

Interview with X Tape 1 Side 1
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Transcribed by Jody Konarski

[00;00;00-00;05;20]

X: [inaudible] It was just my brother, my sister, and myself. And all I can remember is this one day my father coming home telling me this woman was going to be my mother. And me being really happy about it because I spent some time sort of being teased by kids because I didn't have a mom and that my mom left...your mom didn't love you and all this shit. And that came from a day and age where a family wasn't considered normal unless there was moms and dads and all that....whatever.

Elise: Were you in Toronto? Did you grow up in Toronto?

X: Yeah. I was born and raised. I was living actually on Harvey Avenue at the time in West Bank. I didn't find out until about a year ago that the house....my real mother's house...she owned the house, then my dad still continued living there for some reason. Then my step-mother moved in and I guess a good year we were all living there...whatever. It turned out...I found out very quickly there was something wrong with my step-mother. She started to beat me with skipping ropes and everything right from the first few months. I remember very clearly one day though....I remember my real mother coming...I think she was drunk. I remember her banging and banging on the front door. I remember my brother and sister grabbing me and whipping me out the back door and over to the neighbour's backyard and we were hiding behind something. And I just remember crying and trying to pull away saying I want my mom, and them not letting me go. For some reason they just would not let me go and then I heard this big crash. It was my mother who had put her fist through the glass in the door. Whatever....but then I spent years always wondering about her....I never knew if she was dead or alive. My step-mother used to say to me, your mother's probably dead; they probably hung her. She was real bad and they put her in jail. And they hang people in jail. You know when you're really young, you don't know what to believe. So for many years I thought my mother had been hung in jail or something. Anyway, I spent a lot of years...I don't remember one day not being battered. And I used to spend my summers going to my step- mother's parent's farm. And they were very good to me; they treated me like I was blood relative and she had seven sisters, and they were all great to me. And I used to love it; come

summer, I knew I'd be free from the beatings and all that. It's probably why even today my favorite time of the year is spring. [yeah] And the time that I don't like is fall. It's something inside me; I get this real sadness and almost anxiety every time it's fall. And I still do to that day and I think it's because when the fall was coming like at the end of the summer, I always knew that meant I was going back home for another ten months of beatings and stuff right. [yeah] But anyway, I lived with this woman for quite a number of...we moved up to [inaudible], and we were there until I left home; I left home at fifteen. My brother had already left and my sister had already left, but I'd had two or three years where I got it all because I was the only kid left at home. And it just got worse and worse and worse right. My father never once never stood up for me; it would just be in the living room and she'd be bashing my head up against the wall or beating me with a skipping rope. Every time we sat down to eat a meal she'd go and get a skipping rope and keep it on her knee. If I dropped any food off a fork or anything she'd give it to me. So um...anyway, I ended up I left home and I only lived about seven doors away from them. My girlfriend's father...I used to sleep in his car and he didn't know it. And she used to drop down bedding for me to keep warm at night. Because what started happening when I was about thirteen was my parents had a cottage in Peterborough....and for some reason just out of the clear blue, I went to get in the backseat of the car one weekend and she said to my father, if she comes I'm not going. He just looked at her right...and she said I'm not coming if she goes. And that was fine; I didn't want to go with them. He said okay get out. I got out, I had only the clothes I had on me, I never had a key to my house. In fact, I always had to knock to get in to my own house. If I went to the store or anywhere I had to knock. I never had a key to get in and out of my own house right. [right, yeah] So, they just drove off. I had no money, no food, nothing. So I was like...I didn't know what to do at first, and I was ashamed more than anything right. [yeah]

[00;05;21-00;09;40]

