about the same time, or the same age and we ended up across the street from each other. Their home, I know as being Mrs. Rice's home.**

That must have been their first house the Rice House, am I correct?

**Question: That I don't know, I think they raised their two daughters there.**

You must live around Mrs. Bruni, the one that her husband had the pizzeria.

**Question: Her, I don't know. Ann Mitchell lives a couple of doors down, Annabelle Mitchell, would you know her? She is 91, I believe.**

Her mother and my mother worked together in shop.

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**Question: A lovely lady, she is a sweetheart, I wish I could see more of her. I see her at the Canoe Club frequently. She goes there and still plays Pinochle two days a week.**

This is delicious.

**Question: I am glad you like it.**

Mrs. Rice and Ms. Miller lived up the street, they were my kindergarten teachers. 1st grade, I had a Mrs. D' Agostina [Phonetic], who lived on the Pike next to the Reneer's [Phonetic] down the road. In fact, our house is gone and that is part of – was a Basin Road now. She was my 1st grade teacher. My 2nd grade teacher was also Ms. D' Agostina, she was an elderly woman and she lived on Bellevue Avenue.

**Question: Did many school teachers stay and work their whole career? Did you find that they were there most of your life?**

Yes. In 3rd grade was Mrs. Archetta [Phonetic], who became a principal after Ms. Coe retired. Ms. Coe, I remember her, she was a character. Do you know where Carnesale's Funeral Parlor is?

**Question: Yes.**

Next door was Mrs. Dorn [Phonetic], which was Mrs. Coe's sister. The house on the corner of 3rd and Grape was the Coe House and I think the father was a doctor. Ms. Coe was also a schoolteacher, and I also had her sister, Mrs. Dorn back in 8th grade. Then we go to 5th grade, I had Mrs. [0:16:14.5 inaudible]. In 6th grade we started to change rooms for different classes. I had a Mrs. Maloney, and she was a sweetheart, I loved her she taught us history. She was teaching us Egyptian history.

**Question: That is an unusual avenue to take with grade school children.**

She showed us some hieroglyphics and what they meant.

**Question: Did that spark your interest in that sort of thing?**

Oh, yes. I told my mom, "I want to be an archaeologist." She said, "Yeah, okay."

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**Question: She did not squash your dreams, which is good.**

Ms. Eddy, God bless Ms. Eddy, she was a character. She was our penmanship teacher.

**Question: Of all of your teachers, which would you say influenced you the most?**

I think Mrs. Maloney. Mrs. [Inaudible 0:17:21.3] she was not, she was one of my 8th grade teachers, she was tough. She was tough.

**Question: Sometimes those are the teachers that you learn the most from.**

Yes.

**Question: You might not be liking it at the time, but they instill a discipline in you.**

Yes. Mrs. Maloney, in the morning they had a farm, she used to do some plowing in the morning and then come to school.

**Question: She was a hardworking woman.**

Yes.

**Question: Who were your friends? Did you have best friends from that time in your life?**

Yes. One of my best friends, God bless her. Her name was Marie Casenzo [Phonetic].

**Question: Do you keep in touch?**

Oh, yes. I was her Maid of Honor when her and Mikey Palmieri. They had the Farmer's Daughter down on the Pike. I was a Godchild to their first child, Michelle, who passed away not too long ago, God bless her soul. She was a sickly baby when she was born. She had a kidney problem, and then they had to remove one little kidney from her.

**Question: She must have died fairly young.**



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Yes. My other girlfriend was Suzy Vaccarella, and I lost her a couple of years ago. She had a stroke; God bless her soul. Diane Donatelli was another girlfriend of mine. In fact, her daughter – do you know about politics?

**Question: A little, I am getting a little more ingrained in it. I know the DiDonato's, and I am beginning to learn more.**

Diane Donatelli, who is Diane Fitzpatrick, who her daughter is Kellyanne Conway.

**Question: Yes, of course.**

She calls us Aunt Joan and Uncle Rocky because I knew those kids when she was poor, she is a good kid.

**Question: Kellyanne Conway, you are speaking of?**

Yes.

**Question: There are a lot of people in town who knew her, or their children went to school with her, there is some connection. Did she come and speak here or she was the Grand Marshall of a parade?**

A couple of years ago at the Halloween Parade, Diane had her – Catholic School here, she graduates, she is alumni. In fact, not too long ago, when they had their first fund raising up the line someplace, we were supposed to go that night, but my husband did not feel good, so we did not go. In fact, Kellyanne was here not too long ago this summer with her book.

**Question: To promote the book. I think I remember seeing that in the Gazette. Yes, that was quite an affair. I have never seen her in person, I only know of her TV persona.**

Here she is with her aunt and uncle.

**Question: Oh, look at this, oh, my gosh. She is a pretty woman, too. She is very bright, very articulate. Did she have a Law degree? She is brilliant.**

She was in Washington. She started out working with Jack Kemp, he passed away.

**Question: That name sounds familiar.**

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He was in politics and that is how she got into the world. The last year she was to graduate, she was like a Rhode scholar and she went to London.

**Question: Amazing. She is a brilliant woman, and she has gone very far with it.**

Yes, she is. Then she came back and started her polling company in Washington. Next thing you know she married George.

**Question: How is she related to you? She calls you "aunt and uncle", but you are not blood related.**

Her mother and I went to school together, we were best of friends since we were kids. Then she married, she's got four kids, twins, a boy and a girl, and then two little girls.

**Question: Another amazing hardworking lady to have a family like that and still keep up with her professional life. No easy task even in this day and age with so many woman working. So, those were some of your close friends. When did you and Rocco marry? How old were you when you got married? Were you a young bride?**

No. I had no intentions of getting married.

**Question: You had no interest in it?**

No.

