

### **Interview of Janice Von Nick by Joe Guerzo 3-11-2020**

Joe: The date is March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020, and this is Joe Guerzo of Charlotte County History Services. And I am here with... please state your name. Please state your name.

Janice: My name is actually Janice Lane Von Nick. They call me Janice. I've always been called Janice.

Joe: Oh, yeah? That's what the name was. So, where were you born?

Janice: November 12<sup>th</sup>, 1927.

Joe: Okay. Where were you born?

Janice: In a little town called Quitman, Georgia. He was actually an English general, and he went up north. And then came down and liked the south instead. And we built a hotel to him.

Joe: Really?

Janice: Uh-huh. On the Georgia-Florida line. Between Madison, Florida and Ousley, Georgia.

Joe: I'm familiar with Valdosta.

Janice: Really? You know Quitman.

Joe: Yeah, I've driven through.

Janice: They have all those bigger houses.

Joe: Yeah. I dated a girl from Valdosta.

Janice: We used to sit on the porches.

Joe: Yeah. So, I used to spend a lot of time down there. That's excellent. So, you grew up there in 1926. What was it like?

Janice: Pardon?

Joe: Tell me what it was like. Tell me what the town was like.

Janice: What time of day?

Joe: What was it like where you grew up?

Janice: Where I grew up.

Joe: Yeah, tell me about it.

Janice: This was during the Depression, and there was no work at all for builders in Georgia. And then my grandfather was a builder. My dad worked for him. And my mother died when I was 11, around that time.

Joe: Really?

Janice: So, they both went down to Jacksonville, Florida to work in the shipyards, because there were times there, we didn't have milk. We had a few little chickens, and we'd get a dozen eggs, and that would be supper that evening for the whole family.

Joe: Wow.

Janice: That was a bad time in Georgia.

Joe: So, you had some rough times during the Depression.

Janice: Jacksonville. It was Florida. He thought it was wonderful. It was all exciting. I had never been out of Quitman, Georgia.

Joe: Really?

Janice: No red lights there.

Joe: How old were you when you went there?

Janice: Huh?

Joe: How old were you when you went there?

Janice: There? I was born there and then I lived there until I was 11 and my mother died.

Joe: Okay. And then you moved.

Janice: Well, my grandfather moved to Jacksonville, Florida. I lived with my grandmother, which was fine. But I didn't want to stay there. I heard Jacksonville was fun. I wanted to go to Jacksonville. They went into Jacksonville. I saved my allowance, which was 25 cents a week, to get a ticket to go to Jacksonville.

Joe: How long of a trip was it?

Janice: I can't remember exactly. A little over 2 dollars.

Joe: How long were you on the train?

Janice: It was a little over 100 miles difference, just one way. I got there, and, fortunately, the bus station was just 3 blocks away from where my dad's address was. They had row houses back then for all the workers and stuff, and we had a row house. So, I found his house, and I went up to the front door to go in, and he was coming down the stairs. He had a whole truck

full of men out waiting for him. They were going down to Tampa for 3 months on the job. He left me in Jacksonville, by myself.

Joe: At 11?

Janice: Mm-hm.

Joe: Okay.

Janice: I was almost 12. This was the summer, and I would be 12 in November.

Joe: So, 1938.

Janice: Yeah.

Joe: Okay.

Janice: You're good with figures.

Joe: I am. Thank you.

Janice: I went down there, and he had to leave me down there by myself for 3 months. He gave me a little money.

Joe: But your grandparents took care of you?

Janice: My grandfather, he was a designer, and my dad was the carpenter. He went back to where my grandmother was. They started building out there when Roosevelt came in. He built up the schools and the churches there, and the libraries.

Joe: Okay.

Janice: So, I'm all set, but then school started.

Joe: Oh, yeah.

Janice: I had to go to school, you know. My little school I went to was one floor. This was 3 stories high. And I knew that in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade they were going to make us make a stupid apron. I did not want to make a stupid apron. (Phone rings) That's my daughter.

Joe: So, you said you didn't want to make an apron.

Janice: Huh?

Joe: You were telling the story about the new school. You didn't want to make an apron.

Janice: I didn't want to make that stupid apron. My mother could sew. Men's clothes, women's clothes, anything. I didn't want to sew.

Joe: Me neither.

Janice: I'd bleed if I put on a button. All of the 7<sup>th</sup> graders made that apron.

Joe: Mm-hm.

Janice: So, this is when all of the families from Alabama, Georgia, Florida, all over, are coming down to Jacksonville to build in the shipyards. And hundreds of kids, hundreds of kids. And they put us all in a big auditorium. And they give us a sheet of paper. And they told us, 'Now you put your name down and what grade you're supposed to be in'. I put down 9<sup>th</sup> grade. They look at you. We're all sitting in the auditorium. I'm not going to make that apron.

Joe: Right.

Janice: I didn't make that apron. But you know, my mother had always made me get on the honor roll anyway. She taught me to read when I was 3 years old, and I had a library card at 5. I'd read anything in the library.

Joe: Of course.

Janice: I went into the 9<sup>th</sup> grade, and it was actually good. It was something interesting, instead of chickens and stuff.

Joe: So, you were 2 years ahead of yourself.

Janice: Yeah. And took Latin and Ancient History were my 2 favorites. I remember that. It was really good. And it worked out okay.

Joe: Oh, wow. So, you graduated from high school?

Janice: That was the 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Went into the 10<sup>th</sup>, but the problem was I didn't have anyone to play with. I was still little for my age to start with.

Joe: Mm-hm.

Janice: I didn't have any friends. I tell my little neighbor, who was a year younger than me, I said, 'Those girls wear lipstick and rouge at school'. So I said, 'I got some money, let's go down to the dime store'. So, we went down to the dime store. Got eye shadow. We got green, a little blue mixed in with it.

Joe: Oh, really?

Janice: And underneath. It'll make your eye open. We'd play jump rope and say, 'Dolly Dimples looks like this'. We wanted to be like Dolly Dimples. 'Dolly Dimples steals a kiss'.

Joe: Dolly Dimple?

Janice: Anyway, we went to downtown Jacksonville, strutting our stuff with our makeup on.

Joe: How old were you?

Janice: I was just about 12.

Joe: Oh my gosh.

Janice: I got in the movies for half price.

Joe: Wow.

Janice: Everything was fine until we heard somebody talking behind us. 'Look at their faces'. We ran home. That was the end of our makeup.

Joe: Aw.

Janice: that was my life growing up.

Joe: What kind of things did you do for fun?

Janice: For fun?

Joe: Besides putting on makeup.

Janice: Roller skating.

Joe: Oh.

Janice: They had 2 roller skating rinks. I joined a roller-skating club.

Joe: Wow. I guess they would in Jacksonville. Was it a pretty busy town? Were there a lot of cars?

Janice: What?

Joe: Were there a lot of cars in Jacksonville?

Janice: Yes, yes.

Joe: So, it was busy.

Janice: Yes. Yes, it was good. We had to do the different dances on stage, you know. Boxes and turns and stuff.

Joe: You can do that on roller skates?

Janice: Yeah.

Joe: That's great. I can roller skate, but barely. I'm just happy going around in a circle.

Janice: Well, I took the lessons. They were free. And so, I did that. But we were going to Washington to be in some skating contest or something. Our whole club was going. I fell. The coach told me, 'You're turning off to the left all the time when you go into a spin. You're turning to the left'. I says, 'I know. I can't turn to the right. I know I can't'. He said, 'You're being silly.

Turn to the right. I want you to do both.' Alright. I knew I couldn't. I knew right there I would lose it. Right there before you went into the spin.

Joe: You fell?

Janice: I turned, and I fell, and I got water on the knee, and I couldn't go.

Joe: Oh, no.

Janice: I told him I couldn't do it.

Joe: Well, you know. Some people just push hard. You mentioned your grandfather got more work when FDR was president.

Janice: Pardon?

Joe: You mentioned that your grandfather got more work building when FDR was president. Was that because of Public Works?

Janice: It was time for him to retire anyway. He did 3 of the Chester's down there, the library, the hotel. Most of the houses in town.

Joe: Oh.

Janice: And the one that was originally for the slaves there. We never called them slaves. Everybody else did, you know.

Joe: Really.

Janice: They rebuilt their homes and added onto them. And those homes have been added onto all these years. They're still in this little town.

Joe: Wow. And this is your grandfather.

