



# Telling Our Stories Finding Our Roots

## Interview with Dale Snow

PART 1

Q. [00:00:01]

OK. I've got um. Starting an oral history with Dale Snow on the 27th August 2020, and we are talking about her and her dad Franz Rozic and we have just got a few questions. Um so thank you very much for being Dale. It's very good of you. I know that er you know it's not your favourite thing, no-one's favourite thing, but um so the first thing that I'm going to do um just to settle us in and think about um think about your story and your dad's story is first of all, just ask you um about a bit about your dad, about the beginning of his story, and maybe some of his heritage and background.

A.

Um what I know is when I found out that he his sister came sorry his sister contacted us in 1973 um after um being out of contact with him for 30 years um, as he left Yugoslavia after his father had chucked him out of the home.

Q. [00:01:17]

When did that happen?

A.

Um

Q. [00:01:21]

Do you remember

A.

That was 1948 he left and

Q.

So he left in 48 and he was um how old would he have been about? Do you know about...

A.

16

Q.

So he was 16

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A.

Yeah and he walked from Sorenian (?) in Yugoslavia all the way to Italy where um he caught um we later found out the navy and they took him to England, where he learnt how to be a cook in their um

Q. [00:02:00]

Do you think that was when he was on the ship?

A.

He could've started to learn on the ship. I don't know.

Q.

But maybe afterwards as well.

A.

But he was definitely cooking in er um displaced person's home.

Q.

Yeah. In one of the the camps. And then he was in so he was in Plymouth and then um how how did he end up in Tiverton. What was his journey from there

A.

To be honest, I don't know how he got to Tiverton. Um. Whether they um moved them out of Plymouth after so long um he went to um Cruwys Morchard, which was another displaced person's um barracks which was in the middle of nowhere. And then he went to Bolham which was another displaced person's unit on the outskirts of Tiverton um and from there he I think he was working on a farm which they were doing from the from Bolham camp. Um after that, he moved to a little caravan in behind the um forgotten what's it called, the Half Moon Pub

Q. [00:03:43]

Yeah. And that's where the market is now, isn't it

A.

That's right yeah.

Q. [00:03:50]

Where the Pannier Market is now, near the Pannier Market isn't it um So when he was living um in the cara... it's a funny kind of, it's a bit of a mystery isn't it as to why he ended up living in a caravan. I suppose .. Does it give you .. Perhaps it gave him more freedom than being in the camp or

A.

Whether that was when he'd um started working down the factory perhaps

Q.

Er. So tell us about yeah so tell us he was working at Heathcoat factory at that point wasn't he.

A. Yeah

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Q.

Tell us a little bit about that.

A.

Um He wasn't down there that long because he was sacked for smoking. And he while he was in the caravan he met my mum who was working in Woolworths and he used to bring her hot ham sandwich for lunch break which which he which he was cooking for himself but he always brought her this hot ham sandwich that mum still keeps going on about

Q.

(chuckle)

A.

to this day.

Q. [00:05:07]

Does she. Does she say what they talked about when she first met him. And does she talk about the sandwich. Does she talk about anything else about when they first met or

A.

Not really. Just that he used to you know come into Woolworths to do his little shopping because there was a lot more things in Woolworths in those days and I

Q.

Was it like a kind of small supermarket, was it like a Tescos, or like it was the place she went to all the time

A.

Yeah. Yeah. It was a lot different from what it is now. Or was.

Q. [00:05:40]

Yeah Um So So that kind of tells us a little bit about your dad's story to here via displaced people's camps um and and kind of begins his story in Tiverton. Could you tell us a little bit about um sort of your childhood here - perhaps your family life with them. How do you feel about that?

A. Um. They got married in 1960. Er they had me in 1966 and we were just a normal family, did did the normal things.

Q.

We've got some lovely pictures of you and your dad. Would you say you were close to your dad and your mum

A.

Yeah. Um yeah we were close. Um I always used to like to go down to my uncle's farm where dad used to like to do um help out on the farm. And we'd go for the weekend and leave mum at home where she would be looking after my gran. It was her weekend. Um. I think that was the time when I was close to my dad cos I went off with him

Q. [00:07:07]

Yeah. That's a nice nice time to have with him isn't it. Just you two together. Um . What else?

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We kind of started thinking about your dad and him going and helping on the farm. What other else for of things did he like to do? Did he have any hobbies or things he liked.

