

## Italian market gardeners oral history project

Interview with Nina Quaresima nee Fazzalari OH872/14

Recorded by Eleonora Marchioro on 13 April 2011

at Payneham, South Australia

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**OH:** This is an interview with Nina Quaresima. It's recorded by Eleonora Marchioro on 8th April 2011 in Nina's home, 12 Leslie Street, Payneham. Also present is my husband, Johnny Marchioro, and Nina's husband, Vincenzo Quaresima. This interview is recorded for the Italian market gardener oral history project. Nina, thank you for allowing me to interview you. We will begin by talking about your family background. Nina. Please tell me your full name and what was your family's name?

**NQ:** My full name is Nina Quaresima my family name was Nina Fazzalari.

**OH:** What is your date of birth?

**NQ:** My date of birth? I was born on the 8th July 1940.

**OH:** What were your parents' name and where were they born?

**NQ:** My father was Fred Fazzalari, he was born in Provincia di Reggio Calabria, Caulonia in the town, and my mother Francesca was born in Careri, Provincia di Reggio Calabria Italy.

**OH:** Have you any brothers and sisters and what are their names?

**NQ:** I have a brother and a sister who are younger than me and their names are Nick and Maria.

**OH:** What year did your father arrive in Australia?

**NQ:** My father arrived in Australia in 1932.

**OH:** And do you know why he came to Australia?

**NQ:** I think my father might have come to Australia for a better life although I think, in Italy, he was tradesman in shoe, making shoes and learning to be a shoe maker, I guess but coming to Australia he thought he would do better.

**OH:** Where did your father live and what did he do when he first arrived?

**NQ:** When he first arrived in Australia, as far as I know, he worked for an Australian market gardener in West Beach and he lived there in sheds on the property with other workers. ---

**OH:** When did your Mum arrive?

**NQ:** My mother arrived in Australia in 1936 --- yes, from then on, she just worked, I think, wherever she lived in the hills, I'm not really sure about Mum's life, you know at aged 14 when she came to Australia.<sup>1</sup>

**OH:** Nina, did your parents have other relatives living in Adelaide?

**NQ:** No.

**OH:** Who were they? And where did they live?

**NQ:** No, they didn't have parents in Australia, at all.

**OH:** Where was your family living when you were born?

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<sup>1</sup> In the editing process Nina stated that her mother arrive with her parents and 12 year old brother

**NQ:** When I was born, my family was living in a rented house in Flinders Park with my grandparents, my father's Mum and Dad.

**OH:** Nina, I'm going to ask you some questions about your memories of living on Frogmore Road. Can you describe where your family lived on Frogmore Road. Was it the western side or the eastern side?

**NQ:** My family lived on the right side of the dirt track off Frogmore Road, now, I can't... West side, I would imagine.

**OH:** Do you know how they came to be living on Frogmore Road?

**NQ:** Well, I think my father wanted to work for himself and decided to move so he rented this large farmhouse that was owned by a dairy farmer, as Mr Cattrell who later moved somewhere else, and life went on there.

**OH:** Do you know how much land your parents lived on?

**NQ:** I can only guess the size of the land as approximately ten acres and my father purchased that land.

**OH:** How many glasshouses did your parents have?

**NQ:** Again, as far as I know, they had approximately 20 glasshouses.

**OH:** What vegetables did your father grow?

**NQ:** My father grew tomatoes, beans and cauliflowers for marketing and other vegetables just for family, for us to eat.

**OH:** Did your parents sell the produce at East End market? Did you ever go to the market with your father?

**NQ:** No, I never went to the market with my father but yes, they did sell their produce at the East End market. Most of the time, I stayed at home because I was very young and I stayed with my grandmother.

**OH:** Okay. Who worked in the garden? Did you help with the glasshouses or what did you do?

**NQ:** NO, my parents worked in the garden, I didn't help because I was too young.

**OH:** Do you remember what your Dad used to do when he used to get ready to go to market? What did your Dad, you know, to get ready to go to market. Do you remember them getting ready how they used to pack the vegetables and that?