**Question: What were you going to do with your life?**

I had a lot of boyfriends. Really, I started out as a hairdresser, I worked down the shore at Margate. My boss was going to sell the store and I really wanted to buy it. My mother says, "Well, that means you are going to be living down there and what am I going to do? I am by myself." See, my mother and my father broke up, they were divorced but they were not divorced yet. Like I said, my father had the eye for the women.

**Question: That can cause problems in any marriage. Did you feel a strong obligation to stay close to your mother?**

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Yes, because I was the baby. mM sister was married and had two children and two grandchildren.

**Question: So, she was busy with a life of her own.**

Right. Nobody was here to take care of my mom. My mother talked me out of it. After he sold the shop that is when I got the job down at the hospital. I loved bookkeeping and I got a job in the accounting department down in the hospital. I was there for almost 35 years.

**Question: That is a long career in one place and that allowed you to stay right here in town, with relatives and your old friends.**

Yes. On the side, I would help out my Aunt Nancy's sister-in-law, Loretta, who had a beauty shop on Egg Harbor Road.

**Question: What was their last name?**

Neil. She was a Falcone. Loretta Falcone married Charlie Neil and she had a beauty shop on Egg Harbor Road. When she got stuck or for holidays or a Fair -

**Question: You could still cut hair so you could step in.**

Yes. So, in that way I could keep my hands in it, and I would help her on weekends. She passed away.

**Question: That had to be a big help to her.**

Yes, I like to think so.

**Question: How did you meet Rocco?**

Through his sister-in-law Lucy, who was a Bavaro. She married Rocky's brother, Danny Auletto, who had the Quality Cleaners right next to Town Hall. In fact, they just pulled it down and now it is a parking lot.

**Question: What was the name of the business again?**

Quality Laundry on Vine Street.

**Question: Vine is an odd street; it does not go clear through if you look at a map.**

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It goes from Egg Harbor Road down to Central Avenue. He had the laundry there and she married Rocky's brother, Danny.

**Question: You knew her, and she then introduced you to Rocky?**

Yes. We were at a wedding, in fact, our neighbor's son got married and we were invited, and I brought the neighborhood, the whole Brooks next door and I brought Mr. and Mrs. Rubba with us, and my mother and me. The reception was at Smithfield and Lucy was invited because she was friendly with the bride's mother. My brother-in-law Danny was away on retreat with the Catholic Church, so Rocky escorted Lucy and that is how I met him. I could care less.

**Question: It wasn't love at first sight? You had a life, and it sounds like you were very busy with your family.**

He was a nice fellow, and Lucy and my mother, they got together. My mother said, "Oh, he's a nice guy." I said, "Good, you go out with him."

**Question: You were not sold; it was not an easy sell it sounds like.**

I was 44.

**Question: You were older, and you already had a good life and was independent.**

I went where I wanted to go, I did what I wanted to do. I had nobody to tell me yes or no.

**Question: Yes. That is an adjustment to having somebody to answer to.**

As far as having my share of boyfriends, I had my share of boyfriends. I was like my girlfriend Suzy. You got out with them once or twice and that was enough.

**Question: You never had children?**

No, I never had children. I had my niece and my nephew. My mother and I raised my niece and my nephew, my sister's kids, because my sister worked in the shop, my brother-in-law worked on the bridge.

**Question: You helped to enjoy them and be an influence.**

My mother and I was full of them.

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**Question: That's what grandma's and aunts do.**

Yes. The wedding was on a Saturday, Lucy called my mother on a Monday, and she says, "Keep Joan off the phone because he's going to call her." He was interested, I was not.

**Question: This was quite a setup.**

Yes, it was. He called and I was surprised, and he asked me out for dinner. He was coming in because he was the Director of Operations for Tom Brock Corporation from Connecticut, they had restaurants. In fact, White Tower restaurants, I do not know if you have heard of them.

**Question: Yes, that sounds familiar.**

That is where he started out when in Camden, as a guest in the commissary, and dishwasher, jack of all trades, master of none and he worked himself up. As we went out, in fact, we went up to Graziano's in Berlin in Chesilhurst.

**Question: I remember that restaurant. It is still there; I have been there a couple of times.**

Yes, it is still there. I said if I have to make a getaway, Diane's right across the street, so I was not worried.

**Question: You had a backdoor exit or plan.**

I always did.

**Question: You were a smart woman, and you still are.**

We had a nice dinner, came home. We had coffee up there and I put coffee on, and we talked and talked and talked. Next thing I know the sun was coming up.

**Question: You really hit it off with your personalities, more than you anticipated.**

Yes. We closed the place up there, came home, and the sun was coming up before we realized it.

**Question: How long before you then got married?**

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Let's see, about three years later.

**Question: How long have you been married now?**

It was 35 years in October, the day before his birthday.

**Question: Then he can never forget the anniversary date.**

Yes.

**Question: Where did you say that Rocco was from?**

He was from Camden and born there.

**Question: You were 44, how old was he when you married?**

He was 48.

**Question: Did you get married in a church or what kind of wedding did you have?**

No. We married at the Savoy Inn in Vineland. He is four years older than me; I do not know why I say he is six years older, no, he is four.

**Question: What did you do for dating? What type of things did you do for entertainment when you dated?**

He used to come up here from Maryland because that is where he used to live at in Maryland. He used to come up here on weekends, and stay with Lucy and Danny and then we would go out to dinner, and Lucy and Danny may have come with us. Or we may have gone out with Marie and Mikey Palmeri. Mikey and my husband, they used to play cards at Mikey's Farmer Market on the Pike.

Sometimes when we would go out to dinner, we always used to head down to the casino, the men liked to go. I remember at the Marina there used to be a balcony up there and it had an ice cream parlor up there and chairs and seats, or whatever, you could look down over the casino floor. We would be up there, and the men would be down there on the floor. We would sit and we would talk. We used to go to Lancaster one weekend. No, we were not married at the time, we went there when we got married, then we used to go out even more.

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**Question: Backtracking a little bit before you met Rocco, when you were a teenager, what was the thing to do in town? Was there a popular place to go or a popular way to get entertainment when you were in high school or college?**

The movies were still open, so we used to go to the movies on Friday night.

