

Italian market gardeners oral history project

Interview with Christine Zampin OH 872-42

Recorded by Madeleine Regan at Flinders Park, South Australia

on 26th February 2017

OH: Oral Historian (Madeleine Regan)

CZ: Christine Zampin

OH: This is an oral history interview recorded with Christine Zampin. It's 26th February 2017, I'm Madeleine Regan and the interview is for the Italian market gardeners oral history project and I'm interviewing Christine at Flinders Park.

Thank you Christine for agreeing to this interview.

OH: (00:28) We're going to start to talk about your family background but first of all, what is your full name?

CZ: Christina Margaret Zampin.

OH: And were you named for anyone in particular?

CZ: Oh, this is funny and my sisters are going to go mad at this. I was named after ... there was a movie on when Mum was in hospital and it had Queen Christina in it [laughs] and she said oh, that's a nice name, I'm going to call her that. [laughs]

OH: So you were actually called Christina because of the queen. And what about Margaret?

CZ: Well, Margaret --- is --- I'm named after somebody, I'm not quite sure. But it's in the family. Amelia Katherine Shaw --- I'm not sure about the Margaret but it's there somewhere.

OH: I like the Christina story, I think that's great.

CZ: Yeah.

OH: So you were christened Christina but you get called Christine?

CZ: Chris or Christine or whatever.

OH: What is your date of birth?

CZ: 29th of August 1942.

OH: And where were you born?

CZ: I was born at Chatham hospital, Keswick.

OH: Right. Can you tell me the full names of your parents? Maybe we'll start with your mother.

CZ: Mum. Amelia Katherine Shaw Zampin.

OH: When was she born?

CZ: Well, I was always thought it was Christmas day. I don't know, it seems it was 24th December 19---- I don't know, there was a bit of a discussion about that. I'm not sure if it was 1910 or '11, now.¹

OH:

CZ: Yes, so. [laughs]

OH: Oh, that's alright. Where was she born?

CZ: She was born --- North Adelaide way. Oh, I'm not sure about that but she was born in Adelaide somewhere.

OH: Right. And you father what was his full name?

CZ: Silvano --- I'm going blank [laughs] Silvano Primo Zampin.

OH: And do you know his date of birth?

CZ: Oh, not quite, no 6th February 1910 or '11, I'm not sure about that either.²

OH: And where was he born?

CZ: He was born in Riese, I think.

OH: And can you tell me where that is?

CZ: That's in Treviso --- in the province of --- Venice, is it?

OH: Province of Treviso in the region ...

CZ: Of Venice.

OH: Great, Thank you. Do you know how parents met each other?

CZ: Well, what I was told that Mum went to the cemetery to see her grandmother, well, in the cemetery and take some flowers there and she seemed to meet up, she didn't meet up with, she met my father down there because his brother, his name was Pietro, he was buried down there. That's how they met at the cemetery. And I suppose when they went back to the cemetery, they'd meet and whatever and that's how they met one another.

OH: It was probably unusual ...

CZ: Yeah.

OH: In those days because we're talking about the late '20s really, aren't we ?

CZ: Yes.

OH: For an Italian, a young Italian man to meet a young Anglo, well, she was from an Irish family?

CZ: An English Irish family, yes. And Dad wouldn't have known how to speak English that well either. So he'd only been out here for a short amount of time, I think so --- I don't know, I don't know how they communicated. [laughter]

¹ In the editing process, Christine clarified that her mother was born on 25th December 1911.

² Christine confirmed that her father was born on 6th February 1910.

OH: The language of love. [laughter]

CZ: Yes.

OH: So you know what work your parents did before they got married?

CZ: I don't know what Mum was doing. No, I don't really know, NO. Just, couldn't be certain on that.

OH: Sure. Around the time you were born in 1942, what was happening in your family? because you were number ...?

CZ: Number five. I don't really know because we would have been living at Lockleys and Dad had a market garden there. I presume my sisters Milva and Bruna were working, I'm not sure if they were working or still going to school. I'm not sure yet as I was only a baby.

OH: Yes.

CZ: Yes.

OH: But you were telling me before that you were the fifth but there were three years ...

CZ: Yes, there was --- Angela was born three years before me and then was a year with Roma and there was another three years, Bruna and then one year, and Milva was born. So yes, Milva's maybe ten years older than me. So that was ten years. She would have still been going to school so would Bruna. I think they went to Saint Joseph's --- at Thebarton. There was a Catholic school there, I think.

OH: So your Dad was working in the market garden. Did your Mum help your Dad in the garden?

CZ: Yes, I reckon.

OH: Just to finish, your own family? You were the fifth of how many?

CZ: The fifth of nine children. That was eight girls and a boy. Peter was born the last, he was the last one born and yeah, so...

OH: (08:11) Then your own family? You got married?

CZ: Yes.

OH: You married?

CZ: I married Gino Compostella. We shifted by then. We were over in Findon then. I must have been about ... He used to be the grocer boy. He used to deliver groceries for his Uncle, Oscar Mattiazzo and Virginia Mattiazzo nee Santin. And I used to see quite a bit of him when he used to pick up the deliveries and take them down and always used to wave and sometimes he used to stop and we used to talk and we just became friends, you know but yeah I didn't start going out with him until I was about 17. So yeah.

OH: And you had two children?

CZ: Yes, two children, and Allan³ and Cheryl, yeah. I had them after about six and a half years, I got married at 20 and Alan was born six and a half years later and then Cheryl, at 12 months later after that. And that was it. [laughter]

OH: And you now have grandchildren?

CZ: Yes, I've got two children, Jayden and Allysah They're beautiful kids, yeah. Jayden is 19 now and Allysah is nine, nine years old. Yeah.

OH: That's lovely. Well, that's given a really good background to the, your story.

OH: 10:07 I'm just going to move now to talk about what you know about your father coming to Australia.

CZ: --- Well, I don't know as much as my sisters know --- I can't tell you a lot about when he came to Australia [laughs] they were older than what I was so they know that story better than what I do so it wouldn't probably be right if I told you that story. [laughter]

OH: Do you remember your father ever talking about arriving in Australia or coming here?

CZ: No, Dad didn't tell me because I was a lot younger, I suppose. He would have told Bruna and Milva more.

OH: (11:01) Right. What did you know about Riese, the village that your father came from?

CZ: Yeah, they were on the farm, I heard that. --- And not a lot, I know they built another house, I think it was a two-storey house. Dad's Mum was a little lady, a small lady. Mum said that when she went with Dad back to Italy --- his Mum, well, Dad had a large birth mark on his body and she opened his shirt to see, see the birthmark to make sure it was Dad. Yeah, she was a lovely lady apparently. Yeah, Mum said it was something to see, her Mum seeing her son after all those years.

OH: Yeah.

CZ: But, yeah, I can't tell you a lot more about that sort of thing.

OH: (12:14) That's fine. What about your father's brother, Pietro? Did you know much about him?

CZ: No, only that he had an accident down Port Road, down near where Holden's used to be and he was killed down there, yeah, so train and a car.

OH: Very sad.

CZ: Yeah.

OH: Because he was a young man.

CZ: Yes, he was.

OH: Do you know what work your father was doing in the first years that he was here?

CZ: I think he did several jobs. I know at one stage, one of the jobs was, he worked on the

³ Christine corrected that the spelling of her son's name is Alan

wharves and he did market gardening as well --- but I never, I didn't know much more than that. I was too young to, you know, even understand what was going on. [laughs]

OH: (13:18) Yeah. And what about you growing up? Where were your parents living when you were born?

CZ: They were living at Lockleys.

OH: Can you give me an idea about the location at Lockleys?

OH: And can you give me like an idea about the location at Lockleys?

