

**Interview with Mary (Vitosky) Kopecek, sister of Joseph J. Vitosky on Saturday
May 7, 1994, in Ennis, Texas.**

Larry D. Wilson with Miloty (Vitosky) Wilson, mother of Larry

MW There, the light's on.
LW The light's on. We're recording. Now we won't know what to say. Ok. So, I had a hard time figuring out what the dates were when people...
MK I really don't know all the dates.
LW I think I can track that through. Joseph was 12 when he came over the first time. Caroline was ...
MK That be your grandpa.
LW Caroline was 10. And Frank wasn't born yet. See, I have all their dates right next to each other, so their birth dates. So something doesn't jive there. Umm. Oh, I know, there are some people I don't have in here...
MK People asking me why do they come here to this country. Because, because they couldn't make a living there. You know the Czechs. They had this President-King. Took it all from them! So when they heard that here is better that's the reason they come here.
MW They had cousins here or something, why they came to Ennis?
MK Well, No. They didn't have a cousin they have. It's just the Husckavich live here, Krycha. There was only two family and I don't know how they contact them if they know them Europe. They write them. And they help them. they come here.
MW Sponsored them, huh?
MK But I tell you how they do it. When they come here well, they have to you know live with them for a while. Then...people hard you know the man get half and you get the half. What you make on the land. The man, the hush boy, sell them old mules. The mules die in two months. That's the way he jewed the people from Europe. So, they couldn't finish the crop. So, they, you know, they have it hard, very hard. Pay him the transfer. They pay him the transfer from Europe. But they got to work at it when they come here.
MW Slave labor, huh?
MK Yeah, slave labor.
LW I've got Frank Vitosky who was the, your brother?
MK Well, there's two Franks.
LW Frank's the uncle, and then there's Frank your brother
MK Yeah, my brother, Frank.
LW Your brother, Frank, who did he marry?
MK First wife. His wife passed away when he was married about six years to her. You know that first influenza. They didn't have a cure for it.
MW Do you remember her name?
MK Frances
MW Frances?
MK Frances Kutch
LW Did they have any children?

MK They had Elsie. Elsie was four year when she passed away. The second wife was Mary.
LW Elsie? And her last name?
MW Vitosky
LW Well, no, No, her maiden name.
MK You mean when she married? She was married. HENSON
MW No, That's young Elizabeth. He's talking about Frank's first wife.
MK Frances Kutch. K U T C H
LW K U T C H. And, they had one child, Elsie, right?
MK Yeah
LW Do we know when Elsie was born? Probably not.
MW She was about my age, wasn't she?
MK I think so
MW '21 or '22
MK Let's see, who was first married, Joe or Frank? I think Joe, your daddy.
LW Ok, and his Second wife was?
MK Crazy wife. Just drive you crazy.
LW The Crazy wife!
MW Mary
Lw And her maiden name?
MK Her maiden name was Troyacek. T R O Y A C E K
LW Now Frank was born in 1901. He had to be born here?
MK 1901! No, I was married in 1902

Frank was two years older, maybe 1900.

LW Maybe 1900, then? So with Mary, they have additional children?
MW (laughs)
MK (laughs)
LW I've got a few here Alice. Was Alice their daughter?
Alice was with the first wife and he have
That's Alice or Elsie
MK Four with the second wife, Mary, the crazy wife. Mean woman. (laughs)
MK What you all going to drink, tea? Iced tea?
LW So, they had Evelyn ...
MK Evelyn, Bill
LW Milton and Joseph
MW Now the interesting part was that Alice Elsie was married to Frank Hansen. And just a year or two and her stepmother, she had to go around the neighborhood and beg for food. Encouraged the stepdaughter ...

LW Wait, wait, Now, wait a second. I've got to dial in that one. Now Elsie
MW Or Alice
LW So, Alice was probably her real name, right?
MW I think so.
LW Ok, so she married...
MW Frank Hansen, was it?

MK Yeah, Frank and when she married second time I don't know his name. Maiden name Yanicek

MW Anyway, her stepsister stole her away. Her stepmother encouraged this liaison. Hansen left Alice, for which daughter was it? And married her.