A.

He loved darts. He liked snooker. Um I think darts was his favourite thing to do if he went for a drink. He was in the darts team. Oh don't know where it was. I think it could have been British Legion

Q.

Oh OK

A.

where he was in the darts team. Not sure.

Q. [00:07:50]

Did he do darts with anyone else from the kind of Yugoslavia area. Did anyone else of that group do it with him or was that something he just did because he really loved it.

A.

I'm not sure.

Q.

Cos we've got some nice pictures of him

A.

I know there was one photograph, sure that was a darts um photo and there was a couple of Yugoslav people in there but I didn't know them but I think it was mainly for him to just play darts..

Q.

Yeah He loved it

A.

He loved playing cards. We had a family get together, everyone played cards (chuckle)

Q. [00:08:39]

Do you know how to play cards

A.

I hate playing cards

Q. [00:08:40]

Do you (laughter)

A.

I like watching but not to play, yeah.

Q.

So you haven't learnt any games from him? Or what did they play- do you remember what they played was it

A.

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All sorts um (muffled) polka just other games that I can't remember now cos I most of the time I was too tiny to remember.

Q.

So that I think that leads us nicely on to the question of um whether you think there's a strong sense of community in Tiverton and and perhaps his community that you had

A.

Um When dad was alive er there were a lot of Yugoslav people around and they were always um meeting up whether it was in the pub or whether it was at work because there were people that worked in the factory. Um they met up at home. But now they've gone, that era, you don't know the families so well. I know some of the children but not like dad would have known his generation.

Q. [00:10:10]

Do you think perhaps we used to spend more time in other people's houses. Is there something changed about the way um yeah cos it sounds to me like before when we've talked about your dad and the group of them that they would come together quite often. So how often would they come together as a group do you think. Do you remember? Be once a week, or

A.

Um er depending. If dad, dad used to go for a drink perhaps twice a week and he and he would always meet up with one or two of them at least and he always used to go down into um their houses um you know just on the off chance that they were there and... it always um intrigued me why they talked in a foreign language to me and I couldn't understand that. It wasn't until my auntie contacted my dad and I was told about my other family but I heard his Yugoslav accent come out.

Q. [00:11:31]

So how old would you have been then when you heard, when you

A.

Um I was born in 66. It was about 73 that she contacted

Q.

OK so you, so you're seven and then you're realising that your dad perhaps is from a different place. So you've got this family in another place, um, do you remember how you kind of felt at the time, when you discovered it. Was it a thing of like oh that's why he's like that

A.

Oh yeah

Q. [00:12:02]

Or

A.

Yeah, it did, it all clicked into um on my on why he was talking strange to his friends. You know. Cos he'd start talking in English when if I was there and then they would go on in Yugoslav

Q. [00:12:20]

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And that's what you called it Yugoslav, isn't it so

A.

Yeah

Q.

And do you know, I s'pose you probably don't know this but like where his friends where his friends from Slovenia or didn't - were they from all over

microphone noise - muffled speech

A.

...from his friends...couldn't read it all,... couldn't read the letter

Q. [00:12:54]

So, it's obviously different languages, but they could understand each other with a bit of, you know, maybe with a different acc

A.

(muffled)

Q. [00:12:59]

Yeah yeah yeah all speaking Welsh or your French or Italian are a bit like that, aren't they. They can speak but Yeah reading's different. OK. Thank you. Um, what was I going to ask then? Oh yeah. Did your dad ever speak about his home. So if you didn't sort of register until you're about seven that he was from a different place and then your aunt got in touch. So, I mean, after that, or before, or kind of at any time did your dad ever ever talk about his past um

A.

(muffled) he never said anything .....he wouldn't talk about .....(muffled)

Q. [00:14:00]

not his childhood, nor, or I suppose he was very young when he came here, wasn't he, so it's it's such a long time. When um he must have er the fact that he was pleased to hear from his sisters, though, he must have remembered the relationship with them

A.

(muffled) Oh yeah definitely

Q. [00:14:15]

Um. Could you talk a bit about them and I know did you go and see them at one point, if you talk about that as well

A. We went in(muffled) (short laugh) it was lovely meeting them....couldn't speak a word of Yugoslav but somehow we managed to communicate with them. Dad was worn out by the time we got home ...translate um. The sister that contacted (muffled).. we went down to see the rest of the family...it was in a tiny hamlet um perhaps 20 houses ... like farmhouses....