CZ: Well we were behind the church --- on Henley Beach Road, near the river, I think it's Saint Francis Xavier's church --- I think it is. [laughs]

OH: It's the Catholic church, isn't it?⁴

CZ: Yeah, the Catholic church and the Maltese priests used to live in a great big house, it was like a castle to me, I always thought it was a castle. [laughs] And they used to live there and we always used to know them all because they had their long gowns on and Father Farruggia was one of the priests and you know, and they knew us all by name. And Mum had a beautiful garden with dahlias and that, and she used to pick them all for the church and --- of course, you know, they were always giving them eggs and stuff like that, you know. And I remember Irene was the housekeeper there but I mean, you know it was so friendly and lovely. No it was good but yeah, they were really good days. We had to go to church all the time though, that was the worst ...⁵
[laughter]

OH: (14:44) I'm going to ask you what you remember about the house at Lockleys that you grew up in. What did it look like if you were looking at it.

CZ: Oh, it was an old house. Dad had built two sleep-outs, it had had a verandah at the front and of course, Dad had built with those Holden boxes, two sleep-outs at the front. And one, for uncle Nico, because he came over from Italy as well, he had to live in one of them for a while and ...

OH: Were they attached to the house?

CZ: Yes, he sort of built them all [laughs] with these boxes.

OH: Do you remember that?

CZ: Yes, [laughs] and a curtain to go in, you know, for the door. Yeah, there were two at the front and it was a very small house. The back, they had bricks and the back part was tin, was galvanised iron so it was pretty hot in the summer, cement floor and Mum had painted it red. But the laundry, Dad hadn't done his art work out there with the Holden's boxes and there was a bath out there and the shower, well, they had a hose through [laughs] and the copper was out the back

⁴ The church on Henley Beach Road at Lockleys was the Church of Christ the King

⁵ Christine added in the editing process: "Mum and Dad only went to church on special occasions. They were very friendly with the priests who were living next door. They used to visit – they called Mum and Dad, Millie and Jerry and Dad gave them home-made wine for the church."

and two troughs, you know those old fashioned troughs because they were only renting there, weren't they? Mum used to put water in the copper and, there was no washing machines, later on they got a washing machine with a wringer typed thing. It must have been hard, nine children and she used to wash the clothes, with --- what do they call those boards, with the Velvet soap. Yes, that was hard work, yeah.

OH: Did the house have electricity?

CZ: Yes, we had electricity.

OH: And what kind of cooking was there?

CZ: Oh, Mum had a wood stove, yeah, wood stove, yeah. --- Oh God, it was ... we did have a fridge, I think. I don't think we always had a fridge but in case we did have a fridge, a big wooden table. But they were really happy days, really happy days. [laughs]

OH: (17:28) Do you have a first memory? Like of anything, you know, if you think back, what would your first memory have been?

CZ: No, I don't know. [laughs]

OH: That's alright. Some people do, some people don't.

OH: (17:44) What about your godparents, who were your godparents?

CZ: Yes --- Maria and Narciso Ballestrin. That was Lina Ballestrin's mother and father and she was one of my best friends. I still see her occasionally. --- Egidio, I think his name's Egidio, Silvano and Norina. that was the family. They were a lovely family, yeah.

OH: How were they, say, as godparents involved in your life?

CZ: Oh, yes, we used to go on picnics, Saint Kilda picnics, the beach, quite a lot of the parties that they had in sheds at that stage.⁶ Yeah, Lina was always there, we used to get on, we were really good friends then. Yeah, it was great. We were always on bikes and that, yeah.

OH: And you know in your family, were godparents important? Did you feel like Narciso and Maria had a strong relationship with you?

CZ: Yes, and with Mum and Dad as well, like best friends sort of thing. No, it was really a good relationship they had with their godparents, you know, it was really good, yeah.

OH: Because it is important in the Italian family, isn't it, who your godparents are?

CZ: Yes, it is.

OH: Did they remember your birthday each year or do things?

CZ: Well, in those days, birthdays weren't really --- we never used to get very many presents, we never used to get presents or anything like that. When it was Christmas, Dad used to go the market, he'd get a Christmas tree, one of those pine trees and he'd get a box of cherries and a big

⁶ Christine clarified that the market gardeners who held parties in their sheds were the Santin brothers, Berno brothers, Secondo Tonellato's, Ballestrin, Doro.

box of bananas and we used to think it was fantastic and we used to hang them all over the Christmas tree and we used to put them over our ears and hang the bananas up and we used to make all the decorations to go on the tree. Oh, it was just fantastic, you know, oh, just little things like that.

OH: That's a lovely memory.

CZ: Yeah, yeah it is.

OH: (20:25) I'm going to ask you now about school. Where did you go to school for your primary years?

CZ: In the beginning I went to Thebarton which is the Church of Angels, Queen of Angels. I went to the school down there for starters. And then --- I stayed for a couple of years then I went to Star of the Sea down at Henley Beach.

OH: Right, and how did you get, like when you were going to Thebarton, how did you get to Thebarton?

CZ: On the tram, they had a tram line there.

OH: So you would have gone with some of your older sisters?

CZ: With my older sisters. I remember Bruna, she used to, was still going to school then ... Bruna and Roma. --- I don't know about Angela, I can't remember her. She must have gone too there. So I didn't go down there for that long but later Well, Bruna started going to work later so there would have been Roma and Angela. I don't know whether they went to the Star of the Sea, I think they did too. Well, we used to get the tram down there too.

OH: How did you like school?

CZ: Yeah, it was pretty, --- yeah, it was good. I liked it but I was sort of pretty shy then, I was really shy when I was younger, I don't know why, but in any case, so I used to sit back and not say very much, you know. Yeah, it was quite good, I enjoyed it.

OH: Were there other girls from market gardening families or from Italian families?

CZ: No, not really, not down there. Yeah, there wasn't any that I can recall. Mmnn.

OH: Did that make you feel different or ...?

CZ: No, not really, I was alright.

OH: But you were shy?

CZ: Very shy, yeah.

OH: Where did you make your First Holy Communion?

CZ: I made that at the Star of the Sea, down there.

OH: Would that have been an occasion in your family? Like were first communions, you know, big?

CZ: No --- yeah, it wasn't the same as it is now. I mean you more or less make it a big thing but

in those days, well, no. It was just holy communion. Your sister took you, Mum and Dad weren't at the school all the time, let's put it that way. Dad was too busy in the garden and Mum had all those kids to look after so things were different. [laughs]

OH: And who were your friends at school?

CZ: There was a girl by the name of Judy, Judy Finch. --- just the normal, I didn't really have a lot of girlfriends at school. None that I can really remember that much. So it wasn't like Lina or anybody like that. I just, you know, used to go school, do my thing and go home. [laughs]

OH: Yeah. What did you ...

OH: (24:00) When did you leave school?

CZ: Oh, I was 14, yeah, we all had to leave school at 14 to go to work. [laughs]

OH: Was there any choice in that?

CZ: --- Not really, we just knew that Dad said: "When you're 14, you have to leave school." So we just more or less just did what Dad said and didn't complain about it because my other sisters had to leave at 14, so I just went along with it as well. You had no choice.⁷

OH: (24:31) What did you do when left school?

CZ: Oh, well my other two sisters were going, most of my other sisters went to Brazzale's mica factory so I had, yeah, to go and tag along and they gave me a job at the mica factory and Dad bought me a bike and I had to pay him back for that every week [laughs] Most of my money went to Mum and Dad so, yeah, there wasn't much left over. So I more or less, I didn't really like it. I had to do all the odd jobs there and get on my bike and do all the messages. And that was in the city and I was only 14 in those days.

OH: What sort of messages?

