

Interview with X Tape 1, Side 1  
Interviewed by Elise Chenier  
Transcribed by Jody Konarski

[00;00;00-00;5;00]

X: You're at Queen's are you?

Elise: Yes I am at Queen's.

X: And you're doing what? Working on a paper?

Elise: I'm working on my thesis.

X: For what?

Elise: For History. Okay so now I told you I am interested in the nineteen fifties and the nineteen sixties. And maybe for now we can sort of keep it on the mid-fifties to the early sixties. Maybe you can start by telling me what you were doing at that time?

X: Okay, we'll take the nineteen fifties...bearing in mind I joined the police force in June of nineteen forty five. So in the mid-fifties I was a detective, a headquarters detective. And we certainly worked the downtown area; that was part of our assigned area. There was three shifts-days, afternoons-that's four to twelve, and midnight's. And I was on the holdup squad and eventually into the early sixties, the homicide squad, so I had quite an exposure down in that particular area that I think you're interested in. [right]

Elise: So what kind of dealings would you have in Chinatown?

X: In Chinatown as we call it...Chinatown in Toronto certainly up until the early sixties consisted of Elizabeth Street from Queen to Dundas and on Dundas from University Avenue on the west and Bay Street on the east. That was the main section with Chinese stores, restaurants, whatever. The spill-off was on side streets...Elm Street, Chestnut Street, LaPlante, Gerard Street all along there where the Chinese population lived. And we also have to remember that the Chinese residents were mostly single men, and their families were in China. There was still no massive immigration of wives. They were lonely men whose occupations were storekeepers, restaurant keepers, laundry

employees, waiters in the restaurants, and fruit and vegetables. Chinatown and the Chinese population as I remember were great people. They were no trouble. If there was any trouble with the police, it was only through gambling. They had no families to go home to; they lived in rooms off these streets and around there and they worked in restaurants and laundries throughout Toronto, but after they would close they would head down to Chinatown where the action was, where the gambling places were. And Chinatown, Elizabeth, Dundas, Queen's and those streets was always a hub of activity. Whereas the streets out [inaudible] were quieter and there was always a movement, there was always a hub. And they weren't white people; the only other white people who were around were policemen at that time. The Chinese residents would be going from one club to the other, going home or the restaurants closing they'd be going home where they lived in these houses. But they certainly were no trouble. There was a little bit...remember in those days the drug squad in Toronto, the drug squad consisted of about four officers. That was the whole drug squad. Today there are hundreds in drug squad but then the drug addicts at that time were pretty much known to the police officers working down there. And marijuana was certainly not in at that time. But opium in Chinatown was not a great problem but there was opium used there and there were arrests for opium among the Chinese population there. Gambling was a big thing. They were big gamblers and although they weren't doing any harm except to themselves, it was against the law. Because there were keepers; whoever ran the game took off a rate. And big money...you're not talking two dollar bets, you're talking hundreds and thousands of dollars. But uh...the police and the Chinese got along very well.

[00;05;01-00;11;29]

X: Very, very well. They weren't great conversationalists, but they were respectful and you soon got to know, because there were so few of them...there might have been a population of about four thousand, five thousand tops, so you soon got to know the leaders of the community. Like the mayor of Chinatown, the official mayor...there was one man there and he would represent the interests. There were arrests made you know for the gambling and that was the main thing. Ninety-nine point nine percent was for gambling arrests. There were certain lawyers that were almost on a retainer that would represent them in court. And the [inaudible] you know in court...the keeper charged and there was usually a fine, a ten dollar fine. And I'll always remember the one Chinese lawyer at that time...one...and his name was Doc

