

Italian Market Gardeners' Oral History Project

Interview OH872/27 with Diana Maria Costantina Panazzolo nee Santin

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recorded by Madeleine Regan at Kidman Park, South Australia

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Oral Historian (OH): Thank you Diana for agreeing to the interview and we will start with questions about your family background, but first of all could you give me your full name please.

Diana Maria Costantina Panazzolo (DP): (laughs)

OH: And what is your date of birth?

DP: 23rd of July 1951.

OH: Thank you Diana, and were you named for anyone in your family?

DP: I was, I was named after my two grandmothers. Maria is my mother's mother in Italy and she was a Feltrin, and my Nonna here, Dad's mum was Costantina and she was a Visentin, which we still keep in contact with all the cousins over there, which is really lovely.

OH: That is great. Can you tell me about your parents? Maybe if you start with their names ... if you want to start with your Mum first.

DP: My Mum, born in Italy 1932, to Livio Oliviero and Maria Feltrin, she was one of ten children, her sister, her eldest sister just died last month, she was 98.

OH: Where did she come from?

DP: She was in Canada, Hamilton in Canada.

OH: And your mother?

DP: My mother came from Caselle d'Altivole Treviso, in the Veneto region. It is about an hours out of Venice, and I have been fortunate enough to go and visit, where both, where they both came from. Dad was born in the same town as well and I was fortunate enough to go there three times, and I hope to go there one more time. (Laughs) mmm... Dad was born in 1924, the same town Caselle d'Altivole, he came out to Australia in 1935, and he was born to Giovanni Santin and Costantina. Nonno came out to Australia in 1927 and then he called his family out in 1935. I remember you saying in 1927 they stopped the intake to the United States. I remember one of the meetings that you had, and I thought oh

maybe that's why he came here to Australia, but yeh and my Nonno was widowed. His first wife died, and he had one daughter, Angelina, and then he married Grandma and they had three boys and a daughter; Luigi, Vito, Virginia then my Dad Romildo, whose nickname is Nugget.

OH: How did he get that nickname?

DP: Cos he was little. (Laughs), and he was the youngest [brother].

OH: And do you know why your Nonno came to Australia?

DP: No I don't know that bit, um I know he was in the wars, and I don't know who he came out with, ... Vito passed away and I don't know who to ask or maybe if I go back to Italy I could ask, like Nonna's side of the family, cos I was talking to my sister last night, and I was saying, we don't know much about Grandpa's background maybe because, I do remember **him**, but I don't remember much **of** him. I was, what? Eight, when he passed away, and I just remember him with this walking stick, and I was just saying to Lisa [Diana's sister] last night, we don't know much of his background. His mother was a Berro, I remember that, that my Dad told me the surname was Berro, but that is about all I know.

OH: And when your Nonno arrived in Australia in 1927, do you know where he went?

DP: I don't know if he actually went to Wellington, first, when he first arrived, but that is where Grandma and Dad and his siblings settled when they came out. They were in Wellington and they worked for a family, oh I forget their name.. I think it was Dos.. or something, and I remember Dad saying that they lived in this shed with no floors ... they used to dig a hole in the ground and tie a piece of meat on a piece of stick, you know like put it in the ground and cover it from how hot it was, ... and he went to school up there. I remember him saying he used to take his shoes off so he wouldn't wear them out. (laughs)

OH: How old would your father have been when he arrived with your mother and siblings?

DP: What's that... 24...34... well he was 10, 11, he was... yeh.

OH: And do you know how long the family stayed in Wellington?

DP: From records that we found like Nonno's old bankbook, we worked it out it was about 1941, and they moved down here with the Bernos.

OH: And how would your parents have known the Berno brothers?

DP: ... I don't know, I don't know how they knew them but one of the Berno brothers, that was; Piero and Berto, well Berto was my godfather and he was at Dad's wedding in Italy in 1949 because we've got photos and that and - I don't know beforehand how Grandpa knew people down here and why they came here.