**NQ:** Yes, they used to pack them in the shed, you know and then pack them in their boxes and load them onto the truck, just take off together.

**OH:** So did your father own a truck?

**NQ:** Yeah, he did, he owned a truck.

**OH:** Did your parents know other Italians who lived in the area?

**NQ:** Yes, they did, they had lots of local friends around the Lockleys area and so they knew quite a few people in the area. I probably didn't know many because I was a younger girl. But yes, they had quite a few friends.

**OH:** What would you have seen if you were walking down Frogmore Road when you were a child? What did you see?

**NQ:** I could see high grass, boxthorn bushes, and the dirt tracks, lots of trees and old wood lying around. [laughs]

**OH:** Were there other houses and families living close to you on Frogmore Road.

**NQ:** There were but not too close. The houses were wider apart from each other. Yes.

**OH:** (07:48) But you told me that your father fixed up a shed. Can you tell me that story about your Dad, fixed the shed so that the migrants who came from Italy? Can you tell me that story?

**NQ:** Well, Dad did build some little sheds on the property and there were migrants that had nowhere to live so Dad actually made up little beds, they had blankets which he supplied, they ate off the land, vegetables, helped them along, definitely.

**OH:** Do you remember any of their names?

**NQ:** ---

**OH:** No, you don't? Doesn't it?

**NQ:** The only one I can point out was Mr Pellegi, Pellegi.

Nina, can you correct the spelling of the name?

**OH:** Oh, okay, Pillagi?

**NQ:** Pillegi, Pillegi, was the only one that I can sort of think the name of.

**OH:** Did he come on his own from Italy?

**NQ:** Yes, he was on his own.<sup>2</sup>

**\*\*What do you remember about him?\***

**OH:** (09:00) Okay. Did your parents keep a cow or a horse or chickens?

**NQ:** Yes, we had all of these, the cow, the chickens, the horses and also a dog. And we had about 30 cats, stray cats that used to come and feed on the leftover milk from the cows, it was too much to use up, so yes, she [Nina's mother] used to feed the stray cats. [laughs]

**OH:** Nina, can you tell me about the food in your family? Did you use the animal for food? For example, how did your mother use the cow's milk?

**NQ:** Well, we ate the chickens and the eggs and with the cow's milk, Mum made cheeses, she made ricotta and we ate the fresh cream.

**OH:** What about making salami and making sauce? Did your family do anything like that?

**NQ:** Yes, Mum used to make her own homemade sauce and they used to kill the pig every winter and of course, make the salami, sausage and we ate that throughout the year. But it was dried, the salami was dried down in the cellar and yes, it was cured by lighting like -- ashes and smoking the salami and the salami would drip and dry out and then, that's the way they cured it. In the end, once it was dried, it was taken out and was stored and that was sort of, eaten throughout the year, the rest of the year.

**OH:** What about wine? Did your father ever...?

**NQ:** No, Dad never made wine, that wasn't something that they concentrated on, you know, or... No, it wasn't done, no.

**OH:** (11:03) How did your parents spend time away from working the glasshouses?

**NQ:** Well, they had lots of friends away from the property. They would visit friends. Friends would come over on weekends, they were invited to all the weddings and basically that was a social life, they didn't go out dancing. My Dad used to play in a band, he used to play the trumpet on weekends in the Grange Square.

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<sup>2</sup> In the editing process, Nina recalled that he was very lonely as he had no family in Australia, they were all in Italy. He was a very nice person and hard-working

**OH:** Oh?

**NQ:** Yes. So that was like a little social outing for Dad but apart from that, it was just meeting the friends.

**OH:** (11:54) Now, were your parents involved with the church? Did they celebrate at Easter, Christmas, baptism and communion? Which was the church?