Yip. He was a fine man and I think he may be still living, Doc Yip. Seems strange when you think back only and to me at my age that there was only one Chinese lawyer. And now it would be several hundred maybe, I don't know. The population is now what three hundred fifty thousand, four hundred thousand, but then you were dealing with three to five thousand. The only white people at night time that you would see in Chinatown, not because it was any scary place or anything like that, would be white people who were down for the Chinese restaurants. Cuz if you wanted Chinese food, that's where you went. There was always a Chinese restaurant on [inaudible] you know like Chop Suey or something. But for what people thought was Chinese food and the excitement of it down they would go to Elizabeth Street. And they were spooky places some of them in that they were upstairs and in the basement and like twelve a and ten a it was called. The International Chop Suey House, Café Gardens, Jo Chongs...I can remember the names of these restaurants...there weren't too many of them down there, but they were exciting places. You would go in and they would be...the tables would be every shape and size, no uniform to them and they had oil cloth coverings on them. The chairs would be ten different sizes and um there were no liquor licenses back then. They were just starting to come in but they certainly weren't awarded to those small Chinese restaurants. And they were open late you know...you could always get food there. Some of them were open all night long. And another little place we called it, another little restaurant on Elizabeth Street was called Hop Sams. Hop Sams was a little hole in the wall restaurant; you didn't get the tourists going in there. That was usually by the street people, and you were talking earlier about the lesbian population down there and there were....it would seem that the lesbians and that congregated, cuz it was open all night long and they would sit and talk and there was always some kind of problem with....not always...but there were problems at Hop Sams. There were fights but that was their hangout. Now when you were talking about the lesbians...the lesbians in my memory uh...were not great in numbers. I'm talking about overt lesbians you know...and the police that worked that area got to know most of them too. And there was a great, if not friendship, it was a live and let live sort of relationship with them. If they got to know your first name they'd call your first name. If they got drunk and they'd fight, they'd call you all kinds of names. It was accepted that way; and they certainly got along well with the Chinese population down there. And there were prostitutes who worked Chinatown down there; they weren't that numerous. I can think back to maybe half a dozen that were there all the time. [uh huh] And we'd see the same girls night after night after night down there. They never loitered much.

Now the lesbians that were down there at that time...there was a house on Chestnut Street and there were a lot of houses all torn down out by where City Hall is now...and that was a house that several lesbians lived in, they lived in that house. They drank in the Continental Hotel and they moved around there and a lot of times there was some crime that was indicated that might have been um reflected on lesbians. You could go there and knock on the door and they would cooperate with you. The ladies there....I'm not trying to say they were informants, I'm not saying that at all, but they were very [inaudible] with regards to their own and if you're the police and you're trying to solve it they would certainly help you all they could.

[00;11;30-00;17;53]

X: And some of them were tough tough ladies. By tough ladies I mean they were tough. They could look after themselves. I'm talking about the Continental Hotel..it was their hotel...I say their hotel because they were there many dozens of times. There were fights there; they'd fight among themselves, but they also fought when they had [inaudible] come in there who tried to make fun...and when I say make fun they were usually out of town country people that came in that had never seen this type of atmosphere. Small town people....men....would come in there and they would see some...because the dress was different than what they were used to and remarks were made, then fights would start. [uh huh] And the police would have to respond and it would be to rescue the interloper. To rescue them because the lesbian ladies could look after themselves, it was their turf. I never had any problem, nor did any of the associates I had ever have any problem with them uh fighting us. You know what I mean...they would uh...break it up girls, c'mon break it up if they were fighting amongst themselves. How did you know about the Continental?

Elise: Oh I've interviewed women who used to go there. It was quite significant.

X: Well it was...you see and that's why you see it was right smack dab in Chinatown right on the corner of Elizabeth and Dundas.

Elise: So you mentioned that if you had to go to this house on Chestnut Street...what kinds of situations would come up? You were saying if there was a crime that somehow involved...these gay women.

X: From time to time lesbians would be murdered. Not in any great numbers but it would surface that there's so and so and she's a lesbian and she was murdered. Where would you go to but where there was sort of a little center, residence...and that's where it is. And so we would go there. I remember we found one body when I was in homicide down at Cherry Beach. In order to get the background of her we went to the house there and that led us to another place and then we didn't solve the case but we certainly got the background of our victim. That's the kind of information I am talking about. If you needed information and it's to do with people, with lesbians, you go in there cuz one would say you better see Jean...Jean knew her. You know you're talking a very small group of people at that time. There were never any problems as far as...now there were two hotels on Queen Street, the Municipal and the Union, you may have heard of those, did you hear of those? [yeah] Now they were in the south side and they were about four doors apart. And lesbians used to go in the Union House. And of the two, they were tough places. The Municipal Hotel and the Union-I knew the owners and I knew the waiters there. The lesbians seemed to go to the Union House, and homosexual men. They got along very well you know the homosexual men and the lesbians. By getting along you know they could sit and drink and there'd be no problem, but get a few straights in there and there would be smart alleck remarks and drinking you know. Hey so and so and hey this and does your mother know you're....and all this kind of stuff. And they would cause fights, lots of fights, and usually they could look after themselves. The lesbians would help the men, the homosexuals and vice versa. [right] Another hotel called the Variety was just across the street [inaudible] and some of the lesbians would go in there. There were three hotels, if we are talking about the lesbian community at the time, to my knowledge in my view, and I worked down there for quite a number of years...there's be the Continental, the Union House on the south side and to a minor extent the Variety across the street. The Municipal was kind of a tough place you know a more...I mean a tough place like ex-convicts would go there and it seemed to be the central place once released from the penitentiary.....I'll see you at the Municipal...the Muny they called it. So certainly the homosexuals and lesbians were discouraged from that place there. But they were certainly accepted and got along well with the management, but the Continental once again, that was their hotel.