- OH And what were your parents, sorry, what were your Grandparents doing when they were with the Bernos on Valetta Road?
- DP I know it was celery, they used to grow the celery, I don't know if they leased the land from them, I don't know if they leased the land from them or if they worked for them, I don't... but from photos, it was the celery, um I was one, I think I turned one there, Mum said, and then they purchased the land on Frogmore Road, but when I was born that's where I went home like, when Mum and Dad came from Italy they lived there.
- OH Let's talk about your mother and your father marrying, like what's the story there?
- DP So in 1949 Dad went to Italy for a trip. He was the youngest of all the brothers, he was a bit wild,
- OH How do you mean wild?
- DP Well he was with you know with 'Shorty' Rebuli, he was hanging around with all those ... Jack Young, Rob Leverenz, they were all motor bike drivers and I remember dad having a motor bike and he hid it from his grandmother for quite a few years he said (laughs) and in 1949...
- OH So your dad would have been at that point, ... 25?
- DP That's right. He went to Italy for a trip and my grandmother had told him to go and visit my Mum's family, that, you know they had a few girls there (laughs) and he ended up with my mother! She was only 19 she was, 18 when he met her, 19 when she got married in 1950,
- OH And by that time had his brothers and his sister married?
- DP Married here, yes I know Zia Virginia and Zio Oscar [Mattiazzo] married on the 23rd of July and that's my birthday (laughs) so that was the year they were over there. ... No Zia Anna and Zio Vito got married when they were over there so he wasn't here, I think Zio Lui was married, yeah, then they came out here. Poor Mum, she goes, you know, her parents were devastated, she came to a country, didn't know the language, she didn't know anybody. She said, more than once she cried, but she said 'it was my own fault, it was my choice', and then with Zia Virginia (and Zio Oscar) was like her sister they got on really well. And then we had Grandma and Grandpa live with us all the time.
- OH Why did your grandparents live with you, your family?
- DP I don't know how that choice came about,
- OH That's interesting
- DP ... yeah, Uncle Lui had his house on the corner of the property, then they purchased this great big house. It was 12 and a half, 13 acres of property,

- OH And this is on Frogmore Road?
- DP On Frogmore Road, right next door to the Piovesan's, where Bruno Piovesan had his property, and the house. We didn't have a lounge room because we had Grandma and Grandpa with us, right, so it was a nice little kitchen, laundry, ... three bedrooms, we could say, long passage, and on this door in the middle of the passage, there was the house reversed again, where Uncle Vic and Zia Anna lived. So we lived in this big house with the door separating us.
- OH And by that time you had a cousin.
- DP Yes Dean, yes
- OH And were there other cousins in your Zio Lui?
- DP Yes, Yiyi, we used to call him, yes Sandra, Johnny and Denise and we all got on. We still get on very well, I remember with Denise, with the half cases that uncle Lui used to build, how all this started.
- OH Angelo Innocente?
- DP Yes, we used to build like little rooms, you know, like there in the courtyard, and like this was the kitchen and this was the lounge, and we'd turn the half cases sideways and this was the cupboard and play with our dolls and things like that under the grape vines. I remember those times, they were great, and it was lovely building it and then we had to put everything away, we didn't like it (laughs).
- OH And Diana, I was going to ask you about your birth. So you were born in 1951 when your parents were still on Valetta Road?
- DP Yes.
- OH And then the three brothers...
- DP ... purchased...
- OH ... the land on Frogmore Road. And what were your parents doing around that time, and like what was the land like on Frogmore road, do you know?
- DP As far as I can remember back, I can remember Frogmore Road, and I can remember all the box thorn bushes, and I can remember all the pugholes, ... but what my parents were doing? Dad and Mum were in business with Zio Oscar and Zia Virginia, they had Croydon Park Provision Store, and I remember Mum and Dad, you know, working there with him, and every Thursday, Mum used to also work in the garden because she couldn't speak English very well. She always used to work in the garden as well, and every Thursday she used to ride her bike to Croydon and fill out all the orders, she used to, and it was very hard for her because she didn't know her way round very much, because you know that Rosetta street, there's that tunnel there, yeah the bridge, she made it (laughs...) and so Nonna used to look after me and Nonno.

