

Toni Lusardi's interview with Nancy Nault
Interview date Wednesday, January 7, 1998

Me: What is your date of birth?

Nancy: 9-9-31

Me: What is your nationality?

Nancy: British

Me: All British

Nancy: Uh-ha

Me: Uh-ha

Okay,

Where were your parents born?

Nancy: England

Me: England, okay

Me: How old were you when you left your native country?

Nancy: 23

Me: What were some of the reasons like, that you and your family left, or just you left?

**Nancy: I left because I met and married an American service man
Make sense doesn't it**

Me: Yeah, What is his name

Nancy: Albert

Me: Albert. How did you travel to America?

Nancy: on a boat - ship

Me: do you remember the name of the ship

Nancy: (thinking really hard) no I don't

Me: No, you don't (laughing while she talks)

Nancy: I don't imagine Al does either, that was 40 some years ago, (she is looking back on the past, like how did she do this) all I know is I was sick all the time, 11 days

Me: 11 days to get from Britain to here

Nancy: To get, Germany, we stopped of in Germany

Me: oh so oh you made a loop then right

Nancy: Yeah we went to Germany and then Germany to New York

Me: That was your port arrival

Nancy: uh-ha

Me: your parents obviously spoke English then right

Nancy: No really

Me : How much schooling did you have in your native country

Nancy: Be equivalent to High School over here

Me: Describe your family home in your native country like, mainly like a typical family day

Nancy: a typical family, just like a typical family day over here

(laughing) you know, what are you talking about a school day a, a, what

Me: Well say a Saturday

Nancy: a Saturday

Me: or a Sunday

Nancy: Its hard to remember, did a lot of chores that the kids don't do today put it that way, lots of chores to make money and um that was 40 some years ago, I don't remember

Me: I don't know, what kinds of chores did you do

Nancy: Oh God! We used to pick peas, pick potatoes, pick mushrooms, pick tomatoes for the farmers we used to do that sort make money for school cloths

Me: Did your father have a job when you were first born

Nancy: Yeah, he was a bricklayer

Me: A bricklayer what was your mother

Nancy: My mom was a housewife the mothers didn't work in those days they were mostly home

Me: What defalcates did you have adjusting to America

Nancy: What defalcates I really didn't have a lot of defalcates at all other than not having your family that was the biggest defalcate, but other than that I mean. When you speak the same language and basically do the same thing. That wasn't really that different, but that was the only part missing and not having your family and all you have is your husband until you really get to know his family which they all have been wonderful. Which some people come over here and maybe they're not excepted or you know not treated well but I got on famous with all the family

Me: What was your wedding date

Nancy: (Laughing) August the 7th 1954

Me: And how old was your husband when you

Nancy: when we got married we were both 22

Me: Oh Did he ever live with you and your over in England

Nancy: No. He lived on the Airbase. Till we got married, then we lived on the Ocean. A little Bungalow on the ocean

Me: What was that like a little bungalow

Nancy: A little bungalow (Laughing, laughing, laughing) it was just a small little one bedroom bungalow five minute walk and your right on the ocean

Me: What was the view like, like a sunset, a pretty sunset

Nancy: At times then at times there were terrible I mean, depending what the weather was, if foggy and cold, then the waves are, I don't know they just look cruel don't they when we were only there from August till July figure that one out

Me: Eleven months. When you were a child even a teenager did you live in a neighborhood with people of the same ethnic background as you

Nancy: um-hmm. See over there at that time you didn't have all the different races that you have now. Over there now you have Veitmeanses, Korean; you have all kinds of little towns where they are. So many different nationalities which when I grew up you didn't see any thing like it cores you didn't travel very far either. People didn't have the cars and that they have today. This was years ago you know

Me: Yes I know I just. When you were say about 13, whats the farthest you traveled

Nancy: When I was 13, problaly the farthest I traveled was to Damond and that was probably been about 200 miles when I was 13. You have to take the train everywhere we didn't go anywhere, we didn't go to the city, we didn't go to London or anything like that as kids

Me: When did you go to London, like your first time

Nancy: My first time I went to London was when my sister ended up living in Damond so as the years went by, I used to go there on vacation So I go through London

Me: How many brothers and sisters do you have

Nancy: Four brothers and one sister

Me: What are their names

Nancy: Ted, Daphne, John, Brian, ^{Graham} Gram, and me

Me: Are you the baby of the family

Nancy: No. No I'm the fourth one. Right in the middle

Me: Lucky you.

