



1980-10-14

Reis, Filomena Interview

Mary Wedegaertner

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarlycommons.pacific.edu/witw>

Recommended Citation

Wedegaertner, Mary, "Reis, Filomena Interview" (1980). *Delta Women Oral Histories*. 52.
<https://scholarlycommons.pacific.edu/witw/52>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Western Americana at Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Delta Women Oral Histories by an authorized administrator of Scholarly Commons. For more information, please contact mgibney@pacific.edu.

Stockton Immigrant Women Oral History Collection

by Sally Miller

Reis, Filomena (Portuguese)

October 14, 1980

Interviewed by Mary Wedegaertner

Transcribed by Robert Siess & Tien Ho

MARY WEDEGAERTNER: Interview of October 14 with Mrs. Reis [pronounced race], R-E-I-S. Okay, first we'll get some basic things down, like your place of birth.

FILomena REIS: Azores. The island of St. George.

WEDEGAERTNER: And when were you born?

REIS: March 7, '47.

WEDEGAERTNER: And you were born on that island?

REIS: In that island, yeah.

WEDEGAERTNER: In a small town?

REIS: In a small village. Well, in the island, maybe there's two villages larger than ours.

WEDEGAERTNER: Were you right in the village, or sort of in the countryside?

REIS: No. I was just about in the middle, at the edge.

WEDEGAERTNER: What did your father do for a living?

REIS: Well, he try several things. I know he had where they make orange soda and the 7-Up, like. It's not like this over here. They would be different flavors.

WEDEGAERTNER: Did he have a small plan there?

REIS: Small. It would just take care of the island. He was the first one really in the island to start the...

WEDEGAERTNER: How did he get started on that?

REIS: I don't know the details really.

WEDEGAERTNER: How old were you when he was doing that?

REIS: I don't know how many years he was working, but I remember that was before he went to Africa, so I must have been maybe six, seven years old. I don't recall.

WEDEGAERTNER: And then did you have someone driving it around?

REIS: He would be the one to drive it to the different stores. Then he had some people in, washing the barrels, because he would bring back the empty barrels, and washing the barrels.

WEDEGAERTNER: And he took it also to other cities, towns too?

REIS: Other villages, yeah, because on the island, he was the one that was supplying. And then a few years later, then somebody else opened another one.

WEDEGAERTNER: About how large of a village? Do you have any idea as far as what the population was at that time?

REIS: At that time, maybe 1500 people.

WEDEGAERTNER: And do you have sisters and brothers?

REIS: Altogether, I have five brothers and four sisters. We're ten.

WEDEGAERTNER: And where are you in the ten children?

REIS: I'm the fifth one.

WEDEGAERTNER: And you had both older brothers and older sisters?

REIS: Older brothers and older sisters and younger brothers and younger sisters.

WEDEGAERTNER: Then what else did your father do?

REIS: He also have a little... Over here, would be a pickup like. Like a truck, but maybe like a small truck, because over here they're larger. Over there, a truck is like the same kind they have in Europe.

It's not the big-size truck like here. It's larger than a ton-and-a-half pickup. Over here we don't see that size truck. And sometimes when the books came into the village and there was things to deliver to other parts of the island, then he would also deliver things like that. To other stores, things that came in the boat and stuff.

WEDEGAERTNER: And then you mentioned that somewhere along he went to Africa?

REIS: He went to Africa. He stayed there only about two years. My mother got real sick.

WEDEGAERTNER: Did your family go too?

REIS: No. We all stayed. Just my father. Then my mother got real sick, so I understand my mother, they mailed him a telegram or something that she was in serious condition, and he left everything and he came.

WEDEGAERTNER: When he left for over there, did he have a job that he was going to?

REIS: No. He was just going on an adventure to see if maybe he could make a better life there than he was doing in the Azores. He didn't like it there too much.

WEDEGAERTNER: So he was just as glad to come back home, huh?

REIS: Yeah. He didn't like it there too much.

WEDEGAERTNER: Did your mother get better at that time?

REIS: Yeah. She got better. And I lost a little sister when he was gone too. So it was too much, you know.

WEDEGAERTNER: Did your mother ever work outside the home?

REIS: No. She never worked outside the house. For a paying job, no.

WEDEGAERTNER: Did she work with your father?

REIS: She was pretty sick. No, she would never work.

WEDEGAERTNER: And she just had all she could do to keep up the house and the children?