**NQ:** The church was Queen of Angels at Thebarton. But no, they weren't really church goers not once a week like most people would go to church. They only celebrated Easter, Christmas, baptisms and communion.

**OH:** But what can you remember about say, your First Communion?

**NQ:** I can't remember that much at all. It's quite strange. Maybe I was too young, it didn't really register. I remember my confirmation, not the communion.

**OH:** Confirmation?

**NQ:** Confirmation, that's the one. Confirmation because I was 12 years old when I had my confirmation. No, I don't remember my first communion. [whispers] It's quite strange.

**OH:** Who was your godmother? Do you remember your sponsor?

**NQ:** Yeah, my sponsor was Bettina Mittiga<sup>3</sup>. **OH:** Mittiga.

**NQ:** Mittiga, yes.

**OH:** Do you know how your parents learned English?

**NQ:** They would have learned English, just by speaking you know, daily, going to the post office, people coming on the property, just daily interaction with other people, listening, reading the newspaper, shopping. Mum would go out and shop, she would go into the city and shop. Basically they only learnt, and both could speak fairly well. But it was just interaction with other people.

**OH:** What language did your parents speak at home?

**NQ:** Dad spoke English and Mum spoke Italian.

**OH:** At home?

**NQ:** Yes.

**OH:** (14:02) Did your parents become naturalised?

**NQ:** Yes, they both became naturalised after I was born, yes.<sup>4</sup> **\*\*\*Do you think it was important for them to become naturalised? Why\*\*\***

**OH:** (14:12) Nina, what was important for your parents to keep the tradition from Italy? How, you know how did they used to keep the traditions going?

**NQ:** Yeah, it was important for them to keep their tradition, I think. You know, basically we carried on in the same habit that they had back home while I was a young girl. And then, I suppose eventually they became too Australianised also so they let go a lot of their traditions. Yes, I would say that my parents, probably were Australianised, yes.

**OH:** ... What kind of food did you eat at home?

**NQ:** We ate Italian food like...

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<sup>3</sup> In the editing process, Nina explained that Bettina was her mother's matron of honour in her wedding. Nina's mother was in Bettina's wedding group when she married

<sup>4</sup> Nina stated in the editing process that her parents were naturalised because "Australia was to become their new country"

**OH:** Like what?

**NQ:** Like, you know ... If you go to a restaurant now, you'd choose the pasta, the meats or the chicken the *cottaletti*, the homemade biscuits. There was, it was ongoing. We had the salami, the cheeses, and lasagna, it was just like the normal Italian foods. But not the barbeque.

**OH:** Okay.

**OH:** (15:36) How long did your parents live on Frogmore Road?

**NQ:** I would say that my parents lived on Frogmore Road for at least ten years.<sup>5</sup>

**OH:** Where did your parents move after Frogmore Road?

**NQ:** Well, we all moved to Findon Road, Woodville West after Frogmore Road.

**OH:** That's where they stayed or did they go somewhere else afterwards?

**NQ:** (16:04) Well, Dad continued market gardening and--- he actually went to West Beach and worked there for a couple of years and rented the land there and then decided to buy land for himself and from Woodville, we then moved to Salisbury.

**OH:** How much land did you have in Salisbury?

**NQ:** Dad had 20 acres.

**OH:** Could you tell me a little bit about Salisbury?

**NQ:** Well Dad had 20 acres of land in Salisbury and so they both, Mum and Dad, on their own and Dad became a bit sick when he was 58 years old and things started to go downhill health-wise and so in the end he had to sell 10 acres of that land and you know, to help things along because his health wasn't too good and they were left with ten acres only and then they kind of had 20 glasshouses on that ten acres which Mum and Dad really had to work on their own without any help at all because things were getting a little bit stressed at that stage in life. So they continued market gardening until 1988 in Salisbury.