Nancy: Mu-hmm

Me: What was your early opinion of America, what did you first think

Nancy: What did I first think, you really want to know,

Me: Yeah

Nancy: We came from New York to Milwaukee on the airplane. From Milwaukee up hear we came by bus and all I saw was trees, and trees, and more trees, and I thought I'm going to the end of the world that's

exactly what I thought, because I mean that is my, over in England you don't have land like that. The country is full of houses and just the farmlands and I mean other than that you don't see miles and miles of trees like you do hear. And I really did I thought I'm oh my God I'm going to Alaska

Me: Like over in England, were there hills, and pastures and cows

Nancy: Oh yeah. It is really pretty, really pretty country

Me: How did the reality of America fit with your ideal of what it would be

Nancy: Well, how would we answer that one

Me: I can't, you can, and I can't

Nancy: say that all again now

Me: How did the reality of America for with your ideal of what it would be

Nancy: I don't know, I never really thought much about it, I mean I figured they get up in the morning, go to work, and same things you did over there, basically I married into the same type of family. You know, it isn't like I came and they're rich, rich, rich. We were basically the same type of family. So I really didn't, I really didn't expect anything too, too much.

Me: What did America have to offer you and your family

Nancy: What did they have to offer (Thinking really hard) seeing changed so much

Me: In what ways

Nancy: In education ways collage. Kids go collage over there just like they go to collage more over here. I mean forty years ago, ordinarily one maybe one in the family went to collage. Over there collage never even entered your head. I know, well see everybody now in my age we have so much more than our parents had just like the kids of today is going to have so much more than your parents. I love it over here. I wouldn't want to go back over to England to live

Me: Why? That's your home country

Nancy: Yeah, but I've been over here twice as long as over in England

Me: That is true.

Nancy: I've been over here forty some years. I was only twenty-two when I left there. I don't know if my kids could have had the education or what they are today over here probably wouldn't have been over there but that you don't know

Me: Yeah. That's true.

Nancy: Like I said, things have changed so much over there you can't think back to how it was forty years ago. I mean, I was home five years ago and there really isn't any difference. They got every convenience. They got the beautiful kitchens, they got two car families, just like over here.

Me: What surprised you about the United States and its people?

Nancy: What surprised me?

Me: Yeah

Nancy: I don't know. I would imagine there gamers miles and Miles of just nothing. That there was so much land, so much country, that you know, other than that, I don't know if anything amazed me.

Me: The people, the different races, and different ethnic background

Nancy: Yeah. But I find if your friendly people are going to be friendly to you. I don't know I never had a problem. I always had nice neighbors like your grandma, your grandpa, and all their family. I mean all the Marcotte's they all been wonderful

Me: You're in Marcotte ville. Welcome to Marcotte ville

Nancy: Well that's what it is. Copper Lake

Me: You mentioned that you returned to England five years ago, for what?

Nancy: My mom died. She was really ill. I went home. I've been home more than that. I took MaryAnn home for Christmas one year.

Me: When was that?

Nancy: That would have been ten years ago.

Me: So in about '88

Nancy: Ten, wait a minute ten years, she's 30. She was 11 going on 12 that was 18 years ago when I took her home. Then I took my sister Laura and niece we went over there for three weeks then I went home again, it hasn't been five years yet four and a half she was really ill. I got to be home for a week with her before she died.

Me: How long were you over there after she died

Nancy: Oh, only a matter of five days

Me: Do you plan to return there, just to visit

Nancy: Oh yeah, I hope to go back. I mean I could go back anytime I wanted

Me: Yeah this is true

Nancy: But, its just that, I went all by myself last time, and I didn't like it. Traveling all by yourself. That's a long time in the airports when your not used to traveling. It's kinda scary. But when ya have to do it, you do it. So I don't know when I'll go back again. The neighbors are

going over there this June, Lumma's. They're going over there this summer.