**Question: Wouldn't it be nice to have another theater back in town?**

We had two theaters at that time.

**Question: I don't know what happened, I guess these big complexes took the business away. It would be a delight to have something like that back in town.**

The old paint building right here on the corner across from Bellevue Drugs, that was the Remele Theater. The other theater I remember was uptown and it was around in-between one of the stores there now it is Raymond and Hankin building, it used to be First Federal. Before that it used to be the Colonial, I think it was called. I remember I would go with mom on a Saturday night, they would give out dishes.

**Question: You bought a ticket, and you could collect a set.**

Yes.

**Question: I remember supermarkets doing that. They were cheap like .99 or something or maybe they were free. I don't remember because I was a girl, but I remember my mother being excited about that.**

They used to give out dishes up there at the Colonial, I think it was called. Both of them were open, the Remele, and I remember when Saturday night, mom loved to go to the movies. Even though I was there before I was a teenager, we used to go on Saturday afternoons, and I would see the picture on Saturday afternoon and then my mother would take me back up Saturday night.

**Question: You were a good loyal customer for sure. I wonder what prompted the business decision to have them go out of business. I would like to know that. Wouldn't you think we had enough population to keep a movie house in business? I have talked to a few people that have fond memories of the movie**

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**houses. I do not know what happened, I am going to have to look into that a little bit more.**

Yes, they really were popular. Yes, because right next door was Wicker's Bakery.

**Question: How has Hammonton changed since you were younger? You have seen a lot of businesses come and go.**

Yes. We used to have a lot of stores in town.

**Question: Somebody told me that there was a Sears downtown or a Sears catalog place.**

Sears was right on the corner of Bellevue and 2nd Street. You go through town, and you do not realize anymore if they changed the windows, it used to be blueberries, a picture of blueberries.

**Question: Yes, it looked vacant, and it looked like they just put something in the window, I know what you mean.**

I think that used to be owned by Wicker's Bakery, the father.

**Question: Is that the same Wicker's that owned the pizza place?**

Yes, his son. The father used to be a baker and some of the sons took over after the father passed away. Then they went out of business, then they come back into business. I don't know, I am surprised that the mother allowed it, but I guess as long as they kept the mother -

**Question: They kept things afloat but not easily it sounds.**

Yes. Sometimes they would close, and they would close for a year or so. Then next thing you know they would reopen. Now they have reopened again, and they have modernized it.

**Question: It is a little strange to run a business that way because of lack of consistency, you lose customers when that happens. People move on or find another place to do business.**

Their bakery was pretty good. The Ideal Bakery was the best.



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**Question: Do you have any particular memories when you were young of where you played? You mentioned the movie theater, but can you think of any other things.**

When we were in high school there used to be Augie's right there where the Bellevue Drug was, there was another little store there.

**Question: It was called "Augie's".**

Augie Valentino, he passed away, a nice man. We used to go there after school. Then after he closed around on Central Avenue there used to be called "The Gym" when we were in high school, and we used to go there.

**Question: What kind of a store was that?**

It was a restaurant, we used to have lunch. School was right there, and we would walk over right near the corner and grab something to eat, go back to school. After school, we would go there. Weekends, you would go there, even after exams, you would go there. That was a teenage hangout, and it was nice.

**Question: Sounds like it was a fun place.**

Yes. Sometimes you would go down at the bowling alley. Then they had a skating rink on the Pike.

**Question: The bowling alley would have been DiDonato's Bowling Alley?**

Yes, both the uncle and the father had it.

**Question: I met the one uncle, Tip. He was a nice man.**

He is still around. I am bad on names.

**Question: I do remember him talking about opening the business with his brother, who has since passed away. They said his name, but I cannot remember it off the top of my head either.**

Down the Pike there used to be the skating rink, they opened up a skating rink. All these brothers, what was his name? He used to be a manager and then on weekends they would have dances down there, and we would go down there.

**Question: Nice activities for the teenagers.**

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Yes.

**Question: I wish we would see more of that. In the neighborhood where I came from, the Church used to have CYO dances, Christian Youth Organization dances. It would simply be the Church Hall; somebody would play records and you would have a little dance.**

Yes. When I was in high school, a couple of times they had what they called "The Teenage Center" and Mrs. Risley used to run it and Saturday night we would go there, that would be one.

**Question: Just a place for the young people to hang and do things safely but with some supervision, which would be nice to see.**

Yes. On Sundays I think once in a while in the summer time, St. Joe in their gym would have a dance on Sunday nights. Then Mary's Antiques an antique store on 2nd and Bellevue, that corner. That used to be Presses Department Store at one time. He rented the upstairs, it used to be called "The Boys Club" where they would teach the boys how to box, then they would have dances on Friday or Saturday night.

**Question: I think constructive things like that would help with the drug problem that we see nowadays. Give the kids something to do, something to work towards. You could still have drug issues and the kids sneaking alcohol too, but with some supervision it would give them more constructive things to be doing.**

If they want to do it.

**Question: That is tough, I know even with my own grandchildren. I was jokingly but not jokingly saying that when I'm on my deathbed my grandson's going to come in and say, "Oh, you're using that plug? I need to charge my phone," and he's going to pull the plug and plug in his phone. You cannot get their attention and it is frustrating.**

No. You cannot hold a conversation.

**Question: You are right, that is a skill, it is a people skill. Usually, you will learn by the time you graduate high school, and it helps you get a job, it helps you impress your girlfriend's parents or whatever. You need to know how to**

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**converse and tell people about yourself, have a little talk like we are having right here. They miss out on that.**

It is a shame; it really is a shame.

**Question: They are missing a special connection that they do not even know they are missing. That is what is sad about it.**

That is it. I tell my girlfriend Marie, Mikey passed away and she had three daughters, and she has two daughters now, but she did teach them the old ways. How many kids today, how many parents – I blame my generation, teach their kids Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, traditions.