Q. [00:15:34]

Was that where he was from originally. Is that where his family would have lived, so that small

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hamlet yeah yeah

A.

They still lived ..same land with where he was bought up (muffled)... he would have inherited ...

Q.

Oh

A.

Um

Q. [00:15:55]

How did you get a sense of how he felt, was he happy when he went back, was it

A.

(muffled) ... his brother seemed to think... um to do with partisans...wartime. And I don't think he really understood why dad went away and there was a bit of aggravation between his brothers more so than ...

Q. [00:16:41]

Um yeah ok. So I think it sounds like that um that journey was sounds fascinating, it sounds like it would have been um really interesting to you, so how how old were you at that point. You would have been teenager at that point

A.

I was I'd left school

Q.

Oh ok, so you were a bit older than that.

A.

18 I think I was ...(muffled) must have been...18th birthday

Q. [00:17:30]

(laughter) Oh that's great. OK thank you. Um. so from what you said you didn't speak or write your dad's language or read it um. How do you feel, how did you feel about that. Would that be something you would have changed

A.

.....teach me Yugoslav when I was tiny enough to speak it without thinking about it... but then he's go no contact with his relations. Um. He didn't I expect he ever thought a need to teach me ...I tried to learn a language

Q. [00:18:13]

Well,it's so difficult to learn when you're an adult - think you need to know when you're a child and

A.

(muffled)

Q. [00:18:26]

Yeah so true. um. So, the other thing, just wondered if you could talk about um religion or faith, so

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either um well if you could talk about the religion and faith of your father, and then maybe also your um religion and faith just briefly

A.

(muffled) Um. When my dad came to England he was Roman Catholic ...became Communist ... church in the village ...it was all Roman Catholic things ...like to show they were still celebrating their faith.

Q. [00:19:32]

So they maintained that all the way through his regime until the point you saw them and they clearly obviously being Roman Catholic and was important. And did your dad do anything here that, did he celebrate festivals or have any faith days that you remember being a bit different but you weren't sure why, and that was perhaps because of his Roman Catholic faith

A.

(muffled) but...January, he always used to go down to his friends.... Christmas ... Yugoslav way

Q. [00:20:14]

the 7th of January

A.

Yes and we all celebrated it ..again ....but we were celebrating Christmas

Q. [00:20:23]

So did you have two Christmasses then

A.

(muffled)

Q.

Oh ok so New Year's Day, yeah. So did you have two Christmasses and you didn't really realise that you had two Christmasses, that other people didn't have two Christmasses, or

A.

(muffled) I just thought we were going down to ... only since I've grown up that I realised by what people have said what dad had said that it was Christmas for them. I think it was when he went back to Yugoslavia at Christmas

Q. [00:21:00]

Oh OK and then you realised that the first of January

A.

...came back...

Q. [00:21:03]

Yeah ..Did he did you do your presents on the 25th and then the first, I s'pose was just an extra celebration. So that's why you didn't notice the the difference

A.

(muffled)

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Q. [00:21:15]

No. OK. no yeah, that's interesting. Um and so he was Roman Catholic but I know you mentioned that you're Methodist. Is that correct.

A.

Yeah (muffled)

Q. [00:21:30]

Do you think he sort of practised both or was it was aware of both or he kept his Roman Catholic traditions a little bit because he carried on doing the celebrations on the first

A.

(muffled) Yeah probably but um I don't think there was any other time apart from Christmas that I can think of ...celebrate

Q. [00:21:55]

OK So just that one time of year that it was clear. Thank you.

(coughing)

Q. [00:22:03]

That's alright. Um. OK So we've talked a little bit about his heritage and perhaps something about traditions or faith, but are there any other traditions that you would like to tell us about so food or music or anything else that you feel that he did that was part of your

A.

(muffled) ..that they make in Yugoslavia...

Q. [00:22:41]

(laughter) so did he get you to drink it if you were (more laughter)

A.

(muffled) He knew that it would .....and I drank it and I was nearly sick

Q. [00:23:13]

Oh no (chuckle)

A.

(muffled)I took it down in one go ...

Q.

OK so it was medicinal as well as a pleasure for him

A.

