

KPT: That's interview no.5, Marie Fanarioti, in the Greek Orthodox Church, Friday the 29th of March 2019....and Katerina Lantzou.

MF: (explaining to KL) Konstantinos is doing some historical research, a project, shall we say?

KPT: Yes, about Greeks in Cardiff. I am mostly interested, together with the church (history), in greek businesses in Cardiff, where they were...if you remember anything from the ship chandlers in Cardiff Bay, so this kind of information.

MF: Well, I remember well because I know it (the business). My first job after school, when I left school I worked for Bistis' ship chandlers, he was from Andros island, and I worked in the office with lots of other people with the Paschou family, John Paschou was in charge of the office and that was just one of them, wasn't he? Mr Bistis, Embiricos...

KPT: Where did Mr Bistis keep his office?

MF: On the bay, just past...

KL: On Bute St...

MF: ...on Bute St, just past where the bank is now, opposite Quantum, where the portuguese coffee shop is, that's where it was. That's where Bistis was and that's where I worked as a young girl of 15, I think, when I left school.

KPT: If you don't mind me asking, when was that?

MF: 1962. Father Spyros got me the job, the priest at the time here, he was from Corfu...anyway, that was one of them and then Mr Kallinicos had his (office)...

KL: He was in James St, the consulate...

MF: ...in James St, that was the greek consulate and also he had a ship chandlers, a lot of Greeks, young men and ladies worked in his offices, too...uhm...one of them was Alekos Tantaum who passed away recently...

KL: Yes...

KPT: Do you know where on James St, approximately?

MF: Just off, just behind...it's where the new houses are now, yes...It's where that new estate is now.

KPT: The Liz estate, the one with the brick?

MF, KL: Yes.

MF: It was all knocked down and the new housing estate was (built) there.

KPT: When did Kallinicos close his shores?

KL: He was working his stores as well as the consulate. At some point he closed because he took it (the consulate) at his home, if you remember...

MF: Yes, he finished from the ship chandlers and he worked the consulate from his home, in Llandaff.

KPT: I know the consulate closed in 1984.

KL: Yes.

MF: Right.

KPT: I know this because father Salapatas remembered (3:50) about this. He gave me portraits of Kallinicos...Any other (Greeks) with business?

MF: Yes, it was Samonas, they had a ship chandlers...

KPT: Samonas? (This is the) first time I'm hearing about this (name)...

MF: ...and, where the Kolakis (family) down there or not?

KL: Umh...

KPT: Where was Samonas from, originally?

MF: I have no idea...

KL: Someone was talking about Samonas the other day...You know what? Tasia should know a lot about that.

MF: Mhhh...Tasia Breech (4:32). She was here, wasn't she, the other day...

KL: I'm trying to think, you see, in the correct (chronological) order.

MF: There was 'Maiandros' ship chandlers...

KPT: The guy who had Maiandros... no that's Fafalios, the guy who had 'Maiandros', now he has a ship chandlers in London. I contacted him and he actually sent me quite a lot of photos from his office, he sent 5 or 6 different photos, because that was one of the last that's been...

MF, KL: Yes, yes...

MF: They moved to London.

KL: Kolakis, as well.

MF: Most of these people lived in Barry, that's where they resided, their businesses were down the Bay, but their residence was in Barry, so they were all Barry people, well...the island people stayed in Barry at the time when the port was in its hay day, of course. Who else was there?

Kalamatoussis family...are still going very strong, big supporters of the church to this day.

KPT: Is there any way that I can contact this family, (to see) if they have any old pictures?

KL: Father (Iakovos Savva) has got contact (with them)...

MF: ...and the Kolakis. He (father Iakovos) has been in contact with them most recently, he's sent us a donation, Kolakis, and so he has lots of information, they would have material that you could use.

KPT: I was mainly... (interested in) photos...

KL (asking MF): Are there any photographs in that magazine that we produce?

MF: For the 100 years of the church? Yeah...(asking KPT) Have you got that?

KPT: I don't have this but I've seen this here at some point.

KL: We've got two...I think there's some over there...

MF: Cause you might find some photographs of interest there...

KPT: Anything else? Do you remember any other names?

MF: Uhm...ship chandlers...

KPT: Any greek business...