- OH And what about your Dad, what was his role in the business there?
- DP He was with Zio Oscar [Mattiazzo], I just remember them working, I can still see the shop, and I remember myself after in the later years. I can remember with Christine [Mattiazzo], we used to play in the sacks and things like that out the back, and I spent lots of time at Zia Virginia's house even after they sold the business. I remember going there for school holidays, and then I don't know because Zio Oscar and Dad decided to sell the business, or if Dad's two brothers had asked him to come and work on the land with them. I don't know what decision that was, whose it was. After they worked the land, all the three brothers, and Mum lost all her English, yeh, because she picked up a fair bit you know serving the customers and that, and then she lost it, because she worked with aunties and uncles and everyone spoke Italian, so I said to her 'why don't you learn English?' She said 'I used to know a bit!'
- OH And Diana, to finish off talking about you family, can you tell me about your siblings?
- DP My brother was born in 1960.
- OH And his name is?
- DP Allan, Allan Lee, my mother liked Allan Lad, and I remember when he was born, I was at Zia Virginia's and Zio Oscar's, and I remember Dad walking through the door, and he told me it was a boy and I gave him a kiss. And it was when that Palmolive Gold came out, and I could still smell it on him (laughs).
- OH And you were nine!
- DP Yes I remember that, my sister, I was eighteen when Lisa was born, I remember her, we were waiting and Mum was at the hospital. I remember Dad waking us up, I was with my Nonna in the bedroom, I used to sleep in the same bedroom. I remember Mum opening the door and going, and the next day you know anxious waiting, waiting, waiting ... Dad was in the garden working (laughs) and after a while the phone rang, and ... 'It's a girl!' 'Dad it's a girl!'. 'Oh alright!' (laughs). Not like now days is it? (laughs) Yes so... So I played a big sister part, after bringing Lisa up, you know because the year after, Grandma died. I remember Mum saying I'm always left with five in the family, because the year after Allan was born grandpa died, and the year after Lisa was born, Grandma died! Er yes, So I remember dressing her up taking her out, taking her to church, you know it was always because Mum still worked the land and all that, plus I was going, no ... I was working then, I was at work.
- OH Thank you for that, let's focus a little bit on your growing up on Frogmore Road. What is your earliest memory?
- DP Um, hoeing, hoeing the glasshouses, round the edges of the glasshouses. We had to keep them clean because of the glass and all that.

- OH How old would you have been?
- DP Oh, I reckon I was about nine- nine, ten, that's the earliest I can remember. I remember sometimes we used to break the glass and get told off, (laughs...). You had to be careful!
- OH Were your cousins working with you?
- DP Yes, yes, we were all together.
- OH So it was a good working force.
- DP It was, it was- and I remember September holidays when the show was on, and we used to train the tomatoes or cucumbers, and beans to go up the strings. Because they were all on strings, you know how they used to have them in rows, and trail them up the strings, and we used to get some money to spend at the show, used to love that. And I remember the whirly winds we used to get, and they would go through the glass houses and we'd have to get on our knees and pick up every bit of glass, because when they used to plant the seedlings, they used to, you know, push them in with their fingers, I remember that, we used to have to pick up every little bit of glass, and I remember the watering...
- OH Just to go back to the whirly winds, so the whirly winds would come, and how, was it like, the top panes of glass, or the sides, that would have been broken?
- DP The tops, the tops, and I think some of the sides as well, because I remember the glasshouses after- they weren't like individual glasshouses. They were like, they had like four sides, but then, all the middle bits were like, what do you say, like elevated.
- OH So there were four, like gables?
- DP Yes.
- OH So they were quite wide then!
- DP Yes, I reckon there was about seven or eight glasshouses, and they were quite long, they would have been from here to across the road where the carport is.
- OH Can you estimate that sort of distance?
- DP What would that be, about thirty metres, is that it? Yes they were quite long. I remember the glasshouse doors used to have numbers on them, yeah.
- OH Why would they have had numbers?
- DP Because I suppose if they are picking or whatever, or which one needs watering, or I don't know, which one needs spraying, but I know they all had numbers on the doors.
- OH And what was growing in the glass houses?