Me: Why can you go over there anytime You want

Nancy: Why can I, what's stopping me

Me: That is true

Nancy: Like I said, it's the point of going alone you know, I don't like that, or else I probably would have been back for a visit by now

Me: Describe how you became an American citizen

Nancy: I didn't. I haven't, I haven't, I don't want to give up my British citizen ship. I suppose I could have gotten a duo that is something I have neglected to do. But I figure by now its to late.

Me: So, you never became an American citizen

Nancy: No. I'm a British citizen, I'm an alien

Me: So, the truth comes out now

Nancy: Oh yeah, I don't, I tell everybody that. I'm still a British citizen

Me: How do they react to that

Nancy: Who

Me: Different people you tell

Nancy: You know they just take it for granted, you been over here all these years. You must be an American citizen, but I'm not

Me: Do you have any family left in England

Nancy: Oh yeah. I still have three brothers and a sister and aunts and uncles and cousins, lots of them

Me: Lots of um

What are some ethnic foods of England

Nancy: Some ethnic foods from England, well, always with a roast you always have Yorkshire Pudding which is the same as popovers over hear.

Me: The same as what

Nancy: Popovers. I suppose you never had them. No

Me: Nope

Nancy: Oh, well that's a very ethnic dish with like I said a Sunday roast, usually on a Sunday. I don't know if they still do. That's going back forty some years. I've had roast of some kind on Sunday you always had your Yorkshire Pudding. Haven't you ever seen them cup um, you know cupcakes pan with the cupcakes they rise and their crispy and you put gravy on them, oh they're good. All they are is mainly air. All they are is egg, a little flour and mild. Then you bake um in the oven.

They're delicious yeah. Another English thing is their food, we eat pretty plain, but food over there, you eat very, very plain. You don't eat

like we eat oh salads and meats and all that together you know when I first come over hear and see that on a plate, you know when you go to a smorgasbord or something. But other than that, what else is really English.

Me: Certainly not French toast.

Nancy: No, they don't know what French toast is

Me: they don't

Nancy: They never had French toast.

God, it's so hard to remember. I mean I never knew what spagitti was, or anything Italian like that until I come over hear. Pasties I've never made till I come over hear, yet everybody always says, "I bet you make good pasties" because they figure it came from England

Me: I thought it did the Cornish pasty. The men had um in the mines, but they were meat less, it was just potato and onions, in the crust called a Cornish pasty, well swatted, Teijin- pie, that was a real English dish. I couldn't eat that anymore, cause I couldn't eat the kidneys, do you eat kiddies?

Me: Do I eat kidney beans

Nancy: No, do you eat kidneys from an animal

Me: Nope, never

Nancy: Bacon Kinden pie used to like that. I really don't make any English dishes

Me: What year did you marry your husband

Nancy: What year, '54, I told you that

Me: Oh, I forgot, it's been a long day and you moved to America in what year

Nancy: '55, you didn't ask me that one, June of '55

Me: Where, I seen the wrong questions, hold on a minute, Where's your home birthplace

Nancy: My home birthplace, Coultch Chester Ethics

Me: Were you born at home or in a hospital

Nancy: I was born at home, you didn't go to the hospital years ago, you just had a mid-wife

Me: How many children do you have

Nancy: Four

Me: What are there names

Nancy: Michael, Scott, Timothy, and MaryAnn

Me: How many grandchildren do you have

Nancy: Ten, you want me to name them, you don't think I can don't you, A.J., Nicole, Aleasha, Tori, Ashley, Ryan, Justin, Michael, Joseph, Kelesy

Me: What ones the baby, Joseph

Nancy: The youngest one's Michael, then Joseph. I named them outta wack

Me: Oh, Who do you act like more, your mom or your dad, who do you think you act link more

Nancy: My mom

Me: Why

Nancy: Because

Me: You do the same things she does

Nancy: No. I don't, well does a girl normally act like a dad, I think a girl takes after her mom, don't you take after your mom

Me: I'm both! I have looks like my mom, and I'm going to be tall like my dad. I have a sense of humor like both of them