

**A micro-study of Greek Female  
Immigrants to NZ in the 60s**  
*An Oral History Project*

**Interview Transcript**

Interviewee: *Alexia Pendaraki*

Interviewers: *Athina Tsoulis, Evangelia  
Papoutsaki*

Date: *28/11/2010*

Location: *Auckland, New Zealand*

Additional material:

*Bio details/consent forms/photos/other supporting  
documentation/transcript of interview*

*Transcription by Lucy Anastasiadou - Hobbs*

(**Aθ**: Athina Tsoulis, **Aλ**: Alexia Pendaraki, **Ευα**: Evangelia Papoutsaki, **Φρ**: Frank – husband of Alexia)

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Αλεξία Πενταράκη

File number 1

This is an interview with Alexia Pendaraki

The interview is for the 1962-1964 Greek Women project: interview is Athina Tsoulis and the interview has been recorded at 11 Pickens Crescent – Mt Albert

Aθ - Αλεξία μπορείς να μου πεις που γεννήθηκες

*Aλ - Εγγενήθηκα στο χωριό Αγία Ειρήνη Κρήτης στο Ανατολικό Σέληνο Χανιά Κρήτης Αγία Ειρήνη Ανατολικού Σελήνου.*

Aθ - Και πότε γεννήθηκες;

*Aλ - Εγεννήθηκα το 1933*

Aθ - Το μήνα και την μέρα

*Aλ - 15 Αυγούστου*

*Η μάνα μου έπρεπε να με βγάλει Αλεξία – Μαρία γιατί ήτανε της Παναγίας αλλά είχα άλλη αδελφή Μαρία πιο μεγάλη και έτσι δεν μπορούσε να με βγάλει Αλεξία – Μαρία και με έβγαλε Αλεξία.*

Aθ - Και ο πατέρας σου το όνομά του;

*Του πατέρα μου το όνομα ήτανε Μάρκος.*

Aθ - Μάρκος

*Aλ - Η μαμά μου Ευδοκία το γένος Λουμπασάκη*

Aθ - Λουμπασάκη για την μάνα σου και Πενταράκη ο πατέρας σου

*Aλ - Ναι Λουμπασάκη από το διπλανό χωριό.*

Aθ - Και τι κάνανε οι γονείς σου;

*Aλ -Ε, αγρότες, τα χωράφια, τα κοιτικά, τα νερά, κατσίκες, τα πρόβατα, αυτά.*

Aθ - Είχατε τα δικά σας χτήματα;

*Aλ -Τα δικά μας χτήματα τα ζώα...*

Aθ - Και εσύ τι έκανες όταν ήσουν μικρή, πήγαινες σχολείο

*Πήγα στο σχολείο 3 χρόνια στο δημοτικό μέχρι Τετάρτη τάξη γιατί πετάχτηκα από την Δευτέρα στην Τρίτη, Πρώτη, Τρίτη και Τετάρτη. Πρώτη Τάξη, Δεύτερη Τάξη και Τρίτη Τάξη. Τετάρτη Τάξη προσβάστηκα με το 10.*

Aθ - Είναι δύσκολο να το θυμάσαι αυτό; Γιατί τι

*Αλ - Γιατί μου αρέσανε τα γράμματα και ήμουνα και πάρα πολύ καλή.*

Aθ - Και γιατί σταμάτησες;

*Αλ - Ε, γιατί είπε ο δάσκαλος στο τέλος του 4<sup>ου</sup> έτους*

Aθ - Θέλεις να σταματήσουμε;

Aθ - Να σταματήσουμε εντάξει είναι

*Αλ - Δεν πειράζει δεν πειράζει*

*ΑΙ: Κυρία Πεντάρη έχω θέση για 2 παιδιά να πάνε στα Χανιά ίσως και στην Αθήνα δωρεάν και είπα να πάει η Αλεξία το ένα.*

2

This is file number 2 and we are continuing our interview with Alexia Pentaraki

*Αλ - Εμείς είμαστε ορφανά γιατί ο πατέρας μου πέθανε είχε πάει εξορία στην κατοχή και ορφανευτήκαμε μόλις μετά.*

Aθ - Πόσω χρονών ήσουνα όταν έγινες ορφανό;

*Αλ - Ε, δώδεκα, δεκατριών περίπου*

Aθ - Περίπου

*Αλ - Ναι*

Aθ - Όμως πριν έγινες ορφανό σου είπαν να πας στην Αθήνα να...

*Αλ - Όχι μετά. Μετά η μάνα μου φοβήθηκε επειδή ήμουνα ορφανό και μας είχε πάντα κάτω από τα φτερά της που λέμε έτσι κλειδωμένα και λέει όχι δεν θα πάεις. Δεν θα πάεις και δεν θα ξαναπάς και στο σχολείο του χρόνου.*

Aθ - Και ήτανε αυτό πολύ δύσκολο για σένα;

*Αλ - Ναι*

Aθ - Τι ήθελες να γίνεις;

*Αλ - Δασκάλα μάλλον anything anything anything. I want to I don't know... anything...*

Aθ - Were you ambitious?

*Αλ - Yes I was. Μετά αφού δεν με αφήσανε να πάω άλλο στο σχολείο άρχισα στα χωράφια, στα πρόβατα, στα μαζωχτά, στα θεριά τα βάσανα μεγάλα. Μέρες και νύχτες που λέει ο λόγος να δουλεύουμε για να τα βγάλουμε πέρα ορφανά. Το σπίτι μας εκάηκε.*

Αθ - Α, πως κάηκε;

*Αλ - Με τους Γερμανούς*

Αθ - Α, στον πόλεμο;

*Αλ - Ναι*

Αθ - Τι χρόνο ήτανε αυτό;

*Αλ - Το 1942 – 43*

Αθ - Και ο πατέρας σου έλειπε;

*Αλ - Ναι ναι. Ο πατέρας μου έλειπε εξορία.*

Αθ - Και η μάνα σου είχε πόσα παιδιά είναι τώρα;

*Αλ - 7*

Αθ - 7 και μπορείς να μου πεις τα ονόματα τους;

*Αλ - Ε, ο πρώτος μου αδελφός ήτανε Δημήτρης, Μαρία, η πρώτη μου αδελφή, Ελένη, Γιάννης, Αργυρώ, Αλεξία εγώ, Κατίνα η μικρή.*

Αθ - Ήσουν πιο κάτω;

*Αλ - Ναι ναι*

Αθ - Και θυμάσαι τους Γερμανούς που ήρθανε στο χωριό;

*Αλ - Πολύ καλά*

Αθ - Ναι?

*Αλ - Ναι πολύ καλά*

Αθ - Μπορείς να μου πεις τι θυμάσαι;

*Αλ - Θυμάμαι ότι μας πείρανε μικρά αφού κάηκε το σπίτι μας αφού πήρανε τον πατέρα μου εξορία, όλα τα παιδιά. Ο μεγάλος μου αδελφός και ο δεύτερος είχανε βγει στο βουνό αντάρτες. Ε, τα άλλα πέντε μας πήρανε εξορία φυλακή.*

Αθ - Εξορία ε

Evang - prisoners – war prisoners

Αθ - Α, και που σε πήγανε?

*Αλ - Συγγνώμη?*

Aθ - Που σε πήγανε?

Aλ - Στην Αγιά, στα Χανιά. Στα Χανιά δίπλα ήτανε μια φυλακή που λέγεται και τώρα η Αγιά.

Aθ - Και γιατί σας πήρανε φυλακή? Ο πατέρας σου ήτανε...ήξεραν...

Aλ - Όλοι όλοι όσοι δεν σκοτωθήκανε ότι βρήκανε μικρά μεγάλα πρόβατα κατσίκες ότι ήτανε στο χωριό τα καθαρίσανε.

Ath - A.

Aλ - Τα καθαρίσανε.

Aθ - Και ήτανε μεγάλο χωριό?

Aλ - Ε, 57 σπίτια νομίζω ήτανε.

Aθ - Και όλοι πήγατε στην φυλακή?

Aλ - Όλοι όλοι. Όλοι στο χωριό πήγαμε φυλακή ιδιαιτέρως στην γειτονιά μας γιατί η γειτονιά μας ήτανε στην αρχή του φαραγγιού. Έχει ένα μεγάλο φαράγγι το χωριό μας ξεκινάει και βγαίνει στην Σούγια δίπλα στην Παλιόχωρα. Και νομίζανε οι Γερμανοί ότι εκεί θα περιθάφταμε τους αντάρτες, τους κακοποιούς και όλα αυτά γιαυτό την κάτω γειτονιά όπου είναι η γειτονιά μου ότι ήτανε μικρά μεγάλα όσοι ήτανε άντρες σκοτωθήκανε, τους σκοτώσανε επί τόπου. Τα παιδιά, οι γυναίκες μας πήγανε φυλακή στην Αγιά, ε, ναι.

Aθ - Και ο πατέρας σου ήτανε στην φυλακή;

Aλ - Ο πατέρας μου ήτανε εξορία

Aθ - Εξορία, Που;

Aλ - Κάπου δεν ξέρω που ήτανε.

Aθ - Στην Κρήτη κάπου;

Aλ - Στην Κρήτη. Από Γερμανούς

Aθ - Είχε λείπει πολύ καιρό;

Aλ - Ναι ναι πολύ καιρό.

Aθ - Και όταν ήσουνα στην φυλακή ήσουνα 9 χρονών;

Aλ - Παραπάνω περίπου

Aθ - Παραπάνω. Και τι έκανες στην φυλακή;

Aθ - Πως ήτανε η ζωή;

Aλ - Στη φυλακή ε, μας δίνανε τσάι αλλά εμείς θέλαμε ζάχαρη πολύ πολύ στο τσάι και το τσάι δεν μας άρεσε και οι Γερμανοί λέγανε μα γιατί δεν το πίνετε – γιατί δεν πίνετε το τσάι – ζάχαρη ζάχαρη και εγώ σαν μικρό πότε πότε έβγαινα έξω. Η φυλακή ήτανε περιπλεγμένη με σύρματα

*αγκαθόσυρματα που λένε, οι Γερμανοί απέξω από το σύρμα πηγαίνανε βόλτα γύρω γύρω και φυλάγανε την φυλακή. Εγώ κρατούσα τα σύρματα έτσι και έκανα έτσι.*

Aθ - Χαχα χαχα

Aθ - Ήθελες να βγεις έξω.

Aλ - Ναι ε.

Aθ - Και πως οι στρατιώται Γερμανοί πως σε φάνηκαν...how they treated you?

*Aλ - Me very good. Actually Ένας Γερμανός έφυγε και σε λίγο ήρθε και σε λίγο ήρθε και κρατούσε μια τσάντα με καραμέλες και μου τις έδωσε. Για όταν μπήκα μέσα μου φωνάζανε όλοι όλες οι γυναίκες τα παιδάκια 'Αλεξία καραμέλες καραμέλες καραμέλες'. Και στο τέλος είχα μία, μία μένει για δικιά μου και μου λέει μια γυναίκα για τα ασυνομιάτικα που με λένε 'Αλεξία θα μου δώσεις την καραμέλα'. Πάρε την θεία.*

Aθ - Και δεν έφαγες εσύ καθόλου.

Aθ - Και θα ήτανε δύσκολο μέσα στην φυλακή. Για την μάνα σου με όλα τα παιδιά.

Aλ - Πολύ δύσκολο. Πολύ δύσκολο.

Aθ - Είχατε φαί να φάτε;

Aλ - Φαί τι φαί μας δίνανε δεν θυμάμαι αλλά τιποτένιο τιποτένιο.

Aθ - Και πόσο καιρό ήσασταν μέσα στην φυλακή;

Aλ - 2-3 μήνες. 5. 6 μήνες.

Aθ - Και ναι...

Aλ - Θα σου πω ψέμματα δεν θυμάμαι.

Aθ - Και όλο αυτό το καιρό εσύ καθόσουνα – δεν κάνατε τίποτα;

Aλ - Έτσι ναι. Τίποτα τίποτα.

Aθ - Οι γυναίκες τι κάνανε; Η μάνα σου;

Aλ - Ε, η μάνα μου, η μια έλεγε ιστορία στην άλλη, η μια μάλλωνε με την άλλη, ε, καταλαβαίνεις.

Aλ - Ήτανε γεμάτη η φυλακή από κόσμο.

Aθ - Και πότε βγήκατε από κει;

Aλ - Ε, δεν θυμάμαι.

Aθ - Και πως και τη βγήκατε – οι Γερμανοί σας αφήσανε...;

Aλ - Όταν απελευθερώθηκε η Κρήτη άνοιξε η φυλακή και πήγαμε στο χωριό εμείς.

Aθ - Πότε ήτανε αυτό; Σαραντατριών;

*Αλ - 43...44 ναι.*

*Αθ - Ναι...*

*Αθ - Και το σπίτι σου το βάλανε φωτιά πριν πάτε στην φυλακή;*

*Αλ - Ναι ναι*

*Αθ - Και όταν γυρίσατε πίσω στο σπίτι σου τι βρήκατε;*

*Αλ - Βρήκαμε μια γωνιά ένα τρίτο του σπιτιού εκκρεμόταν έτσι είχε μείνει. Ένα τρίτο περίπου η μια άκρη του σπιτιού δεν είχε πέσει. Και εκεί μέναμε.*

*Αθ - Και τι κάνατε; Το φτιάξατε το σπίτι; Έτσι μέσα εκεί...*

*Αλ - Εκεί μέναμε για χρόνια. Μέχρι που χτίσαμε ένα άλλο δίπλα.*

*Αθ - Και πότε μάθατε για τον πατέρα σας;*

*Αλ - Ο πατέρας μου γύρισε μετά στο σπίτι.*

*Αθ - Γύρισε;*

*Αλ - Ναι και πέθανε.*

*Αθ - Πότε γύρισε;*

*Αλ - Γύρισε όταν οι Γερμανοί απελευθέρωσαν την Κρήτη*

*Αθ - Σαρατριών;*

*Αλ - Ναι, γύρισε στο χωριό.*

*Ευαγ - 45;*

*Αλ - Ναι και πέθανε το 47 νομίζω.*

*Αθ - Και πως πέθανε;*

*Αλ - Έτσι έπεσε έπεσε από στεναχώρια έτσι κόκκαλο.*

*Αθ - Πως - όταν γύρισε από την φυλακή;*

*Αλ - Ήτανε πάντα άρρωστος πάντα πάντα στεναχωρημένος. Πάντα δεν ήτανε ο πατέρας που ήξερα.*

*Αθ - Ναι.*

*Αθ - Και είπε τίποτα για την φυλακή; Πως πέρασε;*

*Αλ - Ναι. Είπε ότι κάθε πρωί επιγένανε οι Γερμανοί και πέρνανε δυο-τρεις και δεν τους ξαναβλέπανε. Τους εχτελέζανε. Όταν ο πατέρας μου - την ημέρα που απελευθερώθηκε η Κρήτη - τον πατέρα μου τον είχανε για την σειρά για εκτέλεση. Και του χανε κάνει μάλιστα...*

Aθ - Ναι είναι πολύ δύσκολο να τα θυμάσαι αυτά.

Aλ - Εδώ ένα σημάδι για να τον εκτελέσουνε, ακριβώς απάνω στην καρδιά.

Aθ - Ναι...και αυτό θα ήτανε πολύ δύσκολο για αυτόν.

