

Interviewer 1: First of all- Confirm that you know that this interview is being recorded and that you are comfortable with that.

Interviewer 2: Yes, you do agree that we recorded the interview and that's fine.

Interviewer 1: And if you have any questions about the process. I'm Patricia Pinto da Silva and I'm here with Corinne Williams and our interview is- What day is it today?

Interviewer 2: July 21.

Interviewer 1: July?

Interviewer 2: No, June. Excuse me.

Interviewer 1: Thank God. On June 21, more or less that a— yeah?

Interviewer 2: 6:32 in the afternoon.

Interviewer 1: We're in New Bedford, Massachusetts. And we want to know a little bit about the life and experiences of our interviewer to know more about her life and soon we are going to start.

Interviewer 2: Yes, and basically, the interview is going to be done in three parts. We want to know a little bit about your life before coming here to the United States. What was life like back in Guatemala? And also like the story of how he came here, his decision to come here and also his life that you have now, his new life that you have now in New Bedford.

SPEAKER: So, the story is big, isn't it? There's a lot to tell for that.

Interviewer 2: That they have an idea of that. But well, I don't know if you want to start, well, the basics, where he was born, his family and beyond his country.

SPEAKER: I was born on October 6, '84. I was born in Guatemala. And well...

Interviewer 1: Where? in Guatemala?

SPEAKER: Yes.

INTERVIEWER 1: Where?

SPEAKER: In [INAUDIBLE], Suchitepéquez.

Interviewer 2: Suchitepéquez?

SPEAKER: Hmm-mm.

Interviewer 2: And is it a big city, small?

SPEAKER: Yes, it's big. Well, not so big, big, but yeah. It has several villages.

Interviewer 2: But were you born in the mere village or?

SPEAKER: No, where I was born was in a sector. It's a hamlet.

Interviewer 2: And how is that?

SPEAKER: Oh, it's very nice. The place is not that big, it's called Las Canales.

Interviewer 2: The Channels.

SPEAKER: Channels. And well, I grew up there. Well, when I was a kid.

Interviewer 2: What was life like there?

SPEAKER: Well, life, well, one of poor, happy.

Interviewer 2: Poor?

SPEAKER: Poor, because we don't live with wealth, but that's it. That's why my dad left me four years old. You came back here.

Interviewer 1: At only four years old?

SPEAKER: When he was old, he came.

Interviewer 1: Did you stay with your mom?

SPEAKER: I stayed with my mom.

Interviewer 1: And he worked outside the house?

SPEAKER: Sometimes, but in the field.

INTERVIEWER 1: Agricultural field?

SPEAKER: Uh-huh, yeah.

INTERVIEWER 1: Cultivate. Grow from what?

SPEAKER: Corn.

INTERVIEWER 1: Corn.

SPEAKER: That, corn.

Interviewer 2: And you had a plot of land?

SPEAKER: Yes, a piece to sow, grow the corn. And well, since my dad came here, it kind of changed our lives a little bit. Already what he earned here, well, it multiplies there. It's not like what you earn there. It's very little.

Interviewer 1: Was your father the first person in your family to leave Guatemala for here?

SPEAKER: No. I have more uncles. Well, his brothers.

Interviewer 2: And why did your dad leave?

SPEAKER: Well, back then- Well, I don't know if you heard of that, of the war. And well, I don't know the whole story, but that they were threatened. Back then, he was single. Then he married my mom. And for that same reason, and so he doesn't earn too much there, already with his family, he had to sell himself here. Let's see.

Interviewer 2: So you stayed with your mom and siblings too?

SPEAKER: Yes, brothers.

Interviewer 2: How many?

SPEAKER: Three more brothers.

Interviewer 2: Major, minor?

Interviewer 1: One major and two minors.

Interviewer 1: And you worked at home, helped at home, your mom? Not much?

SPEAKER: Not much.

[INAUDIBLE]

SPEAKER: Yes, I didn't go to school. Yes, in the afternoons I helped as much as I could. It wasn't a big deal, but yeah.

Interviewer 2: How was it helped?

SPEAKER: In doing the housework, cleaning.

Interviewer 1: Food?

SPEAKER: No, I can't eat. Yeah. She was very small.

Interviewer 1: And how did your family relate to the rest of the community? Had- Uncles and aunts also lived in the same community? Or did they live elsewhere?

SPEAKER: Yes, they live somewhere else. For the same reason that when they killed my grandfather, well, they killed him. And well, my grandmother had eleven children.

Interviewer 1: Eleven children?

SPEAKER: No more her.

Interviewer 2: And is he your dad's grandfather? Your dad's dad?

SPEAKER: My dad, yes.

Interviewer 1: And you said that they kneaded his father too?

SPEAKER: Yes, it was a lot of local families. And in that time, well, they killed my dad's dad. And many more gentlemen from the same community.

Interviewer 1: And it was a political thing?

Interviewer 2: As part of the violence during that time?

SPEAKER: Uh-huh, yeah. And that's why, well, my grandmother had to go live in the city to see if, well, there they paid her more to support the children. Yes, then all my uncles touched them that they worked since they were little.

Interviewer 2: Because there were eleven.

Interviewer 1: Eleven children.

Interviewer 2: So, your dad went to the city too to work?

SPEAKER: Yes, he left. He started very young. Well, I don't know if I was ten, eleven years old. Then she got married.

Interviewer 1: With your mother?

SPEAKER: Uh-huh, and then they came here. Since they were big they came.

Interviewer 2: But now your dad is a fisherman, right?

SPEAKER: Yes.

Interviewer 1: What is a fisherman? Viewer?

INTERVIEWER 2: Fisherman.

Interviewer 1: Oh, fishing- And he's here?

Interviewer 2: Uh-huh, yes.

Interviewer 1: Ah, very good. Then he left when you were four. And then how old?

SPEAKER: Did I see him again? At- It was recently, like at twelve years old.

Interviewer 1: Twelve years. And how did they communicate during that period?

SPEAKER: Over the phone.

Interviewer 1: By phone. They always called.

SPEAKER: Uh-huh, yeah.

Interviewer 2: And did you support the family?

SPEAKER: Yes, he was in charge. Although sometimes he would say, well, sometimes you don't believe those who- Well, if you say something, like they don't believe. Because here the rent, the bills and everything. Bills are paid there, but rent is not.

Interviewer 2: Then you couldn't understand so much-

SPEAKER: So much, and he didn't win- At that time he wasn't a fisherman, he says. And well, it was very difficult for us there too. But, ok.

Interviewer 1: What did you want to ask? [INAUDIBLE]

Interviewer 2: I can't leave it like this. But if it's going to bother, I don't know.

[INAUDIBLE]

Interviewer 2: And I wanted to look for it, then. Ask at the office tomorrow. In the office it's going to-

SPEAKER: Let me see. Now that I get there, I'll look for me there. I'll look for it if I find it. If not, I'll order tomorrow.

Interviewer 1: We were talking about your life in Guatemala and your family. And you were saying that you have three brothers. One older, two newer.

SPEAKER: One more-

INTERVIEWER 1: An older one. And they stayed, they're there, they're still in Guatemala?

SPEAKER: Yes.

Interviewer 1: And what do you do in Guatemala?

SPEAKER: The two little ones are studying. And the older one, well, he's already married. And he works now.