Janice: My grandfather, James Hinds.

Joe: Okay.

Janice: His name... Hindsville, Georgia.

Joe: Yeah, I know Hindsville, Georgia.

Janice: That's for my grandfather.

Joe: Oh, wow. That's great.

Janice: Yeah.

Joe: So, you got some deep roots there. I've been through Hindsville as well. Excellent. So, far back does your family history go in Georgia?

Janice: Two years ago. Three years ago in Venice, Florida, I was working in a little dance studio there.

Joe: Mm-hm.

Janice: And there was a woman there who was taking lessons there with her husband. And she showed me, she said, 'If you teach me how to dance, I'll do your genealogy'. She was in genealogy. The books are over there in the window, my writings. I haven't put them on typed yet.

Joe: Oh, okay.

Janice: They're 13<sup>th</sup> century

Joe: Really?

Janice: Mostly from England. Some Scotland. And on my grandfather's side, it's Austrian.

Joe: Okay.

Janice: Yeah.

Joe: Who made the pilgrimage to America?

Janice: What?

Joe: When did your family make the pilgrimage to America from Europe?

Janice: My family came over when Sir Walter Raleigh had the people at Roanoke. My ancestor was the one that brought the ship over to him, with the people.

Joe: Oh. He brought the ship over.

Janice: Way back then, in the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

Joe: Do you remember the last name?

Janice: The last name? Lane. That was my maiden name. His name was Ralph Lane. You can look him up.

Joe: Okay. I will. Thank you. Thank you for that. So, you were pretty close to your grand father when you were growing up?

Janice: My grandfather, his grandfather came from Austria.

Joe: Okay.

Janice: They moved around because there was trouble over there, even back then. And then I don't know what time or when my family came over. It must have been him, Ralph Lane.

Joe: Ralph Lane, okay. So, was your grandfather alive during slavery? Since they built the slave houses...

Janice: That's a long story.

Joe: I want to hear the story.

Janice: Let's see. The war, they had plantations back then.

Joe: What year was your grandfather born?

Janice: What? Where was he born? What year?

Joe: Yeah.

Janice: I don't know, but we could figure it out. He died at 65, and I was about 20.

Joe: Okay.

Janice: So, you could do it like that.

Joe: Okay.

Janice: Long before the war between the states, because his dad had 6 brothers and they all had plantations, and they all were doctors.

Joe: Oh, really?

Janice: Except him. He was the youngest. Then what happened. The war came on. Everyone was fighting the war.

Joe: Right.

Janice: And his dad. When he was a boy, like 2 years old, 3 years old, he went around with the country doctor, with his dad, had his little bag. I still had his little bag a long time.

Joe: Oh, yeah.

Janice: Yeah, it was given to one of the grandsons to take to college.

Joe: This is the same town you grew up in.

Janice: In Georgia. His dad was shot in the back and died later on. He had just got out of the first grade, my grandfather.

Joe: Uh-huh.

Janice: Just got out. The mother was left at Hindsville at this huge plantation. Lots of black people, a lot of them didn't want to go. And she couldn't take care of them. She couldn't do this. So, she married a childhood friend that she'd known all her life. Actually, it worked out. They were married over 50 years.



Joe: Really.

Janice: And I'm the only one who knows where his father is buried.

Joe: Oh, yeah.

Janice: Nobody knows where he's buried. He's not in a cemetery.

Joe: Do you know where?

Janice: I know where. I haven't seen it. He's buried under the big old oak tree in the front yard of the plantation.

Joe: Okay. Wow.

Janice: Okay. A little bit more to him.

Joe: Okay.

Janice: That was first grade he just got out of. He ran away. We don't know how he got away, how he got down there, but he got all the way down to Madison, Florida.

Joe: Oh, wow.

Janice: He must have gone with some family or something. And his mother, because he had a grandfather down there in Madison, so he must have done that. He had a grandfather and two uncles and a grandmother. But that's when they had a plague there. It's yellow fever or something like that.

Joe: Oh, really.

Janice: And they all died.

Joe: Oh, jeez.

Janice: And he was left. He was just 7 years old.

Joe: This is in Madison?

Janice: Is he what?

Joe: Florida. Where in Florida?

Janice: That was in Madison, Florida. That's where he ran away, he went to.

Joe: Okay.

Janice: He knew they were in Madison.

Joe: So, there was a plague in Madison.

Janice: Yeah. We never knew what happened to him until this woman did my genealogy, and I found out.

Joe: Okay.

Janice: I could ask well where'd you do, where'd you live? How did you get to Georgia? There was a whole group of architects there, famous architects. They take him in. They made him, what do you call it?

Joe: Apprentice.

Janice: Apprentice. They raised him. He never went back to school. But he built those churches. He built the post office. All the houses in Quitman and the slave quarters.

Joe: I'm going to make sure I stop in town.

Janice: He could read the paper, but he didn't read well enough that he could read books and stuff. My grandmother, every night, when I was visiting them. It was just a big room like this that was the bedroom. And my bed would be over there somewhere. She would read him the latest books. I was there when she read him *Gone with the Wind*.

Joe: Oh, really?

Janice: Yes. He was well-read, but he didn't read. He was the head of the courthouse when they built it. He carried the money. Every Friday he'd go to the bank, get the money, put it in a leather bag and swing it, walk out of town to the courthouse, meet all the guys there. How many hours did you work? Were you inside or outside? What did you do? And he'd pay them. No writing anything. He'd just pay them. He believed them. Nobody ever hit him in the head and took the money.

Joe: Right.

Janice: That was the olden days.

Joe: Yeah. Wow. And they named a town after him.

Janice: He lived in his own house that he built for his wife, years and years ago. And I lived there when my mother died. And I left... before I left. I would go live in that house sometimes. But mostly I lived with my grandmother and grandfather.

Joe: This is your father's parents or your mother's parents?

Janice: My father's parents, they were all the boys. They were during the war, they all got farms. And a lot of them gave the slaves farms. They'd help us out. Sharecroppers.

Joe: Sharecroppers.

Janice: They raised tobaccos. Hams, peanuts, cane, sugar cane.

Joe: Peanuts, like Jimmy Carter. Excellent.

Janice: But I never lived in the country. I didn't like the country. I liked Jacksonville.

Joe: Cool.

Janice: There was stuff going on.

Joe: So, you're 11 and you're in Jacksonville. You finished high school there, what were some of your activities in high school?

Janice: After 11<sup>th</sup> grade, there was a choice. A lot of the kids, at 15 or 16, they were working more, so they could get service or something. They had a special school called Duval County... some kind of school. You could have a job if you wanted to. You could go to school, turn your homework in, take a test, and if you passed it, you passed. So, that's what I did.

Joe: So, you got your high school diploma?

Janice: I did homework easy.

Joe: How old were you?

Janice: Huh?

Joe: How old were you when you got that paper?

Janice: I was about a year and a half, and then I graduated.

Joe: How old were you? 14? 15?

Janice: I must have been 15, I think, because there's 12 grades, but I skipped...

Joe: So, 15. That's 1941. That's the year Pearl Harbor happened. Do you remember where you were?

Janice: That was '42.

Joe: December 1941. So, almost 1942.

Janice: I went to Andrew Jackson. I went to Duval whatever that was, and then I went to Jacksonville... oh, that was junior college.

Joe: I was going to ask you what you did after high school. So, you went to junior college?

Janice: I went to junior college for a year, and then I was working. I was working for Mr. Barnett of the Barnett Bank.

Joe: Okay.

Janice: He was a lovely man. He had white hair, navy suits, a tie, a carnation, and I was his office boy.

Joe: Oh, yeah?

Janice: I had a chair in his big voice. I'd always go to the drug store and get milkshakes for him and me.

Joe: Uh-huh.

Janice: And then I'd have to walk with the guard when we took the receipts to the Federal Bank. I thought I was gay, but do you know what?

Joe: What?

Janice: I wanted to dance.

Joe: Of course.

Janice: I always wanted to dance. Like we didn't have... it cost a quarter in school to take dancing. We didn't have a quarter.

Joe: Oh.

Janice: I was making money now with Mr. Barnett and getting fat on milkshakes. It wasn't a bad life. I lived... my dad worked nights, so after I went to Jacksonville, I was by myself from then on.

Joe: Very independent.

Janice: Aren't you tired of all this?

Joe: No. This is what we're doing. This is what we're after.

Janice: Well, I wanted to dance and the Griffith Studio, originally from California...