Aλ - Ναι

Aθ - Περίμενε να πεθάνει.

Aλ - Ναι και μια μέρα είχε πάει στα χωράφια και όταν ερχότανε το βράδυ έπεσε στο δρόμο ούτε ξαναείδαμε τίποτα.

Aθ - Και η μάνα σου τι έκανε;

Aλ - Η μάνα μου με 7 παιδιά ορφανά. Μας έλεγε πάντα να μην λέτε ψέμματα, να μην κλέβετε, να μην με ντροπιάσετε. Δεν θέλω τίποτα άλλο από εσάς. Και κάθε μέρα μία από εμάς τις 5 κοπέλες έμενε στο σπίτι για να μαγειρέψει. Οι άλλες βγαίνανε έξω. Αύριο ήτανε εμένα άλλη ήτανε η άλλη άλλη την άλλη. Κάθε 5 γύριζε η σειρά της στο σπίτι για να κοιτάξει το σπίτι για να μαγειρέψει.

Aθ - Και όλοι σας βουλευτήκατε να κάνετε τις δουλειές;

Aλ - Δεν είχαμε και άλλο choice. Δεν είχαμε άλλο δρόμο. Αυτός ήτανε ο ένας και μοναδικός δρόμος. Για να προχωρήσουμε.

Aθ - Και όλοι στο χωριό σου θα ήτανε ίδια;

Aλ - Ε, όπως είπα η γειτονιά η δικιά μας ήτανε η πιο κατεστραμμένη. Ναι.

Aθ - Και είχες θείες και θείους; Εκεί;

Aλ - Είχα θείους και θείες είχαμε Πενταράκια είχαμε πενταράκια μιλάμε τώρα στην γειτονιά μας μετά τον πόλεμο που αρχίσαμε και γινήκαμε teenagers. Στο σπίτι μας ακριβώς από κάτω ήτανε μια πλατεία και ο δρόμος περνούσε και έσχιζε το χωριό. Και εκεί στην πλατεία το λέγαμε στο Λιόφιτο μαζενόμασταν κάθε μεσημέρι γιατί στην Ελλάδα ξέρετε βγαίνεις έξω το μεσημέρι γυρίζεις σπίτι. Κάθε μεσημέρι και παίζαμε όλα τα παιδιά. Είμαστε 33 Πενταράκια που παίζαμε στο Λιόφιτο.

Aθ - Και τι παίζατε;

Aλ - Κρυφτό, χορό τραγούδια, αλεκατρίδες . Ξέρετε τι είναι οι αλεκατρίδες;

Aλ.- Nacobones [?12:43].

Aλ - Εμείς στο χωριό το λέμε αλεκατρίδες. Με 5 πέτρες που τις είχαμε βρει από το ποτάμι στρογγυλές στρογγυλές και παίζαμε έτσι. Ναι. Και περνούσε μια δυο ώρες και μετά άρχιζε το απογευματάκι πάλι στα χωράφια πάλι στα πρόβατα, στις κατσίκες.

Aθ - Και αυτή την ζωή πόσο καιρό την είχες;

Aλ - Μέχρι το 1962 που ήρθα εδώ. Αυτή ήτανε η ζωή.

Aθ - Και πως φανούσε γιατί ήθελες να πας σχολείο;



*Αλ - Συγγνώμη;*

*Αθ - Πως;*

*Αλ - Πως αισθανόμουν;*

*Αθ - Ναι..γιατί ήθελες να πας σχολείο.*

*Αλ - Άσχημα. Άσχημα. Καθημερινώς. Καθημερινώς αισθανόμουν άσχημα. Και όταν ήτανε και ακούστηκε ο λόγος για το εξωτερικό εγώ η μάνα μου πουθενά τα παιδιά μου που τα είχε κλειδωμένα έτσι...εγώ ήμουν η πρώτη..με κανέναν τρόπο. Λέω θα φύγω, δεν υπάρχει άλλη λύση και καταγράφηκα στο σχολείο...στη ΔΕΜΕ τότε, αλλά ελπίδες εγώ τότε λέω εγώ να φύγω στο εξωτερικό θα με αφήσει η μάνα μου πρώτα, αποκλείεται. Και όταν μας μαζέψανε και επήγαμε στην Μυτιλήνη λέει πήγαινε μα δεν σε αφήνουνε να περάσεις εσύ παιδί μου και αν σε αφήσουνε δεν σε εγώ αφήνω να φύγεις.*

*Αθ - Η μάνα σου είπε;*

*Αλ - Πρώτα δεν θα σε περάσουνε αλλά και να σε περάσουνε εγώ δεν σε αφήνω να φύγεις.*

*Αθ - Και πόσω χρονών ήσουν - ήσουν 29;*

*Αλ -29 χρονών.*

*Αθ - I mean most young women are thinking of getting married, what was happening in the village? Because 29 you would have been quite...*

*Αλ - Yes I know but...είχα και μεγαλύτερη αδελφή.*

*Αθ - Α, γιαυτό.*

*Αλ - Και δυο μεγαλύτερες παντρεμένες και στην Κρήτη εκείνα τα χρόνια έπρεπε να έχεις προίκα και όχι μόνο ρούχα και μεγάλο μπαούλο από τα πάντα να ντύσεις τον γαμπρό το σπίτι αλλά έπρεπε να έχεις και λεφτά πολλά πολλά λεφτά. Και άμα δεν είχες τα λεφτά δεν σε ήθελε κανείς. Γιατί θυμάμαι πολλές φορές που φέρνανε συγγενείς δικοί μας - θείοι και θείους ένα καλό γαμπρό ένα καλό κοπέλι να δει την πρώτη και έλεγε θέλω τη δεύτερη θέλω την τρίτη και τόσα λεφτά. Και η μάνα μου λέει εγώ λεφτά δεν έχω εγώ δεν δίνω την δεύτερη παεί η πρώτη κατά τη σειρά. Και έτσι εγώ εκαθόμουν πίσω.*

*Αθ - Και έπρεπε να περιμένεις την σειρά σου;*

*Αλ - Την σειρά μου αλλιώς δεν υπήρχε γαμπρός.*

*Αθ - Ναι γιατί σε αυτά τα χρόνια η πρώτη έπρεπε να παντρευτούνε οι κοπέλες πρώτα και μετά και εσύ ήσουν number 3.*

*Αλ -3.*

*Αθ - So, τότε σε τι ηλικία άρχισες να βλέπεις αγόρια λίγο differently?*

*Αλ - Να βλέπω αγόρια differently, I never crossed my mind that I would like you to take me out. I would like to sleep with you. Never ever ever. That was how I have been brought up.*

*When my time come to get married whoever is going to be my husband to be I will not even think about it.*

A0 - So you didn't even find some boys attractive?

*Aλ - No no no. Yes I found boys attractive. Absolutely. But not to go any further than that look at them and say yes, maybe.*

A0 - So, what age where you when you started noticing boys?

*Aλ - When I noticed boys I was 15, 20.*

A0 - 15?

*Aλ -Yes, absolutely.*

A0 - And what did you know about those sort of things?

*Aλ -Nothing.*

A0 - Nothing.

A0 - Nobody talked about them?

*Aλ -Only the old ladies used to talk about like my aunties and my mother used to talking about the husbands and their lives and stuff like that but I didn't really know anything about it.*

A0 - So, you didn't know how babies were made?

*Aλ -No. No.*

A0 - And what happened when you got your first period? Was that a shock?

*Aλ -Very.*

A0 - So, nobody prepared you.

*Aλ -I hided it and I went to the river and I washed it and I was shocked...*

A0 - It doesn't matter we are all γυναίκες.

A0 - And what did you think was happening to you?

*Aλ -I knew that this would happen - I knew about that but I didn't know what was happening*

A0 - So, did your sisters tell you about that?

*Aλ -There were talking about themselves not told me. No no.*

A0 - So, how did you know it was normal?

*Aλ -Because all the sisters was talking about it.*

A0 - And what did they say to you about it?

*Aλ -Nothing to me.*

A0 - Did you ear strop? How did you hear about it? Where you listening in the corners?

*Aλ -No, the older girls – like I say we were a lot of cousins. First, second, third cousins. And there were 32 of us and I told them what happened to me today.*

A0 - And did they understand what was it about? Why every month?

*Aλ -I think the oldest one did help the next one. Yes, you will be surprised how much I miss that life. I much rather have. In some respects I would go back to that.*

A0 - It was more of a community lots of you and you helped one the other. So, did you understand it was preparing your body for child – you know...to conceive at some point?

*Aλ -Not not really.*

A0 - Just something happened to girls?

*Aλ – Yeah, yeah.*

A0 - And what did your mother tell you around that? Did you tell your mother that you had your period? That started at some point?

*Aλ -I think I told my oldest sister.*

A0 - And did they tell you all these weird things?

*Aλ -Yes.*

A0 - You couldn't do this.

*Aλ -Yes yes.*

A0 - You want to tell me some of those. They most probably are very familiar.

*Aλ -I can't really remember everything in details. But my oldest sisters told me all about it. And not to worry, not to scare and that it will happen again. Yes yes. All about it.*

A0 - And did you girls talk about boys and what happened when you got married? Did you have those conversations?

*Aλ -No, it was no time. It was no time those days because you was fight for life you was fight for bread you was fight for breath. Breath of relief of five minutes rest. Is a hard to understand is a hard to explain. But that was happened to somebody who lost your father when there is 7 of you and no house. It was no time to think about pleasure.*

A0 - But you still had those times when you were with your cousins?

*Aλ -Yes*

Aθ - And what sort of food - so life was hard – what sort of food did you eat?

*Aλ -We had a lot of animals. We had 300 – 350 and we look after them. But all of us. Boys and girls did, it was no different. And we had plenty of milk and milk products staff in the house and we used to make our own things at the house own cheese – our own cottage cheese, on butter, on meat and we used to have a pig or two every year for Christmas and that's how I used to have a life then.*

Aθ - Did you eat that food or did you sell it?

*Aλ -Sell a lot of that*

Aθ - Where did you sell it?

*Aλ -My brother or when I get older I used to go myself too – used to take it to Chania. And sell it or have some shop keep us over there or somebody who drop it there and they sell it for us and give us the money or whatever what was left.*

Ευα - Και αυτό ήτανε η Χανιώτικη μυζήθρα? Το τυρί?

*Aλ -Μαλίτικη μυζήθρα, δεν έχεις ακούσει δεν υπάρχει πουθενά αλλού. Και το Μαλίτικο τυρί και η Μαλίτικη μαλοτύρα.*

Ευα - Από αρνιά ήτανε αυτό ή από κατσίκια?

*Aλ - Both. Το κατσίκιο – μυζήθρα είναι η καλύτερη από κατσίκες ναι. Το πρόβατο γιαούρτι είναι το καλύτερο. Το γιαούρτι με τα πρόβατα ή μυζήθρα με κατσίκες.*

Ευα - Και πηγαίνατε στα Χανιά πολλές φορές;

*Aλ - Εγώ μετά την Γερμανική κατοχή και μετά που σταμάτησα σχολείο και μεγάλωσα λίγο λίγο τελοςπάντων είδε η μάνα μου ότι εστεναχωριόμουνα πάρα πολύ τα περασμένα και έστειλε εμένα και την αδελφή μου εδώ στα Χανιά και μάθαμε μοδίστρες.*

Aθ - Α, αυτό ήθελα να σε ρωτήσω. Πόσω χρονών ήσουνα όταν πήγες να μάθεις μοδίστρα;

*Aλ - 20.*

Aθ - 20 χρονών;

*Aλ - Ναι σίγουρα.*

Aθ - Και πήγαινες κάθε μέρα;

*Aλ - Ναι γιατί είχαμε σπίτι στα Χανιά μετά μετά που χτίσαμε το σπίτι στο χωριό γιατί είχαμε πολλά κατσίκιες. Κατσίκες ε, ναι. Πήραμε οικόπεδο και χτίσαμε σπίτι στα Χανιά και εκεί μέναμε με τον μεγάλο τον πρώτο μου αδελφό, τον Δημήτρη, η Αργυρώ και εγώ και πήγαμε μοδίστρες.*

Aθ - Γιατί χτίσατε σπίτι στα Χανιά;

Aθ - Στα Χανιά γιατί λέγαμε ότι κάποια από εμάς θα παντρευτεί εκεί. Να έχει το σπίτι. Για προίκα ναι αμέ. Και μάλλον πρέπει να ήτανε δυο γιατί ήτανε το σπίτι που χτίσαμε το πρώτο και ο αέρας που λέμε για τη δεύτερη.

*Ευαγ - The Greek way of doing houses.*

Αθ - Και πόσα χρόνια ήσουν στο σχολείο;

*Αλ - Στο σχολείο;*

Αθ - Ναι. Για μοδίστρα.

Αθ - Ήτανε σχολείο ή μια ήτανε γυναίκα που σας μάθαινε?

*Αλ - Ήτανε μια γυναίκα αλλά είχε σχολή. Ε, ήτανε 5-6 χρόνια θα πρέπει να έκατσα εκεί.*

Αθ - 5-6 χρόνια και όλο αυτό τον καιρό τι έκανες εκεί?

*Αλ - Για να πάρω ψαλίδι. Έτσι λέγανε τότε να πάρω ψαλίδι.*

Αθ - Τόσα πολλά χρόνια και ...

*Αλ - Θα πω ψέμματα πόσα χρόνια αλλά έκατσα ορισμένα/πολλά χρόνια.*

Αθ - Όλη μέρα ή πρωί;

*Αλ - Το πρωί.*

Αθ - Και τι σας μαθαίνανε;

*Αλ - Μας μαθαίνανε να ξυλώνομε να τα βάζουμε μαζί σιγά σιγά σιγά σιγά μέχρι να μάθεις να βγάλεις το πατρώνι η ίδια να τελειώσεις ότι ήτανε.*

Αθ - Και όταν τελειώσες αυτό could you work as a seamstress or did you make clothes for other people?

*Αλ - Έφυγα αμέσως στο χωριό μόλις τελείωσα εκεί έφυγα στο χωριό. Και άνοιξα δικιά μου δουλειά.*

Αθ - Στο χωριό;

*Αλ - Ναι ναι.*

Αθ - Και πως πήγε αυτό;

*Αλ - Ωραία, πολύ καλά.*

Αθ - Και μοναχή σου;

*Αλ - Ε, με την Αργυρώ αλλά η Αργυρώ συνήθως στα Χανιά πηγαινοερχότανε - εγώ ήμουνα μόνιμη στο χωριό.*

Αθ - Που είχες το μαγαζί;

*Αλ - Σπίτι.*

Αθ - Στο σπίτι σου είχες ένα δωμάτιο;

*Αλ -Στον ωντά που λέγαμε, πως το λέγανε*

Ευα - E - Mezzanine.

Αθ - Και ερχότανε κόσμος.