REIS: Yeah.

WEDEGAERTNER: And I suppose quite a bit of it fell on the daughters as they got older too?

REIS: Yeah. The two older sisters, and before I came to this country, a person worked there, and then it's all hardwood floors, and you scrub them on your knees and all of that.

WEDEGAERTNER: And what about conveniences and types of things?

REIS: Well back then, before I immigrated to the United States, maybe a few years before, we had electricity like from nine to midnight. But I remember that time there was no electricity still. We just, like lanterns, petroleum lanterns, or a candle that a person would light.

WEDEGAERTNER: And so did you cook with wood and heat with wood?

REIS: Yeah. Everything was cooked with wood, and there would be no heaters for the water or no heaters for the house or nothing.

WEDEGAERTNER: How far in school did you go?

REIS: Well, we were obligated to go four years. We started at seven years old, and we went to eleven.

WEDEGAERTNER: And did any of your family go any further than that?

REIS: Yeah. I had two brothers. No, my older brother and my older sister, they started college. But my older brother, he went for two years, but he didn't like it. He went fishing, and then he never liked school too much. But my older sister, she was in school, and she was going on second year of college, because over there we have four years, and then we have one year, they call it [abuson] and then you start college. She was on the first year of college. You know, they have one year before you go to college. Then you start the college.

WEDEGAERTNER: So essentially, you just went until you were, what, eleven or so?

REIS: Yeah. I just went to the first four.

WEDEGAERTNER: And then what did you do after that?

REIS: I was just home, cleaning and helping.

WEDEGAERTNER: You didn't have a job outside that you were paid for.

REIS: No, no. My mother had a godmother that was living with us, and I would work with her most of the time. Like we would go up into the little orchards behind the house. And I would work with her most of the time, like we would go up into the little orchards behind the house. There was those orchards, and we would go plant watermelons, and then we would carry water for the watermelons, water for the potatoes, and things like that, and go pick weeds. You know, the plant that over there, there's all kinds on the sides of the streets. We pick it, give it to the chickens. At the stores, I see that plant in vases. I don't even know the name of it.

WEDEGAERTNER: Something like a sweet pea? Or no, not that.

REIS: No, it's not a sweet pea. I've had it here. And you know, taking care of the pigs and chickens, because whatever you eat is what you put in the ground, and what you produce yourself. You buy flower, you buy sugar. Most of the times back then, you would hardly, like sweet bread not too much. Wheat bread not too much. We had mostly corn bread, like you would have wheat bread maybe once a week or special occasions.

WEDEGAERTNER: But you did all your own baking?

REIS: Yeah. And all the baking and all the washing and everything was done by hand, so it took a lot of work from the ones in the house.

WEDEGAERTNER: Did you do mostly the outside things like you were talking about?

REIS: Yeah. From my sisters, I was more the outside girl, yeah.

WEDEGAERTNER: And did any of your brothers help inside, or was it just the outside work for the boys?

REIS: The boys, mostly they would fish and they would take care of a cow, and they had the goat. What do you call a female? A goat would be a male. Wouldn't it be a male?

WEDEGAERTNER: Whatever. [laughs]

REIS: And they would had a couple houses, it was the milk, or they change it from one little pasture to another, then they would catch the fish, all the fish, and they would fix it so we dry it in the sun or put salts so it would keep for the winter. And that's what my brothers would do, and my father, he was pretty business with the little business he had himself.

WEDEGAERTNER: Was this a seashore village?

REIS: Yeah.

WEDEGAERTNER: So was one of the main occupations fishing then?

REIS: Yes. Like my brothers, they enjoyed fishing a lot, and they would go... Because they were young then, it's not that they would go deep sea fishing, because they were 15, 16 years old. But they would go on the rocks and catch rock cods and different fishes like that. Sardines.

WEDEGAERTNER: What year did you say you were born again?

REIS: 1947.

WEDEGAERTNER: Okay. What would you say your family did together for fun or recreation?

REIS: Well, maybe visit relatives. About the only time my father would have a gathering of friends and relatives would be like in the winter. When they kill a pig, it's a big feast.

WEDEGAERTNER: Sure. Yeah.

REIS: You invite your uncles and your cousins and some of your friends, and maybe somebody's got a guitar or a violin. And then they would dance a little bit, somebody would sing, and some kids would kind of put on a show.