Joe: Grifter?

Janice: Griffith.

Joe: Griffith. Okay.

Janice: The old movies were Griffith. They made movies and all. They had a studio come and stayed in Jacksonville, because of the servicemen and stuff, you know.

Joe: Okay.

Janice: I know how old I was when I went there. I was just 15.

Joe: Wow.

Janice: I wanted to take lessons. And he said, 'Well, let's see what you can do'. I had never been dancing, but I watched Ginger Rogers and Fred Astaire. And I knew they had fun. That looked like the life for me.

Joe: Yeah?

Janice: he gave me a little shot. He says, 'If you want, you can come to work here'. He gave me a job and trained me on the side.

Joe: Oh, really? Dancing?

Janice: Yeah, so I did that for 9... not quite a year probably, because then the servicemen were coming in and Tony Demarco... do you know that name?

Joe: No.

Janice: Well, he did shows in New York back then. He later went on to Hollywood and I could have gone with him. For some reason, I didn't go. I don't know why because I always thought I'd like to go out there. All the kids did back then.

Joe: Right.

Janice: But I didn't go. It's just as well. But I went to USO's, the Officers' Clubs and all that, and taught dancing. He taught me enough, that I could teach them.

Joe: Did it pay well?

Janice: I worked on a commission. I had a choice and I worked on commission.

Joe: Okay.

Janice: I didn't get rich, but I made enough to pay my rent and eat and buy clothes. I had to have clothes.

Joe: That's all you need to do when you're dancing for a living.

Janice: And by then I was dating.

Joe: Oh, yeah?

Janice: Oh, yeah.

Joe: Who were you dating?

Janice: Sailors, soldiers, marines.

Joe: Oh, yeah?

Janice: Officers. I was too young, really. But you have to remember, I didn't have any home life since I left Georgia.

Joe: So, you didn't live with your father anymore. You lived on your own?

Janice: Huh?

Joe: You lived on your own. You weren't living with your father anymore?

Janice: he was in the apartment, but he worked nights.

Joe: Oh, okay. So, you had free rein.

Janice: But they had curfews there. If you were under 18, you had to be off the streets by 11 o'clock.

Joe: Okay. So, you always had to meet curfew?

Janice: I could go to the USO and have somebody walk me. My house was only 4 blocks from the USO.

Joe: Oh, okay.

Janice: So, that worked out okay.

Joe: That's great.

Janice: I'll repeat all this. One thing I shouldn't have done. When I was 12, I just had a little money. I probably used most of my lunch money to go to the movies.

Joe: Uh-huh.

Janice: And I found a movie that was only a nickel. Boy, I had it made. I could eat and also go to the movies.

Joe: A nickel for a movie. That's amazing.

Janice: Yeah. And I have to go after school, so it was getting dark by the time I got home. About 3 blocks, 4 blocks in town. I found out years later that was the red-light district down to the waterfront.

Joe: It was? Really?

Janice: (laughs) I didn't know it. Nobody bothered me.

Joe: What was the neighborhood called?

Janice: Huh?

Joe: What was the neighborhood called? The red-light district.

Janice: What was the name of that? Alex. It was the Alex Theater I went to.

Joe: Oh, okay.

Janice: It's a wonder I wasn't killed.

Joe: Yeah, you're lucky.

Janice: I thought it smelled funny in there.

Joe: Well, it was only a nickel. Maybe that's why it was only a nickel. (laughs)

Janice: (laughs) I didn't want to eat their popcorn.

Joe: Oh, boy. I guess you get what you pay for. Well, that's okay. No problem. So, you're 15, 16. Now you're living basically on your own because your dad works at night.

Janice: I was working, and I was living on my own. But, you know, I think my mother knew she wasn't going to live long because she had asthma all her life, and she had pneumonia twice.

Joe: Oh.

Janice: She taught me. She once told me, 'There are people who are going to tell you what to do, but you know what's right or wrong, and you listen to them. Listen to them good. But then you make up your own mind what you want'. And so, I always did. And some of it was stupid stuff, but it always turned out. I had a really good life. It sounds like it's terrible, but no, it wasn't. I didn't drink, I didn't smoke. I didn't run around. She said, 'Always be sure where you go is safe. Just keep that in mind'.

Joe: That's great advice.

Janice: I said, 'Alright'.

Joe: So, this is '42. You were dancing at the USO.

Janice: Dancing, no. I left the bank and went to dance with Mr. Griffith, and then I married a sailor.

Joe: Oh, okay.

Janice: He was a hometown boy like I was. From New York state.

Joe: Oh, really? What was his name.

Janice: I went there. Westfield, New York.

Joe: Okay.

Janice: Actually, it was a little town called Ripley. Ripley, New York. You know that?

Joe: I know where that is.

Janice: Really?

Joe: I'm from Buffalo.

Janice: Really?

Joe: Yeah, I grew up in Buffalo.

Janice: Nobody knows there.

Joe: When you said Westfield, I know where that is. And Ripley, I pass the sign all the time on the interstate when I drive home.

Janice: Well, they were a nice family. He was in business with his father. He had 10,000 chickens in the backyard building. He'd sell the eggs of chickens, and it had a grape vineyard behind it. I remember I was thinking, I should have a home like that.

Joe: So, how old were you?

Janice: I was 19.

Joe: Nineteen when you got married?

Janice: Yeah.

Joe: How did you meet him?

Janice: We went back to my town. We were married in the church my grandfather built, and they all came down. It was nice. But we were so different. We were nothing alike.

Joe: Oh, really?

Janice: I thought we were alike, like a kid next door, you know. But... mainly his family was different from me. They were strictly Yankees.

Joe: They're from New York. Compared to Georgia, that had to be a huge difference.

Janice: I wasn't. And after 7 years and 2 children, I left. I took my children. How did I have nerve to do that?

Joe: Especially back then.

Janice: He didn't beat me. He made money. We were fine together, but I just had to get out of there. I just had that feeling. So, I went to work in Erie, Pennsylvania. Arthur Murray's. That's where I really learned to dance.

Joe: Okay.

Janice: I had a babysitter. The grandmother lived 2 houses down. Now, she was a problem. She saw me when I won the trophy in Detroit, Erie...

Joe: So, you're at Arthur Murray's. You're learning to dance more in Erie.

Janice: Arthur Murray's in Erie. I started at the bottom again. Learned right. And went all the way... The studio takes one person of their top dancers to go to Detroit, Michigan for the International Dance Competition for 3 days. You're judged on, first of all, you meet someone at the door, you invite him in and tell him about the dancing. That's the first thing you do. The



second thing you do, you dance with your dance partner from the studio if you have somebody there. If not, you can pick somebody you know you can dance with. The third was you dance with somebody you've never seen before. And you're judged on all of that, 3 days.

Joe: Okay.

Janice: I didn't think I was going to get anything, but I did learn the lessons, and I loved it. So, I came home with a huge trophy.

Joe: Oh, yeah?

Janice: A gold trophy. International Gold Champion.

Joe: Wow.

Janice: Best dancer, best teacher, and all that. I came in and we got back down to Ripley from Erie. That's where we came in. And the mother-in-law met me at the door, she said, 'Well, that and a 25-cent piece will get you a cup of coffee'. That's the type of person she was. That tells you.

Joe: Yeah.

Janice: So, that's why I wanted to get... I think that was the whole thing. But it's okay. My ex-husband got married to a dance teacher because I had taken him in to the studio to teach him how to dance a little bit.

Joe: Uh-huh.

Janice: He wasn't as good. He wasn't as competitive, let's put it that way. But he was a good dancer. And he married one of the teachers the minute we... it took us, I think it was 3 months for the divorce to become final. I moved to Erie. Took my kids all by myself.

Joe: Wow.

Janice: I wouldn't leave them.

Joe: Did he get married?

Janice: Yeah. I got married, no I didn't get married. I went to Erie single, a year single with the kids. And I only asked for 25 cents a week for a babysitter, so I could still teach dancing. I had to work.

Joe: Right.

Janice: He paid once. He was only about 15 miles away from them. He never paid. He liked the kids. He was mad at me, of course. So, that was it.

Joe: Did he visit his kids?

Janice: Huh?

Joe: Did he visit his kids?

Janice: He didn't. He didn't come get them. He didn't do anything.

Joe: What did you have? A boy and a girl? Two boys?

Janice: What?