CZ: Like, Peter Brazzale, he was the boss, and he'd say can you go up and ... I used to do the lunches or I had to take a message, used to be the Star Groceries down there, up Hindley Street, down on my bike and back. You know I wouldn't send my kids [laughs] to do jobs like that anymore. Any rate, I used to... pick up the lunches, go down and do the morning teas and all that sort of thing and then my spare time I used to go back in and work in the factory on this mica. It was so boring, it was horrible, I didn't like it all. [laughs] And my sisters, they were all the supervisors [laughs] so I hated it. [laughs] So I left there and I ended up and got this job in the Four Square store at Mile End.

OH: A grocer's?

CZ: A grocer's store, yes.

⁷ Christine added in the editing process: "Other kids in class went to school longer, we weren't so lucky. Dad wanted to buy a home for us. We helped them to buy their home at Findon and 2 acres of land. Peter left school at 16, 17 years old – he died at 18.

OH: How would you have got that job?

CZ: I don't know, I think I seen in the paper and I just went in and inquired and I got the job. So, it was a good job, oh they were really nice to me and I just made up orders and serve people in the shop. Just all these different skills that you learn. And I used to have to ride my bike all the way down to Mile End and back, rain or shine. Finish at 5:30, it was starting to get dark then too, so I ended up and thought after a couple of years, I can't do this much more. So I ended up and got a job at David Sales chemist at Flinders Park. I don't know if you knew him?

OH: No. Whereabouts in Flinders Park?

CZ: Oh, 247 Grange Road, Flinders Park, across from --- you know where Elberg's⁸ is?

OH: Yes.

CZ: That shopping centre there just up the road there.

OH: Oh.

CZ: And I stayed there for about five, six years.

OH: And what was your job there?

CZ: Oh, I used to serve and I used to count out tablets and do up labels for him and all sorts of things. Yeah. So that was good, yeah he was a good boss. [laughs] And deliver medication to different people.

OH: On the bike?

CZ: Yeah. On the bike. old treadly. [laughs]

OH: (27:40) In those days, what did Flinders Park or what did Grange Road look like, at that time?

CZ: There weren't that many houses there. There was a lot of market gardeners and that's where I met Pam Zerella, she was a good friend of mine, yeah. And she used to come into the chemist and we used to have a good old chat and we ended up going out a lot together too. Yeah, there wasn't that many houses along there. There was a few Trust⁹ homes. Peter Elberg wasn't there, for sure. The Findon hotel wasn't there. Yeah, it was market gardens and things like that.

OH: The people who used that chemist, would there have been Italians there.

CZ: Yes, there was some Italians that came in there. Yeah, I sort of knew them all, It was lovely, I loved that job. But --- my husband didn't like me [laughs] working there. So I ended up and got another job. [laughs] It was so easy to get a job in those days. You could just look in the paper and get a job, just like that. So I ended up and worked at the airport and I did cooking, how about that? [laughs] I'd only just --- I'd only just been married a few months and I ended up and got this cooking job. Started at 4:00 in the morning [laughs] 4:00 in the morning until 1:00 o'clock. that

⁸ Peter Elberg Funerals on Grange Road, Flinders Park

⁹ South Australian Housing Trust homes

was four days on and two days off. And so I did that for a few years.

OH: Where were you living at that time?

CZ: Oh in... I was married at the time. Oh, Mile End, no not Mile End, Lockleys, near the golf course, Elston Street, yeah.

OH: So it would have been quite close to the airport?

CZ: Quite close, yeah.

OH: Did you ride your bike there?

CZ: No, my husband at that time, taught me how to drive this little Honda, he had, little motor bike. [laughs] And so yeah, so I used to ride my bike there, so.

OH: What kind of cooking were you doing?

CZ: Oh, for the pilots and the hosties, yeah. I learned quite a bit there. [laughs]

OH: So were there many people working in that kitchen?

CZ: There was myself and did you know Connie?

OH: Connie Legovich, yeah?

CZ: Yeah, Connie and Assunta.¹⁰

OH: Assunta.

CZ: Assunta, more or less, my ex-husband said to them you'd better go and work with Cheryl, Christine. They ended up down there as well. Connie used to be the waitress and Assunta used to work out in the canteen. But we were really good bunnies, buddies. We had a great lot of laughs. It was funny. [laughs]

OH: Isn't that interesting because Connie was Connie Marchioro?

CZ: Yes.

OH: And Assunta was Assunta Tonellato.

CZ: Yes, yeah.

OH: So the three families from the Veneto community.

CZ: Yeah, that's right. Yeah, I know. And then, of course, Assunta used to pick me up some days and bring me to work on afternoon shift, yeah. So, yeah, we were good buddies then.

OH: So you had a variety of jobs?

CZ: Oh yes, I did. And then, [laughs] from there I ended up and went to, with my one of my friends, well, she was getting more money, had to go for that. [laughs] So I ended up in Clarks shoes and did Clarks shoes. That was a bit of variety there. Yeah, that was alright. But ... not really very good. --- I should have stayed in the chemist. [laughs]

OH: Clarks shoes, where was that?

CZ: That was out at West Beach way, out on --- what's the name of that street out there? --- Oh,

¹⁰ Assunta or Sunta Giovannini nee Tonellato

I can't remember the name. I don't remember.

OH: And it was a factory?

CZ: Yeah, it was a big factory, Harrisons and... yeah so I ended up, up there. [sighs] So ...

OH: Wow, how interesting to have that many experiences of work.

CZ: Yes.

OH: (32:25) We're going back to your family. What language did you speak at home?

CZ: Oh English, always English. That was unfortunate we..., Dad didn't teach us to speak [laughs] Italian which would have been handy. We knew a few words but as not as much as we should have. It would have been nice but ...

OH: How important was it for your father to be speaking English?

CZ: Oh, really important you know. Yeah, he spoke really well. Mum used to buy a comic, a couple of comics every now and then when she used to go to the city. And Dad used to always -- - we wanted them but Dad used to pinch them off of us, he wanted to read them first. So yeah. No, he was really good at his reading and that.

OH: (33:26) You spoke about your Mum going into the city, how often would that have been?

CZ: Oh, probably in Child Endowment day, that was once a month, probably. Is that once a month that they used to get paid?

OH: I think so.

CZ: Yeah, she used to go into the city then and buy us some clothes or something that was needed for the family or whatever.

OH: And did she take any of the children with her?

CZ: Oh, sometimes I used to go with her. Yeah that was good --- because when she'd finish her shopping we always used... she used to buy a cup of tea and I always used to have a ham sandwich so it was really nice like that [laughs] and a banana split if I was lucky. [laughter]

OH: You remember those kinds of things, don't you?

CZ: Yes.

OH: So where did your mother shop for food and things like that? What were the arrangements?

CZ: Oh, the Star grocery. They used to deliver. And I don't know how they used to get the order. Maybe my sisters used to drop it in there. when they used to buy groceries, they used to just get a great box of spaghetti, a bag of rice, a bag of sugar, bag of flour, a huge bag, you know. And then we used to have a lot of vegetables. I don't know about the oil, I don't know, they used to get Jack Giacomelli, he used to make oil. I don't know if they got any, it was a huge tin of oil.

OH: You spoke about Giacomelli, can you tell me about him?

CZ: Yeah, Jack, he used to live around the corner, yeah, right on the same property but around the corner in the little hut and yeah, we used to always be talking to him and things like that. And

then his brother, one was Enrico and Jack, Gino, Gino Giacomelli, that was his brother. He used to be married and he used to come there every day and work in the garden. But, he was a good, nice chap.

OH: And when your --- mother did the order, did Star grocery deliver or

CZ: Yeah, delivered, yeah.

OH: What about meat and things like that?

CZ: Well, when Dad went to the market he used to pick up the meat on --- King William Road? Or one of the grocery with an Italian shop ... up near the West Terrace?

OH: Oh yes.

CZ: West Terrace, there, Crotti's or something. There used to be a butcher shop.

OH: Butcher, Mattiazzo?

