

Helen Codrea  
August 15, 1975

CODREA: Yes.

MILLER: Today I am talking with Mrs. Codrea.

CODREA: Mrs. Helen Codrea.

MILLER: Helen Codrea. And today is August the 15, 1975.

And Mrs. Codrea, we are wondering, when did you come to

this country? To the United States.

MILLER: Took a long time I would imagine.

CODREA: 1921.

MILLER: Well, we stood over there in Havre for three

weeks. And somebody come around they find out that I was

CODREA: January the 1st or 2nd, something like that.

MILLER: So a brand new year and a new country.

CODREA: Yes. "We been here for three weeks. And every-

time we ask how soon we go across the ocean and they said

MILLER: And where did you come from?

CODREA: We come from Transylvania. From Voila if you

want to know the village. "Do you have \$10.00?" He said,

"Give me the \$10.00, you gonna go tomorrow with the boat."

MILLER: Oh yes.

And we give him \$10.00 and he wanted to give those people.

CODREA: Voila. they give the \$10.00 to. I don't know.

MILLER: Voila.

MILLER: Isn't that amazing?

CODREA: Voila, yes.

CODREA: Yes.

MILLER: In Transylvania which we would now know as Romania.

CODREA: Yes. I took the \$10.00 and the man got you passage

then on the boat. My, well, this is a brave thing to do.

MILLER: Romanian.

What you came and your sister. About how old were you at

CODREA: It's Romanian yes.

MILLER: Yes. And you came to the United States by boat?

CODREA: By boat yes. Was 1921. Well, yes you were just

MILLER: Took a long time I would imagine.

CODREA: Not quite twenty.

CODREA: Well, we stood over there in Havre for three weeks. And somebody come around they find out that I was

talking Romanian to my sister. And this man said, "are you Romanian?" And I said, "Of course I'm Romanian."

He said, "I am Romanian too." He said, "What are you doing here?" I said, "We been here for three weeks. And every-

time we ask how soon we go across the ocean and they said our boat didn't come." Then this man, he was a Romanian

man, he come from Alliance, went to New York and then come back to America. He said, "Do you have \$10.00?" He said,

"Give me the \$10.00, you gonna go tomorrow with the boat."

And we give him \$10.00 and he wanted to give those people.

I don't know who they give the \$10.00 to, I don't know.

And so the next morning he said, "Your boat is here."

CODREA: Yes.

MILLER: Isn't that amazing?

MILLER: A sister.

CODREA: Yes.

CODREA: A sister in Salem.

MILLER: It just took the \$10.00 and the man got you passage then on the boat. My, well, this is a brave thing to do. That you came and your sister. About how old were you at this time?

CODREA: Oh, I wasn't quite twenty. I was born in 1901.

MILLER: And if this was 1921, well, yes you were just about....

CODREA: Not quite twenty.

MILLER: Well, right around, just turned twenty. My and to come all this way, not speaking a word of English.

CODREA: No.

MILLER: No. So you came by boat and then you would have come in to New York. Right?

CODREA: Yes.

MILLER: And from there how did you come to Alliance?

CODREA: On the train.

MILLER: And I think you said you had family in Salem.

CODREA: Yes.

MILLER: A sister.

CODREA: A sister in Salem.



MILLER: And how did you know to get off at Salem?

CODREA: Well, when we reached in Salem the man said Salem, to get off. You know we couldn't speak. We didn't want to get off, we said, no. We want to go to Salem and the sign said Salem, SA and we called that Salem SE.

MILLER: So you were looking for....

CODREA: And he shoved us down, come on let's go down.

MILLER: Get off the train in otherwords.

CODREA: Yes. When we got down there was a Romanian man, I don't know who he was. He asked us, "where you gonna go?" And I said, "my sister lives over here in Salem, Rafira Dan." And he said, "Oh I know the people very good, I'll take you over there." So we did go there.

MILLER: Sometimes it takes a lot of guardian angles to get from place to place, doesn't it?

CODREA: Yes, yes. Then we stayed there for about two weeks and somebody from Alliance, his name was John Sherban asked us if we want to go to work, for some family, you know servants or how do you call them.

MILLER: Well, housekeeper.

CODREA: Well, something like that I guess. So we did come to Alliance and started to work in about two weeks.



MILLER: So you had only been in the country two weeks and then you had a job.

CODREA: Yes.

MILLER: Now, who did you work for?

CODREA: We worked for T. F. Bailey.

MILLER: T. F. Bailey.