- DP They used to have cucumbers, I remember the little apple cucumbers. I remember on Sundays Christine and Helen [Mattiazzo] used to come down, we would go for a walk all around, and we used to love picking them, they were lovely and fresh. They were prickly; we would clean the prickles off. They had the apple cucumbers and then they had the long green cucumbers, you don't see them very much now because they are all those burp less ones. The tomatoes, beans ... string beans. Mum used to hate picking those because she was scared of mice, (laugh).
- OH Was there a problem with mice?
- DP No, but every now and then there might be one coming out... (laughs.) I remember we used to tease her. What else did we have in the glasshouses? That's all I remember in the glasshouses. ... I remember them trying the capsicums, and then, they only did them for a little while, and I asked Dad why they stopped doing the capsicums and he said they needed too much spraying; there was too many bugs and things on them. Ah artichokes... they started off down here with artichokes and they were very good, they ended up with quite a few acres of them at Bolivar, lettuces, and when I was younger I remember the cauliflowers, in the younger years, cauliflowers and cabbages, but I *just* remember that. I don't remember celery on Frogmore Road, carrots, I remember ... and the potatoes. I remember planting potatoes, I remember the ladies chopping them, cutting them with all the eyes, they all used to sit around, and then I remember planting them.
- OH How deep would you plant?
- DP Denise and I, used to have to sit at the back of the tractor, and they had this machine, and if you can think of this great big box sort of thing with this funnel, at the end, and one would sit there, and I would sit here,
- OH Opposite each other?
- DP Opposite each other, and we would have this tube, pipe which would go down into the ground, and Dad would, you know, drive the tractor, and we would sit at the back, and you would hear this ding, ding, ding, ding, every time you know, you would drop a piece of potato in, you would, through this tubing, and that's how we planted them!
- OH And did the soil turn over as they were being planted....?
- DP Yes and so the little rows would come up at the end, you would have the, we used to say the '*vassoro*,' the plough, you know would make it and then the other little bit would cover it. And they would work out perfect, the rows, and they were all along, yeah I remember all along Frogmore Road. We would get to Frogmore Road, and we say 'oh who is going to see us on here', (laughs) - cos it was cold some times, and you'd have scarves and hats and you know, gloves on.
- OH So that must have been in winter months that you were planting potatoes?

- DP It must have been, because they were always ready around Christmas time, December, November ... December was a potato, when they had to pick them, so yeah...
- OH And what would have been the biggest crop?
- DP I think the tomatoes and lettuces. I just remember lots of tomatoes, lettuces, I remember wind, rain or shine they had to be picked, and you know sometimes when it was raining they'd all put their sacks on, and boots and things and we would have to go and, like there were the cutters. You'd cut the lettuce and turn it upside down to say this is ready to be packed. And then we'd go behind in crates, and I think there used to be twelve to a crate we'd pack them. And then the last ones on top would be face down. You know with the bottom, yeah I remember that. Then the men would carry them, you know because they were a bit heavy for us.
- OH So the crates would be – what, at the end of the row?
- DP In the middle, where you walk, because they used to be, and we'd take the crates and then we'd pack them, and then you know, they would have to carry them to the tractor and the little cart at the end of the row, so then take them all to the shed, we used to have a big shed.
- OH And I was going to ask you about your shed, the building on the property, but..
- DP The shed
- OH But before I do, um, when you were doing the picking, who was involved, like-you know?
- DP The cutting of the lettuces, the lettuces, the ladies used to cut the lettuces.
- OH So that would be your aunties?
- DP My aunties, my Mum, yeah it was back-breaking... because you'd be, yeah...
- OH And then you, you with your cousins..?
- DP Yes, yes they'd help sometimes. We didn't, because sometimes we were at school, you know we'd have to go to school, and things, but I remember all these days you know, holidays, and that.
- OH And did the picking have to occur at a particular time of the day?
- DP Ah, I know it was early in the morning, because I remember when they introduced day light saving then it affected the market gardeners, because they used to get up with light you know, it was dark. So instead of getting up at five o'clock when the sun was rising they'd have to get up at six, or instead of six they'd have to get up at seven, so it used to affect them it did. ... the tomatoes, remember the glass houses and the tomatoes and we'd carry out the buckets for

them, - I don't think we picked many tomatoes, there was a knack of the way of picking them because you didn't want to break the vine and things like that. But I remember every Tuesday night after school, we had to put the white butcher paper in the tomatoes, in the boxes that Angelo Innocente made, all these little half cases, and Dean and I would do that. I don't remember Denise coming up, you know, and we'd stack them. There were a couple of hundred cases and then on a Tuesday night I remember all these men coming to help, all young men who used to work at Holdens.

