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Cape Verdean Oral History Project: Interview with Jaoquina Lima by Alberto Torres Pereira

Jaoquina Lima

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CAPE VERDEAN ORAL HISTORY
Tape B
Friday, March 24, 1972

Mrs. John Lima
Providence, Rhode Island

Interviewer - Alberto Torres Pereira

001 - Mention of whalers as first Cape Verdeans to America.

011 - Scoolds TV personality (Providence) for his insistence that first Cape Verdeans were slaves.

015 - Open Tape introduction: Alberto Pereira. Open information - date, place of birth, etc.

024 - Education - (6th grade, in Portuguese, 1st in Creole).

038 - Lyceu.

041 - Characteristics of St. Vincente - weather, climate, economic resources. St. Vincent. She considers Maio port stop-off point for visiting other islands.

062 - Remembers (at age 10) English first foreigners - telegraph wireless offices.

072 - Mother was washerwoman. Recalls a happy childhood. No mention of father. All family from St. Vincente.

082 - Transportation - horses, donkeys. Walked to church, school, etc.

091 - Government. Says people liked government (Portuguese).

097 - Came United States - 1913 with aunt and mother. Aunt was in United States - married to ship's captain. New opportunities. "Beautiful country to come to."

110 - Came on French liner. Trip took several days. Comfortable trip. Port of entry - State Pier in Providence. Her uncle met them. Passage through immigration uneventful.

126 - First impressions - made friends easily - (Providence) Arnold Street School (elementary) and Thayer Street School (grammar).

135 - Lives with aunt.

140 - Neighbors of mixed nationalities, but Cape Verdan friends nearby.

146 - First house lived in.

152 - Small grocery, neighborhood stores. People get along. Creole spoken.

163 - "Never had any problems." First job. Factory corner of Wickenden and South Main. Raincoat and shirt factory (defunct). At 14-years-old worked at shirt factory. (details her work). Wages described as "cheap" - No unions.
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189 - Discusses her trips to Portugal and Cape Verde Island - 1967 - and 1971 - St. Vincente. Progress in Cape Verde Islands not as hard as before. Car factory, cigar factory, big docks, many ships, tourists, bargain stores.

211 - St. Vincente described as having all modern conveniences - except TV. Parks - considers St. Vincente as progressing rapidly, other Cape Verde islands not. Cars, cabs, trucks - transportation. Airport in St. Vincente, Praia, St. Nicolau.

234 - Population. Cape Verde islands more than 200,000. Different nationalities--Chinese, English, Japanese, etc. "Just like here" (U.S.).

250 --

252 - Discusses racial makeup of Cape Verdeans (mixed).

274 - Discusses return to Cape Verde Island. Discusses her family here in U.S.

330 - End interview.