INTERVIEWER 1: What kind of work?

SPEAKER: In agriculture too.

INTERVIEWER 1: Corn too?

Speaker 2: Uh-huh.



Interviewer 1: And where did you live- do farmers own the land or do they work for someone else? What is the relationship between the farmer and the land like?

SPEAKER: Well, it's the same thing. The only thing that changes is that other people pay land rent. That it doesn't have. And the one he has, well, it's not big, but he does have it. And my brother works on my parents' land.

Interviewer 1: From your parents? From your dad who's here?

SPEAKER: Uh-huh, yeah.

Interviewer 1: But your mother is in Guatemala?

SPEAKER: Yes. She's over there.

Interviewer 2: But is your brother sowing enough to sell? To sell outside or?

SPEAKER: Well, a little to sell and a little to eat. Because sometimes they eat tortillas.

Interviewer 2: But only corn or several, tomatoes or other things?

SPEAKER: Well, where we live is not sown- Well, the one who wants yes, but no. Just corn. That's what he sows there. With this sun it's terrible there.

Interviewer 1: Yes? Very hot?

SPEAKER: Yes, it's hot. I say, "poor people who work there." Here we work, but in the shade or in the cold. But not there.

Interviewer 1: But on which side is the Suchitepéquez?

SPEAKER: In the south.

Interviewer 2: In the south?

SPEAKER: Yes.

INTERVIEWER 2: But do you plant others-?

SPEAKER: Well, they plant sesame and rice there.

Interviewer 2: Rice?

SPEAKER: Yes, rice. They sow a lot there.

Interviewer 2: And near the sea?

SPEAKER: Not so close. The sea is about an hour away.

Interviewer 1: And you went from time to time to the sea?

SPEAKER: Well, you get used to going every year for Easter. Yes, it looks good.

Interviewer 1: And it was a party?

SPEAKER: Quite a lot. Yeah, it was. And although they have died too, they always die. Waves of the sea.

INTERVIEWER 2: She's going to bathe and-

SPEAKER: People are drowning.

Interviewer 2: But how, if you can explain, how is Easter on the beach? When you go, you go over the years, what do you do?

SPEAKER: Well, they put dancing there. They sell- They have a lot of things for sale. Games and bars. Of all that, well, they put it.

INTERVIEWER 2: And to eat?

SPEAKER: And to eat seafood.

Interviewer 2: Do you eat seafood?

SPEAKER: Yes, seafood soups. Well, all- Crabs, fish, shrimp, shells. Oops, how tasty! And it's very tasty when it comes to Easter.

Interviewer 1: And is it only with your immediate family? Or did you meet with uncles and family?

SPEAKER: There goes the whole family and everyone goes there. Well, it gets, what do I say? Uh-huh, everyone travels there.

Interviewer 1: And where are they? Where do they stay?

INTERVIEWER 2: Where are you staying?

SPEAKER: Well, on different beaches, because there are many.

INTERVIEWER 1: Either they camped or-

INTERVIEWER 2: In a tent or in a hotel, or how do you fall asleep?

SPEAKER: No, people go in the morning and come back in the evening.

Interviewer 2: Oh, come back the same day.

Interviewer 1: So it's not for the whole week. It's a day during Easter.

SPEAKER: Yes, it's Gloria's Saturday, we call her. Uh-huh. And everyone goes there.

Interviewer 1: And what kind of music?

SPEAKER: Like reggaeton. On the side, then. Uh-huh. That's all nice.

Interviewer 1: And did they play instruments?

SPEAKER: DJ. It's the DJ who plays. Uh-huh, yes. And everything gets nice. Maybe someday when I can travel, I'll take her. No, there goes a crowd, thousands and thousands of people go to any beach.

INTERVIEWER 2: Throughout Central America it is customary.

SPEAKER: Yes.

INTERVIEWER 2: But do you have campfires, do you have rockets or how?

SPEAKER: Rockets, no. Bonfires, yes.

Interviewer 2: Uh-huh, yes. Uh-huh. It's almost similar here, on the 4th of July here.

SPEAKER: Yes.

Interviewer 2: That you get used to it almost the same way, that you go to the beach, and go with your family to eat, no more than it is in July. It's not in April.

SPEAKER: But the beaches here don't have waves.

INTERVIEWER 1: Some do.

SPEAKER: Yes?

INTERVIEWER 2: Some do have strengths.

INTERVIEWER 1: Some. There is no here because it is a bay. But in other places where it is open sea.

SPEAKER: Or like in Miami, right?

Interviewer 2: No, here it's removed as-

Interviewer 1: Chief.

INTERVIEWER 2: Before you get to Fall River, there's a beautiful one. Yes, the sea is good too.

INTERVIEWER 1: In Rhode Island they do- They have places where they surf.

SPEAKER: Oh, surfing. That's nice, I love it.

Interviewer 1: And what are the other differences between the beaches over there and the beaches over here? What are some of the other— What are the differences between the beaches in Guatemala and the beaches here?

SPEAKER: Well, that all along the shore is just sand. Well, it's a piece- Here I look at many stones and they are just pieces of sand. Not there, there it is full of everything. And well, the waves, that there are no beaches there but- And no, well yes, that there are many coconut sticks there. Many. Summer, uh-huh.

INTERVIEWER 1: Coconut water. Cold coconut. Delicious.

SPEAKER: Oh, how delicious. It's not the coconut juice they sell here.

Interviewer 2: No, they sell in boxes here. In the can.

Interviewer 1: And you were saying that you go to the beach during Easter, but is your family religious? Religious? And if so, on what terms? How did you practice your religion?

SPEAKER: Well, my mom is Catholic. But yes, they have the right to leave, because everyone knows what they are doing and is responsible for their own lives. And in religion there they celebrate Good Friday.

Interviewer 2: With a procession?

SPEAKER: Uh-huh, with procession, yes. And well, for that day bands come to play. And all very nice. At night they do too.

Interviewer 2: And when is the party in Suchitepéquez?

SPEAKER: Well, that depends on each place. In Canales they do it on the fifth Friday, we call you. At the crosses they celebrate the third of May. Where they put- Where there is everything. Wheels coming, dancing. Well, the dance is almost always at the weekend. But wherever you can. Cheer everything up. It's the third of May at the crosses, and Canales is the fifth Friday.

Interviewer 1: Fifth Friday?

SPEAKER: Which is two Fridays before Easter. Yes. That's what they do for those days like that.

Interviewer 1: And your father was religious too? Or not as much as his mother?

SPEAKER: Not as much as her. He is less.

INTERVIEWER 1: And is it a mixture of- is it catho- pure? Or is it a mix of indigenous traditions with Catholicism?

Interviewer 2: Catholicism.

SPEAKER: How? What if it's a tradition?

Interviewer 2: Uh-huh, yes.

SPEAKER: No, that's pure Catholicism. Like any place, there are two religions. There are people who believe in the evangelical and others in the Catholic. But no. There are always two churches there.

Interviewer 2: Among evangelicals-?

SPEAKER: And Catholics.

INTERVIEWER 2: Do they have a brotherhood too? Or am I wrong?

SPEAKER: How so?

Interviewer 2: How do you- Like the party of- How do you have the party there- Do you have Quiche or is it different?

SPEAKER: It's different.

Interviewer 2: Not so much with traditions?

