

Julie Szenina's Interview
with
John Violetta

Me : The date is February 16. This is Julie Szenina and I'm interviewing John Violetta on his musical career.

Me : O.K. We're at Mr. Violetta's house ~~and~~ right now and Mr. Violetta and I are present right now.

Me : When and where were you born?

Mr. V. : I was born in Negaunee in 543 Iron Street the same house that's in the picture. You know the picture next to the shop. There's a house next door I was born right there in the house ~~the~~ not in the hospital.

Me : O.K.

Me : What were your parents names?

Mr. V. : My father's name was Joseph Violetta
My mother's name was Anna

Me: What the names of your brothers and sisters? (2)

Mr. V: There is seven of us in the family. The oldest was Silvio, then Sec, and ~~Adolph~~ Adolph they were the three boys. Then there were three girls Catherine, Virginia, and Josephine. and then I was born I was the last one, what are you smiling about? Were you the last one?

Me: Yup!

Mr. U.: How many in your family?

Me: 2

Mr. V: 2. Well you're last anyway out of 3. You're going to have to delete some of this, you know. (laughing)

Me: When and where were you married?

Mr. U.: O.K. We were married here in St. Paul directory, December the 28th, 1939. A long time ago.

Me: What is your spouse's name?

Mr. U.: My wife's name is June Marie Morris. That is her maiden name.

Me: What did your parents do for a living?

Mr. V: My father worked in the mines. And he directed the Negaunee city Band for 35 years. And they owned a bowling alley. They had it for up to 1965 I believe it was then there was a fire, there was an explosion and a fire and then there was no more bowling alley. ③

Me: Where did you go to school?

Mr. V: I went to school here in Negaunee and I went to Northern.

Me: O.K. What special memories do you have of growing up in this area?

Mr. V: Probably from the Depression. One of the things I remember quite well, they used to have Carnivals.

Me: Uh, huh! Right in town.

Mr. V: In our back~~groun~~ yard. Over. Ahhh! What else do I remember. the circus. I used to watch them unload circuses. I can remember during the Depression it cost a dime to go to the show, and we didn't have dimes to go to the show so that was when everybody had gardens. Everybody had a garden!

Mr. V. : And the gardens were on C.C. I gave
us land to go.

Me : Uh, huh!

Mr. V. X: So if think about everybody having
a garden I had a wagon and
my mother would make bundles
of onions, and carrots and things
for me to sell. Which was rather
difficult. But fortunately if I
could sell 10 bunches then I would
have a dime to go to the show
And one day, I was up by the
hotel and there was a cook up there
her name was Ida Sundell and my
brother worked there so I stopped to
see him, and the cook said what
are you doing and I said I was
selling vegetables and she said what
do you have and I said I've
got I don't remember what I had
about two or three bunches left and
she said I just ^{happened to} need two or
what ever. It ~~had~~ was carrots

Mr. V: she bought all I had left, so I could go to the show. (5)

Me: (laugh)

Mr. V: So then after that you know I got wise when I got down to the last couple of bunches and I couldn't sell them (laughing) I would stop over and see her, so I got to the show every week ~~then~~ that way, see.

Me: O, k. Let's see. What special features stand out in your mind about the cities of Ishpeming and Negaunee, from when you were younger?

Mr. V: The most special thing was the street car. The street car went right by the front of our house. It would come from Ishpeming, and we would watch it come up the hill, then it would have to make a sharp curve down Iron Street. and sometimes in the winter they couldn't make the hill, and the conductor would

(6)

Mr. U. : have to lean out ~~the~~ from the bus
outside of the cab and throw sand
under the road this you didn't even
know about this throw sand under
you lived by that one _____

Do you remember
the gas house up there? No it was
gone already, huh? And nobody talked
about it, No. And the gas house
made the electricity so that they
could run the street car, the one
all of the way up to the end of
Pine Street, went up to the Southburg
school and then it came back and
went as far as the _____ Hotel.
in Nequaunee, where the _____ was,
and when the street car would be
coming by and the band would
play and the band would be marching
down the street and the street car
came then band would have to
split into two rows.

Me : (laugh)

Mr. V: And they would go down the road again.

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Me : (laugh) How have the cities changed?

Mr. V: Oh. When I was very young we had everything we had shoemakers, we had tailors, we had very many food stores,

Me : AH, Huh!