(muffled) It was a special, um, it wasn't just a drink ...slivovitz ...just a drink

Q. [00:23:37]

Yeah. OK. Dale, could I ask you make sure your microphone's out so that we can I think it's fine but, it is alright, isn't it. It's connected here isn't it. Oh it's come off that's why I thought might

PART 1 END

Dale Snow interview transcript

PART 2

Q. [00:00:01]

OK so it's definitely recording now. Um um so we talked a bit about slivovitz and the kind of um you having that and that being something that was you know a memory from going back to Slovenia. Um could we talk a little bit about your life in Devon and or or I should say that perhaps your childhood and how you felt about that. Um. So I know you've talked about not really realising that you your dad's heritage was different until you were about seven. Um so could you tell us about did you feel Tivertonian, did you feel like that you were you were someone from Devon and and you know, could you tell us a bit more about that that part of your life.

A.

I've always thought I was Devonshire but um I always say well I'm more, half Yugoslav, like if the football's on, that's another thing my dad loved was football. Um. And like England and Slovenia were playing, I didn't know which I wanted to win because they were both my country. It it um ..., so um like if I was talking to people like it was the football they said well you want England to win and I said yeah but I got um Yugoslav roots as well. I said I'm as much a Yugoslav as I am England English. Um but I don't think really growing up I didn't feel that I was anything other than English. Um. I've got a big family on my mum's side um which I we're very close to. Um. A lot of my mum's family or all of my mum's mother's my mum's brothers and sisters have passed away now. But we used to go on holidays together. Dad, he would drive up to Swanage with my gran and it always used to be a family holiday. Um but I always later years I always wondered what my Yugoslav grandparents would have been like. You know, I've missed out in that respect but I wouldn't change anything um

Q. [00:03:07]

Yeah, it sounds like you had just from the pictures we've seen and the conversations we've had, it does sound like you've had a happy childhood

A.

Yeah

Q.

And did your dad get on with um did um did Franz get on with um your mum's family as well. A nice relationship.

A.

Yes definitely. He was like another son to my gran. And you know my mum told my dad off it was her that got in trouble for telling him off, even if he was in the wrong. Um yeah. Well the family were

close to him

Q. [00:03:45]

That sounds very welcoming

A.

Yeah, I know my uncle did tell him to bugger off back to Yugoslavia when my mum first brought him home

Q. [00:03:55]

OK so it did take a moment then so

A.

It wasn't like, he said it in fun he wasn't he was like that but um because when I got married I thought my uncle would say something same to me about my husband but he didn't. UM. But my gran was worried when my mum met my dad because she thought, she'd been told that he was married, which he wasn't and um she told mum he had to come home to meet her. And I I think it was round about that sort of time that my uncle had said to him to bugger off

Q.

(laughter)

A.

to Yugoslavia

Q. 00:04:54]

So it sounds like he did have to pass a few tests, at least go and meet the family and make sure that, but then that's quite common any, you want your you want your children to have nice partners and marry the right person

A.

yeah

Q. [00:05:06]

the right person anyway, don't you

A.

I think it was just cos she wanted to make sure her youngest daughter was meeting the right man

Q. [00:05:15]

Yeah, no, fair enough. Thank you. That's really useful Um. So, just, just to tell us a little bit about your life now. Could you just tell us about where you live and just where you work as well. Just to give us a picture of you.

A.

I live in Tiverton. I've lived here all my life. Um. I'm a carer. ...Um I like my crafts, reading. Um. That's about all really

Q.

OK Thank you

A.



History. That's why I've done this. Um

Q. [00:05:57]

Yeah. Tell us about do you want to tell us about why you joined the project. What were your wishes from it like. What did you want to get

A.

When I was on Facebook um I saw my mum and dad's wedding photo come up and which was from the museum .. and then I was reading all about the exhibition and I got interested. I thought oh that would be nice to leave for years to come. Um. That's how it all started.

Q. [00:06:34]

Yeah. Thank you That's really good. So it was your picture - forgotten that - your picture your parents. And was it was it one you hadn't seen before cos you had another picture

A.

Mmm

Q. [00:06:45]

and this was this new one. This was obviously one taken by the newspaper It was in the newspaper newspaper's clipping. And they used to do that a lot I think. They used to take a lot of pictures of people getting married and celebrate it in the newspaper and we'd just put that on to ask if anyone knew about the family. Then of course you got in touch

A. Yeah my cousin went and told me saw it originally

Q.