SPEAKER: No. There they celebrate, in Mazate, they celebrate the carnival.

Interviewer 2: Carnival?

SPEAKER: Uh-huh, the carnival. But that's already in town. And we live like that on the outskirts. People

Interviewer 2: And how do you celebrate the carnival?

SPEAKER: Oops, wow, that's nice, wonderful. They make floats. And that's big. Yes.

Interviewer 1: But there you speak pure Spanish, right? You don't speak their other language here, or do you?

SPEAKER: Well, there are cantons that speak dialect.

Interviewer 2: What dialect is it?

SPEAKER: I don't really know.

Interviewer 1: But do you pure Spanish speak or speak dialect?

SPEAKER: Where we live, almost only Spanish is spoken. But there is dialect.

Interviewer 2: Like your grandparents.

Speaker: Yes. They talk. We don't anymore.



Interviewer 1: They don't talk?

SPEAKER: No. We don't understand, or anything like that. But yes, there are.

Interviewer 2: Not even Reuben?

SPEAKER: No, not him.

Interviewer 2: He's from there too, right?

SPEAKER: Yes.

Interviewer 2: It's her husband Rubén.

Interviewer 1: Oh, and who was coming with you here?

SPEAKER: Yeah, he's in-

Interviewer 2: Did you come here to the United States?

SPEAKER: Yes, together.

Interviewer 1: And do you know them in their city?

SPEAKER: Yes, from the same place.

Interviewer 2: How did you meet him? You have to listen to the love story.

Interviewer 1: Yeah, exactly. Love Story.

SPEAKER: No, well, I was studying, I was fourteen. Well, then we both grew up and we liked each other, we started dating. And well, my mom scolded me. My dad said, he always wanted us to study, not to go through what he was going through. That since he didn't- for money he couldn't study. And then I would say, "no, children, study. I'm here working for you." But I didn't understand that. Well, I was in love. I then- Then he said, "No, you don't want to understand. You don't want to listen. Well, we're going to send you to a Catholic school. To a boarding school. So as not to see me with him. But then I told him. "No, that's not good for us." At the age of fifteen I already accompanied myself with him and well, everything happened. My dad was very angry. "No, don't come home."

Interviewer 1: But did you continue studying or did you stop studying?

SPEAKER: I stopped studying. That was the bad thing and my dad's anger.

Interviewer 1: And he was studying too? Did you continue studying or did you stop studying?

SPEAKER: Well, because the- We kind of had more support from my dad because he wasn't here. But his parents no longer had the money to give the study. He had stopped studying a long time ago. And well, I was already twenty years old. He is now of legal age in Guatemala. One at eighteen. I was younger, I was fifteen. And well, neither he nor I continue studying. And then we went with each other. Two months later, yes, one month after we were together, my dad arrived from here, he left for Guatemala. I didn't know him.

Interviewer 1: After so many years.

SPEAKER: After four years, little girl. And no, I was telling her, because my grandmother, like all my uncles are here, so my grandmother, they took my grandmother's visa. My grandmother was traveling. And when I was there, I would say, "No, I would like to go there with my grandmother." She was coming. I was going to drop her off at the airport. I said, "Mommy, I'm going with her. I want to go see my dad. I want to meet him." "No," she said, "I can't, I can't do anything to make you leave." And in that when he arrived, he got so angry with us because he did not continue studying. But then he calmed down and came again. Since he didn't have papers, later he said, "No, well, I'm going to work, and I'm going to bring my daughter here to meet her. Well, she wanted to." And that's why he brought us.

Interviewer 1: Ah, he agreed.

SPEAKER: In that it came to me. Yes, because, as he said, because of the work there. As he said, "They did not study, they do not have a profession. What are they going to do there? Come here, then. Any job they can do." And that's why we got here. Otherwise there would be no way to get it. That's a lot of money coming from there to here.

Interviewer 2: But your daughter was already born, right?

SPEAKER: Yes.

Interviewer 2: When was she born?

SPEAKER: She was born on October 22, 2000.

Interviewer 1: And she's in Guatemala with her mom?

SPEAKER: With my husband's mom.

Interviewer 1: Ah, with her husband's mother.

SPEAKER: Uh-huh, with my mother-in-law. She's little.

Interviewer 1: She has-

SPEAKER: Six years. Yes. He is six years old.

Interviewer 2: And you came here in what year?

Speaker: Us? In 2003. Yes. We got here. It's nice. More for the work. That one can have here. The same, there one has to work too. But the work is heavy there and you earn little.

Interviewer 1: If you were in Guatemala now, what kind of work would you be doing?

SPEAKER: Well, if I had studied-

Interviewer 2: No, no. If you were there and you had to go to work, what kind of job were you going to have, for example?

SPEAKER: Today I was working- Well, just like me, I was working in a clothing factory.

INTERVIEWER 1: As a custodian?

SPEAKER: Yes. But, what I lived in the city. But my town, my place, and I would have been a housewife.

Interviewer 2: Housewife?

SPEAKER: Yes, because you can't work.

Interviewer 1: No jobs?

Interviewer 2: But what kind of work would you have done, for example?

SPEAKER: In agriculture too. Yes, go clean some [INAUDIBLE]. No, it's very ugly. I didn't like it.

Interviewer 2: But does his family have a plot of land or do they have-?

SPEAKER: Yes.

Interviewer 2: Do you have a little bit?

SPEAKER: Well, land they did have a while, but then his dad sold. And then I rented. Yes. But however he wants, he always works to- To harvest the corn.

Interviewer 1: And it was difficult to make the decision, to make the decision to go here?

SPEAKER: Well, he was the one who wanted to come. I said yes, but when I was alone. Then I said no. Because of so many things that people say there. That the road is very hard, that there are many women who hurt the road, who rape them and who treat them- Yes, they treat them very badly. They treat them very badly there on the way from Mexico to here. Oh, no. It is very heavy. When we come, we endure hunger, we walk for days. Let's go. That was horrible.

Interviewer 2: How many days were they on the road?

SPEAKER: The trip was month and two days for us.

Interviewer 2: One month and two days.

SPEAKER: I felt like I was going to walk here. And it was that much for the- How will you tell him? Through the countryside. We had been hiding from everything, in Mexico. But we finally got there.

Interviewer 1: And did you come together with other people?

SPEAKER: Yes. Thirty-two people came.

Interviewer 1: And everyone arrived? 32.09

SPEAKER: No. One hundred and thirty people came.

Interviewer 2: From Guatemala?

SPEAKER: From Guatemala. But in Mexico they divided us. They made two groups. But in the end, here in Phoenix we reached thirty people.

Interviewer 1: And thirty people who knew each other?

SPEAKER: No. From different parts of Guatemala.

INTERVIEWER 1: Places. In that group of thirty people did you know only her husband or a few other people?

SPEAKER: My husband and a cousin. Yes. No more.

Interviewer 2: How much did the trip cost you?

SPEAKER: It was like six thousand dollars.

Interviewer 2: Six thousand dollars.

SPEAKER: Per person.

Interviewer 1: Six thousand?

Interviewer 2: Each person?

SPEAKER: Each person.

Interviewer 2: So it's twelve thousand dollars.

SPEAKER: Yes.

Interviewer 1: And you had to pay before? Or could you pay later?

SPEAKER: Divided into two parts. Before leaving one gives half to them. And then when they get here they ask for the rest.