Mr. V: grocery stores. We had everything that you could want in a small town. It was self contained. Everything we needed was here. We had garages, blacksmiths, we had harness makers, we had watch makers, cigar ~~stands~~ stores, we had everything! And now we haven't got anything!

Me : You didn't have to go to like Marquette or anything like that.

Mr. V: Nobody went to Marquette. My mother lived here she came here in 1907. And the first time she went to Marquette was in the 30's about 1932-33. Something like that.

Me : WOW!

Mr. V: I had an uncle who had a bicycle

(8)

Mr. V: ~~His name was Fred.~~ He and his friend. When he first came here he was in his early 20's. And they would ride on their bicycles all the way to Marquette to go to the Brewery. There was a brewery in Marquette. You know where the Dard N is in Marquette. You see that nice stone building there. There was a huge, huge brewery there. They would ride all the way down there and have a couple of beers then ride all the way back. On those old roads and everything. God that was a long ways to go for a beer. Of course they were young and it was something to do.

Me : O.k. Let's see did you and your friends do for entertainment when you were teenagers?

Mr. V: When I was a teenager I was a different kind of a teenager I was playing dance jobs from when I was in the eighth grade, so I didn't do all of the things that the other kids did, they went to dances I played for them. They would go to football games and I would be playing for the football games. I never did much. Not until I was out of high school did I do much of any

Mr. V : thing except played in the band. three nights a week. We had two rehearsals a week in City Band. then we'd play a concert. That was three nights a week. And I played on the average of two to three nights a week dance jobs. In fact I kept a diary when I was a junior and the month of December I played 32 dance jobs.

Me : wow!

Mr. V: We used to play afternoons in school on Friday afternoons and nights. I never had much of a teenage. I was always playing all of the time. I guess you could call that teenage I don't know. I never had a date until I was out of high school.

Me : (laugh)

Mr. V. ! I was sheltered. But there were so many women around you were always playing. By the time you got through with the job they went home. You had to get home yourself to get to sleep. You know?

Me : Ummm! How old were you when you

Me: found your first job and where did you work? (10)

Mr. U: The first job that I can ~~remember~~ ^{recollect} other than with those vegetables, I worked for a fellow on Main Street, my uncle got me the job and I would go down there five days a week. I'd get there about 9 come home at noon. Go back at 1 and stay til 4. I worked five days a week for a ^{whole} month gardening, raking, ~~K~~ cleaning up, doing chores around there. And at the end of the month he gave me a check for three dollars. I never went back! I was mad. Especially mad because I was playing dance jobs, I was making a dollar an hour playing dance jobs.

Me: (laugh) What types of duties did you perform ~~on~~ your first job other than that?

Mr. U: ? Other than that. That was about all I did gardening, and mowing the lawn, and what else do you do around a place like that? Sawed some wood.

Mr. U.: Raked, swept, cleaned the garage out. ①

Me : O.K. What stands out most in your mind about your first job?

Mr. U.: He jipped me!

Me : (laugh)

Mr. U.: He cheated me!

Me : During your lifetime where were you employed the longest?

Mr. U.: Ah Running the music store. We opened the store April the 1st 1946. This might interest you. Ah we were married at the time. And I was working in the mines and I was working two shifts, I was a lamp man. We wore those electric lamps on our heads. So I'd go to work for 4 hours in the morning and I'd come home for 4 hours. And I'd go back for 4 hours to get the other shifts. See I coming off and I going on. Then I'd come home for 4 hours. Then I'd go play a dance job for 4 hours. Then I'd come home and sleep for 4 hours. And I did that for eighteen months straight, 12 hours a day. The only night I had a

Mr. V. was Monday nights, of course my wife was home with the children. And she wanted to go visiting which I couldn't blame her any. So we went visiting to a friend of ours Joe Barabee. You probably remember him and we went down to the house and it got to be about 10 o'clock, and I said to my wife let's go home because I'm tired. ^{she said} We don't go out only once in a while and while we go home. She said why don't you quit something? And I said yea that's a good idea. That was Monday night. Tuesday morning she called me to go to work. I said no I quit. And she said well o.k. Tuesday night she said you got to go play a dance job. I said no I quit. Well, that went for a couple of days. Then she thought what are you going to do? After about a week she said are you going back to work. I said no. I didn't even go back for my clothes. These dirty old clothes I left them there. She said what are you going to do? I said the first thing that came to my mind I said I'm going to open a music store. That's all I said. So I opened a store.