And in the shed, in the big shed, all one side of the shed was where they'd grade the tomatoes. And so, the men would get the buckets and pour them, pour the bucket on this shelf which would sort of roll down, it was on this slant, and you'd have your half box here, another half box, another half box, you know all your little ones would go here, all your medium would go here, all the big ones would go somewhere else, and then the greener ones would go somewhere else. And that's how they used to grade the tomatoes all by hand. And I remember the top ones; they packed them all nice and neat, not the little ones but the others, you know the last layer they'd sit them all nice. And then they had this big, if you can think of compactors nowadays you know where they do filing.

Dad had made this big long rail where they used to stack all the tomatoes that were done. And all these men would, you know, get the buckets and go and empty them all out and go and help them and all that. And then there was the cucumbers, we used to count the cucumbers in the boxes and it was always one extra, when they'd say thirty six you'd put thirty seven, you know what I mean? And the artichokes as well, it was always one extra. We had to put, the beans, we had to weigh them, yes I remember. I could still see this, this, what's it called?
Bilancia?

OH Scales?

DP Yes, yes and the tray would have been this big, if you can imagine a scoop, but it was this big, and the weight, Dad would put the weights on there and they all had to weigh, and we'd put them in there and then we'd put them in bags, and then sew up the bags.

OH Did you sew up the bags?

DP I remember doing some.

OH And what were the bags made of?

DP Hessian, hessian bags.

OH So how ...?

DP Oh some of them, no they were about this high.

OH So about two and a half feet?

- DP Yeah, yeah, about that and I remember on the little half cases of the tomatoes, we had this 'Santin Brothers Lockleys', it had. You know you had to do it with a little paint brush, it was all cut out in the iron, all on the cases would be that.
- OH Just on that, why was it Lockleys, do you know?
- DP It used to be St James Park, it used to be, then it was Lockleys, and then it was Kidman Park. I don't know, the Council must have subdivided the, you know, area.
- OH Diana, where did the produce get sold?
- DP It was in the market.
- OH Which market?
- DP The Central Market, and I know Tulley and Son was one of the biggest buyers. And then they used to sell to shops as well. And I remember Mr Carbone, he used to have a shop on Crittenden Road and we used to deliver there. And then there were people that used to come and buy as well, but it was mostly at the market.
- OH When you say the central market was it also at the East End market?
- DP At the East End market.
- OH So which of the brothers, ... Lui?
- DP Uncle Lui was in charge-
- OH Right
- DP ... I remember him going to the market with his little bag, (laughs) and- yeh, I remember going there in the truck
- OH Early?
- DP Early, and then on the way back he used to stop at the Joiners Arms Hotel, on Grange Road near the Entertainment Centre, and we used to get a raspberry (laughs) . We weren't allowed in the hotel, we were sitting in the truck, and he'd bring us out a raspberry.
- OH And who would have been with you?
- DP Uncle Lui, and I remember Dad a few times as well, I remember the markets though. Just last week we went to a twenty first at the Belgian Beer Bar. I said you know it just brought back all those memories, it did. But Tulley and Sons and the McMahons, I think they're still in the Central Market now, in Gouger Street, McMahons? I remember them selling to them -
- OH If you think about your trips to the market, is there anything that stands out, like, getting up really early and -,

