

**Transcript of an Oral History Interview in the collection of the
BREVARD COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
308 Forrest Ave., Cocoa, FL 32922**

Interviewer: The first question I have: tell us your name, when and where you were born.

Anna Jasa: Okay, my name is Anna M. Jasa, and I was born in Loma, NE, 1906. July.

Interviewer: When you lived in Nebraska, there was a colony of people there?

Anna Jasa: Well no, it wasn't a colony, it was a ... farmers each had 80 acres or 100 acres or whatever.

Interviewer: Your family came from where?

Anna Jasa: You mean my brothers and ...

Interviewer: Your mother and your father.

[00:01:00]

Anna Jasa: Mother came from [Holubov 00:01:02] Czech. She was a Czech, you know. Daddy came from Brno, Moravia.

Interviewer: When did they come to this country?

Anna Jasa: Dad was four years old, and my mother was seventeen.

Interviewer: Why did they move from Nebraska to Florida?

Anna Jasa: Oh we had to go from one place to another, we didn't have our own place. We had a rented place. And every year, you had to move from place to place. So when Mother read the letters in the paper about Florida, well they decided they're gonna come to Florida and buy a farm here. So that's what they did.

[00:02:00]

Interviewer: What a place they came to.

Anna Jasa: Nothing but palmettos and snakes and mosquitoes.

Interviewer: Their first impressions must not have been too good.

Anna Jasa: No, because most everything was underwater, they had to make canals you know ... first they made ditches, and then afterwards they made a canal. The canal was way probably fifteen years later.

Interviewer: When they came, you were a young girl?

Anna Jasa: Six and a half.

Interviewer: So you remember coming here?

Anna Jasa: Oh yes, that much I do.

Interviewer: What year was that?

Anna Jasa: 1912.

Interviewer: What did you think of the place when you came?

Anna Jasa: Well, it didn't make much difference to me, because I didn't know nothing about it, the living. But later on, when Dad couldn't get a job, that was rough.
[00:03:00]

Interviewer: The first house that you lived in when you came here, what was it like?

Anna Jasa: You want ...

Interviewer: Yes, you can show us, that's good. Okay, and don't worry about getting the photo now, we'll get that later. Just shoot her. Tell us about this house.

Anna Jasa: This house? Well dad built it the first thing. The first week when we came here, we stayed with our neighbor for a week, and then he built this house. We had nothing in there but beds, you know. Dad made beds with boards around and put the mattresses in there with it, put hay in the bottom, and that way we ... Till finally, later on, there was a hotel over here in Florida, on the Malabar Rd., and after the colony broked up, they were selling the mattresses, so we bought one for a dollar.
[00:04:00]

Interviewer: I understand you had an interesting kitchen table.

Anna Jasa: Yea, for awhile, until Dad made a table out of boards, you know.
[00:05:00]

Interviewer: What did you do for a table before you had the one he made?

Anna Jasa: Dad took the doors from the house and laid it down on what you call his "sawhorses", and that way, we ate on it. Then in the evening, we had to put the door in so the mosquitoes wouldn't eat us up.

Interviewer: You didn't have screens in those days?

Anna Jasa: Oh later on, yes, we had to, because mosquitoes are bad.

Interviewer: What would you do to keep them away?

Anna Jasa: We had a little net over the bed, and we got some kind of a powder that we burned in a bucket, and that you know made a smoke and keep them out.

[00:06:00]

Interviewer: What was the occupation, what were you all doing here in Florida?

Anna Jasa: At first, nothing, because there was no jobs. Dad stayed around and cleaned the palmettos out and all that. But later on he got a job here and there. If we planted anything, it wouldn't grow. The first thing you know, places wasn't drained off, the water everywhere. So dad went to work for awhile, but he had to walk six miles to get to the job.

Interviewer: That's a long way.

[00:07:00]

Anna Jasa: Oh all the way at the ... they called it Citrus Grove, it's where Melbourne Farms are now, what they call Melbourne Farms. Then it was Citrus Grove. They had planted oranges and stuff.

Interviewer: That's hard work.

Anna Jasa: Oh yea.

Interviewer: A lot of snakes.

Anna Jasa: Yes. Not only that, but Dad had to work ten hours a day, and just got Saturday and Sunday off.

Interviewer: And your mother was keeping house?

Anna Jasa: Yes. She couldn't do much anyway, got four kids in the house, and she wasn't well.
[00:08:00] So that was her job. She had chickens, and later guineas and turkeys.

Interviewer: But you had a hard time finding things that would grow here?

Anna Jasa: Yea, till we find out that we have to lime the ground, garden first. At that time, we didn't have so many worms, like we have now.

Interviewer: So after you knew you could lime it, then it was better, you could grow some things?

Anna Jasa: Yea. But anyway, we didn't do farming just for ourselves, and we had cows and then we had to make hay and stuff like that.

Interviewer: It was a hard life.

[00:09:00]

Anna Jasa: Oh boy, I wouldn't want to go through it again.

Interviewer: It's changed a lot since then, but you're still in the same area here.

Anna Jasa: I lived about two miles south.

Interviewer: Well there were a lot of people who were Czech and German that came to this area at that time.

Anna Jasa: Yes, where my parents lived, there were [Bachmans 00:09:35], they were Czechs, but they had a German name. Bachmans, and [Albrichts 00:09:41], well, that was a German name, but they were good Czechs, and [Opospichel 00:09:47], [Karolick 00:09:48] ... that was in the neighborhood. All of them left, and we stayed there by ourselves.