Me: How

Mr. V.: And, I've been at it ever since

Me: How

Mr. V.: that's 55 years isn't it. 46, 91, 45 years
This is 93, 47 years. My math isn't always
the best. Look it here. Figure it out.

Me: 47

Mr. V.: 47 years. Wow. That's almost as old
as your mother.

Me: (laugh)

Mr. V.: (laugh) No comments!

Me: How or why did you choose this career?

Mr. V.: why did I choose that trade. I just
explained that to you. I just came
up in my head that's all.

Me: Did you really like music when you
were a child?

Mr. V.: When I was a child? Very much so. I
was a ~~X~~ Let me show you some
things. That's why I wanted you to
come down. That's me.

Me: How old were you then?

Mr. V. : There I probably was about. How old would you say a child was there 6-7 months 8 months maybe. I can't be much older, hey? If I was that old. Dad had the band next door. It was just next door. So music was my ^{whole} life. My hobbie, my work, my career ever ything. Here I was playing a horn here I was probably about 3-4 years old. They told me I could play songs on it at the time. That's how far it goes back see. Then this goes on here's where I had the drum core in 1939. This is me over here in the corner with hair. Dark hair.

Me : (laugh)

Mr. V. : These are some of the pictures of the drum core. This is an unusual picture. This picture I used to have a little band called drum band. And this was in 194 I forget the date I'll get it for you in 1935. This was in 1935. 50 years later we took the picture. And there's the same 5 of us again.

Me : Cool

Mr. V. : 4 of us we were just taking a picture We were taking our picture here we had brand new uniforms. And this fellow we hadn't seen in twenty years

Mr. V.: happen to be going by. He was in town, (15)
He came over and we took the picture
again. With the same guys. Isn't that
unusual? Oh this is when I got into
the band. I was made a member in
1934. It goes on and on. This is the city
band. where I was conducting the band.
After my dad past away. This is some of
the bands that I had played with.
This is where we went to Green Bay. Because
we played in Chicago at a music festival.
I was conducting and we got first
prize. At the Chicago ~~youth~~ ^{music} festival.
They asked us to compete in Chicago.
We were in Green Bay and we went
from there to Chicago but we couldn't
afford it. We had no money then. This
is where ~~I~~ was directing the Barbershop.
This is where I went to school for
for musical instruments. There's the
shop. there's the picture see.

Me: Wow!

Mr. V.: This is the one you did. This is the
inside of it. This is the steel door that
was in there. This building was the
second or third building not house that

Mr. V: was built in Negaunee. This building (16)
went all the way back to the 19 or um
1850's. It was a bank. There's the bank
there. And if you ever go to the mining
museum right there. You'll find it there
that's the one. This is some of the
school bands that I. After we started
the music store Oh, Mr. Cham, Mr. Hampton
Bill Hampton from Champion. came down
wondering if I would start a band in
Champion. that was in '52. So I started
a band in Champion. Then from there I
started the band in ah Michigamme.
From there I started a band in
National Mine, from there to Republic,
then I got it written on the paper here for
you, then I went to Republic, oh let's
see Champion, Michigamme, National
Mine, Republic, Skandia, Eben, Channing,
Perkins, Rock. Now when I go I'd go down
for a week until the band got started. Then
I'd leave and they'd get a full-time
leader. The only one I didn't start that
way was. I started the band in
National Mine. But I didn't teach.
They hired a man they could afford it.
so they hired a man. So they stayed
there five days a week. This is just
some of the bands again here Skandia

Mr. V: and some other places, Michigamme. (17)
Some of the things we've done. For my fiftieth birthday the cooks, the kids baked a cake. And it was funny because when I was in Rock there were three sets of twins in the band. One of these sets of twins baked a cake for me. And they brought it to high school band rehearsal thinking they were going to have a piece of cake. But it looked so lovely I said I'm not going to cut it here, I'm going to take it home. (laugh) I brought it home I wasn't gonna let them have it. (laugh)

That's just pictures of Rock, different bands. Then I would have bands get together. Some of the bands that I was with the National Mine, ~~Skandia~~^{Rock}, Perkins and all them. We'd have last bands. We'd all get together and we'd all play a couple of numbers together. Then we'd all play numbers together. This is some of the seating arrangements we had. When I left Rock they gave me a swing. And then I went back the next year they didn't have anybody. The next year I went back they gave me an _____ . Oh I've got something to show you! This is...