X: I was relieved that I didn't have to go and be with her. So but I went down to my friend's and called on her and then I told her about it right and says what am I going to do right. And I was actually afraid of her father. He seemed like a real meanie to me somehow. I was afraid of him for some reason. She said, come and my parents will let you stay here. I wouldn't. I said no, no, no. I don't want them to know. I didn't want anyone to know that they did this right. So anyway, for weeks...almost the whole summer, she was dropping bedding and bag lunches for me and stuff right. And I'd sleep in the back seat

of the car and she'd make sure I got up early enough in the morning and get me and just make like I came and called on her really early. And in one time I was sleeping there; I guess it was Saturday morning, and all of a sudden I hear...what are you doing in my car? And I look and it's her dad and I was just shittin my pants right. Oh god, I don't know what I told him, I can't remember but he said, well you should never do that. He said, you get into my house right now. I was shittin. I thought oh he's going to take me in there and beat me or something right. [yeah] He sat me down and said my daughter just told me the truth that you've been sleeping there all summer. He said, you didn't have to do that right. So they heard the whole story and that was it, I just never went back home. So then I tried to get some relationship...just something going because I felt kind of guilty....with my dad and everything and I used to go once and a while up and visit but it was no good. And then one time I bought myself, when I started working, I bought myself a motorcycle. So I was really proud of this thing and I said to my friend, c'mon hop on and we'll go up to Peterborough and we'll go up to the cottage right, just for an hour or two. I went there and knocked on the door....no they weren't there....they were out fishing so we were up in the top of the hill and we saw them coming in and went down to when the boat come in and right in front of my friend she started...you have no right, don't you ever come here without an invitation and bring people here and everything and she just went on and on and on and on and stuff and I just looked at her and my dad and I said this is the last you'll ever see of me for the rest of my life. I said I don't need this, I don't need it, I'm on my own, I'm going to live my own life and I want nothing more to do with you. I said you never fucking wanted me in the first place. I only tried to be friends and everything...but there's no love lost, I'm gone. And I think I was seventeen then. And I have never ever seen them, talked to them, nothing since right. My sister...she's always kept in touch with them, only because of my dad. See also, too, I am about eighty percent sure that he's not even my real father and that's probably why he never bothered to stick up for me; he didn't care. Because my sister since told me that my mother was prostituting. She remembers men being at the house. She remembers money. She remembers them going into the bedroom. She was about eight years old and she remembers that distinctly right. And my step-mother used to say to me a lot of times when she was beating me she'd say, he's not your father. Anyways, he's Helen's father and [inaudible]. He's not your father. And he would hear her say that and sometimes he'd holler and say shut up to her right. But he never said why. He never said shut up that's a lie. Or shut up, you don't have to be telling her that or something right? [yeah]

[00;09;41-00;14;07]

X: I remember one time I was thirteen and she was out getting her hair done and this had been bugging me and bugging me and bugging me. And we were sitting at the table and I said to him, can I ask you a question? And he said what. I said well you know how she's always saying you're not my dad? I said is that true? And he just hit the roof. He was livid. He said, get in your room. And he never did answer it. [right] But the more I do think about it, I'm positive that he's not my dad. So for me there's always been a little bit...still left questions you know. [yeah] Because uh...on and off all through my life...I'd go to corner stores and I used to hang out in Chinatown...I had so many Chinese people talk to me and they'd say you got Chinese blood. And it always seemed to be this thing between me and Chinese people. I've even had when I was younger, Chinese people start talking to me in Chinese right. [okay, yeah] And I'd let them know, I don't speak Chinese right. And it's very likely too because when I talked to my sister she had remembered some oriental people and also I know from being downtown...I know in those days a lot of the Johns that would go downtown were Chinese people right? Asian people. [right] So I...it doesn't bother me because I just always say that I'm a Heinz fifty seven...it doesn't really bother me...I don't care what I am...it just bothered me a bit just not to know my actual true roots. [right] Today it bothers me not knowing if my real mother is dead or alive. That sort of thing. And it's always bothered me more for my daughter. She hasn't had any grandparents right, none. And now for my grand-son too you know. Because my step-mother and father...my sister called them from Vancouver the day I had the baby, and told them about me having the baby and my dad could only go on and on and on about me not being married. Meanwhile I find out later what a hypocrite he was because he never divorced my mother and living common-law for years with my step-mother. But like most guys a two-faced prick as far as I'm concerned. And apparently my step-mother....my sister said I'm not sure but I could have sworn she started crying. I said well ain't that a switch. You would have thought it would have been the other way around or something right. But they were not one bit interested in ever knowing or seeing my daughter. I was almost relieved because it did not want her around them anyway. My sister always said, her kids always used to tell me they hate....they called her every name in the book because she was mean to them too and she was mean to everybody. But she's sick. I finally used to say...I could make excuses for her almost....she needed help. She was definitely definitely a very sick woman. I really grew up more, the older I got, hating him for being such a spineless, gutless person that would allow