WEDEGAERTNER: Sure. What about customs and traditions? Were there special customs that you celebrated in your family? Holidays, or religious holidays?

REIS: Christmas. Easter. Like for Easter, they would make [squitch]. It would be like a sweetbread, and we would put the whole egg in, maybe two or three eggs. Everybody had a sweetbread of their own. We called them [flarge], because they have the eggs, the whole eggs inside. Like somebody would have one with one egg, the bigger one, and a little bit bigger one, maybe two eggs.

WEDEGAERTNER: And this is with the shell on them still?

REIS: The shell on them.

WEDEGAERTNER: Did you dye the eggs sometimes, by any chance? With onion skins or anything? Someone had told me that they had done that.

REIS: No. I believe that other villages, because it's amazing how sometimes from one village to another it changes. But in our village, no. We would just put the whole egg inside, and it would cook while the bread was baking.

WEDEGAERTNER: Oh, I see. The raw egg goes on, and it cooks. I thought maybe you put it on when it was halfway done or something.

REIS: No. We wash the shells real good, and then we put them in there, because we make a flat piece, and then you put some more dough on top, so it cooks.

WEDEGAERTNER: What was your religion in your family?

REIS: Catholic.

WEDEGAERTNER: Catholic. And did you speak only Portuguese?

REIS: Yes. Only Portuguese. My sister, my older sister Mary, the one that started college, she was learning French. She knew a few words.

WEDEGAERTNER: Would you say in your family that your mother or your father made most of the decisions as far as raising the children and everyday type of decisions?

REIS: It's a men's world back then, but two in the house. The cooking, of course that will be a woman's decision, and what to cook, or usually the educating of the child is mostly the responsibility of the mother. Unless it gets out of hand, then the father would give them a good whipping.

WEDEGAERTNER: What about handling the finances?

REIS: No. That was mostly the father's. Even now, my father, after all these years in the United States, and he has a daily business all the time, and he handles the finances and all of that.

WEDEGAERTNER: So your whole family came over to the United States?

REIS: Oh, another thing back then that you were asking about. About celebrating special things. One thing that we all looked for, also for Christmas, they have a club, like a society. Each village has

maybe one or two societies, and sometimes one belongs to another, some people belong to both, like my father belong to both societies. And they have a big hall, and for Christmas, they would put up a big Christmas tree. That was a big thing, you know. And they would decorate it all. Of course, they were small toys, like little small dolls, a little dog, it's not those big presents. And then Christmas Day, everybody's in line and they have numbers. They have gifts up on the tree, and they have a piece of paper and they put a number on it, and then they put identical numbers on the toys, and you pick. And whatever number you pick is what you get out of the tree. So that was one of the most exciting things, really.

WEDEGAERTNER: Did you attend church services at Christmas? Any special mass or anything?

REIS: They have the midnight mass that we would attend also.

WEDEGAERTNER: Did you have a Christmas tree in your home also?

REIS: Back there, we don't make the Christmas tree like here. We decorate with a village. We make a little small village, like here you see these little Christmas-decorating homes? Over there, we would have to make them all out of a white piece of paper, and we would cut them and paint them.

WEDEGAERTNER: You make new ones each year?

REIS: Yeah. We would make new ones each year. But even if we wanted to buy them, at least I believe other places, maybe bigger villages, other islands would have a [maid], but where we lived, they didn't have the little playhouses.

WEDEGAERTNER: How large a house did you have at that time?

REIS: It was a pretty large home. It had a large living room, a family room, because over there we don't have two, it would be just one. And then was my father's room, and then the girls' room, and my godmother would sleep in the same room as us, because there was three beds. And then there was a dining room, had a dining table, and my brothers' room and the kitchen. It was a nice home. There was a lot of people with just one-room, two-room houses. And then it was two-story, and underneath it was two rooms. That's where my father had his business.

WEDEGAERTNER: Okay. Well what did prompt you to leave?