CODREA: He is dead now. He lived over there right next to Silver Park. You know where that garden is, that....

MILLER: Garden Center. In the old country we didn't have water in the house. We didn't have washing machines, we

CODREA: Yes. Didn't have toilets in the house. We didn't have all kind

MILLER: Is that the house you worked in?

CODREA: Yes, that's the house I worked in, that's right.

MILLER: For the Bailey's. and soup and soup after soup.

CODREA: Yes. lots of soup. And probably not too much meat either, huh?

MILLER: And at this time when people came to work in someone's house you stayed there, right? You had the board and room in otherwords.

CODREA: Yes.

CODREA: My folks used to butcher every winter a couple

MILLER: You stayed in the house. family that don't last very long.

CODREA: Yes, I did. And was paid \$7.00 a week. the United

MILLER: \$7.00 a week.

CODREA: And that was good.

MILLER: In those times that was very good sum.

CODREA: You get your \$7.00 a week and you got your food  
and good bed to sleep. sister: I was the last child

MILLER: Yes. And this probably was very different from  
life in the old country. the old country. And my brother-

CODREA: It sure was. In the old country we didn't have  
water in the house. We didn't have washing machines, we  
didn't have toilets in the house. We didn't have all kind  
of food like the American has. and another sister came.

MILLER: Mostly what did you eat in the old country?

CODREA: Potatoes and beans and soup and soup after soup.  
remember.

MILLER: And lots of soup. And probably not too much meat  
either, huh?

CODREA: No.

MILLER: No.

CODREA: My folks used to butcher every winter a couple  
hogs. With the seven kids in the family that don't last  
very long. It was forty years. And when we went over there,

MILLER: No. Who from your family first came to the United States?

CODREA: That was my father.  
I will never forget my language.

MILLER: He came.

MILLER: True, very true.

CODREA: Yes.

CODREA: So we didn't. But I used to speak Hungarian very

MILLER: And then your sister. I just didn't use the language.

CODREA: I forgot it. And that's a shame. I could have three lang-

CODREA: My father and then was my brother-in-law. My sister she got married in the old country. And my brother-in-law come to America and then he wrote home for my sister to come to America if she wants to. And sure she wanted to come. So she did.

MILLER: Hungarian.

MILLER: Fine. And then you and another sister came.

CODREA: And American. I could write and read Hungarian

CODREA: Yes. That was maybe about three years after, perfect and talk perfect. that, I don't remember, maybe even more, that I don't remember. But if you don't use it it doesn't take long.

MILLER: Then after you had come here and lived for such a long time did you ever go home to visit?

CODREA: We went home, me and my husband, in '62 for a visit.

CODREA: Filled away.

MILLER: That's a long time.

MILLER: Now, when you came to this country you knew no

CODREA: It was forty years. And when we went over there, the household not knowing any English?



you know they notice right away that somebody is strange in their places. And they ask us where you come from and hows come you know Romanian so good. I said, "I am Romanian, I will never forget my language."

MILLER: True, very true.

CODREA: So we didn't. But I used to speak Hungarian very good, and write and read. And I just didn't use the language, I forgot it. And that's a shame. I could have three languages, speaking now.

MILLER: Yes. Romanian.

CODREA: Hungarian.

MILLER: Hungarian.

CODREA: And American. I could write and read Hungarian perfect and talk perfect.

MILLER: But if you don't use it it doesn't take long.

CODREA: Yes, but still I feel bad, why did I forget it? When I start to talk American then it just....

MILLER: Forget the other.

CODREA: Flied away.

MILLER: Now, when you came to this country you knew no words of English right? How did you manage to get along in the household not knowing any English?

CODREA: Well, not very good. That's pretty hard.

MILLER: It's very difficult.

CODREA: Yes. I remember Mr. Bailey said once to me: now Mrs. Bailey wasn't there she was with her father, sick. Took care of her father. One morning I made some coffee and I made it strong, I didn't know how to make it. And he asked me to give him some hot water. And I didn't know what he wanted. I took everything in from the kitchen and the table was piled up there. And he said, "Helen, hot water. Helen, hot water." So I started to cry. I didn't know what he meant. Then he come in the kitchen and he got his hot water and he went to the table and drank his coffee. I made the coffee too strong.

MILLER: I see.

CODREA: So I learned that word, hot water.

CODREA: That's right. That's right.

MILLER: Hot water.

MILLER: But you probably heard that word frequently on the ship coming over from the sailors.

CODREA: Hot water, yes.