**OH:** (17:39) Did your parents return to Italy?

**NQ:** No they never had the desire or the possibility to return to Italy and they never did, no.

**OH:** Nina, would you say your parents settled well as migrants in Adelaide?

**NQ:** Yes, I would say that did settle well in Adelaide. They loved Australia, you know. It was their country to follow through and yes, I think they were happy, yes.

**OH:** (18:10) Nina, I'm going to ask you about your childhood and some of your memories.

What do you remember about growing up on Frogmore Road? Like who were your friends and who did you play with?

**NQ:** Well, basically the only friends I had that I would see very often were Santina and Roma Puccio. I remember playing with them and sort of, we'd ride our bikes, we'd play with the animals and we'd ride on the back of my Dad's sledge being pulled by the draught horse. Yes, on weekends we'd have other friends come over quite often and I would say my best friends there would be --- Anna and Mary Mittiga who I'd see quite often.<sup>6</sup>

**OH:** How did your family celebrate birthdays? Can you tell me about any of your birthdays as a child? Can you remember birthdays as a child?

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<sup>5</sup> Nina explained in the editing process that her parents rented land in West Beach after they sold the Frogmore Road property

<sup>6</sup> Nina recalled the names of the Of Santina and Roma Puccio whose parents had a market garden at Salisbury. Anna and Mary Mittiga's parents had a grocery store at Torrensville

**NQ:** The only thing I remember from birthdays is having a birthday cake, you know and the only people who would attend my birthdays were either family, and godparents. But I didn't have my little friends or school friends attending my birthdays. It was mainly adults and godparents.

**OH:** Could I just take you back a minute when you said you were playing with friends. You said you played under the boxthorns. Can you tell me about that?

**NQ:** Oh. [laughs] yeah, under the boxthorn bushes, we used to cut around a hole, around the boxthorn bushes and we'd collect the corn and we'd strip the corn and try and make little dolls out of them, strip them halfway and make the skirts and then sort of paint the eyes and we used to place our little dolls in the hole in the boxthorn bushes. That was like, perhaps a cradle. Yes, we didn't have a lot of toys. The only toy I had was a doll. And apart from that we had to create our own little entertainments and make things as we could.

**OH:** (20:52) Nina, how old were you when you started school?

**NQ:** I was eight years old when I started school and yes.

**OH:** Tell me why you started at eight years old.

**NQ:** Well, because I had to wait for my brother to come, at seven years old. That as starting school, starting school was at seven years old at Grade 1 but because I had to walk to school with my brother and we had quite a long walk, I had to wait until I was eight years so we could both go hand in hand to school.

**OH:** Which school was it and how did you get to school?

**NQ:** I attended Seaton Park primary school and I had to walk to school with my younger brother. We'd have to walk through the boxthorn bushes from our house down to Grange Road, we followed this track through the boxthorn bushes, and when we got to Grange Road, we'd cross onto Rositano's property and from Rositano's property, we'd go down to Crittenden Road and then right down to Seaton Park which was down the bottom end there. And that was every day and every night back home. And our Mum would probably meet us halfway on the track in the boxthorn bushes so that she could sort of, take us back home the rest of the way. That was the only way of getting to school.

**OH:** What about when you used to stop for a cup of tea?

**NQ:** There was a lady, a little bit further on from our house, through the track there, and that was a family called the Italiano's and you know, they had lots of these little guinea pigs running around everywhere, hundreds of them, actually. And on the way home every night, she'd be waiting for us on the front door and asking us in and she'd prepared some black coffee with stale bread and we'd dip our stale bread coffee, sop it all up and then that was like a little break for us and then she'd say goodbye and we'd go off to our house.

**OH:** Frogmore road?

**NQ:** Frogmore Road, yeah.

**OH:** Did you know other children from your neighbourhood at the school?

**NQ:** Yes, the Rositano family who we had gotten to know, once we crossed Grange Road, that was another gardener. Yes, their children became our friends and they went to Seaton Park primary school as well. And that was Verna and Eva, Bill and Tony Rositano. So yes, we became friends with these people.