**Question: Yes, and keeping that tradition.**

So, kids know that.

**Question: Everything is more haphazard.**

Yes.

**Question: Why do you think that is?**

Good question.

**Question: Do you think it was because of working mothers?**

My mother worked but we always had tradition, Easter, birthdays, you know.

**Question: Maybe it is the use of electronics, the computers, the phones, and all that. I am guilty myself; I am on Facebook twice a day and sometimes I feel it is such a time robber.**

Yes. Like I tell Marie, we all were raised the same way. All the families, rich or poor, we were all raised the same way. If you wanted something, you had to work for it. Today, no, "Oh, mom, dad, I need a car." "Here's the money, go buy one." "I need this." "Here's the money, go buy it."

**Question: I hear what you are saying and I see it as well.**

They act like it is a bother to raise your kids. I don't know Janet; I feel sorry for these kids.

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**Question:** I don't see an emphasis put on the importance of the cohesiveness of the family. Even just to have dinner together every night or one meal together, it could be breakfast. Maybe it could be breakfast where everybody comes together and talks about their day. You know what, maybe it is not even going to be pleasant, there may be a bickering amongst the brothers and sisters or something like that, but just coming together to at least have a connection. You do not see that so much.

Right. On Sundays, I remember we would go down to my grandmothers, my mom's mom. Then after my grandmother passed away, we went down to my sister's, my mother would make the gravy. She would make the meatballs, here are the pots, we would take down there. My sister would make the macaroni.

**Question:** Those are nice memories.

To be honest with you, daddy, my father, usually cooked dinner. He used to work at Whitehall. He also had a couple of jobs, he worked at Whitehall and then he worked for a cleaning company.

**Question:** That's a photograph of the Whitehall Pharmacy up there.

Yes.

**Question:** Where are their memories? I will tell you what I have personally experienced, but this isn't about me, so they can delete this part of it. [0:49:49.0 - 0:51:26.5]. Is there a news event that stands out in your life that impressed you, that you will always remember in some way?

Tragedy?

**Question:** Any kind of news event. You mentioned the incident that happened to the Kern Family that a lot of people in town remember, the auto accident that Don Kern and his wife were in. Anything major like a national news event that impressed or influenced you?

There was a Messina boy who killed his mother and dumped her in the lake.

**Question:** He was a local boy that you knew?

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Yes. He was in the service, and they blamed Agent Orange on it. Of course, his mother was a real witch. She had a drug store where the Mexican restaurant is on the corner by the railroad tracks. Mary's Restaurant was Strester's [Phonetic] store. In-between there, there was another store, and the mother had a dress store, and she was a sister to Arlene Strester [Phonetic].

**Question: Arlene's I have heard of. We have a cool box from Arlene's, but it is old. We have that on display at the Historical Society. You will have to come down one day and see some of our displays.**

I would love to.

**Question: Deb and Greg have done a very nice job with the displays; it is something to see.**

That little store, that little house would hold so much because that used to be the old library. Then it was a kindergarten, because my nephew went there.

**Question: Mrs. Rice taught out of that building. We have people come in and say, "I went to Kindergarten here, Ms. Rice was my teacher." They will share the memories.**

It was small. I look down there and I see, yes.

**Question: The Town Hall, the Library, and the Kindergarten were the main things it was used for.**

Yes. Town Hall was there.

**Question: What was this lady's name that you said had the dress shop and then was murdered by her son?**

Messina. Her maiden name was Lemmings. She had one dress store and her sister had Arlene's, which was a little better dress store. They both were nice dress stores.

**Question: Did people shop in town back then?**

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Yes. We had a men's store. Across the street the coffee shop, which was another little dress store. Next to that was Rice's Hardware, they had some nice things there.

**Question: That was Mrs. Rice's husband's store.**

Yes.

**Question: Was his name Tooty or Tolly?**

Tooty. His mother lived upstairs, it was her store, too. He had a sister; I think once in a while used to come and stay with the mother. We had some nice stores in town. A nice men's store. Anyway, the two sisters had dress stores, but from what I understand, she used to be in the WACs.

**So, she was kind of hard or stern.**

Very hard. She only had just the one son.

**Question: Apparently, there was no love lost there, he murdered her.**

No. He had to come home from school, come in the house, lock the door and nobody was allowed to come in. I don't even know if he was allowed to have any friends.

**Question: That is very isolating for a kid.**

Yes, very much so. She was a fruity and she was a pushy lady, too. I liked to go in her store because she had some nice things, but she was always pushing. If you did not buy, she would put that face on.

**Question: Not the way to win customers, which is for sure. That was a new story I did not expect to hear, but I am thrilled to hear one that was local. You gave me some names and some interesting things to maybe research a little bit. This sounds a little bit bizarre, but we have one member of the Historical Society who is really fascinated with any local crimes like that. She will read up on them and find out more details. We call her "Nancy Drew" because she likes to get to the bottom of these mysteries. Tell me about your mom, what was your mom's maiden name?**

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Capella.

**Question: She was a Capella, and her first name was?**

Mildred.

**Question: Mildred Capella Tomasella. Where was she born?**

She was born here in Hammonton on 13th Street.

**Question: She grew up here then?**

Yes.

**Question: What did your mom look like? How would you describe her.**

This is my mom, this is my Aunt Nancy, this is my Uncle John, which is Jeanie's father.

**Question: That's Jeanie's dad right there.**

Yes.

**Question: When did your mom pass? How long has she been gone?**

2008, Christmas Eve morning.

**Question: That is hard when it is a holiday like that.**

Her mother, my grandmother, passed the 22nd of December 1964. My Uncle Joe, which is my Aunt Nancy's husband, he died December 23rd, 1996. Yes, I think it was '96, because my husband was down at the hospital, I think he had his gall bladder taken out. I was taking him home that morning and Uncle Joe was around the corner, the hospital, he was in there. I went to see him, but I thought he was sleeping, so I didn't bother him. I went back to my husband's room, and I said, "Uncle Joe was sleeping, so I don't want to wake him." He said, "Okay. I'm going to go around and tell him goodbye." So, he went around and I finished packing him up, he came back and says, "Joan, he wasn't sleeping, he's gone."