- DP I remember getting up early and going, but it was like an outing for us, we were all excited, it was not that we went all the time, you know what I mean. It was exciting, I just, I just loved it, and you'd see all these people and men. I know Tulley's used to export to Darwin or something, so when they first sold the artichokes a lot of them went up there and a lot of our produce went to Darwin it did.
- OH And the people who came and bought direct from the farm, who would they have been?
- DP Probably little fruit and veg shops around here, I just remember Mr Carbone, - some others, I can't picture them I can't, no I don't remember.
- OH Did individuals come and buy direct?
- DP No not individuals, a lot of the men that used to work at Holdens that used to come on a Tuesday night, weekends and that, they'd used to come and help and then they'd bring produce home, you know what I mean. Sort of something for them. I know every year Dad used to buy them a bottle, they used to buy them a bottle of whisky or something, at Christmas time, to say thank you. But I don't think there was money exchanged, you know.
- OH And how would your father and uncles have known about these men, were they like part of a community?
- DP Well a lot of them came from the same town or the town next door from Riese Pio Diecemo. Grandma living with us, she was like a mother to all of them, and I remember Tuesday nights she used to love when they all finished grading the tomatoes, she used to love going out there, because we used to bring coffee and sometimes there's twelve, fifteen of them, you know altogether. I remember I had to go out and count how many men 'cos we had to know how many cups to bring out, and I've still got the basket. I've kept the basket that we used to take the coffee out in. Coffee, and Mum used to do it one week and Zia Anna used to do it the other week. Zio Vito's wife, you know the one that used to live next door. So we'd have a turn each and I used to have to go and count how many cups, (laughs). I remember the big pot of coffee, they used to, you know those big aluminium ones, it was coffee and chicory, 'Lions' I remember, and then they'd all sit around and you know talk and things like that. And a lot of them now, I still see, and that's how, maybe because even when they used to come and play bowls. We had a bowling, er what do I say, bowling, what do I say not a bowling green, *Bocce* at the back of the shed. And every Sunday the men used to come there, and they'd play bowls and like I said I still see some of those men the ones that are left today... 'Ah Diana! Ciao Bella, Ciao!' ... you know, and sometimes there was that many cars you couldn't even turn, you know ... 'Come and shift your car ... And but Grandma used to love it, I remember.
- OH And were those men from the same province?
- DP Yes, yes.

- OH From the same area.
- DP Yes.
- OH How important was that?
- DP I think it was like their own little community, very important to them. I remember the Mazzarolo brothers. It was what, one, two, three, four of them, I remember when they built their house, and then another one of them built next door, and it was lovely, and they'd all talk about old times. I remember some of them have gone back to Italy, they had, maybe they didn't like it here or what, I remember two of them going back to Italy, some of them passing. When you go to church you see some of them nowadays and you think back and I remember all the laughs they used to have, and jokes!
- OH And were women also involved in those Sunday invitations?
- DP No, no no, it was all men. Zia Virginia [Mattiazzo] used to come down and that, and she used to come and visit Grandma, and she would stay there with Mum and Grandma and Zia Anna. And Christine, Helen [Mattiazzo] and I would go round the whole garden and we would walk around and sometimes we'd stop off at Denise's and you know it was just our weekly walk I suppose, and then they'd stay there for dinner. I remember the big house; we used to have races around the house. We used to time each other, we were sitting out there, the hills were so beautiful and the stars were so bright, because you know there wasn't that lighting that there is today. And in the hot weather Dad used to put a tarpaulin on the lawn and we'd sleep out. It was absolutely beautiful and these are the memories that you've got that, but now you look at the hills, where are they? You know- all different...
- OH Diana, going back to the kind of work involved in the market gardens, what kind of work did your mother do in the gardens?
- DP In the garden, they would have planted all the seedlings; they would have pruned them.
- OH So this was the women's work.
- DP Oh the men too, I think the men, you know because, they used to have a row each, um they'd prune them, because even the tomatoes you'd have to prune them and cut off the little shoots there. The lettuces, you'd have to hoe, and the potatoes as well, you'd have to hoe, it was all done by hand. What else did they do? It was all those sort of things, the picking you know, just wasn't, it was every day ... no Saturday mornings I remember even Saturday mornings because I remember every Saturday morning I used to have to polish the floors. We used to have the linos, we used to have to put the wax on them. It was my job on the Saturday morning, we used to put the record on and I used to polish the floors.
- OH And where was your Mum?
- DP In the garden, sometimes they'd be home by lunch, um four o'clock, four o'clock was always coffee time. So Zia Rosina, Zia Anna and Mum would have a week each of taking the coffee, um and then at four o'clock I remember a lot of people used to turn up at four o'clock. I particularly remember, we used to call him Blackie, I don't know what his first name was. His surname was Blackburn,

Blackie we used to call him. Lovely guy, he used to be a government man or something. He always used to turn up around four o'clock for a coffee.

OH Did he live locally?

DP I think he lived at Brooklyn Park. And some others, at four o'clock they'd turn up.

OH And was it unusual that Blackie was an Anglo Australian?