Oh OK

A.

telling me to have a look at it

Q.

The power of Facebook

A.

Yeah it is that's right

Q [00:07:12]

Yeah yeah enables us to get in touch with each other. It's a nice thing. Um. So um getting to last questions now. Do you have any hopes or fears for the next ten years

A.

I don't know I'd like that the Coronavirus to be er eradicated which is going to be a long time I reckon but I hope that would be gone. There's more peace in the world. Yeah.

Q.

And um also I kind I kind of feel like um the fact that you're sharing your story here as well,

A.

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Yeah

Q.  
kind of feels like that's a positive

A.  
Yeah

Q. [00:07:50]  
For the future.

A. and/or Q.  
Gentle chuckle

Q. [00:07:54]  
Um so a penultimate question now. Um. Do you think, just thinking back to Tiverton of your childhood, do you think Tiverton has changed um - how do you feel about that

A.  
Oh it's changed a lot. When I was a child you had a proper market with animals tuesdays market day. We used to always go down to see the animals, used to love going down to the

Q.  
Who would take you to the animals, both parents or

A.  
Usually mum. Dad would have been at the work. And you know there was calves and um - all sorts of proper market stalls. It was just lovely to see one usually when I was on school holidays go there

Q. [00:08:47]  
I forgot to ask about your dad's work. Is there anything do you remember how often he worked in kind of do you

A.  
He'd work as much as he could he was .. um I think he only had one day off a week because he wanted to work for his family. Um he always worked five days a week. He used to nearly always worked Saturday mornings. Um he worked in um Redland Roof Tiles where he um was um a machine operator and um there was Yugoslav there that he knew that well he used to go to work with them in the car. And they took it in turn to drive um er he was a worker. Never um I don't I can't remember him ever being out of being out of work.

Q [00:10:10]  
Yeah he always would so he had a strong work ethic and kind of

A.  
yeah

Q.  
That was. It clearly that sounds like it was important to him

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A.  
Yeah

Q. [00:10:16]  
And obviously we talked about him at the beginning getting sacked for smoking I feel like um you know that's the sort of thing that could happen at that time because the Heathcoat Factory ...

A.  
He was asked to go back

Q. [00:10:31]  
Oh. Was he asked to go back

A.  
Yeah  
Q. [00:10:33]  
But he had another job

A.  
They changed. The um rulings where he couldn't smoke. He wouldn't go back.

Q. [00:10:44]  
Was he proud then do you think

A.  
Stubborn

Q.  
Stubborn

A.  
Yeah Afraid I've got it as well.

(laughter by both)

Q. [00:10:52]  
I'm glad that you have got it though, it's good. Um Ok. So, er last question. If you, for people listening to this oral history in the future, listening, they want to find out about families in Tiverton and perhaps people who have travelled after the war, so it's quite a, it's a fascinating story isn't it, your dad went from Slovenia to Italy and then all the way to here and then and then found his life here and kind of settled here and married. Um but is there any other um other messages or anything you want to say to add to the story and that you haven't covered and you'd like to or is there any messages that you want to tell anyone for the future.

A.  
If you've lost touch with your family, keep on trying to locate them whether it's the Salvation Army, Red Cross. Don't give up because you can find them in the end.

Q. [00:11:48]

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Yeah Thank you. That's a lovely message. Do you um even though it must be difficult you don't speak the same language as your family but do you have any correspondence with them. Do you send pictures or is there any kind of

A.

Um. My cousin is on Facebook and when it's his birthday or Christmas I try to send um Christmas message to him through Google translate (cough) 'scuse me it doesn't always work (chuckle) and he usually tells me because he's better at English than me cos I could talk to him when I was in Yugoslavia

Q. [00:12:30]

OK

A.

But um yeah we always try um and contact each other a little bit. It's hard, but we have a go

Q. [00:12:42]

Yeah Well it sounds like it's important to you. You should carry on. Like you said.

A.

Yeah

Q. [00:12:47]

Keep going. Um. OK Thank you very much Dale. So is there anything you want to add or are we are we good. Are you finished.

A. 12:54

I think that's ok.

Q.

I think that's everything isn't it. I can't think of anything we talked about that we haven't covered today, so thank you ever so much. Thank you for doing it and

A.