*Αλ -Και έπαιρνα τα μέτρα έβγαζα το πατρών έκοβα το ύφασμα ερχότανε η γυναίκα και έπαιρνε την πρώτη πρόβα που λέγανε, τη δεύτερη στην τρίτη τελείωνε.*

Αθ - Και μόνο γυναικείο έκανες;

*Αλ -Έκανα και αντρικά αλλά μάλλον γυναικεία.*

Αθ - Έκανες καλά λεφτά;

*Αλ -Καλά λεφτά που δεν τα είδα ποτέ.*

Αθ - Που πήγανε;

*Αλ - Στα μεγάλα όπου χρειαζότανε. Εμείς δεν είχαμε ο καθένας το δικό του κουμάντο– ένα ήτανε. Η μάνα μου πρώτα.*

Αθ - Και ποιος φύλαγε τα λεφτά;

*Αλ -Τα μεγάλα αδέρφια. Τα μαζεύανε, ούτε να ρωτήσουμε.*

Αθ - Η μάνα σου ή τα αδέρφια σου;

*Αλ -Ο μεγάλος μου αδελφός.*

Αθ - Και που τα έβαζε; Σε ένα κουτί;

Αθ - Δεν ξέρεις;

*Αλ -Στην τράπεζα μάλλον. Όπου χρειαζότανε.*

Ευα - Το σπίτι στα Χανιά για παράδειγμα.

Αθ - Όμως ο μεγάλος αδελφός φύλαγε τα λεφτά και άμα ήθελες τίποτα...

*Αλ -Δεν ήθελα...τότε δεν...μαγαζιά δεν ήτανε τι να πάρεις...που να πάεις?*

Αθ - Ποτέ δεν είχες λεφτά μέσα στην τσέπη σου?

Αθ - Οκ, φαίνεται ότι πέρναγες ωραία γιατί άκουσες κάτι άνθρωποι που φεύγανε.

*Αλ - Ναι*

Αθ - Τι άκουσες;

*Αλ - Άκουσα ότι Νέα Ζηλανδία – οι απόστρατοι Νεο Ζηλανδοί που είχανε πολεμήσει στην Κρήτη και ιδιαίτερος στα Χανιά αλλά στην Κρήτη – για τη βοήθεια που τους κάναμε και την καταστροφή που είδανε θέλουνε να βοηθήσουνε φτωχά κορίτσια.*

Αθ - Είχες γνωρίσει κανένα στρατιώτη από τη Νέα Ζηλανδία;

Αλ - Κανένα – ούτε είχα ακούσει – αλλά μάλλον δεν είχα ακούσει και για νέα και να άκουα για Νέα Ζηλανδία δεν ξέραμε για Νέα Ζηλανδία.

Αθ - Και που άκουσες για αυτά;

Αλ - Ήτανε στην εφημερίδα, κάποιος έβαλε τοιχοκόλληση στο χωριό κάπως έτσι.

Αθ - Και τι όταν το διάβασες αυτό τι;

Αλ - Δεν το διάβασα εγώ γιατί ήμουνα μέσα – ο αδελφός μου το διάβασε ο δεύτερος και μου λέει έτσι και έτσι μου λέει – ξέρω ότι έχεις πολλά προβλήματα με το σχολείο και ήξερε.

Αθ - Πως ξέρανε ότι είχες δυσκολίες τι έκανες στο σπίτι; Τους έλεγες;

Αλ - Ε, μα, ήμουνα στεναχωρημένη το έλεγε μια και δυο το έλεγα συχνά

Αθ - Και τι έλεγες;

Αλ - Ότι γιατί.

Αθ - Γιατί;

Αλ - Γιατί με τραβήζατε από το σχολείο.

Αλ - Το έλεγα εγώ δεν το κρατούσα.

Αθ - Εσύ τι ήθελες για το εαυτό σου;

Αλ - Ήθελα να μάθω γράμματα. Ήθελα να πάω στο σχολείο να τελειώσω μέχρι που εντυνόμενα.

Αθ - Γιατί σου αρέσανε τα γράμματα;

Αλ - Ήτανε δώρο του Θεού φαίνεται ξέρω εγώ. Ήμουνα καλή μου αρέσανε δεν μπορούσα να καταλάβω γιατί όχι.

Αθ - Και όταν σου είπανε όχι αυτό σε στεναχώρησε.

Αλ - Ναι. Ναι. Λοιπόν μου λέει ο αδελφός μου έτσι και έτσι μου λέει άμα θες να πάμε στα Χανιά εγώ τότε μάζενα σε ένα άλλο χωριό πολύ μακριά μαζώχτρα και ήρθε ο αδελφός μου και μου λέει έτσι και έτσι άμα θες να πάμε στα Χανιά να κάνουμε την αίτηση και ότι γίνει.

Αθ - Α, ο αδελφός σου το έβαλε στο νου σου;

Αλ - Ναι. Πήγαμε στα Χανιά με το Γιάννη κάναμε την αίτηση, γύρισα, γύρισα στο μαζωχτό πάλι τελίωσανε οι ελιές πήγα στο χωριό και μια μέρα μου έρχεται μία ειδοποίηση να πάω στα Χανιά να περάσω από επιτροπή.

Αθ - Και είχες πεις της μητέρας σου, της είχες πει και τι είπε;

Αλ - Ναι ναι.

*Αλ – Είπαμε, πήγαινε μα δεν σε αφήνουνε να περάσεις, και άμα σε αφήσουνε εγώ δεν σε αφήνω.*

*Αθ – Αχαχα*

*Ευαγ – Γιατί νόμιζε ότι δεν θα σας αφήνανε να περάσετε;*

*Αλ – Ε, γιατί ήμουν βέβαια αγράμματη, χωριάτισσα*

*Αθ – Έτσι το είπε η μάνα σου – She was hoping that you wouldn't.*

*Αλ – Ναι. Ε, πήγαμε λοιπόν στα Χανιά περάσαμε από Επιτροπή γυρίσαμε στο χωριό σε λίγο διάστημα – δεν θυμάμαι πόσο – πότε ακριβώς – μου στέλνουνε ειδοποίηση κάποιος ήρθε κάπου στο τηλέφωνο μάλλον δεν ξέρω πως να πάρω γιατί πρέπει να πάω στην Μυτιλήνη.*

*Αθ – Και τι είπε η μαμά;*

*Αλ – Μαζευτήκαμε...ε, αυτή δεν το πίστευε. Δεν το πίστευε. Μαζευτήκαμε όλες οι κοπέλες στα Χανιά πήγαμε στην Αθήνα από την Αθήνα στην Μυτιλήνη ήτανε η Τζάνετ όπως αυτή η δασκάκα που είπαμε – πολύ καλή γυναίκα.*

*Αθ – Janet?*

*Αλ – Γιακουμής. Το ελληνικό της επίθετο. Του αντρός της γιατί παντρεύτηκε Έλληνα. Janet Giakmis.*

*Αθ – Α, Janet Giakmis. Why akmis? Ήτανε ο γιος της ο ηθοποιός;*

*Αλ – Μάλλιστα.*

*Αθ – Α ναι είχε πάει στην Αυστραλία τότε.*

*Αλ – Αυτός είναι.*

*Αθ – Τον ήξερα.*

*Αλ – Αυτή είναι η μάνα του.*

*Αθ – Αυτή είναι η μάνα του.*

*Αλ – Ναι ναι.*

*Αθ – Α, εντάξει και αυτή ήτανε στην...*

*Αλ – Στην Μυτιλήνη και μας περίμενε, μας περίλαβε, μας μάθαινε αγγλικά, μόνο πως να σερβίρουμε το τσάι, πως να κάνουμε τσι καμαριέρες πως στα νοσοκομεία τέτοια, να μάθουμε τη ζωή στη Νέα Ζηλανδία. Και καθήσαμε 5-6 μήνες εκεί. 2-3 μήνες, δεν θυμάμαι.*

*Αθ – Στην Μυτιλήνη;*

*Αλ – Στη Μυτιλήνη.*

*Αθ – Και πόσες κοπέλες ήτανε από το χωριό σου;*

*Αλ – Από το χωριό μου ήμουν μόνο εγώ.*



Aθ – A, και δεν γνώρισες κανένα;

Aλ – Γνώρισα τις κοπέλες εκεί.

Aθ – A, έκανες φιλίες;

Aλ – Ναι, ναι, ναι αμέ. Που είναι η φωτογραφία με όλες τις κοπέλες Στο Κινγκσιτ – 5-6 κοπέλες.

Aθ – A, θα τη βρούμε – πες μου so έκανες φιλίες εκεί

Aλ – Αλλά η πρώτη επιθυμία των Νέων Ζηλανδών ήταν να είναι Κρητικές. Για την καταστροφή που έγινε στην Κρήτη και ο άνθρωπος αυτός ο απόστρατος Mr Nathan – θα τον έχετε ακούσει

Aθ – N a t h a n – Ναι. Έχουμε ακούσει.

Aλ – Αυτός παντρεύτηκε μία κοπέλα δίπλα από το χωριό μου.

Aθ – A, την ήξερες;

Aλ – Δεν την ήξερα αλλά ξέρω το χωριό της και το επίθετό της.

Aθ – What is her name?

Aλ – Κατίνα Φουράκη νομίζω.

Aθ – Φουράκη

Aλ – Ναι ναι.

Aθ – K a t I n a F o u r a k i

Aλ – Katina. Ναι αυτές είναι οι κοπέλες.

Aθ – Ποια γυναίκα γνώρισες πρώτα;

Aλ – Όλες αυτές όλες μαζί.

Aθ – Και ποιοι είναι τα ονόματά τους;

Aλ – Εδώ είναι η Τασούλα

Aθ – Τασούλα Δεσποτάκη;

Aλ – Ναι, η αδελφή της η Ευαγγελία

Aθ – Η Ευαγγελία Δεσποτάκη

Aλ – Η Δέσποινα η Πρασιανάκη που πέθανε στο Κινγκσίτ. Η αδελφή μου η Αργυρώ, εγώ, η Κική που είναι στην Αυστραλία, η Μαρία στο Κινγκσίτ, η Ρούλα η Τζιρτζιλάκη, η Ιωάννα η Σιφοδασκαλάκη – Ιωάννα Τσιβουράκη. Είναι δύο τα flower girls του – εδώ είναι το κοριτσάκι της κουμπάρας μου αλλά δεν είναι εδώ. Και δύο άλλα Ελληνάκια.

Aθ – Όμως αυτόν τον καιρό η Αργυρούλα η αδελφή σου δεν ήτανε εκεί στην Μυτιλήνη;

*Αλ – Όχι όχι.*

Αθ – Ήρθε αργότερα;

*Αλ - Ήρθε αργότερα, αφότου ήρθα εγώ εδώ.*

Αθ – Ήσουνα στην Μυτιλήνη, πήγες στο σχολείο πέρασες και τι έγινε;

*Αλ – Έκλαιγα κάθε μέρα*

Αθ – Έκλεγες κάθε μέρα; Γιατί;

*Αλ – Και έλεγα στην Τζάνετη εγώ δεν θα περάσω. Εγώ δεν θα φύγω. Μα να μην κλαις θα φύγεις να μου λέει η Τζάνετ, θα φύγεις.*

Αθ – Α, γιαντό έκλαιγες, γιατί νόμιζες ότι δεν θα έφευγες;

*Αλ – Ναι*

Αθ – Γιατί ήθελες τόσο πολύ να φύγεις;

*Αλ – Να φύγω από τα βάσανα*

Αθ – Από...

Ευαγ – Από difficult life

Αθ – Όμως από ποια βάσανα, ήτανε από της μάνας σου τα βάσανα;

*Αλ – Η ζωή στο χωριό δεν είπαμε ότι η ζωή ήτανε όλη μέρα κάθε μέρα.*

Αθ – Δουλειά;

*Αλ – Ναι. Στα χωράφια και στα πρόβατα.*

Αθ – Όμως εσώ ήσουνα μοδίστρα.

*Αλ – Μοδίστρα αλλά όταν ήτανε και η σειρά μου να βγω έξω έπρεπε να βγω έξω.*

Αθ – Και όταν ήσουνα 29 χρονών ήσουνα worried ότι δεν θα παντρευτείς – δεν θα βρεις άντρα;

*Αλ – Not really. I knew that my time would come one day. And it didn't then it didn't really worry me. As long as I survive.*

Αθ - And how old the girls were normally – what age did they get married?

*Αλ – Those days about 30 – 35.*

Αθ – 30 – 35 because of the war?

*Αλ -Yes*

Aθ - But before the war?

*Αλ - My mother was 19 I think, young, very young.*

Aθ - There was a shortage of man too.

*Αλ - Yes, yes. And the money. And the money was the biggest obstacle.*

At - And because there was the shortage of men they wanted more.

Ευα - The brothers had to work to get money to marry the sisters so it was the brothers were getting married too.

Aθ - So it was in your brothers interest to send you here where you could work.

*Αλ - Yes. I remember in 1982 or 1992 we went to Crete and I went to do some shopping at Chania and was two men over there and there was talking amongst themselves and they had a girl's married to a girl's to Yugoslavia...*

Ath: Αλβανία?

*Αλ: Yes. Somewhere there and there was not very happy about them. And γύρισα και τους λέω καλά το πάθατε.*

Aθ - Γιατί

*Αλ - Καλά το πάθατε λέω γιατί μας διώξατε, θέλατε λεφτά και όχι γυναίκα. Φύγαμε κάναμε σπίτια, βρήκαμε άντρες και εσείς πήρατε τους/τις Βουλγάρους*

Aθ - That is alright. So, what was your attitude towards the proika?

*Αλ - Very bitter very angry. I could not understand why I have to pay a man to become a slave to him. Why? Sure. You marry somebody and you have no right to talk, talking about the Crete now and maybe that side of Crete. You do as you told, you pay him like a gold and you just work.*

Aθ - So did you have these used then or have you developed them now? When you were getting in Crete?

*Αλ - I had those used then. I had those used forever since I noticed that a girl have to buy a husband.*

Ath: And what did you think of the male female relationship in the village? Did you observe married couples? What was your view?

*Αλ - Well, I don't really know. My mother and my father a couple of years they lived together after the war they were very very happy. And for sure a Cretan couples they look after their children. They get them like...ye.*

Aθ - Is it that the man always sees what happens?

*Αλ - Most of the times.*

Aθ - And were you aware of that?

*Al -Yes.*

Aθ - And were you aware when you get married you have to do what your husband told you?

*Al: Yes, yes.*

Ath: And what did you feel about that?

*Al: I didn't know any difference. I thought that was normal.*

Ευα - Όπως έλεγε η μητέρα σου ότι πει ο πατέρας σου.

Aθ - So you just hoped to get a good one – a good man.

*Al -Να μην μου λερώσεις τα μούτρα μου. And I didn't know any different.*

Aθ - So do you think you wanted it to get away from this too? Or was it just hardship?

*Al -All of it. All of it together.*

Aθ - Yes, yes.

*Al -All of it together. I was uneducated, country girl but I wasn't stupid. And I knew exactly what I want and what was right and was not right.*

Aθ - So, after Mitilini, they told you that you could go to New Zealand? What happened?

*Al -No, you go back home and we let you know.*

Aθ - So, you went back home

*Al -I went back home and then they tell us they give us about a week to say goodbye and back to Chania and back to Athens*

Aθ - What, did you get a letter saying?

*Al: Yes, yes.*

Aθ - What did the letter say?

*Al -That you been accepted so far but you have to go to Athens, stay overnight or maybe a week – I don't know how long we stayed in Chania...in Athens and we have to go through a lot of questions and I really don't know how many doctors. You been examined for everything. And recorded down. There been measure, everything. Everything, everything, how tall, how heavy, what the colours of eyes, what religion, what family. Everything.*

Aθ - At that point did you tell your mother that you are going?

*Al -Yes.*

Aθ - And what did she say?

