



Telling Our Stories, Finding Our Roots

Interview with Angela Howard and Milena Trowbridge

Interviewers: Sue Stevens & Wendy Nichols

Transcriber's notes:

The interview is in three parts - MONO-006, 007,008

Q. denotes interviewer speaking

A following new line of text indicates a response by one of the interviewees, followed by a further new line if (as indicated by a voice change) the other interviewee then also responds.

It was often not possible to transcribe the quiet, informal, exchanges between the interviewees.

The following is a discussion between persons setting up sound recording equipment at start of interview:

That's off now, is it.

Yes, press record once

OK ...When we record, make sure menu is closed. Press menu button to close

if recording , buttons flashing, press it again so it is now red

I think it's recording..we've probably been on there for about five minutes...it's alright? ok

Start of interview

PART 1: MONO-006

Q. My name is Sue Stevens and this is Wendy Nichols and this interview is taking place at the Museum of Mid Devon Live in Tiverton

Q. Could you please tell me your full names and where you were born and date of birth

My name is Angela Howard and I was born in 29 Queensway, Cranmore(?), Tiverton on 13th November 1963

My name is Milena Trowbridge. I was born in Tiverton on 12th August 1969.

Q. OK. Well we've come today because you have agreed to tell us a little bit about your father Danielo Maglov or Danny Maglov. OK. I've got some photographs here. I don't know if you'd like to look at them and see if you can tell us anything about them.

OK

Q. This one hopefully you can tell us a little bit about

That's mum and dad's wedding picture. That's dad, with his best friend Saville

Q. Saville?

Saville Juric (?)

Q. Saville Juric. Right.

Umm I don't really know the names of the other people, do we,, just dad with groups of....

Q. Do you think they might have been from the prisoner of war camp or..or.. from the hostel he was in a hostel

I think the first one he was in a camp in Pinhoe

Q. Pinhoe? Right. OK. We did speculate that that when when your parents met...do you know how they got to know each other?

We were told that when they met mum was helping out at the prisoner of war camp and that's how they met

Q. Which prisoner of war camp? do you know?

The one at Bolham

Q. At Bolham? And your father was at Bolham, was he?

Yes

Q. He was in the Bolham hostel? OK? Because when you look at the dates that he moved into St Andrew's Street uh uh was only about six months before uh he married your mother, who lived just up the road so we thought perhaps they used to sort of go along to the factory together, (she laughs) which they probably did... yes

Yes

Q. OK. Uh.. any of these ring any bells (*noise of papers turning*)... that's a picture of you?
Ansome (*word not clear*)

Yes. That's me with dad

Taken down Westexe Park

and that was mum's dad's house at Meldon Street (*words unclear*)

Q. Lovely. And a bashed up car. Is that of any significance to you?

No

Q. That's something else, is it? Sorry about that. Yeah, here we are. 1950s type/style(*word not clear*) of picture

Yeah. That was at Queensway, Tiverton Two brothers, Alan ...Angela...Steven

Q. Were there any more children, after that?

After that one, there's me, but I'm not in that one. That's before I was born

Q. OK.

And this is Dawlish Warren

Q. yeah

On a day at the beach that's with me and dad, in his car.

Q. It does say there that uh "mum didn't want to go away, dad too tight" It was you that said that ...(laughter)

Q. He he he didn't, he couldn't afford to go away, is that what you...

...he could afford to go way, he was very tight with his money and mum didn't like spending his money, at all.

Q. Why was that? Was that because of his experiences before do you think.?

Possibly...

he liked to save for bigger things, didn't he, like buying a house and stuff

Q. OK

but he was always giving to charity, wasn't he..

Q. Ok. So I'm going to go through some of these questions, if you don't mind. Umm.. do you know much about your father's history, about how he got to England or how he left umm Yugoslavia, that he he told you about?