Joe: Um, your kids. Two boys? A boy and a girl?

Janice: I took them with me. I got a babysitter. I danced until 10 at night.

Joe: Okay.

Janice: And I lived in Erie, so I was right at home.

Joe: Your kids, were they boys or girls?

Janice: I had a girl. She was the only girl in the family. My family was boys. And then I had a boy. So, I had just what I wanted.

Joe: Okay. Perfect.

Janice: You wouldn't believe how great they are today. We had some times growing up, I can tell you.

Joe: What happened?

Janice: That's something else. They grew up. They're fine people. They're successful.

Joe: Mm-hm.

Janice: She has 5 kids. I said, 'You have all the kids you want, but you send one to me at a time'. We kept it that way until she moved to Kentucky. And I lived in Venice. She comes down to visit she says, 'Uh-Uh'. Great. She turned out fine. And he... I didn't think he was ever going to get married or finish school. Cute little boy, smallest one in his class. My soprano. He sang. He could sing. He's still singing with a country band.

Joe: Oh, cool.

Janice: But he would not do his homework. I could tell him. He'd sit there and do it and then he'd throw it away. (laughs)

Joe: He was the younger one?

Janice: Huh?

Joe: He was younger than his sister? Was he younger than his sister?

Janice: Yes. She used to pound him into... yeah.

Joe: Oh, okay.

Janice: But they get along fine. He sent her a ticket to come down last... 2 years ago to get me and take him to Austin, Texas, where they... he's married now.

Joe: Oh.

Janice: He worked in a scientist white room. He graduated. Went back to school, became a pharmacist. He didn't like it. He thought he would, but he didn't. So, he retired.

Joe: Oh, okay.

Janice: They're both retired. She taught handicapped children.

Joe: Oh.

Janice: They have a beautiful home. They're going to come see me in a couple of weeks.

Joe: Oh, cool. Excellent.

Janice: I don't know with this stuff going on if they will.

Joe: Will he be here on the 24<sup>th</sup>?

Janice: They'll come here.

Joe: Okay. Let's go back with our story. We're in Erie, Pennsylvania. How long did you live in Erie?

Janice: In Erie? A year and a half.

Joe: Okay. Where did you go after that?

Janice: Uh, I think I went back down to Cleveland to see my family. Not Cleveland, Quitman.

Joe: Quitman.

Janice: Yeah, to see them. I left Erie, then Cleveland, then Quitman. And then Cleveland. Then I got married again.

Joe: Oh, you got married. When? How old were you when you got married again.

Janice: I don't know. I had 2 grown kids, that's all I know.

Joe: They were grown?

Janice: It was over 5 years after the divorce.

Joe: Oh, okay.

Janice: It was my dancing teacher, no student.

Joe: Oh, really?

Janice: The wedding.

Joe: He was your student?

Janice: I didn't dance in the competition with him. He wasn't that high yet, with the studio. He got a silver medal there.

Joe: What was his name?

Janice: Robert Von Nick.

Joe: Robert Von Nick.

Janice: That's my name.

Joe: That's your name. Okay. So, when did you guys start dating? Were you friends first, and then did you start dating? Did you like him from the start?

Janice: I never dated.

Joe: You never dated him? He just asked you to marry him?

Janice: You weren't allowed to date students, but we became very good friends.

Joe: Okay.

Janice: Of course, he danced at the studio all the time. He got a silver medal. We went to his competition. He graduated and we had a big dance at the hotel. So, he got that. I have a picture of him. I have to show it to you. I don't know where it is, but I'll get it.

Joe: I brought my camera, so I can take pictures of your picture. Okay. How did he propose to you? Here, I'll get it for you.

Janice: Go through it.

Joe: We'll go through it after the interview.

Janice: Just turn it over. This is from when I was a baby.

Joe: Oh, wow.

Janice: That was in college.

Joe: That's the first picture.

Janice: That's my son...

Joe: Oh, okay. He's in a country band?

Janice: Huh?

Joe: He's in a band, you said?

Janice: He's in...

Joe: He's a musician? You said he sings.

Janice: Texas, yeah. Austin. He's in Austin, Texas. Who's that?

Joe: It looks like a family picture.

Janice: That's his wife and me. That's my 90th birthday.

Joe: Oh, wow.

Janice: They had pictures of me from all ages

Joe: I'm glad you have this. Is that you as a...

Janice: Yeah, we put on a play and made dancing out of it. I was Judy.

Joe: Oh, that's you. Awesome. What year is this?

Janice: I had grown kids there.

Joe: Wow. You look great. How old were you?

Janice: Huh?

Joe: How old were you? When you had grown kids. 30's, right?

Janice: 30's or 40's.

Joe: What's that?

Janice: That's me.

Joe: You look like you're going to do a dance. Is that your husband?

Janice: That's my husband. That was in our house.

Joe: Well, let's get back to the story. I have to worry more about the audio. We can go over this afterwards. I was going to ask you, how did he propose. Was there a nice proposal story?

Janice: This is crazy. When I was in high school, you couldn't get married in Florida at a young age, but you could go across the lines to Georgia, to a little place called Folkston. You could get married. All you did was get your blood test, get a Georgia judge and get married. My first marriage, I had a wedding down and I had everything. That was in my hometown of Quitman.

Joe: Right.

Janice: We had gone down to somewhere in Florida for something to do. Everybody else... we lived back up in Cleveland.

Joe: Are we talking about Cleveland, Georgia?

Janice: Huh?

Joe: Are you talking about Cleveland, Georgia?

Janice: Well, I did recently after I left my first husband, because I didn't have any place to go, or money or anything. He didn't give me anything. So, I rode back. Took my kids with me. His family, they always went down to Sanibel, to Florida. They were developers in Sanibel. No, no, that was Bob's family. I get them mixed up. Anyway, I went to where I could get a job. Take my kids back. Where was I? We'd have to go through Folkston. He says, we might as well do it. We did, we got married.

Joe: Your first house, what was that like?

Janice: With this husband?

Joe: Yes, Von Nick.

Janice: We didn't live together.

Joe: You didn't?

Janice: No, I'm from Georgia.

Joe: Okay.

Janice: No, I didn't want to fool around. With 2 kids? No.

Joe: When you got married, you lived together, right?

Janice: We did. And went back to Cleveland, and got a house.

Joe: I guess that's what I was trying to clarify. You keep saying Cleveland. Do you mean Cleveland, Georgia?

Janice: I went to Georgia, went back up... Well, he lived in Pennsylvania.

Joe: Oh, okay.

Janice: We didn't live together.

Joe: Okay.

Janice: It wasn't that long. How long was it? I'll have to look and see what the dates are. I don't remember numbers.

Joe: You never lived with hm?

Janice: Not until we got married.

Joe: Oh, that's what I meant.

Janice: We got a house.

Joe: Where? In what town?

Janice: It's a 2-story...

Joe: No, no. What town? Where?

Janice: When?

Joe: Where was the house?

Janice: It was the west side, out before the airport.

Joe: Okay.

Janice: It was easy to go to the airport. Halcyon Avenue.

Joe: Oh, okay. I was just asking the town. I just wanted to know the town we are in.

Janice: It's Cleveland.

Joe: Where? Because there's a Cleveland in Georgia. There's a Cleveland in Tennessee.

Janice: Everywhere.

Joe: So, which Cleveland are we talking about.

Janice: New York, Virginia.

Joe: Which Cleveland?

Janice: We lived in Cleveland since she was in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, after I left Erie.

Joe: Okay. Are we talking about Cleveland, Ohio? That's all I'm asking. What state? Cleveland...

Janice: Ohio.

Joe: I wasn't sure because there's a Cleveland in Georgia too.

Janice: Yes, there is a Cleveland, Georgia.

Joe: I wasn't sure if you were in Ohio. Okay. You're in Ohio. So, what was life like there? And how long did you live there?

Janice: Remember, we were in Cleveland at the same time. I'm looking for a job so I can move.

Joe: Okay.

Janice: I went to Jacksonville. I took the kids, got a little apartment. Got a job. Well, I had learned about cameras. I could take it apart and take pictures.

Joe: Good. You can help me with this one.

Janice: Bob, my second husband, owned a camera store. So, I worked part-time with him in the camera store. And I made sure that I knew everything about that store, all those cameras and stuff. I would take pictures all over.

Joe: I bet you did.

Janice: Yeah.

Joe: So, you worked at the camera store in Jacksonville?