[00:10:00]

Interviewer: When you say neighborhood, how big of a place are we talking about?

Anna Jasa: About probably 80, 100 acres. [Dzurack 00:10:11], [Libel 00:10:15], [Hazlinger 00:10:18], they were all Czechs. Dzurak and Hazlingers were Slovaks, but Laibl was Czech. They lived about two miles further on.

Interviewer: When you were home, you didn't speak English.

Anna Jasa: No, we started school not knowing one word. My brother he went to school in Nebraska before we came here, he could talk English, so in school he had to go from one kid to the other to translate what the teacher said.

[00:11:00]

Interviewer: Where did you go to school?

Anna Jasa: First we went to Valkaria, that's probably five miles east, and Mr. Dzurak had a horse and made a wagon with a tent over it, whatever you call it. He took us down, and the first year we went to school there half a year. Then his horse died, so the rest of the year, we didn't go, till next season. He got another horse, then we went a whole year.

Interviewer: That's some school bus.

Anna Jasa: Yea.

Interviewer: What was the classroom like, what does the place-

[00:12:00]

Anna Jasa: The classroom was just one building. Just one building.

Interviewer: Were you a good student?

Anna Jasa: Well at first I wasn't, but then when I graduated, I had to take my examination myself, and I got 96 taking the test.

Interviewer: That's pretty good.

Anna Jasa: Yea, probably what it was, is when I started, I had one of those Hazlinger girls. She was very smart, so she always told me questions and answers, and I depended on her. Then we separated, she went to another school and I went to another school, so I had to learn myself.

[00:13:00]

Interviewer: When you went to school, you were meeting some of the children that were from Valkaria, English-speaking children?

Anna Jasa: Yea, they were all speaking English.

Interviewer: Did you get along okay with the other kids?

Anna Jasa: Yea, fine.

Interviewer: Didn't take you too long to learn English?

Anna Jasa: Quite a bit, even in 6th grade I had a hard time. I had to have a dictionary.

Interviewer: How would you get around? You mentioned one fellow had a horse.

Anna Jasa: Yea, and then afterwards they built a school here in the woods, called it Forest School. There, we walked. It was about two miles we had to walk, we walked to school.

Interviewer: That was a small school?

[00:14:00]

Anna Jasa: Yea, I don't know probably 9, 10 or something like that.

Interviewer: How would your parents get around, did they have a horse?

Anna Jasa: At first Daddy had oxen, and then later on, my aunt came to Florida with her fiance, and they got married here. They didn't want to go to church with a oxen team, so he bought the mules. That way, we had a pair of mules.

Interviewer: I imagine everyone went to church on Sunday.

Anna Jasa: Yea, oh yea, we had to go to church here in the woods, there was a little church build here, about two miles north. They had to walk, some would walk. Most of us walked to church. We had mass only once a month, later on. At first they had it every Sunday, but when we came here, already they had it only once a month.

Interviewer: There wasn't a priest here?

Anna Jasa: No, he came from Fort Pierce.

Interviewer: That's a long way to travel.

Anna Jasa: Oh yea. Then people start to move away, so they built a church in 1914. They built a church in Palm Bay.

Interviewer: That's the church that's still there?

Anna Jasa: The older church that's over there.

Interviewer: What's the name of that?

Anna Jasa: St. Joseph's.

Interviewer: What was the name of your first church?

[00:16:00]
Anna Jasa: St. John. Afterward, I heard that it wasn't even ... I don't know. I know nothing much about that, because I was too little.

Interviewer: Yea, you were a small child.

Anna Jasa: Even when we had to go to Palm Bay, well we couldn't go every Sunday. We went with the mules, took our neighbors with us. Then we finally got the T.

Interviewer: Oh, the Model T.

[00:17:00]
Anna Jasa: Yes, so then we could go to Palm Bay every Sunday.

Interviewer: Those were good cars. So you didn't have a farm at that time, but later?

Anna Jasa: Oh later we start to plant different kind of ... first we planted peppers and eggplant, mostly. Sent it down by the train to Cleveland and New York. Then the freight was getting higher and everything else, so we started to raise different vegetables. My husband took it on the truck twice a week to the stores in Melbourne.

Interviewer: Just locally, then?

Anna Jasa: Yea.

[00:18:00]
Interviewer: That makes sense. Where did you do most of your shopping?

Anna Jasa: At first, at the [Hagenth 00:18:15] store in Malabar, and then later on, we start to plant different things, so then we took it to Melbourne, to [Kaffer's 00:18:30] store, and [Rhodes 00:18:36]. Rhodes had a store there. We took our vegetables there

and we got our stuff, like clothes you know, and feed. Feed we got in Malabar, but furniture or something like that, we got it in Melbourne.

[00:19:00]

Interviewer: What if you needed a doctor?

Anna Jasa: We didn't need a doctor till I was about probably thirteen years old. I got snake bit, and so my brother took ... we had one horse, and he took us to Malabar. Mary and John [Poluk 00:19:30] lives there, so everybody that need a doctor, they came there. Then she called by phone to Melbourne, and Dr. Bean came and took care of us. That was one year, next year my brother got bitten by something. At first he thought it was nothing, but when his hands start to swell up and he had pain, then they had to take him to Malabar, call the doctor. Otherwise, we didn't use a doctor, until I had my children.

[00:20:00]

Interviewer: You used home remedies?

Anna Jasa: Yes.

Interviewer: Things that your mom knew about?