Elise: Now do you know who ran the Continental, who owned that place?

X: Yes, the man that ran that I can't think of his name but I can see him now...geez what's his name?

[00;17;54-00;24;19]

X: Irv or Solly comes to my mind. Now whether they were waiters there or owners, but I kind of think they were owners. I can't think of the last name. They were always cooperative too. I mentioned to you when we had the murder that occurred, the body was found just outside of Dundas Street, early sixties. I was on the homicide squad at the time and it was my case to investigate and there were no witnesses. The body was found at two o'clock in the morning, that's when we had the first reward posters printed in Chinese. Because we thought the Chinese residents who were leaving one gambling house to another or going home from closing the restaurants or something might have seen something. I can't remember if I had any success there at all. That was a major thing that happened right around the Continental as far as murders. There were lots of stabbings. [is that right?] Oh yeah, the Continental was a violent place. Once again there were a lot of times where people would go in there that were other than the usual customers that would say or do something that would create the problem. Those people can look after themselves you know. But now when we talk about those hotels and that area, and that was the extent of the hotels-there was the Union, the Municipal, the Variety, the Continental. Your average citizen wouldn't patronize them.

Elise: Well it's funny that you say that Chinatown wasn't a dangerous place but it did have a reputation as being very dangerous.

X: The Chinese residents, they weren't dangerous. [uh huh] It was the other people who came into it you know...cuz you didn't call the Queen's Street part Chinatown. Any problems that I investigated that happened in any of the Chinese establishments were always caused by white people, too much to drink, using derogatory names...hey chink...that would get these people upset and that's what would cause the fight but they...now, they used to have the odd fight amongst themselves, the Chinese. Whether it be gambling debts or supporters of the Communists...they used to fight amongst themselves. And I've investigated a few Chinese murders where one Chinese man murdered another and that was over simple things like one particular sad case in a rooming house just off of Walton Street. They lived in rooming houses you know. A lot of them. And this was a simple thing like the one man

was taking too long to cook his rice. You know it was a communal stove, and the other man...these were both in their seventies. And one man got after him because he was taking too long and the other guy told him to shut up and one guy stabbed the other. He was dead right there. I didn't have to go out and look for anyone. But through an interpreter he told us what happened.

Elise: Speaking about rooming houses, I mean there was a lot of concern at the time with the rooming houses that were there and the condition that they were in and the kind of people that were attracted to cheap rooming houses. I mean I know one part was called cockroach alley where you could get a room for about three or four dollars a night.

X: Whereabouts was that?

Elise: Right in the Elizabeth and Dundas area. It was popularly known as cockroach alley and you could get a room for three or four bucks a night.

X: I know where the cheap rooming houses were, but the cheap rooming houses that were fifty cents a bed or a night or something were over Dundas Street, Shooter, Jarvis. [that's right, yeah] But, the rooming houses that I can recall that were around Chinatown were just strictly Chinese men living in them.

Elise: So those ones around Jarvis and Shooter, they were...

X: Oh, flea bags.

Elise: Uh huh, and who would be running those kinds of places?

X: Well they had big investigations in the fifties and early sixties about the Ingwer. A guy called Charlie Ingwer; he was called the slum landlord. In the newspapers, front page stuff about the slum landlords. And they rented rooms over and over again to the prostitutes and they would rent the same room over ten times a night. And these rooms were in a terrible state of repair. There was a big Royal Commission...called the slum landlords...look it up. Mid-fifties...we're talking fifty four, fifty five. We finally put him out of business...we had him sell all his properties.

[00;24;20-00;36;02]

X: And what he was is he had tough guys working as rent collectors you know go around and collect. And they would have poor unfortunates who would be sort of managing the house. They had no place to go and they were sort of the resident manager. But they were just poor souls that didn't own anything and they would take the flack if the police raided it and keep it as a common body house which they did many times [inaudible]. But once again the south side of Queen's Street above where the hotel is now what is it called...to York Street and down York Street there were stores on both sides...up above these stores pawn shops things like that, there would be Chinese rooming houses. Rooms rented by Chinese, and they would have five, six, seven to a room. Some of them even had the beds were kept for day shift and then the night shift. It was a tough life at that time.