Mr. V. : We were sitting in the car getting ready ⁽¹⁸⁾ to leave, the last time that I left Rock. And the kids came up and they surrounded the car, and they wouldn't let me drive off. I said I've got to go kids. So a trombone player came over. He was one of these that was always mischievous. Not in trouble just mischievous, you know. He said, "Look what I've got for you a rock. It was a rock. I was rock. And he said, 'all of the kids touched it, before he it gave it to me. Isn't that something?"

Me : yea

Mr. V. : It's just a rock but it's important to me. So there's some other bands I was in. Some of the things I did, I played with a circus ~~band~~.

Me : what was that like?

Mr. V. : Pardon?

Me : What was that like.

Mr. V. : What was it like? Very exciting! One of the circus bands that I played with was with Marle Evans. who was the ^{band} director for the Kingling Brothers and Barum and Bally Circus for 50 years. And he never missed a rehearsal or a concert. He buried his wife one morning, then played on...

Mr. V. : through the weekend. He wouldn't be mean or any thing but he had to do it. And I had a chance to play under him, I played with a big group called Windchimers. We had recordings of all the old circus music, we made twice a year. And then there's a place called ah Circus School, In Sarasota where they teach half a day of school then half a day ^{and then} for a real acts, for acrobatics for all of the things you would do in a circus. And when we were there they asked us ~~they~~ if Mr. Evans, Marie Evans if he would pick a band a small band not a big group to play for their circus. And I was one of the fortunate ones to get picked. It was tremendous. And the nice thing about it was that Charles Kura It was there and he was making a movie about it. And I sat on the outside row. And when they made the movie of it they got more of me than they did of Marie Evans. (laugh) I was in the way every time they scanned it they'd catch me then him. It was funny. It was on National t.v. And I had people call me from all over the U.S. they all said that they saw me on national T.V.

Mr. V.: It was very exciting!

Me: What year was it?

Mr. V.: It was ^{about} 193-84. Another very exciting trip I had which was a very good trip. I also played in a band in Chattfield, Minnesota. It's called Chattfield Brass Band. We were making a trip to Washington D.C. and to Baltimore. And they needed a clarinet player. And they asked me if I'd play. We played for Sousa. The 50th Anniversary of his death. And we were the only band that has ~~it~~ ever played with the Marine Band. No other band has played with the Marine Band. So you see I could say I played with the Marine Band. But the first thing you think is what. But it wasn't really like that. I was playing in another band with the Marine band. Then from there we went on to Baltimore. And when we got to Baltimore we played with the Baltimore Symphony. That is the Chattfield Brass Band that played with the Baltimore Symphony. We had some fun trips here. It was exciting. I think I have some stuff here. This was that circus band that I played with the big band. Here are some ~~are~~ of the aerial acts that we played for. Can you see that? Then I was with Mark Evans. This is Mark

Mr. U. : Evans here. He signed this for me. (2)
Market Evans. I got his autograph.
You can see here all the different things I did there. I had a chance to play under Mr. Revellie at the University of Michigan. He was there for 35-40 years. The funny story about it was he's a very strict person. And he complained about everything. He had one fellow play a solo passage about 3 measures long. He had to play it about six times to get it perfect. Because that's way he wanted it. He was that kind of a guy. And that night when we were at the motel it was about 11:30 at night. And (laugh) we were sitting there - talking with one of the drummers. And we ^{were} talking about pimenta and things. You don't know what pimenta is. Your mother's gonna have to make it for you sometime. And while we were talking with Mr. Revellie, Dr. Revellie, came by while we were talking. And he said, "Oh! Where are you from?" And I told him my parents that my parents had come from. And his parents had come from 50 kilometers away from where my parents had come from. And he was tired and he was going to go to bed.

Mr. U.: So this was 11:30 p.m. At 2:00 we were still talking.