Anna Jasa: Yea.

Interviewer: You're very much on your own out there.

Anna Jasa: Oh, yea.

Interviewer: That's doctors, what about dentists, did you ever have to find ...

Anna Jasa: I think I was about thirteen, fourteen, I always had trouble with my teeth. Dr. [Strange 00:20:49] was the only doctor in Melbourne at that time. He charged a dollar for pulling a tooth, you know he was real cheap. Then later on, Dr. [Mullins 00:21:02] came in.

[00:21:00]

Interviewer: Didn't use any anesthetic, I guess?

Anna Jasa: No.

Interviewer: Did your brothers go hunting?

Anna Jasa: Oh yea, later on, till they were about fourteen, fifteen years old, they used to go hunt mostly coons, for skins. Sold the skins, had a little extra money. And here, people used to come down to hunt quails, and almost every Saturday during hunting season, well they came down here on the farm and hunted quails and doves I guess.

[00:22:00]

Interviewer: Did you ever go fishing?

Anna Jasa: Oh yea, we had only ditches. We had a net, and put the net across the ditch you know and took boards and hit in the water, and they would get in the net. Whenever we needed fish, we would go. Now we've got a big lake here, and you can't even get a fish there. In those ditches, we got all the fish we wanted.

Interviewer: That's good. Did they deliver the mail out here, or did you have to go-

[00:23:00]

Anna Jasa: Now they do, but then we had to get it in Malabar. Now every day you know they go through and deliver mail.

Interviewer: You went maybe once a week to Malabar to get your mail?

Anna Jasa: We used to get it from Palm Bay, but now it comes from Malabar.

Interviewer: When your family first came here, did they buy property?

Anna Jasa: Yea, we then paid \$50 an acre, so Dad bought 40 acres. All these farms were for that price at that time, and later on, they were selling it for \$2 and \$3 an acre.

Interviewer: During the '30s?

[00:24:00]

Anna Jasa: Yea. Nobody wanted to come in, so tried to get rid of it, because we bought three X's 20 acres, and we paid over \$300 for one 20 acre. And now, the same property, my son sold it for \$15,000 an acre. See where that big house over there? That was my son's property, and on account of the lake, well he got \$15,000 an acre.

Interviewer: Such a change.

Anna Jasa: Yea.

[00:25:00]

Interviewer: Lets see there were tourists that came down, but they didn't come back here.

Anna Jasa: Oh well, when we had vegetables and we had a grove, they would come and buy stuff here. When my husband was alive, we always had ... almost every day, somebody would come down you know, just to visit. A lot of Czech and Slovak families that come from north, they would always ... My husband was real good with people, so we always had somebody to come down.

Interviewer: I guess in the wintertime you'd see a lot of relatives.

Anna Jasa: Yea.

Interviewer: How did you celebrate the holidays?

Anna Jasa: You mean 4th of July?

Interviewer: Christmas and Easter and ...

[00:26:00]

Anna Jasa: Oh well Easter was mostly at home you know, the family would get together and celebrate. Like the 4th of July, we used to go to Melbourne, they used to have a parade and baseball. That was for a few years, and then I guess they don't have it anymore. I can't go anywhere, so I don't know.

Interviewer: Your Christmases, what were those like?

Anna Jasa: Oh, Christmas was the same thing. Family would come home, and of course we went to church. Easter, they had an Easter egg hunt for the kids. Those years, we had quite a bit at the church, but of course then we had church here, they had church in Melbourne, so we just went to Palm Bay.

[00:27:00]

Interviewer: There weren't too many Catholics in this area except your ...

Anna Jasa: No, everybody was Catholic. The first settlers that came to Palm Bay were nothing but Catholics.

Interviewer: But all around you ...

Anna Jasa: Yea, almost everybody was Catholic. [Bachmans 00:27:34] were supposed to have been Catholic, but they didn't want to go to church. [Albricht 00:27:44], they were sisters, half sisters, and they used to go to church. Bachmans didn't. Otherwise, all people were Catholics. When it started it was a Catholic colony. You know so.

[00:28:00]

Interviewer: There weren't very many Catholics in Melbourne.

Anna Jasa: Melbourne? Well, I don't know, they must be quite plenty.

Interviewer: Now there are.

Anna Jasa: Oh, yea.

Interviewer: I had heard at that time that this was really the only big group of Catholics around, that there weren't so many south of here or north. That you were your own group.

Anna Jasa: Yea.

Interviewer: You are your own group.

Anna Jasa: Yes, there were Lutherans ... I don't know.

Interviewer: Okay, well I think we're at about the end of this tape, let's stop. We'll put another.
[00:29:00] ... Camera Sony DXCM7, recorder Sony BVW35, copyright Brevard County Historical Commission, 1995. Let's talk a little bit more about transportation and how you got around.

Anna Jasa: Transportation?

Interviewer: I understand you and your brother had a ride one time with your mule.

Anna Jasa: Yes, he was a ... It wasn't my oldest brother, it was me and my other brother, we had a horse you know and went to Malabar.

Interviewer: Why were you going to Malabar?

Anna Jasa: Well Malabar was the closest city that had something. There was Valkaria and there was Grant, but they didn't have much. Valkaria's mostly been a fishing place, they were fishing there for fish and putting them in barrels and send them off.
[00:30:00]

Interviewer: Did any of your brothers ever work the fishing?