Janice: In Jacksonville.

Joe: How long did you have that store?

Janice: Jacksonville. I answered an ad in the Cleveland paper. I knew that I wanted to go back up north.

Joe: Oh, you did

Janice: You can't be truthful. I was working at a Federal place that had cameras in it. And I knew all about them. And I knew more about them than the guy that was owning the place. So, when I answered the ad, I told him that I was making what he was making, plus 1%. And they hired me.

Joe: Cool.

Janice: Now here's where the fun comes in. I got the job. I went up there. I got a house. But when I walked in, he said, 'Who are you?' I said, 'I'm Janice Lane.' He said, 'I thought you were a boy.' He wasn't the owner, he was the manager.

Joe: Oh.

Janice: He thought it was Jon. I'm Jan, I'm not Jon. He said, 'The boss won't be back until next week. We'll keep you here and see how you do.' So, I stayed and, in the meantime, this is where my life changes.

Joe: Mm-hm.

Janice: Aren't you tired of hearing this?

Joe: No, this is what I'm here for.

Janice: Let's make a movie. (laughs)

Joe: Yeah, that's what we're doing.



Janice: In the meantime, this man comes in and he says, 'I need some camera equipment. Can somebody help me?' There was nobody right there then. I said, 'Sure, what do you need.' He owned Park Ohio Industries. They were a big foraging company. They make things that are massive. We made the escape hatch for the shuttle. I okayed it. This is the years when they were hiring women instead of men. I sold him complete outfits of cameras. When the man came back, of course, he kept me. I worked at that store another... I got to go to a Bar Mitzvah because of that store. That was nice. And I took pictures.

Joe: Of course.

Janice: Anyway...

Joe: How long were you at the store?

Janice: The man who would forage. He had been there since World War II, he was too old. He couldn't do it anymore. He was due to retire. So, he wanted a woman. Now I didn't study anything about forage in college. I told you I liked History. He says, 'This man is going to be training you'. So, he trained me and showed what he did. We were developing photographs. I went out to the foraging place. I had a white hat with green flowers around it. I took all the pictures. This is a government job. So, I didn't have any certification for this stuff. I just learned with this man. So, I had to go back to school, Case-Western. Have you ever heard of that?

Joe: Yes.

Janice: And I had to learn metallurgy.

Joe: So, how long did you have to go to school?

Janice: I went there to get enough education to say I've got something here. And then I went another year to Cleveland State, for the other stuff to learn. And I stayed there for 10 years and I came back.

Joe: And what kind of degree did you get?

Janice: What did I do?

Joe: Yeah. You went to school. What was your degree in?

Janice: I had 2 or 3 little things. I had nothing big.

Joe: Okay. How old were your kids at the time?

Janice: Oh gee. I was old.

Joe: You were?

Janice: I worked at Park at least 10 years. I could retire. How old are you when you retire? I was 67?

Joe: 65.

Janice: 65, 70, yeah.

Joe: Okay.

Janice: I never thought about my ages. A lot of times, I had to lie about the age. So, every time I got promoted, I was telling lies.

Joe: Did you have to make yourself older?

Janice: Yeah. But if I could be young, I didn't see why I should tell them different.

Joe: It shouldn't really matter.

Janice: And if they gave it to someone else, I'd have to tell them what to do. Nobody ever complained.

Joe: So, what was a normal day of your work like?

Janice: When I was living in Cleveland and working, I was working from 7:30 in the morning to 4:30 in the afternoon. And then, 2 or 3 days a week I went to school.

Joe: Wow.

Janice: I didn't get home until 9 or 7 o'clock, and my kids were kids, by themselves a lot. They had rules. They had to follow them. They could try anything they wanted to try. I don't care how ridiculous it sounded to me, but they had to follow my rules. They had to be home by a certain time. My daughter always talks of how it is. She was always on time. They never gave me any trouble.

Joe: Really?

Janice: Well, with each other. But they followed my rules. The best kids you ever saw.

Joe: Right.

Janice: I thought they were pretty bad back then. (laughs)

Joe: Were you living with Mr. Von Nick at this time? Was he your husband at this time?

Janice: He traveled a lot. It was hard for me to tell. I can tell how long we were married and you can figure back.

Joe: How long?

Janice: 59 years.

Joe: Oh, wow.

Janice: Yeah.

Joe: What did he do?

Janice: Well, he owned the camera shop. That's where I worked and that's where I learned all that.

Joe: Okay.

Janice: He played football for Penn State.

Joe: He did?

Janice: He had the record for the longest pass.

Joe: Oh, really?

Janice: Yeah.

Joe: Von Nick?

Janice: Von Nick. Back then, they took the Von off, you know, because of the war.

Joe: Oh.

Janice: The whole house, they had a huge house on Lake Erie. Nobody left.

Joe: So, the Von Nick family...

Janice: They took the name off.

Joe: So, it was just Nick? There was no Von?

Janice: He went back to Von Nick after the war.

Joe: Okay. But during the war they changed it to Nick?

Janice: Yeah, because of the war. Oh, when he graduated from Penn State, he joined up with the Air Force, and his mother went with him down to the station to go to training. She told him he was adopted. He never knew it until then. I thought that was awful. Why not tell him?

Joe: I know. Wow.

Janice: She adopted a girl also, and didn't tell her until she got married. Why? She was a loving person. I thought she was great. His dad was really German. And he was a small man. And my husband was 6'2.

Joe: Well, that makes sense.

Janice: He was bossy. 'This is how you cut the lawn out front'. He had to be the boss. Finally, he just walked off and left it with him, and went out on his own.

Joe: Okay. So, did you guys still dance?

Janice: Huh? We always danced. He loved dancing as much as I did.

Joe: Oh, really?

Janice: Yeah. The best thing I ever did was when I left. And I felt so guilty because really, he wasn't a bad person. You hear all these horrible stories, you know?

Joe: Yeah.

Janice: No, he was a fine person, but not for me.

Joe: If you know it's not the right person, it's not the right person.

Janice: I liked learning stuff. He always made fun of learning stuff. He used to always tell, 'I tell the teacher I ain't got no pencil'. And she says, 'You have no pencil?' And he'd say, 'I still ain't got no pencil'. (laughs) That's his humor.

Joe: Right. Oh, wow.

Janice: My mother taught me to read at age 3.

Joe: I know. You told me that. So, how did you find your way down to Florida? How did you end up down here?

Janice: To Florida? I was on my own.

Joe: Oh, so Mr. Von Nick died while you were up north?

Janice: Oh, he died. He died in Florida. They were older when I was born. There was nobody.

Joe: I meant your husband. When did your husband pass away?

Janice: Uh, 2013.

Joe: 2013?

Janice: Yeah.

Joe: You lived in Florida together?

Janice: Huh?

Joe: You guys lived in Florida together? I was going to ask how you found your way down to Florida.

Janice: He went back to Quitman, where Sammy was. And then he died. He died at 64, just before he was going to retire.

Joe: This was your first husband?

Janice: That was my dad.

Joe: Oh, your dad.

Janice: My first husband died one week before my second husband died.

Joe: Oh, really? In 2013?

Janice: The 13<sup>th</sup>.

Joe: 2013.

Janice: One week before.

Joe: Okay. I was going to ask you how did you find your way to Florida. You and your husband. How did you find your way to Florida? What year?

Janice: We decided to go.

Joe: That's it?

Janice: That's it.

Joe: Why this area?

Janice: Well, his father was a developer in Sanibel, so he knew Florida. He came down here when you had to take a boat or something. There was no roads.

Joe: Von Nick's father?

Janice: My husband's father.

Joe: Okay.

Janice: His family. So, he was coming down here as a child.

Joe: Okay.

Janice: And I was in Jacksonville.

Joe: Have you ever been down in Southwest Florida before?

Janice: Me?

Joe: Yeah.

Janice: Oh, yeah.

Joe: So, why did you decide to settle in this area? Why in Charlotte County?

Janice: Well, we had bought some property in Costa Rica.

Joe: Okay.

Janice: On top of a big mountain. Beautiful. Pacific on 3 sides. But they had stopped in Venice and saw the shark's teeth there.

Joe: Mm-hm.

Janice: And he liked that you could just go and get shark's teeth. Of course, we lived on Lake Erie. It overlooked the yacht club. And I liked Venice. I liked Jacksonville. I liked Florida. I said, 'You know, we'd be better off if we stayed in Florida than going down to Costa Rica, because we won't be there all that much'.