Elise: It seems to me that the morality squad officers would have a lot more close contact.

X: That's right, they did the drugs, they did the prostitution, and they did certainly the bootlegging and bootlegging was a big thing at that time. The number of bars and the hours of liquor stored are not what they are today. And some of the restaurants in Chinatown you know they sold booze, liquor. You could get it if you were in the know. They'd go in and the magic words were I'll have some cold tea. They'd bring a little tea pot and it would be scotch whisky. That's cold tea. And the charge would be whatever it was...three dollars or four dollars or whatever is was. [right] And then they would lost their license. And you know it's I had a lady in here doing research the other day and I knew about it because I had been doing most of the police commission board minutes going back...did you know in the twenties, an interesting little thing...the Chinese restaurants were singled out. The licensing was controlled by the police...the booths could not be higher than three feet because they didn't want any hanky panky going on. That's how Chinatown was visualized by people who though oh this is a crime ridden...and I got the records out for that, it was strange. But imagine being able to legislate that white girls could not work in a Chinese restaurant.

Elise: mmm...yeah, well I don't think its reputation in the public was that had really changed that much by nineteen fifty. I mean maybe for some people, but I know from speaking to some people, parents and grandparents, about it..who grew up in north York, it was just somewhere you just never even went. And of course there were the tabloids at the time...you remember Justice Weekly? And they really capitalized on that.

X: It was awful the racist things they were able to say there calling them slant eyes and oriental, white slavery, you know that sort of term. [yeah] Chink...

Elise: All that stuff, sure...now I was going to ask you about one other thing...um...the other big thing in the nineteen fifties of course was the criminal sexual psychopaths. You remember all that about sex crimes and children and there was a Royal Commission, Chief Justice [inaudible], led that Royal Commission and um talk about something that was really in the media. This is at the time when Judy Carter was murdered....and there was a lot of concern you know after the Second World War, after d so there was a lot of concerns about sex crimes and homosexuals in particular.

X: In that time I knew Chief Justice [inaudible] very well and I can't remember him having a Commission on that. I certainly remember the Judy Carter murder. Wasn't that before the fifties?

Elise: No, Judy Carter was murdered in fifty six I think or fifty five and...

X: Where was her body found?

Elise: I think now I was just doing research on this and I was looking into a few and there was a few girls that were murdered; there was the one in London, Susan Cadeau. And then right after her was um...and the Toronto Star had a forum on sex deviants at Massey Hall...big forum in January of fifty five or fifty six and um two thousand people came to it.

X: I can't remember that....if you want to talk murders and bank robbers or something I can do that [yeah]. I can't recall that. I don't doubt that it happened but I'm not familiar with that.

Elise: So you wouldn't um...I know that Chief Constable Chism was really concerned with it and he was quite involved and he went before the Commission and gave a presentation based on his experience dealing with gay men in the city. So that was an issue that he was quite active around. So do you recall anything around his feeling...I would imagine someone like him would have a great deal of influence about particular kinds of things...

X: See you're talking about an area there where homosexuals never came into. I never...there have been a few homosexual murders in my time, but they never entered into anything that important you know. There were not too

many overt homosexuals around at that time. That wasn't the...so Chism could have as you say but I...Jessica, would you do me a favour? On one of those boxes up there would you look for thirty one one, and thirty one two, and thirty one three, and thirty one four...they are all chiefs of police. [So you want me to bring them to you?] Yeah, I'll know once I get it and I'll see Chism's there. [reading from newspaper articles] "[inaudible] of Chinatown but because of an inexplicable trend, opium smoking has almost completely disappeared from Toronto's Chinatown. Without being too much of an optimist we may see the Chinese gambling house undergo the same [inaudible], that's the games they played. Way back in the twenties, the post war years, World War One, except for some Orientals, most of Toronto's drug addicts were known as "snow birds" because of their addiction to cocaine. A snow like powder which they inhale through the nose often causing severe ulceration of the nasal passages. [inaudible] I used to be a good guy before I started snuffing coke. Over the years however a more potent narcotic drug has been discovered, namely morphine and its derivative...generally referred to as heroin. Both these narcotic drugs are more habit forming [inaudible]. It has been generally accepted in the main that the narcotic addict does not become seriously involved in crime or violence, although he is often very violent when he is about to be apprehended. Most drug addicts are in the low crime bracket and raise funds for drugs by shoplifting, thefts from automobiles and other things." That's when it was low. Now they are into heavy crime because their habits cost so much. "[inaudible] I am not stating that most prostitutes are narcotic drug addicts, they are not, but many female drug addicts resort to prostitution for obvious reasons [inaudible]. Most the local addicts are between twenty-five and sixty. Not many of them draw the old age pension because the drugs take control".