somebody to beat children like that and do nothing about it right. I mean my father is six foot three. He was a big guy but just because he's a docile person and doesn't like the make [inaudible], you still don't sit around year and year and literally have somebody put someone's head through a wall or all kinds of stuff right. But anyway, that's...I don't want to get too heavy into that, but that's where my childhood was. So I left home. But I lived in a lot of different places. In one year I just kept moving from place to place. The people I was staying with...he was studying to be a Anglican Minister.

[00;14;08-00;18;17]

X: When I first moved in with them. [in with him?] My girlfriend's parents. He started studying to be an Anglican Minister so when he was ordained they placed him out in Alberta somewhere...somewhere out west. And they wanted me to come with them. But my biggest reason really was that I felt guilty. They were very poor. They were very very poor people and I had always felt bad that they were supporting me. Like I went out and got part-time work right from the time I was....when I left. So when I was fifteen and I had to go to my step-mother to get her written permission...that was no big deal cuz you couldn't work if you were under sixteen in those days without parental....but I worked just part-time eh. And I gave them a bit of money, but they didn't really want to take my money, and they said no just use your money and we can't really afford to give you spending money. And I started smoking. I'd already been smoking for a couple years so that's pretty well where the bit of money I made went. And I bought my own clothes and stuff that I wanted.

Elise: So what kind of jobs did you manage to get?

X: My first job I worked in a [inaudible] store on Avenue Road in the bakery...what bakery was that....Hunt's Bakery. That was my very very first paying job. Before that I used to babysit and do those kind of jobs. I ended up quitting school in grade thirteen because they had moved, they had gone, and I was really lost. I was just....the church found this place where I could stay with this lady, but I didn't really know her and I didn't feel comfortable at all. I ended up...I took off from there...I actually don't remember how I ended up downtown except probably because of my job. When I quit school, the first job I got was in a printing company and it was right downtown....right in Jarvis. Then I ended up staying at this place...I think it's still there too, on Beverly Street, run by the Anglican Church...single, young women stay there. [yeah] And you pay so much for your room and it's room and board and this sort of stuff. I stayed there and that's when...it was there that I came out too.

Well, I didn't quite come out you know because even before that I had been always attracted to women...always. But it was something I was very ashamed of and I didn't even know the word lesbian. And I was a lesbian and didn't even....cause in those days it was like living in the country almost. It wasn't like you were an inner city kid. I didn't know anything. I was dumb about stuff like that. I didn't know nothing. All I knew was that I really loved women and I had this thing for women and I used to sort of neck with some of them and everything right.

Elise: Like school friends?

X: Yeah. And when I was sixteen I went and spent a whole summer being a mother's helper up at Lake [inaudible] and there was just this one girl that I was madly in love with. And it's funny cuz you never talked about it...like I love you. But we always, when people weren't looking we were holding hands. And when we had sleepovers when the lights went out we were kissing and doing all kinds of stuff....nothing was ever...it wasn't something that was ever discussed; it was just there.