**OH:** (24:06) Did you know other Italian families who lived on the other side of Frogmore Road, like the Piovesan, Marchioro, Tonellato or Ballestrin? Can you remember any of them?

**NQ:** Not really. I sort of, only knew some of the adults now and again because they'd come and see Dad and I'd say: "Hello." I was too young, really. But I didn't know any of the children, no definitely.

**OH:** What did you like about school?

**NQ:** Oh, I liked everything about school. I learned how to speak English, I made lots of friends, I played sport. I was able to do the things I enjoyed, that was my break, from not having much at home to do, you know, going to school, there was lots to do there and I enjoyed school.

**OH:** (25:15) What are some of the memories that stand out about school?

**NQ:** Oh, sometimes I was a bit of a leader at the school because I was always organising school plays and being involved. I was involved in Red Cross, later on when I came in the higher grades and I used to visit sick children in the Grange children's hospital and do a little bit of craft and things like that among the children and entertain them. And also I did sewing classes and craft and things like. Yes, I did, I had lots of memories of school.

**OH:** 26:07 Life after school. Nina, I'd like to ask you about your life after you left school, your young adult years. Nina, how old were you when you left school?

**NQ:** I was 14 years old when I left primary school and then I went onto high school which I did two years, I did first and second grade and then I left school at aged 16.<sup>7</sup> I didn't go onto Intermediate, I only did two years of high school. And then I went onto my first job.

**OH:** Tell me about your first job? How did you find the job? What kind of work was you doing, just tell me?

**NQ:** Yes, well, my father actually did not want me to leave school at that age. He would have loved me to continue but he had a friend that was a taxation consultant who used to come around and do Dad's books and he asked me if I'd like to work for him. And naturally I said, yes. I think I was ready to go to work and so he employed me and his name was Mr McKee and I worked for him in his taxation office for about two years.

**OH:** What did you enjoy about your work?

**NQ:** I just enjoyed work in general, I was a typist, I did Shorthand. I enjoyed learning about taxation returns and business. I did, there was a lot to do, I did auditing and business transactions other than, not just tax returns and typing but learnt a lot of other skills.

**OH:** (28:26) And what kinds of things did you do at weekends for your social life?

**NQ:** Not a lot. But yeah, partying, lots of weddings. I used to have my friends coming home and I had to help my mother with the housework and the cooking on weekends because Mum used to do a lot of the cooking for the men working on the property. There was a lot of ironing to do and I had to be ironing shirts for all the boys. And yes, so there wasn't much of a social life but I did have my girlfriends.

**OH:** What were the names of some of your girlfriends?

**NQ:** Miriam Stanner was one. Barbara, I can't remember the surname, she was another girl. So yes, that was a couple of my best friends that we used to go bike riding with, bicycles and

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<sup>7</sup> Nina stated in the editing process that she went to Findon High School

shopping and whatever, yeah.

**OH:** (29:33) How did you meet your husband?

**NQ:** --- I met my husband a few times as a family, a friend of my family and then later, when I started work, he decided to approach me one day and decided to have coffee and then we started dating without my parents knowing for a year or so.<sup>8</sup> **\*\*\*Why didn't you tell your parents you were dating?\*\*\*** And then later on, four years later, we were married.

**OH:** Can you tell me some of these stories or anything?

**NQ:** I don't really have a lot of stories because, you know, parents in those days didn't give you the freedom but we used to have our coffee times together. We used to go out for a coffee in the lunch break.