REIS: Well, my aunt, my brother, sister of my father, she was the first one to immigrate to this country. And then my father came, and I don't know. He was always [...]. Over there, you try, even if you struggle, you make a living, but you never, but it's always poor...you know. Even if you make a living, but it's not that you have the kind of abundance you do here. Over here, there's all kinds of fruits and stuff, but over there, there's not too much meat, and really, a person, like the meat you have most of the time, if we get chicken that you kill or a pig that you kill once a year, and you make linguica, and then you smoke the bacon over the chimney on top of the roof. I remember those when they're cooking. And as far as beef, you know, sometimes two, three

weeks would go by and a person wouldn't have any beef. They had a place there where they kill the beef, but the beef was expensive []. And if the person, if my father would buy some, it wouldn't be too much, because it's not the kind of life that a person could have there. A poor person here can eat well, and there's no poor people here really unless you don't wanna do nothing. But otherwise, a person can eat well here compared to there.

WEDEGAERTNER: So he left by himself then at first?

REIS: Yeah. He left by himself, and he was here. After one year, he called my two older brothers. By then, my older brother, Tony, was 17 years old. The other one was maybe 15, 15 ½. John.

WEDEGAERTNER: Did he come directly to Stockton?

REIS: No. He came... Where did he go to first? Oh. There was this man that visited the Azores while my father was still there. Antonio, Tony Thomas, from Turlock.

WEDEGAERTNER: Oh, I know where Turlock is.

REIS: So my father talked to him and said he was gonna be coming over here. He had nobody to turn to if he would. When he got to this country, he could rely on him to go pick him up at the airport and help him find a job, so the man said yes, that he would, and my father didn't wanna fly. He came by boat, and then he came across the United States by train. He was afraid to fly! He says he don't [get complacent]. And I don't know where Tony Thomas pick my father up right now really. But then he went to his house, and he worked for him maybe a few months, because he had somebody else, he had promised somebody else a job that was also coming, that was a relative to him. So my father worked for him for a few months, and then he helped my father find another job, and my father went to Chowchilla. And he worked there for five years, for Oliver Espanoli. And they left after five years.

WEDEGAERTNER: Was he doing dairy work there?

REIS: Dairy. He was milking with my two older brothers. And my older brother Tony stayed there for a little bit, but then he didn't go out house too much. He, maybe when he was 20 years, he worked fishing. A year. He went on those tuna boats, and then that left my father with John, and then I would help, and my older sister Mary, we would go to the barn in the mornings and help wash the cows, help put the cows in and out, so we would give my father a hand.

WEDEGAERTNER: Now how many years was it before the rest of you came over?

REIS: My father came, and within a year, my two older brothers came. And then a year after my two older brothers left, and the rest of the family came.

WEDEGAERTNER: And you flew, right?

REIS: With my mother. We all flew.

WEDEGAERTNER: What were some of the things that you really hated about leaving your country?
Maybe what your mother missed. How old were you?

REIS: I was 13 when I came.

WEDEGAERTNER: And that was what year then? About '54?

REIS: 1960.

WEDEGAERTNER: Oh, '60, okay.

REIS: It was the late '59 or the late '60. It was November or something

WEDEGAERTNER: So you were still living in the Azores, then, when they had... What year did they have the really bad earthquakes? Someone had told me that there were some really...

REIS: There was a volcano. There was a volcano that broke out. I was still living, but it was not on my island. It was on Faial. We could see the fire at night, you know, shooting from the volcano, but no. And then the volcano was out to sea a little bit. Not too far out. But it's not that we had earthquakes.

WEDEGAERTNER: Yeah, okay. It was the volcano. Okay, so you came in 1960, and you all flew over directly to... Was he in Chowchilla at that time?

REIS: He was in Chowchilla, and Oliver Espanoli is the one that went to pick us up at the airport.

WEDEGAERTNER: Oh, I know what I was asking you. I was asking you what you really missed about your country, what you hated leaving.

REIS: Oh. My godmother. My mother's godmother. She was an older lady then, and I was real close to her, I gotta admit that. I think of all my sisters and brothers, I was the closest. She was very much an outside woman also. And I would be the one to go with her all the time, and I really missed her a lot when I left.

WEDEGAERTNER: Were you able to bring many of your belongings with you, or did you have to leave most of them behind?

REIS: We bring some clothes. Really, a person back then don't have much clothes. You have one nice dress to wear to church, and that's the dress you wear to church until it don't fit you no more. And if it's in good condition, your sister wears it to church.

WEDEGAERTNER: But as far as dishes or furniture or anything like that?

REIS: No, because my godmother – my mother's godmother – we all called her godmother, so that I'm referring to her as godmother. She was staying in the house. When we left, she was staying over there. My father asked a lady to stay and work, so everything, all the dishes and everything

stayed. I think my mother bring some blankets. It's not the kind of blankets now, it's the kind they made then.