The only thing that I can remember is when he said that he walked from Italy back to where he lived, he came from

Did he say he left with just a fig of bread

Yeah

Q. A loaf of bread?

Yeah

Q. OK. And er from Italy, do you know where he went to?

Back home

Q. Back home?

Yeah He walked from Italy, back home

Q. And then from Italy, what happened, do you know then?

Umm He didn't really like to talk ...it 's only like recent research that we've just been finding out about stuff so

It wasn't straight forward, was it, he went to several different places

Q. Yeah, I think he may have entered a displaced person's camp or ex-POW when the war ended

Yeah...did show that, yeah

Q. And er did he explain to you about how he came under the European Voluntary Workers' Scheme, at all

No. He didn't like talking about it,

He didn't like to talk about it..

Q. Why do you think that was...

Memories, maybe

Q. OK. But you know he was at the camp in Exeter?

yep,
yeah

Q. Where he was an agricultural worker, is that right

yeah

yeah

Q. And then he came to Bolham, umm presumably to work at the factory or..

Yeah he worked at the factory then ..

he worked there til he retired

Q. Right. OK so

Heathcoat factory ...big textile place..

Q. Heathcoat factory ok

Elastic covering?

Elastic covering

Q. Elastic covering? OK. Do you know if he spoke very good English when he arrived..

Umm According to the document, it said he was fluent in English

Yeah

Q. Which document was that, the

Don't remember which one

Q. At one point it said he spoke Croatian (*not clear*)

I think it was like ...a medical thing...

It was like a card..and it said fluent in English...Whether they were trying to find work for people and that would

yeah

determine where he went, maybe

Q. OK. Umm So we're thinking about when he came to Tiverton, did he ever say what his thoughts about it were when he first arrived

No, not really

No

Q. Did he find it a friendly place? Or not?

Yeah, I think so, he

was always friendly with the neighbours and there was quite a big community of them cos they would always come over and play cards.. and they would always talk in their language

Q. Oh So it was a Yugoslavy thing?...community

Yeah, not so much community, but there was quite lot , a group

a group of them

Q. Can you remember any of their names?

Millan, Raffel (?) we used to go to the beach with them, then we used to call them uncle, didn't we, Uncle Millan, Auntie Norma,

we used to call them Auntie and Uncle for some reason didn't we

Q. did we (*words unclear*)...

Saville .. then there's Peter Konestovich(?)

Q. OK

... Simone, what was his name, Simone..What was the ones up Corby

Q. Oh Out out of Tiverton. They came down from further up North to
yeah

Q. ...Tiverton?

Yeah...Corby...they used to come down...

Q. Did they all belong to an organisation?

I think so, but I can't remember what the organisation was

Q. He never mentioned the International Club?

no

Q. that was held at St Paul's every week during..the end of the war

no.. it was just dad's friends

Q. Did you ever did he ever talk about you learning the language?

(laughter)

yeah

Q. Did he try to teach you?

He tried...that was it

He tried on several occasions ..

But we weren't interested at that age

Q. Did he talk about his family back home and, you know, about your grandmother and...

Not so much about his grandmother. He sort of talked about his brother and sisters sister, but not so much on his mum.

Q. He kept in contact with them, did he?

yes

Q. by writing

phone calls

Q. OK and how did your mother feel about about this. She was quite happy, you know the
contact?

Q. Yes?

She never learnt the language either

Q. She never learnt the language either (laughter)

Q. OK

He did talk about his dad, his dad died he was quite young, he was 41, he died of TB

Q. His father died of TB

yeah

Q. OK when was this just before the war, or

Dad was four so it must have been 1923

Q. OK So, that left his mother with a number of children to bring up on her own...Oh dear. Did he ever say how he missed his family? Or missed Yugoslavia?

yeah

It was more his family he missed

Q. More than the country itself. OK

I think he...farm. He lived on a farm didn't he..family of farmers....I think he used to do ceramic tiling as well. He used to talk about that before. But it was mostly farming wasn't it. He used to say about his donkey didn't he had ..his donkey...

the wolf had it, didn't he?

Q. Did you say the wolf had his donkey

yeah

(laughter)

Q. So he missed the farming life as well.

I think so, cos he had an allotment at home and a big back garden he was always right up to his nineties he was going to, wasn't he.