Interviewer 2: And how did you get the money? Her dad?

SPEAKER: My dad, yes.

A Did your dad have?

Speaker: Uh-huh.

Interviewer 1: Your dad got- [Inaudible] saved so much money as he was working here?

SPEAKER: Yes. A lot of money.

Interviewer 1: In the fishery.

SPEAKER: Yes.

Interviewer 2: What about the rest? Did he have to work the other six thousand dollars to be able to pay it?

Speaker: Us?

Interviewer 2: Uh-huh, yes.

SPEAKER: Yes. Already coming here to work hard to pay for that.

Interviewer 1: And you already paid?

SPEAKER: I already paid. Thank God, thank God we already paid. I had to work hard at night to pay off the debt.

Interviewer 2: When I was like a newcomer. Did you go to work in fish right away?

Interviewer 1: Directly?

Interviewer 2: Directly?

SPEAKER: Well, Ruben has already started working on the fish. And I started about a month after I arrived. Because since you don't know anything, you don't know the customs or laws here. I locked myself at home.

Interviewer 1: And what did you think?

SPEAKER: To go back.

Interviewer 1: In those early days. What were your thoughts?

SPEAKER: Go. I couldn't even find how- To begin with, I had no money for the ticket. Secondly, I didn't even know. I knew about it.

Interviewer 2: In what month did you come?

SPEAKER: In August. And I didn't go out. Ruben was the one who had the courage for everything. Me or the store. I didn't get out of bed all that month. I was crying. I didn't eat. I was sad for my daughter. And no— "Let's go to the store. Here it is nearby", he said. In the corner was the shop. "Don't go." "Let's go to the other one, the one in the south", some boys friends of my father told us, "let's go", they had a car. "No, you guys go." I didn't get out of bed. Maybe if I went to the bathroom and back to bed.



Interviewer 1: And your daughter who is in Guatemala is also your husband's daughter?

SPEAKER: Yes.

Interviewer 1: And how did they defend or how did they decide that it was the best thing, to leave the daughter there and come here?

SPEAKER: Oh, yes, because we were taking a risk. We already said that if something happened to us it was us who are adults, but the girl did not. It's better for her to stay there. But recently we tried last year we tried to bring it in. Just like we came. But we fared badly because she was unable to cross immigration into Mexico.

Interviewer 2: Did it reach Mexico?

SPEAKER: Yeah, it got here to the border almost. No, but my girl got scared. She says, "I want to leave," she said. But now that they have returned her, she says that she is not coming.

Interviewer 2: But she came with-?

SPEAKER: An aunt of mine was coming.

Interviewer 2: An aunt. Poor thing.

SPEAKER: Two women.

Interviewer 2: But she got here, but immigration caught her in Mexico.

SPEAKER: Yes, in Mexico. And no, they screamed at her that the girl got scared.

Interviewer 2: The police there?

Speaker: Uh-huh. She said "no, no, no, no more". When he arrived, he arrived not wanting to eat. I missed Grandma. And no, it was a- It was terrible. For us, and for her worse. Well, maybe someday we can bring her. But who knows.

Interviewer 1: And did you enter a fishing-related job through your father? Was it your father's contacts that-?

Interviewer 2: I mean, he got the job because his father was working in fish. Or how did you get the first job?

SPEAKER: Because they had friends and they told us that in such a company there is work and they are receiving personnel. Come on, we went. And we stayed to work, which was what we wanted most. Let's see what, but earn the dollars. Uh-huh.

Interviewer 1: And after how many days did you start working? O you started working.

Interviewer 2: When did you start working?

Interviewer 1: After arriving, how long before work?

SPEAKER: A month.

Interviewer 2: Already after that month that he did not get out of bed, what happened that encouraged him to get up, at last?

SPEAKER: Well, for work. Everything was- And the debt. And my daughter needed money too. No, I said, "well, I'll get up and go to work."

Interviewer 1: And you were staying at his father's house?

SPEAKER: Yes, where he lived.

Interviewer 2: With him and anyone else?

SPEAKER: With some of his friends.

Interviewer 2: With some friends. There were how many in the house?

SPEAKER: Oops. We were like six or seven.

Interviewer 2: In an apartment?

SPEAKER: In an apartment.

Interviewer 1: Two-quarter?

SPEAKER: Three.

Interviewer 2: And the first company you were working for, what company was it?

SPEAKER: In the [inaudible].

Interviewer 2: [Inaudible].

SPEAKER: Yes, that was it.

Interviewer 2: Was it the first company you worked for?

Speaker: Uh-huh. I lasted there in the company.

Interviewer 2: Ah, yes, yes. As the only girl who was there, among all men.

Interviewer 1: I was the only one. Yes, woo.

Interviewer 2: Yes, from the company.

Interviewer 1: And is it with sardines?

SPEAKER: Yes, sardines.

Interviewer 1: But they're frozen? It's a freezer factory-

SPEAKER: With freezing.

Interviewer 2: Freezing. The big blocks.

Speaker: Uh-huh. Yes. Uh, those cold ones.

Interviewer 1: And with work, [Inaudible].

SPEAKER: I chose the good fish and the bad fish for the garbage. And when it ended there, they took me to work for the freezers. To divert the blocks of ice, of frozen fish. Above we chose the fresh fish, then, that arrived. And it was freezing downstairs. And no, but that's very cold there. Not any more. I say the [inaudible] is cold, but not as cold as the north.

Interviewer 2: Uh-huh, yes. Also because it is on the mere bridge, which is where the strong wind crosses.

SPEAKER: And at night.

Interviewer 2: A strong wind blows there.

Interviewer 1: And he worked- What was his work schedule?

SPEAKER: I didn't have any. Well, like- The gentlemen liked the way we worked because it was him and me. We were sometimes called at two in the afternoon by six in the morning. Or three in the afternoon to six in the morning. Many hours.

INTERVIEWER 1: And was it a different time depending on availability?

Speaker: Uh-huh. Yes.

[INAUDIBLE]

SPEAKER: Uh-huh, yeah.

Interviewer 2: But all year round or did you sometimes have-?

SPEAKER: It was a cold weather season. By this time it was coming down. There's nothing here. Right now it's closed.

Interviewer 2: But the macro did have enough there, right? The fish of December.

Speaker: Uh-huh. When there is that fish, there is a lot of work. Yes. But already in the summer, let's say, it was almost not. It goes down quite a bit.

Interviewer 1: And were there also [inaudible] or schools?

Interviewer 2: I don't know if I had squid.

INTERVIEWER 1: Squid?

SPEAKER: No. Not there.

Interviewer 1: They were more sardines.

SPEAKER: Yes. They were mackerel and sardines. Uh-huh.

Interviewer 1: And only during the winter.

SPEAKER: Yes.

Interviewer 1: So you worked during the winter and during the summer what did you do?

SPEAKER: Cleaning. I was going to clean.

INTERVIEWER 1: At home?

SPEAKER: No, the offices right there, the company. I cleaned the dining room, the office, the bathrooms, all that.

Interviewer 1: I let him work.

Speaker: Uh-huh. A little. Uh-huh. Yes.

INTERVIEWER 1: And you made more money during the winter than in-?

SPEAKER: That summer. I'm tired.

INTERVIEWER 2: But you worked somewhere else, in fish? Right? Other companies?