WEDEGAERTNER: Hand-loomed, sort of?

REIS: It's not a crochet. Not crochet-looking.

WEDEGAERTNER: Sorry, is it hand-woven? Okay.

REIS: I don't have any of those, but I have one of this style, which is like this. You weave it.

WEDEGAERTNER: Oh, yeah. Sort of a chenille. Well, not quite, but that's pretty.

REIS: That's what we make with blankets. My sister-in-law sent me this. "Coração São Jorge." Memories of St. George.

WEDEGAERTNER: Oh, right. Oh that's pretty. So basically, when you father and your family came, the main expectation, of course, was making a better living for the whole family.

REIS: Yeah. Because over there, if you have a large family especially, there's no way a father can leave a good life for the children. The only thing is, put 'em in college and put 'em through college. But if everybody goes to college, what's everybody gonna do?

WEDEGAERTNER: Were there any things that he was disappointed with here? Your mother? Or you, when you first came? Disappointed, or maybe surprised by?

REIS: It's just, when you get here, you don't know anybody, and you go to school, you don't know how to talk, you know, it's difficult.

WEDEGAERTNER: Right, so the language.

REIS: Yeah. But as far as other things, no. One thing, it took me a long time to like hamburgers.

WEDEGAERTNER: Oh, did it?

REIS: And hotdogs! That seemed like it was forever.

WEDEGAERTNER: So you started school then when you came over here?

REIS: Yeah. Right in school that winter.

[child crying, break]

REIS: Every day, they speak Portuguese. They try to speak Portuguese more all the time, and so they get a star. Every day they speak the Portuguese, they get a star. And after so many stars, they get a gift. So now they don't speak a word Portuguese!

WEDEGAERTNER: But that's good. I think it's great for children to learn both languages.

REIS: Okay, baby. Milk, huh? She'll probably go to sleep.

WEDEGAERTNER: You want some milk?

[break]

WEDEGAERTNER: When you started school there in Chowchilla, did you go to a country school or into town?

REIS: Town. The elementary school was only one.

WEDEGAERTNER: What grade did you start out in then?

REIS: I started out in seventh grade. They passed me, of course. Then you get too old. But by the time I graduated, I was no A student. But C+, B-.

WEDEGAERTNER: Seems great with the language problem.

[break]

REIS: ...gym and math and homemaking. That's what I was used to doing more.

WEDEGAERTNER: Was it easy or hard to make friends at first?

REIS: They were very friendly. When we came to the school we went to, there was... Back then, that's when they started immigrating from the Azores. They had been a lot of years before that people couldn't come over. So there was hardly any Portuguese people non-speaking, that would not speak the English language. Like on that school, we were the only ones that didn't speak. So it was kind of amazing for the other children. They were kind of interested in trying to talk to us, and they were friendly. They were. I liked the teachers.

WEDEGAERTNER: How about the teachers? Were they helpful?

REIS: Yes. Yes. I would say they were.

WEDEGAERTNER: Were there other Portuguese families that you mainly associated with at first or depended on or anything?

REIS: It's not that we depended on... Oliver Espanoli, the people we worked with, she was very good. She would take us to the doctor, because then my father, you know, no license, no car. Now, if you would've kept it, it would've been an antique. This was 20 years ago when we bought an old car! And he would always drive it to go from work to the house, because the house was maybe like three miles away from the dairy, and we depended on Mrs. Espanoli too. She would take us to church and grocery shopping and to the doctor or dentist if we needed. She was very good about that.

WEDEGAERTNER: Did your parents try to learn English? Did they take any classes or anything? Any adult classes?

REIS: See, like my father, when he first come to this country... Because his father was the one that had been here, way back. Don't ask me why. I wouldn't know why he and my grandfather had been here, but my father's father was the one that had been in this country. So my dad had the privilege to be an American citizen right away, and any child under the ages of 17 could become an American citizen right away. Because under the age of 17, we were obligated to go to school, and they knew that we would be learning the English. So it was [administrated]. We had to go down to Fresno, I think. Mrs. Espanoli took all of us down there, and my father, and we all became American citizens. And we would in a year. It was within a year. Which one? My father used to have a picture that came out on the paper, because of being in the largest family with so many kids taking the citizenship paper at the same time. He got it right away, because one of my brothers was gonna be 17 pretty soon, and he wanted them to become an American citizen. Because otherwise, it would be more difficult. You have to learn the English, and then you have to go to San Francisco and all of that in order to get the citizenship papers.