*Αλ -She was not very happy. But she said to me...*

*Αθ - It is alright...I cry every time I think about my mother too.*

*Αλ -The last thing she said to me να πας παιδί μου στην ευχή μου και η ξερή πέτρα να βγάξει νερό να πίνεις.*

*Αλ - Ναι. She accepted.*

*Αθ - Ο αδελφός σου της μίλησες και της είπε...*

*Αθ - Και πήγες μοναχή σου στην Αθήνα;*

*Αλ - Όχι με τον Γιάννη τον αδελφό μου. Τον δεύτερο ναι.*

*Αθ - Τον δεύτερο αδελφό σου και στην Αθήνα που είσαστε;*

*Αλ - Μέναμε στο ξενοδοχείο. Νομίζω και ίσως να ήτανε πληρωμένο το ξενοδοχείο από την ΔΕΜΕΝ. Η Δεμέν ήταν δεν ξέρω τι. Όταν εμιλούσες για την Δεμέ εμιλούσες ότι πάει στο εξωτερικό. Ναι. Και αφού περάσαμε από γιατρούς, γυρίσαμε στο χωριό.*

*Αθ - Α, ξαναπήγες πίσω στο χωριό.*

*Αλ - Ναι. Χαιρετίσαμε, πήγαμε στην Αθήνα, φύγαμε.*

*Αθ - Και τι έγινε στο χωριό όταν πήγες να τους δεις για τελευταία φορά τι έγινε;*

*Αλ - Το συνηθισμένο. Κλάματα*

*Αθ - Κλάματα*

*Αλ - Όλοι; Όλοι κλαίγανε;*

*Αλ - Ναι.*

*Αθ - Και νόμισες ότι θα γυρίσεις τι τους είπες;*

*Αλ - 3 χρόνια. Γιαυτό όταν γνώρισα τον άτρα μου ήξερα ότι ήτανε όμορφος, ήξερα ότι ήτανε εργάμιματος, είχε καλή δουλειά αλλά εγώ είχα σκοπό να γυρίσω στην Ελλάδα.*

*Αθ - Και είπες θα γυρίσω σε 3 χρόνια με πολλά λεφτά*

*Αλ - Με λεφτά*

*Αθ - Για την προίκα σου;*

*Αλ - Όπου χρειαζότανε, όπου χρειαζότανε. Δεν ήτανε δικά μου κανένα από τα 7 που είμαστε δεν ήτανε κανένα δικά μου. Τίποτα δικό μου. Όλα μαζί.*

*Αθ - So, κάνανε γλέντι, πως σου είπανε goodbye?*

*Αλ - Τίποτα μεταξύ εμάς τα αδέρφια τίποτε άλλο. Τίποτα μάλλον στεναχώρια.*

*Αθ - Στεναχώρια.*

*Αλ – Ναι στεναχώρια.*

*Αθ – Και την τελευταία μέρα που ήσουν στο χωριό, μπορείς να μου πεις τι έκανες;*

*Αλ – Τα συνηθισμένα. No different. Αν χρειαζόταν έξω πήγα έξω. Αν χρειαζόταν να σκουπίσω, να μαγειρέψω να μαγειρέψω . Να μου πεις ετοιμάσες την βαλίτσα σου, τι βαλίτσα σου; Τι πήρα; Τίποτα.*

*Αθ- Τίποτα*

*Αλ – Τίποτα.*

*Ευα - Αγοράσατε καινούργια ρούχα να πάρετε μαζί σας;*

*Αλ – Μια αλλαζιά που πήρα στην τσάντα.*

*Ευαγ – Μόνο αυτό;*

*Αλ – Μόνο αυτό.*

*Αθ – Ήσουνα μοδίστρα και δεν είχες φτιάξει τίποτα για τον εαυτό σου;*

*Αλ – Μοδίστρα για να βγάλω λεφτά μοδίστρα όχι να πάρω ύφασμα.*

*Αθ – So, έφυγες ξερά τα χέρια*

*Αλ – Ξερά τα χέρια και δεμένα.*

*Αθ – Δεμένα.*

*Αθ – Και ο αδελφός σου ξανά σε πήγε στην Αθήνα;*

*Αλ – Ναι.*

*Αθ – Ο Γιάννης;*

*Αλ – Ναι ο μικρός.*

*Αθ – Και πήγες στην Αθήνα;*

*Αλ – Στο αεροπλάνο.*

*Αθ – Αμέσως μπήκες στο αεροπλάνο;*

*Αλ – Αμέσως. Μπήκαμε στο αεροπλάνο.*

*Αθ – Φοβήθηκες;*

*Αλ – Ναι.*

*Αλ – Και να σου κάνω μια άλλη ιστορία να δεις και πως φοβήθηκα. Αλλά πρέπει να λέω όνομα και είναι δύσκολο μετά και πρέπει να το σβήσετε.*

Αθ και Ευαγ – Μην το πεις το όνομα.

Αλ – Πρέπει να το πω.

Αθ - Γιατί;

Αλ – Ας πούμε μπήκα στο αεροπλάνο, μπήκαμε στο αεροπλάνο, κάναμε μια στάση, δεν ξέρω που ήταν η στάση, η δεύτερη στάση ήτανε στο Καράτσι στις Ινδίες. Εκεί μας είπανε, μας πήγανε στο ξενοδοχείο, να μην βγείτε έξω από το ξενοδοχείο και να μην φάτε τίποτα. Μόνο ότι σας δώσαμε εμείς. Πουθενά δεν θα βγείτε έξω να φάτε. Την άλλη μέρα πάλι στο αεροπλάνο ήρθαμε στο Ουέλλινγκτον, πόσες ήμασταν, 200, δεν ξέρω, ήμασταν πολλές.

Αθ – Στο αεροπλάνο ήταν 200;

Αλ – Δεν ξέρω πόσες είμαστε. Είμαστε πολλές κοπέλες. Οι περισσότερες μείνανε στο Ουέλλινγκτον.

Αθ – Ήσουν με την Κλειώ και την Ανδριάννα;

Αλ – Όχι, όχι

Αθ – Άλλο αεροπλάνο;

Αλ – Ναι.

Αθ – Η Ανδριάννα ήρθε πολύ πιο ύστερα. Με την Ιωάννα την Τσιβουράκη αν την γνωρίζετε στο Ουέλλινγκτον ήρθαμε μαζί με την Θεανώ την Φουντουλάκη στο Ουέλλινγκτον που ήρθαμε μαζί, είναι πολλές κοπέλες που ήρθαμε μαζί που μείνανε στο Ουέλλινγκτον. Μπήκαμε στο τραίνο το απογευματάκι για το Ωκλαντ.

Αθ – Α, μου έλεγες για το Καράτσι.

Αλ – Α, την άλλη το πρωί μπήκαμε από το Καράτσι στο αεροπλάνο και ήρθαμε εδώ.

Αθ – Είπες ότι ήσουν πολύ φοβισμένη. Μου έλεγες μια ιστορία.

Αλ – Όχι εδώ έγινε, εδώ έγινε.

Αθ – Ήρθες εδώ, ήρθατε στο Ωκλαντ;

Αλ – Στο Ουέλλινγκτον.

Αθ – Α, πήγες στο Ουέλλινγκτον, και πόσες ώρες ήσουν στο αεροπλάνο;

Αθ – Όταν έφυγες από την Αθήνα έκανες 2-3 μέρες;

Αλ – Κάναμε 5-6 μέρες.

Αθ – Ναι;

Αλ – Ναι. Τότε ναι.

Ευαγ – Η πρώτη στάση δεν θυμόσαστε που ήτανε;

Aθ – Δεν θυμάμαι. Το Καράτσι, στην Μελβούρνη και Σύδνευ.

Ευαγ – Α, πήγατε και στο Σύδνευ;

Αλ – Ναι.

Aθ – Καθήσατε στο Σύδνευ καθόλου;

Αλ – Βραδύς νομίζω.

Aθ – Ένα βράδυ και μετά πήγατε στο Ουέλλινγκτον;

Αλ – Στο Ουέλλινγκτον.

Aθ – Και τι έγινε στο Ουέλλινγκτον;

Αλ – Στο Ουέλλινγκτον ήτανε ο πρόξενος ο κύριος Δαλάνης και μας πήγε και κάναμε κάτι χαρτιά που ήτανε να υπογράψουμε κι όλα αυτά και μετά όσες μείνανε στο Ουέλλινγκτον εφώναζε το όνομα και μετά μείνανε εκεί.

Aθ – Α, δεν ήξερες εσύ που θα πας;

Αλ – Πουθενά δεν ήξερα που θα πάω και τι θα γίνω.

Aθ – Και όταν είδες το Ουέλλινγκτον, την Νέα Ζηλανδία τι;

Αλ – Μου φάνηκε χωριό.

Aθ – Χωριό. Νόμιζες ότι θα είναι μεγάλη πόλη;

Αλ – Ναι, ναι. Μετά που κανονίσαμε τα χαρτιά και όλα αυτά και καταγραφτήκαμε και ότι χρειαζότανε λένε εσείς και εσείς θα πάτε στο North Island. Και μπήκαμε στο τραίνο. Από το Ουέλλινγκτον μέχρι εδώ που είμαστε οι τελευταίες στο Parakura, αφήσανε κοπέλες στο Palmerston North όπου τις είχανε κανονίσει.

Aθ – Πόσες είσασαν όταν ήσασαν στο Ουέλλινγκτον;

Αλ – Δεν θυμάμαι

Aθ – Δεν θυμάσαι;

Αλ – Δεν θυμάμαι

Aθ – Και αφήσανε κοπέλες παντού;

Αλ – Παντού. Ναι.

Aθ – Και εσύ ήξερες που πήγαινες;

Αλ – Καθόλου.

Aθ – Καθόλου

Aθ – Και ήτανε κανένας που είχες φιλίες μαζί;



*Αλ – Ήτανε. Από το Ουέλλινγκτον μπήκε μία διερμηνέας, μια κοπέλα Ελληνίδα που ήξερε ποιες θα αφήσει και που θα αφήσει. Εμείς ήμασταν οι τελευταίες εδώ στο Ωκλαντ. Αλλά όταν εμπήκαμε στο τραίνο από το Ουέλλινγκτον, και φτάσαμε στο Taumarunui.*

Αθ – Taumarunui

*Αλ – Taumarunui. Ήτανε midnight, about midnight. Και λέει η κοπέλα εδώ θα κατεβούμε να φάμε μην στεναχωριέστε για φαγητά είναι όλα πληρωμένα, δεν χρειάζεστε λεφτά. Κατεβαίνουμε κάτω, πήγαμε σε ένα lunch bar δεν ξέρω τι ήτανε όλα self help, ωραία όλα εγώ πεινούσα, σαλάτες δεν ξέρω εγώ τι. Κάνω ένα πιάτο τόσο. Πάω στο τραπέζι, καθίζω, δεν μου άρεσει μα δεν είναι αυτό που μου μαγείρευε η μάνα μου, μα δεν είναι αυτό που τρώγαμε στο σπίτι μας. Πάρτο το πιάτο, εγώ δεν θέλω τίποτα.*

Αθ – Τι ήτανε, ήτανε ότι δεν είχε αλάτι ή olive oil;

*Αλ – Δεν μου άρεσε, δεν μου άρεσε.*

Αθ – Δεν ήτανε νόστιμο;

*Αλ – Αλλά εκεί που τρώγανε οι άλλες και εγώ δεν έτρωγα – εδώ θέλω να με προσέξετε. Ήθελα να πάω στην τουαλέτα. Βγαίνω το λέω στις κοπέλες, ναι το είπα στις κοπέλες ότι θα πάω στην τουαλέτα. Βγαίνω έξω, μου δείχνανε που θα πάω στην τουαλέτα, εγώ δεν ήξερα το τραίνο ούτε πως ανοίγει ούτε πως κλείνει. Βγαίνω από την τουαλέτα το τραίνο είχε κλείσει. Έτοιμο τσου τσου να φύγει. Με πιάνει πανικός, λέω, δεν ξέρω πως να φωνάζω, πως να ανοίξω, τι να κάνω, γυρίζω προς τα πίσω βλέπω ένα χωροφύλακα και λέω αυτός είναι η μόνη μου ελπίδα. Τρέχω πίσω, φτάνω εκεί, κοιτάζω εκεί, βλέπω ένα μαύρο, εγώ δεν είχα ξαναδεί coloured person. Και όχι μόνο αυτό αλλά όταν ήμουνα μικρή μου έλεγε η μάνα μου κακομοίρα αν κάνεις τρέλες θα έρθει ένας μαύρος από την Αφρική μα θα σε φάει ζωντανή. Και λέω να, να, αυτά που μου έλεγε η μάνα μου τώρα ήρθανε μπροστά μου που βλέπω τον μαύρο. Γυρίζω κατευθείαν πίσω. Στο τραίνο. Το τραίνο ίσα ίσα που ξεκινούσε. Παίζω μια και ρίχνω τον εαυτό μου πίσω από το τραίνο στην σκάλα και κρεμόμωνα εκεί.*

Αθ – Για πόσο καιρό;

*Αλ – Εξεκίνησε το τραίνο και πιο κάτω μετρήσανε τις κοπέλες και βλέπουνε ότι μια έλειπε, σταματάνε το τραίνο και κρεμόμωνα εγώ πίσω.*

Αθ – Και στο Καράτσι δεν είδες κανένα μαύρο;

Ευαγ – Ε, στο Καράτσι ήτανε το Πακιστάν.

*Αλ – Not really μαύρος, είναι μελαχρινοί, όχι μαύροι*

Αθ – Ήτανε Μαόρι αυτός ή μαύρος;

*Αλ – Ε, δεν ξέρω*

Φρ – Indians

Αθ – The one here would have been Maori.

*Αλ – Maori or maybe Afrikano.*

Aθ - Και ήτανε βράδυ.

Φρ - No Afrikanos there.

*Αλ - I don't know. I don't know. Με έπιασε πανικός και έτρεξα πίσω.*

Aθ - Και φτάσατε στο Ωκλαντ.

*Αλ - Φτάσαμε στο Ωκλαντ*

Aθ - Ok we just stop.

This is file number 3 and we are continuing the interview with Alexia Pendaraki.

Aθ - So, Αλεξία φτάσατε στο Ωκλαντ, φτάσατε στο Ωκλαντ και τι έγινε; Θα ήσωνα κουρασμένη τόσες μέρες. Πως φανούσε;

*Αλ - Εγώ ατομικά είχα συνηθίσει, είπαμε δεν είπαμε ότι δεν ήτανε ξεκούραση όταν. Δεν εγνώρισα κούραση και εδώ στο αεροπλάνο και στο τραίνο δεν το θεώρησα καθόλου κουραστικό. Φτάσαμε στο Ωκλαντ, ήτανε η κυρία Παπακωνσταντίνου εκεί και μας παράλαβε.*

Aθ - Παπακωνσταντίνου.

*Αλ - Αίγλη Παπακωνσταντίνου.*

Aθ - Το πρώτο ήτανε...Έλλη; Και τι είναι αυτό.

*Αλ - Αίγλη. Πέθανε.*

Aθ - Και ποια ήτανε αυτή.