LW Frank was encouraged by his mother-in-law, mother-in-law, no stepmother-in-law?

MK The girl she could still be here if the mother-in-law.

MW She went to the funeral, the second wife. Sitting in the second row.

MK Did you go to the funeral?

LW So, he married which one?

MW Which daughter was it? The oldest daughter. Of the second marriage?

MK Emily. Emily.

LW Was it Hanson, H A N S O N?

MK HENSEN. Yeah, he was teaching her piano lesson. That's what happened.

LW Well, my former husband, she was teaching him organ lessons.

MK Who Emily?

MW No, my .. his father.
My father

MK His father

LW Ok, So, let's see here - Parents, Alice.

MK Now I think I need to move this. My friend bring me this from country. They are so pretty

LW So Evelyn married Frank Hansen. My computer is going to blow up when I put this in there.

MW I'll get the stuff out of there, Aunt Mary.

MK All right.

LW Did Evelyn, have any kids?

MK One son, and you know what he is lost. We don't know where he is.

LW What was his name?

MK I don't know. Do you know, Miloty? I don't know if he is in Dallas or not. He used to work in a Safeway.

MW Just one. Just one. Just one a piece

LW Now, Milton. Did he marry?

MK He was married. But he was divorced.

MK No, I don't. All I know, he had three children with her. He was in a war. When he came back, he was all mixed up. They think they did something to him in the war.

MW Well, he could have been gassed or something.

MK Because they wouldn't take him in the Army It happened when he come back.

LW Was it World War II? That happened a lot.

MK Well, He lived with a friend. But when my brother Bill used to go see Frank, he never see him. And Joe live with him. He didn't marry, Joe.

LW You said about William. This was his brother. Did he marry?

MK Yes, I think he is doing pretty good. He is married and has children. But I haven't heard from him in so long. Maybe he is divorced

LW Do you know what his wife's name was
When my brother Bill.

LW And Joseph?

MK Joseph was single.

MK I wondered how they managed down there.

MW Well, she was sitting with three boys at the funeral last year. Uncle Frank.

MK They should kick her out of it.
Oh, Evelyn.

MK You know I am so mad at her. I will never forget it.

MW But the awful thing. Alice had to go hungry. She had to go to the neighbor's homes. And then, a funny story Aunt Mary told me, Aunt Mary's father came and visited them. And work and do things around the house. And he'd bring food., like that time like the roast. She never fed him anything. Remember that story? And she never fed her daughter. Her daughter went around the neighborhood.

MK You know my mother used to go see Frank, and she say she stopped. Because He worked hard at the Sears Roebuck with those packages, you know with the packages and he have to lift it. Because Package room he worked. He washed the dishes and she just sit and do nothing. And he washed the dishes after supper. So mamma got mad and she never did go down there anymore.

LW How about John? He married Penelope?

MK Oh, John! John was good. Until he got mixed up with the alcohol.
He married. He had three children. Two girl and one boy. But they lost. I don't know where.

LW I've got Jerry, Mildred and Georgia.

MK So I think he have liver cirrhosis or something.

MW He died real young, didn't he?

MK Around '50 something.

LW He married Penelope.

MK He married a girl from Penelope. Bartos girl. B A R T O S. Her name was Millie.

MK You know she's dead, too. She used to have bad headaches. Something popped in her head. Because she was in the hospital and from the wheelchair she fell down. Yeah, mama bought John trailer. And he was living in it. Lotsa time she took it to him. All they see was the bottles from drinking Next time they come down the food was down there like they bring it. So, I just have one brother left. And he's good. He's not drinking, not smoking. Bill

MW And he has a fine, upstanding daughter.

MK Yeah, I could kick her too.

LW She's the one with the horses and the dogs?
MK Why does she keep those horses.
MW Pay Jerry back some money.
MK No, he's not going to give her no more. And that's all
LW And William is still alive?
MK That's the good one.
LW I've got a whole bunch more here.
MK Ed, always good
MW He never married.