WEDEGAERTNER: Did your parents join any organizations or clubs after they got here?

REIS: No. Then a person, they drive, and it was mostly work and determination. They had a holy spirit celebration in Chowchilla, so that, about the only place that they would go would be to that Holy Spirit celebration as far as festivity. Otherwise, we would visit a brother or sister who had come out of this country.

WEDEGAERTNER: What did you do then when you graduated from high school?

REIS: When I was in high school I was babysitting. I... we moved to Los Banos then. After four years we moved to Los Banos. I was high school, maybe, junior? A junior and senior, a couple of years in high school at Los Banos. Because when my father moved to Los Banos he had bought, he was always so ambitious for business, he had bought some beef and he went to the small pasture in Los Banos. He couldn't find it anyplace else. That was pretty far to drive to Los Banos and back to [Chowchilla], so he changed his job and moved to Los Banos. Then he was working for Henry [Mello] in Los Banos, but by that time the beef was ready to sell, then the beef had dropped.

WEDEGAERTNER: Oh no.

REIS: Then he [] to continue. [Dairy]. He bought a few acres and he rented this old dairy because back then it was not like now. Now it has to be inspected and they have to go through a lot of money to do the dairy []. But back then, you rented a small place, milk the cows in the bucket. No, milking machines that go in the bucket then they haul it in to the little room next door, [] a little bit [] ...

[] And then he started his own business, then he moved back to – it was interesting because after he started on the business, maybe a couple years afterwards, [Oliver Espinola] the one that he

worked for had purchased the place and he moved out of the dairy he was in. Then through Oliver Espinola my father was able to rent the place and then he moved over there.

WEDEGAERTNER: And so you're back in Chowchilla.

REIS: Yeah, back in Chowchilla.

WEDEGAERTNER: And were you still at home at that time?

REIS: I was still at home. I was twenty years old.

WEDEGAERTNER: Did you do any other type of work throughout high school other than babysitting?

REIS: During high school I babysit at first and clean up the house because she was a beautician, I would babysit, I would do then the laundry, vacuuming, put clothes away, do the ironing, whatever needed to be...

WEDEGAERTNER: Everyday probably?

REIS: Everyday afterschool. Everyday afterschool I would walk from school over there. And then my sister would pick me up at five or something. We take care of the children and we make lunch for the kids when they got home from school. And then I got a job as a waitress in a Chinese restaurant. Still afterschool a few hours when I [quit] the other one. [], yeah. Then after that I went into the bakery. First job I had, the bakery, full time. Because the restaurant was only part time, then [] open for dinner. So it was only a few hours, [and then I went to go looking] for a full time job, this was in Los Banos. I applied at the material store [] [Good's Material], sewing because we used to do [] sewing also. My mom knew how to sew pretty good and she would help us and we learned. We would make all our clothing. So I thought if I worked in a [] dry good store in the material, you know, at least I know how to sew to at least be helpful. I had an application there and at the same time I made an application on the bakery, but the bakery came out first so I left work for that. And I worked in Los Banos I think for two years, and then my father went to Chowchilla. That's when we moved back to Chowchilla. And I applied for a job in Chowchilla at the bakery since I that's what I had experience on and I got a job at the bakery there. And I worked there until I got married.

WEDEGAERTNER: Now, your mother continued to have ill health when she was ...

REIS: No, when she immigrated, it was amazing. She got quite a bit better. She had an infection on her mouth, and when she came to this country she had all her teeth out. It was [] hard to []. [Mr. Espinola] was the one that was [] give her to the [] right when we first came over.

WEDEGAERTNER: It's hard to [] anybody as to have it happen right when you're in a new country.

REIS: So he took her. She put dentures on and must have been the sickness she had in her mouth that added to all the sicknesses [] her. Because then she started, now she has a lot of allergies all the time, sinuses and allergies, but it's not a sickness.

WEDEGAERTNER: So both your parents are still living?

REIS: Yes.

WEDEGAERTNER: Was there any time when your parents thought they might give it up and go back or?

REIS: No, my father, he always liked this country. Especially after he started his own business, he was always ambitious for the business. He never looked back. He went back there and visited [] [] a couple of times []

[End of Tape]