He used to go on about the spiders over there where he used to stick the sticks down the holes and they used to come up and bite him

Q. What sort of tarantula type of spiders we are talking...

He umm did do some farming when he first came to the UK, is that right

yeah

Q. In Exeter...

yeah.

Q. But did he say why he decided to move and come to Tiverton.

no no

Q. He came after the Scheme, you know the European Voluntary Workers Scheme came to an end

Yeah. I think it was a group of them decided to move here and they all came down together.

Q. And they most of them worked at the factory too

because they were looking for workers I suppose

Q. Do you know if many of them stayed or whether they dispersed

As far as I know most of them stayed

Q. OK so this is the same ...*(words unclear)*

And there was..what was Michael's other name? He moved back in the end didn't he

...*(words unclear)*

Q. And he went back to

No he died young, didn't he

quite young

He died in Tiverton

He worked in the factory as well

But I can't think of Michael's other name

They moved back. They were quite elderly

...*(words unclear)*

Q. They felt like it was a a a nice community

yeah

Q. of Yugoslavs in Tiverton, based really, I suppose, on work at the factory I

would say yeah

yeah

Cos he used to go down to the... club every Saturday night - almost every Saturday night I think he went didn't he

(pause)

Q. OK Umm Did your father keep on any sort of rituals or fee festivals that come from Yugoslavia - Christmas traditions or baptisms

We used to celebrate his Christmas because his Christmas was later than ours. So mum used to leave the trimmings up didn't she. We never had present but she'd always leave the trimmings up so celebrate dad's Christmas as well

Q. So you had two Christmases

Yeah without the presents

That was on the 7th of January

Q. 7th of January and that was under orthodox Catholic tradition.

yes we're all Greek Orthodox

Q. Greek Orthodox You are Greek Orthodox

Q. Where do you celebrate that in Tiverton

It was Willand

Yeah

Q. Where

Willand. It was a church in Willand we used to go to when we were young but we used to go to normal Church of England Sunday school but we were christened Greek Orthodox

Q. At this Willand church

well no I remember your christening but I can't remember mine

Q. Do you know which church it was

I can remember you crying .. during the water

Q. Do you know if the Greek Orthodox minister or whatever you call priests .. At

dad's funeral we had a great Orthodox priest, didn't we

Yeah

where did we find him from

The funeral directors got hold of him and it happened to be...umm he worked with him years ago and dad taught this priest English

Q. Can you remember his name at all

We would have it at home on the...you know

Q. Wasn't Odovich, was it?

I honestly can't remember

No We've still got the order of service and it will be on there

Q. Because umm there is a couple of newspaper articles about a marriage between Peter ... novicthc (*name not clear*), I think it was, and a Ukranian lady and that was conducted under Greek Orthodox umm in a Greek Orthodox way and there were a number of people who were mentioned guests at this wedding

Didn't he live at Pinnesmoore (?)

English

O that was the English woman

Q. Then a year later there was a baptism for this family that had got married the two of them had got married and that was the priests was ... vitch (*not clear*) from Bristol

...

Q. yeah OK so how different is that sort of cultural heritage from the UK one

(*words unclear*)

We didn't ... Apart from being christened, we went to Church of England Sunday School so we didn't really have anything to do with them

(*words unclear*)....weren't they

Dad was always burning candles

Q. Was he

yeah and humming..doing some sort of chant, didn't he...he was very quite religious dad, wasn't he

Q. He didn't involve you in that

No.. always sending money over for the church as well to repair the roofs and that

Q. What, back in his own home town..

Yeah

Q. Were there any other sort of traditions you can think of at Easter maybe

no...Easter...

Q. And what about when you go married. Church of England

Just normal Church of England

Q. Church of England.And he was quite happy with that

yeah...never really (*words unclear - interviewees talking among themselves*)...