**OH:** Can you tell me the name of your husband?

**NQ:** My husband, Vincenzo.

**OH:** Vincenzo, okay.

**NQ:** Yes.

**OH:** When did... Oh, can you tell me about your wedding?

**NQ:** Oh, yes.

**OH:** The preparations?

**NQ:** Preparation? Well, Mum helped but basically I had to do a lot of the preparation myself because Mum was too busy working. And I had to do --- whatever I needed to do, as a bride, organised the bridesmaids, the dresses. Mind you, Dad and Mum were the ones who decided on the reception. I had my reception in the Centennial Hall with 800 guests. Yes, it was a big night, it was beautiful, anyway. We were married at Saint Francis of Assisi church at Campbelltown. We had a great honeymoon, if you call it a great honeymoon, Melbourne and Sydney for two weeks. Yes, so... Then I lived on my father's property at Salisbury because there wasn't a lot of money so we cut off a block of land there and built a house and lived next door to my parents.

**OH:( 32:19)** Nina, I'm going to ask you some questions about your family life before we finish this interview. Oh, how were your parents involved in your life when you were married? How was your family, your parents involved?

**NQ:** Well, not a lot. I didn't get a lot of help from my parents because they were the only ones working on the property but I helped them a lot. Being next door, I was working but I'd pop in now and then and do a little bit of housework for Mum or take them a meal. Yes, I helped, if I could go in the glasshouses and string up the beans, I would do that. Yes, really, they weren't able to help me a lot at all because like I said, 20 glasshouse and there were only two of them working together, it was a lot of work for them, yes.

**OH:** (33:25) When did your parents die?

**NQ:** Well, my parents both passed away within nine weeks of each other. They died in 1988 and so that was very traumatic for me. It was a big thing because I was only 48 years old then, you know. And it was like my world had ended because really, it was too early in life to lose them both at once like that. So, yes, that wasn't very good.

**OH:** (34:05) Did you always live at Salisbury?

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<sup>8</sup> In the editing process Nina added an explanation: "Because I was only 16, they would not agree to me dating him so I ten left it until I turned 18 and this it was ok, They agreed"



**NQ:** Oh, well, I lived at Salisbury until 1989 because I then decided that there was nothing for us any more at Salisbury. We then moved to where we are now which is Leslie Avenue Evandale and life went on in a different way, of course. We had to make a new life for us, on our own.

**OH:** Away from market gardening?

**NQ:** Well, yes, away from market gardening.

**OH:** (34:52) Can you tell me about your children and grandchildren. We'll start with your children.

**NQ:** Okay, yes, I have two children, a son and a daughter and two beautiful grandchildren. My son's name is Anthony and my daughter's name is Maria Gabriella. And the two grandchildren? The older one is Jake, and the little one, Thomas.

**OH:** (35:24) And you've been back to your parents' home in Italy?

**NQ:** Yes, I went to visit their villages in 1997 for the first time and it was quite an exciting time and a beautiful time. I must admit I fell in love with Italy. It was to me, when I came back to Australia, I felt like I had left part of me back in Italy and part of me here, in Australia. I felt sort of, yes, I didn't think I would experience such a thing but I felt that my heart was partly left in Italy and the rest of me came back here, you know. Definitely, Italy was beautiful.

**OH:** Do you remember things, some of the... did you meet some of your relatives there? What was it like meeting some of your relatives there?

**NQ:** Well, the first time I went there, I had a daughter living in Italy so she had been away for 17 years. Maria was living in Milan for 17 years and so she was the only close person to me but Vince, my husband, he had cousins and uncles there which I met for the first time. The second time I went back to Italy, I was able to meet family that were related to my late father who actually lived in Bologna and yes, that was very, very emotional, yes. And we are still keeping in touch now but that was not the first trip, that was the second trip we did.

**OH:** (37:25) Can you tell me something that your life is like now? What do you do now that you've retired?

**NQ:** --- Now that I'm retired I think my life basically more involved with the grandchildren, family and lots of friends that --- I had lost in the last 50 years of my life, married life. They're all coming back now. We seemed to have like, perhaps parted in some way and then, now that we've come to this stage in life, they seem all to be coming back together again, you know. So it's just all happening again. --- Long lost friends that we thought never thought we gained, we have gained again and socially we getting back to doing things together.