*Αλ - Ήτανε μια Ελληνίδα. Ο άντρας της Έλληνας. Ήρθε στο τραίνο και μας παράλαβε αυτή.*

Aθ - Ποια...έτσι ήρθε γιατί ήτανε Ελληνίδα;

*Αλ - Όχι, ίσως ήτανε από το immigration*

Aθ - Από το immigration, δούλευε για το immigration

*Αλ - Υποθέτω ναι.*

Aθ - Ναι

*Αλ - Και μας λέει θα πάμε, ήτανε το πρωί κατά τις 10 η ώρα, θα πάμε πάνω το Queen Street που είναι η κεντρική οδός που είναι όλα τα μαγαζιά να κοιτάζετε. Ανεβαίνουμε επάνω στο Queen Street, πήγαμε στο τέλος. Λέω κυρία Παπακωνσταντίνου αυτά είναι τα μαγαζιά, που είναι τα μαγαζιά; Που είναι τα μαγαζιά στην Νέα Ζηλανδία; Αυτά είναι μου λέει. Γιατί τότε η αλήθεια ήτανε. Γιατί η Νέα Ζηλανδία ανοίχτηκε μετά το 1950 το 1960.*

Aθ - And were you disappointed?

*Αλ - Ναι πολύ πάρα πολύ. Αλλά ήξερα ότι εγώ ήρθα για να φτιάξω την ζωή μου δεν ήρθα για να δω μαγαζιά, να δω ρούχα, να δω γαμπρούς, ήρθα για να δουλέψω. Ήξερα ότι μου είχανε δουλειά στρωμένη, το δωμάτιό μου έτοιμο, λέω από κει και πέρα δεν ρωτάω τώρα τίποτα.*

Aθ - Σε πήγανε μετά από το Queen Street που σας πήγανε;

*Αλ - Μας πήγανε...αφήσανε εδώ στο Ωκλαντ μερικές, αφήσανε στο Otahuhu μερικές και εμείς οι τελευταίες πήγαμε το Kingseat 7 από μας. 7 μαζι.*

Aθ - 7

*Αλ - 7 μαζι*

Aθ - Και εκεί έμεινες;

*Αλ - Εκεί έμεινα μέχρι που γνώρισα τον άντρα μου.*

Aθ - Και το δωμάτιο που σε βάλανε είχες άλλη κοπέλα εκεί;

*Αλ - Όχι. Η κάθε μια κοπέλα είχε και το δωμάτιο της. Αλλά όλες οι Ελληνίδες ήμασταν στο διάδρομο που ήτανε η προισταμένη. Για να επιβλέπει.*

Aθ - Και πόσες Ελληνίδες ήτανε - ποιοι ήτανε?

*Αλ - Εμείς οι Ελληνίδες, ήμουνα εγώ, η Κική Σιφοδασκαλάκη, η Ρούλα η Τζιρτζιλιάκη, η Βαγγελία η Σιφοδασκαλάκη, η Δέσποινα - ζέχασα το όνομά της - και η Ιωάννα η Τσιβουράκη.*

Aθ - Και τι κάνατε; Πήγατε μέσα στο δωμάτιο - κοιμηθήκατε - τι έγινε αυτό το βράδυ; Το πρώτο βράδυ.

*Αλ - Το πρώτο βράδυ κοιμηθήκαμε όλες στα δωμάτια μας. Την άλλη μέρα ήρθε η προισταμένη και μας είπε να πάμε στην κουζίνα να δουλεύουμε στην κουζίνα, θα πηγαίνουμε και στα διάφορα department του νοσοκομείου, ό,τι δουλειά ήτανε να κάνουμε.*

Aθ - Σου δώσανε uniform;

*Αλ - Ναι, ναι. Και παπούτσια και uniform.*

Aθ - Και τι δουλειά έκανες;

*Αλ – Στην αρχή κάναμε στην κουζίνα ή καθαρίζαμε διαδρόμους και τέτοια.*

*Αθ – Στην κουζίνα τι έκανες καθαρίζες πιάτα;*

*Αλ – Καθαρίζαμε πατάτες, πλύναμε τα πιάτα, βοηθήσαμε την μαγείρισσα, ανάλογα τη δύναμη που είχε η κάθε μια να βοηθήσει στην κουζίνα. Εγώ αμέσως, όπως είπαμε η μάνα μου έκανε η κάθε μια την μέρα της στην κουζίνα, η κουζίνα ήξερα τι πά' να πει κουζίνα και συνήθως με κρατούσανε στην κουζίνα πιο πολύ.*

*Αθ – Και μπορείς να διαλέξεις έτσι, μπορείς να διαλέξεις τι δουλειά να κάνεις;*

*Αλ – Όχι*

*Αθ – Όχι.*

*Αλ – Όχι, όχι.*

*Αθ – Σε βάλανε στην κουζίνα...*

*Αλ – Ήτανε η ρόστα εκεί και ήξερες τι δουλειά θα κάνεις.*

*Αθ – Και τι ώρα σηκώθηκες το πρωί;*

*Αλ – Το πρωί η προϊσταμένη μας σήκωσε νομίζω 7 η ώρα, για να πάμε 8 η ώρα να φάμε και να πάμε στην δουλειά.*

*Αθ – Και τρώγατε με τις νοσοκόμες;*

*Αλ – Ναι. Μια μεγάλη μεγάλη τραπεζαρία και τρώγαμε.*

*Αθ – Το φαί δεν σου άρεσε;*

*Αλ – Δεν μου άρεσε.*

*Αθ – Θα ήσουνα πολύ αδύνατη*

*Αλ – Πάρα πολύ αδύνατη, ναι.*

*Αθ – Και μπορείς να μιλήσεις εγγλέζικα;*

*Αλ – Εμ, καλούτσικα. Εγώ πάντα προσπαθούσα το αδύνατο δυνατό για ότι δουλειά έκανα. Ακόμα και στην δουλειά που δούλευα όλα τα χρόνια*

*Αθ – Έκανες παρέα με τις νοσοκόμες;*

*Αλ – Ναι.*

*Αθ – Ναι, και πως ήτανε αυτό;*

*Αλ – Καλό, καλό. Πολύ καλό.*

*Αθ – Και πως σου φάνηκαν οι άνθρωποι; Οι Νεοζηλανδοί.*

*Αλ – Πάρα πολύ καλοί. Και πάρα πολύ βοηθητικοί. Και πάρα πολύ ευγενείς. Ευγενείς για το χατήρι της Κρήτης. Η Κρήτη στον πόλεμο έφερε το όνομά της στον χάρτη του κόσμου.*

Aθ – So, Ήτανε μόνοι τους οι κοπέλες from Crete what about other people?

*Αλ – Όλες, όλες οι κοπέλες ανεξαιρέτως, δεν είχε εξαίρεση εδώ. Εδώ η Νέα Ζηλανδία δεν είχε εξαίρεση. Το μόνο που ήτανε εξαίρεση κατά πρώτο πρώτο που ζητήσανε Κρητικές. Αλλά δεν μπορούσαμε να βγάλουμε τον αριθμό και πήρανε όλη την Ελλάδα.*

Aθ – Where the other immigrants here just Greeks? Did you know any immigrants?

*Αλ – No. No. For me everybody was New Zealand.*

Aθ - So, the Pakeha and the Maori are all the same?

*Αλ – All the same, all the same.*

Ευα - What did you think of the Maori people?

*Αλ – I like them. I like them.*

Aθ - What did you like about them?

*Αλ – Maori people you got a friend and it's a friend. True friend. But if you have an enemy it's look out.*

Ath- Did you make any enemies then?

*Αλ – No. No.*

Ευα - Like Kritikous.

*Αλ – Exactly like ...σαν τους Κρητικούς.*

Aθ – Και πήγαινες θα δούλευες κάθε μέρα.

*Αλ – Ναι.*

Aθ – Από το πρωί

*Αλ – Από το πρωί, κάναμε ένα διάλειμμα το μεσημέρι και μετά το βράδυ τελειώναμε.*

Aθ – Και τι κάνατε το βράδυ;

*Αλ – Στα δωμάτιά μας.*

Aθ – Και τι κάνατε μέσα εκεί;

*Αλ – Καμιά φορά πηγαίναμε στο διπλανό δωμάτιο αλλά δεν έπρεπε να κάνουμε μεγάλο θόρυβο γιατί ήτανε η προισταμένη εκεί. Δεν μπορούσες να κάνεις μεγάλα...α, τραγουδούσαμε. Τραγούδια.*

Aθ – Τραγούδια. Τι τραγούδια;

*Αλ – Τραγούδια. Όλα τα τραγούδια.*

Aθ - Ποια ήτανε αυτά;

Aλ - Του γάμου, τση νύφης

Aθ - Τι τραγούδια από αυτό τη χώρα;

Aλ - Από ποια χώρα;

Ευαγ - Κρητικά, μαντινάδες;

Aλ - Κρητικά. Βέβια κρητικά.

Aθ - Θυμάσαι ποια είναι;

Ευαγ - Θα μας πείτε ένα;

Aθ - Έλα

Aλ - Ε, δεν θυμάμαι

Aθ - Σε αυτό τον καιρό ήτανε η Αλίκη Βουγιουκλάκη;

Aλ - Ναι. Ναι.

Aθ - Ναι. Και ήτανε και πως την λένε αυτή, η ξανθιά; Που έκανε 'Never on a Sunday'. Με τα 'Αγόρια από τον Πειραιά'

Aλ - Α, η Νάνα Μουσκούρη;

Aθ - Όχι, όχι η Νάνα Μουσκούρη, η άλλη. Που έγινε, you know.

Φρ - Eirini Pappas?

Aθ - Al: No, no.

Aθ - No, no, the other one. Melina Merkouri. Nai. Nai. Τα 'Αγόρια από τον Πειραιά'.

Aλ - Ναι.

Aθ - Where they familiar to you then?

Aλ - Yes, yes, yes.

Aθ - What did you sing village songs;?

Aλ - Village songs είπαμε μαντινάδες, τσης θάλασσας τα τραγούδια, του γάμου τα τραγούδια.

Aθ - So, you did a lot of signing and that made you feel home sick?

Aλ - Not really.

Aθ - Not.

Aλ - *Not really but now I am.*

Aθ - *But why you think you weren't because not only did you leave your family but you were at the other side of the world.*

Aλ - *Because I already told you, I wanted to make a better life.*

Ath- *I know that but also you were a close family, you had lots of brothers and sisters.*

Aλ - *Yes, but when the pressure of the - I say money and food and life - pressure what you leave behind - then I think you would choose to look for that life.*

Ath- *So just the food that you missed.*

Aλ - *Yes, I missed the food, yes.*

Aθ - *Could you buy any Greek things at that time?*

Aλ - *No, no. Nothing was here, e Frank? Not olive oil, not anything Greek.*

Aθ - *So, what did you eat?*

Aλ - *Wellington... We tried to go στα χωράφια εκεί στο Kingseat να μαζέψουμε χόρτα. Χόρτα.*

Aθ - *Χόρτα.*

Aλ - *Χόρτα. Και τα πρώτα που ψήσαμε βγήκε η προισταμένη και θα πεθάνουνε όλες όλες. Όλες θα πεθάνουνε τι τρώνε φαρμάκι.*

Aθ - *So, χόρτα, εσύ μαγείρευες τόποτα άλλο;*

Aλ - *Δεν μπορούσαμε να μαγειρέψουμε τίποτα. Το μόνο...*

Aθ - *So, you didn't eat very much?*

Aλ - *No. I learn afterwards. I eat fruit, a lot of fruit and slowly I didn't have any choice.*

Aθ - *So, when did your sister come, Argyroula?*

Aλ - *Then I was at Kingseat, I don't know about 2-3 months and somebody from the immigration came and ask us how we settle down, do we like New Zealand, do you like to go back and all those things and I told them. Then he said - he was a man - would you like - do you have anybody you would like to bring over? And I said yes, my sister. And by October my sister was here.*

Aθ - *Had she told you that she wanted to come?*

Aλ - *I know she wanted to come. I knew she would of.*

Aθ - *Did you get any letter from home?*

Aλ - *Yes, yes.*

Aθ - *How often would you have letters?*

Aλ – *Once a month. Don't forget the letters take a long time to go and come back.*

Aθ - And, so, what did you hear from home? What sorts of things did they tell you?

Aλ – *The normal things, everything is ok, mum is alright but please send more letters because she really worry.*

Aθ - And what did you do with your money – did you open a bank account here?

Aλ – *I left with 10 sterlings from Greece, my brother gave me 10 sterlings to have a soft drink somewhere. That was the money I took with me. When I come to New Zealand I save it and my first pay and the 10 sterlings I sent them back.*

Aθ - You sent them straight back? And how did you do that? Through...

Aλ – *You go to the post office or to the bank and you make money draft I think.*

Ευα - You didn't buy anything for yourself as a treat?

Aλ – *No. No.*

Aθ - So, did you do that every payday?

Aλ – *No. No. No. I save money because I know I had to start save money to go back and then I got...*

Aθ - So, tell us how you met Frank?

Aλ – *I was in the hospital but a couple of weeks and sister Kennedy – it was their home sister was very friendly with me and she said to me one day 'Alexia I want you to do a job for me'. And I said 'OK'. By token by sign. She said every morning I want you to go to the main office, take my paperwork to them and take their paperwork to me here. Every morning you do that. And I said ok. After few times, I was walking because the nurses home I was leaving it was lower than the offices up and I saw a little Ute – a little van coming down the offices direction and it come very close to my side and I thought 'Bugger you - what do you want?'*

Aθ - You'd learnt some English swearings, hadn't you?

Aλ – *I said in English – βλάκα.*

Aθ – Βλάκα.

Aλ – *And then they went. I look and I see this blonde.*

Aθ - So, you did look.

Aλ – *Oh, yes.*

Aθ - You said before that you didn't look because you were a good present girl.

Aλ – *But I didn't do anything about it. Of course I look. Of course I look and I see this blondie, blond young man. And I thought he is nice. That was him and his boss. And he say*



*to his boss who is this young lady? And the boss says to him she is one of the Greek ladies who arrive last week. And he says to him 'God will that she is going to be my wife'. You be careful because they are under the protection, the government protection over here. Be careful with that. And then he used to come to the restaurant and have dinner with us. In our dining room.*

Aθ - So, he just turned up?

*Αλ – Yes. And he start asking me to go out and I say no. But why not. Because I want to go home. I come for 3 years and I am going home to my family. And he keep asking. And he keep asking. And then they start to roster me in different villas to go to work. And every day I went to a villa he was there for morning tea. And I say how does he know where I am.*

Aθ - We should say that Frank has just joined us.

*Αλ – Then, there was a couple of months before, that year, there was the host of the ground fair, the gala fair yes. And they gave us the day off to all the girls and we go to gala to the fair and he was there. Follow me everywhere I go and he say I buy that you pay, I buy. You pay I buy. He do that and then he said to me can I take a photo? Can I take a photo of you? Not. Why not. I don't want strangers to carry my photo everywhere and then he say to Kiki. 'Kiki, can you stand with Alexia and I take a photo of her?' And he did. He did and he took a photo. And later that night he says to me 'It's a Greek film in town, called 'Zorba the Greek', would you like to come with me'? And I said 'No'. Oh, come on it is a Greek film. Yes, but if I come all my friends will come with me, I am not coming by myself. He say ok. So, 7 of us go on a mini bus.*

Aθ - So, did you do that because of your honour? Was this part of the Greek thing? Not being with men on your own.

*Αλ – Yes, if somebody see me, go back to my village and say I saw her with a man – that was the end of me.*

Aθ - But did you fancy him at that state.