SPEAKER: Well, not just arriving. In the year he no longer worked there. Later on, that made me desperate. The cold. And no, other things. Then I decided to get out of there.

Interviewer 1: After how many years did it come out?

SPEAKER: Two years.

Interviewer 1: Two years.

SPEAKER: It's already beeping. It's just that he's waiting for me.

Interviewer 1: And you said you were the only woman in the factory. What was it like to be the only woman?

SPEAKER: I didn't feel so good, but I liked everyone's treatment. Yes.

Interviewer 2: I mean, there was a secretary, right?

SPEAKER: Yes, a secretary. Uh-huh. And another girl who arrived, but no longer did the cleaning at night. And the secretary. But she worked during the day. But since he worked with me, I felt better. Uh-huh.

Interviewer 1: And after working in that factory, where did you work?

SPEAKER: Well, I went to work for a while here in the- Oh, I don't know what it's called.

INTERVIEWER 2: Latent

SPEAKER: Ah, latent, right there. Yes, fish.

INTERVIEWER 1: Always in fish? Do you work in fish?

SPEAKER: In fish.

Interviewer 2: Because it's a good interview.

Interviewer 1: Yeah, exactly.

INTERVIEWER 2: But in Latentes as the work was different, with pure fish.

SPEAKER: Oh, yeah, it was soft, greyson. That, but I didn't last. I didn't last. It was days just because it was beautiful, but there weren't many hours. Three hours, four hours and days we weren't going. I liked it, but then I got out, I disliked the [inaudible]. I went there and I tried the way to do it. Yes.

Interviewer 2: But how is the work there? Is it a little more stable, that there are more hours? Do they always give?

SPEAKER: Oh, yeah, they always give. Well, until two weeks ago it started to rise, now there are many hours. But the days before there was not, very little. Sometimes we didn't go.

Interviewer 2: Well, if you can go on, I'm going to tell him.

[INAUDIBLE]

SPEAKER: So we were going- Sometimes we don't go to work one day, but the four days we do.

Interviewer 1: And then there's enough work for you in that factory.

SPEAKER: Yes. Let's see, now we are working more than forty hours.

Interviewer 1: More than forty hours?

SPEAKER: But there are times that go down too and sometimes we don't even get to twenty hours.



Interviewer 1: And when there are fewer hours, does that mean there is less fish?

SPEAKER: Yes.

Interviewer 1: And when there's less fish, do you earn less?

SPEAKER: Yes.

Interviewer 1: So there is a direct relationship between the availability of fish and their welfare?

SPEAKER: Uh-huh, yeah.

Interviewer 1: And it was when, during that period that you were telling us now, that you had the second child?

Interviewer 2: When you got pregnant, you were working at Norcos?

SPEAKER: Yes. I was working there all pregnancy. I left twenty days before the birth. Uh-huh. And then I come came back.

Interviewer 2: How is Patricia now?

SPEAKER: Oh, yeah. I'm nervous, oops.

INTERVIEWER 2: Working to the end.

SPEAKER: That's good because it helps you a lot. It helped me at least. The pain was quick. Rough but fast. Oh, I'm really nervous.

Interviewer 1: Don't even tell me.

SPEAKER: She doesn't know.

Interviewer 1: He doesn't want to know. You were also telling me how, whose child do you take care of when you are working?

INTERVIEWER 2: Who is taking care of you.

SPEAKER: A babysitter.

Interviewer 2: Do you have a babysitter?

SPEAKER: Yes.

Interviewer 1: And is it like a house and a woman who takes care of several children?

SPEAKER: Yes. It is an apartment and I take care of her child and my son.

Interviewer 1: Ah, only.

SPEAKER: Yes.

Interviewer 2: And is it Guatemalan?

SPEAKER: Guatemalan.

Interviewer 1: Ah, that's good. Then you have other people in your community who, even though it's not you who are taking care of your child, is another person from your country.

SPEAKER: From my country, yes. We met here, but from the same country. Uh-huh. No, she's very good. Very kind.

Interviewer 1: And that's how much? What is the Cost?

Interviewer 2: How much do you charge per week?

SPEAKER: For being friends with her, she charges me 60.

Interviewer 1: 60 per week. For [INAUDIBLE] 240 per month.

SPEAKER: Uh-huh, yeah.

Interviewer 2: But do you always agree with the hours you're working?

SPEAKER: Yes, I pay the same.

INTERVIEWER 2: Same thing. 20 hours a week, 40 hours. It is the same.

Interviewer 1: And your husband also works where you work?

SPEAKER: No, he doesn't work there.

INTERVIEWER 1: Do you work in another- Do you not work with fishing?

SPEAKER: Well, he's going fishing.

Interviewer 1: Oh, are you going fishing with your parents too?

SPEAKER: Yes.

Interviewer 1: And you fish what? What kind of fish?

SPEAKER: He languishes, he's fishing now. Tomorrow I know, but he's not here.

INTERVIEWER 1: Sun?

Interviewer 2: Languilla.

INTERVIEWER 1: Languilla es—

SPEAKER: Snakes.

Interviewer 1: Oh, leels. No way.

SPEAKER: That catches him.

Interviewer 2: That he has a- But his dad fishes for scallops, right?

SPEAKER: Scallops, yes.

Interviewer 1: And do you go for several days, or do you go only for the day?

SPEAKER: Well, he left on Saturday and he hasn't come back. I don't know if it's going to come out today, tomorrow, I don't know.

INTERVIEWER 1: But trips are always several days. 6, 7, 8 days. 10 days.

INTERVIEWER 2: But languishing, what is it like? Does your husband go out many days or is it daytime?

SPEAKER: Yes, it comes out after 8 or 10 days.

Interviewer 2: It goes far then.

SPEAKER: Yes, but he's going to Virginia now. Tomorrow it leaves for Virginia. He leaves for a month and then comes back.

Interviewer 1: And also for snakes?

SPEAKER: Yes.

INTERVIEWER 1: In Virginia?

Speaker: Uh-huh. That's where it goes.

INTERVIEWER 2: Are there a lot of boats that are fishing that now? [INAUDIBLE].

SPEAKER: No, what happens is that ship is from here, from Fort River. But since there's no longer around this area, they can't find it, so the owner says they're spending miles on the boat. And yes, the gas, I don't know what they throw at him. It's better for them to stay there in Virginia, which is closer to them, to get the product out.

Interviewer 1: And do you continue to live in your father's house? Or do you have her house now where you live separately with her husband?

SPEAKER: Yes, I live with an aunt and husband. And me and my husband. Uh-huh.

Interviewer 2: And your dad lives-?

SPEAKER: He lives apart now, he lives alone. Uh-huh. With a friend.

INTERVIEWER 1: [INAUDIBLE]. So, it's the whole year, everything, that her husband goes fishing for several days, then comes back, stays for a few days, goes out again, again. Is that [INAUDIBLE]?

SPEAKER: Yes. But there comes a time when he rests, where there is nothing, well. And for the boat. I don't know if it's in December or- No, I think it's in February, something like that.

INTERVIEWER 1: The time that does not come out.

SPEAKER: No.

INTERVIEWER 1: When it is very cold and when it is not a good height to fish.

SPEAKER: Yes, in bad weather it also comes out a lot. Uh-huh.