MILLER: After taking everything out of the kitchen, now you knew what hot water was.

MILLER: And that's a word you learned. Well, I think it

CODREA: Yes, yes.

MILLER: How about Mrs. Bailey when she was giving you instructions how to use the washer and the dryer.

CODREA: Well, she'd keep on telling me, Helen. sed to say

MILLER: She made a sign to speak.  
book. "Mrs. Bailey, I am dumb." Cause I couldn't talk.

CODREA: Yes. A sign to speak. But I didn't know any-  
MILLER: Couldn't speak it.  
thing but Romanian and Hungarian. And I know she doesn't  
understand that language. So what could I say? I knew  
one bad word, that was go to hell. Ans she got so mad, so  
MILLER: She says no.  
furious or how do you say it?

CODREA: She showed me the book, the dictionary. You  
MILLER: Impatient.  
read and that's....

CODREA: Yes. And I said, boat Mrs. Bailey, boat.

MILLER: Did you have a dictionary that showed the Romanian

MILLER: That's where you learned that word.

CODREA: Yes. And for sure that wasn't Romanian. me.

MILLER: And it wasn't till later that you found out what  
it meant. nice if it would have had pictures.

CODREA: That's right. That's right.

MILLER: But you probably heard that word frequently on  
the ship coming over from the sailors.

CODREA: Well this was long long ago. They didn't have

CODREA: Yes, I did. I told myself that's American word.

MILLER: And that's a word you learned. Well, I think it  
takes a long time to learn a language. And there are many  
funny humorous ways that we have of learning it.



CODREA: It sure takes a long time, because I used to say to Mrs. Bailey, "Mrs. Bailey," I used to show her in the book, "Mrs. Bailey, I am dumb." Cause I couldn't talk.

MILLER: Couldn't speak it.,

CODREA: Couldn't speak. No, Helen.

MILLER: She says no.

CODREA: She showed me the book, the dictionary. You read and that's....

MILLER: Did you have a dictionary that showed the Romanian and the English?

CODREA: Yes, Mrs. Bailey bought a dictionary for me.

MILLER: Good. Did it have pictures in it too? It would have been nice if it would have had pictures.

CODREA: I don't think so. Mrs. Bailey wants, the flour.

MILLER: Just the words.

CODREA: Well this was long long ago. They didn't have them so perfect.

MILLER: Yes. But at least you did have a dictionary that you could go to and find the English word for it. Isn't that wonderful.

CODREA: And coming home I stood while then somebody rung the bell in the house and he said here is some flowers

CODREA: Yes, yes, yes. I thought to myself, my, that's the

flowers she meant. Not the flour to make bread because she  
MILLER: But that didn't help. It seems to me we were talk-  
wasn't making bread over there I was making bread at home.  
ing one time about a day when there were to be some flowers  
delivered? That's a wonderful way to learn the difference be-

tween flour and flowers.

CODREA: Yes, well Mrs. Bailey told me before she left the  
house. She said, "Helen, flower." I didn't know what she  
meant.

MILLER: And hot water.

MILLER: But she wanted you bring it two houses down,  
CODREA: And of course that...  
right?

MILLER: And the other words. I think you were brave about

CODREA: No, no.

learning other things because to come to America there

MILLER: No. In the kitchen you would have to get ac-

quainted with. The stove and the refrigerator. And it seems

CODREA: No. She just said flower, but I didn't know what  
to be you told me that you learned to use the sewing mach-  
she meant. Then the grocery man come with twenty five  
the too.

pounds of flour in the house. Brought the flour and I  
thought, well, that's what Mrs. Bailey wants, the flour.

So I grabbed the twenty five pound sack of flour and I took

MILLER: Okay we can talk about the stove.

it over to her where she was taking care of her father. I  
went there and I said flour. She just motioned, I didn't  
know. I just got out and didn't say a word because I didn't  
know what to say. Maybe you would have just blown out the

gas flame. And she said, "who told you?" When I start

MILLER: Yes.

to speak a little bit.

CODREA: And coming home I stood awhile then somebody

MILLER: Yes.

rung the bell in the house and he said here is some flowers

for Mrs. Bailey. Then I thought to myself, my, that's the flowers she meant." Not the flour to make bread because she wasn't making bread over there I was making bread at home.

MILLER: Yes. If you just blow the gas out without turn-

MILLER: That's a wonderful way to learn the difference between flour and flowers.

CODREA: Yes. I said, "no, I won't die." She said, "what

CODREA: Yes, yes. And hot water. She said, "listen Mrs. Bailey."