**Question: That was unexpected.**

No, not really.

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**Question: Had he been frail and having trouble?**

Yes. So, I said, "Well, God bless his soul, he went peaceful."

**Question: That is a blessing in itself.**

Yes. My mother was the 24th, so 22, 23, and 24.

**Question: December has to be a difficult month, of course, I know the memories come back. Do you stay in touch with aunts and uncles still living?**

They are all cousins left.

**Question: Do you have many right here in town that you are in touch with?**

Yes. My Aunt Nancy's daughter, Marie, she lives here. Her son lives in Philly. In fact, they are coming down Saturday with him and his wife. They just came back from Italy.

**Question: What is their last name?**

Falcone. We are going to have lunch with the cousins. Once in a while, we used to get together, the cousins. We have not done it in a while, you cannot please everybody all the time. All you need is one who does not like the restaurant, so, okay, fine, you pick it out. And that was the end of that. Jeanie is here in town and her sister, Marion, they live up on 2nd Street, Sisotto [Phonetic], is their last name. The other brother, Uncle Anthony, he passed, and he had a son and a daughter. His son lives in Vineland and so does Joey and his sister Marie live in Vineland. But Marie used to live down in Norfolk, Virginia because she married a Navy man.

**Question: I was just going to ask what took her down there? Yes, Norfolk is a big port. My father lived in Portsmouth, and he worked on the boats, he was a Merchant Marine at the end of his career. I am a little familiar with that area, yes, that is a big Navy area.**

Yes.

**Question: What about your mother's ancestors? Who was it that came over from the old country?**



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That is a funny story, that one. My grandmother came over with her sister. We used to call her "Aunt Sumalina [Phonetic]". She was married and she had her daughter, Nina and my grandmother came over with her and her sister.

**Question: And your grandmother's name was?**

Maria Miano [Phonetic]. My grandmother's boyfriend was here already in the United States, and she thought she was going to step off the boat and see him. She got a big surprise. My mother's Aunt Sumalina, her husband was already here, and he was friendly with my grandmother, they were all foreigners, they worked together.

**Question: Were they all settled in Hammonton?**

They were all in Hammonton. They come to America and my mother's Aunt had her husband and a baby. My grandmother, I don't know what happened there.

**Question: She was a single lady, not even engaged, just a boyfriend so not really a solid promise.**

She thought she was going to meet him. Well, he was here, but do you know where he was? I don't know. They told her she could not get off the boat, she would have to go back unless she got married.

**Question: Who was telling her that?**

My grandfather and her brother-in-law.

**Question: They wanted to be sure she was with somebody who would take care of her, that is what that was all about.**

Yes, and my mother's Uncle and Sumalina's husband. She did not want to go back, the next thing you know, her and my grandfather got married.

**Question: That was a marriage of convenience do you think at first? Your grandfather was not the boyfriend though.**

No. They got married and he provided for her, God bless. She had my Uncle John who was the oldest and my Uncle Anthony and then my mom. In-between my

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mom and my Aunt Nancy, my grandmother lost a baby, another girl. They had a farm; they worked the farm.

**Question: What did they grow?**

One day, my Uncle was driving the wagon and the crates were shifting, so my grandfather got in the back and tried to fix it. He lost his balance and he fell over on the wagon and he broke his back on the wheel. He lingered a couple of weeks and then he passed. His sister was already here, she married, and her last name was Olive. Her husband told my grandmother that he would take my grandmother and the two boys, because the two boys would work the farm. But my mother and my aunt had to go to an orphanage, my grandmother did not like that. She cried and cried and cried and cried.

**Question: Who was it that was saying that to your grandmother?**

My grandfather. My mother's father. She would not have none of that. Plus, the fact my mother's uncle Olive was the last name, he told my grandmother that my grandfather owed him money from the farm. My grandmother said, "Oh no, he paid you." He owed, I don't know, \$50 and he banged on the table, and he said, "Like 50 angels, okay." My grandmother was so upset because here the daughters were supposed to go to the orphanage, the two sons and her were going to go and live with the sister-in-law and the brother-in-law. The Godfather Mr. Repici came down the street and he said, "Are you looking for something?" She says, "Yes." He said, "Are you looking for a bill that Joe paid?" My grandmother said, "Yes." He said, "I had a dream of him" it gives me chills, "I had a dream he came to me last night and he said for you to look in his jacket pocket." She went upstairs, she looked in the closet, pulled out the paid bill.

**Question: It was proof that, that guy had been paid.**

Yes. I remember my mom and my aunt – how many times they told that story.

**Question: That was divine guidance, it had to be.**

What happened after that, she told Mr. Repici what her brother-in-law Mr. Olive wanted to do. The old saying with the old people the married match-up.

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**Question: They would match people up saying this is going to be good for the family, this is going to be good for you. The young people complied a lot of the times, they did not have a whole lot of choices.**

The lady next door said she knew a gentleman who was not married, lived in Berlin.

**Question: Not too far away.**

Brought him down and he is a good worker, he is a strong worker. He could work the farm for you, take care of your kids. That is what she needed, she needed somebody to help her on the farm. The two boys, they were young, my mother was nine years old when their father died.

**Question: She was very young.**

Yes. My Aunt Nancy was three.

**Question: Your poor grandmother, she was left high and dry with this big farm, the two boys not knowing what to do. That would have been impossible for a woman at any point in time.**

They matched my grandmother up with my mother's stepfather. I always knew him as Grandpop Benevento [Phonetic] was his last name from Berlin.

**Question: Did she have any other children with Mr. Benevento?**

No. He liked to drink, and he was in World War I and I guess they used to gas them [Inaudible 1:12:04.9]. He was a character.