CZ: Mattiazzo, yeah, that's where he used to pick up, pick up the meat there and bring some home. And there was always a roast, probably roast lamb, I think. We always used to have a roast every Sunday. Yeah.

OH: And I was going to ask you about, just to finish off shopping, and then I'm going to ask you a bit more about food. But what about clothes and things like that?

CZ: Oh, --- well, there was a lot of hand-me downs. [laughs]

OH: Especially for number five. [laughs]

CZ: Exactly --- and then as I got a bit older, this was after we shifted into Findon, I bought myself, an old, I was working then, I bought myself a treadly sewing machine. It wasn't very expensive but it had the shuttle which was a bullet-type shuttle and it wasn't a very good sewer. Anyway I thought that was fantastic, I learnt how to do that. So I used to make all my own skirts and things like that. They weren't really that good but I used to think it was fantastic. [laughs]

OH: Yeah, especially if there wasn't a lot of money around.

CZ: There wasn't, there wasn't. Yeah, I'd started work and didn't have much money left over. We had to buy our own clothes so I used to make my own skirts and that.

OH: And what about growing up, where would your Mum have bought clothes for kids?

CZ: Well, she used to do some shopping in Miller Anderson's and then Coles, Woolworth's, I think John Martins or Myers was there then, in those shops, she used to go to. That was all. There was --- she didn't go to any other shops. That was the only time she went shopping because she didn't go out through the day. There was no cars that you could go out with and most of the time she was working at home. So, yeah.

OH: (38:51) You spoke earlier about her beautiful garden. you've talked about the house but how did she make the garden?

CZ: Um, well Dad must have helped because we did have a lawn out the front and it was just

couch grass, I think. And then there was an oleander tree which was fairly large. She had a lovely --- and Dad had his fig trees and fruit trees that had just come up on their own but they were big trees then. Then all around the boundary, there was the dahlia plants. And then on the side, she had snapdragons, petunias and any sort of flowers that you could imagine. Azaleas, not azaleas, zinnias, marigolds, you know, all those types of flowers.

OH: So she must have loved her garden.

CZ: Yeah, oh yeah, she loved her garden.

OH: Did the flowers, were they cut for inside?

CZ: Yeah, she always had flowers inside. Yeah, always had flowers inside. And of course, Dad would have sprayed them for her every so often. He was good with that, he was good. And yeah, just put a bit of water around. No that was really nice.

OH: Did you have ...? How did you get water on the property at Lockleys?

CZ: Um, I think it was just from the, from the mains. They didn't have a big tank there. No it was just off the mains, I think.

OH: And you also mentioned chickens before, like you had chickens?

CZ: We had a chicken yard, quite a few chickens there and --- bantams, pullets and roosters, they used to chase me every now and then. But I used to have to feed them. There was two, two or three huge pepper trees down the back, they were huge and Dad had rigged up a big swing across with a pipe and we had a swing down there and I used to feed them with bran and pollard at night when I came home from school and wheat, I used big bag of wheat and it tasted pretty good too. [laughter] No, that was really good, good fun. And the mulberry tree was huge. Yeah.

OH: Old?

CZ: Old, really, ten, 12 feet tall, I reckon and yeah, --- Dad had rigged up a large pipe right through and then we had a swing on it. We used to get up the mulberry tree and eat the mulberries and get stains all over our clothes. [laughs]

OH: And get into trouble? [laughter]

CZ: Yeah. [laughter]

OH: (42:07) And what was the food like in your home as you were growing up?

CZ: Well ---

OH: You had roasts?

CZ: Yeah, we had roasts. Yeah. Mum used to cook, we always a cooked tea at night. Dad always had a cooked lunch, soups and pasta and risotto. Not a real lot of meat but we had the chickens. Everything was used in those days like the giblets and things like that. yeah, not a real lot of meat. Yeah, a lot of vegetables, perhaps.

OH: And like, you've mentioned pasta, risotto and things like more Italian than sort of ...?

CZ: Oh yeah, Mum cooked Italian.

OH: Did she?

CZ: Oh yeah.

OH: Would she have learned?

CZ: Oh she would have learned from Dad would have taught a lot and a lot of friends like Maria Ballestrin and --- all of the parents, you know, they would have taught her, she would have asked questions and things like that yeah. So she would have learned as she went along. Yeah, she used to make good tucker. [laughter]

OH: (43:35) And what do you remember about your parents' social life?

CZ: Oh, yeah, they had a really good social life, I think. Yeah. --- After, I remember we used to go the beach a lot, after, afternoons and Johnny Marchioro, Johnny and Romano with their parents used to come over at about 4 o'clock and we used to go the beach, Henley Beach, yeah, when it was hot, really hot, we used to go down there. We went out with them quite a lot. --- And then of course, there was all the parties. Lina used to go to the beach, as well, and her Mum and Dad. Yeah, it was good, good fun.

OH: Who were the people that your parents saw most of?

CZ: --- Marchioro's, Ballestrin's, Gino Berno, he used to live just up the road.

OH: At Lockleys or at..?

CZ: No, when we moved to Findon, yeah, but he was always in our life. He lived on Findon Road and then he moved over to Angley Avenue, he built a home over there. So he was just up the road from Angley Road where we used to live. Yeah, he used to be down all the time: "Oh Gerry, Millie", you know, and all that.

OH: So your Dad's name was Gerry?

CZ: They called him Gerry, yeah. And so --- yeah, it was good, it was good fun, yeah, I can remember those days, they were really, really good.

OH: And those lovely photos that we looked at of the picnics at ...

CZ: (45:32) Morialta and then we used to go to Saint Kilda every New Years --- Day in trucks.

OH: What do you remember about that?

CZ: Oh, all the men and the boys and that, kids used to go out and we used to get cockles and crabs and bring them back and then they'd light a fire and cook them up and eat them. And oh, everyone used to bring food. Oh, it was fantastic. And they had, every New Years Day, they had these games, down near the Saint Kilda hotel and we ... for running and all that sort of thing, and we used to go in that and the muddy old swimming pool, oh my God! It was banned after a while there. [laughs] Yeah it was really good fun. It was a lot of people that used to go to those picnics

down at Saint Kilda.

OH: And are you meaning Italians from the ...?

CZ: Yes. Yes.

OH: From the Veneto community?

CZ: Yes, yes, most of them would be on this ---- what would you call it? Most of them, you've been talking to them, the Compostella's, Tonellato's, Ballestrin's, um ---- Berno's, Zampin's, oh --- God, I can't remember all the ... the Santin's, sometimes the Santin used to go. --- Oh, lots of the families used to go down there. Yeah, it was good. --- I can't remember them all.

OH: You've named a lot.

CZ: Yeah.

OH: Yeah. How did you travel there?

CZ: On Johnny Marchioro, Angelina and --- what's their name? Vic and Angelina's truck. They had a whole lot of people on there, on the back of the truck, in those days you could get on the back of ... Gino Berno had a truck so everyone used to get on the back of that and there was another truck, oh I can't remember whose truck that was. But Dad had his Chrysler, yeah [laughs] because he had to have a bigger car because he had nine kids and we all used to pile in the back of the car on one another's knees and who didn't want to stay in there used to get on the back of the trucks so we had a wonderful ride there. Yeah, it was good.

OH: Sounds like great fun.

CZ: Yeah.

OH: Was your Dad's Chrysler new?

CZ: No, no. It wasn't new, no it wasn't a new one, it was one of the older ones.

OH: Did it have big fins?

CZ: Yeah, it had a naked lady on the front which they don't have those any more, nowadays, and a wheel on the side. And every Sunday he used to come along and get us cleaning it and shining it up and whatever. Yeah, it was his pride and joy. [laughter]

OH: (48:50) So the occasions that were important for your family then were like you know, picnics, Saint Kilda?

CZ: Yeah.