How I talked back then, not as good as now, but anyhow she

MILLER: And hot water.

understood. I said, "I went in the room and locked my

CODREA: And of course that.... And she said, "Helen,

why did you lock your door?" I said, "why did I lock my

MILLER: And the other words. I think you were brave about door, because I was in the house with Mr. Bailey alone."

learning other things because to come to America there

were many items in the kitchen you would have to get ac-

quainted with. The stove and the refrigerator. And it seems

CODREA: I want to be safe.

to me you told me that you learned to use the sewing machine too. Yes.

CODREA: Yes, but we're talking about the stove. good girl."

MILLER: Okay we can talk about the stove. stood.

CODREA: She said, Mrs. Bailey said to me once, "Helen,

who told you how to shut off the gas? I never told you

MILLER: Oh, I see.

to shut the gas maybe you would have just blown out the gas flame." And she said, "who told you?" When I start

to speak a little bit.

MILLER: Yes.



CODREA: And I said, "nobody." But I said, "I will never die." She said, "you would die if you just blow, you know."

MILLER: Yes. If you just blow the gas out without turning it off you would die.

CODREA: Yes. I said, "no, I won't die." She said, "what do you mean, everybody dies." I said, "listen Mrs. Bailey,"

How I talked back then, not as good as now, but anyhow she understood. I said, "I went in the room and locked my

door good and opened the window." And she said, "Helen, why did you lock your door?" I said, "why did I lock my door, because I was in the house with Mr. Bailey alone."

MILLER: And you were making sure....

CODREA: I want to be safe.

MILLER: Yes.

CODREA: And she said, to me, "Helen, you are a good girl."

MILLER: Yes. Mrs. Bailey must have understood.

CODREA: She was a teacher.

MILLER: Oh, I see.

CODREA: And she, died, I guess she was only 43 or younger maybe.

MILLER: Oh my.

CODREA: She lost three babies, three boys, when they were hard.  
were..... It's a matter of everyday living then you learn.

MILLER: Deliver them.

CODREA: No. Not deliver. When they were started to get  
alive. At four and a half months or however you say it.

MILLER: I understand. Yes, she had a miscarriage is said,  
what they usually say.

CODREA: Three of them, three boys.

MILLER: My, oh my. Lot's of work and lots of diapers.

CODREA: So she had something wrong with her kidneys.

MILLER: But she at the time you were learning to speak  
English, I think she understood a lot without maybe using  
words too. In otherwords you could communicate even though  
she couldn't speak Romanian and you were learning English.

CODREA: I can't understand how I picked up the words. Now  
I know how I picked out those three words, the first one  
you know. Then flour then hot water.

MILLER: Yes.

CODREA: But the other things, I don't know how they come.

MILLER: Well, they come when you're alert and when you have  
to learn. Because then you have to learn. It isn't like

being in a class room and learning English. Then it's hard. But when it's a matter of everyday living then you learn.

CODREA: Yes.

MILLER: How about using the sewing machine. When did you learn to use the sewing machine?

CODREA: Well, after Mrs. Bailey went on vacation she said, "Helen, we gonna go on vacation and if you want to go someplace you can go." And I said, "well, I have no place to go, just to go down to my sister." And she used to have babies every year. Lot's of work and lots of diapers. And I said to her, "I rather stay here alone, than to go..." She said you can go to your sisters, but I said no, I rather stay here alone. I don't want to go over there and wash diapers and work. I want to have vacation too.

MILLER: Yes. You want to rest too.

CODREA: So, I seen the sewing machine and I knew was a sewing machine. And I went and bought some goods, it was 15¢ a yard, red and white checkers.

MILLER: 15¢ a yard.

CODREA: 15¢ a yard. Yes. So I just started to cut the pattern, I don't know how I cut it. I don't remember, but I cut it. And put sleeves on it, I don't know how I done



it, I don't know. They must have not looked very perfect because when she come home she noticed that I made a dress. And I made a dress and the thread was finished on the bottom, and I didn't know what to do with it. And I was so worried that when Mrs. Bailey comes home she finds out that I used the sewing machine. But of course she wouldn't have cared even if I told her, you know, but I was scared. So I finished the dress and when she come I had the dress on and I guess I told her I used the sewing machine, I really forgot. She said, "Helen, you need the pattern. If you want to sew I'll buy you a pattern." And she bought a jumper pattern and a blouse to go with it.