**Question: Do you have nice memories of him?**

Yes. In the winter time, when there was nothing to do, he used to go to town and forget to come home. I remember one time; he came home drunk. She got out the frying pan, oh, she gave him a couple of shots. My Aunt Nancy and my Uncle Joe they lived with her when they got married. They used to call him "soldier", my Uncle Joe told him, "When you come home" because he got the bicycle and he used to ride to town, he said, "watch" because they were having to fix the pipes of the cesspool "be careful because there is a hole there." He came home one night, and he fell right in the hole.

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**Question: Is that where your mom found him, in the hole?**

No, my uncle found him. He heard this big bang and here was him. But God bless him, he got hit in the head.

**Question: There is a special guardian angel for people who drink too much.**

I will tell you another funny story when he passed away, he always said that they would never put him in the ground. The morning, Carnesale, when we brought him to the cemetery what happened was that the outside casket was not delivered because the truck broke down.

**Question: And his funeral was planned for that day. So, then what?**

Yes. We were at the cemetery when we went there the casket should have been there.

**Question: How did they handle that?**

They had to wait for the truck to come. He said it is going to be a while.

**Question: They had to postpone everything.**

We sat there and we laughed. Pete Carnesale thought we were nuts.

**Question: He always said that, it is almost like he was resisting. Somehow there was divine intervention of him resisting being put in the ground.**

Oh, he was a character. He always used to say that when my cousin Joey, my Aunt Nancy's boy, when he retires, the two of them are going to sit underneath the tree. And you know what? He almost made it ,because he died when he was in his 90s, yes.

**Question: God bless him, he lived a good long life, and it sounds like it was very adventurous, as well.**

He was well-pickled, preserved.

**Question: There might be something to it, I don't know. I am trying to think if there are any other good questions on your mom. You mentioned your mother had died, was she in bad health for very long or what did she die from?**

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God bless her soul, my mom had arthritis, she had osteoporosis, and I guess she had a little heart murmur. When my uncle passed away, my aunt was by herself. My aunt got sick, and she was in the hospital. So, the two sisters had not seen one another for a couple of months. Christmas Eve, and we used to go down my cousin Maria's, her daughter's place and have Christmas Eve and Christmas Day there. I told my mom I says, "Look, you have not seen Aunt Nancy for a couple of months, I know you're sisters," because they were close. I said, "I'll tell you what, we will take you to Aunt Nancy's. I know you and Aunt Nancy are going to come down to Maria's because Maria is right down the street." I said, "We'll bring your food up here and then you stay overnight for Christmas, and we will just bring the food up for you. That way they will be able to come up to see you and eat with you. You will not be able to come down." She stayed there for a couple of years; she would not move out. We wanted to remodel the inside right before my sister passed away, and she would not have nothing to do with it. She says, "I can't stand the upset."

**Question: Yes, any kind of renovation makes for a turmoil when you have to live with it.**

She would never want to leave. "Hey, why don't you go stay with your sister while we do it." "Nope, I'm not leaving this house."

**Question: She felt strongly about it.**

Oh yes. She was willing to go and stay overnight with her sister, when my uncle was not there anymore and I think that is why she felt a little self-conscious, because my uncle was there, a man in the house.

**Question: She just did not feel quite comfortable.**

Yes. She was there for a couple of years, which was great for us because then my husband loved to travel, and I loved to travel.

**Question: She did not live with you in this house, or she did after that?**

Oh, yes. When we would go away, either Maria would come over or one of the grandchildren would come over so that she was not alone. Or my aunt and my

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uncle would come. She was always well-taken care of, and we did not have to worry about her.

**Question: It sounds like you were a family that took care of each other.**

Yes.

**Question: That is a pleasure to hear about.**

Then at the end, right after I retired, we went away. She wanted to know if she was with Aunt Nancy and Nancy said she would not move. She said she would go from the bedroom to the table sometimes. Sometimes she had to bring her, her food, she would not move, she was afraid of walking.

**Question: Maybe she was afraid of falling, maybe she did not feel strong. I have seen that happen with older people. Then their mobility gets more and more limited, unfortunately. It is a Catch 22 situation; you have probably seen that with friends. You do not feel that well enough and strong enough to move, and then the less you move, the less you are able to move. It really is a Catch 22.**

So, when we came back from that vacation, I said, "Okay, mom, I think it is time you come home." Now, she says, "I cannot leave my sister." I said, "Don't worry about Nancy, Nancy will come to Horton Street." I called her doctor and I said, "Dr. Bertinelli, I would like to have," her bed was still here, I said, "I would like a table that if I want to feed her in her room there." He said, "Joanie, why don't I order a hospital bed." I said, "Well, that would mean I would have to take her bed out."

**Question: Did you go ahead and do that?**

Yes. We got the hospital bed; we got the table that she could eat on. She had the Hoyer lift because it got to the point that when she got out of the bed to go to the bathroom, even though I had to come over there, she fell. "Okay, mom, no more getting out. I want you out to go sit in the chair." And that was the Hoyer lift that we would put her in the chair, and we had a TV up there. In fact, we remodeled her room.

**Question: She was a lucky lady to have such wonderful love and care from her family.**

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We felt we did the best we could. She had her TV up there, she had her phone up there, she had the bed. He even brought in hospice. I said, "But that is the end."

**Question: Were they any help to you?**

Yes, they were. I said, "Doc, she is not ready to go."

**Question: I am a big advocate of hospice. A lot of people feel that way that it means it is the very end. You get a lot more benefits through Medicare for one thing if you just sign up for hospice. You get a lot more attention, you get visiting nurses, which makes things easier for the family. They help you get all your ducks in a row. Sometimes it is such an emotional issue for the family, it is difficult to think things through, as far as the patient's end of life decision. My experience with hospice has been wonderful.**

He said, "No, that is a different hospice," he told me. We had a visiting nurse, a lady used to come in every day and wash her, Monday to Friday. Weekends, but at night, I had a girl that used to take care of both of them, when they were over at Aunt Nancy's.