OH: What other occasions would have been important?

CZ: Then later on the Veneto Club came along. Of course, there was *bocce*, and he used to play bowls on Sundays, sometimes.

OH: Where did he play that?

CZ: Well, in the beginning, I remember he used to go in the city somewhere. There was a place there that they used to play bowls? ---

OH: I think, the Stocco?

CZ: Yeah, could be.

OH: The boarding house?

CZ: Yeah, could be there. Later --- then it could have been Pasin. They had a, on Findon Road, there used to be a place they used to play bowls there and then the Santin's used to have a place as well. So yeah. Then, of course the Veneto Club came along. Then they used to go down there every Sunday and play bowls there. And there were friends there and all sorts of things.

OH: Would your parents have become members?

CZ: Oh, yes. Yeah, Mum and Dad were foundation members, so, yeah, they quite enjoyed that, going every Sunday there. Oh, first they used to go out and visit someone or go somewhere and then they used to go back to the Club. I think they had tea there or whatever, I'm not sure.

OH: (50:26) And what about your mother's family? How often would you have seen your mother's family?

CZ: OH, yeah, oh I remember on of the Sunday visits, on the Sunday visits, they used to go and visit her occasionally, in her home and --- yeah, we used to be, I used to be with them. And if they didn't visit, I used to go with my sister on the tram and we used to go out to Nanna's house.

OH: And where did she live?

CZ: She lived down at Magill, off Magill Road, Wells Street, Magill. That was one of the places she lived at. And we used to go there and she used to live with Bob, that was more or less, they weren't married, they were partners, more or less. And I liked going there. He used to work at the market and they had lots of fruit there and sometimes they always used to have roasts, so we had a second dinner. [laughter]

OH: That would have been good, as a kid.

CZ: And when we were leaving, they always gave us a shilling or two shillings or something. And of course, we thought that was fantastic, in those days, yeah. We always used to have a good day. [laughs]

OH: And how close would your Nanna have been to your mother?

CZ: Yeah, they were reasonably close but I don't think they seen one another as much as they would have liked to have seen them. But I know that Nanny used to get a taxi to Mum's house. Yes, she used to stay there, used to bring a bag of fruit or something and stay there for lunch or whatever and then off she'd go again. The taxi would come to pick her up and off she'd go. So that's all I can remember as ... I don't know how often that was, maybe once a month or something like that. Can't remember that.

OH: Did your mother have brothers and sisters?

CZ: Yeah, she had one in Western Australia but she didn't see them that often. But I think most

of them had died. Can't tell you much about that.

OH: (53:00) You know you said earlier about your father's brother, Nico, how he came, what else can you tell me about him?

CZ: Oh, Uncle Nico, oh well, we always used to tease him and whatever. He used to send us up the shop to get some, --- a bag of scenty lollies. Do you remember those little scenty lollies? They were ... or any rate. We used to go up the shop with threepence for him and bring him back these scenty lollies. We used to hang around him all the time but he never used to give us many. [laughs] Just a little bag of lollies and they were all different colours, pink and purple and white. I don't know why he'd used to buy them actually, get us to buy them but he never used to give us any. [laughter] If we were lucky we'd get one. [laughs] oh, yeah.

OH: When he first came, he lived with you?

CZ: Yes.

OH: Did he work with your Dad?

CZ: I think he used to help Dad very so often. yeah. I'm not sure how much he helped him, I really don't know.

OH: Then, his family came?

CZ: Yeah, Auntie Adelia came. He'd built a home on the corner of Valetta Road and Findon Road. He'd bought some land there and he built a home there. And auntie Adelia and him moved in there. It was an asbestos home and Teresina and ---- Irene and the brother, I've forgotten his name, Robert ---- I've forgotten his name. I didn't have a lot to do with him. But I mean we used to go there occasionally and Ballestrin, Maria and Narciso used to live near, next door to there. Yeah, but I don't know if they bought the land from them or not. I don't know the story there either.

OH: I understand that Nico and Adelia went back?

CZ: Yes, they went back to live, they went back to Italy to live but I don't know why or whatever. So. --- Teresina, I think she already, I think she was married already, I'm not sure but she didn't go back, she stayed but she's been back a few times, yeah. But Auntie Adelia was a sweet, sweet lady. She used to help Dad in the garden at times, yeah. No, she was really, really nice.

OH: (56:01) So we're going to talk about the market gardens. You know at Lockleys?

CZ: Yeah.

OH: Where you had your first --- how many years?

CZ: I would have had --- I would have been about 12 or 13 when they shifted to Angley Avenue.

OH: In your first 12 or so years, do you remember how much land your parents would have had?

CZ: Oh there was quite a big of land there. They didn't work it all but there was boxthorn bushes and all sorts of things. IT went right back to Hanks property. Yeah, it was big and then there was a great big pit there, the soldiers were in there, the ones that came down from up Northern Territory, they came, there was a great big hole the, huge. I think they had their equipment, a big dugout, and a cellar there, they had it under the boxthorn bushes, I remember that. That wasn't land that Dad worked on though. Yeah, but...

OH: And did you go down to the river very much?

CZ: No, the river was a fair way from there. It wasn't that far but we never went to eh river, it was a bit ...

OH: Would you remember how many glasshouses that your parents had?

CZ: No at Lockleys, I wouldn't remember how many he had there but I remember he had a patch of carrots one year but he never planted them any more because we ate most of them. [laughter] A huge patch. And then he used to put watermelons in and all things like that, beans and tomatoes, we had to water them from a big tank. Oh, he did have a big tank, yeah he did have a big tank, he used to water them from this huge tank that he had there. Yeah, that was one of our jobs, my jobs and then I made mud pies and got into trouble. [laughs]

OH: I was going to ask you what your job was, as you were growing up.

CZ: Yeah.

OH: So what did you have to do?

CZ: Oh, watering, putting on strings, you know?

OH: In the glasshouses?

CZ: In the glasshouses.

OH: Can you tell me how you did that?

CZ: Yeah, it was just more or less a long piece of string and you'd loop it through and tie it up and it would be, I don't know how many inches long, oh about a metre long and he had to do the whole glasshouse...

OH: And that was so that the tomatoes?

CZ: Tomatoes, yeah.

OH: Could keep growing?

CZ: He'd train it up the string and then we'd have to clean out the glasshouse with a fork.

OH: This is after the tomatoes had finished?

CZ: Yes, once the tomatoes had, were bearing fruit and he'd pruned them, he pruned them every week or so and we used to have to --- rake all the tomato --- the leaves out and put them on a pile and oh he'd get smelly and dirty and ...

OH: Not gloves?

CZ: No, no gloves in those days. [laughs]

OH: And when would you do these jobs?

CZ: After school or school holidays and then when he ... at Christmas holidays would come up and we'd have to help him put on the glasses and build these new glasshouses and hand him the nails and help with the water and hold it and then pass him the glasses to put up the rafters, you know we used to do what we could. [laughs]

OH: Hard work?

CZ: Oh I know, for girls, yeah. It was terrible. And of course he used to go and pick up manure in the old truck and cleaning out peoples--- chicken pens and they used to get that for nothing and we had to put it in bags and he'd load up the truck and take it home again and it was a lot of hard work. We used to do hard work in those days, [laughs] for kids.

OH: Yeah.

CZ: We used to do a lot of hard work.

OH: And what about your Mum? Did she do work in the garden too?

CZ: Um --- maybe when we weren't there but probably when we came into it, she used to be inside, you know.

OH: Because he'd be cooking, managing the house, the younger kids.

CZ: Right, yes, that's right. I think she did her fair share. She'd help pick tomatoes and things like. Yeah. But she'd do what she could, I think, for Dad.

OH: At Lockleys, you had the house, and what other buildings were part of your property?

CZ: Um...

OH: Did you have packing sheds?