Interviewer 1: And when he's not here, are you worried about him at sea?

Speaker: Oh yes. I watch TV and it scares me.

Interviewer 1: And do you have a way to contact him when he's outside?

SPEAKER: Yes, outside. But when he's fishing, he's not.

Interviewer 1: Yes, when he is fishing there is no telephony

SPEAKER: No. Sometimes he calls me from the emergency phone there to find out how we are. But already when he came out on earth, well, thank God everything went well for him.

Interviewer 1: And he fishes with other Guatemalans?

SPEAKER: No.

Interviewer 1: Is it the only one?

SPEAKER: Yes. Hispanic.

Interviewer 2: Are there other Hispanics?

SPEAKER: Well, on other ships, yes. But where he goes, only he.

Interviewer 2: Only him?

SPEAKER: With Americans and Chinese.

Interviewer 2: Chinese?

Interviewer 1: And the big one, the boat?

SPEAKER: More or less. Medium.

Interviewer 2: How many are on the team?

SPEAKER: They're like six.

Interviewer 1: And it was from Fort River?

SPEAKER: From Fort River is.

Interviewer 1: So when he arrives, do you go to the port to-?

SPEAKER: Pick it up. Yeah, when I came to Fort River, yeah. I was going to leave him and I was going to bring him. Not now, because he's in Virginia. Tomorrow I'm going to leave him, but to the Boston airport because he's going there.

Interviewer 1: He flies there.

Interviewer 2: He's flying to Virginia because there he is on the boat.

SPEAKER: Uh-huh, he's leaving.

Interviewer 1: I never knew that. Mmm. That's interesting. I didn't know they were flying. I thought they were driving or I don't know.

SPEAKER: Oh, no.

Interviewer 1: It's very far away. It's seven hours.

SPEAKER: Yes, it's very far. Tired a lot.

Interviewer 1: And he always fishes with the same boat?

SPEAKER: Yes.

Interviewer 1: He puts everything together. The same team.

SPEAKER: When was it? Last year. I think so.

Interviewer 1: It 's- One year.

[INAUDIBLE]



Interviewer 1: And you like the team?

SPEAKER: Him? He does.

Interviewer 2: But it was a little complicated. I know that, well, for example, we, during tax season, calculate taxes, which is always a problem because- With calculation of expenses and-

SPEAKER: It's not a big deal that you get paid.

Interviewer 2: It's not so much.

Interviewer 1: But your father earns better?

Speaker: Oh yes. It depends on the production they bring, they do get paid. But I always know that the scallop is more expensive.

Interviewer 1: It's very expensive.

SPEAKER: And earn more.

Interviewer 1: And your father also works on the same boat all the time? Or hitchhike from one boat to another?

SPEAKER: It's different. It depends where you go next.

INTERVIEWER 1: Who needs?

SPEAKER: Yes.

Interviewer 1: And maybe we could talk a little bit about building our life here. Like you made friends, you found a community here in New Bedford. Your community relationships, do you go to church on Sunday? Do you have a group of friends?

SPEAKER: Yes, I have some friends, but not for the church.

Interviewer 1: But one more thing about his mother.

SPEAKER: How-?

Interviewer 2: His mom liked going to church more.

SPEAKER: Oh yes, she, I don't.

Interviewer 2: But your friends, where did the friends go here?

SPEAKER: At work, yes, in companies.

Interviewer 2: Guatemalan or other nationalities?

SPEAKER: Yes, I have others, from El Salvador, Mexico, Guatemala too. From all over.

Interviewer 1: And five years from now, do you want to be doing that-? How do you want your life-? Do you want your life to be exactly as it is now or what would you move?

SPEAKER: Improve, yes. Work a lot and do a lot of things. Well, let's see if I learn English too, because I already got tired of working in fish companies.

Interviewer 2: What other job would you like to have?

SPEAKER: I don't know, maybe work in a pharmacy or somewhere hot for cold weather. Uh-huh, more over there. And where the cold, colder. And that kind of makes you sick too.

Interviewer 2: Have you been working sick?

SPEAKER: Yes, quite a lot. I already got everything from the bones, the flu, fever.

INTERVIEWER 1: Cold.

SPEAKER: Uh-huh, a lot.

Interviewer 2: And at work have you ever been hit?

SPEAKER: No, here's the moment, not where I am right now.

Interviewer 2: But working there, are there problems?

SPEAKER: With the same co-workers, not with everyone, but it was just with the boy who- Look, I don't know, he's Guatemalan. Well, he's in charge now, but one day he was a worker like us. I don't know why he exploits us so much, I really don't understand. I was very angry, I'm angry with him.

Interviewer 2: I know, when you called me today I was like-

SPEAKER: Oh, I just wanted to grab it.

Interviewer 1: What happened today?

Interviewer 2: He was calling me from the bathroom.

Interviewer 1: What happened today?

SPEAKER: I don't know, look, he doesn't understand. When I went to work there, I was not pregnant. Then he thought I was single. He was a bachelor too, he started bothering me. Telling me that he had things in Guatemala, house, land and everything. Well, I said, "good for you, I'm not interested in that."

Interviewer 1: [INAUDIBLE] why are you here.

SPEAKER: A lot of things. Well, I said, I was laughing.

Interviewer 2: But as if I wanted to fall in love with you.

SPEAKER: Uh-huh, and then time passed, I found out that I was pregnant, because she didn't tell me anything anymore. He wasn't in charge yet, he was just another worker, just like me. And then over time he was promoted to manager. Because he likes to work, the boy likes it. But it is very exploitative, as a scolding. "Hurry up, don't talk, the fish is very dirty." And "shut up, because I'm going to send you home." I have the right, he's not the boss, he's not Bruce, he's nobody. Because I tell him, why do people treat us - why do they treat us like this? If the day they take him out to you, here he's not going to take a piece of company or anything. Those who are going to have are the owners, we are not, we are workers. But he doesn't understand that I don't know why he will. And recently he told me- Well, he told me, because I came back about three months ago. And he said to me, "No, well, if you want to be my lover," he already has a wife. And he says, "Do you want to be my lover?" and I'm like, "No! What? He's crazy, how can he say that?", only one sick guy says it. No one is going to say- Or it's like you arrive, "do you want to be my lover?" And that if he wants to be my lover, "he's going to have a job, I'm going to give him a lot of work," he said. Even if he were to give me the money, I have to work to earn it. Or "he's going to have coffee", sheer nonsense.

And no, recently it was Monday, I was walking, he tells me, "Do you want an [INAUDIBLE]?", "No, thank you," I said. And in that, the next day, Tuesday, "for having despised me the [INAUDIBLE] will repent," he told me. I mean, he threatened me. And then he puts me down with the bosses. I tell him, I don't know how to speak English. And he can a little-

Interviewer 1: What about English?

SPEAKER: Maybe not perfect, but it defends itself.

Interviewer 1: But do you talk enough to-?

SPEAKER: And he already talks to the gentlemen, and they arrive, well, sometimes they scream at us very ugly. They come out to us, "hurry up, shut up or go home".

Interviewer 1: Everyone or especially you?