**Question: Who was both of them?**

My aunt and my mother. Her name was Tina. I would have Tina come in at night and help me refresh her and prop up her bed and put her to bed. On the weekends, Tina did a favor for me, God bless her, she would come in Saturday morning, Saturday night, Sunday morning, Sunday night. She would refresh her and help me.

**Question: It sounds like she was very devoted to your mother and your family.**

Oh, she loved my mother and she loved my aunt.

**Question: Did your mother talk about how she and your father fell in love? Did she talk about their dating experiences.**

My mother was 14 when she met my father. They were married, I guess, right before my mother was 15.

**Question: She was a married woman her whole adult life.**

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Yes.

**Question: That is what was done back in the day. Was she a good cook?**

My mother was a very plain cook, but it was delicious. Whatever she cooked was delicious, yes.

**Question: What was your favorite meal that she made?**

Her fried potatoes and eggs. Fried potatoes on Friday where you could not eat meat on Friday. She would have some gravy left over and she would warm up the gravy and break an egg in it, egg, and tomato.

**Question: It is good?**

Yes.

**Question: I have eaten ketchup on scrambled eggs, but I have never had it quite that way.**

Yes. It was a poached egg with the gravy.

**Question: I eat those, and I guess if I am eating ketchup on the egg, I am going to like the taste.**

Yes. Then she made Italian bread, you would cut the hole out of the Italian bread and put it in the frying pan and put an egg in there, that was good.

**Question: It sounds yummy, I am working up an appetite for dinner there. Did she have any other hobbies?**

She worked in a shop, and I wanted to learn how to sew. I learned a little bit of sewing when I was in school. When you do not have enough money to buy outfits or clothes.

**Question: You usually learn how to sew.**

I would cut, she would be right behind me, and I wanted to sew but she never. I said, "Mom, I want to learn how to sew, I don't want you to sew."

**Question: She did it for you?**

Oh, yes. I said, "You're not letting me do it."



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**Question: She wanted to take care of you that way.**

She loved to sew; my mother loved to sew.

**Question: That is a skill that has gotten lost, not a lot of kids know how to do that. This is digressing a little bit here, but they even have the boys taking home economics and learning cooking and things like that nowadays.**

That is very good.

**Question: At least learning how to do a little bit of hand sewing, sewing on a button, that kind of thing. You never know when they might rip something and need to sew it when they are out somewhere. It is a skill that has gotten lost.**

Nothing is wrong with that to learn.

**Question: I agree. Which of your parents do you think you resemble the most?**

I guess my father. My sister looked like my father.

**Question: In looks or personality or both?**

No, it was in personality like him. My sister, yes. I will show you a picture.

**Question: Yes, I want to hear more about your sister.**

My sister had my father's personality. My sister was tough, my sister worked in Kessler's.

**Question: She was older than you?**

Nine years older than me.

**Question: That is quite a bit older than you.**

Yes.

**Question: She is pretty lady, what beautiful skin she has. She has a beautiful complexion; she is very pretty.**

She is a little dark.

**Question: A beautiful smile, a very pretty smile.**

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She was a pistol.

**Question: I see resemblance.**

Yes, somewhat but I do not have a picture of my father. This is the day of my wedding and my sister stood for me.

**Question: Were they happy to see you get married?**

My sister was.

**Question: They must have almost given up on you if you were into your forties or it did not mean that much to anybody?**

No. Our two kids, I took care of, and I spoiled both of them. He was not as bad. I always said, "I would rather raise 25 boys than 1 petite little girl."

**Question: You are right. You have that right, for sure.**

I hate to say it, but my niece is very selfish, very selfish. My nephew, well, he could care less.

**Question: The boys are less complicated, very less complicated. I have to share this little story with you. The first day of school I would always go to my one daughter's house because she has the four children. She has three boys and one girl. That morning, the boys got up, they got dressed with what they planned to wear, and they were ready to go and say goodbye and go see their friends. The granddaughter, all over the house, her hair's not curled right, she is upset, she cannot find the necklace she wants. Everything was in a tizzy. I remember my son-in-law turning to the boys, "Thank you for not being a girl." He was just joking but he was like I could not take this if you were all like your sister right now, that is what he was saying. We got a laugh out of that.**

On weekends, she insisted she wanted to go shopping. My sister, at the time, was working down at the casino because Kessler Manufacturer closed. She did not want to stay home because she did not want to clean house, she did not want to cook for her father, she wanted to go out. After I worked all week, I had to take her out, because by that time I worked down at the hospital and I was not doing hair on weekends.

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**Question: How old was she at this point?**

She was 16, 17.

**Question: So, an older teenager.**

Yes. We would go. She would not use her money, "I want this, I want that..."

**Question: She was a little shrewd and she knew how to play her auntie.**

When she graduated high school, my girlfriend Suzy and I, we were going to go to Hawaii, but Suzy backed out and here I wanted to go. She says, "I'll come with you." I said, "Okay, Sandy. I'll tell you what, you pay for your trip, and I'll pay for everything else, that is a graduation gift."

**Question: That is very generous.**

I brought her to Hawaii.

**Question: When it was time to come home, you were ready to be home, is that what you were about to say?**

Oh, she got to be a little witch.

**Question: Did you room together, that is kind of close quarters.**

Yes. I guess because we were going home, she was away, she wanted to continue on.

**Question: What is her name.**

Sandra.

**Question: Her last name?**

It was Fedo [Phonetic] at the time, now it is Mattia [Phonetic]. I have not seen or talked to her in quite a few years now.

**Question: Did you have a falling out?**

Yes.

**Question: Sorry to hear that. Like you were saying earlier, there are ups and downs like that in every family. I could tell you stories, as well.**

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I am very, very disappointed in her.