**OH:** (38:38) Now, Nina, before we finish, is there anything else that you would like to tell me about your life on Frogmore Road, all those years ago? Maybe something about your friend Roma? When you used to go play in the sand dunes?

**NQ:** -- Well, Roma, actually, they actually moved to Salisbury? Oh back on the property with Roma, yes. One of the memorable things [laughs] that I can still remember were the wild watermelons growing in the paddocks and that we'd pick them and then we'd roll them down the hill and they would smash, they would just go everywhere. That, to us, was fun, that was something that was an ongoing thing and we used to play and jump around and we used to giggle. Yeah, it was a lot of fun, definitely.

**OH:** Can you tell me about that time when they moved, they drove the truck with the horse tied up at the back of the truck and when they were moving. Roma and her sister...?

**NQ:** Yes, they told me about that, that was something I didn't know but it was only the other day, I learnt that they had a truck and they didn't have a lot themselves, and the only way to get...

**OH:** Did they live on Frogmore Road as well?

**NQ:** No, they didn't live on Frogmore Road, they lived just further down, past the bridge more towards Lockleys. They weren't on our side but they had no means of getting this horse to Salisbury and so one of the sisters decided to drive the truck and tie the horse on the back and just, you know, the poor horse had to get itself to Salisbury. It's something you couldn't do today but in those days you tie any animal on the back of the truck and just lead it along. [laughs]

**OH:** (40:58) Maybe you could tell me something else about your husband. What was it like when he first arrived from Italy?

**NQ:** Very handsome.

[laughter]

**NQ:** Yes, he stood out as a nice man, yes. He was a quiet person, a quiet achiever, very well disciplined, you know and --- he was a musician, he played the saxophone so that was part of our life also in Salisbury. He would play at weddings, at nightclubs, a lot of big *feste*<sup>9</sup> they had at Saint Francis of Assisi on a Sunday. There was a big band, he played in a big band so we had the first ten years of our marriage was, you know, weekends, there was never a weekend together. He was always away playing in the band and then after ten years or so, he decided to leave, and become a family man, more and so we got back together on weekends.

[laughter]

**OH:** Can you think of anything else to tell me?

**NQ:** No, not really.

**OH:** Something about your son, when he got married?

**NQ:** (42:40) When my son got married, he was 38 years old and we changed the tradition of having big parties. There was only about 120 and we had it at Radisson, and basically it was just family and all their friends, the couple's friends, you know, which was beautiful. We didn't have lots of people but the people that were there, everyone knew, so therefore it was a beautiful, beautiful wedding. Whereas with my wedding, with 800 people, they were all my father and mother's friends. I didn't know a lot of people at the wedding. They all shook hands with me but they were strangers, you know.

[whispering]

**OH:** What kinds of presents did you get at the wedding?

**NQ:** Presents? Oh, well, I got about 25 water sets and about 30 liqueur sets [laughs] and I think I got like a dozen dinner sets. Basically, it was repeats of everything and there wasn't... we paid half of the wedding and my late father paid half of the wedding because Vince's family didn't have money.

[whispering]

**NQ:** 800 people, yes at the wedding. Oh, okay.

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<sup>9</sup> *Feste* is the Italian word for parties

**OH:** So you can't think of anything else to tell me? About your life?

**NQ:** My life's been a happy life. I've had my ups and downs but I had a beautiful childhood, I had beautiful parents who never controlled me really. I had lots of fun, lots of good memories, yes. If I look back at my life, I could not wish for anything better. I think I had the best life that anyone could have had. Honestly, I am so happy in my life and that's great, you know.<sup>10</sup>

**OH:** Yes. Oh, well, Nina, thank you very much for sharing your story with me. I really appreciate you giving me such interesting information about your life in this interview today.

**NQ:** Thank you, Eleonora. You've been wonderful. Okay, thank you.

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<sup>10</sup> In the editing process Nina was asked about the way she would describe herself and her Italian heritage. She said that she would say she was “Australian born of Italian parents”