Thank you

Q.

Thank you for doing it. I know it's not your favourite thing. Thank you so much, it's been really fantastic.

A.

Thank you

Q.

Thank you.

PART 2 END

Dale Snow interview transcript

PART 3

Q. [00:00:00]

OK So we're continuing the oral history with Dale Snow. It's the 10th of the Ninth um 2020. And we've just got a few questions um for Dale that didn't quite work last time, so, resuming the interview where I was asking er Dale about her father and his friends, um, whether they were all from Slovenia or from different places um in that area of Europe.

A.

Yeah um Dad came from Postojna but a lot of his friends came from different parts of Yugoslavia. Um when I wanted to see one of his friends after my dad died to read a letter, he couldn't read the letter but he could he could still understand if he was talking to my dad in Yugoslavia Yugoslav. So it it must be like talking English to Welsh, that type of thing.

Q.

Yeah, so they could understand each other um but yeah quite different different when it's written down, yeah

A.

writing is different

Q. [00:01:20]

And then the next question um did your dad ever speak about his past. I know we talked before that when he came and obviously he settled with your mum ummm and we've talked about some of the traditions that he adopted but yeah did he talk about his past with you.

A.

Er before his sister contacted him, I didn't know anything at all about his past. I thought he was English. I didn't know at all that he was Yugoslav. But after his sister contacted him through the Red Cross, I suddenly heard his accent for the first time. I must have been about five or six and it was such so strange to me, after hearing English and then hearing an accent. It was it was a very weird thing. You know, it was almost in minutes that I heard it.

Q. [00:02:29]

Um. So, um you kind of heard him er obviously he sounded quite different after you found out. Um did he then once your aunt got in touch through the Red Cross, did he then um talk any more about his past or did you find out more or did you just

A.

..took a long time before I heard anything and then he didn't really want to talk about his past. It was like pulling teeth really um He was happier talking about what was happening over here rather than going through what had happened to him at home in Yugoslavia.

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Q.

How did you find out about that. Was it partly when you went because you've got a story about him being kind of thrown out of home at quite a young age. So how did you find out about that.

A.

That was I don't know if it was he told me or whether it was my mum who told me. That was over here in England that I found out when his father had caught him eating ham um and he threw him out and told him he didn't want to see him again. He walked to Italy where he joined the the navy helped him to come to England.

Q. [00:04:02]

Um. So, could you talk a bit about his sister and maybe about um I know that you went to Slovenia to visit the family. So um yeah maybe if you could talk a bit about that meeting your aunt.

A.

Oh, it was lovely. She was such a lovely warm lady, not with us anymore. Um it was (speaker quite distressed). It was like meeting one of my mum's sisters, like like I'd always known her. It was a it was a strange meeting. Um. I was 18 I think when we went over there. And um yeah it was a lovely meeting. We stayed with them for a week and then we went down to another sister where my dad was born in Altavitch(?). Um. And then there it was the same with this, with my dad's sisters down there. His brother was a bit um I don't know what the word is. I think his brother blamed um in a way my dad going to leaving home and that because it was in the war he thought that my dad was part of the partisans, which he wasn't, it was just that his father had made him go.

Q. [00:05:55]

He was so young

A.

Yeah

Q

it's almost like too young to be oh maybe it's not too young to be part of a political allegiance

A.

no..

Q.

But he was a young teenager wasn't he really, or mid teens

A.

Teens. Um but you know there wasn't any arguments as such but he he just there was just something

Q. [00:06:16]

Yeah it wasn't as warm as

A.

Yeah

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Q.  
as your aunts perhaps

A.  
Yeah

Q. [00:06:21]  
and his sisters. So did you have was there anything you remember from the trip food or experiences that made you think about his past. Tell me about that

A.  
Er dad liked to have some slivovitz which was plum brandy and which is fire. Um. It's a cross between brandy and whisky and if you don't if if you know if you like that's it you would like it but if you don't like whisky or brandy (laughter) no it's horrible. And then we had bad tummies then and we had walnut um medicine. I thought it was slivovitz but talking to mum, it was walnut medication did the trick but that was why...(more laughter) um make walnut cake, which is lovely. Um it's a bit like a swiss roll um but there isn't really a cream as such, I don't think, can't really remember but it was a nice flavour to it. I'm trying to get the recipe but it's hard to get because I don't know the what it's called

Q.  
Yeah

A.  
in English

Q.  
Yeah

A.  
In Yugoslav. But I'm gonna keep trying

Q. [00:07:57]  
Yeah. See if you can find out. Um so do you are you able to maintain contact um with your family in Slovenia or is that is that tricky

A.  
Yeah it's tricky um. I'm friends with my cousin on Facebook and we try to send each other messages through the Google translation but it doesn't always work out. (laugh) We always know that the other one is caring about each other. Um I think if they could get over here we would we would be able to talk to each other because my cousin learnt English at school. As when I was at staying with them um um we could talk to each other then.