LW That's Edward?
MK You can't marry. Lots of people get married And they got by. He listen to her.
Then when he got older, he start to drink, he didn't have nobody.
LW He died in '68?
MK He was a good boy.
LW In Dallas?
LW I've got William wrong.
LW William married Waunita. I have Waunita Harvey

MK Their family had 14 children
She's of Hispanic origin
MW He wore them out, huh?
LW What's their daughter's name?
MK Carol.
LW The horse one?
Mk She divorced. She have such a nice boy
Do you know what his name was?
MK His name was Charles.
MK When he come here. He was such a nice boy. And she's too bossy and everything
has to go by her way
MW Do you remember his last name?

LW Does she go by a different last name now?
MK She go by Vitosky.
LW And where is William living?
MK Canton. Canton, Texas.
LW What does he do?
MK He's retired. He's 88.
LW What did he do?
MK He was a musician.
LW What did he play?
MK Guitar. Steel guitar.
MW Steel guitar
MW He still has a group down there.
MK Yeah. Old man's come they come to his house and play altogether, just for fun.
MW

MK You know Guitar. All kinds. Country music. He used to drive to Dallas to the club. Now he can't see good. One eye is, you know, gone. Had to quit. And his wife used to work on a bank, and they let her go because she's getting old. They want a young people. She always says I don't know why did they let me go. I don't They didn't have cause to let me go. That's the way it goes.

LW Ok, were getting through here. They only had one daughter, Carol

MK She always had to have her way. Even Bill says she is hard headed. That's a Vitosky for you.
My daddy. I'm still mad, what he done with that cotton. On that big farm. Me and Bill because we was in the ages We worked so hard. We made 50 bails cotton. It was 40 cents. It dropped in few days to four pennies. We lose all that money. When I got married. I didn't get a penny from the home. They didn't have anything to give me. Oh, god.

LW Francis died when she was four, right?

MK But we did have a doctor. Because I had typhoid fever. Frank have it. Our mother waked us up at night. Give us the medicine. But Frances didn't pull through.

LW And then I've got Emily. Emily, Betty.

MW And yeah, do you have Rose in there, the sister.

MK Yeah, Vitosky, hard head (laughs)

LW Ok. Rose, she's next.

LW Emily married Leo Halden. She had a daughter Betty?
Holen. HOL

MK Betty got lost, we don't know where she is.
You know, Miloty, at funeral. I was at that funeral. Betty was here. She has four little girls. They was such a pretty little girls. And when we went to the funeral well Bill's wife stayed in Betty house with those children. And when we come back, I told Betty. Betty, she says she is going to move with her husband somewhere out of town. I tell her Let us know where you gonna live so we don't lose contact. Never.

MK Never heard a thing. And we can't find her.

LW Leo Holden, what did he do?

MK Some kind of bookkeeper in an office. By golly, he drink too much. Sunday nights, she got Betty has to pour hot coffee, black coffee in him so he be able to go to work in the morning. He drink just Saturday and Sunday. But he young he can't work .

LW Just Saturday and Sunday.

MW She died quite young, of cancer. So did Rose.

LW Rose married Milo Brozek. Did they have any children?

MK Of cancer too.

MW She is buried right out here at the cemetery. So is John, and grandma and grandpa Vitosky.

MK John is buried next to my mother. And Francis, four year old she's buried with grandma and grandpa Vitosky. Frank, grandpa's son.

MW I know where those graves are.

LW Roger. I have Leslie Roger.
MW Skeeter.
MK Skeeter. (laughs) Well, he looked like a skeeter, he was so skinny! He was so skinny.
MW Oh, have you got paper plates?
MK Yeah.
LW What did Roger do?
MK Roger, I think he repaired the cars.
MW Where are they Aunt Mary?
MK Here in this first cupboard here. No, not there Miloty.
LW They had a son and a daughter, Mark and Frances?
MK I saw that Frances at Skeeter's funeral. I don't know where the boy is.
LW I think that's about it. That's about all my... I'll need to check out some of the dates on the headstones
Mk Those plates are a little.
MK You want to put it on the table.
MW My, you've got nice sharp knives.
MK Oh, I haven't got such good sharp knives.
LW Are there any other addresses you have, Aunt Mary, that I could copy down?

MK I tell you, it's in the little book