Anna Jasa: No, first thing what he did, he was working in Malabar for [Huggins 00:30:30]. From Malabar, all the vegetables went on the train, so he took care of the express to load them up on the train and send them off. Then later on, he went and worked in a garage, Oh what's his name, [Geiger's 00:30:52] Garage. He was supposed to go to school, but he decided he wasn't going to go to school, but work. Later on he was sorry he didn't, because he was in 11th grade, so he could have finished high school. I didn't have a change to go only to 8th grade, but he did, he could have went. Then only went to Miami I guess for awhile, and then from Miami he went to Panama Canal. In the paper is says Panama City, but it was supposed to be Panama Canal. There he got married to a Cuban girl, and so sometime he was in Cuba.
[00:31:00]
[00:32:00]

Interviewer: All over.

Anna Jasa: Then came back to Miami and worked in the post office til he died.

Interviewer: Do you remember any hurricanes or bad weather?

Anna Jasa: Oh hurricane, the worst one was in 1928. We still lived in that little house there, so my husband brought the 2x4 and put it against the wall, and sat on it to keep it there. Then it didn't hurt the house, but it took the roof off, all the shingles off. Next day, he had to go to town and get some shingles and put on the house. That was one, that was the worst one we went through. They always would go by you know, it would go as far as Fort pierce and move on [00:33:09]. We didn't have much damage afterwards, except that our garden got underwater.
[00:33:00]

Interviewer: Would you know a hurricane was coming?

Anna Jasa: Oh yea, we knew it was coming. I don't know, we didn't have a radio then. We knew it was coming, but what could we do? Just sit in the room and wait. My oldest son was nine months old, and he was burning with fever. I didn't know what to do with him that night.

[00:34:00]

Interviewer: That must have been a frightening night.

Anna Jasa: Oh yea, it was.

Interviewer: You couldn't go out?

Anna Jasa: No, [Keith 00:34:12] was supposed to take care of the chickens, and we had pigs then, and cows. It didn't last very long, just during the night.

Interviewer: And sometimes it would flood, I guess?

Anna Jasa: Oh yea, we had floods, because we didn't have ditches. That first canal, that canal up there, that really helps everybody down on Valkaria road. That helped us a whole lot, we don't get those floods anymore.

Interviewer: The water used to come over everything.

[00:35:00]

Anna Jasa: Yea, one day we got 13 inches of rain in one day. Boy the water was coming over the porch.

Interviewer: The mosquitoes got pretty bad, but then they got a little better?

Anna Jasa: Oh yea, they start to spray. Now, last year we didn't even know there were mosquitoes. They would come out and spray every two weeks, I think. They go on the road with a truck you know

Interviewer: Big difference.

Anna Jasa: Yes.

Interviewer: Would you say that was the worst thing about living here, back then?

Anna Jasa: Yes, it was. That and snakes. We found a rattlesnake often around the place.

Interviewer: You kill them when you found them?

[00:36:00]

Anna Jasa: Yes, just myself, I was saved from a rattlesnake bite about three times. My son saved me. I was sitting on the other side of the house you know, and I don't know what I was ... taking care of the flowers and he came around and just took me off and pulled me out. That time he would have bit me. Later on, a dog, I wonder how

many times the dog saved me.

Interviewer: What would the dog do?

Anna Jasa: He would bark at it.

Interviewer: You'd get out of the way.

Anna Jasa: Yes, I shot a lot of rattlesnakes.

Interviewer: So ou kept a gun?

Anna Jasa: Oh yea, the rifle.

Interviewer: Are you a pretty good shot?

[00:37:00]

Anna Jasa: Yes. Now I'm afraid to do anything with it, but it was my best friend.

Interviewer: You wouldn't go hunting though, did you?

Anna Jasa: Me? No, no.

Interviewer: You just kept it for varmints?

Anna Jasa: I just didn't care for that. Fishing yes, but not hunting. I left that to my brothers, then when my sons grew up.

Interviewer: What would you do for fun on Saturdays and Sundays?

Anna Jasa: Clean the house. My mother couldn't work, she was sick all the time, so I had to get on my knees and scrub the floors and wash the clothes.

Interviewer: Sounds like you were the oldest girl.

Anna Jasa: I was the only girl. I had three brothers.

[00:38:00]

Interviewer: They didn't help cleaning?

Anna Jasa: Oh no, they wouldn't do anything in the house, no.

Interviewer: They made a mess.

Anna Jasa: Later on, on Sundays, we usually had company. We went to church in the morning, and in the afternoon somebody would come. Then those few Czechs that were here, the Slovaks, once a month we used to get together you know and have a

party.

Interviewer: Eat good food?

Anna Jasa: Oh yea, there were all good cooks, made a lot of stuff.

[00:39:00]

Interviewer: What kind of goodies would you have? What kinds of treats would you make? What desserts?

Anna Jasa: Oh desserts? Well my mother usually made kolaches, and then someone would make all kind of different things, you know. When we went to Forest School, the teacher would let us have Czech programs, so we would get together, and they would dance and eat. I think we had good time, that time. Better than they have now, too wild now.

Interviewer: People would make music, I guess.

[00:40:00]

Anna Jasa: Oh yea, dad could play an accordion, and then when I was in my teens, eighteen, nineteen, we used to have dances. One time at our place, one time somewhere else Saturdays.

Interviewer: That would be fun.

Anna Jasa: There would be all kind of things to eat, dance and sing.

Interviewer: During World War I, I guess your father went off to war, is that right?