CZ: Oh, yeah, there was a big shed, yeah, there was a packing shed, Dad put his truck in there. No doors on there and then the other side, it had just the bags of wheat and manure, Dad used to buy the manure and that in large bags. Yeah, just it was more or less storage. And then at the back there, there was another chicken yard. So, yeah it was pretty open in those days.

OH: And where did the sorting happen?

CZ: In the other shed where Dad used to put the truck and he had his bench and half cases, we used to have put the papers in the half cases for him and get...

OH: Was that like the butchers paper?

CZ: Yeah, that was another job we had and have that all ready for him, you know [laughs] So ...

OH: For market day?

CZ: Yeah, it was all ready for him. Gee, yeah, we all had our jobs to do.

OH: Did you ever go to market?

CZ: No, not with Dad, no. No he never took any of us to market because he used to go about 3

or 4 o'clock in the morning. [laughs] No, he never took us. Perhaps we would have been nuisances in any case, and girls. If we were boys, it would be different, I suppose. But I don't think Peter ever went to the market either.

OH: It was your Dad's job.

CZ: Yeah, that's right.

OH: And do you remember where your father sold at market?

CZ: No, I just remember that he had a stand and --- No I don't remember anything else. He always had to make sure he had a stand there. Yeah.

OH: And getting there early was important?

CZ: Yeah.

OH: (1:03:28) Did your ... you know, you've mentioned some families, but who would have been other market gardening families that your parents, you know, had most to do with?

CZ: Well it would be the Marchioro's and the Ballestrin's, Tonellato's, Berno's, they would have been the main ones, I think. And then there would have been others as well which I'm not sure what their names were. But they would have been the main ones.

OH: Yeah.

CZ: And then they used to barter with different things as well.

OH: Yes, I was going to ask you do you have any memories of families helping each other out with equipment or work or ...?

CZ: Yeah --- I'm sure they did but I don't think I was around when that happened but I'm sure that they did.

OH: It's interesting isn't it, about you know, growing up on the market gardens? At Lockleys, I was going to ask you about the neighbours. I know about the Maltese priests and Irene, the housekeeper, was she Maltese?

CZ: No, she was she was from Quorn and she would have been, I reckon she would have been an Aussie. But we always used to sing that song, "Irene, goodnight, Irene." Yeah, every now and then. She was a really old wag, she was great, she used to come down and see Mum and Dad occasionally and have a good old chat, you know. No, she was good.

OH: And Giacomelli was a neighbour?

CZ: Yeah.

OH: And he was a single man?

CZ: Yeah, he was single and then he brought out his two --- relations. There was Primo Giacomelli, I don't know if you know him. And Gildo, he had a nice bike. And Primo had a motorbike, I remember that. Yeah, they lived with Jack for a while. They used to come over and of course, the girls used to teach him, them, English, you know, because at night there was no

TV, there was only the radio and Mum and Dad had a huge big table in the lounge room and a wood fire and at night we all had fancy work, we all used to sit around the table at night, we always had to do something or homework and they used to come over and you know, we all used to either play cards or something afterwards and laughs and all sorts of stuff like that.

OH: Yeah.

CZ: Listen to stories on the radio. So they would have learnt a bit of English from my sisters.

OH: (1:06:30) And the fancy work, what kind of fancy work was it?

CZ: Oh it was embroidery, by hand, you know. You used to buy doilies and tablecloths and all sorts of things like that and we always used to do that sort of thing at night and put them in our glory box or whatever, you know.

OH: Did you all have a glory box?

CZ: Well, sort of yeah. We all did a bit of stuff for our glory box, yeah.

OH: And when you were growing up did you do any cooking or was it always your Mum?

CZ: Oh, yeah, well, Mum used to tell us what to do and we all had, peel potatoes and carrots and all got taught, yeah, to sort of cook but I wouldn't say I was the best of cooks, you know.

[laughs]

OH: But you went to cook at the airport.

CZ: Yeah. [laughter]

OH: And, those men, the Giacomelli's, did they eat meals with you or was it just after dinner?

CZ: Oh, yeah, anyone that was around, "Oh, yeah, I'll stay for tea." Yeah, you know it was like that. [laughs] It wasn't a flash tea or anything but they were all good in those days, you know, if you went to someone's house: "Oh, stay for tea". Or whatever. It was always like that.

OH: (1:08:01) I meant to ask you this before about your father's wine-making and other traditions he would have brought with him from Italy.

CZ: Um, yeah, there was the wine-making, yeah, they had salami, they used to kill a pig every so often, make salami, --- Oh, he always used to go to Jervois and pick up the cheeses, several cheeses, you know, the large, I don't know what you would call them, I don't know how many kilos would be in a large cheese. Oh, about three or four kilos. And he used to bring them back and put them in the cellar, sometimes they used to turn into grating cheese which was good. Yeah, I don't know. Mum used to do preserves and make her own tomato paste and do her olives and jam.

OH: Where would she have got the olives from?

CZ: Oh, God, I don't know where she got them. [laughs] I don't know where Mum got stuff from but yeah...

OH: And the grapes, do you remember where the grapes would have come from?

CZ: Yeah, they used to go up in the hills and get them. Dad used to order them and we used to go up and pick them. I only went once, and pick the grapes and he'd bring them back and he'd make wine, stamp them down.

OH: Were you involved in the stamping down?

CZ: Not that much, not that much. [laughs] Yeah that was good fun. Yeah, there's a lot of things, a lot of memories.

OH: Yeah, and you're doing really well with them.

CZ: [laughs]

OH: (1:10:05) Let's talk about your parents moving to Angley Avenue, Findon. What do you remember about that? You were about 12 or 13?

CZ: Yeah, I would have been about 12. Um that was a big job for Mum and Dad. [sighs] Oh, they bought this house on Angley Avenue and it was an old returned soldiers return home and it had two acres, I think but it had all these, I think there were almond trees on there so Dad, I don't know who helped Dad, but Dad had to get rid of all the almond trees and get the soil all ready before he brought his glasshouses over. It was huge job. So they did that first, I think. I can't recall of this properly. But this is how I am thinking it went. And a bit later, --- they shifted all the glasshouses, I think, first.

OH: And how did they do it? Were you kids involved?

CZ: No I don't think I was involved that much in that. But probably with the building and that I would have helped, a lot. Um --- Yeah, because he would have to get it ploughed all in and everything like that. I'm not sure --- No, I was still going to school then so a lot of that would have happened when I was at school. And then of course, all the furniture and that. I think everybody helped everybody else in those days. But the kitchen was a pokey little place, I think Dad made a bigger kitchen so they had the people in make the kitchen bigger and then they had to have cupboards made, they were made out of those Holden boxes [laughs] but they, he did a good job. That was one of Romano Semola's brothers made them. He did a fantastic job on them. And they had a wood fire and an electric fire and we had a bathroom!

OH: Inside? [laughs]

CZ: Yeah. [laughs] And a toilet.

OH: Luxury?

CZ: Oh that was wonderful. Yeah, [laughs] that was luxury.

OH: How many bedrooms?

CZ: There was only three bedrooms but we had, like, two and three people in each bedrooms until they kept getting married [laughs] and it went down to two.

OH: I imagine that some of the older girls were already married?

CZ: Yeah, Milva was married then. And then, Bruna, I can't remember if she was married yet. --
- I think she got married too. I'm not sure. --- No she didn't come down, I think she must have
been married. So there was three girls in the front, --- one of the bedrooms. There was me, Roma
and Angela and then in the other bedroom, up, Peter was only young then and then there was
Cynthia in the other bedroom and then Mum and Dad were in the other bedroom. But in that
house, there was fireplace in every bedroom [laughs] except one and then there was the lounge
room and then we had the large kitchen, yeah. So and the toilet and then we had a bathroom
which wasn't very big at all, but it was a bathroom.