Joe: Right.

Janice: He says, 'Okay, let's go down to Fort Myers and take a look at some of the architecture down there. See what we want'. So, that's what we did. We picked out a house. I picked out the builder. We were looking in the Sunday paper, they were advertising houses and builders and stuff. I said, 'Him.' He said, 'Okay'. We got in touch with him. We were still living in Cleveland while it was being built up. Came down 2 or 3 times, twice, I guess, while it was being built.

Joe: What year?

Janice: I never had a problem. Huh?

Joe: What year are we talking about?

Janice: It was... we were there about 35 years.

Joe: Oh.

Janice: A long time.

Joe: In Fort Myers?

Janice: Pardon?

Joe: You were in Fort Myers for 35 years?

Janice: No, not Fort Myers. No. We were up in Cleveland while it was being built. We came back and forth.

Joe: Oh.

Janice: We drove back and forth.

Joe: How long would you stay at a time? How long would you stay?

Janice: In Venice, we stayed about 35 years.

Joe: Oh, okay.

Janice: A long time.

Joe: Was it the 1980's?

Janice: I think it was before then. I think it was the 70's.

Joe: Seventies?

Janice: Seventy-something.

Joe: You must have seen a lot of difference in the area. Did you notice the growth over those 35 years? What was that like? Was it much smaller in the beginning?

Janice: Yes, but we were back on the lake. We had... I'll tell you a funny story. We built the house. There's only one other house there. We were both on the lake here. We come to find out both of our houses were too big to fit all of that, and they were not allowed to split the property. But, the people who would not allow you to split the property was part of the ones who owned the property. The whole area. And guess who the man was?

Joe: Jack?

Janice: Tom Regan. Tom Regan, son of Donald T. Regan.

Joe: Oh, Don Regan.

Janice: We didn't know who he was. Haven't even seen him. We just got notes back and forth. The man who wrote us the letter says if you purchase the whole property, then we're allowed to split it after we purchase it.

Joe: Right.

Janice: We gave him money. Didn't know who he was. That's what we did.

Joe: Wow.

Janice: We split it with Donald T. Regan. (laughs) Of course, he paid us. No problem. As soon as we did it, he did it, you know.

Joe: So, we're talking about Donald T. Regan, the government official?

Janice: Mm-hm.

Joe: Donald T. Regan.

Janice: You know who he is?

Joe: That's why I'm asking because I think there was a government person named Donald T. Regan.

Janice: With Ronald Reagan, he's the Chief. Donald T. is the head man under Ronald Reagan. Donald Regan.

Joe: That's what I thought.

Janice: Their kids were in our house all the time. They had 2 young kids. Are you going to him a check? Yeah. I think he can always cancel it, you know.

Joe: Right.

Janice: That was really weird. I think he thought we knew who he was.

Joe: And this is in Fort Myers?

Janice: He's in... I should say Erie. There's Venice...

Joe: North Port?

Janice: North Port.

Joe: Port Charlotte?

Janice: Port Charlotte. There's one more.

Joe: Um.

Janice: All the way down.

Joe: North Fort Myers or Cape Coral?

Janice: No, that way.

Joe: Cape Coral?

Janice: Not that way.

Joe: Arcadia?

Janice: Sarasota.

Joe: Oh, farther north.

Janice: Yeah. It's grown quite big there. And they're still there.

Joe: Okay. That's where you lived for 35 years?

Janice: Well, no. When?

Joe: When you first moved to Florida.

Janice: No. Our house was being built. Our house was being built. We came down, all the way down to Venice.

Joe: Oh, okay.

Janice: We moved into there.



Joe: So, you lived in Venice then.

Janice: Yeah.

Joe: Were you close to the water?

Janice: Yeah, it was on Waterside Lane.

Joe: Okay.

Janice: 1247. Drive by and wave to it.

Joe: And this is all because your husband... you guys stopped in Venice and got shark's teeth?

Janice: The shark's teeth. And that same day, Park-Ohio Industries, I was out in the plant with authority in my little hat. A man told me they had just come back from Fort Myers, and he stopped in Venice and had shark's teeth. Same day, we talked to each other.

Joe: Oh, wow.

Janice: And we picked it out of the paper. He was an Amish man. Never had a problem. We came down for the last checkup and the guys are looking, listening. I said, 'What's wrong?' He said, 'It doesn't match. The fireplace is that much too low. The hole, it didn't come out right'. I said, 'Why don't you put a little piece of... a little round thing'. I don't know what you call them. Just put it there in the fireplace.

Joe: Mm-hm.

Janice: He says, 'Can we do that?' I said, 'My grandfather would do stuff like that'.

Joe: Yeah.

Janice: And there it was. And it looks so much better than the original plans.

Joe: I bet. That's amazing.

Janice: You see, I had a really good life, an interesting life.

Joe: You were going back and forth a lot, from up north to down south.

Janice: And starting off, I was so timid. I was an only child. No kids to play with. I was so timid. I'd walk down the street with my mother. That's when I was 4 years old or something. If someone would say something directly to me, I would cry. I would cry.

Joe: Really?

Janice: I didn't want to be noticed. And my mother knew that. She was so smart. She taught school when she was 15. Back then, you didn't have to go to college. Anyway... what was I going to tell you? Oh, she was so smart. They had a woman there that taught dramatics and put on plays.

Joe: Mm-hm.

Janice: And she sent me to her. And I found, once you're on the stage, you can be anybody you want. And I loved character parts. I really loved character parts.

Joe: So, you were involved in that for a long time.

Janice: I was involved in that until she died. I was about 5<sup>th</sup> grade, 4<sup>th</sup> grade. No, I was going into 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> grade, 6<sup>th</sup> grade. No, it wasn't 6<sup>th</sup>, it was 5<sup>th</sup>.

Joe: And you also liked dancing. Those 2 things go together, being on stage and performing.

Janice: Hey, that's right.

Joe: Yeah. So, you must have really enjoyed that. So, you continued dancing all those years with your husband, Even down here in Florida?

Janice: Dancing is something else. Do you dance?

Joe: A little bit. I'm a musician. I play guitar.

Janice: So is my son. He sings.

Joe: I sing too.

Janice: Do you?

Joe: I think I'm going to be singing here on May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Janice: He's Country-Western.

Joe: I'm more 60's, Beatles kind of stuff.

Janice: He was a boy singer when he was young. He just got with this little band, just for fun.

Joe: Oh, yeah. It should always be for fun.

Janice: Huh?

Joe: It should always be for fun. That's why I do it too. Yeah, I'm a musician. So, I play. I'm usually playing the music the people are dancing to. I mean, I move, so I feel like I'm dancing. I'm dancing with my guitar.

Janice: But I hear music. If I'm walking, I hear music and I'm keeping time walking to the music. There's always music.

Joe: Exactly. It's in your head all the time.

Janice: Yeah.

Joe: That's how I feel. I write music too. I've written quite a few albums. I've got a new one out right now. But that's a side thing I didn't mean to talk about. But you've been onstage and so have I. It's true, you get to be anybody you want to be when you're onstage. So, do you think being an only child made you a little bit lonely? A little shy? Because you said when people would call your name, you would cry.

Janice: I like to be learning, doing something. My daughter and I, we've created this little thing that we're going to be doing here on Saturday. I don't know how it's going to work out here. We call it, Picture That. It's for people that can't hear. Do you have time for a little short story?

Joe: Sure. We've got plenty of time.

Janice: When we built the house, this was way back then. My daughter always wanted to go to Disney World. I called her and said, 'Why don't you come down and see our new house and we'll take you to Disney World?' So, she did. Right away. And we did. Took her to Disney World. We went to Disney World. People were coming in, and there was a little couple talking and really upset about something. She works with the deaf in the prison, so she knows people that are really stressed out. The girl was almost crying. She said, 'I'm going to go over and talk to her'. So, she did. And I could see her doing this. She was trying to sign language, it wasn't working too much. She came back over. She says, 'This girl's terrified. She doesn't know what they're going to do in that house. To start with, she doesn't even know what the tickets are for. She is from a different country. I don't know where they're from. I'm going to go around with them'. So, she takes their ticket. Yeah. We're going to ride and have fun. They went in with us. They came out and they were having a ball. They were laughing and giggling. They stayed with us half of the afternoon. Now she said, 'That's picture talk'. Now that's what we do, we do "Picture Talk". Picture that, okay.