Anna Jasa: Yea. First he went to ... Citrus Grove was the first really good job he had. It paid only \$15 for two weeks, and he had to work 10 hours a day, six days a week. Came home Saturday night, and Sunday night he left again. At first he walked, and then he got a bicycle. Later on, he went to work in Malabar, Mr. [Crafton 00:41:19] had a planting peppers to ship off, he was working up there. Even us kids later on went to pick peppers and sort them you know. I don't know how much we got, probably 50¢ a day. Later on he went to Nebraska where he came from, and he worked up there for awhile. He worked in Kansas City for awhile.

[00:42:00]

Interviewer: He fought in Europe in World War I?

Anna Jasa: Yea.

Interviewer: Then he came back here from that point?

Anna Jasa: Yea.

Interviewer: What was it like around here during the time of World War I?

Anna Jasa: It was pretty bad. We had to get everything on stamps.

Interviewer: That would be World War II, right?

Anna Jasa: Yea.

Interviewer: Rationing. They used to watch for planes I guess around here?

Anna Jasa: Yea, there was a training airport in Valkaria, so they always went over the house, day after day. Then they moved it from Valkaria, then they moved it to Melbourne I guess.
[00:43:00]

Interviewer: Did you ever see any of the soldiers that were out at the airport?

Anna Jasa: One was the top guy on this, so he used to come here with one guy from Melbourne. They used to come on Sunday or Saturday afternoon you know and talk with my husband. One time he used to go to Havana, to get his whiskey, so he brought my husband a bottle.
[00:44:00]

Interviewer: Well that reminds me, there was a time when whiskey was prohibited.

Anna Jasa: Yea, we couldn't get that here. They were making moonshine everywhere. When we used to go to town to get the groceries, we could see them making whiskey in some hammocks.

Interviewer: Would they make it just for their own use?

Anna Jasa: No, they sold it. They were selling it. Like my brothers, some of them you know, they would make it for themselves, just at home. These guys, they made big money on it.

Interviewer: I had heard that the smugglers were bringing in from Havana and all over.
[00:45:00]

Anna Jasa: Oh yea. I think if they would do the same thing with the drugs now, let them have it here, without getting all these guys getting it for a high price. It would be a lot better. It was the same thing with whiskey. It would be high priced and everything else and when they let them have it, it's okay.

Interviewer: You wouldn't have as many criminals, people who are ...

Anna Jasa: Few of them make good money, and the other one would ... I don't know.

Interviewer: It's hard to know what to do. We'll talk a little bit more about the railroad. Did you ever take a ride on the railroad?

[00:46:00]

Anna Jasa: I did one time, I had to go to dentist. So my brother put me on in Malabar, on a train, and I went to Melbourne and Dad watched me get off the train you know, and took me to the doctor. Later on, when I went on the Amtrak, and in Europe we did a lot of train traveling.

Interviewer: Did you ever go up in one of the little planes that were here in Valkaria?

Anna Jasa: No, no.

Interviewer: The roads weren't so good back then?

Anna Jasa: No, you had to go ... like a cow trail you know. We didn't have this road here, we went across from this gate, up across this, and then through the woods. We didn't get this road till the kids went to school. My husband used to go after the road commissioner to make us a road, and when he seen him coming into the office, he would always get out. One time my husband was smarter, so he got in there. Finally they make a road. After the children went to 4-H club and all that, well then they made a lot of good for us.

Interviewer: It's still some dirt roads out here.

[00:48:00]

Anna Jasa: Yes, that was a dirt road. Nothing but dirt road. Even U.S. 1 was nothing but a dirt road. My dad with other two neighbors, he used to work on it. They used to carry the dirt on a wheelbarrow you know and make the roads.

Interviewer: Did you ever get involved with politics around here?

Anna Jasa: With what?

Interviewer: Did you get involved with politics?

Anna Jasa: Oh no. I leave that to the men.

Interviewer: I can imagine it was a pretty strong group of people that came from this area that could vote.

Anna Jasa: Yes. [inaudible 00:48:49] about the sheriffs. Our first sheriff was Mr. Brown. He used to come this way, I know him because our neighbor used to come down on Saturdays, I guess they used to go drinking, and lived with a neighbor. I knew him like that. After him, a Mr. [Zaruba 00:49:19] was the sheriff for a long time.

Interviewer: That sounds like a Czech name.

Anna Jasa: Uh, huh..

Interviewer: There couldn't have been much criminal activity in this area.

Anna Jasa: Not much, no. As far as I know, no.

Interviewer: If you needed the sheriff, what would you do?

Anna Jasa: For ourselves, we just needed him once. We bought some property for taxes you know, and when we paid the third year taxes, the people decided to ... it was a building in Malabar, they decided to move the building. We had to get a sheriff so we get the money back, before they took the offer. I think that was the only time we needed for his help. There was a couple times, like our neighbor quite a ways off, there on Babcock Rd. He was an old bachelor, and the pigs always used to come down and eat his sweet potatoes, and that was his main food. The sheriff came and took him, that he shot one of those pigs. Then my husband and another person went to Titusville to bail him out. That's the only time we had to ...

[00:50:00]

[00:51:00]

Interviewer: That's very different than today.

Anna Jasa: Yes. We didn't have anything to do with it, our neighbor ... we had a man teacher here for awhile, and I don't know what he done, but he put him in jail. So that time we lost our teacher.

Interviewer: Oh dear. Let's cut for a sec. Do you remember in the end of the 1920s when the banks failed and the banks closed and the Depression began?