[00;36;03-00;42;38]

X: "The price of drugs vary in Toronto and Ontario today; one gram of heroin costs about six dollars...nineteen fifty-seven. [I wonder what it costs today]. I don't know but at present day prices it would cost a confirmed addict between four thousand five hundred and seven thousand dollars per year alone per drug. Well you know that's a month today.

Elise: Yeah...well no I don't know...I don't know much about the drug trade or habit or anything so...I plead ignorance. Well that's interesting; who was this presented to?

X: That was Chism talking. He was presenting to the Optimists Club of Toronto Lakeshore. Uh...this is on disorderly houses...[inaudible]...I'm trying to speed read this to see if there's something you're looking for.

Elise: Well that seems to be...here, can I see this? Committee on Social Protection....Do you know what that would have been?

X: No, I don't.

Elise: Okay. You know one thing I've had a hard time doing is pinning down when the Continental opened and when it closed. And also when you started policing in forty-five, would you have been familiar with that district?

X: No. I became familiar with that area in particularly uh...in the late forties when I was on traffic. Now the Continental must have gone out in, it must have been finished around the late sixties.

Elise: Oh, okay that long.

X: Well it was still there I'm thinking of occurrences that happened.

Elise: Now do you recall there being a lot of gay women there in the early fifties?

X: Always to my mind, always the Continental was gay and prostitutes too now.

Elise: Oh okay...and some were...some prostitutes were also gay women.

X: Yeah, that's right. Then it became a hangout of French pimps from Montreal; French Canadian pimps. [male pimps] Male. [yeah]They made it...that's when it got into a heavy, tough place. They were resented by the gay women. [uh huh] Some of these gay women you know they had prostitutes with them. You know the gay women would have prostitutes as girlfriends. [right] And then when these pimps from Montreal came in, they were intruding on territory. They tried to get...by muscles...there were some hell of a fights between these weight lifters, these guys from Montreal. That's when the stabbings started. The gay women who were protecting their turf, they couldn't compete with the muscle. So when they were protecting their property, they used knives. They held their own. [uh huh]Not always. I think one of the worst things that I can remember about the Continental...there was bootleggers around the corner...lots of bootleggers...there was a bootlegger,

an Italian lady that lived on the street north of there, just around the corner. Her customers were a lot of bus drivers you know they were in and out of town. They stayed at the Ford Hotel which used to be at Dundas...cheap hotel...big hotel at Dundas and Day. These bus drivers had a layover you know they'd come in from out and they got their pass and parked their bus and they usually lived at the Ford Hotel. But there was no liquor available you know, there weren't bars. Even when there were bars, they closed early and these guys would get in at twelve o'clock and they'd want to drink, so she had a lot of bus drivers. And waiters...when they were through work they'd have to go some place. And she was brutally beaten and robbed. They were an old established family that lived there at that time. And uh...she was a bootlegger, against the law...but she usually had a clientele that were no problem and she had been arrested before for breach of liquor control act.

[00;42;39-00;52;02]

X: But some of these guys from Montreal centred in the Continental and stated to talk about the bootlegger up the street who's supposed to have thousands of dollars stashed and how she didn't use banks. So a couple of them knocked on the door and she let them in and they brutally beat this woman and her daughter. They ransacked the place and they stole what was ever there was never thousands of dollars. Anyway, the police at that time and the residents around were absolutely incensed that the woman was....rob fine, but don't beat a woman. So an investigation was conducted around there and they put their lines out for informants and that led them to the Continental Hotel. One thing led to another and they arrested the two Montreal guys who that was their headquarters. That's when the owners at one point were told, clean your act up here. Before that you had these gay women here and the prostitutes...they gotta go somewhere I guess, but when you start harbouring criminals...those out of town criminals that are capable of doing this. I remember that very vividly...that was the end of the fifties. Mind you the Continental had the odd hard working stiff that would go there too because they once again, bus drivers you know. It was the nearest hotel, other than the Ford Hotel which was considered a little pricey the beer parlour way. They were waiting for the next bus and it was still open at twelve o'clock so they'd go in there. Mind you some of them who didn't know where they were didn't stay too long; they looked around and thought this ain't for me because people looked strange to them; they weren't used to this type of thing.