Joe: So, you're doing that here? This Saturday?

Janice: I'll teach you then. Peace on Earth is a good one. How would you do a picture of let there be peace on Earth? It doesn't matter if it's right or wrong, it's your picture. You see it. Let there... give them permission. Right there. The peace, if it's going to be Earth, it's got to come from on high. Peace. Underneath. There you go. And let it begin. Where does it begin? With me. And that's what we do with all the songs.

Joe: Okay. It's like silent.

Janice: After, I play a record.

Joe: You do this every Saturday?

Janice: Huh?

Joe: You do this every Saturday?

Janice: Do this? We're just starting.

Joe: Oh, you're starting this Saturday.

Janice: Yeah.

Joe: Okay.

Janice: Mine was going bad. So, I ordered something, but it isn't in yet.

Joe: Okay.

Janice: They have one here. They can play it. Why don't you come see it with us.

Joe: I'll see if I can.

Janice: Every Saturday, if it goes over.

Joe: I can check another Saturday, but this Saturday, I have a gig at the Pine Island Moose Lodge. So, I'll be playing from 2 to 5. It's an afternoon gig. Then I got a night gig too. I'm going to be pretty busy on Saturday. I try to work every weekend, playing music. Like you said, enough to pay the bills.

Janice: You like to stay busy.

Joe: Yeah, and I have a 2-year old daughter, so I'm trying to make money and take care of her. Just starting out.

Janice: (laughs)

Joe: I just have a few questions, to go back over stuff I want to go back to. You made it seem like your grandfather got a little busier building when Franklin Delano Roosevelt was president. Is that because he got some of the government contracts?

Janice: What was that?

Joe: You eluded to the fact that your grandfather got more work as a builder when Franklin Delano Roosevelt was president. Is that because of the Works Programs he had for the New Deal?

Janice: Franklin Roosevelt. Absolutely. He did the libraries in the whole system. He did the libraries. What else did he do? W.P.A., workers' projects.

Joe: That's what I meant.

Janice: That's a long time for me to remember.

Joe: Yeah, I know. It was a long time ago. I was just curious if he got some of those contracts.

Janice: And it wasn't charity. They worked for it.

Joe: Of course.

Janice: They didn't have to look down on everything.

Joe: Right.

Janice: Yeah.

Joe: That was one thing I wanted to ask you. And then, where were you during Hurricane Charley?

Janice: What?

Joe: Hurricane Charley hit here in August of 2004. Were you living in Port Charlotte?

Janice: The driving force for what?

Joe: Okay.

Janice: Say it again.

Joe: Where were you during Hurricane Charley?

Janice: Where was I when what?

Joe: Hurricane Charley, the hurricane that hit Port Charlotte in 2004.

Janice: I didn't know that.

Joe: Oh, you didn't live here?

Janice: I wasn't in Port Charlotte.

Joe: When did you move to Port Charlotte?

Janice: Just now. I've only been here 6 months or something.

Joe: Oh, really? You moved from Venice?

Janice: I've been living here since... Heron House in Sarasota.

Joe: So, you moved from there to here.

Janice: I lived there four years. Three and a half years.

Joe: Why did you move here?

Janice: Well, this seems like a nice place. I like the way it was run to start with. Well, the sold Heron House to somebody else. It had nothing to do... for the people. There was nothing wrong with the people that took over it, but it's not going to last, I can tell you. They are kind of like foreigners. Where it was, it was like a family. It was like here. Same idea. Not quite as much as here. These people came in. I didn't know who they were to start with. They sat between the dining room and the living area most of the time, in chairs.

Joe: Right.

Janice: One of them wouldn't talk to you. He had some problem. I don't know what it was. He wasn't nice enough. And they didn't blend. They had problems in the kitchen. People were quitting, and servers.

Joe: Well, I'm glad you found a better living situation.

Janice: Not only that, they raised the prices.

Joe: Wow.

Janice: A lot. And they told me that I wasn't capable of taking care of my own medication. I only take one.

Joe: You only take one?

Janice: Well, I just have to keep the blood pressure down. Sometimes it goes a little high, but it's nothing.

Joe: You were acting as if your daughter lives nearby. I was asking... is that why you're in Port Charlotte?

Janice: No, she's in Kentucky.

Joe: Oh, that's right.

Janice: We, uh, didn't grow up together. I was pretty strict. If she wasn't in by 10 or 9:00 on a school night, she got it. I didn't spank her, but she was grounded.

Joe: Right.

Janice: That happened one time. And she went, 'Mother, did you want me to get hit by a train?' Of course not, that would hurt. But that clock doesn't know anything about trains. That clock says it's 3 or 4 minutes after 9. She went, 'But the train was coming'. Start earlier.

Joe: That's right.

Janice: She still remembers that.

Joe: That's a good lesson to live by. People need to be more prompt.

Janice: Anything they wanted to do, they let me know, and when they're coming back. Do you know "Up with People"?

Joe: Yeah.

Janice: I let her go with that. We wanted to go see the group sing. We went over the Westville. Nice. I said, 'Don't even think about it'. She went.

Joe: Yeah?

Janice: And she got down to Youngstown, I think. They stayed in peoples' houses. She was in high school, 15, 14, 15. I let her go. And they got there. People came out to get the kids to stay in their houses. And a boy stood in front of her. He said, 'Are you Garland?' Yes. 'Oh, is mother going to be surprised to see you'. (laughs) They thought Garland was a boy. The original Garland, which we didn't even know, was a Garland Lane, which was her middle name. Her middle name is Lane. Garland Lane is up there in Kentucky. Anyway, they have a whole cemetery up there with the Lane family. And Garland Lane was... he's the one who takes care of George Washington. The one that was likely taking care of him.

Joe: Okay.

Janice: Yeah. We've got pictures of his grave and everything. But I didn't know that when I named her.

Joe: So, they thought Garland was a boy.

Janice: George Washington, he was, uh, what do you call it? Take care of somebody.

Joe: Uh...

Janice: Not a hospital. He was in the Service.

Joe: Yeah, yeah. I know what you mean. I can't think of the word right now.

Janice: Bodyguard. He was the bodyguard to George Washington.

Joe: Okay.

Janice: We got pictures to all that. I didn't know that.

Joe: Yeah.

Janice: And I liked the name Garland. It was pretty for a girl. Garland. Garland Lane.

Joe: So, he thought it was going to be a boy.

Janice: (laughs)

Joe: That's funny. Well, I'm trying to think of what else we need to do. I think I'm going to write you a list of questions after I listen to this, and that way we'll be ready for when we do it live. There won't be any surprises. I'll try to stay chronological, if possible. I guess... you have some old photos you want to show me too?

Janice: Not here. Of who? Garland?

Joe: I'll take the picture of you. Let me see where we are on time here. Oh, an hour and 23 minutes.

Janice: Number 17, that would be good.

Joe: I'll put something together. Let's take a look at some of the photos and I'll take a picture of you as well. Do you want to look at this camera? Can you tell me a little more about your job?

Janice: Hmm?

Joe: The job you learned. Foraging?

Janice: I didn't forage. I did all the testing. Like the landing gear of the 747. We made a lot of those, not when I was there. What they do. They take one... if one fails, they take it back and then they take a new one too. They were the same steel.

Joe: Okay.

Janice: And all the... they make what they call a tensile, T-E-N-S-I-L-E. It's about that long. (gesturing) It's got a bolt here and it's got a bolt here. And the machine which we pull it apart in, is from the floor to the ceiling. And it has... you put them inside here. You clamp them in. And then I put the pressure on them and pull them up high, like this. Then I take them out. Sit them down by the table. They measure it to find out how many pounds per square inch it will move, take before it breaks. Then you have to find out how far it stretches before it breaks. There are about three different things you measure. You have to do that for everything that's made in the plant.

Joe: What you studied in school was more science, right?

Janice: Yeah.

Joe: Engineering?

Janice: The last one I went through was science.

Joe: Okay.

Janice: And metallurgy.

Joe: What was your job title?

Janice: That's what I did. I did all of that. I was in charge of the whole thing.

Joe: I know. What was the title? What did they call you?

Janice: Metallurgy. A technician. I was a technician.

Joe: Okay.

Janice: I did it for 6 years.

Joe: I like metallurgy.



Janice: I was a technician, but I did that part of the work and the photography. I took the pictures for them out in the foraging place.

Joe: And what was the name of the company again?