Q. [00:08:58]  
And that was your cousin rather than the were the older generations, did they speak English at that time or was that ..

A.  
No it was just my generation that spoke English

Q. [00:09:07]

Did it change how you felt about um about yourself or you're a family after you'd been. Did it kind of affect you

A.

Um I don't know really. Er. It was nice that I'd met them but it was so many years that I hadn't had I I only knew my mum's family and I it didn't occur to me I'd got family from my dad's side. It was it was funny really. Um

Q. [00:09:49]

Was that just because you hadn't sort of met them I suppose before so if you hadn't met them before

A.

And I didn't know before my auntie contacted me, my dad rather. You know, if dad had said you know that he'd got brothers and sisters it was it was a weird time it it was a lovely time

Q. [00:10:20]

Mmm yeah it does sound like a nice trip and it sounds like I mean obviously you feel quite emotional about it so it's obviously had an impact on you in some way. Um. So the other thing that we did talk about but didn't record very well was the the religion and faith of both your father and your mother and you and I think that's quite a nice thing just to go over. So um did your um did your dad have a religion um and then maybe talk about your mum's as well.

A.

Yeah um dad when he was at home was Roman Catholic and he probably left by the time Tito came into power where Tito stopped all the Roman Catholics he went to Communism changed all the churches. Um when we went to visit and my dad's family um we went to the little church, it was on a hill and they showed us that their, um oh I don't know what you would call it, ooo

Q. [00:11:45]

What like their church or their chapel

A.

What not their um their Roman Catholic things were all hidden away

Q.

Oh ok so like an alter or like all the decorations that they would have had Yeah

A.

Um. It was all behind a screen but they they kept it there and they lifted up the screen for when they had their services but when there was nobody about the screen came down so in case there was an inspection you know, they all covered

Q.

Were they more open about their religion by the time you went or um were they still screening it off

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A.

Yeah yeah in 1984 they were um then when dad came to Yugoslavia sorry England um and he met mum and they got married he was mum was Methodist so he turned to Methodism and when they got married and I'm Methodist as well.

Q. [00:13:06]

Was that something sorry just getting the microphone sorted was that something um was that something fairly important to your mum's family as well. Were they all Methodist. Was that something that affected your weeks. Would you go to church on Sunday

A.

Yeah

Q.

and kind of practise in that sort of way. Um. Yeah. Um. I don't know if we might have talked about this before but I might just cover it quickly before we finish. But um because I know that we talked at some point about um about New Year or Christmas. So I think we have got that recorded but could you just talk about your Christmas celebrations. So we know that you did things that you would do as someone who's from Tiverton and from England and that you would celebrate Christmas in the way that everyone did here. Um but I remember you mentioning about your dad, there was a couple of things that he he

A.

Yeah

Q. [00:13:57]

perhaps used to do a bit differently.

A.

Um. Like you say we used to celebrate Christmas like everyone else does in England, but um on the first of January we always used to go down to one of his friends' houses and celebrate Christmas because that's the first of January is their Christmas. I didn't know it was the Yugoslav Christmas until a long time afterwards. I just thought we were having a get together and for Christmas but not for Christmas, if that makes sense. And um we just, you know the children just played with their new toys um whereas dad and Salvo (?) they would be talking probably about old times. Um I don't know if they would have done. I can't remember.

Q. [00:15:13]

Maybe just gossiping a bit about work or something. It sounds like he probably did that more than talking about darts or something

A.

Yeah probably.

Q. [00:15:22]

OK thank you Dale. Thank you for doing that extra

A.



that's ok

Q.  
ten or fifteen minutes so that we could finish it off.

PART 3 END

Transcribed by:  
Linda Luckhaus  
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