OH: And inside?

CZ: Yeah.

OH: How important would it have been to have bought the place at Angley Avenue?

CZ: Oh, really, really important, one of the best things that they ever did. Yeah. They were
happy. They were a happy couple.

OH: Mmmn.

CZ: They were always out together and yeah, it was good. They had a few fights, but not that
many. I can't remember that many. [laughs]

OH: (1:14:32) At Angley Avenue, were your parents growing the same vegetables?

CZ: Yes, tomatoes, beans, stick beans, corn around the boundary, the French beans, outside um
sometimes onions, yeah. No mostly, mostly, tomatoes and stick beans...

OH: In the glasshouses?

CZ: The Western Australian beans.

OH: Western Australian beans?

CZ: Western Australian, they were like a stick bean. And they were grown in the glasshouse,
yeah. So they were really nice beans. And outside, we, he used to grow rows and rows of French
beans, yeah.

OH: And the French beans, do they climb?

CZ: They're only little short beans about ... And we had to plant those too. Yeah, that was
another job we had to do. [laughs]

OH: Would they have been planted... well, what time of the year?

CZ: Oh, can't remember that but it was always hot when ... [laughter] No, I can't remember what
month they were planted but yeah... No, he had quite a good garden and then corn, sweet corn,
that was always planted around the boundaries of the beans, yeah, that was good.

OH: Did your mother plant another garden for herself, you know the flowers?

CZ: No, not a lot, but she had her frangipanis out the front and her strelitzias, Yeah she had
some garden there. A few agapanthus, I don't know --- she --- oh her hydrangeas were her pride

and joy.

OH: They are very beautiful, aren't they?

CZ: They are.

OH: How different was it for you living at Findon from Lockleys? Like, did it make a difference to you?

CZ: Um, well it did because I was still going to school at Star of the Sea down at Henley North. That meant I had to ride my bike from Findon right down to Henley [laughs] yeah, every day, morning and night. Yeah, I did.

OH: And there's a bit of a hill?

CZ: I know, I was quite fit in those days. And I was only about 12 and I did that for a couple of years until I left school. But rain or shine, I used to ride down there. I tell you what! [laughter]

OH: (1:17:24) And who were your neighbours at Anglely Avenue? You've talked about Gino Berno being at Anglely Avenue.

CZ: Yes, the Brazzalotto's were up the road --- Mrs Di Rose, a little old lady that used to live in the house, just more or less next door. Yes, she, her husband had died, they were from Mount Gambier. She used to come over and visit a lot and we used to go over there.

OH: Was she Italian?

CZ: No, she was --- probably, she spoke a bit of English, yeah, I think yeah, she was probably well to do in Mount Gambier, yeah. She used to come over but she died after a while.. But then Dad's cousin bought, our cousins bought the house that the Di Roses had. So he lived next door, Lino, Lino --- Oh, Marin. Lino Marin.

OH: So he's a cousin?

CZ: Yeah, a first cousin. Mrs McCallum lived across the road and they had orchids, they had a big orchid farm in there and...

OH: Like commercial?

CZ: Yes, I think they used to sell them and that. And a big market garden out the back with cabbages and cauliflowers and things like that. And then a dairy farm, on the right of that. And cows and that. They had a dairy farm.

OH: And did you get milk from there?

CZ: Yeah, we used to walk over there every night and get the milk and cream. Yeah, that was good. But... and then Lasscocks they had a couple of acres and they used to grow all their fruit trees on the property until they sold it and then houses were built there.

OH: It sounds like there was quite a lot of market gardening, orchard, dairy, quite open land.

CZ: Yes, it was. There was just a wire fence there, that's all. You could just put your foot over

and [laughs] into there. Yeah, it was good.

OH: Oh, interesting.

OH: (1:20:05) Do you know if your father became naturalised?

CZ: Oh definitely. I couldn't say what year but, yeah he was a naturalised Australian.

OH: How important would it have been for him to be naturalised?

CZ: Oh, really important --- yeah, really.

OH: Why?

CZ: I don't why. Because he was married to Mum and I suppose --- I think most of them were naturalised citizens. They all had the same idea, I think, yeah, I couldn't ... I know while the War was on at one stage well, he wanted to stay with his family, didn't he? --- I couldn't really say.¹¹

OH: That's fine.

OH: (1:21:05) We've talked a little bit about the Veneto community and the friends of your parents... if you think of the people in the Veneto community, what were the main occasions that people came together? So there was Saint Kilda?

CZ: Yeah.

OH: Picnics?

CZ: There were weddings.

OH: Do you remember going to weddings?

CZ: Yes, --- yeah that was really good fun. [laughter] as a child.

OH: Whose weddings would you remember?

CZ: I can't remember whose weddings there were. But there was always the sheds and they had seats all around the edge.

OH: Do you remember whose sheds?

CZ: Oh, yes it would have been --- there was a shed, the Santin's used to live off Valetta Road, I think it was.

OH: Yes, at first.

CZ: Right down the back, yes and they had a huge shed, the used to have parties in there. And they had parties at, not, Piovesan's, they had a shed, we went to parties there. There was another shed, --- Doro and --- on Findon Road, they had a huge shed there...

OH: Ballestrin?

CZ: Ballestrin's, Frankie Ballestrin's, they had, the shed was bigger than the house, actually. [laughs] And they had a huge shed and they had a lot of parties in there. That was some of the sheds I can remember. But it was always, always great, you know.

OH: So they'd clear the shed and put the chairs...

¹¹ Christine clarified that her father did not talk about the war

CZ: Round the edge and sometimes if we were lucky, we'd have a band [laughs] and they'd have that a little bit higher in the corner. And people used to dance around and have a good time and of course, they used to bring the food in on trays and by the time it got around to the other side [laughs] it was nearly all gone. But in any case, there was always lots of food, *panini*, salami and cakes. Oh, look it was just wonderful, we thought it was fantastic and there was soft drinks and a big keg of beer. And one of the sheds, oh I remember that, they used to have ice cream, a great big barrel of ice cream and all the kids used to get ice cream [whispers] And it was wonderful [laughs] Oh, we used to love it and the kids all used to play out there, chasey and all sorts of games and hide and seek. It was fun.

OH: You would have had great fun, I'm sure.

CZ: We did, we did.

OH: (1:24:04) I guess the question that I'm interested in knowing is how important was the Veneto community to your parents?

CZ: Oh, it was really important, Yeah, it was great. It was --- really one of --- how could I say it? It meant everything to them, you know, to be involved in the community, it was just --- one of the top things.

OH: And even though your mother wasn't Veneta, did she speak Veneto?

CZ: Oh, she understood quite a bit and maybe and she probably said a few words here and there. But ... Mum was involved in it all too. It was, really important to her to feel, to feel wanted and belonging to this family of *veneti*, yeah it was great because while her Mum, her Dad was dead, her Mum was, it wasn't the same, really. Yeah, she just, she went along with Dad and they just had clicked. They loved one another and they were always out together, movies and all sorts of things they could go to. And Vic and Angelina and then, they all went to Lockleys movies and something coming up and Elsa and Angelo Innocente, they were involved as well. They always used to go along in groups. Berto and --- Mary Tonellato, they were, oh yeah, I could go on and on. I've left out a lot. [laughs]

OH: But they were obviously the important ones.

CZ: Yes.

OH: Would your mother have had many Anglo-Australian friends?

CZ: No, not a really, not a lot, they were mostly in the Veneto --- Club and whatever. Yeah.

OH: So she was really accepted?

CZ: Oh, of course, she was. Yeah.

OH: That's interesting.

OH: (1:26:51) What about your parents visiting Italy?