Janice: Park-Ohio Industries.

Joe: Park-Ohio Industries.

Janice: Subtitle: Park Drop Forage. It's a drop forage.

Joe: Okay, thank you. I needed that. Let me think if I have more questions. I think that's it. I think I'll be able to put something together. Show me some old photos.

Janice: I have a pile of industrial photography.

Joe: Do you have a lot of collection photography? Did you take pictures of some interesting things over the years?

Janice: Well...

Joe: Could I find some of your pictures online? Some of the pictures you've taken?

Janice: No, I didn't do that back then.

Joe: Oh, okay.

Janice: I can tell you some of the things that we worked on. We worked on crankshafts and freight trains

Joe: Okay.

Janice: We made crankshafts. We did lightning gears, wing stretch. Let's see. What else did we make? All different kinds of crankshafts.

Joe: Were there many women working in that field at the time?

Janice: What?

Joe: Were you the only woman working there at the time?

Janice: Uh-uh.

Joe: Were there lots of women working there?

Janice: There wasn't until I came there.

Joe: Weren't you the first?

Janice: They say what?

Joe: I said, 'Weren't you the first woman to work there?'

Janice: Yes.

Joe: How did it grow?

Janice: They had secretaries in the offices. We had an office and then I had a laboratory. I had a 3-story laboratory for the huge crankshafts, the landing gears and stuff. A whole building for that. But on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, when they didn't have anything there, I could teach dancing.

Joe: Oh.

Janice: And the boss loved dancing.

Joe: He did?

Janice: We didn't do too much in there, but once in a while. And I showed him how to do photography. It was the equipment I showed him.

Joe: Oh, okay. I'm going to take this picture of you. Are you ready? Here we go. 1-2-3. I think one of these will come out. Let me just take one more to make sure. You can smile if you want. Cheese. Alright. Thank you.

Janice: I take terrible pictures.

Joe: What?

Janice: I hate my pictures.

Joe: Oh, you do? I thought being a photographer, you would like it.

Janice: I got to put on a dance dress on a kind of hide behind.

Joe: When did you start seeing more females.

Janice: Hmm?

Joe: When did you see more females in your job? How long were you on the job before you saw more females getting technician jobs?

Janice: How long was I what? And where?

Joe: Yeah.

Janice: Ten years.

Joe: Ten years?

Janice: I stayed 10 years because then I could retire.

Joe: You said there were more women by the end of your tenure, right?

Janice: No, no. No... I was only at... When I moved down here, whatever year that is, I don't remember. I must have been close to 50 or something. I don't know.

Joe: Oh, okay. I'm going to take a picture of that. Do you have any advice to get that light on there? I was going to ask, you said more women were working there as you...

Janice: There always was. It might have been '45 or '46. I got married before my first husband came out of the service. He was there, maybe '48.

Joe: Did he serve during World War II?

Janice: Yeah. Uh-huh.

Joe: We should talk about that.

Janice: That was '48 or '50. Something like that.

Joe: Were you married at the time? During World War II?

Janice: It was over by then.

Joe: Could we talk about that a little bit? So, what was it like when your husband was gone at war, and you were at home?

Janice: He was away, but I didn't know him then.

Joe: Oh.

Janice: My last husband, I didn't know him then.

Joe: Oh, okay. Do you remember where you were when Pearl Harbor was bombed?

Janice: '41?

Joe: Yeah, do you remember where you were when you found out?

Janice: Yeah, we went there with my second husband.

Joe: I'm asking, do you know where you were when you heard the news that the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor?

Janice: Are you writing another story?

Joe: I was looking for another story, yeah.

Janice: Okay. I was, uh, what? I was 13 or 14. I was at my grandmother's.

Joe: Okay.

Janice: I was at my grandmother's house every weekend. All the grandkids would come over there. They all lived in the area. And the older people would sit on a long porch all around the

house and watch the kids play out front. We were out front in the yard, and it was just about getting dark. And all of a sudden, my grandmother got out of her chair. They had their own little chairs. My grandmother and granddaughter would sit in those chairs. And my daughter still has those chairs. Anyway, she got up from her little chair, went over to the edge of the porch, looked up at the sky. She says, 'Children, come here. Come here.' We stopped playing and looking at each other. She said, 'Come here. Hurry, hurry, hurry.' So, we ran over there to the edge of the porch and looked up at her. She says, 'Look. Look up at the sky. Don't you see it? Don't you see that? It's all red. There's gonna be a war'. That's it. And then she went and sat down. The next morning, the papers said Pearl Harbor. And we all saw that. She wasn't making up stuff. Yeah, really.

Joe: That was your mother who said that?

Janice: Huh?

Joe: Who was that? Who said that?

Janice: My grandmother.

Joe: Your grandmother, okay.

Janice: Yes. My mother was gone by that time.

Joe: Right.

Janice: Because I was about 12 or 13.

Joe: Do you remember where you were when the war ended? When you heard the war was over?

Janice: Oh, yeah.

Joe: Where were you? Was there a party?

Janice: Which war?

Joe: The second world war.

Janice: The second world war? That's the one it was. That was Pearl Harbor.

Joe: Yeah. Now I'm asking... I asked where you were when you found out. Where were you when the war ended?

Janice: The next morning. The boy threw the paper on the porch. He threw the paper on the porch and there it was.

Joe: Yeah, I got that. I was moving 4 years ahead and asking you, where were you when the war ended?

Janice: When the war ended?

Joe: Yeah. Where were you? Do you remember?

Janice: Jacksonville.

Joe: Yeah?

Janice: Yeah.

Joe: Do you remember what it was like? Was there a big celebration?

Janice: I wasn't...

Joe: Was there a big celebration?

Janice: I don't think I was old enough to celebrate. (laughs)

Joe: Okay, okay. I just wanted those stories for context. So, thank you.

Janice: Jacksonville, I remember downtown. Oh, I know where I was.

Joe: Okay.

Janice: I remember I was upstairs in a little studio called Griffith Studio. We heard noises and we looked out the window downtown. And there was a bread truck down there. And they were throwing bread out to everybody. Somebody said the war is over.

Joe: Oh. So, they were throwing bread out to celebrate? That's a celebration.

Janice: Yeah, yeah.

Joe: So, when you say Griffith Studio, is that associated with D.W. Griffith?

Janice: D.W. Griffith.

Joe: Okay. So, were you in movies? I guess is what my next question is. Were you in movies?

Janice: Uh-uh.

Joe: Were you in movies?

Janice: I never was in a movie.

Joe: Okay.

Janice: I had a chance to go with Tony Demarco.

Joe: Yeah.

Janice: And I don't know if I had gone until this day. It's good that I didn't. I like my life.

Joe: Yeah, yeah. It's funny how one decision can influence so much. I think I'm good. I think I have enough.

Janice: It was like *Gone with the Wind* again.

Joe: We'll figure it out. I'll send you some questions.

Janice: I don't know if it's a point of interest or not, but my grandmother's home was about 3 or 4 blocks up the hill from where *Gone with the Wind* was written, most of it.

Joe: Oh, where Margaret Mitchell lived.

Janice: Margaret Mitchell had a summer home there. And she goes back up to Atlanta. And when she's away, she turns her home. It's right by a little patch of woods and they had violets. And you could sit. You could pick them, taste them and sit. Give it to people. All the flowers. And she turns it over to the churches. They could use it for anything they want. And I guess the flowers kind of...

Joe: Are you talking about Margaret Mitchell's home in Atlanta, Georgia?

Janice: In Quitman, Georgia. It's a summer home.

Joe: Oh, so she used to go to Quitman?

Janice: Yeah, right down the house from where we stayed. It's on North Court Street. There are 4 main streets in town. North and South Court Street. And Main Street. A nice little town. I wanted to get out of there.

Joe: I'm going to make a point to visit at some point when I'm nearby. But you like Jacksonville better.

Janice: I like the excitement in Jacksonville. Going down to the waterfront.

Joe: Yeah? Cool.

Janice: You don't have to tell that to everyone. The thing is, they had people in the streets all night long.

Joe: Yeah, sailors coming through town too. I guess that's why you met a sailor.

Janice: Yes. And kids would go out and not going to school, don't know where they were. My, 16-year-olds had their own cars back then. They earned them.

Joe: Well, I think I got everything. Thank you very much for your time. We'll talk again before the 24<sup>th</sup>, okay? Alright? Signing off.