*Αλ – Very much...oh for sure.*

Aθ - So, you were not been horrible to him, you were just being a little bit cool.

*Αλ – Watch out – be careful. And we went to the film, we sit down, he was in all of us, at the end he is next to me. The film was playing and the airplane was coming zoom zoom towards the Zorba the Greek and Eirini Pappa. And she said to the airplane: 'Κερατάδες τι θέλετε από εμάς.' Όταν το είπε αυτό όλες οι 7 βγάζουμε μια φωνή με γέλια δυνατά. And everybody was looking what was going on. Why?*

Aθ - There was not subtitles.

*Αλ – Yes, and we saw the film and we went home. And he was going to his quarters and I went to my home and he start to come to where I was working and he start asking me 'How do you say this?' and I told him.*

Aθ - In Greek?

*Αλ – Yes and how do you say that? And I told him. And he had the dictionary there of course and then way later, ye, was Christmas and was Christmas and they had the staff Christmas*

ball. And he says to me 'Would you like to be my partner to the ball?' 'No'. 'Why not?' 'I don't want to'. 'Come on'. 'No'. So, he got a girl from one of the girls and organised to go to the ball with her, Shelley was her name. And we know she was upstairs getting ready and us girls, all 7 of us, was downstairs on open fire already dressed because we knew was coming and going people, and sitting by the fire and the doors was open and this Blondie walk in with the dark blue suit and I was 'Oh, my God' and he walks straight to me 'You come to the ball with me', 'No', 'But why not', 'Because Shelley is waiting upstairs for you', 'Never mind, I want you to come'. So he say 'You go and get Shelley'. So I went and get Shelley and she get downstairs and they went out, to the ball. About an hour, a couple of hours later, he came back again, 'Come on I want you to come to the ball with me', 'No, you got Shelley', 'No, I want you'.

Aθ - So he came to you back, have you not gone yet?

Aλ - No.

Aθ - Why, what were you waiting for?

Aλ - All of us in the open fire. Sit down for the evening.

Aθ - So, you were not going to go to the ball?

Aλ - No.

Aθ - Ah, ok. So you were not dressed for the ball.

Aλ - No. No, just for them, the people to come and pick the partners and friends. A Greek girls they always do that, you look best and you don't look ready when something is going on. And he went back, come back, early that night to pick me up again and I say no. He went back and that was the end. And he carry on to come to the village where I was for ages, for ever and one day I got a letter from my mother. He sent a letter with the words stealing from me or learning from me. He make together a letter and he sent it to my mother and I got an answer back and she said to me 'I can't be there to choose the right man for you but he seems to be a very sincere. And if you like to marry him I am not going to stop you'. And then we got engaged.

Aθ - So, when you got engaged, when you said yes to him, did you think that means I won't be going back in 3 years?

Aλ - Oh yes.

Aθ - So, you made that decision?

Aλ - Yes. I was quite happy by then.

Aθ - Why were you happy by then?

Aλ - Because by that time I know I could work in New Zealand and I could make a lot better life. And I know that my husband will not ask the world for my marriage. And I know he was truthful and sincere with me. And I know he will marry on a Orthodox church and we baptize our kids in an Orthodox church and that was good enough for me.

Aθ - So, when you said yes to him, did you give any conditions?

Aλ – *Yes, marriage Orthodox, baptise the children.*

Aθ - That was it. No 'proika'?

Aλ – *AND no 'proika'.*

Aθ - Did he know what you were talking about?

Aλ – *No, we never talk about that because she knew nothing about that. I said to him but I don't mind to be poor; I don't mind about that, I can put up with it. But the day you lift your hand to hit me I never see you again.*

Aθ - Why did you say that to him?

Aλ – *Because I did not like hard to get a husband who will bit me up because your English is not good. Because I did not know what I was getting into.*

Aθ - So, where did you get this idea from? Did you know people who their husband bit them?

Aλ – *See people, yes.*

Aθ - Who?

Aλ – *Oh, well a Greek man, they control their wives. They do control their wives.*

Aθ - In Greece and here or did you see it at the village?

Aλ – *Yes.*

Aθ - And what did you see?

Aλ – *I didn't see beating up, I didn't see anybody. No, no. I didn't.*

Aθ - Did you hear it?

Aλ – *A lot of arguments.*

Aθ - Yes, but I am just interested to know why you said to him not to hit you?

Aλ – *I like to make sure because when you are in a country for a year or so and you marry to somebody when you don't know where he come from, never know what background he is from, never know he down and what he is up to, you make some conditions. You make sure that this is not going to happen.*

Aθ - Yes, but I wouldn't think of saying this to somebody unless there was something in my experience.

Aλ – *No. No. Not really.*

Aθ - So, you didn't know any of the other girls who married?

Aλ – *I was one of the first, was I the first one?*

Aθ - Even though you haven't seen anybody hitting each other you just said to him not to...

Αλ - *It was not reason, really not reason.*

Aθ - Very, very [27:37]. That was good. What did he think? What did he say? Was he shocked when you said that?

Αλ - *No. No. I think he know he marry me to love me.*

Aθ - So, did he tell you that he loved you?

Αλ - *He made no fuss of it.*

Aθ - Right! So, did you know that he loved you?

Αλ - *I know that.*

Aθ - And did you tell him that you loved him? Did you love him?

Αλ - *I did love him but I don't know if I really really tell him.*

Aθ - Did you find that...? Was it something you had expected? That you are actually falling in love because this is not something you were supposed to do, was it?

Αλ - *No, but when you are ready to get married to somebody you are in love, you love him and he loves you.*

Aθ - Well, some of the match's some women didn't see the men

Αλ - *That is why I said if something goes wrong, don't try.*

Aθ - So, that was good. That was a love match. So, how long afterwards did you get married? So, you got engaged, did you have a traditional Greek engagement?

Αλ - *Yes, after Christmas, about a year.*

Aθ - So, did the priest come? How did you get engaged?

Αλ - *So, he went down and he brought me a ring - nice big diamond ring. Big one.*

Aθ - So because he was so glad he got you, Just had a quite, did you celebrate with the other girls?

Αλ - *Yeah.*

Aθ - Right. And then you got married, how long after? 2 months?

Αλ - *No. 2 months.*

Φρ - About that.

Aθ - 2 months later you got married.

Aλ - Yes.

Aθ - And what was that like?

Aλ - *The girls was crying, crying, crying.*

Aθ - The 7 girls?

Aλ - *Yes, they crying, crying. And I asked them after why did you cry because we thought we never see you again. When you marry somebody you don't know.*

Aθ - So, they were worried about you?

Aλ - *They were worried about me.*

Aθ - And what did they think of marrying a non-Greek? Because that was a big thing too, wasn't it?

Aλ - *I don't think anybody worry about that.*

Aθ - So, you didn't even think about I am not marrying a Greek

Aλ - *No, no.*

Aθ - And no one in your family thought that was strange? Your brothers?

Aλ - *When I make the promise that I go back after 3 years I knew I was marry a Greek but after I met Frank I had no thoughts about why and that.*

Aθ - So, were you the first one to marry a foreigner? Did you know anyone else?

Aλ - *No. No. I am the first one.*

Φρ - Foreigner

Aλ - *Yes. The first one. I was the first one.*

Aθ - You were the first one and nobody, the people who were looking after you did not warn you or you know.

Aλ - *No. no.*

Aθ - So, you got married in the Russian Orthodox Church?

Aλ - *And if I remember right...we brought a priest from Australia*

Φρ - Yes

Aθ - Was that the church in Dominion Road?

Aλ - *Dominion Road.*

Aθ - That little Russian church.

Αλ – Yes.

Αθ - And you said you brought a Greek priest from Australia. How did you do that?

Αλ – *I think you (Frank) organised everything. And our best man was Greek.*

Fr – Stavrianos

Αλ – *Her father*

Αθ - Who was that?

Αλ – *E, a Greek man over here, a Greek family. And I think they organise everything.*

Αθ - So, they organised the priest and he was your best man.

Αλ – *And the reception and everything. They organise.*

Αθ - So, where did you spend your first night?

Αλ – *What was that Frank?*

Fr – Waihi

Αθ - Waihi. Did you drive?

Αλ – *Yes. We hire a car. He hire a car and we took off and go to honeymoon.*

Αθ - So, you got married in the morning?

Αλ – *Yes. Lunchtime. Afternoon time.*

Αθ - Lunch time and then you had a reception or party?

Αλ – *No*

Αθ - Not much. And you just went in the car and took of to Waihi.

Αλ – *And we had a party when come back.*

Ευα - In the photo κυρία Αλεξία έχετε και τις 7 κοπελιές που ήρθατε μαζί. Did Frank have any of his friends, did you have any New Zealanders? Other people, other Greek in your wedding?

Αλ – *Yes, we had some of them but not in this one.*

Ευα - Who were they? Ποιος ήτανε εκεί;

Αλ – *I don't think. We had his boss, we had a few people.*

Αθ - In the church.

Αλ – *We had some but I am not sure.*

Fr - I was by myself.

Aθ - So, you were by yourself no family. So, how many people would have been in the church?

Αλ - *This one, that one, me, that one, that one and than one. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven.*

Aθ - Seven and some of his, Frank's friends.

Αλ - *Oh, it was a lot more people at the wedding like my best man's family and friends and other Greeks from here. Was a lot of people.*

Ath- And so the Greek priest was fine marrying you with a foreigner too?

Αλ - *Yeah, yeah.*

Aθ - Ok, so you get in the car and you drive off to Waihi

Αλ - *Yeah.*

Aθ - and where did you spend your first night? Was it in a motel or?

Al -*In a hotel*

Aθ - Hotel

Fr - Camping site

Aθ - Camping site?

Ath- They had a cabin. So, it was your first night alone with a man...

Αλ - *Yeah.*

Aθ - And was that like? For a Greek girl from a village.

Αλ - *I was shy. Very shy. Very shy.*

Aθ - I am sure you were. And so, did this manifest, did you, were you shy of taking your clothes off.

Aθ - *Μίλα ελληνικά άμα θέλεις.*

Αλ - *Yes, I was shy to take my clothes off. I was shy to instigate any move.*

Aθ - And at this stage have you tried to educate yourself about what might happen? Or you were still ignorant?

Αλ - *Ignorant.*

Ευα - Your girlfriends didn't talk about it?

Al - After it. I don't think they knew any better as they were young like me.

Aθ - And was Frank more experienced than you?

Aθ - What?

Aλ - *Maybe*

Aθ - You had no experience

Aλ - *No, no.*

Aθ - And so things went ok?

Aλ - *Those things come naturally you don't need teacher you don't need anybody to tell you what to do.*

Aθ - Ok, that was pretty good for you.

Aλ - *Yeah. Yes*

Aθ - Good.

Aθ - And so was it a surprise to you?

Aλ - *About what?*

Aθ - Well, I find it interesting that people they don't hear anything about sex or what happened and suddenly they are in a very intimate relationship.

Aλ - *Who said that? I already tell you that I heard the old ladies talking about themselves about everything.*

Aθ - Ah!

Aλ - *But they didn't know that my ears was big.*

Aθ - Ah, I see, so nobody told you directly you used ears drops, so you were curious. I thought that.

Aθ - So, you heard, what they old ladies used to say.

Aλ - *It was a long time - I can't even remember anything. Anything for themselves.*

Aθ - My mother used to say your father...your husband will teach you everything you need to know on your wedding night. You don't need to know anything.

Aθ - She taught you everything, did she?

Aλ - *Well, that happen also in a village I grow up. That the bride a week before, there were a half a dozen old ladies preparing the 'proika', they stay through the biggest time of the night and the bride was there and then will tell her everything. At that point.*

Aθ - Ah! Right.



Aλ - *Not before.*

Aθ - Right. Was it the expectation that as a woman you would enjoy sex? Or it was something meaning joy and you were not supposed to?

Aλ - *Why?*

Aθ - I don't know. I am just wondering. So, did you expect to enjoy sex?

Aλ - *Yeah.*

Aθ - Oh good! Oh that's good. Because you know you often hear that women often they don't back in those days.

Aλ - *I don't know about back in those days but I know I guess get marry to enjoy life. I know all corners.*

Aθ - Good.

Aθ - So, you had a healthy sex life?

Aλ - *Yes, we have*

Aθ - You were happy.

Aλ - *Yes*

Aθ - And then you had your first child

Aλ - *But 7 months after because she was premature.*

Aθ - Ah.

Aλ - *Yeah*

Aθ - Was she ok when she was born?

Φρ - 'Koma'

Aλ - *She was in a 'yiala'*

Aθ - Incubator

Aλ - *Incubator for a little while and they we took her home and she never look back.*

Aθ - And when was the date of her birth and the name?

Aλ - *What?*

Aθ - I know we have written it.

Aλ - *She was born 24 of November 1963.*

Aθ - 1963. And how did you feel when you gave birth to a child?

*Aλ – I was happy but when, I was very happy, but those days, you was not allowed to touch the premature baby, you was not allowed to go in the room and we had to see through the window looking to her and that was upsetting me.*

Aθ - And when you were pregnant did you wish your mother to be here and help you?

Aλ – *No.*

Aθ - So, you had a good pregnancy?

Aλ – *Yes.*

Aι – *Very good. All three of them.*

Aθ - And were you working? When you got married did you continue working?

Aλ – *Yes.*

Aθ - *Ye. At Kingseat?*

Aλ – *No, no.*

This is file number 4 continuing the interview with Alexia Pendaraki

Aθ - So, you had an easy child birth, I mean the pregnancy

Aλ – *Very easy*

Aθ - Did you continue to work?

Aλ – *Yes.*

Aθ - Until, when did you stop working?

*Aλ – I was working like I said, my husband, the night before I had my daughter, because I had to go to Kingseat, while I was working before. Because when we get married we shift to Auckland. And I had to go back to Kingseat for some paper.*

Aθ - So you were living outside the town.

*Aλ – And I went on the bus, on the way back I felt that I wasn't very happy on the bus. And that night the water broke and I had my daughter.*

Aθ - So you were working when you were 7 months. And where were you living at that time?

Aλ – *Here in Auckland*

Aθ - What address was that?

Aλ – *Grafton Bridge.*

Aθ - Grafton bridge, ah, ok. And then you were commuting, going to Kingseat every day?

Aλ - *No. No. No. I finished at Kingseat when we got married and I was working in Machinest.*

Aθ - Machinest. Where about?

Aλ - *In Grafton road, near Grafton, was a place called Action Uniforms.*

Aθ - Oh, I see. Is this because of your sewing experience?

Aλ - *Yes.*

Aθ - Did you try to find a work as a 'modistra' here?

Aλ - *No, I didn't think it was enough money.*

Aθ - Why did you leave Kingseat?

Aλ - *Because we got married.*

Aθ - So, you couldn't work there while you were married?

Φρ - No house.

Aθ - No house but you couldn't, if you were working here did you have to live in the premises?

Aλ - *No. once you married there was house available. They could give you a house to live. As a couple and work there. But because there was no house available and we got married we had to leave Kingseat.*

Aθ - OK. Did you break your bond at all? Because when you came here you did you have to work.

Aλ - *Yes, for two years.*

Aθ - And so.

Aλ - *Yes, I did break the bond.*

Aθ - And what happened about that?

Aλ - *No problem.*

Aθ - No problem?