Elise: Well there certainly was a lot of men who went there. I mean it wasn't just women; it was a lot of working class men who went there as well.

X: Yup. And a lot of them knew one another you know. You'd see men who were working for City Hall. They'd go up there and have a few beers and then they would go. And if you go continually to a place it's like hi Bertha, hi Charlie...you know it gets to that sort of thing. You don't bother me, I'm not bothering you. But they weren't late at night people. They were gone by six o'clock. It was starting when you got eight thirty, nine, [inaudible]

Elise: And the liquor laws at the time said they had to close between six and eight or something.

X: The liquor laws at that time said they had to close at supper time, I think it was six-thirty to seven-thirty or to eight o'clock yeah. Have to make sure everyone got home to supper. That was a trying time too I remember that. Because a lot of them would drink as much as they could before they closed and that's when they'd get drunk and we would get lots of calls come in to the Municipal, we have a fight. But those hotels, they were so well contained. I know the managers; I can think of their names....Joe Pink was the manager at the Municipal. Sammy Grimmick and his father ran the Union House. Max Appleby owned the strip joint across the street. Of course you know for the first...you're talking about Chinese and you're talking about lesbians and you're talking about prostitutes....there were very few Blacks. All those hotels...they were known because there were so few of them. They would go from one place to the other...not so much the Continental but certainly the Variety, Union, and Municipal...we knew every one of them. But I can't remember any of the Blacks, the coloreds going into the Continental. But in those days if we had a robbery it would be those subjects we were looking for. It would be black, five foot ten, a broken nose or something like that.

Elise: So you're saying they were the only places. The only places that had beer parlours or?

X: They were the only hotels around there.

Elise: Oh, so in that district.

X: See if you wanted to go from there...there was a little Italian place called the Rose...that was on Helms Street. If you wanted to go farther up there, you

had to go up Bay Street and the first one you came to was the Bay Bluer...we're talking about beer houses..

Elise: So that's quite far.

X: Oh far, you're getting into classy area...so called uptown.

Elise: Right.

X: And if you wanted to go west on Queen then you had to go quite a few blocks and you came to...you came to...what at Beverly and Queen...oh there was another one too, right at the corner in Chinatown...at Queen and Elizabeth on the northwest corner. What was that called? I made a good arrest there when I was a young policeman. Oh you could smell the beer fumes from the outside of that little joint.

Elise: It was a bar?

X: It was a bar. But that was a working man's hangout and Chinese would come in there...they were never big beer drinkers but they would come in. if you went along Queen you hit the one at Beverly, that's still there. And there's another one if you went to Bather Street and you got the Holiday Tavern, and you got the Horse Shoe and along the street a bit The Pinetree. Now that's as far as you want to go; you're along at Palmerson and Queen now. Going this way, you got some pub joints. Now going east from Bay and Queen where the Municipal was. The first one was the Makaren House which was at the corner of...the southeast corner of Victoria and Queen. Another quiet workman's place...never any problems. You keep going east from there and you're getting into some tough joints. You got into the Canada House, still there, oh there was a fight every five minutes in there.

[00;52;03-00;54;52]

X: And the one across the street. That's a different area now. Now you're into Anglo-Saxon, tough criminal area. [right] So if you want to stay centralized into the area that you're talking about that's all you had.

Elise: Well that's great, that's really helpful.

X: Well I don't know too many people around today...you said you talked to some ladies that used to patronize...they must be getting up in years aren't they? [yeah] Because I was young then and I'm seventy now. I would be in my late twenties, early thirties when I worked around there. They were all certainly older than me. They maybe looked older.

Elise: They maybe looked older. Well it's hard to tell I mean see the women that I've been able to meet and talk to go back only as early as fifty-six. And so the ones that are...I know some of them are around but they're hard to locate. And a lot of them of course have died.

X: Sure I remember one body, two bodies that always seem to be found at Cherry Beach.

Elise: And you found two women?

X: Not at one time...separate cases. One lady's name was [inaudible]. She was a prostitute; she wasn't a lesbian, but information led us to another house that was a house for lesbians. And that was on Beverly Street just south of Dundas. That took us to that house. We were investigating the [inaudible] murder case there. But in there they were all lesbians, gay women.

Elise: Gay women living there?

X: And they wanted to be helpful. They figured it was a square John who killed the trick they picked up. Very interesting...it brings me back. [end of tape]