Mr. : (laugh)

Mr. U.: about Italy. And we were talking Italian amongst ourselves. And that. And then the next day this is sunny the next day he was in the line up greeting people coming through, he was the guest of honor. While I was about halfway through the line and I came through and I shook hands. And he said, "Oh! _____!" And I said Oh I talked to him in Italian. And he said, "Where are you sitting?" No place in particular. So he left the line and he still had people coming, he left the line and I was embarrassed to tears. He left the line and took me over and sat me down at his table. We were sitting there chatting, well pretty soon the guests were all through and they're sitting up and waiting for Dr. Revellie the guest of honor to come up and sit at the table. And he said, "I'm not going. I'm going to sit here with my friend. And I said, "You gotta go up there." And he said, "Well you come to." And I said, "No I don't want to go up there (laughing)." So he finally went anyway. And it was funny because the next day he was chewing everybody

Mr. V.: out. But anything I did was ok. It was funny! The guys would say oh yeah Violetta he can do anything, he wants. It was funny! He was such a crab to you know. Oh it was funny!

Me : (laugh)

Mr. V.: Oh what else can I tell you? Oh this is a band. This is a tuba band. I was in Manistque when I read this article. Where they were gonna have an all tuba band. Just tubas. So I went down, it was in Wisconsin Dells, my wife and I went down, to hear this Tuba band. Well we standing up in the balcony waiting for this tuba band. And the tuba band wasn't ready, it was before the parade started. So I was standing there. the lady and the fellow next to us. ah the lady wanted to go to the bathroom so June went to the bathroom with her. And the fellow and I started to chat. He said, "What are you doing down here?" I said, "I came down to see this tuba band. He said, "You travelled all the way from upper Michigan to the band. I said, "Yeah!" He said, "Do you play tuba?" I said, "Yeah!"

Mr. V.: Well sorta. "He said, "Well my brother-in-law 24
is the one that conducts that band. And the
band is forming right behind here. Why don't
you go talk to him." So I ran off to talk
to him. When I ran off to talk to him the
guy said, "Do you want to play in the
band?" I said, "Of course!" He said, "Do you
have a tuba?" I said, "no!" He said,
"Well my junior-high band is the first in
the parade." He said, "I'll have the kid run
back with a tuba. So you can play in the
parade." Then I went back to tell my wife she
said, "I know, I know, I know you're gonna
play with the band. (laugh)

Me : (laugh)

Mr. V.: So that's the band I played with, see!
It's all tubas, 200 of them. It was fun!
So every other year we meet down there.
And the only one that isn't from Wisconsin*
is called the Wisconsin Tuba Marching
Band, see. So that was exciting for me. Don't
go away, I have some more. Here are some
of the groups I played with. A saxophone
quartet I played in. And this is the Dixieland
Band. This is the Dixieland that I've been
playing with. Oh, this is where in that
wind jammers Band that I played with.

Mr. V.: A friend of mine whose in there gave my 25
name to a band in England, New Hampshire. They
needed a drummer so they called me to see
if I could go. So I went to Europe and
played 21 days with a band. We travelled
all over Europe and all over Switzerland and
Austria; and all over.

Me: Wow!

Mr. V.: That was an exciting trip. And I didn't think
that I'd know anybody there and the first
morning I got there I went down stairs to
breakfast and I saw someone sitting over
there in the corner. I looked at him and said,
"I know who you are." He said, "Of
course you do." He was a friend that I
met in Windjammers that played tuba.
So we had somebody to hang around with.
Which was great. Then this is my roommate
his name is Drew Klobman he's actor, he's
a french horn player. See the different acts
that he portrayed. He's on T.V. He's on
commercials. He's been in movies. He plays
french horn. And he knew a million
stories. If you dropped your hat he had a
joke to tell about a hat. If you talked
about a word he had a joke to tell.

Mr. U.: He'd be telling me stories and we'd wake up in the middle of the night and he'd start to tell me stories and we'd be laughing. And the next morning the people would say what did he tell you? What did he tell you? It was an exciting trip. A very good trip. I enjoyed it very much. Went to different places. This might interest you. This was a museum they had there. And this museum had things that looked like a horn. See it? (26)

Me : Uh huh!

Mr. V.: But it wasn't a horn. It was a thing they locked around your neck if you made a.... (Second side of TAPE.)

Mr. U.: And come to find out I told him where I was from. And he said, "Well if you're from up there you must know Republic." I said, "Yeah. My father was the engineer for Carnegie, The Big One, the steel worker. And Carnegie sent him up here to plat different towns. He platted out the town of Republic, that's why main street is called Kloman Avenue. Are you familiar with that?"

Me : No!

Mr. U.: There was a Kloman mine there too.