**Question: It sounds like you were very close for most of her childhood. Like you said, you spoiled her when she was younger and took care of her when she was younger.**

When she would go to see my mother, she would always tap her for money. Her and her husband. I should not even say this, "Go find a job. Go work. Neither one of them." She thought she was going to be taken care of the rest of her life now.

**Question: You are really not teaching young people anything if you enable them like that and keep handing them money and handing them things. They do need to learn the value and the need to want for something and have to work for it. I think that is what teaches the value of a dollar. At some point, a parent or an aunt that has been very generous, has to say, sorry, you are on your own with this.**

I got her a job down at the hospital. She was all right and then she met this kid, and he was lazy to begin with.

**Question: You did not think it was a good match right from the get go.**

No. Her father knew his father and his father was lazy.

**Question: It was a way of their family then.**

I do not know how I am going to say it, pardon the expression, they are out to screw somebody. That did not go over with me, no, I am sorry. When my mother passed away, my Aunt Nancy called her and told her, she never answered the phone, but my Aunt left three messages with her. She never came, never called. She says, "You never called when granny passed away."

**Question: That is not right or true.**

That is not true. Ever since then him, her, and her brother neither one of them came to my mother's funeral. My great nephew, my nephew's son and daughter was there.

**Question: There is no excuse for that.**

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No. I guess, you have them in all families, I guess, there is always something.

**Question: Tell me about your sister, it sounds like she was a very special person in your life, and I know you lost her.**

We fought like hell. Yes, my sister, God bless her soul, she was a good person. Tough, oh, yes.

**Question: Did the sister arguments and fighting make you ultimately closer or did you stay adversarial all through your lives?**

In our own way, we were close. Like I said, she stood for me when I got married. My other girlfriends were mad.

**Question: She was your sister.**

That is right, I said, "She is my sister, you are my sisters, too. But she is my sister, my blood." I did not want a big wedding and I did not want the parade, because then I would have three or four friends. No, I did not want that. I figured, she is my sister, we end it right there. Whoever did not like it, do not talk to me.

**Question: That was all you needed, somebody close to be by you and witness everything.**

I remember mom, we had just got done doing house cleaning and mom was putting the curtains upstairs and we were done for the day. She was going to go up the street to Camille's Drug Store at the corner where Marcello's restaurant is.

**Question: Yes, Marcello's is my favorite restaurant in town.**

She was going to go up there and meet a couple of her girlfriends. I wanted to go with her, she says, "I don't want you to come." We started arguing and we are at the steps, my mother was putting up the curtain, she had a hammer in her hand. She waved it, I guess I made her so nervous, she got and threw the hammer down the steps, and it went out the window.

**Question: By the door there?**

Yes. She sat at the top of the steps, and she cried. She said, "I could have killed you kids."

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**Question: She probably was upset with herself for losing her temper.**

Yes. We were making her nervous.

**Question: You were getting on her last nerve, it happens.**

My sister, God bless her soul.

**Question: Can you think of any other stories that we should add to this? Were other of your parents artistic or have any interest in hobbies? Did they have any stories that they told you, that you would like to share?**

Mostly my mother, I know when mother had to work on the farm. I think my mother had to do the cooking.

**Question: From a young age? Your mother married at 15, so I know she had to be pretty young then.**

She still went down to my grandmother's. In the summertime, my mother more or less stayed in Rosedale because my grandfather Tomasella, he died a month before I was born. They had the farm and I know she helped on the farm there. I know she would cook in there, too. She would go and see my grandmother. They were hardworking people.

**Question: That is a lot of work, to work on the farm and then do the cooking. They did not have the convenience foods that we are so spoiled with now. They did not have microwaves; they did not have these Instapot things. They did everything from scratch, they did not even have food processors. People my age are so spoiled with all the appliances we have. It was hard work.**

Even my father, like when he started his fire extinguisher, fire equipment business up in Rosedale. We had it here because my sister and I in the summertime, he would put two chairs out there, we would sit. He would make the insides of the fire extinguishers and I would have a chocolate and my sister would have a vanilla and you had the syrup.

**Question: It became a project.**

Yes. Like I said, he had a little business that he refilled fire extinguishers, to put the fluid in them. We did quite a bit during the day, and after he would reward us,

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he would make lemon ice. He had this container, and he would make the lemon and he had the ice, you know how they used to make it.

**Question: That must have been a big deal.**

Or sometimes he would make us ice cream.

**Question: Nice. All from scratch and from good ingredients, I imagine.**

Yes. That is how I remember my father. Then he left and we were here.

**Question: We have covered a lot. I really appreciate you spending the time with me. I have enjoyed meeting you and hearing more stories.**

I have bent your ear, right.

**Question: Not at all. I like hearing the stories. I like hearing about how other families operate and what they do. Especially how they operated and did back in the day, a couple of generations back.**

There is so much.

**Question: Our community is rich with history, a lot of history.**

Yes.

**Question: We are unique in the fact that many generations were raised right here and never left. That has not been the in thing if you look at the states in a national way. We have become a very mobile society, so we are a little bit of a throwback in this area, but all in a good and quaint way. That is what has attracted myself, my husband, and my family to this town, because we have an appreciation for that. I feel very grateful.**

I have to say even though you argue with your family, you argue with your friends. You might grow apart a little bit, but if you need help, they will all step up.

**Question: You know they are there, yes. That is very, very special.**

Yes. Like I said, everybody is related, everybody knows everybody, they are all related one way or another.

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**Question: I do thank you for sitting here and explaining a lot to me. It is funny, because my move to this area, my daughter said, "Mom, I just have to tell you, no gossiping because if you start talking about somebody, you may not know it, but you could be talking to their cousin." I said, "Okay, advice well-taken, I understand, I do not intend to be gossiping anyway." That was her advice because she has experienced that before.**

I think it is my husband now, what Dominique's mother, the relationship there.

**Question: Again, thank you very much.**

**[End of Interview]**