MILLER: But your first sewing experience you did it without a pattern.

CODREA: Yes.

MILLER: And you used the machine and you had never been taught how to use the machine at all. And made a dress.

CODREA: No, never, never and never and never. Now do you know anybody in this world that would start to do things like that?

MILLER: Nobody. I think you had a lot of courage.

CODREA: I don't know, just what happened to my head.

MILLER: But he didn't listen did he? He went back anyway.  
MILLER: Yes, let's talk about, now you were a young girl in America and you had a job and what did you do for enter-

tainment if you had a night off? Did you go to movie theaters or did you have, what kind....

CODREA: I had the night off, one day off. I used to go to visit my sister.

MILLER: The one in Salem?

CODREA: No. No. In Alliance.

MILLER: The one who came to Alliance with you?

CODREA: The one from Salem she went back to Romania.

MILLER: Oh. because he is in, I don't know just where he

CODREA: He wanted to go and she didn't want to go, they had two boys, and then she finally went. I told my brother-in-law, I said now listen you gonna be sorry that you go down there. I said why do you go? He said, well my folks

are old and we have a home over there, and what did they have? Just nothing but a shack, covered with straw.

MILLER: But they went back to Romania?

CODREA: They went back. I said you'll be better if you'll just send them a couple of matches and put fire on that shack and burn it, or have them come in this country, you know. Not go there because it's no good.

MILLER: But he didn't listen did he? He went back anyway.

CODREA: He didn't listen. Yes, yes, he went back but was he ever sorry that he went back. And he made a paper so that he couldn't come back, do you understand?

MILLER: Yes. In other words he was no longer able to come back to the United States.

CODREA: No.

MILLER: Oh my.

CODREA: And he tried to come back once and he sent letter or telegram to me and my sister and asked for \$50.00 apiece to send him, because he is in, I don't know just where he was, across the ocean someplace. He wanted to come and he needs \$100.00. And I told my sister, she didn't want to send. And honest we didn't have the money.

MILLER: Oh yes.

CODREA: And we borrowed the money from my sister, the one that she didn't want to send anything. And my husband said, now Helen, if that man comes over here in this country and I'll be embarrassed to face him if we don't help him. We sent the money but he wasn't, he couldn't come. They was gonna send him back and he needed the money to go back with it. So we lost the \$50.00.

MILLER: Oh my. Well, but at least you tried, to help and that was important.



CODREA: Yes.

MILLER: What sort of things did you do on your day off?

CODREA: Just went down to my sisters, sit around, I don't know. Just eat something, I don't know, then come home.

MILLER: Did you have then at that time, through the church perhaps some social gathering?

CODREA: No, I can't say that we did because, I don't know. My sister didn't use to go to church. She had eight children in about eight or ten years.

MILLER: She didn't have time.

CODREA: No. I guess not or she, they didn't believe in church. I don't know. Just after we used to go to church but before we didn't.... I don't know why, we just didn't. That's all.

MILLER: Were there any activities in the Romanian Hall that you could attend?

CODREA: Yes, there were weddings, and they used to make, what do you call it? Theater, plays, yes, plays. We was in a play once, me and my sister: I remember that.

MILLER: Oh, now that would have been good fun. And weddings were quite a social event. I think even more so then than they are now.

CODREA: Yes, yes, yes. Lot of doing it was in those days, but now, all of the old folks are gone.

MILLER: Yes.

CODREA: And the young folks don't care so much about these....

MILLER: Not the social events, no.

CODREA: I don't know.

MILLER: Or their history sometimes, you know.

CODREA: I don't know. They don't care much about it. Of course they have weddings, you know.

MILLER: But not like they had then.

CODREA: Oh, we go to weddings, we gonna go to a wedding tomorrow.

MILLER: Is it a Romanian wedding?

CODREA: Romanian wedding, yes. You want to come along?

MILLER: I'll answer that later. How did you meet your husband?

CODREA: Do you want to know that story too? Well, first I went with a boy from this country. A few times he took me home and then he said, "well Helen, we go around for a couple take you home tonight." He was really a nice looking boy.

months and then we get married and in about two years we gonna go in the old country." Oh, I said, "no not me." I said, "please don't come with me, don't take me home any more, because I don't want to be involved with you and I don't want to go in the old country any more."

MILLER: Yes.

CODREA: This is it for me. If I go over there I just go for a vacation but not to stay, never, never I will go.

MILLER: So if you had married him then that would have been back to the old country.