[00;18;18-00;26;38]

X: But then when I lived at the Georgina Houses, that was the place, I got a job at Sick Kids Hospital in the x-ray department. These two other women that stayed at the house...with them it was the same situation too. I was almost having an affair with each one of them. But we still didn't talk. Nobody said the word queer, lesbian, anything like that. But then it was more progressed because they both said I love you, and I said I love you and this sort of thing. And they were best friends and they ended up being kind of enemies because I was kind of...I didn't know which one I liked the most. And one would say come home with me for the weekend. She'd take me to Peterborough. So we'd have our little weekend affair at her house. And the other one would say come home with me and she'd take me up to North Bay. [laughter] And I'd have this affair with her right. But anyway, when we used to walk along Dundas, cuz we all worked at the hospital too, so we spent a lot of time together. And one day, there is a little restaurant that is still there, but it's just been changed around a bit...but there was a little restaurant run by Greeks. And we used to stop in there for coffee, coke, whatever, you know. And this one day this friend of mine Gert, she said have you ever seen that woman that comes in here? I said no, what woman? She said, you wouldn't believe this, you wouldn't believe this. She looks like a guy, so much she looks like a guy. And I hadn't seen this person or anything right. She said let' stick around

because she usually comes in...she's got this girlfriend....beautiful, beautiful blonde. Look like she should be on tv. And they come in her so let's stay later. And she had a motorcycle. And it was right after that I got mine. And they come in and take these things off their head. And I'm trying to pretend I'm not staring but holy shit that's a guy, I'm sorry but that's a guy. I've seen men around just on the street lots of times and one of them was right over there on [inaudible]. I'm telling you that one is a woman. No it's not, it's a young boy. Cuz she had what we called not a crew cut, it was even shorter, but a college cut. And I looked and couldn't see any tits anywhere and it was her mannerisms, just her...she was kind of gross too like her mouth and that...and I was fairly naïve still in those days. I didn't swear, hardly nothing. And she was like swearing like a trooper and tough, you know a toughie. Big, tall, skinny, lanky thing though. But I started looking at her girlfriend....[laughter] oooooo. So, we made bets. I said, no, no, no, it's a guy. Cuz I never realized what a lesbian really was. I never knew anything about butch and dyke. Nothing like that right. I mean, I always wore...I would not wear skirts. In school I got detention after detention after detention, notes being sent home to the people where I was staying. I would not wear skirts. I would only wear jeans. And in those days it wasn't like today where you wear what you want. I just flatly refused right. My hair was always short. I used to carry other girl's books home. Anyways, so we wait and they get up to go, so I said okay c'mon let's go right. And we're standing outside and they start getting on this motorcycle and I can't remember if I started some conversation....all I know is we started to talk right. And the cute one...her name was Alicia...she was bubbly and really friendly right. Maybe she kind of liked the look of me. When I think back on it, I was kind of cute in those days. [laughter] I wasn't fat, nothing...I was a little wee bit of a thing. She probably had my number before I really knew what the hell I was....she probably already had me pegged. And I think that's what happened. I think she started talking to me. I'm Alicia and whatever and we all introduce ourselves and then she said and this is my girlfriend Shirley. Well I'm telling you I could have just flopped on the ground in disbelief in that moment. But part of me was all excited. I thought wow....wow.....like here's somebody doing what I always wanted to do you know...like just totally being myself...what myself would have been. Wearing cow boy boots, tight jeans, even like I wasn't really feminine, but I hadn't allowed myself to totally be myself.

Elise: Yeah, like you didn't go the full distance like Shirley had...

X: I didn't go the full distance and here I see somebody...oh wow right. So I make sure...they said are you guys coming here tomorrow? I said we start at ten and [inaudible].

Elise: So did they ever come right out and ask you are you gay or what?

X: No Shirley actually didn't have the bike...I had the bike...and she really liked my bike and she says well take me for a ride, take me here, take me there...

Elise: That must have been really unusual for a woman to have a bike. I mean this must have been what sixty-four, sixty-five....

X: Yeah somewhere around that.

Elise: And that must have been really unusual for a woman to be riding a motorcycle? [kind of] Even today, like I used to ride a motorcycle and people used to stare at me and think it was very strange, and that was in the mid-eighties...so I mean twenty years before that....must have been even more bizarre.

X: I guess it was. I mean I never really thought of it too much that way, but uh...and that's right so she had me driving her here driving her there and took me home to meet her mom and everything. And she knew right away. Because I think she said what's happening with you and that Gertrude. So I mean, it wasn't too hard for me to tell her, well you know I've always liked women right. Oh well, you gotta come with me; she started right away taking me to the gay clubs.