Aλ - *No problem, e, Frank? No.*

Aθ - So, you got a job working at the Machinest where they made clothes. Yes. And how long were you there?

Aλ - *For 5-6 months*

Aθ - Ok.

Aθ - Once you had your baby did you stop working?

Aλ - Yes. Yes.

Aθ - For how long?

Aλ - *Then we bought a section and we build a house*

Aθ - And where was that?

Φρ - In Avondale.

Aλ - *In, not far from here. In Avondale.*

Aθ - Avondale. Ok.

Aλ - *And then my husband got sick.*

Aθ - Ah, what was wrong?

Aλ - *He had a lung problem. And he was off for quite sometimes, and when he was off I went to Oakley hospital to see the boss over there. No, he came out and I said to him that we can't build the house and it was quite difficult and I said to him somebody has to find a job and the other will look after the baby and I found a job.*

Aθ - So, your husband stayed home and looked after the first born?

Aλ - *Yes and I went to Oakley hospital and I see the boss over there, the head chef and I told him what I was looking for and he says to me 'where you have been working before?' and I told him in Kingseat and he said 'you go home, I will get in touch with your boss over there and ask him questions and I will come back to you'. And he got in touch and he got good words and things and he rang me back and he say you come to see me and I went back and he say 'I will give you a job as a cook in the kitchen - can you cook?' and I say 'I cook for my family' and he say 'if you cook for your family you can cook for me, but you have to remember one thing - the food you cook have to be good enough for you to eat it. And if it is good enough for you to eat it, it is good enough for you to serve it to the people you work for'. And I say 'fine'. And I start and I work there for about 24 years plus 2 years in Kingseat was something like that. All up was 26 years.*

Aθ - And what happened when you got pregnant each time? Did you go on maternity leave?

Aλ - *Yeah.*

Aθ - For how long?

Aλ - *Oh, not very long. About 4-5 months.*

Aθ - And what happened to the children with their childcare? Did you have somebody to look after them?

Aλ – *No. Then I said to my boss that my husband got better and he got a job and I need to stay home and I finish. And he said no you can't finish, I don't want you to finish but I got a night shift cook and would you like to do that? I said to him but Mr Hendirson but night shift is Mrs Price and I don't want to get in trouble with her. I just don't like to get to see people who have hard feelings when I walk on a street. And he said 'don't worry, leave it to me'. And he asked Mrs Price if I can have the night shift and she say yes and I worked 11 years night shift start at 10:00 at night and finish 7:00 in the morning. And he look the kids at night and I look after them in the morning.*

Aθ - And when did you sleep?

Aλ – *Yeah, well you tell me. You work it out.*

Φρ - When they were at school.

Aθ - And then when they went to school you were able to sleep.

Aλ – *But before they went to school it was not very easy.*

Aθ - So, what was like living with someone he was Dutch? You were Greek. Did you have, did it create any issues for you? Because that would be kind different.

Aλ – *Never. Never. Never by me never by him and we had his mother staying for – is it one and a half year?*

Φρ - A year

Aλ – *A year staying with us and I never had a problem and honestly*

Frank: Father and mother

Aλ -*Father and mother – your parents. Frank and I can answer that they love me as good or better than their children and they told me so.*

Aθ - Why you think you get on so well with Frank?

Aλ – *I don't know.*

Aθ - Was he the sort of man you thought you will end up with?

Aλ – *Eh, we have our upside downs, no problem, no doubt about that, but we very quickly sort it out.*

Aθ - What sort of things do you argue about?

Aλ – *Eh, garden. The garden.*

Aθ - You can say it if you like it.

Φρ - I was very keen on radio and I had to buy a good radio to dxio [78:10] – to listen to all radio stations all over the world. That was my hobby. And then later on the computer game and that was my hobby. Not really.

Aλ – *Yes, but after this is the garden. Because I am keen gardener like I tell you I have been*

*grown up in a gardens and outside and I love my fresh veggies and my fresh fruit and everything.*

Aθ - And what does he not want you to plant vegetables?

Aλ - *No . He goes and pull them out. He doesn't know the difference between the plants or the wigs.*

Aθ - And did you argue how to bring up the children?

Aλ - *Not really. No. No. We never never have any differences. In the beginning the first 5 years of my kids life when before they went to primary school we had to go upstairs every day an hour to learn Greek. The best I could. But when they went to school, my oldest daughter came home one day and say 'mum, I don't want to learn that dumb language any more because the kids laughing at me'.*

Aθ - Ah, why the kids laugh at them?

Aλ - *Different language.*

Aθ - Were they hearing them speaking Greek?

Aλ - *Yes.*

Aθ - Did they speak to each other Greek?

Aλ - *No. They mainly knew Greek.*

Aθ - So, they didn't speak English when they went to school?

Aλ - *Yes. They speak English too but they speak a lot Greek too. So, from that time there was no Greek, they refused to learn anything, no talk.*

Φρ - You got two languages in this house.

Aθ - Dutch. Did they learn Dutch as well?

Φρ - No. They speak better Dutch than Greek. They went to school to Holland for 6 months.

Aθ - Ah, when did you go to Holland?

Φρ - At '45

Aλ - *Yes.*

Aθ - And so, they learnt Dutch in Holland?

Aλ - *Yes.*

Aθ - So, they didn't know Dutch beforehand?

Aλ - *No.*

Aθ - A little bit?

Aλ - *No.*

Aθ - But they knew some Greek

Aλ - *A lot of Greek.*

Aθ - A lot of Greek. And they were teased and decided to stop.

Aλ - *They were teased.*

Aθ - Were they teased about the food they ate? Anything like that?

Aλ - *I don't know. I don't really know. They say I don't want to talk this dumb language any more because the kids at school are laughing at me.*

Aθ - And so, did they stop from then on?

Aλ - *Yes.*

Aθ - Now they don't speak Greek?

Aλ - *Ah, they say I am sorry we did.*

Aθ - And did you go to the Greek Church here? At all? When did the Greek Church start up in Auckland?

Aλ - *After we came in 1962 a couple of years later suppose was no church, no hall no community was a Greek here and a Greek there. But nobody really get together or anything. But as girls we need to be together from time to time we need our church, we need to baptise our kids and everything. And slowly we start with the old people who help us a lot but the instigation was from us because we want a church, we want a priest, we want some place to get together and we bought the church, very old church, hardly anything...*

Aθ - The seven of you?

Aλ - *No. All the Greeks.*

Aθ - And how did it come about? Did you call a meeting or how was defined it?

Aλ - *About half a dozen of old people who was over here they saw the church for sale, this one we got here and they decided that we have to do it all for us and they started it and we all helped.*

Aθ - When would that been?

Aλ - *Never got a clue.*

Aθ - So, when did they start bringing Greek food into the country? When could you start buying olives, feta?

Aλ - *The last 10 years*

Φρ - More

Αλ - 20?

Φρ - 20 plus

Αλ - *Was long time after.*

Αθ - So, in this house being you brought up the children in a Greek way do you think or was it a mixture? I mean did they fast?

Φρ - Mixture.

Αλ - *When you come forward you are talking about food and celebrations and stuff like that. I think it is a Greek way - they highlight them.*

Αθ - So, have you celebrated Easter and they were fasting and all that stuff?

Αλ - *Yes, and Christmas and all that.*

Φρ - We have got Easter too.

Αθ - You have got Easter too. Was it also fasting for you? And have Holly Communion?

Φρ - No fasting

Αθ - No, but your children did that?

Αλ - *Not really.*

Αθ - Not really.

Αλ - *Not really, no.*

Αθ - No. Ok. But you just celebrated. Name days.

Αλ - *Yeah. Oh yeah.*

Αθ - Christmas. And how would you celebrate?

Αλ - *How do you mean?*

Αθ - Would you have a big party? Would you invite all these 7 women from Kingseat?

Αλ - *In the beginning we did. Yes, in the beginning. Because it was difficult to get them together because you know Auckland is very big and everybody went everywhere but yes, the ones we could we could get them together. Yes.*

Αθ - So, you still continue to see them afterwards?

Αλ - *Only at the church.*

Αθ - Only at the church.



Aλ – Yes. Yes.

Aθ - So, you stopped seeing them as your family grew

Aλ – *No that's not really. Because Vasso was over here the other day, half day, no we get in touch quite a lot whether we see it personally we go out for a cup of coffee quite often. We use the phone a lot.*

Aθ - So, would you say they are your best friends?

Aλ – Yes.

Aθ - And did you make any friends who are not those women? Any New Zealanders?

Aλ -Yes.

Aθ - Who did you make friends with?

Aλ – *The people I work for, my bosses very much, my neighbours.*

Aθ - Does that mean you would go to have a coffee with them or see them out of work? Or is it just at work that were friendly with them?

Aλ – *I go out to see them sometimes.*

Aθ - At their homes?

Aλ – *Yeah. Sometimes.*

Aθ - Yeah.

Aλ – *Sometimes.*

Aθ - And would they come here?

Aλ – *Not very many, one or two I go*

Aθ - Who would you say is your closest friend who is not Greek? Apart from your husband? That goes without saying.

Aλ – *I think, one girl I work, if I say my bosses they are my best friend all of it, anyone, everyone. Everyone. And if you read over here we will see the letters I got from my work.*

Aθ - So, you are happy in your work?

Aλ – Yes.

Aθ - Yes. And your bosses treat you well.

Aλ – *And this is another one lately. Yes, my bosses was my friends all way.*

So this is file number 5 interview with Alexia Pendaraki continuing

Aθ - So Alexia what we were talking about before? We were talking about having babies. How did you find bringing up your babies? Did you know about bringing up children?

Αλ - *Yes. I knew because like I say I had a lot of cousins and a family, they had babies and we all help each other. There was no problem.*

Aθ - So, all the other girls, the 7 girls who came here, did they all get married and have children and they are happily here?

Αλ - *Except that one Despoina Tratsianaki who died.*

Aθ - Ah, right. How old was she when she died?

Αλ - *I don't know. I would think between 25 and 30.*

Aθ - So, when your sister Argyroula came here, did she stay in Auckland?

Αλ - *Yes.*

Aθ - And how was that? Where you happy to have a family member here?

Αλ - *Oh very very happy.*

Aθ - And so is she still here?

Αλ - *Yes. She live not very far away from here.*

Aθ - Ah, ok. So, do you see a lot of her?

Αλ - *Yes. Every time she makes something nice she brings to me, I make something I bring to her. I never make anything Greek without she has a part of it or some of it. And the same for her.*

Aθ - So, when are the times when you are feel most home sick?

Αλ - *He played Cretan 'mousiki' mainly Greek music but mainly Cretan music or straight from Crete. And that is the time I start cry. And I feel home sick.*

Aθ - So, did you see your mother again, all your brothers and sisters?

Αλ - *No. My mother never see her again.*

Aθ - So, when did she die?

Αλ - *In 1967 or 1968.*

Aθ - And how did you find out about her death?

Αλ - *By telegram, letter, yeah. Telegram those days.*

Aθ - Yeah. And can you talk about that?

Αλ - *It was sad. It was shock. And extra shock because I really really wanted to go but I had 3 kids at the time. My dad was still alive and the money was not possible for me to go and*

*not possible for me to leave the 3 little babies in my husband and I had to accept the fact that that was that. We sent her nice, we thought they were nice, bouquet of flowers, 'stefani'. We sent a 'stefani'.*

Aθ - What did she die of? Do you know?

Aλ - *Stroke.*

Aθ - She had a stroke?

Aλ - *Yes. She had a stroke. She, I think, broken heart.*

Aθ - What was the broken heart? Because...did you feel responsible from not being there?

Aλ - *Not really because I said our house was like this and our garden below, the house was a lot higher, and she had to come out a lot of time and she said to us 'Come on lunch is ready', she called out hard so we went inside time after time, have lunch but after we I came over here she wrote a letter to me one day she said to me 'Remember when I just call you to come for lunch, now I have nobody so I call a dog'.*

Aθ - So, did all your brothers and sisters leave the village?

Aλ - *Only one brother left. 3 of us came to New Zealand and two girls and one brother married and move away. And when she wrote this to me, that was very hard.*

Aθ - Did this make you question the decision to leave Crete?

Aλ - *Not really. No. No. No. But it made me after much later in years later made me think that I should have left everything and go to see her that day.*

Aθ - So it was hard not being at her funeral?

Aλ - *Yes. No, no, I never look back.*

Aθ - So, when did you go back to the village for the first time?

Aλ - *1975*

Aθ - And what was that like?

Aλ - *Lonely, very lonely. Like I say 32 of us all with the name Pendaraki, cousins, first, second generation cousins, and when I went there, there was my brother, his wife, two of their children, and old ladies and an old couple. Nobody. Nobody, all gone.*

Aθ - So, when you left it was full of the people that you knew and then you come back and...

Aλ - *There was nobody*

Aθ - It has changed a lot for you?

Aλ – *Yes. All the little little paths I used to go from one house to the other, my cousins, my, you know, my uncles, was nothing but house height, brambles and shravsen [?6:38], yeah. Was very moving, very sad.*

Aθ - And was it particularly hard going home and expecting to see your mother?

Aλ – *No, but I knew my mother was dead.*

Aθ - I know. But is one thing knowing the other thing walking into the house

Aλ – *No. No. No.*

Aθ - No.

Aλ – *I am a person I always accept what happen and then trying to get on with their life.*

Aθ - That's very much Greek stoicism, isn't it?

Aλ – *Yes. I don't think you have a better choice. If you really know what is tomorrow bring for you personally that's the best choice that you can do. For whatever. Because you can't change anything.*

Aθ - So, on that first trip back, what did you do? You went to your village, did you visit other people who leaved?

Aλ – *Yeah and we stayed at my father's house for a few nights, actually for a couple of weeks I think. And we went to my mother's village and I met all my uncles and aunties and cousins, what was left there also.*

Aθ - So, you had your husband with you?

Aλ – *Yeah and the kids.*

Aθ - And the children?

Aλ – *And the kids.*

Aθ - Did you notice anything has changed in you? When you saw the way the people left there? Did you feel you were a different person?

Aλ – *No. No. No. I am one of them straight way.*

Aθ - Right. So, you felt like you were home.

Aλ – *Yeah.*

Aθ - And did you feel you might want to stay?

Aλ – *No.*

Aθ - Why was that?

Aλ – *I feel now I said to myself I wish I could go and stay. Now I do say that very often. I wish I could be there.*

A0 - Why?

Aλ – *Because I think when you get older you, you go back to your childhood and you can see things different and you can, I don't know. Yeah. Now I do.*

A0 - So, when you came back from Greece that first time, did you feel like this is more like home now?

Aλ – *Over here?*

A0 - Yeah.

Aλ – *I always do. I always do, yeah. I come home.*

A0 - As a Greek woman, what do you think is different for you here than would have been in Crete?

Aλ – *Got more freedom, I am a person, I don't know. It is different, totally different. I have got a house that I would never ever ones told me you come from or your family or school or you would never ones give me the thought of feeling like that. And the first few years, he used to sit down and have a piece of paper trying to explain to me what he want me to do and if I don't understand he make a draw for me to do it. To learn it. No, I am happy.*

A0 - And you were talking before about Dari system? Can you tell me what you think about it?

Aλ – *I feel angry about that. I feel angry, very angry. Because it is not right. Why the women need to bring handful of money? And the men doesn't t matter he's got something or he got nothing no questions ask. It doesn't matter for me, it doesn't matter for my kids. I see no future to go back to Greece or to Crete or for me. But it is unfair and it's just...*

A0 - So, do you think your daughters have a better life being brought up here than they would've in Greece?