[00:52:00]

Anna Jasa: Frost, Oh yea we lost everything. Everything, trees and vegetables just ready to pick, everything frozen.

Interviewer: Big freeze?

Anna Jasa: Yea.

Interviewer: This was a bad time for the country because we were going into a Depression, or is this different?

Anna Jasa: Well I really don't know about. I can't remember that much.

Interviewer: Were there any black families that lived in this area?

Anna Jasa: No, just in Malabar.

Interviewer: Just in Malabar. I know that they were kept very separate from the whites.

[00:53:00]

Anna Jasa: Yes, there used to be a sawmill right there, and most of them were colored people. They lived in Malabar and worked by the sawmill.

Interviewer: So there wasn't much that you saw them, not at school, or ...

Anna Jasa: No, nothing at school, when I went to school. I think when my kids went, I don't know.

Interviewer: After the 1950s, the space program started up here in Cape Canaveral, did you ever go watch any of the rockets?

Anna Jasa: No, sometimes I'd go and watch it from the window, we can see them go, but I think I was around there only about once all the years.

[00:54:00]

Interviewer: That's pretty far away from what you're doing.

Anna Jasa: Yea, well, when you get older, you don't care much for it, as much.

Interviewer: Sure. When you were a young girl, there were ships that went up and down the river.

Anna Jasa: Yes, but that's 4 miles east. Yea, ships and mostly little boats. There was everything fishing down over this way.

Interviewer: Did you ever go out in the boats?

Anna Jasa: One time I almost got drowned. Us kids ... three girls you know from school, at noon we decided we were going to go on the boat, the other girls, their families had a boat because they're fishing. So we went out, and we got in that twirl, and it was luck that one of the girls' brother seen us on the river, so he came with another boat and saved us. I think that was the only time I went on a boat. Now when I was in Europe we went on a one trip, but not here.

[00:55:00]

Interviewer: Was that a whirlpool?

Anna Jasa: Yes, the boat was turning around and we couldn't get out of it.

Interviewer: Where was that, just off here?

Anna Jasa: No, up there on Indian River in Valkaria.

Interviewer: That must have been a very frightening ...

[00:56:00]

Anna Jasa: It was, at that time, it was. Then we had to stay overtime in school because we left.

Interviewer: Well they're a little stricter in school in those days.

Anna Jasa: Yes. The kids, if they done anything, the teacher would take a switch and give them a good whipping cause what else you could do? The kids were big, they were sixteen, eighteen years old at that time, so what else could she do with them? I wish they would do it nowadays, but they can't.

Interviewer: No, it's different now. You mentioned that when you were little, there was a Czech program that you had in school.

Anna Jasa: In school, yea. Like Christmas or end of the school.

Interviewer: Did you have costumes?

[00:57:00]

Anna Jasa: On Christmas, they did.

Interviewer: You were singing songs?

Anna Jasa: Oh yea, singing songs and have a little stories or something. Like Christmas, we had a lot of kids, some were like angels, some in ... it was really nice, then.

Interviewer: Did you do it in English or in Czech?

Anna Jasa: Mostly in Czech, because a lot of them could speak English, but it was a special you know, the teacher made it because people were Czechs, so he let them have it. Sometimes she would get after the kids, they said they couldn't talk Czech in the school. At dinner time they would go out way behind the schoolhouse and talk, so she said when they got in, "You better talk English so you learn." But otherwise she was a very nice teacher.

[00:58:00]

Interviewer: Okay, and we better cut. ... Brevard County Historical Commission, 1995. Mrs. Jasa, why don't you tell us what we're looking at here?

Anna Jasa: That?

Interviewer: What is this a picture of?

Anna Jasa: My family. That's me and my three brothers.

Interviewer: Tell us about this house.

Anna Jasa: What I can tell you about it?

Interviewer: Did you father build the house.

[00:59:00]

Anna Jasa: Yea, he built it the first week we came to Florida.

Interviewer: I see the windows have shutters that come-

Anna Jasa: Yes, shutters, no window just when it rained, we put the shutters down.

Interviewer: Is this the house where you used the door for a table?

Anna Jasa: Yea.

Interviewer: Pretty small house for all those kids.

Anna Jasa: Huh well, the one room and then a little kitchen to it.

Interviewer: Okay, and what about this picture?

Anna Jasa: Which one?

Interviewer: What is this one? Is this the second house you lived in?

Anna Jasa: Yes, the second house.

Interviewer: It looks like a much better house than this house.

Anna Jasa: Yes, when I got out of school, I was about eighteen years old ... one or two years
[01:00:00] after I got out of school, I decided to plant a garden, and I planted two and a half acres of peppers. I was so lucky that I got \$1,750, so we built that house from it. It was let's see one, two, three rooms downstairs, and two upstairs.

Interviewer: So really, you helped make this house possible.

Anna Jasa: Yea. I'm sure still surprised, because I had to use a mule to work in the field, and
[01:01:00] that mule, if he wanted to, he'd let me catch him. If he didn't want to, he would chase me around, so I had to have some way to get him in and then work with him.

Interviewer: Cut. Okay, tell us a little bit about this picture now, what are we looking at here? What are we looking at in this picture?

Anna Jasa: That's the first car we had, and that's my youngest brother on it.

Interviewer: He's all dressed up.

Anna Jasa: O yea, when we took pictures, Mom always wanted us dressed up.

Interviewer: But he's holding a gun.

Anna Jasa: Yes.

Interviewer: He didn't go hunting looking like that, did he?