DP No, no, no there were lots of Australians as well, we weren't racist. We still got Australian friends. Dad was best man to Jackie Young and he was world champion racing motor bike rider. Dad's group of friends you know Jackie Young, Bob Leverenz, he used to know the Hanks that used to live at Lockleys there, no he wasn't, - they all had all sorts of friends you know.

OH On the Sundays when the *bocce* was on, was that mainly...?

DP That was mainly Italians yes I don't remember many Australians or Southern Italians or anyone coming. I don't remember any southern Italians actually. I remember one that used to come and help in the garden. Ilario Nesci I think his name was. He used to come and help, and he lived locally. I think he worked, I think he got paid; I'm not sure. But no mostly it was Italians on the Sunday.

OH They came from the province of...

DP Yes all the little home towns there, all around the area, so-

OH And what language was spoken at that time?

DP It was Veneto, but then I remember I was just thinking of that, like with the Tonellato's and Shorty, his name Rebuli, it was English. I remember them you know, they'd understand one thing for another, so they'd laugh even more (laughs).

OH And Diana, you mentioned that your Zio Lui went to market, were there other roles that each of the brothers had in the business?

DP Yes Uncle Vic used to do the fumigating, it was part of Hutton and Burn I think, they used to get and I remember the little...

OH Hutton and Burn?

DP Hutton and Burn used to be like Adelaide Pest Control, you know those people, white ant people. The glasshouses where you plant the tomatoes and that, well every glasshouse actually, well after the crop was finished they would rotary hoe it, move the dirt. And then you'd have to fumigate the dirt and -

OH This is actually inside?

DP In the dirt, and they would put you know all these chemicals to kill whatever. I remember trying to plant tomatoes here and they didn't grow because Dad pulled the roots up and they had all these things on the roots and he would do that and you'd have to keep it wet all the time so the fumes wouldn't escape. And I remember even during the night when it was hot getting up and wetting the glass houses, wetting the dirt to keep it... There was an incident here at Fulham a few

years ago, quite a few years ago, but I remember it. They used to still have glass houses at Fulham and there was a lot of Bulgarians here, and they didn't keep it wet and the fumes escaped, and the people round in the houses got sick. It might be in the papers somewhere or whatever I remember that. And then I remember Uncle Vic used to go to a lot of the farms, a lot of the market gardens so we used to call him to do this fumigating.

OH And how would he work?

DP It was with a little ... if you can think of a little... we used to call it a *tracachetta*; If you think of, what's those ... they use in the army, what are they? The tanks! It had wheels like a tank, right, but it was only about this big, like this table.

OH So what size is that about?

DP About, what, six feet by four feet. And it was only little, it was all open and you'd just sit in the middle. I remember the controls were, it didn't have steering it just had things like, go this way, go that way and straight and back you know. You'd have this machine at the back of it that used to be something, I can't remember the machine but that was little. It could get in the glass houses you see. Because you know, don't forget the glass houses were gabled and at the end they were lower, so this little tractor could get in and at the back there was this machine where you'd put the chemicals and that in, and it would go into the ground and cover it.

OH And who owned that machine?

DP We did, the Santin brothers owned the machine.

OH So people would ask your uncle to...

DP Uncle Vic, to go and do it, yes

OH And he got the chemicals from that...

DP Hutton and Burn, I remember.

OH And did he have to mix them?

DP I can't remember him mixing them, probably, I can't remember that far back, but I remember the machine, I remember him going and he used to put it on the truck he used to- .

OH When he did it at other people's places?

DP Yeh.

OH So that was Uncle Vic's role, what about your father, did he have a specific role in...?

DP Dad used to drive the tractor a lot, used to plough, used to like the ploughing, because you know you had to turn the dirt over get it all ready. Watering, I remember him watering ... you get down the end of, "Close it off!"

OH And what sort water, through the mains or was it...