Aλ – *Yes. Yeah.*

A0 - And what did you teach them when growing up about expectations?

Aλ – *Exactly what my mother told me. Don't steal, don't lie, don't be dirty.*

A0 - And how about the Community that's in Auckland? Have you felt that you have been part of it?

Aλ – *Yes, very much. I might not do a lot but if anything going on I am there. If I prepare something, if I wash the dishes, if I clean the hall, if anything to be done and I am there. Yeah, no problem.*

A0 - So, you are very active in the Greek Community?

Aλ – *I wouldn't say very active but I 'd like to think that I do what I can.*

A0 - So, where you involved in the 40 years celebration?

Aλ – *I was the one who started it. For a couple of years before, I was telling everybody that in 40 years that when the 40 years coming up we are going to celebrate it. And about 6 months before the celebration, I called Nikos Petousis and I come right there and I told him and then I say to him I need 4 ladies to be with me and I say to him I need you because you have better knowledge of paperwork and other things we need somebody like you to help us and he agree and 4 of us to form the Committee, was myself, Tasula, Panayiota and Eleni Vitali.*

Aθ - And this was to celebrate the Battle of Crete?

Aλ – *No, no. 40 years of being in New Zealand.*

Aθ - A, the 40 years that – who? The girls from '62?

Aλ – *Yeah.*

Aθ - A, right. And what was the celebration?

Aλ – *For the 40 years the girls who came in 1962. That was the 40 years. That was 1962. I say to them it doesn't matter what year you come. We celebrate together but we do it on a year of 40s – 40 years – for the girls who came in 1962.*

Aθ - So, that was in 2002 you had the celebration? And what did the celebration consist of?

Aλ – *It was a lot of people, a lot of food, a lot of dancing, a lot of singing, a lot of crying and yeah, it was lovely.*

Aθ - And where it was held?

Aλ – *At ..over here in Auckland. It was girls come from everywhere. From Australia, from I don't know where, Wellington, all over New Zealand, all the girls was there. Partners and girls, the kids, it was big, it was really big.*

Aθ - So, how many people do you think turned up for that?

Aλ – *I would not have, I could not tell you.*

Aθ - And did you catch up with all the women?

Aλ – *Yes.*

Aθ - And what was their stories? Where they main happy that they came?

Aλ – *I think they were all happy unless they didn't say because everybody know I am happy and I don't want to talk about that.*

Aθ - So, in the terms of your life, you and your husband Frank, have travelled I understand 15 times overseas not only Greece

Aλ – *All over Europe*

Aθ - What does this feel like a young girl from a little village in Crete, did you ever imagine you would do that?

Aλ – *No. No, I never did. I never did and I thought I was lucky. I still think I am very lucky. Yeah very lucky.*

Aθ - So, you lived very different life to your mother?

Aλ – *Yes. And I only wish she was alive to come and have a look.*

Aθ - And what about Argyroula?

Aλ – *What about Argyroula?*

Aθ - Has she had a similar life to you?

Aλ – *I would think so. Unless she told otherwise but I think I better leave her to tell you herself. I think that is the best.*

Aθ - Yeah. So, just the two of you here.

Aλ – *Yes.*

Ευα - And the sister that came here and went to Australia?

Aθ - Ah, yes she had a sister that came. Which was that sister? She has died, hasn't she. Evdokia?

Aλ – *Somewhere here. Katina.*

Aθ - Katina. Katina came here, when she would have come here?

Aλ – *'65. Maybe.*

Aθ - And how long did she stay here? We find a photo after...

Aλ – *A few years. Few years.*

Aθ - Few years and did she do the same work?

Aλ – *Yes, she was cooking.*

Aθ - ...Not to worry, that is fine, we will find it afterwards.

Aθ - And she came here for two years and did she get married here?

Aλ – *No. No, she married in Australia.*

Aθ - So, what made her leave here?

Aλ – *You know when you are born your life is clung on you and maybe it was for her to be there. I don't know.*

Aθ - What did she say to you? Her two sisters are here and she said I think I go to Australia.

Aλ – *Yeah. She felt she will make a better life in Australia because there were a lot of Greeks and a lot of things. She met her husband over here, she went over there, and then we thought that that was over. And next thing we know he went. And they got married.*

Aθ - Oh, so, she met somebody here and then she left first.

Aλ – *Yeah.*

Aθ - And then he went over

Ευα - He was Greek?

Aλ – *No. English. English man.*

Aθ - So, what did she say to you when she said I am leaving?

Aλ – *To make it, to go to Australia because there are a lot of Greeks over there and she feels better over there.*

Aθ - So, did she miss not having the big Greek Community?

Aλ – *Yes.*

Aθ - You don't look you were very happy about that.

Aλ – *No. I told her that she make a mistake but I wasn't sad about it because she thinks she make a better life she must do what she thinks better. I tell her what I thought but sooner or later I couldn't ...*

Aθ - And what do you think?

Aλ – *I think she make a mistake. I still think she make a mistake.*

Aθ - Why is that?

Aλ – *Because he left not a long after*

Aθ - But she was going to Australia not to be with him. She was going to Australia for better life. Do you think that was just an excuse?

Aλ – *That was that or what. I don't know. I don't really know.*

Aθ - She could have stayed here and married him.

Aλ – *She could stay here and married and she had a very good offer from a very nice man, which was my sister's husband Eygenia because she was [?19:25] and he was his partner. And he went madly in love with her.*

Aθ - What you think she was looking for?

Aθ - So, you were sad to see your sister go to Australia and she stayed there when her marriage broke up?



Aλ - *I wasn't sad because to me if she says she goes for better life this is what she has to do. You just have to go along you have to accept that. But looking back I thought not I know that she made a mistake. But too late now to cry over spilt milk.*

Aθ - It is interesting that all your sisters and you married non Greeks.

Aλ - *Yeah. Yeah.*

Aθ - Do you have any thoughts about that?

Aλ - *No. Never crossed my mind. But it is true.*

Aθ - So, where she went to Sydney or Melbourne?

Aλ - *Melbourne.*

Aθ - Melbourne and the marriage broke up. Did she marry him or did she leave with him?

Aλ - *No, they married properly in a Greek church and they have two kids, beautiful young ladies. Young girls. And he ran away with an Indian woman.*

Aθ - Ah, and how long after did he leave her?

Aλ - *About maybe 6 years. Because the kids was only little babies.*

Aθ - So, she was a single mother over there with the kids?

Aλ - *Yes.*

Aθ - And she didn't think to come back here that her sisters might be able to help?

Aλ - *No.*

Ευα - She didn't remarry?

Aλ - *No. But she had an old house but quite a big piece of land. Nice big piece of land.*

Aθ - So, did she find it easier to make a living in Australia?

Aλ - *Yeah.*

Ευα - Have you visited her?

Aλ - *Yeah. Few times.*

Aθ - And what she was working over there - what she was doing?

Aλ - *Just looking after the kids. The social welfare I would think.*

Aθ - Ah, right. Right.

Aλ - *I would think.*

Aθ - So, she stayed home and looked after the children.

Aθ - Yeah. And then she died how long ago? How long ago did she die?

Αλ - *About 5 years ago.*

Aθ - And what did she die of?

Αλ - *Cancer.*

Aθ - She was younger than you?

Αλ - *Yes.*

Aθ - Yeah. So, in terms of - is there anything else you would like to tell us about your life in New Zealand?

Αλ - *No. Not really. Except I am happy. Yeah. Not really.*

Aθ - What stops you from going to Greece now to live?

Αλ - *My kids, my little granddaughter. She is a darling little thing. They say του παιδιού μου το παιδί δυο φορές είναι παιδί.*

Ευαγ - Και η μαμά μου το λέει αυτό.

Αλ - *Έχεις εγγονάκια?*

Aθ - Όχι ακόμη.

Αλ - *Περίμενε.*

Aθ - Πρέπει να περιμένω. Θέλω το ξέρω.

Αλ - *Αλλά άμα θα ρθουνε*

Aθ - Don't worry. Το ξέρω.

Αλ - *Θα δεις τι πάει να πει εγγονάκι και τι πάει να πει παιδί.*

Aθ - Ναι, ναι.

Αλ - *Και τι πάει να πει παιδί.*

Aθ - Ναι το ξέρω. Η κόρη μου είναι στην Μελβούρνη γιατί δεν θέλω να έρθει εδώ πριν έχει μωρό.

Αλ - *Την θέλεις να έρθει εδώ;*

Aθ - Ναι.

Αλ - *Για καλά;*

Aθ - Άμα θα έχει μωρά.

*Αλ – Ναι αλλά την θέλεις να έρθει να ζει εδώ;*

Αθ – Ναι εγώ την θέλω όμως αυτή δεν θέλει.

*Αλ – Έχει καλή δουλειά εκεί;*

Αθ – Ναι. How do you say she is an artist?

*Εvang – Αλ – Ζωγράφος*

Αλ – Ζωγράφος. Ναι.

Αθ – Ναι. Έχει κάνει την ζωή της εκεί τώρα 11 χρόνια.

Ευα - Just because we are doing this project comparing the Greek girls who came here and some of them went to Australia like your sister and you went to visit sometimes your sister. You have been to Australia?

*Αλ – Many times*

Ευα - Could you – perhaps some thoughts about the life here in New Zeland and how different it is in Australia for the Greeks there? Would you have a different life if you were in Australia as a Greek?

*Αλ – I would not like to go to live in Australia.*

Ευα - Why is that?

*Αλ – Because I learnt to be alone. I learnt to be a little bit outside and I am quite happy with that. If you know the meaning.*

Ευα - So, it is good to have the Greek Community but in the same time it is good to

*Αλ – To be by yourself*

Ευα - To be by yourself. Is it also because you are married to a non Greek?

Αλ – No.

Ευα - No.

*Αλ -No. No.*

Ευα - Did you ever feel because you are married to a non Greek that you were not as well combined with the Greek Community?

*Αλ – Never here, no.*

*Αλ – Sometimes, this is at the beginning, not now, they was exclude. Husbands and wives and children of mixed marriage. And I told them many times, many times over and over and I still say now ‘Look I am the one who has a foreigner husband and I have been very happy. If we can keep the Greek Community nice and strong just the Greeks. But we all know sooner or later it is not possible’. It is not possible. And as soon we realise that is my*

*husband, he pay my annual fee or whatever and it is a good enough for him but it is not good enough for him to take a part on any other thing and it is rome and we don't like it. Now, a lot of us died, a lot of us left, a lot of the young are married to mixed marriages and I said oh well that should have been made a long time ago.*

Ευα - You think that they would have attracted a lot more people in the Greek Community?

Αλ - *Absolutely. And I love as long I live and beyond to have a Greek church and a Greek Community but it is not possible in Auckland. It is just not.*

Ευα - Do you think the Community is dying out?

Αλ - *Absolutely is dying out.*

Ευα - Just on another note as you compared the life in Australia and here and how different would be, you know some of these girls who went back to Crete, have you ever had a chance to talk to them and your visits back to Crete?

Αλ - Yes.

Ευα - What did they say? About their choice to go back?

Αλ - *Well, they all say they make the right choice. And I think they have because they are Greeks to Greek husbands, they managed like all of us to have a quite a number lump of money and they took it home the right time and they bought what they wanted and made life the way they wanted. The dollar at the time was very strong against the drachma. Now it is very difficult. For them it was good choice, good timing and I think, yes, they made the right.*

Ευα - Have you had any chances, did anyone say I wish I had stayed in New Zealand?

Αλ - *No. But they often say 'You remember' I used to work with a couple of them - 'You remember' or 'I never forget those days', 'We had a good time', 'I never forget'. Yes, they talk about it. But they made their choice I make mine and that's it. Yeah. I am happy.*

Αθ - Did they take back their husbands?

Αλ - *Some of them they did.*

Αθ - Greek?

Αλ - *Yeah.*

Ευα - I did hear that there was an association of Cretan people, those Cretan who came back from Nea Zealand in Chania. Do you know anything about that?

Αλ - *No. No. No, I don't know anything about that. No. But it makes me very sad actually to hear people say oh the Cretans they always talking for themselves. We are not talking for ourselves, it is just that because the world wants to make a history. And everywhere I go and I say I come from Crete 'Oh, but my grandfather bla bla bla', 'oh my uncle...! Just history is made those days. It is not us.*

Ευα - So, you think that history was made it easier for you as a woman from Crete to be in New Zealand because they had a positive

Αλ - *Absolutely.*

Ευα - Did you ever experience any discrimination?

Αλ - *No.*

Ευα - Because you were foreigner?

Αλ - *No. No. Only once. Once. Because one of the ladies says to me 'I don't understand how you foreigners come over here with nothing and you buy a house and you make money and...And I said 'Doreen, you know what, we don't put our money in a beer bottle'.*

Ευα - So, it was the work ethic?

Αλ - *Yes. Only once. Only once. Never, never never again.*

Ευα - You mentioned earlier on that there was a celebration of the Battle of Crete – very nice celebration.

Αλ - *Beautiful celebration*

Ευα - How do you feel being in New Zealand after all these years?

Αλ - *I cry all night I cry because I wrote half a dozen mantinades and I read them.*

Ευα - Θυμόσαστε να μας πείτε μια;

Αλ - *Να, τα χω γραμμένα*

Ευαγ - Έτσι τώρα απέξω θυμάστε καμία;

Αλ - *To 1900 και το 41 οι Γερμανοί την βάψανε την Κρήτη με το αίμα . Και συνεχίζω και συνεχίζω και ύστερα λέω 'Η Κρήτη εβάρτηκε με αίμα το 1941 με 1945 αλλά η Κρήτη επόνεσε το 1960, 62 και βιόν όταν φύγαμε τα παιδιά της. Εφύγαμε λεά, εφύγαμε, εφύγαμε, που πήγαμε; Στη μακρινή τη Ζηλανδία και πέρα στην Αμερική,, στον Καναδά, στην Αυστραλία, πόσα παιδιά δεν κλαίνε εκεί. Ω Κρήτη και πως άντεξες, πως το κρατάει η καρδιά σου και άφησες και σου φύγανε στα ξένα τα παιδιά σου. Εφύγαμε όλα μας μικρά και βγάλαμε ρυτίδες και τώρα θες ή δεν το θες έχουμε δυο πατρίδες.*

Αθ - Το πόλεμο είχε μεγάλη big affect on your life.

Αλ - *Yeah.*

Αθ - Do you think part of your sadness is because of the war you lost your country you had to leave?

Αλ - *Yeah. And the emotional feelings are because every time I talk about something it is something simultaneously throws back to these days. That has a lot to do. Yeah.*

Αθ - Yes. I suppose the big thing about the post war migration was that so many families were split up. And families are so important to Greeks.

Αλ - *Yeah. Yeah.*

Αθ - Ο. Ευχαριστώ πολύ

Αλ - *Και εγώ ευχαριστώ και όπως είπαμε όταν θα το βάλετε μπροστά κάντε και μια dilute*

Αθ - Και τώρα αυτό θα είναι για πάντα τα χρόνια για τα εγγόνια σου και τα δικά τους και για πάντα.

Αθ - Ευχαριστώ πολύ.

Transcription by Lucy Anastasiadou-Hobbs