SPEAKER: Well, almost all of us who start talking. But I tell you, if you talk a little, you also fall asleep at work. You get bored standing around and cleaning all day. Just when you go out on the break, it's only 15 minutes. You don't rest. But they do treat ugly there. At least I don't get paid for holidays. I don't have sick days. And I'm human, I get sick. Or I need a personal day, I have things to do. They don't pay me. They don't give it to me. Even they don't want to give me permission sometimes to leave. I have dates, they get mad at one. Which are [INAUDIBLE] 's quotes. I say to him, "What can I do? I want money too, but I need to go do other things." But—

Interviewer 1: For example, what do you do if the woman taking care of your child is sick? Or if you can 't-

Interviewer 2: Or if you get sick [INAUDIBLE] or if you can't take care of your child.

Interviewer 1: What's going on?

SPEAKER: Well, sometimes I call from the house and say, "I'm not going today." They get angry, but I'm not seeing their faces.

INTERVIEWER 2: You're warning.

SPEAKER: Yes. I know they've said, they have rules too. That when you can't go, that you call. I understand it. Like I told the boss, and like he didn't like it very much, I said, [INAUDIBLE]. And he called a girl.

[INAUDIBLE]

SPEAKER: Yes. Like not much. I said - And he came, he called one who works there too, who is from Cape Verde, speaks Spanish and speaks English. And he asked me more than what was going on. And I told him, "It bothers me that he threatens me," I told him. "If he's telling me that I'm going home, why don't you tell me?" He's not the boss, "I said, "why don't you call me and talk to me? If it doesn't seem like my job, tell me," I told him. "What he's doing, I don't like it," I told him. And I was going to take it with Bruce.

Interviewer 2: Who is Bruce? The grouper?

SPEAKER: The mere boss is Joe. But I know that he gets angry and well, he was going to confront us both. But the truth is, I can't do that. It can make us both lose our jobs, for me there is no problem, because I have my husband who works and pays my rent. But he is a man, he has to think that he is going to keep the woman. She's pregnant.

Interviewer 1: And she's working?

SPEAKER: No, she doesn't work. He has to think about that. He has a family to support. He doesn't think, he just thinks about him. And I don't know what to think, he's a crazy guy. And I tell him... Well, I didn't, because you see the other time in [INAUDIBLE] the boy. I didn't feel good, because I say, we are the same, we all come to the same thing, to work, we want money. And I said, I can't do that. I don't feel well. But he has no considerations with me. I told Joey, I didn't tell him, "I don't want him to send me anymore, or to go talk to me. When you want me to do another job, you come and tell me I'm going. And if you don't like it, give it back to me too." That I understand, I am a person, but do not treat me like an animal. Because one day he told three of us that we looked like an animal, he mentioned the name. And I told him, he has no right. The animal is him. Why don't you understand and stop bothering us? No, but already for days, and at noon I told him. "Don't bother me," I said, "I don't want to have problems." He told me, "if the problem is there, it's not with me." Well, I went and that's when I marked you. And I said, [INAUDIBLE]. Because if I take one of them, they don't tell you what I'm going to tell them, but they say it in their own way.

Interviewer 1: Yes, because they don't understand Spanish. And that's what a gentleman told me. He said, "This is the first time I'm hearing a complaint." As if you don't—

SPEAKER: Because everyone is afraid of losing their job. I said, I'm leaving right now. I have hands to work on any job, but I don't like having this done to me. I put that already a lot of insult, they exploit us all. Because they also, as I tell you, when it is a holiday, in all the companies they rest. My aunt works in sewing, if she rests, she gets paid for the

holiday. Not to us. We have to go to work, they only give us one day a year, which is turkey day.

Interviewer 2: One day?

SPEAKER: Holiday.

Interviewer 1: What's the day?

Interviewer 2: Thanksgiving.

SPEAKER: And no more. Those who are on the company's side do get paid that day. But we are by agency, they don't pay us.

Interviewer 1: Oh, you work with an agency. And why don't you work for the company?

SPEAKER: Because as I worked one year, a year they pass it to one per company with the work permit, now those who do not have it cannot pass it.

Interviewer 1: But do you have a work permit?

SPEAKER: I did, but since I left, I stopped working because my child got very sick. Every little while for the hospital with my child, he told me, "No, well, take care of him." I stayed taking care of him for a few months and said I couldn't go anymore. But after the year my child was already happy, and he was no longer sick. I asked again for a job there and they gave me. And that's what made me angry, if they gave me the job it's because they need me and they know me. So that later they come to tell me that if I don't do it well, go to the house. And "let the boss tell me, not you," I told him. And well, I don't know, I don't know, Joey told me that he was going to talk to him. Because I told him, "I'm coming to tell you now, but if you don't understand, I'm going to talk to the Bruce, to Emi," which is the lady from [INAUDIBLE]. Either it runs to me or it runs to both of us, but enough of so many insults. I don't know, that's what Joey said, that he had never heard a complaint?

Interviewer 2: Yes, that's what he told me. "Oh, how strange, I haven't heard any of that" and "I'm going to talk to her directly." Like the first time you're hearing there's a problem.

SPEAKER: It's just that I tell you that everyone is afraid.

Interviewer 2: Everyone is afraid.

SPEAKER: Fear. The truth is that

Interviewer 1: Afraid of losing your job or afraid of anything else?

SPEAKER: No, to lose our jobs, because that's where we settle for the hours they give us. There's already a little, there's enough, it's okay for us. But no, I was angry. I said- And he said to me still, I stayed silent and still after lunch he says to me, "go talk, and the problem is, and what do you think I'm afraid of? I'm not afraid of you and if that's what you want, that's what I'm going to do. I'm going to do what I want, not what you say because we're the same." He doesn't have to send me. And well, I don't know what I would say to him or what he's going to say to me tomorrow, but it's wrong, that's wrong.

Interviewer 1: And if you had to say what is the best thing about your factory job, what would it be? what is the best thing that-? Just the money or other things that are good? Whats the best thing about the industry?

Interviewer 2: What is the best thing you like about work?

SPEAKER: Get the job done? Pack up.

Interviewer 2: Why do you like packing so much? that's what he told me.

SPEAKER: I don't know, it's something I like. I always did not know much when I entered there because I only chose [INAUDIBLE], I had no experience, but it was something that I liked, I did not know but I was going to get in there and they did not tell me anything. Well, over time I was catching practice and practice, and well, they sent me themselves, "wow", and I liked it.

Interviewer 2: Like packing what? Like the fish cuts it there by hand, right?



SPEAKER: It is cleaned, the machine cuts the fish and we clean the gut and the flakes that are left and we send it, they pack it down, the fish goes, the best fish that goes to the shopping shop and I don't know, for other stores they will send the [INAUDIBLE], cod, Sherry and all that. And then, well, he, like me, ignored him, he no longer sent me to pack, and he already ignores me, well-

Interviewer 2: Knowing that it is your favorite task.

SPEAKER: Uh-huh and that I know how to do it. He prefers to send other people who do not do it and it is not that he does not like it, but that they do not know and have no experience. So that makes me angry, "why are you like this with me?" Tell me, tell me or I'll talk there." "No, because you don't manage the fish well", "And since when? why until now does he come to tell me if I already worked two years outside to fulfill me?" And then, well, it made me angry.

Interviewer 1: And what would be the biggest challenge in your job?

Interviewer 2: The hardest thing at work.

SPEAKER: That you don't earn so much.

Interviewer 2: How much do you make?