Elise: Do you remember which ones?

X: Oh shit, I was in heaven. Ummm...gosh my memory is not all that great anymore when it gets to the names.

Elise: Sixty-five would have been like the Parkside...

X: Oh yeah, she took me to the Parkside. I ended up where I hung out though was Chinatown. The Continental Hotel...that was a rough spot. It was home, it was home to us you know. And the Parkside and the [inaudible] Room. There was a bunch of different ones. For a number of years the bars that they did hang out in....and they were all mixed....there's no such thing as a woman's and a man's bar....they were all mixed.

Elise: Except the Continental right?

X: That was mixed straight. Very few faggots went in there you know. A few that were hooking in drag. They'd come and sit with us and that but not much; it was mostly all the women in the Continental and the back room was sort of ours. But it was most pretty well, the straights and gays in there got along pretty well. In fact, most of the straight guys that were regulars, they would always stick up for us. If a stranger come in and started beefing with us, you know they'd be right there.

[00;26;39-00;32;32]

X: But most of the clubs tended to be on Young Street, in those days. And they stayed open until four or five o'clock...really late but they didn't own liquor licenses. So what we'd all do is drink in the Continental and/or drink in the Parkside until the club opened. Right....just get yourself good and tanked because everybody always wanted to be feeling good. [Right] Drink lots of booze and then go. And sometimes people would take bottles and drink in the washrooms but if they got caught they'd get barred and all that right. So and I started doing shows right away. But I have to tell you the first night she took me to a club...I can remember that so vividly. She'd take me in there and I was so excited. And I'd go in and nothing but women. Like I didn't even notice any faggots. There wasn't many men at all. And I'd never seen a drag queen. So I probably thought that half of them were women too though you know. We weren't there even two hours and I went into the washroom and somebody starts really coming on...and I never had anybody in my life come on to me that strong. I just went with the flow. Then about a good hour or more later, all of a sudden Shirley comes in the washroom and where the hell have you been, I've been looking all over for you. I haven't left the washroom for like a good hour and I said I'm having a great time! All these women! I had necked with about five women. [Noooo] Yeah, like people were just so....and I was new. I was brand new and in those days people never wasted time. It was like letting a bull loose in a bunch of fields of cows. I was in my glory. [that's incredible] It was just like, my life just started. Like life just really meant something to me all of a sudden....it was like wow! This is fantastic. It's like I come across some place better than Earth. I could never get over my initial...the impact it had on me. Because I'd had this pent up inside of me for so many years and here I'd found a world where I could let it all hang out and not be ashamed of it, afraid of it, nothing right. So I went clubbing seven nights a week. So it never took too long that I ended up losing my job because I was drinking heavy and I went into full drag. It couldn't really work working at a kids hospital with a woman in full drag in those days. Plus I got

kicked out of Georgina House, cuz I got really drunk one night, Gert and I, we got really loaded. We were going to be going up to her place in North Bay but we had our bottles. I was getting fairly heavy into alcohol at the time and it was funny because previous to all that, I wouldn't have touched booze. I was fairly religious and drinking to me it was wrong. My introduction to the clubs and bars and before I knew it I was drinking; I was drinking underage. They were handing me booze in the back of the Continental....in the back of the parking lot. Anyway, I got kicked out of there because we decided we were going to have a couple drinks before we got on the train. And then we got into this discussion and it became a lover's quarrel. [between you and Gertrude] Over me and Lu Ellen...the other one. It became....you see I had been voted in president of that place just about six months previous to that, and I had the best room in the place. The president had this big room with a fire place and everything so we were in my room and we were drinking...and we were drinking rye...not even beer, it was rye and we were drinking and drinking and I guess we were both pissed to the eye balls. It ends up into a fist fight because she come right at me. And we are banging up against...and I'm trying to get her off me and all these young women, everybody's running up and all they hear is this stuff through the door. And it was obvious what we were fighting over, everything right, so we go to work the next day and there's a big bang on the door and they used to have a woman that was the house whatever...she got us separated and she said okay Lynn I want you to sleep in this other room tonight. And I was fairly docile; I wasn't a fighter, really. I didn't hit her, I was just trying to get her off me. She's from up north I tell you she was ranging. She was rang a tang.