CZ: Oh, yes. Well, I remember they went on the boat over there. And, yeah, I was sad about

that. [laughs] I didn't want them to go. Yeah, six months they went. They went everywhere. First of all, they went to London. They'd already organised to buy a car there, they had a Sigma, a little red Sigma. And then they travelled in London and England and then they went across the --
- Oh what do you call it, across the ...

OH: Channel?

CZ: Channel over into Europe and they travelled through Europe to Italy and all through Italy with that little Sigma ... a Simca, not a Sigma. In the end they brought it back home. Yeah. Oh, it's unbelievable [laughs] I don't know how they did it but they did. God, what a journey! God, you've got to have a lot of courage to do things like that. I couldn't do that sort of thing.

[laughter]

OH: This was the first time that your Dad had returned to Italy?

CZ: That's right, that's right. Yes. And well, Mum enjoyed it. She'd lost a lot of weight when she came back. But, it was good, she really enjoyed it.

OH: And meeting her in-laws?

CZ: Oh, her in-laws, yes, Yeah, I think ... Although the language barrier wasn't quite there but she understood a lot. I think they stayed with her mother-in-law, my *nonna*. They stayed in that house for quite some time. She never said anything, I think she got on quite well with them. No that was good.¹²

OH: And why didn't you want your parents to go?

CZ: Oh, I was sad, I wanted them to stay home with me [laughs].

OH: Were you already married?

CZ: No, no I was probably about 17.

OH: Oh, okay. And who was in charge of the household?

CZ: Oh, my sister Angela and Johnny came over and looked after us. I was working, I was working in the chemist shop then. So I must have been about 18. So yes, they looked after us and Angela cooked and did things for us, as well. Yeah, they looked after us well, you know. Poor old Angela's not with us now. That was sad. Yeah, that was quite good, yeah.

OH: We talked a little about your brother, Peter but I don't think we said about his accident.

CZ: No. --- yeah, that happened after, after they came back, I think because he was 18. --- Dad bought him a little, you know, those small Italian cars ... those?

OH: A Fiat?

CZ: Yeah, a little Fiat and Peter didn't like it. He wanted to get a motor bike. And any rate, --- he, he said to Mum this night, "Oh, Mum, I'm going down, I've left my jumper." I think he'd left

¹² Christine added: "Dad used to write letters to his family and was always happy to receive letters from Italy. We didn't write letter as children.

his jumper at one of his mate's places or something. And he said: "I'm going down to get it and I won't be that long." And he went down and --- well, he just didn't come back, did he? And Mum and Dad got this message that he'd --- it happened on Drake Avenue, he'd knocked into a ...

OH: At Finders Park?

CZ: A stobie pole. There was a car involved and he'd swerved to and he hit the stobie and poor old Pete, yeah. He just didn't ... They took him to hospital and he was in intensive care. Oh, he just didn't make it. So that was the biggest shock. Yeah.

OH: It must have been very hard for the whole family, but particularly for your parents.

CZ: Oh, yes, it was devastating. Yeah. But a lovely, lovely person. And yeah, he was only sort of lent to them. Yeah. And it was just really sad.

OH: Not what you have ever expected, I guess.

CZ: That's right.

OH: And I guess for your parents, being the only boy, it would have been hard too.

CZ: That's for sure, yeah. Poor Pete. It was really, really sad. It was the first person in the family, it was really hard to accept that.

OH: Mmmn, so young.

CZ: Mmnnn.

OH: (1:32:33) Your Dad obviously kept in contact with his relatives in Italy?

CZ: Yes, yes.

OH: And how would he have done that?

CZ: Oh, I think he used to write them a letter every so often, [laughs] not that often. People that used to go back overseas would've, he would go round and visit them ... I don't know how he used to do it. Yeah, he kept in contact, I think.

OH: (1:33:10) And you told me earlier about the fact that at some point, at Findon, your parents sold some of the land?

CZ: Yes, they sold it --- Lasscock Avenue, that was where Lasscock's, --- they sold all that property down there so the agent --- would have bought the property from Dad, too. And he sold that, he thought it was just about time, you know, he was getting a bit older, he would have been about, oh getting close to 70 and he would have decided to get rid of that. And he just kept a bit of land next door. So that's what he would potter around at, yeah.

OH: Did he keep any of the glasshouses?

CZ: Yeah, I think he had three there, I'm not sure, two or three and he just used to grow beans and tomatoes. He used to sell them to Candy, one of the fruit shops at Semaphore or whatever and he used to take them down. He didn't go to market any more. So, yeah, it was just something for him to potter around at and I suppose it brought in a bit of pocket money, you know, so,

yeah, that's all I can remember about that. [laughs]

OH: You've done very well with your memory.

OH: (1:34:48) How did you feel about your Italian heritage as you were growing up?

CZ: --- Yeah, I didn't, it didn't bother me that much. --- No it didn't bother me at all because we still went to the dances and all that sort of thing.

OH: (1:35:14) What dances did you go to?

CZ: Oh, right, I used to tag along, [laughs] I was the younger one. Roma and Angela used to go to Saint Patrick's, they used to have a dance there every Sunday night so Mum always used to make them take me as well, I was only about 14 or 15 and I mean, not that they really wanted to take me but I used to have to go. So, yeah, I used to go, I used to think it was great fun because I used to get a dance in every now and then. [laughs] So, that was one of the dances.

OH: Who would go to those dances?

CZ: Oh, well, that's where, I think, I'm not sure if Angela met Johnny there --- No she would have met him at Brazzale's, I'm not sure where she met him. But he used to go and there used to be a lot of singles and they were Italians and --- yeah, a lot of them were Italians, they used to go there and we'd meet up and it was just all good clean fun. No drink or anything, just soft drink and stuff like that. The Church used to run it, you know. Yeah, that was quite good fun, yeah.

OH: And it was mainly for Italians?

CZ: Yeah, there probably were a few Aussies there. --- No, I think mostly Italians were there.

OH: So your social life as a young woman was with other Italians.

CZ: Yeah, that's right.,. yeah [laughs]

OH: (1:37:05) You know, this is a question I ask everyone but like, --- how, what does it mean to feel Italian for you?

CZ: Oh, well, --- well, it's part of me, part of my life --- yeah, it's part of me, I don't know because I'm not in the community now. I do miss them, it's more of a belonging to people, --- are so close that everybody knows one another and yeah, it was just warm, a really warm feeling --- probably where I am now, I'm in different clubs, it's warm there but it's not the same. Everybody doesn't know everybody down my street. It's not: "Come in for a coffee", or do anything like that. It's not the same. But in the community, it was, everybody knew one another... "Oh, come in for a coffee." No problems, I mean we all didn't have nice homes and that but nobody cared. Nobody cared, you know, it was all family, it was a huge family and it's not as much so out there. Can you understand that?

OH: Yes, I can, but I also wonder if it was particularly at that time because it was so tight knit?

CZ: Yes.

OH: Like you know, all these families we've talked about were like a big family.

CZ: Yes.

OH: But maybe it is not as strong now because there's so many more people?

CZ: Yes, that's right. I don't know. Yeah, well, I mean I'm in different clubs and that. That's like family too and they're all Australians, yeah, they're all close although we don't go to one another's houses but we're all close because we're all doing the same things, and that I'm doing like quilting and things with them and embroidery and that sort of thing and little beanies for the hospitals and lot of charity work so that's really important to me as well. But the Italian community is one of a kind. [laughs]

OH: And your memory of it is obviously very strong. Christine, is there anything else that's you'd like to say in this interview today that you haven't had a chance to say?

CZ: Not really, I think I've said more than enough. [laughs]. No, no, I just enjoyed my childhood days down there, yeah, it was really good. Mmmn.

OH: Well, that's great, that's a lovely note to end on. And thank you very much for contributing your memories of that time and your family and being part of the market garden Veneto community.

CZ: Yes, thank you for having me here today.

OH: Oh, it's my pleasure.