Anna Jasa: No.

Interviewer: Those your dogs?

Anna Jasa: Probably is, always had dogs.

Interviewer: Cut. Tell us what we're looking at in this photo? What do we see in this photo?

[01:02:00]
Anna Jasa: My Grandma and Grandpa. See they owned the farm first, we bought it from them. They sold it to us. (probably the Simoneks?)

Interviewer: Is that the same house?

Anna Jasa: No, it was 1927 when we moved in, 1933 when we built part of this house. Later on, this part, then when my oldest son got married, we built that one, that was their kitchen.

Interviewer: Start again please? Who is this?

Anna Jasa: My youngest brother.

Interviewer: Where's he standing?

Anna Jasa: Somewhere in the garden, I guess.

Interviewer: Pretty rough looking territory.

Anna Jasa: Yea.

[01:03:00]
Interviewer: Is that after you had cleared?

Anna Jasa: Up there on our old farm where I lived, where we didn't have everything cleaned up like we do here you know.

Interviewer: Okay now that we're rolling, tell us what we're looking at here?

Anna Jasa: First we bought that broken down car you know, bottom was okay, but it didn't have any top on it. So we had to go and put the top on it. That was our first car.

Interviewer: It looks like you're sitting in there, is this?

Anna Jasa: It might be the kids.

Interviewer: Was that a pretty good car?

[01:04:00]

Anna Jasa: Oh it was a good running car, only somebody must have broken down with it so. Bought it for \$50, and later on, when we could buy a better car, then they made a tractor out of it.

Interviewer: Good. Tell us about this picture.

Anna Jasa: Well I used to write in a Czech paper in Chicago, and once a year, I think it was in May, all the writers that wrote in that paper could send their pictures in, so that's the one I sent in.

Interviewer: So you were writing to the paper?

Anna Jasa: Yes.

Interviewer: Which one of these girls was you?

Anna Jasa: On this side, dark clothes.

Interviewer: In dark ...

[01:05:00]

Anna Jasa: The other one was [Stephie 01:04:57] Dzurak. She's dead now. I am the only girl left out of all the people that used to live around here.

Interviewer: It's a beautiful picture. Cut. You wrote stories for the newspaper? Tell me about that.

Anna Jasa: Oh It's even in that paper that Mrs. Cleveland ... Well, it was all over the United States, people used to write in. So I wrote, and then my husband read my letters, then he decided to write me that he would like to come to Florida. So then afterward he came about November, and then we got married January.

Interviewer: That's how you found your husband?

[01:06:00]

Anna Jasa: That's the way I found my husband, and he was a wonderful person.

Interviewer: What would you write about?

Anna Jasa: In the paper? Well about the climate and about what we're doing here, all stuff like that.

Interviewer: Must have sounded good to him.

Anna Jasa: Yea.

Interviewer: Cut. Are you one of the people in this picture, do you think?

Anna Jasa: Oh yea.

Interviewer: What's going on here?

Anna Jasa: That was first Confirmation in Palm Bay.

Interviewer: And this St. Joseph's church?

Anna Jasa: Mm-hmm (affirmative), that's Melbourne children and Palm Bay and all around here.

Interviewer: You look like angels.

[01:07:00]

Anna Jasa: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Interviewer: Cut. Okay tell us about this one, who are we seeing here?

Anna Jasa: Let's see, when was it? 1912, In the early '20s, I guess.

Interviewer: And who do we have here, starting on this side? Is this your father?

Anna Jasa: Yes, that's my father, mother, and two of my brothers and me.

Interviewer: Your brothers are in some sort of a uniform.

Anna Jasa: Yes, that was during the war, I guess, and they wanted to be soldiers, so they dressed up.

Interviewer: What was your father's name?

Anna Jasa: Frank Bohatý.

[01:08:00]

Interviewer: And your mother?

Anna Jasa: Aloise Bohatý.

Interviewer: You say she wasn't well when you were young?

Anna Jasa: No, she lost her fifth child, and at that time there was no doctors around here. Somehow ever since then she was sick all the time. Now if she would have told us later what the matter with her, we probably would have help her, but she wouldn't say till 19 ... she died in '70, and four years before they moved here with us, and

[01:09:00] she got sick one year after she moved here she got sick. We took her to the hospital, she was there for three months. Then a doctor decided to operate on her, so after operation, she came back and she lived three more years.

Interviewer: I see a bicycle over here on this side, can you get that part of the picture? Who's bicycle was that? Would that have been your dad?

Anna Jasa: No, my brothers used to have bicycles.

Interviewer: Good way to get around.

[01:10:00]

Anna Jasa: Oh we had to go to school on bicycles, the last year we went to school. We went to school and one of the boys that went to school came down with a car to pick us up. Then at Christmas, they changed the teachers, so we didn't have any school from Christmas till March I guess. I had to study at home, and then when we got back to school, I had to take a test myself you know to get the grades, that was 8th grade.

Interviewer: Did you do okay?

Anna Jasa: Yea.

Interviewer: Cut. Tell me about this.

[01:11:00]

Anna Jasa: That's how it looked when we came in. They made us a tent [01:10:59] not here, but up there.

Interviewer: The [Petraczechs 01:11:10]?

Anna Jasa: [Yilek 01:11:26], Petraczech bought it from Yilek. This was first buyer, then Petraczech was my aunt's husband, he bought it for Grandpa

Interviewer: Is there somebody in there? There's' a person here on the edge. I can't tell who it is. It's probably the same as this fellow.