SPEAKER: Eight, twenty-five. Imagine, they put you to work plus that, they don't want you talking and paying them- It's one thing- Just like I do, I clean, I pack cod, I pack [INAUDIBLE] and everything. It's two bands, to pack cod and clean. Then I earn a little. Well, it's not much, but there are people who earn at nine an hour or eight fifty, eight seventy-five. And me a year- I started earning eight and a year they gave me twenty-five cents which was when Emi told me that it was the opportunity for me to enter the company, but since my permit had expired and I was going to leave work and I no longer take the papers to her. I better tell him that I'm not going to work anymore, and that's why it was now that I came back. They say that I came in like new.

Interviewer 1: Oh, if you're not telling him about the experience he had already had.

SPEAKER: They do take my experience, but time doesn't.

INTERVIEWER 1: Time and salary no.

SPEAKER: No. They paid me the same, eight twenty-five, and they paid me the same again. But I talked to Joey and I told him- And with Emi I told him, "You know that I've worked here before, I need to go through the company, I want to have the benefits they have such as vacations, holidays, personal days, I need them", and that they increase me. Then she said she was going to talk to Bruce and Joey and the three of them were going to talk and see what. But to this day they haven't told me anything.

Interviewer 2: But are those who work with the company pure Americans or are they working for [INAUDIBLE]?

SPEAKER: The workers, yes, we are Hispanic.

Interviewer 2: But most of them work with the agency?

SPEAKER: Most of them. More Salvadorans work for the company. And Guatemalans and Hondurans work for the agency.

INTERVIEWER 2: Which agency is it?

SPEAKER: Oh, the truth is I don't know what that agency is called.

INTERVIEWER 1: [INAUDIBLE].

SPEAKER: Like from Boston, downtown or something.

INTERVIEWER 1: And in your house who generates the financial life more time?

Interviewer 2: Who handles the money?

Interviewer 1: Perfect.

SPEAKER: Both of you, with my husband, yes. What we earn we collect and pay.

Interviewer 2: And in the house? household chores?

SPEAKER: Well, now that he's leaving for Virginia, just me, but when he's there, both of us. Yes.

Interviewer 1: And is that division of tasks common? It's common? Do your friends and husbands also help at home?

SPEAKER: Not all men help. At least mine is courteous. There are men who.

Interviewer 1: And there in Guatemala?

SPEAKER: It's the same, there are men who do help and there are men who don't. Most of them are macho, we love them. That only they, not the woman. And that isn't right.

Interviewer 1: And do you have many other friends who have children who stayed in Guatemala?

SPEAKER: Yes, there are many people who have children there.

Interviewer 1: That the family is divided.

SPEAKER: Yes, a lot of people.

Interviewer 1: And they left because they didn't know if they could go through with them and also because it would be easier to start life here only with relatives, adults?

SPEAKER: It's not easy living alone here away from family. One misses family, but because of the money one is here, they can study there and they can have what one did not have. So that's why people sacrifice a lot, because I've always said that it's better to have love and not things, because I said, my dad sent us toys, clothes, but I want to see him, I want Father's Day, I want to be with him, I want my dad to take me to buy ice cream or something, I don't want this.

Interviewer 1: And do you intend to return one day to live in Guatemala?

SPEAKER: Maybe yes. Well, if the papers came out tomorrow, I would stay here. But I do go see my family and see how-

Interviewer 2: With the right to travel?

SPEAKER: Uh-huh, yeah. That's it.

Interviewer 2: But your dad can travel, right?

SPEAKER: I do now.

Interviewer 2: That he finally got political asylum.

SPEAKER: Not much. But he is already happy. And she plans to go now because my grandmother is sick.

Interviewer 1: Your grandmother?

SPEAKER: Yes.

Interviewer 2: And your mom is-?

SPEAKER: Well, she was sick, too. He gave him diabetes, but he's already [INAUDIBLE]

Interviewer 2: How old is your mom?

SPEAKER: Like forty-three.

Interviewer 1: He's very young.

SPEAKER: And there it is.

Interviewer 1: And do you have other questions or other things?

Interviewer 2: Comments? Anything else?

Interviewer 1: Anything else?

SPEAKER: Well, talk a lot, but no, no, no.

Interviewer 1: So, with so many people in your family involved in fishing here in New Bedford, do you want more and more fish in the future? In the future— The question is what would she want in the commercial fishing industry, [INAUDIBLE], right?

Interviewer 2: What is your hope for the fish industry in the future?

SPEAKER: Oh, leave it.

Interviewer 2: Ah, leave it.

SPEAKER: I don't expect anything more than that. No, it's just that this job is very heavy. No.

Interviewer 2: But if I had more fish, I'd have more hours than I'm working twenty hours a week.

Speaker: Oh yes.

Interviewer 2: Working more hours.

SPEAKER: Uh-huh, more. And most of them, well. Most Hispanics are in fish. The only companies that give more hours in fish. Because in other hot companies they only give 40 hours, while when there are fish we work 50 or 60 hours, because there is enough. And well, they pay little, but aha. And that's it.

Interviewer 1: That's it. It was a long story. Another little question, I don't know if he was working when the girl died in the fire.

SPEAKER: The Mexican one.

Interviewer 1: Uh-huh, did you know her?

SPEAKER: I didn't get to know her, but I think I went to work instead of her.

Interviewer 1: How?

SPEAKER: When I went to work, I think I went to work instead of her, because at that time they were not receiving people and it had happened. Just imagine. It was so tragic. The children and she lived in the north, but they were fighting with the husband, he moved south and just for that. I say, how will that man handle it? If he will have a conscience, well, it was his fault- Well, not his fault, he already gave what he was and his destiny, well. But if he hadn't fought her, she would still be there.

Interviewer 1: [INAUDIBLE] asking how she is affected by the— [INAUDIBLE].

Interviewer 2: Ask her how she was affected, how she felt when she went through the raid.

SPEAKER: Oops, nervous. Yes, and very badly. Well, I say, maybe if they catch me not because I have the work permit but the other people who have family here and have it there in one's country, and there were people who just arrived with all that debt that one brings. No, then, desperate and disappointed already in the United States because many innocent people who exploit us and apart from that catch us. I say, the United States is fine, but not to exploit us. Which is what more- We are- Well, maybe we are the ones who work the most because where I work in fish there is not going to be any American person working, cleaning like we work. Sometimes I get angry and I say, "why if they need us why do they treat us badly?", I don't understand. I don't know, sometimes I get angry and I say- But not everyone is like that, there are good people with a big heart.

Interviewer 1: Thank you very much for participating and for telling us [INAUDIBLE]. And we're also going to write all the words, do the transcription, and Colin is going to create a digital copy, and a written copy.

INTERVIEWER 2: On a CD.

SPEAKER: Ah ok, okay.

[INAUDIBLE]

INTERVIEWER 1: For you to save for your children to know more about your life.

SPEAKER: When they come, when they grow up, yes.

[INAUDIBLE]

SPEAKER: Me? 23.

Interviewer 2: 23 years. I already know it's big.

INTERVIEWER 1: You've lived long enough to be 23.

SPEAKER: I've lived long enough.

Interviewer 2: Or the children share it with the grandchildren, to give a CD to the grandchildren.

INTERVIEWER 1: On CD.

[INAUDIBLE]

SPEAKER: Reuben is going to hear what I said about the boy and I have not told him.