Q. So umm did he talk much about the differences between his life in the UK and that in inYugoslavia or

no not really

Q. Was he a big family man

yeah

definitely yeah

Q. very very yeah

He was very well liked as well here and over there, wasn't he

yeah

Even at the funeral we thought because of his age it was going to be a very small funeral but it was just packed, wasn't it

Q. With people from from this organisation

no

Q. he belonged to

no more from here wasn't it, because he was such a popular man

Q. Oh here right in Tiverton

yeah

Q. In fact we have somebody called Mr Colemam coming in to talk to us because he was an apprentice of your father and he's going to talk about his memories of him. Do you know him?

(*words unclear*)...what is his first name

Q. Peter Peter Coleman

I might know the face but I don't know

I've got a feeling I do

Q. Yeah I think uh he's he's known for being out there when the Tiverton floods were about and he was busy out there helping out

There's a video with dad in the back of a lorry isn't there

yeah Heathcoat got flooded

Q. Did he enjoy working at Heathcoats

Yeah he didn't say much about it

yeah

he retired quite early didn't he

Q. Why did he retire early

Could...Just could I suppose

Q. Just could. He wasn't unwell or anything

(words unclear) he had a bad back, I think

Q. Yeah

Q. Things to say....Do you want to talk some more about... Oh I will I do have to ask you because it's a separate part of the project really umm it's do you understand the term racist, know what it means

yeah

Q. Did you ever feel that your father was discriminated against, or you indeed no

no we never did

Q. Because of your heritage or anything

I I sort of felt a bit special, did you, like it was something special you know my dad's ..

Q. having a name..

Yugoslavia..I ...born

Q. It's an unusual name isn't it You felt quite special because of that

Yeah I just thought Oh my dad's Yugoslav you know its I didn't feel

Q. Different isn't it

I didn't feel uncomfortable ... different

Q. OK (whispering) Just going to turn this off. Is it off.

END PART 1 MONO-006

PART 2: MONO-007

Q. So, can you say that again about about the funeral father's funeral and what happened

there or

Yeah Dad's umm (*word unclear*)... would sort of put some money in the slot machines cos that's what Dad was well known for umm he used to do that on a Saturday night with his friends prop up the machines

END PART 2 MONO-007

PART 3: MONO-008

Q. OhOK I was asking you about the Heathcoat (*word unclear*)....that your dad went to on a Saturday night and you said mum didn't go

no. Mum stayed at home

Q. Mum stayed at home. What about the wives of the other

No it was a man's only night out

Q. It was a man's night (laughter) ...It was a guys' night out

Yeah

Yeah

Q. And (cough) you held the

the wake

Q. the wake

at the club yeah

Q. at the club and umm one of ...what he would like to do was to

play on a slot machine

Q. So you filled the slot machine with .. and let the kids have a go (laughter) Yes He

used to come home every Saturday night with a pocket full of 50 pence pieces

Q. And he would give these to the children, would he. (*Pause*) What else did he do umm you know as a hobby

Playing cards. He used to like playing cards with his friends,

gardening, his allotment, just up the road

(*words unclear*)

Always over there, wasn't he - just up the road- plus the vegetables in the back garden. Right until his nineties he was still doing his own potatoes and things, wasn't he. (pause) Well known for his runner beans...

yeah

supply the whole of Calimore with runner beans

Q. Is there anything else you'd like to say about your father

He was very smart, very particular about his hair and the way he dressed

Yeah he even dressed up to go to the doctors, didn't he

Yeah (laughter)

Thick head of hair. Didn't he. With just a black..he went grey he had a black stripe down (*words unclear*)...very well known for his hair

A bit of a joker

had grandkids, just two granddaughters

he would help anybody out

Q. Did he say anything at all about the conflict that happened in Yugoslavia No

No not really No

He didn't like to talk about anything like that. It was like that's gone. Don't want to don't need to talk about it any more really do we

no not really

(Pause)

Q. Thank you very much

(packing up)

Q. Interview is now ending....Mel ...Thank you..Thank you.

...Mel ...we're supposed to specifically say that that's the end. There's a bit that we're supposed to say that's all...

END PART 3 MONO-008

Transcribed by:
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