Anna Jasa: Yea.

Interviewer: This is Mr. Yilek, yeah?

Anna Jasa: Yilek.

Interviewer: Cut. What's this here?

[01:12:00]

Anna Jasa: Yilek built the first house out of logs.

Interviewer: I wonder how long he lived there.

Anna Jasa: Oh not long, probably a year, two years, then went off.

Interviewer: I imagine there were a few bugs.

Anna Jasa: Yea ... That's a store we used to go to, Pa Malabar, first store in Malabar.

Interviewer: On the side of the building it has something painted.

Anna Jasa: Yes, maybe. But then a tornado came and smashed it up.

Interviewer: Oh dear. Looks like the flag is at half mast that day.

Anna Jasa: Yes, there's a flag on the front.

[01:13:00]

Interviewer: I don't know if you can get in tight enough, Bob, to get the sign on the side of the building? ... Who is this here?

Anna Jasa: My husband, before we got married he had his picture taken.

Interviewer: Did he send you his picture so you knew what he looked like before he came?

Anna Jasa: Oh yea.

Interviewer: What was his name?

Anna Jasa: His real name was Ignatius, but when he came to the United States, he cut it down Hynek, H-y-n-e-k.

Interviewer: So he came from Czechoslovakia?

Anna Jasa: Lukov, Moravia.

[01:14:00]

Interviewer: You say he came?

Anna Jasa: He came to Missouri, Fenton, MO. He worked in an orphanage for I don't know, five or six years.

Interviewer: Cut. Well, I can see this is a wedding picture. Is this you?

Anna Jasa: Yes, it was a poor man's wedding.

Interviewer: Why do you say that?

Anna Jasa: I didn't have anything. Well my husband has some money you know, but I didn't have any money.

Interviewer: This is your husband on the left?

[01:15:00]

Anna Jasa: Yes, and my brother, and that's [Lalentic 01:15:03] from Palm Bay, a friend.

Interviewer: You had a lovely dress. Did you make your dress?

Anna Jasa: I bought the cloth myself, but a friend made the dresses.

Interviewer: Okay. ... What do we see here?

Anna Jasa: That's my parents, Mother and Dad, and a friend.

Interviewer: The house is the one?

[01:16:00]

Anna Jasa: My mother's house. There's a car on the side.

Interviewer: Is that a barn in the back?

Anna Jasa: That was a garage. But if we had a dance, we used to use it for dancing.

Interviewer: Okay what do we got here?

Anna Jasa: That's the house here, where we live.

Interviewer: It looks to me that it wasn't all built at the same time.

Anna Jasa: No, it wasn't. I think we might've been just this and this, but not this.

Interviewer: Okay. You're the only girl, she's the only girl.

[01:17:00]

Sr. Agnes: I'm the only girl. She had three boys, so what do I do?

Interviewer: Tell me about this picture.

Anna Jasa: What do you want to know about it?

Interviewer: Well, tell me who we see, from the left to the right.

Anna Jasa: First is Frank, then my husband, then youngest son, and Sister, and me, and in the back, that's [Wen 01:17:35], our youngest son.

Interviewer: So how many children did you have?

Anna Jasa: Four, three boys and one girl.

Interviewer: What are they all doing now?

[01:18:00]

Anna Jasa: One lives here, that's Frank. One lives on the corner there, he's retired. The youngest one is in Vero, partly he retired, partly he's still going to work.

Interviewer: Your daughter? We know she's here, but the camera doesn't know.

Anna Jasa: That's Sister. Agnes.

Interviewer: When was this picture taken?

Anna Jasa: That must have been when you entered.

Sr. Agnes: It'd have to be around 1960.

Anna Jasa: That's, what? 45 years ago?

Sr. Agnes: 35.

Interviewer: 35. Tell me, there was a hermit?

Anna Jasa: He was a bachelor, he never got married, and he lived about two miles this way, here on Babcock, and he used to come down to help us out in the garden. My husband used to bring food to him and everything. Then one day, they went up there and he was dead in the bed.

[01:19:00]

Interviewer: He never went out into the town?

Anna Jasa: No, well, once a year he would come down to take him to church. He would never forget one day in one year, but otherwise he just stayed on his little farm.

Interviewer: Did he own his property there?

Anna Jasa: He owned it, but after he died, he didn't have any money or nothing, so we paid for his funeral. So then we got the 20 acres and later on, we traded off for 20 over there, and we gave it to my oldest son.

[01:20:00]

Interviewer: What was the hermit's name?

Anna Jasa: John Gasperek. (Kasperek?)

Interviewer: Sounds like he was Czech or Slovak.

Anna Jasa: Czech. Didn't know much English.

Interviewer: Maybe that was part of the reason he didn't like to go to town.

Anna Jasa: It's funny, another old man was in Palm Bay and they were friends you know. Both of them were bachelors, and both of them died at 75 years old, one week apart. Same thing, he was in Palm Bay, the Italian town, and they found him dead in bed.

Interviewer: The Italian town? So There were some Italians here?

Anna Jasa: Yea.

[01:21:00]

Interviewer: I don't think I'd heard about the Italian group. How many Italian families?

Anna Jasa: How many what?

Interviewer: Italian families.

Anna Jasa: Not any here, were they? Melbourne, yeah.

Sr. Agnes: [Svikser 01:21:16] was German.

Interviewer: Okay.

Anna Jasa: Here was just Germans, Czechs, Slovaks.

Interviewer: Okay, good. Cut.