MF: Did they tell you about Lambros, that corner shop? Not corner shop, he was what Wally's is today, the delicatessen, it was the greek grocery store of the time in the late 40s and early 50s all along Bute St and all along the main street, in Bute St it was all greek houses, the old houses where they've been knocked down completely, all greek families which..you know the old folk have died and people moved on to America and evidently all the buildings have been knocked down.

KL: And then all the way up Bute St, where Lambros was, there were...

MF: Yes, there were cafes, you know, greek cafes...

KPT: (looking at pictures in the magazine?) Here are all the priests.

MF: (pointing at pictures) Father Spyros...

KL: ...the archbishop...what's his name?

MF: Athanasios.

(MF and KL looking at pictures and laughing)

MF: (This is) Mrs Katerina's (KL) wedding...

KPT: Is this where you got married?

KL: Yes.

KPT: Who is this? This priest?

MF, KL: Father Spyros Desyllas.

MF: He became (priest) in 1958.

KL: Whom is he baptising? (Is this) our Antonis?

MF: Who is the godmother there? It's Ntina, so yes, Antonis...#

KL: He (the priest) came here in '58, together with Dimitris. (KL's late husband?)

MF: This is Katerina...

KL: And Dimitris, here...

KPT: Mr Dimitris and I come from the same area in Greece.

KL: Really?

KPT: Yes, Karditsa...we come from villages that are one next to the other.

KL: Really?

KPT: He knew about it...

MF: They knew each other, I remember that...

KL: Which village?

KPT: I'm from Mouzaki.

KL: Oh...up the hill! How nice! Yes...

MF: Look at Spyros, the chanter...I can't believe it...George Krokidis...ts ts ts...

KPT: Also, do you know who else...he's here in one of these pictures....this lad, he's a lad in the picture, not so much of a lad nowadays, the teacher...

KL: Teacher?

MF: Look at that...The parquet floor...there used to be a parquet wood floor in the church, and it got rotten, because underneath, as you know, it's...(exposed)

KL: There's quite a lot of old photographs in here...Who was that?

MF: Is it Thomas? Oh, is that Maritsa? I can't believe it! Maritsa...

KL: It might be father Thomas, because he baptised me...

KPT: Were you born here, Mrs Katerina?

KL: Yes. During the war. My father was travelling and he found himself in Wales, my mum and siblings...my siblings were born in Chios, and they came to see my father...and I was born in '42.

KPT: What is your maiden name?

KL: Vavoulas. My mum's was Kostala.

KPT: So, Lambros' store was by there...

MF, KL: Yes, Lambros...

KPT: Marouko's...

MF: Marouko had the cafe, where everyone gathered, but there were more people who owned cafes, quite close to each other...

KL: I can't remember the names...

MF: They were all in a row, next to each other. Do you know that corner by...uhm...?

KL: The old Opera House.

MF: ...Radisson Blue? The whole area around that corner and going under the bridge, that was

(where) all the cafes (were), in a row. The most famous was Marouko's, I can't remember her last name...(asking KL) was Marouko from Chios?

KL: Yes.

MF: There were more ...we were very young at that time, we've heard of these, we used to go to church and this was no man's land around here.

KL: There used to be houses there...

MF: Where the (Greek) School is now, there used to be houses there. Where the other school is, the Anglican one, the river used to run by there.

KPT: The Canal.

MF: Yes, it was called East Canal Wharf. There were side streets and we used to come to church that way. The layout was very different. There must be (photos) of the old Cardiff somewhere...

KPT: I can find photos from that time, Cathays Heritage Centre has got lots. I have found pictures from this area. I can't find enough pictures from that particular corner with all the greek shops. I found only one and I'll show you now.

MF: Nana would remember...my sister. You should talk to her, too.

KPT: I found some pictures from an old newspaper, taken inside the greek cafes, but I haven't managed to find any pictures of the outside. This one says 'Ioannis Kissaris'.

KL: We had a Kissani in Ducky (???) Road, do you remember (asking MF)?

KPT: Where is that?

KL: In Barry.

MF: (asking KL) Do you remember that corner?

KL: Yes.

MF: This corner there...and this is the way to the church...Marouko's was on that side, in that corner...this is the other end, isn't it?

KPT: (showing other pictures) That's the church during the war...and that's from the interior of the cafe...This one is from the time of the war, again...it says 'cafe'...it's not very clear...'Cafe-Restaurant', but there's no name (of the owner)...