CODREA: Yes. But I would never. I said, now listen, "if you have all of that village where you live and my village where I lived, " I said, "I will never go back there to live any more." If I get the whole village, you understand me?

MILLER: Yes, I see. I understand.

CODREA: So he said, "now Helen, okay I'll understand you but would you dance with me anymore?" I said, why not? You know. So there was another boy that wanted to go with me and he knew I go with this boy. Well, so he didn't come, he didn't ask me, you know. So when we was at the dance at the Romanian Hall, he come to me, he said, "Helen, I'll take you home tonight." He was really a nice looking boy.



Nice looking boy. But I don't know why, I just didn't want to go with him. And I tried to run away from him.

MILLER: Oh really.

CODREA: Honest. I run away from the dance hall, the dance wasn't ready, you know, getting ready. And walked upstairs real fast on the steps. They had upstairs these young boys they had their meetings over there.

MILLER: A club.

CODREA: A club, you are right.

MILLER: Yes.

CODREA: So I walked real fast on the steps and it was dark and I bumped into my husband, that was Dan Codrea; I never went with him anyplace. I saw him places. And he said, "where are you running Helen?" Another boy was gonna take.... I don't know his name, I forgot. I didn't forget, I don't remember now.

MILLER: Yes.

CODREA: Was gonna take me home and I don't want to go with him. He grabbed my hands, he said, you go with me.

MILLER: And you did.

CODREA: And I did. And he wasn't a nice looking man like the other one. Just think what is it? My husband was kind

of dark complected, I don't know, he wasn't ugly. Here he is.

MILLER: So evidently he was meant to be your husband because you ran away from the handsome fellow....

CODREA: Yes. That was about two months before Christmas then we got married the next year in, June the 17th.

MILLER: And had a lovely wedding I'll bet.

CODREA: Yes. And this is my son, my oldest son when he was twenty five anniversary, his twenty-fifth anniversary. This is his wife and that's her father and that's her mother and this is my husband and that's me.

MILLER: That's you. And did you just have the one son, do you have other children?

CODREA: I have another boy and two girls.

MILLER: So you had four children in all.

CODREA: Yes. Two boys and two girls and I have four boys and four girls and none of them drink or smoke.

MILLER: That's wonderful, wonderful, family. What did your husband do for a living?

CODREA: He was driving a truck. And he worked at Alliance Manufacturing some.

MILLER: Fine man. Fine man. Where did you live after you got married? Then you would have left Mrs. Baileys house.

CODREA: Yes. I lived in a, I don't know, in an apartment or something.

MILLER: In Alliance?

CODREA: In Alliance, yes, yes.

MILLER: Then, let's talk a little bit more about the Romanian Hall. You had mentioned they had a club upstairs, meeting rooms for the young men.

CODREA: Yes.

MILLER: So they must have gotten together for....

CODREA: Yes, they used to make plays. You know, they used to, I don't know, plan for wedding and for dances, I don't know, just what it was.

MILLER: So that there were some activities in the hall for people who wanted to come.

CODREA: Yes, yes, yes.

MILLER: Mostly did just the Romanians come or did you sometimes bring friends who didn't speak Romanian?

CODREA: Well, some they had friends, but those days you

know, like, we were old. We didn't have too many American friends. Do you understand?



MILLER: Yes. I understand.

CODREA: Now when the children got older then they used to bring their friends, you know.

MILLER: Yes. But at that time the Romanians probably had friendships with one another because they liked to speak the Romanian. Did you find when you got together you spoke Romanian?

CODREA: Yes, yes.

MILLER: And the Italians who were here probably had their hall and they spoke Italian there.

CODREA: Yes, that's right.

MILLER: So that you were more with your own group for social activities.

CODREA: That's right. Yes.

MILLER: Yes. Well, I think it's been an interesting story. And I really think you must have wanted to stay in the United States to give up the offer of marriage to the other young man who had it in mind to going back to the old country.

CODREA: Oh, I didn't care if he had the whole Alliance.

MILLER: The whole village.

CODREA: Oh the whole village yes.

MILLER: You wouldn't go back.

CODREA: Never. And he was so sorry he did. He was so dumb going over there.

MILLER: He did return then?

CODREA: No he couldn't. He made the papers so that he doesn't, he won't come back.

MILLER: Oh yes.

CODREA: It was so dumb. I don't know what's the matter with him.

MILLER: No. But life has a way of teaching us our mistakes and obviously it taught them theirs.

CODREA: Yes.

MILLER: Well, we're glad you decided to come to Alliance.