Mr. V.: So I took pictures of it. Then he said, "Some- (27)
place there is a town called Kloman in
the Upper Peninsula. "That was named after
my grandfather. Well I finally found it. It
was down by Stephenson. All that was
left was one building. So I took a picture
of it and sent it to him.

Me : Neat.

Mr. V.: So that's Kloman.

Me: I have a few more questions here.

Mr. V.: Pardon.

Me : I have a few more questions here.

Mr. V.: You better ask me before I get started
~~here~~ again.

Me : What was the most rewarding part of
your career?

Mr. V.: Working with the students when I was
teaching. I enjoyed it very much and
I miss it. I didn't miss the teaching.
I miss the students. I still have very
good friends that write me. We keep in
contact. I get letters all of the time
and once in a while I get phone
calls. In fact one of the unusual things
I was in Albuquerque three years ago in
Albuquerque and we went to the balloon

Mr. U.: fest. 1000's of these huge balloons, flying (28)
all over the place. And I went there by
myself. June didn't want to go it was
early in the morning you had to be there
by 5:30-6:00 a.m. And the second morning
that I was there I went up to get a
ticket and I said to the guy that was
there I might as well get a season's ticket
because I'm going to come every day. And
there was a young lady with her back to
me on the other side as I turned around
she said, "Father John." That's what the
kids used to call me. She recognized my
voice I hadn't seen her in twelve-fifteen
years. Isn't that something? It makes you
feel good. It was a student I had.
Now would I do it again? Absolutely! I'd
do it all over a gain! That about
covers it.

Me: Yeah that's about it.

Mr. U.: How you gonna get all that in one little
paragraph? You're gonna have to cut
here, cut there, slash there.

Me: It can be about three or four pages.

Mr. U.: Honestly?

Me: Yeah.

Mr. U.: I thought they just put little articles in

Mr. V.: there. You gotta chore then.

Me: Is there anything else you'd like to add?

Mr. V.: (laugh) I gotta another book. I don't think there's much more to add. What else can I tell you? You found about where I played, where I taught, where I worked, I'm flattered, really.

Me: thank you very much for letting me do this interview.

Mr. V.: You're welcome. Hobbies books, I like literature I like words. Things with words, Word origins, dictionary, encyclopedias, many things I like I've been reading a lot about China, I like sailing, I like trains, I like watches, I have a collection of watches, I have a collection of watch chains, My wife says I should quit pretty soon because I have several hundred of them. This is some of them, where ~~ever~~ ever I go I try to pick up a watch chain.

Me: Neat.

Mr. V.: This is Columbus 500th anniversary. I was on board the Pinta. A replica of the Pinta. Down in Columbus, Ohio. It's such a small boat. Goodness it was an exact replica but it was small. Oh man.

Mr. U.: And I have watches. My grandfather's watch. (30)

See I always carry a watch, I don't have a wrist watch. I carry a watch. This is my father's watch underground, a mine watch. It's a railroad watch actually. This is just some of them that I have, real watches and that. Some have rear cranks that you have to turn and crank. They don't mean much to you, they do if you know a little bit about them. But the inside workings are different in each one. I had my grandfather's watch of which I gave to my son. When we were 21 years old, our parents gave all of us boys a watch, I didn't get a brand new watch, I got a watch that belonged to my grandfather, cause I was named after him. So I had it from 21 years old until I was 71 years old. And then I decided to give it to my son. I said, "I've had it 50 years you enjoy it because if you wait for me to die, I'm going to live to be 100," I said, "you might not see it for a long time."

Me: (laugh)

Mr. U.: So he's got it. What else? There are some more key chains up here all over the place and watches all over.

Me: Look at Mickey Mouse.

Mr. U.: This is something, our son gave us this. Isn't that neat? See how it is made. Isn't that neat? He is always finding things for me, Jerry's.

Mr. V.: See the Trumpet he gave me, with the word John on it?

Me : that's neat too. I like that.

Mr. V.: Isn't that neat? This is a picture of our family, one of the girls had died already.

Me : When was that taken?

Mr. V.: That was taken at one of the birthday parties, let see, that was the one they took at my sister Josephine. That was three years ago. Have you got enough? You have to stop me.

Me : I think so.

Mr. V.: would you believe I was the shiest person in the world? And about 10 years ago I started talking and my wife says I can't stop anymore.

Me : (laugh) thanks again.

Mr. V.: You're welcome. I was glad to do it for you.