MF: I don't know any of these faces.

KPT: Yeah, but that's 40s...

MF: ...Look, Sofia's cafe, there was Mrs Sofia, wasn't there?

KL: Yes, and this was Goulandris.

MF: Yes, we forgot about this one...ship chandlers...

KPT: Whereabouts?

MF: At the bottom of Bute St, just as you approach the traffic light.

KPT: Where Aspros' building is.

MF: Yes, but I think it was on the other side, was it not? Goulandris'? It wasn't on that side, was it?

KL: No, that was Correy's there, one of the Correy buildings, there.

KPT: Correy?

MF: (they were) English, very famous family, the Correys...

KL: What was their names? Argyros...do you remember? Michalis...

MF: I remember Asteris, I know Captain Goulandris...they were all from Andros island.

KL: Do you remember when their son came, Michalis, and his mother, Margaret, died (?)

MF: Yes, Michalis Argyros.

KL: There was another Argyros, I can't remember...koumpara would remember much better.

KPT: All of these are from this Ioannis Kissanis...

KL: Doukas..that was another one...We had Doukas in Barry, as well.

KPT: You wouldn't remember Vergotis' office, would you?

MF, KL: No.

KPT: It was closed before the war, in '39(?)...Were there any greek shops in Barry?

MF: A lot. Cafes, grocery stores, on Dogville Rd, Thomson St.

KPT: Do you remember any names of owners? Mr Dimitris (KL's late husband) owned a grocery's in Barry, didn't he?

KL: No, it was in Cardiff. My mum owned one...

MF: Mrs Katerina's mum had a grocery store in Barry.

KL: Around 50s up until...

MF: In Dock St.

KPT: What about Dimitris Lantzou?

MF: He had a grocery store in Cardiff in 60s-70s...

KL: He started off in Mackintosh Place, Roath...

KPT: And after that?

MF: Afterwards in King's Stores, in Canton, in Severn Rd.

KPT: There's this newspaper, I haven't managed to find it again, it had published (?) all the births and baptisms (of Greeks) in Cardiff.

KL: (Looking at a picture) There's Fafalios...1962...

KPT: Do you remember this Logothetis, whose name is on the plaque?

KL: He was in Kallinicos' time...

MF: I remember Kinigos...after a while, in the early 60s they departed, we were still quite young at that time.

KPT: One last question and I will release you.

KL: I wish we could help more!

KPT: No, no, you've helped a lot!

MF: My sister, Nana, will probably remember more...she's got good memory.

KPT: You've actually helped a lot, I had never heard about Goulandris family before, nor the Samonas family...That's two new (names) for me.

MF: Did we tell you about Kalamatoussis family? I just remembered Pitsa...

KL: Pitsa Pygmalion...her family name was Kalamotoussis...

KPT: The Kalamotoussis were from Chios, weren't they?

MF: Yes, from Chios island.

KPT: If you have any old photos, I would happily take a photo and put it in my archive...any photos of people doing something...it doesn't matter if it's not business, it could be a gathering or celebration.

MF: We've got plenty of those, we can happily bring and you can choose what you want...

KPT: End of MF and KL interview.

MF: ...and they used to send me to the Coal Exchange to take contracts, like you said, and take the mail, but there was no post or emails on these days, the office girl...you just walked it...it could be ten times a day, and you had to take paperwork to exchange, news and messages and that's how the system worked. I remember it was buzzing, I can picture it now, it was...for a young girl like me, just starting now...overwhelming...the amount of business and people exchanging lots of money...yeah, fantastic! He (who???) might be able to help you more...
KPT: Yeah, actually we said that we were going to do that, when we applied for this funding, I'd like a small exhibition of old photos...and organise it as a fundraising event, as well...so, that's the reason I'm asking for photos, so if you have anything, we would gladly take it...
KL: We'll see if we can track something down...

MF: Father Spiros...

KL: Mrs Kallinicos...and Eftixia (Loizou), presvytera (the priest's wife)...

MF: Mrs Williams, she was Greek but married to a Welshman..(asking KL) is that you?

KL: No...was that Stasa?

MF: Stasa (Asprou)...Mrs Olga...should we look at the men's picture?

KL: Father Salapatas...Kallinicos...I think they've all gone (passed away), same for many of the ladies on that one

KPT: Thank you very much!