- DP No no --- about that, we had underground water, we had a well, it was what would you call it, we used to call it...
- OH A bore?
- DP Yeh a bore... we used to call it a *poiss* and-
- OH Would your uncles and father have built that or was it already there?
- DP No, they built it, I remember, and I remember the Woodville Council after they sold the land here asked Uncle Vic where it was. He said, 'You go and find it.'
(Laughs).
- OH I'll be onto that story after. So your Dad did quite a bit of ploughing and things like that.
- DP Yes, yes
- OH And what about, sorry...
- DP Nothing, you know they all pitched in together when it was time to work hard. There were days I suppose when it was much easier than others. I remember some bees. Dad used to look after some bees. Because they used to pollinate the cucumbers and the tomatoes and that.
- OH So hives?
- DP Yes they had about two or three bee hives, I remember walking past one, we were always scared (laughs) then one got, I forget who it was. Dean would probably remember, we started chasing him. I still see him, he lost his hat, he was running (laughs) - yeah.
- OH Do you remember honey?
- DP No I don't remember honey, I don't know what they did, I tried to remember, but I can't remember the honey.
- OH And Diana, what about finances, who would have looked after the finances of the business?
- DP Ah, Uncle Vic I think was in charge of the money side of it. I know that the women used to get so much each year, and then all the money was together. I think later things that I've heard but you know...
- OH You mentioned the Tonellato's before and I was going to ask you, what are your memories of other families that had market gardens? Maybe you could talk about each of them.
- DP I remember the Tonellato's, I remember Lui Tonellato,
- OH And where was he located?
- DP He was right across the road from us, I remember Lucy and Adrian, and Italia, who's still alive.
- OH And how big would their property have been?

- DP They had quite a bit of property where Telstra purchased it.
- OH On the corner of...[Grange Road]?
- DP I don't think it went right..., that far up, and they were a bit further this way
- OH On from the road?
- DP Yes on from the road, and I remember 'Nonno *Delpipa*' we used to call him, which was Denise's grandfather, because he married a Tonellato which was Rosina, I remember the *vagon*, the old train. Because when my Mum's brother came out from Italy, he lived in the *vagon*, he actually lived in there. I remember going there; I remember this bath tub, which was aluminium.
- OH In the *vagon*?
- DP In the *vagon*. I remember it was a metal bath tub, I remember the little kitchen and the bedroom, the toilet was outside.
- OH Were there other people living there as well?
- DP There was another one joined on, there was another bit on the other side, and I think just like a single man, you know when they come from Italy they just want somewhere to live, someone used to live in there, they did. And I remember the high step it was to get up (laughs). And I remember cutting across the Tonellato land coming home from school we used to. Sometimes we'd come down Adele Avenue and cut across Lui Tonellato's land, and sometimes we'd cut across further down where Assunta and Nono Delpipa we used to call him, Albert and all those had their land. Albert used to live on Findon Road, I remember that, their house, that beautiful house, we used to think it was beautiful, you know, new house. I remember Stefan's garage, there, Sbrissa, I remember...
- OH What did Sbrissa do?
- DP I think he had a motor mechanic, it's still there, the garage.
- OH On Findon road?
- DP On Findon road, but I think they used to live on this side of it-
- OH Any other families that had market gardens that you remember?
- DP Zerellas, I remember someone Zerella that lived on Frogmore road. And I bet that's the land that the Education Department purchased when they had the school. It was the oval for the school, Kidman Park High School. They used to come over there, but it was something to do with the school, and the Zerellas had that land. The Piovesans, we were right next door to the Piovesan, I remember Zia Rosalia, Bruno's mother, who she was very close with my Grandma and they always used to talk and you know, visit one another. And then after Grandma passed away and they built the new home. Mum and Dad and Uncle built the new home on Frogmore Road, Zia Rosalia still used to come and visit Mum all the time.
- OH So when you were growing up ... and you mentioned earlier about Frogmore Road and the potholes and the boxthorns, what would it have looked like in

general if you were walking along Frogmore Road? What would you have seen when you were younger?

- DP Not many houses like there is today, ... just market gardens, a house here and there.
- OH Glasshouses?
- DP Some glasshouses...
- OH Were they close to the road?
- DP Ours weren't, no, no I can't remember them close to the road no they were further back. Close to the road it was the capsicums, the lettuces, the potatoes. Lui had a fence up the front but no, his glass houses were at the back, I'm pretty sure as well. I can't remember the glass houses at the front and I can't. And the Zerellas. No, can't remember glass houses at the front. They were mostly in the middle or towards the back and yeh amazing, I never thought of that.
- OH Diana, we've come to the end of our card so I'll say thank you and we will pick it up with the next one.
- DP Okay thank **you**.