[00;32;33-00;38;42]

X: A woman scorned. And she was a lot bigger than me, she was kind of fat. She was three times the size; I was tiny, tiny in those days. I kinda feel that thy felt more sorry for me anyway at the time and Gert had been in some other trouble a few times there. She was a bit of a problem to them...so anyway, we go to work and we're coming home and we know it, we just know we are in deep shit. We dreaded going in that frigin house...the office of the head woman who's not there at night, she's only there during the day right. And sure enough...there was a desk where you go check for your mail and there was a secretary and she said oh....mrs. so and so would like to see you both in her office...it reminded me of school right. We looked at each other and said oh shit right. We go in there and she's got this couch and it's behind us and she said I want to talk to you both. And then she said, go on...go sit on the

couch over there. We turn around and go over to the couch and go to sit down and she hands us the bottles. The empty bottles just lying there. [laughter] Well so anyway, we get the big spiel, we get this and that and she said I am really really disappointed and she talked to us both and she said okay Gert you can go. And then she talked to me and went right into how disappointed she was in me. And she said you know I expected it of Gert but you really really surprised me and all this right. She says Lynn I don't have a choice she said. But I have to tell you you've got to move out. Both of you. I guess they probably gave us two weeks, I can't remember. We ended up getting this little apartment up on Baldwin Street.

Elise: So you guys stayed together?

X: Yeah, but once I met Shirley I just sort of....they didn't see much more of me.

Elise: Oh so at that point you hadn't met Shirley yet?

X: No.

Elise: You were drinking before you started going to the bars then?

X: Yeah, with Gert. But I wasn't going to any bars. I only drank like if we were going to her...up to North Bay. It was like a ritual. You'd buy the bottles...and up there we would drink. But I only went with her maybe once a month something right. And that's probably why I was as pissed as I was because I couldn't drink. I mean, I couldn't hold alcohol right. I mean I think I was probably pissed to where you could hardly stand up...that kind of pissed. I know I was sick the next day, oh....real sick. I was bringing up all over the place. But no my heavy drinking every night started once Shirley introduced me to the clubs. The first night at the club that was it. And I was there every night for years...for a long time. I ended up on the street; I never had a place to live. For about five years I never had an address, for about five years.

[small talk]

Elise: You met Pauline at the Continental?

X: As far as I can remember that's where I met her. I'm not positive....I think I was down in Chinatown before Pauline.

Elise: Well Pauline's the same age as you. Are you...

X: I'm forty nine

Elise: She's forty eight. And she started going to the Continental when I think she was sixteen or seventeen. You didn't start going until you were in your twenties...I'm trying to follow your story. How old were you when you got kicked out of the Anglican house? Eighteen? Nineteen?

X: Probably about eighteen.

Elise: And then you met Shirley and then you would have started going to gay bars.

X: Yeah, I can't remember half of it as far asI was underage for drinking for a good two years, a good two years. And you had to be twenty-one to drink.

Elise: So my understanding is that if you sort of got into the in crowd at the Continental, if they liked you, they would hand you drinks out the back. Was that your sense too?

X: Oh yeah because I would club with the at night because you didn't have to be any age to go to the club. Right. Cuz they didn't have a liquor licence. So they all knew me from the Continental, became my friends and they partied with me at night so it was nothing for them to hand out booze to me right. Or you'd get one of them go and get you a cheap bottle of wine. And we'd go into the restaurants, the other end...we called it the other end and that was Pembroke and Dundas area right. There was a row of restaurants and everything that stayed open all night. [Did you go to The New Dainty?} The New Dainty, Mary's Teahouse, Jukebox was a club.

[00;38;43-00;44;18]

X: Down there at Pembroke it was Mary's, Norm's, The New Service, a couple others that I can't even remember the names of. Just the other side...just east of Church. SO it was the strip from where Pembroke was, where the crosswalk is right over to the block right before Church. There was a restaurant right on that corner too where we all hung out and they were all open all night. But if you were underage you'd get somebody, like I say, didn't have much money, get somebody to buy you some cheap wine and go in the washroom and down this bottle of wine. You didn't want to get caught you know.

Elise: So for that five year period you say you didn't have an address and stuff like that. How were you....what kinds of places were you staying in?

X: Flop houses...and quite often a lot of the women I associated with and that were hookers. So they'd make money and they'd get a room and they'd just let you stay with them and that and for me for a while there it was like they were

older than me, they were maybe ten years older than me at the time. And in those days it seemed a lot older right. And a lot of them really liked me. Like there wasn't a shortage of feminine women who really liked me. They would take me home or take me to wherever they rented a room or whatever. And then sometimes if there wasn't that there'd be two or three or maybe four of us that had no actual address and we just pan handled. And it only cost three, four dollars a night for a room on Elm Street in those days right. So it wouldn't be hard. You didn't even need money to drink. Most of the time, the Chinese men, any of the guys who were tricks in that area...even if you weren't hooking, you could even get them...because they had to have a woman take them in to the one side of the hotel. They used to have a distinct men only side and ladies and escorts. And men could not go in there and sit there on their own. They had to be with a female. So we had it made because we could get all these tricks that wanted to be able to go in and [inaudible] all the women that were hooking. So you'd say fine you can sit with me but you got a buy my booze and buy booze for my friends too. It was pretty well in there it was draft beer that we all drank. Some drank bottles but it was draft beer that was like fifteen, twenty cents a glass. [right] But we'd tell Johnny, drop the whole tray right. And these guys, the Chinese guys in those days they had money coming out of their ears cuz they had a lot of gambling houses right there. And they were all involved in the gambling houses right and they had money to burn so it was nothing for them.

Elise: So for you, you didn't have to roll guys or anything, you'd just come right out and say....

X: I wouldn't do it anyway, that's just my own personal character. It wouldn't matter how hard up I was I couldn't do it. When I decided to have my daughter, the guy that I decided I was going to use to be the father it was ideal because for a year he'd been cracking me asking me wanna go, wanna go? I'd say no because I wasn't hooking. And I'd keep saying no, no I don't do that, I don't do that. But then when I decided I'm twenty-eight, I gotta think about this right. If I'm going to have his child, I gotta do it now. Because it wasn't like today where you're into your forties and they're saying it's fine, it's safe to have children and everything right so I was with somebody then and the woman I was with and my ex and we all talked about it and they helped me decide. They said you're going to make a great mother and you want to be a mother; do it. But I couldn't figure out how am I going to do this thing right, I don't screw guys. And like what am I supposed to do, pretend to be in love with some guy? I really didn't know how I was going to do it at first right. And I

think it was my ex who came up with that idea. You know that guy Manuel? You know that guy who's been bugging you and bugging you and bugging you? Why don't you just go out with him? And at least then too you'll know who the father is you know. You know enough about him to know he's a nice man right. He was a Portuguese guy. So that's what I did, I said okay that's it. So I went out with him and I had to go out with him eight times before it took. That was my introduction to...see I had been physically abused when I was a child from my step-mother's brother, who lives on the farm. And ongoing physical and sexual abuse.

[00;44;19-00;45;13]

X: But there had been enough time pass and that...but that had been sort of my only experience with males right and um whatever so I'm sure it took me about eight times before I did get pregnant.

Elise: So were you dating him?

X: Oh no I told him straight up.

Elise: Oh you told him that you were trying to get pregnant?

X: Yup. See I made the decision. Harley knew, Janet knew, I knew. And he didn't show up right away; I think it was a week or two. When I wanted the son of a bitch to show up he wasn't there. And he'd never sit with me and not ask. I get him sitting with me, buying booze or whatever. I swear this time...and I swear his eyes bugged out of his head. And I'll never forget because we went to the Rex Hotel on Queen's Street [end of tape]